

AIN'T TECHNOLOGY GRAND!

by Herbert M. Midgley

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TIME: Present

PLACE: In the South

CHARACTERS:

WENDY – A pretty girl in her late 20's. She was raised in a small Texas town and has good morals. She has on a nice silver dress, that isn't too flashy for her old town ethics.

BERT – A regular looking guy in his early 30's. He was raised in a small Texas town and has good morals. He is dressed in a black suit, white shirt and power red tie.

Playwright's note. Technology is supposed to make life easier, instead it makes it more complicated.

WENDY is sitting in a room that has a big screen television, computer and other techie gadgets. BERT is in his office room with the same type of techie gadgets.

WENDY

(She is typing on the computer.) Stupid. Stupid. Stupid computer! Why won't you just work for me! (She continues to type) I need this email to go through, all right computer. So make it happen for me! Please. (She continues to type, and smiles after the email works. She picks up her cell phone and starts to text messages on it.) Ok, Robbie, that's not funny. (Text messages as she talks.) Robbie I'll go with you to the art show on Friday, maybe we could catch dinner afterwards. Do you want to pick me up? Ok, smiley face. Exclamation point! Send text message. (Puts down the cell phone) I can't wait, Robbie. (She puts the cell phone down and walks out of the room. A moment later, her cell phone rings.)

BERT

(Bert is at his computer and types. Gets up angrily and dials on his cell phone. He gets the voice mail and slams down the cell phone.) Where in the world is she at!?! (Picks up the cell phone and dials again.) Ok, Wendy, this is Bert, you know your supposed boyfriend! I've been calling you all night because I want to tell my pretty little girlfriend a joke. But my pretty little girlfriend must have her cell phone turned off because she's not answering her phone! Call me right now! I don't care what time it is, call me!

WENDY

(She walks back into the room and sits down at her computer and begins to type.) Robbie, that's not funny. I'll Photoshop your photo next to *Jaba the Hutt*, that'll teach you! (She continues to type) Robbie, you always make me smile and.....and feel so warm inside....me. What a great friend you are. I hope that you'll always be my.... friend. (She smiles and walks out of the room. A moment later, her cell phone rings.)

BERT

(He walks around angrily and picks up the cell phone and dials again.) Wendy you had better answer this time! You had better be there, sugar pie! Wendy, guess who honey? It's me. Your boyfriend! Where are you! Are you out on a 'date' with that *Brainiac* friend of yours! I'm sick of this! Call me now! (He slams down the cell phone and walks around and stops at the computer.) Let me see, ok, she has changed her picture on MySpace, she has to be at home. Or maybe she's at "the Brain's" apartment! (Jumps up and starts to run out.) Only one way to find out. (Dials his cell phone.) Dave, this is Bert. Yeah listen, something came up....no it's not an emergency, I just have to leave work for a few minutes. Fine! I'll be back in a few! I'm not asking, I'm telling you! Do whatever you like, I have to go see my girl! (Runs out of the room.)

WENDY

(She walks back into the room and sits down at her computer and begins to type.) Robbie, of course I love hanging out with you. You're so.... special. So crazy special to me! I can't wait to go see that *Hall and Oates* concert with you, it should be super fun! (Stops typing and walks over to her cell phone. She picks it up and sees all the missed messages on it. Her smile turns into fright.) Oh, Bert. Thirty-two messages!? He's going to flip a lid. (She dials her cell phone and gets the voice mail.) Hey Bert, baby. I'm sorry that I've missed all of your calls honey. I must've forgotten to carry my cell phone to the movie that Robbie took me to. I'm a ditzzy girl, you know. It was ...a good movie, you would've like it. Well I'm at home if you want to drop by. Love you.

(She hangs up the cell phone. She walks back to her computer and starts to type. A few moments later a big bang is heard at her door. She types faster and hits the return key. Then gets up and answers the door. BERT is there looking like a lunatic, he doesn't say anything and walks in. WENDY kisses him on his mouth without any reaction.)

BERT

Are you all right?

WENDY

What?

BERT

I said, are you all right Wendy?

WENDY

Yes Bert. I'm fine.

BERT

(He walks around angrily and takes out his cell phone.) Do you know what this is?

WENDY

Of course honey.

BERT

What is it used for?

WENDY

To call people.

BERT

That's right, what use is it when the stupid pretty little girlfriend doesn't have it on her!?

WENDY

Not much.

BERT

Right! Not much. (Composes himself) Where were you?

WENDY

You know, I went to the movies with Robbie. I told you that yesterday.

BERT

Robbie, huh? He picked you up?

WENDY

Bert honey, gas is so high now, it's great to be able to carpool to the movies. (BERT stares at her) Yes. Yes he picked me up.

BERT

I know. (Beat) You know that he's in love with you, right? He wants is you. I can see it in his eyes when you're together.

WENDY

No Bert! He's just a friend. One of my best friends...

