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JOHN BARBER • LIVIO RAMONDELLI
COMBINER WARS
OPENING SALVO
TRANSFORMERS

TRANSFORMERS

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PREVIOUSLY
OPTIMUS PRIME HAS RETURNED TO POST-WAR CYBERTRON...
...WHERE THE PEACE IS STRAINED, AS FORMER DECEPTICONS ARE FORCED TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF CIVILIZATION.
WINDBLADE, FROM THE LOST COLONY OF CAMINUS, STANDS IN A PRECARIOUS PEACE WITH THE PLANET'S LEADER...
...STARSCREAM, BELIEVED BY SOME TO BE THE "CHOSEN ONE."
WINDBLADE'S BODYGUARD, CHROMIA, ATTEMPTS TO ACTIVATE A SPACE-BRIDGE TO CAMINUS, INADVERTENTLY KILLING SEVERAL CYBERTRONIANS.
THIS REMAINS A SECRET SHARED BY WINDBLADE, CHROMIA, AND STARSCREAM.
MEANWHILE, ON EARTH, THE AUTOBOT CALLED PROWL FORMS THE HEAD OF DEVASTATOR, A COMBINER—A GIANT FORMED FROM MULTIPLE CYBERTRONIANS.
DEVASTATOR—THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL COMBINER SINCE ANCIENT DAYS—LOCATES THE LEGENDARY ENIGMA OF COMBINATION...
...THE KEY TO GESTALT TECHNOLOGY.
AFTER A PITCHED BATTLE, THE ENIGMA IS STOLEN BY A ZEALOT CALLED SCOOP, WHO FLIES IT BACK TO CYBERTRON...

ROLL CALL

OPTIMUS PRIME
Former leader

WINDBLADE
CitySpeaker

STARSCREAM
Cybertronian Ruler

RATTRAP
His Lackey

SCOOP
Ex?Autobot

IRONHIDE
Old Veteran

CHROMIA
Brash Warrior

WHEELJACK
Conflicted Scientist

SWINDLE
Former Decepticon

MOTORMASTER
Stunticon Leader

IT WAS HOT, THE NIGHT THE NEW WAR STARTED.
PEOPLE AROUND THE GALAXY DON'T THINK ABOUT THE WEATHER ON CYBERTRON...
...BUT IT GETS HOT, IT GETS COLD, JUST LIKE MOST ANYWHERE.
THE DIFFERENCE HERE IS WE JUST ENDED A FOUR-MILLION-YEAR-LONG WAR.
SEE, THE AUTOBOTS AND THE DECEPTICONS, THEY...
YOU KNOW WHAT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
OUR WAR ENDED AND THIS GUY—STARSCREAM—TOOK CONTROL OF THE PLANET.
HE PUT AN END TO THAT FACTION NONSENSE.
EVERYBODY'S JUST A CYBERTRONIAN NOW.
OR SO THEY SAY.
POWER'S WHAT STARSCREAM ALWAYS WANTED.
BUT HERE'S THE THING ABOUT POWER: ONCE YOU HAVE IT...

...YOU ALWAYS GOTTA FIGHT TO KEEP IT.
THIS NONSENSE ASIDE, WINDBLADE...
...I APPRECIATE YOU JOINING ME THIS EVENING.
ANY—
—NNG—
—ANY TIME, SIR.
"OPTIMUS" IS JUST FINE.

WE TOLD YOU—
AUTOBOTS STAY AWAY!

RIGHT. I KNOW. I'M—
YEARGH!
—A LITTLE DISTRACTED.
GROSS.

ACK!
DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO YOU, S— OPTIMUS?

WELL...
...YES, BUT CYBERTRON IS IN A TRANSITION PERIOD.
AS I MAY HAVE MENTIONED—

—I FIND IT FRUSTRATING WHEN PEOPLE CAN'T PUT OLD ANIMOSITIES BEHIND THEM!
KRONCH!