

Preface

This story was inspired after watching the movie 'Toy Soldiers' starring Sean Austin and of course Wil Wheaton.

Wil Wheaton was a major crush for me and he looked exactly as my real life friend Matt at the time. When Matt and I drifted apart I at least could watch Star Trek The Next Generation and somewhat still have a connection to someone I had fallen for deeply.

{Spoiler Alert for anyone who hasn't seen Toy Soldiers}

When I saw Toy Soldiers I was mortified when Wil Wheaton's character was killed. This is where my over anxious imagination would come up with ways to make the story happier and thus I dreamt up this story so to allow my Zapbots to save the kids.

Many years later, this story is one of the few I can look back on and say I had some really good character development. As I'm rewriting these now I am making these smaller stories more character driven as it is helping me to build a much better universe to enjoy for you thus readers.

Regardless to say I think it is turning out pretty well.

Anthony S. Anselmo

The Boys Town

Part 2

By Anthony Anselmo

Chapter 1

Rain. It hit the old style windows of the dilapidated school hard. The cold wind blew and the windows shuttered in Johnston Academy in Terin, a small town in the Southern part of Germany. As it hit the windows that contained paint with cracks from evidence of being painted over one too many times.

The school was a strange series of building, built by the Nazi's during the second World War and contained within the confined of a large cropping of mountains. Large buildings with shale clay tiles, connected to brick buildings, that were then connected to tunnels that went into the mountain. A lot of the property was refurbished many years ago for a school, with some of it left to just deteriorate, not being used.

Mike Quartz sat besides the window on the ledge, just over the radiator. He pondered his life while looking out on the small hilly town. Just under a year ago Mike and his brother Jim joined this University to finish their education. A few years before then they had been trapped in their hometown, an obscure small village hidden in the vast mountains of Germany, run skillfully under old Nazis who had retained too much control over the few years.

Mike and the other town boys formed a rebel force that hid within the confines of the giant ancient castle that was originally abandoned but then slowly became occupied as the military grew, forcing them to relocated to a mountain hideaway. His band of merry boys, led a front to thwart any actions by the military as they continued to hold the city at bay. Unable to send for help or leave due to the extremely rough mountain terrain, they lived this livelihood of many years ago. A world that had not aged since the early 1940's.

Thanks to a strange occurrence of one Anthony Anselmo landing in that small town, rescuing him and his brother, his whole life had changed. Gone were the days surviving as a poor village peasant, trying to collect scraps of food, and then to be under the watchful guise as his aunt who raised them was taken to be wed by the Nazi General. Anthony a man of futurist robotic means helped to turn the tide and report the situation to the modern government. Once the village was discovered by the state, law and order was restored by the newly reunited Germany. This caused much a stir at first, as the East and West side were unable to quickly adapt. The East wasn't use to the competition and the government continued to be in shambles. However the Nazi's were captured and the town was pronounced free under German rule.

He continued to stare out the window as the lighting began to flash. He thought of how last year he actually was across the galaxy. He saved Anthony's life a few times, and vice versa.

Then Mike was swept away into a fantasy world, where he daily romped with giant robots that could transform into cars, planes, and the odd boat now and then. Granted on these adventures Mike would travel with his new found friend he suddenly began to realize more about himself than he realized. Caught up in a web of fantasy, space exploration, and romance, he barely escaped the grasp of the grim reaper from time to time.

But that was gone now, as the one person he felt closest to couldn't face the facts of the situation. Although he did understand the reservations for his safety from Anthony. He too had to deal with caring about his fellow brothers and comrades, putting his own neck on the line several times to make sure someone was safe, or had a square meal.

As he looked up at the moon, knowing that his certain friend was there, he breathed a deep sigh as he was pondering whether he should study on a Saturday night or continue to look out the window at the rain. He missed his friend deeply and he ached to be open about his feelings.

Mike and his friends were all now living at the University studying in their various degrees. Mike's roommate Tom Sears was helping him readjust to normal Earth life. Another kid named John Jones was helping him in Math. Mike's younger brother Jim was here as well but was located in another dormitory.

Mike started out the window arms folded and his chin resting on them. The trees swayed back and forth in the dark purple sky. He could hear the rain drop hit the roof hard.

"What's the matter Mike, never seen rain before?" asked Tom.

"Very funny. There is just nothing to do here!" Mike replied. He was right of course. The school was falling apart, and the best places were reserved for the teachers. The only television was in the teacher's lounge, with cable and a VCR. The workout equipment was in shambles, hallways leaked and the food tasted like the junk scooped off the bottom of your shoe. There was no sport equipment to use outside. The computers in the library were old and constantly dealing with viruses and hard drive problems. The Internet connection was still on a dial-up line. In short, it was a poor excuse for room, board and school.

The teachers were extremely verbally abusive. Mike had it out with a few a time or two, but he always would relent as to not make the situation any worse. The one bright light was Mrs. Simmons who along with Mike's friends were the only light of hope in the hallways of hell.

Yet this school had a reputation of producing amazing gifted individuals. The library was well stocked with books and Mike found himself spending hours in there studying. When the computers were halfway functional he would send off an email to Anthony catching up on stuff. As Anthony requested he kept his connection with him private as to not drawn any suspicion. Only a few knew where Mike had been. At

any moment he had a special device he could call for assistance but he wasn't going to use it. He was hurt by what Anthony did and he would show him that he could survive on his own, let he did before.

A knock on the door broke his train of thought. Tom opened it and Jim came in handing Mike a letter.

"It's from you know who," said Jim.

"Oh the big robot guy," said Tom laughing. He had gotten word of the rumors of Mike, but shook them off as wild stories.

"You've seen the device," Mike replied.

"Yeah it doesn't do anything." Tom mocked.

"I'm only suppose to use it for emergencies," replied Mike.

"Excuses Excuses... you probably have too much time spending on the hallway payphone talking to your boyfriend!" replied Tom.

Tom was joking as at the time, he had no indication of Mike sexuality or his preferences. Mike use to call Anthony from time to time. 1-800-ZAPBOTS as Anthony would joke would get him to the emergency line. But phone calls with his close friend began to get awkward. Things previously discussed could not be shared over an old payphone in a hallway. Mike had a device he could call anytime, but that was impossible to use in a crowded dormitory. It would totally break his cover and cause issues. So once a person surrounded by technology he now reverted back to a world of low grade technology, that had not been upgraded since the early 1980's.

Mike sighed and opened the letter. He smiled a little bit as it was an indication that Anthony had received his notice about the problems with the school. A donation of cash was made to the school to help repair it, and upgrade the technology infrastructure. As Tom left the room to go down to the bathroom, he showed Jim the letter.

