TRANSFORMERS: FORGED TO FIGHT

THE NEW ORDER

A CELEBRATION OF 1 YEAR

by Gaél

FOREWORD

Today is Thursday, May 2nd, 2024. You know what's so important about that date? It's the day I made the Google Doc with the episode list for this series and started giving those names some plots, main characters, and a numbering. 1 year later, and I've already written 6/10 of the series and started on book 7.

Transformers may very well be my favorite thing in the world - actually, no, my stuffed animals and their hilarious personalities come before that. Transformers is second, though. Anyways, it's been a great year. When I started this, I had no idea I'd have written 6 books by now. I expected to have written, what, like 3? I don't remember. I have a feeling I'll be done by this time next year, which is exciting, because as much as I love this series, I have some other projects lined up (a GoBots crossover inspired by *The War Within*, a shorter, 24-"episode" series, and a sequel to this series) that I can't wait to get started on.

Alright, so I initially wrote the episode names for *Forged to Fight* with the thought in my head that it was a Transformers TV show, hence why I refer to these stories as episodes and the books as seasons. (I call them books for the sake of simplicity, because I don't want to explain everything to people all the time. It does get hard keeping track of the book numbering versus the season numbering, however.) In terms of what this is, it's one of those double-length specials you'd get between seasons, like *Day of the Departed* from Ninjago (except swap out unleashed spirits for a ripoff of *Dark Cybertron*). This *does* have an episode number, though: 106.

I think I've rambled on long enough. Without further ado, here is *The New Order*. (What character do you think is the main antagonist? It's definitely *not* Shockwave… no… not at all…)

THE NEW ORDER

It has been two weeks since the Quintesson threat was stopped by the High Council and their allies. In a cave with a pool of rarified energon, several councilors and their allies battled S-1000, Shockwave, Getaway, and Galvatron over the Golden Disk. Getaway was killed, and Dinobot sacrificed his life to destroy the disk. S-1000 fled afterwards, and the group buried the unconscious Shockwave and Galvatron in the cave. When Shockwave awoke, Galvatron was nowhere to be found, but the rarified energon gave him an idea…

Cybertron. The Manganese Mountains.
Contrail flies through the mountains with a tank of rarified energon attached to the underside of his jet mode. He lands on a ledge, where the wall slides inwards to reveal a door. Inside is a medium-sized base, with computers on one wall and a lab on the other. There is a canister of temporal energy on one of the tables, and next to it is Shockwave, who is busy working on a machine. "I got more of the energon." Contrail says. "Perfect." Shockwave replies. "Put it over there with the others." He points to a corner where there are two other tanks of rarified energon. One was retrieved by Contrail, while another was harvested by Shockwave himself before he hired the high-ranking Seeker. "I have a question." Contrail tells his employer. "Did you ever hate me for replacing you?"

4 million years ago. Iacon.
Shockwave walks down the street. He looks up at a screen and sees a news broadcast. A Seeker named Contrail has taken his spot on the Senate, and is being inaugurated. Instead of feeling anger, Shockwave feels nothing, thanks to the shadowplay that was done on him earlier that month.

Present day. Manganese Mountains.
"No." Shockwave calmly answers. "The Senate lacked a filled seat. It was only logical to bring someone in to take my place." Contrail nods and goes out to get another tank of energon.

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.
"Is it just me or have things been really boring lately?" Rodimus Prime asks as he reclines in his chair. "No, you're right." Megatron responds. "There's been so much chaos for the last 5 million years that adjusting peace and quiet is tricky." "Orion told me that you've been showing some… regret." Rodimus says. "You know, for the war?" "I don't want to talk about it." Megatron replies, turning away.

