



IT'S JUST SO CROWDED HERE.

DON'T WORRY, MY LOVE. EVEN STARScream CAN'T DENY OUR EXPANSION FOREVER.

I WISH I HAD YOUR OPTIMISM.

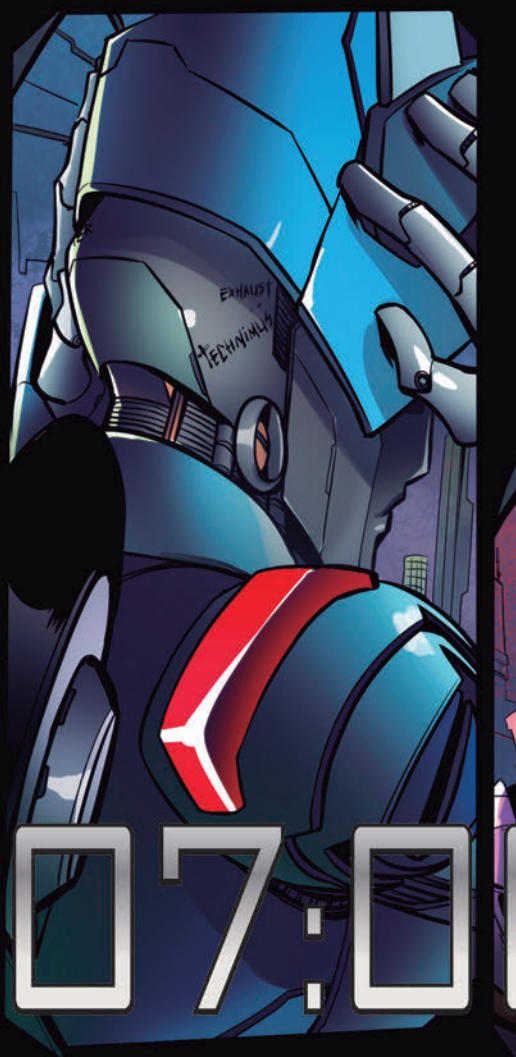


...AT LEAST NAVITAS IS IMPROVING. THE CITY SPEAKERS TELL ME THAT HE'S NOT ONLY THINKING CLEARER, BUT THE ENTIRE CITY IS RUNNING MORE EFFICIENTLY.

ENERGON FILTRATION MAINTENANCE. COMPLETE.

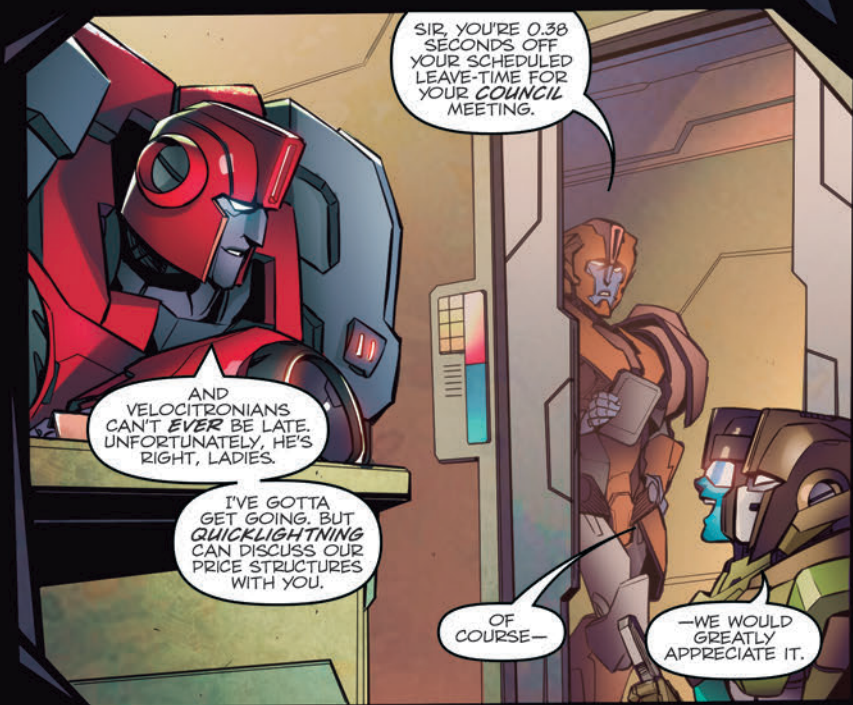
WIND-VOICE = TROUBLED.

...THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER, METROPLEX. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.



EXHAUST TECHNIQUE

07:00



SIR, YOU'RE 0.38 SECONDS OFF YOUR SCHEDULED LEAVE-TIME FOR YOUR COUNCIL MEETING.

AND VELOCITRONIANS CAN'T EVER BE LATE. UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S RIGHT, LADIES.

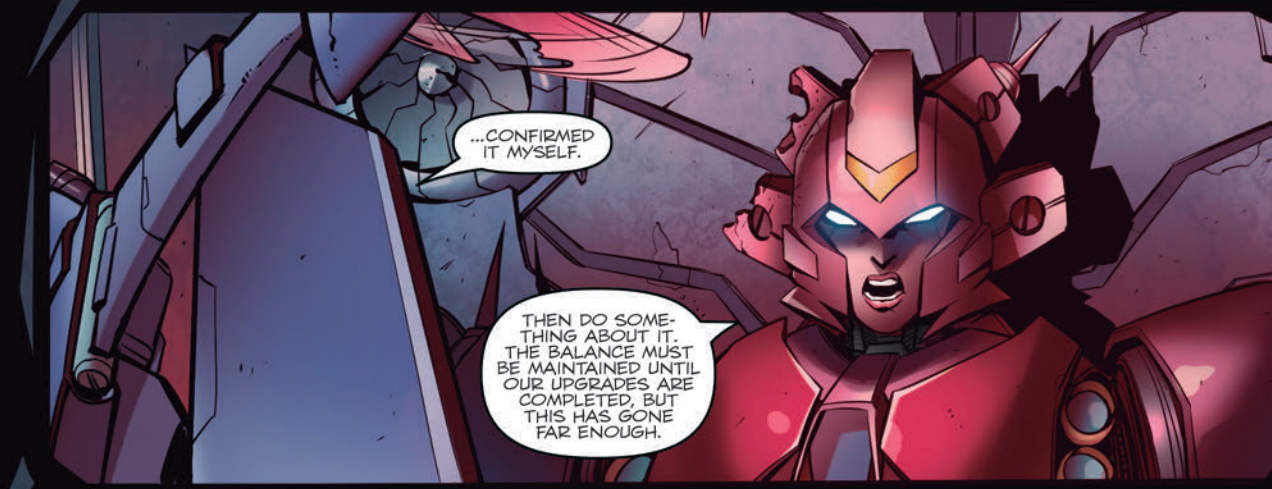
I'VE GOTTA GET GOING, BUT QUICKLIGHTNING CAN DISCUSS OUR PRICE STRUCTURES WITH YOU.

OF COURSE—

—WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT.



BUT MOONRACER'S MY ASSISTANT!



...CONFIRMED IT MYSELF.

THEN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. THE BALANCE MUST BE MAINTAINED UNTIL OUR UPGRADES ARE COMPLETED, BUT THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH.



OPTICS OPEN, BUDDY. GOT A BADGELESS ROBBERY REPORT NOT TWO KLICKS OUT FROM HERE.

DON'T WORRY, FOLKS.

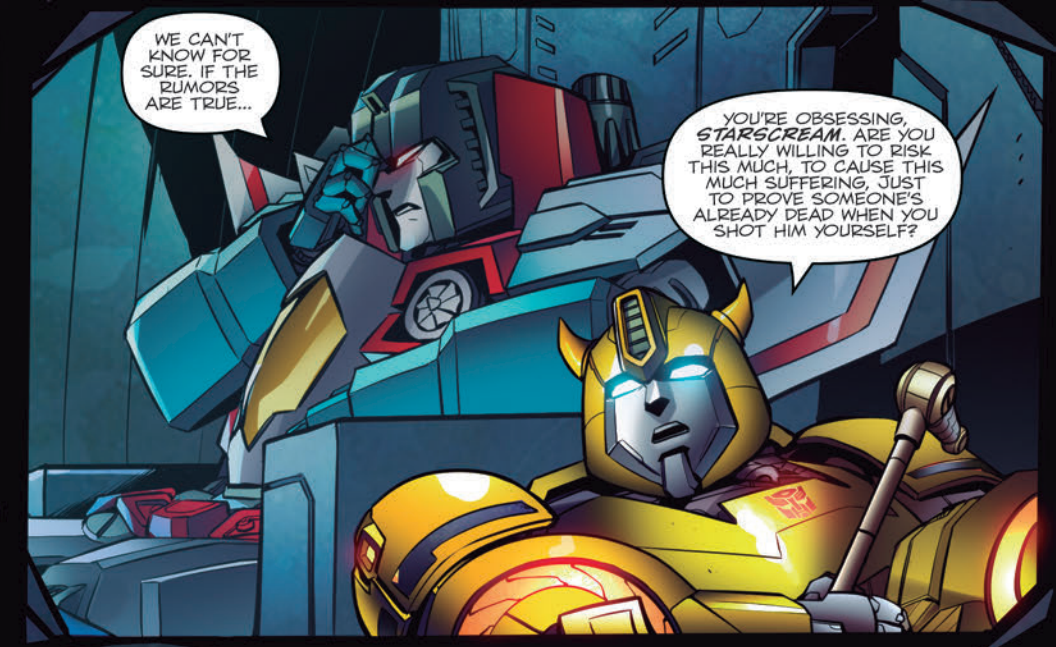
YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS WITH I.H. CYBERTRONIAN SECURITIES.

