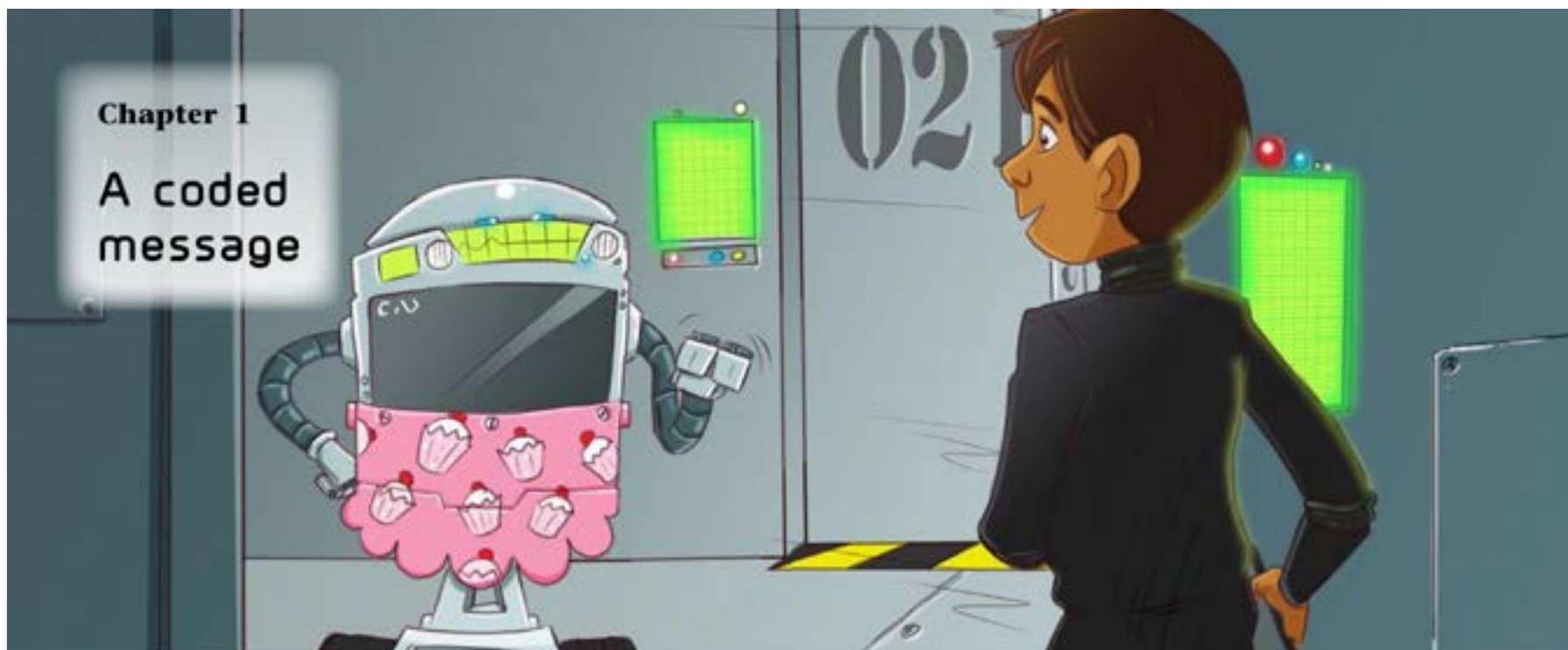


Chapter 1

A coded message



Max's bedroom door beeped. He walked over to its control panel and tapped a green button. WHOOSH!

The door slid open. In front of him stood a short robot wearing an apron decorated with cupcakes.

"Hey, MUM," Max said.

"Hello, Max Jupiter Astro Marriot," the robot replied.

Max's parents were part of the Space Guard, a secret organisation that helped protect Earth.

Max was also part of Space Guard. He became a member after he stopped an asteroid from crashing into Earth.

Sometimes his parents took him on missions, but if they went on a secret mission, he had to stay at home. Then they assigned him a Minder Unit, which was like a robot babysitter. The one that stood in his doorway was called Megan, so Max called it MUM for short.

"May I enter?" MUM asked.

"Yes," Max replied. "And please call me Max."