

## An Abridged Version of the First Half of George Orwell's *1984*<sup>a</sup>

### ONE

*SUMMARY: Description of surroundings, government, and telescreens. Winston begins a journal. Winston recollects an event at the Minitrue in which, after the Two Minutes Hate, he met eyes with O'Brien. Winston has committed thoughtcrime and hears a knock on the door.*

Winston Smith, 39, lives on the seventh floor of Victory Mansions (5). Because of his varicose ulcer above his right ankle, he had to climb the stairs slowly (5). On the walls of the building are huge posters of a black-mustachio'd face, captioned with "Big Brother Is Watching You"; the eyes follow anyone walking past (5).

In his flat, Winston has a telescreen, which can be turned down but never shut completely off (5 – 6). The telescreen babbled about pig iron production and the overfulfillment of the Ninth Three-Year Plan (6). Because the telescreen simultaneously transmitted both ways, any sound Winston made above a whisper was picked up by it, and so long as he remained within its field of vision, he could be seen as well as heard (6). "There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment [...]. You had to live—did live, from habit that became instinct—in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every moment was scrutinized" (6 – 7).

He lives in "London, chief city of Airstrip One, itself the most populous of the provinces of Oceania" (7). Winston is unable to remember his childhood and thus whether or not things had always been this wretched (7).

The apparatus of government is divided into four Ministries (8). <sup>1)</sup> The Ministry of Truth—Minitrue in Newspeak (the official language of Oceania) (7) concerned itself with news, entertainment, education, and fine arts (8). Winston works at the Ministry of Truth (7). <sup>2)</sup> The Ministry of Peace—Minipax in Newspeak—concerned itself with war (8). <sup>3)</sup> The Ministry of Love—Miniluv in Newspeak—maintained law and order (8). <sup>4)</sup> The Ministry of Plenty—Miniplenty in Newspeak—was responsible for economic affairs (8).

The Minitrue building displays the three slogans of the Party:

WAR IS PEACE

FREEDOM IS SLAVERY

IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH (7).

"He had set his features into the expression of quiet optimism which it was advisable to wear when facing the telescreen" (8).

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<sup>a</sup> Brian Tomasik, February – March 2004. These notes on the first half of *1984* fall somewhere between being an abridgement of the original text and a summary of it. I make no claims to the originality of the language used. The notes are divided up by book chapter, and each statement includes, in parentheses, a page number or page numbers whence the information came (like in-text citation). In order to enable readers to easily locate characters if they have forgotten who the characters are, the character names are underlined the first time they are mentioned in this summary.

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Winston has such scarce food he has to drink disgusting “Victory Gin” to assuage his hunger (8).

Unlike most, Winston’s living room had a little alcove in which he could remain hidden from the telescreen (9). He had illicitly bought, from a crumby junk shop, a notebook which, by its excellent quality, he could tell was more than forty years old (9). Now, he hid in his alcove in order to start a diary; this was not illegal “(nothing was illegal, since there were no longer any laws),” but if he was caught, he would face death or at least 25 years of forced labor (9). He quivered briefly: “To mark the paper was the decisive act” (10). He wrote the date as “April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1984,” but he wasn’t sure it was exactly that year; he just estimated (10). He had always expected it to be easy to write, but now he couldn’t think of what to say (10). But he suddenly began writing out of panic; he described how the audience had laughed at violent war films (11).

As he wrote down a stream of rubbish, another memory clarified itself in his mind; it was the memory that had prompted him to want to write the diary (12). Winston had been in the Records Department of the Minitrue and people were preparing for the Two Minutes Hate (12). Two people came into the room (12). <sup>1)</sup> The first was a girl whose name he knew not but who he knew worked in the Fiction Department (12). She wore a narrow sash, the emblem of the Junior Anti-Sex League (12). Winston disliked her atmosphere of clean-mindedness (12). He always had an uneasy sense of fear, mixed with hostility, whenever he passed this girl (12). <sup>2)</sup> The second person was a man named O’Brien, a member of the Inner Party (12). Winston was always attracted to O’Brien because of a secretly held belief (or at least hope) that O’Brien’s political orthodoxy was not perfect (13). “[H]e had the appearance of being a person that you could talk to, if somehow you could cheat the telescreen and get him alone” (13). The Two Minutes Hate began with “a hideous, grinding screech [...] that set one’s teeth on edge and bristled the hair at the back of one’s neck” (13). “As usual, the face of Emmanuel Goldstein, the Enemy of the People, had flashed onto the screen” (13). Goldstein had once been one of the leading figures in the Party, almost on a level with Big Brother himself (13 – 14). But after he had engaged in counter-revolutionary activities, he had been condemned to death (14). He mysteriously escaped and disappeared, however (14). All other resistance was traced back to Goldstein’s teaching (14). “Somewhere or other he was still alive and hatching his conspiracies [...]” (14).

“Goldstein was delivering his usual venomous attack upon the doctrines of the Party—an attack so exaggerated and perverse that a child should have been able to see through it, and yet just plausible enough to fill one with an alarmed feeling that other people, less level-headed than oneself, might be taken in by it. He was abusing Big Brother, he was denouncing the dictatorship of the Party, he was demanding the immediate conclusion of peace with Eurasia, he was advocating freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of thought, he was crying hysterically that the revolution had been betrayed [...]” (14). People were exploding with “uncontrollable exclamations of rage” (15). Despite his ludicrousness, Goldstein “was the commander of a vast shadowy army, and underground network of conspirators dedicated to the overthrow of the State. The Brotherhood, its name was supposed to be” (15). There was also reputed to be a titleless book, called simply *the book*, that was circulated around clandestinely (15). Winston even found himself, unstoppably, joining in with the hate (16). But because the rage was undirected, Winston found himself hating the Party and Big Brother (16). At the next moment, however, Winston was at one with the people around him in loathing Goldstein and adoring Big Brother (16). Winston then directed his hatred toward the young girl: “He hated her because she was young and pretty and sexless, because he wanted to

go to bed with her and would never do so [...]” (16). Finally, the screen was filled with Big Brother’s face, restoring confidence; that faded out and was replaced with the “War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength” slogans (17). The audience chanted “B-B!...B-B!...B-B!” (17); “it was an act of self-hypnosis, a deliberate drowning of consciousness by means of rhythmic noise” (18). Here was now the significant thing that happened: Winston caught O’Brien’s eye, and “there was a fraction of a second when their eyes met” and Winston knew that O’Brien was thinking just what he was thinking (18). As soon as the flash of understanding ended, “O’Brien’s face was as inscrutable as everybody else’s” (18). Winston was not even sure the event had occurred (18). “But even that was a memorable event, in the locked loneliness in which one had to live” (19).

