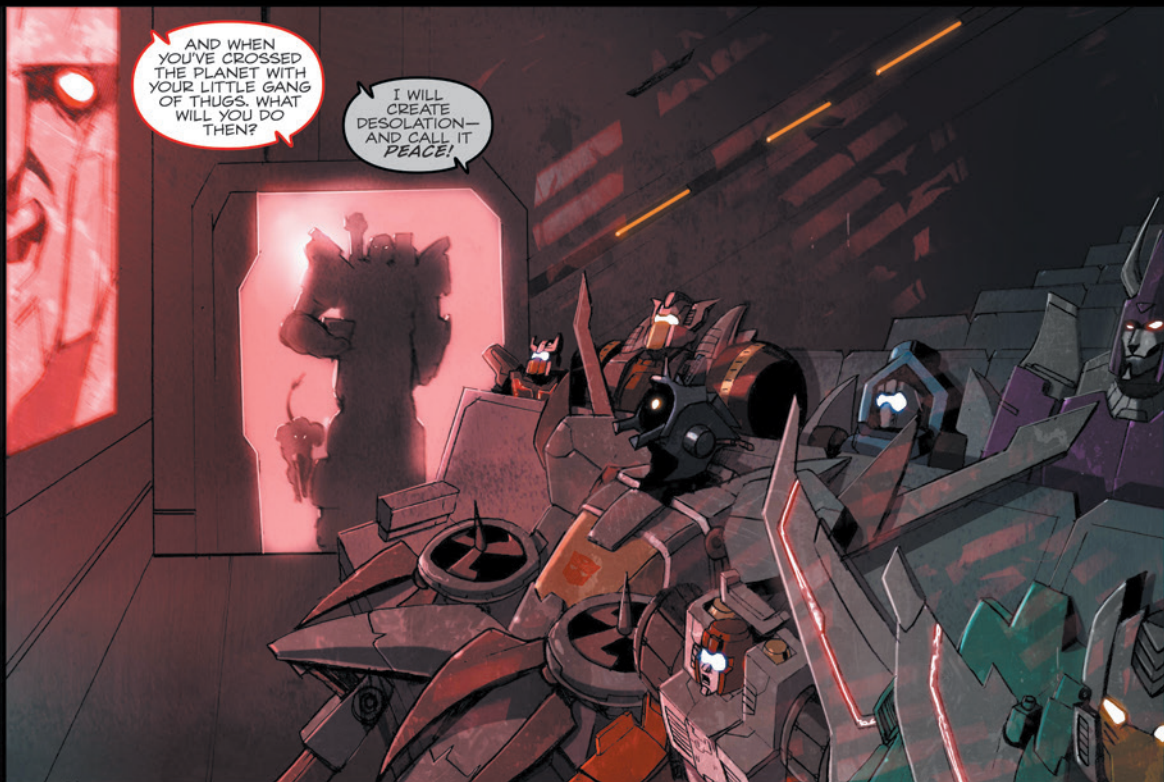




THE LOST LIGHT, WEEKS AGO.





AND WHEN YOU'VE CROSSED THE PLANET WITH YOUR LITTLE GANG OF THUGS, WHAT WILL YOU DO THEN?

I WILL CREATE DESOLATION— AND CALL IT PEACE!



YOU GOT THE INVITE, THEN.

I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING LATE. I SPENT TOO LONG TRYING TO THINK OF REASONS NOT TO COME.

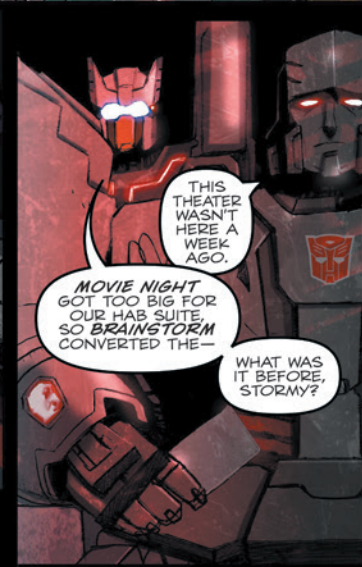
NO WORRIES. WE PASSED THE TIME BY STARTING WITHOUT YOU.



