

Academy

READY FOR ACTION

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To Mom, Dad, and Christina. Thanks for making me me. –B.L.

To Jamey and my mini wolf pack: Samurai, Jinx,

Hansel & Gretel. –E.T.

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CHAPTER ONE

TITAN BREACH MEMOIRS

The action figure had been kept in the display case of the Titan Toys lobby for years. Her name was **TEMPEST BOOMCLOUD**, and she was stuck in a glass box next to other discontinued toys, across from a TV that played an endless loop of cartoons based on Titan Toys properties.

Tempest knew every line to every show. She had their theme songs buzzing around her head 24/7. It was downright unbearable. And just when she thought things couldn't get any worse, the humans put up a sign in the lobby . . .





Tempest couldn't take it anymore. She used her battle glove to tear through her packaging.

"Where are you going?" Cryin' Lion asked.

"Far away from the likes of you!" Tempest barked.

Cryin' Lion started crying, to absolutely no one's surprise. Tempest ignored the sobs and boldly kicked open the glass door. But she also lost her balance, fell from her shelf, and landed on the floor.

The noise alerted one of the Titan Toys guards. He came running in search of the source of the noise. Tempest raised her battle glove and made a fist, ready to battle with the large human. If she was going to be found out, she wasn't going down without a fight.

Luckily, Tempest didn't have to battle. She didn't have to do anything. The watchman didn't see her. He simply closed the display case and left. Tempest had been **IGNORED YET AGAIN**.

This time, she took advantage of it. She ran out the front door.

Tempest Boomcloud was a free toy.

Now she had to find a way to Toy World, where her mission could truly begin.

By the time she was finished, every toy would know her name.



CHAPTER TWO

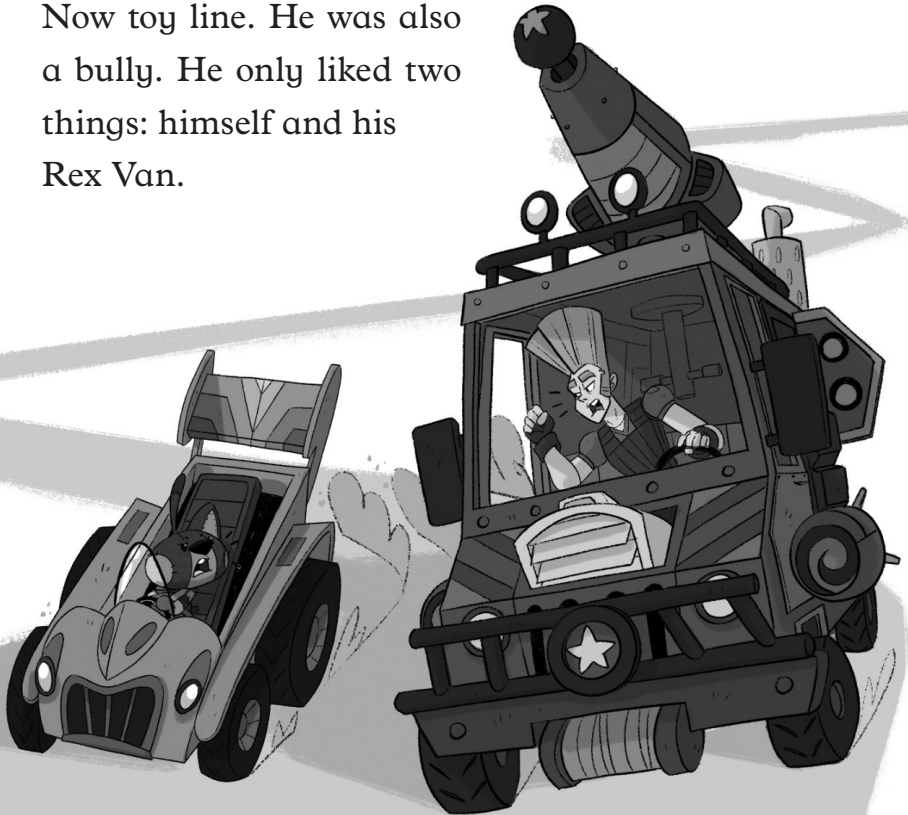
FURRY ROAD

In the human world, the **ELITE ACTION FORCE NOW** toys were super popular playthings. But here in Toy World, they protected civilians from threats of all shapes, sizes, and toy lines. To celebrate Elite Action Force Now's twenty-fifth anniversary, Toy World was throwing an Anniversary Parade of Greatness. It would begin at the Knickknack Valley clock tower and end at Toy Academy. There would be balloons, floats, and musical numbers (but no fireworks because most of the citizens of Toy World were flammable).

