

## Forward

So this is the last story I wrote for the longest time. This revision was written around 1999/2000 as I remember writing it in my one bedroom apartment up in Worthington, Ohio. I can specifically remember the scene of me typing on my Macintosh G3 while sitting in my bedroom conjuring up this vast saga.

The goal of this story was to create an epic adventure which was broken into three parts. I really wanted to have this appear like an epic movie. If memory serves me correct Star Wars: Episode 1 had just come out at the time and I was somewhat inspired to continue my own story.

After that, I simply just got busy with life. I was starting to come out of the closet and meet people and it seemed silly to stay in a world of Transformers. Little did I know this would all start up again when I began the [TFormers.com](http://TFormers.com) Podcast many years later and delve highly into the fandom when the first Transformers Live Action movie came out.

I also started to 'hint' as my sexuality in this story as I wasn't sure where I was going with this. This all comes to fruition in the end though.

I will say that the original Preface here noted things that were typical 'follow your dreams' types of comments. While I would garner now that I'm older (I'm 45 at the time of this third revision) I may be a bit jaded. However, I would tell anyone if they have ANY creative desire, just say 'fuck it' and 'do it.'

If I had realized how much music meant to me, I would have started my music career years ago, instead of waiting till 35 to realize I wasn't getting any younger, and then subsequently realizing how awesome a music career is.

And if I realized how much writing was to me, I wouldn't have waited till 2020 to finish the Zapbot saga.

So just do it!

Anthony S. Anselmo

# Robot Trek II

By Anthony S. Anselmo

## Chapter 1

The darkness swept over the marsh as I slowly and steadily crept up behind the bush. I peered through the holes in the bushes to peek among the rays of the moonlight and scan the horizon for the opponent I knew so well. In the darkness of the night silence dominated. I moved with precision, not making a sound as I tracked my opponent.

*"I hate doing this,"* I thought to myself. The encounter itself was nothing in terms of fear of that I had already known. Still, I felt uneasy as I did not know the whereabouts of my enemy.

I continued to scan the horizon as the darkness of the night swept over my body. Through the fog I saw very little, and the dampness of the swamp made a very interesting smell. Contemplating my next move, should I move or wait for his movement to allude me to his next direction. I began to crawl slowly...

Out from nowhere a body leaped and pounced on me. I went rolling onto the ground as my opponent attached himself to my back, wrapping his legs around my side and frantically trying to grab my arms. I grabbed his shirt and tugged as we rolled around on the dirt. I was able to switch my body over within his clench of the legs and grabbed his arms pinning him to the ground. He then lunged forward and I fell backwards on my behind. The next thing I knew my opponent had me, now pinning me to the dirt as I was unable to move in any way or form. I stopped moving my head frantically back and forth after it had no effect.

*"Give up you pirate!"* my opponent said staring at me with a mischievous grin.

*"Don't count your chickens-"*

*"Oh shut up,"* he whined as he moved to slap my face, I counter blocked and threw him off me. I jumped to try and land on him but he stuck his knee up and pushed me to the side.

I slipped and fell down a small embankment, sliding and making all sorts of funny sounds on the way down. I came to rest on the ground on my back and stared up at my opponent standing high above the cliff.

*"Give up yet Anthony?"*

The room was filled with shiny diamonds, and the florescent lights danced off the floor. The band played the slow waltz. Hand in hand the Zapbots danced and moved across the floor, as onlookers from the tables watched with delight.

Botimus walked in and sat down at table one with his counterparts. Turning first and observing the action, and then tapping Flier in the arm.

*"Still no word?"* asked Botimus.

*"Nope,"* said Flier.

Boaty returned to the table with a tray of energy snacks. Sitting down he motioned a greeting towards Botimus.

*"Any word?"* asked Boaty.

*"None as of yet,"* replied Botimus.

Out on the dance floor Pliers danced with Roberta hand in hand and moved rhythmically to the music.

*"So Roberta my dear when are we going to set the big date?"* asked Pliers.

"My dear, you are anxious aren't you, what do you think we are, a bunch of humans?"

"My dear, I can barely wait. Every second feels like an eon."

"Oh so I guess my really long conversations you complain about are extra long," Roberta said smiling.

"Uh....well...."

Roberta raised a hand to his lip, and told him not worry about it. They continued to dance as the band brought down the tempo and ended the song. Everyone turned and applauded and Speedy got up from the piano and walked to the microphone.

"I would like to thank you all for coming to our little human mockery feast," Speedy said as everyone laughed. "This next song is something called 'Moon over Rycor 7'"

Ultra Attack strolled into the large auditorium and came up to table.

"Wow impressive," Ultra said,

"Isn't it?" said Botimus, "The Build Team really outdid themselves this time."

"I've never seen a higher ceiling."

"The glass statues are quite impressive too," replied Flier, shoving another energy treat into his mouth.

"Yes, Teeth sure knows his stuff, such a trapped artist I would say."

"Ultra, aren't you suppose to be on the bridge?" asked Boaty.

"I came down to find the Snow Team, they are needed back on Earth."

"Why didn't you beep in?"

"I didn't want to interrupt the festivities. Which table are they at?"

"I believe you want table 10."

Ultra nodded "good day" to his friends and walked over to table.

"Must not be too urgent if he didn't beep in," said Dodge.

"Guess not," replied Botimus.

I continued to stare up at my opponent. His torn shirt barely revealed his muscular frame. As I started to get my breath back I let out a sign of relief.

"You'll never learn you can't beat me," my equal stated.

I said nothing but remained motionless. He climbed down the cliff and knelt by my side.

"You alright?"

I slowly turned my head to the side.

"You know this wouldn't be so bad if I could actually win once in a while. You're lucky I don't engage any of my cybernetic body's powers." I said.

"Aww come on, you know you can't beat the boss!" he replied. Mike Quartz helped me to my feet and I brushed the dirt off my pants.

Mike was one of my many human friends. I had gotten to know him after crashing in a small town on Earth. In that short time we had we became friends, and succeeded in stopping an evil dictator from laying to waste all humanity had worked for. Lately, he was usually busy with University, however, this one week he granted me a visit while on his spring break.

"Computer end program," I said and the holeroom's environment dissolved into nothingness. We walked out the door to the turbo lift as I continued to groom myself. As we entered the turbo lift Mike put his hand on my shoulder. I turned and smiled. Only him and I knew the comfort in the gesture.

A short time later, I entered the giant ballroom in my Shortstop form looking around, waving "hello's" to everyone, and also looking for the right place to sit. It was a busy place of Zapbots, moving back and forth and the conversation lit up the room.

I sat down next to Botimus my second in command.

"Ah Master you finally decided to emerge from the depths of hell?" he joked.

"Be careful, I may not come back next time," I replied.

"Heading into the game room with all communication channels off is not usually a wise method of procedure," said Boaty.

"Ah I need some alone time with Mike. I don't get to see him as much as my other human friends," I replied.

I turned to survey the ballroom as my Shortstop body's black exterior reflected off the table. I felt very comfortable seeing my Zapbots' enjoy themselves. Numerous times recently we were at such an unease. Now that the threat of the Junkicons, who now called themselves Nonocons had re-entered the picture, life itself was interesting again. Although we did not have any problems for over three months, everyone was still nervous. The ability to monitor and protect every planet in the know galaxy became much more work than we could handle.

"You know I-"

My sentence was stopped short with a crash from the ceiling. The supposedly unbreakable glass had shattered to pieces and a large object came crashing into the giant ball room. Everyone hit the deck and before I knew it a large cylinder object came to rest on the floor. I ran up to the object looking to grab it before it exploded, but I saw it was a simple device. As I leaped forward a hologram appeared. The face was blurry, but still you could see the figure. It was a face, with dark red eyes I knew so well.

"Greetings Shortstop, I trust you haven't forgotten about me. The time has come once again for us to meet, and meet we will again soon."

Scan ran up to me and began to monitor the device.

"I see no threats possible from this device," he replied.

The device started to melt, and what was a small cylinder mechanical message dropped into a puddle of goo, and then evaporated into air. The whole room was now a buzz at the message. I turned to Botimus to find him already at my side.

"Put the whole Planet on Yellow Alert," I said.

"Understood," Botimus replied. I got up to walk out the exit, and Boaty and Flier followed.

"Master what are you going to do?" asked Flier.

"Tell Misslemax control to begin preparations for take off."

"Are you planning to leave?" asked Boaty.

"We're going to find that rat bastard, and I am going to end this once and for all."

My Zapbots were all aware how much this upset me, besides the fact that someone intruded into our private ceremony, let alone how this strange object got past our planetary sensors. I was extremely agitated.

## Chapter 2

"I don't care Mike this is way too dangerous, and you have responsibilities back on Earth," I cried.

"Fuck the responsibilities, I'm not leaving you."

The debate on Mike staying onboard Fortress Misslemax while we went on a 'quest' hung heavy in the air. We had been going at it for at least an hour. His persistence I admired, but as a friend I couldn't let him stay on, knowing I would be putting his life in danger.

"Look, I hate being a Jerk, but I told all non-military members to leave, and that including you. That is my order and I'm sticking to it."

"Oh so that's the way you're going to play it eh?"

"Don't make me repeat myself,"

He said nothing but left the room. The doors seemed to open and close louder when I was mad. I hated telling all my friends to leave. Bill, Mike, Rogish, David, Jeremy, etc, had all been very close to me. However, no one was trained well enough in their Headmaster abilities yet, and I cared too much for them to stay aboard.

This was going to be a very lonely trip. My Zapbots themselves provided ample friendship at the Zapbot level, but only my human friends provided me with what I longed for at times.

I combined with my Shortstop body and walked onto the main bridge. Everyone was at their usual post and preparing Misslemax for space travel. I sat down in my commander chair and started playing with the controls.

"All stations report ready," Botimus said.

"Have all non-military members left the ship?" I asked.

"Sensors indicate all but one have left. It's your human friend Mike, I'm contacting Click to arrange for his transportation off here," replied Boaty.

I sighed and turned to my left where Botimus sat.

"Never in my life have I met a creature so stubborn," I exclaimed.

"I believe you," Botimus replied configuring his panel.

Click beeped in on the 3-D display. An image appeared my screen and a hologram in front of my face.

"Master we are trying to get Master Mike to leave but unfortunately he has locked the door to his quarters,<sup>click</sup>" replied Click.

"This is getting ridiculous, Boaty override his controls and get him off -"

"We tried that Master unfortunately Master Mike has seemed to somehow, sealed the door shut...<sup>click</sup>" responded Click.

"Sealed?"

"With a laser in fact!" replied Superrobot over the speakers.

Now Mike beeped in and another image appeared in front of my face.

"Your stuck with me whether you like it or not," Mike responded.

I turned to Botimus who was already laughing.

"You know we are suppose to be the MOST COMPLEX creatures in the Universe and we can't even get a door open! Alright, Mike, you want to stay, you can." I closed the communication panels and proceeded with the rest of the departure coordinates.

"Bring main propulsion online, and prepare for liftoff," I ordered.

"Main docking ramps are retracted and ship transforming sequence has activated," responded Boaty.

Slowly Misslemax's parts began to move as the ground on Gearatron began to stir. A soft cloud of dust emerged from the base of the giant city.

"Beginning lift off sequence," said Boaty.

Misslemax slowly lifted from the ground, as a giant shadow began to appear underneath its giant belly. Inhabitants on the planet stopped to watch the ship lifting off into space. The feat itself was quite an impressive one, but never the less, it amazed everyone every time.

"We have achieved lift off," replied Boaty.

"Main engines are online," responded Flier.

"Communications and sensors are in normal parameters," responded Hightone.

"Ok then, Flier ease us out of the planet's atmosphere if you would please, and then warp to the coordinates I have uploaded."

Misslemax crawled out the Gearatron's atmosphere and then with one burst jumped to light speed and proceeded out of the sector.

