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THE TRANSFORMERS: REANIMATED.  
"RISE FROM THE RANKS, PART 2."

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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 VECTOR SIGMA ENERGY CHAMBER.

TALON and SNARE look over to their fearsome leader, SKYQUAKE. His appearance remains as DEMONIC as the last time we saw him; his face looks almost MELTED, certainly GNARLED, while HORNS continue to grow through his helmet.

VECTOR SIGMA'S DAZZLING, YELLOW SPHERE casts a warm illumination across the entire chamber, including what appears to be PIECES of the Autobot, MIRAGE, lying scattered on the floor.

TALON  
Falcon and the others have arrived,  
Skyquake.

SKYQUAKE  
Excellent, Talon. Please welcome  
them inside.

**PANEL 2:**

Skyquake watches as FALCON, SKYDIVE and STALKER enter the chamber with their two Autobot hostages: ARCEE and BLURR.

Arcee has noticed even more remnants of Mirage at her feet.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)  
Welcome, brothers. Your work has  
been extraordinary, and we are now  
ready to begin our descent beneath  
this so-called chamber of miracles.

FALCON  
Thank you, sir. We've brought you  
two Autobot prisoners to use as  
labor.

ARCEE  
You won't get away with this,  
you... wait. Is that... Mirage?!

**PANEL 3:**

Skyquake turns away from Arcee and Blurr as Stalker and Skydive press a BLASTER to each of the Autobots' heads.

SKYQUAKE

It used to be. Now, do as I say!  
You two will assist my Predators in  
digging into the depths of Vector  
Sigma, or share his fate.

ARCEE

Forget it! We'll **never** help you!

SKYQUAKE

I think you **will**. Or each of you  
will watch the other be destroyed.  
Isn't that right, Stalker?

STALKER

Heh-heh. Yes, sir.

**PANEL 4:**

Skyquake **LEANS** in close to a **DEFIANT** Arcee, while Stalker  
continues to press his blaster against Blurr's temple.

STALKER (CONT'D)

This one is fast, sir. **Real** fast.  
Never seen anything like it.

SKYQUAKE

Excellent. Then he can begin the  
excavation. And you'll assist him,  
won't you...

ARCEE

Arcee.

SKYQUAKE

Arcee? **Really**? I remember you. You  
look... different. Don't tell me  
Shockwave's little experiment  
worked?\*

**CAPTION:** \*See issue 19.

**PANEL 5:**

**WIDE SHOT** - As Stalker and Skydive **SHOVE** Arcee and Blurr  
forward, Skyquake raises his arms in a grandiose gesture of  
confidence.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)

No matter. You two will begin  
digging **immediately**, or we'll find  
out if your blue friend is fast  
enough to avoid a pulse blaster.

ARCEE

The stories are true about you,  
Skyquake. You **are** a monster.

**PANEL 6:**

CLOSE ON Skyquake's ODDLY-MAROON eyes.

SKYQUAKE

Oh, you haven't seen the half of  
it. Now, get to work.

**PAGE TWO:**

**PANEL 1:**

EXT. OUTSIDE OF IACON - DUSK.

As the sun sets over the HORIZON, MEGATRON pushes the barrel  
of his SHOULDER-MOUNTED FUSION CANNON up under the chin of  
OPTIMUS PRIME.

**CAPTION:** Meanwhile, outside of Iacon City...

MEGATRON

Oh, how I've waited for this  
moment, Prime. Any last words?

OPTIMUS PRIME

Do your worst, Megatron. But know  
that the Autobot movement will  
**never** die.

**PANEL 2:**

HIGH ANGLE - Looking down at Megatron as his head WHIPS BACK  
to look towards the sky.

SPRINGER

(off-panel)

If it's all the same, I'd prefer  
you didn't shoot.

MEGATRON

What?!

**PANEL 3:**

LOW ANGLE, LOOKING UP, MEGATRON'S P.O.V. - SPRINGER and WHIRL  
(both in helicopter-mode) ZOOM towards the reader.

Behind them, POWERGLIDE (in jet-mode) OPENS FIRE with TRACKS  
(in flying-car-mode).

SPRINGER

Now, step away from Prime before things get **real** messy!

WHIRL

Yeah, and trust me, bucket-head... you wouldn't like me when I'm **messy**.

