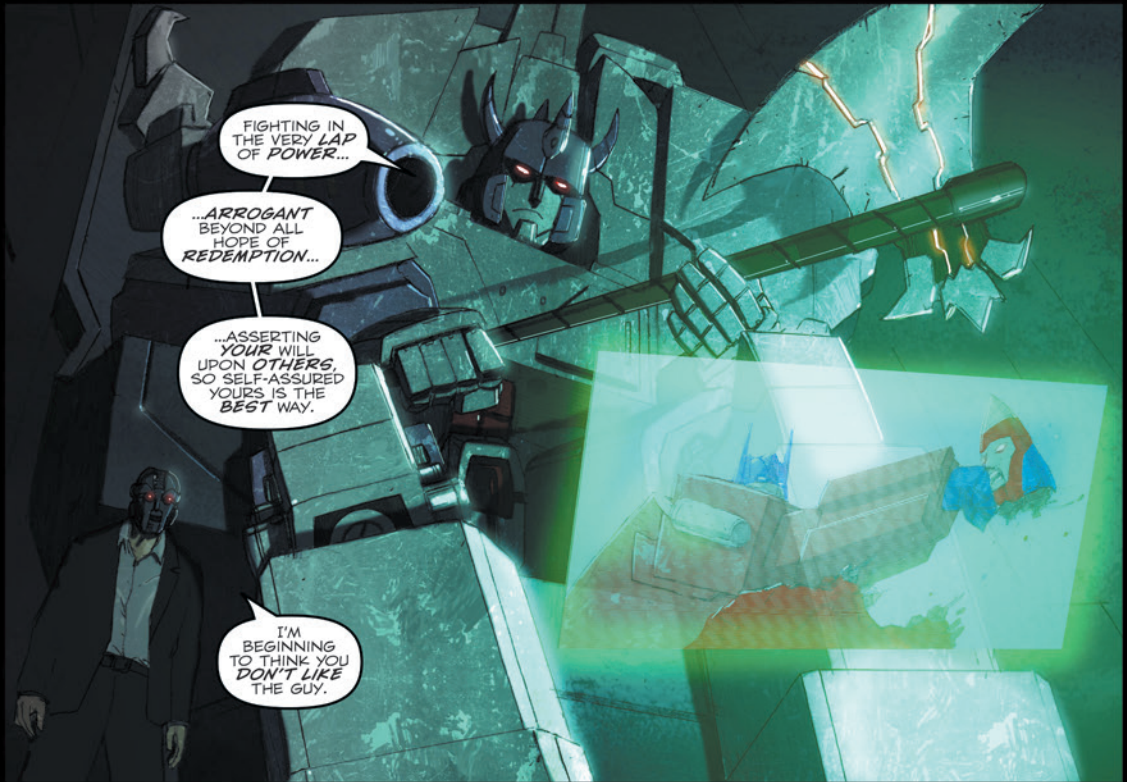


**EARTH. LOCATION UNKNOWN.**



FIGHTING IN THE VERY LAP OF POWER...

...ARROGANT BEYOND ALL HOPE OF REDEMPTION...

...ASSERTING YOUR WILL UPON OTHERS, SO SELF-ASSURED YOURS IS THE BEST WAY.

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU DON'T LIKE THE GUY.



OH, BLACKROCK...

...HOW I FEARED OPTIMUS WAS PRIME IN NAME ONLY.



NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, MY CYBERTRONIAN BROTHER...

...I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO KEEP.



I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER LEAVE.

YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN, SKYWARP??

GALVATRON HASN'T GIVEN YOU A SECOND THOUGHT SINCE HE GOT THE ONYX INTERFACE.



HE IS OUR LEADER, HUMAN.



HEY. LOOK AT ME—

—THIS AIN'T MY HUMAN SIDE.

WE'RE BOTH CYBERTRONIANS...



...SO YOU HELP ME, I CAN HELP YOU.

**CYBERTRON. IACON.**



THEY HATE HIM.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO SOUND SO HAPPY, STARSCREAM.

ARE YOU KIDDING?

I'VE WAITED MY WHOLE LIFE FOR THIS, I'M IN CHARGE...



...AND THE PEOPLE ALL DESPISE OPTIMUS PRIME BECAUSE OF WHAT HE'S DONE.

NOT BECAUSE OF SOMETHING I MADE UP, NOT BECAUSE OF PROPAGANDA...

...BUT BECAUSE OF THE TRUTH.



I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD TELL THE DIFFERENCE.

BUT PRIME'S DOING WHAT HE ALWAYS DID—



—GIVING HIS ALL FOR PEACE.



WELL, HE MUST HAVE TAKEN LESSONS FROM YOU, BUMBLEBEE—

—AND LOOK WHERE THAT GOT YOU.



HE'S HERE, BOSS.

YOU WANT I SHOULD TELL 'IM YER ON YER WAY?



RATTRAP, MY FRIEND.

I HAVE NO REASON TO LEAVE THIS ROOM BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING.

OPTIMUS PRIME IS MERELY A PRIVATE CITIZEN, WHILE I...

...I AM THE CHOSEN ONE.

I RULE CYBERTRON...

"...AND APPEARANCES  
MUST BE KEPT UP."

I CAME  
HERE TO  
ADDRESS  
YOU ALL.

YET, THE...  
SOVEREIGN  
OF CYBERTRON  
DOES NOT SEE  
FIT TO JOIN  
US?

# ALL HAIL OPTIMUS

## PART 3: THE MEDIUM AND THE MESSAGE

HE'S  
A *BUSY*  
GUY.

OPTIMUS...  
YOU *HAVE* TO  
UNDERSTAND.

