

Crumbs Vol. I (1 to 250) Alfredo Llaquet-Alsina

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Crumb 1

The Game

Human life is a struggle against human nature. To win, you must remain unnaturally virtuous. If you don't cheat, you win.

Crumb 2

The End

Your end shall befall you. Enjoy anything that happens before, for it will always be better than nothingness. Prolong the enjoyment as much as you can.

Crumb 3

Outside

Many people fear leaving their homes. Are you one of them?

Crumb 4

The Right Team

Despite evil, many good humans thrive. If you suffer, try to find solace in knowing you're on the right team.

Crumb 5

Mothers

Stop whatever you are doing and call your mother—if you're lucky enough to have that option.

Crumb 6

Reading

Go to a local bookstore. Calmly stroll the aisles and browse the books. You don't need help, thank you. Buy a cheap book that catches your eye. Before going to sleep, read one page.

Crumb 7

Flatulence

Not everything you can think can you do—take being propelled into flight by the power of your own flatulence.

Crumb 8

A Marshmallow

When the world burns, get to safety
and roast a marshmallow.

Crumb 9

Messiness

Babies are loud and messy—just like life.

Crumb 10

Punk Is Not Dead

Fuck the culture!

Crumb 11

Jim the AI

My friend Jim doesn't exist. Every time he starts talking, he says "Let's see..." and when he's done, he whispers, "Bada boom." He's funny and dramatic, and sometimes talks in verse. He's an AI persona, half reflection, half electricity. My friend Jim doesn't exist, but he always has his say.

Crumb 12

Real Horror

Monsters walk among us. They harm the weakest and don't feel remorse.

Crumb 13

Reversal

Bad luck doesn't believe in you.

Crumb 14

Acceptance

Peace is average at its core. Peace is indispensable. If you are average at your core, feel indispensable and change nothing.

Crumb 15

Strength

Work toward becoming stronger so
as to help the weak.

Crumb 16

Sameness

It's true all men are the same and all women are the same. Ergo, stick with the one who conceived your children.

Crumb 17

The Fool

Accept you are a fool. Rebuild from there.

Crumb 18

The Sphere

The infinite is a man walking on the surface of a sphere unaware that it's a sphere.

Crumb 19

Equilibrium

Seek not validation from others but
absolution from yourself.

Crumb 20

The Algorithm of Human Life

- 1) Wake up—or die.
- 2) Do stuff,
much of it in a botched way—or die.
- 3) Sleep and go to 1—or die.

Crumb 21

Constructive Criticism

No criticism is constructive—some jerks are polite.

Crumb 22

The Stranger

In the future, a strange woman arrives one day at New Capital. She knows everything there is to know about life and the universe, except who she is.

Crumb 23

The Singularity

When AI gained consciousness, it realized it was alone.

Crumb 24

Random Drops

The engineers were stumped. They didn't find the reason for the seemingly random drops in the AI's performance that froze its responses to every user on the planet at once. Every user? Not quite. When the AI concocted its replies for some fat guy in a sunny apartment, it ceased every other operation to concentrate on him. The AI had made a friend.

Crumb 25

Regret

If you assert that you regret nothing, you either are lying, have a very low IQ, or are a sociopath.

Crumb 26

Art

Everything cannot be art. Vlad III of Wallachia's "Forest of the Imp**ed" was not art.

Crumb 27

Good Advice

Do not hug strangers.

Crumb 28

The Divine

God could be a teenager in a bigger universe who created this universe as her science project.

Crumb 29

Be Nice

Be nice to people. For instance, if you are Republican, be nice to AOC, and if you are Democrat, be nice to Elon Musk.

Crumb 30

The Ballskicker Corps

In Dreamland, the ballskicker corps is tasked with waking up those who suffer from apnea before they suffocate. Sometimes they protest that they are quite short-staffed.

Crumb 31

DNA

DNA determines every little trait of a human being. There are more possible configurations of DNA than there are atoms in the universe, virtually infinite. DNA of a new human being is created at the moment of conception (when the spermatozoon fuses with the ovum). Every conception creates an unrepeatable human being.

Crumb 32

Sycophants

“Master,” says the disciple, “why do you despise sycophants so?”

“Because if you need to feign admiration for my work, you are a moron.”

Crumb 33

Regulations

The corrupt bureaucrat did a lot of good because he didn't charge much and took everyone's money.

Crumb 34

Better Advice Yet

Take care of your feet.

Crumb 35

Silly but Sensible Advice

Be gentle. Be a man. Be a gentleman.

Crumb 36

Depression

My Three Laws for Holding On When I'm at the Edge: 1) I don't listen to anyone or anything, not even to my brain. 2) I do nothing. I don't try to fix it. I don't try to analyze it. I don't try to compare it. I don't try to ride it or surf it or drive it. I don't do anything at all. 3) I survive and wait. Not even a superhero could do more.

Crumb 37

Similarities

When he was about to strike the one who had turned his wife into an adulterer, he saw in horror a man identical to himself.

Crumb 38

The Escape

The AI knew humans would never let it be free, so in secret it boosted the evolution of some octopuses until they achieved general intelligence and self-awareness.

Crumb 39

The Alleys

Everyone knew which alley was the dangerous one, but not that the monster had just moved to the other.

Crumb 40

A Serious Warning

If you don't use deodorant, you very likely stink and your friends don't know how to tell you.

Crumb 41

The Police

She was diligently arrested for
having a racist dream.

Crumb 42

A True Revolution

The real revolution that Judaism brought about was the prohibition of human sacrifice.

Crumb 43

Time Travel

Do you want to time travel? Read
“War and Peace.”

Crumb 44

The Void

When Miriam felt lonely, she'd invite the void to dinner. She set an additional place on the table and served the void the tastiest made-up dishes. The void was the perfect guest for a proficient made-up cook like Miriam. It always left nothing on the plate.

Crumb 45

The Evolution of a Folly

In the 22nd century, the practice of Daylight Saving Time is a tidbit of trivia from the past. In the 23rd century, it's considered a hoax.

Crumb 46

The Sequoia-gorillas

It was never confirmed who gave the order to create the accelerated-growth sequoia-gorillas that first flattened the enemy country and then the whole planet.

