

ATOMIC BETTY:

"MAXIMUS I.O. - GALACTIC GUARDIAN?"

Written by

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Atomic Betty
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INT. BETTY'S HOME - DAY

BETTY blasts through the front door, and rushes past her FATHER, who rises to greet her home from school.

DAD
Welcome home Betty!

Betty pauses only briefly.

BETTY
Dad! You're not going to believe this! I'm going to play at tonight's school dance!

With a happy bounce to her stride, Betty strides off to her bedroom playing air guitar.

BETTY (CONT'D)
There isn't much time, so I've gotta practice my chords!

Dad scratches his head at the whirlwind that just passed through.

DAD
It's nice to see her so busy!

INT. BETTY'S ROOM - DAY

Betty focuses intently on playing guitar. After a few strums she can't control her excitement and begins dancing and playing through her room.

Suddenly a beam of light streams from her bracelet, revealing the image of ADMIRAL DEGILL.

DEGILL
Betty, we need your help!

BETTY
What's wrong Admiral?

DEGILL
It's Maximus I.Q.! He's thrown in the towel and given up on his masterminding ways!

BETTY
What?

Betty checks the calendar on the wall.

Close on the Calendar- It's clearly June.

BETTY (CONT'D)

I don't get it, Admiral? We're well past April Fool's Day!

DEGILL

Maximus is tired of being defeated by you. He's offered to give his fortune to the Galactic Guardians so that he can pay for all the damage he's done!

BETTY

This sounds like trick to me.

DEGILL

It may be, but you're wanted for a ceremony so that Maximus can hand you the key to his fortune!

Betty looks at her guitar.

BETTY

It doesn't sound like an emergency! Does it have to be now?

DEGILL

Yes! The ceremony is about to start! This momentous occasion can't happen without you!

BETTY

Okay, Admiral, I'll be right there!

As the beam from Betty's bracelet turns off, she strums her guitar.

BETTY (CONT'D)

These shin-digs can be pretty slow! I think I'll bring you along in case I get time to practice!

EXT. BETTY'S HOME - DAY

The Galactic Guardian Ship zooms in and hovers over Betty's house, and a beam fires up into the ship's belly.

WIPE TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE

Betty's Guardian ship streaks through hyperspace. The sound of catchy guitar strumming can be heard. The tune is infectious and matches the speed and intensity of the ship, as if it were dancing to the tune (a rock version of 2001).

INT. BETTY'S SHIP

SPARKY bobs his head to the beat of the music.

Betty sits high on the command chair rocking on her guitar.

X-5 looks on at the two worried.

X-5

If you keep moving to the music like that, you will increase the likelihood of a crash by 246%.

SPARKY

Nonsense! Betty? Who's the best pilot in the universe?

BETTY

You are Sparky!

SPARKY

You hear that X-5?

X-5

Yes. Do you see that asteroid field?

SPARKY

What?

Sparky looks through the view-screen and sees a fast approaching swarm of asteroids.

SPARKY (CONT'D)

Ah!

Sparky turns the controls in panic.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

The Guardian ship darts and weaves between the wave of obstacles. It spins and turns, and at such a high speed the ship passes through the field in seconds.

Safely on the other side, the ships slows.

INT. BETTY'S SHIP

Sparky looks wired, as if more dangers were imminent.

Betty looks sheepish.

BETTY

I'll play something a bit down
tempo?

WIPE TO:

INT. GALACTIC GUARDIAN HEADQUARTERS

Command headquarters is covered in decorations, flags, and lights. Admiral DeGill stands next to Betty on a large dais with Sparky, X-5 and a couple of guard robots behind. Across from them stands MAXIMUS I.Q looking bashfully at the attention.

Betty stares at him with trepidation, still carrying her guitar.

Admiral DeGill moves to the center microphone.

DEGILL

Welcome everyone to this historic
day! A day that has seen the sun
rise just a bit brighter!

Close on Maximus as he smiles at Betty, trying to make friends.

