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THE TRANSFORMERS: REANIMATED.
"RISE FROM THE RANKS, PART 1."

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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:

A MOUNTAINOUS PEAK, CYBERTRON - NIGHT.

At the edge of a metallic PRECIPICE, stand the DECEPTICON PREDATORS: SNARE, FALCON, SKYDIVE, TALON and STALKER.

Each of the five vicious-looking warriors stare off into the sky, as the jet-mode of their leader, SKYQUAKE, appears out near the HORIZON.

FALCON

There he is.

TALON

I can't wait. This is gonna be so much fun.

PANEL 2:

Skyquake TRANSFORMS in the sky above the Predators, DROPPING DOWN to land before them in robot-mode, revealing his NEWLY-DEMONIC APPEARANCE.

Along with his ODDLY-MAROON EYES, it seems something inside Skyquake does not agree with him, distorting his face into a more hideous version of itself, while HORNS grow through his crown-like helmet.

SNARE

Lord-d-d Skyquake-k-k-k, welcome home. D-d-did you find it-t-t?

SKYQUAKE

Indeed I did, Snare.

PANEL 3:

SPLASH PANEL - Skyquake removes a GLOWING, BLUE OBJECT from his chest, causing all five of the Predators to BOW DOWN before him.

It is the AUTOBOT MATRIX OF LEADERSHIP!

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)

I found... **THE MATRIX!**

PAGE TWO:

PANEL 1:

EXT. CYBERTRON'S SECOND MOON - DAY.

The moon orbits the mechanical planet of CYBERTRON.

Down below, stands an Autobot structure: MOON BASE TWO.

CAPTION: The following day...

GREENLIGHT

(captioned)

Uh, guys? I think you'd better come
take a look at this.

PANEL 2:

INT. INSIDE MOON BASE TWO.

GREENLIGHT sits monitoring some kind of RADAR system, as
TRACKS, POWERGLIDE and SPRINGER move towards her.

WHIRL stands in the background, not doing much of anything.

GREENLIGHT

The early warning system has
detected something heading this
way. And fast!

POWERGLIDE

Well, let's check it out! Ol'
Powerglide loves mysteries!

TRACKS

How about you use the scanners to
find out exactly what it is,
Greenlight, before we head off on
yet **another** wild asteroid chase?

SPRINGER

I hate to agree, but he's right.
Can you activate the long-range
sensors?

GREENLIGHT

Sure thing.

PANEL 3:

Powerglide, Tracks and Springer look over Greenlight's
shoulder at the radar screen, as her reaction is one of
SURPRISE.

GREENLIGHT (CONT'D)

It's... it's a ship! A starcruiser!

POWERGLIDE

Decepticons? I bet it's the
Decepticons! Ol' Powerglide loves
clairvoyance!

TRACKS

Ugh. Of course you do.

GREENLIGHT

It's not Decepticons. I mean, yes,
it **is** a Decepticon ship, but we're
receiving a transmission request on
an **Autobot** frequency!

SPRINGER

Let's see it.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON the data screen and its image of KUP.

KUP

About time you answered the call! I
can't dally around forever in this
ex-Con piece of flyin' garbage.

SPRINGER

Kup?!

KUP

Springer. Good to see you, kid.
What's it been? Two... three
hundred years?

SPRINGER

At least. Where have you been?

KUP

Here, there and everywhere, lad.
But we don't have time to waste. I
need you to patch me through to
whoever's in charge down there.

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - Greenlight remains at the radar screen, with
Springer leaning onto its console to converse with Kup.

In the background, Powerglide appears to be telling Tracks a
story for the one-thousandth time as Whirl walks away.

Tracks is UNIMPRESSED.

SPRINGER

Right away. Greenlight, transmit Kup's signal down to HQ.

GREENLIGHT

On it. HQ, this is Moon Base Two. I have a priority transmission for Optimus Prime.

POWERGLIDE

Wow, it's just like the time Hubcap and I got lost on Thrull. Everyone thought we were goners, but I showed 'em!

TRACKS

Yes, of course you did.

PANEL 6:

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE MOON BASE TWO - DAY.

On a WINDOWSILL, looking into the Moon Base, sits RATBAT, recording everything with a HEAD-MOUNTED SURVEILLANCE CAMERA.

