

The Techni-Crusader #9 - "Fantastic Heroes and Where to Find Them"

Written by Steven Bland

Early in the day, in Times Square, screens were showing an online news outlet called "Braverman's News World" which was being hosted by Will Braverman.

"Welcome to the Braverman Report," Braverman said. "Our top story is so-called 'heroes' like the Techni-Crusader, the Sprintress, Patriot Prime, Blue Mantis, Fire Opal, and many others, attacking our armed forces and discrediting them. Here is footage we have gathered over the past few days that prove our point and prove that these 'heroes' are only out for themselves."

Braverman showed footage of the Techni-Crusader and his Radonian allies trying to stop possessed Air Force pilots in downtown Los Angeles, the Sprintress and Patriot Prime trying to stop possessed Army soldiers at the Capitol Building, the Blue Mantis and Fire Opal trying to stop possessed Marine Corps members at the United Nations Building.

"See? See?" Braverman asked.

Soon, Braverman got a call, which he answered.

"Hello?" Braverman asked.

"My brother, Andy is in the Army and he was one of the soldiers involved in the battle with the Sprintress and Patriot Prime at the Capitol Hill Building," the caller said.

"Did those so-called 'heroes' hurt your brother?" Braverman asked.

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"No, you idiot," the caller said. "Andy told me himself that he was possessed by some evil force to attack the Capitol Building and that the Sprintress and Patriot Prime were only trying to stop him and his fellow soldiers. Thankfully, they were somehow freed from whatever force was controlling them."

"You really expect me to believe that garbage?" Braverman asked.

"It's the *truth*," the caller protested.

"Wrong," Braverman countered. "It's science fiction!"

"Andy was *there*," the caller argued. "He, *and* his fellow soldiers, actually experienced it themselves!"

"You're confusing the facts," Braverman argued.

"AND YOU'RE A *GASBAG*," the irate caller answered.

"Ooohh, now I'm *really* scared. Seriously? That's your A material?" Braverman sarcastically replied.

"YOU SUCK," the irate caller said.

"Buh-bye," Braverman said as he hung up on the caller.

Suddenly, Braverman vanished in a mysterious flash of black light.

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Elsewhere, in a sophisticated laboratory, a scientist named Olivia Emerson was using robot arms to manipulate radioactive isotopes for an experiment.

Suddenly, she vanished in a mysterious flash of black light.

Elsewhere, in a board room, Ken Rockwell, founder of Rockwell Technologies, was meeting with Jackson Tyler, founder of Tyler Innovations.

"Please, Rockwell, don't do this to me," Tyler begged. "I built Tyler Innovations from nothing."

"I already bought your company, Tyler," Rockwell said. "It's mine now."

"NO," Tyler exclaimed. "You were already the biggest company in the world! How could you be so *heartless*?"

"In the business world, I am a god," Rockwell answered. "And gods don't have to choose, we *take*!"

"I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS," Tyler vowed as he got up and left. "I'LL SUE YOU!"

Rockwell sat and watched Tyler as he slammed the door behind him.

Suddenly, Rockwell vanished in a mysterious flash of black light.

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Elsewhere, in Hell's Kitchen, a street hood named Eric Grimes and his gang, the Red Devils were facing off against Jimmy Petrelli and his gang, the Green Dragons.

"You think you can muscle in on *our* turf?" Eric asked. "*AIN'T* GONNA HAPPEN!"

"YEAH," Eric's gang exclaimed in unison.

"All right, guys," Eric told his gang. "*LET'S WASTE 'EM!*"

The battle began. As it progressed, Eric and the Red Devils got the upper hand.

Soon, the battle was over, and Eric and his gang were the winners.

"We *did* it, Eric," one of the Red Devils said proudly. "Thanks to your planning and leadership, we *won!*"

"What should we do with 'em, boss?" One of the other Red Devils asked Eric.

Suddenly, Eric vanished in a mysterious flash of black light.

A short while later, Will Braverman, Olivia Emerson, Ken Rockwell, and Eric Grimes woke up and found themselves inside an alien laboratory. Each was inside a pod and were all wearing black bodysuits with gloves, boots, belts, a symbol of a fist over a white disc on their chests, and eye masks. The gloves, boots, belts, fist insignias, and eye masks were color-coded. Will's gloves, boots, belt, fist insignia, and eye mask were all blue, Olivia's gloves, boots, belt, fist insignia, and eye mask were all green, Ken's gloves, boots, belt, fist insignia, and eye mask were all yellow, and Eric's gloves, boots, belt, fist insignia, and eye mask were all red.

