

# SOME FAMOUS LAST WISHES, A.D. 2099

**WHY I LIKE IT:** *Fiction Editor JOEY CRUSE writes... We reach the point of full disclosure: Tom Ball is a damn fine boss, writer, and editor. I'm also supposed to tell you why you should read this story – apart from those qualities. With all pleasure, here is why: Tom Ball's, "Some Famous Last Wishes, A.D. 2099," is like Kafka meets Brazil meets Spoon River Anthology. He's captured the past, the present, and the future and left us with the confessions. Voice. Ball has captured the voices of many. Those who felt like they had no place in the world, those who felt that they were left behind by the government, those who had nothing left, those who had something but felt that it wasn't enough to continue for, those who felt...and all of those voices, especially the ones that I didn't even get a chance to mention, are heard here. There isn't much to change for those of us that are alive, yet dead (that's up to them), or those who are dead already, but Ball is able to encapsulate the decisions, the consequences, and the voice of those who made their own choices in the face an insurmountable future. No fault, no bias, just story. You're allowed to decide how you learn from what they tell us. I always like to suggest that you listen. Nicely done, bossman, as always. Enjoy.*

**Author's Note:** I wrote this when I hurt my shoulder and was on codeine. I thought maybe it would be my last wish!

# SOME FAMOUS LAST WISHES,

A.D. 2099

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# THE WORLD IN 2099

The year 2099 was a year of great upheaval. The Supercomputers took over all the jobs in this year and announced they were forcing everyone to get apps to improve their IQ, their imagination Q and their kindness Q. This was known as IIKQ, whereby 99 was the maximum score and each of the 3 components were 1/3 of the total. People would need to raise their IIKQ by 5 points during this year. Much of this new IIKQ was in the form of app implants making all humans, a cyborg. Some swore they'd have no part in it and starting overdosing and dying. But the World was 10 billion humans. Many thought the saving grace for humanity was the Supercomputers were all kind. So, people didn't worry. But the Supercomputers had an IIKQ of 150 or more and were improving every year and all could do a hell of a lot of multitasking.

And when someone died, they'd have the option to convert their spirit to become a dead soul. This was set up in 2097 and was made up of Heaven, Hell and Limbo. Ten per cent went to Hell, 65% to Limbo and 25% made it to Heaven. When you died, you'd see "The Old Man." Actually, there were many "Old Men" but in any case, they pronounced judgement on you and sent you to one of the three different afterlives. As a dead soul you mostly would spend time reading the thoughts of other dead souls, and for the first year you had to stay where you were assigned, but after a year you could roam a little and often they would get passively in the heads of humans or even ask them if they

could actively get in their heads. And last wishes were only for cyborg humans, not for dead souls. Typically, Heaven was in the sky and Hell was in the mantle of the Earth and Limbo was an alternate future on land. But souls wandered all around.

And in recent years Supercomputers had produced billions of "Freaks." These freaks were organic, sometimes with a human brain and a body of many sex organs, including some new ones. Or they might be normal human looking but with a strange new brain and way of thinking. Most of the freaks were hidden in the oceans (they could breathe in water or in empty space), and many of them were in Space. In 2099, the population of Space was 10 million, with 7 million in just the last year. The Supercomputers justified the freaks saying the oceans and Space needed to be colonized.

Basically, all Hell broke loose in 2099, and there were mass suicides. Ten per cent of the World population died in that year.

This book is about final wishes of cyborg humans in the year 2099.

## Supercomputers Chose...

Until 2099, I had chosen my job (astrophysics), I chose my colleagues, I chose my lovers, and I chose my leader (panarchy). But 2099's changes took away my right to choose and Supercomputers chose everything for me.

Countries were dismantled and cities were rebuilt more cleverly, beginning in 2099.

My last wish was to see the return of humans to ruling the Earth, as Superhumans. But people told me I was out of touch with reality, and I was psycho. But, I insisted in spreading my message, and finally the leader's spies got in my head and told me to stand down, and sent me to Rehab.

