

IDW
ISSUE

1

COVER A
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A HASBRO COMIC BOOK EVENT

FIRST STRIKE

OPTIMUS PRIME



A HASBRO COMIC BOOK EVENT

FIRST STRIKE

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EXCLUSIVE COVER

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MY OPINION OF EARTH HAS CHANGED OVER TIME. OF COURSE IT HAS.

IF I DIDN'T TAKE ON NEW INFORMATION AND RECONSIDER, RECONTEXTUALIZE, I'D BE FOOLISH.

I WOULDN'T BE A LEADER.

OPTIMUS PRIME.
AUTOBOT LEADER.



I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE CYBERTRONIANS THE SAME TIME EVERYBODY ELSE DID. THE INVASION.

SO MANY PEOPLE DIED... AND HUMANITY'S PLACE IN THE UNIVERSAL PECKING ORDER WAS MADE APPARENT.

I ENLISTED THE NEXT DAY.

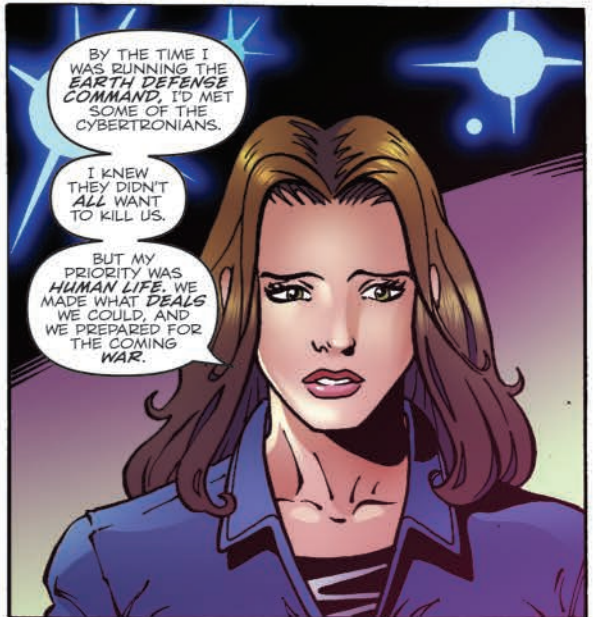
MARISSA FAIREBORN.
EARTH'S REPRESENTATIVE.



MY PEOPLE, THE AUTOBOTS, FOLLOWED THE DECEPTICONS TO EARTH. OUR WAR HAD GONE ON FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS.

I TRIED TO PREVENT THIS CONFLICT FROM CONSUMING ANOTHER WORLD.

CLEARLY I FAILED.



BY THE TIME I WAS RUNNING THE EARTH DEFENSE COMMAND, I'D MET SOME OF THE CYBERTRONIANS.

I KNEW THEY DIDN'T ALL WANT TO KILL US.

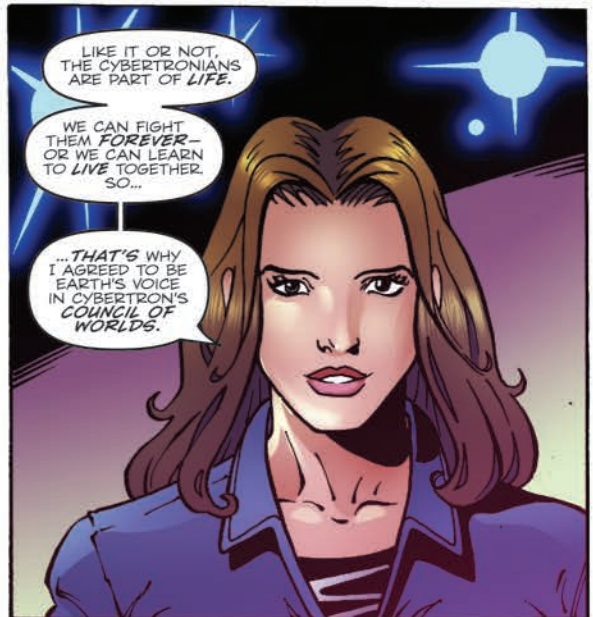
BUT MY PRIORITY WAS HUMAN LIFE. WE MADE WHAT DEALS WE COULD, AND WE PREPARED FOR THE COMING WAR.



THE HUMANS MISTRUST US, FOR VALID REASONS. WHEN I RETURNED, MY GOAL WAS STILL TO PROTECT EARTH.

BUT I HAVE COME TO REALIZE, OUR JOB IS NOT TO SHELTER THE HUMANS, BUT TO BE THEIR PARTNER.

THE FUTURE IS EARTH AND CYBERTRON, WORKING TOGETHER. ALL COLONIES DESERVE TO BE EQUAL—ALL SHALL BE ONE.



LIKE IT OR NOT, THE CYBERTRONIANS ARE PART OF LIFE.