GREENLIGHT

(off-panel)

I repeat, I have a priority transmission for Optimus Prime! Elita-One, do you read me?

PAGE THREE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. IACON, CYBERTRON, DECEPTICON HQ - DAY.

The DECEPTICON STRONGHOLD stands tall within a sea of SKYSCRAPERS. The city is the only beacon of light amid the remainder of the WAR-TORN landscape.

Far off in the distant sky, Ratbat flies towards the base.

CAPTION: Soon after...

PANEL 2:

INT. DECEPTICON HQ, COMMAND CENTER.

Ratbat flies into the control room and towards SHOCKWAVE.

SHOCKWAVE
Ratbat returns, Megatron.

PANEL 3:

WIDE SHOT - MEGATRON watches as Ratbat continues past Shockwave and TRANSFORMS into his cassette-mode, landing inside the chest compartment of SOUNDWAVE.

MEGATRON
Excellent. Soundwave, show me what your scout has discovered.

PANEL 4:

Soundwave TRANSFORMS to cassette-player-mode and connects to the command center's MAIN COMPUTER.

SOUNDWAVE
As you command, Megatron.

PANEL 5:

Megatron looks on at the computer's DATA SCREEN, seeing Ratbat's footage - Greenlight and Springer at the Moon Base Two communications console, watching a VIDEO CONVERSATION between Kup and OPTIMUS PRIME.

KUP
I'm tellin' ya, Prime, it's Skyquake. He's got the Matrix!

OPTIMUS PRIME
The Matrix? After all this time? Skyquake tried to wield its power once before, but if he once again has control of our most sacred artefact, we must not hesitate to stop him.

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Megatron as the light from the data screen shines onto his face.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)
(off-panel)
Ultra Magnus is sending you co-ordinates to a landing area outside Iacon. Meets us there and we will discuss Skyquake further. We cannot afford anymore surprises right now.

MEGATRON

Oh, but you **are** in store for a surprise, Optimus Prime. A **big** one. Starscream, prepare the troops for battle.

PAGE FOUR:

PANEL 1:

STARSCREAM pushes past Shockwave to confront Megatron.

STARSCREAM

Surely you're not thinking about attacking the Autobots ? Not if Skyquake is out there with the Matrix?

PANEL 2:

SIDE ANGLE - Starscream now ARROGANTLY points his index finger into Megatron's face.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

Don't get cocky, oh 'mighty Megatron'. You might control Iacon (thanks to me), but if Skyquake has the Matrix, then we must find him and **destroy** it!

MEGATRON

You talk too much, Starscream.

PANEL 3:

Megatron turns away from Starscream to face the reader.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

The so-called 'aura' of the Matrix is a myth. Nothing but Autobot misinformation, designed to send sizzles down Decepticon spinal circuits and infuse even the most cowardly Autobot with false hope.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Megatron's face as he strokes his chin.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

But still, you may be right. If Skyquake believes that tacky bauble gives him some kind of power, then he is all the more dangerous.

(MORE)

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

Send a team to sweep the local sectors for any signs of Skyquake **or** his troublesome Predators.

STARSCREAM

But...

PANEL 5:

Megatron turns around to BACKHAND Starscream to the floor.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

Aaaagh! What was that for?

MEGATRON

Your constant questioning of my orders grows tiresome. Make no mistake, **I** control Iacon, not **you**. Now, do as I command, or you won't live long enough to regret it.

PANEL 6:

As Starscream SKULKS OFF into the background, Megatron STANDS PROUD.

Shockwave stands on his right, Soundwave to his left.

STARSCREAM

Fine, I'll send out those cone-headed buffoons. They're not good for much else.

MEGATRON

See that you do. Meanwhile, we have an Autobot homecoming to crash. Bwa-Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha-Haaaa!

PAGE FIVE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. OUTSIDE IACON - DAY.

WIDE SHOT - Optimus Prime, ELITA-ONE, ULTRA MAGNUS, IMPACTOR and IRONHIDE stand on a CYBERTRONIAN PLAIN, looking up at the stars.

PROWL, ARCEE, BLURR and MIRAGE stand nearby with INFERNO and ROADBUSTER.

