

Foreword

This story was very much inspired by one of my favorite movies, Superman II. I still get chills every-time he saves that lady and her baby during the Metropolis battle scene. While inspired I feel it retains its own originality as you will soon read.

This story is also the introduction of my friend Matt. Matt who is different from Matt 'Rogish', was a friend I met during 8th grade. We became good friends freshman year but had a falling out around sophomore year. It's a tall tale that will probably become a story itself one day, but needless to say I was very taken with him. He became a main figure point of these stories of which you see going forward. While my fascination with him has come and gone the lingering image of his youthful innocence still remains. He appreciated the stories I wrote with us in them (as primitive the stories were at the time) and encouraged me when no one else did back in the days. For this gift I will continue to honor his memory in these next few stories, as the friend I remember.

Lastly, this story ties in the somewhat the connection to the Transformers and the Zapbots. In the original saga, they lived in this same universe. However in rewriting these (third time around) I am trying to make them seperate. As according to the wiki Unicorn is considered one being that travels through multiple universes, you can place this incident right after the Starstream's Ghost episode of Season 3 of the Transformers show if you wish.

Anthony S. Anselmo

Unicron Returns

By Anthony S. Anselmo

Chapter 1

I was running now at top speed. As I ran through the purple corridor the lasers were hot on my feet. I continued to fire at the spear shaped balls were coming around the corners fast as lighting.

The room interior was hot, but I was felt comfortable, just a little tired from running. Out of nowhere a sphere came up from the ground. It hit my left foot and I stumbled onto the flat floor.

Rolling quickly just missing getting hit in the rear with a laser, I looked at the ceiling and saw about ten gun turrets aiming towards me. I aimed my lasers and saw through my viewfinder various graphical targets locking on to them, right before my eyes.

My arm automatically moved to the correct position and with just a thought and a small twitch in my muscle a laser blast came from my arm and hit the turret. It exploded into numerous pieces.

Then one after another my arm went from turret to turret and fired, hitting each turret precisely. I saw before my eyes numerous readouts and graphics flashing like crazy on the visor screen.

However with this entire situation going on, I didn't lose any concentration. I could still look through the graphics to see the world in front of me. The graphics were like second nature to me, just like breathing, or blinking.

I got up and continued running. As I did additional turrets came out of the wall and fired.

Finally reaching the end of the long corridor, I turned around once again and took out the remaining turrets to insure myself safe passage beyond the huge blue metallic door that stood in front of me.

I aimed my hand at the door. With one shot the door exploded inwards. As the smoke cleared I slowly walked in. Upon entering the dark glow of the room I heard a crash and turned around to see that a barricade of blue beams had surrounded the room, blocking any possible exit.

I switched my sensors to infer red. I now saw the darkness of the room was diminished. I could see something glowing coming forward. As it approached me it grew in size and complexity.

It was a computerized holographic head. The face looked like somebody had carved it out of rock. Planes and straight lines made out the form. It hung, floating in space of the dark room. It grew to immense size and became as big as the entire room, over fifty meters tall. It howled and looked down on my puny robotic body. Then its eyes began to glow and my body began to sweat once again.

Quickly jumping out of the way, the laser marks came from the eyes of the image hitting the floor. I turned to see a huge burn mark in the metal floor. I got up, and the face turned towards me and began to fire again.

I expertly dodged the fire blasts. Jumping, prancing and flying around the room like a mad bumblebee, as I finally found myself behind the head and fired at the monstrosity.

The head turned around so fast it shocked me. However, I had no fear in my body. Firing again at the vision, the head laughed, as if the lasers were nothing more than a tickle.

Continuing to fire and dodge out of the way, I misjudged a calculation and a laser blast hit me dead on. I flew back in the room and landed, sliding on the floor. I slid to a point about an inch before touching the blue beams the surrounded the perimeter of the room.

Low on energy, I quickly scanned the room for any weaknesses, for a possible escape. I saw a lone window at the end of the room, but the blue beams covered the way to the outside atmosphere.

In a last resort I concentrated my lasers on a burn mark left by the head. A hole began to form. The head flew over me and began to fire. I put up my other arm, and a force field shield formed. It looked like a piece of reflected glass hanging above my head. The laser blasts reflected off as I continued to enlarge a hole through the floor.

When the hole was large enough for my size I jumped down into utter darkness. Falling now I hit what seemed to be a large pipe and slid down while a faint glow came from the bottom. After a while I could see myself in this blue pipe.

Before I knew it the pipe ended and I was falling into thin air. I looked down and saw I was at least a thousand miles above the ground. I could see the entire landscape and the curve of the strange planet.

I was now falling at an alarming rate to the hard ground below. I tried to transform but my energy was too low. Engaging my emergency electronic parachute a huge ray of light shot from my back and formed a curved bag to hold the air. I looked behind me and saw the huge blue ship, that looked like a floating Titanic with a giant carved head on the front. The head resembled something from an ancient Earth, something ancient cultures might put on a statue or a tomb.

The ground came closer and closer to my feet as I set down stumbling and rolling. As my parachute dissolved and I stood up, I looked around and saw Boaty standing there observing me.

"Computer, quit program," he replied.

The scenery and everything else around me dissolved into thin air. The only thing left was a room with metallic panels and crevasses sticking out. As Boaty and myself still remained, I disengaged from my Shortstop body. The head of Shortstop transformed back into myself with my X-O suit and I stood there as Boaty peered onward.

"Well, did I lose?" I asked.

"No Master, you won, yet again." Boaty replied.

Standing on top of my huge Shortstop body. I sat down and pulled out a bottle of water and began to chug it down.

"Wadda mean I won? I retreated!"

"But that was the solution to the problem." replied Boaty.

"So you mean this whole holographic training whatever.... purpose.... was to escape?"

