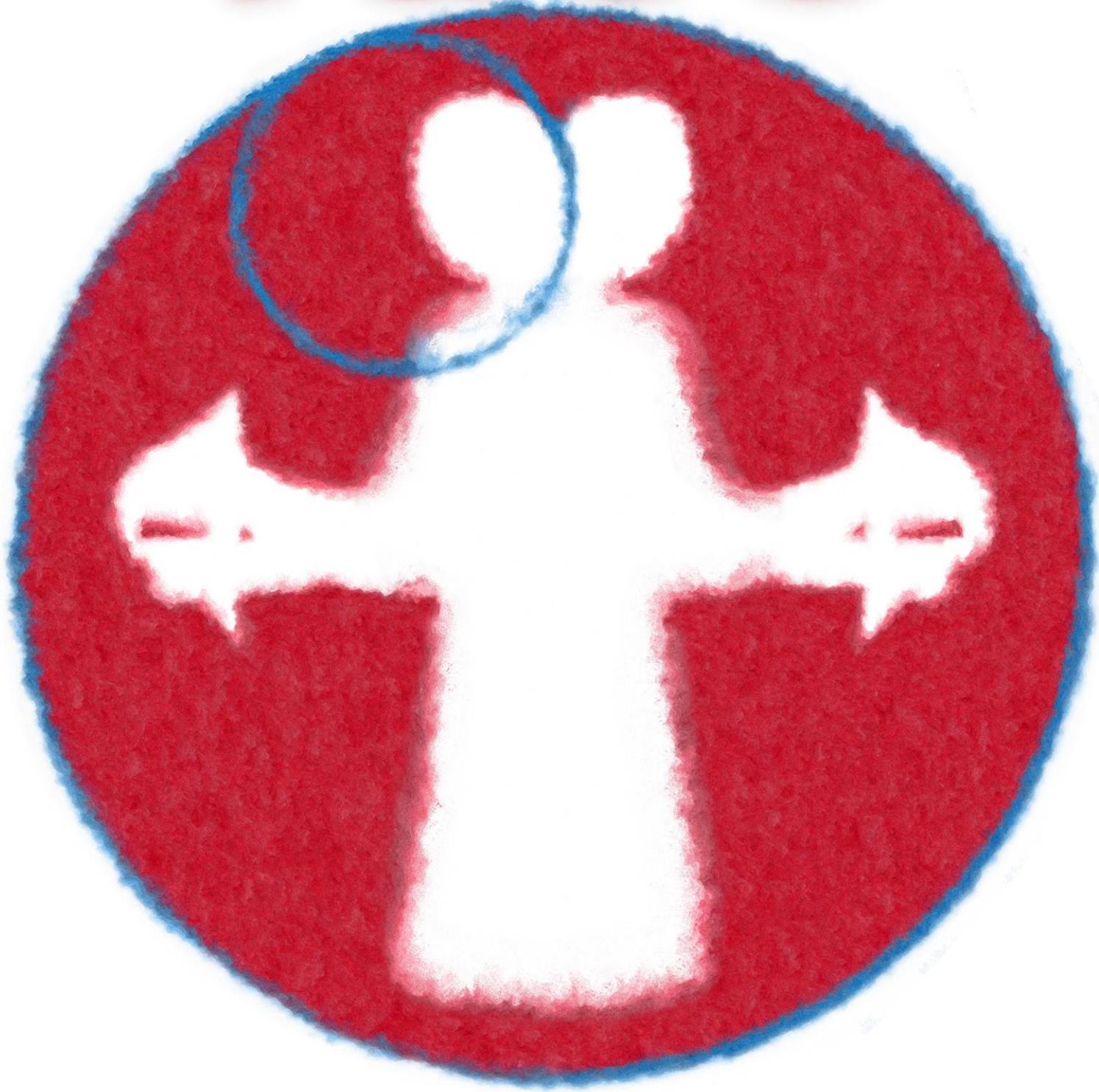


# **fuse**



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

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 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 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 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 National Laboratory. He once shared a deep friendship with Quark.	
ATOM	Bass – Baritone	20+
	An Atom that makes up for things.	

