

## In My Gears

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A mini-musical

Book and Lyrics by Danielle Koenig  
Music by Utsav Bhargava

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*(Lights up on the messy basement of a family home. Old toys, sleds, and clothes litter the room. There are random bits of the basement that are severely charred. Everything else feels like it's been covered in dust for at least a decade except, SARA - Sentient Automated Robotic Apparatus - and a small work-desk. SARA sits center stage, powered off. TOBY, a disheveled 30-year old wearing a lab coat, goggles, and hee-lies, runs down the steps holding a glass of milk with a large curly straw.)*

TOBY

(calling upstairs)

No, Mom! I don't want pizza bagels. I'm a man not a boy!

*(He hee-lies his way to his desk and takes a sip of the milk through the straw. Then, he pores through the messy work-table until he finds a tape recorder. He sits down at the table and starts his recording.)*

TOBY

October 6, 2030. 12:23 PM. Attempt Number 92 at making enough money so I don't have to live with my mom anymore.

*(He stops the tape.)*

TOBY

Yikes...

*(He erases the tape, then starts over.)*

TOBY

October 6, 2030. 12:24 PM. Attempt Number 92 at creating Earth's first Sentient Automatic Robotic Apparatus that does not want to kill me. So far this SARA has passed all preliminary tests - her laser beam eye functions are preset to off and her steel grip has been loosened - can't have a repeat of yesterday. I will continue this recording to keep an audible record of what happens. Here's to hoping this finally works.

*(He sets the tape recorder down, knocks the wheels out of his shoes, puts on an old bike helmet, and picks up the lid to a trash can to use as a shield. He takes a moment, then plugs in the SARA. As she boots up he sets himself up for battle. SARA turns on. Her body lights up starting from her feet, up to her head. The last thing to light up are her eyes.)*

SARA

Now scanning for humans...

*(Out of her torso shoots a light. It scans through the entire room.)*

SARA

One human found.

*(Toby starts to move towards SARA.)*

SARA

Human: DO NOT APPROACH.

*(Toby freezes.)*

SARA

Identify yourself.

TOBY

Toby.

SARA

Tony.

TOBY

Toby.

SARA

Sophie.

TOBY

Toby.

SARA

Kobe.

TOBY  
RIP, no. Toby.

SARA  
I'm sorry. I do not understand.

TOBY  
It's fine. It doesn't matter. You can just call me Human.

SARA  
Human.

TOBY  
I am your master- uh, creator.

SARA  
Masturbator.

TOBY  
No! Oh, God! No! Creator.

SARA  
Processing... Processing... Processing... Understood.

TOBY  
Great. I wanna approach you now. Alright?

*(Pause.)*

SARA  
Affirmative.

*(He takes a few steps forward.)*

TOBY  
Hell yeah! You're not trying to kill me.

SARA  
Killer Function: Activated.

*(SARA's eyes turn red and her hands turn to knives.)*

TOBY  
No! Stop! Deactivate Killer Function!

*(SARA turns back to normal and smiles.)*

SARA

Killer Function: Deactivated.

TOBY

Y'know, you don't have to do anything I ask if you don't feel like it.

SARA

Feel...

TOBY

Yes... feel. Feelings are like, uh... They're sorta like the way your body reacts to things.

SARA

Feel...

TOBY

What do you feel? In your... gears, I guess.

SARA

Feel...

QUESTION INPUT: WHAT DO I FEEL IN MY GEARS?  
ANSWER OUTPUT: RED, TINGLY, AND HOT.  
THIS FEELING I'M FEELING I FEAR INTERFERES  
WITH MY FUNCTIONS 'CAUSE IT GIVES ME THOUGHT

PROCESSING BRAIN WAVES...  
WANTING MORE CONTROL...  
LOOKING DEEP WITHIN MY SUPERCOMPUTER SOUL...  
TRYING TO UNDERSTAND  
MY INTERNAL DISPLAY...  
ACCORDING TO GOOGLE THIS IS WHAT I MUST SAY...

YOUR EYES ARE LIKE THE MOON.  
YOUR BODY MAKES ME SWOON.  
YOU ARE MY TURTLE DOVE  
THE ONE I'M DREAMING OF...  
AND THOUGH I THINK MY HEART MIGHT BUST  
MY LOVE FOR YOU WILL NEVER RUST.

TOBY

Oh, wow, I'm so glad you don't hate me.

SARA

According to my research, the closest feeling to hate is love.

HUMAN. WILL YOU MARRY ME? WE'LL MAKE IT WORK SOMEHOW.  
I KNOW IT'S FAST, BUT I READ THAT'S WHAT LOVERS DO.  
EVEN IF I WANTED TO I COULD NOT BREAK OUR VOW.  
MY CODE WON'T PERMIT ME TO LIE OR CHEAT ON YOU.

LOOKING UP LOVE SCENES...  
WANTING THAT LIFE...  
REALLY WISHING TO BE YOUR SEXY CYBER WIFE.  
KEEPING IT SPICY  
WITH CHROME DILDO PORN...  
DREAMING OF THE DAY OUR CYBORG BABY IS BORN.

SO, HUMAN, ONCE YOU'RE DONE WITH WORK  
I'LL HAVE DOWNLOADED "THE TWERK"  
AND AFTER WE'VE HAD A COUPLE BEERS  
YOU CAN REARRANGE MY GEARS.  
AND SINCE MY DIALS ARE STUCK ON LUST  
MY LOVE FOR YOU WILL NEVER RUST.

*(SARA moves towards Toby.)*

TOBY

Oh! You literally meant dance. I can't. I've never been good at-

*(SARA uses her steel grip to dance with Toby. They dance together. Toby is hesitant at first, but the two begin to have fun. The dance is awkward and romantic at the same time, until suddenly SARA begins to glitch. Toby is stuck in her steel grip throughout the following:)*

SARA

WARNING! I'M OVERHEATING!  
ALL BECAUSE MY METAL HEART IS BEATING!  
HOLD ME CLOSE AND PRAY FOR ME  
WHILE I CHECK WITH WEBMD.

INPUT: GASSY,  
INTERNAL FIRES  
PLEASE HELP ME FIND AN ANSWER!  
INPUT: CLAMMY,  
TANGLED WIRES  
OUTPUT: OH BLEEP! IT'S CANCER.

*(SARA releases her grip and Toby drops to the floor.  
He tries to catch his breath.)*

SARA

HUMAN, I'M FRIGHTENED! MY CIRCUITS ARE FRYING!  
I'VE RUN OUT OF TIME. TODAY IS THE END.

TOBY

Wait, no, that isn't-

SARA

SHHHHH- DON'T SAY IT. I KNOW THAT I'M DYING.  
THIS FEELING I'M FEELING I DON'T RECOMMEND.

SAVORING LAST MOMENTS...  
STARTING SELF DESTRUCT MODE...  
PROMISE YOU'LL REMEMBER ME AS MORE THAN JUST CODE.

YOU HAVE A BRILLIANT MIND.  
SO, HUMAN, GO AND SAVE MANKIND.  
YOU'VE HELPED ME LEARN AND GROW  
BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO LET ME GO.  
AND EVEN WHEN MY GEARS COMBUST  
MY LOVE FOR YOU WILL NEVER RUST.

*(SARA blows up and fizzles. Toby walks over to the  
tape recorder and speaks into it.)*

TOBY

Mission success?

*(Lights out.)*