THE TRANSFORMERS: REANIMATED.
"CHARLATAN, DECEIVER... PRETENDER, PART 2."

Written by

Greig Tansley &
Youseph "Yoshi" Tanha.

Art and Colors by

Dan Khanna.

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:

EXT. FUEL REFINERY, CYBERTRON – NIGHT

SPLASH PAGE – At the outskirts of a battle-damaged
CYBERTRONIAN ENERGON REFINERY, the CLASSIC PRETENDERS: JAZZ,
BUMBLEBEE and GRIMLOCK have arrived to save OPTIMUS PRIME
from the clutches of STARSCREAM (also wearing a PRETENDER
SHELL of his own).

Starscream maintains a vice-like grip around Optimus Prime's
throat, while looking up at the three descending Autobots.

               STARSCREAM
    What? Impossible!

               BUMBLEBEE
    Looks like you're not the only one
    with a fancy new suit, Starscream.

               GRIMLOCK
    Don't talk...

PAGE TWO:

PANEL 1:

Grimlock SWINGS a WILD HAYMAKER into Starscream's chin,
causing Starscream to release Optimus Prime and stagger
backwards.

               GRIMLOCK (CONT'D)
    ... Hit!

               OPTIMUS PRIME
    Grimlock?

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT – Optimus Prime now stands alongside Jazz, Grimlock
and Bumblebee in their new Pretender Shells.

However, Starscream stands opposite them, rubbing his chin
with a COCKY SMILE etched across his face.

               JAZZ
    Optimus, it's me, Jazz! We came as
    fast as we could. Just had to deal
    with a little trouble of our own.

                    BUMBLEBEE
          I guess we've got some explaining
          to do, huh, Prime? I'm not just the
          little guy anymore!

                    OPTIMUS PRIME
          Bumblebee, is that you? I'm eager
          to hear this explanation of yours,
          but for now, I think it'll have to
          wait.

                    STARSCREAM
          Ha-Ha-Ha! Nice try, Grimlock, you
          dino-dolt! But not even **you** can
          hurt **me** anymore!

PANEL 3:

Starscream now stands FLANKED by his fellow Pretenders:
STRANGLEHOLD, THUNDERWING and BLUDGEON.

                    STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
          Especially since my new friends are
          eager to join the fun!

PANEL 4:

While Optimus Prime, Jazz, Grimlock and Bumblebee charge
towards Starscream in the background, SOUNDWAVE helps
MEGATRON to his feet in the foreground.

                    MEGATRON
          Ugh... Soundwave, signal the others
          to stand down and regroup. We'll
          let Prime deal with this new menace
          for now.

                    SOUNDWAVE
          As you command, Megatron.

PAGE THREE:

PANEL 1:

Jazz ducks beneath the wild swing of Bludgeon's ENERGO SWORD,
while Grimlock is locked in a TEST-OF-STRENGTH-TYPE GRAPPLE
against Thunderwing.

Bumblebee has swung a perfectly-timed PUNCH across the jaw of
Stranglehold, as Optimus Prime fires his ION BLASTER towards
Starscream.

                    GRIMLOCK
          Hrrrgh...

                        STRANGLEHOLD
         Ughh!

                        BUMBLEBEE
         Yes!

PANEL 2:

While the battle rages on in the background, PROWL, ELITA-ONE, IRONHIDE and RATCHET look on from the foreground.

                        IRONHIDE
         What the heck is goin' on?

                        PROWL
         Pretenders. Wonderful.

                        RATCHET
         Yeah, but who are they?

                        ELITA-ONE
         I don't know. But, it looks like
         those three are on **our** side!

PANEL 3:

Thunderwing drives his fist into Grimlock's face, while Jazz manages to lift a SOLID KICK into Bludgeon's hand that knocks his Energo sword from his grasp.

                        BLUDGEON
         Bah! You annoying insect!

                        JAZZ
         Ha-Ha! Gotta love these upgrades,
         baby!

PANEL 4:

Stranglehold BACKHANDS Bumblebee across the face, while Optimus Prime continues to fire his ion blaster at Starscream.

                        BUMBLEBEE
         Ow!

                        OPTIMUS PRIME
         Bumblebee, Jazz, Grimlock... power
         alone is not enough to defeat these
         villains. Concentrate your attacks
         on my mark!