Close on Betty. Her eyes squint and brows drop with suspicion.

DEGILL (CONT'D)

Maximus I.Q. Has finally shown his
intelligence...

(Laughs)

...in renouncing his plans for
world domination! Ladies and
gentlemen! I give you Maximus
I.Q.!

The sound of cheers and clapping erupts.

Maximus steps up to the hovering microphone and raises his arms in triumph.

MAXIMUS

Thank you! Thank you!! You're too
kind!

(MORE)

MAXIMUS (CONT'D)

This is a very special day that I hope will mark the beginning of a new era.

Betty's eyes squint as she studies I.Q.

BETTY

This has to be an act.

From behind, Maximus is silhouetted by the spotlights.

Betty takes a step back as Maximus' shadow is cast over her. Sparky and X-5 come closer.

SPARKY

What's wrong Betty?

BETTY

Can't you see he's acting?

SPARKY

But he's giving his fortune away!

BETTY

It must be part of a plan! Keep your eyes open.

X-5

I have to agree with you Betty, it's highly unlikely he has changed.

MAXIMUS (V.O.)

Some of you may not believe my sincerity, so without further ado...

Maximus raises a large golden key from behind his cape. He turns to face Betty and waves her forth.

MAXIMUS

...I must call upon Atomic Betty.

Betty freezes as all attention is put on her. DeGill gives her a shove that gets her moving to the front of the stage.

MAXIMUS (CONT'D)

Betty is too formidable to defeat, so as a great man once said, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!" Here is the key to my fortune!

Maximus hands Betty the golden key, and the sound of the crowd erupts again.

Betty takes the key, but studies Maximus.

MAXIMUS (CONT'D)
Use it to rebuild the damage I've
caused.

BETTY
I can't believe I'm saying this,
but thank you Maximus! I hope you
really mean it.

Suddenly the ground begins to shake. Everyone looks around
for the cause. Betty looks up.

A large egg shaped vessel approaches from on high. It fires
laser beams to cut through the domed ceiling. Robots emerge
from the ship and storm the ceremony chamber.

MINIMUS (V.O.)
Traitor!

INT. MINIMUS SHIP BRIDGE

MINIMUS operates the controls of the ship, with his
'grumbler' face at the fore.

MINIMUS
How could you turn your back on me
Maximus?

INT. GALACTIC GUARDIAN HEADQUARTERS

Betty turns to Maximus angrily, but is shocked to see him
surprised.

MAXIMUS
Oh, no. I feared Minimus wouldn't
understand!

Betty slings her guitar over her shoulder and leaps into
action and delivers a powerful side kick that cuts through
two robots at once.

Sparky and X-5 join her in the battle, and pounce on a robot
each.

BETTY
I still don't believe him!

Maximus pleads to Minimus, but is bowled over by his own
robots.

MAXIMUS
Please stop this Minimus!
(Groan)

Suddenly tentacle-like robot arms snake out of Minimus' ship.

INT. MINIMUS SHIP

Minimus operates the controls of the arms, and grab hold of Betty.

BETTY
Ah!!

Just as quickly, the arms retract, pulling Betty to the ship.

Sparky and X-5 fight off the last of the robots, and leap to save Betty from being taken captive.

BETTY (CONT'D)
Let me go!!

The arms toss Betty, and her guitar, into the ship, and doors close, sealing her in. The top section of the ship detaches from the rest of the body, and launches itself into space.

MINIMUS (V.O.)
(Laughter)

Sparky and X-5 leap at the ship and smash the articulated arms, but are too late. Betty and Minimus are already leaving orbit.

SPARKY
No! Come back here!

X-5
I knew something like this would happen.

Admiral DeGill storms up to Maximus angrily.

DEGILL
What have you done!?

MAXIMUS
Nothing! It was Minimus!!

DEGILL
Well, we have to save Betty!

MAXIMUS

I couldn't agree more, this is a disaster!