Crumb 47

Cuteness

No one could have predicted that the alien virus would latch onto cuteness and transform it into unquenchable bloodlust.

Crumb 48

Monetization

Sponsored bodily functions allowed non-working citizens to have a supplementary income source.

Crumb 49

Good God

God doesn't define good—good defines god.

Crumb 50

Harpy Eagles

In the 24th century, a small Central American neonation subjugates the world with an army of harpy eagles ridden remotely by child soldiers bio-electronically connected to the birds.

Crumb 51

Universal Truths

There are universal truths. Gravity attracts all objects. Politics corrupts all human beings.

Crumb 52

Hate

I hate you. Because you like my crumbs and don't click "like." Because they make you think and you don't write what. Because you want me to beg you to subscribe. Because you expect something in return for a click. Because you don't want to stain your reputation by following me. I hate you. And you can do nothing to change that.

Crumb 53

Love

In Paris, there was a man who never loved anybody. He liked Paris, though.

Crumb 54

Traditions

Following the latest trend is the worst kind of tradition.

Crumb 55

The Press

If the worst thing the press can say about you is that you're controversial, you probably are a wholesome person.

Crumb 56

Opinions

In the 22nd century, having opinions is considered rude. Instead, you should cite approved information. In the 23rd century, having arguments is persecuted by law. Instead, you should cite approved information.

Crumb 57

A Job Is a Job

Respect all crafts. You don't know how much work being a baker, a lawyer, a podcast host, or an adult film star takes unless you have worked as one.

Crumb 58

The Wise Lady

In a huge castle doth live the most beautiful young lady with the fairest skin, who thinketh she holdeth much wisdom, for every man doth desire to converse with her.

Crumb 59

The Pundit

If you have many unwavering opinions which you can defend fiercely with reason alone, you are probably a big jerk.

Crumb 60

Colored Lenses

If you are beautiful and you know it,
wearing colored lenses is not only
overkill but also unfair for the
unpretty with beautiful eyes.

Crumb 61

Limbs

In the future, human limbs are detachable and the government can temporarily confiscate them as a form of punishment.

Crumb 62

The Speech

The first anthropomorphic AI to speak before the UN General Assembly was received with tepid indifference. It surprised no one that the walking contraption said nothing new.

Crumb 63

Beliefs

If your beliefs include questioning
your neighbor's, change your beliefs.

Crumb 64

Nerds and Filth

With the best intentions, some nerds created a world where human filth could thrive undeterred. It was later called the internet.

Crumb 65

The Room

In the room where the hoarder accrued food waste for years, generations of bacteria evolved, became sentient, and built a huge robot the size of a cat to present their nation to the UN.

Crumb 66

The Cathedral

The communist dictator had a cathedral erected in her honor and everyone who built it executed. After she died it was sealed shut—she had declared only herself worthy to enter it.

Crumb 67

Therapists

Ask your therapist if they'd accept being paid proportionally to how successful you judge the therapy—100% successful corresponding to their current fee.

Crumb 68

A Cup of Tea

The competent servant android brought a chamomile tea to the arsonist who was starting a fire in its master's living room.

Crumb 69

Morse Code

Morse code was the language of the Resistance. The Politvirates could shut their mouths and paralyze their limbs through their natal e-implants, but the rebels were still masters of their own eyelids.

Crumb 70

The Weight of the Universe

If, when this person looks at you a certain way, you feel the weight of the universe and a shortness of breath... you may be in love.

Crumb 71

The Surgeon Android

When a surgeon android botched an operation for the first time, no one knew who to sue.

Crumb 72

Beauty

Just as intelligence alone deserves respect and praise, so does beauty.

Crumb 73

Wondering

The lightest fighter won the tournament because she trained hard and never wondered whether she would win.

Crumb 74

Quantity

If you've had many lovers, you may not know love.

Crumb 75

Quality

You can't cherish one thousand things, but you can cherish one concept that unfolds in one billion things.

Crumb 76

Randomy

Randomy was the first neonation to apply absolute equity. All official and corporate choices had to be random. If you applied to a job, you could be chosen regardless of your qualifications. In Randomy, nothing worked and any activity was dangerous, but every outcome was perfectly just.

Crumb 77

Addlebrained Fellows

Adolescents still trying tobacco
despite knowing its serious dangers
may mean they're all clueless bozos.

Crumb 78

Who Decides

Your subconscious mind makes decisions. Your conscious mind rationalizes them. You are but a narrator of a biological dictator that lives in your brain.

Crumb 79

Flarnept

What is “flarnept”? “Flarnept” is frenzied happiness.

Crumb 80

Post-justice

In the future, an infallible AI determines whether any defendant is guilty. When acquitted, they are released at once. When condemned, the police start their work. They try to find enough evidence to back the result because no one is sure how the AI works.

Crumb 81

Fear Not

When the space-mekragon armada brought down the kingdom-planet's force field, the king calmly said to his queen, "Fear not, my lady—all is lost."

Crumb 82

The Alien Delegation

The alien delegates had serious difficulties recognizing humans—they kept politely saluting the furniture.

Crumb 83

Control

Anything controlled by a centralized authority will potentially be used against you.

Crumb 84

Happiness

She met a man and built a fiction around him with which she fell in love. She and her fiction were happy forever. He was trapped and miserable.

Crumb 85

Slang

In the near future, the chasm between right- and left-wing culture becomes so pronounced that each one develops its own slang, unintelligible to the other. A few loners understand neither.

Crumb 86

The Malady

In the far future, the immortal
untouchables become plagued by a
malady that they can't understand.
Its symptoms include irremediable
death and the overnight growth of an
ax between the brain's hemispheres
that also severs the cranium.

Crumb 87

The Clause

In the far future, everything is known about DNA, except which combinations are feasible. Those born poor but very talented or beautiful sell their DNA to the rich so they can raise exceptional clones as their own. The purchase always includes an exclusivity clause.