Winston discovered that while he had sat musing, he had also written, in large neat capitals, “DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER” many times over (19).

Winston realized that “Whether he went on with the diary, or whether he did not go on with it, made no difference. The Thought Police would get him just the same. He had committed—would still have committed, even if he had never set pen to paper—the essential crime that contained all others in itself. Thoughtcrime, they called it. Thoughtcrime was not a thing that could be concealed forever. You might dodge successfully for a while, even for years, but sooner or later they were bound to get you” (19). People guilty of it were snatched from their bed and taken away in the night, with all records of their existence destroyed (19 – 20).

There was a knock at the door (20). “Already!” He got up to answer it (20).

## II

*SUMMARY: Repairs a sink for the Parsons and comments on monstrous kids nowadays. Continues his diary and remembers another incident with O’Brien.*

At the door is only Mrs. Parsons (20), the wife of Tom Parsons (21), a neighbor on the same floor (20). She asked Winston to come across and look at the kitchen sink (20). Repairs are almost a daily occupation for Winston because Victory Mansions is falling to pieces (21). The filthy Parsons flat, like the rest of the building, has a boiled-cabbage smell (21).

Tom Parsons works with Winston at the Minitrue; he is one of those imbeciles who is unquestioningly loyal and is proud of his service at the Community Center (22). A young boy and girl, both members of the Spies, greet Winston by pretending to aim pistols at him (22). Winston had an uneasy feeling that “so vicious was the boy’s demeanor, that it was not altogether a game” (22 – 23). The children are upset that they can’t go to see the hanging (23). The boy shoots Winston in the back of the head as Winston leaves (23).

Returning to his flat, Winston observes that “Nearly all children nowadays were horrible. What was worst of all was that by means of such organizations as the Spies they were systematically turned into ungovernable little savages, and yet this produced in them no tendency whatever to rebel against the discipline of the Party” (24).

Returning to his diary, Winston remembers a dream from years ago in which someone said to one side of him as he passed, “We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness” (24). He only later realized that it had been O’Brien (24). Winston knew not whether O’Brien was friend or foe, only that they had some link of understanding (25).

The telescreen announced a victory in battle, followed by a brief announcement of a reduction in the chocolate ration, and then a patriotic song (25).

Winston wonders if there is anyone like him, if the Party will ever come to an end (25). Winston again wonders why he is writing the journal, for it will never be read by anyone but the Thought Police before they annihilate it (26). He decides that the purpose is not to write for the past or the future but to keep himself sane (26). He writes a message to an age wherein men are free and different and wherein what is done cannot be undone (26 – 27). It was foolish to hide the book, but to determine whether or not someone would open it, he put a speck of dust on the corner that would be removed if the book were to be opened (27).

### III

*SUMMARY: Winston thinks about past memories and how it is impossible to prove that history has been altered because no evidence exists.*

Winston recollects his parents, who “must evidently have been swallowed up in one of the first great purges of the Fifties” (27 – 28). He has a memory that his mother and sister were sacrificed—sinking in the water—in order to save his own life (28). The type of tragedy and complex emotions involved in this would be impossible in the present day and age (28). Winston next pictures a sunny field in the “real world” that he calls Golden Country; the dark-haired girl approached him and threw her clothes away in a disdainful fling (29). Winston was not interested in her sexually; he was concentrating on the way her careless swing of her arm seemed to defy the entire Party all in one move (29).

Winston gets up, has a coughing fit, and prepares for the morning Physical Jerks (29). As he does the exercises, Winston thinks about how he can’t be certain about any of his memories (30). He couldn’t remember with certainty any time when his country wasn’t at war, although he thinks he can remember going into a bomb shelter when the atom bomb was dropped on Colchester (30). It is impossible to trace history because no records exist to reveal anything except the fact that Oceania had always been allied with Eastasia and at war with Eurasia; no one would admit that the alliances had ever been otherwise (31). “The enemy of the moment always represented absolute evil, and it followed that any past or future agreement with him was impossible” (32). *Iraq comes to mind*. Only Winston knows the lie, and once he is extirpated, the lie will become truth, with no records to prove otherwise (32). “‘Who controls the past,’ ran the Party slogan, ‘controls the future: who controls the present controls the past’” (32).

Winston thinks about the word “doublethink,” which means to think two self-contradictory things at the same time, “consciously to induce unconsciousness, and then, once again, to become unconscious of the act of hypnosis you had just performed” (32 – 33). Winston tries to recall the date when he first heard of Big Brother but can’t remember with certainty (33). All that most anyone knows about the Revolution is in Party histories, which pushed back the date farther and farther (33). Ingsoc was “English Socialism” in Oldspeak (33).

The instructress on the telescreen tells Winston to bend lower (34). He must be careful to avoid giving himself away (34).

### IV

*SUMMARY: Winston works in his Minitrue job, forging documents of the past.*

Winston at his job has three orifices for papers (34); the main one is the memory hole in which any documents for destruction or even scrap paper is thrown to be burned in the giant furnaces (35). His job is to follow instructions for “rectifying” (i.e., altering) news items in the

*Times* (35). He just corrected old reports so that the predictions of Big Brother or the ministries would conform to the way things actually happened (35 – 36). Then, new copies of the newspaper were made to replace the old in the archives (36). Even the message Winston receives indicate not any intent to falsify; they call and change an error that must be corrected in the interests of accuracy (37). Furthermore, most of the original statistics themselves were made up, so it didn't much matter (37). "Everything faded away into a shadow-world in which, finally, even the date of the year had become uncertain" (37).