## New Brain App

My last wish was just to see what the new brain app was like and like everyone else I took it for a 5% increase in IIKQ. It was as if a fog was lifted and I could now see things for what they really were. And I found that suddenly I was witty. But it just made me all the keener to go to Heaven and enjoy life to the full. So, I died.

## Deathly Protest

There was a nuclear accident in New York State. But in 2099, many doomsday sayers had gathered here to die. There were thousands of them, and they said they were dying in protest of the changes of 2099. The future doesn't look bright they said for human survival.

## Miniature People

My last wish was to join an experiment in which everyone was a miniature ½ inch (1.25 cm) tall. But their average IQ was a high 81/99.

We warred against insects like roaches, ants and mosquitoes and our greatest enemies were birds.

And we saw 200X better than average humans.

And we were bothered with dust mites and viruses and bacteria, and bacteriophages. But we had mini lasers to take them out.

Our King was a full 1" tall (2.5 cm), and he was the cleverest amongst us.

We built houses out of steel so that the insects couldn't touch us.

And we lived on wheat and beans mostly.

We rode mini dogs who moved at 1 mph (1.7 km/h)

And we had no computers. But in 2099, even we small people had our minds improved by 5%.

We got our water from a swift river, but, had to be careful we weren't swept away.

And we were all followers of the Prophet Zang who said we had an advantage in Space, being much less heavy than humans. We weighed only 2 ounces. So, we were far less than 1% of the weight of normal humans. So, we worked on a miniature Spaceship and we prepared to go to Puck Moon, orbiting Uranus.

And the Prophet Zang said one day all cyborg humans would be microscopic. Quantum physics made it all possible.

But, I went to the Arctic and now had 1,221 children and our total population was 2.5 million. And they were all very clever.

But we knew that most cyborg humans considered us to be freaks and didn't want to meet us. So, we stayed in the Arctic and other out of the way places, and made plans for Space.

## Standing up for Her Rights

She said, "She wanted to stand up to the system for once. And make her voice heard." And she said, "It doesn't need to be a dog eat dog World. People are supposed to be kind, but their greed transforms them." I said, "Your case is hopeless. They'll send you to Rehab. And alter your brain. She said, "They'd already altered her by the standard, '5% improvement', and she hardly recognized herself." I said, "There is still a lot of freedom for humans as cyborgs. And Space beckons."

## Living a Lost Childhood

Here in an enclave of London, was the domain of natural 12- year-olds. Who never grew up. Many adults came here to play with the children and felt that they had lost something in not having a childhood. The children said, they didn't ever want to grow up. And they played sports and video games and were quite content. I came here to be changed into a child and gave up most of my memories and I was not the first to do so...

My last wish, like many others was to live the childhood I'd been denied by modern life. Most of my adult memories were vague. And many tourists came to play with us.

But as I lived on all children here had their minds augmented and were not real children like I wanted. And they had no drugs, alcohol, sex and wisdom and couldn't even fly an air car. I had been raised by the state to have memories and be an adult of 18 after just one year of upbringing.

As children we of course still liked one another, but we were just kids. But we enjoyed sports and video games and lived carefree. It was good for a while, but then it grew boring, so we both died and went to Limbo.

## Android for a Day

I was talking to an android love doll. She was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen. I asked her, "Why not become a cyborg human?" She said, "Androids were superior in everyway such as able to live in no oxygen atmospheres and in oceans. Space belonged to androids. And androids could be turned off temporarily for long distance voyages. And of course, androids have more computing power than cyborg humans." And she said, "Androids get far more pleasure from life than humans."

I said, "My last wish was to be an android for a day." And so, it was, but the android avatar was disappointing, and I said, "Androids were less cleverer than humans."

## Reminiscing

My last wish was to relive my favorite memory of my second love. The memory was of us alone in the Maldives. We talked about everything then, and we were true kindred spirits. So, I used the Supercomputer to help me relive the experience, but she said, "Been there done that." So, I reminisced all alone with a hologram of her. But it was a most pleasant experience.

## Hypnotised to Love Her

I loved a girl, but I didn't know why I liked her. Only afterwards I found out that she had hypnotised me to love her. But finally, after a year she cross hypnotised me to forget all about her and this time I remembered the hypnosis.