"Yes Master, this program I devised was to show you, sometimes, the best way to win, is to... (as the humans would say), run for it."

"Well, it seems I haven't found a program of yours I can't beat!" I said smiling. I finished my water, put the bottle away in my side compartment, and reengage with my larger body. Boaty and I left the holographic arena through two huge doors and went to the bridge of our spaceship, Fortress Misslemax.

It was the time just after the third great battle. My Zapbots were developing new technology everyday as we proceeded to move both the Earth and Gearatron forward. They had just recently conjured holographic illusions, or controlling atomic matter in a contained environment. Thus we could create, a holographic matter room. We called this the 'holo-room' for short. Illusions that people could touch, feel and some things like food, could be created realistically. This was now available through our handy-dandy food replicators.

Boaty was always coming up with new ways of testing me in the game arena. To this date I had always beaten his programs, but it was continual training for me to help the Zapbots in my new Shortstop form.

As we walked to the turbo lift my internal calendar beeped me on my visor screen.

"Oh shit. I forgot. I have to go pick up Matt."

The double doors automatically opened and Boaty and I walked in.

"Destination, please?" said the computer.

"Bridge," replied Boaty.

"Docking bay," I replied.

"Due to the nature of the requests the closest available destinations will be considered first." replied the computer.

The turbo lift began to move down to the level, which had the docking bay. Poor Boaty would have to wait an extra thirty seconds to reach the bridge.

"Your friend Matt is doing very well in training as well Master," Boaty said.

"Yeah, I'm glad he signed on. Who knows what he could do being a Headmaster," I replied.

"I'm surprised he agreed, considering the risks of being a Zapbot."

"Everybody knows the risks Boaty. Some more than others."

With that thought the turbo lift stopped and the doors opened.

"See ya later Boaty. Try and make a harder program for me next time." I replied.

"If I made it any harder it would unfair to your abilities Master. You're lucky the game arena doesn't do anything to cause harm to a Zapbot, or humans for that matter."

"Well, of course. Maybe there is a way you can make it more realistic to create some sense of fear."

"I'll try Master, good day."

The doors slid shut and Boaty calm and stern as ever flew up to the bridge.

I walked down the hallway and approached the docking bay room. As I entered I started thinking of the first time I told, or revealed myself, my real self to my friend Matt.

Matt was a good friend even before my Zapbots came into existence. He transferred to my school around middle school and for some reason I was struck by his giddiness and personality. He seem to be a nerd and we immediately started to get along. Alas our classes were vastly different so we only saw each other during lunch and gym. Due to my parents strict guidelines having friends over was asking to part the red sea. So we only hung out a few times before the Zapbots appeared in my life.

Even as I created my Zapbots I continued to go to school, and even as reports of strange robotic creatures ran amuck everywhere in the world, I kept my true identity a secret.

I remembered the first day Matt found out about me. It was just after I received my driving license. I was driving him to a small woodland area as the excuse was to do some fishing. As we drove we argued over each other tastes in music. Slowly after a while I let my hands drift off the steering wheel.

At first Matt didn't notice as he probably thought I was driving with my knee. But as soon as we made a turn, and the wheel turned by itself Matt's mouth slammed shut and I could sense a dread of fear in his eyes.

The car, at the time was Slide, and we pulled off the road and I looked Matt straight in the eyes and with all my sincerity told him about my Zapbots. He actually listened, all the while frozen in fear. I slowly removed my coat, and held up my arm. With my other arm I pulled back the skin to reveal a metallic casing underneath that revealed my bionic skeleton.

I told him how I was recently in a battle and lost my arms, legs and about everything that mattered (except the most important stuff.) My Zapbots, the ones everyone was hearing about on the news, had constructed new body parts to compensate for the loss.

Still frozen in fear, and dumbfounded I turned to put my hand on his shoulder. He started freaking out and grasped for the door handle. He jumped out of Slide and stumbled on the ground. He began to get up, but Slide had already begun to transform into his robot mode. Matt began to run away but within three feet Slide reached down and scooped him from the earth.

I turned on my X-O suit and flew to Slide's hands the hung about a story above the ground. Matt sat crunched up in a ball trembling in the mighty robot's hands.

I knelt down to him and pulled his hands away from his face. Then I said those few words the brought him back to reality.

"Matt, you are my best friend. My Zapbots are here to protect us, and I promise you, nothing bad will ever, EVER happen to you."

With that and a little more explaining Matt slowly came around. Slide set us down and we spent the next hour talking. After that Slide transformed and we flew to a secret location where Misslemax was stationed. Zapbot technology was increasing every day. To compensate for travel time all of my Zapbots had installed, an alternate flight mode. The wheels in their vehicle mode would change into jet propellers. Now, when nobody was looking my Zapbots could fly, anywhere, even into space. However, to protect their identity they were required to stay in regular Earth vehicle mode around human civilization.

I took Matt to my room and we continued to talk. He asked numerous questions and before I knew it we were joking around as usual. It was the beginning of a wonderful friendship with larger friends amongst us.

That seemed so distant now, but it was only a year and a half ago. Now the world had discovered us and I left school early to spend my entire time protecting the Universe. With the Junkicons gone, and the threat of the Fire Monsters destroyed everything seemed perfect. My Zapbots were currently working on ways to improve the world as we knew it. We were now concentrating our efforts on world hunger, and I had no doubt, the world would be a much better place very soon. So far, life was good. Heck, it was great, but soon the pressure began to build, and doing my Zapbots full time was becoming a full time job. I wanted... no needed a vacation, but I really didn't have the time for pleasure anymore. If I wasn't zooming around with Matt, I was usually working, and the hours did start to add up.

Disengaging from Shortstop, I transformed my X-O suit into a small mini jet. This special transformation I used for small excursions. It flew out of the space dock back towards my hometown in North Eastern Ohio to pick up my best human friend.

