Seeds of Life

 The Earth is dead. A small fragment, our quaint town, has been preserved inside of a massive bubble. This is my theory. There is no other explanation for what I saw the other day: a cloudy orange sky and what appeared to be cracked ground screaming in agony for help. I saw it when I snuck to the border, there must’ve been a glitch in the holographic screen masking the bubble, but I know what I saw - no doubt about it. I’ve always felt as if there was something deceptive about this world I live in, I wonder what other things they’ve been lying to me about.

 My parents made me dinner, and while we were eating it, I debated on whether I should tell them about my theory; they would never believe me. My dad is a lawyer and follows the government's laws to the tea, consequently putting all his trust in the government as well. On the other hand, my mother has some skepticism about the government but listens to whatever my father says as he permits her to be a stay-at-home parent and would never think about disagreeing with him. So, I decided not to say anything to them. The dinner talk was trivial as always except for one thing, before I got up to go to my room my mom asked me “are you okay honey?”

 “Yea? Why?” I responded alertly

“Well, it’s just… you seem kind of pale, are you getting enough sleep? … did you run into that seed cult??”

“What seeds cult?”

“You know the one that’s been going around preaching that the seeds will save people and restore life to all yadayada. If a stupid seed could have the power to produce life, then I’m sure we’d be using it already.”

“No--” I hesitated, “But mom… I have something to tell you”

“What’s going on Mikey?”

“I think we are living inside a bubble”

“What? Mike I’m confused”

“Okay so I got lost on my way back from school the other day… I know dumb – but more important: I ran into a wall. This wall wasn’t like anything you’ve ever seen before. It looked like there was a more beautiful blue sky and green grass, but when I ran into it the wall flashed and for a few seconds and everything on the other side was orange and the environment appeared dead.”

“Are you sure you’ve been sleeping enough? Honey, are you saying there’s a fake wall!? Are you implying that our government is lying to us? I’m sorry but I don’t believe it”

“Mom, you have to believe me”

“I-No I can’t… you should go get some sleep it’s getting late and you're obviously not seeing straight”

I woke up a few hours later and decided that my only chance of getting her to believe me was to give her the hard proof. I crawled out of bed swiftly and tiptoed down the hallway, making sure to peer into my parents' bedroom checking that they were asleep. I head back to my room and open the window to leave for the border.

As I climb down the roof, I take a quick look around at the dull boring city our government has created. Everything I see around me is bland as if to dim people's curiosity from growing. But I have it and I am going to prove I am right. I head into the alley way and get engulfed by darkness, only using what I remember to navigate to my destination. The walls around me are all made of cement and claustrophobic, I feel the pressure being applied to every ounce of my body after each step I take. In front me I finally see the border, it’s just 100 feet away- I'm almost there! As I start closing in, I feel a slight prick in the back of my neck. I put my hand over my neck and noticed a dart stuck in it- I've been poisoned! WHY?!?!? WHO!?! All I could think of is that I’m going to die, and as I take a few steps forward my vision slowly fades away to black.

I wake up to a cold breeze, I look around franticly, trying to connect the dots of how I got to where I am, but I simply don’t know. Looking around, all I see is black, as my eyes start to adjust to the light it becomes highly apparent to me that I am underground. My head is pounding and it's hard to keep my eyes open, but everything slowly starts to come back into focus. I hear voices...Well, I think. “I told you it wouldn't be a good idea to shoot the kid with a tranquilizer dart!” The first voice says. “Oh, relax he is fine” “He’s been asleep for over an hour! "A third voice cuts in now, a deeper one, a clearer one, “If you both would calm down for five minutes, I think the kids awake". After hearing mention of me I wonder if talking would be a good idea. I settle on sure why not. “Uh hello?” I'm approached by a tall muscular man; his voice is a quick match to the third booming voice I had heard a few moments before. He swings a chair around and plops himself in it sitting backwards with his arms over the back and he starts what I suppose you can call an introduction. “Hey, kid my name is Terry, I’m the leader of this group you know as the seed cults.”

