

Foreword

This story once featured Matt Eggbert as the main character. When I rewrote this in 1998, I expanded upon it as the original plot was quite simple.

Originally designed for my old roommate Michael Barnard, this story lost some character when the 'friend' was not a romantic interest. As such I've adjusted this to Mike Quartz as well, to continue with the building theme of these stories. (No offense Mikey!)

This story does borrow some from Star Trek V as at the time of the original writing this was my favorite movie and something I still hold to my heart today, as it was the last Star Trek movie I saw with my father (he's still alive it was the last movie we saw TOGETHER.)

Anthony Salvatore Anselmo II

Planet G

By Anthony S. Anselmo

Chapter 1

Reaching, climbing, pulling, each step, each crawl, trying harder to get to the top. Sweat, dripping liquid falling off the face, neck and chest of my bare chested friend. The color of the mountain was a deep red, with smooth but defined-jagged struts. Unlike a normal mountain on Earth, with normal colors, and planet vegetation, this was unlike anything my friend Mike had seen before. As he stopped from his ascent to peer around at the world around him, he could see the planet's rich cone-shaped trees, the double moons, and the green sky.

Mike took a deep breath, and blinked, and as soon as he reopened his eyes, a white body, about two stories tall was floating in the air next to him.

Startled, Mike was barely able to catch himself from falling.

"Jesus! Boaty where the hell did you come from?" Mike asked.

Boaty stood floating in the air with his arms behind his back, his whole body hanging in thin air as he propelled himself on his rocket thrusters.

"Master Mike, I believe there are more efficient ways to get to the top of a mountain," replied Boaty.

Mike rolled his eyes at the Zapbot floating around him.

"First of all, don't call me Master, you're not my slave, second, why are you bothering me?"

"Master Anthony has advised me to um... according to him 'keep you out of trouble'"

On the ground, not too far away, a person in X-O suit mode stood, using his electronic viewfinder, zooms in and watches the whole scene on the mountain top.

"Geez Boaty, watch him!" I said to myself out loud. "I don't need any more dead friends."

Speedy came rushing up to me in vehicle mode.

"Should I go get him?" he asked, trying to be helpful.

"No. I think.... I hope he knows what he's doing?" I replied.

"You do realize that an X-O suit can provide necessary and useful abilities-" started Boaty.

"SHUUT-UP...Please..." Mike said smiling, as not to be mean, but as a polite way of telling Boaty to stop blabbing. However in that moment of Mike smiling and a twitch in his stomach from a joke, he lost his concentration and slipped.

It seemed like forever to Mike because at first he really couldn't believe it. How could he make a mistake this dumb? Then Mike soon realized the error he had made and he was in fact was falling. That's when terror struck.

From the ground where I stood I watched this and before I could yell to Speedy or engage my own boosters, Speedy was off and flying towards the mountain.

Boaty immediately engaged his own rockets and flew down towards the falling human. As Mike was screaming and waving his arms and legs frantically, Boaty was approaching him, getting closer, and closer. Speedy and myself were also flying at speeds, racing towards the bottom of the mountain.

Just then the ground came into view for Mike as he felt a swift lift and his direction changed from down to sideways. He looked up to see Flier smiling at him, as he grabbed Mike in his arms.

However the rest of us were unprepared for this, and our optical circuits didn't catch Flier's quick movement nor compensate for Mike's sudden disappearance. Boaty, Speedy and myself all crashed right into each other.

The crash itself was almost deafening, and the force of our blow sent us all flying backwards. Boaty flew right into the red mountain and made an impression. Speedy transformed and flew right into a tree, breaking it. Myself, I landed in a pond, ten feet under the water.

When I gained my senses and surfaced I saw Boaty, and Speedy standing there. Flier came up and was still holding Mike.

"Ya gotta watch that first step Master Mike, it's a lu-lu!" Flier said smiling.

Speedy and I stood there with pissed off looks on our faces. Boaty of course had no expression.

"Well it could've been worse," said Mike to my face, "I could've run into all of you!"

"Chief Engineer's Log, Stardate 1998.09.01 - I think this new upgrade to Misslemax was done by a bunch of humans! Half the doors won't open, the warp drive is off line, and guess who's job it is to fix it?"

"Ack!" cried Pliers' hitting the dashboard in the main bridge of Misslemax. The same design was kept, but what had once been square tables, was now replaced by smooth curves and edges. There was the usual Commander's chair in the center along with two side chairs for the seconds in command (Botimus and Ultra.) In front were the two stations for tactical and navigation, with two side stations along the walls and in the back were several stations raised up.

Roberta walked in from the elevator, and Pliers noticed she was looking especially shiny today. She proceeded to walk down the various steps that lowered her from the turbo-lift area to the science area. The next step to the communications area, and then the next step till she was on the large open floor with the command chairs.

"Roberta, I thought you were on vacation?" Pliers asked trying to stand up and wipe the grime off of himself.

"And I thought we were suppose to go to recharge?" replied Roberta.

"Oh I'm sorry, you know I have to stick around and fix what everyone else messed up on my baby."

Roberta came up and waved her hand on Pliers' audio sensors.

"I knew that, so I brought us a little something," and Roberta pulled out the energy chips.

"Oh you are the best!" replied Pliers.

"Well we all knew that," said Hightone from the back tinkering with communications.

"And what are you doing to my panel?" asked Roberta joking.

"Your panel girl? Did I miss a name?"

"Funny Hightone," Roberta said, walking over to the communication panel her and Hightone shared shifts with.

"If you guys spent as much time working as you did conversing and digesting, we might actually get some progress done around here," complained Scan from the science station.

"Oh Scan, stop whining," replied Pliers.

Repairs, Pliers' brother walked in from the back room all of a sudden.

"Excuse me, but did anyone notice the red light blinking?" cried Repairs pointing at the blinking red light.

Roberta turned to her console as indeed the screen was blinking. She pressed the command button.

"Red—Re—Alert..." went the computer badly.

"I just fixed the damn thing!" cried Pliers in disgust and threw his tools across the room.

Roberta however keyed in her command ID.

"Misslemax, this is Star fleet, come in, emergency, urgent response requested."
went the call speaker.

"Huh?" went everyone at once.

"This is Misslemax dude, what's your sign?" asked Hightone trying to be cute.

"Recall all crew for emergency mission, priority one transmission from High Council/Starfleet."

Repairs shook his strangely shaped head and walked over to Roberta. "They can't be serious! We have less than a basic crew aboard and the ship's being held together by ducktonium tape!" he cried.

"Star fleet are you aware of our current status?" replied Roberta in the com microphone.

"Current status understood, please prepare to download orders."

"What else could go wrong?" cried Scan, as a console exploded and everyone looked at him.

"What?" he replied.

DING DING DING! went the triangle as Flier grabbed it out from Botimus Prime's hands.

"We're here!" Flier said.

Mike Quartz, Boaty, Flier, Speedy, and Botimus all gathered around the human recreated campfire. My various other friends and Zapbots were off doing other activities yet in the park located on Tockmak 5, the planet adjacent to us.

"Botimus tell me you actually tried to cook human food?" I inquired.

"Yes Master, and I believe you will find it quite satisfactory," Botimus replied handing Mike and myself bowls from his extremely large hands. We were stationed on a rock, bringing us to the level of the rest of my Zapbots.

"Beans?" asked Mike.

I looked at him and gave him the 'can't be that bad?' look.

We tasted it; and it was decent for Botimus' cooking. We smiled at him so not to hurt his feelings.

"You should tell them to turn their emotions off while we sample their food," said Mike laughing.

"I wish I could turn my emotions off sometimes with you," I replied.

"And why is that?"

"Cause you drive me absolutely crazy at times!"

"Hell, I'm not the one who crash landed into my life in a hidden german town!"

"Well however this strange Universe brought us together, it sure gave me a lot to deal with!"

"Oh, Now are you saying I'm a problem?"

