

A DIFFERENT KIND OF TEXT-BOOK



**By Maria Burns Ortiz,
Ronda Rousey, AnnMaria
De Mars, Julia De Mars,
Jennifer Rousey and
Even Dennis De Mars**

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TEXT YOUR MOTHER!

In the movies, parents always send their children off into the world at train stations with long embraces, tearful goodbyes and loving requests of “Call and let me know when you get there.”

Maybe for some people, that’s really the way it is.

As with all things, my mom prefers to take a more direct route, her words, usually as she’s dropping us off at the airport curb, are to the point. *“Text me to let me know you’re not dead.”*

It is a maternal request with a little bit of an edge, as if to say, “I love you and worry about you when you’re gone – and I also put in a lot of time, energy and effort to raise you, so don’t do anything stupid.”

And it’s her way of checking in. One of us will get a little buzz from our phone that says “I haven’t heard from you in a few days. Wanted to make sure you’re not dead.” It’s her subtle way of saying, “I’m thinking of you” crossed with “I also recognize your silence as an indicator that you might be doing things I don’t approve of like partaking in Winter Solstice orgies with midgets – if that’s the case, I don’t want to know – but you should probably knock it off and definitely let me know you’re not dead.”

People talk about text messaging eroding conversations, but in our family, the ability to communicate with each other – whether its from across town, across the country or across the world – allows us to stay connected. We can keep up on everything each other is up to personally and professional, with sympathy, sincerity and sarcasm, intelligence, insight and irony.

Perhaps your family doesn't rely on group texts to keep in touch. Maybe you get together on weekends for barbecues or meet up at your mom's house for Sunday dinner.

In our family, that's just not practical. Why not?

Well, on a typical day for us, Ronda might be in anywhere from Colombia, the country, to Columbus, Ohio, for one of the various projects she’s juggling. Maria might be in D.C. meeting with government people on something surrounding 7 Generation Games’ educational video games or in San Francisco trying to convince people to give her money to make those games. Our mom, AnnMaria, could be in North Dakota, visiting a school using the games and probably – make that definitely – complaining about the cold. Julia is likely at school, in Boston where she’s attending one of the cities 100 or however many liberal arts colleges. And Jen, who claims to be “the normal one,” is likely in Los Angeles most of the year, where all of us theoretically reside.

In the past year alone, collectively our family has hit some 30 states and every continent except for Antarctica, although our mom thinks she should be able to claim Antarctica because she went to North Dakota in the winter and “that’s basically the same thing minus the penguins.” (Don’t even get Maria started on penguins.)

In fact, at the exact moment of writing this, Ronda is about hop on a plane home from Atlanta. She and Maria might even be able to high-five at the airport as Maria is just coming off back-to-back trips to India, where she attended a conference, and Minneapolis, where she attended another conference. There will be less than three days where we’ll all be home between Julia getting home from school for break and our mom heading out to Missouri. Then Ronda heads out of the country and Maria’s off to D.C., and Jen, who – by comparison – travels the least of us, is planning a trip to Vermont. Be it Cambridge or Chile, London or Los Angeles, Trinidad to Hyderabad, we’re a family on the move.

Confusing? As our mom often says, keeping track of our family like herding Guinea pigs (and she would know about Guinea pigs, which are the subject of more than one series of texts).

So group texting it is, the 21st century way to keep in touch.

It’s a way to share what we’re up to and where we are.

A way to coordinate the wardrobe of a finely dressed monkey.

A way to plan for the apocalypse.

A way to let our mom know we’re not dead.

**Oh, and our mom says before
you read any further you
should text your mother!**

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you're searching for a rhyme or reason to the organization of this book, there isn't an exact science to the pages that follow. The first several threads somewhat unintentionally center around various animals in one way or another, but that's by chance as much as anything. In other words, it's organized largely like our conversations tend to be – completely random and completely hilarious.

These are actual texts, but because Maria believes poor grammar is partially responsible for the collapse of our society, all typos have been corrected and missing commas inserted.

Also, this allowed us to cut down the length of the book substantially just by editing out the “ducking” autocorrect texts.

CONTACTS



Ronda Rousey

First UFC women's champ. Actress. Producer. Tech investor. Best-selling author. Pokemon master. Hobby chicken farmer. Zombie apocalypse prep gardener.



AnnMaria De Mars

President of 7 Generation Games. First American world judo champ. Literal coding ninja. Collector of weird socks. Mother of 4. Has never sent a dick pic.



Maria Burns Ortiz

CEO of 7 Generation Games. Award-winning writer. Person who ended up doing all the work on this book. Mother of 3 amazing children. Hates semicolons.



Julia De Mars

College student. Plays soccer. Her parents hope someday she will get a job. Was supposed to submit her bio, but didn't. Probably was too busy shopping.



Jennifer Rousey

Middle school history teacher. Mother of one baby genius. Super power of choice: To kill people's dreams. (Seriously, how do you compete with that?)



Dennis De Mars

CTO of 7 Generation Games. Also known as the "Invisible Developer." Despises guinea pigs. Everything else in this bio has been redacted.

