

Psychological Processing of Media

NEUROLLUSION

“Where you are is where you’re not.”

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She sat and she sat while she watched her mother deteriorate. Nobody knew how to help her. The doctors had given up hope and urged Vina to unplug her. Vina was the only child. No family, no friends, just her and her shell of a mother. How could she unplug her? Who would help her to sleep when the thunder and lightning cracked wickedly in the night sky? Who would listen to her whine about her life and how terrible it was? Vina grew sick of her sad state and wanted it to end. *Why should we both die?* She thought to herself.

Vina closed her eyes and began to sob. She couldn't help but think how miserable she would be without her mother. "Vina," a gentle voice spoke behind her. She opened her eyes and turned her head. There she saw a short man with big bulgy eyes. It had almost looked as if he had been high off some type of drug. "Who are you?" she questioned. She was now annoyed that he had interrupted her pitiful state. The short man waddled over to her and smiled. He had a long beard that was a pale orange in color. His skin reflected light and his stomach wiggled when he moved. "Do you ever feel like leaving?" He asked still smiling largely.

She looked at him baffled and waited for him to finish. He reached in his pocket and pulled out a small bottle with what seemed to be pills inside. "Inside my hand I hold the key to your pathetic woes." He shook the bottle and nodded for her to try them. She was appalled. How dare he talk about her and offer her drugs. "Do I seem like a junky to you? And excuse me if I feel distraught over my mother's sickness. It's her birthday today...." Her voice trailed off as she looked over her mother's failing body.

"And she too will see the wonders if you just take the pills." He waddled over to the nightstand and placed the bottle next to her water flask. "Once you take the pill you will be here but not here." He laughed and waddled away until his faint body disappeared down the hallway. Vina was now very intrigued. She wanted nothing more than to be with her mother. She picked up the bottle and read the

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label. *Neurollusion. What the heck is that?* She thought to herself. She continued reading and saw the warning. *If time is precious don't count out loud. For the minute it is spoken your forever in the clouds.*

"I am not sure what this means. But if it means Mommy and I can be together I'll do it !" She opened the bottle and shook out two pills. She crushed her mother's pill and placed it in her water cup. She rubbed her mother's throat until she swallowed and drank the pill solution. "Here goes nothing." Vina swallowed the pill with a single sip of water and waited. She waited and waited. *That short jiggly liar*, she thought. She sat down in a chair that was beside her mother. With a blink of her eyes she was on the beach with a ball hurdling to her face. "Champ, what are you doing?" Her mother laughed. "You can't play volley ball without eyes, pay attention."

What in the hell is going on? She thought. And most importantly how did she get there. She stopped thinking when she realized her mother was well. And well enough to play volley ball at the beach.

"CHAMP," her mother yelled "snap out of it silly." She smiled at her mom intensely. "Okay mom I just need a break." She sat down on the beach chair to process what was going on. She was now back in the hospital room in the same chair she sat in. She looked over to her mother and saw her in the same terrible state. Confused she started to sob again. "Hey !! When you're here but not here , enjoy don't question." She looked up and saw the same little man who had given her the pills. "What did you give me." She said with a startled voice. He smiled as he waddled to her. "It's called Neurollusion. Where ever you want to be is where you are." She looked at him like he had six heads. "This pill makes your mind think its somewhere you're not. You know, like 'Calgon Calgon take me away?' This pill stimulates your mind and releases endorphins and adrenaline chemicals. With a special blend that I combined it reacts with your emotions and does the opposite of what your feelings. Since you're sad the pill takes you to a place that makes you happy. Just heed the warning or you'll be gone forever. "

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Vina was amazed how such a little man could make such an awesome product. She smiled with excitement. Then she realized where she was and immediately felt sad. Tears started to pour. "Where you are is where you're not." He said. She began wiping her eyes. "If you don't stop crying we'll never order." Her mom sighed as she placed her hand back to the side she noticed she was at a restaurant. "What are you ordering Champ?" her mom folded her menu and smiled. "I know, your favorite. We used to come here all the time when you were younger."

Vina looked at her mom and smiled. "Cinnamon waffles and curly fries." They both chanted together. Vina was extremely happy. They both giggled. "Mommy I missed you?" her mother looked at her puzzled. "Missed me? Where did I go?" If she told her mother what was going on she was afraid that the parallel world she was in inside her mind would disappear. "Oh, no where..." her mother continued her confused demeanor. Vina smiled widely and her mother's expressions faded to a smile.

I'll stay here forever. She thought to herself. Neurollusion was the best thing that ever happened to her. She decided not to ever leave. She wanted to be with her mother forever. "What time is it?" she asked with a smirk. "What's time?" her mother's mouth twisted in slow motion. Her mother froze and so did everything else around her. Neurollusion was the best thing she thought had happened. Until it happened to be her end.