

TRANSFORMERS: FORGED TO FIGHT
RETURN OF THE PRIMES

by Gaél

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Decepticon No More.....	2
The Permanent Revolution.....	4
Rules of Disengagement.....	6
The Fall of the DJD.....	9
Return of the DJD.....	16
Fatal Furies, Part 1.....	20
Fatal Furies, Part 2: Flamewar's Revenge.....	23
Mirror, Mirror.....	25
What Could Go Wrong.....	30
A Tale of Two Stingers.....	32
Rampage.....	34
Nightbird, Part 1: Nightbird's Mark.....	37
Nightbird, Part 2: Shadow of Nightbird.....	39
The Legend of Violent Jiger.....	41
Five Faces of Darkness.....	43
Ghost Stories.....	46
Titans, Part 1: Trickery.....	50
Titans, Part 2: Vigilem Awakens.....	52
Titans, Part 3: All for Nothing.....	55
Revenge of the Fallen.....	59
Brothers, Part 1: Mission to Cybertron.....	62
Brothers, Part 2: Primus Awakens.....	65
Brothers, Part 3: Battle of Brothers.....	67
Brothers, Part 4: Power of the Primes.....	70
Character Designs.....	85

EPISODE 107

DECEPTICON NO MORE

The High Council has stopped Shockwave and Contrail's scheme to alter history and have the Decepticons win the war. With his dying breaths, Shockwave reminded them of a warning both he and Galvatron had issued: the Uncreator would come. However, that is not important right now. What is important, meanwhile, is that, at a press conference where the council explained the whole ordeal, Megatron has just renounced being a Decepticon.

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. Outside the Spire.

"You heard me correct!" Megatron shouts into the mic as the crowd murmurs. "I, Megatron of Tarn, and leader of the Decepticons, have renounced Decepticonism to become an Autobot!" "I think what we're all wondering right now is: why?" Andromeda asks in the audience. "The past few incidents with Shockwave have shown me what my cause has created." Megatron explains. "Monsters. I started this with the intention of changing the world; I wanted to tear down Functionism and bring equality to Cybertron. Instead, I lost my way. I kept telling myself that these were necessary evils. Eventually, I gave in to my darkest desires. I killed a Prime. I killed society. The Decepticons strayed from their path. The Autobots are noble. I should be with them."

"Who will be replacing you?" Star Dasher inquires. Megatron, knowing Soundwave can hear him after seeing him freeze right before he stepped up to the podium, thinks about telling him to come up the steps. Sure enough, the communications officer hears him and walks up to him. "Soundwave." he answers. "I trust him the most. He will carry on my legacy, and hopefully not repeat my mistakes. I will remain on the High Council, but he will be taking my place in the Decepticon leader seat. The neutral seat that we put off on removing will be converted to a second Decepticon one. That is all. Thank you for listening."

In space, aboard the *Peaceful Tyranny*.

Kaon runs down the hallway, barging into Tarn's office. "What did I tell you about entering my office unannounced?" Tarn asks angrily as he reads *Towards Peace* for the umpteenth time (while listening to classical music). "It was urgent." Kaon quickly explains, before showing Tarn the footage on the datapad in his hand. It's a recording of Megatron's announcement. Tarn drops his book and slams his fist on the table. "Return to the bridge."

he orders. "Tell Helex to change our course. We're going to the Dark Nebula." Kaon nods and leaves. Tarn walks over to his music player and lifts the needle, swapping out the currently playing album for his favorite single: Eucryphia's "The Empyrean Suite."

Cybertron. Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.

Megatron sits in the meeting room with the rest of the High Council, Soundwave, and Ravage. "Did you really just do that?" Bumblebee asks. "This isn't a sick joke or anything?" "No." Megatron responds. "I never thought I'd see this day." Orion Pax comments. "Neither did I." Ravage adds. "And it disgusts me." The others look at him, Soundwave included. Having said what he needed to say, he leaves the room. Soundwave looks at him sadly, and then turns back to Megatron. "I will do my best to be a good leader." he promises. "Well, I guess... welcome to the High Council, Soundwave." Rodimus Prime says, extending his hand. Soundwave shakes it.

Later. The Dark Nebula. Deathsaurus' Warworld.

"Deathsaurus, it's the *Peaceful Tyranny*." Strikesoldier tells his commander as he approaches him with a salute. "They're requesting permission to land. Tarn wants to talk to you." Deathsaurus thinks for a moment. "Permission granted." he replies.

EPISODE 108

THE PERMANENT REVOLUTION

The Dark Nebula. Deathsaurus' Warworld.

The *Peaceful Tyranny's* boarding ramp lowers, and Tarn leads the Decepticon Justice Division down it. Deathsaurus and his second-in-command, Leozack are standing outside. "Tarn," the rogue Decepticon says. "Long time no see." "I should be saying that to you." Tarn responds. "Are you here to finally execute me, because if you are, you should really see the Autobot-Decepticon peace treaty." Deathsaurus tells him. "There's a whole section that Megatron personally wrote about kill lists and all that being rendered null and void." "The DJD is enacting a permanent revolution." Tarn replies. "Megatron is now our number-one target; treaties be damned."

Cybertron. Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.

In Megatron's office, Orion Pax visits him. "Can we talk?" he asks. "There's a chair right there." Megatron answers. "Go ahead." His old enemy-turned-somewhat-friend-again sits down in the chair on the other side of his desk. "You wish to become an Autobot?" Orion inquires. "Is there a problem?" Megatron replies. "None at all." Orion says. "But, if I may ask, why join us? The entire time I've known you, you've despised the Autobots. You've called us Functionists, autocrats, racists, and much more. You waged war against us for four million years."

"I'm trying to change." Megatron explains. "More importantly, I want the people to believe that I've changed. Simply leaving the Decepticons wouldn't convey that; they'd just think I was faking it. I mean, they do, but not as much as they would if I just left. Joining the Autobots shows at least some that I'm striving to better. After all, what tyrannical warlord would join his worst enemy if he wasn't trying to change?"

"I understand." Orion replies. He gets up and leaves. Megatron follows him out. "I'm getting a new body," he says as he sees the puzzled look on his fellow councilor's face. "So soon?" Orion asks. "Fresh start." Megatron answers.

The Dark Nebula. Deathsaurus' Warworld.

"Megatron?" Deathsaurus asks, confused. Tarn gestures to Kaon, who pulls out his datapad and shows him the footage of the press conference. "Interesting." Leozack comments. "I

still don't understand." Deathsaurus repeats. "I thought you lot were loyal to Megatron?" "Yes, but he abandoned the cause." Helex explains. "He became the one thing we despise." "An Autobot." Tesarus adds. "I see." Deathsaurus says. "And why are you here? Shouldn't you be on your way to Cybertron to put a couple bullets in your former leader's spark chamber?"

"We're here because we require your aid." Tarn answers. "Our aid?" Leozack scoffs. "We're the ones that went rogue. You know, the ones with names on that List of yours?" "You have numbers." Tarn explains. "And strength." "If you think I'm going to risk the lives of my men for your vengeful crusade-" Deathsaurus is cut off.

"Didn't you steal this Warworld and run off with your followers because you disliked the way Megatron was treating his men?" Tarn asks. "Well, now's your chance for revenge. To get your slice of payback." Deathsaurus pauses and thinks. He sighs. "Very well." he says. "When do we leave?" "3 hours." Tarn responds. "Leozack, tell Goryu to begin prepping the troops, and Deathcobra to begin getting the weapons ready." Deathsaurus orders. "And you and the rest of the Breastforce will ready the *Thunder Arrow*. I presume we will be going in advance of the others?" Tarn nods.

3 hours later, Deathsaurus returns to the *Peaceful Tyranny*. Vos notifies Tarn of the general's presence on the security cameras, and he exits the ship to meet him. "The *Thunder Arrow* is ready to leave." he informs him. "Goryu and Deathcobra are almost done prepping the Warworld itself. They'll follow after us in half an hour." "Then let us leave." Tarn responds. He returns to the *Peaceful Tyranny*, while Deathsaurus walks over to the *Thunder Arrow*. Waiting for him onboard is the Breastforce, sans Deathcobra (who will captain the Warworld). Guyhawk takes them into the air, and the *Peaceful Tyranny* rises moments later.

EPISODE 109

RULES OF DISENGAGEMENT

In space, not far from Cybertron.

As the *Peaceful Tyranny* and *Thunder Arrow* fly through space, followed by Deathsaurus' Warworld, they detect a spark signal ahead of them. "Who is that?" Nickel asks as she looks at the monitor. Tarn gets up from the command chair and walks towards the windshield. As he squints, he identifies the bot: Overlord, in a slightly-different body. "Bring him aboard." he orders. "Tell him I give my word that I won't kill him."

Overlord reluctantly comes aboard and enters Tarn's office. "Relax." he says. "I have no plans to kill you. I do seek your aid, however. Did you know Megatron's gone Autobot?" "I've been disconnected for a bit." Overlord replies. "But go on." "I have allied with Deathsaurus' forces." Tarn explains. "We're on our way to Cybertron to kill our new top target, and what a lucky coincidence it is that we ran into you on the way. I know how much you hate him, and this is your chance to get a piece of him." "Say no more." Overlord says. "I'm in." "We'll be there in roughly an hour." Tarn tells him as he leaves his office. He contacts Deathsaurus to tell him the news.

Cybertron. Iacon. Iacon Central Hospital.

Flatline wakes Megatron up. He and Ratchet are standing over him, and they've just finished giving him a new body, complete with a new fusion cannon as opposed to the railgun of his previous form. "How do you like it?" Flatline asks. Megatron looks down at the Autobot symbol on his chest, the red insignia resting where a purple one had been for so long. "It's perfect." he replies as he gets up. He shakes their hands. "Thank you." He takes his fusion cannon off of the table and attaches it to his right forearm before walking out. As he drives south back to the Spire, he is contacted by Rodimus. "So, uh, we just got a call from Tracks over at the city spaceport..." he says. "Three Decepticon spacecrafts were detected nearing Cybertron. The one in the back's been ID'd as a Warworld. Sizzle and Zetca are working on identifying the two ahead of it." "A Warworld already doesn't sound good." Megatron comments. "I'll be there as fast as I can. How long do we have?" "The two lead ships are going faster." Rodimus answers. "I'd give it half an hour at the max before they get here. The Warworld, maybe 45, an hour at most." "Understood." Megatron replies.

He continues driving, and just as he arrives at the Spire and walks up the stairs, he is contacted again. "*They identified the other ships.*" Rodimus informs him, sounding grimmer than the last time he called. "*Both custom models... The first one is the Thunder Arrow. The second is - oh, Primus, this is concerning - the Peaceful Tyranny.*" Megatron doesn't respond. He quickens his pace, rushing to the elevator and pressing the "close door" button (something he doesn't normally do, as he finds it hasty).

He walks into the meeting room. "Nice upgrade." the other Megatron comments upon seeing his new body. "Thank you." he kindly responds as he walks over to the wall. He pulls down the projection screen and picks up a marker, drawing a circle and two smaller circles. "Is that us?" Optimus Primal asks. "What do you think it is?" Starscream responds. Megatron continues drawing: a large circle, although not as large as Cybertron, a rectangle with a sloped front, and a rectangle with a pointed front.

"This is the Warworld." he begins, pointing at the second big circle. "That's the *Thunder Arrow*, and that's the *Peaceful Tyranny*. Presumably, the Warworld is the one Deathsaurus stole from the Decepticon fleet when he and his followers went rogue." "Hm?" the Predacon Megatron asks, confused. "Deathsaurus was one of my best generals." Megatron explains. "He was growing to resent me for the way I treated my men, and when he saw that I wouldn't change, he gathered his followers and stole a Warworld from the fleet. It was the only other one from said fleet to survive before Black Shadow went rogue and blew all but one up." Bumblebee has a nervous look on his face, remembering when he and Orion personally met with Black Shadow to offer him shanix in exchange for the destruction of the Warworld fleet.

"Anyways, most likely, Deathsaurus is on the *Thunder Arrow* with his most elite soldiers." Megatron continues. "The Breastforce." "Aren't those the guys that combine into Liokaiser?" Rodimus inquires. "Yes." Megatron answers. "Orion, call Grimlock." the head councilor orders. "Have the Dinobots on standby in case we need Volcanicus." Orion nods and steps out to call him.

"As I was saying, if it's just Deathsaurus and the Breastforce on the *Thunder Arrow*, that means the rest of his troops - and most likely the bulk of his and Tarn's forces - are on the Warworld." Megatron finishes. "Are the knights and Star Seekers still on Luna-2?" "Pretty sure." Starscream replies. "Good." Megatron says. "They're going to attack the Warworld and keep Deathsaurus' men busy." "Alone?" Rodimus asks, surprised. "There should only be 23 bots there, and the Dinoforce will likely form Dinoking, who Tidal Wave is more than a match for, bringing the number down to 18, him included." the former Decepticon leader explains.

"And what about the DJD?" Rodimus asks. "They're after me." Megatron begins. "It's obvious, so we'll give them what they want. I will meet with Tarn in the Borderlands and allow him to arrest me, and Rodimus, Orion, and Starscream will be waiting aboard a cloaked Astrotrain in the air to drop in and aid me when I give the signal." "Which is?" Bumblebee inquires. "A single shot in the air." Megatron answers. He continues explaining their plan. "Bumblebee, Optimus Primal, and Megatron - that sounds very strange to say - will lead the defense of Iacon. Deathsaurus will likely lead the Breastforce into battle, and once he ensures they're okay, he'll come join Tarn in fighting me, which will leave you and the defending forces to handle Leozack and his team. Any questions?" The others nod no. "Time check, Rodimus?" Megatron asks. The Prime contacts Tracks, and soon receives a response that he relays to the others: 15 minutes. "Then let's get started."

EPISODE 110

THE FALL OF THE DJD

Luna-2.

Brimstone sees the Warworld approaching Cybertron and turns around. "Time to go." he tells the others. Ginrai leads the Cybertronian Knights to the *Graviton* while Cannonball is the first to board Tidal Wave. The rest of the Star Seekers follow, and the two ships take off, heading towards the massive, planet-shaped warship.

The Peaceful Tyranny.

The *Peaceful Tyranny* and *Thunder Arrow* fly over the Hydrax Plateau, making their way towards Iacon. Vos receives a transmission. "It's from Megatron." he says in Neocybex. Tarn gets up and walks over to his console. The sniper presses play on the recording. "*Tarn, if you wish to meet me, come to the Borderlands.*" Megatron says, followed by a set of coordinates. Tarn contacts Deathsaurus on the comms. "There's been a change of plans." he tells him. "Me and my men will be meeting Megatron in the Borderlands. Carry on with the Iacon assault." "*Understood.*" Deathsaurus responds.

The Warworld.

"We have a problem." Yokuryu says as he looks through a telescope. "What is it?" Goryu asks. Yokuryu points at the approaching shapes of two ships, which begin to open fire on them. "We're under attack!" Goryu shouts. Greatsix and King Solon take off, with Greatsix transforming into his jet mode and speeding towards Tidal Wave.

Aboard the warship-turned-pirate ship, the Dread Pirate Crew open fire on him. Ferak transforms, with Tornado attaching to the top of his jet mode, and flies upwards to drive him away. "Tidal Wave, use those new cannons I gave you!" he shouts as he leaves. As he battles Neurotoxin, King Solon sees two beams of orange energy fly towards the Warworld, fired from new laser cannons built into the twin bows of Tidal Wave's battleship component.

"Ready?" Ginrai asks on the comms. "Indeed I am." Cannonball replies. He is currently in the back of his ship. "Tidal Wave, time to split." "*Roger that.*" Tidal Wave responds. The ship shakes as the bows on the sides detach from the aircraft carrier component, where the battle between Deathsaurus' forces and the Star Seekers is occurring. The battleship,

still connected to the troop transport, pushes itself backwards. The bows connect, and the two halves of the transport break off from the battleship, coming together while the battleship flies towards the Warworld to pelt it with turret fire. The troop transport follows, and under the cover of laser and plasma, it lands on the planet-based warship's surface.

The Dinoforce and their allies stand waiting as a door opens on the side. "Star Seekers, to battle!" Cannonball shouts as he charges out. "Pillage this ship!" He is followed by Shokaract, Eclipse, Rockhopper, Thunderlane (and his pet sonicondor Ferrocious), Axer, Pounce, Wingspan, and numerous Dread Pirates. Moments later, the *Graviton* lands, and Ginrai, Apeling, Devcon, Flareup, Electro, Volt, and a fleet of 12 trains rush out and begin to open fire.

Cybertron. The Borderlands.

While the battle goes on in space, Megatron drives out of Iacon and into the Borderlands. Right by the border, Tarn and the DJD are waiting. "Megatron." Tarn greets politely as his former leader transforms. His mask hides his disgust at the sight of the Autobot symbol on his chest. "Long time no see." "I surrender." Megatron tells him, holding his wrists forward. "I didn't think it'd be that easy." Kaon whispers to Vos, prompting him to chuckle quietly. "Cuffs." Tarn requests. Behind him, Tesarus pulls out a pair of stasis cuffs and hands them to him. Just as he begins to cuff Megatron, the Autobot punches him in the face and fires his fusion cannon into the air. "Oh scrap." Kaon remarks as he looks up and sees Astrotrain deactivate his cloaking device.

The door opens, and Rodimus Prime, Orion Pax, and Starscream jump down, opening fire in advance of their landing. Tarn recovers from the punch and fires his double fusion cannon at Megatron, who dodges the shot and transforms into his tank mode, firing at Helex. "I'll handle him!" Astrotrain says as he transforms and lands on top of the DJD's resident smelter. "You were never one for simplicity, Megatron." Tarn says to himself as he prepares for the fight.

In space, aboard Tidal Wave's aircraft carrier component.

Scorponok and Brimstone dispatch Greatsix and King Solon, tying them together and tossing them to the side. "More incoming." Skyduster warns as he sees the approaching trio of jets. (Goryu was confident he and his men could handle the Star Seekers and Cybertronian Knights, so he sent them despite knowing it'd reduce their numbers.) Scorponok charges his stinger laser and fires it at one of the jets, damaging one of their wings. Skyduster and Ferak (and Tornado) take off and go to handle the other two, leaving

Scorponok and Brimstone to watch the dogfight from afar. "I think it's time for the final phase." Brimstone tells Scorponok. "Agreed." Scorponok replies. His fellow pirate flies over to the Warworld, leaving him to remain on Tidal Wave as the carrier moves towards the ship as well.

The Warworld.

Kakuryu fires his revolver at Electro, but is punched in the gut by the swordsman.

"Dinoforce, form Dinoking!" Goryu orders as he leaps back to avoid a swing of Cannonball's wrist-mounted blade. The group leap into the air and transform into the combiner's components, joining together. "Isn't this guy, like, the weakest combiner ever?" Flareup whispers to Thunderlane as the two take out Bikecross. "Yeah, no offense to him, but he's a joke." the chef replies. The Train and Liner Teams form Sixtrain and Sixliner. Despite both being the same size as Shokaract (the largest bot there, and only two heads taller than Ginrai), they are able to quickly beat up Dinoking, forcing him to separate.

"Do I have to do everything myself?" Deathcobra asks as he steps out onto the surface of the Warworld. His chestplate (Cobrabreast) detaches and transforms into his gun, which he uses to open fire on the knights and pirates. Shokaract growls and transforms into his tank mode, firing his plasma cannon at the Breastforce member. Though set to stun, the weapon does a number on him.

At the same time, the troop transport behind them begins to transform into a pair of legs. The battleship connects to it, and the bows fold down onto the sides. Scorponok lands next to Cannonball as the carrier splits in half and attaches to the bows, becoming arms. A head rises out of the body. "Fine..." Deathcobra groans, the sight of Tidal Wave making him realize he can't win. "We... surrender..." "Cannonball to Bumblebee." the pirate captain says on the comms. "Yes?" Bumblebee responds. "We've taken the Warworld." he informs him. "Perfect." Bumblebee replies. *"Stay there. Now, if you excuse me, I have to go keep Iacon from going up in flames."*

Cybertron. Iacon.

As Optimus Primal and several others take cover behind a barricade from Jallguar's missile volley, Leozack, Guyhawk, and Hellbat fly overhead. Guyhawk lands in the street before the Predacon Megatron, while Hellbat lands amongst a group of Security Operations officers, who he mesmerizes. Guyhawk fires a barrage of cooled plasma needles at Megatron, who burns them and lunges at him, ripping part of his arm off with the dragon mouth his left arm ends in. Kup sees Hellbat leading the mind-controlled cops into battle

and fires at him with his musket laser, landing a shot that stuns the batlike Decepticon and causes him to lose control of his slaves.

As Bumblebee battles Killbison and Drillhorn, Leozack lands behind him. "Now you're screwed." Drillhorn cackles before being frozen by his opponent's stinger. Bumblebee turns around and sees Leozack, gun ready. He ducks as the Breastforce's leader fires at him. "Where's Deathsaurus?" he asks. "He's on his way." Leozack replies. "He likes to wait a few minutes before he shows his face."

While Megatron is fighting Guyhawk, Deathsaurus flies over him and lands behind him. His chestplate detaches, transforming into Tigerbreast, who pounces on him, allowing Guyhawk to fly away. His second chestplate (Eaglebreast) ejects from its place, transforming into a double-barreled laser blaster. Megatron throws Tigerbreast off of himself and takes a hit from Deathsaurus' blaster before hitting him with his flamethrower.

Deathsaurus blocks it with his shield as Eaglebreast returns to his chest. Tigerbreast transforms into a bow, which he fires at Megatron. The arrow explodes upon contact, releasing liquid nitrogen that freezes his chest, holding him down on the ground so Deathsaurus can kill him with his sword. However, Megatron melts the nitrogen and takes off in his dragon mode. Deathsaurus transforms into his Probatian death turkey beast mode and follows in pursuit.

Leozack sees the chase as he fights Bumblebee. "Breastforce, unite!" he orders on the comms. He breaks free of the former scout's grasp and transforms into his jet mode. Guyhawk and Hellbat converge on his position, while Killbison and Drillhorn change into their tank modes and meet up with Jallguar. The group gather near the Spire, three in the air and three on the ground. Killbison and Drillhorn stand sideways and upright, with Drillhorn's drill folding down to the side of his alt-mode. Toes fold down from the fronts of their leg modes as thighs rise from the top. Jallguar transforms into the lower torso, connecting to the thighs. While Guyhawk and Hellbat change into arms, Leozack spins around, falling down onto the lower torso as his nosecone folds down against the top of his jet mode to create a chestplate. As Guyhawk and Hellbat connect together and attach to this back, his wings rotate upwards and a head rises out of the body. "Liokaiser online!" the combiner announces. "Well, we're slagged." Pointblank says to Kup as they witness the combination.

