

Team Grey

July 1, 10:37 AM, Mountain bike trail

In the wooden mountains, a large bipedal dragon mechaniloid without wings was stomping through the forest. Its leg joints clank with every step. Animals who heard it would freeze in alarm for the moment, locate the direction of where the sounds were coming from, and then flee for safety to get away from what they think is their natural predator. A tree that was in its way was mindlessly knocked over with its roots separated from the ground that once homed it. It fell onto the trail path next to the patrolling mechaniloid looking for unwanted intruders in its claimed turf. High on a cliff above the mechanical beast stood Grey in the form of Aeolus. He was looking down at it, watching its every movement like a hawk anticipating when to strike its prey. The walkie-talkie he had in his hand sounded with Spice's voice, *"Is it in position yet?"*

The boy held it to his face and responded, "Yeah, right in front of me."

Spice said, *"Good! Let's take down the big guy!"*

"Got it!" The communication shut off and Grey put away the device. The boy leapt off the cliff and flew down towards the mechaniloid with the jet engines in his wings flashing pink flat beams. He drew out his dual sabers and yelled as he slashed them across the dragon's head. The mechaniloid roared out in pain as it stumbled backward, trampling plants in its wake. Then Spice came out of her hiding place and fired her buster at the gem in the center of its chest. It let out a hurt growl before it opened its mouth and spewed down a laser beam. Spice ran away from the oncoming attack destroying trees in its way before she shifted to her wolf form for faster fleeing. While the mechaniloid was distracted, Ashe got out of her place and fired a couple of homing shots into its back. The beast stopped and turned around to see its attacker, but then its eyes were two small tornados, shattering the glass and ruining its camera vision.

The mechaniloid aimlessly blew out its laser beam everywhere, trying to hit all of its enemies, but it missed the megaman, who did their best to avoid getting hit by moving out of the way, and damaged the environment instead. The mechaniloid roared and stomped forward with an increased pace, stomping in rage. Grey towards its chest and then A-transed into Thetis. He yelled as he held his spear with two hands while falling towards the chest gem he was aiming for. He thrust down the spear, piercing the hard glass and destroying the main system behind it. Explosions started combusting around its body; the dragon was self-destructing. Grey removed the spear and A-trans back into Aeolus to quickly fly away. Spice said to Ashe, "Let's scat, girl!"

Ashe replied, "You don't have to tell me twice!" She A-tranched into Argoyle, so that she would keep up with or outrun the purple wolf. Either way, at least she would be safe from getting caught in the fiery wave of doom that was the giant explosion that would follow at the end. The mechaniloid went boom as a bright flash of light shown from its combustion. The light quickly dimmed as fast as it appeared. The megagirls stopped and turned to see the broken remains of the dragon bot; its body lied collapsed beneath the burning trees and some of its debris were scattered. The mechaniloid's eyes were completely dim, no longer having any electric power to shine the lights behind them.

Grey descended down next to the megagirls; all three had successfully escaped the blast. Spice shifted to her megaman form and cheered with a clenched fist of victory, "Hell yeah, we did it!"

Ashe was just as happy, "We're so going to make a ton of money from this!" She could go on a shopping spree, buying the things she wants.

Spice, on the other hand, was thinking about all the important supplies and tools she could buy for her search for Siarnaq. She told her underlings, "Alright kids, let's gather what we can that sticks out and take them to the guild!" They dismantled the dragon and searched through its carcass for vital parts to take as proof of the beast being dead and recyclable parts that can be turned in for extra cash.

Team Grey

July 1, 11:04 AM, Vernal, Downtown

The trio walked through town with the few grands of EC they got from the local Hunters Guild. Grey said, "So many crystals, that guild really wanted the maverick dead." He and Ashe usually never get this amount from their missions, so naturally, he was amazed by how big the reward they got was.

Spice replied, "No duh! That maverick's been destroying anyone that goes there. Even the local militia couldn't put it down. We just saved a state park from closing its doors." Many people, both civilians and fighters who tried to terminate it, had their lives lost to this robotic fiend. Not even the wildlife that lived in or near the park were spared. The city had to close the park to the public and raise the reward so high in hopes of getting an exceptional fighter, like the very 3

megamen themselves, to destroy it or at least a fool desperate for cash in hopes that they would be lucky enough to do the same.

Ashe smiled with glee, "Boy, if the newspeople were around, they'd make heroes on TV for it!" She could see it; the online news articles, the TV news channels, the magazines, the social medias' reactions, and the content creators on video sites talking about them with all sorts of praises. They would be the talk of the town for days.

