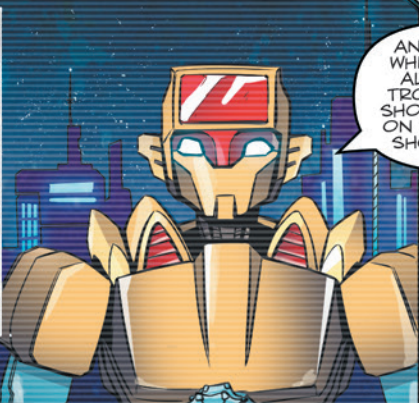
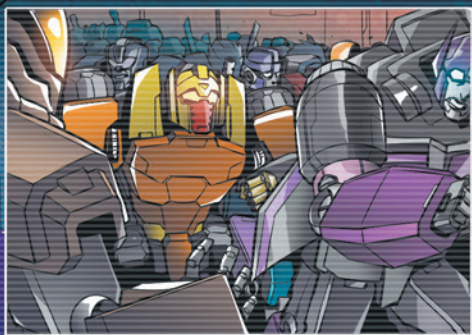
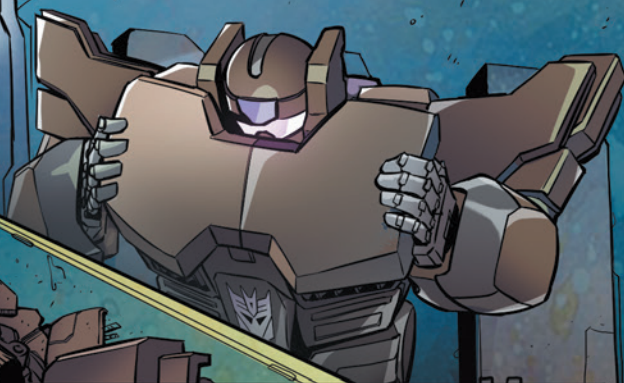


UNREST GROWS IN THE STREETS OF IACON AS FOOTAGE EMERGES CLEARLY SHOWING TWO SO-CALLED "BADGELESS"™ LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FATALLY SHOOTING AN UNARMED AND FLEEING DECEPTICON.

### BADGELESS MURDER

"THOUGH THE SOURCE OF THIS FOOTAGE IS STILL UNKNOWN, MANY DECEPTICONS FEEL THIS FITS INTO A PATTERN OF ABUSE AT THE HANDS OF AUTHORITIES."

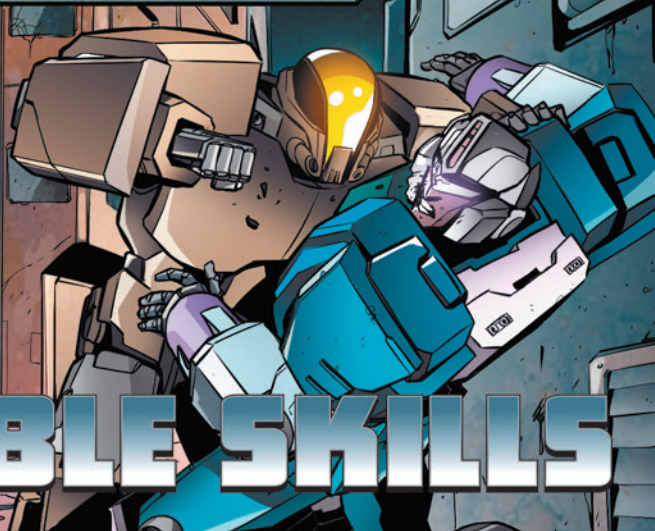
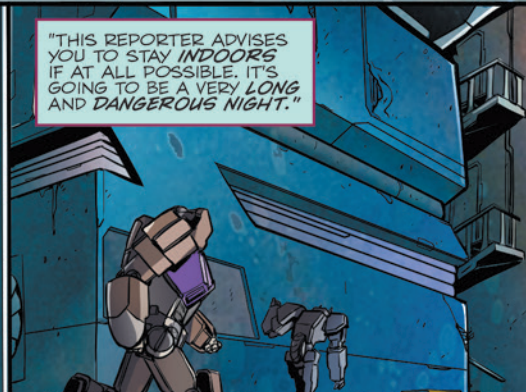


AN ACCUSATION WHICH WAS MADE ALL THE MORE TROUBLING WHEN SHOTS WERE FIRED ON ONLOOKERS SHORTLY AFTER.