The Borderlands.

The Pet pounces on Starscream, ripping part of his armor off before the Seeker commander stuns him with a point-blank shot from his null-ray. Kaon witnesses the attack in horror and spots Deathsaurus pursuing the other Megatron overhead. He transforms

into his electric chair mode and aims his pylons upwards, knocking Megatron out of the sky with twin bolts of electricity. He lands on the ground, unconscious, and Deathsaurus follows. "Look who decided to show up." the Decepticon Megatron comments as he punches Tarn in the gut. "Look who else came." a familiar voice says from nearby. Megatron turns and sees Overlord, ready to battle. "So, who gets the next hit?"

"He's all yours." Tarn replies. Overlord smiles and grabs Megatron, throwing him around and bashing him against the ground. The ex-Decepticon fires his fusion cannon, but the ununtrium in Overlord's armor allows him to withstand the shot. "I see you've gotten a new body too." Megatron comments. "Yeah, I decided it was time for a makeover." Overlord responds. He fires his chest guns before being punched in the face.

Meanwhile, Orion frees himself from the grip of Tesarus' smaller arms, propelling himself away by pushing his feet off of the rim of the Decepticon's chest grinder. As he flies back, he turns and fires his ion blaster into the grinder, sending Tesarus flying back into Helex and knocking them both over. Astrotrain takes advantage of this and knocks them out. "Nickell!" Tarn shouts. He looks around, and notices that their medic has fled the scene. "Coward..."

Starscream battles Vos. "How funny." he comments. "I'm battling the guy who took the codename of my home city." "And it will be this bot that kills you." Vos replies in Primal Vernacular, leaping back and transforming into his sniper rifle alt-mode (which is mounted on a tripod). He fires at Starscream, clipping one of his wings before the former Air Commander fires at him with his null-rays. Vos transforms into his nimble robot form and dodges the shots, but he fails to notice Rodimus driving towards him. The Autobot leader hits him, which knocks him out, before turning around and heading towards Kaon.

Kaon fires bolts of electricity at Rodimus from his hands, but he dodges him and returns fire with his flamethrowers. Kaon's armor takes the flames for several seconds before it begins to heat up, and melts partially. Rodimus kicks him in the face, before hitting him with his leg again in the side of the head as he falls. Kaon is knocked out, leaving Tarn the only standing member of the DJD.

Overlord continues to beat up Megatron as Tarn watches, until he feels Deathsaurus' hand on his shoulders. "My turn." he says. Overlord nods and steps aside as he kicks the bruised Megatron, using his leg to roll him onto his side. "You were so abusive." he growls. "Now it's time for you to feel how your men felt when you punched and shot them." He puts his foot on the damaged Autobot's body, slowly crushing his fusion cannon. Megatron takes advantage of this and fires, causing a blast that cripples his attacker's leg at the cost of his cannon (although Flatline has a spare). He gets up, but feels Tarn's cannon pointed at

the back of his head. He looks around and sees that Deathsaurus is threatening Orion and Rodimus, and Overlord is holding Starscream and Astrotrain hostage.

Iacon.

Liokaiser rampages through Iacon, setting fire to buildings and damaging them further with his electromagnetic nunchaku. "Where the scrap is Grimlock?" Bumblebee asks Optimus Primal as they follow the combiner. His question is soon answered, however, when Liokaiser is hit by a beam of concentrated flame - Swoop's signature attack. On the ground, they see the other Dinobots - Grimlock, Slag, Sludge, and Snarl - show up and start attacking Liokaiser. "Combine!" Grimlock orders. The others nod, and the team unite to form Volcanicus, who draws his sword as Liokaiser turns around.

The two duel for several minutes with their melee weapons, before Volcanicus begins to gain the upper hand. His Magma Blade becomes shrouded in flames, and he uses it to cut Liokaiser's legs off at the thigh. The combiner growls as his components disengage and attack Volcanicus individually, but with Bumblebee and Primal's help, they're taken care of. "We've taken care of the Breastforce." Primal says on the comms. He waits several moments, and receives no response. "Orion? Megatron? Rodimus? Do you copy?" "Stay where you are." Orion quickly responds.

The Borderlands.

"So, Overlord, you know how you're a Phase Sixer?" Starscream asks. "Was." Overlord corrects. "I didn't wanna be Megatron's plaything for that blasted protocol. Why do you ask?" "Reset: pi-orion-actual-orbit. Enable." Starscream replies with a smirk. Overlord realizes what's about to happen and freezes in place, before going unconscious and falling over. "What was that?" Astrotrain inquires. "Megatron installed individual emergency deactivation codes in Overlord, Sixshot, and Black Shadow." Starscream answers. "He had all of High Command memorize them in case one of them went rogue."

Astrotrain gives an understanding nod and transforms into his train mode, charging at Deathsaurus and knocking him over as he uses his Living-Metal-Destroying Cannon as a cane. The Decepticon attempts to charge the cannon, but it is knocked out of his hand. Orion and Rodimus ready themselves to interrupt the execution that's about to occur, but Orion spots a "let me handle this" look on Megatron's face that tells him they need to stay back.

"So, how does it feel to be a traitor?" Tarn asks his former leader. "Liberating? Pleasuring? Does it feel good to abandon everything you've worked for? To just walk away from your greatest achievement? Did you ever consider how your soldiers would feel?"

"You're a fanatic, Tarn." Megatron responds. He can tell that he's attempting to use his outlier powers to guide his spark into slowing down and eventually stopping, but he knows that he can't do it as fast if he's interrupted. "Only people like you would care if I left. I thought you were loyal to me?" "You leaving hurt." Tarn explains. "My loyalty to you and the Decepticon cause was once equal. Then, you went ahead and joined the Autobots. Had you simply become neutral, I may have cared less. I probably still would have cared, but not as much as I do now."

As he talks, pacing around his target, he fails to notice Megatron reaching for a holster on his hip. The Decepticon-turned-Autobot quickly draws the blaster - which resembles an Earth gun that he liked the look of - and fires it at Tarn's chest, throwing his focus off. He fires several more shots as Orion rushes him, tackling him to the ground like he did to criminals back in his cop days. Starscream handcuffs him. "Well, that takes care of that." he comments.

EPISODE 111

RETURN OF THE DJD

Luna-1. Hecate Prison. Cell block H.

It's been a week since Tarn's coordinated attack on Cybertron, which he carried out with the aid of Deathsaurus and Overlord. Deathsaurus was able to convince the High Council to let him and his men go 3 days into their sentence. During his transport to Luna-1, Overlord busted out of his cell and killed the Autotroopers and Vehicons onboard, stealing the shuttle and disappearing before anyone could catch him. Nickel was found and granted amnesty due to not actually attacking anyone and simply being the medic, and went off with Deathsaurus and his troops, leaving the rest of the DJD to continue rotting in their cells, where Megatron is on his way to visit them.

The door in their cell block slides open, and RoughEdge leads Megatron inside. "Have a good chat," he says as he walks back out, leaving his guest to talk to his kill squad. "Damus - Glitch - Crucible, Scissorsaw, Amp, Forestock, and the Pet." he begins. "It's been a while since you've been called those names, hasn't it? For millions of years, you've served me as my elite kill squad - the ones who hunt the traitors." "You included." Tarn mutters. "Do you remember when you first met me?" Megatron asks. "Of course." Tarn replies, standing up. "Well, why don't you regale the others with the story?" Megatron suggests. "After all, prison has so little quality entertainment."

"You all know that I used to be a store clerk named Damus." Tarn begins. "Then, the Functionists found out... I reminded the Functionaries that my sports car alt-mode made it legal for me to be either a courier or a clerk, but they specifically wanted me to be a courier, so they knocked me out, and I was subjected to empurata... I awoke with a new body that was only for couriers. A month later, I discovered I had the ability to make non-sentient machinery inoperative with a touch. I went and joined the Jhiaxian Academy, and on one fateful day, I met him."

4 million years ago. Nova Cronum. The Jhiaxian Academy of Advanced Technology (JAAT).

"Alright, Glitch, I want you to focus on not using your power." Shockwave tells him.

"Concentrate hard, and touch the console." Glitch focuses on not activating his power, and he touches the console. It doesn't shut down. He cheers. "Now focus on activating your

power." Shockwave says. Glitch does as he says, and touches the console again. It shuts down. "Betcha can't super-learn this, Skids!" he shouts to the bot behind him.

"Hardy-har-har, very funny, Glitch." Skids replies. He is sitting on the ground of the open room watching a video of someone assembling a neutron assault rifle. On the ground beside him is a disassembled version of the weapon. "Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm watching a video on how to assemble a gun." He finishes the video and begins to put the gun together.

Later that day, Glitch goes for a walk. On his stroll through Nova Cronum, he bumps into none other than Megatron, leader of the Asenticon movement! "Wait... you're... holy scrap, sorry for bumping into you." he says. Megatron chuckles. "I was just on my way to visit you, Damus-" he tells him, before being cut off. "It's Glitch." the outlier corrects. "Nickname that everyone calls me, so it's basically my new name."

"Anyways, I've been watching you lately." Megatron says. "You're very anti-Functionist, and fiercely loyal. I was wondering if you'd like to join the Asenticons." "I'd be honored!" Glitch replies. "When can I be inducted?" "We can go right now." Megatron suggests. Glitch nods, and the two transform and begin the drive to Kaon.

Present day. Luna-1. Hecate Prison. Cell block H.

"Interesting story." Helex comments. "That moment was one of the most important in my life..." Tarn finishes. "Now, Tarn, do you remember when this all began?" Megatron inquires. "The DJD?"

2.5 million years ago. Grindcore prison colony.

Glitch sits in his office, filing paperwork as he listens to "The Empyrean Suite," and hears a knock on the door. "Do you not see the sign on the door?" he asks. "Commandant Glitch, it's Charger!" the Decepticon says on the other side of the metal wall. "Megatron's here! He wishes to see you. It's urgent." Glitch gets up and pushes a red button next to the door. It slides open, and Charger steps aside as he walks out. His shoulder dreads, draped over his back like a cape, just barely drag along the ground as he marches towards the elevator. At the shuttle landing area, he meets Megatron. Barricade and a pair of Vehicons follow their leader out and guard him. "Welcome to Grindcore." he says, shaking his hand. "I take it you're here for that tour I suggested a few months ago?" "Indeed I am." Megatron replies. "Then let's begin." Glitch suggests, gesturing for them to follow him. He leads them to the prison entrance, where Skyquake (this was before the Predators were formed) is ushering in a new batch of Autobot hostages captured a few days prior on Confluence. "This is one of our hygiene teams." Glitch explains. "They ensure the prisoners' safety upon entry, so they can be in peak condition for the installation of their mouth flowers." They

walk over to another building, where the prisoners (including Skids and Quark) are all sat down and strapped to chairs. Stalker steps forth, with his endoscopic claw (a device he and Snare designed). Snare and Talon follow him, with mouth flowers in their hands. Everyone takes note of the presence of Decepticon High Command members in the room, which causes their fear to grow.

Megatron, Glitch, Barricade, and the Vehicons watch in the corner as Stalker starts to use his claw to make openings in their mouths. He comes across an Autobot with a mouthplate, and smiles under his own as he shoves the claw into the Autobot's, "making his own mouth." Snare and Talon then begin installing the mouth flowers. "What exactly are mouth flowers?" Barricade inquires. "Inhibitor spikes installed on the roofs of mouths." Glitch answers. "If someone tries to transform, or leave the premises, the spike sends a drill upwards into their brain module, and after that, it's lights out."

Their next stop is the "teleport chamber." Glitch explains to his guests that, after a few months in prison, he takes 50 of the prisoners to the teleport chamber, which is actually a smelting chamber. "With their hopes up, they'll be happy up until their very final moments." he finishes as they look down at the 50 prisoners from the control booth. "It's our method of euthanasia." "Sadistic." Barricade comments. "I like it." Glitch pulls a lever, and the circular floor of the chamber splits in half, receding into slits in the wall. The prisoners scream as they realize what's about to happen. To drown out the "morale-lowering sound," he cranks up the volume on the speakers, causing "The Empyrean Suite" to blare loudly. Glitch and Megatron then meet in the warden's office, while Barricade and the Vehicons stand guard outside. They sit down on opposite sides of Glitch's desk. "You're doing excellent work here." Megatron compliments. "I especially enjoyed the teleport chamber. However, I have an offer for you that will involve leaving this place." "What is it?" Glitch asks.

"I'm putting together a team." Megatron explains. "The Decepticon Justice Division, a unit of five of this army's best and most sadistic soldiers, whose job will be to hunt down any traitors to the cause. Each member, upon joining, will be given a codename based on one of the First Five Cities." "Who do you have in mind?" Glitch inquires. Megatron hands him five files: his, and those of Crucible, Scissorsaw, Amp, and Dominus Ambus. He looks at his file, and sees a note saying "potential leader." "You want me to lead?" Megatron nods. "I'd be honored." Glitch says. "Excellent." Megatron replies. They stand up and shake hands over the desk. "A shuttle will arrive in two days carrying your successor, and you'll have the next five days to get him situated before another shuttle comes to pick you up and take you back to Cybertron. Me and the rest of the DJD will be waiting for you at Kolkular with

your ship. Congratulations, Tarn." The rechristened Decepticon gives an understanding nod as his leader leaves the room.

Present day. Luna-1. Hecate Prison. Cell block H.

"Do you remember my exact description of the DJD?" Megatron questions. "A unit of five of this army's best and most sadistic soldiers, whose job will be to hunt down any traitors to the cause." "What's your point?" Tarn asks in an annoyed tone, growing tired of the reminiscing. "I'm risking my neck to get you six out." Megatron answers. "I want the DJD to get back to work doing exactly what I said they would do - hunt down the traitors. There's plenty out there like you, who haven't stopped fighting even though the war's over. Your mission would be to find them, and bring them to face justice - no killing or torture, unless absolutely necessary, but combat is allowed."

Tarn pauses to think. He reflects on his life and thinks about all the things he's been, all the roles he's played - store clerk, courier, outlier student, Asenticon activist, Decepticon warrior, death camp commandant, and kill squad leader. He thinks about his team, and what this would mean for them. He looks around. He thinks of his loyalty to Megatron and the Decepticon cause, and he realizes that, like his leader, he too has strayed from his path. He turns back to Megatron and extends his hand. The former Decepticon deactivates the cell wall and shakes it. He gestures for them to follow him, and they make their way out of the cell block and towards the exit.

Later. The Hydrax Plateau.

The *Peaceful Tyranny* lifts off and flies away, eventually becoming a small dot in the orange sky of Cybertron. Megatron, Soundwave, and Rodimus Prime watch. "You think this is the right choice?" Rodimus asks. "We can only hope." Megatron replies. He turns to Soundwave. "Any luck finding Ravage?" "None..." Soundwave sadly responds. Megatron sighs.

EPISODE 112

FATAL FURIES, PART 1

Stanix. Fort Syck.

Triton stands before a crowd of Decepticon loyalists, including Lugnut, Flamewar, Blackjack, Hyperdrive, Tracer, and many more. Ravage slinks through the crowd, having joined the sect as a way to get back at Megatron. A small antenna rises out of his forehead "My fellow Decepticons, as I'm sure you all know, Megatron has turned traitor!" Triton begins. "And worse, the DJD has too. The very people we trusted with killing those that abandon the cause have abandoned it! This cannot stand. Exactly 24 hours from now, we will attack the Spire. We will find Megatron and teach him a lesson." The crowd cheers. "That's all I needed to hear, Triton." Ravage quietly says to himself. He makes his way to the back of the crowd and sneaks out of the fort through a secret exit.

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.

In his office, Megatron puts a file at the top of a stack of paperwork he'd been filing, completing his work for the day. The window creaks open, and Ravage walks in. "What are you doing here?" Megatron asks him. "Are you here to kill me like everyone other 'Con who visits seems to be?" Ravage jumps onto his desk and sits. "No." he replies. "I'm here to help you. I may not fully understand your motives for... any of this... but I agree that the Decepticons have lost sight of our original purpose. To that end, I'd like to show you something. Where's Soundwave? And everyone else?" "Rodimus and Bee are the only other ones here." Megatron answers. "The others are down south on business." Ravage gives an understanding nod and leaves the room. Megatron follows him down the hallway, contacting Rodimus Prime and Bumblebee as he walks.

In the meeting room, Soundwave looks through the window. He had forgotten about how beautiful Cybertron could be at sunsets, especially Iacon. He was admittedly a bit nervous about being on the High Council, especially since he had been thrust into the position so rapidly. He hears the door slide open, and turns to see Megatron and Ravage walking in. "Welcome back." he says as he bends down to pet Ravage. Rodimus and Bumblebee arrive moments later. "I have something to show you all." Ravage tells them. "Soundwave, can you, you know?" Soundwave nods and transforms into his boombox mode, and Ravage hops into his tape player, transforming into his cassette tape alt-mode as he does so.

He plays a recording of Triton's speech, before ejecting. "That was recorded at Fort Scyk," he explains. "Triton's formed a sect of 'Neo-Decepticons.' Basically, it's a club of Megatron-the-Autobot haters." "I was wondering when those would start forming." Rodimus jokes. "So what's the plan?" "Me, Ravage, and the others know a secret way into the fort." Soundwave says. "My troops were based there during the campaign to conquer Stanix, and we built a tunnel leading into Vos as an emergency exit." "I can call in a SecOps unit." Bumblebee suggests. "And Soundwave can show us the way."

Vos.

3 hours later, Soundwave leads Megatron, Rodimus, Bumblebee, and Backstreet's Security Operations unit through Vos. They arrive at an abandoned building, which they follow him into. He stops at a sheet of metal and ejects Beastbox, who rips it off the wall. Behind it is a passageway perfectly sized for them to crawl or drive. They get down on the ground and make their way through the tunnel.

Stanix. Fort Scyk.

Lugnut finishes modifying his mace and swings it around. "Perfect." he says with a smile. Next to him, Flamewar fires her bow at a poster of Megatron. "Ready for the attack tomorrow, Lug?" she asks him. "Megatron will pay for his betrayal!" Lugnut replies. Triton had given him the job of delivering the finishing blow to their former leader. He hears sounds coming from the wall behind them, and walks towards the source, mace ready. "Now!" Rodimus orders on the other side. Soundwave punches the metal blocking the exit down and hurries out, getting up on his feet and ejecting Ravage. He draws his concussion blaster and aims it at Lugnut. The others follow him out. "This is the High Council and Security Operations!" Backstreet announces, holding up his badge as his rapid-deployment cannons flip onto his shoulders. Groove and Subsea draw their blasters and point them at some of the other Neo-Decepticons. Triton hears the commotion and enters. "Megatron." he greets. His arms are crossed behind his back. "Welcome to our humble abode. We were gonna head over to you, but it looks like you came right to us. Lovely." Ravage sees him reaching for a blaster and pounces on him, biting his arm and retrieving the gun. "Thank you, Ravage." Megatron says. "You're all under arrest for conspiring to attack a governmental building and harm officials." Backstreet informs them as his unit begins to make their arrests. Flamewar lowers her hands and transforms into her motorcycle alt-mode, speeding between bots and into the tunnel. "I'll get her." Groove says as he handcuffs Tracer, transforming into his own motorcycle mode and pursuing her. They make it outside, but she disappears. Groove glumly informs the others that he lost her.

Later. Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.

"Once again, thank you for saving my life back there, Ravage." Megatron tells the Recordicon. "You're welcome." Ravage replies. "I bet you're glad I'll be sticking around." Megatron chuckles. "Indeed I am." he says.

EPISODE 113

FATAL FURIES, PART 2:

FLAMEWAR'S REVENGE

Iacon.

Flamewar climbs up a ladder in an alley. She had spent several hours crossing the natural regions of Cybertron to get from Stanix to Iacon, which meant going around the Sea of Rust and then evading SecOps as she made her way through Tagan Heights, Tyger Pax, and the Borderlands. She was tired, and sat down to make sure her bow was in working order. As she thinks of a way to kill Megatron, she gets an idea and contacts her old friend Slipstream. "Hey, Slip, would you be interested in helping me out on a mission?" she asks on the comms.

The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.

At the Spire, the High Council meets to discuss the impending - but unconfirmed - threat of Unicron, the Uncreator. "Just to be clear, this is based purely on the warnings of a shifty alien race and a manipulating schemer?" Bumblebee inquires. "Yup." Rodimus Prime replies. "But you've gotta admit, sometimes Primal Prophecies do come true. After all, they foretold the war." "Alchemist Prime could see the future." the Predacon Megatron comments. "Perhaps he actually did see Unicron attacking again, and just so happened to be drunk when he tried to warn the other Primes of their enemy's return."

"In any case, we need to be prepared." Orion Pax says. "It's better than Unicron passing by and seeing a defenseless Cybertron ripe for consumption." "True." Rodimus responds. He picks up a marker and gets ready to draw something on the board. "So, do we know what defeated him last time?" "I've been re-reading the Covenant." Optimus Primal responds. "It's hard to tell based on the text, but the Star Saber and Requiem Blaster seem to have done the most damage." "Which weapon destroyed his body?" Starscream asks. "Neither." Primal answers. "It just says, *'And the holy light of Primus' vessel shone upon Unicron, atomizing his body and casting his Anti-Spark into the blackness of the Void.'*"

"They're talking about the Matrix." the Decepticon Megatron says. "It's quite obvious. 'Holy light.' 'Primus' vessel.'" Soundwave, who had been silently listening to their discussion in his seat, spoke up. "Then Rodimus must be the one to get close." he says. He stands up

and takes the marker from the Prime's hand, drawing Cybertron on one side of the board. Near it, he draws Unicron. He switches the color of the marker to red, and draws a ship between the two planets. Lastly, he draws several other ships around it in green, along with purple laser fire. "That's Rodimus. Around him are guardian vessels, ships that serve as shields to protect him as much as possible from Unicron. The laser fire from warp cannons will provide help as well." "Warp cannons?" Megatron inquires.