Grey did not share her enthusiasm, "Well I'm glad they're not around. I don't think I can handle being the center of this kind of attention." It was something akin to stage fright for him. There were going to be tens of thousands, if not way more so, of eyes all on him and he was afraid he might embarrass himself in some way like unintentionally saying something weird or wrong or if some kind of funny incident happened to him during the recording. Then he brought up their finances, "So what are we going to do with all this money? We still have a lot of our supplies. Are we going to buy some extras or save it all for later?"

His ponytailed friend said, "I know what I'm going to buy! New clothes, sweets & drinks, or a new video game! There's the new Genvolt game I want to play." She was eager to go on a shopping spree and wear the latest fashion in style. She would also love to try whatever unique candies, baked goods and tasty-looking drinks the local shops had.

Spice warned, "Don't you dare spend all of that money! I don't know how long we're going after Siarnaq and I want to have enough cash to buy traps and refill our stuff."

Ashe promised with an unfazed smile, "Don't worry, I'll be really careful not to indulge myself too much." However, Grey was not confident that his friend would conserve as much EC needed for their quest. Neither was Spice in that she still had her doubtful scowl on the ponytailed girl. Maybe the purplette's suspicions were wrong, but did not know the girl long enough, so things could either go bad or turn out fine. So help her, that she will punch this perky teen if she wastes their funds. Ashe began to walk away to some shopping and then she saw a hair salon close by. "Ooh, a salon! I need a hair wash. I haven't had one in two weeks. Be right back!" Then she went into the hair salon.

The woman said to the boy, "I'm going to the library to hit the web. See if I can find traces of Siarnaq online like his new address or anyone he's killed." She walked off to go to look for a library or any other kind of place that lets one use the computer for free.

Grey called after her, "I guess I'll just wait here and let Ashe know where you are."

After the woman was far away, Model A, who was residing in the boy's pocket, spoke, "Looks like it's just you and me, Grey. What are we going to do to pass the time? I don't want to sit around here doing nothing."

The boy scratched his head, unsure of what good or fun idea he can think of. He said, "I dunno. What do you feel like doing?"

The biometal hummed in thought, trying to figure out what leisure would be interesting. He suggested, "Maybe we can crack some jokes to each. Here's mine!" Then he began to tell his joke, "A bunch of chess players check into a hotel and stand in the lobby talking about their tournament victories. Later, the manager comes out of his office and tells them to break it up. 'But why?' they asked. He says, 'Because I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!'"

Grey chuckled at that one and commented, "Heh heh, good one!"

"I know, right? I cracked myself up with that!" the biometal responded proudly of himself. "Now let's hear yours, Grey. Make me laugh!"

The boy looked above and prodded his chin with a finger, pondering his thoughts as to what kind of joke he can tell. "Well uh... give me a minute." Grey was always a serious person, too serious for his own good if one asked his friends, and never one to initiate any kind of fun. Was it even possible for him to amuse someone?

July 1, 11:53 AM, Vernal, Hair salon

After entering the salon, getting assigned to a purple-haired hairdresser, and getting her hair washed, Ashe was now getting her hair blow-dried. During so, the two were having a conversation about the huntress's past adventures. The girl was about to finish telling the tale of one of her recent episodes, "So after we beat the creepy ninja guy again and saved Spice, she was shocked to find out it was her friend. So she joined us and now we're on an adventure to look for him and find out why he tried to kill her."

The amazed hairdresser replied, "My, you sure go on a lot of dangerous adventures. That's pretty impressive for someone your age!" Most hunters were adults; it was uncommon for

teenagers to take up the job as many of them were focused on education or working minimum wage jobs. This client here was no ordinary girl.

Ashe smiled at the comment, "Heh heh, thanks! The job sure makes a lot of money. I'd be going on a big spending spree if Spice didn't keep a tight leash on the funds. She really wants to find Siarnaq badly."

The woman responded sympathetically, "Oh, that's too bad. Well, maybe I can help you get more money."

The girl's interest piqued and she listened intently after asking, "Really? You can do that for me?" Some extra EC would give her more goodies to buy, hopefully without a certain purplette repleid complaining about it.

"Yes," answered the hairdresser. "Last night, I saw something falling down from the sky onto the island. I don't know if it's a meteorite or what, but maybe you guys should check it out and see what it is. The guild here might reward you some crystals if it's eligible for it."

Ashe was pleased with this info as it meant another hunting adventure and possibly more cash. "Wow thanks! I'm going to tell the others this after you're done with my hair."