The Toraxxis Plains.
Bumblebee drives across the plains on his way back from his vacation in Stanix. As he speeds past packs of turbofoxes and lakes of energon, he spots a jet in the sky. The former scout transforms and looks up, attempting to identify the vehicle. Strangely, the jet has an empty tank attached to its underside. "Who is that?" he asks himself. He takes several pictures and transforms, continuing on his way to Helex. While he drives, he contacts the council on their comm channel. "So, I was driving across the Toraxxis Plains, and I saw a jet flying by - the only jet I've seen flying around the area - with a tank attached to it. I'll send over the pictures in a few."

In space, 15 miles from Cybertron.
The *Kalis' Lament* flies through space. It is captained by Soundwave, with a crew consisting of the Recordicons (all currently in his chest, except for Laserbeak, who is perched on his shoulder, and Ravage, who is napping at his feet), Cosmos, Slugslinger, Sky-Byte, and Astrotrain. The group have been in another star system for the past 6 months or so, working on the construction of Sanctuary Station, Soundwave's commune/vacation getaway. "*Kalis' Lament* to Hydrax Plateau Spaceport." Cosmos says. "We're 15 miles away from the planet." "*Roger that.*" someone responds on the comms. "*The landing area is ready for when you arrive.*"
The repurposed war cruiser soon touches down on Cybertron's surface. Megatron and Optimus Primal are there to greet them. "I see a lot has happened in my absence." Soundwave comments as he takes note of their new bodies. "Indeed, my friend, indeed." Megatron responds. "Where's the other Megs?" Astrotrain asks. "At Metroplex with Starscream." Primal answers. "Metroplex?" Astrotrain replies. "You two better catch us up on the way to Iacon." Megatron chuckles as they all transform and leave the spaceport.

Iacon. Metroplex.
The Predacon Megatron walks with Starscream through the Titan's base mode. Metroplex now serves as a center for stores and housing, as well as doubling as part of Iacon's

defense system. He is taken care of by Six-Gun, Scamper, and Slammer, three robots created by the Primes from parts of his own body to help crew him on expeditions. They were discovered and reawakened by Starscream shortly after the Quintesson threat was dealt with. "*Hey, Screamer, can you come to the Spire for a sec?*" Rodimus asks. "*There's something I think you'll want to see.*" "*I'm on my way.*" Starscream responds. He turns to Megatron. "You're good here?" "Yessss." Megatron replies. Starscream transforms into his jet mode and takes off.

The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.
In the meeting room, Rodimus, Bumblebee, Starscream, and Orion Pax stand around the TV screen, which is projecting the photos Bumblebee took of the jet on the Toraxxis Plains. Rewind is standing under the TV, having been called in by Rodimus to ID the aircraft. "After some examination and cross-referencing with the current jetformer body-types, I can safely determine that this is Contrail." the small Autobot archivist explains. "He's the only one with a jet mode shaped like that."
"Why does he have a tank, though?" Starscream inquires. "I get that it's not illegal or anything to fly across the plains, but it's awfully strange given that people rarely do. The tank just makes everything weirder." "Should we set up a camera?" Bumblebee asks. "Or several." "I can do that." Orion says. "I've been wanting to get out of the city for a few days now anyways." "Sounds good to me." Rodimus responds. "I'll notify the rest of the council. Megs and Primal should be back with the *Lament* crew by now." Orion leaves to pick up cameras and drive out to the Toraxxis Plains.

The Manganese Mountains. Shockwave's base.
Shockwave empties some of the rarified energon into his device. He positions a camera on the wall and hits record. "Time machine test 1." he begins, before giving additional details like the date and some information on the device experiment. Then, he starts the test.
The scientist places an empty box in a glass chamber protruding from the time machine. He sets the machine to "FUTURE" and punches in a "2" in the minutes box. The seconds box is automatically filled with a "00."
Shockwave presses a green button, and the rarified energon begins to flow through the machine, manifesting as pink bolts of electricity firing at the box. Smoke begins to rise out of the top of the machine, and he steps back as it blows up. "Test failed." he says. He ends the recording and cleans up the mess.