Before Soundwave can answer, he senses something and tackles his leader to the floor. An orange bullet flies over their bodies, which Optimus Primal and his Megatron move out of the path of before it hits the wall. "What the scrap?" Rodimus asks. He carefully looks out the window and sees Slipstream hovering in the air, with Flamewar - holding her twin bow - hanging from her. "Protect Megatron!"

Atomizer hears the sound and rushes in as Flamewar swings from Slipstream through the window. The two aim their bows at each other, but Atomizer fires first. He hits Flamewar in the shoulder, and Slipstream transforms to provide supporting fire from a safe distance. Starscream counters with his own null-rays. Being a better marksman, he clips her wings. Optimus Primal jumps out the window to catch her so she doesn't die. "Believe it or not, I'm here to save your life." he says. "And I'm here to help end your friend's."

Slipstream coldly replies, firing her null-rays. Primal's Transmetal skin is too strong, however, and the shots only do minor damage. They land safely on the ground, where the two Council Guardsmen posted at the door run over to arrest her.

"Flamewar, you were always one of the loyal ones." Megatron comments as he restrains her. "Loyal to the Decepticons, not to you." Flamewar responds. "You're just another turncoat. Just like Jetfire. Just like Thundercracker." The other Megatron grabs her bow, while Orion Pax slaps a pair of stasis cuffs on her wrists. "I'll be kind enough to arrange for you to share a cell with Slipstream." Rodimus tells her as Atomizer and a recently-arrived Snapdragon haul her away. "Perhaps we should have extra security." Soundwave suggests. "More than the Mercs?" Bumblebee asks. Soundwave nods.

EPISODE 114

MIRROR, MIRROR

Ultirex. The Technoversity of Ultirex. On the roof.

Wheeljack and Jetfire continue their work on an experimental transwarp drive. It was their latest project: a single piece of machinery that could be attached to ships to enhance the distances they could jump through hyperspace through the use of antimatter. "Ready for the test?" Wheeljack asks. Jetfire gives a thumbs-up. His partially-sentient drone assistant, D.O.C., uses one of his tendrils to turn on the camera.

Jetfire introduces the experiment and then hands his friend the camera. Wheeljack boards the small shuttle the transwarp drive is to be attached to and sets up the camera on the dashboard. Jetfire installs the drive and counts Wheeljack down from 5. When he says "1," the shuttle takes off. After getting a safe distance away from the university, he activates the drive and disappears.

Primax -524.20 Zeta. Kaon. Kolkular.

"Megatron, the visitor has awoken!" Hook says, rushing into his leader's office. Megatron gets up and follows the medic downstairs to the medbay, where Wheeljack is sitting up a repair slab. "Megatron?" he asks groggily. "Another new body? And new paint?" "I could say the same about the paint for you, Wheeljack." Sideswipe comments. "Why do you sound so condescending?" Wheeljack inquires. "And what hospital is this? It doesn't look familiar... And where's my ship?"

At that moment, he notices the insignias on the chests of the people surrounding him. Megatron and Hook have red Decepticon insignias on their chests, and Sideswipe has a crossed-out purple Autobot badge with a red Decepticon one under it. "What the scrap is going on?" he asks. "What is this place?" Then, it hits him: the transwarp drive sent him into another universe. "Can we go somewhere more comfortable?" he inquires. Megatron nods. As he gets up, he is handcuffed by Sideswipe. ("Safety precautions.")

In a meeting room upstairs, Wheeljack explains everything to them (including a Jetfire-colored Starscream, who met them there), from post-war Cybertron to Autobot Megatron to the transwarp drive test. "I think I understand it." Starscream says when he finishes. "In short, you're from another reality, where Autobots are the good guys and we're evil." "Pretty much." Wheeljack replies. "So, what's the backstory of this universe?"

"I was once a mathematician who lectured at the University of Polyhex." Megatron explains. "There was a librarian at the Great Cybertronian Archives in Iacon. He was trying to find the meaning of life, but then he found something that made him snap: there was none. He realized that all a person would leave behind is their history. He didn't want to be remembered as a nobody, so he backstabbed his way to the top of the Autobot ranks. Out of nowhere, a war broke out. Optronix forcefully integrated the Matrix from his predecessor, Sentinel Prime, into his body, becoming Optimus Prime. Me and my followers, the Asenticons, spoke out against Prime, but he slandered us. He labeled us 'Decepticons.' The name stuck. We've been at war since. At least we got away from Earth... I couldn't bear to see any more humans die because of our actions..."

"And what's your story, Swipe?" Wheeljack asks. "I thought you'd be one of the evil Autobots." "I'd rather not talk about it." Sideswipe replies. "Well, anyways, I have to get back home." Wheeljack says. "So where's my ship?" "In the repair hangar." Starscream answers. "Your so-called transwarp drive is in the lab, being analyzed by Shockwave. I was just there." While Hook returns to the medbay, Wheeljack, Megatron, and the others head down the hall to the lab.

Starscream catches Shockwave up. "The drive runs on antimatter." Wheeljack adds once the Air Commander finishes his recap. "So that's what was in the empty canister."

Shockwave realizes. "Is there any place I can get more?" Wheeljack inquires. "You know, without having to go to a black hole?" "Soundwave said something about a small antimatter stockpile in Uraya." Razorclaw remembers. "I was in a rush, so I didn't hear him, but he said something..." "To the basement we go!" Starscream says in a joking tone as he turns around and leads them out of the room.

In the basement, Soundwave hears the door open. He's busy monitoring Autobot communication networks while listening to hard rock. (The song currently playing is "T.N.T.," by AC/DC.) Ravage is lounging on the couch scrolling through Yatter, and Laserbeak is perched, busy listening to "actual music," aka pop. "Hey, dudes," he says, turning around. Wheeljack was surprised by his voice; he was used to the emotionless monotone speech of his Soundwave. He also took note of the fact that this one had a green bandana wrapped around his forehead. "What can I help you with?" "A few days ago, you said something about an Autobot antimatter stockpile." Megatron replies. "Details? Oh, and before you begin, allow me to explain." He then gives a brief recap of the past 10 or so minutes.

"It's in Uraya." Soundwave answers. "ESF-33A, in the basement. I think Goldbug and his Seekers are on their way to inspect it right now." "Perhaps we should wait..." Megatron ponders. "I have to get back immediately." Wheeljack says. "Very well." Megatron

responds. "Sideswipe, put together a team and head to Uraya to retrieve the antimatter." Sideswipe nods and gestures for Wheeljack to follow him out.

Uraya. Energon Storage Facility 33A.

The Autotroopers at the entrance see the black forms of Goldbug, Rodimus, and Blurr pull up in front of the warehouse. They are barely visible in the darkness of the night, their gold, purple, and blue highlights only doing a little to help them stand out. The trio transform, and the Autotroopers step aside as Goldbug enters the facility. "Where is the antimatter?" he asks in a demanding tone. "Follow me." Bluestreak answers, leading the Seekers down to the basement, where Skids and three Autotroopers are standing guard around five capsules of antimatter.

"The Aerialbots retrieved this on a deep-space mission." Skids explains. "They came under fire from Decepticons on the way back, so they fled the ship and made an emergency landing here with the antimatter." "Yes, yes, we know." Blurr grumbles. "We'll take it off your hands." Goldbug takes one capsule, and his subordinates each take two. They put them in holders on their hips and go back upstairs. They exit the building and transform, driving down the road they came to return to Iacon.

On their way back into the city, two cars pull up behind them. Overhead, a Cybertronic spacefighter appears. A yellow and green tank drives into the middle of the empty road ahead of them. "Decepticons!" Rodimus shouts. "We're undah attack!" "No scrap, sherlock!" Blurr responds. He spins around and transforms, drawing his dual electric rifles. He fires lightning bolts at Sideswipe and Wheeljack, who transform. Wheeljack draws his laser pistol and returns fire, while Sideswipe pulls out a pair of tonfas and lunges at Blurr. Scourge transforms as well, landing on the ground between Rodimus and Goldbug. Rodimus changes into his robot mode. "Hey there, old man." he says with a grin as his left hand is replaced by a red buzzsaw. "Ready to get slagged?" Four yellow blades swing out of the end of Scourge's shield. "I highly doubt that will happen, my friend." he replies. He blocks Rodimus' buzzsaw with his shield and slashes his leg with his blades.

Goldbug focuses on getting his antimatter capsule back to the Great Dome, but he has to get through Bludgeon first. The Decepticon sharpshooter rotates his turret, firing his barrel at his target, but Goldbug swerves out of the way. He transforms and fires his rifle at the tank, although Bludgeon's armor allows him to take the hit. He too transforms, and quickly draws his pistols from his hip-holsters, hitting Goldbug with 12 plasma bursts.

"Yee-haw!" the cowboy cheers as he successfully hits his target.

"Been a while since we've seen you 'round these parts, traitor." Blurr tells Sideswipe as he knocks a tonfa out of his hand. "What scared you off?" "Prime killed Drench out of pure

paranoia!" Sideswipe responds angrily. "He was my best friend!" "Friendships are a secondary thing when you're an Autobot." Blurr says. "And who's your Wheeljack lookalike friend back there?" "It's a long story." Wheeljack answers. "One you probably won't be conscious enough to hear. Sideswipe, move!" Sideswipe slides out of the way as Wheeljack fires his shoulder-mounted rocket launcher, hitting Blurr with a missile that damages him and knocks him out. "Lemme help Scourge out a bit." Sideswipe tells Wheeljack. "You get those capsules." Wheeljack nods and bends down to take Blurr's capsules while a small stealth fighter appears over him.

"Whisper's here, boys!" the stealth fighter loudly announces as he transforms and briefly fires at Rodimus. He then returns to his jet mode and attaches to Sideswipe's back, allowing him to fly into the air. Scourge realizes what they're doing and joins him in the sky. "High-flyin' cowads!" Rodimus shouts as he fires his exhaust blasters at them. Scourge's wings detach from his legs and combine to form a double-edged sword. He dives down towards Rodimus and cuts his left arm off, distracting him long enough for Sideswipe to knock him out with his other tonfa.

While this happens, Goldbug is dodging Bludgeon's shots. "I hate cowboys." he grumbles as he dodges another shot. "Need a hand, Bludgeon?" Sideswipe asks as he retrieves Rodimus' antimatter capsules. "I think I can handle this." Bludgeon replies, turning to look at his teammate. "The thing with these Seekers is, they get too overconfident when they keep succeeding." At that moment, he stops firing his pistols and launches the two missiles on his arms. This catches Goldbug off-guard, and the missiles hit the ground. The explosion sends him flying into a building's façade. He falls unconscious. "Mission complete?"

Wheeljack asks. "Yup." Sideswipe replies. "Assuming we can make it over the Urayan-Kalisian border safely. C'mon, let's roll." They all transform and leave the scene of the battle.

Later. Kaon. Kolkular. On the roof.

"Well, I guess this is goodbye." Wheeljack says to Megatron, Starscream, Shockwave, Razorclaw, and Sideswipe. "Everything's in working order?" "Yup." Shockwave replies. "I made sure myself." "How do I get back anyways?" Wheeljack asks. "Just activate the drive and pray the same thing happens as last time?" "Actually, it should be easier." Shockwave answers. "A few days ago, Astrotrain reported that he and his team had encountered a rift in the fabric of space not too far from Cybertron. That was one of our theories as to where you came from. We once encountered a temporal rift of a similar nature in the Acid Wastes, and the way it worked was that you'd imagine where you wanted to go as you entered it. You'll still need the transwarp drive to cross through, as flying at the max

speed the shuttle normally goes at will be too slow, and the rift will tear you apart before you reach the other side."

"Lemme get this straight." Wheeljack says. "I fly out into space to this rift, power up my drive, fly through a hole in space, think hard about my Cybertron, and pray I end up there?" "Correct." Shockwave responds. "It's either that or you'll end up in unspace. The coordinates were already put into your ship, by the way." Wheeljack gives an understanding nod. "Well, wish me luck, and keep fighting the good fight." he tells them. They all say their goodbyes as the boarding ramp retracts and the door slides into place. Wheeljack takes off, flying to the coordinates entered into his shuttle. Astrotrain and his unit (Fasttrack, Stonecruncher, Submarauder, and Tailwind) wave goodbye to him as he activates his transwarp drive, zooming through the rift. He thinks about his Cybertron, about his friends, and about the urgency of getting back.

Primax 518.02 Zeta. Near Cybertron.

A hole briefly opens in space, and Wheeljack arrives not too far away from what seems to be his Cybertron. He heads towards the planet, landing on the roof of the University of Ultirex, where Jetfire is waiting for him. Deluge and Perceptor are also there, having been called in by the Autobot scientist to figure out where his partner went and how to get him back. "Where were you?" Jetfire asks as Wheeljack disembarks from his ship. "Boy, have I got a story for you guys." Wheeljack replies. "What shall I tell it over? A glass of engex or warp cannon schematics?"

Primax -524.20 Zeta. The spatial rift.

Astrotrain finishes informing Megatron of Wheeljack's departure when he hears another portal opening nearby. He turns around and sees a Quintessonian ship passing through a newly-created portal. "Megatron, this is Astrotrain again." the Decepticon says on the comms. "I'm calling to report a Quintessonian ship that just came through another portal near the rift... Send back-up. It doesn't seem friendly."

EPISODE 115

WHAT COULD GO WRONG

Ultirex. The University of Ultirex.

It's been a few days since Wheeljack's trip to an alternate universe, and the warp cannon schematics have been completed. Perceptor, hoping to speed up the production of these cannons, has built a partially-sentient clone of himself, which he names *Magnificus*. He had activated him a few hours ago to begin working on the warp cannon's frame. He was now examining the world around him, as Perceptor had yet to receive his shipment of metal for the cannon's shell. While the two are taking a break, Perceptor hears a knock on the door. He opens the door, and *Cosmos* walks in with a crate that he rests on the table. "There's the metal you ordered," he tells him. "Thanks, *Cosmos*," Perceptor replies. He opens the box, and *Magnificus* walks over to pick up a sheet and begin welding it onto the side of the frame. A few minutes later, as *Cosmos* is walking down the hallway, he hears a scream coming from the room he had just visited. He rushes back and finds Perceptor stepping away from *Magnificus*, who is now pointing his welder at him.

"What's going on?" *Cosmos* asks. "There seems to be a bug in *Magnificus*' programming." Perceptor responds as he clutches a wound on his shoulder. "He's suddenly turned hostile. We were just welding metal and intentionally put the welder against my shoulder." *Magnificus* walks towards them with the welder. "Can you deactivate him?" *Cosmos* inquires. Perceptor points to the remote on the table. *Magnificus* sees it and walks over to melt it with the welder. Perceptor mutters, "Slag."

At that moment, *Magnificus* picks up the large triple-barreled ion shoulder cannon on the work table and aims it at the two Autobots. "Get out of the way!" Perceptor shouts. *Magnificus* opens fire as they dive in opposite directions out of the doorway. The bullets go into the wall, but thankfully, no one's in the lab across the hall. "Use your blasters!" "I don't have them!" *Cosmos* responds. "I dropped them off a few days ago to get repaired, but everyone here's been preoccupied with building defenses that they haven't gotten started on them! What happened to your sniper rifle?" "It's hanging on the wall in there." Perceptor answers, pointing to the lab on his left. "Just wait for him to come over here." Sure enough, *Magnificus* finishes firing and walks into the doorway, pointing the gun at his creator.

Perceptor shoots him in the chest with his concussion rifle, but *Magnificus*' "brain module" is located in his head. "Cosmos, knock him out!" he orders. "Quick!" Cosmos leaps to his feet and wraps his large arms around the black-and-gray drone's neck and brings him down to the ground. He knocks him out and gets up. He then helps Perceptor carry *Magnificus* onto one of the lab tables.

"Thanks for the help." the scientist says, shaking the tall Autobot's hand. "No problem." Cosmos replies. "Tell Wheeljack to lemme know when my guns are fixed, by the way." Perceptor nods, and his friend leaves the room. He turns to *Magnificus* and turns him over onto his stomach. He opens the back of his head and powers him down, before pulling out his rifle and blowing up his head as an extra precaution. "Now, back to work." he says to himself, returning to the warp cannon.

EPISODE 116

A TALE OF TWO STINGERS

Kalis. Jekka Amphitheatre.

"Welcome, Cybertronians, to the first ever State Games!" Eject announces on the loudspeakers. In an effort to provide the people of Cybertron with some extra combat training in preparation for Unicron's arrival, the High Council has agreed to begin an annual legal gladiatorial competition between city-states. Eject - a fan of sporting events such as gladiator fights - was appointed to run the contest, while Megatron and Soundwave - the people who pushed for the event - were overseeing things from the booth he was in. The chosen location for this year's games was the Jekka Amphitheatre, located in the region of Cybertron that was once Tyrest, before it was absorbed into Kalis after both cities were captured by the Decepticons during the Land Scramble at the start of the Great War.

"For today's first game, we have Iacon vs. Tyrest!" Eject says. "Representing Iacon is Bumblebee, Optimus Prime's best scout during the Great War. Representing Tyrest is Scorponok, second-in-command of the ancient Predacons. Both fighters are skilled in combat and quite agile, making for an even matchup that should lead to an interesting battle. Bumblebee is armed with a laser pistol and his signature stinger, which can temporarily freeze bots at a touch. Scorponok is equipped with a missile launcher in his right claw and an electrical stinger at the end of his tail. Bumblebee turns into a sports car, and Scorponok, well, I think it's obvious. On the count of three, the combatants will begin their duel. Whoever can keep the other on the ground for 5 seconds wins! 1, 2, 3!"

In the arena, Scorponok lunges at Bumblebee. He swings his tail at him, but the nimble scout gets out of the way and transforms into his alt-mode, speeding away before turning around to charge his opponent. Scorponok anticipates and transforms into his scorpion mode, disappearing underground. Bumblebee returns to his robot form and nervously looks around for a sign of Scorponok's location.

"Here I am!" Scorponok says as he springs out of the ground behind Bumblebee. The Autobot spins around, but is too late to react further, leading to him getting zapped by Scorponok's stinger. (His regular stinger administers non-lethal doses of cyber-venom, but the State Games don't allow for bioweapons of any kind, so he was forced to use his back-up attachment.) He punches the Autobot while he's stunned, but Bumblebee recovers and speeds off in his alt-mode.

Scorponok pursues in his scorpion mode above-ground, but his legs aren't fast enough. Bumblebee leads his opponent towards one of the walls and turns around to drive in the opposite direction. Scorponok is too late to realize the direction he's going in and hits the wall face-first. Bumblebee transforms and runs over to him, paralyzing him with his own stinger.

Eject starts the timer, 5 seconds pass, and the effect wears off right before it goes off. Bumblebee, too overconfident, doesn't think to hold his Scorponok down, and the Predacon gets up and tackles him to the ground. Eject realizes this ahead of time and stops the timer. Scorponok electrocutes Bumblebee, stunning him, and he holds him down. Eject starts the timer, and it goes off just as Bumblebee recovers.

"And the winner of the first of today's four matches is Scorponok!" he announces.

"Kalisians - and Tyrestans - be proud! Iacon is out of this year's games! Scorponok will advance to the next round and face off against the winner of the next match tomorrow. Bumblebee, good job. We hope you'll try again next year. Now, let's all take a 10-minute break. Stay tuned for the next match, Polyhex versus Slaughter City!"

In the spectator's booth, Eject gets up from his chair and turns to Megatron and Soundwave. "Well, that wasn't so bad." he says. "Let's hope Whirl and Carnivac don't lose it." "I doubt Carnivac will." Megatron replies. "Whirl, however..." Soundwave chuckles as the two leave to get some engex for the three of them.

EPISODE 117

RAMPAGE

The Acid Wastes.

Airazor flies over the metallic trees while Tigatron runs between pools of acid. "Remind me why we're out here, in one of the most dangerous regions of Cybertron?" Airazor asks.

"Because Primal tasked us with finding a good spot here to set up a warp cannon." Tigatron answers. "Apparently, we need at least one in every region and city-state on the planet."

"Ah." Airazor replies. "You see anything from up there?" Tigatron inquires. "Hang on."

Airazor responds. She looks around and scans the area. "I'm detecting... a spark signature? It's faint, but it's there. I thought we were the only ones out here." Tigatron looks up at her through the trees. "We are." he says. "Someone may be in trouble. Let's go!" Airazor flies low and leads the way to the spark signature.

The two stop at the source of the signal: a large stasis pod marked with a big, black "X."

"Oh no..." Airazor comments, realizing what it is. "We found it..." "Found what?" Tigatron asks.

"Don't you remember?" Airazor responds. "Project X? Starbase Rugby? The Transmetallization experiments?" Tigatron pauses for a moment as the memories come back to him. He nods and transforms into his bot mode. Airazor does the same. "Primal, we found Protoform X." she says on the comms. "No update on the warp cannon, though. I'd like to note that X seems to have a faint spark signature... which means he's partially awake." "You found X?" Optimus Primal replies. *"I thought he was lost to time... I'll send Depth Charge in to bring him back. Keep looking for a spot for the cannon."*

Airazor doesn't respond. Neither does Tigatron. Both have paused in fear, as a hand bursts out of the pod and tears through it. Protoform X bursts out, causing them to dive in opposite directions. "Food!" he cheers, transforming into his monstrous mechanical crab mode. He reaches for Airazor with one of his massive claws, but she flies away. Tigatron transforms and runs as well. "You're runners. I like that. Playing with my food is fun." He follows them, and they quicken their pace. "Airazor to Primal!" the Maximal says frantically. "Send Depth Charge now! X is free!"

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.

"Will do." Primal responds. He turns to the other councilors. All except the Predacon Megatron have puzzled looks on their faces. "What's going on?" Rodimus asks. "A science

experiment gone wrong just got loose." Primal answers. "Megatron, you send Depth Charge. I'll explain this to them." Megatron nods and steps out to contact the Maximal. "During the Age of the Primes, after Megatronus' betrayal, Onyx Prime had been wondering how us Maximals would react to rarified energon." Primal begins. "There were two volunteers: Depth Charge and Scavenger. They went into pods, which were filled with rarified energon supplied by Nexus Prime. They reacted positively, thankfully, and their armor was upgraded to a new material, dubbed 'Transmetal' by Rhinox, who oversaw the experiment with Onyx and Nexus. In addition, both were granted secondary 'transport modes,' which were like pseudo-vehicle modes.

