

The Techni-Crusader #1 - "The Beginning"

Written by Steven Bland

A huge spacecraft flew toward the planet Zartron. Inside the spacecraft, was Caliguax, a hulking alien humanoid who was sitting in a command chair while a humanoid robot piloted the craft. Caliguax wore dark blue body armor and had orange skin, pointed ears, and ridges on the nose.

"Soon, the object I seek will be in my possession," Caliguax vowed. "And, with it, I will *rule the universe!*"

The spacecraft soon reached its destination and arrived at a scientific research facility on Zartron. The craft hovered a few feet off the ground and lowered a ramp to it. Caliguax quickly descended the ramp and was soon on ground level. Then, he headed for the facility's entrance and, upon arriving there, went inside.

Inside the research facility, Caliguax headed for the main lab, which was several feet away from him, smashing everything in his way.

"ZIMBOR," Caliguax shouted. "I *KNOW* YOU'RE HERE! YOU HAVE WHAT I WANT!"

Inside the main laboratory, were two bald blue-skinned aliens with somewhat larger irises that were completely white: a scientist named Zimbor and his assistant, Barylen. Zimbor and Barylen were in the middle of conducting an experiment when they both heard the commotion Caliguax was causing.

"IT'S CALIGUAX," Barylen cried. "HE'S COMING! AND HE'S AFTER THE ZEOTRONIX!"

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"Just as I feared," Zimbor cried as he immediately went toward the Zeotronix, a gauntlet-like symbiotic techno-organic alien device that was resting on a nearby lab table. He quickly grabbed the device and hurried to Barylen.

"We must put it inside the rocket, *immediately*," Zimbor told his assistant.

Barylen followed Zimbor as he hurried to a nearby rocket with the Zeotronix.

Once they reached the rocket, Barylen quickly opened the rocket's hatch.

"Quickly, we must place the Zeotronix in the rocket and send it as *far away as possible*! Or all will be lost," Zimbor said as he placed the alien device inside the rocket. With the Zeotronix inside the rocket, Zimbor closed the hatch.

"ZIMBOR," Caliguax shouted as he neared the entrance to Zimbor's lab. "I *KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!*"

"CALIGUAX IS *HERE!*" Barylen exclaimed.

"There's no time to count down," Zimbor said. "I have to fire the rocket - - *quickly!*"

Zimbor pressed the button on a device he was holding. The device launched the rocket carrying the Zeotronix.

Suddenly, Caliguax burst into Zimbor's and Barylen's laboratory.

"ZIMBOR," Caliguax shouted. "GIVE ME THE ZEOTRONIX OR I WILL *TAKE IT FROM YOU!*"

"I vowed *never* to let the Zeotronix fall into your hands, Caliguax, and I *meant* it," Zimbor exclaimed. "I placed it inside a rocket and sent it *far away* from your grasp!"

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"TELL ME WHERE THE ROCKET IS HEADED," Caliguax demanded. "NOW!!!"

"*Never!*" Zimbor exclaimed defiantly. "I would rather *die* than let the Zeotronix fall into your evil hands!"

"As you wish," Caliguax said coldly before destroying Zimbor and Barylen. Then, the hulking alien quickly left the lab.

Once he was outside the research facility, Caliguax ran up the ramp to his huge spacecraft. Once Caliguax was on board, the ramp lifted off the ground and closed up.

"Prepare for takeoff," Caliguax ordered his humanoid robot pilot. As Caliguax took his command seat, the pilot activated the ship's propulsion systems and the ship soon blasted off.

"I will *not* be denied!" Caliguax angrily vowed. "The Zeotronix *will* be mine!"

"Activate the telemetry," Caliguax ordered.

The humanoid robot pilot did as Caliguax told him. The telemetry was soon activated.

"Telemetry has been activated," the robot pilot said.

Soon, the ship's telemetry picked up the Zeotronix.

"Sir, the Zeotronix is headed for Earth," the humanoid robot pilot told the hulking alien.

"Then, set a course for Earth," Caliguax commanded. The robot pilot obeyed and flew the ship to Earth.

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On Earth, on a football field at Queens Metropolitan High School, a young teenage boy named Kevin Chase was sitting on the bleachers reading as the girls' soccer team played a game. Kevin had black hair and brown eyes. The book he was reading was about King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. He had another book beside him, but it was about Robin Hood and his Merry Men. Soon, Amy Taylor, the star forward of the girls' soccer team caught Kevin's eye. Amy was a beautiful girl with blond hair and blue eyes.

She's beautiful, Kevin thought. I've got to ask her out.

As he put his book down and started to rise from his seat, he heard a loud crash coming from behind the bleachers.

It came from the bleachers behind me, Kevin thought as he quickly went down the bleacher steps until he reached the ground. Once he did, he ran toward the back where he found a small alien craft.

A rocket, Kevin thought as he went toward it. Once he was closer to the rocket, he saw its hatch.

And it has a hatch, he thought. I wonder what's inside it?

Curious, he tried to open it, but the hatch was too hot for him.

"Yow! It's *hot*," Kevin said to himself as he quickly pulled his hand away. "I'd better wait for it to cool down."