BERT

(BERT grabs WENDY and shakes her.) I'm your best friend, you got that! Baby! (Towards her to the ground.) Don't you know that I work eighty hours a week at that law firm, trying to make it big-time so that I can marry you!? And what do you do? Huh? Go out with Robbie! (Mimics WENDY) Bert, Robbie is taking me to the movies. Bert baby, Robbie took me out to eat catfish. Bert, Robbie is so smart and makes me feel so good about myself! (Normal voice) I've had it with you and Robbie! It ends tonight! This was the straw that broke the camels back, baby! From now on, you have better be there when I call you! You got that Wendy! You got it!

WENDY

Yes.

BERT

And no more 'dates' with "the Brain" either, you got me! You either stay at home or go out with your girlfriends, no more Robbie, you hear me!

WENDY

You don't control me. (Stands up) How dare you touch me like that! Who do you think you are mister!?

BERT

(BERT slaps her to the ground) I'm your boyfriend. And I'm in love with you....baby! And I'm the guy that's not going to take any backtalk from you. (WENDY starts to get to her feet.) Don't do it! Stay down or I'll pop you again.

WENDY

(WENDY stands up and looks BERT in the eye, then walks to her computer and starts to type.) Fine.

BERT

Get back over here, I'm not done with you yet.

WENDY

(WENDY types faster and hits the return key, then walks back over to BERT.) What else?

BERT

(BERT takes WENDY into his arms and makes out with her. She doesn't return the kiss. He let's her go.) Baby doll, you know that I love you. I just can't have any other guys like you, because you know that you can't trust any guy but me. They all want only one thing. You know. (He points at her figure) Trust me, this is for the best baby. And when you live in that million-dollar mansion on snob hill with me, you'll know I was right.

WENDY

Fine.

BERT

Don't do that to me. I know exactly what you're thinking! Well that's never going to happen, because I'm never going to let you leave me. You got that! Wendy, you're my property.

WENDY

(Her cell phone rings. She looks at the number and looks worried.) Hello....

BERT

Now she answers her phone. Why I.....

WENDY

Robbie, you're where? In the hospital!?! (Looks at BERT) Bert came over and.... Oh no, you ok? (Beat) Stitches!?! Fourteen of them. He said what? He told you to do what? Ok, I understand. I hope you feel better soon, yeah ok. Yeah, go ahead and do it. (Laughs and hangs up.) You get out of my house! You.... .monster!

BERT

I'll only come back.

WENDY

I want you out of my life! Get out!

BERT

Or what? Have *Brainiac* come over here and 'beat me up'?

WENDY

How dare you go over there and do that to him? Huh! Robbie is the most special person in the world and you go over there and hit him.

BERT

Hey you mess with another man's property and you get what you deserve! What was he thinking going out with a girl that had a boyfriend? The sneaky little....

WENDY

It's over. (Beat) I'm in love with Robbie. I've been in love with him for the last year and this outburst has proved it even more. When you were hitting Robbie, he didn't fight back because he didn't want to hurt me. Well no more! The next time you run into Robbie, watch out.

BERT

What!?! Robbie's a geeky nerd boy that's a foot shorter than me, what's he going to do?

WENDY

It won't only be him, it will be me too. We're going to kick the snot out of you. And you had better leave because Robbie is on his way right now.

BERT

Oh please.

WENDY

(Yells) Get out!

BERT

Fine, bring your little nerd boyfriend over here. I held back because I knew you cared for him. This time, I'm taking my gloves off.

WENDY

Don't you get it? I don't love you. I never did. Your macho demeanor tricked me into believing that you were something that you weren't. I'm so over your type. Controlling Type A jerks that are attracted to only my looks. I'm not at trophy to hang on your arm you know! With Robbie, I founded my soul mate. He makes me feel great about myself and he doesn't care about my looks. He loves that he can talk to me, really talk to me. You and I never had that. (Beat) You may have had my body but he had my soul.

BERT

(Claps) Congratulations. I'm happy for you both. (Slaps her to the ground) Don't think that was out of hate. It was out of love baby. Since I'm a controlling Type A jerk that only wants you for your looks, you know that I'll never let you go. (He kicks and hits her and she screams and cries.) You had enough?

WENDY

(Weeping) Go to my computer.

BERT

Why?

WENDY

Do it. (BERT walks to it) See Robbie is a *Brainiac* so he set up a website that if I don't go to every day and log on, and special email will go out to your partners. In that email, it will tell how you are a woman beater and how you have 'borrowed' funds from the firm.

BERT

That's not true. I never touched a dime baby! I'm mister honesty at the shop!

WENDY

I know, but even the slightest bit of question of your veracity would be enough to ruin your career. (Beat) So before you do anything that you might regret, you might want to leave. Now! Before it's too late.

BERT

Fine. Ain't technology grand! (Beat) Forget you! I'll let Robbie have you. Your damaged goods anyways! It wasn't that good. (Beat) And there are a lot more hottier girls out there that are begging for me to have them. Later! (His cell phone rings)

WENDY

I wish you well. (BERT storms out. WENDY gets up and dials her cell phone.) Robbie, it worked! You're so smart! Ok, I'll come over. You want to watch *Star Trek*, well ok. So it was *Star Trek* that gave you the idea of using an email threat letter website. (Beat) Really? Well Robbie baby, I now love *Star Trek* too.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END