PAGE FOUR:

PANEL 1:

Nearby, Ironhide turns to Elita-One with CONFUSION. Behind them, Ratchet looks towards Prowl, now burying his face into his PALM with DISGUST.

>   IRONHIDE
>   Jazz? Grimlock? Bumblebee? How on
>   Cybertron can that be them?

>   ELITA-ONE
>   I don't understand it either,
>   Ironhide. But, we can't just stand
>   here and leave them to face that
>   battle alone!

PANEL 2:

Elita-One leads Ironhide, Prowl and Ratchet into battle, CHARGING FORWARD towards the reader.

>   ELITA-ONE (CONT'D)
>   Autobots, attack!

PANEL 3:

Starscream turns to see Elita-One, Prowl, Ratchet and Ironhide running towards him.

>   STARSCREAM
>   More Autobots? This is going to be
>   **fun**!

PANEL 4:

Starscream lifts a powerful RIGHT CROSS into Optimus Prime's face to knock the Autobot Leader off his feet.

>   STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
>   Now, watch as I dismantle your
>   pitiful troops, Prime!

>   OPTIMUS PRIME
>   Ugh!

PANEL 5:

Elita-One TRANSFORMS to vehicle-mode to race towards Starscream, who LEAPS over her to land before Ironhide and Ratchet.

>   ELITA-ONE
>   I don't know who you are, but
>   you're in trouble now!

                    STARSCREAM
        Think again, fool!

PANEL 6:

In the background, Starscream lifts both Ironhide and Ratchet
off the ground by their necks. But in the foreground, Prowl
looks to the POP-UP WRIST COMMUNICATOR now extending from his
forearm.

                    IRONHIDE
        Urrrk!

                    STARSCREAM
        Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha!

                    MAINFRAME
              (voice only, from the
               communicator)
        Prowl, this is Mainframe. Do you
        read me? Come in, Prowl.

                    PROWL
        Mainframe? Where are you? What's
        going on?

PAGE FIVE:

PANEL 1:

INT. STARSCREAM'S LAB

Surrounded by the confines of a makeshift LABORATORY, housed
within what appears to be an ABANDONED WAREHOUSE, MAINFRAME
stands speaking into a HAND-HELD COMMUNICATOR.

Behind him, CLIFFJUMPER, SLAG, SWOOP, SNARL and SLUDGE (all
in robot-modes) stand within INDIVIDUAL RECHARGING UNITS –
similar to the ones used to reactivate Thunderwing and
Bludgeon last issue.

NOTE: The recharge units look like something the Borg might
use from *Star Trek: First Contact*.

                    MAINFRAME
        I'm still up on the first moon.
        But, **you**'ve got some major bad guys
        headed your way!

                    PROWL
              (voice only, from the
               communicator)
        Copy that. They're already here.

PANEL 2:

EXT. FUEL REFINERY, CYBERTRON - NIGHT

Prowl looks back over his shoulder to see Starscream SLAMMING
both Ironhide and Ratchet into the ground with ease.

                MAINFRAME
         (voice only, from Prowl's
         communicator)
     You've got to be careful, Prowl.
     I'm just putting the final touches
     into the repairs of Cliffjumper and
     the Dinobots so that they can come
     assist you, but watch out... That
     Pretender technology is incredibly
     powerful!

                PROWL
     Don't worry, Mainframe. I've dealt
     with Pretenders before*.

CAPTION: *To find out what adventure Prowl is talking about,
check out issue #62!

PANEL 3:

INT. STARSCREAM'S LAB

Mainframe continues to speak into his communicator, standing
beside the recharging Swoop and Snarl.

                MAINFRAME
     No, you don't understand, Prowl.
     One of those Pretenders is Star...

PANEL 4:

Mainframe's communicator is BLOWN to pieces by an ENERGY
BLAST, fired from off-panel.

             MAINFRAME (CONT'D)
     What? No!

              BANZAI-TRON
       (off-panel)
     Not so fast, big brain...

PANEL 5:

OVER MAINFRAME'S SHOULDER - Mainframe looks on the see that BANZAI-TRON and SWINDLE have returned to the lab, each brandishing BLASTERS and pointing them towards the lone Autobot.

