

“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.”
- Benjamin Franklin

Year 2029

Fort Worth, Texas

I wipe the seemingly endless beads of sweat off my forehead as I rush into the kitchen to get what seems like a lifesaving glass of water.

I pause.

“Dad?” I call, “What are you doing?” He turns to me with a grin.

“Well Jacob, you’re back early!” He laughs.

“I know. It’s waaay too hot.”

“Well, that’s exactly why I’m doing this right now...” Dad gestures towards two massive boxes, “They’re solar panels.” Dad explains, “Hopefully if people start using them for energy, it won’t be so hot anymore.” I nod, only acting like I understand. Dad senses my confusion, “You’re only ten,” He smiles, “One day, you’ll see.”

Year 2084

Anchorage, Alaska

I never could have imagined how bad global warming affected the world. In the 2030s and 40s, the southern part of the world became a huge burden to live in. As a result, the majority of people moved to the north, including myself.

However, there was one event that catapulted the process of eradicating global warming. Fort Worth, a city crippled by climate change, proposed an idea to their sister city Nîmes of France, that both cities would try making everything solar powered from homes to transportation. Although it is hard to make an entire city solar powered, it is a lot easier when the world’s smartest scientists work side by side. After their story got out, it became a catalyst that awoke the planet to action.

Now, I stand in Anchorage’s Train Station. The trains are fully solar powered. Since it reaches every corner of the country, many people call it the Transcontinental Railroad 2.0.

I board the train, and I find my eyes drifting to the window. Little white dots fill the distance, covering the vast expanse of dense forests. It’s been so long that I barely recognize them.

My lips curve into a smile as I gently say the word to myself, *Snow*.

Year 2084 Fort Worth, Texas

It was a twenty minute drive to my childhood home from the station. The taxi car is solar powered, and it shocks me how much has changed in the 40 years I have been gone. It looks *better*: from a ruined town of about a few thousand people to a once again thriving city, all because of one proposition, and a sister city that listened. The dried up grass and dead trees are replaced with vibrant green plants and abundant life. Another smile crosses my face knowing how far Fort Worth has come.

A huge wave of nostalgia hits me as I stand in front of the home where I spent my first 18 years. I had so many good times, but one memory still sticks with me vividly, almost 60 years later. I can't help but smile a bittersweet smile, as I remember his words.

I see now Dad, I see.