

Bopbot & Bowbot Meet Malm

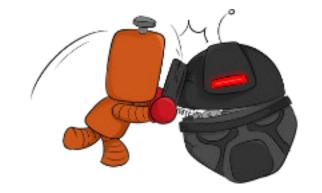
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ISBN: 978-1-954790-17-9

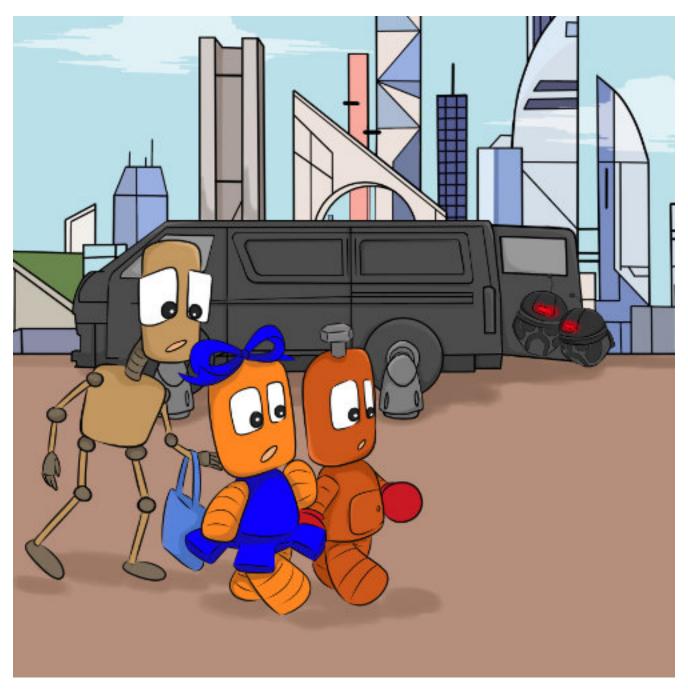
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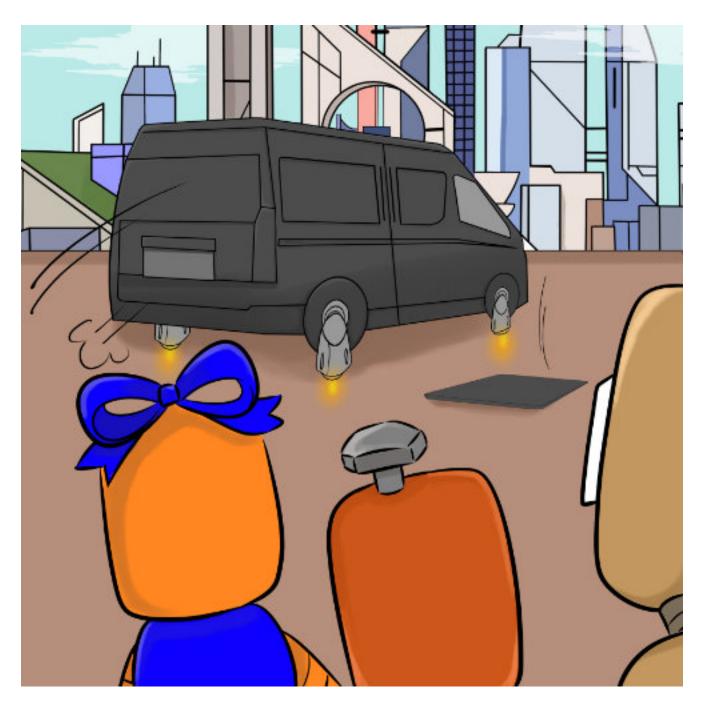
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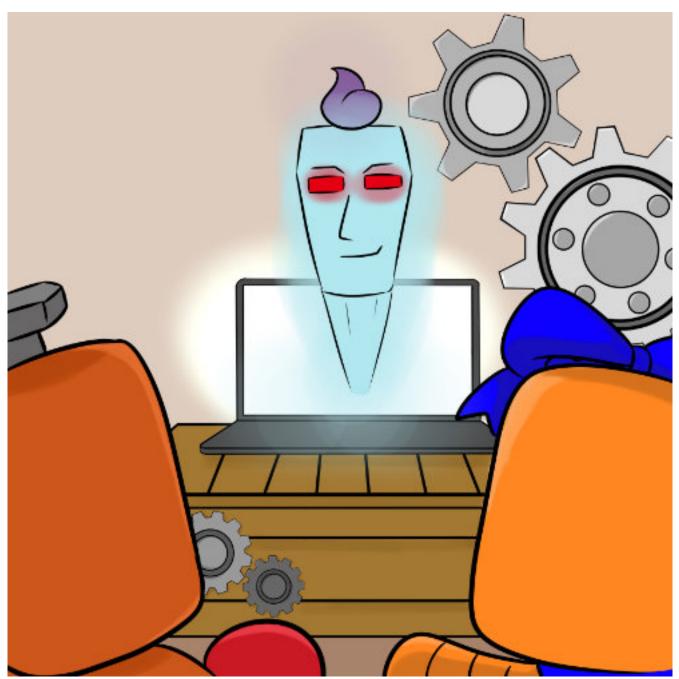


On their way to buy more, they saw several strange dark robots loading something into a hover van.