Chapter 2

Across the Universe a small group of gases and chunks of matter were heading towards the same position in space. As they proceeded closer and closer to the site, the gravity grew more and more intense. Without warning an explosion occurred. A bright light rippled from the site and out of the center a dark crack in space began to form.

Random luck just happened to be the case here. For the crack was a gateway into another dimension, another reality. It has been predicted for every decision there are multiple answers and multiple realities. This incident was proof of this theory.

With this explosion a robot flew from the crack and spun out of control in space. Within a few minutes he regained control, but as he raised his glowing optic sensors, he realized he wasn't in space that was familiar to him. The space was darker, larger and the stars did not match what he was use to seeing.

His body glowed of utter darkness. Spikes and sharp curves made out his contour as his eyes glowed red with pure evil as he suddenly realized what had happened.

Not able to find the crack in space from which he came from, he set out to seek civilization. At the same time another rupture in this location had brought another object to this Universe. As he cruised through space he came upon this floating head, the size of a small moon. As curiosity peaked him, he continued his journey towards the gigantic robotic head.

Matt and I came back from the holeroom game arena. As I walked off the turbo-lift to my bedroom level, located at the very top of Misslemax, Click and Superrobot came running up to me.

"Master we need you to sign these papers for..." started Click.

"Master you got calls on lines 1,4,5,6,94,532,9183,23123..." interrupted Superrobot.

"Guys, can't you see I'm busy," I attempted to interrupt.

"Master I need you to sign these!" Click continued Click.

"Master you just got a call on line 2, a TV station on line 3 and..." continued Superrobot.

The the buildup of the pressure of the last few weeks finally got to me and I suddenly exploded.

"DAMMIT TAKE CARE OF IT!" I said storming into my bedroom. Matt followed me and the automatic doors closed with a "swish". Click and Superrobot were left just standing there.

"Do you think he's mad?" asked Superrobot to Click.

"Ah you can never tell with humans," Click replied.

I took off my clothes and plopped my aching body onto the cold sheets of the bed. I sat there with my eyes closed while random thoughts passed through my mind. I just wanted my mind to slow down and have peace and quiet.

Matt sat down on the bed next to me, as I am sure he could sense my frustration.

"What's wrong?" he asked.

"Nothin's wrong! Is there anything wrong? Did I say anything was wrong?" I said childishly.

Matt gave me the look, the look that he knew me all too well. I sat up and started to confess.

"I'm a bit tired of all this. I'm tired of all this publicity, the problems, always having the world on my shoulders. It's driving me crazy."

"But look at all you've accomplished!" Matt replied. "Look at the people you're helping and the power you have. You're the most powerful man in the Universe dude!"

"Its... just too much. I wish I could get away from all, and just go back to be a normal kid again. I don't know why they choose me, I didn't ask to be chosen. I never got the chance... the chance to be a normal kid."

"Well, you at least stop being a nerd."

"That's just the point. I've been thinking lately. Why couldn't I been a little more popular before I became the leader of this race? Why did I grow up such a nerd? I... I just don't understand."

"I don't think any of us chooses the life we want. Sometimes it just happens," said Matt.

I put my face in my hands to hide the tears. Matt put his arm on my bare shoulder as I felt better knowing that he was there.

"I just need... to get away for a while. Be normal again." I said barely weeping.

"Kind of hard since everyone knows about you now, Mr. Famous."

"I know... believe me, I know..."

"BEEP BEEP" went the call speaker to my room.

"Master, we are ready to begin Operation 'Move House'," replied Boaty over the speakers.

I knew exactly what he was talking about. The publicity had gotten so bad that I had to relocate my parents. Everybody in the world was coming to my small town and stopping at my childhood home. So I scheduled to have my parent's entire house, lot, everything transported to a newly colonized planet, Tockmak 3.

As I reached the Zapbot docking bay in my X-O suit form five minutes later, I stood on the human balcony and watched my Zapbots prepare the tractor beam below.

"Master, your parents are ready," replied Overload.

"Okay, whenever you guys ready," I yelled down to them.

"Overload to bridge, ready for take off."

Misslemax began to shake and from the window I could see the ground began to fade away as Misslemax lifted off the ground and headed into the atmosphere. Every time this happened it gave me a chill up my spine. To see a building, over forty-three square miles lift off into the air, it was always incredible for a small city to now be floating in space.

We flew across the United States to Northern Ohio arriving in just a few minutes. Matt and I stood watching the clouds and the landscape going by at amazing speeds, faster than any airplane.

With that a few buttons were pressed and a tractor beam was shot towards the Earth below.

The beam hit the two acres where my old house was and encased it with a force field. Slowly the ground began to rise intact as my parent's house, the place I grew up flew up towards the sky.

My parents and my two sisters stood inside the house watching the spectacular feat. Soon the house rose to the entrance of the docking bay. Another beam came from the inside of the docking bay and grabbed my home. The patch of land floated into the bay and landed comfortably on the floor.

To my Zapbots it looked like someone just pulled in a giant human football field with a toy house on it.

I stood above, watching from the top railing. I saw once again my home, the place I grew up. Past images floated through my mind, and as I rested my arms on the railing a tear came from eye. I saw a life, I never had.

Misslemax moved out of Earth's orbit towards Gearatron and then Tockmak 3. Where my parent's would find their new home to be restored.

"Tell my parent's I'll talk to them in a little bit," I said and walked to the turbo lift.

Matt stood there dumbfounded for a few seconds. After a while he ran after me as he could sense something was up.

Chapter 3

The robot that had come from another reality was scrounging around the ancient remains of the giant head, floating in space. The optic sensors had been shattered and two giant horns stuck out from the head with the inside monitors having all since burned out.

The visitor to the head roamed about and carefully observed the complex machinery and wiring. He proceeded to repair as best he could the computers and mainframe. After a few tries the monitors finally came back on. On them played the images of the monsters destruction. The body of the head destroyed by the a robotic race in another parallel Universe, destroying the giant robotic monster during the last stages of a hard fought battle.