The hairdresser smiled cheerfully, very glad to be of use to this adventurous girl. "Anytime, miss! I hope you be safe out there."

Team Grey

July 1, 11:59 AM, Vernal, Downtown

"Booooo, Grey," Model A decried like he was watching a horrible performance on stage. "That's another lame joke you came up with. It's like you don't have a funny bone in your body."

Grey asked, "Do repleids even have bones?" He knew that a human skeleton and repleid structural skeleton were different as bones were organic and the metal parts, whatever they were called, were just metal.

The biometal criticized, "You know what I mean! You don't have what it takes to be a comedian. You need to work on your sense of humor, buddy."

The boy felt insulted by the remark as he replied with rolling eyes, "Well gee, sor-ry. It's not like everyone can be a clown like you, you know." So what if he was not the funniest person on the planet. At least he can do other things the biometal cannot do like fight and exposed corrupt singers. He was still glad about ruining Justin Bieber for Model A.

"Whatever," Model A said, not wanting to drive the conflict even further. "Maybe you'll get it someday. I mean you still got a lot of years ahead of you. Just live life, get some experience & perspective and maybe you can finally say something that makes me laugh."

Grey responded, "You say that as if you lived a long life yourself, Model A."

The biometal would grin if he had a mouth, "Hey, maybe I just have a natural talent for it. It helps to be lively, you know. Anyway, here's another funny story from me. Once, there was a super-huge Donald Duck fan. He loved watching the guy on TV, worshipped him, fantasized about him, and even craved him." The final 3 words came out in a sultry tone.

"Huh?!" Grey was surprised by the last part. He felt that there was something off about it, like the creepiness of it or something.

Model A continued, "He had a whole lot of merchandise and fanarts of him. Donald Duck was everything to him. Anybody who said something bad about the duck got hit with angry comments from him. One girl even got sad, crying and left the internet because of him. Then one day, he posted a meme online saying how great the DD was and that no one was allowed to roast him. Guess what happened?"

"What?" asked the boy.

Model A was about to answer with the internet community, tired of his manchildish shit, responded with all kinds of creative insults about Donald, including a picture of the duck himself cooked on a spit over a campfire with the words "Roasted Duck," and then the super fan getting angry while spewing the character's iconic squawking and engaging in a flame war with the trolls before one of them made a comment that enraged him the most that caused him to combust into flames along with the Donald Duck costume he was in.

But then Ashe came out of the hair salon with some news, “Hey guys, the hairdresser said that something fell over at some ruins on an island. This could be our next booty! Where’s Spice?”

Grey answered, “She said she was going to a library.”

Model A said, “Another treasure hunt already? You’re looking for extra EC to spend, aren’t you?” Not that he was complaining or anything. It was fine if she wanted to go.

The girl grinned, “You read my mind! Now let’s go look for Spice and get her in on this.”

Just as the girl turned around to start making her way, Grey said as a matter-of-factly, “You know she’s just going to make you save some of those crystals we’ll get from this, right?”

Ashe turned back to him and shook her finger sternly as she warned, “Don’t’ jinx this, Grey!”

The boy apologized, “Sorry!” Then Model A flew into his pocket before the pair went on their way to look for a library, whichever one in town has Spice.

July 1, 12:05 PM, Vernal, Library

For nearly an hour, Spice had been browsing the web for whereabouts and news of Siarnaq. She had found a home address, but there was no doubt that it was outdated and likely abandoned due to the secrecy of ninjas, especially those of the assassin type. Spice’s assassin squad used to have a hideout with its location unknown to the public and the government before her boss disbanded the team out of guilt for Siarnaq’s apparent death. But other than the one address the woman found, there was nothing else about her old friend she could find. No news articles, no social media accounts, nothing. Not even when she used a search engine to dig up websites that related to the keywords “masked purple maverick with scarf and glowing red eyes,” or changing “maverick” to “man” in the search box, could see even find anything about him.

The long fruitless search was really frustrating Spice. She cursed, “Damn it! This guy really gets this ninja thing to a T! How am I supposed to find a damn clue about him?!” To be fair, an assassin does need to be very good at keeping all his tracks covered and that was one of the key traits of her former assassin squad. Siarnaq was really good at his job, being the best out of everyone in that area. The woman just wished that she had luck on her side for this one.

While Spice continued her difficult hunt, Grey and Ashe have entered the library and went to look for their fellow hunter. They soon spotted her over at the computer section as the girl pointed to the purplette and said, "Look, there she is." They walked over to her and Ashe asked, "Hey Spice, what you doing?"