The Toy Academy students were excited about the parade, and even more excited that they'd have the day off from school. But for now, class was in session, so the plushes were learning how to cuddle, water toys learned bathtub basics, and action figures were making glorious use of the school's racetrack.

Grumbolt's Road Ripper tore down the track, zigzagging around dozens of other toy vehicles. He sped past a tank, an armored jeep, and a rhino on wheels. Up ahead he spotted the triple loop-de-loop.

"You're gonna wreck the car!" Rex Everything yelled as he pulled up in his **REX VAN**. Rex was the lead character of the Elite Action Force Now toy line. He was also a bully. He only liked two things: himself and his Rex Van.



“Leave me alone!” Grumbolt yelled. “Go bother someone else!”

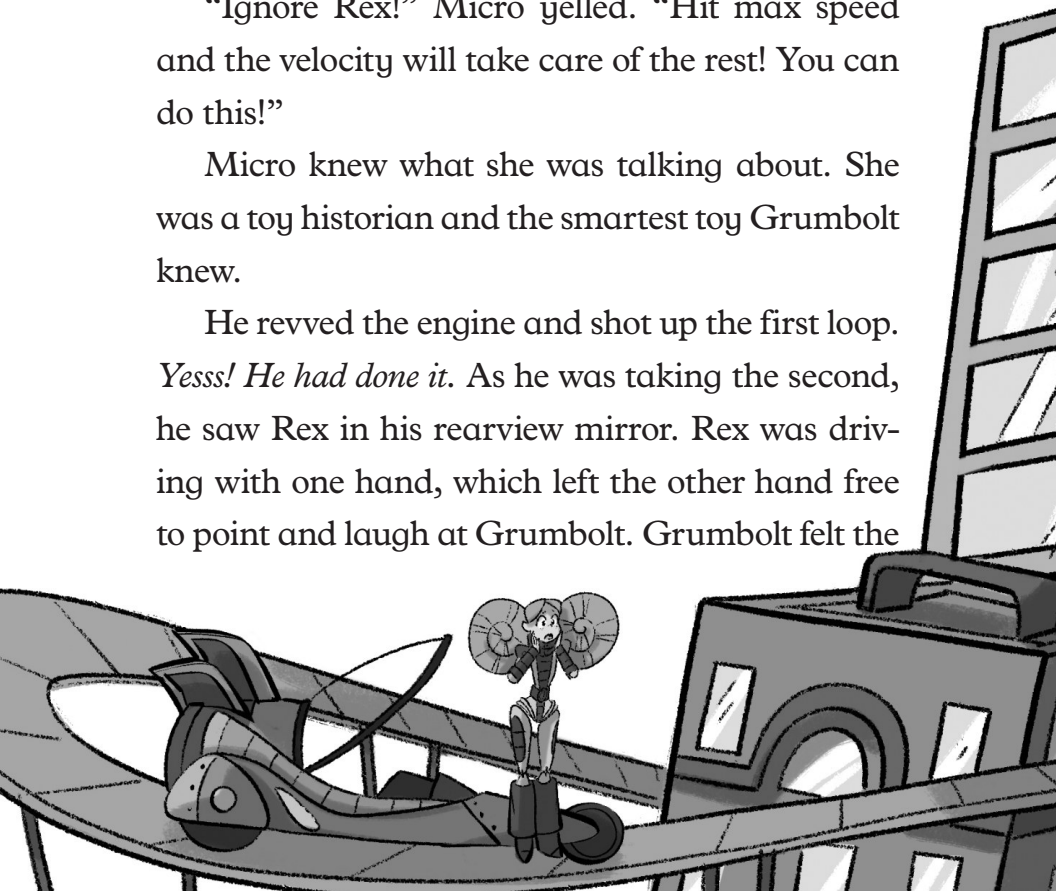
The loop-de-loop loomed over him. Grumbolt’s mind started to race. Was Rex correct? Was he going to crash? Those loops *did* look scary. The cotton in Grumbolt’s stomach began to swirl.

His friend Micro pulled up on the other side of Grumbolt.

“Ignore Rex!” Micro yelled. “Hit max speed and the velocity will take care of the rest! You can do this!”

Micro knew what she was talking about. She was a toy historian and the smartest toy Grumbolt knew.

He revved the engine and shot up the first loop. *Yesss! He had done it.* As he was taking the second, he saw Rex in his rearview mirror. Rex was driving with one hand, which left the other hand free to point and laugh at Grumbolt. Grumbolt felt the



cotton in his stomach start to expand even more.
His foot dropped off the gas.

The Road Ripper dropped off the second loop.
Grumbolt smashed to the ground.

Rex laughed so hard that he lost control of his
Rex Van and crashed right next to him.

