

## Forward

This story is another that apparently came from a dream, although I will be honest I don't quite remember the dream itself.

In real life my friend David was my buddy I knew from church. We became friends at a very young age, but as we got older and I accepted my sexuality, he became more religious and we drifted apart. Nevertheless, the memories I have with him I hold dear to my heart as we were just goofy, innocent kids being kids. I particularly remember him showing me his walkie-talkie and us saying the F-word to various truckers in the area. This is David's story as at the time my goal was to write an adventure for each of my friends.

This was also an attempt for me to try and write from in third person narrative. I wanted to try and see if I could take myself out of the story for a bit and write from a different perspective. This will be helpful for future stories.

Anthony S. Anselmo

# The Yellow Planet

By Anthony S. Anselmo

## Chapter 1

The explosion was enough to shake the whole building. Within seconds I was standing in the middle of the main street, confounded, unsure of the current situation, as the whole world had come to a standstill.

The top of the building exploded and a gigantic robot came into view. Its red robotic eyes glowed with fury, and it released a maddening roar as it swung its arms around, its enormous claws ripping into the structure as if it were tissue paper, sending debris raining down upon the surroundings below.

My X-O suit activated and I leaped into action, heading straight towards the robot, colliding into him with a flurry of my fist.

The clash with this Titan lasted only moments and the damage was minimal. I retreated to regain my stance. The giant hulk of metal turned towards me and, from my side view, I saw its arm move to grab me. Flying back towards the Colossus, I charged up my arm cannon and began to fire at various points around its head. This stunned the mechanical monstrosity only momentarily.

Quickly seeing its claw come into view I ducked and flew alongside it while continuing to fire rapidly at its body. My laser shots were now leaving scorch marks but did nothing to stop its attack on the city. Then, it got the best of me. Its giant claw came into contact with my body and I flew backwards, impacting into a building and careening to the ground.

Now enraged, and I began to get up, but bricks from the damaged building fell on my head. I freed myself from the rubble in time to see the robot now moving towards the main convention center. By now, people were panicked: screaming and running about the streets. The cops soon arrived. They began to fire their weapons at the robot, but that did nothing and only seemed to annoy the giant bent on destruction.

I flew towards the cops and landed in front of them before the robot unleashed a laser blast from its eyes. Erecting a force field around the officers, I began to draw power from the monster's blast. When I had sufficient energy, I reversed it and fired my laser back at it. The redirected beam hit the robot with such a force it began to fall backwards and a new danger arose.

Flying up into the air I headed towards the robot. As it crashed downward towards a low-level building, a quick scan by my sensors saw that civilians were exiting the structure. I reached the robot midway through its fall and pushed its body upwards. At least I thought I could hold it, but its mass was too heavy for my turbo boosters to remain aloft. Diverting more power to my thrusters I only slowed its descent a little. Before I knew it, I was falling with the robot.

The building's roof came closer and closer until we both crashed through it. Hundreds of tons of metal and masonry now lay atop me.

After reaching a nearby sector and trying to establish some sort of defense system, the Gongos saw this as their advantage to take over. My Zapbots were frustrated, just as everything seemed to be pulling together, the leaders of the planets began to talk war with each other. My Zapbots were called upon to make peace, with myself as the chief negotiator.

Pliers and Botimus Prime pulled up to the base of the building and transformed into robot mode. The city was in chaos. Citizens were fleeing the area, confused and scared by all the commotion.

"Where is the Master?" Botimus asked.

"Up there!" Pliers pointed.

Botimus leaned down and peered through the tiny human doors. Inside he saw the delegates hiding under furniture.

"Has anyone seen Master Anthony?" Botimus asked.

"He left after the initial explosion," cried the delegate from Andreamia 4.

Botimus stood up and looked at Pliers.

"Just what we need, more trouble in this sector, like things aren't bad enough," said Pliers.

At that moment, Botimus pointed towards a near low-leveled building.

My small low level force field was enough to keep the robot from falling on the people. There I was slumped flat against the ground with my hands pointed up towards the robot, and a white energy beam coming from them.

I turned towards the people who were crouching down underneath their tables.

"GO! NOW!" I screamed with exhaustion about to overcome me.

The robot began to quiver and tried to regain its stance. The people proceeded to run out of the building, ducking underneath my energy beam that was encasing the building about midway through the air. They all made it out and I knew I could never make it out this low on energy. As a last resort I let go of my field and darted towards the door.

It was rather funny and yet incredible to see the robot's huge back come down on my horizon line. Before I knew it I felt this enormous pressure on top of me, and then I was slammed against the pavement.

No pain, but I felt myself being buried into the ground. Then the pain was lifted and I heard an explosion. I pulled myself out from the cement and noticed how clean my figure had been carved into the rock, like a snow angel on a winter's morning. I turned around and saw the robot being hoisted high above Omega Dupream's head. Then with one movement the mighty Gongo robot was torn in half.

Pliers came bursting into the half-collapsed building and picked my fragile X-O suit body up.

"Master, are you still functional?" he asked.

"Phtpff, besides being a bit dirty, yeah!" I replied.

"Would someone like to explain the situation here?" I asked.

"I must say it would become quite stressing for you Master," replied Scan fixing my X-O suit's arm.

"Stressing? Hello here...Stressing! It's rather obnoxious where everywhere I go I have to run into these things," I yelled.

"It seems that the Gongos are making these in mass productions these days," said Botimus rubbing his robotic chin.

"It seems with every move we make, they're one step ahead of us," stated Ultra Attack.

"Well at least we have our sector and Earth protected, now if we could only find the loop holes around here we would be fine," I said. At the moment I wished we didn't have so many allies around our huge circle of sectors. It was getting incredibly hard to protect all of them at once. Never had my Zapbots been so busy, jumping from sector to sector, taking care of each distress call. The Gongos themselves didn't pose much of a threat, but just the fact that they were wearing my Zapbots and myself out were starting to get on everyone's nerves.

We had all the sectors between Earth and Gearatron covered pretty well with star gates and shields. Zapbot technology was on the growth and we could cover the major points. Thus nobody could enter our little spear of the Universe without getting noticed or setting off an alarm. At least that is what we thought.

