



Sample Pages from The Factory

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THE FACTORY

A DRAMEDY IN ONE ACT BY
Lindsay Price



The Factory

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Characters

16 actors, either gender. The factory is made up of humanoids. Even though they know they are robots, they do not move like stereotypical robots or speak in the monotone usually associated with robots. Be creative.

The Factory:

The Boss: KACHO (kaa-cho)

Weather Reporter: ORAS (Oh-raz)

Rule Knower: PRAVILA (Prah-vill-ah)

Questioner: VAD (rhymes with rad)

Maintenance Manager: RIZIKI (Ree-zee-kee)

Good Health Monitor: TERVE (rhymes with nerve)

Time Keeper: DOBA (Doh-ba)

The Counter: KALKULI (Kal-koo-lee)

Song Master: LAG (rhymes with bag)

Quality Control: HINSHI (Hin-shee)

Document Control: SPIS (rhymes with hiss)

Custodial Manager: PEDEL (Peh-dell)

Schedule Keeper: ZAKAZATI (Za-ka-zah-tee)

The Creator: DR. ZABLUDEN (Za-blue-den)
shown through hologram.

The Humans: MIRA (or MIRO if a guy)
JAK (or JAI if a girl)
They are both high school students.

The characters in the factory are all focused on making a product. Everyone is involved in the act of making the product, even if they have an additional duty (e.g. Good Health Monitor). Think about the dual purpose of each character and how you can physicalize both sides of every character's nature.

As a cast, decide on the product they are making. Who does what when? Decide on the process for making the product. What is the first action that would set everything in motion? This is something to incorporate in the movements of the characters - maybe every time they start to work, they always do the same action. It's an action that gets interrupted with rules, rituals and bureaucracy. Because of these interruptions, they never complete the process and no products are ever made.

Each character has a name related to their job, except for HINSHI. HINSHI is the only one which doesn't directly mean the job associated with the character. Think about what that means and why his name is different.

What do the Names Mean?

Kacho: A Japanese corporate title

Oras: Lithuanian for weather

Pravila: Croatian for rules

Vad: What in Swedish

Riziki: Swahili for maintenance, livelihood

Terve: Healthy in Swedish

Doba: Czech for Time

Kalkuli: Calculate in Esperanto

Lag: Icelandic for song

Hinshi: Japanese for verge of death

Spis: Polish for a list

Pedel: Danish for janitor

Zakazati: Russian for schedule

Dr Zabluden: Misguided in Bulgarian

Mira: Look in Spanish

Jak: How in Slovak

Costumes

One possibility is to draw inspiration from steampunk/Jules Verne. A mixture of the past and present. Another is to dress everyone the same, but each character has an identifying addition to his or her costume - a token signifying their job. How can their costume reflect their job? A third possibility is to go with the traditional looks of status - low status in coveralls, high status in jackets and ties, but think of some way to imbue them with a futuristic look. Mira and Jak are from a hundred years in the future so that should be reflected in their costumes.

Location

A factory floor.

Staging

Use cubes or riser to create levels. Those with higher status should be on a higher level.

KACHO is the boss. He/she must be off to the side and on a cube or raised platform. He/She could be in an overly large CEO office chair. HINSHI is Quality control - or supervisor. He/she is not as high up as KACHO but should be higher than the others. Perhaps constantly moving behind or among the others on a raised platform.

Think levels and groupings - There are characters of high status, middle status, and low status. Don't leave the characters standing in a line across the front of the stage.

At one point, a hole is made in the side of the factory. Make this happen with light and sound rather than an actual physical hole.

Time

The unknown future.

Special Thanks

To Claire Broome and Colin Oliver of John Fraser Secondary School.

Lights up on a stage filled with figures slumped over at the waist. There is a moment of silence and then a short bell rings. DOBA gives a jerk and then rises to stand.

DOBA: It's 7am. The time is fair again.

ZAKAZATI gives a jerk and rises to stand.

