

Final Visionary Fiction Letter

Dear Jacinda,

I found it appropriate to write this message to you. Your name's been buzzing around the house ever since Flynn got caught robbing junk and stuff down the block; oh man, mom and dad are furious. My mom says this behavior is a reflection of the friends he hangs around. Flynn (he/him) is my older brother, adopted like me. I'm Tony BTW. (they,them). The officers dropped Flynn off yesterday at our house, around 11:00 PM. I remember because I could hear Blinding Lights by The Weekend being played on the blaster, or as you would call it, the radio. Channels like 34.5 only play older music later at night, so I inferred that it must've been pretty late when they arrived, rhythmically knocking on our door. I could hear the unlocking of handcuffs from the downstairs kitchen as well as the vulgar profanity coming from my mother's mouth. Boy does she like to talk. Thanks to you Jacinda she can say whatever she wants. It's a curse and a blessing lol (do you like my use of 2020 slang?). The police stayed around 20 more minutes so my parents could fill out some paperwork. You probably don't know about this, but now whenever police have to arrest someone, they are given a form to fill. On the form is a survey, basically providing the detained a space to make any complaints or feedback about the process. I know about the survey because I was able to get a glimpse at it when I was at my friend Breonna's (she/her) house. Her fathers a cop, you see? I had crept to the top of the stairs that night, trying to get a better listen to the conversation. There were two officers. I could only get a good look at one of the officer's name tags, spelling Katherine (she/her). Oh I forgot to tell you, nowadays work tags require you to put your preferred pronouns. A lot has changed.

After what seemed like decades I could see the two officers exit our grass green three story house. They entered their hover cars and took a turn down Clark St down toward the National History museum. It would seem that every house on Amanda Gorman Street would be quiet as a mouse that night. Every house except ours, which would sound like a pack of hyenas laughing. I sat at the top of the stairs for a couple more minutes laughing at my brother's humiliation. I was just about to head to bed when I heard your name pop up in the conversation. My mom had said something about you, something like "you shouldn't use the power you were given by your elder Jacinda to steal". it was something along that line. I shuffled to bed that night thinking about you, and who you could have possibly been to "give" Flynn "power". Well my curiosity led me to write this, and what you've done to make my generation (generation among us or Gen AU for short) better.

I started throwing Flynn questions the next day. I wanted to know everything about you. He smirked realizing that I had overheard their talk last night. We were sitting in his green tea hover car, his air fresheners dancing in the wind, baking a scent of nice lavender. I asked him again and with that he responded, "she's your great-great... grandmother" This obviously didn't give me enough information about you, so I

specified my question, asking next “what did she do to make us have power?” To this he responded with a grin like smirk. I pulled out my red iPad and listened to his response as my hands danced across the screen, trying to capture every word he was saying. He had stated the name Daunte Wright while in unison he pointed to his air fresheners. He first told me the story of this young man. His life was taken from him by those sworn to protect us. He went on to state multiple other names, George Floyd, Sandra Bland, Makhia Bryant. I focused all my might to not cry. It was as if my eyes were a dam trying to protect the water from flooding the other side. He explained that there were so many problems with the police force; their being systemic racism targeting Black individuals. It was hard to imagine the police that we have now ripping the lives of people like me. Flynn's eyes glanced at me as he said his last sentence and changed the subject. I think he could tell my dam was just about to overflow so he instantly switched the subject, and pulled into an ice cream shop to cheer up the mood.

With these pieces of information I was able to connect the importance of your life to mine. You were a part of the movement, weren't you Jacinda? One that grew our country? I got home that night and searched up Daunte Wright's name, along with it was a list of so many other Black people killed by the police. George Floyd being a big one. I watched all the videos of the Derek Chauvin trial. Sitting on my chair that night the flood in my eyes centered its inner jack in the box. My eyes flooded with tears as I watched the knee of Chauvin press against Mr. Floyd's neck. My stomach punched me as I saw the officers standing by like statues as this criminal act was being committed. I worked up the strength to watch more trials from your time. I spotted a plethora of differences from your time and mine, one being that your democracy used a punitive form of justice. I was taught about punitive justice 2 years ago. I came to the conclusion that punitive justice was an excuse to punish people: this tactic left no proof of success. I could clearly see how punitive justice played a role in the 2020s justice system. I mean even in the Derek Chauvin trial, the punishment was jail time. Would that be enough to teach a murderer their lesson? Here in the 2130's what you would call transformative justice paves our justice system. Here jail time is not enough to change a person, so we choose to better their understanding of the situations. I've been very interested in law since a young age and to see punitive justice being used in this force is very disturbing to me. In my time our justice system takes into consideration...

