

# 3003 Times

*Hokapen Era*

*By Priscilla Eve Adams*

## Chapter 2: Training and the new ally

In my dream there were two green eyes with eyebrows and a nose, just staring at me making what could be expressions. And just as a voice was going to say “A...”

“Amelia?”

I looked side to side to see who said it and found it was Spark.

“Its morning,” he said “And if we don’t get to the kitchen for breakfast now, we’ll miss it.”

So we brushed our teeth and walked down to the dining room where there was a huge stack of pancakes on the table.

“Feel free to help yourself.” Kitty called sounding in a much better mood; I guess cooking makes me happier too.

Spark picked up a plate, fork, and knife from the stack that was next to the pancakes and I did them same. We sat down and took the amount of pancakes we wanted, I got two, Spark got four.

“Oh yeah I almost forgot.” Kitty said as she came in with butter, syrup, and peanut butter and set them on the table, “They’d be very dull without ‘em.”

“Thanks.” I said. Spark instinctively started smothering his pancakes with syrup and peanut butter, the amount of the mixture on his plate made me want to gag. I put a fair amount of syrup and butter on mine, and I ate cutting the pancake into small pieces. While Spark just picked up a pancake and started ripping it apart with his mouth like an animal. I stared as pancake and syrup flicked onto my face from his ravaging on the poor pancakes. Kitty walked in and gasped in shock, which surprised me, because I thought that she would know of his horrible eating habits.

“Spark, do you have any manners!” Kitty yelled, “You should be a little bit more gentleman-like in front of this beautiful young lady!”

“I eat however I want and use my manners only when I absolutely have to. You’re not my boss!” Spark countered.

“Do you want the belt and to start paying rent?” Kitty growled.

Spark immediately unfolded his legs, put down the pancake, wiped his face and hands, and picked up his silverware, cutting the pancakes into small pieces.

“Amelia, do you want some sausage and eggs?” Kitty asked kindly.

“Sure, did you not know about his eating habits?” I inquired.

“Yeah, but I didn’t think he’d eat that way in front of you.” She called from the kitchen. She came back with a plate with sausages and eggs on it, “One or two links?” she asked.

“One.”

“Sunny-side up?”

“Yeah.”

As I answered her questions she placed the desired amount of food on my plate.

“Want some protein Spark?” Kitty then asked him.

“Yeah.” He answered as Kitty put two eggs and two sausages on his plate.

Then Spark looked at me and announced, “We’re going to start training today. I want to make you stronger until you get to the point where you can defeat a glug-slug.”

“But...” I stated and looked at him slightly teary-eyed.

“That’s exactly why we’re starting now; you can use your emotions as courage when

you fight the monsters I put you up against. Don't worry, the monster you're fighting today is pretty easy to defeat and it won't hurt you in any big way." He explained.

"Okay...I guess I could fight today." I added.

So after breakfast, we got dressed and before getting on the hover-board Spark said, "Let me teach you a couple things about your sword."

"Okay." I complied.

He tossed my sword to me, now it had a sheath to fit around my waist.

"Put it on and twist the handle till it clicks." He explained.

I did so and the sword shrunk into a key chain that hung from the side of my pants. I asked, "What now?"

"Twist the sword figure's handle the other way till it clicks." Spark instructed.

I did that and the key chain turned back into the sword in sheath and the straps wrapped around my waist.

"I read the directions and that is how you activate your sword. Now it knows your fingerprints and waist size and will only respond to you." He said.

"Wow...that's awesome!" was all I could say.

"Alright, now we're ready to go!" Spark exclaimed and jumped on the hover-board I followed and we headed to the wall to get out of Wanders, the same robot popped out.

"Going out?" The robot asked.

"Yup." Spark replied.

"Okay." The robot beeped, and opened the gate for us, when we were on the other side we traveled half a mile and landed. I saw a weird blue flying thing, which had a circular head, square eyes, a mouth, and a wavy tail.

