

Destiny

Diary of a 2080 girl by Sarah Hamza

Foreword

Hello, my name is Emma and I'm a teenager living in 2080. I don't know what's going to happen, and I don't know if we are going to find solutions to save our earth, but I want to leave this as a trace . I don't know if I'm going to survive and now I discovered something very powerful. Writing. Writing will allow me to never let people forget what I went through, what humanity endured. This story (I hope) can be used to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. As Winston Churchill said : *"Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."* **Winston Churchill.**

Dear diary, I wonder what it would be like to live in the 20's*, it was probably easier back then. I have always liked to ask my grandmother to tell me stories about her life when she was a teenager; she would tell me about her summers at the beach with her cousins. But, now we can't approach the coasts to protect the water from pollution because one day humans decided to confuse the sea with their bins. Today, water is our most valuable natural resource and unfortunately ,not anyone can access clean water, which causes many diseases. Apparently people used to waste a lot of water back then; sometimes I just wish I could go back in time to warn people about what was going to happen for the future generations.

"WAKE UP!"

So I asked grandma: "How is it possible that people didn't act when you were young, Weren't they aware of the situation ?"

"Well yes, everyone was aware of that and it even became a really important issue, but the ones that could really make a difference decided to put their own benefits, or should I say their money, first." ...

Today, there was the weekly speech on the news, presenting the review of the week concerning climate change. It introduced us to new restrictions, climate issues and the achievements of the week. First, the water price increased for the third time in the month and starting tomorrow ,each household will have a water limit not to be exceeded per week; when I think that before people took what we call "baths" ,I can't believe it ! It could consume up to 250 L of water, which is astonishing...

When I looked at the window, I remembered it hadn't rained for 7 months, which is a record in London, and the water reserves will soon be drained . Even 1.5 liter -water bottles are no longer sold because of the lack of drinking water. According to the news, 500 000 people

died yesterday because they drank infected water. I wish I could do something to stop that, I don't even feel like I'm a master of my own destiny. At school, many people looked sad, and I learnt that one of my classmates died. Apparently, her family couldn't afford drinking water. It was a mournful day for the entire school and we had a minute of silence to honour her memory. I was devastated, and I had a feeling that the water crisis was going to rule my entire life.

Sometimes I don't understand how humanity was able to get to that point. How is that possible ? Why hasn't anybody changed their habits when they know it's bad for their planet? It's weird how human beings manage to do everything they know is bad for them. I can't help but imagine what could've happened if everyone had taken action to protect the planet. A Utopian society ! But let's be realistic, I don't want to be lost in my thoughts. When I grow up ,I want to become an engineer to develop new smart cities. Indeed, this is one of the most required jobs in today's' industrial world in order to find solutions to the climate crisis. But there's always a glimmer of hope as long as we don't reach the point of no return where climate change becomes unstoppable.

I have decided to use my phone to distract myself but as soon as I switched it on, a governmental campaign came out : “ CARBON DIOXIDE, one of our nation's greatest enemies, the ultimate greenhouse gas, the cause of global warming and most of our climate issues, the burden of the 21st century...”

Indeed, for the UK, there is no other choice, we have to reduce our gas emissions. So in winter, when heating use is at its peak, the government decided to stop gas consumption during the evening ,which makes us endure temperatures down to 5°C in winter. Well I was looking for a distraction and here I am again, thinking about climate change. These days, every thinking leads me to that conclusion : “All roads lead to Rome !”. Trying to escape from that thought has become a real hide and seek game ! To conclude : 1 word ; 12 letters : overwhelming.

What an irony ! Everything we are facing today is indeed caused by humans. I wish I could do something, I wish I could make a difference, but how ? how ? The stakes are too high and it's not only concerning a city, a country or a continent but the entire globe... Lost in my thoughts, I was suddenly brought back to reality by my parents.

“Emma, there's a news flash on TV...”

When I got in the living room, my face went pale and my throat tightened listening to the presenter : “The climate issue has reached the point of no return.”

And I woke up... That was a horrible nightmare, luckily it was fictional !

Warning : the story you have just read is FICTIONAL but based on a possible version of the future if we don't act now. It was inspired by the nightmare of Emma, a teenager, not knowing what the future will look like, but not only, because her doubts and fears can also apply to every reader concerned about our planet.

*the 2020 's



Banksy