

Utopia Perspectives



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Meet Dana

She is in her last year of elementary school at age twelve. She is excited to hear what her employment test results have indicated for her...

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Meet Mary

She is also in her last year of elementary school at age twelve. She is nervous to hear what her employment test results have indicated for her...

Dana always knew she was destined for greatness (her mother told her this every morning at breakfast). She did well at school and was expecting to get a great career that she would train at for another 10 years at the university. They learned at school that before careers were assigned there was a lot of crime. The results should be out later today. Her parents worked as researchers at the university and she hoped to follow in their footsteps..



About Dana

Mary was sweating. She likely didn't do well enough at the exams to go to university but maybe she could go to the college and work as a massage therapist like her mother or a mechanic like her father. They learned at school that before careers were assigned there was a lot of crime. Her parents indicated those days were scary but also talked of how people could switch careers to find one they enjoyed. The results should be out later today.

Her brother took the test a few years ago and the algorithm assigned him to special projects abroad. It sounded like a special honor but her brother doesn't come home on Sunday afternoons like the other young people and her family has no way to connect with him.

About half of the boys and a quarter of the girls are assigned the same task each year from their school in the 10 years since the test was implemented. None of them had contacted their family. Mary really wanted to be able to see her parents.



About Mary

Our Schools

Dana's school in the university district has all the most up to date technologies including virtual reality, while experts popped in through zoom to answer questions about their work. Students had access to the most experienced teachers, using constructivism and maker based learning primarily.

Mary's school in the labour district is where teachers learn to teach independently. They have some old Quest 5's with some virtual simulations on it. They try to use constructivism and maker based learning but the larger class sizes and teachers with limited supports makes it difficult to have effective learning.

Dana's Analysis by Employment Algorithm

Ability for creative thinking? 80th percentile

Previous school behavior and achievement? 90th percentile



Chance to commit a crime? <1%

Emotional Intelligence? 30th percentile

Ability for critical thinking? 90th percentile

Result: Researcher (Type to be re-analyzed after three years basic training)

Mary's Analysis by Employment Algorithm

Ability for creative thinking? 30th percentile

Previous school behavior and achievement? 50th percentile



Chance to commit a crime? <1%

Emotional intelligence: 90th percentile

Ability for critical thinking? 20th percentile

Result: Infant Carer

Wow! I am going to be a researcher just like my parents. I hope I do well at basic training and get to research something exciting. I am excited to get to live in the dorms away from my parents. They also have the newest tech at the university to learn and try out.

Dana's Response

Mary's relief abounds. Infant carer means that she will assist a family with their one to two children from when a baby is born to when the youngest child turns six. Her responsibility will be to ensure the safety of the children in her care until they attend elementary school and ensure they follow the law. Best of all she will get to see her family each Sunday.

Mary's Response

Dana's First Week

Dana becomes friends with her classmates.

Dana is so busy that she doesn't become homesick, except just before sleep.



Dana is immersed in labs, digital labs, and discussions



Dana learns philosophy, history, scientific method, advanced mathematics, and report writing.



Dana's parents are excited to share Sunday dinner with her and send her home with an extra treat.

Mary's First Week

Mary becomes friends with her classmates.

Mary notices one of the unassigned children is missing on Thursday.



Mary is assigned a dorm room at the college with a new roommate.

Mary learns about childcare and gets the chance to play with some unassigned children in the lab.

Mary's parents are excited to share Sunday dinner with her and send her home with Mom's dessert.

Dana is super happy with her assigned career training so far, especially the simulation labs in virtual reality. The technology used in the labs makes the switch from sim labs to real labs effortless (though they get few opportunities in the real lab as it is being used by the researchers as well). Classes are done through interactive modules and projects with classmates. Last week they analyzed the nutrition profile of the meals offered by SkipEats drone delivery.



Dana Learns

Mary is super happy with her assigned career training so far, especially the labs with the unassigned children. After a year, she will be assigned an infant carer to apprentice with for two years interspersed with some additional college classes. She notices a few more unassigned children leave the lab, and overhears some whispers from the supervisors about some infants being assigned abroad, which makes sense as there is likely infertile women living there too that would like an infant. Though she doesn't remember anyone being assigned as a carer abroad.

Mary Learns

Dana Grows

- Dana starts work at 22 as a junior researcher.

Dana and Kai fall in love and decide to become a family unit.



Dana is assigned as a human psychology researcher

Dana attends social events put on by the university and meets Kai.

