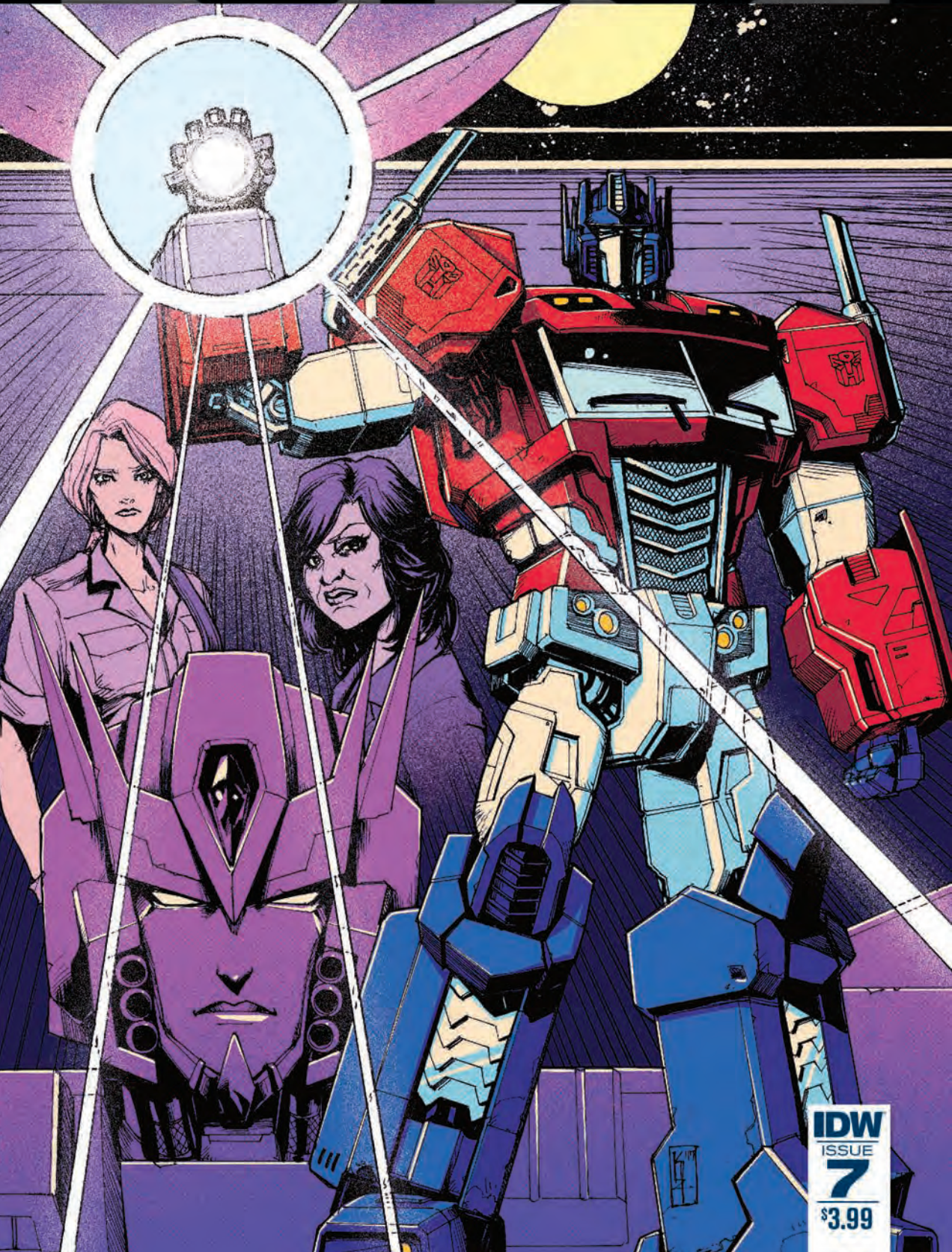


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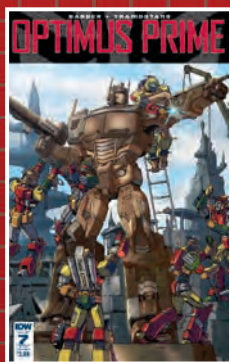