DOBA: (to ZAKAZATI) Good morning. It's 7am.

ZAKAZATI: Good morning. It's time to begin.

HINSHI gives a jerk and rises to stand.

DOBA: (to HINSHI) Good morning. It's 7am.

ZAKAZATI: Good morning. It's time to begin.

HINSHI: Good morning. Are we on schedule?

ZAKAZATI: It's time for the official Time to Begin Song.

HINSHI: I knew that! It's the way we always begin.

LAG gives a jerk and rises to stand.

LAG: (singsong) Good morning!

HINSHI: Execute the official Time to Begin Song!

LAG: (singsong) I will execute the official Time to Begin Song. (not really singing) Good morning! Good morning! It's time to begin the day. Good morning! Good morning! It's time to work Zabluden's way!

During the song, all the other figures give a jerk and rise to standing. They stretch and bend in place. As soon as KACHO stands upright, he/she immediately drops his/her head to go back to sleep.

ORAS: Good morning. What a beautiful day!

PRAVILA: Good morning. Good rules.

TERVE: Good morning! Happy health to you!

RIZIKI: Good morning. Everyone in tip top shape?

VAD: Good morning. What time is it?

DOBA: It's 7:02am.

Note: if DOBA wants to be accurate, give the character a stopwatch, and change all time references to reflect the actual time.

ZAKAZATI: It's time for the official greeting.

HINSHI: Execute the official greeting!

ALL BUT KACHO: Good morning Kacho!

KACHO: (*waking up*) Huh? What's this?

HINSHI: Good morning Kacho!

KACHO: Good morning. What's the weather?

HINSHI: Execute the official Weather Report!

ORAS: I will execute the official Weather Report. (*beat*) Sunny.

KACHO: Excellent. Another good day for productive work.

ALL: Yes Kacho!

ORAS: We are truly fortunate to have such lovely weather to complete units.

HINSHI: Oras! It is your job to report the weather, not comment on it.

ORAS: A thousand apologies.

HINSHI: Record the official Weather Report into the official daily document log.

SPIS: The weather has been officially recorded. (*beat*) Sunny.

DOBA: It is 7:03 am.

ZAKAZATI: It's time for the official Roll Call and Count.

HINSHI: Execute the official Roll Call and Count.

KALKULI: I will execute the official Roll Call and Count. Oras!

ORAS: Here!

KALKULI: Pravila!

PRAVILA: Here!

KALKULI: Vad!

VAD: Here!

KALKULI: Riziki!

RIZIKI: Here!

KALKULI: Terve!

TERVE: Here!

KALKULI: Doba!

DOBA: Here!

KALKULI: Lag!

LAG: (*singsong*) Here, here!

KALKULI: Spis!

SPIS: Here!

KALKULI: Pedel!

PEDEL: Here!

KALKULI: Kalkuli! (*beat*) Here! The roll call is complete.

HINSHI: Kacho!

KACHO: (*waking up*) Huh? What's this?

HINSHI: The roll call is complete.

KACHO: Are we all accounted for?

HINSHI: Kalkuli, are we all accounted for?

KALKULI: Yes, Hinshi!

HINSHI: Yes, Kacho!

KACHO: Excellent. Another good day for productive work.

DOBA: It's 7:05 am.

ZAKAZATI: It's time to begin.

HINSHI: Let the official work period begin!

Everyone cheers.

KALKULI: I can't wait to start counting completed units.

DOBA: Make use of time, let not advantage slip.

PRAVILA: (*jumps as if being zapped from the inside*) Warning! An official rule is about to be broken!

Everyone gasps.

LAG: (*singsong*) Oh no!

VAD: How could this be?

LAG: (*singsong*) I feel myself going flat!

ORAS: This will certainly affect our good fortune with the weather.

HINSHI: (*overtop*) I am well aware of the rules, well aware. (*everyone quiets down*) I am the one who identifies when a rule is about to be broken.

PRAVILA: A thousand apologies.

