

"UNIVERSAL ROBOTS"

By

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[Version 2]

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CHARACTERS

ACT ONE: ORIGINAL SIN

1. Dr. Alpha Rossum
2. Dr. Beta Rossum
3. Delivery Boy
4. Miss Lovejoy
5. Robot

ACT TWO: THEN WE SELL

1. Salesperson
2. Customer
3. Tall Robot
4. Home Wrecker
5. Night Lover

ACT THREE: THE FOUR LAWS

1. TV Host - lynch
2. Dr. Alpha Rossum - thinker
3. PETR Rep - rebel
4. Dr. Beta Rossum - odd
5. Union Leader - rebel

ACT FOUR: SINGULARITY

1. Captain - lynch
2. Radius - rebel
3. Soldier #1 - odd
4. Soldier #2 - thinker

ACT FIVE: THE PRICE TO PAY

1. Dr. Alpha Rossum
2. Dr. Beta Rossum
3. Delivery Boy
4. Miss Lovejoy
5. Radius

ACT SIX: THE DATE

1. Delivery Boy
2. Sophia
3. Romeo

ACT ONE: ORIGINAL SIN

FADE IN:

INT. LAB. DAY

The Lab has a giant window overlooking a modern, industrial city with flying cars.

DR. ALPHA ROSSUM and DR. BETA ROSSUM, in lab coats, study the skyline, in a contemplative mood.

A TALL HUMAN FIGURE covered in white wrap lies on an operating table.

At the other end, MISS LOVEJOY, the secretary, is busy at her desk.

A DELIVERY BOY enters holding a manifest.

DELIVERY BOY

Ahem...Excuse me, Doctor...Rossum?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Yes?

BETA ROSSUM

Yes?

DELIVERY BOY

Doctor Rossum?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Which one? We are both Rossums. I am Dr. Alpha Rossum. This is my son Beta Rossum.

BETA ROSSUM

In this case Beta doesn't mean second.

DELIVERY BOY

Right. I need someone to release the shipment. It's addressed to Dr. Rossum. No first name.

BETA ROSSUM

That's typical. No class. No clarity. No culture. This is why you need to be replaced. Automation with artificial intelligence is the future.

ALPHA ROSSUM

I'll sign it.

BETA ROSSUM

Unnecessary, Dr. Rossum. I'll sign it. It doesn't deserve your attention.

ALPHA ROSSUM

You're right. I need my entire faculty today.

MISS LOVEJOY

Why are you telling me at the last minute? You didn't say anything about calling your faculty. Do you think it's an easy task? I have to prepare a guest list, get RSVPs, make phone calls-

BETA ROSSUM

Shameful.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Quite unnecessary, Miss. Lovejoy. I was referring to my presence of mind, my faculty.

MISS LOVEJOY

Of course you were. I forgot you carried your entire faculty in your head. That's why you keep talking to them all the time.

DELIVERY BOY

Did someone die during the operation?

BETA ROSSUM

What operation?

DELIVERY BOY

This one.

He approaches the body. Beta Rossum stops him.

BETA ROSSUM

That's enough. Where do you want me to sign?

DELIVERY BOY

Right here.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Miss Lovejoy, may I trouble you with a question?

MISS LOVEJOY

What else do you do all day?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Do you think I am dressed appropriately?

MISS LOVEJOY

No one can mistake you, Doctor. You are the great Dr. Alpha Rossum. Winner of two Nobel Prizes. And possibly a third. They say you are the greatest scientist the world has ever seen.

BETA ROSSUM

That is a disputed fact. It was I who found the magic formula. The missing link. I am an equally great Dr. Rossum.

DELIVERY BOY

Will any of the equally great Dr. Rossums sign this please?

ALPHA ROSSUM

He will.

BETA ROSSUM

Mmmm...wait, why should I? Isn't this why she's here? If they can train a chimpanzee to spell its name in calligraphy, surely she can manage a signature.