IRONHIDE

Well, where is he? I thought he was 'spose to be here by now?

IMPACTOR

Shouldn't be too much longer. Springer said Kup's ship was close, and we all know Kup. He ain't exactly... patient.

ELITA-ONE

And these were the co-ordinates you gave them to land, Magnus?

ULTRA MAGNUS

Correct. It's currently the safest place to avoid a Decepticon attack.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Indeed. Kup has been away from Cybertron for far too long. He deserves the full respect of a true hero's welcome.

PANEL 2:

Blurr POINTS to the sky as a STARCRUISER appears high above.

BLURR

Optimus-Prime-look-A-ship-a-ship-heading-this-way-It's-got-to-be-Kup's-ship-Although-why-is-Kup-flying-a-Decepticon-starcruiser? But-still-he-has-to-have-an-explanation-right?

PANEL 3:

FROM BEHIND, Optimus Prime and Elita-One watch the dropship land as Arcee and Prowl attempt to calm Blurr down.

ARCEE

Easy, Blurr. We're all excited to see Kup again.

BLURR

I-know-I-know-I-just-can't-believe-it-He's-been-away-for-so-long-So-much-has-happened-So-much-has-changed!

PROWL

Wow, this new you really takes some getting used to doesn't it?

PANEL 4:

OVER OPTIMUS PRIME'S SHOULDER - Kup steps out of the starcruiser's HATCH alongside MAINFRAME, SCROUNGE, TOP SPIN and TWIN TWIST.

OPTIMUS PRIME
Welcome home, Kup. Wait... Top Spin? Twin Twist? Mainframe and... Scrounge? Kup, not only have you returned home, but you've come back with four Autobots long designated MIA?

KUP
It's good to see to see you, Optimus. When you and the Ark disappeared, we all thought the worst.

IRONHIDE
(off-panel)
Hey!

PAGE SIX:

PANEL 1:

Ironhide and Impactor both raise their BLASTERS, pointed at the starcruiser's hatch and the Decepticon, OCTANE, now sheepishly holding up TWO FINGERS in a halfhearted peace sign.

With his hands raised, Kup stands before the gun-wielding Ironhide and Impactor as though he were trying to prevent a catastrophe.

IRONHIDE (CONT'D)
What in the wired world of Cybertron?!

IMPACTOR
Everyone, lookout!

KUP
Whoa-Whoa-Whoa! Easy, fellas. It ain't what it looks like. Octane's with us.

OCTANE
Uh, hi. Peace?

PANEL 2:

Kup explains, standing between Optimus Prime and Octane, as Mainframe stands close behind them.

KUP

He helped us escape Beta IV.

OPTIMUS PRIME

So, that's why you're flying a Decepticon starcruiser?

KUP

You got it. But, that ain't the half of it, Prime. This ship? It's **Skyquake's** ship. But, he didn't seem to need it anymore, on account of the power boost he got from the Matrix.

MAINFRAME

By my calculations, he should well-and-truly have returned to Cybertron by now.

PANEL 3:

While Kup, Mainframe and Octane remain in the background, Optimus Prime turns to Prowl.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Then it is true. Skyquake has returned. And with the Matrix in his possession, I fear there may be no force in the universe that can stop him.

PROWL

We have to find him. Reconnaissance?

PANEL 4:

Optimus Prime stands with Prowl as Arcee, Mirage and Blurr step up to volunteer.

BLURR

Recon? I-can-do-recon-yes-I-can-If-you-need-fast-intel-lickedty-split-then-I'm-your-Bot! Nobody-can-do-it-faster-than-me-Nobody-nobody-nobody!

PROWL

All right, Blurr. You got it.

ARCEE

I'd like to volunteer too, Optimus.

MIRAGE

As would I.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Thank you, my friends.

PANEL 5:

Prowl issues orders to Arcee, Blurr and Mirage.

PROWL

Okay. Arcee, you check the west. Blurr, you head south. And Mirage, search the east. But be careful. You know you're still having issues with that replacement invisibility cog Wheeljack built for you*. Don't overdo it.

MIRAGE

No problem, Prowl. I'll be fine.

