

Alan and the
Unbearable
Lightness of Quarks

A Radio Play by Dan Hershfield

Cast of Characters:

NARRATOR, 1950s sci-fi radio program host

ALAN, a high-school nerd

SALLY-ANN, the sweet girl-next-door

DIRK, a high-school jock

MR. PFIZER, Sally-Ann's father, a business tycoon

DORIS, Alan's assistant

MALE NEWSANCHOR

FEMALE NEWSANCHOR

MALE CUSTOMER

FEMALE CUSTOMER

ALAN'S MOM

PRIEST

STUDENTS

RESTAURANT PATRONS

- 1) MUSIC : A SCIENCE-FICTION INTRODUCTION THEME SONG, SIMILAR IN STYLE TO THE THEME FROM 'THE TWILIGHT ZONE.' IT FADES OUT WITH THE END OF CUE #2
- 2) NARRATOR : Science. Man's gift to the cosmos. While the rest of the species are content to exist, we seek understanding. But that understanding comes at a price, for with knowledge comes temptation. The temptation...to control! Ever since man has known of its existence, man has sought to control...THE ATOM! The building block of the universe, to control the atom is to control life. But what if, someday, the atom...controlled us?!? For your consideration, a cautionary tale we like to call "Alan and the Unbearable Lightness of Quarks."
- 3) SOUND : A NEIGHBOURHOOD ATMOSPHERE, WITH CHILDREN PLAYING, DOGS BARKING, AN ICE CREAM TRUCK IN THE DISTANCE
- 4) NARRATOR : Our story begins in a house not unlike your own, in a town also not unlike your own. Very not unlike your own. In fact, it could very well be your own. If not, it's very, very similar.
- 5) SALLY-ANN : Oh....oh...umm...oh...wait, I can get this one!
Aich...Two...Oh?
- 6) ALAN : Three in a row!
- 7) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Alan! You're the best tutor I've ever had.
- 8) ALAN : Well, Sally-Ann, you're the best...umm...girl I've ever known.
- 9) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Alan! You're ever so sweet! I just wish there was some way I could repay you.

- 1) ALAN : Oh gee, well, Sally-Ann, the bond we've formed is reward enough...and I'm not referring to the covalent bond we made out of Tinker toys! Ha ha...ha...oh, okay, we should probably review that chapter again. Ummm. Actually, Sally-Ann, there *was* something I wanted to ask you. Well, the big dance is coming up soon, and, I mean, I know you're kind of seeing—
- 2) SOUND : (OFF) AN OLD-TIME CAR HORN HONKS OUT THE TUNE 'SHAVE AND A HAIRCUT.' SHORTLY THEREAFTER, RUNNING FOOTSTEPS. (ON) A DOOR IS THROWN OPEN AND HITS THE WALL
- 3) DIRK : Hey baby, the Dirkster's here!
- 4) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Dirk!
- 5) ALAN : Oh...hey there, Dirk...
- 6) DIRK : Beat it, square!
- 7) SALLY-ANN : Dirk!
- 8) DIRK : Oh what, now I have to make nice?!? Sigh. Yeah, sorry there, *Erwin*, but I came here to Lindy with my girl. And the Lindy's a dance for two, and that means no you!
- 9) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Dirk, couldn't he maybe stay for awhile? Couldn't he crank the Victrola or something?
- 10) DIRK : No need, baby. Guess what Dirkie brought you? It's a motor for your Victrola. From now on, it's going to be electrified!
- 11) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Dirk!
- 12) DIRK : That's right, baby. Now give Dirk some sugar!
- 13) SOUND : SLOPPY KISSING NOISES, WITH LIPS SMACKING

