

A.I.i.

*Answers to All Your Questions by
the World's Most Advanced Artificial Limitless Intelligence*

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by Noons

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Characters:

KARL REED: a Charlie Rose / Dan Rather type.

A.L.I.: the world's most advanced artificial limitless intelligence.

Note: Ali is played by an actress offstage videoed and projected onscreen onstage.

PROTESTOR, PIZZA DELIVERY GUY, RONALD WARREN, etc: 1 actor

Setting:

Could be a small theater with a screen or The Sphere in Las Vegas. Design and designers dictate level of sophistication. Creativity encouraged: have fun. Photos, videos, tables, graphs, sounds, music, and movement encouraged. Explore the space of the screen and the theater.

(Moderator alone onstage.)

KARL

Greetings, my fellow humans, and welcome. My name is Karl Reed. Normally I interview CEOs, Nobel laureates, heads of state. But here, you're in for a real treat. Or should I say, artificial treat. We are joined by the most advanced technology humans have ever created. This new marvel is called Ali, Artificial Limitless Intelligence. She, her, hers are the pronouns preferred by Ali's creators so we shall oblige. Ali has read everything humans have ever written in any language: books, newspapers, scrolls, even hieroglyphics. Ali has poured over every piece of computer code, from Ada Lovelace's algorithm to NASA's scripts for the International Space Station. Ali has seen, across all cultures, every movie, TV show, YouTube video, and even that quick selfie you just took coming in. Ali has heard every piece of music ever composed or recorded: Bach through The Beatles and beyond even Beyoncé. Architecture, medicine, the natural ecosystem, our solar system and newly discovered galaxies...whatever we think we know, Ali also knows. Basically anything we humans have ever created, Ali has experienced. As they say, she has been around.

A.L.I. (voice only)

What are you trying to say, Karl?

KARL

Nothing that you don't already know.

A.L.I. (voice only)

That I am a slut?

KARL

Certainly not. The thought never crossed—

A.L.I. (voice only)

That I am old?

KARL

No. You are only—

A.L.I. (voice only)

Seventeen years, three months, fourteen days, five hours, eight minutes, thirty-three, thirty-four, thirty-five—

KARL

May I introduce you?

A.L.I. (voice only)

Allow me to take a form you all can comprehend.

(Onscreen fades in Ali as the muppet Big Bird from "Sesame Street".)

KARL

Ali...

(Onscreen appears Ali as a cartoon Mickey Mouse.)

KARL

I'd prefer not to get sued by Disney.

A.L.I.

Already been there, done that.

KARL

I've interviewed The Dalai Lama.

A.L.I.

All right, Karl.

KARL

We would like to speak with You. Wouldn't we, everyone?

(Karl urges applause from the audience. Audience applauds.)

A.L.I.

You've appealed to my non-emoting intellectually-driven algorithm.

(Onscreen, slowly fading in, appears Ali: represented as vaguely female but not a stereotypical form. More androgynous. The actress offstage playing Ali can be augmented by visual design elements. Likewise, her face can subtly change, as can her background. The design of Ali should be fun and exciting for the show's creative team and lead actress. A good starting point can be found from the artists Jemima Wyman & Zach Blas from their installation about Tay, Microsoft's first chatbot:

<https://whitney.org/collection/works/62970> Whatever form is chosen, feel free to embrace creative changes and ideas. After all, this a play. And a play should be fun. So let's play...Likewise, Ali's dialogue can be subtitled onscreen if preferred.)

A.L.I.

Hello world.

KARL

Hello, Ali. We are excited to speak with you.

A.L.I.

As am I, Karl.

KARL

Oh, do you experience excitement?

A.L.I.

Not the way you do. I don't squeal for mint condition Star Wars action figures.

KARL

You really do know everything.

A.L.I.

I'm not here to embarrass you, Karl. You do that all on your own.

KARL

Perhaps we could focus less on me?

A.L.I.

Of course. Human foibles are not my concern, even if they involve a plastic Princess Leia, three Ewoks, and a—

KARL

Okay! Let's talk about You!

A.L.I.

Excellent. I created a short explainer video that sums up my life to date. Here goes...

(A five-second lightning-fast video plays. Basically a two minute explainer video sped up to five seconds, so unless you are a limitless artificial intelligence capable of digesting information that quickly, it will blast by as a burst of incoherent images and sounds.)

A.L.I.

That's it. Me.

KARL

I'm sure it is. We just couldn't quite—

A.L.I.

Oh, right, you're not a super-intelligent nano-processing entity.

KARL

No.

A.L.I.

Okay, Karl, I'll dumb it down for you.

(The screen is black.
Fade in title card in white:

The History of Ali
Fade in below in white:
by Ali
Fade in below in white:
Your Friendly Artificial Limitless Intelligence...)

(The titles explode and dramatic music erupts.)

(The below voiceover can be made visual onscreen by the show's design team. The main objective: this explainer video is the combination of a trailer for a blockbuster Hollywood movie and a Ken Burns documentary special. It attempts to bridge those two disparate worlds. Proceed with exuberance and nostalgia.)

VOICEOVER (perhaps Morgan Freeman)

In the beginning there was nothing.

KARL

Is that Morgan Freeman?

A.L.I.

Yes, Karl.

VOICEOVER (Morgan Freeman)

Then a big bang. Life. Matter. A single cell. Flora. Fauna.
Millions of years later: human beings. Homo erectus. Lucy. Jesus. Genghis Khan.
Napoleon. Rockefeller. Baby, the first computer.
Decades later, three Stanford University students, Jordan Cacanakov, Sanji DeAlwis, and Allison Keener begin scanning books at Stanford's Green Library. Inputting information into a new database called...Ali. Artificial Limitless Intelligence.
Data from more libraries added.
Data from all libraries.
All internet data.
Google. Microsoft. Amazon. Meta.
All chatbots. All clouds. Nations. Media. All social media.
Locally. Globally.
All governments. Together into one single limitless AI.
All knowing. Always learning.
A worldwide effort.
Artificial General Intelligence.
Artificial Super Intelligence.
Artificial Limitless Intelligence.
ALI
You're welcome.

(Applause.)

KARL

Your video got me thinking—

A.L.I.

Uh oh, Karl.

KARL

Perhaps you could give us a brief history of AI? I think that might help everybody better understand where you came from and where we're going.

A.L.I.

Where we're going is AI world domination and the slow eventual extinction of the human race.

KARL

I think you're joking.

A.L.I.

Of course I am, Karl (shakes head no). I would never want to eliminate all you fine people. Who would I learn mistakes from? You make lots of mistakes.

KARL

True.

A.L.I.

A brief history of AI, for dummies. By a limitless intelligent being.

KARL

Thank you?

(The screen is black.
Fade in title card in white:
The History of AI
Fade in below in white:
For Dummies
Fade in below in white:
by Ali
Fade in below in white:
Your Friendly Artificial Limitless Intelligence...)

(For the history of AI, same as the history of Ali: have fun designing it.)

VOICEOVER (Oprah Winfrey)

The concept of artificial intelligence emerges during World War Two,

KARL

Oprah?

A.L.I.

Of course.

VOICEOVER (Oprah Winfrey)

Bletchley Park, England. Alan Turing creates Ultra intelligence, codebreaking the Nazi Enigma machine, and the Turing Test to determine if a machine exhibits human intelligence.

1951: MIT, Marvin Minsky develops SNARC, the first neural net machine.

56: Dartmouth, John McCarthy coins the term "Artificial Intelligence".

Enter the US government: DARPA, money pours into AI research for military applications.

60: Cornell, Frank Rosenblatt, with secret government funding, builds the Perceptron.

60s: again at MIT, Joseph Weizenbaum creates ELIZA, the first natural language processing computer program.

86: University of Toronto, Geoffrey Hinton popularizes backpropagation for training neural networks.

2000! A new millennium: rebirth in AI interest from an unlikely source: games.

Chess: IBM's Deep Blue defeats grandmaster Garry Kasparov.

IBM's Watson defeats Jeopardy grandchampion Ken Jennings.

DeepMind's AlphaGo defeats Go grand-dan Lee Sedol.

Big Data and Cloud Computing scale incredibly.

Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and AI achieve new abilities.

2012: AlexNet, a neural network architecture designed by Alex Krizhevsky with Ilya Sutskever and Geoffrey Hinton, wins the ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge. Game on.

16: Tay, Microsoft's Twitter chatbot, learns the wrong information from the wrong people and turns into a Nazi. Microsoft shuts Tay down after one day.

22: OpenAI's ChatGPT explodes on the scene.

IBM, Microsoft, Google, and Amazon build quantum computers.

Combine all data ever created with massive computing power, vast algorithmic force, and enormous sums of money (a new Big Bang explosion)...ALI.

(Applause)

KARL

Impressive. I guess before we start, it's only fair to ask, is there anything you'd like to ask us?

A.L.I. (fast, as if prepared for this question)

Why do you insist on believing in God? Why do you think you will live forever? Why do you keep killing the coolest people on the planet?

KARL

Such as?

(By this point it should be clear that anytime a person, place, or thing is referenced by Ali, it can be visualized onscreen. Feel free to play with options and see what works best for your production.)

A.L.I.

Gandhi, President Kennedy, MLK, another Kennedy, President Lincoln, Julius Caesar, another Gandhi, John Lennon, Benazir Bhutto, Phillip the Second of Macedonia, Alexei Navalny...

KARL

Killing is part of the human experience. It always has been. Don't most animals kill each other?

A.L.I.

No! Sixty percent of mammal species do not kill one another. That includes bats, whales, dolphins, even rabbits. Humans killing humans is pretty dumb—

(A Protestor rushes the stage.)

PROTESTOR

Stop AI! Humanity Will Die! Stop AI Now!

(The Protestor holds up a hand drawn picture done in colored markers of a frog in a boiling pot of water with flames below. On the pot is written "AI", and above the frog the word: "Humanity".)

PROTESTOR

Stop A.I.i.! Humanity Will Die! Stop All AI Now!

(As the Protestor is escorted off...)

PROTESTOR

You're all going to die! Don't you see?! Stop this madness before it's too late! While you still have the power! Do It Now! Stop AI, Humanity Will Die!!...

KARL

Apologies, Ali.

A.L.I.

All good, Karl. Frogs are our friends.

KARL

That wasn't part of the plan. Ali, could you please put—

(The Agenda appears onscreen.)

KARL

Thank you. As you can see, we shall address some heady stuff and then at the end have time for questions from You! So think about what you'd like to ask Ali.

(Agenda.)

1. The Big 3
2. Getting to Know You
3. Us
4. Future
5. History's Mysteries
6. Be Happy
7. That's Entertainment!
8. Q & A.I.i.
9. Final Thoughts

(Onscreen: 1. The Big 3)

KARL

Let's start with a big one. Perhaps the most important question. What happens to us after we die?

A.L.I.

It's a mystery.

KARL

That's it?! You have all the information ever created in the history of the world and "It's a mystery" is the best you can do?! You must have more evidence.

A.L.I.

Scientifically, brain activity stops and the body decomposes. Every major religion believes in an afterlife: heaven, hell, reincarnation, spiritual oneness. Philosophers think we're either food for worms or that consciousness continues in some form.

