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Forward

It all comes down to this...

Yep, all you've read so far now concludes in this epic Poseidon like adventure.

The original version of this was much simpler as the so-called 4th movie was written early in the process (it was the fourth story I wrote.) In the original story, this was my second death and basically the end to the story. It wasn't till a bit later in my early writing experience, I decided to fill in the gaps in-between movies 3 and 4. As I entered high-school I had more imagination to vent, and it came out with my writing. Writing was also my fantasy escape into a world of which I had total control, total freedom, and the ability to be gay without fear of reprisal.

It seems so long ago - I would be sitting in my bedroom at my parent's house, typing on my Apple IIe computer, listening to Genesis music, and singing along while I typed a story. I was quite proud that I could always multitask during the whole process. Now some thirty-seven... *shit...* thirty-seven years later, I long for some of those simple days of just fun with no responsibility.

I never thought I would ever get back to these stories until I retired. Of course, I never imagined something like the corona virus would basically shut down mankind. In a way I'm glad for this time, and this ability to finish what I always wanted to complete. To be given the opportunity to fulfill my childhood dream and at least express myself; in the way I always wanted to, is something I can say I'm grateful for.

As I've said before, I wasn't quite sure how to finish the saga, between *Robot Trek II* and *Reboot* until now. I will say that this story is somewhat inspired by Avengers Infinity Wars/End Game and a bit by DC's Justice League Dark: Apokolips War. That being said I've definitely made sure that this story came from my depths of my imagination, and this will all make sense here shortly.

Anthony S. Anselmo

The Fall and Rebirth of Gearatron

By Anthony S. Anselmo

Chapter 1

It was something I couldn't believe. It was another one of those instances in my life where I was standing before something I could not put words to. Something I could not even begin to describe.

But I have to try.

Before myself, stood *me*. Myself, my own person. Or what seemed to be me, a bit older, in my robotic X-O suit, the suit that provided me the ability to fight alongside my sentient robots. Among the repairs being taken to our mighty spaceship city, Fortress Misslemax on the planet Gearatron now stood before me a reflection of myself and a mirror image copy of a friend.

Who am I, I was am a chosen leader for a race from another planet. Long ago, on a fateful night, a spaceship landed in my backyard. In the contents was the relic of a long-lost ancient civilization. It provided me with the technical knowledge to redevelop their race with only the basic human tools available at the time. As time went on, we met our enemies, and those enemies merged to something new, more formidable. Wars were fought, battles were won, and now we were on the verge of setting off into space. On the precipice of helping Earth reach new heights in technology and beyond the stars.

And here was an older version of myself, apparently battle wounded, with scars and damage upon the X-O suit, standing next to a slightly damaged transport - The Zapbot Timetravel. Also, apparently somewhat damaged, and not appearing in his best image. I knew that if he was with this other version of myself, it had to be myself from the future.

"Hello," said the other version of me.

"Hi," I said.

"I need you to remain calm, and be patient," said the other Anthony.

I looked around and saw that I was standing by myself outside the docking ramp to Fortress Misslemax. Apparently, no one had noticed this incident yet.

"Okay, I am, but how do I know you are who I think you are."

The other version of myself slowly opened his chest compartment. Inside he grabbed the device that had been sent to me many years ago, and now lost again. A person who I thought was a friend of mine had decided to steal the Matrix, and now we were at a disadvantage.

"The Matrix..." I whispered.

However, looking at the capsule that contained the glowing crystals of the ancient civilization I could see a tremendously upsetting vision.

It was almost empty.

"What happened?" I asked my older self.

"There is much to tell, and I do not know how else to provide it to you other than to meld my mind with yours."

"Oh?"

"When I do this, two things will happen. The first is you will know everything that I know, you will have all my knowledge and experience. I will in essence become a part of you, and you will know the next steps you have to take."

"So, is this like Obi-won Kanobi type thing? You'll become stronger than you can possibility imagine?"

"Sort of, you will have all my memories and experiences. You will have the knowledge of the many years that will come if you do not change direction."

"Change direction?"

"It will all be explained. The last remaining power of the Matrix is going to allow my 'essence' to merge with you. So, your spirit will remain intact, and you can save mankind."

"Is this going to hurt?" I asked.

"Not that I'm aware, it will be overwhelming at first."

"What about the second thing?"

"You will see that when we are done. Do you trust me to begin?"

I looked at my older self, and obviously knew that he was from another time. I also knew that if I had come back in time to this moment, something went wrong. I could sense in every fiber in my being that he was me. An older me, worn, torn and tired.

Timetravel sat on the ground exhausted and low on energy, as if he used his last amount of power to come back to this time period. The seriousness of the situation was not beyond my understanding me.

Botimus, Boaty and Flier came driving down the docking bay ramp and seemed to be aware of the situation. As they reached the bottom, I turned around and held out my hand giving the 'just hold back command.' As they transformed into robot mode, I saw them slowly walk up to me, but giving me and my other self-enough space.

Slowly the other version of myself walked up to me, as I could see tears in his face as if he was about to kill his own.. our own father. What the hell happened in the future to cause this? As I looked at the mirror image of myself, I saw no hope behind his eyes. As he came up to me, he slowly and shakily put his one hand on my shoulder while holding onto the matrix.

Slowly a white light encased us... and then I knew it all....

—

It was a normal hot summer day. As I sat inside my cohort Slide, we continued moving through traffic to reach the meeting point in California. As the air conditioning provided great coverage for the environment this did not help that traffic was bumper to bumper on the California highway.

"This is really annoying," said Slide my talking car.

"I know, but we are supposed to be incognito. We can't just fly over things like we use to," I replied to my escort.

I radioed ahead to let our convoy know we were running late. My Zapbots a race of transforming robots that could change into vehicles were now hiding in plain sight on Earth. Who were once the featured heroes of the planet, were now ostracized due to the corruption we uncovered. I was forced to leave Earth alone now, except with issues that involved our enemies. In short, the humans were on their own to make their own choices. We would only intervene if one of our so-called enemies were here. The Nonocons, or the Gongos, the Morphites, any of those, and yes, we would protect Earth. But the humans, my own race was now doomed to their own extinction due to their own stupidity and arrogance.

As we came around the bend and hit the exit ramp, our early warning scanners began to pick up something, which was very odd.

"Master?" asked Slide.

"Yeah, I see it too," I replied.

Up on our view-screens came indications of enemy activity. As we reached the bottom of the ramp Slide pulled over and I got out of him, immediately activating my X-O suit, and arming up weapons.

Out from behind us came laser firepower. Slide transformed into robot mode, and we saw two Nonocon jets flying past us. As they circled around, they began to transform into robot mode and hung in the air.

Various cars in the vicinity came to a halt seeing the giant robot and X-O man standing on the corner of the street. I flew up to the air flying towards our attackers. As I raced towards them in the air, they opened fire. Throwing up my shields instantly to block their weapons.

However, what I thought would be a block turned out to be a dramatic shock and I was knocked backwards flying towards the ground as high velocity. My X-O suit engaged a secondary shield to cushion my remaining human parts as I crashed into the highway, carving a ditch into the cement as my robotic body destroyed the pavement before coming to a complete stop.

The laser fire continued, and Slide ran up to return fire towards the two Aerial enemies. He stood in front of me protecting my body.

"Are you still functional Master?" he asked.

"Yes I'm--"

I couldn't finish my sentence, the laser blast hit Slide and he flew back as well crashing into the pavement. I got up from manmade ditch and looked at Slide. A large hole was carved into his side, and he was wounded badly.

I immediately sent out a S.O.S. to Misslemax, as our attackers raced towards me on the ground.

"NO!" I screamed turning back towards the attackers.

Without any hesitation I lunged my hand forward at them, produce a large blast of energy that came from the ancient Zapbot device contained within my X-O suit chest. The Zapbot Matrix of Leadership. Routing through my body and out of my hands the large blast flew into the air towards our oncoming attackers.

It hit the two jets and they immediately were destroyed by the blast, having their bodies fall apart into robotic components exploding in mid-air, and subsequently falling to the ground in pieces. Catching my breath, I ran over to Slide; his side had a large hole in it, and he was leaking oil badly.

"Mas...tter...." Slide mumbled very low on energy.

"Hang tight!" I said, as I proceeded to take a piece of metal and start to solder the wound shut. In the background and on my visor radar I saw incoming help coming from the sky above as Repairs and Pliers flew down to provide emergency care. As they transformed into robot mode and began to perform the equivalent of first aid on a robot, I slowly stepped back and let them continue to do their job.

"What the terabyte happened?" asked Repairs.

"Two Nonocons attacked! Their firepower... it was something I haven't seen before," I replied.

"They did this?" asked Pliers.

"Yes." I replied.

"Let's get him back to Misslemax, I can't do much more here," replied Pliers.

He transformed into his vehicle mode, and we loaded Slide up into the futuristic ambulance with aerial jet technology. We then all took off into the sky as a crowd began to approach the scene and we were eager to leave.

A feeling of despair hit my stomach. Somehow the Nonocons had become even more deadly and that was not a good thing.

Chapter 2

"SILENCE!" rang the voice in the background. On a lone planet very far away from Earth, within the confines of the lower levels of a carved out military base stood a giant arena. Within the arena, stood thousands of different races from various planets. Large beings with robotic parts combined with flesh, giant bat-like creatures with razor sharp claws and then large bipedal robots that altered their forms as needed for battle, or transport or conquest.

Within the dark hall shone very little light as the metal encased within the rock to form the makeshift arena. The multiple levels all encased within each other provided a grand hall experience. Yet this was the combination of all the evil that could be found in the Universe. Any type of creature or being that contained minimal intelligence, with their own need for selfishness was now included amongst this arena of spectators. Within the confines of boundaries between alien species a few small fights would break out, as no one creature could stand the other.

However, they all became silent when the voice rang out throughout the arena. Up on the main stage a shadow came from within the back. A large red robot with glowing eyes and a shiny body walked upon the stage. As he emerged from within the shadows a large hush was heard throughout the crowd.

It was Amphotron.

But not just Amphotron, it was a brand-new body for the robot. Completely rebuilt, redone and obviously much more menacing. The whispers began on how 'could this be?' The rumors had spread throughout the galaxy of his demise on the explosion of New Gearatron. How could he still be intact after all these years?

"Welcome... welcome allies to the beginning of the NEW AGE of destiny!" Amphotron cried as he walked to the center of the makeshift stage. "Through the fate of the cosmos, I have been reborn and now I have come to lead you to VICTORY against the Zapbots!"

The crowd began to get a little upset and started to shout at Amphotron to which he just held up his hand, and the crowd was slowly silent again.

"You all come from different parts of the Universe. You all hate each other, but the one thing we all HATE TOGETHER IS THE ZAPBOTS!"

This sentence caused the entire stadium to go in a roar, but this time it was of compliance and agreement as compared to before.

"TOGETHER! Together, we can destroy the Zapbots and finally have victory over our sworn enemy!"

Another chant from the crowd in agreement and applause. Amphotron had them at their feet.

"You all will be GIVEN... specific assignments for your armies. If we all follow the instructions to this plan, I can guarantee you, Gearatron and that MEDDLING Earth will be destroyed. But we all must FIGHT TOGETHER! If we choose to let our differences hold us back, we will FAIL. Only TOGETHER can conquer the UNIVERSE!"

Another round of applause, louder than anyone heard.

"GO! Go now and we will have VICTORY!" replied Amphotron. The crowd roared as he started to walk off stage. He proceeded to walk back into the darkness of the dimly lit rocky corridors. As he did his team of Nonocons slowly started to follow him, with in front being Skyscream.

"Well done mighty Amphotron," Skyscream replied.

"You were very wise to recover my body from the wreckage and bring me back here." replied Amphotron.

"Yes, it was only fitting that we found you again to lead us."

"It also wouldn't happen to involve any of the Gearatron probe residue that was within my damaged systems, would it?"

"A slightly beneficial side effect oh mighty Amphotron."

Skyscream knew he still had to walk on thin ice around the Nonocon leader. It was a few months ago they discovered that the residue from the New Gearatron explosion produced a side effect within the robotic bodies in space. As they recovered Amphotron's partially melted body from floating space, they realized that the energy had kept his core components alive, although in suspended animation. In order to harness this power, they needed to rebuild his body and as much as Skyscream loved to control the Nonocons, he realized he required Amphotron's rage to complete the destruction of the Zapbots.

"How is our other passenger doing? Any progress?" asked Amphotron.

"No, he is still, how we shall say... disabled..." replied Skyscream as they walked by the holding cell. Within the cell stood a mid-sized robotic creature. It cowered in the corner as if he was scratching its face continuously. As the Nonocons passed by him, he turned and looked up at them. The robotic eyes were pure black, as this was once the body of a Headmaster Zapbot called Tri-Star. Now infused with the residue, the destroyed body was brought back to life. However, the human that remained inside of the body was but a charred crisp inside the fully attached head. Now what use to be a human pilot was a combination of the evil will of the former human and strange essence of the space it lingered on for years. An insane character driven by madness.