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Soon, a green-skinned extra-terrestrial woman entered and approached the four people from Earth.

"WHERE ARE WE?" Will Braverman asked loudly. "I DEMAND THAT YOU RELEASE US AT ONCE! DO YOU HEAR ME? AT ONCE!"

"SILENCE, EARTHER," the green-skinned alien woman exclaimed.

"LADY, I'M WILL BRAVERMAN, HOST OF 'BRAVERMAN'S NEWS WORLD,'" Will loudly answered. "I HAVE NEVER BEEN SILENT IN MY LIFE!"

"I am Omnila," the green-skinned alien woman answered. "You are here in my starship headquarters, because I have chosen you four to be my agents!"

"Why us?" Olivia Emerson asked.

"Because of your personalities," Omnila answered. "And you will be given great powers based on those personalities, - -"

"- - Once you four have been subjected to my Omni-Rays," Omnila continued as she pointed to a large ray projector that was a few feet away and pointed at the Earth people.

"Will Braverman," Omnila said. "I chose you because people describe you as 'gasbag' and you have a penchant for caustic remarks."

Omnila turned to Olivia.

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"Olivia Emerson," Omnila said. "I chose you because you are grasping and manipulative."

Omnila turned to Ken Rockwell.

"Ken Rockwell," she said. "I chose you because you are bright, focused, prideful, and arrogant."

Omnila turned to Eric Grimes.

"And you, Eric Grimes," she said. "I chose you because you are solid, stubborn, determined, and charismatic. You also restrain your emotions, which is good because they are a weakness."

Omnila walked toward a large device. Once she approached it, she activated it. The projector bathed Braverman, Emerson, Rockwell, and Grimes with unearthly radiation.

Once the radiation treatments were stopped, the powers of the four Earth people were manifested. Will Braverman gained the power to transform into a cloud of corrosive gas, Olivia Emerson gained a telekinetic aura which could manifest psychic tentacles, Ken Rockwell's physical form became living laser light, and Eric Grimes had his body transformed into an organic iron ore and soon developed magnetic powers.

Omnila turned to Will.

"You are no longer Will Braverman," she said. "You are now - - GASBAG!"

Omnila turned to Olivia.

"You are no longer Olivia Emerson," she said. "Now you are - - EVERREACH!"

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Omnila turned to Ken.

"You are no longer Ken Rockwell," she said. "Now you are - - LASERLIGHT!"

Omnila turned to Eric.

"You are no longer Eric Grimes," she said. "Now you are - - MAGNETITE!"

"You four can help me eliminate the superheroes who stand in my way," Omnila told them.

"And with them gone, I - - I mean - - *we* will conquer Earth!"

"Now, go," Omnila said as she teleported her new agents to Earth and Manhattan.

Soon, the four new villains were in Times Square.

"We have to eliminate the superheroes here because this is where most of them are," Everreach said. "But, *how* are we going to find them?"

"We won't have to find them," Magnetite answered. "We'll make them come to us!"

"How?" Gasbag asked.

"By causing lots of destruction," Magnetite answered.

"Then, let's *do it*," Laserlight said.

Soon, the four villains started using their powers to wreck the city. All those who were on the streets started running and fleeing for their lives.

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Meanwhile, minutes later, at school, Kevin Chase was in the hallway, walking to his next class. Another student, who was passing by, played a newscast on his smartphone. Kevin stopped when he heard the newscast.

"A quartet of new supervillains is terrorizing Times Square," the newscaster reported. "All citizens are to remain indoors. And if any citizens are in the vicinity of Times Square, they are to evacuate immediately."

I have to do something, Kevin thought.

"I just remembered that I left my essay at my house," Kevin told the student. "I have to go home to get it, but I'll be back as soon as I can. I promise."

Kevin ran through the hallway until he was out of the school building. Once he was outside, he looked for a secluded area and soon found one. There, he mentally commanded the Zeotronix on his wrist to sheath him in his suit of high-tech powered armor. Once he was suited up, the Techni-Crusader activated his boot jets and flew off to Times Square.