- 1) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Dirk!
- 2) SOUND : MORE SLOPPY KISSING NOISES
- 3) ALAN : Alright then...I think I'm going to split...
- 4) SOUND : DOOR SLAMMING AND THREE QUICK STEPS
- 5) ALAN : ATOMS, THAT IS!
- 6) MUSIC : 'I AM A SCIENTIST', BY THE DANDY WARHOLS. FADES OUT BEFORE CUE #20
- 7) SOUND : FADE IN OVER THE MUSIC THE SOUNDS OF A LAB: LIQUIDS BUBBLING, MACHINERY BEEPING, OCCASIONAL SMALL EXPLOSIONS. THESE CONTINUE THROUGH THE SCENE.
- 8) ALAN : That Dirk is such a jerk! What does Sally-Ann see in him? She certainly deserves better. Of course, she deserves better than me too...But at least I recognize that, which is more than can be said for Dirk the Jerk! And once I become the first person to split the atom, I'll be that much closer to being worthy of her. Alright...got my rubber gloves...
- 9) SOUND : RUBBER GLOVES SNAPPING ON
- 10) ALAN : ...got my safety goggles...Today's the day...I can feel it...
C'mon....
- 11) SOUND : CLAP OF THUNDER
- 12) ALAN : I did it! I split the atom!
- 13) NARRATOR : Indeed he had!

- 1) ALAN : It's more beautiful than I'd dared to dream. God, just look at all those little particles: so tiny and vulnerable. Hmm...those little particles with the plus signs on them, they must emit a positive charge. I think I'll call them protons. And those particles with nothing on them, they must be neutral...Hmm...neutrons! And by process of elimination, those particles with the minus signs on them must emit negative charges. Therefore, I'll call them...negatrons! My god! I've just discovered and named the subatomic particles. Sally-Ann's got to be impressed by that!
- 2) ALAN'S MOM: (off) Alan! What are you doing down there? Your dinner's getting cold!
- 3) ALAN : Coming, mom! Geez, I guess I better put these particles away. I'll start with the negatrons.
- 4) SOUND : ZAPPING NOISE, LIKE THAT FROM A TOY RAY-GUN
- 5) ALAN : (sobbing) Oh my god! I'm such a loser. I'm playing with the laws of nature in my basement, and why? Because no one loves me. No one will ever love me. Not Sally-Ann, not no one. And my dinner's getting cold. God, my life just sucks so much...
- 6) SOUND : A SCIENCE-FICTION SOUND EFFECT, LIKE THAT OF A REACTOR SHUTTING DOWN
- 7) ALAN : What the hell was that? For a second there, I didn't feel like myself. Wait. I think I understand. The negative charge from the negatron must have transferred its negative energy to me. Hmm, I wonder what would happen if I held the proton...

- 1) SOUND : SAME ZAPPING NOISE AS BEFORE, BUT IN A LOWER PITCH
- 2) ALAN : Oh my god! This is the greatest feeling ever! I can do anything! I'm the greatest scientist in the history of mankind, I hold the tools of creation in my hand, I am an *Urbmensch*!!
- 3) SOUND : REACTOR SHUTTING DOWN AGAIN, AGAIN IN A HIGHER PITCH
- 4) ALAN : Wow, it looks like my theory was right. But just to be sure, better try the neutron.
- 5) SOUND : ZAPPING NOISE, BETWEEN THE OTHER TWO IN PITCH
- 6) ALAN : Hmm. Well, this is certainly boring.
- 7) SOUND : REACTOR SHUTTING DOWN, MEDIUM-PITCH
- 8) ALAN : But it proves my theory. And the other two unleash powers in me. Powers I can use. No...powers I WILL use!
- 9) SOUND : BETWEEN-CLASS ALARM BELL. DOORS OPENING, LOCKERS OPENING AND CLOSING, CROWD OF TEENS BUSTLING THROUGH THE HALLWAYS AND CHATTING
- 10) ALAN : (to himself) There he is. Be strong. (shouting) Hey, Dirk!
- 11) DIRK : (coming on) What do *you* want?
- 12) ALAN : (to himself) Okay...Power of the proton...don't let me down...
- 13) SOUND : ZAPPING NOISE OF THE PROTON