"No not you, but I'm definitely did not expect my life to turn out this way when I was younger. I'm wondering sometimes if that version of myself in the other reality made better decisions. "

"I'm sure both of you, this is too weird... both of you, yourself, have made and will always make good and bad judgments. I don't think you can really control how many mistakes you make in your life."

"Good point. But things aren't going so well with other associates right now."

"Like Alan?"

"Yeah...."

Alan was a friend I had met during my short jump to another reality. Him and Mikey (not to be confused with Mike Quartz) were my roommates in another timeline. When I came back to my prime reality I reached out to them as it would only seem logical to continue the friendship I had started there. While myself and Mikey got along fine, recently Alan was proving to be more of a trouble than

helpful. He was doing extremely well in his training and studies, and loved being in a sort of "sci-fi" world, however, his attitude towards *others* was starting to cause problems.

"When I give an order, it is not to be taken lightly, and I expect all my Zapbots and friends to be able to determine what to do with that order. Some however question everything and then never follow through," I said.

"Yeah you guys aren't getting along at all are you?"

"It's not like I'm not willing to compromise, he's not willing to meet me half way."

"Well you're not having any luck with your friend David either."

"I know, both Alan and David take those damn religious classes. They're starting to question my Zapbots morals? Come on... we're talking realistic science here. Why would they believe in that stuff? It makes no sense."

"So who are your good friends now? Or who do you consider your good friends?" my renegade friend asked.

"Human or Zapbot wise?"

"Humans of course, you obviously care for your Zapbots like your children."

"Well human wise there's yourself, Bill, Mikey, Jeremy, and Rogish. You know the situations with David and Alan. According to my experience in the other reality, and also here, it seems everyone I met there just had a general good outlook on life. Everyone else pretty much stems off you guys and of course all the miscellaneous friends I rarely see these days..."

"Heard that Jon C. retired that messaging board..."

"Yeah I haven't heard from him in a while, which is weird cause I guess we kept in contact regularly in the other reality. He's busy working at a local bank right now."

All in all, my life was pretty complex now. I had friends going in and out, and only a few I never questioned their friendship. Some I wondered if they were friends just for the sake of being friends while others I always knew they would be there for me. Mike Quartz was one of these people.

From my hometown and what use to be my home before my Zapbots, I had my good friend Bill, who I guess had saved my butt various times in the other reality, and was another true confidant. Also from childhood, Rogish who I lost contact with in both realities, I had now had become good friends with, again.

The various friends who I made over the Internet were all great people, but were now so involved in their own life I hardly heard from them. My original pen-pal (being we kept in touch via pencil and paper in both realities) Jeremy, was busy at the air force academy. I argued with him forever about it. I didn't want him to go to the air force considering he was already studying to be a Zapbot Headmaster. But he insisted he go through the hard way, otherwise he would 'never have lived.' Like all human academies it would prove backwards in thinking, harsh in training and just plain ignorant in the way they treat cadets.

Then there was a good friend from my church who I had known forever, David, who along with my newly found friend Alan had gotten so involved with religion that I swear they had become a cult. Both have tried to convert me, and both had cause some problems already among the Zapbots. I was strongly advised to revoke their Headmaster status, but I allowed it to continue considering they were my friends at one point.

Now I was just sitting here with one good friend as I attempted to appreciate the peace and quiet I had longed for so long. One part of me felt complete, but still another felt something was missing, and that was confusing.

"Anyhow, you should have been killed when you fell off that mountain. If my Zapbots hadn't been there you would've been."

"Yeah come on, I wouldn't be climbing the mountain anyhow."

"Well I think you should finish your Headmaster training before you go jumping off any more cliffs."

"Hey Master!" went Flier laughing, "Shall we sing Row Row your Boaty?"

"Your joke is not humorous," replied Boaty.

"Okay guys settle down-" I was stopped in my sentence when a view-screen came up on my viewfinder.

"Master, come in this is Roberta," replied Roberta.

Everyone turned his or her attention to my message.

"We have a priority mission from Starfleet."

"Oh Circuits!" cried Flier.

"Huh?" I said.

"We need to recall all key personal," Roberta replied.

"In the middle of an upgrade?" asked Botimus confused.

"Confirmed, returning to Misslemax," I responded. I closed the window and looked at my Zapbots.

"Well guys, looks like vacation is over. Recycle your Energy!" I said.

We grabbed our equipment and transformed flying up towards the bright shiny robotic castle hanging high in the sky. Mike rode along with me in my X-O suit shuttle mode as we headed back home to our castle in the stars.

"This is Pliers. We have you on our viewfinder, prepare to dock into Misslemax," replied Pliers from the docking bay.

"Just open the doors you geek!" replied Flier swirling around in front of the pack, showing off his maneuverability skills.

We came closer towards the huge floating fortress and flew down towards the opening doors in the docking bay. We landed and as we transformed into robot mode we saw what an utter mess the docking bay was.

"Oh my matrix!" cried Speedy.

I connected with my larger Shortstop body setting Mike down on the ground to walk upstairs to the human level and then walked towards Pliers.

"You said we only needed two days, I gave you two weeks, what happened?" I smiled at Pliers

"I think you gave me too much time!" responded Pliers.

"Strange I've heard that line somewhere before," said Botimus confused.

"Fine, continue then Pliers."

We walked towards the turbo-lift, and entered. The door barely nipped Speedy in the shaft as it shut closed.

"What L..Lev..Lev...Level?" went the computer.

"Bridge, I hope," I said.

The turbo-lift began to move upward as the lights for the various levels shone around us.

"I could use a car wash," said Fliers.

Boaty turned towards him.

"Yes!" said Boaty.

I smiled as Flier frowned; maybe Boaty did have a sense of humor after all. As the turbo-lift came to a stop, the door opened part way when we reached the bridge.

"Millions of years of Zapbot design and you figure we could at least build a ship with no problems," I said.

"Starfleet has some wire sending us out in this mess," said Ultra Attack coming to greet me at the com station.

I looked at the computer console, and just shook my head.

"Are we really in that bad of a shape?" I asked. I looked around Pliers' and Repairs' crews were running about left and right, pulling out tools, hitting keyboards, connecting circuits. The bridge was a sad sight indeed.

"Affirmative Master, our-" Boaty began but I put my hand up and he knew I didn't want to hear it.

"Roberta have you got Starfleet online yet?" I asked.

"Incoming transmission now," Roberta replied.

The screen flickered and up came Earnon, my fellow High Council seat holder.

"Howdy Master, your services are greatly required."

"Earnon, um... do you know what kind of condition Misslemax is in?"

"Yes Master we do, unfortunately your ship is the only one semi-done with refitting."

I raised an electronic eyebrow.

"You mean out of all the ships we have built I have the only functional one?"

"The only functional one in this sector."

"What's the problem anyhow? AND please don't tell me it's the Gongos."

"We have received a distress message from Planet G, they have specifically requested your presence."

"What Duplaflex or Omega isn't around?"

"No, they are on the other side of the galaxy right now, and Misslemax is the only functional ship that can get there in the shortest amount of time."

"*sigh*, all right, we'll take care of it, By the way who scheduled the tune ups for the three ships?"

"I believe it was your human Headmaster friend Tri-Star"

"Damn Alan, *fucking around again.*" I thought to myself. "Okay, we'll handle it, Shortstop out." I replied.

The screen just barely fizzled out as I walked around to give a speech.

"Well guys, looks like it's up to us once again to save the world... um Universe, so everyone is going to have to turn their emotions off and work double time, including yours truly, yackiti smackiti regular speech crap."

Everyone nodded and smiled as I went to my usual chair and expected it to rise out of the floor and open up, which would usually allow myself to enter the circle as it would close its casing around me, security fitting me in a stable and safe chair.

Unfortunately the chair didn't come up.

"And can somebody, please fix my chair!" I cried walking out to the elevator and heard Carry-On whisper.

"He's even more pissed-off than I am."

Chapter 2

"We'll be approaching Planet G in exactly fifteen hours Master, current long range scans show nothing out of the ordinary," said Boaty over the com channel.