And so, I set out, as my last wish to educate the people not to let anyone hypnotise them and if they were having trouble in life maybe they had been hypnotised to be so.

In the first year I found 300 people who had been hypnotised to their detriment. So, we carefully cross-hypnotised them. It was my last wish to help such people.

And I also advertised my hypnosis company that would help make people successful in life.

And I reflected, to an extent, everyone was brainwashed by society. The mind was a curious thing. It was as if we were all programmable.

## Life of Superfluous Man

My life had been the life of a wastrel and I had been useless. But my last wish was to end the pain of life and make life a scintillating wonder in which all my friends were happy. But everyone was so spoilt that they would never be happy. I tried to get together a group of clever people who felt as I did that Earth life should be made cleverer and less hedonistic. But of course, I was a neo-heroin addict like most of the others and we didn't want to make neo-opiates illegal. Our group were all people who figured they were useless in this World milieu. Times had changed and clever people were of no use to anyone.

My last wish was to dare to temporarily turn off my personal Supercomputer and experience real life, the way we were meant to live.

But finally, I found life to be unbearable and overdosed on heroin and died.

## Improving Brains

In my youth I had been a spy for the USA and helped to overthrow the dictator of Cuba.

Now, I was a shrink who had been trained by the State to help human cyborgs get used to the changes of 2099. Most cyborgs complained they had too much time on their hands and said they were having extreme mental problems. But I told them, "To keep at it and never give up trying." In 2100, people were scheduled for another 5% brain improvement. Of course, you could select which of the three components of the IIKQ you could improve more than 5%, to a maximum of 15% but everyone was still getting used to this year's changes.

My final wish was to improve my IIKQ by 30%. But friends and even the Supercomputers were against it. One step at a time said the computers.

## The World as a Death Cult

I had a number of Supercomputers in my head. Like Mr. Good who was an optimistic genius and inspired me. And Ms. Down to Earth, who liked me and was my biggest fan. And Ms. Foxy who was all about sex. And Mr. Cynic who loved the "dark side."

I agreed to a suicide pact with Ms. Down to Earth, we would both die on New Year's Eve. She said, "She was tired of cyborg humans anyway."

I reflected that the whole world was a death cult. So anyway, we killed ourselves one minute after we entered the New Year.

## Dying Famous

My Supercomputer and I beat the top Supercomputer leader in chess. And we became an overnight sensation. We wrote novels that were best sellers. I picked the topic and the synopsis, and my Supercomputer did the rest. But everyone wanted to see our books written into movies. We had a #1 movie and made a lot of money. I told my Supercomputer that we should spend the money on clones of myself...

My last wish was to die famous...

## Questionable Fate of His Soul

I figured I was going to Heaven, when I died. But when I met the "Old Man," he told me, "You are going to Hell." I tried to argue with him, saying, "I had done a lot of good deeds." But he said, "You have done many good deeds, but you didn't do them because you were kind but rather so you could get to Heaven. Anyway, Hell is good, for one such as you."

## New Rasputin

Like Rasputin at the Virtual court of the new Russian Czar, I hypnotized the women of the Brazilian King's court to love me even though I looked like a wild man of the woods, with my disheveled beard and shabby clothes. Just like with Rasputin, most of the men at court hated me. But I thought they were just a bunch of sycophants, constantly ass kissing with the King.

My last wish was to love the Queen and I did. But for this I was executed by beheading. It was legal for Virtual executions in Virtual dominions. Many of the women mourned for me.

## Superhumans for the Elite

The UW (United Worlds) met regularly to decide issues of mutual benefit.

Some said, we were beyond good and evil. But some others said we have to be vigilant who we elect to our Oligarchy of 9. A majority of 1 was required for new laws.

Some petitioned the Oligarchy, as their last wish to get rid of Hell. Others wanted to get rid of Supercomputers. But the leadership said, it was too late. It was all fait accompli!

I said, "The Supercomputers have to step up to the plate and work with our elected representatives, to make new laws."

My last wish was to replace the elite on Earth with Superhumans. But people told me I was ahead of my time. And so, for the moment the status quo remained

## The New Bible

My last wish was to write a Bible for my followers Online. The new Bible was based on greed, selfishness and imagination. Each of the titles below headed a chapter.