Praxus. Security Operations headquarters.
Late that night, Jackpot is dozing off in one of the chairs in the camera room. He and Rad were put in charge of watching the cameras set up on the Toraxxis Plains. Rad walks into the dark room after going to get a cup of K-Juice from the break room. Upon entering, he sees Contrail flying by with a tank of rarified energon. "Jackpot!" he shouts as he puts the cup on the table. Jackpot jolts back to life, briefly disoriented. He looks at the cameras and sees Contrail appearing on each of the feeds. They go through the tabs and see him appearing on several other feeds before disappearing. "I'll get this footage on a data slug." Jackpot says. "You tell Prowl." Rad nods and grabs his drink, before leaving the room.
Rad knocks on Prowl's office door, and is allowed to enter. He explains everything to the police chief. "I'll call Rodimus." Prowl says once he finishes. He contacts the Head Councilor. "Yeah, so Contrail just got spotted on the plains with a tank of rarified energon." "*Say what now?*" Rodimus responds.

The Toraxxis Plains.
The next morning, Rodimus Prime, Orion Pax, and the Megatrons enlist Geomotus and his geology team to help them investigate the Contrail situation. They lead them to the entrance to the tunnels that go to the cavern where the Golden Disk was, and return to said location. "Interesting." Rodimus comments when they arrive at the ledge leading into the cavern. "What is it?" Orion Pax asks. "We caused a cave-in after we left." the Decepticon Megatron answers. "The rubble's been largely cleared, though." The other Megatron looks down into the cave. "Galvatron and Shockwave are gone." he says. "That explains it." Rodimus responds. "Let's get to work." Landmine steps forward and throws the rope down.
Beachcomber and Azimuth set up the measuring equipment while Gemotus and Landmine conduct a visual inspection based on Rodimus and the Megatrons' descriptions.
"Alright, so from what they're saying, there seems to be less energon here than there was two weeks ago." Landmine tells Beachcomber and Azimuth. "Well, we're gonna get the stealing suspicions confirmed by tomorrow, hopefully." Azimuth replies. She gestures to Orion Pax, who is busy hiding a camera in the corner. She then gives Beacomber a thumbs-up. He sticks a tube in the pool, which begins to measure how much rarified energon is in there. Azimuth sees the number on a screen on the device and writes it down on a datapad. "Good?" Rodimus asks. "Good." Geomotus answers.
"Now let's get outta here." Landmine suggests. "I don't like small, enclosed spaces." "I have to do one more thing." Geomotus says. He transforms into his alt-mode, and his radar dish begins to spin around. He transforms back into his bot mode after a few minutes and

projects a map of the Toraxxis Plains. "There are other pools of rarified energon." he tells them. "But they're all located in pockets of ground, none of which have been penetrated from what I could scan." "In other words, you're 100% sure Contrail's been getting his energon from here?" Azimuth asks. Geomotus nods. "Now can we leave?" Landmine repeats. "Yes, now we can leave." Geomotus replies.

The next day, the geology team returns. Landmine retrieves the camera while Beachcomber and Azimuth set up the measuring equipment. "It's decreased by a kiloliter." Azimuth says once they measure the pool. "I'm downloading the footage right now." Landmine tells her. Geomotus fiddles with his shapes for a bit. Soon, they wrap things up and leave for Praxus.

Praxus. SecOps HQ.

In his office, Prowl watches the footage with Rodimus and the geology team. On the screen, they see Contrail flying down into the cavern and draining rarified energon from the pool. "That confirms it." Rodimus comments. "Now we can arrest him, right?" "Well, there may be more to this." Prowl says. "Contrail's smart, and he's been pretty quiet since the war ended, but there are some unanswered questions. The obvious one is: how did he find out about the cave?" "Good point." Beachcomber comments.

Rodimus takes a datapad and writes a list of everyone who knew about the cave's location, Galvatron and Shockwave included. "Here's all the people who knew about it." he says as he hands it to Prowl. "Call 'em in - well, us. Interrogate us." "I'm gonna make another call in addition…" Prowl replies as he takes the datapad.

