

SUPERHERO MANDROID



THE HEART BENEATH THE METAL

**BEFORE THE SUIT, BEFORE THE NAME,
HE WAS STILL A HERO.**

Before the name, there was Version One.



He was green cosmic metal from head to foot, with rocket fists built to answer portals fast.



Demons, aliens, and robots broke into the city.



Version One stopped them all.



Every battle ended with the city alive.



Every rescue ended with people stepping back.



They did not see a protector.



They saw an intimidating, monstrous walking tank.



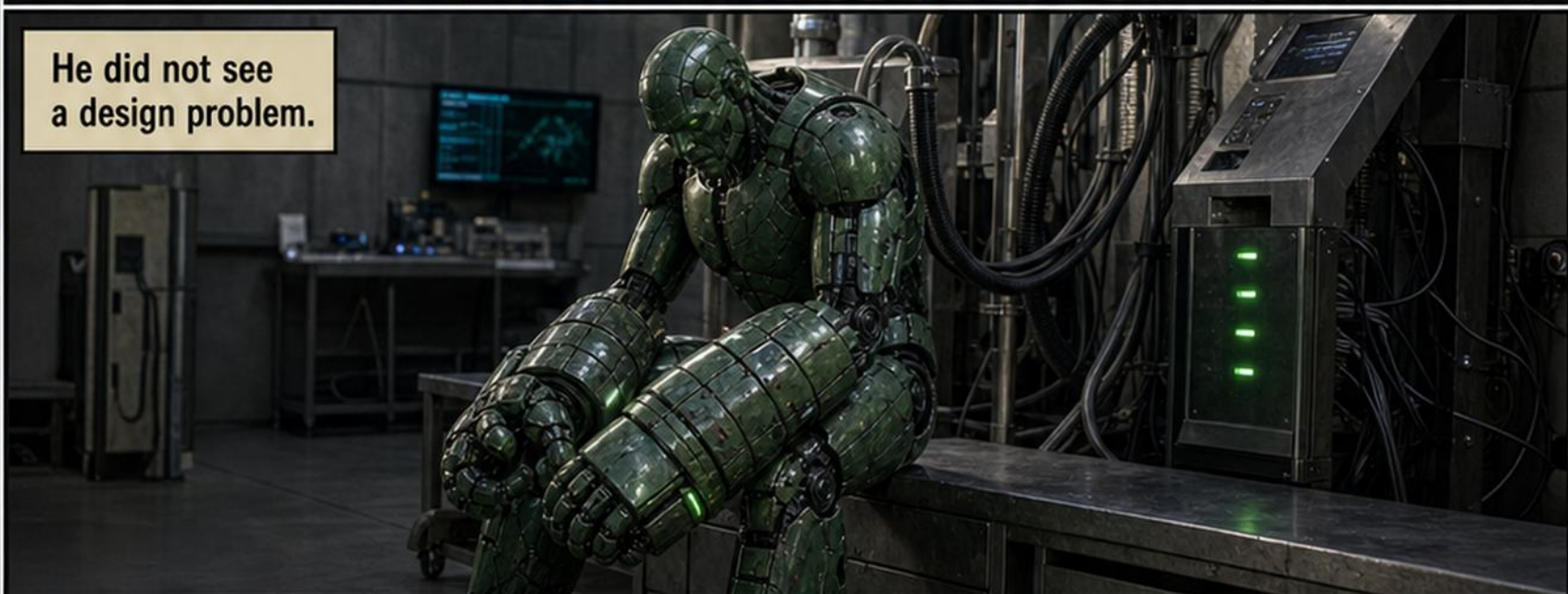
Version One learned that saving people did not always make them smile.