                  BANZAI-TRON (CONT'D)
      ... Surprise!

PAGE SIX:

PANEL 1:

EXT. FUEL REFINERY, CYBERTRON - NIGHT

Prowl is SHOUTING into his wrist communicator.

Behind him, Elita-One ducks beneath Starscream's wild attempt to PUNCH her.

                  PROWL
      Mainframe? Mainframe!

                  STARSCREAM
      Bah! Stand still and accept your
      fate, Autobot!

PANEL 2:

STARSCREAM'S P.O.V. - Starscream manages to SEIZE Elita-One by her upper arms, IMMOBILIZING HER.

                  ELITA-ONE
      Ugh! Hey! Get your hands off me!

                  STARSCREAM
      Now you **finally** meet your end,
      Elita.

PANEL 3:

Optimus Prime DIVES INTO FRAME to land a devastating punch across Starscream's JAW.

Rocked by the attack, Starscream releases Elita-One.

                  OPTIMUS PRIME
      No!

                  STARSCREAM
      Aaagh!

PANEL 4:

Starscream has sunk to one knee, nursing his jaw, while
Optimus Prime pulls back yet another powerful fist.

                    OPTIMUS PRIME
          This has gone on long enough.

PANEL 5:

Starscream CATCHES Optimus Prime's oncoming fist in the palm
of his Pretender hand.

He smiles WICKEDLY.

                    STARSCREAM
          Oh, I agree, Optimus.

PAGE SEVEN:

PANEL 1:

Starscream PUNCHES Optimus Prime across the face.

                    STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
          It's time to destroy you once and
          for all.

PANEL 2:

Starscream lifts his RIGHT KNEE into Optimus Prime's
MIDSECTION.

                    STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
          After all this time...

                    OPTIMUS PRIME
          Ooof!

PANEL 3:

Starscream SPIKES Optimus Prime HEAD-FIRST into the ground as
though the Autobot Leader were nothing more than a LAWN DART.

                    STARSCREAM
          ... **You** will experience what **true**
          power really is!

                    OPTIMUS PRIME
          Ughhh!

PANEL 4:

EXT. THE ROOF OF THE SHATTERED ENERGON REFINERY - NIGHT

Megatron stands with Soundwave, SKYWARP and THUNDERCRACKER on the roof of what remains of the FUEL REFINERY.

In the distance, on the ground below, Starscream stands with one TRIUMPHANT BOOT resting on top of a DEFEATED Optimus Prime.

Elita-One, Ironhide and Ratchet all lie MOTIONLESS nearby.

>   SOUNDWAVE
>   This new warrior is impressive,
>   Megatron. Power levels exceed
>   rational analysis.

>   SKYWARP
>   Yeah, but who is he?

>   THUNDERCRACKER
>   Don't ask me.

>   STARSCREAM
>   You see, Prime? I showed you. I'll
>   show **all** of them! Only **I** am worthy
>   of ruling the Decepticons! Only **I**
>   am worthy of ruling this planet.
>   No, not just the planet, the entire
>   **galaxy**! Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha!

>   MEGATRON
>   That voice. That overindulgent
>   sense of self-worth and pretentious
>   accomplishment. I'd recognize it
>   anywhere.

PANEL 5:

CLOSE ON Megatron's face, now FULL OF RAGE.

His OPTICS glow an EXTRA BRIGHT DECEPTICON RED.

>   MEGATRON (CONT'D)
>   It's **STARSCREAM!**

PAGE EIGHT:

PANEL 1:

EXT. STARSCREAM'S LAB

Swindle and Banzai-Tron continue to point their BLASTERS at Mainframe.

CAPTION: Meanwhile...

                      SWINDLE
You thought you were so smart, huh?
Usin' the boss's own Pretender
Shells for your buddies. Well they
aren't here to help you now, are
they?

                    MAINFRAME
No, wait. Listen...

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT – Mainframe stands before a BOX-LIKE CONTRAPTION,
seemingly feeding power into the various recharge units
occupied by Cliffjumper, Slag, Snarl, Swoop and Sludge.

                MAINFRAME (CONT'D)
Do whatever you want with me, but
don't blast this machine! It's the
only thing keeping these Autobots
alive!