A FANCY MONKEY



Jennifer Rousey

Hey, my friend is looking for someone to take 2 male chinchillas. Any takers?



Julia De Mars

No.



Maria Burns Ortiz

NO!



AnnMaria De Mars

Maybe. Let me ask Dennis what he thinks.



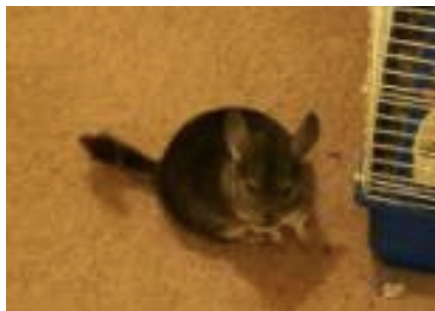
Julia De Mars

NO.



Jennifer Rousey

They're super cute.



Ronda Rousey

Are they nice? Do they like to be held?



Jennifer Rousey

She said the white one is shoulder-trained and friendly.



Ronda Rousey

And the other one is just an asshole?



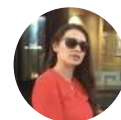
Jennifer Rousey

Come on, look at those sweet faces.



Maria Burns Ortiz

I would not take the asshole one.



Jennifer Rousey

He's shy, you animal hater! Shy!



AnnMaria De Mars

Dennis said yes.



Dennis De Mars

I did?



AnnMaria De Mars

You did. You were sitting there at your computer and I said, "Dennis." And you said, "Yes."



Dennis De Mars

I think it was more of a "Yes?"



AnnMaria De Mars

Fine, Dennis, then they will end up homeless.



Ronda Rousey

Poor little guys left to fend for themselves on the cold, mean streets. 😭😭😭



Maria Burns Ortiz

All of their belongings bundled into chinchilla-sized bandanas tied to the end of teeny tiny sticks.



Jennifer Rousey

Every day left to wonder if this is the day they'll be turned into coats.



Dennis De Mars

OK. Fine.



AnnMaria De Mars

Tell your friend we'll take them.



Julia De Mars

Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!



AnnMaria De Mars

Why do you hate chinchillas, Julia?



Julia De Mars

Hey, I'm looking for someone to take one female girl, me. I'm not an asshole.



Jennifer Rousey

Don't ask Maria. You'd have to be shoulder trained.



Maria Burns Ortiz

I'm not taking in any new humans at this time, but Eva was wondering if anyone has any monkeys. She'd be willing to consider taking in a monkey.



Julia De Mars

So would I. 🖐️



AnnMaria De Mars

We just got 2 chinchillas. We don't have room for a monkey.



Jennifer Rousey

I think what Maria meant to say is a "shoulder-trained" monkey.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Even if that chinchilla was shoulder trained but still an asshole, I wouldn't take it. Same goes for monkeys, so if you have a monkey but it's an asshole, Eva and I will pass.



Jennifer Rousey

What if it's just slightly pretentious?

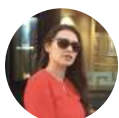


Ronda Rousey



I'd prefer a pretentious monkey. I'd give it an eyeglass.

Maria Burns Ortiz



And a top hat!

Jennifer Rousey



And a cigar! And a book of French philosophy!

Ronda Rousey



You find the monkey. I'll assemble the accessories.

Jennifer Rousey



Can we switch tasks? I think I already have all of that stuff.

Ronda Rousey



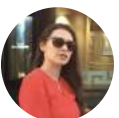
I'll set you up with the monkeys to interview, and you can determine whether they're pretentious enough.

AnnMaria De Mars

Maria, these texts have to be in the family texts book.



Maria Burns Ortiz



If we ever actually do it, I'll lead with this.

THE SUSPICIOUS GUINEA PIG



Dennis De Mars

I think the chinchilla is plotting against the guinea pig.



AnnMaria De Mars

If anyone is plotting against the guinea pig, it's you and Julia.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Headline: Chinchilla Prime Suspect as Search for Guinea Pig Enters Day 3.
Subhead: Chinchilla had been "up to something" for weeks, man claims.



Julia De Mars

I'll be the chinchilla's alibi!



Dennis De Mars

Also, if it ever goes to court, I'd like to be the advocate for the chinchilla.



Jennifer Rousey

What so you can frame it from the inside? Don't you hate the chinchilla and the guinea pig?



Maria Burns Ortiz

When the courts find out, they'll declare a mistrial due to unfair rodent representation.



Dennis De Mars

Oh, I would sell the guinea pig down the river in a minute. I don't really have a problem with the chinchilla.



Jennifer Rousey

Not helping your case, Dennis.



AnnMaria De Mars

To be fair, the guinea pig already tried to assassinate Dennis the last time I was out of town, so she could have me all to herself. I'm sure that constitutes some kind of prejudice.

Julia De Mars



Wait, what?!? Why does no one tell me anything! I'll avenge you, Dad.



AnnMaria De Mars

He was changing the guinea pig cage and had an asthma attack and had to call 911.

Ronda Rousey



So you had an allergic reaction?



Dennis De Mars

Some might call it an allergic reaction. Others might call it what it really was: attempted murder.