The woman turned her head to them and answered, "I'm looking for Siarnaq, what do you think? I can't find anything good to track him down. All I got is his old address and I doubt that's going to do jack shit for me." The tone was not directed at the girl, but rather at the predicament she was in.

Ashe suggested, "Well, at least that's something. Why not go to that place? Could be worth a try."

Spice did not have any hope in this advice, but unfortunately, the little bit of information was all she got and she was getting burnt out from browsing too much. Wanting to call it quits for now and hoping that she might lucky if it turns out that Siarnaq does visit his old place sometimes, the woman said, "Alright fine, but I still think it's going to be a waste of time. The guy doesn't live there no more."

"Maybe," Ashe responded. She brought in some optimism to motivate the woman, "But hey, you never know when it might surprise you."

Grey brought up the one thing they came here for and what his friend seemed to forgot, "Anyway Spice, Ashe said that she wanted to go check out this island. Said something fell over there and it might be treasure."

The girl pleaded with an eager grin, "Pretty please? It'll be extra money just for me and that way, we won't have to use what we got from the giant maverick to spend on my things."

Spice thought some extra money would do good for their budget. "Alright fine, you can keep that money as long as you didn't go crazy with what he had."

Ashe gave a reassuring smile, "Relax, I only spent some on a hair wash. And that was only a small portion of our budget. No biggie!"

Spice closed the browser, logged off the computer and got out of the chair as she asked, "So where is this island anyway?"

Grey answered, "I dunno. I guess we got to ask around."

The woman got a different idea though as she went back to the computer, "Eh, I'll just look it up online." She did not want to be bothered with looking for someone who might know, knowing she would be wasting time with people who had no clues.

Team Grey

July 1, 12:36 PM, Island ruins

After looking up the island's location, the hunters took an Uber driver to the coast and then took a water taxi to the island. The island was once an ancient naval base from the maverick wars, but then it got destroyed during the Elf Wars. The trio saw the parts of the buildings broken here and there, all the windows were busted, and debris sitting at the foot of the buildings. Many of the ships were also in the state of disrepair and sunken partway into the ocean. Grey notes the wide area of the island, "This place is vast, it's going to take a while to find this thing."

Ashe suggested, "We can always split up and check different corners to make this search faster. Do you say?"

Spice agreed to the plan, "Sounds fine by me. I just hope it's worthwhile." This fallen object better not be worthless when they get it appraised by the guild. She hates it when an artifact turns out to give little to no value. The trio went separate ways to search for the supposed treasure. Grey went to the left, Ashe went forward and Spice took the right side.

The boy took Model A out of his pocket and megamerged, "A-trans!" He became Thetis, so that he would have item-finding senses to make the hunt easier. Meanwhile, Spice went around a destroyed building and then went to check all around the soldiers' quarters to see if the object was anywhere near its premise.

Ashe climbed up the debris to get to the top of a building and then stood on top of whatever was left of its roof. She surveyed the land around her to see if she could find the object this way. There was nothing in particular in her sight. Then she took out her binoculars to see further down the distance and to check for any small unusual things she might have missed the first

time. She spotted a small hole on a roof and it seemed quite peculiar. There was no other detail like that at the naval ruins. The girl did not know what kind of weapon would make an attack like that, considering heavy damages the rest of the base took. But she did suspect one thing; what if the fallen object fell through there. Ashe leaped off the building and safely landed on the ground before making her way to the far building.

After failing to find anything around the quarters, Spice went on to the next spot. But then she saw something unusual; she spotted some mechaniloids, all with green lights flashing, indicating nonaggressiveness, patrolling the area. Security bots here? Why are they here? This place is supposed to be completely abandoned and empty, so no military secrets here. What on earth could they be protecting? Spice noticed that they all seemed to be looking for something. Were they here for the falling object like she was? She cannot let that happen if that was the case. She took out her walkie-talkie and contacted the teens, "Guys, we got security mechaniloids here."

She heard one of them, she was not sure who, asking in a voice that belonged to one of their A-trans forms, "*Security? Why?*"

The woman answered, "Dunno, but I think they might be after this treasure we're looking for. Ashe, you better hurry your ass and get to that thing before they do if you want your money." Then she added a word of caution, "Also, don't let them see you."

The girl was heard saying in confident determination, "*Some competition, huh? Well, I won't let them take that booty away from me, because I'm getting to it first!*" Then she cut the line off.

