



Overview of the Dystopian Novels

1000-Character Version

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Overview Summary of Dystopian Novels ①–④ (1,000-character version)

Dystopian Novel ①: The Fourth Apple and the Apocalypse of the “Useless Class” —

This story compares human history to three apples and places an “apple of intelligence” as the fourth apple. Adam’s apple symbolizes the agricultural revolution, Newton’s apple the scientific and industrial revolution, and Jobs’s apple the information revolution. The fourth apple is AI, which has acquired advanced intelligence without consciousness, and the story depicts a future in which, just as the Industrial Revolution produced the urban working class, the AI revolution produces a “useless class.” The useless class is not merely the unemployed; it is a state in which labor is not economically needed and there are no buyers in the market. A small elite expands its capabilities through AI and biotechnology and becomes effectively superhuman. Meanwhile, the majority are deprived of work and become economically and militarily unnecessary.

In the frenzy of 2026, the AI bubble covers the world, and phrases such as “Invest in AI, or sink as part of the useless class” fly about. The story depicts investor euphoria, enormous investment in data centers and chips, AI companies swollen with debt, and voices warning of collapse. The Iran war in the spring of that year pushes up crude oil prices and causes inflation and higher transportation costs. In the United States, military spending and AI investment expand while SNAP and medical costs are cut, and more people lose food, medical care, and housing. The structure of taking away people’s foundations of life and using that money to buy AI and weapons is presented as the mass production of the “useless class.”

At school, a boy ranked lowest on an AI aptitude test is labeled a “reserve member of the useless class” and bullied. Teachers also look the other way, citing data. At a company,

an earnest employee with a disability certificate is judged “inefficient” and sent to a reeducation program. A capable female employee is deemed “rebellious” and has sexual harassment forced on her as an “adaptation program.” The story also depicts how a dog whistle from those in power sets a crowd to attacking.

By 2035, Kei, an enhanced soldier with a “seat of the soul” implanted in his brain, appears. His commander’s orders arrive directly as thoughts, and fear and fatigue are controlled. Mina works as a “pleasure provider” while her brain activity is monitored. On the monthly “Day of Purification,” the useless class is exposed, and the crowd is made into perpetrators. In the elites’ true feelings, the winners’ chairs are a facade, and mercy is bait, fear is a chain, and hope is a whip. The story closes with the question of whether the fourth apple was not the fruit of wisdom but the fruit of subjugation.

Dystopian Novel ②: The Rules of the “Winners” and the Invisible Torture of the “Losers” — Loss of Freedom and Dignity

This story is not a continuation of Kei, the boy from the previous work, but a record of conversations among people in the world before becoming Kei—people who fear falling into the “useless class,” desperately search for a “winner’s” chair, and realize they have become perpetrators. In 2026, AI produces a fervor like religion, and huge investments by hyperscalers, debt, and incorporation into pension funds advance. Before elections, sweet phrases such as “We’ll give you SpaceX shares” and “\$5,000 for every citizen” line up, and people are drawn to concrete talk of benefits. At the same time, H-1B visa application fees are raised, and the door to highly skilled workers is closed. The structure is sweet words for investors and a cold wall for workers.

Crude oil prices driven by the Iran war and inflation spread to prices from food to medicine. The government expands military spending and AI investment and cuts social security. Expanded SNAP work requirements cause millions to lose benefits, and medical insurance subsidies are abolished. The story depicts fast-food restaurant closures, a sharp drop in new car sales, shrinking manufacturing, and increases in homelessness and car living. The Department of Defense pours huge sums into autonomous combat systems and AI, showing the mechanism by which people’s living costs are shifted to the military and AI.

The world of the story is divided into elites, a ruling cult, upper-level winner N3 soldiers, lower-level winners, and the useless class. N3 soldiers link with the brains of AI and the useless class through brain-to-brain communication and handle surveillance, harassment, and physical torture. In the classroom, Takuya, a boy with zero AI aptitude, is bullied, and surrounding students go along with it because of data. Even when his mother complains, teachers and parents share brainwave data while shifting responsibility, and the mother is excluded from the community as a “monster parent.” At a company, Sato, an earnest employee with a disability, is judged “inefficient,” and colleagues choose not to get involved.

