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3
COVER A
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A HASBRO COMIC BOOK EVENT

FIRST STRIKE



PAOLO
D'AVANZO
M. LARSEN
CONWELL

A HASBRO COMIC BOOK EVENT

FIRST STRIKE

WRITTEN BY:
MAIRGHEAD SCOTT & DAVID A. RODRIGUEZ

ART BY:
MAX DUNBAR

COLORS BY:
ANDER ZARATE

LETTERS BY:
TOM B. LONG

ASSISTANT EDITOR: **DAVID MARIOTTE** EDITOR: **DAVID HEDGECOCK** PUBLISHER: **TED ADAMS**



COVER A
Artwork by: **FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II**
Colors by: **JEREMY COLWELL**



COVER B
Artwork by: **MAX DUNBAR**
Colors by: **ANDER ZARATE**



COVER C
Artwork by: **ALEX RONALD**



COVER D
Artwork by: **ROB DUENAS**



RETAILER INCENTIVE COVER A
Artwork by: **JAY FOSGITT**



RETAILER INCENTIVE COVER B
Artwork by: **DAVIDE FABBRI**
Colors by: **MONICA KUBINA**



RETAILER INCENTIVE COVER C
Artwork by: **LEONARDO MANGO**



RETAILER INCENTIVE COVER D
Artwork by: **WHILCE PORTACIO**
Colors by: **THOMAS DEER**

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CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? WE'RE STUCK GUARDING AN EMPTY CASTLE WHILE LORD DESTRO IS FIGHTING TO LIBERATE EARTH. I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO TAKE A SHOT AT THOSE FILTHY ROBOTS.

YEAH, WELL, I'LL TAKE GUARD DUTY ON *THIS* PLANET OVER GOING TO WAR IN OUTER SPACE ANY DAY.

WE'RE AN OCCUPIED WORLD! WE LIVE UNDER OPTIMUS PRIME'S TYRANNICAL RULE. WILL YOU TAKE THAT ANY DAY, TOO?

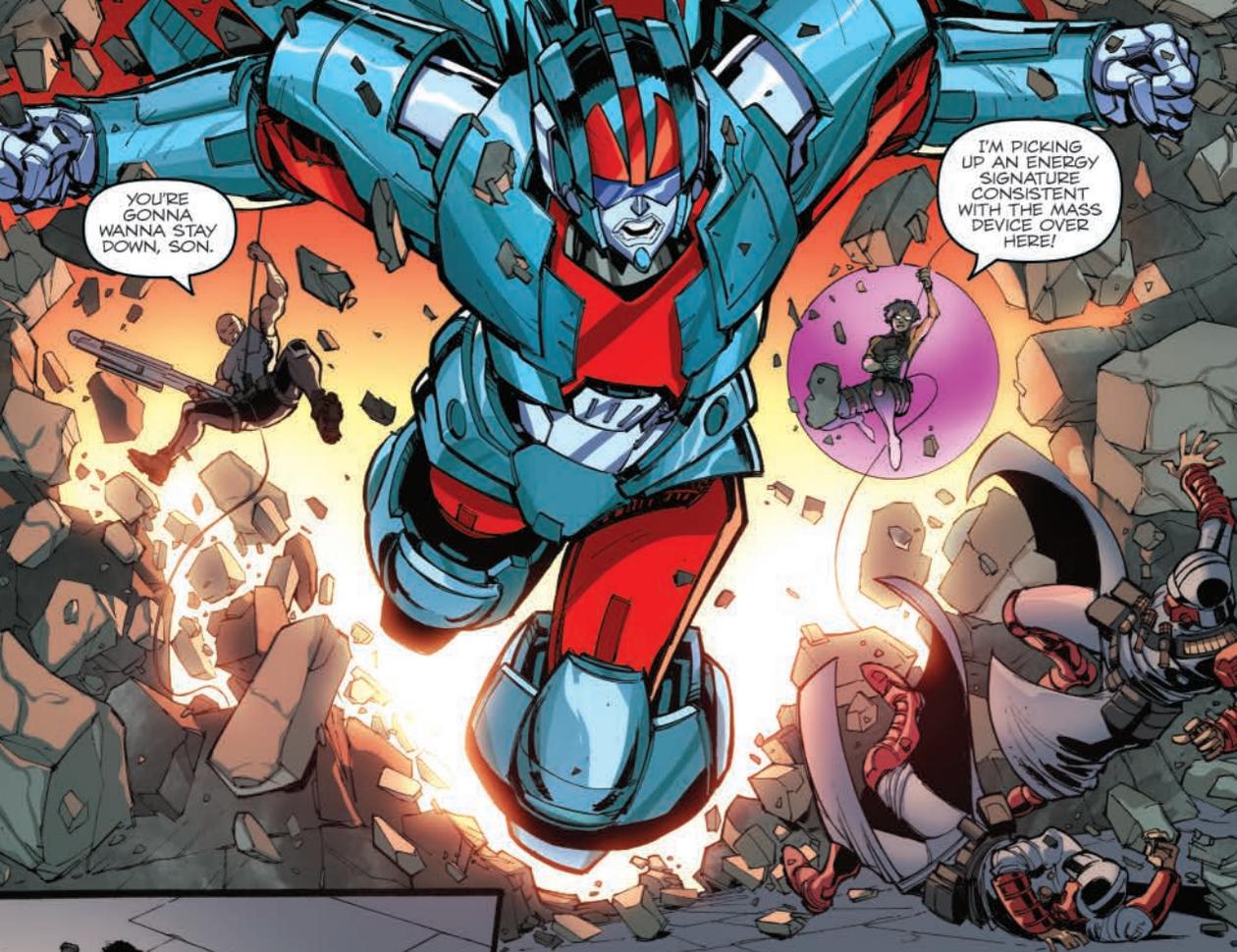
CASTLE DESTRO.