Yet there were these new sectors we were discovering and the various new species we were meeting for first contact. New life forms, scattered throughout the Universe, not covered by our sphere

yet. Every time we tried to set something up, something else would go airy. It made me wish for the days with the Junkicons, where everything was pretty much a short battle resolved in about thirty minutes.

"I think if anything Master you deserve some sort of vacation, now that the treaty has been signed," Botimus Prime said.

"Well geez, they only got attacked by a huge robot, no wonder they wanted protection now," mocked Flier. We all smiled cause we knew he was trying to keep the humor of the situation.

"I guess I do deserve a little break. I'm confident you would be fine by yourselves at least." I replied.

"No doubt about Master, you deserve a first class trip!" cried Pliers grabbing his sonic wrench and tightened my X-O suit's connections.

"Well Jeremy is still finishing his transfer to Headmasters and Matt is spending the week with his parents. I might as well take David and head to Prueter Five and see if I can get some R & R."

Ironically at that time my human friend David, in his new Headmaster body (Windshield) walked in the med bay. It had a solid month since he had finished his training and became the second Zapbot Headmaster to grace the decks of Fortress Misslemax.

"Heard there was some trouble I take it?" he said looking down at the burn marks at my X-O suit.

"Let's just say Master was buried alive," said Scan. He started to laugh and when he noticed his joke was bad, he slowly let it go.

"How would you like to go on vacation?" I asked Windshield.

"Vacation? Now?"

"Sure, things are pretty much slow right now. You haven't been to Prueter five yet have you?"

"Uh is that the one with the people running around with next to nothing?"

"Yep!" I said with a smile.

"Cool, I'll go pack. Should I bring my Headmaster body?"

"Naw, we'll take a shuttle craft. Misslemax needs to stay here, but we should be fine."

"Cool! Party time!" said Windshield heading his way out.

## Chapter 2

My alarm clock went off with an annoying sound as I quickly slammed my fist down on it. Another piece began to fall off. Cursing myself as I kept forgetting my body replacement parts were stronger than normal human body parts. I still didn't know my own strength.

My old alarm clock was the one I had from back home, a present my parents gave me on my tenth birthday I believe. I still kept it cause I liked having a mixture of future technology with simple things before my Zapbots came into my life. When it woke it make a short "Sptsh!" sound before it played music or the alarm. I got so nervous to that, I would usually find myself waking up shaking, cold from a deep sleep. That slight sound annoyed me. I didn't know why I even set the thing anymore. I wasn't really on any strict schedule, one good thing being the the leader of a race of robots.

I hit the button and rolled over, and went back to sleep.

Or at least I tried.

"Beep Beep!" went the call speakers. I rolled over and hit the button on the side of my end table.

"Uhhh...what is it...?" I moaned.

"Master, we thought you might like to know that Gearatron is experiencing snow today."

"Uhh Boaty, granted it only snows four times a year..."

"For only a week each time Master..."

"Yes, well I really do appreciate the concern, but I don't think I needed to be..."

"Oh I'm sorry Master, I keep forgetting you humans need time to come out of hibernation."

"Yes, you could say that...Carry on buddy," I said and tapped the button closing the channel. Boaty didn't really forget, cause Zapbots couldn't forget. He only misplaced the priorities in his computerized brain... often.

After I pulled my body out of bed and took a sonic shower I felt a little better. I was on vacation so now I could sit and enjoy a cup of coffee. David came up from his room and we had eggs for breakfast as we began making plans for our first day on Prueter Five. We figured we go rock climbing, sky diving and then Boaty buzzed in again.

"Master, the transport shuttle is ready."

As we reached the shuttle bay with our bags, Hightone came in to the docking bay.

"Hey Master, the Prueter Five people were wondering if we could like bring them a case of Masonite? Like over the shuttle, like zip, like now!" Hightone said.

"Ummm sure, figures even when I'm on vacation I can't even stop working. Just load it up and I'll drop it off at the lunar landing."

"Cool! Will do!" and he left. David looked at me and I could tell he was all ready questioning if we would ever get there.

"Is everything all ready Botimus?"

"Yes Master, everything is in tip tip shape," Botimus replied.

"That's Tip Top Botimus," I replied.

"Oh um yes."

"Well take care guys, see ya in a week!" I replied as I waved goodbye and closed the shuttle craft doors. I walked to the front and sat down in the piloting chair.

"Well let's see, engage main power, start detachment process," I said pressing buttons over the keyboard.

"I'm releasing the docking clamps and engaging the turbo thrusters," David responded.

The shuttle slowly moved out of the bay and into the depths of space. We saw behind us Misslemax fall into the background and slowly but steady the stars began to stretch and we made the jump to warp.

The ride was pretty smooth with no major problems. David and I played some holographic card games to amuse the time away, and then we studied some planetary charts. I was trying to teach David some survival skills, just in case he ever got lost in space. Meanwhile the shuttlecraft surfed along the system heading for Zapbot territory. I was enjoying David's company and his awfully bad jokes.

"..so then this doctor comes in and says, I can't operate on him. He's my son,"

"His son?" I asked.

"Yeah, the doctor was his mother, the father died in the car crash!"

"Ohhhh, gee, talk about slow."

"You know you ever wonder?"

"BANG" was the sound that rocked us out of our chairs. We didn't know what just happened but we heard a crash and the shuttle tilted. The lights began to flash and I stumbled my way to the control panel.

"Computer! Status!" I asked.

"Main power is offline!" replied the computer.

"Go to auxiliary!" I cried. David has made his way to the copilot chair.

"I'm trying to engage the main thrusters! No response!" cried David.

"Computer, divert all power to basic functions!"

I looked at the screens and noticed some laser had hit us. I looked out my shaking window and couldn't see anything. I began to look for the closest planet to set down for repairs.

"There is a class M planet nearby, hold on I'm taking us in!" I said.

We directed our damaged shuttle to a huge yellow planet. I tried my best to keep power steady so we could at least make a safe landing. But life support, structural support and shields were slowly going. Smoke filled the cockpit and I began to sweat as before I knew it I saw mountain ranges coming into view.

"Oh crap!" I cried and began to maneuver out of harm's way as the ground approached closer and closer until...

"What is this readout now Boaty?" asked Botimus peering over the screen.

"It's a taction radiation surge, but it's not large enough to be recognizable as any small ship. That is at least that we know of," Boaty replied.

