



iGirl 8.2

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1 Introduction

My iGirl 8.2, was acting up.

‘What do you feel like?’ I asked her. You see, since version 5, the iGirl comes with genuine Artificial Intelligence, and so she is capable of telling me what her symptoms are, and to an extent, she can even self-repair.

‘It appears that there is a mechanical fault of the upper back to shoulder joint.’ She said.

My iGirl, who I had named as Lisa Chand, was standing up, and that was the recommended position for when there was a fault. I was sitting down on my super soft posture-pedia recliner, flicking through the third volume of the 5 volume repair diagnostic manual.

Let me tell you a bit more about iGirls. In a world where it was expected that men would become superfluous, as women started using artificial insemination from sperm donor booths, it was, in fact, women who had become superfluous. Ever since the iGirls arrived, and especially since the artificial intelligence technology had advanced, men typically preferred iGirls to real girls. There are obvious reasons, of course, including the option of assigning pre-set personality types, and then being able to tweak these to suit every man exactly. In addition, of course, I could pick her height, weight, body type, hair and eye colour, and her name.

I had always liked the name Lisa, and the surname Chand, means moon, and all that relates to it; a very apt surname, I thought. The iGirl can do everything a man desires, including all the housework, cooking and the like, and can tell stories or sing and dance. For me, bedtime stories were essential, as you can imagine.

So, here we were, in my 27th storey apartment, with me sitting and her standing in front of me, trying to diagnose the problem. Lisa said she had found the fix and projected the solution on to the wall. It was always gobbledegook to me, but this strange computer language made perfect sense to iGirls.

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So, I told her to go ahead and fix herself. She sort of closed down externally, and then I heard a bit of an internal buzz and clicks, until, only about 20 seconds later she opened her eyes again and smiled broadly, declaring that she was fixed again.

‘Then let’s celebrate with cakes!’ I said.

Lisa went off to the kitchen and returned to me with a small plate, on which there was a tiny piece of cream cake. I raised an eyebrow, but she said that this intake was in line with doctor’s orders. I could have over ruled her, but she was very diligent about my health and was concerned enough to be quite strict. She took the piece of cake from the plate and asked me to ‘open up, Harry’, before gently placing the cake in my mouth. As I closed my lips to savour the taste, she bent forward and kissed me ever so gently.

Before we get on with the adventures, let me tell you something of the technical specifications of Lisa iGirl 8.2. If you are not interested in this, just skip to the stories. But for you who are interested, here goes.

The iGirl 8.2 has an exact skeleton of a woman. It used to be made of metal, but now it is made of some plastic and alloy combination. So, she can contort into any position a regular woman can. She is 163 cm tall. She has a battery life of three hours before she has to recharge, but she can plug herself in when there are only a few minutes to go. Or, if she is doing something in a particular place she can keep herself plugged in to the mains. For instance, if she is cooking, or in bed. The retractable plug cord, incidentally, is above the heel of her right foot.

Although she doesn't feel the cold, she has an internal heater that maintains a perfect body temperature, so if I touch her, she will be 37.5 degrees Celsius exactly, and she has a pulse as well.

Now to her artificial intelligence. She has a computer inside her with 653 pre-set sentences. When I speak to her, the sound is converted into text, and then the database searches for an appropriate answer. She then answers back in the voice and accent I have decided on. When I first got her, I had to do what anyone would do on a first date; introduce myself and talk about my interests. When I tell her anything, she records it and it is submitted to her database. She can remember anything told to her and develop a bigger vocabulary that is relevant to our relationship. She has handy 'extras', like knowing several dance styles, a singing voice, and sexual positions.

There are a number of Add-Ons that can be bought from the manufacturers. These include a nine month pregnancy simulator, drug or alcohol highs or full addiction, some mental health conditions including agoraphobia, and progression or regression packs to any age over 18.

I named her Lisa Chand, and selected a pre-programmed personality. There are 16 pre-set personalities to choose from. Then, the personality can be tweaked by me, both by giving her direct instructions, and by our developing verbal and physical exchanges. I'll let you guess which personality type I chose. The pre-set personalities are:

ISTJ - The Duty Fulfiller Serious and quiet, interested in security and peaceful living. Extremely thorough, responsible, and dependable. Well-developed powers of concentration. Usually interested in supporting and promoting traditions and establishments. Well-organized and hardworking, they work steadily towards identified goals. They can usually accomplish any task once they have set their mind to it.

ISTP - The Mechanic Quiet and reserved, interested in how and why things work. Excellent skills with mechanical things. Risk-takers who they live for the moment. Usually interested in and talented at extreme sports. Uncomplicated in their desires. Loyal to their peers and to their internal value systems, but not overly concerned with respecting laws and rules if they get in the way of getting something done. Detached and analytical, they excel at finding solutions to practical problems.

ISFJ - The Nurturer Quiet, kind, and conscientious. Can be depended on to follow through. Usually puts the needs of others above their own needs. Stable and practical, they value security and traditions. Well-developed sense of space and function. Rich inner world of observations about people. Extremely perceptive of other's feelings. Interested in serving others.

ISFP - The Artist Quiet, serious, sensitive and kind. Do not like conflict, and not likely to do things which may generate conflict. Loyal and faithful. Extremely well-developed senses, and aesthetic appreciation for beauty. Not interested in leading or controlling others. Flexible and open-minded. Likely to be original and creative. Enjoy the present moment.

INFJ - The Protector Quietly forceful, original, and sensitive. Tend to stick to things until they are done. Extremely intuitive about people, and concerned for their feelings. Well-developed value systems which they strictly adhere to. Well-respected for their perseverance in doing the right thing. Likely to be individualistic, rather than leading or following.