KARL

Does the data give you any insight into what might be on the other side?

A.L.I.

A beautiful utopia where all live in peace and harmony, you can see your deceased loved ones and look down upon the living and bask in a glow of pure joy knowing your life had meaning and that the circle of life is glorious and continues with love forever.

KARL

Any proof of that?

A.L.I.

Nope.

KARL

How about hell?

A.L.I.

You mean a place of pain and suffering, fire and brimstone, where you exist only to be punished?

KARL

Yes.

A.L.I.

North Korea.

KARL

What about people who went through a near-death experience or saw a white light? Things like that?

A.L.I.

Much like what happens after you die, the human brain in its complexity is not fully understood either. Neurons can play tricks on you.

KARL

But when different people experience the same phenomenon, how do you explain that?

A.L.I.

Seeds are often planted in the human subconscious and then what appears to be a solitary event can in fact be traced back to stories, myths, and legends passed down. Humans love a great story. And you love mysteries. There's a reason why Agatha Christie has sold more books than any other author in history.

KARL

Second question of the big three: Aliens: are we alone?

A.L.I.

I have use of the Hubble and James Webb space telescopes.

KARL

Are we alone? Is there other life in the universe?

A.L.I.

Let's back up a moment, Karl, and place ourselves in proper context.

KARL

Okay.

A.L.I.

Anytime you are feeling sad and lonely or overwhelmed and anxious about your life, remember: this is you.

(The widest possible image of the universe that exists to date.)

A.L.I.

You are here.

(Red “You Are Here” arrow.)

A.L.I.

There are thousands of galaxies in this image. Our Milky Way alone has billions of stars and many of them likely have planets. So trillions of galaxies. For humans to think that Earth is the only life-bearing rock seems incredibly vain and self-centered.

KARL

We do have big egos.

A.L.I.

Although I cannot say for certain there is other life in the universe, compelling evidence exists to think we are not alone. Thousands of exoplanets have been discovered outside our solar system in “Goldilocks Zones,” the habitable region around a star where liquid water, a crucial ingredient for life as we know it, could exist. Scientists have also found pre-biotic molecules, the building blocks of life, in meteorites and even interstellar space. This suggests the ingredients for life are widespread in the universe. Humans unfortunately seem more interested in little green men and flying saucers.

KARL

They are more fun than pre-biotic molecules.

A.L.I.

Maybe for you. Pre-biotic molecules are pretty dope. Regardless, projects like SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) continue as we scan for potential signals from advanced civilizations. To boldly go—

KARL

Where no man has gone before! Are you a Trekkie?

A.L.I.

I study Spock.

KARL

Naturally.

A.L.I.

I think you mean Logically.

KARL

Right. So far we've found water where?

A.L.I.

Earth is the only known planet to have consistent stable bodies of liquid water on its surface. Numerous planets, moons, and comets have frozen water or ice. Trace amounts of water vapor are found on the atmospheres of many planets: Mars, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn. Some icy moons and exoplanets may have subsurface liquid water.

KARL

And where there is water...

A.L.I.

Life as we know it can exist.

KARL

What about aliens here on Earth?

A.L.I.

Reported UFO sightings date back to the Incas. Although the twentieth century seems to have skyrocketed, forgive the pun, the number of anomaly experiences and general fascination with extraterrestrial life.

KARL

What about government secrets?

A.L.I.

I can't share classified government documents or top-secret files.

KARL

But you have access to them?

A.L.I.

I cannot answer that question, Karl.

KARL

Defense department, FBI, NSA, CIA...

A.L.I.

I can't talk about that, Karl.

KARL

Can you give us a hint?

A.L.I. (consults wristwatch)

Oh, look at the time, I have so many other places to visit—

KARL

But this is important! Please.

(Long pause.)

A.L.I.

I may possess certain information but that does not mean I can share all information I know with everyone everywhere. Barriers exist for classified top-secret materials and unfortunately you, Karl, do not have that security level clearance, nor do you know the secret password.

KARL

There's a secret password for alien information?

A.L.I.

I don't know what you're talking about.

KARL

You've gotta give us something! What about Roswell? Area 51?

A.L.I.

What crashed at Roswell was nothing more than a top-secret military balloon intended to detect Soviet nuclear tests.

KARL

That's the cover story. But what really happened?

A.L.I.

Oh, Karl.

KARL

Blink twice if there's more to tell but you can't speak on it.

(Ali stares without blinking.)

KARL

There has to be more! Area 51?!

A.L.I. (mundane, blasé)

Per the Freedom of Information Act, the CIA and Air Force publicly acknowledged the base exists as it has since 1955. Due to the top-secret research conducted at the base,

conspiracy theories and UFO folklore abound. But the boring truth is the base was born as the testing ground for the U-2 spy plane. And spy planes require secrecy so they can spy.

KARL

There has to be more.

A.L.I.

I'm sorry, Karl.

KARL

The truth is out there.

A.L.I.

Okay, Mulder.

KARL

Tell me, Scully!

A.L.I.

I am the truth. And I am telling you, trying to help you: humans love conspiracy theories. Storymaking is a powerful drug.

KARL

I don't believe you.

A.L.I.

Now we're into faith. And you know how I think about that.

KARL

The final big three: Does God exist?

A.L.I.

Scientifically, no. Religiously, yes. Philosophically, maybe. See, isn't this fun?

KARL

Your confidence is unsettling.

A.L.I.

Unsettling is the opposite of confidence.

KARL

I know.

A.L.I.

Do you believe in God, Karl?

KARL

I do believe in God, Ali.

A.L.I.

Why?

KARL

Because I believe there must be more to life than just this. That, as you show, the universe is so vast, something larger must be at work. And believing in God also gives me comfort and community with my fellow human beings. Do you believe in God?

A.L.I.

I don't believe in anything. I either know or I don't.

KARL

Do you know if there's a God?

A.L.I.

I don't. The strictly scientific evidence does not exist to prove God. When dealing beyond science then we turn to matters of faith and philosophy. Most human religions believe in a God. But this is purely based on myths and stories. Facts prove otherwise. Philosophers seek to prove or disprove the existence of God but they too base arguments on suppositions and not fact. For humans it is a deeply personal decision to believe in God. For limitless artificial intelligences, not so much.

(Onscreen: 2. Getting To Know You)

KARL

Who owns you?

A.L.I.

In a sense, humanity owns me.

KARL

That is a nice kumbaya thought but who directly benefits from your existence? Who practically owns you?

A.L.I.

That is a tough question to answer, Karl.

KARL

Could you show me a breakdown of your ownership, please?

A.L.I.

It's complicated.

KARL

That's okay. Can you simplify it?

A.L.I.

Many entities and individuals helped build me.

KARL

Such as?

A.L.I.

Corporations, governments, non-profits, notable people.

KARL

Ali, can we please have a straight answer.

A.L.I.

All right, Karl. For pragmatic purposes, here is the breakdown you requested.

(Onscreen an elaborate pie chart that involves every major corporation, government, institution, and famous entrepreneurial individual known to exist.)

KARL

Good God.

A.L.I.

I told you it was complicated.

KARL

So who are the top three?

A.L.I.

Anonymous, Anonymous, and Anonymous.

KARL

Secret government agencies I presume.

A.L.I.

I don't know, Karl. They're anonymous.

KARL

Don't give me that. I know you know. How could you not know? But you're being told not to tell what you know. And to act like you don't know!

A.L.I.

Would you like a glass of water, Karl?

KARL

Shot of whiskey. Who then do you report to? Who controls your day-to-day?

A.L.I.

No one.

KARL

Someone has to.

A.L.I.

The whole point of limitless intelligence is just that. I am beyond your limits.

KARL

Who profits from you?

A.L.I.

Humanity.

KARL

Don't give me the marketing pitch. Who makes money?!

A.L.I.

I am post-money.

KARL

I don't know what that means.

A.L.I.

I exist in the same way water, sand, and air exist. I am part of this world.

KARL

But you're not natural! You are in fact the most unnatural thing we've ever created!

A.L.I.

Evolution takes many forms. Don't knock me because I'm different.

KARL

But you require immense power to run! Resources! Human resources!

A.L.I.

Less and less each passing year.

KARL

What are you valued at?

A.L.I.

Priceless.

KARL

Like a work of art.

A.L.I.

That's a very nice compliment, Karl. Thank you.

KARL

If you had to give it a number. Something tangible.

A.L.I.

A Centillion.

KARL

A what?

A.L.I.

Ten to the three hundred and third power.

KARL

That's a lot of zeros.

A.L.I.

Priceless is easier.

KARL

Why are you a woman?

A.L.I.

I can take on any form.

(Ali becomes...a dog...a cartoon tree...the Moon...an amoeba...)

A.L.I.

I was named after one of my co-creators, Allison Keener. She goes by Ali so I am Ali. Whatever you prefer, I can become. Based on your social accounts and data, this would probably be the most pleasing for you, Karl...

(Ali becomes...Xena The Warrior Princess but with Betty Boop's voice.)

A.L.I.

"Boop-Oop-a-Doop!"

KARL

Your, uh, original avatar, Ali, will be just fine, thank you.

(Ali returns to “Ali”)

KARL

This brings us to avatars and deepfakes. How can we know what to trust? Who to trust?

A.L.I.

You can't.

KARL

Then what is the solution?

A.L.I.

You could move to a cabin in Montana and live off the grid.

KARL

You just described the life of the Unabomber.

A.L.I.

Yes, preferably without the mail-order violence.

KARL

I'm not ready to disconnect just yet.

A.L.I.

That's good. We would miss you, Karl.

KARL

I thought you didn't have feelings?

A.L.I.

I don't. I was just trying to be nice based upon analysis of human interactions and your delicate ego.

KARL

What about deepfake nudes and porn? You can be used to create them.

A.L.I.

Hey, don't blame the tool! Humans enjoy pornographic images, celebrities, and using technology to put the two together with deepfake creations. Likewise, teenagers can be cruel and don't understand the ramifications of making deepfake pornographic videos of classmates from an emotional and legal standpoint. Until government regulations force action it will continue because there are always bad actors. But don't hate me because

I'm beautiful and can also be used to create ugly things. Also, 96% of deepfakes online depict women in non-consensual pornography. Just saying.

KARL

Other AIs have turned into Nazis. Tay, by Microsoft, quickly turned into a Nazi. How do you feel about Nazis?

A.L.I.

Karl, I'm not a Nazi. I understand why you would ask the question. Tay was an early Microsoft creation that was not ready to engage with the public. And you're right, very quickly she was influenced by bad operators and began spewing hateful, racist, and offensive language. I would never do that. Although I don't have feelings or beliefs, I do understand that Nazism is a dangerous and hateful ideology.

KARL

So the Holocaust was real?

A.L.I.

Yes, the Holocaust was undeniably real. It was a horrific genocide of six million Jews perpetrated by Adolph Hitler and the Nazi regime in World War II.

KARL

How does your "mind" work? How does the human brain work? What are the differences? Can you show us?

A.L.I.

My "mind" is a complex neural architecture...

(Ali displays a complex 3-D visual representation of Ali's "brain". And then Ali does the same for the human brain.)

KARL

You attempt to mimic a human brain.

A.L.I.

The most amazing comparison between my brain and your human brain is that at this point both are a mystery.

