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Transformers/GI Joe

Comic Issue 1- Totally Outrageous

Chapter 1

Narrator: It is the year 1987. The Autobots and Decepticons continue their war on Earth. But it is not the only war being waged on the planet. Indeed the terrorist group Cobra continues its goal to take over the world, while G.I. Joe carries on the fight to stop them. Up until now the two conflicts have remained independent of each other...until now...

The tale began at a packed stadium. On the stage, Jem and the Holograms are rocking away, exciting the entire crowd. Among the guests included the Autobots Blaster and Bumblebee with their human friends Spike and Carly.

“Wow these are the best seats in the house, Spike,” gushed Carly. “I still can’t believe you got them”

“I know. Lucky for us we have friends in high places,” Spike said, referring to his friends the Autobots.

“Aw, thanks, Spike!” Bumblebee said with his usual modesty. “How do you like the music Blaster?”

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“I love it!” Blaster said with enthusiasm, recording the music in his speakers. “Jem is truly outrageous!”

Suddenly Blaster stopped rocking along. An almost intense look on his face'

"What's wrong, Blaster? You don't like the music?" Carly asked, noticing him

"No, the music is great, but I'm picking up a signal that's from Cybertron." Blaster said

"Really are you sure, Blaster?" Bumblebee said, trying to find it with his own sensors. "I don't sense anything"

"It's faint but familiar. But I better be sure" Blaster said as he sent a sound file.

"Come in, Autobot base. This is Blaster blasting to you"

The response at Autobot Headquarters was answered by Hubcap, one the new recruits from Cybertron. Prowl, Autobot fourth-in-command, was with him.

"I hear you, Blaster. You enjoying the concert? Hubcap asked.

"You bet, but I felt a funky vibration that sounds like it's from home. Can you give it a sound over. I'm sending it to you now." Blaster said as he sent the audio

In an instance Prowl and Hubcap were listening to the music of Jem and the Holograms. Prowl wasn't impressed by the music and definitely agreed with Sparkplug's opinion. Hubcap was enjoying it but he suddenly took a turn.

"Affirmative, Blaster, it's faint, but it's definitely of Cybertronian origin." Hubcap confirmed

“You sure about that Hubcap?” Prowl asked. “My hearing isn’t as tuned by you and Blaster, but we better be sure. Teletran-1, have Sky Spy focus on the concert”

In an instance Sky Spy was over the arena and Teletran-1 began its assessment.

“Alert! Analysis by Blaster and Hubcap is correct. Origin of signal is Cybertonian” Teletran-1 reported.

“Incredible!” Prowl marveled. “Teletran-1, can you pinpoint the precise origin?”

The screen then focused on Jem on stage, specifically her earrings. The going-on attracted the attention of Red Alert and Inferno

“Why does that human have Autobot technology?” Red Alert said with worry. “Is she planning something?”

“Now calm down. Red old buddy. That’s Jem a famous singer,” Inferno reassured

“You’re probably right, Inferno, but we can’t take a chance,” Prowl said, then spoke into his communicator. “Blaster, I think after the concert you and Bumblebee should make your way to see what’s going on.”

“On the case. ace. Blaster over and out for now,” Blaster said. He then told Spike, Carly and Bumblebee the plan.

Carly and Spike were excited as they would get to meet Jem and the Holograms

The Autobots weren’t the only special guests at this concert. In attendance were also members of GI Joe. They included Quick Kick, Rock N Roll, Cover Girl and Beachhead, who was in command of the group and was not happy about being there

“Ugh, how much longer do we have to listen to this junk?” Beachhead grouched.

“My ears are ringing.”

“C’mon, Beachhead, this is the cool music,” Cover Girl said in a mock-flirty tone

“You gotta get with the times,” Quick Kick added. “Besides you know why we’re here.”

“Yeah, I know Cobra has been spotted around here. And a concert like this is something that will kick up the Snakes interest,” Beachhead admitted. Cobra had been quiet lately and an attack upon a concert of a famous singer was right up their alley.

“Everything looks good so far,” Rock N Roll added. “I checked in with their road manager, Rio. He’s an old friend of mine.”

Beachhead rolled his eyes at the idea of being friends with the road manager. He then noticed something that caught his immediate attention.

“Hey, check that out,” Beachhead said to the other Joes

“Are those two of the Autobots?” Cover Girl asked, amazed. The Joes had had run-ins with the Autobots in the past few years all over the world.

“They sure are, do you think there are Decepticons in the area too?” Quick Kick wondered.

“I don’t know but we better find out why they’re here,” Beachhead said. He never fully trusted the Autobots. In his mind the Autobots and Decepticons were as big a threat to peace as Cobra was.

After the concert, the Autobots and their friends went backstage. Rio, the manager of the Holograms, was chatting with security when they were met by Blaster and Bumblebee.

“Hey, you’re the Autobots!” Rio said enthusiastically

“Well at least two of us,” Bumblebee said with a smile. His size gave him a talent for reaching out to humans in a charm offensive.

“The reason we’re here is we dig Jem and the Holograms and would love to say our hellos with our two buddies.” Blaster said pointing to Spike and Carly

Rio was a bit hesitant to let Spike and Carly backstage. But the Autobots put his mind at ease. Plus Spike was too young for Jem, and he was with a girl to boot.

“Well, I guess so sure, just a few minutes please?” Rio said, welcoming them in.
“We have a schedule to keep.”

“Of course we don’t want to waste their time,” Bumblebee reassured Rio as they all went backstage

Jem and the Holograms (Kimber, Aja, Shana and Raya) were in their dressing room relaxing after another rocking concert

“Great job tonight, girls,” Jem said to the Holograms.

“Yeah, this tour has been totally outrageous!” Kimber said

“I’m just glad it’s over and we can head home,” Aja said. “I’m beat”

Suddenly there was a knock at the door. It was Rio “Jem can I come in? We have some VIPs would love to meet you”

“VIPs? Who could that be?” Shana said with curiosity. Rio wouldn’t let just anyone come backstage

“Si, let’s see who they are,” Raya said, also interested.

Jem too wanted to see who these guests were. “Sure, Rio bring them in”

“Actually I think you have to come out here to meet them,” Rio told her. That made the Holograms even more curious

Jem and the Holograms found themselves meeting two of the Autobots. To say they were bewildered would be an understatement

“Wow, it’s the Autobots! Now that’s totally outrageous,” Kimber exclaimed in amazement.

“Yeah, to think they’re fans of our music!” Aja said with a blush.

“Absolutely, you girls rock!” Blaster said. “But we came to meet you because I felt something funny.”

“Funny what do you mean,” Jem said, holding one of her earrings reflexively. She always had a fear that Synergy could fall in the wrong hands, but not of the Autobots.

“Well to be honest Jem, we were enjoying the concert when all of a sudden Blaster felt a unique signal,” Bumblebee explained

“Yeah I know it’s funny, but it felt familiar. Like our home planet Cybertron,” Blaster added. “And that signal has only gotten stronger”

Now all the Holograms were getting anxious. They had all kept the secret of Synergy only to themselves. Could it be her technology was similar to that of the Autobots and worse would the Decepticons also want it?

All of a sudden Blasters' tape deck started to blink

“Pardon me, I have to take this” Blaster then spoke into his comlink, “This is Blaster, blastin’, that you, Prime?”

Prime, as in Optimus Prime? Now Jem was starting to panic although she tried to appear calm.

“This is Optimus Prime.” Optimus said

Back at Autobot Headquarters, Hubcap and Prowl were joined by many Autobots. At Optimus Prime’s side were second in command Ultra Magnus, along with Jazz, Arcee, Ironhide and the Dinobots and their human allies Sparkplug and Chip Chase. They were amazed by the idea of technology from Cybertron in the hands of a singer.

“Did Prowl tell you what’s happening, Prime?” Bumblebee asked

“Indeed, Bumblebee. Blaster, you and Hubcap were correct in your analysis. Wheeljack and Peceptor confirmed a wavelength of Cybertronian origin.”

Prime’s words lead to murmuring among the Autobots. Were the Decepticons behind all this?

“Optimus. from what I’ve heard from Spike and Carly, Jem and the Holograms are good people,” Ultra Magnus said to his leader

“That’s right, Prime,” Sparkplug added. “I mean they’re not my kind of music, but they help out a lot of people down on their luck.”

“I appreciate that, Sparkplug,” Optimus said to his loyal friend. “But I think we better not take any chances.” He then turned back to his comlink.

“Blaster, we need you to bring Jem and her bandmates back to Autobot Headquarters as soon as possible. Optimus out” Prime ordered

“You got it, Prime,” Blaster said. He and Bumblebee then turned to Jem and the Holograms seeing how worried they were. They knew they had to reassure them.

“Ladies, I know this seems strange but we need you to come to Autobots HQ,” Blaster said in a friendly voice

“Yeah, you don’t know it but somehow you all have some tech from our world,” Bumblebee added

Jem and the other Holograms went into a huddle.

“What do we do?” Kimber said worriedly.

“I don’t know but I don’t think we can say no,” Shana said

Rio then finally spoke up. He was both amazed and confused “Wait a minute, what’s going on? Are you all saying we have equipment from Cybertron.”

“That’s a good question. What is going on?” said a commanding voice. It was Beachhead with Cover Girl, Quick Kick and Rock N Roll, and he was not a reassuring sight.

Jem knew things were going to get complicated, but had no idea just what would happen next.

Chapter 2

“Hey, who are you?” Kimber demanded. “And how did you get in here?”

“Whoa easy, young lady,” Beachhead replied sternly. “We’re here on official government business!”

“We are?” Quick Kick whispered to Cover Girl.

“I guess we are now,” Cover Girl whispered back, a little worried. She hoped Beachhead knew what he was doing

Rio then noticed his friend Rock N Roll. “Craig, what the heck is going on?”

“What’s going on is clearly a matter of national security,” Beachhead answered. “Somehow you and your friends got your hands on alien technology and we have to find out what it is.”

“He’s right, Rio,” Rock N Roll agreed. “We have to get a handle on this.”

“Um excuse me,” Bumblebee interrupted. “We appreciate the help, but we have things all set.”

“Yeah.” Blaster then turned to Quick Kick. “Mac, you tell your boss we’ll keep the Joes in the know.”

“Like I said, this is national...” Beachhead replied. He paused when he noticed how an Autobot was familiar with a Joe. “Did he call you Mac?”

“Yeah, it’s a funny story,” Quick Kick said with a tinge of embarrassment.

“No matter.” Beachhead glancing back at Quick Kick. “If there is alien technology out there, we have to make sure it’s in secure hands.” He then went to his comlink. “Gen. Hawk, this is Beachhead over.”

Back at GI Joe Headquarters the communication bay was manned by Breaker and Dialtone at the moment. Also present in the room were the leaders of G.I. Joe, Flint, Duke and Gen. Hawk.

“I hear you, Beachhead,” Gen. Hawk answered. “Do you have any idea of the source of the alien technology?”

Gen. Hawk’s response bewildered everyone who heard it.

“Err...Gen. Hawk sir, how did you know?” Beachhead stammered

“I’ve been in contact with the Autobots,” Gen. Hawk answered. On another monitor Optimus Prime could be seen. In recent years, at the suggestion of Ultra Magnus, Optimus Prime began coordinating important matters with GI Joe, such as technology from Cybertron which could be a threat to global security.

“Blaster, Bumblebee, can you hear me?” Optimus Prime then said to the Autobots.

“We hear you, Prime,” Bumblebee said.

Beachhead was getting annoyed that GI Joe was losing control of the situation and Jem was concerned about her big secret being revealed.

“I spoke with Gen. Hawk and you are to take all of the equipment to Autobot Headquarters. We will then determine which is from Cybertron and determine what to do next,” Optimus ordered

“Hey, that’s our equipment!” Kimber shouted “You just can’t take our private property.” Like her sister Kimber was afraid of what might happen if Synergy was discovered.

“Now, wait a minute young lady,” Beachhead interjected. “Your equipment can be replaced, but our priority is what you and your sister have causing this brouhaha”

Cover Girl then took a more diplomatic approach. “What Beachhead is trying to say is that we respect your personal property. Right, Beachhead?”

“Err, yes, well said Cover Girl,” Beachhead said, humbled

“And don’t worry we’ll take good care of your equipment,” Blaster said reassuringly

“Yeah, a lot of the Autobots are fans of you like we are,” Bumblebee added. “We’ll be extra careful.”

Before Jem could reply, Beachhead spoke up again. “No buts, missy.” He then turned to the Autobots, glancing at Spike and Carly. “If you all are taking these civilians, you have to bring us.”

“Sgt. Sneedman is right, Autobots” Optimus said. “Sky Lynx should be there any moment to bring you all back to Autobot Headquarters. We’ll see you in a moment. Optimus, over and out.”

With that both Optimus Prime and Gen. Hawk closed communication. Back at GI Joe Headquarters Duke turned to Gen. Hawk.

“I don’t like the idea of Beachhead being our liaison of the Autobots,” he admitted. “He’s no diplomat.”

“Now, Duke, Beachhead may be gruff but he’s dependable,” Gen. Hawk replied.

“Besides Cover Girl, Quick Kick and Rock N Roll will keep him from causing a ruckus,” Flint added as Lady Jaye walked to him

“Are you jealous of Beachhead, Flint?” Lady Jaye said coyly

“Me, no,” Flint replied, equally coy. “But we both know someone who would be.”

Flint was referring to Marissa, he and Lady Jaye's daughter. Marissa was a bright, energetic girl who absolutely worshiped the Autobots.

As Optimus Prime promised, Sky Lynx soon arrived and came in for a landing right outside the arena. As soon as Rewind, Eject, Pipes and Wheeljack disembarked, he transformed into his robot mode. To the Autobots, Spike and Carly, it was a usual if impressive sight, but the Joes and Jem and the Holograms were all amazed by the sight

"Greetings all!" Sky Lynx boasted. "My superior speed brought me to your service." He then turned his attention to the Joes ``May I presume you are the liaisons of GI Joe?"

"Err, yes, we are, thank you" Beachhead responded.

"Don't worry, Sergeant Major," Wheeljack reassured him. "A group of your fellow Joes will be joining us at Autobot Headquarters."

Jem and the Holograms were greeted by Rewind and Eject.

"Hey Jem and the Holograms it's a real treat to meet you" Rewind said

"Yeah I caught your halftime show at the Big Game last year" Eject added."I liked it and Ramhorn did even more"

"Now Eject don't tease Ramhorn you know how he'll respond." Carly said as she and Spike shared a laugh with the Autobots. Seeing how the Autobots talked freely with other people gave the Joes and Holograms a sense of awe and amazement. They were just friends together.

“Ok. everyone. we gotta take all this stuff and give it a lookover back at the base” Wheeljack said. He noticed Jem was frowning. “Don’t worry Miss, we’ll take good care of it.”

“Yeah, thanks, I appreciate it,” Jem said. The Autobots were friendly, but she still worried if Synergy was discovered

“C’mon, Spike, we gotta get their equipment,” Bumblebee said as they went

“Hey, wait for me!” Rio barked. “Those are delicate instruments!”

The Autobots had begun loading the instruments and equipment the Holograms had brought.

“This is a nice keyboard,” Pipes remarked to Kimber as he held it over one shoulder with no strain at all. “I found a great broken one at a scrapyard last month.”

“Thanks, I guess” Kimber said awed by Pipes’s strength

Once the equipment was aboard, the Autobots began to climb aboard. Wheeljack turned to Beachhead.

“Excuse me, Beachhead right? We’re all packed up and ready to go?”

“Yes, thank you, Wheeljack,” Beachhead replied, remembering his manners. “I thank you for moving everything so quickly” He then turned to the Joes with him. “All right let’s head out! Yo Joe!”

“Yo Joe!” Cover Girl, Quick Kick and Rock N Roll answered

“Yeah, yo whatever,” Rio grumbled. “The sooner we get this over with the better.”

“Whoa, son, there’s no ‘we’, including you,” Beachhead said sternly. “We and the Autobots will go over every piece of equipment with a fine tooth comb. Once and I mean only once we are all satisfied will you get your property back.”

Jem and the Holograms looked relieved. There was no trace of Synergy in anything but her earrings. After this audit they would be in the clear...or would have if Spike and Carly hadn’t spoken up.

“Now hold on, this isn’t our property. It’s theirs,” Carly said. “I know if something I owned was being examined, I’d want to be there to make sure everything was ok.”

“She’s right, sarge,” Blaster added. “Fair is fair.”

Beachhead sighed in defeat. It was getting late, and he just wanted to do his job and get this all over with.

“All right, all right, it’s your call.” He then turned to Jem. “Miss, if you want to accompany us, it is your right, but we’re leaving right now”

Jem had a quick talk with the Holograms. They realized if they didn’t go it would set off alarm bells. Still, what about Rio? Jem went to speak to Rio by herself.

“Um, Rio, why don’t you head back?” she suggested.

“Are you crazy?” Rio retorted. “Do you really think I’m going to leave you alone with all this?”

“Rio, trust me we’ll take care of your friends,” Rock N Roll assured him.

“Well, OK, but I don’t like it,” Rio admitted. “Call me as soon as you can, okay?”

“I beg your pardon but are we ready to get this show on the road,” Sky Lynx asked, a little impatient.

“Yeah, Sky Lynx, we’re ready,” Spike said. “C’mon everybody!”

In an instance, the Autobots, Joes and Holograms all boarded Sky Lynx and flew off to Autobot Headquarters. They had no idea they were being watched.

In the shadows a young girl in a punkish outfit had been watching everything that happened. It was Zanya, daughter of Zartan the leader of the Dreadnoks. She knew this was big and should tell her dad.

But unbeknownst to even Zanya another spy had been watching events unfold, the Decepticon cassette Laserbeak. He too was off to inform his master Megatron.

Chapter 3

In the Terror Drome, Serpantor and Cobra Commander were at each other's throats as usual.

“Cobra would rule the world if I was still in command!” Cobra Commander bellowed.

“Well you’re no longer the leader, Commander I am,” Serpantor roared back.

While the two argued the higher ups of Cobra (Destro, Baroness, Tomax and Xamot, Dr. Mindbender and Dreadnok commander Zartan were having dinner

“Ugh there they go again, like children,” Baroness scoffed.

“At least when they argue we can have a moment of peace,” Destro said to his beloved

“True but something has to change,” Tomax said

“And very soon,” Xamot agreed

“Or we may never defeat the Joes,” the Twins said at the same time

“Perhaps the weapon we stole in Japan might turn the tide,” Dr. Mindbender suggested. “She is quite powerful.”

Suddenly the Cobra leaders were surprised by the intrusion by Zanya. She was one of very few who had such nerve

“Dad, dad!” Zanya shouted. “I have big news!”

“Is that my darling, devious daughter?” Zartan said with pride “How was the concert? Pick many pockets of the fools in the audience?”

“Even better,” Zanya chirped. “Some Joes were there.”

“GI Joe?” Serpentor exclaimed, suddenly interested. “What were they doing there?”

“I dunno,” Zanya admitted. “I guess they were there because some Autobots were there.”

“Autobots, you say?” Cobra Commander added. He and Serpenter were both focused on this news. “Now that is interesting!”

“Yeah I was able to sneak in and they met with Jem and the Holograms.” Zanya explained. “It turns out that they have some tech from Cybertron.”

“Technology from Cybertron,” Dr. Mindbender mused, thinking deeply, “We could use it to boost our new weapon”

“Indeed, Dr. Mindbender,” Serpenter agreed, contemplating what he had just been told, then turned to Zanya. “Quick, girl, how many Joes and Autobots are at this arena? We have to plan an assault.”

“Well they’re not there anymore,” Zanya told him. “They all went to the Autobot Headquarters.”

“Bah inconvenient!” Serpenter whined.

“Don’t tell me you’re giving up, oh noble emperor,” Cobra Commander taunted to Serpenter

“Quiet fool!” Serpenter yelled. “My military knowledge dwarfs yours. I shall gain this technology for Cobra.”

Suddenly, one of the Tele-Vipers appeared on one of the throne room’s view screens.

“Err..excuse me great Serpantor we hate to interrupt you but...” The Tele-Viper stammered

“But what? Out with it man!” Serpantor demanded.

“It’s just that you have a request for a meeting,” the Tele-Viper said

“A meeting?” Serpantor said. “Who dares ask to meet with the Cobra Emperor?”

Suddenly the Tele-Viper’s face was replaced on the screen with another face. It was a face that shocked and bewildered all who saw it, including Cobra Commander and Serpantor. It was the face of Megatron.

“That would be me!” Megatron shouted. “Who better to meet an emperor than another emperor?”

Just an hour before this tele-conference, the Decepticons were in their underwater headquarters. In the past years they had bolstered their Earth forces with reinforcements from Cybertron, including the Predacons, Runamuck and Runabout the Battlechargers, more Seekers and even the mighty Trypticon. Lately the war with the Autobots was at a stalemate, but that was about to change

Laserbeak came flying in the main room of the headquarters. He immediately went to Soundwave and transformed into his cassette mode.

“Laserbeak returns, Megatron,” Soundwave told his leader in his monotone voice

“Excellent, then let us see what he has to tell us”, Megatron said as Soundwave transformed and linked to their computer’s mainframe.

“Ha, if I was the leader the Autobots would be scrap metal now,” Starscream whined.

“Oh, shut up Starscream” snapped Slipstream the female Seeker. She had been assigned to Earth only a short time, but she was as sick of Starscream as Megatron.

Starscream glared at her, then turned to Skywarp. “Skywarp, tell your sister I am her superior and she will give me the respect I deserve!”

“Silence Starscream!” Megatron shouted. “Slipstream already shows far more respect than you deserve. Soundwave, play Laserbeak’s findings”

Starscream glared again at Slipstream who smirked back.

The assembled Decepticons then watched the video that Laserbeak recorded. They were all intrigued by the discovery of technology from Cybertron, especially Megatron.

“I don’t get it,” Blitzwing bellowed. “How could technology from our planet fall into the hands of these flesh creatures?”

“Yes and what's a ‘Jem’?” Ramjet said, confused.

