

Sabira Stahlberg

Fix the focus



In the future everybody carries special eyeglasses called plex. Plex combines phones and computers and adapts to the user.

Lightning strikes a restaurant. The plex of four friends suddenly start exchanging information with each other.

Nothing is like before. Every day brings new surprises. Their friendship is put to the test, because now all kinds of secrets are discovered...



ISBN 978-952-7334-15-7 (Paper)

ISBN 978-952-7334-16-4 (PDF)

Cactus

“My day is also very odd”, Aaron tells us.
“My plex can translate most languages in the world, but it is not so good at rare languages. Today I received a document in a language, which does not yet exist in the system. Then I have to search in old dictionaries. It takes time. I was slowly turning the pages of the dusty books, instead of checking in the plex, which takes just a few seconds.”

“Your plex has many interesting functions”, I interrupt. “I wish mine had them, too.”
“Sometimes the translation is wrong”, Aaron shakes his head. “A book I work on now is about climate and life on an island in the Indian Ocean. A translation became strange: due to the left index finger, one turns into a green cloud on the sofa of the whale coconut.”

“You have an entertaining work”, Larry laughs.
“Aaron, could we change our jobs?”
“We can try”, Aaron nods. “Today all went fairly well until lunch time. I went out to eat with my colleagues. Some of them eat salads or sandwiches at work. I prefer to go to a café

around the corner. They make tasty food.
I always eat lunch at the same café.
Today I ordered mutton, lentils and rice.”
“You like to eat food with spices”, I comment.
“I can smell the spices upstairs in my flat.”
“While I was sitting in the café, something
happened”, Aaron says. “From the sauce on
my plate a small green plant started to grow.
It had broad leaves and a fresh smell.”
“How nice”, Larry says. “I would very much...”

“I jumped from my chair, and the others
asked if I had lost my mind”, Aaron continues.
“They could see nothing special on my plate.
My plex told me the plant was parsley.”
“Are you interested in plants?” Larry asks.
“Not one bit”, Aaron replies. “I do not know
if you use root, bark or seed from parsley.”
“You can eat the leaves and the roots”, I say.

“When I went back to the office, I could not
see any dictionaries in my plex”, Aaron says.
“I noticed only trees and flowers in the park
and their names in Latin. At the office I noticed
for the first time lots of plants at the windows.
I received information about soil, fertilizers
and the degree of soil acidity,

and when I should water the plants.”
“That is important to know”, Larry points out.
“Not at all”, Aaron cries. “I was scared.
Previously I had never noticed a small cactus
someone has placed on my table.
Now in my plex it grew big like a football
with enormous thorns. I had to move it.”
“That sounds terrible”, I say. “But the cactus
could actually become a funny painting.”

“Oh, no! The old lady has again put her
geraniums out on the stairs”, Aaron says.
“I cannot stand fragrant geraniums. My plex
says they freshen up the air, but I sneeze.”
“Let us put them elsewhere”, I suggest.
“I get the wrong information. I should get data
about plants causing allergies. Now I see on my
screen how trees look during different seasons.
Do you know when the oak sheds its leaves?
What should I do with all this information?”
“It is my lesson in biology”, Larry nods.