

*“Everything is not okay. No matter what The Rulers want us to believe. I’ve seen the truth, I know what they want to hide. The question is whether it matters or not. Soon, there’ll be no one left anyway. But I don’t want to end up like them.”*

The Great Pandemic swept across the world in the year of 2000, and swiftly grabbed hold of everyone. Society shut down and all efforts turned to stopping the contagion while saving as many people as possible. A year of rules and restrictions followed, upheld by good citizens and by the newly instated high elf department; Vipol (Virus police). After a huge vaccination effort, the disease was eradicated at last. Society could go back to normal, just like any year where elves, humans, orcs and other species have to co-exist despite their differences.

At least that’s what the official story says, and what the majority of people know. For you and a few others, the truth shines through during brief moments, when the magic of The Rulers loses its’ hold of your brain...

The Great Pandemic came and society was shut down, but not in a peaceful way. Desperation for necessities and the so very critical vaccine, which in the beginning fell far short of being enough for everyone, led to steadily increasing violence and vandalism. Might made right. A small group of ruling magicians had, foreseeingly enough, closed themselves into a bunker and planned to take over the country. Soon, they presented a vaccine that would not only be enough for all, but that also contained a substance that made the vaccinated individual susceptible to magical mind control.

The magic targeted the site in the brain where the optic nerve attaches to the visual centre, and replaced the actual visual impressions with a signal from The Rulers. That signal shows a flourishing community just like it was before the pandemic, and the brain then autofills the missing pieces for the other senses. Vipol remains a security unit subordinated only to the The Rulers themselves, and controls society and its people through all communication media, their watch fae and agents. The magicians in the bunker now have all the power they wished for, and the majority of the citizens don’t even know what’s happened.

However, there are a select few individuals (from all species) out there who, thanks to their inborn magical resistance, can sometimes circumvent the magic signal. The Rulers view this as a serious threat, and want to eliminate all such individuals. There’s no telling who else harbors this resistance or who is a Vipol agent, which is why vigilance and caution are keys to survival. At the same time, this causes despondency and fear in any person who has to live such a vast lie. It’s almost as if one never got out of the pandemic isolation.

A resistance has risen from the remains of society though; The Kaukas. Consisting of rogue magicians amongst orcs and gnomes together with others who possess magical abilities, they’ve recently managed to affect the signal of The Rulers. This causes The Rulers’ magic to regularly have to be cleansed in order to keep its functionality. Blind citizens notice nothing about this. Individuals with the inborn resistance have to do this “manually”, by shutting out as many impressions as possible and focus on the cleansing when it happens. To not go through with the cleansing would give Vipol an immediate flare about you and your location, meaning they could come to eliminate you. Lately, these cleanses have been happening with increasing frequency, and now one has to go through the process every eight minutes during half the hours of the day in order to keep the signal active.