

June 30, 12:30 PM, Belcrest Woods

A maverick Galleon trekked through the woods, keeping a camera eye out for any humanoid prey it may encounter. Its main objective, made by Model W's corruption of its programming, was to shoot and kill any sentient being on sight without any mercy whatsoever. No survivors were to escape its onslaught for all, excluding other mavericks, must be destroyed. Its vision soon fell upon a lifeform straight up ahead. It was a man in a boat and he was having his fun fishing at the lake. The Galleon aimed its buster at the fisher, taking its chance to kill him right now. Before a bullet could be shot, something incredibly sliced through the torso of its purple body, splitting into halves. The upper body in front of the lower body as the galleon saw what had attacked it. A spinning pink saber flew out from it through the air before it boomeranged back to chop its head off and slice its legs. Electric static on the body parts buzzed from they were chopped off. It was the last thing the Galleon saw before the head was destroyed by a purple laser beam.

Lisa caught her flying saber by the hilt with ease and looked at the masterpiece of the work she and her sister made of the maverick. Both were in their megamerged forms doing Lisa's idea of practicing combat against mavericks to make themselves better fighters and get used to the danger and pain. The elder sister commented, "Wow, we're doing pretty good so far. What do you think, sis?"

Haylie, who was in her flying form, replied, "I think so, too. We haven't gotten shot once since we started this. How do these things we picked up make us this good at fighting?" It was pretty weird, considering the sisters never fought anyone before. The strange objects they picked up earlier had somehow magically given them the knowledge of combat, thus turning two untrained girls into competent fighters in an instant. This could easily explain why those two teens from the news were able to wipe the floor with the highway mavericks.

The older sister said, "I don't know, but I think I want to try out harder mavericks if we're breezing through the single regular types like this. Maybe we can go back to that group of galleons we passed by. I'm ready for them." She was pretty confident in that she can take them out hands down.

Haylie thought through Lisa's idea and analyzed how they would destroy a group using their skills and powers. An ambush was one tactic they could use to reduce their numbers; it was how the sisters were able to destroy their prey. A beam fired from Haylie would destroy them all at once, but... The younger sister told, "Well a group is harder than only one, but that's still going to be too easy."

Lisa seemed to have read her sister's mind as she said, "Hmm, you're right. Because you'll just shoot that beam of yours, won't you?"

Haylie answered, "Yep."

The older sister knew that attack would suck the fun and challenge out of a group of five galleons, so a

different maverick would need to suffice. She suggested, "I guess we'll have to find bigger fish to fry. But where?" She wondered where one could find a huge dangerous maverick to fell. Perhaps if they went deeper into the woods or move to a different and more dangerous place? Lisa figured that her sister would be opposed to the latter idea. The younger girl preferred to play things smart and safe for their own good. She was such a well-behaved wet blanket sometimes.

Haylie asked, "Gee, I don't know. Why don't we look around? Just don't go picking the impossible ones though."

Lisa smirked confidently and said, "Don't worry. I don't pick fights we can't win." She had a finger placed on her visor, gesturing that she would use its stat-reading ability to tell how powerful a maverick would be. Haylie turned into her support form and the sisters went further into the forest to look for a strong maverick. Any weak mavericks that crossed their path were annihilated without mercy. It was better to bring their numbers down than to allow any of them to live and terrorize people.

About 20 minutes later, the sisters heard a loud noise of some kind of machine being operated. Haylie asked, "What was that?"

The older sister replied, "I don't know. Let's find out." Whatever it was, she hoped it was the right kind of maverick she was looking for. The girls headed in the direction the sound came from. As they got nearer, the noise grew increasingly louder. The sisters wished they could cover their earpieces with their hands, since their helmets were doing a poor job at it. Unfortunately, they were irremovable due to the helmets being part of their megamerged forms. So they reverted back into their human forms and covered their earpieces, while holding their biometals in one hand, just in case there was a maverick up ahead. Within moments, they saw a tree being picked up by a mechanical claw. The base of the tree appeared to be cut cleanly as if it had been chopped by a lumberjack. A stump was left behind where the tree used to be. The sisters stayed behind some trees at the edge of the clearing and discovered the cause of the tree's chopping. It was a Cutpactor, a large mechaniloid that was nearly similar to the Crushpactor. But instead of a spiked roller, the Cutpactor had a crane with a claw that picks up and cuts trees in its grasp. The girls watched the Cutpactor move its crane over to the pile of lumber. The tree in its claw shifted down the other end as it was cut into pieces to turn into more lumber. Lisa observed, "Huh, looks like they're trying to get some wood."

Two more Cutpactors were seen in sight as well as few men, workers who were paid to cut trees to convert into resources like paper. Among them were galleons with green lights in their helmets. These were the non-maverick types that were there to protect the workers in case of any violent danger. The second Cutpactor grabbed the bottom of another tree. Smoke steamed out of the exhaust pipes of the claw as the tree was being chopped off. Haylie said, "So it was nothing after all. Come on, let's leave." Just after she said that, a giant bird-like shadow flew across the clearing. The sisters and the workers looked up to see an Orehawk soaring above the trees. The eagle-like mechaniloid turned around and came back to drop down its large feather blades at the workers, Galleons and Cutpactors. The men ran out of the way screaming before they would get struck down on. The Cutpactors however

were not lucky as the feathers pierced the top of the head-like cockpits, probably killing the people who operated these things. Even the galleons were destroyed when they tried to engage the maverick.