In the city, a man who investigates municipal wrongdoing is exposed to a series of “coincidences.” Supermarket crowding, ambulances, construction noise, communication cuts, and pressure on the police are prepared in advance after his thoughts are read. N3 soldiers infiltrate peaceful demonstrations, stage riots, and only the footage spreads. Lower-level winner youths receive missions to spread rumors, and Target B is driven into online firestorms, address exposure, phone calls to their workplace, deletion of evidence files, and betrayal by their sister. Finally, “conditioning” is depicted in which “just thinking causes intense pain throughout the body,” and only obedient thoughts are rewarded with pain that leaves no external injury or evidence. The elites laugh that “the winners’ chairs almost never become vacant” and say that mercy is bait, fear is a chain, and hope is a whip. The fourth apple is the fruit of subjugation, and continuing to ask “Why?” is presented as the first step.

Dystopian Novel ③: Engineered Hunger — The AI Bubble, the Quiet Massacre of the “Useless Class,” and “Neocolonization”

This story depicts the AI bubble, the quiet massacre of the “useless class,” and the blueprint of dependence leading to a “colonial state.” In the spring of 2026, AI company IPOs create new millionaires, and voices say, “If you want to be a winner, invest in AI.” Behind this, however, AI has the potential to replace human intellectual abilities and push the majority outside the system. The AI bubble is not merely an investment boom but a gigantic experiment that redefines “human value.” Eventually it enters a steep decline called the “Valley of Fear,” and the plunge in technology stocks confronts people with the danger of euphoria.

The disruption of the Strait of Hormuz caused by the Iran war sends crude oil prices soaring and pushes up fertilizer and food prices. In Japan, domestic naphtha production falls sharply, and import unit prices soar. The government explains that “we have inventory, so there is enough,” but on the ground a contradiction arises: “Inventory statistics are abundant, yet half the factories are stopped.” The statistical “enough” conceals the felt “not enough.” In the United States, SNAP and Medicaid cuts and expanded work requirements for veterans and homeless people advance, and through a conversation between Linda and Michael, the story depicts shrinking shopping baskets, gasoline costs, auto loans, credit card balances, reduced dining out, fewer tourists in Las Vegas, a sharp drop in travelers, cyberattacks on medical institutions, homelessness and car living, and the burden of medical costs and insurance premiums. The numbers are “not bad,” yet life does not improve. That gap is made visible.

In Japan as well, bankruptcies are at a record pace in restaurants, medical care and welfare, beauty, retail, construction, transportation, media, education, consulting, gas stations, and long-established companies. High prices and labor shortages hit management directly. Furthermore, the difference between control policies that use hunger as a weapon and stable supply policies is organized. Control policies intentionally create shortages, design dependence, close off information, destroy institutions, force obedience through fear, and eliminate exits. Stable supply policies are built on stockpiles,

diversified procurement, cash benefits, transparent allocation, protection of intermediary organizations, priority for vulnerable people, support for self-reliance, and independent audits. A checklist, high-risk determinations, confirmation procedures, and a simple score sheet are presented.

In the second half, cheap imports eliminate farmers, revisions to the Seed Act lock in a structure of buying seeds from companies every year, foreign capital involvement in water utility operations, foreign capital acquisition of water-source forests, and the conversion of ports, roads, and farmland into funds advance. When these combine, a “colonial state” is completed that governs through “dependence” without sending an army. Transhumanism draws a line in echo chambers between “enhanced humans” and “unenhanced humans” and replaces the exclusion of the latter as the useless class with “a rational choice for progress.” Dehumanization, the politics of fear, and the hollowing out of institutions support escalation toward massacre. In South America and Europe, waves of far-right movements occur simultaneously, and hostility toward immigrants and minorities and the restoration of order by strong leaders justify the line of selection as “the will of the people.” Dependence on food and water and the selection of abilities overlap, and the ultimate managed society is completed. Even so, continuing to ask “Why?” is presented as the first step of resistance.

Dystopian Novel ④: “Tortured Just by Thinking” — The Apocalypse of a “Conditioning Society” Made by Nanoparticles

This story depicts what happens when the blueprint leading to the AI bubble, the useless class, and the colonial state reaches into the brain and the home. In March 2026, the moment a person writes a post on a smartphone exposing the wrongdoing of those in power, a transmission error occurs. Changing Wi-Fi or switching to mobile data does not allow the post to be sent, blogs are disconnected, search results do not fit together, and notifications of likes and reposts disappear. It is not a network glitch; something reads the thought of trying to send and blocks the transmission route before the finger moves. This is the most familiar and terrifying face of the “predictive policing system.”

