

## Foreword

This is the third pass on this story which came from a dream I had when I was young. This was the first story I ever wrote creating the world of the Zapbots. When I went to college in 1994, I started to rewrite all these stories to enhance the grammar and details. This and the next two stories are meant to be read together as they establish some characters you will become more familiar with as the saga progresses.

You can view these stories as a three-part mini-series before the official season one kicked in on the television show.

Enjoy!

Anthony S. Anselmo

# The Fire Saga

## Part 1 - Hero

By Anthony S. Anselmo

### Chapter 1

In a small corner of the void known as the Universe, a single planet of blue and green hosted life. Intelligent life. Humanity. It would be this quarrelsome life that would provide stories for many to tell.

The sun's life-giving light illuminated an entire half of the Earth. Its beautiful rays cover both land and sea and pierce through the clouds in the sky, bringing warmth to the bounty of creatures below the endless expanse of space.

However, beyond the Earth's atmosphere, all was cold; and soundless as empty bodies of mass were hovering everywhere. In the deepness of space, a lone rocket ship was soaring towards the sun of an unknown solar system. The rocket was a casket propelling a body of a human warrior. Someone who had died in a fierce battle to protect the Earth and its inhabitants. Someone who gave his life to stop an evil that threatened humanity itself.

Aboard the rocket lay the body of Anthony Anselmo, former leader of the Zapbots.

Death had come too quickly for the young man. He was just a regular boy of fourteen, much like you and I, until a lone spacecraft crashed in his backyard. Anthony, with the help of a special device called the Zapbot Matrix of Leadership, rebuilt a race of transforming robots called the Zapbots. The Zapbots were large robots that could change their shape, into cars, trucks, planes, or even smaller items like a computer.

Anthony died fighting the evil Junkicon Messy. The Junkicons were an ancient army of robots, who destroyed the original race of the Zapbots.

With Anthony's death, and after the lengthy funeral, the Zapbots put his body into a rocket and shot him into space, to travel the cosmos forever with his soul.

A supernova was unfortunately in the near future of a star within a nearby solar system. The internal gasses and flames building up for centuries began to lose energy and thus a gigantic explosion of immense proportions occurred. The result sent waves toward Anthony's ship and upon impact, it absorbed the ship into a massive cosmic ray of energy.

The body of Anthony stayed inside and intact. Within a special casing called an X-O suit the body was never touched by any fire, but the radiation had somehow caused genes and cells to regenerate. Still unknown to this day, the energy caused the heart to start beating, the brain to function, and muscles to move. As the body was half organic due to the initial battle, the bionic parts were also reactivated once the heart started up. Therefore, the heart became active once again, pumping blood, resulting in my computerized brain starting up.

Slowly... I opened my eyes...

Not realizing what had happened at first, I found myself drifting oddly inside a rocket, in space. My senses slowly started to adjust to weightlessness, and I began to focus my vision again. Then I remembered. I had fought with Messy and died, or did I? My human body parts were okay, and the rest of my organic parts were functional. My mechanical replacement body parts were working and my X-O suit (a robotic suit for human use, allowing battle and robotic functions) had turned on.

Besides being very puzzled I realized I was a long way from either home (Earth or Gearatron.) The rocket had a basic maneuvering system I could use to control it, although it was probably never

imagined that I would reawaken. I checked the energy and knew I had just barely enough energy to get back to Earth. I look at the green color console and began to input commands into the text prompt via the keyboard to adjust the coordinates for Earth. I began my long trip back across the galaxy towards home.

I was alive.

The total flying time took several hours and in turn, my bionic components were extremely low on energy. As I was approaching the Earth's atmosphere, I switched off almost everything I had to conserve power and life support. Unfortunately, that didn't help, and the rocket still ran out of energy. At the end of my flight, I was totally without power and thus I was now heading straight for Earth at amazing speeds propelled but just inertia. While I direction was precise there was no way to slow my decent. I was going to crash right into the location where my Zapbots were stationed.

It had been several months for my Zapbots without me. While they had begun the process to move forward, the pain of losing their friend and leader remained. Flier and Speedy were just sitting outside my Battle-base waiting for something to happen as boredom had taken its tolls. The Junkicons were scarce as of late and there wasn't that much to do on Earth at the moment as Botimus Prime began to plan for the next steps.