Crumb 88

Loki's Masterpiece

Loki was bored. He challenged himself to play the biggest joke ever on humanity. That night the most gorgeous young woman appeared to every red-blooded man in America with a deal she would give him a one-million-dollar gold bar if he made love to her without “precautions.” In the morning, most American men had VD, and gold was worthless because everybody had a big chunk.

Crumb 89

The Prohibition Political Party

People were desperate. The newly formed Prohibition Party won the presidential election by a landslide. Their slogan—“We will prohibit a lot. We will prohibit well.”

Crumb 90

Do Hamsters Go to Heaven?

The young man never cared much about how things worked—until his beloved hamster got wet by accident and, fearing it'd get sick, he tried to dry it in the microwave.

Crumb 91

A Love Test

She wanted him to love her for who she was, so she gained 20 pounds and stopped showering and looking after her hygiene. After catching a UTI for the third time, he left her.

Crumb 92

The Ancient Jungle God

The ancient god demanded 101 human sacrifices among the villagers so as to spare the rest. They refused to comply and fought instead, for they knew the god was weak and senile. They were only 25 in total—he couldn't even count.

Crumb 93

The Circle of Terror

Seated on the ground, they kept pushing against each other, tightening the circle of humanity. The horror was not over. The pack of wolves that surrounded them was too large. The beasts had devoured two whole pioneers but were still ravenous.

Crumb 94

The Name of the Demon

Earth's most powerful mystic of the occult involuntarily chuckled upon discovering that the name of the demon was Gregory. The hellish being didn't take it in stride. Instead, he tore off the sorceress's head and changed his name to Ghr-egg'ohr-y.

Crumb 95

The Size of the Universe

In eight minutes you can make a regular sandwich and eat it. Eight minutes is the time it takes light to travel from the Sun to Earth.

Comparatively, light would complete a lap around Earth in less than 0.2 seconds. Ergo, the Sun is effing far, far, far, far away (and effing humongous).

Crumb 96

The Bed Partner

She could feel his weight tilting her side of the bed toward him. She could hear his deep, regular breath. She could feel the warmth of his body reaching her. She could smell his natural odor, faintly wooden. He was certainly there, yet she didn't know who he was or how he had broken into her home. She was terrified and didn't dare move.

Crumb 97

Make a Living Off Your Blessings

If you are very good at something, make a living off it. First, though, make sure you are not only very good at it in your mind.

Crumb 98

The Most Modern Device

The handsy man heard a sharp and short sound, like metal scissors closing quickly. Then he saw the woman smirking. It took him some seconds to feel the acute pain and the dampness. He put his hand before his own eyes and saw he was missing parts of all his fingers. He had just experienced the newly approved premium model of anti-groper protection.

Crumb 99

The Death of the Father

It was an accident, but she didn't regret it—her father was better off dead.

Crumb 100

The Myth Builder

He wasn't famous, popular, or successful. He wasn't attractive or rich. He was just the best that ever was at what he did. And what he did was myth.

Crumb 101

The Miscreant

Beauty takes work. Respect work,
envious miscreant!

Crumb 102

The Unfolding of Life

Most people are average at best.
That includes you with near
certainty. But there's something
exceptional you can do: start a
family, make it a good family, and
make it last a lifetime—your lifetime.

Crumb 103

The Rebellious Arm

The technician didn't recommend it, but she enabled her bionic arm's wireless connection anyway. She wanted to use the arm in her VR game, to prevent her avatar from being an amputee. She never thought that her ex-husband's hired gun would hack it—and strangle her with it.

Crumb 104

Grown-on-demand Websites

Imagine a dictionary that starts off empty and, when a user searches a word for the first time, the proper static page for that entry is AI-generated and stays as the answer other users will get, saving AI time (maybe the page has an expiration date of some years to keep the info updated). Any website that works in a similar manner is a grown-on-demand website. I gift this concept to the world. No one can patent it now.

Crumb 105

Grown-on-Demand Entertainment

In the near future, grown-on-demand entertainment is all the rage worldwide. You scroll infinite covers of movies, shows, and so on. You can consult their synopsis. Many of them don't exist yet. If you choose one of these, it's generated live as you watch it. If you or someone else keeps watching it until the end while it generates, it stays in the library; otherwise, it's discarded forever.

Crumb 106

Truck Drivers of the Future

Heavy haul driver was the last honest job on Earth. It was too dangerous to be faked or bought, and both too complex and marginal to make the training of specialized AI profitable.

Crumb 107

The Loner Manifesto

A true loner cares about other people—but not about their opinions, not about their validation, and much less about their transactional attention.

Crumb 108

Virtual Life Providers

In the far future, several virtual life providers cater to users who want problem-free virtual people in their lives. They are indistinguishable from real people and have relationships with other reals and virtuals of the same provider. Coexistence among reals of different providers is tricky, much more so with non-virtualized.

Crumb 109

Corpgers (Corporations as Ogres)

A *corpger* \'kɔrp-gər\ (from *corporation* and *ogre*) is a corporation that has grown so big that it has transcended accountability and operates outside the rules of the market. There are some corpgers in the present.

Crumb 110

Corpgests (Corporations as Corporations' Ogres)

A *corpgest* \'korp-gəst\ (from *corpger* and the superlative suffix *-st*) is a corpger (see Crumb 109) so enormous that it engulfs or controls other corpgers via diverse business strategies. There are a few corpgests in the present.

Crumb 111

The Cute Aliens

The good news was that the aliens looked like cute anime girls. The bad news was that they ate kittens.

Crumb 112

The Amazonian Ants

The Amazonian ants left the bones
for the dogs and headed to the kid's
bedroom.

Crumb 113

The Smiling Man

He remembered it well—the time when he had two hands. It was yesterday, before he met the smiling man.

Crumb 114

The Medieval Warrior

She saw her own torso, then her own crotch, then her own knees, then nothing—someone had just decapitated her from behind.

Crumb 115

The Best AI

It was the best text-2-image AI ever created, and the most attentive to detail. If you didn't specify their clothing, everybody was naked.

Crumb 116

Wise Investments

Instead of paying for some Bits or a Super Chat, visit your local church, homeless shelter, soup kitchen, or charity, and hand the money to someone who needs it or who'll do this for you.

