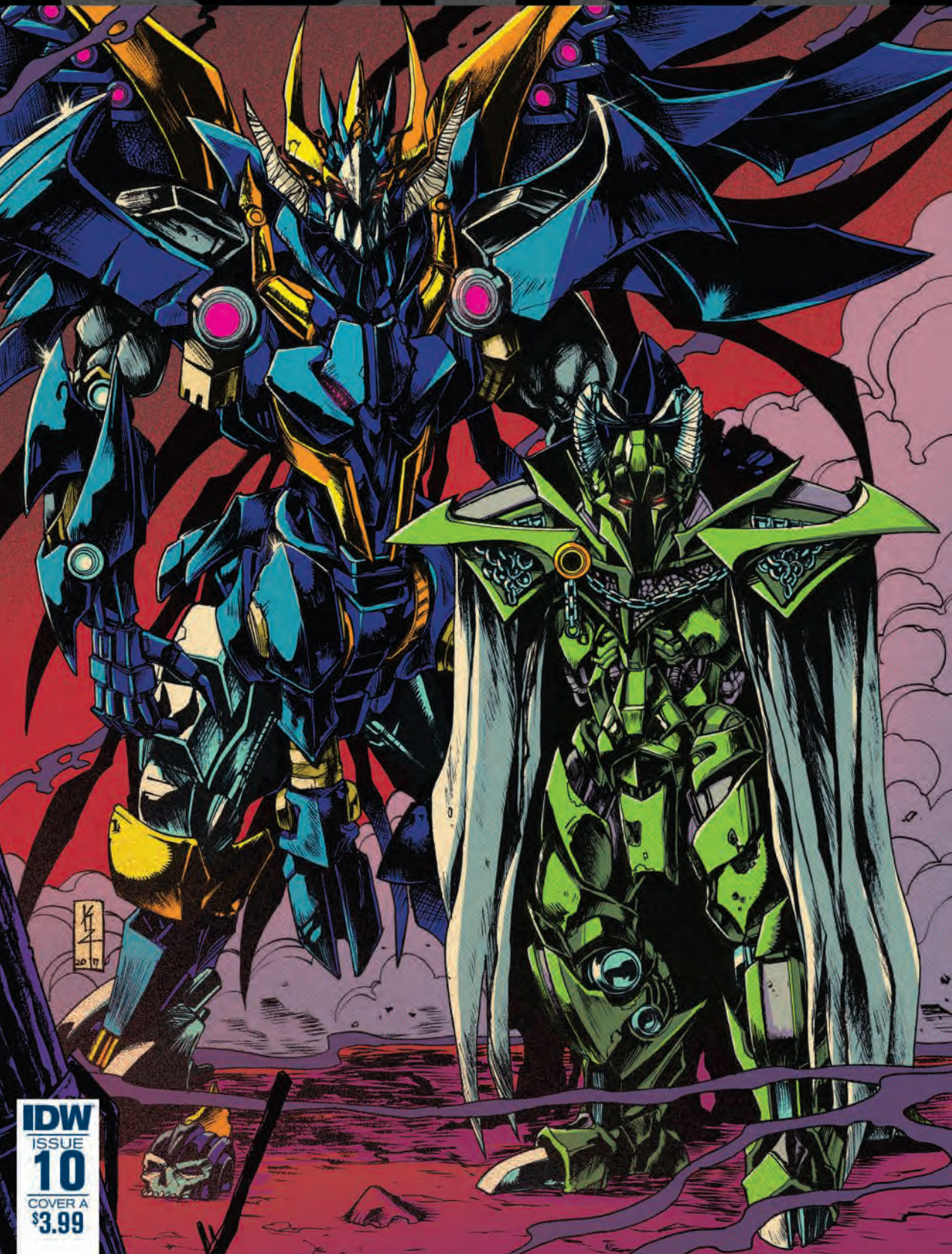


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OPTIMUS PRIME



IDW
ISSUE
10
COVER A
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OPTIMUS PRIME



