

: DAY OF ENTROPY :

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In the North American Defensive Research Facility, located in sector 7C of the capitol of the United North American Republic, was John. John was the lead designer and programmer for the UNAR's offensive and defensive systems, and also oversaw the manufacture of them. He knew what he was doing was against his own morals, but it was his only way he could give his family a somewhat stable and happy life. His position made him somewhat disliked by his friends and even family, and made him hated by anyone who wasn't close to him.

On his way home from work, below the always dark skies, caused by the pollution from the factories nearby, he noticed from the corner of his eye, in the train station nearby, a family getting off the train from sector 3B, presumably for work, possibly working under him. They got off, but the family and their dad were separated, and one cop started beating him, with an electric baton John had designed just the year prior, right in front of the family. The mother and kids were crying, shouting at the cop to stop, while the other cops nearby restrained them. He overheard the cops saying to the family something about him being a "national security threat". John had heard these types of excuses from the cops all the time. He knew oftentimes they just did these for no reason, but to look useful to their higher-ups so they can keep their benefits. After the family was herded into a room, he kept walking home. At Least twice a week he would see something like this happening on his walks to and from work, knowing full well that these were just innocent people, and that he had helped slaughter them. At that moment, he realised he wasn't any better than those cops. He knows he hasn't directly killed or beaten any innocent people, but he's created their tools. Without him and his colleagues, thousands of people would still be alive.

He knew he had to do something, but he didn't know what quite yet. He knew he had to do something big, or else he would be wasting his, and possibly his family's lives for nothing. He walked into his apartment, which was inside an unmaintained former hotel built 50 years ago. He knew it could collapse any day. He was greeted by his wife and kids. Their greetings were cold, and almost robotic. He went to eat dinner, but they just went to their rooms. He opened his standard issue ration, a water-flavored packet, about 1,000 calories, and with only essential nutrients. After the American-European war, both empires were left without much money, and John's pay was subsequently docked. He went from 10,000,000 dollars a year to just 100,000. His old salary was able to just barely afford him a decent house, with decent food. Now, his

salary is just barely enough to get by on, but only because of the standard rations and apartments provided by the government. He went into his room, and started watching the news.

"Next month on April 19th, is president Bates' birthday. His celebration will be held at Freedom Square, Sector 1A, in the capitol. With more than half of our entire military force there to march for our beloved president, it will be an unforgettable night. Happy birthday, President Bates!" He realised that day would be the perfect day for his plans.

He knew everyone would be distracted by the parade, except for any resistance members. They would surely also know that day would be the perfect time to strike. During the American-European war, he had hacked into the European's databases and computer systems. He already had high-level access to all of the factory's systems and computers, but he knew he could get access to even more confidential information. He knew some resistance members from the bar he goes to every Friday night, he never reported them, because always knew what they were doing was valiant. They were originally skeptical of him at first, because they knew about his high-ranking position, but he was able to get them to open up. "If I wasn't on your side, you would have been reported years ago. I have intelligence, and more, to offer to the resistance". John said to Sage. She was the leader of the 7C resistance base. "You make a good point, come with me". She said, still looking very skeptical. She took John into the alleyway by the bar, and made sure no one, or nothing was watching. She made sure he didn't have any recording devices, and told him, "Alright, I'll take you, but we have to go now. I don't trust you enough to get out of my sight."

They tried their best to dodge security and get to Sector 4D, where the biggest resistance base in the capitol was located. Dodging security was easy, as the military was busy preparing for the parade, so there weren't many soldiers or police on the streets, or even the cameras. The government had been working on an AI project to track everyone prior to the war, which John was also working on, but luckily that was postponed, due to lack of funding. They finally arrived at the resistance base in Sector 4D. It was located in an old hydropower facility that hadn't been operational since the 2030's. They tapped on the door, and Sage showed the camera her I.D. They recognise her, and let them in.