SO THERE'S NO NEED TO FREAK OUT THE CLIENTS!



...UNTIL THE DAY SHE MIGHT NOT BE.

JUST TRY TO KEEP THAT IN MIND. BE NICE... ER. FOR ME?



WE CAN'T KNOW FOR SURE. IF THE RUMORS ARE TRUE...

YOU'RE OBSESSING, STARScream. ARE YOU REALLY WILLING TO RISK THIS MUCH, TO CAUSE THIS MUCH SUFFERING, JUST TO PROVE SOMEONE'S ALREADY DEAD WHEN YOU SHOT HIM YOURSELF?



THE JUSTICE COMMITTEE TAKES THE FLOOR.



WE CALL IRONHIDE OF CYBERTRON. PLEASE APPROACH.

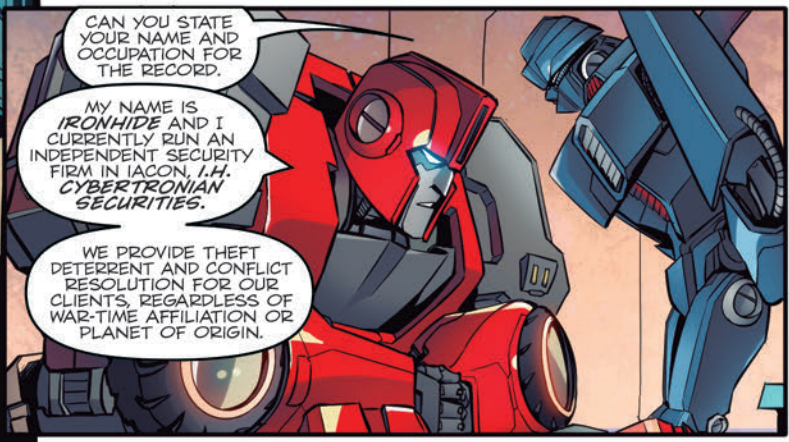
SO NOTED.

THOUGH I HOPE THIS WON'T BE A WASTE OF TIME, OBSIDIAN.

AFTER ALL, INTERNAL CYBERTRONIAN MATTERS ARE EXCLUSIVELY IN MY CONTROL.

I ASSURE YOU, THIS SITUATION FALLS WITHIN MY COMMITTEE'S PURVIEW. ALL WILL BE CLEAR.

**BVK**



CAN YOU STATE YOUR NAME AND OCCUPATION FOR THE RECORD.

MY NAME IS IRONHIDE AND I CURRENTLY RUN AN INDEPENDENT SECURITY FIRM IN IACON, I.H. CYBERTRONIAN SECURITIES.

WE PROVIDE THEFT DETERRENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR OUR CLIENTS, REGARDLESS OF WAR-TIME AFFILIATION OR PLANET OF ORIGIN.



SO YOU RENT OUT THUGS?

NO, SIR. PEOPLE WANT THEIR BUSINESSES TO BE SAFE.

THEY HAVE CONFLICTS WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS AND WANT THEM RESOLVED, WITHOUT THE AUTHORITIES.

WE HELP THEM DO THAT. NOTHING MORE.



AND WHY WOULD SOMEONE NOT WANT TO INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES?