POWERGLIDE

Hey-hey! Look out below, it's yet another daring rescue maneuver!

TRACKS

Ugh, must you always be so crass?

POWERGLIDE

Crass? But, ol' Powerglide loves reinforcements!

**PANEL 4:**

While Springer and Whirl drop some kind of ENERGY BOMBS onto SOUNDWAVE and ASTROTRAIN, Optimus Prime takes advantage of the distraction to PUNCH Megatron in the face.

SPRINGER

Sorry to interrupt, Optimus, but we thought you could use the assist!

OPTIMUS PRIME

Now, Autobots ! Take down the Decepticons!

MEGATRON

Aaagh! Curse you, Prime!

**PANEL 5:**

SMALL INSERT PANEL, CLOSE ON Springer's cockpit and its COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

SPRINGER

Impactor, we're here!

IMPACTOR

(voice only, from Springer's cockpit)  
Good work. Transform and meet us on the surface.

**PAGE THREE:**

**PANEL 1:**

WIDE SHOT - Springer and Whirl have TRANSFORMED to their robot-modes to stand with KUP, IMPACTOR, ULTRA MAGNUS and INFERNO as they arrive on the scene.

Behind them, TOP SPIN and TWIN TWIST look on with ROADBUSTER.

KUP

Good to see you, lad. Thanks for the back up.

IMPACTOR

We had to come. Can't keep ol' buzzards like me down for long.

SPRINGER

You know, it **has** been a long time since all of us were together like this.

TOP SPIN

Maybe we should...

TWIN TWIST

I mean, should we, my brother? For old times' sake?

INFERNO

Ha-Ha! Let's do it! It'll be a red-hot blast!

WHIRL

Only if Impactor says the thing.

IMPACTOR

Well, all right then...

**PANEL 2:**

SPLASH PANEL - Impactor and Springer lead Kup, Ultra Magnus, Top Spin, Twin Twist, Roadbuster and Inferno into battle, as Whirl flies above them in helicopter-mode.

They are truly a force to be reckoned with.

IMPACTOR (CONT'D)

**WRECK AND RULE!**

**PANEL 3:**

As Kup, Impactor and Inferno take down all three of the REFLECTORS in the background, Tracks assists PROWL by blasting STARScream in the face with his BLACK-BEAM GUN.

STARSCREAM

Aaaaagh! I can't see!

TRACKS

That's the idea, dummy.

**PANEL 4:**

IRONHIDE and ELITA-ONE join Optimus Prime in firing their weapons towards SHOCKWAVE, rescuing both MAINFRAME and SCROUNGE.

In the distance, OCTANE appears to be planning a sneaky getaway.

IRONHIDE

All right! Impactor's crew have turned the tide!

OPTIMUS PRIME

Indeed they have. Now, let's finish the job!

**PAGE FOUR:**

**PANEL 1:**

Octane TRANSFORMS to his aerial-mode to escape into the sky, leaving Shockwave at the Autobots' mercy.

OCTANE

Ah, forget this. Cybertron really doesn't agree with me. I need a vacation.

**PANEL 2:**

While Octane continues to escape into the background sky, Impactor (now in tank-mode) lands a shot on BLITZWING (also in tank-mode).

OCTANE (CONT'D)

I hear Paradron is nice.

**PANEL 3:**

Laser blasts WHIZZ by Megatron as he calls for the retreat. In the sky behind him, Starscream, THUNDERCRACKER and SKYWARP have already escaped into the sky (in jet-modes).

MEGATRON

This isn't over, Autobots!  
Decepticons, retreat!



**PANEL 4:**

Prowl stands with Kup in the foreground, attempting to use the POP-UP COMMUNICATOR protruding from his forearm.

Behind them, Ultra Magnus, Ironhide and Optimus Prime chase off Shockwave and the Reflectors with more laser blasts.

PROWL  
Arcee, do you read me? Mirage?  
Where are you? Plodd, I mean...  
**Blurr.** Come in, Blurr!

**PANEL 5:**

Optimus Prime and Elita-One now stand with Prowl and Kup.

PROWL (CONT'D)  
Prime, I can't reach **any** of them.  
Some kind of interference is  
playing havoc with my communicator.

