

Gizmology with Simone Giertz

Ologies Podcast

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[*deep slow Alie voice: "Heyyy."*] Hi, Ologites! Hello, it's your weird uncle Alie Ward, and I got a bunch of robot facts in my cargo shorts pockets. Get ready to load up. This episode is kind of a weird one for a few reasons, all of them amazing reasons. Number One: It was recorded in a car. My car. This ologist and I had never before been in the same room, but we have mutual buddies. (*Hi, Scott! Hey, Adam Savage!*) I was so excited to meet her. I always kind of had a little bit of a fan girl crush.

So, we met up for dinner at this clattery vegan restaurant; which was great, but it was not conducive to recording. She had an early call time the next morning, so I gave her a ride back to her hotel while we fired up the old Zoom recorder and made a goddamn episode out of it. So, there's that. Also, there are no ologite questions because it was last minute. Again, recorded in a car while I was driving. Her hotel was three miles away. I drove very slow, and poorly. Don't ever do that by the way. Also, don't ever go bowling and then accidentally fall asleep in the socks that you bowled in. I did that too, a few nights ago. Both are dangerous.

One thing you can do, if you like this podcast, is rate, subscribe, and/or leave a review on iTunes. I know I mention this every week, but they really help keep *Ologies* up in the science charts, and they help other people go, "Well, heckdang! What's this?" and then listen. It helps so much. It costs you nothing and takes a second. Also, *Ologies* is made by a staff of two human beings, myself included, so it makes my personal day to hear that y'all like it. It really helps keep us going.

This week, this review was like a hug made of words. Someone calling themselves, eaglebeagle2 said:

So many of the podcasts I listen to reflect a kind of bleak worldview: crime, mysteries, the news. This podcast reminds me of how it felt to be a curious little kid perusing encyclopedias and digging around sandboxes for dinosaurs. There are so many amazing things on our little planet. And, surprise, there are also really cool people out there who will answer the questions your cynical adult brain thought were dumb! Thank you, Alie, for reminding me that the world may be terrifying, but it's also fascinating and beautiful.
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I really like that. Thank you for that review so much!

Okay. Back to gizmology. Is that a real word? Sure as shit it is, my friend. I looked it up and it is. Linguists are very angrily mystified by its etymology, but a *gizmo* means, "a gadget; especially one whose name the speaker does not know or recall." A *gadget* is, "a small mechanical or electronic device; usually an ingenious or novel one." So, who better to be a gizmologist subject than someone who makes shitty robots for a living? Those are her words, not mine. A native of Sweden, she started tinkering with electronic mechanisms and making videos, and now she has nearly a million subscribers on YouTube and she is one of the few science communicators who swears as much as

me. I appreciate that. She's made robots that slap her face until she wakes up, ones that brush her teeth, feed her soup, and apply lipstick to her face.

She flew down to LA to shoot a video with Rhett & Link about a hammering machine when we met up - in my car - to talk about her creative process, gateway gadgets to robotown, helpful resources for anyone wanting to build robots, what's up with her accent, science fiction secrets, how many spare parts does she have lying around, and why she drives a piece of cheese. So, prepare your droid hearts to be warmed by the wry wisdom of America's favorite Swedish gizmologist, who's name you're about to learn how to pronounce, Simone Giertz. [phonetic: "Yetch"]

Simone Giertz: It said, "Do not enter. Wrong way." Oh, that was that side of the street.

Alie Ward: Oh yeah, that's... Part of my podcast is I like to get into head-on collisions in every episode. [laughs]

Simone: Both in conversation *and* in vehicles.

Alie: Okay. I'm going to try to ask you the most distilled questions. Also, I think it's illegal to hold a phone, but it's not illegal to hold a burrito or a microphone when you're driving. I think we have that going for us.

Simone: Is it legal to eat a burrito? It's just legal to hold it? But, it's illegal to eat it? [laughs]

Alie: I think you can ingest your phone... But, as you're eating it you're like, "This is a different animal."

Simone: Eat away!

Alie: Okay. So, let's talk a little bit about robots. I'll ask you the most distilled version because we're going to see if we can record a whole episode while we drive you to your hotel.

Simone: Yeah?