Ensemble		
- STUDENTS	- RESEARCH ASSISTANTS	- PROFESSORS
- 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 National Laboratory.

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

Performer portraying Atom: He dubs University apparel.

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

<b>#</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Character(s)</b> MAIN   ensemble
1.	Tour	University (Administration Bldg → Lecture Hall → Laboratory → Office)	QUARK   ЛЕПТОНЫ   BOS   ATOM   students
2.	Centration	Office	QUARK   BOS   research assistants
3.	G	Conference Hall	QUARK   ЛЕПТОНЫ   professors
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	National Laboratory	QUARK   ЛЕПТОНЫ   BOS   professors
10.	Grats	National Laboratory	QUARK   ЛЕПТОНЫ   BOS professors → engineers

## SCENES & SET DESIGNS

<b>Scene   Page</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>SET   props</b>
i 8	Administration Building	UNIVERSITY BANNER   DESK   schedule   physics textbook notebooks   pens
ii 10	Lecture Hall	DESK with magnets (6+), box with magnet inside, field line diagram, packet, pen   CHALKBOARD WITH FIELD LINE DIAGRAM
iii 13	Laboratory	DESK with magnets (6+), box with magnet inside, field line diagram, packet, pen
iv 17	Office	DESK with box with magnet inside, field line diagram, packet, pen   booklet   packets
v 23	Conference Hall	PACKETS ON THE GROUND
vi 29	Desertron	OPERATOR'S CONTROL
vii 33	Debate Chamber	OPERATOR'S CONTROL   stack of cash
viii 37	Medical Supply Facility	WORKSTATIONS   form   pen   magnets   pacemakers   metals   wooden board + circuits + batteries = circuit workbench
ix 44	National Laboratory	NATIONAL LABORATORY BACKGROUND   BARRIER   CHAIRS CHALKBOARD   FOG MACHINE   chalkboard eraser QUARK's id

$$= \pi R^2$$

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

$$V = kR^2$$

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

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

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

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

$$PV = nRT$$

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

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

## 1. TOUR

SCENE i

[Administration Building]

(QUARK enters, likely coming from a train.  
She wanders around, quickening her pace.)

(ATOM enters, staffing himself.)

**ATOM**

QUARK. CONGRATULATIONS.

(Handing a schedule to QUARK.)

**QUARK**

(Examining the schedule.)

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

**ATOM**

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

(Exiting.)

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

**ЛЕПТОНЫ**

NO CONTROL! YOU СУКА!

**QUARK**

AN ACCIDENT!

*(Picking 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**

*(Holding 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**

WE SHOULD CATCH U—

Go!

**ЛЕПТОНЫ**

YOU ПИЗДА' (pizdá) MADE ME LATE!

*(Running off.)*

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

**ATOM**

LEVIATHAN! YOU DROPPED SOMETHING!

*(Rushing after ЛЕПТОНЫ.)*

**ЛЕПТОНЫ**

IT'S ЛЕПТОНЫ!

*[The tambourines heavily beat.]*

SCENE ii

[*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**

PHONONS !

**STUDENT**

BOSONS !

**STUDENTS**

BORONS?!

**ATOM**

Morons! Theory!

**STUDENTS**

Hmm.

**ATOM**

That's it!

**STUDENTs**

(*Bursting out laughing.*)

(*BOS feels disappointed.*)

(*QUARK sticks out.*)

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 EXPER-ENCE!

**QUARK**

LA-BRA-TOR-Y?

**STUDENTs**

SESSION IS FULL!

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

SCENE iii

[*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!

(*Scattering.*)

(*Each STUDENT grabs a magnet.*)

**STUDENT**

(*Pointing a magnet to another STUDENT.*)

COMPASS FACES...

