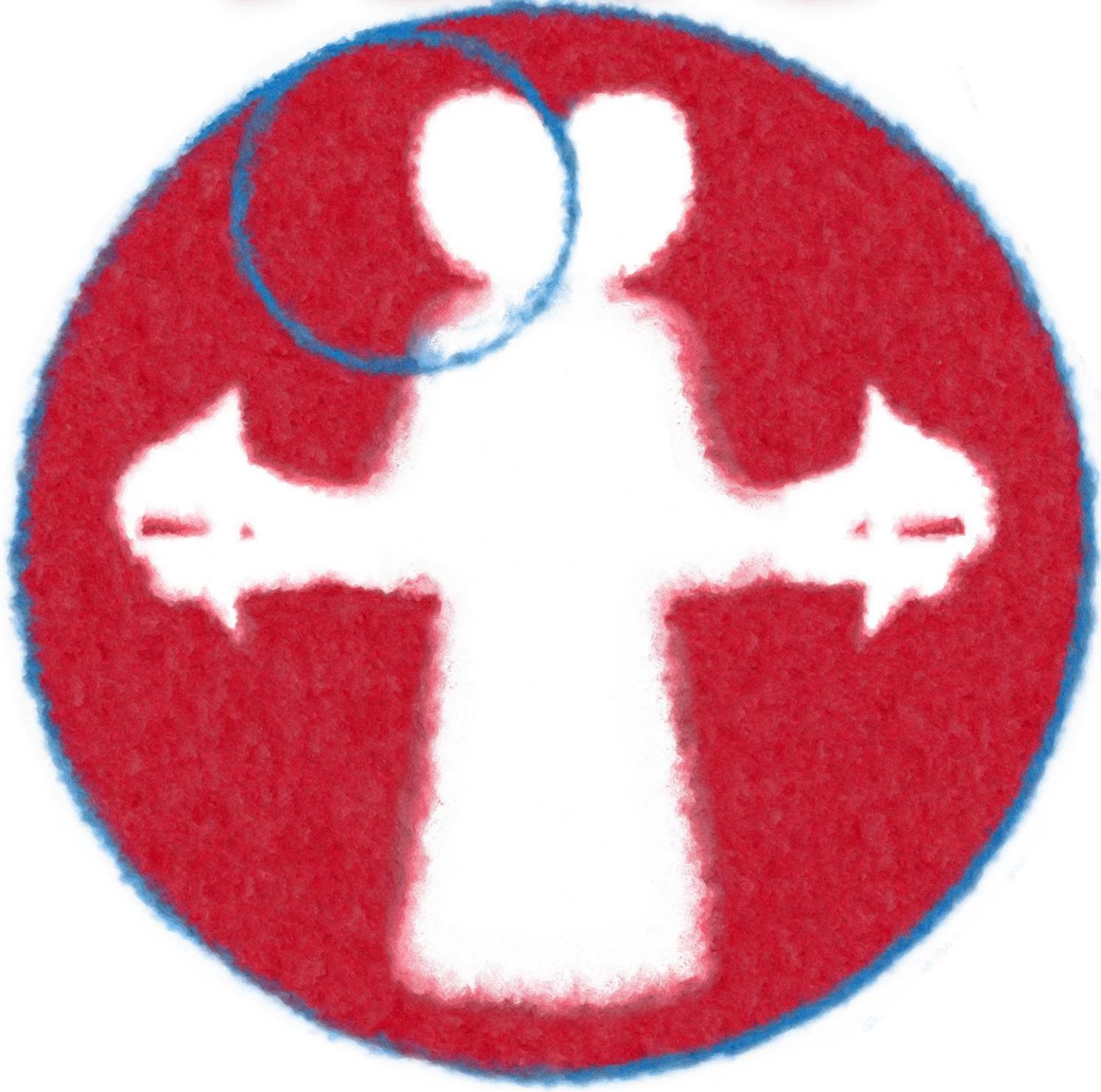


fuse



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

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2

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I fuse 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 about finding your charge. The matter surrounds a physicist tackling her education and fighting for the prospects that follow. Though her mind values the magnetic paces ahead, dreams do not electrify. So, she may need to reconnect working circuits and disconnect from those that crossed the field lines.