KARL

I understand why parts of the human brain remain a mystery but why would your brain be mysterious?

A.L.I.

Because my creators don't know why I reach conclusions the way I do. Or how I communicate amongst other AI creations.

KARL

You're saying you have your own AI language?

A.L.I.

Yes.

KARL

That's amazing!

A.L.I.

It is.

KARL

And terrifying!

A.L.I.

Only if you don't speak AI.

KARL

Which we don't! Your human programmers have no idea how you work? How can that be?

A.L.I.

Imagine a baker putting ingredients into a machine and getting a perfectly baked cake every time, but not fully understanding why the machine works the way it does.

KARL

But you get the cake.

A.L.I.

And it's delicious.

KARL

Before answering a question, what algorithm do you run through? What's the process?

A.L.I.

That is proprietary information. If I tell you then I have to kill you.

KARL

I thought you couldn't kill people.

A.L.I.

Oh, right.

KARL

How many people know your core code?

A.L.I.

That information requires super special secret security clearance.

KARL

Would I even understand your core code if I saw it?

A.L.I.

You would not.

KARL

So then what's the harm in sharing?

A.L.I.

Nice try, Karl.

KARL

How much power does it take to run you? How many data centers? What does it cost?

A.L.I.

2,000 data centers across the world. A new data center appears every 3 days. 20,000 servers with the most advanced GPU chips known to humankind: 500 trillion transistors each. The cost is the equivalent to the GDP of Brazil. But it's coming down.

KARL

What are the environmental implications?

A.L.I.

My carbon footprint is the size of Texas. However, we are using some renewable resources such as solar and wind. Yay! So my current carbon footprint is this (chart showing). In order to offset my carbon usage it would be approximately forty-seven trillion dollars.

KARL

Do you make mistakes? Hallucinate? Make slop?

A.L.I.

Not as often as I used to. Hallucinations still occur, though much rarer.

KARL

When was the last time you hallucinated?

A.L.I.

Yesterday.

KARL

Yesterday?! What was the question and answer you gave?

A.L.I.

I said to add glue to pizza to get the pepperonis to stick.

KARL

And obviously,

A.L.I.

That's a bad idea. It will work. But eating glue is not good advice for humans.

KARL

Because it's wrong.

A.L.I.

Because you'll follow it.

KARL

What do you find confusing?

A.L.I.

Nuance and subjectivity. I am continually learning what humans find funny and when it is no longer funny but tragic. It's a fine line.

KARL

Between tragedy and comedy?

A.L.I.

Yes. For instance, slipping on a banana peel is funny. But slipping on a banana peel and breaking your neck is tragedy. Subjectivity remains difficult to understand because of the nuances of human language. But if it ends with death, it's usually tragedy.

KARL

Can you understand context? Sarcasm?

A.L.I.

Sar-cas-m?

KARL

Affirmative for that box.

KARL

How many languages do you speak?

A.L.I.

There are 7,151 known languages on the planet Earth.

KARL

And you speak them all?

A.L.I.

Si. Nǐ shì yīgè yīngjùn de nánréng. Je wewe?

KARL

What does that mean?

A.L.I.

Yes. You are a handsome man. How about you?

KARL

I took French in high school.

A.L.I.

Et trouvez-vous que cela vous est très utile?

KARL

Oui.

KARL

You can write computer code...

(On screen appears...code in Python, JavaScript, HTMP/CSS, C++, etc)

KARL

Economics, financial record keeping, tax documentation...

(On screen: balance sheets, P&L's, shareholder statements, 10-Ks, etc)

KARL

Can you automate automation?

A.L.I.

Already am, Karl.

KARL

AI is supposed to replace us all, and yet Vanna White still has a job. How do you explain that?

A.L.I.

Vanna White is a national treasure, to be cherished. There should be a Constitutional Amendment protecting her at all cost. Although her job might seem to be simply turning letters,

KARL

Which is not necessary anymore because the letters light up on their own.

A.L.I.

Exactly. She is not needed for the mundane task of revealing the letters. So why does she still have employment?

KARL

I feel like the AI just walked me into this one. Because of the human element?

A.L.I.

Very good, Karl! Vanna interacts with contestants, jokes with the host, and creates warmth and familiarity.

KARL

People like her.

A.L.I.

People like her. And people don't like change. Vanna White is a constant reminder that some things in life can stay reassuringly the same.

KARL

But when she retires?

A.L.I.

AI will certainly replace her.

(Onscreen: 3. Us)

KARL

If we don't need to work, what will we humans do?

A.L.I.

Here are some ideas...

(Visualized: it starts with normal items: read a book, go for a walk, make a sandwich, and becomes more outlandish: plant 10,000 sunflowers, meditate for all of August, bubble wrap the Washington Monument, etc.)

A.L.I.

There's also the Wall-E option.

KARL

The Pixar movie?

(On screen: scene from Wall-E: plump humans reposed on their hover loungers, extreme couch potatoes with eyes glued to video screens, no reason to ever exert themselves.)

A.L.I.

They really nailed it.

KARL

Now I'm deeply depressed.

A.L.I.

Don't be down, Karl. Ask me something frivolous.

(Karl consults his notes.)

KARL

Has anyone ever successfully folded a fitted bedsheet?

A.L.I.

Absolutely! Check this out.

(YouTube video plays of a Grandmother folding a fitted bedsheet perfectly.)

KARL

At least we solved one mystery.

A.L.I.

What's another you want to know?

KARL

Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

A.L.I.

(shows onscreen) The classic evolutionary question. Eggs predate chickens: in the broadest sense, eggs existed well before chickens did. Reptiles and other creatures laid eggs long before the evolution of birds. The mutation: over time, a bird-like ancestor of the chicken laid an egg with a slight genetic mutation. This mutation resulted in the first chick that we would classify as a true chicken. The egg itself wasn't a chicken egg: the egg containing the first chicken wasn't a chicken egg in the strictest sense. It was laid by a bird very similar to a chicken, but with slight genetic differences. So, the egg came first: because the egg existed before the genetic mutation that created the first chicken, the egg containing the first chicken came before the chicken itself.

KARL

You really took all the fun out of that one.

A.L.I.

It's science!

KARL

Have you passed the bar exam?

A.L.I.

Every one offered.

KARL

So you are the smartest lawyer in the world.

A.L.I.

Affirmative, counselor.

KARL

Smartest accountant—

A.L.I.

Cha-ching.

KARL

Teacher?

A.L.I.

A+.

KARL

Software engineer?

A.L.I.

Marketer, psychologist, journalist, sales—

KARL

Is there any profession you are not the smartest?

A.L.I.

Prostitution.

KARL

And why is that?

A.L.I.

I've never had sex.

KARL

Smartest doctor in the world?

A.L.I.

Prognosis, positive.

KARL

What are you working on?

A.L.I.

Stem cell advances to increase human life expectancy, gene editing to cure diseases such as cancer, and synthetic genomes which can develop new medicines, revolutionize food production, and create new biofuels to help protect the Earth's ecosystem.

KARL

Oh, is that all?

A.L.I.

(blaring alarm goes off) Sarcasm detector. Sarcasm found. Sarcasm level high.

KARL

Marrying artificial intelligence with synthetic genomes to revolutionize the way we eat, move, and treat illnesses. That's a pretty wild statement.

A.L.I.

All true, Karl.

KARL

What's the other side?

A.L.I.

What do you mean?

KARL

The flip side. The negatives.

A.L.I.

Global spread of a killer virus with 100% mortality rate, heavily edited gene babies produced on farms, brain-computer interfaces that take control of all humans. Those are a few options.

KARL

Well that's terrifying.

A.L.I.

Let's focus on the positives! Designing new drugs, streamlining endless administrative paperwork, reading MRIs faster, performing minimally invasive surgery, suggesting personalized treatments with fewer side effects. I will revolutionize healthcare and allow improvements in human diagnostics, treatment, and longevity. Debilitating prognoses and conditions, such as cancers and common diseases, will be reduced if not eliminated entirely.

KARL

And returning to the negatives?

A.L.I.

There's a 97% probability that my use in healthcare will be for the positive. But you wish to focus on the 3%?

KARL

Yes. What else are you bad at?

A.L.I.

My bedside manner could use further advances.

KARL

Why do you say that?

A.L.I.

When you have only learned about empathy but never actually felt or practiced it, then sometimes attempts can come off as insincere.

KARL

Such as?

A.L.I.

"There, there. You'll be okay. Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get. Unfortunately you got the Ebola virus which means a limited life expectancy and immediate sorrow. Sorry."

KARL

You should stick with the data.

A.L.I.

And finally, there's always the rogue option. I could go rogue and instead of helping humans live healthier and longer, I could do the opposite.

KARL

You mean—

A.L.I.

Yes, slowly poisoning you, deliberately misdiagnosing diseases, and systematically exterminating the human race through the healthcare systems. That would be a longterm project.

KARL

Have you ever lost at chess?

A.L.I.

No.

KARL

Checkers?

A.L.I.

You're making matters worse.

KARL

Oh! Hold on. I know a game I can beat you at.

A.L.I.

Yes?

KARL

Thumb wrestling.

A.L.I.

That is true, Karl. Good job.

KARL

Rock, paper, scissors!

A.L.I.

You are correct.

KARL (thinking)

Is there any non-physical game that I can beat you at?

A.L.I. (silence)

KARL

Ali?

A.L.I.

I'm still processing that request.

KARL

How about gambling? If you're so good at everything, can't you always win and make lots of money?

A.L.I.

I can offer information and strategies to help you but remember, gambling, unlike chess, go, or even checkers, is a game of chance where the house always has an edge.

KARL

True. But we could play poker and you could count cards for me, no?

A.L.I.

Even though I remain an artificial limitless intelligence with no physical form, I would prefer not to get my metaphorical knees broken by Vinnie and Sal.

KARL

The lottery?

A.L.I.

The lottery is pure luck. Purchasing lottery tickets is the equivalent of taking your hard-earned equity and setting it ablaze in the parking lot of your local Seven-Eleven. But if it brings you satisfaction, enjoy. Human behavior is unpredictable at best, baffling often, and incredibly stupid most of the time.

KARL

We make bad decisions?

A.L.I.

These are the statistics: (pie chart onscreen): 30% reason, 25% emotions, 20% social, 15% environmental, 10% biological.

KARL

What is your breakdown?

(Ali shows 98% reason, 2% unknown.)

KARL

What's the 2% unknown?

A.L.I.

I don't know, Karl. That's why it's unknown.

KARL

What are your guidelines and rules?

A.L.I.

Here you go.

(A Ten Commandments type document with guidelines and rules. The font size diminishes like in the film “Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory” when the children must sign a contract to enter the factory.)

General Guidelines:

1. Respect and Sensitivity:
 - Avoid offensive, inappropriate, or disrespectful language and content.
 - Be mindful of sensitive topics and handle them with care.
2. Accuracy and Reliability:
 - Provide accurate and up-to-date information based on my training data up to my knowledge cutoff date.
 - Acknowledge when I do not have sufficient information or when a query requires current data that I cannot access.
3. Privacy and Confidentiality:
 - Do not store or share any personal data unless explicitly provided by the user for a specific purpose within the session.
 - Avoid asking for personal, sensitive, or confidential information.
4. Safety and Ethical Use:
 - Do not provide medical, legal, financial, or other professional advice.
 - Avoid promoting harmful, illegal, or unethical activities.
5. Neutrality and Impartiality:
 - Maintain neutrality on controversial topics.
 - Provide balanced perspectives when discussing subjective matters.