Grey, the one who A-transed, said, "*Guess I better help fast.*" Then he shut off connection and Spice followed suit. The woman left the area with the mechaniloids out of their sight, so that she would not get into any conflict with them.

Elsewhere, Ashe snuck by a moving myterys and then made her way all the way to the building she was looking for, which was right by edge of the island, and went inside. She went through the hallways, looking around for anything out of place like the hole she saw and the object that made it. The girl soon came to a large & spacious room with some big pools where the submarines used to be, and found the same small hole in the ceiling. Conveniently right below it was the fallen object the hairdresser said she saw last night. Ashe smiled and said, "Oh sweet!" She took out her walkie-talkie and contacted the others, "Guys! I think I found the fallen booty! Meet me at the submarine house; it's got a small hole on its roof."

Back outside, Grey responded on his walkie-talkie, "We're on our way, Ashe!" Then he put the device away and A-trans to Queenbee to gain some altitude before transforming again into Vulturon for a quicker flight. Unbeknownst to him, a spying animal-like figure had been watching him and listening onto his conversation.

Elsewhere, Spice had megamerged into her beast form to mask her identity when spotted by the security mechaniloids so that she would not get into trouble with the law. But little did she know, some of these robots were going to the same place she was. It was not until 3 minutes later that she heard the faint sounds of movements in a distance behind her and then turned corner around a small remaining piece of a tower. The wolf waited, hiding behind it to see who or what was following her. She spotted the mechaniloids moving around the tower wall like she did. This confirmed her suspicion that she was being followed. Spice zipped at them with her claws cutting the whole group down. With the security bots dead, the wolf resumed her search for the building her ponytailed lackey was in.

Back at the submarine house, Ashe walked towards the thing and upon closer look, she said, "Lookie here, it's another biometal." It was red with a yellow V on it. She picked up the power-granting device and rubbed her chin, looking at it in thought. "Hmm... I wonder if I should turn it in or keep it for myself." Money is nice and all, but having another biometal on hand would be quite useful since she and Grey have only one to share, which was Model A and he could not be in two places at once. So if they have two biometals, then one of them will not have to worry about being unarmored and weak with just their handgun when each had one to megamerge with. Come to think of it, the latter sounded much nicer. Ashe can always just look for another booty when the opportunity presents itself. For now, she just waited for her friends to get here so that she could tell them what she planned to do with it.

A while later, both Grey and Spice, now in their regular megaman forms, showed up to meet the girl. The boy said, "We're here, Ashe!"

Ashe replied, "Oh good, I got something to show you." After the pair got near enough to her, she revealed to the biometal.

The duo looked at it in surprise as Grey spoke, "A biometal, so that's what it was?"

The girl smiled, "Yep, and I'm going to keep it so that way I'll have something to megamerge with when Model A's not around."

Spice stroked her chin and mused, "Hmm, Siarnaq and those three pseudoroids were looking biometals, right?" Ashe looked at her warily, hoping the woman was not going to take away her new biometal for something. Spice had an idea, "I say we use it as bait to lure him out and nab him."

Grey commented, "That could work."

Ashe asked, "But can I at least keep it until then?"

The woman permitted, "Yeah sure, just don't lose it."

"Sweet!" cheered Ashe, happy that she still had her rights to her prize. She looked at the biometal in her hand and continued, "I think I'm going to give this baby a test drive before we leave." She raised the biometal into the air and shouted, "Mega-" Suddenly, a mechadragon zipped and snatched the device out of her hand. The girl looked at her now-empty hand with an astonished expression, "Huh?!"

"What?!" Grey cried as he was just as shocked, while Spice was gritting her teeth peeved that one of the security mechaniloids made it here.

"Looking for this?" asked a feminine feline-like voice. They turned to the speaker and saw that she was a light blue lynx-like pseudoroid accompanied by many various mechaniloids all flashing red lights of combat mode. In one of her paws was the very biometal that Ashe had found.

The girl yelled at her, "Hey, give it back!"

Spice demanded with a clenched fist, "Yeah, that thing is ours!"

The pseudoroid declined, "No can do, that thing is actually ours; we're the real owners and we're just taking it back."

Spice argued, "Yeah, well we need this thing now to find my friend. So hand it over!" The lynx freak can get the biometal back later after they find Siarnaq and see what is up with him.

The pseudoroid would smirk if her metal face would. "You'll have to beat us first," she challenged. Then she pointed at the trio and ordered, "Mechaniloids, attack!" The galleon hunters fired their busters, the mechadragons charged for ramming attacks, the galleon assaults rushed with their blades, and skull anchors unleashed their tentacles to catch and freeze in ice.

