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Miracle Mile

By Josepha Gutelius

CHARACTERS

Eva Lee Grand: early 20s, genius scientist, daughter of Alphonse. Eva is ghostly white, like an irradiated lab rat, definitely a creature of the high-tech future, and perhaps the subject of her own scientific experiments. Walks with a cane and a limp like a pirate. She's hunched-over and squint-eyed from having spent her entire life in a laboratory (but she is not anatomically "humpbacked")

Alphonse: 50-60, Alfred Rio Grand, President of the United States

Peg Le Pre ("pre" is pronounced like "prey"): 35-50, Alphonse's girlfriend, Southern belle, peroxide blonde, wears a short sequined dress, high heels

Lieutenant: late 20s or older, in uniform

Nuke: early 20s, Eva's invention, a humanoid, the supreme specimen of a well-built "male," with spiked hair that looks like it's been electrocuted; his skin has a waxy sheen

RAIN: early 20s, Eva's invention, a humanoid, the supreme specimen of a "female"

Mad Monk: [doubled by Nuke] dressed in a black cape and hood

TIME

The scary future

SETTING

Scene One: The Oval Office (stripped bare)

Scenes Two and Three: Miracle Mile, a tiny island in balmy seas, comprised of fake boulders that disguise Eva's secret lab.

SCENE ONE

The Oval Office, stripped bare. ALPHIE [called RIO by Peg] and PEG are seated, plates on laps, gamely trying to enjoy an inedible meal. Alphie sits on a “throne” with miniature American flags attached. Peg is seated on a crummy fold-up chair. Alphie and Peg pick at their food.

Peggy?...
ALPHIE

Dear?
PEG

Where’s the furniture?
ALPHIE

...Furniture? Oh, I told the staff to take it all away. I wanted it to be just us tonight – no furniture. What are you doing?
PEG

... I ...want to look out the window?
ALPHIE
(standing)

Why, whatever for?
PEG

I... I...
ALPHIE
(lights flicker wildly)

Why are the lights blinking?
ALPHIE

Why honey, it’s Christmas. The lights always blink on Christmas.
PEG

(ground shakes)

What is that?
ALPHIE

Hmm?
PEG

ALPHIE
You don't feel anything?

PEG
(clutching her chair to keep her balance)
No.

ALPHIE
Peggy, I – I want to go to the window and see –

PEG
See what, dear? SIT!

ALPHIE
But –

PEG
SIT! EAT!

(Alphie sits. Everything returns to normal. Alphie tries to eat. Gives up.)

ALPHIE
I'm lonely.

PEG
Oh, honey. You have me. And... and Eva. I've sent for Eva. Aren't I nice?
You remember Eva, your daughter?...

(scary noises)

ALPHIE
What's that?!

(noises cease)

EVA
You know what? -- I'll go get Eva myself.

ALPHIE
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!

(LIEUTENANT enters in a gas mask)

LIEUTENANT
(snaps to attention)
Mister President.

PEG
("cheerful")
Merry Christmas, Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT
Merry Christmas, Ms. Le Pre.
(removes gas mask)
Phew, I didn't think I'd survive that last attack.

ALPHIE
What?

(scary noises)

ALPHIE
Do you hear that, Peggy?

PEG
Hear what, sweetie?

(sounds cease)

ALPHIE
Lieutenant, what's the sky like?

PEG
Oh silly, what kind of question is that? A sky is a sky.

ALPHIE
I ordered a blue sky.

PEG
It is blue, sweetie.

ALPHIE
Lieutenant?

LIEUTENANT
Sir.

ALPHIE

It was a promise. I keep my election promises. I said we'd give the farmers a blue sky and our enemies a twister.

(Alphie laughs, the others join in)

PEG

Blue, blue, we love blue!

LIEUTENANT

Sir, perhaps you should know that –

PEG

Lieutenant, you didn't see the President's daughter wandering around the halls, did you?

LIEUTENANT

His daughter, ma'am?

ALPHIE

My daughter's not allowed outside her laboratory.

PEG

It's Christmas, honey. She's allowed out once a year for Christmas.

ALPHIE

Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT

Sir.

ALPHIE

My daughter... What's-her-name—

PEG

Eva.

ALPHIE

Eva. Eva Lee Grand: she's been a great weapons engineer from the time she was four years old.

LIEUTENANT

Really?

ALPHIE

I knew she was destined for something big. That's why I keep her locked up in a laboratory. She's a genius. It'd be a waste to raise her like an average child, wouldn't you say, Lieutenant?

LIEUTENANT

Yes sir. I'm opposed to government waste.

(Sound of Mad Monk, off, intoning mumbo-jumbo)

LIEUTENANT

(confidentially, to Peg)

Ma'am, I saw someone wandering around the White House.

(MAD MONK passes through, swinging an incense burner. Deftly swipes food off Alphie's plate. Everyone is too intimidated to object)

LIEUTENANT

Is that her?

PEG

Goodness, no. That's not Eva. Eva is hunchbacked, with a clubfoot. That's the President's advisor. He always has such good advice.

MAD MONK

REPENT!

LIEUTENANT

Yes sir.

PEG

(waving goodbye)

Merry Christmas!

(MAD MONK exits, still intoning)

ALPHIE

He stole my food.

PEG

(cheerfully dumps her food on Alphie's plate)

Have mine, honey.

LIEUTENANT

I brought something for the festivities, sir.

(takes out a wrapped package, Peg grabs it hungrily)

PEG

Oh aren't you a darling. What a cute wrapper. I knew you'd come through, Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT

I'm sorry it's not much. It's the only food I could find.

PEG

(unwraps package)

Dog food...

LIEUTENANT

I stole it from a Doberman.

PEG

How brave of you!

LIEUTENANT

I was lucky to get it. That dog was vicious. I figured Rover could use some food.
(glances around)

Your dog, Rover? ... Is he here?

(Alphie and Peg look at their plates guiltily: they're eating Rover)

LIEUTENANT

(shocked)

Oh.

PEG

Did you bring the Christmas decorations, Lieutenant?

LIEUTENANT

Oh yes ma'am. I found some balloons in the war room.

PEG

(squealing)

Divine. Oooh what fun. Isn't this fun, honey? Put a balloon in front of the President, Lieutenant.

(takes Alphie's head and swivels it forward)

Let's not strain his neck.

(Peg and Lieutenant begin blowing balloons. The ground shakes. All stumble around)

ALPHIE
(stands, plate crashes to the floor)

Something's not right—Lieutenant –

LIEUTENANT
(at attention, accidentally lets air out of the balloon)

Sir.

You think –
ALPHIE

PEG
No, Lieutenants don't think, sweetie.

ALPHIE
What will happen if I go to the window? Will they cheer me?

PEG
Cheer, darling, yes. This is a great moment in history, Rio.

ALPHIE
They love me, don't they?

PEG
Honey, even your opponents love you.

ALPHIE
Have you seen the recent polls?

PEG
You're still ahead of Jesus Christ.

ALPHIE
I want to see—

PEG
SIT!

(Objects fall from above, crashing noises)

PEG

(jumps on Alphonse's lap, sings)

"I'm dreaming of a white..."

(talks)

Sing it with me, honey.

PEG and ALPHIE

(sing)

"...Christmas.

"Just like the ones I used to know."

(Peg spots Lieutenant crawling out the door)

PEG

Sing, Lieutenant!

PEG, ALPHIE, LIEUTENANT

"Where the treetops glisten

"and children listen

"to hear sleigh bells in --

(EVA stumbles in. Silence. Eva is ghostly white, like an irradiated lab rat, definitely a creature of the high-tech future, and perhaps the subject of her own scientific experiments. She's squint-eyed, hunched over, limps ponderously with a cane. She wears bright orange pants, a lab coat)

EVA

(gloomily)

Merry Christmas.

PEG and LIEUTENANT

Merry Christmas.

PEG

(breaks out into nervous giggles, sings)

Jingle-bells, Eva's here!

EVA

Who can sing at a time like this?

PEG

Fine. You can't hold a tune. I can.

EVA

Look at them out there.

ALPHIE

How come she can go to the window and I can't?

PEG

Eva, get away from the window.

(a chair leg is thrown, narrowly misses Eva)

EVA

Those poor people.

ALPHIE

What?

EVA

They're cutting up all the White House furniture, Daddy.

PEG

They're supposed to. They're budget cuts.

EVA

There's a crazy monk out there on the lawn, telling everyone to storm the White House.

(PEG croons "Jingle Bells" in Alphie's ear)

ALPHIE

What is she saying? What crazy monk?

EVA

I suppose you're used to these screaming masses.

PEG

(croons into Alphie's ear)

"Jingle-bells"

PEG and LIEUTENANT

(singing)

"Jingle-bells, jingle all the way"

EVA

Even the Secret Service is getting sloppy. I got in without anyone checking my I.D. Probably they hope I'm an assassin.

ALPHIE
What is she saying?

EVA
The WEATHER WAR, Daddy.

ALPHIE
War???

PEG
Your Daddy is loved! LOVED!

(ground shakes. Everyone stumbles around)

EVA
Earthquake! An earthquake in Washington! The third time in four minutes point two-second intervals!

PEG
It's not an earthquake!

EVA
No? Then how come the floor is shaking?

PEG
It's your daddy's economic staff dancing upstairs.

EVA
Daddy, do you know what the Midwest looks like?

PEG
Of course he knows. He was born there.

EVA
Look at these satellite photos. There hasn't been rain there, ever since Z-Z.

PEG
But they've had plenty of snow.

EVA
That's Miami. Miami's buried under thirty feet of snow.

ALPHIE
(beaming, to Peg)
They'll have a white Christmas.

EVA

You made a big boo-boo, daddy.

PEG

He is not responsible for anything.

EVA

Who is then?

PEG

You.

ALPHIE

Is someone blaming me?

EVA
(to Alphie)

You launched Z-Z.