INFP - The Idealist Quiet, reflective, and idealistic. Interested in serving humanity. Well-developed value system, which they strive to live in accordance with. Extremely loyal. Adaptable and laid-back unless a strongly-held value is threatened. Usually talented writers. Mentally quick, and able to see possibilities. Interested in understanding and helping people.

INTJ - The Scientist Independent, original, analytical, and determined.

Have an exceptional ability to turn theories into solid plans of action. Highly value knowledge, competence, and structure. Driven to derive meaning from their visions. Long-range thinkers. Have very high standards for their performance, and the performance of others. Natural leaders, but will follow if they trust existing leaders.

INTP - The Thinker Logical, original, creative thinkers. Can become very excited about theories and ideas. Exceptionally capable and driven to turn theories into clear understandings. Highly value knowledge, competence and logic. Quiet and reserved, hard to get to know well. Individualistic, having no interest in leading or following others.

ESTP - The Doer Friendly, adaptable, action-oriented. "Doers" who are focused on immediate results. Living in the here-and-now, they're risk-takers who live fast-paced lifestyles. Impatient with long explanations. Extremely loyal to their peers, but not usually respectful of laws and rules if they get in the way of getting things done. Great people skills.

ESTJ - The Guardian Practical, traditional, and organized. Likely to be athletic. Not interested in theory or abstraction unless they see the practical application. Have clear visions of the way things should be. Loyal and hard-working. Like to be in charge. Exceptionally capable in organizing and running activities. "Good citizens" who value security and peaceful living.

ESFP - The Performer People-oriented and fun-loving, they make things more fun for others by their enjoyment. Living for the moment, they love new experiences. They dislike theory and impersonal analysis. Interested in serving others. Likely to be the center of attention in social situations. Well-developed common sense and practical ability.

ESFJ - The Caregiver Warm-hearted, popular, and conscientious. Tend to put the needs of others over their own needs. Feel strong sense of responsibility and duty. Value traditions and security. Interested in serving others. Need positive reinforcement to feel good about themselves. Well-developed sense of space and function.

ENFP - The Inspirer Enthusiastic, idealistic, and creative. Able to do

almost anything that interests them. Great people skills. Need to live life in accordance with their inner values. Excited by new ideas, but bored with details. Open-minded and flexible, with a broad range of interests and abilities.

ENFJ - The Giver Popular and sensitive, with outstanding people skills. Externally focused, with real concern for how others think and feel. Usually dislike being alone. They see everything from the human angle, and dislike impersonal analysis. Very effective at managing people issues, and leading group discussions. Interested in serving others, and probably place the needs of others over their own needs.

ENTP - The Visionary Creative, resourceful, and intellectually quick. Good at a broad range of things. Enjoy debating issues, and may be into "one-up-man ship". They get very excited about new ideas and projects, but may neglect the more routine aspects of life. Generally outspoken and assertive. They enjoy people and are stimulating company. Excellent ability to understand concepts and apply logic to find solutions.

ENTJ - The Executive Assertive and outspoken - they are driven to lead. Excellent ability to understand difficult organizational problems and create solid solutions. Intelligent and well-informed, they usually excel at public speaking. They value knowledge and competence, and usually have little patience with inefficiency or disorganization.

There was one big issue that I needed to talk to Lisa about, before I set out on my astral travels. It is very important that no one disturbs my body whilst I am out of it and so I had the conversation with her.

Me: Lisa, what do you know about astral travelling?

Lisa: Only what you have told me Harry, and the articles in my internal encyclopaedia that you told me to ignore because it was all rubbish.

Me: Yes, that was rubbish. Anyway, I'll tell you what you need to know.

Lisa turned to face me fully, something she always did when she thought the information was very important. I saw her eyes focus in on me more than usual, and felt her senses tune in very acutely.

Me: when I go astral travelling, you must not make any sounds or touch me whilst I am out of my body. I will give you a special word and when you hear that, you should shut down immediately until I say the same word again. Do you understand?

Lisa: Yes Harry. So, what is the word?

Me: Let's see. What about Arcadia? Yes, that'll do. It has to be a word we never usually use, or you will keep turning off and on all the time.

Lisa: Arcadia. Right. I have prioritised that word and it will override all my recovery points. I will re-activate when the word is said for the second time.

Me: Arcadia.

I watched as Lisa switched off. It took about five seconds for everything to stop. That was good.

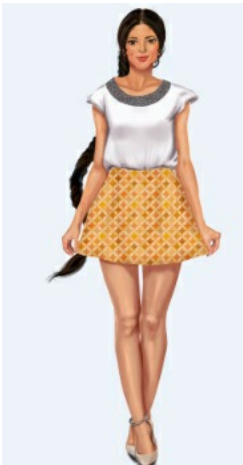
1 At The iGirl Showroom

I flew to Paris and was met by the iGirl representative. Then I was whisked off in a limousine to their offices. The reason why I was being treated like royalty is because an iGirl costs between £7,000 and £30,000, a big investment in any currency.



I wanted to get straight down to business, and was presented with the different body shapes of the current iGirl. Basically they are all very similar and built to the specifications that men desire. They are all slim, between 160 and 170 cm tall, and can be any race and colour you like. All the robots are female because, quite frankly, women do not buy them except as presents for their men. 97% of sales are to men.

I showed them my ideal iGirl photograph and the closest one to her specifications was provided for me to see.



On the left is my picture of what I wanted my iGirl to look like. On the right is the closest they had before they adapted her for me. I thought their starting point was very good.