Dana becomes pregnant with her first child. Her and Kai are extremely happy.

Mary Grows

Mary notices the younger child is having a difficult time meeting his milestones and following the rules.

Mary sees a team come to evaluate the child while the parents are at work. They indicate the child needs additional treatment and take him.



Mary works for her first family at 15. The first family reminds Mary of her own parents.

Mary reports her concern as required to the infant care supervisor.

Mary doesn't see the child again. The mother went to the hospital and also didn't return. The father was grief stricken until Mary left. He was told both had been sent abroad after the child recovered. Mary hoped her brother would care for them...

Mary Grows More

Mary raises the children while the parents work, except on Sunday afternoon where she returns to her own parents.

The apprentice does well and gets her own assignment at 15.



Mary works for her second family at 20. The family has a slightly nicer home.



During her last 2 years with the family she trains a new apprentice infant carer.



Mary does well at work and at 27 is assigned a new family in the university district.



Worlds Collide

Dana is assigned Mary as her infant carer.

Once Dana recovers from birth, she is eager to return to her research.

Mary loves the little boy immediately. Her heart yearns for a child of her own but infant carers are not able to marry or carry children.

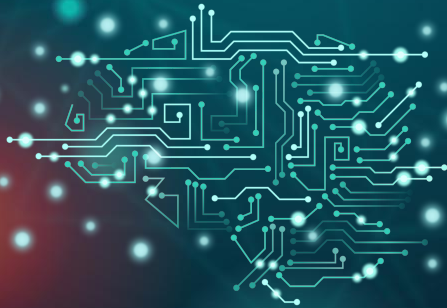
Dana becomes a senior researcher and is given more leisure time.

Dana is given control of the criminology algorithm project.

Mary thinks about her brother and whether he will ever return from abroad.

Dana is now in charge of the criminology algorithm used in the employment algorithm. She analyzes the rare cases of crime and adjusts the algorithm based on the trends observed. She wants to ensure there is no crime ever again in Cockaigne. She notices that the changes are resulting in higher scores in the poorer districts but her director is unconcerned as long as crime is eliminated. She also notices that twenty percent of crimes are caused by parents who refuse to allow their children to be evaluated or reassigned. She hasn't figured out how to account for this in her algorithm so she is running multiple simulations on AI produced adjustments. Dana knows it is essential to have human oversight on any AI produced adjustments as they can result in unintended consequences. Dana is promoted again when the adjustments result in no crimes in 3 years. A true utopia.

Dana Works



Mary is tidying when she sees her brother's name on a paper in Dana's home office. She hastily grabs the paper and reads. It seems to be a copy of his employment results. She noticed that he scored well but had a 10% chance of committing a crime. The recommendation was special projects abroad. She pulls other papers from the desk and sees similar results for others in her district. She also sees assessments from doctors for children with various diagnoses all recommended to special projects abroad, even newborns. She remembered the recent news posts about the special projects abroad where children and adults were seen supervising machine construction of buildings on a tropical island. She didn't see anyone she recognized and she replayed it multiple times looking for her brother. A different post also discussed how seniors will retire abroad at age 60, her parents would be able to see her brother in a couple years. She hopes her parents will still be alive when she gets to retire and they will get to be a family again. What a true utopia that will be!



Mary Notices

In the back of her mind the thought lingered. Why are they sending infants? Why hasn't her brother contacted her? What happened to that toddler at her first placement? Why are those with an increase in criminal risk or doctor reports sent? Why is the airport district so far from the other districts?

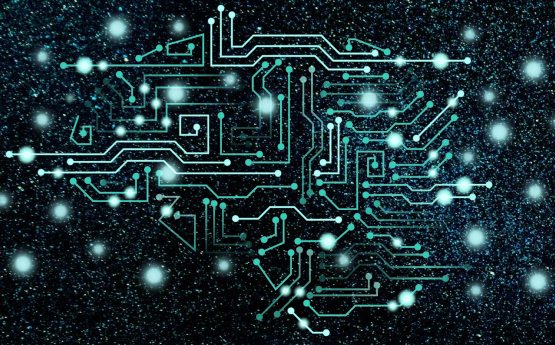
Mary starts to think.... What if abroad doesn't really exist? Where do the people go? Will I ever see my brother again?

Mary knows these thoughts are dangerous. In elementary school they were taught to report those who questioned the university government.

She pushed the thoughts down. Her parents needed her and she needed them. She needed to believe her family would be together again.



Mary Thinks



Utopia Perspectives

It's in the eye of the beholder.



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