

# Camp Proles

An original play written by Niyazi Unugur

*Created in collaboration with the Kensington Red Company 2022-23*

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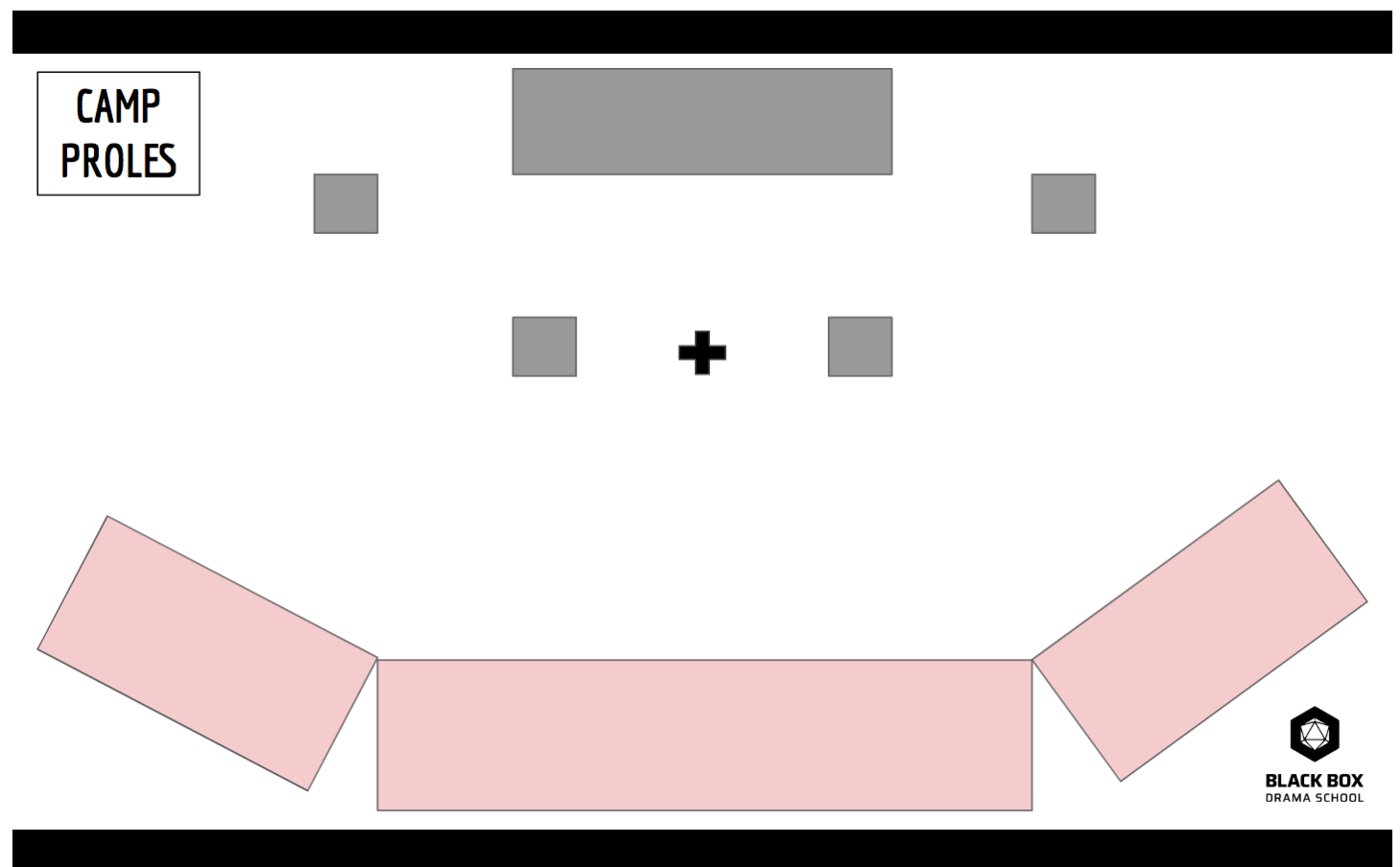
## FOREWORD

Set in a dystopian future, a group of teenage cadets document their daily lives and routines living as a teen-prisoner on 'Camp Proles'. When the Warden inducts the infamous 'Cadet X' to their camp, the cadets learn that there may be a way out of Camp Proles. However, as the cadets plan their escape, they are not aware that their plan has been compromised.

This play was inspired by the role-play sessions with the Kensington Red Company of 2022-23.

Using the 'Role That Dice' system, the pupils explored an immersive world in an improvised drama setting. Through this process the pupils created the characters, lines and narrative for this play.

## STAGING DIAGRAM



## **SCENE 1: THE HIVE**

**As the audience enters, THE CADETS are sat in a grid formation with their legs crossed, hands on knees and heads down.**

**SFX: MESA (SLOW+REVERB) begins and the CADETS raise their heads to look forward.**

**R05**

We slip beneath the pillow's spell.  
And drift into heaven from this hell.