BLURR

Oh-boy-oh-boy-oh-boy!

CAPTION: Mirage lost his original invisibility cog way back in issue #40.

PANEL 6:

WIDE SHOT - All in their vehicle-modes, Arcee, Blurr and Mirage RACE OFF into the distance: Arcee heads left, Blurr drives off towards the horizon in a straight line, while Mirage moves off to the right.

In the foreground, Prowl stands with Optimus Prime. Yet in the CLOSE foreground, Ironhide POINTS to something off-panel.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Excellent work, Prowl. Now, let's get back to...

IRONHIDE

Uh, that's gonna have ta wait, Prime. Look!

PAGE SEVEN:

PANEL 1:

FULL SPLASH PAGE, IRONHIDE'S P.O.V., LOW ANGLE, LOOKING UP - Megatron DESCENDS from the sky, flanked by Shockwave and Soundwave. RUMBLE and FRENZY sail down alongside them.

Behind Soundwave (in their jet-modes), Starscream OPENS FIRE towards the surface with a burst of NULL RAY ENERGY, alongside SKYWARP, THUNDERCRACKER and BLITZWING, while ASTROTRAIN and all three REFLECTORS: VIEWFINDER, SPECTRO and SPYGLASS, prepare for battle.

IRONHIDE (CONT'D)
(off-panel)
DECEPTICONS!

PAGE EIGHT:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE ENTRANCE TO VECTOR SIGMA - DAY.

Skyquake stands before the MASSIVE, DOMED ENTRYWAY to Vector Sigma.

Snare and Talon remain at his side.

CAPTION: Later, at the entrance to Vector Sigma...

SKYQUAKE
Ah, Vector Sigma. It has been far too long.

SNARE
So, what-t-t is the p-p-plan, sir?

PANEL 2:

Two DECEPTICON MICROMASTERS: GREASEPIT and AIRWAVE, interrupt Skyquake before he can reply.

GREASEPIT
Hey! What the heck do you think you're doing here?

AIRWAVE
Yeah, this is a restricted area. For approved personnel only.

SKYQUAKE
Interesting. Fear not, for I have indeed been approved...

PANEL 3:

Skyquake OPENS FIRE from the CANNONS situated beneath his wings to DISINTEGRATE both Greasepit and Airwave with one TERRIFYING BLAST.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)
... by **FATE!**

GREASEPIT
Yaaaaagh!

AIRWAVE
Sheeeyah!

PANEL 4:

Now standing over two Micromaster-sized SCORCH MARKS on the ground, Skyquake turns to Snare once more.

SNARE
Uh, sir? Now what-t-t?

SKYQUAKE
It is simple, Snare. We dig. Deep.
Deeper than what most believe is
possible. Beneath Vector Sigma.

PANEL 5:

Talon and Snare turn to one another as Skyquake tightens his hand into a mighty fist.

TALON
Deeper than Vector Sigma?

SNARE
Is that-tat-a-tat even possible,
sir? What-t-t is beneath Vector
Sigma?

SKYQUAKE
An ancient chamber, Snare. One
whose secrets will make me...

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Skyquake's maroon eyes.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)
...a **GOD!**

PAGE NINE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. OUTSIDE IACON - DAY.

SPLASH PANEL - ALL HELL HAS BROKEN LOOSE.

Optimus Prime is FISTFIGHTING with Megatron in the foreground, while beside him, Prowl takes on both Rumble and Frenzy.

Behind them, Kup, Ultra Magnus and Elita-One are firing their BLASTERS into the sky at Skywarp and Blitzwing's jet-modes.

MEGATRON

You are nothing if not predictable,
Prime. Your foolish Autobot crusade
ends today!

OPTIMUS PRIME

Ugh! I don't think so, Megatron!

PANEL 2:

While Soundwave and the three Reflectors CHARGE towards them, Ironhide pushes Mainframe towards Scrounge, as Impactor TRANSFORMS to his tank-mode.

IRONHIDE

Mainframe, take Scrounge an' get
outta here! This ain't no place for
non-combatants like you!

IMPACTOR

You better believe it. 'Cause
things are about to get **real** messy,
real fast!