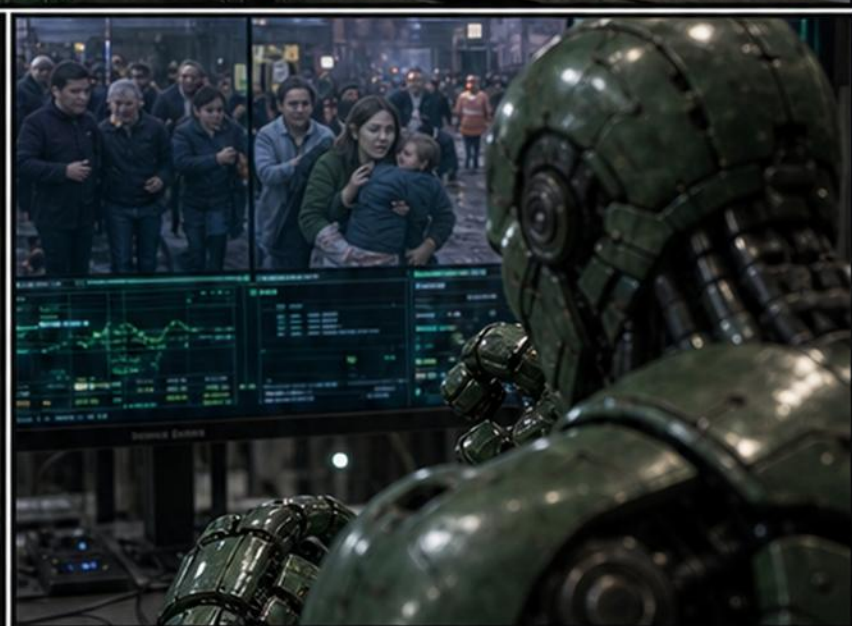
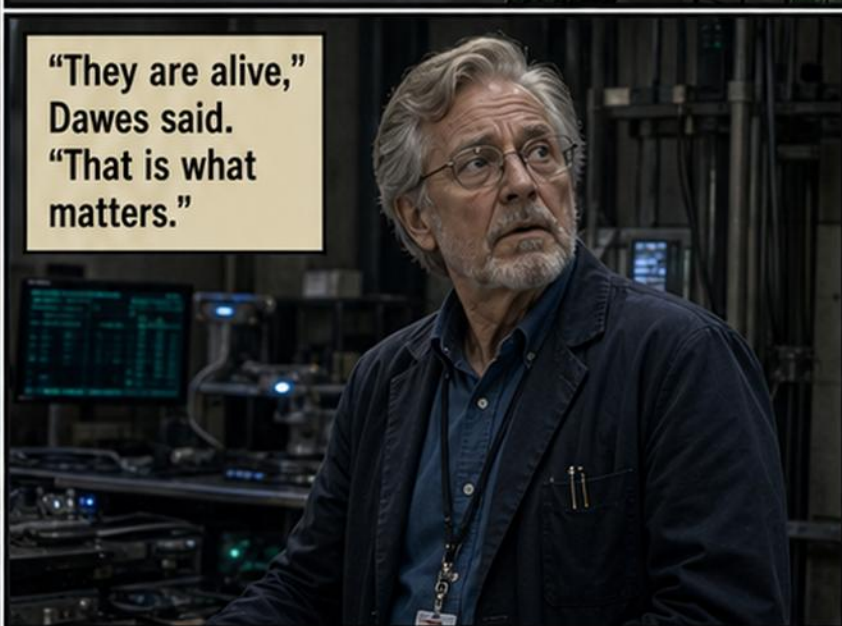
Dr. Elias Dawes
measured success
in threats neutralized
and civilians
protected.



He did not see
a design problem.



"They are alive,"
Dawes said.
"That is what
matters."



"I know," Version One
answered. "But I hate
being hated."