"Okay, keep me informed," I said. The speaker went out and I fell back into my bed. The cushioning of the anti-gravity protons automatically matched every part of my body. It took us three months to perfect the first bed that was consisted of anti-gravity. A person would say "Bed" to a computer and a blue wave would appear before them which they could crawl into and then a sheet would appear, which they could change in thickness to suit their comfort level.

The only problem around this invention was that if a sudden energy loss occurred the bed would disappear and the person would fall to the ground, and possibly break their neck. So we had to develop a three-second backup supply to save them from hurting themselves. Thus when a loss of power supplies happened (which wasn't very often) the person would be lowered to a distance of safety and then released.

I began to rub my temples and concentrate on happy thoughts. Mike came over from the computer.

"Feeling stressed?" he said quirky.

I heard the door down the hall open and knew who was coming down the hallway by the heaviness of his feet.

"You called me?" asked Alan quite annoyed.

"Ah Alan," I said sitting up from the bed, and looking at my so-called friend.

"What?"

"Didn't I tell you to shift the rotation of ships when I assigned you the duty of?"

"So?"

"Alan? Our three major defenses are being overhauled at the same time, leaving us open for any attack."

"Attack from whom? Who's going to bother us? You've already beaten the Gongos!"

"That is not the point! The point is, I told you to leave at least one open, plus various non-military ships open at one time."

"You don't need any more ships. You have a whole army of robots-Zapbots at your command."

I looked at Mike, and he just smiled. Mike as usual would just stay out of arguments unless it was the two of us arguing. Alan on the other hand, I always had to give a reason too, something my Zapbots never had a problem with.

"Look, its very simple and I don't mean to be a prick, but if I give you a command I expect it to be followed with a normal decency of common sense. When I specifically **SAY** do this, I expect it done."

"Yes, but if I find out a way to do it better, wouldn't you want it to be done that way, better and faster?"

"Yes but there is that fine line, which you as a Headmaster trainee can't understand yet. It doesn't matter if we don't have any enemies right now; a big square ship with gooey Dinosaurs could come out from another dimension and cause problems for us. You always have to be prepared."

"Well what do you want me to do?"

"ARGHH" I cried. This had been going on for a couple of months.

"Nothing.... nothing.... I will talk to you guys later..."

Mike looked at me as if why I was kicking him out of my room, I gave him a look back saying 'I need to be alone!'. Mike and Alan hurried out talking about another game on the holeroom.

I got up and went to my closet and entered the circle.

"Robe," I said.

A bright light flashed around me and my regular duty shirt and pants were changed to a robe and underwear. I went to the food processor.

"Sleepy Tea, strong." I said.

Up materialized a cup as I grabbed the cup and walked to my desk and turned on my computer screen.

I went through my old school yearbook. It was the year just before I left as I had Boaty scan everything I had into computer. It was nice to have a steady available reference of anything you wanted to see at a point of time. I also enjoyed the old paperback though. Something about a book that makes it more personal I guess.

I was breezing through the pages, till up came the picture of Matt. How I almost forgotten he was there. It seems through the busyness of my daily life I sometimes forgot all that I had been through. At times I still couldn't believe all this was happening. I had become more assure of myself over this past year, and was just learning what is was like to be a leader, to take life as it comes. I always tried to finish everything at first, hoping for some free time at the end. Then I realized that there was always going to be something to do, and I just need to take time for myself now and then.

I missed Matt. Even with all my friends now, all my Zapbots, I still missed someone I held dear.

But why was I missing him? I had to reflect back on moments we shared together. Moments that only the two of us knew. Something that I was not ready to admit to myself and something I couldn't quite figure out yet. With all my duties and responsibilities I put my own happiness on the back burner.

Mom kept calling asking me when I was going to get married. Grandma wanted a grandson before she died. How could I tell them? How do I admit my feelings to myself?

Most of all the same feelings I had for Matt, I know felt for Quartz.

I turned down the computer and hit the light switch. I went to the bathroom and relieved myself in all three ways before heading to bed.

Chapter 3

I awoke with a headache for some reason. The last time I had a headache I went with David to that damn Yellow Planet. What a pack of trouble that turned out to be. I looked at the clock on the wall; I had three hours till we reached Planet G. I decided to go see what was going on around Misslemax. After taking a sonic shower and changing my clothes (into my X-O suit) and merged with my Shortstop body I began to walk around Misslemax.

"My Gawd!" I cried looking out over the mess. Wires hanging from ceilings, tools lying everywhere, and machinery tossed about. I checked the human levels of Misslemax, they were even worse, and all my friends were already complaining.

"My hair dryer exploded, it exploded!" cried Bill.

"You know you can have the computer re-materialize your hair to any style or form?" I asked.

"I did that!" said Rogish coming down the hallway, and saw all his red hair had become purple. Behind him, Mikey was following with a long wire in hand.

"Let me guess? Your hair dryer exploded too?"

"No, controller to entertainment system," he said.

I rubbed my hands over my eyes. I told them all to go back to everyday life and I would try to handle it. I began to walk to the level to recombine with my Shortstop body. All of a sudden, Boaty beeped in.

"Master, incoming transmission from David, he says it's urgent!" Boaty cried.

"Put in on audio," I said still moving, now walking faster.

"Hey!" said David.

"Hey, what's wrong?" I asked.

"Nothing, you know that verse in the Bible we were debating about?" David said.

"DAVID, not now!" I cried, and terminated the communication.

When I reached the bridge things were a bit better but still a chaotic mess.

"It's a sad day for Misslemax," whined Carry-On.

"Oh stop," replied his brother Pick-Up. "Your so pessimistic."

Flier came flying through the elevator in vehicle mode.

"Sorry I'm late for duty Master, the elevator just wouldn't move. I had to move it myself," replied Flier.

"Boaty, current status?" I asked. I walked to my chair, and slowly the floor began to transform, and then it kicked, locked up, sparked and went dead.

Speedy came around and gave me a portable unit to sit on.

"Current information coming in now Master. It would appear we have lost contact with Planet G. Our sensors are unable to read anything from the planet," said Boaty.

"Why is that?" asked Ultra Attack.

"It would appear there is some sort of strong magnetic force, deriving from the center of the planet's pole."

"That...is... odd?" I said.

"What's really interesting is the magnetic radiation coming from around the planet."

"Hightone did you receive the distress call from Starfleet command yet?"

"Actually I did, just couldn't access it till now cause we fixed the be-bopping computer," Hightone replied, "Here it is."

Up came the fuzzy image of a commander in uniform.

"This is Commander Shatner, on Planet G, Starbase 5. We are experiencing strange occurrences on Planet G. Please send Ambassador Anselmo immediately."

"Could this be another Gongo trap to lure you into-" started Botimus.

"No, something is telling me this is different." I got up from my portable chair.

"Boaty, Scan, work on what that strange radiation is down there. Botimus take the com and watch for anything strange." I said punching a button on my chair. "Mike Quartz; meet me in docking bay 5. And Pliers for god sakes fix this damn ship!"

"I'm trying Master, they just don't make them like—"

"Yeah yeah I know!" I said walking to the turbo-lift.

"This will be a good learning exercise for you," I said to Mike as we boarded my Shortstop body in vehicle mode. I looked at Mike as he seemed sort of plain.

"What?" I asked.

"I dunno, something strange about this situation."

"Oh gosh don't tell me that!" I cried. My Shortstop body took off flying out of the docking bay.

"Sorry, but...."

I paused.

"No I apologize, I've been a bit edgy lately."

"Lately?"

"Yes, why am I always like this?"

My Shortstop body began to shutter as I immediately checked my instruments.

"This is weird?" I replied. I looked out the window to see we had entered the strange red/orangish haze surrounding the planet.

"This isn't correct, there shouldn't be any problems with this. We have traveled through the planet's atmosphere a hundred times!" I cried.

Our shuttlecraft took a turn for the worse and I flew out of the chair towards Mike. The stability unit usually kept gravity stable for space transport, but when a sudden surge happened or some object hit us, it didn't have time to reconfigure the gravity. I grabbed the control panel and punched on the controls.

