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THE TRANSFORMERS: REANIMATED.  
"RISE FROM THE RANKS, PART 3."

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Based on the original cartoon series, The Transformers:  
ReAnimated, bridges the gap between the seminal second season and  
the 1986 Movie that defined the childhood of millions.

**PAGE ONE:**

**PANEL 1:**

INT. THE MATRIX CHAMBER, BENEATH VECTOR SIGMA.

SPLASH PANEL - OPTIMUS PRIME stands opposite the Decepticon Predator, SKYQUAKE.

Skyquake's appearance is just as DEMONIC as the last time we saw him. He appears SOMEWHAT-MELTED and WARPED, complete with HORNS growing through his helmet.

In the background, ELITA-ONE stands FLABBERGASTED with KUP, while SPRINGER cradles a badly-damaged IMPACTOR.

**CAPTION:** The ancient Matrix Chamber, beneath Vector Sigma...

ELITA-ONE

Dion?! **You** can't be Dion! That's impossible! He was deactivated **millions** of years ago! I was there!

SKYQUAKE

You're wrong, 'Ariel'. I **am** Dion. At least, I **was**.

**PANEL 2:**

Skyquake turns to face the ancient Autobot, BETA, who has lowered her head in SHAME.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)

You know this is true, don't you, Beta? You know **first-hand**.

BETA

Yes. Yes, I do.

**PANEL 3:**

Skyquake removes the AUTOBOT MATRIX OF LEADERSHIP from his chest to hold it towards Optimus Prime, TAUNTING his enemy with its LUMINOSITY.

SKYQUAKE

Ironic. **I** was left for dead, and **you** became the 'great savior' of the Autobot cause. But now the item you hold most dear belongs to **me!**

**PANEL 4:**

CLOSE ON the Matrix as a voice begins to ECHO from within its CRYSTALLINE CENTER.

VOICE  
(from the Matrix)  
Dion... Listen to me. Listen to me,  
now...

SKYQUAKE  
(off-panel)  
What?! No, it can't be!

**PAGE TWO:**

**PANEL 1:**

ALPHA TRION projects from the Matrix like an ETHEREAL GHOST, causing Skyquake more concern than we have ever seen from him before.

Optimus Prime and Elita-One are also SHOCKED.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)  
Alpha Trion?!

ALPHA TRION  
Yes, Dion. Hear me now. I implore  
you to end this senseless violence  
and return to the kind and noble  
Cybertronian you once were.

**PANEL 2:**

Skyquake points an ACCUSATORY FINGER towards Alpha Trion.

SKYQUAKE  
No... no, no, **NO!** I will not listen  
to you! Not after what you did to  
me! Go on, tell them! Tell them  
all!

ALPHA TRION  
Very well.

**PANEL 3:**

EXT. CYBERTRON, THE DOCKS - DAY.

FLASHBACK - ARIEL and ORION PAX lay still, as SMOKE rises from their bodies. Nearby, MEGATRON stands laughing as his GENERICONS open fire on DION and several other UNLUCKY CYBERTRONIANS.

**CAPTION:** Cybertron, nine million years ago...

MEGATRON

Deactivate the rest of them,  
**permanently!** Then take the fuel!

ALPHA TRION

(captioned)

Nine million years ago, at the dawn  
of the war... yes, Dion, you **were**  
struck down alongside Orion Pax and  
Ariel, just as Megatron began to  
seize power.

**NOTE:** This scene is lifted from the G1 episode, 'War Dawn'.

**PANEL 4:**

INT. ALPHA TRION'S WORKSHOP.

FLASHBACK - A much younger Alpha Trion stands with THE  
AERIALBOTS, as Orion Pax and Ariel lay before him, motionless  
on a REPAIR SLAB.

ALPHA TRION

(captioned)

And while I was able to reconstruct  
Orion Pax and Ariel into the  
warriors now known as Optimus Prime  
and Elita-One, we did not abandon  
you, Dion.

**NOTE:** The Aerialbots appear thanks again to their time-travel  
adventure in 'War Dawn'.

**PANEL 5:**

FLASHBACK - Alpha Trion and Beta can be seen WORKING ON and  
REPAIRING a lifeless Dion, now also lying before them on a  
repair slab.

