

KWANTUM  
Episode 1: Disruptor

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SOOTHING DOCUMENTARY MUSIC.

1. MILLENIAL ANNOUNCER: What does your freedom look like? Imagine a world of infinite, clean energy that goes where you go.

2. NARRATOR: (*Documentary narrator voice*)

It sounded like science fiction, but Fenton Kwan, eccentric wunderkind of the fusion engineering world and CEO of Kwantum Mechanix, had actually pulled it off. He invented a personal, portable power source, using the brilliance of cordless radiant energy. But how do you convince the public to walk around with balls of fusion powerful enough to level a bungalow? Listen to this early recording of Kwan explaining his revolutionary marketing strategy.

MUSIC CUTS.

3. FENTON: Cutesy robot kitten dogs! I call it; the Kuju!

MUSIC RETURNS.

4. MILLENIAL ANNOUNCER: Your Kuju is more than a power source-- it's your snuggly best friend. Here at Kwantum Mechanix, the future... is kawaii!!

BUBBLY J-POP WITH FAKE JAPANESE LYRICS.

5. NARRATOR: What you're hearing is an early ad for the Kuju. It is worth noting that Fenton Kwan is not Japanese in any way, nor are the lyrics of the song. Kwan just told his marketing to, quote, "make it more Japanese."

BUBBLY J-POP DUCKS AS IF BEING PLAYED IN A CONFERENCE ROOM

6. FENTON: Because people like Japanese things, stupid, that's why. It's fuzzy. It's got big eyes and it's got the latest AI. It's adorable. Hell, if I put a schoolgirl skirt on it those Japanese investors might even try to-- what's that? He's been listening for how long? Hahaha, hello, Mr. Yamamoto! What a joker I am. ... Hello? Kon itchy wah?

J-POP FINALLY ENDS.

DOCUMENTARY MUSIC.

7. NARRATOR: After making several conciliatory donations of Japanese orphanages that Kwan was, quote, "totally going to build anyway", the Kuju took off. Kujus were helpful, charming, and just made life better. By the time of the Gen 3 launch, the public was kookoo for Kuju puffs. Listen to the reception outside of the Kuju Store.

CROWD HUBBUB.

8. BOY: My Kuju's name is Bobby! He sings me songs about fire trucks and wizards and keeps my nightlight on!
9. PARENT: First it was smartphones and now, it's Kujus. Kids don't even play outside anymore. Parenting has never been easier!
10. WOMAN: I bought a Kuju to power my home but it's become a real member of the family. It even argues with my Nona. In Italian!

11. TEEN GIRL: My Kuju's name is Rhee-Rhee. It manages my soc' *and* my court-mandated anger management app. It's the worst.

DOCUMENTARY MUSIC.

12. NARRATOR: As Kujus became the primary power source, power plants and energy infrastructure dwindled, and only the most essential of services ran on big energy-- and soon, even that was a distant memory. A full generation had grown up with Kujus, and the world in which every human had a Kuju by their side had become the norm. And then, Fenton Kwan did the unthinkable. He disappeared.

WIND BLOWING OVER THE LANDSCAPE.

13. NARRATOR: Not just him. His factory, the only factory that built replacement Kuju parts, also disappeared, leaving the authorities scrambling, the public confused, and the opportunistic thrilled.
14. VENTURE CAPITALIST: Fenton Kwan is a genius. Get the world hooked on your supply, yank it away, prices go up. He'll be back. You'll see.
15. CONCERNED CITIZEN: Are we supposed to be okay with living back in the Stone Age when the last Kuju breaks down? What do you expect us to do, bring back coal?
16. SKEEZY KUJU PARTS GUY: We're your hookup. Authentic Kwantum Mechanix parts or close enough to 'em. But if you ain't got the cash, your Kuju is trash.
17. CONSPIRACY THEORIST: The Illuminati made Fenton Kwan a figurehead for the Lizard Race. Now, he's hiding something. Something big. And if you look at this photo, there's no clear absence of Reptilian genitalia. Hillary

Clinton-- I mean, I met her once. She was very nice, and smelled pleasant--

18. NARRATOR: The President attempted to quell growing concerns.

PRESS CONFERENCE WALLAH, CAMERA CLICKS.

19. PRESIDENT: My administration won't leave good, tax-paying citizens high and dry. I already talked to China. They're sending the highest quality replacement parts. Some folks say they're better than Fenton Kwan's.

