

## Into the Black

By

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Cedric, an AI-enhanced home assist robot, discovers his masters in a dying embrace, along with their child, among the ruins of their bomb-damaged apartment. He crouches down and takes the child in his arms.

"He reminds me of his father," the lady whispers. Her husband already dead. "Save our boy and you save us." She dies.

Cedric stands, the boy held firmly against his chest, and scans the burning city, before jumping down to the street below.

He strokes the boy's brow. The boy smiles.

Cedric takes off down the street, as a hoard of RoboRaiders thereupon give chase.