"Nothing has happened since Master has been gone," said Speedy starring at the ground observing the world around him with his enhanced optical vision.

"Yep," said Flier chewing on some energy sticks. Flier just stared off into space noticing the immense landscape around him. The upbeat hero really didn't feel like talking.

"Probably would be easier to..." Speedy started.

"Yep," noted Flier.

It was obvious that Flier didn't want to continue the conversation. He too was hurting but would never let anybot know about it. Speedy was more immature and emotional about these things in his computational cortex. It was at this moment that Speedy noticed something coming out of the sky straight towards them. At first, he thought it was a Junkicon, but with his special optic sensors, he zoomed in and saw that it was something familiar.

"Oh, my Matrix! Flier! It's Master Anthony!" cried Speedy in bewilderment.

"Yep...what? You've got to have a glitch in your optic sensors!" Flier replied. He was not annoyed that Speedy would make such a false statement. Anthony had been his mentor and friend and he just didn't want to think about him anymore.

"No, I'm not, really look! Just above the horizon line!"

Flier looked and in time saw that an object was descending into the sky heading in high velocity towards the surface. At an incredibly fast speed, the rocket broke the sound barrier and proceeded to fly towards the ground, with a loud annoying sound only a crashing object could make.

"Quick go get Botimus!" cried Flier as he transformed into vehicle mode and flew out to the desert.

Meanwhile while fear and sweat ran down my body. I had a sense of doubt my resurrection wouldn't be long. I was now traveling straight for the surface and, needless to say, in a couple of minutes I would make an impact.

The ground kept getting closer and closer. With the last of my X-O energy, I blasted the rocket door open and jumped out heading for a slightly softer re-entry below, encasing my body in a forcefield for protection. Finally, my Zapbot X-O suit hit the ground with an enormous impact as I continued to roll several times. Flier driving up to me was knocked off course and flew backward from the explosion. He retransformed back into robot mode and came running up to the crash site.

He approached the huge crater that I had carved into the landscape. As he surfaced above the crest, I opened my eyes and found myself still functional and in decent shape. Flier couldn't believe his optic sensors as my other Zapbots came flying towards the site and transformed into robot mode, peering into the crater. I lay there under a heap of rubble looking at them.

"Well, are you just going to stand there, or are you going to dig me out?" I cried.

"Master... Master Anthony," cried Botimus Prime, "It can't be you...!?"

"Botimus. I'll explain later but I don't enjoy being stuck underneath this pile of rock!"

With resounding joy, my Zapbots descended into the crater and proceeded to carefully remove the debris from my body. As soon as my body was clear they hugged me as carefully as a large robot could to a human in a smaller robotic suit. They picked me up and carried me into the Battle-base Station.

They put me down on my old bed and somebody new came up to me. It was a large white robot with medical symbols on his side. I did not recognize this new mechanic.

"Master... my designation is [Pliers](#)..." Pliers said.

"Nice to meet you," I replied.

Another new robot strolled up to me and immediately I sensed something was different.

"Greetings, Master, my name is [Roberta](#)," as I quickly realized she was female.

"A female... Zapbot..." I inquired. I looked at Flier as he shrugged and then went "Well, I guess that was going to happen sooner or later," I said laughing. It was an incredible yet obvious revelation.

Pliers came up to me and started with the examination. He began to ask all sorts of questions and I explained to him everything of what I knew, to the extent of my knowledge. As I sat there feeling very much home and loved, I found myself crying. Knowing that I was once again in the circle of friends I so much cherished. It was a feeling of relief to know I had survived the challenge that was presented before me.

When Boaty saw me, he almost blew a circuit and Botimus still could not believe the story. They proceeded to tell how life wasn't the same since I was gone and the Junkicons almost gained the upper hand a few times since my passing. I found out that under the leadership of Show-Off they had returned to a deserted planet, not far from Gearatron, and set up a small station. However, Show-Off had turned out to be an inadequate leader and thus their skirmishes with my Zapbots were small and not very frequent.

Botimus opened his chest compartment and handed me the Zapbot Matrix. I placed it in my X-O suit and once again felt the power and knowledge of a generation come back to me. I realized how lucky I had been at that point and tears continued to flow. I was very much in the moment. I was given a second chance.