THE *COUNCIL*  
OF WORLDS  
WORKS WITH  
STARSCREAM...

...NOT  
YOU.

SORRY  
TO KEEP  
EVERYBODY  
WAITING.

HOPE YOU  
DIDN'T START  
WITHOUT ME!



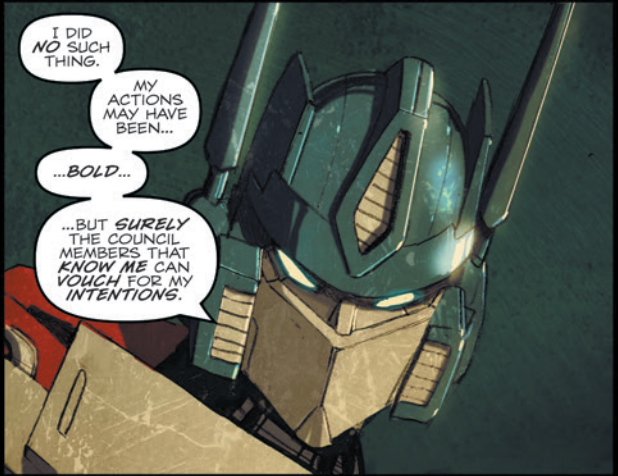
I...  
...**APPRECIATE**  
THE AUDIENCE  
THE COUNCIL HAS  
GRANTED ME.

WE HAVE  
**MUCH** TO  
DISCUSS.

WELL, YOU  
GOT **THAT**  
RIGHT,  
BUCKO...



...HOW ABOUT WE  
START WITH THAT  
**INTERSTELLAR**  
**WAR** YOU STARTED  
ON **EARTH**.



I DID  
**NO** SUCH  
THING.

MY  
ACTIONS  
MAY HAVE  
BEEN...

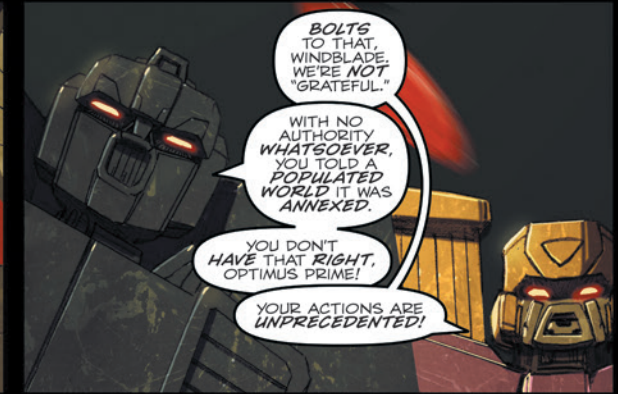
...**BOLD**...

...**BUT SURELY**  
THE COUNCIL  
MEMBERS THAT  
**KNOW ME** CAN  
**VOUCH** FOR MY  
**INTENTIONS**.



I BELIEVE  
YOU DID WHAT  
YOU **THOUGHT**  
WAS **BEST**.  
OPTIMUS - BUT  
**FACTS** ARE  
**FACTS**.

THE COUNCIL  
IS **GRATEFUL**  
FOR YOUR  
APPEARANCE,  
BUT WE NEED AN  
**EXPLANATION**.



**BOLTS**  
TO THAT,  
WINDBLADE.  
WE'RE **NOT**  
"GRATEFUL."

WITH NO  
AUTHORITY  
**WHATSOEVER**,  
YOU TOLD A  
**POPULATED**  
**WORLD** IT WAS  
**ANNEXED**.

YOU DON'T  
HAVE THAT **RIGHT**,  
OPTIMUS PRIME!

YOUR ACTIONS ARE  
**UNPRECEDENTED!**



OH,  
**HARDLY**.



NOVA PRIME.

SENTINEL PRIME.

ZETA PRIME.

MEGATRON.

WHO YOU INVITED INTO YOUR LITTLE CLUB OF... *WHAT* DO YOU CALL YOURSELVES?

AUTOBOTS.

THAT'S IT. THANK YOU, OPTIMUS PRIME.



YOU SEE, MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL...

...THE NAME OF PRIME HAS BEEN CORRUPTED ON CYBERTRON.



I KNOW TO YOUR AURAL RECEPTORS IT SOUNDS NOBLE...



...BUT THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO TOOK POWER...



...NOT PEOPLE WHO WERE CHOSEN.

CHOSEN AS YOU WERE, BY THE CITIZENS OF YOUR WORLDS.

CHOSEN AS I WAS BY METROTITAN, THE ANCIENT TITAN WHO ONCE APPEA—

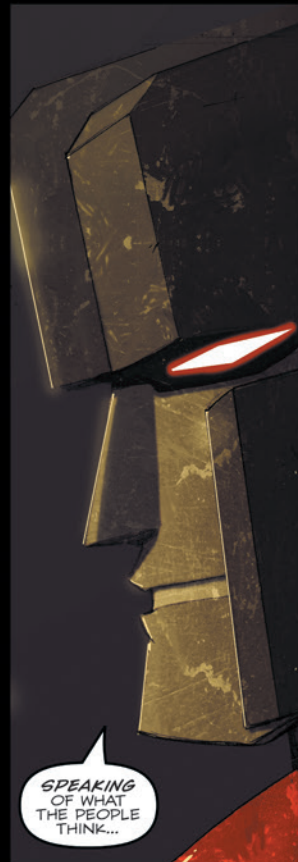
**CHANK**



YOU MANIPULATE WITH WORDS, STARScream.

LET THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND OUR HISTORY.

LET THEM THINK WHAT THEY WILL, WITHOUT YOUR WEB OF DECEIT.



SPEAKING OF WHAT THE PEOPLE THINK...