

PEDAL PATROL

POLLUTED WATERS

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ARTIVISM 4 CHANGE 2022

**PEDAL PATROL
POLLUTED WATERS**

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ON CLIMATE JUSTICE:**

PEDAL PATROL

ONE

“Bla Blu Bla Blu Bla Blu!” Tam Tam my little brother who was seven shouted, as he pointed to Ajamu the goalkeeper to kick the ball quickly before the opponent tackles him.

Ajamu did just as he was told, and he passed the ball to Kiki. Kiki was 10 years old just like us, and she was Brandon’s cousin visiting from Kent Village for the summer holidays. She was a skilful footballer, and she was a member of our football team for the 5-a-side football competition put on by Pastor Richardson in our community Riverton City. It had been the best summer of our lives so far, despite the record-breaking heat wave baking Jamaica and the Caribbean. Ajamu’s mother Dr Yolanda was permanently appointed the Landfill scientist and that meant Ajamu was now staying with us in Jamaica. With the creation of Stevie and Ajamu’s other inventions we no longer had to spend all the hours running from Major Fearon while trying to search the dump for items to recycle for cash. We now had enough time to be just children and entering the football competition was one of those privileges. By the way my name is Lisa.

Kiki used her long legs and speed to dribble pass two opposing players. The large crowd of spectators made up of mostly children started cheering and shouting Kiki’s nickname.

“Pele Girl! Pele Girl!”

“Your goal now Brandon!” Kiki said as she rolled the ball to Brandon.

The crowd fell silent as Brandon stopped the ball and with a sudden shot, he placed his foot firmly into the ball. The powerful shot nestled into the top corner of the goal post and the silent crowd erupted,

“GOOOOOAL!!!!!”



Brandon then did his favourite CR7 celebration. The game was now two goals to one, we had finally taken the lead and a few moments later an out of breath Pastor Richardson the referee blew his whistle signalling the end of the match. The five of us ran to the changing rooms cheering with the little we had left in our throats. We fell to the floor tired, thirsty but in joy.

Suddenly an excited Dr. Yolanda entered the room.

“THAT WAS AN INTENSE MATCH OH!” She shouted and continued, **“The best so far, Ajamu I can’t wait to tell your aunt back in Nigeria you’re a football star oh!”**

Dr Yolanda handed Tam Tam a bag with five sports drinks, and he passed them one by one to us. We gulped them down in a matter of seconds.

“Wi jus one match now from the finals and wi win di money.” I said, now that I was able to speak because my throat was now alive.

“Yes oh, Lisa always on your money oh.” Dr Yolanda said with a laugh.

“Dat a di only ting dat can mek wi happy.” Brandon responded.

“Eh I beg to defer, but anyways, this sun is too hot,” Dr Yolanda said.

“If di sun hot! If mi was at Kiki yard mi would a jus jump inna di riva right now and tek a swim cool down mi body.” Brandon said while smiling at Kiki.

Kiki’s face expression changed when Brandon mentioned swimming in the river.

“Anyways, I’m leaving oh, I have a lot of work to do at the office today so bye Ajamu and friends. And don’t forget! Friday

night is Ajamu's birthday party oh!" Dr Yolanda said as she walked to the door.

"Bla Blu Bla Blu Bla Blu." Tam Tam said with a big smile.

"Him seh, anything to deal with food and music him no need no reminda Dr Yolanda." I translated for Tam Tam.

"Plus, di one Ajamu remind wi every day." Brandon said.

We all started laughing, we were genuinely happy in that moment.

"So wha yuh plan to buy with yuh prize money Lisa?" Brandon asked.

"It a one surprise trust mi." I replied.

"Bla Blu Bla Blu Bla Blu." Tam Tam said.

Before I could translate what Tam Tam said, which I was not going to do anyways because he told my secret. Ajamu's smart watch started beeping sounding a Pedal Patrol emergency.

"Eh time for a mission." Ajamu said as he pressed his watch stopping it from beeping.

"Dem wha wi a wait pon!" I shouted.

"Wha type a mission yuh a talk?" Kiki asked curiously

"No time fi explain jus follow wi and all yuh questions ago ansah." I responded.

"Bla blu bla blu bla blu." Tam Tam said.

"Him seh Kiki welcome to di Pedal Patrol." I translated.

"DI PEDAL WHA?" Kiki asked.

We ran from the changing room and jumped on our bicycles and headed for the dump. With the sun blazing over our heads, Brandon and Tam Tam led the way riding at full speed. Kiki was right



behind looking confused and still asking us questions, with no one answering. We quickly made our way along the banks of the Sandy Gully until we came upon the fence of the landfill. Ajamu pressed his watch and a section of the fence immediately lowered and the five of us rode onto the dump, he pressed his watch again and the fence was back in its position. Not a soldier was on the outside, caused mostly because of the heatwave.

“How yuh mek di fence just drop so and go up back?” Kiki asked.

“Kiki dat a di least, Ajamu ago blow yuh mind you ago see. Him is jus a super genius.” Brandon answered.

Ajamu pressed his watch once again and it raised a section of the dump that had a lot of old cars and machinery stacked together like pillows on a bed. We rode inside the opening, and we instantly felt the coolness of the air condition on the inside.

“A WEH DIS?” A shocked Kiki asked.

We got off our bicycles and Ajamu was the first to go down the slide followed by Tam Tam. I was next to go but before I went down, I looked Kiki in the eyes and said,

“Yuh ask too much questions come down di slide and find out.”

TWO

The trip on the slide was a quick five second ride that went underground to our hide out or what Tam Tam named Pedal Patrol HQ. Ajamu with the help of Stevie had created the most advance and stylish HQ in the world. Made from items and machinery that we collected on the landfill, it was powered by renewable energy and equip with everything a few 10-year-old eco-protectors would need, a game room, gym, lazy area, kitchen and Ajamu's favourite the control station.

The control station had a supercomputer Ajamu called Jinx, Jinx was connected to Stevie, in fact Ajamu said they were one and the same. Jinx controlled everything.

AHH AHH AHH AHH! Kiki screamed as she came down the slide and landed in a pool of sponge. She got up and looked around with her mouth wide open, Kiki was speechless. Brandon was next down the slide.

"Welcome to Pedal Patrol HQ Kiki." Ajamu said.

"A you mek all a dis?" Kiki asked still looking with her eyes wide open in shock.

"Me and the team oh," Ajamu replied with a bright smile and continued, **but we have an emergency, so we will talk later."**

Ajamu took his seat in front of the large screen, the screen was made up of several small television screens of different shape and size put together to form one large image. He began typing on the keyboard,

"Kiki stand beside the large red X on the floor please." Ajamu said.

