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A HASBRO COMIC BOOK EVENT

# FIRST STRIKE



FREDDIE E.  
THAYER  
WILLIAMS II  
Colwell

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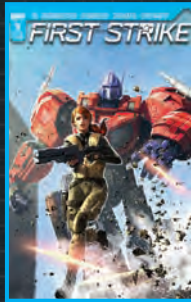
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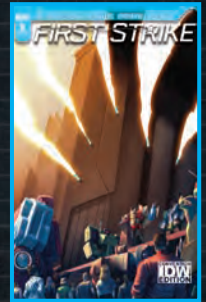
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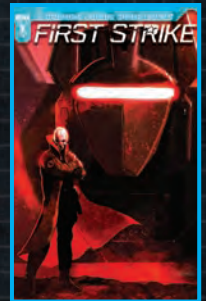
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I HEREBY ANNEX EARTH INTO THE CYBERTRONIAN COUNCIL OF WORLDS.



NOW AND FOREVER WE STAND UNITED AGAINST TYRANNY.



WITH THOSE TWO SENTENCES, THE ALIEN KNOWN AS OPTIMUS PRIME SET EVENTS IN MOTION THAT HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD FOREVER.



SOME WELCOME HIM AS EARTH'S SAVIOR. OTHERS DENOUNCE HIM AS A TYRANT.

EITHER WAY, EARTH HAS CHOSEN TO JOIN THE COUNCIL OF WORLDS, BUT THE QUESTION REMAINS—WHO WILL REPRESENT US?



NOW, AFTER MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE DAY WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR HAS FINALLY ARRIVED.

FORMER E.D.C.\* CHIEF MARISSA FAIREBORN WILL BE SWORN IN AS EARTH'S FIRST INTERGALACTIC AMBASSADOR.



\*E.D.C. = EARTH DEFENSE COMMAND - ED.

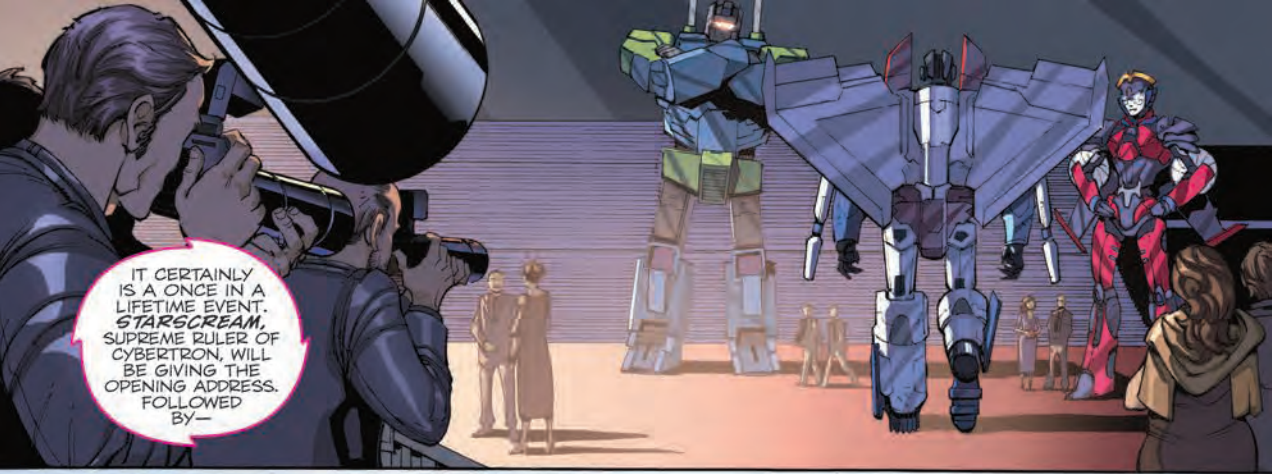


AND WE'LL BE BRINGING YOU MINUTE-TO-MINUTE COVERAGE.

I'M ARUNA SINGH AND YOU'RE WATCHING **HASHTAG**, YOUR SOURCE FOR CYBERTRONIAN NEWS.

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, WE'RE BROADCASTING **LIVE** FROM THE **CYBERTRONIAN CAPITOL, IACON!**





IT CERTAINLY IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENT. **STARSCREAM**, SUPREME RULER OF CYBERTRON, WILL BE GIVING THE OPENING ADDRESS. FOLLOWED BY—



OH! HERE COMES **OPTIMUS!**

**ARCEE**  
AUTOBOT  
WARRIOR.

**OPTIMUS PRIME**  
AUTOBOT LEADER.

HE'S FLANKED BY NOTED WARRIOR **ARCEE** AND **PYRA MAGNA**, A PROMINENT CAMIEN CYBERTRONIAN AND TRUSTED ADVISOR.

**PYRA MAGNA**  
TORCHBEARER.



SPEAKING OF ADVISING, I'M TOLD MY CO-HOST, **CIRCUIT** OF THE IACON COMMUNICATION SERVICE, HAS JUST CAUGHT UP TO **MARISSA**.



