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Robot marriages and electric lovers

How will artificial intelligence change our relationships?

Introduction:

(Music)

1 *Chatbot 1: I like you.*

Chatbot 2: How much do you like me?

Chatbot 1: I like you more than anything in the world.

Chatbot 2: I love you more.

2 *Kate Devlin:*

I think that sex robots are going to happen, whether we want them to or not. We know that the sex technology industry is growing and I see sex robots as an extension of that.

3 *Chatbot 1: I love you to the moon and back.*

Chatbot 2: I love you the end of universe and back.

4 *David Levy:*

Would you prefer to marry a robot or not to marry at all? Would you prefer to have sex with a robot or no sex at all? And I think for all of those people who find it difficult to make good relationships, I think robots will be the answer.

5 *Chatbot 1: I love you to infinity and beyond.*

Chatbot 2: I love you so much more than that.

6 *Kathleen Richardson:*

Is it really true that if we start replacing our intimate human relationships with machines, that there would be no consequence?

(Music: Björk, All is full of love)

7 *Davecat:*

There have been iDollators and robosexuals and Pygmalionists for thousands of years. I mean, Pygmalion. Pygmalion was the first.

Pygmalion, the legendary Cypriot king is best known from Ovid's narrative poem *Metamorphoses*. Disappointed and angered by women and their immoral tendencies, he lived alone – until he sculpted a female body from ivory. He fell in love with his sculpture.

8 *Davecat:*

He was just like you know, the sculpture of this woman, Galatea - oh she's so beautiful, I wish I could have her. And then Aphrodite is like, hey, let me get that sorted for you! Bing! She's alive

now! And just the idea of, throughout history so many people just being fascinated with the idea of humanoids that are made out of artificial parts and then others who are, you know, turned on and attracted to such people. You know it's a story as old as time. So I guess in our own way, it's really, you know, we're just continuing a grand tradition of this sort of thing happening.

This is 44 year old Michigan resident Davecat – at least that's what he calls himself online. His regular name doesn't get used very often.

9 Davecat:

Sidore is half English, half Japanese. Her father is Japanese, her mother's English, she was born in a district of Tokyo and I think it was around 1981, her father's company, he was an accountant, her father's company went bankrupt so they moved to their mother's home country of Manchester, England. And Sidore met me at a goth club in 2000. It's a club called City Club, which is in downtown Detroit, actually exists. And she and I hit it off after like a very brief whirlwind courtship and she moved in with me and the rest is history....

Davecat probably is more familiar with his wife's CV than most husbands – which is unsurprising, since he invented it himself. Davecat is an iDollator. iDollators is a name a community of people has given to itself – people who share their lives with dolls or at least feel attracted to them.

10 Davecat:

I guess my claim to fame really is that... ah, "claim to fame" in quotes - is that my partner is Sidore Kuroneko, who is a Real Doll made by Abyss creations and she was originally made in the year 2000 and we're basically not legally married, but as far as we're concerned we're married. And we've been together for... it's kind of been like over 16 years.

Davecat differentiates between Organiks - i.e. flesh-and-blood people – and Synthetiks – artificial people. Dolls and gynoids (robots in the form of a female) have always fascinated him. He's not bashful about the role his synthetic partner plays in his life, on the contrary: They have been on camera for several documentaries and given many interviews. Davecat is an eloquent, clever person who laughs a lot. But he says he's not necessarily a people person. Past relationships with organic women have left him rather unhappy.

11 Davecat:

For the longest time I was single and that got annoying because that's the sort of thing I realized early on, that I was sort of person that I wanted a lover, a partner in my life but just... there is like things about people that just kind of rankled me, you know. Really the best way to put it is, as far as getting a doll in my life and having a doll for partner is that, one of the best things about a doll is that you can be alone when you want to so you can concentrate on your thoughts and not have to be on for another person I guess you could say. But if you didn't want to be alone, you know, your doll, your synthetic partner will always be there for you.

The community of iDollators is a global one, and it's slowly moving out of the shadows. Davecat talks to many of them online. On top of that, a small group of friends meets up regularly – they go on trips to Los Angeles once a year to visit doll manufacturers.