PEG

And you built Z-Z.

EVA

I only wanted to test Z-Z on the Lincoln Memorial. He's let her loose all over the country.

PEG

So? What's there to complain about? If you invented the car, would you feel responsible for drunk drivers?

ALPHIE

I wouldn't.

PEG

Of course not. So think of Z-Z as the car and your daddy's the drunk.

ALPHIE

Huh?

(more broken furniture is hurled into the room)

EVA

You've got to do something about this, daddy.

ALPHIE
I propose a toast.

PEG
Yes! Speech, speech!

ALPHIE
Lieutenant?

LIEUTENANT
Sir!

ALPHIE
Nature is ours, thanks to Z-Z, and thanks to Z-Z's chief engineer, Doctor Eva Lee Grand.

LIEUTENANT
(applauding)
Hear-hear!

PEG
(cheerleader)
Ra-ra- EVA!

EVA
Daddy, you have to talk to them. Explain about the Weather War –

PEG
Yes, another speech!

ALPHIE
The Weather War is good for the family.

PEG
Yes! War is the mother of invention.

ALPHIE
Lieutenant?

LIEUTENANT
Hear-hear!

EVA
But you have to get them on your side, daddy. They're not happy. They're not used to glaciers in Texas.

Hear-hear! LIEUTENANT

ALPHIE
(wraps his arms around Eva)
What do you think of her, Lieutenant?

LIEUTENANT
The country is grateful to her, sir.

ALPHIE
God bless America! Will you marry her?

LIEUTENANT
Sir?

EVA
(recoils)
Ew!

ALPHIE
Do it fast. You want the egg, you have to crack the shell.

PEG
Yes! A perfect idea. Say "I do" Eva.

EVA
"I do" what.

PEG
Ra-ra! Give me your hand, Eva. Come here, Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT
Ma'am?

PEG
Join hands.
(she smacks Eva's and Lieutenant's hands together)
I do solemnly –

LIEUTENANT
I do solemnly--

EVA
Who is he? I've never seen him before in my life.

“I do”! Say it! PEG

(sound of loud rumblings)

What’s that? ALPHIE

The crowds! PEG
(grabbing a flag from Alphonse’s chair and waving it)

(Lieutenant, grabbing a flag, bolts out)

Don’t shoot! I’m American! LIEUTENANT

(LIEUTENANT exits)

The fourth earthquake! EVA

Hooray! We’ve had a wedding! PEG
(waving the flag)

Where’s Eva. Tell her to do something. Let her out of the lab. ALPHIE
(increasingly disoriented)

Eva, you go out there and announce your marriage. PEG

Why? EVA

Because people love White House weddings. And it’s good for tourism. Now get your butt out there! PEG

Call Eva. It’s natural for a daughter to be with her father. ALPHIE

We don’t need to speculate on what’s natural anymore. EVA

ALPHIE

Who is this? What is she saying?

EVA

I can't reverse Z-Z, Daddy.

(Alphie clutches his chest in pain)

PEG

Rio?!

(sticking a balloon into Alphie's mouth)

Blow, sweetie. Big blow!

(he does. Peg takes the balloon)

Good. Now eat.

(Peg feeds him)

Hmmm... Yum, yum.

ALPHIE

(innocently, to Peg)

This isn't fresh. You should reprimand the staff.

EVA

What staff?

PEG

(pulling Eva away from Alphie)

Looky here Eva, can't you see he's upset? Why do you think I called you out of the laboratory? You're supposed to cheer him up.

EVA

He should be grateful he has any food. I haven't eaten for days.

PEG

Neither have I. I could just faint. Eva, do a little bitty favor? You're so clever. Go through the stockpiles in the basement. I'd do it myself, except the President's Cabinet is hiding down there.

EVA

There's no food in the basement. The staff pillaged everything.

PEG

Oh! How can they let the President of the United States starve?

EVA

Everyone's starving.

PEG

(has a brainstorm)

I know: We'll have a parade, he and me. People'll see him. That's what they need. They need to see him taking charge!

EVA

They're going to impeach him.

PEG

No! That's a dirty rumor.

(MAD MONK enters, heads straight for Alphonse)

MAD MONK

(intoning over Alphonse)

Cry, O Dodo-land for your strength is laid waste. Our Nick-nick shall be darkened.

(this is too much for Peg: she bursts out weeping)

ALPHIE

Nick-nick?... What? What's the matter with him?

MAD MONK

Ye shall be judged!

EVA

Daddy, that's the crazy monk who's telling people to storm the White House.

MAD MONK

Mumbo-jumbo, jumbo-mombo.

ALPHIE

Get the military. Where's that husband of yours?

EVA

What husband?

PEG

(howling, through tears)

Stop upsetting him!

(Mad Monk intones a chant over Eva and Peg)

EVA

I never married the Lieutenant, daddy. He skipped out on you, like everyone else.

PEG

You – you are a double-crossing traitor!

EVA

Me?

PEG

Yeah, you! He put all his faith in you, and look what you've done!

(to Mad Monk)

Oh knock it off!

(MAD MONK falls instantly silent, scuttles off)

EVA

I'm going back to my lab.

PEG

(grabs Eva)

Eva, please, be a sweetie. We don't even have water for the toilets. Help us get out of here. Find us a ship.

EVA

A ship.

PEG

For your daddy and me. We need rest. We need to take a cruise.

EVA

There aren't any ships.

PEG

Eva, don't be naughty. I know there are ships. I've seen them on T.V.

EVA

Those are toy ships. They show them to keep people from panicking.

PEG

No! You're lying! There have to be real ships somewhere.

EVA

Let me go.

PEG
(clutches Eva)

A plane.

EVA
What plane? Everything's down since Z-Z.

PEG
A rocket. You know where the rockets are stored.

EVA
If I did, I wouldn't tell you.

PEG
Listen to me, you little crippled hunchbacked freak, you find us a way to get out of the country!

(crash, the plate falls off Alphonse's lap. He stumbles forward)

PEG
(sweetly)
Honey! What is it? Do you need to pee-pee?

ALPHIE
(looking up)
The twister...

PEG
Yes!
(sings, dances with Alphonse)
"Oh baby let's twist again
"Like we did last summer"

ALPHIE
Shh! Stand still, Peggy. Look at that.

PEG
The ceiling?

ALPHIE
(rapt)
The twister...

EVA
(can't resist feeling proud of her own invention)

Z-Z...

ALPHIE
The twister. The almighty riddle of riddles – she roars in and spins down

EVA
And no one knows where she comes from

ALPHIE
Or where she'll land because the ultimate riddle

EVA
Is the ultimate weapon in the hands of man. Nature is ours!

ALPHIE
No one knows that twister is in our hands. We spin her down on the enemy and the enemy says, "It's not a war, it's the weather."

PEG
Eva, tell it to go away!

EVA
(excited, reciting a jingle)
The crops are brown and the soil's like leather.
It's not a war, it's the weather.

(strobe lights swirl around the room)

PEG
No!

ALPHIE
The sky's like blood –

PEG
Rio, get away from the window!

ALPHIE
The air's on fire.

PEG
Lightning!

(clap of thunder, flashes of light)

Nature! ALPHIE
 (Alphie is suddenly “struck,” falls to his knees in ecstasy)

Rio! PEG

ALPHIE
 (struggling for speech, becoming more and more primate)
 Na- na- na- nature, ta, oooh-oooh-ooooh, Abba, Abba, Abba

Darling! PEG

ALPHIE
 Abba, naa-naaaa-naa-naaaa, a-a-a-a-!
 (collapses, legs in the air)

Rio! PEG

Daddy? EVA

PEG
 (running out)
 Help! Help! Help! The President’s dead!

(PEG exits. MAD MONK scurries in)

MAD MONK
 Woe, all ye inhabitants, woe to the multitudes! Howl ye, in –
 (suddenly spots Alphie, normal voice)

Oh Jesus.
 (genuflects, intones over Alphie’s body)
 Flesh begets dust. A mighty man and a great president is dead. President Alfred
 Rio Grand

(looks up)
 struck down by a Hand mightier than him.

Daddy— EVA

MAD MONK
Allah comfort us.

EVA
(pounds on Alphonse's chest)
Daddy?

MAD MONK
Buddha giveth peace.

EVA
Daddy, can you hear me?

MAD MONK
Krishna sing to us.
(Mad Monk hums "My Country 'Tis of Thee")

EVA
Daddy...

(tickles Alphonse, who lets out a peal of giggles)

MAD MONK
He's alive! Open the gates! Let the swarms devour him!

EVA
Daddy, get up!

MAD MONK
Come ye!

EVA
Get up. Fast. They're coming.

ALPHIE
(bolts upright, wags his tongue)
Blaaaaaahhhh!

MAD MONK
Come and judge him! Come ye!

EVA
Up! Come on, fast!

ALPHIE
(on our fours, follows Eva)

Blaaah! Blaaah!

MAD MONK
Come ye, come ye!

EVA
Come on, hurry!

MAD MONK
Come and judge him!

EVA
Faster! – No, leave him alone!
(Alphie bites Mad Monk's leg, Monk howls)
Daddy! No! Get off him!
(Eva drags Alphie away, EVA and ALPHIE exit)

MAD MONK
(calling after them)
I will carry thee away to a mighty captivity. I will drive thee from thy station. Thou shalt be a fugitive and vagabond on earth!

(PEG and LIEUTENANT burst on. Peg shrieks, sees Alphie is gone)

PEG
RIO!

LIEUTENANT
WHERE ARE THEY?