YOU BROUGHT NIBBLES!

IT WAS ONE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

YOU DON'T SOCIALIZE MUCH, DO YOU, MEGS?



THIS THEATER WASN'T HERE A WEEK AGO.

MOVIE NIGHT GOT TOO BIG FOR OUR HAB SUITE, SO BRAINSTORM CONVERTED THE—

WHAT WAS IT BEFORE, STORMY?



THIS PLACE? IT WAS AN EXHIBITION HALL.

"THE QUEST FOR THE KNIGHTS OF CYBERTRON: A VISUAL TRAVELOQUE."

RODIMUS WANTED A DEDICATED SPACE FOR ALL THE SOUVENIRS AND TRINKETS THAT WE COLLECT EN ROUTE TO CYBERUTOPIA.

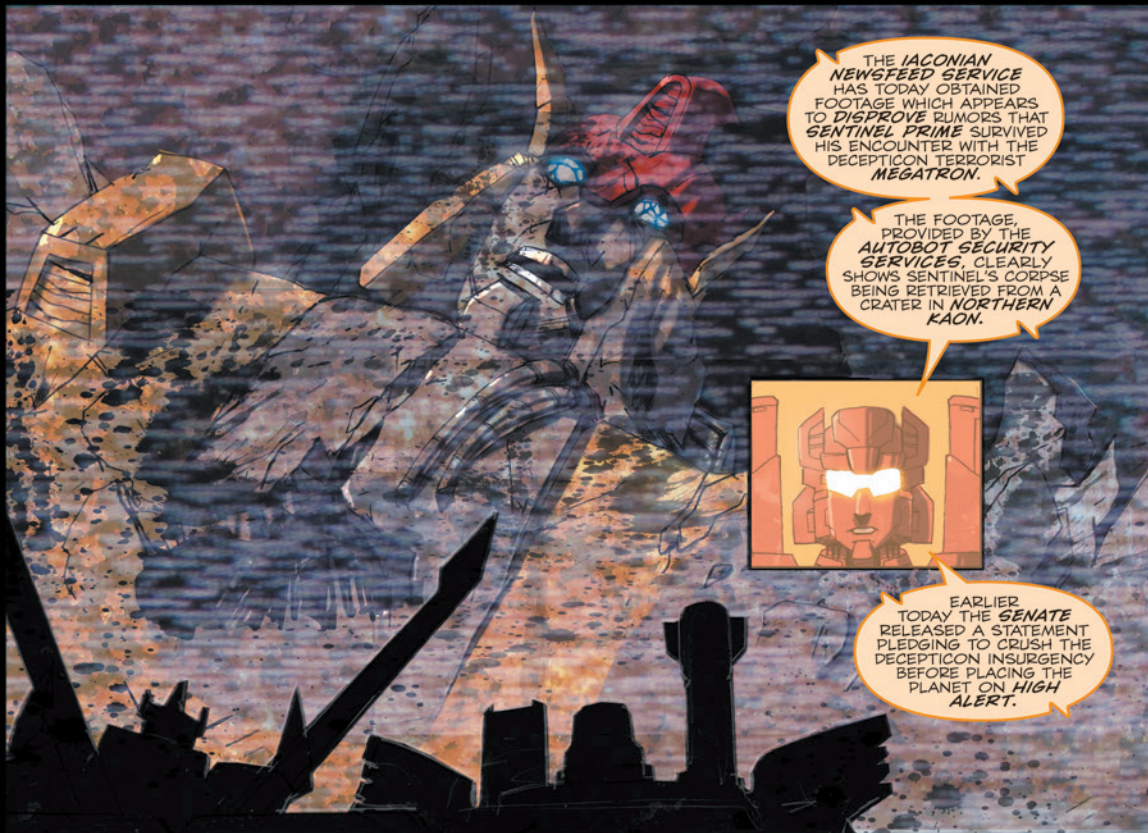


WHERE DID YOU MOVE THE EXHIBITS?

I PUT THEM BOTH OVER THERE.



NOW ZIP IT. I'M TRYING TO LISTEN.