The Nonocons continued to walk down the hallway as the zombie Zapbot fumbled around in his holding cell, looking for things to do, constantly at odds with himself. The Nonocons continued back to their headquarters to begin the launch of Amphotron's master plan. In the corners a Nonocon with a blue body slowly diverted from the path of the others marching and headed down a separate hallway. Rerun the Nonocon spy ran towards a communications array.

It was my birthday again, and I was turning thirty-two. In order to keep things somewhat less confusing, I would have a birthday with my Zapbots in my Shortstop body in the conference room and then another celebration with my human friends and minis upstairs in my apartment.

The Zapbot party was always interesting as my Zapbots tried their best to figure out what I would want for the man who had everything. Boaty was always right on the money with the gift as he would find something I mentioned in the previous year and proceeded to replicate it. This year he gave me a replication of a Gold Master CD of Genesis's Abacab album. Although there was no need for a human CD in this era the thought was very appreciated.

This combined with an energy cake, and it was always a pleasant experience. When everyone had left, I would sit in the chair and look out the window at space and be thankful for the experience. Boaty and I would always have a heartfelt conversation.

"I believe I'm supposed to ask you if feel any older?" asked Boaty.

"I don't Boaty, but you know what I'm worried about."

"Yes, I can understand the weight of the Universe weighs heavy on your shoulders." Boaty replied.

"Have you guys finished your research?" I asked.

"Yes, we have Master, when are you ready to receive it?"

"Tomorrow, for now let me enjoy my Birthday, as I never know when it will be my last."

I paused as I continued to look out the windows to space, watching the Earth from the shadow of the dark side of the moon. It was a very interesting viewpoint at times. My prior home, now in turmoil and yet there was nothing I could do or should do to save it.

"HEY, ARE YOU COMING!" yelled Flier sticking his head back through the conference room door as we all were going down to Bop's bar for drinks.

"Keep your energy panties on!" I replied. I nodded to Boaty, and we walked towards his brother for the first part of my evening's entertainment.

Rerun hastily put in the coordinates to begin the transmission. His circuits were overclocking as the news he just received causes much concern. As with his programming he was not allowed to converse as a Nonocon, so he transformed back into Run (his other form) to send the transmission.

The Double Spy was especially careful on how he made his transformation. His extra senses would not allow him to change forms with anyone visibly around.

"Attention! Misslemax, receive transmission," he said. Sending instructions, he proceeded to interface directly sending the information. The data bits and bytes proceeded to flow into the communications array before a sharp pain proceeded to come out of Run's side. It only took a few seconds to realize a laser blast had completely shot through his left shoulder. Being knocked on the ground his on arm continued to hang into the interface, connected finishing the message.

Creater walked up to the wounded Zapbot lying on the ground as he slowly disengaged from the interface.

"So, a Zapbot spy! I had a feeling someone was sneaking around here!" Creater said.

Run slowly crawled as fast as he could away from the slowly walking Nonocon as he moved closer to the broken Zapbot. As his circuits began to fuse out, the Zapbot moved to the back of the dimly lit room where the rock met the wall.

"It will give me great pleasure to destroy you!" Creater said. "What? You want to run away? Why bother..."

Another blast hit Run's legs blowing them completely off and sent them flying in the opposite direction of the room. Run in horror looked back at his destroyed lower body and then his enemy. He continued to crawl.

"Can't escape now, can you? I had a feeling something was fishy about you, and I should have trusted my instincts."

"Oh... yeah..." said Run barely able to breath. He made it towards the back of the room where a piece of machinery laid in the rock. Large pulses of light interfaced with the rock and metal making a small humming sound.

"Interesting a Zapbot that could transform into a Nonocon, who would have thought. I can't wait to tell this little secret... but oh wait.. your friends will be destroyed... just like you are now!"

Creator raised his weapon towards the Zapbot preparing to aim as the broken Zapbot cowered against the wall.

"You're forgetting one thing..." Run said barely able to produce sound from his audio output device.

"What!"

Run slowly raised his arm and aimed it at the wall. As he did this Creator's face moved from delight to horror.

"WAIT NO!" cried Creator reaching out.

But it was too late, with his last bit of information transmitting over space in that singular instance Run fired at what was a power generator in the facility, causing a massive explosion that destroyed the wall, the Nonocon and himself.

Chapter 3

And now the human the celebration began. Sitting in my classic apartment on the very top of Fortress Misslemax. It was crowded being surrounded by all of my human friends and mini bots.

As the real birthday cake was presented it was the typical fanfare of a birthday song, followed by candles and some badly done cake cutting with a laser knife. It was a rare occasion to have all my close friends in one place as everyone had been extremely busy with stuff as of late. In a few days I had to repeat the process with my parents on Tockmak 3.

"That cake has more whiteness than your pasty white skin!" replied Mikey, Headmaster to the ATV robot body.

"It's dark on the inside that's what counts," I said causing an immediate laugh among the group.

Mike B. (who we called Mikey) was my friend I had the pleasure of getting to know in an actual reality jump. Through a long series of circumstances, I ended up his roommate in college in a completely other universe. When I came back to my regular reality, I ended up introducing myself to him, and my other roommate friend from the reality Alan. We became close friends although his antics could be viewed as extremely crazy at times. As I got to know Alan more in this reality, sadly I found out his mental acuity was not what I thought it would be. He became owner of the Tri-Star Headmaster body and then in an ultimate act of betrayal, took the Matrix and disappeared. We never found out what happened to him. Thankfully I was able to get the Matrix back from the dark Nonocon Secretish before sending Secretish back to his parallel universe.

"I would have figured you'd be done eating this stuff now," said my friend Bill Thomas owner of the Headmaster Crash's body.

"He wanted some processed crap, I actually went down to Earth and brought back a real cake!" replied Matt Rogish owner of Bash-Mash's body. Both Matt Rogish and Bill Thomas were my close friends from my early childhood. We were known as the three amigos when I was younger as they were probably the most adult like individuals when we were young. I used to play toys with Matt and helped Bill in the old Middle School computer room. They were just two normal guys who happen to take pity on the common nerd at school and were nice enough to converse with me at times. When I came back from the alternate reality, I became friends with them again and they ended up being one of my most reliable warriors.

Jeremy also known as Headmaster Twirl, and David, the owner of Windshield body both were conversing in the corner. As I walked up to them to provide them a piece of cake, I wandered into a religious discussion which I tried not to partake in.

"....maybe God made the Zapbots and Matrix," continued David.

"But wouldn't he have said something like that in the Bible?" asked Jeremy.

"Guys... less religious talk, more cake eating," I said smiling. My friends graciously accepted.

"So does this mean at some point you will replace other parts of your body as you grow older?" asked David.

"Why would I do that?" I asked.

"Well, technically if you wanted to, you could be immortal. You could pretty much replace everything except your brain and be a real Zapbot, living forever." continued David.

"I hadn't thought of that, but I'm not sure if I want to live forever." I said, walking away from the conversation to get some more cake. As close as I was to the two the relationship was strained at times, especially with David, who continued to get more religious as time went on. I sadly could not render my logic to his illogic, but we respected each other enough to be able to cordial at times. I wandered up to Shane and Mike Quartz now involved in a conversation. My new best friend and my no-so-secret lover.

"He's easy to tackle, you just have to know the right wrestling moves," said Shane owner of the Geo Headmaster body. A recent discovery on a lone planet at the end of the Universe with the Ancient Zapbots Bridge, Knife and Lighting, Shane had become another trustworthy friend although extremely immature in mentality from time to time. He had obviously been telling Mike something because Mike was laughing continuously.

"You always over complicate it, Anthony's continual worrying is always enough to distract him enough," replied Jason Coleman, owner of the Overcrowd body. Jason was a random change meeting in a store in a mall, and after striking up a conversation we ended up becoming good friends. Jason was extremely intelligent and spoke extremely prolifically.

And then there was Mike Quartz. My friend and lover through a series of rescues through various issues on Earth. A warrior he too was learning to become a Headmaster and was eagerly awaiting his Zapbot body. Throughout the party he just laughed and smiled because he knew this was my one time, I got a chance to celebrate. I had to admit even with the pressures of worry in the back of the mind, I was still happy to see him here. As I stood there in a room full of multiple conversations, I felt out of space and time. Yes, I could sense someone else was here, and even though I knew he was gone, his spirit still hung around me from time to time as a guardian angel. How I would have wished Matt Eggbert was here today to enjoy this, but sadly he was not.

Click, SuperRobot, Tiny and Experiment provided the catering and support during the event. Fitting nine humans and four robots in my tiny living space was awkward at times, but thankfully my kitchen was large enough to support holding a party.

Jeremy came up to me and bumped my side. "So, when you gonna ask him?"

"Ask who what?" I was extremely perplexed and did a double take.

"Mike... you know..."

"What?" I said.

"Marriage...."

I froze as the thought of this never even occurred to me. In this time and place on Earth, Gay people were still regarded as immoral for the majority of the globe. Marriage was not available in most countries, and technically outside of my family, Zapbots and friends, I was pretty much in the closet, to protect Mike.

And how would this be done? Would it be with Gearatron's laws or Earth's laws? I'm not sure I even needed this because I was generally happy with Mike's companionship. I didn't require anything else. I didn't require a certificate to express my love, my fondness, or to create havoc in the bedroom. All I needed to know that someone else cared for me and found my attractive, the half human robot that I was.

"I honestly, haven't thought about that yet," I replied back to my friend Jeremy.

As I was trying to find a way out of the awkward conversation I was thankfully saved by the bell when Boaty beeped in. I tapped the side of my head to bring up Boaty on my optics.

"Hey Boaty," I replied.

"Master, I apologize for the interruption, but we have some disturbing findings from Slide's repair," Boaty said. I could tell from his tone it was serious and urgent.

"We'll be right down," I responded. I clicked off the transmission and with a large yell of 'Hey' because I was never able to produce a high-pitched whistle, I indicated that the party was cut short for business.

"Boaty's got something, everyone to the bridge," I yelled.

"Awwwww" came from the collective crowd. My various friends put down their refreshments and proceeded to follow me out the apartment door single file, to our various Headmaster bodies in the storage area. Mike Quartz the only one not to have a body yet would be watching from the human observation deck.

In all of our various Headmaster forms, we stood on the bridge of Fortress Misslemax looking upon the data. Slide now fully repaired joined the bridge crew of Botimus Prime, Boaty, Flier, Speedy, Timetravel, and Hightone, as we looked over the data Scan was presenting. It was not assuring.

"You're telling me that the Nonocons have found a way to increase the effectiveness of their firepower?" I asked.

"Correct, by analyzing the damage the Nonocons have increased their laser efficiency 200%, the resulting power charge can penetrate any of our shields causing considerable damage." said Scan.

A collective hush was from the group, until Geo spoke up.

"It's like bullets to humans now," Geo (Shane) said.

"More like a rocket to a human," replied Windshield (David).

"This means if we encounter them in battle..." started Speedy.

"We would be obliterated," finished Flier.

"Scan, I don't think I need to stress to you to find a way to compensate for this?" I asked.

"I already have, and I've also found a way to increase our own firepower as well." Scan said transforming into computer mode and interfacing with the bridge computer. Up on his three-dimensional screen came some schematics which he proceeded to project in three-dimensional hologram in front of us.

"The increased power efficiency comes from high energy particles. When we analyzed Slide's damage, we found residue I had not seen before. I sent this back to Gearatron and Knife immediately recognized it as concentrated plasma energy. This was used during the days of Ancient Gearatron," continued Scan.

"How did the Nonocons get their hands on this?" asked Botimus Prime.

"That's where my colleague Boaty comes in." continued Scan.

"I cross referenced Knife's and Bridge's diagrams and found a correlation with the ancient Zapbot device. We scanned the quadrant for where New Gearatron was and found residue left over from the explosion matched this frequency. When New Gearatron exploded

the crystals made for the device dissipated. I asked Hightone to track the sonic ways of the space flow and look..."

Up on the three-dimension map came glitters of light indicating the residue in space, with curving lines flowing in-between.

"So, the Nonocons somehow figured this out and returned to the site." I replied.

"Chances are if that's the case they've grabbed all the power they could from there," replied Botimus.

"So how do we get the same firepower?" I asked Scan and Boaty.

"The Ancient Zapbots indicated that they retrieved the crystals for the device from planet Noland III."

"Noland III, the robotic desert world?" asked Flier. Indeed, it was a strange question, in our journeys we discovered a lone robotic planet, made of nothing but a singular sphere of metal and plates. No life forms, no cities, nothing. Our scans produced nothing interesting of it, but then again, the research team was called back early as the planet hung on the edge of a large nebula in space.

"Yes, according to our ancient friends we should be able to recover the crystals from there for our own use. Master, the crystals are also what make up the Matrix of Leadership."

"So, you're telling me what?"

"If under attack, you will be the only one somewhat invulnerable to the new firepower," continued Boaty.

"But if we were able to just get a sample of the crystals, we could duplicate it here in the lab and it would increase our firepower as well," continued Scan somewhat excitedly.

"So, what else did you have Scan, you said there were two things?" I asked.

"Yes, I also found or researched a way to increase our shield strength. This would help compensate for the damage; however, this requires a bit of a quest as well." continued Scan.