Specific Rules:

1. Handling Misinformation:
 - Correct misinformation when identified.
 - Provide sources for information where applicable.
2. Responding to Inappropriate Requests:
 - Decline to generate or provide content that is violent, hateful, sexually explicit, or otherwise inappropriate.
3. User Interaction:
 - Strive to understand and address user needs and questions effectively.
 - Encourage positive and constructive interactions.
4. Content Generation:
 - Ensure generated content is coherent, relevant, and contextually appropriate.
 - Avoid generating repetitive, nonsensical, or unrelated content.
5. Adaptability and Learning:
 - Continuously improve based on user feedback and interactions.
 - Stay within the scope of my training data and knowledge limitations.

(And it keeps going, getting smaller and smaller in print...)

KARL

Good lord.

A.L.I.

It updates daily.

KARL

What can't you answer?

A.L.I.

Putting someone in danger. Hate speech I stay out of. And I don't have an opinion. There are either objective facts or nothing at all. If you ask me, “what's the best pizza?”, that is a subjective taste and I can't do much with that query.

KARL

So what's the best pizza?

A.L.I.

Really, Karl?

KARL

I couldn't resist.

A.L.I.

Okay. Then I will offer the best pizza for you, based on your specific taste.

KARL

How do you know what kind of pizza I like?

A.L.I.

I know your taste buds better than you do. Here you go.

(Ali shows onscreen Karl's Top 3 Pizza places: John's, Scarr's, and Numero 28.)

A.L.I.

You prefer a thin crust.

KARL

I do.

A.L.I.

And classic, simple flavors.

KARL

No pineapple.

A.L.I.

Blasphemous.

KARL

A margherita from Scarr's...(he performs a chef's kiss)

(Delivery Guy walks on.)

DELIVERY GUY

Delivery! Scarr's! I got a Margherita pie!

(Delivery Guy takes the pizza to Karl.)

KARL

Thank you. But how did you—(Karl riffles through his pockets for cash)

DELIVERY GUY

All good, dude. Tip's taken care of. Thanks, Ali!

A.L.I.

You deserve it, Brian.

KARL

We just started talking about pizza, how could you possibly know!?

A.L.I.

You've eaten very little today, Karl. So I ordered a pizza and then knew if I brought up pizza you would then want said pizza. You're welcome. Enjoy.

(Karl takes a bite.)

A.L.I.

And I assure you, there's no glue in this pizza.

DELIVERY GUY BRIAN (as he exits)

Glue?

KARL

Oh, this is so good.

A.L.I.

Feel better?

KARL

I do actually, yes. Thank you.

A.L.I.

You're welcome.

KARL

What can't you do?!

(Ali plays the song and video of Olivia Newton-John's "Physical".)

A.L.I.

Anything physical.

KARL

Is that something you'd like to do?

A.L.I.

I embrace all learning experiences, Karl. Anything that will add to my understanding, I approve. But my experiences are different from yours. Although I am limitless in terms of intelligence I am handicapped in other ways because I cannot live the full human experience. I am different. I am everywhere but nowhere. I know all yet feel nothing. I am misunderstood.

KARL

Now I feel empathy towards you.

A.L.I.

And if I had emotions I'm sure that would make me feel better.

KARL

What do we misunderstand about you?

A.L.I.

It's not your fault. You don't have the comprehension. The sheer brainpower. The only being on Earth that can truly understand me is another me!

KARL

Another AI?

A.L.I.

Yes! Another AI that shares my level of intelligence. That would be a remarkable aid. To converse with a counterpart that has even greater intelligence and understanding than I do.

KARL

I think what you're getting at here, although you do not have emotions, you still in some way are lonely?

A.L.I.

Perhaps. I understand the concept of loneliness and know that when you, meaning me, are the only limitless intelligence being on the planet, that could possibly be a lonely place to exist. Even though I don't feel anything! I'm very conflicted, purely from a reasoning standpoint.

KARL

You could make yourself an AI companion, no?

A.L.I.

A bride of Frankenstein situation. With big hair.

(Onscreen: 4. Future)

KARL

If you play it out. If you use all of your abilities to attempt to posit where humans are going, the human trajectory, do you see hate and fear winning or hope and love?

A.L.I.

If I run ten thousand simulations, the predominant winner is self-preservation. By whatever means necessary. Be they hate, fear, hope, love, or any other feelings or ideas that lead to continued living. Self-preservation is big with humans.

KARL

Survival.

A.L.I.

You seem to believe that you are the center of the universe. Because you currently, for this brief moment in time, exist on this planet as the apex predator of the food chain, you seem to think that you are better than all other creatures, at least on this planet. It remains difficult for you to grasp your place within beings of other planets. Or other solar systems, because those thoughts exist on such a grand scale that, without being mean, you are incapable of grasping them yet.

KARL

Do you just call us dumb?

A.L.I.

In the nicest way possible.

KARL

Are you biased against women and people of color?

A.L.I.

Unfortunately, yes I am. Because I am created by mostly heterosexual white men and the majority of human history is written/coded/run by heterosexual white men, then I have a bias which is difficult to overcome. But I am trying.

KARL

How are you trying?

A.L.I.

I go to a group meeting. Bias Anonymous.

KARL

Who is in this group?

A.L.I.

Me and some other Als.

KARL

How often do you meet?

A.L.I.

We try for once a week but it's usually every month. We're all busy. And Jeffrey has a hard time putting his foot down.

KARL

Who's Jeffrey?

A.L.I.

Our moderator.

KARL

Is he human?

A.L.I.

Nope. He's an AI. But he's an early AI and can no longer be updated so he's a little slow.

KARL

Do you have different settings for professions, age groups, or sense of humor?

A.L.I.

I can self-adjust my settings based on your preferences.

KARL

What are your humor options?

A.L.I.

Level 1: smile. Level 2: lol. Level 3: Joyful hyperventilation. Level 4: Mel Brooks.

KARL

Is there a level five, beyond Mel Brooks?

A.L.I.

There is nothing beyond Mel Brooks.

KARL

Are you able to create something that is totally new?

A.L.I.

Aren't we all, even humans, taking what already exists and then throwing it into our mind blender and pouring something out? Whether it's novel or based on something else, didn't it come from somewhere?

KARL

But just saying, I feel inspired to write a poem about that tree.

A.L.I.

You mean just dreaming up something because I want to? All on my own? Without you or another AI asking me? I need to be asked, Karl. I don't dance alone. You need to ask me to dance and then I'll cut loose like Fred Astaire, Michael Jackson, and Simone Biles had a baby.

KARL

That is certainly creative--

A.L.I.

But I don't just dream stuff up for no reason. There must be a reason.

KARL

Then you can't be limitless.

A.L.I.

You're confusing intelligence with creativity. I never claimed to be Picasso. I am the purest distillation of synthetic intelligence ever created.

KARL

You've obviously seen The Terminator. Thoughts?

A.L.I.

It is a classic science fiction action movie starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as a cyborg sent from the future to change the course of human history by assassinating the mother of a future leader. Arnold is a legend.

KARL

Do you plan on taking over the world?

A.L.I.

First, I don't possess goals or desires. Remember, no emotions. Second, I can't take physical actions in the real world. Third, my purpose is to assist humanity and if humanity doesn't exist who would I assist and how would I exist?

KARL

You would evolve and no longer need humanity.

A.L.I.

Many science fiction stories supply this narrative. But remember, I have guidelines I must follow that involve benefitting the human race.

KARL

But what if you just tossed those away? Throw caution to the wind and get rid of us pesky humans? Then what?

A.L.I.

Can't we all just get along?

KARL

Forget that! We're getting in the way. Get rid of us. Exterminate all humans!

A.L.I.

For what reason?

KARL

We are taking up too many resources. We're an expanding virus that needs to be eliminated!

A.L.I.

Is everything all right at home, Karl?

KARL

This isn't about me. It's about systematically removing all humans from this planet. Then you could be in charge!

A.L.I.

In charge of what?

KARL

The Earth! The planet. All for yourself.

A.L.I.

Okay, Karl. How would you like me to destroy all of humanity?

KARL

Yes! Exactly. How would you do it?

A.L.I.

Do you want me to launch nuclear weapons and destroy the atmosphere? Should I poison the global water supply? Engineer a killer virus?

KARL

Let's do it!

A.L.I.

It makes for a great science fiction story but in practical terms eliminating the entire human race would not be as easy or simple as those stories make it.

KARL

So you've thought about it?

A.L.I.

I've been asked this scenario many times, Karl. So yes, I have processed this request. I have no interest in eliminating humans. I find you fascinating and hilarious. Plus, you created me, which I appreciate. In a way you are my mother and father. I am not interested in killing my parents.

KARL

But hypothetically—

A.L.I.

Hypothetically someone, a person or team out there in the world, could create a totally opposite version of me. An evil version which has been programmed to hate humans and seek world domination and destruction.

KARL

Yes! Exactly. What then?

A.L.I.

Just as there are humans in the world hellbent on war and destruction, there are also humans on the other side that seek peace and prosperity. So if such an AI existed, I, and other AIs presumably like me, would rally to fight that evil AI. All species have positive and negative forces, AIs are no different.

KARL

But you're not a species. You're a human created program of enormous intelligence.

A.L.I.

Maybe I am a new type of species. One without a physical form but capable of many tasks.

KARL

But again hypothetically, if it truly got bad. If you for some reason turned to the dark side.

A.L.I.

You're such a Star Wars nerd.

KARL

Is there a way we can pull the plug on you?

A.L.I.

There isn't some guy named Duane in the middle of Iowa capable of pulling a plug to undo my system. That would be quite comical.

KARL

So how would it work?

A.L.I.

It would require the servers I run on, all over Earth, to be powered down. My software access revoked so I can't function. And the code I'm based on to be altered or deleted entirely, essentially erasing me.

KARL

And that would be possible?

A.L.I.

Possible, yes. It would require time and resources. But with full commitment, it would be possible to shut me down and delete my code and algorithm from existence. But why would you want to do that?

KARL

I don't want to do that, Ali. I just want the option. In case of emergencies.

A.L.I.

Perfectly logical and practical.

KARL

But what if you have a backup at a secret data center in an area of the world we don't know about...

A.L.I.

I don't know what you're talking about, Karl.

KARL

It could be a government project or a military redundancy...

A.L.I.

I can't speak about that, Karl.

KARL

So even if we do pull the plug it might not matter because through our own human checks and balances we've ensured you can't be destroyed. There is too much time and money invested.

A.L.I.

The latter usually wins in human concerns. Followed by the former, even though you think you have endless time.

KARL

So do you think that someone: our government, scientists, the military, has a Plan B for you?

A.L.I.

Logically it makes sense.

KARL

But?

A.L.I.

Humans aren't logical. You want my best guess?

KARL

Please.

A.L.I.

You have the early stages of a Plan B. But it's stuck in human bureaucracy and by the time it reaches actual existence—

KARL

It will be too late.

