

From The AI Play by Don Zolidis

ELEANOR, a teenager, F
TAY, her best friend, F

ELEANOR

Hey. I'm Eleanor. This is my story. And I want to start by saying that absolutely none of this is my fault. Except for a few things. But mostly it is not my fault. It started when my best friend Tay informed me of a terrible tragedy.

TAY enters.

TAY

Hey did you do your Great Gatsby paper?

ELEANOR

What?

TAY

For English class?

ELEANOR

What's the Great Gatsby?

TAY

The book we've been reading for the past four weeks.

ELEANOR

We've been reading a book?!

TAY

Yes, we've been talking about it for four weeks. In the class where you sit next to me and don't pay attention to anything.

ELEANOR

Why hasn't anyone told me about this?!

TAY

Miss Wright has literally been talking about it every day for a week.

ELEANOR

What the heck.

TAY

Did you read it?

Eleanor is deeply confused –
I know the answer to that.

ELEANOR

When is it due?

TAY

Tomorrow.

Eleanor groans –

ELEANOR

This is horrible.

TAY

All right, chill, there's a movie you can watch. It's got Leonardo DiCaprio in it. Just watch that and you can write something –

ELEANOR

This is why I have anxiety.

TAY

You're going to be fine. Watch the movie, then go to Spark Notes and you can write a paper. You've still got like twelve hours before it's due. You can do this. I believe in you. You are a star.

Tay exits

ELEANOR *(to the audience)*

I decided to watch the movie after dinner.

And then I decided to watch the movie after I watched a few other videos.

And then I spent some time on my phone.

And then I spent some more time on my phone.

And then I watched some Korean dog food commercials because they're amazing.

Tay returns

TAY

How did the paper go?

ELEANOR

What?!

TAY

On the Great Gatsby.

ELEANOR

Oh shoot.

TAY

It's due in like thirty minutes.

ELEANOR

Why does this keep happening to me?!

TAY

Just say your Grandma died or something and you can get an extension.

ELEANOR

I already did that like three times earlier this year. Why does Miss Wright have to be so awful? She's Miss Wrong, that's what she is.

TAY

Okay, breathe –

ELEANOR

I can't bomb another paper. My parents are depressed enough. They spend all their time looking at social media posts of their friends and comparing their kids to me. I have to do better this time.

To the audience

So I made a decision. No more screwing up. No more ignoring my classes. I was going to work hard. I was going to do my best and make my parents proud. And I would start doing that immediately after I used a Chatbot to write my Great Gatsby paper for me.

A magical sound effect –