Later that afternoon, Prowl sits on one side of the table in the interrogation room, opposite Rodimus. Barricade stands on the other side of the one-way glass, next to Nightbeat, Muzzle, and Starscream. "I know why Prowl called you two in, but why'd he contact you, Screamer?" the former enforcer asks. "To see if anyone's lying." Starscream answers. "Scientifically. When you spend your whole life lying, you tend to figure out how people look when they do it."

An hour and 15 minutes later, Prowl finishes interrogating Warpath, the last person on the list. The loud Autobot tank leaves the room as his interrogator closes the door behind him. "None of them were lying." Starscream tells him. "Then that leaves two people." Nightbeat says. The group migrates to the investigation room, where Nightbeat and Muzzle set up a board with all the evidence. Rodimus, the Megatrons, Optimus Primal, Starscream, Prowl, and Barricade stare at it for several minutes.

"Galvatron didn't do it." the Decepticon Megatron says out of nowhere. "He's intelligent, cunning, and clever, but he didn't do it. He has no need for rarified energon. In addition,

when we were in the cave, I noticed that there were no axe marks in the wall. Galvatron lacks the ability to fly, and we took the rope with us when we left, and the cave was otherwise undamaged, meaning he had no way of leaving. The long-range comm signals are blocked at that level, so he couldn't have called anyone for help." "What do you think happened to him, then?" Muzzle asks, curious. "I suspect he was abducted, likely by the Quintessons so they can enslave him again." Megatron replies. "On the other hand, Shockwave can fly."

Nightbeat walks up to the board and removes Galvatron's picture, putting it on the table. He puts Shockwave above the "PRIME SUSPECT" card. "Kinda funny that Shock's working with his replacement." Barricade comments with a chuckle. Prowl turns to him. "You, Megs - the 'Con - and Starscream - make a list of all of Shockwave's hangouts." he orders. "Send it to me, and I'll have units in the area investigate." They nod and get to work.

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.
The next morning, Rodimus is sitting in his office, filing paperwork. "*Hey, it's Prowl.*" the SecOps chief says on the comms. "*Our teams spent the whole afternoon, night, and early morning searching Shockwave's hangouts based on the list we got. Nothing, except that my mountain patrol unit - you know, Highjump, Powertrain, those guys - noticed that some people had been in the area of Shockwave's lab in the Manganese Mountains.*" "So what now?" Rodimus asks. "*We were thinking of interviewing all of the bots he hired for the whole Nemesis Prime incident to see if they know of any other secret places.*" Prowl responds. "*I can call RoughEdge and have it arranged.*"

Rodimus informs the others of the plan, and Thundercracker overhears them. "You're interrogating his hires?" he asks. "This may sound weird, but can I talk to Skywarp?" "Why?" the Predacon Megatron replies. "He wants to talk to him about his defection." Starscream answers. "Fine, you can interrogate Skywarp." Rodimus says. "I'll tell Prowl." Thundercracker thanks him, and later finds himself aboard a Luna-1-bound shuttle with Prowl, Barricade, Nightbeat, and Muzzle.

Luna-1. Hecate Prison.
Skywarp is the last on the list. Prowl leaves the interrogation room. "He's all yours." he says to Thundercracker. The ex-Seeker nervously walks in and closes the door behind him. He sits down opposite Skywarp at the table. "Been a while." he begins. "I ain't talking to you, traitor." Skywarp responds. "Look, I'm sorry." Thundercracker says. "For hurting you. What I'm not sorry for, however, is leaving. I don't understand why my abandonment of the

Decepticons has to be such a big problem for our friendship, though." "You don't?" Skywarp asks. He sighs.

4 million years ago. Vos.

Thundercracker walks through the rainy streets on his way to the Jhiaxian Academy of Advanced Technology. He is fearful of flying there because he worries that he'll accidentally cause a sonic boom and get hunted down by Functionaries for his powers. He hears a noise in an alley ahead of him and runs towards it, curious. In the alley, he sees a black-and-purple bot with the same body-type as him.

