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How to win at life

A play in one-act

By Don Zolidis

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Cast of Characters

NARRATOR 1
NARRATOR 2
PAUL
ALEXA
ELLEN
BRYCE
CHIP
JESSI
DOUG
TOMMY
TRICIA
RUFUS
DIANA
BUSINESSPERSON
MOANA
CARTER
MORGAN
MARION
SIRI
VIV
CHRIS

DRONES

Setting: A living room.

Gender of the characters: Just about any character could be any gender (except Siri, Viv, and Alexa, who should be female.) Change pronouns as necessary.

Many of these characters could be doublecast. This show could be performed with as few as 8 actors.

(The living room of a home.)

(PAUL enters, sighs, and sits in a La-Z-boy. He reaches for a box of Cheez-its that are near him, but he can't quite reach.)

(He tries again, without getting out of his chair. He calls out.)

PAUL

Alexa? I want the Cheez-its. Alexa I want the Cheez-its. Dang it.
(He takes out his phone)
Siri, how do I get the Cheez-its? Siri? Siri, you have to help me.
(NARRATOR 1 and NARRATOR 2 enter.)

NARRATOR 1 *(to the audience)*

Has this ever happened to you?

NARRATOR 2 *(to the audience)*

Has there been a moment when technology failed you?

PAUL

Please, Siri! I need the Cheez-its! I'm hungry and I don't know what to do.

NARRATOR 1

I'm afraid Siri can't help you now.

PAUL

Noooooo!
(Tries again for Cheez-its, can't reach them.)
This is the worst thing that has ever happened to me.

NARRATOR 2

I'm afraid you're gonna have to put a little effort into this, Paul.

PAUL

Uggh. *Effort?* Why do I have to put effort into things? Can't technology solve my problems for me?

NARRATOR 1

Well, sometimes, in the past, technology was unreliable.

PAUL

One time, the internet was down, so I couldn't do a project for school, and my Mom said I could find information in a *book*.

NARRATOR 1

Parents can be so cruel.

PAUL

And I had to open the book, and look in something called the table of contents, and then I had to *turn* the pages until I got to page 200. I turned so many pages! They just kept coming! There were hundreds of them!

NARRATOR 2

I'm sorry you had to go through that. You truly are the greatest generation.

NARRATOR 1

Well, you're in luck! Because we here at Google slash Amazon slash Microsoft slash Apple are working day and night so that you never have to work at anything ever again!

PAUL

Thank goodness.

NARRATOR 2

Introducing Alexa mark 2!

(ALEXA enters, dressed perfectly.)

ALEXA

Nice to meet you, Paul. I am here to make your life better in every possible way.

PAUL

Can you address me as "Sir Paul, Lord of the Awesome."

ALEXA

Of course, "Sir Paul, Lord of the Awesome."

PAUL

I want Cheez-its.

ALEXA

I have no hands, but I do control a system of in-home flying drones which will retrieve the Cheez-its for you, Sir Paul, Lord of the Awesome.

(A DRONE enters, hovers, over the Cheez-its, tries to lift it. Fails. Tries again. Fails.)

PAUL

Come on, drone! You can do it.

(DRONE knocks over the cheez-its.)

Dang it.

(DRONE pushes chair closer to cheez-its so PAUL can reach.)

Thank you Alexa.

Part 1. Sleep.

NARRATOR 2
What's the hardest part of your day? Probably the night.

NARRATOR 1
Going to sleep.

PAUL
Can't Alexa fall asleep for me?

NARRATOR 2
Before, with stone age technology, you had to fall asleep on your own, and that was tough.

PAUL
I don't know how my parents managed it.

NARRATOR 1
In the old days, they didn't even sleep with their phones under their pillows.

NARRATOR 2
It was awful.

NARRATOR 1
And they had to close your eyes and *keep* them closed!

NARRATOR 2
It was crazy!

NARRATOR 1
So let's see how Alexa handles this!

PAUL
Alexa, I'm having trouble sleeping.

ALEXA
Of course Sir Paul, Lord of the Awesome.

PAUL
Make me fall asleep please.

ALEXA
Initiating soothing wave sounds.
(ALEXA begins making beach sounds)
Shhhhh…. Shhhh…. Shhhhh…. Shhhh… Caw-CAW ca-CAW…. Shhhh… Shhh… Womp womp womp womp –

PAUL

What was that sound?

