

"We are the only ones left alive.

The whole world is dead.

There are 12 of us.

We are supposed to rule the world.

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It started one day when I came home from school. My mother and father were both sitting in front of the t.v watching the news. They were clutching each other. My mother had tears streaming down her face. My father looked like he had been hit by a bulldozer. They both looked terrified. This sight alone would be enough to send some kids over the edge, to see the two strongest figures in your life melting into a distressed puddle. They turned to me and my father said in a strangled voice

"Terrorists have invaded the united states, Madeline, They have taken over an American plane and seem to be headed to Atlanta, but we don't know why." Both him and my mother looked as though they were about to cry. They scooted over on the couch and allowed me to sit down. I watched numbly as the news reporter told us what was happening and what they suspected the terrorists were up to. Suddenly the news reporter went pale as someone whispered in his ear. A different reporter flashed onto the screen. He explained that another plane had been hijacked but this one oddly in Russia. The reporter told his point of view of what was happening and they went back to the first man who seemed to have gotten over his shock. He was talking when suddenly you could see a plane on the screen. As we watched we thought it was headed right over the skyline, maybe heading to another city instead, and then it crashed. It plummeted down into a small factory. It was obvious this had been the terrorists plan. The reporter was shouting and saying the plane had gone right into the CDC. My heart stopped. I had read about the building CDC once. The other news reporter flashed back onto the screen explaining that CDC stood for center for disease control and prevention. The terrorists had let loose many diseases that could be fatal. Theses diseases had been there to be studied and now had been let loose into the country. This was 9-11 all over again, but this time it was worse.

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My parents and I sat glued to that t.v until nearly midnight that night when we went upstairs to bed we were all still numb. For the first time in 12 years I slept with my parents. We were all so terrified we would die in our sleep we didn't want to let the each other out of our sight for a moment. I don't think one of us got a wink of sleep that night. We all laid there silent. Thinking. Reflecting. Listening. We got up and went right back to our t.v. It was a Saturday. No school. I don't think there would have been any school if it hadn't been the weekend. None of us felt like eating. In the last 6 1/2 hours the terrorists in Russia had hit the Vector Institute. Another building much like the one in the united states that held cells for more deadly diseases. Tears had turned out faces salty and sticky. We didn't bother to wipe them off anymore. We just let them run down our faces. The tears leaped off out faces into our laps. As if they were trying to escape the awfulness of the horrors occurring around us. Then more bad news. The two buildings that had been hit by the terrorists were also the only two building's in the world that contained the remains of cells from smallpox. The disease that had almost killed the world several times before, was loose. And now we had no way of stopping it. The world had agreed years earlier not to destroy smallpox in case it ever came back they would be able to create a vaccine. They risked something like this happening, and now we would pay the price. If only we had known.

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My mother, father and I watched the news the whole day. Our eyes glued to the screen. We had gone to sleep in our clothes the night before and still were in them now. Afraid to leave the room for a moment to go change, afraid we would not see each other again. We did at one point go into the kitchen, to get something to eat, though none of us were hungry. We watched with horror sometimes closing our eyes at the graphic pictures shown on the screen. There were several people in the direct area of the destroyed building's who already were catching viruses. Unfortunately these people were the ones who had raced into the buildings to save victims. The firefighters, the cops, and the paramedics. The people the world needed most. They had a professor on t.v. who had worked at the CDC and had worked closely with smallpox. He warned us about symptoms we might see and what to do. He also told us of other viruses that could be spreading too. A number flashed across the screen to call if we had questions or news of a virus. Around noon I fell asleep curled up in the chair in front of the t.v. I was exhausted and finally gave into sleep. I hoped as I drifted off that this was all just a dream but when I awoke to gasps and loud sobs from my parents I knew it was not. I soon found that things were about to get a lot worse.

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Investigators found the plane. It was buried right in the middle of the building. The terrorists had been carrying viruses with them. At first this did not make sense, why they would not have just let these out onto the world, then it became clear. They had allowed viruses to become exposed to one another. In doing this the terrorists had hoped that they would mix and create a larger and possibly indestructible virus. A super smallpox virus. One that there would be no vaccine for, that the mortality rate was even higher than either first virus. The terrorists had been trying to wipe out the entire world. No one knew whether their aims were going to be fulfilled or not.

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There were more viruses being found in Atlanta and Russia. The areas were being shut down so hopefully the virus would be unable to escape those two cities. It seemed cruel to the people who would be stuck in those cities, but what other choice did the world have?

We were out of food so we had to go out. At first we thought only one of us should go in case there were viruses to be caught until we all realized that if one of us caught it we all would. Also we would never have been able to decide who would go. So we all went and got ready to face the outside world. We went and got our groceries. Already we could see people panicking. There were people wearing gas masks, and cloths over their faces. The medicine section was nearly empty so many people were buying medicines, that would most likely be futile against the monstrous virus that had been exposed to the world. We got what we needed and left as quickly as possible. We tried to go back to a semi normal life after that. We cleaned our dishes. Picked up what we had neglected to over the past 24 hours and mom even made a real dinner. But we ate it in front of t.v something my parents had never permitted before. There was no school the next day. Other than that life seemed to become a routine. Get up, get dressed, make such no more life shattering news has popped up over night, watch t.v., and find some way to occupy ourselves. There was no school, and my parents did not go to work. Then after several days the first signs of smallpox reached our home.

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Mom started complaining about her back aching. We had payed attention to the signs of smallpox but back ache was not one of them. We assumed it would be a rash or red dots like the chicken pox. Or it

would look like an awful mutant case of acne so we all dismissed the back ache immediately as stress. Then the next day dad said his back was starting to ache to, this made me a little nervous because dad never complains about pain. He shattered his leg one time when I was little and he never once moaned, complained or so much as grimaced. So I knew it must really be bugging him. Then my mom had to go lay down and take some pain relievers to calm down. I went in to check on my mom after a couple hours with some tea and more pain relievers. Mom was asleep, another rarity in our household as mom only sleeps at night. I put the tea and pain relievers on the dresser and was fluffing up the pillows when I brushed her arm. I quickly pulled my hand away. Her arm felt like it was burning! Like after you get an awful sunburn and you can feel the heat radiating through your skin. I got dad, we woke mom up and took her temperature. It was 101.2 degrees. I was afraid then. We had gone out just 5 days ago. The disease couldn't have spread that quickly to our town only 1 1/2 days after being let loose could it? We would have seen signs of it sooner wouldn't we? We watched more t.v. and they did quickly mention a fever but mostly it was about the rashes and break outs of small red splotches. The next day dad was feeling worse and mom was in the bathroom half the day, throwing up. Strangely I felt nothing. No fever, no aches, and no need to throw up.