While her sister was being worried for the men's lives, Lisa was more interested in the aggressive Orehawk. She scanned the bird and read its stats; its strength and endurance were in the mid-level, while everything else was a higher level. It was definitely stronger than those Galleons they fought. The older sister was glad to have found a worthy opponent as she said, "Looks like we came to the right place at the right time. Come on, sis. It's time to get into action!" The sisters megamerged and came out into the clearing to confront the Orehawk. The maverick swooped down after one of the men with its talons out to grab him as it screeched a Mothra-like cry. Lisa intercepted it by throwing her saber at it. The blade made contact and left a cut on the side of the bird's chest before it returned back to its owner. The Orehawk ascended up into the air before it turned on the girls. It decided it would be a good idea to get rid of the threat before going back to hunting the prey it wanted. The maverick hovered down and screeched out its sound wave attack at the sisters. Haylie quickly created a barrier to shield herself and Lisa. The waves bounced off the blue barrier and split into two more that hit the ground ahead of them. The older sister charged some energy into her hands before she punched the ground, sending a cluster of white laser beams to shoot up from the ground beneath the Orehawk. The maverick let out an ear-piercing screech as it suffered the damage it took. Though it was Lisa's strongest attack, it was not enough to destroy the Orehawk. All it did was leave it with a burnt surface on the underside.

The enraged maverick ascended back into the air and shot down feathers after feathers at its enemies. The feathers hit the barrier and fell down around it onto the grass where they exploded. But unfortunately, the barrier wasn't going to last forever as each hit was weakening it by the cracks appearing and getting bigger. The sisters found this to be worrying as Haylie cried, "Oh god, we're in trouble! I don't think I can take all these feathers." When the last of the feathers exploded, the barrier shattered and caused the younger megawoman to drop in a fainting-like fashion as she had no more energy to maintain the barrier.

Lisa quickly caught her sister before she would fall onto the ground. "Haylie!" she cried out of worry for her sister. Lisa hoped the barrier's breakage did not cause too much harm to her dear sibling. She would never forgive herself if any ill fate befell Haylie. The elder sister's thoughts were broken by the shriek of the Orehawk that came back to swoop down at them. Its talons stuck out forward, ready to snatch up and tear one or both of the girls in its deadly grasp. There was no time to check on Haylie, Lisa needed to destroy the maverick fast or both of them will be dead for sure. She quickly laid the girl down before she spun her saber to summoned 8 blades that spun towards the bird. Then she followed it up by joining her blades in the attack by using the boosters on her feet to dash and jump at the now-close Orehawk. The spinning blades cut every at it from the head to the feet and even the wings, causing the Orehawk to hover back unsteadily from the volley. Before the last blade cuts at the beak, Lisa's saber stabs into one of the two slim vents. The weapon appears to have struck something inside as electricity began sparking out from the vent. The bird screeched in pain, having felt its wound. Then it began to try and shake the girl off to keep her from doing any more damage. Lisa tried to keep her hold on tightly through sheer determination as all this thrashing around like a rodeo bull wasn't making it easy for her.

With her body being flung hard sideways and up & down, she felt like she could lose her grip at any moment.

Pretty soon, the Orehawk managed to succeed by descending really close to the ground, letting only Lisa touch it, and jetting across to slide her off. The rough friction caused the girl to let go of her weapon, leaving it stuck on the maverick. She looked at the foe, acknowledging it for pulling off a smart move. But too bad for it that she still had another power she could use without getting robbed of it. The Orehawk turned around fast and went straight for Haylie, releasing another soundwave attack at her. Seeing her sister in danger, Lisa rushed in on impulse to save her. She dashed right in front of the attack and used her own body as a shield. The soundwave harmed her from the metallic surface of her body to the core of her bones. It was so painful that it made the older sister scream.

The noise was enough to wake up Haylie from her slumber. The younger sister found Lisa hugging herself in pain. Fretful as to what happened to her, Haylie cried, "Lisa!" Just then, the Orehawk lands right behind the older girl, who turns her teeth-gritting head around to see it. Haylie immediately gets herself up off the ground and changes into her combat form in order to save her sister.

The Orehawk threw its head down many times to peck at Lisa, who was constantly dodging it while keeping her cool. Though every movement she made hurt, the elder sister masked her pain with a mocking grin. She teased on each dodge, "Miss me... Try again... Too slow!"

With the maverick distracted, Haylie fired a beam at it. The wing got blasted in the joints and destroyed, rendering the Orehawk flightless. The impact it felt caused it to accidentally screech out a quick soundwave at Lisa, knocking her backwards onto her bottom. She groaned, feeling hurt more than ever. The Orehawk whipped its head around at Haylie before looking back at the other sister. It was caught between which one to attack and finish off first. Just then, one of the Cutpactors brought its crane over to the maverick and grabbed it by the neck. The bird started struggling to free itself from the grip. The man operating the Cutpactor looked out the window and told the sisters, "I got the damn thing. You ladies go on and finish that overgrown chicken."

