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The Lazy Man's Product Guide

Mowing a lawn. Arousing a woman. Flipping the pages of a book. Who can be bothered? Not the author, who set out to create the most indolent lifestyle money can buy.

I'VE NEVER BEEN a guy who liked doing much. I wear loafers because I hate bending over to tie my shoes. I stopped drinking milk years ago because I had issues with those bizarrely resistant unfolding cardboard tops. And I'd gladly pay a hundred dollars for a lightbulb that never--ever--burned out. This is how I am: I'm a lazy guy. Recalcitrant and sedentary. I'd find a good quote to put in here about the value of an idle life, but I don't feel like hunting down my Bartlett's.

In the interest of making my life even easier, I decided to round up a bunch of products designed to do just that. I turned to the retailers of the rich and the eccentric and to the suppliers of the handicapped, who always seem to get the best gadgets first. My goal: to create the laziest lifestyle possible. But to my great consternation, a lot of the stuff that was supposed to make things easier wound up demanding practice, precision, and lots of storage space. In other words, dare I say, a certain amount of effort. Still, fifty-six hours of setup time later, I do have cleaner, smoother teeth, a more satisfying %@# life, and several jars of pickles I opened with one finger.

GoDogGo fetch machine

The way it's supposed to work, you set this device in your yard and retreat to your porch, where, using a remote control, you fire a tennis ball in a beautifully repeating arc toward yonder fence, immediately after which your well-trained dog fetches the ball and drops it back into the cylinder so it can be fired again. My dog, that lazy \$*^@#, watched thirty tennis balls be fired before she even lifted a paw. I finished my beer, then went inside. Three days later, she brought one of them in to me. Good girl.