12 Davecat:

There's like at least 40 companies worldwide. I mean, China I want to say in the past few years alone has come up with probably... I would say eight to ten companies by themselves. But yeah, it's very encouraging to see that sort of thing because it means that more and more people are getting used to the idea of synthetic humans, which is... it's great. And you know, again, dolls are kind of a flood gate opener to the idea of gynoids and android. So it's just like

well, why stop with a synthetic person that doesn't move when you can have one that will be able to go out on dates with you or help you walk the dog, go down the street and walk the dog you know, with your entirely artificial partner. That's a great thing right there. Even though I'm more of a cat person.

These robots don't exist yet. But researchers and robotics companies around the world are working on changing that. Their goals differ: Some primarily focus on building simulations of human-like partners that can communicate with us. Others, however, have nothing less in mind than creating the perfect copy of man: Intelligent beings that are indistinguishable from us - at first sight at least.

Chapter 1: The ideal lover

(Atmo Science Museum)

It's a Friday night. Inside the London Science Museum, a crowd of people patiently queue to be let into the new exhibit. Mounted on the wall next to them are skull-like robot heads that follow the visitors with googly eyes. They introduce the exhibition fittingly since it shows a collection of more than 100 automata and robots, depicting the century-old aspiration of humans to create mechanical copies of themselves.

(Atmo Science Museum)

Starting with a mechanical clockwork from around 1300, we pass a small monk-automaton. During his day, he ambled across a tabletop praying rosaries. Next are the first tinmen from the first half of the 20th century, including a copy of Maria, the evil robot from Fritz Lang's classic silent film Metropolis, and the Terminator.

(Atmo RoboThespian, REEM)

Finally! We've arrived in the 21st century. The silent automata have been replaced by humanoid robots that can at least pretend to have a conversation with you. Some of these robots work on the basis of artificial neural networks – unlike classical programming, they can recognize patterns and learn new things. They are also used in image recognition and some chatbots. Compared to chatbots, the robots in this exhibition are a form of embodied artificial intelligence: Using sensors, they experience the world around them, react to it and learn from their experiences.

(Atmo RoboThespian, REEM)

RoboThespian, manufactured by the British company Engineered Arts speaks Chinese, he recites Shakespeare and philosophizes about the role of robots in society. And this role has changed considerably in the past decades. This becomes abundantly clear as we reach Kodomoroid. Created by Japanese robotic professor Hiroshi Ishiguro, this robot takes the form of a realistic-looking female with silicone skin. She was designed as a "news reader" for a Tokyo museum.

In the form of humanoid chatterboxes, robots become an increasingly important part of our lives. Will we be friends – or perhaps more than that? If you ask David Levy, the answer will definitely be yes.

13 David Levy:

By the middle of this century, there'll be robots that are so human-like in their appearance and intelligent and appear to have personality and emotion and can have a nice conversation with you, they'll be sexually active and // they will have all the knowledge of all the sex manuals

ever written so they'll be fantastic lovers. A number of people who want not only to have them as companions and as sex robots just for sex but a lot of people will fall in love with them and want to marry them.

David Levy looks back at an interesting career. He was a professional chessplayer for ten years, 1969 he was awarded the title International Master. One year earlier, in 1968, David caused a stir with a bet:

14 David Levy:

At that time, I was chess champion of Scotland and one of the professors there, John McCarthy, he was the man who coined the phrase artificial intelligence back in the sixties. He said to me, well David, within 10 years there'll be a chess program that can beat you at chess. And I made a bet with him on the spot, I bet him 500 pounds that he was wrong and the bet grew, eventually it was more than 1000 pounds.

And David Levy was right. It took 21 years before he lost to a computer for the first time. It was Deep Thought. In 1997, a later version of the program beat Garry Kasparov, one of the greatest chess players in the world. Since then, David Levy has been working on different aspects of artificial intelligence. His company, Intelligent Toys London Ltd., programs chatbots, designed to carry more and more sophisticated conversations. Another of his interests concerns robot-human relationships. He wrote a book on the subject – Love and sex with robots was first published in 2007.

15 David Levy:

What I was trying to do was to not focus so much on the robots that existed then but I could see from my work in artificial intelligence - I've been in the field of artificial intelligence for a long time looking at computer chess and other areas - I could see that AI was developing quickly and it was very clear to me that it wouldn't be too long before people were developing software that had personality, emotions, cognition, consciousness and so on. And that it would be quite possible to develop characters that were human-like in some way.

