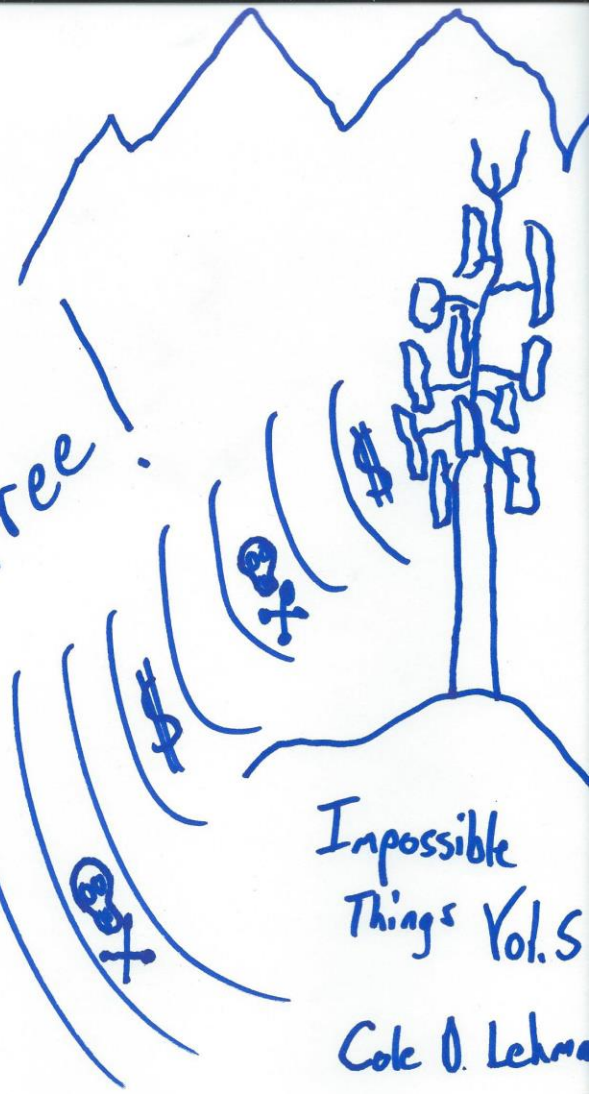


56
for free!



Impossible
Things Vol. 5
Cole O. Lehman

- Faster!
- Connected!
- Death!

5G for Free

Salt Lake City, UT — March 1 2019 — We're offering 5G for free across the nation. At Hoziro, we want to show the connected world what's possible. Starting this week, 5G will be free in your city. If you don't have a 5G device to experience, come to our store and see it for yourself.

Snow melted under spring birdsong while 5G towers sprouted across the country. Poorly disguised as trees, they promised to open a future of autonomous cars, advertisements on sidewalks, and connected homes that ordered your toilet paper for you when the roll was gone.

Somewhere in Salt Lake City, a 5G crew walked through an elementary school playground and back to their van to turn on and calibrate the 5G hardware on the school's roof. Schools, fire stations, and police stations were some of the most common spots for towers.

"I have a headache, I get one every time I'm up there," said John.

"Oh, you're just making that up, " said the boss. "We've got the science to prove it's not harmful. Only anti-vaxxers and flat earthers believe radiation at these levels can cause a problem."

"That's not actually true," says another. "The only science that is certain it's not harmful is paid for by the wireless and telecommunications industries. Real scientists who were testing the safety of radar for Naval operators found that a level of radiation considered safe by government standards damaged the DNA in brain cells of rats from exposure. The same kind of radiation that's emitted through electromagnetic fields from cell phones, wifi routers, and smart meters. The same kind of radiation we're about to crank up."

"No way, the government would never allow companies to harm us like that. If they knew, then they would fix it or do something different."

"The government can act like they don't know it's harmful because they don't do the research, wireless providers and cell phone manufacturer industry associations do. That way the FCC can cite the industry science

that says their products are safe and shirk responsibility. And that's why for every independent paper you find that shows damage, you'll find one funded by private industry that says the opposite thing is true," said Jesse.

"And there's more than one legitimate scientist and study, boss. That was Dr. Henry Lai. Another is Dr. Martin L. Pall, Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Basic Medical Science, Washington State University. He says radiation from EMF exposure already causes DNA damage, interferes with our endocrine and nervous systems, and lowers male and female fertility. 5G just turns up the level of radiation for faster data transfer. Do your own research. These are totally valid, established, peer-reviewed doctors. Not just one research paper that paid its way into a "peer-reviewed" shell journal."

