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TRANSFORMERS

REQUIEM OF THE WRECKERS



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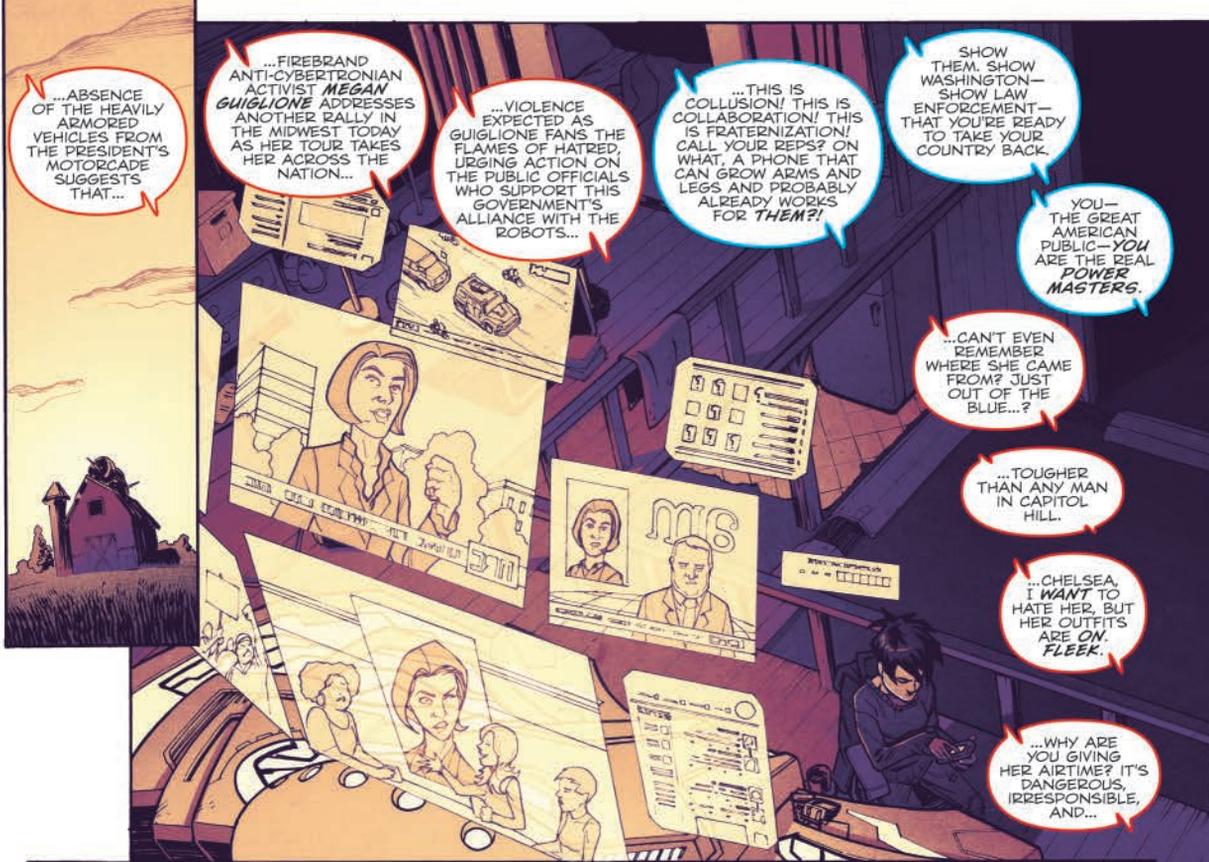
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...ABSENCE OF THE HEAVILY ARMORED VEHICLES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MOTORCADE SUGGESTS THAT...

...FIREBRAND ANTI-CYBERTRONIAN ACTIVIST MEGAN GUGLIONE ADDRESSES ANOTHER RALLY IN THE MIDWEST TODAY AS HER TOUR TAKES HER ACROSS THE NATION...

