## Of Machines and Dragons

by Xenny Diemes

A bright flash beamed down into yet another abandoned site far from an "alien" city somewhere in the outskirts of the agency's jurisdiction. Out from the beam of light, emerges a tall, muscular figure. Tail swaying in the air of the new world and her muscles tensed to relieve herself of the slight discomfort of the ride across universes. It's Evelynn, and she is on mission to a world that isn't familiar to beings from other realities, but the fear of someone seeing a tall, hulking dragoness is the last of her problems. The reason for her being there is to stop a possible terrorist attack on the people of this world and it involves the use of heavy mechas and weapons at a payload big enough to decimate a small city. Looking around for any signs of life, she looks to her Realmengine to seek out the details and the mission objective is clear. A faction known as Seventh Eye has stolen a convoy of Solterran Military mechas and vanished.

The mission is to find the members of Seventh Eye and stop whatever they are going to use those mechas for. Before she can close up, Evelynn is startled by the presence of another man and before she could aim her pistol, he stops her and easily showed his biobadge. He identified himself as Doc Winston, her temporary backup for the mission. Doc is a normally-built human but also a highly experienced military officer sent to meet Evelynn for support and if needed, kill the members. Doc does take a moment to be proud of working alongside the renowned and infamous Dr. Runeflame. To which Evelynn reacts to his saying of "infamous" with a cold expression in her face at the soldier. Doc, nearly intimidated by her size and cold stare apologizes and doesn't mean what she thinks it means. She then backs away and tells him to concentrate on the mission. She didn't want to go into the details but her guess is of him knowing that she had to re-earn the agency's trust to put her back in action. Using special devices, the duo have found the special space that is cloaked from prying eyes and it is huge. Evelynn looks to Doc and asks if he is ready. Doc says he does but with a quick quip about her being a doctor and the oath of "do no harm". Evelynn then looks back with a smile and tells him that she is clad that she's not that kind of doctor.

With a verbal command, Evelynn can feel the surge throughout her body like a rush of pleasure mixed

with pain. It's the infamous "hulk mode" she's going through as a result of her hypernites flowing through her veins and doing their incredible job on her body. Doc watches as every muscle in her body swelled and widened making an already tall dragon even taller. Hearing the clothes stretch and tense did make Doc step back a bit to give her room. Evelynn has curled herself down before she got back up to spread her now tremendously thicker arms and heavier bust line that bounces under the spandex-like material. Now talking a slightly deeper tone, she readies her gun and tells Doc to stay back, not because she doesn't have confidence but needs the time to do some damage. Thirty seconds is all that she asks and against his better judgment, he agrees and waits. Evelynn then charges with full speed, smashing through the thick, metal doorways with her great bulk and stops immediately. She would have expected a building full of armaments just sitting around but instead, she fell right into an open attack.

At the thirty second mark, Doc is ready to go in but, then his way in gets flooded with heavy gunfire and missiles flying at him. He quickly dodges out-of-the-way and can't imagine what has happened to Evelynn. Meanwhile Evelynn with clothes torn and bruises litter her body where it should have been pierced by high powered bullets. If her wasn't for her hulk mode, she would have been severely injured or dead. Evelynn does what she does best and overwhelms the mighty mechas with her own nano-muscles that flex and exploded wildly whenever she needs it. But then she ends up facing a much larger and heavier looking machine that smashes her down into the ground. She has never seen before, the pilot, who is also their leader tells her that it's a model that is meant for her own agency but he'll be happy to demonstrate on her. Evelynn lifts up the massive metal fist off the ground, only to be swept to the side and slammed up against the wall. The mutual heavy-duty beat-downs between dragon and machine only seem to wear down Evelynn and the pilot without breaking a sweat. Doc recovering from some shots looks back in and can see Evelynn in trouble.

Being the quick shot that he is, Doc rushes in and fires all that he can into the canopy where the pilot it. But even his most powerful focus bullets didn't stand up against the transparent titanium of the cockpit and fires a missile at the agent. Doc runs but the missile hits just close of him and is sent flying, landing on his head and is out like a light. Turning to a downed Evelynn, the pilot throws his fist down right for her skull and quickly, instinctively, the dragoness yells "Stop!" to the machine. And it did, just an inch from the tip of the muzzle. She doesn't know it but the giant mech obeys and stands back up. The pilot struggles to regain control

but the interface changes and reformats itself to be under her control. Evelynn doesn't know it herself but her hypernites are exercising a hidden feature unleashed in that moment of eminent death: She can control machines, actually "talk" to them. She then talks to the machine and the other mechas to eject the other pilots as well and they did. One by one each mech threw their pilots out and then turned their guns at them instead of Evelynn. Doc recovers from the knockout and sees the mechas now turned against their masters and controlled by Evelynn sporting glowing blue eyes instead of the golden yellow she had before.

Evelynn sees Doc recovering and is happy that he is alive. But then she asks to call a lay team to recover the mechas and arrest the group. Moments, later the lay team arrives to arrest the group and reclaim the remaining mechas. Doc asks Evelynn about the glowing blue eyes and wonders about what blue eyes. That's when she looks into a rusted reflective surface and sees them before they change back into their former color. She realizes that her own body was acting as a transmitter to the mechas, that's why they were acting under her control. It has been a while since she has used the given power of technomancy over such machines, tonight's experience is just a taste of and old feeling coming back.