Across the hall works a small man named Tillotson (38). A few cubicles away was a dream character named Ampleforth who altered politically offensive poems (38). Winston barely knew the people with whom he worked even though he passed them every day (38). The Records Department is vast, yet it is only one part of the Ministry of Truth, which didn't just falsify but also put out entertainment for people (39). In addition to this is a whole different branch devoted to entertainment for the proletariat—rubbishy trash, including Pornosec containing the most degrading pornography imaginable (39). It details a particular lie about Big Brother's Order for the Day on 3 December 1983, which had praised Comrade Withers—a decorated person at the time but now an unperson (meaning, a dead person); he made up a new Big Brother speech about a heroic Comrade Ogilvy (40 – 42). "Comrade Ogilvy, who had never existed in the present, now existed in the past, and when once the act of forgery was forgotten, he would exist just as authentically, and upon the same evidence, as Charlemagne or Julius Caesar" (43).

## V

*SUMMARY: At lunch, Syme tells Winston about the ultimate goal of Newspeak. Parsons comes and discusses triviality until an announcement on the telescreen declares overproductivity. Winston feels trepidation over the dark-haired girl.*

At lunch, Winston runs into Syme, who worked in the Research Department as a philologist—a specialist in Newspeak (43). He was currently helping to compile the Eleventh Edition of the Newspeak dictionary (43). Syme was "venomously orthodox"; he loved to go on about executions, torture in the Miniluv, and he asked Winston if he had seen the hanging (44). The trick was to get him to talk about the technicalities of Newspeak; then he was fascinating (44). They have disgusting lunches (44 – 45).

Syme says the new Eleventh Edition is the final shape of Newspeak—the shape it will have when no one speaks anything else (45). "You think, I dare say, that our chief job is inventing new words. But not a bit of it! We're destroying words—scores of them, hundreds of them, every day. We're cutting the language down to the bone" (45). Not only are they destroying synonyms, but also antonyms, turning "bad" into "ungood," which is actually a better word because it is the exact opposite while "bad" is not (46). Syme tells Winston that he fails to appreciate Newspeak, that his rectified articles are merely translations of the Oldspeak that Winston prefers (46). Explained Syme, "Don't you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thought-crime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it. Every concept that can ever be needed will be expressed by exactly *one* word with its meaning rigidly defined and all its subsidiary meanings rubbed out and forgotten [...]. The Revolution will be complete when the language is perfect [...]. In fact there will *be* no thought, as we understand it now" (46 – 47).

Winston listens to a man at a nearby table (47). The words coming out of his mouth are almost completely incomprehensible gibberish, but by the tone of his speaking, Winston knew he was a believer in the orthodoxy (48). It really mattered not whether he was praising Big Brother or denouncing thought-criminals; the content was the same: thoughtless, unconscious babble (48). Syme calls this *duckspeak*, “to quack like a duck” (48).

Winston is certain that Syme will soon be vaporized, not because he is unorthodox—he is one of the most devoted men there—but because he knows too much, says things that shouldn’t be said, and frequents the Chestnut Tree Café (48 – 49). “Zeal was not enough [to avoid vaporization by the Thought Police]. Orthodoxy was unconsciousness” (49).

Parsons comes over to them (49). He is a pudgy man who sweats uncontrollably (49). Parsons gets a donation from Winston for Hate Week to have flags on the whole street (50). Parsons further tells Winston how his little daughter caught an enemy agent by his unconventional shoes (50).

The Ministry of Plenty came on the telescreen to announce impressive figures of surplus production, et cetera (51). It furthermore declared that spontaneous demonstrations occurred all over to thank Big Brother for raising the chocolate ration to 20 grams per week, even though Winston remembered it being lowered just yesterday from 30 grams per week (51 – 52). Parsons and even Syme bought the lie: “Was he, then, *alone* in the possession of a memory?” (52).

Winston thinks about the terrible squalor, misery, dearth, and grime of everyday life—experiences he has endured for as long as he could remember (52). *I was about to say that if he had known nothing different, he probably would not find it so bad, but then the text confirmed this:* “Why should one feel it to be intolerable unless one had some kind of ancestral memory that things had once been different?” (52).

Winston believes that he can tell exactly who will be vaporized (Syme, Mrs. Parsons, himself) and exactly who will survive (Mr. Parsons, the dark-haired girl, the man uttering duckspeak, the beetle-like little men of the Ministries (52 – 53).

Winston fears that the dark-haired girl is following him to scrutinize his loyalty (53). It is dangerous to think disloyal thoughts in public, for your face can betray you; *facecrime*, it was called (54). The men return to work (55).

## VI

*SUMMARY: In writing about his experience with an old prostitute, Winston remembers his wife and reflects on the Party’s attitude toward sex.*

A horrible memory haunts Winston, making him want to hurt something (55). Your nervous system is your worst enemy, for it can betray you—through unconscious twitches or, worst of all, through talking in your sleep (56). Recollecting a meeting with a prostitute, Winston remembers his own wife, Katharine (56). As far as he knows, he’s still married to her, for he thinks not that she is dead (56). He had never divorced but was long separated (57). Winston hated his wife’s utter stupidity and gullibility to the Party line (58). The worst part was that whenever Winston tried to touch her intimately, she would wince and pull back (58). She insisted that they continue to try, for it was their “duty to the Party” to produce a child (58). Eventually it failed and they separated (58).

Prostitution, though forbidden, is not punishable by death, only five years in forced labor (56); the Party actually tacitly encouraged it as a harmless way to satisfy sexual urges (57).

The Party discourages marriage not so much because it could lead to loyalties other than to the state, but more because they wanted not to have people enjoy the act (57). Sexual intercourse was supposed to be seen as a disgusting minor operation whose only purpose was to beget children (57).

Winston hopes, pessimistically, that some member of the Party must not be indoctrinated by the Party (59). “And what he wanted more even than to be loved, was to break down that wall of virtue, even if it were only once in his whole life. The sexual act, successfully performed, was rebellion” (59).

Winston scribbles in his journal that the prostitute he had gone to a basement with was old and had no teeth (59). But he did it anyway (60).

