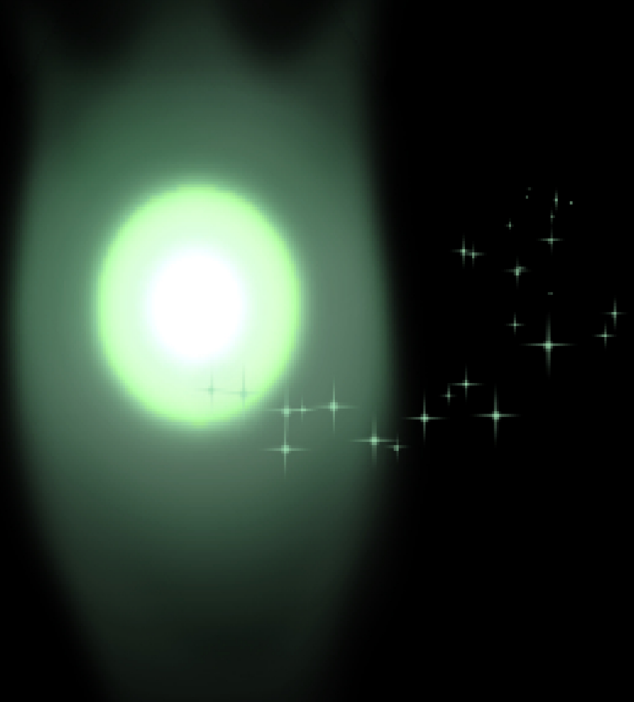


MIMIC



EDWARD BOY-DOE

BLACK MAVERICK COMICS

HUTCHINSON BOYD

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By: Edward Boye-Doe

Chapter 1: Rebirth

The Sun sets behind the trees of an open field. A gentle breeze causes the grass to sway. A man walks from behind the trees with a rock. He is wearing green, camouflaged combat gear. He has a dog tag hanging around his neck that reads Alexander Jason Watkins. Alex looks around to see if anybody's there. It's silent. So peaceful, as if the thing that happened hasn't happened at all. He takes a deep breath and relaxes. "When did it all go wrong?", Alex asks as he positions himself to throw the rock.

When the rock landed, a series of explosions went off. A shock wave of fire burned all the grass with the charred rock at its epicenter. Now the once green grass has turned black, burnt to death. "Crap.", Alex exclaims as he goes back behind the trees to hide. The very moment he hid, something landed in the open field. He saw multiple robotic humanoids, tall and thin with claws and sharp heads. They look around for what caused the explosion. The man

peeks his head from behind the tree to view the creatures, one in which he noticed was looking in his direction. Alex quickly pulled his head back behind the tree when the being let out a loud high-pitched screech.

Suddenly, the ground starts to shake as if more of the metallic creatures were landing. When he peers around the tree, he sees the initial cluster of machines looking for him, but before he realizes what has happened, more appear. He becomes nervous and gets low to the ground, noticing the ground shake as if something massive was drawing near. Instantly, everything grows silent. The man begins to hear a synchronous clicking sound before another bout of silence. Unexpectedly, one of the robots appears behind Alex. He has yet to realize this, as he views the other robots taking off in the distance.

Alex sighs in relief as they leave, and he turns around and leans up against the tree with his eyes closed. He breathes softly before opening his eyes. When he does, he sees the

creature towering over him. He gasps before standing up quickly. The robot gets closer to him and scans him. "Uh... Hi?", Alex says nervously as he rips his dog tag off from his neck and holds it tightly in his hand. "Uh... Hi?", The robot repeats in his exact voice. Still nervous Alex attempts to communicate to the parroting being. "Why are you here? Why are you invading Earth, and what do we have that you would go to great lengths to obtain?", Alex asks. "Obtain?", the robot repeats in his voice until his voice changes to a metallic form of Alex's as he explains, *"Why are you hear? Why are you invading Earth? What do we have that you would go to great lengths to obtain, through the eradication of the human race?"*

Alex is frightened and tries to escape but he is quickly apprehended by the humanoid and held up to its face. More robots then land around them. Alex looks around nervously, beginning to perspire from fear. They all begin to communicate in their language making clicking and clanking sounds. The robot

holding him then looks at him, and its single green eye begins to glow ominously. In a green flash everything grows silent again.

Suddenly, he wakes on the ground during the middle of the day, but the tree that previously concealed him is now a charred stump. He looks around, noticing the burnt tree stump and asks himself, "Was it just a dream?".

Confused, Alex walks roughly two miles across the open field. He eventually approaches a cliffside. "It should be down this cliff.", he thinks. He opens his bags and there are a bunch of ropes. He finds a rock to support his weight and fastens the rope around it before beginning to descend the cliffside. While Alex scales down the cliffside, a man in the distance aims his crossbow at Alex's position. When Alex is halfway down the cliff, the rope is cut by an arrow, and Alex falls around twenty feet before slamming into the ground. He grunts in pain as he hits the ground. Another man with a crossbow slowly walks up to him, peering over his collapsed body. "Kind of foolish to grow a

nervous system. Now you feel everything.", the man says before knocking him out with the butt of his gun.

He wakes up in a cage, surrounded by strange people. They all talk amongst themselves, but their voices are too low for him to hear. He looks confused. The same man who knocked him out walks up to him and with a raspy voice he asks, "Who are you?". "My name is Alex. I was sent here as a messenger.", Alex responds. "A messenger, huh? How odd that we didn't get a message from our communication tower.", retorted the mysterious man. "That's because before I was sent, our communication tower was destroyed.", Alex explains. "Well, don't you have the answers to everything?", the man scoffs. "I don't understand. Why am I in a cage? Why did you attack me?", Alex pleads.