Maria Burns Ortiz

If the guinea pig manages to succeed, we'll be sure to put something way cooler on your tombstone than "Killed by a lowly domestic guinea pig."



Ronda Rousey

Yeah, something more hardcore like, "Killed by a wild guinea pig."



Dennis De Mars



The guinea pig will never get me because I am smarter than a guinea pig and got this to use for cleaning the cage.



Dennis De Mars

My only worry is that some neighbor will catch sight of me through the window, think there is some kind of "Hannibal Lecter" thing going on and call the police.



Jennifer Rousey



Bane!

Dennis De Mars

In the Amazon review, somebody said they always feel like Bane when they put it on.



Julia De Mars



Oh my god.

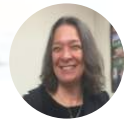
Dennis De Mars

I haven't actually tried it out yet. I'm doing it right after our developers' meeting.



AnnMaria De Mars

You should have worn it during the meeting.



Julia De Mars

How did the mask work?



Julia De Mars

Dad?



Julia De Mars

Dad?



Jennifer Rousey

It's starting to look like the answer is "Not so great."



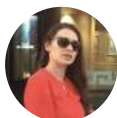
AnnMaria De Mars

OK, if this is actually how Dennis dies I'm going to be so pissed that I'm going put on his tombstone "Killed by a lowly domestic guinea pig while wearing a stupid mask."



Maria Burns Ortiz

Wait until we find out this is what the guinea pig was plotting all along.



WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?



Maria Burns Ortiz

I was looking up startup awards and fellowships we could apply to for 7 Generation Games. Do you know what won the Young Entrepreneur of the Year award?



Julia De Mars

Flying car. ✈️ 🚗



Maria Burns Ortiz

No.



Julia De Mars

Flying train. ✈️ 🚂



Maria Burns Ortiz

No.



Julia De Mars

Flying scooter. ✈️ 🛹



Maria Burns Ortiz

No.



Maria Burns Ortiz

No.



Julia De Mars

You don't even know what I was typing.



Maria Burns Ortiz

No.



Julia De Mars

Flying helicopter. ✈️ 🚁



Oh wait, that's already a thing.

Maria Burns Ortiz

Anyone else?



Jennifer Rousey

Time travel?



Maria Burns Ortiz

Also, no.



Ronda Rousey

Solar-powered zombie annihilating ray gun.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Getting closer.



Ronda Rousey

Seriously?!?!



Maria Burns Ortiz

No, not even remotely close.



AnnMaria De Mars

You know after that list, it's going to now sound boring whatever it is.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Guinea pig nuggets. "Taking a traditional delicacy in the Andes highlands" and giving it a mass appeal.



Julia De Mars

Yum!



AnnMaria De Mars

No one is going to eat my guinea pig!



Julia De Mars

I'm up for eating any guinea pig.



AnnMaria De Mars

I told Lynn timer that you're kidding, but she seems unconvinced. Reassure her, Julia.

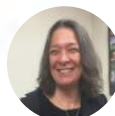


Julia De Mars



AnnMaria De Mars

Lynn timer says you're an asshole.



Jennifer Rousey

Guinea pig 1, Julia 0.



Julia De Mars

This isn't the end, nugget.



Jennifer Rousey

You do realize you're arguing with a guinea pig, right?



Julia De Mars

That guinea pig called me an asshole!



Jennifer Rousey

Just wanted to be sure you knew who you were up against. Now, the rest of you follow me and back away slowly.



FRIENDS FOREVER



Maria Burns Ortiz

Did you know it's illegal to only own one guinea pig in Switzerland? Apparently, they get lonely and so they view that as animal cruelty.



AnnMaria De Mars

Lynn timer has me for a friend. 🧑🏻 🐹 🚲

AnnMaria De Mars

That's me and Lynn timer riding a bike.



Julia De Mars

You have never taken the guinea pig for a ride on your bike.



AnnMaria De Mars

You're off at college in Boston. You don't even know what I do when you're not here.



AnnMaria De Mars



AnnMaria De Mars

That's me and Lynn timer having coffee.



AnnMaria De Mars



AnnMaria De Mars

Me and Lynn timer grabbing a beer.



AnnMaria De Mars



AnnMaria De Mars



Me and Linnie Flamenco dancing.

AnnMaria De Mars



AnnMaria De Mars



Me and Linnie visiting the Statue of Liberty.

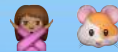


Julia De Mars

Just because you post it in emojis doesn't make it true.



AnnMaria De Mars



AnnMaria De Mars

Me and Linnie ignoring your negativity.



Dennis De Mars

I hate to say this, but Linnie actually seemed a little happier after Patty died. I think your mom got two guinea pigs because of the theory that they would be happier with a companion, but I didn't see any empirical evidence of that.



Ronda Rousey

Speaking of sad animals, did you know that alpacas can die of loneliness and must be bought in pairs?



AnnMaria De Mars

I did not. I am sadly deficient in alpaca husbandry.



Jennifer Rousey

I did not know that either. It's only 10 a.m., and I've already acquired my two completely useless animals facts of the day.