ALPHA TRION (CONT'D)

(captioned)

After the success we had with  
Optimus and Elita, we thought **you**  
could be another great hope for the  
Autobot campaign. A chance to  
'fight-fire-with-fire'.

**PANEL 6:**

FLASHBACK - Alpha Trion and Beta stand PROUD, as Dion has now been reconstructed to appear as Skyquake (less his current Matrix-induced deformities).

**NOTE:** In this panel, Skyquake's eyes appear AUTOBOT BLUE.

ALPHA TRION (CONT'D)

(captioned)

You were recreated with a body much like that of a Decepticon. A new combatant that could stand up against Megatron's most-ruthless mercenaries.

**PAGE THREE:**

**PANEL 1:**

EXT. THE SKIES OF CYBERTRON - NIGHT.

FLASHBACK - Dion/Skyquake's jet-mode maneuvers through the air, BLASTING several (unnamed) TETRA-JETS.

ALPHA TRION

(captioned)

And you did. Your new body allowed you to take down even the fiercest of Decepticons!

**PANEL 2:**

INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION.

FLASHBACK, CLOSE ON Skyquake's eyes as they switch color from BLUE to RED.

ALPHA TRION

(captioned)

But soon, the experimental circuitry required to appropriate Dion's new form became corrupted.

**NOTE:** This panel should be split in half down the center to show one of Skyquake's eye as blue, while the other is red.

**PANEL 3:**

EXT. HELIX MOUNTAIN, CYBERTRON - NIGHT.

FLASHBACK - The fully-formed Skyquake stands high on the MOUNTAIN PEAK, clenching his RIGHT HAND into a FIST.

ALPHA TRION

(captioned)

And soon, it corrupted **him** as well. Within an astro-cycle, Dion had cast off his old life and become... **Skyquake**, abandoning the Autobot way to seek power alongside Megatron.

**PANEL 4:**

INT. THE MATRIX CHAMBER, BENEATH VECTOR SIGMA.

Skyquake returns the Matrix to his chest as Alpha Trion FADES AWAY.

Beta looks on with ANGUISH.

SKYQUAKE

Megatron? A means to an end, nothing more. His notion of galactic conquest is **trivial** compared to the true power that awaits me when I merge the Matrix with the energy this chamber shares with Vector Sigma. Combining all three will make me... a **GOD!**

BETA

No! You cannot succeed, Skyquake! The energy that resides in this chamber is linked to **me**. And as its keeper, such transferal of power **cannot** occur as long as I still...

**PANEL 5:**

A PURPLE BLAST from off-panel strikes Beta, blowing a hole right through her.

BETA (CONT'D)

... function?

**PAGE FOUR:**

**PANEL 1:**

SPLASH PANEL - The DECEPTICONS have arrived.

With a SMOKING, SHOULDER-MOUNTED FUSION CANNON, MEGATRON stands with STARSCREAM, THUNDERCRACKER, SKYWARP and SOUNDWAVE.

Behind the Seekers, ASTROTRAIN, BLITZWING and SHOCKWAVE can be seen, while even further in the background, stand DIRGE, THRUST, RAMJET and all three REFLECTORS.

MEGATRON

Perhaps I've misjudged the importance of this Matrix, after all. Decepticons, bring it to me.

SOUNDWAVE

As you command, Megatron.

**PANEL 2:**

Beta falls, as Skyquake steps forward to CHALLENGE Megatron.

SKYQUAKE

No! This destiny belongs to **me**, Megatron! You are not worthy of such a fate.

MEGATRON

Brave words, traitor.

**PANEL 3:**

Skyquake and Megatron CHARGE INTO BATTLE against one another.

In the background, Skyquake's PREDATORS: SNARE, FALCON, SKYDIVE, STALKER and TALON, rush into action.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

Let's see if you can back them up with more than just blind faith!

**PANEL 4:**

WIDE SHOT - ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE yet again.

IRONHIDE and PROWL attack Soundwave and Shockwave, as Soundwave EJECTS his cassettes: RUMBLE, FRENZY, RATBAT and RAVAGE from his chest.

IRONHIDE

All right, I've heard enough o' this! Time to take out the Decepti-trash!

