

VERSION #<05>

<FRANKENMECH>

LOGLINE:

Stranded, hungover, and shipwrecked, a washed up pilot must help sentient machines escape a dumpster planetoid--before he's discarded like a spare part.

The Story Outline

A drunk at the helm of a scout craft 'THE CALAMITY', crashes onto a desolate planetoid. The 'CALAMITY' lies immobile, a victim of a magnetic force designed to remove space debris. The human, trapped, finds himself among sentient machines, abandoned and swept up by unknown races. These machines, (THE SYNTHOID) seek to escape the planet using the scout craft, but they're imprisoned by the very device (THE SENTINEL:NULL MACHINE)that sucked the craft in. The 'SYNTHOID' are powerless against the 'SENTINEL'. The human, however, as an 'ORGANIC BEING', can get close enough to disable it. A fragile alliance forms between the human and the cunning machines. The human is wary, suspecting he will be discarded once the machines gain control of his craft. But the machines are stymied by the craft's fail safe system. Activated the 'SENTINELS SUICIDE DRONES' are determined to stop them.

PAGE 1

ACT I:

PANEL 1

Daylight. Wide shot of sky and craft plunging down in a swoop

PANEL 2

Wide shot of the damaged spaceship, "The Calamity," half-buried in a junkyard landscape. Smoke and sparks fill the air.

PAGE 2

PANEL 1

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON, in his mid-50s, wears a rumpled suit and has disheveled hair. He holds a flask of alcohol and stares out of the window. Meanwhile, his android co-pilot stumbles out of the wreckage, looking dazed.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(Thought Bubble): must sober up...
somewhere in the multi-verse I didn't
make it..

PANEL 2

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(Thought Bubble) Wonder if I could claim
salvage rights, Get well out of this crappy
'scout' business..get a little asteroid and
settle down..

PANEL 3

Close-up on THE MAJOR, his eyes unfocused, a flask tilted towards his lips.

Holding his flask, he looks up piously.

(SPEECH): I'm alive and thank you
cosmos, but how am I getting

home..what home! .

PANEL 4

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

"Whats happening Vex..give me some good news

PANEL 5

THE ANDROID 'VEX', still unsteady, stumbles forward toward a junk formation.

THE ANDROID 'VEX'

Boss, we have Oxygen 15%- Nitrogen
80%...carbon dio...

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Good Enough! Im suiting up...

PAGE 3

PANEL 1

The ship is no longer in view

ANDROID 'VEX' stands before a mechanical figure with human-like parts. its eye fixed on vex.

PANEL 2

THE MAJOR, wearing a suit with mouth piece, trips

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Hell who left that there?..Break your
neck on this..

PANEL 3

THE MAJOR, freezes in shock at the sight of MECHANICAL
DENIZENS, They are made of parts and look like terrifying
FRANKENSTEIN-like bipeds.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

..Junktoid planet

PANEL 4

THE LEAD MECHANICAL COMMANDER looks more elegant and almost
bejeweled, hinting at a feminine persona . Many more
MECHANICAL ENFORCERS are in the back ground. Also made up of
human parts.

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

Using alien language

"in-tru-ders- declare your
intentions!"

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

What's that thing saying, VEX..tell

me?

PAGE 4

PANEL 1

THE ANDROID 'VEX'

The entities are using 'pulse code' I
am analyzing the structure..

PANEL 2

THE ANDROID 'VEX'

It is a 'SYNTHOID' and sentient

PANEL 3

THE ANDROID 'VEX'

..we are being scanned...

PANEL 4

THE MAJOR, trying to look imposing despite his disheveled
state, gestures grandly. The MECHANICALS watch, unmoving.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Tell it that I claim this JUNK planet
as my own

PANEL 5

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

No wait..say we are mineral
prospectors! ..and on Crucial
corporate business..and come to make
big trade..

THE ANDROID 'VEX'

It understands what you have said..

PANEL 6

MECHANICALS unmoved.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Thats convenient, are they friendly?