Meanwhile, in a laboratory in Long Island, Keith Kendall was building an innovative high-tech device. Before he could finish, he suddenly vanished in a mysterious flash of white light.

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Elsewhere, a police detective named Angela Park was chasing a criminal through a city street in Manhattan. Angela overcame every obstacle in her way and never relented in her pursuit. Soon, she gained on her quarry and soon caught up to him. Pinning him to the ground, Angela got out her handcuffs.

"You have the right to remain silent," Angela told her captive.

Angela's partner arrived on the scene.

"Good work, Anj," he said.

"Thanks, Ed," Angela said as she handed her captive to Ed. "Get him in the car."

As Ed escorted the captured perp to the police car, Angela found herself vanishing in a mysterious flash of white light.

Elsewhere, a young wingman named Danny Ramirez, whose callsign was "Blizzard", and his mentor and best friend, Tom Wyatt, whose callsign was "Cowboy" were engaged in a dogfight with another plane which was piloted by an enemy named Jake Darnell, whose callsign was "Reaper"..

"Blizzard, be careful! We're in Reaper's airspace! He's tough and dangerous," Tom warned Danny.

"Don't worry, Cowboy. We can handle this," Danny assured him.

Suddenly, Jake did a steep climb towards the sun, causing Danny to lose sight of him.

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"Cowboy, We've lost him," Danny said before doing his best to level out. He managed to do so, but Jake was coming at him.

"Blizzard, he's on our six," Tom warned. "We gotta get low! The terrain will confuse his targeting system!"

"Got it," Danny said as he got his fighter jet to go lower. Tom followed him.

Jake continued to pursue them.

"Talk to me, Blizzard," Tom said. "Where is he?"

"Reaper's still on us," Danny said. "And he's getting ready to fire!"

Tom quickly maneuvered his plane to get in between Danny and Jake.

Tom's plane took the hit and it soon went into a tailspin.

"NO," Danny shouted.

"TOM," a concerned Danny shouted before turning his attention to Jake's plane.

Big mistake, creep! That was my best friend you just shot down, Danny thought with an icy fury. You wanna get dangerous? Then, let's get dangerous!

Now, I'm gonna try one of your tricks, Danny thought as he did a steep climb towards the sun, causing Jake to lose sight of him.

As Jake tried to level out, Danny turned off the sound of the missile warning as he fired the missile at Jake's jet, damaging the engine, causing it to go into a tailspin..

That was for Tom, an angry Danny thought.

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Soon, Danny heard a call coming in from his radio.

"Blizzard," the voice said. "Blizzard, do you copy?"

Can it be? Danny thought before answering.

"Yeah, I copy," Danny answered. "Is that you, Cowboy?"

"None other," Tom answered.

"I – I thought you were killed," a relieved Danny said.

"I'm okay," Tom said. "I managed to eject at the last second. See you back on ground level."

"Copy that," a thankful Danny said.

However, Danny vanished in a mysterious flash of white light.

Elsewhere, at a construction site, Bill Stone was helping out his fellow workers, Dave and Steve removing debris after digging a trench..

"Hey, guys, let me help you with that," Bill told a colleague.

Together, Bill, Dave, and Steve worked on the task until they completed it.

"Man, Bill, I don't know where you get the energy," Dave said.

"Thanks to you, we got every project done sooner than expected," Steve said.

Suddenly, Bill vanished in a mysterious flash of white light.

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A short while later, Keith Kendall, Angela Park, Danny Ramirez, and Bill Stone woke up and found themselves inside an alien laboratory. Each was inside a pod and were all wearing white bodysuits with gloves, boots, a belt, a badge insignia on their chest, and an eye mask. The gloves, boots, belts, badge insignias, and eye masks were color-coded. Keith's gloves, boots, belt, badge insignia, and eye mask were all green, Angela's gloves, boots, belt, badge insignia, and eye mask were all red, Danny's gloves, boots, belt, badge insignia, and eye mask were all blue, and Bill's gloves, boots, belt, badge insignia, and eye mask were all yellow.

Soon, a bald, green-skinned extra-terrestrial man revealed his presence and greeted the four people from Earth.

"Greetings, Earth people," he said. "I am Forzon and I have chosen you to protect the Earth."