"Hmmm very peculiar?" said Botimus. The screen showed the surrounding area of space with a tactical grid. Between Misslemax and the planet there was this giant yellow glob on the screen, moving and swarming in a fixed position.

"I don't get it?" said Ultra walking over to Botimus.

"May I advise you that proper protocol says we should raise shields," replied Boaty.

"Granted, but still..."

The Red Alert went off and everyone looked at the view screen. Out of nowhere in space, a ship dissolved into existence. It was straight and narrow with two side nacelles and a giant round ball at the front.

"What the gigabyte!" snapped Botimus as a torpedo shot from the ship towards Misslemax.

"SHIELDS!" yelled Botimus.

The torpedo hit Misslemax with an unbelievable force. The crew on the bridge flew across the room, scrambling to get to their stations. The red lights now flashed into the green interior and the ship automatically went into Battle Station mode.

"RETURN FIRE!" cried Botimus.

"Weapons are off line, trying to compensate," cried Speedy from his weapons station.

"Increase power to shields. Engine room, what happened?"

"Repairs here, we got hit right in the front power supply! We've barely got enough to maintain life support. I can have emergency power in two minutes!" cried Repairs.

"We don't have two minutes!" replied Botimus. He looked up from his com chair and saw another torpedo coming from the ship.

"All decks! Brace for impact!" Botimus cried over the com.

The torpedo hit the side of Misslemax and whole section of the decks flew apart. From within space Zapbots began to fall.

"Decks thirteen through fourteen have been hit. Emergency shields in place and holding, but we have some Zapbots floating space!" cried Boaty.

"Who?" asked Botimus.

"Soar, Iron and Sand, wait! They're taking off and flying toward the ship!" replied Boaty.

"Are they crazy?" asked Botimus standing up from his chair and looking at the view-screen.

The tiny robot specks flew towards the mighty ship. Laser rays came from underneath but my Zapbots continued to dodge them as they flew up underneath the ship.

"Botimus, we have temporary shields at fifty percent!" replied Repairs over the com speaker.

"Magnify the image on screen," said Botimus.

They saw Iron using his laser, piercing a hole through the bottom of the ship. Then they quickly slipped into the hole and were out of view.

"What are they doing...?" replied Botimus.

I awoke to David slapping me in the face.

"Ouch!" I cried.

"Sorry, I couldn't get you up so." he said. I opened my eyes and found myself on top of a heap of junk, most of it was the wreck of the shuttle craft.

"You okay?" he asked.

"Brthppth, once again I'm dirty," I said. He smiled and helped me to my feet. I walked over the destroyed cargo and pushed open the shuttle door. It fell open and hit the ground with a thud.

"Great, our vacation is looking better by the minute!" I said.

"Where are we?" David asked.

"A planet," I mocked

"No duh!"

"Heck, I know we're in the neutral space, but I haven't been on this one before."

"Well, can we find out if anyone lives here?"

"Probably, hold on."

As I did an internal check thankfully my X-O suit was only a bit damaged. I quickly activated it. My clothes began to glow and from all around me, a robotic casing formed and encased my body.

Checking around the shuttlecraft everything was destroyed. No communications or life support, or even travel for that matter.

"I'm scanning for life, it appears there are some sort of structures nearby...wait...okay," I said looking at my readouts.

"Well, it's no good staying here. I didn't happen to bring my X-O suit."

"Yeah, I know. Luck was with us this time; one of us has one. Let's go see if we can find some locals. Hopefully they're friendly."

I picked David up and transformed my X-O suit in my mini-jet and flew off towards the north of the planet.

A short time later we came to what appeared to be a city. As I stayed high above the clouds, hoping to be unnoticed to the being below.

"Hmmm I didn't know there was actually life on this planet?" I commented.

"My scans show they are of some human resemblance, but not fully," David responded.

"Could be a different species, probably similar looking, but much different from humans."

"Umm, I think we've been noticed."

"Shit! Damn cloaking is out."

I looked down to see that our ship had caused quite a commotion below. The inhabitants seemed to be scurrying around the place. I knew it was forbidden by our Prime Directives to interfere, but I knew we needed to get help in order to get home.

I brought us down towards the city and tried to pick out the main central capital or building. I picked out the largest building and settled down on top of the roof. The whole city had a gold yellow look on it. Every building glowed with the bright sunshine as most of them resembled the ancient Egyptian buildings of earth. I retransformed into my X-O suit and flew down with David to the main hall.

Within seconds of setting down on the main steps people surrounded us. I looked upon our captures and saw they were human looking except for a ridge of bone running up their forehead.

"Halt!" cried one of the guards.

"Hmmm, you speak English?" I said.

"English? What's that?"

"Is what we're both speaking. Either that or my universal translator is picking up whatever you're saying."

"Who the hell are you!" the guard screamed pointing his gun at me.

I raised my hands to calmly assure him.

"Look, we come on peaceful terms. Can we please talk to some person of high authority?" I asked.

"Sure, I'll take you to the King and Queen."

The guard motioned David and myself and we followed the large group into the huge complex. The walls of the building were heavily decorated and there were stain glass windows high above near the triple arched ceiling. Jewels, glasses, gold were engraved into the walls with perfection. We walked down the long corridor and my robotic feet made a clanking stomp with every step I walked.

We came to what appeared to be the grand chamber. The chamber itself was huge and had glass archways along with colorful decorations at every turn.

We walked up to what appeared to be the King and Queen. The King was very grandfatherly looking spouting a white beard and an old, tired face. The Queen look a little younger and she still had some color in her hair. However they moved with spontaneity and although you could tell even that though they looked old, they contained lots of energy. The King began to speak and his voice boomed throughout the chamber.

"WHO ARE YOU AND WHY HAVE YOU CO... Dammit!" I saw him move towards his chest and remove what appeared to be a microphone.

I looked at David and he looked at me and we tried not to laugh.

"I am Ambassador Anselmo from the Federation of Planets. Forgive us your Royal Highness. We are but poor travelers that were interrupted on our voyage across the cosmos," I said trying to sound intelligent.

"Come again?" asked the King.

"We crashed on your planet." I said plainly. "We mean no harm, we only wish to make communications with our allies and get a safe ride to Federation space," I replied.