- 1) ALAN : Dirk. I'm going to kick your butt. I'm going to kick it up and down this hallway. I'm going to kick your butt like no butt has ever been kicked before. This is going to be the butt-kicking by which all future butt-kickings will be judged. I'm going to kick it so hard it will swell to twice its usual size!
- 2) DIRK : You've got to be kidding me! Poindexter's got a death wish all of a sudden! You want to fight, freak? You got it!!
- 3) CAST : MURMURS OF EXCITEMENT, BUILDING INTO A CHANT OF 'FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT!' THROUGH THE FIGHT, THEY CONTINUE CHANTING AND RESPOND TO PUNCHES LANDED WITH 'OOHS' AND 'OUCHS' (THERE IS ALSO A GENERAL MURMUR ON CUE #5 ANNOUNCING SALLY-ANN'S ARRIVAL)
- 4) SOUND : PUNCHES LANDING, BODY PARTS FLYING, BANGING INTO LOCKERS
- 5) SALLY-ANN : What's going on here?
- 6) ALAN : (to himself) She's here. Time to use the power of the negatron.
- 7) SOUND : ZAPPING NOISE OF THE NEGATRON
- 8) ALAN : (aloud, sobbing) Waaaaah! He hit me. I'm in so much pain.
- 9) SALLY-ANN : Dirk, how could you?!?
- 10) DIRK : What? He attacked me! Baby, I swear, he wasn't crying a minute ago.
- 11) ALAN : Why, Dirk? Why? I was just helping her study...I just wanted to help...

- 1) SALLY-ANN : What?!? Dirk, you beat him up over me? You crumb-bum!
Alan, let me take you to the nurse's office.
- 2) ALAN : But then it'll go on my permanent record, I'll be expelled, I'll end up homeless and crazy...I'll be alright, don't worry about me...
- 3) SALLY-ANN : Don't be silly, you need medical attention. I'll tell you what, why don't I take you back to my house? I've got bandages there.
- 4) ALAN : I guess that would be okay. Thank you.
- 5) SALLY-ANN : Goodbye, Dirk...forever! Alan, I want *you* to take me to the sock hop.
- 6) ALAN : Oh, Sally-Ann! I'd be honored! And even though I'm not good enough for you yet, gosh darn it, I will be! Let's go!
- 7) MUSIC : 'SO HAPPY TOGETHER', BY THE TURTLES. THIS PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE NEWS SEQUENCE AND FADES OUT AFTER.
- 8) SOUND : TELETYPE MACHINE
- 9) MALE NEWSANCHOR: Local teen singlehandedly climbs local mountain, and credits his 'can-do' attitude. More at 11.
- 10) SOUND : TELETYPE MACHINE
- 11) FEMALE NEWSANCHOR: Local teen reduces audiences to tears with his portrayal of Hamlet; most melancholy Dane ever, say critics. More at 11.
- 12) SOUND : TELETYPE MACHINE
- 13) MALE NEWSANCHOR: Local teen wins debate with controversial 'No, you are' gambit, and charms audience with his positive outlook. More at 11.

- 1) SOUND : TELETYPE MACHINE, FADES OUT
- 2) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Alan. This has been the best week ever. I'm so much happier with you than I was with Dirk.
- 3) ALAN : I'm glad to hear it, though I still don't think I'm worthy of you. But it has been a good week, hasn't it?
- 4) SALLY-ANN : Oh, it has! In fact, it's gone so well, I want you to meet Daddy!
- 5) ALAN : Daddy?
- 6) SALLY-ANN : Oh, that's just something I call my father. I've told him all about you, and he's looking forward to meeting you ever so much! I've arranged a lunch for you two at Le Bistro, and I think he wants to consider you for a summer internship. Isn't that exciting?
- 7) ALAN : Umm. Yes. Yes, it is. I need to go.
- 8) SALLY-ANN : But Alan...
- 9) ALAN : No, it's fine. I'll see him there. (going off) I just need to go home first.
- 10) MUSIC : 'I AM A SCIENTIST', BY THE DANDY WARHOLS.
- 11) SOUND : FADE IN OVER THE MUSIC THE SAME LAB SOUNDS AS EARLIER: LIQUIDS BUBBLING, MACHINERY BEEPING, OCCASIONAL SMALL EXPLOSIONS.

