

A Loveless World

Chapter 1: The War

Historians have noted that when humanity began, so did war. As technology and innovation developed, so did the size and gravity of these wars. Although their causes ranged, religious wars became a common thread among them all. Religion fueled violence and hatred nationally and globally. In times as recent as the 2010's, health professionals, politicians, and citizens who supported the idea of women's choice were targeted by Christian extremists. Western nations were pinpointed by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) for their liberal social ideals and not cohering to fundamentalist Islamic ideals. Even Muslims with liberal views were targeted in their own countries. The attacks became more frequent and ranged from small scale car bombings to intelligence breaches, and larger bombings like the 2015 bombings of Paris, France.

Unfortunately the Western World did not possess as much intelligence as it thought. On December 25th, 2015 ISIL launched what would be the most carefully planned and synchronized attack on an enemy in the history of humanity. Within ten minutes of each other, ten religious centers were bombed: Focus on the Family and New Life Church as an evangelical Mecca; Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah as the center for Mormon practices; The Family Research Council in Washington D.C. for their conservative Christian ideals and their role in U.S. politics; St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, NY for its central location and housing of the New York archbishop; The Vatican as the capital of Catholicism; The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, for its housing of the archbishop of Paris and for its international symbol of Christianity and Catholicism; Westminster Abbey as the elite church of the British Royals and source of English pride; St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow, Russia as a symbol of Russian Orthodox Catholicism; The City of Jerusalem as a Jewish and Christian Mecca and because of it's greatest ally, The U.S.; and lastly, the Christ the Redeemer Statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil as a symbol of Christ as the highest power of all. The attacks were followed by the release of the ISIL manifesto. They declared that their pool of allies was far larger than any outsider could imagine. They declared that they could not and would not stop, until they prospered.

In the days that followed grief and anger coalesced. The affected Nations scrambled to draw in their allies and to squash the ISIL regime. Their goal was not as easy as it seemed. These attacks were the beginning of what is known as the Great War. It was the war that would end all wars. Violence, terror and destruction would ensue for nearly fifty years. By 2070, entire economies had collapsed. Children born in war had fought and died in the same war. Entire cities were completely destroyed. Power had ebbed and flowed between sides. Alliances were strained and sometimes broken. Nuclear warfare had destroyed countless lives and resources. The world no longer looked like a world of rich diversity and humanity, but one of despair, confusion and aimlessness. In December of 2070, the world and its leaders looked back over the years and at the attacks of 2015. They decided that enough was enough. The leaders met and the white flag was flown.

Chapter Two: Truce

Apologies seemed extraneous—every side had committed atrocities that they never would have thought themselves capable of. Assault plans were cancelled and troops were called home. Withdraw orders were met without resistance. Scientists, artillery manufactures, generals,

and ground troops alike had lost purpose. No one knew what they were fighting for. No one knew who the enemy was. They had been fighting just to fight. Military personnel returned to their countries and the rebuilding began.

As citizens mobilized to reconstruct their nations and homes, the leaders of every nation met to discuss what was to be done. They consulted historians, philosophers, psychologists, economists, humanitarians, and scientists. Their goal was to understand why this all happened and how it had gotten so out of hand. The devastation was so vast that the leaders were going to make certain war was obsolete in their future. The leaders named themselves the World's Peace Coalition, reminiscent of the long gone United Nations. Unlike the UN, the members truly believed their purpose was a matter of existence or extinction.

• **Chapter 3: The Meetings and Awakening**

The WPC's purpose was so strong that it met for month long intervals, only breaking for short returns to their home countries. Months of these discussions ensued, until they finally realized the most critical piece: war was a product of hatred. So where did hatred come from? It came from love. Love for your family, your friends, your fellow citizens, for a common cause or interest. When those individuals and ideas were threatened, people sought to protect them. While love may serve some altruistic purposes, it was mostly selfish.