Lisa replied, "You got it!" She got up to stand, despite her still aching body, and jumped up to grab her saber out of the maverick. After dashing to the other girl, she punched the ground with her energy-charged fist and created rising lasers to damage and weaken the bird some more. With the Orehawk nearly beaten, she asked her sister, "Haylie, care to do the honors?"

The younger girl answered with a calm smile, "I'd be more than happy to." With that, she fired a beam right at the Orehawk's chest, which blasted through and hit the engine inside, causing it to explode and kill the maverick. The crane let go and dropped the bird's body. Haylie turned back into her support form and felt relieved, "Phew, it's all over now."

Lisa smiled as well, replying, "Me too. Now you can go and heal me right up. I'm hurting like hell."

Looking at her sister's pained expression, Haylie decided to get right on that. "I suppose I should do that." So she began to use her healing powers to make her sister feel all better.

During this process, the workers came back and went to the girls. The men were smiling in appreciation for what they've done. One of them said, "Thank y'all for saving our lives. That maverick would have gotten us all if it weren't for you gals." The other workers showered their heroes with their own praises.

The sisters felt esteemed for doing a great deed. Lisa smiled and replied, "Hey, no problem. We're just practicing becoming mercenaries. Think of this as an advertisement to what we can do."

Another worker asked, "Mercenaries? That's a pretty dangerous job. You sure you girls are up to it?"

The older sister confidently answered, "With our powers and a lot of experience, we can handle anything!"

The third worker nodded and said, "Of course you can. You just took down that bird when our galleons couldn't. I bet it won't be long until you ladies are ready."

Haylie said, "Yeah? Well, we'll just have to wait and see." She wasn't really too interested in being a mercenary, but for her sister's protection, she'll stay by her side and do it. After she was done healing Lisa, she told her, "Come on Lisa, let's go home. I've had enough action for one day."

But the manager stopped them and said, "Wait, don't go. I know you girls may be tired, but all of our Galleons are destroyed and we don't have anybody to protect us." So true were his words as the crew was now sitting ducks without their mechaniloid guards. So he asked, "So can you please stay here and keep us safe until we're done?"

The younger girl inquired, "How long is it going to be?" She hoped it was not a long time as their father returns home from work by 6 PM. She would hate to come home and find an angry, worried man who wondered why they left the house without a note.

The manager answered, "It'll probably take about an hour. We're almost done."

Glad to hear that this was going to be quick, Lisa agreed to volunteer, "Okay, we'll watch your backs. You can count on us to kick some maverick butt."

The manager smiled and said, "Great! I'm glad to have you working with us. I promise I'll pay you girls a thousand hundred EC."

Lisa smiled with delight at the prospect of getting rewarded. "Sweet!" she beamed. This motivated the sisters, especially the older one, into putting an extra effort into being alert for danger and fighting hard to protect.

1:12 PM, Master Thomas's Secret HQ, Thomas's Office

The three pseudoroids that had been dispatched to retrieve the biometals in Raynesville returned to the secret headquarters to report to Master Thomas about their failure. The sage was not happy with how the day had been going so far. First, Atlas had been defeated by the Model X megamen, then Siarnaq was beaten by Grey and Ashe, then Quicksilver was destroyed, and now the Model A megamen foiled thwarted the pseudoroids with the help of the Model T megawoman. It was like the devil of misfortune had decided to come and ruin Thomas's plans just for the heck of it. The sage scowled, not at his henchmen, but at the thought of those who would dare to stand in his way. He said, "This is unacceptable! I'd never thought that these heroes who killed Albert would interfere so soon."

Pyrosaur asked, "You know these people, master?"

Thomas knew that his pseudoroids, who had been built after the Albert incident, would not know anything about the heroes. So he informed them, "Yes. These megamen you just fought were the ones who saved our world a week ago. They've fought and destroyed many mavericks, even pseudoroids like you."

"Whoa," said Zappig in awe of the megamen's capabilities. It sounds like these seemingly mere kids were much more than they appeared to be.

Thomas's tone turned serious as he warned, "They may be young, but they are not to be underestimated, no matter what. Albert's pseudoroids were too arrogant to see this, even when their comrades fell, and in the end, they were all obliterated. I hope you three don't make the same mistake as them, because you are all crucial to my goals."

The boaroid asked, "So what about dat Model T lady? Do we be careful around her, too?"

The sage nodded and advised, "If she turns out stronger than she looks, then yes. Don't be reckless with your lives. It's better to live to fight for another day, so that you can come up with better ideas to destroy your enemies next time."

Bunnin spoke up, "I already got a good plan in mind to get rid of these pests."

The sage's attention fell onto the rabbitroid. He asked, "Is that so? Tell us, Bunnin." The small pseudoroid explained his plan, which Thomas found to be a very good idea. "Excellent thinking, Bunnin. An attack at night while they're sleeping will be very effective. We'll be able to retrieve Model T and gain Model A without a fight. I think you'll be perfect for this mission, since your stealth skills and ability to

breach any security will come in handy."

