



# OBSOLESCENCE

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*On a space station near Jupiter, station manager Jixy discovers one of her friends, Gregggy, an "augmented human," has been brutally murdered. The crime resembles past incidents on other stations where people were attacked and their augmented body parts stolen. A semi-mythical figure called Piecework has been blamed for the attacks. Determined to protect the others on the station, Jixy sets out to see if Piecework—or someone else—is responsible for the crime.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Rovers are people who volunteered for a work program that meant giving up their legs and arms and most of their insides for "augments." Despite this heroic act, rovers are treated like machines, not humans. How does this discrimination play out in the story?
2. Jixy tells us that just about everyone has prostheses or internal medical augments of some kind. What do you think the future of medicine and notions of "medically driven enhancement" holds?
3. In the face of a challenge, Australia's Aboriginal people often ask the profound question: "What kind of ancestor do you want to be?" How do you think Vision Space Dynamics, the corporation that created Piecework, would have answered that question?
4. The title of this story is "Obsolescence." When we have built a Culture of Health, what will have become obsolete? And what will be the consequences?
5. Both "Obsolescence" and "Paradise" portray inequities in who has access to quality, affordable health care. What are some of the most promising solutions to ensure everyone in America has the health care they need, when they need it?

**"BECOMING A ROVER HAD JUST EXTENDED**

**GREGGYY'S LIFE AND GIVEN HIM DIFFERENT**

**PARTS. SAYING IT HAD SOMEHOW MADE**

**HIM INHUMAN WAS OBSCENE."**