

BOY vs BEAST

MUD BEAST



Mac Park

POP & FIZZ

SCHOLASTIC

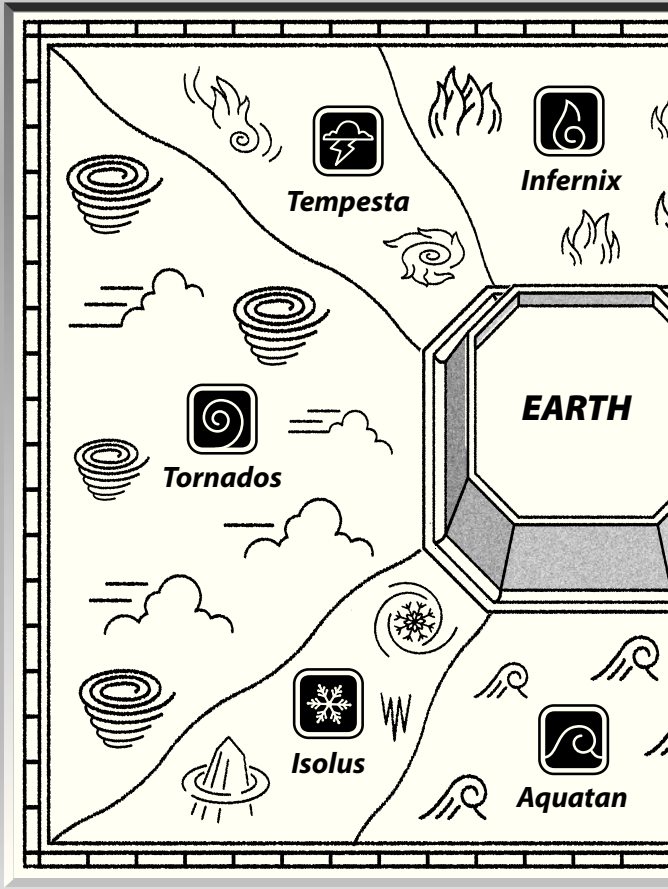
Prologue

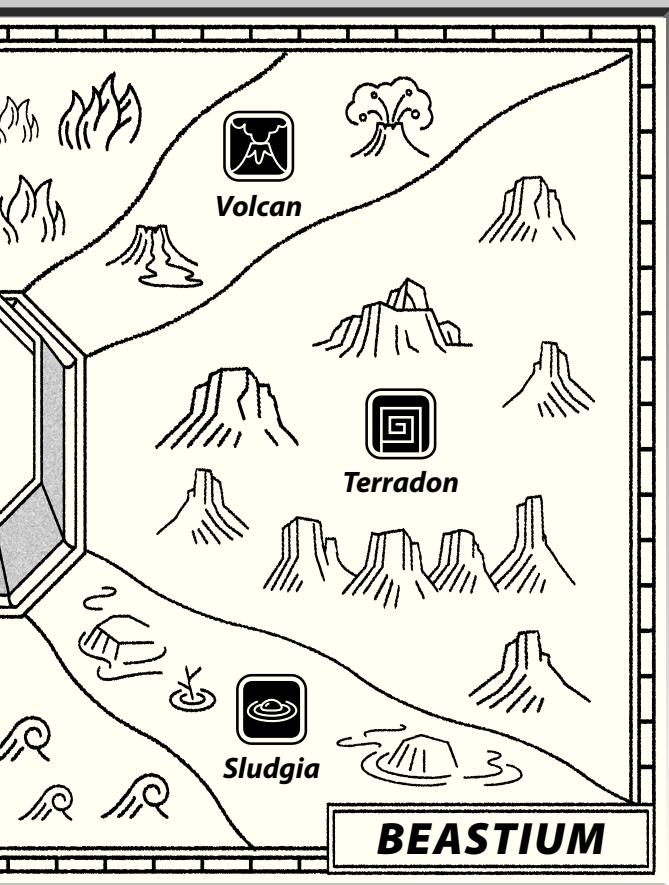


Long ago *beast and man shared* one world. Then battles began between them.

After many battles the world was split in two. Beasts were given Beastium. Man was given Earth.

A border-wall was made. It closed the two worlds off. Border Guards were trained to defend the border-wall. The beasts tried to get through the border-wall many times.





The Border Guards had to stop the beasts. Battles won by beasts made them stronger. Battles won by guards earned them new battle gear. And they got new upgrades. Then their battle gear could do more.