(BLACK-OUT)

SCENE TWO

Three years later. Bright moon glow which will gradually change to sunrise. Some surreal fantasy boulders. A high "rock" that is Alphie's perch. A triangular orange DANGER sign, with skull and crossbones. A door to Eva's underground lab, camouflaged to look like a slab of rock. Perpetual, eerie underwater sounds, pierced by high-pitched screeches, as NUKE rushes on. Nuke is the supreme specimen of a well-built young male, albeit with spiked hair that looks like it's been electrocuted; his skin has a waxy sheen, and around his neck is a glowing band. Each of his fingers is wrapped with colorful twist-on ties. He wears loose

orange pants and T-shirt that glow in the dark and match the color of the DANGER sign; he's barefoot. His movements are awkward; he has trouble keeping his balance. He runs to right, disoriented, runs to left, wildly crisscrossing. ALPHIE is behind him, screeching in pursuit. ALPHIE has become hunchbacked from living in a cave; he swings his arms to keep his balance. His transformation into an "ape man" is one he is obviously happy with: he is now "King of the Jungle," and expresses himself with uninhibited, primal sounds. His hair is shoulder-length; he wears a filthy loose burlap cloth that covers him to mid-calf.

NUKE

Eat! Eat! Eat!

(repeatedly, while Alphonse chases him)

(The lab door bursts open in a flood of white light. EVA rushes on, in a lab coat. She looks lovely, with long hair in braids; walks with a swaggering limp, but without a cane, and she is no longer "hunchbacked.")

EVA

Nuke! Quiet! Nuke, stand still!

(Nuke finally stands still. Alphonse instantly crouches, falls silent, but ready to spring if Nuke makes a move. Pause. Eva walks around Nuke, looks him up and down. Finally speaks)

EVA

Where did you come from?

NUKE

(looks to where he entered)

The left.

EVA

The caves?

NUKE

Near the caves.

EVA

You're forbidden to go near the caves.

NUKE

(makes a move. Alphonse rises on his haunches)

—

EVA
Stand still.

NUKE
It pursues me.

EVA
His name is Alphie.

(hearing his name, Alphie screeches)

EVA
Shh, daddy!
(scratches Alphie's neck; Alphie grunts contentedly)
He has to pursue you. He pursues whatever moves. So what is the solution, Nuke?

NUKE
I should not move.

EVA
Right. What were you doing near the caves?

NUKE
Alphie.

(Alphie rises, screeches)

EVA
Shh!

(Alphie is silent)

EVA
The caves are Alphie's territory.

(Alphie screeches)

EVA
Shh!

(Alphie is silent)

EVA
Where is your territory, Nuke?

(Nuke glances around, seeking an answer)

EVA
(answering for him)

Here.

NUKE
(echoing her)

Here.

EVA

Here. Near me.

NUKE
(echoing)

Near me.

EVA

Repeat: "I must remain near you so you'll know where I am."

NUKE

I must remain near you so you'll know where I am.

EVA

Where's your rope?

NUKE
(looking to Alphonse)

Alphonse.

(Alphonse screeches. Nuke runs in disoriented circles, pursued by Alphonse)

EVA

Quiet! Quiet! Go home!

(ALPHIE scrambles off, screeching; Nuke blindly follows)

EVA

Not YOU, Nuke!

(Nuke stays, but continues running in circles, on sheer adrenalin)

Stand still! EVA

(Nuke freezes)

Did you cut it? Nuke? Did you gnaw through your rope? EVA

Yes. NUKE

Where is it? EVA
(glances around)

Don't tell me you ate it. (beat)

I won't tell you I ate it. NUKE

You ate your rope? EVA

Yes. NUKE
(beat)

Was it "tasty"? EVA

Yes. NUKE
(obediently)

"Tasty"? EVA

Yes. NUKE

Taste buds? EVA
(beat)

Do you know the difference between you and Alphie?

NUKE

I am Nuke.

EVA

Yes! And Alpie has taste buds and Nuke doesn't. Alpie has no purpose. And Nuke does. That's another difference.

NUKE

Alpie is free to roam the island. Nuke is tied to a rope.

EVA

Alpie is free to roam the island because I have no use for him. Are you like Alpie?

NUKE

No.

EVA

No. So unlike Alpie you don't wander around the island without a purpose, sticking your nose in places where you're not needed. That's why I tie you up in a rope. And I don't tie you up so that you can eat the rope.

NUKE

I am not useful in a rope.

EVA

(wonderingly)

Are you "arguing" with me?

NUKE

I am pursued! I stand here tied to a rope and they pursue me! Tall rocks are rare and I am much in demand.

EVA

Rocks don't pursue you, Nuke.

NUKE

They pursue me and they defecate on me. They perch on my head and defecate.

EVA

Rocks?

NUKE

The cranes, the gulls, the fowl of the air! I push them away and they drop eggs into my palm, mistaking me for a nest. I ward them off, but they torment me, they torment me!

EVA

All right, all right, Nuke.

NUKE

Torment me! The snakes sit on my lap, mistaking me for a rock. They have no fear, the island is never at rest, tormenting me!

EVA

All right, all right, Nuke. I'm sorry I tie you up. But every time I turn around you're in the caves, pestering Alphie. How am I going to keep you out of mischief?

(RAIN enters, pushing a wheelbarrow of dirt. She looks and dresses like Nuke, except she wears a lab coat)

NUKE

(mechanically following Rain)

You require my assistance in the laboratory.

NUKE

No, Nuke. I haven't trained you for the laboratory yet.

NUKE

Rain assists you.

EVA

Rain is two years old. And you are how old?

NUKE

(counts on his fingers)

One... two... three –

EVA

Three months, yes. Would you rather I put you in your cage?

(ALPHIE appears on this perch, lets out a screech, thumping his chest. Nuke and Rain let out the same screech: pandemonium)

EVA

Quiet! Daddy, go home!

(ALPHIE lumbers off)

EVA
(to Nuke and Rain)
Look at you! Stand up!
(they do)
Explain yourselves. Are you pathetic, purposeless beings?

RAIN and NUKE
No.

EVA
Are you superior models?

RAIN and NUKE
Yes.

RAIN
Not Nuke. Alphie laughs at Nuke.

NUKE
Alphie is friendly. Alphie eats out of my hand.

EVA
Eats?

RAIN
Nuke shoves his hand into Alphie's mouth to force him to eat.

NUKE
Alphie is happy to ingest and likes to be encouraged.

RAIN
Nuke screams at him, "Eat! eat!"

NUKE
(jumping up and down)
"Eat, eat!"

EVA
Nuke! What are you doing feeding him?

NUKE
Alphie requires food.

EVA
I decide when he requires food.

NUKE

Alphie enjoys feeding patterns.

RAIN

Nuke feeds him non-stop.

NUKE

I have observed Alphie especially likes to be rubbed on the nose before feeding.

EVA

I appreciate that observation, Nuke. But you have to learn measure, Nuke. And when to end an activity. And until you do, you're not to feed Alphie. Now go to the boiler room and pump out your stomach.

(NUKE exist)

EVA

And come back! And don't dawdle!

RAIN

(wheeling the dirt away)

Nuke has too much freedom. He shouldn't be let out of his cage. He's too new.

EVA

Rain, what are you doing with that?

RAIN

Dirt.

EVA

What for?

RAIN

For the island.

EVA

The island doesn't need dirt. It has rocks.

RAIN

The sea has dirt, and life grows in the sea.

EVA

Yes. Life belongs in the sea, not on my island.

(Rain makes a sound like a computer break-down and crouches similarly to Alphie)

EVA

Rain??? Rain, you look like Alphie.

(Rain instantly stands up)

EVA

Didn't I tell you to go fishing?

RAIN

I did. I sit in the water. I look for the sun. The sun always run away from me.

EVA

(testing Rain's "mechanics" : if Rain's "joints" are supple, or her head is securely fastened, etc.)

What? You're not supposed to be looking for the sun. Where do you get these ideas from? Have you been supplementing your circuits?

RAIN

No, I –

(starts lifting her head off)

EVA

Keep your head on! Don't ever take your head off, ever!...What were my instructions?

RAIN

(instantly robotic)

As per your instructions I attract the sea creatures by shining a light into their eyes that penetrates the twilight of the sea and they are caught in the nets. I took them to the aquarium where Alphie can slaughter and ingest them at his leisure.

EVA

Good.

RAIN

(less robotic)

But I would suggest bringing dirt to the island so more than dry tufts of weed and rocks are here. And you can ingest more than fish and ahe laboratory's genetically produced starch and veggies.

EVA

I want this island to look barren and uninhabited. That means, no soil, no life, no growth, no surface movement detectable by air or sea.

(Eva finishes examining Rain)

RAIN

I don't grow. Is that good?

EVA

Yes, it's very good. Now take that away.

(referring to wheelbarrow, beat)

Rain? Away with the dirt!

(Rain hesitates)

EVA

Rain, what is it? Your movement's too jerky. You didn't swallow any dirt, did you?

RAIN

No.

EVA

What are you fidgeting about?

(Rain slowly takes an object out of her pocket)

EVA

(looks)

Oh no. Assipeter Nissus. Latin for sparrow hawk. Don't tell me Alphie stole it from its nest.

RAIN

No. The nest was abandoned. This sole survivor I maintained in one of your unused incubators.

EVA

You???

RAIN

As you do, I fed it, it stretched its wings.

EVA

But it's dead.

RAIN

"Dead."

EVA

Yes. It's not going to move.

RAIN
(shakes it violently)

It moves.

EVA
You didn't kill it, did you?

RAIN
"Kill it."

EVA
Let me see it.
(Rain gives Eva the bird)

RAIN
Why did you build it?

EVA
Why did I build it?

RAIN
And then abandon it.

EVA
I didn't build this bird, Rain.

RAIN
You did not build this bird.

EVA
No. And I hope you didn't kill it, Rain. That would be very-very disappointing to me.

RAIN
I don't squeeze.

EVA
What is life, Rain?

RAIN
Whatever dies.

