

Emmy, Tabby and I shared a glance. We knew all about Perseon V's 'Great Plan' to turn everyone into robots, but why did he need to know the layout of the Town Hall?

There was a sudden noise outside – a metal clank. We froze in terror. Something was coming up the ladder!

"The alien's back!" the mayor cried. "Quick! Hide me!"

Emmy shot us a look. "Stand back, kids! I'll try to hit him with my soup zapper!"

She reached into her backpack and pulled out what looked like a set of bagpipes covered in buttons and switches. Emmy's soup zapper was supposed to produce delicious, hot soup, but like most of

Emmy's inventions it didn't work properly. Instead, it fired a cement-like substance that we had already used to short-circuit our robot parents.

Tabby and I stepped back, trembling with fear. Emmy held the soup zapper in one hand and a torch in the other. Slowly, a head poked up through the hatch. Emmy gave a war cry, and flashed the torch into its eyes ...

"AAARGH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!"

I stared in disbelief at the face poking through the hatch. It wasn't an alien – it was ten times worse than that.

"Barry Sandwich? What are you doing here?"



There he was – the school bully and my arch enemy!

“We could ask you the same thing!” he grumbled, rubbing his eyes.

I was confused. “We?”

Three more heads popped up beside him. It was the rest of his gang: Clarissa, Lee and Jaya, the toughest kids in school! My heart sank.

“Fantastic!” said Emmy. “Four more volunteers to help overthrow the alien invader. In you come, kids!”

I leaped in front of her before they could take another step.

“Are you joking? We can’t ask them to help. For all we know, they’re robots sent by Perseon V to trick us!”

“Us? Robots?! No way!” said Clarissa. “We saw what happened at the party – how that alien sent everyone to sleep with the fruit juice, and then talked about taking over the world! We escaped the first moment we could.”

“Luckily, we didn’t drink the juice,” said Lee.

“Clarissa, Jaya and I only had water. We’re trying to cut down on our sugar intake.”



“Did you know, the average glass of squash contains four whole teaspoons of sugar?” said Jaya knowledgeably.

“I was going to drink some,” said Barry, glaring at me, “but then some idiot spilled my cup all over me!”

"You should be thanking Ash, not blaming him," Tabby pointed out. "If he hadn't spilled your drink, you'd be in a trance and Perseon V would be turning you into a robot!"

"Well, we were going to hide out in the forest," Clarissa continued. "But then we found this spaceship and thought we should look inside. That's where we found you!"

Emmy stepped forward. "Mmm – it does sound believable. Still, we should do a test to make certain you're not robots. Mr Sandwich and friends: would you mind blinking for me?"

Barry and his friends blinked.

"That's good enough for me," said Emmy. "Welcome to the team!"

I thought my head was going to explode.

"That was a rubbish test! We can't let Barry Sandwich