SOUNDWAVE

Rumble, Frenzy, Ravage, Ratbat ... eject. Operation: Eradication.

**PAGE FIVE:**



**PANEL 1:**

Skyquake PUNCHES Megatron in the face, as the Decepticon Leader TAKES FIRE from four MATRIX GUARDIANS and their FOREARM BLASTERS.

Behind Megatron, Optimus Prime seems ready to enter the fray.

SKYQUAKE

Now, my Guardians! Destroy this  
pretender to the throne!

MEGATRON

Aagh! Pompous fool!

**NOTE:** As seen in the previous issue, the Matrix Guardians are purple and blue in color, yet bare a striking resemblance to a certain future Autobot 'CHOSEN ONE'.

**PANEL 2:**

Optimus Prime WRESTLES with Skyquake as Megatron aims his fusion cannon towards them both.

OPTIMUS PRIME

This has gone too far, Dion! I  
didn't want to do this, but I'll  
stop you if I have to!

SKYQUAKE

You can try, Pax. You can try!

MEGATRON

Bah, neither of you are powerful  
enough to finish **anything** ! Only  
**Megatron** shall be victorious this  
day!

**PANEL 3:**

While Skyquake, Optimus Prime and Megatron continue to be locked in a three-way battle in the background, in the close foreground, Springer NURSES the head of the still-severely-injured Impactor.

A SICKLY-LOOKING SMOKE pours from Impactor's CHEST WOUND.

SPRINGER

C'mon, you wily, old buzzard...  
hang in there.

IMPACTOR

I'm sorry, kid. I think this is it.  
You... have to carry on for me now.

(MORE)

IMPACTOR (CONT'D)

Do... what I couldn't. End... this war. Wreck and...

**PANEL 4:**

Impactor's eyes FADE OUT, while ULTRA MAGNUS crouches down beside Springer.

But Springer is glancing up at Falcon, standing nearby and openly mocking Impactor's demise.

ULTRA MAGNUS

Farewell, Impactor.

FALCON

Heh, the stupid old fool got what was comin' to him.

SPRINGER

Oh, yeah? Well, guess what's comin' to you?

**PANEL 5:**

Springer and Ultra Magnus BLAST Falcon to pieces; Springer with his LASER RIFLE, Ultra Magnus with one of his SHOULDER-MOUNTED ROCKETS.

SPRINGER (CONT'D)

This!

FALCON

Gaaagh!

**PAGE SIX:**

**PANEL 1:**

Skydive and Stalker face off against Soundwave and Shockwave.

SKYDIVE

Well, look who it is. The two most-overrated Cons ever to lick Megatron's boots.

STALKER

Yeah, let's take 'em out!

SHOCKWAVE

Your presumptions are most illogical.

SOUNDWAVE

Indeed. Soundwave superior.

**PANEL 2:**

Soundwave lifts his hands to his temple, emanating SONIC WAVES that flow towards both Stalker and Skydive, causing them to reach for their heads in AGONY.

Meanwhile, Shockwave TRANSFORMS to his space-gun-mode.

STALKER

Aaaaagh! My audio-receptors are on fire!

SKYDIVE

What?!

SHOCKWAVE

Hubristic fools. **That** is not fire...

**PANEL 3:**

SPLASH PANEL - Shockwave's ENERGY BLAST engulfs Stalker and Skydive to OBLITERATE them, while Soundwave merely watches.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)

... **This** is!

STALKER

Aaaagh!

SKYDIVE

Nooooo!

**PAGE SEVEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

Ironhide BLASTS one of the Guardians with his GLUE HANDS, holding it in place as WHIRL shoots holes in it from his helicopter-mode's ARMAMENTS.

At the same time, Prowl GUNS DOWN two Guardians with his ACID PELLET GUN, as TOP SPIN and TWIN TWIST combine forces to DISMANTLE another Guardian.

PROWL

C'mon, the faster we take down these things, the faster we can get to Skyquake!

IRONHIDE

I hear ya, Prowl, I hear ya!

WHIRL  
Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha!

**PANEL 2:**

Talon finds himself TRAPPED within a MINI, BLUE CYCLONE, generated by BLURR'S alt-mode, as ARCEE looks towards Talon down the barrel of her BLASTER RIFLE.