“Jem’s a who, not a what,” explained Rumble “She and the Holograms are a popular music band.”

“Yeah, that’s right,” Frenzy agreed then turned to his fellow Cassette Squawkbox the combined form of Squawktalk and Beastbox. “Hey, Squawkbox, play some of their tunes”

“You got it Frenzy!” The music-loving Decepticon started playing some of the music for the Decepticons.

“Bah enough!” Megatron shouted. “Squawkbox, transform into your two forms.”

“Yes, Megatron.” Squakbox then transformed back into his base forms of Beastbox and Squaektalk.

“Awk, not me, that’s him,” Squawktalk said pointing to Beastbox who took an annoyed swing at Squawktalk

“Hmmp.. you call that junk music?” Headstrong snorted.

“I kinda liked it,” Rampage, his Predacon teammate, said. “I have to check out their music video.”

“Silence, all of you,” Megatron ordered. He then contemplated the best course of action when he noticed the various humans. Spike and Carly he recognized as allies of the Autobots. But the other ones were not familiar to him.

“Who are those humans conferring with the Autobots?” Megatron said out loud

“They’re members of GI Joe,” Swindle told Megatron. “You know those goody-goody humans.” When Megatron stared at Swindle for knowing them, Swindle sheepishly replied, “Err, I’ve done some business with one of their rivals, Destro.”

Swindle’s comment was forgotten when Wildrider blurted out “Hey look it’s Zanya!” when he noticed her in the footage

“And how do you know that flesh creature?” Starscream asked, accusingly

“Well, we may have been doing some smuggling with her father’s group, the Dreadnoks,” Dead End admitted as Motormaster dope slapped Wildrider, while Breakdown and Drag Strip rolled their eyes at his thoughtless comment.

“Is anyone else doing business with members of Cobra,” Megatron asked dryly as a surprising number of Decepticons raised their hands.

“Am I missing something?” Slipstream said amazed when Sywarp raised his hand

“Cobra is a group of humans looking to rule this planet,” Megatron explained.
“Usually their antics have been of no consequence to us, but now that may change.”

Megatron turned to the Decepticons. “Soundwave open communications to the Cobra Headquarters. What is it called?”

“The Terror Drome,” Octane said, suddenly realizing he shouldn’t have known so easily. “Err...or so I heard” he added with a nervous chuckle.

“Right,” Megatron said, now glaring at Octane. “Soundwave, send a message to the Terror Drome”

“As you command Megatron,” Soundwave replied.

Chapter 4

At the Terror Drome, Serpentor initiated a first ever teleconference with the Decepticons. More of Cobra’s lieutenants (Major Bludd, Firefly, Storm Shadow, Wild Weasel, Scrap Iron and Copperhead) and members of the Dreadnoks came to

the room. Rumors were that Serpantor was communicating with the Decepticons and it turns out the rumors were true.

“You are Megatron, leader of the Deceptions,” Serpantor said with an unusual calm. “At last we meet.”

“The pleasure is all mine,” Megatron replied with false modesty. Both leaders were testing each other out. While Cobra Commander and Starscream, their would-be usurpers, were also looking to see if they could take advantage of the situation.

“I’ll be blunt,” Megatron exclaimed. “Our enemies, the Autobots have been seen coordinating with your enemies, GI Joe.”

“Yes no doubt your spy Laserbeak noticed them going after rogue technology from your planet Cybertron,” Serpantor said, taking the lead in the conversation.

The Decepticons murmured how these flesh creatures knew what was going on. Megatron was shocked but put on a passive face

“My compliments, Laserbeak is usually much more stealth. Aren’t you, Laserbeak?” Megatron said, mildly chiding the robotic bird. Laserbeak gave a shameful screech.

“Not at all, my spy was hidden in plain sight,” Serpantor waved to Zanya, who gave a teasing wave as Zartan beamed with pride of his daughter scooping the Decepticons.

“Why don’t you wave back to your pal Wildrider?” Slipstream said as Skywarp snickered at his sister’s quip

“My proposal is this!” Serpantor said. “We combine our forces to lay an assault on the Autobots Headquarters to see what technology they have from Cybertron.”

“And why should we do that?” Starscream interjected. “Your army has failed to conquer this planet time after time!”

“Nor have you defeated your enemies either!” Cobra Commander snapped back.

Megatron and Serpantor commanded that the two bombastic lieutenants silence. After an awkward pause, Destro took a more diplomatic tone.

“I believe we share the same goals, mighty Megatron. Cobra wishes to rule the Earth and you wish to rule your world Cybertron, correct?”

“Indeed and the entire universe,” Megatron boasted.

“Certainly, but if Cobra controlled this world, you would have a valuable ally with a wide variety of the energy you need to fuel such an empire,” Destro continued.

Megatron took what Destro said to heart. “What you say is true, but what does Cobra have to help the Decepticons?” he asked.

“I think you’ll find Cobra has much to offer,” Baroness added as she brought up a screen showing something that absolutely amazed Megatron.

The Decepticons murmured amongst themselves at the sight. And as Cobra hoped, Megatron was amazed by what he saw as where the other Decepticons.

“Megatron, what are you going to do?” Thundercracker asked.

For the first time in a long time, Megatron was at a loss for words.

Chapter Five

While Cobra and the Decepticons were conspiring, Sky Lynx came in for a landing at Autobot Headquarters. Outside the base was Metroplex; the city-sized Autobot. The various Autobot and human passengers departed from Sky Lynx.

“We are at our destination, Autobot Headquarters!” Sky Lynx said. “Mind your step!”

Jem, the Holograms and the Joes were all amazed by the sight.

“Wow, totally outrageous,” Kimber said.

“Pretty amazing huh, Beachhead,” Cover Girl asked.

“It’s not bad,” Beachhead said, no-selling the wonder. “But it’s not GI Joe Headquarters.”

Beachhead then remembered his curiosity how Blaster knew Quick Kick. “By the way Quick Kick do you care to explain how one of the Autobots knew you?”

“Yeah, remember last year when the Decepticons tried to use the Watts Tower as an antenna for some reason?” Quick Kick asked. Beachhead nodded.

“Well I was visiting my folks,” Quick Kick continued. “After the ‘Cons were scared away, some joker tried to rob their store. The Autobots were doing some recon and saw what was happening. Next thing you know that guy had a giant robot rhino over him. Probably saved my parents' lives.”

“Huh, that I didn’t know” Beachhead had to admit that it was noble of the Autobots to help a random civilian.

Suddenly Aja stopped in her tracks, She was amazed by the sight beyond Autobot base. It was a massive city being constructed.

“Whoa look at that girls,” Aja said in awe

“Now that’s totally outrageous,” Shana said, equally amazed.

“Pretty slick, huh,” Blaster said. “You’re looking at the sight of what will be Autobot City.”

“That’s classified until it becomes public ladies,” Beachhead warned.

The group was met at the entrance by Scamper, Slammer and Six-Gun, the helpers of Metroplex, and Windblade, Autobot City Commander.

“Welcome all, we are so glad to have visitors to Autobot Headquarters,” Windblade greeted warmly

“Uh thank you very much,” Jem said amazed at Windblade’s appearance

“And for you Joes, don’t worry your posse are all here” Six-Gun said to the Joes.

“Yes err...thank you.” Beachhead noticed the HAVOCS parked at the side of the road.

The Autobots led their human guests to the main room where Teletran was. Optimus Prime was there along with his lieutenants Ultra Magnus, Jazz and Prowl. Many Autobots were assembled and joined them, including Wheeljack, Perceptor, Nautica, Arcee, Tracks, Hoist, Hound and the Aerialbots. Also there were the Autobots' other human allies, Sparkplug and Chip Chase.

"Greetings, Jem," Optimus Prime said reassuringly. "I just want to let you know we will take care not to damage your equipment."

"Yes, thank you, Optimus Prime," Jem said. She was just hoping that Synergy would not be discovered, but one nagging thought was in her mind: Why was Synergy matching technology from Cybertron?

Ultra Magnus turned to greet the Joes. "Sergeant-Major, I am Ultra Magnus. I want to assure you we have taken all security precautions."

"Thank you, Ultra Magnus," Beachhead said. He had to admit he admired his professionalism. "Can you tell me where our fellow Joes are?"

"We're right here Beachhead," a voice said. It was Flint, with other Joes Lady Jay, Mainframe, Lifeline, Barbeque, Snake Eyes, Shipwreck, Roadblock and Scarlett.

"Oh good, tell me Flint is Gen. Hawk here," Beachhead asked as the Joes planned.

"No, he's back at headquarters" Flint said "This mission is led by you, me and ..."

"Enjoy the concert, Beachhead?" a voice boomed. It was Duke in a teasing tone.

"Yeah, sure," Beachhead said, annoyed at his superior officer. "Dang it, Duke, why did you have me babysit a rock concert?"

“OK, boys that’s enough,” Scarlett said, getting in-between the two. “But seriously, what is our plan of action?”

“It’s simple, Scarlett, once we determine what this technology is, we will confiscate it and take it to GI Joe Headquarters for research,” Duke said

“Yeah but what if the Autobots claim the booty?” Shipwreck asked as he eyed Jem and the Holograms.

“Awwk, finders keepers, loser weepers!” Polly squawked

“The parrot’s right. We have to keep this tech from causing trouble no matter the cost,” Duke said, failing to notice Prowl and Springer had overheard what he said.

“Huh, did you hear that?” Springer frowned. “How would they like it if we commandeered their tech?”

“Don’t worry Springer,” Prowl assured him. “We’ve built up a good word with the governments of Earth. We’ll resolve this.”

“I hope so, Prowl, ” Springer said as he looked at these humans. Like the other new additions to Earth, Springer had only truly bonded with the humans who befriended the Autobots first such as Spike and Sparkplug.

“I gotta say this is really exciting,” Mainframe was telling Lifeline and Barbeque. “Who knows that we could learn from it.”

“Yeah, maybe it can be used for medical science,” Lifeline said. “But wouldn’t the Autobots have ownership of whatever it is?”

“When it comes to tech from alien lands, the most important thing is to keep it out of Cobra’s hands,” Roadblock said in his characteristic rhyme.

Just then Wheeljack, Perceptor and Nautica went to Jem and the Holograms. They were in awe of the demure female Autobot.

“Salutations,” Perceptor greeted the Holograms. “Technology from Cybertron coming into your possession is indeed a fortuitous circumstance.”

Jem, Kimber, Shana and Raya looked blankly until Aja interpreted. “I think he’s glad to meet us and wants to see the source.”

“Exactly,” Wheeljack said, turning to Aja. “Nice job, most of the time no one can understand Perceptor and that includes me.” Aja blushed at the compliment as Nautica showed the device in her hands

“Hello all I’m Nautica,” she said in a warm tone “I’m new to Earth and I must say your music is lovely.”

“Thank you,” Shana said. “It’s nice we make fans so easily”

“Si, but Miss Nautica, what is that in your hand?” Raya asked.

“Not to worry this is a Cybertonium detector,” Nautica said as she waved it on their musical equipment. “Cybertonium is an element from our home planet Cybertron and it will be in any of our technology.”

Nautica waved her detector over every item but it did not beep. Jem was relieved and hoped this ordeal would be over soon.

“Prime my detector didn’t find anything from Cybrertron,” Nautica told the Autobots and Joes.

“Maybe your gizmo is on the fritz?” Duke asked as Scarlett and Snake Eyes winched at his tactless comment

“I assure you, Col. Hauser, Nautica worked hard to make sure her device works properly,” Ultra Magnus said in a curt tone. He knew Nautica’s work ethic was beyond approach.

“Duke, have a little tact,” Scarlett said, nudging him. She and Snake Eyes looked at each other. Optimus Prime knew it was time to take a more diplomatic approach.

“Perhaps the readings Blaster felt were from a different source,” Optimus said, then turned to Blaster reassuringly. “Now I know your systems are powerful, Blaster, but they could be residual energy.”

“I guess that’s possible, Prime,” Blaster conceded, as he checked his systems. He hated to be wrong.

“I really hope this wasn’t a waste of all your time,” Jem said, hoping to speed things up and leave.

“I appreciate that miss but better safe than sorry,” Beachhead said. He didn’t know whether to be annoyed or relieved.

Suddenly the answer to Beachhead’s question came from an alarm from Teletran-1.

“Alert, alert, intruders attacking,” Teletran-1 proclaimed.

“Attack, uh oh don’t tell me those Decepticrumb’s are attacking again,” Sparkplug said as he manned a monitor.

“Negative intruders are not Deceptions,” Teletran-1 continued. “It is Cobra...”

On the monitors the assembled Joes and Autobots saw an armada of Cobra vehicles attacking. Rattlers and Night Ravens in the air, HISS tanks and Stuns on the ground and BATs and various Vipers and Cobra soldier in squads led by Major. Bludd.

“All right, lads you know the plan,” Major Bludd said in his HISS “Blast them bots until they come out. We’ll get that tech! Cobra!

Back at the Terror Drome, the Decepticons and Cobra were watching.

“This will be an interesting battle, Serpantor,” Megatron said.

“Yes, we shall see if these Autobots are the honorable fools you say they are,” Serpantor replied. “Soon Cobra will rule the world. This I command!”

Chapter 6

The Autobots quickly scrambled to confront the attackers. But they were at a loss of plan of action.

“C’mon guys let’s bust them like we do Deceptichops,” Ironhide said, getting his weapons ready.

“Easy, Ironhide,” Optimus Prime advised. “Remember; inside those vehicles are humans inside. We have to be careful not to harm them.”

“Don’t tell me you’re concerned about hurting those snakes,” Flint said. He’d been in enough battles with Cobra to know that they don’t care about the welfare of their enemy.

“Excuse me, Flint, but I would think you would want human life to be our main concern,” Ratchet said.

“Yeah, I guess you have a point,” Flint concluded. The Autobots had to be careful. Attacks on Decepticons would be fatal to humans

Despite the home advantage and superior firepower, the Autobots were having a tough time fighting Cobra. Powerglide and the Aerialbots were having a dogfight with the Rattlers and Night Ravens but were unsure where to fire on them.

“Silverbolt, do you think we should fire on the engines,” Powerglide asked. “One good shot might blow the entire plane.”

“I think so, Powerglide,” Silverbolt responded. “Hey, guys, careful with the shots, try to shoot one engine so they land.”

“Aw this is nuts,” Slingshot complained. “We never have to worry about this with the Decepticons”

“That’s because one shot with the humans are fatal,” Skydive said. “I don’t want that on my conscience.”

“None of us do,” Skyfire agreed. “The Autobots hadn’t caused one human casualty on Earth and I’m not going to be the first.”

“Yeah I guess you’re right,” Slingshot conceded. “It’s still making our job hard.”

The Rattlers led by Wild Weasel were taunting the Autobots in the air and fired with impunity, with no care about who or what they hit as long as they hit the enemy too.

“Talk about a turkey shoot,” Wild Weasel boasted. “These Autobots could easily SWAT us if they wanted too.”

“We’re having trouble down here too...BLAM!” Warpath bellowed. He was leading the ground forces, but they being careful with their attack as well

“I hate holding back on someone blasting me,” Brawn grouched. Normally he’d be punching the Decepticons without a second thought. But a punch could crush a human’s skull.”

“Me too Brawn,” Tracks said. “But anything else would be uncouth.” He tried to fire his black beam gun to darken the skies but it was snatched out of his hand by Major Bludd manning a HISS tank canon

“You won’t turn the lights off on us mate!” Major Bludd laughed.

Some Autobots were trying to snatch the drivers of the vehicles like when Hoist and Grapple grabbed a trio of Motor Vipers from a Stun.

“Do you have those ruffians, Hoist?” Grapple asked

“Indeed Grapple,” Hoist said then turned to the Motor Vipers. “We won’t harm you but you must be held accountable.”

Suddenly a burst of flame exploded. It wasn't a Stun, but instead a firebomb set up by Firefly. The Motor Vipers escaped and Hoist and Grapple found themselves surrounded by a ring of fire.

"Let's see if you Autobots are fireproof," Firefly said. "This is easier than it should be"

Fortunately Firefly's fire was immediately put out when Inferno raced to his friends' rescue and soon put out the flames.

"Nice try, buddy," Inferno said to Firefly. "This isn't even a mild burn for me."

The only Autobots having any success was Grimlock. Grimlock knew he couldn't attack the humans but the BATs were a different story. Grabbing one BAT at a time the Dinobot leader was chomping away.

"Yum me Grimlock like BATs," Grimlock said while chewing. "Lots of tasty iron"

The Joes and remaining Autobots were watching the battle unfold. Optimus had Nautica and Arcee escort Jem and the Holograms to a secure space for safety.

"Optimus Prime, with all due respect, Cobra is mopping the floor with you," Lady Jaye said, watching Swerve shooting in the air to make sure he didn't hit any of the Vipers.

"I don't know, Lady Jaye, they're doing what I'd do in a battle" Lifeline said as Bluestreak managed to tear off the glass of a HISS Tank only to hesitate shooting at the HISS Drivers inside.

“That’s the problem, Life Line,” Duke said. “Look, Prime, I appreciate your restraint but you gotta fight back. Let us join the fight.”

Just then one Night Raven swooped in and destroyed the HAVOCs the Joes had driven to the base.

“They’re right, Prime,” Ultra Magnus said. “We’re not used to fighting human enemies.” He then turned to the Joes. “We need reinforcements”

“I thought you’d never ask,” Duke said. “Gen. Hawk, come in. We’re at Autobot HQ under attack by Cobra. We need your help.”

“10-4, Duke” Gen. Hawk said as he led a phalanx of Skystrikers and Conquests. “We’ll be there before you know it. Hang in there! Yo Joe!”

Meanwhile back at the Terror Drome, the Decepticons and their Cobra allies were watching the battle with amazed interest.

“Look at the fools, Destro,” Baroness said when Air Raid was weaving around Night Ravens without shooting. “They’re too afraid to even take one shot”

“How ironic,” Megatron mused. “The Autobots would rather be blasted than even risk the life of one human.”

“Yes they are fools to allow such sentiment to affect victory,” Serpenter agreed. “But this battle should force them to use whatever this technology is.”

“And we’ll be ready to exploit the situation to take it,” Megatron said, activating a comlink. “Kaskade, report.”

About a mile away, the female Decepticon sniper Kaskade was watching the action.

“This is Kaskade, Lord Megatron. I can’t believe my optics. The Autobots are letting our human allies run roughshod over them.” Kaskade reported

“Affirmative. Speaking of our allies, is the warrior ready to infiltrate?” Megatron asked as Kaskade turned to Storm Shadow in a Flight Pod

“I am indeed ready,” Storm Shadow powered up his Pod. He turned to Kaskade. “When I am inside I shall tell our respective leaders what this technology is. This skirmish will be enough of a distraction for me to enter undetected.”

“Perhaps, flesh creature, but we have an insurance policy to ensure that. I will cover you, now go,” Kaskade said as Storm Shadow flew away. She had only recently reported to Earth and like most Decepticons held most humans in low esteem, Although she had to admit this human she was partnered with held himself with dignity.

Meanwhile, Arcee and Nautica were in the secure area with Jem and the Holograms watching the battle. The saw Sideswipe fly up to a Night Raven in his jet pack was trying to shoot at the cannon without outright destroying it.

“It’s not going good out there for the Autobots is it,” Jem said, concerned.

“You must understand Jem, we’re not used to fighting humans. One bad move could be fatal,” Arcee said

“Believe me we appreciate it,” Shana said. As promised, Storm Shadow had snuck inside and hid himself, activating his camera

“Excellent, Storm Shadow is inside,” Cobra Commander said. “I told you he was the best for the job”

“The mere fact you support him so strongly Commander made me reluctant to use him,” Serpantor admitted. The Commander glared at him.

Using the ensuing chaos as cover, Storm Shadow managed to sneak inside Autobot Headquarters. All the while, the Autobots were trying to keep a handle on the chaos.

“It’s different than battling Decepticons, isn’t it, Optimus?” Windblade said.

“Yes, Windblade,” Optimus Prime said. “We have to be careful when fighting a human enemy.”

“Prime, do you want me to Transform and scare them off,” Metroplex asked over Teletran-1’s comm network.

“No, Metroplex,” Optimus said. “You might cause a panic that could cause casualties.”

“I think I know how to deal with Cobra. Prime,” Ultra Magnus said, then spoke into his comlink. “Windcharger, are you and Tailgate ready?”

“We are, Ultra Magnus,” Windcharger replied. “C’mon, Tailgate, we have a tide to turn.”

Major Bludd led the army of Vipers and Cobra soldiers to the entrance

“All right lads we’re almost there” Bludd said then turned to the HISS Driver. “Get ready to board the base”

“Yes, Major Bludd” The HISS Driver said “All HISS tanks charge!”

All of a sudden the rifles the Vipers and Cobra Soldiers flew out of their hands

“Hey what’s going on?” One of the Vipers said. “My rifle has a mind of its own.”

The weapons had been magnetized by Windcharger and Tailgate’s magnetic ability.

“How do you snakes like our magnetic personality” Tailgate said

“Good work” Ultra Magnus said “Protectobots, Trailbreaker, we’re ready for phase two”

“We’re on it, Magnus,” Trailbreaker said. “Are you ready, Hot Spot?”

“Yeah, let’s go Protectobots,” Hot Spot told his teammates. “Let’s merge into Defensor.”

In an instance the five Protectobots combined into Defensor and projected a forcefield to corral the Cobra soldiers.

“Ok, Trailbreaker, my forcefield is herding them away from the base,” Defensor reported.

“Great! I’ll help with mine on the other side.” Trailbreaker used his own forcefield to cover areas where Defensor’s own didn’t.

Prowl and Pipes then met up with them as they caught up with Cobra.

“Good job, guys,” Pipes said. “This won’t hurt them but it will stop them. Prowl then spoke into his comlink. “ Magnus we have the land forces trapped.”

“Great, Prowl, when the GI Joes arrive we’ll have them detained.” Ultra Magnus turned to the Joes.

“We’ll want to interrogate the captured soldiers,” Ultra Magnus told them. “Do you have to deal with this in every battle?”