"Why us?" Keith asked.

"I chose you for your personality traits, Keith Kendall," Forzon answered. "And you will gain great powers that reflect those traits."

"How do you know my name?" Keith asked.

"I am a superior being," Forzon answered. "And you have been chosen because you are yielding and adaptable and have a talent for creating impressive technological devices."

Forzon turned to Angela.

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"You, Angela Park have been chosen because you are strong, tough, and you refuse to let anything get in your way," said the alien.

Forzon turned to Danny.

"You, Danny Ramirez have been chosen because, even though you have a fiery temper, you always temper it with a cooler head," Forzon said.

Forzon turned to Bill.

You, Bill Stone have been chosen because you are strong, grounded, energetic, supportive, and unwilling to sit idly by whenever a job needs to be done," Forzon said.

Forzon directed their attentions to a large ray projector that was a few feet away and pointed at them.

"Once you four have been subjected to the Omni-Rays from this projector, - -" Forzon said as he walked toward the device, and then, approached it.

"- - you will gain those great powers," Forzon said as he activated the device. The projector bathed Keith, Angela, Danny, and Bill with unearthly radiation.

Once the radiation treatments were stopped, the powers of the four Earth people were manifested. Keith Kendall gained the power to convert his body to a liquid metal form that contained organic nanomachines. In his liquid metal form, Keith generated a few high-tech devices, such as a laser blade and a drill.

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"Amazing," an impressed Keith said.

"Indeed, Keith," Forzon said. "You are now - - GALVANEX!"

Angela Park gained the power to alter her personal density, which she used to pass through the wall and come back.

"I - I actually passed through that wall like it was thin air.

"Yes, Angela," Forzon said. "You did that by altering your personal density. You can also use that power to increase your strength and durability to superhuman levels. You are now - - INCREDIBELLE!"

Danny Ramirez soon found his body covered with ice-fire. He decided to test his new power and projected a flame which instantly froze what it touched.

"Wow," an impressed Danny said.

"Yes, Danny," Forzon said. "You are now - - COLDFIRE!"

Bill Stone found himself transforming into a being of pure electrical energy given structure through orange rocky armored plating.

"FORZON, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?" Bill asked. "I'VE TURNED INTO AN EVER-LOVIN' FREAK!"

"No, Bill," Forzon replied. "You have become - - FULGURITE! You now possess superhuman strength and durability, electrokinesis, electrical telekinesis, and the power of supercharging anything or anyone."

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"You are now - - FREEDOM'S FOURSOME," Forzon continued. "And it is your mission to protect your planet from evil."

"Turn your attention to the monitor screens," Forzon told the newly-empowered quartet.

The monitor screens showed Everreach, Gasbag, Laserlight, and Magnetite using their powers to wreck Times Square.

"Who are these villains, Forzon?" Galvanex asked.

"They were created by my enemy, Omnila," Forzon answered. "They are Everreach, who possesses psychic tentacles, Gasbag, who can transform himself into a cloud of corrosive gas, Laserlight, who can transform into and manipulate laser light, and Magnetite, the leader of this villainous group, has the power to manipulate magnetism as well as an organic iron ore body which grants him superhuman strength and durability."

The monitor screens then showed the Techni-Crusader arriving on the scene.

"It's the Techni-Crusader," Incredibelle said.

"Let's go," Coldfire said.

"Wait," Galvanex said.

"Why, Galvanex?" Fulgurite asked. "You heard Forzon! We gotta stop those creeps!"

"Let's see what the Techni-Crusader can do, first," Galvanex said. "He's been a superhero longer than we have. We may just get in his way and we don't want that."

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"If he fails or ends up in trouble," Galvanex continued. "Then, we'll step in. But for now, let's watch."

In Times Square, the Techni-Crusader was preparing to face off against Omnila's superpowered minions.

They're really wrecking the city, the armored superhero thought. I'd better see what I can do to stop them..

The Techni-Crusader fired a pulse bolt at Everreach, stunning her. Laserlight, Gasbag, and Magnetite, turned their attention to the armored superhero.

"Well," Laserlight said. "We knew that if we caused some destruction in Times Square, that we would draw out at least one of you superheroes!"