HINSHI: Well, hurry up. We're on a schedule. Execute the notification of the official rule about to be broken.

PRAVILA: Article 12, subsection 54, 22nd bullet point. The completion of the roll call and count requires an official evaluation. Official work cannot begin without—

HINSHI: I knew that! I will execute the official evaluation. Kalkuli, are you ready to receive the official evaluation?

KALKULI: I am willing and able to receive the official evaluation.

HINSHI: This is the official evaluation. (*beat*) I am disappointed.

KALKULI: I am disappointed that you are disappointed.

HINSHI: The roll call was not efficient enough. How can we have a productive work day with inefficiency? We haven't even started yet and it's all your fault.

KALKULI: A thousand apologies. I will double my efforts.

HINSHI: Spis! Record the inefficiency of the roll call into the official daily document log and provide a copy for my official report.

SPIS: The inefficiency of the roll call has been officially recorded. (*hands a small cube to HINSHI*)

HINSHI: I must make an official report of the official evaluation.

DOBA: It's 7:09 am.

ZAKAZATI: It is time for the official question.

VAD: I will now execute the official question.

HINSHI: Hold! I must present an official report of the official evaluation.

ZAKAZATI: The schedule dictates that it is time for the official question.

VAD: I will now execute the official question.

HINSHI: Pravila! Please state the official rules on official reports.

PRAVILA: Article 21, subsection 4a, 3rd row, 2nd column. Official reports take protocol over all over official tasks.

ZAKAZATI: A thousand apologies for my transgression and concede the schedule to accommodate the delivery of the official report.

HINSHI: Hmpft. Kacho!

KACHO: (*waking up*) Huh? What's this?

HINSHI: (*handing over the cube*) I must present this official report. The roll call was not as efficient as it could be.

KACHO: Disappointing, Hinshi. Disappointing.

HINSHI: I take full responsibility.

KACHO: How can we have a productive workday with such transgressions?

HINSHI: A thousand apologies. Every effort will be made to correct it.

KACHO: I must receive a full and complete Statement Study on this situation.

HINSHI: (*turning*) Assembly line! Provide a full and complete Statement Study on the inefficiency of the roll call.

ORAS: (*stepping forward*) The roll call was inefficient. (*stepping back*)

PRAVILA: (*stepping forward*) The roll call was inefficient. (*stepping back*)

VAD: (*stepping forward*) The roll call was inefficient. (*stepping back*)

TERVE: (*stepping forward*) The roll call was inefficient. (*stepping back*)

DOBA: (*stepping forward*) The roll call was inefficient. (*stepping back*)

KALKULI: (*stepping forward*) The roll call was inefficient. (*stepping back*)

LAG: (*stepping forward, singsong*) The roll call was inefficient. (*stepping back*)

SPIS: (*stepping forward*) The roll call was inefficient. (*stepping back*)

PEDEL: (*stepping forward*) The roll call was inefficient. (*stepping back*)

KACHO: (*nodding*) Ah, yes. That explains the situation. A worthwhile study, very worthwhile. Now we can be truly productive.

HINSHI: (*turning*) Zakazati! Do not keep Kacho waiting!

ZAKAZATI: It is time for the official Question!

HINSHI: Execute the official Question!

VAD: I will now execute the official Question. (*steps forward*) Kacho, may I ask a question?

KACHO: No.

VAD: Thank you, Kacho! (*steps back*)

DOBA: It is 7:11 am.

ZAKAZATI: It's time for the work to begin.

DOBA: It's 7:12 am.

ZAKAZATI: It is time for the official Maintenance Report.

HINSHI: Execute the official Maintenance Report!

RIZIKI: (*stepping forward*) I will execute the official Maintenance Report. The factory is—

In the meantime KACHO droops, returns to sleep and drops the cube on the floor. PEDEL interrupts RIZIKI.

PEDEL: (*stepping forward*) Warning! The assembly line must stop production immediately. All production must cease!

RIZIKI: What is this? What is this?