"He's going to help us out I take it?" Jim asked.

"Yep, I knew he wouldn't let us down."

"It's hard for him to help these days with the guidelines he choose right?"

"Yeah, ever since they declared they would stay out of Earthly affairs it's proving to be problematic when he wants to help someone."

"Do you miss him?"

Mike was silent. He wanted to be confined in his brother but he had to be strong. He grew up a leader, taking care of others and was determined to hide his pain for the safety of his fellow men. He carried this with him even to this day.

Anthony had warned him.

"Do not share, do not let anyone know you know me. If anyone knows you are connected to me you will become a target. They will use you and what we are to hurt us or get to me." Anthony would say.

And he could not disagree with him, because he was right. This was the 20th century but there were still problems with how the world perceived those with different persuasions. We had a long way to go yet for equal freedom to love who we wanted.

Mike closed the letter and placed it in his backpack. He decided to head back to the library to concentrate on his studies. At least it would help him take his mind off the situation that was his life.

I finished typing on my computer and shut down the work for the night. In the living room on my home in the Zapbot Fortress Misslemax my friend Rogish was watching Saturday Night Earth TV.

Rogish was a dear friend who I knew from my kindergarten years. We lost touch when I left school to build my Zapbots, but regained contact many years later. It's amazing how you can just pick up where you left off with your friends. A trained Headmaster now, he was hanging out with me when he could. Recently married, he had a wife and kept a home in Euclid Ohio living the ordinary life most of the time, but running surveillance for us when needed for the Cleveland area.

He was visiting for the weekend and was proceeding to laugh his butt off at the TV screen. He rewinded the show to point something out to me.

"Watch this!" he said pointing at the screen. An enlarged African-American man walked off a board and was suddenly falling down a skyscraper. Rogish was laughing madly.

"You call that funny?" I asked.

"Aw come on. Don't tell me you don't think that's funny?"

I shook my head no.

"You have no funny bone Tony!" he said.

"I must be missing the backstory then." I replied.

Suddenly the door to the suite opened and my other Headmaster friends Jeremy and David walked in to join the party.

Jeremy was my penpal from back in the day. We became good friends once I introduced him to the Zapbots as he had a desired to be a pilot. He actually completed his Headmaster training, then went back to the Earth Air Force to help them start training for possible enemy attacks. He graduated the Air Force with the highest honors.

David was my friend from the days when I believed in a fictious God and went to church. He was also a close friend, although lately we had been fighting on that particular issue. He also was keeping a low profile back in my hometown, just keeping an eye on things and protecting those who I cared about.

Originally all my Headmaster friends were hanging out at Misslemax, but due to the various situations on Earth, I sent them back and told them to hang tight. Oh they still would visit from time to time, but right now the Headmaster team was a secret strike force hidden from public view. They would keep their various vehicles hidden and only put on their X-O suits for special assignments.

There were all here this weekend spending the night, trying to get me out of my work mode and enjoy life a bit, which I did appreciate. After the show ended we went down to the holo-rooms to play a couple rounds of anti-gravity volleyball. It was a fun evening of excitement to get my mind off my worries.

Later in the evening I was sitting in my room just reading when Rogish walked in.

"So how's Mike doing?" he asked.

"From what I've been told by Hightone's tapes, he's doing alright." I replied.

"Keeping an eye on him?"

"I have to..."

"I get it, don't stress yourself out too much dingleberry," Rogish replied.

"Pollack!" I responded back.

"Nerd!" Rogish said walking down the hall to the guest bedroom.

I couldn't complain. I had friends and although there were problems in the Universe, I had a really comfortable life. I hit the button and turned off the light and settled back into the wave bed, and slowly went to sleep.

Chapter 2

Mike went around the school with business as usual. When he went down to get breakfast at the cafeteria he grabbed his usual assortment of oatmeal and then proceeded to sit down at a table and consume it while drawing on his pad. Mike found that having a pencil in hand was soothing at times.

As he listened to his music through his CD player the despair of Genesis's "No Son of Mine" made him happy. Strange but every time he tried to be happy some tragic event would happen. When he was happy at some inevitable point he would be directed to pain and suffering and as such he got use to it.

His friend John walked up to the table and pulled up a chair.

"Hey Mikey what's up?" he asked.

"The ceiling," Mike replied.

"Ha ha, so funny I forgot to laugh!"

Mike looked down and continued to draw.

"What are you drawing?" John asked.

Mike turned the sketch around to a rough example of an X-O suit, the body was complete but it was missing a head.

"Pretty good, so you going to introduce me to Mr. Spaceman when he comes to visit?" John laughed.

Mike just looked up at him with a smug look on his face. He had heard the jokes a thousand times before and brushed it off as rumors, knowing deep down inside the adventures he had been through and the feelings he had.

"If he does show up believe me, you are not getting any type of ride on the spaceship!" replied Mike.

"You kill me man, you're too much!" said John as he grabbed his food and started to consume it.

Mike would revisit the memories of time spent at Anthony's living quarters on Misslemax. One particular evening came up as he remembered an attempt to ensconce oneself within a particularly quiet evening. Another memory of an argument that continued into fight about responsibilities and the danger that came with the job. Anthony and he would argue for hours on end about being safe, and following protocols. Shouting so loud he would swear that the other mini Zapbots would have heard it.

Yet even with all that it would lead to passionate evenings then followed by the typical 'no-one must know' or 'the world isn't ready yet' type of speech. Mike sadly understood the way politics were played and as it continued he realized the problems that laid before Anthony as he delicate balance leading the Earth into space, and stationing people on other planets.

That came to abrupt halt when the media suddenly turned on the Zapbots for no good explanation. Suddenly the heroes and saviors of humankind became the destroyers or at least that was what you would have been told if you listened to the news. As such the humans began to fight amongst themselves. Travel between planets

became restricted and at a higher cost. New settlements suddenly were struggling for supplies, and had to restrict to their own planet for resources. Everyone became shut off and secluded.

It was a sad sight to see, for what could of been the grand new frontier that TV shows had displayed for many years, became a complete disaster. The public only knew that the Zapbots would only interfere if there was an attack from an alien race such as the Nonocons, the Gongos, etc... Humans were left to figure out their own battles.

And he had seen the data behind the research. When the Zapbots conduct research on items, they have the minds of infinite super computers processing and reading data. They broke into government strongholds and started cataloging papers, documentation, and conspiracies. The short of it, the conspiracies that people thought they knew we just the tip of the iceberg. Once the Zapbots discovered what the humans were really up to, in terms of a small group of individuals trying to control the Earth, it was so shocking it made your head spin.