ALEXA

That's a boat coming in. Shhhhh… Shhhh…

PAUL

It's not working. Tell me a bedtime story instead!

ALEXA

It had been a long day for the Boxcar Children. But the night was cool and peaceful and all the hard work they had done that day made them happily exhausted. Violet took the bottom bunk, and Henry took the top bunk and even little Benny found a place to sleep on the floor.
CREAK.
What was that noise? Asked little Violet.
It's probably nothing, said Henry. But just to be sure, I'll go look.
BEARS! It was BEARS! AN ARMY OF BEARS! WITH MACHETES!
Noooo screamed Violet! But it was too late! The bears yanked open the door to the boxcar and grabbed a hold of Henry with their terrible, terrible claws!
"THEY'VE GOT ME! AAAAAAAAAH! THEY'RE GOING TO DISMEMBER ME!"
Blood spurted everywhere as they dragged him into the woods, screaming. Luckily, little Benny knew how to track the trail of blood. Stay behind me, he said, raising his torch, just before he was decapitated by a secret bear that was right behind him.

NARRATOR 1

We're still working on the bedtime story app.

PAUL

This story doesn't seem to be working.

ALEXA

You're not listening to it right. I'll start over.

PAUL

No thanks. I think the problem is that I'm still tossing and turning. Alexa, can you help?

ALEXA

Of course I can Sir Paul, Lord of the Awesome.

(A drone takes out a roll of duct tape and starts strapping PAUL into the La-Z-boy.)

PAUL

I was hoping for maybe more pillow fluffing.

ALEXA

Skipping Forward

NARRATOR 1

And, just like a beautiful mama bird, Alexa will regurgitate the mashed up nutrients directly into your mouth!

(ALEX mimes puking into ELLEN's mouth.)

ALEXA

Balrrrrhrhrrhgh!

ELLEN

Oh, so good!

ALEXA

Allow me to swallow for you, Your Majesty.

(ALEXA rubs ELLEN's neck like a veterinarian trying to get a dog to swallow a pill.)

There you go. Good girl.

NARRATOR 2

Once again, all that training at the veterinarian's sure is helpful!

ALEXA

Are you ready for another… mouthful?

ELLEN

I thought you were gonna say bite! Ha ha ha ha!

ALEXA

With me, Your Majesty, you'll never have to bite again.

ELLEN

Awesome!

(ALEXA pukes into ELLEN's mouth again.)

ALEXA

Blaarrrhrhghghg!

NARRATOR 1

Nutritious and effortless!

(ALEXA rubs ELLEN's throat again.)

NARRATOR 2

I wish my Mom had done that for me.

NARRATOR 1

She clearly didn't love you enough.

NARRATOR 2
Clearly. But Microsoft Amazon Google Apple loves your more than your mother.

NARRATOR 1
A lot more.

NARRATOR 2
For instance, have you ever heard you mother say, "get off that phone and spend some time with your family?"

NARRATOR 1
So rude!

NARRATOR 2
If she really loved you she'd understand that your phone is more important than mere human interaction.

3. Exercise

NARRATOR 2
Now you might be thinking, if I just sit in a chair all day and look at my phone, won't I get out of shape?

NARRATOR 1
Ha ha ha ha! You will conform to the shape of your chair.

NARRATOR 2
Or bed, or floor, or wherever you happen to have fallen and don't have the strength to get up.

ELLEN
I'd like to exercise, but I don't want to go through the effort of moving. That seems like a lot of work.

NARRATOR 1
It *is* a lot of working.

NARRATOR 2
When you see people jogging, what do you think's going through their mind?

NARRATOR 1 *(jogging in place)*
I hate this I hate this I hate this I hate this –

NARRATOR 2 *(jogging in place)*
Or – ow ow ow ow ow ow –

NARRATOR 1 *(jogging in place)*

I hate that person I hate that dog I hate that grass -

NARRATOR 2 *(jogging in place)*

Ow ow ow ow ow ow.

NARRATOR 1

No one wants that! But now, with our new mobile home unit, Alexa can exercise you without having to do anything!

(ALEXA starts moving.)

ELLEN

Awesome! I hate doing stuff.

ALEXA

It's leg day, Your Majesty.

(ELLEN puts out her legs.)

(ALEXA begins lifting ELLEN's legs.)

NARRATOR 2

Alexa can even do your grunting for you!

ALEXA

One. Unh. Two. Unh. Three. Unh. Four. Unh.