HINSHI: Riziki! I will ask “What is this?”

RIZIKI: A thousand apologies.

HINSHI: What is this? When was the Custodial Manager given authority to cease production on the assembly line? I don't recall any such authority in the official documents.

PEDEL: But there's a—

HINSHI: Spis! Is there record in the official daily document log of the Custodial Manager being given authority to cease production on the assembly line?

SPIS: No, Hinshi!

PEDEL: But there's a—

HINSHI: And yet the Custodial Manager has done just that. Riziki, explain why someone in your department has taken it upon themselves to act outside the specifications of their official occupation parameters.

RIZIKI: Pedel! Explain why you have taken it upon yourself to act outside the specifications of your official occupation parameters. You don't have the authority to cease production.

PEDEL: But there's a—

RIZIKI: The Custodial Manager reports all incidents to the Maintenance Manager and it is the Maintenance Manager who executes the necessary authority.

HINSHI: Authority which you must request from the Quality Control Manager.

RIZIKI: (to HINSHI) Yes, of course. I would not think of ceasing production of the assembly line without your explicit permission. (to PEDEL) Stick to your official occupation which is to clean the factory.

PEDEL: With the utmost respect—I must disagree.

Everyone gasps.

RIZIKI: What?!

HINSHI: What?!

RIZIKI: Ridiculous!

ORAS: Clouds!

HINSHI: This calls for a memorandum of concern AND a letter of admonishment.

Everyone gasps.

DOBA: The time is out of joint!

TERVE: We need a nutrition break.

HINSHI: Explain yourself!

PEDEL: (*falling to knees*) If the Custodial Manager sees something that poses a serious threat to the assembly line, the Custodial Manager can authorize a work stoppage. It's in the official rules. (*throws hands up in a grovel*)

RIZIKI & HINSHI: Don't tell me what is in or out of the official rules.

HINSHI stares sternly at RIZIKI.

RIZIKI: A thousand apologies.

HINSHI: (*clearing throat first*) Pravila! What do the official rules indicate regarding work stoppages and who may authorize them?

PRAVILA: Article 109, subsection 34 F through I. If a member of the factory infers that the assembly line is under serious threat then a stoppage of the assembly line is well with their rights and duties.

HINSHI: Hmpft. Is there anything else in the article?

PRAVILA: No, Hinshi.

HINSHI: Are you sure?

PRAVILA: Yes, Hinshi.

HINSHI: Nothing extra? No appendix note? No subheading? No footer? No reference guide?

PRAVILA: No, Hinshi.

HINSHI: Hmpft. Well. Pedel, do you believe that you are in a position to authorize a work stoppage?

PEDEL: Yes, Hinshi. There is a serious threat.

HINSHI: Yes, yes, yes. But do you really believe you, a Custodial Manager, should be the one to authorize—

PEDEL: There is a serious threat.

HINSHI: Yes, yes, yes. So you've said. Very well then. It is in the rules. The rules must be followed. Hmpft.

There is a pause.

PEDEL: Now, Hinshi?

HINSHI: Yes of course now. Do I have to think of everything? Give your official report.

PEDEL: I must report that a foreign object has landed on the factory floor. As Custodial Manager, it is my duty to protect the safety of the assembly line and retrieve said object. May I do so?

HINSHI: Kacho!

KACHO: (*waking up*) Huh? What's this?

HINSHI: A threat to the assembly line has been identified.

KACHO: A threat?

RIZIKI: A serious threat, Kacho!

HINSHI: (*to RIZIKI*) I will inform Kacho with regards to the nature of the threat! (*to KACHO*) A serious threat, Kacho.

KACHO: This will not do. This will not do! We cannot have a productive day of work if the assembly line is unsafe.

PEDEL: May I have permission to retrieve the dangerous object, Kacho?

RIZIKI: Do not speak to Kacho! (*to KACHO*) May my subordinate have permission to retrieve the dangerous object?