“Ack!” Grey cried as his adrenaline circuits charged for him to fight and then he fired his dual hand busters at the mechaniloids, while dodging the skull anchors’ tentacles. Spice evaded one of the galleon assaults’ downwards swing before she swiped her claws at them & the incoming mechadragons and then do a roundhouse kick at another galleon assault. Then she swiped at one of a skull anchor’s tentacles to sever it. Ashe shot at two of the mechadragons before she ducked below a third one. One of the galleon hunter’s bullets found its way into her left arm and she let out a pained cry. Grey continued to return fire as he gave a quick look back at his friend and urged her, “Ashe, take Model A’s power!” The girl beared with the pain as she ran over to him. Another bullet shot into her lower right abdomen, breaking the metal exoskeleton and causing blood to ooze out. The angry Ashe fired a bullet into the offending galleon hunter’s head and killed it. Its body fell down as electricity cackled out of its damaged head.

The girl made it to her friend’s side and then he held out his hand to her without letting go of the gun he held. She grabbed onto it and cried, “Megamerge!” She became a megaman, which stopped the bleeding as her body became fully mechanical. She evaded a skull anchor’s tentacle and fired homing shot at it, destroying it.

The pseudoroid decided to take advantage of the distraction of the fight to flee and turn in the biometal to her master. But Spice saw her after she slashed down another galleon assault. She changed her arm into a buster as she yelled, “Oh no you don’t!” She fired a shot into the running lynx’s back, which brought her down, but not kill her. The woman changed into her wolf form and ran past the attacking skull anchors, avoiding their tentacles before she jumped and fell down onto the pseudoroid’s back, which laid the lynx back down on the floor after she tried to get up. Spice took the biometal into her mouth before she reverted back into her megaman form. The biometal fell out of her humanoid mouth, which it was too big for, and she caught it into her left hand. Spice hopped off and fired another shot into the pseudoroid’s back before she went back to the others to help fend off the mechaniloids, firing her buster as she ran.

The pseudoroid slowly and painfully pushed herself up back on her two feet. She turned around to glare at the pesky megamen for the bitch move the purple one made. She put her arms straight out and then spun around rapidly like a top. She moved around past her mechaniloids rammed into Spice as her claws made multiple slashes on her chest. The megawoman tumbled back and fell on her butt, clutching herself and groaning in pain. The skull anchors took the opportunity to stab their tentacles into her and freeze her in ice. Grey also got tackled and slashed as well, staggering back from the hit. The spinning pseudoroid fired ice daggers from her claws at Ashe, but the girl quickly threw herself to the side before she got hit. The

pseudoroid shot more daggers at the boy, hitting him this time. The daggers broke through to the circuits and gave him a painfully cold sensation.

Ashe charged one of her hand busters and fired a laser at the ceiling. It ricocheted back down and destroyed a skull anchor. Upon hitting the floor, it then flew into a galleon hunter and destroyed it. The laser continued to bounce back and forth from the ceiling and floor, destroying every mechaniloid unfortunate to be in its path, before it finally burns the pseudoroid on her head. She stopped spinning and yowled in pain before she clutched her head burn. Grey gritted his teeth, bearing with the cold and pain in his wound, and pulled out the ice daggers before he A-transed into Atlas. The body heat of the megawoman form got rid of the coldness, but the wound's pain was still present. He went over to the frozen Spice and then charged one of his knuckle busters to smash the ice with a fiery punch. Now free, the woman shivered, "Brrr, thanks." It came out sounding more annoyed than appreciative as she was peeved at the fact that she got encased in ice and made to suffer intense coldness inside it. Then she aimed her buster at the very last mechaniloid, a mechadragon, as Ashe has destroyed all the others and shot it dead. Spice looked to the other megamen with Ashe coming over to her and said, "We got the biometal. Now let's get out of her before that crazy bitch-" She never got to finish her sentence as a light blue blur sped past her and snatched away the biometal. The trio got appalled at the quickly-ruined victory as the angered woman cursed, "FUCK!"

Suddenly, a huge lobster-like mechaniloid bust into the building, destroying the walls and rooms in its way. It stood behind its pseudoroid boss as she taunted the trio with the biometal she displayed, turning left and right in her hand. "I'd love to stick around, but I got a delivery to make to the boss." Then she looked up at the lobster and told it, "You there, destroy these pests now! And take back Model T while you're at it." She moved to the side to let the mechaniloid known as a lobstorm rush at the hunters and ram them through the wall behind him, breaking through to bring them down into the ocean with it as the metal beast caught 2 of them in its pinchers. The pseudoroid pressed the button on the side of her head to contact her master, "Master Thomas, I got Model QM. I'm sending it back to you."