Bunnin bowed his head and replied, "Master, I feel honored that you would allow me to handle this task. I promise that you will see this mission end in success."

Thomas nodded and said, "I'll hold you to that, Bunnin. Now everyone, you're dismissed. Get back to retrieving the biometals. I will alert everyone of the megamen you fought." There was no need to get the enemy data from the pseudoroids as Siarnaq, having fought the same megamen, had already uploaded it to the database.

Pyrosaur replied, "Got it, master." Then the pseudoroids left the room and went back to the transerver to teleport to another place on earth where a biometal was detected.

Thomas left his office as well and went to the command center for the purpose of making an important alert message to all his soldiers. When the sage got there, he went to one of the operators responsible for telecommunications and told her, "Leanna, I need you to-"

Before the man could say another word, the operator told him, "Hold up, we got an incoming transmission from Aeolus."

Then the Model H megaman's head appeared on the computer screen. Aeolus reported, "Master Thomas, I've found Model SO (Storm Owl), I'm sending it over to you right now."

The sage commended, "Excellent! Keep finding those biometals until there's not a single one left out there. But first, I need you to listen to what I have to say first."

"Yes master," Aeolus obeyed. The biometal he found came down through the teleport beam in the room as a slime white laser and appeared on the import pad below.

Another operator, across from where the sage was at, said, "Master Thomas, Thetis is contacting us as well."

Thomas made his way over to the other man's side as he said, "Pull him through on your computer. Let's see what he has to say."

After the sage reached the operator's machine, the Model L megaman's smiling face showed up on screen. Thetis notified, "Guess what? I found Model FW (Frost Walrus). You would not believe where it was at. I had to gut a walrus to get it out of its stomach. It's really crazy, huh?"

Thomas agreed, "I suppose it does sound that way." It was pretty strange how the biometal ended up in an animal that matched its motif. He wondered how it got there of all places. Did the walrus have its mouth open just as Model FW flew down to it? "But anyway Thetis, I need you to stay on the line while

you send that biometal over to me. There's something important I need to tell you."

The reploid boy asked, "Huh? What is it?"

After Model FW warped onto the import pad beside Model SO, the sage answered, "You'll see in just a second." Turning his head over to a third operator, he ordered, "Lanette, bring up Atlas, Siarnaq and all of the pseudoroids online. I need to make an announcement with them."

Lanette did as she was told while answering, "Roger sir!" The main computer, which was the big screen on the wall, has its screen changed to a grid showing all the faces of the biometal seekers.

With everyone there to listen, Thomas began the announcement, "Everyone, I need you all to listen carefully. It seems we're being interfered earlier than we thought. By megamen using biometals that we never made."

The sage heard Thetis complaining, "What?! Oh, don't tell me it's these guys again."

Aeolus seemed to guess what the other megaman was thinking and asked, "Master Thomas, these megamen are Models A and X, aren't they?"

Thomas answered, "Your assumption is correct, Aeolus. These are the same megamen behind our problems." He briefed them on every incident that happened today that ended up with the biometals getting away with their new owners.

Atlas was heard huffing before she said, "They may have gotten away from me, but I will get them next time. I swear it!"

Thomas advised, "If you're going to fight them again, I suggest that you don't try to do this alone. You, Siarnaq and Quicksilver attempted this and it ended badly. These megamen have numbers on their side and I suggest you all have this kind of advantage, too. I don't mean bringing lots of mechaniloids with you as those are far weaker than a megaman. You need other pseudoroids and megamen with you to match their strength. Do this and they will certainly be annihilated. Do I make myself clear?"

Everyone replied, "Yes, master!"

The sage said, "Good! I've already made a plan to kill the Model A megamen tonight, so no need to worry about them until then. So instead, we'll just focus on the other megamen and who will take them on." So he devised a strategy with the pseudoroids and megamen on how they will destroy the Model ZX megamen.

Team Vent

June 30, 1:25 PM, Guardian Base, outside the Infirmary

After the Guardians had made it back to the base on time, Dawn was put in the infirmary to get her face wounds treated by Mugeut and Rose. The nurses had put her to an IV machine and used stem cells on her face to restore her flesh. Star was at Fleuve's lab getting repaired by the old dwarf himself, who was aided by the two mechanics, Silure and Anguille. Vent, Aile and Prairie stood in the hallway outside the infirmary; they were all concerned about the attack the injured had suffered. The commander commented, "You sure got here in the nick of time or else Dawn and Star would have been gone."

Vent said with a frown, "This is the second time Dawn got attacked over a biometal today. Now this time, Star got involved in that, too. I'm really worried about this."

Aile had her arms crossed and asked, "What do you suppose they would want with the biometals?" There had to be reason to kill for them, but what was it?

Prairie shook her head and replied, "I don't know, but whatever it is, it definitely can't be good." Once again, the world was at stake and it needed to be saved before the worse happens. She suggested, "We need to search for whatever other biometals that might be out there before Atlas and her friends get to them."

