

# PRELUDE TO DEVASTATION

## “A short story by the Medallion Militia”

### CHAPTER ONE - A LAND BEFORE TIME

Many years ago — humans and life as we know it ceased to exist — Life for the creatures of earth was very different. These ancient creatures were still able to survive even in the harshest of environments — the world offered life bending dangers from dangerous weather, disease, and predators. To survive from sun up to sun down was quite the daily challenge — Let us jump in our time machine and warp back to experience this Land Before Time.

“Zip.....crash!” The time machine ripped through time and we crash landed within a lush green grove. As we look around we see nothing but trees and trails. Suddenly a patch of oaks and conifers started shaking. A deep growl is heard coming from that direction.

Then out jumped a big ..... beaver? It stared at us with laser eyes. “Hey! Who are you? And what are you doing in my secret grove” the beaver said. “Oh nothing, we are time travelers and we are here to observe your world, we mean you no harm”, we replied. “Really?” “That’s awesome” the big Beaver said while shaking it’s tail in excitement. “It’s been pretty dull around here of late, I could use a new friend, come on you can follow me”, the beaver offered. It started to run off, but it abruptly stopped and turned around. “Oh I forgot to introduce my self, my name is Bowie, I’m a giant beaver if you haven’t noticed”. “Ehhhh nice to meet you Bowie”, we replied. “Great, now that we have met follow me human, I want to introduce you to my friends”, Bowie said with excitement. Bowie the Beaver scampered off and we followed close behind. “Oh by the way I hope you have something to stay warm, you look rather skinny human”, Bowie warned.

As we ventured through the woods it started to get colder and colder. “Come on human keep up”. “Just a little bit further and we will be home” Bowie shouted. As we reached the end we passed though a dense screen of pines. Before our eyes was a peaceful great valley covered in ice. We now realized that we crash landed in a copse made up of mostly oak and conifers. “Thats my secret place, don’t you tell anyone about it” Bowie said sternly. “It’s very hard to find edible vegetation in our world as you can now tell”, Bowie explained. “Hurry now, just down this trail is my home, I can’t wait to introduce you to my fiends, Bowie said eagerly.

Down into the valley we went. It’s now apparent that we traveled all the way back to the ice age. As we traveled deeper a gathering of other creators

became visible in the distance. “We’re here”, Bowie shouted with glee. “We made it to my village” said Bowie. It wasn’t much of a village, not the village that we know from our world. It was more like a gathering of animals than anything. “All your missing is a barn and farm here Bowie”, we said jokingly”. “A barn? A farm? What’s that stuff?” Bowie said with a confused face. “Oh never mind, you creatures are better off free”, we answered. “Okay whatever human, come now lets meet my friends” Bowie said uninterested in what we were saying.

As we followed Bowie he shouted, “Michael! Michael come here. You’ll never guess what I found”! “WHAT NOW BOWIE IM BUSY” said a deep voice. “This is my best friend Michael, he is a Woolly Mammoth”, explained Bowie. “WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU”, shouted Micheal the Woolly Mammoth. “This is a human from the future and they are here to learn about our cool world”, Bowie explained with excitement. “I don’t know where this future place is, but I don’t like the sound of it” replied Michael. “It’s fine they’re nice and my newest friends, come on human lets go meet Maya”, said Bowie. As we followed Bowie another large creature approached us. “What are you doing Bowie, and who are you with”, said this large creature. “This is my newest friends, they’re humans”, explained Bowie. “Hello, humans, my name is Maya the Mastodon”, explained Maya. “As long as you’re peaceful your welcome in our community. “Maya is the smartest friend I have, if you ever have any question just ask Maya, I’m sure she will have the answer”, said Bowie proudly. “Where’s Owen, he is usually with you Maya”, said Bowie curiously. “A tree branch fell as he was walking down a trail and he got terrified and took off, I haven’t seen him since”, explained Maya. “Oh no Maya we should go looking for him, you know he cannot survive by his lonesome”, said Bowie with worried tone. “I know, but its getting dark, we should rest up for the night, you should persuade Michael to come with us, we will go search for Owen in the morning”, said Maya. “ Okay Maya, and you can come along and help search too human, said Bowie. As the sun went down all the creatures hid in there nooks and rested for the night. As we laid down Bowie shouted, Good night human, be ready in the morning”!