Kiki reluctantly walked over to the X,



“Wha next Ajamu?” She asked with a nerve shaken voice.

“Just stay still I’m just 3d printing your mission suit oh.” Ajamu answered.

Suddenly a machine arm tipped with a laser came from the opening overhead and it scanned Kiki’s full body.

“Stay still please oh.” Ajamu said.

The arm finished scanning Kiki and returned above. Few moments later a newly made mission suit fell through the opening above.

“Change into that Kiki,” Ajamu said.

Kiki began to change into the suit. Brandon and Tam Tam had already changed into their suits and where in the kitchen searching the fridge for drinks.

“Time to change Lisa.” Ajamu said.

I snapped back to reality and quickly changed into my mission suit, the suits where full black and made with upcycled materials. It was water, fire, and cold proof and was equip with different gadgets for our protection on our missions.

“Come closer everyone.” Ajamu called.

The four of us rushed over,

“Jinx, what is the emergency oh?” He asked and continued, **“Stevie status report please.”**

Stevie’s head camera came up on the screen, he seemed to be under water and was surrounded by garbage.

“Eh, Stevie report.” Ajamu said.

Speaking in his mechanic voice,

“I’m in the water ways at Soupberry, they have a leakage to one of the treatment pipes.” Stevie answered.

“No easy repair job dat Stevie.” Brandon said.

“Rightly so.” Ajamu added.

“Yes, but my jet filters got jammed from the pollution in the water and I’m trapped in a large fishing net with a lot of dead fish caused by the net not been disposed of correctly, so I need some field help.” Stevie said.

“It’s my fault oh, I forgot to upgrade your filters.” Ajamu said.

“Alright Stevie wi pon our way and wi ave a new member to di team Kiki, she is Brandon’s cousin wi always a talking about.” I said,

“Nice meeting you Kiki.” Stevie said.

“Hello Stevie.” A shocked Kiki replied.

“LET’S GO PEDAL PATROL.” I shouted and ran to the launch zone, Tam Tam and Brandon were right behind me. Kiki was still standing processing everything around her.

“Kiki come on we no ave time to waste!” I shouted.

She ran over.

“Kiki dis is di P-Machine it can change inna three different vehicles di P-Sub, di P-Jet and di P-Rova. It ago tek we underwater to free up Stevie and repair di pipe.” I explained and pressed my smart watch, and it opened the doors of the P-Machine.

I took my seat around the steering wheel and Brandon sat beside me with Tam Tam at the back he called Kiki inside and she sat beside him.

“Seat belts no please.” I said and the three of them buckled their seat belts, I continued, **“Ajamu wi ready fi launch.”**

“Roger that Captain Lisa, all systems go. The mission begins at one-three-four-six hours oh, get ready for launch in five, four, three, two, ONE! Go Pedal Patrol!”

The P-Machine was launched, and I pushed the control bottom labelled P-Sub. The P-Machine changed into the P-Sub, and we entered Hunts Bay without making a splash the launch was that perfect. Soon we were in the deep waters of the bay and even with the sun bright above in the sky, under the water was dark and murky.

“Bla blu bla blu.” Tam tam said.

“Me too I caan see a ting, lights on.” I replied.

The P-Sub’s lights lit under the bay.

“WHAT IS DIS?” I said in shock.

Under the bay was a disgrace, garbage upon garbage floating around in the murky water.

“Dis a pollution.” Kiki responded.

“And jus look pon all di plastic bottles.” Brandon said.

“And with the effects of global warming adding to this it will only get worst.” Ajamu said.

“So yuh caan mek something fi dis Ajamu?” Brandon asked.

“It will be hard oh, because I may damage the eco-system causing even greater damage. Jamaicans need to stop illegal dumping.” Ajamu responded.

We continued forward looking for Stevie in the P-Sub, the bay was made up of hills and valleys of garbage.

“So wi a some type of spy?” Kiki asked.

“Bla blub la blu.” Tam Tam laughed.

“No Kiki, wi a eco-protectors.” I answered.

“Eco-protectors?” She replied asking.

“Yea, wi use Ajamu’s inventions to fight and protect di environment around Riverton City.” I responded.

“So from dump champions to eco-protectors.” She said,

“Yep, thanks to Ajamu and him invention dem.” I replied.

THREE

The P-Sub's radar suddenly started beeping.

"Stevie mi a pickup yuh signal but mi caan see yuh tun on yuh light dem." I said,

Stevie turned his lights on, and they pierced the polluted water. He was just a few meters away; I stepped on the gas and extended the P-Sub's arms to start freeing Stevie from the fish net. Stevie's lights provided more visibility and that's when we noticed the crocodiles swimming in the water.

"BLA BLU BLA BLU." Tam Tam shouted while pointing at the crocodiles.

"Yea, Tam Tam and dem nuff! I said and continued, "Brandon and Kiki yuh see dem?"

"YEAH!" Brandon replied.

"Don't worry oh, they can't hurt you in the P-Sub." Ajamu said,

I finished cutting Stevie free and was expecting him to just swim to the P-Sub's door, but he began to sink deeper into the waters.