"After some tests and examinations, a formula was determined by Rhinox and Tarantulas to synthesize Transmetal. As you can guess, it was just mixing liquid Cybertronium with rarified energon. Anyways, Onyx wanted to see if you could create a Cybertronian life from Transmetal, without having to go through the upgrade process. Because of the risks, however, we had to carry out the experiment away from Cybertron. After plucking a green spark - the first of its kind - from the hot spot in Protohex, Onyx sent me, Rhinox, Depth Charge, and several others to Starbase Rugby aboard the *Axalon*. For context, Starbase Rugby was an observation post in space some of the Primes had built so a few of them could warn the others back home when Unicron was near.

"At the base, we made the protoform - which we called "X," after the project's name - and put the spark in it. It slowly took shape into a fully Transmetal Cybertronian. However, he was a bit insane, and went on a rampage. He killed numerous people aboard the space station and cannibalized them before Depth Charge - who had just lost some of his best friends - brought the destruction to a halt. X was sealed in a stasis pod and brought back home. Onyx, upon hearing of the incident, told us to drop him in the Acid Wastes. We did so, although Depth Charge said he'd rather kill him himself. Looks like he'll finally have the chance to."

The Acid Wastes.

Tigatron and Airazor continue fleeing from Protoform X. He cackles as he catches up to them and transforms into his tank mode, preparing to fire his gatling cannon. "Prepare to die... and be consumed." he tells his victims as they draw their own, significantly weaker guns. "Not if I can help it, X!" a voice says above them. Depth Charge flies overhead in his air skimmer mode before changing into his manta ray mode and deploying his Cybershark drone. The drone fires several plasma rockets at X before landing in Depth Charge's hand as he changes to bot mode, while he wields his energon cutlass in the opposite.

X transforms into his robot mode and fires his gatling cannon, but Depth Charge takes the hits. He hits his opponent with seven shrapnel grenades, lodging shards of metal in his skin. "I thrive off of pain!" X responds. He uses his galva-conductors on all three Maximals.

Tigatron and Airazor fall unconscious, but Depth Charge perseveres. He charges at Protoform X and plunges his cutlass into his chest. However, before he can puncture the spark chamber, X grabs the blade and pushes it out.

"Oh, and the name's Rampage now!" he informs him. "I was doing some thinking about it after that acid woke me up!" "X, Rampage, you'll still be a sadistic cannibal that killed my friends!" Depth Charge growls. Before he can stab him again, he is stopped by the recently-arrived Megatron. "Let him live." the Predacon leader orders. "Why?" Depth Charge asks. "He's a murderer, back when it was illegal! He killed defenseless scientists and ate their remains! He sucked their energon dry, for Primus' sake!"

"And yet he is also a valuable asset against Unicron." Megatron argues. "Rampage, would you like to join us instead of fight us? There is a larger threat looming that puts us all in danger, and if he comes, you won't have anyone left to kill." Rampage pauses and thinks. He weighs his options and looks back up at Megatron. He nods. Depth Charge sighs and goes to wake up Tigatron and Airazor.

NIGHTBIRD, PART 1:

NIGHTBIRD'S MARK

The Manganese Mountains. Shockwave's abandoned base.

A very well-hidden door slides open in the wall. A black-and-purple clone of Arcee steps out and looks around. She exits the base and transforms to drive north to the city-states.

Stanix. 1018 Carlisle Street, apartment 33C.

Nightbeat is chilling on his couch watching the ABN's morning news report. Slamdance appears on the screen. *"People are puzzled as an energon storage facility in Protihex was robbed last night, but no one seemed to have come in or out."* he announces. *"The thief slipped right under the workers' noses and got in and out with the energon undetected. However, they did leave behind an interesting triangular red symbol in paint on the wall. A SecOps investigation is underway as we speak."*

"Hey, Muzzle, look at this." Nightbeat says. Muzzle comes into the living room from the kitchen. His friend and roommate points to the TV. "Someone robbed an ESF in Protihex last night. No witnesses, no suspects, no trails, just that red mark on the wall." "Sounds like a job for us." Muzzle responds. "Lemme just get some energon goodies before we head out."

Praxus. Security Operations headquarters.

Nightbeat and Muzzle walk into the building. They scan in and head upstairs to see Prowl. "Funny." the police chief comments as they enter his office. "I was just about to call you two. Wanna head down to the scene now? The initial report from my units just got in." "Sounds good to me." Nightbeat agrees. Prowl hands him the file, and the two detectives depart.

Protihex. Energon Storage Facility 58D.

Nightbeat and Muzzle arrive on the scene. Crosshairs waves to them, and they wave back as they enter the facility. There is yellow tape around the area where the stolen energon was. Against the wall is a red mark. "Do we know what that was painted with?" Muzzle inquires. "Standard wall/floor paint." Joyride answers. "Nothing special." "Hm." Nightbeat

responds. He thinks. "No camera footage, no witnesses, nothing?" Joyride nods. "Not even an energon trail." Slapdash adds. "Well, this is gonna be tricky." Muzzle comments.

That night, another energon storage facility is robbed in Alithex. The same amount of energon is taken, and once again, there are no witnesses. The same mark is also present. Nightbeat and Muzzle head to the scene, where Fizzle's unit (him, Aquafend, and Over-Run) is investigating. They once again find nothing, and go home. The following night, a facility in Slaughter City joins its brethren in Protihex and Altihex in the string of robberies. The investigation goes the same as the ones before it, and for once, Nightbeat and Muzzle are stumped.

EPISODE 119

NIGHTBIRD, PART 2:

SHADOW OF NIGHTBIRD

Praxus. Security Operations headquarters.

Nightbeat and Muzzle stand in one of the meeting rooms, looking at an investigation board. On it is a map of Cybertron with the robbed facilities marked, outlined with photos of every possible suspect - anyone that was in the area at the time of the robberies.

Unfortunately, there are no overlapping bots. "So, this board isn't helping." Muzzle says, breaking the silence. "We don't have a hideout or a next location. And if we want a next location, we need one before tonight."

"Wait..." Nightbeat realizes, feeling stupid for not noticing what he just noticed sooner. He walks towards the board and picks up a marker, connecting the dots marking each of the crime scenes. They create a triangle, and he then draws more lines, this time going inwards. The lines intersect right on an energon storage facility in Praxus. "Well, that's one risky robber, coming to the heart of SecOps." Muzzle comments. He then rushes out of the room to tell Prowl.

Energon Storage Facility 79C.

Nightbeat does her routine: she sneaks into the building, her black and gray color scheme allowing her to blend in with the darkness of the night, and moves around behind stacks of energon crates. She takes light steps and is successfully not heard by the workers as she covers the cameras. Her right hand retracts, and is replaced by a paint brush tipped with red. She paints her mark on the wall, and her hand returns to its place so she can steal the energon crates.

Near the facility, Nightbeat and Muzzle, along with a SecOps unit (Crossblades, Vroom, and Windbreaker), lurk in an alleyway, huddled around a green screen being projected from Nightbeat's right forearm. Earlier that day, they had bugged each and every energon crate so they could track the thief (or thieves). Their plan was working, as the red dots on the screen were moving away from the building they had been on top of all day, and were now heading south towards the Praxian border.

The Manganese Mountains. Shockwave's abandoned base/Nightbird's hideout.

As she is refilling her paint tank, Nightbird hears engines outside. She closes the compartment and draws her twin laser swords, carefully stepping towards the door, which is suddenly blown open. "This is Security Operations!" Vroom announces as he leads the group in, blaster ready. "You are under arrest for four counts of energon theft in several city-states!"

Nightbird lunges at them with her swords, but Crossblades stuns her with his blaster.

Nightbeat then walks over and knocks her out. "Is this one of Shockwave's creations?"

Windbreaker asks. "Well, it looks like an evil Arcee, it seems to be a drone or something, and it's hiding out here, so I'm gonna bet 50 shanix that it is." Muzzle responds. "I'm about to call the truck to pick this stuff up." Crossblades tells them before he turns around to contact HQ. "Well, another crime successfully solved." Nightbeat says to his partner. They hi-five, and Nightbeat then contacts Prowl to tell him who the thief was.

EPISODE 120

THE LEGEND OF VIOLEN JIGER

Tarn. Megatron Square.

"I'm legitimately surprised that the petition to rename this place after me actually succeeded." Megatron comments as he looks around. He and Soundwave had traveled to Tarn to oversee the construction of one of the planet's warp cannons, and stopped in Megatron Square. Three younger Cybertronians, born near the end of the war (around the 1920s) as MTOs, were exploring and gasped at the sight of them. "You know, I've never actually seen you outside of videos and posters." one of them says as the trio approach Megatron. They are rather child-like, which Megatron smiles at. He was glad that at least some bots could enjoy their youth.

"I'm kinda scared of Unicron." the second one comments out of the blue. "I've heard stories about him. What if we don't win? What if he eats Cybertron?" "We'll win."

Soundwave responds. "We've beaten similar threats in the past." "Like?" the third bot inquires. "Violen Jiger." Megatron answers. "Who?" the bot replies. Megatron gasps.

"Soundwave, how about you head to the construction site." he suggests. "I need to educate the young ones. This is the story they should know. Plus, it'll cheer them up." Soundwave nods and transforms, disappearing down the street.

Megatron sits down on the bench at the base of his statue (yes, they built one). "During the Age of the Firstforged, we faced a great threat." he begins. "There had been a brief civil war amongst the people of this world, but the opposition were destroyed. Their bodies were carelessly piled up in a pit in the Acid Wastes to eventually melt, and something happened. No one knows what happened, but something mysterious certainly did, because by the next morning, the bodies were gone, replaced by a monstrous skeletal demon: Violen Jiger.

"He swiftly attacked Praxus, slaughtering a good amount of its citizens. Their blaster fire only damaged part of his body - the skeleton part. The scary part was that after they died, he consumed their energon and spark energy. The same thing happened in Protihex, then Tyger Pax, then Tagan Heights. Halonix and Zarak Maximus feared that this creature would soon go for the strongest spark ever - Primus', the core of the planet.

"Dai Atlas, a general, good friend of Big Bang, and famed warrior, volunteered to lead him away from Cybertron. Others joined him - Sonic Bomber, Roadfire, Speeder, Sonic,

Drillbuster, Moonradar, and Rabbicrater. They prepared their ship, the *Zone*, and got to work.

"Dai Atlas, Sonic Bomber, and Roadfire - collectively known as the Powered Masters - combined into Big Powered, a powerful spacecraft that won many a battle, and drew Violent Jiger's attention as he was raiding Helex. They led him into space and then landed on the *Zone*. Moonrader flew the vehicle away from Cybertron, and sure enough, Jiger followed. As they continued leading him through the galaxy, the others did research and scans, and found that he was made up of sparks reanimated by a mysterious ethereal energy traceable to a world the neighbors called the Tenth Planet.

"They led Violent Jiger back to the origin of his powers, and while the *Zone* kept him busy, the Powered Masters traveled down to Feminia, where a local group of mages explained the mysterious dark powers of the Tenth Planet. The only way he could be destroyed was with the legendary Zodiac, an artifact lost somewhere in the star system, which it was said to have created. Sonic Bomber brought the Feminian Mages nextdoor to the Tenth Planet, where they used a spell to temporarily contain Violent Jiger, and then boarded the *Zone*. It picked up Dai Atlas and Roadfire, and the group began to search each planet for the Zodiac.

"Eventually, they found it. The team quickly brought it back to the Tenth Planet, where the mages released Jiger. They battled him so Dai Atlas could get an opening to get close and cram the Zodiac into his chest to destroy him, but before he went in, he pulled Speeder aside. He told him to get to the *Zone* and leave, because he knew that they wouldn't be coming back.

"Speeder protested - after all, Dai Atlas was his closest friend - but in the end, returned to their ship. He lifted into the air, but hovered for a moment to watch Dai Atlas dive into Violent Jiger's chest, Zodiac in hand. He flew away as the explosion began to form, and safely made it back to Cybertron, where he gave the others the news. Later transmissions from the Feminians informed them that the Tenth Planet was not destroyed in the blast, but there were no traces of Violent Jiger or Dai Atlas and his men. Some believe that they're still out there, but most have accepted his death. Regardless of their beliefs, all remember Dai Atlas and his crew as heroes who saved Cybertron."

"Wow." the first bot says, still processing all the information. "Now, if you excuse me, I must go." Megatron says. He gets up and walks away, transforming into his tank mode and driving off to join Soundwave at the construction site.

EPISODE 121

FIVE FACES OF DARKNESS

Iacon. Iacon Spaceport 1.

"Tracks, we have a problem." Sizzle says, getting up from his console to wave over his boss. Tracks gets up and walks over. "What's wrong?" he asks. Sizzle points to the screen, which has a Quintesson insignia moving towards Cybertron. "Scrap. Zetca, call Rodimus - now!" Zetca nods and contacts the Head Councilor.

Rodimus Prime, Orion Pax, and Megatron arrive on the spaceport's landing grounds just as the Quintesson ship is touching down. They transform and draw their blasters (well, Megatron doesn't, as he has his fusion cannon); Tracks, Sizzle, and Zetca have already armed themselves. The six (four Autobots, one Decepticon, and one NAIL) stand ready to fire as the ship's boarding ramp lowers.

The first thing they see are clawed feet. Two robots, around the same height as Zetca (who is slightly shorter than the average Cybertronian), walk down. On their back are large, green, crystal swords. They are followed by a mess of tendrils, which steps out from the darkness to reveal a tall snake-like - and armored - body with four clawed arms and an Allicon-like head. Three tendrils are sprouting from the monstrous creature's base. Behind it are a pair of slender, dark blue robots wielding yellow, crystalline hooked blades.

"I come in peace." the creature announces, raising his arms into the air. The Cybertronians don't lower their weapons. "My name is Alpha Quintesson, or Alpha Q for short. I was once the Imperial Magistrate of Planet Q-521, prior to its... untimely demise." His mouth opens, revealing a "bearded," red-eyed face. It spins around to a red and orange one, similar in appearance to the Death face of Supreme Imperial Magistrate Pentius, before going to bulbous-cheeked face, and finally, a wise-looking, "mustachioed" face. His helmet closes, concealing the fifth face as it spins into place.

"My Terromodian Guards are merely here for security." Alpha Q explains. "The rest are all in the ship in stasis. It's been a long journey. I know you don't trust me." "Darn right we don't." Rodimus responds, his gun still pointed at the Quintesson. "We've been attacked by your people twice now. What are the chances you'll make it three for three? Very high."

"Just let me explain." Alpha Q protests. "Please." Orion Pax gestures to the others to lower their weapons. They reluctantly do, knowing he has good judgement.

"Long, long ago, before the destruction of Quintessa, my people had an entire empire." Alpha Q begins. "The Quintesson Pan Galactic Co-Prosperity Sphere, or QPGCPS for short, was a union of 33 other planets formed through trade and, admittedly, a lot of a subterfuge. Among the planets was a barren world that became known as Q-521. I was appointed as the Imperial Magistrate, or Majestrix in our language, and given several legions of Terromodians to accompany me to our new world. It became a melting pot of various cultures, full of migrants and refugees. Then, Unicron came.

"I was one of very few Quintessons that had read the Covenant of Primus - or was it called the Primal Pentateuch? I don't remember, honestly. I lost my copy a while ago. Anyways, I think it was just me and Sevax's study group. The point is, most of us didn't believe in Primus and Unicron, and truthfully, I didn't either, so we didn't see it coming. One day, we just stepped out into darkness when it should have been day. We looked up and all saw the same thing: a horrific, pale blue planet with an orange ring around it, a glowing yellow-orange center, and two massive horns. At that moment, I knew it was the end.

"I ordered the planetary defense force to attack while I contacted surrounding worlds and Quintessa for help. Unicron was blocking transmissions, however, so nothing went through. We were on our own. The defense force were all killed. Unicron got closer and began eating our world. All I could do was try to save who I could, so I told anyone who could make it to get to the nearest spaceport and take any ship they could find to leave. Me and my guard took standard transport craft, which we rechristened the *Last Hope*, and left Planet Q. Unfortunately, we were the only ones to escape, and barely at that.

"Shrapnel from a destroyed ship nearby had flown into the hull and punctured an engine. I was near the back, and bore the brunt of the blast, necessitating my reconstruction with spare parts. When I reawoke, I found that we had stopped on Monacus. The explosion had flung us into space, but the pilots had landed us here. Doom-Lock, the head of my guard, who is currently inside, contacted Deeseus to tell him I was awake. His hologram appeared, and he told us he was disappointed in my failure to defend Planet Q. He evidently failed to understand the sheer futility of our situation. Before the transmission ended, he informed me and my men that we had been exiled from the Quintesson Empire and we had one week to leave the QPGCPS.

"Since then, I have vowed to save other worlds from meeting the same fate as us. Me and my crew have done our best to track Unicron's movement, but he travels in mysterious ways, so unfortunately, we sometimes can't warn people in time. Lucky for you, we were able to spot him this time, and you're the last planet on our list of possible ones he's heading to, so here we are."

"Well, we appreciate your stopping by to visit and confirm our fears." Rodimus says, lowering his gun. "Oh, sorry if that sounded rude. I meant that we've been worried about Unicron's coming after both Shockwave - this crazy scientist, who's dead now - and Pentius - I think you know who he is - warned us. We didn't trust them, though. Guess they weren't trying to scare us." "With that, my work is concluded." Alpha Q says. "I best get going." "The fuel!" Doom-Lock reminds him, his head peeking out from under the ship (above the boarding ramp). "Oh, yes, do you by any chance have a place to refuel?" his leader asks. "Unicron's so close that we've been in a rush to warn all the planets and haven't had time to refill our fuel tanks. Our ship can run on energon."

"Sure." Sizzle kindly replies. "Lemme just get the tank." He transforms and drives away. "So, are you all prepared for his arrival?" Alpha Q inquires. Rodimus nods. "We're building warp cannons in every city. They should do as much damage to him as a plasma rifle does to one of us - which is, to say, not much, but pair that with ships pelting him with all manner of ranged weaponry and it should keep him busy long enough for me to fly in there and open the Matrix."

"You're going to open the Matrix?" Alpha Q asks, surprised. He'd heard stories of Primes - even the other Thirteen - trying to do it, but only one could ever succeed: the mysterious Thirteenth, whose name was never recorded, but who was remembered as the one who opened the Matrix and cast Unicron into deep space. Rodimus nods again, understanding the risk. After all, if he fails, he may die, and Unicron will win and consume Cybertron like he has so many other worlds. He hears Sizzle returning with the fuel tank and decides to stop worrying about it for now. Alpha Q leads the Sparkabot to the inlet hatch, which he opens. He then refuels the ship. Sizzle transforms and reunites with the others. "Farewell, my friends!" Alpha Q says as he walks up the boarding ramp. His guards follow him. "Best of luck!" The ramp raises and the ship takes off. "A Quintesson we can trust." Zetca comments. "That's a first." The others start laughing.

EPISODE 122

GHOST STORIES

Iacon. Iacon Hall of Records.

"Remind me why we're here?" Cyclonus asks Rodimus Prime as they sift through files in one of the library's many hallways. "Research," the Autobot leader answers. "The Covenant is too vague at times, so instead, we're gonna dig through articles interpreting it and making it easier to understand who the Primes were and what the scrap happened to 'em." Cyclonus nods. Rodimus pulls out a file. "This one looks good," he says. "'The Primes: An Overview.'" He begins to read it aloud:

After his transformation into the metallic world we live on now, Primus got to work preparing for his dark brother's return. He began creating soldiers - 13 holy warriors known as Primes that would protect him and hopefully slay Unicron once and for all.

First from the Well was Prima, the Warrior of Light and leader of the Primes. After him came Vector Prime, keeper of time and space, who could manipulate and even travel through it. The third Prime was Alpha Trion, the scribe. His duty was to record everything: the past, the present, and even the future. Solus Prime was fourth; she was the smith, who was given her legendary Forge by her creator to fulfill her task of crafting her brethren's weapons.

Micronus was the fifth to rise from the holy pit, a diminutive but clever bot who served as the Primes' conscience and morality, almost personified. The alcoholic Alchemist was sixth, who could analyze elements and the structure of the world. Next came Nexus, who many know as the first - and since his time, only - combiner. He was a humorous prankster who lightened up tense moments, and he had the ability to separate himself into component robots.

Onyx Prime followed him out, the first of the Primes with a different shape - he was a winged centaur with a bestial head. He was a spiritual bot, and became good friends with Micronus. The unpredictable Amalgamous came next, a joker blessed with the first transformation cog, who could change into any mechanical form he wished.

Rodimus stops reading. "Alright, so this first section is just about the creation of the Primes and preparation for Unicron and all that," he tells Cyclonus. "Lemme skip ahead to the battle."

Micronus and Vector returned to Cybertron after having warned the others back home about Unicron's approach. The Dark God arrived not soon after, but the Primes were ready. He spawned monstrous creatures that attacked them. On the ground, Solus, Micronus, Quintus, and Liege held them off, cleaving through legions like they were nothing. Their dark energy blasters did some damage, but the holy powers of the Primes overcame them.

Unicron dispatched another horde of these transforming orbs - dubbed "Bugs" by the Primes - to the Well of the AllSpark to start eating away at Primus before he dug his mandibles into him, but Alchemist, Nexus, and Onyx were already there waiting for them. Nexus split himself into five components - most depictions of the defense of the Well, including Alpha Trion's own description in the Covenant, describe them as a tank, a pair of jets, a helicopter, and a missile truck - to bolster their numbers and make the slaughter easier.

Meanwhile, in the skies above the planet, Prima, Vector, Amalgamous, Megatronus, and Thirteen made their way towards the massive form of Unicron. More of his Bugs rose from his metallic body to defend him, but the quintet of Primes made short work of them. Amalgamous told them he'd keep them busy and catch up, leaving the other four to continue on their way to Unicron's interior. More Bugs appeared, which Megatronus quickly incinerated. Unicron decided it was time to amp things up a bit, and his surface began to split apart as he shifted into his robot mode.

The Primes found themselves face-to-face with the Uncreator himself, but they weren't scared off. On Cybertron, Micronus used the Chimera Stone to give his brothers (and sister) a power boost. Liege Maximo created an illusion field where the Bugs were landed, trapping them in a false vision of Cybertron's ruins that pacified them long enough for the Primes to kill them.