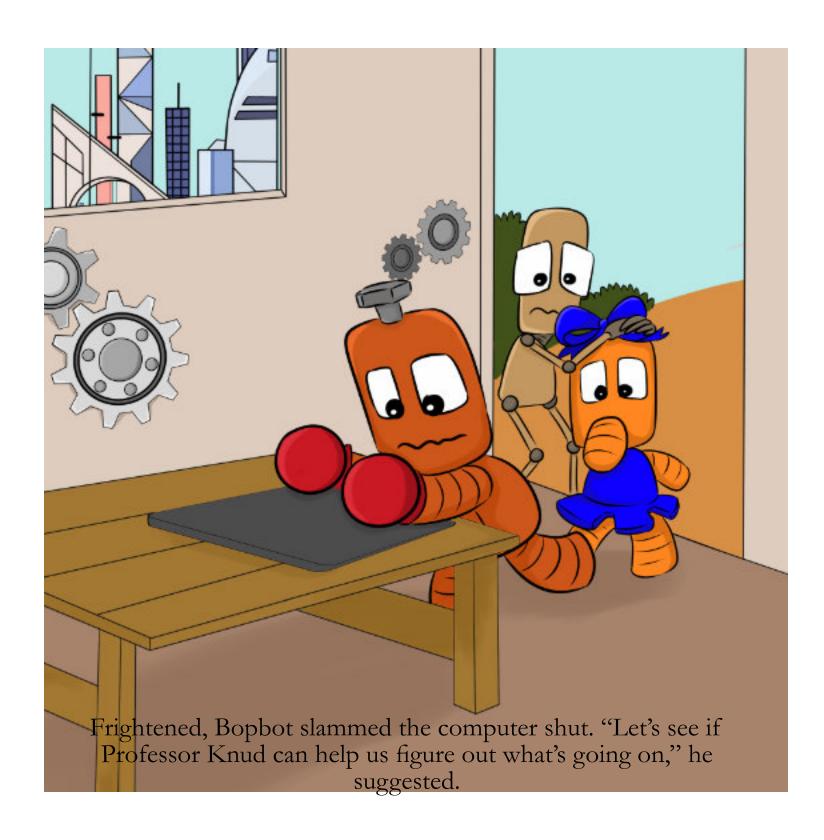


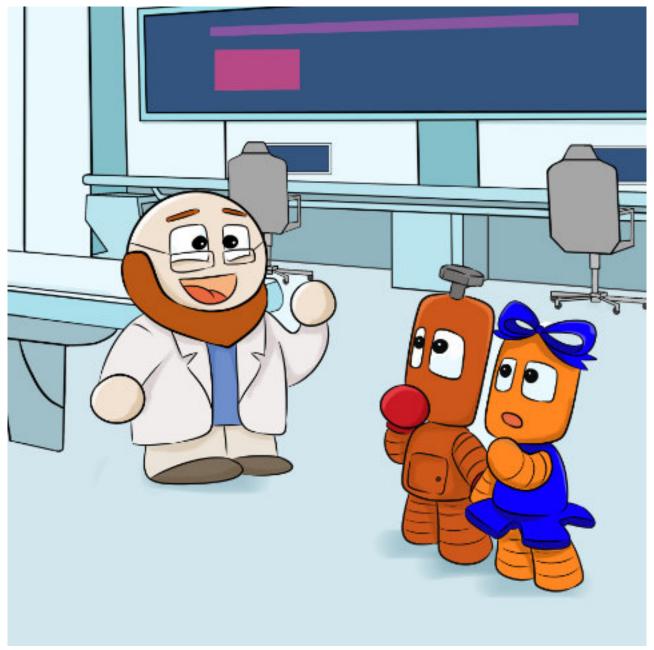
They were curious, but, as they approached, the van whizzed off. A computer fell off the top and landed on the sidewalk.



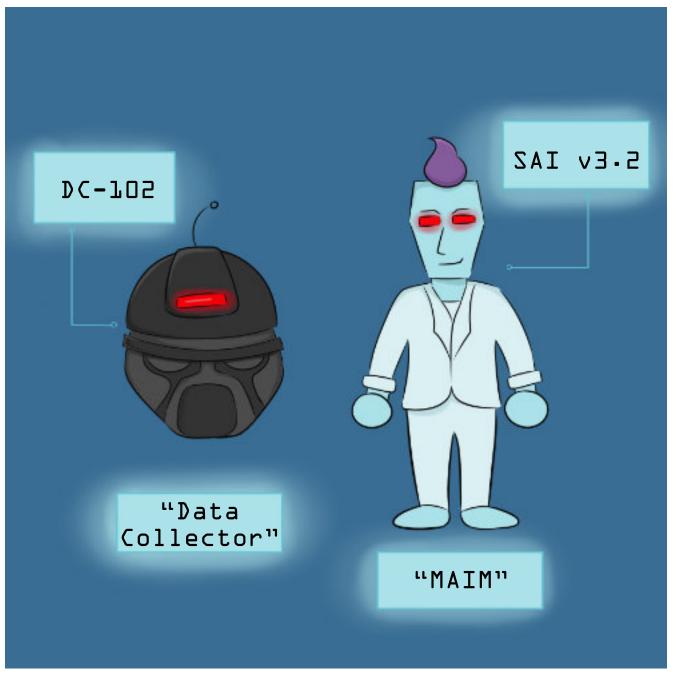


When they turned it on, they were greeted by a glaring blue face. "Ah, yes, new data sources detected," it said with a grin. "Prepare to be... collected."