BLURR  
*Not-so-tough-now-are-you? Huh-Huh-Huh? You-think-you-and-your-goons-can-just-waltz-in-here-and-steal-the-Matrix? Well-I-don't-think-so-nuh-uh-nuh-uh-No-Way-no-way-no-way!*

ARCEE  
Blurr! You're alive!

BLURR  
*You-know-it! You-can't-keep-me-down-for-long! Nuh-uh-no-way-no-how!*

ARCEE  
That's it, Blurr! Keep him steady!

TALON  
No, wait! W...

**PANEL 3:**

Blurr TRANSFORMS back to robot-mode, as Arcee is suddenly joined by Springer and Ultra Magnus to SIMULTANEOUSLY fire upon Talon with their various weaponry, DESTROYING HIM.

TALON (CONT'D)  
... Aaaarrgh!

**PANEL 4:**

WIDE SHOT - Kup, POWERGLIDE, MOONRACER and TRACKS look to the background and the battle raging between Optimus Prime, Skyquake and Megatron.

Optimus Prime has PUNCHED a solid blow into Skyquake's face, as Megatron TRANSFORMS to tank-mode.

POWERGLIDE  
C'mon, we gotta help Prime!

KUP  
Wait, kid. I've got an idea. Tracks, you still carry that fancy gun of yours?

TRACKS

Of course. Fancy is my middle name.

**PANEL 5:**

Megatron BLASTS Optimus Prime in the shoulder with his tank-turret.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Aaaagh!

MEGATRON

I tire of this endless folly,  
Prime. The war ends **today!**

**PAGE EIGHT:**

**PANEL 1:**

Megatron FIRES again, this time, striking Skyquake NUMEROUS TIMES.

Despite his size and power, Skyquake is knocked off his feet by the assault.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

And now to deal with **you**, traitor!

SKYQUAKE

Gaaggh!

**PANEL 2:**

Megatron TRANSFORMS back to robot-mode and KNEELS over a STUNNED Skyquake.

The damage to Skyquake's chest is serious enough that BLUE LIGHT from the Matrix POURS OUT and onto Megatron's face.

MEGATRON

I'll end this charade right now!

**PANEL 3:**

Optimus Prime watches as Megatron TEARS the Matrix from Skyquake's chest.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

Megatron will rule supreme!

**PANEL 4:**

What appears to be a blast from Tracks' BLACK-BEAM GUN strikes Megatron's face, BLINDING HIM.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)  
And today shall mark the beginning  
of my... Ugh! What?! Who dares?!

**PANEL 5:**

Tracks continues to blind Megatron with his black-beam gun, as Powerglide and Kup watch Moonracer line up a shot with her sniper rifle.

KUP  
Ah, can it, bucket-head!

TRACKS  
Anytime you're ready, Moonracer.  
While we're young.

POWERGLIDE  
Hey, leave her alone, Tracks. She's  
the best! You got a shot, honey?

MOONRACER  
You bet I do. Spotted a real  
bullseye.

**PANEL 6:**

CLOSE ON Moonracer's trigger finger as she FIRES her sniper rifle.

MOONRACER (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Boom.

**PAGE NINE:**

**PANEL 1:**

Moonracer's blast strikes the DECEPTICON SYMBOL on Megatron's chest, knocking the Matrix free from his hands and causing it to tumble through the air and across the chamber.

MEGATRON  
Aaagh ! You'll pay for that,  
Autobot!

**PANEL 2:**

WIDE SHOT - The Matrix continues to sail across the chamber and over the CLUTCHING HANDS of Prowl, Ironhide, INFERNO and ROADBUSTER.

IRONHIDE  
What in..? The Matrix!

PROWL

Quick! Grab it before it falls into  
the wrong hands!

**PANEL 3:**

Powerglide CATCHES the Matrix to stand PROUDLY beside a FACE-  
PALMING Tracks, while Moonracer GIGGLES with approval.

POWERGLIDE

Hey-hey! Never fear, Prowl ol'  
buddy. The tops in ancient Matrix  
protection has everything under  
control!

TRACKS

Ugh, seriously?

