

# PLANET CYBERTRON.

THIS IS ALL YOUR DOING.

PEACE; PERMANENT, SECURE, UNEQUIVOCAL PEACE.

IT ALL ADDED UP—ALL YOUR PREDICTIONS AND PROJECTIONS; ALL THE WORK YOU PUT INTO PATTERN ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION SIMULATIONS.

THE THREAT OF THE DECEPTICONS HAS BEEN REMOVED.

YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE THAT SAW WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE, AND I FEEL FOOLISH FOR NOT REALIZING THAT SOONER.

THANK YOU, PROWL.

PLEASE DON'T THANK ME, OPTIMUS. I JUST TOOK MY PLANS TO THEIR NATURAL CONCLUSION.

IT WAS YOU AND THE OTHERS. WHAT YOU DID... WHAT YOU HAD TO DO...

DON'T DWELL ON IT, OLD FRIEND. WE SHOULD MOVE ON, KNOWING WHAT WE DID WAS IN JUST CAUSE.

I ONLY WISH WE HAD FOLLOWED YOUR ADVICE SOONER.

ME TOO. IT WAS INFURIATING HAVING ALL THE ANSWERS AND NOT BEING LISTENED TO.

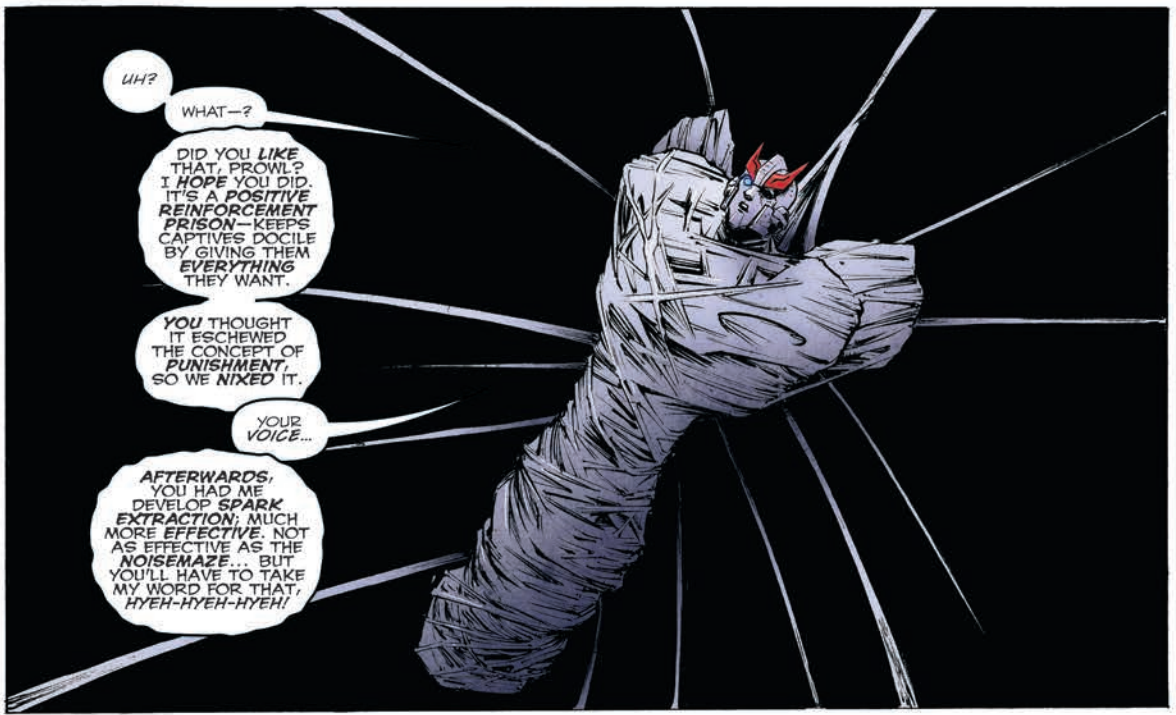
YOU WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG, PROWL.

YES, YES I WAS.

YOU WERE RIGHT.

I WAS RIGHT...

I WAS...



UH?

WHAT—?

DID YOU LIKE THAT, PROWL? I HOPE YOU DID. IT'S A POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT PRISON—KEEPS CAPTIVES DOCILE BY GIVING THEM EVERYTHING THEY WANT.

YOU THOUGHT IT ESCHEWED THE CONCEPT OF PUNISHMENT, SO WE MIXED IT.

YOUR VOICE...

AFTERWARDS, YOU HAD ME DEVELOP SPARK EXTRACTION; MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE, NOT AS EFFECTIVE AS THE NOISEMAZE... BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY WORD FOR THAT; HYEH-HYE-HYE!