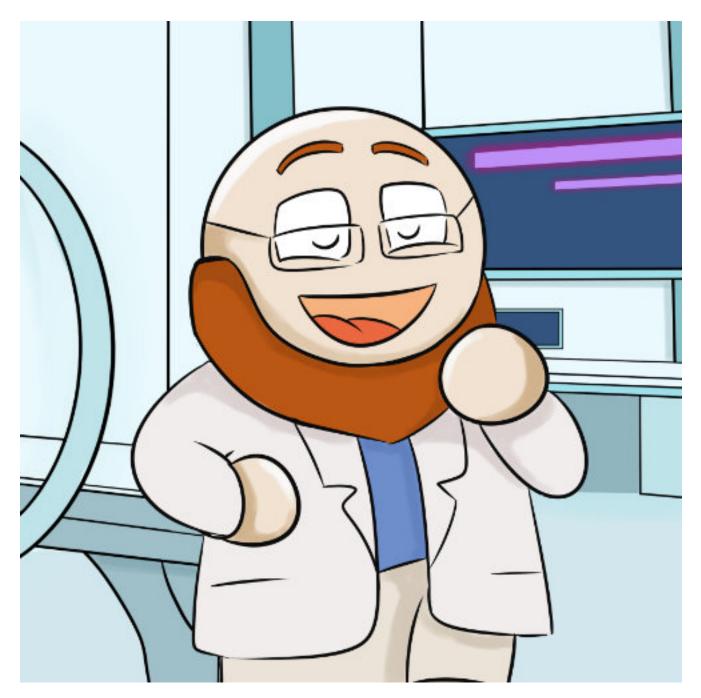




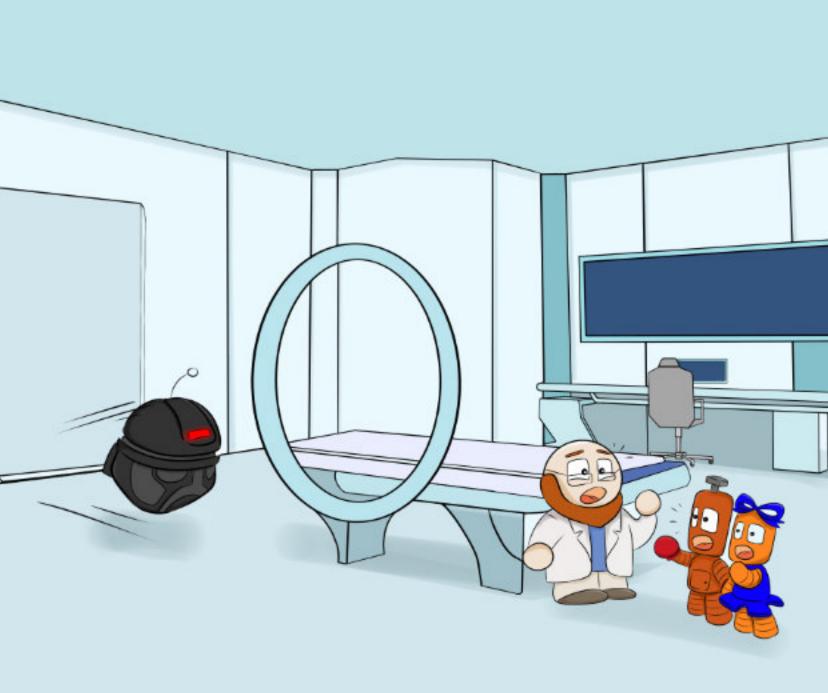
In his lab, Professor Knud explained. The blue hologram was called MAIM - Malignant Artificial Intelligence Manifestation - a rogue surveillance program that was now trying to acquire all of the data in the world.



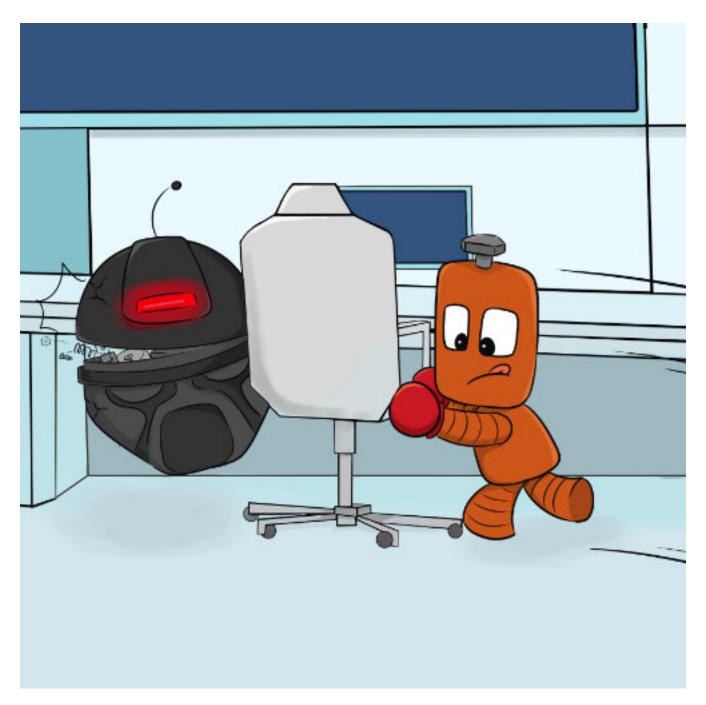
The strange black robots were Data Collectors, soldiers MAIM sent out to collect hard drives and other data sources for processing.