THANKS, **ARUNA**.

**MARISSA**, FOLLOWING HUMAN CUSTOM, CAN I FIRST ASK, "WHO ARE YOU WEARING?"

THANK YOU, **CIRCUIT**. I'M ACTUALLY WEARING A BARBER ORIGINAL.

AND HOW EXACTLY DID YOU KILL THEM BEFORE YOU PUT THEM ON?



UH, I THINK THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING—

**BOO!** SHOW US THE CROWD AGAIN!

LEMURIA. CURRENT JOE HEADQUARTERS, MONITOR WOMB.  
1000 HOURS.



G.I. JOE  
STUCK ON EARTH-  
PRIMARY OPS TEAM.

SCARLETT  
TEAM LEADER.



DOC  
MEDIC.

QUICK KICK  
HAND-TO-HAND EXPERT.

LADY JAYE  
COVERT OPERATIONS.

ROADBLOCK  
FIELD COMMANDER.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE FUN OF THE GUYS ON INTERGALACTIC CROWD CONTROL IF WE CAN'T SEE THE CROWDS?

FORGET CROWD CONTROL, JAYE. WHO DRESSED THESE PEOPLE? IT'S A RED CARPET DISASTER UP THERE.



HARSH! SHE LOOKS GREAT.

NOT MARISSA! I MEANT FLINT. LOOK AT THOSE CUFFS. HE'S LIKE SPACE-PROM... IN THE '70S!

NOW CHECK OUT STARSCREAM. HE MAY BE AN AUTOCRATIC MANIAC, BUT THAT NEW DESIGN IS SLEEK WITH A CAPITAL "S."



I READ THEY'VE BEEN PUMPING BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE INTO IACON FOR WEEKS. THEIR CITY-PERSON ERECTED SOME KIND OF FORCE FIELD TO CONTAIN IT.

"CITY-PERSON"? HE IS NOT ONE OF YOUR EARTH HOBOS. HE'S A TITAN.



EASY, SKYWARP. SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANY OFFENSE.

I THINK OFFENSE WOULD REQUIRE MORE REGARD. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON A YELLOW ALERT, NOT WATCHING THIS PAP.

BESIDES, IF ANYONE IS "WINNING" THIS EVENT, IT'S PYRA MAGNA. EVERYONE KNOWS CAMIENS ARE BY FAR THE MOST FASHIONABLE 'BOTS AROUND.

SKYWARP  
JET. AND JERK.

ALL RIGHT, *CAN* IT! JUST BECAUSE WE'RE NOT ON SITE DOESN'T MEAN WE GET TO SLACK OFF. GET YOUR EYES ON YOUR TARGETS.

ONE MORE COMMENT ABOUT SOMEONE'S OUTFIT AND THEY GET A MONTH OF K.P. WITH SHIPWRECK.



THAT'S A PRETTY BIG STICK TO BE SWINGING OVER SOME NERVOUS CHATTER.

I GAVE EVERYONE AN ASSIGNMENT AND I NEED IT FOLLOWED. WITH FLINT'S TEAM AND OPTIMUS' PEOPLE ON CYBERTRON, EARTH IS **VULNERABLE**. SOMETHING GOES SIDWAYS, WE NEED TO BE THERE **ASAP**.

NO ONE HERE THINKS OTHERWISE, SO, AT THE RISK OF SHIPWRECK'S COOKING, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL ME YOUR **ACTUAL** PROBLEM?



JOINING THE COUNCIL IS PROBABLY A GOOD THING FOR EARTH. I SUSPECT OPTIMUS ONLY HAS THE BEST INTENTIONS.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT "GOOD INTENTIONS." CYBERTRON'S DRAGGED US INTO TWO DIFFERENT WARS. **TWO-AND-A-HALF** DEPENDING ON HOW YOU COUNT IT.



AND WE **BARELY** HELD OUR OWN IN ANY OF THEM. IT JUST SEEMS LIKE HUMANITY'S OUT OF ITS WEIGHT CLASS... IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD.

FOR NOW. BUT YOU GOTTA REMEMBER, WE **STARTED** OUT OF OUR WEIGHT CLASS, GUYS WITH STICKS FIGHTING MASTODONS.

A BUNCH OF MILITARY GUYS WITH WEIRDO SKILL-SETS AGAINST THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST TERRORISTS.

THAT'S RIGHT. SO IF WE'RE SWAPPIN' PLATITUDES, HERE'S MINE: **CHANGE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT.**



HEY, LOOK AT THAT! I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR FACE STILL DID THAT.

YOU KNOW, YOU COULD OFFER ME SOME.

WE'LL SEE HOW THE DAY GOES, BUT IF YOU CAN SPARE A MINUTE FROM SCANNING NORWAY, CYBERTRON'S F-15-IN-CHIEFS ABOUT TO SPEAK.