EVA
Yes. And you don't squeeze living things or throw them or fall on them or –

Who built it? RAIN

I – I don't like that question. Where do you come up with a question like that? EVA

Computed. RAIN

That's not computing, it's thinking. What is the fact, Rain? EVA

The bird. RAIN

Right. EVA

Why is the bird dead? RAIN

Because it was alive. Which is a concept beyond your comprehension. EVA

Bird. Dead. RAIN

Oh for god's sake, do you want me to do an autopsy? EVA

No. RAIN

(grabs for the bird; Eva holds it away from her)

Excuse me? "No?" "No?" Did I hear a "no?" EVA
(jabbing a finger at Rain's chest and walking forward; Rain walks backward)

Yes. RAIN

Why were you made? EVA

RAIN
(robotic)

To assist science.

EVA

In what way?

RAIN

Collecting data.

EVA

In what manner?

RAIN

Detachedly.

EVA

D-D. Detached. Dispassionate. No fuzzy theorizing. No stupid questions. No “no.” You are here to be –

RAIN

Obedient.

EVA

You have a brain, but you don’t have a mind.

RAIN

I can be changed, but I can’t be destroyed.

EVA

You exist but you’re not alive. Yes? Fine.
(throws the bird in the wheelbarrow)

Take it away. You have zilch to do with birds or dirt.

(Rain wheels off, stops, puts the bird in her pocket)

EVA

I saw that. Leave the bird with me.

RAIN

Did Alpie build it?

EVA

Alpie??

RAIN

There's you, me, Nuke, Alphie. Who built it?
(beat)

EVA

Listen to me, Rain. This is mine. This island. One mile long, one mile wide. You see? There's an ocean in front of me. The waves come in, the waves go out. Tonight stars are blinking. My heart beats. My breath goes in, my breath goes out. In a few hours, the sun comes up, and a few hours later, the sun goes down. I didn't build any of it. Just like I didn't build Alphie.

RAIN

You didn't build Alphie.

EVA

No. And I didn't build myself either.... You know when you see me with my eyes closed, and I'm not moving? What am I doing?

RAIN

"Sleeping."

EVA

Sleeping. And when I sleep, I dream. So... the builder that built me is ..like a dreamer. You have to compute a dreamer that's so huge it can dream the waves and the stars and it can dream me and Alphie. And it can dream my life and it's already dreamed my death. And it dreamed that bird. But not you. And not Nuke. You're outside that dream, 'cause you're not alive. You undersand?

RAIN

No.

EVA

Good! You can't compute that. So don't even try.

(RAIN considers it, puzzled, exits with wheelbarrow)

EVA

(to hersef)

Jeeze. Let's just keep it very simple.

(Lights dim as EVA exits into the laboratory)

SCENE THREE

Miracle Mile, a few hours later. Lights rise as NUKE bursts on, a rope tied around his waist, the other end of the rope dragging behind him. ALPHIE scrambles on, with an arsenal of paper planes, "bombs" Nuke.

ALPHIE
(making dive-bomber noises)

Brrruuummm... rrrr... kkk!

(Nuke rushes back and forth)

ALPHIE

Ba-boom!Eeeeeee... Boom! Boom!

(Nuke stumbles, falls on his back, wriggling his arms and legs in the air)

NUKE

Oh, oh, oh

(Alphie "bombs" him)

(RAIN enters from lab)

RAIN

Nuke!... Alphie! Alphie, go home!

(ALPHIE lumbers off)

RAIN
(to Nuke)

You were instructed to tie yourself up.

NUKE
(jumps up)

Yes.

(frantically crisscrosses the ground, disoriented)

RAIN

Find a place.

NUKE

Where?

Anyplace.
RAIN

The vista from the left is pleasing.
NUKE

Then do it.
RAIN

(Rain starts to exit for lab, stops when she sees Nuke isn't obeying)

The gull is fishing. The bug enters the mouth of the fish. The fish enters the mouth of the gull.
NUKE

Nuke! Hurry up.
RAIN

Nuke always hurries. From here Nuke watches the Doctor at work. Occasionally the Doctor will come to the door and Nuke will see the Doctor and the Doctor will wave and Nuke will wave back.
NUKE
(ties himself to a rock)

You shouldn't need to be supervised.
RAIN

No.
NUKE

(RAIN exits into lab. ALPHIE, who's been hiding, rushes on)

Ba-boom!...Eeeeeeeee... Boom! E.....Boom! Boom! Boom!
ALPHIE

(Sound of helicopter overhead. Alphie and Nuke freeze, look up: it's the first time Nuke has seen a real plane. Nuke's body mimes watching a figure fall from the sky. Alphie screeches in terror, scrambles off. PEG, in turtleneck, rolls on, entangled in a makeshift, sequined parachute)

Idiots! Pea-brains! Meanies!
PEG

(when Peg comes to a stop, she grabs the padding out of her dress as she shouts into her turtleneck)

PEG

You won't get away with this! I have your license number and I'm going to find you! Do you hear me? I'm going to tell Rio! Rio's going to have you court-martialed and hung, Mister Pilot! and Mister Co-Pilot! And we are going to hang your children and your neighbors and all your loved ones, including your pets!

NUKE

(gazing at the padding strewn on the ground)

You are very poorly built.

PEG

(suddenly spots Nuke, frightened)

Oh!

NUKE

You are easily taken apart.

PEG

(terrified)

Who are you!

NUKE

Nuke.

PEG

Nuke...???

NUKE

Nuke.

PEG

Why are you tied up like that?

NUKE

It is my choice. It is preferable to a cage.

(Wriggling, Peg struggles to pull out a map tucked inside her dress)

PEG

(frantically looking at the map)

Oh my god, where am I?

NUKE

The first month Nuke was a worm that could not crawl. The second month Nuke was a snake that could not walk. The third month Nuke was a fish that could not swim. The fourth –

PEG

(scanning her map)

Miracle Mile... Shoot! Where is it? Where am I? Miracle Mile! Is this Miracle Mile or not?

NUKE

It is not a mile. It is five thousand two hundred ten point seven feet in length; five thousand seventy point five in width. Nuke traverses its extremities in a period of thirty-three minutes at a leisurely pace.

PEG

(screaming into her turtleneck)

Pilot!! Pilot, can you hear me? I didn't mean what I said.

(RAIN bursts on from lab)

RAIN

(referring to Peg)

What is this thing?

PEG

(into turtleneck)

Please come back! Please – That's an order! Pronto! I am going to count to three and if you don't come back, I –

RAIN

(crosses to Peg)

You!

PEG

(jumps back, holds her arm out)

Hold it. I am armed. You make a move and you are mush.

RAIN

Sit.

PEG

This is a gun. I just need to lift my thumb and a laser beam –

NUKE
(to Rain)

It does not obey.

PEG

Don't come near me – I'm a National Treasure.

RAIN

Sit.

PEG
(plops herself down)

I'm sitting.

RAIN

Who made you?

PEG

Made me what.

RAIN

The crippled giant and came out of the ocean and breathed on me. Her breath was out, but it had no smell to it. She sweated, but her sweat had no smell. Days and days the Giant breathed on me. And then, one day, the sky clouded, I smelled her sweat, there was rain. That was the day I was made. That's why she calls me Rain.

PEG

I love a story with a happy ending.

RAIN

What about you?

(Rain suddenly grabs Peg's head and twists it, trying to take it off, to examine it)

PEG

Ow!

RAIN
(trying to twist Peg's head off)

The Doctor likes beautiful, meaningful things. But the planet is shifting. The New Age arrived and it's throwing her out of the system. But we'll survive, because we have no predators. And when the black rains come, I will write the book of her species.

PEG
 (in pain)
 Let go of me.

RAIN
 (let's go)
 You are an inferior model.

PEG
 (screaming into her turtleneck)
 Pilot!

RAIN
 Quiet!

PEG
 Pilot! SOS!

RAIN
 Quiet!

PEG
 SOS! I'm being attacked! SOS!

(screeches from above: ALPHIE on his perch. Peg doesn't see him. Nuke screeches, runs in frantic circles, tangled up in the rope)

PEG
 (into her turtleneck)
 SOS! SOS!

RAIN
 Quiet! Quiet! She's working!

PEG
 SOS! SOS! SOS!

(Alphie continues screeching. Nuke continues circling. Rain reflexively starts screeching.)

(EVA rushes out of the lab, wearing a welders' mask and thick work gloves)

EVA
 Quiet!

(Silence. ALPHIE disappears)

PEG
(relieved to see Eva)

Oh...

(going toward Eva, her arms out)
My baby Grand...

EVA
Peg Le Pre???

PEG
Surprise! I'm still alive!

EVA
How did you find us?

PEG
It wasn't easy. I've wandered the whole wide world for three years looking for you... Why Eva, what did you do with your hump?

EVA
How did you get here?

NUKE
It dropped from the sky. And when it landed, it took itself apart.

PEG
Eva, these people are –

EVA
(referring to the mess of Peg's padding and Alphonse's paper planes)
Pick up this mess, Rain – all of it, fast. Nuke, you too.

NUKE
(turns in circles, to unravel himself from the rope)
I did not eat the rope.

EVA
Quiet.

PEG
Good for you, Eva, you keep those natives under control.

EVA
(referring to the padding)

What is all this stuff?

PEG

Padding. To soften my fall. They threw me out of helicopter.

RAIN
(bringing the parachute to Eva)

There are circuits –

PEG

That's my parachute. Give it to me.

EVA

I'll take it... Nuke, take this mess to the cove and dump it.

PEG
(wanting the parachute)

Please... Eva. I'm almost your mother.

EVA

My "mother" was a fluorescent bulb.

(feeling it over)

Is this the way they make parachutes now?

PEG

Please don't be rough with it. It's all I own.

EVA

All you own?

PEG

You have no idea of the terrible disaster after you left, Eva.

EVA

I suppose there's no money in the Treasury for an ex-President's girlfriend.

PEG

Excuse me? They named a park after me.

(faint voices from her bra, like from a police radio; Peg shields her chest to muffle the noise)

RAIN
(hearing the noise coming from Peg's bra)
What's talking?