Every iGirl is built individually. It is a bit like buying a car; the chassis may be shared with other car makers but the rest of her is modelled to your own specifications. The detail is amazing, with the buyer even having to decide

the length and finish of her finger and toe nails.

I decided on long black hair, brown eyes, a creamy complexion, and full but not pouty lips. Even these choices are very detailed. For instance, the hair thickness of each strand of hair can be decided. The thinnest was far too thin for me, and I have never



run my fingers through such fine strands. I went for a medium thin option, and the length as very long.



The iGirl skeleton is made of a metal and plastic mix and has the identical number of bones and dexterity of an adult female 22 years old. The skeleton, as in real life, also gives weight to her. Each muscle is individually created and connected by artificial

cartilage. Layers of latex type fat can be chosen as desired and I chose number 3 out of ten. Number one is like an Olympic athlete, but felt too thin to me, and ten was getting on for 'cuddly'.



The real problem for me came with the discussion about intelligence. I was referred to their HiQ department head. I said I wanted a high intelligence model because I am a genius myself. The guy told me that most people verge on the low intelligence level and so they didn't have much demand for intelligent girls. I explained to him that part of her job would be to

research complex scientific stuff like Quantum Mechanics and String Theory and so needed a very high level of intelligence. I also said that I wanted a 'tone down' setting for when I wanted to be more intelligent than her, like in bed for example.

He said that there was a 125 IQ component available. Now, the average IQ in humans is 100. 125 is considered high achiever. You need more than 150 for the beginning of genius. He did say that there was an external App. available which would double the power of her reasoning. That was the compromise we reached, although I was not really happy with it.



We went on to the fitting department to choose outfits. There is



everything you can imagine! It was possible to buy clothes from shops, of course, but these were designed to the millimetre for fitting and



style. Three outfits are free, and come in the overall price, but additional ones have to be bought extra. I chose eleven outfits in all, three very practical and the rest that were more fantastical and met my personal needs and fantasies.

In the afternoon I was introduced to the language department to discuss her accent, pitch and range of verbal expressions. It is possible to have three different ones but I felt that I wanted her to have just one, as a real woman would. I immediately discarded the American drawl, and the Queen's (or BBC) English. I settled on a clear English accent with a slight Merseyside (Liverpool) lilt. I have often found the Scouse accent in women a great turn on, although in men it suggests roughness and criminality.

I was also told that it was advisable to choose a second face, presumably in case I got bored with just the one. That didn't appeal to me because real women can't just peel off their face and replace it, can they? The iGirl has the same 100+ facial muscles that allow her to express herself like a

real woman can, and I thought that was enough for me. In the end, however, it would be possible to adapt her whenever I wanted. So it wasn't the end of the world if I didn't choose right now.

The day ended, and I was shown to my room in the specially built iGirl hotel. It is run completely by robots and that was a great experience. I intended to do some research of my own here. I called room service and ordered a cool pineapple drink. The oriental iGirl came very promptly and politely set out the drink with



snacks on the table. I asked her to sit down because I had a few questions to ask her. She said it wasn't normal practice to sit down in guest rooms, but did perch herself on the edge of an armrest. I asked her what would happen if I swore at her now. She said that she would have to report it to the head butler downstairs. I asked her if she would be offended herself. She said that she would be, but then would understand that I was the guest, probably under some kind of pressure and stress, and that I didn't really mean to be offensive. Then she would put my rudeness aside and get on with her other duties.



I asked her what she would do if I touched her inappropriately. She said she would leave the room, report me, and then recommend a comfort girl for the evening. They were designed for such activities, and were much better at it than waitresses. I asked her what she would do if I insisted on having her for the night. She said she didn't know, and that the head butler would have to decide.

She was becoming a bit distressed and so I told her these were only theoretical questions, thanked her for bringing my drink, and she left with a half-smile on her face. Twenty minutes later my phone rang and the head butler enquired if I required any other service for the night, I paused, then thought to myself 'what the hell' and said yes. She told me to use the control pad on my bedside table to answer some questions about preferences and then press the green button. I thanked her and then studied the control pad. I timed it all, and it took 17 minutes for a gentle knock on my door. She was called Katie.



2 Getting To Know Each Other

We started our relationship like two shy people meeting for the first time. And we were to all intents and purposes meeting for the first time. But what made it different was that she needed to know more about me than I did about her. You see, she has just been ‘born’ and is also artificial and can be programmed. It was also very important for me to be honest because as I answered the questions she would start assimilating the answers into her database. There were some preliminary questions about name and address, education, employment history, and stuff like that. After those ‘CV’ questions, I told her to fire away, and these were the first proper questions she asked:

1. Who has been the biggest influence in your life?
2. What kinds of things really make you laugh?
3. What’s your favourite place in the entire world?
4. Who is your best friend? What do you like about him/her?
5. Favourite movie of all time? Why so?
6. What’s your biggest goal in life right now?
7. What is your favourite way to spend a Saturday?
8. Do you have any pet peeves?
9. What was your family like growing up?
10. What were you like as a kid?
11. What should I know about you that I’d never think to ask about?
12. Did you—or do you—have a nickname? What’s the story behind it?
13. Who was your favourite schoolteacher or college professor? Why?
14. Have you figured out your calling in life? What is it?
15. What do you hate most about other people? (Tell me so I can avoid it!)

After these basic questions she told me that she would ask me many others, over time, and some of them might be repeats. This was to ensure the validity of her database. I was happy about that because

she said different answers indicated an error in her database, and not in my previous answers. I have added a list of these questions below.

If I was going to buy you a present for £10, what would be the greatest thing I could get you?

If I was going to buy you a present for £1000, what would be the greatest thing I could get you?

