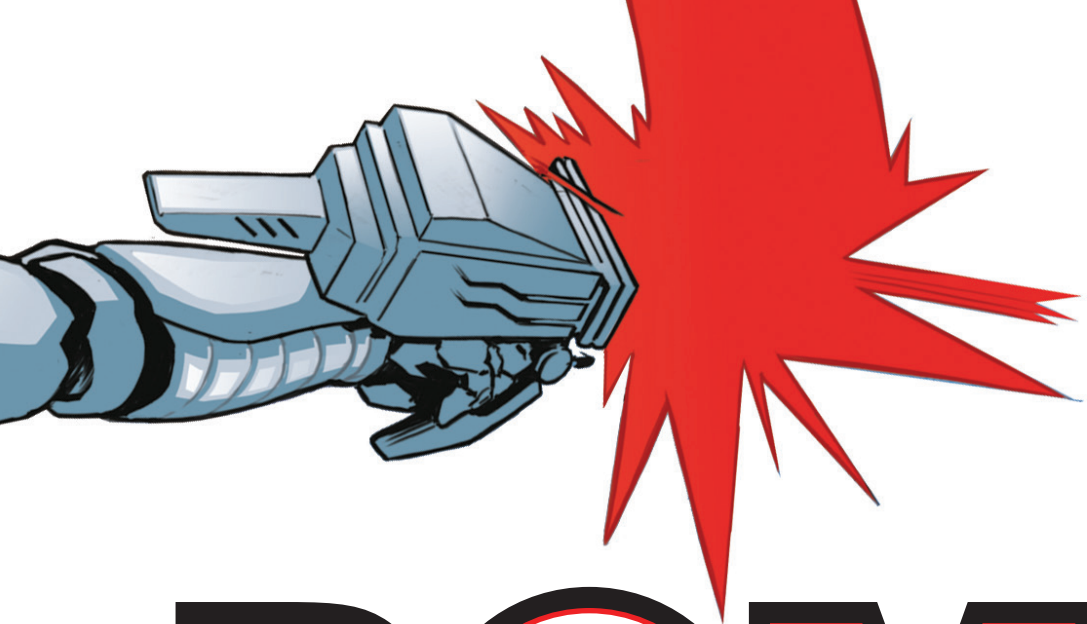


ROM

RYALL GAGE
MESSINA VILLANELLI



REINFORCEMENTS



ROM

REINFORCEMENTS

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AND MICHAEL KELLY. GUIDING LIGHTS: BILL-N-SAL.

I HAVE ALWAYS OPERATED UNDER THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO COMBAT *DIRE WRAITHS* IS TO ENLIST THE HELP OF A PLANET'S POPULACE.

EVEN BETTER WHEN ITS RESIDENTS HAVE POWERFUL FIGHTING CAPABILITIES OF THEIR OWN.

RECENT EXPERIENCE FORCES ME TO *QUESTION* THIS PREMISE.*

*SEE THE JUST-CONCLUDED *REVOLUTION* AND NEXT MONTH'S *REVOLUTIONARIES* #1--ED.

THE SPACE KNIGHT *ROM* MIGHT HAVE STRANGE METHODS OF COMBATTING HIS FOES...

YES--HE *KILLS*; WE DON'T.

...BUT WITHOUT HIS AID, WE MAY NEVER HAVE DEFEATED THE WRAITHS WE FACED. HE'S EARNED THE RIGHT TO GO IN PEACE.

HE TALKED LIKE THE WRAITH INFILTRATION'S BIGGER THAN WE SAW HERE.

BIGGER THAN OUR OTHER PROBLEMS?

DOUBT THAT.

AGREED. WE SHOULD STAY ALERT, BUT THERE ARE HIGHER PRIORITIES.

PRIME, IF THE *DIRE WRAITHS* DO PROPAGATE HERE...

...THEY REMAIN LESS OF AN IMMEDIATE THREAT THAN THE ONE THAT DEMANDS OUR FOCUS, *SOUNDWAVE*.

SHOULD THE WRAITH SITUATION REACH A CRISIS POINT, *ROM* WILL NO DOUBT BRING IT TO OUR ATTENTION... ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

BEACHHEAD? HEY, YOU OKAY?