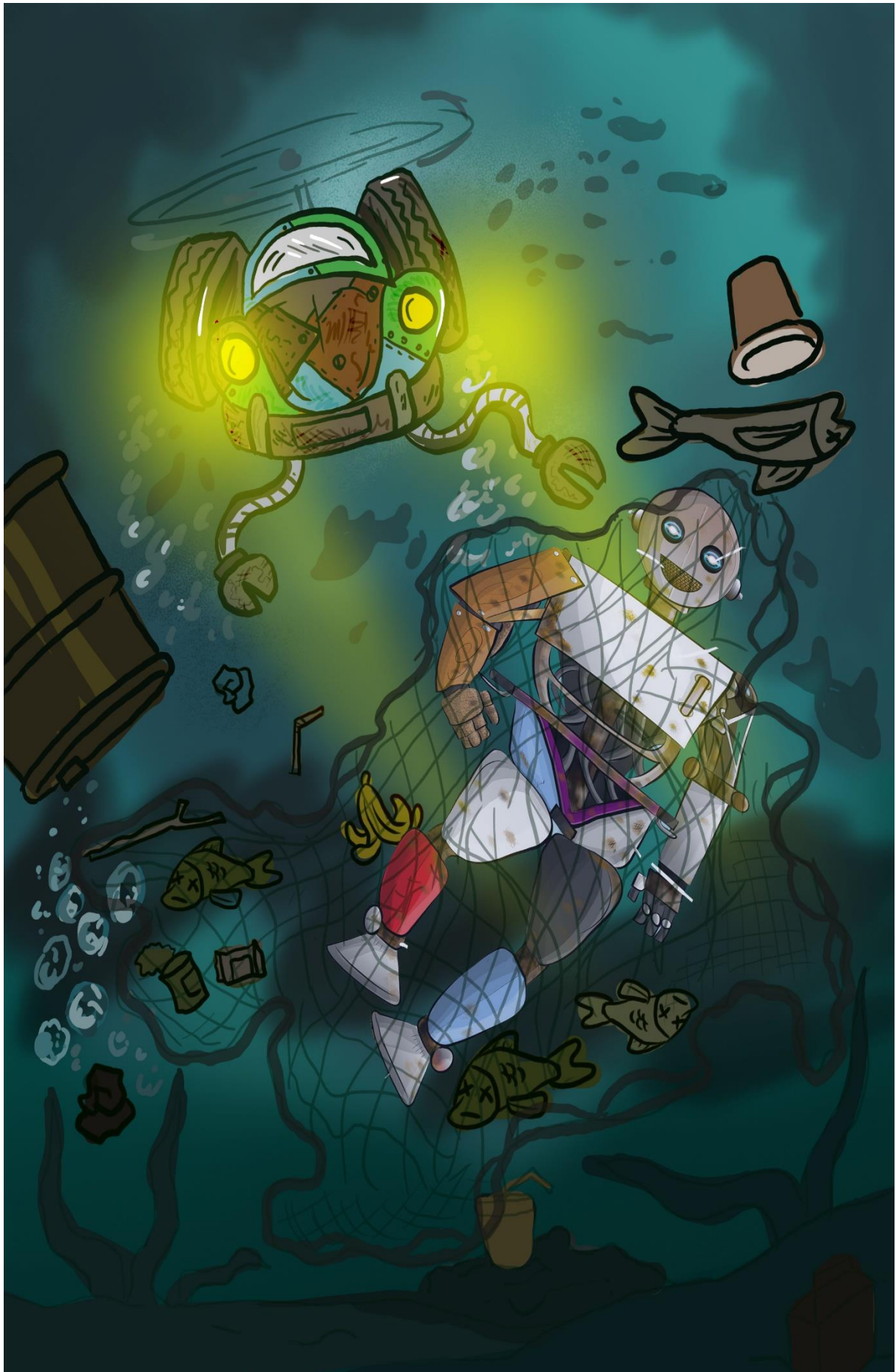
"Catch me with the arms I cannot swim remember my filters are jammed." Stevie said,

I quickly caught him with the arms,

"Someone will have to swim outside and pull him in." Ajamu said,

"Dat easy fi you seh back inna yuh chair," Kiki responded and continued, **"Who ago inna crocodile wata."**

"Mi will go." Brandon said,



“YUH A GET MAD?” Kiki asked Brandon.

“Nope, mi is a good swimma, plus Lisa ago protect mi with di arm dem from di crocos dem mi jus need mi jet pack.” Brandon replied.

Brandon was always brave in these situations; he grabbed his jet pack and pulled his suit over his face and placed his breathing helmet on. I opened the secondary door, and he went inside, I closed the secondary door and opened the main door. Murky water and garbage came rushing onto Brandon. He powered forward with the jet pack and grabbed Stevie by the foot and pulled him inside the P-Sub. I closed the main door and they both entered, and I released the water and opened the secondary door to let them in.

“Thank you, my friends.” Stevie said as he lied on the P-Subs floor.

“Now let’s fix the leak.” Ajamu said.

We spent two hours trying to fix the leak, after a few attempts we successfully finished and returned to HQ.

“Great Mission team.” Ajamu said as we exited the P-Sub cheering. He ran past us with his shaking toolbox and began to repair and update Stevie’s filters.

“Wow, dat di wicked!” Kiki said,

“Yuh enjoy di mission?” Brandon asked,

“More dan enjoy, plus weh you a do needed enuh.” She answered and continued, **“like inna other communities.”**

“Weh yuh mean?” Brandon asked as he made his way to the bathroom to have a shower.

“Like inna other community like mine. Brandon di real reason why mi a stay with yuh family is not cause a jus summa but cause a di fish kill dem.” Kiki answered.



“Fish kill?” I asked.

“Yeah, from chemical a put inna di river and when it happen no money caan mek from fishing and di water damage di crops dem. So wi no have no clean wata to drink wi ave to a buy wata to drink, di last time it happen old Ms Wright wi next door neighbour drink di wata and all now she still a have belly problem. So mi mada jus seh mek mi stay with yuh until money start mek back.” Kiki replied.

“Fi real! Mi love dem fish deh enuh.” Brandon said,

“Ajamu you a hear dis?” I asked.

“Yes oh, I’m listening,” Ajamu replied and continued while working on Stevie, “Kiki do you know what is causing this chemical in the river?”

“Yes, di people a di community talk and protest but noting di Government not doing to the Bauxite Factory. Every time it happen NEPA (National Environmental Planning Agency) just talk, no action and a talk seh dem no have no proof or some foolishness, so dem jus leff wi did poor people to suffa.” Kiki answered.

“Worst like how di bigger heads nuh use di river dem no care.” I said,

“A jus like we with di dump fire dem before Stevie yuh remember? More time a we di people have to bring dem to justice.” Brandon said.

“Bla Blu Bla Blu Bla Blu.” Tam Tam said,

“Him seh mek wi help Kiki and her community.” I interpreted.

“I second that oh, and with me being African I can tell you about the negative effects of mineral mining and when the Government chooses to neglect its people for money.” Ajamu said.

“Wha can yuh do?” Kiki asked.

“A soon time fi go home but before wi leave, wi can send Stevie pon a surveying mission and see if we can get any useful information.” I said,

“That sounds like a plan oh, I will just finish the repairs and we can send him off soon.” Ajamu said,

Ajamu started to move his hands faster on working on Stevie, and we all went and had a shower and changed back into our clothes. Tam Tam and Brandon went to the games room and began playing FIFA. Brandon laughed saying they were practicing for tomorrow’s finals in the 5-a-side competition. Me and Kiki talked while we waited patiently for Ajamu to finish.

Soon he was finished, and Stevie was back on his feet walking about HQ.

“I’m ready for my mission.” Stevie said,

Ajamu walked over to his chair, me and Kiki followed as we both took a seat beside him.

“Alright Stevie, fi dis mission you nuh go engage anyone, jus gatha di information so we can plan wi next move.” I said,

“Roger that Captain Lisa.” Stevie said while saluting me.

Stevie walked over to the launch zone,

“When you are in the sky, I will send you the coordinates. Mission starts at one-seven-one-five hours.” Ajamu said.