*"Masters Log, it's been three months since our encounter with the Nonocons device. Still no sign of the Nonocons.*

*"Reports from the quadrants have rumors flying of an incredibly large ship appearing throughout several planet's atmospheres. The size of this ship has been known to vary from smaller than Misslemax, to larger than a planet. This new ship doesn't match the kind and make of any ship we have seen before. We concluding that the Nonocons may have a possible new weapon here.*

*"However at the same time these reports have been so sketchy, and the people who reference them are so unreliable that we are unsure if this is just a Nonocon rumor being spread to cause fear. At present time I don't know what to make of it. A bit of myself is on the edge, as I fear the worst will happen. Then another bit of myself wants to confront that fear. For if I don't I may not be able to confront it later."*

Click walked into my room and I stopped my log to get up and greet him.

"Master click, we've run level one diagnostics on Misslemax as you requested,click" Click replied.

"Good job Click, I appreciate you acting over my paranoia."

"In past time your paranoia has been something that has saved our metal behinds.click"

"I know, I know."

Mike barged into the room. He carried a game pack with him.

"Hey Anthony lets go do something constructive."

"While I appreciate the effort to provide entertainment, I'm just not in the mood."

"You're never in the mood anymore!"

I notion to Click and he proceeded to leave. I sat down on my circular couch and Mike sat down across from me.

"Look I know you're trying to keep things off your mind, but not all of us use that method of 'keeping busy' to keep the mind occupied."

"But Anthony, you're stressed out beyond comprehension! Everyday I come in here and your staring out that window, waiting for the Big Bang to happen."

I looked down at the ground. How could I explain to him the evil I had encountered before? How could I tell him about Messy's evil eyes that scared the wits out of me that first time he looked down upon me? There was no way I could convey the feelings and the rage I had for the Nonocons.

"Mike, I can't expect you to understand..."

"You can be such a jerk!" He got up and proceeded to go about leaving the room. I stood up also beginning to run after him. I caught up with him just before he left the room and

put my hand on his shoulder. He stopped but didn't turn around. He lowered his head and stood there silently.

"Why did you insist on coming? I know you better than that."

He paused for a minute and I heard a short intake on air, signifying the clogging of his nostrils. I then realized he was crying.

"Your not the only one who's psychic..." he said.

He turned around, and I grabbed his body and held him in a deep embrace. An embrace that only we knew and could understand.

### Chapter 3

I sat in my Shortstop's commander's chair. The bridge was fairly quiet, except for the hum of the computers and stir of the ship moving in space.

"Boaty what is our current position?" I asked.

"Heading toward sector 7G Master," Boaty replied.

"You know you'd figure that they at least give us some surprise by now, if they had the ability," responded Flier.

"My logic would figure they are calling a bluff," commented Speedy.

"No... it's possible they are preparing for something big," responded Scan from the back of the room.

I leaned forward in my chair. "If I know Amphotron, he's wanting to take his time on this one so he doesn't screw it up," I responded.

Pliers walked onto the bridge at that moment. Out of boredom everyone turned around and starred.

"Well we've set the date," he said.

"No way!" responded Flier.

"Marriage?" asked Botimus.

"Yep, Master how does a Zapbot get married?" Pliers asked.

"I dunno, this has never happened before," I responded. "Why now?"

"We just had a feeling we better do it now before any battle starts."

"Interesting logic Pliers," said Boaty.

"Well congratulations Pliers, I'll figure out how to do the ceremony later," I said.

Our computers beeped and everyone turned to their stations. At that moment, the oddest thing happened. Bop walked on to the bridge. At first we didn't notice because we were looking at our screens but Bop rarely left the level which contained his bar.

"Bop? What brings you to the bridge?" I asked.

"I just had a feeling I should be here," he responded.

"Master I am picking up large chunks of metallic pieces. It appears to be the remains of a Federation ship." Boaty replied.

"What?!!" I cried. Onscreen came the image of particles and pieces of ships floating in space. At that moment, the tension as well as physical movement increased on the bridge.

"Scan do a full analysis on those pieces and see if we can figure out which ship. Take us to Yellow Alert," responded Botimus.

"Could they be here?" asked Ultra.

"Possibly," I responded.

"MASTER, I did a scan on the wreckage, the pieces aren't even five minutes old!" replied Scan.

"Master I'm picking up a Tachyon surge!" cried Boaty.

Out of nowhere a Nonocon ship materialized out of nothingness. Its configuration was a bit altered since the last time we saw them, but it was still the basic design underneath.

"Raise shields! Red Alert!" I cried.

The shields went up but the Nonocon ship started to fire. The weapons hit Misslemax with an enormous blast. Everyone held on to their seats as an assortment of weapons hit us.

"Evasive action, return fire," I responded. Misslemax began to move slowly but the Nonocon ship had already gotten a full spread on us. We returned fire with lasers and it hit the Nonocon ship directly, knocking it off its course.

"Shields holding at 60 percent," replied Scan.

"They've made some improvements in speed I see," responded Botimus.



"Boaty prepare for..." and just as I was about to complete my sentence out of nowhere came another Nonocon ship. My Zapbots a bit weary and out of practice couldn't compensate for the additional ship. Misslemax moved slowly through space as the Nonocon ships began to hit us with everything they had.

"Enough of this, prepare for Battle station transformation!" I cried.

I punched in the code and Misslemax began to transform into its battle station mode. The side towers extended into separate components and rocket towers appeared.

Boaty maneuvered Misslemax enough to keep us out of the way of the weapons from the Nonocon ships to give Misslemax enough time to transform. The two Nonocon ships continued to fly around us and attack like circling hawks.

"Prepare for a sun blast," I replied. The two giant solar panels on Misslemax gathered the energy from the nearest star, and then collected it in their power cells. Then all of a sudden, with a giant blast of energy, an enormous laser hit the Nonocon ships, drilling a hole deep within their sides.

"We've hit them hard!" replied Botimus.

Bop who was standing there the whole time observing the battle then spoke.

"He's there..."

"What?" I asked.

What happened next was incredible, as no one could believe nor less understand what happened. Misslemax was hit by a massive laser. It knocked everyone across the room and within seconds computer panels blew up everywhere around the ship, and fire spewed everywhere. I was knocked to the floor.

"What the hell was that?" I screamed.

"Unknown energy source hit us Master," Boaty cried.

"From where?"

"Unknown."

"Bring all weapons to full and prepare to target the first Nonocon ship," I cried.

I got up and braced myself in my chair, my Zapbots went back to their own stations and the computerized fire suppression systems went to work on the raging fires on the bridge. Within seconds the oxygen was removed and the fire dissipated.

Misslemax fired all of its weapons at the first Nonocon ship as it moved in slowly taking hit after hit, being knocked around from the massive weapons. I couldn't tell who had the upper hand in this fight yet.

"Master ship incoming!" cried Flier.

The first ship came in closer and closer, and from the speed it was gaining you could tell what it was doing.

"They're going to ram us?" I asked.

"All hands brace for impact!" responded Botimus.

The ship itself was half the size of Misslemax, but when it hit Misslemax's shields the blast sent another shock wave through Misslemax. We held on with all our might to our seats as the world seemed to vibrate non stop. The explosion was blinding as the Nonocon ship was reduced to dust.

"Shields are down to 10 percent!" cried Scan.

"Master the next ship is coming around!" cried Flier.

The last ship also began its kamikaze course. This time it began to hit us with everything it had first. Out of the sides of the tiny spiked Nonocon ship came every last weapon it could muster.

Beams fell, poles collapsed, and walls exploded. You could barely comprehend what was going on. I screamed at the top of my lungs hoping Boaty could either hear me or fire the weapons himself.

Just before the Nonocon ship was ready to collide our solar panels recharged and fired at the ship and it exploded in the middle of space.

The explosion seemed to allow sound itself to come back to Misslemax. As I regained control of my optic sensors I saw we were falling apart at the seams as the damage was dramatic.

"Master we've lost all shields," responded Boaty.

"Well at least we destroy."

Speedy stopped short in his sentence. We looked out the window of Misslemax and all of sudden out of nowhere, several more Nonocon ships de-cloaked out of space. Each were staggered right in front of us. It was an impressive sight to say the least, and all the fear I could ever muster appeared in my body.

They just stood there, not moving nor attacking. I knew they had probably scanned us by now and saw our damage. Where they going to offer us the chance to surrender or just destroy us in one fell swoop?

I turned around to find Bop standing at the window, looking at the army of ships.

Pliers was enraged. He grabbed Bop and turned him around and began to shake him like a mad man. Bop's origin was never known. As a Zapbot he appeared out of nowhere. He was the Zapbot that everyone said "so and so knew and was a friend of", but when you confronted "so and so" they denied ever knowing them. It wasn't long before Bop made many friends working at the bar. Still no one could place where he came from, and it was rumored that only I knew. This mystery made some Zapbots uneasy and the logic of Bop being a spy drove Pliers crazy.

"You did this! What the hell is this!" Pliers screamed slamming Bop up against the wall.

Everyone ran from their chairs and grabbed Pliers from Bop. I myself was a bit concerned why Bop was acting so strange.

"Bop what's up?" I asked still peering out at the motionless army of ships.

"My twin brother... they found him."

"A brother, you never told us about a brother!" replied Flier.

In the midst of this problem I realized something. I ran to my console and did a quick check, and then pressed a few buttons. Out of the back of Misslemax in the top tower the small secret section which contained my Headmaster friends' and my own quarters shot out, escaping as an extremely large and luxuriously escape pod. I could almost hear Mike's voice scream "Dammit Anthony!" as I allowed him and my mini Zapbots to escape back towards Earth. Boaty came over and looked at me.

"Allowing him to escape?" Boaty asked.

"It may have been the only way," I replied.

As an emergency precaution I made it so this portion could enact as an emergency escape pod. Although I was unsure of our fate, I didn't want Mike to get captured and I also wanted to send a message for help. The pod ejected from Misslemax, cloaked and immediately went into warp and flew back towards Gearatron as programmed.

"Master look."

I didn't hear the end of his Speedy's sentence. An enormous blast hit us and all I saw as I turned my head towards the view-screen was a giant beam of light ripping through the front of the bridge and hitting me dead on.

Darkness was all I felt or saw. Was I dead? Is this really death? I didn't remember it being like this last time. In fact I didn't remember anything... It was cold, and I didn't feel any body part.

Out of the distance came a light. Very soft and very faint, and as it grew it expanded. Was this the afterlife? Slowly and steadily it became a view, and then I saw what was in my view, as my field of vision slowly expanded.

I saw Boaty standing over me. Either I was dead, Boaty was in this afterlife or life was still in my body. I could see Boaty twiddling with some wires. My automated systems came back online. Then I could tell I was still interfaced in my Shortstop body.

Hands helped me to my feet and as I stood up I saw the entire bridge crew and myself were in a holding chamber.

"What happened? Status?" I asked.

"Some tractor beam hit us dead on and it appears we have been taken captive," replied Botimus.

"I can't transform or use any weapons," replied Speedy.

"I was the only one still functional, so after they deposited us here I began to reactivate everyone starting with the most needy," responded Boaty.

"Oh great," I said. I sat down on the floor and disengaged from my Shortstop body. My Zapbots and I were in terrible shape, and I was amazed we were still functioning. I walked over the only control panel in the cell. I scanned and inspected it. The Nonocons had made great strides in technology. I turned to Bop.

"Your brother's doing?" I asked him.

"Yeah what's the deal?" asked Pliers nursing a wound on Flier.

"My twin brother was deactivated many years ago and stored on a remote planet in the Collins cluster. If they found him this would explain the sudden spurt in technology. He was a technological genius."

"Well why was he deactivated?" asked Flier.

"Simply put, he was 'troubled.' I sensed him when we came into this sector. That's why I was on the bridge. I sincerely apologize for the distraction but I was using my emotions more than my logic."

"We'll worry about it later," I said. "I think I can override this panel. Hightone can you eject anyone to help me?"

"Sorry Master, left all our tapes and disks back at Misslemax," responded Hightone in his low voice.

A Nonocon guard walked by and I quickly recombined with my Headmaster body. He stopped and snickered at us. He was someone we hadn't seen before.