**STUDENTs**

ATTRACTION HERE!

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

**STUDENT**

YOUR FRIDGE RUNNING?

**STUDENTs**

HA CAUSE MAGNETS !

**ATOM**

(*Reaching for another STUDENT.*)

YOU SEE, MAGNATE.

**STUDENTs**

STILL THE MORON !

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

**BOS**

NEED A PARTNER ?

**STUDENTs**

RATHER WORK 'LONE !

**QUARK**

I WOULD BE HONOURED.

(*Accepting the magnet.*)

**STUDENTs**

OH INDUCTANCE !

**QUARK**

SAY, WE'RE 'TRACTED .

**STUDENTs**

A LITTLE FORCED !

**BOS**

REPEL!

(*Each pair 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.*)

**STUDENTs** (cont.)

PROFESSOR'S SPEECHLESS.

(*Setting up Office.*)

THINK IT OVER!

(*BOS waves STUDENTs off.*)

WE WILL REPEL!

SCENE iv

[Office]

(QUARK hands BOS a booklet.)

**BOS**

(Reading the cover.)

ÉTUDE THÉORIQUES DES SUSCEPTIBILITÉS MAGNÉTIQUE  
MOLÉCULAIRES.

**QUARK**

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

**BOS**

(Revealing a box.)

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

(Opening the box to reveal a magnet.)

WILL YOU BE MY PERMANENT COLLABORATOR?

(QUARK is caught off guard. She notices an  
incorrect field line diagram on the desk.)

**QUARK**

THE FIELD LINES HERE, CROSSED.

(BOS looks 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.

(*Pleading to an unmoving QUARK.*)

REACT. CONNECT. YOU ARE NOTHING BUT STEEL. MAGNET. I AM. NEG-TIVE ENDS POSITIVE.

(*Falling 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!



## 2. CENTRATION

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

(QUARK picks up the packet. She realizes the problems are elementary. 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? CONCEN-

**BOS**

**RESEARCH ASSISTANTS**

-TRATE

(RESEARCH ASSISTANTS individually throw a packet at QUARK.)

(QUARK gradually kneels, in agony.)

(BOS feels sickened. He stops RESEARCH ASSISTANTS. 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 and RESEARCH ASSISTANTS march off, taking Office.*)



3 . G

SCENE V

[Conference Hall]

(PROFESSORS wander in. They pick up and read the packets surrounding QUARK.)

**PROFESSOR**

THESE GRADES DO NOT FIT THE CURVATURE.

**PROFESSOR**

I Q IS LEFT TO BE DESIRED.

(QUARK sits up.)

**PROFESSORS**

SUCCESS. THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE NOT.

**PROFESSOR**

LET B'S...

**PROFESSORS**

IN TRASH BINS OF HISTORY.

**PROFESSOR**

OH F'S...

**PROFESSORS**

YOU MIGHT AS WELL KILL YOURSELF.

(*Leveling with QUARK.*)

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

(*Picking up the remaining packets.*)

(ЛЕПТОНЫ *rushes in.*)

**ЛЕПТОНЫ**

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

(*Rushing 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. LADDER. 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**

FAILURE... 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.

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

IN-...

*(Wording the word to sound close to "feel".)*

FUSE.

*(Placing her hand on her heart.)*

SO ELECTRIFYING!

*(Standing tall and confident.)*

NOW IS THE PERFECT TIMING.

*(Placing a hand on her temple.)*

YET, THE WOUND HAS LEFT ME STATIC.

*(Looking up. She is once more confident. She states this assertively to herself.)*

THUNDER LATER! CHARGE YOURSELF TO FLOW LIKE LIGHTNING!

*(Bringing herself back to reality.)*

THUNDER...

*(Shedding a tear.)*

NOTHING LIKE OVERCURRENT. RAIN OFF EXCESS HEAT.