EVA
Are you cold?

PEG
What? No. Yes—

RAIN
What's talking?

PEG
I can't get over the change in you, Eva. You look –

EVA
Who knows you're here?

PEG
What? No one.

RAIN
What's talking?

PEG
Keep her away from me!
(thumps her chest –to break the wires)

EVA
You didn't tell anyone?

PEG
Who could I tell? I just got here.

RAIN
What's talking?

EVA
(giving the parachute to Rain)
Rain, take this to the lab and burn it.

PEG
That's mine. I made that parachute myself from my old gowns.

EVA
I have to protect my work.

PEG
What work? Do you still live in a laboratory?

EVA
(sly smile)
Yes. I'm making friends with death.

RAIN
(referring to Peg)
Did you build that?

EVA
Just burn the parachute.

RAIN
(referring to Peg)
Should I burn that, too?

PEG
(alarmed)
Eva!

EVA
Rain!

(RAIN exits to lab with parachute)

NUKE
(has been intermittently cleaning up, but can't resist staring at Peg, echoing her)
"Ow"... "Ow."

PEG
They're like demented juvenile delinquents.

EVA
Nuke, are you done yet?

NUKE
Yes!

(NUKE exits)

PEG
Eva, does your daddy know you're friends with those kinds of people?

EVA
My daddy's happy. He sits in his cave and laughs.

PEG
His cave?

EVA
It's better than where he came from.

PEG
Oh Eva honey, you don't know how you broke my heart when you sneaked off with him. I'm nobody without him. It's been so awful for me. If he'd 'a married me, I'd have at least gotten a pension. I could've –

(distant screeching from Alphonse)

PEG
What's that?

EVA
(looks out at the sea)
Wind.

(Lab door bursts open. RAIN appears, with a plate heaped with fish and seaweed)

RAIN
Feeding time.

EVA
Stay inside.

(screeching from Alphonse, off)

RAIN
He's hungry.

EVA
Later.

(screeching from Alphonse, off)

RAIN
He'll be angry.

EVA

I said later. Get some blankets. Miss Le Pre is cold.

PEG

Did she say food?

(RAIN exits to lab)

EVA

Don't expect me to feed you. I don't have enough. We live on a limited diet of fish and seaweed. And whatever gruel I concoct in the lab has awful flavor enhancers.

PEG

Eva, all the Christmas presents I gave you – can't you spare me anything? I'm all bones – what will your daddy think? He liked me fleshy.

(beat. Eva considers it)

EVA

Rain!

(RAIN appears at the lab door, with a blanket)

RAIN

Here.

EVA

(takes the blanket)

Ms. Le Pre wants food.

RAIN

(to Peg, with a snarl)

Food?

EVA

Do it.

(RAIN exits to lab)

PEG

Forget it. I don't want to be a bother. Just show me to my room.

EVA

Your "room"?

PEG

I want to freshen up before I see Rio.

(RAIN enters, with plate of food)

RAIN

Food.

(shoves the plate at Peg)

Don't eat the plate.

(RAIN exits into lab)

PEG

She is definitely weird, Eva.

EVA

(laying the blanket down)

You can sleep out here tonight. Tomorrow I'll figure out some way to get you off the island.

PEG

I'm sleeping out here?

EVA

You'll be fine. Just stay close to the door. I'll hear you when you scream.

PEG

It's not fair. You're trying to keep your daddy from me, Eva.

EVA

Someday you'll thank me for keeping him from you. Do you see the sign?

(referring to the Warning sign)

Consider yourself warned.

PEG

What do you mean, "warned"?

EVA

I have work to do.

(EVA exits through the door)

PEG

(tries without success to open the door)

Eva...? EVA! Don't leave me alone out here – I'm just a woman. You don't know what it's like to be a woman... Eva...! Eva, are you listening? I told you they named a park after me, but it's just a quarter-acre of beer cans and junkies and condoms with a little tin plaque on the ground with my name on it, so when anyone comes in the park they just walk all over me, Eva, Eva, please, please have some pity –

(ALPHIE appears on his perch; lets out a long howl—for food)

ALPHIE

Wuuuuuude!

PEG

(hides her face in terror, like a child who wants to be invisible)

Eva!

ALPHIE

Wuuuuuude!

PEG

Something's out here Eva!

ALPHIE

(angry, thumping his chest)

Wuuuuuude!

(EVA bursts out of the lab)

EVA

Don't move, Le Pre!

ALPHIE

Wuuuuuude!

EVA

Go home!

(ALPHIE exits)

ALPHIE's voice (off)

Wuuuuude!

(RAIN runs out of the lab)

He's hungry.
RAIN

(RAIN grabs Peg's plate, runs off to Alphonse)

EVA
Rain, go back in the lab!

RAIN (calling, off)
Alphonse!

PEG
Alphonse...?

EVA
(grabs Peg)
Stay here.

PEG
What was that?

EVA
Nothing – stay here.

PEG
It was him!

EVA
It wasn't –

PEG
I know it was him, let me go – let me go-
(calling)
Rio!

EVA
(suddenly – clawing at Peg's dress)
Take it off!

PEG
(calling, trying to get away)
Rio!

EVA
Take it off!

PEG
Stop it! Stop it! What's gotten into you?

EVA
Take your dress off!

PEG
Stop it!

EVA
Take it off, take it off! You're wired. I know it. I felt the wires.

PEG
Don't be silly. That was my bra.

EVA
Take it off!

PEG
Stop it. All right. Here.
(rips the wires out from under her dress)
I don't know why you so distrust me. I was going to tell you.

EVA
The parachute was wired, too.

PEG
I just wanted a little back-up.

EVA
Who was listening?

PEG
People.

EVA
What people?

PEG
Out --. Nobody interesting. Just a bunch of silly boys on a raft.

EVA
A raft?

PEG

A big raft. Like a... what do you call them? Destroyer.

EVA

There's a destroyer out there?

PEG

Not close. It'll take them at least ten minutes to get here.

EVA

Ten minutes???!

PEG

I don't know. You're the one who knows about destroyers.

EVA

What do they want?

PEG

To help me.

EVA

Help you?

PEG

They promised me they'd help me bring back Rio if I found him.

EVA

(pushing Peg)

Go down there before they come on the island.

PEG

I'm a national treasure. Almost mother of the country.

EVA

(calling)

Nuke!

PEG

Stop pushing. I could fall off the cliff.

EVA

Nuke!

(NUKE enters, running, from cove)

Here. NUKE
PEG
 Eva, don't throw me off. I can't swim.
EVA
(pulling Peg toward Nuke)
 Take her down to the cove.
PEG
 I want Rio.
EVA
 When they come, you tell them Rio isn't here, and you leave with them.
PEG
(calling)
 Rio!
EVA
 Take her!
(Nuke grabs Peg)
PEG
 Ow!
EVA
 Don't squeeze, Nuke.
PEG
 Brute.
EVA
 Leave her down there – and come back – fast.
PEG
 You're holding Rio hostage. They're going to invade! There's more of them than
 you, Eva – ow!
EVA
 Don't fight him, Peg Le Pre.
(RAIN enters. PEG and NUKE exit)

PEG's voice (off)
They've got missiles, Eva. Missiles.

RAIN
What was that creature? Is that an early model?

EVA
Go in the lab. Contact the satellite. See if there's a ship out there.

RAIN
(not knowing what a "ship" is)
"Ship."

EVA
A very large "fishy" thingy that floats. Go on!

(ALPHIE enters, thumping his chest)

EVA
Daddy –

(Alphie ignores her, heads for cove)

EVA
Daddy, stay here. Do you want to see Rain?

ALPHIE
Wain.

EVA
She's in the lab. Do you want to visit her? She has food. Come.

(Eva opens the lab door)

ALPHIE
(looking toward cove, confused)
Wain.

EVA
Rain's in the lab. She wants to see you.

ALPHIE
(heads for the cove)
Wain.

EVA

There's no one in the cove, daddy. Go in the lab.

ALPHIE
(faces lab)

Wain.

EVA
(like talking to a dog)

Yes, Wain...Come... Come... That's a good boy.

(ALPHIE hesitates, then exits to lab. Eva slams the door shut, only to have RAIN burst out of the lab door, knocking Eva to the ground)

RAIN
(rushing to look out at the sea)

A compact mass is journeying thirty-three knots.

(ALPHIE ambles out of the lab)

EVA

Daddy, stay in the lab!

(Alphie stays put, thumping his chest, howling angrily at the sea)

EVA

Daddy –

RAIN

“Ship” is a big fish.

(NUKE appears on Alphie's perch: innocently extending a fish for Alphie)

NUKE

Fish!

(Alphie roars in rage, jumps up and down, seeing Nuke on his perch)

EVA

Nuke! Get off of there!

(NUKE disappears)

EVA
(trying to grab Alpie)

Daddy!

(Raging howls from Alpie, racing around to find Nuke)

EVA
Rain, put him in the lab

RAIN
(scanning the horizon)
Alpie's not permitted in the lab.

EVA
Daddy! Grab his arm... Rain!

RAIN
I'll get the nets – I'll catch the ship.

(RAIN dashes for the cove)

EVA
No! Rain!

(EVA exits, running after Rain)

EVA
Come back, Rain! Rain! Don't go in the sea, Rain!

ALPHIE
(long, plaintive howl)

WAIN!!!

(NUKE runs on, with the fish in his hand)

NUKE
Eat! Eat! [repeatedly]

(Alpie screeches in chase of Nuke)

(Peg's voice is heard from the cove)

PEG's voice (off)

Rio!

(NUKE hears the voice, runs off)

(Alphie, with his back to Peg, stops at the sound of “Rio” – a name he recalls, puzzlingly)

(PEG enters from the cove)

PEG
(her arms out for a big hug)

... Rio!...

