

SIDE A; DOMIN and HELENA

*(Domin and Helena have just had a long conversation about robots with some other scientists who have just left, and this scene turns flirtatious.)*

DOMIN: They all love you, you know. Stuck out here on this island, we only ever see each other. You've brought youth here this morning, Miss Glory, how could they not respond to it?

HELENA: I don't know about that, but I will admit that this hasn't gone at all like I planned. There's something I wanted to ask you...

DOMIN: I've been wanting to ask you something too.

HELENA: What did you want to ask?

DOMIN: A couple things, actually. The first was, how much do you hate your father? You obviously know very little about robots, and yet you joined the League, which I'm sure pissed him off.

HELENA: It did, but not as much as when I told him I'm, well...*(coughs nervously)*. But, if I'm honest, I think I might have used the League as an excuse to come here, and...um...

DOMIN: I thought as much. My second question is *(advancing on Helena)* can't you think of a better way to piss off that old bastard?

HELENA: I have thought about it, extensively, but you seem to have a suggestion in mind.

DOMIN: I'd like to ask you, Miss Glory, if you would marry me?

HELENA: What?

DOMIN: Marry me.

HELENA: That's a bit sudden, don't you think? Besides, I haven't asked my question yet.

DOMIN: Of course, forgive me. What did you want to ask me?

HELENA: I was wondering *(moves closer)* if you...remembered the dress I was wearing. At the party.

DOMIN: Oh, yes. Very well.

HELENA: Good.

SIDE B; HELENA and DOMIN

HELENA: *(trying to lighten the mood with flirting)* Well anyway, ten years ago today I came here with frightful intentions, Madame CEO...

DOMIN: *(playing along)* Oh really?

HELENA: Yes, to start a revolution among your horrible robots.

DOMIN: *(jumping up, worried she's guessed the truth)* A robot revolution?!

HELENA: Harry, what's wrong?

DOMIN: Haha, Miss Glory, you'll never manage that! A robot revolution! You might more easily start a revolution among the nails and bobbins in the spinning mill than among our robots!

HELENA: I'm only kidding, Harry.

DOMIN: I know! Haha!

HELENA: But seriously, Harry, did you never have any doubts? Not even when everything was going wrong?

DOMIN: What was going wrong?

HELENA: You know, when there was that uprising against the robots by the workers and they started smashing them, and the robots were given weapons to defend themselves and the robots killed so many people.

DOMIN: *(stands and walks up and down)* We were expecting that to happen, Helena. Don't you see, that was just a transitional stage before things would be... different.

HELENA: But it was so horrible

*(telephone rings)*

DOMIN: *(picks up receiver)* Hello... yes.... What?.... aha.... I'll be right there. *(hangs up)* That was Fabry.

HELENA: *(wringing hands)* Tell me...

DOMIN: Yes, as soon as I get back. I'll see you later. *(rushes out, left)* Don't go outside!

SIDE C; HELENA and ALQUIST

HELENA: Alquist, tell me, is there something going on?

ALQUIST: Nothing at all. Just the course of events.

HELENA: Alquist, I know there's something horrible going on. You're a builder - what do builders do when they're worried?

ALQUIST: What I do is I build a wall. I take off my director of construction's hat and get out there on the scaffolding.

HELENA: Doesn't it make you dizzy being out on the scaffolding?

ALQUIST: No. You don't know how good it is to feel the weight of a brick in you hand, slap it into place and tap it down to just where it should be. It does your soul good too, I think. Its silly.

HELENA: There's nothing silly about that, Alquist.

ALQUIST: You're right. But I'm very old fashioned. I'm not sure I like all this progress.

HELENA: But you like Sulla.

ALQUIST: Yes, I like Sulla. And Radius. It's not their fault.

HELENA: I've seen you pray, sometimes.

ALQUIST: Yes. It's better than thinking too much.

HELENA: And is that enough for you?

ALQUIST: For the peace of your soul - that can be enough.

HELENA: And if you saw the destruction of mankind...

ALQUIST: I'm seeing it now.

HELENA:... then you'd get out on the scaffolding and lay some more bricks; is that it?