BECAUSE THEY DON'T TRUST THE BADGELESS.



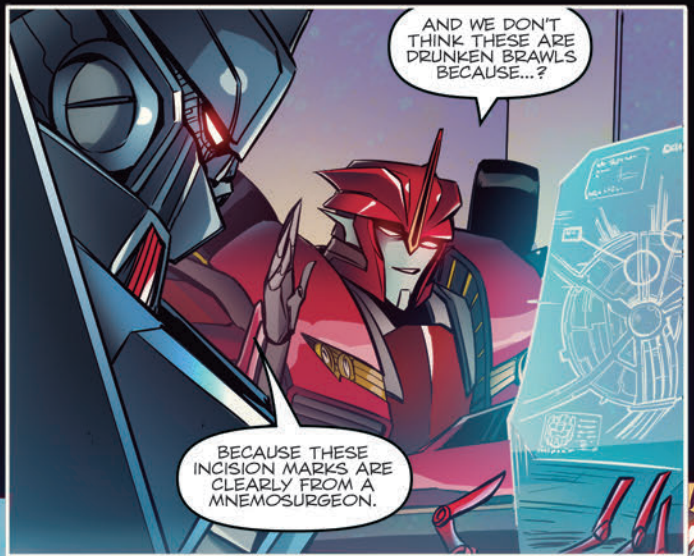
THERE'S NO WAY TO PROVE THAT.

IN FACT, THERE IS.



FIVE DECEPTICONS HAVE BEEN FOUND THIS WEEK ALONE, BEATEN TO A PULP WITH NO MEMORY OF WHO DID IT OR WHY.

THE LAST VICTIM DIED FROM HIS INJURES.



AND WE DON'T THINK THESE ARE DRUNKEN BRAWLS BECAUSE...?

BECAUSE THESE INCISION MARKS ARE CLEARLY FROM A MNEMOSURGEON.

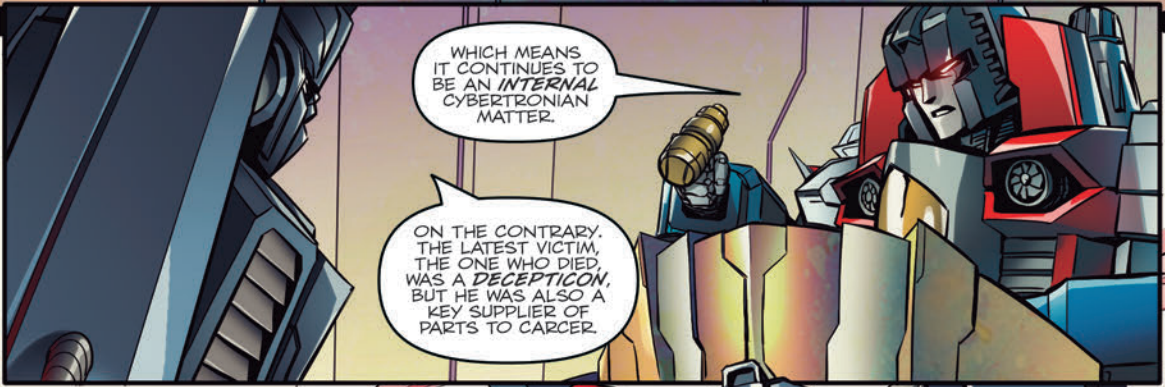


THEY WERE ATTACKED FOR THEIR MEMORIES?

PERHAPS IT'S A KILLER WHO LIKES TO STEAL MEMORIES OR A THIEF LOOKING FOR INFORMATION.

COULD THEY ATTACK OUR PEOPLE AS WELL?

THEY'VE ONLY TARGETED 'CONS SO FAR. THERE'S NO REASON TO THINK THAT'LL CHANGE.



WHICH MEANS IT CONTINUES TO BE AN INTERNAL CYBERTRONIAN MATTER.

ON THE CONTRARY, THE LATEST VICTIM, THE ONE WHO DIED, WAS A DECEPTICON, BUT HE WAS ALSO A KEY SUPPLIER OF PARTS TO CARCER.



HIS DEATH HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED VITAL REPAIR EFFORTS.

ELITA ONE HERSELF HAS INSISTED IT BE INVESTIGATED.

CYBERTRONIAN OR NOT, WE CAN'T JUST STAND BY WHILE PEOPLE'S BRAINS ARE CUT UP, STARScream.