ELITA-ONE  
Do you think it's Skyquake?

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Unfortunately, I fear you may be  
right. Whatever his plan, we must  
reconvene at Autobot HQ. Perhaps  
Lancer's sensor equipment can track  
down Mirage and the others.

**PANEL 6:**

Optimus Prime TRANSFORMS to semi-trailer-mode.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)  
Autobots, roll out!

**PAGE FIVE:**

**PANEL 1:**

EXT. AUTOBOT HQ - NIGHT.

The AUTOBOT BASE stands amid its tattered landscape: a DILAPIDATED, CHARRED FORTIFICATION that rests within a section of Cybertron's UNDERBELLY.

**CAPTION:** Soon after...

**PANEL 2:**

INT. INSIDE AUTOBOT HQ.

The interior of the base is the polar opposite of its exterior. Its insides are clean, shiny and crisp.

Optimus Prime, Prowl and Elita-One stand before a TELETRAAN model SUPERCOMPUTER, manned by LANCER.

ELITA-ONE  
Any luck, Lancer?

LANCER  
I'm sorry, Elita, but no. Even the long range sensors are having trouble cutting through the remnants of whatever that energy interference was. Maybe Moon Base One could help us out?

OPTIMUS PRIME  
It's worth a try.

**PANEL 3:**

Lancer leans in close to her computer console, initiating what appears to be some kind of TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM.

LANCER  
Lancer to Moon Base One. Do you copy? Lancer to Moon Base One...

**PANEL 4:**

EXT. CYBERTRON'S FIRST MOON - NIGHT.

As the moon orbits CYBERTRON, the structure of MOON BASE ONE can be seen on its surface.

LANCER  
(captioned)  
... Lancer to Moon Base One.

**PANEL 5:**

INT. INSIDE MOON BASE ONE.

WIDE SHOT - CLIFFJUMPER and FIRESTAR sit at yet another TELETRAAN-LIKE COMPUTER SYSTEM, watching the COLORED STATIC that fills its DATA SCREEN.

Close behind Cliffjumper, CHROMIA turns to call out to JAZZ, PIPES and SWERVE in the background.

CLIFFJUMPER

Hey, we're getting a transmission  
from the surface!

CHROMIA

Jazz! Check it out!

**PANEL 6:**

OVER JAZZ'S SHOULDER, as he looks down to see Lancer's face  
appear on the data screen.

JAZZ

Yo, Lancer? What's happenin' ? More  
shenanigans on Cybertron?

LANCER

Always. We're having trouble  
locating some of our team. Can you  
boost our signal from up there?

**PAGE SIX:**

**PANEL 1:**

REVERSE ANGLE - Firestar and Cliffjumper are already working  
the controls while Jazz SMILES behind them.

FIRESTAR

Way ahead of you, Lancer. I'm  
locking onto the HQ now.  
Cliffjumper, begin countdown to  
signal boost.

CLIFFJUMPER

You should have a stronger signal  
in four... three... two...

**PANEL 2:**

INT. INSIDE AUTOBOT HQ.

While Cliffjumper's voice completes his countdown from her  
data screen, Lancer SMILES as her console LIGHTS UP.

SLIGHTLY CONFUSED, Prowl stands looking over Lancer's  
shoulder.

CLIFFJUMPER

(from the data screen)  
... one. Boosting sensor strength,  
**now!**

LANCER

That's it. Thanks, guys! I can't seem to locate Mirage, but both Arcee and Blurr are inside the Vector Sigma energy chamber.

PROWL

Vector Sigma? What are they doing in there?

**PANEL 3:**

Lancer leans back from her terminal to see Optimus Prime behind her with Mainframe and Scrounge.

LANCER

Whatever it is, they're not alone. I'm reading six other life-signs inside the chamber, and one of them is burning **off the scale** with energy!

OPTIMUS PRIME

Then **that** must be Skyquake and the Matrix. Lancer, you stay here in the HQ. The rest of you will accompany me to Vector Sigma.

MAINFRAME

Optimus, I can stay and help Lancer improve the HQ's defensive systems.

SCROUNGE

Me too. I can help do... something.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Thank you, Mainframe. You too, Scrounge. Install whatever defensive protocols you see fit, because if we're going to take on Skyquake and his Predators...

