

Influence and Pressure

INT: LABORATORY- TIME UNKNOWN

ANGLE: ON ROBOT

An animated robot lies on the realistic, white floor in an examination room. The robot's animated appearance heavily contrasts with its true-to-life surroundings. It slowly gets up and blinks its facial display. The robot is small, has big eyes and a bewildered expression.

It walks around and analyzes the real room around it noticing the large one-way mirror taking up one wall. A large cabinet sits in the corner. A T.V. is mounted high on the wall in another corner. A small intercom speaker sits above the large, metal door. The robot walks up to the mirror and taps on the glass.

ANGLE: THROUGH MIRROR

The hands of a scientist takes notes on a clipboard. They push a button on the control panel on the table in front of them.

CAMERA CUTS BACK TO ROBOT

The robot looks up sharply at the television which has abruptly turned on. The television depicts women twirling in flowing dresses and their faces covered in layers of cosmetics. The robot looks up in awe. It stares at itself in the mirror.

ANGLE: ZOOM ON ROBOT'S FACE

It slowly touches its face and looks back to the television.

CAMERA CUTS TO TELEVISION WITH THE WOMEN REAPPLYING THEIR MAKEUP AND CRITIQUING THEIR FLAWS

The robot touches the bolts holding the metal plates of its body together as if trying to erase them with its caress. A cabinet door suddenly opens. The robot scurries over and looks through the contents.

ANGLE: INSIDE THE DRAWER

The robot grabs a fistful of the contents and rushes to the television.

CAMERA CUTS TO BEHIND THE ROBOT LOOKING AT THE T.V.

(CONTINUED)

It hastily picks up a deep red cylinder and applies bright lipstick to its cheeks. It tries to draw over its mouth display with a gray eyeliner stick, but draws a line over it's entire face. It continues to contour its face into a heart shape. It tries to cover up its screws with skin tone foundation. After it's done, it rushes back to the cabinet to find a dress inside and throws it on.

ANGLE: DRESS ZIPPER ON THE ROBOT'S BACK

The robot fumbles with the zipper, struggling to get it over its rectangular frame. The zipper gets stuck on a bolt in the center of the robot's back. It tries to pull harder, but the zipper falls off along with the bolt in its back. The robot seems to not notice.

INT: SCIENTIST'S ROOM

The scientist hurriedly takes notes adding more pages to a growing pile next to him.

ANGLE: THROUGH THE MIRROR LOOKING AT THE ROBOT

Through a dark tint, the robot looks at itself in disgust. The robot attempts to remove the dress, but the thin straps get caught on the back panel jutting out. The robot becomes enraged and rips the whole thing off. The back panel drops to the floor making a resonating clatter. It covers its ears, then claws at its heart while watching the women laugh and spin around on television. The robot half-heartedly spins with a frustrated look on its face. It loses its balance and drops to its knees.

INT: LABORATORY

CAMERA CUTS BACK TO ROBOT

The robot sits on the floor with the frustrated expression still on its face. It hurls a makeup sponge at the television leaving a skin-colored splotch behind.

A beeping noise rings through the room and the intercom comes on.

ANGLE: INTERCOM

SCIENTIST (OVER INTERCOM)

Look at this mess! What were you even trying to accomplish? You can't wear dresses, you're a robot, and even more appalling, you're SUPPOSED to act masculine! You'll never look like any of those women, so what's the point?!

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ANGLE: ZOOMS ON ROBOT'S FACE

The scientist's voice blurs into an unintelligible hum as the robot's frustrated expression changes into one of horror.

ANGLE: THROUGH THE ROBOT'S FACE INTO ITS MIND

A black screen is inside the robot's mind. White words appear on the screen. "You'll never look like those women," "What's wrong with you!?" "You're SUPPOSED to act masculine!" "You can't wear dresses."

ANGLE: INTERCOM**SCIENTIST (OVER INTERCOM)**

You'll never accomplish anything if you keep acting like this. Don't trust your instincts because your instincts are weak. Clean this up now before I lose my patience any further.