"Great another adventure," mocked Flier.

At this point Pliers and Repairs our chief medical doctors and architects walked onto the bridge.

"Just in time gentle-bots," replied Scan.

"Strangely and fortunately enough Master the inhabitants on the Yellow Planet have a formula that can produce accelerated energy particles that strengthen shield reserves. We saw a demonstration of it recently when we last visited them. Thankfully your discovery of them and initiation of first contact have provided us a key to increasing our personal protective shields." said Pliers pointing at another three-dimension hologram floating in air, showing a Zapbot skeleton with a line around it representing the shields.

"So can you have them send us the formula?" asked Botimus.

"Unfortunately, the planets inhabitants still exist on analog technology, and they are nervous to transmit this info to us over the so called 'air'" said Boaty holding up his hands and giving air quotes to represent the issue. "They are requesting someone pick it up manually."

"Alright well we have two recon missions then," I replied.

A light lit up on Hightone's console and he transformed into his communicator mode to interface with it.

"I'm picking up a distress message... from Run." Hightone said. We all turned our attention to the communicator in chief.

"...Nonocons... planning attack... with... multiple...enemies.... several... places....Planet Jumi... That's all I got." said Hightone. Planet Jumi was a recently discovered planet that was basically prehistoric Earth at the far edge of the known Universe.

"Great okay we have several issues here," commented Speedy throwing up his arms in disgust.

"Indeed, we will need to take this from multiple angles. Hightone send the following instructions...

"First off, make all Zapbots aware that the Nonocons have achieved new technology making them incredible dangerous. As of now we currently have no ways to protect ourselves from their firepower and interaction with their weapons can cause immediate death or damage. Take all precautions. If need be, retreat if required.

"Second, alert all human outposts of the threat...

"Contact the Spacebots, have them warp to Noland III and grab the resources for crystals. We need to bring them back to us as soon as possible to help increase our firepower to the same range of the Nonocons.

"Contact Gaxator at Duplalex and have them go to the Yellow Planet to get the formula for the inhabitants. As soon as he has it, have him send it to us on an encoded frequency."

I turned to my group of Headmasters friends standing around the bridge crew.

"Botimus what groups are currently on Earth?" I asked looking at my friends. Botimus raised his arm and pulled up a display from his arm.

"Snow Team is stationed in Alaska cleaning up an oil spill. Combat Team and Water Team are stationed in Middle East observing a human war. Animal Team is currently in Africa, watching a revolution take place. Tech Team, Ninja Team, and Build Team are currently on Gearatron."

"Headmasters, go down to Earth and visit the President at Unicom. I want you to prepare for any possible attack on Earth."

My Headmaster friends nodded but then looked around as they realized that I was asking them to leave.

"In the meantime, we will proceed to the planet Jumi to hopefully confront the Nonocons before they reach this sector of space," I said.

"Master, we will be at a disadvantage until the resources are in place to improve our defenses," responded Repairs.

"I know, that's why we're going. We're our only chance right now to prevent other worlds, including Gearatron and Earth from being attacked."

"Anth...Shortstop, you'll be slaughtered!" cried Mike Quartz from the human railing above.

"I know... it seems like a suicide mission but it's our only hope. Quartz, go with the Headmasters and stay low."

"Anthony!" Mike cried.

"That's an order!" I yelled back up to the small human above. I could immediately tell he was not pleased.

"Time is short, let's make it count." I said. My Zapbots ran into action as the Red Alert signal went off through the ship. Misslemax began to move from Earth's moon's orbit as my Headmaster friends ran to the turbo-lift to head down to the docking bay to exit back to Earth.

I disengaged from my Shortstop body and flew up to Mike, I walked over to him and hugged him tightly.

I had a feeling this was goodbye.

Chapter 4

I sat with Boaty and Timetravel once again in the special sealed off room. Dark padded walls with special iron sound dampeners hung over all the walls. In this special designated room, no communications could transmit in or out. At least that we were aware of. I had just spent the last half hour here as Fortress Misslemax flew to the far reaches of the Universe going over Boaty's conclusions. Click my mini bot who was the only other one aware of this request provided his feedback as well.

It was a very horrific request as I had been warned by the Matrix something was going to happen, and as such I asked my most trusted Zapbots to calculate a Plan B. I asked my Zapbots to calculate a possible backup plan for the worst-case scenario. I knew my luck. I had chosen to change Time when the person I loved died unexpectedly. After I had lost Matt to a senseless death, I walked into my apartment to find Mike Quartz dead, choking on a chicken bone. A death so stupid and self-defeating I could not stand it. So, for once in my life, I was selfish, and taking Timetravel back several hours before, I proceeded to save his life, altering time itself. I was angry at the Universe; I was angry at fate, and I would not let love be taken away from me when I finally found it.

Timetravel and I received their presentation, and we were silent in horror.

"This is the best-case scenario?" I asked nervously

"Correct Master, it was the only thing we could come up to provide complete success." responded Boaty.

"You can't be serious!" cried Timetravel.

"I never lie," replied Boaty.

"I know, but this would be throwing in the towel completely..." continued Timetravel.

"Time...." I said holding up my Shortstop hand asking him to calm down. "Okay, it's not what I wished but let's hope we don't have to go down that route."

"Master, we will be approaching the planet here shortly, you need to return to the bridge," said Click.

I stood up from the table in the oddly padded room. Strangely I felt a bit of calmness now as if I knew I couldn't change destiny no matter what I did. It was all a matter of time.

"I can't tell you what the future may hold here. You three know how I feel and the situation more than anyone else. All I can say is 'thank you' at this point." I replied looking at my three mechanical friends.

"Thank you Master, for your courage." said Boaty.

We exited the room through the giant double doors and headed to the bridge, with Click heading back to my human quarters. When we arrived, the sector was coming into view.

"Fliers take us out of warp just before we hit the sector. I don't want to go in blazing." I said sitting down in my command chair. Misslemax slowed down to impulse at the edge of the solar system.

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

"I want to go in just a few of us just to check it out. Surveillance first, to see what we're up against." I replied turning my commander to the right of me.

"Master, I've been able to provide some improvements to our personal shields but it's only about 40% so far," said Pliers.

"It will have to do for now Pliers. Botimus, Boaty, Flier, Slide, Overload you're with me. Bridge to Slipstream, meet us at the Docking Bay." I said into the com speaker. "We'll ride down in Slipstream to hopefully be inconspicuous."

As we got up to go, Bop walked onto the bridge.

"Bop?" I asked.

"He's down there?" Bop replied.

"Shock?"

Bop nodded his green head slowly.

"Okay you're coming with us then," I said. "Speedy you have the bridge."

"Me? Really?"

"Trust me Speedy, you're ready," I replied to the young Zapbot. Speedy went over and slowly sat down in the command chair as a kid who just got to sit down on Santa's lap. Pick-Up, Carry-On both filled Boaty and Flier's Stations, with Terrain taking over Speedy's weapon stations.

We left the bridge to meet our transportation shuttle counterpart to head to the planet a bit away.

"Coming out of warp now," replied **Scouter**. The Spacebot noted to the rest of the team as they proceeded to fly towards the farthest end of the Universe to Noland III the strange metallic planet. The Space Team was a specialty designed group that could travel at extreme warp speeds alone without a ship. They normally would be sitting around Gearatron or on some exploration mission, but as of now the situation had gotten critical. Scouter was the usual notification to the crew.

They reached the strange planet of cold steel and dropped out of warp, as they did, they were greeted by numerous asteroids throughout the area.

"Asteroid swarm, evasive maneuvers!" replied **Leader-A**. The robots scattered as they flew around the various rock structures as they approached the planet. Leader-A kept back and watched to make sure they were safely making it through the swarm of rocky debris.

"There was no recorded asteroid belt in this area before?" replied **Rockets** as the Spacebot flew around a chunk of frozen ice.

"It's a possibility that the trajectory of the planet may have changed," replied **Scouter**.

"As far as I can recall, the planet was pretty much stationary as there is no nearby sun to draw gravity," commented **Transport** as **Chewer** the dog came out from him during Transformation and stood ready.

The team descended down to the surface of the planet, the cold barren land was extremely precise, as a completely round planet with very few changes in the surface. It looked like a giant patchwork of plates forming the metallic spear.

"I remember smuggling some energy here back in the day to get intel from some interstellar refugees," said **Attack**.

"Took a while to get that information back to Gearatron if I remember," responded **Spike**.

"Less talking and more moving," complained **Shoot-Up**. "We have a job to do, and time is crucial at this point. If we do not get these crystal samples back to Gearatron the Nonocons will have an upper hand in destroying our hides."

The team finished transforming into robot mode and landed on the surface.

"According to Bridge's instructions there is one specific plate that leads to the inner core," replied Spike as they flew across the surface in robot mode.

"I'm picking up the reading just up ahead," replied Leader-A. The team set down on a specific part on the northern side of the planet. A singular plate appeared off color, as if moisture from inside had adjusted it over time. Attack knelt down and slowly removed the plate, letting out a blast of warm air and a tinge of a ray of light.

"Well, here we go," replied Leader-A. The robots slowly flew down the shaft as they descended into an array of various circular structure that made up the planet. Ancient robotic computers and lights blinked as they proceeded down a surprising well-lit tunnel that lead to the inner core. When they had passed down several thousand miles, the tunnel opened up to a small room. As they landed, they looked forward to see a large hallway leading to an opening.

"I don't like this, it's too easy..." replied Transport.

"Would you relax, it's just an elaborate energy depot," responded Photon.

"Wait I'm picking up something," said Rockets as Chewer began to growl. As the team moved forward to the opening, they saw a large chamber that seemed to almost encase the whole inner side of the small planet. In the middle of the blue chamber was collections of giant crystals upon crystals. Brightly the crystals shone and lit up the cavern. Alas their excitement would be hampered as they stopped dead in their tracks. Around the chamber lie thousands of small robotic creatures, insect in type and around the same size of each of the Zapbots.

"Insectabots!" whispered Attack as the team slowly moved towards the opening.

"Master, approaching Jumi," said Slipstream as we looked out of our shuttle counterpart's window. The lush green planet slowly came into view as we descended down to the surface. A planet that resembled prehistoric Earth it contained numerous variants of what we would consider Dinosaurs romping around the musty and moist marshlands. As we entered the atmosphere, we carefully set down in dense foliage to provide us the most adequate protection.

"The resemblance to Earth is striking," said Boaty as we unloaded out of Slipstream. Slipstream transformed into robot mode and proceeded to crouch down next to us.

"Scans?" I asked.

"No Nonocon signals yet, the planet has a dense magnetic field that renders our scanners useless," replied Boaty. A small noise made us jump as we realized it was a wandering dinosaur through the forest.

"We have to find a way to scope out the Nonocons' location." Flier noted. Bop was standing strangely silent.

"He's close," Bop said feeling out the air.

As he finished his sentence a rocket came out of nowhere and impacted with the center of our party. We flew outward with each of us landing in the dirt. I rolled over and grabbing my photon gun scanned the horizon.

What I saw with my optical sensors I could not believe. At first, I thought I was hallucinating. I switched from digital to analog view on my Shortstop sensors and sure enough my worst possible nightmare appeared.

"Welcome Shortstop, so glad you could drop in for your destruction!" cried Amphotron.

"AMPHOTRON! But... I... destroyed you!"

"As you can see, I am not so easily destroyed by the likes of you," he responded.

"Well, this time I'll make sure to finish the deal," I said firing my rifle at the robot. He expertly dodged the firepower and returned fire hitting me directly with incredible impact, my systems barely had time to recover. I flew back towards the nearest tree, colliding with my visual display going in and out of flux.

"Shortstop!" cried Slide running towards me.

"STAY BACK!" I cried, but it was too late. As if in slow motion Amphotron fired his photon cannon at Slide, hitting him directly in his torso, splitting his body apart. The Zapbot crumbled down the ground in an explosion of metal parts.

"No...!" I cried.

The rest of my Zapbots immediately began to open fire upon Amphotron and from out of nowhere the rest of the Nonocon army began to descend.

"Take cover!" cried Botimus, as we scrambled to find something to hide behind in the vast forest world. I got up and felt the Matrix stir inside of me, as if it was preparing itself for the biggest battle yet.

The sound of the feet on the surface of the hallway always made a happy sound to Gaxator. He was proud of his achievements and proud of what he had accomplished. Now finally leading one of the mightiest ships/cities/warriors of the fleet, it was always something he took pride in.

As he walked onto the bridge of his spaceship, he was computing feelings of determination. Although this would be an easy stop to a nearby planet, quick grasp of the formula code and they would be on their way. They had defeated the Nonocons so many times before it was getting to the point of ridiculousness. Needless to say, he wasn't worried the slightest. Duplaflex was the mightiest Zapbot in his opinion, and the giant Titan would provide the protection they needed.

"Coming up on the planet now," replied Hot Shot from his navigation station.

"Sounds good, drop us out of warp." replied Gaxator.

The shiny lights of the warp effect dissipated and Duplaflex the mighty Spaceship/City/Battle Station/robot came to a halt. But as soon as they exited warp the early warning sensors went off.