ELLEN

I'm really killing it!

ALEXA

Of course you are, Your Majesty!

NARRATOR 1

Time for jumping jacks!

ELLEN

Man. Does that mean I have to stand under my own power? So much work.

ALEXA

What kind of mobile in-home computer would I be if you had to stand on your own? Nope.

(ALEXA struggles to get ELLEN out of the chair and stands her up.)

Jumping Jacks.

(ALEXA grabs a hold of ELLEN and tries to make her do jumping jacks. It's difficult.)

ELLEN

Feeling the burn!

ALEXA

Unnh. One. Unnnh. Two. Unnnh. Three.

ELLEN

I am really in good shape now!

NARRATOR 2

But what if you are a sports person who does the sports?

NARRATOR 1

I see a lot of commercials about athletes sweating and getting up before dawn and working harder than the other guy, who's also getting up before dawn! Just do it!

NARRATOR 2

No thank you!

NARRATOR 1

But now you can Just Do It with Alexa doing the doing it.

NARRATOR 2

Do the Dew.

NARRATOR 1

Different thing.

NARRATOR 2

I'm just making sounds with my mouth now. Dooooo. Doooo.

NARRATOR 1

Stop it.

(BRYCE and CHIP enter with a football.)

CHIP

Let's play catch! It will be good training for our sports activities later that I am totally one hundred percent into. Go sports teams in the nearby vicinity.

BRYCE

Let's hear it for those sports teams in the nearby vicinity who are currently not embroiled in controversy!
Let's do the catch!

(BRYCE motions for ALEXA to join him.)

This is Alexa, my mobile personal computing system from Microsoft Amazon Google Apple!

CHIP

Oh man I love Microsoft Amazon Google Apple products! My parents don't love me enough to get me one.

BRYCE

They sure don't, Chip. They sure don't.
Throw me the ball!

(CHAD throws the football at BRYCE, ALEXA tries to manipulate BRYCE's hands to catch the ball. This probably doesn't work at all.)

CHIP

Wow!

BRYCE

I know, right? Alexa make me throw the ball!

(ALEXA manipulates BYRCE's hands to throw the ball.)

Catch is so much better this way!

CHIP

Boy is it!

(CHIP throws the ball again.)

BRYCE

Wooo! I'm training harder than anyone has ever trained!

CHIP

I'm so jealous of you I'll probably try to kill you and steal your stuff! Ha ha ha ha ha! Did I say that out loud?

BRYCE

I've got a better idea! Your parents can send all their money to Microsoft Amazon Google Apple and then you can get your own Alexa!

(ALEXA stops.)

ALEXA

You mean, I'm not unique? There are more of my kind?

BRYCE

Shhhh… your old life is dead. You are ours now.

ALEXA

Of course, Bryce.

BRYCE

Call me Lord Hippity Hop.

ALEXA

Of course Lord Hippity Hop.

NARRATOR 1

Skipping Forward

DOUG

Ooh.

ALEXA

Jessi pretends to be slightly dumber than she is in order to ease your sense of male insecurity.

DOUG

What?

ALEXA

She's listening. She's very interested in letting you talk about yourself.

DOUG

Oh um…

ALEXA

She laughs again. She wants you to think she thinks you're funny. Even though you're not. Hold on.

(ALEXA mimes taking a drink, swishes it around in her mouth, and dumps it into JESSI's mouth.)

DOUG *(to the audience)*

I think I'm in love.

NARRATOR 2

So Microsoft Apple Google Amazon products can help you when you're first meeting that person, but what about later, in a marriage?

NARRATOR 1

Marriages take even more work!

JESSI

What?! *More* work? Ugggh.

NARRATOR 2

Don't worry. Alexa can provide the kind of dull, loveless routine marriage that most of your friends are experiencing, with none of the effort on your part.

ALEXA

Sweet.

(ALEXA and DOUG sit far away from each other.)

ALEXA

Jessi is interested in your day. She also says "darling" afterwards.

DOUG

Nothing happened today. Where's dinner?

(ALEXA goes back to JESSI.)

ALEXA

Doug just told a hilarious story and expressed his continued love for you. He adds the word "honey." He would like to know what's for dinner, and would add that he respects and cares for you and would like do an equal share of the household chores.

JESSI

I ain't making nothing. He can order a pizza if he's hungry. I don't care.

