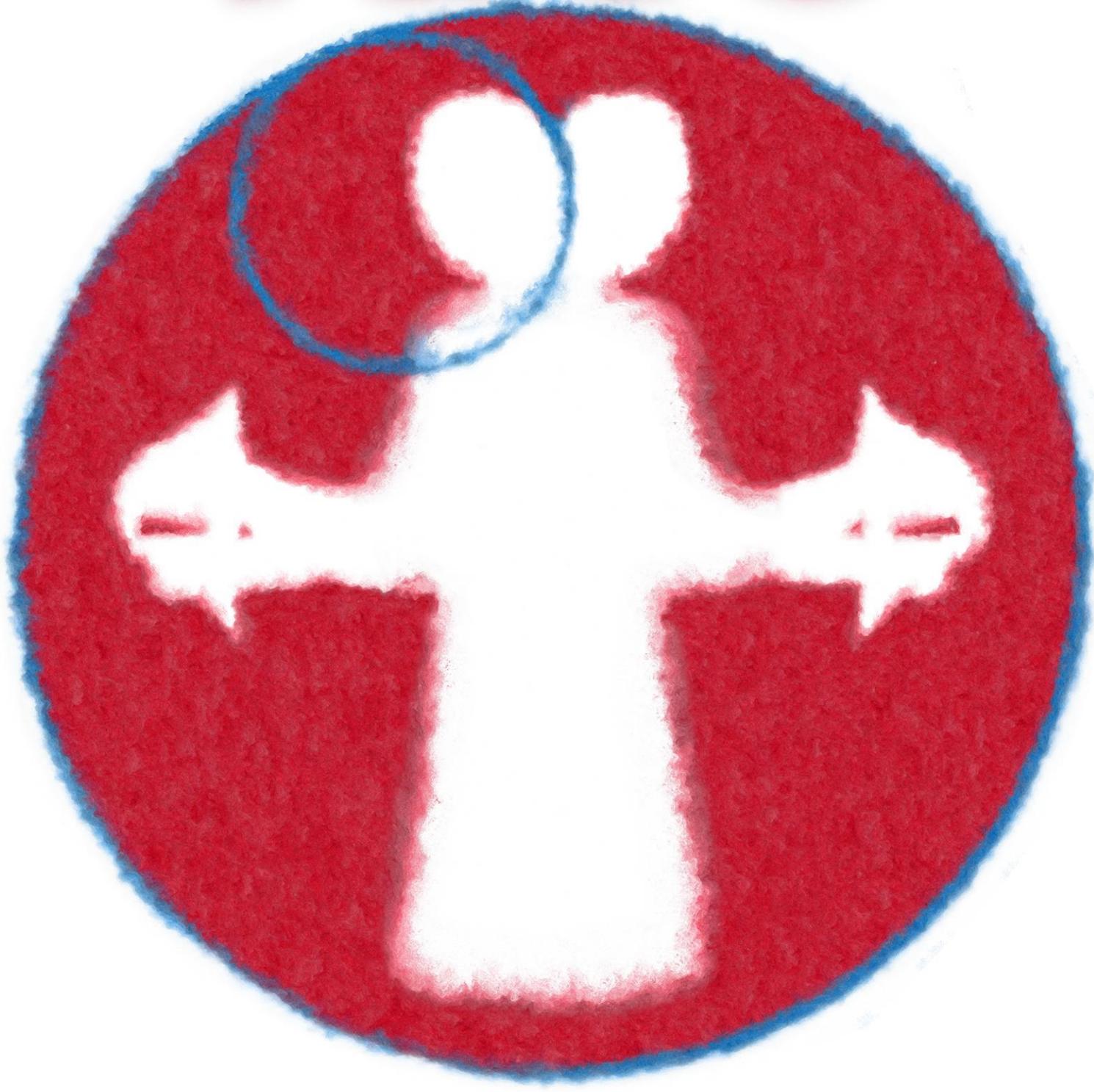


fuse



Music, Lyrics, and Book by D.Q. Pham

2

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I feel so... (insert your fusion of emotions by the end) for you. What else could I do to truly thank the folks at Fermilab for giving me a chance to log data? How else could I keep my mentors recalling me in an electric field of serious physics careerists? I loved my best friend my whole life so when he came out of the closet, I still love him. Who else?!

Where you can find me when you have the answers are what I dream to be: In the hearts and minds of directors, actors, crews, and viewers of all walks of life. And I would sing back, "Thank you for giving this particle a chance to matter."

SYNOPSIS

Fuse is the musical about finding your charge. A physicist fights through her education and for the opportunities that follow. Though her mind is valuable for the good of the magnetic paces that follow, dreams do not electrify. So, she may need to reconnect working circuits and disconnect from those that crossed the field lines.

Ruth enters Columbia University as a physics student dreaming of working at an accelerator. The years she had under the teachers of Boltz facilitated a concentration of magnetism. However, there was no attraction between the opposite charges, but an instance of perhaps, identical. Амалия take charge of Ruth's livelihood each time it was cut down by Boltz's power to fail students and even defund institutions. In the conclusion of this musical thesis, Ruth may have the circuits in the end to bring unharnessed electric energy to Brookhaven National Laboratory.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Character	Vocal Range	Age
RUTH	Mezzo-Soprano – Soprano	20s
	The bright and brazen technician. Despite attending college late due to life's inhibitions, she rose quickly. Despite conforming to society, she left unique. Placing faith in magnets, she will find her charge.	
АМАЛИЯ (Amalia)	Alto – Mezzo-Soprano	20s
	RUTH's doctoral advisor and close friend. She supported RUTH as a doctoral student when others rejected RUTH. She becomes the supervising engineer of Brookhaven National Laboratory.	
COIL BOLTZ	Baritone	20s
	As a child prodigy, he held tenure as the youngest professor of physics. He grows up to be the director of Brookhaven National Laboratory. He once shared a deep friendship with RUTH.	
ADAM	Bass – Baritone	20+
	An Adam that makes up for things.	