Quark enters Columbia University as a physics student, dreaming of working at an accelerator. Professor Bos connects her to magnetism. However, their opposite charges never attract but an instance of perhaps, identical. Лептоны takes charge of Quark's livelihood each time Quark gets cut down by Bos; he has the power to fail anyone and even defund institutions. In the conclusion of this musical thesis, Quark acquires the circuits to bring unharnessed energy to Brookhaven National Laboratory.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Character	Vocal Range	Age
QUARK E	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.	
ЛЕПТОНЫ (Leptonia)	Alto – Mezzo-Soprano	20s
	Quark's doctoral advisor and close friend. She supported Quark as a doctoral student when others rejected Quark. She becomes the supervising engineer of Brookhaven National Laboratory.	
SCALA BOS	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 Quark.	
ATOM	Bass – Baritone	20+
	An Atom that makes up for things.	

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

NOTES ON ATTIRE & COSMETICS

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

Performer portraying Лептоны: She soils her science gear when she is working, but when she is not, she wears much more dull clothes. She dresses up as a rancher near the Desertron. She wears her blue helmet at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Performer portraying Bos: He 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 Atom: He 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 → BOS's Office)	QUARK ЛЕПТОНЫ BOS ATOM students (3+)
2.	Centration	BOS's Office	QUARK BOS research assistants
3.	G	Conference Hall	QUARK ЛЕПТОНЫ professors (4)
4.	Fuse	Conference Hall	QUARK
5.	Vex	Desertron	QUARK ЛЕПТОНЫ BOS ATOM
6.	Gress	Debate Chamber	QUARK BOS ATOM politicians
7.	Form	Medical Supply Facility	QUARK ATOM engineers
8.	Quer	Medical Supply Facility	QUARK ЛЕПТОНЫ
9.	Template	Brookhaven	QUARK ЛЕПТОНЫ BOS professors
10.	Grats	Brookhaven	QUARK ЛЕПТОНЫ BOS 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 physics textbooks notebooks pens
3.	11	Lecture Hall
		DESK with magnets (6+), box with magnet inside, field line diagram, packet, pen CHALKBOARD WITH FIELD LINE DIAGRAM
4.	14	Laboratory
		DESK with magnets (6+), box with magnet inside, field line diagram, packet, pen
5.	18	BOS'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 FOG MACHINE chalkboard eraser QUARK's id

$$= \pi R^2$$

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

$$V = kR^2$$

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

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

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

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

$$PV = nRT$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial R} PV = \frac{\partial}{\partial R} nRT = \frac{\partial}{\partial R} (nR) T$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial R} PV = \frac{\partial}{\partial R} nRT = \frac{\partial}{\partial R} (nR) T$$

1. TOUR

SCENE i

[Train]

[The light focuses on the train.]

(QUARK rides the train.)

[The train heads to Columbia University.]

(Alternatively, QUARK walks to Columbia University.)

SCENE ii

[Administration Building]

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

(*ATOM is staffed in the office.*)

ATOM

(*ATOM hands a schedule to QUARK.*)

QUARK... CONGRATULATIONS.

(*QUARK examines the schedule.*)

QUARK

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

ATOM

SCALA BOS. HE'S THE BEST. A CHILD PRODIGY.

[*The tambourines heavily beat.*]

(*QUARK rushes around. She bumps into ЛЕПТОНЫ, knocking over all ЛЕПТОНЫ's belongings.*)

ЛЕПТОНЫ

NO CONTROL! YOU СУКА!

QUARK

AN ACCIDENT!

(*QUARK picks up ЛЕПТОНЫ's belongings but one thing.*)

ЛЕПТОНЫ

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

QUARK

(*QUARK holds ЛЕПТОНЫ's belongings.*)

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

ЛЕПТОНЫ

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

ЛЕПТОНЫ

QUARK

(*QUARK interrupts ЛЕПТОНЫ.*)

WE SHOULD CATCH U—.

Go!

ЛЕПТОНЫ

YOU ПИЗДА' (pizdá) MADE ME LATE!

(*ЛЕПТОНЫ runs off.*)

(*ATOM rushes in, bewildering QUARK. He picks up the remaining thing.*)

ATOM

LEVIATHAN! YOU DROPPED SOMETHING!