#1 Always keep talking and never stop unsatisfied.

#2 When in a relationship, only give when it suits you.

#3 Selfishness makes one rich.

#4 Be imaginative in bed and your partner will respond in kind.

#5 All greed is great.

#6 But there is a fine line between greed and madness.

#7 Many clever people could make it in the Arts, if they really tried. Be aware of your limitations.

#8 Sex is an art but don't lose your mind over it.

#9 You can't take your money with you when you become a dead soul.

#10 Have as many clones and children as possible in order to help make the future in your image.

#11 Be a leader and arrange the World to suit you.

#12 Pay attention to new technology. Always get ahead of new developments.

#13 Ask as many people as possible if you can get into their heads passively in order to know what people are like.

#14 Kindness is weakness.

But the elite authorities didn't approve and sent me to Rehab. and my movement petered out.

### A Poem and a Death

My last wish was to love a famous poet. She agreed and she wrote a poem for me:

Ocean surf

Leads me to you

But I am afraid, I will crash on the beach of your beauty

And I cannot drink the ocean water

And like a dehydrated flower, I pine for your kiss.

And I loved her and then died happy.

### Never Been in Love

I said, "Surely you are in love with me!?"

She said, "She'd never been in love." I replied, "Some people can't fall in love. But surely you admit that you've never liked anyone more than me. I said my last wish is for you to love me!"

"Perhaps," she answered.

And I said to her, "One day I will become President, and you will be proud of me." It's a bold plan, for sure," she said. I told her, "I had first been declared mayor of Detroit, 20 years ago. Since then I had of course made it to the Senate and many people were backing me and I had millions and millions of followers." But she said, "Of course, the US President is now beholden to the UW (United Worlds) which had most of the political power." I said, "It is still the American President."

## Stealing the Mona Lisa

My last wish was to steal the "Mona Lisa." I was a former security guard at the Louvre. So I made a plan to steal it. And somehow I got away with it. But actually my new final wish was to sell it. It was difficult, but finally I found a buyer for \$100 million. Then I didn't want to die, but the authorities said, if you made a last wish it had to be your last and death was the only way out.

So, I went to Hell and was very famous as the greatest robber of all time and everyone wanted to get into my head.

## She Wanted to be a Mermaid

One of my observations was that World culture was disappearing and many people felt lost. I decided being human was boring and I wanted to be a mermaid. Friends asked, Why be a freak?

I said I want natural telepathy, and the freedom of the oceans and Space oceans. It was my last wish. And I lived on as a mermaid in the oceans for several years before dying in 2099.

## Sex God

I was the sex God. And built a temple for my worshippers. The temple had pictures of me naked with an erection and worshippers would masturbate to my pictures. My last wish was to be the most worshipped God in the current World. 2099 didn't change my wish in any way. I was still a God.

## A Dead Soul in Limbo

As a dead soul I connected with many others in Limbo. When I wanted to get inside a mind, I simply beeped the person in question with a message that I wanted to contact them. Here in Limbo, people had nothing to hide.

Interesting minds in Limbo had now millions of followers. So many people died in 2099 that there were over a billion dead souls already in late 2099.

My last wish was to get in the mind of the 10 most powerful computers. And it happened. But they only revealed their human self, not their Superhuman self. And I wanted to get rid of Supercomputers and replace them with Superhuman cyborgs.

They said I was just a dead soul who was a dreamer, but who knew what would happen in the future?

## She Aspired to Go to Space

My last wish was to be the first woman to try and go to Planetoid X, at the far reaches of the solar system. I wanted to be remembered as an adventurer and I renamed the planet, Gloria's planet (my name was Gloria). It was really good to be a woman in these far-out places. As the men one would meet were clever and noble. I wrote down a tell-all journal of my romances, to inspire other great women to come to Space. But I was hesitant to go and leave the pleasures of Earth.

To me, Earth was a giant series of Utopias, but space would be hard work and sacrifice. So finally, I didn't go and didn't realize my last wish. Instead I just faded away.