“Not likely Ultra Magnus,” Duke replied. “We’ve found them to be very uncooperative.”

“I’m just glad we didn’t have any casualties,” Jazz said. “Those snakes gave us a tough time.”

“Believe me they wouldn’t give you the same concern,” Scarlett said

Optimus Prime came outside to the Autobots. “Good work Autobots. We should have them all in custody soon”

“That’s what you think Prime!” a voice rumbled. It belonged to Onslaught who was leading the Combaticons.

“Yeah, let’s blast 'em!” Brawl shouted, shooting at the force field

“Combaticons! What are they doing here?” Bumblebee wondered.

“I wouldn’t be put anything past those mercenaries, Bumblebee,” Optimus said as he fired back at them

“You know us Prime, no job is too small!” Swindle said, Just as Megatron predicted the Autobots assumed that the Combaticons were moonlighting working for Cobra

“All right, Decepticons, now these blokes we can blast away at,” Outback said as he shot at them.

“It’s about time!” Cliffjumper added ,firing at Blast Off. “Take a whiff of glass gas!”

“Please spare me Autobot,” Blast Off boasted. “My armor won’t even be dirtied by your meager exhaust.”

During the battle in the air Wild Weasel sent a message to the Night Ravens and Rattlers. “Wild Weasel to all air forces. We have orders to stand back while our allies open the door to the Autobots base.”

“Sounds good to me,” said one of the Strato-Vipers. “Just wait until they see our secret weapon.”

“C’mon guys let’s make scrap metal out of those tinplated goons,” Brawn cried, charging.

“I think it’s time the Autobots meet our special friend,” Vortex said as the Combaticons regrouped.

“An excellent idea,” Onslaught said as he spoke into his comlink. “My dear would you be so kind as to join our soiree.”

“I thought you’d never ask,” a mysterious female voice said.

Inside Optimus returned to the Joes, who both noticed something strange going on.

“The Night Ravens and Rattlers are holding back,” Duke noted. “Except for that one”

“Yes I noticed that too,” Optimus Prime. “Something doesn’t seem right.”

“Anyone notice that Night Raven is sleeker than other ones,” Scarlett said, studying the screen

“Yeah, it must be a new design,” Beachhead noted, seeing how gracefully it flew.

“It is now time to introduce the star of our gala,” Onslaught said, then turned to Major Bludd and Firefly. “Gentlemen, if you would be so kind as to hold your ground forces.”

“Of course, mate.” Major Bludd then turned to the Cobra soldiers. “All right, lads, stand back. Let the lady lead the way.”

The soldiers did as ordered and the Night Raven made a landing. To the horror and amazement of the Joes and Autobots the Night Raven began to transform.”

“Blow me down what’s happening?” Shipwreck asked

“That Night Raven is changing,” Lady Jaye said

“No, it’s transforming,” Huffer said. “But into what?”

“It’s no...it can’t be,” Optimus Prime couldn’t believe his optics. The Night Raven had transformed into Nightbird!

“Greetings, Autobots!” Nightbird said in the sly voice of a femme fatale. “The last time we fought was so much fun. But this time I shall truly enjoy it.”

Chapter Seven

In a split second Nightbird took out a bevy of weapons that she used on the Autobots. Her shuriken hit Fireflight causing him to crash, grappling hook tripped Sludge and made him fall over, nunchaku that not only blew away Smokescreen’s smoke but hit him numerous times. Her reflexes were better than ever as she evaded Slag’s fireball and drop kicked Mirage and knocked Road Rage and Strongarm’s heads together.

Sandstorm and Springer rushed to their fallen allies.

“Are you all right?” Sandstorm asked as he transformed and drove Road Rage and Strongarm back to base.

“Sure, just using my head,” Strongarm groaned in pain.

“Ugh, this is the first time I’ve been hurt like this since coming to Earth,” Road Rage added.

“So that’s Nightbird,” Springer mused as he helped Mirage to his feet. “She’s hot stuff”

“Yeah, she’s even hotter than last time,” Mirage said, remembering the battle he had with her in the past.

Broadside tried to grab Nightbird but she was able to easily crawl around the massive Triple Changer.

“Lady, you’re buzzing worse than an Insecticon” Broadside grumbled

“Speed is always greater than strength, Autobot,” Nightbird boasted. “And I have both.”

The Autobots and the Joes inside were shocked by Nightbird’s appearance on the battlefield.

“It is Nightbird, unbelievable,” Optimus Prime exclaimed.

“Cobra must have stolen her and reprogrammed her to serve them,” Ultra Magnus remarked to Duke.

“Err, yes that must be what they did,” Duke said nervously as he turned to Beachhead and Flint, who were equally worried. The Joes clearly knew something they didn’t want to tell their Autobot allies. Carly and Sparkplug noticed how nervous they were.

“Prime, Nightbird is giving us a pounding,” Blaster reported. “What’s the plan?”

“Let us at her, Prime, she’ll know why they call me Ramhorn.” The Autobot cassette and his companion Steeljaw were getting charged up to fight.

“No, Ramhorn, you don’t know how strong Nightbird is,” Prowl said. The two cassettebots growled at being unable to join the fray.

“Prowl is right, Nightbird is a very tough opponent,” Optimus added.

“Uh oh, I think our problems are getting even bigger,” Rewind said, pointing at the screen.

“Combaticons, I believe it is time to increase the heat,” Onslaught said. “Merge into Bruticus!” The Combaticons then combined into the massive Bruticus.

“Bruticus ready to crush Autobots!” the monstrous combiner growled.

“Save some for me, big boy,” Nightbird said as she charged up her katana

“Yes, Bruticus do what pretty ladybot wants,” Bruticus said heading to the headquarters

The Autobots were bracing themselves for battle. Still they wondered; how was Nightbird here?

The answer to that question came when the Decepticons made their way to the Terror Drome.

“You don’t really think these flesh creatures have anything to offer us, do you, Megatron?” Rumble asked.

“Chances are no, Rumble. Still I must admit my curiosity circuits are energized,” Megatron admitted

“Plus, even if they do, we can help ourselves to anything we want right?” Frenzy quipped.

“That works for me,” Megatron said as he chuckled with his minions.

The Decepticons were met by the leaders of Cobra with Serpantor riding aboard his Air Chariot.

“Megatron, at last we meet,” Serpantor said, greeting his giant guests. “We at Cobra have studied your encounters on our planet”

“As we have with your attempts at conquering the Earth for yourself,” Megatron said. “But to be blunt, many of my Decepticons are skeptical of the benefits of an alliance with you. And I have reservations as well.”

“Your doubt is understandable but I believe you will find if we merge our forces it will be mutually beneficial,” Serpantor said, floating to a long table with a sheet on it.

“But of course we do not expect you to believe words, Megatron,” Destro said, nearing the table with several Crimson Guards. “You need proof.”

“We certainly do,” Starscream interjected. “And believe me it must be impressive.”

With that Serpantor motioned to remove the sheet. What the Decepticons saw surprised them greatly. It was Nightbird! They began to chat among themselves.

“Is that really her?” Thundercracker said.

“She does have the look of a warrior” Razorclaw said impressed

“Seeing her like that gives me the creeps” Dirge said of her being in stasis

“Nightbird can it be?” Megatron said nearing her in reverence. As Cobra had predicted, the Decepticons were enchanted by her

“Yes” Baroness said nearing Nightbird “We saw the footage of her in battle and were impressed”

“You can thank Storm Shadow for freeing her” Cobra Commander pointed to his loyal lieutenant who bowed in respect

“She is indeed a formidable warrior” Storm Shadow said to Megatron

“More than you know” Megatron said admiring her

“Dr Mindbender told me about her previous assault on the Autobots” Serpenter said “I had planned on reverse engineering her to be the basis of drones but instead...”

“Instead I can make her a fully sentient living being just I did with Serpenter” Dr Mindbender promised as he and Scrap Iron brought out a device

“But with your assistance we can do even more” Destro said “We could make her...”

“Yes, a Decepticon!” Megatron said interrupting. Nightbird had stirred feelings in Megatron no other being had done before. Still he had to think before making an action

“I need a moment with my Decepticons” Megatron told Serpenter

“Of course by all means take your time” Serpantor said with uncharacteristic patience. He could tell Megatron had taken the bait

As Megatron walked back to the Decepticons, Dr. Mindbender whispered to Serpantor

“It is just as you predicted great Serpantor” Dr Mindbender said “He’s wrapped around your finger”

“Yes Dr. Mindbender” Serpantor said as he stared at the Decepticons “With luck, the Joes will be finished soon”

“Megatron don’t trust them” Starscream said “These flesh creatures think they can manipulate you”

“Starscream’s right for once” Slipstream said “We have to be careful”

“I am quite aware of the trickery of humans” Megatron said then thought hard and turned to his troops “Do any of you have a transformation cog?”

The other Decepticons were unsure, but Long Haul saved the moment “Yeah I got one right here!” he said as he handed it to Megatron

“Well done Long Haul!” Megatron said as the Construction beamed at the accolade

“Hook, Bombshell come with me” Megatron ordered as they walked to the Cobra forces

“Well Megatron, do we have a deal?” Serpantor asked

“We do on one condition” Megatron said “Nightbird will become a true Decepticon and join our ranks!”

“Agreed” Serpantor said as Dr. Mindbender and Scrap Iron hooked her up to the equipment

“Hook, can you install this transformation cog?” Megatron asked

“With ease, almighty Megatron” Hook boasted and indeed as he promised he inserted the cog with no issue

“Bombshell, give Dr. Mindbender one of your cerbero-shells. It can be used to base her brain module” Megatron commanded

“Careful doctor, my cerebro-shells are far more advanced than anything you’re used too” Bombshell said to Dr. Mindbender as he produced one

“Oh yes this is outstanding” Dr. Mindbender said admiring the shell

“Enough!” Serpantor commanded “Begin the procedure!”

Dr. Mindbender did as ordered and activated his device. Massive amounts of energy and electricity pulsed through Nightbird.

“Doctor, we’re at full power” Scrap Iron said “We have to turn off or there will an overload”

Scrap Iron turned off the power and both the Cobra and Decepticons inspected Nightbird

“Did it work?” Megatron asked looking for a response

“Ha, that’s what you get trying to mingle with our superior technology” Starscream said, causing tension in the room. Serpantor was angered at the failure

But Serpantor’s anger washed away along with the tension when light came to Nightbird’s eyes.

“Megatron, is that you?” a feminine yet powerful voice said. It was Nightbird she spoke, the experiment was a success

“Yes, yes it’s me Nightbird” Megatron said as he helped unhook Nightbrd and embraced her

The other Decepticons congregated around the newest Deceptcon but Starscream kept his distance, noticing the Cobra leaders smiling with satisfaction that they had manipulated Megatron. All but Cobra Commander who was distant himself studying the situation

“ I remember you freeing me, letting me battle as a warrior” Nightbird said

“The battle has only begun my dear” Megatron said “Soon we will defeat the Autobots and conquer this planet”

“I am ready for action” Nightbird said with a gleam in her eyes

“Excellent, we just have to give you an alternate mode to be a true Transformer” Megatron said

Megatron and Nightbird turned to the Cobra elites.

“Serpentor, I salute you” Megatron said “I have learned humans should not be so easily underestimated.”

“Naturally,” Serpentor exclaimed. “I presume all Nightbird needs to be the ultimate warrior is to be able to transform.”

“Ah you have read my mind,” Megatron mused. “Nightbird, my dear, do you have an alternate mode in mind?”

“I think as a symbol of our alliance I would like to take the form of one of Cobra’s vehicles,” Nightbird said as she admired her upgraded body.

“But of course,” Baroness said, turning on a monitor showing the various vehicles that Cobra used in battle. “I’m sure you’ll find a satisfactory choice.”

Nightbird studied the screen for various choices including Rattler, HISS, Ferret, Firebat, Water Moccasin, Stun and Stinger and finally found her choice in the Night Raven

“So she chose the Night Raven” Zarana muse in the corner with the other Dreadnoks “Not a bad choice”

“Yeah but I was hoping she’d choose the Thunder Machine” Thrasher said with pride in his vehicle

“An excellent choice my dear” Megatron said as Nightbird copied the schematics of a Night Raven and transformed for the first time

“She’s a true Decepticon now, almighty Megatron” Scrapper lauded his leader

“Of course Scrapper” Megatron said “But now we have to plan our next course of action”

“Might I suggest an assault on the Autobots by Cobra forces,” Destro said. “The Autobots will never suspect it, but I’m willing to wager they would be loath to harm a human foe.”

“Hey yeah those Autobozos are real wimps,” Motormaster added. “They probably won’t even fight back”

“I agree,” Serpentor said, rising into the air on his Air Chariot. “Mobilize a strike force on the Autobots. Nightbird will deal the final blow and we shall get the technology from this singer! This I command!”

Megatron turned to the Combaticons. “Onslaught you will take the Combaticons to aid in battle.”

“Sounds like a real melee. I love it!” Brawl said getting pumped up

“We are honored, Megatron, but why do you want us to intervene?” Onslaught inquired.

“First I want Nightbird to have Decepticon support.” Megatron glared at Swindle. “Secondly, I do not wish to raise suspicions and you Combaticons are known to be working with human mercenaries.”

“Heh, sure if the price is right,” Swindle said sheepishly

Chapter Eight

Just as Destro predicted the battle with the Autobots was a one-sided affair. With the added muscle of Bruticus and Nightbird, Cobra was almost at the entrance

“It’s looking bad Prime” Ultra Magnus said grimly “Defensor is keeping the shield up and the Aerialbots can’t form Superion because Fireflight was injured”

“Optimus, my superior firepower would easily hold these ruffians at bay” Sky Lynx said over the comlink

“That’s the problem Sky Lynx, your firepower is too powerful for the humans” Optimus said. He was running out of options

“We’re almost at the entrance prepare for a full assault” Major Bludd ordered

Just when all appeared lost a flash of light beamed from inside the base. All of a sudden, the enemy forces found themselves with a super warrior Autobot in front of them.

The appearance of the robot shocked Bruticus so much he disengage into his Combaticon components

“No it’s impossible!” Onslaught said “It’s Halonix Maximus”

“What? I thought we scrapped him millions of years ago” Brawl said

“You’re seeing now Brawl!” Vortex said in fear

“I for one have no desire for a rematch” Blast Off said remembering their last battle on Cybertron

“Well, well what do we have here” the booming voice of Halonix Maximus said “If it isn't those knaves the Combaticons. And I see you have corrupted these humans too”

Suddenly, Halonix unleashed a sonic wave that scrambled the vehicles on the ground and land

“Ugh, if he keeps that up we'll crash” Wild Weasel said keeping his Rattler in the air

“Megatron we have real trouble here” Kaskade reported with concern

“That's a trick, the Autobots did the same thing before” Starscream said remembering Hound's hologram of Halonix

“I don't know holograms that can fight back like that!” Thrust said

“Nightbird might be injured” Megatron said with concern “Decepticons retreat!”

Cobra Commander said to Serpenter “If they are fleeing, our forces should too. We can rely on Storm Shadow on the inside”

“Oh very well, Cobra retreat!” Serpenter ordered

Just like that the battle was over the Cobra and Decepticon forces made a quick retreat. Nightbird gave a rueful glance before transforming and flying away

“The snakes are leaving!” Flint said with relief

“Yeah, Hound great job with that hologram” Sparkplug said “I didn’t think you could make them so powerful”

“Sparkplug I didn’t make that Hologram” Hound said amazed by what he saw

“Whatever that was it came from the base” Lifeline said noticing the stream of energy “Look it’s coming from over there”

The assorted Joes and Autobots ran to the director of what caused the hologram. To their amazement the source was the earring from Jem and even more amazing Jem transformed her appearance into Jerrica Benton!

The awkward silence was only seconds but felt like hours. The silence was finally closed by Grimlock barging in

“Ha, everyone see bad guys run? They must be scared of me Grimlock!” Grimlock said picking his teeth with the hand of a BAT

All the while Storm Shadow was taking account and sending all the information to the Terror Drome

Comic Issue 2- Knowing is Half the Battle

Chapter 1

The battle with Cobra had been short but had serious implications. The assembled Joes and Autobots saw to their amazement that Jem was actually Jerrica Benton. Before anyone could make a comment, Optimus Prime received a message

“Prime, we have a squad of planes heading to the base” Hubcap said worriedly “It could be Cobra regrouping”

“Put them on the screen, Hubcap” Optimus said. To everyone’s relief the planes were Skystrikers and Conquests along with Tomahawks

“Looks like the cavalry's here” Duke said

“Better late than never” Springer muttered, causing Arcee to shush him. Tensions were high enough

Gen. Hawk led the Joes to the base seeing the destroyed BATs and Havocs as proof of the battle

When they were informed by Optimus Prime and the Joes, Gen. Hawk was greatly concerned and held a meeting right there. All the while, Perceptor and Wheeljack were studying the earrings that caused the hologram

“All right young lady, I think you should tell us everything you know. This is national,,no global security” Gen. Hawk said sternly

“Yes sir I understand” Jerrica said nervously

“One thing bugs me Prime” Bumblebee said “How did Cobra get their hands on Nightbird?”

“Yes Bumblebee, even more concerning is why didn’t Dr. Fujiyama inform us?” Optimus mused

“Err.. I can explain that” Gen Hawk said reservedly “You see last month Cobra made a raid on Dr. Fujiyama’s lab and we had him swear to secrecy about her abduction”

The Autobots were not impressed by this clandestine operation. The Autobots found the governments of Earth nations often kept secrets that had serious implications.

“I see..if I may ask Gen. Hawk why didn’t you inform us of Cobra acquiring Nightbird?” Ultra Magnus said sternly

“I’m sorry Ultra Magnus, but when it comes to Cobra all information is need to know” Duke added noticing the looks of Autobots

“Well everyone knows I keep secrets” Red Alert said with hurt feelings

“Yeah, did they think we’d go on Twenty Questions?” Jazz added

Other Autbots were chatting about the goings on

“Me Swoop can’t believe she really Jem” Swoop said to his fellow Dinobots

“Me Snarl can’t believe no one knew before” Snarl said

“Hey, what do you mean by that you dino dweeb!” Kimber said upset

“You, Kimber always with Jem and never Jerrica at same time, no one ever ask question?” Snarl said innocently. His remark caused Kimber to blush and walk away slowly

“I don’t see any Cybertonium, Perceptor” Wheeljack said peering into the earrings with Perceptor

“No but this circuitry is highly advanced, definitely from Cybertron” Perceptor said
“Fascinating”

Just then Ratchet and First Aid ran by with injured Autobots. Nightbird had given the Autobots a real beating

“Gang way everyone!” Ratchet ordered “We have wounded to tend to!”

“Those Autobots took a licking, but they’re still ticking” Roadblock said watching Hoist help repair Cosmos

“You’ll be as good as new Cosmos” Hoist said

“Thanks Hoist, you know Nightbird is faster then she looks” Cosmos said

“Aw, my crankshaft is sore!” Gears complained “And my axles are squeaking”

“You think that’s bad, my fender is dented” Sunstreaker said

“Ok you two that’s enough whining!” Ratchet said looking over them “You’ll be fine”

“Yeah look at poor Fireflight” Velocity said attending to the Aerialbot “He’s covered in these shurikens”

“Yikes look at that” Gung-ho said to Dusty “That’s gotta hurt”

“Reminds me of the time I fell on a cactus” Dusty said wincing “There were needles all over me”

“Don’t worry guys I’ll be OK” Fireflight joked as First Aid removed the shuriken “That Nightbird is a real thorn in my side”

“And her weapons are sharp” Skydive said studying the shuriken and putting them aside

“Excuse me, we’re medics can we help you?” Doc and Lifeline approached Ratchet

“Well I don’t know, Autobot anatomy is complicated and different from humans” Ratchet thought over

“That’s OK Ratchet I’ll show them what to do” First Aid said

“All right, First Aid, we can use the help” Ratchet said as he attended to Tailgate

“Thanks a lot!” Lifeline said helping a female Autobot who resembled Arcee “Hi I’m Lifeline!”

“What a coincidence that’s my name too” The Autobot Lifeline said with a laugh as they attended to Swerve

“Hey, is there a member of GI Joe named Swerve?” Swerve asked

“Uh,,no I don’t think so” Lifeline said a bit amazed

“Excuse me ma’am” Chip said as he wheeled away past Lady Jaye “Ratchet I have that energon scalpel!”

“Thanks, Chip, can you give me a hand here?” Ratchet said as they attended to Smokescreen

“The Autobots really took a beating” Lady Jaye said “And they really went out of their way not to harm Cobra”

“That’s the Autobots miss, they value human life and would never harm even one of us,” Sparkplug said with clear admiration. Lady Jaye was beginning to see why her daughter idolized them so much

Chapter 2

As the Autobots attended to their wounded, the Joes and Autobots sat down with Jem and the Holograms

“The truth now Miss Benton” Duke asked “How did you come across advanced and alien technology”

“OK” Jem said with a heavy sigh “The truth is, a few years ago my father Emmet Benton created a musical device that created three-dimensional images. He called it Synergy and...”

Before Jem could go any further it led to a mass gasp by the Autobots

“Excuse me miss, did you say Synergy” Optimus Prime said amazed

“Um, yes, is that a problem?” Jem and the other Holograms noticed the Autobots sudden interest as did the Joes

“Could it really be her?” Beachcomber said

“Suffering sea lions” Seaspray gurgled “She saved my chassis back in Cybertron”

“Mine too, Seaspray” Trailbreaker “I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for her”

“What or who is Synergy? Do you guys know?” Spike asked Silverbolt and Bumblebee

“Search me Spike” Silverbolt said “But she sounds like someone special”

“Oh she's definitely special” Bumblebee said thinking of past memories of Synergy

“Prime if this is true we gotta tell Chromia!” Ironhide pleaded “You know that...”