**PANEL 4:**

Skyquake regains his footing to lift a fist into Megatron's  
face, while SIDE-KICKING Optimus Prime's mid-section.

SKYQUAKE

No! The Matrix is mine! It is my  
destiny! Guardians, bring it to me!

**PANEL 5:**

As the three Reflectors charge towards him and the gun-toting  
pair of Whirl and Roadbuster, Prowl looks off to the distance  
with RATCHET by his side.

Beside Beta's body, stands the MATRIX PODIUM; a lectern-like  
device that appears as though the Matrix would fit atop its  
peak.

PROWL

Wonderful. This is never going to  
end unless **we** end it! If that  
podium can transfer the energies of  
the Matrix and Vector Sigma, maybe  
it can open a portal we can use to  
banish Skyquake.

WHIRL

Yeah, but how you gonna do that,  
copper?

PROWL

Ratchet, you can do it, right?

RATCHET

I'm a doctor, not an astrophysicist. Maybe if Wheeljack or Perceptor were here, but right now, no one in this chamber has the know-how to open an interstellar portal from scratch.

**PANEL 6:**

SMALL INSERT PANEL, OVER PROWL'S SHOULDER as he casts his gaze on Shockwave.

PROWL

Sure they do. Whirl, cover us.

**PAGE TEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

Ratchet and Prowl TRANSFORM to their vehicle-modes to speed towards Shockwave.

Both Roadbuster and Whirl trade energy blasts with the Reflectors.

Prowl's SIRENS are FLASHING and WAILING.

WHIRL

You got it!

RATCHET

Prowl, wait! You can't be serious?

PROWL

I'm **always** serious.

**PANEL 2:**

Tracks and Moonracer prepare for the incoming attack by four Guardians.

Meanwhile, Kup looks behind him to admonish Powerglide, who is DESPERATELY attempting to open the Matrix, to no avail.

POWERGLIDE

And... awaa-aa-aay... we... ugh!

KUP

What on Cybertron are you doin', you big-headed show-off?

POWERGLIDE

Hey, you never know!



**PANEL 3:**

Moonracer shoots down two Guardians, while Tracks takes out a third.

MOONRACER  
Great shooting, Tracks!

TRACKS  
You too, Moonracer. You're almost  
as talented as I am!

**PANEL 4:**

While Megatron continues to battle Skyquake in the background, Optimus Prime charges forward, as one of the Guardians BLASTS the Matrix from Powerglide's grasp.

POWERGLIDE  
Hey!

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Hold on, Powerglide, I'm coming!

**PANEL 5:**

As it did earlier, the Matrix sails through the air.

Optimus Prime reaches for it as a lone Guardian LEAPS into the air with its own attempt to catch the artefact.

**PAGE ELEVEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

With one hand each, both Optimus Prime and the Guardian CATCH the Matrix at the same time.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)  
What?!

**PANEL 2:**

While Optimus Prime and the Guardian continue to hold the Matrix between them, BLUE LIGHT SHINES OUT from its center and onto the Guardian, slowly CHANGING its blue and purple color scheme to a gentler MAGENTA and ORANGE.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)  
Incredible...

**PANEL 3:**

An EXPLOSION OF LIGHT blasts the Guardian away from Optimus Prime as he CLAIMS THE MATRIX as his own.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)  
... But the Matrix belongs with a  
Prime...

**PANEL 4:**

SPLASH PANEL - Optimus Prime stands holding the Matrix before his chest in that CLASSIC POSE, as more BLUE LIGHT pours from the crystalline center.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)  
... to one day, light our darkest  
hour.

**PAGE TWELVE:**

**PANEL 1:**

Prowl and Ratchet (back in robot-mode) approach Shockwave, who lifts his gun hand in their direction.

RATCHET  
Whoa, easy! Easy! We only came to  
talk.

SHOCKWAVE  
Talk? What would I have to talk  
about with two Autobots?

PROWL  
We have a proposition for you.

**PANEL 2:**

CLOSE ON Shockwave's face and his solitary eye.

PROWL (CONT'D)  
(off-panel)  
A logical one.

**PANEL 3:**

Skyquake attacks Optimus Prime from behind to KNOCK him to the floor. The Matrix once again flies free of his grip.

