

RESET EARTH

ONE OZONE. ONE PLANET. ONE CHANCE.

CHAPTER I



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The year is 2084 – and the world is a post-apocalyptic wasteland.

Smog covers a worn-out city, where most people shelter behind closed doors, away from the dust and despair. But not Knox, a feisty teenage girl, afraid of nothing. She's standing on top of a half-built high-rise building, surveying the ruins below her.

"This is what happens when you leave the world in the hands of people who don't care about the planet," she sighs.

Towering over the cracked streets are battered old digital billboards, jittering strange messages: A new shield for the planet! A new world! Are you ready for a normal life? ... messages from a forgotten past that Knox knows nothing about.

It's not just the city that's suffering.

Every person is afflicted with a strange disease called "the Grow" which gradually spreads across their entire bodies – few live to old age, mostly succumbing to the Grow in their twenties.

Some say it's caused by the smog, but no one knows for sure.

With her Grow getting worse, Knox knows her days are numbered – and she's determined to use every one of them to try and find a cure.

As she scavenges through an old metal junkyard, looking for any technologies that might help, she is startled by a blinding flash. Moving closer, she discovers a woman, weak and covered in Grow, lying on the ground next to a strange machine.

"I ... I couldn't stop the machine," gasps the woman, looking small and fragile in her oversized raincoat. "The smog ... the Grow ... it's all true."

None of it makes sense to Knox, who is shocked when the stranger says her name.

"Knox! Please, you must find Sagan. He needs to help you stop the Grow."

Pointing at the strange machine, she whispers: "2055! Don't ... go ... alone. Find Sagan ... Quickly!"



Rushing away, Knox bursts into a room full of beakers, microscopes and high-tech computers, interrupting the latest science experiment of her friend, Sagan.

She drags him to the junkyard, but the woman is gone.

As a disbelieving Sagan turns to leave, the strange machine catches his eye, humming to life as he touches it, with words and numbers appearing: History log – 2055.

Knowing the machine might hold the answers she is looking for, Knox presses a button – and disappears in a flash of light.

Knox has travelled back in time to 2055, and everything looks different.

The city is intact and the billboards are new, but their messages are the same. The streets are filled with people – all strangely dressed in heavy coats and sunglasses. But when Knox sees their badly sunburnt hands and faces, she realises they are trying to avoid the sun.

Perhaps the biggest difference of all is that the smog has gone.

As she follows the crowd's gaze into the clear blue sky, she sees a huge machine hovering ominously over the entire city. No one seems concerned except for one man, who is shouting: "We can't be saved. Look past the smog to see the real problem. We have destroyed our ozone layer and now we are doomed."

As she grabs a flyer from him, determined to find out what it all means, smog starts pouring from the machine in the sky. Seconds later, an enormous flash of light brings her back to the junkyard, ears ringing and her Grow feeling even worse.

"They were trying to save people from the sun," Knox tells Sagan. "Smog was released everywhere. It must have been to save them from a skin disease, but I think it's what caused the Grow."

She still holds the flyer about the ozone layer being destroyed – and the two friends wonder if that was why the smog was released.

Knox wants to jump back in time to find out, but Sagan is more cautious: they need to know exactly when and where they are going. Luckily, he knows just the right person who can help.





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