**PANEL 4:**

EXT. THE SURFACE OF CYBERTRON - NIGHT.

SPLASH PANEL, BIRD'S EYE VIEW - Each in their various vehicle-modes, Optimus Prime leads his CONVOY across the metallic surface of Cybertron.

Impactor, Elita-One, Prowl, Kup and Ironhide drive close behind him.

Further back, Ultra Magnus commands a secondary group consisting of Roadbuster, Inferno, Twin Twist, TRAILBREAKER, RATCHET and MOONRACER.

And in the air above, Springer leads Whirl, Powerglide, Tracks and Top Spin.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
(captioned)  
... it's going to take everything  
we've got.

**PAGE SEVEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

EXT. THE SKIES OF CYBERTRON - NIGHT.

In jet-mode, DIRGE, RAMJET and THRUST soar across the sky.

**CAPTION:** Meanwhile...

RAMJET  
Why do **we** get all the lousy  
assignments?

THRUST  
Yeah, why are **we** treated like  
Starscream's errand-bots?

DIRGE  
Quiet, you idiots. Look!

**PANEL 2:**

EXT. THE ENTRANCE TO VECTOR SIGMA - NIGHT.

All three of the coneheads zoom over the MASSIVE, DOMED  
ENTRYWAY to Vector Sigma.

DIRGE  
Are your sensors picking up that  
energy?

RAMJET  
They are **now!** What is that?

THRUST  
Somethin ' weird is goin' on in  
there!

DIRGE

No kiddin'. I'm callin' this one in. Dirge to Soundwave. Come in, Soundwave...

**PANEL 3:**

INT. INSIDE DECEPTICON HQ.

Megatron turns to watch Soundwave TRANSFORM to cassette-player mode, relaying Dirge's audio message.

SOUNDWAVE

Megatron! I am receiving an urgent transmission from Dirge.

DIRGE

(through Soundwave's speakers)

... Come in, Soundwave. We've found some crazy energy readings comin' outta the Vector Sigma chamber. It's gotta be Skyquake, right?

MEGATRON

Interesting.

**PANEL 4:**

Soundwave returns to robot-mode as Starscream CONFRONTS Megatron.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

This day may be memorable, after all. Starscream...

STARSCREAM

You're not thinking of going after Skyquake **now**? Not after we barely escaped from Prime and the Autobots ! If I were Decepticon leader, I'd...

**PANEL 5:**

Megatron POINTS upwards and towards the reader with his RIGHT HAND, while CHOKING Starscream with his LEFT.

MEGATRON

But, you're **not** leader, are you, Starscream? Decepticons, to the air!

STARSCREAM  
Urrrk... I'm sorry, mighty  
Megatron! Urrrgh!

**PAGE EIGHT:**

**PANEL 1:**

INT. THE VECTOR SIGMA ENERGY CHAMBER.

Skyquake watches as Arcee and Blurr continue to DIG what looks like a TUNNEL into the floor of the Vector Sigma chamber.

Both are using tools that appear to be ENERGIZED PICK-AXES. Naturally, Blurr is moving much faster than Arcee, creating an almost WHIRLWIND effect with his arms like THE FLASH.

Both Talon and Stalker stand nearby, watching over the Autobots with their BLASTERS at the ready.

                          TALON  
We're progressing ahead of  
schedule, sir. This blue guy is all  
kinds of fast!

                          SKYQUAKE  
Indeed. It seems you're quite  
useful after all, Blurr.

**PANEL 2:**

Arcee looks back at Skyquake. He stands with his hands on his hips like a true DESPOT.

                          ARCEE  
What exactly are you trying to  
achieve, Skyquake? Most lunatics  
like you want what's **in** Vector  
Sigma, not beneath it.

**PANEL 3:**

Blurr continues to toil away at a lightning-fast pace, as Skyquake replies to Arcee.

                          SKYQUAKE  
I am no 'lunatic', Arcee. I am  
perhaps the only one on this planet  
who **truly** understands the nature of  
the Matrix.

**PANEL 4:**

CLOSE ON Skyquake's face.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)  
And what it can protect us from.

**PANEL 5:**

As Talon and Stalker once again aim their blasters towards Arcee, Skyquake points down to the tunnel.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)  
Now... less talk. My destiny  
awaits.