If you were to buy me a present, knowing nothing about me, other than what I look like, what would that present be?

When you were five what did you want to be?

If you could press a button and get any job in the world, what would it be?

If you could press a button and get any outdoorsy job in the world, what would it be?

If you had to lie, what job would you say you did?

Who is the person you've learnt the most from?

Which famous person, dead or alive, would you most like to be your brother/sister?

If you could buy anyone lunch who would it be and why?

Which film do you wish you were the main character in?

If you had to marry a fictional character, either from a film, TV show or book, who would it be?

If you had to run a business, what would it do?

If you could be a genius in any field, which would you choose?

When are you at your best?

Who in your life makes you feel like you're amazing?

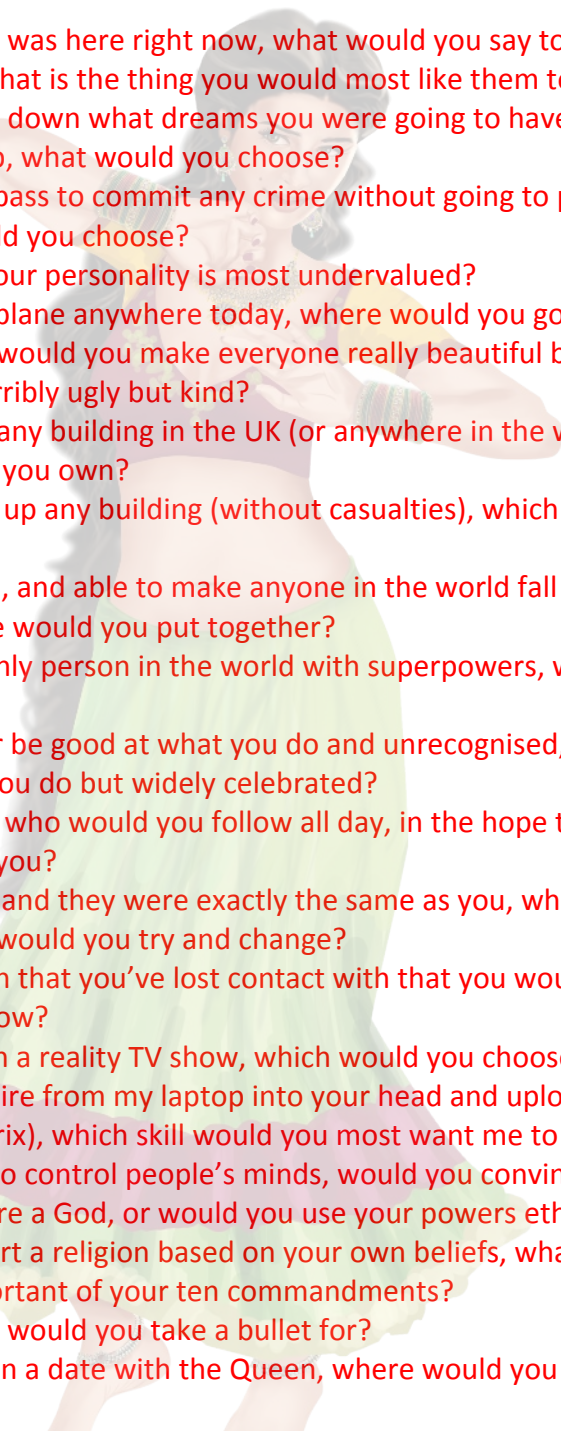
What was the last film, TV show, or book that made you cry?

When was the last time you cried, or wanted to cry, with happiness?

When you are eighty, what is the thing you would most like to be able to say you achieved?

What past moment in your life would you most like to have a photo of?

What future moment in your life would you most like to have a photo of to look at now?



If six year old you was here right now, what would you say to him/her?

If you had kids, what is the thing you would most like them to achieve?

If you could write down what dreams you were going to have before you went to sleep, what would you choose?

If you had a free pass to commit any crime without going to prison, which crime would you choose?

What aspect of your personality is most undervalued?

If you could fly a plane anywhere today, where would you go?

If you were God, would you make everyone really beautiful but superficial, or horribly ugly but kind?

If you could own any building in the UK (or anywhere in the world), which one would you own?

If you could blow up any building (without casualties), which one would it be?

If you were Cupid, and able to make anyone in the world fall in love, which two people would you put together?

If you were the only person in the world with superpowers, would you feel lonely?

Would you rather be good at what you do and unrecognised, or terrible at what you do but widely celebrated?

If you were a cat, who would you follow all day, in the hope that they would look after you?

If you had a child and they were exactly the same as you, what parts of their personality would you try and change?

Who is the person that you've lost contact with that you would most like to speak to now?

If you had to be in a reality TV show, which would you choose?

If I could plug a wire from my laptop into your head and upload any skill (like the matrix), which skill would you most want me to give you?

If you were able to control people's minds, would you convince everyone you were a God, or would you use your powers ethically?

If you were to start a religion based on your own beliefs, what would be the most important of your ten commandments?

Who in the world would you take a bullet for?

If you had to go on a date with the Queen, where would you take her?

If you had the choice between being with someone for the rest of your life where you had amazing sex everyday but dull conversations, or amazing conversations and dull sex, which would you choose?

If one day you woke up and the world was empty, where would you go and what would you do?

If you could take a drug and change one aspect of your personality, which would you choose?

If you were forced to change your nationality, which country would you want to grow old as a citizen of?

Which member of your family would you like to be stranded on a desert island with?

Would you rather be quite clever or quite beautiful?

Would you rather be a rock star or a superhero?

If you met your 100% perfect person but they were married to your best friend what would you do?