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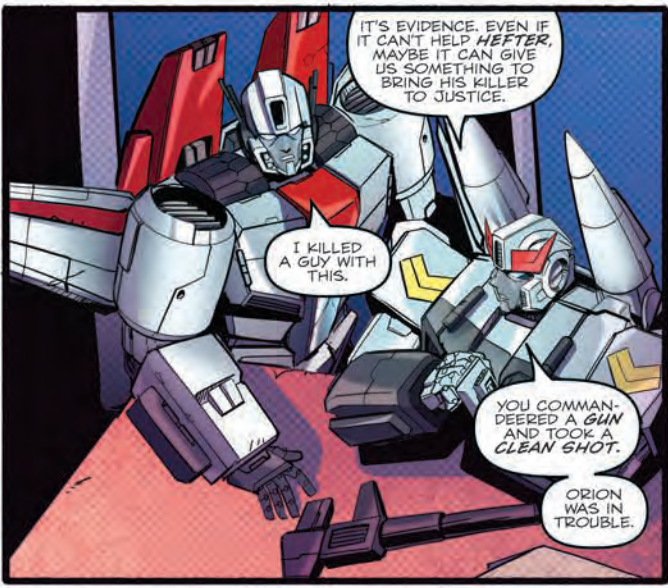
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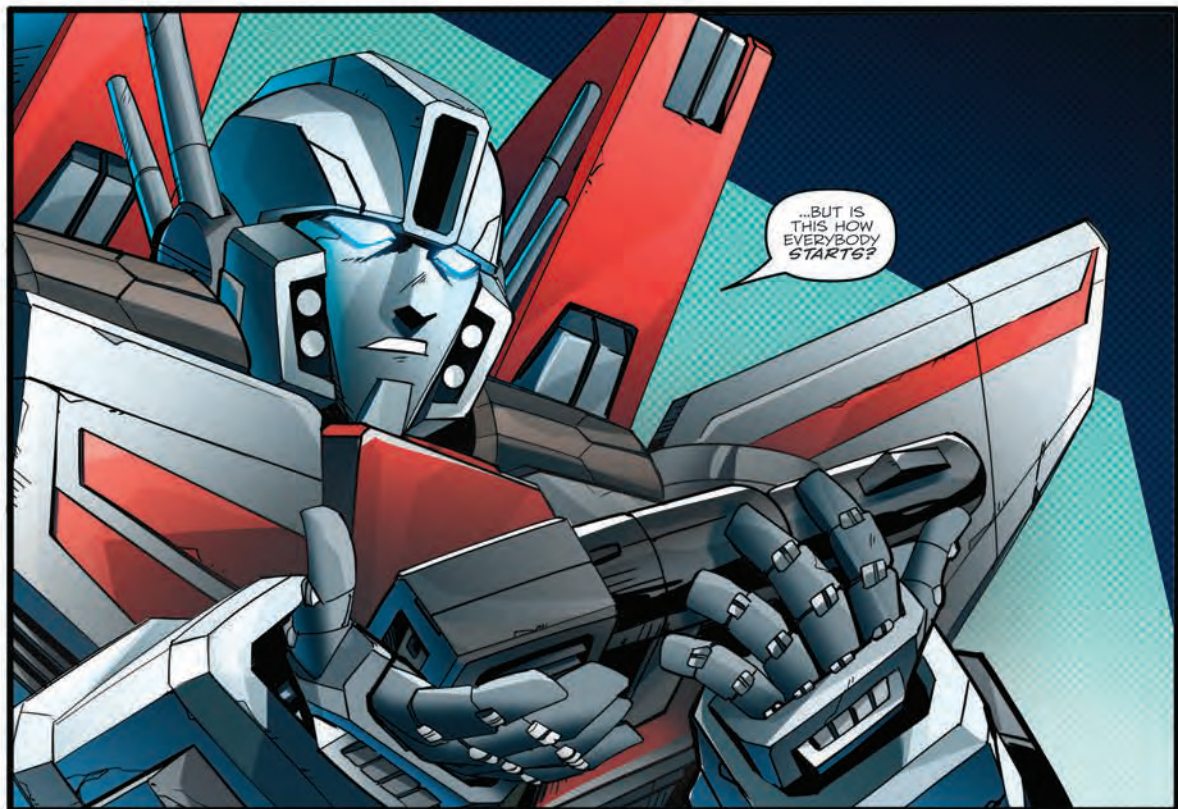
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**CYBERTRON.  
FOUR MILLION YEARS AGO.**