PANEL 3:

As Mainframe FLEES into the background with Scrounge, Impactor OPENS FIRE towards Soundwave and the three Reflectors, scattering them into the air.

IMPACTOR (CONT'D)

Ha-Ha-Ha! Get some!

PANEL 4:

Roadbuster fires his weapon into the sky at Starscream and Thundercracker as they PEPPER the ground with more energy blasts, causing Inferno to dive for cover.

STARSCREAM

There's no escape this time,
Autobots!

INFERNO

Whoa! Things are gettin' hot!

PAGE TEN:

PANEL 1:

Both Top Spin and Twin Twist LEAP to either side of the panel as Shockwave (in space-gun-mode) fires a BLAST between them.

TOP SPIN

Uh-oh!

TWIN TWIST

Lookout, my brother!

SHOCKWAVE

Your resistance is illogical. You cannot hold out forever.

PANEL 2:

Elita-One (in vehicle-mode) SPEEDS towards Shockwave as he TRANSFORMS to robot-mode and threatens the downed pair of Jumpstarters with his GUN HAND.

ELITA-ONE

Keep your logic, you big, purple cyclops, and **we'll** keep...

PANEL 3:

Shockwave turns to FIRE upon Elita-One, blasting her vehicle-mode with his gun hand.

ELITA-ONE (CONT'D)

... fighting? Aaaaaaagh!

PANEL 4:

As Soundwave looks off to the distance to see Mainframe and Scrounge (now in wheel-mode) attempting to flee, he EJECTS both Ratbat and RAVAGE from his chest.

SOUNDWAVE

Autobot escape attempt:
Unacceptable. Ratbat , Ravage...
eject. Operation: Pursuit.

PANEL 5:

Soundwave turns to see that Octane is also attempting to shirk away from the battle.

SOUNDWAVE (CONT'D)

Octane, you are not permitted to leave. You will assist in capturing the runaway Autobots.

OCTANE

Who, me? But, I... I was... I mean, I was just gonna...

SOUNDWAVE

Do as I command, or face Megatron.

PANEL 6:

OVER SOUNDWAVE'S SHOULDER - Octane TRANSFORMS to his aerial-mode to zoom off towards Mainframe and Scrounge, already being hunted by Ravage and Ratbat.

OCTANE

Uh, sure. Whatever you say, Soundwave.

PAGE ELEVEN:

PANEL 1:

Ratbat shoots out the SOLITARY WHEEL of Scrounge's alt-mode as Ravage POUNCES on Mainframe.

SCROUNGE

Aaaagh!

MAINFRAME

Ugh, get off me, you mutt!

PANEL 2:

Ratbat loops back to join Octane in the air as Scrounge TRANSFORMS to robot-mode.

Mainframe is now on his back, desperately struggling to avoid Ravage's JAWS.

MAINFRAME (CONT'D)

Ughh, no!

PANEL 3:

Octane TRANSFORMS to robot-mode to land beside the injured Scrounge, as Ravage leaps off Mainframe.

OCTANE

All right, Ravage, that's enough. I got it from here.

SCROUNGE

Octane, thank Prime! Help us!

OCTANE

Sorry, pal. On your feet. Nothing personal, but I gotta look out for number one.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Scrounge's face. He is almost HEARTBROKEN.

SCROUNGE

What? You can't! Not after... not after everything!

PANEL 5:

Octane lifts his FLAMETHROWER closer to Scrounge, as Mainframe raises his hands in submission.

OCTANE

I said, **move**! I **am** a Decepticon, after all.

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Octane's face. Like Scrounge, he also oddly seems disappointed in himself.

OCTANE (CONT'D)

For now.

PAGE TWELVE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE ENTRANCE TO VECTOR SIGMA - DAY.

Still outside the domed entryway, Skyquake stands speaking into a HAND-HELD COMMUNICATOR as Snare and Talon look on.

CAPTION: Meanwhile, at the entrance to Vector Sigma...

SKYQUAKE

Falcon, we are ready to initiate Phase One. Are you in position?

PANEL 2:

EXT. THE PEAK OF MOUNT HELIX - DAY.

Falcon stands on the top of an impressive METAL MOUNTAIN.

With one hand, he adjusts what appears to be some kind of MISSILE, sticking up out of the ground beside him. With the other hand, he holds a COMMUNICATOR of his own.

