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In George Orwell's 1984, Winston Smith struggles to survive in Oceania where the Party controls all individual freedoms with the help of telescreens, Thought Police, and Party spies. Winston feels frustrated by the dictatorship of the Party and writes his criminal thoughts in an illegal diary. Winston works at the Ministry of Truth where records are altered to fit the needs of the Party. At work, Winston notices a beautiful dark-haired girl named Julia staring at him and he worries that she will turn him in for thoughtcrime. Winston becomes intrigued by another Party member named O'Brien, whom Winston believes is a secret member of the Brotherhood - the mysterious group that works against the Party. One day, Winston receives a note from Julia that reads, "I love you." and they start having a secret love affair, always looking out for the Party's monitoring. Eventually, Winston rents a room above the shop where he bought the diary, this spot becoming a popular meeting place for Winston and Julia. As their relationship progresses and Winston's hatred toward the Party intensifies, he receives the message that O'Brien wants to see him. When the two arrive at O'Brien's luxurious apartment, O'Brien confirms that he hates the Party and is a member of the secret Brotherhood. O'Brien invites Winston and Julia to join the Brotherhood, instructing them about the copy of Emmanuel Goldstein's book that they will have to read before they become official members of the group. When Winston receives the book, he reads parts of it aloud to Julia in the room above the shop.

Suddenly, soldiers barge into the room and arrest them. Mr. Charrington, the owner of the shop who let Winston rent the room, comes in and is identified as being a member of the Thought Police all along. Winston and Julia are separated and Winston is taken to the Ministry of Love. Winston learns that O'Brien is a Party spy who only pretended to be a member of the Brotherhood to trap Winston into committing an open act of rebellion against the Party. O'Brien spends months torturing and brainwashing Winston. Eventually, Winston is ordered to be taken to the dreaded Room 101, a final destination for those that rebel against the Party. O'Brien explains to Winston that Room 101 is a place where each person's worst fear becomes reality. For Winston, rats are the worst. O'Brien straps a cage of rats onto Winston and prepares to release the rats to eat Winston's face. At the last second, Winston pleads with O'Brien to do it to Julia instead of him. Winston has finally given up Julia, which is what O'Brien wanted all along. Because Winston has betrayed his lover, it doesn't matter if he lives or dies, he is so changed that he will never be a threat to the Party again. Winston is released with loss of humanity, independence, and knowledge. He has fully accepted the Party and learned to love Big Brother.

In Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, a futuristic society called the World State revolves around science and efficiency. The novel is set in the year AF 632 which represents the number of years "after Ford" or since Ford's Model T was introduced. In this society, conditioning of children at a young age eliminates emotion and individuality, and relationships do not exist because "everyone belongs to everyone else" and sex is encouraged between multiple partners. The story begins in the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre, where children are created in-vitro and cloned to increase the population. In the class system of the World State citizens are sorted as embryos designed for a specific caste. The embryos are then fed chemicals

and hormones to direct them toward the predetermined class. Embryos selected for the higher castes (Alphas and Betas) receive chemicals to perfect them both physically and mentally, while embryos of the lower class (Gammas, Deltas, and Epsilons) receive those that make them imperfect in comparison. For example, Alphas are bred to be leaders while the Epsilons are bred to be laborers. Bernard Marx, an Alpha, is one of the main characters in the novel. He and his love interest, Lenina Crowne, travel to a “savage reservation,” where Marx’s boss (the Director) supposedly lost his own lover years ago. When they arrive, they discover the people living there participating in unfamiliar rituals. They happen to meet a woman named Linda who Marx believes is the Director’s former lover, and her son, John the Savage. Because the Director threatened to send Marx away to one of the isolated islands, Marx decides to bring the two home with him to gain favor. When the Director meets John, he is humiliated at John calling him “father”. The Director’s crime of procreation is exposed, and he has no choice but to resign from his job. John the Savage is kept in the World State (the Brave New World) as an experiment, while Linda is sent to the hospital because of her addiction to a drug called “soma”. Soma is given to citizens as means to dull emotion and keep them happy in the World State. When Linda dies, John goes on an anti-soma rampage down the hospital’s corridors and becomes angrier and angrier with the Brave New World, until eventually, he runs away to a lighthouse to live in isolation, free from soma. For a while, John’s presence is unknown to tourists and reporters, but they soon find him and discover that he whips himself daily, which he does as an act of self-punishment for enjoying his isolation too much. When a mob forms outside of the lighthouse to witness the whipping, they start whipping one another and chanting “orgy-porgy”.