DOCUMENTARY MUSIC.

20. NARRATOR: Tentative solutions were made, and we managed to maintain our Kujus well enough to keep society running smoothly. And yet, Fenton Kwan's whereabouts and the fate of Kwantum Mechanix remain a mystery. Without the enigmatic creator of our most critical power source to guide us forward, who knows what lies ahead.

DOCUMENTARY MUSIC SLOWS AND WARBLES.

21. NARRATOR (CONT.): *(clear throat, normal voice)*

All right, that's enough exposition. Little bit dramatic at the end, but I'm not wrong.

MAIN TITLE THEME.

22. TITLES: You're listening to Kwantum, an audio miniseries from Andres Wong and Highly Scientific Productions.  
Episode 1: Disruptor.

MAIN TITLE THEME ENDS.

HUM OF A WORKSHOP AND METALLIC  
TINKERING. SNIPPETS OF THE  
DOCUMENTARY IN THE BACKGROUND, AS  
IF HEARD ON TV.

23. YING: Yup. That's how they get ya.
24. NARRATOR: This is Ying, already too serious for her early twenties. Currently she's gazing in the open panel of a Gen 5 Milkpig Kuju on her workbench. A middle-aged woman looks on nervously.
25. MA'AM: What's the issue?
26. NARRATOR: Ying points to a glowing red star underneath the Kuju's curly tail. It's, um... it's a robot butthole. There's no way around it.
27. YING: It's the Red Starburst of Death. Your ejector's shot. Anything newer than a Gen 3 Kuju needs their ejector replaced about every six months. Because when it comes to exhaust, what do we say, Luna?
28. NARRATOR: Ying's Kuju, Luna, perks up at attention.
- LUNA BEEP-BOOPS.
29. LUNA: If a Kuju can't toot, you must reboot! Or else it enters a catatonic state and becomes useless! But that is not a charming rhyme!
30. YING: Always so cheerful.
31. NARRATOR: Luna beams. She's a classic Gen 2 Puppypat who's been upgraded and modded-- but not in, like, a trashy way.

32. YING: I'm sorry, ma'am. Looks like you'll have to find a new ejector.
33. MA'AM: Another ejector? Prices have doubled lately. Is there anything else you can do?
34. YING: I can put him out with our recycling so you don't have to schlep him home.
35. MA'AM: How. Dare. You. Mr. Jazz Pants has been powering my home and breastfeeding my children since before you were born!
36. YING: Wait, you installed these mech boobs to feed your kids? I thought it was just a weird kink.
37. LUNA: That sounds like the beginning of a lifelong complex!
38. MA'AM: You and Luna can save your judgy comments. Mecha-breasts are the most humane way of feeding babies, end of story, PERIOD.

MR. JAZZ PANTS BOOTS UP.

39. MA'AM (CONT.): Come on, Mr. Jazz Pants!
40. MR. JAZZ PANTS: *(singing a la Louis Armstrong)*
- Ooo-hoo-hoooo, it's feeding tiiiime, bye Yiiiiing!

FOOTSTEPS. DOOR OPENING AND  
SLAMMING.

41. LUNA: That took a turn.
42. YING: Yeah. Some people get way too attached to those things.

43. LUNA: Mech-boobs?
44. YING: No.
45. LUNA: Her vitals registered stress. Perhaps it has less to do with metal bosoms and more to do with the dwindling Kuju replacement supply that threatens our existence?
46. YING: Hey, we're doing all right. I keep you guys in good shape, and your ejectors always get a little extra mileage.
47. LUNA: Not everyone is a tinkerer like you. Fun fact: eight thousand people a year choke on the part they're trying to replace on their Kujus. A quarter of them don't survive!
48. YING: ... Why do they put the parts in their mouths?
49. LUNA: Who knows?! Three quarters of them only need minor esophageal surgery!
50. YING: Anyone else coming in today?

LUNA BEEP-BOOPS.

51. LUNA: I have received no messages.
52. YING: Typical. May as well close up then.

BACKGROUND NOISE FADES.

53. NARRATOR: In the apartment above the workshop, Ying and Luna make their way to a darkened bedroom. Luna turns down her lights respectfully.

LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM HUMMING. HEART RATE MONITOR BEEPING.