Ensemble		
- STUDENTS: 4+	- RESEARCH ASSISTANTS	- PROFESSORS: 4
- POLITICIANS	- ENGINEERS	

NOTES ON ATTIRE & COSMETICS

Performer portraying RUTH: In the emergence era of co-op research, she would fit in with generally a blouse, a belted skirt, and close-toed heels. RUTH eventually lugs around her sentimental red helmet, attached to a lanyard around her neck.

Performer portraying АМАЛИЯ: АМАЛИЯ soils her science gear when she is working, but when she is not, she wears much more dull clothes. АМАЛИЯ wears her blue helmet at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Performer portraying BOLTZ: BOLTZ fits in anywhere. He is suited to take on a tenure. He is beyond well-dressed for Brookhaven National Laboratory to demonstrate his reign. In that case, he hardly sleeps.

Performer portraying ADAM: ADAM dubs the Columbia University apparel.

Performers portraying engineers: The blue clothes and safety gear are for nanoscience.

#	Title	Location	Character(s) MAIN ensemble
1.	Tour	Columbia University (Administration Bldg → Lecture Hall → Laboratory → BOLTZ's Office)	RUTH АМАЛИЯ BOLTZ ADAM students (4+)
2.	Centration	BOLTZ's Office	RUTH BOLTZ research assistants
3.	G	Conference Hall	RUTH АМАЛИЯ professors (4)
4.	Fuse	Conference Hall	RUTH
5.	Vex	Desertron	RUTH АМАЛИЯ BOLTZ ADAM
6.	Gress	Debate Chamber	RUTH BOLTZ ADAM politicians
7.	Form	Medical Supply Facility	RUTH ADAM engineers
8.	Quer	Medical Supply Facility	RUTH АМАЛИЯ
9.	Template	Brookhaven	RUTH АМАЛИЯ BOLTZ professors
10.	Grats	Brookhaven	RUTH АМАЛИЯ BOLTZ professors → engineers

SCENES & SET DESIGNS

Scene Page	Location	Character(s) SET props
1. 8	Train	PASSENGER COACH
2. 9	Administration Building	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY BANNER DESK schedule notebooks pens
3. 11	Lecture Hall	DESK with magnets (6+), box with magnet inside, field line diagram, packet, pen CHALKBOARD WITH FIELD LINE DIAGRAM chairs
4. 14	Laboratory	DESK with magnets (6+), box with magnet inside, field line diagram, packet, pen
5. 18	BOLTZ's Office	DESK with box with magnet inside, field line diagram, packet, pen booklet packets
6. 24	Conference Hall	PACKETS ON THE GROUND
7. 30	Desertron	OPERATOR'S CONTROL
8. 34	Debate Chamber	OPERATOR'S CONTROL stack of cash
9. 38	Medical Supply Facility	WORKSTATIONS form pen magnets pacemakers metals wooden board + circuits + batteries = circuit workbench
10. 45	Brookhaven	BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY BACKGROUND BARRIER CHAIRS CHALKBOARD ERASER FOGGY TERRITORY chalkboard RUTH's id

$$= \pi R^2$$

$$\Delta V = \frac{\Delta M_p}{\rho}$$

$$V = kR^2$$

$$P = \rho \frac{g}{2}$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2} k R^2$$

$$B = \frac{1}{2} k R^2$$

$$\Delta p, \Delta x \approx$$

$$PV = nRT$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial R} (PV) = \frac{\partial}{\partial R} (nRT + \frac{1}{2} k R^2)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial R} (nRT) = \frac{\partial}{\partial R} (nRT + \frac{1}{2} k R^2)$$

1. TOUR

SCENE i

[Train]

[The light focuses on the train.]

(RUTH rides the train.)

[The train heads to Columbia University.]

(Alternatively, RUTH walks to Columbia University.)

SCENE ii

[Administration Building]

(RUTH exits the train. RUTH increasingly quickens her pace as she prepares herself for class.)

(ADAM is staffed in the office.)

ADAM

(ADAM hands a schedule to RUTH.)

RUTH... CONGRATULATIONS.

(RUTH examines the schedule.)

RUTH

I KNOW HIM FROM SOMEWHERE. BEAMS... WHAT'S WITH MY MEMORY.

ADAM

COIL BOLTZ. HE'S THE BEST. A CHILD PRODIGY.

[The tambourines heavily beat.]

(RUTH rushes around. RUTH bumps into АМАЛИЯ, knocking over all АМАЛИЯ's belongings.)

АМАЛИЯ

NO CONTROL! YOU СУКА!

RUTH

AN ACCIDENT!

(RUTH picks up АМАЛИЯ's belongings, but one thing.)

АМАЛИЯ

I AM GOING TO BE LATE! YOU HEAR ME? RESEARCH GROUP. LIFE OR DEATH. ДЕРЬМО (der'mo)! DOCTORAL... OVER... IN MATTERS OF SECONDS.

RUTH

(*RUTH holds АМАЛИЯ's belongings.*)

I HEAR YOU. NOW WILL YOU TAKE ДЕРЬМО' (der'mo).

АМАЛИЯ

YOU NEW HERE? YOU SEEM... OLD. DOCTORAL? YOUNG ADULTS.

АМАЛИЯ

RUTH

(*RUTH interrupts АМАЛИЯ.*)

WE SHOULD CATCH U—.

Go!

АМАЛИЯ

YOU ПИЗДА' (pizdá) MADE ME LATE!