Vent agreed, "Good idea; let's do it now." Then the trio went over to the command center to get the help of the navigators to find the nearest biometal. The navigators input the commands onto their computers to scan the whole world for biometal signals. While the three women worked on finding the locations, Vent and his friends continued to discuss with each other. He pondered, "I wonder if Atlas and the other megamen are acting on their own, or if they're working for someone else now. There was a pseudoroid after Dawn and these four don't look like the type to build robots."

Aile said, "I don't know, Vent. But whatever the case, they got to be stopped. They need to be stopped before someone else like Dawn gets hurt."

Prairie nodded, "Agreed. As long as they're running amok, more people will continue to get hurt. As Guardians, we must put a stop to any and all maverick threats the world faces."

Vent agreed, "Right! As soon as we find out where the biometals, we go out there and get them." The man thought about splitting up the Guardians to make finding all the biometals faster. But he also knew that this idea would not come without risks. He and his girlfriend would have to fight their enemies all by themselves and the Guardian soldiers would have to fight without the Model X megamen on their side. Vent could only hope that they would all manage without a casualty on their side.

The navigators saw many white dots popping up over their radars. The amount they had seen was very

surprising to the point that it made their eyes go wide. Tulip was the only one with a mouth dropped before she announced to her commander, "Commander Prairie, we've discovered the whereabouts of the biometals... Lots of them."

Prairie and the chosen ones turned towards the violet-haired woman. The commander asked, "Lots of them? How many?"

Tulip replied, "I don't know, but they're all scattered around the globe. My estimated guess is that there's like a hundred of them."

Like the navigators, the blonde girl and the brunettes were just amazed by the result that Vent cried, "Whoa!"

Prairie said, "A hundred?! That's really a lot. Who out there would create this many?" She knew it was definitely not her deceased human friend, Ciel, as she only made 6 biometals. At first, she thought that Master Albert had more than just Models A and W. But she quickly ruled him out as there would have been more megamen participants in the Game of Destiny if that was the case. It had to be someone who knew about biometal technology, but who?

"That's a good question," said Vent as if he had read her mind. "Whoever is it, we'll find out as we collect the biometals. They can't be anonymous forever."

Aile added, "And we're going to find out why they made them all, too." The mysterious creator may have some connections to Atlas and the cheetaroid. She wanted to see if they were behind the attacks or not. Did they need help getting their creations or were they sending the bad guys retrieve them?

The blond-haired commander told them, "Okay, we'll make that part of your mission, too. The sooner we do all this, the better our crisis will be solved."

Just then, the alarms started going off as the red light flashed inside the room. There was only one explanation for this; the base was in danger. Gardénia alerted, "Commander Prairie, I spotted a horde of mavericks on my radar. They're all flying towards us on all sides."

The male brunette made a serious frown as he commented, "This is so not our day, is it? We're going to have to fight again this soon and right on our ship."

Aile did not need to smile to try to reassure him as they were affected by the seriousness of the situation. She told him, "Don't worry, we've handled lots of mavericks before. We can kick their butts, too."

Vent replied, "I know that, Aile. But we have wounded kids here. I'm worried that they might get hurt. I'd hate for them to be in danger again." The thought of seeing a bullet get shot through either Dawn or

Star was really nerve-wracking.

His partner said, "I understand that, Vent. Which why you and I are going to end them quickly before it happens. Come on; let's go teach them a lesson."

"Right," Vent replied with a short nod.

Just as the couple turned and were about to head to the elevator, they stopped and looked back when Maguerite was heard alerting, "Wait! I just found something else on the radar." She reported what it was, "There's two pseudoroids out there and there's a biometal signature belonging to Model H. One of our thieves is among the mavericks."

This news got the couple all fired up to go out there and defeat the one in possession of that biometal. Aile spoke the thief's name, "Aeolus!"

Her boyfriend said in determination, "We're going to get back Model H this time. He's had him in his hands for too long. Come on, Aile. Let's go!" Without another word, the couple left the command center and ran to the elevator.

Prairie was heard alerting the Guardians from all the speakers that were placed throughout the base, *"Attention all Guardians, our base is under attack by a large swarm of mavericks. I'm deploying all soldiers to exterminate the mavericks and defend our airship. Get your weapons ready and fight!"*

On the way, the couple saw Guardian soldiers running down the hall to go their stations to defend. A few of them came up beside the couple as one of them said, "Vent, Aile, we're going to help you out."

Vent and Aile smiled at them, happy to receive their aid, and the former of the two replied, "Thanks, guys! With you all on our side, we're going to win this fight together."

After going into the elevator and pressing up to get to the room of the airship, Vent took Model X out of his pocket and the two held onto the biometal before shouting, "MEGAMERGE!" In an instant, they became megamen again. The elevator went all the way to the roof top, where its door opened to let the fighters step out into the battlefield. All around in the sky, there were a great number of mavericks flying around in the sky, approaching the airship with their weapons ready to shoot at its protective surface. Among the horde, there were two particular mavericks that stood out. One was a pink flamingo-like pseudoroid with flames blazing out of the engines in the wings and the other was a large red wyvern-like mechaniloid with bulky wings and horns that were hanging align its jaws.