(Alphie swings around, sees Peg)

PEG
You know me. Peggy, Peggy-poo... leggy Peggy.

ALPHIE
(with recognition)
Weg-weggy-wee.

PEG
Sweetie Peggy, yes.

ALPHIE
Wee-weggy...

PEG
Cutie-poops.

ALPHIE
Wooo...
(Peg makes four quick loud smooches in the air. Alphie responds with four loud smooches in the air)

PEG
Huggy-dovey?
(her arms out)

ALPHIE
Wug-wuggie.

PEG
(giggling)
Licky-sticky-kissy.

ALPHIE
Weee...

Oh Rio... PEG

Weeo. ALPHIE

Yes, cutie. PEG

Weeo-weggy. ALPHIE

Do you remember? The staff, the Congress, the Secret Service. We loved you... PEG

Wuv. ALPHIE
(gives Peg a bear hug)

Wuv, wuv, yeah. I've looked for you everywhere, Rio. I even went to the Pope. He sprinkled holy water on your photograph. And these pilots – I have their license number – they promised they would rescue you and instead they dumped me – PEG

Rain! EVA's voice (off)

Wain. ALPHIE
(makes a move to go toward Eva's voice)

Rio! That daughter of yours. She's evil. PEG
(holding Alphie back)

Weev --? ALPHIE

Yes. Eva. Evil. What has she done to you? She hates you. She's a fungus. She's a sneaky little fungus. She even gave you her hump... PEG
(referring to Rio's hunched back)
Poor baby-waby.

(they sit on a rock – Peg on Alphie’s lap)

ALPHIE

Waby-weg.

PEG

Sweetie-pweetie... You don’t smell too good, Rio.

(Alphie growls affectionately while Peg speaks)

PEG

Your hand’s so thin and rough...Rio... I love a man with a name like a mighty river, President Alfred Rio Grand. I look into your eyes and see tall, shiny missiles and factories and billboards... Rio... I’ll help you walk straight again, you’ll wash, you’ll cut your hair, you’ll wear beautiful suits and you’ll write your memoirs...

ALPHIE

Wuff-wuff.

PEG

Meow.

ALPHIE

Wuff!

PEG

(growling like a cat)

Grreow.

ALPHIE

(growling like a dog – sinks his teeth into her neck)

Grrr...

PEG

(squealing with delight)

Eeee... oh... I came to take you home, Rio.

ALPHIE

(growls at the word “home”)

Grrr...!

PEG

-- Home.-- We’re gonna make a come-back, you and me – They want you back, I know they do – We’re gonna blaze a trail along Pennsylvania Avenue, with crowds cheering, and we’re gonna lock up Eva in her old lab again and never,

ever let her out, not even for Christmas, and we're gonna hang those pilots –

(A band from the ship plays “Star Spangled Banner”)

PEG

Rio!... Do you hear that? They're playing our song!

(Alphie's growling becomes ferocious; he sinks his teeth into her neck)

PEG

(sings)

“Oh say can you see”

(speaks)

We're going home – home – ! They're coming for us, Rio, we've been saved!—
Honey, you're hurting – enough, honey, that's enough -- Rio -- stop – you're –
Rio— Stop!

LIEUTENANT's voice (off)

Doctor Grand?... Doctor Grand?

PEG

(eyes popping)

Stop!

(she collapses in Alphie's arms. Alphie tries to eat her)

LIEUTENANT's voice (off)

Yoo-hoo..! Hello? Yoo- h—

(LIEUTENANT enters, sees Alphie, Peg. He doesn't recognize Alphie)

LIEUTENANT

Ah! There you are, Ms. Le Pre?

ALPHIE

(looks at Lieutenant)

Grrr.

LIEUTENANT

Hi there. .

(NUKE bursts on, with fish)

NUKE

Eat!

(Alphie screeches, drops Peg, rushes for Nuke)

NUKE

Eat, eat!

(Screeching, Alphie and Nuke run around in circles until finally Alphie grabs the fish from Nuke, crouches, devours the fish hungrily)

NUKE
(pleased)

Eat, eat, eat, eat!

(EVA runs on from cove)

Nuke! Quiet! Stand still.
(she surveys the scene)

EVA
("casually")

Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT
(snaps to attention)

Ma'am. I'm flattered you remember me, Ma'am.

EVA
Stay still, Lieutenant.

(Eva crosses to Alphie, who's sitting on Peg, and munching on the fish)

EVA
Daddy...

LIEUTENANT
(again, snaps to attention)

Sir!

EVA
Don't move, Lieutenant.

(Nuke "laughs" like an ape, at Alphie)

EVA
(tensely)

Nuke! Come here... Daddy, you're going to give Peg Le Pre to Nuke.

(Alphie shakes his head "no")

EVA

Yes. Give her to Nuke. Wive wer woo Wuke, wes?

ALPHIE

Wes?

EVA

Wes. Daddy lets Nuke have her. Waddy wets Wook wave wer. Take her, Nuke.

NUKE
(takes Peg)

This is a very soft rock.

ALPHIE
(watching Nuke, low growls)

Grrrrrr.

EVA
(slowly backing away from Alphie)
Nuke, follow me... Slowly... Put her down here...
(Nuke starts to throw Peg)

EVA

Gently! Don't throw her!

LIEUTENANT
(frozen in a salute)

What's Ms. Le Pre...?

EVA

Shhh!

ALPHIE

Wain!

(Nuke "laughs" apeline at Alphie)

EVA

Nuke! Go find Rain.

(Nuke moves to exit. Alphie rises, screeches)

EVA
Go home, Daddy!

(NUKE exits)

EVA
(to Alpie)
Come...

(Alpie takes Eva's hand, she leads him)
Past the Lieutenant ... Stay still, Lieutenant. Try not to breathe.

(Alpie stops, sniffs Lieutenant, growls)

EVA
You're breathing, Lieutenant. Stop breathing.

(Lieutenant sucks in his breath)

EVA
Go on, daddy. Good. Don't move, Lieutenant. Go home, daddy. Don't come out of the cave. Waddy: wome!

(ALPHIE exits, with a parting growl at Lieutenant)

EVA
Breathe, Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT
(lets out a breath of relief)
Phew. Thank you. What the –

(Eva crosses to Peg, examines her)

LIEUTENANT
Ms. Le Pre?

EVA
(after examining Peg)
I'm sorry.

LIEUTENANT
She's...?

EVA
Yes. She's dead.

LIEUTENANT

Oh my...

(crosses to Peg, looks at her)

Oh... She – she must have knocked her head on a rock.

EVA

No. There aren't any rocks. They're papier-mache. My father killed her.

LIEUTENANT

(taps a rock)

Paper...? Well I'll be dog-gone.

EVA

You should've never let her come here. My father's not used to things being real. Or alive. He doesn't know the difference anymore. He can't be blamed for that.

LIEUTENANT

Yes ma'am. It's a new age. Everything's changed. No one's responsible for anything.

EVA

Thank you. I'm glad you see it that way. Now if you could please get that rusty tin can –

LIEUTENANT

(excitedly)

Ship.

(Lieutenant rushes forward, stepping over Peg's body, he makes a signal to the ship, and instantly "Star Spangled Banner" starts up)

EVA

Yes. -- Get it out of here. You're polluting my waters.

LIEUTENANT

You designed that ship.

EVA

Me...? Well I made many mistakes. I won't do it again.

LIEUTENANT

Do you like the music?

EVA

No.

Oh. Sorry.
CUT!!!

LIEUTENANT
(makes a sign to the ship – like cutting his throat)

(Music stops)

EVA
Thank you. Now please be on your way.

LIEUTENANT
The band's been itching to play for you. They're a little out of practice. We were stuck for weeks on a desert that popped up out of nowhere in the Pacific Ocean, and we lost some of our brass section. I mean, we had to bury the brass – to make the boat lighter – and then when we found the ocean again, there was this tsunami –

EVA
Lieutenant, you're disturbing my marine life. And one of my greatest achievements is out there looking for the sun. And if you don't leave now, my daddy might mistake you for his next meal.

LIEUTENANT
You know where we just came from?

EVA
You can't stay, Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT
You'll never guess.

EVA
I really don't give a hoot.

LIEUTENANT
The Arctic.

EVA
Congratulations. Goodbye.

LIEUTENANT
It'd be a privilege to accompany you there.

EVA

I'm sorry, I'm not going to the Arctic.

LIEUTENANT

To show you –

EVA

No thank you.

LIEUTENANT

A peek –

EVA

I don't want a peek. Goodbye, Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT

(with rising excitement)

Doctor Grand, what if I told you we're making life-sized humans that aren't human?

EVA

What?

LIEUTENANT

Yes. Robots.

EVA

That's impossible...

LIEUTENANT

Picture it: in fifteen years, maybe ten, we'll wage war without losing one life. No one's going to die in a war anymore.

EVA

How's that?

LIEUTENANT

The robots! – not bombs – not weather – but hand-to-hand combat, the way it should be.

EVA

You're using robots for weapons?

LIEUTENANT

I knew it'd excite you. And I bet you thought there was nothing left to invent.

EVA

Lieutenant, tell them it won't work. Tell them to destroy them. You can't let them do it –

LIEUTENANT

Yes ma'am. We'll destroy them as soon as we build them.

(beat)

EVA

You haven't built them yet?

LIEUTENANT

Well... I'm glad you asked that.

(glances around)

We can't be overheard, can we?

EVA

No. Why?

(Lieutenant pulls out a plastic toy soldier)

LIEUTENANT

Here: this is top secret.

EVA

What is this?

LIEUTENANT

(whispering, glancing around suspiciously)

It's a model of what the robots'll look like. It's a little mangled. You have to picture it life-sized – marching – you see? with a motor inside.

(he illustrates, doing a stiff march)

EVA

You got it from a toy store?

LIEUTENANT

Toy store?? Where are toy stores anymore?

EVA

It's plastic.

