

**THE WORLD'S BEST FORTUNE TELLING MACHINE**  
**FIRST EDITION**  
**A 1000-Word Play, written in 1 hour, by two people**

**SCENE 1**

**STUDENT:** *Walks in, talks while facing stage* O Levels... Why! Who was responsible for O-levels? Why are the papers so difficult! Why are my teachers so terrible, that I can't get a single A1! Someone of *my* caliber should be entering Raffles JC *effortlessly!* But look at *this...* this.. trash! 19 points L1R5! *19!* And my L1R4... my L1R4! *15!*

**STUDENT:** What do I do now! Where do I go from here! *Sings* *How do I carry on? I can't get beyond the questions...*

**FORTUNE TELLING MACHINE OPERATOR:** Daniel! Daniel!

**STUDENT:** *Looks around* Who's shouting?

**F.T.M.O:** Oh, wow, I actually guessed your name correctly?

**STUDENT:** No, my name's Corey.

**F.T.M.O:** Wait, then why'd you answer?

**STUDENT:** Because I'm the only person here!

**F.T.M.O:** Ohh... no wonder you were talking to yourself. I thought you were one of the crazy types.

**STUDENT:** I am not! I am an intellectual and academically-inclined individual who's not getting the grades his mental capacity deserves!

**F.T.M.O:** Did you even study?

**STUDENT:** What kind of a question is that? Of course I studied! I diligently and conscientiously read my textbooks the day before *each paper!*

**F.T.M.O:** *Stifled snort*

**STUDENT:** What? What'd you say?

**F.T.M.O:** N-nothing, i-it was a cough. Anyway, there's not much you can really do anyway, besides move past it, is there?

**STUDENT:** I can write in to the Ministry to demand a more accurate representation of my mental capacity in my grades!

**F.T.M.O:** By the time the email *acknowledging* that they've received your email comes through, JAE will be over.

**STUDENT:** Darn! Wait- where *are* you, anyway?

**F.T.M.O:** Behind you.

**STUDENT:** *Turns around* Wha?

**F.T.M.O:** I'm the World's Best Fortune Telling Machine!

**STUDENT:** You talk?

**F.T.M.O:** Of course I talk! I'm *the world's best fortune telling machine!*

**STUDENT:** Okay... What's all these buttons on you?

**F.T.M.O:** Option 1,2 and 3. A dollar each. We know what your options are, and we'll make you actually *experience* each option.

**STUDENT:** Okay, as I mentioned before, I'm the *opposite* of stupid. You're telling me, I only have three options in this, and that you will *simulate* each one for me?

**F.T.M.O:** If you think about it, everything in your life only really has three viable options. And in the end, *it's only three dollaaaaarss...*

**STUDENT:** Fine. Where do I drop my coin? Heck, let's put in three. All three at once, alright?

**F.T.M.O:** *Extends hand* Gimme.

**STUDENT:** Here. What's to become of me, O mighty Machine? (*sarcastically*)

**F.T.M.O:** Patience, young one. Wait... wait for it...

## **SCENE 2**

**STUDENT:** Woah! Where on earth am I?

**F.T.M.O:** Home of course. I mean yours not mine.

**STUDENT:** Wait why I am even here and why is the year 2019?!

**F.T.M.O:** You asked and thus you received. Fortunes are not the only thing I can conceive. The past, the present and the future will follow, maybe yesterday, today or tomorrow?

**STUDENT:** ...That was really bad.

**F.T.M.O:** You try rhyming on the spot!

**STUDENT:** Anyways, what kind of sick joke is this. When you were talking about the simulations I thought you know VR or something like that right. But this, this feels real.

**F.T.M.O:** It is real, stupid.

**STUDENT:** Okay but you still haven't explained why I am here.

**F.T.M.O:** Because you asked to be here! You *paid* to be a part of this!

**STUDENT:** Okay! Fine! What's this?

**F.T.M.O:** JC. Specifically, Yishun JC.

**STUDENT:** *Yishun* JC?

**F.T.M.O:** It's the only one you qualified for.

**STUDENT:** Fine... When is it? The start of the school year?

**F.T.M.O:** You think you'll experience the full two years? Ain't nobody got time fo dat! This is you receiving your A-level results.

**STUDENT:** Finally! Redemption! The As I deserve!

**TEACHER:** *Walks up to STUDENT.* Here's your A-level results, Corey.

**STUDENT:** Ahh, er, thanks! *Opens it eagerly.* Here it is, folks! My straight-A grades and my NUS early acceptance- What?

**F.T.M.O:** Well? Don't keep us in the dark- Tell us what you got!

**STUDENT:** Three Cs, one D and an S.

**F.T.M.O:** Damn, looks like JC isn't for you.

**STUDENT:** But... but I'm such an intellectual! JC was my top pick!

**F.T.M.O:** The facts say otherwise, friend. Come on, on to... Poly!

**TEACHER:** Welcome to your first year in poly. I know many of you have not achieved your desired results but if you make the first step I am sure you can succeed

**STUDENT:** What?! How?! This so ludicrous. I really think this simulation is not actually accurate. I mean I still can apply for J.C through DSA it's not like I am completely devoid of hope.

**F.T.M.O:** Except you are.

**STUDENT:** Trash fortune telling machine.

**F.T.M.O:** You just can't handle the truth my Friend. Like seriously have you even seen yourself. You expect to have your pie and also eat it. And look on the bright side, you now have your entire career path laid before you.

**STUDENT:** Are you serious, how am I supposed to be taken seriously with only a diploma? No university will ever accept me.

**F.T.M.O:** \*sighs\* So overdramatic. Anyways we haven't gone through your last simulation yet. How do you like them apples. In this case Kaplan?

**STUDENT:** *Kaplan? A private college! Why, that's- That's-*

**F.T.M.O:** A legitimate possibility.

**STUDENT:** Surely not.

**F.T.M.O:** Surely *yes*.

**STUDENT:** Fine. And what comes out of it? A private diploma, and private degree, and dead-end job? This *cannot* be me!

**F.T.M.O:** Yes. It *can* be. Throughout this simulation you have questioned the legitimacy of these predictions. And I'm telling you, as it is in your present state, *this will happen*. But you

know how those bad A-level grades, all that terrible stuff, can become just something you were told at a machine in City Plaza one time? *By changing your attitude.* That you're indisputably the best. That you can't possibly fail. Because you cannot succeed in your current state. But *with a change of attitude*, success is certain. If only you *change*, Corey. If only you change.

### **Scene 3**

*People carry the fortune telling machine away.*

**STUDENT:** *Facing audience* That was crazy... *Turns around* Wait... where... where's the machine? Wha..? But that crazy machine... it was right. I *must* change. Only then can I succeed.

### ***Curtain call***