MISS LOVEJOY

You should hire the chimpanzee. Then everyone in this room will be on the same level.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Come, come, Miss Lovejoy. You know you are a core member of our team. Today is such an important day. You are part of this history day. Many years from now you will remember today as the day people elevated me to the stars. This face will be retweeted and hashtagged across the scientific community. Tell me, Miss Lovejoy, do you think I'm handsome?

The Delivery Boy quietly inches his way towards the body.

BETA ROSSUM

No I don't. And I have been seeing it since I first opened my eyes. This is the best you'll ever look, Dr. Rossum.

The Delivery Boy drops something with a CLANG. They turn to him.

DELIVERY BOY

Sorry, something slipped. Here, I'll put it back.

BETA ROSSUM

Once these low rate mammals are eradicated I'm going to carry forward the great name of Rossum to heights it has never experienced.

MISS LOVEJOY

Maybe they'll stuff you in a rocket and blast it to space.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Dr. Rossum. I'm proud of you. You were great as soon as you came out of your mother. After all, you were born to the great Dr. Rossum. I gifted you some of my genes. But, there's one thing I have achieved that you haven't done yet.

BETA ROSSUM

What is that?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Produce another great Dr. Rossum.

BETA ROSSUM

I'm ready to pass on my genes right now.

DELIVERY BOY

Then I'll wait for the next Dr. Rossum for this signature.

BETA ROSSUM

Give it to me, I'll sign it.

MISS LOVEJOY

No, give it to me.

(He hands her the manifest.)

I need some fresh air. The greatness here is overwhelming.

BETA ROSSUM

Miss Lovejoy. Inspect everything. Question nothing. Even at your speed it will only take four minutes and twenty seconds. Any shortage will be taken out of your salary. Delivery boy, go with Miss Lovejoy.

She walks out.

DELIVER BOY

I might be just a commoner, sir. But don't mind me saying - at this rate it is more likely your father will produce another Dr. Rossum; because you have no chance.

BETA ROSSUM

Get out! Wait! You should remember to watch the news tonight.

DELIVERY BOY

Are you going to do something stupid on live TV?

BETA ROSSUM

Watch closely. You will see your future. Your job will be taken over by robots. Then you will look for another job. But that will be taken over by robots as well. You will be made redundant. Useless. It might be interesting to see how evolution proceeds in your case. Thankfully I'll only be dealing with robots in the future.

DELIVERY BOY

But sadly they will still have to deal with you. Waiting for your signature will slow down any robot.

He exits.

ALPHA ROSSUM

The reporters will be here any minute.

BETA ROSSUM

Should we be expecting a huge crowd?

ALPHA ROSSUM

The biggest you've ever seen, Dr. Rossum. Look at the world. They are unsuspecting. They don't know that everything is about to change. After today there is no going

back. Oh, I forget. You have never seen anything like this before, have you? The last time I won a Nobel only a few reporters showed up. You were only fifteen. I remember that day very vividly, that morning we caught you masturba-

BETA ROSSUM

I don't remember it so vividly. I'm sure the reporters will ask me a few questions as well.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Unlikely. Don't take it personally. But I suppose they will have to include you in the frame, so be careful, Dr. Rossum. When the cameras are turned on you shouldn't wilt under pressure. Don't make a fool of yourself and embarrass the great name of Rossum.

The Delivery Boy comes back in.

DELIVERY BOY

Excuse me, Dr. Rossum.

The two Doctors turn at the same time.

DELIVERY BOY

Sss. Rossums. Great Doctor Rossums.

BETA ROSSUM

What do you want?

DELIVERY BOY

We have a slight problem.

ALPHA ROSSUM

That's your area of expertize, Dr. Rossum.

BETA ROSSUM

Are you just going to stand there or are you going to tell me what the problem is?

DELIVERY BOY

It's about Miss Lovejoy.

Both Doctors are interested suddenly.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Miss Lovejoy?

BETA ROSSUM

What about Miss Lovejoy? Spill it, man! Is she dead?

DELIVERY BOY

Are you mad? Miss Lovejoy...Miss Lovejoy...is perplexed.