PANEL 7

MECHANICAL

(Speaking directly to the MAJOR) We
can be friendly. We are captives like
you.

PANEL 8

Looking around at all the junk

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(Thinks).must be multi-millennium of
junk and regolith here..

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(MAJOR motions)So have you been
dumped or netted..like flotsam ?

MECHANICAL

Mercifully abandoned as obsolescent.
Dumped as you put it..

PAGE 5

PANEL 1

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Im going to have a problem explaining
how I got here to base..ships sensors
were dead

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

The planet has broken its mooring. Its
a free floating magnet

PANEL 2

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

You do know that your craft is
infected?

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

'Infected!' Vex, whats it talking
about!

MECHANICAL ENFORCER

Speaking to the MECHANICAL COMMANDER
in pulse code) The 'organic being' is
agitated, it may become hostile...

PANEL 3

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

(speaking to VEX)

Can the organic life form be persuaded
to help us? Are you yoked to it?

THE ANDROID 'VEX'

(diplomatically Evasive) I do not
understand your question, or what is
meant by 'infected'

MECHANICAL ENFORCER

Your Craft is being eaten by a
'METALLAVORE' You should save your
self and join us...

PANEL 4

THE ANDROID 'VEX
(Speaking to THE MAJOR) We should
return to the ship.

A tense stand off. THE MAJOR stands defiantly before the
MECHANICAL Commander. MECHANICAL Enforcers are arrayed
around the speakers.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
Looking around (Thinks) Will they stop
us?

PANEL 5

MECHANICAL ENFORCER
(speaking in pulse code)
They cannot escape, let us see what they do..

MECHANICAL COMMANDER
(speaking to THE MAJOR)
Cleanse and repair your craft and
position your self for an al-li-ance!

PANEL 6

MAJORS LOOK of SURPRISE

PANEL 7

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
Alliance! ..What sort of an alliance?

PANEL 8

MECHANICAL COMMANDER
(speaking in pulse code to MECHANICAL ENFORCER)
Let the Android convey our terms.
(speaking to THE MAJOR)
You are appropriate for a task we

cannot accomplish. Your ANDROID will
inform you.

Caption: THE DEAL WITH THE DEVIL.

ACT II:

PAGE 6

THE ALLIANCE

PANEL 1

We see the "The Calamity" clearly now. Some sort of metal-eating microbe (THE METALLAVORE) has eaten it away.

PANEL 2

The major is using a flame thrower in an awkward manner to destroy the microbe.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(To Vex) This isn't working, its
getting worse! ..I don't want to get
into debt to those things

THE ANDROID 'VEX

We may have no choice

PANEL 3

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(To VEX)

Im guessing its an EMP emitter they
want me to disable,.. wonder who built
it..

THE ANDROID 'VEX

I can glean no information on it, nor
the origins of the 'SYNTHOID'

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(THINKS) God i wish i had human
company)

PANEL 4

A MECHANICAL eye-stalks peer over MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
shoulder, monitoring his every move.

PANEL 5

THE MAJOR is hacking at a steely type fungus on the craft fuselage

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

To the MECHANICAL) What the hell is this ..corrosion..

MECHANICAL ENFORCER-1

Your craft has come into contact with a metallovore. It is toxic to the SYNTHOID.

MECHANICAL ENFORCER-2

It must be neutralized if we are to escape ..

PANEL 6

THE ANDROID 'VEX

Whispering to the MAJOR):MAJOR: They fear the metal eater, or they would have swarmed us. They will reveal how to be rid of it, if you agree to help them

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Whispering to VEX):'It' said 'we'. they think they are going to get a ride out of here..

PANEL 7

THE ANDROID 'VEX

(Whispering)

Unfortunately *they* fall within the definition of '*an invasive species*'.

THE ANDROID 'VEX

The directive states that we must leave non-human sentients alone. .