As the robot watched the scenes a plan began to grow in the dark depths of his fiendish mind. He flew out of the giant head and encased the head in a tractor beam. Slowly and steadily he pulled it to the closest mechanical planet he could find.

Matt entered my room to find himself incased in almost complete darkness. He reached for the light switch but before he hit the wall my hand shot out to stop him.

"Please don't!" I said.

"Why, what's going on?" he asked confused.

"Follow me," I said. I led him by his hand through the darkness to my study. Just barely lit I walked to the bookshelf and touched a book. The bookcase slid out and I ran to the side. I put my hand up to a lit panel and after a quick computer beep the entire case moved out to reveal a passageway.

I ushered Matt to follow me, we walked through my secret place in Misslemax. As we rounded a corner the light began to grow to a grayish glow.

We entered a giant room, the size of a gymnasium. In the center stood a huge machine, made of complex wiring and cables. On top stood an encasement of glass that looked like a chamber that you saw in those television game shows.

"What's this?" Matt asked.

"This, is my new life," I replied.

"What?"

"Just trust me."

I walked to the control panel and turned the machine on. Not a sound stirred from the hollow room. My footsteps echoed as I walked to Matt.

I turned my X-O on and then my chest compartment opened up. I removed the glowing Matrix of Leadership from my body and handed it to Matt.

"Hold this for me, will ya?" I said. Matt grabbed it, looking at me ever so confused.

I walked up the stairs to my machine to the glass tube.

"Anthony, wait!" cried Matt.

"Don't worry. I know what I'm doing," I replied.

"Just don't do anything you might regret."

I continued to walk up the stairs. The glass case slid open and carefully I walked in. The glass case slid shut and all sound was obliterated. As I could see Matt watching me from the outside, the machine began to hum. The glass case began to glow and my body began to tingle.

Matt stepped back in horror as my outer skin was carefully peeled away. Not to the point of pain, but just dissolved as my atoms were taken apart one by one. As the room got very bright, Matt held his hand up to his eyes to block the light coming from the capsule. The machine began to hum brighter and brighter.

I felt nothing, and saw nothing but the background disappeared and faded away into a white glow. The machine stopped and the room died back down to its grayish glow. As the room came back into view, I stepped outside the glass casing.

What Matt saw was shocking and disturbing. As I turned around I saw my reflection in the glass casing. My whole body, complexion and figure had changed. My brown hair was now exchanged for blond, my brown eyes for blue, I was taller, more built and just different. Not only that, but my Zapbot body parts were gone and my human parts regenerated. I was totally human, once again.

"Anthony! What happened?"

"I've begun a new," I said.

"God damn, what the fuck did you do this for?" he yelled.

"This way I can return to Earth and be a normal kid again. I want to have that life I always wanted, and now I can. I will leave my Zapbots for a while and be normal again."

"How did you do this?"

"I've been working on this machinery for a while now. It replaced my half human/half robot body with a new human body."

"But... where will you live?"

"I figured I could come live with you and you could take me in as your adopted brother or something. Honestly that part I really didn't think through." I replied.

"I guess, what about the Matrix?"

I took the Matrix out of his hands and walked back into my study, into my bedroom.

"I left a computer message to everyone explaining everything. Botimus will carry on, he has to, cause I'm just sick of this all."

"But..."

"Don't worry, come on."

We walked out of my room and we came to my garage-docking bay. I pressed a button and up from the floor came my Shortstop body in shuttlecraft form. As Matt and I entered the vehicle, within seconds we were off for Earth. Matt was still worried and confused, but I was as confident as ever. We blasted off back to Earth for a life I wanted, something I never thought I would have again.

Chapter 4

Crowds of robotic people ran for cover as the huge head of deceased robot planet descended onto the atmosphere of the colonized planet in the far reaches of the galaxy. Much like Gearatron, the small planet contained many robotic natives and as well as other races. They were a small colony on the fair reaches of the Universe, only recently discovered by the Zapbots in various missions.

The enormous robotic head crashed into numerous buildings and flattened them all into rubble. It landed with a loud thud on the surface below producing a huge amount of dust. The dark robot the brought the enormous head here jumped to the ground below. As soon as he landed native police approached his direction.

"Stop!" they yelled. They aimed their primitive pistols at him and began to fire.

The lasers rebounded off the robot. He stood there with his head to the sky laughing.

"Pathetic robots, do you think you could harm the mighty Secretish?" With that he raised his arm and fired at the police. They flew backwards and landed on the ground with a hard thud, unable to move as Secretish laughed even harder.

"No one can stop the holder of the Black Matrix!" he cried.

With that he flew back inside of the giant head and completed the final connections to draw energy from the base of the planet. Slowly energy began to seep from the surface providing illumination for the destroyed head.

Along the side of this action two Zapbots were watching from a distance, suddenly aware of what this was and what was about to happen.

"It's him, the one who was warned about," replied Lazer-Ray.

"I know, let's go. We've got a long trip ahead of us," replied Support.

Running along the ground and leaping into the sky the two Zapbots transformed into spaceship modes and headed off back to towards Gearatron.

Click walked into my old bedroom, and after a few moments of silence he began to look frantically for me.

"Master? Master? Where are you? Click," he yelled as he peered around the room.

He walked over to my computer screen and pressed a few buttons. As he then came across a new file he had not seen before, he brought it up and read the message I had left for him.

"Oh my Matrix! Click" he cried. He turned around and saw the Matrix laying on my bed. He grabbed it and ran to give it to Botimus Prime.

No matter how hard they tried no one could stop him. Anyone who came close would be immobilized. Secretish had immense powers and abilities no one could put their finger on.