"You little pieces of metallic garage. Your death is just around the corner!" and then we realized that this was an old Junkicon we knew as Magic. On his side was entitled the name "Mercy." Magic was a Junkicon who used unknown energy to manipulate people.

He held an old sore with Flier. Flier jumped up and ran towards the bar. Mercy let out a ray from his finger and it knocked Flier back toward the wall making a nice hole in Flier's side. Boaty ran to aid his fallen brother and Mercy's laugh hung in the air.

Iron walked down the hall and pressed the call button.

"Who is it?" Terrain whispered?

"Its Iron!"

The door opened and closed with a swish and Iron sneaked into the room. The dim lit quarters housed Terrain who usually kept it a mess. The room was barely lit to allow just enough for them to see where they were going, but not attract the attention of any scanners.

"They're everywhere, if it wasn't for the fact the main computer was shut down we would be captured by now," responded Terrain.

"They're going on a deck by deck search slowly sealing everyone in their rooms," responded Iron slamming his fist in his hand.

"We have to do something, we can't let them take over the ship!"

"We can't just fight them by ourselves my friend."

The buzzer rang again and this time Rup, Hot Shot and Vision strolled in.

"Damn Nonocreeps have the whole place a mess. Nothing is working!" responded Rup.

"They took Shortstop and the bridge crew hostage too," cried Hot Shot.

"WeHaveToTakeThisShipBack..." said Vision too fast.

"Don't worry, I'm forming a plan to get our buddies back as we speak," said Terrain.

They heard footsteps come down the hall. Everyone shutdown their power and stood motionless. The footsteps came to the door and then passed. After a couple of seconds everyone came back online. Tension hung in the air and the level of Misslemax was damaged so badly that the temperature controls were out, letting icicles form on everyone's exterior.

"I can get help from the mini-tapes. If you guys can cause a distraction I have a plan!" responded Terrain.

"Gentlebots time is short, let's get moving shall we?" replied Rup.

## Chapter 4

Boaty was patching Flier up with his hand laser the best he could. Flier was mumbling nonsense and was halfway delirious. I was working frantically trying to bypass the cell's force fields so we could break out. Botimus kept an eye out for any sort of trouble.

"And so he said 'I can't operate on him he's my son!'" muttered Flier.

"Master his condition is stable, but I am unsure of how long we can keep him here without medical-" started Boaty but I held up my hand and told him to be quiet.

"I got it, Botimus whenever you're ready!" I said holding two wires in my hand.

"Hey Nonocreep!" Botimus cried. Mercy walked up to the cell from down the hall. I watched my Zapbot carefully. I had a split second to cut the power to the field, which would allow Botimus to grab Mercy, disable him, and with the force field gone our weapon packs could start recharging.

"Ah Botimus Prime, what pain may I inflict on you-" he stopped short noticing my small X-O suit body on the floor.

I crossed the wires and the bars collapsed. Botimus nailed him with a punch and sent him flying back toward the wall. Within seconds he transformed into trailer mode and Flier, Hightone and Scan jumped in with Boaty.

Speedy, Bop, and Pliers ran out. It took a bit longer to recombine with my Shortstop body and follow them down the hall, however it didn't take long for the sirens to go off.

"This is Team 1" replied Terrain on a secured channel. "We are in place."

"Team 2 ready," responded Scout the mini-bot over the channel.

"GoGoWithTeam 3,GoGoGo!" replied Vision.

"Execute plan in 5...4...3...2..."

The two Nonocon guards were stationed at the artillery room. As typical Nonocon style there were conversing about nothing.

"Yeah that was a pretty easy planet to conquer, not as easy if Amphotron's plan works though," replied Carton

"Yeah he really likes his new toy," replied Murder. From out of nowhere Vision ran right by them, almost bypassing their sensors. The Nonocons turned around and as they did they saw Vision standing waving at the end of the hallway.

"Can'tCatchMe,NoSirree,uh-uh," he said rapidly.

"Why that low grade excuse for a race car!" cried Murder.

Around the back Hot Shot came from behind and shot his null ray at their heads. The two Nonocons fell to the floor. Rup and Hot Shot dragged them into an adjoining room.

"Computer encase room with level one force field and security lock 1," replied Rup.

And just like that the Nonocons were sealed shut. Rup, Hot Shot and the Vision entered the armory.

The engine room was dark. Terrain and Iron slowly crept in stocked to the teeth with weapons. If they were going to regain control of the bridge they needed to power up the main computer. As they slowly crept up along the walls and came to a corner, peering around the corner they saw two Nonocons guarding the main generator.

"So how do we do this?" Iron asked.

"I'm still trying to come up with that part of the plan," responded Terrain

Then they saw two wounded Zapbots sitting in the nearby corner. Dematerialize and Hologram were tied in energy chains and being watched by the two Nonocons.

Terrain motioned to them and Hologram saw the reflection from Terrain and looked up. He nodded slowly and then encased both Terrain and Iron in a hologram. Dematerialize used his power also to help improve the image. The hologram was an image of the walls around the engine room. Slowly and steady Iron and Terrain moved forward and the two wounded magicians had to compensate for every step, changing the image as they went. Iron and Terrain moved towards the Nonocons almost invisible.

"What the hell?" said the one Nonocon looking at waves that would appear to be heat rising.

"What's going on?" said the other.

Unexpectedly a laser hit the two Nonocons knocking them backwards. They fell off the rafter and crashed into the ground below.

Iron jumped down and as the Nonocons were getting to their feet he nailed both of them with his fists and then a laser. The two Nonocons fell back and hit the ground with a resounding "umph".

Terrain ran towards the main computer and helped Dematerialize and Hologram to their feet. He then proceeded to take down the security codes for the computer.

At that moment, three other Nonocons walked into the room.

"Hey you! Stop!" cried the Nonocon.

Terrain grabbed two shock grenades from his side and launched them at the robots. They hit the ground just before the grenades went off, firing an explosion electrical charge disabling the Nonocons completely. Terrain grabbed his fellow Zapbots and jumped down to Iron's location.

"I put the code in, let's go!" and they all ran towards the main turbo-lift.

"Would be nice if they included a door up here," replied Scout.

"Mini-Zapbots weren't suppose to go on the bridge," replied Steel.

The Nonocons below were trying to infiltrate the bridge's inner workings didn't notice the small human compartment near the ceiling containing my mini-Zapbots and mini-cassettes.

Amphotron sat in the commander chair that was trying to break the security codes.

"Curse you Shortstop!" he cried.

All of a sudden, the power to the bridge went out going pitch black.

"This is it!" replied Scout as Steel, Muncher, Slywing and himself bursted out from the human room and flew around in the dark. They were small enough not to be detected by anyone and they ran around various spots sabotaging the control panels and creating general havoc. Amphotron and his Nonocons were taken off guard.

Lowtone, Hightone's arch enemy sensed the small Zapbots and released some of his own tapes. His mini Nonocons scurried the areas of the chairs and tables looking for the similar sized robots. However, Steel and Scout jumped out from a ledge and nailed them with an array of lasers. The mini-Nonocons were taken off guard and fell backwards firing.

The turbo-lift doors opened and Terrain, Iron, Dematerialize and Hologram came rushing in firing at anything they could pinpoint. Amphotron turned on his lights and returned the fire.

"Damn Zapbots! You will die by my hand!" he cried.

A battle of lasers lit up the darkness of the bridge. Both Zapbots big and small were fighting behind chairs and tables as the badly damaged bridge became a battlefield for destruction.

Croched down behind a table Iron radioed to Steel.

"Got there yet?" he asked.

"We've sorta ran into some old friends, but Muncher is working on it now!"

Muncher was chewing through the wall, and behind this wall Click, Tiny, Experiment and Superrobot came strolling out. They flew past the array of lasers in the night and ran towards my chair. They ran up a small hole in the side and here hidden away for just this case of an emergency was a secret mini-bot commander center.

"I'm glad Master included this within the next Misslemax upgrade," said Tiny beyond the noise.

"No time to ponder about starship design, bring the main computer online!" replied Superrobot.

The lights came back up and the firing stopped for a brief second. Then out of Misslemax's speakers came audio disrupter waves, specially tuned to disturb only the Nonocons.

"ARGGHHH!" cried the Nonocons as they held their heads tightly. Amphotron transformed into vehicle mode and blasted a hole right in the somewhat-repaired side of the bridge as they all leaped out the side to retreat from Misslemax. An emergency force field went into place restoring the oxygen. Through the rest of Misslemax, other Nonocons hit the ground, knocked out by the waves.

"Kicking caboose!" cried Terrain as he ran to regain control of the bridge.

Everyone besides Bop and myself were in vehicle mode as we sped down the Nonocon ship's hallways. Sirens were going off and we had little time figure out how to escape.

Without warning, a Nonocon Droid came around the corner.

"Stop!" he said in a monotone voice.

"Yeah right!" said Bop as he transformed into cannon mode and blasted the Droid into pieces. We continued at high speeds until we came to a dead end with everyone retransformed back into robot mode.

"This makes no sense!" replied Speedy.

"Of course it doesn't!" said a familiar voice. We turned around to find one of Amphotron's right hand Nonocon, Creator standing there with an army of Nonocon soldiers. "We made dead ends on this ship just for occasions like this. Only we know how to get off this ship!"

"Master, I calculate one good blast from Bop could puncture a hole right out of this ship," whispered Boaty.

I checked my energy. I had no weapons, only a force field. I ran in front of my Zapbots, engaging the force field and they all ducked as Bop fired at the wall. The implosion sent everyone outward as the oxygen was being sucked out. Creator and his army opened fire and my force field went dead. I observed the hot lasers rip into my Shortstop's metallic skin and blacked out again from loss of power and energy.

## Chapter 5

I awoke with one giant migraine. As my vision cleared again and my systems came back online I saw the fuzzy images of robots. At first I figured it to be my Zapbot friends, but when the fuzzy layer finally lifted I saw in horror Nonocon droids.

As I looked down I found myself strapped to a table in just my bionic form. As fear began to set in, I saw these mini-droids slowly taking pieces of my robotic body apart.

I can not explain what it's like to have this happen to you. Its like sitting and watching hopelessly as if pieces of your skin are being taken apart bit by bit. I felt no pain but a slight discomfort as the Nonocon mini-droids kept taking parts of my Zapbot replacement parts off.

I tried to move and escape, but all that resorted was my head moving frantically back and forth in a crazy lunatic fashion. This was unlike fighting with Mike. This time the pain and fear were real.

One particular droid with an apparent chief medical emblem on his side came up to me. He looked at me and with one fell swoop raised his hand and smacked me across the face. The pain of his sturdy metal hand slashing my skin and causing a deep gouache was enough to knock a normal man unconscious. I gnashed my teeth and held in the pain that would be my human blood pouring out of my face.

"That's for killing my cousins!" cried the Nonocon medical droid.

Whimpering and breathing heavily I continued to stare at the mini-droids taking apart my body. The burning sensation had gone from my face and I could feel human bone exposed as a gentle breeze hit my insides.

The Medical Doctor raised his arm and it transformed into a large needle. He raised it profusely as to intimidate me. Then behind the needle I saw in the shadows of a familiar face. As the giant robot walked forward the red eyes came into view.

The familiar face of pain and agony, and this time he was smiling, the giant, Amphotron smiled down from high above. Then I felt the droids taking my legs and arms apart. I laid there a single body part with a head, I cried out in horror as the worlds seem to break into pieces.

I started to cry, and raised my head to Amphotron.

"I'll get you!" I screamed with what little might I had left. Then with one fell swoop the Medical droid thrust his needle into my side.

The pain was unbearable and my mouth opened as wide as it could go as I gasped for air and out in pain. As my eyes almost went into the back of my head I saw and heard Amphotron laugh and he laughed like the chilling laughter of the devil himself.

I knew I was about to die... but just as I almost passed out yet again I heard an enormous crash. Deafening to few, I turned my shaking body and saw a giant yellow claw rip through the side of the wall. The air began to leak out creating a suction but the claw moved fast enough to create the hold and then plug it with the rest of its arm. The claw flew up right above my table and then with one fell swoop it came down.

