

8

INT. FIVE MILE ISLAND - MACHINE ROOM 'STAGE' - NIGHT

8

Under an aria's opening strains a spotlight picks out a lectern and GLASS of water, in front of the curtain. Dr. Ingrid, trying gamely to cover her nerves, takes her place at the lectern, shuffles notes.

At her cue in the music instead of singing - she coughs. Embarrassed, she gulps the water, the music repeats -

DR. INGRID

*Welcome good people to this
special day
When you will see my invention is
the way
Darkened streets no longer
something to fear -
Our clean, safe, bright renewable
future is HERE!*

The audience clap politely, if a little impatiently. What's behind the red curtain?

DR. INGRID

*And without further ado, I Doctor
Ingrid Silkwood-Oppenheimer must
introduce to you
Our great benefactor we call 'the
tank' -*

(Behind the curtain Dmitri grimaces)

DR. INGRID

*- Dmitri Chernobovich - the man
we must all thank...*

Dmitri appears through the centre gap of the curtain. Scowls at Dr. Ingrid. Gives the audience a huge plastered-on smile, accepting their applause. Shouts -

DMITRI CHERNOBOVICH

*Ladies and Gentlemen I give you -
not the future but - a PRESENT!*

Grandly, he draws the curtains aside to reveal THE MACHINE. The audience gasps. It's beautiful. And wondrous. A gigantic, gleaming Perpetuum Mobile Machine.

At a signal from Dmitri, Dr. Ingrid bites her lip, crosses her fingers... presses a lever on a remote control.

THE MACHINE begins to whirl and hum.

The audience excitement mounts. The dollar signs virtually leap from DMITRI's eyes -

- but The Machine sputters and hiccups. The audience members throw confused glances in all directions.

Dmitri bunches his fists at Dr. Ingrid. She frantically twiddles her remote control, but to no avail. THE MACHINE valiantly tries one more crescendo of effort and speed... then collapses with an embarrassing FARTING sound.

The townspeople are disgusted. Disappointed. Angrily toss aside their folding chairs, hurrying to leave. Dmitri implores them: *"Just a momentary glitch. Everything will come alright, you'll see!"*

No-one believes a word of it. Dr. Ingrid tries to sneak out with everyone, but Dmitri catches her. No way. In his anxiety he stuffs more of his chocolate bar into his mouth. CRUMBS drop on the floor.

SIEGFRIED (V.O.)
(whispers)
Hey Karl! Dinner!

9 INT. FIVE MILE ISLAND - MACHINE ROOM HIDEOUT - CONTINUOUS 9

Siegfried, salivating, nudges Karl they should go after the crumbs. Karl is appalled - it's a chaos of humans, greedily grabbing food on their way out. The brothers wrestle.

KARL
*Siegfried, my princely brother
are you mad?
This idea of yours is rotten and
it's bad!
Out there is way too much light
And too many humans - we'd be
outsized in any fight!*

SIEGFRIED
*And brother Karl with yet another
excuse
You may be a Prince, but what is
the use?
You must be brave and fearless to
earn your rings -
To deserve the rights and
privileges of Kings!*

Siegfried unfurls a hidden antennae bearing two royal GOLD RINGS. Karl defiantly reveals his. They lock heads again.

But King Wilhelm's had enough. He separates them and begins scolding elder brother Karl. Siegfried seizes the moment to sneak away.

WILHELM

*What have we here? Oh not again!
Princely babies fighting, in
their golden playpen!*

KARL

*King Wilhelm father - it's
Siegfried I'm trying to save
From his young, foolish thoughts
of being brave!*

WILHELM

How many times must I protest? -

He breaks off, catching Maria's horrified face -

Wilhelm and Karl follow her gaze, also appalled to see -

10 INT. FIVE MILE ISLAND - MACHINE ROOM 'STAGE' - CONTINUOUS 10

Siegfried gathers armfuls of chocolate crumbs, right between the feet of Dmitri and Dr. Ingrid arguing, while plant WORKERS cross to and fro, packing up the 'stage'.

DR. INGRID

*But of course the engine failed
to ignite!
You never give me what I ask for -
to make it right!
All I need for this machine to
light up the dark -
Is some time and the power from
one great, big spark!*

Heavily burdened, with a big effort Siegfried starts to run, looking back over his shoulder at the humans - but fails to see the technician's WRENCH.