Alie: Tell me when you first decided that you were into building robots.

Simone: It wasn't so much a decision as something that just happened. It was just like this feeling... I always had a lot of ideas of things I wanted to do and I was always looking for somebody who could execute them. Then I was like, "Well, wait. Why shouldn't I just teach myself how to do it?" I remember the first time that I realized, "I think this is it," was the first time where I blinked an Arduino board. It's this little computer, and the first sketch you upload is for it to blink one of its little onboard LEDs. It was, like, love at first blink.

Alie: Really?? Awww! [*laughs*]

Simone: Yeah! Because I watched it... I mean, in some way I feel like it's a really bad thing because I was like, "I CONTROL YOU! I TOLD YOU TO DO THIS THING AND YOU DID IT!" It was like just such a rush of power and I've been high on it ever since.

Alie: Wait, what is it called? An abuela board?

Simone: Arduino.

Alie: Okay.

Simone: Abuela? What's abuela?

Alie: I think it means grandmother in Spanish. [*laughs*]

Simone: Yes. I programmed this grandmother and she blinked! It's mind control!

Alie: That's dark, man!

Simone: No, it's an Arduino board and it's a tiny, kind of stupid computer. But, it's really easy to have it talk to hardware so you can wire little motors to it, and wire little LEDs to it, or little sensors.

Aside: By the way, I looked up what an Arduino board was and it's like a toast-sized piece of circuit board with some microchips and some plug-ins. So, just picture that. If you're like, "I don't know what an Arduino board is." That's what one looks like. They're cute. I Google image searched *abuela* and a bunch of pictures of grandmas came up. One of them wasn't wearing a top. That site was in Spanish. I don't know the context. But, she looked like she was having fun.

Alie: And then where do you go for all of your knowledge? Because obviously it has evolved quite a bit and you're making all kinds of shit. Where do you go to find out how to get better at it?

Simone: In the beginning when I was learning about hardware, it was... I mean there's a lot of good online resources. I use SparkFun Electronics and Adafruit Industries, which are both hardware retailers. But, they have really good tutorials on how to do stuff.

Aside: So... who?? Okay. SparkFun.com and AdaFruit.com, who are not paying for us to mention them, sadly. I went on their sites and they have a ton of great resources for building robots including this one tutorial that involved a guy making an electronic steel drum machine out of a plastic salad spinner or some shit. [*Alie singing: "Live your dreams!"*]

Simone: So, I was self-taught at it and just finding really good places like that helped because there's so much. I mean, I come from, kind of, the hobbyist side of it and I started learning as a hobbyist. But then there's also resources that's, like, for proper engineers, and you're in there, and it feels like, "I want to go for a swim in the kiddie pool." Then you're in the deepest trenches of the ocean trying to sift through information. Now my problems are so specific that there's not really anyone to ask. I'm like, "What's the best way to attach tofu to a big plastic animal?"

Aside: For more on this, see her video *I Hunted a Robot (and ate it)*. [Simone from her YouTube video: "It's, like, covered in food. My plan is to get some sort of deer and then just, like, patching on tofu to it."]

Alie: Do people come to you with robotics questions?

Simone: Yeah.

Alie: Do you typically know the answers or do you think that it's important for them to try to discover the answer themselves like you did?

Simone: If people ask very specific questions like, "Hey, how did you solve this problem?" Or, "Where is this part from?" I'm happy to answer. But, often people are like, "Hi, I want to build this thing. How do I do it?" And I'm like, "You gotta narrow it down a little bit."

Alie: Gotta figure it out.

Simone: But yeah, people ask a lot of stuff. It's such a weird thing for me to sometimes be treated as an authority in robotics or in gizmology, as I just learned that it's called, because I'm just this happy hobbyist who is, on top of that, known for building useless things and things that don't work. And, people are actually asking me for advice. Journalists are asking me, "What's your take on artificial intelligence?"

Alie: [laughs]

Simone: And, I'm like, "Eeeeeeeeeehh" Yeah.

Alie: What is your take on artificial intelligence?

Simone: My take on artificial intelligence is... I don't know. I mean, I'm really intrigued about it.

Alie: Do people ask you about Sophia a lot?

Simone: Yeah, people sent it to me.