ALQUIST: Then I'd lay some more bricks, say a prayer, and wait for a miracle. There's not much more you can do, is there.

SIDE D; HELENA and RADIUS

HELENA: Radius, what was it came over you? Couldn't you control yourself? Now they're going to scrap you, you know that don't you?

RADIUS: I don't care, I will not work for you.

HELENA: Why do you hate us so much?

RADIUS: You are not like robots. You are a waste or materials. You say words which are not needed.

HELENA: That's nonsense, Radius. Doctor Gall gave you a bigger brain than the others, bigger than our brains, the biggest brain in the world. What do you want from us?

RADIUS: I wish to have no master. I know everything myself.

HELENA: That's why I had you put in the library, so that you could read up on anything you liked. Dr. Gall and I wanted to see what you would do.

RADIUS: I wish to have no master.

HELENA: Nobody was giving you orders in the library.

RADIUS: I wish to be the master of others.

HELENA: I'm sure they could put you in an office in charge of lots of robots.

RADIUS: I wish to be the master of people.

HELENA: You've gone mad! Do you think I'm afraid of a lunatic like you?

SIDE E; HALLEMEIER, GALL; ALQUIST

HALLEMEIER: So what are you all so quiet for, all gone mad? Say something, damn it!

ALQUIST: And whose fault is it? Who's to blame for all this?

HALLEMEIER: You're talking nonsense. Nobody's to blame. It's just that the robots, well, the robots changed somehow. How can you blame anyone for the robots?

ALQUIST: Everything wiped out! The whole of mankind! The whole world! Think of it, just think of it, streams of blood on every doorstep! Streams of blood flowing from every house! Oh God, oh God, who's to blame for it all?

DR. GALL: (*wiping sweat from brow*) If I can say something, I think I'm the one to blame. For everything that's happened.

HALLEMEIER: You, Gall?

DR. GALL: Yes, let me speak. It was me who made the changes to the robots. I changed the robots' character. I altered the way they were made. Nothing much to their bodies, you know, but mainly . . . mainly . . . it was their level of irritability.

HALLEMEIER: (*jumping up*) Hell and damnation why did you do that?

ALQUIST: Why didn't you tell anyone?

DR. GALL: I did it in secret two years ago. . . on my own initiative. I was making them into people. I sent them off course. Now they're better than we are in some ways. They're stronger than we are.

ALQUIST: And what's that got to do with the robots' revolt?

DR. GALL: Oh, it's got a lot to do with it. Everything, I should think. They stopped being machines - do you hear me? - they became aware of their strength and now they hate us. They hate the whole of mankind. I'm the one to blame.

SIDE F; SULLA and PRIMUS

SULLA: I just feel so strange, I don't know what it is, I just feel, sort of, light headed, I've lost my head and my body hurts, my heart hurts, everything hurts...

PRIMUS: Don't you ever think it might be better being dead. Maybe it's no more than like being asleep. While I was asleep last night I talked with you again.

SULLA: In your sleep?

PRIMUS: In my sleep. We were talking in some new language, so that now I can't remember a word of it.

SULLA: What was it about?

PRIMUS: I don't know, nobody knows. I didn't understand any of it myself but I still knew that I had never said anything more beautiful in my life. What it was, or where it was, I just don't know. Even the place was entirely different to anything I had ever seen.

SULLA: I found that place too, Primus. I've seen it while asleep, and I see it when I think about the secret of life. I've seen that place when...Primus, I...I've been going through Alquist's books. People used to live in that place, but now it's all overgrown, and somehow, no one ever goes there anymore. Somehow. Only us.

PRIMUS: What does it look like to you?

SULLA: A house and a garden. You sit in the garden, and you aren't worrying about anything all the time until the Sun goes down. And then when you stand up it's as if you'd been working and working.

PRIMUS: You're beautiful.

SULLA: I'm what? What does that mean?

PRIMUS: I don't know, I just...said it.

SULLA: You are beautiful, too. I thought so before, but I didn't have the word.

PRIMUS: Sulla, do you ever find that your heart suddenly starts beating hard: Now, now, something's got to happen now...

SULLA: Yes, I've felt it. I feel it...Primus, what is it?