With this realization, they looked at philosophers who believed that love was an illness. This idea had long been abandoned, but why? Because love is so powerful, that to question its goodness, is to question something that they felt the most deeply. The leaders realized that perhaps the idea that love is a sickness was not so asinine. Maybe love IS an illness, and that causes exceptional irrationality. It can manifest as hatred for those who are against us. While it can move us to do good things, it can move us to become someone other than ourselves. Something that causes us to commit unthinkable atrocities against those who threaten us and all that we love.

The topic was heavily debated. Countless questions were asked about how a society could exist without love. Each one of them was answered practically and logically. In the end, no one could argue that a world without love was possible.

With this conclusion reached, a bigger issue arose. Psychologists explained that humans cannot easily be taught to forget or persuaded to abandon a feeling. It would take decades of psychotherapy and sedation that would leave many people not only loveless, but also useless. The leaders went home to their countries to search for a solution.

Chapter 4: The Solution

One day, nearly a year after the end of the war, there was a break in the search for a solution. A Pakistani-American scientist named Dr. Naz Duerf published a memoir about his experiences in wartime and the places his research led him. During the war, he had worked to develop neurological and psychological weapons. He had spent countless hours studying the chemicals in the body and their interactions with the brain and thus human feeling and emotion. A chapter in the book described how his findings changed the way he looked at humans and their experiences. The U.S. President called for a meeting with the WPC and asked Dr. Duerf to attend. The leaders took Duerf through the path that led them to their conclusions on love. At the end, they asked Duerf if it was possible to create drug that took away a person's ability to love. His answer was immediate: without a doubt. He went back to the United States with a new state

of the art lab, a team of assistants, and a clear objective. The leaders went back to their countries to present the solution to their citizens.

The leaders worried that convincing people to give up love would be the greatest challenge. Some had suggested that the drug be distributed through water ways or in the air so that no one would know. After the secrecy and chemical warfare of the war, no one really wanted to do this to their people. If there was any hope of starting anew, there would have to be complete transparency. The leaders created an announcement that they would air to the entire world at once. They once again explained how they had reached the conclusion that love is an illness. They answered the questions they themselves had asked. They showed the people of the world a blue print of how things would work without love. Finally, they told them that they were working on a drug that would achieve lovelessness. The reminded citizens that for their plan to work, it required complete participation.

The leaders expected a severe backlash, but something miraculous happened. They had underestimated their people's ability to conceptualize and relate. While some were saddened by the idea, they knew it was the best option. After all of the destruction, they had compassion for one another. They felt sadness and guilt for destroying their enemy's lives, yet simultaneously harbored no resentment for the enemy's destruction of their own lives. They loved each other unconditionally. There was unanimous agreement that this feeling of unity and compassion would fade as generations were born farther and farther away from the war. The only way to show their love for each other and the love for future generations was to sacrifice it. The world was ready.

• Chapter 5: The Drug and It's Trial

Using his research and the knowledge of his team members, Dr. Duerf quickly created the Love Loss Drug. LLD was more than anyone had hoped for. It safely eliminated the love chemical receptors in the brain after only one treatment. They shared the compound with designated scientists around the world and production began. Within a month, enough had been made for double the world population. Dr. Duerf and the world leaders began their plans for administering of the drug.

Their plans were almost ready when Dr. Duerf was presented with a question over a dinner with his family. He was discussing the effects of the drug with his wife when his five year old daughter interrupted "Dad, will you still love me after you take the drug? What's going to happen to me if we no longer love each other?" Dr. Duerf was at a loss for how to answer these questions. What would happen? How would children fully develop without the nurturing care of a parent? It was the age old question, would nature be able to conquer nurture? This seemed too big of a gamble to take.

The next day Dr. Duerf called an emergency meeting and presented these same questions to the WPC. How would children be raised properly? And furthermore, why would parents be inclined to procreate if they had no desire to love and to nurture? They decided that they would ask a sample of citizens to volunteer for a trial. They would be isolated in a town of their own to see how the child factor would be addressed.

