

INT. HALLWAY OF INNER PARTY OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

There is a dreamlike feel, to represent a disconnect between reality and broken fantasy, we see flashes of clean well lit halls and drab dreary barely maintained halls, showing the double-think of INGSOC.

The hall is long, the walls crumbling cinder block. Some lights are dim, some flicker some are out completely. The hall is mostly empty except a few inner party leaders in ill fitting unkempt suits and our protagonist TECH 8008132, (M) 40s, unkempt, completely impassive, not merely stoic but blank, in slightly dirty unkempt slightly large coveralls. He is pushing a tool cart. The few other people present appear to not even realize he is here, only barely avoiding running into him or his cart.

He looks at a trouble ticket on an old abused clipboard and checks the nameplate on the wall beside the door he is approaching.

Impassively he verifies the information and walks in, part of the information is the date Jan 5, 1985.

INT. OFFICE OF INNER PARTY LEADER 'THETA DELTA' - CONTINUOUS

THETA DELTA (M) 50's, flashes of a well groomed healthy individual dressed decently and flashes of a poorly fitted suit and gaunt individual sometimes flash to signify doublethink, not as blank/empty as the tech, sits at a desk the wall behind him is a giant screen that is glitching. Sometimes we see Big Brother, sometimes we see a beautiful landscape with a dreamlike tone.

Theta delta looks up, about to tell off the intruder then sees who it is.

THETA DELTA

Fixer?

The tech points at the glitching wall.

8008132

Wall, Un-work, (holds up ticket) work order.

Theta delta nods and gets back to working on his computer.

Tech rounds the desk, parks his cart and pulls out some tools and an electronic device. He pops off some flashing and opens a panel, plugs in the electronic device and proceeds to troubleshoot the glitching wall.

After some work he disconnects the device and moves to turn the screen back on.

Theta Delta grabs his hand to stop him. He then points to a metal bin containing a shredder/burner beside his desk

THETA DELTA

Memory hole un-work, make work.

After only a second's hesitation, he grabs tools, kneels down and starts pulling off panels from the shredder/burner.

After some work he pulls out a thick dictionary that was clogging the shredding function, absently tosses it to the bottom of his cart, realigns and lubricates the shredder and puts the panels back on.

He looks at Theta Delta, who throws a pile of papers into the shredder burner, notes it works, nods and indicates the screen.

THETA DELTA

Wall on, leave.

The tech turns on the wall/screen, makes sure the panels are in place and leaves.

INT. TECH'S EQUIPMENT ROOM - LATER

There are lockers, tool chests, consumables racks, old equipment on workbenches being refurbished. It's organized but haphazard.

The Tech is the only person in the room, he is sorting through his cart and tools near his locker. Occasionally going over to a wall of parts to reload consumables as he also cleans and preps his tools for the next day. He takes a knee beside his cart to go through the stuff on the bottom and finally notices the dictionary.

He stares at it uncomprehending for a moment then flips through the pages.

He stands to pull out a newspeak dictionary from amongst the documentation of equipment in his locker and notes how much more massive the 'real' dictionary is.

He flips through the newspeak dictionary and notes the similar layout.

8008132

What?

The dreamlike illusion loses a bit of its effect as he looks around and begins to note the difference of how the world actually is and how he thought it was. The dreamlike view will continue to gradually dissipate through the rest of the short, showing more of the 'real' grungy and failing environment and infrastructure.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

A different tech, LIV (F) 20's is working on a glitching wall, with little success and getting frustrated.

8008132 approaches.

8008132

Un-good time, too long, why yet un-work?

LIV

Double plus un good un work. Take old, put new...

8008132 picks up her ratty clipboard to read the work order.

It reads, amongst other things, JUN 10, 1985, and the trouble description, 'CHAN 7 double ungood, CHAN to 2'.

8008132

What learn in class? (pause, no response)
Switch cables.

She looks at him like a deer in the headlights.

He sighs.

8008132 (CONT'D)

Wires crossed.

She is still clueless.

With a groan, he guides her out of the way, pulls some cables and switches them.

The screen immediately snaps to work showing Big Brother unambiguously. This represents 8008132's minor epiphany about how well the new generation has been trained.

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8008132 pushes his tool cart down the hall, the dreamlike edge almost completely absent.

He approaches the door to Theta Delta, and cocks his head as he picks up his clipboard. It says the same thing as before but it is clearly freshly printed.

He puts down the clipboard, tries the knob, it does not open.

He pulls out some keys and opens the door.

INT. OFFICE OF INNER PARTY LEADER 'THETA DELTA' - CONTINUOUS

Theta Delta, now, mostly flashes of a poorly fitted suit and gaunt individual with only a few flashes of a well groomed healthy individual dressed decently. The wall unambiguously shows Big Brother.

Theta Delta looks up and glares

THETA DELTA

WHAT? How...

8008132

Wall, Un-work.

Theta Delta grimaces and indicates the wall behind him.

THETA DELTA

Wall, work.

8008132 holds up work order.

8008132

Big Brother lie?

In shock, Theta Delta sits up straight and shakes his head

THETA DELTA

Ungood, ungood. Make unwork wall work...

8008132 wheels his cart over to the wall and reaches to pull off covers and deactivate it.

Suddenly he stands up straighter and turns to Theta Delta

8008132

Was this your plan?

Theta Delta grimaces, clearly not understanding a word 8008132 said.

THETA DELTA

Hunh?

8008132

The dictionary, the un good replacements?

Theta Delta continues to not understand.

The last of the dreamlike effect instantly vanishes, suddenly 8008132 is a real person; anger, hatred and betrayal boil to the surface.

8008132

Techs... keep Airstrip One. Oceana. Running. Newspeak... ungood for that. Must see. Must know. **Hate you.** Hate Big Brother. Hate... me. World rots. I see. No fight. No want. (He pauses, head tilting, a flicker of dark curiosity in his eyes.) How long... you dead, any know?

Without waiting for a response, he begins to violently stab Theta Delta several times.

INT. HALLWAY OF INNER PARTY OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

We are looking at the door of inner party leader Theta Delta, only now, the nameplate simply reads 'Vacant'

INT. OFFICE OF INNER PARTY LEADER 'THETA DELTA' - CONTINUOUS

Theta Delta's corpse is still un-moved in his chair, beginning to rot.