Stevie launched himself into the sky and was now moving super-fast flying over the landfill and heading towards the beautiful St Catherine hills, he passed the North-South Highway and was now travelling above the Rio Cobre River.

“Yuh almost reach Stevie.” Kiki said,

“Status report of the Rio Cobre so far Stevie.” Ajamu said.



Stevie scanned the river with his eyes from above,

“Travelling along the river going to Kent Village I’m detecting less and less fish as I near the location.” Stevie said,

Stevie was now above Kent Village and he landed silently and unnoticed. Kiki got up off her chair and shouted,

“YES, YUH REACH STEVIE!”

Stevie looked around and quickly scanned his surroundings with the pollution sensors in his eyes.

“The place is like a ghost town.” Stevie said,

“Dat a cause who no fed up, caan tek di smell a di dead fish dem.” Kiki explained.

“Absolutely no fish detected, and my sensors are indeed picking up chemical waste which are bi-products of bauxite mining.” Stevie reported.

“See wi know seh a di Bauxite Factory enuh a cause all a dis and NEPA a tek wi fi idiot.” Kiki said.

“This is terrible oh.” Ajamu said with a concern look on his face.

“Wi will need more dan dis, Stevie fly to the factory. Di mission jus get upgraded.” I said,

“Seems like Lisa has a plan.” Ajamu said.

Stevie launched himself back into the sky and was on his way to The Bauxite Factory.

FOUR

Stevie flew above the hills and in a few seconds, we could see the Bauxite Factory and the large mud lakes of caustic and mud that surrounded the factory.

“Mud lakes oh!” Ajamu said.

“All dem do a dust up di place and red up wi wata when dem dry.” Kiki responded furiously.

“Mud lakes are outdated and to make it worst this method of mining is illegal across Europe, Jamaica needs to follow.” Ajamu said.

“Same ting dem jus wicked.” Kiki responded.

“The Factory 5 seconds away.” Stevie said.

“Eh, what is the plan now Lisa?” Ajamu asked.

I pointed at the screen and replied,

“I jus think going to di Factory would a give wi more information.” On the screen was a large black CRV sandwich between two smaller cars heading towards the Bauxite Factory.

“Dat a Bauxite Boss car.” Kiki said.

“Bauxite who?” I asked.

“Bauxite Boss di big fat White Man dat own di factory.” Kiki replied.

“Scan the CRV for me please.” Ajamu said. Stevie scanned the vehicle instantly.

“Two men are seated at the back of the black CRV.” Stevie responded.



“Keep tracking them and let’s go inside of the factory.” Ajamu said.

“Di factory ave high-tech security system enuh.” Kiki said.

“Di more high-tech the system di easier it fi hack fi Ajamu.” I replied, causing Ajamu to smile. Stevie flew to the roof of the factory and looked around for a few seconds for the best positioned camera. He flew over and attached a small chip to it and Ajamu began to hack the security system. Jinx in a matter of seconds had control of all the doors, cameras, and passwords of the factory. Soon one of the cameras showed the black CRV coming to a stop and the huge figure of Bauxite Boss stepped outside, he was well dressed in a full white tuxedo, and he had a golden cane, he was followed by the slim figure of another gentleman in a white coat like one of Dr Yolanda’s. The man in the white coat had a large nose and crazy bright red hair, he also had on the latest sneakers.

“Seh Bauxite Boss deh, but a who dat beside him?” Kiki asked.

The man and Bauxite Boss were talking and laughing as they made their way inside the factory.

“A how dem a laugh so?” I asked.

“From yuh see Bauxite Boss a laugh so yuh know a no nothing good fi wi community.” Kiki said.

“Follow dem inside Stevie mek wi hear what so funny.” I said,

Stevie silently flew around the back of the factory and Ajamu opened the door, surprisingly no guards were at the door and Stevie went inside. Stevie quickly but silently made his way inside the factory; he scanned the factory layout on the wall and found the location we were looking for it was Dr Polloot’s Laboratory. Stevie continued to make his way, suddenly we saw two security guards walking towards Stevie. Ajamu notified him and Stevie stood still

next to the wall and saluted like a stature. The two laughing guards looked at Stevie,

“But we neva pass dis yah so?” One of the guards asked.

“Mi no business, from it nuh move or talk dat above my pay cheque, plus di science man is a madman.” Replied the other guard. They both laughed and went for the door that took them outside.

Stevie continued to make his way to Dr Polloot’s Lab, he was soon at the door and Ajamu opened it and Stevie walked inside.

“Look pon inside.” Kiki said.

Inside Dr Polloot’s Lab was filled with high-tech machinery and equipment, Ajamu’s eyes opened in amazement.

“Dr Polloot has all the latest stuff, but I can tell mine is better.” Ajamu said and continued, **“Stevie please take a look at the notes for me.”**

Stevie walked over to a large whiteboard in the lab that read **“Feeding Cell”** bold at the top. The board had a blueprint and several formulas written all over, Stevie used his eyes to scan the board while Ajamu read.

