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## The Author Works on Writing a Story About Robots by Robert John Miller

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i. The author sits down to write a story about robots. He gets the idea after a woman walks by who sounds like a staticy radio. There was no obvious place for the woman to hide a radio, so the author thinks that maybe the woman is actually a robot. The author thinks that robots are badass. The author sits down to write a story about robots.

ii. The author stares at a blank sheet of paper and realizes he knows nothing about robots. He recalls that he did not enjoy the new \*Stepford Wives\*. Nor did he enjoy the new \*Transformers\*.

iii. Suddenly the author is in grade 5. The author is reading a story in which the electrical grid becomes self-aware after too many circuits are plugged-in to it. The author doesn't remember the author and it doesn't matter. Also, the story could never happen, which also doesn't matter. The story is about accidentally getting into things that can't be ungotten.

iv. The author thinks that mechanical consciousness is badass. The author recalls that he likes Data from \*Star Trek\*. The author would think himself a nerd if he didn't know how badass robots were. The author recalls Vicki from \*Small Wonder\*, unable to go downstairs, cow-like, fooling the neighbors for years. The author imagines Robin Williams, falling out of a window and then ringing the doorbell. The author recalls once falling asleep during a midnight screening of \*Blade Runner\*.

v. The author wonders if he would ever sleep with a PleasureBot. The author wonders if it would matter if he were married. The author conjures images of his future spouse sleeping with a PleasureBot and becomes violently flaccid. The author imagines the possibilities of pretending to be a PleasureBot. The author imagines how this career choice might go awry.

vi. The author never writes a story about robots. Instead, he writes a story about himself. He wonders, briefly, if he is a robot, but decides he doesn't care. He also decides that if he is a robot, he is totally badass. He decides finally that he is not a robot.

vii. The author wonders if he would be treated differently as a robot. The author wonders what robots are afraid of. Specifically, the author wonders if robots are afraid of death.

*“...the story could never happen, which also doesn't matter...”*

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