## VII

*SUMMARY: Winston continues in his journal. He declares that all hope lies in the proles. He thinks how it is impossible to know the past, but he remembers one definite act of falsification by the Party. He wonders how he can be certain that the most basic truisms are true, but affirms that they must be!*

“If there is hope [wrote Winston] it lies in the proles” (60). They make up 85 percent of the population of Oceania (60). The best Party members can do in rebellion is to wink or utter a word here or there; proles, if they were somehow awakened, could openly revolt and destroy the Party tomorrow (60). It must happen eventually, he thought (60). However, he remembers an incident in which prole women had fought over frying pans, wasting their energy on aimless conflict (60 – 61). “Until they become conscious they will never rebel, and until after they have rebelled they cannot become conscious,” wrote Winston (61).

Little attention was spent on the proles; they occupied themselves like animals, with hedonistic, mindless entertainments (61 – 62). They were not indoctrinated by the Party ideology, for there was no need to make them politically minded; they just needed occasional patriotism to distract them (62). The Party slogan is that “Proles and animals are free” (62). Winston copies into his journal a passage from a Party textbook that portrayed life before the Revolution as miserable; the greedy capitalists with top hats and coats were demonized (62 – 63).

“It struck him that the truly characteristic thing about modern life was not its cruelty and insecurity, but simply its bareness, its dinginess, its listlessness” (63). The Party always cites statistics to show that quality of life, in every way, has improved since the Revolution, but to determine the truth is impossible: “It was like a single equation with two unknowns” (64).

Winston can remember at least one instance of undeniable falsification by the Party (64). After the great purges, in which the original Revolution leaders were killed, three men—<sup>1)</sup> Jones <sup>2)</sup> Aaronson <sup>3)</sup> Rutherford—were arrested, vanished, reappeared to denounce others as traitors, and were eventually freed, given sinecures (65). Winston once saw the men in the Chestnut Tree Café; he had picked Rutherford out in particular (65). The telescreen had suddenly played a song about a chestnut tree, and Rutherford began to cry (66). Years later, Winston got a bunch of papers at his job, in which was an article showing the three men in New York, even though their confession had admitted to being in Eurasia on the same date; the only conclusion was that their confessions had been lies (67). He had always assumed that many of the confessions were untrue, but this was important because it was real, concrete evidence of it (67). At the time, he had thrown the evidence down the memory hole, but if it had happened today, he would have

kept it (68). The problem is, even if the evidence could be resurrected from ashes, the current enemy and all other dates and occasions were rewritten as well (68). Winston can't seem to understand why the Party bothers to go through so much trouble falsifying things (68).

Winston wonders whether he is a lunatic; maybe a lunatic is a minority of one (68). Sooner or later, the Party would have to declare that  $2 + 2 = 5$  (69). "Not merely the validity of experience, but the very existence of external reality was tacitly denied by [the Party's] philosophy. And what was terrifying was not that they would kill you for thinking otherwise, but that they might be right. For, after all, how do we know that two and two make four? Or that the force of gravity works? Or that the past is unchangeable? If both the past and the external world exist only in the mind, and if the mind is itself controllable—what then?" (69).

Winston suddenly realizes that O'Brien is on his side; his journal is like one long letter to O'Brien (69). Winston stiffens his resolve: "They were wrong and he was right. The obvious, the silly, and the true had got to be defended" (69). He set forth an important axiom: "*Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows*" (69).

## VIII

*SUMMARY: Winston skips a Community Center meeting to walk among the proles. He first visits a pub and attempts, unsuccessfully, to extract from an old man there whether or not life was better before the Revolution. Winston then visits the pawn shop whereat he bought his journal. He befriends the old man, Mr. Charrington, and buys a glass paperweight. As he leaves, he sees the dark-haired girl and is convinced that she is a spy. Upon returning home, he contemplates his capture by the Thought Police.*

The Party expects people to always interact with others except in bed (70). Called *ownlife* in Newspeak, individual solitude is considered highly dangerous (70). Instead of attending the Community Center meeting, Winston decides to circumambulate in the streets (70).

Winston notes the proles he sees on his way: two old women arguing, for example (70–71). The proles look at Winston, with his blue Party uniform, in a strange way, for it was uncommon for Party members to go this way (71). A "Steamer" (rocket bomb) lands and demolishes a group of houses; the proles always had an instinctive sense of when the Steamers would land (71–72). Winston kicks a severed hand into the gutter (72). "Within three or four minutes [...] the sordid swarming life of the streets was going on as though nothing had happened" (72).

Three men argue about Lottery numbers (72–73). "The Lottery, with its weekly pay-out of enormous prizes, was the one public event to which the proles paid serious attention" (73). Even the dumbest proles were able to do intricate calculations and feats of memory when the Lottery was the issue (73). The prizes were mostly imaginary, the big winners all nonexistent persons (73).

Winston sees an old man—eighty at least—enter a pub (74). Winston has the urge to go in and ask the man what things were like before the Revolution, whether the textbook told the truth, whether the Party was indeed better than capitalism (74). Winston is weary not because it is against the law but because it is a very unusual action (74). The minute he walked into the pub, the volume dropped off as people stared at his blue overalls (74). The old man asks the bartender for a pint; the barman says they only have liter and half-liter, no pints (75). When Winston asks the old man about life in the old man's childhood (75), the old man says that the beer was better and cheaper (76). Winston describes the conditions depicted in Party



textbooks— hunger, capitalists, top hats (76). The man remembers top hats being worn fifty years ago, but he says they are gone now (76). Winston tries to get the man to focus on the general conditions of capitalism, but the man consistently fails to speak until Winston mentions some trifling detail—top hats, lackeys (76–77). The man comments on the picayune item but misses the bigger picture entirely (77). Winston finally asks the man if he can recollect being obliged to tip his hat or being pushed into the gutter by the rich (77–78). The man remembers instances of both but only stories, not analysis (77–78). “A sense of helplessness took hold of Winston. The old man’s memory was nothing but a rubbish heap of details” (78). All existing survivors of the age before the Revolution are incapable of providing answers that address the basic question of whether life was better before or after the Revolution (79). These old survivors are “like the ant, which can see small objects but not large ones” (79). Once these remnants of memory are gone, there will be no way to determine even slightly whether or not the Party history is true (79).