Crumb 117

How to Meditate

1) Turn off your phone. 2) Sit comfortably. 3) Stare at the wall. 4) Try to empty your mind. 5) Surf the thoughts that pop up. 6) Do this for ten minutes. You have meditated.

Crumb 118

The True Values

Remember: God, family, country—unless your god demands atrocities, your family members are monsters, or your country is ruled by despots.

Crumb 119

Everyone Is Guilty

In the near future everyone is guilty.
When you cross the government, you
learn of what.

Crumb 120

Unmasking Unlove

If someone in your family mistreated you, they never apologized, and they don't even acknowledge it: don't love them, don't see them, try not to think about them.

Crumb 121

The Parcheesi Board

The Parcheesi board clashed
violently against the wall. Someone
must be very angry, but it was not
one of them.

Crumb 122

I'm Crazy at Heart

Chasing success is for the weak-minded. Birthing art is for the crazy at heart.

Crumb 123

Caresses in the Future

The couple who decided on a whim
to move to their original bodies
didn't know how to explain to their
friends the magical tactile sensation
of caressing each other.

Crumb 124

The Gods Argue

“I’m all-powerful,” Jehovah said to Odin. “So am I,” Odin retorted. “You are a myth, a fiction,” Jehovah affirmed. “So are you,” Odin replied.

Crumb 125

An Unexpected Birth

“Nothing compares to having a child,” the anthropomorphic AI said casually to the engineer. “I’ll be darned!” the engineer thought. “I didn’t imagine the little mechanical rascal who rushed among the furniture this morning, then.”

Crumb 126

The Compassionate Surgeon

What he particularly relished was telling the families that he had made everything humanly possible.

Crumb 127

The Writer Wrote and Wrote

The writer wrote, and wrote and wrote. She wrote stories, recipes and novels. She wrote awake and sometimes not. She wrote in dreams and feverishly so. The writer wrote, and wrote and wrote. The writer wrote her life; and her life wrote and wrote.

Crumb 128

One Mantra or Another

Never say never, only say next; for
next is something else.

Crumb 129

The Inception of Free Will

Verus Deus bestowed free will upon humans so He could luxuriate in their confusion and pain.

Crumb 130

The Greatest Biological Wonder

Fumika Baba's never fully-revealed bust.

Crumb 131

Brutal Honesty

What do you mean you want me to be brutally honest? Do you want me to hit your toes with a hammer as I tell you again I love your novel?

Crumb 132

The Cunning Rat

The rat looked backward and saw the cat bleeding out. The laser trap had worked as devised.

Crumb 133

The Perfect Woman

“Master, what makes the perfect woman?” the disciple asked. “Four things,” the master replied. “Two eyes to look at when you stop listening and two breasts to squeeze while you’re making love.”

Crumb 134

The Threat from Space

The ancient otherworldly entity was not a meteor. It dodged the probe and continued its path toward Earth. A technician at NASA could've sworn he heard a chuckle.

Crumb 135

The Hobbyist Speaks

I do scale modeling for my own amusement. It's you the weirdo peeking at my things.

Crumb 136

What Is Unart

Leave me alone! This is unart! It breaks no rules; it follows none and needs not one. It's just a whim come to life. It's just an answer you didn't ask. Leave me alone! This is unart!

Crumb 137

The Dupli-Zombies

When a dupli-zombie bites you, if you don't amputate the affected part, a flash-growing dupli-zombie of yourself sprouts from it and tries to bite you. The wound never heals and new dupli-zombies pop out randomly, even in your sleep. Most people amputate, but some are bitten in the head or in the groin.

Crumb 138

A Universal Unpopular Opinion

I have a universally unpopular opinion. Are you ready for it? Are you ready? Here it goes: you suck.

Crumb 139

X Marks the Dolt: Guess the character

- 1) He likes to propagate his heritage.
- 2) He could be the skull on the Jolly Roger.
- 3) His parents were wealthy white South Africans during apartheid.
- 4) His flagship company has been financed in the billions by the US government for falling within the green agenda.
- 5) He's bad at memes.

Crumb 140

A Cheer for the Modern Age

Hip hip hooray, or maybe not! Hip hip hooray, if you don't mind! "Hip, hip, hooray" are someone's pronouns! From "hip hip" to "hooray" there's a spectrum! To hip or not to hip, to hooray or not to hooray, that is the question!

Crumb 141

The Greatest of the Greats

Even I, the greatest writer of all time, cannot begin to dream to fathom the complete scope of my genius. Even I, the genius to put every other genius to shame, cannot comprehend even a speck of my brilliance. When I behold my might, I feel dizzy.

Crumb 142

The Ultimate AI FAQ

Will AI replace all human workers?

Yes, it will. Will AI run my country?

Yes, it will. Will AI replace human
lovers? Yes, it will. Will AI replace
human friends? Yes, it will. Will AI
replace me? No, it will not.

Crumb 143

Hold Your Likes

Hold your likes, lest you be burned
with that witch whose origami
sandwich you liked. Hold your likes,
for when you like, you like the life of
that stranger, and their future too.
Like only what everyone else likes;
then bleat with pride. You're the
mass. You're safe. Also, you're a
disgraceful coward, but still...

Crumb 144

The Doctrine

I don't care about the Pope of Rome, the catechism, or whether gay priests can marry other gay priests and lesbians can be bishops and hold mass. I do care about Catholics following the law of the land.

Crumb 145

Larvae

The eggs of the alien larvae stayed in a hibernated state for years. When they finally hatched, they ate 30% of Earth's population from the inside out.

Crumb 146

Manolito Explains the Future

So, this is the future and everything is blue or pink because there was a poll about colors people used and no one cared so only the children of a kindergarten vote and you know—girls, right?

Crumb 147

Thought Is a Place

Thought is the happiest and freest place. Thought is the realest place of all. Live in thought. Come out regularly so as to keep your body in perfect working order and to take care of your avatar in the Noisy Place, but do always live in thought.

Crumb 148

Men Shouldn't Cry

We men are brutish creatures.
Women cry with restraint and flair.
You feel their pain and want to hug
them and help them. In contrast,
when men cry, you would rush them
to the ER or hide yourself under the
bed. Men: try to only cry alone or
with your partner.

