



BY CAITLIN WANG

New Model Citizens

10th June 2021

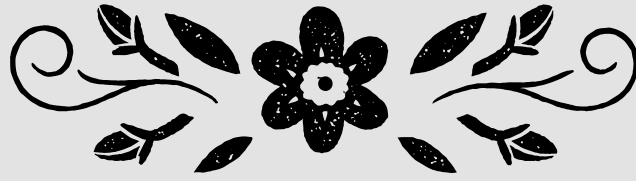
SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Lord of the Flies

A 1954 novel written by British author William Golding.

Autodale

A dystopian film series directed and animated by David James Armsby.



Ralph desperately pushed the branches and leaves away from his path as he ran through the undergrowth. Jack and his tribe were not going to get him. For now at least.

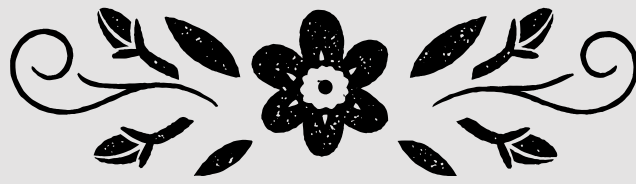
A short while later, something caught Ralph's attention. On a hill, a small, dark cave camouflaged amongst the bushes and trees. Out of desperation, Ralph raced straight towards the cave and scrambled inside. Unfortunately, Jack saw him, and Ralph could hear the shouting and chanting from the boys become increasingly loud.

It didn't take long for Ralph to hit a dead end inside the cave. The wall felt smooth and unnaturally flat. Unable to see, Ralph used his hands and groped around. His fingers wrapped around something smooth, round and cold. Ralph felt confused. He touched the flat surface he had bumped into before, and realised it was polished wood.

Jack barked orders at his tribe. "He's in here! All of you stay outside. Sam, Eric, Roger, you're coming with me," he said. Their steps made the pattering sound of bare feet as they rushed in. Ralph tugged at the door, which opened with a loud creak. Ralph didn't even look at what was behind the door. He just ran through and closed it behind him with a loud bang.

Ralph stared at the foreign sight before him. This place looked completely different to the lush, green island he had been on moments before. Ralph could now see the sky, but it was strangely grey. There were almost no signs of life, except for strange, two-legged, reptile-like creatures wandering in packs in the distance. The landscape looked so peaceful compared to the dense jungle, but yet, the eerie silence made Ralph uncomfortable.

Suddenly, Ralph heard something loud hit the door. The door heaved open and Jack ran through, thrusting his spear towards Ralph, before stopping and gazing at his surroundings with widened eyes. Jack eyed Ralph on the ground and picked up his spear, but he didn't attack. Sam and Eric looked around, confused. "Where are we? Weren't we just underground?" Sam asked. At this moment, Roger came through the door. The door closed behind him, and when Roger tried to open the door, it wouldn't budge.



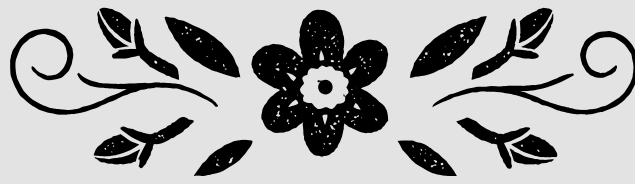
"We're stuck," said Ralph, standing up and staring Jack directly in the eyes. "I don't know why there was a door inside the cave on the island. I don't know why it leads here. But this gives us a chance to start again. We are once again somewhere unfamiliar. We need to work together to survive." Jack stood where he was and glared at Ralph. "Fine," he muttered reluctantly, tossing his spear on the ground. Ralph took Jack's spear and held the spear up high in the air.

The journey felt easy at the beginning. The land was mostly flat, and it was easy to navigate. Ralph urged the boys to keep going, and when they were taking a break by the river, Roger eyed something floating in the water. He walked down to the edge of the river and picked up the strange floating object. When he picked it up and turned it over, a cutout mask smiled at him. Roger thought for a moment, turning the mask over and over. He placed it on his face, and although it was slightly big for his face, it fit perfectly.

"I found something!" shouted Roger, waving the mask in the air. "It's a mask, and it looks like something a person made. Maybe there's people upriver." The quiet murmur within the group grew into excitement.

As the boys travelled further, the signs of civilization became increasingly common. They found things from hats to finding entire houses, but to no avail, they were all abandoned, ruined and empty. A sign showing a large city nearby a cluster of abandoned houses caught the attention of the boys. It talked of a town called Autodale, where everything was perfect. But what interested the boys the most were the giant metal humanoid robots scattered everywhere. Although they were not moving or alive, you could see the agony in their facial expressions.

When they took another break, a reptile creature approached them. Although it scared the boys at first, it simply looked at the mask in Roger's hands. The creature pointed directly towards a hill blocking the view ahead. Ralph raced in the direction the creature pointed towards and scrambled over the hill. When he reached the top, the sight of an entire city appeared before him. Triumphant, Ralph called for the other boys, urging for them to follow him. A cheer emerged from the boys as they finally made their way to civilization.



"This wall is huge," said Jack, placing his hand on the smooth stone wall. "How are we going to get in?"

"We'll have to find a way," replied Ralph. The boys circled a section of the wall, trying to find a way in, but they were disrupted by a loudspeaker. "Intruders, surrender immediately. Have a nice day!" Everyone froze in fear as dozens of robots surrounded them, tying their hands together, grabbing their things, including the spear and the mask, which one robot tossed on the ground and stepped on, breaking the spear.

Helpless, the group of boys were dragged onto an elevator, which creaked and traveled up to a room. As the lift moved, Ralph stared in awe at the scale of the building. "So much electricity," he whispered. Roger pointed at a tall, ominous shadow. "What is that? It looks huge!" he gasped. Then, a loud, female wailing sound echoed throughout the tower, the sound bouncing back and forth, before eventually stopping. "What in the hell was that?!" Jack cried, squirming from his captor's metal hands. The robots untied the boys and tossed them into a room with a throne, where the undead Mayor looked down on them. The Mayor straightened his crooked back. "What brings you here, to my kingdom? Why did my handymen find you outside my walls?" He spoke. All the boys were too shocked to comprehend anything. Only Ralph was able to speak, explaining their story. "We were on a deserted island before. I found a cave on the island, and it led us here, to you, sir. We saw a sign advertising your city."

"Interesting," the Mayor said, his deep voice echoing throughout the room. "I haven't seen something like this in thousands of years." No one else spoke. The handymen each grabbed a boy and dragged them out of the room. Jack kicked his captor. "What is going on? I demand for information now!" he shouted, but the Mayor spoke no more. The handymen dragged them to a locked room, forcing them to sit and placing a television at the front of the room.

"Hello, citizens of Autodale, and welcome to tonight's PSA. What is a model citizen? Well, families of Autodale, a model citizen is a providing father, a model citizen is a caring mother, all in service of a strappy young boy or girl. A model child, raised by a model family, to become a model citizen of their own, for Autodale is hardly automatic."