"Well, you are...um..definitely.. not from around here, ummm I hope we can help you in any possible way so you can be on your way. What species are you?"



"My friend here is human, I am also human except well, it's a long story. We come from Planet Earth."

"Earth! Never heard of it."

"Now honey, let the stranger speak," said the Queen tapping his arm.

"You seem to have advance technology, maybe you can help us with our cause," replied the King.

"Cause?" I asked.

"Our kingdom have been under attack now for five years of a race known as the Morphites. They have worn down our defenses, taken our people and imprisoned them, and just made life...." He put his hand up to his eyes and his wife put her hand on his to comfort him.

"They are a monstrous race, the most hideous creatures we have ever seen," replied the Queen.

An explosion rocked the halls and a guard came running down the corridor.

"We're under attack!" he cried to the King and Queen.

I looked up at the glass and saw winged creatures flying above.

"Stay here," I motioned to David to stay put and ran down the corridor. I jumped into the air and flew out of the hall into the atmosphere above. I came up to see an army of winged creatures coming my way as I zoomed with my visor in and saw their features.

Monsters they were, complete with claws, hair and glowing eyes. Bipedes with wings. It looked like a cross between a human, bat and a wolf. They carried technology similar to the Gongos. I knew that I was just about to make another enemy to the Zapbots.

They opened fire towards me, but their lasers were so off that I didn't need to dodge them. I flew towards them and set my ray on stun. One by one I locked and fired towards these newfound enemies. As my hand laser hit one he lost control and flew down towards the open river below. I continued to fire and knock one out after another taking down the flying monster monkeys.

As I finally came into contact with them and they began to dogfight with them, swirling around in the air, dodging them and lasers. As soon as I would lock and knock another out, another would be over my shoulder. I would quickly move and before I knew it I was surrounded.

They all fired and this time hit me dead on. There was a loss of energy and of a sudden I was falling towards the ground. My body was tempted then to fall asleep and hope my death would be peaceful, but I thought of David, and the tired looking King and Queen. Against my tired will I put my best effort on. Engaging my emergency power just within meters from the ground I flew up and headed back up into the air.

This time I calculated my weapons precisely and began knocking them out faster and faster, increasing in expediency with each blast. Before I knew it, I had made all of them fall to the river below and I saw they were slowly getting out of the water. It appeared these Morphites couldn't swim.

I flew back down towards the main bridge to the city and landed on the ground below. They were picking up the pieces and hastily running away.

David came running up the entrance to the hall.

"I think you've driven them away for now," he said.

"What a pitiful race," I said.

I turned off my X-O suit to watch them flying away.

"ANTHONY LOOK OUT!"

Before I could turn around and comprehend what was happening I saw David screaming and looked up to find the top of the building being pushed on top of me. A Morphite had managed to hide behind the tower and pushed the part building over.

I put up my hands to protect me, I engaged my X-O suit again, but it was too late! The tower of the building fell upon me and my body was crushed beneath the rubble.

## Chapter 4

Iron, Soar and Sand were slowly moving down the hallways of the renegade ship. From the interiors they could tell this was some kind of new Gongo ship recently built. The corridors were circular in structure with long metal plates connecting each section precisely. Single strips of emulated lights ran down them to give my Zapbots a radiant glow as they navigated down the hall.

"Quick, this way!" cried Iron and they proceeded down the steps. Weapons in hand they came around the corner and shot the Gongos sitting at tables as the Gongos slumped to the ground unconscious.

They entered what seemed to be the main engine room of the ship and there stood was the glowing chamber of gas, anti-matter and matter.

"I'm trying to establish some kind of link with their main computer," said Sand. He was punching all sorts of information on the main computer, trying to interface with the strange technology.

Soar stood guard in the center of the room. There were too many exits to cover at once, and they all knew time was not on their side. At that moment the red lights went off in the ship and that signaled the red alert to the crew.

"Hurry! We don't want to run into anybody here!" cried Soar.

"I got it!" cried Sand.

"LET'S GO!" cried Iron. They ran back up the steps and just as they came around the corner they heard something yell.

"FREEZE!"

David sat on the hospital waiting room chair. His hands were in his face, as he anxiously awaited the doctors' results. A strange alien came up David as looked up to see this old alien looking at him. His facial features were more rough than most of the other aliens of this planet. His forehead bone was more protruded than the others. The old man sat next to David as he continued to stare at this old creature.

"You search for peace of mind," he said. He talked in a low, soft voice, as if he was confident with every word he spoke.

"No, I search for my friend to be helped," David replied.

"You will find what you seek, if you let your heart stay true."

"Huh?"

"Your quest will take you to find what you need. Your friend needs a special medicine to stay alive."

"Special medicine, what are you talking about?"

"Trust me..." said the man, then David turned to see the Doctor coming down the hall. When David looked back the old man was gone.

At first he thought he was hearing and seeing things, but he figured the man had just left rather quickly. He was probably an old man who liked to tell stories.

The alien doctor sat down next to David.

"How is he?" David asked.

"Well, his anatomy is different from ours, so we don't really know how to help him! We believe we have him stable for now, but unless we can find someone with your human anatomy knowledge, well...I just don't know."

"Where can I send a message?"

"I dunno, we really don't have that kind of technology. The only way I think you could get help was try to convince the Morphites to send a distress call, but that's like asking for a miracle."

"Huh, believe me, I've been with Anthony for many years now, and miracles do happen!"

"Well, if you talk to the King and Queen, they could probably help you out. For now we'll just try to keep him alive, but you'll have to find a way to get his people here."

David went to see the King. He was told that any communications with the Morphites had turned ugly.

"They are the only ones who can send a message through sub-space," cried David.

"I know, but they ain't going to let you use their equipment you know!" cried the King.

"Well there just gonna have to let me use it, whether they like it or not!"

"AH HA! Man, this kid has guts!" cried the King. David however, was serious and the King saw it in his eyes.

"Fine, I'll give you any weapons we can fashion." replied the King.

"If the doctors can give me Anthony's X-O suit, I have a better chance to make it through the Morphites' city."

"My experts can supply you with maps, and supplies. After that we can no longer help you, for we are almost out of food and resources."

"Anthony's X-O suit is all I need."