The three pronged claw clamped down and the fingers smashed the robot droids standing next to me. I laid there right underneath the giant hand. Then slowly the claw encased the table I was on and began to lift, ripping the table with me off from the ground.

I was very much out of it at this point, but I knew it was the Zapbot Omega Dupreme. Our complex battle station, a bit smaller than Duplaflex but probably more of a warrior robot than either Misslemax or Duplaflex. I heard yelling and laser blasts but I felt safe and warm as the claw encased my body with a protective shield and lifted me out of the Nonocon ship.



Omega Dupreme placed me inside his human loading dock and from there rested me in the safety area. His yellow claw passed within a force field that kept the atmosphere hospitable inside of his body for human passengers. As the claw withdrew I saw Click and Superrobot come rushing up to my small portion of a body.

Outside Omega Dupreme began to rip apart the Nonocon ships. He swung his mighty hand around and shot his head laser out and the Nonocon ships still taken under surprised began to move frantically trying to avoid him.

But it was too late for them, the two Nonocon ships that remained buckled under the stress. Omega flew away and within seconds the ship's began to explode. Pieces began to blow up and the two ships hit each other and created one massive explosion. The Nonocons ships then imploded in space.

I saw this all from the inside of Omega but once again passed out under the stress.

I awoke this time in familiar surroundings. I was resting comfortably in a Zapbot human medical bay. As I peered around I turned to see a familiar face.

"MIKE!" I cried.

I would move to hug the poor guy if I only had arms. I saw I was still an invalid but I was hooked up to numerous medical machines now.

Mike instead leaned over to offer the hug. As I sigh of relief came over myself I peered around to see Click and Superrobot working at computer terminals. Mike held my partial body in his arms.

"You know I should kill you for scaring me like that!" replied Mike holding back the tears to trying not to show emotion.

"Click status report..." I asked.

"Misslemax and Omega Dupreme are on route to Tockmak 3 for repairs. No reports of any Nonocon activity. After Botimus and the crew escaped, a short while after Omega showed up and we planned a rescue attack. We were successfully able to recover you before the Nonocons had any chance to destroy you. Click"

"Your lucky Master, the injection would have killed you in a few minutes," replied Superrobot.

"Give me my backup body parts and let me get out of here," I demanded.

"No can do Master, your backup parts were damaged in the battle. We are fashioning new ones as you speak, but we need you to rest. Whatever the Nonocons injected you with was a bear to get rid of, and we need you not to do anything physically strenuous for a while."

"I don't care I -"

"Master, as your medical doctor I am issuing an order you must remain here. You aren't going to get out of this one. Botimus has everything under control. Click" ordered Click.

"Master we have an incoming transmission for you," replied Superrobot. Up in front of my face came a three dimensional monitor with the image of Omega Dupreme's insides.

"Omega!" I cried.

"Glad to see you're functional Master," Omega responded in his echoing voice.

"I owe you one big guy!" I said.

"All in the line of duty."

Boaty popped in and it became a two-way call.

"Master we are set to dock at Tockmak 3's in one hour,"

"Thank you Boaty, and thank you Omega."

I laid back and slowly rested my body. For now I was safe and warm, and hopefully Amphotron was destroyed.

## Chapter 6

*"Masters Log, Supplemental. Currently Misslemax is docked at Starbase 23 undergoing repairs. Once again it would seem luck was on our side as much of the bridge team is okay considering the amount of damage we took. I am amazed at the ingenuity of my Zapbots. They handled themselves with cunning and strength in this battle.*

*"Botimus has taken over in command as I attempt to recuperate. Ambassador Zapbot Tonta has arrived from Starfleet to run an overview of the situation."*

Botimus sat in my ready room trying to figure out how to work my computer. I had a replicate of an old Apple IIe fashioned for my desk computer as Ambassador Tonta entered the room with a swish.

"Greetings Ambassador."

"Cut the crap," Tonta ordered. As Botimus withdrew his hand, Tonta opened her compartment and took out her electronic cigarette and began smoking. Botimus sensed something was amiss.

"What brings you here today Amb-" once again Tonta interrupted.

"Look soldier boy, we have a possible SPY here on Misslemax! We have had numerous breaches in security on Gearatron. How did a device get through our planetary defenses? We have traced this spy all the way to Misslemax!"

"A spy?"

"Yes no-mouth, a spy. Clean out your audio receptors will ya."

"Ambassador, why was I not informed of this before your arrival?"

"It's too easy for someone to have intercepted our transmissions. The High Council has gone into several meetings and are very quiet about this."

"Well what plan did they decide?"

"They decided that I would conduct a full review of ship crew and memory banks."

"Excuse me?"

"You heard me needle nose, I'm going to inspect every inch."

"I'm afraid that's not going to be possible," replied Botimus, who was getting a bit unnerved at this point.

"Huh?"

"Shortstop has Class A protection over this vessel."

"What!" cried Tonta. Botimus explained Class A basically was 'Whatever goes on this ship stays aboard this ship'. When the High Council was formed certain exceptions were made to the rules in order to accommodate the privacy of my needs as well as a 'plan b' just in case the High Council ever became corrupt.

"I'm afraid all inquires about Misslemax will have to be done with Master Anthony's approval," replied Botimus clasping his hand gingerly.

"What is Ambassador Anselmo's status?"

"Currently recovering from the recent battle. You are more than welcome to stay aboard Misslemax until his recovery."

"Humpf," said Tonta stormed out leaving a trail of dust from her cigar behind. Botimus could tell he was not going to enjoy her company.

Roberta ran up to Pliers and grabbed him tightly.

"When I heard the worse I dispatched the call to Omega," she replied.

"You know I'd be fine," Pliers replied picking her up.

The two Zapbots held each other tightly for about a minute.

"Dear I've been thinking, maybe we should wait on the marriage thing..."

"WHAT?" cried Pliers taken off guard. Roberta left the embrace and walked over to the window.

"I've just been thinking, what happens if something tragic happens. I mean, maybe we should wait till the war is over. So no one loses a love one."

"My dear, the time is now, if we don't do this now we may never be together if something tragic happens."

Roberta turned to her lover and grasped his robotic body again.

"I'm just so scared..." she said.

"I know, I am too."

All of a sudden, Pliers took a bit of oversight too far.

"Who is it?" he asked.

"Who is what?"

"The other Zapbot you're interested in."

Roberta drew back in aghast. "How dare you!" she exclaimed.

"Why are you wanting to postpone the marriage then?"

"You think I would deceive you! Do you dare compare me to a human!"

"Do you dare to lie to me!"

Roberta flew out of the room faster than even Vision's top speed. Pliers hung his head low not knowing what to make of the situation.

"An investigation about a spy?" I asked trying to scratch an itch with my one foot.

"Correct Master, she was not very... polite about the situation," replied Botimus over the hologram.

"Well this is peculiar, I've never heard of her, was she generated recently?"

"Appears so, all her credentials check out. But..."

"But what?"

"She was unaware about Misslemax's Class A protection. She also referred to you as Ambassador not 'Master.'"

"Well that's no biggie, not many know about that unless asked, and not everyone has to call me that, just you guys."

"Still she creeps me up..."

"That's creeps me out Botimus."

"Oh sorry."

"Keep an eye on her, I'll handle her as soon as my body parts are ready."

"We could put your current body in a transportation device if you wish," responded Tiny who was working on my arm parts.

"Thanks Tiny, there's something about a man's dignity which humans have to deal with though. I don't think an Ambassador is going to listen to a half human floating around in front of her."

"What have you been up to Master?" Botimus asked.

"I've been working on that machine design to help with my father's tumor."

"The human doctors have not come up with any solutions?"

"They have, but I believe to be onto something big. I'll send you the current specs in a bit."

"Affirmative, Botimus out."

With a blip the three dimensional image disappeared. I used my nose to punch the floating keypad and send Botimus the file. Mike was sitting in the chair next to me reading a magazine while listening to the whole conversation.

"A machine?" Mike inquired looking up from his magazine.

"Imagine a machine that could rebuild human body tissue completely from atoms."

"Is that possible?"

"We've only been able to replicate food and inanimate things so far. Hopefully if this idea works, I can put a person in this machine and it can diagnose the problem with the person and fix it within seconds by completely rebuilding their cellular structure!"

"What if something goes wrong? Like one atom gets misplaced?"

"That's what I'm working on. An inanimate object is no biggie, but living tissue there's no room for error. Plus it requires an enormous amount of energy. That's why we would never be able to 'beam' someone from one place to the other."

"Plus that would make your Zapbots' transformations pretty useless."

"True. Actually I take that back, Plier's perfected a teleporting power that Timetravel and some others have but it's only over extremely short distances. And living tissue is a big different from Zapbot specialized metal."

"This Ambassador doesn't sound so friendly."

"I know it's quite weird. A little too weird."

"I'd rather not talk about it," said Bop.

"Excuse me, now the bartender doesn't want to talk?" said Speedy.

"According to various Earth entertainment shows I have watched, bartenders are suppose to help others and remain a mystery to all."

Speedy continued to watch Bop work on cleaning and disinfecting the bar. Ever since the incident Bop had been on edge and was not his usual familiar, friendly self.

"So you're not going to tell me?" asked Speedy.

Bop raised a glass of energy to his insertion hole. He slowly stared out the windows into the vast space and the starbase dock outside. The starbase was specially made to overlap the docked ships, allowing mechanical arms and tentacles to wrap around Misslemax. This allowed easy entrance to ramps and repair bays.

"I can't tell you the whole history. All I can say is that I have a twin brother. He was corrupted... and I thought I had stopped him a long time ago."

"Stopped him?"

"He had caused pain in thousands, millions even... I thought I had him locked up, but I guess he somehow escaped."

"Why did he turn evil?"

Bop paused.

"Who knows? Who knows what evil runs in the tubes of robots... But he's out there... and I know he's up to no good."

Bop placed the remaining dishes in the replicators and turned off the lights for the night. Gently Speedy followed him out of the room for the night.

In the dark corners of an asteroid at the far end of space, loud voices could be heard.

"We had the fools in our grasp! And yet we let that inferno giant tub of metal for a Zapbot steal him away!" cried Amphotron.

"I told you we should've just destroyed them when they first came aboard!" replied Skyscream. "Squish him like a bug."

Amphotron grabbed a piece of metal off the table of the Nonocons' secret complex and winged it at the robot. It hit Skyscream and knocked him back a bit. He slowly walked up to Skyscream with the red glare in his eyes.

"Did I tell you to speak! Killing them would only cause more sympathy for them in the High Council. He would be martyr's to the race! I don't want to kill Anthony, I was him to suffer as he made us suffer! AND...we need to get that Matrix from his subspace compartment!"

"If Skyscream didn't perform ship separation all of us would have been floating around in space dead," said Mercy.

"A weak excuse for a retreat! We could of easily taken Omega with our ships!" cried Amphotron staring at Mercy..

"You say that now!" replied Skyscream smirking.

"You know you babble on like a bunch of humans," said a dark figure strolling into the room.

"Shut your mechanical mouth Shock! I don't need your vocal irritations," cried Amphotron pointing at the robot.

"You let the Zapbots play on your emotions Amphotron,"

"Just because you're not a true Nonocon doesn't mean you don't have the same problems," replied Skyscream staring at the figure. Shock was taller than everyone but Amphotron, pale green, with a large jetpack. Everything was exactly the same as Bop except his face was different, as it appeared more distressed than Amphotron at times.

"You need to concentrate your efforts on destroying Misslemax. Misslemax is the key part of our plans. If you allow it to survive, our chances of victory are very small," replied Shock moving to a chair and casually sitting down.

"We will see what we will do, but first we need to finish that piece to our plan before we can attack! Until then we remain dormant and let the rumors spread, understood?" Amphotron mocked.

"More than ever," said Shock smiling.

"State your number..."

"Boaty, serial number 001..."

"Boaty?" asked Tonta gingerly.

"Yes?"

"You were one of the first Zapbots created. So you will be given a bit more respect for being older."

"That is presumed." replied Boaty.

