

**SIDE A**  
DOMIN / HELENA

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DOMIN  
Shall we sit, Miss Glory?

They do.

How can I be of service to you?

HELENA  
Mr. Domin, I have come to--

DOMIN  
Of course. To have a look at our famous works. The manufacturing of artificial people.

HELENA  
I thought it was forbidden for anyone to--

DOMIN  
To enter the factory. Yes, but many do come with someone's visiting card, Miss Glory.

HELENA  
And you show them how the--?

DOMIN  
Only certain things. But the process must remain secret. That's critical.

HELENA  
Yes, and you must know how that enormously--

DOMIN  
Interests you? The world's talking about little else.

HELENA  
Please let me finish speaking.

DOMIN  
I beg your pardon. Am I wrong in my assumptions?

HELENA  
I want to ask, to request--

DOMIN

If I'll make an exception in your case and show you the actual factory.

HELENA

Well...yes.

DOMIN

We shall consider it a special honor to show President Glory's daughter more than we do the others.

HELENA

Thank you.

DOMIN

But you must agree not to divulge even the least—

HELENA stands – he quickly follows her lead. She offers her hand.

HELENA

My word of honor.

He takes her hand and keeps it in in his.

DOMIN

Thank you.

HELENA

But, of course.

He looks deep into her. An awkward silence.

DOMIN

Did you have a pleasant crossing?

HELENA

Would you mind releasing my hand?

He does.

DOMIN

I beg your pardon.

HELENA

Yes, the crossing was pleasant.

DOMIN  
No difficulty?

HELENA  
Why?

DOMIN  
A young lady like yourself, alone on the seas.

HELENA  
May we go straight into the factory now?

DOMIN  
In such a rush.

HELENA  
I much prefer to—

DOMIN  
Might we sit back down? Please... I- I'm sure you'd like to hear the story of the invention, yes?

She considers...

HELENA  
Go ahead.

They sit. DOMIN stares into her...

DOMIN  
Your eyes are not unlike the waters of the sea you just rode upon...

HELENA  
Mr. Domin, I—

DOMIN  
The year 1920! Old Rossum, the great physiologist - who was then quite a young scientist - took himself to this distant island.

HELENA  
Here... Yes.

DOMIN  
To study the ocean fauna.

HELENA  
And yet...

DOMIN

On this one occasion - he attempted, by chemical synthesis, to imitate the living matter known as protoplasm. In doing so, he discovered an extraordinary substance – one that behaved exactly like living matter – but with a different chemical composition. That was in 1932.

HELENA

Yes, and he then wrote: "Nature has found only one method of organizing living matter. There is, however, another method, more simple, flexible and rapid, which has not yet occurred to nature at all. This second process by which life can be developed was discovered by me today."

DOMIN

Oh. You already— and from memory. You know his writings?

HELENA

It must have been a tremendous moment for old Rossum.

DOMIN

Yes - imagine him sitting over a test tube - thinking how the whole tree of life would grow from it - how all animals would proceed from it, beginning with some sort of beetle and ending with a man. A man of different substance from us.

HELENA

Different...

DOMIN

But he had to determine how to form organs, bones and nerves - and find such substances as catalytics, enzymes, hormones, and so forth - you understand?

HELENA

I follow.

DOMIN

With the help of his tinctures, he could make whatever he wanted.

HELENA

One could say this substance had a thirst for life.

DOMIN

Indeed.

HELENA

Then he could have produced a Medusa with the brain of a Socrates or a worm fifty yards long.

DOMIN

Nothing so extravagant. First – he tried an artificial dog. That took him several years and resulted in a sort of stunted calf. It died in a few days. I'll show it to you in the museum. But then he quickly set more lofty goals.

HELENA

He leapt right to humans.

DOMIN

And...

HELENA

Yes?

DOMIN

You sincerely must be discreet, Miss Glory.

HELENA

I've already promised.

DOMIN

Old Rossum was mad, you see.

HELENA

How so?

DOMIN

He wanted to make actual people.

HELENA

But you do make people.

DOMIN

Approximations, Miss Glory. But old Rossum meant it literally. He wanted to become a scientific substitute.

HELENA

For what.

DOMIN

*For God.*

A silence. The waves swell and recede. HELENA moves to the window and gazes.