**PAGE NINE:**

**PANEL 1:**

EXT. THE ENTRANCE TO VECTOR SIGMA - NIGHT.

Outside the domed entryway, Optimus Prime stands with Prowl, Impactor and Elita-One.

**CAPTION:** Meanwhile...

PROWL  
What's the plan, Prime?

OPTIMUS PRIME  
We must proceed with caution,  
Prowl. I don't wish to walk into  
another...

**PANEL 2:**

Ironhide pushes past Prowl to stand before Optimus Prime.

IRONHIDE  
Ah, come on, Prime, let's just bust  
in and kick Skyquake's tailpipe  
like we did last time!

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Easy, Ironhide . That was a **long**  
time ago. Things have changed. All  
we know right now is that Skyquake  
is inside **with** the Matrix. Besides  
that...

**PANEL 3:**



INT. THE VECTOR SIGMA ENERGY CHAMBER.

Skyquake SHOVES Blurr and Arcee aside as Talon notices how they've BROKEN THROUGH the flooring.

A SHAFT OF LIGHT shoots up from the tunnel's entrance.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
(captioned)  
... we don't know what we're  
walking into.

TALON  
Sir, they've done it! We're  
through!

SKYQUAKE  
Out of my way, Autobots!

**PANEL 4:**

Skyquake peers down into the vertical shaft, as Arcee cares for an EXHAUSTED Blurr.

ARCEE  
He's losing power. Are you happy  
now?

SKYQUAKE  
Incredibly.

**PANEL 5:**

INT. INSIDE THE TUNNEL.

LOW ANGLE, LOOKING UP - Skyquake JUMPS into the shaft, descending towards the reader.

SKYQUAKE  
It's here! After all this time!

**PAGE TEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

INT. THE MATRIX CHAMBER.

SPLASH PANEL - Skyquake stands in the center of an ELABORATE and ANCIENT ANTECHAMBER. CIRCULAR in shape, it appears as though it were a giant mold of the Matrix, itself.

In the center of the room, two elderly Autobots: XAARON and BETA, stand beside a PODIUM that seems to have been created to hold the Matrix at its peak.

Dressed in ROBES, Beta now appears to be MUCH, MUCH OLDER than her flashback appearance from the television series; essentially now a female version of Alpha Trion.

Finally, SURROUNDING the chamber walls (and Xaaron and Beta) are THE MATRIX GUARDIANS: EIGHT LIFELESS DRONES, each decorated with a DEEP BLUE and PURPLE COLOR SCHEME, with YELLOW FLAMES adorning their chest plates. Yet despite their cold coloring, each of the Guardians are IDENTICAL to a certain future Autobot 'CHOSEN ONE'.

SKYQUAKE  
The Matrix Chamber!

XAARON  
Who dares enter this hallowed  
domain?

**PANEL 2:**

SMALL INSERT PANEL - Skyquake looks down at Beta, who appears to recognize the Decepticon Predator.

SKYQUAKE  
Hello, Beta. It's been a long time.

**PAGE ELEVEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

INT. THE VECTOR SIGMA ENERGY CHAMBER.

Along with Prowl, Ratchet has discovered the remains of Mirage as Optimus Prime and Kup look on.

In the background, Tracks stands AGHAST, while beside him, an UPSET Moonracer buries her head into Powerglide's chest.

PROWL  
Ratchet, is that..?

RATCHET  
Yes. But, it's too late. There's  
nothing I can do.

TRACKS  
Mirage?

**PANEL 2:**

FROM BEHIND Optimus Prime as he PHYSICALLY BLOCKS both Ironhide and Impactor from diving into the nearby tunnel.

IRONHIDE

Lousy, no good...

IMPACTOR

I'll tear Skyquake apart for this myself! Piece by rotten piece!

OPTIMUS PRIME

No, my friends. We **will** get justice for Mirage. But not like this. We must be careful. Not only does Skyquake possess the Matrix, but he most likely holds Arcee and Blurr hostage.

**PANEL 3:**

Optimus Prime turns to Springer, Whirl and Trailbreaker.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)

Nevertheless, we **will** take action. Prepare for battle.

WHIRL

Oh, boy. Time to make things messy.