PANEL 3:

Swindle OPENS FIRE towards Mainframe and the box-like device.
Banzai-Tron seems UNCONVINCED.

                    SWINDLE
Oh, really? Then say goodbye to
your pals!

                  BANZAI-TRON
No, wait!

PANEL 4:

Mainframe DIVES AWAY to avoid Swindle's BLAST, which directly
strikes the box-like contraption.

                    SWINDLE
      (off-panel)
Bullseye! Ha-Ha!

PANEL 5:

A MASSIVE ENERGY SURGE flows from the box-like contraption
into the recharge units, causing waves of CRACKLING ENERGY to
ripple over Slag, Sludge, Swoop, Snarl and Cliffjumper.

Swindle, Banzai-Tron and Mainframe are all knocked OFF THEIR
FEET by the surge.

>   SWINDLE (CONT'D)
>   What the heck?!

PAGE NINE:

PANEL 1:

SMOKE litters the air. Swindle remains on the floor, nursing a SORE HEAD, while Banzai-Tron gets to his feet.

>   BANZAI-TRON
>   Nice going. You just fell for the
>   ol' 'please don't shoot this'
>   trick. I thought you Combaticons
>   were meant to be smarter-than-the-
>   average Con?

>   SWINDLE
>   Whatever. At least I just destroyed
>   five Autobots, right?

>   MAINFRAME
>   (off-panel)
>   Ahem...

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT - Mainframe now stands with the completely REJUVENATED Cliffjumper, Slag, Swoop, Sludge and Snarl.

>   MAINFRAME (CONT'D)
>   Don't be so sure.

>   SLUDGE
>   Hmmm, big Sludge feel much better.

>   SNARL
>   Me, Snarl feel better, too!

>   SLAG
>   Slag feel better. But feel even
>   more better when we smash
>   Decepticons!

PANEL 3:

Banzai-Tron PUSHES Swindle forward as he turns and RUNS towards the exit.

>   SWINDLE
>   Uh-oh... Hey!

                    BANZAI-TRON
          Sorry, kid. This partnership just
          isn't cuttin' that mustard paint
          job of yours. Gotta go. Good luck!

PANEL 4:

As the Dinobots CHARGE FORWARD, Swindle TRANSFORMS to jeep-mode to RACE AWAY from his attackers.

Cliffjumper fires various BLASTS towards the fleeing Swindle with his GLASS GAS GUN.

                    SLAG
          Slag smash little Decepticon!

                    SNARL
          Snarl smash too!

                    SWINDLE
          Uh-uh! I'm outta here! This mission
          just became **all** Starscream's!

PAGE TEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. FUEL REFINERY, CYBERTRON – NIGHT

Grimlock continues to battle Thunderwing HAND-TO-HAND.

                    THUNDERWING
          You are nothing but a fool,
          Grimlock. You think a simple
          upgrade will give you the power
          required to defeat one as mighty as
          I?

PANEL 2:

Grimlock knocks Thunderwing to the ground with a DOUBLE-AXE-HANDLE attack.

                    THUNDERWING (CONT'D)
          Gaagh!

                    GRIMLOCK
          Yup.

PANEL 3:

Jazz CLUTCHES Bludgeon's WRISTS, struggling to keep the Energo sword from slicing him in two, while Bumblebee has found himself TRAPPED in a STRANGLE HOLD by... well, Stranglehold.

> BLUDGEON
> Your end comes now, you boisterous buffoon!

> JAZZ
> Ugh! Bee! We got to do somethin' about these here shenanigans, or we ain't gonna make it to the next big dance!

> BUMBLEBEE
> You're right, Jazz! Uuughh! I think... I think it's time we use that extra little trick Mainframe added to our Shells!

PANEL 4:

Jazz and Bumblebee continue to struggle under the attacks of Bludgeon and Stranglehold, as Grimlock comes RUNNING into frame.

> GRIMLOCK
> Me, Grimlock think that good idea. On count of three. One.. uh...?

> JAZZ
> I got this, big guy. One.. two...

PAGE ELEVEN:

PANEL 1:

All three of the Autobot Pretender Shells SPLIT OPEN to reveal their inner selves, knocking Stranglehold and Bludgeon to the ground.