SKYQUAKE  
Don't turn your back on me, Prime!  
I am the rightful heir to the  
Matrix!

**PANEL 4:**

While Optimus Prime renews his battle against Skyquake in the background, Prowl and Ratchet proposition Shockwave in the close foreground.

PROWL

Look, Shockwave... **none** of us will win this war if Skyquake claims the Matrix. You know it. I know it. We need a trans-dimensional portal to get rid of him, and you're the only one who can do it.

SHOCKWAVE

Your proposal is... logical. Skyquake must be defeated if either side is to claim eventual victory.

RATCHET

So, you'll help us?

**PANEL 5:**

Shockwave FIRES his gun hand across the panel to STRIKE Skyquake in the back and inadvertently help Optimus Prime.

At the same time, Megatron watches from a distance.

SHOCKWAVE

Indeed.

MEGATRON

Very clever, Autobots. But make no mistake...

**PAGE THIRTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

Megatron again joins the battle, BLASTING Skyquake with his shoulder-mounted fusion cannon as Optimus Prime SMASHES a fist into Skyquake's face.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

... this 'alliance' is merely temporary!

OPTIMUS PRIME

I have no doubt, Megatron.

**PANEL 2:**

Skyquake uses both fists to BACKHAND Megatron and Optimus Prime at the same time.

SKYQUAKE

Enough! I will **not** lose to the likes of you!

**PANEL 3:**

CLOSE ON Skyquake's hand as he lifts the Matrix from the floor.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)

Now, behold. My destiny.

**PANEL 4:**

Behind Skyquake, Shockwave and Ratchet have created what is the beginnings of a TRANS-DIMENSIONAL PORTAL, emanating from the top of the Matrix Podium like a mini BLACK HOLE.

Soundwave stands nearby, while Rumble and Frenzy power the portal by each holding an ENERGON CUBE in their hands, allowing the purple energy to flow up into the podium.

RATCHET

It's working!

SHOCKWAVE

Yes, but the portal requires more time if this endeavor is to prove successful.

**PANEL 5:**

Optimus Prime rests on one knee as Megatron clammers to his haunches.

In the background, Skyquake holds the Matrix before him as though he is about to open it.

OPTIMUS PRIME

He's too powerful, Megatron. The Matrix makes him stronger the longer he wields it.

MEGATRON

Then perhaps a new approach is in order.

**PAGE FOURTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

Megatron TRANSFORMS to tank-mode before Optimus Prime and his ION-BLASTER.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

Let's see if you can match my  
firepower, Prime!

**PANEL 2:**

Optimus Prime stand beside Megatron's tank-mode, wielding his ion-blaster like RAMBO.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Skyquake! Your time has come!

**PANEL 3:**

Skyquake moves to attack, only to be BLASTED by Optimus Prime and Megatron.

SKYQUAKE

No, you will never... Aaaagh!

**PAGE FIFTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

Optimus Prime continues to blast Skyquake. As does Megatron, shooting the Matrix from his hands.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)

No!

**PANEL 2:**

WIDE SHOT - The Matrix once again sails though the air.

**PANEL 3:**

The Matrix lands before the newly-recolored Matrix Guardian, now seated on the floor and rubbing his head with a sense of SENTIENCE.

GUARDIAN

Huh?

**PANEL 4:**

Optimus Prime again fires his ion-blaster alongside Megatron's tank-mode, further blasting Skyquake's already-damaged chest.

Behind Skyquake, Shockwave's portal GROWS LARGER.

OPTIMUS PRIME

I'm sorry, old friend.

SKYQUAKE  
Aaaaaagh! No!

**PANEL 5:**

REVERSE ANGLE - While SPARKS shoot free of Skyquake's chest in the distance, Prowl turns away from the growing portal to face Shockwave.

PROWL  
Time's up, Shockwave. Is it ready?

SHOCKWAVE  
Indeed it is.

**PANEL 6:**

CLOSE ON Skyquake's eyes as they begin to FLICKER. SPARKS have begun to burst free of his head.

SKYQUAKE  
Ughhh... this... is not over...