"We're losing power!" I cried. "God Dammit not again!" I said thinking of the time David and myself crashed on the Yellow Planet.

We plummeted towards the surface of the Planet as I saw the ground change from a continent to a pack of trees. I was punching everything I could to try and regain power. I tried to activate my headmaster function, but my Shortstop body kept falling and falling to the surface. My heart raced as we came colliding into the ground with the wave of the impact knocked me out cold.

Chapter 4

I slowly came out of my blackness. I got up, or at least tired too. I found myself running on broken exoskeleton parts. My X-O suit was completely shot, but I had absorbed the impact with all my energy, and was just running on bionic body replacements from my first battle many years ago.

I looked over at Mike, he was slumped over the chair. I crawled over to him and shook him.

"Mmmiike, speak to me," I struggled to say.

Mike got up and looked around.

"Shit, looks like Misslemax," said Mike.

"Auh hello here?" I said.

"Oh my n--"

"Just help me up will ya?"

Mike grabbed my half of a body, and helped me into the only chair still intact. I tried the control panels, but nothing worked.

"Are you all right?" Mike asked.

"Go the compartment in the back and see if my spare limbs are in one piece."

Mike came back with a replacement arm and leg. I attached them to my body and stood up.

"How the hell did you survive?" I asked Mike.

"Beats me, my good looks?"

"Ha ha very funny!"

I punched out the door, and it fell to the ground with a thud. I saw we were in a dense forest, with tons of foliage, and shrubbery.

"There's a mountain that way, if I remember correctly the command station should be in that direction," I replied.

"Thought you had that memory thing which gave you instant access in front of your eyes?"

"Yeah if we hadn't crashed, yes, as you can tell I'm without it," I said pointing down to my half on clothing and robotic body limbs showing on my one leg and one arm that didn't get smashed.

"Jeezez Anthony, now what?" Mike asked as I pointed in a general direction.

"We walk!"

Botimus was almost overclocking his circuits. He was in his chair, directly inputted into the main computer, listen and working at the same time. Along with the crew trying to repair the bridge, there was also everyone else running about. They had seen my Shortstop vehicle go down, and they were in quite of a panic.

"Readings?" asked Ultra Attack.

"Nothing," said Botimus looking at his screen with his two hands inter joined with the console.

"Interesting how such a small problem can become a big problem at times like these," replied Ultra.

"Botimus, I still cannot penetrate the radiation surrounding the planet," replied Scan.

"Botimus I have yet to communicate with the command base," responded Roberta.

"Try this girl!" said Hightone, who touched a panel and then it exploded.

"Keep scanning Scan, we need to find them. I am not sending anyone else in there until we find out what caused them to lose control," responded Botimus.

"Botimus? Why don't we just land Misslemax?" asked Speedy from his post.

Botimus looked at him and Speedy could tell what he meant. It was bad enough they were in a hectic situation with a skeleton of space ship, They couldn't risk taking Misslemax in this unknown danger. Speedy himself was unnerved about this situation.

Pliers and Repairs came onto the bridge arguing as their roar added more noise to the scene. Botimus was getting fried.

"It doesn't make any sense?" cried Repairs.

"I'm telling you the probe was fried to Zyberian dust!" replied Pliers.

"Guys, keep it down or I will have to turn everyone's emotion chips off," replied Botimus.

"BOTIMUS!" cried Scan.

"What?"

"Look at this," and up on Botimus' screen came the computerized grid of the planet and the radiation cloud floating around the planet.

"Look at this, it is a highly magnified form of carbon based-"

"SCAN!" yelled Botimus.

"It's alive!"

The bridge's noise went quiet. Everyone turned at Scan as he put the image up on the view-screen.

"When I inverted the scanner's sensors and focused on a higher frequency, I noticed something moving, but figured it was only space dust. However I watched it a bit more, and noticed a pattern in its movement. It was moving organically. I scanned an individual molecule and-"

Botimus disconnected from his console and got up to the screen.

"Can these beings be responsible for Master's crash?"

"Maybe. Request permission to extract a sample with a tracker beam," asked Scan.

Botimus pointed at Boaty and he engaged the tractor beam. The beam shot out of the bottom of Misslemax with a white glowing beam and attached itself to a case of radiation from within the cloud.

Scan ran to the docking bay to observe his finding as Botimus and Ultra followed in the turbo-lift. Scan reached the docking bay where Rup was sitting in the control tower. Overlooking the vast docking bay, with vertical towers and windows looking into space.

"I encased a level one force field around the specimen, don't know what it is yet," replied security chief Rup. Scan could see the interior tractor beam had engaged and handled the rest of the material.

Terrain was out in a protective shield and placed the small gas in a container while the tractor beam held it in place.

Scan was like a kid in a candy shop.

"Take it my lab immediately!" cried Scan.

"Scan, keep this thing contained until we know more about it. We don't want whatever it is that caused Master to crash to touch anything-" started Botimus, but Scan interrupted.

"Yes yes yes, will do!" Scan said running out the door.

The call speaker beeped in and Boaty came over the speaker.

"Botimus, we have Slipstream on the com."

"Put him through," said Botimus.

"Botimus, initial scans around the planet have shown nothing. I keep trying to fly through this mass of a cloud and get catching myself from losing power. I have no clue what it is, or how to get to planet," replied Slipstream. Botimus had sent the Air Guardian to try and fly through the mass, in hope of finding me.

"I know, we still haven't established any type of communication either. We just brought some part of the radiation on board for inspection. Scan believes it to be a life-form. Keep looking for a hole or something, I'll contact you soon. Botimus out."

"Botimus, whatever caused Master's ship to crash, could be a potential threat to us," replied Ultra.

"I know, I don't think we want it running ramped on this damaged ship either."

We had walked through the foliage for what seemed like hours as the weather was extremely miserable. High humidity with the sun was directly over head. The only relief we got was the shade from the occasional leaves on the trees.

Mike was doing better than I was. I was extremely concerned about our welfare, and our lives. The forests of this planet were extreme rough and very few ventured out from the city domes we had stationed on this planet. The planet itself was a scientific community, who was amazed at how such a small planet could keep stability, so far away from the star, and at the same time, produce such large vegetation.

I was walking along when I lost my footing and fell to the ground. No X-O suit to block out my emotions, I felt pain in my side. Mike came running up to me, and tried lifting me back up.

"This is not good," I said.

"Oh get up, and stop being a wimp. You can do this."

"Interesting how you can always keep a smile during these times,"

"Well do you want me to be depressed?" Mike asked smiling.

"Guess not," I said getting my body back up.

"You just got to--"

"Shshh!" I said, and looked around. I had heard and felt something, which did not mean good news. Looking at the trees in the distance I saw this tree move as I heard a rumble. I then saw a shadow of a figure.

I looked at Mike, and without saying anything he knew what needed to be said.

'Run'

We took off, while myself was already running at top speed thanks to my body replacement parts, giving me some super human abilities. I looked back and saw Mike running, with legs flying in the air, like they were barely touching the ground.

My heart was pounding, but I still had concern for Mike. The trees whisked by my body at the heightened speed. I then looked back and saw Mike was far behind.

I stopped and saw right behind Mike, and gaining fast was a purplish bear. A common animal to Planet G. Also very deadly and hungry.

Running towards Mike now I saw a tree we could possibly scamper up. I ushered Mike to run faster and pointed towards the tree. He ran right by me and scampered into the tree. I began to follow him, and half up the long curvy tree I saw the bear's mouth lurch out and grab my robotic leg.

It cut through the fake skin, but then I heard the cling of its teeth hitting the metal. It let go and I scampered up the tree towards Mike. The bear lay at the ground waiting, and Mike and I stood there catching our breath. I grabbed a phaser I grabbed from the wreckage and was about to fire, but the bear backed off.

"Are...are you okay?" he asked.

"Besides a small leakage, yeah," I replied.

