

## In the End

Connor wakes up a Monday morning to begin another day, one that he's lived over and over again for the past eight months. The same morning routine, the same familiar drive to work, and the same chores done until he finally gets off. Normally he would go visit with friends after work, go act as a kid again for the night. But alone in his house he stays. His friends are either away at college or afraid of passing the virus to one another. He spends another night alone; alone. He knows that he can't keep living like this for much longer. No person was made to live connected to everyone but unable to develop anything meaningful. Where are his old feelings of love and wonder, these are all drowned out by loneliness and boredom. Unable to reach out and get help. He feels as though it is hopeless until the virus ends. But every day that goes by he wonders if he himself will be able to hold on that long. He was not taught the skills necessary to deal with these feelings, no one was. No one person could predict that a transitioning teen to adult would have all these problems to face in the world. Nothing is done for Connor, nothing is done for much of anyone else left behind by the system set in place here.

Being a relative and friend to many people that are struggling after high school it seems that there are some serious mental health issues developing unnoticed. Many of these people claim to feel more alone than they have ever felt before, as though no one is there to help them. The sharp contrast from being surrounded by your peers in school to having no one at all drastically drives these thoughts. Even the feeling of being trapped in the same routine is not one that is even foreign to me. These problems cumulate into a twisted perspective of the new age we are living in. It's the hopelessness that I feel is the main concern for these individuals suffering from the lack of socialization. As for solutions there are none except finding a vaccine that seems to satisfy everyone. There are always going to be people who fall through the gaps of society and perhaps this is simply that but with social media connecting all of us it is more easily seen. Only time will tell if there will be lasting effects of this crisis.

The failure to Quarantine in Buenos Aires, demonstrates how the parts of the world failed to take cautionary measures to limit the spread of the disease. Whether that was due to underestimating or lack of care is unclear. What it does tell us is how it seems at the beginning of this pandemic there were little measures put in place, no stay at home orders, no social distancing, and no masks. At the end of this piece it says that "the department has been without a head for several months." Meaning that this was a long time coming and the government still failed to have preventative measures.

The New York Times posted an article on children during the pandemic in 1918. Many of the children were being orphaned by the influenza, as a result from the high mortality rate of the parent aged population. The total number of children without parents being a staggering 21,000. One other piece that stood out to me from this article was how they mentioned it being the Spanish Influenza, which is reminiscent of the Chinese virus coined by our current president.

The origin of such deadly disease to me matters little in the span of things, and pointing fingers does not solve any of the problems faced by the world.

The source from Cedar Branch Michigan describes conditions in some of the most unsanitary places. The article describes people spitting inside and not allowing fresh air inside. The education of illness was clearly lacking in this area, as we know that most illnesses are spread from spit. The nurses charged with assisting this camp put in a lot of work to accommodate a more sanitary lifestyle while also maintaining the way they were already living. They placed spit cans beside their beds and burned these cans after each day. The number of cases at the Cedar Branch camp were limited due to this and were the lowest recorded out of nearby camps. This shows the direct result of medical experts being allowed to directly influence the life of others. These people followed the advice of the nurses and in doing so were able to create a healthier living environment for their community.

These three articles show the actions of different countries and states and how they acted. Looking at the first and third documents you can see how direct influence was effective in limiting the number of cases recorded, whereas in Buenos Aires there was a drastic increase in recorded cases because there was no government intervention. The second article describes more as the result of such actions. Due to lack of knowledge and preparations many people died leaving behind orphans to be rounded up and crowded together in homes. One can speculate that this was again a breeding ground for the virus.

From the article “A woman’s feelings on passing the coronavirus to her mother” it describes the feeling of anxiety and worry shared by many people across the world. This article shows how extreme the fear of the virus can be, this woman refuses to leave her room most of the time. She is worried about harming others, and is unable to live with more guilt. This can

help rationalize the fear in many people, no one wants to be responsible for the deaths of others, especially of those they love. This is the fear that drives people to stay inside alone most of the time, which is something that I wrote about in my short story. When a person is driven inside alone and never being able to leave the house without facing extreme anxiety it most likely causes them to develop mental health issues. As the woman in the article was given medication to help alleviate the anxiety of leaving her house from a doctor. Overall this relates to the 1918 pandemic in regards to mortality of the virus. This article describes the fear and anxiety that came along with the virus, however the michigan article shows the clear lack of respect for what the virus can do. Perhaps this can show how public media has drastically changed how Americans view the happenings around the world.

The Covid 19 Archive video on a lady describing her experience with racism tells us perhaps how people may be using information to incorrectly form opinions about others. This along with the coined chinese virus help implement a scapegoat for people to point for the pandemic presented. This racism could be corroborated with the 1918 virus where they called it the spanish flu. At the time there were clearly more racial tensions across the world so it may not have been covered as closely as it would be today. However it would be a safe assumption to make that there was most likely racial profiling towards minority groups looking at trends at the time.

These two covid articles portray a more close look on the individual lives of the pandemic rather than looking at certain geographical areas. We can most likely assume that the mental toll would be similar back in 1918 as it is today. With the rise of each pandemic we can see measures taken now that may have been previously ignored, which may be the cause for many countries' success. We can only hope that future generations can look back and evaluate

the strategies used today and implement measures to prevent future pandemics from taking as great a toll on populations.