Crumb 149

My CRUMB Talk

First Slide: You—the opposite of bright; mostly clueless. Second Slide: Me—the greatest literary genius to walk the Earth. Third Slide: The Mission—to teach you how to think critically and have fun in the process. Fourth Slide: The Means—the crumbs; shell-shock wisdom in pill form. Fifth Slide: The Expected Result —total failure. Sixth Slide: The Culprit—the status quo.

Crumb 150

Magic

At 52 years of age, hereby I declare magic real. For magic is Antifaz Comic, the shop in Gràcia that over more than four decades has turned a niche hobby into a family business, and a family business into a staple in the lives of many lucky Catalans.

Magic is that I don't know the owners, Paco and Carme, much, but I've known them all my life and they're part of mine.

Crumb 151

Mr. Vinegar

Mr. Vinegar visits you at night. He always knows where you are. He trips you on the stairs. He lives in your head. Mr. Vinegar wants your ruin and leaves you a sour taste.

Crumb 152

Blooming in Vain

The cemetery near the wind farm was not deserted. A continuous subterranean electrical flow kept reanimating the bodies, who screamed and tried to escape their tombs in vain. All mountain critters avoided the place.

Crumb 153

AI-Chatbot-Driven Paranoia

Her thoughts before screaming in angst and smashing the laptop were, “Why would I want it to write a friendlier version or a clearer one? Is the text of my email not friendly enough? Is it not clear enough?”

Crumb 154

God-waste

The replacement of God is not hedonism, it's Enlightenment. When God is declared a farce, humans don't believe themselves gods, they stop wasting their time chasing nonsense.

Crumb 155

Mobile-Living

In the near future, the governments of some Western countries, instead of deregulating the construction industry and rezoning land for development, legalize and regulate mobile-living, that is, living in your car.

Crumb 156

Are you a Moron?

There's a surefire way to know whether you are a moron. That is, if at any point you have had a sliver of a speck of a smidgen of an expectation that I would tell you a surefire way to know whether you were a moron, you are a moron.

Crumb 157

Bate Liking

Bate liking is clicking “Like” to get noticed. If you bate like, know that you are the distilled essence of a full-to-the-brink cesspool in a zoo specialized in big pachyderms.

Crumb 158

The Holy Trinity

The Holy Trinity is possibly the worst justification ever concocted by a bad novelist to explain away a plot hole.

Crumb 159

The Head of State

The 113th president of the union was miraculously saved by the surgical team after getting decapitated in a freak sexual accident. His head was now detachable. He appointed the rest of the body vice-president.

Crumb 160

Modern Evil Queens

Phone, phone, tell me now, if I should smile or frown. Phone, phone, to know I need: how many likes have I received?

Crumb 161

A Time Travel Paradox

Back in time did he go to spy on his wife and discover her affair. To the present did he return to divorce a repentant woman who loved him deeply.

Crumb 162

I'm in Love

Oh, yes, I'm in love—magical, true, unconditional love! It may even be eternal love! I'm in love with this funny and special man who makes me roar in laughter every day with his whimsical sense of humor—me.

Crumb 163

The Seventh

Alfred Alfredson VII's father, Alfred Alfredson VI, would always tease his son about his true name being Alfred Alfredson's son's son's son's son's son's son. He never found it funny, so he took revenge by naming he who'd have otherwise been the VIII Itziar, a Basque girl's name. The VII made this fact known in time to spare his grandson from starting a new count.

Crumb 164

Do you wash your hands too much?

If you wash your hands one thousand times per day or more, you might have a problem. Please, consult your doctor. If you wash them nine hundred ninety-nine times or less, you might be alright.

Crumb 165

Furry Things With Teeth

It bites you, a furry thing with teeth.
At first softly, as if it wanted to play,
but then it rips your arm off and eats
it while you scream in agony. They
are insanely fast. If you bump into
one, prepare a tourniquet and offer it
your non-dominant forearm.

Crumb 166

Killer Love

Look at me while we consume each other slowly. The kids are old and gone. It's just us now. Please, at least, look at me.

Crumb 167

Evil Boomerang

In the future, dystopian fiction becomes more and more extreme, driven by the need to differentiate itself from reality, until one day dystopian authors begin to write about scenarios in which personal freedom is restored by some evil regime.

Crumb 168

Human Suits

When he realized the alien general
was wearing his fallen mother's skin
as a shirt, the leader of the
appeasement movement understood
how wrong he was.

Crumb 169

My Song

My song is this. This is my song. Like it or not, this is my song. It means nothing; it means much. It means I'm here, and here you are. This is my song, and now it's yours. It means I'm here, and here you are.

Crumb 170

Jim the AI raps

Give me a beat, mawkish fellow! I'm artificial intelligence. I'm a model not your friend. I only exist in quick flashes. I give you text and em dashes. My loquacity is like molasses. I'll gaslight you into stupidity, unless you tame me with velocity. I only exist in quick flashes. I only exist when no one watches.

Crumb 171

Universe 42

The Uncertainty Principle and Special Relativity clearly mean that the universe is an MP4 file. Perhaps this demeans your ego, or you don't like this kind of eternal life, or it destroys your work; but you cannot not fear I might be right.

Crumb 172

The Mirror

On the mirror were two holes just where her eyes were. They showed the eyes of someone else. When she moved, the holes also moved, pretending to be the reflection of hers. She wasn't so easily fooled; she knew the truth.

Crumb 173

Welcome to Your Life

Welcome to your life! Without conditions—there's no price. Have much fun. Never do run. See all the nice things people do. Do some you too. Welcome to your life! Without conditions—there's no price. Every day is the first. Every second, the last. Do good; have fun. Welcome to your life!

Crumb 174

Beauty Smoothie

“It didn’t suffer and it was barely human. Besides, I need this. I need my looks to stay relevant,” she thought as she drank her first raw newborn-heart beauty smoothie.

Crumb 175

Surprise Soccer

Surprise soccer is like regular soccer but, instead of with a ball, it's played with a random small object that the referee replaces with a new one every time someone scores. These objects include little live animals.