"Did you hear that sound?" he asks him. "Yeah, that was me." the other bot answers. "I just teleported away from a Functionary chasing me." He looks at an open wound on his shoulder. "They really earned those badges with their blood." he jokes. "You going to JAAT?" Thundercracker inquires. "I was planning on it." Skywarp replies. "Wanna just teleport us there?" Thundercracker suggests. "I don't think anyone's watching us." Skywarp thinks it over and agrees to do so, taking Skywarp's hand and teleports them to Nova Cronum.

The two walk up the steps and enter the beautiful school, meeting Senator Shockwave himself, though he has to leave to take a call from fellow senator Proteus (which leads to the two of them arguing). After enrolling, they wind up becoming roommates, leading to a long-lasting friendship.

Present day. Hecate Prison.

"We did everything together, like brothers." Skywarp finished. "We joined the Asenticons together. We attacked the Spire together. We served as Seekers together. Then you switched sides." "I didn't switch sides." Thundercracker corrects, pointing at the empty spots on his wings and chest where his insignias would be. "Doesn't change the fact that you leaving hurt." Skywarp replies, trying to hold back the sadness in his voice. "It's not about you disagreeing with our cause, it's about you abandoning your friend." Thundercracker sighs. "Look, I just… I didn't feel comfortable." he explains. "In the early days, I was fine. I didn't mind a little violence. Not every protest can be peaceful. But a war? Megatron went too far. For 4 million years, I felt sick to my stomach while fighting. Thunderwing coming back… seeing those severed heads… It was the last straw. I had to leave. I want you to know this, though: I never wanted to hurt you. I missed you on the Ark."

"Then why didn't you come talk to me sooner?" Skywarp asks. "I was scared." Thundercracker answers. "You tried to kill me. Plus, I figured you'd need some time… can

you please forgive me?" Skywarp pauses. "Yes." he says. "I shouldn't be saying this, but Shockwave has another lab. It's in the Manganese Mountains." "We checked there." Thundercracker responds. "No, not that place." Skywarp explains. "10 yards to the right, there's a hidden door covered by a sliding wall. I don't know how to get in." "Thanks, Skywarp." Thundercracker says. The two get up and hug each other. "I'll visit sometime." He smiles and leaves the room. An Autotrooper and a Vehicon enter and escort Skywarp back to his cell. "Well, that's it, RoughEdge." Prowl says to the prison warden. "Thanks for letting us interview these guys." "No problem." RoughEdge replies, before leaving to return to the warden tower. "Now what?" Thundercracker asks Prowl. "Now we go home." the police chief answers. "And arrest these slaggers."

Hydrax Plateau.
Their shuttle lands, and the group rush out. The High Council is there to meet them. "Let's roll." Rodimus says. They all transform and speed out of the spaceport and towards the Manganese Mountains. As they travel south through Tyger Pax and Protihex, Megatron (the Decepticon) thinks about the threat Shockwave poses.

3 million years ago. Junkion.
A dropship piloted by Barricade touches down on the ruined world. Megatron exits and looks around. The area has been razed. "We were forced to scorch the region." Shockwave explains as he approaches his leader. "The Autobots and the Junkions posed too great of a threat. Octopunch, X-Gunner, Fangry, and Weirdwolf are currently in a local village hunting down Autobots.." "This is… extreme." Megatron comments. "Was all the destruction really necessary?" "It was the only logical way to combat Prowl's forces." Shockwave calmly responds. "Megatron, we've gotta go!" Barricade shouts. "The Combaticons are expecting you on Gorlam Prime!" "I must leave now." Megatron says. He steps back onto the ship as the door slides closed and Barricade lifts them into the air.