LOOK, I DIDN'T SIGN UP JUST FOR THE PAYCHECK. THIS IS A WAR I BELIEVE IN, BUT HAVE YOU SEEN THOSE THINGS?

I'LL DO MY PART DOWN HERE AND BE GRATEFUL FOR IT. I DON'T NEED TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF AN ALIEN ROBOT.





YOU'RE GONNA WANNA STAY DOWN, SON.

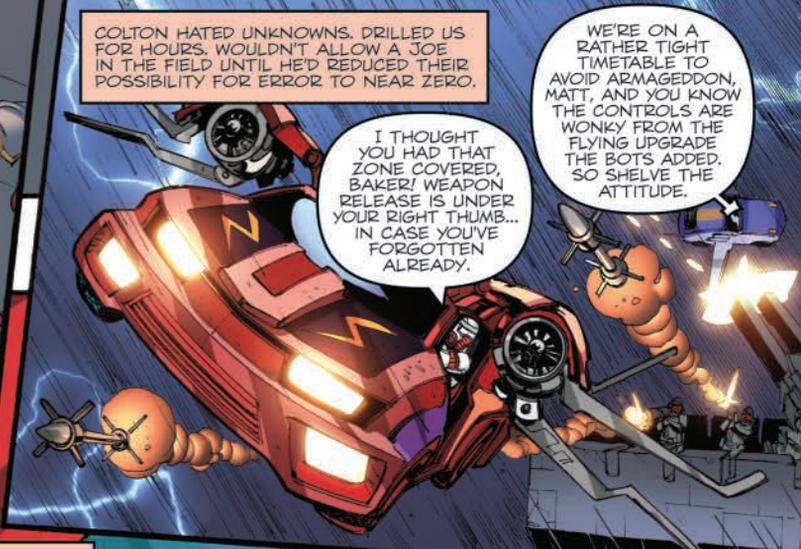
I'M PICKING UP AN ENERGY SIGNATURE CONSISTENT WITH THE MASS DEVICE OVER HERE!



THEN HUSTLE! MATT AND GLORIA CAN'T KEEP THEM TIED UP FOREVER.

COLTON HATED UNKNOWN. DRILLED US FOR HOURS. WOULDN'T ALLOW A JOE IN THE FIELD UNTIL HE'D REDUCED THEIR POSSIBILITY FOR ERROR TO NEAR ZERO.

WE'RE ON A RATHER TIGHT TIMETABLE TO AVOID ARMAGEDDON, MATT, AND YOU KNOW THE CONTROLS ARE WONKY FROM THE FLYING UPGRADE THE BOTS ADDED. SO SHELVE THE ATTITUDE.



I THOUGHT YOU HAD THAT ZONE COVERED, BAKER! WEAPON RELEASE IS UNDER YOUR RIGHT THUMB... IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ALREADY.

HE RESISTED WORKING WITH ANY OTHER DEPARTMENT, ADDING ONE VARIABLE, EVEN A WELL-MEANING ONE, CAN MAKE THINGS UNRAVEL.



HEY!
SAME TEAM, STORMCLASH!