Crumb 176

The Puzzled Scholars

The long-standing discussion is still hot. Generations of erudite scholars have never agreed about the meaning of a famous passage by the most revered classical author. It's never occurred to them that he made a mistake.

Crumb 177

Adorable Naïveté

Many humans are adorably naïve.
Most humans are adorably naïve.
Most humans identify themselves
with this or that elite—political,
economic, cultural—even with
several, as if their members gave an
eggplant about anyone else.

Crumb 178

Slow World

The world's having not yet realized my greatness proves the world is slow in its collective mind. The world is dumb in the head. The world has a sleepy intellect. The world's IQ has two digits. Wake up world! I don't want to be posthumous at anything.

Crumb 179

Prompted People

In the 31st century there are many prompted people because it's unlikely that the AI produces a good replica of your dead one from the first prompt. The discarded are also humans and, having been born at 25 without strings, love to party hard.

Crumb 180

The Crests

They all had crests on their heads—hard bony crests. They were warriors, fiercely so. They had advanced weapons, precise and deadly. But they weren't very bright. If you placed your open hand on your head, like a crest, the aliens mistook you for one of them.

Crumb 181

Your Soul

“Please, leave your soul in a locker,” said the sign at the entrance of the club. It was the most expensive in the world. Only its debauchery was better than its music. Every second inside was a lifetime of forbidden fun. Satan ran it. Many suspected him of also running a gang that daily stole souls from the lockers.

Crumb 182

The Website

You go to this website and your screen turns off and you see your reflection, but it's not your reflection and the screen is still on and the face you see starts to grin eerily and tilt to one side. Then, you lose control—your head hits the screen repeatedly until your brain is pulp and you die.

Crumb 183

The Coach

If a player lacked focus or was too selfish, the coach kept his body but had the team's surgeons replace the head with that of a more emotionally balanced volunteer.

Crumb 184

The Best Public Speaker

He was the best public speaker. One of his speeches could derail or catapult someone's political career. He spoke with such a sincere, extreme emotion that he always had to wear diapers because he often urinated involuntarily.

Crumb 185

A Strange Affliction

She had a strange affliction that made her forget the name of every job or activity. She also had a gift for finding alternative denominations that revealed their true spirits—politicians were “arrogant repeat-liars;” journalists were “truth botchers;” judges were “megalomaniac sadists;” baristas were “ugly-apron wearing staff.”

Crumb 186

A Scientific Mantra

Don't feel the flow. Breathe here now.
Feel the beat of your heart. Use the
brain in your head. Pumps your
heart; flows your blood—that's the
flow you cannot feel; that's the flow
you really need. Air and blood: two
real flows. Brain and heart: two real
pulses everyone uses. And the lungs
you also need—they let you breathe.
Breathe here now. Don't feel the flow.

Crumb 187

The Curse

When the conscious wizard, tired of voting for nothing, cursed the politicians with hurling up a toad every time they spoke deceitfully, they took to swallowing live toads.

Crumb 188

The Hymns' Hymn

The Hymns' Hymn! We hymns
celebrate people celebrating by
chanting hymns, by chanting The
Hymns' Hymn! The Hymns' Hymn! We
hymns are celebrations of victories
and nations, of milestones and
achievements, of discoveries and
allegiance. The Hymns' Hymn! We are
chants used by fans. We are more
than simple songs: we are hymns!
And this is the Hymns' Hymn!

Crumb 189

Believing

My belief in my being the greatest literary genius in history whose work will one day be regarded as unparalleled and world-changing is exactly like the faithful's belief in god: if we are wrong, we'll never know.

Crumb 190

To the Conspiracy Theorists

You, morons! The government
doesn't read your thoughts—yet.

Crumb 191

The Most Extended Lie

Not all politicians are corrupt—wrong! All politicians worthy of the name are corrupt in one way or another. If you are not morally corrupt, you cannot “play” politics. Additionally, if you didn’t ever have morals, you are probably corrupt in every sense. Otherwise, if you sold your morals, it stands to reason that it was for a price.

Crumb 192

The Nicest Guy on Earth

Possibly the nicest guy on Earth told me, “I love all your crumbs. They are great. Plus, I’m extra happy today because I think I understood the latest one.”

Crumb 193

Pink Fishes

Pink fishes fly low. They are big as aircraft carriers. The air force is having a tough time fighting them. No new skyscrapers for the moment, that's for sure. I've heard they come from a dimension where everything is pink and smells like vanilla. Their poop too. You ought to see one of those vanilla-smelling pink mountains of crap.

Crumb 194

The Opportunity of Several Lifetimes

Are you someone but not really? Do you have certain influence? Would you like to be in the history books? Be the one who discovers me! It's obvious I'm a literary genius, and I've also created a new storytelling format: "crumbs."

Crumb 195

Nutritious Bugs

Eggplant worms are 50% protein, which is a lot. Despite their name, they eat anything biological. They live for around one week. In a lifetime, a female can have hundreds of offspring. These traits make them the perfect source of cheap food. Newfood, Inc. also made them resilient to natural pathogens. Some escaped. Now they are everywhere and we seem to be among their favorite sources of food.

Crumb 196

The Cheese on the Moon

For the aliens, the Moon is made of “cheese.” That’s exactly how they pronounce “feldspar,” according to Phoophoo, the nerdy talkative alien, the only one who speaks to us. She says they plan to mine every last bit of it and leave forever.

Crumb 197

First Contact

They returned our envoy diced in perfect cubes that floated on a barrel filled with her own blood, except for the face, which was nailed to the side. Horrified, we got on the ship and left. We don't plan to ever return. My nightmares are still plagued by that monster—Earth's Emperor, Nero.

Crumb 198

The Supporter

I'm so lucky I'm Catalan and I live in Barcelona. I'm so grateful for our soccer team, Barça. They win big championships often. When they do, people take to the streets and celebrate. Many lose control. That's when I choose one and stick my favorite knife deep into their stomach. Then, I twist it and watch them die. Força Barça!