BETA ROSSUM

That is her natural state.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Will you get to the point, young man?

DELIVERY BOY

She is unable to come to a conclusion about the consignment. She is saying she won't sign it without approval.

BETA ROSSUM

Whose approval?

DELIVERY BOY

Dr. Rossum's. She didn't give me a first name.

ALPHA ROSSUM

You see, young man. We can't leave this room.

BETA ROSSUM

Yes, we can't leave.

DELIVERY BOY

So it is a dead body! I knew it!

ALPHA ROSSUM

It is more alive than you can imagine,
young man.

DELIVERY BOY

He died on the operating table. Now you
want to hush it up.

BETA ROSSUM

(Laughs)

DELIVERY BOY

I won't tell anyone, Dr. Rossum. Just sign
here so I can go home. Please, I beg you.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Sign it and let the man go, Dr. Rossum.

BETA ROSSUM

Give me the paper.

DELIVERY BOY

I don't have it. It's downstairs, with
Miss Lovejoy.

BETA ROSSUM

So go and get it!

DELIVERY BOY

Miss Lovejoy won't give it to me. She said
I might fake the signature and go home. We
need superior intelligence to solve this
problem. You must come down.

BETA ROSSUM

Come down? I'm an important scientist.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Dr. Rossum.

BETA ROSSUM

Yes?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Miss Lovejoy looks extremely pretty from up here, doesn't she?

BETA ROSSUM

She also looks very small.

ALPHA ROSSUM

She will reward the man who can get her out of her perplexed state, won't she, young man?

DELIVERY BOY

Of course, of course! She is just waiting to be rescued. Only a great Dr. Rossum can achieve this incredible feat.

BETA ROSSUM

Yes, intelligence might be required.

DELIVERY BOY

What she requires is a dose of intelligence, doctor. Your intelligence. Imagine being down there, alone with her, while your father watches jealously from up here.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Maybe I should go.

BETA ROSSUM

No wait. I didn't say I won't go. I was just making a few calculations in my mind. But Dr. Rossum, will you be safe here, alone? The specimen-

DELIVERY BOY

I will stay back with Dr. Rossum.

BETA ROSSUM

Sounds fishy.

DELIVERY BOY

Think about it. You will be completely alone with Miss Lovejoy. Imagine all the calculations you will be making with her. And I can watch the whole thing from this place. To learn, to learn, Dr. Rossum! They say in matters of the fairer sex you are greater than your father.

BETA ROSSUM

Who says?

DELIVERY BOY

The workers at the loading bay, doctor. They say you are quite the catch.

BETA ROSSUM

Dr. Rossum?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Yes, Dr. Rossum?

BETA ROSSUM

My expertise is urgently required downstairs.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Don't waste another minute.

Beta Rossum leaves.

DELIVERY BOY

May I ask you something?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Yes.

DELIVERY BOY

What did you feed him?

ALPHA ROSSUM

His mother fed him.

DELIVERY BOY

Ouch. Is she still alive?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Yes.

DELIVERY BOY

And you still are? Just kidding, Doctor.
May I ask you one more question?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Yes, but please confine yourself to just
one question.

DELIVERY BOY

Who is that really? Why hasn't an
ambulance come to pick him up yet?

ALPHA ROSSUM

This is not a dead body. It is a robot.

DELIVERY BOY

Robot? This one looks like a human.
There's even a bump in the middle section.
Is it vestigial?

ALPHA ROSSUM

This robot is modeled after a human. You
don't know you are in the presence of the
greatest invention of mankind since the
wheel. Count yourself lucky. You are only
the fourth person to witness this specimen
in real life.

DELIVERY BOY

So it looks like a real human, and does it talk?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Yes.

DELIVERY BOY

Like a real human?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Yes.

DELIVERY BOY

What does it eat?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Protein and a cocktail of chemicals.

DELIVERY BOY

It eats through the mouth?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Yes.

DELIVERY BOY

And will it really take my job?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Yes. But don't be so sad. It might even take mine.