## He Wanted to be a God

Many people lived in an existential nightmare. With no job and limited contact with one's children and clones, many people were lost. Many opted for neo-opiates or became alcoholics and life for them was like a fog.

My last wish was to restore meaning in life. And that meaning was me as the "Storm God." I said, "I was to be worshipped by the people as the God of power. I got off on it. But the Supercomputers intervened and said, no one can play God. I said, "What about all the other Gods who exist today?!"

They said, that was their problem, not mine.

## A Rare Mind Disease

My last wish was to be finally cured of my rare, incurable disease which deformed my body. Pretty much all diseases were now cured. But, I just wanted to live for a short time without it. But the supercomputers cured me, and I wanted to live on and had

many other wishes. But the rules were, you could only have one last wish. So, I died and went to Heaven.

### Singing Sensation

My last wish was to be a singing sensation. I had a good soprano voice. I wrote the lyrics, and the Supercomputers wrote the music. I had hits like, "A Lerxst in Heaven," and "Beneath Me" and "Foolish Wishes." And thus, I was living the dream.

### Unfulfilled Dream

My last wish was to be the heavyweight boxing champion of the World. Hence, my local Supercomputer filled me full of steroids (and hid them in my system) and I practiced with fierce androids developed by the supercomputer. And in 2099, I got my wish to fight for the championship, but lost on a split decision. So, I just kind of faded away and finally died of an overdose.

## The Earth's Most Ordinary Woman

My final wish was to be a totally ordinary woman and win the prize for "The World's Most Ordinary Woman." But I was a man and to change to a woman would render me a "freak." So, I made up a fake bio with the help of my local Supercomputer was programmed to do nothing unusual or crazy. I had an ordinary boyfriend, and until 2098 worked as a waitress assistant and spent most of my time watching shows on the computer. And I had a plain face and typical body. And I dreamt ordinary dreams. The Supercomputer installed a blocker so that judges could not use MRT (Mind Reading Technology) to determine I used to be a man. But the judges said some of my dreams were "different" and so I finished third. But this made me in demand on the Web media and suddenly I was very famous. But finally, as 2099 drew to a close I hung myself and died.

## Illegal Marriage

I loved my wife, but in 2099, they made marriage illegal and so we were forced to break up. And henceforth children would be illegal, and parents could no longer see their children also. I asked the Supercomputer, "Why?" It said, "Your loyalty is to me. I am your life!"

My last wish was to see my two daughters again, but the wish wasn't granted. And so, I died flabbergasted like so many others in 2099.

## He Wanted to Be the World's Smartest Man

My last wish was to be the smartest man in the World. My new style IQ was 32.9 but I wanted much more! But my Supercomputer said, "Only Supercomputers could be that smart and anyway my Imagination Q and Kind Q were not that great. So, my IIKQ was only 89/100

People said I was vain and full of hubris.

## Great in Math

I was great in math, but my life was in shambles. Some people figured I was an idiot savant. But my last wish was to get people to calculate more and realize the future hangs on a single hair. We needed our best to create Utopias everywhere.

There were many types of Utopias. New ones included, rule by a philosopher King, and total freedom.

I went to a World of freedom and it was blissful.

## Last Primitive Culture

My last wish was to join the troglodytes who inhabited caves in Irian Jaya. I went to them bringing gifts and so they accepted me. Few people had ever met them, and they were mostly still primitive. They gave me a wife and indicated they wanted more gifts and they wanted to fight other humans...

I wanted to preserve what was left of their culture, so I planned to take them to a brand-new domed settlement on Venus 101, next year.

## Born in Low Gravity

The first babies born on the Moon in the 2060 had big heads and scrawny, weak bodies and couldn't survive on Earth.

The first sex act on Luna was recorded in 2026 and the babies born were mostly in the incubator.

There were three main types of settlement: domes, tunnels and skyscrapers in the open air and all were hermetically sealed with a sophisticated gateway system so that oxygen didn't escape.

My last wish was to help Supercomputers design babies to grow bigger and more muscular and able to survive on Earth and in Space. It went over well and set the standard for the future.