1. Your age
2. Your living situation
3. Why the crime was committed
4. What privilege do you have
5. What will be the best punishment to help educate not harm the accused

Interestingly enough transformative justice wasn't our second choice of justice. By this I mean for a small time people started using restorative justice. Many trials were improved, focusing on the mental states of each person. Many conversations included apologizing, but it still wasn't enough for our country. So very smoothly our justice system started incorporating aspects from transformative justice and now we're here.

Transformative justice has benefited our world, as you can tell by my baffled writing above. I was unaware of the harm made by your justice system. This allows me to understand that something must have gone right to now live in a world where the actions your generation exemplified are unimaginable.

Breonna Happened to be an excellent source of information throughout this process. Her family has been big with protesting ever since her great-great... Grandmother was killed by the police. So I figured I'd learn some valuable information from her. I ran to Breanna's house a couple days before writing this letter, wearing a green sports bra and shorts, both of my mother's earbuds plugged into my ears jamming to Billie Eilish (she's one of my favorite old artists). I had arrived at Breonnas's house. Walking to her room I took notice of the different decorations we have in our rooms that your generation hadn't created yet, like hologram walls. They are big digital screens that take up about $\frac{1}{3}$ of your wall. It is basically a bigger, smarter, and faster version of what you would call a promethean board. When I got to her room I could see her dripping wax walls (it's a trend here) and her lying in her bed. I had called her earlier that morning to tell her I was studying you and my history, and explained how I wanted to understand your time a little bit more. She had already done a little research before I arrived, and filled me in. Apparently sexual assault was normal, barely anyone got punished for now a high violating crime. I asked my fig (what is known as siri in your time) what the percentage of women sexually harrassed was in 2020. The figs robotic voice stated "97% were sexually assaulted in the 2020s". No offence but what the he** was wrong with your time period? Police killing black people on the streets. People raping others without consequences. And don't get me started on Asian hate crimes! Why wasn't everyone just accepting of others? You'll be glad to know that rape is now considered one of the highest crimes. And punishment is put into action to those that commit it. Not only will the assaulter be punished for their crimes but put through a line of programs to educate them on this situation and ensure that they know their actions were unconstitutional. What I understand is that all your generation did was either throw the assaulter in jail or disregard the problem all together. With real justice we are now able to adjust our consequences to ensure the best education for each crime.

I realize that you aren't able to live through our time period, so I figured that I'd give you a little lesson. Countless things have improved, such as our police, our justice system, and I'm proud to say that our government has been very diverse. Black/African American, Asian, Native American, biracial Congress members, and those from the LGBTQ+ community. There are more women in positions of power and much more equality. I think because we have a government that actually represents America, we are now able to evolve into a better country. We now have representation for all people, there are those in office that have experienced oppression in America and know the feeling. This has allowed growth in our country. I mean for one, our elected presidents have become a representation of our America:

First Native American president in 2066

We had our first woman president in 2078

Our first gay presedent in 2098

The most diverse our government had ever been 2099
First trans President 2104.

I would say that having this representation has helped very much. We are able to come to agreements. It's been very successful because the people in office want the same things we want. Many more laws were put in place that have made our country stronger. The laws put in place help those in need and dig deep into the problem. It's funny how your time would call that transformative justice, when we would just call it justice. It was probably when we got our first female president when people became more aware of the struggles with punitive justice. After president Susan Rain, you were all given some sort of wake up call and finally resorted to "transformative justice."

Now I understand it must've been hard to fight for change, having the government work against the people, and some people just unable to get their head out of their a**. I still wish more could have been done, so these inexcusable "accidents" didn't have to happen. But anyway I guess more of the change started happening in 2020, right? When Mr. George Floyd was murdered by the police, I heard about the protest and the rioting. Maybe that's why change really started to happen, or maybe we have to track back to the days before you were born, like when Martin Luther King marched on Washington (yeah I did my research).

With that being said, work made by your generation has helped us get to where we are today. I plan on continuing your legacy, making sure that my voice isn't silenced and that those who were oppressed continue to get a say and have seats in these high positions. The problems haven't all stopped, after all we are human. This means there will be plenty of more time for me to practice being an activist.

Writing this I have taken notice of some of the things that I'm able to do now because of the help of you and those who fought with you. For one, my brother was able to rob a store, get caught and live. Second, being able to have an air freshener in our car and safely get to our destination. And another, safely arriving at Breanna's House with both earplugs in and wearing my preferred clothing.

There is so much I wish I could do to tell you you did it (However I have a feeling that you already know). I honestly don't know how to repay you. Perhaps I'll write a book, name it The Power of Gen Z. The name is a work in progress LOL. (again me using 2020 slang) Anyway thank you again. If it weren't for those who fought against injustice, who knows if I'd still be here writing this same story? Who knows if my brother would still be here? So to that I say, I appreciate you and Imma try my best to live up to your legacy, I promise.

Signing off

-Tony

