Future
Through
Short
Stories
Per
Tina

by Bettina von Schweinitz

Introduction
In 2025 I began a series of short stories to predict the future. These stories should be considered "fictional opinion".

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Arisa Familiar 250807
This was submitted to the writing club on 10 August 2025.

As I opened the apartment door, I am greeted by Arisa. She immediately lifts my spirits. Arisa dances around my legs, wildly waging her bushy tail and panting with her tongue hanging out. There is almost a smile on her face, she was so glad to see me.

Finally, I could get into the apartment enough to close the door. I bend over to pat Arisa, then my back reminds me that I cannot bend over that far. Instead, I pat my knee, a signal for Arisa to rise up on her hind legs and gently rest her front paws on my knee. From that position I can pat her silky head. She loves for me to scrub her behind her ears. Arisa begins to purr and rub her head against my knee. Life is good.

We cannot stand there at the door forever; life must go on. I pat Arisa a couple of times on her shoulder, this is the signal that our patting session is over and to give me room to move about. She drops down to all fours, and follows me as I go into the kitchen. As I make a snack, Arisa sits there watching me, waiting for something to drop onto the floor. I deliberately drop a small piece of cracker, just to watch her rush over and vacuum up the cracker. I feel so good that now I can indulge myself by feeding Arisa a snack without worrying about whether it will damage her.

I take my snack into the living room, and settle down onto the couch. Arisa jumps up onto the couch, sits down next to me, and slowly stretches her nose forward towards my snack. A gentle negative sound from me and she moves her nose away, turns around three times, and lays down next to me. I finish my snack then pat my lap. Arisa moves onto my lap. Arisa does not take up much space, because she curls up like a cat. I stroke her along her back. Arisa begins to purr and soon I can feel her becoming warm. Life is good.

I am just beginning to drift off to sleep, when there is a knock on the door. Arisa jumps up, runs to the door, and begins to bark. I cannot decide if I am more startled by the knock, Arisa jumping off, or the sharp barking sound. I might have to adjust this part of Arisa's programming. As I reach for the door knob, Arisa stops barking and sits, letting me open the door in peace. A small package is being delivered, so I thank the person for the delivery, take the package, and close the door. Arisa comes with the ability to carry objects. I offer the small package to Arisa and tell her to carry it to the coffee table. Arisa rises up on her back legs, takes the package between her front paws, walks to the coffee table, and gently places the package, before dropping down to all fours again. I love watching this transformation. When Arisa walks on her hind legs, she uses her tail to balance by pushing it down on the ground. Her shoulders change their angle enough to allow her paws to hold onto the package. She did not have to change her paws to carry a box, but if she needs to, the front paws can change their shape and create finger like digits for grasping. Since I have difficulties reaching the ground, Arise provides a wonderful service to me by picking up or bring any object that I need.

Now that I am awake, I think that a hike through the local woods would be a good idea. I ask Arisa "what is the local weather report for today?". She answers with all the statistics; temperature, wind, precipitation probability, etc; then she adds "Good weather for a hike." Her internal AI (Artificial Intelligence) programming has interpreted my trend of asking for a weather report when I might be planning

a hike. She is correct. This new upgrade to her programming almost makes her seem human. I answer "yes, how about topping up your power before we go." Arisa walks over to her dog bed, turned three times, and lays down. The dog bed is her charging station.

I sit down with my laptop computer, bring up the hiking map application, plan my hike along the trails, then download the marked-up map to Arisa. She gives a couple of quick

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'yips', runs to the front door, and hops around. She has confirmed that the program has loaded correctly and she is ready for a walk. I grab her leash and hook it onto her collar. Outside of the apartment, I keep her on a leash because I do not want anybody to just grab and steal her. Familiars that are just animatrons (robots with a basic computer program) are everywhere, but Familiars that include AI technology are very expensive and are still rare. Also, the leash has a retractable handle on my end which contains a backup battery for Arisa.

Up until now, when we went for a walk, Arisa would walk beside me just like the animatrons. I had purchased a new AI program designed just for walks and it is already downloaded into Arisa. To active the program I needed a command or phrase, so I choose "Arisa, it's okay to sniff". The phrase worked, Arise put her nose down, drifted around me, whenever she reached the end of the leash, she would just change direction, no pulling. This program seems to be working. Soon we were walking on trails in the park. Now to activate the hiking portion of walking program. This would be a big test. Until now, Arisa's prior program made sure that she would stay very close to me. To simulate a natural hike, this new AI program was going to allow Arisa to roam further away from me. I got a little nervous, so I opened the Familiar app on my iPhone, selected 'hiking' and change her roaming distance from the default of 20 feet to just 10 feet. I unhooked her from the leash, and use my preselected phrase "Arisa, let's go for a hike." Arisa starts to dart around, tongue hanging out, eyes bright, and every once in a while, she will come back to me, look me in the face as if she was just checking in, pulls her lips up into a smile, and then dart around again. But the best part of this walk is that I did not have to carry poop-bags. Life is good.

