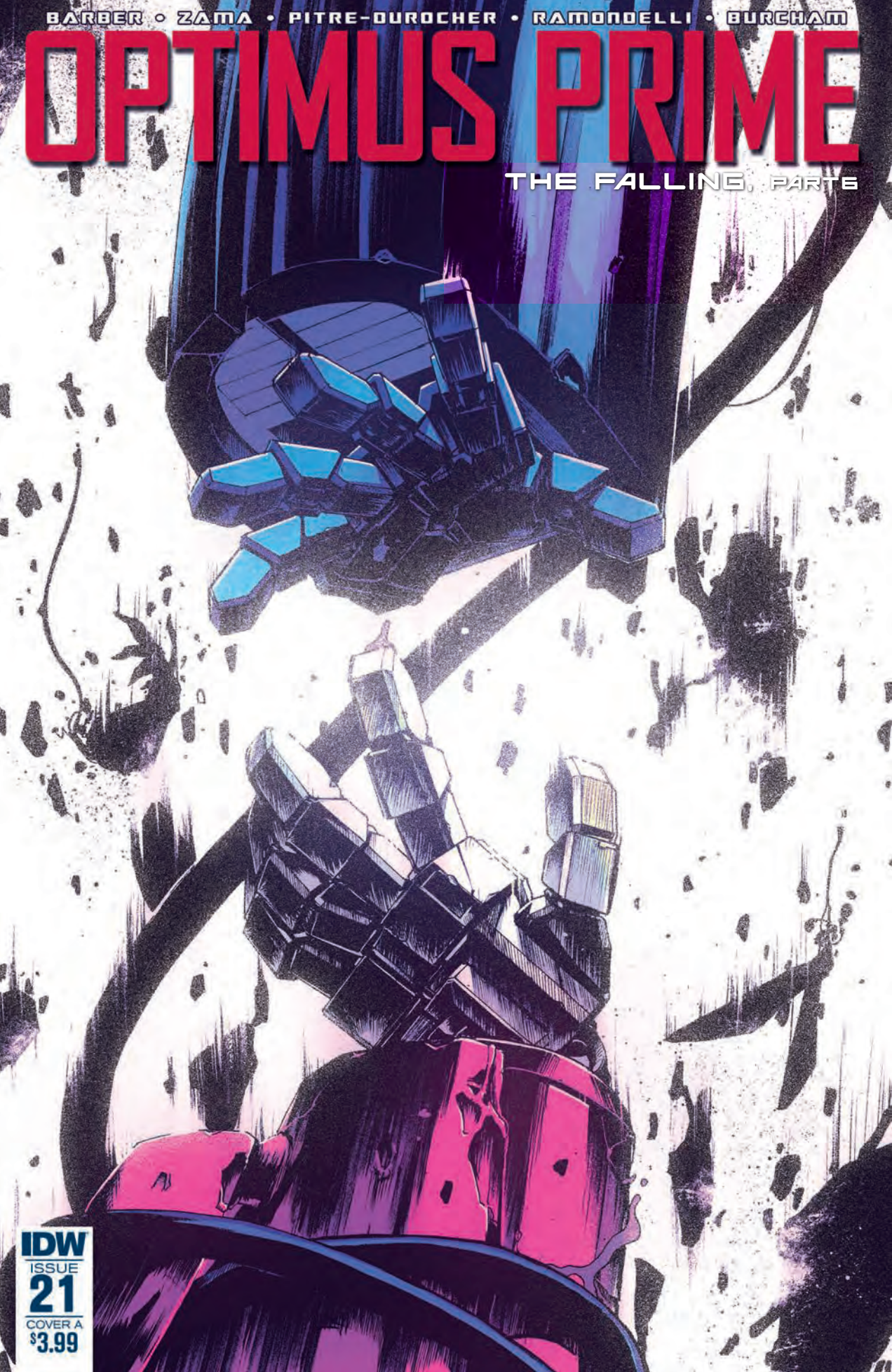


BARBER • ZAMA • PITRE-DUROCHER • RAMONDELLI • BURCHAM

OPTIMUS PRIME

THE FALLING, PART 6



IDW
ISSUE
21
COVER A
\$3.99

OPTIMUS PRIME



Written by: **JOHN BARBER**
Art by: **KEI ZAMA, SARA PITRE-DUROCHER,
& LIVIO RAMONDELLI**
Colors by: **JOSH BURCHAM**
Letters by: **TOM B. LONG**
Editor: **DAVID MARIOTTE**
Publisher: **GREG GOLDSTEIN**