It was a weird feeling. The period right after the battle with Messy and up to now was a complete blur. I didn't remember anything except just a dark blank in my mind. It felt like I had been asleep for a very long time. Needless to say, it was off-putting. I learned that some of my bodily fluids were off-balance, causing me to get excessively hyper or sweaty. With the help of Pliers and my X-O suit, we counterbalanced these problems and after about a week I was feeling back to normal.

I began researching the new archives on what had happened since I had been gone. I absorbed the current news both on Earth and Gearatron. Both were acceptable, and the public was continuing to get information about the Zapbots. As the news was still a bit vague it seemed that at least the public was accepting of their new world protectors.

A few new Zapbots had been built and were now with the team. We moved to the newly built city Duplaflex as it was currently stationed at Earth. I saw various new robots moving about the station and began to become acquainted with the new recruits that had been activated.

I learned that my Zapbots had created two new Zapbots named the Super Changers, based on some of my old designs. They could transform into three different other transformations. However, they

were currently on assignment at the far depth of the galaxy and in turn, I would probably not see them for quite a while.

There were a few new standard military men that were either cars or minicars. The Zapbot family had grown in a period of a few months. It was amazing to see the work I had started come to it's fruition.

Beyond the happiness of enjoying life that I was experiencing and even though things were nice and sunny on Earth and Gearatron, unknown to us, trouble was brewing at the other end of the galaxy.

## Chapter 2

Show-Off had gathered the remaining Junkicons in a darkest part of deep space, on the far, shadowy end of the solar system. Where the sun was extremely distant and there was just a little light from a nearby moon. There within the fabric of space stood a cosmic seal that covered a pathway to another dimension, placed long ago by the ancient Zapbots to protect this dimension from the horrors that would come forth. A temporal lock that held encased a significant crack in the space-time continuum. Show-Off and his fellow Junkicons floated, around the crack that led to another Universe.

"Is this the correct location Lowtone?" inquired Show-Off. He was reveling still in the fact he had finally become the leader of the Junkicons. After Messy's disastrous performance in battle, one could not wonder 'why he wasn't the leader in the first place?' he thought to himself.

"That is affirmative," replied Lowtone in his monotone voice, hoping Show-Off would not do what he was thinking he would order.

"Fire at the seal!" cried Show-Off.

"That is not advised," replied Lowtone.

"Yeah, how do we know what is behind that thing?" smirked Magic. He wasn't fond of this idea that Show-Off had. Many stories were told about this seal and even Messy was wise enough to leave it alone.

"You fool! I am in charge here! If we want to destroy the Zapbots we need to unleash something to keep them occupied! If everything I'm told from research is correct, the horror behind this shield will be enough for it to destroy the Earth! Once the Earth is plundered, the Universe will be mine!"

"And what about us? How will we handle whatever is behind here?" replied Magic.

Show-Off raised his laser canon and fired upon Magic, knocking him off balance but only slightly damaging him. Magic knew that was a warning shot. He despised Show-Off but he knew he was no match for his abilities.

"Fool, we are Junkicons! We never back down!" replied Show-Off. Magic was about to remark that they had retreated lately within the few battles they had with the Zapbots, but he felt better to keep his audio speakers off.

They concentrated their firepower onto the seal and within seconds the force field broke and the vacuum of space became apparent. Within the suction, the Junkicons tried to fly away but some strange force was pulling them to the hole. Something began to emerge from the rupture in time and space, as the hole itself turned from a black void into a bright light.

Three giant forms of fire with the bodies of humans and the size of the Junkicons passed flying out towards them. It engulfed them, surrounding their metallic bodies and began to slowly absorb them of their energy. Cries of pain and agony were heard as cracks began to form within their structures, and within seconds the Junkicons' bodies imploded into pieces, scattering across the area of cold dead space.

The Junkicons had all been destroyed.

The new visitors to this universe didn't stop to consider their handy work. They quickly scanned the solar system they had arrived in and began to head straight for the nearest inhabited planet. The planet Earth. Their first stop on an all-consuming rage of total power consumption of the Universe.

I had to go say 'hello' to all my friends and family, explaining to them what happened. It had only been a few months since me being 'somewhat dead', but my Zapbots had neglected to inform my human family.