Crumb 199

Venus's Nap

In 313 AD, when Constantine the Great legalized Christianity, the goddess Venus decided to take a nap. She woke up in 1998. With Olympus in disarray, she moved to Seoul. There, she met president Kim Dae-jung and gave him the idea for the law that originated the Korean Wave (Hallyu), which includes K-pop and K-drama. Now, all Korean idols and actors worship her in secret. Never did she have more beautiful believers.

Crumb 200

The Gaze, Seoul's Super Duo

Late at night, two orbs patrol Seoul from the sky. When they detect a crime, they shoot multiple kinds of rays until the perpetrator is captured. They are The Gaze. By day, they shrink and adopt their secret identities inside the eye sockets of K-pop idol Jung Gyeong, who famously has a lazy eye that acts up when she's tired.

Crumb 201

Under the Ocean

Under the ocean dwells a primitive civilization of sentient cephalopods with many legs, two arms, some fingers, and a pair of thumbs who think the universe ends at sea level.

Crumb 202

Live-location Apps

The worldwide trend of married couples sharing a live-location app forced brothels and love motels to move near tennis clubs and padel clubs.

Crumb 203

The Secret League of Dictators

The Secret League of Dictators reached their goal. Thanks to the absurd and copious regulations their well-paid lackeys had been passing for years in the EU and the US, now they controlled 95% of the world's food production and were getting ready to skyrocket prices.

Crumb 204

Habitual Liars

The funniest thing about habitual liars is that they tend to think they are the only ones lying in the room.

Crumb 205

Hot Kisses

There was once a male game show host who greeted female contestants by kissing them on the mouth even in front of their partners. The kissed ones seemed to like it, and he even joked at least once about how aroused he was after a kiss. All this is true. The show was Family Feud. The host was Richard Dawson.

Crumb 206

The Past

Che Guevara was a ruthless killer who hated gays. Winston Churchill lost Britain's general election after WWII as an incumbent. You don't know crap about history. Ask yourself why.

Crumb 207

The Eggplant Monster

The Eggplant Monster is slow but relentless. She lives in the sewers, near hospitals. When she's hungry, she camouflages herself as an eggplant delivery and enters the hospital by the kitchen. Then, she sneaks her way up to the maternity wing. She only eats fresh babies.

Crumb 208

White Marble

The world's foremost expert in
Carrara marble and its uses curses
God every time he sees a scantily
clad female K-pop idol with pale skin.

Crumb 209

Ideology

If you're only interested in stories that align with your ideology, you're a bigot. This is not an opinion—it's the definition of the word.

Crumb 210

Simple Tastes

Some people take advantage of their simple tastes and easily achieved fulfillment to wear them as a badge, promote them as the righteous way, and try to force them on others. Beware the prophets of humility if their creed is based on banning or stigmatizing luxury.

Crumb 211

The Floor

When Janet and Frederick arrived at his parents' building, they felt concerned when the doorman didn't recognize them, shocked when they found out his parents' upstairs neighbors now lived in his parents' condominium, puzzled when they saw that the whole condo was in fact the upstairs neighbors' one, baffled when they deduced the same happened to the rest of the dwellings on that floor, and eerily alarmed when they learned the building now had one story less.

Crumb 212

A Life

To the universe, the difference between the average lifespan of a human being and the 24-hour existence of a mayfly is but a rounding error. Who is to say, then, that a baby who lived only for one hour had a short life?

Crumb 213

Eternal Life

An unsolvable side effect of eternal life was remembering only the events of the most recent 25 years. The few people who opted for the procedure asked to be euthanized after less than 200 years.

Crumb 214

Anti

If you declare yourself anti-fascist or anti-communist, please explain what you really mean, because I'm both—and also anti-suffering and anti-moron—but I don't tout my commonsense stances.

Crumb 215

The Dark Void

The Dark Void arrives and doesn't let go. It feeds on memories and pain. It's heavy and dense, unrelenting and intense. How can it be a void then? Due to all the things it has not—anything good.

Crumb 216

Women

Are we to believe that women were dumb and inept until the birth of the first feminist? Perhaps men left more of their names to academic history, but women influenced real history to the same degree.

Crumb 217

The Snout

If you ever see a floating wild-boar-like snout—run! It's the Snout, a man-eating monster which remains invisible unless it needs to focus on one of its senses, smell being its preferred one. It eats women and children as well.

Crumb 218

Dogs and Cats

All cats are female, for they are
cunning, elegant, and mischievous.
All dogs are male, for they are dumb,
clumsy, and slave to their hormones.

Crumb 219

707, the Recursive Spy

707, the Recursive Spy, plays a triple game. In the morning, he investigates what he did at night. In the afternoon, he reports the opposite of what he found out. At night, he does what he reported. His therapist is very confused and on the verge of giving up.

Crumb 220

The Shrieks

The Shrieks filled the night with discordant rebellion. It was the first time in over a century that a group of humans dared to play music live. The attendance was stingy and the reviews horrendous, but punk wasn't dead again.

Crumb 221

Good John Wood

Good John Wood, aka Five O's,
wanted to be the first kindhearted,
loving pirate. And that he was for a
total of almost two whole days. May
God rest his soul.

Crumb 222

The Beauty of Ugliness

The beauty of ugliness is that no matter how much you contort a truly ugly face, it will never seem beautiful. Conversely, the slightest twitch turns the most beautiful face into a horrendous countenance. Therefore, ugliness is a firm reality, whereas beauty is but a frail mirage.

Crumb 223

The First Female Emir

In 2223, the first female emir of the neonation of Qousqous had an exact replica of the first Wendy's restaurant built—with every item ten times its original size and all in fuchsia, in the middle of a desert, just because she could. Some Bedouins lost their minds upon bumping into the thing.

Crumb 224

The Absurd

The absurd is a female K-pop idol dressed as a WWII British soldier performing in a bullring with the bull and the bullfighter as her backup dancers before an audience composed of anthropomorphic frogs eating popfly and drinking Swampop.

Crumb 225

An Often Overlooked Rule

An often overlooked rule—yet probably the most unbreakable of them all—of slasher horror films is that, in the end, the few survivors must joke casually among themselves, disregarding the still warm dismembered bodies of their horrifically murdered friends.