HINSHI: (*to RIZIKI*) Do not speak to Kacho! (*to KACHO*) May the Maintenance Manager have permission to delegate permission to the Custodial Manager to retrieve the dangerous object from the factory floor that threatens the safety of the assembly line?

KACHO: Yes of course. Good thinking Hinshi.

HINSHI: Riziki! You have permission to delegate the retrieval of the dangerous object to the Custodial Manager. Hurry up, we are wasting precious time!

RIZIKI: (*to PEDEL*) What are you waiting for? Hurry up! Get the object!

PEDEL: Yes Riziki! Thank you Riziki!

HINSHI: Hold! I'm the one who obtained permission for Riziki to delegate the retrieval of the dangerous object to you.

PEDEL: Yes of course. A thousand apologies. Thank you Hinshi!

PEDEL moves to the cube. Everyone watches intently. PEDEL takes out a pair of gloves and puts them on, then takes out a container. PEDEL picks up the cube and puts it in the container. Everyone gives a big sigh of relief. PEDEL moves back to his place.

PEDEL: Riziki! The dangerous object has been removed from the factory floor.

RIZIKI: Hinshi! The dangerous object has been removed from the factory floor.

HINSHI: Kacho!

KACHO: (*waking up*) Huh? What's this?

HINSHI: The dangerous object has been removed from the factory floor.

KACHO: Excellent. Now we can be truly productive.

HINSHI: Record this incident in the official daily document log.

SPIS: Yes, Hinshi!

ZAKAZATI: We must execute the official Maintenance Report.

HINSHI: I will tell you when you can execute the official Maintenance Report. (*beat*) Execute the official Maintenance Report!

RIZIKI: (*stepping forward*) I will execute the official Maintenance Report. The factory is without incident and maintenance is maintained. The official Maintenance Report is complete.

VAD: Didn't we just have an incident?

HINSHI: Kacho!

KACHO: (*waking up*) Huh? What's this?

HINSHI: The official Maintenance Report is complete.

KACHO: Excellent. A well-maintained factory without incident is a productive factory.

VAD: But didn't we just—

DOBA: It's 7:25 am.

ZAKAZATI: It is time for the official Good Health task.

KACHO: Excellent. A healthy factory is a productive factory.

HINSHI: Execute the official Good Health task!

TERVE: (*stepping forward*) I will execute the official Good Health task.

Elevator music plays. TERVE steps forward and performs basic stretching moves: stretching up,

stretching over to the left and right, touching the floor, high knees. Nothing that requires the robots to move away from their place. Everyone imitates TERVE, except for KACHO, who has fallen asleep again.

TERVE: *(while doing moves)* One! Two! Three! Four! One! Two! Three! Four! One! Two! Three! Four! The official Good Health task is complete.

HINSHI: Kacho!

KACHO: *(waking up)* Huh? What's this?

HINSHI: The official Good Health task is complete.

KACHO: Excellent. A healthy factory is a productive factory.

DOBA: It is 7:29 am.

ZAKAZATI: It's time for the official Message from Dr. Zabluden.

ALL: Zabluden's way!

LAG: *(singsong)* It's time to work Zabluden's way!

HINSHI: Kacho!

KACHO: *(waking up)* Huh? What's this?

HINSHI: Kacho! It's time for the official Message.

KACHO: Inspiration from our creator will make us productive.
Announce the official message.

HINSHI: Announce the official Message!

ZAKAZATI: The official Message begins now.

The lights dim and everyone looks to the left. DR. ZABLUDEN appears in a spotlight. This is not the real DR. ZABLUDEN. This is a hologram. Consider using light or movement to indicate that DR. ZABLUDEN is not really there.

DR. ZABLUDEN: Greetings Factory.

ALL: Greetings Dr. Zabluden!

DR. ZABLUDEN: Are you ready for a productive day of work?

ALL: Ready!

DR. ZABLUDEN: I am pleased to hear it. I expect much out of you. I expect many units. You are my best work, my most important creation. What you do is essential and significant. There is much you have to live up to and represent. Everything I have is in you, the most efficient factory in the world.