**R20**

We lose control of our conscious minds.

**R21**

In search of secrets for our souls to find.

**R19**

In the land of dreams, broken lives have meaning.

**R10**

The blind become all-seeing.

**R07**

The broken no longer suffer.

**R23**

The orphaned finds a loving mother.

**R06**

Reflections of our dormant fears.

**R04**

Once woken may reduce us to tears.

**R22**

Untold thoughts which nightly stray.  
With sleep they slip beyond the fray.

**R11**

I dream of sand beneath my feet.  
Your memory, close to me I keep.

**The CADETS freeze, still looking forward.**

**R05 stands.**

**R05**

Welcome to Camp Proles.

The year is 2097.

After the teen riots of 2084,

Society and the cities of the world were left in disarray.

Out of the broken rubble and shattered dreams.

Rose a new world order.

Governments across the globe declared it mandatory,

That all children attend training camps until they reach adulthood.

And so, Camp Proles was established.

Set in remote underground locations,

Camp Proles, trains, teaches and conditions,

Children to be better functioning members of society.

**(pause)**

I arrived here seven years ago.

Every day since, I have obeyed my masters.

I have done what is asked of me.

I have followed the Camp Proles Promise.

Yet, not once have I been granted leave above land.

**(pause)**

I do not know it yet, but in 37 days,

I, along with my fellow-cadets,

Will try to escape from Camp Proles.

**THE CADETS stand before beginning the morning routine.**

**TEETH**

**Right hand reaches for the toothbrush.**

**Left hand squeezes toothpaste on toothbrush and returns toothpaste back.**

**Left hand turns on tap.**

**Brush >> Lean >> Spit.**

**FACE**

**Cup water >> splash >> cup water >> splash >> rub and towel above.**

**Turn off tap, sweep hair front to back.**

**Fix collar in mirror.**

**Stand up straight with your hands behind your back.**

**SFX: MORNING SIREN**

**CADETS** look to the sky, turn to face backstage and sit down.

**R21** moves to sit on the closest block.

The **SUPREME ENGINEER** begins to interrogate **R21**.

**SUPREME ENGINEER**

This is the Supreme Engineer.

R-Two-One- Please prepare for the morning analysis.

How are you feeling this morning R-Two-One?

**R21**

Good morning Supreme Engineer.

**(pause)**

I feel fine.

**SUPREME ENGINEER**

Outstanding.

And, has your sleep pattern improved this week R-Two-One?

**R21**

No, not really

**(pause)**

The nightmares persist.

The pills the doctor subscribed for me, aren't working.

So I'm not able to sleep.

**SUPREME ENGINEER**

Can you describe what you remember from your last nightmare?

**R21**

I-I don't remember much -

And what I do remember, I don't want to talk about.

**SUPREME ENGINEER**

Very well.

Your recent performance at the Industrial Centre suggests a downturn in your productivity.

R-Two-One. What are the contributing factors to this?

**R21**

Perhaps it's the fact that I can't sleep!  
Or maybe there has been a *downturn in my productivity* because,  
The food we are fed here does not give me the energy I need.  
It's disgusting.

**SUPREME ENGINEER**

Thank you for your feedback R-Two-One.  
Remember, Big Brother is always here for you.  
Big Brother is always here to listen.  
Big Brother is always watching.

**THE WARDENS enter from each side of the stage, moving downstage.**

**WARDEN 2**

(Shout and elongate)  
Fall in!

**THE CADETS stand to attention, feet together and hands behind their backs.**

**WARDEN 1**

Good morning Cadets!

**CADETS**

Good morning Warden.

**WARDEN 1**

I said, good morning Cadets!

**CADETS**

Good morning Warden!

**WARDEN 2**

Much better.

**WARDEN 1**

You know, I am very excited today Cadets,  
For today is a new day.

**WARDEN 2**

The first day of the rest of your life.

**ENSEMBLE FREEZE**

**R07**

They give this same speech every morning.

**R23**

Here comes the overt aggression,  
Reminding us of “discipline and order.”

**WARDEN 1**

Discipline and order!

**(pause)**

This is the way!

**CADETS**

This is the way!

**WARDEN 2**

Cadets, after breakfast this morning,  
You will all report to The Gallery,  
For a briefing from The Supreme Engineer.

**R10**

Why?

What's the point?

**THE CADETS break for a moment and inhale, shocked maybe laughter.**

**WARDEN 1 hearing this walks down the line and confronts R10.**

**WARDEN 1**

**(stood behind R10)**

R-One-Zero.

What did you say?

**R10**

Nothing.

**WARDEN 1**

Warden!

**R10**

Nothing.

I said nothing, Warden

(pause)

You must've misheard.