END MY FIRE.

*(Flinching.)*

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.

*(Placing her hand on her heart.)*

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



## 5. VEX

SCENE vi

[Desertron]

[The lights reveal an operator's control.]

### QUARK

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

(ЛЕПТОНЫ elegantly tiptoes in, clad in a rancher's uniform. She brings in the festivities.)

### ЛЕПТОНЫ

HOWDY... HOWDY. HOWDY. WELCOME TO THE CIRCUIT!

(Speaking 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!

(*Cantering 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...

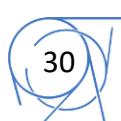
(*Questioning ATOM's identity.*)

**ATOM**

ATOM...

**QUARK**

MOLECULES!



(*BOS slyly enters.*)

**BOS**

IT VEXES ME...

**QUARK**

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

**BOS**

FEEDING THE UNKNOWN FORCE.

(*Pickpocketing a stack of cash from ATOM.*)

**ATOM**

KIDS' MEAL FUND!



## 6. GRESS

SCENE vii

[*Debate Chamber*]

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

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

### **POLITICIANS**

WHERE IS THE MONEY IN THA-AT?

(*Grabbing ahold of ATOM, upside down.*)

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

(*Dropping ATOM and focusing 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.

(*Taking the stack back from POLITICIANS.*)

BRING IT TO ME IN MY LAB.

(*Pointing to QUARK.*)

**BOS** (cont.)

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

(*Handing the stack 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**

(*Taking apart the operator's controls.*)

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... LEP-TON-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  
BESTED.

**POLITICIANS**

A-  
WARDS...  
LE-  
GA-... CY...

(QUARK is thrown out of the debate chamber.)

**POLITICIANS**

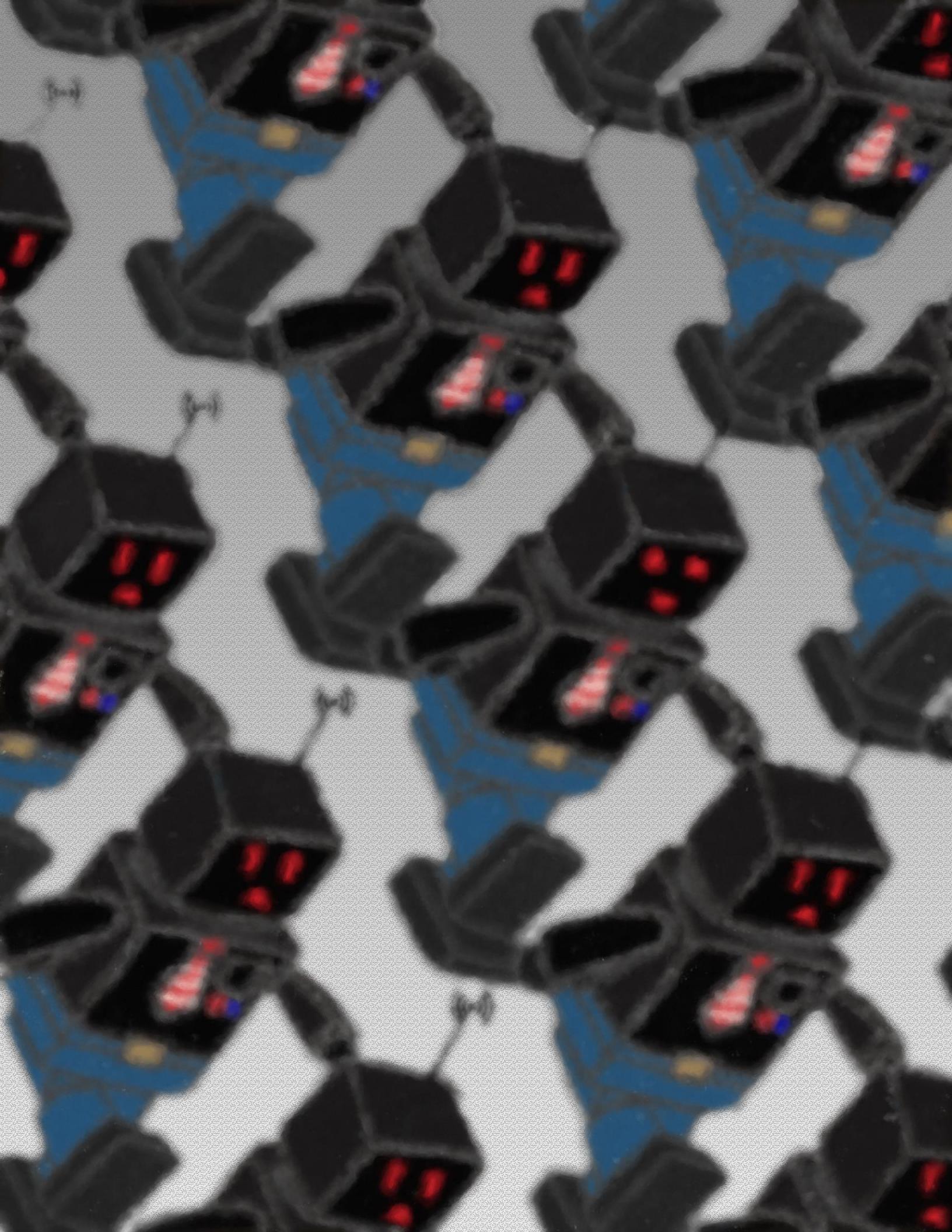
(Half of POLITICIANS sing "board" and the other half sing "lord".)