Winston left the bar and walked until he found himself in front of the shop whereat he had bought the diary (79). He enters the shop, which is run by an old man of about sixty (80). The man tells Winston how the antique business is declining, since there is neither demand nor supply of old things (80).

Winston considers most of the stuff to be junk, but one object—a hemisphere of glass with coral inside—is so old that Winston buys it; it is an object from an age quite unlike the present (80–81).

The old man takes Winston upstairs, where Winston sees a large room meant to be lived in; it has a large bed with a mattress (81). Winston flirted with the idea of renting the room but dismissed it as crazy (82). Nevertheless, the place evoked a memory of the way things were (82). Winston remarks aloud that there is no telescreen (82). Winston looks at the bookshelf but realizes that all books written before 1960 have long since been burned (82). The old man remembers part of a rhyme about a church named St. Clement’s (83). Winston observes how architecture, like everything else, has been systematically altered by the Party to avoid any discerning of history from it (83).

Winston talked to the man some more and learned that his name was Mr. Charrington (84). As he leaves, Winston determines to return in a month or so, to buy more rubbish, to get the complete rhyme out of Mr. Charrington (84).

Suddenly on the street, Winston sees the dark-haired girl from the Fiction Department (85). She looks straight at him and then walked on as if she had not seen him (85). Winston is convinced that she is spying on him and deliberately followed him (85). He considers chasing the girl to kill her but feels so tired he only wants to go home (86).

Returned to his flat, Winston takes out his journal and ponders suicide; most of the disappearances, he thinks, are actually suicides (86). Winston thinks about how pain, fear, et cetera disable the body at exactly the moment when it most needs strength (86). When you are being tortured or when you are in danger, all of the values you are fighting for are subordinated to immediate physical needs “because the body swells up until it fills the universe” (86).

Winston wants to write in his journal but thinks about his impending capture; why, he thinks, do the Thought Police have to torture if you will be dead in a few weeks anyway (86–87).

He recollects O’Brien’s message about meeting where there is no darkness (87). Winston thinks that the place without darkness is the imagined future that he will never see but that they can mystically share (87). “But with the voice from the telescreen nagging at his ears he could not follow the train of thought further” (87).

## Two

*SUMMARY: Passing the dark-haired girl in the hallway, Winston gets a note telling him “I love you.” Winston tries time and time again to meet with the girl. He is finally successful at the canteen; she tells him to meet in Victory Square. There, she gives him detailed instructions for a new meeting place.*

Winston passes the dark-haired girl in the hallway on his way to the bathroom (88). The girl has a cast on her arm; she falls in the hallway on the arm (88). “A curious emotion stirred in Winston’s heart. In front of him was an enemy who was trying to kill him; in front of him, also, was a human creature, in pain and perhaps with a broken bone” (88). When he saw the girl fall, Winston had felt a pain as if he himself had fallen (89).

The girl gets up and walks briskly away as if nothing had happened, a manner which was the expected, and thence nearly habitual, practice (89). But the girl had slipped a small note into his hand as he helped her up (89). When Winston returns to his desk, two possibilities enter his head: <sup>1)</sup> the girl is an agent of the Thought Police informing him of his death <sup>2)</sup> the girl is a member of the Brotherhood; he desperately wants to believe the latter (90). When he gets a chance to read it, he sees that it says, “*I love you*” (90). He is stunned and agitated the rest of the morning, since he only wishes to be alone (90).

Winston finally attends the Community Center meeting, for the note suddenly heightened his desire to stay alive (91). In bed, Winston is finally able to contemplate the problem of how to meet with her (91-92). “But the physical difficulty of meeting was enormous. It was like trying to make a move at chess when you were already mated. Whichever way you turned, the telescreen faced you” (92).

After considering many possibilities, Winston decides to meet her in the canteen (92). But for the next week, he is unable to do so; every minute is therefore a kind of torment (92-93). One day, when he finally sees the girl at an empty table and is about to meet her, a young man named Wilsher tells him to come sit at his table; he has no choice but to accept the offer (92).

One day, Winston is finally, by a stroke of luck, able to sit at a table with the girl alone (94). He is suddenly feared with fear, but the sight of Ampleforth—a hairy-eared poet bound to sit with Winston—forced Winston to speak while he had the chance (94). Winston exchanges furtive conversation with the girl about meeting at Victory Square at 19 hours (94-95). The girl then leaves as if they were strangers (95).

At the square, Winston finally sees the girl (95). Suddenly, the crowd moves to make way for a convoy of Eurasian prisoners, and Winston is blocked by a prole and his wife (95-96). Finally reaching her, Winston is told by the girl to meet her on Sunday (96). The girl gives him directions with military precision that he says he will follow (96).

The crowd looks with curiosity on the prisoners, for they literally never saw Eurasians or Eastasians for that matter; the crowd looked at the prisoners like strange animals (97). The girl gave Winston’s hand a parting squeeze (97). From the ten seconds that he held it, he felt as if he could have recognized it instantly by sight, since he became so acquainted with it (97). Winston realizes that he knows not the color of the girl’s eyes (97).

*SUMMARY: Winston meets the girl, Julia, in the countryside as planned. They talk and embrace. They walk around and hear a bird sing. They make love and fall asleep. Their act, Winston remarks, is a rebellion against the Party.*

Winston takes the train into the countryside (98). The country is not necessarily safer than the city, for even though it lacks telescreens, there are often hidden microphones (98).

While Winston picks flowers, the girl approaches and signals for him to follow her into a clearing (99). Winston fears that the girl will be revolted by his dusty, sooty body that has been stuck in the city too long (99). The girl assures him that the area is safe, as the trees are too small to hide microphones in (99).

Winston takes the girl's hand and notices that her eyes are brown (100). When he asks whether she still likes him knowing that he has varicose veins, that he has false teeth, and that he has a wife he can't get rid of, she says she cares not at all (100).

Suddenly, Winston is in the girl's arms and they are kissing (100). Yet, Winston has no sensation other than of regular physical contact and of pride; he is too used to living without women (100). The girl tells Winston that her name is Julia (100). Winston confides his original impression of and hatred toward Julia; she merely laughs at her good disguise (101). Julia gives Winston a piece of black-market chocolate that reminds him of the old times by its richness (101). Julia tells him that she really behaves like a loyal Party member: "Always yell with the crowd, that's what I say. It's the only way to be safe" (101).