Unicron prepared to breathe fire and shoot his optical lasers to destroy the Well, but the Primes were able to create a shield to block the attacks. He decided to focus on the ones currently on his body, and spawned more Bugs. It was at this moment that Megatronus at last used his artifact, firing the Requiem Blaster across Unicron's surface to kill them all. It also carved an opening in his back for the Primes to get it. Amalgamous reunited with his brothers, and they went in.

Once inside, Vector teleported them all to the passageways near Unicron's core. They made their way there, but more Bugs - along with other horrific elements of Unicron's immune system - appeared. Vector and Amalgamous held them off while Prima and Megatronus led Thirteen towards the core, clearing a path with their weapons. Finally, they made it to the spark chamber, but it was blocked by a shield of dark energy. Prima began to cut it open with the Star Saber, and it broke open. The Primes rushed in. Unlike their sparks, and the spark of their creator, Unicron's was a deep and ominous purple.

Thirteen's chest opened, and he prepared to open the Matrix of Leadership, but Prima took it from his hands. It is unclear if this arrogance was caused by Unicron or amplified by his powers, but based on the rest of the Covenant, it seems to have just been amplified. Megatronus and Thirteen protested, but Prima ignored them and attempted to open the artifact.

A singular Bug spawned and shot him down, knocking the Matrix out of his hands. Before Megatronus could react, he was hit with this seemingly-stronger antibody as well. Thirteen dove for the Matrix. Ignoring Unicron's taunts, he evaded the Bug and lifted the Matrix into the air. As originally planned, he opened the vessel of light, which sent holy Primal energy through Unicron, crippling him. However, he was in a rush, and had to close it before he could kill him.

Vector and Amalgamous appeared, and he grabbed Prima and Megatronus and teleported outside with them. Knowing they wouldn't be able to kill Unicron, the Primes assembled outside his brutally damaged body and combined their energies to cast the Chaos Bringer into the furthest reaches of space.

And thus, Unicron was repelled. The Primes had fulfilled their purpose, and now it was time to enjoy Cybertron.

"That's all we need to know from this file." Rodimus says as he stops reading. He writes down the name and ID number on a (previously empty) list. "We have the Requiem Blaster and Star Saber, and obviously the Matrix. We still can't find the Enigma, and Triptych Mask doesn't seem to have any useful offensive capabilities for this battle. Do you know the locations of any other artifacts?" Cyclonus nods no. Instead, he holds up a file from the bin he was looking through while Rodimus read.

"This one's interesting." he tells him. "According to the ancient legends, as their time neared its end, the Primes each created a small orb and imbued it with their essence. These so-called Prime Cores grant special abilities to their users." "So it's like Primus and the Matrix but for each of the Primes?" Rodimus asks. Cyclonus nods. "Do we know where they are?" "It says that their locations have been lost to time." Cyclonus answers. Rodimus

sighs. "Guess we better start searching," he says. "Alpha Q said Unicron's close." The two begin to clean up.

EPISODE 123

TITANS, PART 1:

TRICKERY

The Praetorus Wharf.

As Geomotus, Landmine, Azimuth, and Beachcomber perform an experiment, they notice that the area has gotten awfully shady. The group look up and see a vague orange shape coming down towards them. As the shape gets closer, it becomes clear that this is a massive starship about to crash. "Scatter!" Landmine shouts. They run in opposite directions, getting away from the landing point, and the ship crashes.

Praxus. Security Operations headquarters.

"Prowl, we just got a call about a massive orange ship that's crashed on the Praetorus Wharf." Barricade tells his superior as he stands in his office's doorway. "There aren't any spark signals, but it's been damaged. EMS is already on the way." "Send two units." Prowl orders. He is more focused on reading a report about a robbery in Tarn. "In fact, how about you go yourself?" "Fine by me." Barricade responds, turning around to go get his unit.

The Praetorus Wharf. Crash site.

First Aid and Velocity arrive and transform. "Thank goodness we were in the area." the former comments, looking at the crashed ship. "SecOps said they're on their way too." Geomotus tells them. "Kits are prepped." Velocity tells her fellow medic. "Ready to go in?" First Aid nods and takes one of the medkits from her hand. The two turn on their flashlights and head over to the hole in the hull.

The interior of the ship is dark. Whatever damage it sustained seems to have knocked out the lights. "Still no lifesigns?" First Aid asks. Velocity looks at her scanner. "Nothing." she replies with a sigh. They hear sirens outside. Barricade, Brunt, and Carnivac arrive, followed by Outback, Bumper, and Catilla. The six police officers transform.

"First Aid and Velocity just went in." Azimuth tells them, pointing to the hole. Outback looks at Bumper and Catilla, who nod and draw their weapons as they head towards the entrance. "What exactly happened?" Carnivac inquires. "You four were just working and you saw the ship coming?" "Yup." Beachcomber answers. "Interesting." Brunt comments. "And

you said there's no lifesigns?" Geomotus, who had run the scan, nods. "I'm gonna go in, by the way." Brunt tells the others. They nod, and he rushes off to catch up with Bumper and Catilla.

"There's something off about this ship." Catilla comments as he leads the trio through the corridors. They had passed by the medics earlier. "I don't know why I think that... It just feels different." Bumper shines a light on a tear in the wall, which exposes some of the ship's circuitry. "This looks familiar." Brunt says. "Wait... I know what this is. It's Cybertronian wiring. And not Cybertronian as in it was built by us. Cybertronian as in it's one of us." "You mean..." Bumper trails off. "Yup." Brunt replies with a nod. "We're inside a Titan."

Outside.

"You're sure about that?" Barricade asks on the comms outside. "*Positive.*" Brunt responds. "*I studied this before the war.*" "Alright." Barricade says, hanging up and turning to Outback. "Apparently that's a Titan. Call the High Council. And Windblade."

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.

Atomizer walks into the meeting room, where the High Council is updating each other on the status of Cybertron's fortifications and the preparation for Unicron. "Sorry to interrupt," he says. "I just got a call from Outback. Apparently that crashed ship on the Praetorus Wharf is a Titan." "A crashed Titan?" Rodimus Prime asks, getting up from his chair. Atomizer nods. "What does it look like?" Atomizer shows them a picture. Optimus Primal and (his) Megatron freeze. "Oh no..." Primal says. "Tell SecOps to not do anything. We're on our way."

The Praetorus Wharf. Crash site.

Rodimus Prime, Orion Pax, the Megatrons, Optimus Primal, and Starscream arrive on the scene. They are soon joined by Windblade and Cyclonus (who had been with Windblade when she was called, and it tagged along so he could see cityspeaking in action). "Are there people in there?" Primal asks. Outback nods. "Tell them to get out immediately." "What's the deal with this Titan?" Starscream inquires. "It has something, or rather, someone, inside that shouldn't be let out." the Predacon Megatron answers. "We'll explain in a moment." Bumper, Catilla, Brunt, First Aid, and Velocity emerge from the opening and come over. "I'm going in." Windblade announces. "Cyc, Outback, with me." They nod and follow her to the opening. The three disappear inside.

EPISODE 124

TITANS, PART 2:

VIGILEM AWAKENS

The Praetorus Wharf. Crash site.

"You all know the story of Megatronus' betrayal, right?" Optimus Primal asks. Everyone nods. "And how Liege Maximo manipulated him and got sealed away in a Titan and sent off into space?" They all nod. Primal and Megatron point to the Titan, and they realize what he's trying to say: that Titan is Vigilem, the Titan of Liege Maximo, and his eternal prison. "We performed a form of what you now call shadowplay on Vigilem before he was sent off." Megatron continues. "He wasn't complicit with what was happening, so we were forced to bury his personality deep beneath a new one: Carcer. Think of it like a less extreme memory wipe. In fact, it was done using Maximo's own Liegian Darts. We told Carcer that he had one mission and one mission alone: to traverse space, never land, never interact, and never, ever, ever let his singular prisoner out. After that, we masked their spark signals and sent them on their way. Carcer hasn't returned since." "Windblade needs to be very careful when interacting with him." Primal adds. "If she isn't, she may end up undoing the shadowplay." "I'll tell her." Orion Pax says, stepping away to contact the cityspeaker.

Inside Carcer.

Windblade, Cyclonus, and Outback locate the Titan's brain chamber. The door is bolted and welded shut, and barricaded on both sides. "They really didn't want anyone getting in here." Outback comments as he pushes the chunks of metal blocking the door out of the way. Windblade draws her Stormfall Sword and cuts the door open. They step out of the way as it falls forward, and then move the inside barricade out of the way. "Indeed they did." Cyclonus replies.

The trio stand face-to-face with Carcer's brain module. "This is certainly an experience." Cyclonus comments. "Stand back." Windblade tells them. She steps forward towards the massive sphere and touches it with her right hand. The red markings around her eyes glow, and she interfaces with the Titan.

Carcer's mind.

Inside, Windblade looks around. She sees numerous memories of the places Carcer has traveled, from one end of the galaxy to the other. As she expected, there are no visual memories of Cybertron, but he is aware that he and Liege Maximo are Cybertronian. She finds memories of the four directions Primal gave him: "traverse space, never land, never interact, and never, ever, ever let your singular prisoner out." "Well, this must be what shadowplay looks like inside a brain module." Windblade says as she continues floating around, noticing the rigid net blocking off most of Carcer's mind. "Carcer, you hear me?" No response. "Carcer?" she repeats. "Hello? I'm Windblade, a cityspeaker, and I'm trying to get you conscious.

Carcer awakens, sending a small wave throughout his mind. It throws Windblade off and sends her flying into the net. It causes that part of it to break, and the cracks begin to spread throughout the rest of the net, undoing the shadowplay. "What's happening?" Carcer asks. "I feel strange..." "Scrap." Windblade says. "Scrap. Scrap. Scrap. Scrap. Scrap." She attempts to pull the net back together, but it's no use. Soon, the entire thing disappears, and Vigilem reawakens. Windblade's avatar disappears.

Carcer. Brain chamber.

Windblade takes her hand off of the brain module and turns to the others with a panicked look on her face. "We have to get out of here." she says. "I think I just did what Primal told me not to do." Before they move, the trio hear footsteps nearby. "First Aid, was that either of you that we just heard walking?" Cyclonus asks on the comms. "We've been in the other part of the ship repairing an energon leak for the past 5 minutes, so probably not." First Aid replies. Then, he realizes what that means. "Oh no..."

"He's out..." Outback realizes. "Let's go!" He transforms into his SUV alt-mode and speeds down the hallway. Cyclonus and Windblade follow. Vigilem's interior begins to shift, prompting First Aid and Velocity to make a hasty escape through one of the other exits as well.

Outside.

The others see Windblade, Cyclonus, and Outback rushing outside and immediately worry. The three transform. "He's awake." Windblade tells them. "I accidentally undid the shadowplay. Vigilem is transforming, and Liege is out." "Oh no." Primal says, looking to the transforming ship next to them. "Can we go?" Geomotus inquires. "Unless you wanna stay and fight, go right ahead." Rodimus replies. The geology team nods and transforms (with Azimuth hitching a ride on the back of Geomotus' alt-mode) to drive away.

"Is there anything we can do to suppress Vigilem's personality again?" Cyclonus asks. "Like call in Chromedome?" "Chromedome isn't trained in mnemosurgery on Titans." Rodimus responds. "And plus, he doesn't practice anymore, and Rewind wouldn't let him, even for this. Sunder isn't trained in Titan mnemosurgery either, and it would take too long to get him brought down here from Hecate anyways." "Primal, Megatron, are any of the mnemosurgeons from your time still around?" Cyclonus suggests. They nod glumly.

"I have returned!" Vigilem announces. A visor drops down over Rodimus' eyes, and he zooms in. On the Titan's shoulder is a green, horned figure - Liege Maximo. "I never thought I'd see that bastard's ugly mug again." the Predacon Megatron comments, having also zoomed in. "Now, where is my brother, Metroplex?" Vigilem demands. "Iacon." Liege Maximo reminds him. He's still recovering some of his less major memories after the shadowplay's been undone. Vigilem starts to march towards Iacon. The regular-sized Transformers below him move out of the way as he begins his trek.

EPISODE 125

TITANS, PART 3:

ALL FOR NOTHING

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.

"Just so you two know, that Titan that crashed on the Praetorus Wharf is up and about, and he's coming to y'all so he can get some much-needed revenge on Metroplex." Optimus Primal warns Bumblebee and Soundwave on the comms. *"I'm about to radio Six-Gun. If you have any other ideas on how to stop him, execute 'em. Vigilem's gotten some upgrades since me and Megs last saw him and Metroplex may be a tad bit outmatched."* "I have one." Soundwave responds.

The Sonic Canyons. Sonic Canyons Research Lab.

"Whaddya need, Soundwave?" Sparkstalker asks, pacing around the lab as he takes the call. *"Do you remember that data bomb prototype I had you start working on during the war?"* Soundwave inquires. *"Yeah."* Sparkstalker replies. *"Well, there's a Titan making his way towards Iacon to cause major damage and we're going to need it."* Soundwave tells him. *"We can get it to you."* Sparkstalker says. *"Give us 15 - 20 minutes."* Soundwave says "okay" and then hangs up. Sparkstalker turns to his coworkers, Mindwipe and Bitstream. *"Alright guys, we have a delivery job."* he informs them.

Iacon. Metroplex.

The alarms are sounding, and the white-blue lights have turned red. *"Everyone out!"* Six-Gun orders as people run through the hallways to leave. *"We're going into attack mode!"* Once Scamper and Slammer confirm that Metroplex is completely empty except for them, they all meet on the bridge and have the Titan convert into his battleship mode. *"He's approaching faster!"* Scamper says as he looks at the scanners. Vigilem, eager to get his revenge, has converted back into ship mode to make a quick flight over the cities straight to Iacon. *"The evacuation's already underway."* Slammer adds. *"Either way, we need to get Vigilem away from the cities."* Six-Gun reminds them. *"I can fly out to the Sea of Rust."* Metroplex suggests. *"Sounds good to me."* Six-Gun replies. The Titan's engines whirr to life, and he rises into the air, taking off to fly south.

The Praetorus Wharf. Crash site.

"Scamper just informed me that Metroplex is leading Vigilem to the Sea of Rust." Starscream tells the others. "Let's roll." Rodimus Prime responds. The councilors, police officers, and medics all transform and start driving (or flying).

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.

"Metroplex is leading Vigilem to the Rust Sea." Soundwave informs Bumblebee. "Then what are we waiting for?" the diminutive yellow Autobot asks. "Let's go!" Once outside, the two transform and make their way towards the Iaconian border.

The Sonic Canyons. Sonic Canyons Research Lab.

"You've got the bomb?" Sparkstalker asks Bitstream as the trio stand on the edge of the exit deck, about to leave. "Right here." Bitstream answers, patting the silver canister containing their perfected data bomb. "*Metroplex and Vigilem are going to be fighting by the Rust Sea.*" Soundwave tells Mindwipe on the comms. Mindwipe responds with an "okay" and relays the information to his coworkers. Sparkstalker nods and transforms into beast mode, taking flight. Mindwipe follows, and Bitstream after him.

The Sea of Rust.

Metroplex transforms and lands on the edge of the sea. "Other way, Plex!" Six-Gun says from inside him as they spot Vigilem approaching from the opposite direction. The Titan transforms just as his target turns around, and is immediately greeted with a punch in the face. "Long time no see, Metroplex." Vigilem says. "I'm back, and ready to get my revenge for what you and the Primes did to me and my master!" He pelts his former ally with a barrage of artillery fire, and Metroplex responds by firing his own cannons.

A hatch opens in his shoulder (left of his head), and Six-Gun, Scamper, and Slammer climb out. "There he is!" Six-Gun says, pointing at Liege Maximo, who is standing on Vigilem's shoulder. "Liege Maximo!" He transforms into his VTOL aircraft alt-mode, with Scamper jumping on the top and Slammer hanging onto the bottom. The trio fly over. As they near Liege, Slammer opens fire with his arm cannon. Liege Maximo takes the hits and moves out of the way as they land. Six-Gun transforms into a set of armor for Scamper (his "Offensive Loadout"), who uses him to fire a barrage of laser fire at Liege Maximo while Slammer beats the slag out of him.

"I will not be defeated by lesser beings such as you three!" Liege Maximo declares, forcing Slammer's chainsaw back and causing him to cut his own chest. He begins to leak energon, prompting Scamper to rush over and help him. Liege Maximo leaves them be while Six-Gun

reconfigures himself into a jetpack for Scamper to bring Slammer down to the ground. As they land, the trio spot the arriving forms of the High Council (coming from both directions), Security Operations units, and EMS workers. "Thank Primus you're here." Six-Gun says to First Aid and Velocity as he reforms his body. "He's wounded, as you can tell." He points to Slammer's body. "We'll take care of it." First Aid replies, bending down to patch up the wound.

"We have to keep him busy while we wait for the Tech Trinity to arrive." Optimus Primal explains. "What happens then?" Scamper inquires. "We put Vigilem to rest - forever." the Predacon Megatron answers. "To battle!" He transforms into his dragon mode and flies into the air. Primal, Starscream, Windblade, and Cyclonus follow him into the air. "Six-Gun, can you get me up to Liege?" Rodimus asks. Six-Gun nods and transforms into a jetpack (and some extra guns). Rodimus flies ahead of the airborne attack force to land on Vigilem's shoulder.

Meanwhile, on the ground, Brunt transforms into armor for Barricade (his "Demolition Loadout") as Orion Pax and the other Megatron lead the grounded troops in attacking Vigilem's legs. Although the blaster fire feels like little bug bites individually, the combined force of all their weapons, plus Metroplex's own, stronger guns, does manage to cause the Titan some pain.

On his shoulder, Rodimus Prime lands to face another of his kind. Six-Gun separates from him to join the aerial forces. "Where is 13?" Liege Maximo demands. "Where is the one that gave the verdict that damned me to that cursed prison for millions of years?" "Dead, like most of your fellow Primes." Rodimus answers as he fires at him with his blaster. His flamethrowers begin to heat up.

"Impossible!" Maximo responds. "I sensed him! He's near..." As he dodges the streams of flame coming from Rodimus' forearms, he looks down, trying to determine which of the bots below them is the Thirteenth Prime. "You're delusional." Rodimus tells him. As he says that, Maximo realizes who 13 is: Orion. "The red and blue one!" he says. "It's him!" "Orion?" Rodimus asks. "He's not that old, he stopped being a Prime months ago." Maximo lacks any offensive weaponry outside of his confiscated darts, and was never a good fighter, preferring to use his slick tongue to talk people out of killing him, but he's too focused on getting revenge to do so, and continues to endure Rodimus' beating as he tries back away from him.

As he is punched and kicked, he remembers something: one of Alchemist's "prophecies." He begins to laugh. "What's so funny?" Rodimus inquires, bothered by the laughter as he kicks the Prime in the gut. "You fool." Maximo replies. "That is 13. It's just as Alchemist said: he's been reborn. The last of Primus' firstborn, still alive... until I get to him. Vigilem!"

Despite being right by his ear, Vigilem doesn't hear him. He's too focused on his battle with Metroplex.

As he attempts to rip his head off, his forearm is hit with purple laser beams from Bitstream's null-rays, followed by Sparkstalker's fire breath. Mindwipe transforms and slashes his arm with his impaler claw. "We're here!" Bitstream announces, transforming and landing in front of Mindwipe. "Metroplex, get back - now!" Rodimus orders.

With Vigilem's grip being loosened by the Tech Trinity more and more, Metroplex easily frees himself from the Titan's grasp. "I'm sorry for what's about to happen, my friend." he says as he flies away. "I wish things could have been different." Vigilem's lowering arm catches Bitstream off-guard and causes him to drop the canister with the data bomb, but Sparkstalker catches mid-fall and tosses it up to him. The three begin to move forward as Vigilem starts to pursue Metroplex, but Bitstream is still able to open the canister and take out the data bomb. "Let's hope this works." he says to himself as he presses the blue button on the top of the orb.

A circular wave of blue energy flies out of the data bomb, hitting Vigilem at nearly point-blank range. Just as expected, it knocks out all of his systems... including his brain module. Completely brain dead, Vigilem begins to fall sideways into the Sea of Rust. Seeing what's about to happen, the battered Liege Maximo gets up and jumps. No one sees where he lands, as they are all too busy trying to get away before Vigilem's plunge into the sea causes its corrosive liquids to splash all over the place.

Once it's all over, they carefully return to survey the area. Vigilem's body is being dissolved and eaten by rust worms; Liege Maximo is nowhere to be found. They've won.

Beneath Protihex.

A few days later, Liege Maximo has made it to the caverns under Protihex. With parts he's scavenged from around the area, he begins to cobble together a crude wormhole generator...

EPISODE 126

REVENGE OF THE FALLEN

Beneath Protihex.

Liege Maximo presses a few buttons on the console, and the wormhole generator begins to turn on. As the portal forms, he imbues it with some of his Primal energies. It turns from blue to green, and then from green to fiery orange with a purplish-black center. Soon, a full-sized portal forms, and out steps none other than Megatronus Prime. "It's been a while, brother." Maximo says. "It certainly has." Megatronus replies.

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.

"Soundwave, your turn." Megatron tells him as his Predacon counterpart finishes his update on the warp cannons across the planet. Soundwave gets up and pulls up a table with several lists of names. "I've worked out who will man the four ships guarding the *Skyroller*," he begins. "With the exception of Tidal Wave, all will be skeleton crews. The *Ark*'s crew will be comprised of Ultra Magnus - the captain - Bumblebee, Jazz, Prowl, Arcee, Hound, Ironhide, Mirage, Ratchet, Sideswipe, Sunstreaker, Wheeljack, Cliffjumper, Windcharger, and the Aerialbots. The *Nemesis* will be captained by myself and crewed by my Recordicons, Starscream, Thundercracker, the Coneheads, Barricade, Spectro, Spyglass, Viewfinder, Flatline, the Combaticons, and the Insecticons. Lastly, the *Lost Light* will be crewed by Drift, Cyclonus, Whirl, Chromedome, Rewind, Tailgate, Swerve, Brainstorm, Skids, Nautica, Nightbeat, Muzzle, Velocity, Mainframe, Bluestreak, Atomizer, and the Protectobots."

The moment he says his name, Atomizer walks in. "Speak of the Devil." Bumblebee comments. "So, uh, there may be a bit of a problem in Protihex..." Atomizer tells them. "There's been some rumblings under the city, near the town square." "I'm sure the local SecOps can handle it." Rodimus Prime responds. "Yeah, just thought y'all should know." Atomizer agrees. He turns around to exit the room, but then gets a message on the comms that causes him to freeze.