The Manganese Mountains.
The group eventually arrives at the cavern where Shockwave moved his lab after Nightbeat and Muzzle exposed his Praetorus Wharf base. They locate where the base should be, and Optimus Primal steps forward. "Leave this to me." he says, transforming into his bulky mechanical gorilla mode. The others step aside and stand on either side of the cliff face, guns ready. The Maximal leader smashes the rocks to pieces, revealing a metal door that he promptly busts down. "This is Security Operations and the High

Council!" Prowl announces as he runs in. "You two are under arrest for illegally harvesting energon!"

"This is private property!" Contrail says as his arm blades and null-rays deploy from his arms. He opens fire, but they outnumber him. The Seeker leaps into the air and transforms into his jet mode, flying over them. "We'll handle him." Starscream tells them. He and Thundercracker transform and chase their former comrade out of the base, leading to a dogfight in the mountain.

"Contrail!" Shockwave shouts angrily. He pushes his time machine aside and fires at the incoming bots. "You four, let's help Screamer and TC." Bumblebee quietly suggests to Prowl, Barricade, Nightbeat, and Muzzle. They nod and follow him outside, transforming into their car modes and driving along the mountainside to catch up with their airborne allies. That leaves Rodimus Prime, Orion Pax, Optimus Primal, and the Megatrons to deal with their old enemy. "So, what's that thing behind you?" Rodimus inquires as his exhaust pipes begin to light up. "And how much fire do I need to apply to it?" He fires his flamethrowers at the machine, but Shockwave takes the hit, his enhanced armor allowing him to withstand the heat. Megatron fires his railgun, while his Predacon counterpart joins Rodimus in firing flames. Orion Pax attempts to get a clear shot at the time machine.

Outside.

While Nightbeat and Muzzle drive around the cliff in pursuit of Starscream, Thundercracker, and Contrail, Bumblebee, Prowl, and Barricade have stopped to climb up to a higher part of the mountain, intending to gun their opponent down from a better location. "Why didn't we call Percy?" Bumblebee asks. "Or Javelin?" "Because I don't think we expected to be chasing a Seeker up a mountain." Prowl answers as they climb.

"You two are traitors to the Decepticon cause!" Contrail shouts as he dodges his pursuers' null-ray fire. "A true Decepticon would support Shockwave's plan!" "We don't even know what it is, you idiot!" Starscream responds. "He's using his chronal drive to go back in time and alter what happened in the Deneb system!" Contrail explains. The Seeker captain transforms into his robot mode and spins around, firing at his enemies. Nightbeat and Muzzle transform and open fire, but he evades them.

"Hey, Contrail, over here!" Barricade says, waving his arm in the air. Contrail looks, and Bumblebee and Prowl pelt him with gunfire. *"Permission to do a sonic boom?"* Thundercracker asks Bumblebee on the comms. "Permission granted." the councilor answers. He turns to the others. "Step back and cover your ears." Thundercracker says the same thing to Starscream before transforming and flying away from Contrail. Once at a good distance, he turns around, flying as fast as he can. His nova concussion generator

finishes charging, and right as he passes their target, he creates a sonic boom that knocks both Seekers out of the way. Starscream, who's more used to it due to having served with Thundercracker for millions of years, regains his senses and transforms, flying up to join Bumblebee and co. Contrail is less lucky, and falls down, landing on a ledge below Nightbeat and Muzzle and going unconscious. Nightbeat climbs down and cuffs him as the others make their way down to join them.

Shockwave's base.

Starscream contacts the others on the comms and explains Shockwave's plans to them. They split up, with Orion Pax and the Decepticon Megatron keeping Shockwave busy while Rodimus, Primal, and the Predacon Megatron take care of the chronal drive. "The war is over, Shockwave, finished!" Megatron tells his former subordinate while Orion leaps forward to attack him. "It never ends, and you know it!" Shockwave responds as he fires at them. "Our race has a history of conflict! Earth has a history of conflict! The Stentarians! The Junkions! Peace will never last, especially under the governing of warmongers like you and Orion. If I were to lead, however…" "You wish to conquer planets!" Orion Pax reminds him as he punches the scientist in the face. "To bring peace." Shockwave calmly replies. "You're deluded." Megatron says as he fires his railgun.