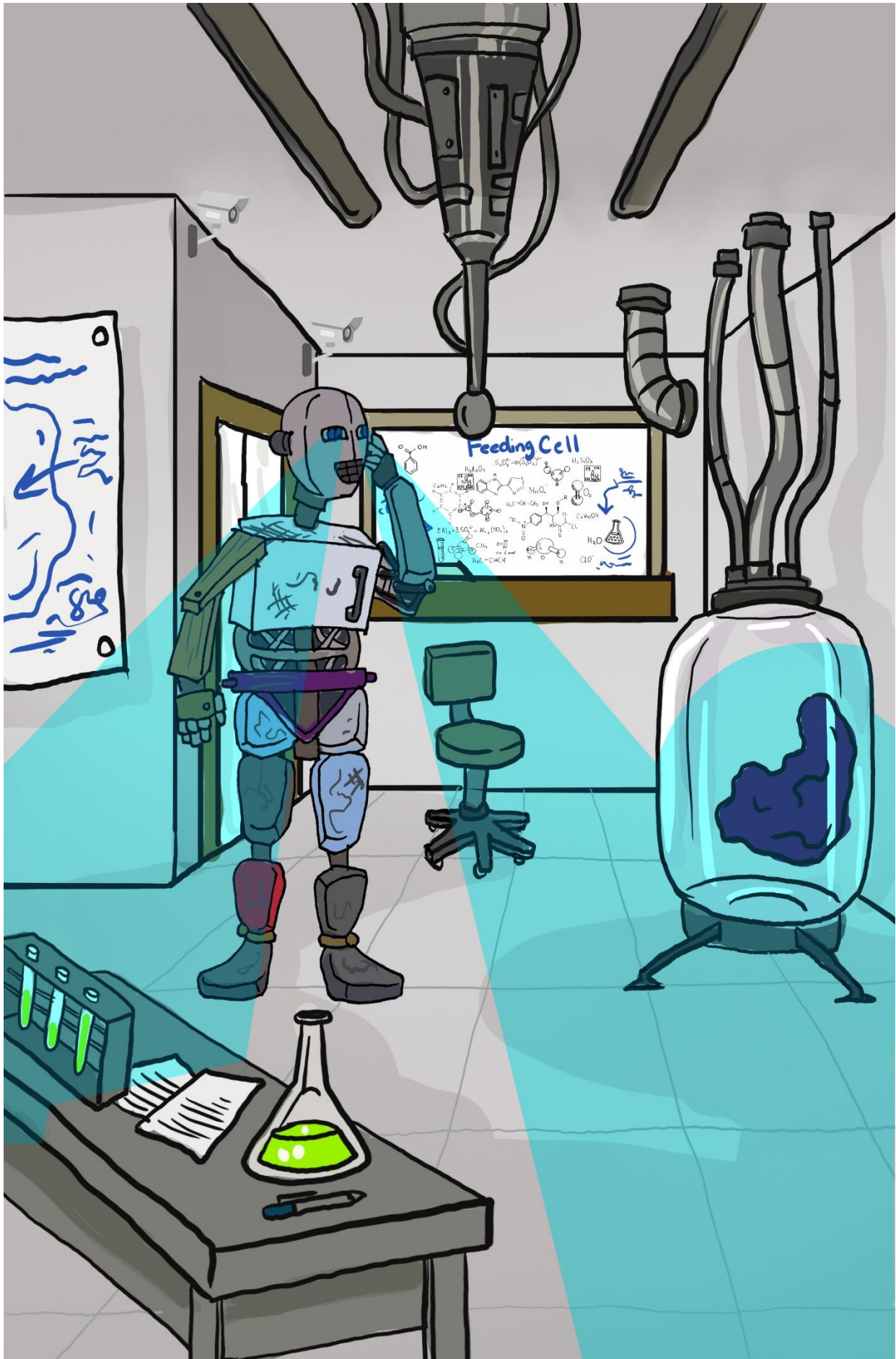
“Oh, my word!” Ajamu said in shock.

“Wha it seh?” I asked.

“The Feeding Cell is a dangerous project, Dr Polloot has plans to create a living feeding cell that feeds on pollution.” He answered.

“So that is a bad thing?” I asked.

“In sense no, but the components of this Feeding Cell will cause catastrophic damage to the ecosystem, its like covering up the damage but causing an even greater problem and what if something goes wrong how will the Cell be controlled.” Ajamu explained.



“Look it inna di glass case.” Kiki said while pointing at the screen. Stevie walked over to the glass case and inside was a small dark purple blob moving up and down slowly like it was breathing.

“A it dat?” I asked.

“Yes oh, that’s Dr Polloot’s greatest invention the death of our ecosystem all in the name of profits.” Ajamu replied.

We began to hear the loud laughing of Bauxite Boss and Dr Polloot coming towards the laboratory.

“Stevie hurry up and hide dem a come in di lab soon.” I said,

Stevie hid behind a large CPU, the two guards following Bauxite Boss and Dr Polloot stopped by the door and Dr Polloot opened the door and him and Bauxite Boss only stepped inside, Dr Polloot closed the door behind them.

“Now Doctor, show me the new invention.” Bauxite Boss said smiling.

“You a record dis?” Kiki asked.

“Yes oh, Jinx is recording everything that is happening.” Ajamu answered.

Dr Polloot walked over to the case holding the Feeding Cell and placed his hand on it and said,

“This is it Boss, with this little cell we will solve all your problems when it comes to the old mud lakes and the spills in the river.”

“Polloot are you sure, because I can’t afford another fish kill linked to our name, we would have to pay out millions.” Bauxite Boss said.

“No worries, this little feeding cell eats pollution for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. If we have a spill in the river, we just

use it to clean the evidence. Fish may still die but no trace of any substance from the factory will be found in the river.” Dr Polloot said,

“Now you are talking my language, saving us all that money needed to upgrade this outdated factory.” Bauxite Boss said while laughing in greed.

“More money for us.” Dr Polloot responded.

“That’s what we live for, now show me how it works.” Bauxite Boss commanded.

Dr Polloot went into the trash bin which was right beside the large CPU in which Stevie was hiding behind and took out a plastic bag. With Bauxite Boss’s eyes wide opened he paid close attention, has Dr Polloot opened the glass case. The feeding cell immediately started glowing and Dr Polloot dropped the plastic bag into the case, the cell somehow seemed to absorb the plastic bag.

“Good girl.” Dr Polloot said, as he closed the glass case.

“You see Boss, gone without a trace.” He said.

“Polloot you have out done yourself, this is your greatest invention yet.” Replied an amazed Bauxite Boss.

“Yes, my greatest invention, I’m truly the greatest scientist alive.” Dr Polloot said while smiling with pride.

FIVE

Meanwhile back at HQ Ajamu was nervously listening to the plans and said,

“This just confirms to me that Dr Polloot is a madman oh and Bauxite Boss is pure evil fuelled by greed, Stevie as soon as they leave scan the make up of the feeding cell and come home, we have enough evidence to sink them now.”

Stevie did not reply,

“I’m sorry Ajamu, but Stevie has lost all power.” Jinx said.

“WHAT!” Ajamu shouted.

On the screen we saw Stevie standing still and, in a few seconds, he fell forward hitting the floor. The sound of Stevie crashing to the floor immediately gained the attention of Bauxite Boss and Dr Polloot.

“What was that?” Bauxite Boss asked,

Him and Dr Polloot dashed over to look at Stevie, Dr Polloot rolled Stevie over on his back and said,

“WOW, it looks like a robot.”