I landed in the backyard of my parent's house in my hometown. The same place where the spaceship had landed just about a year ago. I saw that even though I had left a long time ago to live

with my Zapbots, the place was still the same. Fine-cut grass with our dogs playing in the yard, the pool glimmering with fresh chlorine.

I came up to my dogs and turned off my X-O suit's armor. They immediately ran up to me and began barking. After sniffing me a couple of times they finally started jumping on me for joy. Then my mother came out to see what the commotion was.

"It's about time you paid us a visit!" she said.

"Hi Mom," I said, as the whole family arrived to greet me. It was the typical fanfare that comes from an Italian/German family.

After we went inside and I sat them down, I explained to them what had happened. At first, my Father thought it was a joke, but after some nagging, they were shocked to find out the miracle of my rebirth. My mother on the other hand was very upset.

"I don't want you being with your Zapbots anymore! It's too dangerous!" she cried.

"Mom, I've already been through hell and back!" I said.

"I don't care. I don't want you being hurt again!" she stated as she started to cry. This was to be expected. I walked over to her and just held her hand.

"Mom, I know you're worried about me. It is the very odd path I have been tasked to take. Sadly, this is something that must be done no matter the cost. This is my responsibility!"

"Your father was in the police force until his accident. Now, look at him. He had to retire early, otherwise, he'd might of been hurt even more!" she said. There was some truth to this story. My dad was a cop and while chasing a car traveling through an intersection, he got sideswiped. He was blind for three days until an operation restored all, but his peripheral vision. He was limited to his work with force due to his disability and the possibility of not being able to see an attacker. As such he had been granted retirement from his disability.

"Yes, mom but look. I'm perfectly fine now," I said standing up and showing my appearance. While my arms and legs were bionic the rest of my body was mostly human.

"Having two arms and legs that aren't your own isn't fine," she replied.

"Yes mom, but I'm perfectly capable of continuing my life. Even more than before. I know how you feel, but I have to do this. Not just to protect you guys, but to protect everyone else we care about."

Sensing her need for reassurance I did play the drama card a bit. I got down on my knees and looked her straight in the eyes.

"I promise to be careful, you have my word."

"Okay," she said. Then my father finally spoke.

"Bout time you started to grow up," he replied.

"Thanks, I wish I could stay but I've got to visit everybody I know, especially a few old friends," I replied.

"Come back for dinner, we are having your favorite!" said my mom.

"Spaghetti?"

"Yep!"

"I'll be back!" With that and a hug, I started back up into the air and flew towards my different friends' houses. As I left, I could hear my father telling my mother to relax and to 'let him go.'

My various friends were also very concerned about me. Even though they thought it was cool that I had been given such amazing abilities, it was still a perplexing situation. Along with my other relatives, I must have spent countless hours trying to explain to everyone; why I was doing what I was doing. To satisfy everybody, I arranged personal trips to Duplaflex for them to see what I did and how things were implemented.

In hindsight, it was something straight out of a Science Fiction 'B' movie or the latest gossip rag. As the reason for my rebirth wasn't quite clear yet, it was something I'm sure scientists both Zapbots and humans would love to study.

As the days went by the trips between planets worked out so well that I pondered opening Gearatron to tourists. This would allow more people to visit and understand the world of the Zapbots better. A new idea of forming an intergalactic alliance began to form in the back of my brain. I wanted to help Earth and build out the space program. The goal would be to help move civilization forward propelling humans with the stars with the help of my Zapbots. Who knows what other cultures, or aliens we would meet? The sky was literally the limit for mankind.

In my mind, I started forming plans for a new breed of Zapbots, with different types of Zapbots ranging in different sizes and shapes. A new city especially came to mind that would also enact as a starship, carrying vast loads of Zapbots across the galaxy. While the Battle-base and Duplaflex were very cozy, I wanted to settle down in a home of my own. For now, I was living in the human section of Duplaflex, but my instincts said 'something bigger.'

As life began to get a bit back to normal, I started to take some time to myself. My Zapbots had started to pick up the pieces of work that was needed and occasionally I would take a day off to relax and rejuvenate.

It was on such a day, I was sitting at my desk working on my terminal, drinking my coffee when Speedy came bursting into the room in a hurry. The young Zapbots was known sometimes to cry wolf but from the tone of his voice I could tell this tale was verified.

"Master, Master!" cried Speedy running into my office.