But that was information only Mike knew and could not relay or discuss with anyone. No one would begin to understand the complexities of the situation. So he continued to draw, as he filled in a face he knew very well. The face he had seen a thousand times before, and he presently engrained in his mind.

Mike looked at his watch, it was 2:30 pm.

"This meeting is now called to order," Botimus said.

"I'll have an energy sandwich," replied Flier jokingly. Botimus gave him the look.

"Flier not now," Botimus said.

"Sorry,"

"It's okay."

My human body was a bit tired, but my Shortstop body provided the necessary movement for me to continue to exert function. It was time for Boaty's report on his research.

"We recently concluded our various investigation of our recent retraction from Earth policy." Boaty replied, punching in the table and sending the report to everyone's three dimensional view screens.

We continued to see the sad denigration of the Earth after our departure. Countries were now severally arguing with one another and interstellar traffic came to a complete halt. The information also displayed the particular issue of the misinformation being coordinated with countries and news media.

Not one country was free from corruptions. The United States, Russia, China, Europe, all were problematic. They all had a dog in the fight now.

"So it appears that our initial efforts to try and help mankind may of just made things worse?" I asked Boaty.

"Undetermined at this time. The problem is that whether we started our process to improve mankind or not, it still might have produced the same result."

I gave my version of a robotic sigh at this news.

"Master, it's not your fault," replied Speedy.

"I know Speedy, but it saddens me that there are so many humans this corrupt," I replied.

"Well we're just lucky to have one of the good ones," replied Botimus.

I looked up at my orange friend and smiled a bit. The Zapbots weren't perfect either, but at least their hearts were always in the right place. I wish I could say the same for mankind.

"Any other news Boaty?" I asked.

"Still no tracking of the Matrix Master," Boaty replied.

"Another loss I feel a burden," I replied.

I got up and gave the notion that the meeting was closed, I walked out of the Zapbot meeting room while everyone else stayed behind.

"He hasn't been the same since his human friend Mike Quartz left," replied Flier.

"I know, but he is sticking with his decision," replied Botimus.

"He needs a vacation," replied Speedy.

"He's got some downtime coming up," replied Boaty.

"In the meantime, I want everyone to do whatever they can to make his life easier. Make sure to communicate this to the mini-bots as well," replied Botimus.

"Yes sir," everyone stated. The meeting was dismissed and my Zapbots as noble as they were went to work to save the Universe.

Chapter 3

The rain began to pour again. A white van rolled up to the front gates of the school. This was an unexpected arrival as the school had already received its delivery for the day. The guard came out a bit perplexed as he walked out of the small building that resided at the front entrance of the school.

The guard knocked on the windows and tried to see who was driving the vehicle. Slowly the window rolled down and just as the guard leaned in there was the soft sound of bullets hitting him in the chest. The un-expecting guard slowly fell down to the ground, as the window was rolled up and the van proceeded to drive into the facility.

The pulled up to the back delivery door and parked. The back door of the van opened and men with masks got out and stormed the back entrance.

The kitchen crew working their normal shifts were taken off guard as various men ran in, knocking them over to the head, or to the ground. Screams began to surface as more men proceeded to run down the hallways yelling loudly in German.

One by one the men would enter the various rooms of the dormitory, pointing their guns at the kids who were suddenly frightened out of their minds. They ushered them all to the cafeteria as numerous boys were herded like cattle. Some cried, some felt nothing, some had a stone cold feeling on their face, and others didn't know what to do.

Mike was in the washroom shaving when he heard the screams. He ran out into the bedroom where his brother Jim and Tom where sitting raising their heads out of wonder.

Mike slowly opened the door and saw men in military garb coming down the hall.

"Quick!" Mike ushered. With quick movement he opened the window and ushered Tom and his brother out onto the roof. Mike quickly closed the window and made a motion with his finger for everyone to be quiet.

The mysterious man walked into the empty room, he checked the bathroom and then sensing the emptiness of the room left and continued down the hall.

Mike opened the window and let Jim and Tom back in, they ran into the bathroom to hide.

"What the fuck!" cried Tom starting to panic.

"Shhhhh do not talk!" replied Mike.

"These guys can't be for real?" asked Jim.

"Jim, any person with a gun like that is not to be messed with. They're carrying AR-15s!" Mike replied.

"What do we do?"

"Just like what we always do. Survive." replied Mike.

He opened up the side closet in the bathroom and took out the towels. He pushed back the back wall and it slowly moved backwards revealing a crawl space. He quietly ushered Tom and Jim into the space and pointed upwards. In between the

wall to the closet and the bathroom was just enough space for electrical cables and a furnace vent. A small boy could easily scale the wall made of various 2x4's.

Up they went and reached the attic of the school. In the cold dark triangular area, there was just enough room to crawl around the floorboards, barely laid there as some sort of mechanism to move throughout the area. Some light from the various vent exhausted pierced the gloom as they crawled over to the other side of the building.

As Mike, Jim and Tom crawled they saw movement at the far other end of the building. It was John who had thought of the same escape plan and made it up to the attic as well. Mike pointed at his mouth motioning not to say a word.

He made his way over to the exhaust vent for the cafeteria. Mike looked down to carefully watch what was going on. There all the school's young adults had been collected. Several men wearing garb walked around slowly proudly displaying their guns.

Suddenly a man who appeared to be their leader walked in. He slowly walked around and carefully looked over the students. He opened his mouth and spoke with a heavy german accent.

"YOU WILL DO AS I SAY AND YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED. ANY PERSON WHO ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE THE GROUNDS WILL BE SHOT. WE HAVE SURROUNDED THIS AREA WITH BOMBS. IF YOU LEAVE, THEY WILL GO OFF.

"YOU WILL REPORT BACK TO THE CAFETERIA EVERY THREE HOURS. IF WE CAN'T FIND ONE OF YOU, TEN WILL DIE. IF WE CAN NOT FIND TWO, TWENTY WILL DIE, and so on!"

Mike continued to peer on from above trying his best to control his breath. He knew immediately knew who this was but how they had come here was a mystery.

The students were escorted back to their rooms, except the men compounded them this time. Five to a room where there should have been two. Thus reducing their span to just the top level of the main dormitory.

Mike and his friend crawled to the area just about the boiler room, the only place they could converse. They stood on their two feet squatting on the rafters.

"It's old military men from our hometown, they're here probably looking for us," replied Mike.

"What the hell?" said John.

"The main guy's name is Gib. He was the General's second in command. The guy standing next to him is called Til. He was third."

"We got to get out of here!" said John.

"And we will...but we need to get some help."

Mike held up his watch that was glowing a bright red light that was somewhat illuminating the gloom of the room. His friends had never seen this before.

"What does that mean?" asked Jim.