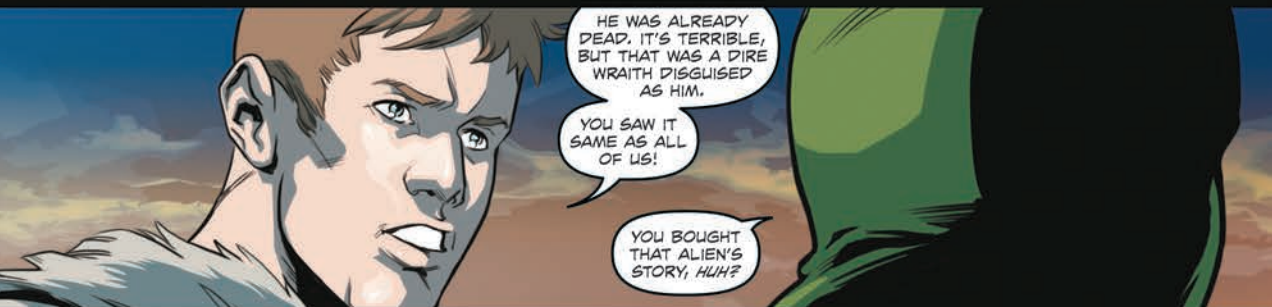
HARDLY.



IS THIS IS
OUR NEW NORMAL?
ROBOTS BIG AND
SMALL RAMPAGING
ACROSS THE WORLD
WHILE WE PICK UP
THE PIECES?

JUST *WATCH*
WHILE THEY
KILL *GENERAL*
COLTON AND THEN
FLY OFF FREE
AND CLEAR?

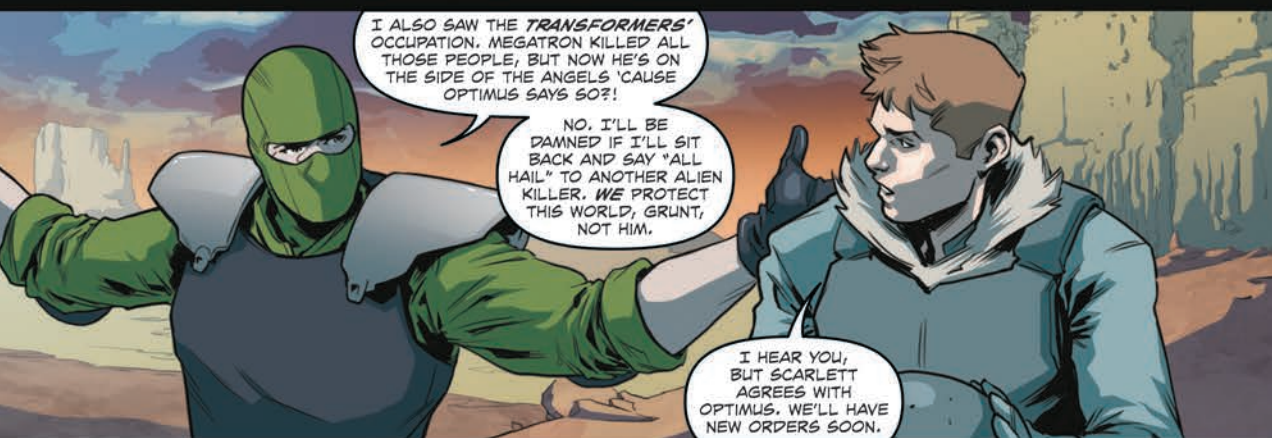
YOU
KNOW THAT
WASN'T THE
GENERAL!



HE WAS ALREADY
DEAD. IT'S TERRIBLE,
BUT THAT WAS A DIRE
WRAITH DISGUISED
AS HIM.

YOU SAW IT
SAME AS ALL
OF US!

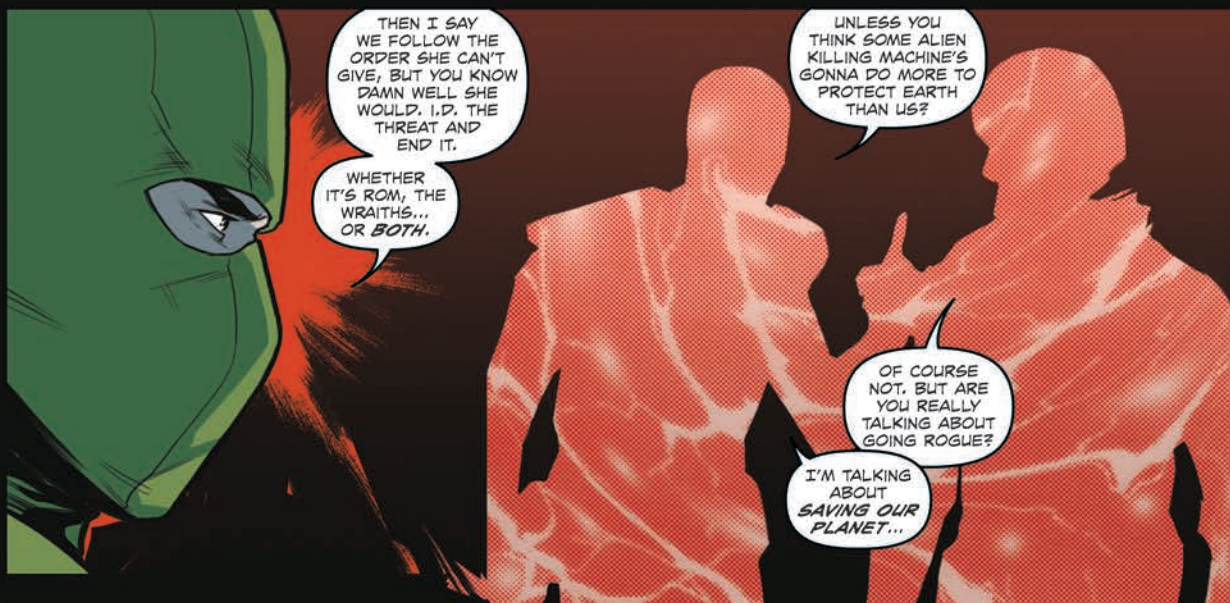
YOU BOUGHT
THAT ALIEN'S
STORY, HUH?