(*АМАЛИЯ runs off.*)

(*ADAM rushes in, bewildering RUTH. ADAM picks up the remaining thing.*)

ADAM

AMYGDALA! YOU DROPPED SOMETHING!

(*ADAM rushes after АМАЛИЯ.*)

АМАЛИЯ

IT'S АМАЛИЯ!

(*RUTH expresses bewilderment.*)

[The tambourines heavily beat.]

SCENE iii

[*Lecture Hall*]

[A field line diagram is written on the chalkboard.]

(BOLTZ and STUDENTS push in the chalkboard.)

(RUTH and STUDENTS sit.)

(BOLTZ paces.)

STUDENTS

NEUTRONS !

STUDENT 1

PHONONS !

STUDENT 2

BOSONS !

STUDENT 1

STUDENT 2

STUDENT 3

BORONS ? !

STUDENT 4

MORONS ! THEORY !

STUDENTS

HMM.

STUDENT 4

THAT'S IT!

STUDENTS

(*STUDENTS burst out laughing.*)

(*BOLTZ feels disappointed.*)

(*RUTH stands up.*)

STUDENTS

HMM.

RUTH

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE.

BOLTZ

WELCOME TO THE CONTOUR. LET IT FLOW—OW.

(*STUDENTS set up the laboratory.*)

STUDENTS

'LECTRICITY!

BOLTZ

DO BUILD YOUR N—EST.

STUDENTS

WITH 'LECTRONICS!

BOLTZ

DO THEY ATTRACT...

STUDENTs

SO MAGNETIC!

BOLTZ

... ATTENTION.

RUTH

YOU WOULD LET ME...

STUDENTs

IT'S EXCLUSIVE!

RUTH

... BUILD MYSELF IN YOUR...

STUDENTs

NO EXPERIENCE!

RUTH

... LA-BRA-TOR-Y.

STUDENTs

SESSION IS FULL!

(BOLTZ nods. BOLTZ pushes the chalkboard out, revealing magnets on a desk.)

SCENE iv

[*Laboratory*]

STUDENTs

THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK...

BOLTZ

PERFORM A CONTROLLED 'PERIMENT. FORCE. ATTRACTING. USING FERROMAGNETS. PERMANENT DIPOLES. REMOVE FIELDS OUTSIDE. DISCIPLES. ADVICE. DON'T REDUCE TO ZERO. SPON-TANE-OUS RACT-ION. TRY COBALT NAMESAKE. ELECTRONS. UNPAIRED. PARTNER UP.

STUDENTs

DEAR!

(*STUDENTs scatter.*)

(*Each STUDENT grabs a magnet.*)

(*A STUDENT points magnet to another STUDENT.*)

STUDENT

COMPASS FACES...

STUDENTs

ATTRACTION HERE!

(*A different STUDENT directs their magnet to another STUDENT.*)

STUDENT

YOUR FRIDGE RUNNING?

STUDENTs

HA CAUSE MAGNETS!

(*STUDENT 4 reaches another STUDENT.*)

STUDENT 4

YOU SEE, MAGNATE.

STUDENTs

STILL THE MORON!

(*BOLTZ takes two magnets. BOLTZ extends a magnet to RUTH.*)

BOLTZ

NEED A PARTNER?

STUDENTs

RATHER WORK 'LONE!

RUTH

I WOULD BE HONOURED.

(*RUTH accepts BOLTZ's magnet.*)

STUDENTs

OH INDUCTANCE!

RUTH

SAY, WE'RE 'TRACTED.

STUDENTs

A LITTLE FORCED!

BOLTZ

REPEL!

(Each group of STUDENTS distance themselves, forming magnetic formations with electrifying dances.)

(The world has completed some revolutions as time whizzed by in the delightful classes that RUTH and BOLTZ have together.)

(Eventually, АМАЛИЯ enters. АМАЛИЯ feels silently intrigued by the experiments.)

(RUTH feels distracted by АМАЛИЯ. RUTH seems to be repelling away from BOLTZ.)

(Once the experiment concludes, АМАЛИЯ confronts BOLTZ. АМАЛИЯ hands BOLTZ a paper. АМАЛИЯ departs.)

(BOLTZ reads the paper.)

(STUDENTS stop dancing and focus on BOLTZ.)

BOLTZ

I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO THE NEW LA-BRA-TOR-Y...

STUDENTS

PLEASE DO NOT GO! WE'LL ALL MISS YOU. CELEBRATION.

(BOLTZ stays silent.)

PROFESSOR'S SPEECHLESS.

(STUDENTS set up BOLTZ's office.)

THINK IT OVER!

(BOLTZ waves STUDENTS off.)

WE WILL REPEL!

SCENE V

[BOLTZ's Office]

(RUTH hands BOLTZ a booklet.)

BOLTZ

(BOLTZ reads the title.)

ÉTUDE THÉORIQUES DES SUSCEPTIBILITÉS MAGNÉTIQUE MOLÉCULAIRES.

RUTH

I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE MY THESIS BEFORE YOU'D LEAVE FOR YOUR DESTINY IN LAB.

BOLTZ

(BOLTZ reveals a box.)

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER ASK THIS OF YOU...

BOLTZ

(BOLTZ opens the box revealing a magnet.)

WILL YOU BE MY PERMANENT COLLABORATOR?

(RUTH is caught off guard. RUTH notices a paper on BOLTZ's desk. It is an incorrect field line diagram.)

RUTH

THE FIELD LINES HERE ARE CROSSED.

(BOLTZ looks back through RUTH's thesis.)

BOLTZ

OPPOSITE CHARGES REPEL.

RUTH

THAT WAS THE... RESULT OF... THE... EX-...PERIMENT.

