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# CHAPTER III

## ARTI-FUR-CIAL INTELLIGENCE

THE POWER BOTTLENECK HAD BEEN RESOLVED, but the sheer, unimaginable scale of the problem still baffled scientists. Think tanks were formed and disbanded. Huge multinational congresses were held, gathering the world's top scientists and engineers. Innumerable papers, white papers, and blog posts were published, but no consensus could be reached on what to do next.

Over time, three factions coalesced from the chaotic ether:

- The Schrödingers, for example, firmly believed that building vast, efficient global logistics networks was the only viable way forward.
- The Meweugenics Society, who advocated for genetically modifying and selectively breeding cats for traits like larger litters, shorter gestation times, and slower metabolisms.
- The Copy Cats, who were convinced that mass cloning offered the only scalable solution to meet the daily kitten mandate.

Each group presented data, hosted summits, published forecasts, and competed for public and institutional support. But progress stalled. Ev-

ery solution raised a new set of logistical, ethical, or emotional complications. Consensus faded into background noise.

Without a clear path forward, humanity's worst traits began to resurface. The factions grew more dogmatic. Zealots emerged on all sides. The fragile peace built on the energy revolution began to look increasingly unstable. Then the inevitable happened. A major cloning facility was bombed. No one claimed responsibility. The Schrödingers blamed the Copy Cats, and the Copy Cats blamed the Schrödingers. The FDF, once unified under a single goal for so many years, fractured, and so began the Second American Civil War.

The war was brutal. What began as ideological friction between factions quickly escalated into targeted sabotage and open conflict in major cities. The public, once united by a common mission, now fractured along hardened ideological lines. Families were divided. Communities shattered. The war raged for nine years and claimed over two million lives.

The pivotal moment came not on a battlefield, but in a speech. Delivered in the ruins of what had once been a major logistics hub, the so-called "Kittsburg Address" lasted less than five minutes. It did not assign blame or call for vengeance. It simply asked a question:

"If we are not capable of deciding this together, then who is?" It would be a mistake to think that was a rhetorical question. It wasn't. Humanity had demonstrated, beyond any reasonable doubt, that it was incapable not only of choosing the best path forward, but of implementing it once chosen. The speech proposed a radical but increasingly inevitable idea: build a new artificial intelligence, not just to advise, but to decide. A new megaproject, conceived not as an end in itself, but as a necessary stepping stone toward the final goal of universal daily kitten distribution. The message spread and took hold. Ceasefires were called, and a peace process began. The war was over.