54. NARRATOR  
(CONT.): An elderly woman lies on a small bed in the corner of the room. This is Ying's Granny. Bedridden for the last two years, her condition has steadily declined. Tubes moving blood, oxygen, and medication run between her and the compact life support systems by her bed.
55. YING: *(low)*  
  
Granny, are you awake?
56. GRANNY: *(muttering)*
57. YING: Cheese, what did she say?
58. NARRATOR: Cheeseburger, Granny's faithful Fatcat Kuju, wakes up and stretches like-- well, like a cat.
- CHEESEBURGER BOOTS UP.  
HYDRAULICS.
59. CHEESEBURGER: Good afternoon, Ying. I'm doing well. Thank you for asking.
60. YING: Oh, look who got the passive-aggression patch installed.
61. CHEESEBURGER: Shush. I'm trying to listen.
62. GRANNY: *(muttering)*
63. CHEESEBURGER: She says she's having trouble sleeping. The respiratory aid keeps shutting down intermittently. ... She also says she can smell the cigarettes on you from here.
64. YING: That's just... Luna's oils.

65. LUNA: Fun fact! Kujus do not have glands and you are a liar!

66. YING: Cheeseburger. Diagnostics.

67. CHEESEBURGER: Oh no, I hate it when you-- ( *gag* )

TRANSFORMER-Y SOUND.

68. NARRATOR: Cheeseburger involuntarily throws his head back with his mouth wide open. A diagnostic projection shoots out, and Ying takes a close look.

69. YING: Huh. The readings say your system's being going through brownouts. Are you sure you feel fine?

70. CHEESEBURGER: Ai-ya, I feel as fit as always.

71. YING: You still sound like Granny so at least your stubbornness is still intact.

72. CHEESEBURGER: Of course. I am perfectly equipped to care for your Granny as long as-- as long as-- as as as as as as as... ( *continue underneath* )

73. LUNA: Heh. Ass.

74. NARRATOR: Heh. Ass. Ying peers under Cheeseburger's tail as he continues to glitch.

75. YING: Hold on. His ejector light was disabled. No wonder I didn't catch the ejector wearing down.

76. CHEESEBURGER: -- as as as as I wandered lonely as a cloud, that floats on-- oh, hello Ying. How nice of you to visit.

77. YING: Cheeseburger, what the hell? Why is your butt indicator off?

78. CHEESEBURGER: I disconnected it. Granny said the flashing light kept her up at night.

79. YING: (*sigh*) That's the most Granny thing I've ever heard. Looks like we need a new ejector after all. Luna, what's the average price of Gen 1 ejectors on the market?

LUNA BEEP-BOOPS.

80. LUNA: More than you have left on your credit line! ... Please don't pawn me.

81. YING: Only if you're good. Come on, let's get that part. I know a guy.

MEDICAL SOUNDS FADE.

STREETS SOUNDS OF A ROUGHISH  
NEIGHBOURHOOD. FOOTSTEPS  
APPROACH ON THE SIDEWALK.

82. NARRATOR: A short walk later, Ying and Luna arrive at the chain-link-fenced entrance of a well-organized junk yard. Ying takes one last drag on her cigarette and flicks it away. Don't tell Granny.

83. YING: Here we are. If anyone would have it, it's-- oof!

FOOTSTEPS, MARCOS BUMPING INTO  
YING.

84. MARCOS: I just hit a million subsc-- whoa! Ying-a-ling! Make room for my Kuju hoard!

PITTER PATTER OF KUJU FEET,  
SQUEAKS, GRUNTS.

85. NARRATOR: Flanked by several miserable Kujus is Marcos-- Kuju hyper-modder and part-hogger, bottle service enthusiast, and pain in Ying's ass. He is the sort of guy who snorts creatine and over-applies Chapstick. Did I mention he's been livestreaming this whole time?
86. MARCOS: Yoyoyoyoyo just say "sup?" to my fans on KwanTube! I'm never alone!
87. YING: Jeez, Marcos, how many Kujus do you have?
88. MARCOS: Fourteen here. Got a few more a la casa. That's Spanish for "working from home", y'know? Don't tell me you still have just the single Gen 2 model?
89. LUNA: I'm surprised none of my brothers and sisters have hung themselves while serving you.
90. MARCOS: Well, a few of them tried but turns out they don't need oxygen to live. Those quitter models are used exclusively to charge my vape.
91. YING: It takes more than one?
92. MARCOS: UHH, this isn't just any vape, okay? It's the Michelangelo's David model. Seven feet tall and a Kuju pukes from exhaustion every time I take a massive hit. I mean, I've got video of it uploaded if you wanna see.
93. LUNA: This human's need for vaping and attention is worrisome.
94. MARCOS: Welp, if nobody sees you dragon blasting from your vape, did it even happen? ( *to camera* ) Isn't that right, co-heads? ( *sticks tongue out* )
95. YING: 'Co heads?