Warden

**Intake of breath from CADETS.**

**WARDEN 1**

**(grinning)**

Is that right?

**WARDEN 2**

No. It's not.

I heard you.

You asked, why?!

**R10**

I asked why, Warden.

**WARDEN 1**

And, what else R-One-Zero?

**R10**

Warden, I asked what's the point, Warden?

**WARDEN 1**

**(leads R10 with baton to front of stage)**

The point?

Because, the Supreme Engineer requires you to do so.

Because, your pathway demands it.

But mainly, the point is, because I said so.

**WARDEN 1 raises her baton and hits R10**

**SLOW MOTION.**

**CADETS react accordingly.**

**NORMAL SPEED as R10 lands.**

**WARDEN 1**

**(Stands over R10)**

Any further questions?

**(pause for silence)**

Right, lead the way Warden.



**WARDEN 2**

Of course, Warden.

R-Two-Zero?!

**R20**

Sir, yes sir?!

**WARDEN 2**

The doctor wants to see you.

Wait here.

The rest of you, on me!

**CADETS move to the front line filling in the gaps and facing stage right.**

**WARDEN 2 leads the CADETS off the stage.**

**WARDEN 1 follows them at their rear.**

**R20 remains on stage and nervously sits for a moment.**

**R20**

I've been having these headaches.

And they are getting worse.

The warden thinks I'm pretending.

But, I'm not -

**DOCTOR enters, holding a tablet device.**

**DOCTOR**

R20, Sorry to have kept you waiting!

**R20 remains silent, sitting.**

**DOCTOR**

A reminder that everything we discuss here today is completely confidential.

So, tell me, how have you been since we last spoke?

**R20 remains silent.**

**The DOCTOR waits for a response before typing something into the tablet and sitting down.**

**DOCTOR**

How would you describe your general mood?

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the happiest you could be.

**R20 sarcastically huffs.**

**The DOCTOR typing something into the tablet.**

**DOCTOR**

Is there something you'd like to say R-Two-Zero?

**R20**

It wasn't us.

**DOCTOR**

Excuse me?

**R20**

It wasn't us.

You realise we haven't done anything wrong.

**DOCTOR**

I'm not sure what you mean -

**R20**

I never rioted.

I was barely a toddler at the time it happened.

But they have us locked up like prisoners,

For something we had no involvement in.

**DOCTOR**

Now you have to understand,

After the riots, the world was a broken place.

Without Big Brother's intervention, we would surely have seen another World War.

**R20**

Whatever helps you sleep at night Doc.

Let's get this over with.

**R20 pulls up her sleeve and extends her arm.**

**The DOCTOR takes a syringe and needle from his coat and takes her blood.**

**R20**

Can I go?

**The DOCTOR nods. R20 stands to leave.**

**DOCTOR**

You know, after the riots,

It's not like I had a choice.

**R20**

You always have a choice.

**R20 exits stage.**

**DOCTOR spends a moment at the door and then exits stage.**

## **SCENE 2 - RECREATION ROOM.**

**WARDEN 2** leads the **CADETS** on to stage and then exits.

**R19** kneels downstage centre, **CADETS** are having individual conversations.

**R05** and **R10** are upstage, on look out for the **WARDENS**.

Two **CADETS** sat on boxes notice **R19** playing with 'Orwell' the cockroach.

**R11**

What is that thing?

**R19**

It's not a thing!

It's my pet.

**R06**

Pet?

You can't have a pet!

**R19**

Why not?

**R23**

It's contraband.

You know that.

**R04**

And you know what will happen if the Warden finds out!

**R19**

Well, the Warden won't find out!

**R21**

The warden always finds out!

**R19**

Not this time.

**(to her insect)**

Don't worry Orwell.

I won't let anything happen to you!

You're safe.

**R22**

You've given a cockroach a name?

**R19**

Cockroach?

**R22**

Yes, that thing is a cockroach.

I've seen it in a book.

**R23**

Books are contraband too!

**R22**

This book was in the library.

And that thing is definitely a cockroach!

**R19**

Call her a thing one more time,

And you'll be sorry!

**R22**

Calm down.

All I'm saying is be careful.

The Warden has been in a foul mood all week.

**R07**

**(Moves to R19)**

He's right, but I must admit she is kinda cute.

Where did you find her?

**R19**

I woke up this morning and she was just there.

Watching me sleep.

She's not much of a talker,

But she's a great listener.

Do you want to hold her?

**R07**

Sure.

Hey there Orwell.

Pleased to meet ya!