WHILE STARScream CALLS FOR CALM, THE PRECEDING HOURS HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN ARRESTS, LOOTING, AND PROTESTS OF EVERY KIND.

### BADGELESS MURDER

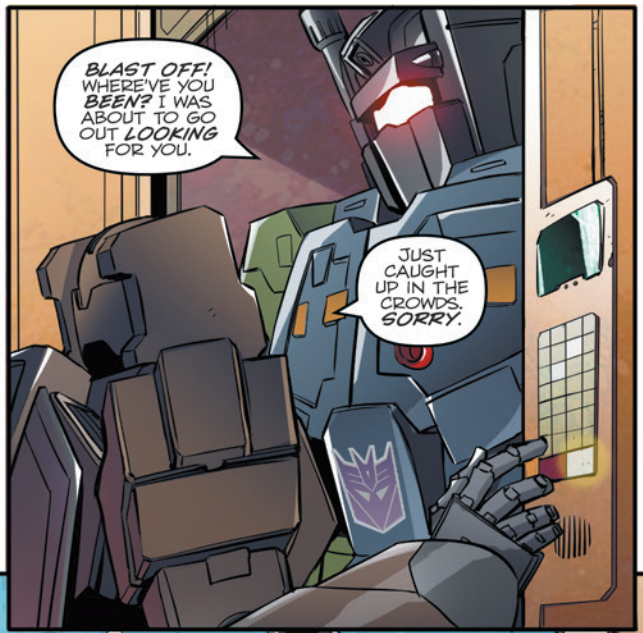
"THIS REPORTER ADVISES YOU TO STAY INDOORS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. IT'S GOING TO BE A VERY LONG AND DANGEROUS NIGHT."



# APPLICABLE SKILLS



IT HAD TO HAPPEN. IT HAD TO. IT HAD TO. IT HAD—



BLAST OFF! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? I WAS ABOUT TO GO OUT LOOKING FOR YOU.

JUST CAUGHT UP IN THE CROWDS. SORRY.



YAY!

YOU'RE NOT DEAD! BRAWL, PAY UP!

AH, SCRAP. THAT WAS MY LAST BOTTLE OF ENGEX.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN.



DON'T BE A SQUEAKY GEAR, BLAST OFF. BRAWL'S POORER, I'M RICHER, STARScream'S LITTLE HENCHMEN MESS'D UP BIG TIME AND THERE'S GONNA BE ENERGEN IN THE STREETS TONIGHT.

WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE?

WHOO! I'M GONNA GET ME A BADGELESS FACE PLATE FOR THE WALL.

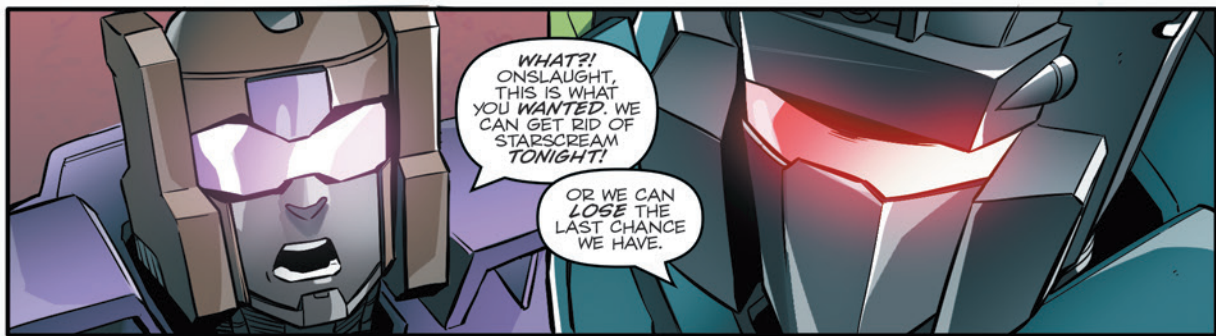


I SAW THE NEWS. THE PEOPLE ARE RIGHT ON THE TIPPING POINT.