LIEUTENANT

Yes ma'am. We're lucky to get plastic these days. Takes sheer ingenuity. We melted the pieces together. You see, everything's possible so long we really, really want it.

(casts an admiring look toward the caves)

That's what your father always said.

EVA

My father's history.

LIEUTENANT

Yes and no. And since I was once almost your husband – part of the family – I thought maybe you'd let me head the project in the Arctic.

EVA

I wish you all the luck, Lieutenant. But what kind of idiot would even think of such a project? Now get off my island.

LIEUTENANT

(near tears)

Doctor Grand – please – it means a lot to me. I've been a lieutenant through two administrations without a promotion. And I can't leave here with nothing but a national treasure.

EVA

I don't work for Defense anymore, Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT

What? – You're still American, aren't you?

EVA

What does that have to do with it?

LIEUTENANT

You've got to be. – You can't be president if you're not American.

EVA

Well I'm not president.

LIEUTENANT

But you are.

EVA

I am what.

LIEUTENANT

Don't you know that--? Didn't Ms. Le Pre --shoot, she died before she --
(shakes hands with Eva)

Doctor Grand, Ms. President, my congratulations.

EVA

I'm president?

LIEUTENANT

I hope you remember I'm the first to tell you.

(slipping an envelope into her hands)

And if you could just sign this for me to head up the project in the Arctic --

EVA

But no one even knows I exist. My father never let me out in public. How could I become president?

LIEUTENANT

It was a miracle.

EVA

A miracle?

LIEUTENANT

That's the only way to explain it. All the computers got jammed on election day, so all the candidates' names got deleted except yours, and then we --

EVA

But what was my name doing there?

LIEUTENANT

You designed the data base.

EVA

So?

LIEUTENANT

So the only thing left on the computer was your name: Copyrighted by Eva Lee Grand. So there you are: your name and copyright, and it was an instant landslide.

EVA

That's unbelievable.

LIEUTENANT

Yes! You should've seen the celebrations on the streets – the whole country unified – in the mud – you can't call them streets anymore –

EVA

My own computers elected me?

LIEUTENANT

Why not? You always served us: our security, our defense, our future.

EVA

No, I was unhappy. That's why I made bombs.

LIEUTENANT

Doctor Grand, everyone knows you're the only one who can bring the muscle back into America – like your father did.

EVA

(disgusted)

Please don't compare me to my father.

LIEUTENANT

You're just being modest.

(pulls out a whistle)

May I?

(blows the whistle: no sound, shakes it)

EVA

What are you doing?

LIEUTENANT

Darn there's water in it.

(blows whistle again: no sound)

I promised Congress they could come ashore when I blew the whistle.

EVA

You've got Congress on the ship?

LIEUTENANT

Yes ma'am, We've got a kind of floating government right now. One of the first thing you'll have to decide is where you want to put Washington, D.C. It got destroyed in the weather.

EVA

You mean there's still a Weather War out there?

LIEUTENANT

Nature's been a cruel traitor to us, Doctor Grand.

EVA

It's not nature. It's Z-Z... If only I'd kept her in the lab...!

LIEUTENANT

The Weather War destroyed your lab a long time ago, Doctor Grand.

EVA

Z-Z destroyed my lab?

LIEUTENANT

She's coming here, too. I heard her on the walkie-talkie.

EVA

(beside herself)

I'll kill her!!

LIEUTENANT

Don't you worry, ma'am. We'll get it under control with a bubble.

EVA

... of all the gall! When I think how proud I was when she attacked the Lincoln Memorial. Our first success together! I never dreamed it'd go to her head.

LIEUTENANT

In fact, ma'am, I'd rather be on the bubble project than the Arctic, if it's not too much trouble for –

EVA

What bubble?

LIEUTENANT

We're going to put up a big bubble over the whole earth and pump in oxygen.

EVA

Lieutenant, are you totally insane?

LIEUTENANT

Everyone loves the bubble, ma'am. We've tried everything else. Tunnels –

EVA

Tunnels?

LIEUTENANT

First we moved people into tunnels. But people got so depressed. I don't know how you did it all those years in your laboratory.

EVA

I don't know how I did it either.

LIEUTENANT

And the stink. You get millions of people crowded in a tunnel, it's a terrible odor. I personally was in charge of the units handing out free deodorant. but what about ventilation, not to mention the livestock.

EVA

The what?

LIEUTENANT

Pigs, chickens, cattle -- you can't give them deodorant. But where can you put them? You can't just let them be blown away in the hurricanes.

EVA

My god, what have I done???

LIEUTENANT

Congress has already approved the bubble. All we need is the President's signature.

(a beat)

EVA

Okay. My signature.

LIEUTENANT

(snaps to attention)

Yes ma'am!

(rushes forward, yells)

She'll do it!

EVA

No!

LIEUTENANT

I just want to call them.

EVA

Go to the ship and tell them.

LIEUTENANT
We'll have the swearing-in right here.

EVA
No! Not here.

LIEUTENANT
Before Z-Z comes –

EVA
No!

LIEUTENANT
But –

(RAIN enters, carrying a bucket of fish; stops at the sight of the Lieutenant)

RAIN
What is this?

LIEUTENANT
Hi there!

EVA
Rain, go in the lab.

RAIN
Did this drop from the sky?

EVA
I'll explain later. Go in the lab.

LIEUTENANT
Wait, uh, miss –

EVA
Rain.

LIEUTENANT
(to Rain)
Miss, I want to assure you and all the natives on this island, we are here on good will.

EVA
She knows that, Lieutenant. Do what I say, Rain.

LIEUTENANT

Miss, that ship out there – you see the flag?

EVA

Rain.

LIEUTENANT

(continuing)

We're your friends. And uh –
(searches his pockets)

EVA

Lieutenant, could you go down to the ship, please? I want to be alone with her.

LIEUTENANT

Yes ma'am, just a second. Ah—here we are— I've got some candy and there's uh chewing gum –

EVA

I'll take it. I'll see you at the ship, Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT

(to Rain)

If you could pass that around to your friends –
(Rain, who's been fascinated by the Lieutenant, rushes forward, grabs the Lieutenant's head to twist it off)

LIEUTENANT

(screams in pain)

Owww!

EVA

Rain! Let go!

LIEUTENANT

Oww...!

EVA

Let go!

LIEUTENANT

Ow...ow [repeatedly]

RAIN

There are evidences of flaw in the design.

Let go! EVA
(Rain lets go)

Ow... wow. Oh... LIEUTENANT

That is a flawed design. RAIN

Quiet! EVA

Oh... LIEUTENANT
(groans in pain)

(Eva blocks Rain, who can't resist trying again to screw off the Lieutenant's head. Eva repeatedly smacks away Rain's hand)

Lieutenant, is there a doctor on the ship? EVA
(he nods)

Doctor? RAIN

Go to the ship and see the doctor. EVA
(steers Lieutenant toward ship)

What the heck...? LIEUTENANT
(stares at Rain)

LIEUTENANT! Go the ship: now! EVA

(LIEUTENANT exits. Eva calls after him)

And keep everyone off the island! EVA

ALPHIE's Voice (off)
Wain!

(Rain turns to leave)

EVA
Rain. Don't go.

RAIN
(referring to Lieutenant)
You are a better builder than the builder who built that.

EVA
Rain. Concentrate. Locate Z-Z. Call number: Z-Doo-doo-Poops.

RAIN
Z-Doo-doo-Poops?

EVA
I made up her call number when I was five years old. Do you have it? Rain,
quickly!

RAIN
(scanning the horizon)
Locating.

EVA
(scanning the horizon)
Where is Z-Z?

RAIN
Z-doo-doo-Poops: forty-eighth parallel. Intersection Loss and Time.

EVA
Perfect. Now give Z-Z the command to self-destruct. Tell her: "Gee, I gotta go."

RAIN
Gee-I gotta-go. Ohh!

EVA
What is it?

RAIN
It's angry.

EVA
What is she doing?

RAIN
Punching my microwaves.

EVA
Good. You've got her.

RAIN
(body jerking wildly; simulating the destruction)
--crashing metal – screaming wires –

EVA
Go for it! To the left! Right! Watch it: she fights dirty!

RAIN
To the left! Right! Circuits flooded! Spitting sparks! Duck to the right! Duck again!
Pistons popping! Overload! Overload! Get the coolant, head off suction! Cut the
fans! Open valves! Pow! Pow! Back to DOS. Get the pumps! Hit the boosters!
Circuits jammed! Abort! Abort! Duck! Pow! No! Oh! Oh! Oh!

EVA
What is it?

RAIN
(reeling)
Knock-out!

EVA
Is she down?

RAIN
(reeling, counting on her hands like a boxing referee)
One!.. Two!... Three!... Down!
(as if in great pain)
Oh...oh—oh...

EVA
Oh... Oh Rain, it's horrible to have to force something to self-destruct. I wish I
could have let her rust to death.

RAIN
Ohh... ohh... Will I destruct like that?

EVA

No. Only instruments of destruction have the means to destroy themselves... You did good work, Rain. You ended the Weather War.

RAIN

Yes. It's like to fight the fish. The fish go in my ears. They laugh.

EVA

They laugh? You hear fish laugh?

RAIN

The creatures there –
(indicating the ship)

EVA

What? The destroyer? Did they see you? The creatures in the destroyer? Rain, it's important.

RAIN

They watched me fight the fish.
(looking at Peg)

Why is that here?

EVA

It's dead.

RAIN

It was alive?

EVA

Yes, it was.

RAIN

(peering closely at Peg)

That is very interesting. When the eyes are closed, it's alive. When the eyes are open, it's dead.

(Eva takes off her lab coat, lays it over Peg)

EVA

Rain, did you say anything to those creatures? I mean, no one noticed that you don't breathe?

RAIN

No. I sat in the water.

EVA

Just don't talk to those creatures. Anyone, you understand? We don't want to give them any stupid ideas.