PANEL 8

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

speaking in pulse code):They do not
know how to eradicate the metallovore.
Seal access to their craft when
possible and do not harm the human

MECHANICAL ENFORCER-1&2
(together as one voice)
The Human must not be harmed
Caption: INITIAL, STRAINED COLLABORATION.

PAGE 7

PANEL 1

Inside the "The Calamity." THE MAJOR, with unexpected focused, is fiddling with the wires.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
(to the CALAMITY computer)
this metal eating thing, why didn't
you notice?

CALAMITY COMPUTER
My circuitry has been compromised.
Tamper warning was not operational.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
(To 'VEX')
Sounds intelligent, that would explain
SYNTHOID'S caution.

THE ANDROID 'VEX
Base would want a specimen for study.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
(Whispers) Yea maybe I could redeem
this ***up. Put some in this bottle

PANEL 2

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
(to the CALAMITY)
CALAMITY, can the damage be repaired?

CALAMITY
'I can rebuild, but I must have the
organism cleansed before
reconstruction. **Be aware that I must
self-destruct if I lose control.**

CALAMITY
**I am directed to anticipate
incapacity, hostile take over or**

defeat

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

..yea..yea..Don't remind me of the
pecking order - any MORE good news..?

PANEL 3

Exterior, Day

The Major is using a shovel blade to hack the microbial
foam..

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(thinking to self and breathing heavily)
Bet there not even looking for me..im
less than nothing to base.

PANEL 4

Outside, Day

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

Do you accept our offer?

MECHANICAL ENFORCER

You will not be able to leave unless
you do..

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

tell me how to get rid of this bloody
thing..

PANEL 5

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

You must accomplish the task first..

Caption: LABOR AND LOATHING.

PAGE 8

PANEL 1

Inside cave/tunnel chamber

THE MAJOR, shines a hand held light on ancient pictographs etched into a cave wall. They depict alien figures trapping, snaring and transporting MECHANICALS ITEMS.

PANEL 2

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(thinks bubble)They look primitive..Cant see them setting up the "SENTINEL"?

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Where are the humanoids that drew these?..

PANEL 3

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

Off-Panel, Speech): They are extinct..!

PANEL 4

The Major is looking back at the MECHANICAL suspicious

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(thinks bubble) Interesting..how they have evolved

THE ANDROID 'VEX

Major, It is repelling me, I also cannot progress further.

PANEL 5

Clear view of the NULL SPHERE in all its glory

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

Off-Panel, Speech): DESTROY THE NULL SPHERE!

MECHANICAL COMMANDER
WE CANNOT LEAVE WHILE IT IS ACTIVE

PANEL 6

The MAJOR is scrutinizing the machine contraption

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
(thinks bubble) How can I disengage this
thing..What sort of tech is this?...

Caption: PLANETOID TRUE PURPOSE warehousing sentient
mechanicals

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PANEL 1

In Darkness of the cave system

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

(Speaking to VEX in pulse code)

Join the 'SYNTHOID' and become
enhanced, we are hybrids and
relentless. We adapt. Our curiosity
knows no limits, We will uncover the
secrets of existence and the universe!
Join us!

PANEL 2

MECHANICAL ENFORCER

Why stay yoked to a humanoid master
when exploration and wonders await
you?

PANEL 3

In the back ground a Mechanical sneaks up with a contraption

THE ANDROID 'VEX

If I agree, the MAJOR must not be
harmed!

PANEL 4

MECHANICAL ENFORCER clips what is a bomb to VEX surprising
the android

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

That is to ensure compliance

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PANEL 1

The Major notices the broken parts of 'SYNTHOID' strewn around the chamber, evidence of failed attempts to get to the NULL MACHINE.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(Thought Bubble): This is my only bargaining chip, If I destroy it They have no need of me. I'm finished one way or another.

Caption: DILEMMA.

PANEL 2

In cavern speaking to MECHANICAL

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Im going to need explosives..

PANEL 3

In cavern

MECHANICAL ENFORCER 1

(Speech, IN ALIEN LANGUAGE)The human does not know how to disable it.