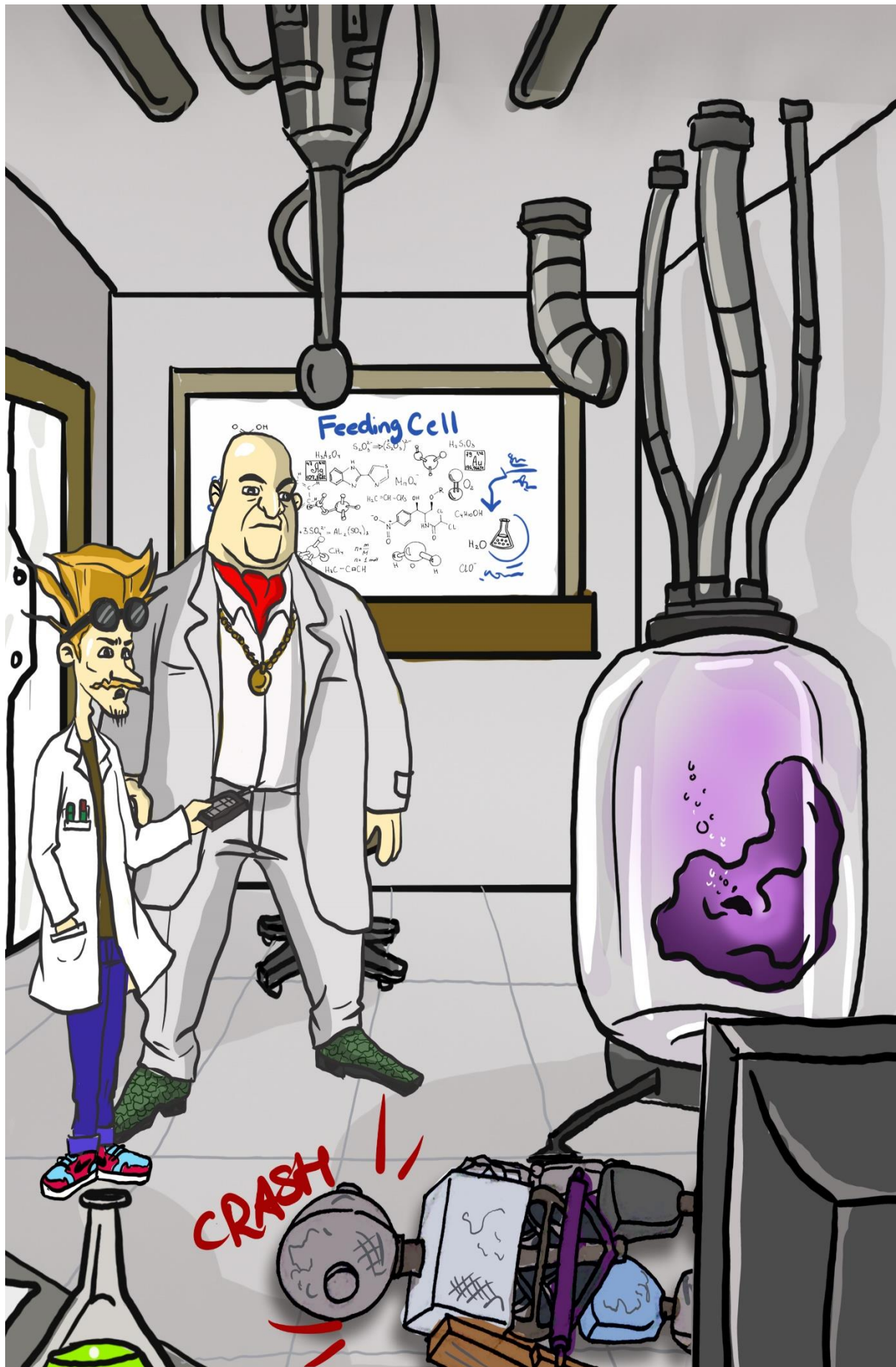
“What does it do, and does it work?” Bauxite Boss asked.

“Its not mine and I don’t know how it got into the lab, I will run a few tests and find out all we need to know about this thing.”
Dr Polloot answered.

Sweat ran from Ajamu’s face as he began to type rapidly on the computer and said,

“Jinx load all of Stevie’s files and memories on the encrypted pCloud now.”

“What a happen Ajamu?” I asked.



“Stevie lost power somehow and Dr Polloot will try and hack his system. So just in case I have moved all his system files to the encrypted pCloud.” He answered.

“So how Stevie jus lose powa so?” I asked,

“I’m not sure, I’m still trying to find out,” He answered and continued, **“Jinx run a system troubleshoot on Stevie before he powered down.”**

“Check completed; Stevie is on 80 percent, but his invertor chip is not connected.” Jinx stated.

“His invertor chip is not connected?!” Ajamu said as he grabbed the microphone and continued, **“Brandon and Tam Tam time for another emergency mission, we have to save Stevie again.”**

Brandon and Tam Tam paused the game and came running over to the control station.

“Wha a di problem wid Stevie again?” Brandon asked.

“He powered down and was captured at the Bauxite Factory.” I answered.

“Bla bla blu bla blu?” Tam Tam asked,

“He is asking what cause him to just power down.” I translated.

“Stevie lost his invertor chip, more than likely it happened while he was underwater and trapped in the net and I never noticed when I was doing the repairs.” Ajamu answered.

“We all know that Stevie is important, so we have to get him before Dr Polloot hack him or even worst destroy him.” I said,

“So, who ave di plan, remember Lisa, you and Tam Tam soon ave to leave because yuh mommy soon come home from work.” Brandon replied.

“Well, I can 3d print the new invertor chip, but we will still need someone to place back the new chip.” Ajamu said.

“Bla blu bla blu bla bla blu.” Tam Tam replied.

“Good idea Tam Tam, him seh mek me and him go on the mission and mek Brandon and Kiki stay inna our rooms until mommy come home and check wi room, Kiki can jus pretend to be me and answer. Mommy ago be tired so she ago just look one time and go to her bed.” I said,

“This plan as to work because only Lisa can fly the P-Jet and Tam Tam is the master at what he does, suit up for the mission oh,” Ajamu said and continued, **“Jinx please load and print a new inverter chip for Stevie.”**

The iron arm came down from the ceiling and started to print the chip for Stevie. Me and Tam Tam changed into our mission suits.

“So, me and Kiki will stay a Lisa’s house and she and Tam Tam will do di mission.” Brandon said.

“Right oh!” Ajamu replied,

I started to brief Kiki and Brandon on what needs to be done before and after my mother gets home from work. Jinx finished printing the chip and Ajamu handed it to me and said,

“Please return our friend oh.”

“We will.” I said as I gave him a hug to comfort him.

“Where you are going you may be met with force so I have equipped your suits with taser buttons, just fire them and anyone in a 50 feet range will be electrocuted and will be unconscious for at least 15 minutes.” Ajamu said.

“Blu bla blub la blu.” Tam Tam replied.

“He says, thanks and now its action time.” I translated.

Tam Tam and I ran to the launch zone, and we jumped into the P-Machine and buckled our seatbelts.

“The mission commences at one-nine-three-zero hours, ready for launch in five, four, three, two, ONE! Go Pedal Patrol!” Ajamu announced.