COVER A

Artwork by: **KEI ZAMA**
Colors by: **JOSH BURCHAM**



COVER B

Artwork by: **CASEY W. COLLER**
Colors by: **JOHN-PAUL BOVE**



RETAILER INCENTIVE COVER

Artwork by: **KEI ZAMA**

Special thanks to Ben Montano, David Erwin, Josh Feldman, Ed Lane, Beth Artale, and Michael Kelly for their invaluable assistance.

For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com



Greg Goldstein, President & Publisher • John Barber, Editor-In-Chief • Robbie Robbins, EVP/Sr. Art Director • Cara Morrison, Chief Financial Officer • Matthew Ruzicka, Chief Accounting Officer • Anita Frazier, SVP of Sales and Marketing • David Hedgecock, Associate Publisher • Jerry Bennington, VP of New Product Development • Lorelei Bunjes, VP of Digital Services • Justin Eisinger, Editorial Director, Graphic Novels and Collections • Eric Moss, Sr. Director, Licensing & Business Development
Ted Adams, Founder & CEO of IDW Media Holdings

Facebook: [facebook.com/idwpublishing](https://www.facebook.com/idwpublishing) • Twitter: [@idwpublishing](https://twitter.com/idwpublishing) • YouTube: [youtube.com/idwpublishing](https://www.youtube.com/idwpublishing)
Tumblr: [tumblr.idwpublishing.com](https://www.tumblr.com/idwpublishing) • Instagram: [instagram.com/idwpublishing](https://www.instagram.com/idwpublishing)



OPTIMUS PRIME #21. JULY 2018. FIRST PRINTING. HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS, and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2018 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

THE CONQUERING HERO; THE SAVIOR STORMING OUR SHORES.

NEVER MIND THAT THE VILLAIN HE WAS SAVING US FROM WAS ONE OF HIS MAKING...

...THE TRUE PRIME HAD ARRIVED ON GAMINUS.



WE WERE THERE—THE TORCHBEARERS...

...BEARING WITNESS TO THE ARISEN.



WE SERVED THE MISTRESS OF FLAME, SPIRITUAL LEADER OF ALL CAMIENS.


SHE MET THE CHALLENGE OF HIS CLAIM AND DEMANDED SHE BE SHOWN THE MATRIX OF LIGHT.



BUT WE REMEMBERED WHEN WE FIRST MET A PRIME.

AND WE WERE NOT IMPRESSED.






OF COURSE, THE *ARISEN* HAD NOT COME *ALONE*.


IT WAS A *COMBINER* THAT HAD ATTACKED, SO ANOTHER *DEFENDED* US.

I'D NEVER SEEN ONE OF *THOSE* BEFORE.




WE *TOILED* TOGETHER, *REPAIRING* CAMINUS...

...FROM WHAT A *PRIME* WROUGHT.



THE *MISTRESS'* HYPOCRITICAL *ACCEPTANCE* OF *OPTIMUS PRIME* DROVE US AWAY.


WE CHOSE CYBERTRON'S HARSHTEST ENVIRONMENT—*THE SEA OF RUST*. WE DESIRED *SOLITUDE*... WE REQUIRED *REFLECTION*.



INSTEAD, WE GOT THE *ENIGMA* OF *COMBINATION*.*

IT DROPPED INTO OUR LAPS, THANKS TO *WINDBLADE* AND *ARCEE*...

* SEE *TRANSFORMERS: TITAN HUNTERS*.



...BUT WE SOON FOUND A WAY TO MAKE IT OUR *OWN*.

I SUPPOSE *NOTHING*
LASTS FOREVER.

DEVASTATOR
ARE DONE
LETTING YOU
STEAL OUR
THUNDER.

FALL,
DAMN
YOU—
FALL!

DEVASTATOR.
CONSTRUCTION
GESTALT.

VICTORION.
TORCHBEARER
GESTALT.