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Kevin waited for a few minutes. Then, he carefully touched the rocket's hatch to see if it cooled down. It did.

Good. It's safe to touch, Kevin thought as he opened the hatch.

Once the hatch was opened, Kevin saw the Zeotronix.

What *is* this thing? A curious Kevin wondered as he moved his right hand toward the alien device. It looks like some kind of weird high-tech gauntlet.

Suddenly, the Zeotronix attached itself to his right wrist.

That thing just leaped up toward and attached itself to me, Kevin thought as he tried unsuccessfully to shake the Zeotronix loose.

And it won't come off, he thought.

Suddenly, Caliguax's spacecraft arrived at the football field, attracting the attention of Amy Taylor and the girls soccer team, as well. The craft hovered a few feet off the ground and lowered a ramp to it. Carrying a small hand-held telemetry device, Caliguax descended the ramp and was soon on the ground.

"The Zeotronix is here," Caliguax said as he looked around. "But I don't see it anywhere!"

"WHERE IS THE ZEOTRONIX?" An irate Caliguax asked the girls on the soccer team.

"We don't know what a 'Zeotronix' is," Amy said, speaking for both herself and her soccer team.

"But, we certainly *don't have it!* SO GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM!"

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From behind the bleachers, Kevin watched as Caliguax grabbed Amy by the arm.

"IMPUDENT FLESHLING," Caliguax angrily said. "NO ONE ORDERS CALIGUAX!"

No! That monster's got Amy, Kevin thought.

"THE ZEOTRONIX IS HERE! MY TELEMETRY SAYS IT'S HERE," Caliguax said. "TELL ME WHERE IT IS, OR I SHALL DESTROY YOU!"

I've got to try to save her, Kevin thought as he quickly came from behind the bleachers to face Caliguax.

"LET HER GO, CALIGUAX," Kevin demanded. "NOW!"

The alien conqueror quickly saw the object he sought on Kevin's right wrist.

"AT LAST! THE ZEOTRONIX," Caliguax said. "GIVE IT TO ME! NOW!"

That's what this thing on my right wrist is called? Kevin thought.

"I - I can't," the boy answered. "I - sorta got attached to it."

"Then, I'll crush this flesh creature like a flea," Caliguax vowed..

"NO," Kevin exclaimed.

"I WON'T LET YOU," Kevin exclaimed as the Zeotronix responded to his desire to be a knight in shining armor and save Amy.

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The alien device covered Kevin head to toe in a powered, streamlined exoskeleton with a metallic silver upper torso, a metallic green lower torso, green armor plating on his shoulders, chest, and upper back section, as well as green gauntlets. His streamlined helmet was green and had a tiny laser projector mounted on its forehead. The helmet also had a silver faceplate which covered his face, but had slits for his eyes, allowing him to see. Once Kevin was completely covered with the bio-armor, a heads-up display came into view for him inside his faceplate and a cybernetic interface was established between him and the armor.

Kevin looked at his newly armor-covered body and was deeply impressed.

Whoa! This is *really cool*, Kevin thought.

Soon, he snapped out of his euphoria.

Gotta focus, he thought. Caliguax has Amy in his clutches. I've got to make him let her go!

Kevin fired lasers from the small projector in his helmet's forehead at Caliguax's arm, causing him pain and forcing him to release his captive.

Good! I got him to release Amy, Kevin thought. But I gotta act fast before Caliguax can grab her again!

With lightning-fast speed, Kevin immediately charged toward his extraterrestrial opponent and grappled with him.

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Whoa, I can't believe how *fast* I am, he thought as he grappled with Caliguax. And I'm *strong*, too. I'm actually holding my own against this guy.

"WHO ARE YOU, HUMAN?" Caliguax asked the armored Kevin.

Gotta think of a cool name, Kevin thought. Let's see, I'm wearing a super-cool high-tech suit of armor and I love stories about knights in shining armor slaying dragons and fighting bad guys ...

I just thought of the perfect name, he thought, smiling under his helmet.

"I'M THE *TECHNI-CRUSADER*," Kevin exclaimed as he threw the hulking alien a few feet away from him.

Then, the Techni-Crusader briefly glanced at Amy.

"RUN, AMY, RUN," the armored hero warned Amy. "GET AS FAR AWAY AS YOU CAN FROM HERE! *NOW!*"

Filled with abject fear from the experience, Amy complied and ran as far away as she could. At the same time, Caliguax got back on his feet.

"*NO ONE DARES TO CHALLENGE CALIGUAX AND LIVES*," the hulking alien exclaimed angrily as he charged toward the Techni-Crusader and delivered an uppercut that sent the armored hero soaring high into the sky.

Soon, the Techni-Crusader stopped in mid-air and was soon plummeting toward the ground below.

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Oh, man! I am *so* gonna be *street pizza*, the panicking armored hero thought. But then, he looked at the heads-up display in his helmet's faceplate. The display showed all of the armor's capabilities and weapons to him, which included boot jets.

Wait a *minute!* This suit of armor has *boot jets*, Techni-Crusader thought. He cybernetically activated the boot jets and was soon flying through the air. He then flew toward Caliguax at increasing speed and rammed into him, knocking him down.