## CHAPTER TWO - A LIFE SAVING ADVENTURE

Over the night span we slept. Awaiting the sunrise — we were all quite tired from all the excitement. But looming — was the worry about their friend Owen’s safety — In this ever wild natural area anything is possible. We can only hope that Owen is still alive. We hope — and pray for safety. As going deep into the great valley — can be a very dangerous place.

“GOOD MORNING, WAKE UP HUMAN”, yelled Bowie. “Okay okay we’re up” we replied yawning. “Come on human Michael has a good idea where Owen might have ran off to”, said Bowie with excitement. Bowie ran off toward Michael the Woolly Mammoth and we followed. “Alright Bowie, Maya and “Huden” or whatever you are listen up”. “We all know Owen is a cowered and this is not his first time running off, last I seen you took that trail nearby that leads deeper into the valley”, explained Michael. “Deeper into the valley, eh you know there are many dangers down there”, said Maya with a worried tone. “That’s why it’s important to know the law of the land”, said Michael. “Yea if we stick together and watch each other’s backs we will be just fine Maya”, said Bowie with courage. “That’s right Bowie, Let’s go you guys we don’t have much time to waste Owen could be in trouble”, Michael said with haste.

The gang of friends made their way down the trail, deeper into the great valley. Some areas were quite steep, “watch your step”, yelled Bowie. No kidding these cliffs were definitely dangerous to any creature passing by. After a long walk we approached a clearing overlooking the valley. “Hey guys, what if we never find Owen”, Bowie said with worry. Michael shouted “don’t talk like that he will be alright we will find him soon!” “I agree, but first lets sit and rest for a while. Look there’s some wild berries right there”, Maya stated. “Ewww I hate berries”, Bowie. “I don’t care said Maya our nutrition is very important”, Maya sternly explained. “Okay fine you’re right, I’ll eat them, you’re always right Maya”, said Bowie.

After a short rest the group continued down the trail. “OOOOOWEN, OOOOOOWEN”, Bowie shouted. “Gee we sure have been walking along time, where the heck did you go Owen”, said Bowie. Just when Bowie was looking down with a sad look on his face a Sabertooth leaped out of a dense pine tree and mauled Bowie. “AHHHHHH HELP”, screamed Bowie. Michael the Woolly Mammoth sprang into action. Knocking the sabertooth off Bowie. The sabertooth growled and lunged at Michael. “Watch out Michael,” yelled Maya. A tussle ensued between Michael and the sabertooth. Michael hit it with his tusks as the sabertooth scratched and bite him. Bowie and Maya looked on in shock. “Don’t you hurt my friend,” yelled Bowie. “Come on we have to do something”, explained Maya. Just as the sabertooth was getting a upper hand on Michael, Bowie and Maya charged at the sabertooth. “Take this you stupid cat”, screamed Bowie. CRASH! Maya and Bowie rammed in to the sabertooth knocking him off Michael and down off the cliff. “Thank you.... You guys saved my life”, said Michael. “We have to have each other’s backs remember”, Bowie said with courage. “That’s right”, said Michael wincing. “Oh no your’e injured” said Maya with worry. Maya saw a certain plant in the distance. “I’ll be right back, there is are medicinal leaves nearby”, Maya said with excitement. Maya scampered off to gather some

leaves for Michael. "Time to take your medicine" said Bowie jokingly. "There ya go all patched up" said Maya. "Yea all you're missing is to be fed like a baby" we interjected jokingly. "What's that mean", they all said with confusion. "That's right, different time, never mind you guys wouldn't understand", we explained. "you're weird sometimes human, come on lets keep walking we have to find Owen", said Bowie with a hurried tone.