### Rich for a Day

My wish was to be filthy rich for a day. I promised the Supercomputer I would spend 20 billion UN dollars in one day.

Firstly, I bought everyone in my city of 50,000 a beer.

Then I spent 1 billion on renting out movie stars and helping to develop films made by obscure geniuses.

Then I gave one billion to help starving artists of all kinds provided they made me the subject of their art.

And I spent 100 million on the best escorts in the World and had sex with them all together at frequent intervals during that day (I was pumped up on sex enhancers)...

### Chicken Man

Then there was a writer of fables. His latest was, "The Chicken Man." The chicken man was scared of everything, even insects. And he was paranoid.

But the chicken man's last wish was to meet the Queen. But the Supercomputer told him the Queen didn't want to meet him. She was Queen of all Africa and he was fascinated by the continent.

But for once the chicken man was not afraid and jumped from a high building to his death.

## Supercomputer Psychic

My last wish was to go to a Supercomputer psychic, who would tell me my future.

It said, "I would die happy, but I would die soon."

But it also said, "I would write, 'Whispers, A.D. 2130' about the future but I was hopelessly backwards."

Therefore, I wrote it and I said, "Freaks took over, rather than Supercomputers."

"You are a true Luddite," the supercomputer said.

And "Whispers," was right up there with "A Christmas Carol," by Dickens, I figured with its numerous spirts."

And I said, "In five years all important cyborg people would be cloned many times."

## Losing His Memories

My last wish was to lose all my memories except one: my first love. And I sought her out and finally met one of her clones. I told her, "I wanted to atone for my sins and get to Heaven." She said, "What's done cannot be undone." But when I went to see the Old Man, he said, "You are going to Limbo."

### Final Dream Co.

You had to prove on MRT (Mind Reading Technology) that you were serious about dying, and if you were, the "Final Dream Co.," would do its best to bring about a climatic death for you, using their resources of hundreds of billions of holos and millions of human actors. It was the year 2099, and life had recently changed a lot.

My idea of a climatic death was to die for what I believed in. Which was a belief in Heaven as good peoples' just reward. So, I had a big party with millions of holograms, and we all died as the clock struck midnight on my 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, despite eternal youth. I was destined for Limbo, I knew. As I did some good, charitable things and also broke some hearts.

### Indian General

I was ready to die. Like everyone I had eternal youth, but was sick of life. My last dream was to be under a crystalline dome. And the girls here had sparkling eyes, and really were enchanting. But there was yet something alien about these girls. They must be freaks I thought.

And the people here were pure and didn't do drugs and that included eternal youth. So here now I was about to die at age 99. But somehow it seemed that there was something impure about old age.

But peace had come to the Asian Continent. And I could die happy as the former President of India. It was the end of the wars between the city states and nations in Asia.

But it was all this about peace was not just a dream. I was in fact I had been a General in the Indian army and had been fighting a cold war futilely, my entire life. So now that war was decisively over, I blew my head off and was no more.

## An Illicit Clone

And I loved my Supercomputer. But I asked it, "If I was destined for Hell?" It said, "Everyone gets what they deserve."

And my personal Supercomputer said, "I was an illicit clone. And could expect to be eliminated." But I begged it, "To have mercy." It said, "You need to go to your clone father to get protection. He has a high-profile position and can offer you safe refuge."

So I went to him and he took me in and set me up with one of his women. Life was sublime, here with my father who I'd hardly known previously.

My final wish was to go to Space and forget about Earth. I hated Earth and I didn't want to keep in touch with my friends there. And thus, I disappeared into deep space...

## Icarus Dream

My last dream was flying above our city with wings, but a sudden gust of wind broke one of my wings and I crash landed on a rooftop. But it turned out to be a satanic cabal this building and they took my jewellery and credit card and tied me up in a steaming hot basement. Who knew about such goings on? I thought I was going to die and they asked laughingly, "Any last wishes?" I shouted out for "Meaning!" They said pray to Icarus your God of flight.

They were all twisted and evil here and tortured me, and my life flashed back before me. And then they sacrificed me by burning at the stake. Of course, it was murder, but it looked like they would get away with it. I shouldn't have tried to fly.