AnnMaria De Mars



Julia De Mars

What is that?!



AnnMaria De Mars

Me, Lynn timer and an alpaca on a dinner cruise.



Julia De Mars

Pretty sure that's a camel. And while we're on the subject, that's not even a guinea pig emoji. It's a hamster.



AnnMaria De Mars



AnnMaria De Mars

Don't have time to argue. Got to run. Me, Lynn timer and the alpaca are getting together for martinis without you.



WORKING TIGERS



Dennis De Mars



Jennifer, why can't Beijing do this?



Jennifer Rousey

Sorry, been busy trying to teach 100 kids U.S. history. Haven't gotten around to it yet.



Dennis De Mars

There's money in it. This DVD has been trending on Amazon all day.



Maria Burns Ortiz

We're always talking about ways to diversify our revenue streams!



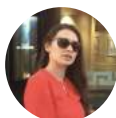
Jennifer Rousey

Cat history fact: One of the only examples we have of ordinary plebeian life in the Middle Age is a pamphlet about killing cats.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Cat history fact: Martha Washington named her cat after Alexander Hamilton because her cat was a manwhore and so was Hamilton, or something like that. It's in the Hamilton lyrics.



Jennifer Rousey

You know that not everything in Hamilton is true, right?



Maria Burns Ortiz

What?! Are you telling me the founding fathers didn't settle philosophical policy differences by rap battle?



Jennifer Rousey

No, obviously that part really happened.



Ronda Rousey

Cat fact: There are more captive tigers in the U.S. than wild tigers left in the entire world.



Julia De Mars

That's sad.



Ronda Rousey

And two of them live on my street!



AnnMaria De Mars

You're making that up!



Ronda Rousey

It's true! I took Mochi to the vet and the receptionist looked at our address and was like, "Oh you live on the same street as the guy with the tigers."



Julia De Mars



What?!

Ronda Rousey

Yeah, and apparently they just like hangout in the yard. I heard it freaks out the pizza delivery guy.



Jennifer Rousey

You could not pay me enough money to deliver pizza to a tiger.



AnnMaria De Mars

I'd do it for \$1 million.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Then we wouldn't even have to deal with pitching investors. Brilliant!



Julia De Mars

Wait, but so this guy just owns tigers?



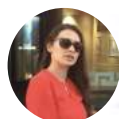
Ronda Rousey

Well, they're like working tigers.



Maria Burns Ortiz

As opposed to slacker tigers?



Ronda Rousey



Like show biz tigers.

Dennis De Mars



So does that mean...

Ronda Rousey



????

Dennis De Mars



That they can play the piano.



WE'VE GOAT JOKES



Ronda Rousey



Shit just goat serious!



Julia De Mars

You finally goat them?



Ronda Rousey

Yep!



Dennis De Mars

Are you kid-ding me?



Maria Burns Ortiz

And with that we have now used up
our family allotment of goat puns for
the year.



Ronda Rousey

Meet Clay, Pax and Max. Max on the right is the only fully grown one. The other two will get bigger.



Maria Burns Ortiz

What is their purpose? Eat grass?
Fight off trolls?



Dennis De Mars

Do any of us truly know our purpose?



Ronda Rousey

They're pack goats – they follow you like dogs and carry 90 lbs each. When you go out in the woods, they can carry all your camping stuff.



AnnMaria De Mars

Troll fighting is just a fringe benefit if you happen to be crossing bridge.



Ronda Rousey

Plus, they'll be really valuable for post-apocalyptic travel/food/currency.



Julia De Mars

Hold on, after the apocalypse we're going to be using goats for cash?



Ronda Rousey

If so, you're going to be glad we've got them.



Jennifer Rousey

Note to self: Consider getting goat between now and the end of civilization as we know it.



Maria Burns Ortiz

So you're actually going to take them like out into the middle of the woods with you or are they mostly just for like helping bring in stuff from Costco?



Ronda Rousey

Yes, they come with to help pack in all our camping gear.



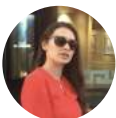
AnnMaria De Mars

Maria is going to India on Saturday. Can they come over and pack for her? She has 2 suitcases.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Wait, they can help pack things? I'd think folding stuff and closing suitcase zippers would be hard with their little hooves.



AnnMaria De Mars

Damn! Goats are far more useful than I was aware of. Is there a housekeeper goat, too?



Dennis De Mars

Well, you could get a nanny goat, but that might just watch children.



Ronda Rousey

Ha! These are a meat/dairy goat mix. If we get a doe, we'll be able to milk her! But no, they don't do laundry, but they do help with the landscaping.



Dennis De Mars

So, now that I'm looking up about goats, if the 7 Generation Games blog ever starts a section called, "I can't believe this is a thing" you can add this for your first post: goat yoga.



Ronda Rousey

I already have two goat yoga tank tops.



Dennis De Mars

I was going to ask "Why two?" But obviously, you can't have too many goat yoga tank tops.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Get a fainting goat. They're so funny.



Ronda Rousey

I think the ideal herd is one fainting, one pygmy and like 4 packing goats.