Five boys now defend the border-wall. They are in training to become Border Masters. Just like their dads.

Their dads were also Border Guards once. Then they became Border Captains and then Border Knights. They kept learning until they became Border Masters.

Now they make up the *Bordaria*
Master Command. The BMC.

The BMC helped the Border Guards during battle. They gave the Border Guards new battle gear.

The boys had to earn new battle gear. They needed to learn from their battles. And from their mistakes.

Kai Masters is a Border Guard. His work is top secret. The BMC watch Kai closely. Kai must not fail.

The Beastium Border-Lands



The beasts of Beastium lived in four lands. Over time, the edges of the lands mixed. That was how the border-lands were made.

The edges of fire and rock mixed. That made a volcano land. The edges of rock and water mixed. There was a mud border-land. The edges of water and wind mixed. There was an ice border-land.

The edges of wind and fire mixed.

That made a storm border-land.

It was not just the edges of the worlds that mixed. The beasts from each of the worlds mixed too. Then a new kind of beast was made... The border-land beast.

Kai Masters must think about his old battles. He must learn from them. If he does not, then he will fail.

Kai must not lose.



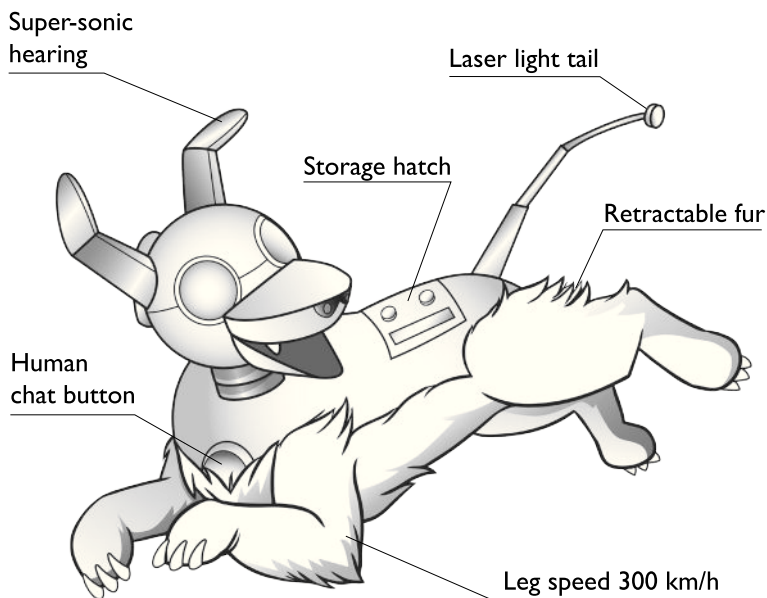
CHAPTER 1



It was Sunday morning. Kai Masters was at the dog park. He was playing with his dog. Kai was not just any 12-year-old. He was a Border Guard.

It was Kai's job to guard the border-wall. He had to stop beasts from breaking through it. And his dogbot, BC3, helped him.

BC could move fast. And he could talk. But only when Kai turned on his chat button.



BC loved going to the dog park. When he went there he wore his fake fur. It made him look like other dogs. No one could tell he was a dogbot.

Kai threw the ball for BC. BC ran after it. BC picked up the ball.

Then he heard

Splat!

Mud splats were hitting the ground.



Strange, thought BC. He ran back to Kai.

'Where's the ball?' asked Kai. BC barked. Then he ran off again.

He wants me to go with him, thought Kai. He was about to go after BC when he heard



Mud had fallen onto a boy's head. *Where did that come from?* thought Kai.



Splat!
Splodge Squelch!

Suddenly there was mud falling down on everyone.



They ran for cover. Kai looked up. The mud was falling from the sky. *But how?* thought Kai.

BC came back with the ball.

He had mud in his fake fur.

‘Yuck!’ said Kai. Then he saw BC’s tail. It was wagging.



BC always wagged his tail when things weren’t good.

‘You’re right, BC,’ said Kai. ‘This has to be coming from a beast.’

Kai took out his orbix. It was a small computer. The BMC used them to talk with their guards.

Sometimes Kai used his orb to store things. Things that he wanted to learn about. And Kai wanted to

learn about this strange mud.

Kai keyed in

Get sample

A metal hand shot out from the orb.



It grabbed the mud on BC's fur.
Then it went back inside the orb.

Kai turned BC's chat button on.
'We need to test this mud,' said Kai.
'Yes,' said BC. 'In the lab at home.'