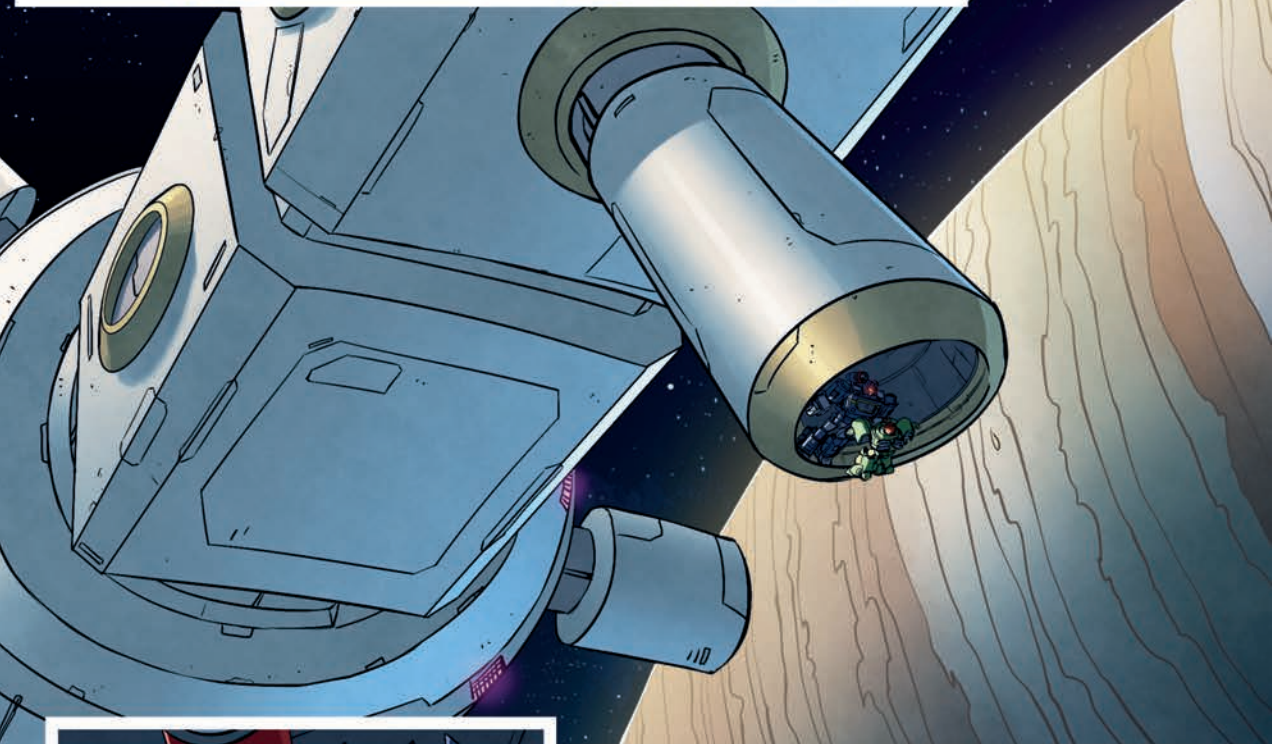


EVERYBODY'S DEAD, SOUNDWAVE. THEY'RE ALL GONE.

SOMEBODY ATTACKED AND—AND—

—I DON'T THINK IT WAS YOU.

IT WAS NOT. NOW—BE SILENT, LITTLE AUTOBOT.

