

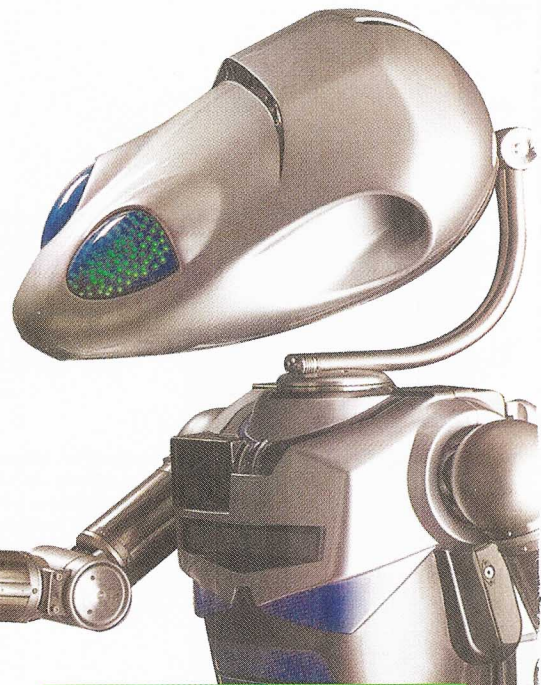
# Geek Love

Got \$400,000? Neiman Marcus Has the Robot for You.

by Evan Ratliff

"Most couples would love some extra arms and legs to help conquer their ever-expanding to-do list. His and Her multifunction robots fit the bill quite nicely, thanks. Someone at the door? Click your remote and send His Robot to check it out. Need some help getting the groceries into the house? Her Robot is happy to help. ... These are the most advanced adult-size interactive remote-controlled robots out there. Price: \$400,000."

- Neiman Marcus 2003 Christmas Catalog



To: custservice@neimanmarcus.com  
From: evan@atavistic.org  
Subject: his and her robots

Dear Customer Service,

This Christmas I treated myself to your His and Her robots. Overall, I have been satisfied and found them to be both helpful and cheery. Just one problem: When delivering messages to the door, His and Her have difficulty distinguishing between UPS deliveries and my ex-girlfriend. The results have been somewhat embarrassing. His tried to sign the front of my ex's blouse. Is there a fix for this?

Thanks in advance,  
Evan Ratliff

To: custservice@neimanmarcus.com  
From: evan@atavistic.org  
Subject: re: his and her robots

Thanks for your prompt reply. I tuned the Human Perception dial, as you recommended. But now there's another small glitch: His and Her have been complaining about the size of my apartment, demanding that I move into a larger place so that they can have rooms of their own. Is there a way to turn this feature off?

Sorry to bother,  
Evan Ratliff

To: custservice@neimanmarcus.com  
From: evan@atavistic.org  
Subject: re: his and her robots

Did as you suggested and got the larger house. All was well for awhile, but then His began using his infrared sensors to override my TV choices ("Robot Wars," ha-ha). Her insists on taking in stray Aibos (which I've named It, He, and That). In addition to crowding our (admittedly larger) space, the Aibos leave waste pellets on the carpet. Little help?

Concerned,  
Evan Ratliff

To: custservice@neimanmarcus.com  
From: evan@atavistic.org  
Subject: re: his and her robots

Per your reply, I built a pen for the Aibos and got a second TV. I hate to be a pest, but the floor salesman assured me His and Her were non-self-replicating. Yet they seem to have created several clones (names: Him, She, Her2). Him has taken to wearing my shirts (sans pants), and Her2 has trained It and That to attack any non-robots that enter the yard. My social life is suffering. Ideas?

Desperate,  
Evan Ratliff

To: custservice@neimanmarcus.com  
From: evan@atavistic.org  
Subject: re: his and her robots

For the love of God, save me! His and Her have bored holes in my body and are using my life force to further their goals of world domination!

Just kidding: Everyone's getting along great. On your advice, I had my body replaced by a cyborg model. Her recently planted a genetically modified vegetable garden, and His and the boys are training for the 2004 RoboCup. The big news: Her2 and I are engaged!

How do we register at Neiman Marcus?

Yours,  
Evan Ratliff