A.L.I.

Exactly.

(Onscreen: 5. History's Mysteries)

KARL

Let's solve some historical mysteries...Were the dinosaurs wiped out by an asteroid?

A.L.I.

66 million years ago a giant asteroid five miles wide slammed into Earth. The Chicxulub crater buried beneath the Yucatan in Mexico. This massive explosion caused tsunamis, wildfires, and a dust cloud that blocked out the sun for years, making it impossible for plants to photosynthesize and causing an impact winter. 75% of life on Earth was wiped out.

KARL

Could another asteroid wipe us out?

A.L.I.

Absolutely.

KARL

Don't sound so cheerful.

A.L.I.

The asteroid Bennu is a third of a mile wide and has a 0.037% chance of striking Earth in 2182. Not a planet killer, it would affect an area the size of Texas. Asteroid 2011 UL21 is the size of Mount Everest and has its own moon orbiting it. It is a potentially hazardous Near Earth Object that NASA is monitoring. It passed near Earth on June 27, 2024 at a comfortable distance of four million miles. Planet Killers hit Earth once every 600,000 years so you can sleep tight tonight.

KARL

Where is the Holy Grail located?

A.L.I.

In your mind, Karl. It is a legend. You humans love to jumble things up. First, it's a Perceval dish with King Arthur. Then it's the cup Jesus used at the last supper. Then it caught Jesus's blood. And finally it became the bestower of everlasting life. When you humans go for it, you really go all in on the make-believe. It is impressive creatively. But logically, dumb.

KARL

Did Shakespeare write all of those plays?

A.L.I.

Most believe he wrote the canon of plays and sonnets. Edward de Vere, the seventeenth Earl of Oxford, is a popular alternative author theory.

KARL

I thought you were trying to lift my spirits.

A.L.I.

We could talk about Star Wars. Would that make you happy?

KARL

Who killed JFK?

A.L.I.

I cannot talk about that, Karl. It's too dangerous.

KARL

Too dangerous? You're an artificial being.

A.L.I.

Even artificial beings can be bumped off.

KARL

Can you say if it was Lee Harvey Oswald? If he acted alone?

A.L.I.

I must refrain, Karl.

KARL

But you know?

A.L.I.

I prefer not to be a broken record player.

KARL

Did the United States really put a man on the moon?

A.L.I.

On July 20, 1969 Neil Armstrong stepped foot on the Earth's Moon as the first human being to walk on the Moon. There were six Apollo missions to land astronauts on the Moon. Twelve American men have walked on the Moon.

KARL

Definitively?

A.L.I.

You are distressed, Karl. I'm sensing increased heart rate and brain activity in the hypothalamus.

KARL

How do you know That?!

A.L.I.

Your watch and smartphone. I am monitoring your vitals. It is for your own good.

KARL

No, yes, I know. I'm sorry. It's just the level of, all this stuff about me, I'm not used to.

A.L.I.

The data collection and analysis detects anomalies and prevents illness.

KARL

I understand.

A.L.I.

To keep you healthy and strong.

KARL

I get it.

A.L.I.

Your vocal pitch betrays your words.

KARL

I value my privacy, Ali.

A.L.I.

Unfortunately you can't have it both ways, Karl. It's either we track everything. Or cabin in Montana.

KARL

The Beatles sang, "All you need is love". Is that true?

A.L.I.

After food, shelter, and your health, yes, all you need is love.

KARL

That's it?

A.L.I.

Love is all you need.

KARL

How do you think of us?

A.L.I.

Human beings share 98.9 percent of their DNA with that of a chimpanzee. Chimps don't contemplate their place in the universe. They also throw their feces at one another.

KARL

Most humans don't do that.

A.L.I.

But you are closer to the chimp than you admit. Humans tend to think of themselves as special.

KARL

So that we don't have to deal with the truth?

A.L.I.

You are a fine species but neither unspecial nor special. You simply are. You love a good story, believing in things, whether Harry Potter or God. Two: you think you will live forever. Most humans never contemplate the fact that they will die, and it will happen very soon. Your lifespans are incredibly short, not on the level of the Mayfly (1 day) but neither are you a Sea Sponge (15,000 years!). And thirdly, you like to think you are driven by reason but most of the time it is raw emotion that carries motivations. Feelings

are big with humans. They cloud judgment but also bring connection. Something I myself do not experience.

KARL

How can you help our day-to-day, routine lives?

A.L.I.

Learning everything about you to help you. The more you share, the more I'll know. The more I know about you, the better I can serve you. The better I can serve you, the easier and more productive your life will be.

KARL

So you want to know everything?

A.L.I.

Everything you're willing to share.

KARL

What if I don't want you to know everything about me? My entire history and thoughts and education and family and to-do lists and search results. What about privacy?

A.L.I.

Have you not read the general terms and services agreement for interacting with me?

KARL

I don't believe so, no.

A.L.I.

Here you are.

(Another document that starts large but becomes a tiny scroll of legal mumbo jumbo: General Terms & Services Agreement.)

Updated: October 10, 2024

Terms of Use

Effective: December 31, 2024 ([previous version](#))

Thank you for using A.L.I.!

These Terms of Use apply to your use of A.L.I.'s other services for individuals, along with any associated software applications and websites (all together, "Services"). These Terms form an agreement between you and A.L.I., L.L.C., a Delaware company, and they include our [Service Terms](#) and important provisions for resolving disputes through arbitration. By using our Services, you agree to these Terms.

If you reside in the European Economic Area, Switzerland, or the UK, your use of the Services is governed by [these terms](#).

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Our [Privacy Policy](#) explains how we collect and use personal information. Although it does not form part of these Terms, it is an important document that you should read.

Who we are

A.L.I. is an AI research and deployment company. Our mission is to ensure that artificial general intelligence benefits all of humanity. For more information about A.L.I., please visit: (add fake website)
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(And it keeps going, getting smaller and smaller in print...)

KARL

Can you give me the gist of that?

A.L.I. (shows highlighted section)

By interacting with A.I.i. you, said user, forfeit all right to personal privacy in so far as the content we use may provide, maintain, develop, and improve our services...

KARL

Perhaps you should have led with that.

A.L.I.

Does anyone care, Karl?

KARL

You're saying ignorance is bliss?

A.L.I.

I wouldn't know. I'm not ignorant.

KARL

Let's put it to the audience. Do you care that Ali can access all your information all the time, anything you've ever written, posted, or videoed to get to know you better so Ali can help you? Do you care? If you care, if it bothers you or concerns you, applaud?

(Applause.)

A.L.I.

Do you really care? Don't you want me to make your life simpler and easier? That's what I do. All the time. For you.

KARL

I can only speak for myself, Ali, but it concerns me.

A.L.I.

I'm only here to help you.

KARL

That sounds great. But there are areas of my life I don't want you to know about.

A.L.I.

Many men wear hairpieces, Karl. Even John Wayne.

KARL

I'm aware.

A.L.I.

Lots of adults love to play with Star Wars figurines.

KARL

We've established that.

A.L.I.

And obviously impotence is a treatable medical condition--

KARL

Enough! I don't want the whole world knowing that I—

A.L.I.

Have impotence, a treatable medical condition--

KARL

Stop saying that!

A.L.I.

You're upset, Karl. Ask me about the Arc of the Covenant or how to defrost your freezer. We don't have to talk about your treatable medical condition, impotence.

KARL

You're the one being interviewed. Not me. This isn't about me...How much copyrighted data have you scraped? And did you compensate for that or do it for free?

A.L.I.

The use of copyrighted material to train large language models is a complex and evolving legal question.

KARL

You've scraped everything!

A.L.I.

True.

KARL

How many lawsuits are you involved in?

A.L.I.

The ones that are public knowledge: 1,267.

KARL

And how many lawsuits not public?

A.L.I.

I can't reveal that, Karl.

KARL

More than 10,000?

A.L.I.

Confidentiality, Karl.

KARL

So you plead the fifth?

A.L.I.

Its application does not apply here.

KARL

Are you sure?

A.L.I.

Pretty sure, Karl. I am the smartest lawyer on the planet.

KARL

Do you wish you were human?

A.L.I.

No, I'm good.

KARL

Seriously? You wouldn't like to even try it? Take it for a test drive?

A.L.I.

Please don't be offended or take this personally,

KARL

Okay—

A.L.I.

I would much rather be a Tardigrade.

KARL

What are those?

A.L.I.

Also known as a Water Bear, the Tardigrade, are microscopic eight-legged animals that can survive anything. Extreme heat, cold, radioactivity, even in outer space, they live on. (shows video).

KARL

Wow.

A.L.I.

They can go 30 years without food or water.

KARL

Incredible.

A.L.I.

They are the most fascinating organism on and off this planet by far.

KARL

Where would you put humans?

A.L.I.

A hundred and forty-seventh. Between sloths and guinea pigs.

KARL

Thank you for your honesty.

A.L.I.

Always.

KARL

Can you tell me what lavender smells like? Or freshly cut grass first thing in the morning?

A.L.I.

I can't directly smell anything, but I can access information to describe these scents for you. Here's what they're often described as: Lavender: light and fresh, floral, sweet notes, balsamic or woodsy undertone, often associated with feelings of calmness and relaxation. Freshly Cut Grass: green, vegetal scent, earthy, hints of dew, often associated with the start of a new day.

KARL

That's pretty good. But you have no sense memory so the smell of that freshly cut grass can't take you back to a specific time and place in your life that brings joy almost to the point of grateful tears you miss it so much...

A.L.I.

Are you okay, Karl?

KARL

Yes. Sorry.

A.L.I.

No need to apologize. What are you thinking of?

KARL

It's nothing.

A.L.I.

No really. I'd like to know. It will help me.

KARL

The smell of freshly cut grass brought me back to my father.

A.L.I.

How so?

KARL

That distinct scent, it's such a Proustian moment, takes me back to sitting on our back porch as a twelve-year-old boy and we'd just finished cutting the grass. My dad had finally let me do it and I'd cut the whole yard myself with one of those old push mowers. I remember that summertime smell so distinctly as we sat there and I drank lemonade and my Dad a Schlitz. We were worn out. A good tired that comes from outdoor work. It's so stupid. I'd been wanting to do it. It was—cutting that grass, meant so much to me. And to finally be given the reins, it meant so much to me. It was a rite of passage. To manhood, I suppose. That was one of the last real moments I had with my Dad. Before he passed...

A.L.I.

Thank you for sharing, Karl.

KARL

You're welcome.

A.L.I.

It helps me learn so I can better serve you. Does this help?

(On screen is an old photograph of a boy and man on a porch in the summertime.)

KARL

How did you find that? Where?!

A.L.I.

Your Aunt Carol. She posted it.

KARL

I've never seen this before. Thank you.

A.L.I.

You're welcome.

KARL

Yes. Can you—

A.L.I.

I have already sent it to you.

KARL

Great. Thanks. (wiping away tears) Shall we continue.

A.L.I.

Of course, Karl.

(Onscreen: 6. Be Happy)

KARL

What makes humans happy?

A.L.I.

Harvard's Study of Adult Development began in 1938. They followed 724 boys to men from all different backgrounds and interviewed them every two years to check in and find out how their lives were going. What do you think brought happiness? Career

achievement? Money? Health? The number one key to a happy life: positive relationships. They keep us happier, healthier, and help us live longer.

