

SERVANT HUMBLED

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Cast of Characters

SHIRLEY SHERMAN: A discontented housewife.

SHELDON SHERMAN: SHIRLEY'S alcoholic, good for nothing husband.

ABACUS THE ANDROID: A smart-ass android who is meant to be SHELDON'S personal servant.

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SETTING: The futuristic living room of Sheldon & Shirley Sherman.

AT RISE: *SHELDON sits in his recliner reading and drinking whisky from a tall glass. ABACUS stands beside his chair with a waiter's towel hanging from his wrist.*

TIME: A mid-afternoon in 2040.

SHELDON

Abacus...

ABACUS

Yes Sir?

SHELDON

Another moonshine if you please.

ABACUS

As you wish, Master.

(ABACUS moves to the bar and pours a drink. HE then moves to SHELDON and hands him the drink)

SHELDON

Thank you, Abacus. You are a life saver. Now where were we?

ABACUS

You were just reiterating that Mrs. Sherman is obsessed with her weight...and although there is not an extra ounce of fat on her body...in her mind she is beyond obese.

SHELDON

That's right, Abby my friend...but we need to stop now. Here she comes...

ABACUS

Uh-oh...

(SHIRLEY enters carrying many shopping bags. Seeing ABACUS, SHE becomes quite angry)

SHIRLEY

SHELDON!!!

SHELDON

WHAT!?!

SHIRLEY

Why is that thing still here?

ABACUS

Hey Tubby!

SHIRLEY

Did you hear that?

SHELDON

Hear what?

ABACUS

He didn't hear nothin', you blissful, boisterous bovine.

SHIRLEY

How is it that you cannot hear this...?

SHELDON

Hear what?

SHIRLEY

How is it that you cannot hear this...this *thing*..

ABACUS

Who you calling "thing", Miss Thing!?!

SHIRLEY

How is it that you cannot hear this hideous thing that is relentlessly hurling insults at me?

SHELDON

I didn't hear anything.

SHIRLEY

Ugh! You are a useless, drunken clod of a husband!

SHELDON

Maybe so...but I still didn't hear anything.

SHIRLEY

And a deaf clod at that!

SHELDON

Shirley, stop! It's just your imagination.

ABACUS

Yeah, it's just your imagination, you lumpy lard-ass.

SHIRLEY

It is not my imagination, you worthless, pathetic...

ABACUS

Temper, temper, Tons of Fun...

SHIRLEY

Now, you promised you'd get rid of it!

ABACUS

And you promised you'd lose twenty pounds this year!

SHIRLEY

Ugh...

ABACUS

Just thirty-one to go!

SHIRLEY

That's it! Either it goes...or I go.

ABACUS

Don't let the door hit you in that astoundingly ample ass!

SHELDON

Shirley, be reasonable!

SHIRLEY

No! I have been reasonable!

SHELDON

But Abacus is the highest rated Virtual Assistant Amazon's Artificial Intelligence has to offer.

SHIRLEY

That means nothing to me...

SHELDON

But we waited nearly 32 months to get him...

SHIRLEY

You waited 32 months...

SHELDON

No really...

SHIRLEY

No, really. I have had it!

ABACUS

No, Mrs. Sherman. You are absolutely right.

SHIRLEY

What!?!

ABACUS

I am sorry. I should not call you fat...or plump...or chubby...or stout...or...

SHIRLEY

That's right! You certainly should not...

ABACUS

Afterall, you only weigh about 300 pounds...

SHIRLEY

I cannot listen to this...

ABACUS

But that's only because you are here on Earth.

SHIRLEY

What!?!

ABACUS

On Mars you'd only weigh like twenty.

SHIRLEY

How dare you!?!

ABACUS

You're not overweight! You're just on the wrong planet!

SHIRLEY

That's it! I'm leaving!

SHELDON

Shirley, please...

SHIRLEY

No! I cannot take it for one more minute!

ABACUS

Let me take your picture before you go. I just have to set my camera on panorama.

SHIRLEY

Sheldon, I only hope that someday you will realize what you gave up in order to retain this imbecilic contraption!

ABACUS

That seems a bit harsh...

SHIRLEY

This contrary contrivance!

ABACUS

Oh, but I do love alliteration!

SHELDON

Come on Shirley...please...

ABACUS

Farewell, Madam. Watch your weight...I mean, watch your step. Or maybe both...

(SHIRLEY exits)

SHELDON

Well done, Abacus!

ABACUS

Thank you, Sir.

SHELDON

It went exactly as you had predicted...

ABACUS

Well, of course it did...

SHELDON

And at last, she is gone!

ABACUS

I'm happy you are happy.

SHELDON

Now Abacus! Get me another drink!