"What?" I asked.

"We have picked up a report of a hostage situation back in your hometown of Cleveland, Ohio."

"What?" I replied. Technically my hometown was a bit east of Cleveland, but Cleveland had its fair share of problems.

"A school bus of children has been taken captive, and the hostages are not willing to compromise."

As I realized the necessity of our intervention this provided me with an opportunity probably not available in most situations.

"Well, it's not the Junkicons, but it's better than nothing. Let's move!" I replied.

We traveled to the site within the hour and found a bus surrounded by cops and cars. A small cell of terrorists decided to take it upon themselves to cause misery. My Zapbots drove up to the area and stayed in vehicle mode so as to not draw any attention. I got out of Botimus Prime in my regular human-clothed form and talked with the police officers, devising a plan for the rescue of the children. I scanned the bus and the kids ranged in various ages of which a few were around my age.

I slowly walked up to the bus and the terrorist came to the door and pointed a gun at my face. A rather scruffy-looking individual with the typical anti-government drab on held the gun a few feet away from my head. At this point, I felt no fear as I had been dead before.

"Get back kid or you'll die!" he cried in a foreign accent.

"I'll trade one of those kids in there for me. Let the youngest go." I yelled trying to persuade him to get me inside the situation. My goal was to get onto the bus.

With hesitation and bewilderment, they threw a kid out one of the windows and grabbed me by the collar throwing me inside. Awkwardly I landed on the floor of the isle turning around to stand back up. As I completed level setting myself, I saw the gun once again pointed at my face.

"Ever dance with the devil in the pale moonlight!" the first terrorist laughed quoting a recent movie. The broken shotgun hanging near inches from my nose.



With a mental impulse, I immediately turned on my X-O suit. A large rolling wave of metal came out and absorbed my body encasing me in white robotic gear. In seconds I was back inside a robotic suit of armor capable of amazing skills with technology. I quickly grabbed the one terrorist and threw him towards the back of the bus. He hit the other terrorist, which hit the handle on the back door knocking them both out the back as they fell on the hard cement. The police immediately came up to them surrounding them with their weapons.

The last terrorist raised his weapon to shoot but I fired a stun ray at him, allowing him to fall helplessly onto the floor.

I came out of the bus with the kids cheering and their parents running up to receive them. It seemed like an easy job, a fine day's work for my first adventure back. I walked back to my Zapbots still in car mode and began to get inside Botimus.

"Easy job there, Master," Botimus replied.

"Yeah, I just wish fighting the Junkicons was this easy," I said.

Abruptly, I heard screams in the distance and peering northward I scanned the horizon. From out of the sky, I saw three huge flames of fire descend upon the crowd of people. Large glowing rays of light as if the sun itself was being drawn down to the Earth below. It began to encase people in the city and within seconds the people began to mutate into flames themselves. I zoomed in closer to see that the flames had eyes, hands, and feet! My Zapbots transformed and looked around in bewilderment, not knowing what to do.

Here stood giant monsters of pure flame. Swift in movement, but with an evil red glow in their eyes. I shuddered in terror wondering where they had come from and not understanding why they were here.

One of the flame monsters flew towards my body and hit me dead on. I fell backward to the ground but took no major damage. The flame monsters then hit Timetravel and Botimus, but nothing happened. I fired at them, but my energy blast seemed to be absorbed in their bodies.

"What are they?" cried Speedy.

"I don't know, but we have to do something," I replied. "The monsters are changing the people into monsters like themselves. Boaty, try your ice ray!" I ordered.

With that Boaty fired and hit one of the monsters. It froze the body cracking, and a human body was freed from within. But just as the human began to get up another monster just appeared from behind and mutated him again back into a monster. It was like a plague had begun in this small town, slowly transforming humans into evil itself.

"Concentrate your ice firepower on them!" Botimus ordered. We opened fire and began freeing humans from the grasp of the monsters. As humans began to revert to normal what appeared to be the original three monsters discovered this and retreated flying off to a nearby laboratory building. As we started helping humans up and I ordered backup from base.

"Botimus, you, Speedy, and Flier stay behind to help who's left here. Timetravel and I will attempt to try and stop those... things. Boaty, head back to headquarters for reinforcements. I don't know where they came from, or what they are but we can't let them hurt any more innocent people." I barked.