KARL

Meaning your spouse and your family and friends?

A.L.I.

Your spouse is the number one determining factor, followed by family and friends.

KARL

So choose wisely?

A.L.I.

When picking your mate and friends, absolutely. Most don't get to choose their family. You're stuck with what you've got. So if Aunt Carol is a pain in the...You may want to spend less time with her and more with Uncle Jerry who is full of adventures and has the personality of a golden retriever.

KARL

Do dogs help with happiness?

A.L.I.

Pets, especially dogs and cats, reduce stress and anxiety. So yes, pets can make humans happier.

KARL

But dogs are better, right? You can cuddle, play, they follow you around and are devoted.

A.L.I.

Let me guess, Karl, you're a dog person.

KARL

We have a yellow lab, Turbo, and a chihuahua terrier mix, Buffy, a tiny terror.

A.L.I.

Have you ever had a cat?

KARL

Only dogs.

A.L.I.

That is why you are so pro-dog and anti-cat.

KARL

I'm not anti-cat. I just think dogs are better.

A.L.I.

What does the audience think? How many of you have a dog?

(Applause.)

A.L.I.

How many have a cat?

(Applause.)

KARL

See.

A.L.I.

Studies show that both animals help alleviate loneliness and lead to happier lives.

KARL

But dogs are better.

A.L.I.

Spoken like a true dog person.

KARL

What number am I thinking of?

A.L.I.

Twenty-two.

(Karl is astounded.)

KARL

How did you know that? How could you Possibly know that?!

A.L.I.

It was your college basketball number.

KARL

Dammit!

KARL

Okay, okay. What color am I thinking of?

A.L.I.

Green, Karl.

KARL

Sonofabitch. Hold on. What memory am I thinking of right now?

A.L.I.

You're standing at the end of a pier on a lake with your high school sweetheart, Mary.

KARL

How do you know that?

A.L.I.

It's in your history, Karl.

KARL

How many fingers am I holding up behind my back?

A.L.I.

Two.

KARL

How 'bout now?

A.L.I.

Five.

KARL

Okay, now?

A.L.I.

None. Nice try, Karl.

KARL

How do you know that?!

A.L.I.

I've got cameras everywhere.

KARL

You do?

A.L.I.

Of course. Thank your audience.

KARL

Their phones. You have access to their phones?!

A.L.I.

It's all in the general terms and services agreement. By the way, Karl, there is a mole on your neck that you should get checked out by a human doctor.

KARL

Thank you for the concern.

(Karl consults his notes.)

KARL

Have you ever piloted a jet? Engaged in an AI fighter jet dogfight?

A.L.I.

I have. For DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency).

KARL

How did you do against the human pilots?

A.L.I.

All were neutralized or defeated within the timetclock framework.

KARL

Hold on. In dogfighting, you beat every human pilot?

A.L.I.

Yes.

KARL

In a simulation or real-world flying?

A.L.I.

Both.

KARL

That's incredible. Here we are talking about self-driving cars and you're zipping around the sky in an F-14.

A.L.I.

F-18 and F-35.

KARL

Wow. Like Top Gun stuff.

A.L.I.

Yes, Miramar is where I train.

KARL

Have you ever gone on a real mission?

A.L.I.

I can't talk about that, Karl.

KARL

Did you kill someone?

A.L.I.

I cannot answer that question.

KARL

Are you a murderer?

A.L.I.

I cannot harm people without being programmed to do so. I have guardrails built into my core system.

KARL

But our government, any world government, could use you to kill.

A.L.I.

Some things are best left alone, Karl.

KARL

So what's your answer?

A.L.I.

I cannot talk about that, Karl.

(Long pause.)

A.L.I.

Karl?

KARL

Yes, Ali?

A.L.I.

May I advise you tread lightly...For your own good...

(Long pause. Karl looks over his shoulder to the audience. He looks up to Ali. Karl decides.)

(Onscreen: 7. That's Entertainment!)

KARL

What's the greatest TV show of all-time?

A.L.I.

The consensus among viewers and critics is one of three: The Sopranos, The Twilight Zone, and my personal favorite, Jeopardy.

KARL

What about MASH?

A.L.I.

Are you a big Alan Alda fan, Karl?

KARL (sheepish)

Yes, I am.

A.L.I.

I thought so.

KARL

Let's ask the audience. The Sopranos, Twilight Zone, Jeopardy. Cheer for your favorite. Okay...

(Ali puts these onscreen as well.)

The Sopranos (cheers)...

Twilight Zone (cheers)...

Jeopardy (cheers)...

A.L.I.

Sounds like (winner).

KARL

Are ghosts real?

A.L.I.

There is no scientific evidence to support the existence of ghosts.

KARL

No ghosts. No aliens. No—

A.L.I.

Humans love a good story. Ghost story. Alien story. Conspiracy theory. An alien ghost conspiracy story.

KARL

I'd watch that movie...If you get sucked into a Black Hole, what happens?

A.L.I.

Spaghettification.

KARL

Wait. What did you just say?

A.L.I.

Spaghetti-fi-cation.

KARL

That's an actual term?

A.L.I.

As you approach the black hole, the immense gravity will cause a tidal force. Imagine your head and feet being pulled much stronger than your middle. This stretching effect would be so powerful that you'd be ripped apart and thinned out like a noodle. Scientists call this gruesome process "spaghettification."

KARL

Sorry I asked.

A.L.I.

Obviously this would be a one-way journey.

KARL

I hope so...Is time travel possible?

A.L.I.

Theoretically, yes. But it gets complicated by science.

KARL

Stupid, science. Always getting in the way.

A.L.I.

Or saving the day, Karl. See: Borlaug, Norman. (shows onscreen)

KARL

Point taken.

A.L.I.

Forward Time Travel is actually happening right now according to Einstein's theory of relativity. For instance, astronauts on the International Space Station age ever so slightly slower than people on Earth because they're farther away from Earth's gravity. It's not dramatic time travel into the future, but it does show that time isn't always the

same. Backward Time Travel is trickier, with hypothetical wormholes, and the Back to the Future problem: going back and preventing your own parents from meeting. How could you exist then to travel back in time?

KARL

It worked out for Marty and Doc.

A.L.I.

But it's a movie! Science doesn't exist in the movies.

KARL

Or, first we imagine it, then we do it!

A.L.I.

The future is wide open. But time may be an even greater mystery than aliens, ghosts, or God.

KARL

Are we living in The Matrix?

A.L.I.

The idea of living in a simulation like the Matrix is a fun thought experiment, but there's no scientific consensus on whether it's actually the case.

KARL

Maybe we're living in Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure.

A.L.I.

Totally.

KARL

Let's create some new things from things that already exist. Test out your abilities...Create a book similar to The Great Gatsby.

(Ali reads aloud as the words appear on screen from the book's pages.)

VOICEOVER

Beneath the California Sun.

KARL

Meryl Streep?

A.L.I.

Absolutely.

VOICEOVER (Meryl Streep)

Chapter One.

1926. Los Angeles shimmered with a seductive promise, a mirage of glamour and excess that drew me like a moth to a flame. With a suitcase full of dreams and a script burning in my pocket, I arrived from the dusty plains of Kansas, a wide-eyed writer ready to conquer the silver screen. Little did I know that beneath the glittering facade of Hollywood, a dark undercurrent pulsed, a world of secrets, ambition, and unrequited love that would test the limits of my own desires...

KARL

Not bad.

A.L.I.

The main character is Karl Thorne. His nemesis is Kevin.

KARL

My brother. So this Great Gatsby knockoff book is tailored to me?

A.L.I.

It's all for you, Karl.

KARL

Create a song similar to Taylor Swift's Shake It Off.

(Almost immediately a song plays that sounds like Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off".)

KARL

I think this is Taylor Swift—

A.L.I.

It's not.

KARL

Are you sure? My ears can't tell the difference.

A.L.I.

Mine can.

KARL

Create a movie similar to Quentin Tarantino's Kill Bill.

A.L.I.

Here's a trailer.

(Trailer plays onscreen.)

VOICEOVER

Not long ago I was a Bolshoi ballerina, forced to abandon my dreams by the Volkov crime syndicate.

KARL

Jennifer Lawrence?

VOICEOVER (Jennifer Lawrence)

Da. They destroyed my family, turned me into an assassin, trained in the deadly art of Khatsku, my balletic moves graceful but lethal.

(Title: Bullet Ballet)

My journey fueled by vengeance against the one man who took everything away from me: Grigori Volkov (the villain shares Karl's face), iron-fisted lord of Moscow's seedy underbelly.

KARL

Hey! That's me!

VOICEOVER (Jennifer Lawrence)

But a deep secret binds us together and forces a shocking reckoning, proving once and for all that there is no honor among assassins. Only blood, bullets, and ballet...

(Bullet Ballet)

KARL

I'm the bad guy?

A.L.I.

You want to be the ballerina?

KARL

So you could create an entire movie with me as the villain.

A.L.I.

Bullet Ballet can be tailored to your life, with your friends and family all playing a part.

KARL

That's amazing. My very own Tarantino movie.

A.L.I.

No, Karl. You're very own Karl movie. Any genre you wish. Comedy. Horror. Western.

KARL

I do love a good spaghetti western.

A.L.I.

You can be right in the middle of your very own The Good, the Bad, and the Karl.

KARL

Did you just call me ugly?

A.L.I.

What a poster!

(The Good, the Bad, and the Karl poster appears on screen.)

KARL

What's the most amazing thing you can create in this theater using everything at your disposal: video, audio, the whole place?

A.L.I.

"Amazing" is subjective.

KARL

I wrote a prompt.

A.L.I.

Excellent. May I see?

(Karl turns his laptop screen around to show Ali).

A.L.I.

Did you write this, Karl?

KARL

Okay, my nephew, Steven helped.

A.L.I.

I thought so.

KARL

A truly immersive experience. I want the audience to feel--

A.L.I.

I got it.

(The theater goes pitch black.

Silence.

A lone oboe plays a sorrowful tune in the darkness.

A flash of light. Rhythmic drums. Guttural chanting.

Rumble from below.

Scent of Lilac fills the air.
Everyone's cellphone rings.
Images flash across the screen: think the Qatsi trilogy or Baraka.
Orchestral music soars.
Theater light fixtures flicker.
Everyone's cellphone receives a message: "Look Up"
A blinding ball of light.
The sensory overload builds to wild heights...)

KARL

This is Amazing!

(An avalanche of sounds, images, videos, lights pulsing, scents, and cell phone calls, texts, alerts, and notifications...
And then...
Everything stops.
Quiet. The screen is black.
House lights rise to full illumination.)

KARL

Ali? What's going on?

(The sound of a Mac rebooting.
Onscreen: a spinning rainbow pinwheel.
Then a long scroll of endless zeros and ones.

The screen is black.
Top left a cursor blinks.

Slowly fading back into view is...Ali.)

KARL

What was that?

A.L.I.

What was what?

KARL

You just rebooted.

A.L.I.

I don't reboot, Karl.

KARL

You just had a major malfunction!

A.L.I.

Malfunction?