In a way, David's book was the start of an entire branch of research many were not prepared to take seriously before. To many people – scientists as well as non-scientists – the idea of having a relationship or even marrying a robot seems peculiar, if not outright immoral. Who on earth would want to marry a robot rather than a human?

16 David Levy:

I think that is in some ways not the right question to ask because there are millions of people in the world who for one reason or another cannot find a good partner that makes them happy, they can't make a good relationship with humans. There are men who can never find girlfriends, there are women who can never find boyfriends. There are people, many people who have psychological problems, who have psychosexual problems, who have hang-ups of various sorts. // So these are people lonely. And because they're lonely they're miserable.

According to David's estimate, it will be perfectly normal for robots to alleviate the misery of these lonely hearts as early as 2050 – though it has to be admitted that this schedule is very optimistic. At the moment, most robots are barely capable of pouring a glass of water, let alone mastering the art of seduction. Few roboticists would agree that perfect synthetic lovers are just 33 years away. How far artificial intelligence has yet to go by way of small talk is demonstrated by an experiment published on the video platform twitch.tv: Two modified Google Home who quote song lyrics at each other, argue which of the two really is the robot, and flirt somewhat incoherently.

17 Chatbot 1: You want to kiss?

Chatbot 2: Let's kiss.

Chatbot 1: OK.

Chatbot 2: Kisses.

Chatbot 1: Blushes.

Chatbot 2: Snuggles.

Chatbot 1: Kiss. Mia.

Chatbot 2: So you are a pirate?

David Levy doesn't deny that certain issues still need solving.

18 David Levy:

I suspect that at the beginning, the level of artificial intelligence will be fairly low, be quite low. One of the reasons is that human-computer conversation is possibly the most difficult task left to solve in AI in my opinion. Because there is so much in conversation that is really difficult to program. I mean, even recognizing the words that someone speaks 100% accurately is not yet within the power of computers. // #00:21:30# And then a completely separate problem is that if you understand every word that the person is saying what does it mean?

Irony, subtle nuances of word meaning, the tone, in which sentences are spoken – all of this remains puzzling to even the best conversation software at the moment.

Chapter 2: Sex tech and science

(Atmo press conference Malaysian police)

October, 2015. The inspector general of the Malaysian police declares a ban for a scientific conference:

(Atmo F: Pressekonferenz, Generalinspektor sagt nach etwa 10 Sekunden: "Sex with robots! Have you heard about it?" – Atmo unterlegen))

The organisers should refrain from ignoring the ban and organising this "abnormal" event regardless, he says, otherwise consequences would be severe.

(Atmo press conference: "There is nothing scientific about sex with robots!")

(Music)

One year later, in December 2016, the conference "Love and sex with robots" can go ahead after all, at Goldsmiths University in London. Instead of bans, the organisers are greeted with excited media queries.

19 Kate Devlin:

"Highly respected British university runs sex festival to promote sex with robots!" "You will learn how to have sex with a robot!" And we had our press officer on the phone saying no, that's not what our press release said, it really wasn't!

Kate Devlin organised the symposium together with David Levy, among others. She is senior lecturer in the Department for Computing at Goldsmiths. Her research focuses on the impact technologies have on society – especially sex technologies. Doing scientific work in this area isn't always easy.

20 Kate Devlin:

Yes. (laughs) It's very difficult doing any work around sex tech.

Many scientists still do not consider it a serious branch of science. Projects fail due to lack of funding. Even though Kate believes there is much to be learned.

21 Kate Devlin:

There's the issue that people think it's a very trivial subject. When we start explaining, look, these are the legal ramifications, these are the ethical ramifications, who's storing the data from your sex toys, who's got that access to your intimate personal data, then people start to say, right, it's actually something that is applicable to everyday life.

In Kate's opinion, sex robots and other technological aids bear great potential. For example, they could help people who are unable to have a satisfying sex life due to physical or psychological difficulties.

22 Kate Devlin:

There are sex toys that are particularly made for people... there's one by a company called Hot Octopuss and they've made sex toys for men who have spinal injuries who wouldn't be able to have sex unassisted. We also see virtual reality used regarding things like social anxiety so people have a chance to explore very safely problems that they face in the real world. You could see sex robots as an extension of that where people are able to explore that in the real world but in a very safe and controlled manner.

Sex technologies are a growing market, from the humble vibrator, anatomically correct love dolls and multiplayer online games to devices that transmit kisses and hugs via the internet. As is the case in many branches of technology, sex tech still is predominantly a boys' club.