Familiar Inspiration:
Arisa is the name of the robot (BOT) in a Russian Limited Series called "Better than Us" on Netflix. Arisa is in human form. I decided that I would not be comfortable with a human form of a robot that would be living with me. Instead, if the robot was in the form of a dog or cat, I would be more acceptable. There are already stuffed toys that are in the form of cats or dogs that are animatrons. My Arisa is a combination of dog, cat, monkey, animatron, iPhone, Roomba, and Alexa.

Current status of Animatrons and Robot companion cats and dogs.
Petzz: dog or Cat for $40. Sleeping only with heart beat and breathing. Cats purr. No other movement, eyes stay closed. Body is fur material. Powered with "C" batteries.

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MetaCat and MetaDog for $219 Interactive Companion Pet. Only in laying down position. Lifts head and eyes move. Heart beat and breathing. Cat Purrs, dog yips. Body is fur material. Recharges with USB cable.

Aibo Robotic Dog with AI for $2899 plus $300/year internet account. Walks, plays, barks, and moves very much like real dog. Plays with AI interactive toys. Trainable. Plastic body. Has a charging station (like a Roomba). As soon as they put a 'fur' like body on this dog, I am going to buy one. Right now, it has an obvious plastic body.

Roomba: per AI: A Roomba is a robotic vacuum cleaner, produced by the company iRobot, designed to autonomously (without human control) clean floors. It uses sensors to navigate around obstacles and avoid falls, and can be programmed to clean specific areas or at certain times. Cost is between $300 to $800 depending on features.

Sources of Ideas:
Series "Humans" on Roku, Tubi and Pluto
Series "Better than Us" on Netflix
Series "Outrages" on
PBS Caregiving Documentary on PBS online
Book "Brave New World"
Series" Murdoch Mysteries" on Ruko

Ideas

AI vs AI vs AI: Artificial Intelligence vs Actual Intelligence vs
        Authentic/Assumed/artless/Augmented. Augmented Reality.
AI vs Software vs Robot vs Animatron: AI needs feedback and learns
AI: AI greatly effected medical and lawyer (Law) and government. Was already in
        factories and Walmart like stores.
AI: augmented reality or intelligence
AI: Automaton (mechanical), Robot (computer set program), Animatron, AI-Bot
        (Learning computer program)
AI: ID verification is by AI and not by embedded chips.
AI: what AI cannot do. Humans needed to operate, decide, or control. Humans
        have emotions, intangible, creative
Change: what caused the change is social medicine, self control on Med (can go
        directly to diagnosis clinics and AI determines treatment and $). Pay – high
        income $millions are more philanthropic. Income tax simplified to % of
        income and investment (Realized gain), transparency of where taxes are
        used, no deductions or credits, no 15 april, and flat at 50%. Retirement
        plans simplified per Canada. Government Budget % public knowledge.
        Reduced Military establishment. More surveillance and less privacy in
        public. Recognition that only 10% of population commit serious crimes and
        rest are crimes of convenience. No DUI or speeding due to new autonomous
        transport system. Mental and addiction homes reopened. Pay on credit
        institute or bankruptcy gone for individuals. Stopp obsessing on public
        transport and speed and now most transport is individual and below 30MPH
        and on the ground. Metro to Metro is limited to planes and trains and are at
        higher speeds. Planes for extreme distance and overseas.
Clothing: replicator, fast fashion, no washing, 3d printing
Communication: still have an iphone or ipad, but many functions are embedded in
        skin of fore-arm. See "Better than Us".

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Culture: all lives matter

Culture: Baby boomers were Helicopter parents, participation awards, all
　　　　inclusive, all equal in team, to incentive to 'do anything'

Culture: change from Every place in the world must be made for everyone, to
　　　　there is a place in the world for everyone. Locations are unique and market
　　　　themselves to attract their kind of residents.

Culture: Hollywood movies always demand trust and forgiveness. In real life
　　　　have to earn trust and forgiveness.

Culture: sports teams return to neighborhood based also

Culture: the whole world is a minority – join one.

Culture: two types of leaders. Loves power to keep everything the same. Or
　　　　Power to create a change towards a future.

Culture: Act is inexcusable but not unforgiveable. Have to work for regain trust.
　　　　Can not demand forgiveness, must earn forgiveness.

Culture: Countries and states viaing for citizens by advertising unique traits – no
　　　　longer trying to equalize the world.

Culture: critical thinking encouraged. Used to mean being critical or opinionated
　　　　or finding fault. Now means determining value of information, reliability,
　　　　truthfulness.

Culture: emphasizing critical thinking and intuitive thinking, etc. Responsibility,
　　　　reputation, skills

Culture: Nature vs humans vs metros/living

Culture: old was 'set up to fail'. If you are going to do it, do it right. If you want it
　　　　done right, do it yourself. New instead is Be the best you can be, strive to
　　　　improve.

Culture: Strategic incompetence – deflects work one doesn't want to do – without
　　　　admitting it.

Culture: to err is human

Culture: weaponized incompetence – he can know all about car, work, football but
　　　　is too incompetent to do housework, shopping or cooking.

Culture: world changed when consumer (middle class) and technology went world
　　　　wide and trade and tarriff barriers fell. Did not matter where you have your
　　　　business or your life. Let countries, states, and counties attract certain kinds
　　　　of citizens.

