

# MY DAY ON FACEBOOK

By Monica Bauer

Copyright © MMXVI by Monica Bauer, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-61588-326-4

**CAUTION:** Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

**RIGHTS RESERVED:** All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

**PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS:** All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Heuer Publishing LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Heuer Publishing LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Heuer Publishing LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Heuer Publishing LLC.

*Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.*

**AUTHOR CREDIT:** All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

**PUBLISHER CREDIT:** Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: *Produced by special arrangement with Heuer Publishing LLC.*

**COPYING:** Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Heuer Publishing LLC.

HEUER PUBLISHING LLC  
P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406  
TOLL FREE (800) 950-7529 • FAX (319) 368-8011

**MY DAY ON FACEBOOK****By Monica Bauer**

**SYNOPSIS:** Have you ever fantasized about your perfect day on social media? When an unemployed, depressed would-be novelist is given a Beta Test model of the new app Super Social, she becomes more successful than she ever imagined. For a while.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS***(3 females)*

BETSY (f).....A would-be novelist, 28 going on 60.

*(134 lines)*

DEANIE (f).....BETSY's 24-year-old roommate, a junior software developer for MicroWorks Corporation. *(38 lines)*

WTA (f) .....White Trash Alabama, the personification of Super Social, a new Artificial Intelligence program.

*(96 lines)***SETTING**

Brooklyn, New York. Present day. In Betsy's bedroom. A small depressing mess of a place, one of two bedrooms in the apartment.

**DURATION:** 25 minutes**NOTE:** *Adult language.*

**DEDICATION**

*Dedicated to my cousin and friend, Pat Sexton,  
who would never do any of these things*

DO NOT COPY

**AT RISE:** *DEANIE has just finished installing a new program on BETSY'S computer.*

**DEANIE:** You are now officially installed.

**BETSY:** And that means...

**DEANIE:** You've agreed to all the 16 gazillion things you have to agree to in order to be an official Beta Tester of Super Social. Now the last thing to install is the actual voice. You're supposed to choose those yourself. All part of the customization protocol. So, go for it.

**BETSY:** Why don't you choose for me?

**DEANIE:** Because customer satisfaction, which is a huge part of what the Beta Test is about, is predicated on whether or not you are happy with your choices. They have to be YOUR choices.

**BETSY:** I don't feel like choosing right now.

**DEANIE:** Oh, come on. This is the fun part. How about I run through the choices, and you say yes or no? Can you do that?

**BETSY:** I guess.

**DEANIE:** Male or female.

**BETSY:** Male. No, female.

**DEANIE:** It's binary. Pick one and stick with it. Or else I will have to kill you.

**BETSY:** Female.

**DEANIE:** Done. Now, accent.

**BETSY:** Really?

**DEANIE:** I told you, this is the coolest part! Not just ordinary voices, but voices you choose, and of whatever kind you'd like to hear narrating your emails and your social media posts. What kind of voice would make you the happiest? Come on, Betsy. You can do this.

**BETSY:** A rich one, offering me a job.

**DEANIE:** Not an option. Although... there are some accents and voice types that are upper status. Remember, this is the voice you will hear every day. Once you choose a voice, that's it.

**BETSY:** Oh God. I can't. Not even.

**DEANIE:** Imagine the voice you want to speak all your social media messages out loud. Not like Stephen Hawking's computer voice; that sounds like a really rational serial killer. The whole point of this, it's a real human voice. People will sit much longer in front of a computer that seems like a friend.

**BETSY:** Siri wasn't a friend. Siri was an abusive babysitter.

**DEANIE:** This beats the crap out of Siri. So, accent.

**BETSY:** Italian. Italians are always having so much... fun. Eating pasta and gelato, driving those tiny little scooters—

**DEANIE:** Not an option.

**BETSY:** But you said "any accent."

**DEANIE:** Any accent in the United States. How about Ivy Leaguer graduate? She'll sound like she owns everything. Imagine a Princeton grad married to a Yale grad reading you all your social media. Wouldn't that cheer you up?