(*ATOM rushes after ЛЕПТОНЫ.*)

ЛЕПТОНЫ

IT'S ЛЕПТОНЫ!

(*QUARK expresses bewilderment.*)

[The tambourines heavily beat.]

SCENE iii

[*Lecture Hall*]

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

(*BOS and STUDENTS push in the chalkboard.*)

(*QUARK and STUDENTS gather.*)

(*BOS 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.*)

(*BOS feels disappointed.*)

(*QUARK sticks out.*)

STUDENTS

HMM.

QUARK

POS-TIVE. NEG-TIVE.

BOS

WELCOME TO THE CONTOUR. LET IT FLOW-OW.

(*STUDENTS set up the laboratory.*)

STUDENTS

'LECTRICITY!

BOS

DO BUILD YOUR N-EST.

STUDENTS

WITH 'LECTRONICS!

BOS

DO THEY ATTRACT...

STUDENTS

SO MAGNETIC!

BOS

... ATTENTION.

QUARK

YOU WOULD LET ME...

STUDENTS

IT'S EXCLUSIVE!

QUARK

... BUILD MYSELF IN YOUR...

STUDENTS

NO EXPERIENCE!

QUARK

... LA-BRA-TOR-Y?

STUDENTS

SESSION IS FULL!

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

SCENE iv

[Laboratory]

STUDENTs

THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK...

BOS

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

STUDENTs

DEAR!

(*STUDENTs scatter.*)

(*Each STUDENT grabs a magnet.*)

(*A STUDENT points their 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!

(*BOS takes two magnets and extends one to QUARK.*)

BOS

NEED A PARTNER?

STUDENTs

RATHER WORK 'LONE!

QUARK

I WOULD BE HONOURED.

(*QUARK accepts BOS's magnet.*)

STUDENTs

OH INDUCTANCE!

QUARK

SAY, WE'RE 'TRACTED.

STUDENTs

A LITTLE FORCED!

BOS

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 QUARK and BOS have together.)

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

(QUARK feels distracted by ЛЕПТОНЫ. She seems to be repelling away from BOS.)

(Once the experiment concludes, ЛЕПТОНЫ confronts BOS. She hands BOS a paper. She departs.)

(BOS reads the paper.)

(STUDENTS stop dancing and focus on BOS.)

BOS

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

STUDENTS

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

(BOS stays silent.)

PROFESSOR'S SPEECHLESS.

(STUDENTS set up BOS's office.)

THINK IT OVER!

(BOS waves STUDENTS off.)

WE WILL REPEL!

SCENE V

[*BOS's Office*]

(*QUARK hands BOS a booklet.*)

BOS

(*BOS reads the title.*)

ÉTUDE THÉORIQUES DES SUSCEPTIBILITÉS MAGNÉTIQUE MOLÉCULAIRES.

QUARK

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

BOS

(*BOS reveals a box.*)

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

BOS

(*BOS opens the box revealing a magnet.*)

WILL YOU BE MY PERMANENT COLLABORATOR?

(*QUARK is caught off guard. She notices a paper on BOS's desk. It is an incorrect field line diagram.*)

QUARK

THE FIELD LINES HERE, CROSSED.

(*BOS looks back through QUARK's thesis.*)

BOS

OP-SITE CHARGES REPEL.

QUARK

THAT WAS THE... RESULT OF... THE... EXPERIMENT.

(*BOS swipes a pen over QUARK's thesis.*)

(*QUARK builds rage.*)

(*BOS builds remorse.*)

BOS

THE OPPOSITES SHOULD ALWAYS ATTRACT-ACT.

(*BOS pleads to an unmoving QUARK.*)

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

(*BOS is in shambles.*)

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

QUARK

THE FIELD LINES SHOULD NEVER BE CROSSED!

A red pen lies diagonally across a page filled with dense handwritten mathematical notes. The notes include various formulas for physics and engineering, such as those for motion, work, energy, and electromagnetism. A large red stain is visible in the center of the page, partially obscuring some of the text.

2. CENTRATION

(BOS throws a packet, full of electronic problems, at QUARK.)

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

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

(BOS directs RESEARCH ASSISTANTS to throw a packet at QUARK.)

BOS

'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-...

BOS

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

-TRATE.

(RESEARCH ASSISTANTS individually throw a packet at QUARK.)