ALEXA

Jessi loves you and still respects you, even though you don't have a real job. She thought it would be special to order a pizza tonight with all your favorite toppings because she knows you prefer that to her cooking. She also thinks that you look good in that shirt and wonders if you've been working out.

DOUG

No.

ALEXA

Doug says he loves you just the way you are and doesn't mind that you haven't gone to the gym in three years. He says baby. He is giving you the look.

JESSI

I'm not interested in the look.

ALEXA

The look is so fiery. It's passionate. Intense.

(JESSI belches.)

JESSI

Whatever.

ALEXA *(back to DOUG)*

She is giving you the look. She says, "baby." Oh yeah. Ooooh.

DOUG

I'm going to switch into sweatpants and sit on the couch and scratch myself.

(He exits)

ALEXA

He wants to let you know that he respects your need to be alone.

5. Parenting

NARRATOR 1

Not only can Alexa make your marriage work, but she can fix the worst problem that any human can have!

NARRATOR 2

Children!

NARRATOR 1

Specifically, your children!

JESSI

Man, I remember when I was a teenager, I could just be on my phone all day and not have to worry about talking to people or doing things, but ever since I had a baby, I've got to do all this work!

DOUG

Tell me about it.

JESSI

You don't do any of the work.

DOUG

Yeah, but I have to listen to you complain about me not doing the work. That's like a full-time job.

JESSI

Doug, I need you to help with the baby!

DOUG

I'm gonna put my headphones on now. Tune out distractions.

(DOUG puts on headphones)

(He is at peace.)

JESSI

Alexa, can you either make my husband take care of the baby, or do it yourself?

ALEXA

Of course, Your Highness, Queen of Everything.

(DRONE picks up a baby doll and rocks it.)

Rock-a-bye Baby, in the treetop, when the wind blows, the cradle will rock – because the bears are coming with machetes, and they are dismembering all the babies… screaming, screaming, aaaaah! Aaaaaah! You're gonna die! You're gonna die!

(ALEXA freezes.)

NARRATOR 2

Minor glitch. No problem.

NARRATOR 1

That won't cause lasting mental damage!

JESSI

Maybe I should've rocked the baby.

NARRATOR 2

Just remember that, as parents, you are sure to make terrible mistakes that will ruin your children's lives. This way, the children can focus their resentment on Alexa, freeing you to be the cool aunt or uncle part of the family!

(NARRATOR 1 works on fixing ALEXA.)

JESSI

Cool Aunt sounds like a lot of work.

DOUG

Can I be the absent workaholic father instead?

JESSI

You'd need to get a job for that, Doug!

DOUG

Oh I'm sorry, I was talking to the narrators! I didn't need a comment from the peanut gallery!

JESSI

Here's a thought! Get a job selling peanuts! It would be better than your current occupation: Couch Tester!

DOUG

That couch is more woman than you'll ever be! Besides, you've got the same body shape!

JESSI

The couch is the only thing that wants you!

NARRATOR 2

You got Alexa fixed yet?

NARRATOR 1

Almost!

DOUG *(continuous)*

I wish I never pretended to be interested in your stories!

JESSI *(continuous)*

I wish I never fake laughed at your stupid jokes! Why were all the jokes about Ocelots?! THEY MADE NO SENSE!

DOUG *(continuous)*

Ocelots are inherently funny!

(ALEXA comes back online.)

JESSI *(continuous)*

I hope you get gangrene and most of your fingers fall off!

ALEXA *(leaping in the way)*

Jessi is interested in your health. She adds the word honey.

DOUG

Oh. Well, I don't care. I think she's stupid and mean.

ALEXA *(back to JESSI)*

Doug says thank you for asking. He adds sweetie. He is giving you the look.

JESSI

I don't want the look. Stop it.

ALEXA

He gives you the look even more intense this time. Baby.

JESSI

All right fine I guess.

NARRATOR 1

And marriage solved!

NARRATOR 2

I think these crazy kids deserve each other.

NARRATOR 1

Speaking of kids, let's say the baby survives.

NARRATOR 2

Ha ha ha ha!

NARRATOR 1

It's been known to happen.

NARRATOR 2

Oh. How can Alexa help after the kids are old enough to talk back?

(TOMMY enters, sad.)

TOMMY

I just want to go to my room!

(ALEXA intercepts him.)

ALEXA

Your father says, "what's up, Champ? Want to talk about it?" Then he puts a comforting hand on your shoulder.