# THE NEXT DAY



**EARTH. TODAY.  
AUTOBOT CITY.**

AH. MADAME PRESIDENT.

I APPRECIATE YOUR PAYING ME THIS VISIT.

CUT THE CRAP. LAST TIME I WAS HERE I GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE...

...LET'S SEE...

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

AILERON. AUTOBOT.

OPTIMUS PRIME. AUTOBOT LEADER.



...TWO. THREE...

...FOURTH ALIEN INVASION OF MY PRESIDENCY?

FOURTH THAT I KNOW OF.



I ASSURE YOU, I WOULD KEEP NO INCISSION SECRET FROM YOU.

UH-HUH.

SO—PUTTING DOWN YOUR GUN AND LOOKING FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS... IS THAT YOUR WAY FORWARD?



MY SPECIES DOES NOT HAVE MUCH OF A HISTORY OF NONVIOLENT STRATEGIES.

BUT I BELIEVE THE END OF WARFARE IS A WORTHWHILE PATH, IF NOT A REALISTIC GOAL.



YOU KNOW WHO MY FATHER WAS?

ONE HALF OF A MATING PAIR WHOSE OFFSPRING—

I MEAN WHAT HE DID.



MY FATHER WAS A NONVIOLENT ACTIVIST IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

HE WAS MY INSPIRATION.



I HADN'T REALIZED.

THE PEOPLE THAT DIDN'T WANT THINGS TO CHANGE—THEY KILLED PLENTY OF MY DAD'S FRIENDS.

THERE WERE PEOPLE ON HIS SIDE WHO RETALIATED OR ADVOCATED RETALIATION. BUT MY FATHER NEVER TOOK UP ARMS, OR FISTS.

HE BELIEVED VIOLENCE TO BE INHERENTLY WRONG, EVEN IF YOU'VE GOT A VALID REASON TO COMMIT IT.



I THINK ABOUT THAT EVERY DAY. THE THINGS WE'VE ENDURED WHILE I'VE BEEN PRESIDENT... I GET BEING ANGRY.

AND MY DAD WAS RIGHTEOUSLY ANGRY. MAKE NO MISTAKE.

BUT HE COULDN'T ACT ON IT, BECAUSE OF HIS BELIEFS.

AND I CAN'T BECAUSE OF THE JOB. I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS, NOT THE MOST MORALLY CORRECT ONES.



I SOMETIMES WONDER WHAT MY DAD WOULD MAKE OF ME.

OUR WORLDS HAVE SIMILAR HISTORIES OF OPPRESSION.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT'S TERRIFYING OR COMFORTING. HOW DID YOU SOLVE THINGS?



WE FOUGHT A WAR FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS AND LEFT THE MATTER UNRESOLVED.

SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING US INTO, MAKING PEACE WITH THE JUNKIONS.

NOT FOR LACK OF TRYING, BUT ENDLESS FIGHTING HAS NOT PROVIDED AN ANSWER TO OUR TROUBLES.



THERE ARE THINGS I KNOW ARE RIGHT THAT I'LL NEVER SEE IN MY LIFETIME.

YOU LEARN TO TRY AND MAKE THINGS LESS BAD, IF YOU CAN'T MAKE THEM GOOD.

THE WORTH-WHILE PATH...

"...VERSUS THE UNREALISTIC GOAL."

UH. DO PEOPLE KNOW I'M COMING?

THEY'RE EXPECTING THE GUN YOU FIRED TO MAKE ITS WAY TO SCIENCE DIVISION.

**CYBERTRON.  
FOUR MILLION  
YEARS AGO.**