Just then, a certain green megaman showed up quickly like a speeding jet, all thanks to the high-power boosters in his wings, and stopped immediately, hovering over the Guardians. With the cold cynical look on his face that he always seemed to wear, Aeolus looked down at them and said ever-cool voice, "Model X megamen, we meet again."

The couple glared at their flying enemy as Vent demanded, "Aeolus, give us back Model H now!"

Aeolus scoffed, "And why would I do that, you fool?"

Aile hated to admit it, but she knew that he was right as bad guys would never give up anything so easily. She responded, "Good point, but we're still going to take back the biometal one way or another." All the Guardians had their weapons aimed up at the green megaman.

"We shall see about that," challenged Aeolus as he drew out his twin pink sabers. Without taking his eyes off the Guardians, he told the pseudoroid and mechaniloid, "Blazenix, Spy Larue, to me!" The flamingoroid, whose name was most likely Blazenix, due to her fiery appearance, and the wyvern called Spy Larue flew over to their comrade and hovered on each of his side. Blazenix was on his right and the spy larue was on the left.

Knowing the battle was going to start now, Vent cried, "Everyone, fire now!" The megamen and the soldiers started fire their guns at the three intruders.

Aeolus quickly brought his legs to himself and held his twin sabers cross-ways to shield himself from the bullets, making each shot vanish upon touch, thanks to the eraser ability. His partners however were hit. Despite being damaged, Blazenix just laughed mockingly like it was nothing and said, "Big mistake, boys." Then she shot down a flurry of flaming feathers at the Guardians, making them scream from the burns they suffered. The spy larue also joined in the attack by spewing a fireball that landed in the center of the group and turning into a pillar of a fire tornado upon hitting the ground. The Guardians were sucked into the fiery vortex and they screamed some more in agony as the fires licked them all around. After the fire tornado ended quickly, the Guardians were dropped body-flat back onto the ground, all having scorch marks on their faces, armor and clothes from being burned.

Aeolus sped downwards to Vent with one of his sabers to aiming to stab him. The blue megaman gasped in alert and quickly rolled sideways away to avoid getting impaled like how hunter with a spear does to a fish. Then Vent retaliated by shooting his buster at the green megaman. But Aeolus appeared to have seemingly anticipated the attack as he quickly wiped out the shot with his other saber.

Aile was the first one to get back up as she had her buster charged up to full power before releasing a big blast at Blazenix. The pseudoroid let out an agonized scream from having suffered a powerful hit. The megawoman ran in closer and continued to fire more rounds at the pseudoroid. But then the Spy Larue swooped down at her and grabbed her into its talons. "Wah!" Aile cried as she was taken up off the ground.

Vent saw the wyvern going to take her over the edge of the roof as the woman twisted and struggled to free herself from its grasp. Adrenaline overtook him as he wanted to save the woman he loved before she would fall to her doom. "No!" he shouted and he fired a blast at the Spy Larue's back. The wyvern let

out a screech of pain before it dropped Aile onto the side of the airship, where she rolled off from the round edge of the ship before going into full fall. The megawoman quickly grabbed onto the airship's wall and held on as she slid down.

Just then, she saw some mavericks shooting at the outer wall and window of the room where the infirmary was. A couple of Guardians were there to defend the place and protect Dawn and the nurses. Even though, the megawoman's life was in danger of sliding off the airship and going down into a long fall, it was her duty as a Guardian to put the lives of others before herself. So she stopped struggling for the moment to aim her buster at the attack mavericks and shoot them all down before they could kill one of her comrades or the new megaman. After the mavericks were cleared out, Aile wall-jumped back up to get back into the fight. Suddenly, a laser shot down right in front of her, making Aile halt in her climb and nearly give her a heart attack as she cried, "Whoa!" She looked up behind herself to see the Spy Larue aiming its tail tip at her. That must be where that laser had come from; the wyvern's tail was actually a gun. The megawoman saw a purple light radiating from the tailgun and realized that it was going to fire another laser at her. "Shit!" Aile cursed and she made a rush to get away as the wyvern's second laser shot missed on the spot she stopped at. After getting back to the roof, she found that some maverick grunts entered the fray to help Aeolus and Blazenix destroy the enemies. Vent quickly dispatched some of them with a fully-charged buster shot, while he let the soldiers continue to handle the megaman and pseudoroid duo. Aile finished off the rest of the grunt mavericks with her own charged shot.

1:38 PM, Guardian Base, Command Center

Mavericks hovered in front of the airship's cockpit and fired at the window, letting the cracks from the bullets grow bigger and bigger until holes were formed on the window. Prairie and the navigators had taken cover behind the flight instrument and chairs respectively. The girl and women had their guns ready to fight back in case the mavericks break through eventually. As soon as the holes grew to make a large part of the window shatter, the females shot at the mavericks and destroyed them, letting them fall from the sky. More mavericks showed up to replace the ones that fell. They shot at the Guardians, damaging the chairs and machines, when the bullets could not get past their shields. The women returned the favor with their own bullets, some missing and the others having hit their targets. As the gunfight kept on going, Prairie heard a soldier's voice from the speaker above alerting, *"Commander Prairie, the mavericks have infiltrated the base through the broken window in the bottom hallway. They're coming in! I need back-up!"* The last things heard were a gunshot and the soldier's loud scream from being shot.