Jennifer Rousey

Then do yoga with it.



Ronda Rousey

Pygmy goats are down for yoga forge beer.



Jennifer Rousey

They bring you beer?



Ronda Rousey

Forever. It got autocorrected from forever.



Jennifer Rousey

I pictured them with a "Will Yoga for Beer" sign.



Ronda Rousey

Sadly, no.



Jennifer Rousey

Well, that's a goatdamn shame.



WHO WERE “THE ANCIENT THREE”?



AnnMaria De Mars

Jenn and Maria – have you ever been grading papers and all you can think to write in the comments is “I have no fucking idea what you’re talking about.”

Maria Burns Ortiz



I once tried explaining to a college freshman that two periods at the end of a sentence is not “emphasizing a point,” it’s just grammatically incorrect. He said to me, “Well, I guess we’ll have to agree to disagree.”



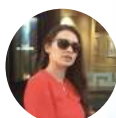
Jennifer Rousey

In class, we were playing “Jeopardy.” I had a student answer the question, “What do the Supreme Court base their decisions on?” with “The Ancient Three,” in total seriousness. I still have no idea what the hell he was talking about.



Maria Burns Ortiz

I assigned a Journalism 101 class to write a profile on another student. A kid turned in a poem about trains.



AnnMaria De Mars

I’m not sure if this makes me feel better or worse. But it definitely makes me feel like there’s a market for 7 Generation Games!



Jennifer Rousey

Sometimes extra credit dioramas look like this...



Jennifer Rousey

Other times they look like this...

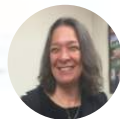


Julia De Mars

I'm the second.

AnnMaria De Mars

Is that the Amazon? If so, there should be jaguars.



Jennifer Rousey

The theme was "American Revolution."

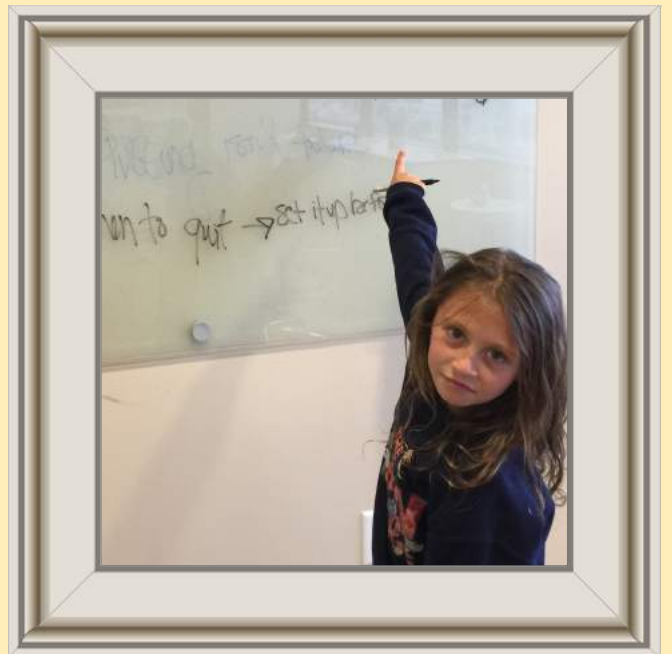


Maria Burns Ortiz

God save us all.



HARD AT WORK



Jennifer Rousey

I'm so bored. I've got to just sit and give this test for the next 6 hours. I've spent the last 10 minutes just spinning in my chair.



Maria Burns Ortiz

And apparently texting.



Jennifer Rousey

You want that I should just stare at them?



Maria Burns Ortiz

Pick one kid and just stare until he/she notices and gets really uncomfortable.



Julia De Mars

🐱 Yeah, Maria's idea is good. 👍



Maria Burns Ortiz

Does a happy cat emoji signify a greater level of happiness than say a regular circle smiley face emoji?



Julia De Mars

No, they're pretty much the same. That one was just the closest one.



Jennifer Rousey

This one has to be the happiest. 😄



AnnMaria De Mars

What is the opposite of that one?
That's how I feel because It's is
before 9 a.m. and I am awake.



Jennifer Rousey

Probably this one. 🤔



Ronda Rousey

Why are you awake?



AnnMaria De Mars

I'm awake because I had a nightmare
that all the educational videos in our
new game were porn, like, "How many
times can you and your husband do it
before the maid walks in and joins you?"
When a customer came by to complain,
Dennis was upset, and I argued that huge
amounts of porn are sold on the
Internet. When it dawned on me what a
terrible idea it was to have porn in a
game for fifth graders, I felt so bad I
woke up.

Ronda Rousey

You need to work less.



Jennifer Rousey

Or lay off the Internet porn.



JOB APPLICANTS



Maria Burns Ortiz

Hiring a new assistant and wading through resumes/cover letters. Here's a couple excerpts from my favorite:

"Creative, Agile, Respectful, Resourceful, Intelligent, Energetic. If you take the first letter of each of these, you get 'CARRIE.' That, coincidentally, is my name and why I believe I am the perfect fit for the Administrative Assistant role at 7 Generation Games." Now, do you think it's a coincidence or is it fate?