Five hundred individuals without children were given homes and jobs and were given the drug. The LLD worked miraculously. All of the citizens worked thoughtfully and purposefully. They were driven by their jobs and by their given purpose. Dr. Duerf and several psychologists

regularly conversed with the trial participants. Everyone seemed to be happy and fulfilled. They lived harmoniously and respected one another. Those in the field of science or medicine respected those who paved the streets or served them food. Everyone understood that they were all equally important in making society function.

To the surprise of some, they even engaged in sexual relationships. The doctors and citizens were reminded that for most, sex is a basic bodily desire completely independent of love. Sex is as important as bathing or as physical exercise. Not everyone needed it as frequently or in the same way, but it was nonetheless a kind of need. They even found that without the malady of love, they were free of self-consciousness and jealousy. All the participants expressed the excitement of being able to engage in sex with whomever they wanted, sometimes, even with several people at once. There was sexual relief.

With this in mind, Duerf and the psychologists asked if there were any hopes of conception tied to their sexual acts or otherwise. Many of the participants admitted that they had hoped to raise a child before they were given the drug. While they still desired children to maintain the population and to further the work force, they no longer wished to raise or care for a child. It was not a selfish felling. They knew the task would be productive, but not something they thought they would excel at. Everyone remembered their childhood and logically knew that a loving guardian was essential to their development.

Duerf and the world leaders were thrilled with the results of the trial. The absence of love worked just as they had hoped, but it also presented one final and critical question. What is to be done about the children? They discussed with a child psychologist and determined a partial plan. Children would not be given the drug until the age of 15. At this point they would be fully able to function without parental love and affection. The same rule would hold for existing children. One of the parents would not be given the drug until all of their children had reached the age of fifteen. A solution for the care of future children would be solved by someone new to the project; a Doctor named Lief Kind.

● Chapter 6: Dr. Kind

Dr. Kind was raised during the war years like most people of the world; however her parents provided her with a different kind of upbringing. Although no country had been safe, her parents had migrated from Africa to North America to distance themselves from the connecting continents. Her mother, Heid had been a Doctor, educated in not only western medicine, but also the healing practices of indigenous Africans. Her other mother, Onder, had been a child psychologist and teacher. She had begun her career as a teacher, but began having questions about childhood success. Head and Onder were drawn together through their curiosity and comprehensive views of learning. They adopted Lief in 2030 with the hope of raising a smart, independent woman that was able to develop and grow without the fear of war. They saw what was happening to the children of the war and wanted to do something different. They wanted to nurture curiosity and teach their child a holistic ways of thinking.

As such, Lief grew up strong with the love of two fearless mothers. She was taught about the origins of the war and why fear and hatred were the downfall of humanity. She was able to lead her own education and pursue whatever her heart desired. Her passion for knowledge was kindled early and would follow her throughout her life. She was able to attend a university and

received degrees in religious, feminists, and race studies. From here, she went on to get several Masters degrees and a PhD in developmental psychology, all before the age of thirty. Like her upbringing, her education was not typical. Although her degrees were fitted to educational standards, she supplemented with field studies and research. She traveled to the Middle East and to Asia to study love, families, inequity, and the effects of war. She was exactly what her mothers had hoped she would become. She was strong, intelligent and independent. She left no question unanswered. Her strive for knowledge was her own and thus was wholesome.

Her knowledge left her divided on the subject of the LLD. Heid and Onder had raised Lief to question and challenge the societal norms that bred hatred and fear. Lief could clearly see why the WPC and Dr. Druef believed that love was the root of the world's problems. But as a child who was loved so ferociously, and as a woman who studied children and families, she knew that for a time, love was absolutely necessary. She spent hours examining her research and searching for a solution. After a brief pregnancy scare, the solution came to her. She chose not to come forward immediately in hopes that Dr. Druef would recognize the child factor on his own. When he did, Lief initiated contact.

Chapter 7: The Solution

Deurf and the leaders met with Lief and several of her colleagues. After Lief and her colleagues fully convinced the leaders that children need loving guardians, she explained her plan. She told them her history and why she praised their solution, but reminded them that because of the child factor, their solution was incomplete. In telling them of her childhood and the love of her mothers, she argued that some individuals were born with a desire to raise children. Just like some were given a passion and aptitude for science, some were given a passion for children.