"Wha-." I was about to ask, but Spark already knew and answered by saying "That's a Wander Bug, it's named that because it floats so close to Wanders. Go kill it and your only danger is the spiky stickers it spits out."

"Wait, aren't you going to teach me some sword techniques or something?" I asked.

"No, on this first day I'm just going to see how much you know, or don't know, about sword fighting." He explained, "Don't worry, if you get in trouble I'll help you."

I sighed and slowly approached the Wander Bug, it was eating the ground, and then it noticed me and started flying away. Never going too high, yet it was very fast, when it paused for a moment I tried to grab its tail, yet it started flying again. After thirty minutes of that cycle, I finally got a hold of its tail and took out my sword with my other hand. It started spitting stickers in my face and bit my arm; I endured the pain though, thinking 'Spark went through much worse than this, so I can endure it too.'

I stepped on its head and stabbed it and I thought it would be dead because it closed its eyes. Yet the second I let go of it, it flew away, but it was weaker now, so it flew slower. I caught it again with ease and stabbed it over and over, till I was quite sure that it could not be alive, I let go of its tail and it didn't fly away.

Spark said "We're done for today, and we've got to get back to wrap your arm."

"What! I can stand more train-" I stopped talking as I looked at my bloody arm, I was so filled with adrenaline that I didn't feel it and as we flew back to Wanders on the hover board, I picked the stickers out of my face.

"That's the most damage I've seen a Wander Bug do to someone." Spark commented, "That's an interesting technique of stepping on its tail, but I wouldn't recommend doing it again."

"What was I supposed to do? Chase it for hours, wait till it stops, and try to stab it?" I added, feeling spacey.

"That's what I do." He said

We continued that cycle of training, fighting more and more powerful creatures, he also

taught me sword techniques, and would spar with me. As I got stronger physically I felt I was also becoming stronger emotionally in how training was at least one of the things I could handle in my new life in this strange world. We also visited my parent's graves sometimes and we helped Kitty out at the hotel. Two months later, my sword came crashing down on a slug-slug's head.

"Wow, you actually did it." Spark remarked, "Congrats."

I smiled at him as I wiped the green blood from my face with a tissue.

"I knew you would." He added confidently, "Because I planned a little celebration."

"What? You did?" I asked surprised.

"Yeah, we're going to a concert." He explained, "Once we clean up."

"I couldn't...you've already done so much for me." I suggested.

"By now you should know that I do this simply out of the kindness of my heart, at times for fun too." Spark explained with a smile, "So let's go have some fun."

I sighed and gave in, "Ok."

We went back to the hotel, cleaned ourselves up, and headed to Wanders' Grinning Millennium concert hall. Where, Spark explained, we were going to see Kiwi, a popular artist that takes after the 2000's era. Spark thought I would like it since I was living in that time. After a while of waiting in a long line we got to the front where there was a person dressed like a 'gangster' from the early 2000's period that asked "Sup homies, what's yo names, foshizzle?"

I slapped my forehead and gave out a laugh as I thought 'These guys are total posers.'

"Spark and Amelia." Spark answered.

So the "gangster" looked through the names on his invisible laptop, that only he could see, and the only way you knew he was on it was the keys that lit up blue when he typed.

"Ok, yo password is sugamonkey." He answered.

So we walked to the door where there was a robot that wore a purple top hat with pink dots, a fuzzy purple jacket, gold chains, and a cane to top it off.

"Yo wazzup homie G's, what's yo password foshizzle?" It beeped.

"Sugamonkey." Spark replied.

"Ooooo! Analyze, analyze. C'mon in!" The robot exclaimed and he opened the door for us. Inside, there were blue dots that went across the room and there was a huge crowd of people that were waiting for the show to start. We tried to squeeze as far to the front of the crowd as possible. When the show started the blue lights stopped and there was one spotlight on a woman onstage. As we peered through the crowd we saw that the woman had chin-length short, green hair, a black tank top, and a tight pair of shorts that when she turned around we noticed they said: Kiss this, on the butt.

