A small electroshock is released from a device on her neck. It sends a signal to her brain that it should release a hit of dopamine into her bloodstream.

Honey, you have to go to school soon, time to get up!

5 more minutes, mom

no, we don't have the time for that

You have to get up now!

A small electroshock is released from a device on her neck.

It sends a signal to her brain that it should release a hit of dopamine into her bloodstream.

The kid feels a surge of energy. She gets up and makes her bed.

She runs out in time to get to school before the bell rings.
In 2020, Norway decides to decriminalise drugs for personal use. Services like heroin-assisted rehabilitation are developed and offered to those who need it. New business opportunities pop up making services that test drugs before consumption available and the measures are working well.

In 2027 we see the consequences, the measures works, Norway drops from 3rd place to 25th place on Europes overdose statics. There seems to be no need for further regulation of recreational drugs.

A California startup working on “Optimal performance technology” has a breakthrough. They have discovered that small electro shocks, guided by software and hardware, can stimulate the body to control production, release and uptake of certain neurotransmitters. Dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, norepinephrine, and endorphins, “The feel good molecules.” The technology is thought to give people the opportunity to regulate when they should feel motivation, empathy, and the feeling of success.

In 2036 a semi-commercial version of the product is ready for the market and it’s adopted, first by the large tech-companies, giving a competitive advantage, as their employees can always be motivated to work. Media is covering the development and progress of the technology in detail. The founder of the company holds a keynote speech on SXSW (South by South-West) claiming the technology will forever change what humans are capable of.

In Norway the news respond: “And now, a new technology is approaching, and it’s making us feel good, but are we ready for it? What would you do if you could get all the reward you want at the push of a button? A new technology might give you that option. Critics are worried, asking questions like ‘Are we still humans if we use this technology, or are we cyborgs, when do we lose our humanity?’”

9 years later, in 2045 the technology has evolved. It’s safer, cheaper, accessible to everyone. Most people have one, as it’s very convenient. The debate has died down in public space, but some organisations still campaign against use of the technology. The company that invented the technology is one of the most profitable in the world and develops a version for kids, with parental control to ensure that it’s not abused, and that parents can reward their kids for good behaviour.

Questions for dialogue

1. What are the consequences of people realising the therapeutic potential of drugs and some using it in this way? What are fair repercussions?

2. We are already seeing a generation of parents using various medications to “regulate” their children for various reasons. How might regulation affect people like this? Key words: Information availability, easier access, normalisation.

3. If recreational drug regulation happens through industry. How might that affect what such a regulation may look like?

4. If industry finds a way through the legal-system and offers something like this, that could be considered a drug, but also not, what would be the fallout?

5. Some people might abuse this technology, how can we help those people? Let’s be specific, or as specific as we can be.

6. What systems and organisations that exist today will not exist in this future, and why did they have to close down?

7. The systems and organisations that are in place today and would survive into this scenario, how did they change to keep with the times?

8. What systems and organisations would need to exist in this future, what would they do, how do they work?

9. Would the organisation that you represent exist in this future? Did your organisation have to change? If so, how? If not, why not? (In character)