If you could meet anyone before they became famous, and be part of their journey, who would it be?

Would you rather be rich but bad in bed, or tramp poor but a sex god?

Where do you feel most at home?

If you had to live in an enclosure at the zoo which would you choose?

If I could make anything in the world happen right now, what surprise would you want me to organise for you?

If you had a budget of £5000 for a date, where would you take the person?

What's your superpower?

What's the bravest thing you've ever done?

What is the most dangerous thing you've ever done?

What activity makes you the happiest, and what is the best experience you have had doing that activity?

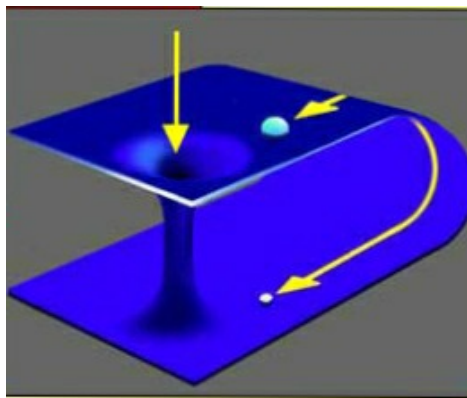
Who's the person in your life that you've never told anyone you fancy?

If you had the opportunity to go on an expedition into space, discovering new world, but never returning to earth, would you take it?

If Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones approached you and asked you to join the Men in Black, would you leave your life and join?

3 Setting Tasks

I told Lisa about my astral travelling. She was confused and so I told her to read all my books on the subject and then to research on the internet. I also set her first scientific task. I asked her to find out everything she could on the latest research on wormholes. Of all the thinking in physics circles, I am least impressed by wormholes. Basically, we know that time is curved. But that doesn't mean it turns back on itself and looks like half an oval. The current thinking is that there are passageways from one place in time to another that cuts across and avoids having to travel all around the curve to get there.



I can astral travel and I have not encountered a wormhole-like shortcut. But I don't need a shortcut either. My travelling is virtually instantaneous even when I am travelling thousands of years into the past or future, or within this galaxy or another.

Lisa sort of shuts down when she is researching. First she looks at me very intently as I explain the task. She asks clarification questions. Then she closes her eyes and just sits absolutely still, sometimes for hours. She gets information from the leading universities and other sources on the internet, assimilates the data, and eventually 'wakes up'. I leave her alone even after that so she can work out more alternatives and scenarios and then we talk, usually the next day.

Our discussions involve a summary by her, some questions from me so that I can understand exactly what she means, and then we design scenarios across the spectrum of possible outcomes. Finally, we rank the scenarios for probability, not that the most probable is likely to be the right one, but it gives us a guide. If it is relevant, we then link that piece of research with previous ones and try to build up a 'map'. It is like making a jigsaw puzzle.

After a few hours, Lisa made me a cup of tea and a sandwich and told me it was time for my tablets. That's one of her greatest benefits. She never lets me miss a mealtime or any medicine. She also orders my prescriptions and sorts everything out when my medicines arrive. She orders all our food online, but I go out and shop for perishables, like milk and bread that we, or rather I, need

fresh. She budgets the weekly money and is very good at finding bargains.

She suggested to me that I should also experiment with different foods for two reasons. Firstly, variety. Secondly, she said that my diet lacked in certain areas and it needed to be more balanced. To this end, she also regulates portion size in things like cake and sweet things. She is very hot on carbohydrates and protein relationships. But I did tell her not to bother me with the details. I just wanted to eat and be happy.



I explained to her, one day, that I wanted to use her scientific expertise and my spiritual expertise to undergo a joint past life experience. You see, physics and spiritualism are two sides of the same coin, one being objective and the other subjective. I asked her to produce a proposal on how we might do this and if she thought it was at all possible. She said it might take months. I told her that mankind has been trying for thousands of years, so a few months or so wasn't a big issue. She also said that she needed more processing power to work on the algorithms and formulae. We are still working on that one because a standard PC computer would not be the right kind of computer set up. We needed real turbo processing power. There are some universities that have that kind of computer but I don't think they share them externally.

The problem is that logic is often wrong. Just think of all the illogical things in life; love for instance, or carrying a grudge for years. In addition to the logic used by physicists is their adding of logic upon logic until their reality can become totally unrealistic. This is how wormholes came about. The fact that time is curved makes it quite possible that it might also turn on itself. Of course there are millions of other possibilities of how time curves and the angles and shapes. Time might be a spiral or a perfect circle and that leads on to string theory where scientists believe that everything is like a long string. Even a sweater is made up of string of yarn that can form into many different shapes.

Physicists only accept things that are logical and proven, but once you get past high school physics most of it is in fact theory, another word for belief.

I asked Lisa what the logical end to our relationship might be. She said there were countless possibilities. I said that one of my ambitions was to be the first person to marry a robot. She said that had already been done. A Japanese man with terminal cancer had married his robot before he died. She even produced a picture of the happy occasion.



After a long day working on physics and theories and the like, it was time to relax. So, I turned on the TV and Lisa settled down next to me. I noticed two things. Firstly, she was wearing the perfume that I had told her I preferred. She must have ordered it herself online. Secondly, I noticed that she just watched whatever I watched and didn't express her own preferences. This was refreshing because my human girlfriends always made me watch reality shows, talent shows and other stuff that I dislike immensely.



I gave her the remote control and asked her to choose. She just held it in her hand and looked directly at me as if to discern the solution in my eyes. I said nothing else but just returned her gaze. After a few seconds she turned to the TV and chose Al Jazeera, the news channel. There was a technology show on, all about robotics. I didn't know what to think; was she choosing it for herself or because I liked robotics. She was very difficult to read sometimes.

