



P E N G U I N



C L A S S I C S

KAREL ČAPEK

R. U. R.

(Rossum's Universal Robots)

Introduction by IVAN KLÍMA

*One of the great plays of the twentieth century by
"a great writer of the past who speaks to the present
in a voice brilliant, clear, honorable, blackly funny,
and prophetic" (Kurt Vonnegut)*

R.U.R.—written in 1920—garnered worldwide acclaim for its author and popularized the word "Robot." Mass produced, efficient, and servile labor, Čapek's robots remember everything, but lack creative thought, and the Utopian life they provide ultimately lacks meaning. When the robots revolt, killing all but one of their masters, they must attempt to learn the secret of self-duplication. But their attempts at replication leave them with nothing but bloody chunks of meat. It is not until two robots fall in love and are christened "Adam" and "Eve" by the last surviving human that Nature emerges triumphant.

"It is time to read Čapek again for his insouciant laughter, and the anguish of human blindness that lies beneath it." —Arthur Miller

Translated by CLAUDIA NOVACK

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