"Acknowledged!" cried the crew.

As we all went to work with our separate responsibilities, I realized we were dealing with a force much greater than the Junkicons now. Timetravel transformed into vehicle mode, and jumping inside we headed off in pursuit.

## Chapter 3

Timetravel and I followed the creatures to the nearby building. He transformed back into robot mode and I motioned for him to go in a separate direction and check the back entrance. I went towards the front door and followed the monsters as they encased the building. This wasn't just any building though it was a nuclear power plant.

I reached the main hallway, all charred by the presence of the flame monsters. I flew up flights of stairs with my booster rockets, till I reached an area where the flame monsters were scampering about. I saw one fly into a room and heard screams. I ran to the room, but it was too late. When I got there the monster had already changed the office workers into monsters themselves. I raised my arm and fired at the monsters and all of them returned to their normal human forms.

I was grabbed from behind and a flame monster wrestled me to the ground. His hot flames were starting to puncture my X-O suit and I felt the heat slowly entering my robotic body. Grabbing what was his neck as I saw in horror, those huge red eyes staring at me. Pure red eyes, with no shadows or shading. I finally got my knee up and flung him off me. He flew back towards the other side of the room as I got up and fired my ice ray. The ice encased him, shattering allowing him to return to his human form.

Then from the hallway, I saw a huge mob of them heading my way. I knew that any attempt to fight them would be pointless, but still, I began to fire. As they kept coming in hordes, they pushed me back into the room full of people. I looked out the only window of the room and saw a chance for escape. I contacted Timetravel.

"Timetravel get outside the front door and be ready for me!" I turned around to find all the people turned into monsters again. I ran towards the window jumping and shattering it into a million pieces.

I flew down to the ground. Timetravel came around back, also being chased by a horde of monsters. He transformed into vehicle mode, and I quickly jumped inside as we started flying towards the nearby ocean. We reached the water as he converted to aerial mode, but the monsters were still following us, more than ever before.

"Faster Timetravel!" I cried.

"If I go any faster, I'll warp through time!" he replied.

I looked behind to see hundreds of fire monsters floating in the air attempting to catch up with us, as they emerged from the coastline following us over the water. It was a bewildering sight to see flames of fire, shaped as humans flying over the water, reflecting their glow in the water below.

Just as the monsters were about to consume us a giant shot exploded just above them, forcing them to scatter away. I peered through Timetravel's window to see Duplaflex flying over the water in Battle Station mode firing his weapons

"Anthony to Duplaflex, do not destroy them. They are human!" I radioed.

"Acknowledged," said Boaty over the com.

We reached Duplaflex's docking port and Boaty met us there. As some monsters had been shot with the ice ray, Flier transformed and went out to rescue the people that were floating aimlessly in the sea.

"Master I've discovered what these aliens are and where they came from," Boaty responded.

I got out of Timetravel and as he transformed back into robot mode, we looked at the nearby science station's control panel.

"We have traced them from a massive explosion in nearby space. The ancient seal of the Zapbots was destroyed, probably by the Junkicons. Thus, this rupture in space and time has sent those beings from another dimension into our universe."

"That still doesn't explain what they..." I started.

"They are a strange cosmetic beings of radiant force. They get their energy from the yellow sun and organic bodies. However, if we can somehow lure them back into any star, gravity should keep them there." Boaty continued.

As we looked over the screen a huge crash rocked Duplaflex. We scuttled to the main bridge and saw the sun monsters in hordes attempting to ram the mighty floating battle station.

"Duplaflex, if you can transform!" I said.

"Attempting transformation!" roared Duplaflex. Then, throughout the entire building the walls began to move, the floors began to shake, and everyone scrambled for their safety rooms. As the mighty city began to extend its towers, releasing its sides and moving walls a robot emerged and stood flying above the water. The wind of the sea flying past the lower legs of the towering behemoth.

Duplaflex began blasting at the packets of fire monsters. They reverted into people and as they fell from the sky into the ocean, Boaty and Flier flew underneath Duplaflex to rescue them from drowning.

The fire monsters swarmed around Duplaflex like flies as he continued to fire his ice weapons. I stood from within his central bridge and saw from a distance three of the monsters just standing by, watching. I knew it had to be the original three who had originally arrived.