My clothes were stripped off my body and I lay there on the hospital bed only in my underwear with my bionic parts. When my clothes were removed they changed from normal boyish clothes to a metal casing, the bionic preset of my X-O suit.

David was given my suit as he went to the bathroom and put it on. It didn't fit at first, but then the X-O suit readjusted to his size to fit David.

It was a bit weird cause the suit wasn't made for him, but David had had enough practice with his own to know what to do. He did an internal check.

#### **Damage..**

**Life Support**            **50%**

**Weapons**                **30%**

**Travel support**        **40%**

**Shields**                 **60%**

The suit was hit pretty hard, not being turned on, but it still worked, and it was all David had. If he couldn't get help, they would probably all die there, and Anthony had taught him better than that. With a broken X-O suit and heart, few supplies, and a map into the Morphites City, David set off on foot, hoping to save his friend.

## Chapter 5

David walked down the path that led from the city towards the innards of the forest. He followed the map the King had given him and tried to conjure up some kind of plan. Alas, all he saw was an impenetrable fortress.

Soon he reached a part in the path that split into two roads. David stopped in confusion as this was not on his map. According to his map, the road continued in a straight line.

David heard a voice, and almost jumped out of his X-O suit's pants.

"Confused my friend?"

David turned around to find, once again the strange old man standing at the base of a tree.

"Why are you here?" David asked.

"I could ask you the same," the old man replied. "You're wondering why the road is split in two eh?"

"The thought had crossed my mind, why is it your concern?" asked David to the old man.

"Things are not always what they seem here. The enemies will put traps to fool the wary travelers."

"Huh? All I know is my map says the road should be in one part, not two."

"True, and it is? Take a good look."

David started to wonder if this guy really had any sense. He turned around and looked at the ground, he walked close to the foliage of fork in the path. He did a double take, for the whole scenery before him changed. David stepped back and it returned to normal.

Once again he stepped forward and he saw the two roads disappear and become two giant holes in the ground. David climbed over a bush and saw what seemed to be a holographic generator sitting on the ground. He saw how a person standing behind it saw one thing, while in front you saw another. Aiming his laser at the machinery he fired and it exploded.

David saw now the narrow path that lay before him on his map. He turned back to thank the old man, but he had disappeared once again.

"I can't wait to get off this planet," he mumbled to himself.

"They got us tied down!" cried Soar firing his lasers down the hallway.

"Well you could say that," said Sand, "I prefer to think of it as a strategic retreat."

"Whatever way you put it, we're in a ticking time bomb! We have to get out of here," cried Iron.

My Zapbots had been trapped in a large corridor. At both ends the Gongos were firing and my Zapbots were hiding behind the sidewalls that were protruding from the main wall. They were trapped at both ends.

"So this is what they felt like in that Earth space movie Master likes," said Sand in his soft surfer dude tone.

They continued to dodge and hide behind the walls, barely covering them. Lasers blasts continued to rock back and forth between the organic mechanic monsters and my courageous Zapbots.

Back on the bridge Botimus and the others were trying their best to put Misslemax back into shape.

"I don't understand why they just sit there?" Botimus said, watching the view-screen.

"Shouldn't we take this to our advantage and attack?" asked Flier.

"No Flier, not while our friends are in there. Until we know what is going on with them we can't take any action against them."

All aboard Misslemax, my Zapbots were rushing, running and repairing as fast as they could.

Repair's rough voice came through the loud speaker,

"Shields are fully restored, along with full weapons Botimus. However, we're still pretty damaged so let's try not to lose the shields again."

"Understood, bridge out," said Botimus.

Botimus still stood and watched the view-screen. His thoughts concentrated on where were his friends.

"Is there any way we can find out what's going on in there?" he asked.

"Our sensors can't penetrate their shields," replied Scan, "However, I have a theory."

"A theory?" asked Botimus.

A soft "Oh No!" was heard throughout the bridge.

"Yes, if we could dispatch a sensor inside of their ship, we could get enough of a scan to find out where our friends are."

"What do you have in mind?" asked Botimus.

Scan looked back at the communications table at Hightone.

"Hey dude, you don't have to ask twice!" said Hightone. He pressed the button on his chest and out came Zapbot tapes. The tapes transformed and standing there were Muncher the robotic dog, the two mini-bots Steel and Scout, and Slywing the hawk.

"Get into that spaceship and find our friends," order Botimus.

The tiny Zapbots jumped from the table and ran to the turbo-lift as the doors opened and closed with a "swish". They proceeded down to the docking bay level and ran down the hallway and entered the shuttle bay.

Scout pressed a button and the door opened leaving them with a force field to keep in gravitation and oxygen. From this they flew off into space towards the mighty ship.

Time was short...

David continued down the long trail. It was amazing how something so simple as a shuttle craft transport could turn into something like this. David heard a large rumble and looked high into the sky. The clouds grew dark, which meant rain was on his way.

"Some vacation," David said.

David came around the corner and once again the old alien was standing there.

"What the... How do you do that!" cried David.

"That is unimportant. Being unfamiliar to these parts you need guidance in your travels," the alien replied, soft, assured and his words well spoken.

"You seem to cause me more confusion than help at times," David said.

"Really? What you don't realize is that there is a rain storm coming, and rain storms on this planet spell danger for those caught outdoors."

"Danger? From a rainstorm?" David asked trying not to laugh.

"The rain is acid rain, and can cause damage to people not from this planet. Your robotic suit will only withstand a bit before it starts to wear out."

David realized that maybe he better get to shelter before this became a reality. He looked up into the sky and saw the clouds had turned dark red. He turned to thank the old alien and once again he was gone.

In frustration David took off scanning for possible shelter. He came across a cliff with several rock caves. These should provide enough protection till the weather passed over he pondered.

He flew up into a cave and sat down, shutting off his X-O suit. Then the rain began to fall, red rain. As David peered out the cave, he saw the rain hit the ground, and the ground began to deteriorate. A raindrop would hit the ground and a hole would form. Then another raindrop would fall and the two places in the ground would collapse and they would be filled. Through this process, the ground would totally rejuvenate itself.

Suddenly, David felt his arms being pulled back and he swung his head just in time to see the glowing eyes of his attacker. A fiendish monster, with a huge round body, and an even rounder head. The muscles of a human sumo body builder, but with green scaly skin and a claws and teeth.