...VIOLENCE EXPECTED AS GUGLIONE FANS THE FLAMES OF HATRED, URGING ACTION ON THE PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO SUPPORT THIS GOVERNMENT'S ALLIANCE WITH THE ROBOTS...

...THIS IS COLLUSION! THIS IS COLLABORATION! THIS IS FRATERIZATION! CALL YOUR REPS? ON WHAT, A PHONE THAT CAN GROW ARMS AND LEGS AND PROBABLY ALREADY WORKS FOR THEM?

SHOW THEM. SHOW WASHINGTON— SHOW LAW ENFORCEMENT— THAT YOU'RE READY TO TAKE YOUR COUNTRY BACK.

YOU— THE GREAT AMERICAN PUBLIC— YOU ARE THE REAL POWER MASTERS.

...CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHERE SHE CAME FROM? JUST OUT OF THE BLUE...?

...TOUGHER THAN ANY MAN IN CAPITOL HILL.

...CHELSEA, I WANT TO HATE HER, BUT HER OUTFITS ARE ON. FLEEK.

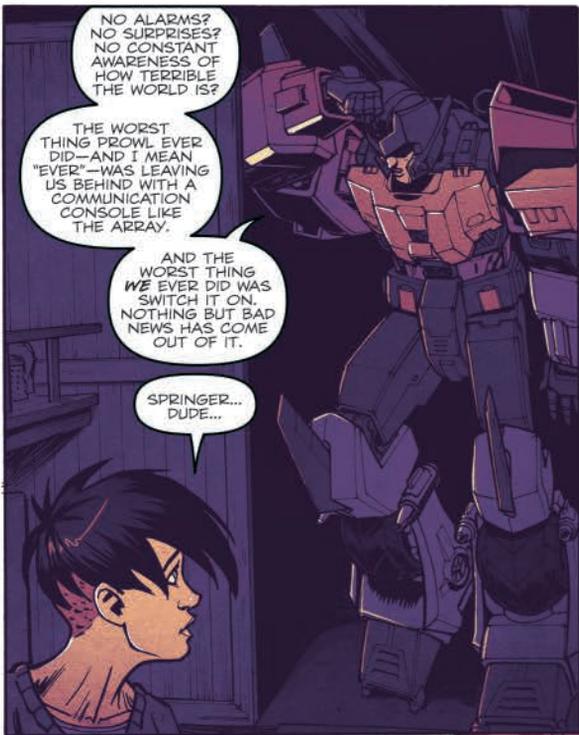
...WHY ARE YOU GIVING HER AIRTIME? IT'S DANGEROUS, IRRESPONSIBLE, AND...



BEGIN SYNC

SYSTEM DIAGNOSTICS: 8% COMPLETE

DIDN'T WE SAY WE'D NEVER DO THIS, VERITY?

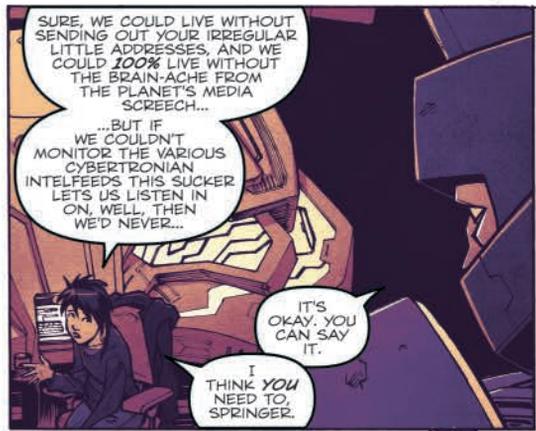


NO ALARMS? NO SURPRISES? NO CONSTANT AWARENESS OF HOW TERRIBLE THE WORLD IS?

THE WORST THING PROWL EVER DID—AND I MEAN "EVER"—WAS LEAVING US BEHIND WITH A COMMUNICATION CONSOLE LIKE THE ARRAY.

AND THE WORST THING WE EVER DID WAS SWITCH IT ON. NOTHING BUT BAD NEWS HAS COME OUT OF IT.

