

NEURO-AD-BOOST

ANNA ZIEGELHOF

“If I allow them to get into my brain for four weeks, I’ll be three months closer to debt-free. Seems like a good deal. Economy’s been shit. Can’t find a job. Benefits expiring too.”

“Get into your brain, though? Sounds iffy.”

“It’s FDA approved and everything. It alters your speech center for a while and local companies can buy ad-space in your brain.”

“Sounds pretty science fiction.”

“It’s actually a side-product of some medical advancement. New treatment for neurological conditions.”

“Like what conditions?”

“The ones where you lose control over your speech, can’t get out words anymore and stuff. Aphasia, it’s called, I think. That’s what it was originally created for. But they found this other use. And it means: four weeks of allowing a pill to replace some words I use in my speech center, three months closer to paying back the loan.”

“Sure, yea, I mean, *sounds* good. Is it, though?”

“It’s totally fine. It’ll wear off after a few weeks and I’ll have full control over my speech again and have earned a lot of money.”

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“You took the pill?”

“Swallowed a *Neuro-Ad-Boost: Change Your Family’s Life Forever*, yes.”

“What?”

“Oh, I guess I can’t say the word *Neuro-Ad-Boost: Change Your Family’s Life Forever* anymore.”

“Pill? You can’t say the word ‘pill’ anymore?”

“*Neuro-Ad-Boost: Change Your Family’s Life Forever*. Yes. Guess not. Whatever. No big *Deals Deals Deals Buy And Sell At Leandro’s Used Car Lot At The Airport Car Mall*.”

“Fucking hell.”

“*Shit. ty Internet Connection? Get Ultimate Fiber Fire 5G Not Available in Alaska and Hawaii Terms and Conditions Apply.*”

“I think I’m just gonna talk to you in four weeks. This is sort of annoying. No offense.”

“No, wait *Credit Card Pre-Approved Sign Up Now!*”

“You’re sounding like the worst of the internet threw up on cable TV. Remember cable TV? Well, I do now. Because of you. What words can you even still say?”

“I didn’t know. *ledge Is The Future Classes at University of California Berkeley Extension Start Every Trimester* it was gonna be this *Bad Case of Restless Legs Syndrome Talk to Your Doctor about Remediol Remediol Is Not For People Who Are Currently...*”

“I’m outta here.”

“*...Breastfeeding, Pregnant, Have High Blood Pressure or Suicidal Thoughts. No! Help! Is Near For Your Rodent Problem Call Zachary’s Rodent Control.*”

“Maybe we can use text until you’re better.”

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“Hey! You’re backyard *Patio Furniture Sale At Home Stores Nationwide!*”

“You still sound... But it’s been...”

“Errr...”

“So, I gotta tell you *Something Not Going Your Way? Call Gondell and Liscuit Attorney’s at Law.*”

“Errr!”

“I’m doing *Neuro-Ad-Boost: Change Your Family’s Life Forever*, too now. Got a big tax bill’s *overwhelming you? Try Neuro-Ad-Boost.*”

“Arrrrr!”

“What are you trying to say...?”

“It’s permanent *Make-Up Solutions To Fit Your Needs and Budget!*”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anna Ziegelhof is an academic whose work explores the intersection of sociology and biblical studies. Her stories have appeared in *Daily Science Fiction*, *Shoreline of Infinity*, *The Future Fire*, and the *Footsteps in the Dark* anthology (Flametree Press). In addition to working in academia, she has worked as a language instructor, editor, translator, computational linguist, and currently as a UX Writer in tech.

<https://www.annaziegelhof.com/>