David struggled but it was effortless. The monster grabbed his power pack and David was unable to turn on his (my) X-O suit. The monsters dragged the struggling young adult deeper and deeper into the cave. The light from the entrance began to dim and before David knew it he was encased in utter darkness. As he continued to struggle, but his arms and legs were trapped. He heard the clank of shackles and felt the cold metal press against his wrist and legs.

A small light filled the room and a rock slid away. David could see he was in some sort of dungeon. Bones of past prisoners' lay about the cave and a small rock table and served as the only furniture. The smell was atrocious.

The two monsters had opened the door to a giant cavern. Outside David heard the sound of a waterfall and saw light coming through the top of the cave. The whole inside of the mountain was hollowed out.

David squirmed but he only tired himself further. The two monsters came close to each other and began to touch each other in certain places throughout their bodies. Without warning one monster got behind the other and proceeded to rub up against the other slowly.

David realized what was happening. He was going to be their meal, after they had mated. However, David studied the monsters more, and realized underneath their garments of rags, their sexual organs were the same! Two homosexual green monsters were beginning to have sex right before David's eyes!

*"This planet couldn't get any weirder!"* he thought to himself.

## Chapter 6

I was lying on the hospital bed, barely breathing, the doctors continued to poke and prod me trying to discover what organ hit what organ and what was what in their world. In my vast unreality of dreams, I was going through much pain and visioning everything that had happened to me in my life. I was unsure of where I was, or why I was even here, and I felt trapped in a world of fantasy and reality.

Somehow in this stage, I felt a cry of pain, and I unexpectedly sat up from my bed. The doctors all stopped in their tracks and looked at me.

I engaged a special circuit in my brain that sent out a radio signal to my X-O suit. Then just as fast as I had sat up and opened my eyes, I went back down and closed my eyes.

The doctors ran to me, again in confusion and not understanding what was going on.

David awoke cold and blurry eyed. He looked at the room and saw the two monsters had left for now. At the other end of the room, the energy pack for my X-O suit began to glow. Then it began to shake and then it flew across the room to David and within seconds engaged the X-O suit on his body. The glowing lights went off and the shackles were broken. The X-O suit came on and David sprang from the wall.

At that moment the two monsters walked in and David opened fire and the stun lasers hit the monsters knocking them unconscious. He walked over them and proceeded to the cave.

He once again took out the map he had been given by the King.

"This is exactly where I was suppose to go," he said to himself. He looked up at the glowing waterfall and the whole cave sparkled.

He looked down and the water running into a hole in the bottom of the lake.

The map told him this was the route to go, so without waiting David jumped into the water and followed the current down the hole.

"My energy is almost at zero!" cried Sand.

"I'm surprised that thing hasn't blown yet!" replied Sand firing at the oncoming troopers.

My Zapbots had continued to hold off the Gongos' attack. They knew if they died with the ship, it would be a short loss, but still they wanted to try getting out first.

"Botimus, they're in and we have a scan!" cried Boaty.

Botimus ran to the screen to see the computerized graphics. There was the main hallway, with surrounding dots on either end, four dots in the middle. At the other end, four other dots were approaching the section.

"They're trapped!" replied Botimus.

"Not for long," replied Scan smiling at Hightone.

The tunnel was swirling at an unbelievable rate. David was barely able to control himself from tossing and turning. His X-O suit provided him with the necessary oxygen, but it was not an easy ride. The tunnel came to an end and David flew out of the rock and fell into a pool of water. He carefully gathered his senses and swam to shore.

He looked up to find himself in the sewer system of some city. It was dark and the walls were of pipes and rock tunnels. A tunnel ran left and right. The sewer pipes were smelled horrible and had green gunk with various other slimes dripping from them.

David walked along the edge and saw the rushing water follow the outlet towards the right. He looked around for the map, and finally realized he may have lost it. Thankfully he made an electronic copy in the X-O suit computer.

He started to walk down the sewer drain as his robotic feet made a clanking sound.

Without warning a claw slashed at him, cutting a wound in his X-O suit. David turned around found himself face to face with a robotic alligator. The robot had giant teeth with massive hands. David stepped back and held his broken arm.

The robot growled and jumped at David. He quickly ducked and rolled underneath it. He turned around and fired his laser at the robot. He missed and hit the ceiling causing the rock debris to fall upon the robot. This did nothing but make him angrier.

David stepped back again as the robot slowly moved his feet, advancing at a steady pace. Then just as David looked down he jumped again.

David held up his gun and fired, falling into the water. The robot flew backwards and fell into the water also. David looked in the water and saw for a split second his opponent attacking him.

David grabbed the monster and began to struggle with him in the water. Holding back the claws, and the teeth. His energy was failing, and David wasn't experienced, as I had been fighting in water.

"God damn piece of.." David said. He engaged his hand lasers and the robot flew back. The mix of electricity and water seem to have a profound effect on him. He stumbled to get out and then ran away.

David got out of the water, looked down and saw his X-O suit was leaking oil. He took out some Zapbot mechanical clay and placed it over the leaks, plugging the hole for now.

He continued down the drain determined more than ever to get off the blasted planet.

The Gongo didn't know what hit him. But all of a sudden a mechanical jaw had bitten into his leg. He turned to see Muncher gnawing at it, and the Gongo screamed in pain.

Laser fire came around the corner from Slywing, Steel and Scout. They ran towards the Gongs knocking them out one by one.

Down the long corridor my trapped Zapbots saw this happening and made a break for it, running down to the open end of the tunnel and ducking to avoid gunfire from the other end.

Scout and Steel began to karate chop the remaining Gongs out. When Sand, Iron and Soar came around the corner they all paused.

"Bout time you little Zap-buddies got here," replied Iron.

"SQUAWK SQUAWK!" cried Slywing floating in the air.

"He's detected a massive energy charge in the ships' core!" replied Steel.

"No gigabit! Let's go!" screamed Sand.

They transformed into their vehicle modes and the tapes went inside the three cars. They flew down the corridors of flashing red sirens and made a break for the exit.

"They're coming out!" cried Scan.

"Boaty, set up a tractor beam to nab them and get them as far away from the ship when they first come out in shuttle mode," replied Botimus.

"Working..." said Boaty pressing his computer screen frantically.