Botimus sat and watched the partial investigation go on. He couldn't stop Tonta from talking with the crew. Still the whole investigation seems pointless. Pliers and Scan had conducted their own research and didn't find any leaks of information within Misslemax.

"I have a copy of Ambassador Anselmo's log. He states 'Boaty is *probably* the most perfect Zapbot I have created yet. He is quick, agile, has no fear and always responsive to all my problems.' Does this sound familiar to you?"

"It does. That is high praise from our Master."

"So if you're so quick, how did you allow the Nonocon Secretish capture the Matrix of Leadership?"

"Pardon?"

"During the attack of Unicron on Gearatron you weren't quick enough to stop Secretish. If you're so perfect, tell me how you allowed this to happen?"

Boaty sat there dumbfounded and looked at Botimus. Botimus got up at this point and closed Tonta's computer shut.

"Enough with this garbage!"

"Excuse me!?" asked Tonta.

"No further pointless examinations until Master Anthony has fully recovered!" Botimus cried.

"You have no authority!"

"Yes I do, Overload please escort the Ambassador to her quarters."

Overload and Tonta got up to leave the ready room. Tonta stormed out clanking her feet all the way. Botimus was furious as never in his time had he seen a Zapbot so violent, so rude, so angry as well as illogical. As Botimus began taking his first major steps in leadership he began to realize problems I had to face everyday, being in the driver's seat.

## Chapter 7

"She questioned Boaty? You've got to be kidding me?" I cried twisting my neck around.

"She thinks like a human Master (no offense), I've never seen anything like it," replied Botimus.

"Well I'll be up and atom soon, so just sit tight."

"Understood. Botimus out."

As the hologram disappeared I watched as Experiment was trying to hook my left leg up to my side. As he tried to push the pieces inward, he still had problems with it locking correctly.

"Drat, still doesn't fit," replied Experiment.

Mike looked over my body to see Experiment getting rather frustrated.

"Never thought I would see you split in pieces," Mike said.

"You're taking this much better than some of my other friends," I replied.

"I guess,"

"You know you can go do something if you want, you don't have to stay here all the time," I said.

"Why do you want me to leave?"

"No I didn't say that."

"But you thought it..."

"Don't put words in my mouth."

Experiment stopped working as he could tell the preempted argument coming. But instead of Mike and mine usual exchange of words, he just started to walk out of the room.

"Wait!" I said.

He didn't stop and left the sickbay without a word. The doors to the sickbay seemed to shut with a loud thud.

"You ok Master?click" asked Click.

"Sometimes... I just don't get him," I replied.

"Master, not to be one to pry but I think the feelings mutual.click" Click stated.

"Yes Click, unfortunately, that's what makes us so alike..."

Tonta walked into her room. She slammed her computerized tablet down and walked up to the computer. She punched in a few command codes and up came the hologram on the screen.

"Greetings Tonta, how are things going?" said the dark garbled voice as it was being sent encoded over subspace.

"So far so good. Botimus is a bit nervous but I figured I'm at least keeping him on his ends."

"Good, so they have not suspected anything?" continued the voice.

"Nothing as of yet! They're rather oblivious if you ask me."

"Have the materials been placed yet?"

"They have-" said Tonta stopping in mid sentence.

"What?" asked the shadowy image on the screen.

Tonta raised her hand and her arm transformed extending across the room. It reached high above the ceiling and went into the dark crevasse of the architecture. She grabbed a tiny being and slowly picked it up. The small being dropped his communication pad as he pressed a call button directly to me. Slowly Tonta brought this creature towards her body.

"It seems I have had someone watching me!"

My friend Mike had snuck into Tonta's room, alas Tonta's very keen perception skills picked up a tiny movement within the living area. She held Mike in her robot hands as Mike squirmed as best he could, but to no avail.

"Let me go!" yelled Mike at the giant female robot.

"Petty human, did you think you could actually spy on the master of all spies?"

"I will destroy you!" cried Mike shaking his fist at her.

In my sickbay I picked up the telecom just as it was dropped on the floor. I heard the following and immediately signaled up to Botimus.

"Yes Master?" asked Botimus.

"Go to Red Alert!" I said.

"Pardon?" asked Botimus. The ready room door chimed and Botimus looked up from his display. In came a familiar Zapbot, one he had not seen in a long time. A Zapbot with an orange body and detailed metal work, as if he contained transformations only a few knew about.

"Run? What are you doing here?" he asked the secret Zapbot double-spy.

"Botimus we got trouble! We have a spy on the ship?"

"How did you know?"

"No time to explain, let's go... quietly..."

With that Run the Zapbot spy and Botimus ran out of the room. I heard the conversation and sounded the silent Red Alert from my room.

Tonta let out a short laugh. But her laugh was cut short with the door to her quarters opening as Botimus, Run and Terrain walked in with guns in hand.

"STOP!" cried Tonta.

Botimus, Run and Terrain stopped dead in their tracks. Tonta slowly hung Mike in the air high above the ground, high enough that it would be a dangerous fall for a human. She took her hand and shot the computer terminal. The terminal short circuited and went dead, cutting the transmission.

Slowly Tonta walked towards Botimus and Terrain as she hung Mike in the air for a scapegoat. They all backed into the hallway.

"Put him down Tonta, it's over!" replied Botimus.

"Never," whispered Tonta. She fired at the ceiling and the explosion gave her the monetary distraction to transform into vehicle mode with Mike inside and head down the corridor. At the same time she activated her well placed bombs.

Explosions occurred through-out Misslemax and out of nowhere Zapbots were jolted and hurled in directions as floors exploded and pieces flew apart. The lights went dim in Misslemax and the emergency sirens went off.

Botimus hit the red alert button and immediately dispatched a call. Down in engineering a blast occurred that punched a large hole in the main computer as gas and fire began to leak out.

Pliers ran up to the main entrance of the engine room. He began yelling and screaming over the noise as fellow Zapbots ran out. He looked over his shoulder and saw the emergency containment door coming down. However behind the door lay two Zapbots. Bop and Speedy!

Pliers ran up to the Zapbots wounded on the floor.

"What are you guys doing here?!" Pliers asked.

"It's a long story," replied Bop trying to move. His left leg was completely shattered with one of the explosions. Pliers turned to Speedy who was knocked out cold.



"Warning, Nonocon intruder on Deck 8, heading for exit! All Zapbots on guard. This is not a drill!" rang the announcement throughout Misslemax.

Tonta sped off down the corridor with Mike stuck inside the passenger seat, unable to do anything. She flew past Soar and Dodge who just came around the corner. They turned around and transformed into vehicle mode and followed.

"This is Dodge, we've spotted her and are in pursuit," he said over the radio. The dim emergency lights of the hall barely gave enough power for anyone to see. Tonta proceeded to fly up and blast a hole through the floor of the hallway. She flew down and continued to cut the levels below. She finally came to the floor of a level she couldn't splice and flew to the nearest shuttle bay.

Overload and Camper came around the corner just as she had just come around the bend.

"Halt!" they yelled, but Tonta continued to travel on. She flew right into the two strong Zapbots bodies and they flew up into the air and came crashing down with a hard thud.

"My matrix woman!" cried Camper.

"I got a thing or two for her!" cried Overload as they transformed into vehicle mode and also gave chase.

Pliers grabbed a broken piece of metal and his hand transformed into a soldering laser as he began to fashion an emergency cast for Bop.

"Get out of here!" cried Bop.

"I can't the door is down, I need you to be able to transform and blow a hole through it!" replied Pliers.

"WARNING MAIN COMPUTER BREACH IS EMINENT" cried the computer voice.

"We haven't got-" start Pliers.

"I know," replied Bop.

"Give me the body parts!" I cried.

"But Master we haven't!" started Click.

As soon as Superrobot attached my last limb I put my finger up to Click and ran out the door. My two small mini Zapbots stood there unable to control me.

"What the Matrix happened?" asked Botimus strolling onto the bridge.

"We've have had several explosions throughout the ship," cried Flier.

Botimus looked at his control panel. He could see the bombs had been stored at specific places as the damage was not enough to totally destroy Misslemax, but enough to cause some major damage.

"Botimus! Misslemax has lost connection with the docking clamps and we're moving!" cried Boaty.

Slowly Misslemax began to pull away from space dock, ripping away parts of the space station with it. Zapbots flew out of the holes and engaging their boosters, flying away from the ship as the explosions sent Misslemax slowly moving out of control.

"Main engines are offline, I can't control where we're going!" replied Flier.

"Botimus, we're in a direct course for the sun!" cried Scan.

Tonta came to the shuttle bay and transformed into robot mode. She held Mike by her hands and continued to punch the buttons on the main console to open the bay doors. The force field held the gravity and oxygen in from the harsh reality of space.

Overload and Camper stormed into the room in robot forms. Tonta jumped to the force field and held Mike out by the electronic barrier.

"One more step and I'll throw this petty being into space!" she cried.

My two Zapbots stopped dead in their tracks. Mike floated helplessly above the high ground. At this time I snuck quickly and quietly in X-O suit mode into the room. I walked slowly high above everyone on the human balcony that was high above in the docking bay.

"Let him go girl, he's got nothing for you," said Overload picking me up on his radar, but not even looking that direction was with his laser eye.

"Oh I don't think so, this is my insurance plan!" Tonta replied.

Quickly, I flew from the human balcony and with all my might I snatched Mike from her hands. I turned around and jetted back up to the other side holding my friend in my arms. Tonta fired her hand laser at my backside and hit me dead on. I loss power for a moment and crashed into the balcony's floor.

Overload and Camper fired and Tonta dodged them and returned fire. Her laser rebounded off the wall and hit the force field's computer. The force field went dead and all the oxygen and gravity began to get sucked out into space. My Zapbots staggered as the gravity began to move them around, first pulling them down and the next letting them float up. Overload hit Tonta with his laser and knocked a nice hole in her side. She returned fire aiming carelessly up towards the ceiling right above Mike and myself as derbies came crumbling down on top of us.

"We're getting too close!" cried Flier.

"Can we engage any emergency power?" cried Botimus

"I'm trying to find something to compensate as we speak," said Scan transforming into computer mode and engaging into Misslemax's badly damaged computer.

Misslemax flew closer and closer to the nearby sun. The heat of the sun began to start peeling off the paint of the robotic city.

My Zapbots fell to the floor as gravity went haywire, as they continued to fight. Trying to engage their rocket boosters as they couldn't compensate for the quickness of the gravity generators. The lights flashed and the sirens rang through the shuttle bay. Tonta got hit with another laser blast and another and the air suction pulled her out into space. Her howling voice carried just before she left the air and then silence.

As soon as she left the body of Misslemax she began to fall towards the gravity well of the sun. She moved frantically realizing the miscalculation of her plan at that exact moment. She attempted to try and regain some sort of control, but it was too late, as she approached the outer limits of the sun her body shattered into a million pieces, melting away the fragments in the outer sun sphere.

Camper engaged his force field power and aimed it towards the docking bay hole. Overload crawled to the nearest wall and hit the override button to close the shuttle bay door. It slowly began to close and the air and gravity slowly began to come back to normal. The bright rays of the sun began to disappear and the sound began to come back with the air and you could hear the siren going off in the room. Slowly Overload and Camper floated up to the human balcony and began to quickly pulling stones and derbies away from the buried humans underneath.

"60 SECONDS TILL COMPUTER CORE EJECTION!" went the computer.

"We've got to get out of-" started Bop.

"There! Can you transform?" asked Pliers finishing welding Bop's leg.

Bop jumped up, started a partial transformation, and then completed his morph into a canon. Pliers aimed him at the door and shot an ongoing blast at the steel plate.

The plate eventually exploded open. Bop flew from Pliers' hands and transformed back into robot mode. Pliers transformed into vehicle mode and Bop placed Speedy's damaged body inside of Pliers.

"30 SECONDS TILL COMPUTER CORE EJECTION!"

They flew out of the engine room just as the computer began to sink into the floor. The radiation of the energy core exploded and sent waves of power flying everywhere. Pliers and Bop made it out of the area just as another huge explosion rocked Misslemax.

"Suggestions and I need them fast," replied Botimus.

