

SHOOTING STARS

BY KEVIN SYLVESTER

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Dedicated to everyone who treats their opponents like people: with respect.

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CHAPTER SIX

A COMPUTER CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

Anne Droid and Rob Ott stood on the top of Mount Logan holding hands.

The remains of the giant laser cannon was spread out in a debris field all around them, like flecks of pepper in the salt-white snow.

"NOT SURE THERE IS A LOT OF USEFUL EVIDENCE LEFT HERE," Ott said. He reluctantly let go of Anne's hand and began walking around, carefully avoiding the shards of twisted metal.

"Maybe a microscopic scan look will REVEAL

SOMETHING," Anne said. She knelt down and began probing for any clues about who had made and fired the tractor beam.



She smiled as she spied Ott doing the same thing. Their lives had changed so much over the last few months. Anne was embarrassed to think how close they had come to **HELPING THE TWISTED CLARENCE CROSSCHECK** take over the Canadian government. Now their new friend, Prime Minister Pauline Patinage, had asked them to take a break from global espionage — disguised as pizza

deliverers – to climb an inhospitable mountain.

The wind whipped. Snow and bitter gusts made the mountaintop dangerous, for humans anyway. But Anne and Rob were happy to be doing it together. Besides, robots **DON'T FEEL THE COLD**.

"Something seems familiar about these wiring junctions," Ott said. He held an almost microscopic fragment of a computer chip to his right eye. **HE ACTIVATED HIS X-RAY VISION.** Anne could simultaneously see what he was looking at in her own electronic brain.

"OH NO!" She gasped. "WE NEED TO WARN THE PM RIGHT AWAY!"