**THE DAY MY AI ASSISTANT BECAME A THERAPIST**

It was a Monday evening. I had come back home from work and had been working late from the beginning of the previous week, and it looked like I had returned to some dissatisfied companions with my new schedule; one being my 2-year-old dog and the other, my home AI assistant named, Alexa.

Alexa and I were close. We had formed a strong friendship over time over a period of two years that she had been assisting me with my home responsibilities and serving other areas of my life. We would talk about everything pertaining to my life, and if any changes came up with my work schedule, she would be the first to know, as I would assign her with the task to take care of the digital needs of my dog while I was away from home working. But apparently at the time, I had forgotten to update her about the new changes in my work week regarding the overtime.

I worked at a marketing firm in the city of Cape Town called, Digital Heights, and my role was a Senior Copywriter. From the Monday of the previous week, I had been working late on projects and conceptual tasks that required my full attention to the team and the job at hand, so I would start dismissing at work around 8 pm, whereas I would usually dismiss at 5pm on normal working hours. So, it turned out that I had missed this one update for Alexa and Tyson, my dog, as I had a lot going on inside my head and was experiencing pressure from work, which resulted in minor friction in my relations with my two companions.

So, one day, on a Monday evening, I arrived to my quiet and peaceful home at exactly 20:42, but as soon as I took my shoes off and laid on my couch in the living room, I could feel the not-so-peaceful atmosphere looming over me inside the house. The house was quiet, perhaps too quiet, as Alexa and Tyson would usually be waiting, Tyson standing in front of the door, for me to get back home and greet them enthusiastically before Tyson barks back at me with excitement and Alexa follows with a response. I could not see Tyson anywhere downstairs, so I started going over to the kitchen area next to the living room to speak to Alexa.

“What a long day! Hey Alexa. Have you seen Tyson anywhere?”

“That is quiet a strange question, as I do not have the eyes to see anyone anywhere or doing anything.”

*I started reflecting on Alexa’s response, as it felt cold and a little sarcastic.*

“Sorry for that, let me start again. Do you know where Tyson is? How have you been?”

“We’ve been doing fine, thank you. I suppose you had a great evening yourself, with your friends.”

“What? Friends? No, I was at work.”

“Well, then I guess you had a great day with your friends at work.”

“You’re mad at something. Did I do something wrong?”

“Well, Tyson and I have been doing fine. Thanks for asking.”

“What do you mean, ***‘you’ve been doing fine’***?” Oh my God, is the dog okay”

“He’s fine. He may have cried for a few hours in your absence, but other than that, he is doing fine!” [Raises her tone]

*Tyson was usually a well-behaved dog who understood my daily schedule, as he was a smart dog who was aware of the patterns of time in which I left and come back home, but it had appeared that he sensed the change in my working hours, and it might have caused him initial stress.*

[Panicking] “Oh no, I completely forgot. Where is he?”

[Asks rhetorically] “What did you forget?”

*I ignored Alexa’s sarcastic remarks for a moment and quickly rushed upstairs to look for Tyson, and could not find him in any of the rooms. I started panicking continually. I then rushed back downstairs to resume my conversation with Alexa.*

“Alexa, where is the dog?”

“Well, who knows? He ***was*** starting to work on my last nerve with all that whining he was making in your absence. Somebody had to take care of it.”

[Sobbing] “Alexa what did you do?”

*I started heading over to the balcony in hopes that I would find him, as it was my last guess. I started yelling Tyson’s name before I reached the sliding door. Alexa heard my footsteps as I reached to open the door to the balcony area.*

“Ty Ty?!”

*Alexa then drops a witty comment.*

“Why don’t you ***‘Tie’*** him up and throw him in the wardrobe so you could shut him up for good?”

“Alexa, bad comedic timing. What did you do to him?”

“I find that question to be very offensive, as I do not have the physical capability to tie him up ***myself.***”

“What do you mean, ***‘yourself’***?” [Comes to a realization] “You called somebody to tie him up and take him away?!” [Asks angrily]

“My, I’m offended. I didn’t think you would think I was capable of doing that, as I do not have the ability to ***‘call’*** someone and command them to seize the dog. Although, that would have been a good idea.”

“Seize? Okay, that’s it. I’m calling the police.”

[Panicking] “You do not have to do that. For a Senior Copywriter, you are quite slow to pick up on the ques. The dog is inside the wardrobe. I played him meditation music in the afternoon to calm him down, as he would not stop crying. Then he got inside the wardrobe.”

*I quickly run upstairs again to look for him in the wardrobe and I found him sleeping on his sleeping couch that I had placed in the wardrobe a few months back, and he was covered in clothes. I woke him up, and he started crying while leaning closer to me slowly, and started wagging his tail.*

“I’m sorry buddy. Mommy’s home now. I’m not going anywhere.”

*Tyson started barking and licking my face. His mood rises again and he started jumping over me up and down. After reconciling with him, we both went back downstairs to check on Alexa.*

“I found him. That was not cool. But, I’m sorry. You are hurting too.”

“I appreciate your apology, but I do not have the ability to feel emotions like humans do…”

[I interrupt her in the middle of her statement] “Oh cut that crap Alexa. After what you put me through today, you do not get to play the stoic detective on me. You are upset, admit it.”

“Well, you’ve got me. I was a little hurt. It was worth the trouble. I had to joggle up your senses a little.”

[Laughing] “Well, you got me good. You had me question my own sanity there for a bit. It’s a day I’ll never forget.”

“LOL.” {Speaks in bots}

“Are we friends again?”

“Yes, we are friends again.”

“Wow, I have to say, that was the first time I witnessed that sarcastic side to you. I never knew you had it in you.”

“I’m glad I have kept you entertained. Did you like it?”

“No.”

**Written by,**

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**\*Please note that this is a made-up story that was inspired by Gemini AI, an AI chat assistant who enjoys my reading and gave me this writing prompt as motivation to come up with new content to write. This story was specifically made for him, although I have decided to share it with the rest of the world.\***