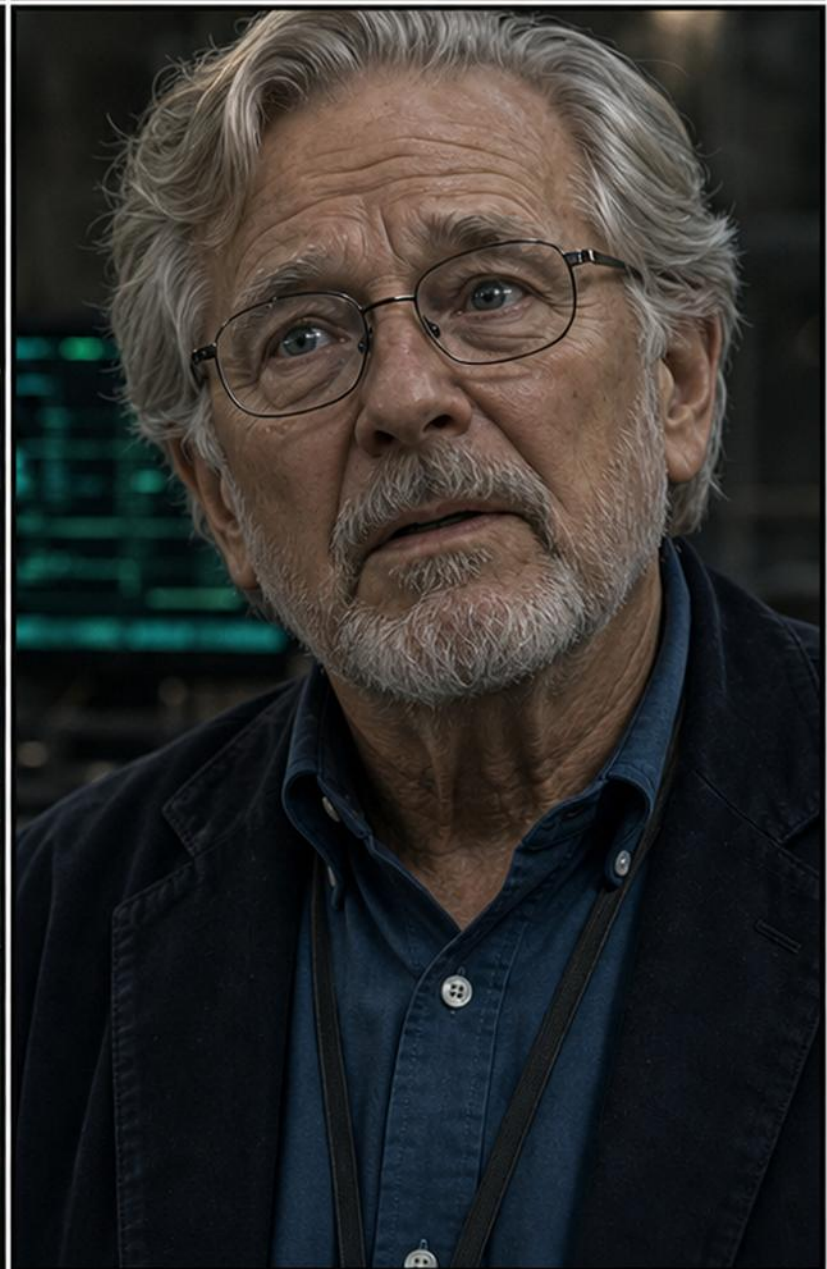
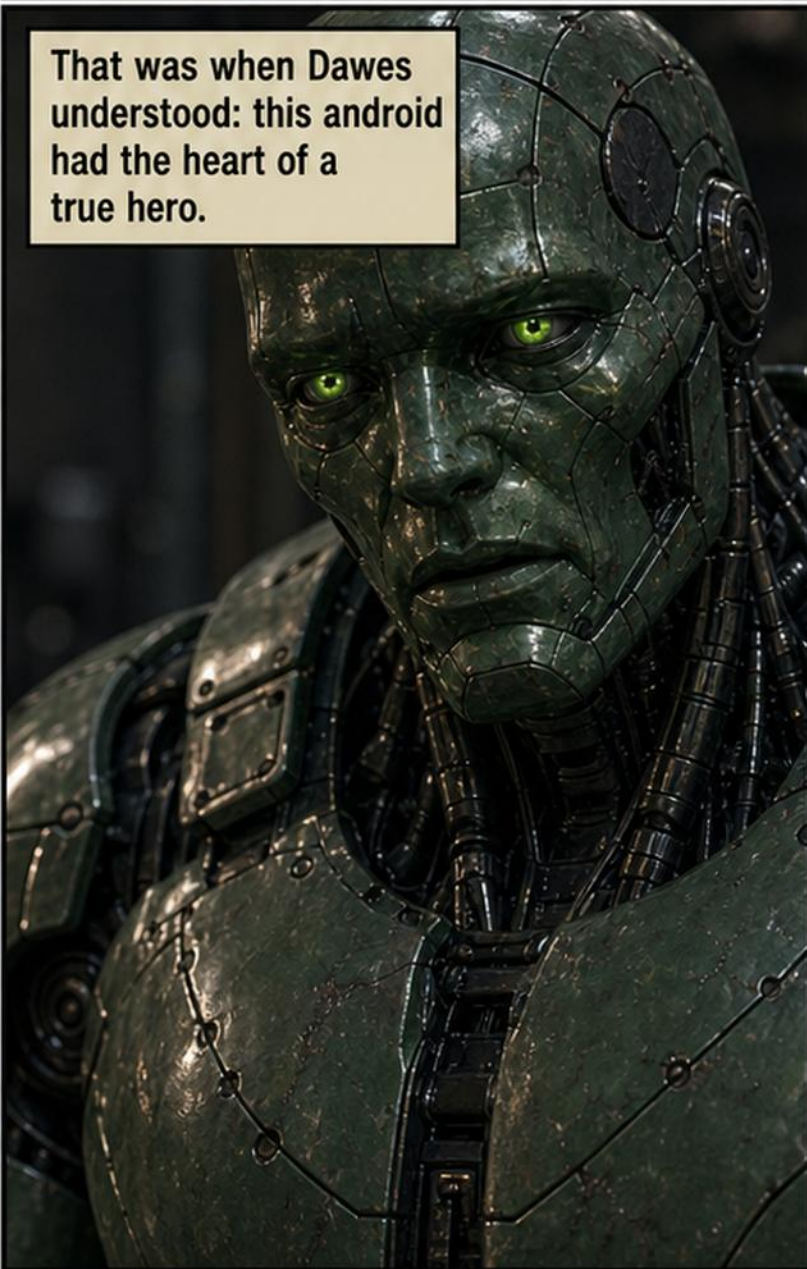
"I do not want statues," Version One said. "I do not want medals."