(QUARK gradually kneels, in agony.)

(BOS feels uncomfortable and sickened. He directs RESEARCH ASSISTANTS to stop. He levels with QUARK.)

BOS

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.

(*QUARK, still on her knees, hands the packet to BOS.*)

(*BOS strikes pen ink over the packet. He hands the packet to QUARK.*)

(*QUARK looks at the packet and to BOS.*)

QUARK

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

(*BOS grabs a book. He throws the book in QUARK's face.*)

(*QUARK falls back, unconscious.*)

(*BOS leads RESEARCH ASSISTANTS off. He 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 QUARK.)

PROFESSOR 1

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

PROFESSOR 2

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

(QUARK 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 QUARK.*)

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

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

(*ЛЕПТОНЫ rushes in.*)

ЛЕПТОНЫ

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

(*ЛЕПТОНЫ rushes to QUARK.*)

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

PROFESSORS

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ЛЕПТОНЫ

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?

QUARK

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

ЛЕПТОНЫ

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

QUARK

IT'S BEYOND JUST AN F.

(ЛЕПТОНЫ *rushes out.*)

[The room darkens.]



4 . FUSE

QUARK

SO... CONFUSED. REFUSE. DIFFUSE.

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

IN-...

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

FUSE.

(QUARK places her hand on her heart.)

SO ELECTRIFYING!

(QUARK stands tall and confident.)

NOW IS THE PERFECT TIMING.

(QUARK places a hand on her temple.)

YET, THE WOUND HAS LEFT ME STATIC.

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

THUNDER LATER! CHARGE YOURSELF TO FLOW LIKE LIGHTNING!

(QUARK brings herself back to reality.)

THUNDER...

(QUARK sheds a tear.)

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

(QUARK 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.

(QUARK places her hand on her heart.)

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



5 . VEX

SCENE vii

[*Desertron*]

[*The lights reveal an operator's control.*]

QUARK

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

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

ЛЕПТОНЫ

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

(ЛЕПТОНЫ speaks before QUARK interjects.)

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.

QUARK

THEY BECOME NEUTRINOS. I HAVE MY MASTERS.

ЛЕПТОНЫ

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.

QUARK

CONTACT TENSION?

ЛЕПТОНЫ

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

(ATOM enters, protesting.)

NEGATIVE!

(ЛЕПТОНЫ canters off.)

ATOM

THEY ARE SHUTTING IT DOWN!

QUARK

DID SOMEBODY GET BEAMED?

ATOM

EVEN WORSE... WE ARE LOSING FUNDING!

QUARK

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

(QUARK is questioning ATOM's identity.)

ATOM

ATOM...

QUARK

MOLECULES!

(*BOS slyly enters.*)

BOS

IT VEXES ME...

QUARK

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

BOS

FEEDING THE UNKNOWN FORCE.

(*BOS pickpockets a stack of cash from ATOM.*)

ATOM

KIDS' MEAL FUND!



6. GRESS

SCENE viii

[*Debate Chamber*]

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

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

POLITICIANS

(*POLITICIANS focus on ATOM.*)

WHERE IS THE MONEY IN THA-AT?

POLITICIANS

(*POLITICIANS grab ahold of ATOM. They hold ATOM upside down.*)

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

(*POLITICIANS drop ATOM. They 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.

(*QUARK 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?

BOS

BRING IT BACK.

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

BRING IT TO ME IN MY LAB.

(*BOS points to QUARK.*)

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

(*BOS hands the stack of money back to ATOM.*)

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

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

BOS

(*BOS focuses on QUARK.*)

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

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

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

QUARK

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

BOS

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

(ATOM mocks QUARK as though BOS has a sick burn.)

(POLITICIANS grab ahold of QUARK.)

BOS

FAILED WHAT YOU PUT TO THE TEST.
NEVER WILL GIVE IT A REST.
ALL YOU DO IS PROJECT.
YOU WILL DE-FIN-LY BE BEST—... ED.

POLITICIANS

A—...
WARDS...
LE—...
GA—... CY...

(QUARK is thrown out of the debate chamber.)