**PANEL 4:**

INT. INSIDE THE TUNNEL.

LOOKING UP - Optimus Prime PEEKS down into the open shaft.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Now, Autobots. Follow me.

**PAGE TWELVE:**

**PANEL 1:**

INT. THE MATRIX CHAMBER.

Beta and Xaaron CONFRONT Skyquake.

Behind him, all five of the Predators stand with the still-captive Blurr and Arcee at gunpoint.

Blurr has 'PASSED OUT' from exhaustion.

BETA

You dare enter this place,  
Decepticon?

SKYQUAKE

Oh, Beta. How much longer are we  
going to continue this charade? You  
know who I am. You know why I came.

**PANEL 2:**

Skyquake removes the MATRIX OF LEADERSHIP from his chest,  
TERRIFYING both Beta and Xaaron.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)

And **this** is what I've brought with  
me!

XAARON

No...

BETA

It cannot be!

**PANEL 3:**

While Beta STAGGERS backwards in SHOCK, Xaaron steps forward  
to CHALLENGE Skyquake.

BETA (CONT'D)

How? How have you managed to do  
this? The Matrix is not something  
that someone like **you** can...

SKYQUAKE

Ah, but it **is**! And now that I  
possess Cybertron's most powerful  
antiquity, I shall...

XAARON

Enough! Your presence here is an  
outrage! It's time to end this  
affront to decency!

**PANEL 4:**

SPLASH PANEL - With the TWIN CANNONS beneath each of his jet  
wings, Skyquake OBLITERATES Xaaron with a POWERFUL BLAST.

Beta looks on in HORROR.

SKYQUAKE

I agree.

XAARON

Uh..?!

BETA

Xaaron!

**PAGE THIRTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

Skyquake returns the Matrix to his chest, as Beta KNEELS down to lament the SMOKING SCORCH MARKS that used to be Xaaron.

In the background, Arcee is attempting to attack Talon, only to be held back by Falcon and Snare, while an UNCONSCIOUS Blurr is held at gunpoint by Stalker.

BETA (CONT'D)

You... you...

SKYQUAKE

Monster, yes I understand. Now give me what I want, Beta, or **you** will be next to join Xaaron in oblivion.

**PANEL 2:**

Skyquake turns back and away from Beta.

OPTIMUS PRIME

(off-panel)

That is enough.

SKYQUAKE

Huh?

**PANEL 3:**

SPLASH PANEL - The Autobots have arrived. Optimus Prime stands with his ION-BLASTER, flanked on his right by Prowl, Ironhide and Elita-One.

On his left, Ultra Magnus, Kup, Impactor and Springer stand with Tracks and Powerglide, while Moonracer KNEELS before them, holding her SNIPER RIFLE at the ready.

In the background, Inferno and Ratchet DROP DOWN from the tunnel as Trailbreaker looks up at them from below.

OPTIMUS PRIME

You should not have returned, Skyquake. Leave this place, or face the consequences.

**PAGE FOURTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

OVER OPTIMUS PRIME'S SHOULDER - Skyquake CLENCHES both hands into FISTS, as Beta looks on.

SKYQUAKE

Oh, look. The brave and powerful 'Prime'. You're too late. I already have the Matrix.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Then let its wisdom guide you. This conflict can end here and now. No one else need perish today.

SKYQUAKE

Always the optimist. But, you're wrong. **Dead** wrong.

**PANEL 2:**

Stalker, Snare, Talon, Skydive and Falcon RUSH INTO BATTLE, charging towards Trailbreaker, Inferno and Ratchet.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)

(off-panel)

Predators, attack!

**PANEL 3:**

As the Predators OPEN FIRE from various armaments, Trailbreaker enables a FORCE-FIELD to block the blasts and protect Ratchet, Inferno and himself from harm.

However, Ratchet appears CONCERNED for Trailbreaker's well-being.

INFERNO

Uh-oh! Fire in the hole!

TRAILBREAKER

Don't worry, Inferno! I've got this!

RATCHET

Trailbreaker, no! You can't! Your new force-field generators\* haven't had time to properly...

TRAILBREAKER

Don't worry, Doc. I've got this!