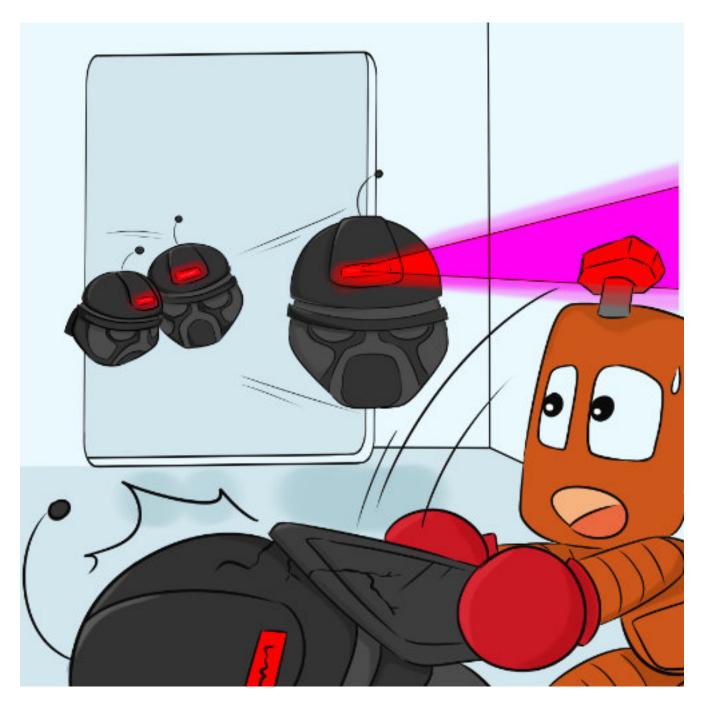
"I'm an expert in these things," Knud proclaimed, "the drive was encrypted. There is no way MAIM can track you down here."



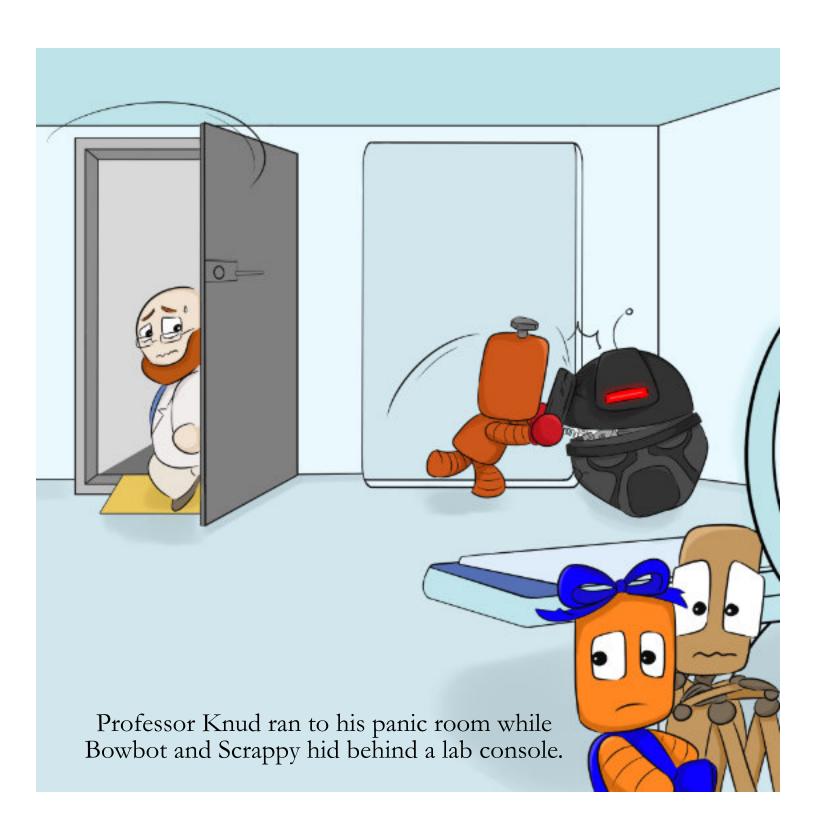
He had just finished saying it when one of MAIM's Data Collectors burst through the door.

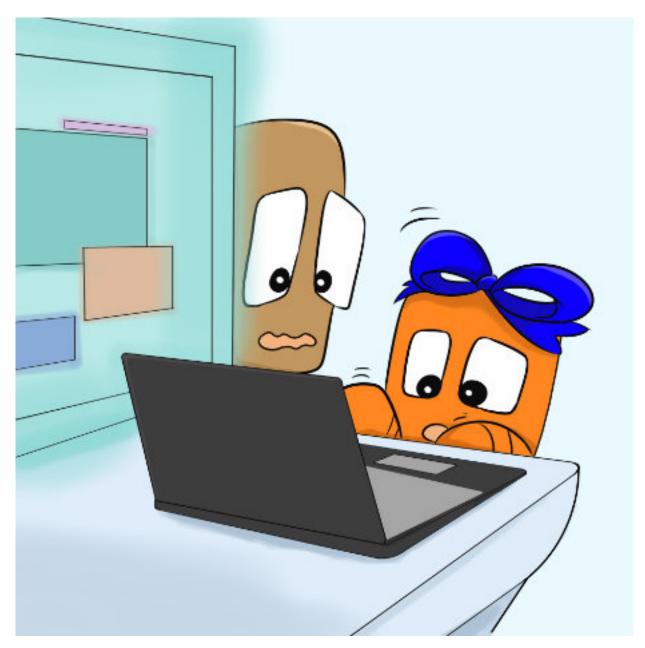


Bopbot leapt into action, smashing the Data Collector into pieces.