POLITICIANS

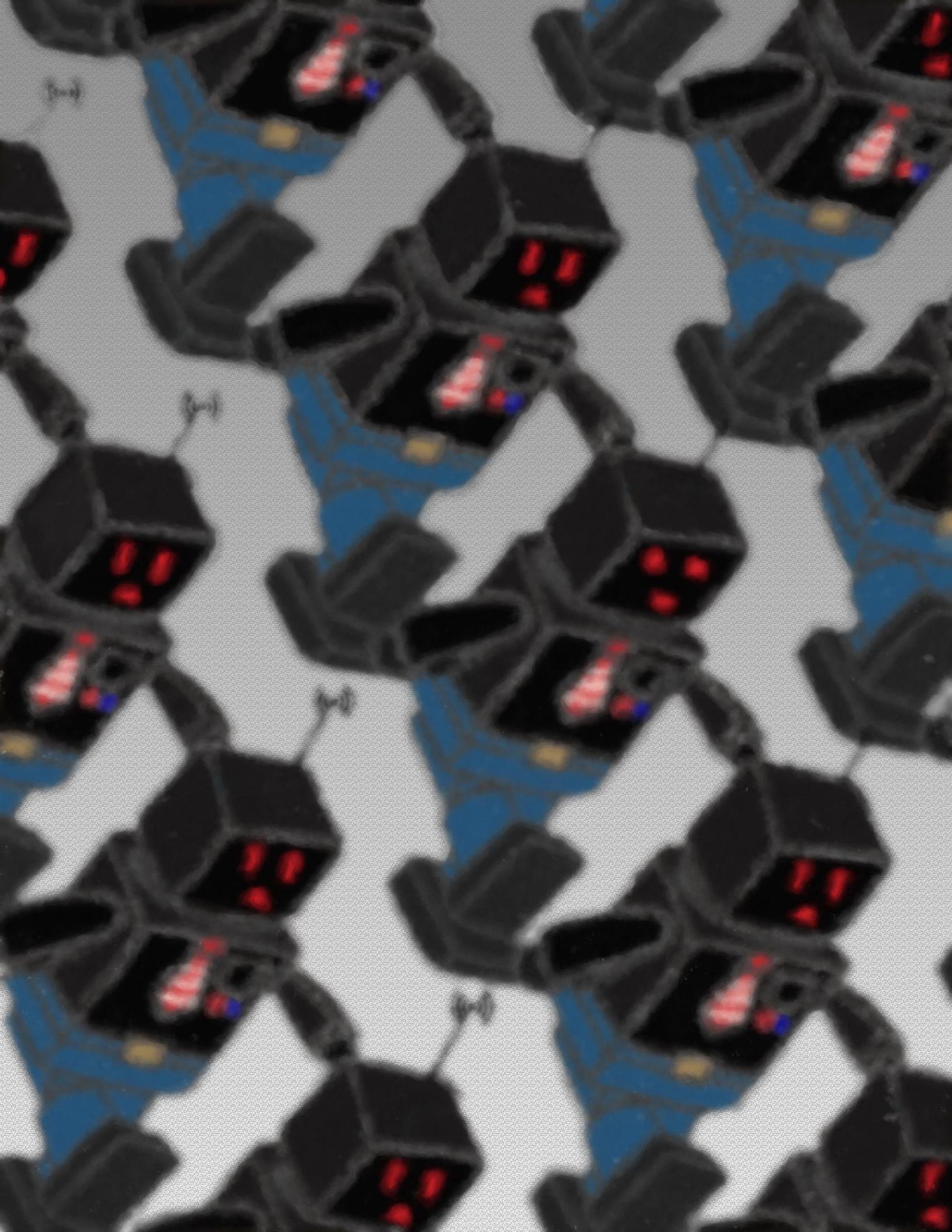
(Half of POLITICIANS sing "board" and the other half sing "lord".)

BOARD/LORD... OF... SCI—... TY...

(BOS victoriously holds the rifle.)

(BOS and POLITICIANS leave.)

(QUARK ends up alone.)



7. FORM

SCENE ix

[Medical Supply Facility]

(ATOM joins ENGINEERS.)

(ATOM 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 QUARK.)

CONFORM.

(ATOM hands a form to QUARK.)

FILL THIS FORM.

(QUARK quickly signs the form.)

COME WITH US. WORK WITH US.

(QUARK hands back the form.)