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We started to get calls from the police alerting us to family members deaths and we saw things on the t.v. about the number of deaths going up. We couldn't leave the house to go to the funeral's. which my mother found so disrespectful. She locked herself in her room when we got the call about her mother, Grandma Mabel. When my parents weren't throwing up or sleeping they were crying. I cried a lot too. Not just for what I had lost in means of family and friends, but what I still had the potential to lose. We were watching the news and I saw that our mailman had been reported as dead, and I broke down into tears. I had hardly even known him, but his death just seemed to make me realize that there were so many others and this was real. I was thinking how he had a life, he had family, and friends, and a schedule, and a paycheck, and likes and dislikes, and memories, he had things that made him laugh and things that made him cry and now that was all gone in a few short weeks. Not too long ago he had been perfectly healthy and now he was gone. It really made me think and just made me cry harder. It made me wish I had gotten to know more people. Why hadn't I gotten to be friends with the cheerleaders, or the computer geeks? They might have had a lot to offer, great idea's that know were probably lost to me, because they were wither on their death bed or in the ground, or were going to be soon. The next few days I saw so many anguished faces, so many burials, so many names of those who had died I couldn't have counted if I'd tried. From our living room I watched as kids from school were buried into the ground, and as people I didn't even know were wrenched away from their dead loved ones. My parents and I turned off the t.v for several hours after watching a particularly heart wrenching scene of a mother being pulled away from her two year old as they pulled the child's corpse away to be buried. The look of pure torment and pain on her face stayed with me for the rest of my numbered days.

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My dad pulled me aside the next day and we decided that we needed to take mom to the hospital. We were both afraid of going out into public but if we didn't do something soon then mom would only get worse. We drove for 2 1/2 hours to get to the best doctor, we all brought a small suitcase in case we had to stay more than one day for them to cure mom (and dad) we also had taken all our money out of the bank and (I didn't tell dad) I also took out all the money I had put in for my college fund. I would buy my mother's cure if it meant I had to give up my own possibility at a good life. Or my life itself.

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When we arrived at the hospital it was just as full, if not more so than the hospital's we had seen on t.v with their waiting rooms hundreds of people past their holding capacity and people spilling into the streets. The doctor came out every couple hours scanning the crowd and talking to some of the patients. My father waved him over and he made his way to us. His eyes had huge bags underneath them and he looked so worn down that he could fall over at any minute. He asked our last name and who was infected. We told him that mom was the worst but dad might also be infected and that our last name was Allen. At this he stood up straighter.

"What did you say your first names were?" my dad replied

"My name is Trevor and my wife is Brittany."

"And what's your name young lady?" he asked me

" Madeline." I said. Suddenly the doctor looked like he no longer was tired. He motioned for us to follow him. We did, through the crowds of people. Once they figured out what was going on they started yelling, and protesting. Some swore at us or threw things at us while others tried to stop us. But the doctor lead on as if he walked through angry mobs every day.

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The doctor lead us to a room in the back of the hospital. He put my parents into two beds and started pumping fluids into them. He looked at me and said

"I don't know if they will make it . They have the smallpox super virus definitely and it has invaded their body's pretty well". Then he told me that there was a snack bar downstairs and that I should go get something to eat. I felt so sick to my stomach at the thought of losing my parents I thought it would be better if I went and threw up rather than eat but he insisted so I went to find the snack bar. I ate a couple crackers but I was too miserable to eat anything else. I went back upstairs and sat in a chair. Those couldn't be my parents under all those tubes and with the masks and wires all around them. My parents were strong people they couldn't just shrivel up like this and leave me. Any minute my real mom and dad would walk through the door and say "hey those people aren't really us, none of this is really happening, don't worry it's all been a mistake. Nobody has died that shouldn't have, and there were no terrorists. Don't worry we'll take care of everything!" But they don't... my parents are there in the bed and everything is all still the same, my life is still in ruins.

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The next few days went by slowly, despite the medications my parents both got steadily worse. When they were awake we didn't talk about what may happen instead we talked about what had happened. We talked and laughed about old memories. The day I was born, my first steps, my first words, our favorite vacations, and other favorite times together. We also told each other how much we loved each other, every minute we were saying to each other how much we loved each other. We didn't talk about it but we all knew that they did not have long. After several days at the hospital mom started to go. I could tell, the whites of her eyes had turned red the day after we got here, she was covered in small red blotches and splotches that looked like it was painful. She was gasping for breath. Her hands shot out from under the blankets. She clutched my hand and reached for my fathers also.

"I won't leave you Madeline." she whispered tears were running down my face like water rushing over a waterfall.

"It's alright Mom, I'll be OK. You can go." she looked terrified. And I tried not to look the same way, I had to be brave for my mother.

"It's OK." I repeat "I love you" I tell her for the last time. Her grip slackens and her eyes close slowly. I cry even harder and my father does also. The doctor comes in 15 minutes later. He slowly unhooks my mother from the medications that didn't work, and then wheels her out of the room. I sob uncontrollably for hours, I lose track of time.

It seems like a few days but easily could have been hours later my father also dies. I wake up and he's left. I go over to his bedside and mourn for the strong man that had been there for my whole life. I hadn't even gotten to say good-bye to him. The doctor comes in and unhooks my father too. I give him one last kiss on his unshaven face before he is wheeled away.

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I am soon moved out of the room my parents died in, so other patients can use it. I sleep in a chair in the hallway. A man in a stiff black suit comes to the hospital and shakes my shoulder.

"You are" he glances at a piece of paper "Madeline Allen?"

"Yes" I reply shakily.

"Come with me, we have a place for... Orphaned children, it is in Washington." The pause bothered me but I had no other choice, I was orphaned, and I couldn't live in a hospital for the rest of my life. So I followed him and we rode in a small jet to Washington. On the way I was provided with clothes in my size, my favorite foods, a bathroom to shower in, and a comfortable bed. Before I knew it we landed in Washington. \*\*\*\*\*

I was immediately whisked away to The White House. I had the feeling that they were not Housing orphaned children in the White House. I tried to ask the man in the suit why we were going to The White House, but he would not answer any of my questions. I was lead right to the Oval Office. When I entered the room I took it all in. The President at the desk, another couple of professional people, and several children that looked like not one of them were older then 17 and no younger then 4. The President had a rash on his arm and the professional men all looked like they had some sort of sign of the smallpox.

"Ah! Madeline! So glad you could make it!" the president sounded enthusiastic and looked sincerely happy to see me but all I could think was. "How the heck does the President know my name???" He got up and walked over to me offering his hand to shake (the one that didn't have a rash). I shook his hand, but was still dumbstruck.

"Well I know the last couple days have been rough on you, by the way my deepest regrets about your parents. I know you must be so confused but we only have 9 of you and we are waiting for 4 more children, then we will explain to you all at once. You haven't by any chance heard of: Danielle Rogers, Ethan Patel, Logan Benton, or Janet West?" I am stunned and confused. 13 children? How did he know about my parents? Why was I here? Who did he just mention? How would I have heard of these people?