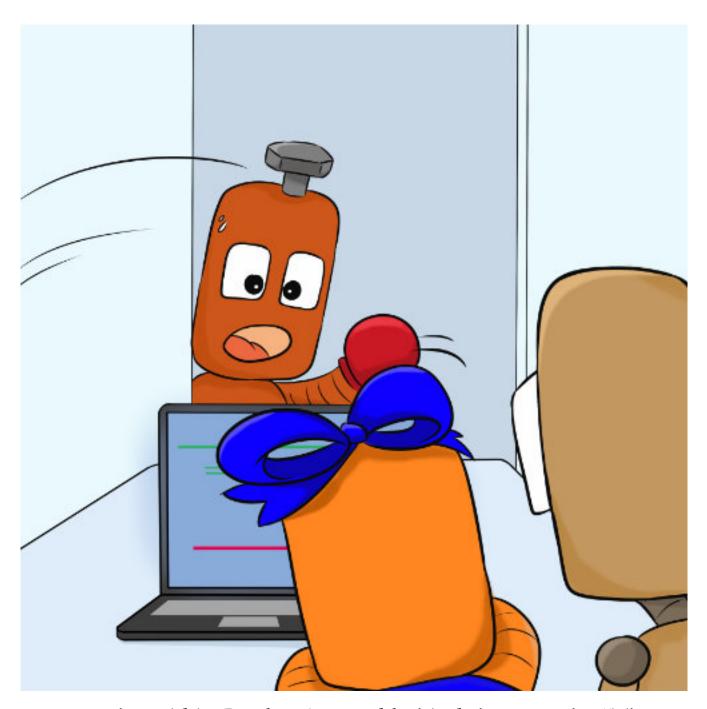


But there were more. Laser beams flew through the air as Bopbot smashed one Collector after another.

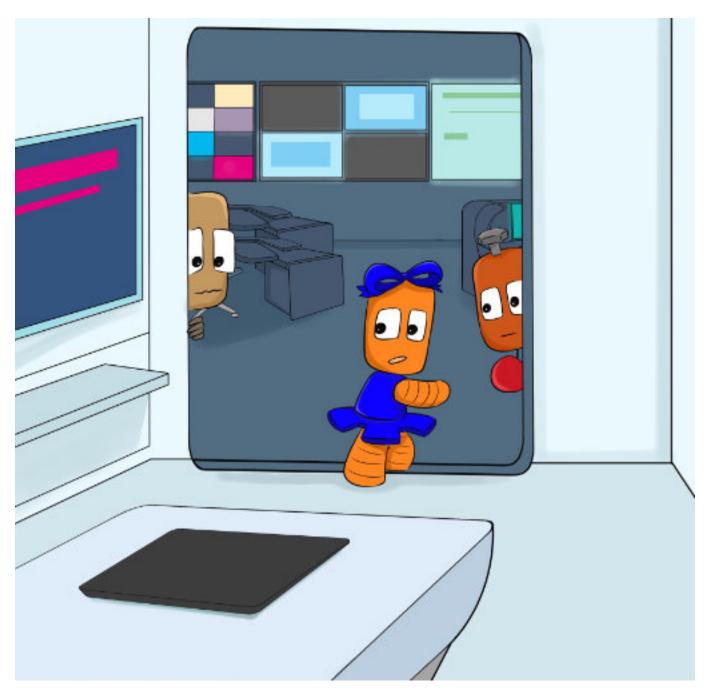




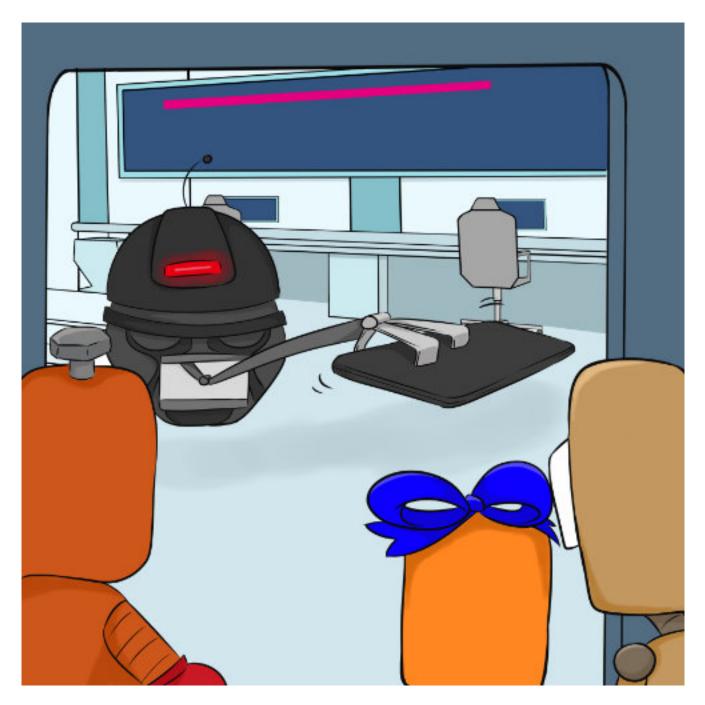
Bowbot picked up the lost computer and began to type. "What are you doing?" Scrappy asked. "Adding a little shutdown code to the boot sector of this computer," she replied.