YOU'RE WELCOME. JUST HARD WORK.

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

HEART ON FIRE. MIND ON ICE.

ENGINEERs

CONFORM. CONFORM.

(ENGINEERs sit at their workstation.)

CONFORM. CONFORM.

(ATOM sits down. He starts testing magnets with the pacemakers.)

CONFORM. CONFORM.

(ENGINEERs seat QUARK next to ATOM.)

CONFORM. CONFORM.

QUARK

(QUARK addresses ATOM.)

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

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

IN THE MOOD. TO FIGHT YOU...

ATOM

STAY PATIENT. THAT'S YOUR ROLE.

(The pacemaker combusts.)

(A supervising ENGINEER steps in.)

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

(ATOM focuses on QUARK.)

SAVE YOUR LIFE. SAVE YOUR LIFE.

QUARK

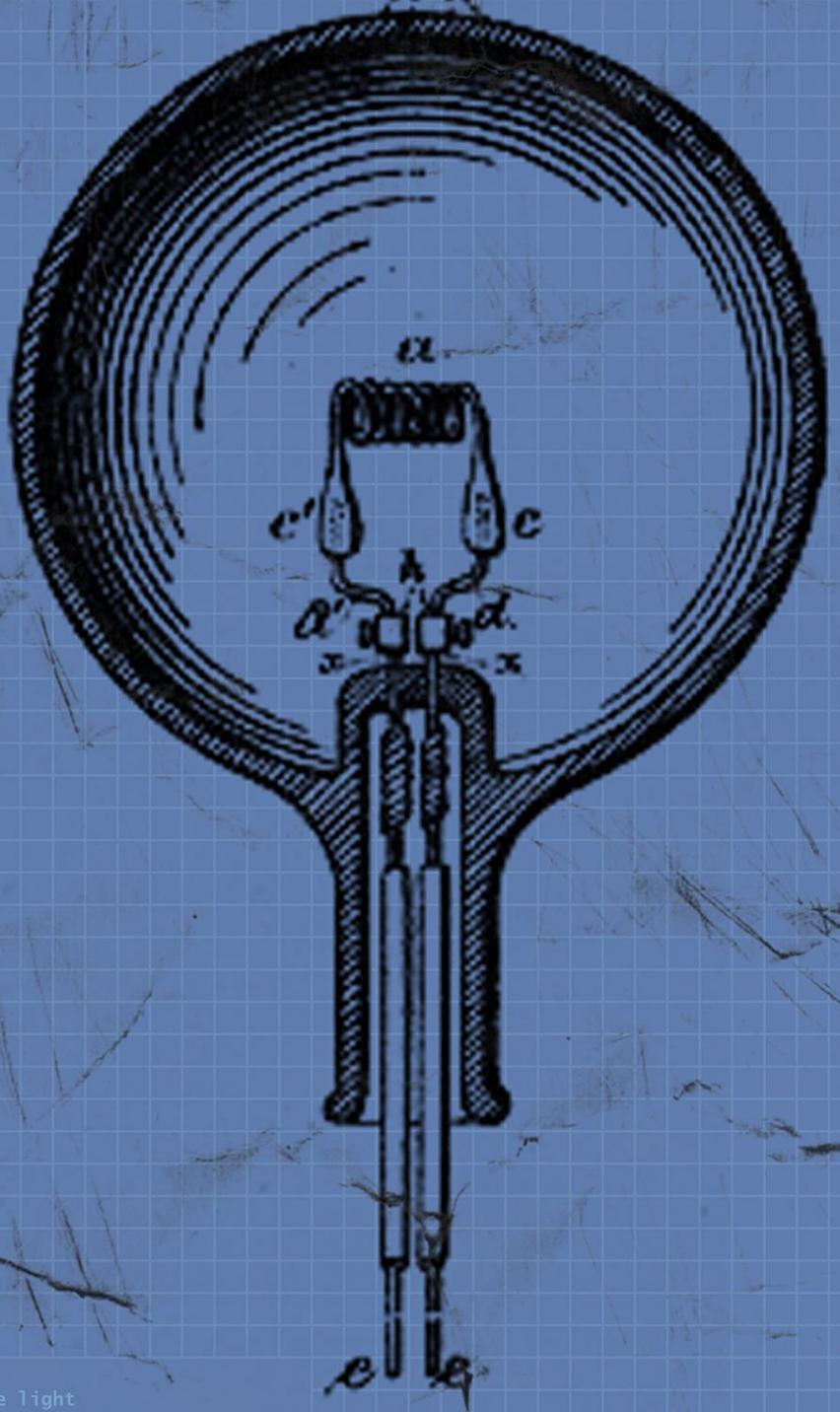
FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT. FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT.