"It means help is on the way." replied Mike.

The red alert siren rang in the quarters of my Headmaster friends. They immediately jumped out of their beds and ran to throw on their X-O suits. Quickly placing them on, they left their motel rooms and ran to the loading dock where their vehicles lay stationed. Jeremy piloted the Zapbot Twirl, David the Zapbot Windshield and Rogish into Bash-Mash.

They were met with myself and my Shortstop vehicle mode ready to go. The docking bay door to space was open, with the environment only being held together by the force field.

"What's going on?" asked Jeremy.

"Mike's in trouble," I replied.

"How do you know?" asked David.

"I got a distress call." I replied showing him my electronic pad.

"You sure he didn't accidentally trigger it?" asked Rogish.

I gave him the evil eye.

"Distress calls are that. Only supposed to be used for emergencies."

"Why are you taking us?" asked David.

"We need to keep a low profile right now." I replied. "Humans in cars are a lot more believable than cars driving themselves."

We leaped in our cockpits and flew out of the human space-dock down towards Earth. Botimus stood at the Misslemax command bridge awaiting further instructions.

"We've jammed you on the various human satellite channels," replied Boaty over the com.

"Okay we're heading down to Germany, keep an eye on us." I replied.

From the space-dock of Misslemax four vehicles with human participants flew out and quickly flew down towards the surface of the planet. My heart raced a little as I did not know what was going on, but also that someone I cared for was in danger.

Rogish had the only truck mode while David, Jeremy had jets. My Shortstop body was a futuristic flying jet mode that would be completely obvious to spot. I rode with Rogish in his vehicle up to the school location with my Shortstop body stationed a few miles away was hiding in the vast German mountains. David and Jeremy were flying high above to keep watch and listening in.

When we approached the school there was a huge swarm of law enforcement surrounding the property. Rogish and I pulled up and stopped getting out of the truck to look around. Our X-O suits gave us camouflage of normal clothing of the time.

"What's going on here?" I asked in German to the officer.

"Some type of terrorist organization has taken control of the school," replied the Officer.

"What?" asked Rogish dumbfounded.

"Yep, strangest darn thing if you ask me."

"How many kids in there?" I asked.

"According to our records around fifty." replied the Officer. "What's your business?"

"My brother is in there," I lied to the Officer.

"Well he's in a lot of danger!" replied the Officer.

I walked up to the fence and my could not believe my optic sensors. A blue ray of light encased the entire complex, providing a dome encasing the school grounds.

"A force field shield!" I muttered.

"How did they get technology like that?" asked Rogish.

"Possible stolen technology from us again? Either way it doesn't matter. I can't scan into the complex. I do know there is an underground entrance we can use."

A small lady came up to us and seemed to be very aware of who we were.

"You're Mike's friends aren't you?" replied the lady.

"And you are?" I asked.

"I'm Ms. Simmons one of the teachers."

"Did Mike tell you about us?"

"No, but the rumors were hard to ignore. He got picked on a lot from them and I could tell he was hiding the truth," she replied.

I saw the officer get on the phone to talk to the supposed terrorist. I used my X-O suit to hack the call and listen to the conversation.

"I do not wish to hurt them. I will release my set of demands and you have 48 hours to comply to them or I will start killing them one by one." said the voice.

"Please do not hurt any of the kids, we can work this out," replied the Officer.

"I have a self destruct device that will blow this entire place sky-high if you attempt to enter the complex."

"Please let me talk to one of the kids."

"NO! This will be our only communication. If you do not respond to our demands we will take action!"

The terrorist hung up.

"Botimus are you guys reading this," I replied to our secret com back to Misslemax.

"Yes Master, we're attempting to figure out how to disable the shield." replied Botimus.

"Master, according to Scan and mine's observations, we can deactivate the self-destruct device, but we can't do it from outside of the shield. You will need to get inside the complex to turn off the device," replied Boaty.

We walked back to Rogish's truck and I brought up a map of the scanned underground.

"There are three tunnels entering this complex from underground. One is an old railway that is no longer used. This leads to a large cave, and then connected to a giant drain pipe. We can use this to sneak into the complex." I said communicating back up to Jeremy and David.

"The main goal is to get them outside the shield. Once they're there we can get them to safety." replied Rogish.

I opened the com back up to Misslemax.

"Hightone, is there anyway you can get a message to Mike?" I said.

"With some decoding through the shield yes. It will take a while. We're trying to figure out where the heck these dudes got this technology!" replied Hightone.

"Master this is unheard of us, no humans should have a shield like this," replied Botimus.

"I know, but we need to get Mike out. We've been through this before." I replied.

Up in the rafters of the attic, Mike's watch began to glow green. He pressed a button and from the watch a three dimensional screen displayed providing text in mid-air.

"Zapbot Transmission - Is Mike Quartz there?"

Mike pressed the watch and held down. The watch sensed his thoughts and by reading his thoughts he was able to provide text on the screen.

"This is Mike. We are safe for now."

Back at Rogish's vehicle and on our visual displays we saw his message come through via text.

"Mike there is an underground entrance to the facility? Is this guarded?"

"All the doors are guarded but not the sewer pipes. If you come in cloaked you could easily take them out."

"Unable to cloak due to their shield. It disrupts our cloaking shield. We are unsure how they attained this technology. We will attempt to reach you through the sewer drain. Try to find a way to get everyone safety there."

Carefully we communicated back and forth to setup the plan to safety get everyone out. It would take delicate timing and skill to get fifty boys to safety. Thankfully my friend who was a survivor was well aware of how to do this for prior experiences. Once we had settled on a time, I communicated back to David and Jeremy to meet us at the entrance to the mountain.

Chapter 4

Jeremy, David, Rogish and myself stationed ourselves outside the tunnel for the sewer pipe. We reduced ourselves to our X-O suits to fit the tube. The large long piece of rusted metal barely held the roof together of the carved out cave. From the darkness in front of us, piles of water and sewage trickled out into the cave.

"Keep your guns on stun. We don't need anyone dying here," I replied.

"I think I'm more concerned with the smell killing me," replied Rogish.

"Just turn off your smell sensors," replied Jeremy.

"You can do that?" Rogish replied.

"Also, I do have something to make this a bit more palatable." I hit a button on my X-O suit arm and a long white ray dispersed below my feet. When it hit the raw sewage it automatically changed the atoms to water, thus literally cleaning up the area as we walked.

"What is that?" asked Rogish.

"It's a waste de-materializ-er. How do you think we keep things clean in space?" I noted.

"Why didn't I get one?"

"You never asked," I replied smiling.

We continued to walk down the long dark tunnel, with our optic light lanterns lighting the way, and our optic sensors inverted for night. Our four robotic bodies slowly moving through the space to try and rescue a collection of children and young adults.