Jennifer Rousey

I think that person would drive you insane.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Oh, there's more. From another one: "Your listing says the ideal candidate must be willing to learn. My YouTube history is full of DIY videos." (At first, I thought it was "my YouTube channel" as in videos I have made and produced. But no, it's as in YouTube videos that I have watched.)



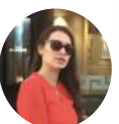
Ronda Rousey

I'm SOLD!!!! That YouTube confusion shows real communications efficiency!



Maria Burns Ortiz

Oh, I haven't even gotten to my favorite.



Maria Burns Ortiz

This girl – in her cover letter – wrote: “I have further used this skills to help myself and my friends make our way through the mire of ‘adulting.’” ADULTING! She actually used adulting in a cover letter.



Ronda Rousey

Mire AND adulting in the same sentence! Look no further. Your prayers have been answered.



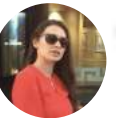
Jennifer Rousey

I’m sorry, but what does that even mean?



Maria Burns Ortiz

I saw a meme once that said: How to be a grown up a work – replace “fuck you” with “OK, great.” That’s basically what I imagine to be a dictionary definition of adulting.



AnnMaria De Mars

I am not a grown up. Also I am against hiring any of these people.

Ronda Rousey



I think you should hire all of them!



Maria Burns Ortiz

Reading these applications, I’m starting to think the apocalypse has already begun.



FREE CHEESEBURGERS



Maria Burns Ortiz

I'm emailing everyone in my contacts - including people I haven't talked to in maybe 10 years asking them to back our 7 Generation Games Kickstarter, but can't come up with a good subject line. Suggestions? I want something more subtle than "Give me money" but that says ""Perhaps it's been a while, but I'd like you to give me money.



Dennis De Mars

How about "Greetings former friend!"



Maria Burns Ortiz

Eric suggested: Free cheeseburgers.



Dennis De Mars

Actually, free cheeseburgers is pretty good.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Except, then there's disappointment when there's no cheeseburgers.



Jennifer Rousey

"I know where you buried the body." They click, then it's a relief when it's not about the person they murdered.



Maria Burns Ortiz

In fact, they're so relieved that they give me money. And/or they give me money because they think I know about the person they murdered and want to make sure I stay quiet.



AnnMaria De Mars

You'll never find the body. I mean, I have an alibi. I mean, I have no idea what you're talking about. Oh, you'd like me to back your Kickstarter? Of course. Here's \$1,000.



Jennifer Rousey

Works like a charm.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Isn't that coercion?



Jennifer Rousey

Only if you actually know that they have a body buried somewhere. In which case, you're probably an accomplice to the murder and not too worried about the legal consequences of lesser charges.



Maria Burns Ortiz

I'm going to hold off on blackmail – for now. Instead, I'm leaning toward: "Let's pretend this is the perfect subject line..." That says "I tried to come up with something super profound and witty, but ultimately, I've got nothing so please open this email out of either curiosity or pity."



Jennifer Rousey

I'm just saying there's a reason why "The Tell-Tale Heart" is considered a classic.



AnnMaria De Mars

I have an alibi.

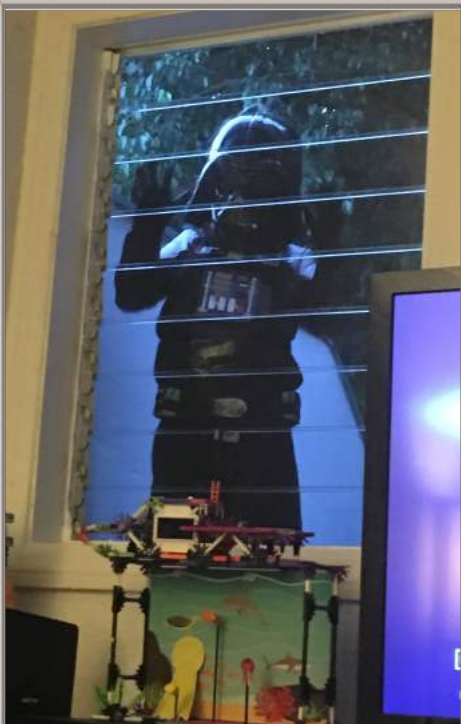
Julia De Mars



Wait, who's giving away free cheeseburgers?



EMAIL ETIQUETTE



AnnMaria De Mars

Maria says I'm not allowed to start business emails with "Listen up, fuckers!"

Dennis De Mars



I agree. "Listen up" is too colloquial a term to use in a formal business letter.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Speaking of professional documents, the following just occurred...
Emilia (hands me a piece of construction paper with what appears to be standard scribbling on it): Sign here, please.
Me: OK. (Signs the paper.)
Emilia: Perfect. Now, the papers are all done to sell Cal to the circus.
Business moral of today's story:
Always know what you are signing.



Julia De Mars

But I just became his godmother!
You can't sell him to the circus.