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

(BOS victoriously holds what is left of the operator's control.)

(BOS and POLITICIANS leave.)

(QUARK ends up alone.)



**7. FORM**

SCENE viii

*[Medical Supply Facility]*

*(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**

*(Addressing 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.)*

**ENGINEERs** (cont.)

HEART ON FIRE. MIND ON ICE. CONFORM. CONFORM.

(*Sitting at their workstation.*)

CONFORM. CONFORM.

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

CONFORM. CONFORM.

(*Seating QUARK next to ATOM.*)

CONFORM. CONFORM.

**QUARK**

(*Addressing ATOM.*)

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

(*Trying 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.

(*Focusing on QUARK.*)

SAVE YOUR LIFE. SAVE YOUR LIFE.

**QUARK**

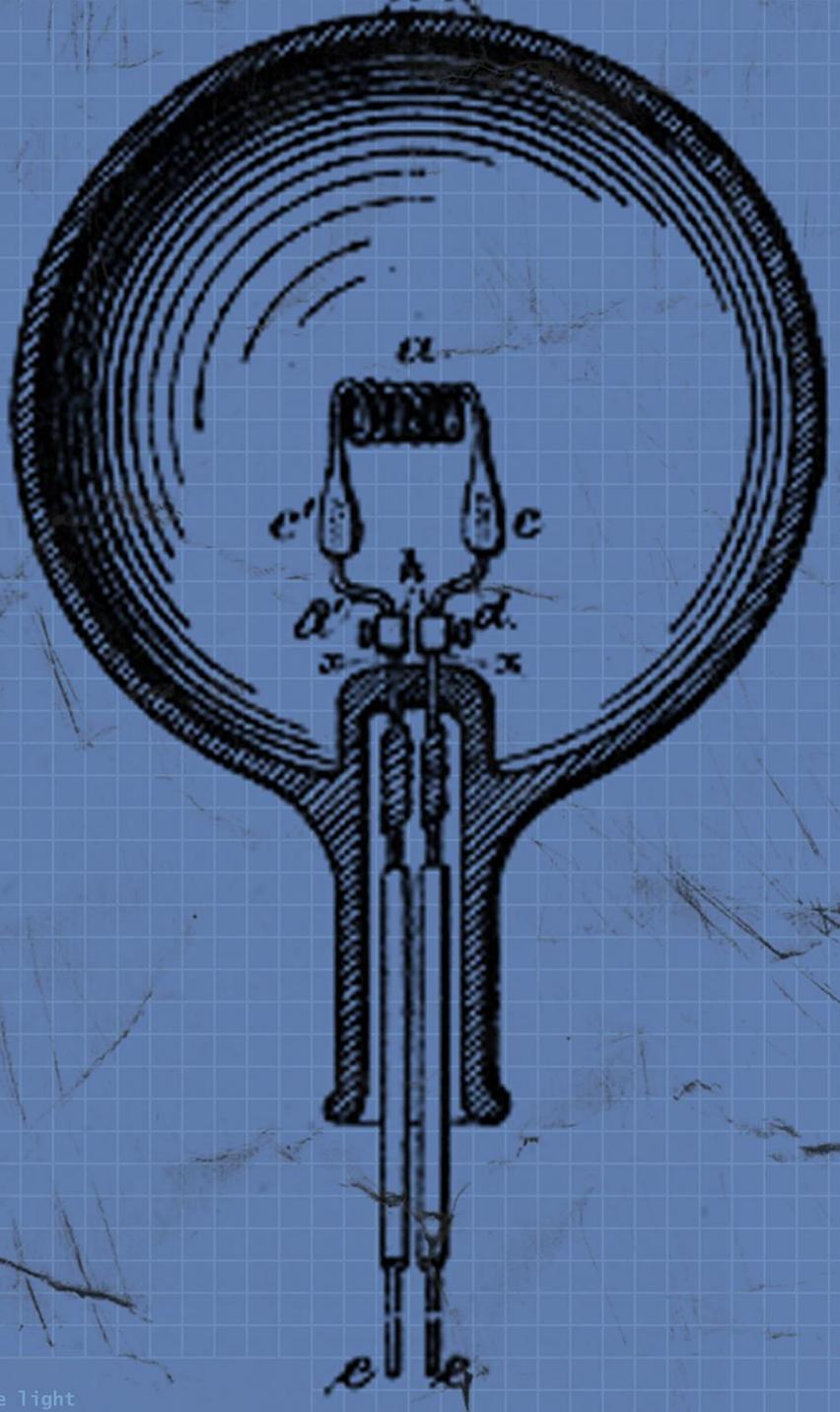
FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT. FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT.

**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**

QUARK E. P. H. D.

*(QUARK stays unresponsive.)*

REMINDER TO CONQUER...

*(QUARK stays unresponsive.)*

COMRADE?

**QUARK**

I CANNOT FACE THE WORLD.

**ЛЕПТОНЫ**

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

*(Pulling 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.

*(Performing much of the procedure.)*

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

HY—... PO—... THE—... SIS...

**QUARK**

*(Intently looks at ЛЕПТОНЫ.)*

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

**ЛЕПТОНЫ**

*(Earnestly acknowledging it.)*

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 ix

[*National Laboratory*]

[*A barrier hides 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 in. She pulls a chalkboard. She turns only her head towards the fog, keeping 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 extending her right arm.)

PEACE...

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

(Simultaneously extending 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**

(*Standing up.*)

THIS CANNOT STAND.

(*Promptly sitting down.*)

**ЛЕПТОНЫ**

(*Placing her hand to her chest.*)

YOU STRUCK A CHORD IN MY HEART.

(*Clearing her throat and extending 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.*)

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**

(*Singing 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.

(*Pinning the ID onto QUARK.*)

WELCOME TO THE CONTOUR.

(*Heading 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 National Laboratory.]*

**QUARK**

I MUST SAY...

**COMPANY**

CONGRATULATION-ION-IONS!

**QUARK**

NO WORDS. I AM LEFT SPEECHLESS.

*(Putting on the helmet.)*

*Fin*