"Duplaflex and Omega are too far away!" cried Hightone.

"If we channel all emergency energy from our remaining force fields we can shoot around the sun and use its gravity to whip us back around. Hopefully not sending us through time," said Scan.

"What energy and from where?" asked Botimus.

"The inertial dampers," replied Scan.

"If we do that we'll be torn apart!" cried Flier. The inertial dampers were the force field that kept Misslemax together in space. A large body of his space would fall apart at warp speeds if this device was never invented.

"And if we don't we're burnt toaster ovens. Scan can you make the connection?" asked Botimus.

"Doing so now!"

Scan took all usable power and placed it in the impulse power coils. They ignited and slowly Misslemax began to change course moving with the gravity of the sun.

Slowly the light of day came back into my view, but for some reason it was unbearably hot. I had sheltered Mike with my body and bit by bit the falling chunks of ceiling were lifted off of us. I stared up at my two Zapbots with a smile on my face.

"You okay Master?"

"So far so good, Mike you ok?"

"Yeah fine. Nice job guys."

"Pretty weird gravity pulls we had there," replied Camper.

I grabbed my friend and helped him to his feet.

"We need to talk, why is it so hot?"

I then heard Botimus call over the loud speaker "Brace for impact!"

Slowly the gravity of the sun took hold and Misslemax began to follow it around, Scan's computations had to be exact, and applied the right pressure from the impulse engines in order to maintain control. However bits of Misslemax began to fall off and the outer skin of the ship began to tear apart.

Fortress Misslemax reached the other side of the sun and Scan ignited the last of the power. It was enough to use the sun to slingshot Misslemax out back into space. Slowly the heat began to fall away and slowly Misslemax flew out of the sun's atmosphere. Botimus watched all of this, and as the sun began to fade away he made a sigh of relief.

The body was torn up, pieces were lost and Misslemax looked like a lizard skin that had started to peel off. Large parts of decks were apart and the wounded lay all around. I

checked back with Botimus and he confirmed Tonta's destruction and then took Mike and myself back to sickbay. Everyone else went back to work helping others.

## Chapter 8

*"Masters Log Supplemental. We are all at our wits ends right now. Misslemax is being held together by duck tape. The Nonocons have definitely struck a hard blow, completely wounding our last line of defense.*

*"I'm also tired of dealing with these 'personal' situations. It seems as if all my problems arise at the same time."*

"And why were you in the engine room?" asked Botimus.

"I was checking the main computer for any information about my brother," replied

Bop.

"You know this brother thing has caused us more problems-" started Flier.

"Enough, Bop has my immunity," I replied.

"But Shortstop!"

I leaned over my desk of the conference room and placed my elbows on the counter top. I then placed my hands above my face and folded my hands together.

"Something's are better left a secret," I replied.

Bop nodded slowly.

"Master, if that's your decision then we will accept Bop as is," said Botimus.

"We have very little time friends, the Nonocons are on the move, and we need to repair Misslemax and get back out there as soon as possible. I know it hard for everyone, but we need to stick together."

Everyone nodded their heads slowly.

"Meeting dismissed. Pliers estimated time to departure."

"Fairly soon Master, but we're still repairing the starport right now."

"Keep me posted."

They all the left the room and I was left alone again. I stared out at the window and saw Bop's reflection in the window.

"You are still here?"

"I need to face him alone."

"I know, and that time will come."

"I'm unsure what I need to do..."

"You will know at the time... what path you must take."

"How is Speedy?"

"He will survive... Did you get the information you were looking for before the computer blew up?"

"Yes I did."

Bop left the ready room and I continued to stare outside at the stars. Frustrated by doing nothing I finally got up and went out the door.

I did not want to deal with this. This was an insignificant problem that the ordinary person should not have to bother with in this day in age. Still it was a job that needed to be done. As I typed in the code to unlock the door to my quarters I felt a surge of energy start to grow inside of me.

I walked in to find Mike sitting and staring out the window. As I came in he slowly turned his head towards me. At first the silence was killing me. But I kept my emotions under control.

"About time you got here!" he replied.

"I'm sending you back to Earth."

"Oh no you're not."

"Don't make this harder than it has to be," I replied walking over to his body resting on the couch.

"Why the hell are you doing this to me?"

"You've proven that you can't be trusted and you don't follow my orders."

"I was only trying to help. My instincts were proven right."

"You are in no role to make decisions like that without my authorization! If it wasn't for you Botimus and Terrain would have gotten there sooner or later and taken care of the situation without a distraction."

"IF IT WASN'T FOR ME YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT HER!"

"MIKE YOU COULD'VE BEEN KILLED."

What came next was unexpected, but Mike lunged out at me with his fist. I grabbed it in mid air and my robotic body implants (activated this time) put it to a strong halt. But he swung his whole body at me and knocked my balance off center. We fell to the ground with him landing on top of me. He proceeded to start punching me, causing little damage to my body, but massive damage to my soul. I grabbed both his hands and rolled him over, pinning him back to the ground.

He tried to move and he struggled but his human body was powerless to my robotic body parts activated to full power. He finally swung his head back and let out a cry of agony. Not of pain of the body, but pain of the soul.

As the echo finally died down, I saw tears coming from his eyes. I lowered my head to his face and met him eye to eye. As I looked inside his soul I knew the pain he felt.

"Why?" I asked.

"Why what?"

"Why are we fighting?"

"I don't know."

We sat in silence and I slowly let go of his arms and raised them to his head. I closed my eyes and lowered my head to his chest letting out a sigh.

"Mike Quartz, you are probably one of the strongest individuals I have met, and yet I still cannot get inside of your head."

As I sat on top of his body our deep breaths of tiredness slowly died down. The silence was finally broken.

"I'm sorry... I'm sorry Anthony,"

I looked up at the individual, and then I knew everything was going to be alright. As we got up from the floor the red alert siren went off. I moved to the door and turned back.

"I guess it would be pointless to ask you to stay here..." I said.

"Yeah..."

"Well, you are in control of your own destiny now..."

I ran out the door to my Shortstop garage, leaving the room unlocked.

## Chapter 9

"Status?" I asked walking onto the half fixed bridge of Misslemax in my backup Shortstop body.

"Incoming fleet of ships approaching fast," replied Boaty.

"Raise Shields and planetary defense shields," Botimus replied.

Up on the cracked view screen came the image of several Nonocon ships. I stood near my command chair in horror as they approached the Tockmak 3 sector.

"Scan?" I asked in the voice inquiring our ability to survive.

"Not good Master,"

"Master I am picking up a Zapbot priority one call. It's Duplaflex and Omega Dupreme!" replied Hightone.

"Put me in contact with Gaxator and Omega," I replied. Up on the view screen came the split screen image of Commander Gaxator and Omega Supremes' inside body camera.

"Master, we have come with reinforcements. Prepare to receive a convoy of special cargo?" said Gaxator.

"Special cargo?"

"We have a new special power supply devised by Vebox on Gearatron. If installed on Misslemax it should increase firepower. We will create a distraction while the Space Force bring the materials over."

"Good work lads. Pliers, Repairs prepare to receive a special shipment," I said over the call speaker.

Scan got up from his seat and flew to the elevator.

"If it's from Vebox I'll have to unlock it," he replied.

"Understood, get to work," I nodded in agreement.

Hightone was in his communicator mode when he disconnected and flew across the room in pain.

"What happened?" Botimus asked.

"Woah, those dudes are scrambling all of our frequencies," said Hightone shaking his head.

"Master they're coming into weapon's range," replied Boaty.

"Give Duplaflex and Omega as much cover as you can," I ordered.

Duplaflex and Omega flew up and around Misslemax, they immediately met the oncoming array of ships just exiting warp. Out from the three ships came a barrage of lasers and torpedoes that hit the mid sized Nonocon ships as some were immediately disabled, others slowly backed down.

Out from the back of Duplaflex came the Space Force, [Chewer](#), [Transport](#), [Photon](#), [Rockets](#), [Spike](#), [Shoot-Up](#), [Attack](#), [Scouter](#) and [Leader-A](#). A special group of Zapbots made especially for space warfare. They carried a small array of supplies within their holding bays.

They entered the back shuttle bay and were greeted by Pliers, Repairs and Scan. They quickly helped the blue, cylindrical Zapbots carry the supplies into the engine room.

"A new main computer! How did Vebox make one so quickly?" asked Pliers.

"Vebox has no life," replied Scan smiling.

Omega and Duplaflex were holding their own. Omega the giant guardian Zapbot transformed into robot mode and began to charge at various Nonocon starships. They soon became an array of tiny pieces of metal flying through space. Omega would swipe at one and

cripple it, or explode a ship, and then another would fire a torpedo at him, distracting him for a moment.

"Pitiful Nonocons! Your loss will be your destruction!" he cried.

Duplaflex the Zapbot city was also holding his own providing a dominant force in destruction. The only sentient city he was itching for battle as he remained in spaceship mode. Gaxator and his crew were commanding from the main bridge.

"We've got them were we want them!" replied Heavy from the Duplaflex bridge.

"How are you fairing up old Dupla?" asked Gaxator in the call speaker.

"It's really starting to sting," the giant Zapbot spoke echoed back through the speakers.

"Prepare to transform into Battle station mode," replied Gaxator.

Duplaflex began to extend his towers, raise his guns, and encase his body with extra armor. Within seconds the mighty battle station began to cruise slowly through space, firing a massive array of weapons at all of the approaching Nonocon ships. The ships would try and avoid contact, but Duplaflex would fire and knock them out instantly.

"Keep it up old buddy, we've got to keep them at bay," said Gaxator to his warship.

"They're doing fairly well," replied Botimus.

"Just keep em covered," I ordered. "Scan how's that power supply coming?" I asked into the call speaker.

"We're installing it now, the positronic energy needs to be calibrated to a specific frequency, usually ranging in--"

"Just do it, Shortstop out." I cried through the call speaker.

Speedy came out of sickbay. He half bandaged body was being held together by metal plates. He staggered down the hallway. As he came around the corner he ran into Bop.

"Speedy, what are you doing out of sickbay?" Bop inquired.

"They need me on the bridge."

"Brave little Zapbot," Bop said putting his hand on Speedy's shoulder.

"Where are you going?"

"To... meet him."

"Huh?"

"I need to face him alone," Bop said almost sighing.

"Well be careful, no one can make an energy drink like you."

Bop smiled.

"Get out of here kid."

The two Zapbots smiled as they went their separate ways.

"Master the Space Force are coming out for reinforcements," replied Pliers. Watching from the view screen nine mid-sized Zapbots float out towards the Nonocon battle. Leader-A immediately took control.

"Space Force transform and attack!" he cried as the Space Force each went into their own transformation. Each was a specialized ship, satellite or weapon. They flew around the various Nonocon ships knocking them off guard and this helped Omega and Duplaflex immensely in terms of defense.

"Why are they defeating us!" cried Skyscream.

"It's time..." said Shock as he started to leave the Nonocon bridge.

"Where are you going?"

"I'm going to start the key to the final battle... with him." said Shock.



"Come back here!"

"SKYSCREAM!" cried Amphotron over the communications channel.

"Amphotron where are you?"

"I will be there shortly, keep them at bay until I arrive."

"Shock just left us!"

"Ignore him, he is of no concern." responded Amphotron.

Skyscream punched the control panel to his ship knocking out the main controls.

"Prepare to abandon this ship! I'm getting tired of this!" he yelled as the Nonocons proceeded to leave their posts, losing another ship to the giant warriors.

"ARGHHH I am growing tired of this battle!" cried Duplaflex.

"Uh-oh, get ready," cried Gaxator. Duplaflex's body began to shake and move once again. This time the tunnel's extended, and body parts rotated, a hand formed and then a leg as a protective shield kept the emerging robot safe. Within a few minutes the Robot warrior stood floating in space. He launched his hand out towards several Nonocon ships and shout out a massive energy ray. The ships immediately dissipated.

From Misslemax we all sat astounded.

"Woah where did he get the power?" asked Flier stunned.

At that moment, Speedy stumbling on the bridge.

"Speedy?" I turned and inquired to my young Zapbot.