"Oh, *yeah!* Who's the *man?!?*" The armored hero triumphantly asked as he landed.

However, Caliguax got back up.

Uh oh. Laughing boy's ready for *another round*, Techni-Crusader thought.

"CALIGUAX CANNOT BE DEFEATED SO *EASILY*, STRIPLING! I *WILL* DESTROY YOU - - AND THE ZEOTRONIX *WILL* BE MINE," Caliguax shouted as he renewed his attack. However, thanks to his armor's sensors, the armored hero was ready for him.

"I don't *think* so, ugly," Techni-Crusader said as his armor's left gauntlet quickly generated a photonic energy shield. The energy shield gave him added protection from the hulking alien's blows.

The armored hero then used the lasers from his helmet's forehead-mounted projector at Caliguax's eyes, blinding him.

"EEEYYYYAAHHHH," Caliguax screamed.

Then, the Techni-Crusader fired pulse bolts from the palms of his armor's gauntlets at Caliguax, hitting him with incredible force. Caliguax was defeated.

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"*Cannot* be defeated so *easily*, huh?" The armored hero smugly asked his opponent.

Soon, another spaceship arrived, attracting the Techni-Crusader's attention.

Uh oh. *More* aliens, he thought. I sure hope they're *friendly*.

The spaceship hovered high above only a few feet from the Techni-Crusader and Caliguax, who had recovered. Caliguax also turned his attention to the spaceship. Soon, he and the Techni-Crusader watched as it lowered Zimbor and Barylen to the ground.

"Who *are* you guys?" The armored hero asked.

"I am Zimbor," Zimbor said.

"And this is my assistant, Barylen," Zimbor said as he introduced Techni-Crusader to Barylen.

"We are from the planet, Zartron."

"Zimbor and Barylen?! How can you be *alive*?!" A puzzled Caliguax asked. "I *eliminated* you!"

"Barylen and I are Zartronians, Caliguax," Zimbor answered. "Zartronians can regenerate themselves on the *molecular level*!"

"It's *over*! You have *lost*," Zimbor said as he got out a hand-held projector and activated it. The beam from the projector struck Caliguax and caused him to vanish.

"NNNOOOOOO," Caliguax screamed as he faded away.

"Where did he go?" Techni-Crusader asked Zimbor.

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"To the Wraith Dimension, where he won't trouble anyone for *many years* to come," Zimbor replied before turning his attention to the armored hero.

"You must be the current bearer of my Zeotronix," Zimbor told Techni-Crusader.

"Yeah, I'm the Techni-Crusader," said the armored hero.

At the armored hero's mental command, the Zeotronix armor unsheathed his body, returning him to his normal appearance.

"But, my real name is Kevin Chase. I found your 'Zeotronix' by accident," Kevin said. "I can't give it back to you, since it's stuck to my wrist.."

"That's all right. You can keep it," Zimbor told Kevin with a smile. "I have a feeling that the Zeotronix is in *good hands*."

"What can I do to conceal this Zeotronix, since I can't remove it?" Kevin asked.

"The Zeotronix can make itself invisible to all, save you," Zimbor answered.

"Farewell, Kevin Chase. If you need my assistance, just contact me through the Zeotronix armor," Zimbor said as he and Barylen headed back inside their spaceship.

"Sure thing, Zimbor," Kevin said. "And thanks."

Zimbor's and Barylen's ship flew off as Kevin waved goodbye.

The next day at school, Kevin walked through the hallway, looking around everywhere for Amy. He saw some other students and went over to them.

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"Has anyone seen Amy Taylor?" He asked.

"She's not here. She's taking some time off," one of them answered. "She said she had post-traumatic stress disorder from what happened on the field yesterday."

"When will she be back," Kevin asked.

"She's *not* coming back," the student answered. "She's transferring to another school."

I guess this is *one time* that the knight in shining armor *doesn't* get the girl, a chagrined Kevin thought.

"Hey, Kevin," a male voice called, attracting Kevin's attention.

Kevin saw his best friend, a young teenage boy named Zack Spencer. Zack had light brown hair and hazel eyes.

"Hey, Zack," Kevin said. "I take it you're back from visiting your aunt in Flagstaff?"

"Yep. She's doing much better," Zack answered. "I enjoyed visiting her, but it's great to be back home."

Zack soon noticed that Kevin was feeling down.

"What's wrong, pal?" Zack asked.

"You know Amy Taylor, the star forward of the girls' soccer team here at school?" Kevin asked.

"Yeah, She's the girl you've had a huge crush on," Zack answered. "What happened?"

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"She's transferring to another school soon," Kevin answered. "So, I won't be seeing her again.
Ever."

"I'm sorry, man," Zack said.

There was a slight pause.

"Hey, how about you and I go down to Michelinie's Pizza after school today and pig out?"
Zack asked. "That might cheer you up."

"Sounds good to me," Kevin said with a slight smile.

"Great. See you later, man," Zack said as he left. "I gotta get to class,"

"Yeah, me too. And thanks," Kevin said as he left as well. He was soon starting to smile.

THE END

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