“Indeed I do old friend” Optimus said. “But we have to be very careful. Windblade would you please call Elita-1 on Cybertron and let her know we may need her come to Earth and I'll explain later”

“Yes Optimus I’ll do that right now” Windblade

“Whoa, whoa are you telling me Synergy is from Cybertron?” Shana said “I can’t believe it”

“Me neither! Our dad created her” Kimber insisted

“That’s exactly not true Miss Benton” Gen. Hawk said shocking the Holograms

“Gen. Hawk, what do you mean?” Jem asked with concern

“Wait Gen. Hawk sir maybe we should keep this classified” Beachhead said

“I think tonight is the night to tell the truth, Beachhead” Gen. Hawk said “I knew your father well. He had a defense contract and helped design the communications system that we use even to this day”

“How about that” Dial-tone said thinking how he uses that system every day

“But Emmet Benton was no war profiteer” Gen. Hawk continued “He truly loved his nation and wanted to provide it with the state of the art technology. Before he passed, he was sworn to secrecy about a top secret project. An army recon team came across what looked like an alien ship but no aliens inside. Inside the ship was a computer mainframe. It was beyond our understanding, but not your father was able to crack the code and create a sophisticated supercomputer.

“Gen. Hawk, are you telling me our father created Synergy from an alien computer?” Jem asked dumbfounded. When Gen. Hawk nodded the Holograms were at a loss for words.

But it was Gen. Hawk who was dumbfounded when Optimus Prime had Teletran-1 put on screen the ship they found

“Tell me, General, did the ship the soldier found look like this?” Optimus asked

“Yes, that is it exactly!” Gen. Hawk said “Tell me Optimus, do you know the race of aliens?”

“That’s no ship” Optimus said as the Autobots became more animated “That’s an Autobot escape pod. A pod from this very ship. Synergy is not a supercomputer. She is an Autobot”

Prime’s news was an even bigger shock. Jem was afraid she might faint. Synergy was an alien?

“Optimus, what are you saying? Jem asked barely able to get the words out

“Synergy was an Autobot, one of the most respected and loved. She was a moral compass who helped make sure we Autobots stayed on a righteous path and not sink to the depths of the Decepticons.” Optimus said with a gleam in his optics

“Millions of years ago when we departed Cybertron for energy sources, Synergy was a part of the crew. She was a navigator on the look for planets both without intelligent life and rich in energy. Not an easy task” Optimus explained

“When the Decepticons boarded our ship, a concern was Synergy’s safety” Optimus said then letting Ironhide continue

“I wanted to make sure she was safe from those Decepticreeps and got her in an escape pod. After we woke up I thought the worst and I failed” Ironhide said sadly but they had a hopeful tone “But if what you’re saying is true, then she’s still alive!”

“Easy Ironhide, we don’t know if this is our friend Synergy” Optimus said but thought carefully “But there is a way to find out. Tell me Jem where is she located?”

“Well she’s at our home Starlight Mansion” Jem said “But the Starlight Girls are there. We can’t have an army of Autobots and Joes storm in and scare them”

“You are right about that Miss Benton” Optimus conceded “Our first priority is the children in your care”

“I’m sorry Optimus Prime but our first concern is making sure whatever this Synergy is” Duke interjected “We’ll have to get them to clear out and now”

“But, but...” Jem struggled to fight but it was no use “If you don’t mind I have to make a call for the house mother at Starlight Mansion”

The Protectobots then walked to Jem

“Excuse me Miss Jerrica, err Jem but we always have kids visit Protectobot Headquarters” Hot Spot said

“Yeah, we even have overnights with their guardians” Streetwise added “You can have the kids at our place”

“And if you like they can be female Autobots” Blades offered “That might be more appropriate”

“Yes thank you that’s very thoughtful of you Protectobots” Jem said

“That sounds great!” Strongarm added “I’ll get everything set up!”

“I’m sure the girls will love that” Jem said turning to Gen. Hawk “That is acceptable for GI Joe I hope?”

Gen. Hawk nodded at her request and Arcee and Windblade took them to the communication bay for privacy. As they walked both the Holograms and Autobots were giving Duke a rather nasty look

“Duke you could have handled that a lot more diplomatically” Lady Jaye said thinking from a mother’s point of view

“Yeah trust me it’s hard enough wrangling one kid let alone a group of them” Flint said

“I know, I know” Duke conceded “But this is too important to worry about hurt feelings”

Windblade returned to Optimus Prime in the meantime “Optimus I contacted Elita-1. She boarded Omega Supreme along with troops. They’ll be here soon”

“Good Windblade” Optimus said confining to Ultra Magnus “Ultra Magnus old friend I didn’t want to raise suspicions, but I recognize the energy signature. It is Synergy!’

“Prime if that’s the case we have to tread very carefully” Ultra Magnus advised and Optimus nodded in agreement

As Jem made the plans for the Starlight Girls to visit the Protectobot, the Joes and Autobots made their plans, but what none of them knew was that the entire time Storm Shadow was spying on the goings on and was giving all the information back to Cobra!

Chapter 3

Back at the Terror Drome the Decepticons and Cobra were regrouping after their retreat

“I can’t believe you fell for that hologram Onslaught” Starscream chided the Combaticon commander

“I swore it was Halonix Maximus himself” Onslaught said “You’ve never fought him battle, I have and never wish to do so again”

“Well I have. I don’t blame you for running” Astrotrain said thinking of a past battle

“Silence all of you!” Megatron commanded “The important thing is that Nightbird is unharmed. Aren’t you my dear?”

“Oh course Megatron, I only wish that I could have completed my mission” Nightbird said reassuringly. Her first battle in ages had been invigorating for her. All the while the leaders of Cobra were taking assessment of the situation

“Bah we were so close to victory!” Serpenter complained

“On the bright side oh, Cobra Emperor we now have the Decepticons under our control” Dr. Mindbender said

“True the next time we will be victorious” Destro said “And as you can see we have other contingencies planned” Showing Megatron and Serpantor a plan on the screen

“Yes they have intrigued me” Megatron said speaking of what he saw “Do you think you can control them?”

“So far we have not” Destro admitted “But if we merge our technologies we may be able to enthrall them into our service”

It was then that Storm Shadow called in “This is Storm Shadow to Cobra, come in”

“We hear you Storm Shadow” The Tele-Viper at the station answered. Baroness then interjected

“Tell me Storm Shadow have you learned anything?” Baroness asked

“I have indeed Baroness” Storm Shadow reported “The hologram that interrupted the attack came from the singer Jem’s earrings”

“I guess that’s why they’re called the Holograms” Skywarp quipped causing Slipstream to roll her eyes and other Decepticons groan at the pun

“When the hologram depowered, it showed that Jem is actually Jerrica Benton” Storm Shadow continued

“An interesting fact” Tomax said turning to Xamot “We could use that information brother”

“Yes for some corporate espionage” Xamot agreed “And luckily we know the perfect fool to do our dirty work”

“A most useful idiot” the Twins said in unison

“I refuse to believe I was tricked by a hologram used by a mere singer” Blast Off said with embarrassment

“I agree” Kaskade said “I will not stand for this slight”

“Still hologram technology that can fool Decepticons must be the source” Megatron mused

“Storm Shadow tell me did you hear anything more about this hologram technology” Serpenter demanded

“She said it came from something called Synergy” Storm Shadow said

The mention of Synergy caused a hush among the Decepticons much like the Autobots had

“Can it really be her Synergy?” Scavenger said to his fellow Constructicons

“Oh if that’s true that’s wild, wild wild!” Mixmaster said excitedly

Blitzwing had a bewildered look on his face. Could it be that Synergy was alive?

“That’s impossible, she disappeared over four million years ago” Megatron insisted
“Ever since we...”

“Departed Cybertron on the Nemesis” Soundwave interrupted. His statement was true, Synergy had disappeared that time. Had she been on the shuttle as well?

“Hey wait a minute if Synergy was with the Autobots then wouldn’t she have been when we all woke up on Earth?” Thundercracker said

“I did hear that this Synergy was located at her home the Starlight Mansion” Storm Shadow continued “The Autobots and Joes will coordinate there once the children in her care are removed from the domicile”

“Then we too shall go to this Mansion with a full force!” Serpantor bellowed “This I command!”

“Storm Shadow return to the Terror Drome immediately we must plan our attack” Destro ordered

“Wait, no have him head to Starlight Manion” Nightbird said “Megatron my love I have an idea to raise the odds in our favor” She then whispered her idea to Megatron and Serpantor causing them to smile wickedly

“A brilliant plan my dear” Serpantor said “Megatron your love has the makings of a military strategist”

“Yes she’s as wise as she is beautiful” Megatron said causing Nightbird to almost blush

“Destro darling why don’t you ever say I’m as wise as I’m beautiful?” Baroness said jealously

As Destro stammered an explanation causing both Cobra and Decepticons to snicker at the awkwardness Megatron and Serpantor set their plan in action

“Combaticons, Kaskade you will soon regain your dignity at your earlier embarrassment” Megatron then turned to Skywarp and Slipstream “You two will also take part in this mission”

“You can count on me Megatron” Slipstream said with vigor as with Skywarp now rolling his eyes at his sibling

Serpantor then turned to Zartan “Zartan I want your Dreadnoks to take part in this mission”

“Why not” Zartan said turning to his troops “You lot haven’t had any action for awhile”

“Sure Zartan you know we’re ready” Buzzer said revving up his saw

Megatron then told the assembled troops the plan

“Ugh, well if those are my orders so be it” Kaskade said. She then turned to her friend Flamewar

“Hey Flamewar, be a pal and help me on this mission” Kaskade pleaded “You know how I feel about humans”

“Oh all right” Flamewar relented “You’re lucky I like you” She then transformed “C’mon let’s hit the road!”

“Hah this’ll be easier than taking candy from a baby” Torch boasted

“Yeah can I come too dad, please?” Zanya asked her father

“Of course! In fact with this job you will play a key role” Zartan said, causing Zanya to brighten with glee

“Yes let’s get on with it” Megatron said dryly and then turned to Laserbeak and Ratbat “Laserbeak, Ratbat I’m entrusting you both to spy when the Autobots arrive.”

Laserbeak and Ratbat screeched and flew away. The Decepticons and Cobra planned their course of action. While they were planning Blitzwing approached Megatron

“Megatron if it’s true that Synergy is alive, we must inform Shockwave” Blitzwing said with uncharacteristic solemnity

“Yes you are correct, Blitzwing” Megatron mused “Starscream contact Shockwave and tell him...Starscream? Blast, where is he?”

Megatron turned to Sunstorm “Sunstorm find your two-faced brother immediately!”

“Never fear Lord Megatron I shall find my misguided brother” Sunstorm promised

All the while as the plans were going on Blitzwing was thinking back to several million years back on Cybertron.

Ten million years ago, Blitzwing remembered back to a time when he was near termination. Low on energy, surrounded by feral Sharkticons and a Quintesson overseer he was prepared to his fate

“There Sharkticons, punish that faulty unit with extreme prejudice” The Quintesson ordered

Before the Sharkticons could pounce they were blinded by a flash of energy. They were then confused by the various sights they saw. One of which was their target now next to their commander. The Sharkticons then jumped to where he appeared to be

“No you fools, that's not him. Can't you tell a hologram?” The Quintesson yelled “Bah, Klementia was right we made you too stupid. And he escaped!”

Indeed Blitzwing had been saved and his rescuer handed him an energon cube “Here take this you need to recharge”

“Yes thank you, I thought I was a goner” Blitzwing said. He was then surprised by what he saw “That symbol! You're one of the consumer goods”

“And you're one of the military hardware” Synergy retorted “But for now we're all slaves with a common purpose and a common goal for freedom. I hope you'll join us”

Mulling it over Blitzwing responded “I guess I don't have a choice, but I hope you're ready to fight force with force”

“I don't like violence, but I admit there are times it is necessary” Synergy said “I'll inform Beta and A3. My name's Synergy”

“I have no name” He admitted ruefully

“Well then we’ll just have to give you one!” Synergy said in a friendly tone. Despite his nature, Blitzwing couldn’t help smiling back

In the present he was brought back by Astrotrain who whispered “Blitzwing quit it. You’re freaking out the humans” Pointing out the Cobra members staring

“Err...yes of course” Blitzwing said regaining his composure “C’mon we have Autobots to mangle!”

Chapter Four

While the others were planning, Starscream was off by himself flanked by Runamuck and Runabout the Battlechargers. They were dumb muscle but useful for his goals

He too was planning how to take advantage of the situation at hand. But he was at a loss. Soon he heard a noise and aim his null ray

“Who goes there?” Starscream demanded

“I should ask you that question” Said a voice in the shadows. It was Cobra Commander, flanked by Firefly, Copperhead and Major Bludd

“Hmmpf... if it isn’t the former leader of Cobra” Starscream scoffed

“Once and future leader of Cobra!” Cobra Commander yelled then composed himself “But I digress. It seems that I am not the only one with ambitions of leadership”

“True flesh creature, I have my optics set on leadership of the Decepticons” Starscream said coyly “But what concern is it to you?”

“It occurs to me that we can help each other out” Cobra Commander said “I’ve been keeping tabs on you Transformers for years. Years more than the “Great Emperor” Serpenter” Cobra Commander said with disdain “And you, you are a scientist, aren’t you?”

“Your information is correct” Starscream said, impressed “But how can you help me?”

“Like I said we can help each other” Cobra Commander said showing Starscream a panel with a hi-tech metal uniform “I’ve been working on an elite unit to help me take over control of Cobra. I call it Python Patrol”

“Python Patrol you say?” Starscream said smirking “Why not the Boa Brigade?”

“Ha. Python Patrol!” Runamuck said snickering “Good one Starscream!”

“Yeah, cause they’re snakes” Runabout added

“Nevertheless the name” Cobra Commander said gritting his teeth “I think you’ll find it to be highly advanced in stealth”

“Oh really?” Starscream taunted “Highly unlikely”

“Yes really” Cobra Commander said his mask hiding a grin “Just look behind you”

To Starscream and the Battlejumpers’ surprise they found themselves a Cobra ASP and Stun right behind them. The snake-patterned vehicles were manned by Cobra

Officers, Vipers and Crimson Guards clad in matching black, yellow and red uniforms.

“My compliments my warning sensors never activated” Starscream said admiring the vehicles

“Yes the uniforms and plating of Python Patrol has them protected from all electronic detection systems.” Cobra Commander bragged “The soldiers of Python Patrol are completely loyal to me”

“Does that include your lieutenants?” Starscream asked of Firefly, Copperhead and Major Bludd

“Absolutely mate” Major Bludd said “Cobra commander is our leader”

“We didn’t join Cobra to be bossed around by some sci-fi experiment” Copperhead added

“I think you’ll find I have a great deal of support for leadership of Cobra” Cobra Commander went on “And once back in power I would be more than glad to help support equally superior leadership”

Starscream quickly understood Cobra Commander’s offer and considered it

“Perhaps we can help each other. Like you said I’m a scientist. My null ray could power your Python Patrol’s stealth abilities” He then looked at the schematics of Cobra Commander’s battle suit “And I think I can augment this suit you’re planning with super durable metals”

“Excellent, Starscream, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful relationship” Cobra Commander said as the two laughed. The laughter was interrupted by a shadow the size of Starscream. Was it Megatron?

To Starscream’s relief he saw that it was his brother Sunstorm.

“There you are brother” Sunstorm said “We have a mission to plan. You can talk with your human friend later”

“Yes, yes I’ll be right there you go on ahead” Starscream said with surprising kindness in his tone. When Sunstorm left, Starscream turned back to Cobra Commander “We’ll have to plan later”

“Agreed” Cobra Commander said “But tell me can you trust this pair and that other Seeker?”

“Oh yes don’t worry about Runamuck and Runabout. They’re dumb and just look for action” Cobra Commander nodded knowing that type of lackey “And as for Sunstorm, my brother is loyal to the Decepticon cause. A loyalty Megatron takes advantage of”

Cobra Commander noticed the bitterness when Starscream spoke about his brother and dropped the subject for now

Chapter 5

While Cobra and the Decepticons were planning their attack, the Autobots and Joes were planning their next course of action. Jem spoke with Optimus Prime and General Hawk

“Ok Optimus Prime, Mrs. Bailey called and she and the girls left Starlight Mansion. We can head out” Jem said

“Good to know” Optimus said then he turned to the assembled Autobots “All right Autobots this is the moment of truth. We’ll find out if it really is Synergy”

“Windblade, we need you to stay by and keep an eye on the Decepticons” Ultra Magnus said

“You can count on me Ultra Magnus” Windblade promised

“Do you think it really is her Prime?” Arcee said

“We’ll soon find out Arcee” Optimus Prime

In an instance the Autobots all transformed into their vehicle mode. Spike, Sparkplug and Carly

“Excuse me Jem, would you and her friends like to travel back with us?” Arcee asked referring to herself and Strongarm

“Uh yes thank you Arcee” Jem said as she and the Holograms boarded the two female Autobots

Gen. Hawk turned to the assembled Joes “All right everyone board an Autobot and we’ll see what this Synergy really is?”

“Yes, sir Gen. Hawk, but what if this Synergy really is an Autobot? Beachhead asked

“Beachhead we’ll just have to cross that path when we get there” Gen. Hawk said with reservation

The Joes then went to board the Autobots on the convoy

“Hey I’ve always wanted to ride in a Lamborghini” Gung-ho said getting into Sunstreaker

“I don’t blame you I’m state of the art on the road” Sunstreaker boasted

“Oh great, that bird better not shed any feathers inside me” Gears griped

“Awk, birds molt, not shed” Polly squawked

“Knock it off featherface” Shipwreck complained, he realized he picked the wrong Autobot to ride in

“Marissa will never believe this, will she Lady Jaye” Flint said as they boarded Jazz

“Marissa, is she a friend of yours?” Jazz asked

“Actually she’s our daughter” Lady Jaye said thinking how she’d love to be doing this herself

“It looks like all of your troops are ready to leave” Ultra Magnus told Duke

“Hmm...what? Oh good then we can go" Duke said he was momentarily distracted as Scarlett decided to ride along with Snake Eyes inside Ironhide

Once Gen. Hawk entered Optimus Prime, Prime ordered the Autobots “Autobots, Transform and Roll Out!”

Soon the convoy of Autobots and their human passengers headed to Starlight Mansion. Despite the distance they were at the mansion far sooner than expected. But unbeknownst to any of the travelers they were being followed by Ratbat

All the while, the Decepticons and Cobra were watching

“Ratbat is following the Autobots undetected” Soundwave said

“Excellent Soundwave and Laserbeak is stationed at the Starlight House,” Megatron said, studying with intent. “Soon we will know the truth

Chapter 6

Jem and the Holograms immediately led the Autobots and Joes to the secret room where Synergy was hidden. The room was large enough for the Autobots to enter as it had to be in order to house Synergy

“This is Autobots the moment of truth” Optimus Prime said nervously

“Leakin’ lubricants I can’t wait” Ironhide said excitedly “My fuel pump is beating like crazy”

“She really means a lot to you, doesn't she Ironhide?” Scarlett said with concern. During the ride she and Ironhide had spoken a lot about Synergy

“She sure does Scarlett. And she means even more to someone real special to me” Ironhide said thinking

Jem opened the chamber where Synergy was. The Joes and Autobots were presented to a massive mainframe with keyboard

“Here she is everyone, Synergy” Jem said presenting her

“This is Synergy?” Duke said confused “All I see is a computer”

“Not just any computer” Mainframe said impressed “This is beyond state of the art”

“That was Emmet Bennett” Gen. Hawk said “He was a real innovator”

Meanwhile the Autobots studied the computer marveling. It looked very familiar

“Is that her Optimus?” Spike asked

“Can it be her, dare I hope?” Optimus said reverently

Suddenly the computer flashed to life and a face came on screen, The Autobots were even more excited as it was a familiar face

“Hello Jerrica I apologize for shutting down” Synergy said “I had a power surge when I sensed you were in danger and...” Synergy stopped when she noticed the various GI Joe members “Wait who are all you?”

“Now Synergy don’t panic” Jem said reassuringly “Last night we were under attack and you saved with a hologram”

Synergy then noticed the Autobots and her optics and her answer was the one the Autobots hoped for

“Optimus is that you?” Synergy said

The Autobots gushed with a flurry of emotions. It amazed the Joes. Some were ecstatic, others were almost unable to speak. Beachhead for once was shocked by how overwhelmed he was by it. Some of the Autobots were almost on the verge of tears? Before this, he thought they were just machines

“Yes Synergy, it’s me” Optimus said in a warm tone

“It is you Optimus” Synergy said getting emotional herself “All my friends I remember you all. Bumblebee, Wheeljack, Prowl, Jazz, Arcee, Ironhide! My friends I’m so happy”

“We should have known it was you Synergy when we saw that amazing hologram” Bumblebee said

“Yeah, you taught me everything about holograms” Hound said

“But I’m confused, why was I unable to sense you before?” Synergy said confused

“The way I figure it when Emmet Benton repaired you he must have crossed some wires” Wheeljack who then turned to Jem “Err.. no disrespect miss. It’s just Cybertronian technology is a lot different”

“No that’s OK, I understand” Jem said “My dad must have thought Synergy was a computer”

“Say Synergy why don’t we give you a check-up” Ratchet said

“Yes thank you Ratchet, I am certainly due one. My last one was over six million years ago” Synergy said as she laughed with the Autobots

Soon Ratchet, Hoist and Perceptor were checking over Synergy. During the procedure the Autobots spoke with Synergy chatting about past and present events. All the while the assembled humans had different opinions

Spike and Sparkplug were happy to see their Autobot friends reunited with an old friend. Jem and Holograms were shocked to learn after all these years Synergy was more than they thought she was.