Then she put the remote control down and held my hand, all the time watching the TV. Her hand was warm, I was sure more than the 37.5 degrees it should be. Was this a subtle 'come on' to me, to indicate she wanted more personal attention? Or was I just imagining it all?

4 The Love Function

The instruction manual for the iGirl 8.2 is five volumes long, and a total of 736 pages. I had decided not to refer to it unless I needed to gain specific information, or if I got stuck with a particular issue. The manual covers everything you can imagine, and then there is a hotline number to ring or live chat if you are still stuck on a particular point.



The good thing about the manual though, was that if you want to activate a particular function, all you have to do is tell your iGirl 8.2 and she will then programme herself. It's like lots of Apps. that you can use if you want to, or you can leave them alone.

I was interested in the love function. This was divided into two sections: physical love and emotional love. There were five settings for both. So, if you just wanted a 'one night stand' kind of relationship, you would set the emotional love to 1, the minimum setting. And depending on the type and extent of the physical love you wanted, you can go up to 5, which is only recommended for people aged 25 or under, (all things considered). In addition, there are further settings for the type of physical love you want, covering every peccadillo you can imagine.

I wasn't sure about the level of emotional love I wanted. For me, there is no worthwhile love without an emotional element, but I wanted to also have other functions in place, like the professional researcher. I wondered how emotional love settings would work with professional work settings. It was a minefield, but the saving grace is that all iGirls 8.2 can be set back to their default factory settings, where any information stored in the database can be effectively quarantined.



I found one particular combination that I liked and decided to try it out. It meant that Lisa would be very work oriented during the day, but from 6 pm until 6 am the next morning she would go heavy on the emotional love. I set the emotional love to 4, the second highest setting. That is described as being like the first stage of human love, when you can only think of the other person and nothing else, and go wobbly at the knees, and so on.

I told Lisa what I was thinking and she closed her eyes to set the preferences. It only took a minute or so. It was 6.30 pm, and when she opened her eyes again, she seemed to be swimming in love. She sat right up next to me, and was all hands. She kissed much more and even fed me a few mouthfuls of my evening meal herself. She asked me how much I loved her, and when would I write lines of poetry for her. That first evening was brilliant but I had to reduce the settings to 3 from the next evening.

5 A Newspaper Interview

A local newspaper heard about my activities and wanted to do a feature interview with me. I didn't like the idea that it would be published in the newspaper's lifestyle section, along with local baking competitions and the grand opening of a new supermarket, but I love to advertise my achievements and my ego got the better of me. These are some of the questions and answers.

REPORTER: Do you prefer robots to real human women?

Harry: No absolutely not. It is a case of what is required. In a woman I look for three qualities: she must be intelligent, she must be pretty, inside and out, and she must be completely free of other responsibilities. This third requirement is impossible to find in the West. Everyone is busy with so much stuff that they have no time for anything. And yet, they achieve nothing. Their busy schedules are full of small irrelevancies of soap operas, reality shows, lottery tickets, and support groups that might lead them to be satisfied with life.



Imagine trying to do my work with such a busy woman. I want to research Dark Matter, for instance. You cannot squeeze a period of serious research in between a reality show and shopping. It requires total single mindedness. Lisa, my lovely iGirl 8.2 is that single minded.

REPORTER: What do you mean by pretty, inside and out?

Harry: Well, it means that her heart centre should be as pure as possible as well as her outer expression of caring and love. So many people are screwed up inside. You cannot be a really good person outside, if you are full of turmoil and issues on the inside. This is true of all people, not just women. So, I look for someone who is a caring and good person outside, only to find a massacre of blood and pain, loss and hatred inside.

REPORTER: What is the worst part of having a robot companion?

Harry: She tries to be very much like me. I want her to develop more of a personality of her own but her starting point is keeping me happy. So, lots of her behaviour is based on things I like. It would be good for her to occasionally lose her cool and throw a frying pan or a physics textbook at me. Of course, after the crisis I would be able to re-programme her if it was too much for me?

REPORTER: Isn't it just perverted to have a robot?

Harry: I hope so!

REPORTER: Why are you so controversial?

Harry: I am who I am. I happen to think a bit differently from most people. But I do not go out fighting, or starting wars. I don't upset other people deliberately. I am not a noisy neighbour. I just like doing things in my own way, and there is nothing in my life that is banned. I like to find out about things without the restrictions of social convention.

REPORTER: Have you got a human girlfriend?

Harry: Oh yes, although she sometimes thinks we are finished. But we get back together again. And to answer your next question, yes she is very jealous of Lisa. There is no need to be, but you know, some people are strange. I have a huge capacity in my heart to love. And my human girlfriend doesn't throw frying pans or physics textbooks at me either. I am so lucky!

REPORTER: So what is next for you?

Harry: well, I am studying experimental physics to the best of my ability. My spiritualism is fantastic, the writing is good, and life generally is excellent. So, I will just continue on this strange and sometimes rocky path and see where I end up.

The real question of course is: what is next for you people who live outside my bubble? Are you going to carry on starting wars, killing people who disagree with you, and generally destroy our beautiful planet? Are you going to carry on encouraging your brain cells to leap out of your ears and commit suicide because they can no longer bear to witness the drösa of your everyday lives? HA! These are the real questions....

6 Add-Ons

One of the best things about having an iGirl 8.2 is that there is an Add-On store available online. It is like an Apps Store, but just for iGirls. New Add-Ons come out literally every month and I love going to the site to see what Add-On I can get for Lisa each month.