WE JUST NEED TO PUSH THEM OVER THE EDGE AND THEY'LL TEAR THAT CROWN OFF STARScream'S FLAT HEAD THEMSELVES.

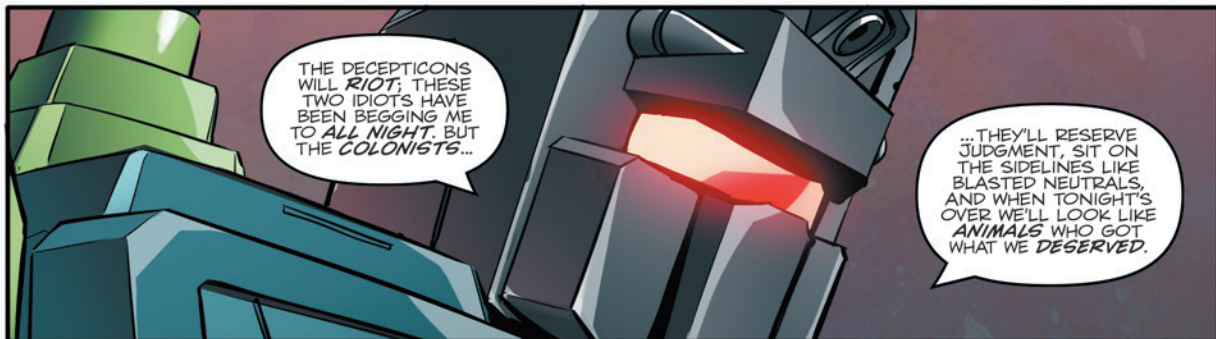
IT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.

NO. IT'S NOT.



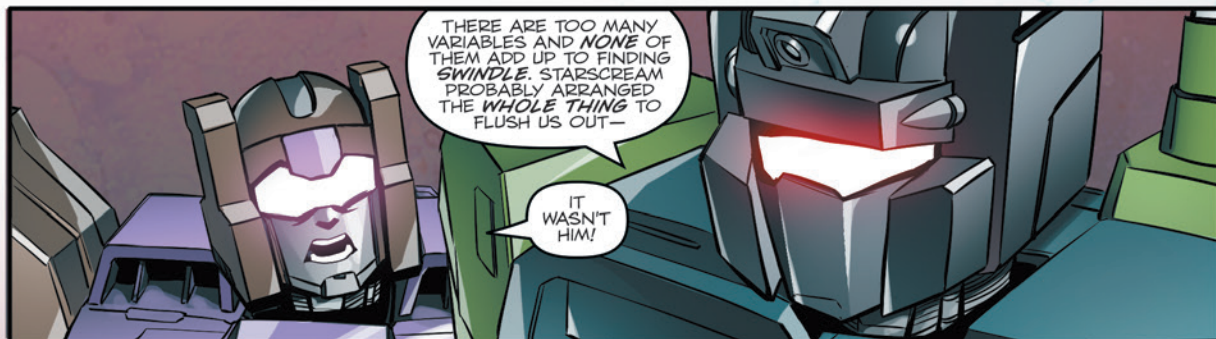
WHAT?!  
ONSLAUGHT,  
THIS IS WHAT  
YOU WANTED.  
WE CAN GET RID OF  
STARSCREAM  
TONIGHT!

OR WE CAN  
LOSE THE  
LAST CHANCE  
WE HAVE.



THE DECEPTICONS  
WILL RIOT; THESE  
TWO IDIOTS HAVE  
BEEN BEGGING ME  
TO ALL NIGHT, BUT  
THE COLONISTS...