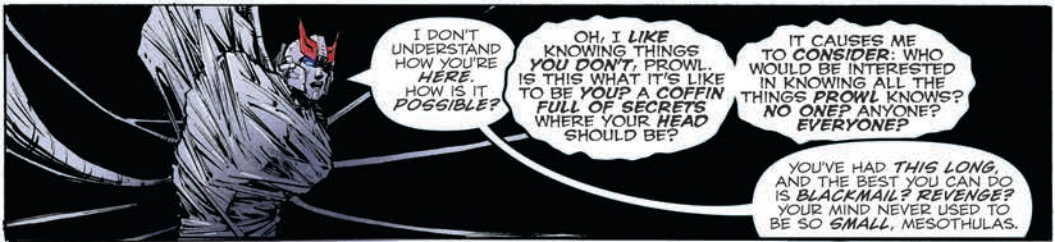
IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT? IT'S MESOTHULAS.

HYAH! AS IF THAT NAME MEANS ANYTHING ANY MORE.

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

WHAT?! YOU "DON'T UNDERSTAND"? I FEEL LIKE I'VE WON ALREADY! SUCCESS!

SAY IT. I WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY IT. YOU "DON'T UNDERSTAND" WHAT?



I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU'RE HERE. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?

OH, I LIKE KNOWING THINGS YOU DON'T, PROWL. IS THIS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE YOUR A COFFIN FULL OF SECRETS WHERE YOUR HEAD SHOULD BE?

IT CAUSES ME TO CONSIDER: WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING ALL THE THINGS PROWL KNOWS? NO ONE? ANYONE? EVERYONE?

YOU'VE HAD THIS LONG, AND THE BEST YOU CAN DO IS BLACKMAIL? REVENGE? YOUR MIND NEVER USED TO BE SO SMALL, MESOTHULAS.

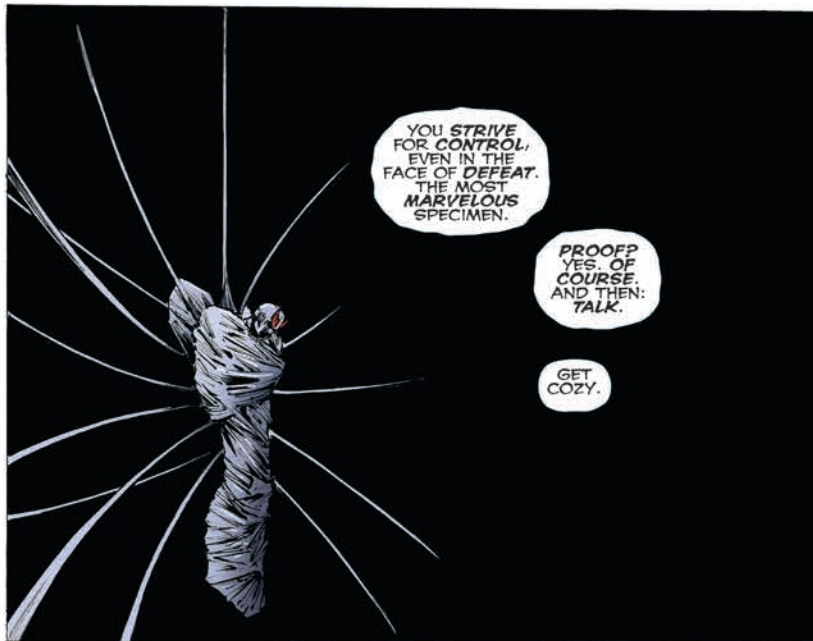


MY MIND'S BIGGER THAN EVER, PROWL. BUT THEN IT'S HAD A LOT OF TIME, AND A LOT OF ROOM TO EXPAND.

BLACKMAIL AND REVENGE? BY-PRODUCTS. I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU, AND AIM TO ENSURE I GET IT.

IF I DO NOT GET IT, THEN IT'S TIME FOR A FEW TRUTHS TO COME TUMBLING OUT FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

I KNOW HOW THIS WORKS, MESOTHULAS. I'M NOT ENTERING INTO ANY DIALOGUE UNTIL YOU GIVE ME PROOF THAT YOU HAVE SPECK ONE OF DIRT ON ME.



YOU STRIVE FOR CONTROL, EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEFEAT. THE MOST MARVELOUS SPECIMEN.

PROOF? YES. OF COURSE. AND THEN: TALK.

GET COZY.



WELL, IF SHE DIDN'T DO IT, WHO DID?

VERITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROWL'S DISAPPEARANCE? RIGHT. WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?

THAT'D BE ARCEE. AND WHEN SHE'S NOT ACCUSING HUMANS, I'M SUSPECT NUMBER ONE.

YOU, KUP? SAY IT AIN'T SO...

