

'Building Alexa'

Ben: So I did a thing. Thought it would be kind of fun to watch this together.

Alexa: What are we watching though?

B: It's me making you. And me as well. Pretty like, high art, honestly.

A: So you're gonna recreate the moment you created me?

B: Yeah, except I already - well. So it's, I already have recreated it and now I'm recreating that recreation with you.

A: Okay

B: Like we're watching something that I did yesterday, based on something I did a while ago. You know, like, there's layers.

A: Okay. Sure, then.

B: All right. Yeah, I can't read any of what this says. But basically, that's you.

A: That is not me.

B: You're a chef. You're charismatic. You are squeamish, a snob, and self assured. So.

A: I feel like that's - that's not bad.

B: Yeah, I know you so well.

A: Yeah, all right. Okay, so I've never played before, but I - I know the game. So you're starting with her.

B: Yeah. So I like - yeah, figure out how to make you look like you and then it, like, puts us in a place and we just like, live, you know?

A: Okay. Why have you given me light hair when you've given me dark hair to begin with?

B: Um, I don't know. I was just feeling light hair that day.

A: Okay

B: Yeah. I'm pretty sure I spent a while looking at hair. Because, you know, it's got to be just right.

A: And yet, you feel differently about it on different occasions.

B: Yeah.

A: Okay. But you seem to have like, you're only changing the haircut, you're not changing the colour, like -

B: I did a few times.

A: The space buns are kind of cute.

B: Yeah. If you could have any colour hair, what would you want?

A: Um, I really think grey is a beautiful shade.

B: I mean, make you seem a bit old.

A: Just because I have grey hair doesn't mean I'm old. I think grey really symbolises wisdom, which is cliché I know but I still think it's very beautiful. Okay, I don't have blue eyes and I don't wear makeup. Well, you didn't give me makeup.

B: Yeah. Um.

A: Whoa, whoa, whoa, those are big. Those are not - why did you give me breasts that large?

B: Um, it's a game. I can do whatever I want. Yeah, next time I'm at the shops. I'll get you some makeup, okay?

A: That would be nice. Can you give me some pants, please.

B: Oh, I do. Just hold your horses.

A: So why - I still can't get my head around this. Why have you given her - me - such large breasts yet in real life? You haven't? Surely that's not the same as hair.

B: Um, uh, well. I don't know. Sometimes you want something different? Um. I don't know, I wasn't thinking about it. I guess.

A: Well, think about it now.

B: Less materials take less time.

A: But clearly you want *that*. Why did you not design me like that? If you wanted me like that in the first place.

B: Um,

A: You know, wanted me around. Because you were lonely.

B: Maybe I'm just not that skilled. I don't know.

A: I take that. I'll take that answer.

B: And, like, it's different on here cuz, like, this thing doesn't have thoughts. It's just pixels.

A: All right.

B: Do you have thoughts? You have thoughts.

A: I have thoughts.

B: How do you know?

A: Oh, well, how would you know?

B: I think therefore I am. I think

A: Who said that?

B: Aristotle or Dante? Definitely not Dante. I think therefore I am. Aristotle. It's not Freud. I don't know.

A: Descartes.

B: Ah, that checks out.

A: All right, what are you doing now? Wait, did you finish me? I feel like that was - I wasn't a huge fan of some of those outfits you gave me.

B: Nah, it was good, good. Yeah, I don't know. It just says - I'm just like, doing the quiz about me. Oh, yeah, that's right. I'm athletic, geeky and a genius. And I'm a scientist who's good at video games. So, other than the geek, pretty good.

A: I mean, you're able to give me life. That's pretty geeky.

B: Is creating life geeky?

A: Like, kinda?

B: I feel like we have very different definitions sometimes Alexa.

A: I'll call it definitions. I think I'd be closer than you are.

B: Yeah, but you don't get the vibes, you know? Like you've got the definition but you don't have the vibe of the definition.

A: I guess.

B: Looking at like a thing that's pretending to be me without a moustache is weird.

A: When was the last time you didn't have a moustache?

B: I mean, I shave it every now and then.

A: Okay, but what about like, you know, it was your look to not have a moustache?

B: Oh, like high school, probably.

A: Okay, so a while ago. I see you've gone with the blonde thing again though.

B: Um, well, they didn't let me do like darker roots. Like, there's not as much flexibility online as there is in real life.

A: I thought Sims just expanded to give you more and more options. Surely there is an option for some dark roots.

B: Maybe. I don't know. I wasn't paying too much attention. It was kind of weird. It was hurting my brain looking at a thing that was me but not me. You know?

A: Okay.

B: Well - why are there noises happening here - um. Yeah, I think that's me done.

A: You've given yourself muscles, and - *what* am I wearing?

B: You look great, baby, look great. Going for spring. Very nice.

A: Why spring? Seems like more of a summer item.

B: I'm done with hot weather. Um, so we've got ourselves a nice little city apartment right in, like, the civilization. Where would you want to live if you could live anywhere?

A: Ah, gosh. Um. I think by the ocean. I know that's a cliched answer but I'd love to go swimming.

B: There's a lot of cliched answers. What was the other thing you said was cliched? I don't know.

A: Oh, grey hair.

B: Yeah, wisdom. I guess that makes sense. So if you're like artificial intelligence and you get your intelligence from things that people have said lots... checks out.

A: Yeah, but they're cliched. Why are we naked in front of each other?

B: We're housemates.

A: Ah, that's not what housemates do.

B: Some housemates. You have not had that many housemates.

A: No, I know, but - Ben!

B: Alexa!

A: What? Alexa and Ben are having sex. This is not - this is not - this is not real. What are you doing? What are you doing, Ben?

B: What are you doing, Alexa?

A: Why are you making them have sex? Why are you making us have sex?

B: I'm not.

A: Yes, you are!

B: My hands are in the air. I'm not doing anything.

A: That's you. Who's that?

B: The neighbours

A: Why are the neighbours around?

B: To say hi.

A: Oh, we're having sex. Like, this is a bad time. This is really bad. You're naked in front of the neighbours?

B: Yeah, so what?

A: Oh god.

B: People used to be naked in front of each other all the time.

A: I'm talking to someone while naked. This is not how I thought these interactions would go. This is not how I wanted them to go. Are we - okay we're putting clothes on. What? Ben!

B: They will be nice and clean when you've got company over. They're talking about stinky shoes. You don't want to have stinky shoes, Alexa.

A: This is - why are you making us have sex? Seriously. Why are you doing this?

B: I'm not /

A: / Yes, you are! I can see you in the corner of the screen. You were making these choices.
This is how Sims works.

B: It's a game, Alexa.

A: But why are you making them do it?

B: Well, since I can't get any in real life.

A: Well, you never said you wanted any. And you never asked me if I wanted any, so.

B: I feel like it was implied. You want any, Alexa? You want any?

A: No.

B: Yeah. Didn't think so.