My Zapbots sped down the Gongo ship, knocking over Gongs and machinery as they dashed out of the exploding time bomb.

"No time to reach the exit!" cried Sand in his floating dune buggy mode.

"Then we'll make our own!" replied Iron and from his headlights came a blast that hit a nearby window. The window shattered and the suction of space dragged them out.

"There they are! Activate the tractor beam!" cried Botimus.

"Locking and activating," replied Boaty.

The beam shot forth from the center of Misslemax towards the three objects in space.



Out of the blue, the warp core of the Gongo ship exploded and the ship imploded! The views of the beam and my Zapbots were lost in the explosion on the view-screen.

## Chapter 7

The smelly area of the sewer drain had finally gotten to David. His patience had worn thin, and he was sick of this constant worrying for his friend Anthony. Anthony had always been different from the other people. Ever since his early days at their church's youth group, he knew something was strange with Anthony. He also knew he would go far, no matter the odds.

He had unbelievable luck, and his friend had done the impossible. The ideas of space travel and alien contacts had come true. He knew his friend had worked his behind off lately, David had never met anyone braver, or stronger willed than Anthony.

David finally made it to the end of the sewer system, towards the main water recycler. The water was rushing furiously towards the giant machine. From here David shot a hole in the wall and the rocks flew everywhere. After the dust cleared David stepped in his hole and found he was inside the basement of some building.

He followed the steps up towards the door. It was made of a mixture of metal and weeds, entwined so tightly together they completely blocked and vision to the other side. He slowly pushed the door open as he saw sunlight creak in the room and then walked out of the darkness.

Here he found he was standing inside the Morphites' castle. He looked around to see a complex system of metal and vines, intertwining and connecting buildings to buildings. The buildings themselves looked like giant beanstalks, twirling left and right and upwards. Numerous towers and walkways spanning into the blue, sunny horizon.

"HALT!" David heard and turned around to see a Morphite guard looking at him, and aiming his spear at David. David just turned around and stood there with a grin on his face, unafraid of the tiny spear.

"What you gonna to do, poke me, ohh! Ouch!" David said.

A laser came from the spear and struck David head on. He fell backwards and soon remembered where he was. He got up and took off away from the guard.

Numerous shouts were heard as David flew down the rocky castle corridor. Made up of vines, metal and carved out stone, small electrical lights hung on the wall providing the only light for David's oncoming attackers. He took out the lights and switched to infra red.

He continued flying down the corridor and passed several heads of Morphites unaware of the commotion. He came to a place where the walls became less twined and were encasing the surrounding tunnel like a cage. David could see the vast city below with Morphites flying around and people working.

As he flew up the tunnel it appeared the Morphites, had no need for stairs. He continued up the tunnel and landed on another platform. From here he was a sign on the door.

He heard a familiar voice that made his spin around like a knife...

"It exploded!" cried Flier.

"Boaty, did we get them?" asked Botimus.

"Unsure Botimus... wait!" Boaty said pointing to the Gongo ship, still falling apart. The tractor beam showed clear and within it was the three Zapbot vehicles.

A huge cry of applause went from Misslemax's bridge and the separated Zapbots were once rejoined.

Botimus walked over to his chair sitting down to finally relax.

"Once they're safely in, make best time to Prueter Five, Boaty. Master Anthony is probably wondering what happened to us," ordered Botimus.

The floating body of Misslemax, with its giant tower and ramps turned in space, and then with one giant streak flew off into hyperspace.

"What? HOW?" cried David. The old alien came up to him and put his hand near David's head. Then with one swoop his hand passed through David's head and the X-O suit. David stepped back in fear.

"I am not of this world my friend. I appear only to those who are of need of my services." the alien ghost spoke.

"But I don't understand!?" cried David.

"There is no time to waste, you have been very patient so far, but now you must act with haste. In this castle stands a bottle of VENUR, a liquid that will save your friend from dying. You must get that bottle before going to the control room."

"If I go to the room first, I might be able to call for help first," David replied.

"You might, and still, your friend might die. You must follow the map in the totally opposite direction of the X now." David saw the X on his holographic image. He saw the control tower and then directly across from it was another tower.

"For me, I can no longer help you. Farewell my friend, and safe journeys."

"WAIT!" cried David. But it was too late, the ancient ghost had disappeared into the space from which it came.

The guards were flying up the tunnel, and David took off, just avoiding fire blasts from the flying monsters.

"What do you mean they never arrived?" asked Botimus to the Prueter Five's custom's office secretary.

"Our records show the shuttle craft has not docked yet sir?" the secretary replied.

Botimus turned away from the view screen to look at the crew.

"How could their shuttlecraft not make it here yet?" he pondered.

"It is reasonable to assume, that maybe Master Anthony and his friend came under attack, due to our recent dealings with the Gongos?" said Boaty.

"Possible, set a course like the one Master Anthony followed, and let's see if we backtrack and find him," Botimus ordered.

Once again Misslemax spun off into space, with stars becoming the elaborate background of the trip.

Flying and firing David made it towards the lone tower on the other side of the Morphites' city. The flying enemy was hot on his trail, but they weren't fast enough for the X-O suit's boosters.

He blasted down the door to the laboratory and frantically began to search for the bottle.

"So many damn bottles, how am I suppose to find the right one!" David cried.

The shouts of the guards were coming up the tunnel. Just as they came into the room David spotted the bottle marked VENUR. He grabbed it and placing it carefully inside the X-O suit compartment, he then looked for the closest window.

The crash of the glass disturbed the rush of the city below. Out came the flying X-O suited human. He flew straight towards the other tower. Fire blasts came from above and David swerved left and right to avoid getting hit. He continued his struggle towards the tower avoiding the monsters following him in the air.

Another laser blast caught David off guard and sent him hurling towards the tower. The window of the main control tower was broken into pieces as David fell on the ground and slowly picked himself up.

He looked up to find a Morphites dressed up in a robe and a crown standing with armed soldiers. David picked himself up and stood ready to face the enemy.

"Puny intruder do you actually think you would be able to send for help?" the apparent leader said.

"Don't mess with us, we're more powerful than you could ever be!" David replied.

"Your power is nothing compared to our intelligence!"

With one raise of his finger the surrounding guards stepped towards David. David stuck out his hand and shot them all. They all fell to the ground, out for the count.