She shouted out to the crowd "What's up, Wanders!" and got a standing ovation, "How ya doin'?" Then we heard some people yell "Good!" "Bitchin'" and the like. "Alright let's get this party started!" She concluded and started singing and dancing. People started dancing close to one another, and so was I, yet Spark just stood there like he didn't know what to do.

"What do I do?" Spark yelled over the music.

"Do what the guys are; get a feel for the music!" I called back.

After a while Spark found his groove and danced close to me, we smiled at each other as we made our moves. And just when we were really having fun, human-like robots popped out of nowhere, and started attacking people. People quickly fled out of the area pushing us to the side, and the police escorted Kiwi and her band out of there while calling for back-up. Spark, while turning his necklace into a sword yelled, "Let's take care of this."

I also turned the key chain on my belt into my sword, and whipped it out.

"Okay, be wary of their arms that can change into anything, and rip out the microchip located in their backs." Spark instructed.

"Okay." I obeyed.

We continued slashing, blocking, saving people, and destroying the robots until all

twenty of them were gone. When we were done we had a few scratches and saw the horrible mess of robot parts everywhere. As we walked out we saw the pimp robot totally trampled, "Poor little guy", I added "He must have been so overwhelmed that he couldn't escape."

Spark grimaced and strut defensively, I could tell he was irate, I was too, but didn't show it. When we got back to the hotel Kitty questioned, "How was the concert, it seems a little early for you to be back, and what are those cuts from?"

"Well, it was going pretty well till Hokapen's robots showed up!" Spark angrily yelled in response and slammed his fist onto the counter, "Fucking Hokapen!"

Then he stared at the ground intensely, Kitty and I could tell he was deeply contemplating something, "So what are you going to do?" Kitty asked.

"I'm..." He paused then exclaimed, "I'm going to go after him again!"

"Well..." Kitty commented, "I wish you the best of luck."

"Amelia!" He called as he turned toward me, "Are you going to join me?"

I paused then looked him straight in the eye and replied, "Of course, we both need our revenge."

"Alright!" He replied, then we both went to the medicine cabinet in the bathroom to put antiseptic and band-aids on our wounds. As we sat on his bed, which was like a couch to us, he lost his anger and confidence and sounded depressed when he said, "Two years ago, I tried to start a group against Hokapen, but it failed horribly. The person who was with me left me, saying I was an ignorant boy and left my heart a mess."

He added some antiseptic to my hand and held it; "I just want you, no matter what happens, to stay with me and help me become...someone better than who I am now." He said to me in a small, concerned voice. "I need you."

Then he held his arms apart, as if he wanted a hug, and I gave him one. "Of course I will." I replied, "What would I do without you?"

I heard him stifle some snuffles as we held the embrace, and he gently whispered in my ear.

"Amelia...I love you."

He unhooked from the hug, held my hands, and leaned in "And I hope you feel the same." He compassionately added and closed his eyes.

He was millimeters from my lips when I fell off the bed and said as I got up, trying to find my voice, "I...I don't know, exactly...how I feel about you, yet...I'm sorry."

He let up and seemed as if he sighed, "No it's fine," he replied sounding somewhat annoyed "I'll wait."

I went through my usual nighttime routine and he called, as I was comfy in my bed "Good night, lovely."

"Good night, Spark." I called back, and we slept.

In the morning we ate breakfast and Spark stated, "Hokapen's headquarters are in Hetran, so that's where we're going, so we can destroy it."

So, we said goodbye to Kitty, which I found, would only be for a short while.

"Make sure to contact me and tell me the area code if you want me to transport the hotel to somewhere once you get to Hetran." Kitty explained. "Tell me immediately when something big happens."

"Ok." Spark reassured "Amelia, are you ready to go?"