"Well, it worked, Glowworm," the armored superhero said

"The name's LASERLIGHT! NOW, EAT LASER BLASTS," Laserlight exclaimed as he fired laser bolts at the Techni-Crusader, who immediately manifested his energy shield and quickly used it to deflect the photonic blasts.

Let's see if I can match the frequency of Laserlight's light blasts, the armored superhero thought as he used his helmet's technology to analyze his enemy's frequency. In seconds, the Techni-Crusader found out what he needed to know.

"You had your shot, Laserlight," the armored superhero said.

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"Now it's *my* turn," the Techni-Crusader said as he cybernetically activated his helmet's laser. The laser matched the same frequency as Laserlight's photonic blasts. The laser dealt a serious blow to the villain.

"AAARRGGHHH," Laserlight exclaimed.

Suddenly, the armored superhero was caught and frozen in place with magnetic waves.

"Wh-What's happened to me?" The Techni-Crusader asked. "I - - can't move."

"*Naturally*," Magnetite answered. "And you are caught up in the magnetic power of - -
MAGNETITE!"

In Forzon's laboratory, Forzon, Galvanex, Incredibelle, Coldfire, and Fulgurite were watching the monitor screens which showed the Techni-Crusader caught in Magnetite's magnetic waves and desperately trying to free himself.

"Now, Gasbag," Magnetite commanded. "Corrode the Techni-Crusader's armor and destroy him!"

The screens then showed Gasbag in his cloud form moving toward the captive Techni-Crusader. Galvanex, turned to Incredibelle, Coldfire, and Fulgurite.

"Now, we'll go," he told them before turning toward Forzon.

"Forzon, can you beam the four of us to Times Square?" Galvanex asked.

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"Yes, and I will," Forzon replied before teleporting the newly-empowered would-be heroes to the location.

Galvanex, Incredibelle, Coldfire, and Fulgurite appeared on the ground at Times Square. Galvanex looked up and saw the Techni-Crusader in his current predicament.

"We haven't a moment to lose," Galvanex said. "Gasbag is about to corrode the Techni-Crusader's armor."

He turned his attention toward Coldfire.

"Coldfire, can you fly me up to the Techni-Crusader?" Galvanex asked.

"No problem," Coldfire said as he enveloped his body, with the exception of his gloved hands, with ice-fire.

Then, he grabbed Galvanex and flew him up toward the Techni-Crusader. As they went up, Galvanex quickly generated powerful electric fans from the organic nanomachines in his liquid metal form.

Immediately activating the fans, Galvanex blew Gasbag away from the Techni-Crusader. Below, Fulgurite fired an arc of electrical energy at Gasbag, shocking him into his human form and rendering him unconscious. No longer in his gaseous form, Gasbag began his fall toward the ground.

"Fulgurite, catch Gasbag before he hits the ground," Galvanex told him.

"You got it, Galvanex," Fulgurite said before using his electrical telekinesis to catch Gasbag and lower him to the ground safely.

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"Incredibelle, you need to subdue Magnetite," Galvanex told his female teammate. "It's his power that is holding the Techni-Crusader captive."

"On it," Incredibelle said as she lowered her density and headed for Magnetite. However, Laserlight, who had just recovered from the Techni-Crusader's laser blast, attempted to stop the heroine by shooting laser blasts at her but they couldn't touch her. Upon reaching Magnetite, Incredibelle phased her right hand through him and solidified it ever so slightly, causing the metallic villain great internal pain and agony.

Magnetite lost total consciousness and his magnetic hold over the Techni-Crusader was broken.

The Techni-Crusader and Coldfire, carrying Galvanex, alighted on the ground.

"Well done, Incredibelle," Galvanex told his female teammate.

"So I have you to thank for my rescue, eh?" The Techni-Crusader told Incredibelle.

"You're welcome, Techni-Crusader," Incredibelle said with a smile. "And the pleasure was mine."

The five superheroes soon found themselves under attack by Laserlight's photonic blasts. The Techni-Crusader instinctively put up his energy shield.

"All of you get behind me," the armored superhero told Freedom's Foursome, who complied.

As soon as he got an opening, the Techni-Crusader cybernetically activated his helmet's laser, which remained on the same frequency as Laserlight's photonic blasts. The laser dealt a serious blow to the villain.

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Inspired, Galvanex, using the organic nanomachines in his liquid metal form, generated a laser cannon, fired a powerful laser on the same frequency as Laserlight's at the photonic villain.