> JAZZ (CONT'D)
> ... Three!

PANEL 2:

SPLASH PANEL - Bludgeon, Thunderwing and Stranglehold stand AGHAST as Jazz, Grimlock and Bumblebee now stand SIDE-BY-SIDE with their resealed Pretender Shells, effectively creating a SIX-ON-THREE battle situation.

> BLUDGEON
> No...

                         JAZZ
          All right!

                         JAZZ'S PRETENDER SHELL
          Now we're talkin'!

                         BUMBLEBEE
          You said it, Jazz!

                         BUMBLEBEE'S PRETENDER SHELL
          Now we're **really** more than meets
          the eye!

                         GRIMLOCK
          Hmmm, me, Grimlock not want to meet
          eyes.

                         GRIMLOCK'S PRETENDER SHELL
          Me, Grimlock want to munch metal!

                         STRANGLEHOLD
          Oh, no...

PANEL 3:

Jazz, Grimlock, Bumblebee and their Pretender Shells CHARGE
INTO BATTLE against Bludgeon, Thunderwing and Stranglehold.

                         BUMBLEBEE
          Oh, **yes**!

PAGE TWELVE:

PANEL 1:

Jazz kicks out the feet of Bludgeon, while his Pretender
Shell drives its FIST into Bludgeon's face.

                         JAZZ
          Ha!

PANEL 2:

Bumblebee's Pretender Shell HURLS Bumblebee's Volkswagen-mode
into Stranglehold's chest to knock him off his feet.

                         BUMBLEBEE
          I can't believe it! I can control
          the Pretender Shell just by
          thinking! I love it!

PANEL 3:

Grimlock and his Pretender Shell BOTH slam UPPERCUTS into
Thunderwing's chin.

>   GRIMLOCK
>   Me, Grimlock...

>   GRIMLOCK'S PRETENDER SHELL
>   ... Smash puny Thunderwing!

PANEL 4:

As Jazz's Pretender Shell continues to PUMMEL Bludgeon, Prowl
has made his way to Jazz's side.

>   PROWL
>   Jazz! You're a Pretender now? How
>   is any of this possible?

>   JAZZ
>   You know me, good buddy. Always
>   eager to switch up the beat!

PANEL 5:

Jazz and Prowl turn to see Starscream in the distance, still
standing over a BEATEN Optimus Prime.

>   PROWL
>   But, what about Prime?

PAGE THIRTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Starscream KICKS Optimus Prime across the face.

>   STARSCREAM
>   And now that you are utterly
>   defeated, Prime. Let me show you
>   just **who** is responsible for your
>   demise!

PANEL 2:

Starscream's Pretender Shell SPLITS OPEN to reveal his inner
self.

>   STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
>   Ta-Daaa! Impressed, Prime? You
>   should be. For this is the day that
>   Starscream **finally**...

PANEL 3:

Starscream is STRUCK in the shoulder by an off-panel ENERGY BLAST.

                      STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
     ... Gaaaagh!

PANEL 4:

Megatron and Soundwave land before Starscream, now clutching his shoulder wound.

The Pretender Shell remains in the background, still open in its two parts.

                      MEGATRON
     Starscream. I should have known.

                      STARSCREAM
     What? Megatron? No, I...

PANEL 5:

Starscream looks up from the ground to see he is now FACE-TO-FACE with the business end of Megatron's shoulder mounted FUSION CANNON.

                      MEGATRON
     Say your goodbyes, traitor.

                      STARSCREAM
     No, wait! Mighty Megatron, help me,
     please!

PAGE FOURTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Starscream sits on his knees, BEGGING for his life before Megatron.

                      STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
     You... you saved me! Saved me from
     Stranglehold and his brainwashing
     machine!

                      MEGATRON
     What are you blabbering about?
     Brainwashing machine?

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Starscream's TERRIFIED face.

                    STARSCREAM
          I was ambushed by Stranglehold and
          his resurrected minions! They
          attacked me! Forced me into this
          horrible Pretender Shell and took
          control of my body! I was nothing
          more than a helpless **slave**!

PANEL 3:

Soundwave watches on as Megatron now allows Starscream to
stand.

                    MEGATRON
          You expect me to believe this? Only
          an idiot could be captured and
          brainwashed by someone as inept as
          Stranglehold.