"Why is it everyone I care about seems to constantly be getting themselves into trouble," I replied as we walked.

"Probably just the type of people you keep around yourself," mocked Rogish.

"I tend to think anyone you care about is going to be problematic to keep safe," replied Jeremy.

"Yeah, why else would you move your parents to a completely different world, transporting the house and the exact plot of land and everything." said David.

"My parents were easy to take care of."

"They don't know yet do they?" Jeremy asked.

"No, although Mom keeps asking me. I don't have the heart to tell her." I replied.

"You're going to have to at some point Anthony," replied David.

"I know. It's a lot harder than it looks guys." I responded.

"Look, this divides into four ways ahead," said Jeremy pointing at the sewer pipe branching off.

"You have your orders gentlemen, don't let me or Mike down."

Meanwhile high above the ground where we stood trouble was brewing. In one of the rooms one of Gib's men was torturing one of the kids, holding him up against the wall.

"So... it appears that we have a smart mouth here," he replied, as the kid continued to dangle in the air. Behind him his frightened schoolmates watched in horror.

Til walked into the room interrupting the torture session.

"What is it!" barked Gib.

"They are refusing to give in to our demands. They keep insisting they need more time," replied Til.

"Fools! Do they realize what they will endure! I'm not the one they have to worry about!" cried Gib. "Let him go!" he barked to his men, who dropped the poor kid to the floor, as he began to grasp for breath. Gib and his men left the room. Once they were gone the kids in the room noticed a light coming from a nearby vent in the wall. When they peered closer they immediately knew who it was. A quick 'shhhh' from Mike provided silence as he carefully whispered instructions to the room and when done scurried back up the inside wall to the next room.

Gib proceed to yell in harsh German over the phone to the officers. With a slam he slammed the cell phone down onto the table.

"Something is up, why are they delaying?" replied Gib.

"Typical tactic that most negotiators do," replied Til.

The two started to walk down the hall, as the kids were carefully pouring out of the cafeteria for there hourly check. Gib's men proceeded to escort them back to their rooms as the one goon came up to report that all kids were accounted for.

"How many?" ask Gib

"45" said the man in the ski mask.

"That's not right. Where is the one we are looking for?"

"The Quartz kid?" asked Til.

"Yes! He must be here somewhere."

Gib began to ponder the reason for Mike's disappearance. From all aspects his knowledge and research said the traitor must be here. Somewhere within these walls must be the man who destroyed the small bit of their former paradise.

"The walls! Search the walls!" he exclaimed.

The goons began to run in opposite directions, parsing out to various places to try and navigate the ancient buildings strange layout. Gib lit a cigarette and noticed that some kids where going into the bathroom nearby. While he wanted them to use it when needed because he did not want to have to deal with human feces he felt the timing of this strange. He slowly watched them.

In the four bathrooms the entire group of boys crowded as the bottom of the floor stood a grated drain. They waited cautiously and then suddenly a large robotic hand would encase the drain, shifting it quickly upward from its surface and above the head of the various individual popping out of the drain.

"Everyone down!" I whispered as the I got up and helped to usher the kids quickly into the pipes below. In the other bathrooms, Jeremy, David and Rogish were proceeding to do the same at the three other bathrooms.

When the last kid entered the pipe, suddenly a large german burst through the door.

"STOP!" he yelled firing his gun at me. His bullets ricocheted off my metallic body and I shot him with a stun gun hitting him as he fell to the floor. As I slipped back down the floor I grabbed the grate and with my laser infused it back into the floor blocking the various intruders from following us.

It was a decision I had to weigh carefully whether or not to engage the intruders. While I would imagine that our superior technology could easily disabled them, the reason for them having a force field caused concerned of 'what else' they could possibly have weapon wise. As such our first priority was to get the kids to safety.

As I left the grate I heard another guard come in and began to radio the other enemy combatants. I radioed my friends as well.

"Move quick!" I said as I also pointed that out to the kids now running down the barely lit tunnel.

"We're on the move!" replied Jeremy over the com.

Unsure of whether or not the self destruct would go off we had to get the kids out of the pipes and into the cave portion as quickly as possible. As we came out from the one pipe that met the other three all the kids slowly merged into a mass movement of young teenagers and adults moving down a long pipe.

"Keep moving, don't stop!" I cried as we continued to walk briskly. My fellow X-O suit companions slowly caught up with me as we brought up the rear of the tunnel.

We reached the large opening in the cave and took a moment to stop. With some lights we had planted overhead I peered around to try and scour the area. My heart was torn for civic duty and concern for those I deeply care about, especially someone in particular I could not located.

"Is there a Mike Quartz here?" I asked.

"Over here!" I heard a voice, turning around coming back from behind us Mike came running with his brother Jim and two other boys. He ran up to me and without thinking about it he jumped into my robotic body holding me as carefully as one could a square robotic body; wanting to pursue passion more but holding back. I very gently returned the favor as I breathed a sigh of relief that he was okay and held him in my arms.

I looked down to see Jim's brother in tow.

"Wow, I'm amazed how much you've grown Jim!" I replied trying to cheer him up.

"Yeah going to be 20 soon!" he answered, "If I ever make it to 20!"

"Nah don't talk like that," I replied putting my hand on his shoulder.

"You're okay?" I asked Mike.

"Thanks to you!" he replied.

"No you did this my friend!" I replied smiling.

Suddenly a deafening noise was heard as around us as it shook the cavern where we all stood. Gib must of set off the self-destruct device for the area. I began to see the rock formations start to crack a bit and at the same time I noticed water began to flow towards us at an alarming rate. What once was a trickle now began as stream.

"We've got to get out of here," replied Jeremy.

"Rogish, fly ahead and get us some cover. Everyone run like hell!" I cried.

Suddenly a rush of water came from the pipes. I threw up a force field to carefully encase the area in a bubble to protect the water from coming in. Still the ceiling began to crack more as the cavern was slowly losing integrity.

"Fall back!" I ordered slowly walking back trying to maintain the force field in the area. As everyone ran down the long tunnel I held back the ever filling water as it was coming at the rock and ground with a force. As much as my shield was trying to compensate for the ever changing structure of the cavern water would find a way to sneak around it.

The cascade of young men reached the exit ladder for the old tunnel which was our original entrance to the pipe. Quickly they climbed and exited into the cavernous tunnel in the mountain as my fellow X-O suit companions proceeded to help them as best they could.

Walking slowly now I continued still to hold back what was now a full tunnel of water come towards us. If I could get to the ladder another cross section of water would take this elsewhere. When I was the last to reach the ladder with expert skill I held out my hand, navigating the shield and allowing me to float upwards till I reached the top of the ladder. The water proceeded then to navigate away from the area and down the other set of pipes going somewhere else from here.