...THEY'LL RESERVE  
JUDGMENT, SIT ON  
THE SIDELINES LIKE  
BLASTED NEUTRALS,  
AND WHEN TONIGHT'S  
OVER WE'LL LOOK LIKE  
ANIMALS WHO GOT  
WHAT WE DESERVED.



THERE ARE TOO MANY  
VARIABLES AND NONE  
OF THEM ADD UP TO FINDING  
SWINDLE. STARSCREAM  
PROBABLY ARRANGED  
THE WHOLE THING TO  
FLUSH US OUT—

IT  
WASN'T  
HIM!



HOW  
WOULD YOU  
KNOW?

I...



GET IN HERE.  
TELL ME  
EVERYTHING.

DOES THIS  
MEAN WE AREN'T  
GONNA GO OUT  
KILLIN'?

WE CAN GO  
WITHOUT YOU,  
YOU KNOW!

STAY  
HERE.

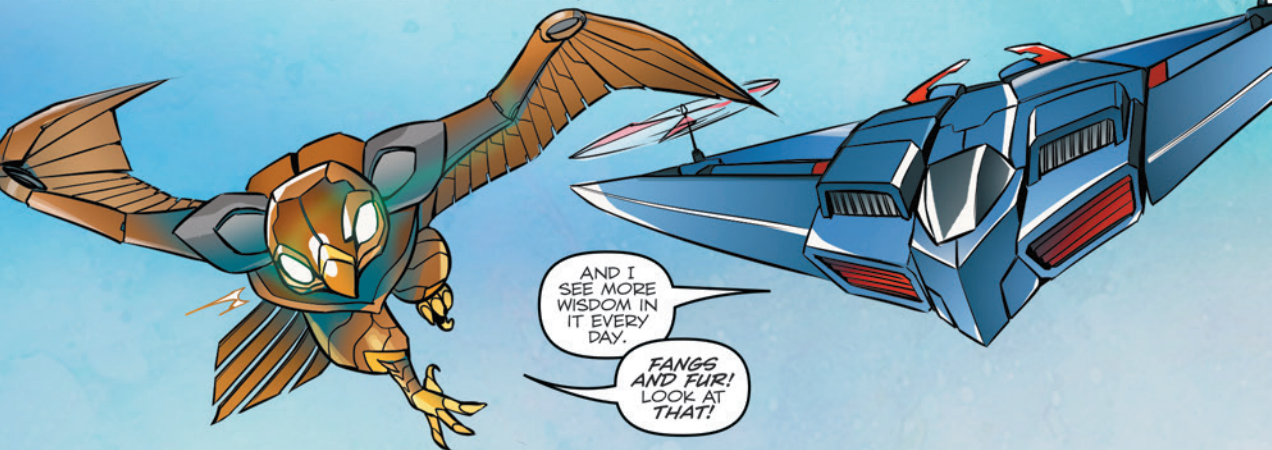
...FINE.



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, OBSIDIAN, BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT CYBERTRON TO BE EVEN MORE FRACTURED THAN EUKARIS WHEN I SIGNED ON FOR THIS.

AND THEIR *POLITICS* IS GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM.

YOUR PEOPLE, AIRAZOR. CYBERTRON'S... CHAOTIC NATURE IS THE REASON *THE FIRST* CHOSE TO KEEP US ABOARD SHIP.



AND I SEE MORE WISDOM IN IT EVERY DAY.

FANGS AND FUR! LOOK AT THAT!



DOWN WITH STARScream! DOWN WITH THE BADGELESS!