Just as she said it, Bopbot jumped behind the console. "There are too many of them, we have to go!"



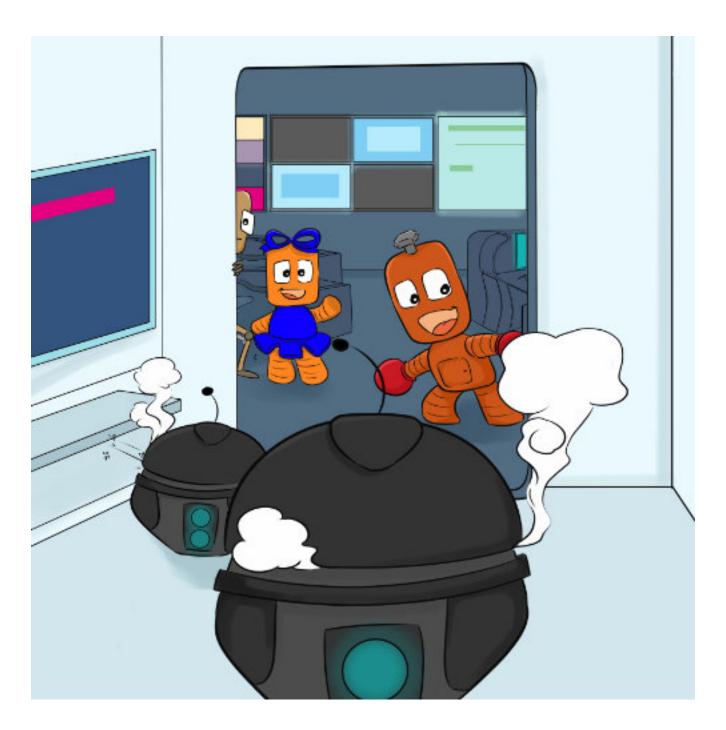
Bowbot set the laptop back on the console and the three robots retreated to a control room over the lab.



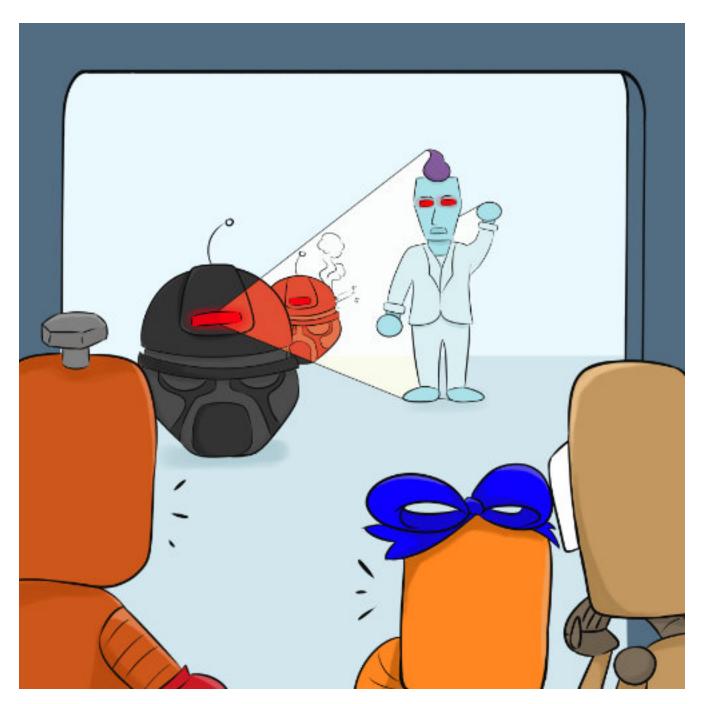
They watched as a Collector pulled the computer into a compartment in its chest.



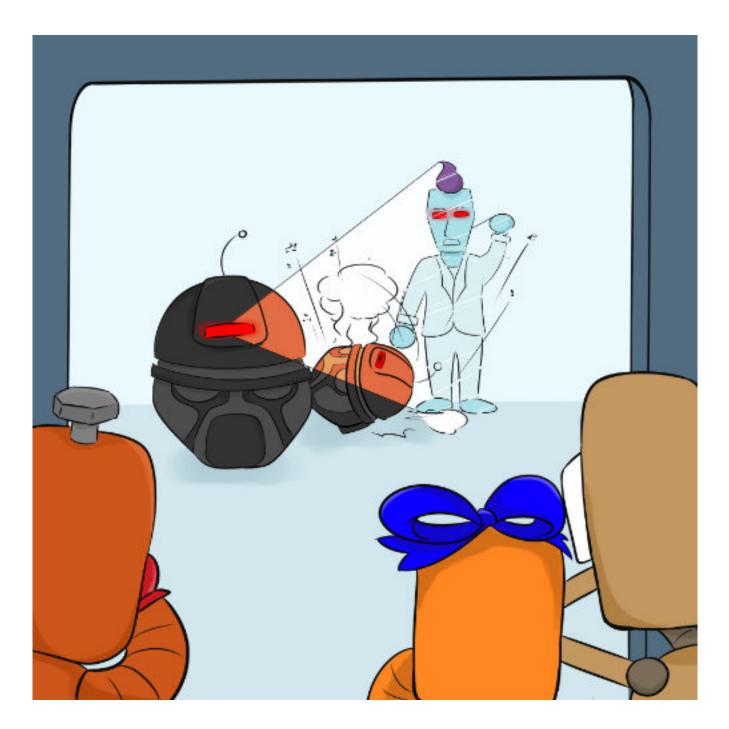
Then a puff of smoke and sparks appeared and the Collector fell to the floor.