The man laughs, as does everyone else. "How dumb do you think we are? We were smart enough to capture you and fight back for as long as we did. You'll never succeed.", the

man exclaims. "I don't know what you're talking about...", says a baffled Alex. The man chuckles smugly before walking off, then a woman walks to the cage. She grabs the cage with both hands and looks at Alex while smiling. Still confused Alex asks, "Why am I being treated like this?", Alex asks. "You're an incredibly good actor", she says, "It's a shame, you're cute. Too bad you're not human." Alex responds, "What? What do you mean I'm not human!? Stop playing with me, get me out of this cage!", Alex bellows.

Alex becomes enraged and starts shaking the cage violently. Everybody, including the woman talking to him gets defensive. The man walks up to him again and bangs on the cage. "What's wrong with you? You got a corrupt CPU or something?", the man asks. "What are you talking about!?", Alex responds. "You really don't know, do you?", the man scoffs. "You're a real trip." The man holds a mirror to Alex's face and a green light shines so brightly in his eyes that he's forced to

look away from the reflection. "Bright, isn't it? That's coming from you.", the man says with a beaming grin. Alex looks confused as his right eye glows bright green. "Guess your anger's causing you to become hostile... You're not like the rest. Investigation and testing will help us understand why you're so different.", the woman says enthusiastically.

The same woman looks at him before staring into his left eye, which is umber brown. After a moment of silence Alex calms down and his right eye dims until it's back to normal. She pokes the cage bar. "Tell me, have you always had a mutation leaving you with one brown eye and one green eye?", she asks. "What are you talking about? Both of my eyes are brown.", Alex retorts. "You're calm now so your right eye isn't glowing anymore. It looks like a normal green eye. Here, see?"

She holds the same mirror to his face, and he looks at it. He touches his skin as he notices that his right eye is now green. "What... How?". The woman smiles gleefully and says,

"Tell me, what do you remember?". Alex thinks to himself, "I was sent here from HB05. We were under attack by Mimics. Their first attack destroyed our communication tower. They sent me as they fought off the Mimics to find help. I looked on my map and this one was the closest base. HB06 right?". Now, even more interested, she asks, "What happened while you were on your way here?".

"Well, I came to an open field with tall grass, so, to make sure the mines were destroyed I threw a rock. That alerted some Mimics, and I was captured. There was a green flash... Then I just woke up. I was ok, so I thought it was just a dream... But...", he stops to think. She claps with enjoyment and runs to the side and grabs the keys. Everyone yells for her to stop but by the time the man behind her grabbed her, the cage was open. Alex walks out slowly as everyone points their weapons at him. The same man who knocked Alex out shakes the woman. "Are you mad!?", the man pleaded. "Marcus... It worked!", she declared.

"What are you talking about!?", he questions. He looks at his men and screams, "Keep your weapons steady! Are you crazy?"

"Of course not! Look at him... He's our key to victory.", she announced. Marcus stays silent for a while. "What do you mean?", Marcus asks. "The Doctor's virus worked. It worked! If Alex were a Mimic, we'd be dead by now.", she explained. "The Mimics are just that; they Mimic us for as long as possible until the right time.", Marcus ensures. "But Mimics never turned into humans because they knew this would happen. Building a nervous system causes pain and when damaged, they can't fully disguise their eyes. One will always be green.", she explains.

Marcus rubs his face in annoyance. "Why do you still trust The Doctor? He died trying to test out his famous 'virus'. If it worked, why didn't he come back?" The woman stays silent while Marcus walks over to Alex. "Get back in that cage, Mimic."

Alex looks at Marcus in the eyes before

slowly getting back into the cage. Marcus locks the cage and hold the key to himself. "I'll be holding this, just so Jessie doesn't get any more ideas. In fact, bring her to her room, and keep her there!" They take her to her room and Marcus looks back to Alex. "You think you can control us? Convince us of your sob story? It won't work.", he states.

Alex gets angry again. His right eye glows dimly. "I was sent here from HB05. The longer we wait, the less defense they'll have... My siblings are there... And if they die, it'll be on you." Marcus leaves him. It's now night and Alex sits with his head down. He looks at his hands and touches them. They feel normal. In her room, Jessie looks out of her door and sees people guarding the entrance. She then walks to her bed and slides it to the side revealing a small door. She opens it and crawls out. She runs to the cage and taps on it. Alex looks up at her with a surprised expression. "Hey, I want to help.", she whispers. Alex stares at her for a moment. He responds softly, "Why?"

"I believe you, and I want to help. But Mark still has the key, so we'll have to get creative. So... saw hand!", she asserts. Alex chuckles a bit. "Saw hand?", Alex says with confusion. "Yeah, Saw Hand. Turn your arm into a saw to cut through the bars. It should be easy.", she exclaims. "How are you so sure?", he queries.

"I was with The Doctor a lot. While making the virus he had to first know how their minds worked. So, trust me, we don't have much time.", she insists. Alex sighs, "fine." He looks at his hand and imagines it turning into a saw. It steadily turns silver and eventually morphs into a saw-like shape, which is shocking to him. "Hurry, quickly, someone's going to hear you sawing at the bars, you have to hurry.", she persists.

Suddenly, the tips of the saw turn green. He then positions it between the bars, and it cuts through them silently. He keeps cutting until he's free and they both escape. While running out of HB06 Alex asks, "What if you're

wrong?" They both stop running. She looks into his eyes. "If I'm right, there's finally hope for this world. And I'll come back to HB06 a respected hero... If I'm wrong... then I die.", she says with an eerily calm face. Alex shakes his head and continues to run away from the base with Jessie.

