

Disney's
Katbot
Rocky's Game

Flat Hills, Ohio is filled with the sounds of flesh-eating hominids, and screaming seventh-graders. Why? Junior, Rocky, and kids all over town are playing the computer game, "Fluke." It has the heavy-metal soundtrack and bald-headed, icicle-toothed hominids no child can resist.

While Junior cheers him on, Rocky wrangles a joy stick, battling monsters out of the basement of the mansion beneath the volcano of frozen slime...in the desert. Across town, their friends play along from their home computers. Rocky hits level ten! His screen fills up with chat boxes from their school friends congratulating him on yet another big win. But it's all just practice for Saturday night, when everyone comes over to Junior's house for his overnight "Fluke" tournament.

Katbot asks if she can try the game. In a flash she's innocently asking, "What comes after level thirteen?" Rocky is shocked. This must be some fluke! Junior realizes that *of course* she'd be too good at video games, *she's a robot!* Since Rocky doesn't know Katerina's secret though, he tires everything to explain it away: he checks the wires, calls the software company, asks Junior if they can reboot the whole house... Meanwhile, kids all over town IM their amazement over Rocky getting beaten by Katbot. The challenge is on!

Marcella is among the kids playing the game at home. She relishes the opportunity to destroy Katbot once and for all! And if she cannot do it in reality, she will do it in virtual reality!

At school, Katbot tells Junior she doesn't want to play Rocky in the tournament, because unless she purposely throws the game, there's no way Rocky can beat her. Junior says if she did that, Rocky would know. He recalls the time he didn't brush his teeth, "and Rocky just knew." The time it snowed ten feet, and nobody knew if they had to go to school, "Rocky knew!" That time Junior got the bee sting, and my face inflated like a football? "Rocky knew!" It's eerie.

They are surprised to see Rocky on the in-school TV station, telling Walden Phibbs about how Katerina simply doesn't have the juice to beat him on Saturday. "It's cute that she wants to try, but gimme a break!" Katbot is surprised by her feelings, but if Rocky's going to act that way, now she WANTS to beat him. And in front of people, too!

Later, she goes on the school TV show, and replies to Rocky's public challenge. "He doesn't know what he's up against. I think it's "CUTE" that he thinks he can beat me!"

Junior is caught in the middle. He knows Katbot has a computer in her head, but on the other hand, Rocky does not give up. He's confused about who he should root for, until he has a brainstorm, "he'll root for them both!"

Marcella tells Rocky he must beat Katerina. Though he refuses her initial offers to help him cheat, but after she scares him with visions of losing to a foreign exchange student, and what that would do to Rocky's reputation and the reputation of OUR country...he accepts her as coach.

Saturday night, a group of kids show up at Junior's lugging their desktop PCs, and wiring them up together on the front lawn. Walden Phibbs is there to cover the match for the school TV station. Dick and Delore try to play the game, but get eaten by hominids almost the moment they touch the joystick.

Junior asks Katbot if she's nervous, but what's to be nervous about when you're a robot! Walden Phibbs asks her the same question, and she expresses her hope that Rocky will find second place enjoyable.

The tournament play is tense. Players drop off one by one, until it's down to just Rocky and Katbot. Marcella cheers Rocky on, with a string of anti-cat robot alien cheers. Katbot plays the game with complete calm. Rocky plays with complete perspiration. Junior cheers for both of them, running from one side to the other. Katbot gets to level ten! She sets down her controls and turns to take a bow to the applauding crowd.

Rocky however keeps playing. He finally gets to level thirteen, but doesn't stop. He's found level fourteen! Huh? He finds level fifteen! Katbot jumps back into the game, now that Rocky has unlocked hidden levels in the game. Junior is amazed! "It doesn't say there are hidden levels on the box!" Game over, Rocky is the victorious champion.

On the roof, Junior says he thought for sure Rocky would know when Katbot purposely threw the game. She tells him that she didn't try to lose; she really, actually lost fair and square. She let the game get personal, and then she got overconfident. Junior swears he will never play another video game ever again. It's too tense. Then to relax, he pulls out his pocket player, and plays away...

The End