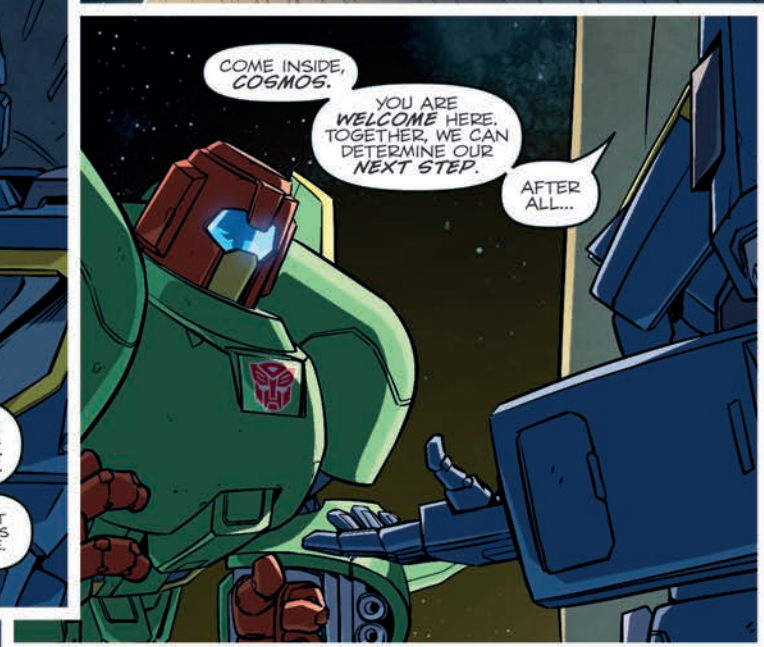


I AM AFRAID I CANNOT HEAR YOUR COMPATRIOTS.

WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

I NEED TO GET BACK TO CYBERTRON. GET BACKUP.

I CANT DO THIS ALONE.



COME INSIDE, COSMOS.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE. TOGETHER, WE CAN DETERMINE OUR NEXT STEP.

AFTER ALL...



"...WE ARE ALL ONE IN THE EYES OF PRIMUS."

WOOF.

THAT'S RIGHT, BUSTER. THEY WON'T EVEN LET ME TALK TO HIM, AND THEY GIVE THAT BLACKROCK GUY FULL ACCESS.

HRRRRR.

BETWEEN YOU AND ME? I THINK HE'S FLIPPED A DIODE...



"...OR WHATEVER HUMANS HAVE."

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, A BLACK ANGEL APPEARED BEFORE ME.

IT SPOKE IN A LANGUAGE I HAD NEVER HEARD, BUT I UNDERSTOOD.

IT SHOWED ME A WORLD OF RUST DESERTS ORBITING AN INFINITE DARKNESS.



SO I GOT THAT GOING FOR ME, WHICH IS NICE.

WELL, YOU'RE HALF-RIGHT. MAYBE TWO THIRDS.

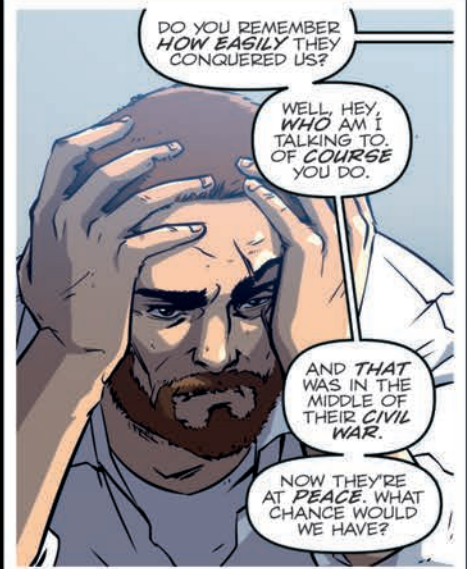
BLACKROCK... THERE'S NO ANSWER FOR ME TO GIVE. YOU NEED PSYCHOLOGICAL HELP.



YOU KNOW THE AUTOBOT'S SHIP?

THIS ONE VEHICLE—ONE OF A FLEET—CARRIES THE SAME DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL AS THE SUM TOTAL OF HUMANKIND.

UP UNTIL THE CYBERTRONIANS INVADED US, I MEAN.



DO YOU REMEMBER HOW EASILY THEY CONQUERED US?

WELL, HEY WHO AM I TALKING TO, OF COURSE YOU DO.