FALCON
Yes, sir, I am.

SKYQUAKE
(from Falcon's
communicator)
It pleases me to hear that. You may
fire when ready. Then contact
Stalker to begin Phase Two.

PANEL 3:

Falcon watches as the missile SHOOTS OFF into the sky.

FALCON
This is gonna be fun!

PANEL 4:

EXT. CYBERTRON'S SKIES - DAY.

The missile reaches Cybertron's UPPER ATMOSPHERE, exploding in a FLURRY OF PURPLE LIGHTNING.

PANEL 5:

EXT. THE PEAK OF MOUNT HELIX - DAY.

Falcon speaks into his communicator once more, as the sky above CRACKLES with a disturbing amount of ELECTRICAL ENERGY.

FALCON
Stalker, this is Falcon. Phase One
is underway. Prepare to begin Phase
Two.

PAGE THIRTEEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE PLUREX FLATS - DAY.

Stalker and Skydive stand in a completely-isolated and DESOLATE LANDSCAPE - the Cybertronian equivalent of the great Salt Plains of Oklahoma.

While Stalker speaks into his communicator, Skydive seems to be planting automobile-sized BOMBS.

FALCON
(from the communicator)
Do you read me, Stalker? Phase One
is underway.

STALKER
I hear you, Falcon. Skydive is just
about done.

PANEL 2:

Stalker looks down as Skydive sets a DIGITAL TIMER on one of the bombs. It reads: 00:45.

STALKER (CONT'D)
Right?

SKYDIVE
Yep. All set.

PANEL 3:

Stalker and Skydive TRANSFORM to their jet-modes, MULTIPLE LIGHTNING STRIKES begin to appear in the sky.

STALKER
Good. Let's get outta here.

PANEL 4:

WIDE SHOT - Stalker and Skydive TAKE OFF. More lightning strikes rain down upon the Flats, as the bombs EXPLODE.

STALKER (CONT'D)
Ha-Ha! It's working.

PANEL 5:

The combined energy from the various lightning strikes and bomb explosions has manifested into a BIZARRE SHOCKWAVE, sending RIPPLES OF CRACKLING ENERGY across the surface.

In the air above, both Stalker and Skydive ZOOM AWAY.

STALKER (CONT'D)
Stalker to Skyquake. Phase Two is complete.

PAGE FOURTEEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. NEAR THE PLUREX FLATS - DAY.

In the remains of a city on the edge of the Flats, Arcee stands amid another flurry of electrical energy as it races across Cybertron's metallic surface.

The lights in the background buildings have begun to FLICKER.

CAPTION: Nearby...

ARCEE
What the heck is this? What's going on?

PANEL 2:

LOW ANGLE, LOOKING UP - Arcee raises her head to see both Stalker and Skydive FLY OVER her in their jet-modes.

ARCEE (CONT'D)
Decepticons. Up to no good, I'll bet.

PANEL 3:

HIGH ANGLE, LOOKING DOWN - Stalker and Skydive come under HEAVY FIRE as Arcee shoots her HANDGUN at them from the ground below.

ARCEE (CONT'D)
Not on my watch!

STALKER
Hey! What?!

PANEL 4:

Both Stalker and Skydive LOOP BACK to fly towards Arcee, who still fires her handgun at the Decepticon Predators.

STALKER (CONT'D)
Bad idea, Autobot. Real bad.

PANEL 5:

Stalker and Skydive OPEN FIRE to blast Arcee from the air.

ARCEE

Aaaaagh!

SKYDIVE

Well, that was easy.

STALKER

Hey, didn't Skyquake say something about needing some 'extra hands' to reach this buried chamber of his?

PANEL 6:

Stalker and Skydive have now landed in robot-mode to stand over an UNCONSCIOUS Arcee.

SKYDIVE

He sure did.

STALKER

Well, c'mon then. Let's take her with us.

PAGE FIFTEEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. OUTSIDE IACON - DAY.

Optimus Prime lifts a SOLID PUNCH into Megatron's stomach.

OPTIMUS PRIME

I don't have time for this, Megatron. There are larger issues at stake.