Protihex. Town square.

The calm, peaceful center of the city bursts open, with beams of fire coming out of the cracks. People scream and run as the entire mini-park collapses into the ground.

Megatronus rises out, and Liege Maximo climbs up a pile of scrap metal after him. "Hello, fellow Cybertronians!" Megatronus greets as he fires beams of flame from his forearm cannons. "I will have my revenge! Where is Optimus Prime?" "He's one of the councilors now." Liege Maximo answers. "They are based in Iacon, where the Citadel once was." "Excellent." Megatronus replies. He teleports the two of them to Iacon.

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. Outside the Spire.

Doubledealer and Snapdragon see Megatronus and Liege Maximo appear. "Huh." Snapdragon comments as he draws his energy scimitars. "Never thought the Prime of Lies and the Fallen would be on our doorstep." They jump out of the way as Megatronus fires his flame beams at them, and Doubledealer responds by firing the missile pods on his legs and the minigun on his left forearm.

Above them, Bug Bite flies down, followed by a cloud of smoke that takes shape and solidifies to become Exhaust. The two join the fight, and Snipe and Doublecrosser come down from the roof as well. Liege Maximo takes cover, the situation too dangerous for his damaged body (he's still recovering from his fight with Rodimus). The Mercenaries manage to hold off Megatronus long enough for Atomizer, Thundercracker, Doubletap, Turbine, and the High Council to come out.

Soundwave pushes back the flames with a sonic blast that also pushes Maximo away from his cover. Bumblebee, Starscream, and Thundercracker open fire. "Laserbeak, Buzzsaw, Squawktalk, eject." Soundwave orders as he opens his chest window. "Operation: Prime Hunt." Laserbeak, Buzzsaw, and Squawktalk fly out of his chest in their cassette modes and transform to pursue Liege Maximo and shoot him. "I'll handle him." Starscream says, running down the steps towards him.

"Hold him off while I retrieve something." Orion Pax tells Primal and his Megatron. They nod as he slips off back into the Spire. "Shall we?" Primal asks. "Let's." Megatron replies. They charge at Megatronus and tackle him. They begin clobbering the Prime, but he pushes them off. "Jazz showed me a little Earth song that sounded pretty good." Megatron says to Megatronus as the evil demigod begins charging his cannons. "It's called 'Fight Fire with Fire!'" He transforms into his dragon mode and meets his opponent's flames with his own fiery breath.

The other Megatron transforms into his tank mode and drives towards Megatronus, charging his fusion cannon to fire at him. "To be completely honest, I never thought I'd be shooting my namesake on multiple occasions." he admits as a purple beam of energy flies out of his cannon and towards his target's chest. "Neither did I!" his Predacon counterpart responds. Megatronus is knocked back, but continues holding back Megatron's fire.

Meanwhile, at the foot of the stairs, Starscream begins beating up Liege Maximo. "You were always my favorite Prime," he tells him. "I looked up to you. I wanted to be as good of a liar as the stories made you out to be." "How do I know you're not lying right now?" Maximo replies as he blocks a punch. "Because if I was, you'd be dead by now." Starscream answers. "Instead, I've given you a few seconds to live." Maximo is too late to react as he is hit by several missiles fired out of Starscream's chest, which are followed up by a pair of close-range null-ray blasts that finish him off. "I can't believe it," the Seeker says to himself. "I just killed a Prime."

Rodimus joins the Predacon Megatron in pushing back Megatronus' fire, but the Prime has had it. "I've entertained you all long enough!" he says. He pulls the incoming fire towards him and combines it with his own beams of flame, before releasing it all in a powerful wave of scalding hot orange energy that knocks them all over. He lowers to the ground and looks around; everyone is too damaged to stop him. "Now, where is Optimus Prime?" he asks. "It's Orion Pax now!" the former Autobot leader responds as he charges out of the Spire's front doors with the glowing blue blade of the Star Saber in his hand. Megatronus fires his cannons, but Orion evades them and leaps into the air, angling the sword downwards so that when he lands, it plunges itself through his opponent's chest and spark chamber. Megatronus falls back, the blade sliding out of the hole it's carved in his chest as tumbles down the stairs. "Good... job... Orion..." Megatron weakly says, raising his hand to give his fellow councilor a thumbs-up.

Iacon Cemetery. The Tomb of the Primes.

Megatronus' tomb begins to burn away, and in a burst of fire, the grievously-wounded Prime, whose spark chamber had been barely missed by the Star Saber, disappears.

EPISODE 127

BROTHERS, PART 1:

MISSION TO CYBERTRON

Deep space.

Shrouded in purple energy, a white and blue jet flies at supersonic speeds through the darkness.

Cybertron. Nova Cronum.

"Get out of the way!" Sky High shouts, having noticed a spacecraft approaching in the sky.

"Incoming ship!" Others on the street run to cover as a medium-sized vessel hits the ground and slides down the road. Sirens are heard, and Fixit, along with Stakeout's Security Operations unit (himself, Road Police, and Shatterpoint), arrive on the scene.

"Everyone step back!" Road Police orders as Stakeout transforms and works with Fixit to cut the door open. The four go in and look around. Inside are five stasis pods, and each bot is branded with the symbol of Nexus Prime!

Boltax Memorial Hospital.

Not too long after, Rodimus Prime, Orion Pax, and Megatron (the Decepticon) are standing in a hospital ward with Fixit and Safety, who have just finished patching up the five mysterious bots. "You think these guys really are Nexus?" Rodimus asks his fellow councilors. "They have the kibble." Megatron replies. "And the symbol." Orion adds. "It's not a crazy idea."

"Alright, I'm reactivating them." Fixit says. "Everyone step back in case something happens." He's hooked up each of them to defibrillation patches that will activate and hopefully wake them up at the push of a button. He presses it, and sure enough, the five bots jolt back to life. "Where are we?" the one with rotors groggily inquires. "How long have we been out?" "We have a lot of explaining to do..." Rodimus comments.

Roughly 15 minutes later, the three High Councilors have finished their recap of the past several million years, and it's their new friends' turn to tell their story. "My name is Heatwave." the central bot begins. "On my left are Skyfall and Landquake. On my right are Breakaway and Topspin. We are Nexus Prime, yes. When what you call the Age of the

Primes was nearing its end, he separated himself into his component parts and left Cybertron aboard a ship - the *Terminus* - to explore the galaxy. Eventually, we set our ship to slowly return to Cybertron and went into stasis lock. I take it that it's endured some damage since we went to sleep." Safety nods.

The group go outside, where the quintet of ancient Cybertronians begin to glow blue. They levitate into the air and combine together, forming Nexus Prime. "I am Nexus Prime," the combiner says. "I have returned." "Well, Nexus, you couldn't have come back at a better time," Rodimus tells him. "Unicron's almost here, and we could really use the power of a Prime - well, another one." "I will aid you in your fight against him," Nexus replies. "What do we do now?" "Well, I have a question," Orion Pax says. "Do you know the whereabouts of the Prime Cores?" "No, but someone else does," Nexus answers. "Sentius Nobilius."

Iacon. The High Council Pavilions. The Spire.

The High Council stands in the meeting room with Nexus Prime's components (who are being referred to as the "Nexus Squad"). "Alright, we're going to split up," Rodimus begins, looking around. "Orion and Megatron will be gearing up for the battle, as they're going to be accompanying me and Nexus into Unicron. Wheeljack wants you two to meet him at the University of Ultirex, where he's been working on your upgrades. Starscream and Bumblebee, you will be inspecting the warp cannons across the globe. Soundwave, you're going to be at the Hydrax Plateau Spaceport getting the crews of the guardian ships ready. Primal, Megs, you two will meet up with Geomotus' team and accompany Nexus Prime to Sentius Nobilius' resting spot." "And what will you be doing?" Skyfall inquires. "Me?" Rodimus replies. "I have a press conference."

The High Council exits the building and go their separate ways as the crowd finishes gathering. People murmur amongst themselves about the five bots with Nexus Prime's insignia, but quiet down when Rodimus raises his hands in the air. Atomizer and Doubledealer stand directly behind him, along with numerous other members of the Council Guard. Rodimus puts his hands down on the podium and begins to speak.

"No matter what you call him - Unicron, the Uncreator, the Chaos Bringer, the Lord of Entropy, the Lord of Chaos, the Harbinger of Unmaking, or the Planet Eater - he is coming," Rodimus confirms. "I'm sure it's not news to anyone here, as we've mentioned it before, although with less seriousness as we weren't sure if Shockwave, Omega Supreme, and Pentius' warnings were true, but I'm here giving you all direct confirmation that Unicron is on his way, and he's almost here. So now, I implore anyone on this planet that is willing and able to fight to aid us in what may be the most important event in our planet's history. Almost every capable spacefighter will be participating in this battle, so if you

wish to join the skies - or should I say, in space - sign up for one of the crews. We also hope that you will help defend the planet on the ground, as there will surely be hundreds of thousands of Bugs swarming us.

"You may be frowning upon us for only asking this of you now, at the eleventh hour, I can assure you that we are not without preparedness for Unicron's arrival. The warp cannons you have seen being constructed in every city and major natural region on the planet are meant to defend us against him, with the hope being that they will do as much damage as a plasma rifle does to one of us.

"We also have a plan to get me into Unicron's core so I may do what the Thirteenth Prime did all those millions of years ago, but this time, I intend to finish him. Four ships will guard me - the *Ark*, the *Nemesis*, the *Lost Light*, and *Tidal Wave* - and I will be aboard the *Skyroller* with Orion Pax and Megatron. They will be carrying the Star Saber and Requiem Blaster. In addition, we will be accompanied by Nexus Prime, who was returned to us at last. Yes, those were his components you saw leaving with Optimus Primal and Megatron earlier. With that, I think I've said all I need to say. May Primus be with us all." With Atomizer and Doubledealer on either side of him, he clears a path through the crowd to catch up to Orion and Megatron.

Beneath Iacon.

Nexus Prime leads Optimus Primal, Megatron, Geomotus, Landmine, Azimuth, and Beachcomber through ancient, previously undiscovered tunnels. "I can't believe we're the first to walk through these since the Age of the Primes." Beachcomber says. "Neither can I." Azimuth responds. "May I ask you something?" Nexus inquires, briefly turning to Primal and Megatron. Primal nods. "Your friend Orion... Is he aware of his identity?" "He isn't." Primal answers. "Rodimus told me that Liege Maximo had told him about it during their duel atop Vigilem, and he told Orion, but he shrugged it off. He doesn't want to be seen as a messiah-like figure; he fears it'll go to his head and corrupt him like the past Primes." They stop at a wall. "We're here." Nexus tells them. He puts his hand against the wall, and lines in it begin to glow blue. The metal slides away to reveal a massive chamber. On opposite ends are two bases, where the frozen forms of two identical bots - both resembling Sentius Nobilius - stand. Nexus, confused at the presence of two bots and not one, steps into the center as the others look around and bends down before Nobilius' Sword of Balance. He puts his hands on the ground, and more energon flows, illuminating the room and reawakening the frozen Cybertronians.

EPISODE 128

BROTHERS, PART 2:

PRIMUS AWAKENS

In space, near Cybertron.

The white and blue jet continues its flight, almost at its destination. He is now being followed by four smaller planes.

Beneath Iacon. Resting place of the Sentius Twins.

Once everyone's gotten acquainted, the two Sentius Nobilius lookalikes explain what's going on. "After the Primes had all left, died, or retreated into solitude, Sentius Nobilus was left to hide the Prime Cores." the left bot, a white, blue, and gold figure, begins. "He began to have a mysterious inner personality." "His mind fractured." the white and blue one's gray and purple twin continues. "His body split into two - Magnus and Malus - each bot embodying one half of his personality. I am Sentius Malus, the embodiment of his evil side. On my right is Sentius Magnus, his light half. We fought over the Prime Cores, along with Nobilius' Sword of Balance. Eventually, we agreed to each take six of the cores and hide them, which we did. We then reconvened to seal away 13's core here."

"Our battle over the sword did not end, however, but we began to run low on energon."

Sentius Magnus explains. "We left it here, and went into stasis lock. Next thing we know, you've awoken us." "And now that we are rejuvenated, our battle will resume once more!"

Sentius Malus declares, reaching for the Sword of Balance before Nexus Prime takes it.

"We require one thing of you." he says. "Show us the locations of the Prime Cores. If you do, we will let you resume your conflict."

"Very well." Malus agrees. Magnus nods as well, and turns around. He pushes a part of the wall in, and it retracts to reveal the Thirteenth Prime's core. Nexus Prime takes it as well.

"I hid my six in the Sonic Canyons." Magnus tells them. "Mine are in the Acid Wastes."

Malus adds. "Jumpstream, we're gonna need you to teleport us for a bit." Megatron says on the comms. Moments later, Jumpstream appears in a burst of yellow energy. "Where to?" she asks. Before Sentius Magnus can answer, they feel a rumbling in the chamber. "What was that?" "Primus is awakening." Nexus Prime realizes. "It must be all the Primal energy..."

Megatron adds. "The Star Saber, the Requiem Blaster, Megatronus, Liege Maximo,

Metroplex..." "We'll tell Rodimus about it." Primal responds. Senitus Magnus approaches Jumpstream and tells her the coordinates of his stash of Prime Cores.

The Sonic Canyons. Hiding place of Magnus' Prime Cores.

The group appears in the chamber, where the Prime Cores of Micronus, Vector, Alpha Trion, Alchemist, Solus, and Prima are resting on a wall. Nexus Prime uses his telekinetic powers to take the cores, and they float behind him. "Next stop is the Acid Wastes, right?" Jumpstream inquires. Sentius Malus nods. They teleport away once again.

The Acid Wastes. Hiding place of Malus' Prime Cores.

They appear in a cavern beneath the Acid Wastes, where Liege Maximo, Megatronus, Quintus, Onyx, Amalgamous, Nexus are. "Ah, there they are." Sentius Malus comments as Nexus takes those cores as well. Jumpstream then teleports them all to Ultirex, to the Sentius Twins' surprise.

EPISODE 129

BROTHERS, PART 3:

BATTLE OF BROTHERS

Ultirex. The Technoversity of Ultirex.

Megatron steps out of the room, just barely recognizable in his new, gunmetal gray armor that gives him numerous missiles and a propeller pack. "Well, you look ready for battle." Orion Pax comments. "And more than usual." "Rodimus, you're next." Megatron tells the Prime. He steps into the room, and steps out a few minutes later without any upgrades. "No modifications?" Megatron inquires. "Wheeljack built a whole trailer that turns into a battle platform." Rodimus Prime answers. "Told me to summon it from subspace when we get onto Unicron." "Ah." Megatron replies. Orion gets up and goes inside.

"Orion, I present to you... the Galaxy Upgrade armor!" Wheeljack says, pulling a sheet off of a rack with numerous bits of armor. "When not in use, it becomes a trailer, but in the meantime, lemme start getting you dressed up." He takes a shoulder pad off of the rack and begins to attach it to his old friend's left shoulder.

Outside, Jumpstream, Optimus Primal, Megatron, Nexus Prime, the Sentius Twins, and Geomotus' geology team materialize. Cyclonus, who was waiting outside the university (he didn't like the idea of sitting on a bench outside a lab while the others got their new gear), sees them. "Cyclonus, these are the Sentius Twins." Primal introduces. "They were created by the Primes near the end of their time to safeguard the Primes Cores, which each contain a fragment of their power. They were originally one, but there was an inner conflict that led to a mental and later physical split. Then they hid the cores and went into stasis."

Before Cyclonus can respond, Sentius Malus tackles his brother to the ground. Nexus Prime drops the Sword of Balance and leaves them to fight. "Keep an eye on them." he orders. "We'll be right back. We just need to update Rodimus." He enters the school (it has tall ceilings due to needing to move around large lab projects, so he doesn't need to separate to fit through the door), followed by Primal and Megatron.

Upstairs, outside Wheeljack's lab, Rodimus and Megatron see them arriving. "I take it those are the Prime Cores?" Rodimus inquires, pointing at the ring of thirteen cores, each with one of the Primal emblems, that are floating behind Nexus. "Indeed they are." his

fellow Prime answers. "If you'd be so kind as to follow me for a minute, I have to introduce you to some people." Rodimus gets up from the bench and follows them back to the elevator. On their way down, Primal repeats to him what he said to Cyclonus, more or less verbatim.

Back outside, Sentius Magnus and Sentius Malus continue to duke it out. Cyclonus scoffs at the fight, finding it childish. Sentius Magnus transforms into his spider tank alt-mode and opens fire on his brother, who dodges the shots and fires his bow. Magnus takes the hit and returns to his bot mode, diving for the sword. He claims it and swings it at his brother, who grabs the hilt. The two pull it back and forth, eventually ending up on the ground, and suddenly, in a burst of blue and purple energy, it just splits, sending them both flying across the metallic surface of the front courtyard.

"Well, this is an interesting development." Primal comments as he stands in the doorway with the others. "Well, you two both have half of your precious little sword now, so what's the point in fighting anymore?" Cyclonus asks, uncrossing his arms and walking towards the twins as they get up. "I think it'd be in our best interests if you two worked together and helped us fight Unicron." "I agree." Magnus says with a nod. "As do I." Malus adds, putting his half of the Sword of Balance on his back. Magnus does the same.

"So, what did I miss?" Orion Pax inquires as he exits the front door, followed by Wheeljack and Megatron. He is fully kitted out in Wheeljack's Galaxy Upgrade armor. "I'll explain on the way." Prima responds. "Are we all set to go back to the Hydrax Plateau?" Wheeljack nods. As they all begin to walk towards the gate, Landmine notices that Nexus isn't walking with them. Instead, he's staring into the distance. "Uh, Nexus?" the explorer asks. "We're leaving." He then sees what the Prime is looking at: a large purple orb speeding towards them, surrounded by four smaller ones.

"Guess who's baaaack?" the jet says as it gets closer, transforming and kicking Nexus in the chest. He stumbles back, but regains his footing. "Who are you?" he asks, confused. "Don't you remember me?" the jet responds. "Ramjet! Herald of Unicron, Emissary of the Chaos Bringer, Ambassador of the Uncreator?" "A little." Nexus replies. "But I don't really care." From a nearby subterranean river, he summons some energon, which he then converts into rarified energon and solidifies, creating a blade with which to fend off Ramejet's Antrodemonus Sword.

The mentally-unstable herald's mindless Mini-Con entourage - Thunderclash, Gunbarrel, Terradive, and Thunderwing - transform into their robot modes and open fire. "Powerlinx!" he orders. Thunderclash transforms into his jet mode, folds up his wings, and attaches to Ramjet's back, between his shoulder thrusters, which flip over to become cannons.

Gunbarrel and Thunderwing attach to his forearms, becoming blades, while Terradive transforms into a six-barreled blaster that Ramjet holds in his right hand. He opens fire on Nexus Prime with all of his ranged weaponry, but the ancient Cybertronian creates an energy shield to protect himself. (The others had by now stepped away, as they knew this fight would be dangerous.) Then, he grabs Ramjet and throws him into the wall. He slides down onto the ground. "Unicron... is... near..." he warns as he weakly gets up and transforms into his jet mode (his Mini-Cons detach as he does this), taking off. "We must hurry." Nexus says, turning to the others. He looks up at the sky. The sun is beginning to get covered by a black orb. Jumpstream nods and teleports them all to the Hydrax Plateau.

EPISODE 130

BROTHERS, PART 4:

POWER OF THE PRIMES

The Hydrax Plateau.

Jumpstream and the whole group appear at the spaceport in a burst of yellow energy. They look around and see Autobots, Decepticons, Maximals, Predacons, and neutrals rushing to ships with crates of ammunition and other supplies. Rodimus Prime, although nervous, knew they were ready. "Well, I'm gonna split and go find my team." Jumpstream tells them. "We're gonna go as well." Geomotus adds. "Thanks for everything, you guys." Optimus Primal says, shaking their hands as they leave.

It's not hard to locate where the main ships are, as the *Ark* and *Nemesis* were very close and large enough to be seen from afar anyways. The High Council reunites, and Optimus Primal introduces them to the Sentius Twins. "Are those the Prime Cores?" Soundwave inquires, pointing to the orbs behind Nexus Prime. "Correct." Nexus answers. The cores, shrouded in blue energy, circle around him, forming a grid before him. "Take your pick." Megatron is first, selecting Megatronus' Prime Core. Rodimus is after him, taking Prima's. Starscream goes next, grabbing Liege Maximo's. Ultra Magnus takes Solus'; Soundwave moves around him to claim Micronus'. Jetfire, after saying hi to Wheeljack, walks over to get Vector's Prime Core; Drift walks up to Nexus after him and pulls Alpha Trion's core off the grid. Cyclonus decides to use Onyx's.

"So these just upgrade us with some Primal power?" Cannonball inquires. Nexus nods, and he takes Quintus Prime's core. "I think I should take Nexus' core." Silverbolt suggests, speaking up from behind the group. "I agree." Rodimus replies. He turns to Nexus. "He's a combiner. Yes, there are more of them nowadays. We unfortunately lost your Enigma, though." Nexus kindly sends the core towards Silverbolt, and Snapdragon then runs past him and snatches Amalgamous Prime's Core. "You're kidding me." Doubleddealer comments. "Ha-ha, first come, first serve!" Snapdragon responds. Jazz takes Alchemist's Prime Core, leaving only the Thirteenth Prime's.

"I'll take 13, since Orion obviously won't." Bumblebee tells them, taking the final core.

"Well, with that, I think we're ready." Rodimus says. He contacts Ginrai. "You guys all set?" "Yup." Ginrai responds. "Ground forces are ready." Rodimus tells the others. "On the count

of 3, core up." Sentius Magnus says. "Simply push it into your chest, near your spark chamber. The core will enter your body. When you wish to remove it, simply focus on doing such, and it will exit your body." Everyone gets ready. "Here we go." Magnus begins. "1... 2... 3!" The group do as he said, and each glow with the colors of their Prime Cores as they put them in their bodies. "Well, this feels interesting." Bumblebee comments. "We have a list of what each Prime Core does." Sentius Malus informs them. "I'll send it out to all of you." Megatron (the Predacon) looks up at the sky. The sun is nearly eclipsed, and a massive amount of dots can be seen surrounding the large black one blocking it out. "He's here." he comments. "*A fretful sky / An absent sun.*" his Decepticon counterpart quotes. "Alright, guys, let's go!" Rodimus Prime orders. Everyone scatters and rushes to their ships. Once all are onboard, the *Ark*, *Nemesis*, and *Lost Light* are lifted upright by hinged parts of the spaceport's ground. Rodimus, Orion, Primal, the Megatrons, Nexus, the Sentius Twins, and Jetfire board the *Skyroller*. A red "5" appears on the screen near the top of the control tower at the center of the spaceport. It begins to count down, eventually reaching one, at which point the ships all take off.