Written by: **JOHN BARBER**

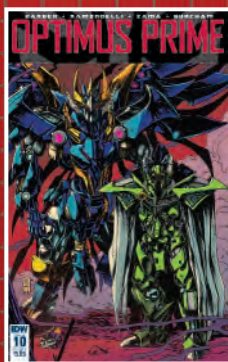
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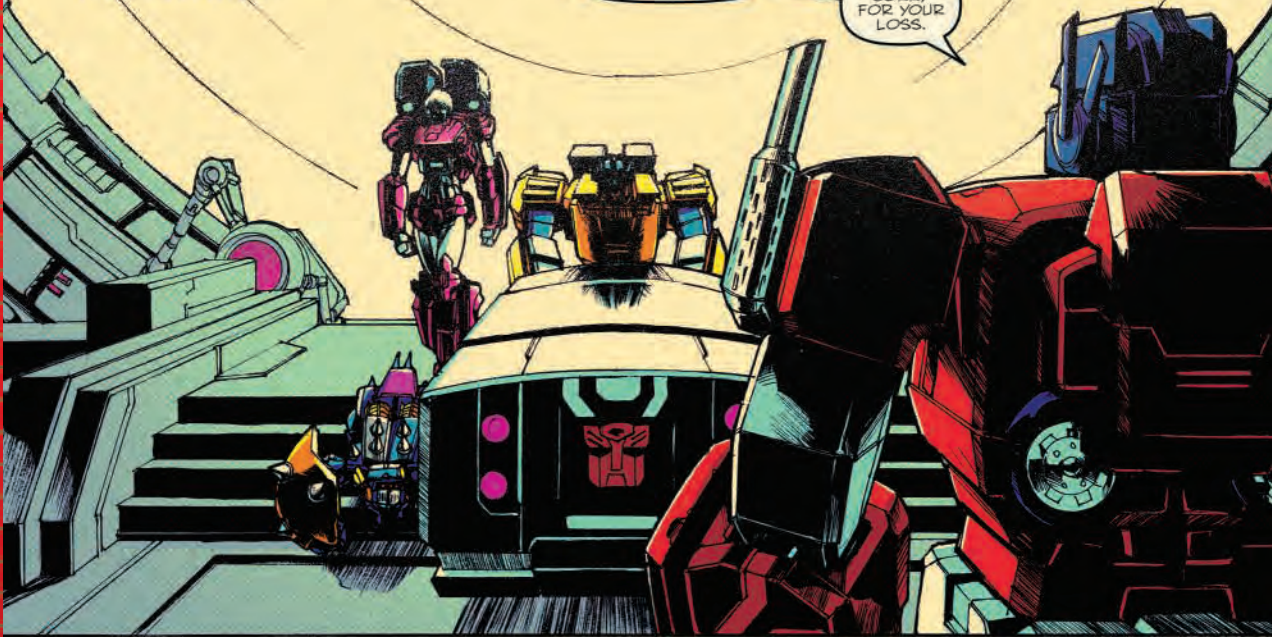
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SUNSTREAKER...

...I AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.



SIDESWIPE WAS A GOOD FRIEND AND—

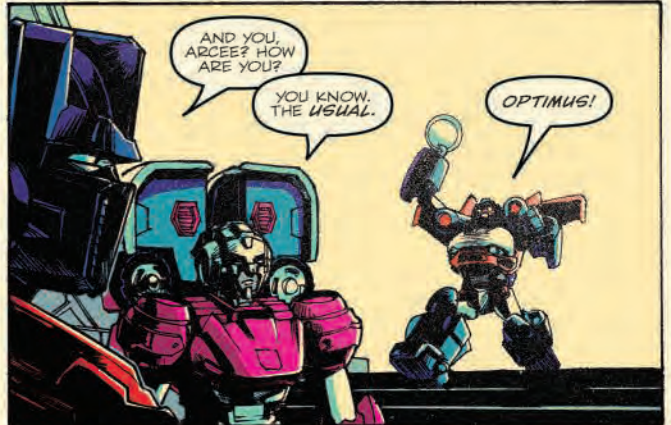
I'M SORRY, TOO, OPTIMUS. I JUST NEED SOME TIME.



AND YOU, ARCEE? HOW ARE YOU?

