

LUNAR 3000



**an
everyday
story of
moonfolk**

**a comedy musical
in 4 acts by
Dennis A. Westgate**

libretto



LUNAR 3000

A FUTURISTIC COMEDY IN 4 ACTS

by Dennis A. WESTGATE



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AUTHOR'S NOTE

Where will the human race be in a thousand years time? At the rate technology has moved these past few years, it's very difficult to predict, but living on other moons and planets is more or less guaranteed. The obvious first staging post will be on the moon, from where we will journey to Mars, the outer planets and their satellites and eventually, into the far reaches of space.

In writing this piece I decided to go back a thousand years, (10th century) disregarding what technological advances have presently been made, to see if we as human beings are very much different from our forefathers. I came to the conclusion that when we travel forward, (into the 30th century) we'll find the people of the future, are beset by the very same problems we face today. I'm also sure that whatever we may have evolved into, we would still recognise those familiar characteristics, personalities and eccentricities that make up homo sapiens.

So no matter how far technology takes us, I would like to think the human race will have overcome most of the diseases that plague us today. Undoubtedly we will all be living a lot longer, because androids will be doing most of the heavy and mundane jobs, leaving us to pursue more leisurely activities. However, as in the past, some things I am sure will never change i.e. the ability to adapt to our surroundings and most important of all, our sense of humour and love of beautiful things, especially music, will still have been retained, so it wouldn't surprise me if some of these 'humanistic' traits will have been integrated into our digitised co-workers.

Lunar 3000 is my interpretation of families living on the moon. I have assumed that the Earth has entered a mini ice age, a frozen snowball glistening on the Lunar horizon. We pick up the story at a time when the ice is retreating and Seph, an archeological technician has just returned from his terra-firma survey.

Note: I began writing this as a pilot for a T.V. series, but never had the time to send, (and await months for a reply) from the main media companies. So I've re-worked the piece for presentation as a stage musical. Perhaps sometime in the future someone may consider Lunar 3000 as a T.V. series.

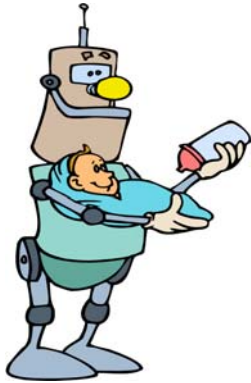


LUNAR 3000

A FUTURISTIC PLAY IN 4 ACTS

by Dennis A. WESTGATE

Running time - 90 minutes approx.



HANNIBAL



JENNIE

THE PLAYERS (8)

DOME 1

SEPH - An Archeologist • RIA - His Partner

DOME 2

ALFA - A Robotic Physicist • STELLA - His Partner

also:-

THE NEWS PRESENTER -
THE DOCTOR - THE DISPATCHER

(Could all be played by one person)

DROID 1. • JAYZIE (Jennie)

DROID 2. • HANNIBAL

THE VIDEO

A pre-recorded sequence by a local school
or group of young people

THE COSTUMES

The design of the costumes should be simplistic but futuristic in use of materials and style. The design of the droids I leave to the ingenuity of the technical and make-up department.

LUNAR 3000

A FUTURISTIC PLAY IN 4 ACTS

by DENNIS A. WESTGATE

TIME: 2999 A.D. PLACE: THE MOON

The home of SEPH and RIA is a plexidome on the moon. Through the clear walls we see the barren vista of the moon's surface, dotted with other buildings. In the far distance the frozen Earth, now a giant snowball, sparkles in the bright sunlight.

The dome's furnishings are futuristic and clinical in their design. A large unit stands to the left which houses all the electronic paraphernalia i.e. food & drinks dispenser, a 3D Information Visualiser (T.V.) and Master Controller. All of the controls are light activated and voice processed by the on-board (talking) computer. Entry and exit between domes is made via a Tele-transporter, this is situated right and is large enough to accommodate up to four persons.

As for the rest of the furnishings, a table and chairs, in suitable futuristic style, are situated off centre. The table has a couple of plastic type boxes, one containing various cosmetic implements for Ria, the other holds various plastic learning and information cubes. Also on the table, is a contemporary chess set. There is a smaller plain work table with two stools to the left of the transporter.

On the back wall there is a large viewing screen (*onto which the video pictures will be projected*). On either side of the screen, tall imitation exotic ferns stand in metal containers.

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ACT 2

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INTERVAL

ACT 3

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ACT 4

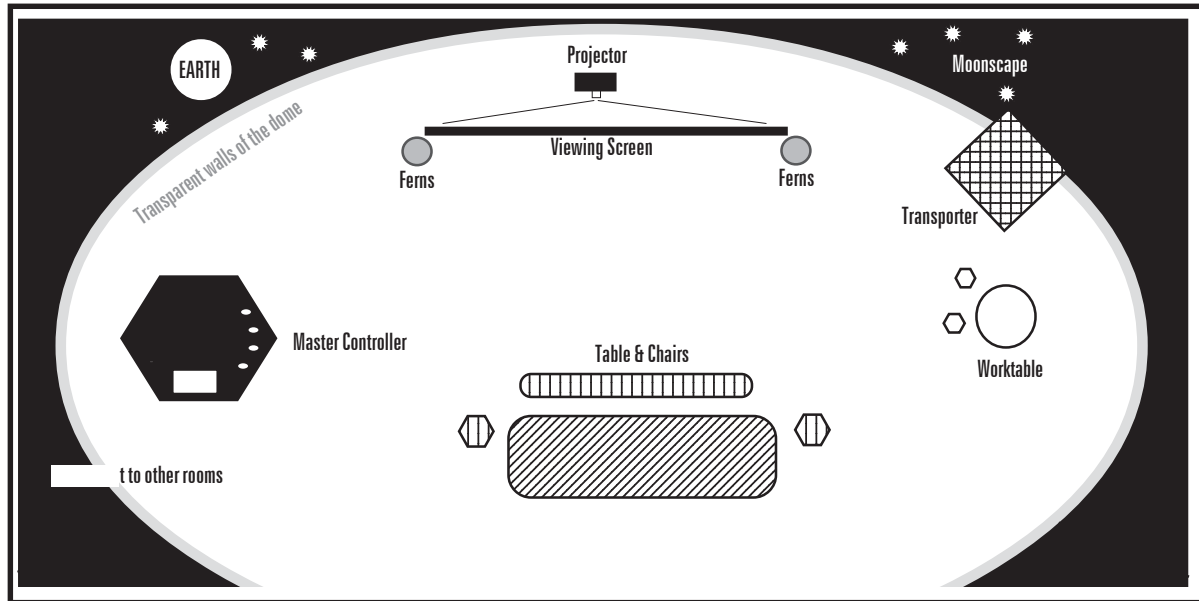
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THE MUSIC

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LUNAR 3000

THE SET



ACT 1:

Dome 1 - THE HOME OF SEPH & RIA

(Seph enters via the transporter)

SEPH I'm home Ria!

RIA *(offstage)* Be with you in a moment.

(He carries a metal flightcase which he places on the table then addresses the computer!)

SEPH 'Evening George.

GEORGE Welcome home master Seph. Your usual?

SEPH Affirmative...*(Flexing his arms and stretching)*

GEORGE Certainly sir...I take it you've had an eventful day?... My sensors detect a slight irregularity in your sinial wave pattern. Might I suggest adding a dash of Rad 52?

SEPH Good idea! *(A panel slides open and the drink is dispensed)*

GEORGE Will that be all sir?

SEPH For the moment... Screen on...

(He returns to the table and opens the flight case and carefully lifts out an old battered wooden box. With great care he gently wipes the top of the box and silently reads the wording on the brass plate on the box lid. He lifts the lid and removes a plastic container, from which he very carefully lifts out a number of photographic slides. Then making himself comfortable on one of the chairs, he examines each slide intently by holding it up to the light. Meanwhile the cover of the T.V. slides open to reveal the head and shoulders of the News Presenter reporting on the days' events.)

PRESENTER

“News is just coming in from one of our reporters in Orion that a new colony is to be established on the planet ‘Zenith’ and subject to planning permission from the regional council, construction of the first city will be under way in three months. It is expected that the first consignment of settlers will be transported to the surface by the end of the year..... At the offices for environmental control it has been decided that the weather for the next lunar month in the majority of the domes will be mild, with occasional showers every 5th day. However, prolonged and heavy rain will be allocated to domes twenty one, to thirty five and citizens should dress accordingly.... The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced in the budget for the coming year ‘three thousand’ that the tax on Zion fuel will be increased by 1% to bring it into line with inflation.... The Union of Interstella Freight Carriers have immediately lodged a complaint with the authorities that once again, they are being singled out for unfair treatment by having to absorb higher freight costs..... However, on a lighter note the Chancellor has stated that the tax on essential items, such as bionic replacements, will remain unchanged for the time being..... The starship ‘Einstein’ arrived today one month late due to a long detour to avoid a super nova in the Centaurus sector..... That concludes the news for today... Our programmes continue shortly with the popular series “Those Were the Days.” Today's topic is presented by the citizens of dome 33 who will be reminiscing on their past experiences of 250 years of interstellar space travel.”

(Seph is obviously not interested in ‘Today's Topic and instructs the computer as he carefully begins to return the slides into the plastic container. At this moment Ria enters)

SEPH

Screen off.

RIA

Hello dear! I was just programming Jay Zee with her duties. So, how are things going down at the excavation?

SEPH

I wish you could have been there.. We've made the most remarkable discovery of the century. After 10 years drilling through two kilometers of ice we finally hit bedrock and....

RIA

Oh Seph! That's wonderful news! *(Congratulating him with a peck on the cheek)* I'm so pleased for you. After all your hard work.....

SEPH

(Silences her with a raised finger) I haven't told you the best part yet. Not only did we reach Terra-Firma, but by the most amazing stroke of luck we seem to have uncovered the ruins of an old city.. *(Ria looks at him wide eyed as he hurriedly continues)*

Preliminary scans are very promising. In fact....

(From the container he hands her one of the slides. She takes it from him with a puzzled frown. He shows her how to view it by holding it up to the light. As she views the slide he places the container onto the table and picks up the wooden box)

We found those in this time capsule sealed into the foundations of one of the buildings...

(Showing her the inscription on the lid)..

The inscription is barely discernable but you can just manage to make out the odd word here and there.. ‘REDE’ ..something.. ‘H... SCHOOL...Circa 1950 to 1975

- RIA *(Defensively apologetic)* Oh I am! I just hadn't given family life much thought until now, but seeing those children made me realise that something was missing in our lives.
(He raises an eyebrow questioningly, she responds with a shy embarrassed smile)
- SEPH *(Gives an unbelieving chuckle)* What!.... You want to make a baby?

(He sees this flippant reply has unintentionally caused her to turn from him. He pulls her to him and lifts her lowered chin to kiss her lightly on the nose)
- SEPH Sorry! But I've never thought of you as the mothering kind. You always said that sort of thing was best left to the nursing women.
- RIA *(Apologetically)* I know it sounds foolish and not at all sensible....
- SEPH *(With enthusiasm)* I think it's a great idea!
- RIA *(Taken aback)* You do?
- SEPH Now that you've raised the subject. When I think about it, you're absolutely right! It would be nice to hear the patter of tiny feet greeting me when I come home.
- RIA *(Apprehensively)* You don't think I'm too old?
- SEPH Since when did age come into the equation! If it's still acceptable to ship a one hundred and twenty year old to the outlying colonies, I'm sure a seventy five year old is quite capable of raising a child. *(She gives him a girlish smile, He adopts a thoughtful pose)* The question is, am I ready for such a responsibility? *(grins)* I must admit the idea of becoming a father intrigues me. So no time like the present...*(In a brisk business-like manner he taps on the computer screen)* There's one allocation available for next Capricorn.... Do you still want to go ahead?

(She shows her agreement with animated head nods along with anxious biting of her lip. He continues with his computing as Ria answers the relevant questions with the nervousness of an expectant mother)
- SEPH Boy or Girl?
- RIA *(Quzically)* Girl???? *(He raises an eyebrow)* No.. I think a Boy would be more useful. He could help you in your work.
- SEPH Height... *(Answers for her when she shrugs her shoulders)* Standard 2 metres... Eye colour?
- RIA Blue of course, like yours... And blonde hair?
- SEPH *(Wrinkles his nose at her)* Wouldn't have anything to do with that Elvis fella being blonde?
(She shakes her head with a cheeky grin, he gives her a disbelieving grunt and enters the details) That's that!... Next question... His A.G.I. *(She gives him a questioning look, he explains)* Academic Geno Add-ons.. Which subjects do we want him to excel in.
- RIA Can't we leave that one blank until he gets past infancy.

- SEPH It doesn't work that way. Once the implants are approved and in place, they're fixed for the child's lifetime without deviation. So we'd better start with the basics... mathematics... science... astronomy... biology.. astrophysics...(smiles) and archeology of course.. What next?Artistic abilities.. only two allowed, so I'll leave the choice to you..
- RIA I'm not sure.... Wouldn't it be better if he just developed them naturally.
- SEPH I agree!.. But the Bio Simulation Technicians are a stickler for the rules and if it doesn't meet the criteria, it's unacceptable.. *(Taps his head)* Computer logic you know! Can't you suggest anything our son could excel in?
- RIA *(Hesitantly)* Could we suggest music and drama?
- SEPH *(Shakes head as he taps onto the screen)* Don't get any ideas about nurturing his artistic abilities too much. I've suddenly had visions of being greeted by a room full of excited females being entertained by a young Adromadeus, gyrating his whatever. *(Demonstrates)*
- RIA *(Laughing)* I hardly think so dear.. *(with a twinkle as she eyes his bottom)* One gyrator in the family is quite enough.
- SEPH *(Ignoring the remark)* That's it.. done! Now all we have to do is wait confirmation.. You realise what we have let ourselves in for don't you?... Sleepless nights.. Washing, changing, bottle feeding.. There are still some things that cybernetics cannot do and bringing up a baby is one of them... *(contented sigh)* Ah.. Me a father!.. *(perplexed)* It says here we need to book a post-natal course.
- RIA No dear! That will be my responsibility. There are still some things best left to females.
- SEPH Well that's a relief! *(With a wry grin)* Mind you, I don't know how Jayzie will react.
- RIA I'm sure her logistic circuits will cope.
- (At this moment Jayzie, the robotic maid enters. She is in 'housemaid mode' i.e. apron and feather duster. She glides across the room twittering away to herself in her own computerised language, represented by astericks. The sound effects and light array will need to be created by the make-up artists and technicians. She is obviously trying to get Seph's attention, but he is too absorbed in his work at the computer)*
- JAYZIE ***** ***? ***** *****?
- RIA *(to Seph)* Jayzie is asking if you had a beneficial trip. *(He mumbles a vague reply. Ria answers for him)* He's found lots of archeological relics like these. *(Holds up one of the slides for Jayzie's inspection)* They're a thousand years old, now what do you think of that?
- JAYZIE *****
- RIA Not impressed eh! Well here's a bit of news that will impress you. We are going to have a baby.. Now what do you think of that?
- JAYZIE *

RIA Yes, except a much smaller version, but in time it will grow and eventually he will be tall, strong and artistic, just like Seph.

JAYZIE * * *

RIA Oh didn't I say? Yes it will be a male model, just like him.. *(Seph turns at the mention of his name)*

JAYZIE ***

RIA *(Laughs)* He really isn't that bad!

JAYZIE ***** * * * * *

SEPH That didn't sound like a complimentary reply

RIA She said 'She hopes this new one doesn't ignore her like you do'.

SEPH I'm not ignoring it.. her... I just find holding a conversation with a droid, demeaning to say the least.

RIA *(Ria pulls a disbelieving face at Jayzie)* Says he, who has a conversation with, *(Nods at the master computer)* George every time he comes home.

JAYZIE * **** **

SEPH *(Defensively)* Only because he's programmed to look after our safety and welfare. Besides I cannot understand what... *(With pointing finger)* that thing is babbling on about half the time.

JAYZIE *

SEPH *(Backing away from this sudden tirade)* See what I mean.. Couldn't understand a word it said.

RIA She obviously understands you perfectly well. *(Coaxingly)* Of course, if we were to fit her with a voice box, like George.....

SEPH *(Taking her to one side)* Come off it Ria! It's only a Mark 3 domestic. It would mean a complete re-fit, besides which, we would be the laughing stock of the commune. Nobody has a talking domestic. What would be the point? Then there's the cost. I couldn't claim any allowances or tax deductions and we'll have to watch the finances now there's a baby on the way.

RIA *(With a resigned sigh)* You're right of course! It was selfish of me to suggest it. *(She adopts a sad expression and raises her hands and shoulders to J' to say she tried).*

JAYZIE *(With a noticeable change of tone aimed at Seph)* *****

SEPH *(Suddenly feeling guilty)* Why do I get the feeling you two are ganging up on me.

- STELLA *(Twists her mouth)* Mmmm. You don't know how fortunate you are. There are only three of the new Mark Ten models in the whole commune and I have to get one of them to try out.
(Nodding at Alfa) It's all his fault of course. That's what comes of being the partner of the head biophysicist. We get to play with all the newest gadgets. This one is a careworker called 'Hannibal' and looks just like it sounds,.. **Big!** I don't know who made it but they certainly have a warped sense of humour..
- RIA Lucky you. I've always wanted a careworker. I hear they give a wonderful body massage and they're supposed to be ever so attentive.
- STELLA *(Counting on her fingers)* Attentive I don't mind, but this one goes to the extremes. If I sneeze I am overwhelmed with medication. I'm not allowed any little treats until I've submitted myself to a weight check and calorie count. *(counting on fingers)* An afternoon siesta is a must.. I'm not allowed to operate any machinery until it has been given a thorough diagnostic check...And don't even think about trying the latest facial cosmetic! Self medication is a definite No No...*(Ria looks shocked)* I know.. I know!...Since when was eye shadow or nail varnish, medication?. The only time I get any respite, is when I retire for the night and even then, **it**, stands guard outside the bedroom door.
- RIA Surely not!
- STELLA Surely is!.. It's like living with a guilty conscience.
- RIA I'm sure Alfa could make a few adjustments to it for you.
- STELLA *(dryly)* Someone would have to make a few adjustments to Alfa first... He actually likes the idea of a father figure sculptured in plastisteel. *(Calling across to him)* Don't you dear?
- ALFA What's that?....
- STELLA Hannibal.
- ALFA Hannibal?... Oh Hannibal... Damn good robot.. *(To Seph)* One of the new Mark Tens.. Vast improvement on the last lot..
(They resume their deliberations. Stella gives Ria a resigned look)
- STELLA See what I mean!... It's a wonder the monster hasn't followed me here...
(At this moment the Transporter lights up. Stella covers her mouth in consternation)
Me and my big mouth! *(Hannibal enters and makes a beeline for Stella who instantly backs away)*
Shoo!...; Shooo!... Alfa.. Do something!
- ALFA *(Quite unperturbed, smiles at Hannibal)* Hello old chap.. *(To Seph)* Come to pay his respects..
(Seph nods approvingly to Alfa as they both return to their work)
- STELLA *(Twists her mouth)* That's what he thinks.
- RIA *(Not at all fazed by Hannibal)* So this is the famous Hannibal I've been hearing so much about.

HANNIBAL

RIA I'm very well thank you.

HANNIBAL

RIA (*Flattered*) How nice! You don't look so bad yourself... (*to Stella*) My. What a smoothie!

STELLA (*Grimacing*) You'd soon change your mind if you had **it** all day every day. (*As she reaches for her glass. Hannibal quickly intervenes and hands it to her*) See what I mean!

RIA (*Humouring her*) I'm sure he'll adapt in time.

HANNIBAL (*Conjuring up a small multi-colour faceted card which is offered up to Stella*)

RIA For me?...(*Reading the card*) Oooo! This is an invite to the Andromidus Concert?
(*Stella nods. Ria smiles at Hannibal*)

STELLA Ah yes. I bought is as a surprise present to celebrate your 'Happy Mooning Day' (*Reluctantly*) I suppose I have the (*nods at Hannibal*) 'minder' to thank, for reminding me.

RIA Oh thank you!...(hugs Stella) I'm overwhelmed!...(Smiles at Hannibal) I should also thank you too... (*to Stella*) It's unusual to have such consideration from a common drone

STELLA (*Sniffs*) Only because it's so damned tidy. Can't leave a thing lying around for a millisecond before it's either put away or re-catalogued. Caused me no end of bother with Angelica Jupitus from dome nine, when Angelica asked me for some Venusian Flibber seeds, I gave her giant Jovian Vampire seeds by mistake. Poor Angelica didn't know that, until they had germinated, shot up twenty metres and began devouring everything in sight. (*Giving Hannibal a scathing look*) All because this one decided to have a tidy up and colour code everything without informing me. (*apologetically*) Mind you **it** wasn't to know I'm colour blind, but that's still no excuse. (*Ria shakes her head and 'tut tutts' reprovngly at Hannibal*)

HANNIBAL

RIA (*To Stella with a re-assuring smile*) At least he knows how to apologise!.. It must be difficult for a drone to understand human idiosyncrasies.

STELLA (*twists a lip*) I see it's getting to you too! (*With a resigned shrug*) Oh well! I suppose I'll just have to persevere.
(*She sniffs and slowly reaches for a tissue. Hannibal immediately offers her one, which is accepted absently, much to the amusement of Ria. Hannibal moves over to the other table. Stella meanwhile continues her unbroken conversation by looking over to Alfa*)

STELLA As you can see, I'm not going to get much sympathy from certain quarters. (*Secretly*) I'm sure there's some kind of conspiracy going on between those two.

RIA What! Alfa and Seph?...

- STELLA No! Alfa and that machine! *(As Hannibal moves to table)* See what I mean.. I think it's been programmed to keep an eye on my every movement. Probably reporting back to him right now.
- RIA *(Amused)* Now your being paranoid! If I know Alfa and Seph, they have far more important things on their mind right now.
(Jayzie enters and approaches Ria, makes a short comment and turns to Stella)
- JAYZIE ***** * *****
- RIA Stella... Jayzie..... Jayzie.... Stella
- JAYZIE * *** ** **
- STELLA *(Captivated)* Isn't she adorable! *(To Ria with envy)* I don't suppose you'd care to swap?.....Mmmmm! I thought not!
(Jayzie's entrance has not gone un-noticed. Hannibal becomes aware, the moment he hears the housemaid's conversation with the ladies, he turns from the table and make his presence known.)
- HANNIBAL •• •?
- RIA This is Jayzie, my new housemaid.
- JAYZIE ***** * *** *
- HANNIBAL •• ••••••••••••••••••
- JAYZIE *** *****
- RIA *(To Jayzie)* Of course you can.... *(To Stella)* If you have no objections to her showing him around our home.
- STELLA *(With sweet cynicism)* What a good idea! *(To J')* Don't forget to show it how to work the incinerator.... Preferably from the inside. *(With a smug smile)* Oh. If only!.. *(Ria shakes her head)* I should be so lucky!... *(Sighs)* So what can you tell me to brighten my day?
- RIA *(Blushing)* I've .. that is ... Seph and I have decided to make a baby
- STELLA *(With shocked, but delighted surprise)* What?.Where?.I mean.. when?.Oh, you know what I mean...
- RIA We only decided today and it has to be approved of course, but because of Seph's position that should only be a formality, *(with excited anticipation)* so by the Full Earth I should be a mother.
- STELLA Ooooo! How exciting!... But can you afford it?.... I've heard the cost can be exorbitant.
- RIA We'll manage somehow.
(During this discourse, Seph has left Alfa at the table and joins the ladies.)
- STELLA *(To Seph)* Congratulations! Ria's just told me the wonderful news!

- STELLA It has to go!
- ALFA Go?.... Go where?
- STELLA I'm sure it's developing a complex.
- ALFA *(Gives her a puzzled look)* A complex?... About what?
- STELLA About ME!... *(He gives a short disbelieving laugh, she hurriedly continues)* Why else would it follow me around all the time?... Now don't tell me it's all in my mind.... There's something dark and sinister about that droid..
- ALFA *(Patronisingly)* Come come. Hannibal is only a machine... You said so yourself... Bits of silicone, carbon fibre and synthetics... His circuits may be a little hyper sensitive, but that's all.
(Gives her a comforting hug) If it bothers you so much I'll take a look at him later.
- STELLA *(Slightly re-assured)* I know it must sound foolish to you, but I'm turning into a nervous wreck... Can't we just change it for something a little more acquiescent... like Jayzie?
(Digs him lightly, in the ribs) Besides, one dominant male in my life, is quite enough!
- ALFA *(with a mischevious grin)* So it would be alright for me to have two dominant females?
- STELLA *(Coyly)* I don't hear Seph complaining....
- ALFA *(Backtracking)* That's because he's away most of the time. Besides, there are times when I need a strong pair of arms... I'm not as young as I used to be and some of this equipment is a little too much for me to manage on my own. *(She looks crestfallen, he tries to humour her)* Tell you what... I'll run a diagnostic check on him and if I don't find anything wrong I'll put in a complaint. *(Screwing a finger at his temple)* Baffle them with a bit of scientific jargon. They won't like being told there may be a design fault, that would mean recalling every single droid, at considerable expense.
- STELLA *(Subdued)* Perhaps Ria was right... She thought I was being paranoid... Perhaps I am.
- ALFA Let's not jump to conclusions! *(Grins wickedly)* I suppose, I could make one or two modifications.
- STELLA Can you do that?
- ALFA *(With mock indignation)* Were you not impressed with my technological abilities last night? *(proudly)* To resurrect a thousand year old video recording is no mean fete!
- STELLA Of course!.. It was an amazing experience.
- ALFA *(With dry humour)* I could see you were moved.. You cried for an hour.
- STELLA Ah Yes! But that was because Ria told me about the baby! *(Brightly)* Which reminds me, I must find a suitable birthing gift for Ria

- ALFA Ah! I'm already working on something Seph suggested for her (*He elucidates*) Last night, while you two were drying your eyes and putting your faces back on, for the tenth time, he asked me if it was technically possible to give Jayzie her own voice box.
- STELLA (*Taken aback*) But Alfa, that's so old fashioned... Droids are only programmed to think and work on specific undertakings. Talking robots went out with canned food. Why would Seph come up with such a mad cap idea?
- ALFA Because, believe it or not, Ria asked Seph to ask me if it could be done. Of course, his reply was the same as yours, "What is the point?" But on reflection he realised how lonely she must get when he's away for long periods.
- STELLA She knows I'm always available if she wants to talk.
- ALFA I'm sure she appreciates your friendship, however you cannot be there all of the time can you? (*shrugs*) Anyway it can do no harm and if Ria would feel better by having another wittering female around, who am I to argue? (*with a wry grin*) After all, I have you don't I?
- STELLA So I'm a witterer eh? (*Giving him a playfull smack*) You'd soon change your tune if I decided to move out and leave you with **your** love childHannibal!
- ALFA (*With a disarming smile*) Wouldn't it be better if **I** moved out and left you with him?
- STELLA Hmmmm...I'll pretend I didn't hear that. (*Giving him a light tap*) Anyhow, don't get any ideas about giving our droid a voice box too!...
- ALFA (*Triumphantly*) You mean, like this!.. (*plays the voice box*)
- VOICE (*In a slow masculine tone*) My name is Jennie... How do you do....
- STELLA (*With a forgiving smile*) Now what was I saying about canned food... (*Laughing at him as he scratches his head. Hannibal enters, she gives Alfa a warning nudge*) Don't forget your promise. (*He nods emphatically*) .. Good... I'm going to the meditation room, before **it** decides I need my daily constitutional... (*Pauses before exiting*) I don't mind the exercise, but I do object to being put in a restrainer (*On exiting, she gives Haniibal a contemptuous look*)
- HANNIBAL
- ALFA Yes... You've done it again. I know your only carrying out your duties, but you must learn to be a little more flexible.
- HANNIBAL?
- ALFA No!... You have not broken any rules. You are an excellent worker, but you must remember that your mistress is not a machine.
- HANNIBAL?

ALFA Like me? ... No!... I am not a machine either.

HANNIBAL

ALFA Why are we so different?.. I wasn't aware you had noticed.

HANNIBAL?

ALFA *(Amused)* Ah! Now you are getting into the realms of the surreal.

HANNIBAL ..?

ALFA You're asking me to explain the female mind?

HANNIBAL

ALFA *(Sighs)* How can one apply logic to something that is in essence, illogical?
(He flips open a panel in Hannibal's chest and begins poking around at the innards. Seph enters and peers over Alfa's shoulder)

SEPH How's the voice box coming along?

ALFA Almost done. Got sidetracked though..*(raises an eyebrow)* Woman trouble...

SEPH What.. Stella?

ALFA No.. Hannibal.... He doesn't understand them...

SEPH *(Patting Hannibal)*.. Join the club son!..

HANNIBAL

ALPHA *(In reply to Seph's raised eyebrows)* See what I mean! *(to Hannibal)* There are some things that defy logic old bean... And a woman is one of them...

SEPH I'll second that.

HANNIBAL

ALPHA I agree, we do **look** the same... And we **act** the same....But we definately do not **think** the same...

SEPH *(to H')* I'll second that too...

Song: **A WOMAN IS**

ALPHA A woman is a mystery And has been throughout history
 I'm sure it wasn't planned that way, It must have been God's resting day

- ALFA You're **not** serious?... *(Seph shrugs his shoulders and nods. Alfa is aghast)* ..
 You **are** serious!.. Have you forgotten what it's like out there?..
(Seph shakes his head).. Well I neither have I!... Used to do the Capricorn run when I was a young structural engineer, so I saw my fair share of the 'New Worlds' and rough is an understatement.
(Seriously) Have you thought this through?
- SEPH Yes. But I was thinking of somewhere a little closer to home.
- ALFA Ah. That could only be Mother Earth. Now that, I can understand.... At least you haven't far to return home if things didn't work out.. Whichever, you could always give me a call, I'd be happy to lend a hand and apply my building skills again. Haven't built a habitat for eons, but you never lose the knack. *(Enthusiastically)* Give me the go-ahead and I'll build you a new home fit for a President.
- SEPH Whoa! Slow down Alfa.. It's only an idea.. I have yet to convince Ria and that will be no mean task. So let's keep it to ourselves for now eh?
- ALFA *(Touches his lips)* Not a word!.. I must admit there's something quite appealing in the prospect..
 It would also be a good excuse to get away from here... We could pop over and spend a few days in the open air... Mind you, I don't know how Stella would react.. Hates heights you know and heaven knows what she's do when confronted with all that ice and water.. She tried to paint a seascape in the art class once... Took a dizzy spell... *(Closes Hannibal's inspection flap and knocks on his chest)* There you are.. All done... Off you go....
- (As Hannibal exits, Seph is occupying himself with some of Alfa's odd bits and pieces lying around on the work bench)*
- HANNIBAL *(Exiting)* ●●● ●●●●●●●● ●●●●
- ALFA *(Following the droid's exit with a slow shake of the head)* He means well... Just a little over-protective.. *(Businesslike)* Now, back to the job in hand..*(Picking up the voice-box)* Where's your drone now?
- SEPH *(Looks at a device on his wrist)* In the hydroponic garden. Shall I give it a call.
- ALFA *(Adjusting the controls on the voice-box)* Yes Please. I've almost got this sorted..
(Self-satisfied as he holds it at eye level) Eeeh! I haven't made anything like this in years.. Not since I was at my Induction.. Talking of which.. That was quite a find you made.. I'm not surprised you're keen to get back there. It must be very satisfying when you dig into the past and uncover a piece of history like that.
- SEPH Hmm. Hmm. It's a strange mixture of emotions when you come across something that hasn't seen the light of day for generations.. Elation.. Amazement...Even amusement, especially when I see the primitive instruments and tools they had back then..No doubt you can relate to that.
(Alfa nods agreement) Sometimes there's a feeling of sadness too.. The diseases they had no cure for... The futility of the many conflicts between warring factions... Famine... Starvation... I'm surprised we managed to survive.

ALFA Mmm! It can't have been easy. Thank Juvius we don't have any of those problems now. Mind you, they're discussing colonisation of the outer worlds, so in a way, history could be repeating itself. *(Jayzie enters bearing a gift of flowers which are handed to Alfa)*

JAYZIE *****

ALFA For Stella? *(showing the new voice-box)* And I have something special for you too.

JAYZIE *****

ALFA Wait and see..... Could you give me an auxilliary input?...*(offers back of her neck)* Thank you....
(Plugs in the voice box) There we are!.... You may upload.....
(J's leircuits flicker . The two men watch and wait with hopeful expectation)

JAYZIE *(In a warm sexy voice)* My name is Jennie... Good evening.

SEPH *(Amazed)* Well I'll be!...*(Slaps Alfa on back)* Absolutely fantastic!... Alfa.. You're a genius.Ria will be thrilled!

ALFA *(Modestly)* Tut. Tut.. Nothing to it really... Was there Jayzie?

JAYZIE Nothing?... I do not compute.. nothing... Surely you mean.. negative...

SEPH It's only a figure of speech. It means it was ... **easy**..

JAYZIE One thing I will **never** be, and that is... **easy**.... Also I much prefer my new title

ALFA *(Puzzled)* What new title?

JENNIE The one you put into my memory banks...*(Spells it out)* J.E.N.N.I.E. Jennie.

ALFA Ah!.. My mistake... I'll soon put that right..

JENNIE That will not be necessary. You are only human after all, and I understand that "To err is a human trait". Anyhow I like the title Jennie, it sounds more Feminine.

SEPH Oh Oh! *(to Alfa, raising eyebrows)* Do you think we've done the right thing?

ALFA *(Twists his lips in resignantion)* Do we ever do the right thing in a woman's estimation?

SEPH Where did you get that voice from?

ALFA Cyrus in Dome Twelve. He's been collecting voice prints for years. It's a lifetime hobby of his... Found this one in the old film archives... I told him I didn't want this droid to sound too mechanical.. He told me this was as close as it comes to replicating the female voice.

SEPH *(With apprehension)* Are you sure that's all you replicated? *(Alfa laughs at the insinuation)*
(At this moment Hannibal enters. Alfa is in front of Jennie and masking her from its sightline)

- STELLA Ah yes of course... Zeus... Has a nice masculine ring to it... What do you think Jennie will make of the new addition?
- RIA Hard to tell.. I thought it best to play it by ear... Seph is so much better than me at explaining things.
- RIA When's he due back?
- RIA He was trying for today, but there's a lot of turbulence where he's working, so the shuttle's been delayed (*Jennie enters with a tray of liquid refreshment,*)
- JENNIE (*In her new soft cultured voice*) I thought you would both like some refreshment.
- RIA Thank you Jennie.
- JENNIE Can I get you anything else?.. Homogenised biscuit? A piece of Crystallised Martian Mallow?
- RIA Not for me thanks.. (*to Stella*) How about you?
- STELLA Better not!... Hannibal has me on, yet another, diet...
- JENNIE I could prepare you a nice ganymede dessert.. Only seven point two calories
- STELLA Oh.. Go on then!... (*Jennie exits*).. Isn't she a little treasure!... I must admit when Alfa told me you wanted a talking droid, I thought you had taken leave of your senses, but I take it all back. He's turned her into the perfect companion for you, especially at night.
- RIA (*Still playing the game, she makes another move*) Oh she is!.. With one small reservation... Don't ever play board games with a droid... You can never win... Unless you programme it to let you win. Apart from that she's been very attentive. (*grins*) So how's things with Mister Big?
- STELLA Much improved since Alfa worked on him. (*Smiles in recollection*) Not to mention that little episode when Jennie spoke her first words...and he blew every one of his circuits.. I quite like the new Hannibal now, although I've noticed he's taken on a few of his master's idiosyncrasies.
- RIA Really! Like what??
- STELLA He has a tendency to mutter away to himself.. Then if I happen to ask him to do a simple thing like move the furniture, because I fancy a change, he sort of does a little jig then shuts down... The strangest thing of all is when I take a shower. He used to hover over me, towel at the ready, but now he hurries away on the pretext that he has other duties to perform, though for the life of me I've no idea where he gets to and before you ask, I've tried having a word with Alfa, but he just taps his nose and says "There are some things you women will never understand about us men".
- (*The master control unit buzzes, the video screen lights up and a face appears*)
- VOICE Ria three one nine?

- RIA Yes.
- VOICE Prepare to receive one male child reference Zeus. Place your right hand on the diagnostic transducer for D.N.A analysis... *(She does so)* Thank you... Please wait at the transporter for delivery... Have a 'Happy Birthing Day!...
(Screen darkens. Ria move to the transporter, Stella joins her and they both stand with nervous expectancy. The transporter lights up, Ria slides open the door and a white coated attendant hands her a plastic container containing the baby)
- ATTENDANT One male child... Sign here please..
(Ria is in a daze as she hands the container to Stella whilst she finger prints the delivery slate)
Thank you... *(Hands her a small flat disc)*.. Your 100 year guarantee and feeding instructions... Have a nice day! *(Exits via transporter)*
- STELLA *(Gingerly passing baby over)* I didn't realise it would be so...small...
- RIA *(Nervously takes baby and gives Stella the disc)* Neither did I..*(nervously)* I'd better call Jennie...
(Stella presses her wrist-com, then peers over Ria's shoulder at the baby)
- STELLA To think we all started out looking like that... So fragile..Be careful you don't drop it...
(Ria Holds the baby rather more tightly than necessary and anxiously looks offstage)
- RIA What's taking Jennie so long?
- STELLA Why don't you sit yourself down.. I'll make us a nice cup of somulent.
(Fusses around before looking offstage).. Help at last! *(Jennie enters and Stella hands over the disc to Jennie who inserts it into a slot in her chest then moves to look at the bundle in Ria's arms before speaking)*
- JENNIE Instructions for care of human child.... Keep at constant 20 degrees centigrade.. Wash at regular intervals in sterile solution of two parts Hydrogen and one part Oxygen..Feed orally every four hours. With your permission I will make up the necessary formulae.
- RIA Whatever you say...
- JENNIE I'll take that as an affirmative madam... *(Exits)*
- STELLA I must give Alfa the good news. Will you be alright for a few minutes?
- RIA Yes of course. *(Stella is hesitant, Ria waves her away)* Be off with you, I'll be fine.
*(Stella exits leaving Ria quietly rocking the baby and singing * optional)*
- Song: CRADLE SONG (optional)**
- Bring me a cradle, hang it up high
Light me a candle up in the sky
Rock me a baby cosy and warm
Rosy and pink like the dawn

- RIA Is that all you can say?
- ALFA I could say it's impossible... But I did warn you that altering a droids phonetic circuitry may cause some disruption to the conceptual converter. *(He opens one of the access panels in her chest and presses a button. Jennie immediately revives as he closes the panel)* There you are!... No harm done..
- RIA *(With a relieved sigh)* I had visions of having to return Zeus to the baby bank. I just couldn't bring him up on my own... *(To Jennie)* Are you ready to continue your duties?
- JENNIE Of course madam...I'm fine... Absolutely fine... *(She moves to exit, turns and calls to Hannibal)..* Are you coming dear? *(Hannibal mumbles and follows her offstage)*
- RIA *(Following them with her eyes)* We shall have to keep an eye on those two...
- ALFA *(Thoughtfully)* Never thought I'd see the day two droids could have amorous tendencies.
- RIA *(Shocked)* You don't for one moment believe that?
- ALFA *(Smiling)* Of course not... Only joking!.... All the same I had better not leave them alone too long... *(He makes for the exit, Ria begins to follow but turns back when the video screen signals an incoming call.)*
- CALLER Ria three one nine?
- RIA Yes?
- CALLER *(In a monotone, emotionless voice)* I have an urgent message from Earth Sector Two...Seph two seven two has met with a slight accident. There has been a cave-in at the archeological site.
- RIA Oh no!.. *(Fearfully)* How is he? Where is he now?
- CALLER He has been stabilised and undergoing neuro surgery. Arrangements for your transfer to base camp and you will be put on the next Earth flight as soon as we have clearance.. Please report to the departure dome as soon as possible for your medi-check and inoculations. Thank you.. Have a safe journey..
- (Ria turns from the screen, puts her head in her hands and sinks slowly to into her chair)*

blackout

END OF ACT 3

JENNIE Then we will continue our programme.

SEPH *(Half listening as he reads)* And what programme would that be?

JENNIE To carry out our instructions

HANNIBAL •••• •••

JENNIE If I may continue!

HANNIBAL •• ••• ••

JENNIE Yes I am in charge! *(to Seph)* With your permission I will instigate the duty rosta I have prepared.

SEPH Which involves?

JENNIE Our first duty is to return to the shuttle.

SEPH I see. Then what?

JENNIE Await further instructions.

SEPH *(Scratches his ear)* Is that it?

HANNIBAL ••• ••• •

SEPH Off you go then. *(Jennie exits leaving Hannibal to linger at the door)*

HANNIBAL ••••••••••

SEPH Yes I'm very well.

HANNIBAL ••• •• •

SEPH Yes Hannibal. As I've had plenty of spare time to learn "droid talk" I can now understand you perfectly.

HANNIBAL *(Moving across to Seph)* •• ••••••••

SEPH Yes Ria is fine. *(He looks up from his book to see Hannibal still waiting)* Was there something else?

HANNIBAL •• • •••••

SEPH What about Jennie?

HANNIBAL •••••••••••••••• •••••••• ••••••••••

SEPH I see!.. She orders you about?...*(smiles broadly)* You'll get used to it.. *(Pats him consolingly)*
Remember what your master and I told you about women.....One of these days you may even
enjoy it! *(Jennie returns)*

JENNIE *(To Hannibal)* Is your power pack running low?

HANNIBAL ••••

JENNIE Is there a system fault?

HANNIBAL •••

JENNIE Then why are you not following your instructions?

SEPH *(Coming to his rescue)* My fault. I needed his input on a couple of things.

JENNIE Could I not be of assistance?

SEPH Err. Not really...It's a man thing.

HANNIBAL ••• ••

JENNIE Could it not wait until you are fully recovered?

SEPH *(Returns to his studies)* Perhaps you are correct. *(To Hannibal)* We'll discuss it later.

HANNIBAL ••
(Jennie inches him towards door as Seph sits in a chair to return to his book reading)

JENNIE We are running behind schedule..... You must not get too familiar with the male humans. They have
some very strange habits.

HANNIBAL •••• •• ••••••••••

*(Ria is entering as the droids are leaving and only catches the end of the conversation. She gives Seph a
questioning look)*

RIA What was all that about?

SEPH That was Hannibal exerting his authority..... and losing..

RIA *(Laughs)* Only because he's on loan to us and under Jennies temporary jurasdiction.

SEPH *(Ruefully)* Something tells me he's not the only one under temporary jurasdiction!

RIA One must take the oppotunity when it arrives *(Kisses him)* Besides, I believe you're secretly
enjoying all the attention. *(Gives a twirl, showing off her new dress)* You haven't told me what you
think?

- ALFA *(Laying out cutlery with Seph)* I Wouldn't want to be doing this every day.
- SEPH Thank Jupiter for droids eh? *(They both stand back to admire their handiwork)*
- ALFA *(Comparing their work to the photo)* But I must admit it was well worth the effort.
(Jennie enters carrying a tray with the turkey suitably presented to look like the real thing, surrounded with an assortment of vegetables).
- RIA Well done Jennie! You've excelled yourself as usual.
- JENNIE *(Placing it on the table)* My circuits will not allow me to exceed my parameters mistress. It was well within my capabilities. *(Exits again)*
- SEPH I'm quite looking forward to this. *(About to pick at the turkey, Ria raps his hand)*
- RIA Wait!. We're not finished yet.
- STELLA Somehow, I just knew there had to be something else. You've got that 'Surprise! Surprise!' look.
- ALFA And so far they've all been very pleasant, so I for one cannot wait. What can it be?
(Gives her an eager anticipatory look)
- RIA Evidently Hannibal has made something for me.
- SEPH This should be interesting. *(Dips into puch bowl)* Anyone need a top-up?
(They all hold out their glasses for re-filling)
- RIA According to Jennie, he has been doing his own research. *(To Alfa)* As you had noticed, it's all been very hush, hush.
- ALFA Mmmm! Transport did advise me there was an additional item in our luggage, but I assumed it would be yours. *(Stella's)*
- STELLA *(Pretended surprise)* Whatever gave you that idea?
- SEPH I'm intrigued! A droid isn't usually programmed to work outside its parameters.
- ALFA Ah! That could be my doing. As you know, Stella wanted Hannibal to be more considerate, so I freed up his compliance syntax a touch. *(To Stella)* You must admit he's a lot more amiable now.
- SEPH Oh I think there's still a bit of the old fighting spirit left, according to the conversation I had with him earlier on. He is of the opinion that Jennie is too bossy.
- RIA *(Laughing)* Poor thing! First it was you Stella, now Jennie. I wonder what he thinks of me.
- STELLA *(Smirking)* Who's the one getting presents? I can't imagine what it can be.
(Hannibal enters carrying a hand-made baby crib on a stand. He places it at Ria's feet).

- RIA *(Bemused)* It's very nice... *(Looks at the other three, who all shrug their shoulders)*
- HANNIBAL
- RIA Yes you are just in time, but where is Jennie?
- HANNIBAL
- RIA *(to Alfa)* I don't understand, do you?
- ALFA If I heard him correctly he said. Jennie was 'First Footing?'
(Jennie enters carrying the baby which is handed to Seph)
- SEPH Ah! A little premature, but thank you!
(He holds the baby proudly with the rest making the usual pleasing sounds, before Ria takes over)
- JENNIE I may not be able to express the emotions that you are all feeling, but I am informed that the first human to enter the home on New Year's Day will be the bringer of good health and fortune to all who live here. This is called 'first-footing'. I do not compute the logic of this, as there is no mention of what happened to the 'second foot'.
- RIA *(Taking hold of the baby)* I'm sure there will be a logical explanation as there must also be, for Hannibal's fine gift.
- HANNIBAL
- RIA Oh I See!...*(Placing the baby into the crib)*... A new home for the baby?' *(Shakes her head)*
- HANNIBAL
- JENNIE It is a facsimile of one we found in our research. There were many references to a baby's cradle Hannibal made this construction from a library print, as a present for you.
- RIA How thoughtful! *(Sighs contentedly as she looks at Seph)* Now we really are a family again and it doesn't matter where home is, as long as we're all together. *(They embrace)*
- ALFA *(Placing an arm around Stella's waste, he addresses them)* It may be the euphoric effect of the drink, but I'm beginning to wonder why we don't join you.. New Year, new beginning and all that!
- SEPH You'd be more than welcome! We will certainly need your kind of expertise.
- STELLA *(Forcing a laugh)* Ha. Ha. He's joking of course... Aren't you?.. *(He gives her a sheepish grin)*
You can't be serious!
- ALFA You know me... I can work... *(Pats her bottom)*... or play.. anywhere. Your decision..
- STELLA *(Pats his hand)* I would only consider it, if there was more play and less work involved.

LUNAR 3000

The background of the entire poster is a futuristic cityscape at night, with various skyscrapers and structures illuminated. In the upper center, a large, glowing blue and white Earth is visible, framed by a circular lens effect. The title 'LUNAR 3000' is written in large, yellow, textured, 3D block letters across the top. In the lower right foreground, a man and a woman are standing, looking upwards. The man is wearing a light blue jacket and holding a basketball. The woman is wearing a light blue crop top and pants. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and yellows.

**an
everyday
story of
moonfolk**

**a musical comedy
in 4 acts by
Dennis A. Westgate**

piano & vocal score

Oh Universe

NOTE: The opening 16 bars are played during the narrator's speech and should be repeated until the dialogue is completed.

Broadly with feeling

Words & Music by Dennis A. Westgate

1

1

Chords: Eb, Cmin, Fmin, Bb7

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody in the right hand consists of eighth-note patterns. The bass line in the left hand features a simple harmonic accompaniment. Chords are indicated below the bass line.

5

5

Chords: Eb, Cmin, Fmin, Bb7

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 8. The musical structure continues from the first system, maintaining the same melodic and harmonic patterns.

9

9

Chords: Cm, Cm, Fm, Bb sus

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. The melody in the right hand features a more complex eighth-note pattern with slurs. The bass line continues with sustained notes. Chords are indicated below the bass line.

13

13

Chords: Cm, Cm, Fm, Bb sus

Detailed description: This system contains the final four measures (13-16) of the 16-bar opening. The musical notation is identical to the third system.

17 Oh. Un - i - verse ne - ver en - ding with your

17 Eb Cmin Fmin Bb7

21 o - ceans of light and moun - tains of dark - ness blen - ding.

21 Eb Cmin Fm Bb Ab Bb7

25 Oh Heav - enly sun, the gi - ver of

25 Eb Cmin AbMaj

28 light may you shine e - ter - na -

28 Gmin Eb Cmin

A Woman Is!

With attitude

Words & Music by Dennis A. Westgate

Alpha

A wo - man is a mys - ter - y and has been through - out his - to - ry. I'm

1 F Faug Dm Faug

Alpha & Seph

sure it was - n't planned that way it must have been God's res - ting day. Per -

6 F Faug Dm7 Faug

Alpha & Seph

haps one day we'll sure - ly find the lo - gic of the fe - male mind. For a

10 Em Fm9 Dm Gm9 FMaj7 Gb Gm Em9

Alpha & Seph

wo - man is the soul of con - tra - dic - tion
 wo - man is the ul - ti - mate e - qua - tion
 wo - man has a sen - eo - ry per - cep - tion
 think that af - ter years of e - vo - lu - tion.

14 Fm7 Fm7 Dbm7

a Cradle Song

Sofily & Sweetly

Words & Music - D. A. Westgate

S1

S2

pp F Am Gm C7 F Am Gm C7

Doo_____ Doo_____

9 F Am Gm C7 F Am Gm

p Bring me a cra - dle hang it up high. Light me a can - dle up in the

Doo_____ Doo_____

16 C7 E Am D Gm F G7

sky Rock me a ba - by co - sy and warm Ro - sy and pink like the

pp Bring me a

Last time to Coda

23 C9 C F Am Gm C F Am

cra - dle hang it up high. Light me a can - dle Ro - sy and pink like the

dawn_____ Bring me silk ri - bbons sil - ver and red. Light flee - cy clouds to

Like the dawn Doo_____ Doo_____

31 Gm7 C E7 Am D Gm G9

serve for a bed *f* Sing me a ra - in-bow sweet lull - a - by. *p* Hush li - ttle

Sing me a ra - in-bow sweet lull - a - by. Hush li - ttle

38 C7 F G9 C9 C7 F

ba - by don't cry_____ Born by the light of a star._____

Rallentando

ba - by don't cry_____ Born by the light of a star._____