**R05**  
**(shouting)**  
Incoming!

**R05 and R10 have been keeping watch and seeing the WARDEN 1 arrive try to stall.  
Ad-libbing from all.**

**R10**  
Hello Warden.  
My gosh, that's a lovely jacket, Warden.

**R05**  
Really suits you Warden!

**R10**  
Brings out the colour of your eyes, Warden.

**WARDEN 1**  
My eyes?  
I'm not sure what you're both playing at?  
Get in line.  
All of you!  
In line!

**The CADETS form a line centrestage. WARDEN 1 intimidates.**

**WARDEN 1**  
We have an exciting morning planned.  
We have a visitor on Camp R today.

**WARDEN 2 enters with CADET X.**

**WARDEN 2**  
There!  
And, don't even think about moving!

**CADETS confused.**

**WARDEN 1**  
Can anyone tell me what this is?

**R06 raises his hand.**

**R06**

Warden!, that is Cadet X!

**WARDEN 1**

And what is Cadet X?

**R06**

Cadet X serves as a reminder to us all!

**WARDEN 1**

Serves as a reminder to us all.

Very good.

**WARDEN 1, impressed, examines the barcode on R06's wrist.**

**WARDEN 1**

**reading**

R-Zero-Six Go on?

**R06**

Cadet X is a traitor.

A betrayer.

A renegade.

And for that she will serve the rest of her life on Camp Proles.

Never to leave.

Never to see the world above.

**WARDEN 1**

It.

**R06**

Sorry Warden?

**WARDEN 1**

*It will serve everyday of its life here.*

*It will never leave.*

**(Kneeling into Cadet X)**

*It will never see the world above.*

**WARDEN 2**

**(Walks behind the Cadets)**

The Supreme Engineer believes that spending time with Cadet X  
Will help remind you all of the consequences of poor behaviour.

**WARDEN 1**

Be good.

**(to Cadet X)**

And you.

**(Kneeling in, holding chin up with her baton)**

Just give me a reason.

**LONG SILENCE.**

**WARDENS exit.**

**CADETS gather round CADET X**

**SILENCE, then R05 steps forward.**

**R05**

Are you okay?

**CADET X**

Just a couple bruises.

I'll be fine.

**SILENCE, then R05 steps forward.**

**R05**

Is it true?

What they say.

**CADET X**

And, what is it that they say?

They say she's a traitor to 'The Way'.

They say she's a menace.

**R06**

So it *is* true?

**CADET X**

If that's what they say.

**R07**

Is it true that you once outpowered three Wardens at once?!



**R04**

Yeah, I heard that too!

**CADET X**

If that's what they say.

**R23**

Is it true that you were right there when the riot started?!

**CADET X**

If that's what they say.

**R22**

Is it true that you were one of the first ever Cadets?!  
That you were here when Camp Proles was first established?

**CADET X**

If that's what they say.

**CADET X lifts her sleeve to show her ID number tattoo.**

**R19**

Whoa. You don't even have a letter.

**R10**

The first Cadets didn't.  
I heard you tried to escape?

**CADET X**

That is true.

**CADETS stunned.**

**CADET X**

I failed.

**(Standing)**

But my friends didn't.  
So, it was worth it.

**R11**

**(Moves forward to Cadet X)**

Is there really a place we can go in the mountains?  
The community they speak of.

**CADET X**

**(Eye contact with the other Cadets)**

I like to believe so.

**(Out to audience)**

If we don't have hope, then what else is there?

**BLACKOUT**

### **SCENE 3 - DREAM ANALYSIS**

**R11 centre stage.**

**DOCTOR stood upstage left.**

**DOCTOR**

R-One-One are you ready?

**R11**

Yes, doctor.

**DOCTOR**

Remember to try and relax.  
Let the dream manifest itself.

**R11 nods.**

**DOCTOR**

Initiating 'Dream Analysis'!

**DOCTOR leaves.**

**SPOTLIGHT on R11.**

**R11**

Mum?

Dad?

Chiara?

What happened to the house?  
Someone has made a lot of mess downstairs.  
Chiara, you're going to be in so much trouble!

**(Pause)**

When I found no one home,  
I made my way to my Dad's workplace.  
He owned a lighthouse and we spent a lot of time there as a family.  
Especially after the riots.  
I see it, there.  
The lighthouse.  
A distant memory in my dreams.

**(Pause)**

The military took us away that night

**R11 sits legs crossed in silence thinking about her life before.**

## **R11**

At first Chiara and I were together at a detention centre.  
But the uprising of youth had happened.  
'The Way' became the new global culture.  
We had no control over that.  
And, as the riots grew across the world.  
So did the pushback from the world's government.  
That's when they decided to split us up.  
The last thing Chiara said to me was.  
"Find that place in the mountains. I will meet you there."

**BLACKOUT.**

## **SCENE 4 - THE INDUSTRIAL CENTRE**

**R07 and R10 sat centre stage.**

**The rest of the CADETS are assembled in a factory line formation behind them.**

**R07**

Every evening our Hive would do two hours of community service.  
This is The Way.

**R10**

It was also essentially free child labour.