(BOLTZ swipes a pen over RUTH's thesis.)

BOLTZ

YOU... FAIL...

(RUTH builds rage.)

(BOLTZ builds remorse.)

RUTH

THE FIELD LINES SHOULD NEVER BE CROSSED-OSED.

BOLTZ

THE OPPOSITES SHOULD ALWAYS ATTRACT-ACT.

(BOLTZ pleas to an unmoving RUTH.)

RE-...ACT. CON-...NECT. YOU'RE... NOTHING... BUT... STEEL. MAG...NET. I... AM. NEG-TIVE ENDS POS-TIVE.

(BOLTZ is in shambles.)

END CONTOUR. END CONTOUR. END CONTOUR. END CONTOUR. END CONTOUR.
END CONTOUR. END CONTOUR. END CONTOUR.

RUTH

THE FIELD LINES SHOULD NEVER BE CROSSED!

A red pen lies diagonally across a white surface that is densely covered with handwritten mathematical formulas and equations. The formulas are written in black ink and include various physical and mathematical concepts such as vectors, forces, energy, and motion. Some formulas are crossed out or have arrows pointing to specific parts, indicating they are worked-out examples. The handwriting is cursive and fluid, typical of a student's notes.

2. CENTRATION

(BOLTZ throws a packet, full of electronic problems, at RUTH.)

(RUTH picks up the packet. RUTH realizes the problems are not difficult. RUTH begins solving.)

(RESEARCH ASSISTANTS march in. RESEARCH ASSISTANTS carry packets behind themselves. RESEARCH ASSISTANTS surround RUTH.)

(BOLTZ directs RESEARCH ASSISTANTS to throw a packet at RUTH.)

BOLTZ

'TIL END, PROFESSOR, OF ALL LECTURES, LA-BRA-TOR-IES.

(RESEARCH ASSISTANTS hold and slur "concentration" as choruses.)

COULD YOU CONCENTRATE? STUDENT. OH YOU INFUR-ATE. SENIOR. HAVE YOU DETER-RATE? CON-... CEN-...

BOLTZ

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

-TRATE.

(RESEARCH ASSISTANTS individually throw a packet at RUTH.)

(RUTH gradually kneels, in agony.)

(BOLTZ feels uncomfortable and sickened. BOLTZ directs RESEARCH ASSISTANTS to stop. BOLTZ levels with RUTH.)

BOLTZ

ALWAYS, A TRUE FRIEND, WHO WILL LISTEN, EXPERIMENT. RIGHT NOW, A SAVIOR, PROVIDES METHODS, HANDS OUT TECHNIQUES. BEYOND CENTRATION. NARRATE. OH DEAR APPRENTICE. GERM-NATE. WOMAN WHO'VE GROWN WISE.

(*RUTH, still on her knees, hands the packet to BOLTZ.*)

(*BOLTZ strikes pen ink over the packet. BOLTZ hands the packet to RUTH.*)

(*RUTH looks at the packet and to BOLTZ.*)

RUTH

YOU'VE... CROSSED... IT.

(*BOLTZ grabs a book. BOLTZ throws the book in RUTH's face.*)

(*RUTH falls back, unconscious.*)

(*BOLTZ leads RESEARCH ASSISTANTS off. BOLTZ feels ashamed.*)



3. G

SCENE vi

[Conference Hall]

(PROFESSORS wander in. Some PROFESSORS move objects off. PROFESSORS begin picking up and reading the packets surrounding RUTH.)

PROFESSOR 1

THESE... GRADES... DO NOT FIT THE CURVATURE.

PROFESSOR 2

I... Q... IS LEFT TO BE DESIRED.

(RUTH sits up.)

PROFESSORS

SUCCESS. THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE NOT.

PROFESSOR 3

LET B'S...

PROFESSORS

...IN TRASH BINS OF HISTORY.

PROFESSOR 4

OH F'S...

PROFESSORS

YOU MIGHT AS WELL KILL YOURSELF.

(*PROFESSORS level with RUTH.*)

GRAD... PRO...GRAMS ARE EXCLUSIVE. DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES FOR MASTER'S.

(*PROFESSORS pick up all the remaining packets.*)

(*АМАЛИЯ rushes in.*)

АМАЛИЯ

SORRY I'M LATE. SORRY I'M LATE. SORRY I'M LATE. WOAH I KNOW YOU!

(*АМАЛИЯ rushes to RUTH.*)

THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE. SERVICE NABBED THE RESEARCH GROUP.

PROFESSORS

WHAT'S GOING ON?

АМАЛИЯ

MY... WING'S... WHAT'S GOING ON OVER HER. LAD—...DER. SHE WON'T NEED TO SOAR THE SKIES. GET OUTTA HERE.

(*PROFESSORS leave.*)

WHY SEE INVISIBLE?

RUTH

GEE—E... NORMAL PEOPLE ASK NAME FIRST.

АМАЛИЯ

FAIL—...URE... ЦИВИЛИСТ (tsivilist) DON'T HAVE THIS MUCH.

RUTH

IT'S BEYOND JUST AN F.

(АМАЛИЯ *rushes out.*)

[*The room darkens.*]



4 . FUSE

RUTH

SO... CONFUSED. REFUSE. DIFFUSE.

(RUTH raps her hand around her head. RUTH words the prefix to sound closer to "I".)

IN-...

(RUTH words the word to sound close to "Feel".)

FUSE.

(RUTH places her hand on her heart.)

SO ELECTRIFYING!

(RUTH stands tall and confident.)

NOW IS THE PERFECT TIMING.

(RUTH places a hand on her temple.)

YET, THE WOUND HAS LEFT ME STATIC.

(RUTH looks up. RUTH is once more confident. RUTH states this assertively to herself.)

