



## CHAPTER 1

RILEY

*“...to make the most of your day!”*

“Yeah, yeah, whatever.” Riley poked her head out from under the bedcover and glared at the screen on the wall. “Stupid alarm!”

There was a rap on the door. “Riley? Are you up?”

Riley put her head under the cover and groaned.

The tapping got louder. “Riley! I’m not having you be late. You’ll end up in the Assessor’s office.”

“OK, OK. I’m up.” Riley sighed and swung her legs out of bed just as the news came on. As usual, the Newscaster was smiling brightly.

*“Good morning, citizens! It’s Thursday, it’s 7am and the temperature is 23 degrees. You can expect dry, sunny weather all day and the current air quality warning is level 7. Now for the main news. A new Omega Valley Plant will open in Sector 10 today, marking a special moment for citizens who have been given roles there. ‘It’s a great opportunity for the lower-level Assessed,’ the Third President said.”*

Riley frowned. ‘The lower-level Assessed’ were those who left school after Assessment, after being given roles at places like the Omega Valley Plants. Riley hoped she wouldn’t be chosen for a role like that — she wanted to go to university.

“Are you out of that bed?” Mum wasn’t giving up.

“You’re as bad as that screen,” Riley mumbled.

\* \* \*