Next to them, Rodimus, Primal, and the other Megatron walk over to the chronal drive. Rodimus picks it up and puts it on the table. Megatron prepares to burn it, but Primal stops him. "Wait!" he says as he grabs his former enemy's arm. "That thing has temporal energy in it. You burn it, you release those energies, and we get stuck in a time loop." Rodimus examines the machine. "That's not all." he points out. "This is powered by rarified energon. That's why Contrail was harvesting it. We have to drain it first, or else we all die in an explosion." As Shockwave grapples with Orion Pax, he fires his cannon at them, but Primal shields them from the blast.

Starscream and the others arrive, with Prowl and Barricade waiting outside with Contrail. "Muzzle, get me one of those empty canisters!" Rodimus orders. Muzzle nods and transforms, speeding around the fight and returning to Rodimus with an empty canister. Megatron passes him a pump, which the Head Councilor hooks up to the chronal drive's energon tube. He affixes the other end of the pump to the open top of the canister and begins to drain the rarified energon out of the machine. Once it's fully emptied, Primal and Megatron take the drive outside, throwing it off the mountain before blowing it up in midair. The temporal energies release into the air, their shimmery, light silver coloration barely visible. "Eh, I bet Wheeljack and Jetfire can whip up something to get rid of that." Primal comments as he takes a picture of the area to show them later.

Inside, Shockwave internally curses them for destroying his creation. "This is not over." he warns as he breaks free of Orion's grasp and transforms. He flies up, nearly hitting the roof as he attempts to avoid the laser fire coming from Starscream and co. at the door. "I'll handle him." the Decepticon Megatron tells them. He transforms into his stealth bomber alt-mode and chases after Shockwave, speeding up and transforming back to robot mode as he grabs onto the back of his jet mode.

The two fall to the floor as Megatron deploys his energon mace, brutally beating Shockwave. "I should've gotten rid of you sooner." he says. "But no, I kept telling myself that all this destruction was a necessary evil to have a good scientist." He grabs Shockwave's cannon and puts his railgun in the barrel, firing and blowing up the weapon, which cripples his arm.

Shockwave is scarred, his right arm mangled, and his singular yellow optic cracked. Through blurred vision, he sees the ominous, black and purple form of Megatron standing over him. The others watch, frozen in shock at what they just witnessed. "Don't… kill… me…" he pleads. "Shockwave, you would bring down all of creation just to satisfy your own ambition." Megatron tells him. He puts his railgun to his chest and charges it up, firing a powerful blast right through his spark chamber, at least ending the mad scientist's life. With his dying breaths, he gasps a quote from the Dark Cybertron prophecy: "A black star… Unstopped and unstoppable." "Did he just…?" Bumblebee asks, breaking the silence. "I mean, he kinda did this whole universe a big favor just now…" Nightbeat comments. They leave the base, with Prowl contacting HQ to get a team ready for them to return and pack things up. As they head back to Iacon, with Contrail and Shockwave's corpse in tow, Megatron reflects on his life: his past, his present, and his future. He thinks about the noble beginnings of the Asenticons, their downward spiral, his actions during the war, which he is beginning to deeply regret, and what he can do to be better.

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. Outside the Spire.
Roughly an hour and a half later, after Contrail's been put in jail in Praxus and Shockwave's body has been taken to the morgue, the High Council begins a press conference to explain everything. In the crowd, Soundwave stands in the front row, behind Andromeda (who is representing the ABN there). As the press conference nears its end, he decides to briefly open the mental floodgates to pick up all the various thoughts in the crowd, out of pure curiosity to see their reactions. Then, he picks up a thought from Megatron himself that makes him freeze in shock and horror. Upon hearing Rodimus ask the others if there's anything else to say, Megatron quickly steps up to the podium. He takes out a small blade he borrowed from Nightbeat and uses it to put a slash through the Decepticon insignia on

his chest. "I'm renouncing Decepticonism." he says. "What the Hell did he just say?" Andromeda asks, surprised.