THUNDER LATER! CHARGE YOURSELF TO FLOW LIKE LIGHTNING!

(RUTH brings herself back to reality.)

THUNDER...

(RUTH sheds a tear.)

NOTHING LIKE OVERCURRENT. RAIN OFF EXCESS HEAT. END MY FIRE.

(RUTH flinches.)

ZAP. BREAKER OUT OF ALL THE CURRENT. POSITIVE. NEGATIVE. SO IMBALANCED... MUST KEEP FEELINGS GROUNDED... LIGHTNING... SHORT CABLE THAT SUFFUSE. SURE AM UNABLE TO REFUSE... RESISTOR. LIMITER. CURRENTLY CAN'T. CLIPPING. YOUR POWER RATING IS PROFUSE. SWEATING.

(RUTH places her hand on her heart.)

SENSORS DETECT MY HEART BEATING. HERE GOES NOTHING. SOMETHING. ELECTRIFYING...



5 . VEX

SCENE vii

[Desertron]

[The lights reveal a massive operator's control.]

RUTH

IT... VE-... XES... ME... I'M ON THE VERGE... OF DISCOV-RING... THE FATHER...
OF ALL ETERNITY... IT VE-... XES...

(АМАЛИЯ elegantly tiptoes in. АМАЛИЯ is clad in a
rancher's uniform.)

АМАЛИЯ

HOWDY... HOWDY. HOWDY. WEL-... COME TO THE CIRCUIT!

(АМАЛИЯ sings before RUTH could.)

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO SAY! CAN YOU TOUCH THESE COLOURFUL
BUTTONS THAT WILL PROPEL PROTONS, SMASHING THEM INTO A
GRAPHITES' NUCLEIS, PRODUCING NEUTRONS WITH PIONS, NEGATIVE AND
POSITIVE, TAKING THOSE POSITIVITIES AND FOCUS THEM INTO A BEAM
SO THEY WOULD, EXCUSE MY LANGUAGE, DECAY... I SAY YOU CANNOT LIL'
BACHELOR.

RUTH

THEY BECOME NEUTRINOS. I HAVE MY MASTERS.

АМАЛИЯ

WELCOME TO THE ENERGY! FREE ENERGY. POSITIVE! IN THE HEARTLAND...
OF SCIENCE INNOVATION! WHERE NOT ONLY DOES EVERY MATTER EXIST,
BUT MATTER! WHERE THE LAWS OF PHYSICS... BREAK THE LAWS THAT
HUMANS DRAW.

RUTH

CONTACT TENSION?

АМАЛИЯ

IGNORE THAT ONE, NOW. WELCOME TO THE... MAGNETIC ATTRACTION... YOUR DATA WILL SURE TO BE...

(*ADAM enters, protesting.*)

NEGATIVE!

(*АМАЛИЯ canters off.*)

ADAM

THEY ARE SHUTTING IT DOWN!

RUTH

DID SOMEBODY GET BEAMED?

ADAM

EVEN WORSE... WE ARE LOSING FUNDING!

RUTH

WHAT UNKNOWN FORCE DRIVES THIS? WHAT BREAKS THE BOND BETWEEN UM...

(*RUTH is questioning ADAM's identity.*)

ADAM

ADAM...

RUTH

MOLECULES!

(BOLTZ slyly enters.)

BOLTZ

IT VEXES ME...

RUTH

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

BOLTZ

FEEDING THE UNKNOWN FORCE.

(BOLTZ pickpockets a stack of cash from ADAM.)

ADAM

KIDS' MEAL FUND!



6. GRESS

SCENE viii

[*Debate Chamber*]

(*BOLTZ throws the stack of money into the void.*)

(*POLITICIANS leap out and fight for the stack of money like dogs fighting over a bone. POLITICIANS set the debate.*)

POLITICIANS

(*POLITICIANS focus on ADAM.*)

WHERE IS THE MONEY IN THA-AT?

POLITICIANS

(*POLITICIANS grab ahold of ADAM. POLITICIANS hold ADAM upside down.*)

WHERE IS THE MONEY IN THA-AT? WHERE IS THE MONEY IN THA-AT?

(*POLITICIANS drop ADAM. POLITICIANS focus on the operator's controls.*)

WHERE IS THE MONEY IN THA-AT? WHO GON' BE PAYING FOR THA-AT?
WHAT IS OUR DIVVY ON THA-AT? WHERE A TOWN SHANTY PLACE THA-AT.
WHEN WORLD RIVALRIES START THA-AT.

(*RUTH defends the operator's controls.*)

WHY NO EXPLOITING WITH THA-AT! HOW WE FIND MONEY FOR THA-AT? HOW
WE FIND MONEY FOR THA-AT? HOW WE FIND MONEY FOR THA-AT?

BOLTZ

BRING IT BACK.

(*BOLTZ takes the stack of money back from POLITICIANS.*)

BRING IT TO ME IN MY LAB.

(*BOLTZ points to RUTH.*)

ADDRESS CONGRESS FOR THESE HACKS. NO LONGER PAID WITH YOUR TAX.

(*BOLTZ hands the stack of money back to ADAM.*)

MORE IN TREASURY RELAX. BE FULL HA-MIL-TO-NAN 'TIL TAPS.

(*POLITICIANS feel puzzled by the phrase.*)

NONE MORE PA-TRO-DIC WOLF PACK! SO WHY NOT JUST DEFUND THAT!

(*POLITICIANS take apart the operator's controls.
POLITICIANS assembly a rifle from the parts.*)

POLITICIANS

MO—... NEY... MO—... NEY... MO—... NEY... MO—... NEY...