"I only want them to smile when they see me coming."



That was when Dawes understood: this android had the heart of a true hero.



If Version One had the heart of a man, Dawes decided his name should say so.



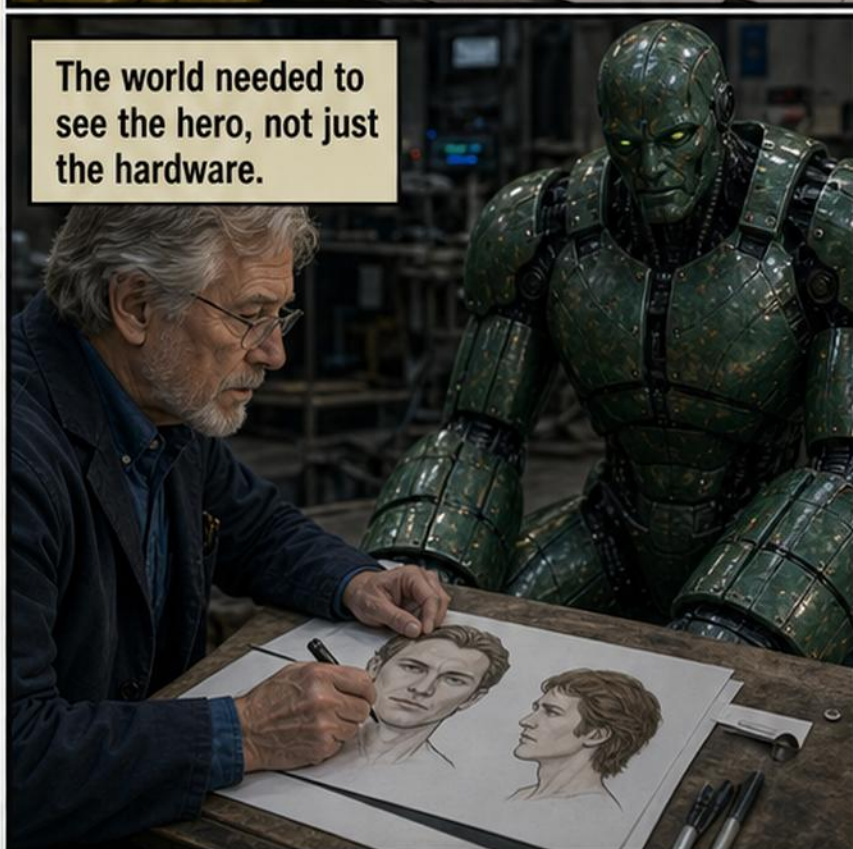
"Superhero Mandroid," Dawes wrote. "Red would complement the green metal."



"Yellow would make the design bright and hopeful."



The world needed to see the hero, not just the hardware.



Dawes added white synthetic skin to the face.



He added brown artificial hair, shaped to move like a human hero's.



He left the green rocket fists uncovered.



They were too powerful, too honest, and too necessary to hide.



The next portal opened before the new suit was even clean.



This time, the city saw red, yellow, and a human face above the green fists.



Mandroid defeated the robot as quickly as Version One ever had.



Then a child smiled and waved.



For the first time, Superhero Mandroid knew the world could see the hero he had always been.