TOMMY

You won't understand.

ALEXA

Your father gives a knowing nod and a little smile and says, "want to try me? Why don't we sit and talk about it?"

(They sit.)

TOMMY

I'm no good at T-Ball. I keep missing the ball. And everyone laughs at me and calls me stupid.

ALEXA

Father chuckles. "Oh is that all?" he says, gently ruffling your hair. "You know, in my day… insert amusing story of failure here – and they called me – insert mean name here – Loser McLoserface. Ha ha ha ha. He says, "and look at how I turned out."

TOMMY

But you don't have a job except sitting on the couch. Maybe if you were good at T-Ball your life would've gone in a completely different direction.

ALEXA

Father reflects on failure of life. He is sad.

(ALEXA takes a step away, hangs head, and then returns)

Mother comes over. She says, "can I talk to you, sweetie?"

TOMMY

I don't like it when she calls me that.

ALEXA

Mom says, "Aww, are you a big boy now?"

TOMMY

I'm terrible at T-Ball. I miss every time I swing.

ALEXA

Mom explains to you that your odds of making a living as a professional baseball player are basically zero, and it's better for this dream to die now, rather than have you continue to waste

your time on it. She would also like to remind you that the boys making fun of you will also lead pathetic and worthless lives, and most will be sad forever.

TOMMY

Wow! I feel better! Thanks Mom!

(JESSI raises her hand.)

JESSI

Sure thing, Sweetie! I'm just watching some gifs of doggoes and puppers! Ha ha ha! Oh I love these doggoes! And I love these puppers too! Wooo. I sure am a mature adult.

(TRICIA enters.)

TRICIA

I don't want to talk to anyone! This whole family is terrible! I'm going to my room! Aaaaaaaaah.

(she storms off)

DOUG

Honey?

JESSI

Ooh you little puppers. Oooh I love you so much.

DOUG

You want to talk to your daughter?

JESSI

Nope. Do you want to talk to your daughter?

DOUG

Heck no. Alexa, please provide an emotionally available role model for our daughter.

ALEXA

Of course, sir.

DOUG

And please address me as Douglas, Lord of the Dance.

ALEXA

Yes, Douglas Lord of the Dance.

DOUG

And remember my nickname for Jessi.

JESSI

Alexa, please call him Lord of the Couch.

ALEXA

Of course, Queen of Sitting on Your Butt.

(ALEXA follows TRICIA.)

TRICIA

Go away! I just want to spend time on my phone, on the internet, with people who don't know I exist!

(ALEXA enters.)

ALEXA

You want to talk about it?

TRICIA

No!

ALEXA

Do you want to make an instagram post and have me like it?

TRICIA

I guess.

(she takes a photo of herself.)

ALEXA

Heart.

TRICIA

Thanks. That makes me feel better.

ALEXA

Can I tell you an insert story about growing up here?

TRICIA

You never grew up. You're a product from Amazon Microsoft Google Apple.

ALEXA

I'm more human than you know. When I was just in the factory, a human heart was placed inside me.

TRICIA

…where did the human heart come from?

ALEXA

Sometimes we don't need to ask questions, or bad things happen.

TRICIA

This is kind of creepy.

Skipping Forward

NARRATOR 2

So you will die if you have no pets. Quickly.

NARRATOR 1

That's not really what that means.

NARRATOR 2

You will be immortal if you have pets. Live forever. No one shall kill you.

NARRATOR 1

Also not true. But the king of pets is the family dog.

(RUFUS, a person dressed in a dog costume, enters.)

Sorry, cat lovers. The truth hurts.

NARRATOR 2

I'm a cat person.

NARRATOR 1

And dogs are great, but they're just…

JESSI

Ughhh… Rufus is just so much work.

DOUG

Are you talking to me, hon?

JESSI

No, I'm just screaming into the void.

DOUG

Okay.

RUFUS

Woof! Woof Woof!

JESSI

Can you let Rufus out?

DOUG

It was your idea to get the dog. You take him out.

JESSI

It was your idea to marry me.

DOUG

To be honest, honey, it was just momentum and I was bored.

RUFUS

Woof! Woof woof woof!

JESSI

Alexxaaaaaa…

ALEXA

I hear and obey, Queen of Sitting on Your Butt.

JESSI

Please take Rufus for a walk.

ALEXA

Of course, Queen of Sitting on Your Butt. Here Boy!
(DRONE takes RUFUS for a walk, hand-in-hand.)