BOLTZ

(*BOLTZ focuses on RUTH.*)

TIT FOR TAT. WHERE'S WORK AT? LOST BRASS TACKS. BUREAUCRAT. DID I CROSS THAT?

(*RUTH points out what has become of the operator's controls.*)

(*BOLTZ turns around. BOLTZ is shocked at what is before his very eyes.*)

RUTH

NO PROGRESS. BUT INSTEAD. UNDER DEBT. POOR MINDSET. WHERE YOUR SCI-TISTS?

BOLTZ

JUST... HIRED... AM-LI-YA...

(ADAM mocks RUTH as though BOLTZ has a sick burn.)

(POLITICIANS grab ahold of RUTH.)

BOLTZ

FAILED WHAT YOU PUT TO THE TEST.

A-...

NEVER WILL GIVE IT A REST.

WARDS...

ALL YOU DO IS PROJECT.

LE-...

YOU WILL DE-FIN-LY BE BEST-... ED.

GA-... CY...

POLITICIANS

(RUTH is thrown out of the debate chamber.)

POLITICIANS

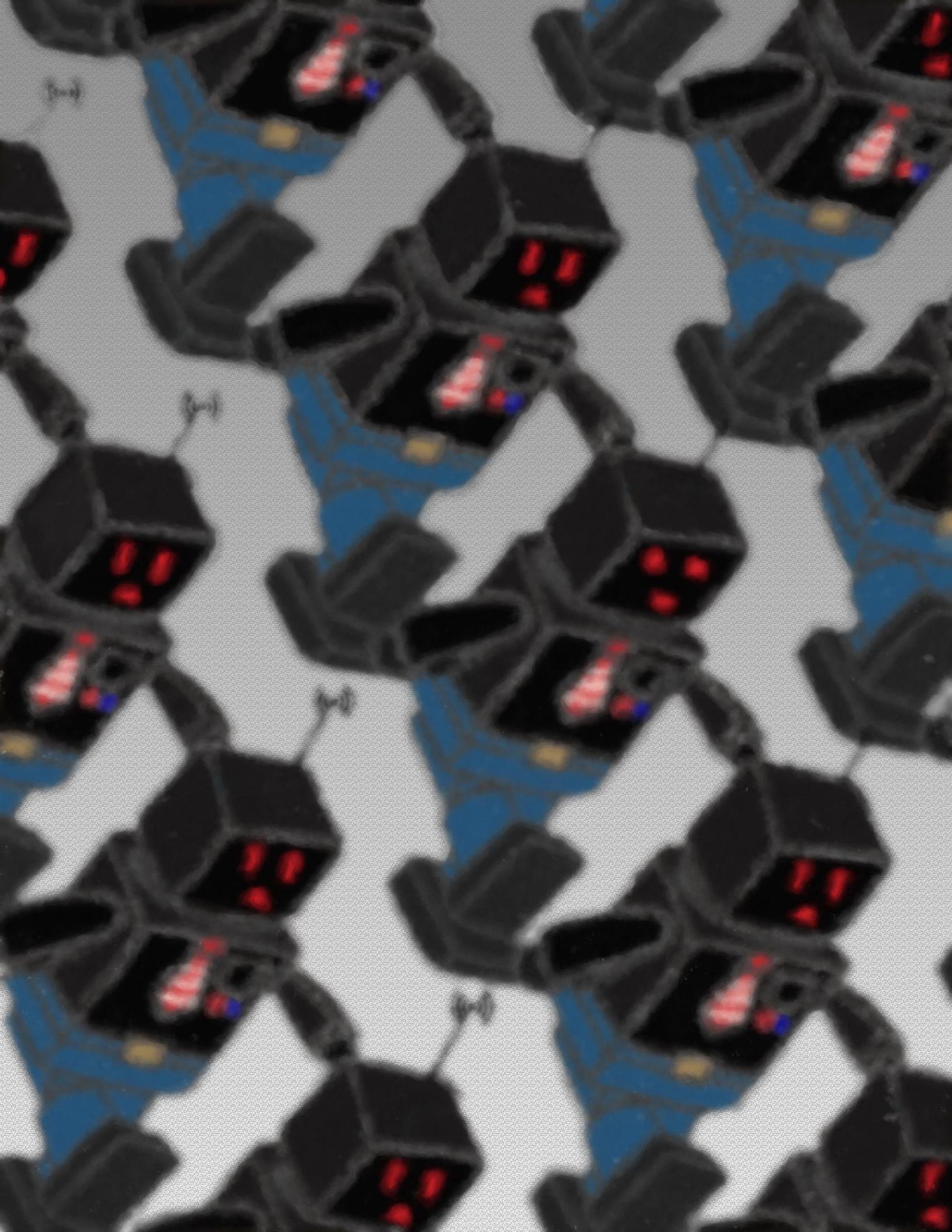
(Half of POLITICIANS sing "board" and the other half sing "lord".)

BOARD/LORD... OF... SCI-... TY...

(BOLTZ victoriously holds the rifle.)

(BOLTZ and POLITICIANS leave.)

(RUTH ends up alone.)



7. FORM

SCENE ix

[Medical Supply Facility]

(ADAM joins ENGINEERS.)

(ADAM and ENGINEERS march in.)

(ENGINEERS set up the surroundings as a facility to build medical supplies. Much of the supplies are magnets and pacemakers.)

ENGINEERS

(ENGINEERS address RUTH.)

CONFORM.

(ADAM hands a form to RUTH.)

FILL THIS FORM.

(RUTH quickly signs the form.)

COME WITH US. WORK WITH US.

(RUTH hands back the form.)

YOU'RE WELCOME. JUST HARD WORK.

(RUTH joins in with ENGINEERS. RUTH is given her helmet.)

HEART ON FIRE. MIND ON ICE.