"I'm here to help," Speedy replied.

"But you are-"

"Please..."

I was quiet for a second and then nodded silently in the array of noise from the battle field. Speedy took his weapon's station and helped Flier and Boaty fire Misslemax's weapons.

I then noticed a figure high above in the human balcony. I could see Mike was watching the action. I couldn't deal with him now. I needed to stay focused.

Outside in space two robots floated towards each other. Their bodies were similar in height, color and size. They stopped about several feet away from each other and floated in space quietly.

"So... the moment has finally arrived," stated Shock.

"You know this is not what you think it is," replied Bop.

"The first step is now taken," replied Shock.

They both transformed into their canon modes and fired at each other. The constant stream of energy met each other in midstream and continued to pulse.

"Master the new computer and energy supply are online," cried Scan.

"Boaty engage main startup!" cried Botimus.

Out from Misslemax came a massive array of power. A laser so large and enormous that it caused everyone to stop in their tracks and watch a Nonocon ship vaporize in space.

"Holy Matrix!" cried Flier.

The Space Force, Duplaflex and Omega both stopped and saw the fleeing Nonocon ships.

"Cowards! They are running away!" cried Omega.

"Good let them run! They are not match for us." replied Duplaflex.

We continued a few more blasts of our new firepower from Misslemax. The Nonocon army was retreating, but as soon as they got out of view, something appeared in the darkness of space. A black object stopped out of warp appearing above all three mighty ships.

"Master!" cried Boaty.

"On screen!" I said.

What came into view was an enormous object, cylindrical but shaped like an earth donut. As it came closer into view we could see it was a massive spaceship, larger than anything we had seen before. All my Zapbots could do is stop and stare.

"Master that ship is huge! It's almost the size of Gearatron!" cried Flier.

The gravity of the ship began to effect Tockmak 3 below as the clouds began to swirl and move. Misslemax, Duplaflex and Omega were dwarfed by the mighty ship. The ship itself was a size of a small moon.

"We're being hailed," cried Hightone.

"Like I don't know who it is," I said. "On screen....."

Up once again came the robot with red eyes, Amphotron.

"Greetings Shortstop...or Anthony. Your time of destruction has arrived!"

## Chapter 10

The mighty ship mere presence caused the whole galaxy to shake. High above Tockmak 3 it rotated. I stood near my chair on the bridge of Misslemax in Shortstop mode, amazed and bewildered. I had no idea what to say to Amphotron. I had no plan, no course of action. I never thought anything could surpass Misslemax in terms of size and mass.

"So Shortstop, any last words?" Amphotron said.

"Amphotron I swear, if it is the last thing I do I will destroy your body and melt your evil spirit down until there is nothing left."

"Hmmm, interesting. I pictured a more hopeful attitude from you," replied Amphotron as he lent farther and farther in his chair. "But this time, I know you are afraid and not even your Matrix can help you now."

A knuckle faced sandwich hit Shock right in the chest knocking him back. The two robots seem totally inattentive to the events happening high above in the space plane. Bop was hitting Shock with everything he had. Left, right, left, right and Shock was falling back but taking it in stride, as he was trying to tire him out.

Shock turned around and hit Bop with his side leg. Bop tumbled backwards in space, just reestablishing himself as Shock shot out his hand laser. It hit the tired Bop in the arm, causing a massive gash.

"Silly brother, you know you never could win," Shock said.

Bop looked up from his wound and furiously launched at his brother. He energized his hand laser and struck him hard in the chest, causing the metal to collapse and a massive hole formed in Shock's chest.

As Bop and Shock fought they gave it everything they had. Bop however had to deal with his mixed emotions. Bop was a different than the rest of the Zapbots in that he could not turn these emotions off.

Shock struck another blow to Bop, and Bop fell backwards in pain. Shock flew up to him and grasped his throat with his two hands.

"Now Brother know the agony you have caused me for so many years!" he cried slowly increase the strain around his robotic neck.

The giant Nonocon ship was struck but was continuing to hold together. Misslemax, Duplaflex and Omega were warping through space as fast they could as the Nonocon ship was close on our tails.

"Why is he chasing us? He could've destroyed Tockmak 3 by now?" asked Speedy.

"He wants me," I replied watching the view screen as the Nonocon ship gained on the three Zapbot ships.

"No I think he wants Misslemax," replied Boaty.

"Of course..." I said raising my head to the lights. It was all so clear. "Bless you Boaty," I said.

"Master I do not believe in a God,"

"Well bless you anyways, Hightone alert Gearatron of our arrival!" I cried.

"Huh?" went the rest of my Zapbots in unison.

"Don't you see the logic?"

"Of course!" said Scan.

"There's only one robot that can defeat him now," I replied. "Fastest speed towards Gearatron."

The three starships continued to fire weapons behind them as the ever closing Nonocon ship. At the same time the Nonocon ship proceeded to send a spread of torpedos our way as well. Our weapons did very little in warp space but each ship was taking a bit of damage and the Nonocon ship was taking very little.

"You kept me there, in a cold barren place for numerous years, now brother, although it pains me, I will destroy you."

Bop was powerless as Shock had him up against an asteroid and was drilling his energy hand into the Bop. In pain Bop looked into his brother's eyes as he was slowly destroying his body. The pain itself almost sent Bop under, but the two brothers' eyes met, and for a second Bop saw in his brother a twinkle, a twinkle he used to know. That moment of compassion he triggered in Shock caused his power to fluctuate and in that split second Bop broke free and fire all his power at his brother.

"NO!!!STOP!!" cried Shock as Bop laid all he had on him. Bop then transformed and hit his brother with his large energy blast. After a half minute of constant stream he stopped as now in the part of space laid a charred floating robotic body.

Bop floated over to his brother and picked his body up in his arms.

"Oh my brother, if only you knew." he whispered.

Shock undercut Bop and knocked him backwards. Bop flew back tumbling, falling back into an asteroid. When he finally regained his status he looked up to find Shock was gone.

"Approaching Gearatron Master," replied Boaty. I pressed the call panel to the fellow two warrior ships.

"Omega, Duplaflex, you're going to have to keep him busy in order for us to do this! This will take a few," I said over the radio com.

"Understood Master," Omega Dupreme said.

Omega and Duplaflex dropped out of warp in Gearatron's atmosphere and transformed into robot mode. They stood in space as the enormously large ship pulled out of warp. Misslemax swung round back of Gearatron as I went to my space on the bridge and waited for the confirmation signal from Gearatron.

"We're ready Master," replied Botimus.

Omega and Duplaflex piloted up and around the gigantic ship firing everything they had. The mighty Zapbots were just small enough to pass under the view of the lasers of the Nonocons' behemoth. They navigated up and around the inner hole and fired at the warp engines, but their weapons only caused minimal damaged.

Flying up towards the Shortstop garage, I engaged my special transformation and my Shortstop body became the key part in Misslemax's gears. Misslemax began to slowly move. In its weakened condition thankfully the body was still able to transform. In the lower parts of the human headmaster levels, Click, Superrobot, Tiny and Experiment transformed into their components and engaged into the special compartments in the new main computer, added extra power and mobility to Misslemax. Towers collapsed, the hands formed, and body parts became apparent and soon enough a full giant Zapbot body stood there.

When my new senses came online inside the giant body, I immediately saw Duplaflex and Omega Dupreme caught in a tractor beam of the new ship. They struggled slowly but were held captive by the giant ship. I immediately glided up towards their location and fired my Matrix power at the ship. It cut a nice hole in the power generator and the beam went dead.

"Get out of here!" I said and as Duplaflex and Omega proceeded to scatter. Gearatron below slowly began to move. The complexity of this transformation was always

amazing as buildings lowered into the ground, cities interlocked, and platforms retracted and expanded. Slowly the mass of space began to be compensated as the once ball of a planet slowly grew in shape and size.

I flew my Misslemax furiously into the core of Gearatron, and transforming one more time into the giant key the interlocked with the robot body that now stood in space. As my now enlarged senses booted up, I saw the giant ship floating in space. However it was not attacking nor firing. My Zapbots deep within their safety holds of Gearatron watched everything from their monitors and stations. Suddenly as the body of Gearatron I heard the hailing message.

"Very good Anthony, but you are not the only one full of surprises," said Amphotron.

I could just imagine the transformation now. Slowly Amphotron would fly up some chute or shaft, and engage in some special transformation. As the massive ship that had held my giant cities in its grasp began to transform I floated back in space to prepare for the surprise that awaited.

It didn't take long, only a few seconds and in that time I should've done something, but before I knew it a new robot, the same size as Gearatron floated in space several miles away. Deja vu for the battle of Unicron was now in my head.

The new robot was pure white with a smooth, slick body. Once again, I could see the evil behind the red eyes. However, this time we carried a lot more individuals, a lot more power behind our massive bodies.

"Say Hello to KILTER," echoed the evil voice over the space waves.

## Chapter 11

I continued to stare at the evil glow in his eyes. Neither of us had made a move yet, but at this moment in time the Universe centered around two very large entities as we hung there in the vast denseness of space. I saw out of the corner of my eye a small figure. This figure was firing at the massive robot. Kilter turned towards the Space Force firing at his body and was distracted for a moment.

I took this opportunity to fire at him, my Matrix power hit Kilter and he flew backwards tumbling into space. He quickly regained his stance and then put up a shield. He flew towards my presence and threw a nice sized punch at the body of Gearatron.

The power of the punch knocked me back and I grabbed his arm and threw his body away. It was like fighting under water, each move in slow motion. Kilter flew back and formed a laser sword in his hand. As he moved at me and just as his sword was about to hit my body I threw up an arm shield, blocking his blow causing a giant explosion in space. I swung my leg around and knocked him sideways once again settling him off balance. As I was about to bring my hand down, he flew sideways and flew back to regain his stance. He came towards me at an incredible pace and retracted his sword, charging his hands for a massive blow.

I couldn't move quick enough and he hit me hard as my body flew backwards in space trying to regain my power. He flew vertically above me and then proceeded to come down on my body with the sword. The sword impacted my lower torso, and stuck in the with a huge gash. Grabbing his neck and thrusting all of my Matrix power at him. He relented and flew backwards again in space screaming and holding his neck in pain.

I regained my stance and charged all my power towards him. It hit him with full force and he was encased in the white glow of the energy beam. He started to emerge from the beam with his own power. I was in disbelief as, he was redirecting my Matrix energy away from him! The next thing I knew our hands were clenched together in a giant power struggle. Our entwined hands glowing as our energy pulsed back and forth.

Under the strain both robots started to lose power. Circuits fried, and panels blew as the bodies began to fall apart from the strain. Then as I felt both of our bodies began to crumple, I thrust my hands towards his chest. My Matrix power struck him immensely as I grasped his chest and encased him once again in my full energy. He broke free as his body began to disintegrate. Slowly I saw him start to transform back into spaceship mode, as I attempted to go after him but I felt my body start to lose power.

Slowly and carefully I transformed Gearatron back into a planet I heard his voice as he warped out of the system.

"Another time Shortstop..."

When Gearatron was back to a planet mode, Misslemax was back to a city, and I was back to Shortstop mode I went to the bridge to survey the damage.

"Status?" I asked.

"Minimal damage to Gearatron. No sight of any Nonocon activity," replied Boaty.

As I sat down in my chair I ran some tests over my numerous bodies.

"The Matrix has been damaged," I commented as I peered up to see Mike was still on the balcony. He smiled at me as if he was more than proud at me.

## Chapter 12

*"Master's Log. The battle for now is over. As everything that is Zapbot undergoes repairs I have taken this time to rest both psychically and mentally. The Matrix was damaged in some unknown way and I have removed it from body so Plier's can investigate."*

"Are you ok?" asked Speedy to the bartender. Bop looked down upon his nicely repaired and waxed friend. He smiled and continued to repair the bar as Speedy was noticing his own psychical repairs as well. Both robots had been through a lot as they continued to reconstruct the badly damage spaceship city they called their home.

"Will he be back?" asked Speedy tossing him a sonic wrench.

"Oh I'm sure he will," replied Bop. "But at least now I know I am the stronger one."