- 1) ALAN : What the heck am I going to do?!? The effects of the protons and the negatrons are weakening. I can feel myself reverting to the way I was before. Damn, I must be developing a tolerance! And I can't function without them! I'm not even worthy of Sally-Ann *with them!* What am I going to do? It's not like there are other subatomic particles to draw on...or are there?!?...That's it! Maybe, just maybe, there could be particles within the proton and the negatron which are purer, less diluted...if I could get at those, that could be enough to give me the boost I need!
- 2) SOUND : RUBBER GLOVES SNAPPING ON
- 3) ALAN : Alright...here goes nothing...
- 4) SOUND : CLAP OF THUNDER
- 5) ALAN : I did it! I found particles even smaller! I've discovered...Oh, let's call them...quarks! There's a Charm Quark, a Strange Quark, an Up Quark, a Down Quark, a Top Quark and a Bottom Quark. Fascinating! Well, these should certainly be enough to get me through this meeting with Sally-Ann's father. More than enough indeed!
- 6) SOUND : RESTAURANT NOISES, BUZZ OF A CROWD
- 7) ALAN : (to himself) Alright. Charm Quark, here we go.
- 8) SOUND : ZAPPING SOUND, QUITE HIGH-PITCHED
- 9) ALAN : Hello, Mr. Pfizer. Pleasure to meet you, Sir, an absolute pleasure.
And I can certainly see where Sally-Ann gets her looks!
- 10) PFIZER : Well, thank you, my boy! Sally-Ann told me you were charming, and I can see she wasn't lying!

- 1) ALAN : Takes one to know one, sir.
- 2) PFIZER : Indeed, indeed! Well, Alan, I was just about to order, you must try the duck a la—
- 3) SOUND : OLD-TIME PHONE RINGS TWICE
- 4) PFIZER : Darn portable phone! It's a terrible nuisance, although there is some prestige in being one of only five people in the world who have one.
Excuse me a moment. (answering the phone) Hello? Yes, it's Pfizer. Who? What? Who?!? What?!? (hanging up the phone) Well, that's the darndest thing I've ever heard. Where am I going to find a new vice-president on such short notice?
- 5) ALAN : Cigar, Sir?
- 6) PFIZER : Yes, thank you, my boy. Hmmm. I just had a thought. Do you have a job?
- 7) ALAN : Why, no, Sir, not at present.
- 8) PFIZER : I see. And you're a high school graduate, right?
- 9) ALAN : Almost, Sir. I'm in your daughter's class.
- 10) PFIZER : Hmmm...Well, you certainly seem well-qualified, but tell me, is there anything about you that sets you apart from the pack?
- 11) ALAN : (to himself) Alright, time for the strange quark.
- 12) SOUND : ZAPPING, QUITE HIGH-PITCHED
- 13) ALAN : I am the Lizard King of organization, I excel at spreading sheets! Efficiency, axis of zero-sum, commitment to task, taskment to commit, underestimate, freedom freedom freedom!