SPRINGER... DUDE...



SURE, WE COULD LIVE WITHOUT SENDING OUT YOUR IRREGULAR LITTLE ADDRESSES, AND WE COULD 100% LIVE WITHOUT THE BRAIN-ACHE FROM THE PLANET'S MEDIA SCREECH...

...BUT IF WE COULDN'T MONITOR THE VARIOUS CYBERTRONIAN INTELFEDS THIS SUCKER LETS US LISTEN IN ON, WELL, THEN WE'D NEVER...

IT'S OKAY, YOU CAN SAY IT.

I THINK YOU NEED TO SPRINGER.

THEN WE'D NEVER HAVE FOUND OUT...

...THAT KUP...

...KUP IS DEAD.





YEAH.
IT SUCKS.

THERE'S A PART OF ME—THE **WRECKER** PART OF ME—THAT'S TELLING ME I'M OVER-REACTING. THAT I'VE LOST COMRADES BEFORE, AND TO GET ON WITH IT...



THEN LISTEN TO THE KUP PART OF YOU, DUDE—THE AUTOBOT PART. THE PART THAT'S MORE COMPASSION, LESS BASHIN'.

THE WAR IS... KINDA DONE, FOR US, ANYWAY. WE GOT OUT. BUT THAT MEANS THERE'S A LOT LESS DISTRACTIONS TO PROTECT US FROM ACTUALLY FEELING SOMETHING.

PLUS, KUP WASN'T JUST A FRIEND, OR WORK COLLEAGUE... HE WAS, Y'KNOW, **KUP**.

HE WAS... KINDA... YOUR DAD.



THAT DOESN'T QUITE WORK THE SAME WAY IT DOES FOR HUMANS, I DON'T THINK.

IT WORKS FOR EVERY HUMAN DIFFERENTLY, DUDE. TRUST ME.

DID KUP PHYSICALLY CREATE YOU? **NO**. A... NUTTY, LONELY GIANT SPIDER SCIENTIST DID. AND YEAH, THAT WAS TOUGH TO LEARN ABOUT TOO...

BUT I THINK THAT'S PART OF WHY I'M FEELING... LIKE **THIS**. I ONLY LEARNED FROM YOU THAT TARANTULAS WAS MY CREATOR **AFTER** I HELPED DESTROY HIM.

I DIDN'T KNOW I EVEN **HAD** A MYSTERIOUS PAST UNTIL I FOUND AND LOST IT IN ONE GIANT SENSOR-BENDING EXPLOSION.



I TOOK FOR GRANTED THAT SOMEDAY, WHEN I WAS READY, I COULD TALK TO KUP ABOUT ALL THAT. NOW HE'S GONE TOO, AND I WISH I COULD TELL HIM HOW MUCH IT ALL... HURTS.

I GET IT, I MEAN, APART FROM PROWL—AND WHO WANTS TO TALK TO HIM—THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON LEFT TO TALK TO ABOUT IT ALL.

AND AS SOON AS THIS HANDSET IS DONE SYNCING, WE'LL BE ON THE ROAD TO SEE HIM.

DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM? KUP WAS THERE TOO, KINDA.

I JUST ASSUMED IT WAS THE USUAL IMPERSONAL WRECKER RECRUITMENT PHONE CALL; A REMOTE HOLOGRAM SAYING YOU WON THE **VIOLENT ROBOT LOTTERY**.

THAT'S THE WEIRD THING. HE DIDN'T USE "THE SHIMMER"...

THE PAST.

"IT ALL FELT SO CLEAR-CUT THEN—OF COURSE THE AUTOBOTS WERE GONNA WIN THIS ONE. WE WERE THE GOOD GUYS.

"BUT MAYBE I KNEW I'D GET OUT OF THIS ALRIGHT, BECAUSE I HAD KUP STANDING BESIDE ME."

TAKE IT EASY WITH THEM ROUNDS, KID, I AIN'T SHARIN' MINE WITH YOU ONCE YER OUT.