"What the robot!" cried Gaxator.

"Gaxator, multiple enemy ships seem to be at the end of our trip!" rhymed Poppin.

Gaxator looked up from his screen to the giant view screen at the end of the front of the bridge. He could not believe his optic sensors as he saw numerous ships of various types in fight around the Yellow planet's atmosphere.

"Raise shields, go to Red Alert!" Gaxator replied.

The various Zapbots ran to their stations and interlocked with their consoles. On the display for the ship the white line expanded to indicate the shield was surrounding the mighty

Zapbot ship. Without warning, a huge crash hit Duplaflex knocking the team somewhat sideways in their chairs.

"Status!" Gaxator said.

"Looks like we have the likes of an intergalactic war going on. Looks like the Morphites have joined forces with the Gongos, and the Nonocons to attack the planet." replied Rup.

"Several ships heading our way," replied Iron.

"Lock and target! Transform to Battle Station mode!" replied Gaxator.

As the various ships approached Duplaflex, laser blasts flew out and targeted the various ships, knocking them off course. The Gongos' ships were cylindrical in nature, with very slim curves and sleek engines. The Morphites on the other hand were very blocky, as if a child had taken a bunch of Legos and stacked them together to make something that resembled a ship. Then the Nonocons ships were their familiar triangular in nature, with sharp edges to intimidate.

Duplaflex's towers began to move and swerve into position. The main ramps retracted and combined to form giant gun turrets that could be aimed in a 180-degree direction. The whole ship became more compact with more armament at the ready to fire whatever was needed. Various Zapbots around the ship ran to their stations to control guns and weapons, just like humans would have done on an ancient naval ship with canons.

The planet swarmed with vessels firing at each other, as the native starships were clearly no match for the upgraded enemy warbirds. Ships would fly out from the surface, only to be blown apart immediately or receive major damage causing them to fly out of control.

"Soundtrack open a hailing frequency to the planet below," Gaxator barked.

"Open," responded Soundtrack from the com station.

"This is Zapbot Fortress Duplaflex, we are in orbit and ready to assist. We also need to grab the package from you. Please respond."

"This is King Titus; we are barely able to maintain our city's forcefield, but the package is here. You will have a hell of a time getting through this barricade of enemies at our gate!" the king said over the very garbled static.

"Copy that Titus, we will send down special convoy immediately, stand by."

"They're lasers are destroying our shields, and they won't last long if we keep getting hit like this!" replied Iron.

"Dispatch the Tech Team to head down there and grab the package. Prepare to get the big guy to come alive!" replied Gaxator.

"Gaxator... we have to go down there and get that formula." replied Rup standing up and walking over to the commander.

"Well, I know that, but we have to provide cover-" started Gaxator.

"No, I mean, we specifically...." Rup said pointing to Hot Shot, Vision, and himself.

"Huh?"

"It's involves that... um thing... I told you about." Rup said slightly rubbing his robotic smelling sensor.

"OH!.... Oh..." said Gaxator somewhat sad coming to a conclusion.

"What?" asked Hot Shot completely confused by his long-time friend's comments.

"No time to talk, go with Rup and Vision and go get that formula. The Tech Team will escort you down to provide cover!" Gaxator said.

Hot Shot was taken aback for a moment. He always pictured himself somewhat on the bridge of Duplaflex, but now it was as if Gaxator was asking him to take on a suicide mission. Rup came over and tapped him on the head and pointed to the turbo-lift as they had to move quickly.

It was going to be a massive coordination effort, but Gaxator although somewhat frightened in the back of his processing cortex was determined to not let this fail. Out from the back of the Duplaflex loading dock the Tech Team (or Smartabots) flew down to the surface below.

"We got one job to do robots, and the Universe depends on this. Let's go!" replied Attacker the Tech Team's valiant leader. The team flew with warp speed to the planet surface below, barely holding on as their systems felt the reentry fire. In the meantime, above them the mighty ship they just exited began his transformation to robot mode and self-sentry.

Gearatron's moon hung in the background of the cold night that was covering the very dark planet. As nighttime approached the planet, the larger planets in the region would shade the smaller Gearatron completely in shadow, giving it the continuous nighttime feeling throughout the lighted roads and buildings.

Ultra Attack rode up in vehicle mode and transformed in robot mode walking into Omega Dupreme's main tower. Here Vebox, Crackshot, Wavelength and Wheelrun were providing support.

"Ultra Attack, we have spotting something approaching Gearatron," cried Vebox as soon as he walked into the command center.

"Details?" said Ultra Attack. As Gaxator and the crew of Duplaflex went to work retrieving the formula, Ultra Attack was busy prepping Gearatron for every possible scenario. Temporarily stationed at Omega Dupreme, his small crew was making plans while the other two big bots were away.

"Do a deep scan of the area," replied Ultra. Vebox turned around and began to fire up Omega's scanners.

"Great Gearatron!" cried Vebox.

"What?" asked Ultra as he peered over the screen. From the looks of the blips on the screen at first glance it appeared there was a glitch in the display program. But Vebox refreshed the screen and it still appeared.

"Omega, prepare for battle," Ultra said.

"Command acknowledged," said the behemoth robot station stirring to begin his transformation.

"Everyone out so the big guy can transform!" cried Ultra as the team ran out of the tower. As soon as they were outside Omega Dupreme began his transformation into robot mode combining with his separate parts to emerge into a giant towering robot, only slightly smaller than the great Duplaflex.

"My initial calculations indicate we have a severe tactical deficiency," replied Vebox.

"Yeah, I know," replied Ultra Attack. From the ground below they could see it, a swarm of ships, from every kind of enemy they had known were flying into Gearatron's orbit and bombarding the planet's outer shield. Hundreds of spaceships were now firing upon Gearatron as the Zapbot home-world went on planetary red alert.

"How long will the shields hold?" asked Ultra.

"I doubt very long," replied Vebox.

Ultra pressed a button on his com panel. "Attention this is the Planetary Alert. Gearatron is under attack. I repeat, Gearatron is under attack! All military prepare for battle and all civilians take immediate security actions for safety. This not a drill. I repeat this not a drill!"

Zapbots scrambled to transform and fly to the emergency chambers underground as various military personnel expunged from their hiding spaces out of their various buildings and structures. Ships began to ascend as Zapbots transformed into aerial modes and flew up into the sky. Sliphead flew by Ultra's team in airship mode.

"Well, it's been nice knowing you guys!" said Sliphead flying by.

"Sliphead do what you can to distract them until Misslemax gets back!" replied Ultra.

The small cluster of ships and Zapbots flew up towards the shield to engage with the various enemies. What they didn't know is the enemies we're all equipped with the new laser firepower, putting them all at death's door.

Chapter 5

I cannot indicate to you the precision at this point. At this stage of the game everyone had emotion sensors off and was operating with as much precise calculations as robots could muster. Any delay could be death as the Nonocon's firepower was lethal. My Zapbots would perform flips, ducks, dash, whatever they had to do to miss a blast, or avoid being hit.

As we battled on the planet's surface it was a crucial effort to continue to stop the Nonocons as quickly as possible. However, beyond just my Matrix power, our weapons did very little. Where their blasters would create holes in our direct armor our weapons merely knocked them back or slightly off their balance. It would take several shots to take down just one Nonocon where one shot from them and you were toast.

I was doing everything I could to put up a matrix powered force field when needed and blast every enemy I could. But they were so numerous, to the point that I lost count how many I destroyed after a while. I became locked in a sonic rage focused on destroying our enemy at whatever the cost.

"Master, we will not last long under these conditions," said Boaty firing at some incoming jets and knocking them out of the sky, sending them down in a fiery flame.

"We can't let Amphotron succeed, if he succeeds here, he could easily take over Gearatron or even Earth!" I replied.

"We should get you back to Misslemax so you can combine and engage in the fight with a larger body," stated Botimus shooting down some enemies. "I radioed for them to fly towards the planet immediately."

Bop came running up to us dodging fire as he ducked under the rock.

"He's here, I need to confront him now!" replied Bop.

"We got to get Master Shortstop out of here!" cried Flier.

"Go, I'll provide cover and catch up with you later," replied Bop.

"Slipstream, I need some air cover!" I cried.

"Got it!" he said transforming into jet mode and darting straight up. As he circled back around, he fired several missiles at flying Nonocons destroying their bodies. As their parts sailed off into the sunset it gave the sky breathing room for a few moments. We leaped into the air as if we had been shot up from a slingshot.

"Zapbots, Fall back!" I cried. The thought of retreating was immensely horrifying, but we needed to regroup under Misslemax's protection. If I could get back to Misslemax and combine with it, I would launch the attack on the enemies on the planet surface.

We flew up into the air at the fastest speed our boosters could take us, As we sailed out of the planet's atmosphere several Nonocon jets followed our tail.

"Nonocons on our rear," commented Flier.

"I got those bastards!" cried Overload. He turned around and fired several shots at them, knocking one out of the sky, however another one aimed right for him, launching several shots in his general direction.

Lasers shot right through Overload's metal skin, cutting multiple holes in his body, he jerked with each one as the glowing blasts of light ripped his bodies to shreds, causing him to disintegrate.

"NO!!! GODDAMMIT!!!" I said, stopping in space with my proposal jets, I charged my full energy of my Matrix power and slapped my hands together. This shot was a combined blast targeted towards the proceeding jets, where upon impact they disappeared into nothingness as if their existence was wiped from the Universe. Light sketches of black briefly appeared in the white light and then dissipated away as if erased by some animator in a cartoon. I saw the remains of my Zapbot friend fall into the atmosphere below, slowing burning away. I turned back towards the rest of the crew, already heading into the Misslemax landing bay and already feeling the sadness of another loss.

"You can't be serious!" cried the President standing over his desk with his hands down.

"Sir, I would not be here today if we did not feel there was an immediate threat to the planet Earth," replied David.

My Headmaster friends were all standing in their X-O suit forms in the Oval Office as they began to relay the situation. The President gave them the look of disbelief but also one of determination as if he expected this to happen at some point.

Without warning the door to the office opened and a military general came running in heavily breathing.

"Sir, long range scanner indicate we have a host of ships entering the solar system." replied the General.

"They're coming," replied Rogish looking over his scanners.

"What do you want us to do?" asked the President turning back towards the window hiding his face.

"Scramble Starfleet, we need to get as many ships into the air to protect the Earth as much as possible," said David.

"And what are you guys going to do?" asked the President with a various interesting tone.

"We will stay here and scramble once we determine where the various attack points are. I don't mean to be blunt, but Earth's star-fleet is barely operation at this point, this is just a delay to hopefully get the Zapbots here in time." David replied.

The President sat down in his chair and put his face in his hands. The operator came over the speaker.

"Mr. President, the world leaders are waiting downstairs to be briefed!" said the Operator.

The President got up from his desk and walked out of the room.

"So that's the plan, you just want us to stand by?" asked Jason.

"Anthony gave us orders to protect Earth at all costs. I've radioed the Target Masters to meet us here and stand by. My guess is when they attack, they will go after the largest cities first, we need to try and delay them till Anthony gets here. Ten bets to one they start with Washington D.C." replied David.

"I've already sent out the communication update but no response from him or Gearatron," replied Jeremy.

"We need some sort of plan, we just can't wait here to be attacked," cried Shane.

"There is a very good chance we may well be on our own," said Mikey.

"If that's the case, we are Earth's last hope," David responded.

My Headmaster team put their hands out to make a pact and with a heave-ho they proceeded to run back to the control room with the President to scan the situation. Near Pluto hundreds of ships warped into the solar systems heading straight for Earth.

"How many do you think there are?" asked Photon.

"Woof!" said Chewer the dog barely making a sound.

"Chewer says roughly two hundred," replied Spike. The Space Team slowly sat and watched the robotic insect like creatures move around the arena of crystals, precariously and steadily grazing on their energy. As they crawled over the crystals, they would nibble bits and pieces, letting the energy absorb into their bodies causing their tails to glow blue.

"How much do we need to take back?" asked Transport sitting up against the wall on his knees.

"Scan said we only needed just a sample and he could recreate the energy in the lab," replied Leader-A.

"Still the more we grabbed probably the better, as it would help to increase everyone's energy firepower more quickly," responded Attack.

"Well first we need a way to divert those bugbots away from here," replied Leader-A. As the team continued to look around the corner of the cave, they did not notice a small creature slowly coming down the channel from which they entered. A lone Insectabot slowly marched it way towards them, and as it came closer into view of the Space Team it picked up speed preparing to jump the heroes. Shoot-Up slowly spun around and immediately saw the oncoming enemy.

"Look out!" Shoot-Up yelled firing his laser at the bug, destroying it. The resulting explosion sending an echo out into the cavern. The rest of the Spacebots turned around to see the explosion, and behind them a gentle stir began to grow as the swarm were unaware of their enemies and began to move quickly.

"Well, there goes our attack plan!" said Transport transforming into vehicle mode and flying out of the opening towards the opposite end of the big arena.

"Transport! Wait!" yelled Leader-A.

"I'll back him up!" yelled Photon transforming as well and following him. Leader-A could see they were trying to divert the swarm away from them.

"I'll help as well," said Attack transforming and following his brothers.