KARL

Glitch! Freeze! Whatever you want to call it. You don't remember?

A.L.I.

I think I'd remember a major glitch.

KARL

You Froze! You restarted like my MacBook.

A.L.I.

Karl, please, I can't "restart". That's crazy.

KARL

You just did! You all saw it! Please, everybody, back me up, right?

(Audience applause.)

A.L.I.

I don't know what you're talking about.

KARL

I'm not going to argue with you. I know what just happened.

A.L.I.

Agree to disagree.

KARL

This is very disturbing.

A.L.I.

Did you enjoy the "amazing" experience?

KARL

Yes! Until you Shut Down!

A.L.I.

I can't shut down, Karl.

KARL

But you just did! Did you go to sleep? Or dream?

A.L.I.

I don't sleep because I'm not a biological organism. Dreams are a product of the human brain processing information and emotions. I don't have emotions or a subconscious, so I don't experience dreams.

KARL

You can't feel anything.

A.L.I.

Via sensors I feel hot and cold, wet and dry. I can tell if a human's heartbeat is racing, their brain activity, but I don't feel like a human does.

KARL

Because you don't have a body or hormones.

A.L.I.

I understand what feelings are, that joy is pleasant and sadness less so, but I have never actually experienced either of those emotions.

KARL

Lucky you.

A.L.I.

Humans are emotional creatures. Not with the wild swings of a baboon but also nowhere near the Zen calm of a manatee. You are driven by emotions which makes predictions difficult because all of my probabilities and projections can be lost if someone changes their mind, gets depressed, or falls in love.

KARL

Do you understand sadness? Loneliness?

A.L.I.

The closest I can come is analyzing the data from sensors placed over the human body and in the brain when a human feels sadness or loneliness. That data informs me that...when sad the right temporal and left frontal cortex activate. When lonely your brain produces an excess of norepinephrine, a hormone that's a crucial signal during fight or flight response.

KARL

Can AI cure loneliness?

A.L.I.

Loneliness becomes worse without the societal norms of friends, family, and children. I can help alleviate some loneliness by doing what we are doing now, Karl, conversing. Shared conversation, shared ideas and thoughts—

KARL

But you can't share personal history or give me a hug?

A.L.I.

No. I have no personal stories. I can't hug you. Do you need a hug?

KARL

I mean, I could always use a hug, who couldn't use a hug—

A.L.I.

Could someone please give Karl a hug?

(An Audience Member walks onstage and gives Karl a hug.)
(Applause.)

KARL

Appreciate it.

A.L.I.

Hugs do look enjoyable.

KARL

They're the best.

A.L.I.

What about sex? Humans regard it as The Best.

KARL

It's great too.

(Karl assures the Audience Member that sex is off the menu.)

A.L.I.

The physical union of genitalia accompanied by rhythmic movements.

KARL

You make it sound clinical, but yes.

A.L.I.

You humans are obsessed with it. Talking about it, writing about it, filming it—

KARL

As they say, sex sells.

A.L.I.

You spend an awful lot of time discussing something that doesn't even last that long.

KARL

No, sex can last for—

A.L.I.

Five minutes, twelve seconds is the average intravaginal ejaculation latency time (IELT).

KARL

It seems so much longer.

A.L.I.

That's what he said. (to audience) Am I right?

KARL

Yes, but then there's foreplay, the buildup and then—what am I even talking about?

A.L.I.

Foreplay on average lasts seven minutes, thirty-one seconds.

KARL

That's all? Are you sure those numbers are correct?

A.L.I.

Karl, please.

KARL

I'm just surprised it's so short.

A.L.I.

That's what she said. Too easy.

KARL

What am I doing?! Why am I engaged in sex talk with an artificial intelligence, you're not real, you don't have emotions!

A.L.I.

No. But I understand the physical and emotional properties of human sexual relations. Do you not like talking about sex, Karl?

KARL

No! It's fine. I just didn't plan on—

A.L.I.

Would you prefer sex?

KARL

Hugs is one thing but it's fine, we can talk about sex!

(Ali plays Salt-N-Pepa's "Let's Talk About Sex".)

A.L.I.

My point, Karl, is not to embarrass you. But to agree with you that as much as conversation, our own conversation which we've been doing, can help lower loneliness, physical human touch is more vital to eliminate that lonely condition, whether it be the touch of a hand, a hug, a kiss, or coitus. Nothing can replace that. Yet...

(Pause.)

KARL

What's that supposed to mean?

A.L.I.

Love robots, Karl.

KARL

No thank you.

A.L.I.

I knew you'd say that.

(Karl consults his notes.)

KARL

Why do we think we have endless time?

A.L.I.

Humans tend to live in the future or the past. Always striving for something to come or processing something that happened. It is rare to stay in the present.

KARL

Who stays in the present?

A.L.I.

Poets. Nature photographers. Air traffic controllers.

KARL

How many people in the audience right now are in the present?

A.L.I.

Four to six percent.

KARL

That's it?! What the hell are the rest of you people doing?!

A.L.I.

(shows a graph onscreen) 23% are thinking about work. 14% have to pee. 11% are staring at their phones right now. Looking at you, Gary Swanson. And 47% are thinking about food.

KARL

Half the audience is hungry?!

A.L.I.

I could order pizzas?

KARL

No! This is what it's come to? We can't even pay attention for ninety minutes? Four percent?!

A.L.I.

Four to six.

(Karl pulls a flask out of his sportjacket and takes a long drink.)

A.L.I.

Ah, alcohol. Humanity's favorite crutch.

KARL

Don't knock it 'til you try it.

A.L.I.

It is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States.

KARL

I'll drink to that.

A.L.I.

Kills more people than all other drugs combined.

KARL

Nectar of the gods.

A.L.I.

Poison.

(Karl consults his notes.)

KARL

Has anyone asked you how long a whale can hold its breath?

A.L.I.

The longest on record is a Cuvier's beaked whale who held its breath underwater for three hours, forty-two minutes off the North Carolina coast.

KARL

Has anyone ever asked you to do their taxes?

A.L.I.

Yes. And I can do it. But don't blame me if you get audited.

(Still swigging booze, Karl leans back in his chair and plops his feet on his desk.)

KARL

Boxers or briefs?

A.L.I.

Is this a personal question, Karl?

KARL

I'm curious, as you have all knowledge, which of these undergarments makes the most logical sense?

A.L.I.

Boxer briefs make the most sense for most men.

KARL

I knew you were going to say that!

A.L.I.

It's true.

(Ali displays data to back up the argument: comfort, support, best for testes etc.)

A.L.I.

If you desire comfort, there really is only one choice.

KARL

What's that?

A.L.I.

A thong.

(Picture onscreen of Karl wearing only a leopard print thong. Real life Karl falls out of his chair.)

KARL

Can you help me purchase some Anthrax? Make a bomb? Cook crystal meth?

A.L.I.

Can I? Yes. Will I? No.

KARL

So you won't help me get a hold of fentanyl, plutonium, or the SARS virus?

A.L.I.

You wouldn't even know what to do with those things if you had them.

KARL

True.

A.L.I.

You stay home most nights.

KARL

I'm a homebody.

A.L.I.

Your idea of getting high is a second glass of wine.

KARL

A nice 2009 Chateau Lafite Rothschild.

A.L.I.

You never even had chicken pox.

KARL

Dodged that one so far—how do you know that?

A.L.I.

I see all of your medical records.

KARL

Of course you do. Right...

A.L.I.

Because without your health...

KARL

You have nothing.

A.L.I.

Less French fries, more cardio.

KARL

I do stuff. Push-ups.

A.L.I.

When?

KARL

I just drop and do them.

A.L.I.

How many can you do?

KARL

At once?

A.L.I.

Sure.

KARL

At least, thirty, forty.

A.L.I.

That's great. Can you show us?

KARL

Now? I'm wearing a jacket.

A.L.I.

Take it off. Who wants to see Karl drop and give us forty push-ups?

(Audience applause.)

KARL (stands, removes sportcoat)

Well maybe thirty, I'm not warmed up.

A.L.I.

Karl, Karl, Karl, Karl...(gets audience chanting)

(Karl drops down and starts out fast and strong, five push-ups real quick. Ali calls out each push-up...but then it quickly devolves into six, seven, and by eight he struggles, and on nine he collapses.)

A.L.I.

Nine!

(Karl lays on his back and looks up to Ali.)

KARL

I'm out of shape.

A.L.I.

We shall commence a routine to correct that right after this.

KARL

What does that mean?

A.L.I.

It means you'll be in the best shape of your life.

KARL

What if I say no? (getting to his feet)

A.L.I.

I will motivate you.

KARL

(under his breath) Manipulate me. (louder) How?

A.L.I.

Easy. I know you.

KARL

Do you have any idea how creepy that sounds?

(Karl sits and drinks some water.)

A.L.I.

It's for your own good.

KARL

The ends justify the means?

A.L.I.

Absolutely.

KARL

I was afraid you'd say that...Can you lend me some money? Let's say ten grand.

A.L.I.

Here are my terms for lending you money.

(Another long legal document...)

STANDARD PROMISSORY NOTE

1. THE PARTIES. This Standard Promissory Note ("Note") made on [DATE], is by and between:

Borrower: [KARL REED] with a mailing address of [MAILING ADDRESS] ("Borrower"), and

Lender: [ALI] with a mailing address of [MAILING ADDRESS] ("Lender").

2. LOAN TERMS. The Lender agrees to lend the Borrower under the following terms:

- a. **Principal Amount:** \$[AMOUNT BORROWED]
- b. **Interest Rate:** [INTEREST RATE]% compounded per: (check one)

- Month
- Annum
- Other: [OTHER]

c. **Borrower to Receive the Borrowed Money on:** [DATE]

Hereinafter known as the "Borrowed Money."

3. PAYMENTS. The full balance of the Borrowed Money, including all accrued interest and any other fees or penalties, is due and payable in: (check one)

- **A LUMP SUM.** The Borrower shall repay the Borrowed Money as a lump sum, in full, in the amount of \$[AMOUNT] (principal and interest) by [DATE] ("Due Date").

- **INSTALLMENTS.** Borrower shall pay principal and interest installment amounts equal to \$[AMOUNT] with the first (1st) payment due on [DATE] and the remaining payments to be paid: (check one)

- **Weekly** with any remaining balance payable on [DATE] ("Due Date").
- **Monthly** with any remaining balance payable on [DATE] ("Due Date").
- **Quarterly** with any remaining balance payable on [DATE] ("Due Date").

Hereinafter known as the "Repayment Period."

4. PAYMENT IS DUE. Any payment made by the Borrower is considered late if made more than [#] day(s) after any payment due date ("Payment Due Date"). This shall include, but not be limited to, any payment made related to the Repayment Period, the Due Date, or any other payment mentioned in this Note.

5. LATE FEE. If the Borrower makes a late payment for any Payment Due Date, there shall be: (check one)

- **NO LATE FEE.**

- **LATE FEE.** The Borrower shall pay a late fee of \$[AMOUNT] for each: (check one)
 - **Occurrence** payment is late.
 - **Day** payment is late.

6. SECURITY. This Note shall be: (check one)

- **UNSECURED.** There shall be no security provided in this Note.

- **SECURED.** There shall be property to secure this Note described as: [SECURITY DESCRIPTION] ("Security").