WE CAN FIGHT THEM FOREVER—OR WE CAN LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER. SO...

...THAT'S WHY I AGREED TO BE EARTH'S VOICE IN CYBERTRON'S COUNCIL OF WORLDS.

CYBERTRON TODAY.

I'M SORRY, SIR... I JUST... I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING MORE THAN I DID YESTERDAY.

WELL, WE CAN TRY AGAIN, REGARDLESS.

THERE'S NO HARM IN THAT, IS THERE?

CENTURION/MIKE POWER.
CYBERTRONIAN/HUMAN HYBRID.

GARRISON BLACKROCK.
CYBERTRONIAN CEO.

UNIFICATION DAY: DAWN

I'M—I'M NOT REALLY SURE, TO BE HONEST.

I'VE GOT A LOT RATTLING AROUND UP HERE.

WHO DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE NOW?

MICHAEL POWER OR CENTURION?

BOTH. NEITHER. I DON'T KNOW.

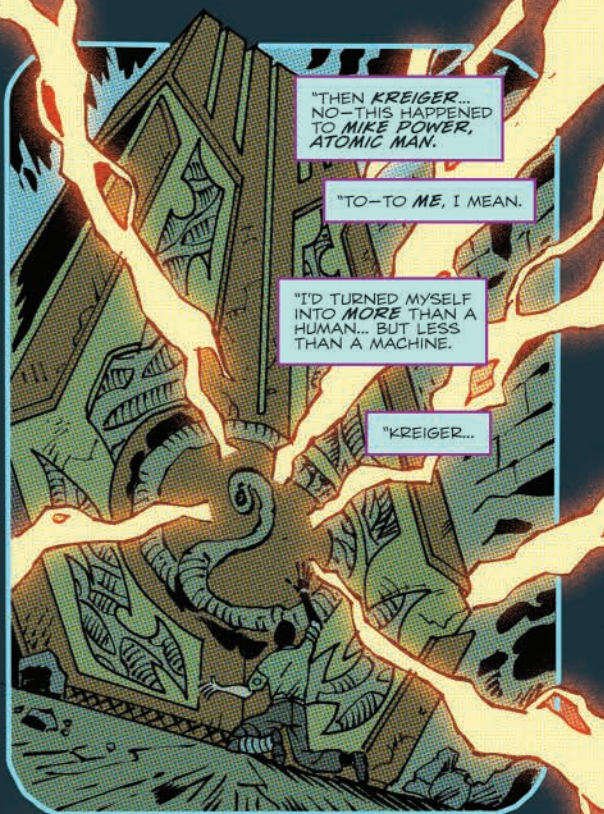
JUST TELL HIM WHAT YOU REMEMBER, PAL.

YEAH. YES...



"...IT WAS... LONG AGO. MY STARSHIP WAS CARRYING THE TALISMAN.

"IT CRASHED. THERE WAS A MAN—A CYBERTRONIAN—WITH ONE EYE, AND I WAS... I THOUGHT I WAS SOMEBODY ELSE.



"THEN KREIGER... NO—THIS HAPPENED TO MIKE POWER, ATOMIC MAN.

"TO—TO ME, I MEAN.

"I'D TURNED MYSELF INTO MORE THAN A HUMAN... BUT LESS THAN A MACHINE.

"KREIGER...



"...I REMEMBER KREIGER HURTING ME.

"BOTH OF ME.

"AND I REMEMBER EACH OF ME DYING... AND THEN BECOMING..."



"...ME.

"I'M SORRY.



"YOU'RE HANDLING IT WELL, CENTURION.

"YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH AN ORDEAL ENOUGH FOR SEVERAL LIFETIMES.



SO HAS EVERYBODY ELSE.

I HOPE YOU GET A CHANCE TO SEE MORE OF CYBERTRON SOON. THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME IN YOUR HOMELAND...

IF YOU DON'T COUNT GROWING UP IN PAWTUCKET.



SOMETIMES I THINK I REMEMBER THE SUN, SHINING BLACK OVERHEAD.

BUT NOW... THE SUN JUST LOOKS LIKE THE SUN.



I HAVE TOO MANY ARMS AND LEGS AND...

I TALKED YOU DOWN FROM THE EDGE, PAL... THAT MAKES YOU MY RESPONSIBILITY.

I'M NOT LEAVING YOU BEHIND.



I APOLOGIZE, BUT MY PRESENCE IS REQUIRED IN THE GRAND COURTYARD.

THE EARTH DELEGATE IS DUE TO ARRIVE.



TELL FAIREBORN I SAID HI. MAYDAY TOO, IF YOU SEE HER. I HEARD SHE'S ON ASSIGNMENT HERE.

I WILL. I'LL CHECK IN ON YOU TOMORROW, CENTURION. AND BLACKROCK...



...I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE MADE SOME FRIENDS.