Maria Burns Ortiz

I'm looking into if it's a legally binding document. From the Google results I'm seeing, it's not completely clear.



Julia De Mars

Was it notarized?



ART & EGGPLANTS



Ronda Rousey

First layer of my latest painting.



Ronda Rousey

This was my last one.



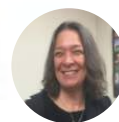
Ronda Rousey

It's a lynx in the corner if you were wondering.



AnnMaria De Mars

That winter scene could be used in Forgotten Trail.



Dennis De Mars

Yeah. You could do art for video games.



AnnMaria De Mars

I'll give you \$100 and 2 eggplant emojis. 🍆 🍆



Jennifer Rousey

Noooooooo!



AnnMaria De Mars

True. Who likes eggplant?
Eggplant is nasty and a liar
because no egg is involved.
🍆 🍆 🍆 🍆



Maria Burns Ortiz

Someone please explain to mom
what eggplant emojis are.



Ronda Rousey

Penis!!!! 💧 🍆



AnnMaria De Mars

I've seen both an eggplant and
a penis. They are different.

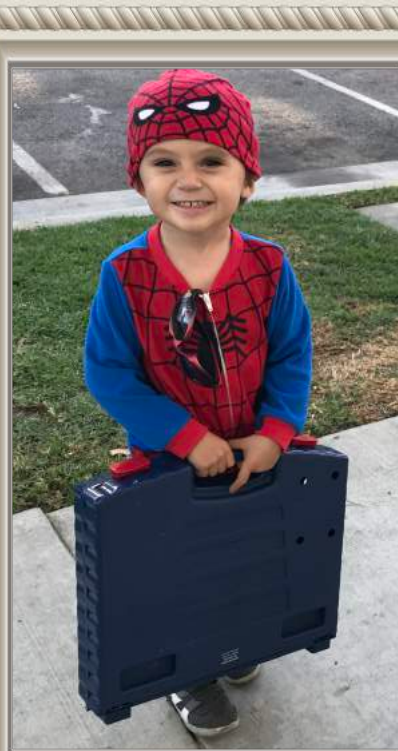


Julia De Mars

I just tweeted this conversation, but then
deleted it because it's too special to be
seen by Internet people. 😂



QUESTIONABLE RESEARCH QUESTIONS



AnnMaria De Mars

Julia, there is someone with a fake Facebook account pretending to be you.

Julia De Mars Rousey



From Santa Monica, California
Works at Los Angeles City College
Lives in Santa Monica, California



5:00PM

Listen Fucker, you better take down this fake profile before we find out where you live

You are now connected on Messenger.



I'm not fake profile I'm Julia this account is true.

Sent from Messenger

Type a message...



Julia De Mars

Wow. Thanks for defending my online identity, Mom. If I were "Julia De Mars Rousey," I'd never answer the door again out of fear that you had found me. Why is social media so full of freaks?



Maria Burns Ortiz

If Julia Rousey De Mars does by chance go missing, Mom was with me all day. We were, um, caring for orphaned alpacas. The alpacas will back us up.



Jennifer Rousey



Speaking of...

AnnMaria De Mars

Alpacas? What do you have against alpacas?

Jennifer Rousey

No, I'm cool with alpacas. I talking about freaks on social media. Like the random guy who sent me this message.

FRI 9:28AM

Hellow Jenn! Please tell me, how ticklish are your and Ronda's feet on a scale of 1-10?, it is for my uni dissertation Answer pleaseeee 😊

Jennifer Rousey

Ronda, sometimes being your sister is really gross.

Maria Burns Ortiz

Well, on a scale of 1-10, what is it?

AnnMaria De Mars

You're asking in the interest of science, right?

Jennifer Rousey

I wish he'd told me the title of his dissertation.

Maria Burns Ortiz

"Weird shit I ask strangers on Facebook."

AnnMaria De Mars

I believe it is "Female responses when I act like a fucking weirdo."



Jennifer Rousey

I have to imagine the "answer pleaseeee" that he normally gets is "disgusted silence."



Ronda Rousey

This is the funniest thread ever.
Thank you and sorry. 😂 🙇



DISORDER IN THE COURT



Jennifer Rousey

I just got selected for jury duty.



Maria Burns Ortiz

You should have just said, "I'm a highly cynical person and I'm pretty sure that everyone is guilty."



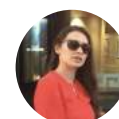
Jennifer Rousey

Seriously, that's what I was thinking. Have you ever done it?



Maria Burns Ortiz

No, I got called once before, but I was out of state in college, so I didn't have to go. But I feel like Mom gets called all the time though.



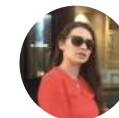
Jennifer Rousey

I am very morally conflicted on this issue.



Maria Burns Ortiz

As a history teacher, you feel a social responsibility to do your civic duty. But don't want to get up early and spend your break doing jury duty?



Jennifer Rousey

Exactly. I just want my damn summer vacation. Teachers are already underpaid and get no respect – can't that be my civic penance?



Maria Burns Ortiz

You should have said have said that when they interviewed you for jury duty. And then ended with, "And off with his head!" Especially if it was a minor crime.