Siegfried BONKS into it, hurts himself, drops the crumbs. Worse still - the wrench makes a loud SCRAPING SOUND.

DMITRI

Huh?

Surprised, Dmitri and Dr. Ingrid both look down. Dmitri snarls at the cowering cockroach he finds. Dr. Ingrid looks afraid, both OF Siegfried, and FOR him. Dmitri raises one foot, threateningly - but looks at Dr. Ingrid -

11 INT. FIVE MILE ISLAND - MACHINE ROOM HIDEOUT - CONTINUOUS 11

Maria squeals and covers her eyes. Karl and Wilhelm strain against their helplessness...

12 INT. FIVE MILE ISLAND - MACHINE ROOM 'STAGE' - CONTINUOUS 12

DMITRI

*One last chance Doctor - that's
all I will give you
Or like this Kakkerlak, your time
will be through!*

He brings his foot down hard. And with a menacing grin he grinds his foot into the floor for extra emphasis.

13 INT. FIVE MILE ISLAND - MACHINE ROOM HIDEOUT - CONTINUOUS 13

Wilhelm, Karl, Maria and all the other cockroaches bow their heads in grief. Maria snuffles, reaches to Karl for comfort. He wraps a few protective arms around her -

A sudden, curious sound from Dmitri makes them all look up.

14 INT. FIVE MILE ISLAND - MACHINE ROOM 'STAGE' - CONTINUOUS 14

DMITRI

Aaarrggghhh!

An itch on Dmitri's leg makes him wriggle uncomfortably, all the way up from his toes. He slaps his leg, tries to continue berating Dr. Ingrid but -

DMITRI

Eeeeeuuwwwww!

This time a different itch, now under his collar makes him squirm. He wriggles again, in supreme discomfort.

Dr. Ingrid stifles a giggle, as do all the cockroaches, even in the midst of their grief - but wait -

Antennae appear over Dmitri's collar, and surely not but - it's Siegfried! He's alive and has crawled all the way up Dmitri's body, under his clothes!

Unseen by Dmitri or Dr. Ingrid, Siegfried gives a triumphal cheer to his entire family watching from their hideout.

Just as, unseen by the cockroaches, Dmitri glowers murder -

15 INT. FIVE MILE ISLAND - MACHINE ROOM HIDEOUT - CONTINUOUS 15

Younger cockroaches, including Maria, cheer relieved surprise. But Wilhelm looks gravely at Karl. King and Prince share a heavy moment, knowing what must come.

Karl gulps hard, mustering courage. Spins around, tall in front of his hundreds of cousins. Shouts -

KARL
Kakkerlakken!

They all snap to attention -

KARL
CHARGE!

And with that a flood of cockroaches pours from the hideout, and streams towards Dmitri and Dr. Ingrid.

16 INT. FIVE MILE ISLAND - MACHINE ROOM 'STAGE' - CONTINUOUS 16

Dmitri, Dr. Ingrid and some workers startle at the rustling sound, and then the sight of the sea of cockroaches flowing towards them.

Dr. Ingrid screams. A worker throws everything aside and bolts away. Dmitri crouches into a fighting position.

DMITRI
Oh yeah? Just come and get me!

And then as hopeless as it seems for the cockroaches, a battle begins, as tooth and nail and bloody as any on a medieval battlefield.

Cockroaches fly and leap, screaming through the air, hurling tiny pieces of scrap wood or metal they've found. Dmitri stomps one footed, then jumps up and down with both feet, crushing as many cockroaches at once as he can.

Plant workers swipe with brooms and swat with anything they can find within reach. Abhorring any kind of violence, Dr. Ingrid remains wide-eyed, speechless, frozen to one spot.

The battle swirling around him, Karl takes a moment, seeking out a strategy. He sees Dmitri, then spies the lectern, Dr. Ingrid between the two. Aha!

KARL
This way!

A huge group of cockroaches join him, then as Karl directs, they push at the base of the lectern. It won't budge, but then with an almighty group heave it begins to topple -

Seeing the lectern falling towards her, Dr. Ingrid has no choice but to leap out of its way, and while doing so catches her falling water glass like a prize athlete, before she hits the floor with a THUMP.