**CAPTION:** \*Trailbreaker lost his original force-field generators to Bombshell's insidious plan back in issue #40!

**PANEL 4:**

Talon, Snare and Falcon FIRE HEAVILY against the force-field, causing Trailbreaker to GRIMACE under the strain.

TRAILBREAKER (CONT'D)  
Ughhnnnnn...!

INFERNO  
Trailbreaker! What's wrong?

RATCHET  
It's his new force-field generators. They're not ready for this kind of action yet!

**PANEL 5:**

CLOSE ON Trailbreaker's PAINED EXPRESSION as the Predator energy blasts RICOCHET off his force-field.

TRAILBREAKER  
Can't hold out... much longer...

**PAGE FIFTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

The force-field SHATTERS like a piece of glass, causing Trailbreaker to PANIC.

TRAILBREAKER (CONT'D)  
Oh, no!

**PANEL 2:**

Falcon, Stalker and Talon OPEN FIRE once more, blasting Trailbreaker several times as he PUSHES Ratchet and Inferno out of the way.

TRAILBREAKER (CONT'D)  
Lookout! Save yourselves!

RATCHET  
Trailbreaker, stop!

FALCON  
Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha!

**PANEL 3:**

Falcon, Stalker and Talon continue to fire upon Trailbreaker, BLASTING him over-and-over and sending him HURTLING backwards into the chamber's wall.

STALKER

Heh-heh.

TRAILBREAKER

Aaaaaarghhh!

FALCON

Ha-Ha-Haaaaaa!

**PANEL 4:**

WIDE SHOT - Ultra Magnus HURLS Snare across the chamber as Ironhide, Springer and Kup come to Ratchet and Inferno's rescue, blasting weapons of their own towards the Predators.

SNARE

Aaaagh!

KUP

C'mon! Let's show 'em what Autobots can really do!

IRONHIDE

Yeah!

**PANEL 5:**

Elita-One watches as Optimus Prime is SHOT in the back by Skyquake and his wing cannons.

OPTIMUS PRIME

That's it, Kup! Keep up the offensive! Prowl, take the...  
Gaaagh!

ELITA-ONE

Optimus!

**PAGE SIXTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

Optimus Prime CRASHES into the floor as Skyquake BACKHANDS Elita-One out of the panel.

SKYQUAKE

You like to play the hero, don't you, 'Optimus'? Always interfering in affairs that aren't your concern.



OPTIMUS PRIME  
The... the Matrix... and its  
misuse... **is** my concern...

SKYQUAKE  
Not this time. This time, **I'll** show  
you it's true power.

**PANEL 2:**

SPLASH PANEL - Skyquake stands before all eight of the Matrix Guardians, RAISING HIS HANDS like an orchestra conductor to BRING THEM TO LIFE.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)  
And what it can **really** do!

**PANEL 3:**

All eight of the Guardians CHARGE towards Tracks, Moonracer, Springer and Whirl, FIRING from their FOREARM BLASTERS.

Moonracer is already shooting her sniper rifle towards the Guardians.

TRACKS  
Ugh, they're alive now? This day  
just keep getting better and  
better.

SPRINGER  
C'mon, Tracks! Let 'em have it! I  
got better things to do tonight  
than...

WHIRL  
Don't talk! Shoot! Ha-Ha! Here  
comes messy!

**PANEL 4:**

Three of the Guardians use their FOREARM-MOUNTED GUN BARRELS to trade fire with Ultra Magnus, Roadbuster and Ironhide.

IRONHIDE  
Well, c'mon then, let's waste these  
mindless mecha-molds!

**PANEL 5:**

Prowl and Inferno fire at two more Guardians, as Ratchet attends to the fallen Trailbreaker.

His eyes have FADED to gray.

PROWL  
Inferno, concentrate your fire on  
the leader!

RATCHET  
Goodbye, Trailbreaker.

**PAGE SEVENTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

EXT. THE ENTRANCE TO VECTOR SIGMA - NIGHT.

Megatron stands with Shockwave and Soundwave, as Starscream, Thundercracker and Skywarp TRANSFORM to land beside him.

In the distant sky, more SILHOUETTED Decepticons are on their way, led by the Reflectors.

**CAPTION:** Meanwhile, up above...

SOUNDWAVE  
Megatron, I hear sounds of battle  
originating from beneath the  
surface. Beneath Vector Sigma.