"AAARRRGGGHHH," Laserlight screamed.

The laser blasts from the two heroes put Laserlight down for the count.

"We did it," the Techni-Crusader said proudly.

However, unbeknownst to the five heroes, Everreach regained consciousness. Seeing them, she used her psychic tentacles to ensnare all of them, except for Galvanex, due to his liquid metal form.

"What the - - ?" Coldfire asked.

"Hey," Incredibelle said.

"How *revoltin'*," Fulgurite said.

At Everreach's mental command, the psychic tentacles squeezed each of the heroes.

"C-Can't breathe," Techni-Crusader said.

Seeing his allies being squeezed by Everreach's tentacles, Galvanex knew he had to act.

I've got to do something, he thought as he generated a sonic disruptor and used it against Everreach.

"YYEEAARRRGGGHHHH," she screamed. Her psychic tentacles released their grips on the other heroes.

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"Thanks, Galvanex," Coldfire said. "Now, I'll put her on ice."

"*LITERALLY*," he said as he shot cold flames at her. They instantly encased her in a block of solid ice.

Meanwhile, in her lair, Omnila had been watching the battle on her monitor screens. She was absolutely livid.

"FINE," she exclaimed. "I'LL DO IT *MYSELF*!"

Minutes later, in Times Square, the Techni-Crusader and Freedom's Foursome were startled by a huge flash of light, which heralded the presence of Omnila, who was wearing a powerful armored mech-suit.

"YOU MAY HAVE DEFEATED MY MINIONS," Omnila exclaimed. "BUT YOU SHALL NEVER DEFEAT OMNILA!"

"I SHALL DESTROY YOU," she exclaimed as she fired missiles from her mech-suit's shoulders.

"Relax, guys, I got this," Coldfire said as he shot his flames at the missiles. Once they touched the missiles, the flames turned into ice, freezing the missiles and rendering them harmless.

"I put your missiles on ice, Omnila," Coldfire said. "Now I'm gonna do the same to you!"

He shot his flames at Omnila, who was soon encased in ice, but she easily broke free.

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"Think again," Omnila said.

"Let's see how you do against me," Fulgurite said as he punched Omnila as hard as he could.

However, she was still standing.

"Ineffective," Omnila said.

Techni-Crusader, with the superhuman strength derived from his powered armor, took his shot, but succeeded in only knocking her back a few inches.

"My turn," Incredibelle said as she increased her personal density and threw her hardest punch at Omnila, who was staggered by the blow, but quickly recovered.

"Impressive," Omnila said. "You've actually managed to stagger me! You want to get *serious?*"

"LET'S GET *DEADLY* SERIOUS," Omnila exclaimed as she fired energy blasts at the heroes. Techni-Crusader managed to deflect them with his energy shield, Incredibelle, whose personal density was still increased, was impervious to them, Fulgurite surrounded himself with an electrokinetic force field which deflected them. Galvanex and Coldfire each evaded the blasts in their own manners.

"We can't evade these blasts forever, we've got to do something," Techni-Crusader told Galvanex and Fulgurite.

"Agreed," Galvanex said as he generated a plasma cannon.

"I'm with you," Fulgurite said as his hands crackled with electrical energy.

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The three heroes turned their attention to Omnila and quickly hit her with their energy attacks, Techni-Crusader with his pulse bolts, Galvanex with the energy from his plasma cannon, and Fulgurite with his arcs of electrical energy. The combined energies slowly push her back, but Omnila causes her mech-suit to generate an omni-directional wave, which easily pushes back the Techni-Crusader, Galvanex, and Fulgurite.

"Well, that strategy didn't work," a dismayed Fulgurite said.

"I'm open to suggestions," Techni-Crusader said.

Galvanex stretched out to Incredibelle.

"Can you and Coldfire keep Omnila busy?" He asked her.

"We'll do our best," she told him. Galvanex returned to Fulgurite and the Techni-Crusader.

"I have an idea," Galvanex said. "While Incredibelle keeps Omnila busy

Touching the Techni-Crusader's powered armor, Galvanex used his organic nanomachines to modify and upgrade it.

Wow, the armored superhero thought. It's like I'm getting a completely new suit of armor.