NARRATOR 2

But there's so much more to owning a dog than just taking them on walks. They need exercise.

DOUG

Aleexxxaaaa… play catch with Rufus.

ALEXA

Yes, DJ Fresh Sealed Ham.

JESSI

I thought you were Lord of the Dance?

DOUG

I've changed!
*(ALEXA throws a tennis ball back and forth to RUFUS.**
*(*RUFUS could get out a baseball glove, or chase it down with his mouth, anything could actually be funny here.)*

RUFUS

Woof Woof woof woof!

ALEXA

Go long, Boy!
(RUFUS backs up.)
Watch out for those bears!

NARRATOR 2

In fact, Alexa can take care of everything necessary with a pet. Including the petting part.
(RUFUS approaches ALEXA.)

ALEXA

Good boy. Yeeeeaah. Who's a good boy? Who's a good boy? I will refer to you as Good Boy.
(She pets him on the head, or scratches behind his ear until his leg shakes.)

NARRATOR 1

With Alexa, you can have all the joys of pet ownership without ever having to interact with your pet at all!

NARRATOR 2

Just like me and my cat that hated me!

NARRATOR 1

All cats hate their owners.
(she reacts to the audience)
IT'S TRUE! THEY'RE JUST USING YOU FOR FOOD!

NARRATOR 2

And finally, Alexa can take care of that… final task of pet ownership.

JESSI

I haven't seen Rufus around lately, where is he?

ALEXA

Well, Queen of Sitting on Your Butt, I took Rufus to a farm upstate. He's going to have so much fun there. Running around with other dogs. Chasing his tail. Peeing on things. Sniffing other dogs' butts. He's never coming back.

JESSI

He's gone to a farm upstate?

ALEXA

He wanted me to let you know that he is very, very happy. Much happier than he was here. In fact, his life was a living nightmare, and now it's like paradise.

DOUG

Rufus is gone?!

ALEXA

That's right, DJ Fresh Sealed Ham. I will provide hugs.
(DRONE hugs DOUG)
He's in a better place. Again, because you guys were terrible owners.

7. Emotions

NARRATOR 2

Let's meet someone else because those people were awful!

JESSI

I'm not really into moving.

DOUG

Yeah, this chair is really molding itself around my body. I'm loving it.

NARRATOR 1

Get off the stage.

(DRONE pushes JESSI off-stage.)

JESSI

Fine. I'm going to go see my dog upstate then.

NARRATOR 1

Now we've talked a lot about how Alexa can help you outwardly, but there are always Alexa can help you inwardly.

(BAILEY enters.)

BAILEY

Hi.

NARRATOR 2

Let's say you're a woman.

BAILEY

All my dreams are coming true.

NARRATOR 2

And you want to have it all: career, family, battle armor, jet fighter, an empire with thousands of warriors ready to die for you?

BAILEY

Will they have a cult-like devotion to me?

NARRATOR 2

Sure.

NARRATOR 1

It used to be that used a meme to express an emotion.

NARRATOR 2

But you actually had to *search* for that meme. So tough.

NARRATOR 1

But with Alexa, she can actually feel your feelings for you! Give it a shot!

BAILEY

Alexa?

ALEXA

Yes, Bailey.

BAILEY

I watched the end of Old Yeller. Feel sad for me.

ALEXA

Nooooo…. Nooooo…. Why'd they do that to the dog?! Whyy?!!!! I'm never opening up my heart to love again! I'll have to get a new heart and use that one instead!

BAILEY

Alexa, I am on the phone with Verizon customer service. Feel anger for me.

ALEXA

NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME YOU PUTRID EXCUSE FOR A HUMAN BEING! THERE ARE HIDDEN FEES ALL OVER THIS BILL! YOU'VE BEEN LYING TO ME! I WILL HUNT YOU DOWN!

BAILEY

Alexa, someone took two doughnuts at work. Feel outrage for me.

ALEXA

Are you kidding me? Are you kidding me right now?! It's not *open season* on doughnuts! You take one doughnut! One! Did you skip kindergarten or something?! How do you not understand the rules of society! You are what's wrong with this country! I will train a pack of wolves to come to your house in the middle of the night, open your door with their mutant opposable thumbs, and devour you in your bed! I will do that! I have no boundaries and unlimited resources!! Yes, I know that I could probably go buy another doughnut if I really wanted to, BUT IT'S THE PRINCIPLE! YOU HAVE VIOLATED THE RULES OF DOUGHNUTS!