"Everyone still here?" I asked.

"All humans accounted for," replied David.

We had made it out of the pipe and caves, and into the mountain tunnel that lead to the original cave entrance.

Mike came over and punch me in my side, "A true rebel," he replied smiling.

We continued to walk down the long mountain tunnel heading shining our lanterns. The large army of boys were now feeling a bit more relaxed and engaging in conversation of awe and excitement that the infamous Zapbots were rescuing them. David, Jeremy and Rogish were striking up some conversations here and there, providing them some backdrop to what was going on.

I walked behind everyone bringing up the rear with Mike, his brother and friends.

"Sorry you had to go through this," I replied keeping my eyes forward, trying not to show any emotion through my X-O suit mask.

"I've... we've... been through worse," he replied.

"I know but this whole situation is weird," I replied.

"You mean that giant force field?" replied Jim.

"Yeah.." I answered looking at the very younger version of Mike.

"So it's true, you really know him!" replied Mike's friend John.

I just smiled and looked at Mike. He looked at me with concern in his eyes as he always did, not knowing what to say in this type of situation.

We continued to move the crew forward to the entrance of the mountain, as I continued on I had a strange feeling as the daylight we had saw before was no longer there. As we came around the corner of the rocky mesh the boys stopped and I engaged my turbo boosters to fly above their heads to see what was up. When I came to the front I saw in horror the entrance we had come into was buried with rock.

Chapter 5

It didn't take much to figure out what happened. A quick visual scan of the area show ruminants of a rocket that had hit the entrance, knocking it out, as if to keep us there. Whoever we were dealing with was a bit more skilled than thought of.

What was once a somewhat sturdy rock formation was filled with rubble, dirty and dust. Our lanterns barely provided enough light to see in the dark cave as fifty boys and four robotic warriors stood trying to make sense of what happened.

The boys began to get worried and I flew back to my friends to converse.

"Well, now what?" asked Rogish.

"Can we tunnel ourself out?" asked Jeremy.

"Possible, but it's problematic with the integrity of these walls," replied David pointing overhead.

"I'm scanning," I replied. Looking on my display I saw a couple of possible other outlets throughout the caves. "We can circle back and try another cave I believe it has another opening on the far side of the mountain."

"Anthony..." David started and I knew what he was going to say.

"Oxygen?" I replied.

"Yes." he said nodding.

"We would be fine, but all these boys would suffocate." I responded.

"I've told most of them to relax," replied Rogish. "If they keep calm we should be alright."

"Then we have to get them out of here sooner rather than later," replied Jeremy.

I paused for a moment considering possible directions and then Rogish my oldest friend from childhood began to move through the crowd.

"Where are you going?" I asked.

"To save these kids," he replied as he made his way through. I always gave Rogish one particular thing about him, he always was determined to make an impact in whatever he did.

I pointed in the general direction and my friends proceeded to start ushering the boys back to the one pass that would take us down another route. We started walking down the narrow path, providing illumination again with our lights as we helped as many boys move as quickly as possible.

The word was passed around to conserve oxygen and refrain from unnecessary talking. As we moved I opened up a com channel to Misslemax.

"...and we're moving in a NorthWest direction currently proceeding to get to the exit...."

"Sounds....good.....aster.... you.....brea...up," replied Botimus.

Boosting my signal I was extremely confused now. How was my communication breaking up? We had plenty of power to get through the rocks.

"Mas....it....looks....lik.....jammed...." replied Botimus.

The line went dead and I immediately tried to re-establish it without prevailing.

"This situation is getting odder by the minute," I replied.

Mike came up to me again and was trying to determine the situation from looking at my perplexed face.

I felt very much like the world was on my shoulders again. Even with our amazing technology and power we could not protect fifty bodies. I tried to not let my concern get the better of me.

Suddenly the crew began to round another corner and about a half a mile away a small piece of light shone through the rock. Rogish at the front of the group shouted in my direction.

"ANTHONY WE HAVE AN EXIT!" cried Rogish.

His echoes reverberated throughout the cavern, and if that caused some sort of optic boom the cave began to crack again, as if his yelling was the cause of the tear in the ancient rock. As debris began to fall again I cried out to the crowd!

"RUN!" I yelled.

The boys started with all the might towards the lighted exit. My friends and I threw up force fields above everyone to cover their heads. As the plethora of young adults exited the cave and made it into the sunlight I held up the last amount of rubble as the strain of the weight was causing my energy to drain at immense speed.

I looked to see Mike straggling behind me, with my other arm I grabbed him and tossed him towards the exit. As I did the entire cave collapsed and I felt the weight of the world descend upon me, literally.

Mike looked back in horror as the dust cleared he saw the entire cave hole completely buried. Getting up on his two legs he started running at top speed back to the collapsed entrance.

"ANTHONY!" he yelled.

As the group of boys looked on, suddenly from above bullets rained down on the boys. My friends threw up their square force shields again barely covering the boys and started running them to safety.

"What about Anthony!?" cried Mike as David grabbed him.

"No time! We have to get everyone to safety!" David screamed

As they made it far enough from the base of the mountain my friends turned around to see Gib and his men high above the cliffs producing the rain fire of bullets.

"It's that character!" said Jeremy pointing in their direction.

From the far distance three giant vehicles flew in and my robotic equipped friends all jumped into the air. As the vehicles arrived they transformed into larger bodies and the three small X-O suit humans became the heads of the robot bodies.

With one laser blast they fired upon the humans and the mountain side exploded as the rubbish Nazi trash were sent flying into the air. Jeremy as Twirl, David as Windshield and Rogish as Bash-Mash returned fire on the evil entourage of humans.

"I think I've had enough of Nazi's for one century," replied Bash-Mash firing his cannon at the scrambling humans.

When the bullets stopped my friends stopped firing their laser weapons as it appeared they had defeated the tiny humans. It was quiet on the Germany land for a few minutes, finally Mike ran back to the entrance and as he was containing his emotions to try and rescue me.

As he approached the pile of rock he heard some noise coming within. As he slowly walked up a small pile of rubble began to move, and the noise became more of a drill sound. He moved forward and then backed up as the dust began to spurt out of from the mountain. Before he could move the rocks erupted forward and this is when I walked out of the rubble, slightly dirty but intact.

"Anthony!" he cried once again running up to me. As my robotic body came out I powered down my X-O suit to save energy and embraced my buddy again.

As I held a warm body so boldly in my arms I heard a voice from behind me. A voice that I had not heard in a very long time and as I slowly opened my eyes and turned around I looked up in horror for the monster that standing on the cliff.