WELL, UM... KUP WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND WHEN PROWL—HEH—DISAPPEARED, GUZZLE. SO, WHERE, UH, WAS HE?

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, SPRINGER?



SPRINGER?

SPRINGER.



I... I THINK...

I-UH...

...I THINK THE LAST FIVE YEARS I SPENT OFFLINE WERE NOWHERE NEAR THE WASTE OF TIME THIS IS.

PHHH. STILL FITS. THANKS FOR THINKING OF IT, STAKEOUT.

SHOULD KEEP YOU WARM, AT LEAST.

**NOME, ALASKA.**



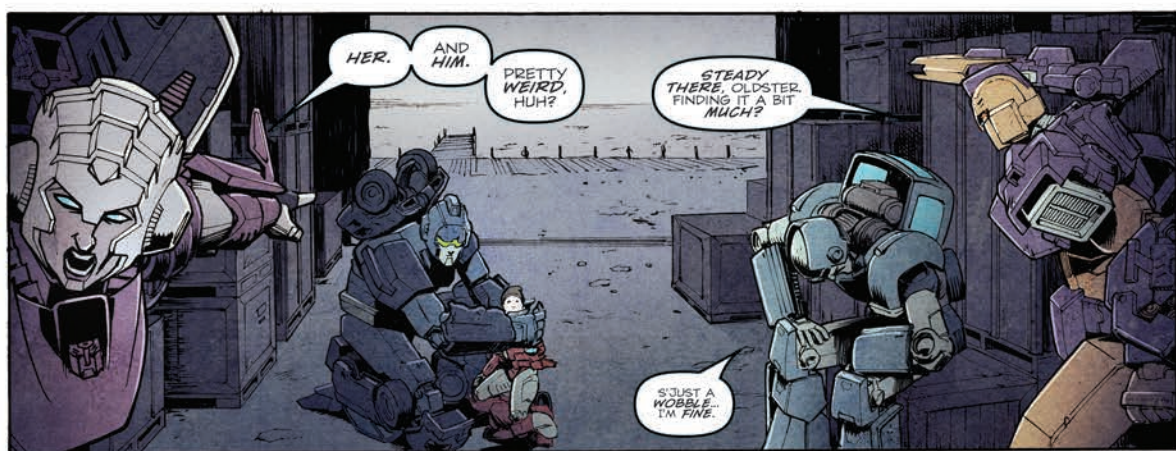
HAVE I BEEN OUT OF IT THAT LONG THAT THE DECEPTICONS AREN'T BEHIND THIS SORT OF THING ANY MORE?

SO "TAKE-CHARGE." I CAN SEE WHY PROWL SELECTED YOU FOR THIS JOB. THAT, AND YOU HAVE AN INTELLECT TO RIVAL THE WIDTH OF YOUR SHOULDERS.

YOU—ARCEE— YOU HAVE ALL THE WRONG ANSWERS. WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

"DECEPTICONS!" OH YEAH! CASE CLOSED! NOW, BACK TO BED. YOU CONDESCENDING STICK-SHIFT.

IT ALL CHECKS OUT; THEY'VE BEEN ELIMINATED FROM ENQUIRIES. YOU KNOW WHO HASN'T BEEN?



HER. AND HIM. PRETTY WEIRD, HUH?

STEADY THERE, OLDSTER. FINDING IT A BIT MUCH?

S'JUST A WOBBLE. I'M FINE.



HUBCAP, ROADBUSTER SAYS YOU CAN HELP WITH THIS— PROWL HAS DEFINITELY BEEN IN THIS VICINITY RECENTLY, RIGHT? ANY SIGN OF ANY OTHER CYBES?

NOT UNTIL US, UH, NO, NO ENERGY-SIGS, SPARKPRINTS OR FUEL TRAILS.

THE ONLY LIFEFORMS I'M READING ARE TERRAN—THE HUMANS AND THE LOCAL WILDLIFE.

SO, THAT'S BEEN SORTED, YEAH? NOW WE NEED TO START LOOKING ELSEWHERE.

AND IT'S ALL POINTING TO...

GOTTA GO... DON'T FEEL...



VERITY?

I'LL GO, SIR.

NOW, THAT'S CONVENIENT, ISN'T IT?

