

Trip Through the Robot

by Carolyn Clink and David Clink

It has come to this,
people crawling inside me,

my timer diode on the blink.
And why am I growing so large?

All of this for the love of a child,
and a doctor who can't do anything right!

This morning I left, rolled away from the *Jupiter 2*.
I was prepared to end my existence to save these people.

And for what—for them to blunder around inside me,
find out what was wrong? As if that would fix everything.

To the other Robinsons, I was simply a tool—useful for their
survival. While Smith repeatedly called me a *bubble-headed booby*.

But for Will Robinson, I would have rolled on my treads
into a live volcano. He alone made my life bearable.

What if I try to kill the doctor with my antibodies?
Am I an unfeeling machine? A murderer?

In the end, Dr. Zachary Smith
was generous when he said:

*It appears that you cannot
keep a good robot down.*

Eligible to be nominated for the Aurora Award for best Poem/Song to be given in 2025 for poems first published in 2024.

Title: Trip Through the Robot

Authors: Carolyn Clink and David Clink

Title of Anthology: Giant Robot Poems: On Mecha-Human Science, Culture & War

Publisher: Middle West Press LLC

Editor: Randy Brown

Date Published: July 2, 2024

Poem appears on page 100 of the anthology.

PDF above is the poem as it appeared in the proofs for the anthology.