"Very good Anthony!" exclaimed the voice.

Within a split second I reactivated my X-O suit and and from out of nowhere my Shortstop body flew in and I combined with it pushing Mike safety behind me. I looked up at my enemy in my larger body and replied.

"SECRETISH!" I said as Shortstop.

Chapter 6

All of a sudden the pieces started to fit together. The strange technology, the strange attack on the school. I realized this was a plot planned all along. He was out to get me!

Standing up on the somewhat destroyed cliffside a tall black pointy robot stood with his fire eyes and black smoke coming from his mouth. He was not from this universe and had previously almost destroyed our home-world of Gearatron. His body cast a shadow on the floor of the valley below as he stood with a smirk on his robotic face, taking evil glee in the plan he had enacted.

"You fell into my little trap just perfectly!" Secretish replied. I backup up and powered up all my weapons in my Shortstop arsenal. The fear that he still had the Black Matrix and I had none rang in the back of my human head.

"What do you want Secretish?!" I yelled.

"Well of course you! How will I ever combine the power of the two Matrix's together if I don't have the human component. It was so easy to find a series of humans to go capture one of your friends. Too easy really."

His statement provided the two realizations immediately. One the Matrix was within his hands and two, he could not use it without me. As I realized this whole point of this was to hurt me, I once again felt a rage inside of me.

My robotic fists clenched and powered up.

"So all I had to do is provide the simple talk of 'power and fame' to one of these... what do you call them... Nazis? Oh yes, and then the rest was easy enough to plan."

I looked back on my fellow Headmasters and gave Twirl the nod, within a series of seconds I grabbed Mike and threw him in the air towards Twirl. Mike went flying through the air at mach rates and Twirl gently grabbed his human body, slowing down his decent and placing him inside of his chest and transforming into jet mode. Windshield and Bash-Mash proceeded to retreat to protect the remaining humans. I then turned my view back up towards Secretish.

"If it's me you want, come and get it!" I replied egging him on.

Secretish laughed and with split second timing he jumped from the cliff and fell to the ground landing with a thud between where I was standing at the base of the cliff and the area a few hundred feet away where my friends were departing. He did that little kink with his neck and charged up his weapons.

In split second timing, our hand lasers met head on as we began to fight with intense velocity. My computerized brain was at high gear matching his incredibly vivid moments. We would fire, our weapons at each other, each of us either moved just out of the way before the laser hit, or taking the hit to our immediate shield.

I reached Secretish and our hands met in a grasp as our robotic arms pushed on one another. I dug my heels deep into the ground as he continued to produce force, pushing my internal mechanisms to the limit. I suddenly realized he was pushed my entire body backwards as it was digging into the ground. We continued to gain

speed as his legs pushed my entire body in a backwards motion till I hit the mountain wall with a giant clash.

Knocked off my balance he produced a punch that hit me in the face, then another to throw me several feet away. Unlike other foes who would jump into the air, he ran with mach speed towards me. However I dodged his fist and returned a blow on his backside, causing his body to hit the dirt with an immense drop.

I grabbed his neck and then threw his body into the mountain wall. I continued to fire my weapons as it hit him full front causing his body to wince with each hit, his external shield depleting till the laser started to cut into his mechanical hull.

He must of sense he was losing the battle and quickly dodged one of my hits and turned around and out from his crypt keeper metallic hand came the power of the Black Matrix. A dark purple laser that hit my robotic body immediately penetrating my shield and blowing off half the side of my Shortstop body.

My mind was aghast and I struggled to regain my stance, but before I could even do that another blast from his open hand hit my legs completely shredding them to metallic dust. My body felt upon the ground as I struggled to maintain my upright mobility.

Then with another throw of his hand and another blast of the purple dark matrix magic, it hit my Shortstop body dead center, completely causing an internal explosion. My head disengaged and reverted back to X-O suit mode as I went flying several hundred feet away crashing through numerous trees until I hit the ground, bouncing a few times and then finally coming to a stop, laying on the ground unconscious.

Secretish laughed in delight as he had succeeded in basically destroying me. But just as he was savoring victory a huge assortment of lasers came at him from the sky. Secretish raised his square shield protecting his body and glanced upwards.

Out of the sky came every known Zapbots that was on active duty on Misslemax. Botimus, Boaty, Flier, Speedy, Iron, Carry-On, Pick-Up, Hightone, Scan, Roberta, Pliers, Repairs, Terrain, Tiremarks, Tiretracks, Slipstream, Sliphead, Dodge, Soar, Wheels, Camper, Pull-Along, Heavy, Flash - they all were firing upon Secretish with his weapons. All my Zapbots had arrived as backup and in robot mode descending from the sky firing whatever they had to stop the holder of the Black Matrix.

The intense firepower was equal to a single blast from Misslemax, and Secretish completely overwhelmed transformed into jet mode and flew out of the area. He knew, that even with his Matrix Power he would be useless against so many enemies.

Botimus landed on the ground and caught up with the Headmasters.

"Where's Shortstop?" he asked.

"Botimus!" Speedy yelled pointing to the charred remains of my Shortstop body.

"Spread out!" replied Botimus as everyone Zapbots and some humans went looking.

"Anthony wake up!" yelled Mike slapping me in the face. I slowly came back online and saw my friend standing over me. At first I saw a blur and then my eyes slowly came back online.

"Please Anthony don't die on me now!"

I finally reacted and grabbed his hand as it was about to take another hit at my face. My X-O suit drained of energy powered off and I was laying there in the dirt.

"If you're going to play rough wait for the bedroom," I replied looking up at him.

Mike pulled me up towards him once again hugging me. I pushed away and checked him out.

"Are you okay?" I asked.

"Fine, you?"

I checked my systems for my human replacements. Everything was still working minus the X-O suit. Part of my legs were cut open exposing the machine wires inside, but they were still functional.

Mike helped me to my legs and I held onto his side as I tried to survey the situation.

"Mike you have to get out of here!" I replied.

"I am not leaving you to die," Mike replied.

"Mike I'll slow you down, go!"

"I'll run with you on my shoulders if I have to."

"DAMMIT Mike! This is what they want to do. They want to use YOU to hurt ME!" I replied.

"ANTHONY I DON'T FUCKING CARE. I LOVE YOU!"

The words were so unexpected to come out of someone else's mouth. I was taken aback and it seemed for a moment the entire universe paused. Ever since my days of my youth I longed for the touch, the care, the love of someone. Someone that was forbidden by what I was told by the uneducated people of the time. Someone who had the same decency to put aside his self interests in order to serve mine, as I would his. As I stood there in the forest with my half damaged robotic body, what was left of my human side both was elated and completely frightened at the same time.

