

1984

-George Orwell

Summary Chapter 1 and 2

We are introduced to Winston Smith the main character of the story. Works at Ministry of truth. Ministry of truth is one of four government buildings in destroyed London, the main city of Airstrip One, a province of Oceania. Year is 1984 and three countries are at war, Oceania, Eurasia and Eastasia. Oceania is run by the party whose leader is Big Brother. Winston is sick of his life in the ruined city and decides to keep a diary. This is against the law in Oceania. He felt his feelings begin to hate Emmanuel Goldstein, leader of the enemy party. He also spots O'Brien, a party leader whose eyes he sees a bit of political sympathy. Sees young girl who he dislikes. He feels it is only a matter of time before his thoughts are detected. A knock at the door he thinks is police. Mrs. Parsons, his neighbor is at the door and asked him to unclog a sink. He does it but smells sweat all over the apartment. Mrs. Parsons is a follower of party doctrine and a fellow employee at the ministry. The children are members of Spies, a youth that encourages spying and telling on traitors, including parents. Winston is revolted. He returns home and writes a couple more minutes before going back to work. He remembers a dream where O'Brien told him he would meet him in a place where there is no darkness. He washes his hands and hides the diary

Reaction

Major ideas, conflicts and themes are introduced. We are shown how the earth has changed, into 3 main continents. We are also introduced to the main character and how he fits into the new world. Also we are shown how the computer age has taken over people's minds. The language is easy to understand, it has not really changed much over time. Seems like nothing left after nuclear war, just ruins remaining. We are introduced to Tom Parsons which Winston is contrasted with. The city is very drab.

Quotes

"Big brother is watching you, the caption beneath it said"

"Thoughtcrime was not a thing that could be concealed for ever."

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Summary Chapter 3,4 and 5

Waking from dreams, he remembers his mother and sister, and can barely remember their disappearance and feels responsible for their deaths. He has another dream where he is in the perfect countryside with the girl he had noticed earlier. He dreamed she stripped for him. This time he is woken up by the telescreen, telling him to do his exercises. He thinks about how much power the Party has over all information. Begins work at the ministry of truth. His job is to correct printed articles in line with the Party's orders. The Ministry and records department jobs are to rewrite history to make the party look good. They get a break because of the 2 minute hate. When he gets back he replaces a speech by Big Brother with invented history. Makes up story about a man named Ogilvy. The article had become contrary to the present party policy. It is replaced as though it never existed. Winston meets Syme, a philologist, for lunch. Syme explains parts about Newspeak. They are joined by Parsons. Winston thinks of the fate that each co-worker will receive. Syme will be vaporized because he is too smart, where Parsons is dull enough to escape

vapourization. He is the only one who has not been taken over by the propaganda that is always being broadcast. He notices the same girl from the other day staring at him and thinks it is the thought police.

Reaction

The Golden country that he dreams about is definitely a release or a freedom from the drabness of London. Also from the party. We are introduced to the fact that he has no mother or father or sisters or brothers anymore because they were taken by the party. He is realizing that he is rebelling against the party and he understands that he is at risk. Winston is in search of the truth and is concerned because of the party's ability to change history. We find that he likes his work even though it is for the party and against morals. He is introduced to the girl that will play a big part in the book most likely.

Quotes

"People in the Records Department did not talk readily about their jobs."

"Winston's greatest pleasure in life was his work"

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Summary Chapter 6,7 and 8

He records in his diary and encounters a couple of years ago with a prostitute made up to look young, but was really an old woman. This memory of the encounter causes him to think of the policy regarding sex and marriage which the party has enforced. This causes him to think of his miserable life with his wife Katherine, that he has not seen in eleven years. Winston resents the intrusion of the Party into the sex lives of its members. Also realizes the discouragement of sexual enjoyment, that makes any love affair with a party member impossible. Writing down the incident does not help him. He makes another entry in his diary, this one concerning the proles. He feels they are the only group that might overthrow the party, but they are unaware of it. There is no way of finding the truth about the past but he does think that present life is worse than the past. He remembers a photo that came into his possession trying to change the past but he destroyed it. He plans to stay free. After work one evening, he wanders into the prole end of London, and ends up near the store where he bought the diary. Follows man into pub and plans to ask him about revolution but man is incoherent. He leaves the pub and wanders. He ends up outside the little antique shop and decides to buy a glass paperweight. Mr. Charrington shows him a room upstairs and Winston dreams of renting it. He notices a dark haired girl following him and he is sure it is the thought police and he will be arrested.