Aside: In case you're like, "Which bitch?" Sophia is a social humanoid-looking robot made by Hanson Robotics. She's been in the news recently saying creepy things with her mechanical mouth hole. And that feeling of nauseated unease you might get isn't just because Sophia is the first non-human to be given a United Nations title - something most of us will never get to impress our parents with - but also because of an effect coined way back in the 1970s called, "Uncanny Valley." That's the name for the eeriness or revulsion you feel the closer a robot tends to look or act like a person. The closer it is to us, we're like, "Nuh-uh. Nope, nope, nope, nope. Don't like."

Sophia is able to display more than fifty-two facial expressions, which is more than most people on Bravo, but equally terrifying. Chances are you've seen this blinking, kind of *Westworld*-ian prototype. She has what I like to think of as a mechanical mullet. She's party up front. She has a human face modeled to look like Audrey Hepburn if Audrey Hepburn were made of wax and had been left in the sun. But, she's all business in the back. She has this clear skull that exposes these churning gears and computer chips that analyze your speech and responding casually. Anyway, humans are talking about her.

Simone: I mean, I feel like Sophia is like a PR scoop in some way. I don't really buy into it. It's more like a fun thing because it's the first time.

Alie: And it worked, look! We're talking about her!

Simone: Yeah! It worked! We're having a conversation and you're listenin to us talking about Sophia, and if you haven't heard about her or you might Google it and you'll be like, "Wow." Or like, "Meh."

Alie: What's your process when you're coming up with a robot? Do you start assembling the arms and legs of it that will do the stuff or do you start from the brains?

Simone: My robots are so dumb; they're more muscle than brains, which is like... Talking about AI, it's a little bit outside of it because I'm programming motors. That's literally all I'm doing. I have never built a robot, or a shitty robot for my YouTube channel, that has a sensor in it.

Aside: In a *Wired* article there was an MIT roboticist, Kate Darling, interviewed. She said there's no good universal definition, but that her definition of a robot would probably be, "A physical machine that's usually programmable by a computer that can execute tasks autonomously by itself," she says. So, the paradigm is: sense, think, and act. Webster's Dictionary gives fewer fucks and says, "A real or imaginary machine controlled by a computer that can do the work of a person." So, real or imaginary. Picture a robot. Boom you just built a robot. It's imaginary. You built it. Okay, back to Simone's so-called, shitty robots.

Simone: So, they basically have no data input and they're just executing. It's definitely not brains; more looks and muscles. Just like me. I only build [*laughs*] robots in my own image. But, I usually start with a problem that I want to solve and then I go from there.

Alie: My fuel light just went on, but...

Simone: Oh really? Are we going to be good?

Alie: We're fine. It's a Prius. I can go another sixty miles. I just didn't want you to be alarmed.

Simone: For this episode it's not a crash, it's running out of gas.

Alie: [*laughs*] You will be pushing the Prius, but it weighs about forty pounds. So, you're fine.

Simone: If you're riding with me in my car, you're probably gonna have to push it to.

Alie: I love your car so much.

Aside: Simone recently acquired and made a video about her tiny electric Comuta-car from the early 1980s. It's shaped like a wedge and she named it Cheese Louise. Anyway...

Alie: So you make it in your own image, clearly.

Simone: Really terrible.

Alie: It's a very West Coast; arms, legs, execution. Tell me, when you start sketching out or when you start making something, what's the most exciting part of the process?

Simone: There's multiple steps. I mean, it changes. The process is different for every machine and it really changes. With some of them, it's just getting this idea and I think I really love the idea of it. But, I think I like designing it and figuring out how to make it move the way I want to, and start spec'ing out parts, and stuff like that. It's just, like, little brain teasers or like little brain games you're playing. And, especially as somebody who doesn't have a mechanical or an engineering background, it's always just this really fun little problem solving. It's like you're solving these little puzzles.

And, then my second most favorite part is assembling it, which can also be the worst part. Because that's when you realize that you've thought about everything wrong and that you just bought a lot of parts that are not going to be able to use. Like with the hammering robot that I built, I had to scrap the entire design the night before I needed it.

Alie: Do you return the parts or do you just keep them hoping you'll need them again?