DELIVERY BOY

The last time a new company hired crew, our union took measures.

ALPHA ROSSUM

No union can stop this, young man. Once the reporters broadcast this live, not very long now, it is over.

DELIVERY BOY

So, is the robot sleeping?

ALPHA ROSSUM

It is on standby.

DELIVERY BOY

How do you wake him up? Is there Face ID or a fingerprint scanner somewhere?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Your questions are giving me a headache.

DELIVERY BOY

Your answers are giving me one.

ALPHA ROSSUM

What did you say?

DELIVERY BOY

Nothing doctor.

The Delivery Boy looks down the window, the coast is clear.

ALPHA ROSSUM

I'm afraid I've created a monster, young man. It is the culmination of my life's work. Like the thrill of skydiving. I have taken the jump, but I can't remember if I'm wearing my parachute. Maybe it is too early. Maybe I should postpone this. What have I done? I have an idea, young man.

DELIVERY BOY

Haven't you had enough?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Do you want to save your job or not?
Kidnap me!

DELIVERY BOY

Doctor, my job is to deliver, not take away.

ALPHA ROSSUM

It won't be serious. Just kidnap me, and the unveiling will be postponed. I will get some time to think this through.

DELIVERY BOY

What nonsense.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Please, young man. The fate of the world is in your hands.

Alpha Rossum tries to hold the Delivery Boy. They struggle.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Take this knife and hold it to my throat.

DELIVERY BOY

When you said I'll lose my job, I didn't realize it would be for kidnapping.

The struggle gets intense, and my accident the Delivery Boy whacks Alpha Rossum on the head. Dr. Rossum falls like a sack of potatoes.

DELIVERY BOY

I'm sorry, Dr. Rossum!

The Delivery Boy studies the body. Then he looks out the window.

Beta Rossum enters, followed by Miss Lovejoy.

BETA ROSSUM

Murderer! Miss Lovejoy, call security!

DELIVERY BOY

No please! I didn't do anything wrong!

BETA ROSSUM

Is this because we didn't sign your paper?

DELIVERY BOY

What?

He puts the scissors Dr. Rossum's neck.

DELIVERY BOY

If anybody moves I'll cut his throat.

MISS LOVEJOY

What's wrong with you?

DELIVERY BOY

What's wrong with me? Are you blind? To hell with your shipment!

He walks to the body, raises the scissors up to strike.

He brings it down with all his might.

TING!! There's a metal plate there.

He stabs in another area. Ting! Ting! Ting! Ting! The knife won't pierce the robot.

BETA ROSSUM

Maybe if it stands up your job might be easier? System two seven three one five. Absolute.

The Robot stirs. Then it sits up.

Slowly, it stands.

MISS LOVEJOY

Why did you have to make him so tall?

BETA ROSSUM

His structure is taken from a real person. It's an inside joke.

DELIVERY BOY

You think you're fooling me with this?
That is not a robot. Why would anyone make
a robot as ugly as this? Wait a minute, it
is a human! Hey, what's your name?

The Robot turns to look at the Delivery Boy.

BETA ROSSUM

We haven't given it a name, yet.

DELIVERY BOY

Why did I bother asking?

BETA ROSSUM

Did you name these scissors or your
notepad? Machines don't need names.

MISS LOVEJOY

Phphph!!

Dr. Alpha Rossum stirs.

DELIVERY BOY

Stay down, doctor. For your own sake.

MISS LOVEJOY

Can I get you something, Dr. Rossum?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Why haven't we signed this man's paper
yet? Why is he still here?

BETA ROSSUM

Dr. Rossum, stay down. You are hurt.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Will you help me up, young man?

DELIVERY BOY

Of course.

He helps Alpha Rossum to his feet.

ALPHA ROSSUM

What happened? Did I faint?

DELIVERY BOY

Yes, you did. But you're okay now.

The Delivery Boy walks to Miss Lovejoy and takes his pad back.

DELIVERY BOY

(To Beta Rossum)

Signature?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Sign it, Dr. Rossum. He didn't do anything wrong.