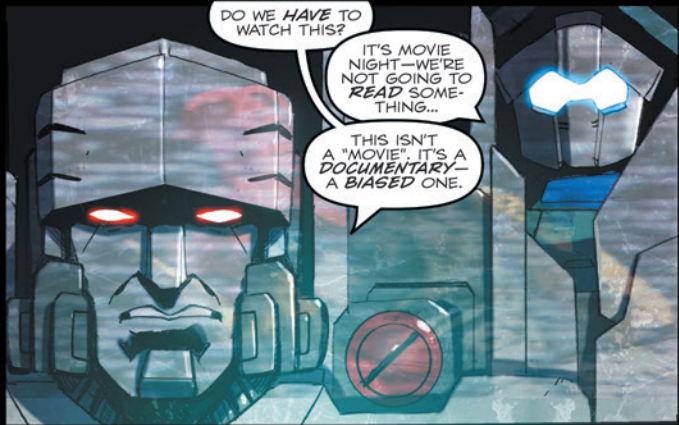


THE IACONIAN NEWSFEED SERVICE HAS TODAY OBTAINED FOOTAGE WHICH APPEARS TO **DISPROVE** RUMORS THAT **SENTINEL PRIME** SURVIVED HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE DECEPTION TERRORIST **MEGATRON**.

THE FOOTAGE, PROVIDED BY THE **AUTOBOT SECURITY SERVICES**, CLEARLY SHOWS SENTINEL'S CORPSE BEING RETRIEVED FROM A CRATER IN **NORTHERN KAON**.



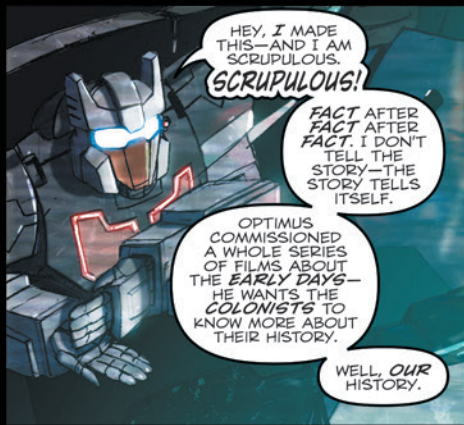
EARLIER TODAY THE **SENATE** RELEASED A STATEMENT PLEDGING TO CRUSH THE DECEPTION INSURGENCY BEFORE PLACING THE PLANET ON **HIGH ALERT**.



DO WE HAVE TO WATCH THIS?

IT'S MOVIE NIGHT—WE'RE NOT GOING TO READ SOMETHING...

THIS ISN'T A "MOVIE". IT'S A DOCUMENTARY—A BIASED ONE.

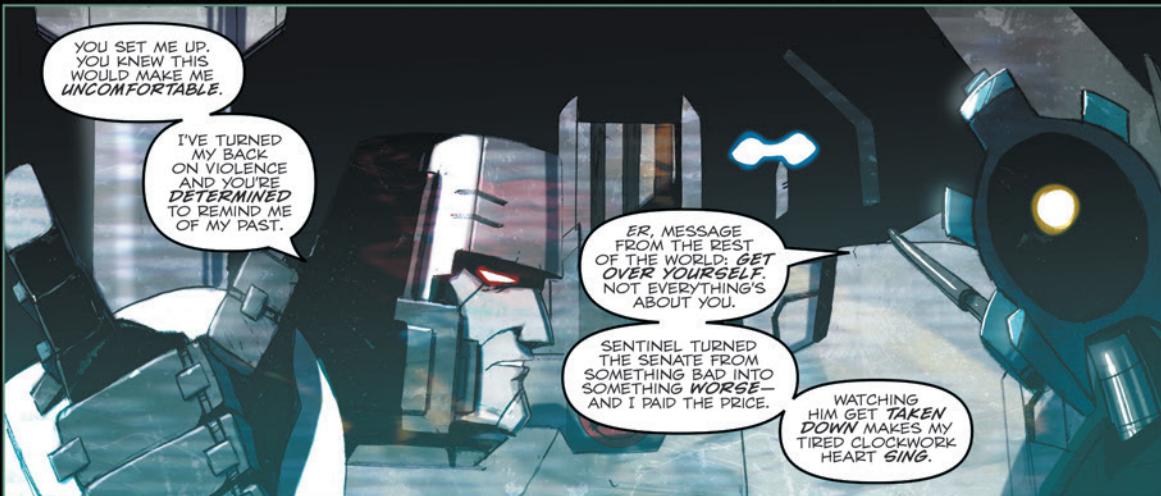


HEY, I MADE THIS—AND I AM SCRUPULOUS. **SCRUPULOUS!**

FACT AFTER FACT AFTER FACT. I DON'T TELL THE STORY—THE STORY TELLS ITSELF.