"Why is that?"

"Because deep down inside, I know there is good in him. Although I am unable to to help him, I know it affects him. I don't believe any of us can....could... kill each other."

"So what will happened next?"

"That remains to be seen my little yellow friend."

Bop stopped and froze as if he had another premonition. He then put down his supplies and ran out the door, Speedy quickly following behind him.

As Mike Quartz and myself sat in my room in mindfulness, the door chimed and in strolled my other human friends.

"Hey guys," I said.

"My god you look terrible," Bill said noticing the stress marks on my face.

"Sorry if I seem a bit tired," I replied.

"We heard the whole story," said Rogish.

"Yeah I got a call from Jeremy and David earlier this morning, they too were concerned," I said. I looked around and noticed someone was missing.

"Where's Alan?" I asked.

Everyone looked around for a brief moment. "He came onboard with us," replied Mikey wondering where his friend was as well.

"Computer location of human Alan?" I asked.

The computer did not respond. Which meant either two things, it was damaged beyond repair or it was not registering Alan.

"Anthony to Boaty, status on computer repairs?" I asked.

"Main computer is fully functional Master," replied Boaty over the call speaker.

I had a sudden fear of dread in me as I stood up and ran to my computer and did a scan of the ship. Running a thermogram check of the ship, I found his heat signature, and he was in the room which the Matrix was being held for repairs.

"We need to move NOW!" I said as we all ran towards the nearest elevator.

I entered into the room just as Alan picked up the Matrix holding it in his X-O suit hands. He was standing in his armor and the glow from the Matrix reflected off the yellow metal.

"STOP!" I yelled.

He swung around with the glowing ball in his hand. My fellow humans friends were right behind me.

"GET AWAY!" cried Alan as I could see him visibly distressed.

"Put it down, it is not yours!" I said. I noticed something odd in his eyes, something had happened to him and I felt sadness and fear coming from him. The person I knew as a trusted and loyal friend had the same evil I saw in a Nonocon's eyes!

"You do not tell me what to do!" he yelled. He raised his hand and fired at me, and what came from his laser was a combination of his X-O suit's laser and the Matrix energy. Holding the sphere apparently gave him the same powers I had!

"NO!" cried Mike Quartz as he pushed my body to the side. The ray of energy hit Mike directly and he screamed out in pain louder than he had ever before. His body fell limp to the ground not moving.

Letting out of my own animal cry I flew towards Mike. Alan grabbed the Matrix and ran through the other exit in the room. Bill and Rogish both turned on their X-O suits and gave chase to the now renegade Headmaster.

Mike B. ran to my side, as I held Mike Quartz's body and tears rolled down my face as I could feel his life force slipping away. Realizing I had little time, and without my Matrix I wouldn't be able to conduct any miracles, I began to weep uncontrollably. He had saved my life more times I could count, and now I felt helpless to save his. Grabbing his body as the other Mike helped me I carried Quartz to my laboratory completely forgetting about Alan and the Matrix.

Alan made it to the Headmaster garage and interfaced with his Tri-Star body. As soon as Rogish and Bill entered the room through the chutes Tri-Star fired at them, knocking them over with a giant explosion. The red alert siren went off in the ship as Botimus and crew jumped and tried to figure out what was going on. When Rogish and Bill finally combined with their Headmaster bodies they were too late. Tri-Star flew out of the shuttle bay out into space.

Rogish as the Headmaster Bash-Mash and Bill as Crash flew out after him. From the bridge Botimus saw three Headmasters leave Misslemax from the docking bay directly above the bridge.

"What's going on?" he radioed the three Zapbots.

"Tri-Star's got the Matrix!" Crash replied back the Zapbot commander.

I placed the limp body on the table and started up the device as the lights came on around the padded area. Sweat rolled down my body as I activated the program I had designed.

"What is this?" asked Mike B.

"This, is the device I have been working on," I said turning the knobs and pressing buttons.

The case lowered down and encased my damaged friend. I was uncertain if he was even alive at this point.

"Does it work?" Mike B asked.

"We'll find out soon enough." I replied.

The screen came up with his vitals, sure enough he was still alive, but his molecular structure was disintegrating. I had one chance at this, and I was unsure of this machine would even work, but I had to hope all my programming was bug free. I spent hours pouring over code and as far as I knew everything had checked out. Even Boaty had reviewed it for me and found nothing wrong, but we had yet to test the device.

Until now...

Crash and Bash-Mash were firing warning shots as Tri-Star was flying out of Gearatron's atmosphere. They transformed into vehicle mode and now Bill and Rogish were



giving chase in their space modes. Alan however was a skilled pilot and dodged them at every move in his own vehicle mode.

"Alan stop!" cried Bill over the com from his vehicle's cockpit. At that moment, a laser blast so power rocked both Bill's and Rogish's ships. They turned sideways in space and saw a giant canon firing at them.

"Who's that?" asked Rogish.

"I dunno but he's extremely dangerous!" replied Bill.

Tri-Star flew up to the asteroid that the robot stood upon. It did not take a genius to realize who this robot was, if you were aware of the situation.

The lights flickered and laser rays shot on his body. Slowly Mike B. and myself watched the screen. As the Lifesaver device I created slowly began to rebuild Quartz's molecular structure atom by atom. I watched as the machine worked with incredible speed, touching laser to laser, atom to atom, particle to particle. Mike Quartz's body was encased in a soft glow, as he laid there. I tried to keep the tears out of my eyes as it was like looking at an angel.

"Come on Mike, don't leave me now..." I whispered to my friend. The other Mike in the room just put his hand on my shoulder as we waited.

As Bill and Rogish transformed back into their Headmaster robot modes, they were joined by a familiar figure.

"Bop? What are you doing here?" asked Bash-Mash.

"That's my brother," Bop replied pointing at what appeared to be a clone of himself standing next to Tri-Star. Tri-Star and Shock stood high on the small asteroid. Shock held the Matrix in his hands and started to chuckle. His chuckle grew into a howling laugh.

My three Zapbots flew towards the two renegades. Shock transformed into gun mode and fired directly at the asteroid.

"Get away!" cried Bop aware of what he was doing.

My three Zapbots split up and flew off in opposite directions. The asteroid exploded into a million pieces, bombarding my friends with space rock on their robotic bodies. When the derbies had cleared my Zapbots turned around to find any remains of Tri-Star or Shock.

"They're gone!" replied Crash.

"No, he's still alive, and I bet on it, so is Tri-Star," replied Bop.

Realizing the two renegade robots were gone and with nothing left to do, my three Zapbots returned to Misslemax.

Slowly the light dimmed and the cover raised back. There the body of a mature young man began to breathe again, slowly taking in each breath, and then exhaling. The stats on the monitor showed he was fully recovered as I picked up the hand of my friend and saw him slowly open his eyes.

"Anth...Anthony?" Mike whispered.

I was speechless, all I could do is hold his hand and cry.

## Chapter 13

*"Masters Personal Log, the Matrix has been stolen. A person I held very close to my heart, has betrayed me. What will happen now is uncertain. I am unsure if the Matrix can be used for evil or what the Nonocons are now capable of. Our double- spies Run and Fire have told me that Shock has not rejoined Amphotron and his crowd at this moment. Which means somewhere out there Tri-Star and Shock are hiding, planning for something. I have dispatched all available crew to search the galaxy for them."*

*"Our future is uncertain, now more than ever. But we have survived before and I'm certain that life will go on as per usual."*

*"One day, I will reclaim the Matrix... and put an end to the destruction Amphotron has caused to our worlds."*

Pliers walked into the bar and slumped onto the table. The past few days have been emotionally tiring. Bop slowly walked over to his table.

"The usual?" he asked.

"Better make it double," Pliers replied. Bop nodded and proceeded to go grab some energy. As Pliers placed his head down upon the table he heard another figure sit down with him. He could see in the reflection a familiar face.

He jolted up and saw his counterpart's face.

"Roberta?" he asked.

"Hi Pliers." she responded.

You could tell there was an awkward silence. Bop showed up with an energy cake with three layers on it.

"To the soon to be," Bop replied.

Pliers and Roberta looked at each other. All fears vanished away, all doubts, all suspicions dissipated. Two smiles appeared from the couple as slowly they enclosed hands.

Speedy came up with a Zapbot horn and began to serenade the two. If Zapbots could produce tears these two would have started. For at that moment they realized their destiny was with each other.

Back at the counter Botimus was watching this play out standing next to Bop.

"You are good Bop, very good," Botimus replied.

"I tend to think I have a bit of a 'magic' touch," Bop responded.

"You are a necessary part to the crew my friend."

Bop just smiled at Botimus. Botimus still didn't quite understand this mysterious person, but he knew he didn't need to. Bop proved his loyalty to the crew again and again.

Speedy slowly serenaded the night away as the couple sat in happiness.

"How Tonta was able to elude our council is unbelievable," replied Ultra Attack. We sat on the bridge of Fortress Misslemax as the background noise of Zapbots conducting repairs continued to go on. Poor Misslemax had been through a lot, and the bridge itself was once again getting refurbished.

"Have my commissions been sent out to Duplalex, Omega, Space Force and crews." I asked touching my computer's keypad. My Shortstop body felt better after a nice cleaning bath. I lost count on how many bodies had been re-built at this point. Pliers thankfully kept the template ready at hand.

"Affirmative, Gaxator was happy as usual. Omega was monotone as usual." replied Ultra.

We chuckled. Slowly and steadily life on Fortress Misslemax was getting back to normal. Reconstruction had been non stop for the past few days as every Zapbot was putting forth efforts to assist. Misslemax, Duplalex, and Omega all sat in their specific landing positions on great planet of Gearatron as we continued to prepare ourselves for whatever laid ahead.

"What about the Matrix Master?" asked Ultra Attack.

I slowly looked up at my commander unsure of what to say. Part of me felt like I had let everyone down, and yet I also knew there was nothing I could do. If Mike Quartz would have died my whole meaning for life at that point would have ended as I was just about to understand who I was really was.

"I dunno what will happen next." I replied, "I have two battles to fight now. I long to destroy that evil Amphotron, and now I must deal with a person who I knew as a friend and his..." I couldn't finish my sentence. Alan's betrayal was still tearing me up inside.

Botimus walked into the room and sat down with the other commander.

"How is everyone?" I asked Ultra Attack.

"The couple is doing well, everyone else is returning back to normal, although we are all concerned about the future. How is your Dad doing?" asked Botimus.

"Great, the lifesaver is going to really help humanity! I've dispatched Scan to make some copies of it to the hospitals down on Earth for emergency purposes."

"Is it ready yet?"

"I am not sure, but if anything they can use it for a last resort. My Dad's tumor was totally removed and I am very grateful for the help of everyone in this process."

Suddenly the call speakers beeped in. As usual Boaty's usual voice came over the audio call.

"Master your friend Mike is about ready to leave for Earth."

"Be right there," I replied. I got up and nodded to my two commanders and we all left the room together.

I met Mike at the shuttle bay. Botimus was transformed into space mode and was taking Mike back to Earth. As I walked up to my friend I slowly embraced him. When we pulled away I could tell he wanted to say some few words.

"I'm sorry about causing you so much trouble," Mike said.

"Mike, you saved my life."

"You have saved mine also. Several times at this point."

We were silent a few seconds more as my Zapbots patiently waited. There was stuff we needed to say but couldn't say it quite yet. We were not that mature enough to deal with those feelings.

"You take good care of this cargo Botimus, he is family..." I replied.

"Understood Master," replied the large orange truck with space jets.

I gave him a pat on the back and Mike got inside Botimus' caboose. As Botimus lifted off for space travel to Earth I waved by to my friend. Click, Superrobot, Tiny and Experiment all waved with me as Ultra stood in the background.

"For a vacation that was pretty long," replied Superrobot.

"Yes, but I don't think I could've made this trek without him," I responded.

The future was uncertain. However my friends were alive, my family was safe, and my Zapbots were becoming stronger. As the path laid before us, I was unsure on how things would end up, but I just felt somehow everything would be alright.

To Be Continued...