I immediately pressed the P-Jet bottom and the P-Machine transformed into a jet and we were launched into the night sky. The P-Jet was flying in night mode which allowed us to see through the windows without the use of lights giving the P-Jet cover in the night sky. We followed Stevie’s coordinates until the Bauxite Factory was in sight. I silently landed the P-Jet on top of the factory building which had Dr Polloot’s Laboratory. Ajamu backed the security footage and that gave us the clear path until we came upon the two guards at the back door of the building. Tam Tam blew a whistle and the two guards looked up as soon as they heard it, he fired a taser button knocking them out before they could say a word. Ajamu opened the back door, and we quickly went inside.

“Hurry up oh,” Ajamu said and continued, **“Dr Polloot and Bauxite Boss has Stevie on a table and Dr Polloot is about to connect his supercomputer.”**

“We a move!” I said, Tam Tam began running faster and the moment he reached the corner of the hallway he fired a taser button knocking the two guards at the door of the Lab unconscious. Just as we were about to burst into the Lab in “007” and “Mission Impossible” style.

Ringin Ringin Ringin

My smartwatch began to ring, and it was Brandon, I immediately answered,

“Yow Lisa, yuh madda reach home.” He said,

“Alright, you and Kiki inna bed so jus pretend like you a sleep and no move.” I replied, talking through my ear plugs.

“She at di front door now.” He said,

“Turn on the speakers now Kiki,” I said,



Kiki did just that and I could hear my mother making her way through the living room, she then opened the fridge and placed something inside, she was now at our door,

“Lisa, Lisa you asleep?” She asked sounding tired as always.

“Hmmm.” I answered sounding like a was sleeping, my mother heard me over the speaker from under the sheet.

“Mi hear seh yuh win di match, sorry mi caan mek it tomorrow a di finals but all di best, plus mi hear Dr Yolanda a mek enuff noise fi everybody.” She said,

“Hmmm,” I answered again,

“All Tam Tam him fast asleep too, aright mi ago mi bed too cause you know how it go, a early a morning again.” She said and walked to her room and closed the door behind her.

Tam Tam’s plan had worked we all rejoiced for a few seconds and refocused on the mission at hand.

“I’m opening the Lab door now oh.” Ajamu said,

The door opened and Tam Tam ran inside. I was right behind him, to my surprise inside the Lab was the only place I did not smell the harsh caustic smell of the factory. Dr Polloot and Bauxite Boss were shellshocked to see us in front of them.

“BLA BLU BLA BLU!” Tam Tam shouted,

“Him seh give us back wi friend!” I said as Tam Tam fired a taser button, the shock from the button electrocuted the equipment in the Lab and caused Bauxite Boss to fall to the floor unconscious. The Feeding Cell began bouncing about in the glass case, Dr Polloot stood still as the shock seemed to not have affected him.

Meanwhile at HQ,

“The shock from the taser gave Stevie a power boost.” Jinx said,

Ajamu quickly reloaded his memory from the pCloud and shouted in his ear plugs, **“Tam Tam fire a taser button again and this time aim it at Stevie!”**

Tam Tam fired three sets of taser buttons at Stevie and once again the tasers electrified the Lab, this time causing the glass case holding the Feeding Cell to crack and the bouncing speed of the Cell tripled. Dr Polloot still stood at his feet.

“Him tuff enuh.” I said,

Dr Polloot reached into his whitecoat and said,

“I work with electricity every day, all day, my sneakers are fitted with grounding fibres your little spark can’t do me anything...”

Before he could finish Stevie rosed off the table and punched Dr Polloot to the ground.

“Everyone out now oh!” Ajamu shouted. Stevie ran toward us and in one motion lifted me and Tam Tam and ran for the door, we exited the Lab and continued towards the backdoor all the guards were still unconscious. Outside he flew us up to the P-Jet and we launched off heading for home in a matter of seconds.

“Wha jus happen Ajamu, how Stevie neva need di new chip?” I asked.

“The shock from the tasers powered him for the moment but he will still need the new invertor chip soon.” He answered.

“That’s why my foot is on go.” I responded.

“Ajamu what about the Feeding Cell? Will it die? It was bouncing hard in the case before Lisa and Tam Tam escaped.” Kiki asked.

“The Feeding Cell is still in the case and still bouncing, but Dr Polloot and Bauxite Boss are still unconscious. I will let Jinx keep an eye on them for the night and tomorrow we plan on how we will

take down The Bauxite Factory and its owner Bauxite Boss and company.” Ajamu said.

“Yea mission completed, plus remember tomorrow a di big finals enuh.” Brandon said,

“Let’s just hope so oh.” Ajamu responded

We all cheered, some of us louder than others,

“WE ARE THE PEDAL PATROL!”

SIX

The following morning me and Tam Tam were awoken by the ringing of my smartwatch.

Ringin Ringin Ringin

In my sleep I answered, and it was Ajamu,

“Lisa, Lisa oh, turn on your television quick!” He shouted.

I was now fully awake, and I dashed for my remote and turned on the TV, but it was only showing black and white grains. I repositioned the antenna until I was able to see and hear clearly. Breaking News flashed across the screen.

“Good morning, Jamaica, welcome back to a Jamaican Television Special Report. Monster Blob Attacks! The residents along the Rio Cobre River in St Catherine have all awoken to the shock of their lives. All the vegetation along the banks of the river has died and a trill of dead fish and other creatures mixed with a smelly thick purple slime line the banks of the river. Calls coming into our News Centre can confirm a massive 200 feet tall Monster Blob, I repeat a 200 feet tall Monster Blob that seems to be growing by the minute has destroyed several roadway bridges, Flat Bridge is down, The Old Iron Bridge in Spanish Town is down and the Caymanas Bridge in Portmore is down. Resulting into early morning chaos on our roadways. Several factories and warehouse were also destroyed, the Juice Factory, the Milk Powder Factory and the Paint Factory are all down. The giant blob is now making its way into Hunts Bay. The residents are pointing their fingers at the usual suspects The Bauxite Factory. But Managing Scientist Dr Polloot, denies any involvement, in fact he states the factory was the scene of a crime last night as there was an assassination attempt on the owner’s life by masked attackers. The journalist said,

“Dem lie enuh.” I said out loud.

The television footage immediately changed to in studio and the journalist around the deck said,

“Breaking News, The Jamaican Television Newsroom has just received video and audio footage from a source called the Pedal Patrol, incriminating The Bauxite Factory and its owners not just with the current national emergency but with all the previous chemical spills in the Rio Cobre.”

The footage then showed Bauxite Boss and Dr Polloot speaking and laughing about the Feeding Cell and how they caused all the previous chemical spills. It showed Dr Polloot placing the plastic bag into the glass case with the Feeding Cell and the then smaller Cell absorbing the plastic and glowing. The station then showed Dr Polloot waking up from his knockout from Stevie and using Bauxite Boss’s cane to break the glass case releasing the Feeding Cell. Dr Polloot watched the cell go down the drain as he laughed saying,

“Go my baby, show the world I’m the greatest scientist and not some kid with a stupid robot.”