"Quick, evacuate the planet!" the colony President ordered watching the destruction from afar. Soon everyone that could travel through space transformed and took off. Others that couldn't either rode in those who could or grabbed a shuttlecraft. A large proportion of small ships began to leave the metallic planet as it began to shift.

Secretish worked hastily to finish his project. The ground began to rumble and the whole planet shook heavily. Without warning, the cities began to crumble and the buildings fell. The ground below opened up and recombined in numerous ways. Soon the planet began to dissolve apart and recombine. With what seemed like seconds to the monster but at least an eternity for those watching from a space ship, the colony planet had changed into a robotic body. For the head was something everyone in the universe had feared and knew but was now once again present. The robotic body of the planet eating robot called Unicron!

"Who has done this to me! Who has given me a new body!" cried the mighty robot.

"I Secretish, holder of the Black Matrix." cried Secretish from space afar. "You will do as I say or will be destroyed by the same power that brought you back!"

"I obey no one!" responded Unicron. The mighty hand reached out to grab Secretish now floating in space, but all Secretish did was wave a finger and Unicron stood transfixed in space.

"You will obey me!" replied Secretish.

"I will obey you Master!" replied Unicron. It was a weird situation as he had usually been the one torturing others, now he himself was the slave. This did not fair well in his mind.

"Good, I sense a presence of another Matrix in this Universe. I must have it so I can combine my power with it. You will help me collect it."

The huge body moved in space towards the neighboring planets. A new evil and an old one were now present in the same Universe now with a combined goal of total power and complete devastation.

"Gone....gone...?" replied Boaty.

"I checked his computer files.Click" replied Click from the balcony above transmitting the document down to the team via the internal network. My Zapbots all brought up the document on their scanners and a collective sigh went over the crowd. My Zapbots stood there speechless, unable to comprehend why I done what I did. How could their beloved Master and friend leave them without saying goodbye?

Before someone had time to comment an alarm went off and the room flashed with red lights. Everyone ran to their stations and plugged in to find out what the urgency was.

"Status," asked Botimus.

"Incoming object into planetary orbit. The object is the size of..." and Flier stopped mid sentence.

Botimus ran over to his screen and looked at the image. His Zapbot mind has already begun to sense worry, not fear. For Zapbots could turn off their emotions at any time. But now, the time when they probably needed their Master the most, he was gone, vanished without a trace. Botimus knew time was short and he knew although Master Anthony was gone it was up to him to lead the Zapbots now. His robotic feet were being put to the virtual fire.

"Click bring me the Matrix. Superrobot, search Master's logs and see if you can find any indication of where he went," ordered Botimus.

"He has those logs locked, I won't be able to break through the encryption," replied Superrobot.

"Try to break the code, meanwhile we have a larger problem."

"What?"

"Put it on the view screen." replied Botimus pointing at the screen.

Up on the Misslemax's view-screen came the picture of a gigantic robotic body. The body was unfamiliar but the head was known around the universe as the biggest threat to existence.

All my Zapbots gasped as they saw it, and then looking out the windows they saw the tiny figure coming into view and growing bigger by the second. Within minutes it would reach the planet itself...

"Go to Red Alert, raise planetary shield, alert Master Anth..," Botimus caught himself, "or prepare for Battle!"

Unicron swung into orbit and then held up his mighty fist and drove it deep into the planet Gearatron. Civilian Zapbots were sent scrambling as cities and hoards of buildings came down in destruction. The civilians ran for cover as screams and shouts of fear were heard everywhere.

Unicron moved around furiously, his giant metal body swinging. Laser fire and weapons exchanged back and forth, but my Zapbots were no match. No matter what they did, Unicron still

continued to pound Gearatron and destroy cities with his single hand. Botimus and his small group were circling back for another attack in aerial form when they noticed something.

"Botimus, I'm picking up another small robot stationed near Unicron," replied Alert.

"A Zapbot wounded?" asked Botimus.

"No he's not moving at all, in fact I don't detect any Zapbot signs from him, not even a Junkicons trace signal."

They flew around and came to the top of Unicron. They saw the dark robot standing there on Unicron's shoulder, not moving just watching the fight. As they came closer the robot turned around and saw them approaching. He leaped up and transformed into an oddly shaped spaceship. He flew down towards the dark side of Gearatron where nobody went.

As he landed and transformed he waited for his opponents. Botimus, Alert, Boaty and Flier all landed and transformed about fifty feet away from the robot.

"Who are you?" cried Flier.

Without a word the robot raised his hand and shot a ray at Flier. Out came a bolt that resembled what my Zapbots saw I had previously done with my Matrix, but only this time the color was pitch black.

Flier was hit and flung backwards, hitting the ground and landed with a clunk onto the hard metal. Boaty ran to his side, and picked up his brother in his arms.

"Don't worry...I'll be fine. Go get him bro!" replied Flier.

With that observation, Boaty jumped up and flew straight towards the robot. Just as he was about to collide with him the robot shot up his hand so fast, even Boaty couldn't comply and alter his course. A laser shot out from the hand of the visitor and directly hit Boaty in the chest. He flew backward spinning and landed on the ground not far from Flier.

"Stop! Whoever you are!" Botimus Prime cried unnerved and somewhat angry.

"I am Secretish, holder of the Black Matrix. You will bow down before me!" he cried.

"We'll see about that!" Botimus then threw out his arm to try and attempted to release the power of the Zapbot Matrix of Leadership. Nothing happened, and Botimus's hand hung there in the dead of air.

Secretish laughed, "You are the holder of the Matrix of Light, but you are not ready yet to understand its power!"

"Why....grrrrr..." cried Botimus as he began to run towards Secretish. With that Secretish fired again and knocked out Botimus and Alert. They flew backwards and landed on the ground, unable to move.