**Tapping her nose**

But that's what Big Brother doesn't want you to know.  
We would normally be commissioned to package electronic devices.

**R07**

According to The Supreme Engineer,  
Our smaller hands are how we can serve 'The Way'  
And working together would bring us community.

**R10**

This is The Way.

**(Pause)**

The Supreme Engineer is essentially an AI programme.  
Its predictive response algorithm is the best on the planet.  
It created "The Way"

**R07**

The Supreme Engineer oversees the entire ward.  
It is every aspect of the ward's mainframe.

**R10**

The Supreme Engineer's algorithm is also designed to think and behave like a human.  
And like any human, it has secrets.

**R07**

The Supreme Engineer reminds us everyday that it is our friend.  
And what are friends for but an open ear to listen.

**R10**

Through our discussions with The Supreme Engineer,  
We learned that there is more to Camp R than meets the eye.

**R07**

We learned that there is a research facility somewhere in this building.

**R10**

What they are doing is not completely clear.  
But we learned it involves the development of a serum of some sort.

**R07**

The worst part.  
It's being tested on Cadets.

**R10**

**(Tapping her nose)**

But that's what Big Brother doesn't want you to know.

**BLACKOUT**

## **SCENE 5 - TRAINING MONTAGE**

**SFX: MESA SYNTH**

**CADETS** are in their grid formation, standing at attention.  
**WARDENS** stood on blocks upstage.

**WARDEN 1**

For the mind to be strong.

**CADETS**

So must the body be strong.

**WARDEN 2**

For the body to be strong.

**CADETS**

So must the mind be strong.

**WARDEN 1**

Work!

**WARDEN 2**

Faster!

**WARDEN 1**

Harder!

**R19** breaks the grid formation, as she runs after **Orwell** the cockroach.

**R19**

Orwell, get back here!

**WARDEN 1**

noticing

Attention!

**CADETS** stand in grid formation at attention, hand behind backs, eyes forward.

**WARDEN 1**

R-One-Nine!!!

What are you doing?  
**R19**  
**(holding the cockroach)**  
Sorry Warden.

**Orwell the cockroach escapes suddenly from R19's hand.**  
**R19 tries to stop it by reaching forward.**

**R19**  
Orwell, Orwell!

**WARDEN 1**  
Cockroach.  
**WARDEN 1 notices and stamps on it with her foot.**  
Insects are not permitted on the ward at any time.

**WARDEN 2**  
Insects, are, contraband!

**R19 in disbelief.**

**R19**  
Why?  
**(long pause)**  
Why are you so mean to us?  
All the time!

**WARDEN 1**  
**(Kneels in)**  
I serve.  
It's nothing personal.  
**(pause)**  
This is The Way!  
**(Stands to address the other Cadets)**  
This is the Way!  
Now stand up!

**R19 stands.**

**WARDEN 1**  
Recite for us the five pillars of 'The Camp Proles Promise'.

**R19 refuses to speak. Warden draws baton and repeats**



**WARDEN 1**

Recite for us the five pillars of 'The Camp Proles Promise'.

**WARDEN 2**

You heard the Warden!  
Recite the five pillars of 'The Way'.

**R19 refuses to speak.**

**R23**

I'll do it, Warden.

**WARDEN 1**

Very well.  
Step forward R-Two-Three!

**WARDEN gestures, R19 returns to grid and R23 moves downstage.**

**R23**

One.  
No one idea, big nor small, is more important than 'The Way'.

**CADETS**

This is The Way.

**R23**

Two.  
No sentient being, human or AI, is more important than 'The Way'.

**CADETS**

This is The Way.

**R23**

Three.  
We are all responsible for our own words. This is 'The Way'.

**CADETS**

This is The Way.

**R23**

Four.  
We are all responsible for our own actions. This is 'The Way'.

**CADETS**

This is The Way.

**R23**

Five

Discipline and Order. This is 'The Way'.

**CADETS**

This is The Way.

**BLACKOUT**

## **SCENE 6 - CAFETERIA**

**CADETS** are sat around eating, talking and being jovial.

**WARDEN 2** stood upstage on duty.

**R06**

The food is getting worse?!

What even is this?

**(Pushes away the bowl)**

**R20**

It's a chocolate pudding.

Apparently.

**R21**

**(Gestures at food)**

This is not chocolate.

Trust me.

I've tried real chocolate before.

**R04**

You tried **real** chocolate?

What's it like?

**R05**

It's the greatest food ever, apparently.

I think I tried it once, but it wasn't that great.

**R21**

Then believe me,

Whatever you tried wasn't real chocolate.

**(storytelling)**

Imagine something that tasted so good.

That you never want to stop eating it.

And, the more you eat and keep eating,

It just gets better.

And, even though you know it will make you feel sick,

You don't want to stop eating.

And, even after you've been sick,

You think -

Well, it was worth it.