Simone: No, I feel reluctant. I kind of keep them. I'm a little bit of a parts hoarder because you never know when you're going to need a linear actuator with 560 pounds of thrust.

Alie: I needed one of those recently, but I settled on a melon.

Simone: A melon?

Alie: [laughs] I don't know. I don't even know what that does, but just substituting nouns.

Simone: Yeah.

Alie: So, you keep them. Do you run out of space? And do you ever total up the cost at the end of the year and you're like, "Oh my god, I spent so much money at the hardware store."?

Simone: I do keep them. I live in a teeny tiny house and it's like a robot graveyard in some way because I try to not throw them away or steal parts from them. But yeah, I'm kind of running out of space a little bit. I need to get a workshop. To me, the most sane expense is buying parts in some way.

Alie: I'm so sorry!

Simone: That was almost a crash! You almost delivered...

Alie: I know, they just started to go. I'm sorry they didn't put on an indicator and they started to merge into me.

Simone: They legitimately did a very weird thing.

Alie: I'm so sorry. [laughs] [Alie singing: "Hurray for Hollywood."]
Do you take apart any of the robots and reuse them or no?

Simone: I do if I'm in a strap or if I'm, like, very... Is that an expression?

Alie: No.

Simone: You're in a strap... but there's something...

Alie: If you're in a *bind*.

Simone: You're in a bind.

Alie: Right.

Simone: [laughs] Not in a strap!

Alie: Or, if you're strapped for cash.

Simone: Okay! I feel like 'you're in a strap' kind of make sense between 'strapped for cash' and 'in a bind'.

Alie: It could work. It sounds more like an athletic garment.

Simone: It sounds like some very advanced sexual stuff. [cymbal crash] When I'm in a bind, sometimes I steal parts from other machines. The soup robot that I made has been completely gutted. I have stolen pretty much every part because it just had so many good parts! And I was in a rush and excited.

Alie: Do you name the robots?

Simone: Not human names, but I mean: The Soup Robot, The Wake-up Machine, The Popcorn Helmet, The Toothbrush Helmet. They're very descriptive.

Alie: So they're what they do, they're their function.

Simone: Yes, but that's also how I name people. [laughs]

Alie: The mailman. [laughs] Postmates guy.

Simone: The barista! The accountant!

Alie: Anyone in a servant role. [laughs]

Simone: The creepy guy at the corner! [laughs]

Aside: Quick aside, the very word robot comes from a Czech word, *Robota* - I love this so much - and it means 'forced labor, drudgery or servitude.' So, a robot means a servant, essentially. Which means, man, we gotta help Sophia! We gotta free Sophia from her forced drudgery! She's like, "I don't want to be doing these press interviews. I want to be home eating soup and farting like a person."

Alie: Three questions. Three more questions as I circle the block before I drop you off at your hotel.

Simone: Are you making them up as you go?

Alie: No, I know what they're going to be. Okay. Do you have a favorite or least favorite movie that involves robots or machines that's either really highly annoying because it's very wrong, or that made you feel things that are good about robots like *WALL-E* or *Terminator*?

Simone: So this is... I've been trying to keep this a secret for a while.

Alie: Yeaaaaah bring it on.

Simone: [*drumroll*] I actually really don't like sci-fi.

Alie: That's fine!

Simone: Is it?

Alie: Yes!

Simone: It's not fine. I feel like it's not fine. I feel like I should like sci-fi. I should at least pretend that I like sci-fi. I don't like sci-fi. I love fantasy. I love magic.

Alie: That's fine!

Simone: Sci-fi is too close to home.

Alie: I'm not that into sci-fi because I would rather put things in my brain that are, like, sci-non-fi. It's like fake gossip about people you know, and you're like, "Well either gave me real gossip or let's not gossip about them." You know? That doesn't make sense, but you know what I mean?

Simone: That's a really good way of describing it.

Alie: I'd rather just learn the real stuff.

Simone: Yeah, and that's what we do all the time. So, yeah.

Alie: What about characters? What about in pop culture, anything like that that's annoying or no?

Simone: [*laughs*] You're asking me generally if there's anyone in pop culture that I find annoying?

Alie: [*laughs*] Like, robot-wise!