DON'T WORRY, KUP. WE'LL PUSH THESE 'CONS BACK WITH CHARGES TO SPARE.

YER SMARTER THAN THAT, LAD. IF WE CUT THESE DECEPS ANY SLACK, THAT'S ANOTHER QUADRANT LOST.

KUP! LOOK!

DAMMIT—SNEAKY LITTLE SUPPLY DRONE, MAKIN' ITS WAY ROUND A BACK CHANNEL.

IF THE 'CONS GET RESTOCKED, THIS WHOLE SHAMOZZLE GETS UPGRADED TO A DISASTERPIECE.

"I WAS JUST A DUMB KID, BEING AROUND KUP MADE ME FEEL SAFE. SECURE."

WAIT, SPRINGER...!

RELAX, OLD-TIMER, YOU'LL GET ANOTHER WAR STORY OUTTA THIS.

I'LL EVEN LET YOU TELL EVERYONE YOU SAVED THE DAY.

HNNGH!

"ALL THAT CHANGED WHEN I MET HIM..."

YOU MUST BE SPRINGER...



"IMPACTOR."

"I DON'T THINK I'M A COWARD. I TRY NOT TO BE, BUT EVERYTHING HE SAID TO ME THEN MADE ME NERVOUS."

"YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE."

"IT'S TIME."

"SURE, I WAS EXCITED. I HAD GOTTEN 'THE NOD', SOME OUTSIDE VALIDATION THAT I WAS... SPECIAL? IMPORTANT? VALUABLE?"

"BUT HE PUT ME ON EDGE. I NEVER REALLY STOPPED FEELING THAT WAY AROUND HIM."



"DANGIT, KID, YOU KNOW I DON'T HAVE THE TRACTION TO GET THIS OLD CHASSIS DOWN HERE..."

"I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GONER."



"KUP! DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT WAS? DID YOU SEE—?"

"I SAW."

"I MISSED IT AT THE TIME. WRAPPED UP IN MY MOMENT, I GUESS."

"HE WASN'T SURPRISED, OR HAPPY FOR ME. IT'S LIKE HE WAS EXPECTING IT, AND THAT IT WAS AS BAD AS HE FEARED..."



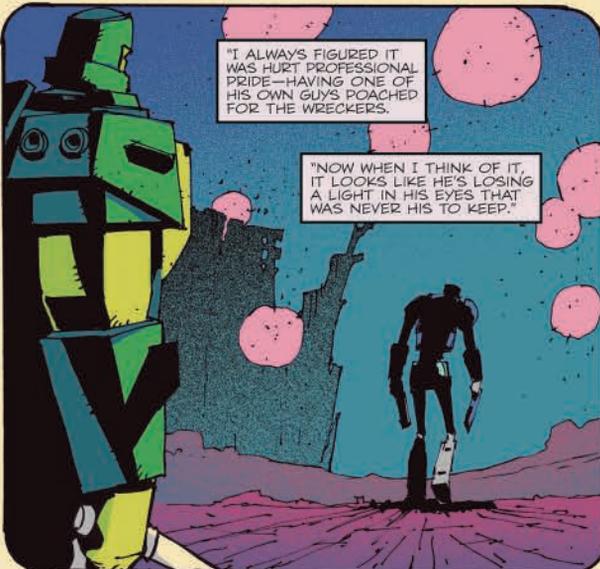
"KUP'S FACE, VERITY."

"HE FINALLY CAME FOR YOU, HUH?"

"GOOD WORK, KID."

"YOU'LL BE THE VERY BEST OF 'EM."

"YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIS FACE."



"I ALWAYS FIGURED IT WAS HURT PROFESSIONAL PRIDE—HAVING ONE OF HIS OWN GUYS POACHED FOR THE WRECKERS."

"NOW WHEN I THINK OF IT, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S LOSING A LIGHT IN HIS EYES THAT WAS NEVER HIS TO KEEP."