

(Spotlight on QUARK sitting behind a desk writing a letter.)

QUARK

(Reading out-loud what he's writing.)

Dear intern Biggs. We have a situation. The Mark Twain robots have started acting bizarrely. I think it's the artificial intelligence chips. They've started attacking us, and we've been barricaded into the lab. You hopefully still have the disc I gave you. The one with the emergency shutdown program. I need you to bring it to us here, there's a window you can side the disk safely through. Please hurry. Sincerely, Professor Ernest T. Quark.

(QUARK puts his letter into an envelope and then stares at his desk. Spotlight on BIGGS sitting at a desk writing a letter.)

BIGGS

(Reading out-loud what he's writing.)

Quark, Hey, it's Biggs! Sorry to hear about the Mark Twain robots, sounds pretty bad.

(QUARK looks up looking around for the source of BIGGS voice.)

QUARK

What the hell?

BIGGS

(Reading out-loud what he's writing.)

The good news is I found that disc you're looking for!

(Lights up, QUARK is sitting at a desk across an aisle way from BIGGS. It's a science lab with lots of important looking equipment and computers scattered around. On the back wall is a tiny window about the size of notebook and it has oily stains around it.)

QUARK

Biggs!

BIGGS

(Reading out-loud what he's writing.)

Yes, Quark?

(QUARK walks over to BIGGS and hits him on the head with his letter.)

Oh, hey.

QUARK

What are you doing?

BIGGS

Responding to your letter.

QUARK

I heard. How did you get in?

BIGGS

Well, you remember in your letter? The window?

QUARK

Yes.

BIGGS

I used that.

(QUARK looks at the window, and then at BIGGS.)

Well I had to use a large assortments of oils and breathing patterns to- -

(QUARK slams his hand on the table.)

QUARK

Do you have the disc?

BIGGS

Yeah, of course. But- -

QUARK

But? No buts! Why is there a but!

BIGGS

Well, it seems it's, um, been corrupted.

QUARK

Biggs!

BIGGS

Oh come on! It's not like I did it on purpose! You can't pin this one on me!

QUARK

Harriet is dead Biggs. They killed her.

(BIGGS turns away from QUARK looking worried.)

They killed my wife.

(Beat.)

You're probably too unattract- -

(Beat.)

Young to understand the connection two people can share, and the devastation felt when that bond is broken. It's crushing Biggs. Like your heart just won't beat anymore, but something forces it to keep going.

BIGGS

I understand, I had a pet hermit crab once. A long time ago. Harold.  
(BIGGS looks up toward the ceiling longingly.)

QUARK

That, that's not nearly the same thing.

(BIGGS lowers his head in defeat.)

These robots have to be stopped Biggs. They've been contained in this factory, but if they get out...the nearby town would be nothing but whitewash and jumping frogs, Biggs. JUMPING FROGS.

(Pause.)

It's all I have left. If I can't save the town...I couldn't save Harriet. What do I have left?

BIGGS

Um, Professor. Don't you have a copy of the disk?

QUARK

Yeah, but I'm missing the key code. Somebody ripped it off the disc.

(Beat.)

Wait a second. wait a second! Your disc has the code on the label! We can use the code even if the data's bad!

BIGGS

Um.

QUARK

Um?

(BIGGS reaches in his coat and pulls out a diskette, it's dripping with oil.)

No. No no no no no.

BIGGS

Yeah, the oils messed up the label.

(Pause.)

QUARK

Why did you come back here? Aren't you in the middle of your vacation?

BIGGS

What?

QUARK

Yeah. You left yesterday to go to, where was it. Florida? Why are you here?

BIGGS

Oh, that. Heh. I. I must have, oh, um, forgotten my, my sunglasses here.

QUARK

And you snuck in through that window. If you were just stopping back you wouldn't have known about the robots going berserk.

BIGGS

Oh, that, I tried the front door first? Sure. but it was stuck.

QUARK

Thinking about it, the robots were fine until about an hour after you left Harriet and I working late on the missile cannons..

BIGGS

Thats, interesting.

(Beat.)

Well professor, look at the time!

(BIGGS looks at his arm, no watch is present there.)

Is it midnight already! Boy, I better get home.

(BIGGS gets up and walks toward the window. QUARK pulls out a gun and fires it in the direction of the window. BIGGS stops moving.)

QUARK

Just tell me why Biggs.

BIGGS

Why what?

(QUARK walks over to BIGGS and grabs him by the collar and slams him against the back wall.)

QUARK

Why you tried to kill me. Why you made the robots go crazy. Why you destroyed the only disc to stop them. Why my wife had to die.

(Long Pause.)

BIGGS

B-because.

(BIGGS suddenly loses his nervousness and becomes aggressive pushing Quark off of him.)

Because I'm sick and tired of taking your shit!

QUARK

You're an INTERN. You're 'job' is to take shit!

BIGGS

I haven't been an intern for 15 years!

QUARK

What?