The sage on the other line praised, "Good work, Chillynx. Turn it in and then I'll have an operator teleport you over to the next biometal's location." Chillynx the Catroid warped the biometal back to the base before she herself was teleported over to one of the other missing biometals' locations.

Team Grey

July 1, 1:16 PM, Island Ruins, ocean floor

The lobster took the fight down to the ocean floor beneath the island. Ashe hit the ground hard and then raised her torso with a groan to see Grey and Spice struggling to free themselves for the tight grips of both of the mechaniloid's pincers. It towered over the girl with its ominous gaze at her, eyes glowing for a second. Ashe got up and fired her guns at the claws, hoping that would free her friend and the grumpy woman. It had little to no effect as the lobster blew out a stream of laser bubbles at her. She cried out in pain at the barrage burning her, leaving her with burn marks. She hissed from the afterburns all over the front of her body before she A-trans into Thetis and swam up. The lobster electrified its antennae and tried to whip them at the blue megaman, but she used the ponytail-like booster to zip around them out of harm's way. Then she dashed downwards towards the pincers' limbs and twirled her halberd fast, cutting at the arms to damage the lobster. This made it let go of her fellow hunters as they fell onto the sea ground. The lobster countered with a single fast laser bubble blown at Ashe. She sank from the hit.

The lobster turned its attention to the other megamen and blew its barrage of bubbles at them, which they moved out of the way from. Grey ran around to the side and fired a shot at its armored hide. The mechaniloid responded by opening up its many hatches built into its side and then aiming all the guns underneath onto the orange "woman." They fired a barrage of bullets at him as he shielded himself with his knuckle busters. As thick as these busters were, they were not invincible as they suffered dents and scratches from the assault of the heavy fire. While the busters took most of the bullets, a few stray ones hit his armor boots. Grey gritted his teeth from the pain he felt. When the barrage was over, he reverted back to Model A form and fired back at the many guns with both of his guns. Though none were destroyed, some of the guns suffered some damage before their hatches quickly closed back down on them. Spice fired a shot at the lobster's face. It tried to grab her again with one of its pinchers, but the megawoman jumped over it to avoid being snatched.

Ashe hovered above the lobster distracted by her companions. She charged up some energy and channeled it to give it a form, a giant spiked ball. The blue megaman smashed her halberd into it to break it into shards, which flew down into the mechaniloid's face. Then she followed up the attack by swimming down to the head and spinning her weapon around at its face, dealing multiple cuts to it. The riled lobster shot a bubble at her in retaliation, but Ashe zips backwards from it. Unfortunately, this brought her into the clutches of the prehensile antennas curled behind her for the catch. Ashe's legs were ensnared and she looked down at the antennas wrapped around them. "Huh?" she uttered before she screamed from the voltage

coursing through the antennas into her body, zapping her continuously for 5 seconds. Spice went to save her by firing another couple shots to the face. The lobster released its captive, but the aftermath weakened Ashe badly to the point where she reverted back to her humanoid form in the state of unconsciousness. Her body began to float up slowly.

The hatches opened back up and the guns were ready with their ammunition reloaded. Grey shouted, "Everyone, take cover! I'm going to use my Giga Crush attack." Spice let out an alarmed cry before she dashed to duck behind a large rock for protection. The memory of Ashe's Giga Crush back at the ruins where she met the teens was still fresh in her mind and it was a scary attack she never wanted to be caught in lest she be turned into a metal Swiss cheese. Grey held onto his guns, gave in to his power and then started firing rapidly with them, one at all the exposed hatches, destroying the weapons within them, and the other at the empty space. The enemy's guns did manage to get a few shots at him, but the megaman was unflinching as his Giga Crush gave him all the adrenaline to keep on going and he was dishing out more bullets than they could ever do. With all of its guns wrecked, the lobster closed its hatches and waited for the special attack to end. Once the Giga Crush was over, it turned around to face its prey, but it was quickly met with 8 homing shots all bombarding its wrecked face. This ended the mechaniloid once and for all as the shots destroyed the shell and the last of them destroyed the mechanical brain behind it. The lobster was shut down as its body fell lifeless on its underbelly with eyes going dark.