"Die, puny Zapbots. " laughed Secretish as he raised his head towards the stars. "UNICRON STOP THE BATTLE. I HAVE WON! THE PLANET IS OURS!" Secretish cried.

Chapter 5

It had been a week since I had left my Zapbots. Matt's parents although somewhat perturbed were kind and understanding as they let me live in their basement. As my family was now located on another planet I decided to stay within my hometown to be with my so called adopted brother.

I went back to school and once again felt like a normal average teenager. Matt and I were in almost every class this time, so we saw each other often. I was pronounced as Matt's adopted brother and through this time our friendship grew as we began to get closer. We did everything together. Exploring in the woods, going to the movies, and I got a job at a computer place helping to program software.

Being back at school was also strange, due to the fact I already knew everybody there, but they didn't know who I really was. I slipped a couple of times and said a name of someone before I was introduced, but I was able to cover for it easily.

One night back Matt and I decided to camp out in his backyard. We would sit up and talk for hours and engage in length discussions on politics, world events etc. I had an intellectual bond with him that I never had with any other human and being around him provided me with some sort of comfort I couldn't put my finger on.

"Are you sure you wanted this?" he would ask me almost every night.

"Yes, I'm happier than I have ever been," I replied.

Soon he would fall asleep and I would sneak out of the tent and stare at the stars. I didn't know why, but I lied. I was starting to miss my Zapbots, they had become a part of me and now I had left another life behind.

The next day, I was sitting in the boys' locker room changing. All sorts of stuff passed through my mind. I was unsure of what I wanted to do in life. I was unsure of myself.

Matt came in and put his stuff in the locker preparing to get ready for the typical day.

"Speedball today," he said.

"Yeah, today I'm going kick some..." I started.

I was interrupted by the yell of a large senior entering the area.

"HEY YOU. NEW KID!" he yelled. He walked up to me and stood fast against my puny body. For the first time in a long time, fear had returned, and I realized that things never change no matter what happens, and that you will always have the bullies.

Without provocation the larger kid rammed his fist into my stomach. The feeling had all returned to me now. Now without my Zapbot body to protect me, or my X-O suit I was gasping for breath.

The obnoxious senior grabbed me and picked me off the ground. He proceeded to throw me up against the lockers and I landed on the cold hard floor. I felt weak, helpless and I wished for my X-O suit at that very moment. I tried to move, but couldn't as I knew something was broken.

Matt jumped on him, but the kid threw him off like a sack of potatoes. He held Matt down and was about to strike. I looked up from my bloody mess as I felt so helpless. Because of my own selfish pride, I couldn't even defend my friend.

With urgency a hand flew up and grabbed the senior. Two coaches pulled him away from Matt and dragged him outside. They proceeded to drag the kids out of the room and into their office.

The one coach ran up to me. He ordered the other coach to go get the nurse and Matt helped me from my crunched position in the corner of the locker room. I felt blood enter my mouth and I knew something was broken. The coach and Matt helped me to my feet. Matt grabbed my shirt and tied it around my head where I was bleeding.

Suddenly a classmate came in screaming at the top of his lungs.

"QUICK, come watch the television! It's the emergency board cast signal! It's the President!" replied the kid.

The coach and Matt helped me into the coach's office and sat me down in the chair. Then the president appeared on the screen.

"It is with great sorrow I have to inform you of this crisis. With approval from other national leaders, we have surrendered to the Legion of Black. The planet Gearatron was overtaken, by an unknown force. Botimus Prime the current leader of the Zapbots has also surrendered. We have surrendered the Earth to save lives...."

He went on telling more about the details of the situation. Then I heard the name...

"...Secretish..."

"No!" I whispered.

"You know this guy?" asked Matt.

"I was warned..... a long time ago..." I replied.

I just sat there in my chair, bleeding and realizing I had once again hit rock bottom. All my dreams had been shattered and everything I had was lost. I was powerless to do anything and all because of my selfish greed. I started to cry and Matt knelt down by my side.

"It's not your fault, you couldn't have seen it coming," he replied.

"No. It is my fault. The Matrix had warned me of this long ago. I knew someday that this robot would come. The one, who carries the Black Matrix," I said crying more and more with each word.

"But you couldn't have helped it!"

"I could, I heard, but I didn't listen."

In the dark depths of a room, three figures strolled around. The only light came from the hand of the one figure. A steady glow of a globe with two handles on it. The Zapbot Matrix of Leadership.

"Do you have it?" asked Lazer-Ray.

"Yes, here is, ^{click}" Click replied handing the Matrix to Lazer-Ray, the taller robot.

"If only we had gotten here sooner," said Support.

"We tried our best, now we've got to get this to Master Anthony." responded Lazer-Ray.

"Be careful, Master Anthony doesn't know what you look like, since you were created and sent away during his death," ^{Click} replied Click. Now with Botimus Prime and the other primary Zapbots held captive, it was up to the last few to get help the only way they knew how.

"You sure these coordinates are correct?" asked Support.

"Yes, Superrobot went over Master's Logs extensively. He talked a lot about leaving and going to live with his human friend Matt, ^{Click}."

"Took you guys a while to crack the code huh?" asked Lazer-Ray.

"Too long. Now go, ^{Click}. Before we get discovered. ^{click}"

Suddenly a laser blast ripped open the small room. As the smoke faded, a dark figure entered the room. Secretish's dark shadow silhouette stood in the newly formed hole of the wall.

"GO NOW!" cried Click.

Lazer-Ray and Support transformed into aerial modes and crashed right through the wall, sending chunks of scrap metal falling everywhere.

As they passed the atmosphere of Gearatron they dodged firepower. But Secretish's allies couldn't hit the Super Changers as they were much too advanced for them. Back at the demolished room Click turned around to find the hand of Secretish reaching down to grab him.

Click transformed into his tiny ball mode and spun rapidly into the air. He flew past Secretish's hand and darted towards the exit into the daylight.