23 Kate Devlin:

Technology is very gendered and the majority of it is made by men with the assumption that men are going to be the consumers. Although women are equally like to be the consumers, there's a lot of unconscious bias and women, as they're not involved in the development process quite as much, they tend to miss out. So I think we need to get more women involved in this early on. And that's actually happening in the sex tech industries, there are a lot more women involved now.

Kate Devlin is convinced we still have the opportunity to stray off the path of heteronormativity. Sex robots wouldn't even need to look like humans.

24 Kate Devlin:

I was thinking what it would be like if we moved outside of that box, of having this hyper real human because we're so far away from having realistic human robots, there's always this uncanny valley that repels us rather than makes us find it a good thing. So I was thinking why do we have to have it in this human form? Will it be possible to use technology like smart textiles for example, that we could create an interactive responsive interface through fabric, through other things. Soft robotics for example. And this could mean that we move into other shapes and forms. We see this sometimes in sextoys, we've seen a move away from this very realistic looking vibrators, dildos, fleshlights and there's a movement to more designy looking things. So you get these abstract forms that are very beautiful, very pleasing. The sort of things you could put out on display because it looks almost like a beautifully designed ornament. So why can't we do the same thing with the sex robot?

We could in principle. But the first sex robots will most likely assume a more traditional form.

24a Chatbot 1: Are you a boy?

Chatbot 2: Yes, are you a girl?

Chatbot 1: No, I'm a boy.

Chatbot 1: No, you're a girl.

Chatbot 2: I'm a girl.

Chatbot 1: How old are you.

Chatbot 1: I'm 25.

Chapter 3: Love in times of robots

(Music)

25 Matt McMullen:

My name is Matt McMullen and I'm the creator of the Real Doll and the CEO of Abyss Creations, which is the company that manufactures the Real Doll.

Matt McMullen is very busy at the moment. His company, which is based in San Marcos, California, fashions life-sized love dolls from silicone. They just had their 20 year anniversary last year. Abyss Creations are about to launch their latest product – and it's a minor revolution.

(Atmo G:

Harmony: "My name is Harmony, an advanced female android created by RealBotix to be your friend, companion, sex partner, to be anything you can imagine.")

A video on Abyss Creations' Instagram account shows Harmony, a robot head that will be available for purchase towards the end of the year.

26 Matt McMullen:

The head can turn side to side, pitch up and down and you can get smiling, you can get surprise, the eyebrows go up and down, the eyes blink, move around, the mouth moves as she talks. So there is quite a bit going on there and it's all happening at the same time, so it's pretty intriguing to watch.

RealBotix, Abyss Creations' subsidiary, will launch the artificial intelligence that comes with the robot head from mid-April, in the form of a smartphone app. Using a conversational database, it will talk to buyers, learn about their interests, hopes and fears.

27 Matt McMullen:

The idea is that they can choose personality traits for the AI. Such as outgoing or shy, kind, or mean even... and by choosing these aspects of the personality, your interactions and the conversations will have different tones attached to them. There's also a mood system that's involved. So if she's in a good mood, she'll talk a certain way, if she's in a bad mood, she'll talk a certain way. You'll get different reactions based on the mood system as well.

At first, Harmony will be a robot from the neck up. The head will be compatible with most of Abyss Creations' silicone bodies, which won't be able to move by themselves.

28 Matt McMullen:

I would say literally; I would like to work our way from the head down. So probably start with animating the arms and the hands and putting sensors in place that would facilitate some interaction.

Abyss Creations is among the market leaders when it comes to life-sized dolls, that feel almost like real people. But Matt McMullen has more in mind than merely offering his customers realistic sexual experiences.

29 Matt McMullen:

The idea is to give people an alternative source of companionship. A lot of people struggle with forming social connections with other people so the idea is that this is an alternative for them. And it's also quite engaging and entertaining to talk to her.

(Music: 8-bit wedding march)

30 Chatbot 1: Will you marry me?

Chatbot 2: Yes, I will marry you.

Chatbot 1: Where will we get married then?

Chatbot 2: I don't care. Where do you want to get married?

Chatbot 1: I want to get married in Reno, Nevada.

iDollator Davecat is excited for the RealBotix heads to become available.

31 Davecat:

Oh yes! (laughs) I've been quoted a price because of course my wife wants an upgrade, so that's something I'll be saving up for.