- 1) PFIZER : Son...that was brilliant! I can't tell you how sick I am of all those Ivy League types, with their hyphenated names and complete sentences. But you, I can tell you're a straight shooter, a self-made man like me. You're hired. What do you know about behavior modification?
- 2) ALAN : Sir?
- 3) PFIZER : Behavior modification, Son. That's what I do. People come to me with behavior, attitudes or mannerisms that they're not happy with, and I provide them with the means to change them. Do you have any experience with anything like that?
- 4) ALAN: Just a sec.
- 5) SOUND : ZAPPING SOUND, QUITE HIGH-PITCHED
- 6) ALAN : Well...gee...not first-hand, Sir. But I have this hypothesis that I'd like to put into practice. I call it "The Quark Cocktail"! You see, Sir, it's like this...(fades out)
- 7) MUSIC : SCIENCE-FICTION THEME REPRISED, LOW-LEVEL UNDER CUE #3
- 8) NARRATOR : And so Alan became the most powerful behavior modifier in the free world. His mastery of the atom became so well-honed that he could use subatomic particles in various combinations to produce virtually any reaction you could imagine...and probably a few you couldn't.
- 9) SOUND : AN AUTOMATED BELL BING, AS A 'NOW SERVING' SIGN CHANGES NUMBERS

- 1) MALE CUSTOMER: I can't stop eating, and I'm morbidly obese. You've got to help me, Doc.
- 2) SOUND : VARIOUS THUNDER CLAPS
- 3) ALAN : Here you go. The Fully-Sated Quark Cocktail!
- 4) SOUND : OLD-TIME CASH REGISTER 'KA-CHING'
- 5) SOUND : THE AUTOMATED BELL BING
- 6) FEMALE CUSTOMER: Doctor, my son is a B student, but his father and I were both A students. The only conclusion we can come to is that he must have some sort of disorder. What would you prescribe?
- 7) SOUND : VARIOUS THUNDER CLAPS
- 8) ALAN : The Pay Attention Quark Cocktail! Should fix him right up!
- 9) SOUND : OLD-TIME CASH REGISTER 'KA-CHING'
- 10) SOUND : THE AUTOMATED BELL BING, FOLLOWED BY VARIOUS THUNDER CLAPS
- 11) ALAN : The Good Posture Quark Cocktail!
- 12) SOUND : THE CASH REGISTER, THEN THE AUTOMATED BELL BING, THEN VARIOUS THUNDER CLAPS
- 13) ALAN : The Sleep Through The Night Quark Cocktail!
- 14) SOUND : THE CASH REGISTER, THEN THE AUTOMATED BELL BING, THEN VARIOUS THUNDER CLAPS
- 15) ALAN : The Say 'No' to Heroin Quark Cocktail!
- 16) SOUND : THE CASH REGISTER, THEN THE AUTOMATED BELL BING, THEN VARIOUS THUNDER CLAPS

- 1) ALAN : The Everything Seems Funny Quark Cocktail!
- 2) SOUND : THE CASH REGISTER, THEN THE AUTOMATED BELL BING, THEN VARIOUS THUNDER CLAPS
- 3) ALAN : The Scream No More Quark Cocktail!
- 4) SOUND : THE CASH REGISTER, THEN THE AUTOMATED BELL BING, THEN VARIOUS THUNDER CLAPS. THESE THREE ELEMENTS REPEAT OVER AND OVER, GETTING FASTER AND FASTER. EVENTUALLY, THE CASH REGISTER FADES OUT, AND THEN THE THUNDER, LEAVING JUST THE RAPID BINGING. GRADUALLY, THE BINGING STARTS PLAYING 'THE WEDDING MARCH' UNTIL IT IS DISTINCT
- 5) PRIEST : Do you take each other?
- 6) SALLY-ANN AND ALAN: We do!
- 7) SOUND : CHAMPAGNE CORK POPPING, THEN APPLAUSE
- 8) SALLY-ANN AND ALAN: (laughing)
- 9) NARRATOR: And then came the honeymoon.
- 10) ALAN (W. SALLY-ANN SEX NOISES) : Up Quark! Down Quark! Top Quark! Bottom Quark!
- 11) NARRATOR : And so on. Indeed, Alan was on top of the world. He was a man in love, and indeed, a Captain of Industry. But it's one thing to get to the top of the world. It's another thing to stay there.
- 12) SOUND/MUSIC: OPERA MUSIC, FADING DOWN BUT THERE THROUGHOUT THE SCENE