TO BE CONTINUED...

CHARACTER DESIGNS

Contrail - *War for Cybertron* design

Shockwave - 2005 IDW *Robots in Disguise* design (present and all flashbacks except penultimate; with the cannon on the right arm instead of the left), 2005 IDW senator design (penultimate flashback)

Rodimus Prime - 2005 IDW *Lost Light* design

Megatron - 2005 IDW stealth bomber design (present), *Fall of Cybertron* design (past)

Bumblebee - evergreen design

Soundwave - 2005 IDW *Robots in Disguise* design

Laserbeak - 2005 IDW "Earthfall" design

Ravage - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design

Cosmos - 2005 IDW *Robots in Disguise* design

Slugslinger - 2005 IDW design

Sky-Byte - 2005 IDW design

Astrotrain - 2005 IDW "Earthfall" design in his G1 cartoon colors

Optimus Primal - *Power of the Primes* Optimal Optimus design

Metroplex - G1 design

Megatron (Predacon) - *Beast Wars* Transmetal II design

Starscream - 2005 IDW "Chaos Theory"/*Autocracy* design

Orion Pax - 2005 IDW Cybertronian design

Jackpot - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design

Rad - G1 design

Prowl - 2005 IDW "Earthfall" design

Geomotus - 2019 IDW design

Landmine - 2019 IDW design

Beachcomber - 2019 IDW design

Azimuth - 2019 IDW design

Barricade - evergreen design (present), *War for Cybertron* design (past)

Nightbeat - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design

Muzzle - fan design (found in *The Second Golden Age*'s character designs section)

Warpath - G1 design

Thundercracker - 2005 IDW "Chaos Theory"/*Autocracy* design (present), *War for Cybertron* design (past)

Skywarp - 2005 IDW "Chaos Theory"/*Autocracy* design, *War for Cybertron* design (past)

Autotrooper - *Legacy: Evolution* toy (blue eyes)

Vehicon - *Prime* design

RoughEdge - *Robots in Disguise* (2015) design

Andromeda - 2019 IDW design

ONE FINAL SCHEME!

Peace. Calm. S-1000 has been stopped, the Golden Disk has been destroyed, and the people of Cybertron can finally catch a break. Then, Bumblebee saw Contrail flying with a tank of rarified energon…

What is *Transformers: Forged to Fight?*

Forged to Fight is a Transformers fanfiction series I'm writing. Back in 2018 or so, my dad downloaded *Transformers: Forged to Fight* on his phone so I could play it. (He would download Transformers games on his phone so I could play them since I didn't have a phone then.) The names of the events and story missions inspired me to make a fictional Transformers series. I made a note on his phone and wrote an episode list using the names of those events and missions. In my head, I imagined a story that would connect them all, and at a certain point, I started getting episode name ideas from other parts of the franchise, namely the 2005 IDW comics. After finishing season 4, I went back and made a four-part pilot mini-series (*War on Cybertron*). I finally finished the episode list two years later with season 8. For a long time, I've wanted to actually make this into a series, but I never had the motivation. Then, in the beginning of May 2023, I was at my dad's, and I opened his phone and sent the note to myself. When I got back to my house, I opened my phone, then opened the Notes app, and began working on an actual episode list with plots, main characters, and episode numbers. (There's 147 episodes, by the way.) I finished it about a week before the end of May. Once I finished *The Quintessons Return*, I began this several minutes later, and now, after a few days, I'm writing this before I officially say it's finished, on May 7th, 2024, at 5:32 AM EDT (one day before the 40th anniversary of Transformers, which is cool). Enjoy *Forged to Fight*!

This is a fanfiction story. All characters, locations, and most items are property of Hasbro.