"I upgraded your armor, Techni-Crusader," Galvanex told him. "As long as I'm still within your range, those upgrades will stick around."

Galvanex turned toward Fulgurite.

"Fulgurite, I'm going to need you to supercharge his new armor," Galvanex said.

"You got it," Fulgurite said.

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"And I want you to use your souped-up pulse bolts on Omnila," Galvanex told the Techni-Crusader.

"You got it," the armored superhero said.

The three heroes went toward Omnila.

Fulgurite used his electrokinetic powers to juice up the Techni-Crusader's armor which Galvanex upgraded.

The improved Techni-Crusader fired his pulse bolts at Omnila which not only knocked her out but shattered her mech-suit as well.

Soon, the five heroes saw Omnila vanish before their eyes.

"Omnila," a surprised Coldfire said. "She's gone."

Then, the five heroes see the unconscious forms of Everreach, Gasbag, Laserlight, and Magnetite vanish as well.

"And so are her super-powered pawns," Incredibelle said.

Later, Techni-Crusader, Galvanex, Incredibelle, Coldfire, and Fulgurite found themselves vanishing as well.

"And now, *we're* vanishing, too," Galvanex said.

In an instant, the five superheroes found themselves in Forzon's laboratory. The Techni-Crusader's powered armor returned to normal.

"Hey, we're back in Forzon's laboratory," Fulgurite said.

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The Techni-Crusader #9 - "Fantastic Heroes and Where to Find Them"

"Congratulations, Freedom's Foursome and Techni-Crusader," a proud Forzon said. "A job well done."

"Thank you, Forzon," Galvanex said.

The five heroes then looked around and saw Everreach, Gasbag, Laserlight, and Magnetite lying on tables wearing special collars and looking like they did before Omnila subjected them to the Omni-Rays and gave them their powers.

"We've noticed that you've teleported Omnila's pawns here to your laboratory," Incredibelle told Forzon. "But, what are those things around their necks?"

"They are adjustable inhibitor collars which I have designed to inhibit superhuman powers that are or were induced by Omni-Rays," Forzon answered. "This was in case the recipients of their Omni-Ray-induced powers used them for evil purposes or went rogue."

"Aren't you worried about the four bad guys trying to remove their inhibitor collars," Techni-Crusader asked.

"No," Forzon answered. "The collars cannot be removed by anyone but me."

"What happened to Omnila?" Coldfire asked. "What are you going to do with her?"

"She has been sent to our home planet," Forzon replied. "Where I will judge her. You need never worry about her again."

"Keith, Angela, Danny, and Bill," Forzon continued. "You have all earned a rest."

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"Thanks, Forzon," Fulgurite said. "But Galvanex and I would enjoy it a lot more if we could look normal again."

"Bill, you and Keith are still able to resume your normal forms," Forzon assured them. "And you can accomplish it through willpower."

"You mean, just will ourselves to be normal?" Galvanex asked.

"Yes," Forzon answered. "Try it."

Galvanex and Fulgurite used their willpower and focused on their desires to resume their normal forms. Soon, they both looked the way they did before Forzon gave them their powers.

"Well, I'll be," a surprised and elated Bill Sone said. "It actually worked."

Keith was just as elated.

"Of course," Forzon said with a smile. "And it always will."

"But, bear in mind, Keith, Bill, Angela, and Danny," Forzon continued. "Your careers as the Freedom's Foursome are just beginning. You and your powers will soon be called upon many times to aid mankind."

"We understand," Keith said.

Forzon, Keith, Bill, Angela, and Danny turned their attentions to the Techni-Crusader.

"Thank you, Techni-Crusader, for your assistance," Forzon told the armored superhero.

"You're welcome," the Techni-Crusader said.

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"And if you ever need the Freedom's Foursome," Keith told the armored superhero as they shook hands. "We'll be there."

The Techni-Crusader then shook hands with Bill, Angela, and Danny who all smiled.

"Anytime," Bill said.

"Anyplace," Angela said.

"Anywhere," Danny said.

"The same for me," the armored superhero said. "And now I'm ready for Forzon to beam me back to Earth."

Forzon did so, and soon, the Techni-Crusader was back on Earth.

Now, I'd better hurry back to school before everyone wonders where Kevin Chase is," the armored superhero thought as he rocketed off into the sky.

THE END

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