We stayed up in the tree for about fifteen minutes. I knew if you just let the bear be it would get tiresome and try and find food elsewhere.

Chapter 5

"Come here you little microbe you!" cried Scan, controlling the electronic lasers.

Botimus and security personal Terrain walked into the science bay. It was an utter madhouse. with machines running, computers buzzing, mechanic machinery was making all sorts of hums.

"Any word from Master Anthony yet?" asked Scan.

"Not yet, Slipstream is still attempting to find a way down to the planet," replied Botimus.

"Come look at this?" Scan pointed towards the gas he had collected. Small round globes had grown within the confines of the tractor beam locked area.

"What are they?" asked Botimus peering into the field.

"Organisms of some sort."

"Organisms?" asked Terrain.

"Yes, a new breed of life that I'm afraid we've never discovered. It seems they live within this strange gas. They remain quite dormant, but I've been trying to extract them with lasers and in the process, these organisms seem to grow."

"Can you deduce what it will become?"

"Nothing as of yet, I would like permission to grab one and try and completely mature it?"

"What! You have no idea what that could be!" replied Terrain.

"I understand your concern Terrain, and I grant you the danger is there, but if we're ever going to save Planet G, let alone Master Anthony, I have to find out, either how to communicate or even...kill these little things. It appears that their radiation is quite dangerous to our mechanical making. However...."

"What?"

Scan walked over to his computer screen and brought up a three dimensional image of the microbe and a diagram of what appeared to be a laser.

"I think I've found a frequency in our lasers than can destroy them. I am unable to test it on such a small amount."

"Wait, so you want to grow this thing into whatever, and then kill it?" asked Terrain.

"I was hoping on communications first, but right now I see no other way to ensure Master's safety," said Scan and looked at Botimus. Terrain then looked at Botimus.

"Go ahead for now, but keep me in constant updates Scan. I don't want to release some sort of monster on Misslemax."

"I promise to keep him quite contained," responded Scan.

"Over here!" I cried to Mike. We had made it to a clearing surrounded by some rocks as Mike came running up carrying wood for a fire.

"This should do for now, the suns will go down soon," I replied.

I began to build some sort of fire. We had not eaten anything since breakfast. While I could hold out longer due to my mechanical implants Mike was already starving, and I could provide him with no food.

Once again, I felt helpless in my life. Probably the feeling I despised the most so I had to control my emotions though, because I didn't want Mike to worry.

Finally he asked me the question I was dreading he ask.

"Anthony, are we ever...?"

"I don't know," I interrupted, "We just have to keep moving. We'll get to civilizations at some point. It's not that big of a planet. "

I was only going on instincts on where the base would be. Just like being alone on The Yellow Planet, just like being in another Reality. Without my X-O suit I was so helpless. With my X-O suit the

Matrix itself had disappeared into my own sub space compartment and I could not call upon it for help.

The phaser I aimed to start the fire and thus we would take turns sleeping and watching guard. I would take the majority of the night cause I knew I could withstand it more than Mike.

The night wind grew cold, and sleeping itself was hard. Mike quivered as I tried to stay concentrated on the night. You never knew what could happen here. As I was looking above at the horizon I saw the faint glow of the gas around the planet. Still had no clue to what was going on. Only knew that my Zapbots couldn't get to us. So it was up to us to pull through.

Once again I felt all-alone.

"Are my audio sensors working right?" asked Botimus.

"Correct we have a security breach in the science lab!" cried Rup.

Hightone looked at Botimus, and they both ran towards the elevator.

"I am showing a power loss in that deck," replied Speedy looking at his monitor.

"Ultra you have the bridge," said Botimus as the turbo-lift door closed.

When Hightone entered the lab, it was completely in ruins. Smoke filled the air, the emergency lights were on, and the unbreakable stuff was even broken. Hightone came around the corner and saw Scan lying on the floor. Three giant cuts were placed in his side.

"SCAN!" Hightone cried running towards his damaged friend.

Scan was mumbling utter nonsense, Hightone picked him up and saw how badly damaged he was. Botimus ran in and helped lift Scan up.

"Pliers! We have a medical emergency down here!"

"I'm on my way!" responded Pliers through the speakers.

Botimus looked around the lab.

"What happened?" asked Hightone.

"Bot...Botimus, microbe, creature," mumbled Scan.

"Oh no Botimus he's doing his thesaurus thing again!" cried Hightone.

Suddenly the call speakers came through.

"Botimus we had another security breach, meet me in the Engine room," replied Rup.

Botimus nodded at Hightone and ran out the door. Pliers ran into the lab with Soar and Dodge to help Hightone with Scan.

As Botimus came around the corner and transformed into robot mode, the entire hallway of Misslemax was filled with smoke, and Botimus knew this wasn't from the repair crew. Dark slashes had been made into the wall, and actually cut through the metal. What ever had happen, was not good news for Misslemax.

At that moment, Botimus ducked as a laser shot just missed him.

"Oh Botimus, sorry, I didn't think it was you," replied Hot Shot. Around from behind him came Rup.

"Botimus! You will not believe this!" cried Rup.

A huge Roar pierced Botimus' audio receptors. He turned to find what appeared to be a bipedal creature, with dark, oily skin.

"A *tyrannosaurus Rex*?" thought Botimus.

The claws of the creature came down and cutting into Botimus' arm interrupted that thought. He jumped back and fired his laser at the giant beast. The beast roared and swirled around. His tail knocked Botimus over and the beast took off down the hall.

Rup and Hot Shot ran up to Botimus and helped him up. He arms was leaking, but not badly. Botimus turned on his call speaker.

"This is Botimus, to bridge! Security Alert, seal off decks 6 and 7!"

Immediately force fields turned on and walls slammed shut. Botimus himself transformed into vehicle mode and slowly moved with Hot Shot and Rup as he disabled the fields one by one and reengaged them in an effort to move to the sickbay.

"Your yelling at me, you shot this thing full of lasers, and the next thing you know-?" cried Hightone.

"A dinosaur grew. It has some sort of, radiation voltage. Its claw can rip through our shields and metal!" cried Scan as Pliers repaired his damaged body on the sickbay flotation bed.

"Which means he can get through our security stop points!" said Botimus as he entered the room.

"Botimus what do we do?"

"Scan I need all the information on this creature!" replied Botimus.

Scan transformed into computer mode. He displayed all the technical information for the microbe. As the graphics flashed across his broken screen, Scan spoke.

"I should have realized it, our normal lasers set at normal frequency caused the microbe to evolve. I believe these creatures were decedents of the first dinosaurs on Earth. This gas cloud which now circles the planet, is how they have moved throughout the ages."

"So this gas cloud has been their spaceship?" asked Hot Shot.

"For their offspring. It's radiation as you can tell can hurt us, and it has been its protection for their offspring for all these years. Planet G is the planet most suitable planet for them to develop on."

"So how did they get this sort of technology to travel to planet to planet?"

"Unknown, if anything I think this is a built in survival, evolutionary method."

"So how do we stop them for tearing us apart. If they make cuts in us, think of what they can do to humans!" cried Rup.

"I have developed a laser tuned to the right frequency that can numb or stun them, I have placed this on the fastest Zapbot available."

"Oh no, you don't mean-" cried HotShot.

In the door came a blur of a car, that transformed into a Zapbot. [Vision](#) was one of the fastest Zapbot, capable of multiple speeds.

"ICameAsSoonAsICould, YesIDidIDidIDid, RanAsFastAsICould!"

"Vision!" cried Botimus.

"Vision is equipped with the first laser to stop this creator. I am having Repairs fashion more as we speak!" replied Scan.

"First we need to get a hold of that one running rampage through Misslemax, Scan can we set the force fields throughout Misslemax to same the frequency?" asked Botimus.

"That may take some time," Scan said retransforming into robot mode.

"Time is something we do not have very much of," replied Rup.

"You can say that again," said Hot Shot.

Chapter 6

"Anthony Wake up!"

Mike shook me to wake up to let him take turns watching the area.

"Give me the laser, and you can go back to sleep."