MEGATRON  
You see, Starscream? It seems that  
our enemies have started without  
us.

**PANEL 2:**

A muffled THOOM sound effect rumbles across the panel as Starscream stands with Megatron.

STARSCREAM  
Then who are we to interfere? If  
Skyquake and the Autobots are down  
there, I say let them turn each  
other into scrap! You said it  
yourself, the Matrix is nothing but  
a phony trinket! Why should **we** get  
involved?

MEGATRON  
Starscream, you fool. If Optimus  
Prime is victorious and reclaims  
the Matrix, the morale of his  
Autobots will be rejuvenated across  
the cosmos.

**PANEL 3:**

Megatron turns back to look at the entrance to Vector Sigma.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

Prime must not only be defeated, he must be humiliated, his cause shown to be the pointless crusade it truly is. And **I** will make that happen. **I** will win this war. Decepticons, follow me!

**PANEL 4:**

INT. THE MATRIX CHAMBER.

Impactor (in tank-mode) saves Optimus Prime from Skyquake by BLASTING one of the Predator's cannons to pieces.

SKYQUAKE

Now, watch as my destiny unfolds...  
What?!

IMPACTOR

Not so fast, ugly!

**PANEL 5:**

Impactor TRANSFORMS to robot-mode, charging at Skyquake to destroy his OTHER cannon with a secondary blast.

IMPACTOR (CONT'D)

First, you've got to deal with me!

**PAGE EIGHTEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

SPLASH PAGE - Optimus Prime looks up from the floor in HORROR, as Skyquake PUNCHES his fist through Impactor's CHEST.

SKYQUAKE

Gladly.

IMPACTOR

Hrrrk?!

OPTIMUS PRIME

Impactor!

**PAGE NINETEEN:**

**PANEL 1:**

WIDE SHOT - Skyquake stands over Impactor as SMOKE rises from the Wrecker's chest.

Behind them, Springer, Kup, Whirl, Prowl and Elita-One prepare to attack.

SKYQUAKE  
Pathetic.

ELITA-ONE  
We'll show you who's pathetic, you corrupted cyberpath!

KUP  
C'mon, let's rush him! He can't stop **all** of us!

**PANEL 2:**

Skyquake prepares for battle, moving into a FIGHTING STANCE.

SKYQUAKE  
Don't be so sure, old-timer.

**PANEL 3:**

Skyquake PUNCHES Kup to the floor, while at the same time, BACKHANDS Springer away as Whirl attempts to TACKLE him.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)  
Pitiful!

**PANEL 4:**

Skyquake TOSSES Whirl into Prowl as Elita-One moves in close to LEAP towards the Decepticon.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)  
You are nothing compared to me!

WHIRL  
Ugh!

**PANEL 5:**

Skyquake CATCHES Elita-One MID-AIR by the throat, causing her feet to dangle helpless off the floor.

She is truly at Skyquake's mercy.

SKYQUAKE  
Not so fast, 'Elita'. Funny, after all those upgrades, you're still the same naïve little Ariel.  
(MORE)

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)

Well, you'll need more than upgrades to survive today.

**PANEL 6:**

Optimus Prime stands, perhaps angrier than we've ever seen him before.

OPTIMUS PRIME

I said, **ENOUGH!**

**PAGE TWENTY:**

**PANEL 1:**

Skyquake hurls Elita-One to the floor, as Optimus Prime moves towards him.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)

This has to end, Skyquake . But, please, before we reach the point of no return, **please** ... will you just **talk** to me?

**PANEL 2:**

SIDE ANGLE - Optimus Prime stands opposite Skyquake as though the two were a pair of GUNSLINGERS from the Wild West.

SKYQUAKE

Ah, so **now** you show your **true** self. You always did prefer talk over action.

**PANEL 3:**

Skyquake moves **EVEN CLOSER** to Optimus Prime.

SKYQUAKE (CONT'D)

And I suppose we have a **lot** to talk about, don't we... **Orion Pax?**

**PANEL 4:**

CLOSE ON Optimus Prime's face.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Yes. Yes, we do...

**PANEL 5:**

CLOSE ON Skyquake's face.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)  
(off-panel)  
... **Dion.**

**CAPTION:** TO BE CONCLUDED...

**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!