"No" I stammered

"All right no matter we'll find them, Well I'll have Brick show you your rooms." he motions to a secret service man who grudgingly leads me and the other 8 kids to our rooms the four boys in one room and me and 4 other girls in another.

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Despite being originally set for probably one or two people the room was huge large enough that they had moved seven twin beds into this room for now with plenty of space left. I sat down on the one of the beds that was vacant. One of the girls came over to me she introduced herself as Ava Richard. She said she was 16. The other two girls introduced themselves as Felicia Henderson who was 12, and Dawn Sanders who was 9. I went over to the youngest girl knelt down and asked her name.

"Amy" she whispers I looked at the other girls who stood there in shock.

"You got her to talk, just like that!" Ava exclaimed.

"She hasn't talked to anyone else, not even the President." said Dawn in awe. I was surprised I usually was not good with kids, I guess Amy was an exception.

"How old are you Amy?" I ask. She holds up four fingers for a moment and then goes back to holding her stuffed elephant.

"Wow you're a big girl aren't you?" she nodded. I turn to the other girls

"Any idea what her last name is?"

"I think it's Ray" Dawn piped up

"Is that your last name Amy? Ray?" she nodded again. I turned away from the little girls and faced the other three older girls

"Any idea why we're here?" I ask

"All we know from what they've told us and what we've figured out is: there are 9 of us here, there's 13 of us all together, all of our parents have died, and none of us are sick."

"Those seem like strange coincidences." I mumble

"They are, everyone is sick, and mostly kids are going before their parents." I thought back to the women on T.V, and shuddered.

"So what are we going to do?" I ask

"We wait and hope they aren't going to hurt us."

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Over the next few days we stayed in our rooms for the most part. Except when the 9 kids ate in the dining room we got to see the boys then. But the rest of the time we sat in our rooms. I really began to like

Felicia, and Amy. Even though Amy hardly ever talked she was a sweetheart. And Felicia was really nice. Ava however was overly bossy, and Dawn had so many personality's, all of them were annoying. Around the girls she had to be the know it all, not like the good kind of know it all, the bad kind, she would walk all over your conversation just to be heard. But then when we were around the boys she played all ditsy and stupid, to get attention. Most of all though she was just annoying, whether it was stupid, or smart Dawn, it was always annoying Dawn. I tried to avoid her all together and just talk to Felicia, and try to talk to Amy. I also figured out why Amy actually talked to me. She showed me a crumpled picture she had hidden in her pocket. I gazed down at the picture and saw myself gazing back up.

At a more thorough look I saw the girl was little different, darker eyes, A couple more freckles, and a lighter shade of brown for hair. Amy told me it was her sister before she had caught the smallpox. When she saw me she thought that her sister had sent me as a guardian angel. One day we were all called to the Oval Office. The President was looking worse the rash had spread up his arm to his shoulder and neck. They introduced us to two more children who had been brought in named Danielle Rogers, and Logan Benton. They still had yet to find Ethan Patel or Janet West. We welcomed Danielle into our little girl group and Logan joined the boys.

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I found I liked Danielle a lot, she was little shy at first, but she was really smart. Smarter then Dawn by far. She was quiet but incredibly nice to everyone. She had shoulder length blond hair and brown eyes. She also was good with Amy, probably because of her quiet demeanor. The next day we were called back to the oval office. They had found Ethan which meant only one more child before we could find out why we were really here. But the president looked distraught.

"Janet didn't make it" he said hoarsely. I don't know why, but I was shocked. People were dying everywhere and yet I had assumed when the men in suits had said she would come I had assumed she would.

"She caught it somehow she caught it." he said vacantly.

"Why shouldn't she have millions of others are dying why did you expect her to be any different?" Someone asked

"You are all here now, you have the right to know." The president said So we all sat down and waited for him to tell us why we were different. That is a day I will never forget, the day my life really changed.

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"In the late 1980's the government realized that 2012 was approaching. Now most people think that is a rumor but as you know it is true that on 12/21/12 we did have some problems. Then we weren't sure what it would be so the government began to make plans so that even if the human race was wiped out we could live through it. If the world died in fire there are fire-proof cylinders large enough for 100's people all over the world. If the world died in water there are giant boats placed all over the world large enough for hundreds of thousands of people. And if the world was to die in disease then we would have a shot to stop it. " here he paused waiting for this to sink in.

"Scientist's researched what genetics would be needed that would be able to withstand such a shot, as it would have to be a very strong shot of medications. They came up with several dozen genetics that would create such people, And they started experimenting. This shot would protect them from all deadly diseases, but not common diseases such as a mild case of the flu or a common cold. Unfortunately some

of their shots ended in fatal mistakes. The shot can only be given to infants and some of their immune systems just aren't strong enough at that age. However some are. Out of the many children who got the shot, 13 of them survived it and would be able to survive any deadly disease. 12 of those children are in this room."

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We were all in shock. We had been giving shot's to make us invincible to deadly diseases? What kind of diseases? Like cancer? Or Alzheimer's? Smallpox? We all rushed to ask questions. But the President put up his hands

"One at a time please!" A young boy who looked to be about 8 years old raised his hand

"Does that mean we can never die?"

"No, unfortunately some day you will die. But not from anything like smallpox."

"So the government killed dozens of children trying to save the world?" Ava asked

"Well yes, but that's because we did not know how else to test it. We had limited amount and could not test it on animals."

"Did our parents know we had this shot." A tall boy asked

"No they did not."

"Without our parents permission, that's illegal." the tall boy stated

"Yes but..." The President was pulling at his collar looking nervous.

"What kinds of diseases can it save us from?" I asked quietly "Cancer?" thinking of my best friends mother who had died from cancer a year ago.

"Yes it protects against cancer."

"Are you saying that the government has had a cure for cancer for 30 years and they never told the people never tried to save millions of innocent lives?" Ethan the newest boy asked. When the whole room heard this and realized it must be true there was a lot of yelling and protesting.

"Quiet, Quiet!" the President said " you must remember that this shot would kill those whose immune systems that were already weakened. And it could only be given to infants otherwise it would not work, and would kill the subject. Also you all already had very strong immune system the chance of one of you having got cancer without the shot is very unlikely" We thought about this for a second.

"So what happened to Janet?" Felicia asked.

"We don't know she was given the shot and anyone who survives that is immediately immune so she shouldn't have caught the smallpox, not matter how much exposure she got."

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"So what are we supposed to do?" asked the oldest boy

"Well when the terrorists hit the CDC building, as most of you know they had another deadly version of a disease so they combined and created an unbeatable mass killing disease, a super virus, that would kill faster than the original smallpox, and that has a zero chance of survival."

"Yes"

"So that means you 12 are the only ones that will be left after everyone has died" I couldn't picture that. Being one of the few left on earth.