"Those are the original three," I cried and pointed.

"Zapbots, man your stations!" cried Botimus. My Zapbots ran towards their gunnery decks and began firing out of Duplaflex.

"There are too many of them!" cried Speedy.

"Just keep firing. Their tactical situation is at a disadvantage," explained Scan.

"Cut the booming and get a grooving," said Hightone firing his weapons console.

"Botimus, look!" cried Roberta pointing at her computer screen.

Botimus came over to her computer screen.

"If we don't send those monsters back where they came from within the next few hours, they will cause an imbalance in the Earth's atmosphere!" Roberta cried.

"Elaborate?" I asked.

"In short, the Earth will explode!" replied Botimus.

The fighting continued outside for about another minute after that comment. Finally, after the loss of most of their army back into human form, the monsters retreated once again.

As Duplaflex transformed back into battleship mode, we traveled after them. I knew we had to destroy the original three if we wanted to save the world. This time there would be no mistakes, and this time I knew, I could not die.

We followed the monsters to the nearest mainland. As we reached the shore, we saw people running all over the place and screaming hysterically from the horrific plague being released upon them. My Zapbots and I left the confines of Duplaflex transforming and firing with duplicity reverting as many humans as we could. It was an annoying game. As soon as we thought we had made progress, we would turn to see more humans converting to flames.

Flier flew high atop a nearby building and started locking on monsters chasing people. This helped reduce the number of monsters developing for the minute.

Botimus flew up and transformed back into his trailer mode. His trailer transformed into a battle station and out came his flying satellite that began firing at the monsters. My Zapbots took cover inside of the trailer whenever the monsters were following them.

Hightone and Scan were having some action as well, flying above the monsters and attacking what was below them.

"It would appear that their tactical situation development has not increased their..." started Scan.

"Hey dude, just blast them. We don't need a novel about them!" replied Hightone to his counterpart.

Meanwhile Speedy was running from a pack of fire monsters chasing him. Timetravel came up from behind them and immobilized them reverting them to people.

"Gotta watch your back little Speedy!" he said. Speedy raised his gun and Timetravel dodged just in time to see Speedy firing at a monster that was behind Timetravel's back.

"You gotta practice what you preach big bro!" Speedy replied.

I however was stationed just above a hill when I noticed that no matter how hard we tried we still could not get those beings to go away. Boaty flew up to me landing on the ground.

"Master we're losing time fast! Expediency is recommended." Boaty commented.

I searched around with my sensors, and I saw the original three once again. Grouped together watching from a distance as the chaos continued.

"Boaty stay here! Cover me!" I said. I flew right towards the original three monsters, the hideous creatures that had come to our planet. They saw me and began flying towards a nearby building. It was another nuclear power plant for the area.

I followed them inside and set down on foot. The hallways were small and dark, and I looked everywhere with my thermogram sensors, but the monsters were nowhere to be found. However, I could almost predict where they would travel to.

Slowly I walked through the building, checking every corner until I saw a bright light coming from a door. Coming around the corner, I saw a light so bright that it almost blinded my eyes. I stepped back and was about to unleash my weapons when for the first time I heard them speak.

"Your death is near puny human! Even with that mechanical skeleton, you will perish!" cried the one in the middle. A low raspy voice with an echo to it. It was nauseating to listen to. With that, the other two stepped into the center one and they merged into one giant monster.

I fired my ice gun, but it melted before it even reached the outer skin of the monster. The giant fire monster now stood above me and from his eyes came a laser blast. It hit me dead on, ripping a hole through my X-O suit. I fell backward leaking oil and blood. I tried to get up but they hit me again, and again. I was being pummeled with their eye lasers and the pain began to intensify. My body hurt like hell. I forced myself to crawl behind a wall and was cowering from their firepower as they continued to slowly move in my direction. I was in so much pain, it was worse than the time I fought with Messy. My electrical parts were just hanging there, and my X-O suit was barely functional.

Once again, I felt fear from an enemy...

As the monster came around the corner, he stood there just waiting to finish me off. I felt a strange vibration in my chest. Without any control, the Matrix flew out of my X-O suit and I grabbed ahold of it, clutching it powerfully in my weakened hands.