                    STARSCREAM
          It's true! I'm an idiot! I'm an
          idiot!

PANEL 4:

Megatron, Starscream and Soundwave now stand together as one,
as Optimus Prime scrambles to his feet.

                    MEGATRON
          Indeed you are. I'll deal with you
          later, Starscream. Right after we
          finish off the great Optimus Prime!
          Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha!

PANEL 5:

Megatron looks on as Elita-One, Ironhide, Ratchet and Prowl
DASH towards him, firing their various BLASTERS at the
Decepticon.

                    ELITA-ONE
          Not so fast, Megatron! We're not
          done yet!

PAGE FIFTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Soundwave is shot by both Ironhide and Ratchet, while Prowl
and Elita-One continue to fire towards Megatron and
Starscream.

                        ELITA-ONE (CONT'D)
            You didn't think we'd just let you
            get away with this, did you?

                        MEGATRON
            Curse you, Autobots . Now you will
            see the true power of Mega...

PANEL 2:

Megatron is knocked to the ground by a mighty punch,
delivered by Optimus Prime.

                        MEGATRON (CONT'D)
            ... truuuughh!

                        OPTIMUS PRIME
            Leave this place, Megatron. This
            battle is over.

PANEL 3:

Prowl and Elita-One blast Starscream's open Pretender Shell,
FUSING it back into one piece.

                        PROWL
            I really hate these things.

PANEL 4:

Megatron looks up to see Optimus Prime standing over him once
more.

                        MEGATRON
            This isn't over, Prime. It will
            never be over.

PANEL 5:

Optimus Prime, Prowl and Elita-One watch as Megatron and
Soundwave lift off into the air to join the jet-modes of
Skywarp, Thundercracker, MISFIRE and SLUGSLINGER to flee into
the distance.

Starscream remains in robot-mode, carrying his LIMP Pretender
Shell as though it were a sleeping child.

                        MEGATRON (CONT'D)
            Decepticons, retreat!

                        ELITA-ONE
            Well, thank Alpha Trion that's
            over.

                    OPTIMUS PRIME
          Unfortunately, Elita, It's not.

PAGE SIXTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Jazz BLASTS Bludgeon with his PHOTON RIFLE as Bludgeon swings
his Energo sword into Jazz's Pretender Shell.

                    BLUDGEON
          Bah! I tire of this dishonor!

                    JAZZ
          Not so fast, skull-face! We're
          ready for you this time!

PANEL 2:

Jazz PEPPERS Bludgeon with more blasts, causing Bludgeon to
drop to his knees like Willem Dafoe in *Platoon*.

                    BLUDGEON
          Aaaaaagh!

PANEL 3:

Jazz continues to fire blasts into Bludgeon, as his Pretender
Shell drives a punch into Bludgeon's chest, CRACKING his
Pretender Shell down the center.

                    BLUDGEON (CONT'D)
          No!

PANEL 4:

Bludgeon's inner robot falls free of his now-open Pretender
Shell.

                    BLUDGEON (CONT'D)
          No, I cannot be...

PANEL 5:

Jazz's Pretender Shell PUNCHES Bludgeon's inner robot to the
ground.

                    JAZZ'S PRETENDER SHELL
          Nighty-night.

PAGE SEVENTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Bumblebee stands over Stranglehold's inner robot, now lying beaten at the little Autobot's feet.

Behind them, Bumblebee's Pretender Shell is TEARING Stranglehold's Pretender Shell to pieces.

>   BUMBLEBEE
>   How's that medicine taste,
>   Stranglehold? No so easy to pick on
>   the little guy anymore, huh?

PANEL 2:

Thunderwing PUNCHES Grimlock's Pretender Shell in the stomach, hunching it over.

>   THUNDERWING
>   I tire of this nonsense. Now it
>   ends.

PANEL 3:

As Thunderwing KICKS Grimlock's Pretender Shell out of frame, Grimlock TRANSFORMS to T-Rex-mode.

>   GRIMLOCK
>   Yes. Over for you.

PANEL 4:

Grimlock releases a PLUME OF FIRE from his dinosaur jaws, ENGULFING Thunderwing in FLAMES.