The situation was getting bad and it was making Prairie's circuits cold. The hallway the soldier was at was right next to the reactor room. If the mavericks get to that room and destroy the reactor, the Grand Nuage will fall. Prairie needed to do something about this. She thought to send some soldiers or one of

the megamen to deal with the intruders. Knowing that the communication was set to the whole base, she rose up to attack again as she pushed the speaker button to say, "Attention all Guardians! The reactor room is in danger! I repeat, the reactor room is at risk to maverick attack. I need the closest soldiers to down there and defend it immediately!" After she made her call, the commander shouted, "Maguerite, I need you to get me in touch with Vent and Aile now." The spiky-haired navigator shot down a Gyrocutter before getting out from behind the chair to set up the communication link to the Model X megamen. Because she was exposed to the risk of being hurt, one of the mavericks shot her in the shoulder. Maguerite let out a pained cry as she clutched her wound. She hid back behind her chair and resorted to using the other arm to shoot with. The navigator's attempt was a success as Prairie ducked down behind the flight instrument to avoid the counterattacks and spoke to her best fighters, "Vent, Aile, I need one of you at the reactor room to defend it. The mavericks have broken into the hallway and they might destroy our energy source next."

Team Vent

1:43 PM, Guardian Base, rooftop

Vent and his Guardian group continued to fight against Aeolus, Blazenix and Spy Larue. More mavericks had joined in the fight, wounding two soldiers as a result. Aeolus had sliced off the head of one of the soldiers, which rolled over the edge of the roof and fell. The decapitated Guardian had static electricity buzzing out of the neck wound as the body dropped. The remaining Guardian soldiers had to take the wounded inside the base to prevent them from dying defenseless. It was now 2 against 3 as Vent and Aile were the only ones left for the time being to fight their enemies. Aile had a charged shot fired out at Aeolus, who zipped out of the way of the attack. The Spy Larue behind him was left to take the full brunt of the shot on one of its wings, destroying the engine inside that enabled half of its flight. Unable to rely on only one remaining wing for flight, the Spy Larue became grounded as it fell on its feet. Blazenix took up her whip and tried to lash it at Vent, but he dashed out of the way before he could get hit. Her second attack, which was firing more of her flaming feathers, however was a success as they struck and burned the blue megaman. As Vent was bearing the heat, both he and his girlfriend heard Prairie telling them about the mavericks near the reactor room. The man was alarmed as he said, "What?! They're over there? Hang on; I'll let Aile go take care of them."

Without taking her eyes off the enemy she was shooting at, Aile cautioned him seriously, "Vent, are you sure about this? I mean if I go down there, you'll be left all alone to take them on yourself."

"I know," Vent said, understanding fully well of the situation. "But somebody has to go down there and protect that room. Don't worry about me; I'll fine against them. You just do your thing. Besides, the others will be back to back me up."

The megawoman was doubtful about his decision, but she decided to trust him on his word and took the

elevator all the way to the bottom-most level of the base. There, she saw a whole hallway of Guardians and mavericks fighting each other with destroyed bodies of both sides lying on the ground. She wondered if the fighting took place in the reactor room as well. Aile made her way through the hallway, shooting down every maverick that was on her path or trying to attack her. After she reached the door, she went inside the reactor room to check on it. To her relief and gladness, the room was untouched. The soldiers were successful in defending this very important place. Knowing that they have done well so far, Aile decided to head back to the roof and rejoin the battle. Immediately after she left the room, a green fly-like pseudoroid with red bug eyes flew into the hallway and brought two hands together to clap and emit a shock wave that threw both Guardians and mavericks against the glass walls. Guardians that were unfortunate to get flung out the holes in the glass would fall to their deaths. The mavericks however would just fly right back in. The pseudoroid, whose voice was a bit high-pitched, cheered, "On yeah! Stormfly the Dipteroid is here to screw things up for you losers. Good thing I spotted this airship in the sky and told everybody about it." Aile looked at him in realization; he was the reason why the Grand Nuage was being attacked now. The jammers inside the base would prevent anyone from sensing its location, but it was not immune to being sighted. Then he looked to the reactor room's door and said, "Ooh, what's this energy I'm sensing? Is that the airship's reactor? Tee hee! I get to send this whole place crashing down."

Taking the threat very seriously, Aile aimed her X-buster at the dipteroid and yelled, "Not on my watch!"

Stormfly just chuckled at her and said, "Silly girl, you can't stop me." He turned around, showing his back at her and released dark gray clouds out of his thick, round tail. The clouds gassed over to Aile, who gasped quietly and brought her arms up for defense. She thought the clouds were just toxic gas that would harm her upon contact. But she felt nothing when she was surrounded inside them. It was like this at first until she was struck by lightning from the clouds. The megawoman let out a blood-curdling scream before she dropped to the floor badly hurt. Stormfly was able to get into the room easily without any resistance in the way.