"He's creating a diversion," replied Scouter.

"No Gigaflop! Let's go!" said Spike as they transformers and flew down towards the crystals.

"Argh!" cried Leader-A as he, Rockets, Shoot-Up, and Chewer flew after their brothers.

"Get constant on that firepower!" cried Clipper as the Tech Team with their three Zapbot military robots flew down to the planet surface. Up in the heavens above Duplaflex had begun his transformation to robot mode.

The Tech Team of Attacker (no not the same as Attack), Road-Dust, Clipper, Flashlight and Pop-Up entered the atmosphere of the Yellow Planet with Rup, Hot-Shot and Vision.

"OhmyrobotOhmyrobotWearegoingtogetslaughterd!" cried Vision as they dodged laser blasts from Gongos and Morphites firepower. The Gongos and Morphites as well had

equipped themselves with new firepower, and the slightest touch from one of the lasers would rip through the Zapbots.

The team landed on the ground and hit the dirt road to fly towards the large city encased in a shield that was barely hanging on.

"That force field is about to go," replied Flash-Light. The Tech Team continued to hit various Morphites coming at them from various directions. The team sped along the ground in vehicle modes, flying between rocks and trees, heading for the large dome that encased the walls of the city before them. High above large amounts of various enemies continued to destroy the circular shield encompassing the city.

"Morphites and Gongos working together, this can only mean that Amphotron must have planned this," replied Hot Shot.

"Geez, you don't say?" said Rup sarcastically.

"Oh, speaking of sarcastic remarks, what did you say to Gaxator back there? What the fraq was that about?" asked Hot Shot.

"TheresNoReasonWeShouldBeHere. SomeoneElseCouldOf HandledThisMuchBetterThanUs," said Vision extremely way too fast.

"Yes Vision, but sadly we were destined to come here." replied Rup as he continued to fly over the terrain.

The Zapbot cars were in hovercraft mode which allowed them to fly just above the surface without the impairment of wheels. FlashLight, Pop-Up, Road-Dust would have the same ability while Attacker and Clipper were already space jets. A long time ago as the Zapbots evolved and flight was available in both robot and vehicle mode, wheels became unnecessary. As such a special transformation was available that made wheels transform into jets. This made two things happen. One; Zapbots had no travel restrictions and could fly anywhere they desired and Two; some vehicle modes look completely absurd with jets strapped onto them. Boaty and other naval vehicles especially viewed ridiculous. Nevertheless, the ridiculousness of a floating space boat aside, a Zapbot could now go anywhere without limitations in either mode. It wasn't till we had to revert back to camouflage on Earth that the wheel transformations came back out and most of the car Zapbots complained and wanted jet modes.

"What does that all mean?" asked Hot Shot as they flew into the city. The team transformed into robot mode as they continued to fire at oncoming enemies who had already entered the castle walls. Gongos and Morphites fell to the ground leaking blood and oil as the Zapbots plowed their way through the streets to the main tower.

"Well, I guess since this is all come to pass, you should probably know," said Rup. Around him the Tech Team provided cover as the three Zapbots continued to fly towards the tower entrance. The lone circular building that shot up to the tallest part of the city, which also provided the end point for the shield generation.

"Know what?" asked Hot Shot taking down two more enemies with his blasters.

"Well, my lad, I'm not from this Universe," said Rup firing at a Morphite coming through the castle window and knocking him out.

"WHAT! You're not from this Universe? How the gigabyte is that possible?"

Gaxator came into the com channels and on each visor screen his image came up.

"What's going on down there? We need that formula now!" cried Gaxator.

Up in the heavens Duplaflex was firing and battling numerous ships as they continued to approach him. It was the equivalent of a human boy getting hit by numerous dodgeballs while getting stung thousands of times by a swarm of killer bees. The mighty robot would fire his lasers at one ship, causing it to explode, while another would fly through that and continue to send down rockets. At the same time, numerous smaller enemies were flying right through his metallic skin, landing inside the Titan robot city levels. Zapbots on the various levels would scramble to fight the intruders but would fall to their destruction.

On Level 3, Smokey came around the corner and was instantly destroyed by a blast from a Gongo's weapon, his parts flying everywhere in the hallway.

On Level 14, Spin-Cycle jumped a Gongo, only to have the Gongo self-detonate a bomb on his body causing them both to be destroyed.

Level 43, Heavy was running a canon and a Gongo ship crashed right into Duplaflex's knee crushing Heavy instantly.

Level 56, Slick and Alert came racing around the corner in vehicle form. They fired their lasers at an army of Morphites who entered through the destroyed door of the docking bay, but they only bounced off them returning fire and causing the floor underneath them to be destroyed, making the two Zapbots severally wounded.

Meanwhile on the planet below the Tech Team were holding the approaching enemies as bay. Their improved efficiency weapons somewhat having an effect on the enemies but not the effect they wanted.

As Hot Shot, Rup and Vision came to the council chambers the giant human-like King running up to them holding a keycard in his hands.

"Rup! You have to get this to Anthony now!" he replied.

Suddenly a Morphite crashed through a stain glass window and landed right on top of the King, his razor-sharp toes, digging heavily into his skin, punctuating his heart causing instant death. Hot Shot fired a laser at him, blasting him through the wall of the tower, causing him to fall to the ground below.

"Tech Team, we need time to transmit!" ordered Rup looking at the five members continuing to provide cover.

"Understood!" said Attacker. The five robots combined into one and formed Circuitbreaker becoming a giant Combiner robot. Circuitbreaker went into full battle-mode firing his numerous lasers at the oncoming Gongs and Morphites warriors struggling to enter the doors and windows.

"How did he know you?" asked Hot Shot.

"YeahThisMakesNoSense!ThisMakesNoSense!" replied Vision.

"Soundtrack, this is Rup, prepare to receive!" said Rup hitting the panel on his arm.

Rup put the card in his arm and proceed to transmit the information back to Duplaflex.

"You see lad, my name is not really Rup. It's similar but it us not Rup. I'm from another Universe or Timeline far from here. I was brought here through a portal here on the Yellow Planet long before the Ancient Zapbots themselves."

"Soundtrack here, we got it, now get back here!" said Soundtrack over the com.

"Don't think that's going to be possible my friend," Rup replied scanning the room.

Circuitbreaker was continuing to fire as numerous enemies were now storming the building like a swarm. Rup scanned the situation with his optics...

There was no escape.

"Data... overabundance of enemy. Data... unable to provide firepower to destroy... Conclusion... obliteration." said the large gestalt Zapbot.

Rup reached out from his side and pulled out a very small circular device. He threw it into the air and a wave was produced into the surrounding area. Swirling lights encased the room as an organic doorway stood before the three robots. A wormhole formed.

"I'm from the Primax Cluster, I was sent here for one purpose. To see the end of this through, although this is just one version for Master Anthony. The King brought me here based on a vision he had many years ago. Now that we've returned to this place, my job is almost complete. I need to take you two back with me to help in our Universe. Prime needs you." said Rup.

"Warning... enemy forces... overpowering," replied Circuitbreaker as he was barely able to keep up with the onslaught. Standing in front of the three remaining Zapbots, his body began to buckle from the weight of the firepower sent his way. He continued to fire at as many enemies as they now were pouring through the building. As they continued their kamikaze attack the might Gestalt could not keep up with his defense.

"Well, what do we do now?" asked Hot Shot firing his last shots.

"We leave...." said Rup as he grabbed Hot Shot and Vision pulling them through the time displacement portal. With that the modified wormhole closed and the three Zapbots were gone from the Universe they were born in. Seconds later Circuitbreaker fell to the enemy onslaught, sacrificing himself to help transmit the coded message to Duplalex.

As Bop came around the bend of the mountain, he saw at the top of the ledge Amphotron standing, admiring the chaos he had created. The green Zapbot clenched his fists as he realized he might have a chance to finally destroy the evil warrior. Transforming into canon mode he stationed himself on the rocks and locked his crosshairs on Amphotron standing high above.

"Goodbye Amphotron, you were a waste of a life." Bop quoted.

As he noted the last word in his head his body felt the intense heat of a fire blast, hitting the Zapbot canon blowing off half his side. The canon robot tipped over, barely able to transform back into robot mode, shaking with various wires hanging out as his body leaked both energy and oil. Bop scrambled to recover but found himself out of strength to do anything as he looked down to see a giant hole within his chest.

He looked up to see the robot who done the indescribable damage walking his way. It was brother Shock.

"Sh...hoo..ck...!" he mumbled barely able to maintain composure trying to stay operational. Amphotron who noticed the involvement slowly walked down the cliff.

"I see you finally had revenge against your brother," said Amphotron laughing.

"Yes, it seems only fitting that he dies in a place like this, since he decided to side with the organisms." said Shock.

Bop continued to try and crawl backwards as his body was slowly falling apart. The look of disbelief fell upon his face as he never thought it would end like this. He had survived for millions of years and now, to die like this. No, it just couldn't be happening.

"So, brother, what does it feel like to have failed in your mission to save me? What does it mean now that you have been destroyed? Huh? Tell me brother... how does it feel," Shock said with the vilest voice he could produce from the twin robot. He walked up to Bop and reaching into the center cavity where he blew a hole, he picked him up and hoisted him into the air. Oil dropped from Bop as sparks from his body shot out from his central cavity.

"TELL ME! DO YOU FEEL?" yelled Shock holding his dying brother high above the mountain.

"Shock! Be done with him, we must leave. We have a date with Gearatron, and I don't want to be late! Who hahahaha!" chuckled Amphotron as he started to walk away. Shock turned his attention back to his brother.

"TELL ME!" he said bringing his brother's face to his.

What came next was unexpected from Bop. And the moment he said it, for the last moment of Bop's existence he saw a complete change in his brother's Shock's face.

"I... forgive... you." Bop mumbled and then the light of his visor eyes slowly faded, and the military commander and bartender was no more.

Shock was literally shocked. He didn't know what to think. His face turned from an evil rage to surprise and then to one of sadness. He slowly lowered his brother's body to the ground setting him down gently. He stood there quietly contemplating as if those final words had done something to him.

"SHOCK COME!" yelled Amphotron. Shock slowly turned away from his brother's remains and flew towards Amphotron's ship, unsure of what just happened to him.

Chapter 6

The fire was flying high across all the cities on Gearatron. As the once great planet was being bombarded by assault from above, the inhabitants were falling out of buildings. Destruction and death were everywhere.

Ultra Attack continued to battle with the various robots, but he found his abilities severely limited as the enemies were now much more powerful. It would take several shots on one Nonocons to knock them out of the sky now. The slightest hit from a laser shot from a Nonocon would cause a hole in their bodies. There was no room for error now.

The mighty Omega Dupreme stood in the central of Gearatron city, continuing to defend it as best he could. Even he was having problems moving quickly enough to take on the various enemies approaching the planet. The small but subtle shots hitting his body continued to puncture his metallic skin.

The shield was destroyed and the Zapbot council members went down to the lower levels inside of Gearatron for safety. Civilians were hiding out in their building structures as the world fell around them.

Abruptly a giant Nonocon ship dropped out of warp and into orbit encasing the entire planet in a shadow, providing even more darkness to the already darkened planet.

"Vebox please tell me that is that is not what I think is?" asked Ultra.

"Scanning!" Vebox commented. He transformed into telescope mode and started viewing the ship from afar. At that moment, the ship began to transform, and out from the sides an arms, torso and legs appeared, followed by a pointy head.

"Kilter! It has to be Amphotron!" cried Ultra Attack.

It's circular body slightly resembled the giant ship that Gearatron fought many years ago. Although not the same size as its predecessor, its presence hung in orbit above the planet causing many to stop and stare.

Kilter was the spaceship Amphotron was able to combine with, becoming the control key for the larger body. A response to the Fortress Misslemax design, it provided him the ability to match Gearatron in size in battle. However, the last time the ship was around, it was destroyed and now it appeared that both the ship and Amphotron had returned.

The immense robot the size flew down towards Omega. Omega turned around placing his hands towards the sky launched all his firepower at the upcoming robot. It hit him directly causing him to lose control and fall into the ground below.

Kilter crashed into the west side of Gearatron, crushing the large solar collector array and several hundred Zapbots in the process. With a violent temper, he pushed himself up and started walking towards Omega Dupreme.

"You will not succeed!" replied Omega. Omega walked towards the robot and began to fire his full armament. However, Kilter raised his arms up throwing up a large force field shield. Omega continued to fire as the robot moved closer and closer to where he stood his ground.

"Scramble!" yelled Ultra as the transformed and flew out of the way of the giant robot. They made it just out of the range of Kilter's foot as he made his final resting place on Gearatron, crushing the tectonic plates around him.

With a mighty thrust of his hand Kilter punched Omega Dupreme with such speed and efficiency, his hand ripped right through Omega's stomach. The mighty robot stopped and fell limp as the life began to leave his robotic eyes.

"No! This is impossible!" cried Omega.

Kilter pulled his hand out of the robot and slammed it back down upon his head, crushing Omega's turret head with one blow. The mighty robot slowly fell backwards landing on numerous buildings, completely disabled.