"Now we realized that of course if you are the only ones left on earth then you will have to sustain yourselves. So out west where the growing is the best we have put several glass domes where the biome's are different for different types of foods you will need. There is a tropical biome for fruits like banana's and oranges and coniferous biome's for fruits like apples and vegetables and vegetables such as broccoli, carrots, and zucchinis. We also have wheat and corn biome's. Most of these biome's contain several types of animals you can use to sustain yourselves."

"So we will be going back in time to live as farmers?" someone asks distastefully.

"Yes. And no. You see the biome's resemble large greenhouses. You also have access to the equipment that modern farmers use. We have solar panels so that you will be able to have electricity, which will make life much easier. Also we have one biome where you will all be able to live in the middle of all the other biome's. Inside we have things that will be able to help you with what you are taking on. Instruction manuals on farming. We also have a computer program we created in which we have explained all the details to the program, now all you have to do is ask it's advice, and it will help you the best it can. Also we will have a lab where we have stored embryos, therefore in a couple years you can raise Petri-dish children. And eventually perhaps raise your own children." I was only 13 but I had always wanted a family. But not when I only had the choice of 6 boys of which only 2 looked to be close to my own age.

"Now we have stocked the homes in the biome's with food enough for the 12 of you for about a year and a half. However you will have to raise your own crop of food this year and every year after that if you want to live longer than a year and a half. Also since it would be impossible for 12 people to run several farms you will have the best technology available. You will have automatic sprinkler, and lights for the plants, so they will have the best probability of surviving. There will be several robots that will be around the farms helping with odds and ends, mostly the dirty jobs no one else wants to do. Tonight you will spend your last night here and tomorrow you will depart for the biome's, We need to get you out there before there aren't any pilots left. We will send periodical messages via, computer and daily updates, as long as we can." We started to get up to leave the room but the President stopped us.

"One more thing kids before I forget. The fatality rate for this disease is 100% or technically 99.999999999999%... , if any people arrive at the biome and I have not told you to expect them, then don't let them in. They are most likely infected and could kill any of the animals or plants we have placed in the sterile biome's. Do Not Trust Or Let Anyone In!"

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That night I could barely sleep I had so many thoughts whirring in my head. The girls and I had talked and Amy had cried. She slept beside me that night for comfort. None of us knew anything about farming, hopefully some of the boys did. We were also nervous about the petri baby's. We didn't know much about

parenting either. I finally fell asleep and it seemed like just a moment later that we were awoken by a young woman with a red rash all over her face. She told us to get up and get dressed. Our clothes that we had worn yesterday were replaced with normal clothes finally. We all got a pair of jeans and a brown T-shirt. We met up with the boys in the dining room who were dressed the same way. We received a HUGE meal. There were: eggs, toast of every variety, a dozen kinds of jams, 10 sorts of pancakes, 5 types of syrups, 3 types of waffles, bagels, croissants, cereal's, bacon, sausage, hash browns, and a whole bunch of other foods I tried but I'm not sure what they were. The president joined us for breakfast that morning. He explained we would have everything we would need out in the biome's. Including communication devices to connect each other, a car (which was kind of useless) and enough robots to help us with the farm chores. We ate till we couldn't eat any more. Then the president shook each of our hands. He also handed the oldest boy an envelope which contained: a flash drive, a key, and 2 million dollars. He said there was also a fair amount in some of the homes in the biome's, but just in case we ever needed money for something, he wanted us to be prepared for anything. He walked with us to the jet I had arrived in he talked to the pilot briefly then waved from the runway as we took off. We were on our way to a new life. A life where we would sustain ourselves. A life where we would have no other human contact. A life where we were the only ones alive.

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The plane slowly touched down. We had arrived. We landed in a field full of wildflowers. In a place as beautiful as this it was hard to imagine all the suffering of the world outside this sanctuary. We all stepped out of the plane blinking at the sudden brightness. A secret serviceman pointed us in the direction of the biome's and we started to walk, after we had gone about an eighth of a mile the plane took off and that was the last time we saw other human life forms for a long time.

We walked for about a mile and a half when we finally reached the biome's. They were enormous. And looked like half bubbles sticking out of the ground. Each one was about a couple acres or more and they were all connected by small passageways so you could go from one biome to another without going outside the sanitary environments. When we got closer we realized that the material was a mixture of plastic and glass. It looked to be about 3 to 5 inches thick we could see plenty inside but couldn't hear anything so we figured it must be sound proof. We walked around the perimeter of the first building until we found the main entrance. It was large and we used the key the president gave us. we walked into a closed chamber that misted us with antibacterial, fluids killing all the germs that we might have otherwise brought into the biome with us. We then used the key to get through into the next chamber and then onto the first biome.

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The first biome was the one of the smallest of them probably 2 acres of land. It had a large four story yellow farmhouse. It was a beautiful house, with white trim and a large wraparound porch. We walked over and went inside. On the first story there was a room that was a kitchen dining area with a large fridge and all the modern appliances. It also had a huge dining table big enough for 16 people comfortably. Off of the kitchen was a huge pantry. It was bigger then the large bathroom we had at home. It had shelves and shelves of food there was also a trap door we all went through to investigate, and found one huge room underneath the house. Most of it was used as a root cellar. Which was where people used too keep food during the cold winter months but ours was filled with sacks of flour and sugar, barrels of apples and pears, crates of carrots, cans of beans, and so much more. In the corner there was also a large furnace, and plumbing. We went back upstairs and checked out the rest of the rooms. There was a bathroom and a living room on the first floor. The second, third, and fourth floors were bedrooms and one bathroom per floor. There was also what looked to be a hobby room. And another room that was a library. The library

had hundreds of books and painting's all over. In one case was a portrait of a lady. It was the Mona Lisa! We realized that if the whole world was dieing they must have sent it here, so the last humans alive would be able to enjoy it. The hobby room had a sewing machine with boxes of fabric bolts in one corner . In another corner was a computer with every sort of accessory imaginable, there were speakers, and sensors, and ports, and just about everything else that a computer can have. We remembered the presidents words that we should talk to him after we got there, but decided to look at the other biome's first. We left the flash drive and money on the table next to the computer took the key and left to go exploring.

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The president was right, there are so many biome's with so many environments. There was a biome for an apple, blueberry, strawberry farm, there was a wheat and corn farm, a small tropical banana, mango, orange farm, an animal farm with crops for the animals food. There was also a products/animals farm. With chickens for eggs, cows and goats for cheese and milk and sheep for their wool. At the animal farm one of the boys my age opened up a storm room and found an army of robots. They needed to be turned on so we hit a button, and programmed them to farm work. They started and filed past us. Going out into the farmyard and starting to do everything we didn't know how to. Mucking out stalls, milking cows, and collecting eggs. The animals seemed unfazed by the fact that there were robots everywhere. It kind of freaked me out though. The robots were short about 5 feet tall, four wheels for feet, and four arms each, each arm had a hand that looked like a Swiss army knife with different utensils that would flip out. They all had a key to get from one biome to another we soon found out when they left to go to other biome's before us. There were about 50 robots all together. In each biome we soon found there was also a small house, not as large as the one in the center biome but large enough for about half of us to stay there. we figured that if the farm work was too hard in a certain biome or maybe it was too late to walk home that we could just stay in the house is that biome. After we finished looking at all the biome's we went "home" to the center biome. As we walked in we noticed a small garden in the back, with herbs, and spices to use for cooking. We walked in and realized that we were on our own for dinner.