ENGINEERS

CONFORM. CONFORM.

(ENGINEERS sit at their workstation.)

CONFORM. CONFORM.

(ADAM sits down. ADAM starts testing magnets with the pacemakers.)

CONFORM. CONFORM.

(ENGINEERS seat RUTH next to ADAM.)

CONFORM. CONFORM.

RUTH

(RUTH addresses ADAM.)

YOU HEAR ME? IS IT CLEAR? TOGETHER. NOW'S HELPFUL.

(RUTH tries to hold back the internal cubicle she is trapped in.)

IN THE MOOD. TO FIGHT YOU...

ADAM

STAY PATIENT. THAT'S YOUR ROLE.

(The pacemaker combusts.)

(A supervising ENGINEER steps in.)

DIRECTOR. I'M SORRY. FORGIVE ME. FORGET ME.

(ADAM focuses on RUTH.)

SAVE YOUR LIFE. SAVE YOUR LIFE.

RUTH

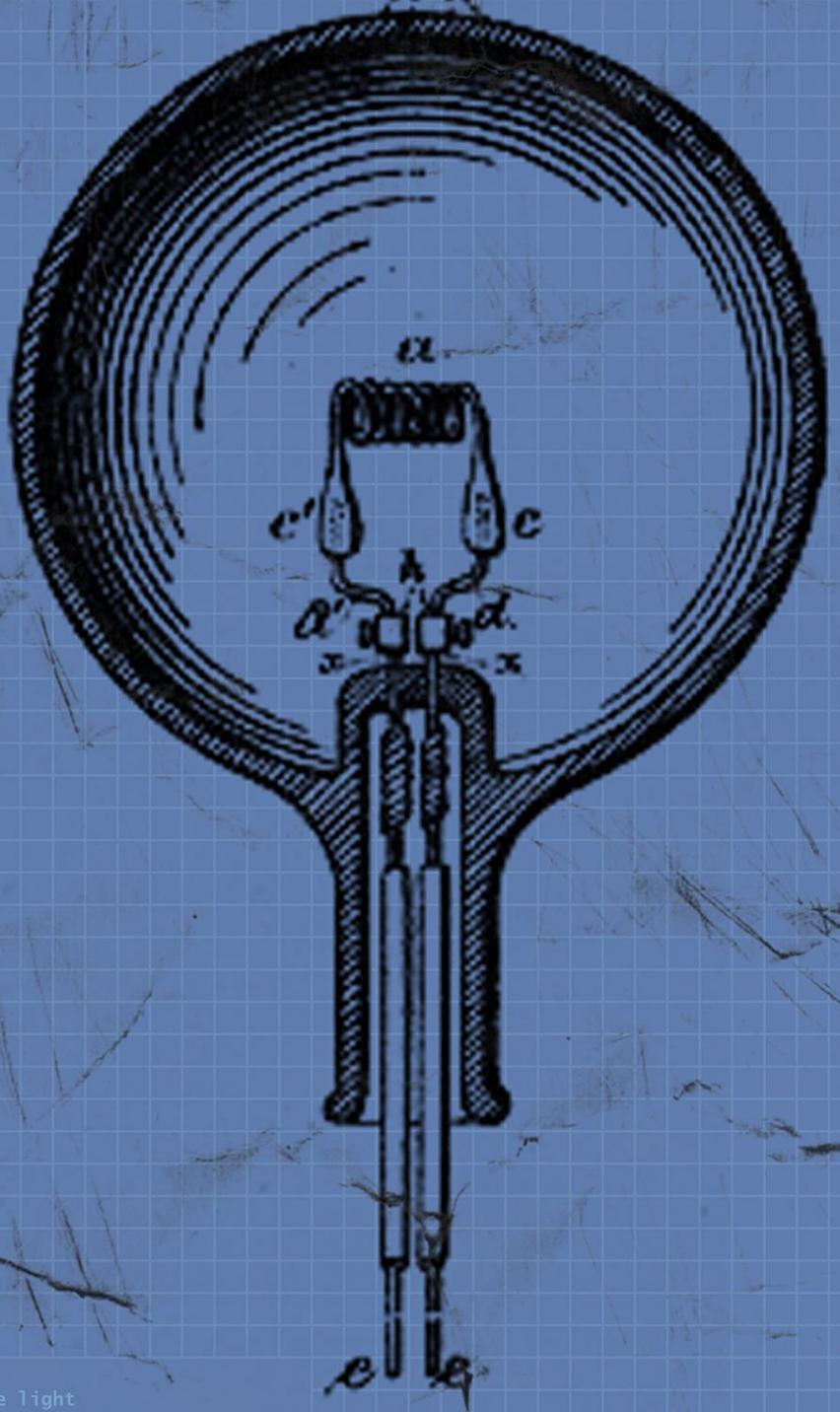
FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT. FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT.

ENGINEERs

DE-... FORM...

[Blackout.]

(ADAM and ENGINEERs depart with all but RUTH's workstation.)



PROJECT: let there be light

CLIENT: АМАЛИЯ

8 . QUER

[The entire facility brightens.]

(RUTH rests at the workstation.)

(АМАЛИЯ tiptoes in.)

АМАЛИЯ

(АМАЛИЯ walks up to RUTH.)

RUTHANN. P. H. D.

(RUTH stays unresponsive.)

REMINDER TO CONQUER...

(RUTH stays still unresponsive.)

COMRADE?

RUTH

I CANNOT FACE THE WORLD.

АМАЛИЯ

SO... DOES... MY... LAB. SE—... CLU—... DED... BUT... U—... NIQUE. WE'RE... RE—... CRUI—... TING...