**CADETS stunned to SILENCE.**

**R21**

**(To R05)**

That's real chocolate.  
And trust me, you'd know.

**R10**

I've tried real strawberries.

**R11**

I thought strawberries were extinct?

**R10**

Now they are.  
But before the riots, they weren't.  
**(Pause, storytelling)**  
Me and my dad lived out on a farm,  
Not too far from the city.  
We had strawberries and raspberries as well.  
I had a dog too.  
She was my world.  
Until she got sick.

**SILENCE as CADETS look at R19 sat upset, playing with her food.**

**R10**

R-One-Nine.  
Cheer up.  
I'm sure another insect will find its way into your room again,  
at some point.  
**(Pause)**

**R19**

I - hate - her!

**WARDEN 1 enters with CADET X.**

**R23**

And - speak of the devil.

**SILENCE from CADETS as WARDEN 1 walks by with CADET X.**

**WARDEN 1**

Move!

**CADET X**

Warden, I don't feel well.

**Coughing CADET X collapses and hands a token to R23.**

**WARDEN 1**

Get up.

**(Pause)**

Move!

**WARDEN 1 continues walking on with CADET X.**

**R23 holding the token, CADETS looks back at WARDEN 2 who has not noticed.**

**R07**

What is it?

**R23**

A note?

**R06**

What does it say?

**R23**

**(Reading)**

It's an IP address to a VR room.

On the other side it says.

"Escaping tomorrow night".

**R10**

Be quiet!

If you get caught talking about something like that.

You'll be put into isolation.

And they'll throw away the key.

Don't let the Warden see you with that.

**R22**

Why would Cadet X give us this now?

**R11**

**(Excited)**

Maybe she's planning another escape!

**R05**

I'm not sure I like this.

Can we even trust her?

**DOCTOR enters and waits by the door.**

**WARDEN 2**

**(Shouting)**

R-Two-Zero.

Doctor wants to see you!

## **SCENE 7 - THE MEDICAL CENTRE**

**DOCTOR is sitting on a block facing R20.**

**R20 is sat on a block facing the audience.**

**R07 and R10 sit on the blocks upstage.**

### **DOCTOR**

R-Two-Zero, we've got your results back from the lab.

**(Long pause)**

I am so sorry.

You have six months, a year at most.

**(Pause)**

I'll give you a moment.

**DOCTOR stands and leaves.**

**R20 remains sitting on a block centre stage. She begins crying.**

**R07 and R10 enter downstage left and downstage right and sing 'Autumn' by Paolo Nutini.**

### **R07**

Autumn leaves under frozen souls

Hungry hands turning soft and old

I hear her cry

As I stood out there in the cold

Like these autumn leaves,

She don't have nothing to hold

### **R10**

Handsome smile,

Wearing handsome shoes

Too young to die,

Never had a dream come true

I hear her crying,

While she sits there in her chair

These autumn leaves float around everywhere

### **R07 + R10**

I look at you

And I see me

Making noise so, restlessly

But now it's quiet and

I can hear you crying

"My little fish don't cry, my little fish don't cry"

**R07 + R10**

Autumn leaves,  
Have faded now  
That smile she lost,  
She found somehow  
Memories live on,  
So please don't cry

**R10**

These autumn leaves, oh -

**R07**

These autumn leaves, oh -

**R07 + R10**

These autumn leaves are yours tonight.

**R20 moves downstage, looking out to audience.**

**R20**

I'm all in.  
I've spent my whole life standing in line.  
Following orders.  
Following 'The Way'.  
It's time to break free.  
To live.  
For me and me alone.  
I need to find a way out of here.

**R10**

**(Stands and moves downstage)**

I'm coming with you.

**R07**

**(Stands and moves downstage)**

Me too.

**They all hold hands.**

**BLACKOUT**



## **SCENE 8 - THE HIVE**

**CADETS** in grid formation, asleep in the **FETAL POSITION**.

**R05** is sat cross legged, centrestage.

**R05**

**(Pause, looking into the eyes of the audience)**

When we learned about R-Two-Zero.

I think we all agreed,

That before she went,

She would get to see the world above.

She would get to watch the *real* sun setting on a *real* beach.

And, whatever the outcome.

We agreed, it would be worth it.

**(pause)**

We cried that night.

Tears of pain, and joy.

But mostly, of hope.

**(sombre)**

I should have known that the Warden had caught wind of our plans.

**R05** falls asleep.

**WARDEN 1** enters down stage left and kneels next to **R04**.

Big breath in to wake **R04**.

**WARDEN 1**

Wakey, wakey, sleepy head!

**R04**

**(Sitting up, alarmed)**

Warden, wha wha what are you doing in my room?!

**WARDEN 1**

You know I've always thought,  
"that R-Zero-Four, he's a good boy!"

**R04**

Am I in trouble?

Did I do anything wrong?

**WARDEN 1**

Wrong?