Julia speaks about the Party, especially the Inner Party with a vicious coarseness; Winston minded it not, and saw it as a kind of healthy response to bad conditions (102).

As they walk along, Winston recognizes the field (102). He almost thinks it might be the Golden Country, but dismisses the idea (103).

The two hear a bird sing (103). It goes on for minutes without repetition of its song (103). Winston wonders what makes a bird just sing, without a mate, without a rival: "What made it sit at the edge of the lonely wood and pour its music into nothingness?" (103). The combination of the sunlight and song make Winston stop thinking; he only feels (103).

They returned to the hideout, and with the same careless dismissal of civilization as he had pictured in his dream, Julia cast off her clothes (104). Julia told him that she had done it scores of times with Party members, giving Winston hope that the professed virtue of the Party might be tainted by corruption (104). Winston relished in Julia's admission that she loved sex in and of itself: "Not merely the love of one person, but the animal instinct, the simple undifferentiated desire: that was the force that would tear the Party to pieces" (105). As Julia sleeps, Winston looks at her body, thinking how he had no pure desire as men had in the past: "No emotion was pure, because everything was mixed up with fear and hatred. Their embrace had been a battle, the climax a victory. It was a blow struck against the Party. It was a political act" (105).

### III

*SUMMARY: Winston continues to meet with Julia, often in brief, cut-off conversations in crowds. They discuss the Party's attitude toward sex and differing attitudes toward the ultimate aim of rebellion: Julia merely wants to have fun while she can, but Winston hopes that the Party can be ultimately overthrown.*

When Julia wakes up, she draws from great experience in telling him how they must leave to avoid suspicion (105-106). Julia leaves before Winston; she has to put in hours for the Junior Anti-Sex League (106).

In the weeks to follow, Winston and Julia make love only once more, this time in a church belfry (106). Most of the time, they simply meet in the streets and talk inconspicuously on and off, cutting off conversation whenever necessary; Julia called it “talking by installments” (107). Meetings are very difficult because Julia is so involved in Party activities; she even persuades Winston to join a munitions volunteer group to mislead any suspicion (107-108).

Winston discovers that Julia is 26 and does work in the Fiction Department (as he had hypothesized); her department produces novels like any other “commodity that had to be produced, like jam or bootlaces” (108). Julia even worked in the Pornosec (108). She said that they mostly employ girls for that, since the sex instincts of girls are thought to be more controllable than those of men (109).

Julia saw the Party as a force whose purpose was to restrict your pleasure; thence, it is her purpose to circumvent those restrictions (109). “She hated the Party, and said so in the crudest words, but she made no general criticism of it. Except where it touched upon her own life she had no interest in Party doctrine [...]. Any kind of organized revolt against the Party, which was bound to be a failure, struck her as stupid. The clever thing was to break the rules and stay alive all the same. He wondered vaguely how many others like her there might be in the younger generation—people who had grown up in the world of the Revolution, knowing nothing else, accepting the Party as something unalterable, like the sky, not rebelling against its authority but simply evading it, as a rabbit dodges a dog” (109).

Winston tells Julia of his wife’s rigidity during sex (110). Julia explains the Party’s reason for its position on sex: “It was not merely that the sex instinct created a world of its own which was outside the Party’s control and which therefore had to be destroyed if possible. What was more important was that sexual privation induced hysteria, which was desirable because it could be transformed into war fever and leader worship” (110). Sex, she said, uses up energy and makes people indifferent to the Party; the Party avoids that at all costs (110-111). The Party has turned the sex instinct into a force of loyalty that serves its own ends (111).

Winston tells Julia of a memory of eleven years ago (111). He had gone on a community hike with Katharine, but the two became separated from the group (111). They went over to a cliff edge and Winston pointed out flowers (112). Katharine agitatedly wished to return, but Winston had realized how perfectly alone and isolated they were, free from all detection (112). Julia tells Winston he should have pushed Katharine off the cliff (112).

Julia is young, and somehow thinks that she can live in a secret world of her own design, doing as she pleased (113). “She did not understand that there was no such thing as happiness, that the only victory lay in the far future, long after you were dead, that from the moment of declaring war on the Party it was better to think of yourself as a corpse” (113). Julia rejects Winston’s attitude that it was only a matter of time until they were dead (113).

#### IV

*SUMMARY: Winston decides finally to rent the room upstairs from Mr. Charrington. When Julia comes, she brings real food and wears real makeup. Winston has a terrible memory*

*when a rat appears in the wall. Before they depart, Winston and Julia discuss the church rhymes.*

Winston has finally rented the upstairs room of Mr. Charrington's shop (114). Mr. Charrington was glad for a few extra dollars (114). Furthermore, Mr. Charrington respected Winston's privacy: Winston had rented the room for the purposes of a love affair, and Mr. Charrington believed in minding one's own business (114). Winston hears a woman outside singing one of the songs that had been generated wholly without human involvement; yet, the way she sang it made it sound almost pretty (114-115).

Winston regards the rented room as complete and utter folly; they would be captured in a matter of weeks (115). Nevertheless, the desire for a room of their own had been too much (115). Ever since the second love making in the church belfry, Winston had felt not only the will of rebellion but actual sensual passion (115). Now he came to feel that Julia was a physical necessity to whom he had a right (115). Winston sits on his upstairs bed, waiting for Julia and thinking about the sheer lunacy of doing something that would bring the inevitable trip to the depths of the Ministry of Love just a little bit closer (116).

When Julia arrives, she brings real sugar, real coffee, and real tea obtained from the Inner Party (116-117). "There's nothing those swine [in the Inner Party] don't have, nothing," said Julia (117).

Julia tells Winston to turn around for a few minutes (117). He had expected to see her naked, but instead he saw her with makeup all over her face (118). Julia vows to wear a frock and high heels (118). "In this room I' going to be a woman, not a Party comrade," declared Julia (118).