The trail got a little steeper, I almost tripped over some wood embedded in the trail. As we traveled a little further I began to hear the flow of running water. "We're almost to the spot where Owen ran off to last time", said Michael the Woolly Mammoth. "He ran all the way until he couldn't anymore, He was stopped by the water, we all know water terrifies Owen", Michael said with a chuckle. The tree's cleared, there was a long stream running between the glacial floor. Not too wide but one would have a tough swim across. Within the stream was an island, or chunks of the glacial floor floating in place. "HEY YOU GUYS IS THAT OWEN", Bowie asked with curiosity. "I'm not sure", Maya exclaimed, "lets take a closer look!". The group approached the waters edge. "IT IS OWEN!", said Michael. "OWEN! OOOOOOWEN!!!", screamed everyone. "HELP GUYS HELP! IM STUCK HERE", cried Owen the Oxen. "Bowie, you're the only one that can swim in these tough currents, go save Owen now", said Maya. "These currents look rather strong but I'm coming Owen hold on!", yelled Bowie the Beaver. As Bowie dove into the stream the large ice slab that Owen was standing on started to break apart. "AHHHHH HELP, HELP, PLEASE HELP GUYS! I CANT SWIM!", cried Owen. Bowie gritted his teeth and swam as hard as he could. The ice slab broke completely apart and Owen jumped for Bowie. "CATCH ME BOWIE", Owen screamed as he took the big leap. "I GOT YOU BUDDY!", with no time to spare Owen landed on Bowies back and headed back to land. "WAY TO GO BOWIE!" Yelled Michael and Maya with joy. As Bowie and Owen approached land Bowie lost control. "AHHHH HELP! The current is too strong!", screamed Bowie. "I have an idea", said Maya. "Micheal go into the water as far as you can and reach out your tusks so Bowie can grab them." Woolly Mammoth's have longer tucks than Mastodons. "Great idea Maya, here i go, yelled Michael. "Bowie grab on to Michael's tusk, he will pull you guys to land.", explained Maya. Bowie swam and reached as hard as he could and barely was able to grab ahold of Michael's tusk. "YAHHHHHHHH!" Michael pulled as hard as he could and flung Bowie and Owen down a ways into the tree cover. "Michael that was too much power!", yelled Maya. "Sorry I don't know my own strength", Michael explained with guilt. "Let's go we need to make sure they're alright!", yelled Maya.

They traveled though the dense tree cover and came across Bowie and Owen staring at a large structure embedded into the bluffs. "What is that?", asked Bowie. "It looks to be some type of ancient temple of sorts", we interjected.

“Ancient temple? I’ve only herd myths of such complex structures. No creature in our world could have crafted something like this!” Maya said with an astounded tone. “Come on you guys lets go explore it”, Bowie said as him and Owen both ran off towards the temple. “Stop, wait for us!” Everyone yelled as they chased Bowie and Owen.

### CHAPTER THREE - THE PROPHECY OF DEVASTATION

Running as fast as they could — Bowie the Giant Beaver and Owen the Oxen scurried their way into the temple. With their friends in hot pursuit. They charged — quickly though with reckless abandon. Not knowing what dangers await them — they made it past the entrance unharmed, but something doesn’t feel right in the air. The rest of the group proceeds cautiously — as Bowie and Owen continued their reckless charge

“Come on guys this place is sooooo cool!,” Bowie voice echoed down the hallway. “Wait Bowie you don’t know if this place is dangerous, stay close to us!”, yelled Maya. Bowie and Owen took a few more steps down the abandoned hall of the temple, then the floor gave way to a slant. “AHHHH HEEEEELP!”, screamed both Bowie and Owen as they slid down into the temple grounds. “OWEEEN, BOOWIE!!!!”, yelled the group. “Bowie! Owen! Can you hear me! Are you guys alright!!!”, Michael received no response from the hole where they fell. “We gotta save them! He saved me so I will save him”, yelled Michael. “Let’s hurry further into the temple, but please be cautious, this temple obviously has traps set for unwanted intruders.” exclaimed Maya.

Our tribe of brave creatures descended into the depths of the temple in search for their fiend Bowie the Giant Beaver and Owen the Oxen. Little did they know of what’s to come. “Wow what is this place, everything looks the same”, said Michael. “It seems we are in a maze of sorts, watch your steps”, Maya explained. As Maya and Michael made there way through the mind bending maze our friend Bowie and Owen were stuck in a dark chamber, alone and scared. “Michael? Maya? Where are you guys? Please help me”, they screamed with freight. After about an hour Maya And Michael found themselves at the end of the maze. They could hear someone cowering on the other side of what seemed to be some type of door. “Is that you crying Bowie?”, said Michael. “Of course not, that’s Owen”, said Bowie jokingly. “Not uh!”, yelled Owen. “Hahahaha, hold tight you guys we will get you out, I just need to figure out how this door works”, explained Maya. “Ahhh it’s a simple code, just one second guys”, Maya said as she worked the puzzle. In no time Maya cracked the code and opened the door. The friends gathered in the chamber and rejoiced. “This place is different”, said Maya. “Aaaaand scary”, said Owen with a fearful tone. A light shined into the chamber