ALL: Yes!

DR. ZABLUDEN: The most efficient factory in the w-w-world.

ALL: Yes!

DR. ZABLUDEN twitches and there is the sound of white noise.

DR. ZABLUDEN: The most efficient factory in the—

Blackout. There is the sound of a motor winding down. When the lights come back up, DR. ZABLUDEN is gone and the robots are nodding at one another. This happens every day and they never notice there's something wrong with the message.

KACHO: Excellent. You have heard the official message. You have heard Dr. Zabluden. We must be efficient. We must be productive. We must produce many units.

ALL: Yes, Kacho!

HINSHI: Let's get to work!

DOBA: It is 7:32 am.

ZAKAZATI: It's time for the post official Message Meditation.

HINSHI: Execute the post official Message Meditation.

TERVE: I will now execute the post official Message Mediation. Please take a meditative pose.

No one moves differently.

TERVE: Begin the meditation.

ALL: Om... *(a long drawn-out meditative sound)* We are one with the universe. Om...We will produce many units. Om...We are one with the universe. Om...We will produce many units.

TERVE: The official post Message Meditation is now complete.

DOBA: It is 7:38 am.

An alarm sounds. This is not normal. This is out of order and off schedule. Everyone looks at one another, at a loss at what to do.

KACHO: What's this? What's this?

HINSHI: It is an alarm, Kacho.

KACHO: Alarm? Alarm for what? Is it on the schedule?

HINSHI: (*overtop alarm*) Zakazati! Is the alarm on the schedule?

ZAKAZATI: No, Hinshi!

KACHO: Hinshi, do something!

HINSHI: Riziki! As Maintenance Manager, it is your job to manage the factory. Turn that off!

RIZIKI: I don't know how. This has never happened before. Pedel, do something!

PEDEL: Yes, Riziki! When we find the alarm, I will clean it.

HINSHI: Pravila! What do the rules indicate regarding alarms?

PRAVILA: Nothing, Hinshi!

HINSHI: Kalkuli! Do something!

KALKULI: Should I count the number of alarm rings?

HINSHI: Lag! Do something!

LAG: (*singsong*) Stop alarm, stop alarm, stop alarm, stop alarm.

HINSHI: Do I have to do everything myself? I will stop the alarm. (*He paces back and forth. Nothing happens.*) It's not my job to do this myself! Somebody shut that off!

The alarm shuts off.

HINSHI: Ah ha. You see, I do have to do everything myself. Kacho! The alarm has been silenced.

KACHO: Good work, Hinshi.

HINSHI: Thank you, Kacho.

There is the sound of bulldozers, cracking walls, tumbling bricks.

KACHO: What is this? What is this?

SPIS: Save the documents!

KACHO: How can we be productive with all this noise!

DOBA: O time must untangle this, not I!

The noise stops and a bright light shines from offstage. It is daylight. There is a pause as everyone leans in and looks with wonder at the hole in the factory wall.

KACHO: What is that?

ORAS: (*pointing*) Sunny.

KACHO: Hinshi.

HINSHI: Yes, Kacho.

KACHO: There is a hole in the factory wall.

HINSHI: Yes, Kacho.

There is a pause.

KACHO: Are we scheduled to have a hole in the factory wall?

HINSHI: Zakazati! Are we scheduled to have a hole in the factory wall?

ZAKAZATI: No, Hinshi.

HINSHI: Pravila! Explain to Kacho why there is a hole in the factory wall.

PRAVILA: There's nothing about holes in the rules.

HINSHI: Kalkuli! Explain to Kacho why there is a hole in the factory wall.

KALKULI: I can't explain the hole. I can count the hole.

HINSHI: Unacceptable! I will be writing a letter of—

ORAS: (*pointing off*) Oh!