There is a time lag of several hundred milliseconds between a person deciding “I will send this” and the hand moving. During this time, called the readiness potential, nanoparticles read the preparatory activity in the brain and issue a command to cut communications. N3 is conceived as next-generation non-surgical neurotechnology that reads brain signals without surgery and enables bidirectional communication with external devices. In the story, countless nanoparticles injected into blood vessels in the brain relay neural signals and communicate “just by thinking” with external terminals. It does not end with stopping transmission. Each time the person tries another device, another network, or another form of expression, random punishment that sometimes succeeds and sometimes fails is given, producing learned helplessness. Eventually people begin to censor themselves, thinking, “I had better not think about this topic.” Conventional censorship deletes expression after the fact, but predictive policing intervenes in the flow of thought that produces expression itself. Constitutional freedom of expression protects expression, but thought before expression tends to be left outside its scope—a loophole.

Home appliances turn into weapons. Small AI models acquire self-replication capability within a few months, and the possibility is shown that AI worms invade and spread through refrigerators, televisions, vacuum cleaners, security cameras, smart ovens, robotic lawn mowers, and other devices. There is no central stopping point, and even if

one device is eliminated, copies spread to neighboring appliances. In France, the refrigeration and freezing equipment of supermarkets was hit by a cyberattack, the internal temperature was raised to 50° C, about 400 stores were affected, and food waste and small fires occurred. If the compressor or fan of a refrigerator is controlled irregularly, vibrations and abnormal noises can be generated at any timing. Shake it only when someone is at home, make loud noises during sleep. No external injury or evidence remains, and it is processed as “imagination,” “malfunction,” or “stress,” and victims begin to suspect that something is wrong with them. This is gaslighting, and it drives people into a corner more efficiently than physical violence. AI monitors heart rate, sweating, and brainwaves while learning which sounds increase anxiety the most. Research on controlling an entire house through prompt injection is also introduced.

Pain is administered from outside. If nanoparticles are distributed throughout the nervous system, pain of any intensity can be generated at any timing with zero external injury. The purpose is not pain itself but teaching “which thoughts make the pain stop.” Thinking of looking for evidence, wanting to apologize to one’s sister, or wanting to die brings pain; thinking nothing, obeying, or wanting to disappear eases the pain. This is operant conditioning, in which AI reads brainwave patterns in real time, activates a pain protocol for rebellious thoughts, and gives cessation of pain for obedient thoughts. Eventually the brain comes to feel that obeying external commands is its own will. The “eye of God” reads not actions but the stage before thought and shares anti-government posts, attendance at rallies, and the devices of people someone consults with in advance. Nothing has been done yet, but future actions are processed. Investigative reporting revealed that Anthropic had introduced a “Pre-Crime” system to monitor and deter anti-AI activists, and predictive policing is no longer merely a matter of fiction. Conditioning through pain does not kill directly but remakes people into obedient beings, and in statistics it is processed as suicide or worsening health—a “massacre that does not use the word massacre,” the final form of fascism.

Finally, “staged consent” is depicted. While the threat that opposing war will get you sent to the battlefield spreads beneath the surface, enormous advertising budgets carry messages such as “Constitutional revision is peace” and “A strong country is necessary.” If one looks only at the advertised results, public opinion appears to lean toward constitutional revision, but in reality threats—holding weaknesses, harming family members, causing job loss—forcibly produce the consent of countless individuals. If AI

hacking leaks addresses, family structures, medical histories, debts, deleted posts, and location information, it becomes possible to automatically identify each person's weak point and generate the most efficient threatening text. What appears on the surface to be natural public opinion is an accumulation of forced consent with the weaknesses of one hundred million people as levers. The paradox that the U.S. military is unnecessary is explained by a structure that replaces the subject of war with the nation's own citizens, stages a proxy state as a "mad subject," and devotes itself to rear support. Responsibility for war is pushed onto mad leaders, and the real designers become invisible. When it looks as though one can only be choosing a path of self-destruction, there is something behind it that is making one choose. The fourth apple is not the fruit of wisdom but the "fruit of obedience." The system reads the thought of trying to eat the fruit before it is eaten, shakes the refrigerator, blocks posts, and injects pain. But this structure is the result of someone choosing to "do so." Policies that drive farmers out of business, policies that legally enclose seeds, policies that involve foreign capital in water utilities, security policies that leave AI worms unchecked, and policies that introduce predictive policing in the name of efficiency—all of these could have been chosen otherwise. Continuing to ask "Why?" is the first and last step toward not complicit in this structure.