PANEL 2:

Megatron replies with a PUNCH to Optimus Prime's face.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)

Ugh!

MEGATRON

Oh, I know, Prime. I know. You can't bear the thought of losing your precious Matrix, can you?

PANEL 3:

Megatron BLASTS Optimus Prime in the stomach with his SHOULDER MOUNTED FUSION CANNON.

OPTIMUS PRIME
Aaaagh! No, you don't understand!

MEGATRON
I understand **perfectly**, Prime! But, **you** need to understand that the Autobots are finished!

PANEL 4:

SPLASH PANEL - Optimus Prime looks up from his hands and knees as Megatron points to the background.

Roadbuster is down, attended to by Inferno. Prowl is now being OVERPOWERED by Astrotrain, all three Reflectors are teaming up on Kup and Ultra Magnus takes fire from the DIVE-BOMBING TRIO of Starscream, Thundercracker and Skywarp (in jet-modes).

MEGATRON (CONT'D)
Once again, you fall into the simplest of traps. And once my troops vanquish yours, we'll hunt down this treasured Matrix, just to watch it burn. And then, whatever scraps of the Autobot army are left will scamper off into the shadows like the cowards they are.

OPTIMUS PRIME
Hgnn-n-n-n...

PAGE SIXTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Still on his knees, Optimus Prime lifts a DOUBLE AXE-HANDLE BLOW into Megatron's face.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)
... **NEVER!**

PANEL 2:

Now it is Megatron who is down on his haunches. He looks up to see Optimus Prime's feet and more importantly, the barrel of his ION-BLASTER.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)
Surrender, Megatron. While you still can.

PANEL 3:

Optimus Prime looks back over his shoulder to see Shockwave holding his gun hand to the head of Elita-One, his regular hand clenched around her neck and shoulders in a classic hostage-taking pose.

Behind Shockwave, Octane points his flamethrower at both Mainframe and Scrounge.

SHOCKWAVE

Stay where you are, Optimus Prime.
Surrender immediately, or watch
these three pay the price.

ELITA-ONE

Don't do it, Optimus.

SCROUNGE

She's right, sir. Don't worry about
us.

PANEL 4:

Megatron stands, while Optimus Prime DROPS his ion-blaster to the ground.

OPTIMUS PRIME

No, I will not entertain a course
of action that will lead to
innocent suffering. Do what you
will with me, Megatron, but leave
my Autobots alone. I... surrender.

PANEL 5:

Megatron forces the barrel of his shoulder cannon up under Optimus Prime's chin.

MEGATRON

You see? I **was** right. It's over,
Prime.

PAGE SEVENTEEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE ENTRANCE TO VECTOR SIGMA - DAY.

Skyquake stands with Snare and Talon outside the domed entryway, watching as the lights and power of the surrounding area flickers and fades as though suffering a BROWNOUT.

SNARE

Talon, I think-k-k they d-d-did it-t-t.

TALON

Indeed, Snare. Falcon's kinetic-ozone missile created the perfect atmospheric chain reaction to destabilize the local lightning storms. Combined with Skydive's plasma bombs in the Plurex Flats, the environmental anomalies have combined to send a mammoth energy pulse into the surface of Cybertron, 'short-circuiting' much of the planet, itself.

PANEL 2:

Skyquake talks to Snare.

SKYQUAKE

The very innards of this world have been rocked to its core. Weakened only ever-so-slightly, and albeit temporarily, but long enough for us to power our way beneath Vector Sigma and into the ancient Matrix Chamber below.

PANEL 3:

Skyquake moves with both Talon and Snare into the entryway to Vector Sigma.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)

Now come. We shall begin our descent while we wait for our fellow Predators.

PANEL 4:

With Skyquake, Talon and Snare now inside, the area outside Vector Sigma's entryway dome is empty.

Or is it?

MIRAGE

(word balloon only)

Boy, I thought they'd never leave.

PANEL 5:

Mirage appears from thin-air, having disengaged his invisibility power.

He lifts his forearm to his face to speak into its POP-UP COMMUNICATOR.

MIRAGE (CONT'D)
Optimus Prime, this is Mirage. Do you copy? Optimus Prime? Hello? Prime? Prowl? Anybody?