>   THUNDERWING
>   Aaaaagh! No!

PANEL 5:

Thunderwing remains ON FIRE, as Grimlock TRANSFORMS back to robot-mode to stand alongside his Pretender Shell.

>   GRIMLOCK
>   Me, Grimlock...

>   GRIMLOCK'S PRETENDER SHELL
>   ... Ready to finish this.

PAGE EIGHTEEN:

PANEL 1:

SPLASH PANEL – Both Grimlock and his Pretender Shell each SLICE THUNDERWING IN HALF with ENERGO SWORDS of their own.

                    THUNDERWING
        Urrrk?

PANEL 2:

Thunderwing's inner robot falls free of his damaged Pretender
Shell.

                    THUNDERWING (CONT'D)
        No... I am... Thunder...

PANEL 3:

Grimlock's Pretender Shell STOMPS Thunderwing's inner robot
into the ground.

                    THUNDERWING (CONT'D)
        ... Wwwumph!

PAGE NINETEEN:

PANEL 1:

WIDE SHOT - Optimus Prime now stands with Jazz, Grimlock,
Bumblebee and their Pretender Shells.

Behind them, Prowl, Ironhide and Elita-One watch on, while
Ratchet kneels down beside the UNCONSCIOUS Bludgeon,
Thunderwing and Stranglehold.

                    BUMBLEBEE
        Prime, we did it!

                    OPTIMUS PRIME
        Indeed you did, Bumblebee. These
        new Pretender Shells have certainly
        made you a force to be reckoned
        with.

                    RATCHET
        Looks like all three of these guys
        are still alive. Just offline. What
        do you want me to do with them,
        Optimus?

                    OPTIMUS PRIME
        We'll deal with them the honorable
        way, Ratchet. But for now,
        Megatron's evil crusade has been
        dealt a serious blow, thanks to our
        three new Pretenders.

PANEL 2:

Ironhide points to the sky to see Megatron and the Decepticons (Soundwave, Skywarp, Thundercracker, Misfire and Slugslinger) are heading their way from the distant sky.

> IRONHIDE
> Uh, speakin' of Megatron. I don't think he's done just yet.

PANEL 3:

EXT. THE SKY - NIGHT

Megatron aims his fusion cannon towards the reader. Soundwave does the same with his CONCUSSION BLASTER.

Behind them, Skywarp and Thundercracker have already opened fire with ENERGY BLASTS from their jet-modes.

> MEGATRON
> Thunderwing!   Bludgeon!
> Stranglehold! Now you will pay for daring to cross Megatron!

PANEL 4:

EXT. FUEL REFINERY, CYBERTRON - NIGHT

WIDE SHOT - Optimus Prime, Elita-One, Prowl, Ratchet, Ironhide, Jazz and Bumblebee (all in their vehicle-modes) RACE AWAY from the INCOMING DECEPTICON FIRE, while Grimlock and the three Pretender Shells FLY over their fellow Autobots.

> OPTIMUS PRIME
> Autobots! Get out of here! Go, go, go!

PANEL 5:

A MASSIVE EXPLOSION fills the panel.

PAGE TWENTY:

PANEL 1:

Optimus Prime and Prowl look on to see that nothing now remains of the fuel refinery but SMOKE and RUBBLE.

Thunderwing, Bludgeon and Stranglehold are GONE.

ATOMIZED.

Far off in the distance sky, the Decepticons have returned to their retreat, disappearing over the HORIZON.

                    PROWL
          Well, that takes care of that.
          Three less problems to deal with.
          At least until Megatron raises his
          bucket head again.

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Optimus Prime.

                    OPTIMUS PRIME
          It would appear so. For now, I
          suggest we regroup at the Moon
          Bases for some much needed rest and
          recuperation.

PANEL 3:

SPLASH PANEL - Optimus Prime stands in the center of frame. Elita-One, Prowl and Ratchet stand to his left.

To his right, stands Ironhide, Jazz, Grimlock and Bumblebee.

Behind them, each of the Pretender Shells RAISE THEIR FISTS in victory.

                    OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)
          I think we've earned it.

                    JAZZ, BUMBLEBLEE, GRIMLOCK AND ALL
                    THREE PRETENDER SHELLS
               (as one)
          Yeah!

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!