"You tiny minuscule robot! I could crush you with my bare hands! But I rather let you see the destruction of your home planet!" Secretfish replied.

I was sitting in Matt's backyard late that night as we were looking up to the stars, with every thing on our mind. Both of us knew exactly how the other felt. Matt probably knew me better than anyone I had known. Finally after a long silence, I spoke.

"It won't be long before Unicron comes to Earth."

"Well we'll be okay as long as we abide by the treaty..." started Matt.

"Which they WON'T do. Believe me, I know evil. I can't believe I let this happen. They choose me, and I let them down."

"Relax, you are way too hard on yourself. We all will survive. Mankind been through worst than this."

"No, not even mankind has been through what my Zapbots are going to go through. Dammit, I knew this. I knew better. Why did I let my own insecurities get the better of me?"

"Anthony, if there is one thing I know about you, is that you are a survivor. Bro, you created an entire race of robots! If they can't find a way to overcome this, then maybe we all are better off dead." replied Matt. "Either way, you wanted a break. It just happened to occur at the wrong time. Don't beat yourself up for wanting some peace in your life man."

Smiling at my brother from another mother as I knew he was right. In the end all I wanted was a little breathing room to exist. The problem was the timing of the situation and my decision. Now I was unable to help when my second homeworld needed me the most. My inability to cause change with the situation is what bothered me the most.

Then, I saw a bright light in the sky, a very familiar feeling to me. At first I thought I was just seeing things but then I realized that the light hadn't moved. It continued to grow in size and brightness. Matt got up and walked towards it as I said nothing, it continued to grow and soon I saw what it was. It was two vehicles flying directly towards us. Matt turned to run but I grabbed his arm holding him back as I realized that maybe I wasn't so helpless. Deja Vu set in.

The two planes came closer and closer and then they morphed into two robots. I could tell they were friendly from the yellow glow in their eyes. The two figures landed and stood towering over Matt and myself. It took me a while, cause I had never seen these figures before, but then I realized by their construction and markings who they were.

"Master, we are the Super Changers. We have come to bring you the Matrix," replied Lazer-Ray. With that he handed the Matrix it to me. I grabbed the globe with my two hands and suddenly a surge of power flew through me, as I felt my body being rejuvenated. Reborn I felt the surge of electricity pass through my pores. My eyes soon saw a white light encasing me again as pure energy seem to run through my veins. Atoms and molecules began to reformat once again and I began to sense things again I couldn't sense before.

My old half human/half bionic body had returned; my old complexion as well as my artificial parts. I was once again, half robot/half human. I felt my power once again return, and my X-O suit immediately came on.

"Anthony... it's you. Your old body! Your old suit!" cried Matt.

I looked at my Zapbots and then at Matt. Once again I felt ready to take on the Universe.

"I'm back!"

Chapter 6

Chained high above the podium, Botimus and Boaty hung. Ready at any second to be executed by the firing squad, which was about to send them to their doom. Several drones were aiming at my two Zapbots, as they were programmed to be killed by Secretish.

Secretish stood below with his arms crossed laughing at the scenery. Evil thoughts collided with pity for my Zapbots. He felt so superior now, as his twisted mind was conjuring up the right words to say to his drone robots he had created. Above in the atmosphere of the planet Unicron hung transfixed ready to attack at any given moment.

Secretish walked up to the platform and grabbed Botimus's lowered head.

"You'll be the first to set an example," the evil robot said.

"You'll never get away with this!" replied Botimus in the lowest possible tone his vocal speaker could produce.

"Yeah, and who's going to stop me?"

Out of nowhere a blast of firepower hit Secretish knocking him off the platform and he fell, right onto the ground underneath. He got up to see the vision of a strange vehicle flying over head.

"I, SHORTSTOP will stop you Secretish!" I yelled. I flew past Secretish and swung back up behind the drone crowd, transforming and landing in my Shortstop robot form on the surface below.

"GET HIM YOU FOOLS!" Secretish yelled.

His army of drone robots turned around and began to fire, but they couldn't get a decent shot on me. I threw my hand up and fired, knocking each robot down, one by one to the ground below bellowing in smoke and fire.

Secretish I could see was now, extremely angry and launched up and flew straight towards me. He opened fire I quickly leaped to the right and returned. It hit him dead on and he was knocked off course. He hit the ground once again, this time bouncing several times before colliding into nearby wall.

From behind my Super Changers came with the rest of my Zapbots, being liberated from their nearby prison. They ran up and assisted Boaty and Botimus, lowered them from their lofty crucifies. The blue plates of the ground of Gearatron echoed with clamping footsteps. Botimus came up to me, and I could tell he was happy to see me.

"Master, you're back!" he said, low on energy.

"Yeah...I know. And this time I'm staying..." I replied.

Secretish jumped up and aimed his arm cannon towards my direction. He fired and it hit me dead on. I flew backwards and as a chunk of my metal came off I fell to the ground this time, losing energy and feeling pain. I decided to leave my pain feelings on now, unless I was really damaged. as this always motivated me to fight. This time my fury was the strongest it had ever been.

My Zapbots turned around and opened fired at the hovering Secretish, but he was too fast for their weapons and immediately swung around and flew past me, landing on top of a nearby building.

"Give up Shortstop!" he cried waving his gun in the air.

On the ground Botimus came up to my side.

"Master, what is your command?" he asked.

I paused for a moment before replying.

"This is my fault, and my battle Botimus. Leave him to me," I replied. With that I send out my special radio message and from a mile away Fortress Misslemax came flying in, covering the entire sky, blocking the starlight. I leaped up into the air and flew high above my flying city. Misslemax began to transform, as the walls shook and the sides caved in, moving and exchanging positions to grow in size. As parts of the spaceship shifted around slowly a larger robotic figure began to emerge and once again I combined to become one with the giant Zapbot body. I lowered myself just a little above the ground and saw the tiny speck of Secretish standing on the building.