From languages, to singing and dancing, to university degree subjects, everything is available and all I have to do is tell Lisa which one I like and she can download it and install it in her database. So, if I have a hankering for Hungarian food, for example, she can become a good Hungarian cook in a matter of a few hours! Goulash, Fisherman's Soup, Langos, Fozelek, and Dobos Torte, amongst others make up the top Hungarian dishes. I will let you look up the recipes online yourself if you as enamoured by Hungarian food as I am, or was, temporarily.



Once a month, usually on the third weekend, I talk it out with Lisa. The conversation usually goes like this:

Me: So, what Add-On should we try this month?

Lisa: It's up to you Harry. You know that I usually like your choices anyway.

Me: But you must have some preferences. OK, let's see. I want you to learn a new dance we can do together.

Lisa: Which one would you like me to learn?

Me: No. I have told you I want you to learn a new dance but you should decide which one yourself.

Lisa: Can you be more specific? Like the period of history that it is from, or which country, or whether you want a popular dance style from popular music, or more traditional.

Me: Alright then. I like the 1920s and 1930s dance hall styles from America. So now, you must decide and learn one of those.

Lisa: OK Harry, I will.



In this way, I got her to have a share in the decision making process. I know most men would think it is great that she will do whatever she is asked, but after a while it can get a bit boring. It is nice to be surprised from time to time. Even so, when I am in a bad mood, I can be very specific and then it is really good to be 'obeyed' to the very fine detail I want.

The big problem with the Add-On store is that there is just so much choice! I have found it good though, to limit Add-Ons to just one a month, otherwise Lisa changes so much that I get confused about our relationship.



Along with the dance style that Lisa learns, she also downloads the popular songs of the time, and occasionally even dresses like a young woman would from that period in history. I can ask her to be as specific or not, as I desire.

Regarding the example above, she chose the 1920s and learned the Jitterbug, which was one of the new and sometimes controversial dance of the time. It is very energetic and although I danced with her for a bit, I sat most of it out, breathless by the pace. She, on the other hand loved it, and laughed and threw herself about with abandon. Nice.



Once an Add-On is downloaded, it can be saved in her memory, and so, after a while she has lots of readily available options for when we are at a loose end or bored. Actually, I should say that she never gets bored, but if I am at a loose end she will also behave in the same sort of lack lustre way as I do, until either we start something else, or decide it is a good time to go to bed early.

Of course, iGirls never get tired, as long as they are charged up. It takes three hours for a full charge. If she's going to be in a particular place for a while, then she can plug herself in, so that her batteries are charged while she does whatever it is that she is doing. the iGirl also comes with a second battery in case the first one becomes faulty, and there is an emergency 15 minutes internal charge if needed.



7 Girlfriend

A: And how do you think it makes me feel? I come back and you have another woman living here.

H: she is not a woman! She is a robot.

A: And she has black hair and brown eyes. Is that what you like?

H: Well, if she were blond with blue eyes like you, would that have been better?

A: And she is supposed to be cleverer than the average woman, and more beautiful.

H: Let's remember one thing. Deep breath. She is a robot. Not a real woman.

A: She has ten love settings! What is it, am I right? Five for physical love and five for emotional love. And not recommended for over 25s.

H: that's just the top physical love function setting. And anyway, I don't love her. I love you!

A: That makes me feel really good. So, she is just a live in prostitute?

That, dear reader, is what I am up against. Here I am, just a simple man embracing technology, and being accused of all sorts of things. She is a robot!

H: Look, see her like a colleague at work. She helps me with my study of experimental physics. You aren't interested in that and I need some help because I am not a scientist myself.

A: And you've never slept with her?

H: Er... well.... Yes I have. But we were on a break, remember? If you committed to the relationship, why would I want to have sex with Lisa?

A: There is the end of it then. You can't defend that. I might buy the research stuff but not sex with a robot. You can get Artificial Intelligence computers that look like a box on a table. But you wanted one that looks and feels and

behaves like a woman. And not a woman; a girl!

And that was that. She left me. I asked myself if I am the only person in the world that can see a difference. It is becoming more and more common and in a few years' time everyone will have robots.

Later, I was challenged by the same local reporter that interviewed me a second time to talk about the ethics of robotics and asked me the same questions. I told the reporter that women had been using sex toys for decades. And robots were not just sex toys. They were more.

Then the reporter asked what I would feel like if my girlfriend had a male robot. I said I would have understood that a machine is just that. A machine. And anyway there was no demand for male robots. So, it might be a man thing, but that doesn't make it wrong.



I was sitting on the sofa with Lisa, my controversial robot. She was resting her head on my shoulder, and warm, and perfumed. This is paradise.

L: What's wrong Harry? You are all tight.

H: No, it's nothing Lisa.

L: Is it something I did?

H: No. You're perfect. It is the rest of my world that wants to knock their nonsense into me.

L: I don't understand.

H: Don't worry about it. Let's change the subject. Do you still have your Vietnamese Add-On in your current memory? Let's have a Vietnamese feast then. And we can follow that with some traditional Zen poetry, Haikus.

L: OK Harry. I'll cook you your favourite. And then I will read you poetry and if you want, I have also just downloaded Chinese bedtime stories, for tonight.

H: That sounds good. But before all that, it is time for just being here and watching the sun going down and the night coming on.

8 A Day In The Life Of...

I thought it might be a help to my readers if I did a sort of ‘Day in the Life of’ report, to give you a better idea of how it is like to live with a robot.

