**Chapter 3: The nightmare begins**

Booting up was always a strange feeling. Like going from completely unaware to suddenly fully aware. He also noted that his systems showed that he was booting up in Safe Mode. Understandable, seeing as last he remembered, he'd gone offline during the intermission. Finally the view before him became clear, revealing himself in the mirror as he'd rebooted after being moved to his room.

"Show time already? I am experiencing malfunction." Freddy uttered, noticing his power level. "The recharge cycle is not complete."

"Shh! Will you shut up?!" came a voice unfamiliar to him.

"Who said that?" Freddy asked, confused.

"I did! I'm down here!" the voice said.

"Down where? I still do not see you," Freddy asked, still confused as he indeed did not see anyone.

"Okay listen, you were sleeping so I opened the stomach hatch and climbed inside," the voice explained.

"My stomach hatch?" Freddy asked, astonished and horrified. "That place is reserved for oversized birthday cakes and pinatas!" He asserted. "It is not a safe play area." He finished, looking down at his stomach hatch as it opened to reveal a child was hiding inside. The bear then gently held Gregory up to inspect him. "There you are." The bear projected a pair of beams from his eyes and scanned over Gregory's face before putting him down. "Scan complete. How odd, your details on the guest list are unknown to me." He curiously pondered. "Who are you?"

"I-I'm Gregory," Gregory sighed.

"Gregory?" Freddy processed before nodding, "I will notify the main office." The bear then attempted to dial the Pizzaplex's main management office before finding that for some reasons, his connection to the building's control servers was severed. Possibly when he blacked out. "How odd, my connection to the main office has been severed." He heard a growling and rumbling sound and looked to where it came from, Gregory's stomach. It would seem he had missed his dinner. "Oh dear, we should get you some food," Freddy frowned, thinking what to do and checking his internal clock to try and figure out what time it is. It was too late for any restaurants at this point, but he DID know where to find some food. "Maybe we should visit Chica's room. She usually has some food with her," he said.

"Uh thanks. I guess that can calm me down." Gregory replied with a slightly brightened smile. But something felt off for him, Chica was an animatronic. That much is obvious for everyone and yet somehow her room was stocked with food according to Freddy. It didn't sound right with him. Nevertheless, the friendly Glamrock Freddy picked Gregory up and held him in his arms as he went out to Chica's room. The Rockstar Row area was like a museum with various props and cutouts for photographs.

One of these Gregory saw was a Foxy the Pirate cardboard cutout of his attraction, Pirate Adventure. Looking like a Pirates of the Caribbean-esque style attraction no doubt. Freddy passed by Monty's Green Room, which was darkened and had an "Out of Order" sign in front with a "Monty is tired after the show" sign, and both of them could hear the angry grunting sounds from within, followed by smashing and thudding. Then came to Roxy's room, where she was looking at her mirror, repeating self assurances and validations. "Your performance was perfect! Everyone looks at you, everyone wants to be you! I am the best! I am the best!" Roxy repeated. Disturbing both Freddy and Gregory. This left Chica being the somewhat oddly normal animatronic who was still practicing her guitar in her pinkish Green Room.

"...you sure its okay for us to go in?" Gregory asked, unsure.

"I'm sure, Chica's always happy to share," Freddy nodded.

Naturally enough, when Freddy opened the door into her room, Chica stopped playing her guitar and noticed the bear and Gregory. She was shocked at first but a smile began to grow on her. A smile to the best of her animatronic form can make. "Freddy! Are you alright? We were worried after what happened at the end of that performance. And who is this? Is that our fan coming to visit us? But why at this hour?" Chica asked profusely. She had no end of questions as she scanned over Gregory and found him unknown on the guest list. "Huh, I can't seem to find his details on the Guest List." Chica noted as Freddy set the boy down.

"I don't know why I'm not on the guest list. I bought a Pass," Gregory frowned. "Maybe that bunny lady erased the data somehow…"

"Bunny lady?" Freddy blinked, but before Gregory could elaborate, his stomach growled.

"Guess I know why you came here," Chica chuckled, before going to a section of her room and fetching a box of pizza, the pizza inside still somewhat warm. "Here," she said, offering the pizza to Gregory.

"Aw right! Thanks!" Gregory eagerly opened the box, finding the pizza inside to be a Pepperoni with extra cheese topping Pizza. He munched down on its slices with Chica happily sitting next to him and Freddy, doing what they were made to do. Bring joy to children and entertain them. Gregory smiled and happily continued munching the pizza, further validation that Chica's pizzas and by extension, Freddy Fazbear Pizzeria provide the best there was for children. "This stuff is delicious!" Gregory exclaimed, actually feeling up for once since his friend was kidnapped.

"Glad you like it," Chica chuckled. "Always happy to put a smile on a kid's face," she grinned.

As for Freddy, while he remained as jubilant as he could be at Gregory's interactions with Chica, something still didn't click in his mind. "The bunny lady." He tried to make sense of it by accessing the building's network again. Surely, if they had a character like that in the building he could find the one that matched Gregory's description. Connection error. Once again he remained in the dark, the one bunny he could remember at the top of his head was a purple bunny and his best friend. "Gregory… about that bunny lady… are you certain you saw one in here? I don't think the Pizzaplex has any bunny characters anymore. Not for a long while now." Said Freddy, remaining ambivalent.

"I'm positive. I don't think that was an animatronic, but it was definitely a bunny…" Gregory frowned.

"Then we'd better alert Officer Vanessa. Perhaps she can contact someone to help," Freddy said.

"She went looking for the bunny lady," Gregory said.