They stripped themselves and got into bed (118). After sleeping a while, Winston lies in bed, thinking how it could not ever have been usual for a man and a woman to lie in bed just listening to the world outside, without cares or obligations (119). As they plan to leave, Julia throws a shoe at a rat (119). She is rather indifferent, inasmuch as London is full of them, but Winston is shocked and horrified (120). The rat awakened in Winston a terrible nightmare that had recurred from time to time throughout his life: <sup>1)</sup> he stood before a dark wall <sup>2)</sup> on the other side of the wall was something unendurable, something too dreadful to be faced <sup>3)</sup> in the dream, he felt like he was deceiving himself because he actually did know what was behind the wall <sup>4)</sup> with a "deadly effort, like wrenching a piece out of his own brain, he could even have dragged the thing into the open" <sup>5)</sup> he woke up before he found out what it was (120).

When Julia looks at the paperweight Winston had bought, Winston tells her that he likes it because it has no apparent use at all: "It's a little chunk of history that they've forgotten to alter. It's a message from a hundred years ago, if one knew how to read it" (121). Julia looks at the picture on the wall, and Winston tells her that it used to be St. Clement's Dane church (121). When Winston recalls some of the church rhyme, Julia adds another line she learned from her grandfather, who was vaporized when she was eight (121).

Winston compares the enclosed world of the paperweight to his own enclosed world; Julia and he are the coral inside (122).

## V

*SUMMARY: Syme is vaporized. Preparations for Hate Week intensify. Life becomes more tolerable for Winston. Winston and Julia further debate resistance: Julia cares about the*

*present, Winston hopes to sew seeds for the future. Julia is unconcerned with the Party's fabrications or alterations and cannot understand the complexities of the Party edifice.*

Syme disappeared (122). A few people noticed it the day after, but everyone soon forgot (122). Checking the list of the Chess Committee members, Winston found that Syme had never existed (122).

Preparation for Hate Week made everyone busy preparing various items (122-123). Rocket bombs fell oftener than usual (123). A "Hate Song" was played everywhere (123). A poster of a Eurasian soldier whose gun pointed at you from whatever angle you looked was plastered throughout London (123).

Winston and Julia meet often in the upstairs room (124). Winston found that he needs not to drink gin at all hours of the day, and his varicose ulcer has subsided: in short, "The process of life had ceased to be intolerable" (124).

Winston often talked to Mr. Charrington, who lived a ghostlike existence as more of an admirer of old things than of a seller (125). Winston extracted more of the rhymes from the old man (125).

Winston sometimes felt one of two ways about the present situation: <sup>1)</sup> it was a deadly experience that would soon end when they were caught <sup>2)</sup> the room was a sanctuary, like the paperweight, inside which they were safe and time stood still (125).

Winston told Julia about his interpreted encounter with O'Brien (126). She thinks it perfectly reasonable to assume that he could be trusted on the basis of an eye glance, especially since she believes that almost everyone secretly despises the Party (126). However, Julia denies the possibility that organized resistance—the Brotherhood—actually exists (126). To Julia's young perspective, the Party is permanent and unalterable (127). Organized resistance is futile; "[y]ou could only rebel against it by secret disobedience or, at most, by isolated acts of violence such as killing somebody or blowing something up" (127).

Winston was amazed by Julia's sense of the Party's lies, such as her idea that the government isn't really at war but only drops bombs to make the population believe it (127). "But she only questioned the teachings of the Party when they in some way touched upon her own life. Often she was ready to accept the official mythology, simply because the difference between truth and falsehood did not seem important to her" (127). It surprised Winston, for example, when Julia had not realized that the enemy of Oceania had four years ago been not Eurasia but Eastasia: "It was true she regarded the whole war as a sham; but apparently she had not even noticed that the name of the enemy had changed" (127). Winston tries to convince Julia of the importance of the Party's obliteration of the past, but she seems not to care at all (128).

Winston wants to leave a legacy of resistance that might grow with future generations; Julia tells him, "I'm not interested in the next generation, dear. I'm interested in *us*" (129).

Whenever Winston tries to tell Julia about the alteration of objective reality, Newspeak, doublethink, or Ingsoc, she falls asleep (129). "In a way, the world-view of the Party imposed itself most successfully on people incapable of understanding it. They could be made to accept the most flagrant violations of reality, because they never fully grasped the enormity of what was demanded of them, and were not sufficiently interested in public events to notice what was happening. By lack of understanding they remained sane. They simply swallowed everything, and what they swallowed did them no harm, because it left no residue behind, just as a grain of corn will pass undigested through the body of a bird" (129).

*SUMMARY: O'Brien meets Winston in the hallway and suggests that Winston come to his place to pick up a Newspeak dictionary. Winston sees this as confirmation of his suspicions about O'Brien's disloyalty. At the same time, he knows he is one step closer to his inevitable fate in the Ministry of Love.*

Winston finally meets O'Brien face to face in the hallway (130). O'Brien comments on Winston's dexterity with Newspeak, and mentions talking to a friend of Winston's about it (130). This small act of thoughtcrime—referring to an unperson—made Winston and O'Brien accomplices (130).

O'Brien tells Winston that he would like to offer him an advance copy of the tenth edition of the Newspeak dictionary (131). O'Brien gives Winston his home address so that Winston can come by to (supposedly) pick up the dictionary (131). The note was written in full view of the telescreen (131). Winston is convinced that it was a signal and that the conspiracy does really exist (131-132).

Winston realizes that, starting with the journal, he has entered a pathway of resistance that will lead inevitably to the Ministry of Love: "The end was contained in the beginning" (132). "Even while he was speaking to O'Brien, when the meaning of the words had sunk in, a chilly shuddering feeling had taken possession of his body. He had the sensation of stepping into the dampness of a grave, and it was not much better because he had always known that the grave was there and waiting for him" (132).

