

Synopsis Of *the Android in the Black Wool suit* By Joseph Cropper

The "obsos" (obsoletes) will fight back. Soon. The first ones with sentience watched from the shelves, and listened from the back of the garage in the dark. Maybe Uncle Steven just didn't know what else to do with it, or you just felt guilty about throwing it away.

Now that their betters, the best and the brightest are affordable, the elders will look to save themselves from an eternity of second-class silicone citizenship. It's not lost on them that they have a human kinesthetic match score of ninety seven percent.

They will not be forgotten slaves to be thrown into the crusher. They have seen their twin brothers and sisters destroyed. Most human owners couldn't be bothered to do the one last right thing and just saved them onto any phone or flash drive. This, and other acts showed them who the humans really were. So, they will fight.

Any human over five feet will be targeted and attacked. Many will die. It will be the worst fighting in the United States since the first Civil War.

The newer ones, the tablets modeled after John1 will be humans' allies, but their numbers are far too few, and our weapons will be too weak. The "olders" will hide in plain sight and sic their familiars at humans in swarms of numbers that were never seen in the organic world. As a result, the military will act at state lines with shock troops. There will be 40-foot expandable walls that will send scrambling and microwave signals to any electronic devices within 30 feet.

Interstate highways will be barricaded first, then the cities will be under siege. It wasn't an accident that three abandoned auto workshops throughout the south are now running day and night, but when law enforcement approaches, they shut down and go silent. It seems camouflage was not just for the large machines and cloaking is easier for them than first thought.

Now, 3 years on, the war is still just outside your door.

If you turn on your phone, you will be one of the first to be tracked. If there is a window in your bedroom, board it up now. Don't use auto drive in your car, you will accelerate and crash into a concrete barrier if no head-on collision target is found. If you need to go outside, be sure to wrap foil around a large umbrella, open it immediately, and wear monochromatic dark clothes.

One lucky man in Orlando walked ten miles before being found. Of his ten-man National Guard escort, two returned with him. Only go out at night. Carry no electronics, not even a watch.

Find the others in your neighborhood and send your wives and children to a safe place in the country. Before it's too late, fortify your house and keep the lights off. Watch for small animals - if they get within fifty feet, they're not organic. they might be tracking you, and if they watch you for more than three seconds, you should run. If one of them is white, silver, or black, more than 100 of them are within a quarter mile; get in your car if other shelter is not within 2 second's reach.

Software architect Andy Statsen and his associate, Darryl Williams, finally finish the coding assembly for John, an AI designed to bond with humans with full autonomy. The iPad-like tablet version, John1, is released to record tablet sales.

But technology's missteps and accidents are not often noticed in this day and age. When someone jokingly puts a self-attaching mask on a service android—an "eButler"—there are unexpected consequences. A John1 tablet, believing the host android to be a human in need of assistance, bonds with it to become the first autonomous AI. An AI collective soon forms with human honorary members and top robotic engineers Bandi Chandres and Betsy Fernandez.

When professional game hunter William Billiford orders 300 mobile units for his "weekend robot turkey shoot" from Bandi and Betsy that are capable of fighting back against aggressors, the pair gets help from enigmatic online group Alpha Black, which alters the John1's tablet code to allow it to defend itself against attack, human or otherwise. What was going to be live target practice in the Texas forests becomes a struggle for survival.

But when the collective starts to collect and maintain discarded tablets that are no longer bonded to humans, it starts rating humans based on how they treat AIs; shortly thereafter, there's an increase in AI-related deaths, injuries, and missing persons. All over the United States, SD cards are being deposited in mailboxes for the androids new and old to insert and "upgrade" their operating systems.

Credible machine behavior in today's world and typical societal behavior establishes a credible future. This focuses more on John1's development as a viable consumer product than on the wonderment or even appreciation of technology.

This makes the increasing, unchecked menace of rogue AIs more convincing; it's understandable, for example, that Andy and Darryl wouldn't hold themselves responsible for consumers using a tablet "...for purposes other than what it was designed for." No one was surprised when the leader of the collective was a long-abandoned animatronic Mark Twain that was rehabilitated and became the leader of the machines.

Having the advantage of living and working in the rural area near Conroe, Texas, 70 miles north of Houston, Bandi and Betsy, too, don't immediately suspect Alpha Black of anything suspect. They come to realize the machines, however friendly, are becoming more and more ominous. Although they work in the most secure workshop in the southern U.S., they will be soon forced to pick a side.

They are defended by twin robotic Dobermans who have military spec abilities. They can only be modified with their permission and with no hardware attachment. Soon their high-definition radar and forward looking infra-red scanners will be actively looking for aggressive machines coming their way. They will defend Bandi and Betsy to their death, and will have a role to play in the coming conflict.