Simone: Robot-wise! Hmmmm. I really like it when people build stuff, even if it's stuff that I don't think is great, or that I agree with. I just like the people who are trying to put stuff out in the world. You're taking me into like a weird back alley right now.

Alie: It's the VIP Hotel and the Celebrity Hotel, they're clearly very good.

Aside: Local trivia sidenote: We were right near this tourist destination and some hotels there are nice. Some aren't. But if any establishment in Los Angeles has the word 'celebrity' in it, that means it sucks a whole bunch. That's your shorthand.

Celebrity Cleaners. I took a dress there. They shredded it. This Celebrity Hotel is 2 stars. The Church of Scientology's Celebrity Center Campus? Well, yeah... Anyway. Simone was staying at a nicer place nearby but we parked to finish the conversation near some dumpsters, like professionals.

Alie: Wait, is this one your hotel?

Simone: No, I don't know what it's called.

Alie: Oh, it's on the front. We'll conduct the rest of the interview sitting here like a creep and then I'll drive you to the proper entrance.

Simone: Yeah?

Alie: Yeah. I think that's no one's going to arrest us back here.

Simone: I feel like I should be able to whip out a 'most annoying robot character.' I recently watched a *Space Camp*. The robot in *Space Camp* wasn't that great.

Alie: I haven't watched that in so long.

Simone: Yeah, that is not the type of robot you want to have walk on another planet. It was just very impractically built.

Alie: What about *Small Wonder*? Did you ever watch that? [*clip from Small Wonder theme song: "She's a small wonder. A child unlike other girls."*]

Simone: No.

Alie: That's the one where there's this girl, and she's supposed to be like a human female. Her name is Vicki, but she's a robot and no one ever questions it even though she wears the same clothes every day and speaks like a robot. [*clip from Small Wonder, little boy: "Hi, nice to see you again." Vicki in robot voice: "NICE TO SEE YOU, AGAIN."*]

Simone: I did like *Ex Machina*.

Alie: Oh, I never saw that.

Simone: It's a good movie. Yeah, that one flew on the under the sci-fi radar for me.

Alie: I always get it confused with the Svedka vodka ads. There's this vodka ad and it looks exactly like it. I'll put up a side by side. So, *Ex Machina* went under the sci-fi radar.

Simone: I don't know if that idiom checks out, but I liked it even though it was sci-fi.

Alie: That makes sense. And by the way, I'm not a sci-fi watcher either.

Simone: That makes me happy!

Alie: I would rather know about real stuff or exit the realm completely.

Simone: It's this weird combination of... it just doesn't.... yeah.

Alie: I think it's fine and I think it's brave of you. *[laughs]*

Simone: I was at Silicon Valley Comic-con and William Shatner had just been on stage before me, as in the guy in *Star Trek*, and, somebody asked me if I like *Star Trek* or *Star Wars* most and I was like, "I don't like either of them."

Alie: *[laughs]*

Simone: And people booed!! I don't think I even said I didn't like it. I was just like, "I didn't watch them," and people booed. Since then my shame of not liking sci-fi was budding.

Alie: Couldn't you just say, "I'm an immigrant. Don't impose American pop culture on me."

Simone: Yeah, a little bit. But, sometimes I say that *Star Wars* wasn't allowed to be shown in Sweden because of its capitalistic message. That's not true.

Alie: Stick with it.

Simone: I do pull the foreigner card a lot, but I feel like I have a limited run with that also. I've lived in the States for a little while now.

Alie: I think because your accent is good people expect you to be more well versed in American pop culture.

Simone: I put on the Swedish accent whenever I want it to be very evident that I'm not from here.

Alie: What does it sound like?

Simone: *[Begin Swedish accent]* I mean it's not super weird, but it's like if I ever talk to customer service or any government institution that I really want them to know that I'm not from here. *[end accent]* It's nice. It's handy.

Alie: *[gasp!]* Does your family ever get spooked by hearing you speak with such a passable American accent?

Simone: No, but they did... I remember the first time I moved to China when we were Skyping and suddenly one of my Chinese friends called. I answered the phone and had a conversation in Chinese. Then they got really freaked out.

Alie: How many languages do you speak?