"Hello Sage, and who is accompanying you?" the guard says, in a stern voice. "I know this is going to sound bad, but he works at NADAR, as the... lead, uhm, designer. The reason I bring him here is because—" Sage said, before being cut off. "You brought a high ranking government asset into here? What the hell are you thinking?". "Well, you see, John has intel for us. John, would you explain, please?", "You see, I have overseen the development of all of their systems since 2067, and have been working for them since 2059. I have a high understanding of all of their systems, and ways to infiltrate

them. I can sneak vulnerabilities into their system's code." John explains. "If I'm successful, on the president's parade in a month, we can cause chaos, and show the rest of this country how weak it really is". The guard, with a skeptical look, says "And what makes you want to quit such a good job? Why after all of these years of being loyal to the government would you want to join us?" "Well, it was just a way to make ends meet. I was skilled in design and programming, and at the time, the job paid well. But I can't stand being on the wrong side of history anymore. I can't stand seeing innocent people murdered with weaponry I designed anymore." They met with the commander of the base, Ellis Jane, and started planning.

"We need access to the TV broadcasting servers. Without it, there's no way anyone outside of the capitol is hearing about it. We need to take control, and show the public the full extent of their brutality". "We need them to know about what we're doing in the capitol. We also need you to push updates to their weaponry and armor systems, so we can remotely sabotage them. Leak all of their servers and internal documents. Make sure none of this is detectable until our Day of Entropy." Commander Ellis Jane said. "Day of Entropy?" Sage asked, in a slightly confused voice. Ellis didn't respond, instead handing her a dictionary. "On April 29th, 2076, on the President's birthday, we will protest. We will send all of our units onto the streets of the capitol. We will show them who we really are".

With Sage and John back in sector 7C, he began his plans. It was Monday when they got back, so he got back to work, and started planting the seeds of the revolution. He uploaded new code to the armor and weapons systems, so they could be easily remotely disabled. He began cracking the passwords for all of the databases, and leaking them to the resistance. He managed to get into the government email system and was able to leak those to the resistance as well. He knew that the UNAR didn't have enough money to fix any of what he would cause, so these vulnerabilities would stick for a long time. Finally, after a month of obtaining everything he could, and sabotaging everything he could, it was almost the Day of Entropy. He then went to sleep.

The next day, he woke up early. It was the president's birthday, so no work for anyone. He turned on the TV, and watched. At about 11:30 AM, the broadcast started to flicker, and was promptly taken over by the resistance. They started showing footage of the government's brutality, several men and women being beaten, and families separated. "They are more cruel than you may realise, with much worse covered up". They show a video of one of the men that had been shown being separated from his family being turned into a military super-soldier. They played video of the virtually induced torture he endured. John recognised the systems in the video used to brainwash him. He designed them. "This could even happen to you, even if you've done absolutely nothing." They played footage of their many atrocities for about 30 minutes, until it

switched to footage of resistance members storming government buildings, demanding freedom. The president, just informed, sends his military to fend them off.

The resistance should stand no chance, only being about 4 million people, while the military consists of at least 100 million, but because of John's help, they were able to remotely disable weapons and armor systems, giving the resistance a huge advantage.

Blood everywhere, soldiers and rebels lying on the ground, all displayed on TV, all while the man is still speaking, "For 40 years now, our government has abused us, using us as pawns in their petty wars just so they can live better lives on their super yachts while we all die on the streets, starving and dehydrated, our streets polluted by their greed and selfishness. But they are weak. They are cowards. If even a quarter of us were to stand up, we would still win. This world has no place for them but hell". The next few hours were a blur for John, as he watched the violence unfold on the TV, safe at home.

An astounding victory for the resistance, and millions more people decide to join, but the fight still isn't over. John eventually fell asleep, knowing that his final days were soon. But he didn't know it was this soon. He woke up in a glass cell, reinforced with metal bars, presumably to prevent anyone from smashing through. He looked to his sides, and saw his family, and most surprisingly, his coworkers. He thought they would at least do an investigation at first to find who it was, but their brutality meets no end. They had just taken everyone who worked at NADAR, and shoved them in their most high security prison complex.

The men were separated from the women and children. The men were herded into the Compliance and Loyalty Education block of the prison. John was strapped to the table, and connected to the "Virtual Reality Loyalty Encouragement Device". He had designed this just 5 years prior. He spent the next 100 years of his life, but only the next 30 minutes of the prison guard's, in the machine, being brainwashed into compliance.

He then woke up, for him, 100 years, but for everyone else, just a mere 24 hours later, inside of his new suit, or rather coffin, of his own design.