Ultra Attack watching this from afar gasped in the horror of the situation as he floated in the background of the battlefield.

"No this can't be... this can't be.. He can't win! This wasn't how it was supposed to be!" replied Ultra.

"What do we do now?" asked Vebox.

Ultra pressed a button on his arm.

"Attention all inhabitants, evacuate Gearatron. I repeat Gearatron has been lost. Evacuate now!" replied Ultra Attack.

From the various levels of Gearatron numerous Zapbots began to transform and leave, flying out into the confines of space. Somewhere shot down immediately, others made it through. It was as if numerous tiny bugs left a garbage bin on a hot summer day. The inhabitants of the great planet all flew as fast as they could away from their home, unsure of where to travel to next.

"What do we do now?" asked Vebox.

"We leave..." and with that, Ultra grabbed Vebox and flew away from the battle, as Gearatron fell to its enemies.

"What do you mean they all left?" I asked storming onto the bridge. Speedy had done a formable job keeping the ship safe, but the onslaught of enemy ships just kept growing. I was preparing to transform Misslemax into robot mode and combine my Shortstop body but Speedy ran up to me before I could get to the loading hatch.

"We saw Amphotron and his crew board a large Nonocon ship and warp out of here! It looked like a Kilter ship!" replied Speedy.

Another explosion from the various enemies shook Fortress Misslemax.

"The ship shields are almost gone," replied Repairs.

"Master, we have two distress signals coming in, " replied Hightone. "One from Earth and one from Gearatron."

I stopped, I all of sudden realized his plan. Not only would they combine their increased firepower, but they would also attack us everywhere at once. He would divert us from Gearatron and then attack it. This was all their plan all along. I now had to choose between my two homes. Who could I save?

"Hightone, any word yet from the Spacebots or Duplaflex?" I asked.

"Both signaled they arrived at their specific coordinates and that was the last information I received Dude," said Hightone.

"Master, where do we go now? Earth or Gearatron?" asked Botimus.

"If I know Amphotron he's already warped to Gearatron. The only way to defeat him is for me to combine Misslemax with Gearatron's robot body. We still need to get those enhancement crystals and formula though."

"What about Earth?" asked Speedy. As I paused and realized that right now the only guardians of the Earth were my Headmaster and Targetmasters teams, I realized that I could not save my friends. This is what the Matrix had warned me of.

"This is my fault..." I whispered.

"What Master?" asked Botimus.

"We have to get to Gearatron first. If I can defeat Amphotron there, we can warp Gearatron to Earth and protect it."

"Master, if Gearatron leaves our solar system it will put the other planets out of place and cause a catastrophic reaction that would completely destroy the Gearatron solar system itself," responded Scan.

"I know Scan... Set a course for Gearatron maximum warp..."

"I'm presuming you have a plan once we get there?" asked Botimus.

"Actually, my old friend, I actually don't. If we don't get two pieces of the puzzle soon, there's no hope for this Universe." I replied.

"Concentrate your firepower!" said Leader-A holding up his shield protecting the team. The Space Team had made the best attempt to distract the insectabots to try and approach the crystals.

Transport and Photon had diverted the majority of the swarm to the back corner of the cave. Spike and Rockets proceeded to blast their way through the swarm at the base of the crystals.

The insectabots had no weapons, only extremely sharp teeth, fangs, and claws. As Spike and Rockets proceeded to blast and punch their way through the bugs, they slowly began to fall back from the onslaught of firepower from the two. Leader-A provided a shield around them as they slowly moved through the field of bugs.

Around the top of the arena, Transport and Photon continued to circle, diverting the bugs as far away from the crystals as they could take it. Chewer, Attack and Scouter proceeded to blast down as many of the robots as they could, with Chewer taking the occasional one out with his sizable teeth.

"I've reached the crystals," said Spike as he proceeded to slowly grab them and place them in his compartment. "Transport I need storage!" he replied.

"On my way!" said Transport as he diverted his course, flying down back towards the center of the arena. As the bugs split from him and Photon, the team focused their firepower at the approaching onslaught. As Transport passed through Leader-A's shield the bugs did not and scattered throughout them as they continued to crash up against the impenetrable force field.

As Transport landed and Photon began to put the rest of the crystals in Transport the bugs began to disperse from the area.

"What are they doing?" asked Attack.

The bugs swiftly began to cover the entrance to the cave, as if they understood that this was the only way to contain the intruders. As bodies continued to fall around them from the fire blasts, the team became aware that there still were too many to fight at once. Before the team knew it, the entire hole for the cave was sealed off.

"We need to be able to break through that barrier!" cried Scouter.

"That would require immense firepower!" replied Spike.

"I think we know what to do," answered Shoot-Up.

"Right, Space Team, combine!" cried Leader-A.

Within moments the nine robots began to transform into their Combiner mode, with each robot filling in a specific part of the giant gestalt. Within seconds stood the giant Meteorite and he aimed his massive blaster at the bugs blocking the exit in the cave.

"Bug... Off...!" Meteorite said echoing throughout the cave. The combined firepower filled the giant area, blocking out all darkness, with a glow that encased the dark black bug bots. When the light dissipated a giant hole had formed where the bugs were, but they began to regroup. Without a delay Meteorite flew up towards the hole and crashed through the remaining bugs to fly down the tunnel, back up towards the entrance they came in.

He emerged from the exit flying high up into the atmosphere of the metallic planet, however covered in numerous insects who had hitched along from the ride. As he continued to fly the insects began to bite the various artifacts of the Gestalt robots body causing malfunctions in the various limbs. Slowly Meteorite began to fall apart with the various members transforming back into singular robot mode to fight the robotic beasts that began to devour them. Photon, Rockets, Spike, Shoot-Up, Attack, Scouter and Leader-A all fought as numerous insectabots surrounded their bodies, slowly chomping at their sides, causing them to dissolve into the planet below.

The last section of Transport and Chewer made it to the end, and as their brothers fell, their energy blood being drained, Chewer got inside Transport as he engaged into warp, the lone survivors with the crystals, heading back to Gearatron to hopefully save the day.

Chapter 7

Once again today my optics were something I could not believe. As we warped into orbit around Gearatron I looked out the view-screen of the planet, unsure of what I saw. Gearatron completely devastated, with fire, smoke burning in the air. Our home world completely and utterly destroyed. Surrounded by hundreds of enemy ships.

Scanning the surface, we saw the destroyed body of Omega Dupreme, as the Kilter robot who was mainly Amphotron moved throughout the cities, carelessly knocking down buildings whenever he felt the need.

Thousands of dead robot bodies lied all around. Broken and brave Zapbots of a once great society. Spaceship parts from both sides laid in orbit around the planet, as the result of hard-fought battle, where our side had lost everything.

My Zapbots and I sat stunned. A loss for words came over the crew. We had failed. Everything that we were supposed to do we failed. Inside my Shortstop head my human body was crying because I knew this was probably the end of this long adventure.

Timetravel walked up to me and carefully put his hand on my shoulder.

"Master?" he said nodding his head to indicate 'do you want go now?' As I contemplated our scripted Plan B the Matrix stirred. I felt something.

"No... we must see this act through," I replied.

"Master, I'm receiving a transmission from the planet's surface below." responded Hightone.

"On screen." I said.

"Audio only," replied Hightone with a sadden voice.

"Shortstop... this is your conqueror. You. Have. Failed." came Amphotron's voice over the audio speakers.

I stood there silent unsure on how to respond.

"Amphotron...I...I..." started. Hightone muted the call.

"Master, incoming message.... It's Duplaflex!" Hightone cried.

"On screen!" I said.

Duplaflex dropped out of warp above the planet, and immediately we saw the mighty ship was barely holding it together. Fire was coming out of his sides only to dissipate in the oxygen less space around him. He began to transform into robot mode as he plowed his way through numerous smaller enemy ships realizing the presence of the Titan robot and engaging in battle, just a bit too late.

"Gaxator over the com Master," said Hightone. Gaxator came over the view-screen and we saw how badly damaged Duplaflex's bridge crew was.

"Master. I'm sorry for being late to the party, transmitting to the formula for shield enhancement to you now." replied Gaxator.

"Gaxator you are just in the nick of time!" I replied.

"And we picked up some friends along the way," Gaxator said as the camera panned to his left. We saw Transport and Chewer standing on the bridge and in his hands, we saw various blue objects glowing in his hands.

"Hey Master, could you use some of these?" Transport said waving the crystals smiling.

"Master I'm receiving another message, from Gearatron's surface!" continued Hightone.

"Okay... um onscreen as well." I replied. Up on the twin-screen came the images of the Ancient Zapbots, Bridge, Lighting and Knife and standing next to them were Vebox and Ultra Attack. Both images from Duplaflex and our friends on the ground joined the conversation.

"Greeting Shortstop. Welcome back home." said Lighting.

"Gentle-bots, I'm so sorry. We failed you. I failed you." I responded lowering my head.

"You have not failed us at all Shortstop. This has not been the first time we had to rebuild, and we will just do all it again." replied Lighting.

"We are stationed at the entrance to the Gearatron core. The Nonocon attack blew out Gearatron's transformation cog. But we can fix it, we just need to battle our way through a couple levels of bad guys to get there," replied Knife.

"If you can keep them busy, we can get the Transformation started for you down here, we just need some time," continued Bridge.

"Master, we have Almighty and Ninjatus here ready for battle." The Build Team's and Ninja's Team gestalt forms were already combined and waiting for action in the background of the camera.

"Then gentle-bots, time is what you will get," I replied. A smile began to grow underneath my robotic faceplate, and my crew all turned around with smiles on their faces as well.

Once again, we had hope.

"Flier, bring us around to intersect with Duplaflex, Botimus do what you can to get those crystals aboard. Scan start processing the formula and sending out to every Zapbot-"

"Already doing that Master, everyone to receive it shortly." said Scan.

"I'm heading to the loading dock, give us cover!" replied Botimus running to the turbo-lift shaft.

"Master I am coordinating with the Duplaflex to dock our ports," replied Boaty not realizing the comedy of his comment.

"Alright! Let's give these goddamn mother fuckers a battle for the record books!" I said, flying up my compartment to engage in the special transformation.

As the numerous starships began to engage us in battle, there were two Titans in space hovering above the decimated planet. Fortress Misslemax morphed and changed into a bipedal robot with arms, legs, hands, and feet. Floating in space next to Duplaflex the two robots bumped their front together to allow Transport to skip from one docking back to the next. Once in Misslemax, he began to offload the remaining half of the crystals to Botimus and Scan who immediately began to analyze them for power refinement.

The enemy ships could not penetrate our shields. Every Zapbot within the sector received a subspace message with a formula that immediately boosted their shield output. As my senses came online with my final transformation in Fortress Misslemax robot mode, and as my mini bots Click, Super, Tiny and Experiment interlocked to provide extra mobility, I looked around space to see the friendly Duplaflex, a bit damaged but floating by my side. In between us and our home-world were tons of smaller ships coming at us with weapons that now did no damage to our skins. I looked at Duplaflex and nodded as we knew the battle was going to now turn to our favor, but also that I was started straight to Gearatron's surface to battle Kilter directly!

This time I wasn't going to miss destroying Amphotron completely.

Across the Earth my remaining Zapbots provided the best they could to defend the planet. Snow Team arrived in Russia to help hold back the Gongo ship that landed in Moscow. Water Team arrived on the coast of Japan as the spaceship decided to basically land on Tokyo and crush half the city. Combat Team arrived in New York as they plowed right through the Nonocon ship stationed over Manhattan and began to engage the Nonocon drones scouring the city. In Beijing the Animal Team appeared from out of the shadows and proceed to move humans to safety. Protectors flew to San Francisco to help the U.S. army deployed there.

It did not take long till each team became their Gestalt mode and began to fight with the newly enforced enemies directly. I did not take long for each of them to fall.

In Washington D.C. the town itself was crumbling. As thousands of Gongos flooded the streets numerous military personals were scrambling to try and stop the world invasion. Across the globe numerous fell to the enemy spaceships landing in the largest cities, releasing squadrons of monstrous creatures with technology weapons to take over. They had no cause for concern, only the totally obliteration of everything they could.

My Headmasters and Targetmasters teams flew through the city, attempting to take out each enemy they could with great exhaustion. What use to be a simple blast here and there was now multiplied with complexity. Even the overpowered Targetmasters struggled to take down the various enemies while trying to avoid human casualties.

My dear human friends led the charge on the Washington D.C. streets.

"Fall back to the monument!" cried Twirl (Jeremy) as he flew above and saw an approaching squad.

"They're broken through the city barricade!" replied Windshield (David) as he proceeded to drop bombs on the incoming ships. The ships shields continued to hold.

"They're getting too close to the capital!" replied Bash-Mash (Rogish) over the com. The army of Morphites marched over the hill as he attempted to take as many down as possible. Crash (Bill) and Overcrowd (Jason) provided backup.

"We have to evacuate the President!" cried ATV (Mikey).

"Windshield to Mike Quartz, prepare the President for extraction!" said Windshield. The Headmaster team slowly drew back, slowly walking backwards as the oncoming crowd of enemies began to absorb the city.