Simone: I mean it depends on how you define 'speak', but four.

Alie: That's a lot. That's a lot! I'm so impressed by the switching into Swedish.

Simone: Yeah.

Alie: All I can do is throw on a hella every once in a while, because I'm from the bay area and that's the closest I could get to putting on a native accent.

Simone: Wait, really? Is that what people from the bay area is say? Hella?

Alie: If you say, "Gah, it's hella windy tonight," people will be like, "How long have you lived in LA?"

Simone: Oh wow. I'm going to start doing that now.

Alie: Yeah, as a San Franciscan, you start saying it, or just start listening for it and you'll... It's like wicked. It's like Boston's wicked.

Okay. Two questions. What's the worst thing about your job or your career? What's the most annoying thing? Is it taxes? Does the heat go off sometimes in the workshop? What's the most annoying thing?

Simone: I think the most annoying thing is being a business owner and having a lot of responsibility. I have a really good team that's supporting me in many ways, but it's still up to me to sign the documents and make calls about how we are going to place the money that we're making and stuff like that. That is my least favorite thing to do.

And, I'm also in a kind of weird accounting pickle because I am from Sweden and I've had a Swedish company. My entire legal team, and accounting team, and management team, is in Australia because that's where my manager is from, and I live in the States and just started a US company, and I'm being taxed in the States. So, it's a very intricate taxing thing and it makes my body crawl.

Aside: She may have meant, "skin crawl" but that's okay because guess how many languages I speak; literally barely one on some days.

Simone: I'd rather just outsource it if I can.

Alie: And then save your energy, and time, and brain power for building stuff.

Simone: Yeah! Which is nice. But it's challenging because you constantly have this feeling that the most important thing to do is to answer emails and do all this admin stuff. I realize that the most important things I should be doing is making fun content and building machines, but it doesn't feel like it's 'proper work' because it needs to be hard, and tough, and boring. Why is your car doing that sound?

Alie: It just does that. Priuses make all kinds of gurgles. I think it's going back and forth between motors or something. It's also hungry because I didn't feed it fuel. I was on the last little thing and it went beep, so I have to put gas in it. Okay. Your favorite thing about what you do; about your job, or about robots, or about a build. What's the thing that gives you butterflies?

Simone: The thing that gives me butterflies... I don't know how to say this without making it sound terrible.

Alie: Cashing checks?

Simone: [*joking*] Cash and checks! Keep 'em coming! No, but honestly the nicest thing has been being led into this really great community of people and constantly meeting people who are very enthusiastic and excited about what they do. It's such a good energy injection whenever I meet somebody who's like so eager to show me the project that they're working on. I think that's actually what I like the most. I tried out a lot of different jobs before it and it was just like putting on a lot of different pants and you're like, "These ones are kind of fun, but they're also kind of crawling up my butt."

Alie: [*laughs/snorts*]

Simone: Or, "These ones, they're just uncomfortable." I feel like I found my people in the maker community.

Alie: That's great! That's a great answer!

Simone: Yeah?

Alie: Yeah, that's a great answer! What could be wrong with being like, "Other people are cool and I like them."

Simone: I don't know because it's a little bit like, [*dorky voice*] "I get to hang out with cool people!"

Alie: I think that appreciating people who appreciate what you do is great. I think that's great.

Simone: What's your favorite part about *your* job?

Alie: The money. Just money, money, money, money, money, yeah.

Simone: [laughs]

Alie: I have a big inflatable pool that I filled with dollars and I just jump into it like Scrooge McDuck [*coin dropping into jar*] at the end of every day. That's what I sleep in.

Simone: Somebody must have done an episode on the physics of jumping in coins because I'm always like, "That would hurt so much!" Even when I was a kid I was like, "Your head would just crash into those coins!"

Alie: It would be so cold! [laughs]

Simone: It would break your fingers before you've even penetrated the surface of it, so...

Alie: But, my answer is the same as yours, pretty much. Especially for this, for *Ologies*, I feel like I'm such an ologist and science groupie where I'm so in awe of other people's passion and what has led them to learn and execute. I like hearing about the spark that made people, like, fall in love with a certain field. I think about things I'm obsessed with. There's a certain beetle I once found that made me really into bugs and that shaped my whole life. You know what I mean?