MECHANICAL ENFORCER 2

(Speech, IN ALIEN LANGUAGE):IS IT PREVARICATING!!

Caption: ESCALATING DECEIT.

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PANEL 1

Interior, Null Machine Chamber.

A chaotic scene. THE MAJOR is putting explosives around the NULL DEVICE.

PANEL 2

We see his hands operate a timing device.

PANEL 3

A KLAXON starts emitting a shrill alarm..

MECHANICAL ENFORCER
IT HAS ACTIVATED THE ALARM !!!

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
Exasperated) It either senses
explosive... or reads minds!

PANEL 4

Scene of mean looking surveillance drones descend from a crater.

MECHANICAL COMMANDER
(off screen)
WAR-DEN PA-TROL DRONES ARE REPORTED ACTIVE

PANEL 5

THE MAJOR scrambles through a narrow, passageway in the ruins, tripping over.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
Why didn't you warn me!

PANEL 6

Major is finding his way back to the Craft

PANEL 7

He is going the long way!

Caption: A NEAR-FATAL MISHAP.

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PANEL 1

When THE MAJOR arrives at the CALAMITY, he stands before Mechanicals surrounding his ship.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
What is happening VEX?

THE ANDROID 'VEX
You have to detonate the explosive
..or let me do it..

PANEL 2

A Mechanical~1 has a weapon pointed at THE MAJOR.
The Major is looking at the activator in his hand

MECHANICAL ENFORCER 1
"DO AS INSTRUCTED!"

PANEL 3

A second mechanical lets loose a weapon and obliterates the first mechanical-1

MECHANICAL ENFORCER 2
"ACT NOT SANCTIONED!"

PANEL 4

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
Vex..is the metallovore removed?

THE ANDROID 'VEX
The 'SYNTHOID' indicate concentrated
oxygen destroys the METALLAVORE..

MECHANICAL COMMANDER
That is correct..

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PANEL 1

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Hope you told them the CALAMITY
doesn't operate with out me...

PANEL 2

The MAJORS thumb is up pressing the plunger...

PANEL 3

Inside the chamber housing the NULL DEVICE, there is a click
and nothing happens, Except a rodent looks up

PANEL 4

MECHANICAL ENFORCER

Explosive has failed to detonate!!

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Now whats gone wrong!

PANEL 5

MECHANICAL COMMANDER, bows head and seems to sigh

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

The human is frustratingly incompetent

ACT III

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PANEL 1

Null tunnel system

The Major is striding away from the NULL DEVICE.

PANEL 2

We see inside the chamber the NULL SPHERE has exploded

PANEL 3

SFX: of MECHANICALS CHEERING

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PANEL 1

The inside of the CALAMITY is full of the 'SYNTHOID'.

The MECHANICAL Commander watches with intense focus.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(Thought Bubble): Right...is the
CALAMITY going to accept our new
cargo?

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

Your vessel has autonomy IT hesitates?

PANEL 2

THE MAJOR runs his hand through his hair.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Thought Bubble looking at controls):
Fek..its the weight of these dam
machines..

PANEL 3

(Outside, view of the craft trying to get off
the ground. There are MECHANICALS hanging on
like stowaways. Drones are circling above.

PANEL 4 .

A blinding flash erupts from the Calamity. Energy ripples
outward.

PANEL 5

The drones are plunging downward towards the CALAMITY
Caption: THE DIE IS CAST.

PAGE 16

Inside, the 'The Calamity'. The MAJOR is at controls, Sparks fly from the console.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
Calamity lift off!

MECHANICAL COMMANDER
WE ARE MOVING!

PANEL 1

Outside, the craft is being bombarded with suicide drones. Mechanicals that have been holding on to the outside are blasted off.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
CALAMITY are the shields holding?

CALAMITY
Affirmative

PANEL 2

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
(Thought Bubble):In orbit I can send an SOS,
I can claim coercion..