Jennifer Rousey

I haven't been yet. I've just been called in for selection.



Ronda Rousey

So we can still save your summer!



AnnMaria De Mars

You know, sometimes, you can call in and they don't even make you come. Not always, but it's happened.

Ronda Rousey



Is that a chance you're willing to take, Jen?



Jennifer Rousey

Do I have any other ethical option?



Ronda Rousey



When you go in say that you hate people who look like him, regardless of whatever the person on trial looks like.

Jennifer Rousey



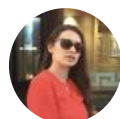
I don't think defendants are usually there.

Ronda Rousey



Even better. Then just say you hate all humans – and put extra emphasis on the word humans, like you might not be one.

Maria Burns Ortiz



And if they keep interviewing you after that, brush them away dismissively mid-sentence and go, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. I've watched tons of Law & Order. I know the drill."

Jennifer Rousey



Oooh, like "Is Jack McCoy going to be prosecuting? Because I love that guy."

Ronda Rousey



Yes! Now you're getting it.

Jennifer Rousey



And I could do it while wearing a Halloween costume.

Ronda Rousey

You could speak like the Tasmanian devil the whole time.



Jennifer Rousey

These are all fine suggestions.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Speak a totally made up language and look confused when they try to speak to you, but then answer every third question in perfectly coherent English.



Jennifer Rousey

Or just cry nonstop.



Ronda Rousey

Say you don't believe in prisons.



Maria Burns Ortiz

Ask if you convict him will they actually let you take part in the public stoning.



Jennifer Rousey

Say that I'm psychic and that if they just bring him to me, I can save them time by telling them if he's guilty or not.



Ronda Rousey

Say you've always wanted to legally kill a man and thank them for this opportunity.



Maria Burns Ortiz

See, now if jury duty was about seeing who could come up with the best ways to get out of it, people would love to get called.



Jennifer Rousey

If I wasn't a teacher, I'd want to be the person that tries to distinguish the real crazies from the fake crazies in the jury pool. I bet it's super entertaining.



Maria Burns Ortiz

From this exchange here, I think it's pretty clear that neither Ronda nor I will ever be serving on a jury.



THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE



Ronda Rousey

I got upside down tomatoes!



Jennifer Rousey

What's different between those and regular tomatoes?



Ronda Rousey

They're upside down.



Maria Burns Ortiz

The tomatoes are part of her apocalypse prep. Also, Eva wanted me to pass along that "the safest place to be during a zombie apocalypse is either in a castle with a moat or inside a bank vault." Apparently, her prep is watching YouTube videos on the subject.



AnnMaria De Mars

I vote for a tropical island zombie apocalypse compound.



Maria Burns Ortiz

I'd be all for that. We'd have to figure out how to get there post-end times, but that's a technicality. Probably easier to defend an island from zombies.



AnnMaria De Mars

That's the kind of post-apocalypse strategic planning I like.



Maria Burns Ortiz

My question: What's the deal with zombies and large bodies of water? Can they swim? Can they march along the bottom of the ocean? They don't need to breathe, but would the salt water deteriorate their dead bodies?



Jennifer Rousey

I saw a movie where a zombie fought a shark.



Jennifer Rousey

Who won?



Jennifer Rousey

I don't remember.



AnnMaria De Mars

Note to self: Stock up on sharks.



Jennifer Rousey

They bit each other a lot... Maybe it turned into a zombie shark.



Ronda Rousey

I think their flesh would dissolve, and they'd get eaten by bottom feeders specifically evolved to eat rotting flesh that sinks to the ocean floor.



AnnMaria De Mars

Can you provide more details on said bottom feeders, say species? I need to keep abreast of requirements for the well-stocked post-apocalypse zombie-proof island compound.



Ronda Rousey

Forget about the fish. The plan is to get a place with no road access and a bunch of guns to defend the high ground – and a houseboat for emergencies. (Zombies can't fuck with houseboats.)



Julia De Mars

I hope someone is writing this all down.



ALWAYS BE PREPARED





THANK YOU!

This book would not have been made without the amazing support of our Kickstarter backers – many of whom backed us for the third time! - in support of our latest series, AzTech Games.



Part interactive novel, part video game, AzTech Games is a new educational games series from 7 Generation Games, teaching math, in context – English and Spanish – in this bilingual quest.

You know how sometimes just getting to school in the morning feels like an adventure? So starts "AzTech: The Story Begins." Of course, a routine day takes an unexpected twist when two kids from Iowa are transported back to the Year 800 A.D. and find themselves in the middle of the Mayan jungle, left to fend for themselves in "AzTech: Meet the Maya." When your teacher says, "Don't touch this book," don't touch the book!

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www.7generationgames.com

Maria Burns Ortiz



I need a way to formally end this book of texts.

Ronda Rousey



Mic drop.

Julia De Mars



TTYL.

Jennifer Rousey



Goodbye, random strangers I don't know.

AnnMaria De Mars

Buy 7 Generation Games!



Maria Burns Ortiz



I'm going to just go with "The end."

THE END