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Fortunately Danielle and Ava are excellent cooks. They found a couple good recipes upstairs in the library and started cooking a delicious but easy meal of pasta with Alfredo sauce, peppers, and some assorted herbs from the garden. The sauce was a little thick but we were hungry, so we didn't complain. For desert Danielle had found some canned peaches, and put them into some whipped cream. We ate heartily and then all helped with the dishes. Then we went to stake out rooms. It turned out the robots had put signs on each door, so we didn't have to pick. I was pretty happy with my room it was down the hall from the bathroom and I was on the same floor as Amy. My room was large with a good sized closet already set with several pairs of clothes (how did they do that?) that looked to mostly be work clothes similar to what I was wearing, but they were all comfortable material. The room was a light periwinkle color and had two windows. I had a double bed and a night table on one side. On the night table was my own cell phone like communication device. We couldn't have real cell phones because the towers would be out when there was no one left to run them. They seemed to be walkie talkies with all the capabilities of a cell phone. It had the other numbers programmed in but under "phone number 5" or "phone number 11" so I would have to figure out who was who. At the bottom on the back of my phone was small writing "Phone number 3". It was early but I was tired. I decided to go to bed I changed into the pajamas that were in the closet. I got into bed and reflected on all that happened to me in the last couple days. I'd watched thousands suffer, two building's destroyed on television, held my mothers hand as she died, kissed my father's dead cheek, suddenly been transported to the white house, met the president, found out I was destined to live, and been transported to the biome's. All within two weeks.

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The next day I was awoken by a robot women setting out my clothes and pressing an alarm button on her chest. I got up and took the clothes then looked at her, she took the hint and left the room. I got dressed and went downstairs fixing myself a bowl of cereal. There were a couple people downstairs some of the girls were sitting at the table eating while the boys were lounging on the couches. I went and sat at the far end of the table away from the other girls (it was Ava and Dawn). A moment later another one of the boys came downstairs, it was Ethan the last kid to arrive at the white house. He went and grabbed some cereal then looked for a place to sit. He looked disgustedly at the gossiping girls and the lazy boys then came and sat next to me. I looked up as he sat down.

"Hi, Madison right?" he asked

"Madeline" I said "you were close though." he smiled then looked over at the Ava and Dawn.

"Good choice not sitting over there" he said

"The two of them are nightmares." I said in a low voice "They get on my nerves."

"Don't blame you. There are some of the boys here that are the same way."

"Really? They all seemed pretty nice to me. Then again I don't even know their names."

"Well the tall oldest boy is David he's 16 and thinks that cause he's oldest he's the boss, and he's top of the world. Than there's Brian who is the messiest 8 year old." He starts explaining to me

"Wait which one is Brian?"

"The one who's hair looks like it hasn't been combed in a month and has a huge stain on the front of his shirt even though he's only been wearing it for a half hour. There's also Logan who is a little cleaning work freak. He's 12 and him and Brian have already been in a couple fights. Brian would leave his shirt on the ground after changing back at the White House and Logan would have to give him a lecture about it. He also can't wait to work on the farm as long as he doesn't get too dirty. He's probably upstairs now inspecting his room for any loose thread out of place."

"What about the other boys?" I asked

"Well Kevin and James are pretty good they are 10 and 11. Pretty nice kids and know they're gonna have to work to survive out here." Soon Felicia, Danielle, James, and Kevin came downstairs and joined Ethan and I. We talked about which Biome farms would need the most work and which ones the robots could probably run on their own for awhile. The group on a whole decided pairs would be best. Danielle offered to work with Amy even though she knew Amy wouldn't be able to do much. Kevin and James paired up. Felicia said she was going to work with Logan to keep him off of Brian. Ava and Dawn were working together, and David and Brian were working together. Which left me and Ethan together.

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Before we left everyone got whose number was whose in case we needed to get in contact with each other then we headed to our own individual farms. Ethan and I headed over to the animal farm we helped the

robots milk the cows and goats, we collected eggs, and fed all the animals, the pigs, cows, sheep, and poultry. Ethan acted like the brother I'd never had but at the same time there were times that I glanced at him and thought, 'he's kind of cute'. It was sad that the most of the animals were here for us to eat so I tried not to get close to any of them. Fortunately the robots also would take care of the animal's killing for us too, because I know if I had to kill an innocent animal I wouldn't be able to live with myself. The chores seemed to go quickly but when I looked at the time it was already eleven thirty. Ethan and I mucked out stalls for another hour before heading to the center house to eat. Danielle was in the kitchen with Amy making sandwiches, she said some of the others had already come and gone. She and Amy had had an easy farm to do today, the apples, so they didn't have much to do so they decided to come back and clean the house and cook for everyone. Ethan and I stayed for an hour before going and helping the robots muck out more stalls, we then had to milk the cows again because it was already four o'clock. We locked all the free range chickens in their coops for the night and checked to make sure all the animals were settled in for the night before heading back to the center house. Danielle and Amy had cooked another delicious meal this time some mashed potatoes, steak tips, and beans. We also had fresh milk that Ethan and I had milked this morning. After we had all eaten we went upstairs and decided it was time we talked to the president.

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We turned on the computer and put in the flash drive first. A robotic female voice came on and gave us directions to open the directions folder. Then it had a place where we could ask it a question about what to do here, in the biome's. It had the option of typing the question or asking it verbally. We looked at this for a few moments then turned our attention to the skype option on the computer. We then called the only person in this computer's contacts, the president. He answered after just a few seconds. His face was haggard and he looked worse, but when he saw the 12 of us crowded around the screen he smiled.

"My twelve little troopers how are you?" we talked to him for awhile and asked how much had happened in the last 2 1/2 days. He told us that the world's population had dropped down to 2 billion in just one short month

"I expect that by the end of this month the world's population will have dropped down to about 12." he told us. The thought made me sick to my stomach. I could see some of the others looking a little disturbed by this idea as well.

"How have you been doing on the farms?" the president asked we told him that the robots did alot of the work so it wasn't too difficult but we were working to make sure all the crops are doing well. The president made sure we had found everything we needed, the food, the rooms, the robots. He also asked about the science lab he had in one of the biome's. It was the only biome none of us had visited yet. We were all a little scared of what we would find in there, though no one would admit it. The president told us we didn't have to go there now, but we would eventually.