AND THAT WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR CIVIL WAR.

NOW THEY'RE AT PEACE. WHAT CHANCE WOULD WE HAVE?



BUT THIS SHIP.

THEY CALL IT AN **ARK**, WHICH IS A NICE **SAFE** WORD THAT SOUNDS LIKE A **REFUGE** FOR ORPHANED ROBOTS.



BUT I'VE BEEN LEARNING THEIR **LANGUAGE**. IT'S COMPLICATED AND WEIRD, BUT A CLOSER TRANSLATION FOR THAT SHIP IS REALLY...

...**"VANGUARD."**

AS IN THE **LEADING DIVISION** OF AN **INVADING ARMY**.



WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO **SAY?!**

THEY **SHOULDN'T BE TRUSTED**.

EVEN IF THEIR **MOTIVES ARE PURE**... WHAT ARE **WE** TO THEM?

THEY LIVE FOR **MILLIONS OF YEARS**. OUR LIVES ARE OVER IN AN **INSTANT**. WE'RE **NOTHING**.



YOU **HAVE** THOUGHT ABOUT THIS.

YOU KNOW WHAT **THEY** ARE.

YOU KNOW WHAT **HUMANS** ARE.

I THINK YOU CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT **I** AM, BECAUSE, MAN, I REALLY NEED TO KNOW.



YOU'RE THE GUY THAT NEEDS TO **LET ME OUT** AND GET ME **BACK IN CHARGE**.

HA HA— A CHANGE IN **TACTICS**. YOU'RE GETTING **DESPERATE**.



NO, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LEAD **ANYTHING**, SPIKE.

I'M IN **COMMAND**. THE **BLACK ANGEL** GAVE ME THE **MEANS**...

"...AND I'VE BROUGHT
INFINITE DARKNESS
TO BEAR AGAINST
THE CYBERTRONIANS."

IT'S ALL IN
THERE?

CYBERTRON. THE SEA OF RUST.

YES.

THE *CRYSTAL CITY*. *BUMBLEBEE*
ONE OF MY OLDEST
FRIENDS, AND
SHOCKWAVE...
WHO I KNEW EVEN
LONGER.

ALL COMPRESSED
TO A SINGLE POINT—
A STABLE, MINIATURE
SINGULARITY.

IS IT A UH, A *PRIME*
THING THAT KEEPS IT
FROM SWALLOWING
THE PLANET?

NO—ITS *MASS* IS
NO GREATER THAN THAT
OF THE CITY. MY FRIEND
WHEELJACK TELLS ME
AN ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD
PROTECTS THE AIR MOLECULES
FROM ENTERING ITS
EVENT HORIZON.

THOUGH
ITS PRESENCE
IS LIKELY
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE *HEAVY*
WEATHER
OUTSIDE.

AND YOU
LIKE TO
LOOK
AT... *IT*?

I LOST
FRIENDS HERE,
AND *GAINED*
OTHERS.

BUMBLEBEE.
I KNOW THAT
NAME... HE RULED
CYBERTRON BEFORE
STARSCREAM AND
AFTER YOU, RIGHT?

I *NEVER* RULED CYBERTRON.
I COMMANDED THE
AUTOBOTS, AND EVEN
THEN I WAS A COG IN
A LARGER MACHINE.

BEFORE HE
DISAPPEARED.

YEAH, OKAY, BUT
THIS WAS ALSO—
THIS WAS THE PLACE
WHERE THE *TITAN*
CALLED *STARSCREAM*
THE *CHOSEN*
ONE, RIGHT?

THE
TITAN, I
MEAN.

THIS PLACE HAS
ALWAYS BEEN
IMPORTANT. IN
MY DAY, WE
CALLED IT THE
RUST SPOT.

BUT IT'S
NOT *YOUR*
DAY ANY
LONGER...



...IS IT?

CONQUERORS

Part 2

LAGRANGE