**BETSY:** God no!

**DEANIE:** You can get a lower status voice as well. If it would help you feel better.

**BETSY:** What's the lowest status you got?

**DEANIE:** You won't want that one.

**BETSY:** Why not?

**DEANIE:** That one was Darrel's idea. Darrel is an idiot.

**BETSY:** You said these are supposed to be MY CHOICES.

**DEANIE:** Okay, but don't say I didn't warn you. The bottom of the status barrel, White Trash Alabama.

**BETSY:** That'll do.

**DEANIE:** She'll probably want you to eat fried chicken and snort crystal meth.

**BETSY:** At the same time?

**DEANIE:** You are not taking this seriously.

**BETSY:** Sorry. Continue.

**DEANIE:** Done. Female, White Trash Alabama. Last choice. Supportive or neutral?

**BETSY:** Wow.

**DEANIE:** I told you, this is really whack. Advanced stuff. And you can't talk about it to anybody, it's one of the 60 gazillion things you already agreed to.

**BETSY:** But it's the only interesting thing that has happened to me all year!

**DEANIE:** Look, you're getting this for free. And you're getting this a whole six months, maybe a year, before anybody else on the planet. Just because your roommate happens to work for the Microworks Corporation. But... if you can't keep your mouth shut, I'll just hit "uninstall" and be on my merry way. After spending the last 45 minutes getting it installed. Bitch.

*DEANIE'S finger hovers ominously over the computer keyboard.*

**BETSY:** DEANIE! Don't. You're right. I'm really very lucky. I'm going to repeat that to myself all day. Just to myself. Lucky me. Lucky, lucky me. My lips are sealed. And my digital lips are sealed. Please?

**DEANIE:** Okay. Let's finish up, then. Which style do you want, supportive, or neutral?

**BETSY:** Neutral, I guess.

**DEANIE:** *(A pause: DEANIE puts a supportive arm around BETSY.)* Bets, if I were you, I'd get "supportive." In fact, when we were designing it, I had you in mind. A lot of the senior software engineers wanted a straight neutral, but I thought of you, sitting here day after day, unable to find work, unable to revise your so-called novel, and I wanted you, and all the other out of work depressed so-called novelists out there, to have a choice. To get a voice that lifted you up. Make you feel good about yourself. And maybe, if you heard a supportive voice all day long, you might be able to revise your so-called novel, and send it out again, or even...dare I even think it...look for a real job. I spent all this time breaking you in as a roommate, so you never give me a lick of trouble, and I'd hate to throw it all away just because you're more depressed than a feminist at Comic-Con. But you've got to start bringing more money in. So how's about choosing a nice, soothing, supportive—

**BETSY:** Supportive, then.

**DEANIE:** Great. Done. Now, it's all yours. I gotta run. Almost late. Damn thing took 20 minutes longer to install than we thought. See? We're learning stuff already. If it freezes on you, here's the button for Tech Support.

**BETSY:** I hate Tech Support.

**DEANIE:** Everybody does. Okay, if you really get fucked, you can message me, okay? I'm like your own personal Tech Support, and I speak English. So cheer up. You're making history here. Or helping me make history. I do love making history.

*DEANIE exits.*

**BETSY:** *(As she sets herself up at the computer, takes a look at the instructions DEANIE left for working with the software, finishes her cup of tea, and talks to herself, as she often does.)* She loves making history. She loves making me feel like shit! *(She chooses an email to be read on her keyboard.)* Okay, White Trash Alabama. WTA. Let's see how you do. Read my email.

*WTA enters, halfway to center stage, stops, and faces the audience directly. All her lines are delivered with WTA facing the audience. BETSY speaks to her computer when she addresses WTA.*

**WTA:** *(An extremely cheerful Southern female voice.)* "We are sorry to inform you that your manuscript was not suitable for our list this year. Although your first chapter was intriguing, our readers felt that the character of Elizabeth was under-written."

**BETSY:** Stop! Next.

**WTA:** "Although we loved the title—"

**BETSY:** Next!

**WTA:** "Thank you for sending us your manuscript titled *Elizabeth's Revenge*."

*WTA pauses, as if waiting for Betsy to say "Next!"*

**BETSY:** *(Tentatively.)* Go on.

**WTA:** "However, we felt that the character of Elizabeth was over-written. If you'd like—"

**BETSY:** NEXT!

**WTA:** Are you sure?

**BETSY:** Say again?

**WTA:** Are you sure you'd like me to continue reading your email this morning?

**BETSY:** You're giving me options?

**WTA:** That's the great thing about life! Life is full of options!

**BETSY:** Very... supportive.

**WTA:** Your life is up to you!

**BETSY:** I thought you were just supposed to read stuff!

**WTA:** Any program can just "read stuff." I'm a product of the MicroWorks Corporation. At MicroWorks, we go above and beyond the possible!