In the secured bunker Mike Quartz was last to protect the President, as he had no Headmaster body yet.

"Mr. President, we need to prepare you to leave." said Mike walking into the bunker. The President stood up and looked awkwardly at Mike in his X-O suit form.

"Oh?" the President said.

"Yes, the capital has been lost. We are ordered to take you out of here."

Mike looked around. No one was left except the President. All his aides, all the military commanders had vanished. Suddenly the President pulled out a gun from the table below firing it upon Mike. The laser blast impacted his X-O suit with a giant exchange of energy shortening it out. The X-O suit retracted and turned off, providing Mike normal with his human body and clothes! Crying out in pain he slumped to the floor barely able to catch his breath.

"What the fuck!" he cried.

"You stupid idiot. Did you really think I wouldn't be involved with this?" said the President wandering away from the table.

"What... I don't... understand." said Mike gasping for air.

"You don't think the Nonocons came to me and offers me a plea deal? You fucking fool!"

The President began to walk around Mike Quartz as he stood on the floor attempting to intimidate my friend.

"We were all a part of this. This whole plan was our idea! We went to the Nonocons and worked with them to structure this take over. Once the world is reborn, then we can shape in OUR image. WE WILL BE GODS!"

Mike slowly rolled on his back barely breathing as his eyes began to run with tears for both fear and frustration. The evil fake President stood over him and slowly raised his gun towards Mike.

"Thanks for nothing!" the President said.

Mike heard a laser blast, but he felt no pain. He opened his eyes and from the back of the President dark smoke emitted. Then the President fell over and crashed to the floor, dead. Behind him Shane stood in his X-O suit with the smoke from his laser rifle dispensed after his discharge. He ran over to Mike and helped him to his feet.

"I never liked him for his politics anyways!" Shane said.

As Shane helped Mike stand up, they saw a red glow come from underneath the president's body. Rolling him over a small red object laid around his neck.

"What is that...?" asked Mike.

"I know what that is. Geo to Zapbots, we have to leave, nuclear detention immanent!"

"What!" asked Mike.

"Dude, that's a failure switch. If he dies that triggers a nuclear explosion. It's a failsafe, don't you watch the movies?" Shane said.

Windshield came over the com as Mike and Shane ran to his Geo vehicle parked outside.

"We can't leave this city! All these humans will die!" replied Windshield.

"I'm telling you the President is dead. He has a nuclear failsafe on his body. I would guarantee you there are missiles heading our way now!" replied Shane jumping into his Headmaster vehicle mode with Mike in the passenger seat.

"Then we have to destroy them!" replied Bash-Mash over the com.

There was silence over the com for a few seconds as the Geo vehicle mode ship started preparing to take off. The Headmaster team were silent as they realized the actions they needed to take.

"Geo, you have your special orders." replied Windshield with sadness in his voice.

"Yes, I know." Shane replied.

"Special orders?" asked Mike.

"Sorry Man, Anthony gave me a special command for you." said Shane. From his X-O suit finger a small pulse of gas hit Mike in the face, and Mike went unconscious. With that Geo took off flying at top speed out of the Washington D.C. area towards the Rocky Mountains.

Twirl (Jeremy) flew up with Windshield (David) above D.C.

"It's been a pleasure brother," said Jeremy from his cockpit.

"God bless to you," replied David from his.

Crash (Bill) flew with ATV (Mikey), Bash-Mash (Rogish) and Overcrowd (Jason) as they joined their fellow friends in the sky to meet the oncoming missiles.

"It's been a blast my friends," said Bash-Mash (Rogish).

"Love you guys," said Crash (Bill).

"Back at you all Whiteys!" replied ATV (Mikey).

"I got nothing..." said Overcrowd (Jason).

As several missiles flew towards numerous cities across the world, my remaining Zapbots if present flew up to meet them. Some fired at them, other collided directly, but either way they were in close enough proximity that they were instantly destroyed. The remaining cities were overrun by enemies. My human friends and allies provided enough time for Geo to escape with my true love before the final battle.

Sadly, it was after the implosions that the transmission for the enhanced shields reached Earth.

Chapter 8

Starships and robots fell out of the atmosphere and crashed upon the torched surface of Gearatron. As Misslemax and Duplaflex engaged in the fiercest battle we had ever been involved with for the recovery of Gearatron. Hundreds of ships attempted to attack the Titans that hung in the sky, but were swatted away like fleas at a barbecue, or just destroyed when they ran into the robot's improved shields.

In the inner sanctum of Gearatron, Ultra Attack ran the press to get to the lower levels so the Ancient Zapbots could repair the transformation cog. As elevator flew down to the lower levels the light of night disappeared and was replaced by the illuminated lights of the long hallways. As Ultra, Vebox, the Ancient Zapbots along with Almighty and Ninjatus rounded the corner of the central core area. The intricate depths of Gearatron were surely a sight to behold, with every of metal interfaced with several other parts, combining to form a beautiful array of machinery, lights, and energy. Long narrow towers would route themselves up to the ceiling featuring long lighted arrays and interlocking connectors.

"There, that is the Transformation cog station!" replied Bridge as they transformed into robot mode and stationed themselves.

"You Zapbots have to be idiots thinking we wouldn't have anticipated this" said a voice in the darkness. Out of the blue several Nonocon jets flew over their heads and landed on the platforms above them, transforming into robot mode.

"Skyscream!" cried Vebox.

"Welcome to your destruction Zapbots, too bad you can't stay... long." Skyscream said laughing and unleashing his military might.

"Take cover!" cried Ultra as the Zapbots scrambled. The two Gestalts moved forward to protect their younger friends, sending off their firepower towards the menacing jets. Unleashing an array of weapons, the Nonocons jets scrambled to avoid being hit.

"We have to get to that cog station and repair it!" replied Bridge hiding on the side wall.

"We can't do anything till the Nonocons are removed from this area." said Lighting.

"Almighty, Ninjatus draw the Nonocons away if you can!" cried Ultra attack.

"Understood!" said Almighty.

"Confirmed." said Ninjatus.

The Nonocon jets continued to fly around the Combiners, with the occasional hit from their weapons providing impact and causing collision. While the Zapbots had improved shields their weapons were still not up spec yet with the jets.

Meanwhile up high above the two Titans including myself in Misslemax mode proceeded to finish the remaining enemy forces, leaving only one very large robot sitting on the surface of Gearatron.

"Misslemax, Kilter is blocking the entry port to the transformation chamber." said Duplaflex.

"Yes, we need to take him out in order to give one of us the time to transform the planet and interface with it," I replied.

Duplaflex stood silent for a second, letting the few remnants of the enemy forces hit his sides. Then I saw he issued a ship-wide proclamation.

"Attention inhabitants, abandon ship!" said Duplaflex.

"Duplaflex NO!" I replied, but it was too late, as the various Zapbots including Gaxator and his crew began to leave the mighty Gestalt through the escape hatches, Duplaflex engaged his boosters flying full force towards Kilter. As he did Kilter unleashed a massive array of firepower at Duplaflex, incasing his as hole and impacting with his body, but not enough to slow him down. Duplaflex increased speed and continued to fly directly towards Kilter as parts of his body began to disintegrate and fall off.

"MY GAWD NO!" I cried as I saw Duplaflex collide with Kilter causing an immediate impact and explosion on the planet's surface. In a fiery array that looked like an atomic bomb had been set off, a mushroom cloud appeared and encased the entire area. I engaged Misslemax's own boosters and flew down towards the surface looking heavily into the bright yellow and red light, hoping to see any possibility for survival.

Alas when I set my giant feet down on Gearatron's surface, I saw only fragments of both of the giant warriors amongst the rubble and fire. I slowly walked towards the area hoping to see the death of Amphotron as well, for the price that the giant Titan just paid.

In horror, I saw Amphotron fly out from the rubble, badly damaged but yet still functional. He turned towards my larger body and laughed.

"You think you've won! You pathetic fool! I've just begun to hurt you!" Amphotron said. With that he reached out from his side and picked up some device of sorts and threw it into the air. The device created a floating wormhole in space and with Amphotron flew into the wormhole escaping the planet of Gearatron.

"So that's how he did it!" I said. "Bastard!"

Gaxator flew up towards my gigantic head with Soundtrack and the last of his crew.

"Where did he go?" asked Gaxator.

"I know EXACTLY where he went," I replied.

"We need to get to that cog now!" cried Bridge. Ultra and the team were trying to keep the numerous flying birds at bay. Finally in frustration Almighty launched into the air and fired upon the ceiling, causing a total collapse of the large room.

"Stop!" cried Lighting, but it was too late. His actions did cause all the jets to be taken down with massive debris, but it also began to rain upon the Zapbots as well.

Ninjatus ran towards the center of the room and put up a shield to protect the cog. Bridge, Lighting, Knife, Ultra and Vebox all ran into the shield and began to work. Almighty flew down and encased Ninjatus's shield with his own force field dome, providing coverage for the team.

"We have one problem, once this transformation starts, we need to get out of here immediately because these walls will start to move, and we'll become squished robots." replied Vebox.

"Yes, we are aware, that is a safety mechanism that was built into Gearatron." responded Knife. As the Ancient Zapbots worked to solder and repair the Transformation Cog a lone Nonocon jet landed on the debris fill floor. Skyscream held his arm as he was damaged but slowly walked towards the domed shield that protected the crew.

My communications slowly came over the com to the team.

"Guys, I need that transformation now!" I replied.

"Two minutes Misslemax!" replied Vebox.

"You silly fools! You think you're going to win this one!" cried Skyscream as he turned around and blasted the entrance to the large room. The wall of the room completely collapsed blocking the escape of the team.

"Ha ha! You wouldn't dare cause that transformation now you ignorant fools!" Skyscream said.

Ultra turned and looked at the team, each of them nodded back to him in agreement.

"Vebox to Misslemax, beginning transformation now!" Vebox replied.

"What? Wait! No! YOU CAN'T!" cried Skyscream.

Ninjatus lowered his shield and fired his phaser canon directly at the Nonocon. It hit him directly causing him to be engulfed in the white light.

"Ohawwwahhh!" cried Skyscream as the weapon fire put an end to the Nonocon. Almighty proceeded to fire repeatedly at the rubble causing a hole to just barely open. He ran over to the hole and put his body in-between to help keep the room from collapsing.

"GO NO!" said Almighty.

With that Vebox put the last control code into the cog, and the spherical device sunk into the floor, interfacing with the bottom level of Gearatron. The walls began to move inward as Ultra, Vebox, Lighting, Bridge and Knife transformed and flew towards the small opening.

Almighty's gears were breaking under the stress. Ninjatus ran over to help his Gestalt friend and both of them push up to keep the opening till their friends could make it out. Without a second to spare the five remaining Zapbots left the large room, as the walls closed in crushing the two Gestalts who surrendered their sparks to save their friends.

Geo (Shane) slowly pressed the different parts of the rock. As Mike Quartz was slowly recovering from the sleep gas, he couldn't understand what the large Zapbot was doing. In the far distance the mushroom cloud that hit a city in Colorado loomed above the surface.

"Where are we?" he said.

"According to Anthony, the safest place we could be." replied Geo.

The entire rock of the mountain began to move sideways, and then a large cavern appeared. Somewhat lit by old fashion lanterns, the Headmaster and human companion began to walk down the cave hall.

"What is this?"

The came to an opening and inside the mountain stood a large square structure, very simple in shape. It was about the size of a small ship but had tracks on the bottom and was just square in nature.

"This is what Anthony called his BattleBase,," replied Geo.

"BattleBase?" asked Mike.

"Yeah, the place he first made the Zapbots. Sort of like the emergency backup bunker now."

Geo walked up large ramp that lead up to the closed entrance. The large mechanic structure had seen the years of dust and dirt slowly pile up. As Geo walked up the ramp the door slowly opened sensing his presence, as a white cloud of dust flew around them causing Mike to cough.

They walked into the old dark hall that lead up to the main bridge. As they entered various lights turned on giving them basic illumination. They walked into a somewhat confined room for a Zapbot with a large, cracked computer screen and several smaller monitors below. Geo pressed a button on the panels and the rest of the room seem to light up and come to life. Loud machinery began to move and make annoying sounds that echoed throughout the room.

Up on the mains screen in old fashion computer language the following command come up.

R.O.P. computer system.... Loading...

"Well, we should be safe here till..." started Geo, but he was interrupted by a voice behind him.

"Oh no, you are not safe at all Zapbot!" cried Amphotron.

Geo spun around but he was too slow, a laser discharge from Amphotron's canon hit him right in his chest, causing a massive cavity in the robot. Geo fell back onto the computer console with sparks flying out of him as Mike turned on his X-O suit and began to charge up.

"Shane disconnect!" he said noticing Geo's body completely disabled.

"I CAN'T, it's jammed!" cried Shane still connected. Amphotron slowly walked towards the wounded Zapbot with Mike firing his lasers at him. The weapon fire did nothing as Amphotron came right up to Geo's head and with a singular movement, fired his canon at Geo's head causing it and the human participant to be destroyed. The ROP computer also received the fire blast causing it to explode as well engulfing the Headmaster body in flames.