“You see Lisa, we have a serious emergency oh.” Ajamu said,

“LET’S GO PEDAL PATROL.” I shouted

Tam Tam and I ran outside and jumped on our bicycle and began to ride to HQ. We soon met Kiki and Brandon and the four of us rode to HQ. Ajamu was already seated and waiting at the control station. We slid down the slide and changed into our mission suits and gathered around Ajamu at the control station.

“What is the update Ajamu?” I asked.

“The cell is growing at a rapid rate oh, it feeds on the pollution in and around the water, but it is also killing the environment and leaving a smelly chemical substance behind. I’m currently reading Dr Polloot’s notes, but I still need some more time, you guys try and stop it or slow it down from entering the Kingston Harbour, if it does, I fear it will become unstoppable and it will destroy Kingston

and next the whole island. The police and military are currently at Bauxite Boss's estate conducting a raid." Ajamu answered.

"So how yuh plan on slowing it down?" Brandon asked.

"The cell shows signs of weakness to electricity, I have equipped the P-Jet and Stevie with electric zappers. That is all for now until I have finished reading Dr Polloot's notes." Ajamu replied.

On the screen we could see the Feeding Cell entering Hunts Bay and the police at Bauxite Boss's estate with both Bauxite Boss and Dr Polloot in handcuffs being placed in a police vehicle.

"LET'S GO PEDAL PATROL." Kiki shouted. We ran for the launch zone and took our seats in the P-Machine,

"Mission begins in zero-seven-five-two hours get ready for launch in five, four, three, two, ONE! Blast Off!" Ajamu announced.

I pushed the P-Jet button, and the jet was launched into the sky with Stevie flying close behind. We flew towards the now gigantic cell; the army was trying their best but the body off the cell was just absorbing the bullets. The Cell had a long trill of dead fish and garbage slowly being absorbed into its massive body. The Cell was now right at the side of the Portmore Toll bridge, Stevie flew close to it and fired his electric zappers at the Cell. The Cell roared in pain and used both his arms to break the Portmore Toll Bridge and the Old Causeway Bridge in two. The citizens using the bridge cried out in fear as the Cell ate a few cars and continued across into the Kingston Harbour.

Now feeding on the years of garbage and pollution in the Kingston Harbour the Cell was growing at an even greater pace. I used the P-Jet and fired a few electric zappers at it, the Cell roared and attacked the P-Jet by swinging it arms to launch the excess slime at us. Luckily, I was a skilled pilot and the slime from the Cell was now all over the cranes at the Kingston Wharf.



“Ajamu any other bright ideas cause this one not working, and the Cell is now heading towards PETRO JAM and if that happens, we can say goodbye to Kingston.” Brandon said.

“Dr Polloot’s notes are showing that the Cell has a heart we just need to find it and place a bomb on it and blow it up.” Ajamu replied.

“So, how wi ago do dat?” I asked. As the size of the Cell moving in the harbour caused the streets of Kingston to be flooded.

“I have an idea.” Stevie said,

“What idea is that oh?” Ajamu asked.

“It’s the only way my friends, remember I’m the environmentally friendly bot and it is my responsibility to protect the environment and my friends.” With that said Stevie flew towards the Cell and flew down its mouth, the Cell roared in pain.

“Stevie NOOO, if you do this, I won’t have enough time to save your system files and you will be gone forever oh.” Ajamu said crying.

“Yes, this is the only way, my friends remember me always! We are the Pedal Patrol!” Stevie said as he exploded inside of the Cell with a loud BOOM! The explosion killed the Cell sending its slime across Kingston and the surrounding areas. The army men cheered on the ships at the sight of the explosion, and we all started crying as we flew to HQ.

“Ajamu! Ajamu! Ajamu!” I called but no answer.

Now at HQ and all in tears we exited the P-Machine and ran towards the control station to comfort Ajamu. When we arrived at the control station Ajamu jumped from behind his chair shouting,

“Surprise oh!” And both Stevie and Jinx appeared on the screen.

“Stevie is not gone forever?” I asked.



“No oh, Jinx had duplicated his files in the pCloud and after the explosion, she reloaded the files with the new information. So, all we have to do is build a new body. Ajamu answered.

We all ran and hugged Ajamu and we jumped up and down cheering and saying,

“WE ARE THE PEDAL PATROL! WE ARE THE PEDAL PATROL!

THE END

PASSION STATEMENT DANIJAH TAYLOR

“JUSTICE FOR ONE AND ALL NO MATTER YOUR ECONOMIC BACKGROUND, ARE WORDS I TRULY BELIEVE SHOULD TRANSCEND ALL LEVELS OF MANKIND. SO, WHEN JAMAICA FOR JUSTICE ANNOUNCED ITS “ARTIVISM 4 CHANGE” PROJECT MY PASSION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE WAS IMMEDIATELY IGNITED. “

“AS A CREATIVE WRITER, NATURE AS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF MY PLACES OF INSPIRATION. IN JULY 2022 THE RIO COBRE RIVER SUFFERED YET ANOTHER MAJOR CHEMICAL SPILL AND FISH KILL, WEEKS LATER IT WAS CONFIRMED TO BE CAUSED BY THE BAUXITE MINING COMPANY WINDALCO. WITH THE SPILLS HAPPENING MORE FREQUENTLY OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, IMPACTING THOUSANDS OF LIVES OF POOR JAMAICANS THAT USE THE RIVER FOR SURVIVAL. “

“I TAUGHT THERE WILL BE NO BETTER TOPIC TO USE THE POWER OF MY PEN TO BRING AWARENESS FOR THE NEED FOR BETTER MANAGEMENT OF OUR NATURAL WATER RESOURCES WHILE HIGHLIGHTING THE CRITICAL STATE OF THE OUTDATED BAUXITE MINING INDUSTRY IN JAMAICA AND THE THREAT IT POSES TO OUR ENVIRONMENT.”

#PENPOWERMENT

about studio dan

Studio dan is a Jamaica based social enterprise that creates authentic Jamaican stories and live edutainment events/projects.

#penpowerment

Leading the Jamaican literary revolution with original content focused on improving literacy, creativity and critical thinking in our youth.



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POLLUTED WATERS

Kiki 10, joins forces with the Pedal Patrol to try and save her home community Kent Village from constant chemical spills caused by the Bauxite Factory and the evil scientist Dr. Polloot.

A spin off story from the Studio Dan original short-story Pedal Patrol #penpowerment