ANGLE: ON ROBOT

The intercom clicks off leaving the robot sitting in heavy silence. The robot slowly walks around picking up cosmetics and putting them back inside the cabinet. It finds the red lipstick and holds it in one hand, it picks up its back panel and underneath, it finds the dress zipper. The robot carefully lays the panel on the floor and puts the lipstick and the zipper inside its hollow back compartment. It places the panel in its back and continues with the clean up.

ANGLE: ABOVE CABINET

The robot opens the drawer to reveal sewing supplies.

CAMERA CUTS TO ROBOT

The robot bends forward to pick up the dress and its heart compartment falls open. It ignores it and instead stitches up the back of the dress with a shaky hand and fumbles to cut the thread with a pair of silver sewing scissors. It places the garment back inside the cabinet and scuttles toward the mirror, grasping the small scissors in one hand.

ANGLE: ROBOT'S CHEST

The robot combs through the two colored wires, and raises its hand until it's level with the vertical yellow wire to the far right.

CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON THE COMPARTMENT

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Slowly, but carefully, it shakily cuts and cuts until the wire becomes frayed.

CAMERA CUTS TO SCISSORS FALLING

The robot drops the scissors. They hit the floor making a soft, but high pitched sound that startles it.

CAMERA CUTS TO ROBOT

The robot's face becomes dark and its figure hunches over. Then it seems to reboot with a saddened expression.

SCREEN FADES TO BLACK

SCREEN BRIGHTENS AND FOCUSES ON THE TELEVISION

The T.V. shows two children in a field of flowers surrounded by tall green grass. The children are giggling and prancing around together. They're beyond elated. One of the children turns to the other, and grins.

FRIEND 1

You're my best friend!

CAMERA CUTS TO THE ROBOT'S FACE

It looks at the screen with longing and then shakes its head as if to stop itself. It continues to stare at the screen with a blank expression. The words of the scientist echo through its head. "Don't trust your instincts because your instincts are weak." The robot decides to imitate the children's laughter, but no sound comes out. The scientists' words echo in its head. "You can't do anything! You're worthless."

The robot continues to stare at the T.V. The robot's display changes to mimic the emotions of the children. The robot walks toward the cabinet.

CAMERA CUTS TO CABINET

The robot pulls out a drawer, revealing several writing implements. It grabs a black marker from the mix, and turns to face the white wall in front of it. It begins to mark the walls, drawing a simple, cartoon-like person. Once it's done, it writes the word "FRIEND" next to the picture. The robot steps back and tilts its head, looking pleased with how it looks. The intercom beeps and turns on again, stopping the robot in its tracks.

CAMERA CUTS TO INTERCOM

SCIENTIST

What are you trying to do now?
You've completely destroyed the
wall! Fix it immediately, you
Clunker!

CAMERA CUTS TO ROBOT'S FACE

Its formerly content expression contorts into one of shame. It chucks the marker at the mirror, leaving a crack. While moving back to the drawn-on wall, it stumbles on the pair of scissors that it dropped earlier. It picks it up with its right hand, and pries its heart panel open with its left. It hovers the scissors over the center-most red wire, hands trembling not as much as before.

CAMERA CUTS TO ROBOT'S HAND AND THE HEART PANEL

The robot confirms that the red wire is within the scissor blades before closing down on it.

INT: SCIENTIST'S ROOM

The scientist watches the robot's final moments unfold. He drops his clipboard and pen beside the disorderly pile of notes. He stops at the door leading to the laboratory, before he grabs a pair of latex gloves and puts them on. They fit tightly.

EXT: OUTSIDE LABORATORY

CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON HANDS

The scientist carries the idle robot in his arms. It rattles and squeaks as it's being jostled around in the scientist's arms.

CAMERA ON THE ROBOT

The robot is thrown into a heap of many other identical robots. When it lands on top of the stack, it's back compartment shoots open and its contents fall out onto the ground. The zipper, lipstick, and black marker lay strewn on the ground, close but spread apart.

CAMERA PANS OUT FROM THE ROBOT

All the surrounding robots can be seen before the screen fades to black.