OPTIMUS COMMISSIONED A WHOLE SERIES OF FILMS ABOUT THE **EARLY DAYS**—HE WANTS THE COLONISTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THEIR HISTORY.

WELL, **OUR** HISTORY.



YOU SET ME UP. YOU KNEW THIS WOULD MAKE ME **UNCOMFORTABLE**.

I'VE TURNED MY BACK ON VIOLENCE AND YOU'RE **DETERMINED** TO REMIND ME OF MY PAST.

ER, MESSAGE FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD: **GET OVER YOURSELF.** NOT EVERYTHING'S ABOUT YOU.

SENTINEL TURNED THE SENATE FROM SOMETHING BAD INTO SOMETHING **WORSE**—AND I PAID THE PRICE.

WATCHING HIM GET **TAKEN DOWN** MAKES MY TIRED CLOCKWORK HEART SING.



IN MANY WAYS, SENTINEL WAS THE FIRST DECEPTICON.

EXCUSE ME?

POWER-HUNGRY, MANIPULATIVE, *RELENTLESSLY* IDEOLOGICAL...

...WITH AN ARMY OF BRUISERS READY TO BEAT HIS OPPONENTS INTO SUBMISSION.

HE WAS A DECEPTICON BEFORE YOU THOUGHT UP THE NAME.



IRONIC, REALLY, GIVEN THAT HE WAS MORE OBSESSED THAN ANYONE WITH THE *PURITY* OF THE AUTOBOT BRAND.



EVERYWHERE—*STILL*—THIS OBSESSION WITH BADGES AND FACTIONS AND "BRANDS."

AUTOBOTS AND DECEPTICONS. RED OR PURPLE.

IT'S SO *LIMITING*.

HAVE WE NOT LEARNT TO MOVE *BEYOND THE BINARY*?



HE WASN'T EVEN A PROPER PRIME.

SENTINEL.

HE WASN'T EVEN—

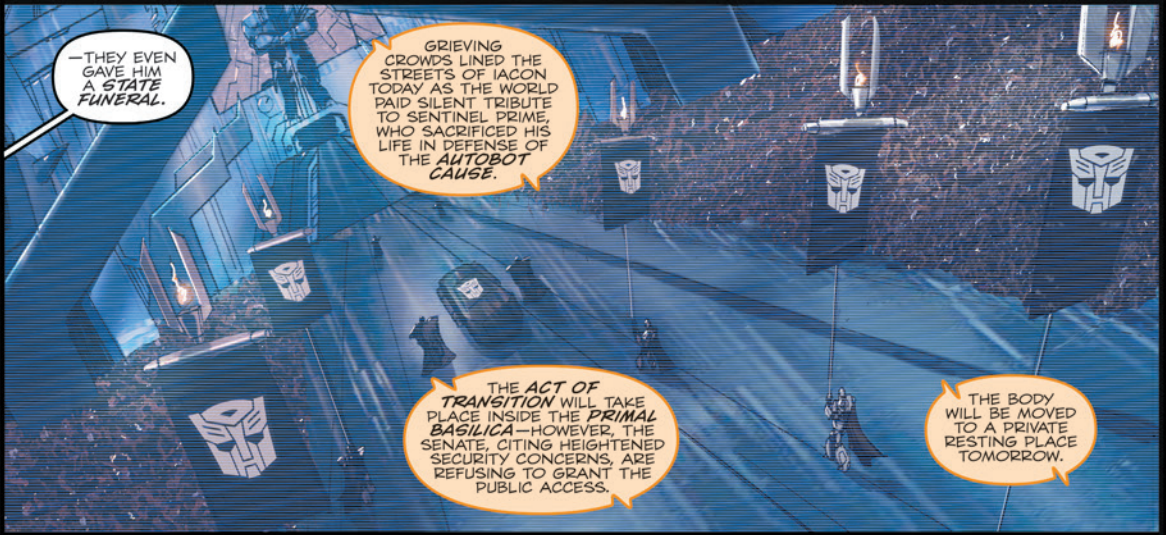
HE JUST *CALLED* HIMSELF THAT. HE *FAKED* THE *SIGNS OF AFFINITY* SO HE COULD GET HOLD OF THE MATRIX.