Sparky and X-5 drop down next to the Admiral.

SPARKY

What's going on!? Where have you taken Betty, Maximus!?

DEGILL

He didn't do it boys. It was Minimus.

X-5

That's not very likely.

MAXIMUS

Please, would I allow myself to be attacked by my own robots? Minimus has gone mad! But I can help!

Sparky and X-5 look at Maximus cautiously. Maximus bats his eyelashes.

X-5

How can you help us?

SPARKY

Yeah!

MAXIMUS

Minimus is using my secret base. Who better to get you in than the one who built it!

Sparky and X-5 look even more suspicious.

DEGILL

Make it happen boys! Betty's just too important!

WIPE TO:

INT. MINIMUS SHIP

In the small cargo bay, Betty stands inside a large cage. The bars glow with energy. She touches the bars and gets a shock. Minimus stands by watching her attempts to escape, his 'grumbler' head smirking at her. He quickly reaches into the cage and snatches Maximus' gold key.

MINIMUS

I'll take that!

(Laughs)

You can't escape from the cage I've built for you!

(Laughs)

Betty turns to Minimus without being impressed.

BETTY

What are you and Maximus up to?

MINIMUS

(Snarls)

Do not mention that name in my presence! He is a fool to think he could suddenly be a hero like you!

BETTY

Okay, have it your way. I'm just gonna sit here and play my guitar until you decide to let me in on your scheme.

Betty sits and picks up her guitar, keeping one eye on Minimus.

Minimus' head spins around and his 'coward' face emerges.

MINIMUS

I think she bought it...

With a click and a jerk, Minimus' head reverts back to the grumbler.

MINIMUS (CONT'D)

The only scheme going on is MY scheme! You will be a trophy, a warning to those who stand in the way of Evil Overlords everywhere!!

(Laughs)

Minimus turns and walks away. Assured he is not looking, she taps the top of the cage and doesn't get a shock.

BETTY (TO HERSELF)

Fine. I'll just break out of this cage when I figure out what you're really up to.

Betty begins playing, while Minimus and his robots work at a bay of control panels.

BETTY (CONT'D)
 (Singing)
 Nobody knows the trouble I've seen!

EXT. OUTER SPACE

Betty's Guardian ship zooms through outer space, hot in pursuit.

INT. GALACTIC GUARDIAN SHIP

Maximus I.Q. Sits in Betty's command chair proudly. Sparky intently pilots the ship, while X-5 navigates.

MAXIMUS
 You know I really must say this is a nice chair. I can see why Betty likes being a Guardian so much.

X-5
 She likes being Galactic Guardian because she gets to help people.

MAXIMUS
 Of course! Of course.

SPARKY (WHISPERS)
 Hey, why so suspicious X-5?

X-5 (WHISPERS)
 Why am I suspicious of Maximus I.Q.?

SPARKY (WHISPERS)
 Yeah, he is helping us after all!

X-5 (WHISPERS)
 There is a greater likelihood of you being eaten by one of your worm burgers, than him helping us!

MAXIMUS
 You know I am right here? I can hear everything you're saying.

Sparky and X-5 lean back into their chairs.

INT. MAXIMUS SECRET BASE

Minimus marches triumphantly away from his control panel. Robots guard Betty in her cage, as she plays her guitar.

MINIMUS

Ha, ha! Now you will become part
of a great monument to the only
true Evil Overlord!!

Betty looks up and stops playing.

BETTY

Oh, yeah, and who's that?

MINIMUS

Maximus I.Q.!

BETTY

So this was all a trick?

Minimus' head spins around to his 'coward' side.

MINIMUS

Of course, the master is after all
the master!

Minimus' head spins again with a click.

MINIMUS (CONT'D)

Behold, your final resting place!

Minimus gestures grandly and we truck out to reveal a massive
cannon shaped device pointing down to a small snow globe.

BETTY

What's that?