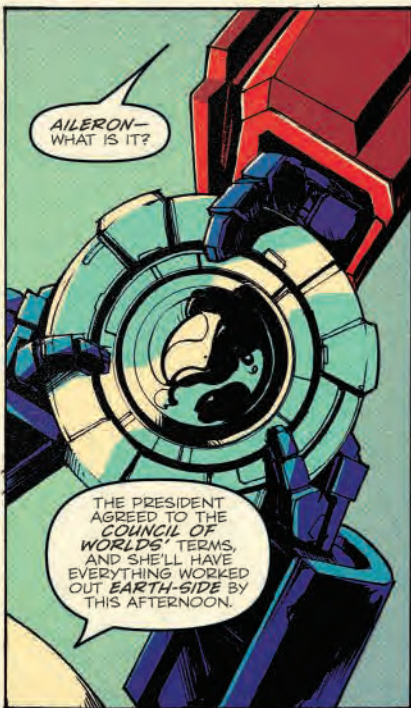
YOU KNOW, THE USUAL.

OPTIMUS!



AILERON—WHAT IS IT?

THE PRESIDENT AGREED TO THE COUNCIL OF WORLDS' TERMS, AND SHE'LL HAVE EVERYTHING WORKED OUT EARTH-SIDE BY THIS AFTERNOON.



YOU'RE KIDDING.

PROGRESS IS GLACIAL, PYRA MAGNA.

UNTIL IT ISN'T.

IF YOU'RE NOT BUSY, I THINK I KNOW A GOOD PLACE TO BIDE OUR TIME WAITING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.





WELL, WELL, WELL.

IF IT ISN'T MY FAVORITE **PRIME** AND THE BEST OF HIS WOULD-BE **USURPERS**.

THAT'S UNFAIR TO **PYRA**.

I MEANT IT AS A COMPLIMENT.

I SEE YOU'VE DECORATED, **ALPHA TRION**.

YES, YES—HAVING ONE'S **HEAD** CUT OFF DOES REMIND ONE OF THE LOOMING **SHADOW** OF **MORTALITY**, DOESN'T IT?

I FIGURED I SHOULD READ ALL I CAN, WHILE I AM STILL **ABLE**.

BLACKROCK SENDS HIS APOLOGIES FOR HIS PART IN... **YOUR** **BEHINDING**.

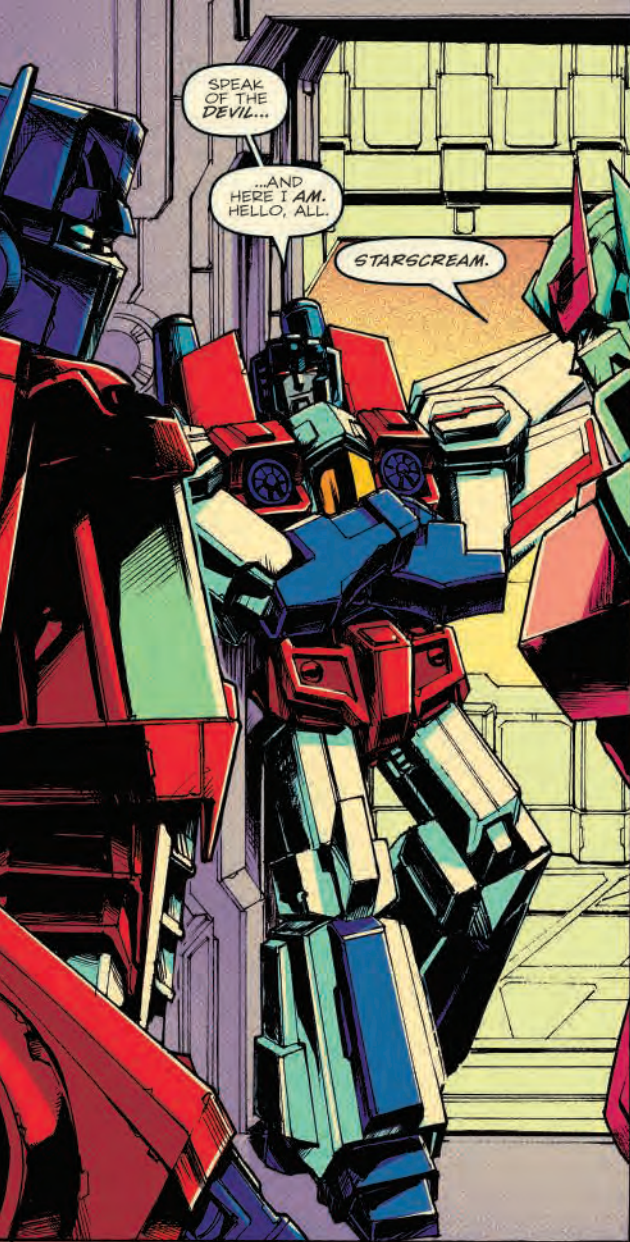
HE'S TAKEN TO WEARING AN **AUTOBOT** **SYMBOL**.