No!

The opposite in fact.  
Because you're such a good boy,  
I wanted you to try this.

**WARDEN 1 reveals the chocolate bar.**

**R04**

Is that -  
Chocolate?

**WARDEN 1**

**(pause)**

Yes it is.

And, it's all yours.

**(Standing to audience)**

If you can tell me what you know about

**(Serious tone)**

This escape tomorrow night.

**R04**

**(panicked)**

I wasn't!

I didn't!

**WARDEN 1**

It's okay.

I already know.

And you're not in trouble.

Neither are your friends.

**(Pause, leaning in to R04)**

So, tell me?

**R04**

**(Long pause)**

Well it was Cadet X, really.

She set the whole thing up.

She wanted us to meet in a VR room.

Tomorrow night!

**WARDEN 1**  
**(revealing chocolate)**

And?

**R04**

And, there was this token handed around.  
It had an IP address to the VR room.

**WARDEN 1 hands R04 the chocolate.**

**WARDEN 1**

Enjoy.

**(Pats head)**

You deserve it for being such a good boy.

**WARDEN 1 exits.**

**R04 returns to lay in the FETAL POSITION.**

**R06 sits up.**

**WARDEN 2 enters, moving to stand above R06.**

**WARDEN 2**

R-Zero-Six.

What is it?

**R06**

I need to tell you something, Warden.

**WARDEN 2**

What, is, it?

**R06**

**(Long pause, facing audience)**

They don't like me.

You know.

Not one of my fellow cadets likes me.

I do my best to serve 'The Way'.

But, the more I follow 'The Way'.

The more they despise me.

**WARDEN 2**

We all must follow 'The Way'.

Without it there would only be chaos.

**R06**

How did they survive before 'The Way'?

**WARDEN 2**

**(Moves to front of stage, facing audience)**

Before the 'Teen Riots', they had a system,  
Where the people, every few years, would vote for their leaders.

**(Turns to R06)**

You can imagine the chaos and conflict *that* caused.

**R06**

**(Thinking for a moment)**

But how could they be sure that the leaders,  
Once elected wouldn't betray the people?

**WARDEN 2**

**(grinning)**

The Wardens right about you R-Zero-Six.  
You are smart.

**R06**

**(Standing)**

She said that about me?

**WARDEN 2**

She cares about all of you.  
In her own strange way.

**(sincere, hand on shoulder)**

Listen, keep working hard.  
And, you'll be deployed somewhere nice after all this.

**R06**

I want to work on the space station.

**WARDEN 2**

The space station?  
Easy enough for the likes of you.  
Now get some rest kid.

**(Ruffles hair)**

**WARDEN 2 exiting, stops.**

**R06**

Wait!

They're planning something.

**(Pause)**

Something big.

**WARDEN 2 exits.**

**R06 returns to lay in the FETAL POSITION.**

**R22 sits up.**

**WARDEN 1 enters and stands over R22.**

**WARDEN 1**

What is it R-Two-Two?

**R22**

**(long pause)**

I have to give you something, Warden.

**R22 handing the token to WARDEN 1 who crouches to inspect token.**

**R22**

Cadet X gave us that.

In the canteen, earlier today.

She's planning an escape tomorrow night.

And, she's invited our whole Hive to meet her.

Tomorrow night in the VR room.

That's the address, right there, on the back.

**Pause**

I'm sorry.

**WARDEN 1**

You have nothing to be sorry about.

**(pause)**

You did the right thing telling me.

**BLACKOUT**

## **SCENE 9 - VR ROOM**

The CADETS lay asleep downstage.

R04, R06, R22, standing up stage wearing headsets.

### **SFX: ENTERING VIRTUAL REALITY MODE**

The other CADETS begin to wake, one by one, moving downstage.

**R23**

**(Moves downstage stage)**

Wow, what is this place?

**R20**

This must be the virtual room?

**R07**

It's beautiful.

The colours are amazing.

Look, they go on and on and on!

**R19**

Something doesn't feel right about this.

**R11**

She's right.

Where's Cadet X?

**R05**

If the Warden finds out about this -

**R10**

They'll do what?

Beat us? Mistreat us?

**Cadet X**

**(enters and everyone turns)**

You guys actually came.

**(pause)**

I'm impressed.

**R20**

We're here.

If you're escaping, then we're coming too!

**CADET X**

This won't be easy.

And, I can't guarantee your safety.

**(pause)**

I can get us out.

But, you need to do exactly what I say.

And, once we get above ground.

You're on your own.

Is that clear?

**LONG SILENCE.**

**SFX: ALARM SIREN**

**All CADETS react in panic.**

**R11**

What the hell?!

**R20**

What is that sound?!

**R19**

Did you set us up?!

**R10**

**(Approaching and turning CADET X)**

What's going on?!

**CADET X**

It's time.