Data centers: and use of data

Education: international standards. No longer per country or state.

Energy: energy is electric, generators in each building. No longer large power
　　　　plants. Each building has a 'nuclear source' like submarines.

Entertainment: Augmented Reality. Surround displays

Entertainment: Video talk to dog

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Food: from vending machines, fresh, per diet or daily requirements/allocation

Food: in 1970's farm began to produce 4000 calories per person per day. Food system had to sell these 4000 daily calories to people that should only eat 1500 to 2000 a day.

Food: Replicators, chef's, grocery stores

Government: 9 and 10th amendment: what is not in constitution is reserved for the people and states.

Government: TX congressman can leave the state again, but can no longer run from their positions. Remote work approved for elected officials.

Government: constitution does not address Education, medical, health, women, or slavery (only indirect). Telecommunication, Air Force, political parties, TV

History: History and archeology was written by white English, now being rewritten and other civilization were not 'primative'.

Housing: Apartments modular. Can move walls to mod or enlarge. If neighbor moves out can request walls to be moved to expand. Size square feet determined by family size and age, or amount willing to pay.

Housing: zoning changed to mixed use. As pre industrial

Job: Independent living is now Catered living

Job: Personal alliances (references) and patronage way of the world.

Job: professionals have Gap year (before university for Lawyer, scientist, doc, etc) and learn a trade at least to journeyman.

Job: up skill you soft skills

Job: arts have patrons andsupports and followers and investors.

Job: because now 'aging in place" there is a greater need for Nurses, aides, housekeeper, assistance. Going back to live in help. Personal secretary or live in 'everything'.

Job: CCRC Continuing Care Retirement Community are now Life Plan Community or Life Care Community. And some have entrance fees.

Job: Citizens Science Research Contribution. Taking measurements, observations, trail maintainer, maintainer, collections (nuts, acorns for winter). Research history – Lidar, sampling, searching.

Job: Dog trainer for AI and Real dogs, and Robots

Job: gig work is original or making small quantities (limited) for mid-size companies

Job: grand tour returns

Job: many jobs have social aspect. Professional reader to group. Caregiver to person. Community center for social and helping.

Job: mine: Professional reader for audio books and movies. Bookkeeping, personal assistant, caregiver, case manager and coordinator.

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Job: my options: Finisher of crafts, babysitting elderly and Hospice. Real dog walker/sitter. Trail maintenance. Wild life food forage. Pay not high, have credit report and ethics report. Because workers were unreliable, now ethics report is based on reputation. Build own report, submit when apply, less volunteer jobs more service/low pay/pay by Products jobs. Low pay okay because minimum health and retirement and rent and food by social system.

Job: New "Social" work force uses more women. Women now gaining power and prominence. Women interacted more in advancing social causes than career advancement. Women are tired of having three jobs (career, house, taking care of husband/child). Men are losing 'primary bread winner' role.

Job: reputation, gig work for individuals. Large companies are brokers or distributors of skills or support or manufacturers. Examples Angies Lies and Amazon

Job: why gig work society. Health care and elder care part of government supplied to all (European social model). No longer extremism. No longer only the best. Limited privacy in public places. Pursuit of happiness is limited. Justice system uses portioned 'punishment'.

Job: work in social gatherings rather than 'office'

Living: Metro vs Suburbs. Apartment vs single house

Marketing: etsy, renaissance fairs

Marriage: more partners with contacts for child rearing.

Medical: cloths, braces, monitors. Troops from Middle East actions drive this change

Medical: DNA testing. Controversy. Not all utopia. Per "Brave new world" book. "correcting" bad DNA. Does Gamma DNA spawn Gamma DNA?

Medical: no longer one symptom treatment. Recognizing the body as a system. Driven by the aging population.

Military: When you unleash the dogs of ware, you must go where they take you.

Military: MASH Never has so many suffered so much so few could be happy. Churchill 1940 Battle of Britain. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.

Population: 80% of population is middle class, 1% is driven to wealth.

Power: Nuclear in each building.

Religion: is the opium of the masses or suppressant

Security: security drones and robots patrolling. See "Better than Us'

Shopping: using 3d printers

Shopping: Very little in-Store retail. Consumer changed from mass produced products to 'reputable' products.

Society: in 1600's old Europe was based on principles of monarchy, aristocracy and established church.

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Superpowers: In Europe Germany and England are back in power. Now 5 super powers, USA, China, Russia, Germany, England (how about India). World not at peace but burden shared by super powers.

Toilets: less water, sewage no longer uses 40% of fresh water.

Travel: Personal carriers (trolley like), public transport (free), can call up one with attendant for handicap. Otherwise more personal available for a cost.

Travel: size of roads reduced

Travel: transport does not have to do everything. Cars used to be for local, long distance, slow and fast roads. Public now conditioned away from speed and inclusion. Travel is trams and auto-drive cars for short trips (slow speed 30mph). Then switch to local trains (with lots of stops). Or Commute or ICE trains or planes for faster travel with less stops.

Voting: is electronic

Work: Reputation, on line sales, markets, back to pre industrial, services hands on (CNA'S), trades

The End

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