96. MARCOS: Like Mar-cos? Duh.

97. NARRATOR: Marcos turns his camera on Ying.

98. MARCOS: *(to camera)* Everyone say hi to Ying, my very serious and long-term-- hey!

99. NARRATOR: Ying grabs the camera and does what we all want to do.

YING STEPS ON MARCOS' CAMERA,  
CRUSHING IT.

100. MARCOS: I know that was supposed to make me mad... but I am rock hard.

101. YING: UGH.

GATE OPENING, FOOTSTEPS WALKING  
AWAY ON GRAVEL.

102. MARCOS: *(calling)*

If you're looking for an ejector, they're all out! I bought the last five when my mini-infinity goldfish pool needed another strobe light. Ying? ... ahh, she'll be back. *(to Kujus)* Jeanie, Rocco, DanDan, Skip, Chester, Dino, Gimpy, One-Eyed Eddie, Flamingo, Pablo Escobear, HootHoot, Randy, Kurtwood Smith.

103. KUJU HOARD: *(all respond half-heartedly)*

104. MARCOS: You guys like me, right?

105. KUJU HOARD: *(long beat, followed by skeptical agreement)*

106. MARCOS: Cool. Okay. Now let's go home and you can watch me blow cotton clouds on the Ja-Kuju-zzi.

107. NARRATOR: Gross.

VLAD'S SHOP: BANGING HAMMERS ON  
METAL, CANNED SOVIET ELEVATOR  
MUSIC.

108. NARRATOR  
(CONT.): As Marcos herds his Kuju hoard back toward his nasty bachelor pad, Ying and Luna step up to the counter of Vlad and Sons Totally Legal Kuju Parts. A warm, burly woman steps forward through the haphazard piles of scrap as two equally burly men hammer away at some sheet metal behind her.

109. VLAD: Ying! How is my most skilled and beautiful customer?

110. YING: Flattery won't get me married to one of your boys, Vlad.

111. VLAD: Not even for finest ejector? Please, the fat one can cook and has all his fingers. Skinny one, not so strong but has all his teeth!

112. YING: Wow, all his teeth.

113. VLAD: Well, all the important ones...

114. YING: How about I tune up your personal Kuju in exchange for that ejector?

115. VLAD: No problem, marriage is optional but I give you special ejector replacement from Ukraine.

CLUNK OF EJECTOR ON COUNTER.

116. YING: I thought you were Russian.

117. VLAD: Can't you tell from my perfect regional dialect? I'm Romanian but nobody here can tell the difference.

You want special part or not? As is. Best price. No refund. Is fine!

118. NARRATOR: Ying gives a nod to Luna, who hops on the counter and sniffs at the replacement part.

119. VLAD: Oh, hello Luna creature, no need of suspicions of Vlad. Number one part in all of world. Get off counter.

LUNA BEEPS LIKE AN ALARM.

120. LUNA: (*hiss*) Counterfeit! The inside is filled with paperclips and nougat.

121. YING: This is how you treat me after all these years of brand loyalty, Vlad?

122. VLAD: Tsch pfft whaaaaat? No no, is no problem. Is prank. My idiot sons, you know, they buy wrong part sometimes, I sell as funny joke. We laugh. Ha ha haagghuhh...

123. YURI: (*protesting in Romanian off*)

124. VLAD: Shut up Yuri!

125. YING: This part was for my Granny's Kuju. It runs her life support system, and you were going to sell me cheap chocolate and office supplies as a *prank* ?

126. VLAD: (*sigh*) Look, I level with you. I like you. Most people so desperate for ejector, they no check for nougat. I only do this because two days ago, hippies, they come in, white-people dreadlocks blazing, and take last box of authentic ejectors. Yuri, he do nothing to stop them.

