

## What Will It Cost Us?

In *Wreckage*, each character reaches a point where they have to make a choice between right and wrong. As simple as that sounds, following their consciences comes at a price, whether it's financial stability and status for Bobby, sense of security for Mari, religious community for Felicity, or pathway to citizenship for Lance. But throughout history, people have experienced greater losses in the fight for social justice: their privacy, their freedom, their lives even. Every day, we're faced with opportunities to resist our descent into fascism, but what will it take for us to stand up for our rights? Will we do what's most convenient for the sake of protecting our egos or short-term security, or will we fight for our future as it grows increasingly dim? While it might look like we're alone to make this choice, we always have a community to fall back on, whether it's fellow activists or organizations.

## The Tanka Poem and Noh Theatre in *Wreckage*

*Wreckage* uses two Japanese art forms, the Tanka poem and Noh theatre, to evoke the presence of Mari's mother, who recounts what she experienced in the World War III internment camps. [Tanka](#) started in the 7th century among the aristocracy, making it older than the haiku. Each poem has 5 lines with a 5-7-5-7-7 syllable structure and a "turn" in the middle. Tanka poems are grounded in nature and tend to use metaphors, allusions, and symbolism to evoke an emotional response. Noh theatre also had a regular structure. A typical Noh play has two main characters: a *Shite*, the principle performer, and a *Waki*, the secondary performer who responds to the *Shite*. In Noh plays, the story often involves a [ghost](#), played by the *Shite*, returning to the mortal realm to give a reflection or confession. These ghosts still have strong emotions or desires from when they died, and through the performance, their spirits are able to pass into the afterlife.

## Further Reading:

- [How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality, and the Fight for the Neighborhood \(Revised\) by PE Moskowitz](#)
  - How does gentrification damage cities (with a special look at New Orleans, Detroit, San Francisco, and New York)?
- [Socialist Reconstruction by Party for Socialism and Liberation](#)
  - What would the United States of America look like under socialism?
- [Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI by Madhumita Murgia](#)
  - How present is AI in our everyday life? What can we do to resist it?
- [Life after Capitalism by George Gilder](#)
  - How does capitalism rely on information and knowledge to function?
- [On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century by Timothy Snyder](#)
  - What can the events of the 20th century teach us about resisting tyranny?
- [On Freedom by Timothy Snyder](#)
  - How can we be truly free in America?
- [The Second Estate: How the Tax Code Made an American Aristocracy by Ray D. Madoff](#)
  - How is taxation in the United States designed to benefit the rich?
- [More Everything Forever: AI Overlords, Space Empires, and Silicon Valley's Crusade to Control the Fate of Humanity by Adam Becker](#)

- What do tech CEOs envision for the future of humanity?
- [Davos Man: How the Billionaires Devoured the World by Peter S. Goodman](#)
  - How did five billionaires exploit the Covid-19 pandemic to feed their own wealth?

### Meet The New Guy!

AI offers irresistible convenience, and people have integrated it into their personal lives and the [workplace](#), with chatbots doing the work of customer service agents, coders, and even *human* resources. One of AI's greatest threats is its potential to replace much of our workforce, a phenomenon early-career applicants face as developers' roles shift to checking AI code and testing, tasks that require more experience. And in May alone, CEOs laid off almost [40,000 existing tech workers](#) in order to spend less on personnel costs. By trimming the bottom line and instigating mass unemployment, tech CEOs only stand to get richer while the [economic gulf](#) between them and everyone else widens. In our current [cost-of-living crisis](#), how can we afford our [basic needs](#)? AI proponents preach about the creation of [new jobs](#) and [universal basic income](#), but who will finance and implement these solutions? As tech companies continue to prioritize profits over people, will we be left behind in the economic wreckage?

### Humanity's Last Hope: Billionaires?

Why do we revere billionaires as "[geniuses](#)"? Living in a capitalist society, it's easy to perceive tech billionaires as self-made, pulling themselves up by their bootstraps. After all, anyone can play the game, and they rightfully won by beating everybody else -- it's a skill issue. However, we often overlook the fact that many of them grew up privileged and have acted unethically to get ahead. With this in mind, these billionaires expect us to trust them when it comes to how AI will shape our future. To increase stock prices, they discuss how AI could solve issues such as [climate change](#) and [birth defects](#), bringing about a new beginning for the human race, a [new world order where they call the shots](#). If left unchecked, they would be free to transform our society into a [technocracy](#) where they, the "experts," wield power. Though tech billionaires say they have humanity's survival in mind, how can we trust unelected technocrats to look out for our best interests and not their own?

### A Social Media Revolution

[Technology has completely transformed activism for Gen Z](#): though young people still participate in political campaigns and attend protests, advocacy on social media has skyrocketed. The internet has made it possible for Gen Z to access the news instantly, with many relying on social media rather than traditional sources. Activists also create social media content, discussing current events through on-the-ground storytelling, satire, podcasts, art, and more; these posts are then shared by users, reaching an even wider audience. In fact, [66%](#) of Gen Z believe that just by sharing a post, they're participating in activism. Social media has also created activist networks, making building solidarity, finding support, and organizing much easier. Though there is a risk of [misinformation](#) and [hate speech](#) spreading, social media is here to stay, and [Gen Z activists understand just how important it is as a vehicle for change](#).