THE "**FIRST** **FACE**" DIDN'T ALWAYS MEAN WHAT IT DOES **NOW**.

YOU MENTIONED THAT, A LONG **TIME** **AGO**.

AS **CYBERTRON** STANDS ON THE **VERGE** OF **UNITY** WITH **EARTH**—PERHAPS YOU COULD FINALLY TELL THE **STORY** OF THE **FLAG'S** **FIRST** **RAISING**.

BUT I'D LIKE TO WAIT UNTIL ANOTHER **COLLEAGUE** OF OURS **ARRIVES**.



SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

...AND HERE I AM. HELLO, ALL.

STARSCREAM.



PLEASE, CALL ME LORD STARSCREAM. BEST TO GET INTO THE HABIT BEFORE THE HUMANS ARRIVE AND START...

...SCURRYING AROUND OR WHATEVER THEY DO.



WHAT IS THIS THING?

IS IT MADE OF ORGANIC TREES?



THAT IS A CONTAINERS OF TALES, STARSCREAM.

AS AM I.



AND SPEAKING OF, IF WE'RE ALL HERE...

...OPTIMUS HAS REQUESTED TO HEAR ONE, AND WHEN THE TRUE PRIME, THE CHOSEN ONE, AND THE WAY OF FLAME'S MAGNA GATHER...

...WHO AM I TO DENY YOU THE DELIGHT OF MY STORIES?

**CYBERTRON.
LONG, LONG AGO.**

DAMN
YOU—

—DON'T
LET ME
WIN!

RAAGH!

I HAVE LITTLE
CHOICE IN THE
MATTER.

HOW
AMUSING...

...BUT WHY THE
HESITATION?

FINISH HIM.

HE... HE'S MY
BROTHER.

LIKE YOU,
HE IS NAUGHT
BUT A **PRIMUS-
CONDEMNED
BARBARIAN**. WE
HAVEN'T SUFFICIENT
ENERGON FOR
BOTH OF YOU.

THUS THE
**REIGN OF THE
TWIN** MUST
CEASE. AND IF YOUR
COMBAT AMUSES WE
**SUPPLICANTS OF
ARRIUS**... SO MUCH
THE BETTER.

FINISH
YOUR BROTHER
OR JOIN HIM.

THESE
SUPPLICANTS
OF YOURS...

EH?



AHHH!

...PERHAPS THEY *DO* HAVE ENERGY TO SPARE.

YAAH!

Nooo!



WHO—WHO DARES DEFILE THE PARAPET OF SEPTIMUS PRIME?

I AM THE **FIRST** WHO WAS NAMED.

DO YOU **UNDERSTAND** MY WORDS?

I AM FROM THE PLACE OF **SHADOWS**, AND MY **DARKNESS** KNOWS NO LIMITS.



NOW, THIS **ARRIUS** YOU SUPPLICATE TO...?



HE IS OUR GOD OF **WISDOM** AND **PROVIDENCE**.

WE FIGHT AND DIE IN HIS NAME.



AH! I KNOW OF THAT GOD.

IN THE DARKLANDS, WE CALL HIM **SOLOMNUMS**—AS SHALL YOU.

TELL ME **YOUR** NAME.