I sluggishly went over to a soft spot on the ground and went back to sleep. I was dreaming again. I was looking out over a vast canyon. Mike was on the other side, and a Dinosaur, with huge claws, and white fur came over to him, as he was trying to yell to me over the cliff. I watched the Dinosaur come over and devoured him. All I could do is stand and watch.

I awoke with sweat, my heart pounding like crazy. The sky had become gray pale and a storm looked like it was approaching.

Looking around to let myself calm down and realize it was only a dream, I was stopped as my shock only grew when I saw Mike was nowhere nearby. I got up and thought, "He probably went to get more firewood, remain calm." Then I heard him scream.

Grabbing the laser and scrambled up the side of the small cliff I began searching endless for Mike, looking everywhere and opening my ears to every sound possible.

I ran and came to a cliff and realized my dream was coming true and freaked. The cliff was just enough so a normal human could not cross it. If I had my X-O suit I could've crossed it in no time but I peered my eyes to see Mike, across the cliff, tied up and then I saw the most feared beast on Planet G. White hair, covered like a wolf, but bi-pedal like a man, with giant eyes and teeth. The Wompar, moved from his tiny cave and near a fire that Mike was near.

Acting fast I knew even with my human body bionic replacements I could jump pretty far. But could I make it over this small ravine? I looked down and could not see the bottom and I realized that if I stood here, Mike would die, and if I tried I could make it or die too.

I hated decisions...

Running back I got a running start and I turning around with all my might, and all my energy I ran towards the cliff. I concentrated on both running and making sure I jumped at the right moment. Just as I came to the edge of the cliff I let my legs go, and I soon found myself flying through the air. I realized then the small crack in the ground seemed like the San Andreas Vault at that moment.

I began to fall and was just nearing the other side. Everything seemed like slow motion. My heart must have stopped beating as I reached the other side of the cliff and grabbed the edge as I began to slide down.

My foot jammed right into a crack in the side of the rock as I heard Mike yell I began crawling up the cliff.

I reached the top and peered over the edge. The Wompar was holding Mike above the fire. Mike was yelling at the top of his lungs. I aimed the laser and fired at the beast and it hit his arm and tore a gash in his side. He threw Mike across the fire and Mike landed on the ground, bouncing, still tied up and then went limp.

The Wompar ran like the coward he was and I ran over to Mike.

"Mike, are you okay?" I asked breathing heavily to my tied up friend.

"Ouch!" he said.

I did some First Aid and surprising enough he had no broken bones or anything except a few bruises. My relief finally came as I came down from my emotional high. I fell back to the ground and collapsed.

Mike crawled over to me, and grabbed my hand. When he grabbed it, it was a feeling I had not felt in a long time.

"Anthony, thank you!" he said.

I tilted my head up to see his bruised face.

"You owe me one buddy!"

"I owe you a lot." he responded.

I was surprised he said that. I then laid on my back, and saw the sky getting darker.

"What is our status?" asked Botimus as he walked upon the bridge.

"We have sealed off the decks, and so far no major casualties, but we had no communication with decks 10-14, and we believe the microbe Dinosaur is somewhere between there," replied Boaty.

Scan, Hightone, Rup, and Hot Shot all reached the bridge now. Everyone was now at their stations watching monitors for any sign of movements.

"We have no way of tracking him," replied Speedy.

"Maybe I can find him," and Scan transformed into computer mode and linked with the main computer.

"Let me help you there bro!" said Hightone and transformed into his communicator mode and linked with Scan.

"Monitor for any strange sounds throughout Misslemax," replied Scan.

"Nothing grooving but the moving of this ship!"

"Botimus, we have several Zapbots throughout that section of the ship!" cried Ultra Attack peering at Scan's screen. Scan brought up a map of Misslemax, side section, level by level. The four levels were encased in Red, and the rest of the station blinked with yellow.

"Oh no, he's right under the human levels!" cried Flier.

"Vision, you're with me, tell the Protectors to meet me at Level 14, section D," replied Botimus, as he and Vision as they went back to the turbo-lift.

We continued our journey through the vast land of Planet G. We were talking nonsense to keep awake and just keep going.

"Why do they call this Planet G?" asked Mike.

"Cause when they first landed on here the guy said 'Good Grrrrracious'," I replied.

"No fuck!" he replied.

"Yep, honest to Goooooodness!"

The weather had gotten darker and I knew it was going rain, which was bad cause it was acid rain on Planet G. I was looking for cover and was hoping the forest we were in would provide us with enough cover.

Stopping again I was catching something out of the corner of my eye, praying it wasn't a bear or some other violent creature. I was beginning to hate this planet, and I'm sure Mike was feeling the same way.

I saw Mike get lifted up into the air as I noticed a large vine had decided to attach itself to Mike. Then I realized I had forgotten another important fact of Planet G. Its vegetation was also alive, and usually ate mammals.

Grabbing my phaser I then found a vine wrapping itself around my leg. I paused to look down and before I could react, I was jolted upside down and dropped the phaser.

Mike was once again screaming. For myself, I was so tired being scared, and just getting frustrated. I saw the vines from the tree creep around Mike's head and began to squeeze.

I then saw Mike's pants get extremely wet. I then remembered another important fact and began to let go my own movements I had held in for so long.

The vines dropped us like flies and we fell to the ground gasping for breath. I grabbed Mike and ran out of the reach of the vines toward an opening in the forest.

"You're a genius!" I said.

"What? I don't get it."

"This planet's vines are allergic to human urine!"

Mike began to laugh uncontrollably.

"Seems like we're even now!" Mike said.

Seeing that the sky was getting darker I grabbed him as we came to a clearing, a great sigh of relief came across my chest. A tall building lay across a vast field of daises. I felt like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz. Then realizing where we were and that a storm was coming, we had to cross the field before the evil witch's spell hit us.

I grabbed Mike and still tired, and almost completely exhausted we ran towards the figurative castle.

Chapter 7

Botimus, Vision, and the Protectors - [Burn Rubber](#), [Copter](#), [Double Shot](#), and [Phiston](#) followed close behind down the hall. The Protectors were a specially designed team of Zapbots as they were unlike the other Zapbots in that they only had a computerized brain and not as organic one as the rest of the Zapbots had. Their intent was to block out all emotions in battle as they were like a typical human android, They proved a successful fighting team, although it very hard to understand them at times.

At times other Zapbots criticized us for not giving them organic brains, but they had been formed by an accident during their creation, and any attempt to give them an organic one now, would possibly destroy them. It was soon discovered not long after we had created them, that they did have some sort of personality, and to this day, that still confused the Zapbot scientists. Rather dull at times though, they failed to get the point of many jokes and humor.

Now, Botimus and Vision equipped with his modified laser and the Protectors with their own lasers given to them by Repairs walked silently and quickly through the dark blurry halls of Misslemax, personal shields at maximum and all sensors alert.

As they came around a corner of Section S, in Deck 13, they saw no signs of the Microbe Dinosaur as their infer red lights pierced the smoke of the dark. Botimus was on high alert as he ordered Scan's laser frequency attached to Misslemax's main laser. Hoping there was some way he could contain these Dinosaurs first, and not have to destroy them.

"I heard this thing is quite a sight," said Copter by remote.

"It is a real doozy!" said Burn-Rubber trying to make a joke.

Out of the darkness, a cry came and they heard the roar of the beast, and saw it coming towards them. They saw in the hallway, poor Slide laying on the ground, almost completely destroyed, his body in pieces.

They raised their rifles and fired. Their lasers hit the irradiated Dinosaur and it roared back and fell on the floor. Botimus slowly walked up to it. A claw came right across Botimus' chest and he leaped back as the Dinosaur jumped up and Botimus fired again.

Vision came in between Botimus and the Dinosaur with incredible speed. He fired his new rifle and the Dinosaur took off running. Vision transformed into vehicle mode and flew around the Dinosaur, and fired again. The Dinosaur fell to the ground and tried to get up. Vision continued with an onslaught of his special laser and then after about ten seconds stopped.