**PAGE SIXTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

The portal has now grown to THREE TIMES THE SIZE of Skyquake himself, glowing behind him like a watery fissure as Optimus Prime FIRES one final blast from his ion-blaster.

Beside Optimus Prime, Megatron TRANSFORMS back to robot-mode.

MORE SPARKS explode from Skyquake's now-shattered body as the blast pierces his chest.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)  
... not... over... not...

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Yes, it is. Goodbye, Dion.

**PANEL 2:**

Ratchet, Prowl and Shockwave DIVE away from the portal as it begins to CONSUME Skyquake.

SKYQUAKE  
No... my... d-d-d...

**PANEL 3:**

As he FALLS backward into the portal, Skyquake's eyes FADE TO GRAY.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)  
... Destiny...

**PANEL 4:**

The portal EXPLODES WITH LIGHT, filling the panel with WHITE.

**PANEL 5:**

The portal has now VANISHED, leaving behind nothing more than a WISP OF BLUE SMOKE.

**PAGE SEVENTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

Snare falls to his knees to lament the loss of Skyquake, as Megatron turns to stare down at him.

SNARE  
Skyquake-k-k-k? No, he... he cannot  
be defeated-d-d-d.

MEGATRON  
Ah, but he is. And you, **defector...**

**PANEL 2:**

Megatron BLOWS A HOLE through Snare with his shoulder-mounted fusion cannon.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)  
... you're finished, too!

SNARE  
Aaack-kak-kak-kak!

**PANEL 3:**

Prowl and Ratchet LOOK UP as an ODD RUMBLING spreads across the panel. Behind them, Shockwave slinks away.

RATCHET  
Hey. What is that?

PROWL  
Something tells me that portal  
explosion did more damage than we  
thought.

**PANEL 4:**

Standing with Thundercracker and Skywarp, Starscream PLEADS with Megatron.

STARSCREAM

This place is doomed! We need to get out of here before we're buried alongside the Autobots!

MEGATRON

For once you are correct, Starscream.

**PANEL 5:**

Megatron flees up the tunnel from whence they came with Starscream, Skywarp and Thundercracker, as Astrotrain and Dirge also move towards the tunnel.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

Farewell, Autobots. Consider our alliance over. The next time we meet, we shall be enemies once again. **If** you survive this, that is! Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha-Haaaaaa!

**PAGE EIGHTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

Optimus Prime stands with Kup, Elita-One, Inferno, Arcee and Blurr as the chamber begins to DETERIORATE around them.

BLURR

*Oh-no-oh-no-oh-no! We've-got-to-get-outta-here-right-away-straight-away-anyway-we-can!*

OPTIMUS PRIME

You're right, Blurr.

KUP

But, what about the Matrix?

GUARDIAN

(off-panel)

You mean, this?

**PANEL 2:**

The sole surviving Guardian LIFTS the Matrix to offer it to Optimus Prime. Meanwhile, Ratchet stands beside the Guardian, looking down to the MEDICAL SCANNER in his hand.

GUARDIAN (CONT'D)

Does this belong to you?



OPTIMUS PRIME

The Matrix. Amazing, it has given you sentience.

RATCHET

Checks out, Prime. I'm reading fully-functional life-signs, laser core, brainwaves, everything.

**PANEL 3:**

Tracks adds his two cents towards Ratchet, as Optimus Prime accepts the Matrix from the Guardian.

TRACKS

Well, **none** of us are going to remain fully-functional unless we escape this chamber.

OPTIMUS PRIME

I agree. But first...

**PANEL 4:**

Optimus Prime places the Matrix within his chest and is immediately engulfed by BLUE LIGHT.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)

... The Matrix has come home.

**PANEL 5:**

While more of the chamber continues to fall all around them, Twin Twist TRANSFORMS to his drill-tank-mode to EXCAVATE a new ESCAPE TUNNEL.

Prowl, Arcee and Ironhide TRANSFORM to follow him.

In the foreground, Optimus Prime converses with Kup and the Guardian.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)

Autobots , we must abandon this place.

KUP

C'mon, kid, if you're gonna be a real Autobot you gotta be able to transform.

GUARDIAN

Transform? I'll try.