I ALSO SAW THE *TRANSFORMERS'*
OCCUPATION. MEGATRON KILLED ALL
THOSE PEOPLE, BUT NOW HE'S ON
THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS 'CAUSE
OPTIMUS SAYS SO?!

NO. I'LL BE
DAMNED IF I'LL SIT
BACK AND SAY "ALL
HAIL" TO ANOTHER ALIEN
KILLER. *WE* PROTECT
THIS WORLD, GRUNT,
NOT HIM.

I HEAR YOU,
BUT SCARLETT
AGREES WITH
OPTIMUS. WE'LL HAVE
NEW ORDERS SOON.



THEN I SAY
WE FOLLOW THE
ORDER SHE CAN'T
GIVE, BUT YOU KNOW
DAMN WELL SHE
WOULD. I.D. THE
THREAT AND
END IT.

WHETHER
IT'S ROM, THE
WRAITHS...
OR *BOTH*.

UNLESS YOU
THINK SOME ALIEN
KILLING MACHINE'S
GONNA DO MORE TO
PROTECT EARTH
THAN US?

OF COURSE
NOT. BUT ARE
YOU REALLY
TALKING ABOUT
GOING ROGUE?

I'M TALKING
ABOUT
SAVING OUR
PLANET...

"...BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY."

STATE STREET IN SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA.

SMILE
FOR THE KIDS
BACK HOME,
GUYS.

SUCH
CHARMING
PLAYERS!

HERE'S
A LITTLE
SOMETHING
FOR YOU.

THANKS,
MA'AM. ALWAYS
FUN TO JAM
FOR SUCH NICE
PEOPLE.

YEAH,
REALLY. HEY,
WHY NOT TAKE A
SELFIE TO SHOW
YOUR KIDS HOW
MUCH FUN YOU
HAD?

GRRRR

YEAH,
THEY'LL LOVE
THIS. COME IN
TIGHT NOW.

YOU
CALIFORNIANS
ARE SO
FRIENDLY!

I JUST
LOVE IT
HERE!

WE
LOVE IT,
TOO. KNOW
WHY?

TOURISTS
TASTE SO
SWEET.

ARE
ARE
ARE

SHUNK



NICE TO FEEL CLEAN AGAIN. BEING A FILTHY STREET MUSICIAN WAS WEARING THIN.

THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF OUR CURRENT SITUATION...



...SO MANY PLACES TO GO, SO MANY PEOPLE TO BE.

TAXI!!



GOT ROOM FOR A COUPLE OUT-OF-TOWNERS?

I AM AFRAID WE DON'T ALLOW ANIMALS, SIR.



OH, THAT DISGUSTING THING'S NOT OURS.

AND I HEARTILY AGREE WITH YOUR POLICY.



NO ANIMALS IN THE CAB.

SHKKK



THIS! THIS IS HOW WRAITHS SHOULD BEHAVE ON A PLANET OF CATTLE!

ABSOLUTELY. I WISH THE CURSED CYBERTRONIANS HAD KILLED OUR LEADERS AGES AGO!



THIS IS THE LIFE.

FREE OF THE OLD GUARD'S RESTRICTIONS, ROM OCCUPIED ELSEWHERE...



NO MORE ORDERS, NO MORE STAYING HIDDEN!

AS MY MUSICIAN HOST MIGHT SAY, WE ARE GOING TO BLOW UP THIS TOWN—



OH MY GOD!

IT MUST BE A GAS MAIN! CALL 911!