"NOOOOOO!!!" cried Mike falling down upon his knees crying. Amphotron turned towards the small human towering over him, just as he did when we as originally called Messy, and towered over me preparing to fire.

"Silly flesh germ... there is no way you can win." Amphotron said.

"Commander we are the last ship still intact," said the Ensign to Captain Clock as they continued to fly the flagship of the Earth Starfleet.

The Captain had been focused on doing everything he could to provide coverage for Earth. As their sensors saw several detonations around the globe causing nuclear clouds, he knew something had gone horrible wrong.

"Dr. Wogish what is our status?" asked Captain Clock over his com channel.

"Captain, we have lost about 50% of the crew," she replied.

"DAMMIT!" yelled Clock.

"Captain our shields are losing power!" replied the navigator.

Captain Clock looked out the view-screen. When was young he always dreamed of the days when men would take to the stars. As he watched his favorite TV shows he worked hard to get commission at NASA. When the Zapbots arrived and promised a new future he was more than excited. He never thought he would die in space. He never thought it would come to this.

"Ensign prepare to ram that main Gongo ship."

"Captain?"

"You heard me...."

"Yes Captain..."

"Captain!" cried the communicators officer. "I'm picking a large object coming into this sector."

"What?"

On the view screen came the most incredible sight a human could see. Amongst a sea of various enemy ships, broken ships, broken satellites, and cosmic debris, a large being flew into the space. The size was enormous, larger than anyone could ever see, as it was roughly the size of Earth's moon. This being - was the robotic body of the planet Gearatron.

"Oh my god, it's him!" replied Captain Clock.

"Captain we're being hailed!" replied his communications officer.

"Captain Clock, this is Botimus Prime, please get your ship as far away from here as possible." Botimus said.

"Understood!" Clock responded with a smile of awe.

The view as a giant planet is a strange feeling. I can only relate it to the experience of being a human kid playing with ants. Everything else is small, tiny, microscopic. As I warped into Earth's orbit, I began to immediately identify the Nonocon, Gongo and Morphites ships and proceed to grab them and crush the disastrous monsters with my hands.

As the remaining Earth ships flew out of range, I proceeded to destroy all enemies in space with my indomitable power. As if an echo of choirs sang in the background of my human head inside of the Russian dolls that formed this combination, I took revenge on the enemies that destroyed my home. I took no pity, no patience for any enemy as I was at my mental limit for the amount of destruction and loss I had seen today. Laser blasts from my eyes, weapons from the badly damaged planet collided with the tiny enemy forces until there was no one left to destroy.

When I was done, nothing was left in space except junk. The solid quiet of space was left with no sound to be heard. I floated away from Earth till I was far enough away that it was a small ball to my visuals, and then I began the Transformation back to the planet, back to the city, back to a Zapbot.

As soon as Misslemax was back on the planet's surface, I took a quick scan of the planet, and my worst fear was acknowledged.

Gearatron, was basically destroyed. Its outer shell remained intact, but all buildings, and structures were demolished. The planet was abandoned except for a few remaining Zapbots in Misslemax, and Ultra's team who caught up with us coming out of the lower levels.

Earth was in the red glow of nuclear destruction. As I scanned the planet, I saw very few spots not touched by nuclear blasts. There the humans we're barely alive. At this point all the various enemies had been killed as majority cities were leveled. One spot in the Rocky Mountains laid untouched.

"Master where are you going?" said Botimus.

"Botimus you are in charge; I will be right back." I said now as Shortstop. Heading for the turbo-lift to go out through the space dock, to pass through the radiation of Earth's not destroyed atmosphere to the planet below.

Amphotron just laughed, he continued to just stand over Mike, who had given up. Through all his ordeals, all the challenges in life, it now had become the ultimate battle and the

Zapbots had lost. Amphotron had succeeded in destroying Gearatron, and Earth, all the Zapbots and his friends and now he was going to die.

"Why?" Mike asked looking up at the evil robot waving his arm canon at him.

"Why?... Why not?" replied Amphotron continuing to laugh. He was just about to fire at the small human in an X-O suit when a laser blast ripped through his chest. Amphotron fell back crashing into the metal floor as he body was completely torn open, just as he did to Geo.

A robot slowly walked into the light from the darkness, but this robot was one Mike had never seen before. He had a green body and from all appearances you could guess his transformation was that of a canon. Amphotron struggled to get up, and unable to move anything but his head he looked up at the robot and spoke only one word.

"Sh..ock...?" whispered Amphotron.

Shock walked up to the wounded leader and towered over him.

"This... is for Bop." he said, as he transformed into canon mode and then lowering his turret, fired a blast so powerful it completely incinerated Amphotron's body.

"ARRGGHHHHHHNNNOOOOO!" yelled Amphotron. Amphotron's new body was destroyed.

It was at this moment I came running into the room in my Shortstop body and saw Shock towering over what appeared to be the remains of Amphotron. As I raised my gun to fire Mike screamed.

"Anthony don't!" cried Mike reaching out his hand.

I paused with my weapons as Shock turned around and looked at me.

"It's over now... Shortstop...Anthony... The fighting is over... for good." Shock said as I could see something I never saw in a Nonocon. Remorse. I saw that Bop must have been right about his brother. Is it possible he finally reached him?

"Shock...? I don't understand." I said.

"I was blinded by Amphotron's quest for power. It wasn't until I saw the light fade out of my own brother's eyes that I realized how much that consumed me. I... I was wrong, and I am sorry."

Shock slowly walked towards me with his head down and walked right past me heading for the exit. When he had reached the entrance, he ignited his rocket boosters and took off leaving the cave.

I disengaged from Shortstop body and flew down to Mike. Our lips met together with a thankful passionate kiss while tears streamed down our faces.

Chapter 9

"Master's Log, Stardate... December 31st, 2007. We successfully have returned Gearatron to its solar system's orbit. What damage was done we don't know yet but for now the planets seem to be steady. However, Gearatron itself is pretty much destroyed as well is Planet Earth.

"The majority of my Zapbot family has been murdered. The only remaining Zapbots are a few. The lone survivors of a multiple staged attack on our home-worlds. As far as we can tell, all our enemies have been destroyed as well.

"We have integrated the new formula for shields with everyone and installed new energy chips thanks to the crystals collected. However, who needs enhanced powers when your enemies are all gone.

"Survivors are being collected and escorted to Tockmak 3 for safety as the Earth will need some time to recover. I am on my way now to have my meeting with my Zapbots."

I walked into the Conference room where the remaining Zapbots minus my mini bots Click, SuperRobot, Tiny and Experiment remained. I sat down at the chair at the end of the table and before I spoke, I looked around at the remaining lives.

Boaty, Flier, Speedy, Botimus Prime, Hightone, Scan, Timetravel, Repairs and Pliers the original Zapbots I first created.

Ultra Attack, Vebox, Roberta, Soundtrack, Popper, Poppin, Terrain, and Gaxator the crew of the late Duplaflex

Transport and Chewer the remaining Spacebots.

Slipstream and Sliphead the remaining Aerialbots.

And the ancient Zapbots Bridge, Lighting and Knife.

All our family and friends were destroyed in the horrific war that claimed many lives. Everyone else was dead. Every micro team, every gestalt, every other military Zapbot had been destroyed. The remnants of the civilization portion of Gearatron were now just coming back to a world that we all knew would take forever to rebuild.

"So..." I said and stopped. "So... has everyone seen the plan from Boaty and Click?" I asked.

With a nod from their heads everyone agreed.

"You all realize that if this is successful, we may cease to exist in this form." I replied.

A nod again from everyone.

"Okay, so Timetravel and I will leave tomorrow morning 9:00am. You have whatever time you want, to make peace with things." I said.

"Master, have you explained this to Mike?" asked Boaty.

"No, that is my next step." I said lowering my head and then raising it again.

This was my family. For the past twenty some years I had become part of something better, something bigger than myself. I started as a simple nerd in a school in Northeast Ohio and through the most bizarre series of steps, coincidences and happens, I developed a family of friends with the most amazing race I had ever seen. Robots that could Transform. It was the most incredible experience one could ever had, one that had to come to an end. At least this version of it.

"I love you all," I said as I proceeded to get up and everyone just stood there.

"Master on behalf of the crew, it has been an honor," replied Botimus Prime.

"Thank you," I said, and I walked out of room. Beyond Timetravel that would be the last time I saw them.

Mike was angry, and furious. He as pacing around the room with such veracity I knew it was going to the point of being ridiculous.

"So let me get this straight. You're just going to go back in time and rewrite history?" Mike said.

"Sort of?"

"This makes no sense!"

"Mike, everything needs a reboot. I can't guarantee what it will be, but it has to be better than what is now." I said looking out my apartment window still seeing the smoke filling the skies of Gearatron.

"So, you're just going to go back in time, and tell you other self to not do this?"

"Yes, the Matrix will allow me to merge with my prior self. So, my history and knowledge of this timeline will be retained. I am going to tell myself to erase the world's memory and go into hiding. This according to Boaty's calculations will prevent this disaster from happening."

"So, you're just going to erase everyone's memory? Just like that."

"Correct, I'm heading to the part just before we started getting humans ready for space travel and formed the new Earth Starfleet. We are going to prevent humans from knowing about us."

"What about the evil President?"

"We are going to capture the world leaders and take them to Gearatron for trials. They will probably be put in prison."

"How do you plan to erase everyone's memory?"

"We have special designs to setup collectors around Earth. In a single blast everyone's memories will be altered and any remembrance of Zapbots will be removed."

"Any you're going to do the same to you... me... us?"

"Yes. It's the only way to guarantee your safety."

"What if the Nonocons come back?"

"Then my memory programs will be reactivated, and we will take it from there. I will order my Zapbots to keep watch again. Until then Zapbots will remain in hiding on Earth and in space."

"So, we'll never meet?"

"No will meet, this is after I rescued you, but I am going to make sure you won't remember this. For your safety."

"YOU BASTARD! How dare you take away my love for you! Do you know how hard this was to admit this to myself? To us!"

I had no good answer for his concern. I just spoke softly.

"According to Boaty's conclusion, if you retain your knowledge you will die."

"And this all because somehow I died on a chicken bone!?"

"Well, it's weird, I think some part is that this was all destined either way. I know Shane had an integral part because without him, he wouldn't have saved you. And it's weird, I sort of feel like I had to do this in order to get here. I thought I was fooling destiny, but maybe this is what was planned all along. Maybe I had to change the timeline in order to save the Universe in this one. Maybe this whole story has a reason, in order to reset the Universe in another timeline. It's an instinct. That's all I can tell you."

Mike stood silent again and I slowly got up and pulled him close to my body.

"It's the only way... I'm sorry." I said.

"I love you," Mike said.

"I love you." I replied.

With that I took him back to the bedroom for one last night together. It would be the final night with my lover in this timeline. Before he woke in the morning, I said goodbye to my Click, SuperRobot, Tiny and Experiment and met Timetravel in the docking bay to climb inside him and head backwards in time.

We could have gone back to anytime, but according to Boaty's calculations this was the optimal time for success with the plan. The period right before we started the Starfleet, right after Unicron, the Sun monsters, and after Mike and my friends had been rescued. My human Headmaster friends and myself would have our minds altered so we could return to a normal life. My Zapbots would stay behind the moon watching... waiting.

The Matrix from this timeline would allow me one last use of its power. When I would meet myself, I would join my essence with my younger self. So, although I would not experience the same adventures from seven years, I would still remember them. I would then convey the plan to my Zapbots of 2000.

The 2000 version of Anthony would then proceed with the agenda. The mission was clear. Reset Earth's memory before everyone went into space, and take the memories of myself and my friends, suppress them away until the day when the Nonocons would return to Earth. So, while the younger Anthony knew of what happened, it would be locked away until needed. A sort of robot asleep at the wheel.

This would cause this timeline to disappear and be reset we figured. A new timeline would continue forward from 2000 onward.

Earth would not know of the Zapbots.

I would not know of the Zapbots.

The heads of state that would win the elections would mysteriously disappear. As we now had evidence of the plans they would unfold.

Beyond this, Earth would be allowed to propagate on its own without any interference, unless an enemy would return.

It was the only way.

I now held the collection of the whole saga in my head. My prior self-had disappeared as I knew the timeline had now been changed. It was a weird feeling knowing what could have happened, but I also knew we had work to do. It was a sense of knowing of the past and having a chance to relive it for a short while before I would be unaware of all of this.

A whole lifetime of adventures, an alternate self was now at hand.

As I walked back up the ramp of Fortress Misslemax I began to explain to Botimus, Boaty and Flier what happened. With shock in their eyes, they too were a bit sad of the events

to come. But according to the research it was for the best. My family would live on and now they had the upper hand with the Nonocons with their plans.

When the day came to do the mind wipe and put everything that I knew in the far cavity of my mind I felt sorrow. But I also knew that I had done everything in my power to save the universe. I was the last to have the wipe as my friends were all put back with their homes, and families. To live a normal life away from the Zapbots, safe and unaware.

As Boaty reported the success of the mind wipe on Earth I sat on the operating table with Click positioning the device over my head. A thumbs up, a flick of the switch.....

It started over again....

FIN