"Look, there's no way they would be installing 5G for free like this if it could hurt people."

"Like how "they" wouldn't give everyone Oxycotin or cigarettes if those killed people?"

"But those are different. And the companies are being held responsible." said the boss.

"Are you reading the press releases from the pharmaceutical companies? They might be different mechanisms of profit, but whether it's pills or VR headsets, they're all designed to get the same thing at all costs—money and attention. When there are billions of dollars in play, the population turns into a dollar sign. Did you see what Goldman Sachs asked biotech companies who want to develop one-shot gene therapy cures? *Is curing patients a sustainable business model?* No, it's not."

"Look boss, it's profitable in our economy to do things that are harmful to the population. It's actually more profitable to keep people sick and charge them money for living. That's something we need to get real with as a society and admit is being considered by industries and allowed by governments who stopped protecting us a long time ago, if not actively encouraged."

The boss looked nervous but unbelieving and determined. That was how he got his job, to convey and maintain authority no matter what. Especially if people had good reasons to change his mind. And his authorities said everything his crew was concerned about wasn't true. They had specific arguments against all of this stuff. He believed the info he was fed.

He had to so he could sleep at night when the uncertainty started to creep in.

"Boss, do you know what the mmWave bands are that we're tuning these 5G towers to use? They're millimeter waves, the same waves that the non-lethal Active Denial System energy weapon uses. That weapon operates at 95ghz. These 5G towers can push from 24–86 GHz. I know that's close enough to be worried about. What if someone hacks an unsecured smart home and gets access to this tower? We could be installing an energy weapon on schools..."

"What if no one needs to hack it? What if it's turned up just enough to make everyone more sick so they can be sold a cure?"

That was too much for the boss. Too much for all of them to consider.

"Oh hell, we can't stop it now anyway. Flip the switch, Lou. They'll have our jobs and worse if we don't. They'll just call you crazy and destroy your reputation. How will we feed our families?"

"What if your kids went to this school?" mutters Sam as they turned away to watch the sunrise illuminate a spring wave of green in foothills of the Wasatch Mountains.

Sam turned to the boss and tried one more time, "Look boss, we don't even need 5G. We could use wired connections. It's more important to change our energy infrastructure and grow food for ourselves than to have swarms of autonomous cars pumping advertisements in our face and letting us buy things during our commutes. You don't think they're actually for safety do you? Sure, they'll save some lives on one balance sheet and that's good PR. But it's about attention and money. That's it. A whole new market of incapacitated eyes looking for some stimulation.

When we're stuck in cars, in traffic, what else are we going to do except buy and watch more pointless noise?

If we put more gadgets and interfaces in between us, real people, and our natural environment, we'll just get sicker and irrevocably confused. We're already more connected electronically than ever before. And it's not working. We're miserable. Oceans are rising. Biospheres are collapsing. Our social fabric is polarized and tearing at the seams. We don't even have the resources to continue this way. All this technology runs on data centers that suck up water and electricity we don't have.

5G isn't going to make our lives better. It's just going to keep us distracted long enough for our civilization to crumble underneath our feet. We need to stop this pointless growth and talk about the foundations of our society. Our environmental limits. Our natural resources. Our communities. Our collective direction and agreements as humans on this planet."

"Flip the switch, Lou." the boss says in a flat, dead voice.

Lou flips the switch.

"Oh man, my head."

"Stop being dramatic, John!"

"What the hell...?"

A fleshy thud on the windshield turned into a frantic feathery kaleidoscope of black and white and effervescent blue that spasmed a few times, tried to stand, and then fell and gave up life. A magpie.

"Must be something it ate." said the boss as he started up the van.

The engine growled the song of progress and they moved on to the local fire station to upgrade the next tower.

After the towers, they'd branch out along all the streets and install signal transmitters throughout the city—on walls, telephone poles, anything they could use. 5G signal didn't travel nearly as far as 4G, like DC vs AC current, and needed points every couple blocks. Hopefully people didn't learn from Mill Valley, CA and ban the 5G towers first.

About the person who wrote this

Cole D. Lehman doesn't know who, what, or where he'll be when you read this. He loves stories and how they shape our worlds. Cole's fed mostly on sci-fi, fantasy, satire, and magic realism. His love for the potential of this universe, its moving bodies, and wild landscapes seem to remain a constant. Except for moments when the fire is too hot and noisy, the world's spinning too fast, and he's ready to play a new game.

What is Impossible Things?

An emerging collection of short stories, poems, and drawings that exist because people did the impossible. They coaxed ideas, feelings, and visions into shape.

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