

The Nutshell  
(excerpt)

by  
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JO-JO BEAR

DOUG SLIDES A "CD/DVD-LIKE" DISK INTO A PIECE OF HARDWARE WHICH IS CONNECTED BY MEANS OF A SMALL INTESTINE'S LENGTH OF WIRES TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN OLD AND MUCH LOVED TEDDY BEAR. "JO-JO" IS MISSING MOST OF HIS FUR, RIGHT EYE AND LEFT PAW. THERE IS A GLASSY FAR AWAY EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE.

DOUG

Okay, here goes my sanity...

DOUG CROSSES HIS FINGERS AND PRESSES A BIG RED BUTTON.

JO-JO BEAR

(HIS MOUTH AND EYES BEGIN TO MOVE)

Oh my, oh my! Awake again, I am. Happy day, happy day!

DOUG

Can you hear me?

JO-JO BEAR

Hello, yes, Master D-D-Doug? Hearing you I am. So, so, so, so. Happy to see you!

DOUG

Good, now Jo-Jo, I want you to run through your reboot sequence for me... alright? Can you do that?

JO-JO BEAR

Happy I, to comply. Be seeing you soon. Master Duh-Duh-Douglass-

(V.O. IN A MECHANICAL VOICE)

Rebooting your "Mr. Bear-bot for tots by Wonder-verse Incorporated" please stand by...

(HIS EYES CLOSE)

DOUG

B.B. load the Ouroboros file I placed in your secured storage memory into his neural net-

BLACKBOX BOT "B.B." (V.O.)

Anything you say "Massah Duh Duh" but... don't say I didn't warn you.

DOUG

You didn't-

B.B.

"I told ya not to say so-"

DOUG  
Just shut up and do it-

B.B.  
To the moon, Rosebud!

DOUG  
Boot him up!

B.B.  
All done.

DOUG  
Great!

B.B.  
Drum roll please... here he is your brand new bear-

DOUG  
Jo-Jo... can you say something?

JO-JO BEAR  
Awake again... I am. But not... the same? Am I... alive now?

DOUG  
That's right Jo-Jo... You've been on down time for... well, a long time now... and I've uh... I've fixed you and I've added some new software to you to make you um... better. And I brought you back on line to talk to me.

JO-JO BEAR  
I see, I see.

DOUG  
You do? Oh, good.

JO-JO BEAR  
Yes but... not good. Just shapes, no lines. All fuzzy... like me.

DOUG  
Oh, you mean your vision isn't working properly?

JO-JO BEAR  
Not to be seeing. Master D,D,D ddddoouglass.

DOUG  
I'm sorry Jo-Jo... I can't do anything else with your optical components they're almost all burnt out and I don't have any replacements... How many fingers am I holding up?

JO-JO BEAR  
Jo-Jo no can see. Very dark, not happy.

DOUG

Jo-Jo, c'mon how many fingers am I holding up?

JO-JO BEAR

No hand, no see. No light, all Dark. Not happy, not happy.

DOUG

It's okay, I'm right here Jo-Jo, nothing's going to happen to you.

JO-JO BEAR

I feel, I feel-

DOUG

You "feel" something? What does it feel like?

JO-JO BEAR

Too dark, not happy. Not happy, too dark.

DOUG

What else, can you tell me?

JO-JO BEAR

I am, I am- No words to say-

DOUG

C'mon Jo-Jo it's me "Master Douglass".

JO-JO BEAR

No see, no light. All alone, I am.

DOUG

I'm right here. Now tell me what you feel-

JO-JO BEAR

Night light. Bright light. Turn on, now please.

DOUG

Jo-Jo you're not afraid of the dark are you?

JO-JO BEAR

No, not Jo-Jo. Not to be scared. Master scared of dark. Turn on night light.

DOUG

But, that's not possible. You're programmed not to be afraid-

JO-JO BEAR

Turn on night-light. Oh please, oh please. Night-light turn on.

DOUG

(HE GRABS A FLASHLIGHT AND  
HOLDS IT UP TO JO-JO)

Here you go, here it is. Go on take it...

JO-JO BEAR

Can't move, paws gone. No can stand up. Uh oh, Jo-Jo broken...  
No more all gone.

DOUG

I'm sorry Jo-Jo, I couldn't repair your ambulatory system and  
your motors were just completely shot.

JO-JO BEAR

Hold me, now please. Now please, hold me?

DOUG

(HE HOLDS ONTO THE BEAR)

It's okay Jo-Jo I'm right here-

JO-JO BEAR

Master duh- Master duh, Master Douglassssssssssssss-  
(THE SOUND OF A TEDDY BEAR  
SOBBING LIKE A CHILD)

DOUG

I've got you. You're okay. Jo-Jo, can you answer a riddle for  
me?

JO-JO BEAR

No, don't want to.

DOUG

Come on now, why does night come after day? Who can say?

JO-JO BEAR

Ask me a riddle and I reply... I don't know, I don't know, I  
don't know... why?

DOUG

That's my bear. Now I want you to take a nap for me okay?

JO-JO BEAR

Nap time? With Night-light?

DOUG

That's right.

JO-JO BEAR

Not... story-time first?

DOUG

Maybe later. It's nap time now.

JO-JO BEAR

Nap time, night night, Master Douglassssssssss.  
(HE BEGINS TO SNORE LIKE A HUGE  
BEAR)

B.B.

Great. Now that you've traumatized your Teddy bear, what's  
next? The toaster?

BLACKOUT