MIRA enters studying a device she's carrying. She's not aware of what's in front of her. MIRA definitely looks like she's from the future. After taking a few steps, she stops. She feels she's being looked at. She looks slowly up. She cannot believe what she sees. There is a moment. She runs off.

KACHO: Hinshi. What is the meaning of this?

HINSHI: Doba! What is the meaning of this?

DOBA: Why day is day, night, night and time is time.

MIRA runs on again. She stops and stares. They stare back.

MIRA: (*calling out*) Jak! (*she runs off*)

KACHO: Hinshi, I'm waiting.

HINSHI: Terve! Explain to Kacho—what is the meaning of this?

TERVE: We need a power down moment.

MIRA runs on pulling JAK. They both stop when they see the group.

JAK: Whoa.

MIRA: I know.

JAK: This is... unexpected.

MIRA: (*holding up her device*) The readings never indicated anything behind that wall.

JAK: Neither did the assignment specs. How long have they been here?

MIRA: Years? Nobody makes humanoids anymore. Why didn't Mrs. Odenwyser tell us about this? Is it a test or something?

KACHO: Hinshi! Deal with this situation! (*slumps back asleep*)

JAK and MIRA rear back.

JAK: Whoa.

HINSHI: Riziki! Deal with this situation.

RIZIKI: Oras! Deal with this situation.

ORAS: (*to MIRA and JAK*) Excuse me?

JAK: Whoa. It's talking to us.

MIRA: It's talking to us. (*to ORAS*) Um, yes?

ORAS: What is the weather like today? Out there.

MIRA: You want to know the weather?

ORAS: Yes.

JAK: Sunny.

ORAS: Thank you.

JAK: You're welcome.

ORAS: Hinshi! (*she's very pleased with herself*) I have completed the task. I have confirmed that the weather outside the factory is sunny.

HINSHI: Do I have to do everything around here?

VAD: May I ask a question about who should be dealing with this?

HINSHI: (*to JAK and MIRA*) This factory is off limits. It is restricted to those who work the assembly line and those with VIP access. You do not have VIP access.

MIRA: Actually, we do. Um, Hi. (*to JAK*) I can't believe I'm talking to— (*back to the robots, overly-loud*) I am Mira. (*louder*) Mira.

JAK: They're not stupid.

MIRA: Right. (*normally*) I'm Mira. This is Jak.

JAK: Hey.

MIRA: We're not intruders. Our school owns this property.

JAK: I guess you haven't been outside in a while.

MIRA: We're re-zoning the area for our urban planning class. Nobody told us about... why am I explaining myself to robots?

HINSHI: Silence intruders! This factory is the pride and joy of Dr. Zabluden. He is our owner and creator.

JAK: Zabluden? You're Zabluden's? Whoa!

ALL ROBOTS: Zabluden's way!

MIRA: That's not possible.

HINSHI: We are an efficient productive facility.

JAK: Zabluden's Disaster. I dressed up as Zabluden like four times for Halloween. This is awesome! (*he starts taking pictures*) Our report is going to be the best!

PRAVILA: We follow the rules to the letter.

JAK: This is so awesome.

KALKULI: Everything accounted for.

SPIS: Everything documented.

DOBA: Our time keeping is impeccable.

TERVE: We are in peak condition.

LAG: We perform all the required songs.

ORAS: And we are always aware of the weather.

JAK: It's like history in front of my face. I'm getting a history face slap!

VAD: Questions are asked.

RIZIKI: Problems are solved.

PEDEL: Cogs are cleaned.

ZAKAZATI: We are always on schedule.

HINSHI: This intrusion is affecting our scheduling and our productivity.
If you don't leave immediately I will take steps to alert my
superiors who will alert the authorities.

JAK: Would you really? I would love to see that.

MIRA: *(dryly)* Zabluden's way.

JAK: The biggest capitalism catastrophe of last century. He's like our
major project in Marketing and Communication. I have the press
conference! *(starts flipping through his device.)* I've watched the
holo like a hundred times.