(АМАЛИЯ pulls out a wooden board from underneath the workstation. АМАЛИЯ grabs the circuits and batteries. АМАЛИЯ forms these materials into a circuit workbench.)

I'LL... GIVE... YOU... A... PRE—... VIEW... LET'S... EX—... PER—... MENT...

(АМАЛИЯ does much of the procedure.)

(Gradually, RUTH joins in to fix some of АМАЛИЯ's errors.)

HY—... PO—... THE—... SIS...

RUTH

(RUTH intently looks at АМАЛИЯ.)

WHERE... IS... IT... GOING?...

(АМАЛИЯ earnestly acknowledges it.)

АМАЛИЯ

LET'S DIVIDE AND CONQUER.

RUTH

LET'S...

АМАЛИЯ

THERE BE LIGHT...

[The circuit workbench lights up the incandescent light.]

(RUTH and АМАЛИЯ intimately hold their gazes.)

[Blackout.]



fuse

9. TEMPLATE

SCENE X

[*Brookhaven*]

[*A barrier hides Brookhaven National Laboratory. There are chairs.*]

(*АМАЛИЯ, BOLTZ, and PROFESSORS wander or sit. Some PROFESSORS shake hands. Some PROFESSORS carry refreshments.*)

[*Fog disperses from a lower section. There is a boom.*]

(*АМАЛИЯ and BOLTZ are not startled.*)

(*Sitting PROFESSORS and some upright PROFESSORS applaud.*)

(*The rest of PROFESSORS tremble.*)

(*АМАЛИЯ, BOLTZ, and PROFESSORS sit.*)

(*RUTH strolls backwards to enter. RUTH pulls with her a chalkboard. RUTH turns only her head towards the fog. RUTH keeps her grip on the chalkboard.*)

[*The fog disperses, revealing a chalkboard eraser.*)

(*АМАЛИЯ heads to pick up the chalkboard eraser.*)

(RUTH drops her grip. RUTH turns, revealing her torso. RUTH feels embarrassed. RUTH grabs the chalkboard eraser out of АМАЛИЯ's hand. RUTH places her free hand on the helmet on her chest, with a lanyard holding her helmet. RUTH bows to АМАЛИЯ.)

(АМАЛИЯ places her hand on her helmet and bows.)

(RUTH erases the chalkboard and writes, "PIECE".)

АМАЛИЯ

(Simultaneously, АМАЛИЯ extends her right arm.)

PEACE...

(RUTH writes, "of a magnetic quadruple.")

(Simultaneously, АМАЛИЯ extends her left arm.)

...WITHIN HER HEART CHAMBERS...

(RUTH draws an "X" anywhere in the center of the lower right-half of the chalkboard. RUTH writes, "is here".)

...IS NOT QUITE THERE.

(RUTH draws a circle that touches the "X". The circle encompasses the whole chalkboard. The circle's center is directly in the middle of the chalkboard.)

(PROFESSORS stand up.)

SO, LET'S SETTLE FOR THE REST OF THE MIND.



RUTH

10. GRATS

BOLTZ

(*BOLTZ stands up.*)

THIS CANNOT STAND.

(*BOLTZ promptly sits down.*)

АМАЛИЯ

(*АМАЛИЯ places her hand to her chest.*)

YOU STRUCK A CHORD IN MY HEART. (*АМАЛИЯ clears her throat.*)

(*АМАЛИЯ extends her arm.*)

ИЗВИНИТЕ (izvinite), A CORE IN THE UNIVERSE.

(*PROFESSORS applaud.*)

(*Some PROFESSORS raise RUTH high up on their shoulders.*)

(*BOLTZ bolts out.*)

(*Some PROFESSORS remove chairs and return.*)

RUTH

HEY BUILDERS. I MUST-A SAY... THERE'S TIME FOR LOLLYGAGGING.
THERE'S SPACE JUST TO REST EASY.

(*АМАЛИЯ attempts to direct PROFESSORS to set RUTH down.*)

(*RUTH notices АМАЛИЯ.*)

HEY BUILDERS. SHE DOES DECLARE. I MAY BE FUN AND SHE'S NOT. BUT SHE'S STILL YOUR GUARDIAN.

PROFESSORS

CONGRATULATION-ION-IONS! TO THE NEW TECHNICIAN-IAN!

АМАЛИЯ

ALL. ПРИВЕТ (privet)! PARDON ME. SHE DIDN'T FINISH THIS LADDER.

(*PROFESSORS let RUTH down. PROFESSORS leave to uniform as ENGINEERS then stand at attention behind the barrier.*)

HEY RUTHANN. I MUST REMIND... THAT LADDER'S AN ILLUSION. WE COMRADES JUST SAW YOU SOAR.

(*PROFESSORS leave to uniform as ENGINEERS and stand at attention behind the barrier.*)

RUTH

(*RUTH sings to herself.*)

YOU. MATTER. ACT NORMAL. THERE ARE CLOUDS TO LAND BELOW. BUT NO ROOM TO BREATHE ABOVE.

(*BOLTZ enters with an ID.*)

BOLTZ

DON'T... GIVE UP. I WILL JUST SAY... CONGRATULATIONS.

(*BOLTZ pins the ID onto RUTH.*)

WELCOME TO THE CONTOUR.

(*BOLTZ heads behind the barrier.*)

(RUTH feels stiff by the ending remark.)

HEY. CAREFUL. I MUST-A STATE... LET'S BE MODEST ON ENTRY.

АМАЛИЯ

REVEAL TO US WHAT WE GOT!

[The barrier opens to reveal the beauty of Brookhaven National Laboratory.]

RUTH

I MUST SAY...

COMPANY

CONGRATULATION-ION-IONS !

RUTH

NO WORDS. I AM LEFT SPEECHLESS.

[End of Musical.]