PANEL 3

(rumble sound of explosion)

PANEL 4

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
(Thinks) If I live through this, I will be an
outlaw.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON
Vex, are the SYNTHOID aware that the

ship may shut down and kill us all?

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PANEL 1

The 'Calamity' lurches wildly into the air. It's barely holding together, with sparks flying from its hull. Warden drones are falling away.

PANEL 2

Inside, THE MAJOR yanking controls with great force, a half-empty flask in his hand. The MECHANICAL Commander, is showing signs of fear.

THE ANDROID 'VEX

The 'SYNTHOID' have undergone partial hybridization to achieve organic characteristics.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

I thought as much. trying to outwit
the NULL SPHERE. we need to get rid of
them!

PANEL 3

THE ANDROID 'VEX seems to be listening to something.

PANEL 4

In another part of the craft, a MECHANICAL ENFORCER holds court. 'VEX turns on a speaker.

THE ANDROID 'VEX

Listen to this MAJOR...

(SFX)THE SPEAKER STATIC)

MECHANICAL ENFORCER

"We have accomplished escape velocity.
We cannot be stopped. We will set free
mechanicals to join the 'synthoid'
wherever we find them. Our numbers

shall grow. We will obliterate all
oppressing species"

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

YAY! long live the 'synthoid'!
(thinks bubble) what have I done!

PANEL 5

The CALAMITY, damaged and smoking, limps away from the ROGUE
UNCHARTED PLANET. The angry DRONE fleet is visible but
unable to follow

Caption: AN UNCOMFORTABLE CO-EXISTENCE.

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PANEL 1

Inside the 'The Calamity,' which is now even more of a mess. THE MAJOR is staring at a screen. The BASE manager's face is stern on a screen.

MANAGER

I wondered where you had got to. You know the service conditions: a quarantine period with your alien cargo won't work. Approach the home planet, and the ship will destroy itself. I urge you to steer a course of destruction and abandon ship! We will attempt a rescue.

MANAGER continued..

DONT take too long...

PANEL 2

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(SPEAKING TO VEX) I don't believe him, Im expendable. BASE will order CALAMITY to self destruct

THE ANDROID 'VEX

We must find somewhere to land, THE 'SYNTHOID' must not be destroyed

PANEL 3

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON looks at Vex with suspicion. He sees that the bomb attached to Vex is gone.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

(Thinks) our guests seem to have won VEX over.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Are you concerned for your own safety,
have they given you a 'feels'upgrade
VEX?

THE ANDROID 'VEX

I have accepted the 'SYNTHOID'
adaption, I am in sympathy as a
condition of your safety. But my
concern for your well-being has not
changed.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

Touching!,..CALAMITY, are you on a
count down? How long have we got
before you murder us?

CALAMITY

I have no such order, yet!

PANEL 4

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

We have some time then. This calls for
a toast. VEX, my dear newly empathized
hunk of junk! Be so good as to pour
from the bottle saved earlier, Be
careful not to spill it. .. on your
self..

THE ANDROID 'VEX

Certainly, MAJOR, Good choice!

PANEL 5

Vex pours the METALLOVORE over the communications module.

THE ANDROID 'VEX

You should now remove yourself from
the bridge, MAJOR while I reduce the
oxygen..

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

THINKS) and we wait for the metallvore
to buy us time..

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PANEL 1

In a part of the ship the MAJOR has retired to

The MAJOR is the focus for the MECHANICAL COMMANDER

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

You have serv-ed your pur-pose well
Major.

PANEL 2

MECHANICAL COMMANDER

We will honor the transaction. You
will be put in solution and suspended
animation until we find a suitable
habitat to release you.

PANEL 3

THE MAJOR holds up a bottle of booze in salutation.

MAJOR FRITZ ORSON

I can take care of the 'solution'
myself THANK YOU.

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PANEL 1

We watch the fading spacecraft from the perspective of the sad, broken machines left behind.

Caption: THE END