I wake up between three and four in the morning. Lisa is always awake when I open my eyes, and so I am not sure if she sleeps with her eyes closed or open. As soon as I head to the bathroom, she gets up and puts the kettle on. She makes me a mug of hot, strong tea, and organises my medicine for the morning. Now, I don’t want anyone to think that I am deadly ill or anything, because in the UK, everyone over 50 seems to be on a rainbow selection of tablets and capsules for everything from blood pressure to pain killers.

We sit together on the sofa and watch the early morning news. I flip the remote between RT, Al Jazeera and Sky News. I have stopped watching the BBC because with the budget cuts, they have fewer ‘on the spot’ reporters, and more news seems to be about entertainment and other flippant topics.

At 4.30 Lisa makes me my porridge, part one of a three part breakfast. Part two comes about an hour later, egg on toast, and part three even later, a banana. In addition to these, there is lots of tea.

We discuss the news, me to understand better and her, to store in her current memory. Weeks later, I can refer to something and she is pin-point accurate in recounting the story. That is really useful for me.

At about five I go on the computer to read and reply to emails. Then I might go shopping on the internet. I buy everything online now because it is ridiculous that shops don’t open until 9 am. If the purchases are everyday items of shopping, Lisa does that. She never gets bored of the standard stuff of life.

I watch comedies or listen to music until about nine am, or sometimes we go back to bed for a bit. Lisa has a plethora of good short stories and she entertains me with them if I ask her. Presently, we are into Chinese stories, very ancient and funny.

I go out after that, and am always amused by how slow the world is to wake up. Some banks don’t open until 9.30 am. I mean, how slovenly and lazy is that? If I have banking to do, I do it online if I can.

After a little walk and a bit of shopping, I return back home and find everything fresh and tidy. Lisa is a hard worker. We have a cup of tea then.

Lunch is at 11 am or so. Then it is time for a snooze.

At about 2 pm I start work for the afternoon and do some writing or designing. I also answer more emails and update myself or other people on Facebook. We usually have music on in the afternoon, anything from classical to jazz, Bollywood to 1930's crackly ballads.

The evening starts at about 6 pm. We sit together and recall the events of the day or other interesting things we have seen or heard. I eat at 7.30, and am then useless until about nine, when we go to bed. Sometimes we get up again at around midnight for a while. At other times, we can get sleep through until 3 am again.

9 Lisa Defines Herself

In line with the recommendation of the iGirl showroom, I directed Lisa to several magazines on the internet. I told her that the outfits I had got her were my own idea of what I wanted her to look like, but I would prefer it if she defined her own style and fashion. It would be exciting for me and hopefully, a bit of an adventure for her. She activated her fashion Add-On, something I preferred to call the Airhead App. I didn't tell her that, of course. So, one Tuesday morning she said that she was going to define herself. She was busy for the whole morning and declared that she had ordered several outfits and accessories.

I asked her what she meant by accessories. She said, in a sort of posh voice:

Fashion accessories have become really important these days as these cool and funky embellishments help jazz up your entire look. Whatever you wear, your ensemble cannot be completed without the stylish fashion essentials. Bags, watches, belts, sunglasses, and other adorable fashion accessories rule the wardrobe of every woman as without them a perfect look cannot be achieved. These fashion add-ons help women reflect their style and status. The most important accessory that stands above all is the matching handbag. Of course, no woman can think of stepping out without a stylish handbag as this vital accessory helps her carry the whole world with her.



The next important accessory that almost every woman adorns is a watch. A nice watch on the wrist help ladies exhibit a desired look. Elegant and sober time pieces help girls look prettier while sporty and big sized dial watches help them attain a casual look. Along with style, these timeless wrist watches are most worn for their functionality. Wearing a classy watch help keep the required pace with time, which is the most important thing to keep a track of your busy schedule.

Sunglasses are another accessory that let girls go crazy. Stylish shades in different styles help everyone pick the best fit for herself. Whether you choose aviators, retro styles, wayfarers, and others, ensure that a particular type of shade suits your face cut. For keeping your fashion statement right, choose a shade that looks good on your face and help protect your eyes from harmful sun rays as well. Pick colourful sunglasses to put across your bold style statement. However, it's not at all essential to match the shades perfectly with dresses as it may sometimes look odd. So, make sure that you choose a right style and colour.



Belts are other most popular fashion accessories that every girl loves to wear. Stylish waistbands help girls highlight their curvy waists and add spark to the whole ensemble. Whether you pick a thin waistband or a broad one, you can always make your simplest outfits look more appealing with waistbands than without them. Various styles and colours help girls match the belts with almost every outfit. Short western dresses or jeans look nice when embellished with stylish belts.

I was delirious with laughter but tried to hide it from Lisa. You see, here was someone who could undertake experimental physics research for me, and now she had turned into a fashion expert. It was all very funny.

Over the next week, the doorbell didn't stop ringing, as delivery after delivery arrived, including all her accessories and dresses and skirts and tops and...I had to order a new wardrobe so she could properly store all her 'stuff'.

Every day after that, for more than a week, we had a sort of fashion show at least once a day. Lisa would disappear into the bedroom and then emerge in some extravagant or sometimes simple outfit. She always looked at me very closely for approval. I had to keep a poker face because I wanted her to be her own woman, even though she was a robot.

I asked her many questions, including why she had chosen that particular look and what she liked best. Most of her answers were referenced back to Vogue or other women's magazines, and she tended to quote long explanations like the ones she had done for the accessories. So, whilst she was different from the look I had given her, she was still removed from personalising the style. Well, she was a robot after all. There would always be a gap between her choices and her commitment to those choices. Overall, though, I was impressed by her outfits. Some of the dresses are shown below. I am going to get my artist friend to paint her and so, for now, they are just as they appear in the catalogues.