In space. Around Unicron.

Black and yellow orbs with guns pointing out of them fly around, firing at the starfighters gunning them down. Some transform and attempt to cover the windshields, but other ships handle them. Squadrons of Seekers - including the Rainmakers, Flamemakers (sans Bitstream, who is with Sparkstalker and Mindwipe), and Specialists - zoom through space, transforming and killing the Bugs en masse. Ion Storm unleashes an electric shockwave; above him, Hotlink spins around while firing his flamethrower. Blackout appears out of nowhere and shoots down a trio of Bugs, leaving the rest for Cloudcover to kill with his toxins.

The Fool's Fortune.

"Alright, guys, are we ready?" Doubledealer asks his crew as they stand in the cargo bay. The ship is on autopilot, although Snipe does intend to return to it and fly it around the battle after scoring a few kills. The Mercenaries nod. Doubleheader runs up to his boss and transforms into a shield, attaching to his left forearm (the minigun was on his shoulder this time). Exhaust, who is standing by the door, presses a red button, opening it. He then jumps out, activating his jetpack to fly through space. Snipe follows, taking off in his jet mode. Then, out go Bug Bite and Doubledealer with their own jetpacks.

Snapdragon is the last one out, flying at Mach 3 and generating an energy field that saps the speed from others and slows them down while making him faster. He transforms into

his lizard mode and shoots out a deadly fireball, before realizing that it's now stronger, as was his speed-sapping field - the Prime Core is working. A Bug sneaks up on him, but Snipe shoots it. "And with that, I'm out." he says, transforming and returning to the *Fortune*.

Tidal Wave.

Tidal Wave's cannons are demolishing the Bugs, as are his laser cannons. Airborne Dread Pirates are flying through the galactic skies above them, commanded by Wingspan, while his twin brother Pounce leads the ground models during their defense of the deck. "Don't let up with yer firin'!" Cannonball orders as he bisects an incoming Bug mid-transformation. "Slag 'em all!" Brimstone adds. "I'm going to go help out the others." Scorponok says. He transforms into his jet mode and takes off.

Shokaract transforms into his tank mode, unleashing a barrage of plasma fire on his opponents, before shifting into crab mode to crush them in his claws. Boltcaster is shot down by a Bug, and spirals downwards onto the deck, exploding on impact and killing several other Dread Pirates. More start heading towards the port side of the ship. "Protect the *Skyroller*!" Axer shouts as he shoots Bugs down with his artillery platform. Ferak lands beside him, wielding Tornado, and joins him fending off the drones. Cannonball, seeing an opportunity to use his Prime Core, summons a horde of slightly stronger green Bugs to fend off Unicron's own.

Cybertron. Tyger Pax.

"These guys are fun to kill!" Fangry comments as he shoots a Bug out of the blackened skies of Cybertron. "I agree." Squeezeplay responds as he shoots down another. Suddenly, more start appearing, and as much as he tries to kill them, they begin overpowering Fangry. "No-no-no-no-no-n-" Fangry's voice can no longer be heard as the Bugs take him under. Squeezeplay transforms into his monster mode to pull them off, but the cannibalistic antibodies begin eating away at his friend's armor, eventually reaching his spark chamber and extinguishing it. Squeezeplay starts running.

"They- they got Fangry!" he screams in a panicked tone as he reaches Skullcruncher and Weirewolf. He transforms and draws his overrider rifle and begins firing while protecting himself with his forearm shield. "They all dogpiled him and started stripping away his metal!" Before Skullcruncher can respond, he hears Bomb-Burst flying overhead. Suddenly, the ex-Pretender (he had undergone the reversion process and gotten a new body melding his shell and inner robot designs) is shot down by a Bug. He crashes in the distance.

"Those things, what are?" Weirewolf asks, pointing his thermal sword at an incoming pod. It lands and opens up, releasing five slender, four-armed bipeds. He decapitates one, while

Skullcruncher transforms into his beast mode and rips two more in half. Nearby, Triggerhappy shoots one dead with his cannons. "Wahoo!" he cheers in his usual maniacal tone. "More things to blow up! Ha-ha!" Next to him, Submarauder exits his Pretender shell, and it fights the new arrivals - called Freezers - side-by-side with him. Suddenly, the ground is rocked by more rumblings.

In space. The Ark.

"We're taking heavy fire from these new monsters!" Mirage informs his captain after looking at the shield's strength. "They're eating away at our shield bit by bit!" "Keep going." Ultra Magnus orders. "We can't let the *Skyroller* get damaged." "I can't believe we're practically face-to-face with Unicron himself." Bumblebee comments as he stands beside Magnus. "It's pretty incredible, when you get past the whole 'destroyer of worlds' thing." Prowl adds.

In the hangar bay, Arcee, Sideswipe, Sunstreaker, Cliffjumper, and the Aerialbots stand by the door. "Are we good to go?" Cliffjumper asks on the comms. "*Cleared for departure.*" Ironhide responds. Arcee opens the doors, and then takes off with the Aerialbots.

"Sideswipe, you coming?" she asks.

"Gimme a sec." Sideswipe replies, before turning to his brother. He puts his hands on his shoulders and embraces him. "If anything happens to either of us out there, I just want you to know that I love you, bro. Even if we don't always agree, being your brother has been one of the best parts of my life. Now, come on. Let's go slag some Unicronian antibodies." They fly out after the others. Cliffjumper sees some Freezers and Bugs coming towards the door and pulls out his bazooka, blowing them up. As Arcee's team flies through space, they notice that Unicron is getting closer, and his horns are turning inwards.

Cybertron. Iacon. Warp Cannon Outpost 1.

The alarm begins to sound. Ginrai shoots a Bug, getting a little dark energon on his SMG and shield, and retreats back to the safety of the walls surrounding the warp cannon.

"Unicron's about to penetrate the planet's surface." Electro informs his leader. "Jolt, tell them to fire on the count of 3." Ginrai orders. He looks up at the chair where the controls for the cannon are located. "Apeling, be ready." Apeling nods and puts his hand over the red "fire" button.

"All cannons fire on the count of 3." Jolt says on the comms, which connects the WCOs.

"1... 2... 3!" At almost the exact same time, Apeling and the others manning their respective warp cannons fire the massive laser weapons. Cybertronians move out of the way as red

beams shoot up through the atmosphere towards them. Some hit Unicron, others go in opposite directions (as they're not all facing him). It forces the Chaos Bringer back, but also angers him.

The Skyroller.

The crew of the *Skyroller* watch as Unicron's surface begins to break apart. Slowly, they see arms and legs take form. Then, a torso. His rings break at numerous points to shift into a pair of "wings." Finally, a head rises out of the body. "For years, I considered sparing your wretched planet." Unicron says. "But now, you shall witness... its dismemberment!" "I'm going out." Orion Pax says. "I'll be back in a few." He goes to the back of the ship, opens the door, and flies out to join Scorponok.

Outside, Unicron has begun spawning more Bugs and Freezers. Orion Pax grips his JF-15 Gravity Force laser cannons (designed by Jetfire) and carves his way through them. "Glad to see you out here, Orion." Scorponok comments as he blocks a Freezer with his shield and impales another with his Tyrant Spear. "Just helping to clear the way." Orion replies. "I've always wanted to fight alongside you, truth be told." Scorponok reveals. He fires his rifle at a Bug, and Orion hits another with the barrel of one of his cannons.

Luna-1. Hecate Prison. Cell block B.

"So we're just supposed to stand by while our planet potentially gets obliterated?" Skywarp asks his cellmates. "When are we getting-" Before he can finish, the bars disappear. "*Per the orders of High Councilor Bumblebee, all prisoners are temporarily released to partake in the battle against Unicron.*" RoughEdge's voice says on the loudspeakers. "*You will be resupplied with your weapons, and your inhibitor chips and handcuffs have been disabled. Ships are waiting in the spaceport for any non-airborne bots.*"

Prisoners begin crowding the halls, scrambling to reclaim their armaments. Once they do, they begin leaving. Skywarp and the rest of the Phantomstrike Squadron (Fracas, Shrute, and Terror-Daxtyl) meet up with Needlenose, Brawl, Dreadwing, and Horri-Bull. They take a dropship and fly towards the battle, where Skywarp teleports his team into combat and begins to fight. Needlenose and Dreadwing fly out to join him, leaving Brawl to join up with Onslaught, Vortex, and Blast Off, who were behind the *Nemesis* holding back the Freezers. Swindle soon arrived, and they formed Bruticus to up the ante.

The Nemesis.

The crew watch as Unicron moves his hand down towards Cybertron. "The warp cannons haven't recharged yet!" Spectro says in a panicked voice. "What do we do?" Soundwave thinks. "Barricade, activate the tractor beam." he orders. "Why, sir?" Barricade responds, confused. "Just do it." Soundwave says. "Aim the tractor beam at Unicron's hand and turn it on." Barricade does as he says, and a purple beam shoots towards the monster planet's hand, surrounding it in purple energy. "Now push it back." Soundwave orders. Barricade nods, extending the beam, which forces Unicron's hand away. He breaks free, but not before his arm is bent a little too far back, causing some damage. Barricade hi-fives Shrapnel, who is sitting next to him.

In a nearby hallway, Thundercracker walks with Starscream. "It's just so... interesting." he tells his commander. "I haven't been on this ship in months, and when I do come back, I'm not even a Decepticon." He turns his head to look at his blank, insignia-less wings. "I still remember when you ran through these halls and escaped." Starscream replies. "Skywarp was so angry. I'm glad you two made up." "Should I go out and find him?" Thundercracker asks. "The prisoners must've been let out by now. I want to fight alongside him again. I miss those days." "Well, I won't stop you." Starscream responds. The two stop, and Thundercracker turns around to go to the hangar bay.

Outside the Ark.

"Silverbolt, wanna do your thing?" Arcee asks as she drives one of her swords into a Bug's head. "Aerialbots, combine into Superion!" Silverbolt orders. Air Raid, Skydive, Fireflight, Alpha Bravo, and Powerglide convene around him and combine. "Superion online." the combiner announces. With his two guns, he begins to decimate the incoming antibodies. "Um... what's that?" Sideswipe inquires, pointing to a jet surrounded by purple energy, which is flying towards them.

Ramjet transforms. The Air Military Mini-Con Team do so as well and open fire on Sideswipe and Sunstreaker, surprising them with their strength. Thunderclash attacks Arcee. Superion calls upon the power of Nexus Prime, whose core is within Silverbolt, to enhance his strength and durability. "You put up a good fight." Ramjet says as the two grapple with each other. "But alas, I must stop humoring you and do what I was ordered to."

He flies upwards, slicing off Air Raid in the process. As he separates from Silverbolt, he is bisected at the waist (his arm mode's elbow). Powerglide attempts to flee, but Ramjet Powerlinxes with Thunderclash and blows him up with his cannons. Arcee and the others

attempt to stop the slaughter, but Ramjet shrugs off their gunfire. He flies around and locates Skydive's spark chamber, stabbing him in the back to extinguish his life force. Arcee lunges at him, but he evades her and fires his cannons at Fireflight, blowing him up and mangling part of Silverbolt's arm in the process. Alpha Bravo disconnects from his leader's other arm, and Arcee pursues Ramjet, grabbing him and attempting to pull his cannons back. However, she is unable to stop him, and he breaks free before blowing up the helicopter. A damaged Silverbolt transforms and flies away, with Arcee and Sunstreaker holding Ramjet back long enough for him to decide to let the Aerialbot go. He does, however, break free once again, but instead of killing them, he leaves.

The Lost Light. Hangar bay.

"I just received word from Arcee that Superion's down." Nightbeat informs Hot Spot.

"What happened?" Muzzle asks. "Ramjet - the herald, not the Seeker - killed everyone except Silverbolt..." Nightbeat glumly responds. "Either way, that's your cue. We need another combiner on the battlefield." "Protectobots, move out." Hot Spot orders.

Streetwise opens the hangar doors, and exits first, followed by Hot Spot, Groove, and Blades.

"I'll join you guys in a minute!" First Aid shouts, turning to Nightbeat and Muzzle. "If I don't make it back, give Velocity this message." He hands them a data slug. "It's a video on all the things I haven't taught her yet." he explains. Muzzle takes the slug and nods. He and Nightbeat salute the medic as he activates his jetpack and flies out to join his teammates.

On the bridge, Cyclonus makes use of Onyx Prime's Prime Core to see the current state of affairs. "So?" Chromedome asks. Cyclonus exits his trance-like state. "The body count is somewhere in the 300s." he answers. "I counted about 70 wounded. The most recent bad thing that's happened is one of Unicron's optical lasers blowing up the *Fool's Fortune*... with Snipe onboard." "Oh God..." Rewind comments, horrified as he pictures the *Fortune* burning up as Snipe screams.

"I don't get it." Whirl says. "If I were Unicron, I would've just started blowing huge craters in the surface of Cybertron with my optical lasers. Why doesn't he just do that? It's not like he cares about the lives of us or his clearly disposable antibodies." Drift opens his mouth to speak, but pauses as the Prime Core within him gives him more information. "This isn't an 'eat Cybertron and be done with it' situation like it's been with past planets." he replies. "Otherwise, as you said, we'd all be dead by now. He's stalling." "For what?" Tailgate asks. "Primus." Drift answers.

Cybertron.

The earthquakes begin again, stronger than ever this time. Just like Unicron, the surface of the planet begins to split. Arms, legs, a torso, they all take shape. Soon, the only planets in the area are Luna-1 and Luna-2, now witnesses to the seemingly mythical sight of two massive, godly robots staring at each other face-to-face, ready to resume their ages-old conflict.

Near Metroplex.

Orion Pax and Scorponok land on the deck of the Titan's spaceship mode as he fires on Unicron. *"Just so you know, he'll be transforming in a few."* Six-Gun informs them on the comms. "Understood." Orion replies. "We'll be gone in a few." The two clear the area of antibodies and then take off.

As they fly across the battlefield back towards the convoy, they make stops to help their allies. Primus reveals a pair of massive shoulder-mounted stellar converter cannons, which he fires at Unicron. "And so it begins again, my brother." he says. "And so it does." Unicron responds, firing his optical lasers. He looks down and picks a spot to fire them again, choosing the area where Orion and Scorponok are. "Get out of the way!" Orion shouts. He makes it out of the line of fire, but Scorponok isn't fast enough. Unfortunately for him, this is the time Unicron chose to use his flame breath instead of his quick-killing optical lasers.

The Decepticon scientist is badly melted, but survives thanks to being in his G-Metal transtector. He begins to fall; Orion speeds downwards to catch him, before carrying his body to the deck of Tidal Wave. "Scorponok!" Cannonball exclaims, rushing over to help. Brimstone follows. "Did... I... do... good...?" Scorponok weakly asks as his spark fades. "Yes, friend..." Orion replies. "You did good." His head falls back, and the lights in his eyes go out.

The Skyroller.

The door opens, and Orion Pax rushes in, running back onto the bridge. "We have to hurry!" he shouts. "Now that Primus is here, Unicron will be preoccupied battling him! This is our chance to get in!" "Then let's go." Rodimus Prime says, getting up from the command chair. The others rise, save for Jetfire, who remains in the pilot's seat. "Aren't you coming?" Skyfall asks. "I'm going to do some damage to the big guy." Jetfire answers. "How?" Breakaway inquires. "By flying this ship into one of his eyes." Jetfire responds. "That's suicide." Sentius Malus argues. "Not if I eject." Jetfire calmly replies. "If his optical lasers are anything like Dinobot's, they're located behind the thin layer of parts

that serve as his optics, which are in turn shielded by his somewhat-thick optical cover. My point is that I should be able to fly this ship through one of his eyes and blow up the laser, which will partially blind him. However, if I don't make it back... it's been an honor serving with you. All of you." "Likewise." Orion Pax replies. "Best of luck, old friend." He leads the rest of the crew off of the bridge, to the exit door. Primal and the Megatrons follow him out, followed by Rodimus (who is flying with a jetpack). The Sentius Twins put on their jetpacks and take off after him. The Nexus Squad exit in a line, combining once they get outside.

Near the Ark.

Ramjet, who's just finished slaughtering a band of Hecate prisoners and Autotroopers, returns to Arcee, Sideswipe, and Sunstreaker. Sunstreaker is somewhat separated from them, focused on killing a group of Freezers, which leaves Arcee and Sideswipe to fend him off. Sideswipe is taken out of the fight by the Air Military Mini-Con Team, while Arcee gets into a swordfight with Ramjet.

"You're skilled with blades, I see." the deranged herald comments as they duel. He catches her off-guard and punches her in the face. "Such a shame I'm more experienced." "Arcee!" Sunstreaker shouts, noticing her about to be killed (and his incapacitated brother). He flies towards Ramjet, but the agent of chaos turns and throws his Antrodemonus Sword at him, just barely missing his spark chamber. He then yanks the blade out and, before Arcee or a recently-freed Sideswipe can stop him, Powerlinxes with Thunderclash and fires his cannons at the Autobot, finishing him off. He proceeds to cackle maniacally and fly off.

"No..." Arcee says as she grabs his body. Sideswipe follows her back to the Ark, where Jazz and Cliffjumper are shooting Bugs and Freezers left and right. Of note, Jazz is using Alchemist's Prime Core to distort and destroy the matter the antibodies are made of. "He needs medical attention!" Sideswipe tells them as they enter the ship. "Now!" Cliffjumper closes the doors and follows them into the medbay, where Ratchet immediately rushes to his comrade's side.

On the bridge, Jazz informs Ultra Magnus of the incident. "That's it." Bumblebee says.

"I'm going to slag that wretched spawn of Unicron." He storms off the bridge. "Wait, Bumblebee!" Ultra Magnus shouts. "Ugh. Jazz, you're captain for now. I'm going after him." He gets up and follows the councilor, while Jazz sits down in the command chair.

On Unicron's shoulder.

As the crew of the *Skyroller* make their way across Unicron's shoulder, they survey the battle. On the now-transformed Cybertron, Ginrai and the Cybertronian Knights are still

leading the defense of the planet. Piranacon splits the waters of Argon Sea to trap a horde of antibodies. On the Praetorus Wharf, Sea Clamp crushes a Freezer, while Cicadacon and Ram Horn team up to kill a group of Bugs.

In the Acid Wastes, Depth Charge and Rampage work together to destroy another horde of antibodies. At the Kalisian border, the Scavengers bravely hold back more Freezers. Atop the *Nemesis*, Soundwave and Starscream have briefly left the bridge to use their Prime Cores, with Soundwave using Micronus' core to Powerlinx with his Recordicons (who have become the "Sonicsurge Armor") and Starscream using Liege Maximo's core to generate decepticon fields that confuse the antibodies.

Meanwhile, in space, Cromar and Slugslinger gun down legions of Bugs. Defensor and Bruticus crush Freezers. The Diaclone Force (Breaker, Lift-Ticket, Guard, and Burn-Out) battle a horde of Bugs. Most importantly to them, however, Jetfire is currently steering the *Skryoller* straight into Unicron's left eye. Alas, before he can make it in, the Uncreator fires his optical lasers, blowing the ship up. Rodimus and Orion freeze, shocked at what they just witnessed.

"Hold on..." Nexus Prime tells them, noticing a growing ball of blue energy. Suddenly, the *Skryoller* appears again, moving in the exact same way, except this time, it maneuvers upwards to avoid the beam, before diving back down into the eye. This time, Jetfire ejects, transforms into his jet mode, and safely flies away to join Wheeljack on the *Ark*. "He used Vector's core." Optimus Primal realizes. "That genius son of a glitch!" They cheer, but the moment of joy is interrupted by several Bugs and Freezers rising out of the ground, as well as the approaching form of Ramjet.

"Not so fast!" Bumblebee says, appearing behind the herald. "You were foolish to come here, Autobot." Ramjet responds, transforming into his robot mode. Thunderclash Powerlinxes with him once again, and he turns around to blast two holes in his attacker's chest; both beams penetrate his spark chamber, killing Bumblebee. As the small yellow Autobot dies, he tosses the Thirteenth Prime's core to Nexus Prime, who understands why. "Bumblebee, no!" Ultra Magnus cries, getting out of the way before he too is shot. "You are no match for my god-given power!" Ramjet declares. "All of you will soon join him in the Afterspark!" The Air Military Mini-Con Team Powerlinx with him as well, and his left wing detaches and unfolds into his sword.

"Not if I can help it!" Ultra Magnus says. He pulls out his Magnus Hammer, enhanced with the power of Solus Prime, and swings it at Ramjet. Nexus Prime draws several streams of energon from Primus, who is still assaulting Unicron with various cannons (and in a few moments, the warp cannons will join them), and converts them into rarified energon. While Optimus Primal and the Predacon Megatron go in to keep Ramjet busy, Magnus uses his

hammer to turn the energon streams into a mace and broadsword, which the two warriors use to increase their damage to Ramjet.

The Sentius Twins draw their bows and open fire, while Nexus Prime turns the remaining energon into a sword. "Primal, Megatron, go with your fellow councilors," he orders. "Me, Magnus, and the Sentius Twins will handle him." "Very well," Megatron replies, transforming into his dragon mode to burn Ramjet before fleeing. Primal follows. "Shall we amp things up a bit, brother?" Sentius Magnus asks. "Indeed we should," Malus responds. They transform into their alt-modes and fire their cannons, before leaping into the air and transforming into their bot modes.

Ramjet meets the two halves of the Sword of Balance with his own blade, which leaves him open for Magnus to strike him in the back with his hammer. "I'll provide supporting fire!" he tells them, landing on Unicron's shoulder. He puts his hammer on his back, and his forearms transform into dual X18 Scrapmakers, which he uses to rain absolute pain and agony onto Ramjet (while also making sure to avoid hitting Nexus or the Sentius Twins). "Forgive me for what I'm about to do, my master," Ramjet says to himself. He pushes the twins aside and kicks Nexus in the face, moving around him to fire all of his ranged weapons (his cannons plus Gunbarrel) at Magnus and the ground below him. It causes an explosion, which blows the Autobot up and sends him flying back. Sentius Magnus leaves the fight to check on him, before glumly confirming that the Autobot general is dead. Ramjet turns to Nexus and Malus, preparing to kill them as well.