"You are the one who should surrender Secretish! I have the home field advantage!" I echoed in my larger robot body.

"Yes, but that may be your disadvantage, LOOK YOU FOOL!" he cried with so much evil I swear it echoed around the planet.

With that Unicron began to move in for the kill and I knew time was short. I engaged my last special transformation and this time flew way out into Gearatron's atmosphere as my Zapbots transform and flew to the safety stations below.

From the depths of Gearatron a rumble began to stir and it grew by the second. The planet began to move and pieces, fragments, parts began to connect and swerve. Cities descended, and buildings transformed inwards, as the circular shaped planet was now becoming, a moving robot. As quick as possible bi-pedal parts began to emerge as Fortress Misslemax transformed into the main key that could control it all. It flew down into the core of the planet interlocking with the main computer and allowing all senses to grow in size and shape.

Unicron was unaware at first of what was happening and flew back. Then he saw out of the space this new robot appear, just as big as him. There in space stood once again stood the robotic body of the Planet Gearatron.

"ARGHHHHH! This can not be!" Unicron cried, and flew towards me to attack. I swung around and he flew past like a bull does to a bullfighter.

I threw out my hand and my enlarged Matrix power fired as it hit Unicron dead on in the center of his chest. He put his hand up to stop the flow of gases and liquids spewing forth out of it.

"I will destroy you!" he cried in his low voice over the radio channel.

"We will see," I replied and fired again. He took the hit, but came towards me and grabbed me by my robotic neck. I threw a punch hard into his stomach and he flew back, losing metallic parts, but regaining power. He lurched again towards me and I swung around and hit him with my leg kickboxer style. He folded in two and flew backwards towards space.

As I battled with him it reminded me of Boaty's trainer programs. I kept thinking of a no-win situation, and although I was winning, I was still cautious. I could lose the battle at any moment. I needed to be aware of what the goal was.

Unicron recovered and began firing at me all sorts of weapons. Lasers, rockets, you name it came from his arsenal. They hit me dead on and I covered my face to protect myself. I felt his body slam into me as I flew backwards in the giant blackness of space. Two giant monsters fighting the black void of nothingness.

"What would Boaty recommend? I have to use his mass against himself!" I thought.

I quickly recovered and grabbed a hold of the massive body pushing me in space. I let all my Matrix magic go and it flew from my hands to Unicron's body. He released his grasp and flew backward screaming from the jolt. Although it was space and you couldn't hear it, I could tell he was in pain from the look on his face.

I shot up my hand and continued to fire, blast after blast of my Matrix magic came forth pounding the gigantic monster. He took the hits, each time jerking back and covering the wounded area. Gases, liquids and metal parts flew everywhere.

Finally I summed up all of my energy and slammed my two hands together. It shot a giant white ray towards him and encased him within. He grabbed his body and the suddenly a giant light came from within his stomach. He body exploded as flying fragments went everywhere, hurling into the dark depths of space.

I now saw his head floating in space and heading towards me. I grabbed the horns and took off for the sun. Flying towards the hot Gearatron star, when I was close enough, I swung the head with all my might and it traveled towards the mighty star. I could just see it began to melt before it was out of my view. Pausing for a moment I realized I won the battle.

I flew back to Gearatron's orbit and retransformed the body back into the home of my Zapbots. Slowly the planet began to return to normal with the cities becoming uncovered and returning to their former positions. I stood in Misslemax form on the surface overlooking the damage and hating myself for my actions. I was extremely lucky this time with casualties, but own foolishness could of killed us all.

I looked around for Secretish, as he was nowhere to be found.

Chapter 7

"Master's Log. It had been a week now since the incident with Unicron and life has to returned somewhat to normal. Repairs have begun to rebuild the damaged parts of Gearatron, to help various Zapbots return to a somewhat normal state of life. Slow and steady progress is being made to help return this planet to the fruitful habitat it once was.

"I am ashamed of my actions and for my own stupidity. As I realized what a gift I have been given to have this command and this experience. I made a promise to my Zapbots I would never leave them again."

I was working on my computer in my office when Matt came strolling in. He bumped my chair to get me to pay attention.

"Well how does it feel to be home again?" he asked smiling.

I paused for a moment before I responded. I knew I had gone through a lot this time. I also knew that there were dangers far greater than Boaty's training programs. Life had all of a sudden become complex again and with great power, great responsibility was required.

I got up and walked to my outside balcony. I could see the entire planet cityscape from here. A giant planet of transforming robots, who would have thought that they would survive by a human's mind.

After some moments of awkward silence, I finally responded to Matt.

"Good, just plain good," I said. "Hey come with me for a ride will ya?"

"Sure, where?"

"You will see."

I grabbed Matt, turned on my X-O suit and flew out of my balcony window. You could hear him going 'wait... uravahhhh!' as we flew out of Misslemax.

"Look what happens when you let a human run the planet," cried a cadet cleaning up the mess Unicron had made of City Hall.

"QUIET CADET," replied Earnon, the Leader of the High Council. Although he too was frustrated with the mess, he was thankful to be alive. Master Anthony's return was a blessing and he was glad to have things somewhat back to normal.

"Hey Earnon," I said from the hole in the council room ceiling.

"Master Anthony! Where have you been?" Earnon cried.

"I've been away. But I won't let you down again, I promise!" I replied.

With that I stuck a pole into the top of Gearatron City Hall. On the pole flew a new colored symbol, as it was the new Zapbot flag. The wind picked up and it waved in the breeze, glimmering in the light to the ground below.

I grabbed Matt and flew off towards Misslemax. Life had started a new, once again. This time, I was determined to keep my place among the Zapbots. As Misslemax approached my viewfinder I new this was my destiny, my body, my life, my world, and my home.

The End.