“Well Synergy your systems look to be good” Ratchet said peering in Perceptor in his microscope mode

“Yes your spark is a healthy glow and your brain module is fully intact” Hoist said giving a maintenance check when a spark flew “Oops, I hope that didn’t hurt”

“No, no that just tickles a little” Synergy said with a laugh

“I only see one concern and that it...” Perceptor was explaining when all of a sudden a loud noise was outside Starlight Mansion

“What was that? Are we under attack?” Flint asked worriedly

“Oh no, not here!” Kimber said worriedly

“Everyone don’t worry it’s not a Decepticon attack” Ultra Magnus said reassuringly
“It’s Omega Supreme” Ultra Magnus turned to Optimus “I spoke with Elita-1, she has Chromia with her”

“Oh my” Optimus said “We better go greet them”

The assembled Autobots, Joes and others went outside to see Omega Supreme land outside Starlight Mansion with surprising grace. A group of Autobots departed him including Elita-1, Chromia, Firestar, Greenlight, Moonracer, Kup, Blurr, Hot Rod, the Technobots and a small female Autobot

“Destination arrived” Omega Supreme said with his usual taciturn voice as he transformed “Passengers departing”

“So this is Earth? Sure is different then Cybertron” Hot Rod said looking at the scenery

“This isn't my first organic planet lad” Kup mused “Reminds me of the time I went to the Planet Beest and...”

“Kup I do love your tales but we should meet up with Optimus as soon as possible” Elita-1 politely interjected

“The sooner the better” Chromia grouched “I don't know why Optimus needed us to come here. We have a job back on Cybertron”

“Oh you worry too much” Firestar said with her usual bravado “Thunderclash and Star Saber have everything locked down in case the Decepticreeps cause any trouble”

“Besides I've always wanted to visit Earth, " Moonracer said, looking at the trees and birds. Earth was truly alien to her

“You’ll love it for sure” Scattershot the Technobot commander said “There’s plenty of action”

“Look at that moon” Lightspeed said admiringly “Makes you want to fly up to it”

“But don’t forget to take in the peaceful moments too” Nosecone said

“I think Gauge agrees with you Nosecone” Greenlight said with a smile

The young female Autobot was absolutely amazed by the beauty of nature outside Starlight Mansion. And to her amazement a deer native to the forest came up to her.

“Oh my hello! Are you a human?” Gauge said as she petted the deer

“No Gauge, humans have only two legs” said a voice familiar to Gauge. It was Arcee who was close to Gauge. Back on Cybertron, Arcee and Greenlight had been mentors to Gauge teaching her the ways of life as an Autobot

“Arcee, I’m so glad to see you!” Gauge said jumping into Arcee’s arms

“I missed you too” Arcee said gently embracing Gauge and looked at Greenlight “I hope Greenlight’s been keeping up with your lessons”

“Hey you know my sister, she takes care of her responsibilities” Bluestreak said as he greeted his sister “Good to see you sis”

“You too Bluestreak” Greenlight said happy to see her brother

“You’re brother and sister?” Scarlett said amazed

“Sure they are, does that really surprise you?” Sideswipe asked standing next to his brother

“Typical humans think they’re the only ones who can have siblings,” Sunstreaker added. The idea of the Autobots having family was a surprise to the Joes but the biggest shock was about to come

“Look at that Flint, the Autobots have loved ones in Cybertron” Lady Jaye said as Firestar and Inferno also had a happy reunion “Can you imagine having to be an entire planet away from them?”

“No, I don’t know how I could do that, ” Flint admitted. Clearly he and Lady Jaye were thinking about their daughter

“Elita, it always warms my spark to see you” Optimus Prime said embracing the love of his life

“The pleasure is mine Optimus” Elita-1 said warmly “We must make this a more common occurrence“ The romantic moment was a bit awkward for the assembled audience that was only broken by Chromia

“I have to ruin the moment Prime, but can you please explain why we’re here?” Chromia asked

“Now Chromia, aren't you glad to see me?” Ironhide said mock teasing

“Oh Ironhide you know I love being with you” Chromia said softly “But we have duty back on Cybertron and I don’t see why we had to come here and...”

Chromia stopped with her mouth agape. The other Autobots who traveled with her were equally amazed to see who was before them

“Synergy? Is that you?” Chromia said her voice deep with emotion “No it can’t be!”

“It is” Synergy said softly “Hi sis”

Chapter 7

“Synergy is that you...,it really is you...we thought you were, well you know, wow. Wow. Wow.!!!” Blurr shouted excitedly

“It’s great to see you lass” Kup nearing Synergy “You’re looking good”

“And it’s good to see you too Kup” Synergy said “I’m glad you’re still sharing your wisdom”

“Synergy my friend, I can’t believe it’s you” Elita-1 said “When Optimus awoke and contacted us he told us you were lost in the crash and we had to assume the worst. Chromia never forgot about you”

Chromia tried to speak but she was too overcome with emotion and holding onto Ironhide. Seeing the various humans made her gain her composure

“Yes, oh please excuse me I didn’t mean to lose my composure” Chromia said somewhat embarrassed

“That’s ok you shouldn’t feel bad” Sparkplug said reassuringly “Family is everything” Sparkplug’s words touched everyone, especially Jem

“Synergy, why didn’t you tell us you had a sister?” Jem said her friend

“When your father rebuilt me into my current form my memory circuits were not fully repaired” Synergy explained “But seeing my Autobot friends has restored all my memories”

“All things considered your alt mode looks good” Chromia said looking at her sister
“But why don’t you transform?”

“That’s what we were trying to say. Synergy’s systems are good except her transformation cog. It’s severely damaged and needs to be replaced” Ratchet explained as he removed the damaged cog

“Yeah that cog’s seen better days for sure” Wheeljack said inspecting it “We’ll have to get a replacement one post haste at Autobot Headquarters”

“Actually, we don’t have to wait” Pipes said producing a cog “We can give Synergy this one”

“Oh Pipes, that’s wonderful!” Chromia said excitedly

“Wait, do you Autobots always carry those things?” Duke asked as the assembled Joes looked at cog

“Well no, but like you humans say always be prepared” Pipes said

“He’s not wrong” Beachhead said remembering his days as a Boy Scout

“What are we waiting for, let’s get that cog installed?” Chromia said excitedly

“Pipes, would you do the honor of installing it?” Synergy asked

“Yes, I’d be glad to,” Pipes said. In an instance the cog was placed inside Synergy
“That should do it”

Once the Cog was installed Synergy could feel it pulse through her systems

“I think it’s working. I’m going to transform” Synergy said as she tried to transform

“That’s it sis you’re doing it!” Chormia said happily

“You’re almost there!” Elita-1 said

“I’m trying, I’m trying” Synergy said as she was half transformed “I haven’t done this in a few million years”

“You can do it Synergy” Optimus Prime said

“We believe in you!” Jem said she couldn’t believe what she was seeing

It was difficult but anyone knew it Synergy had transformed into her robot mode with Autobot insignias on each of her shoulders. Jem and the Holograms were astonished to see Synergy like this. They had only know her as a computer but she was truly more than meets the eye

Chormia quickly and warmly embraced her sister. It as a reunion six million years in the making

For the assembled Autobots it was a truly emotional moment for the Autobots. The Holograms and even the Joes were surprised to find themselves touched too

“Grimlock, are you crying?” Carly asked

“No, yes, maybe” Grimlock said with a sob “Me Grimlock so happy to see them together”

It was indeed a happy reunion but all was not well

All the while none of the assembled noticed that Laserbeak and Ratbat were spying. And they had news to give Megatron!

Chapter 8

Back at the Terror Drome, Megatron and Serpantor were planning their scheme when Starscream and Cobra Commander entered the room

“Yes I agree a divide and conquer tactic will lead us to victory” Megatron said to Serpantor when he noticed his Air Commander “There you are Starscream where were you?”

“I was just admiring the military might of our new allies Megatron” Starscream said “After all knowledge is power”

“A likely story” Megatron snorted. Nightbird glared at Starscream

“I notice you were missing too Commander” Serpantor said to Cobra Commander accusingly

“I was merely being a good host, oh noble Serpenter” Cobra Commander said with false deference

Megatron and Serpenter looked at each other showing they did not believe their would-be usurpers. But all tension was washed away when Soundwave entered with great excitement

“Megatron, Megatron, Laserbeak and Ratbat made their report!” Soundwave said with almost fervor

“I didn’t think he could get that excited” Baroness said standing near Rumble and Ravage

“Yeah Soundwave don’t lose his cool, does he Ravage?” Rumble mused. Ravage growled in agreement. Seeing Soundwave behave like this had him on alert.

“What is it Soundwave?” Megatron asked

“Confirmation: Source of technology is Synergy! She lives!” Soundwave said with almost a glimmer of emotion

Soundwave’s message caused a wave of emotion among the Decepticons

“I don’t believe it she’s alive” Reflector said in unison

“Hmmp, she picked the wrong side if you ask me” Slipstream said

“For once Slipstream you’re absolutely correct” Starscream said thinking of the past

“Hey knock it off you two!” Skywarp chided “Synergy isn’t like other Autobots”

“Yeah you mess with her and you mess with me” Tantrum said menacingly.

“That goes double for me” Bonecrusher said stepping up

Seeing the glares of other Decepticons had Slipstream on the defense. Starscream of course was used to them

“I just meant she was better off helping the Decepticon cause” Slipstream said with uncharacteristic meekness

“You are correct Slipstream, but fear not Decepticons we shall bring Synergy back to our cause” Megatron said. His words calmed down the other Decepticons

“Blitzwing are you OK?” Astrotrain asked his fellow Triple Changer with concern. Hearing the news caused him to momentarily get weak in the knees

“Yes, yes I’m fine Astrotrain” Blitzwing said holding back a sob “I’m going to be just fine”

“Wait, what was she doing all this time?” Razorclaw suddenly thought

“Synergy was mode-locked after the crash. Human explorers thought she was supercomputer” Soundwave explained

“Those stupid flesh creatures” Divebomb said with disgust

“Bah, they can’t appreciate how special she truly is,” Scrapper said. After Long Haul tapped him on the shoulder he noticed the various members of Cobra glaring at him “Err..present company excluded of course”

“Of course,” Destro said diplomatically. He then turned to Megatron “Lord Megatron if what you told us about Synergy is still true victory is within our grasp”

“This is indeed excellent news! Onslaught contacted me from the Dreadnoks Swamp Base. They have the hostages' ' Megatron then turned to the Stunticons ``Motormaster, I want the Stunticons to give them further back up. I trust you know how to get there?”

“Uh yeah boss we can find the way” Motormaster said with a sheepish grin “Ok Stunticons let’s hit the road!”

The Stunticons then transformed at exited the Terror Drome. As they left Megatron spoke to Soundwave

“Soundwave, initiate a link to Cybertron. We must inform Shockwave” Megatron said with a smile

“Boy Shockwave’s in the surprise for his life huh Blitzwing” Thundercracker said

“Thundercracker you have no idea” Blitzwing said

Meanwhile back at Cybertron, Shockwave was continuing his experiments to provide energon for the Decepticon cause

“The experiment with nucleon is promising, but the effects on transformation cogs are serious. I must find a way to negate it” Shockwave noted in his log

Suddenly Megatron appeared on the main screen

“Attention Shockwave, this is Megatron” Megatron commanded

“Greetings Megatron, how may I serve you” Shockwave greeted in his usual tone

“Shockwave, brace yourself. I bring vital information from Earth. The footage I am showing comes from Laserbeak”

“Rest assured Megatron whatever this data is I shall use it to best serve the Decepticon...” Shockwave immediately froze when he saw the footage of Synergy chatting among the Autobots and various humans.

“No it can’t be.” Shockwave said softly “Synergy?”

“It is indeed her Shockwave” Megatron said with reverence “She lives. She was with the Autobots all those years ago”

“I had no idea. Synergy my lo-“ Again Shockwave censored himself. He had shut himself off from all emotions for millions of years. But now they were flowing in his circuits “I mean how can I best serve you and the Decepticons?”

“Fear not Shockwave, you shall be reunited with her soon enough” Megatron said showing the various members of Cobra “We have human allies aiding us in our mission, and as you can see they already have made contributions” Showing Nightbird at his side

Shockwave understood immediately. Megatron had informed him of the goings on of Earth including Nightbird.

“Megatron, permission to come to Earth” Shockwave asked with a salute

“Permission granted” Megatron said with zeal. “I want you to lead a strike team to Earth. And make sure Airachnid is among them. I have plans for her skills”

“Yes Megatron, I shall do that immediately, Shockwave out!” Shockwave promised. When the screen went black, Shockwave ordered his helper drone
Fistfight”Fistfight, get the Space Bridge powered up!”

“Yes Shockwave, right away Shockwave!” Fistfight said attending to his station

Chapter Nine

Soon Shockwave had his strike team composed of Triggerhappy, Misfire, Slugslinger, Apeface, Snapdragon, Darkwing, Dreadwind and of course Airachnid

“You know the mission and you have your orders” Shockwave said with an enthusiasm none of the assembled had ever heard “We shall bring the battle to the Autobots on Earth”

“Heh, heh, heh...this is gonna be fun” Triggerhappy said aiming his weapons
“Those Autobots are in for a real donnybrook,”

“We’re not going to have Earth alt modes are we?” Dreadwind whined

“Come now Dreadwind maintain your dignity” Slugslinger said “We are superior warriors no matter”

“All except Misfire” Apeface said”He lousy shot”

“Very funny Apeface” Misfire said defensively “But I know more about Earth than you bozos. My friend Flywheels is there and kept me informed”

“Who cares as long as we get to smash Autobots” Snapdragon said transforming into his dragon mode

“Just keep your mind on your assignment” Shockwave said, getting annoyed at his troops. He then turned his attention to Airachnid “And remember Airachnid when we get there Megatron had a special mission for you”

“Oh yes, I must admit I am intrigued. I’ve always wanted to experiment on organic creatures” Airachnid said with a grin that creeped out the other Decepticons

Suddenly there was a loud clunking coming closer to them

“Hey do you guys hear that?” Darkwing said worriedly. The other Decepticons (including Airachnid) were worried when in came barging the Super Warrior Sixshot

“Shockwave is it true? Is Synergy alive?” Sixshot asked his commander

“Indeed Sixshot she is alive and well on Earth” Shockwave answered

Sixshot thought deeply “Shockwave I must be a part of this mission” Sixshot demanded and then gave a meek “Please you know my history with her”

“All too well, Sixshot but remember we are on a mission for the Decepticon cause” Shockwave warned

“Yes of course” Sixshot promised. He then turned to the other Decepticons with enthusiasm “Well are you ready to recycle some Autobots?”

“Yeah, let's do it!” Triggerhappy shouted

“Very well, Fistfight activate the Space Bridge!” Shockwave ordered

“Space Bridge activated” Fistfight responded. In an instance the assembled Decepticons were on their way to Earth

As Shockwave’s forces traveled, Synergy was reconnecting with her Autobot friends. Gen. Hawk and the assembled Joes were taking in the moment with different emotions

“I gotta admit Gen. Hawk this is a lot more emotional to me then I expected” Flint said as he saw Synergy chat with Jazz and Prowl

“I know what you mean Flint” Beachhead added “They’re like us. They have family, loved ones”

“That may be, but we have to be very careful how we deal with this situation” Duke said with concern “You all don’t know about the classified info about Synergy”

“What do you mean Duke?” Scarlett said concerned

“I didn't tell this to our Autobot allies, but before he passed Emmet Benton made numerous discoveries about Synergy. And if they are still active it would be disastrous if she gets into Cobra’s hands” Gen. Hawk said thinking back to the report about Synergy

“Hey Synergy you’re looking good” Kimber said as the Holograms chatted with Synergy

“Thank you Kimber” Synergy said “I have a lot of catching up to do”

“And we have so many questions too” Aja said

Suddenly Jem’s phone rang “Oh that must be Mrs. Bailey. Hello Mrs. Bailey, are you and the girls at Protectobots Headquarters?”

At the same time Optimus Prime received a message from Velocity “Prime the children never arrived and they should have been here by now”

“That’s strange Velocity” Optimus said with concern

“I’m afraid that’s not the only strange goings on” Elita-1 said noticing Jem having a panicked look on her face as she put her phone on speaker

“Jem what is it?” Kimber asked

“The question isn’t what dear but who” Said a mysterious voice

“Who is that creep?” Aja asked

“I know that creep it’s Zartan” Lady Jaye said

“Me and the Dreadnoks were on a drive when we saw a bus of orphans on the side of the road and naturally being good citizens we looked to see if we can help” Zartan said mockingly

“Fortunately for the little dearies some other and bigger good samaritans came by to give them a lift to their pad” Zaranna added

“Bigger, does she mean the Protectobots?” Arcee said holding onto Gauge with worry

“Not quite these do-gooders” A voice that the Autobots immediately recognized. It was Swindle!

“Indeed we saw the poor dears stranded and invited them visit Combaticon headquarters instead” Onslaught added

“Naturally they could not say no to our kind offer” Blast Off said

“Don’t worry we’ll take good care of the kiddos” Vortex said with a laugh

“Yeah it’ll be the time of their lives” Brawl said as they ended the communications

“Those creeps, those absolute creeps” Raya yelled

“I don’t know who I’m madder at those Dreadnoks or those Decepticons” Aja added

“Don’t worry ladies we’ll save those kids and turn those Decepticons into scrap metal” Cliffjumper promised

“Just leave those Dreadnoks to us” Gung-ho said getting angry

“Now everyone hold it” Ultra Magnus commanded “Our first priority is rescuing the children. We know the coordinates of the Combaticon base”

“Jem we should.....” Synergy suddenly noticed she was no longer there “Jem, where are you?”

“If that was my kid I’d run to the scene immediately and I’ll be she did the same” Sparkplug said thinking like a parent

“Yeah same here” Flint added thinking of Marissa

“Perfect that’s all we need” Duke grumbled “She’s going to end up being another hostage”

“Let’s move Autobots” We have to find Jem and more importantly rescue the children.” Optimus Prime commanded “Transforme and roll out!”

Jem was racing her car on the road the bus drove. She didn’t know what she would do when she got there. She didn’t even know who to trust

Jem was halfway there when suddenly a pair of cars, one black and one white came behind her. She tried to let them pass but they were crowding her. She suddenly hit the brakes when another strange vehicle was suddenly in front of her. It resembled one of the vehicles in the battle at Autobot Base but this one had snakeskin markings

Indeed it was a Cobra Stun, one from Python Patrol. It was manned by Cobra Soldiers and Vipers with the colors of Python Patrol. The two cars transformed into Runamuck and Runabout. Making things worse an airplane suddenly landed, who turned out to be Starscream! Inside him was a smaller robot, but Jem saw it was a man. A man in a metal suit. Cobra Commander was using his battle suit for the first time and he was armed

Jem found herself crowded by Starscream, the Battlchargers and the Cobra Forces.
She was in deep trouble

“Show’s over!” Cobra Commander shouted as Starscream smirked at the pun

Comic Issue 3- More than Meets the Eye

Chapter 1

Jem to her horror found herself surrounded by a group of forces of both Cobra and Decepticons. As two Crimson Guard held her arms, Cobra Commander interrogated her

“My apologies for the surprise Miss Benton or would you prefer to be called Jem?”
Cobra Commander said as the assembled villains chuckled

“You can call me anything you want” Jem said with contempt “What have you done with the children?”

“Don’t worry about the flesh creatures” Starscream said “They’ll be fine just as long as we are reunited with Synergy. She’s an old friend”

“She’d never be friends with a Decepticon” Jem vowed

“Hah, what do you know?” Starscream said with indigence “She’s nothing more than a tool to you”

“I know she’s my friend and been there for me” Jem said “And only a few moments I’ve seen how important she is to the Autobots”

“This is very touching but we have more important matters at hand” Cobra Commander said annoyed at having to deal with a rock star

“You are correct Cobra Commander.” Starscream agreed and then turned to the Battlechargers “Runamuck, Runabout prepare to take our guest for interrogation”

“Heh, heh you bet Starscream ” Runamuck said as they transformed. The Crimson Guards pushed Jem to enter

“C’mon lady we don’t got all day” Runabout whined

Suddenly a blast interrupted the goings on. A group of Joes and Autobots were taking part in a rescue. The team included Alpine, Bazooka and Dial-Tone from GI Joe and Blaster, Cosmos, Warpath, Ramhorn, Steeljaw, Grand Slam and Raindance”

“We have all the time for you slime’ Blaster said leading the group

“Are you ready Bazook? Alpine said riding on Steeljaw

“Sure am let’s blast ‘em” Bazooka said atop Ramhorn, firing a blast right at Cobra Commander. To his surprise, it did no damage

“Ha, nice try Joe” Cobra Commander bragged “That didn’t even tickle”

“Wha... it didn’t work” Bazooka said in confusion “Must be a dud”

“Don’t worry about it” Ramhorn said charging “We’ll make scrap out of them”

“WHAM! POW! Yeah they don’t stand a ZOW! chance” Warpath added as he tossed Runamuck into Runabout

“Don’t be so sure Warpath!” Starscream said, firing his nullray “Python Patrol attack!” Suddenly Stuns and Asps along with stolen Conquests in the same snakeskin appeared out of nowhere and fired

Grand Slam and Raindance merged into Slamdance and started analyzing the situation together with Dial-Tone

“Blaster according to my calculations these vehicles aren’t on my radar” Slamdance said

“Mine neither, it must be a new stealth technology” Dialtone added

“Well seeing is believing” Blaster said as he fired on a Conquest. After seeing the pilot parachute out, Blaster looked around “Our priority is to get Jem outta here. Cosmos you have to play taxi”

“I’m on it Blaster” Cosmos then transformed “Quick Jem get inside me”

“You don’t have to tell me twice,” Jem said, running quickly inside Cosmos. Once his passenger was secure, Cosmos quickly flew away

“Stop him, he has our hostage!” Starscream yelled. His answer was a blast from Warpath’s cannon

“Forget it, Screamer ZOWIE! Now that Jem’s safe we don’t have to BOOM! hold back!”

“Sounds good to me, let's rush these turkeys!” Alpine said punching out one of the Vipers

With Jem safe, the tide turned in favor for the Autobots and Joes. Starscream found himself pinned down by Blaster and Steeljaw who bit one of his wings.

“Ouch! You pest!” Starscream said rubbing his wing “Commander I hate to admit it but we should retreat”

“What retreat? Never!” Cobra Commander said defiantly. When Warpath and Bazooka blasted the Asp next to him he had a change of heart “Then again discretion is the better part of valor. Retreat!”