“Wait WHAT!?!?!?!?!?!?! Where am I right now? Why am I here? What do you guys want from me?”

“Kid let’s get to know each other first, I told you my name, now it’s the respectful thing to tell me yours.”

I hesitate, “um...it’s Mikey”

“Now Mikey, what are you doing around these parts of the city?”

I hesitate once again, unsure of whether to tell the truth or not. It’s at this point I decide if I’m in danger I’ve already been swallowed up by it, so I decide telling the truth may be to my benefit. “Um, I think I saw a glitch in the border, I came back to check for sure. No one believes me when I tell them but I think our government is lying to us.”

“Mikey, we believe you, that’s exactly what brought us all here together. We all experienced what we’re all assuming you saw at one point or another. Did you see the world on the other side of the bubble with an orange haze and cracked Earth?”

“YES!! That’s exactly what I saw! Wait so you’ve seen it too” I jump with excitement, “I’m not going crazy?

“Exactly and we have a plan to fix the earth. Do you want in?”

“Okay so let me get this straight. You followed me, shot me with a tranquilizer dart, kidnapped me and trapped me underground to convince me of some crazy theory you have about our government and seeds all based off an assumption that I share this same theory? “Him and who I can only assume are his goons looked at each other for a few seconds. “Listen kid, there's a lot of things you don’t know, but it’s an unwritten law to be anywhere near the border wall, we were trying to save you and by association your family from being brainwashed.” Terry takes a deep breath," Look kid do you want in or not?” I give a slight laugh, “Of course, I want in!”

“You see this?” He hands me a seed. I jump back because seeds are poisonous. But then I realize, he’s not wearing any protective equipment on his hands, and he seems unphased. “How are you not hurt right now?”

“Mikey the governments been lying to you this whole time, ever since we were kids, they taught us those seeds would kill us, and that questioning authority is bad. Why do they do this? Simple, for power and money. Without seeds they were able to kill the Earth and force a population into an easily controlled bubble, then in the bubble they can enforce whatever they want because there's nowhere to flee to everything you hear and see is manipulated to appear perfect by your government”. “Okay...but people aren't going to believe us. We are only a few people, and we live in a town constantly being manipulated and lied to!” My anger was starting to boil up at this point, I pushed it down and lowered my head. “My own mom wouldn’t even believe me...” The silence that came after that took me by surprise. I hadn't known Terry for very long, but he didn’t seem like the kind of guy who didn’t always have something to say. I looked up at him and was greeted with an unexpected smile. Not the happy kind of smile, but the kind that got people into trouble. And in this case, hopefully, the kind that will get our whole town out of it.

After working closely with Terry and the guys for two years, It’s finally the big day. We’ve made a lot of progress in these two years and it’s starting to show. The seeds are sprouting healthily, and the seed cult has had an all-time high join rate. Later tonight there is going to be a speech in which Terry will expose the lies of the government. The speech Terry gave was phenomenal, the shift of the mood in the room as he spoke was inspiring. You can tell he really made people start to wonder about the same questions we had been asking for years. All the deceit, and manipulation and cover-ups, they were finally coming out. By the end of his speech, he even had people asking him for seeds to plant. Not everyone believed us, but there's always got to be a stubborn few, they’ll come with time. The seeds are just the beginning too. We now have people investigating the border as well. The plan is in a few short years to have a fully revitalized civilization until we can break free from the bubble and restore a place for us out in the real world.

It worked! It's five years later and we are really starting to see a change in the environment outside of the bubble. There’s still a lot of mystery as to how or why the Earth got so destroyed in the first place but that’s someone else’s job to discover. Right now, the seed cult needs to focus on revitalizing and repopulating our small little area of the Earth now that we are free from the bubble’s tyrannical rule.