The Dinosaur was immobilized, lying on the floor. The laser seemed to weakened it enough to cause it loose all energy. However it was while they were observing this then they heard another roar.

Botimus turned around and now saw... more trouble.

Four more dinosaurs came running towards them, their feet stamping on Misslemax's floors, shaking the entire hallway. The bodies in perfect unison, running towards my Zapbots.

The Protectors transformed and flew towards the Dinosaurs. They rammed their vehicle modes right into them. Copter jammed his blades into the first Dinosaur and cut into his side. Burn-Rubber knocked another over and continued to go back over with his tires, leaving deep tracks into his.

"Phiston try to capture them with your laser!" cried Copter.

Phiston fired his electronic cage at the third dinosaur. It dissolved as soon as it touched the radiation. With this Double Shot transformed and fired his heavy artillery from his tank mode. It exploded on the remaining two dinosaurs collapsing them to the ground.

The one dinosaur finally grabbed Burn Rubber and threw him across the hallway. Phiston flew up and fired his laser from Scan. It hit the Dinosaur and he swirled around with a constant onslaught to the Dinosaur.

"Need to get insurance on those tires!" said Double Shot transforming into robot mode and helping Burn Rubber up.

"Is that a joke?" Burn Rubber asked.

Copter flew in and fired multiple rounds at the final dinosaur as now Vision and Botimus now joining in with their firepower. The hallways were full of smoke and gas as the lasers were highlighted through the smoke. After the smoke had cleared, four dinosaurs lay immobilized on the floors of Misslemax, and the Zapbots were running low on fuel. Botimus just stood there with a sad expression on his face. All knew how he was feeling at that moment, but none could see any other way.

It hurt like a thousand stings from killer bees as the rain began to pour and burned our skin. We were still too far away, so far away from the station. I could see its tall towers reaching the clouds, and wished I could fly there.

I fell to the ground; I had no energy left at all. The rain was ripping my real and fake skin into pieces. Pain was constant and unbearable. How I could even think at this time was incredible.

Mike ran up to me, and placed his body on top of mine.

"What are you doing?" I cried in pain.

"Saving you!" he said. I pushed him off my body. The rain was now pouring like a monsoon. It barely hid our tears, in both of our eyes. I looked at Mike and his eyes had turned red with frustration.

We lay on the ground, and just as we were about to close our eyes, as immeasurable pain was hitting our body, I heard Mike whisper.

"Anthony...Anthony, good—"

I don't know I did it, or what was doing it. I got up and grabbed him, threw him over my shoulders and began to run. The pain was there, in fact, it intensified. Somehow, I just keep going. I keep marching, and how I did this I still don't know. You could hear me grunt and scream with every step. I was crying also, but I wouldn't let that stop me for some reason. We reached the edge of the huge field and I jumped over a fence. I looked around while running looking for some sort of shelter. Then I saw, in the clearing near the trees, an outpost station. I ran towards it. Whoever was in it, must have seen me and opened the door.

I couldn't stop running. I ran right into the door and dropped to the floor. The outpost guard grabbed Mike and myself and pulled us into shelter.

"All disabled!" replied Phiston entering the bridge. The Dinosaurs were placed within modified containers in the cargo bay now that they were disabled. Alive for now, but plans were being made to transport them back to Gearatron for study. Pliers was in the process electronically bandaging Botimus up.

"Botimus I have equipped [Slipstream](#) with a shield capable of going through the radiation stream around the planet!" replied Scan still in computer mode.

"What are you waiting for?" asked Botimus.

"If Slipstream activates this shield, it is a possibility he could kill the entire colony of microbes!"

"We don't have time for this, Master Anthony could be dead by now!" cried Speedy.

Botimus was looking around to see everyone staring at him. He was now placed in the leader's chair again. He had to decide, if he wanted to kill a new form of discovered life, or save his only Master.

"Scan is there way to get Slipstream into-?"

"I'm afraid not Botimus, I have considered every possible alternative!" replied Scan.

"We will be killing approximately one million microbes Botimus," Boaty replied.

Botimus was silent. He looked at the damaged Misslemax; he looked at himself, and his damaged comrades. He sighed and then spoke...

"Tell Slipstream to do it," responded Botimus.

After he was repairs he walked in my ready-room. He sat down in the command chair and put his face in his robotic hands.

Chapter 8

The doctors at the base had put Mike and myself on respirators and bandaged our burned skin. Mike was in better shape than I was as one could see my mechanic replacement parts, and I looked like I had melted in the noonday sun. As the doctors confirmed we were going to be okay a commander to the facility came into my room and walked up to my bed.

"Still no word?" I asked.

"Afraid not Ambassador," he replied. I was always amazed how these generals always kept a straight face when giving bad news.

The white clean walls of the facility, and the white sheets on the bed made it seem like I had died and gone to heaven. They had pumped food into my system, and slowly fed Mike. We had gone two days without any food or water, and everyone was surprised we had survived the harsh terrain of the planet. I had been briefed on the current situation.

"We have had several break-ins to our facility, our men have been unable to contain these dinosaurs. They keep moving towards us at incredible pace," the general replied.

I sighed.

"You must keep trying to get a hold of Missile-" I was interrupted by a crash. The general ran out the door and I could see him from the doorway. The next thing I saw was a claw of immense size rip the general in two.

I froze, as we saw a creature, bi-pedal, with scaly skin, a huge mouth that resembled a Rex devour the General. With no remorse, no stopping, he just constant eating of a human being as he was like a piece of fruit.

The Dinosaur crashed into our room as the nurses ran and screamed. I was unable to move, and I knew Mike was barely able to. Within seconds, a laser blast flew over my body. I turned my head and saw Mike had grabbed the phaser and shot it at the Dinosaur. He kept it on a constant burst. The dinosaur seemed unaffected as he appeared to have a radiant glow about him.

Mike then shot the ceiling as the phaser crumpled the ceiling onto the dinosaur. I closed my eyes from the dust and after a second reopened it.

I saw the Dinosaur buried within the ceiling parts. Then he began to stir and slowly pushed his way out of the rubble. Mike tried the phaser, but it had run out of energy. He threw it at the Dinosaur in disgust. He saw the Dinosaur's real target.

The Dinosaur slowly came over my bed with his mouth, dripping with saliva. Utter fear entered my body again, as I was so frustrated my mind exploded. We had struggled so far, and now I was about to be cut down by some primitive reptile! I shook with hatred!

The Dinosaur raised his claw, and just as it came down a giant hand came crashing into the ceiling and knocked the Dinosaur out.

The hand began to pull the pieces of the ceiling off my body. I saw through the broken ceiling the white gleaming face of Slipstream our Air Guardian. I smiled with immense joy.

"Hey Master, how's it going? Heard you needed a ride!"

I frowned and nodded my head towards my body.

"Falling apart at the seams as you humans say?" he said laughing.

I had to smile.

The dinosaur had died from the impact. Slipstream answered his radio.

"Come on down!" he said.

"All specifications show you're working in normal operating parameters ^{click}," replied Click looking at the three dimensional hologram of my body.

"Took quite a toll there Master," replied Tiny.

"Gee, I lost all my artificial skin, broke several body parts, hmmm I would say I had it pretty bad," I replied.

"It was interesting how you survived though," replied Superrobot.

"You could've of died," responded Experiment. I looked at him and nodded.

"Not my first time to the rodeo boys..." I replied.

Mike walked in to my hospital room.

"Slipstream is ready to take us back when you're ready Anthony," Mike said.

"I think if anything, this was a valuable lesson to us all." I said.

"What lesson is that?"

"Be prepared, and never overconfident."

"Or get someone else to do these shuttle runs ^{click}" joked Click.

"Yeah sure!" I said looking at Mike, knowing how we have saved each other lives.

"I think if it wasn't without either of us, we wouldn't have made it," I said to my friend as I looked into his eyes coming to a realization.

My words seem to echo in the room.