Speaking of the devil, they heard the sound of footsteps approaching the Rockstar Row area, followed by a flashlight shined down the curved hallway. They saw a black and white security uniform of the building's staff. And Freddy was relieved, it was Vanessa. "There's the security guard, she can help you!" He exclaimed and Gregory hastily wiped his hands with some tissues with Chica's help. Vanessa noticed Gregory was in the green room with Freddy and Chica and was filled with a mix of relief and confusion. She ran to the door and pressed a button for it to slide open. "There you are! Where have you been? I've been looking for you for two hours." Vanessa stated before coming to Gregory, who appeared both relieved to see her also, but his relief was dampened by the fear of his encounter.

"That bunny lady… she came back. She knew where I was and unlocked the door. I had to run through the air vent." He said with a fearful expression.

Vanessa frowned deeply at that. "That…shouldn't be possible…" she said. "Not unless…whoever this 'bunny lady' is…she has access to the building's security. I don't know how, but somehow she's able to access the building's network."

"That's not good!" Chica gasped.

"What do we do?" Freddy asked.

Vanessa sighed. "For now…let's get Gregory out of here. Being here is only putting him in danger…"

"What about Howard? He's still missing somewhere in the building." Gregory asked worriedly. Not wanting to abandon his friend to a psychopathic killer on the loose. He saw Vanessa sharing a sympathetic look with a frown on her face. Possibly at the idea of abandoning his friend. "I know it's wrong for you to leave him Gregory. But right now, getting you out of here and as far away from the kidnapper as possible is paramount. If she still has Howard, then he's still somewhere inside the building." Vanessa assured Gregory.

She then knelt down to Gregory and let him see recorded camera footage on a tablet themed after Freddy. He saw that oddly enough the security footage of the building began to blur and have grainy static glitches whenever the bunny lady was caught on cam or nearby. This prevented the building's security from catching her appearance whenever she came around. "I was going through the video camera footage of where the kidnapping took place and traced the trail. Every camera that saw her glitched like this," she explained. "Look, I know it's hard, but right now we need to get you out of here. We'll find your friend, but you can't get caught either," she sighed.

"Aww alright." Gregory pout and nodded. It wasn't right to abandon his friend but at this point for his own safety he needed to get out first. At the very least to call the police.

"I'll take you to the front door then you run as fast as you can to the police precinct. It's better for your parents to pick you up there." Vanessa advised him and saw Gregory nodding to her. It was simple and also the most effective plan for them as far as details went.

"But before you go," Freddy said, before his stomach hatch opened and inexplicably a present was there, to which he gave to Gregory, revealing a Fazwatch. "Take this. Just in case we get separated, you can use this to communicate with us," he said, to which Gregory took the watch and put it on.

"Alright then, we should get Gregory to safety," Chica said.

"Actually I think you should stay here," Freddy said. "Warn the others to be on the lookout. There's no telling where that person might be," he said.

Chica frowned a bit, but nodded, seeing the logic. "Alright, just be careful okay," she said.

Freddy nodded at that before turning to Vanessa and Gregory. "Shall we go then?"

"Let's go. Stay close Gregory. We'll use the utility tunnel to get you out fast." Said Vanessa. She then began to lead the way for Gregory and Freddy down to the utility tunnel near the Rockstar Row area. He was in the middle with Freddy following close behind, as they went down to the tunnel, Gregory noticed that the area was cluttered with I-beams, wooden planks, pipes, wires and cord bundles.

"We're right under the Pizzaplex's main areas. These tunnels go everywhere, Fazer Blast, Monty Gator's Golf, Roxy Raceway, Mazercise. Guests are not allowed here, but yours is a special case." Freddy explained as if he were a tour guide. It was natural for him to do so as it was part of his programming. And true to his words, Gregory could see the corresponding symbols to the various attractions of the Pizzaplex.

"So how far before we reach the main entrance?" Gregory asked.

"Shouldn't be too far," Vanessa frowned.

They soon emerged out of the STAFF Only door to the main lobby area. Freddy and Vanessa noticed the segway looking STAFF bots were on patrol. At first it would seem like everything was normal, Vanessa walking ahead, since being a Security Officer, she'd have clearance. However, as they got closer, the STAFF bots suddenly turned and saw them.

"Are they…supposed to do that?" Gregory asked.

"Just keep walking. As long as you're with us they shouldn't make any issues," Vanessa said, but right as she did, the STAFF bots suddenly started moving towards them, surrounding them.

"This isn't right, they are behaving irregularly," Freddy said in surprise.

Vanessa fiddled through the flashlight modes till she reached the strobe light mode and shined it at the STAFF bots eyes, causing them to glitch out and stagger back slowly. She waved it around, pointing at the robots causing the ones caught in the light's arc to stop. This gave them an opening. Freddy quickly picked up Gregory and ran with Vanessa towards the doors. But as they reached the main door, the shutters automatically closed down, sealing them inside. "No no no! We're still here!" Gregory couldn't help but pout and call out in vain.

"This can't be right," Vanessa frowned, looking at her watch. "We still have time. The shutters shouldn't be closing now!" she said.

"Then…what is causing all this?" Freddy asked worriedly.

As if in response, the PA came on, and a creepy voice spoke.

"Are you all having fun?" the voice asked and giggled creepily, a sound that sent chills down their spines, even Freddy felt a chill.

"That's her! That's the bunny lady!" Gregory gasped.

"So she really has some kind of control of the systems," Vanessa frowned…right before the STAFF bots present suddenly glitched, and when they looked at the group, their eyes glowed red.

"...I believe we should run," Freddy suggested.

"Seconded. Let's get out of here!" Vanessa nodded as the three ran for it, the STAFF bots soon giving chase…