Then with all the strength, I had left I pulled the outer casing of the Matrix apart. The crystal silver ball inside began glowing brightly and spinning furiously. Then laser rays shot out from it and hit the fire monster directly, encasing the yellow in white light. He cried out in immense pain and his roar was deafening. He separated back into the original three components, and they dashed out of the room.

I stumbled up with the Matrix to find them fleeing. I reached the outside of the building and saw them flying out of Earth's atmosphere, heading straight for the sun. Slowly becoming dots upon the horizon until they no longer could be seen.

I looked around and saw that monsters that were previously people were reverting to their regular selves. I finally put the Matrix back into my chest and collapsed from exhaustion on the beach.

## Chapter 4

I awoke to find myself in Botimus' trailer being repaired. Click and SuperRobot had come from my Battle-base to help with my repairs. As the two robots tinkered with my body, Boaty strolled up to me as my consciousness recovered.

"What's our status?" I asked. I was very, very, tired.

"Master you did it. The aliens have left." Boaty replied kneeling down to my small body.

"It appears they have left Earth's atmosphere heading towards the Earth's sun," replied Scan walking into the trailer and handing Click a tool.

"Master, the Matrix was powerful enough to force them away. It's conceivable that it has enough energy to destroy them for good," said Boaty.

"Great we just need to get them closer," replied Flier.

"Are we good for now?" I asked my team, trying to stay awake, and Click and Super poked and prodded. My human body was exhausted both from the physical stress but also from mental anguish. What was supposed to be a new normal provided us with a new challenge and a new enemy. I looked around at my valiant crew of giant-sized robots, helping humans recover as emergency crews were arriving to tend to the wounded.

"You're being repaired in record time Master," said SuperRobot.

"Good, I'm going to rest now," I said, falling back to sleep.

*"Master's Log, Stardate, 1988 I've decided to start keeping track of some of these stories as I'm sure they will be needed for future generations. In the tradition of great Captains who have piloted various ships across the sea, I have decided to keep a log of what is going on in my life. The Leader of a race of Transforming Robots.*

*"It's been one week now since our incident with what we are calling the 'Sun Monsters.' And although they're gone, I cannot help but fear their return.*

*"Earth's nations were briefed of the incident as video footage began to hit the airwaves on Cable TV, running twenty-four hours a day. As these videos began to travel across Earth all nations have begun a lockdown to prepare their citizens for a likely second attack. Citizens have been ordered to stay inside and only travel for essentials like food, hospitals, etc... Stores and restaurants have been ordered to close across the world, and leaders from local to federal levels have asked everyone to stay home until further notice. Only basic essential services and jobs have been allowed to remain open.*

*"I can't help but feel somewhat responsible for this, even though I know logically that is not the case. I do not agree with the overreach here, with asking everyone to stay home, but the various World Leaders insist this must happen to protect the public. My Zapbots have begun some initial research and as far as we can tell the sun monsters have been absorbed into the Earth's sun. Initial speculations indicate the gravity there should keep them, but there is a lot yet that needs to be determined.*

*"Things have otherwise returned to how they were just like before I died. I have learned so much about life and death in such a short time. I have learned what it means to be where I am, and now I know that whatever happens in the future, I must be prepared to deal with it."*

I stood there in my bedroom on Duplaflex finishing the plans for a new battle city. White walls structured with metal panels intertwined with furniture. Soft lights illuminated above providing creature comfort as a warm mug of coffee sat on my desk. As I connected the various points on the computer screen, Click strolled into my office.

"Master, I just wanted to say that on behalf of all the Zapbots, we're very glad to have you back <sup>click</sup>," Click said.

At first, I didn't say anything, but I just looked at him. How amazing my life had become and how wondrous it was, yet the responsibility now was becoming a bit overwhelming. Still, I was grateful.

"Click, you don't know how grateful I am TO be back." I replied with unease.

"Do you think they'll return?" Click said staring out the window at the sun basking Earth in its glow. It was funny that Earth's only source of light and energy could not contain its destroyers. Seagulls flew in the distance of the sea, as Duplaflex levitated in mid-air just over the ocean.

"I don't know. And I pray not. But for now, let us just live the life we have been blessed with, and plan for tomorrow. Plan for the worst, hope for the best as my parents always said."

With that, I pressed the button to send the final plans to Pliers to begin construction. Life had started anew, and so it had with the Zapbots and me.

To Be Continued...