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Over the next few days life was normal. Well as normal as it can be when you are the only 12 people immune to a disease killing your whole planet. We went about our farm chores contacted the president daily, and ate Danielle's delicious food. We all had agreed that since Danielle was such a great cook and Amy couldn't help much anyway, until more people learned to cook the two of them would be the housekeepers. They would cook all our meals for us and clean what was necessary, though the robots did almost everything cleaning wise. But at night and on slow days several of us were taking lesson's from Danielle, to become better at cooking. Ethan, Felicia, James, Amy, and I were all taking lesson's. We

started off with simple recipes such as grilled cheese, macaroni and cheese, scrambled eggs, and salad's. but we got more complex as we had more lesson's and soon we were cooking twice baked potatoes, omelette's, pie's, and roast chickens. We were all getting better at cooking and soon Danielle said we could start taking turns doing the cooking and she could go and do some real farm work.

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The president was looking worse every day. His face was becoming so covered in red dots and splotches that his eyes were becoming swollen shut. I don't know what the doctors gave him, but it seemed to be something that was slowing down his smallpox. But It looks so painful that I would rather die quickly. One day he comes on and his eyes are swollen shut, but not from smallpox, from crying.

"My wife, my wife" he spluttered his wife had finally passed away after being one of the first to get smallpox, she had battled it a long time but eventually just gave in. The first lady was dead. After that the president slowly went downhill, and got worse everyday. Several days later a new man showed up on the screen.

"We would like to speak to the president please." David said

"I'm very sorry children" The man said "but the president died just this morning. I am the president of the united states now, at least until everyone but you dies." He sure didn't sound sorry, he seemed pretty mean, to me. We quickly logged off and conversed about the fact that the president had also died. Most of us did not like the new president however some of the others did. Dawn said he reminded her of her father and David and Ava both liked him, the rest of us did not. After that our calls to the white house became fewer and fewer.

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As spring turned into summer we started spending more time in the biome's with the crops. because the biome's are all heat controlled the only way we can tell the season's are changing is by looking outside, and the fact that our solar panels are picking up more sun then ever before. They are special solar panels since they have to power everything we did they moved with the sun like sunflowers for maximum sun collection. Ethan and I were getting to be good friends since we hung out so much doing the chores on the animal farms together. Once we finished milking the cows and goats, and feeding all the animals, and collecting the eggs, and mucking out stalls, we head over to where Felicia, or James and Kevin are working and help them with their crops. The greens/veggies biome starts to burst in late spring. The lettuce crop is bursting, and the broccoli is starting to ripen, and so are the peppers. We are working every day to try to get them all in before anything goes to waste. Whatever does happen to go bad is given to Amy who takes all the rotten or past food that can't be used and feeds it to the chickens. The chickens have a large pen in the animals biome which is about 400 square feet for the hens on their own. the roosters have to be in smaller pens because they fight with each other so they are all in separate cages with about 5 square feet of space each. The pens are all low, about 2 or three feet high with doors at the top to drop food in. It's Amy's job to drop the rotten food in through the top of pen's for the chickens to eat. They love it. We probably have about 45 hens, and 15 roosters. We also mix the roosters and the hens once a week so that we can have baby chicks. We also keep our hens because they produce eggs, however the roosters could go at any moment. As that harvest of the lettuce, broccoli, and peppers increases we start looking up ways to store it, so we can use it this winter. We start freezing chopped up peppers, and broccoli but we are still unsure what to do with the lettuce other then make a lot of salad. After a week and a half of nothing but salad for lunch and dinner we start to give up there is no way to preserve the

lettuce for more than a week. So we start to feed most of it to the chickens, and all make mental notes not to plant a lot of lettuce next year.

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We still stay in contact with the remaining life out there. the second president was wrong he did not rule the country until everyone died. In fact he died a week after he became president. after that we couldn't keep track of how many people had been president, it seemed that every time we called someone different answered. It used to be if someone said president I thought of our great leader, or one of our past presidents like Lincoln, or Roosevelt. Now all I see is a blur of faces. The death rate was increasing and every day we were able to watch a short clip of the news on the computer. That is until all the newscaster's died which was about 1 1/2 months after the terrorist attack. Then one day when we contacted the white house no one was there except one of the many secretaries that had gone through in the last 7 weeks. She glanced up and walked over to the screen.

"I'm sorry but the last politician died this morning kids. There is no one left to be president of the United States. The last few Secretaries are cleaning up and preserving documents in case the human species is ever able to rebound, then we are going home to spend the last few days with our families. The last president asked me to send you this file. it shows you how many people remain in the world, and in each country. Good luck to the 12 of you! Good bye children!" and with that the screen zapped out and we never spoke to the white house through that screen again.

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We tried to go about our daily chores that next week but we were all distracted. Ethan accidentally spilled a pail of milk, and I almost fed chicken feed to sheep, though at the last minute realized my mistake, which is good because chicken feed is poisonous to sheep. Danielle burned a loaf of bread and had to start over, and David accidentally pulled up a whole tomato plant. We kept checking the file the secretary had sent us, it kept going down. One day it said 13 in the United states, and zero in every other country.

"So there's only one other person alive in the country besides us?" Logan said trying to clarify

"Guess so." replied David.

"Maybe it's a glitch, and thinks Janet is with us." suggested Danielle. We decided to check again after a couple days and the number had dropped down to 12. We had a moment of silence remembering what the world was like several months ago, and to remember what we had lost. After several minutes we were all crying our eyes out, remembering our loses. When we had all dried our eyes and stopped crying David spoke.

"So I guess that's It. We're the last ones alive on this planet..." Suddenly we were all staring at the screen again. The number had changed from 12 to 13 again then back to 12 then up to 13 1/2

"What the....." we were all staring at the computer in confusion.

"It must be some sort of glitch." said Ethan he reached over and closed the window and then dragged the file to the trash saying as he did this.

"It could have a virus, so we'll get rid of it."

"But what if someone really is out there?" Dawn asks

"Then the pox will get them soon, them and the other half a person that's possibly out there." Ethan replied. "We don't really need to know if there are other people out there, there probably aren't so lets pretend there aren't, and ignore that file."

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We all took the day off, that day. We all hung around, Danielle helped us with some difficult cooking recipes. We stopped after a while though, because our hearts just weren't into it that day. We ended up hardly doing anything that day, I read a book I found in the library, but after 2 hours of reading I realized I had no idea what the book was about so I put it down. Ethan tried to crack a few jokes but eventually stopped when no one was paying attention. I was sitting on the couch when Amy came and sat next to me, and snuggled up next to me. We turned in early that night after a free for all, leftovers dinner. I had just gotten into bed when I heard something upstairs, I have the bedroom right below the hobby room, and everyone had already headed to bed. I got out of bed and snuck upstairs, to find Ava staring at the number of people remaining file as it blinked between 12, 13, and 13 1/2. I was about to loudly ask what she was doing, knowing the others would be mad at her, but realized there was no point. She probably was just trying to figure it out, or was thinking. I decided to just leave her alone. I went back downstairs to my room and fell into a nightmare filled sleep.

