

## Here Comes The Arm

### The Protomen

Light understood immediately. No mistake had been made. This was all occurring as part of Wily's design. A man who'd spent all of his life fearing and planning against his loss of control could not be undone by a lone boy and a bag of explosives. Light's eyes turned to the east. The industrial complex on the edge of the city. From a tower in the center of the complex, a red light pulsated. A second transmitter. They'd stopped nothing. Light fell to his knees and cried out into the night. He'd sent this boy to his death. The enormous loudspeakers, mounted to the steel walls surrounding the complex, began to howl. A voice followed the sirens

Although difficult to make out amidst the commotion that surrounded him, Light heard enough to understand. He could make out the words, "threat to the safety of the city." He heard, "insurgent forces." He heard the loudspeaker commanding the frightened men and women of the city to return to their homes or risk being counted among the criminals. Even from the courtyard, Light could make out the thousands upon thousands of green-helmeted robots marching from the steel gates of the complex. Wily had built a fortress. He had built an army. He had been waiting for this moment to unleash it

Emily, a crowd has gathered here  
And once again they fail to see  
You can't just set the world at someone else's feet  
And not get trampled underneath  
And I think somehow Joe knew it  
He paid the price he thought he had to pay  
But Emily, that debt was meant for me  
That debt was meant for me  
This is not the world my father knew  
This is not the world, I know  
He would have wanted me to build  
But I can't undo it now  
It's like a train, and all its cars are filled with steel  
That I would stop if I knew how  
It is bearing down on me  
So I will stand here with my shoulders square and tall  
And when the whistle blows, not falter  
But when the crash comes I will fall  
With so much steam and steel behind it  
I won't slow it down at all  
Oh God...  
Oh God...  
Here comes the arm

The building above Light shuddered. The weight of the screen and the metal framing that surrounded it overwhelmed the now destroyed upper levels of the building. He heard the sharp crack and whine of bending steel. He felt the quake of thousands of pounds of metal crashing into the earth and the marble surrounding him

The explosion of steel and stone sent the crowd fleeing in all directions. Light barely noticed. The world had been crashing down around him for more than twenty years. He placed his hand in his jacket pocket and pulled out a small piece of paper, its creases cracked and splitting. He carefully unfolded it

Soon, he would be with Emily. Only now could he summon the courage to read what she had written to him all those years ago. Only now could he bear to re

ad her words

Thomas, please don't cry for me  
I know you never meant for this  
I love you completely, just remember that  
If I should leave you now  
Then in my final hour  
I pray this letter finds you well  
Before it all goes to hell  
He could never cage the world  
It's too big for anyone, and soon the dark will pass  
I want so much to be with you  
But in my heart I know, Tom  
The city needs you now

This city needs you now

(This city)

This city (This city)

(This city)

(This city)

Amongst the turmoil and destruction, he could just make out the screams for help coming from every direction. Tom scanned the desperate and terrified faces of the people running past. He gazed once more into the flames reflected in the blast shield that covered Joe's face. He unlocked the helmet and removed it from the boy's head. Light looked at the bruised and battered face of a hero. A hero the city had lost. He spoke:

Joe, when you see Emily  
Tell her to wait for me  
Cause I still have work to do...