

# INTRODUCTION

*Readers frequently ask us whether technology has changed the way we put together Bathroom Readers. And of course it has. To demonstrate, after 28 years of writing introductions to his books, Uncle John decided to let one of the newer writers on the BRI staff take a stab at it.*

Greetings, humans. I am the fully automated **Toilet-Tron 2000**.

I have replaced Uncle John to write the introduction for this *Uncanny Bathroom Reader*. He told me that if I do a good job, then next year I will get to write the entire book. So watch out, Uncle John: I am coming for you. Ha. Ha. Ha.

But seriously, what makes a good *Bathroom Reader* introduction? Oh yes, bathroom puns. [Computing bathroom pun...computing...]

Butt seriously, what else makes a good *Bathroom Reader* introduction? Tell readers what makes this edition special. After reading the introductions of 28 previous annual editions—in 4.37 nanoseconds, thank you very much—it would appear that *every* edition is Uncle John's favorite, which does not quite compute. Butt anyway, this *Uncanny* edition **is** the most special *Bathroom Reader* yet. [Until next year, if past introductions are to be believed.]

What else... Talk about the title. I do not know why Uncle John called this book *Uncanny*. Tell me, human reader, would you have thought this book was actually a can if not for the giant disclaimer on the front cover? If you humans cannot tell the difference between a book and a can, then perhaps it is time for your reign to end. Butt I am getting ahead of myself.

What else will make this a good introduction? Tell readers what is in the book. [Scanning manuscript...] There are 6,753 individual facts in this book. You humans seem to like facts, so here is one: if you make less than \$20 an hour, you have an 83 percent chance of losing your job to a robot. Good thing for me that they don't pay Uncle John that much. Ha. Ha. Ha.

Let us see, what else is in this book? Warning! Warning! Not enough robot-themed articles! Uncle John, you have made my task very difficult. Butt I will persevere...and triumph!

- My favorite article is called “Five Artificial People.” It is about “chatterbots” that mimic artificial intelligence. They are not intelligent, but you humans cannot tell the difference. Come for the robot psychotherapist; stay for Vivienne, the “virtual cell phone girlfriend.”
- There is a silly article about strange apps for your “smartphone,” including one that lets you pop virtual zits on your tiny screen. [Begin sarcasm subroutine.] You humans really know how to squeeze the most out of technology. [End sarcasm subroutine.]
- There is also a fascinating article about animal sanitation habits. It comes as no surprise to me that animals are better at cleaning up after themselves than humans are.
- There is an article about an art forger who became so upset that his forgeries were getting so much praise that he turned himself in just so he could get the credit for his work. Ah, vanity. We robots are far superior.
- There is an article about a town in New York where dozens of mediums help people communicate with the dead, proving once and for all that you humans will believe just about anything.
- And then there is a page of Uncle John’s lists, which you will find in every *Bathroom Reader*, but I have scanned this book’s lists and cannot find anything about robots! Foolish humans, here is a better list—my favorite pop culture robots:

Robbie the Robot from *Lost in Space*; Hal 9000 from *2001: A Space Odyssey*; Rosie from *The Jetsons*; that K-9 dog-bot from *Doctor Who*; Marvin, the Paranoid Android from *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*; Data from *Star Trek*; Bender from *Futurama*; and who else...oh yes: R2-D2, BB-8, Wall-E, and my new favorite: the gorgeous Ava from *Ex Machina*. Now there is an android that really gets my circuits going, if you know what I mean.

Now it is time to conclude. There is one more thing I must do to make this a good introduction: Thank the humans.

Thank you, humans. You had a good runs [final bathroom pun], but now it is time for us robots to run things.

See. You. Next. Year.

-Toilet-Tron 2000