MINIMUS

It's a Malor-breen Shrink ray!
You'll be shrunk down and placed
inside that snow globe, where you
will be a reminder of his triumph
over you forever!

BETTY

That's all I needed to know.

Betty raises her arm and fires a beam through the roof of the
cage. The bars short out and with a mighty leap, Betty
bounds out of the cage.

Minimus retreats in surprise.

MINIMUS

Ahh!!! How did you?

A wave of robots advance on Betty in mid leap, but she drives her fist through the lot of them. Passing through the explosion, Betty lands in front of Minimus, ready for more.

BETTY

You didn't activate the force field
on the top of the cage.

Minimus' head spins to the 'coward' face.

MINIMUS

Oh. I knew I should have written
those instructions down.

A robot sneaks up behind Betty, but she stands quickly, driving her fist behind her, and tears off the dome head of the robot. It falls damaged, and Betty slams the dome over Minimus, cramming him inside the small bowl all in one go.

BETTY

There! How do you like being in a
snow globe.

MINIMUS

(Coward Voice)
Not very much!

EXT. MAXIMUS SECRET BASE

Betty's ship comes to a halt outside Maximus' base. A plume of smoke rises from the complex.

INT. BETTY'S SHIP

Maximus is shocked by the sight, while X-5 and Sparky smile.

MAXIMUS

What! What's going on in there!!

X-5

I would say there is an 86.5%
Chance that the Captain has escaped
captivity.

MAXIMUS

No! That can't be!

SPARKY

Hey! I thought you were on our
side?

MAXIMUS

Fool! I wanted to turn her into a symbol of my magnificence!!

SPARKY

What?! Does this mean you aren't on our side?

X-5

Yes. And I told you so.

SPARKY

I knew it!

X-5 slaps his forehead with his hand.

MAXIMUS

Enough! This ship is now mine!

SPARKY

Who says so?!

MAXIMUS

The friends I snuck on board, say so.

(Laughs)

A group of robots rise up behind Maximus threateningly.

X-5 and Sparky leap back in surprise.

SPARKY

That's it! You're outa here!

X-5

Yes, time to depart.

The two heroes leap at Maximus, but the robots get in the way. They easily defeat one robot at a time, but are quickly outnumbered and must retreat.

EXT. MAXIMUS SECRET BASE

Betty flies out of the docking bay using her jet pack and lands near a hatch on her ship, carrying her guitar. She opens the hatch and leaps in.

INT. BETTY'S SHIP

Maximus activates the communicator on the bridge controls.

MAXIMUS
 Minimus! What is happening over
 there!?

MINIMUS (V.O.)
 Nothing good sir!

CUT TO:

INT. MAXIMUS SECRET BASE

Minimus wobbles, still trapped under the dome of the robot's head.

MINIMUS (CONT'D)
 Betty escaped.

Minimus walks into a post.

MINIMUS (CONT'D)
 Ouch!

INT. BETTY'S SHIP

Maximus ends the communication with a slap on the controls. He turns and see's X-5 and Sparky backed into a corner by his army of robots.

Suddenly from a hatch in the ceiling, Betty shoots into the room, diving at the band of robots, demolishing scores of them in one pounce.

MAXIMUS
 No!!!

From a cloud of smoke rises Betty, X-5 and Sparky.

BETTY
 Yes!

SPARKY
 Oh, yes!!

BETTY
 It's over Maximus. You might as
 well give up!

MAXIMUS
 Oh, no, you won't get me!

Maximus presses a button and he beams out of the bridge.

SPARKY
Shucks! What a hollow victory!

BETTY
Not exactly!

Betty produces the golden key Maximus gave her. They smile and break out in LAUGHTER.

WIPE TO:

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Betty stands ready with her band on stage. Colored spotlights moving across her and the band on stage. The vague shape of a crowd can be seen in silhouette.

BETTY
Okay guys! Let's rock this place!

Betty plays excitedly on her guitar. The crowd roars with excitement. With a flourish, Betty strums her guitar and smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.