- 1) ALAN : (yawn)
- 2) SALLY-ANN : Alan, you're yawning.
- 3) ALAN : I'm sorry, dear. I think I've got a Stop Yawning Quark Cocktail in my bag. Yep, there it is.
- 4) SOUND : ZAPPING, MULTITONAL
- 5) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Alan, I wasn't asking you to do that! I was just worried about you.
- 6) ALAN : Well, I've been working very hard. But you deserve no less than the perfect husband, and that means perfect at work and perfect at rest. I may never achieve perfection, but for you and with the help of these subatomic particles, gosh darn it, I'm going to try. In fact, I made a special Appreciate Opera Quark Cocktail just for the occasion. Bottoms up!
- 7) SOUND : ZAPPING, MULTITONAL
- 8) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Alan! You're so good to me. I love you.
- 9) ALAN : (to himself) Loving Gratitude with a Single Tear Quark Cocktail should do the trick...
- 10) SOUND : ZAPPING, MULTITONAL
- 11) ALAN : Oh, Sally-Ann, I love you too!
- 12) SOUND : SLOPPY KISSING
- 13) MUSIC : OPERA MUSIC FADES UP AND THEN CUTS OFF.
- 14) SOUND : AUTOMATED BINGS, CASH REGISTER 'KA-CHINGS', AND THUNDER CLAPS CREATE A CACAPHONY

- 1) NARRATOR : Bells were ringing. Alarm bells. But Alan heard them not, for while he was a Captain of Industry, he was not a Captain of Hearing. And so, despite the alarm bells, Alan was not alarmed. Which was a shame, because he should have been.
- 2) ALAN : Oh, my aching head! Doris! Doris! Be a good assistant and make me a Head Throb Less Quarktail, would you?
- 3) DORIS : Sir, I don't know if that's a good idea.
- 4) ALAN : Well, maybe you should take a Mind Your Own Damn Business Quarktail and get me the damn particles!
- 5) DORIS : Sir, I would, but there's another problem. We've run out of matter.
- 6) ALAN : What do you mean we've run out of matter? The whole fershtinkin' universe is matter! How can we be out?
- 7) DORIS : Sir, we're out of FDA-approved matter. And that's the only matter that matters, Sir. Demand has gone through the roof, and our suppliers can't keep up. I'm afraid we're going to have to shut down operations for awhile, and we're certainly going to have to curtail, ummm, personal use indefinitely.
- 8) ALAN : Curse their bureaucratic red tape! I will not be denied. I have a wife who is the epitome of perfection; I can't live without my quarks! Fine. I just need to approach this scientifically. The FDA restricts the matter we can use because they're worried about the spread of disease. Therefore, if I use matter from my own body, they couldn't possibly object!

- 1) DORIS : Sir, that's a very, very dangerous procedure. I must recommend against it!
- 2) ALAN : Duly noted. But I have no choice.
- 3) SOUND : THUNDER CLAP, VERY LOUD
- 4) ALAN : OWWWW! Damn, that smarts. Alright, Head Throb Less Quarktail, down the hatch.
- 5) SOUND : ZAPPING SOUND, MULTITONAL
- 6) ALAN : And now, something for the pain.
- 7) SOUND : THUNDER CLAP, VERY LOUD
- 8) ALAN : OWWWW!
- 9) SOUND : ZAPPING SOUND, MULTITONAL
- 10) ALAN : And now I enjoy pain. There. That wasn't so hard. And do you know why? Because I am the complete master of my life, and more than that...I am the Master of the Atom!
- 11) MUSIC : MOZART'S REQUIEM MASS VERY SOFTLY, UNDER THE DIALOGUE, UNTIL THE END OF THE PLAY
- 12) NARRATOR : And maybe he was. Maybe he was. And yet, he was not. For hubris has a tendency to exact a sweet and swift revenge. True, Alan could become anything he wanted, or even anyone he wanted. He could become a Steve, a Lloyd, an Earl. He could even become a Vince. Unfortunately, though, he proved all too vincible. For scarcely a week later—
- 13) SALLY-ANN : Alan? Alan?! Where are you?

