

# TRANSFORMERS *GI JOE* ★ FIRST STRIKE ★







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## PROLOGUE

TELL ME SOMETHING, JOSEPH, DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?

WHAT THE HELL KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?

A REASONABLE ONE, GIVEN THE CONTEXT OF THIS VISIT.

I DON'T KNOW. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING THAT... COULDN'T BE EXPLAINED SCIENTIFICALLY. EVEN IF I... DIDN'T GET THE SCIENCE MYSELF.



AH, YES, CLARKE'S THIRD LAW.

UHN! WHAT?

ARTHUR C. CLARKE, A SCIENCE FICTION AUTHOR WHO ONCE FAMOUSLY WROTE, "ANY SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IS INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM MAGIC."



FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU WERE TO SHOW A NEANDERTHAL A PHONE, HE WOULD NATURALLY ASSUME IT WAS "MAGIC".

HOW MUCH LONGER?

THE TREATMENT OR CONVERSATION?

TAKE YOUR PICK.



THERE, THAT'S THE LAST OF IT. **DIRE WRAITH** BIO-MATTER IS NOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TAKE CHANCES WITH.

PITY ABOUT THE HAND, THOUGH. BUT I DON'T SEE THAT YOU REALLY HAD A CHOICE.







THIS WILL PREVENT INFECTION AND ACCELERATE TISSUE REGENERATION. ONCE YOU'RE HEALED, WE'LL LOOK INTO PROSTHETIC SOLUTIONS.

YOU SOUND PRETTY SURE I'LL STICK AROUND, KREIGER.

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU'VE DONE.



LET'S NOT PRETEND, JOSEPH. YOU'RE STILL JUST AS **DESPERATE** NOW AS YOU WERE WHEN YOU BLEED OUT ON MY DOORSTEP.

I KNOW IT MUST HAVE PAINED YOU TO REALIZE I WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG...

...THAT THE WORLD GOVERNMENTS AND EVEN YOUR PRECIOUS **G.I. JOE** HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED BY AN **ALIEN POWER**...

...AND THAT THOSE SAME GOVERNMENTS HAVE PLACED US FIRMLY IN THE GRIP OF TITANIC, IMMORTAL ROBOTS.



IF YOU WANT TO DEFEAT THEM, I AM YOUR LAST, BEST CHANCE.

...



BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION. DO **YOU** BELIEVE IN MAGIC?

WHY? ARE YOU TRYING TO OFFER ME MILITARY-GRADE **WANDS**? I THOUGHT YOU WERE A SCIENTIST.

I AM INDEED A SCIENTIST, AND, BECAUSE OF THAT, I DO NOT DISMISS A COSMIC TRUTH BECAUSE IT CONFLICTS WITH MY PERSONAL WORLDVIEW.

MAGIC IS **REAL**, JOSEPH. AS **REAL** AS ANY TRUE WORK OF ART. IT IS TECHNOLOGY THAT IS THE IMPOSTER.

WOULD YOU DISBELIEVE THE REALITY OF THE MONA LISA JUST BECAUSE A MACHINE CAN MAKE A PERFECT FACSIMILE?





SINCE I JUST **LOST** MY HAND TO A FACSIMILE OF SOMEONE I **RESPECTED**, I'D SAY I'M JUST ABOUT DONE WITH FAKES OF ANY KIND.



EXACTLY. **TECHNOLOGY ITSELF** IS A FAKE. ART DEVOID OF SOUL. POWER WITHOUT COST. THE FIRE OF THE GODS CARRIED OUT OF OLYMPUS AND WRAPPED IN PLASTIC FOR ANY IDIOT TO SUMMON.



THE CYBERTRONIANS PERSONIFY THIS. IT'S WHY ANY SANE MAN FINDS THEM SO REPULSIVE.



I'M REPULSED BY OPTIMUS PRIME ANNEXING **MY** WORLD INTO **HIS** EMPIRE. YOU HAVE THE LONGEST TRACK RECORD WITH THESE THINGS AND THEIR KIND. ARE YOU REALLY TELLING ME MAGIC IS THE ANSWER?



ONLY THE TRUTH CAN DO THAT.



THAT LOOKS FAMILIAR.

IT SHOULD. IT'S CALLED THE TALISMAN. IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER.

I REMEMBER WHAT IT DID TO MIKE—SUPER-CHARGED HIM. BUT IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT'S ENOUGH...



REALLY, JOSEPH. YOU WOUND ME.

I'M SAYING THAT'S NOT **ALL** IT CAN DO.



**KLICK**





"MILES AND I HAVE ALREADY BEEN INVESTIGATING THE TALISMAN'S... POTENTIAL."

TORTURE ME IF YOU WANT, YOU GRIMY LITTLE MEATBAG, BUT I'M NOT TELLING YOU ANYTHING.

OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY A WORD, CREATURE.



SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO BLITZWING.

**GAAAAH!**



THE ENERGY OF THE TALISMAN IS ANATHEMA TO THEM, AND THIS IS JUST A FRACTION OF ITS POWER. WITH THE RIGHT PLAN AND RESOURCES... WE COULD BREAK AN ARMY OF THEM.



WHAT ABOUT A WORLD?

THE TALISMAN CAN. I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE, BUT YOU KNOW MILES... HE CAN SPREAD A LITTLE *MAYHEM*, BUT HE'S NOT UP TO A MISSION LIKE THAT. NOT ALONE.

AND I DON'T THINK WHICHEVER OF YOUR JOES ARE STILL HUMAN WILL LEAP AT THE CHANCE TO COMMIT INTERGALACTIC TREASON.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

BUT YOU WERE ALSO RIGHT ABOUT WHY I CAME HERE.



AND BRINGING A WAR TO CYBERTRON ISN'T A JOB FOR MY JOES.

**END PROLOGUE**





\*E.D.C. = EARTH DEFENSE COMMAND - ED.