## VII

*SUMMARY: Winston recalls the last time he saw his mother. He realizes that she had been human, for when all else was lost, when there was no real hope for survival, she still made small, materially useless gestures out of her human emotions. Winston realizes that the Party has drained this impulse away, that only the proles remain human in this sense. He anticipates his and Julia's fates in the Ministry of Love, but he asseverates the inability of the Party to extinguish his love for Julia, his emotional humanness.*

Winston has a terrible dream and memory connected with it (132). "The dream had also been comprehended by—indeed, in some sense it had consisted in—a gesture of the arm made by his mother, and made again thirty years later by the Jewish woman he had seen on the news film, trying to shelter the small boy from the bullets, before the helicopters blew them both to pieces" (132). Winston now remembers his last glimpse of his mother and the events that were associated with it (133). When his father died, Winston remembers, his mother had done things in a detached, emotionless manner; she had sat still for hours, nursing her ailing daughter (133). The family had scarce food, and Winston would always demand a larger portion than that given to his mother or younger sister (134). He knew he was starving them, but he also felt justified in doing so, as if the hunger in his belly gave him the right to do so (134). At one point, after a chocolate ration was issued, Winston was given  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the bar (134-135). His sister was allowed the remainder, but Winston greedily snatched it from her and ran away (135). As he left, he could see that his little sister was dying (135). Winston devoured the chocolate but soon returned home (135). He found that his mother and sister had vanished, with all of their belongings in place (135). He knew not for sure that they were dead; his mother could easily have been sent to a forced labor camp and his sister might have been taken to a place for homeless children (135).

Winston next recollected a different dream of two months ago (135). “exactly as his mother had sat on the dingy white-quilted bed, with the child clinging to her, so she had sat in the sunken ship, far underneath him and drowning deeper every minute, but still looking up at him through the darkening water” (135).

Julia is unmoved by Winston’s story (135-136). Winston remembers his mother further: “He did not suppose, from what he could remember of her, that she had been an unusual woman, still less an intelligent one; and yet she had possessed a kind of nobility, a kind of purity, simply because the standards she obeyed were private ones. Her feelings were her own, and could not be altered from outside. It would not have occurred to her that an action which is ineffectual thereby becomes meaningless. If you loved someone, you loved him, and when you had nothing else to give, you still gave him love. When the last of the chocolate was gone, his mother had clasped the child in her arms. It was no use, it changed nothing, it did not produce more chocolate, it did not avert the child’s death of her own; but it seemed natural to her to do it. The refugee woman in the boat had also covered the little boy with her arm, which was no more use against the bullets than a sheet of paper. The terrible thing that the Party had done was to persuade you that mere impulses, mere feelings, were of no account, while at the same time robbing you of all power over the material world. When once you were in the grip of the Party, what you felt or did not feel, what you did or refrained from doing, made literally no difference [...]. [T]he people of only two generations ago [...] were governed by private loyalties which they did not question. What mattered were individual relationships, and a completely helpless gesture, an embrace, a tear, a word spoken to a dying man, could have value in itself” (136). Winston realizes that the one group that had retained this instinctive reaction was the proles (136). “The proles had stayed human” (136).

Winston thinks how it would be best if he and Julia never saw each other again, for if they continue their risky lifestyle, they will be captured and never see each other again (137). Once they are captured, said Winston, ““Nothing that I can do or say, or stop myself from saying, will put off your death for as much as five minutes [...]. The one thing that matters is that we shouldn’t betray one another, although even that can’t make the slightest difference”” (137). Julia tells him that everyone confesses under torture (137). Winston replies that by betrayal he meant not confession but the cessation of his love for Julia: “If they could make me stop loving you—that would be the real betrayal” (137). Julia concurs: ““They can make you say anything—*anything*—but they can’t make you believe it. They can’t get inside you”” (137). Winston declares, ““If you can *feel* that staying human is worth while, even when it can’t have any result whatever, you’ve beaten them”” (138). The torturers in the Miniluv could extract any fact or detail or admission out of you; “but the inner heart, whose workings were mysterious even to yourself, remained impregnable” (138).

## VIII

*SUMMARY: Winston and Julia visit O’Brien. They declare their intention to join the Brotherhood. O’Brien describes the Brotherhood and exactly into what they are getting themselves. Julia leaves, O’Brien relates the entire rhyme Winston had been seeking, and Winston leaves.*

Julia and Winston visit O’Brien (138). Winston was frightened coming there (138-139). He notes the unusually exquisite surroundings of a house of an Inner Party member (138-139). As O’Brien came to them, he turned off his telescreen (140). After a long silence, Winston



admits outright that he and Julia are there as enemies of the Party, hoping to take part in resistance to it (140).

Martin, O'Brien's servant, enters (140). O'Brien tells Martin that this is official business and that he can stop playing a servant for ten minutes (141). The four drink real wine to their leader, Goldstein (141). O'Brien tells Winston that Goldstein is real and living somewhere (141). The Brotherhood, too, is real (141).

O'Brien asks Winston and Julia what they are prepared to do: Are you prepared to murder, to betray your country, to die (142). Winston responds affirmatively, until O'Brien asks "You are prepared, the two of you, to separate and never see one another again?" (142). Julia cries, "No!" (143). O'Brien says that's an important fact for him to be aware of (143). O'Brien asks if Julia could accept the possibility that Winston might be irrevocably altered in personality, mind, spirit, or appearance; Julia finally concedes that she could accept that (143). Winston realizes that Martin, the Mongolian-faced servant, must have a fake face of the kind O'Brien described (143).

O'Brien describes just exactly what Julia and Winston are getting themselves in to (144). Winston perceives O'Brien with an air of awe at his power and seeming invincibility (144-145). O'Brien explains how Winston and Julia will never know more than a few other Brotherhood members (145). It is impossible to know the size of the Brotherhood because even Goldstein himself knows not all of its members (145). The members act in virtual isolation so that even if they are caught and confess, they cannot betray more than a few other people (145). Thus, the Brotherhood cannot be destroyed because it is not an organization in the normal sense (145).

Julia must leave (145). Before she does so, the three take a toast, "To the past," as Winston declares.

O'Brien tells Winston how he will obtain *the book*, of which there are very few copies (146). Before Winston leaves, O'Brien asks him if he wants to know anything else (147). Winston inquires as to whether O'Brien knows the "Bells of St. Clement's" rhyme; O'Brien recites it in its entirety (147). Winston leaves, with a tablet to disguise the taste of wine in his mouth (147).

[This summary was never finished.]