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After that time seemed to fly. Before we knew it, it was mid July. One day after looking at a calender, Amy came up to me and said proudly.

" Today's my birthday." I turned to her.

"Really Amy? You're five today? Wow your getting to be such a big girl!" I said enthusiastically. She giggled and nodded I went and talked to Danielle and then Ethan. That day Amy went to work on the animal farms while I stayed in the kitchen with Danielle. Felicia came back at lunch time. When she saw what we were doing she ran to her room and got some balloons, she got from who knows where and blew them up. I ran two sandwiches down to the animal farm for Ethan and Amy so they wouldn't have to come up to the house. Then rushed back to the house to finish with the preparations. That night we surprised Amy with her favorite meal, Macaroni and cheese with chunks of ham and extra cheese. We also had decorations up: balloons, paper chains in pink, and purple (Amy's favorite colors), and a sign that read 'Happy Birthday Amy!'. When dinner was over we brought out a strawberry cake with white frosting, and delicate pink roses. Amy was so happy we didn't have anything we could give her as presents, but we did also pick her a dozen roses we found on the edge of the property on one of the farms. We stayed up late that night, and talked and laughed. When we all went to bed Amy brought her roses to bed and put them on her night table so she could enjoy them all night. It was a wonderful night.

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After that when ever someone had a birthday, we would have a small celebration. Over the course of the next month we celebrated two more birthday's Dawn's and Ethan's. They would stay out of the center house all day, and then come back at the end of the day to a small birthday party, with their favorite meal, a cake and some decorations. Life in the biome's was starting to become normal to us. We ate farm fresh food almost every night, and enjoyed the outdoors. We were all tanned from the sun, and our hair all seemed much lighter colored then it had been when we first arrived at the white house. We also all

seemed much stronger then when we first arrived. One day Ethan and I were mucking out stalls with the robots. It may seem silly that we would do any work at all on the farm when the robots could manage it, but they couldn't. The hands of a robot never will be as good as a humans, in any task. They are more liable to make mistakes, and there were not enough of them to handle all the farm work all the time. Sometimes we could take a day off and let them handle it for a day, but no longer than that. We were mucking out stalls when suddenly Amy came running towards us. We stopped working to watch her. She came right up to me, she was panting and sweating, she must have run all the way from the center house.

"Amy what's the matter?"

"You have to come!"

"Why? Is something wrong at the house? Is Danielle OK?"

"No" she shook her head "People"

"What are you talking about?"

"There's a person, she's at the entry door. She wants to come in"

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Ethan and I ran to the main entry texting the others to come too. When we arrived we found a young women standing just outside the door. She looked like she could drop dead of exhaustion, she had so many bags under her eyes, her clothes were tattered, and other than her bulging baby belly, she was thin as a toothpick. Despite all this though she did not had a red spot on her, not one sign of small pox on her. Danielle was standing there, and you could tell this was bothering her. She is such a kind hearted person, it must have been killing her see another person suffering this way, especially when there was a possibility it was causing the suffering of another also. The others arrived shortly, and we still couldn't decide what to do. All the while the girl was making motions towards the door asking us to open it. None of us wanted to leave her out there, but the president had said not to let her in. Ava went and checked the computer to see what to do if someone came to the biome, and it was miraculously alive. She came back shaking her head sadly saying that we would have to leave her out there. Finally we all decided to let her come into the cleaning chamber. She would be out of harm's way there, and we could talk to her, but her germs would be unable to enter the biome. We unlocked it and opened the first of three doors so she could get into the cleaning chamber. It misted her with the sanitizing chemicals and dried her off. Danielle and I Opened the last door and stepped into the last compartment, closed that door and opened the second, so we were in the cleaning chamber. The girl was kneeling in the corner her hands clutching her stomach. We didn't waste any time.

"What's your name and what are you doing here? How have you not caught the smallpox?"

"My name Is Julia West and I don't know how I haven't caught the smallpox, and I was told there may be a place I could survive, my cousin told me the government had a place In this area that may be safe before he died. I've been looking for 2 1/2 months and I have finally found it! Please let me inside I'll do anything! I haven't eaten a real meal in months, and I've been living off of cactus, and rats. Please?" This was a lot of information at one moment but I had caught the most important piece though, I don't think Danielle did.

"Julia West? You don't by any chance know Janet West do you?"

"She was my twin sister."

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We brought Julia a blanket, some food and water. We had told her that we would love to let her in but had been told by the government not to let anyone in. We would talk about it today and tomorrow and tell her our decision before the end of the day tomorrow. We talked it over late into that night and decided that she was not a threat. We also realized, after doing some research. Humans are the only species that can catch the Smallpox disease. even the intensified smallpox that the terrorists had created was innocuous towards plants and animals. seeing as we were all immune to it, there was no reason not to let Julia in.

We brought her in just before breakfast, so she could eat with us. Afterwards, we showed her to a room she could stay in on the third floor, and where the bathroom was, so she could shower. Unfortunately we didn't have any maternity clothes for her but then she saw the hobby room during the tour I gave her, She saw the bolts of fabric and sewing machine. They had been untouched since we got here, because none of us knew how to sew. But apparently Julia did. We told her she didn't have to work today because it was her first day. Also we said she wouldn't be doing any hard work because she only had about a month until the baby was expected. She said she would help in the kitchen. On her day off that day Julia made herself two sets of maternity clothes. She was amazing when it came to that sewing machine. Over the course of the next week she made several sets of baby clothes out of the fabric, and even made a small baby quilt for it. She told us she didn't know the gender because she was going to find out on her next visit, but she never got a chance to go the next time because the doctor's office was swamped with sick and dieing patients. 'I think it's a boy though' she had told us. We had asked her how she knew. She wasn't sure but she just had a feeling it was a boy.

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One night we were talking all trying to figure out how Julia never got sick.

"The president never told us about Janet having a twin sister, he just said for some reason the shot didn't save her." We had told her all about what the president had said about the shot and everything else.

"I wonder if they accidentally gave me the shot instead of Janet." suggested Julia

"They mixed you two up and accidentally gave you the shot instead." Brian said. Julia started to laugh and laugh at this. we were all looking at her wondering if she was ok, but she waved us away and said she was fine

"It's just I'd forgotten about this till you said that, my mom used to always tell us when we were first born, for the first four months we were exactly identical. nothing to tell us apart by. We were both the same weight and height within small fractions. We didn't have any birthmarks, or freckles or anything. So she used to tell us when she mixed us up 'well I could have mixed you two up a million times when you were little so you could be Julia, Janet.'" she started to giggle some more "That always used to crack us up"

"Are you saying your mom has admitted she could have mixed you up when you were little?" I asked

"Yes, but right after we hit four months I started to grow a lot faster and her hair grew darker."