OH! APOLOGIZES, DOCTOR, I'M USED TO LARGER TEAMMATES.

I ALWAYS FOUND IT A LITTLE SHORTSIGHTED, RIGIDITY AND ROUTINE BRING COMFORT, BUT WAR ISN'T RIGID. ALLIES BRING SURPRISES FOR BOTH SIDES.

YOU GO HIGH, SKYBURST. WE'LL HANDLE THE ONES DOWN HERE.

GREAT! 'CAUSE THE OTHER WAY SEEMS LIKE A TERRIBLE IDEA.



YOU JUST HAVE TO LEARN TO ADAPT.

ALMOST THERE. LET'S HOPE THE OTHER TEAMS MADE IT SAFELY TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT.

THE TWINS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE TEAMS HAVE ALREADY REACHED THE LAB AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DISPATCHING THE LAST GRENADIERS.

MATTHEW AND GLORIA HAVE NEUTRALIZED THE EXTERIOR FORCES AND ARE EN ROUTE.



SO, YOU'VE GOT SUPER-HEARING? MUST BE NICE.

I PREFER TO THINK OF EVERYONE ELSE AS PROFOUNDLY DEAF.





HEY, BOSS!
YOU'RE RIGHT
ON TIME.



I'D SAY
FASHIONABLY
LATE, BUT THAT
ASSUMES...

...ANY OF YOU
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT FASHION.

DID YOU
REALLY TRAVEL
A FEW DOZEN
LIGHT-YEARS AND
SETTLE ON EARTH
JUST TO CRITICIZE
OUR CLOTHING?



NOT
ENTIRELY.
WE ALSO...

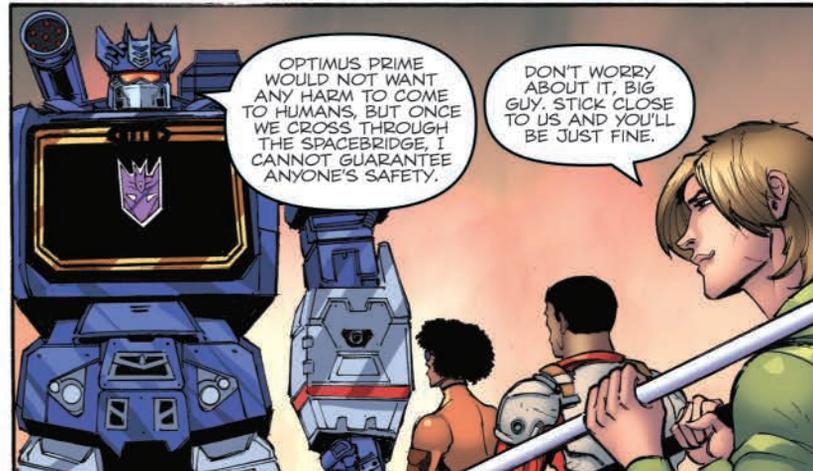
...WANTED
TO MAKE YOU
FEEL *REALLY*
TECHNOLOGI-
CALLY INFERIOR.
DONE!

ON BOTH
COUNTS.



READY TO HEAD
TO CYBERTRON...

...WHEN YOU ARE,
SOUNDWAVE.



OPTIMUS PRIME
WOULD NOT WANT
ANY HARM TO COME
TO HUMANS, BUT ONCE
WE CROSS THROUGH
THE SPACEBRIDGE, I
CANNOT GUARANTEE
ANYONE'S SAFETY.

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT, BIG
GUY, STICK CLOSE
TO US AND YOU'LL
BE JUST FINE.



I THINK, PERHAPS, YOU'VE MISHEARD ME, WHICH IS NOT SURPRISING.

NO, SHE'S JUST A SMART-ASS, BUT YOU'RE BOTH RIGHT. WE DIDN'T COME THIS FAR TO STOP NOW.



HOWEVER, WE CAN'T IGNORE HOW *INSANELY* DANGEROUS THIS ALL IS.

QUICK KICK! DOC! I NEED YOU TO STAY EARTH-SIDE. IF WE GET VAPORIZED, YOU TWO GET TO TELL EVERYONE WHAT'S HAPPENING AND TRY TO COME UP WITH A PLAN B.

REALLY? US?



YEAH.

DOC KNOWS AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE SCIENCE HERE AND WHATEVER THEY HAVE GOING UP AGAINST THE CYBERTRONIANS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN PUNCH.



EVERYONE ELSE... WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME TEAM. SO CIRCLE UP, KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN...



...AND YO JOE!!