As Aile was recovering on the ground, she heard one of the soldiers yell, "No, he's going to destroy the reactor! Stop him!" She saw the Guardians rushing past her through the door. Following them were the mavericks and they had turned their sights on Aile. They opened fire on her, pelting the megawoman with bullets. She endured the pain she received as she forced herself up. Then she shot and destroyed them in retaliation before she went into the reactor room to help her comrades defend it.

Immediately after going through the door, she found her comrades being blown back against the wall by a very powerful wind that Stormfly must have created. The pseudoroid hovering close to the Ciel energy system that was the reactor. Even worse was that there were storm clouds surrounding it. Stormfly triumphantly beamed, "Bye bye!" Then the clouds shot out lightning to destroy the reactor.

"No!" Aile shouted in defeat. She was too late and she failed her task. The reactor was destroyed and there was smoking coming out of it. The room became dark as red lights started flashing and the alarms were set off all around the base.

1:47 PM, Guardian Base, Command Center

Prairie and the navigators saw the lights flashing and the alarms ringing. The way it was happening gave them a sinking feeling that it could mean only one thing: the reactor has been destroyed. The airship started to fall as the women saw the clouds moving up past them. Prairie cried, "No! We've lost the Grand Nuage! We have to get out of here now!" The females ran out the door to make their way to the transerver, but not before the commander activated the emergency descent system, which would allow the airship remain leveled evenly as it fell and for the transerver to work. But this would only last temporarily as the emergency generator was lesser in power compared to the Ciel energy system. And even then, the airship would still crash before it reached its time limit. Then she contacted the whole base the bad news, "Attention all Guardians! Our base's reactor has been destroyed. We must abandon ship immediately."

Team Vent

1:47 PM, Guardian Base, rooftop

Since Aile left to go defend the reactor, the number of combatants between the Guardians and the mavericks had shrunken. The Spy Larue had been destroyed with its tail separated by the X-buster's shot first, the engine in one of its wings broken and its head completely blown off by Vent's super charged buster shot. Aeolus and Blazenix were now left without their support. Vent, however, got it the worst as all his comrades were lying on the roof dead, having been killed by Aeolus's blades, Blazenix's fire and the Spy Larue's lasers. The injured blue megaman was kneeling on one knee as he was covered in burns and cuts on his armor pieces, his core body and his blue vest. His two remaining foes were also wounded; both suffered bullet wounds that they failed to dodge or defend against. But unfortunately, they were not in the same level of hurt as Vent was as they were still flying. Vent sure wished that Aile was back here now, so that together they would finish these two off before they killed him. Just then, a green fly-like pseudoroid flew up from the side of the airship. The blue megaman gritted his teeth in dismay to find that he would have another maverick to fight, one who was in full health to make his problem more difficult. "Tch!"

The new pseudoroid went up to his comrades and happily said, "Hey guys, guess what? I destroyed the ship's reactor! Now we're going to see these guys go crashing down and explode! KABOOM!!!"

Vent's eyes widened dreadfully in alarm. The Guardian's main base of operations was gone and the crew's lives were in danger. He needed to get back inside now before the fall would throw him off.

Despite his pain, the megaman forced himself to get up and went through the door that was right behind him. The airship began to drop with the dead Guardians' bodies' flying off. Blazenix was pleased with the flyroid and said, "Perfect, Stormfly! Now we'll be rid of most of our enemies. So did you get the biometals Model R and B first?"

Stormfly felt stupid for not thinking about taking back the biometals before the crash and answered, "Er... no?"

Aeolus glared at him and scolded, "You idiotic fool! You just set the biometals up to do be destroyed."

Stormfly held his up open-palmed and apologized, "I'm sorry! I didn't mean for that to happen, I swear!"

The green megaman to forgive him just this once and looked down to the falling airship. He sighed, "It's too bad we lost the biometals we came here to retrieve, but at least we will have victory in destroying all of our enemies. The biometals are just a small loss; there are many others that we can still retrieve."

Team Vent

1:48 PM, Guardian Base, top floor

Vent could feel the base falling as he felt like he was going to fly up into the ceiling. He pushed the Up button on the wall to bring the elevator up to his level. He heard Prairie's announcement to the whole base, "*Attention all Guardian! Our base's reactor has been destroyed. We must abandon ship immediately.*" The megaman hoped that everyone who survived the attack would make it out alive. He waited patiently for several minutes as the elevator was taking its time getting all the survivors in to transport them to the floor where the transerver was.

Eventually, the elevator came to him and standing on its platform was Aile, who came to get him. She beckoned him, "Hurry Vent, get on!"

The megaman did so and his girlfriend pushed the holographic button to go down. As the elevator descended to the next floor, Vent asked, "So did everyone get out alive? What about Dawn and Star?"

Aile nodded and confirmed, "Everyone's safe. They had Dawn and Star on the stretchers to carry to the transerver."

Vent smiled as he was glad the new megamen were safe. "That's good! Now we just need to get out of here." The elevator stopped at the selected floor and the couple ran to the transerver room for safety. Aile let her boyfriend rest on her with his arm around her neck and shoulders and the megawoman holding his butt to support him. They staggered their way to the transerver room and went inside to

stand on the transerver's pad. Aile dialed the coordination for the Guardians' other base and let the transerver transport them there.