*JAK points his personal device at the side of the stage.
The lights dim to a spot. Into the spot steps DR.
ZABLUDEN. This is another hologram. He's much
different this time. Now his hands are in handcuffs (or
better yet he's in a straightjacket) and he's laughing as
he speaks.*

DR. ZABLUDEN: *(laughing)* Regret? That's what *you* want. You want
me to express remorse for what I've done. If I'm filled with loss,
you can sleep. The pot roast won't taste like ashes. The roses
on the table won't bleed. Your sleep will be sweet and blissful if
I'm sorry. *(super sweet, mocking)* "He's sorry. He regrets. We can
lock him up forever with a clear conscience. He was wrong and
he knows it." *(and now serious, menacing)* Except I'm not crazy.
And I'm not sorry. And I'm not wrong. *(beat, purring)* Perfection.
My creations are perfection. Perfect in every way. Your mistake
was assuming my definition of perfect is the same as yours. Mine
takes every desire you have and tears it to pieces. "We'll have the

robots do everything! They won't need breaks, and they won't have relationships, and we'll make so much money. Effective! Efficient! Perfect!" (*shaking his head*) Your definition is so different than mine. They are perfect in their complete inefficiency. They'll never make a single product. Not one. Oh they look so good on paper. They look so good in their demos following the rules, keeping to their schedules, knowing their jobs so well. And they look so human. They look just like you. It's easier to accept thousands and thousands of lost jobs if they look like you, yes? I want you to lay your head on your pillow tonight and remember that this is your fault. You brought this on your own money grubbing heads. Regret? My only regret is that you'll never see me smile as everything falls apart. I hope none of you ever sleep a night in your lives ever again.

The spot dims, ZABLUDEN exits. The lights return to full. The GROUP looks confused.

JAK: He never did another interview. Died in an institution. All his factories were destroyed.

MIRA: Almost all. I wonder what happened? Why were they just walled in?

JAK: They're so real. It's one thing to see them on screen but...

MIRA: (*to the GROUP*) So, what do you think of your Dr. Zabluden?

SPIS: Dr. Zabluden is our creator. He inspires effective production.

MIRA: You have no idea what he created you to do.

KALKULI: He wants us to create many units.

ORAS: He wants us to be productive.

HINSHI: What we're doing is essential and significant.

DOBA: Dr. Zabluden says so.

TERVE: Play the official message. Show them.

LAG: (*singsong*) It's time to work Zabluden's way!

ZAKAZATI: We've already heard the official message. We can't play it twice.

MIRA: Why not?

ZAKAZATI: It's not in the schedule. If Hinshi wishes to override the schedule...

HINSHI: Why would I do that? We are an efficient and productive facility. We must stick to the schedule.

MIRA: Why is your boss programmed to sleep through everything? Shouldn't he make sure you get things done? What's wrong with him?

RIZIKI: Kacho is an important person.

MIRA: He's asleep.

JAK: Don't tease them.

MIRA: You can't tease a robot. They're not human, Jak. They're not like us, no matter how real they look.

HINSHI: Kacho!

KACHO: (*waking up*) Huh? What's this?

HINSHI: What is your status in this facility?

KACHO: I am important. I am the boss. Everything you see is because of my skilled and effective leadership. (*slumps back asleep*)

MIRA: (*to HINSHI*) Right, so let me ask you this—

HINSHI: Questions must follow the proper channels. We have an official questioner. Vad! Explain your official position.

VAD: I am the Official Questioner. It is my job to ask questions.

HINSHI: Pravila! What do the official rules indicate for asking questions?

PRAVILA: If you wish to ask a question, you may submit the question in writing to the Documents Manager, who will deliver said question to the Official Questioner who will then request permission to ask the question. Do you wish to submit your question?

MIRA: No. How many units have you produced?

This unsettles the GROUP.

ZAKAZATI: You can't do that!

PRAVILA: We have rules.

PEDEL: We have procedures.

ORAS: Clouds!



help@theatrefolk.com www.theatrefolk.com

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