Reaction

We discover that people have a bond when it comes to sexuality that the party cannot control. Even though the party rejects sexual relationships between its members. Sexual experience is no longer allowed in the society and Winston longs for one. He confesses in his Diary about his last experience but it does not help. We find he has faith in the proles and their ability to revolt. It is hard to set up a revolt with the thought police detecting every thought. Winston reaches a crisis with the thought police.

Quotes

"Winston reached down and cautiously scratched his varicose ulcer"

"Not a word could ever be proved or disproved"

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Summary Part 2, Chapter 1,2 and 3

At work he runs into the dark haired girl again, in the hallway. She falls and while he is lifting her up she slips him a note. He reads it at his desk and is amazed to find that it simple states, I love you. Eager and excited to meat with her, he has to wait 7 days until they eat together in the cafeteria. They decide to meet in Victory square. When meeting there, they arrange another meeting next sunday afternoon. At the designated meeting place, in the countryside outside London, he finally learns her name. Julia explains that she considers herself rebellious to the party. She has had sex with many other non-members. Suddenly he walks into the scene exactly like his dreem. She removes her clothes and they have sex. He belives that sexual desire may be the force that destroys the party. Following there secret meeting they meet each othe occasionally. Julie arranges the meetings. They go a month without seeing each other but whenever they can before and after. She belives that she must pretend to cooperate with the party and in secret break the rules whenever possible. Winston thinks that rebellion is the best answer. They discuss past girl and boyfriends and how the party controls them.

Reaction

He is ready for the Julia but is worried about a possible trap. His negative approach to life and his sexual fustration make him ready anyhow. Once he commits to her he connot go back and he is committing though crimes. This may be the beginning of the end. He was happy to find that she was not a virgin and had previous affairs. His idea of revolt is changed and he now is enjoying being corrupted. Julia takes charge of the relationship, showing her aggressivness. She does not believe in Winstons ideas on rebellion and thinks that differently.

Quotes

"A sense of helplessness took hold of Winston"

"Between you and me, the antique trade's just about finished"

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Summary Chapter 4,5,6 and 7

Winston does rent the room above the antique show and realizes the foolishness of what he and Julia are doing. She brings him coffee and real sugar and real old-fashioned make-up. Julie tries to remember an old nursry rhyme, while Winston immagines that he and Julia and the room itself were all closed in like the paperweight. Many preperations for the upcoming hate week keep Winston, Julia and the others very busy. Winston discovers that his friend Syme has dissappeared and all records of him have been altered. Meanwhile, Parsons is still busy and happy in the preperations for hate week. He was right about them. Because of the increased work load he and Julia do not meet as much but in the room above the antique shop they look at things from the past and other forbidden things. They discuss the hopelessness of there private rebellion and that it cannot go on forever. He is dissappointed that Julie does not reject propaganda from the partyand her theroy that the party sends bombs on itself. One day at work O'Brien gives Winston his address and asked him to stop by so tha he can lend him an advance copy of the Newspeak dictionary.

Winston thinks this is a conspiracy against the party and is excited but, thinks it will end in torture and death. Winston dreams of his mother again and the hunger and awful conditions there were before the disappearance. He feels bad for asking for rationed food and stealing his sister's chocolate. When he came back they were gone. Winston tries to tell her but she is tired. He is glad that he and her have their own feelings toward each other.

Reaction

He rents a room above the antique shop showing his independence and his plunge into the end. He wishes the room could be closed in like the paperweight. We find out how different the two main characters are. The state does not care what kind of person you are. Julia's understanding of the party is much better than Winston's although she is naive to many things that the party does. Winston defines his rebellion in three steps, first the thought then the word (Diary) then the act (Julia). O'Brien seems to be a good man, also in rebellion. His mother was like him.

Quotes

"The tiny interior of the shop was in fact uncomfortably full, but there was almost nothing in it of the slightest value"

"A sharp cry of pain was wrung out of her"

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Summary chapter 8,9 and 10

Winston takes Julia to the O'Briens' apartment. He wonders if O'Brien is also a rebel because he finds him in front of the telescreen, hard at work. Over toast he explains to Winston what is required of the secret rebel brotherhood. They accept the terms of the membership except that they will never see each other ever again. O'Brien promises to be given a copy of Emmanuel Goldstein's book, secretly in the future. After a long week, of sorting through millions of documents, changing them to prove that the Party's decision that Eastasia, and not Eurasia, was the enemy that they have been fighting all along. He rushes home to read the copy of the book. He reads while lying back and relaxing. Julia falls asleep when he tries to read her sections of it. When they awake from their sleep they start talking, but a voice issues from behind the picture on the wall. It is a hidden telescreen which instructs them not to move. They are rushed by armed guards. The Thought Police had been observing them all along. Winston and Julia are violently separated. Mr. Charrington enters the room without his disguise, looking much younger. He is a member of the thought police.