127. YURI: *(protesting in Romanian off)*
128. VLAD: Shut up Yuri! They wear masks, think I don't know them? I know that stink anywhere. Patchouli and vegan cheese. *(spits)* You want ejector, you talk to Esther at the local Off-Off Grid. Like the commercials, *(sings)* "ready to reconnect". Pshaw. Look for yurt with most windchimes and you will find Esther.
129. YING: If you try to sell any more fake parts, I'll tell the whole neighbourhood what Yuri does with his Kuju behind the tool shed.
130. YURI: *(vociferous protesting in Romanian off)*
131. VLAD/YING/LUNA: Shut up Yuri!
132. VLAD: But hey, no problem! I sold last nougat-filled part to asshole dipshit fuckface Marcos.

LUNA GETS A NOTIFICATION.

133. LUNA: I just received a message from Cheeseburger. Another brownout. We should get back to Granny.

GRANNY'S ROOM: MEDICAL SOUNDS.

134. NARRATOR: Back in Granny's room, Ying works on a twitching Cheeseburger as Luna plays a KwanTube video of an ancient Off-Off Grid ad. Know thy enemy or whatever.
135. JINGLE SINGERS: *(singing)*
- Get ready to reconnect, get ready to reconnect!
136. LUNA: I find their performative spiritualism rather... unsettling. Perhaps I should stay here and look

after Granny with Cheeseburger while you go into the forest to find the Off-Off Grid.

137. YING: No, Luna, you're coming with me. I'll need directions, and I can't face a bunch of hippies alone. Cheese will be able to hold down the fort just fine. Okay, got it! ... How are you feeling, Cheeseburger?

CHEESEBURGER BOOTS UP.

138. CHEESEBURGER: I'm well. What did you do?
139. YING: I bypassed your ejector. It's a temporary solution, but at least you won't have any more brownouts so Granny can, ya know, breathe while we're away.
140. CHEESEBURGER: Yes, that is preferable.
141. NARRATOR: Ying places a hand on Granny's shoulder.
142. YING: Hang in there, Granny. I'll be back sooner than later with that part, and get everything back to normal.
143. GRANNY: (*mutter*)

KISS ON THE FOREHEAD.

QUIET FOREST SOUNDS. BIRDS, TREES  
IN THE BREEZE, ETC.

144. NARRATOR: Three long bus rides later, Ying and Luna stand at the edge of the forest outside the city.
145. LUNA: This hiking trail should take us in the correct direction, though I must say it appears severely under-maintained.
146. NARRATOR: Your tax dollars at work.

TRAIL CRUNCHING UNDERFOOT.

147. YING: Okay! Off to nature we go. We'll sneak into this Off-Off Grid compound, find this hippie hick Esther, steal the ejectors back, and be home in time for Survivor: Detroit. Easy peasy lemon squeezy. Uh... Tell me a fun fact about nature, Luna!

148. LUNA: Can do! Fun fact! The ticks in this area are vectors for a virulent strain of mind-numbing Lyme disease.

149. YING: Goodie.

150. LUNA: But if the thing that is behind you kills us, Lyme disease will become a much smaller concern.

BLOODTHIRSTY GROWL.

151. LUNA (CONT.): Run!

END CREDITS THEME.

152. TITLES: You're listening to Kwantum, an audio miniseries from Andres Wong and Highly Scientific Productions. Episode 1: Disruptor. Kwantum is created by Andres Wong. Episode 1: Disruptor, written by Andres Wong, with Becca Friesen, Kira Hall, Mitchell Rathgeb, and Samuel Smith. Directed by Andres Wong. With performances by Leo Choy, Basel Daoud, Becca Friesen, Ian Geldart, Kira Hall, Jonathan Ho, Tony Kim, Sarah Kolasky, Scott Law, Kris Siddiqi, Samantha Wan, Andres Wong, and Denise Yuen. Audio by Ryan Couldrey, Ian Geldart, and Mitchell Rathgeb. Kwantum theme by Mitchell Rathgeb. Produced by Kira Hall and Andres Wong for Highly Scientific Productions.

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Hey, thanks to you all for listening. I don't know if you knew but there are a LOT of podcasts out there, and it means a lot that you tuned into our humble miniseries. If you liked it, please share the heck out of it, and tell your friends to tune in.

See you soon for Episode 2: Organic Content.