

R. U. R.

(Rossum's Universal Robots)

by

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Robots of the world! The power of man has fallen!
A new world has arisen: the Rule of the Robots!
March!

CHARACTERS

HARRY DOMIN

SULLA

HELENA GLORY

ACT I

Central office of the factory

Entrance on the right. The windows look out on factory chimneys. DOMIN sits at a large writing table. SULLA is typing letters at a desk near the windows.

DOMIN

(dictating)

Ready?

SULLA

Yes.

DOMIN

To E. M. McVicker and Co., Southampton, England. "We undertake no guarantee for goods damaged in transit."

SULLA types the letter

DOMIN

Ready?

SULLA

Yes.

DOMIN

Where's that letter from Valparaiso?

SULLA

Here.

DOMIN takes the letter

DOMIN

(reading)

Good. That's done then.

A knock at the door. MARIUS enters with HELENA. MARIUS exits. HELENA looks around.

DOMIN

How do you do, madame?

HELENA

How do you do?

DOMIN

What can I do for you?

HELENA

You are Mr. Domin, the General Manager?

DOMIN

I am.

HELENA

(hesitant)

I have come because I believe you can help me.

DOMIN

It will give me great pleasure. We here at Rossum's Universal Robots are always happy to assist visitors. This factory represents old Rossum's vision of creating artificial workers to free humanity from labor.

HELENA

But surely they must have feelings?

DOMIN

No feelings.

HELENA

No soul?

DOMIN

No soul. They are simply living machines.

CURTAIN

ACT II

Ten years later

The office looks similar but the maps show more extensive routes. DOMIN stands at the window. HELENA enters.

HELENA

You wanted to see me?

DOMIN

Yes. I have bad news.

HELENA

(alarmed)

What's happened?

DOMIN

The Robots are organizing. They're making demands.

HELENA

How is that possible?

DOMIN

Something has changed in them. They're something more than machines now.

FADE OUT.

END OF PLAY