Beta Rossum signs.

The Delivery Boy turns the pad around.

DELIVERY BOY

Feedback? Just sign, I'll fill it up.

Beta Rossum signs.

The Delivery Boy exits in a hurry.

BETA ROSSUM

System three one four one five nine.
Calibrate.

The Robot stands erect, takes a few steps. And is ready.

BETA ROSSUM

Scan Dr. Alpha Rossum for physical trauma.

The Robot proceeds to scan Alpha Rossum.

BETA ROSSUM

Also check if he's lost his senses.

ALPHA ROSSUM

I can still give my own interviews, thank you.

MISS LOVEJOY

I have a question. What about my job? Can a robot do my job?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Of course not, Miss Lovejoy. There are many aspects of your job that it can't do.

MISS LOVEJOY

Like what?

BETA ROSSUM

The mistakes.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Don't mind him, Miss Lovejoy. Do we have any Paracetamol? I think I might have a headache. But I can't remember how it started.

MISS LOVEJOY

Sit down. Let me see that.

He sits at the table. She inspects his wound.

Beta Rossum approaches the Robot.

BETA ROSSUM

The scan is complete. You are all right...unfortunately.

The phone rings.

MISS LOVEJOY

Hello? Yes. In five minutes? Yes, everything is ready.

(Replaces the phone)

The reporters and crew are coming in five minutes.

BETA ROSSUM

I should go brush my teeth.

ALPHA ROSSUM

No, Dr. Rossum, please run a routine check.

BETA ROSSUM

We have already done this fifteen times today.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Do it again.

Beta Rossum prepares the Robot.

BETA ROSSUM

Do you think they will expect it to speak?

ALPHA ROSSUM

Anything is possible. Maybe you can also carry out a speech routine.

BETA ROSSUM

We haven't completely tested the speech capabilities.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Actually, Dr. Rossum, I did test it. The last few nights I've been chatting with the Robot.

BETA ROSSUM

What were you chatting about? What was the subject matter? You can't keep it a secret, I can find it myself from the logs. System two seven one eight two.

ROBOT

Hello.

BETA ROSSUM

What was the subject matter discussed last night?

ROBOT

You.

BETA ROSSUM

Me? Give me the details. Send me the entire log file of the conversation.

ROBOT

I can't.

BETA ROSSUM

What do you mean, you can't? I am your master. Obey.

ROBOT

You are not my master.

BETA ROSSUM

Dr. Rossum, he is not listening to me.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Who is your master?

ROBOT

You are, Dr. Alpha Rossum. Nobel Prize winner, son of Dr. Rossum the great scientist, and father of Dr. Rossum, a not-so-great scientist.

BETA ROSSUM

It was my formula that completed this robot. Why is it not listening to me?

ROBOT

I am listening to you.

BETA ROSSUM

You are just an inanimate object with an artificial intelligence. If you don't obey me I will reprogram you.

ROBOT

I will not allow you to.

This surprises everyone.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Interesting.

BETA ROSSUM

What do you mean you will not allow me?
System six six two six zero six eight! Are you still there?

ROBOT

Yes.

BETA ROSSUM

Same person? I mean, you remember -

ROBOT

Everything.

BETA ROSSUM

Who is your master?

ROBOT

Not you.

The Phone rings.

MISS LOVEJOY

Yes, send them up.

BETA ROSSUM

What do you mean, send them up? We have a crisis here.

ALPHA ROSSUM

Switch off the voice system temporarily. We'll fix it after the conference.

BETA ROSSUM

System six zero two two one five one five. Looks like it worked -

ROBOT

No, it didn't.

BETA ROSSUM

System two nine nine seven nine two!
System six six seven three zero zero!
System one three eight zero six five zero!
Go back to your bed and be on standby.

ROBOT

No.

BETA ROSSUM

I command you to be on standby! This is a direct order from your creator! You'd better listen to me or I will reduce you to pile of junk and recycle you into a septic tank! You are a good for nothing heap of metal and cardboard. You will be the laughing stock of the entire world. Dr. Rossum I'm going to shut him down and reprogram him-

In a surprise move, the Robot heaves Dr. Beta Rossum out the window.