(distant screeches from Alphie)

RAIN

I have fish for Alphie.

EVA

Call him.

RAIN

(calling)

Alphie!

(Nuke runs on, screeching, pursued by screeching Alphie)

EVA

Quiet! Quiet! Nuke, stand still! Stand still!

(Alphie and Nuke crouch)

EVA

Stand up, Nuke.

NUKE

That thing –

EVA

What do you do when he pursues you?

NUKE

Run.

EVA

No. You do what I do. You say "Quiet." Say it.

(from the ship: "Star Spankled Banner")

EVA

Quickly. I don't have much time. Say "Quiet."

NUKE

Quiet.

Get up. Move. EVA
 (Nuke does. Alpie rises, screeches)

Quiet. NUKE
 (low)

Louder. EVA

Quiet. NUKE
 (Alpie crouches)

Good. Remember to say that and you'll do fine. EVA

Alpie – Fish. RAIN
 (crossing to Alpie with the bucket)

(Alpie sniffs the air, follows Rain. She sets the bucket down. Alpie plunges his head in the pail and slurps happily)

Very nice, Rain. Oh, that music is driving me crazy. EVA
 (shouts toward ship, makes a sign of slicing her throat)

CEASE and DESIST!

(music stops)

Do rocks walk? RAIN

What? EVA

Why is that moving? RAIN

NUKE
 The island is never at rest.
 (Nuke, Rain, Eva watch the “rock” scurry closer. Nuke, Rain, Eva all lean to the side, for a peek at the shoes under the “rock”)

EVA
 (finally, as the “rock” reaches them)
 Lieutenant.
 (the “rock” freezes)

LIEUTENANT’s voice
 Ma’am.

EVA
 What are you doing?

LIEUTENANT’s voice
 Don’t hurt me. I just wanted to say I’d seen your lab.

EVA
 I gave you orders, Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT’s voice
 Please. I never get to do anything heroic.

EVA
 Take Le Pre to the ship. That’s heroic.

LIEUTENANT’s voice
 It’s not heroic. She’s already dead.

NUKE
 What is “dead”?

EVA
 Lieutenant, you can tell everyone you brought the national treasure home.

(Lieutenant creeps out, his face painted in camouflage)

ALPHIE
 (lifts his head out of the pail and growls)
 Grrrr...

LIEUTENANT
(snaps to attention)

Sir!

EVA

Quiet, daddy.

NUKE

Eat! Eat!

(Alphie plunges his head into the pail again)

LIEUTENANT
(trembling in terror)

Oh my...

EVA

Take Le Pre, Lieutenant. Fast! Before my father comes up for air.

(LIEUTENANT rushes to drag Peg away, exits)

NUKE
(to Rain, referring to Lieutenant and Peg)

They are very interesting rocks.

RAIN

They're not rocks. The dead one is a fish.

EVA

Both of you go in the lab.

RAIN

Nuke's not permitted in the lab. He'll destroy it.

EVA

Yes. Destroy it.

RAIN

Destroy the lab?

EVA

Yes. Now.

RAIN

How?

EVA
Just FALL on it, hurry!

ALPHIE
(his head pops up from the bucket)
Wain.
(he turns to follow Rain. RAIN exits. Nuke starts to follow)

EVA
Daddy, wait –

NUKE
(to Alphie)
Sit.

EVA
That's fine, Nuke. Go with Rain.

(NUKE exits)

ALPHIE
Wain –

EVA
Daddy, this is President Eva Lee Grand: the one who came into the world,
kicking and screaming with a body like a toad?

(sound of crashes from the lab)

ALPHIE
Wesent?

EVA
President, yes.

(Alphie laughs, maniacally)

(sound of crashes from the lab)

EVA
Yes. It's amusing. The world's gone insane 'cause of our Weather War.

(Alphie laughs afresh)

EVA

There are bubble-brains out there who want to turn the whole earth into a laboratory.

(sound of crashes from lab)

ALPHIE

(looks toward the lab)

Wabory?

EVA

Yes. So I'm going back, daddy.

ALPHIE

(growls with displeasure)

Grrrr...

EVA

Rain'll fish for you. Nuke won't stuff your mouth with food, hopefully...

ALPHIE

(a command: pointing to the lab, ordering Eva to go in the lab)

Wabory!

EVA

There's no wabory anymore, daddy. They're falling on it.

ALPHIE

Woo! Wabory!

(meaning, "You: go in the laboratory!")

(sound of crashes from the lab)

EVA

No, daddy.

ALPHIE

(jumping up and down)

Woo! Wabory! Woo!

EVA

No!

ALPHIE

Woo!

EVA
I'm through with wabories!

(sound of crashes from the lab)

ALPHIE
(lunges at Eva, trying to strangle her)
Wabory! Wabory! [repeatedly]

EVA
(pushing him off)
Stop it! I'm alive, stop it! Get away! Get away! I'm not going in the lab! Daddy!
(calling)
Help! Rain!

ALPHIE
(drags Eva toward lab)
Wabory!

EVA
Rain! Help!

ALPHIE
Wabory!

EVA
Rain!

(RAIN runs out of the lab)

RAIN
Alphie! Go home!

(ALPHIE lumbers off)

EVA
(relieved)
Thank you.

(sound of crashes from lab)

RAIN
Nuke's falling on everything.

EVA
Good.

(rubs her sore neck)

(one final crash. NUKE stumbles out of the lab)

NUKE

Nuke assists you.

EVA

Yes, Nuke. From now, you're going to help Rain.

NUKE

In a rope?

EVA

I knew there was something I was forgetting. You won't be tied up anymore. It's your island now.

(Eva unties the rope that's been dangling around Nuke's waist)

RAIN

Nuke's?

EVA

And yours. Do you remember when I told you there'd come a time when you'd never see me again?

RAIN

When you are "dead."

NUKE

You are "dead"?

EVA

No Nuke, but you won't see me anymore.

NUKE

Nukes sees you.

RAIN

I see you.

EVA

Rain, you know the creatures you saw out there who laughed?

RAIN

The fish?

EVA

Yes—no, they're not fish. They're my species.

(All three look out at the ship)

RAIN

Those are your species???

EVA

I've been really naughty to them. Picture if a thousand creatures like Alphie were let loose on a tiny island.

NUKE

(turns in circles, "worried")

A thousand Alphies? They would destroy everything.

EVA

A disaster. That's what I did out there... I'll have to do a lot of re-building.

RAIN

You're going to sit in the water?

EVA

No, it's not all water out there. It's a big planet. It's not just one mile long. There are islands much bigger than this. In some places you can stand and not even see the water.

RAIN

Not see the water? No fish?

EVA

No, it's a lot of soil – dirt.

RAIN

You don't like dirt.

EVA

That's true. But I didn't know better. Not everything is a laboratory.

NUKE

Nuke goes with you.

EVA

No, Nuke. But I'll miss you. Oh how I'll miss you. And I want you to never forget that even if the rocks and caves are fake, the ground's alive.

RAIN

Like Alphie.

EVA

Yes.

NUKE

Nuke assists the Doctor.

EVA

Yes, Nuke. I have a project for you.

NUKE

Nuke.

EVA

And Rain. Rain, I want you to get the wheelbarrow and dig up dirt from the sea and bring it to the island. You're going to be very busy.

RAIN

I have dirt in the wheelbarrow.

EVA
(surprised)

You do?

RAIN

The island needs dirt.

EVA
(bemused)

That's not very obedient, Rain.

RAIN

Alphie likes dirt. He likes to roll in it.

EVA

And when the rains come, you'll see things grow.

RAIN

Are the black rains coming?

EVA

The...? No... not so soon...But do you remember I told you, the future isn't mine?

RAIN

(stepping forward)

The future is mine.

EVA

Yes, it's yours. The future might be great heat or great cold – unfit for any life, but my species will survive in you and Nuke. You'll always be able to transmit what I taught you. Do you understand?

NUKE

No.

EVA

Nuke, you have to visualize years and years from now, after the black rains, visitors might come from far away, and they'll wonder what kind of life used to be here. But if they find you and Rain, they'll see what my species looked like... sort of. And they'll hear you talk just like human beings used to talk, and you can tell them how human beings were great builders, too, not just talkers; we had big dreams and the planet had dreams; and you'll remind them what it was like when dreamers walked the earth.

RAIN

Alphie stays?

EVA

You'll take care of Alphie?

RAIN

I always do.

EVA

Yes, I know...It was a pleasure to invent you, Rain.

(sound of ship's horn)

EVA

Oh boy... they're waiting for me.

(one last goodbye)

Rain – Nuke – You were the first decent things I ever did in my life.

(Rain gets the wheelbarrow – stowed behind a rock -- and already filled with soil)

NUKE

It will require approximately one million one hundred sixteen thousand wheelbarrows for a six-inch layer of dirt across the diameter of the island.

RAIN

No. One million one hundred eighteen thousand twenty-three wheelbarrows of dirt.

NUKE

Approximately one mil –

RAIN

Exactly. I know what I say. I verify my existence daily. From the very first hour.

NUKE

The first hour...?

(Sound of ship's horn. EVA exits: no one notices)

RAIN

(dumping the soil and smoothing it)

I recall the very first hour through blurred vision the feeling of her hands reaching into my circuits. The laboratory was in a gray light. It was morning. The table I was lying on was cold. She said not a word, and her hands moved calmly and confidently. And when I walked my first steps, she laughed.

(picking up the wheelbarrow)

And when I spoke my first words, she cried "Rain."

(RAIN exits to cove with wheelbarrow. ALPHIE enters. Sound of ships' horn, departing. Alphonse smiles victory, seeing the ship depart, thumps his chest, grabs the bucket that's still lying there)

ALPHIE

Wain!

(ALPHIE exits, with bucket. Sound of ship's horn)

NUKE

Doctor --?

(lights fade to black on Nuke, looking out)

End of Play

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