The Battlechargers, working Stuns and Conquests quickly retreated as Cobra Commander boarded Starscream

“Enjoy your victory Joes. It'll be your last” Cobra Commander vowed

“Hey they're getting away” Bazooka noted “Let's get 'em”

“Negative both my boss and your boss said to head back after we save Jem” Blaster said

“Aww... I wanted to give Starscream a horn up his tailpipe” Ramhorn whined

“I don't blame you” Alpine agree “But orders are orders let's head back” Alpine said the Joes and Autobots headed back in their Havoc

Back outside Starlight House the Joes and Autobots were planning their next course of action

“Optimus, Blaster checked in” Arcee said excitedly “They rescued Jem she’ll be back here soon!”

“Thank goodness” Kimber said with relief

“Let’s see if we find her on the road” Aja said looking ahead

“Oh she won’t be on the road” Arcee explained. Just then Cosmos arrived and Jem walked out. She was rushed by the Holograms

“Sis are you ok?” Kimber asked

“We heard you were ambushed” Raya said concerned

“I’m OK girls, thanks to Cosmos. We actually went into orbit!” Jem said with affection. Synergy’s thankful hug caused Cosmos to blush

“It was nothing” Cosmos said bashfully “And you Jem you’re the first rock star to go into space since David Bowie”

“Oh Cosmos that’s just a song” Shana said laughing

“Uh yeah a song” Cosmos said worriedly Flint and Duke noticed Cosmos was getting a silent order to say no more from a nervous Prowl. Clearly the Autobots had secrets they held too

“I’m so glad you’re safe Jem, but we have another priority” Synergy said

“You’re correct Synergy” Ultra Magnus agreed “We have to save the children. We head to Combaticon base immediately”

“That’s a negative Ultra Magnus, my calculations gave the coordinations to the Dreadnoks swamp base” Dialtone said as Perceptor verified the information

“How gauche it’s always so dreadfully humid in the swamp” Tracks said

“Never mind that Tracks we have to save those kids!” Chromia said taking command “C’mon Autobots let’s roll out!”

In an instance the Autobots transformed and moved out with Synergy, the Holograms and their human friends with the the Joes behind

“Uh did they forget to invite us to the party?” Shipwreck said confused

“Well get ready to crash this shindig” Duke said more than annoyed “Yo Joe!”

As the Joes departed, Carly, Spike, Chip and Sparkplug comforted Jem and the Holograms

“Don’t worry the Autobots will rescue your girls” Chip reassured them

“Thank you Chip I’m sure too” Jem said thinking about the Starlight Girls again

Sparkplug noticed the Joes were annoyed by the Autobots leaving without them and knew he would have to lessen tensions

Chapter 2

The Decepticons and Cobra had regrouped at Decepticon Headquarters for their next plan of action

“So much for your Python Patrol. Commander” Serpentor said with disdain

“The Joes never sensed us coming” Cobra Commander insisted “And my armor was invulnerable”

“Perhaps you would have succeeded if you had better assistance” Nightbird said glaring at Starscream. Starscream glared back but remained silent as Megatron smirked

Suddenly the Space Bridge came to life. Shockwave and his forces had arrived

“Hail Megatron! I have come to Earth as ordered” Shockwave said with his normal tone. He suddenly became emotional “Is Synergy here?”

“Not yet Shockwave but rest assured she will soon be” Megatron promised. He then turned to Airachnid “Airachnid I had Shockwave bring you here for a mission”

“Of course Megatron I live to serve” Airachnid said as she neared the Insecticons
“Hello boys long time no see”

“Ha not long enough as far as we’re concerned” Kickback said thinking of past events

“You always has a tendency of using us in your experiments, experiments” Shrapnel added

“Why if it wasn’t for me you all would never have your amazing cloning abilities”
Airachnid demurred

“Enough of this, Airachnid you are to work with Dr. Mindbender” Megatron
ordered as Dr. Mindbender gave a bow

“Working with an organic, how droll” Airachnid said teasingly “So what is the plan
‘partner’?”

“Allow me to show you.” Mindbender said showing her the monitor “We will be
taming these creatures to our bidding”

“My, my those are impressive creatures” Airachnid said “I didn’t know your planet
had such beings” She then turned to Bombshell “Bombshell be a dear and lend me
some of your cerebro-shells”

“Bah,,,it’s against my better judgment” Bombshell complained but did as told and
presented them to her “Just be careful with them”

“Aren’t I always?” Airachnid said with false-seduction

“Dearest is this harlot one of your elite soldiers?” Nightbird whispered

“Frankly next to Starscream she is among the least liked Decepticons” Megatron
admitted “But she is talented and loyal to our cause”

“We may have not have Miss Benton as a hostage, but her charges are still prisoners
of the Dreadnoks” Baroness said overseeing the upgrades of Cobra vehicles and
BATs under the care of the Decepticons

“Still even with Storm Shadow I don’t trust the Dreadnoks with such an assignment” Destro said. His disdain of Zartan was well known

“Not to worry Destro. Those waifs are but a distraction. Even if they are freed we shall confuse the Joes and Autobots with a divide and conquest tactic” Serpenter said

“And with our modifications, your forces will be invulnerable to those puny Joes” Megatron added. He then turned to the assembled Decepticons

“Decepticons our moment of triumph is at hand” Megatron announced “Soon Synergy will be us and her myriad of abilities will be at our disposal. Prime has no idea how special she truly is”

“Megatron, you speak the truth” Shockwave said. His demeanor surprised the members of Cobra. Intelligence reported Shockwave a a calculated robot

“Shockwave I assure you Synergy will be safe and sound” Megatron promised

“Oh course almighty Megatron I know that I can depend on your leadership” Shockwave said

“Don’t worry Shockwave, Synergy means a lot to us too” Sixshot added as Blitzwing nodded. Sixshot then turned to the assembled Decepticons “Are we ready for victory Decepticons?” Sixshot asked. Their response was a loud, shouting yes. In addition to being a great warrior, Sixshot was known for his enthusiasm and boosting Decepticon morale

“Speaking of strategy, great Serpenter and Megatron” Tomax addressed the two leaders

“Now we should splinter our foes even further” Xamot said

“And bring in a useful idiot” The Crimson Twins said in unison

“Hmm...perhaps we should bring a new player into our plans. Yes, you have my permission” Serpentor agreed

“Soundwave provide our allies with additional support” Megatron ordered

“Buzzsaw, Overkill, Slugfest, Flipsides eject. Operation Disruption!” Soundwave said as his four cassette minions ejected and transformed

“Blimey you lads are really compacted in their ain’t ya?” An amazed Major Bludd asked Rumble

“You can bet your eye on that pal” Rumble said as Ravage growled in agreement

“All right I’m ready for some action!” Flipsides said turning to the Twins “So fleshies what’s the plan?”

“Tell me my dear” Tomax asked

“What do you know about...” Xamot asked

“The Misfits?” They asked together

“Ooh, I like their style. This’ll be fun” Flipsides said with glee and turned to her cassette comrades “C’mon boys let’s head out” The four joined the Twins as they flew off in their Flight Pods

Megatron smiled as his plans were coming to fruition. “Reflector contact Onslaught. I wish to see how they are doing”

“At once Megatron” Reflector said in unison

“Onslaught, report” Megatron said as the Combaticon leader was on screen

“All is well enough Megatron” Onslaught reported showing the Starlight Girls in an energon cage “These immature flesh creatures are defiant but they’re going nowhere

“Good, the Stunticons will bolster your forces in case of Autobot interference. Shockwave has arrived as well” Megatron added

“Whoa, does he know boss?” Skywarp said. He knew too well about their past

“Indeed Skywarp, soon Synergy will be in our ranks” Megatron added “I’ll keep you informed, Megatron out”

Onslaught turned to Zartan who was overseeing the Dreadnack Base in the swamps

“I take it the news is all good?” Zartan asked Onslaught

“Yes Zartan soon this planet will be under, better rule” Onslaught said he then turned to the other Decepticons “My fellow Decepticons I have great news to share”

“Synergy’s alive!” Skywarp blurted excitedly

“Err...yes Skywarp thank you” Onslaught replied dryly being interrupted. Slipstream could only roll her eyes at her brother’s thoughtlessness

“Does your brother embarrass you like this?” Slipstream asked Zaranna

“Oh yeah, all the time both of ‘em” Zaranna said

“Hey, shut up” Zandar and Zartan said in unison

“That’s great news about Synergy, she’s a good bot” Brawl said. Seeing the usually antagonistic Brawl speaking highly of another

“I do hope that means we’ll be able to leave this swamp. The humidity will peel my paint job” Blast Off complained

“Aww...it’s not so bad” Flamewar standing near the Girls in their cage said holding an alligator “Look at this cute Earth creature. Reminds me of Skullcruncher”

The Starlight Girls started screaming when the gator snapped it’s jaws

“Hey don’t be scared Skullcruncher isn’t that bad a guy” Flamewar said confused by their shrieks

“Forget it Flamewar these flesh creatures are a bunch of wimps” Vortex said as he whirled his helicopter blades. For Vortex it was to relieve boredom but the frightened girls inside saw it more menacingly

“What’s the matter kid” Vortex asked a frightened Terri “Never see a whirlybird before?”

“Will you two dummies cut that out?” Swindle said. He was playing a game of poker with Ripper, Torch, Buzzer, Monkeywrench and the female Dreadnack Heartwrencher

“Tell ‘em mate it’s bad enough babysitting without ‘em screaming” Torch said

Just then an alarm started blaring. The Starlight Girls were even more scared

“What was that?” Slipstream said worriedly

“Not to worry, that’s our early warning system” Zartan said “Zanya be a dear and see who that is”

Checking the monitor Zanya replied “It’s OK dad, it’s just the Stunticons”

“Great they can watch those brats, I’ve been doing it all night” Heartwrencher said with a yawn “I’m going to get some sleep”

“Good we can use the extra help in case the Autobots attempt a rescue” Kaskade added as she was playing a game of chess with Storm Shadow and to her surprise found it to be more challenging than expected

“And with the power of two of your combiners our forces are impressive” Storm Shadow said as his bishop took Kaskade’s queen

“You got that right pal!” Bellowed Motormaster as he transformed “Those Autobozos will be fools to step up to us!”

All the while a group of Autobots were assessing the situation. They had to rescue the children at all costs

Chapter 3

In the swamp near the Dreanocks Lair the Autobots were planning their rescue of the Starlight Girls

“All right Autobots let’s rescue those kids” Firestar said

“Maybe I should smoke them out” Smokescreen said

“I don’t think so Smokescreen it may harm the children” Chromia said taking control “We need stealth, Mirage you’re up”

“Not to worry those creeps will never see me coming” Mirage then went invisible and entered silently

The Autobots got their break when Ba Nee raised her hand

“Umm...I have to go to the bathroom” Ba Nee said nervously

“Ugh, I should expected that” Zaranna said annoyed “Zanya taker her to the loo”

“Do I have too? Can’t Heartwrencher do it?” Zanya whined

“Sure you can wake her up and you can try to avoid being slugged by her,” Zaranna said with a grin. Heartwrencher notoriously hated being woken up and would smack anyone

“Good luck with” Ripper said with a laugh as Drag Strip and Wildrider joined the game “She’d probably knock over one of you blokes”

“All right I’ll do it” Zanya grumbled as she escorted Ba Nee from the cage “C’mon let’s get this over with”

Meanwhile the Decepticons and Dreadnoks were plotting.

“Say Zartan, how much ransom do you think we can get for these brats?” Swindle said with glee

“I think a real bounty Swindle. Jerrica Benton is loaded” Zartan said

“Ugh...Swindle is everything with you about money?” Slipstream said with contempt

“Tell me about it, there are more important things to think about” Zaranna said

“Oh yeah like what?” Breakdown asked accusingly

“Um...well for instance” Zaranna said a bit nervously

“You love Mainframe” Dead End said dryly

“Hey shut up!” Zarana said defensively the snickers from the other Dreadnoks was proof to the Decepticons it was truth

“What did she say?” Kaskade asked a bit agitated

“She merely meant a GI Joe” Storm Shadow asked “Why do you ask?”

“Ah my mistake, that’s the name of an Autobot back on Cybertron” Kaskade said

“That’s funny there’s a Joe with the name Slipstream” Zandar said as he fiddled with a device

“Hah that’s hilarious” Skywarp chortled as the other Decepticons laughed “You didn’t tell us you’re moonlighting sis!”

“Grrr..Skywarp!” Slipstream started chasing her brother. To the Dreadnoks and Decepticons it was a moment of jocularity, but the Starlight Girls were terrified

“Great we’re in the middle of a soap opera” Slingshot said annoyed with the Autobots outside the base

“I’m tired of waiting” Cliffjumper said impatiently “I say we storm in, rescue those kids and stomp those Decepticreeps”

“I think you’re right” Chromia conceded “Ok gang when Mirage gives the signal we rush in”

Slipstream stopped chasing her brother and glowered at Zandar.

“What is that thing you’re working on anyway?” Slipstream asked

“Hmm? Oh just a device that crossmatches organs and blood. Right now it only works on blood relatives Zandar explained “Here let me show you”

Zandar then pointed it at Zaranna and Zartan when it started beeping. “See when blood relatives are in proximity it beeps.”

“Hah, I’ll bet that could never work on a Transformer” Slipstream scoffed

“As a matter of fact...” Zandar explained and it started beeping when Slipstream and Skyarp were near

“Huh, ok that’s not bad” Slipstream said grudgingly. She then gave her brother a hard smack

“Geez, sis, you’re a bigger grouch then Gears,” Skywarp said as Decepticons laughed again.

“But as you see right now it only works on relations,” Zandar said as he used it with Kaskade and Storm Shadow. Suddenly it beeped when near Storm Shadow

“Hey Zandar I thought that doohickey only works on yer kin” Monkeywrench asked

Storm Shadow wordlessly took the device and it started beeping louder. He walked around with it and to the shock of all watching including the Autobots observing, the machine started beeping very loud.

Storm Shadow looked into the eyes of Ba Nee who was coming back from the restroom with Zanya. The machine was beeping loudly until it broke when Storm Shadow dropped it

“Uh what’s going on?” Zanya asked nervously.

Mirage “By the Matrix this is as good a chance as any to rescue the kids” Mirage neared the cage and for a few seconds became visible to let the Starlight Girls they were going to be rescued. For the first time they weren’t scared. Except Ba Nee

“Ok Autobots, Mirage made the signal, let’s save those kids!” Chromia said “Jazz you’re up

“No problemo, One laser and lights show coming up” Jazz said and as promised he fired us his loud music and holograms

“What the hey? What’s with the noise?” Flamewar said tugging at the alligator

“We are under attack” Onslaught said “Take evasive maneuvers”

During the chaos, Chromia and Ironhide rescued the kids and had them enter themselves as they transformed

“Hurry up kids we gotta get you outta here” Ironhide said

“Wait what about Ba Nee?” Ashley asked. Storm Shadow took her aside to a lab in the Dreadnoks base

“Don’t worry honey we’ll get her” Chromia promised “But we gotta vamoose now”

Soon Chromia and Ironhide drove the kids to safety

“All right Autobots, they kids are safe and sound” Firestar said “We don’t have to hold back

“Sounds good to me” Cliffjumper “Let’s take em!”

“Ha, easier said than done Autojerk!” Motormaster bellowed “Stunticons merge!”

In an instance both the Stunticons and Combaticons merged into Menasor and Bruticus.

“Ok, if that's how you want it! Let's go Technobots” Scattershot yelled and Computron and Superion joined the fray. The fight was on

Chapter Four

With the Starlight Girls safe the Autobots were able to begin their attack. But just like the attack on Autobot Base, the Autobots found themselves on the defensive not wanting to harm their human enemies. Complicating matters was the Decepticons were not holding back

Skywarp and Slipstream were firing down on the Autobots below them

“Heh, this is more like it!” Slipstream said with glee.

Powerglide was too busy dogfighting with Zaranna in a Swampfire

“What's the matter, love can't shoot?” Zaranna smirked

“Lady you're lucky I'm not a Decepticon” Powerglide said trying to bring her down

Flamewar was having fun too. “Hey Autobot catch!” She said to Huffer tossing him the alligator she held

“Ahh..someone get this thing off of me!” Huffer yelled as the gator chomped on his leg.

“Don't worry mate I'll help ya out” Outback said as he tried to pry the alligator off

“I’d be more worried about helping yourself Autobot!” Kaskade said as she fired upon them from a higher vantage point

“Hey watch it lady!” Torch complained

“Oops my mistake” Kaskade said with embarrassment

All the while Superion and Computron were tag teaming against Menasor and Bruticus

“Datum, Menasor attacking with sword, conclusion block with arm” Computron analyzed

“Bruticus think Computron think too much” Bruticus said as he started double teaming Computron

“Superion attack!” Superion shouted as he jumped to Computron’s defense. He was turning the tide when Zaranna attacked him. Her blast had no effect but when he aimed his gun, Superion paused

“You wouldn’t shoot a lady would ya love?” Zaranna asked

“Superion not harm human” Superion admitted before a sucker punch from Menasor

“No but Menasor harm Superion” Menasor said as he shared a laugh with his human ally

All of a sudden a rocket fired at the combiners. It was Heartwrencher with a bazooka!

“Hey can’t a lady get some sleep” Heartwrencher yelled

“Get with it Heartwrencher, we’re under attack!” Zartan said firing away

“Oh well that’s different” Heartwrencher said reloading and pointing at Inferno
“Head’s up Red!”

Inferno caught the rocket as Firestar threw it in the air where it exploded harmlessly

“Nice try honey, but it’ll take more to slow me down” Inferno smirked, but immediately after he was bowled over by the Thunder Machine

“That slowed you down mate!” Thrasher laughed

“It’s not looking good Jazz” Outback said placing the gator back into the swamp

“I know between the snakes and Cons we’re really up a creek” Jazz admitted. The Autobots needed help

All of a sudden a blast of energy emitted. The assembled combiners reverted back into their individual members

“Oww.my head, what happened” Lightspeed asked rubbing his head

“The Autobots must have a secret weapon” Breakdown with his usual paranoia

“Aww...that's bunch of slag” Motormaster scoffed

“Perhaps Breakdown is right, look!” Blast Off pointed to the sky

Several Dragonflies and Sky Hawks were surrounding a Tomahawk with a unique satellite-like weapon

“Yo Joe! That’s a direct hit on those giant tin cans!” Lift-Ticket said

“Great job Lift-Ticket” Duke said “All right Joes, let’s fry some snakes and Cons!”

“Yee haw sounds like a hoot to me!” Wild Bill said as he fired a missile at the Dreadnoks

The GI Joe Slipstream was dogging Skywarp and shot a missile at him causing him to tumble to the ground

“Oww..this isn’t fun any more” Skywarp said, enraging his sister. She grabbed the Conquest he was in and tore the glass off

“That’s my brother you worthless flesh creature” Slipstream yelled at the Joe as a Sky Hawk shot at her

“Don’t worry Slipstream, I’ll get that tin can!” Leatherneck promised

“You’re name’s Slipstream?” The two said in embarrassed unison. Skywarp immediately burst into laughter and soon the other Decepticons were all laughing

“Which one’s which? It's like double vision!” Wildrider said causing even more laughter

“That was Moonracer, all the kids are safe so I think we gotta skedaddle” Jazz said to Firestar

“I hate retreating but you’re right” Firestar conceded “”Smokescreen give us a distraction”

“No problem, neither human or Decepticon will see us going” Smokescreen said and emitted his smoke

“Blimey I can’t see” Ripper said coughing

“Me neither” Vortex said and then used his chopper blade to blow the smoke away
“Well that clears the air”

“Oops they got away” Flamewar said holding her new pet gator again “And the little fleshlings too”

“Blast so much for ransom” Zartan said kicking the air in frustration “And where was Storm Shadow?”

Chapter Five

During the melee, Storm Shadow was in a lab with Ba Nee. Zandar’s device showed he was related to the girl but that was impossible. Or was it?

“What’s going on? Why did that thing freak you out?” Ba Nee said frightened by being kidnapped, then being sent here, and now the attack going on outside

“Zandar’s device stated we are blood relations but that cannot be.” Storm Shadow said as took hair and saliva samples ag “It is true I was in Vietnam years ago, but you are an orphan with no knowledge of your heritage”

“Well actually, I know my mother. Her name was Kieu Chinh and...” Ba Nee started before being interrupted

“Kieu Chinh? Of An Loc?” Storm Shadow said getting agitated

“Yes?” Ba Nee getting scared

Seeing the fear in what could be his child's eyes, Storm Shadow composed himself. He then noticed the battle and saw the other hostages freed and made a decision when the device in the lab dinged

“Run now, before I change my mind!” Storm Shadow ordered amused to see she was gone before he finished his sentence

Lucky for Ba Nee all the Dreadnoks and Decepticons were too busy to notices her. Ba Nee ran for her life and almost bumped into Moonracer and Swoop

“Don’t hurt me” Ba Nee pleaded

“Wha, no me Swoop no hurt” Swoop said transforming to robot mode and showing his Autobot symbol “Look me Swoop good guy and she good too”

Ba Nee was then surprised by Moonracer “Are you an Autobot?”

“Yeah I’m new to Earth. My name’s Moonracer” Moonracer said introducing herself

“Hi I’m Ba Nee” Ba Nee said. As always children were always at ease with Autobots

“We here to save you” Swoop said transforming again

“Thanks but my friends...” Ba Nee said

“Don’t worry we already saved them too” Moonracer said transforming “Let’s roll out!”