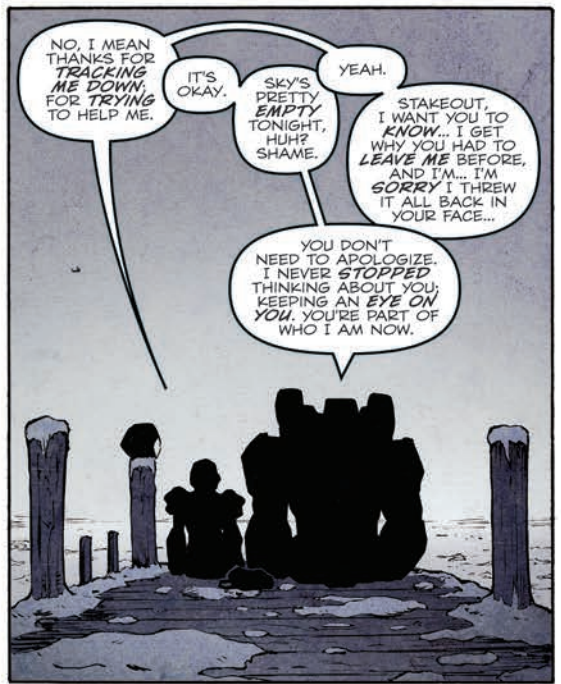


VERITY... ARE YOU... IS IT...?

I'M FINE, STAKEOUT. WELL, I'M NOT, BUT...

I'M OKAY. THANKS FOR COMING AFTER ME.

WELL, IT'S COLD OUT HERE, I DIDN'T LIKE THE IDEA OF...



NO, I MEAN THANKS FOR TRACKING ME DOWN, FOR TRYING TO HELP ME.

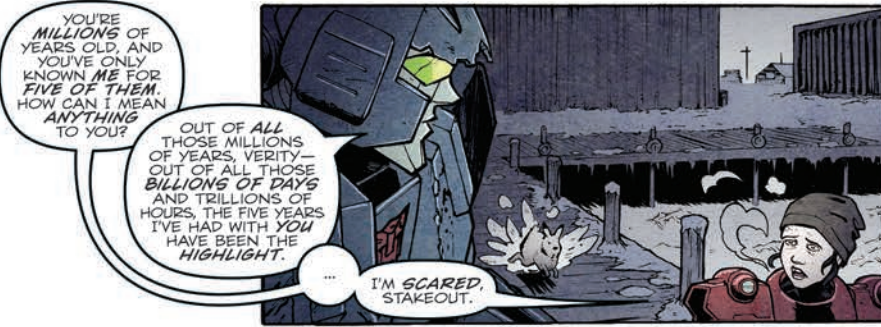
IT'S OKAY.

SKY'S PRETTY EMPTY TONIGHT, HUH? SHAME.

YEAH.

STAKEOUT, I WANT YOU TO KNOW... I GET WHY YOU HAD TO LEAVE ME BEFORE, AND I'M... I'M SORRY I THREW IT ALL BACK IN YOUR FACE...

YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE. I NEVER STOPPED THINKING ABOUT YOU, KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU. YOU'RE PART OF WHO I AM NOW.



YOU'RE MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD, AND YOU'VE ONLY KNOWN ME FOR FIVE OF THEM. HOW CAN I MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

OUT OF ALL THOSE MILLIONS OF YEARS, VERITY— OUT OF ALL THOSE BILLIONS OF DAYS AND TRILLIONS OF HOURS, THE FIVE YEARS I'VE HAD WITH YOU HAVE BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT.

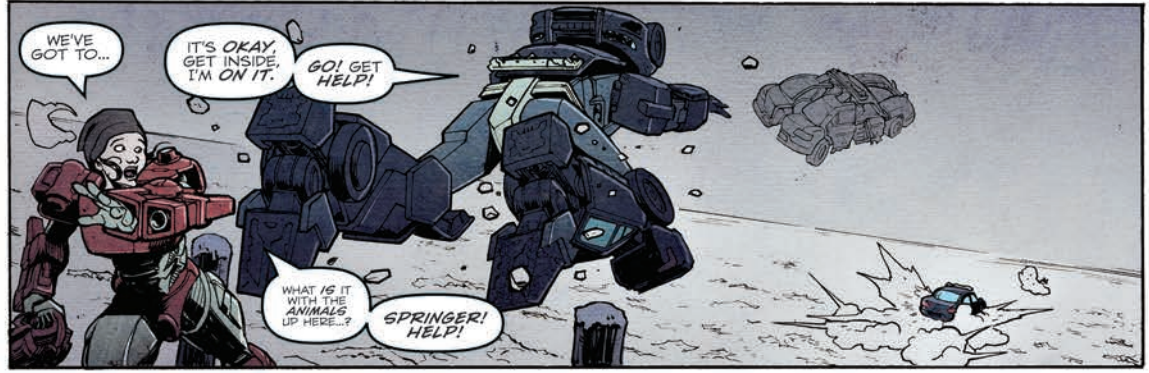
... I'M SCARED, STAKEOUT.



THE BAG!

**NO!**

IT'S GOT AEGUITAS!



WE'VE GOT TO...

IT'S OKAY, GET INSIDE, I'M ON IT.

GO! GET HELP!

WHAT IS IT WITH THE ANIMALS UP HERE...?

SPRINGER! HELP!