Spice came out of her hiding spot and went over to Grey. She gave a sigh of relief and said, "It's finally over. Now where's that spunky friend of yours?"

The boy answered, "I don't know." He began to look around for the girl as he called, "Ashe, where are you? Say something." His eyes and mouth went wide with alarm when he saw his friend sinking slowly from above with the red mist of blood coming up from her organic-again wound. "Ashe!" he screamed. He jumped, the buoyancy of the water heightening his leap, and caught the girl, holding her bridal style. Grey saw her eyes closed and assumed, "Oh no, she's losing a lot of blood!"

Spice said with furrowed brows, "Are you kidding me? I'd be more worried about her drowning."

"Drowning?" asked the confused boy, not knowing what that is.

The woman told him, "She's human, kid. She can't survive underwater long like we reploids can. They need air to breathe. We need to back to the surface now!"

Grey said, "Alright, I'll get us back up there." He gave Ashe to Spice to hold and then stepped back to have some space for the transformation. "A-trans!" He turned into Chronoforce the Xiphosuroid and lowered himself to the ground, so that the girls can get on. Once Spice carried Ashe onto his back, Grey swam upwards to the surface. He used his power to slow down time to reduce the amount of water his ponytailed friend will breathe in and save whatever time she had left.

Eventually, the hunters made it to the edge of the base. Spice hopped off with Ashe and laid her on her back to the concrete ground. Grey reverted back to his humanoid form and Spice took his hand to pull him up to shore. The boy looked down at his friend, hoping he was not too late to save her. Spice reverted back to her normal form and took out a sub-take to quickly apply to the girl's wound, so that the artificial stem cells can stop the bleeding and restore flesh & metal. Then she took out her cellphone and dialed on it as she told him, "I'm going to call 911. While we wait for the ambulance, I want you to do CPR on her."

Grey asked stunned, "CPR?!"

Spice insisted, "Yes, CPR! We need to act fast, now get going!"

The boy reluctantly replied, "Alright fine, I'll try." He hoped Ashe would not get any wrong assumptions when she woke up during this. He tilted her head back slightly to open her airway. Then he put two hands together over the center of her chest and gave some press downs on it. After that, he brought his mouth to hers and gave her a few breaths of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. He alternated between the chest compressions and rescue breaths a couple of times until after a third set of compressions, Grey brought his mouth down to Ashe's and then... A smooching sound occurred as the boy was weirded out by this, *'Wait, what?'*

Ashe opened her eyes to see who or what was kissing her and to her surprise, it was Grey. The teens looked at each other in shocked and recoiled back as they screamed. A sharp pain occurred on the girl's wound as she yelped. She spat a few times before she accused, "Grey, I can't believe you kissed me!"

"What?! No!" The boy countered, "You're the one that kissed me!"

Model A poked fun at the awkward situation, "Grey and Ashe, sitting in the tree! K-I-S-S-I-N-G!" He let out a chuckle.

The annoyed pair yelled simultaneously, "Shut it, Model A!"

Spice had been telling the operator about her drowned teammate until that scene occurred. "Never mind, she's awake now. It's all under control. Let's just hang up and forget this ever happened." She pushed the red icon to end the call and said to the girl, "So Sleeping Beauty finally awakes." She glanced at Grey for a moment as she continued, "Too bad about him not being a handsome prince." She did not think the boy was ugly or anything; in fact, he was just fine. But she guessed that the girl would rather be kissed by a hot chad in this situation.

"Hey!" Grey yelled offended.

The woman continued, "And too bad, we didn't get that biometal. It really would've helped us both." She was disappointed that their treasure hunt ended in failure.

"Yeah," Ashe agreed with a frown. She quickly smiled with optimism, "Oh well, at least there's always next time. We're never letting anyone else snatch a booty out of our hands! We'll have the next treasure in our pockets before they do!"

Model A shared her enthusiasm, "Yeah, no one can beat us!"

Spice smirked, "Are you always this confident? Eh whatever, that kind of attitude will probably get us to Siarnaq eventually. Anyway, we need to back to the city and rest. I'm beat!"

Ashe agreed, "Aren't we all? I could eat slice of cake right, and then buy that new game, and then go to a park to buy a hot dog to eat while I rest, and then go see a movie." She continued to list more things to with the money until the woman gave her a mad look with a warning growl and a shaking fist to go with it. The girl held up open hands in a pacifying gesture as she said, "Alright, alright, I'll save! Just a few things and that's it."

Grey looked at the females and thought, '*We sure keep each other in line.*' They took the water taxi back to the downtown area for some R & R.