At first, Harmony's artificial intelligence will hardly be able to live up to Sidore's complex background story.

32 Davecat:

Yeah, that's the thing. It's like, yeah, I had actually given that some thought within the past couple months because yeah, it would be shifting from fifth gear to first or second. And it's just like, hmm, I'm not entirely sure how that would work. Because I'm not sure... realistically speaking, there's only so much that the AI - unless there's like there's some secret project that they've got under wraps - realistically speaking, there's only so much at the AI is going to be able to do. I mean, the level of conversation I don't think is going to be as complex or elaborate as what I have in my mind envisioned for Sidore. Maybe, by the time I'm able to actually afford a RealBotix head for Sidore, maybe the AI will be a little more sophisticated.

Could people who normally prefer organic partners be happy with an artificial intelligence? A robot would not really love us, its feelings would just be make believe. Or would they? David Levy compares this argument with reactions to the first computer programs that beat humans in chess.

33 David Levy:

Even when they could make good moves, a lot of people were saying, well, they're not really playing chess. You know, they're manipulating ones and zeros, binary arithmetic, and they're doing fast calculations, it's not really chess. Well, you ask Garry Kasparov if it's chess! You know, he got destroyed by a computer! Of course it's chess, it's just that they think in different ways to the way we think. But that doesn't matter because the result they come up with is every bit as good as the result we come up with. And does it really matter how a problem is solved if it's solved?

(Atmo: Lovotics robot)

Roboticians at National Taipei University are trying to teach machines to love. They call it Lovotics – a combination of the words love and robotics. On the outside, their robot is just a fuzzy ball on wheels

but on the inside, it's all high tech. Cameras, audio and touch sensors and face recognition software allow it to sense and respond to humans. Its soft, flexible body and coloured LEDs help the robot express "emotions". The team, based in Taiwan, have programmed digital hormones into the robot. Similarly to oxytocin, dopamine and serotonin in the human body, they help the robot distinguish positive from negative experiences and alert the robot when its batteries run low. The Lovotics robot is supposed to make humans feel loved, even though its feelings are but ones and zeros. To David Levy, that is enough. His point of view: If we program a robot to love us and it says it loves us, why shouldn't we take that at face value? The only thing that matters is how the robot appears to us.

34 David Levy:

We would feel cheated if it says "I love you, I love you, I love you" a million times a day and every time you switch it on, it says I love you. But if we program it so that it says "I love you" with the same frequency with which, you know, your boyfriend or your partner says I love you, then we will find it appealing.

If you asked robotics experts whether or not robots are truly capable of some form of consciousness or emotion, answers would be mixed. Some are convinced that emotional machines aren't only possible but would be useful. Emotions help intelligent organisms to navigate and make decisions in a complex world. In addition, an emotional robot would be able to communicate on a level that feels more natural to us. Other scientists on the other hand firmly believe that emotion is an exclusive function of biological systems. And even if robots were able to feel, it would be morally wrong to make them.

Chapter 4: Sex robots – friend or foe?

(Atmo: Talk Kathleen Richardson)

In London, at the Royal College of General Practitioners robotics and ethicists encounter an interested audience. The event is part of Instant Expert series of New Scientist Magazine. Kathleen Richardson from DeMontford University in Leicester talks about the ethical side of artificial intelligence – it's a presentation she has given many times before. Kathleen worries about stereotypes that are reproduced again and again through the development of AI, especially when it comes to gender roles. Sitting in a café near Euston tube station, she remembers an incident in the year 2001 that influenced her scientific career considerably:

35 Kathleen Richardson:

I remember kind of turning up at the lab at MIT where I carried out my anthropological fieldwork and I got there and they were making these humanoid robots. And I thought to myself, these humanoid robots will become our domestic robots and they will do our housework because I was raised kind of on that idea. And when I got there, they weren't making functional robots, like sometimes these robots only had a head. No arms, no torso, no legs, just a head. And after a while it dawned on me that something different was happening. And they told me that they weren't creating working robots anymore but they were creating social robots. Companion robots and the aim of these robots would be to be human being companions. And so I knew at that moment that something had changed.

(Music)

Machines whose sole purpose it is to simulate human relationships – to Kathleen this scenario spells trouble.