Inside Unicron.

Rodimus Prime - now towing a trailer that, according to him, makes him look like a "space Winnebago" - leads Orion Pax and Megatron through the tunnels within Unicron's body. Optimus Primal and the other Megatron follow close behind, holding off the antibodies. The Decepticon Megatron turns his turret around and up to fire at some Bugs spawning from the ceiling right of them, before firing missiles ahead of the group to blow up a horde of Freezers about to pull themselves out of the ground.

"Primus' children... I can feel you within me..." Unicron says. "You will not succeed in your mission. Mark. My. Words." Sure enough, when they make it to the antechamber, there is a gigantic army of antibodies waiting for them. Orion transforms and flies into the fray, killing Bugs and Freezers, while Rodimus drives off the ledge and transforms as his trailer unfolds into a hovering combat deck he can ride above the battlefield. Megatron flies past him (Wheeljack's armor giving his tank mode such an ability) and rains cluster bombs down on the antibodies before transforming and joining Orion in killing them up close. Optimus Primal and the other Megatron soon join them as well.

"Shall we unleash our holy powers on these hellspawn?" Rodimus inquires. "You don't know how long I've been waiting to do this." Megatron comments as his body begins to be surrounded by flames. Orion and the others briefly fly into the air as a wave of fire travels through the chamber, incinerating the antibodies... until more spawn.

"Don't worry." a voice says from the ledge leading into the room. "Help has arrived."

Landquake stands there at the front of the Nexus Squad, before jumping into the battle. He transforms into his tank mode and spins his turret around, pelting Freezers with plasma fire. Topspin flies over him, firing several missiles, while Skyfall and Breakaway fly in circles above the horde to rain gunfire down on them. Heatwave remains on the ledge, transforming into his alt-mode to fire a barrage of missiles.

"What happened to Ramjet?" Primal asks Landquake as the two fight back-to-back. "And the twins?" "The twins are dealing with the antibodies in the halls." the similarly-ancient Cybertronian responds. "As for Ramjet... a Quintessonian ship arrived and flew straight into him. Crashed them both into Unicron's chest." "Alpha Q..." the Decepticon Megatron realizes. "He died a hero." Primal says. "And hopefully contributed somewhat to avenging his homeworld... 'In the spark of an enemy, there will be salvation, and in the darkest hour, there will be a light.'" "Oh Primus, he's pulling out the Covenant quotes." the Predacon Megatron groans.

Heatwave drives over the ledge and merges with the others, forming Nexus Prime to battle the increasing amounts of antibodies. "Orion..." the First Combiner says, showing him 13's Prime Core. "Bumblebee wanted you to have this... I know you're going to decline it, but just take it." Orion reluctantly takes the core from his hand and puts it away. Above them, Rodimus activates Prima's Prime Core, shrouding him in bright blue holy armor as he jumps down into the battle. The combat deck disappears in a flash of purple light. "Everyone, get out of the way!" Megatron shouts as he caves a Freezer's skull in with his mace and blasts a bug with his now-underslung fusion cannon.

The mace transforms back into a hand, and he pulls out the Requiem Blaster, charging it before firing a powerful beam of red energon in a circle around the room. Rodimus, the only one still on the ground, withstands the blast thanks to his armor. With the room clear for a few moments (and almost entirely covered in dark energon), Orion draws the Star Saber and cuts open the door leading into the spark chamber.

The moment he and Rodimus make it in, the door is closed shut and covered on both ends by the numerous tendrils. Nexus and Megatron try to cut their way through, but to no avail. "I'm surprised." Unicron says, his massive purple spark pulsing as he speaks. "I didn't expect you two to make it this far." "Well we did." Rodimus Prime responds. "And now you're gonna finally bite the dust."

"Or will he?" Ramjet asks as he is teleported in to protect his master's spark. His wounds from the *Last Hope's* explosion have been healed. He is once again Powerlinxed with his Mini-Cons. "If you want to kill my master, you're gonna have to go through me." "Rodimus, now!" Orion says as he lunges at Ramjet, shedding his armor in the process as it will make him slower. The ex-Decepticon's Antrodemonus Sword is more than a match for the Star Saber.

"I must confess, I expected you to be the one bearing the Matrix." Ramjet informs Orion as the two duel. "Alas, you're clearly weaker than the other Optimus Primes I've met on my multiversal travels. A failure. Perhaps you were destined to die by my hand." Orion growls and slices the barrels of his cannons off so he can't make use of them.

Behind him, Rodimus opens his chest. He grips the silver handles of the Matrix of Leadership and raises it into the air. He pulls the handles, attempting to open it, but it doesn't budge. "What?" he asks, confused. "Open! Open, dammit, open!" He is too focused on trying to pry the vessel open that he fails to notice a set of tendrils creeping up on him. They tase the Prime, the electricity going through his Prime Core's armor and knocking him out. The Matrix falls out of his hands, sliding across the floor. Unicron begins to move a pair of tendrils towards it.

Orion Pax, fed up with this duel with Ramjet, pushes his opponent's sword out of the way before running him through with his own. He misses the spark chamber, but ignores it and yanks the blade out. For Ramjet, this hurts more than normal, due to the dark energon coursing through his veins, and as he screams, Orion tosses the relic aside and picks him up, hurling him with all his strength at the wall on their left. Ramjet crashes through the wall and through layers of Unicron's chest, ultimately winding up flying through space. Orion turns to the Star Saber and picks it up, but he then sees Rodimus lying unconscious on the ground. Unicron begins to laugh. He prepares to cut the Matrix, but it suddenly starts glowing and disintegrates the tendrils. Unicron stops laughing, both confused and concerned. The Matrix floats back into Rodimus' hands, causing his body to turn gold and change shape slightly. He rises from the ground and speaks in the voice of Primus. "Hello, 13." the god says.

"What's going on?" Orion asks. Nexus Prime is suddenly teleported into the room, and he is then surrounded by single-color avatars of the other 11 Primes - even Liege Maximo and Megatronus - which circle around in a way that causes the line to start with Primus and end with Orion. "Your destiny." Primus answers. "What is the meaning of this?" Unicron growls, sending a legion of tendrils towards Primus, Nexus, and Orion. Upon contact with their bodies, they disintegrate.

"Don't you remember the prophecy?" Primus inquires. He gestures to Alchemist. "*One day, a Cybertronian shall rise from our ranks, and use the power of the Matrix to light our darkest hour.*" the Prime recites. "It's referring to Rodimus." Orion responds. "How hard is it to understand that it's talking about you?" Primus asks, growing annoyed by the Autobot's constant denial of his destiny. "Because I'm not worthy of being a Prime!" Orion shouts. "I don't know if you've been paying attention for the last 4 million years or so, but I've made some horrible - nay, unforgivable - mistakes as a leader, and I think that warrants me not being a worthy Matrix-bearer."

"Optimus." Alpha Trion says kindly, stepping forward from the line to place one pinkish-purple hand on his old friend's shoulder. "No one's perfect. Not even us. Just look at Megatronus and Liege. I still remember the day you rose from a hot spot in Iacon. I immediately sensed energies that I hadn't sensed in a long time, and right then and there, I knew you were the Thirteenth reborn. I know Nexus Prime is still here, but at the end of the day, you will be the one to carry on the Primal legacy. You are the one destined to destroy Unicron. You are the one destined to lead Cybertron into the New Golden Age. You are the Chosen One."

Orion Pax looks up and sees Primus standing right in front of him, holding out the Matrix of Leadership. Reluctantly, he takes it. His chest opens, but before he puts it in its chamber, he takes out his Prime Core, and pushes it into the core of the artifact, merging their energies. Then, he puts the Matrix in his chest. One by one, the Primes disappear, save for Nexus, and a stream of golden energy leaves Rodimus' body, causing him to collapse again, before his friend catches him and brings him down safely.

"*Arise, Optimus Prime.*" Primus' voice says as the Autobot leader raises the Matrix into the air and begins to pull it open. Tendrils creep towards him, but Nexus Prime throws a sharp piece of solidified energon at them. "*Light our darkest hour.*" He successfully opens the Primal vessel, and holy light begins to spill out of it. "Nooooo!" Unicron screams as the light approaches him. "*Destiny... You cannot... destroy... my... destiny!*" His spark is wiped away. The tendrils die out, the first part of Unicron's body to shut down after his spark's destruction, and the others finally break through the door. "Take Rodimus." Optimus Prime orders as he hears explosions nearby. "We have to get out of here." He summons his armor and transforms into his truck mode, driving through the hole in the wall created when he threw Ramjet. Nexus Prime separates into his components and follows him. Megatron flies out in his tank mode, followed by Optimus Primal, who is carrying Rodimus' body, and the other Megatron.

Outside, there are Bugs and Freezers exploding left and right, and amidst the explosions, the group hear Cybertronians cheering. Prime transforms into his robot mode and spins

around, signaling their location to the Sentius Twins, who have already made their own tunnel to Unicron's exploding body. The Cybertronians see said explosions and begin to turn around, fleeing towards Primus as he transforms back into their home planet. As Prime and co. touch down on their homeworld's surface, they turn around and see Unicron's head blow up, officially erasing all traces of the Chaos Bringer from existence. "We did it." Optimus Prime says. "We saved Cybertron, and stopped Unicron. This shall be a day to remember."

THE END!

CHARACTER DESIGNS

Megatron - 2005 IDW stealth bomber design, 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design (Autobot), *War for Cybertron* design (pre-war), *Fall of Cybertron* design (Grindcore); his armor for the Battle of Unicron is based on his *Cyberverse* Spark Armor (the animation model, obviously) without the helicopter propellers

Andromeda - 2019 IDW design

Star Dasher - *Beast Wars: Uprising* design

Kaon - 2005 IDW design

Tarn - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design (present), 2005 IDW *Glitch* design (past), 2005 IDW "Speak, Memory" design (Grindcore)

Rodimus Prime/Rodimus - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design

Orion Pax/Optimus Prime - 2005 IDW *Cybertronian* design; his armor for the Battle of Unicron is based on the armor of the *Siege Galaxy Upgrade* Optimus Prime toy

Bumblebee - evergreen design

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

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

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

Soundwave - 2005 IDW *Robots in Disguise* design

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

Strikesoldier - 2005 IDW design

Deathsaurus - *Victory* design

The Pet - 2005 IDW design

Helex - 2005 IDW design

Tesarus - 2005 IDW design

Vos - 2005 IDW design

Leozack - *Victory* design

Guyhawk - *Victory* design

Hellbat - *Victory* design

Jallguar - *Victory* design

Killbison - *Victory* design

Drillhorn - *Victory* design

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

Overlord - 2005 IDW *Last Stand of the Wreckers* design

Flatline - 2005 IDW design

Ratchet - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Brimstone - Wings Universe design
Ginrai - Wings Universe design
Cannonball - Wings Universe design
Tidal Wave - *Armada* design
Yokuryu - *Victory* design
Goryu - *Victory* design
Greatsix - 2005 IDW design
King Solon - 2005 IDW design
Dread Pirate Crew (including Neurotoxin, Skyduster, and Boltcaster) - Wings Universe designs
Ferak - Wings Universe design
Tornado - Wings Universe design
Kakuryu - *Victory* design
Doryu - *Victory* design
Gairyu - *Victory* design
Rairyu - *Victory* design
Shokaract - BW design
Eclipse - Wings Universe design
Rockhopper - Wings Universe design
Thunderlane - Wings Universe design
Ferrocious - Wings Universe design
Axer - 2019 IDW design
Pounce - *Earthrise* toy
Wingspan - *Earthrise* toy
Apelinq - Wings Universe design
Devcon - Wings Universe design
Flareup - Wings Universe design
Electro - *Timelines* toy
Volt - [Josh Burcham design](#)
Sixliner (and components) - *G1* designs
Sixtrain (and components) - *G1* designs
Astrotrain - 2005 IDW "Earthfall" design in *G1* cartoon colors
Scorponok - fan design (included below)
Dinoking - *Victory* design
Bikecross - 2005 IDW design

Deathcobra - *Victory* design
Cobrabreast - *Victory* design
Kup - 2005 IDW "Earthfall" design
Tigerbreast - *Victory* design
Eaglebreast - *Victory* design
Liokaiser - *Victory* design
Pointblank - 2019 IDW design
Swoop - *G1* design
Grimlock - *G1* design
Slag - 2005 IDW *Maximum Dinobots* design
Sludge - *G1* design
Snarl - *G1* design
Volcanicus - *Power of the Primes* design
RoughEdge - *Robots in Disguise* design
Shockwave - 2005 IDW *Senator* design
Skids - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Charger - *G1* design
Barricade - *War for Cybertron* design
Vehicons - *Prime* designs
Skyquake - *G1* design
Quark - 2005 IDW design
Stalker - *G1* design
Snare - *G1* design
Talon - *G1* design
Triton - 2005 IDW design
Lugnut - 2019 IDW design
Flamewar - 2019 IDW design
Blackjack - 2019 IDW design
Hyperdrive - 2019 IDW design
Tracer - 2019 IDW design
Backstreet - 2019 IDW design
Groove - 2019 IDW design
Subsea - 2019 IDW design
Beastbox - *G1* design
Slipstream - 2019 IDW design
Atomizer - 2005 IDW design

Snapdragon - *Earthrise* toy
 Wheeljack - evergreen design
 Jetfire - *Forged to Fight* design (with his regular face and the model's face as a battle mask)
 D.O.C. - 2005 IDW design
 Hook (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Megatron (SG) - *Shattered Glass Collection* toy
 Sideswipe (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Starscream (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Shockwave (SG) - 2022 IDW design
 Razorclaw (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Soundwave (SG) - 2022 IDW design
 Ravage (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Laserbeak (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Autotroopers (SG) - black versions of their *Legacy: Evolution* toys with red visors
 Goldbug (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Rodimus (SG) - 2022 IDW design
 Blurr (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Bluestreak (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Skids (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Scourge (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Bludgeon (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Astrotrain (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Fasttrack (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Stonecruncher (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Submarauder (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Tailwind (SG) - Shatteredverse design
 Deluge - G1 design
 Perceptor - 2005 IDW *Last Stand of the Wreckers* design
 Magnus - Perceptor's design in his colors
 Cosmos - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
 Eject - G1 design with the *Timelines* toy's head
 Scorponok (Predacon) - *Forged to Fight* design
 Airazor - *Kingdom* toy
 Tigatron - *Kingdom* toy
 Protoform X/Rampage - BW design

Depth Charge - BW design

Nightbird - Arcee's design (see below) but in her *Cyberverse* colors

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

Slamdance - G1 design

Muzzle - fan design (found in *The Second Golden Age*)

Prowl - 2005 IDW "Earthfall" design

Crosshairs - *Siege* toy

Joyride - G1 design

Slapdash - G1 design

Fizzle - G1 design

Aquafend - G1 design

Over-Run - G1 design

Crossblades - G1 inner robot design

Vroom - G1 inner robot design

Windbreaker - G1 design

MTO trio - *Cyberverse* Autobot trooper designs in red, blue, and brown

Note: the next 9 designs are just to help visualize Megatron's story, despite the characters not having physically appeared in any way in the book.

Violen Jiger - *Zone* design

Dai Atlas - 2019 IDW design

Sonic Bomber - *Zone* design

Roadfire - *Zone* design

Speeder - 2019 IDW design

Sonic - *Zone* design

Drillbuster - *Zone* design

Moonrader - *Zone* design

Rabbicrater - *Zone* design

Sizzle - G1 design

Tracks - 2005 IDW *Robots in Disguise* design

Zetca - 2005 IDW design

Cruellocks - *Energon* designs

Alpha Quintesson - *Energon* design

Shadowhawks - *Energon* Blackout (the Terrorcon) designs

Doom-Lock - *Energon* design

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

Note: the next 4 designs are just to help visualize the text Rodimus reads, despite the characters not physically appearing until later in the book. (In case it wasn't obvious, I write these lists in order of appearance.)

Prima - *Covenant of Primus* design

Vector Prime - *Cybertron* design

Alpha Trion - 2019 IDW design

Solus Prime - *Power of the Primes* design

Micronus Prime - *Covenant of Primus* design

Alchemist Prime - *Covenant of Primus* design

Nexus Prime - *Timelines* design

Onyx Prime - *Covenant of Primus* design

Amalgamous Prime - *Covenant of Primus* design

Unicron - *G1* design, but in the colors of the HasLab toy

Quintus Prime - *Covenant of Primus* design

Liege Maximo - 2005 IDW design

Bugs - *Armada*, *Energon*, and *Welcome to Transformers 2010* toys

Landquake - *Timelines* design

Skyfall - *Timelines* design

Breakaway - *Timelines* design

Topspin - *Timelines* design

Heatwave - *Timelines* design

Megatronus Prime - *Prime Wars Trilogy* design

The Thirteenth Prime/13 - *Covenant of Primus* design

Geomotus - 2019 IDW design

Landmine - 2019 IDW design

Azimuth - 2019 IDW design

Beachcomber - 2019 IDW design

Vigilem/Carcer - 2019 IDW design

Barricade - evergreen design

First Aid - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design

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

Brunt - *Siege* toy

Carnivac - *G1* design

Outback - *Titans Return* toy

Bumper - 2019 IDW design

Catilla - *G1* inner robot design

Windblade - *Legacy: United* toy
Sparkstalker - 2019 IDW design
Mindwipe - 2019 IDW design
Bitstream - 2019 IDW design
Six-Gun - *Siege* toy
Scamper - *Thrilling 30* toy
Slammer - *Kingdom* toy
Metroplex - *G1* design
Doubleddealer - *Earthrise* toy
Bug Bite - *Timelines* toy
Exhaust - *Masterpiece* toy
Snipe - *G1* design
Doublecrosser - *Earthrise* toy
Thundercracker - 2005 IDW "*Chaos Theory*"/*Autocracy* design
Doubletap - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Turbine - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Laserbeak - 2005 IDW "*Earthfall*" design
Buzzsaw - 2005 IDW "*Earthfall*" design
Squawktalk - *G1* design
Ramjet - *Timelines* design
Sky High - *G1* inner robot design
Fixit - 2005 IDW design
Stakeout - 2005 IDW *Sins of the Wreckers* design
Road Police - *Siege* toy
Shatterpoint - *Timelines* design
Safety - *Operation: Combination* design
Sentius Magnus - *Earth Wars* design
Sentius Malus - *Earth Wars* design
Thunderclash - *Armada* toy
Gunbarrel - *Universe* toy
Thunderwing - *Armada* toy
Terradive - *Armada* toy
Jumpstream - 2019 IDW design
Ultra Magnus - *Planet X* toy
Drift - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Acid Storm - 2019 IDW design

Ion Storm - 2019 IDW design
 Nova Storm - 2019 IDW design
 Hotlink - 2019 IDW design
 Sunstorm - 2019 IDW design
 Nacelle - 2019 IDW design
 Duststorm - [Andrew Sorohan G2 Sandstorm design](#)
 Blackout - [Andrew Sorohan design](#)
 Cloudcover - [Andrew Sorohan design](#) (with a Conehead-style head)
 Quintus Bugs - *Encore* toys
 Fangry - 2005 IDW *Lost Light* design
 Squeezeplay - *G1* design
 Skullcruncher - *G1* design
 Weirdwolf - *G1* design
 Bomb-Burst - *Legacy* toy
 Freezers - *Rise of the Beasts* designs
 Triggerhappy - *Titans Return* toy
 Submarauder - 2019 IDW design
 Mirage - *Kingdom* toy
 Arcee - *Transformers vs. The Terminator* design
 Sideswipe - 2005 IDW "Earthfall" design
 Sunstreaker - 2005 IDW "Conquerors" design
 Cliffjumper - *Buzzworthy Bumblebee* toy
 Silverbolt - *Combiner Wars* toy
 Air Raid - *Combiner Wars* toy
 Skydive - *Combiner Wars* toy
 Fireflight - *Combiner Wars* toy
 Alpha Bravo - *Combiner Wars* toy
 Powerglide - *Combiner Wars* toy
 Skywarp - 2005 IDW "Chaos Theory"/*Autocracy* design
 Fracas - *Siege* toy
 Shrute - *Siege* toy
 Terror-Daxtyl - *Siege* toy
 Needlenose - 2005 IDW *Robots in Disguise* design
 Brawl - 2005 IDW "Earthfall" design
 Dreadwing - 2005 IDW *Robots in Disguise* design
 Horri-Bull - 2005 IDW *Robots in Disguise* design (but gray)

Onslaught - 2005 IDW *Till All Are One* design
Vortex - 2005 IDW *Till All Are One* design
Blast Off - 2005 IDW *Till All Are One* design
Swindle - 2005 IDW *Till All Are One* design
Bruticus - 2005 IDW *Till Are One* design
Spectro - *Siege* toy
Shrapnel - *G1* design
Superion - *Combiner Wars* toy
Hot Spot - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Streetwise - 2019 IDW design
Blades - 2019 IDW design
Chromedome - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Rewind - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Whirl - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Tailgate - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Primus - *Cybertron* design (planet), *Generations Selects Special Comic* design (avatar)
Jazz - 2005 IDW "Earthfall" design
Piranacon - *G1* design
Sea Clamp - *Earth Wars* design
Cicadacon - *Earth Wars* design
Ram Horn - *Earth Wars* design
Krok - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Spinister - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Misfire - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Crankcase - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Flywheels - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Fulcrum - 2005 IDW *More than Meets the Eye* design
Cromar - 2019 IDW design
Slugslinger - *G1* design
Defensor - 2005 IDW design, but with Groove in Rook (or Ambulon)'s place
Breaker - *Selects* toy
Lift-Ticket - *Selects* toy
Guard - *Selects* toy
Burn-Out - *Legacy* toy

THE UNCREATOR APPROACHES...

In the aftermath of Shockwave's defeat, Megatron has done the unthinkable: he's switched sides! And while the population deals with his earth-shattering moment, the High Council has planet-sized problems of their own...

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 New Order*, I began this roughly 10 minutes later, and now, after over a month of hard work, I'm writing this before I officially say it's finished, on June 13th, 2024, at 1:04 PM EDT. Enjoy *Forged to Fight*!

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