

Dendrite

By: Anna Medley

*N is part of a never ending cycle of neuron production in the brain. And sometimes there is a slip up. The text is very monotone and pattern/assembly line like. The text speeds up as the list goes along until the **BOLDED**. Then there is a definitive pause.*

N:

Dendrite

Soma

Nucleus

Myelin Sheath

Schwann Cell

Node of Ranvier

Axon Terminal

Dendrite

Soma

Nucleus

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(Long Pause)

shit

shit

shit

SHIT

SHIT

What did I just do. Fuck what did I just do.

Let me fix this..

(goes back to forced monotone text. Obvious strain)

Dendrite

Axon Terminal

(pause. Raising in intensity)

Dendrite

Axon Terminal

(pause)

Dendrite

Axon Terminal

Dendrite

Axon

DENDRITE

AXON

DENDRITE

AXON

(panicked pause. Lots of heavy breathing. This next section is very panicky and doesn't have to be the exact text, but similar. Trying to get to the point of looking if they are normal)

Fuck.

What did I just do. Who did I just make. I never signed up for this. I never signed up to be the programmer of people. Why is does it have to be my fault.

Maybe this one is okay. Maybe it's nothing too detrimental.

Let's see who this is going to be

(types on a computer of some sorts that can predict the future and tell everything about this person's life)

(Reads from the screen)

Jeffery Lionel Dahmer.

He is going to be born on May 21, 1960 in Milwaukee to a loving family of teachers and will have a younger brother.

(stops reading) Okay.....seems okay so far. Nothing out of the ordinary.

(back to reading)

He is going to be neglected as a child. And begin *(pause to take it in)* to take an interest in dead animals. He will collect animal carcasses from the roadside. *(reading more intently)* In one instance, Dahmer will decapitate the carcass of a dog before nailing the body to a tree and impaling the skull on a stake beside a wooden cross in woods near his house.

(stops reading)

Oh no, not again.....

(continues reading)

Dahmer will commit his first murder in 1978 and eventually will lead to the murder and dismemberment of 17 men and boys. His later murders will involve necrophilia, cannibalism, and the permanent preservation of body parts. *(deep breath. Close to tears)*. He will later be diagnosed with borderline personality disorder, schizotypal personality disorder and a psychotic disorder.

(long pause. "what have I done" moment)

No no no no no no no no no. NO NO NO NO *(build!! Practically beating himself up)* First John Christie, Ted Bundy, John Wayne Gacy and NOW Jeffery Dahmer

I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO THIS. I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN TO DO THIS. PLEASE DON'T LET IT HAPPEN. PLEASE.

WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME. GOD WHY DID THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO LIVE. WHY CANT THEY JUST BE NORMAL. WHY CANT I BE NORMAL. WHY CANT THEY DIE!!

(he has completely lost it. Pause..... a thought)

What if I can end it. What if I can end the cycle.

(leaves and gets a tool. Some kind of knife or scissor)

I heard some of the other builders do this.... If I cut exactly at every Axon and Dendrite meeting, their brain will cease to function and then they won't have the capacity to remember to breathe and then they will.....

(starts to go in.....stops. drops the tool)

I can't. I can't. I can't. I will be just like them. I don't want to be like them. I don't want to be who I.....create.

Just know. It's not my fault. I don't mean for this to happen. Sometimes I just get carried away. We all get carried away. It's natural.....

It's natural to make mistakes.....

But why do I keep making *this* one. I don't want to make killers. I want to make good people.

(suddenly back in the trance. Something bigger than himself has overtaken him)

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Dendrite

(pause. A different, but similar trance. Maybe a shift in focus?)

Gary Ridgeway

(back to the original trance)

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Dendrite

(shift)

Richard Ramirez

(repeating "Dendrite Dendrite". Maybe as like a voiceover of the following names?? The names build and build until there is a definite stop. The silence is scary)

David Parker Ray

Ed Gein

Kenneth Bianchi

Aileen Wuornos

Joseph Naso

Rodney Alcala

Charles Manson

(long pause.....an interesting power has over taken N. the power to create something as powerful as these people. He loves it. He loves the legacy. he looks straight into the camera and says.)

I believe the only way to reform people is to kill them.