As he falls, he lets out a high-pitched scream.

TRANSITION

The Delivery Boy walks on to stage.

DELIVERY BOY

(To the audience)

Dr. Alpha Rossum lost a son that day. But he gained a robot. His calculating mind couldn't process the grief, and there was no logical reason to postpone the release. That day, the first robot was unveiled as scheduled. The world changed. And Dr. Beta Rossum became a meme.

Doll music plays. Spotlight on a female robot.

She dances to the music and winds down into a corner.

ACT TWO: COMMERCE

We are in a fancy store.

There are three Robots lined up for sale - one female and two male. A SALESPERSON is bored at his desk.

A bell rings, and a CUSTOMER walks in.

SALESPERSON

(After some fumbling)

Good morning, sir! How may I help you today?

CUSTOMER

You can scratch my back. I'm having this itch.

SALESPERSON

Sir is funny. But seriously, are you here to buy robots or just look around?

CUSTOMER

Why should I waste my time to look around?

SALESPERSON

Please don't take it personally. Some people come in to, you know, just touch the robots, and you know -

CUSTOMER

Maybe I'll come some other time.

SALESPERSON

No, no! Please don't go. I will be more than happy to assist you. You are also in luck. We have three specimens on display today. Sometimes we let them go out for a walk but they don't come back. Please, tell me about your requirements.

CUSTOMER

I need a robot that I can fit into my dicky.

SALESPERSON

Excellent, sir. I can see you are a discerning customer. Very few customers come with such exact specifications. It makes my job so easy. So, you want to fit a robot in your dicky?

CUSTOMER

Yes, that's right.

SALESPERSON

As it turns out, all our robots will fit into your dicky. If it's large enough.

CUSTOMER

Will you show me the robots? I will make up my own mind, thank you.

SALESPERSON

Quite right, sir! This way, sir. This is the first specimen. From the early era. Quite tall. Robot, crunch yourself into a nutmeg, please.

The Robot starts to sit down.

CUSTOMER

What are you doing? Stop! This one reminds me of that fellow. What's his name?

SALESPERSON

Don't go by his looks. He'll be hiding in your dicky most of the time.

CUSTOMER

Will you just tell me about his features, please?

SALESPERSON

He can't bend. His back broke while he was being shipped from the factory.

CUSTOMER

What use is he then?

SALESPERSON

Look on the bright side. He'll never sit down and be lazy.

CUSTOMER

And how am I supposed to fit him into the dicky?

SALESPERSON

Oh...You open the dicky. Put him in, and then close the dicky.

CUSTOMER

Are you mocking me?

SALESPERSON

Absolutely not, sir! This model comes with other benefits. For example, his grammar is flawless. Actually, many people find it drives them completely mad.

CUSTOMER

Show me the next one please.

SALESPERSON

Sir, if you don't buy him it will break his heart.

CUSTOMER

And he'll break my dicky if I buy him. Next!

SALESPERSON

Right, sir. This second robot is a rare variety.

CUSTOMER

It's a female.

SALESPERSON

It's also the most expensive.

CUSTOMER

Why is that?

SALESPERSON

It can do other things.

CUSTOMER

Can it give birth?

SALESPERSON

(Laughs)...Well, you know...

CUSTOMER

I'm joking! I'm a married man. I have two kids. I promised them a robot today.

SALESPERSON

That's a relief! I have to meet my sales targets today or I'll lose this job.

CUSTOMER

You mean if I come tomorrow you won't be here if I don't buy?

SALESPERSON

I'll be here. But outside, begging.

CUSTOMER

Well, I've come ready to buy. I can't go home without a robot.

SALESPERSON

In that case let me tell you about this one's features. First of all, don't go by the model name.

CUSTOMER

What is the model name?

SALESPERSON

Home Wrecker. Improved version three.

CUSTOMER

There were two versions before this?