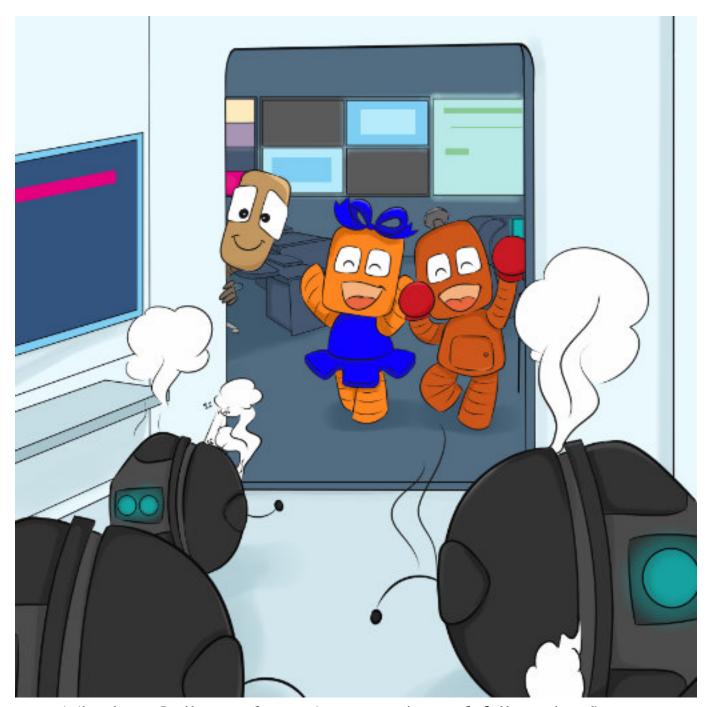
Another one burst into sparks and then another.



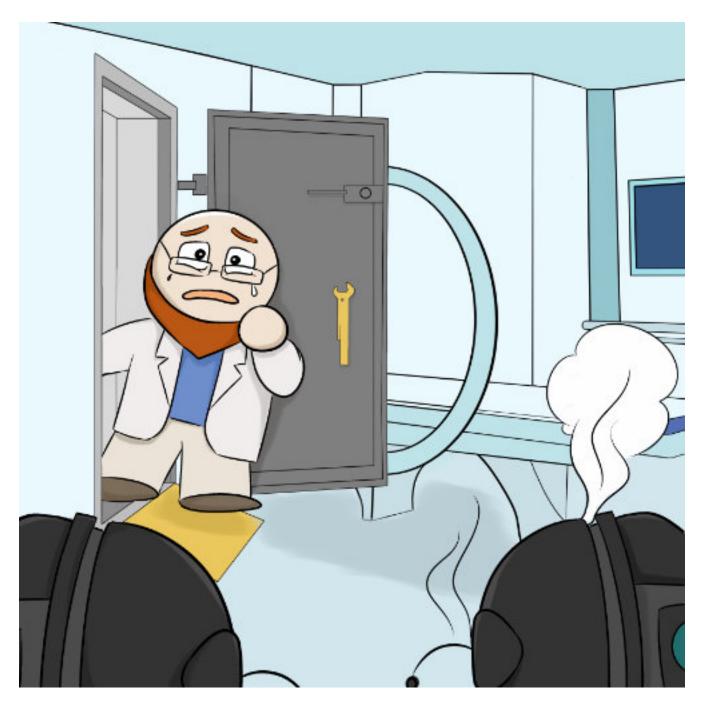
One Collector beamed a hologram of MAIM into the room. "This isn't the last you've heard from me," she shrieked.



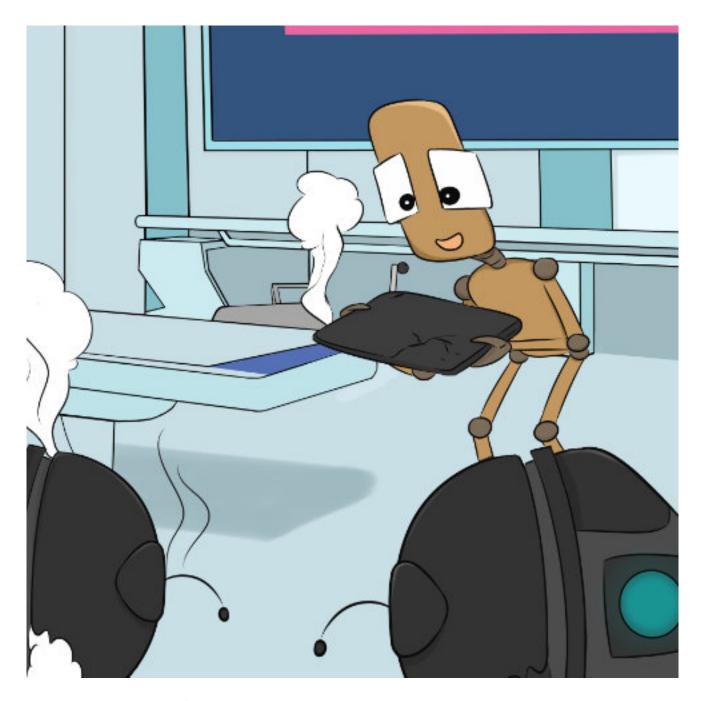
"I'll collect your data too, you..." She was interrupted.