**PANEL 6:**

As Kup and Optimus Prime look on, the Guardian TRANSFORMS to his alt-mode: a sleek, futuristic-looking car.

A real Cybertronian HOT ROD.

KUP  
Well, how 'bout that?

**PAGE NINETEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

INT. INSIDE TWIN TWIST'S TUNNEL.

Twin Twist continues to drill upwards, leading a small convoy of Autobots: Arcee, Prowl and Ironhide to safety.

TWIN TWIST  
C'mon! Almost to the surface!

**PANEL 2:**

EXT. THE SURFACE OF CYBERTRON - NIGHT.

WIDE SHOT - Springer, Inferno and Blurr climb free of the tunnel in the background, as Twin Twist, Prowl and Arcee assist them.

In the foreground, Optimus Prime stands with Elita-One, Moonracer, Kup and the Guardian.

MOONRACER  
I can't believe it! Not only is Skyquake gone, but we've got the Matrix back!

ELITA-ONE  
Yes, but we've paid a heavy price. Mirage, Trailbreaker. Beta, Xaaron. Impactor.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Their sacrifices will not be in vain. Thanks to their bravery, we can move forward, guided by the Matrix and its wisdom of the ages.

**PANEL 3:**

Optimus Prime places one hand on Kup's shoulder, and the other on the shoulder of the Guardian, who smiles back at his new leader.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)

And in no small part to our newest recruit. Kup, I need you to show him our ways. Teach him, guide him, and show him what it means to be an Autobot.

KUP

Terrific. Just what we need around here. Another turbo-revvin', young hot-rod.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Hmmm, you may have something there, Kup. What do you think... **Hot Rod?**

GUARDIAN

Hot Rod?

**PANEL 4:**

SPLASH PANEL - Optimus Prime stands like a HERO, surrounded by Kup, Elita-One and the newly-christened HOT ROD.

Behind them on the left, Moonracer has returned to Powerglide's side with Tracks and Whirl. Powerglide is FLEXING in an attempt to impress Moonracer, as Whirl turns to a FACE-PALMING Tracks in confusion.

On the right, even further in the background, Prowl shares a rare smile with Arcee, Blurr, Ratchet, Inferno, Ultra Magnus and Springer as Top Spin and Twin Twist HIGH FIVE.

HOT ROD

I love it!

**PAGE TWENTY:**

**PANEL 1:**

INT. UNKNOWN.

A SET OF SQUARE MONITORS (linked together into a SPHERE, surrounded by dozens of others within what appears to be a VAST, SEMI-ORGANIC CHAMBER) display a combined image of Optimus Prime standing tall with the Matrix.

**CAPTION:** Elsewhere...

**PANEL 2:**

PULLING BACK, the mass of monitors and their image of Optimus Prime are FURTHER AWAY now, and it is apparent that the series of spheres are contained within some kind of a GLOBE, as the VASTNESS OF SPACE can be seen outside its domain.

**CAPTION:** Beyond the galaxy...

**PANEL 3:**

EXT. SPACE.

PULLING FURTHER BACK, the mass of monitor spheres are almost lost in the background, as a set of GIANT, DAGGER-LIKE TEETH protrude from an UNNERVING and ENORMOUS, MOUTH-LIKE ORIFICE.

**CAPTION:** Beyond the known universe...

**PANEL 4:**

WIDE SHOT - A MECHANICAL PLANET, arced by a RING OF LIGHTS and adorned with two SPIRE-LIKE HORNS, drifts through an INFINITE COSMOS.

**CAPTION:** Beyond the veil of time and space...

**PANEL 5:**

WIDER SHOT - The monster planet appears to SCREAM a BLAST OF TRANSLUCENT ENERGY from its maw.

**CAPTION:** Beyond good. Beyond evil...

UNICRON  
RRRAAAAAAUGGHHHH!

**THE END**

We want to thank each and every one of you who took the time to read our script. If you liked what you read here and would like to see more stories in the Transformers G1 cartoon universe, Greig and I would love to keep writing. You could help by contacting SkyBound Entertainment by E-Mail (info@skybound.com) or on Twitter (@SkyBound), and let them know you want to see Transformers: REANIMATED written by Yoshi and Greig Tansley as an ongoing comic book series. Thank You All!