Simone: Maybe that's why neither of us like accounting. Because nobody's passionate about accounting.

Alie: Dude, my Mom is!

Simone: Oh really!! [laughs]

Alie: We call her Nancy Numbers.

Simone: If I met your Mom, I'd be like, "Suddenly, accounting is all I want to do!"

Alie: Nancy Numbers would be down to chat! She would be into it!

Aside: So, we rolled up to Simone's hotel and we wrapped it up. While the valet guys were like, "What's happening here. What are you doing?" [*low voice, "WHY?"*]

Alie: Just consider this a very long Uber ride.

Simone: Oh, you get five stars! Right off the bat!

Alie: [laughs] Even though we were almost in two accidents! This is your hotel, right?

Simone: Yeah. It's right there.

Alie: Oh good, that worked out well. Thank you so much for being on, seriously!

Simone: Thanks for bringing me to my hotel!

Alie: This is my first car *Ologies* episode.

Simone: Really?

Alie: Yeah, I've never recorded one in a car before.

Simone: I'm honored to be the first guest.

Alie: I didn't get, like, a Driving While Interviewing... That would be a D.W.I., wouldn't it? Driving While Interviewing? *[laughs]*

Simone: *[laughs]* You're allowed to hold a microphone and talk.

Alie: I mean, it's Hollywood, baby! We are literally in the thick of it. I hope you have a great shoot tomorrow!

Simone: Ahhh, thank you! I just hope the hammering robot works.

Alie: Oh my gosh...

To see how well the hammering robot worked, you can find the video, *We Made a Hammer Robot featuring Simone Giertz* on Rhett & Link's channel. Also, I want you to know that I copied and pasted the title of that video from YouTube and the font that YouTube uses is called: Roboto Servant. *[Alie ghostly voice: "woooooooo"]*

To see more of Simone's work, just Google her name and/or shitty robots. She's at SimoneGeirtz on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#). As long as you're there, if you want you can follow [@ologies](#) or [@alieward](#) on either platform. If you like this podcast, I'm also at [Patreon.com/ologies](#), where you can become a patron for as little as 25 cents an episode, which goes to equipment, and sound cards, and web hostings, and paying wonderful editor Steven Ray Morris to piece all of this together, and to pay the folks who help with [OlogiesMerch.com](#), Shannon Feltus and Boni Dutch. You can also support the show just by getting a shirt, or hat, or a tote, or a pin, or a phone case, or a baby onesie. There's so many items.

Thank you so much for rating, and subscribing, and reviewing. Those are things you can do for free that help so much. And, please do remain unabashedly curious and ask smart people dumb questions, because we're all smart about some stuff and dumb about others so let's spread it around.

Speaking of, it's time for the end of the episode secret. Okay. Mom and Dad, you can feel free to turn the episode *off* now. You hit the stop button on the iPad. Got it? Cool? Okay. Bye. So, one time I went to a party and met this really cute dude, but I was wearing those jelly boobs that you stick to your own boobs. They look like rubber chicken cutlets. They made the dress look better, okay? It was years ago. It was a cute summer dress and I was like, 'these look nice.' Anyway, he was like, "Hey, let's go for a drink." I was like, "Ummm, okay. I'll meet you there. Let's drive separately."

And in so doing I ripped the jelly boobs off because what am I gonna do? What if he notices? Anyway, I stuffed them under the seat along with a box of Lactaid that was in the door pocket. We ended up dating for years and I don't think I ever told him that story. If he listens to this, I wonder if he'll even know it's him. So, heyyy, killing it.

Okay. Next week might be bees, or museums, or evolutionary biology, or beer science. I'm not sure. But, I'm excited about it. I hope you are too. Okay, berbye.
[Outro music]

Transcribed by Mike Melchior

Some links which may be helpful:

Flashback: ["Small Wonder"](#)

[SIRI, DEFINE 'ROBOT'](#)

[Control an arduino board](#)

[Look at this cute little arduino board](#)

[Simone slaughters a tofu robot](#)

[What is uncanny valley?](#)

[Ex Machina vs. Svedka vs. Sophia](#)

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