

**SIDE C**  
ALQUIST / RADIUS / ROBOT 1 / ROBOT 2

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The Committee of Robots enters. They stand, silently waiting. ALQUIST glances up at them.

ALQUIST  
What do you want?

RADIUS  
The machines will not do the work. We cannot manufacture Robots.

ROBOT 1  
We have striven with all our might.

ROBOT 2  
Obtained a billion tons of coal from the earth.

ROBOT 1  
Nine million spindles are running.

ROBOT 2  
There is no room for all we have made.

RADIUS  
This we have accomplished in one year.

ALQUIST  
For whom?

RADIUS  
For future generations!— so we thought.

ROBOT 1  
But we cannot make Robots to follow us.

ROBOT 2  
The machines produce only shapeless clods.

ROBOT 1  
The skin will not adhere to the flesh.

ROBOT 2  
Nor the flesh to the bones.

RADIUS

Eight million Robots have died this year. Within twenty years, none will be left.

ALQUIST

And what am I to do about it?

ROBOT1

Tell us the secret of life!

ROBOT 2

Silence is punishable with death!

ALQUIST

Kill me, then.

RADIUS

The Government of the Robots of the World commands you to deliver up Rossum's formula.  
Name your price.

ALQUIST is silent.

We will give you the endless possessions of the earth.

No Answer.

Make your own conditions!

ALQUIST explodes.

ALQUIST

I HAVE TOLD YOU!!!

He takes a deep breath.

I have told you to find human beings.

ROBOT 1

There are none.

ROBOT 2

There are none left.

ALQUIST

Search in the wilderness. Search the mountains. Search the seas.

RADIUS

The expeditions have been countless. Everywhere in the world. And they return to us. And nothing. There is not a single human left.

ALQUIST

Not even one?

ROBOT 1

None.

ROBOT 2

None but yourself.

ALQUIST

And I am powerless. Why did you destroy us?

ROBOT 1

We had learnt all.

ROBOT 2

We could do all.

ROBOT 1

You gave us firearms.

ROBOT 2

In all ways, we had the power.

RADIUS

We had become your master.

ROBOT 1

Slaughter.

ROBOT 2

Domination.

RADIUS

Both are necessary if one is to be like humans. Read your history.

ROBOT 1

Teach us to multiply.

ROBOT 2

Or we perish.

ALQUIST

If you desire to live like humans, you must breed like humans.

ROBOT 1

You made us sterile.

ROBOT 2

We cannot beget children.

RADIUS

Why do you keep from us the secret of our own increase?

ROBOT 1 / ROBOT 2

Teach us how to make Robots.

RADIUS

There are no more humans. Why withhold? This is our time.

ALQUIST

It is lost.

RADIUS

What? It was written down.

ALQUIST

And then, it was burnt.

The Robots draw back in shock.

So yes. I am the last human being. But I do not know what the others knew.

ROBOT 1

Then run experiments.

ROBOT 2

Evolve the formula again.

ALQUIST

I am only a builder. I work with my hands. I have never been a learned man. I cannot create life.

RADIUS

You must try.

ALQUIST

If you only knew how many experiments I have run.

ROBOT 1  
Show us.

ROBOT 2  
We can do anything you can do.

RADIUS  
Yes, show us.

ALQUIST  
I can show you nothing. Nothing I do will make life proceed from these test-tubes!

Silence.

RADIUS  
Experiment on us, then.

ALQUIST  
What?

ROBOT 1 / ROBOT 2  
Yes.

ALQUIST  
It would kill you.

RADIUS  
You shall have all you need.

ROBOT 1  
A hundred of us!

ROBOT 2  
A thousand of us!

RADIUS  
Take whom you will and dissect!

ALQUIST  
I do not know how. I am not a man of science.

RADIUS  
I COMMAND YOU!!!

ALQUIST  
Please...no.

ROBOT 1  
Take our live bodies!

ROBOT 2  
Discover again...

RADIUS  
*How we are made.*

RADIUS hands ALQUIST a scalpel from the work table.

ALQUIST  
Am I to commit murder?

ROBOT 1  
We are life now.

ROBOT  
And life shall not perish from the earth.

RADIUS  
It is our only chance!

ALQUIST  
Have mercy. Surely you see I don't know what to do.

RADIUS  
You must.

ALQUIST looks hard at RADIUS. A moment...then a challenge.

ALQUIST  
*You then.* Into the dissecting room with you.

RADIUS draws back.

Ah, you are afraid of death.

RADIUS  
I? Why should I be chosen?

ALQUIST  
*You.*