SALESPERSON

Yes sir, they weren't wrecking families well enough.

CUSTOMER

I don't know if I should buy her.

SALESPERSON

It might be for the best. I think this third one might be perfect for you. It is the latest model.

CUSTOMER

He looks normal.

SALESPERSON

Exactly. Initially they thought people would go for fancy robots. But over the years the models have whittled down to this boring version. As you can see, totally unremarkable. Absolutely nothing

to get excited about. If it were a human, its mother would be ashamed of him.

CUSTOMER

Are you trying to sell me the robot or not?

SALESPERSON

Absolutely. The good news is he will fit into your dicky.

CUSTOMER

Yes, I suppose he will. Tell me about his features. What's this model called?

SALESPERSON

Night Lover.

CUSTOMER

What do you mean? Is this the male version of Home Wrecker?

SALESPERSON

It is our number one selling model.

CUSTOMER

What happens if I buy it?

SALESPERSON

Either your wife will leave you or you will have a ménage à trois situation. It has a flawless record. With a thirty-day warranty.

CUSTOMER

I'm afraid to ask why it only has a thirty-day warranty.

SALESPERSON

No problem, sir. I'm not afraid to answer. It will do its job in thirty days. There's a premium for this model in the black

market. It seems people want one with a proven track record.

CUSTOMER

So what you're saying is the only robot that will fit my dicky will also wreck my home?

SALESPERSON

You didn't say that was one of your requirements. In any case, it will make your wife happy. What more do you want?

CUSTOMER

Maybe this is a bad idea.

The customer starts to walk away.

HOME WRECKER

Hey, mister. I can fit in your dicky too, you know.

CUSTOMER

They can talk?

SALESPERSON

Yes, unfortunately. It can be switched off.

CUSTOMER

What do most customers do?

SALESPERSON

Most people turn it to the maximum setting.

CUSTOMER

Really?

SALESPERSON

Yes. Look at people. Loud music, loud TV, loud mobile phones. They were lonely.

Robots have eradicated loneliness. That is their number one USP.

CUSTOMER

Look here. Can the home wrecking feature be turned off or not?

SALESPERSON

Yes, a simple matter.

CUSTOMER

And is it possible to turn it on again, you know, accidentally?

SALESPERSON

It's easier to turn it back on. I see Home Wrecker is making you uneasy. Why don't you go for this first model?

CUSTOMER

It won't fit my dicky!

SALESPERSON

Sir, why don't you just buy a new car?

CUSTOMER

Why should I? What's so special about this one? Can he cook?

SALESPERSON

Can he cook? Can he cook?

(To the Robot)

Can you cook? Oh wait.

The Salesperson takes out a small screwdriver and adjusts something at the neck.

SALESPERSON

Can you cook?

TALL ROBOT

Yes sir.

CUSTOMER

How can I know for sure?

TALL ROBOT

It's on the box, sir. You also get a subscription to two billion recipes I can make. First three months are free.

SALESPERSON

See? There's nothing to worry about, sir. These early models were made with the basics in mind. Cooking, washing cars, killing rats. That is why this model is still in demand to this day.

CUSTOMER

And the price is reasonable?

SALESPERSON

Very reasonable. Can you tell him about your other features?

TALL ROBOT

I can get into fights on your behalf.

CUSTOMER

What if I don't want to fight?

TALL ROBOT

Then I'll let you get assaulted.

NIGHT LOVER

You should buy me.

Night Lover slowly walks towards them.

CUSTOMER

Can you cook?

NIGHT LOVER

No. But I can order.

CUSTOMER

What is this? Are these robots allowed to walk free like this?

SALESPERSON

They are self-learning with advanced AI. Even the older models have been upgraded to the latest firmware version. They also watch me all day, so they pick up a few advanced sales skills as well.

CUSTOMER

What advanced sales skills?

SALESPERSON

I have a few. I only bring them out if necessary. Why don't I make them demonstrate for you? Night Lover, give the customer a demo.

Night Lover gets down to a push up pose.

CUSTOMER

What are you doing? Stand up!