PANEL 6:

Mirage looks around to see the remnants of the energy short-circuit still crackling along the nearby ground. Despite this, he still speaks into his communicator.

MIRAGE (CONT'D)
Skyquake's energy discharge is affecting my long-range communications. But, I've got to keep trying. Arcee, can you hear me? This is Mirage. Arcee! Hello?

PAGE EIGHTEEN:

PANEL 1:

CLOSE ON Mirage as he speaks into his communicator once more.

MIRAGE (CONT'D)
Nothing. Perhaps Blurr is close enough to pick up my signal.

PANEL 2:

EXT. AN EMPTY CYBERTRONIAN HIGHWAY - DAY.

In his vehicle-mode, Blurr RACES down a DILAPIDATED MOTORWAY faster than any Cybertronian has ever moved before.

MIRAGE
(captioned)
Blurr, do you read me? This is Mirage.

BLURR
Mirage? I'm-here-I'm-here-I'm-ready-to-help-Anything-you-want-anything-you-need-Anything-Anything-Anything!

PANEL 3:

Blurr speeds across another part of the abandoned road.

MIRAGE
(captioned)
I've found Skyquake. He's inside
Vector Sigma, but I can't get
through to Prime.

PANEL 4:

Blurr is BLASTED from above by an unknown, off-panel
attacker.

MIRAGE (CONT'D)
(captioned)
I need you to get back to Iacon as
fast as you can and warn them!

BLURR
*You-got-it-Mirage-I-can-get-there-
faster-than-anyone-Faster-than-
absolutely-positively-any-waaaagh!*

PANEL 5:

Blurr SKIDS off the motorway, TRANSFORMING back to robot-mode
just in time to CRASH face-first into the ground.

MIRAGE
(captioned)
Blurr! What's going on?!

BLURR
Uggghhnnnnn!

PANEL 6:

While Blurr lies UNCONSCIOUS on the ground, Falcon lands on
his feet beside the fallen Autobot.

MIRAGE
(captioned)
Blurr? Blurr, what happened? Blurr,
speak to me!

FALCON
(into a communicator)
Yo, Stalker. About that Autobot you
nabbed? Yeah, I found another one.

PAGE NINETEEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE ENTRANCE TO VECTOR SIGMA - DAY.

Mirage all-but SHOUTS into his communicator.

MIRAGE

Blurr?! Blurr?! Oh, no. Something bad is happening. But, I've got to do something about Skyquake.

PANEL 2:

Mirage begins to TURN INVISIBLE.

MIRAGE (CONT'D)

Time to sneak in and ruin his scheme.

PANEL 3:

INT. INSIDE VECTOR SIGMA'S ENERGY CHAMBER.

Skyquake stands with Talon and Snare, surveying the ancient and enigmatic chamber.

Its DAZZLING, YELLOW ORB OF ENERGY radiates an INTENSE LIGHT that washes over the entire panel like an EARLY-MORNING SUNRISE.

However, several tendrils of crackling, electricity-like energy continues to dance around its flooring.

SKYQUAKE

You see, Snare? This very chamber has been weakened. And soon, we will descend beneath it to claim the ultimate power!

PANEL 4:

OVER SKYQUAKE'S SHOULDER - Snare raises a QUESTIONING finger.

SNARE

Of course. B-B-But, where would-d-d you like to b-b-begin?

PANEL 5:

Skyquake turns his head, DISTRACTED by an odd SHIMMERING EFFECT behind Talon.

SKYQUAKE

It's quite simple, Snare. You may... wait.

MIRAGE
(word balloon only)
Oh, no. No, not now!

PANEL 6:

Mirage's invisibility power FAILS him, revealing himself before Skyquake's very eyes.

MIRAGE (CONT'D)
No-No-No!

SKYQUAKE
A-Ha! I see you, Autobot.

PAGE TWENTY:

PANEL 1:

FULL SPLASH PAGE - Snare looks on as Skyquake has SEIZED Mirage by the throat, holding him high off the floor.

Both of Mirage's hands are now wrapped around Skyquake's powerful wrist, struggling in vain to free himself.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)
And now, **I** am the last thing **you'll**
ever see!

CAPTION: TO BE CONTINUED...

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!