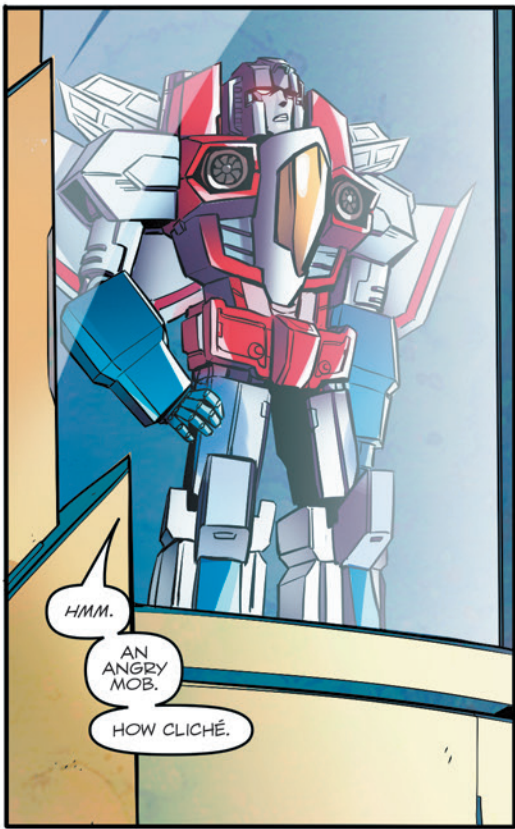
JUSTICE!

GET 'EM!



WELL, IT'S TOO LATE TO GO BACK TO EUKARIS NOW.

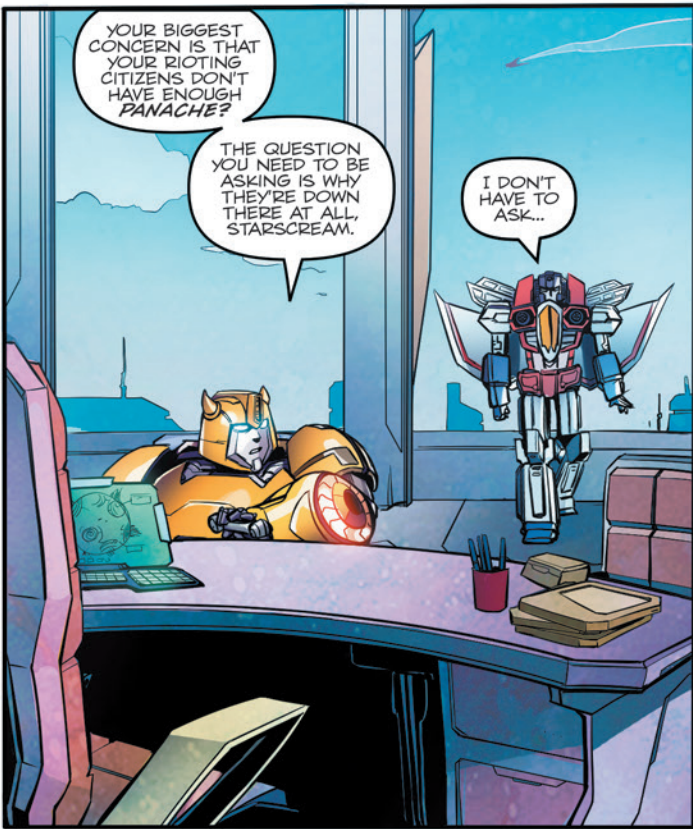
AGREED. AND AS WE CANNOT EXTRACT OURSELVES FROM CYBERTRON'S PROBLEMS, THE ONLY OPTIONS IS TO SEE THEM SOLVED. HURRY!



HMM.

AN ANGRY MOB.

HOW CLICHÉ.



YOUR BIGGEST CONCERN IS THAT YOUR RIOTING CITIZENS DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PANACHE?

THE QUESTION YOU NEED TO BE ASKING IS WHY THEY'RE DOWN THERE AT ALL, STARSCREAM.

I DON'T HAVE TO ASK...



...I KNOW.



WELL, LOOKS LIKE THE CURRENT'S COME BACK AROUND THE CIRCUIT.

YOU DON'T NEED TO RUB IT IN, BUMBLEBEE. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING FOR THOSE UNGRATEFUL—

LANGUAGE.

—AND THOSE IDIOT DELEGATES WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE.



STARSCREAM!

SEE?