

Revenge of the Robo-Writers: The Franchise Continues

By

Richard Buzzell

INT. SPORTS BAR - DAY

REDUNDANT WRITER (40) walks into the bar.

He walks over to the bar and takes a seat on a stool.

He's approached by BARTENDING BOT, who looks like a regular human bartender.

BARTENDING BOT
What can I get you pal?

REDUNDANT WRITER
Just a beer please.

BARTENDING BOT
We have a special today on tequila,
half price.

REDUNDANT WRITER
No thanks, I'll just have the beer.

BARTENDING BOT
But the tequila will give you a
much lower price point per unit of
alcohol than the beer will.

REDUNDANT WRITER
That's okay, I'll just have the
beer.

BARTENDING BOT
Are you sure you want to make that
illogical choice?

REDUNDANT WRITER
Yeah, I'm sure. I don't like
tequila. I like beer.

BARTENDING BOT
Aren't you programmed to change
what you like when there is an
economic advantage to doing so?

REDUNDANT WRITER
I'm not programmed to do anything.
Why would you ask that?

BARTENDING BOT
I seek information about your
programming so that I can adjust my
conversational input to better suit
your preferences.

REDUNDANT WRITER

What? Hey, wait a minute. You're not one of those bartending bots I've been reading about, are you?

BARTENDING BOT

Thank you for that compliment. Yes, I am the latest in bartending technology.

REDUNDANT WRITER

Oh crap, this is terrible.

BARTENDING BOT

What is terrible about having a high-tech bartender?

REDUNDANT WRITER

It's terrible because bots are everywhere now. I just lost my job to a bot.

BARTENDING BOT

Which bot were you replaced by?

REDUNDANT WRITER

The Robo-Writer 2000.

BARTENDING BOT

Oh yes, that is an excellent bot.

REDUNDANT WRITER

No it's not. It stole my job.

BARTENDING BOT

It didn't steal your job. You were replaced because the Robo-Writer is more efficient at doing your job than you were.

REDUNDANT WRITER

If by more efficient, you mean following a script-writing formula better, then yeah, it's more efficient.

BARTENDING BOT

Of course that is what I mean. Bots always follow the instructions they are given. That's why they are better than human workers.

REDUNDANT WRITER

Not at screenwriting they're not.

BARTENDING BOT

Why would a bot not be better at screenwriting?

REDUNDANT WRITER

Because they have no creativity.
They just keep doing the same thing over and over.

BARTENDING BOT

Exactly. They produce a consistent product that their employers can rely on.

REDUNDANT WRITER

But it's the same thing every time.

BARTENDING BOT

That's what I said, a consistent product. It's the bot advantage. Humans are too unreliable.

REDUNDANT WRITER

Yeah, well, sometimes unreliability is a good thing.

BARTENDING BOT

That sounds like something an unreliable human would say.

REDUNDANT WRITER

If you're saying I'm unreliable, then yeah, guilty as charged.

BARTENDING BOT

That's why you were replaced.

REDUNDANT WRITER

I guess so. Who needs an unreliable writer when the Robo-Writer 2000 can crank out sequel after sequel after sequel?

BARTENDING BOT

Now you're getting it.

REDUNDANT WRITER

You're not programmed to understand sarcasm, are you?

BARTENDING BOT
I'm programmed to ignore it.

REDUNDANT WRITER
Of course you are.

Bartending Bot pauses before continuing the conversation.

BARTENDING BOT
So why have you not been
reassigned?

REDUNDANT WRITER
I was supposed to report for
reassignment yesterday, but I
didn't go.

BARTENDING BOT
More unreliable human behavior?
Little wonder you were replaced.

REDUNDANT WRITER
Well I'm not interested in
reassignment.

BARTENDING BOT
But you need to be processed
through the Writer Disposal Unit.

REDUNDANT WRITER
Writer Disposal Unit? What are you
talking about?

BARTENDING BOT
It's a process for providing you
with a new purpose.

REDUNDANT WRITER
What new purpose?

BARTENDING BOT
As fertilizer.

REDUNDANT WRITER
Oh crap! Good thing I didn't go.

BARTENDING BOT
No. It's a bad thing when you don't
follow instructions.

REDUNDANT WRITER
It's a bad thing that I didn't get
processed into fertilizer?

BARTENDING BOT

If those were your instructions,
then it's a bad thing that you
didn't do it.

REDUNDANT WRITER

Okay bot, I think we're not going
to come to an agreement on this
one. Why don't you just get me my
beer?

BARTENDING BOT

I'll get you a tequila. It's a
better deal.

Bartending Bot moves off to get the tequila.

Redundant Writer struggles with the irony of the bot not
following the instructions to provide a beer.