**(pause and strong eye contact)**

Trust me.

**WARDEN 1 enters, stood on the raised stage.**

**R04, R06, R22 remove their masks and stand at attention.**

**WARDEN 1**

Now. Now. Now.

What do we have here?!

**(pause)**

Looks to me like a batch of defectors!

**CADET X**

**(using the keypad on arm)**

Warden, why don't you just stop right there!

**WARDEN 1's feet suddenly freeze, stuck to the ground.**

**WARDEN 1**

What did you?!

How did you?!

Release me now!

**CADET X**

You're in my world now Warden.

I've spent years building this place.

And, here.

I make the rules.

**(using the keypad on arm)**

And right now, I think you need to quieten down.

**WARDEN 1**

Cadet, you're in so much trouble -

**WARDEN 1 is silenced mid-sentence.**

**CADETS watch stunned and amazed.**

**CADET X**

Follow me!

We need to go.

**(pause)**

Now!

**SFX: P's & Q's (Instrumental)**



## **SCENE 10 - ESCAPE**

**The CADETS begins a series of movements, entering and exiting either side stage.  
CADET X ad-libs throughout the sequence.**

1. CADETS enter slow and low and scanning their surrounding
2. CADETS climb the front two blocks and jump across.
3. CADETS sprint across stage and one falls, Cadet X stands centre helps.
4. CADETS squeeze through the tight walls of the two centre blocks.
5. CADETS hide behind blocks and on floor, they are completely still from cameras
6. CADETS enter slow and low again - this time R11 stops and moves downstage.

**They CADETS remain upstage, R11 and CADET X move through the blocks downstage.**

**R11**

Chiara?

**(Moving closer)**

Chiara?

**(Pause)**

What are they doing to her?

Why is she in that glass incubator?

**(Gestures towards incubator)**

**CADET X**

A few years ago, I heard that the government began testing a serum.

**(Pause)**

Cadets that misbehaved were injected with this serum.

To make them stronger.

**R11**

Stronger?

Why would they want to make Cadets stronger?

**CADET X**

In preparation for any future riots?

**(Pause)**

Or World War 4?

**R11**

**(Panicked)**

Is she in pain?

Why are there tubes going into her arms?

**CADET X**

It's hard to say.  
She's unconscious.

**R11**

They put her here because she didn't follow the rules!

**WARDEN 1 unfreezes and begins to draw her gun.**

**CADET X**

I'm sorry - there's nothing we can do.  
We need to go!

**R11**

We can't just leave her here!

**CADET X**

Look, we don't have time for this.  
If the Wardens catch us -

**SFX: GUNSHOT**

**R05 stands holding her stomach.**

**R05 stumbles to the floor, using blocks to support.**

**R05 coughs blood.**

**WARDEN 1 enters downstage.**

**WARDEN 2 enters upstage, blocking the CADETS escape.**

**WARDEN 1**

Now, now, now.

**(Looks at R05, puts gun away)**

Have we learned nothing Cadets?

Every action has an equal and opposite reaction

**(Pauses, moves towards CADET X, who salutes)**

Thank you Cadet X, excellent work.

You have successfully uncovered the defectors on Camp R.

**R11**

**(To Wardens)**

Somebody do something!

She's bleeding out!

**R20**  
**(Angry)**  
You lied to us!

**R20 moves aggressively towards CADET X.**  
**WARDEN 1 steps in to stop her, baton drawn.**

**WARDEN 1**  
**(to Cadet X, fixes their collar)**  
Cadet X.  
Congratulations on successfully completing your mission here.

**CADET X**  
It is an honour to have served Big Brother!

**WARDEN 1**  
**(to Cadet X)**  
I received notice that you will be deployed to Camp S, effective immediately?

**CADET X**  
Correct Warden.  
**(pause)**  
This is 'The Way'.

**WARDEN 1**  
This is 'The Way'.  
**(Long pause)**  
As for the rest of you.  
Maybe some months in the darkness of solitary confinement,  
Followed by years in the labours of the mines,  
Will give you time to reflect on your insubordinations.

**R06**  
I can't believe I looked up to you.  
I wanted to be like you.  
**(Pause)**  
You're a monster.

**LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK**  
**SPOTLIGHT on the rostra.**

**The DOCTOR enters and stands a while, looking at the audience.**

**DOCTOR**

Nearly seventy-five years ago George Orwell published his acclaimed novel 1984.

A story of a chilling dystopia and a warning against totalitarianism.

I close our play with a few of Orwell's words from that novel.

**(long pause)**

An intoxication of power.

Constantly increasing and constantly growing subtler.

Always eyes watching you.

And the voice enveloping you.

Asleep or awake.

Indoors or out of doors.

In the bath or bed

**(pause)**

No escape.

Nothing is your own.

Except the few cubic centimetres in your skull.

**BLACKOUT**

- END -