Her plan required something from everyone, because quite simply, children are the future and thus the responsibility of all. Barring health exceptions, every woman would be required to submit two eggs, and every man would be required to give two semen samples. The first submission would be at 22 and the second at 30. With the help of technological advances in medicine, Doctors would use these sperm and eggs to create embryos and grow them in womb-like devices. Once the children were born, they would go to raising facilities. To prevent accidental pregnancies, birth control would be administered up to one month before donation time. After their final donation, they would be sterilized. Tubes would be tied and vasectomies would be given. Once the children were born, they would go to the raising facilities.

These facilities would be run by individuals who possessed a desire to care for children. These men and woman would be responsible for raising, loving and caring for them. Each guardian would be responsible for no more than five children. They would teach them morals and raise them in a family. Kids would be given the freedom to play and explore. They would laugh and cry and learn just like children had always done. They would attend school together and pursue their education according to their aptitudes and desires. At the age of 15, they would choose their paths. If they desired to become a guardian, they moved on to learn child psychology, care, and pediatrics, and would be exempt from the LLD. If they chose a different path, they would be given the LLD, and would continue on to an appropriate education path.

Some of the members of the WPC wondered if there would be shortages in certain fields, especially in guardianship. Lief argued that society has functioned well to this point in terms of

labor divisions. There are innate desires in each of us. Randomness in sperm-egg pairing would further ensure that children were genetically random and the labor dispersion would also be normally distributed. She called on labor economists and researchers to back her claims, to which they did so excellently. It was apparent that the child issue was resolved.

• **Chapter 3: The World without Love**

With all of the questions answered and problems solved, it was time to administer the drug. To ensure complete consumption, it was agreed that the drug would be administered in two parts. Everyone would be given one pill to consume. Within 24 hours, the drug would have completed its job and the effect irreversible. In fifteen years, all of the naturally born children would be of age, and their parents relieved of their love duties. At this time another dosage would be administered. The drug was produced in mass quantities and distributed worldwide. Because of its importance, it was given freely in large cities and rural villages. Child Raising Facilities were created across the world. In small villages, children were allowed to continue the practices of their indigenous cultures.

Diversity was not to be expunged. While the world wanted peace, it did not want to eradicate diversity. They saw the hierarchies that were created in dystopian stories and were horrified. There was no desire for Eugenics. Aside from the required consumption of the LLD, and the egg and sperm donation, the world was to be completely free. No one would be encouraged to abandoned culture. No system would encourage the creation of hierarchies. People were free to pursue higher education, but not coerced to. The world required harmony, and harmony required diversity. The war had reminded them of how deep oppressions had become. In this new world without love, oppression was close to obsolete. People were allowed to pursue whatever they wanted. They were free to express themselves in any way they desired.

In the WPC and Dr. Duerf's desire to eliminate hatred and love, the drug also eliminated products of love like judgment. These benefits were far reaching. In people's freedom of pursuit the world advanced quickly. People who did what they were passionate about did so with positive and beneficial intentions. Their lives away from work were fulfilling. People were able to form and dissolve relationships as they saw fit. Nothing was taken personally as there was with love because there was never malicious intention. People were allowed to have sex in any way they wanted and with whomever they wanted. Without love and hatred, there was no need to shame anyone for their decisions. The lack of judgement created a world where gender was fluid, sex was liberalized, and race was celebrated rather than hated. There was no need to judge others on harmless actions. Only when a rogue individual intentionally harmed another, would there be need for intervention. Despite the loss of something that had been so valued, for once, the world experienced equity and balance.

Origins of the Character's Names:

- Heid- Afrikaans for Health
- Oncer- from the Afrikaans word for teacher
- Dr. Lief Kind- Afrikaans for love and child
- Dr. Naz Duerf- Naz: the Urdu word for the pride you feel from being in love; Duerf: Freud spelt backwards