form the now opened door, offering just enough to be able to see their surroundings. "What is this", said Bowie. "It looks like a camouflaged box, let me take a closer look", said Maya. As she inspected the box she decided to open it. "Woah this box holds a ancient stone tablet", Maya explained. "What does it say?", the group all said at once. "I don't know, it seems to be jumbled words and codes all over it, aha I can make out something!", said Maya. At the bottom of the tablet the words said "we speak in codes, for only the wise." "I have no idea what that says" said Bowie. Maya looked over the tablet more closely. "There is a very interesting feature on this tablet, there are three vertical lines in a row, I wonder what that means", said Maya with confusion. "Aha there is a faded word I can make out, it says "Contentious Defrost", said Maya with even more confusion. "That doesn't make any sense, wait..... if I change the letters around I wonder what I will get, the tablet does say it speaks in code", explained Maya. "Yea and only for the wise, you're the smartest Maya you can figure it out!", said Bowie. "STONE OF DESTRUCTION.....It anagrams to that, but what could that mean?", said Maya. She flipped the tablet around and stared at it with a dead stare. "What is it Maya", the group said. Maya had a terrified look on her face and said nothing. "Maya! What is it? What's wrong?", yelled Bowie. Maya finally broke her silence. "There's an image of a ball of fire descending down onto the earth, below it is a verse. I believe it's a prophecy, and not a good one. What's even worse, there is a date on the bottom of the verse, the date is in a week.", explained a terrified Maya. "What does this mean", said Michael. "I don't know, but I fear the worst, we need to get back to our village and warn everyone!", yelled Maya.

Our friends evacuated the temple with haste and headed back to the village. "I know a short cut. I took this way once before when I ran away, follow me guys", said Owen. The group followed Owen down the main trail. "What's wrong Owen? You look like you're lost", said Maya. "I swore this was the way, oh no..... we're lost", admitted Owen. "What is this place?" Said Bowie. "It looks to be a cemetery", explained Maya. "CEMETERY!", screamed Owen with freight. Owen got so scared that he darted through the cemetery. "Owen stop! You'll get lost again!", yelled the group. Owen did not stop, he beelined it tight through. "Uhhhh let's go after him", said Bowie. So our friends chased after Owen yet again. "He is such a scaredy cat", "hahahahaha" laughed everyone.

## CHAPTER FOUR - PREPARATION

Some time has past. But our friends were able to catch up to Owen — they finally made their way back to their village. By using the guiding star for direction. The whole time worried about the prophecy — that was stated on the

ancient tablet —they rushed into the village. to tell everyone of the danger that looms — with hopes that they will believe them.

“Everyone, everyone, danger! Danger!” We need to evacuate!”, yelled a frightened Bowie. The whole village stared at him in disbelief, as other came out of their dens to see what all the commotion was about. “It is true, a great danger approaches us all, but I am afraid evacuating will do us no good”, explained Maya. “What do you mean”, said Michael. “I’m afraid this Stone of Destruction will be too large and will wipe out everything when it hits. Even worse, the tablet claims that it will hit right where our village stands”, said a hopeless Maya. “This is crazy, I’m not living in fear just because of some scribble on a old stone slab. There’s no way what it states is true”, said Michael in disbelief. Night was falling fast on the great valley, and the stars light up the sky. “I sure hope you’re right Michael”, said Maya. “Yea that dumb tablet doesn’t know what its talking about”, said both Owen and Bowie. “Let’s get some rest and we can revisit this tomorrow”, said Maya with a tired tone. Our friend receded into their dens, pining for safety, peace, and rest.

“Yaaaaaawn”, Bowie was the first to wake up as the sun rose. “What’s that, why is there two suns in the sky”, Bowie said confused. He rushed over to Maya’s den to wake her. “Maya! Maya! You have to wake up and look at this”, Bowie said urgently. Maya woke up and they stared into the sky overlooking the valley. “Oh no, this is not good, this is not good at all!”, screamed Maya. “What?? what is it Maya”, yelled Bowie. “I’m afraid that is no second sun in the sky Bowie..... That is the Stone of Destruction”, explained Maya. Bowie stood there shocked, staring in to the sky speechless. “Come on Bowie we have to warn the others”, said Maya. The two made there way to the middle of the village and screamed “EVERYONE GET OUT OF YOUR DENS AND COME HERE”. Every creature made their way out of their dens. “Look into the sky”, said Maya. Everyone looked up and stared towards the sun and the other bright light in the sky. “What is that?”, said Michael. “That’s the Stone of Destruction”, Said Maya. Michael stared into the sky in disbelief. “So that dang tablet was right, what do we do now?”, asked Michael. “All we can do is prepare for the worst’, said a worried Maya. “Only superman could save us now”, we jokingly interjected. “Superman, like a super human?, what do you mean by that human?”, asked Bowie. “I’m sorry I forgot again, different time, you wouldn’t understand. He is a fake character, my statement offers no help”, we explained. The temperature dropped and we started to shiver. “You okay human, you seem rather cold”, asked Bowie. “I’m fine, and can you stop calling me human”, we asked. “Well what’s your name? You never told me”, asked Bowie. “Just call me Coldest”, I said. “Ha it fits you pretty well human....er I mean Coldest. “Enough chit chat what are