Reaction

Winston thinks of O'Brien as a strong, unexcitable man. He is dedicated and wholehearted to the brotherhood. Winston joins the brotherhood and tells about his dreams. We understand about hate week a little more. Winston reads the book that is given to him by O'Brien. Winston and Julia get arrested. They find out that O'Brien was the enemy. There was a sort of feeling that O'Brien was the bad guy, and they would get caught sooner or later.

Quotes

"He was a bit early"

"The lane widened, and in a minute he came to the footpath she had told him of"

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Summary Part 3 Chapter 1 and 2

Winston is being held prisoner in a large, crowded cell at the Ministry of Love. Ampleforth and Parsons are both prisoners also. Parsons was tortured in by his own daughter for thoughtcrime. He feels increased discomfort and room 101 is continually mentioned by several prisoners. O'Brien enters the cell with a guard and Winston now realized he has been betrayed by him. O'Brien is a member of the Inner Party. O'Brien orders the guard to strike Winston who feels a great deal of pain on his elbow. Winston is tortured both physically and mentally for an unknown length of time. He keeps getting interrogated with beatings and questions until he confesses to many crimes. O'Brien reveals that he has been watching Winston for seven years. O'Brien wants total rehab. from Winston. O'Brien explains why the party can never be defeated. He has been informed that Julia quite easily betrayed him and has now been released totally rehabilitated. Winston's questions about room 101 is not answered.

Reaction

Finally he is caught by the thought police, which was inevitable since the beginning. He realizes that he has been betrayed by Julia and O'Brien. But he says he would never betray her. All time is lost while he is in jail. He is going to be rehabilitated and is taken to the dreaded 101 for more mind games. Winston does not crack, except that O'Brien gets him to believe is a little crazy.

Quotes

"Listen the more men you have had the more I love you"

"We can come here once again"

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Summary Chapter 3 and 4

O'Brien tells Winston the second stage of his rehab. is about to begin - understanding the why in party. He also tells Winston that he wrote sections of Goldstein's book. He says the Party rules for the sake of power, and power alone. The proles will never revolt. O'Brien questions him further and punishes him when he does not answer correctly. Winston says he is morally superior to the Party, but O'Brien has a tape of the conversation about what Winston was willing to do to join the brotherhood. Winston thinks that the party will be defeated by a noble man, but O'Brien shows Winston himself in the mirror. Winston weeps looking at his own aged and ghastly body. He comforts himself by thinking about how he never betrayed Julia. Winston's health is improving, and he is trying to accept the rightness of the party. He examines the past events and realizes the party was in control the whole time. He realizes also that the party can make anything right if it wants to. He has to practice doublethinking. He wakes up from a troubled sleep, calling Julia's name. O'Brien enters his room and Winston confesses that he still hates Big Brother. He is sent to room 101.

Reaction

He had also looked to O'Brien for sanity and strength and kindness but now he sees what he really is a power-hungry guy who likes infliction of

pain. He finds out he has been watched for 7 years. After being broken or cracked he still has the fact that he has not turned against Julia. They completely destroyed Winston and he has now entered the party.

Quotes

"Have you heard the rumours of the existance of the brotherhood."

"The brotherhood cannot be wiped out because it is not an organization in the ordinary sense"

"He was tired, but not sleepy any longer"

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Summary Chapter 5 and 6

The torture room is brightly lit, room 101. O'Brien says that the room contains the worst thing in the world. It turns out to be rats in a cage which can be strapped over his face. Winston yells and screams and is overcome by the horror and the terror. He screams that this punishment should be given to Julia and not him. O'Brien spares his life. Winston is then released. He is sitting under a tree at the Chestnut Tree Cafe. He drinks very heavily now. He remembers meeting Julia and how they talked about how they betrayed each other. The party would not allow them to see each other, but neither felt anything anymore. He remembers a game of his childhood but then it is pushed out by the broadcast that comes on the telescreen. Eurasia is once again the enemy. His heart fills with love for Big Brother.

Reaction

The party knows the worse nightmare of each person and is able to use that against them. It worked on Winston. Finally he gives in and the party has won. Quotes "He did not attempt to kiss her, nor did they speak"
"He loved Big Brother"