"Yeah." I replied.

"Alright then we're off, see you later." Spark called to Kitty as we headed towards the door, we headed to the gate and I exclaimed, "You can transport buildings now?"

"Yep, and there are still tons of other things that will blow your mind." Spark stated.

When we got to the gate there was a different kind of robot that greeted us, it was a red cylinder and had the letters D.N.Y. on it, the rest was still the same. "Going out Master Spark?" It beeped in a more sophisticated tone.

"Wait a minute, Spark's no master or anything he's just Spark. I think this one's got a screw loose or something." I thought.

"Yeah, yeah, just open the gate." Spark ordered on the confused/wary side.

Once on the other side the old robot floated over to us and beeped "I lost my job, because they got the new, shiny D.N.Y.'s that take the new TRAVIL cards. I heard you guys talking about Hokapen, I really don't like him either so can I join you guys?"

Spark looked at me then asked the robot "What are your program-abilities?"

"Well I have repair, bomb, shrink, weapon, shield, dictionary, spatula, scanner, teddy bear, hover board, cell phone, pager, and practically anything you need." The robot answered.

Spark turned to me and questioned "Well Amelia does he sound good to you, 'cuz I want to get him."

"Sure, he sounds useful." I answered.

"Ok you got it." Spark told the robot, "What should we call you?"

"Well, my full name is D.N.I. 489010, but you can just call me D.N.I."

"Alright D.N.I., we'll put you on shrink in Amelia's pocket, because my pockets are full." Spark explained.

"Yeah, considering all the stuff you suck into boxes and shrink." D.N.I. added, and then shrunk while going into my pocket.

We continued flying across the land at an alarming rate, by now I had adjusted to the high speeds Spark would set it to. Suddenly, after what seemed to be thirty minutes, a blade cut off the propeller that ran our hover board and sent us falling to the ground. Spark sent out white beams and controlled the hover board to go a couple feet without us crashing. And we landed at a wall that wasn't as big as Wanders was, but still an object to let us know that it guarded a community of some sort.

"Is this Hetran?" I asked Spark.

"No, Hetran is still two hours from here; this is Consea, a small town that's on the way to Hetran. I think you'll like this place, it still has houses on the ground, because most of the people here don't use hover-boards. They have a dam that powers the town and blocks Yesaro River." He explained, "We'll go here, because we need a new hover board." He laughed, "Even though there are people who don't use hover-boards, there's still a shop here for people who want to go 'hi-tech'."

Right then another D.N.Y. popped out, "Hello sir and madam, do you wish to come in? If so present your TRAVIL card."

"I know that they're just being polite, but these D.N.Y.'s are getting on my nerves." Spark took out his TRAVIL card and gave it to the robot, which scanned it and let us in. Inside were houses on the ground and advanced cars. We walked to a bus stop and while we were waiting there Spark asked me, "How long till you know?"

"Huh?" I said surprised.

"How long will it take till you know how you feel about me?" Spark questioned.

"I...I don't know, it may take a week, it could take a year, I honestly don't know, Spark." I answered.

"What am I to you, currently?" He asked.

"You are a friend, a good friend who's in love with me." I replied.

"Hmm." He added, more to himself than to me.

The bus came; we paid the fare and got on.

"John's Hover-board Shop, please." Spark inquired to the bus driver. Some people looked at us strangely, because, of course, they aren't too much into the world of now. We took a seat, I

sat next to the window, and I just spaced off while looking at the dam. ‘Do I love Spark? Who planned for our hover board to crash? What was that dream I had with the eyes and nose, and what does it mean?’ Were questions I asked myself, then there was an explosion where the dam was, it cracked and broke.

There were some screams and gasps and I exclaimed “Spark!” he looked out the window and we saw water flood the city. The bus swerved and then there was a car that was trying to avoid the water that crashed right under us. The shock made Spark and I hit heads and again there was my inked out vision.