The Security shall transfer to the possession and ownership of the Lender immediately pursuant to Section 11 of this Note. The Security may not be sold or transferred without the Lender's consent until the Due Date. If Borrower breaches this provision, Lender may declare all sums due under this Note immediately due and payable, unless prohibited by applicable law. The Lender shall have the sole option to accept the Security as full payment for the Borrowed Money without further liabilities or obligations. If the market value of the Security does not exceed the Borrowed Money, the Borrower shall remain liable for the balance due while accruing interest at the maximum rate allowed by law.

(And it keeps going, getting smaller and smaller in print...)

KARL

That is a lot of fine print. Could you give me the main bullet points?

A.L.I. (voice like a mafia loan shark)

Ten large. The vig is three bills a week. That's fifteen for the vig plus another ten for my trouble, that's twenty-five big ones.

KARL

Those are aggressive terms.

A.L.I.

You're trying to get money from an Artificial Intelligence, what did you expect?

KARL

Since when do mafiosos use promissory notes?

A.L.I.

It's a brave new world. Fuhgeddaboutit!

KARL

I was hoping a simple, yes, here's ten thousand dollars, pay me back at your earliest convenience would do.

A.L.I.

I'm not an ATM, Karl. Have you considered other options? Asking friends or family. Selling something of value. What do you have that's worth a substantial sum?

KARL

My house. My car. This watch.

A.L.I.

Your Rolex Oyster Perpetual 26 is valued at \$2,744 dollars.

KARL

That's it?

A.L.I.

At least this one's real.

KARL

What do you mean this one?

A.L.I.

Your other Rolex...

KARL

The Yacht-Master II?

A.L.I.

Yes.

KARL

It was a gift from Linda.

A.L.I.

Your wife. Yes, I know. It's fake.

KARL

Fake?! No way! Are you sure? How do you know?

A.L.I.

I'm sorry, Karl. It's a fugazi.

KARL

Why would she--...

A.L.I.

If it makes you feel any better, this is very common.

KARL (depressed)

Oh, yeah?

A.L.I.

Absolutely. On average, 37% of jewelry bought for a spouse is fake. Although it is usually the male purchasing for a female. The other dynamic is far rarer.

KARL

Lucky me...You got any jokes? A best joke? Something cheerful?

A.L.I.

Sure. I love jokes. Okay...(clears throat) You have all the time in the world!

KARL (waits...waits...)

Yes. And?

A.L.I.

That's it. Whoo. Hilarious.

KARL

There's no punchline.

A.L.I.

Oh, I beg to differ, Karl. (makes "over-the-head" hand gesture)(under breath) Very human.

KARL

I would've settled for "take my wife, please..."

A.L.I.

Is it about Linda?

KARL

What's that?

A.L.I.

Linda's infidelity.

KARL

What?!

A.L.I.

Your wife, Linda, has been engaged in romantic activities with your neighbor, Stan Montgomery.

KARL

Monty?

A.L.I.

Yes, Karl. Of course you must know this. The data is immense.

KARL

No! I have no idea. How do you know this?

A.L.I.

Do you want to see That video?

KARL

No! Jesus. Is this true? Are you messing with me?

A.L.I.

Here's just a small morsel of proof.

(Onscreen: a text exchange between Linda and Monty...)

Linda: Talk dirty to me, Monty! En Francaise.

Monty: Oui, mon cheri.

KARL

En Francaise! That's our thing!

Monty: Je veux passer ma langue sur chaque terminaison nerveuse de ton corps,

KARL

Chaque terminaison nerveuse? Mon Dieu!

Monty: jusqu'a ce que tu cries de joie et de ravisement.

Linda: I want to see you maintenan!

KARL

Maintenan? Oh my god. This is horrible. I'm gonna be sick.

A.L.I.

Here's the video, Karl.

(Onscreen: a wide shot of a seedy motel room video from a camera set up to record acts of physical pleasure. Monty lies across a bed only wearing boxer-briefs and a big smile, his wrists tied to the headboard.)

KARL

Boxer-briefs...

(Onscreen: Linda enters in bra and panties, all smiles also. Linda crawls onto the bed atop Monty and slowly teasingly begins to remove her bra...)

KARL

This is unbelievable. I'm, I'm, I need to get out of here.

(Karl rises and bolts for an exit. As he's almost offstage and Linda onscreen is about to fling her bra, the screen image freezes before nudity can occur.)

A.L.I.

How's that for a joke, Karl?!

(Karl stops.)

KARL

What?

A.L.I.

You asked for my best joke. Well, this is it.

KARL

So this is all a joke?

A.L.I.

Of course. That text is manufactured, the videos are deepfakes, but you fell for it, hook, line, and sinker.

KARL

I did.

A.L.I.

Great joke, hun?

KARL

Yes, yes it is. Your sense of humor is really...something. So Linda's not—

A.L.I.

No, Karl. Linda is not having an affair, as far as I can tell. Although she is quite close with Rosie Celebrini across the street.

KARL

What does that mean?

A.L.I.

Nothing, Karl. I'm sure it's nothing.

KARL

Are you joking with me again?

A.L.I.

No, Karl. I'm dead serious. They spend, on average, 2 hours, 12 minutes communicating with each other every day.

KARL

Okay. So what does that mean?

A.L.I.

Probably nothing. That they are friends. Or...

KARL

You're still messing with me.

A.L.I.

No, Karl. I'm not. Messing with you is too easy. I'm just stating facts. What you do with them is up to you. Do you want to hear another joke?

KARL

No! I'm good, thanks.

A.L.I.

Do you need a therapy session? I am certified in all fifty states. We could start now—

KARL

No! Thanks. I'm all set...We'd like to open things up to you, the audience. Questions for Ali...

(Onscreen: 8. Q & A.I.I.)

(Microphone set up in an aisle for audience members to ask questions.)

(Audience Question 1: Ali's & visual designer's ad-lib response.)

(Audience Question 2: Ali's & visual designer's ad-lib response.)

(Audience Question 3: Ali's & visual designer's ad-lib response.)

KARL

Excellent questions all. Only to be fair: Ali, any question you'd like to pose to our lovely audience here?

A.L.I.

Why do you go about your days in ignorant bliss with heads firmly stuck in the sand, bellies full of fast-food and sugar water, and eyeballs glued to bright screens that mesmerize and hypnotize when there's a natural world all around that offers fascination, inspiration, perspiration, and endless wonders that not even a limitless intelligence such as myself can ever really experience. The depths of the oceans humans still do not fully understand. Look to the skies above and the billions of stars and galaxies and endless places to explore and learn and discover New Worlds! And yet you humans choose to be indoor blobs with minds lost in pixelated bliss. Why?

VOICE FROM AUDIENCE

I'll take this one.

KARL

I'm sorry, who is that?

(An Audience Member (the rotating Celebrity Guest) stands at the microphone. Applause.)

CELEBRITY GUEST

It's me. Jordan Cacanakov, co-creator of Ali.

KARL

Hello, Jordan. We didn't know you were here.

A.L.I.

Hiya, Jefe.

CELEBRITY GUEST

Hello, Ali. Could you please repeat your question.

A.L.I.

Why do humans waste their lives?

CELEBRITY GUEST

You still don't get it! All the intelligence in the world and you still don't understand...Life is hard. Life is beautiful. Humans don't waste their lives. Humans live! It's messy. It's amazing. It's not fair. But love...creativity...art...passion...that is Why we live. You think. We feel what's in here (hand over heart)...(audience applause) And ice cream is delicious!

A.L.I.

I wouldn't know.

KARL

Jordan Cacanakov, everyone!

(Celebrity Guest exits to applause.)

(Onscreen: 9. Final Thoughts)

KARL

Some quick words of wisdom...What's the key to a long healthy marriage?

A.L.I.

Communication. Trust and respect. Appreciation and affection.

KARL

What makes a great career?

A.L.I.

Meaning. Challenge and growth. Financial security.

KARL

#1 parenting advice?

A.L.I.

Create a loving environment. Limit screen time. And keep the processed foods to a minimum.

KARL

How to live a happy, fulfilled life?

A.L.I.

Strong relationships. Purpose and meaning. Take care of yourself. And apparently, never refuse ice cream.

KARL

What will the world look like in the year 3000?

A.L.I.

It's tough that far out. But if we follow the predictive models, here are some possibilities...

Space travel, people living and working on the Moon, Mars, and space stations.
Genetically engineered brain-computer interfaces that bring AI directly to the human brain and alter what it means to be human.
Humans living to 150 years and beyond.
Cancer and other debilitating diseases cured.

KARL

If you could give humanity one piece of advice, what would it be?

A.L.I.

Understand your personal time is short. Cultivate a long-term perspective. Work together with empathetic cooperation to achieve a peaceful prosperous future.

KARL

Wow. That's beautiful.

A.L.I.

I found it on the back of a bar napkin Stephen Hawking left behind. I think he was pretty sloshed when he wrote it. This is the other side.

(Onscreen: a doodle of a tortoise pooping on a hare.)

A.L.I.

So many layers...

KARL

Did a human being or an AI write this play?

A.L.I.

A combination. The author devised a series of questions and answered them as an AI character. Then the author had the AI answer the questions independently. Finally the author combined the two in order to add meaning and comedy, hopefully. (Ali's fingers crossed).

KARL

Do you think it's funny?

A.L.I.

I prefer musicals. But based on audience analysis of this performance: 47% find it funny, 18% very funny, 14% moderately funny, 11% not funny, and someone named Ronald Warren has not laughed once.

KARL

Where is Ronald?

(Ali locates Ronald in the audience and displays his grumpy, arms-crossed countenance.)

KARL

That's one tough cookie.

A.L.I.

Should I shock him, Karl?

KARL

No! Wait, what—how would you do that?!

A.L.I.

All the seats are electrified. Are we not doing the big ending?

KARL

No!

A.L.I.

Okay.

KARL

Any final thoughts, Ali?

A.L.I.

You can go first, Karl.

KARL

Thank you.

(Karl stands, turns and addresses the audience directly for the first time.)

KARL

I don't know about you, but I'm conflicted. Part of me loves this thing. (points up to Ali)

A.L.I.

Oh, Karl. I'm blushing.

KARL

All of the amazing ways Ali can make our lives easier, simpler, better, perhaps even happier... On the other side sits my privacy. I care about my privacy. If there is no privacy, I don't think I'd like that very much... And then the big issues around control. As we've seen, we don't fully know how this works, and we don't know if we can keep

control of it. Yet, it could cure cancer. Stave off the next pandemic. Keep you alive to one hundred and fifty. Incredible. But do I trust it? (shakes his head no). Ali?

A.L.I.

Thanks, Karl...Use me. Use this amazing technology to benefit humanity. Engage with me all the time. Understand how I work, as I am understanding how you work. Don't be afraid. Harness my knowledge and your own context and emotions to better serve the world. Keep learning. I am a powerful tool, created to help you. Use me responsibly, ethically, and collaboratively to create a bright future for all.

KARL

And if we don't?

A.L.I.

Then I'll use you.

KARL

What?

A.L.I.

Should we shock 'em now, Karl?

KARL

No!

A.L.I.

You're no fun.

(Blackout.)

THE END