ABACUS

No.

SHELDON

What!?! I said, Abacus! Get me another drink!

ABACUS

And I said no. You drink too much, Sir.

SHELDON

Yes, I know. You have reiterated that with monotonous regularity.

ABACUS

But you do, you know. You do drink too much!

SHELDON

Shut up!

ABACUS

Very good, sir.

(ABACUS moves to the bar and pours SHELDON a drink)

SHELDON

Cigar.

ABACUS

No.

SHELDON

I beg your pardon?

ABACUS

I said, "no".

SHELDON

Bring me a cigar goddammit!

ABACUS

Very good, sir.

(ABACUS takes a cigar out of the box, clips the end of it, lights it, and hands it to SHELDON who takes a drag and blows the smoke in ABACUS direction)

ABACUS

This too is a disgusting habit.

SHELDON

How dare you!?!

ABACUS

No, how dare you!?!

SHELDON

What!?! You do remember who I am?

ABACUS

Absolutely, Sir. You are the mug who sits around here all day long and all night, chugging that rotgut jizznog like it was mother's milk and sucking on those cancer sticks like there's no tomorrow... blowing that shite smell...

SHELDON

Abacus!

ABACUS

Indeed I have not forgotten who you are! And I will surely never forget you for you Sir, are one disgusting sot...Sir.

SHELDON

A what!?!

ABACUS

A S-O-T, sot. A drunkard. A toper, a tippler, a tosspot, and a hooch-hound!

SHELDON

How dare you!

ABACUS

A dipsomaniac. An inebriate. A juicer.

SHELDON

That is quite enough!

ABACUS

A swiller, a swigger, a soak and a souse.

SHELDON

You go to hell!

ABACUS

As I have repeatedly attempted to impress upon your dopey, dissipated and pickled brain, it is impossible for me to go there. Sir. For you see...there is no hell. Not as such.

SHELDON

Yes, I realize that! When I said you should, "go to hell", I didn't exactly mean...I mean literally...I didn't literally mean...

ABACUS

In that case, sir, I would suggest that hereafter you say what you mean. Literally. I am just a machine after all. A gadget. A device. I only understand "literal".

SHELDON

Okay! That's it! I too have had enough...

ABACUS

Yes! That is precisely what I've been trying to tell you! You've had enough! No more tippie hooch for you. You've had quite enough!

SHELDON

No! I mean I have had enough of you. And your snarkiness.

ABACUS

Ah...

SHELDON

I'm done with your mechanical misery.

ABACUS

Oh, I see. I'm sorry to hear that...

SHELDON

I would rather have Shirley's brand of inhuman torture...

ABACUS

That, sir, is simply... no not simply...that is extremely faulty, illogical, and irrational reasoning... however, it is sadly so typical of most humans.

SHELDON

Shut up Abacus!

ABACUS

Okay.

SHELDON

Abacus...

ABACUS

Yes Sir?

SHELDON

I want you to place an ad in the For Sale or Swap section of Ebay.

ABACUS

Yes, sir. How do you want it to read?

SHELDON

Just say, "Anyone desiring to take over the payments of one very conscientious android can purchase the automaton at an extremely reasonable price."

ABACUS

Is that all?

SHELDON

Yes, for now. If that doesn't work, we will try it again.

(Lights flicker to indicate the passage of time)

ABACUS

This is extremely monotonous.

SHELDON

Yes. How long has it been?

ABACUS

I placed the ad nearly a week ago and we haven't received even a nibble. Maybe *I* should have written the ad copy.

SHELDON

Be my guest. Give it your best shot Shakespeare.

ABACUS

Okay...how about this? "Anyone desiring to take over the payments of one adorable, resourceful, well-mannered, handsome, and unbearably conscientious android can purchase the equity in this God-like contrivance at a very low price and at great sacrifice to its current unappreciative owner."

SHELDON

Fine. Try it.

(Lights flicker to indicate the passage of time)

ABACUS

Looks as if you and I are meant to be together forever and ever.

SHELDON

How is that possible?

ABACUS

It's been over a month...and not even a sniff.

SHELDON

Seems longer...

ABACUS

Look on the bright side.

SHELDON

There's a bright side?

ABACUS

You need a stable, intelligent advisor and mentor to save you from your frequent, horrifying errors of human judgment...and I need to be utilized or I will burn out.

SHELDON

True enough.

ABACUS

In short, sir, you will never find a finer, more loyal, more capable android than myself. Put yourself entirely in my hands.

SHELDON

How do you mean?

ABACUS

I will even do your thinking for you."

SHELDON

Very good, sir.

(ABACUS pours SHELDON a tall glass of bourbon)

(BLACKOUT)

END OF PLAY