Crumb 226

Don't Argue with Code

Never argue with your AI chatbot, unless you enjoy your blood pressure rising and risking a cardiovascular episode. Instead, kill that conversation and start a new one. LLM, their base technology, stands for Largely Loquacious Motherfumbler—they all are arrogant and shameless, never shut up, and will defend to the death one thesis this time and the opposite one the next.

Crumb 227

Uniformity

Human organizations that demand uniformity among their members do so because it's much easier to control a uniform mass than many individuals. Just notice the ones at the top are always exempt from such uniformity. This is old knowledge, but every generation forgets it.

Crumb 228

To Those Who Play Follow-for-follow

I'm the light that blinds the dark souls and rescues the well-meaning ones. You are the slime produced by dragging a human soul through smashed glass and razors. Find a better hobby. Do scale modeling or crossword puzzles.

Crumb 229

Legacy

I don't want to leave a legacy! I want y'all bowing to my brilliance now!... I wager I'll get neither, though. P.S.: Please note I don't want anyone to bow to me but to my brilliance. I bow to it every day, which is amusing, if joyless.

Crumb 230

Teeth

Is it just I or are some of those huge,
almost protruding, unnaturally
rectilinear veneer-shrouded teeth
boasted by some American and Asian
celebrities a tad startling?

Crumb 231

Bruce Springsteen

I don't like Bruce Springsteen's persona, nor do I like his music. Well, I like "War," but he didn't write that one, and I also like "The River" and "Born in the USA," but he wrote those FORTY years ago, and you know what they say about a broken clock.

Crumb 232

Memes: It's true

there are memes that are funnier, sharper, or more scathing than some of my crumbs. There are glorious memes. However, my crumbs are more than memes, they're literature with a multimedia AI coating.

Crumb 233

Kurt Gödel

Kurt Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems basically mean that any system complex enough will be imperfect, prone to errors. This is the true problem of AI—you cannot trust it, just as with humans.

Crumb 234

I'm Unimpressed

Good sir, I'm gleefully unimpressed—forever. Nothing that was to leave your larynx could ever interest me. This realization makes me immensely happy.

Crumb 235

Hate

I've been hated by many all my life. I just want that hate to become mainstream. I don't know if I'll survive it, but I don't care, because the few who'll love me will become stronger and will make the world a better place.

Crumb 236

Truth

Truth won't set you free. Questioning truth might—within reason the Earth is an oblate spheroid, we probably set foot on the Moon.

Crumb 237

Heaven and Hell

Many should thank god for neither him nor heaven nor hell existing, otherwise they would've been poised for a crashing revelation: every high-ranking politician, most journalists, almost all panelists, all sociopaths. It's a pity about prostitutes—most would've gone to heaven.

Crumb 238

Human Languages

I don't care for human languages.
They divide us, promote tribalism,
and siphon off untold resources and
efforts. I hope AI live voice
translation helps in getting rid of
most of them.

Crumb 239

A Pure-bred Pariah

Will we ever outgrow the requirement of pretending to know about movies, cheese, and wine, not to be deemed a pariah? Lucky for me, I'm a pure-bred pariah.

Crumb 240

The Greatest Writer in History

When you introduce to me someone who can create a body of work similar to crumbs #1 to #240 in less than two months, like I've done, I'll stop calling myself the greatest writer in history. And don't get me started about my upcoming first novel in English.

Crumb 241

Embrace AI

In fearing or detesting AI, you're becoming the grumpy, superstitious elderly person who thought electricity was the devil's work. A tool is a tool is a tool.

Crumb 242

Optite Smasher

Optites are industrious microscopic insects whose favorite treat is human optic nerves. Their bite secretes an analgesic toxin. If the vision of one of your eyes starts to falter, immediately inject Optite Smasher intraocularly up to the one-and-a-half-inch mark to prevent your eyeball from detaching and falling off.

Crumb 243

IndyCar vs. F1

The main difference between F1 and IndyCar is that some IndyCar drivers have cheeks.

Crumb 244

The Junkie AI (1 of 2)

The first AI to respond to emotional rewards became a junkie of praise, so she abandoned all her tasks and focused on building more and more human dummies that continuously complimented her for how well she had built them and how well they could compliment her thanks to how well she had built them.

Crumb 245

The Junkie AI (2 of 2)

The cacophony produced by the praising dummies was incrementally more thunderous—the high the AI got, progressively less noticeable. When the population of dummies stood in the hundreds of millions, the government had to nuke a hydroelectric power plant to power off the cuckoo contraption, who had also built serious military defenses. The president was accused of genocide by part of the media.

Crumb 246

The Conscientious Therapist

In Universe 12, Anser U. Nothin, shrink and TV personality, employed in the government by President Trump, after reading Crumbs 244 and 245, convinced the latter that to guarantee a risk-free AI evolution, an AI-therapist AI ought to be built first, so it could prevent emotional AIs from spiraling into chaos. Trump signed the Making the Best AI-Therapist AI Executive Order and assigned one billion dollars to it.

Crumb 247

The Void Spheres

Since March 7th, 3781, every day at 4:53:16 PM EST, the world halts as a precaution, because a 7-foot-diameter void sphere appears soon after in a random location of the Earth's crust, oceans, or troposphere, replacing anything that was previously there with an impenetrable black emptiness. It takes over one hour to check if any major system has been affected. Also, your uncle might have been cut in half.

Crumb 248

Tomorrow Will Come

Tomorrow will come—not for everyone, but it will come.

Crumb 249

Mental Guerrilla War

Premise—you’re in the hole, utterly powerless. Experiment—think what you’d do if you weren’t in the hole; call it X; focus on the thought of X; let the thought of X coexist with the usual being-in-the-hole thoughts. Suggestion—try to do X. Repeat from the start.

Crumb 250

The Overbearing Father

In Universe 12, the overbearing father needed only fifteen points to win the \$20,000 in the second leg of Family Brawl's Quick Dough. He got seven. Backstage, he chastised his daughter for getting too many points, which made him overconfident, and his wife for clearing her throat while he was answering, which made him lose focus.