I THOUGHT HE WAS A HERO. EVERYONE SEEMS TO *SAY* HE WAS A HERO...

HE LIVED BADLY BUT DIED WELL; THE FIRST PERSON TO REALLY STAND UP TO MEGATRON.

ANYONE WHO PLACES THEMSELVES IN OPPOSITION TO *OUTRIGHT VILLAINY* BECOMES HEROIC BY COMPARISON. I MEAN, *LOOK—*



—THEY EVEN GAVE HIM A STATE FUNERAL.

GRIEVING CROWDS LINED THE STREETS OF IACON TODAY AS THE WORLD PAID SILENT TRIBUTE TO SENTINEL PRIME, WHO SACRIFICED HIS LIFE IN DEFENSE OF THE AUTOBOT CAUSE.

THE ACT OF TRANSITION WILL TAKE PLACE INSIDE THE PRIMAL BASILICA—HOWEVER, THE SENATE, CITING HEIGHTENED SECURITY CONCERNS, ARE REFUSING TO GRANT THE PUBLIC ACCESS.

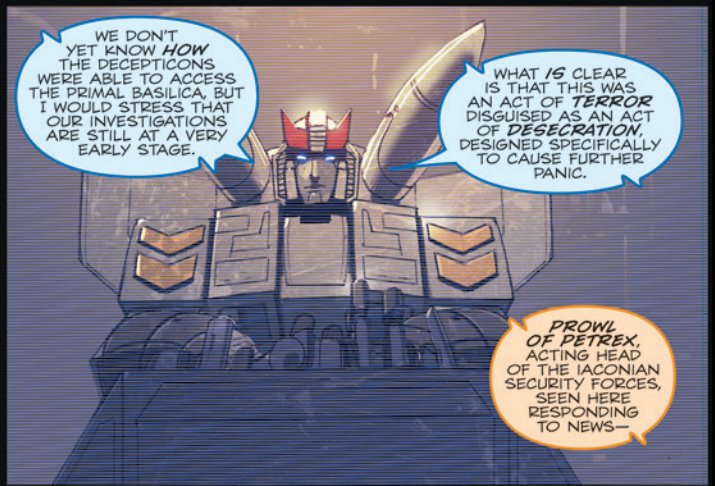
THE BODY WILL BE MOVED TO A PRIVATE RESTING PLACE TOMORROW.



EXCEPT, BY THEN IT WAS TOO LATE...

EH?

OH, COME ON. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...



WE DON'T YET KNOW HOW THE DECEPTICONS WERE ABLE TO ACCESS THE PRIMAL BASILICA, BUT I WOULD STRESS THAT OUR INVESTIGATIONS ARE STILL AT A VERY EARLY STAGE.

WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT THIS WAS AN ACT OF TERROR DISGUISED AS AN ACT OF DESECRATION, DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO CAUSE FURTHER PANIC.

PROWL OF PETREX, ACTING HEAD OF THE IACONIAN SECURITY FORCES, SEEN HERE RESPONDING TO NEWS—



—THAT SENTINEL PRIME'S BODY WAS TODAY FOUND WITHOUT A HEAD...

THAT IS APPALLING.



AND UNTRUE! SO MUCH FOR "FACT, FACT, FACT"...

YOU'RE SAYING YOU WEREN'T BEHIND THE THEFT?

I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

BACK THEN, I WAS STILL—TRYING TO WIN OVER THE GENERAL POPULATION! WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY HAVE GAINED BY MUTILATING A DEAD WAR HERO?



NIBBLE?