

It is not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more.

With these few words, Brutus justifies the brutal, senseless murder of his mentor, friend, and father figure, Julius Caesar.

In the play, the good guys win; the men who killed Caesar are driven out of the city and eventually take their own lives. However, our real world is not so ideal; exploitation and betrayal are the cornerstones of many of the world's current companies.

We see the rampant exploitation and betrayal perpetrated by those with the most power in our society. The corporations whose products we buy and sell exploit those weaker than themselves for their own profit:

Fashion companies make millions off the backs of poor children in sweatshops slaving in buildings so old and dilapidated that it's no surprise that the building collapses or that the building doesn't have a fire extinguisher. But of course, the fashion company didn't do this. They'll say in press releases and events that they were completely unaware of their slaves' working conditions, that they outsourced the work and the real bad guys are someone else.

But even after the supposed bad guys are caught and sweatshops are shut down, the same injustices continue, just with different actors. The same children desperate to make money are roped into another sweatshop and the meaningless charade of "fast fashion" continues. These companies have become as big as they have through this exploitation; they've dodged the costs of life in privileged areas and prefer to harm the lives of those with a smaller monetary value.

And if you don't care about the people in a country other than your own privileged country, then consider the environment. The companies in the world right now that exploit the environment just because it's cheaper know they can get away with it and have been doing so for decades.

You might say that this is just the fashion industry, but that's a lie and you know it. Tech companies are no better, tech companies are the same, but instead of clothes, their sweatshop workers get high off the carcinogenic fumes of circuit boards. What disappoints me most about this is that it feels like all our heroes are counterfeit. the world itself's just a big hoax. Spamming with our running commentary of bullshit masquerading as insight, our social media faking as intimacy. Or is it that we voted for this? Not with our rigged elections, but with our things, our property, our money. I'm not saying anything new. We all know why we do this, not because Hunger Games books make us happy but because we wanna be sedated. Because it's painful not to pretend because we're cowards.

Truly, the exploitation and betrayal that run the world are a consequence of our own ignorance.