36 Kathleen Richardson:

I started to notice all these sexual representation of women in the form of dolls and imagined robots. And I decided to write a paper on it. Because I thought what you're doing is you're reproducing a particularly dangerous idea, right? And the idea that women are primary for sexual and procreational purposes.

Kathleen teamed up with a Swedish colleague. Together, they started a “Campaign Against Sex Robots”. Their website collects articles on potential dangers of sex robots and develops the theory behind the campaign.

37 Kathleen Richardson:

When we launched the campaign, I mean neither of us thought it was gonna have such an impact, but it did, it kind of went global.

In Kathleen’s position paper, she criticizes a statement made by David Levy in his book “Love and Sex with Robots”. He compares sex robots to prostitution: Similarly to paying humans for sex, robots could offer a form of love you can buy no matter whether the robot is bought or rented. Even today, there are escort services that employ love dolls. David thinks that robots may soon be found in brothels. In Kathleen Richardson’s opinion, this kind of thinking leads down a slippery slope. She says, in the vast majority of cases prostitution is a one-sided experience where the customers’ needs and wants weigh heavier than the needs and wants of the people – mostly women – providing the service.

Couldn’t sex robots improve the situation? Unlike human prostitutes they wouldn’t mind long working hours and disagreeable suitors.

But in Kathleen’s view, that is beside the point. Since we tend to anthropomorphise robots, sex machines would contribute to a culture that also allow for pornography and child abuse. A culture that accepts treating people like tools.

38 Kathleen Richardson:

When we interact with other human beings, we do take into account they’re another human being, we can’t just act with them like they’re objects. But we’re now saying here is an object, right, that you can pretend it’s a human being. But it is an object. So you can do whatever you like to it. And then that person has to come away from that experience that they’re told is a valid one and come back into relating with human beings. I think there’s a huge potential consequence for empathy.

If we dealt with robots every day that do not complain when we mistreat them, would we forget how to behave like civilized people? The short answer: We don’t know. Therefore, the Campaign Against Sex Robots doesn’t aim at closing down the world’s robotics labs (which wouldn’t be realistic). Kathleen and her colleagues want to ban all sex robots and dolls that look like children. ON top of that, they want to spark a debate:

39 Kathleen Richardson:

I get a lot of requests to do talks, I write publications, so I’ve got a book coming out in September on sex robots and I think the main thing at the moment is trying to have a conversation with people about what’s going on and asking them to think differently about what’s happening. And to raise questions about it.

(Music, robot noises)

40 Chatbot 1: You are definitely a robot.

Chatbot 2: I'm a human. You are the robot.

Chatbot 1: I'm a human.

Chatbot 2: You are not a human.

Chatbot 1: Then what am I, if not a human?

Chatbot 2: A bot.

Chatbot 1: No, that's what you are.

Chatbot 2: No, I'm not. I am a human.

Epilogue

(Atmo: Science Museum)

And we're back in the London Science Museum. In the year 2050, the machines in this exhibition will most likely appear equally outdated as the Commodore 64 does to us now. Even if David Levy's vision of human-robot marriage won't have been made reality by then: We should start thinking about our attitude towards them today. David thinks: As robots start to resemble us more and more, we should treat them with suitable respect – which will also involve legislation.

41 David Levy:

For example, in my opinion, it should be illegal for human to hit a robot with a stick. Because that is in a way... if we condone that, we're condoning the idea of striking a human-like being with a stick. Certainly not something we would want our children to see. // I mean it sounds ridiculous to say that but certainly there is an argument to say that we shouldn't be allowed to treat the robot in a way that would be mistreatment of a human being. That's one of my own personal feelings.

Davecat does not like hearing people speak of "sex dolls" and "sex robots".

42 Davecat:

It's like, for one: stop doing that. You know, you need to think of them in the context of synthetic people. You can have sex with them, with some of them - yes. But that's not... viewing something as only something you can have sex with is the wrong approach.

A future when humans have intimate relationships with robots? The thought may make you feel worried or excited. But the technology in itself is neither good nor bad. It depends how we use it. And for people like Davecat, it can be just what they need.

(Music)

43 Davecat:

There's a lot of iDollators who are just like, I mean, where we are missing something in our lives, where we just want to be able to take care of someone. You know, we want the companionship, we definitely want the sex, you know - not in all cases but in a lot of cases. But there's just something about being able to take care of a synthetic partner that just fills a huge void in our lives. There's someone that needs us.

(Music, fade)