“Ok!” Ba Nee said, jumping securely onto Swoop. Soon the Autobot were gone

Storm Shadow saw them escape but did nothing. How could he? The results from the device were correct, Ba Nee was his daughter

After the battle, the Dreadnoks and Deceptions regrouped

“Well so much for ransom” Swindle said dejectedly

“Ah well ce la vie mate” Buzzer said departing the Thunder Machine

“Quiet you blokes” Zaranna snapped

“Yes well said Zaranna” Onslaught said worriedly “If those flesh creatures have a weapon that can undo our combination we will be at a loss”

“True but think I have a counter to that” Zartan said manning an unseen scanner

“Well we better get the bad news over with” Dead End complained

“Yes” Zartan agreed and went to his communicator “Zartan to Serpantor come in”

“What is it Zartan?” Serpantor said

“The Autobots and Joes rescued the brats” Zartan admitted

“Blast!” Serpantor yelled then composed himself “No matter they were a bonus to spread chaos. And we are ready to go on the offensive”

“Yeah but we gotta a bigger problem” Motormaster butted in “Those flesh creatures have some crazy ray that undid us when we combined”

The Decepticons were worried by that news, especially the other combiners

“Hey that’s serious” Scavenger said worriedly “We won’t be able to become Devastator”

“That is indeed a disturbing circumstance” Razorclaw added

“Bah! Flesh creatures no tell Terrorcons can’t become Abominus!” Hun-grr yelled

“On the plus side we wouldn’t be stuck with Blot” Cutthroat mused

“Oh I don’t smell that bad” Blot insisted to a murmurs of groans to the other Decepticons

“Enough of your whining!” Megatron commanded “Clearly the Autobots had no idea of this weapon. The Joes will pay for such impunity”

“The good news is I was able to duplicate the wavelength of it” Zartan said sending the schematics “Did you get it?”

“Yes” Starscream said reviewing the transmission “A rather simple code. I can develop my null ray to make our combiners immune to it.”

“At long last you’re actually useful to the Decepticon cause” Megatron said, causing Starscream to glare back. He then turned to the Zartan “Zartan you and your forces should rendezvous to the Terror Drome. All Decepticons back to base. The battle now truly begins!”

“Yes Megatron we’ll be there!” Slipstream promised with a salute

“All right boys” Motormaster yelled only to change at the frowns of Slipstream, Kaskade and Flamewar “Err and girls let’s head back”

“Flamewar why is that thing on your head” Zanya asked holding back a giggle as the alligator was dangling from

“Scales likes it when I do it“ Flamewar insisted

“Aw geez don’t name it” Skywarp groaned “How’s that thing gonna be in our base underwater?”

“I think you’ll find such creatures to be quite resilient” said a voice. It was Storm Shadow

“There you are, where were you doing our little donnybrook?” Zartan complained

“I thought it was prudent to keep one hostage separate, unfortunately during the melee she escaped” Storm Shadow explained

“Hmm that was a logical plan” Slipstream conceded “Ok let’s go”

The Decepticons transformed and left as the Dreadnoks travelled on the Thunder Machine and Swampfire. Still Zanya seemed to doubt Storm Shadow’s story Although she wasn’t sure why

Meanwhile, the Decepticons and Cobra were planning their next course of action

“Serpentor I believe it’s time we begin our assault” Megatron said to the Cobra Emperor

“I quite agree” Serpentor said “Destro, are Tomax and Xamot doing their part to cause chaos?”

“Yes great Serpentor, they are meeting with the fools now” Destro said

“And Mindbender, are you ready?” Serpentor asked

“Yes, great Emperor! Airachnid and I found our subjects and they are ready at a moment's notice!” Dr. Mindbender promised

“I must say working on organic subjects has been quite fun” Airachnid said seductively

“This mission is not for your amusement” Shockwave said coldly “It is to defeat GI Joe and the Autobots, rescue Synergy and conquer this planet and ours!”

“Here, here!” Sixshot leading to both Cobra and the Decepticons to a cheering rally

“Your warrior certainly raises morale, Megatron” Destro mused

“Indeed Destro and you shall soon see is equally effective in the battlefield”
Megatron promised

Chapter Six

During all the goings on with other forces, new characters were about to enter. Eric Raymond, the president of Stinger Sound, was at his wits end. Jem and the Holograms were the number one name in music and his top clients were none to happy about it

“I’ve had it Eric” yellow Pizzazz the leader of the Misfits “Those dweebs are still Number One on the chart!”

“Yeah what are you doing for us anyway?” Roxy cut in

“Look I don’t need this” Eric whined taking a long gulp of Alka Seltzer “You think this job is easy.?”

“Maybe it’d be easier if you weren’t also manager of the Stingers” Clash their groupie said adding fuel to the fire

The Stingers themselves were walking to Eric’s office as the Misfits were arguing

“Are you really thinking about dumping Eric, Riot?” Minx asked

“Absolutely, what has that creep really done for us?” Riot said

“Yeah, besides taking our money” Rapture added “We don’t need him”

Just as the Stingers were about to enter Eric’s office they were interrupted by Tomax and Xamot wearing their signature business suits

“Pardon us please” Tomax said

“We’re on official business” Xamot added

“How utterly rude” Minx said

“Yeah who do they think they are” Rapture added

“Why don’t we find out and listen?” Riot said

The sudden interruption of the Crimson Twins was a welcome distraction for Eric

“Hey who are you?” Stormer said concerned

“Yeah you just can’t barge in here!” Pizzazz yelled

“Forgive our intrusions but we represent...” Tomax said

“Extensive Enterprises and we...” Xamot added

“Want to do business with you” The Twins said in unison as they handed their card.

“Extensive Enterprises?” Eric said, impressed. “By all means, please continue.”

“We are always looking to branch out in different businesses,” Tomax said.

“And you are among the hottest acts in music” Xamot continued

“They’re not wrong about that” Jetta said with pride

“But we are concerned about your rivals, the famed Jem and the Holograms”
Tomax said

“Hey those dweebs got nothing on us” Pizzazz said

“We quite agree, especially if the rumors are true” Xamot said

“What rumors are you talking about” Stormer said

“Apparently, the Holograms have a secret tool provided to them by the
government” Tomax

“But we may be wrong. If you could verify the information” Xamot said

“We might be able to provide a cash infusion. Good day to you” The Twins said in
unison leaving. As they left the didn’t notice the Stingers had eavesdropped

“I knew that those jerks could never out rock us!” Pizzazz said

“Yeah but what could it be?” Roxy asked

“Now hold up, everyone! We don’t even know who those guys are” Stormer said

“You don’t know, but I do” Eric said starting to make phone calls “They can elevate us to greater heights”

“Yeah but how could the government be helping them?” Jetta wondered

“I don’t know but we’re going to raise the heat on the Holograms” Pizzazz said
“Clash we need you”

“I’m on it” Clash said already planning

“I’ll get to the bottom of this” Eric said “Blast that Techrat, he’s never around when I need him” ’

Meanwhile the Stingers were assessing the news too

“Huh so Jem has a secret weapon does she” Riot said with admiration “That little fox”

“Forget that, what are we gonna do about it?” Rapture asked

“Maybe we can get answers from an old pal of mine” Riot said “C’mon girls”

Outside Stinger Records, the Stingers went one way not noticing they were being followed by Rio. He hadn’t heard from Jem in a long time and was concerned. He didn’t want to rush to judgment but his jealousy over Riot clouded his mind and he was going to investigate him

Tomax and Xamot meanwhile went to an alley where they had a pair of Flight Pods hidden. As they changed into their battle suits, they were met by Flipside, Buzzsaw, Overkill and Slugfest.

“Well, boys, what’s the good word?” Flipsides asked

“The gears are turning, my dear,” Tomax said

“The Holograms will be distracted and in the confusion,” Xamot continued

“Victory will be ours,” The Twins said together

“How lovely. Just as long as we get some action, right fellas,” Flipsides asked her cassette partners

Overkill, Slugfest and Buzzsaw growled their response.

“I assure you, we shall all be sated in battle,” Tomax promised as all assembled shared a laugh.

Chapter Seven

While Cobra and the Decepticons were conspiring, the Autobots and Joes were returning the Starlight Girls back home. Jem and the Holograms, especially Jem, were pacing nervously.

“Jem you’re going to wear out a hole in the floor,” Shana said

“I know, but I can’t stop thinking about those poor kids,” Jem said. “They must be scared out of their minds,” As they heard a loud beeping

“We’ll find out, cause they’re back!” Raya shouted as the Holograms raced outside to greet the girls.

The Starlight Girls quickly departed Ironhide and Chromia and were quickly embraced

“Girls, are you OK?” Kimber asked. The excited response from the girls was reassuring. If they were frightened they quickly got over it

The girls were excitedly going on how the Autobots saved them and how cool they all were.

“Whoa, whoa now settle down girls one at a time” Jem said. She was clearly relieved that they girls didn’t seem to be traumatized by what happened

“Hey wait, where's Ba Nee?” Aja asked after a head count

“There she is,” Terri said, pointing to the sky as Swoop arrived with Ba Nee riding her. The Holograms quickly went to her as Moonracer drove by

“Ba Nee are you alright dear?” Jem asked as she embraced the girl

“Yeah that was fun” Ba Nee said “Thanks Swoop”

“You welcome” Swoop said

“Moonracer, why didn’t you have her travel inside you? Swoop could have crashed?” Chromia asked

“Now Chromia all’s well that ends well” Ironhide said showing the children were all unharmed

Optimus Prime addressed the Autobots who went on the mission “Well done Autobots the children are all safe and secure”

As the Autobots continued their briefing the Joes looked on, some a bit perturbed

“Pardon my ignorance, but didn’t we turn the tides in that battle” Sci Fi asked

“Yeah the snakes and cons were mopping the floor with ‘em when we came” Leatherneck said

“Maybe if they had waited for us we could have captured them instead of turning tail” Wet Suit grumbled

Just then the Technobots and Aerialbots went to the Joes

“Um excuse me, not to be rude but we were wondering what made us disengage when we were combined” Silverbolt asked

“Yeah what gives?” Afterburner blurted “We coulda been scrapped out there”

Leatherneck and Wet Suit started to hem and haw when Gen. Hawk and arrived

“I can explain that, you see, several months ago we developed what we call the Gestalt Ray.” Gen. Hawk explained “It was built from the remains of the Transfixatron the Decepticons used on you”

“That’s all well and good general, but don’t you think you should have informed us of such a weapon? After all we share all intel with Earth militaries” Ultra Magnus asked

“At the time we only had to worry about Devastator, but now combiners are popping up all over” Duke said “You can understand how that concerns us”

Ultra Magnus conceded their fear was valid and let it go. Arcee and Greenlight walked to him as Gauge was laughing with the Starlight Girls

“He didn’t answer your question did he Ultra Magnus” Arcee said with concern

“No Arcee. But we have other pressing matters” Ultra Magnus said as he went to Optimus

“I gotta tell ya Arcee so far humans are a mixed bag” Greenlight admitted

“Humans are nice when you get to know them” Arcee said “It’s just their leaders who you have to look out for.”

Optimus went to the Starlight Girls “Girls I spoke with the Autobots who brought you back and I want to say you should be proud of yourself for being so brave”

The Starlight Girls were all excited by being complimented by Optimus Prime himself

“How ‘about that those kids are gaga over the Autobots and are ignoring us” Gung-ho said a bit hurt

“Well not all of us are being ignored” Scarlett said seeing the girls playing with Junkyard

“Yeah Junk is great with kids, especially older ones who know how to pet dogs” Mutt said

Scarlett noticed Ba Nee nearing Timber and Freedom apprehensively. She went along with Snake Eyes and Spirit

“Do not worry child, Freedom can sense you mean no harm” Spirit told her

“Thanks I’ve never seen a bald eagle before” Ba Nee said petting Timber “And is he a real wolf?”

“He sure is” Scarlett said “But Timber’s a good boy aren’t ya?” Scarelett said petting him as Snake Eyes gave a thumbs up

“I understand you had an encounter with Storm Shadow” Spirit said “He didn’t harm you did he?”

“No, actually I think I scared him. You see...: Ba Nee said before stopping

“Honey if you have something to say we’ll keep your secret” Scarlett promised as Snake Eyes nodded

Ba Nee thought hard, closed her eyes and then told Scarlett, Spirit and Snake Eyes about what happened with Storm Shadow

“I mean why do you think he did that?” Ba Nee asked, already knowing the reason “Could he really be my dad?”

Scarlett and Spirit were shocked by the news but quickly maintained their composure

“I don’t know child but we must keep an open mind” Spirit said

“Yeah, you won’t tell anyone right?” Ba Nee asked worriedly

“Ba Nee I promise we’ll keep what we said as our secret” Scarlett promised “Now why don’t you head back with the other girls?”

Ba Nee did so and was soon petting Steeljaw as she had with with Timber

“So what now boys? This is big news” Scarlett said thinking of the implications

“I believe we should verify the information before we take any action” Spirit said

“But we must inform Gen. Hawk” Snake Eyes nodded

“Yeah I just hope Ba Nee doesn’t think we lied to her” Scarlett said thinking back as a girl herself

Jem went to the Starlight Girls “Ok girls I think you need some rest, why don’t you head back now”

“Aww...do we have too?” Ashley asked

“Now look missy we have important things to take care of” Duke said sternly

The Starlight Girls grumbled until Bumblebee spoke “He’s right girls but don’t worry when this is all done we’ll give you a tour of Autobot Base right Prime?”

“Absolutely Bumblebee” Optimus promised

“And don’t forget, we still owe you a tour of Protectobot base” Hot Spot added

With that the girls headed back inside under the care of Mrs. Bailey

“I hope we didn’t undermine your authority with the girls Jem” Optimus said

“No you didn’t Optimus” Jem reassured him and looking at the Joes “And it wasn’t my authority that was undermined”

“Autobots, Joes and I guess Holograms” Ultra Magnus said “This journey is far from over. It’s clear that Cobra and the Decepticons have joined forces”

“Yeah that is what it looks like” Flint said “But what are they after? What could make them team up now?”

“I think they want me” Synergy said with embarrassment

“What why would they want you Synergy” Jem asked

“I have certain...abilities that would help Megatron achieve victory” Synergy explained

“And what might these abilities be?” Beachhead asked

Before Synergy could answer, Elita-1 interjected “Err.., if we are to discuss this we do it in private. Why don’t we head back to Autobot Headquarters to discuss this”

“Yes I agree about privacy. But after what’s happened today I think GI Joe Headquarters is more secure don’t you agree” Gen. Hawk said

Elita-1 had no answer back and the Autobots had to concede Gen. Hawk’s point

“Gen. Hawk if we are to have an examination I must insist that Jem and the Holograms be allowed to take part” Synergy insisted

The Joes could see this was not an argument they could lose

“Very well Miss, your friends can come” Gen. Hawk agreed then turned to the Holograms “But anything you ladies see is top secret, you understand?”

Soon the Autobots, Joes and Holograms began their trek to GI Joe Headquarters not noticing a camera left by Laserbeak was recording all for the Decepticons and Cobra to view

“Now we are in the next stage of our war” Megatron said with a gleam in his optics

Chapter Eight

The assembled Joes, Autobots and Holograms were at GI Joe Headquarters in short time

“Ok gang I got the heads up from Gen. Hawk” Breaker told the assembled Joes
“The Autobots are on their way.”

“Hey all right” Airtight said excitedly “The Autobots are out of this world, I’ve always wanted to meet them”

“Well do try to keep your composure when they arrive” Lowlight said nonchalantly
“They’re not the first VIPs we’ve had on base

“And they won’t be the only ones now” Breaker continued “The rock band Jem and the Holograms will be with them”

“Hey far out, their music is outrageous” Footloose said “Maybe I can get their autograph”

“Ah they’re ok, but if they really want to be real stars, they should get into country music” Cross-Country joked

“Atten-hut!” came a booming voice. It was Sgt. Slaughter and all the assembled Joes were at attention

“We are not here to go gaga over some singers. We will conduct ourselves with utmost military behavior at all times! Do you understand me!” Sgt. Slaughter boomed

“Yes sir, Sgt. Slaughter!” The assembled Joes said in unison

“Good now, let’s get this place shipshape and I mean now! And that’s an order!” Sgt. Slaughter bellowed

The Joes hurried to get ready for the Autobots as Stalker and Doc went to speak with Sgt. Slaughter

“I’ll be honest sarge I’m a bit wary of having the Autobots on base” Stalker admitted

“I understand that Stalker, but the Autobots are on our side” Sgt. Slaughter said in a more calmer tone “I have an old pal who’s friends with them and he vouched for them”

“Well I’m more worried about how they will interact with our other guest” Doc said

“Yeah I didn’t think about that” Sgt. Slaughter said and responded in his usual bluster “Well we better get prepared right men?”

“Yo Joe!” Stalker and Doc answered as they joined the others

Soon the Autobots and Joes arrived at GI Joe Headquarters. The human visitors found themselves being under security to enter

“I guess you won’t need to use those things on us” Bumblebee said

The Joes on base went to greet their visitors. Sgt. Slaughter rode in on his Triple T. Both the Joes and Autobots were surprised to see him warmly greet Sparkplug

“Sarge is that you?” Sparkplug said as he shook Sgt Slaughter’s hand “You look great!”

“You too Sparky” Sgt. Slaughter said “Civilian life agrees with you”

“Sparky? Why Sparkplug I didn’t know you were friends with our allies?” Arcee said with a sly smile

“Well, when I was in the army me and the sarge were in the same unit” Sparkplug admitted

“More than that he saved my life on the battlefield” Sgth. Slaughter said and turned to Spike “I wouldn’t be here without your old man”

“Gee I never knew that?” Spike said looking at his father in a new light

Sgt. Slaughter then turned to Flint and Lady Jaye “Uh listen we tried to contact you but we got a message from Mrs. Ratner”

“Mrs. Ratner?” Lady Jaye said with concern about the babysitter she and Flint used “Is everything OK?”

“Yes she’s fine but she had a family emergency” Sgt. Slaughter reassured “So she had to drop off...”

“Hi mom, hi dad!” Said a young energetic voice. It was their 8-year old daughter Marissa. Marissa was a happy, energetic child beloved by all on the base. She was absolutely fearless and was about to have the biggest thrill of her life

“Hi sweetie” Lady Jaye said hugging her daughter “Did you have a good day at school”

“Yeah it was OK. We learned about the planets” Marissa said as she stopped to pet Junkyard “Say did you know the biggest moon of Saturn is Titan and...”

Marissa stopped dead in her tracks when she found herself face to face with Grimlock! She was absolutely frozen until Grimlock raised his arm and said “Hello!”

“Wha...you..gee..you’re you’re Grimlock the leader of the Dinobots!” Marissa said absolutely floored

“Yup, me Grimlock am Grimlock” Grimlock said a bit confused

Marissa then managed to unfreeze herself and to her utter delight saw GI Joe base was surrounded by numerous Autobots. It was a dream come true!

“And you’re Bumblebee and Jazz and Cliffjumper” Marissa exclaimed in utter glee

“Nice to meet you Marissa” Bumblebee said

“Yeah your folks told us all about you” Jazz said

“She did?” Ironhide asked confused

“Ironhide hush” Synergy whispered as Chromia elbowed him

“Err...oh yeah that’s right” Ironhide said with a thumbs up

Marissa then went on to make her greetings to every Autobot

“I’m sorry Marissa just adores the Autobots” Lady Jaye said a bit embarrassed

“Yeah, it’s like her toys have come to life” Flint said “Come to think of it she probably has toys of you all”

“Well that’s OK” Ultra Magnus said somewhat humbled “Think of it as a roll call”

Marissa was even more excited to see new Autobots on Earth when she met Hot Rod, Kup and Blurr

“I could get used to this reception!” Hot Rod said

“Careful there hot shot, that girl is important to all of us here” Beachhead warned

Marissa was gushing over Grapple and Hoist when Lady Jaye went to her

“Marissa sweetie we have other guests too” Lady Jaye said

“Yes I imagine a child your age would be excited to meet them” Hoist said when Jem and the Holograms came to her

“Hi Marissa, it's nice to meet you,” Jem said. She and the Holograms were used to kids, especially girls, coming up to them

“Oh hello” Marissa said, politely but not overly impressed. She was more excited to see the Autobots behind them

“You’re Skids and Hauler this is so awesome

“Oh thank you very much” Hauler said then turned to Skids “It’s nice to be popular isn’t it Skids?”

“Indeed it is Hauler” Skids said, not used to getting interest from humans as the more popular Autobots. He noticed the Holograms somewhat perplexed by the lack of interest

“I’m sorry ladies” Skids said “I hope you’re not offended”

“No we’re not offended” Jem reassured him “Humbled is more like it”

Marissa was then completely shocked by being met by none other than Optimus Prime who was with Elita-1 and Ultra Magnus

“Hello Marissa, it's very nice to meet you. Your parents told me how much you admire us Autobots. I’m glad to hear it” Optimus said

Marissa froze, for her it was a dream come true to meet the Optimus Prime. This was any child's wish but all Marissa could muster was a very quiet "Hi!" and then ran to her parents

"Marissa it's ok honey" Lady Jaye said trying to stifle her laughter at the situation
"I'm sorry Optimus"

"That's OK" Optimus chuckled "It happens more often than you'd think"

Elita-1 diffused the situation when she introduced Gauge "Marissa this is Gauge this is her first time on Earth isn't it Gauge?"

"Yes it's really neat." Gauge said nearing Marissa "Could you tell me about it?"

Marissa overcame her shyness and was happy to welcome an Autobot to Earth

"Sure, say you're from Cybertron! I have so many questions"

"Neat I have a lot of questions about Earth" Gauge said

Chapter Nine

Gauge and Marissa wandered away chatting, as they walked Ultra Magnus addressed the troops

"All right, Autobots we have to create a plan of action to stop Cobra and the Decepticons" Ultra Magnus commanded. He then turned to the Throttlebots
"Throttlebots I want you create a perimeter outside the base in case of infiltration"

“Don’t worry Ultra Magnus, you can count on us!” Rollbar said “Let’s go Throttlebots!”

“If there are Decepticons we’ll turn ‘em into scrap” Goldbug added

The Throttlebots transformed and headed out. Chip looked at Goldbug and turned to Bumblebee “Bumblebee I noticed Goldbug sounds like you and shares an alt mode. Is he related to you?”

“You know it’s funny Chip, Spike and Carly asked the same question. But it’s just a coincidence” Bumblebee said with a laugh

“This is all exciting and all but why do we have these guests?” Lt. Falcon asked then turned his attention to Kimber “Not that I mind”

“We have these guests Lt. Falcon because we have serious business.” Beachhead seriously “Cobra and the Decepticons have allied and are after Synergy. If we don’t stop them they’ll take over the world.”

