

It wasn't always like this, I was educated as a chemical economist . During "*the before*" I studied like everyone else, and was excited about doing research to figuring out how companies had benefited from our current environment. We were so young and naive. We were completely taken by surprise by "*the freedom*". Everything was taken away from us - "*the others*" closed themselves off and we were left with nothing.. There was no more money to do any research - everything was about survival, and you couldn't think about anything else. My dreams about a future in the agri-chemical industry turned to survival. I knew that life could be better, so I ran for office with the goal of making our world better.

I got to work in the Government creating a system of policies, applications, and processes that helped to make basic living easier. It completely worked - the systems anticipates practically every need. My colleagues were brilliant in pulling this all together. Now students are trained in the system at an early age, and are taught how to be creative and innovative in making things even better for us. They learn how to analyze data and how to use this system to improve things, how to develop processes and policies to make our lives even easier. All research and education is designed to benefit us. My daughter, Else, and her friend Rasmus were educated in this system. Rasmus has been working on a cure for this terrible disease that has been plaguing our country over the past 5 years. We are definitely in a much better place now - who needs "*the others*"?

But yesterday, Else told me about a really disturbing situation. She and Rasmus have been doing some side analysis based on some resources that she found at the library where she works. They have found that one of my colleagues in the government has been compromising our opportunity to cure the disease that has been challenging our citizens. There is a plant that only grows in the Solmstas region. It seems that the reason that this region is so special is because of the composition of the soil which is rich in a lithium cobalt salt - a rare substance that can be used in advanced battery technology. The Minister for Agriculture apparently has created a side deal with "*the others*" to mine this area. Even more disturbing is that it looks like they have done it for their own financial benefit. All of my work to make our country and lives better is likely to be compromised because of their greed.