"Superb work Slipstream, I am proud of ya!" I said. Sitting in the giant Zapbot's cabin, watching the stars glide by us as we traveled back to Misslemax through the atmosphere. Riding in Slipstream was like being on a luxury jet for a human or Zapbot.

"Good News, we finished repairs on Misslemax. Pliers actually pulled it off. He's gotten drunk on energy celebrating!" Slipstream laughed.

"I don't believe it!" I cried, grabbing a cup of tea from the replicators.

"Considering all the trouble we've been through, I can't believe it either," Slipstream replied as the monitor in front of us glowed when he spoke.

The call speakers came on, and Roberta came across over the com from the docking bay.

"This is Misslemax, we have you on our sensors, you are cleared for docking at any time Slipstream, just don't scratch those razzzy dazzy blades of yours."

"Haha, believe me Roberta, my name is not Soar!" Slipstream responded.

"Okay, knock it off guys, just get us home," Mike replied.

"Feeling stressed," Slipstream said mocking Mike.

"Oh that's funny!" Mike responded. "I've crashed enough for my lifetime."

"Well once you learn how to fly a Headmaster body, you won't have to worry about my driving anymore," I responded laughing.

It was discovered our modified shields did not cause as much damage to the cloud as we thought. At the point of Slipstream's arrival the cloud had pretty much settled on the planet as such, Dinosaurs started to grow within the harsh environment. With the modified lasers the Protectors came down to the planet's surface and proceeded to clean up the remaining dinosaurs around the various encampments. Establishing some force fields around the scientific settlements it allowed the scientists to now study the newly formed animals in their habitat safety. I true paleontologist's dream, Planet G now provided a new mission for the residents.

Mike and myself came off the elevator as Misslemax was now in a superb condition, I was extremely proud of Pliers and Repairs getting the ship back into shape, after all the Dinosaurs had done. I walked towards the long stairway that led up to the generator I was checking. After the long rest at the hospital down on planet I was desperate to get back to work.

Mike was following me, learning how to use the computers on Misslemax. I was getting a bit frustrated cause he was always relying on me to show him how it was done. But I understood the knack to the Zapbot world would come in time.

Unfortunately, Alan had pissed me off again. This whole time he kept fooling with the files in the main computer's security folder. I got so pissed I assigned him to kitchen duty and he laughed at that. I was unsure of what to do with him. He was being a real jerk toward me, and he was using Mike as a scapegoat in several arguments.

"Life seems so different now," I said.

"Why's that?" asked Mike.

"Dunno, just seems more patterned."

"I think if anything, we realize how lucky we really are."

"That... is... for sure,"

"By the way, I never did get a chance to thank you."

"For what?"

"Saving my life?"

"You saved mine as well, if it wasn't for you and phaser and that short delay, I would be in three pieces right now."

"Eh guess you're right on that one Anthony."

"I'm ALWAYS right!" I said joking.

"Uhh I wouldn't go that far!"

I set one foot on the staircase and peered down into the vast vault below. It was the vault in Misslemax where the energy was generated for warp. This particular section was both Headmaster and human equipped, so there were two sets of stairs. The vault lead straight down into the main energy core of Misslemax, if it wasn't for emergency shields and nets, a Zapbot or human could jump to their death.

As I was starting to walk up the steps, I then noticed something. A piece of safety net was cut open. It was about the size of a small Zapbot.

"Computer confirm establishment of emergency force field around stairs?" I said.

The computer was silent, which meant something was wrong.

"Mike!" I whispered.

"What now!?"

"Shhh!"

Slowly I turned around slowly and saw out of the corner a shadow emerge. I grabbed Mike and pointed towards the top of the stairs. The dinosaur screamed at the top of his lungs with his glaring eyes were full of radiation. I realized at that moment, this last dinosaur must have survived in the warp generators of Misslemax.

"Security breach, deck 2H!" I cried into my com.

The dinosaur came running toward me. I engaged my X-O suit and within seconds mechanical metal and an armor suit wrapped around my body and encased it. As I shot the stairs they cracked and collapsed into the vast void below. I flew up towards the top of the platform and saw Mike scrambling for the second elevator. As he approached it he saw it was smashed to pieces by the monster. There was no way out.

The dinosaur saw the vast void he had to cross, he ran back leaped up and jumped into the air. He came flying right towards me as his claw slashed right through my metal.

At that exact moment I activated my Matrix power and the power came through my suit and flew out towards my hands. It encased the dinosaurs and it froze in dead air. Then after a second of non-interrupted power, the dinosaur evaporated into air.

I fell to the floor; as Mike came running up to me. Pliers and Scan came running into the huge hall.

"Scan!" I cried, "Scan the entire ship for dinosaurs!" I replied.

"Scanning now," he replied "All clear!"

Botimus came into the chamber and flew up towards my level on his rocket boosters.

"Master are you okay?" he asked.

I was silent. For some reason my mind went blank and simply could not speak.

I was standing in clouds. I could not figure out where I was as my mind was a fog. All I knew is that it seemed like a dream. I looked around for some sort of indication of where I was.

Then I heard a voice...

"Anthony..."

Who was this voice? Where was I? What was going on?

"Feeling better?" Botimus asked me in my ready-room office in my Shortstop mode.

"A bit." I replied.

The stress from the incident had overloaded my body and I went into a coma. I was in my bed for about a week just sleeping as my Zapbots were able to nurse me back to health. During that time I had the strangest dream that I could not put my finger on.

"Never figured that would happen." Botimus responded.

"Neither did I," I replied.

I looked at Botimus like a father looks at his son after winning the baseball game.

"I'm proud of you, you realize that," I said.

"Yes I do, but I still feel at times I am not worthy of leadership," Botimus replied.

"Neither did I at the beginning. That will pass in time. When you start realizing that you won't be questioned, when you have faith, and others have faith in you, then you realize what it's about."

"I understand."

"You've come a long way my friend."

"I would agree, and so have you."

"True, how very true. But let's head home, we still have a lot of work to do." I said getting up as we headed toward the door to the bridge.

We walked onto the Fortress Misslemax bridge, our home away from home. My Zapbots were once again at their stations preparing to do what they did best. Keeping the ship running.

"Status?" I asked sitting in my chair.

"Confirmed, all systems are functioning perfectly," replied Boaty.

"Time to get the gear out of here," replied Flier.

"If there are any more problems I will resign!" said Pliers.

"Oh really, would you really?" asked Repairs laughing.

"Shut-up!" Pliers mocked back.

"Planet G confirmed everything is in order," replied Roberta.

"All Zapbots are ready Master," responded Ultra.

I pressed the ship wide message button, got up and began to walk around.

"In the short time I have gotten to know you guys, and move around this vast void of space, I have become very proud of you and your efforts. I am unsure of what the future may hold for us, but I know one thing, that we will face it together."

I nodded towards Flier and he pressed the button on his panel. I saw my Zapbots on the bridge. I saw my friends Mike from the observation lounge. Misslemax's screen showed the stars speeding up, and its engines roared inside as it jumped into hyperspace.

The End

Epilogue

A short while later back on the vacation spot on Tockmak 3.

"Are you going to play that thing all night or are you going to sing?" asked Mike to Boaty hooking up his keyboard. The crew had returned to our original vacation goals and picked up where we left off.

Slowly Boaty began to tap "Row Row your Boat" out on the portable keyboard.

I began to sing, soon afterwards everyone else joined in. A chorus of harmonies ran through the air on Tockmak 3. A chorus of friends with the Universe around them.

* * *

"I can not believe it," said the dark figured as he strolled through the bridge of the overtaken ship. A small race of tiny aliens once controlled this ship. Now their bodies were either ripped apart, shredded or simply killed, lying around the vessel as the new occupants were proceeding to adjust it to their controls. The aliens were casualties to their ignorance.

"Neither will Shortstop, once I see him again!" replied the second dark shadowy figure with the red glowing eyes. He sat down in the newly formed command chair for the tiny vehicle.

"Fastest course towards the planet!" replied the third figure. "Victory!"

To Be Continued...