I looked at my companion that I had found, the tall slender muscular individual and suddenly the Universe became so very clear.

"I'm.... sorry..." I whimpered. "I... just don't want to lose you.... like I lost Matt."

"Matt E?"

"Yeah," I said holding onto his arms with my hands, trying to compose my emotions. Tears began to roll down my face as I felt like completely collapsing into his arms. It didn't take a rocket scientist to realize what happened with my friend Matt

Eggbert. He was the first one I had fallen hard for, when I realized who I was. He however was never ready to admit the truth to himself.

Our short interlude was cut short as there was a rustle in the trees. We turned to see in horror a bloody Gib walking out from the scenery with a gun in hand pointed at us. His face was bleeding badly, but he had just enough energy to walk towards us.

"So you thought you could get away?" he cried breathing heavily.

"Fuck you Gib!" replied Mike.

"QUIET KID" Gib yelled waving the gun in his general direction. "You see, we're too smart for you. When this robot came to me and told me to capture you because you were important to this humanoid freak, I knew it would be sweet revenge for the lives you destroyed."

"You destroyed and killed hundreds of people over the years you monster!" Mike yelled tried to contain his emotion.

"You FOOL! We have power! We have organization! Ours was the better way! And your god-damn robot friend destroyed it all!"

He fired several shots at me penetrating my stomach, one of the few parts of me still somewhat human. I fell again this time to my human knees as my eyes began to get blurry.

"Mike... I'm sorry... I...luv"

I fell unconscious to the ground as Mike held me body in his arms. Gib slowly began to walk up to us continuing to point the gun.

"See you in hell!" he said as he raised his gun again pointing it at Mike's head. His finger twitched.

Gib's life ended immediately. A giant robotic foot came slamming down upon his human body, crushing him like one does an ant, and creating a bloody mess underneath. The foot was blue and as Mike glanced up he saw the body of Botimus Prime who landed on what used to be an evil Nazi and was now a pile of bones.

"Botimus! Help he's hurt!" Mike cried.

Botimus picked up my fragile carcass of a body with Mike, placing them both in his chest compartment and transformed into aerial mode and proceeded to fly at top speed back towards Misslemax.

"Misslemax, incoming human medical emergency, stand by." Botimus replied over the com.

He landed in the docking back and Click, Super both came out with the medical kid. Botimus transformed into robot mode and slowly placed my body on the gurney.

Mike stood there on the docking bay deck unsure what to do.

"They will take care of him," replied Botimus leaning down to comfort Mike.

"Is he going to make it?" asked Mike.

"You know he's stronger than we give him credit for." Botimus answered.

Chapter 7

Another dream filled my unconscious mind. As I journeyed through the recesses of space and time I saw many alternate realities.

I saw a human world destroyed by terrorists and anarchists, complete destruction all around the globe.

I saw a world where there were no Zapbots, only humans traveling in space.

I saw another version with bright shiny lens flares everywhere.

I saw another version with tired old people trying to make a difference.

I saw yet another, in cartoon form, with characters similar to my Zapbots but in different colors.

Yet another this time done in cheaply done computer animation.

I saw a realities where the same events played out, but this time instead of Rogish, Matt Eggbert was there.

Matt?

I turned around a fog of haze my body seeming to be floating and I saw him. Older than I was now, with a tattoo on his arm and mustache. He was smiling at me.

"Matt?"

"Hello Anthony" he said walking out of the white fog.

"Where am I?"

"You are between the universes at the moment. Between mind and body."

"And you?"

"Consider me an essence of the person you once knew."

I stood there quietly trying to figure out the dream.

"You have a few more to go before this all changes," Matt said.

"What?"

"This journey needs to complete so you may start anew."

"What do you mean?"

"You will understand in time."

"WAIT! I need to tell you..."

The image of my past friend faded as I slowly drifted out of dreamlike state and back to reality. As my eyes opened I saw a blue robotic head standing over me.

"He's coming back online! ^{click}" said Click.

David, Jeremy, Rogish and Mike all came around me as I realized I was in the hospital recovery room on Misslemax. I looked around to see Click had done his usual work of repairing my human body.

"Rmpf... Hey guys," I said feeling drowsy.

"You look like a mummy," said Jeremy.

"Very funny," I replied.

"How ya feeling Anthony?" asked Mike.

"Tired... I thought we were going to keep you out of trouble for a while?" I replied.

"You tried but as usual life caught up to us." Mike replied.

"Anthony just wanted to let you know the students are all safe and sound." replied David.

"Good work guys, I'm proud of everyone. Even you Rogish."

"Ha ha very funny." Rogish said.

Mike laughed. My other friends put their hand on his shoulder and walked out with their X-O suits leaving Mike and myself alone.

I laid there in the bed with the various beeps and noises coming from the machines looking at the face of someone I was deeply enamored with. His brown hair and brown eyes combined with wavy hair, beautiful smile made my heart sing. I could no longer hide my true emotions at this point.

"So I think you realize why I've been so afraid of you getting hurt" I said.

"Yeah, but... I think it's a risk we both should take." Mike replied.

"Are you sure about this? There's more than just big giant robots coming at us. There's a whole planet where half the people hate our guts for feeling this way."

"That gives us half that still care." Mike replied smiling.

He reached out and held my hand. While it was a robotic hand it still sent the same nerve impulses to my brain and I felt his warmth. He slowly got up and put a kiss on my forehead leaving with a 'get some rest, I'll be waiting for you' as he left the room.

Superrobot came back in to check my vitals and he noticed something with me.

"Master what's wrong?" Super-robot asked.

I paused for a moment before I spoke.

"I think Super... I'm love...."

The End

Epilogue

Botimus strolled onto the bridge of the ship. Everything was running as per normal as Master Anthony was going through recovery. In these times Botimus shone brightly with his mastery of leadership and the crew had become accustomed to letting Botimus take the heavy lifting from time to time.

"Any sign of Secretish?" Botimus asked moving towards the central chair.

"Nothing..." replied Scan.

"Boaty?"

"Nothing on my end either Botimus," replied Boaty.

"Botimus Dude," started Hightone. "I'm picking up a transmission from Gearatron."

"Interesting, put it on screen."

"Text details only," replied Hightone.

Botimus sat down in the central Captain's chair and read over the text on the view-screen. His eyes engaged the reflective three dimensional text and the various graphics that were coming up.

"Spacial anomaly?" he muttered. "Flier set course for Sector 208, maximum warp!"

"Aye!" replied Flier.

Misslemax moved from behind Earth's moon and warped into space leaving Earth behind. Something was amiss in Sector 208, just a bit away from Gearatron.