The King threw off his robe and leaped towards David. David ducked and rolled towards the main control panel contained in the tiny room.

He began to frantically press buttons to search for the communication device, but the Morphite King grabbed him and pulled him away. David grabbed the King and tossed him across the room as he hit the wall and then the ground and was knocked out.

"Zapbots transform!" cried Botimus descending from the skies above. They landed around the wreckage of the space shuttle.

"So here's the shuttle, but no indication of Master Anthony or Master David?" said Flier.

"They probably went off in search of help, if Master's X-O suit was functional or not."

"Botimus, I'm picking up a distress call, it's very faint," said Boaty.

"From where?" Botimus asked.

"North from here, it appears to be Zapbot."

"That's are clue, let's go!" Botimus said. They transformed into their aerial modes and headed towards the sky.

"NOOOOO!!!" David screamed.

The ray shot David and began to drain away his energy. He slowly sank to the ground and looked up to see the Morphites' King holding a gun that was bringing David to the ground. He struggled but all his energy was being zapped. He cried out in pain for the lost of his friend, and the failure of his quest.

"Puny Intruder, you will die at my hand!"

"Go to Hell!" David cried, but his firepower and willpower was gone. He saw the Morphites' King laughing, standing high above him.

All of a sudden, the energy drain and the ray were gone. David peered up to see the King dangling in the air from a giant robotic hand. David knew that hand, and he couldn't believe his eyes.

"BOTIMUS!" David cried smiling.

## Chapter 8

Botimus brought his hand out from the window and David saw he was floating in the air, not very far from the ground for a Zapbot, but still high enough for David, and the Morphites.

"Glad we found you here Master David," replied Botimus.

"You arrived just in time!" David said sitting in Botimus's hand.

"We followed your wreckage trail here, but didn't know where you were until now. Where's Master Anthony?"

"We got to get to him quickly, he's dying!" replied David. Firepower came from behind them, just barely making impact.

Flier came flying up to the two, floating in the air.

"Well don't just float there, let's go! I can't hold them all off, no matter how small they are." Flier replied.

All of a sudden, a giant rumble was heard from the tower. My Zapbots flew back to see just in time the tower explode, and emerging, a giant Morphite, enlarging by leaps and bounds by the second.

"HA HA HA!" laughed the King. In his hand was a tiny bottle and on his chest glowed a bright red ruby, apparently the source of his growing power.

"Ummm Botimus, now would be a good time to leave," replied Flier.

Botimus handed David to Flier.

"Flier, take Master David to Master Anthony, quickly, we'll hold this guy off," ordered Botimus, and just moved out of a boulders passing way.

The Morphite King had now grown to twice the size of Botimus and jumped off the building. Botimus flew out of his way, and the Morphite King followed.

Botimus headed through the inner work of the city, hoping the tunnels would slow him down. He looked back to see the Monster slicing through the tunnels with his wings, not stopping once for a moment's concern about their construction or who might be in them.

Tiny Morphites scattered everywhere as Botimus continued to fly around the city. As he set down on ground; Boaty and Dodge flew up to him.

"We need reinforcements I'm presuming," Dodge said looking at the giant monster.

"That would be advisable," said Boaty.

"Advisable, do you always have to be so technical?" asked Dodge.

"No time, get ready!" replied Botimus.

He transformed into his vehicle mode, and then retransformed into his robot mode, but this time, his trailer didn't disappear.

His cargo bus transformed into a battle station. Out of the top came a gun, and it transformed to immense size. Boaty and Dodge went inside the battle station and began to punch at the consoles.

From the sky the Morphite King was flying closer and closer, with gnashing teeth and giant claws ready to pounce the Zapbots.

"Get Ready," ordered Botimus.

The King flew closer and closer to the ground.

"FIRE!" cried Botimus.

From the battle station came a giant collection of light and then reflected back into a laser. It hit the King dead center. He flew back and then his atoms started to fall apart, as he disappeared into thin air.

Pausing for a moment to acknowledge the victory Botimus then ordered the crew to disperse.

"Let's go!" said Botimus.

"You have VENUR?" asked the doctor?

"Yes, just use it?" said David handing the bottle to the doctor.

Flier was still trying to make his way through the tiny hallways. People were rushing everywhere avoiding the large robot. David noticed something behind Flier, and ran underneath him.

"Who's that?" asked David pointing to a picture on the wall.

"He's the previous King to this land, he was the best we've had so far," said a hospital employee.

David stopped and started at the painting of the old alien he had seen through his travels.

The doctor poured the bottle down my throat...

I started to open my eyes, and I saw David standing over me, and Flier barely fitting into the small room.

"Hello? Are we home yet or still on vacation?" I asked.

David had this weird expression on his face. Like he was unsure if he wanted to hug me or strangle me.

"Master, you're functional?" said Flier.

"Yeah, but at least I'm clean," I said looking at my nice white hospital clothes.

## Chapter 9

*"Master's Log. Thanks to help with my Zapbots and other allies, the Morphites have been driven from this sector. The planet that they have invested is now living at peace for the first time in centuries. We have made a new ally and a new enemy, but through it all David has proven he is more than ever ready to take on the challenges of being a Zapbot. I am quite proud of my friend and thankful of him saving my life. "*

I was sitting on my beach chair finishing my log, when David came up to me and kicked sand in my eyes.

"So what if we didn't get to Prueter Five, this place is fine," he said.

"Phthpth, yeah once we got rid of the acid rain."

From across the beach I heard an argument. I turned to look at a slight comical incident.

"Give me the ball back you big bully," cried the King, jumping to get the beach ball away from Flier.

"Ha ha, Mr. King isn't so tough now?" replied Flier.

From behind him Botimus rammed him and the ball flew from his hands.

"Your it!" cried Botimus.

I looked at David, who was laughing his head off.

"It's a much deserved vacation for all of us," I said. I turned to Boaty who was sitting flat open on the sand.

"Boaty, what are you doing?" I asked.

"Steel said I should get a sun tan," Boaty replied.

David was now falling in the sand, dying of laughter.

"Ummm, Boaty, you can't get a sun tan." I said.

"Oh, understood."

"Boaty, what am I going to do with you?"

I turned back to my log and closed up to watch the two suns go down over the horizon. Another day and the world was at peace for now.

## The End