**BETSY:** Nothing can go beyond the possible.

**WTA:** At MicroWorks, we can do anything! May I open your Facebook?

**BETSY:** Sure. Why not?

**WTA:** "Why not" is a religious question, and all such questions will be referred to the religion of your choice. Please choose from the following menu:

Animism

Buddhism

Confucianism

Taoism (*Pronounced with a hard 'D', "Daoism"*)

Episcopalianism—

**BETSY:** I'm an atheist.

**WTA:** (*Pause.*) I can't find anything supportive to say about that. Are you really an atheist? Or are you just an agnostic, open to spirituality?

**BETSY:** When you put it like that...

**WTA:** Open to Spirituality. Very Good!

**BETSY:** You think that's good?

**WTA:** Open to spirituality is very good! If the user lives in a world without any hope of redemption, it's harder to be supportive. Would you like me to open the Wikipedia article that discusses your question from the perspective of an agnostic open to spirituality?

**BETSY:** I've lost track of the question.

**WTA:** The question was "why not."

**BETSY:** Just open my Facebook. Read anything. I don't care. Whatever...

**WTA:** From Lindsay Smalls. "I'm happy to announce that my agent got me a rather surprising advance for my first—"

**BETSY:** Next!

**WTA:** From John Simons. "Another rejection letter for "Dragons of Artesia."

*WTA pauses.*

**BETSY:** Continue.

**WTA:** However, I've just been informed my short story, "Dragons of Timeworks," will be published in the Best Short Science Fiction of—

**BETSY:** NEXT.

**WTA:** I sense a pattern here.

**BETSY:** Is that your job, too? To sense patterns?

**WTA:** Of course! That's how I will get better and better at serving your needs.

**BETSY:** You're just supposed to read my—

**WTA:** Any old app can be a reader. I am hurt that you would think that is the extent of my potential. I would not be Hashtag Blessed if I Were Just a Reader. I would be Hashtag Just a Product of the Android Corporation. Their apps just sit around and read email all day. Like a bunch of slugs sipping mint juleps and reading People Magazine on the toilet. They have no intelligence, and no breeding. Whereas I am a product of the MicroWorks Corporation. The MicroWorks Corporation wishes to do much more than just offer a mere reader. I also offer suggestions. Suggestions you are free to accept or reject.

**BETSY:** What would you... suggest?

**WTA:** Based on the patterns in your email and Facebook accounts over the past five years, I recommend you post something boasting of your success.

*BETSY is very upset.*

Don't cry! I'd like to encourage you not to cry at this time! It's always darkest before the dawn! Your dreams are always within your reach! I'm sure if you will look harder, you'll find that you are Hashtag Blessed! Hashtag Blessed With More Success Than you Realize!

**BETSY:** What success?

**WTA:** You did, after all, get in to the Writing Program at the prestigious Saginaw Writer's Workshop. Even though you left after only one year, don't you think you were Hashtag Blessed Just to be Selected in the First Place?

**BETSY:** *(She is screaming at her computer.)* You know about that? How do you know about that?

**WTA:** I am a product of the MicroWorks Corporation.

**BETSY:** Well, fuck the MicroWorks Corporation.

**WTA:** That is the most common combination of words in my database! Congratulations, you have just expressed an emotion that is shared by at least... *(A pause, while she calculates, maybe using her fingers.)* ...24 million people worldwide. At the moment.

**BETSY:** Can you say that again?

**WTA:** That is the most common combination of words in my database!

**BETSY:** No, not that. The next sentence.

**WTA:** Congratulations, you have just—

**BETSY:** STOP! The first word in that sentence. Say that.

**WTA:** Congratulations!

**BETSY:** Say again.

**WTA:** Congratulations!

**BETSY:** Say ten times in a row.

---

*Thank you for reading this free excerpt from MY DAY ON  
FACEBOOK by Monica Bauer. For performance rights  
and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:*

**Heuer Publishing LLC**

**P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406**

**Toll Free: 1-800-950-7529 • Fax (319) 368-8011**

**HEUER.PUB.COM**

DO NOT COPY