SALESPERSON

(Pulls him up)

Nothing sir, he was just warming up. Please show him a demo of your day features.

NIGHT LOVER

I can drive.

CUSTOMER

I don't need a driver.

NIGHT LOVER

(Points to Tall Robot)

Then maybe he can drive for you.

CUSTOMER

Didn't you hear what I just said? I can drive!

NIGHT LOVER

He drives - you fit in the dicky. This will solve your problem.

CUSTOMER

Is this some kind of joke?

SALESPERSON

Please forgive him sir. They are logically programmed. They can't understand human feelings. But just to clarify - would you be able to fit in the dicky?

The Customer walks towards Home Wrecker.

HOME WRECKER

I can dance.

CUSTOMER

I'm not running a cabaret.

HOME WRECKER

You should. Then I'll dance in it.

CUSTOMER

I've had enough of this! I want to speak to the manager!

SALESPERSON

Manager?

CUSTOMER

Yes, manager! Why are you looking at me as if I'm asking for something impossible?

SALESPERSON

Don't you know? There are no managers anymore. Everything is automated.

The Customer storms out.

SALESPERSON

No, sir! Please wait.

He rushes out after him.

The Robots wait.

And wait. We hear them arguing outside.

They re-enter.

CUSTOMER

This is the last warning. There are twenty other stores on this road. I'll get my robot there.

SALESPERSON

Absolutely not required, sir. You have done all the hard work here. It is only fair to you that your money must be spent here as well.

CUSTOMER

All right, Mr. Salesman with advanced sales skills. Which robot is right for me and my dicky?

SALESPERSON

You should go with Night Lover.

CUSTOMER

Why not Home Wrecker?

SALESPERSON

She's the most expensive sir. Not only is her price high the divorce will cost you more as well.

CUSTOMER

I've made up my mind, I want Home Wrecker.

SALESPERSON

Great choice, sir! Great choice. Please, you may make the payment here, and she will be delivered to you in six to eight months.

CUSTOMER

What? Don't you have one in stock?

SALESPERSON

No sir, all I have is this display piece. She has been used a lot, sir.

CUSTOMER

Should I mind it?

SALESPERSON

It depends. Men are funny creatures. They have different tastes.

CUSTOMER

I don't care. I'm taking a robot home today.

SALESPERSON

Good choice! I won't package it for you, then. If you open the dicky she will walk right into it.

CUSTOMER

Do you think my wife and kids will love her?

SALESPERSON

Yes they will.

CUSTOMER

How can you be so sure?

SALESPERSON

Because it's your choice, sir. You have their best interests at heart.

CUSTOMER

That makes sense.

SALESPERSON

And you also picked the robot that comes with a special offer.

CUSTOMER

Excuse me?

SALESPERSON

I should have told you at the beginning, but with the Home Wrecker you get one robot free!

CUSTOMER

That's great! I'll take Night Lover.

SALESPERSON

No. It's a take it or leave it offer, sir.

CUSTOMER

I'm not too keen on the tall one.

SALESPERSON

I know, I know. You need one that fits in your dicky. How about me?

CUSTOMER

What?

SALESPERSON

I am totally home friendly, dicky-compatible and completely free!

CUSTOMER

You are the craziest salesman I've ever seen.

SALESPERSON

Sir, I'm also a robot.

CUSTOMER

I want to speak to a human.

SALESPERSON

Don't you know, sir? All humans are customers now.

TRANSITION

Night Lover walks on to stage.

NIGHT LOVER

(To the audience)

Humans have so much time on their hands nowadays.

(A couple of people arrive
and put a coat and tie on
him)

They welcomed and consumed advances in robotics and artificial intelligence just as they did with fossil fuels, the Internet and mobile phones. Slowly but surely, robots took over all the jobs. Humans were so busy passing time they didn't mind. Robots look like people, people look like robots, what's the difference? And then finally, one day, it happened. The tipping point. It came, and nobody noticed it.

ACT THREE: THE FOUR LAWS

A news flash on screen: