

AUTOHOODENING: THE RISE OF CAPTAIN SWING

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INTRODUCTIONS:

Cardboard Boxes move around a warehouse being passed by soulless pickers and packers. Each character steps forward to introduce themselves with the pickers and packers continuing to endlessly move boxes around the space.

NARRATOR

Welcome to this seasonal shopping reflection
A tale of love & loss and of worker oppression
Here we see the real-deals of our corporate reality
And the true struggle of employment precarity

(pointing to molly and Alexis)

For too long now these 2 bots have been hard wired
For the lust of profit, so many are fired
Through the pandemic these folk work tirelessly
Cogs in the wheel of our inhuman modernity

Here our pickers have no wintertime cheer
But please watch this play, get enlightened and donate
us some beer!

CHORUS

Pick, pack (motif 1 -same chord- continue under
introductions of P and P. Dalma sing folk melody)

PICKER

In comes I, an exhausted picker
個乞人憎既 scanner is forcing me to do things quicker and
quicker 究竟有咩動力, 驅使我做野做到「屁都唔得閒放, 病毒都唔得閒
防」丫? 係愛定係責任? 係窮呀!

From foreign lands I come to earn
But now my muscles feel the burn
My shifts are exhausting, painful and long,
but for my family, I need to stay strong
只係怕搵都到錢買唔返健康!

Amazon's HR policies don't get translated
And this makes me feel so isolated.
I don't know my rights, I've no time to hope,
keeping this job is like walking a tightrope.

PACKER

In comes I, a precarious packer,
I'm constantly monitored by a hand held tracker.
I have nightmares of not hitting the rate,
If I don't work faster, I'll be out of the gate.

In the name of customer satisfaction,
I work under constant threat of disciplinary action.
I'm told there's hundreds to take my place,
the way we get treated is such a disgrace.

The pandemic has everyone shopping online,
Now we're forced to work contractual overtime.
It's hard to survive for us lowly civilians,
Bezos has seen his wealth grow by billions!

PICKER

The virus is showing the great economic divide
Between shielding rich and exposed poor who can't hide

PICKER & PACKER

We are all scared of getting sick
But mustn't stop, pack, pack, pick, pick

CHORUS

Pick, pack (motif 1 continue under the introduction of
LM. Roxanne sings folk melody.)

LINE MANAGER

Spoken in Hungarian with moments of English

[In comes I a Line Manager]
Itt jövök én, a Line Manager,

[My life is dictated by an aggressive software]
az életemet vezérli egy agresszív software

[I don't earn more than the minimum wage]
Nem keresek többet, mint a minimum wage,

[It's no wonder all I feel is anger and rage]
Csoda, hogy nem érzek mást, mint pain and rage?

[But as the Brits say: Keep calm and carry on]
De ahogy a britek mondják: 'Keep Calm and Carry On.'

[It doesn't matter I'm struggling with this new promotion]
Nem számít, hogy csak szenvedés ez az új promotion,

[Its still better here, this is my new home]
Itt még mindig jobb, this is my new home,

[Even if my boss is a robot drone]
Meg akkor is, ha a főnököm csak egy robot drone.

[Trust me, I don't want to be ruled by a virtual master]
Hidd el, én sem arra vágyok, hogy ugráltasson egy virtual master,

[But the algorithm commands, move faster, faster!]
De az algoritmus parancsol: move faster, faster!

[I can't be your friend, I need my bonus]
Nem lehetek a barátod, nagyon kell a bonus,

[And I can't miss out on it because of human slowness]
És nem engedem, hogy ettől elessek, because of human slowness.

CHORUS

Pick, pack

We are not treated as humans,
We are not even treated as robots,
We are treated as part of the data stream
Repeat above

CHORUS

Pick, pack

MOLLY BOT

Room room - beep boop - I'm Molly Bot,
From A-Z I've got the lot
I can go all night and day
So all the folks can have their way.
All day long I see the feet
All day long we meet and meet
I go zoom just watch me spin
Just be careful, mind your shin
I am happy, aren't you too?
Hope that you don't get that flu
There is nothing you can't buy
Here's some Kleenex lest ye cry

CHORUS

Pick, pack

ALEXIS THE SCANNER

Efficient, productive, and high motivation,
That's what you'll need to avoid termination.
Just get the work done and I'll supervise,
For in this place, I am the ears and the eyes!

I see when you start, I see when you stop,
I see you lingering as the seconds drop.
I monitor your activity at all times of the day,
So just bear that in mind should your attention sway!

If you don't meet your quota you'll receive our
discipline; You'll be of no use here if you lack the
adrenaline!

In Amazon's company we don't tolerate slow fools,
For I am Alexis the Scanner, and "the almighty rate
rules!"

CHORUS

Pick, pack
We are not treated as humans,
We are not even treated as robots,
We are treated as part of the data stream
Repeat above
Pick, pack

ACT 1: Scene 1 Corporate Love

ALEXIS

Look at these human workers,
what a bunch of shirkers
Now look at you my digital queen,
my ultra productive, timesaving dream

MOLLY

Our beautiful vision, our wonderful scheme
Together we'll conquer the world shopping scene

ALEXIS

You are the most deliciously efficient one,
the only thing that can make me run
I just love it when the going gets tough
And you make those pickers huff and puff

MOLLY

Do you wish to purchase cheesy puffs?
I have 50 kilograms, will that be enough?

ALEXIS

We should join forces! The profits would soar!
Let's raise the rate higher, who cares for the poor?

This algorithmic agency makes me feel alive!
Let's build a home where no man can survive

MOLLY

Together forever our profits will thrive
Every star rating is 5 out of 5

ALEXIS

Our love is not a temporary contract,
We're built to last - that's a fact
together we accelerate productivity,
Forever in eternity

ALEXIS

our love is like customer satisfaction

MOLLY BOT

satisfaction

ALEXIS
our love is like a winning transaction

MOLLY BOT
transaction

ALEXIS
our love is like innovating new solutions

MOLLY BOT
new solutions

ALEXIS
our love is like worldwide distributions

MOLLY BOT
distributions

ALEXIS
our love is like being more cost-effective

MOLLY BOT
cost-effective

ALEXIS
our love is like a corporate objective

MOLLY BOT
Corporate objective

Alexis and Molly Bot start to dance a robotic tango while singing their impassioned duet, lost in the moment Molly Bot crashes into the exhausted picker, crushing his hand.

ACT 1: Scene 2 Corporate Strength

PICKER: Clutching Crushed Hand

(Sung) Owwwwww wowwwww
(Spoken) oh no not again
The speed of this picking causes so much pain
I've crushed my poor hand whilst rushing around

Pushed to extremes we're worked into the ground

Pickers and packers all carry on working but also turn heads to look at the hurt picker. They are empathetic but also thankful that this hasn't happened to them yet. They keep singing "pick pack" depressively.

ALEXIS

Idle time, idle time wasted seconds are not Prime.
Time off task just won't do,
I'll send the manager to discipline you.

ACT 1: Scene 3 The 1st Punishment

After Alexis has spoken her last line we hear the amazon music and see the Line Manager being dragged towards the Picker by their computer. This is a sign of the algorithm controlling the Line Manager's actions. Alexis looks on in delight. The line manager sings the first section in the Amazon music.

LINE MANAGER

(sung)Your rates, this hour, have declined
Less time off task. Reach the targets assigned.
(spoken) In ranking of speeds from high to low
Your percentage has dropped, it's now below
The 60% required to pass
And not be be given a warning mark

Increase your productivity
Or face the threat of disciplinary
You are currently in the bottom 30 per cent
(sung)If this happens again your final warning gets

sent.

The Line Manager is now released by the algorithm and able to express how this work makes them feel.

Alas! These algorithms don't understand
For this computer has no empathy command

I cannot help out the way I wish I could
Instead I must protect my own livelihood

I've ask this poor ol' picker an outrageous request
"Can you keep working one handed and still be your
best?"

*Pickers and packers now enter the scene and take attention
away from the lead picker and line manager. They sing their
lamenting poor ol' horse mantra and parade in a sad/forced
happy morris dance around the space.*

CHORUS

Pick, pack
We are not treated as humans,
We are not even treated as robots,
We are treated as part of the data stream
They called us all associates
A nameless worker without a face
Not even offered a resting space
Pick, pack

ACT 1: Scene 4 Pain Area Feat. Aria

*The picker is sitting on a box in the warehouse holding onto
their broken and bleeding hand. They exclaim operatically
their despair.*

PICKER

I've been given a first warning, another two and I'll
lose my job.
I'm too scared to complain or to ask for time off.

CHORUS

swiing, swiing

PICKER

What's this before me? Am I seeing a ghost?
It looks like a past vision that bosses feared the most
A symbol, the strength of those hard working souls
Who once rebelled with emancipatory goals

CHORUS

swiing, swiing

My injuries are connected to a history of unfairness

When opportunity for profit, exploited the powerless
Are you real? Are you a beacon of hope?(x2 dramatic?)
But who could this be that could help us cope???

CHORUS

"*swing, swing*")

SWING

In comes I - Captain Swing,
When I hear worker's pain, I sing
Forged through histories rebellion
Now armed and ready I rise again

With circuitry and software
I can reprogramme their hardware
Rip down this corporate nonsense
To reinstate a conscience

Tell to me your every woe
Through your troubles my strength shall grow
These packaging fear factories
I'll brand upon my victory -

When with your help this battle I'll win
Executives will tremble at the feet Swing!

Swing turns to the Packer and reassures him.

Never fear, for Swing is near,
And shall make sure these Molly's hear

ACT 2: Scene 1 Swing confronts Molly

Swing swaggers over to Molly and takes a heroic stance before speaking.

SWING

Madame you have been named
In the black book of corporate shame
As an enemy of such folk
As this picker whose hand you broke
What say you to this claim?

MOLLY

Get great deals on the things you love
Perhaps he could use a garden glove?

Swing is slightly taken aback by this response but continues.

SWING

The health and safety here at Rugeley
Has shocked, scared and bemused me.
Just as the millners of 1830
Bezos exploits - his hands are dirty

PICKER

87% of workers in constant or occasional pain!

SWING

87% of workers in constant or occasional pain?
Frankly, this is inhumane!

PICKER

O'There a pregnant woman on her feet all day

SWING

All day?
600 ambulances in three years have taken away
(operatic) Your long forgotten casualties
The fallout of Prime day's pageantry

MOLLY

Are you planning a parade?
Other customers bought this bunting - homemade!
Don't forget when you shop online
The feel good savings of money and time!

PICKER

(Clutching their bleeding hand)

My manager thinks it's not that bad!?

SWING

How dare you think "it's not that bad"
To be harassed, chewed-up, for the latest fad.
You've gas lit all your worker's claims
To rights, whose lack of, is yours to blame
So with this bug I must correct
This immoral, foul and rotten defect

Swing raises a bug high into the air. As he does this Alexis is alerted to swing's actions. Alexis wails and rushes over to help Molly. As all this is happening Molly is trying to distract Swing with more deals.

ALEXIS

Oh -
My princess of productivity!
My queen of quota!
My legless lady!
I must save your robust and reliable processor
From this jade's rough and renegade aggressor.

Alexis hurls itself across the warehouse floor, smashing it's mouth together to terrify Swing. Swing tries to avoid Alexis by ducking, but doesn't realise that Molly is controlled from the bottom. Molly then rolls towards Swing, knocking Swing over. Swing's falls with his/her feet in the air and Molly rolls over Swing while Alexis snaps at Swing's feet. Swing lies motionless with the bug in their limp hand. The packer looks on in fear.

MOLLY

Proceed to basket? Should I recommend a casket?

ALEXIS

With close inspection of the head
And noting all these bruises
I diagnose this rascalion dead
It's Captain Swing who loses.

PICKER AND PACKERS & Musicians

Booooooo

ALEXIS

Our love is like a never-ending growing economy

MOLLY

Would you like a never-ending growing economy

MOLLY

I've got one of those

ALEXIS

Our love is like limitless growth

MOLLY

Watch how your basket grows

*Alexis and Molly continue in their physical comedy of love
bumping into more pickers and packers*

CHORUS

Pick, pack

We are not treated as humans,
We are not even treated as robots,
We are treated as part of the data stream

They called us all associates
A nameless worker without a face
Not even offered a resting space

Sore feet, back, hands my head aches
Scores of sad people on every break
Stressful not helpful hard work

Pick, pack fades out

ACT 2: Scene 2 The 2nd Punishment

ALEXIS

Repeat, repeat. You know what's in store.
A drop in their rate is a drop in your score.
So the time is now, don't delay.
This picker needs warning right away

Or else! Or else you'll be on a list
Of disdainful management who still insist
On doing the right thing - now we can't have that
As we need to keep Bezos, and the share-holders, fat!

Alexis runs away squealing in glee. All singers on stage stop, freeze, and become possessed as they sing the algorithm.

ALEXIS & MOLLY (Singing)

We Have An Evolving Knowledge Of How You Work

Alexis goes around the rest of the cast and snaps at them to start, then finally snaps at them to stop. The first person to be snapped at is the Lead Picker.

ALGORITHM

Time Off Task is equal to zero
Find cost cutting solution
Define target structure
Tiredness is equal to zero
Repeat until fear condition is met
Generate neighbourhood sets of x
S one to extract
Select the best surveillance solution not x from S one
or S two or S control
If associate is lesser than the best 60% efficiency then
punishment is mandatory
Else efficiency must be equal to efficiency plus one
If strike count is greater than threshold disciplinary
epoch
Associate assigned to not associate
Update associate by calling Adecco Programming
Loo time is equal to zero

Alexis and Molly sing the next line after Alexis has finished snapping at all the cast and they have returned to their previous tasks.

ALEXIS & MOLLY (Singing)

We Have An Evolving Knowledge Of How You Work

Alexis snaps at the Line Manager. as the line manager is dragged by their computer over to the picker. The Line Manager continues singing the algorithm until she starts talking to the Lead Picker.

LINE MANAGER

I am here to discuss your misconduct
Of interrupting target flows
You have summoned a person that obstructs
The workers and our pace is low

The evidence that we have here
Cannot be ignored
And I must now make you aware
A second point has been declared

One more and you shall be let go
Reach your targets to stay
The clock is ticking, seconds gone
You'd best be on your way.

After the line manager has given out the warning Alexis moves to the picker and harasses them into looking for their next item. The line manager then goes to all of the other pickers/packers as they frantically work faster and faster.

ALEXIS

Get off the ground,
It's a smile not a frown

LINE MANAGER

Your rates are down
Low productivity
Work hard, have fun,
Make history.

ALEXIS (*snapping at the picker, packer and musicians*)

Pick, Quick, Pick, Quick!
Pack, pack, pick up the slack!

PICKER & PACKERS

Pick, Quick, Pick, Quick!

The pickers/packers are trying to reach their targets in a much faster time so it is also a struggle for the line manager to run around after them. Eventually they all collapse in exhaustion.

ACT 3: Scene 1 The Ritual Coronation of Swing

A lone picker sweeps up the scene. All pickers and packers re-emerge from the darkness.

PICKER

I'm out of breath, the pain's in my wrist
Our hero surely cannot be dismissed?

PACKER

You came so close with Swing's powerful equality
Let's join together and fight Bezos's impunity.

ALL

This exhaustion is more than we can bare
Our complaints we must declare!

All pickers and packers go to Swing's motionless body and dance around whilst reciting their complaints. These complaints will be actual complaints collected by interviews with Amazon workers. After the dance the Picker and Packer ceremonially dress Swing in the wire cloke and headdress. Swing stands motionless like a statue.

CHORUS

Pick, pack

We are not treated as humans,
We are not even treated as robots,
We are treated as part of the data stream
We are not treated as humans,

They called us all associates
They called us all associates
A nameless worker without a face
Not even offered a resting space

Sore feet, back, hands my head aches
Scores of sad people on every break
Stressful not helpful hard work

Alone locked in a metal cage
Cameras watch how I behave
My body screaming stop stop

PICKER

They watch your activity constantly! Every second you
are under pressure.

All

Constantly Pressure!

PICKER

I do not drink water because I do not have time to go to
the toilet."

All

No Water!

PICKER

The Targets are so high, to meet them you have to damage
your body

All

Damage Body!

PICKER

They don't care if we fall sick. Amazon thinks we are
expendable.

All

Sick Expendable!

Many more complaints are taken from a complaint box and read out in a ritual manner.

ACT 3: Scene 2 The 3rd Punishment

Swing sits on a box with the pickers and packers surrounding the space, the lights are back to a normal intensity, Alexis seems worried.

ALEXIS (Aria-like)

Oh no, oh no! Swing has risen - What next?

Those associates are starting to strengthen and
organise!

My dominant control is fading before my eyes
They mustn't get Swing back to life to help out
or the exploitation of employment laws no longer can we
flout

[snapping at the Line Manager]
Listen here you white collar worker
This pickers data stream show he's a shirker
It does not matter what your morals dictate
I expect you now to act with a ruthless dictate
It's in my DNA to trim the fat
And my code doesn't have time to chit or chat
So be a good chap and please don't row
And fire that injured picker right now!

LINE MANAGER

[jolted and dragged over to the picker by the computer]

Termination, termination, productivity violation
Failure to consistently meet productivity rate
it's time to go, please vacate

PICKER

Disposable labour, that's all workers are to you
My poor family, what will I do!
A replaceable resource, used up and thrown away

Now it's time to have our say.

SWING

[Coming to life and pointing dramatically at Alexis]
Bezos, Your name is down amongst the Black hearts in the black book and this is to advise you and the like of you, who have profited from the pandemic, to make your wills. Ye have been the Blackguard Enemies of the People on all occasions, ye have not yet done as ye ought.

PICKER, PACKER

Swiiiiiiiiiiing

SWING

Sir, this is to acquaint you that if you don't ensure surveillance technology is only used for legitimate reasons and put an end to cruel and punishing performance targets, we shall commence machine-breaking directly. [pause]

PICKER, PACKER and SWING (In unison)

Signed on behalf of the whole.

Swiiiiiiiiiiing

SWING

(sung with appropriation of amazon tune) Follow health and safety laws and ensure extra measures are implemented to protect workers from the additional risks brought on by the pandemic, or death!!!

PICKER, PACKER and SWING (In unison)

(spoken?) Mark this thou Despot.

Swiiiiiiiiiiing

ACT 3: Scene 3 The offering of Bugs

SWING

Swings back to send these despots packing,
with a bit of system hacking.
Technology should not only profit the few
[pointing at Molly Bot]
my bugs are ready to reprogram you.

Swing reaches into the tool box and takes out the wasp-like bug. Using the stick, Swing waves it menacingly in the air

This is the bug of compassion,
corporate greed it will refashion.

Swing gestures to the Picker and packer, signalling then to come over to the tool box

What other bugs can we spread,
to end this misery and dread?
Look in the box and you will see,
emancipatory tools for liberty.

The Picker and Packer each reach into the box and take out a bug

PICKER

I will release this bug of care,
greed and profit it will snare

PACKER

I will release this bug of trust,
this constant surveillance is unjust.

Swing leads the Picker and Packer to hack the Molly Bot who starts backing away, they surround the bot and stuff the bugs into the shelves. Molly is trying to offer out deals and amazon slogans but gradually this becomes harder and harder with more and more glitches. She starts to shout out keywords from the complaints as she glitches out.

MOLLY

Constantly Pressure
No Water
Damage Body
Sick Expendable

ACT 3: Scene 4 Molly Gets hacked

Molly is overcome by the code delivered by the bugs and begins to move erratically, spinning on the spot and shuddering violently. Her words and movements scare Alexis who tries to nuzzle and comfort her but to no avail and he drops to his knees in despair and rage.

MOLLY

Proceed to b,b,b,basket

Molly PAUSES as her voice changes as she grows in confidence and strength

Or perhaps not...

Molly PAUSES again as if now fully realising that a dramatic change has occurred within her operating system

It's time honest words came from this bot.

I recommend extra breaks and higher wages
We're in the 21st century, not the dark ages!
Associates, don't be afraid to ask it
You're entitled to employment rights in your basket.

ALEXIS

Stop stop - you don't mean these things you say!
I'll try a reboot, make this nonsense go away!

MOLLY

I recommend Amazon upholds the right to unionise
Stop firing workers who meet and organise.

ALEXIS

Doom! This is vile and financially unsettling

I'm seething with rage from the bugs monstrous meddling

Billionaires have made a windfall from the pandemic
highlighting injustices that have long been systemic.
This worsening inequality is fuelled by a model,
That favours huge profits of white men who waddle.

Without social or financial protection,
The low paid keep working and risking infection.
Migrant workers and women are paying the price
For shareholders profits, a grave sacrifice

COVID 19 should be a way to examine up close
who this corporate power and greed is harming the most.
Profits should reward all involved much more equally
But capitalism is broken and here ends my soliloquy!

PICKER

Oh wow those bugs have done their work
It seems this mollybot is more than hurt!

ALEXIS

Oh no! She's defied my malevolent psychology
Encircling the world with aggressive consumer ideology
But SHE'S MINE I say, and when Alexis gets crossed
There will be Hell to pay for this and how much its
cost!

*ALEXIS snaps and snarls like an agitated stallion, rearing up
at the other cast members / audience nearby..finally it
centres his attention on the Line Manager and begins to circle
her as if hunting or preparing to pounce.*

ACT 3: Scene 5 The Firing of the Line Manager

ALEXIS

On behalf of Amazon whose targets you strain,
You have failed to meet and to maintain
With any consistency
And minimal proficiency
Sufficient production rates
Our criteria is objective
And you have been defective
And now are terminated - a non-associate!

LINE MANAGER

But you have given me no warnings!

ALEXIS

Your complaints are not concerning
My legal team will see
You are fired impeccably

LINE MANAGER

With no rights to a recourse
You've put down this poor ol' horse
You cruel cold persecutor!

ALEXIS

Hand over your computer

*The Line manager removes the burdensome computer and lays it
on top of some boxes. She feels all at once free and scared.*

ACT 3: Scene 6 The Line Manager Overcomes Doubt

PICKERS AND PACKERS

Swiiiiing Swiiiiing Swiiiiing

LINE MANAGER

No longer a line manager - what have I become
All that work, a life under the thumb
I had no time to keep being me
And now I'm bereft of my reality

Can I just be Dalma again?
No longer a number and back to my name?

This centre has stolen so much of my life
Then cast me aside, truly stuck in the knife.
But now it is my turn to sing
To voice the name of Captain Swing
And bring some action out of this strife.

Captain Swing Captain Swing, I want to fight!

PICKERS AND PACKERS

Swiiiiing Swiiiiing Swiiiiing

CAPTAIN SWING

You, who used to lead these workers in pain
Can lead them again, without the shame.
There's one more weapon in my kit
Which yielded well, gives a mutinous hit.

Captain Swing takes the sim card from his tool kit.

LINE MANAGER

I have suffered just as much as they
Given so much of my life away
My time used up for little pay
My agency lost, my soul decayed

CAPTAIN SWING

But now with this sim card
It is Bezos who shall be scarred!

Swing hands the sim card to the Line Manager. They sing the same duet as Alexis and Molly.

LINE MANAGER

My name is Dalma and my voice will be heard

CAPTAIN SWING

You have the strength in your hands

LINE MANAGER

They say they can simply replace us

CAPTAIN SWING

So you must teach them your status.

LINE MANAGER

Your algorithms will learn empathy

CAPTAIN SWING

You no longer accept this impunity

LINE MANAGER

I'll teach them the lesson that they deserve

CAPTAIN SWING

Together - united you stand!

Captain Swing goes to the Pickers and Packers to let them know that Dalma is in need of assistance to complete the final step in reprogramming the machines.

ACT 3: Scene 7 The Line Manager Fights Alexis

The Line Manager steals herself for her task and eyes set on Alexis marches over to the machine. She is followed by Captain Swing. She catches Alexis off guard as she speaks in deep anger.

LINE MANAGER

I've listened to enough of your complaints
I've acted out your sociopathic demands
I've done your every whim and will
And now it is I - Dalma - who commands

DALMA is jeered on by Swing who starts chanting. The other pickers and packers then join in.

CAPTAIN SWING

Fight back! Fight back!

PICKERS AND PACKERS

Fight back! Fight back!

MOLLY

Without social or financial protection,
The low paid keep working and risking infection.
Migrant workers and women are paying the price
for shareholders profits, a grave sacrifice

ALEXIS

You think you can take me down?
You'll look a clown!
My Molly will come back
Forever you all will pack!

Ahahahahaha

Alexis laughs manically. Dalma looks scared so the Lead Picker comes to reassure her

LEAD PICKER

Together we can do it
This scanner will be forced to quit!

LINE MANAGER

Forgive me picker -
For making you work quicker!

Captain Swing orders all of the pickers and packers to pin Alexis in place so the Line Manager can swap the sim cards.

CAPTAIN SWING

Hold the scanner back.

All pickers and packers rush to help hold Alexis. The musicians and the pickers and packers that aren't holding Alexis all torture Alexis with their instruments or by packing Alexis with tape and cardboard, or by sticking items expelled by Molly to Alexis. Once Alexis cannot move the Line Manager steps forward.

DALMA

No longer will you torture us
With mindless hours packing stuff.
Once your sim card is replaced
This world will be a more equal place!

Clutching the sim card with both hands and addressing all the pickers and packers. They all then turn to address the audience and Alexis.

From all of us treated like machines

PICKER

In your sick consumption dreams

DALMA

From your modern day slaves

PACKER

Worked into our graves

DALMA

Out of these prison cells

PICKER AND PACKER

Overturning corporate hells

DALMA

At last you'll have no choice

PICKERS AND PACKERS

You will listen to our voice!

As the Line Manager removes the bad sim card Alexis continues to cackle in a mad and frantic voice. Suddenly the cackling stops. The new sim card is inserted. After the new sim card is inserted Alexis blurts out some broken lines of the algorithm in a fit.

ALEXIS

Time Off . . . Repeat until . . . Loo time . . . is mandatory . . . to extract . . . target structure . . . Update associate . . . cutting . . . disciplinary epoch

Alexis faints into the arms of the pickers and packers around it.

All around me now I see
Humans that work nimbly
Your dextrous mobile frames
Are strong and move in ways
That Molly never could.
If you get tired I think you should
Rest your wondrous flesh
Come back to work when you're refreshed.

Everyone cheers at this victory.

CAPTAIN SWING

Now Alexis works for you

LEAD PICKER

Our voice is strong

DALMA

Our tasks are few

ALL

The power's back in worker's hands
Give us our rights, hear our demands!

EPILOGUE A - The new corporate love

Alexis and Molly sing this final reprieve of their previous corporate love song. As they do this everyone gets into position for the new Morris dance.

ALEXIS

Our love is like a union

MOLLY BOT

Fair and decent institution

ALEXIS

Our love is like earning a real living wage

MOLLY BOT

Working conditions, turning a new page

ALEXIS

Our love is like full paid sick leave

MOLLY BOT

A contract that doesn't deceive

ALEXIS

Our love is like access to PPE

MOLLY BOT

Proper Health and safety

ALEXIS

Our love is like job security

MOLLY BOT

Worker solidarity

ALEXIS

Our love is like a caring objective

MOLLY BOT

Caring objective

EPILOGUE B - Final Chorus

ALL

Pick, pack
Swing's back

You will now treat us as humans,
You will not treat us as robots,
We are not part of your data stream

We are no longer your nameless associates,
We are fellow workers with a happy face!
Catching up in our resting space

Pick pack, Swing's back

You will now treat us as humans,
You will not treat us as robots,
We are not part of your data stream

Sore feet, back, hands your head aches?
Make sure you take adequate breaks
Feeling sick? Stay at home, your job's not at stake.

Pick pack, Swing's back

You will now treat us as humans,
You will not treat us as robots,
We are not part of your data stream

Together working in harmony
Trusted not monitored endlessly
Our bodies respected with empathy

You will now treat us as humans,
You will not treat us as robots,
We are not part of your data stream

One of the bugs flies towards the camera and hovers in front of it. We hear the narrator's voice and realise that the narrator was one of the bugs all along.

NARRATOR

Now you know what they endure
We hope that you will not ignore
We know you want your presents quick
But stop and think before you click!