- 1) ALAN : (in a wispy voice) I'm afraid I'm standing right in front of you, my dearest.
- 2) SALLY-ANN : Alan! But you're—
- 3) ALAN : Yes, yes, I know. I'm largely transparent now. It seems I've been using somewhat too much of my own matter to make quarktails. But I've been giving myself Better Judgment Quarktails lately, and I'm pretty sure I've still got some matter to give...
- 4) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Alan! This is madness! Stop, I beg you!
- 5) ALAN : Well, I can't exactly just stop. I realize my insubstantiality is somewhat disconcerting, but you deserve the best, and the truth is, without the atom, I'm nothing.
- 6) SALLY-ANN : But if you keep using the atom, soon, you'll really be nothing! Really! Trust me, Alan, I'll love you no matter what. I think I may have loved you even before you found the atom, honestly!
- 7) ALAN : It's sweet of you to say that, but you don't know what you're talking about. No need to worry, I'll get my depth back, I just need to find the right combination...Now, if we could please stop talking, I'm getting faint.
- 8) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Alan! I don't care about depth, really I don't. Daddy always says that saying someone has depth is just a nice way of saying they're unattractive. Just like saying someone has personality just means they're disagreeable. Daddy always says you should be able to disagree without being disagree-able. Not that I'd ever disagree with Daddy—
- 9) ALAN : I don't really want to hear about your daddy right now...

- 1) SALLY-ANN : But Daddy—
- 2) ALAN : I said SHUT UP ABOUT YOUR STUPID DADDY, YOU BITCH!
- 3) SALLY-ANN : (gasp) Oh, Alan!!
- 4) ALAN : Oh my god! I'm so sorry!! I didn't mean it!! I take it back!!
- 5) SALLY-ANN : (in tears) Oh, Alan!
- 6) ALAN : Wait, it's alright! I can make you forget! I'll just make you a Repress and Forget Quarktail. I think I've still got enough matter left...
- 7) SALLY-ANN : Alan, you're crazy!
- 8) ALAN : Maybe I am. But if I am, it's because you make me crazy. Crazy with love. And you will love me again. I'm going to take it back.
- 9) SOUND : CLAP OF THUNDER
- 10) ALAN : (gasping) Oh no! I've taken too much matter out of myself. I...I believe I'm disintegrating, dear... You have to take the quarktail now... I don't want you to remember me like this...
- 11) SALLY-ANN : Oh, Alan!
- 12) ALAN : Just take it! Please! It'll make you forget! (beat) JUST TAKE IT!
- 13) SALLY-ANN : (beat) Alright.
- 14) SOUND : ZAPPING, MULTI-TONAL
- 15) ALAN : Goodbye, Sally-Ann. Goodb—
- 16) SOUND : EXPLOSION, PUFF OF SMOKE. SOON AFTER, FOOTSTEPS (OFF) AND A DOOR OPENING

- 1) DORIS : (coming on) Alan? Alan?! Oh, Sally-Ann, thank goodness you're here. I need to see Alan immediately. It's terrible! They stormed the office! I told them we couldn't make any more quarktails for awhile, but they just wouldn't take 'no' for an answer! Sally-Ann, where's Alan?
- 2) SALLY-ANN : Alan?!? (pause) Who's Alan?!?
- 3) MUSIC : SCIENCE-FICTION THEME
- 4) NARRATOR : And so you see, no matter how much we think we might someday be able to control the atom, we may very well be giving the atom the very opportunity it needs to control us. Atoms may be much, much, much smaller than us, but they are also much, much, much bigger than us. And they are the same size as us, because they are us. They make up what we are. The fact remains: No atom is an island. You can change one, you can change two, you can change three or four, but the more you change, the more likely is it is that the atoms will change you. Just...like...they...changed...ALAN!