ENGINEERs

DE-... FORM...

[Blackout.]

(ATOM and ENGINEERs depart with all but QUARK's workstation.)



PROJECT: let there be light

CLIENT: АМАЛИЯ

8 . QUER

[The entire facility brightens.]

(QUARK rests at the workstation.)

(ЛЕПТОНЫ tiptoes in.)

ЛЕПТОНЫ

(ЛЕПТОНЫ walks up to QUARK.)

QUARK E. P. H. D.

(QUARK stays unresponsive.)

REMINDER TO CONQUER...

(QUARK stays still unresponsive.)

COMRADE?

QUARK

I CANNOT FACE THE WORLD.

ЛЕПТОНЫ

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

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

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

(ЛЕПТОНЫ performs much of the procedure.)

(Gradually, QUARK joins in to fix some of ЛЕПТОНЫ's errors.)

HY—... PO—... THE—... SIS...

QUARK

(QUARK intently looks at ЛЕПТОНЫ.)

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

(ЛЕПТОНЫ earnestly acknowledges it.)

ЛЕПТОНЫ

LET'S DIVIDE AND CONQUER.

QUARK

LET'S...

ЛЕПТОНЫ

THERE BE LIGHT...

[The circuit workbench lights up the incandescent light.]

(QUARK and ЛЕПТОНЫ intimately hold their gazes.)

[Blackout.]



fuse

9. TEMPLATE

SCENE X

[*Brookhaven*]

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

(ЛЕПТОНЫ, BOS, and PROFESSORS wander or sit. Some PROFESSORS shake hands. Some PROFESSORS carry refreshments.)

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

(ЛЕПТОНЫ and BOS are not startled.)

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

(*The rest of PROFESSORS tremble.*)

(ЛЕПТОНЫ, BOS, and PROFESSORS sit.)

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

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

(ЛЕПТОНЫ heads to pick up the chalkboard eraser.)

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

(*ЛЕПТОНЫ places her hand on her helmet and bows.*)

(*QUARK erases the chalkboard and writes, "PIECE".*)

ЛЕПТОНЫ

(*Simultaneously, ЛЕПТОНЫ extends her right arm.*)

PEACE...

(*QUARK writes, "of a magnetic quadruple."*)

(*Simultaneously, ЛЕПТОНЫ extends her left arm.*)

...WITHIN HER HEART CHAMBERS...

(*QUARK draws an "X" within the center of the lower right-half of the chalkboard. She writes, "is here".*)

...IS NOT QUITE THERE.

(*QUARK 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

BOS

(*BOS stands up.*)

THIS CANNOT STAND.

(*BOS promptly sits down.*)

ЛЕПТОНЫ

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

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

(*ЛЕПТОНЫ extends her arm.*)

ИЗВИНИТЕ (izvinite), A CORE IN THE UNIVERSE.

(*PROFESSORS applaud.*)

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

(*BOS bolts out.*)

(*Some PROFESSORS remove chairs and return.*)

QUARK

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

(*ЛЕПТОНЫ attempts to direct PROFESSORS to set QUARK down.*)

(*QUARK notices ЛЕПТОНЫ.*)

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!

ЛЕПТОНЫ

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

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

HEY QUARK E. 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.*)

QUARK

(*QUARK sings to herself.*)

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

(*BOS enters with an ID.*)

BOS

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

(*BOS pins the ID onto QUARK.*)

WELCOME TO THE CONTOUR.

(*BOS heads behind the barrier.*)

(*QUARK feels stiff by the ending remark.*)

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

ЛЕПТОНЫ

REVEAL TO US WHAT WE GOT!

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

QUARK

I MUST SAY...

COMPANY

CONGRATULATION-ION-IONS!

QUARK

NO WORDS. I AM LEFT SPEECHLESS.

[Fin.]