"So that means no one would know if two got mixed up before you were 4 months old?"

"Right" she replied

"Don't you see Julia? They probably didn't mix you up when they gave Janet the shot when you were infants. Your mom mixed you up, when you were little. You are really Janet. Well the name, at least. You have been going by the name Julia your whole life, when really you are Janet!" Julia looked stunned for a couple minutes

"Oh my god. Mom really did mix us up! That's why I lived, I'm really Janet West." Then she started to laugh hysterically. "That means whenever anyone mixed us up, they were right, and we were wrong!" She continued to laugh and we joined in with her. It did seem pretty funny.

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Even though we had found out that Julia was really Janet, she still called herself Julia. Two days after our discovery Julia and I were walking to the animal farm to collect eggs. Her belly was really bulging now, and we had all felt the baby's kicks, as it tried to tell us it was ready.

"I've never been in there." Julia said pointing over to science biome, where the lab is. "What's over there?" she asked

"That's a science lab. The president told us about it, but we have never gone in there. We're all kind of afraid to."

"Really what's in there?" She asked eagerly.

"The president said there's all sort of scientific stuff, there's also embryo's of baby's and stuff like that so one day we can start to repopulate the earth."

"Wow, and you haven't been in there yet? Why not? That sounds so interesting!" That night Julia talked to all of us, saying we should investigate the lab biome." So we decided the next day we would go and take a look around.

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The next day we went to the lab. It really wasn't too interesting. There were a lot of files and trays in a special fridge that had the baby embryo's. It wasn't scary at all. We still didn't go back much after that. After that Julia could hardly do anything but, sew clothes, she was getting so close to her due date. We had looked up on the computer what we were supposed to do once she went into labor. It was of no help. We did find a mothering book, and a doctor's book in the library. It turns out Ava had wanted to be a nurse, so she spent the next week reading the medical books in the library from cover to cover. She also researched on the computer. One day she came back from the lab saying she had found something interesting. She talked to Julia for a long time after that. Julia talked to me about it later. She said that there were shots in the lab like the ones, we all had gotten when we were born.

"Without one of those shots my baby might never be able to leave the Biome's without catching the smallpox and dieing. But at the same time we have no idea if the shot could kill the baby too. Because he has half of my genes there's a better chance of the shot not killing him, but it still could."

"Oh Julia, that's awful!"

"I know, and I have no idea what to do! If anything happens to this baby because of my decision I wouldn't be able to live with myself. I am completely responsible for this person, and have no idea how to take care of this."

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One week later on September 18th Allen Jack West was born at 2:23 pm. Ava helped Julia through it like an expert, fortunately nothing went wrong. Julia had decided right before she went into labor that they would give the baby the shot, and hope he had enough of his mother's genes. Twelve hours after he was born Ava whisked him away to the lab and gave him the shot she then kept him there for 24 hours under constant watch. At one point he got a bit of a high fever but after applying a cool facecloth to his head the fever came back down. Other than that Allen did fine and was returned to his mother. The 24 hour constant watch had given Julia time to rest. When Allen came back from the lab the boys surprised Julia with a crib for Allen. It had removable sides, so he could use it till he was about 4 or 5. It also had runner's so it could rock back and forth and lock so when he got older you could stop it from rocking. After Ava brought Allen back from the lab, Julia did not let him out of her sight for one second unless she was positive he was in good hands. Lucky her, she would never have to pay for a babysitter, there were 12 eager children to spend time with Allen. Allen was an adorable baby. He had blue eyes, like his mother, and curly blond hair. 'Like his father's' Julia said. Allen's father had been Julia's boyfriend, his name was Jack. But unfortunately like everyone else in the world he had been taken by the smallpox.

"He would have been a good father though." said Julia "He was very supportive of me keeping the baby, even though we were both only Juniors." Allen was however not a good sleeper. He slept fine during the day but during the night he would wake up constantly. One day Julia told us all she was moving to one of the houses in one of the other biome's, just until Allen started sleeping better, so he wouldn't keep us up with his constant crying.

"I'll still hang out with you here and help with the cooking and eat meals with you, I'll just sleep somewhere else."

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We realized as September went by that usually we would be back in school. It occurred to us one day that this would be Amy's first year of school. The thirteen of us talked it over and decided that it would be mandatory for all of us to get at least a primary school education. So anyone who had been in 8th grade or below last year would have to finish their schooling. If anyone wanted higher than a primary school education they could continue their schooling past middle school. Since we all had farm chores to do we would do school work from 5-8 every night and more if needed the older children would help teach the younger children and if there were children of the same age level they would work together. Ethan and I had about 2 or 3 months left of required schooling. Logan, Kevin, Amy, Dawn, Brian, James, and Felicia had somewhere between 1 and 9 years of schooling left. We decided to start Allen with ABC's and 1,2,3's once he was about 2 1/2. All the other kids were already into their secondary education. Most of them decided to do a little of schooling when they weren't helping us. Our days started to become even more full

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On December 5Th Ethan and I both graduated from middle school. We had a ceremony out behind the main house we got diploma's from Julia and she proudly stated how we both had done exceptionally well as our studies. We both also decided to continue with our schoolwork. Two days later I turned 14 we celebrated as usual with a cake and decorations. Ethan asked how I had been in only 8Th grade if I just turned 14. I explained that my mother had put me into school a year early. I was always the youngest in my class. About two weeks later we celebrated Christmas, Everyone was christian. We celebrated with a large feast, a couple small homemade gifts and games all day. We also went into the forest just outside one of the biome's and cut down a small pine tree two days before Christmas. We also got to play in the small dusting of snow. We made homemade ornaments to hang on the tree. It was a fun day.

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New year's passed quickly. The older kids stayed up till midnight and celebrated the new year. though it seemed a lot less dramatic then other years with out the ball drop and Times Square full of millions of screaming people. The next few months pasted quickly. Allen grew quickly and we harvested and grew crops all winter long, since the biome's were all temperature controlled. We spent all winter in the fields, looking outside at the snow piling up. Before we knew it, it was the 1st anniversary of when the terrorists attacked the CDC building. We worked silently that day, and had had a few moment's of silence at dinner to remember why we were here and the billions who lost their lives in the horrific past. But over the past year we had learned so much more then we ever had in a normal year scenario. We had learned how to work together. How to fend for ourselves. How to cook and deliver baby's. We had learned to solve problems on our own. But most importantly we had learned how to become a family. I think that is how we have made it through the world being completely alone, we were together. Together we had the courage to stay alive and run the small colony of the only earth's humans. Together we gave each other the will to keep living in a world where we had already lost everything. And hopefully being together will take us through all the next obstacles that are thrown at us, whether it be within the next year or 5 years or the next few decades. We are writing history doing this, staying alive without any means of support but each other. We are going to keep it together and work through the problems we face together. As a family. The End