THE FALLING

CHAPTER 6: UNFORGIVABLE

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
YOU NEED
MY HELP??

SHOCKWAVE.
AKA ONYX PRIME.

I REQUIRE AID
IN TRANSFERRING
A SMALL MEASURE
OF DATA...

JETFIRE—DON'T
TRUST HIM. I
DON'T THINK HE'S
TRUSTWORTHY.

I KNOW
THAT, AILERON.
THAT'S WHAT THE
INDIGENT TONE
OF MY VOICE
WAS MEANT TO
SIGNIFY.

JETFIRE.

AILERON.

"...DATA CALLED
OPTIMUS PRIME."



THE STRENGTH
OF THE MATRIX
WAS **ALWAYS** WHAT
IT INSPIRED, GOOD
AND BAD.

GEEZ,
PRIME...

OPTIMUS PRIME.

BUMBLEBEE.
DEAD...?

...I KNOW I
SOUNDED ALL
GUNG-HO WHEN
YOU SHOWED UP,
BUT I WAS HERE
FOR WHAT, A
FEW YEARS?

I DIDN'T
ACTUALLY
EXPECT YOU'D
FIND A WAY
OUT IN YOUR
FIRST FEW
MINUTES.



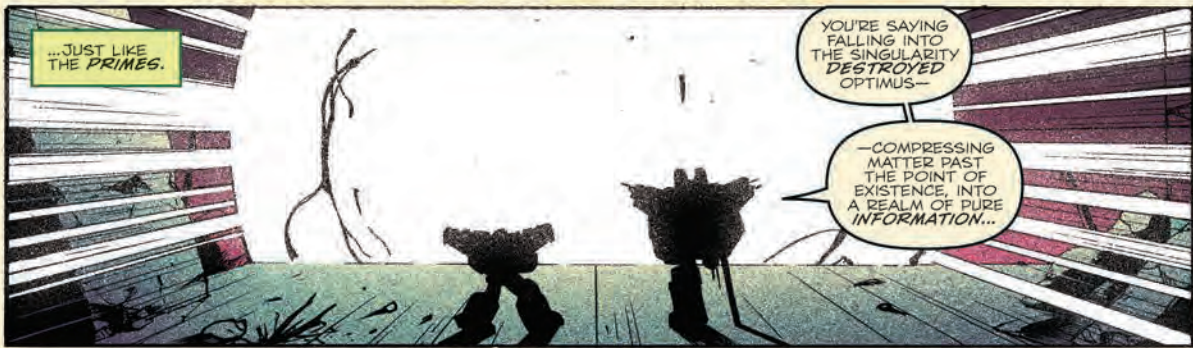
THE **MATRIX**, LIKE
THE **ENIGMA**, HAD
MECHANICAL
PURPOSES—

—OFTENTIMES VERY
SIGNIFICANT ONES.



BUT THAT WAS **NOTHING**
COMPARED TO THE STRENGTH
BELIEF IMBUED IN THEM...





...JUST LIKE THE PRIMES.

YOU'RE SAYING FALLING INTO THE SINGULARITY DESTROYED OPTIMUS—

—COMPRESSING MATTER PAST THE POINT OF EXISTENCE, INTO A REALM OF PURE INFORMATION...



PAST THE PHOTON SPHERE, BEYOND WHICH LIGHT BECOMES TRAPPED—

—IS A POINT WITH NO LENGTH OR WIDTH, BUT WITH MASS EQUAL TO THAT OF THE CRYSTAL CITY.

THE INFORMATION THAT ONCE WAS TRAPPED IN THAT INFINITE SPIKE.



IS HE... CONSCIOUS?

NO MORE THAN A COMPUTER PROGRAM WOULD BE.

YOU PUT HIM THERE, SHOCKWAVE. WHY DO YOU WANT HIM OUT NOW?



IT IS ENOUGH THAT I REQUIRE OPTIMUS PRIME BE FREED.

AS SITUATIONS CHANGE, SO MUST WE ALL. YOU SEE...



"I AM FAR FROM THE EMOTIONLESS SPECIMEN YOU ONCE KNEW."

MY FAITH IN PRIMES HAD BECOME STRAINED, TO SAY THE LEAST.