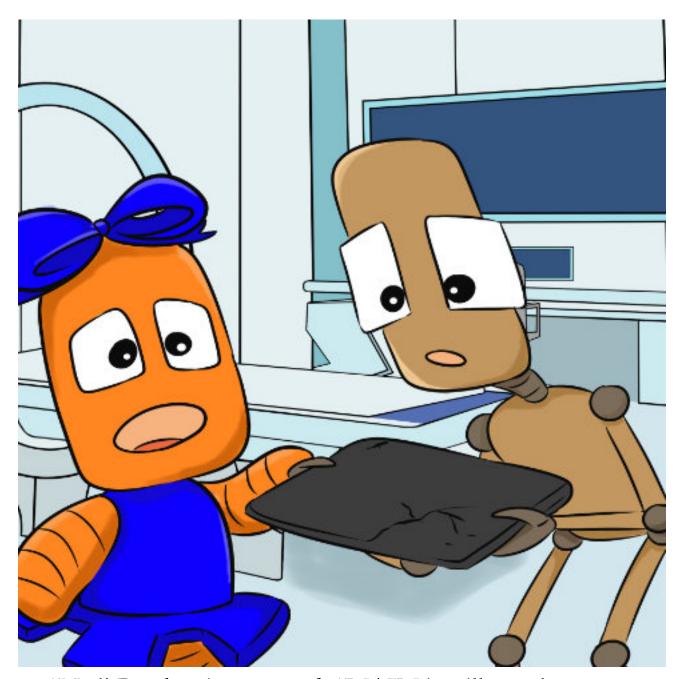
The last Collector burst into sparks and fell to the floor. The robots cheered.



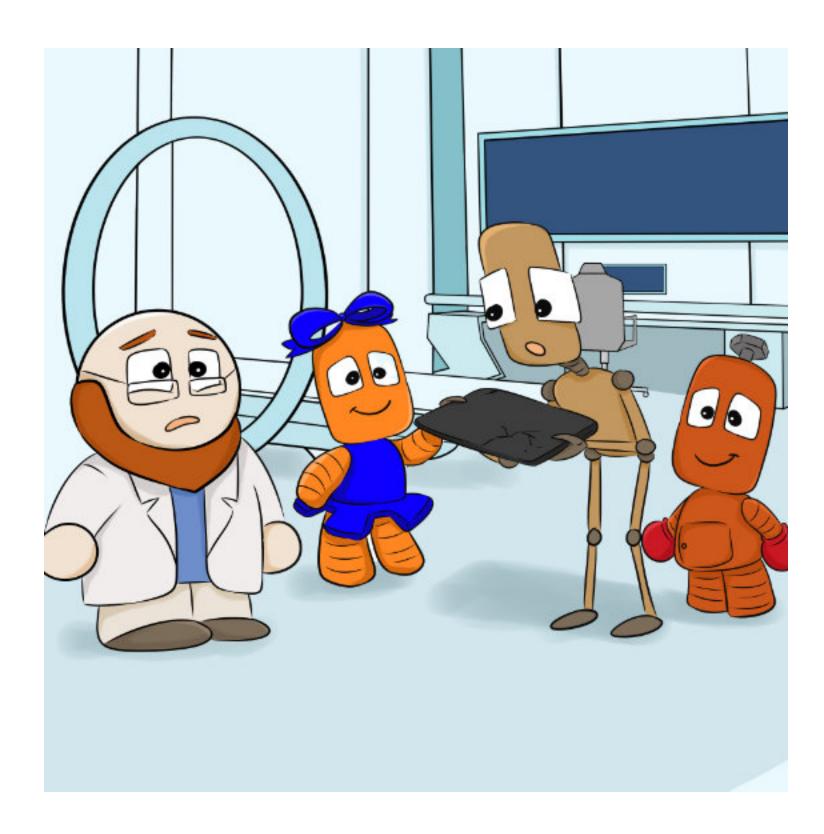
Knud came out from his panic room and surveyed the damage in tears. "My poor lab. My poor, poor lab."



Scrappy picked up the computer. "This thing's got some great components! I wonder if I can clean up the drive..."



"No," Bowbot interrupted, "MAIM is still out there on a server somewhere. There's no hardware there worth dealing with more Data Collectors."



Scrappy agreed. "But since we're on hardware, where's the best place around here to buy more chips?" Bopbot asked.

THE END

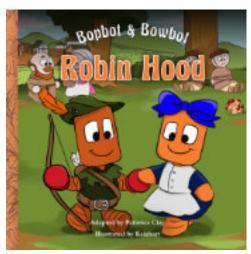
About the Author

Nelson is the creator of the Bopbot & Bowbot characters. He lives in Texas with his family. When he isn't keeping his kids from "bopping" each other, he writes and illustrates children's books.

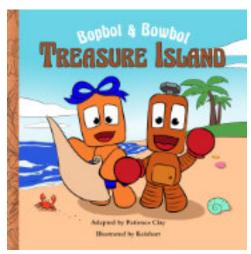
About the Illustrator

Keishart is a creative professional in Australia. She is the author and illustrator of "The Farm Journey" and also hosts a YouTube cooking show.

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