we going to do to prepare for this falling stone? The 200 feet of bluffs that surround us should be enough to protect us right?”, said Michael. “I sure hope so Michael, I say our best bet is to burrow and hide into the bluffs.”, said Maya. Over the next week our friends burrowed into the bluffs for protection, little did they know they were being followed by something since they left the ancient temple.

## CHAPTER FIVE - DEVASTATION

Everyone in the village pitched in to help excavate a well built hiding place into the bluff. They used big boulders, trees and anything else they could find. They built a barricade at the entrance of their lair of safety — as they burrowed they bended and weaved there way into the earth. Going as deep as they could with the amount of time they had. But time ticks away. And the Stone of Destruction looms upon the great valley.

“I think that should do”, Said Michael. “I really do hope so, according to the prophecy the Stone of Destruction should hit later today”, explained Maya. “Where’s Coldest”, asked Bowie. “I don’t know I haven’t seen him since last night”, said Michael. “I found this note on the ground, I cannot read, here Maya what does it say?”, asked Owen. Maya looked at the note with a tears in her eyes. “Coldest went home, he stated that he left and went back to his time machine to go back to his world. He wishes us safety and the best”. Bowie looked on with tears in his eyes “but he was my friend, he will be back for us I just know it”, said Bowie with hope. “Nonetheless, it’s almost time, I can feel the heat even deep in our lair. I’m going to head to the entrance to get a closer look”, said Maya. “We are coming too said the whole group.”

As our friends approached the entrance they saw the Stone of Destruction coming down fast. But they now saw a third light in the sky. “Now what is that light”, said Bowie. Out of thin air lighting struck the ground by the entrance and in front of them was a glowing bird, Maya looked on astonished. “Is that what I think it is”, said a shocked Maya. “We’ll what is it”, yelled everyone. “It’s the Thunder Bird of legend, but what is this god like creature doing here”, said a confused Maya. Bowie was curious so he approached the bird. “Hey glow bird! What’re you doing here”, asked Bowie. the bird responded with one word, “protection”. “Protection? That’s great, we sure do need it! But what are you? What is your name”, asked Bowie. The Thunder Bird responded “Wakiya”..... “Huh, Wakiya? That’s an odd name to have. I got a better one, I’m going to call you Zappy. That fits you much better”, said Bowie. The Thunder Bird looked on and said nothing then looked towards the Stone of Destruction. “Let’s hurry and get back inside the lair it’s too dangerous out here”, yelled Maya. A scared Owen



started freaking out, and started running around wild the whole time as the Stone of Destruction fell. "Owen get in the lair noooooow", yelled Maya.

Bowie and Michael were not one to abandon their friends, they stayed to try to wrangle Owen with Maya. The Stone of Destruction approached the great valley. "Owen get in the dang lair, it's going to hit at any second", screamed Bowie. "Here it comes", screamed everyone. Right as the Stone of Destruction was about to hit Zappy the thunderbird warped right in front of it. "What is it doing", yelled Bowie. Maya explained "It looks like it's trying to block it from hitting us!" The Stone of Destruction hit the Thunder bird and a clash of bright lights and a shockwave hit the sky. "He is holding it off, get inside the lair now while we still can. It's trying to save us. As our friends retreated into their lair of safety the Thunder Bird continued to hold off the Stone of Destruction. But it proved to be too powerful to deflect. Zappy's aura dimmed and he was gone. The Stone approached the land. The ground caught fire, the trees leaned and bent then were gone, the bluffs of the valley took a direct impact from the Stone of Destruction, our friends heard a loud bang then everything went white..... TO BE CONTINUED.

CRACK THE SECRET CODE AND GAIN ACCESS TO THE FINAL CHAPTER!

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