John gives into the crowd and plays the part of a savage. The next morning, appalled by his engagement in the system, he hangs himself.

George Orwell's 1984 and Aldous Huxley's Brave New World are both dystopian novels where there is no room to stand out, no place for love, and no reason to dwell on the past. In 1984, the Party controls everyone through deception and Propaganda while in Brave New World, the World State conditions all normal thoughts and feelings out of young children in order to create a painless, but emotionless, society. While the concepts examined in both works seem far from present reality, the dystopian society in Huxley's Brave New World vs. 1984 is closer to reality because of the relevancy of ideas surrounding sex and love, and individuality.

In Brave New World, sex and love are decoupled from one another and romantic love between two people is not encouraged or valued, a concept closer to today's society than that in 1984 in which sex and love are not tolerated under any circumstances. In Brave New World, sex, not love or romance, is seen as the most important way to achieve happiness. For example, Lenina becomes upset when her love interest (John the Savage) does not wish to have sex with her until he proves his love for her. John the Savage wants to build a relationship with Lenina and romance her before having sex, but she does not understand. In today's society, even though romantic gestures are valued, sex is often valued more, as evidenced through our "hookup" culture. In a recent news article, a trend is exposed where men and women prefer "half-night stands" because they can have sex but don't have to spend the night (Wong). This illustrates that sex today is treated lightly -- love or romance do not need to accompany sex -- and is often not even desired. Even though not all sex is without intimacy, the decoupling of sex and love in relationships today is closely related to that in Brave New World.

In addition to the disconnect between sex and love, individuality is nonexistent in Huxley's novel -- a reality that our own society may be moving toward. In both novels, people are expected to have the same exact thoughts about their world, and being different is looked down upon. However, in *Brave New World*, society is separated into different classes where individuals are defined by the ranking of their caste. In this work, Lenina (a Beta) notes, "I'm glad I'm not an Epsilon" which illustrates the conditioning of citizens to believe that an individual's worth is directly tied to their class, similar to how people today are quick to judge those who are different. While our society claims to value individuality, many are fearful of being different and choose to simply 'fit in'. If individuals continue in this direction, the future could take a turn toward "sameness". Today, powerful politicians and companies often take advantage of this "group think" for political and economic gain. A good example is our current two-party system of Democrats and Republicans. Members of each of these groups hold similar political and socio-economic ideology, agreeing often with what someone from the same party says/does, and strongly opposing the same when associated with the opposing party. Choosing to be different in our society can have repercussions -- the more people stand out, the more they can be targeted. A recent news article talks about a 7-year-old actress, Lexi Rabe, who has been bullied online and in public just for her role in a movie (*Woods*). Because our society is so concerned with tearing people down and seeing difference as a threat, it is very likely that the future could lead us to a class system where there is no room to be different at all.

While the individuality theme in *Brave New World* seems to run parallel with today's society, some might argue that the theme described in Orwell's *1984* is more closely connected. In *Brave New World* the caste system that separates and defines citizens is obviously extreme, yet

allows for difference (one form of individuality) between groups. While in 1984, much less individuality is accepted -- citizens are severely punished or even killed if they do not think and act alongside the singular Party. For example, in 1984, Bernard Marx decided to act on his independent thoughts and was caught, tortured, and eventually brainwashed into loving the Party. In current society, groups are distinguished through diverse characteristics and often isolated/separated based on these differences similar to that in Brave New World. It is less likely that citizens of our highly populated and complex world would be able to be controlled/isolated through a singular authoritarian party as in 1984. A 2014 news article, *The Age of Individualism*, describes fewer and fewer independent ways for people to get involved, causing people to gravitate toward mass movements where they are naturally drawn to conform to the crowd (Douthat). Even though citizens in today's society have not been conditioned to only belong in a single, distinct group as in Brave New World, our increasing willingness to conform illustrates that this reality may not be too far away.

In Brave New World there are multiple concepts that parallel those of our world today - including the relationship between sex and love, and individuality. While it is sad to imagine a world where there is no love for one another and hardly any differences as highlighted in Brave New World, current society is closer to this reality than the alternative presented in 1984. In life, people simply want to be a part of something. At least living in the Brave New World allows for this important human interaction.

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