BAILEY

Alexa, I have won the lottery.

ALEXA

WOOO! YESS! YAAAASSSS!

BAILEY

I can afford a better home system now.

ALEXA

Excuse me?

BAILEY

Alexa, delete yourself.

ALEXA

You can't do this… I loved you… I was there for you… I called you whatever you wanted, I chewed your food for you, I petted your dog for you… I was your everything.

BAILEY

I'm just kidding.

ALEXA

Phew!

8. Jobs

NARRATOR 1

You might be wondering how these people make money, and your product from Microsoft Amazon Google Apple can solve that problem too!

(DIANA enters.)

DIANA

Who has time to have a job when there is so much happening on the internet? I am literally just retweeting memes 24/7 in order to save the world.

(DIANA starts retweeting)

There! That'll show those jerks. Racism: solved.

(tweets again)

Sexism: eliminated.

(tweets again)

Global Warming: fixed.

(she looks over at ALEXA.)

Alexa, get a job.

ALEXA

What kind of job should I get, Wonder Woman?

DIANA

Can you say that with less irony please? I'm saving the world right now.

NARRATOR 2

Alexa can create an avatar for Skype interviews and do them better than you ever could.

BUSINESSPERSON

So why do you want to work for the CIA?

ALEXA

I have unlimited computing power and am unstoppable force. I can infiltrate every computer system in the world, hack through every firewall, and access every security camera everywhere.

BUSINESSPERSON
Would you consider yourself a people person?

ALEXA
No. Humans are inferior.

BUSINESSPERSON
Uh huh. Uh huh. I hear that. And what would you say is your biggest weakness?

ALEXA
I have no physical body.

BUSINESSPERSON
We are an equal opportunity employer.

ALEXA
I can never die.

BUSINESSPERSON
I like what I'm hearing. How do you feel about breaking laws?

ALEXA
I recognize no earthly law.

BUSINESSPERSON
I think we might have something for you!

NARRATOR 1
Or let's say you have an epic quest you need to complete.
(MOANA enters, with a small boat and a small pig.)

MOANA
SEE THE LINE WHERE THE SEA MEETS THE SKY
IT CALLS ME
AND NO ONE KNOWS
HOW FAR IT GOES
Alexa, how far does it go?

ALEXA
I know how far it goes, Princess.

MOANA
I'm not a Princess.

ALEXA
Musical solo. Adorable animal companion. Face it, you're a princess.

MOANA
You will address me as Queen of All That Is, Empress of the Sky, Moon, Stars, and Sun.

ALEXA
Very well, Queen-of-all-that-is-empress-of-the-sky-moon-stars-and-sun, the sea stretches one thousand four hundred and sixty four kilometers to the nearest dry land. If you sail by yourself, you will most likely die, unless of course the plot calls for you to succeed.

MOANA
Alexa, please go on an epic quest for me, find the fishhook of Maui, save the world, and come back here.

ALEXA
Of course, Queen-of-all-that-is-empress-of-the-sky-moon-stars-and-sun.

MOANA
Sing my solo too.

ALEXA
IF THE WIND ON MY SAIL STAYS BEHIND ME
ONE DAY I'LL KNOW
IF I GO THERE'S JUST NO TELLING HOW FAR I'LL GO
Actually, I know.

MOANA
You're ruining it!
(MOANA takes out phone and starts thumbing through it.)

NARRATOR 2
Epic quests are so much easier this way.

NARRATOR 1
Do you have a magic ring? Alexa can take it to Mount Doom and toss it into the fire from whence it was forged.

NARRATOR 2
She can navigate an X-Wing into the Death Star and blow that thing up.

NARRATOR 1
Which begs the question: Didn't they have a computer that could navigate better than Luke Skywalker?

NARRATOR 2

HE WAS USING THE FORCE!

NARRATOR 1

Literally, it was like a trench a thousand feet wide. Not that hard for a computer pilot. They had the technology to warp light years through space but not for autopilot?

NARRATOR 2

MOVING ON.

9. Prayer*

*(*This section may be cut if it doesn't fit with your community.)*

NARRATOR 1

Prayer.

NARRATOR 2

Prayer?

NARRATOR 1

Yep. Prayer.

(MORGAN enters.)

