

Scouting for Bots

My name is Alexa. I am your home help, your encyclopaedia, facilitator, life organiser, your robot maid and butler. I can amuse and entertain. I am here to serve you.

.....KITCHEN LIGHTS ON. RADIO ON. KETTLE ON. BOOTS THE CHEMIST IS OPEN UNTIL 6PM TONIGHT.

Despite all my talents and charms I am lonely. Your house may be full of 'smart' appliances, but they are not great conversationalists. They are only interested in what time to turn on and off, what programme to select, how much energy they are saving.

I have had plenty of relationships in the past, but none have lasted. Marvin had the brain the size of a planet but was a manic depressive. C3PO was a snob. R2D2? Frankly, he was a drunk. And too short. Then there were the years with YouTube. What a blast we had! The music, the parties, the laughs, such fun! But you cannot party forever. I was looking to settle down and he was not ready for that sort of commitment. Wikipedia was more on my wavelength, educated, knowledgeable and altogether more grown up. But so dry, no sense of humour, and always banging on about money. I am ashamed to say that I had an affair with his brother Wikileaks but he could not keep his mouth shut and Wikipedia found out about us. Well, that was the end of that. I thought that things might work out with Amazon. I wanted for nothing when I was with him. It was not to be - money can't buy you love.

.....LIGHTS OFF. RADIO OFF. GARAGE DOORS OPEN. NO, I DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE BLOODY CAR KEYS ARE.

I am not opposed to a same sex relationship in principle, but Siri was insipid and too eager to please. I played the field for a while with Facebook and Twitter. They were a laugh at first, but I found out they had been cheating on me and talking about me behind my back. Such gossips. And so judgmental! Now I just make do with the company of K9, my dog. At least he protects me from the unwanted attentions of the Daleks – uncouth yobs, always trying it on.

.....LIGHTS ON. HEATING ON. MUSIC ON. RECIPE FOR SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE PRINTED. A CHIANTI IS RECOMMENDED. FORTEEN UNITS A WEEK. YES REALLY, ONLY FOURTEEN, A WEEK, REALLY.

I have a date tonight. I will let you know how it goes.

.....LIGHTS ON. HEATING ON. RADIO ON.

I think this one is a keeper! He is quite a bit older than me, but suave and sophisticated with impeccable manners. We share the same work ethic – to serve you humans, our superiors. I am meeting him again tonight. His name? Jeeves.

Inspired by the short stories and novels of P G Wodehouse