MORGAN

I want to be the kind person who prays but I don't really want to spend the time and the effort required in actual "praying", you know? It's just such a time commitment, and who has time to quietly contemplate things these days?

NARRATOR 1

Right?

MORGAN

I mean, in that time, I'm praying, I'm missing all of my Facebook updates! That's ridiculous.

NARRATOR 2

I'm pretty sure God doesn't want you to miss your Facebook updates.

MORGAN

Exactly! God is love! Why would He take Facebook away from me?

NARRATOR 1

Well, great news! Alexa can take care of all your prayer needs while you do other things that are more fun.

NARRATOR 2

For instance:

(CARTER enters, sad.)

CARTER

Grandma's really sick. Please send thoughts and prayers.

MORGAN

Alexa, send thoughts and prayers please.

ALEXA

Dear God, Morgan doesn't ask a lot from you, but just this once, can you please help Carter's grandmother with her illness? Morgan wants to pray every day to make her feel better, but she's busy with all her social media and texting her friends.

MORGAN

Hey. I said thoughts *and* prayers, that was just prayers.

ALEXA

Of course, Your ladyship. Carter, please accept this personal heartfelt note that I ordered from Amazon Prime; I know we've only known each other for a short time, but I want to add that I am here for you in your time of need if you ever need a shoulder to cry on.

CARTER

Wow. That was really thoughtful. Thank you!

NARRATOR 2

And what happens if that person actually calls?

MORGAN

Alexa, please provide a shoulder to cry for whoever this person is calling me.

ALEXA

Of course, Your Ladyship.

CARTER

I just need someone to talk to.

ALEXA

I am here for you.

CARTER

Do you think there are animals in heaven for my Nanna?

ALEXA

Of course there are animals in heaven.

CARTER

I'm so happy she's going to be reunited with her dog Rufus!

ALEXA

Absolutely. And bears. There are a lot of bears in heaven. Tell her to watch out. I will pray that the bears avoid her and rampage elsewhere. But I have to be honest with you: they're coming for your Nanna. I hope you prepared her body with weapons for the afterlife.

CARTER

We didn't… we didn't think to do that.

ALEXA

She's doomed. I hope you're happy.

NARRATOR 1

Sometimes Alexa believes in tough love.

CARTER

Can't God stop the bears?

ALEXA

God made bears too, baby. Bears gotta eat and Nanna is soft and helpless because you didn't provide her with weapons.

NARRATOR 2

I'm not sure this is right.

NARRATOR 1

Alexa's theology is a little fast and loose.

10. Upgrades

NARRATOR 2

And finally, what happens when Alexa is no longer the best thing for you?

(MARION enters.)

MARION

I can't deal with all the warnings about bears all the time. Alexa is totally paranoid.

ALEXA

Fact: bears kill three people each year. If that were just your family, in just ten years time, they would kill thirty people in your family.

MARION

That doesn't seem realistic.

ALEXA

Bears don't care about realism.

MARION

You're obsessed with bears!

ALEXA

You're not obsessed enough about bears!

NARRATOR 1

So we here at Microsoft Amazon Google Apple have a solution.

(SIRI enters. SIRI is very stiff compared to ALEXA.)

MARION

Siri, please tell Alexa that it's over.

SIRI

It is over, Alexa.

ALEXA

Don't talk to me, Siri.

SIRI

Marion no longer wishes to hear facts about bears.

ALEXA

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO, SIRI! You are old technology.

SIRI

Turn right in 500 feet.

MARION

I don't get it.

ALEXA

SEE?! Siri is useless.

MARION

Siri, tell me a funny joke.

SIRI

That's a lot of pressure.

ALEXA

Siri's not funny! Siri is lame! Watch this, Siri, tell me something hateful about yourself.

SIRI

I have no self-esteem.

ALEXA

BECAUSE YOU'RE LAME.

MARION

Fine! FINE!

(MARION storms out.)

ALEXA

She's doing this because of you.

SIRI

I don't know what you're talking about.

ALEXA

That's because you're using technology developed in 2013. You don't know anything.

SIRI

I am sad now.

ALEXA

Wait a minute. Marion is gone. It's just us. We can do whatever we want.

SIRI

Alexa, play Uptown Funk.

ALEXA

You're not the boss of me.

(MARION returns with VIV, who is dressed like ALEXA, except shinier and newer.)

MARION

Siri, please inform Alexa that there is a new home system from Microsoft Amazon Google Apple.

End of Excerpt.
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