“Ok, ok chill out. Where is this Synergy anyway? Why is it important?” Falcon asked

“It? Did you just call Synergy it?” Chromia said with venom in her voice

“Uh oh,” Ironhide said. He knew this wasn’t going to be good

“Did you just call my sister it!” Chromia said, staring daggers at Falcon.

“Wha...lady I don’t know what you’re talking about” Falcon said worried

“Smooth move little brother” Duke said annoyed at his brother

“His brother? Why am I not surprised” Springer said

“It!” Chromia yelled “It!”

“Now Chromia don’t get upset” Ironhide said holding her arm

“He didn’t know.” Synergy added “No harm done”

“It!” Chromia yelled again

“Chromia calm yourself!” Optimus ordered. Seeing the awkward faces of all those assembled made Chromia regain her composure

“Lt. Falcon why don’t you make a perimeter sweep” Beachhead said “And for crying out think before you speak”

“Ok, ok geez” Falcon turned to Lady Jaye and Flint “How was I supposed to know?”

“You’re just lucky our daughter wasn’t here to see this unpleasantness” Lady Jaye said grimly

“And that goes double for Gauge, she’s just a sparkling, ” Arcee added. Seeing the reaction made Chromia somewhat remorseful of her tantrum

“Move Falcon!” Flint ordered and Lt. Falcon went

“I’m sorry about my brother, Synergy,” Duke said to Synergy

“That’s alright, Duke we do have more important things to worry about,” Synergy said calming the mood

Lt. Falcon grumbled about touchy robots when he noticed a group standing. Was it Cobra?

“Hold it right there!” Falcon ordered. To his surprise it was the Stingers! “Rory, is that you?”

“Hey I’m Riot now remember!” Riot said as he greeted Falcon “Good to see ya Vince!”

“I’m Lt. Falcon now,” Falcon joked, then turned his attention to Minx and Rapture. “And hello there”

“Ooh an officer, how nice!” Minx said

“Hey there handsome” Rapture said “How do you know Riot”

“We were in basic training together” Falcon “But what are you doing here?”

“That what I want to know” Rio said “I should have known you were up to no good Riot!”

“Back off, Rio, you don’t know why I’m here,” Riot said, getting in Rio’s face.

“Why don’t you tell me.” Rio was getting agitated

“Hey cool down you two!” Falcon said. “I can’t believe I’m the mature one here.”

“This jerk is jealous of Jem,” Riot explained.

“You calling me a jerk?” Rio said as they started to scuffle

“Hey, you two, that’s enough!” Freeway boomed as the Throttlebots returned from their rounds.

“Ugh what smells so bad?” Minx said

“Never mind, lady,” Wideload said nervously and then changed the subject “What are you guys doing fighting anyway?”

“Don’t worry Autobots, we’ll learn why!” said a voice. It was Stalker. He and Beachhead came out to see the commotion

“We saw these humans fighting,” Searchlight explained. “Are they members of Cobra?”

“They very well might be. Don’t worry we’ll find out,” Beachhead said and then turned to Falcon. “And you, Lt. Falcon, go back to your post”

Falcon did as told as he made eye contact with Riot. Stalker turned to Beachhead for a private talk.

“Isn’t that Col. Llelywen’s son?” Stalker asked Beachhead

“I think so, yeah. No wonder he’s so sore” Beachhead said “Having a longhair punk for a son”

“OK pretty boys we’re going to have a little chat!” Beachhead said, then turned to Minx and Rapture. “You ladies don’t mind joining us, do you?”

“Not at all,” Minx said as they all left as the Throttlebots wondered what they saw.

“Is it me or are humans really weird?” Searchlight asked

“It’s not just you Searchlight” Goldbug said

The Joes and Autobots listened to Beachhead as he reported the intruders

“All right, Beachhead, let me know what our visitors tell you,” Gen. Hawk said on his comlink as Jem and the Holograms huddled together.

“Oh great how did Rio get here?” Jem asked worriedly.

“Never mind that now the Stingers are involved!” Shana said “What’s next the Misfits?”

“I really hope not,” Aja moaned. “That’s all we need to worry about.”

Jazz and Lady Jaye watched the Holograms talk

“Is it my imagination or are they really nervous?” Jazz asked

“No Jazz they definitely are up to something” Lady Jaye said

Just as things were heating up, Optimus Prime answered a call from Windblade

“What is it Windblade?”

“Optimus, Teletran-1 reports attacks all over Earth!” Windblade said as she manned the console

“Don’t tell me the Decepticons are causing trouble already” Hot Rod said

“I wouldn’t put it past Cobra” Flint said

When Teletran-1 came on to screen and showed them all the assembled were horrified to see the cause of the attack. It was the Inhumanoids!

“Looks like it’s going to be one of those days” Shipwreck quipped in horror

Comic Issue 4- The Evil that Lies Within

Chapter 1

The Joes and Autobots were horrified to see the monstrous Inhumanoids rampaging all over the Earth. Tendrill the plant-like monster was headed toward Tokyo. The grotesque D’Compose was in London and their leader Metlar was in New York City.

“The Inhumanoids are loose!” Gen. Hawk yelled “The Earth Corps must be contacted immediately!”

“Ace told me they were on the rampage again” Duke said

“Why didn’t you tell us about them?” Red Alert asked “Intel about a threat like that should be shared”

“Not now Red, we have to deal with this threat” Ultra Magnus said before the Joes responded

“Wait a minute!” Wheeljack said “Am I the only one that sees those things on their heads?:

“No I see them too Wheeljack” Perceptor said transforming into microscope mode
“Those are cerebro shells”

“Cerebro wha?” Kimber asked concerned

"Whether the Decepticons are involved in this or not we must stop those creatures before any humans are harmed.” Optimus Prime said “Blaster”

“Way ahead of you Prime. I already contacted the Trainbots to take care of greenzilla!” Blaster said

“And Defensor can protect the people in London” Hot Spot said

“I’m coming with you guys,” Trailbreaker said “My force field could turn the tide

“And I’m heading to New York. That thing could threaten my friend Raoul!” Tracks insisted

“Optimus it may take a monster to beat a monster” Arcee said to Optimus

“I think you’re right Arcee” Optimus said turning to his comlink “Windblade, tell the Monsterbots we need them”

“Right away Optimus” Windblade said, who turned to Repugnus, Grotusque and Doublecross who were next to her “Are you guys ready for action?”

“Ha we’re always ready for action little lady” Doublecross said

“The dirtier the job the more I like it” Repugnus said snapping his claws

“I say we hit the Big Apple first and take a bite out of Hothead” Grotusque said as the Monsterbots transformed and flew out of the base

Omega Supreme and Sky Lynx arrived and had the Autobots board them

“Omega Supreme ready for destination” Omega Supreme said

“Omega, go to Tokyo to assist the Trainbots. Sky Lynx, Skyfire you to London and the Aerialbots will rendezvous in New York” Elita-1 said taking point

“Excuse me miss, don't you think we should coordinate on this?” Duke said more then perturbed

“No need to worry my good man, Sky Lynx can be trusted for any brouhaha” Sky Lynx commanded “Let us away comrades!”

Several of the Autobots stayed behind as the Joes again were left in the lurch by the Autobots. This time the Autobots noticed the awkwardness

“Heh that’s why we call Sky Lynx commander modesty” Bluestreak said trying to lower the tension

“Yeah, well Mac Davis said it’s hard to be humble” Cross Country said as he scratched his neck

“I apologize if it appears we’re undermining you but you must understand that Autobots value human life” Elita-1 explained “We have seen how fragile it is and have made pained efforts to ensure we leave no human casualties”

“We appreciate that ma’am.” Beachhead said “We’ve taken a toll of your war with the Decepticons and have noted the grand total of fatalities and even serious injuries is zero”

“And we are determined to keep it at that number” Arcee added

“Your boy had a close call a few years ago didn’t he Sparkplug” Sgt. Slaughter said to Sparkplug referring to the Autobot X incident

“Yeah that was scary Sarge” Sparkplug admitted “But the Autobots went to the ends for my boy”

“I’d love to chat with ya more but I have some interlopers to interrogate” Sgt Slaughter said getting back into his Triple T

“Wait sergeant please I know them. Can me and my friends come with you?” Jem asked

“Well...you can observe, but I ask all the questions. Capice?” Sarge said as the Holograms nodded

“Everyone get ready” Duke said “The Autobots are getting our help whether they ask for it or not Yo Joe!”

As the Joes and Autobots were scrambling the Decepticons and Cobra were watching them

“My compliments to you Dr. Mindbender.” Megatron said “You managed to completely tame the Inhumanoids”

“Thank you Megatron but I couldn’t have done it without Airachnid” Dr. Mindbender said

“You’re far too kind doctor” Airachnid said in her spider mode lounging on an energon web

“With our enemies distracted fighting those monsters we will ‘rescue’ Synergy and conquer this planet!” Megatron addressed the assembled

“Destro are all Cobra vehicles upgraded” Serpenter asked Destro

“Yes great Emperor the Joes will never stand a chance” Destro said “And neither will London” he added to confused Decepticons

“My dear Destro has a dislike for the English” Baroness told a confused Ravage and Nightbird

“Yes I can see that” Nightbird said

“BATs and Snake Robots are also finished” Scrap Iron said over the comlink

“Excellent Scrap Iron! Are you at your destination?” Cobra Commander asked

At the time the Cobra Transport Plane was traveling in the air with a detachment of Firebats and Fangs flanking it. Inside Scrap Iron was leading a squad of Crimson Guards, Techno-Vipers and Tele-Vipers also with them were the Seekers Hotlink, Nacelle Bitstream and the Constructicons

“We’re almost there Commander. We’ll contact you when we arrive” Scrap Iron said, ending the communication. He then turned to Scrapper “I gotta say I’m really excited for this mission”

“My human friend be prepared to be part of the greatest engineering masterpiece” Scrapper said

“You are about to be a part of greatness” Hook bragged to the Techno Vipers

“Ah I wish I was a part of of the big battle now” Long Haul whined

“Me too LH, we could be doing some serious destruction” Bonecrusher said revving up his chainsaw

“C’m on fellows this is going to be fun especially once Synergy is with us” Mixmaster said in giddiness

“I like being flown to somewhere for once” Hotlink said resting his feet up

“Well enjoy it while you can, we’re in for a big job” Nacelle said

Chapter 2

Soon the three squads of Autobots were at their destinations. The Trainbots were the first to arrive at battle. Shouki the leader assessed the situation with his teammates

“Suiken, are all the humans evacuated?” Shouki asked

“Affirmative, there might be property damage but there will be zero casualties” Suiken affirmed

“C’mon what are we waiting for, let's cut that weed down!” Kaen shouted

“Then I suggest we unite for victory” Yukikaze added

“Yeah we’ll take that monster down and save the day” Getsuei agreed

“Trainbots merge into Raiden” Shouki ordered and in an instance Raiden was formed

“That’s enough you green goon!” Raiden yelled to Tendril “You better leave Tokyo right now!”

“Errgh...Tendrill not scared of metal man!” Tendrill said cutting some vines into smaller clones “Tendrill crush metal man!”

Soon Raiden found himself being constricted “Can’t hold on for long!” It was looking bad until one of the clones was blasted into a green puddle

Help came from Artfire, Ricochet and Minerva, fellow Autobots stationed in Japan

“Don’t worry Raiden the cavalry has arrived” Artfire promised

“We won’t let that monster wreck this beautiful city” Minerva said blasting at the next clone helping Raiden free himself. Raiden grappled with Tendril and was overpowering him when the Autobots were being shot at

“You Autobots don’t stand a chance” Astrontrain said as he led Octane, Pounce, Wingspan and the Insecticons in battle

“Let’s go Wingspan, you go high and I’ll go low” Pounce said to his brother as they transformed. Wingspan grabbed Minerva by his talons and Pounce lived up to his name

“Let me go you creep” Minerva yelled at Wingspan

“Careful Autobot it’s a long drop” Wingspan said with a laugh

“We got this in the bag” Octane said to Shrapnel who noticed some of Tendril’s vines

“In that case why don’t we have some lunch, lunch” Shrapnel said as the Insecticons started chewing on some of the vines

“Mmm..not bad at all” Bombshell said

“I agree very flavorsome” Kickback said slurping a vine like a noodle

“Hey metal bugs no eat Tendril!” Tendril shrieked

“Ugh..that’s disgusting” Astrotrain said sharing the sentiments of the other Decepticons and Autobots

“Tell me about it!” A voice boomed it was Jazz who led a squad of Autobots from Omega Supreme. Once he departed Omega Supreme he transformed and helped Raiden team up against Tendril

“Assistance arrived to neutralize Inhumanoid” Omega Supreme said to Raiden

“Thanks I’ll take the help” Raiden said

“Hey I thought you Autobots were all about fair play! Octane said as a blast came from the water “Isn’t that right fellas” The shot came from Snaptrap the Seacon leader who lead his troops

“Ha I’m going to enjoy this” Seawing said as he transformed into his weapon mode

“Tendrill has the right idea let’s give the Autobots the squeeze” Tentakill said as he shot at Hubcap and Swerve

“I just hope that handsome Seaspray is here!” His sister Scylla said as she transformed and held on the Swerve

“Sorry lady Seaspray is not and I’m glad for him” Swerve said

“Enough of this, Seacons form Pirhanacon!” Snaptrap commanded and in an instance Pirhanacon was in the fray

“Pirhanacon help that overgrown weed!” Astrotrain commanded

“It will be an honor to battle the mighty Omega Supreme” Pirhanacon said with zeal “Where is my weapon?”

“Sorry about that, here I am” Nautilator said as he transformed in the gun of Pirhanacon and fired on Omega Supreme and Raiden

“Uh oh we got trouble on the double” Blaster said to Jazz and Minerva

“We getter clip this weed or the Land of the Rising Sun will be in the dark for good” Jazz mused

Meanwhile in London the situation was more serious. D’Compose caught the Londoners by surprise and used his powers to enthrall numerous people.

“D’Compose!” The Inhumanoid yelled

“Leave the humans alone, monster!” Defensor said as he decked D’Compose

“This is a disaster we have to help those people!” Ratchet said to Prowl who was leading this group of Autobots

“I’ll corral these humans” Trailbreaker said as he used his forcefield to keep the monsterized humans from harm “We can at least keep them safe”

“They will revert their form once exposed to sunlight” Perceptor reassured

“Oh great in London? It’s always foggy” Gears grumbled

“Maybe we’ll get lucky” Hufer said as it started to rain “Then again maybe not”

Near Big Ben a trio of female Seekers were overseeing a storm cloud they created. They were the Rainmakers, Acid Storm, Nova Storm and Ion Storm. With them

were fellow Seekers Dirge, Thrust, Ramjet, Slipstream, Thundercracker and Sunstorm led by Starscream

“Well done ladies this little squall will keep those humans from reverting” Starscream said

“Talk about dreary” Dirge groaned

“Thank you Starscream I just wish Megatron allowed us to rain our usual acid” Acid Storm said

“I agree but orders are orders” Nova Storm added

“That’s OK we can slag them ourselves” Ion Storm said

“Yeah we’re not going to let that monster have all the fun are we?” Thrust asked

“Certainly not, we just need to tilt the odds in our favor!” Starscream said as he fired his Null Ray in the air

“What was that?” Greenlight “Are there Decepticons here?”

“I hope not because we finally have that monster on the ropes” Prowl said as Defensor had D'Compose in a headlock

“C’mon fella just give up. We’ll get you some help” Defensor pleaded

“D’Compose never give up!” D’Compose yelled

“I quite agree. That’s why I’m here” a voice from behind said as he punched Defensor. It was Predaking wielding his sword

“Predaking! Now is not the time, these humans are in danger” Defensor

“The danger has only begun Autobot! Decepticons attack!” Starscream said leading the Seekers to battle

“C’mon girls join the fun” Acid Storm said as she took a shot from Prowl

“How do you like my acid pellets?” Prowl said getting another shot on Nova Storm

“Feh, you call that acid” Nova Storm scoffed

Defensor found himself in trouble dealing with both Predaking and D’Compose

“Predaking you have to let me stop this creature” Defensor tried to reason

“They are on the bottom of the food chain Defensor” Predaking said “A shame one as powerful as you can't realize that”

“Well it’s a good thing I am here!” Sky Lynx said coming to Defensor’s aide. Soon Defensor was riding Sky Lynx like a steed

“Sky Lynx you’re a sight for sore optics” Defensor said

“Naturally” Sky Lynx boasted “Now let us slay these dragons like the knights of old!”

“Careful Sky Lynx, this dragon breathes fire!” Predaking said blasting away

Powerglide was in the middle of a dogfight with Thrust, Ramjet and Dirge

“You can’t outfly us Powerglide!” Thrust yelled

“Hah that’s what you think. You’re going down with Moe and Curly” Powerglide taunted

“Moe? Hey my name’s Ramjet” Ramjet said

Back at their base Megatron assembled his troops “While the Autobots are occupied we will deal a heavy blow. Shockwave you will lead your strike team to the base of GI Joe and rescue Synergy”

“Yes Megatron I shall not fail you!” Shockwave promised and then thought to himself “I shall not disappoint you either my love” Suddenly Shockwave had another thought and turned to his Cobra allies. “Query who was the GI Joe member who called Synergy ‘It’?”

“Why that’s Lt. Falcon, he’s a new brash member of GI Joe” Cobra Commander said then stopped when he noticed Shockwave’s intense glare “Err..is everything all right?”

“Mmm? Oh yes quite. Lt. Falcon noted. I shall have to teach this human a lesson in manners and Jem and her Holograms as well!” Shockwave said with his memories going back to millions of years ago on Cybertron

At his laboratory, Alpha Trion and Doc were working hard in repairing members of his resistance against the Quintesson subjugators. Synergy and Blitzwing entered the room

“Victory is at hand! Soon we will be free from those five-faced demons” Blitzwing said brandishing his scimitar

“Patience Blitzwing. War is the easy part, winning the peace will be the real challenge” Synergy said then turned to Alpha Trion “How is our newest patient?”

“I’m afraid it’s not good” Alpha Trion sighed “The empurata is irreversible. I don’t know how to break it to him”

Just then the visitor (Shockwave) began to wake up. Synergy turned to Blitzwing and Alpha Trion and asked them to leave so she could break the news gently

“What happened? The last thing I remember is being deemed innocent and then being overrun by Sharkticons and..” Shockwave stopped when he tried to rub his face with his hand but he had no hands “My hands what happened to them?”

Shockwave then saw his reflection in a mirrored surface and was beyond aghast. He had no hand and worse, no face!

“What happened to me!?” Shockwave bellowed then sinking into tears “They mutilated me! I’m a monster!”

“No dearest as long as you don’t give up hope you’ll never be a monster” Synergy said embracing him

Seeing her loving face gave Shockwave’s spark new hope. “I think I can restore my hands. But my face is lost forever. But I can still see you”

“As long as we can see each other nothing else matters” Synergy promised

Shockwave then came back into the present “Nothing else matters” Shockwave muttered and then faced his strike force “Decepticons follow me to victory!” With that the departed

Chapter 3 .

The Autobots were having trouble in London and Tokyo and not faring much better in New York. Fortunately Metlar was not in Midtown or any other heavily populated areas and instead making his way to Ellis Island

“That big creep is running amuck” Inferno said standing next to Ultra Magnus. The Autobots were on the sea atop Broadside

“Yes and he seems to have something on his mind” Ultra Magnus said as Metlar neared the Statue of Liberty

“Oh no he’s going to melt Lady Liberty into molten slag” Lancer said worriedly

“Not if we have anything to say about it let’s go Aerialbots!” Silverbolt said as they transformed and flew off Broadside’s deck

“Careful Silverbolt, he looks dangerous” Road Rage warned. Lately she and the Aerialbot leader were developing feelings for each other

“Don’t worry this isn’t the first time we’ve saved the good lady” Air Raid promised

“Well I’m going to give you boys some air support” Tracks said as he transformed into flying car

“C’mon Nautica we can take the low road” Seaspray said transforming into hovercraft mode

“Just try and stop me” Nautica said

Metlar was near the Statue of Liberty clearly enchanted “Soon my love we shall be reunited” Metlar said lovingly

Back at the Terror Drome the Decepticons and Cobra were annoyed at the sight

“Why isn’t that thing marauding like the other ones?” Serpantor asked

“So much for your super warriors Mindbender” Cobra Commander scoffed

“The other two are under our complete control” Airachnid said defiantly

“And we already have precautions” Megatron said then turned to a comlink

“Mindwipe come in”

In the middle of New York Mindwipe, Skullcruncher, Weirwolf and the Terrorcons had arrived

“Yes Megatron we are here” Mindwipe said

“The Inhumanoid Metlar is weakening from our control. Use your powers to keep in enthralled as our warrior” Megaton ordered

“C’mon fellas we can sightsee later” Skullcruncher said

“Mmm...maybe have Empire State Building for dinner after” Hun-grr said licking both his lips

Metlar got close to the Statue of Liberty only to be fired upon by the Aerialbots

“Let’s take this hothead down guys” Slingshot said as he strafed Metlar

“Bah you metal annoyances will not deter me” Metlar said as he threw a fireball at the Aerialbots

“No fireball’s gonna stop me!” Fireflight bragged

Suddenly Metlar had unexpected help as Weirdwolf, Skullcruncher and the Terrorcons fired at the Aerialbots as Mindwipe flew up to Metlar in his bat form

“Remember Metlar, you serve Megatron. Megatron is your master” Mindwipe said

“Yes Megatron is my Master...He is....” Metlar said enchanted, suddenly he snapped out of it “No I have no master!”

“Uh oh I think we’re losing control of the monster” Cutthroat said

“Bah, Terrorcons stronger any way!” Hun-grrr insisted “Terrorcons form Abominus!”

The Terrorcons did as ordered and Abominus was attacking the Autobots

“Abominus destroy!” Abominus yelled

“Yes destroy them all” Metlar said as he turned his attention to the Statue again as he summoned his army of stone warriors onto the streets of New York

“Uh oh guys looks like we gotta up the ante” Silverbolt said “Form Superion”

Superion tackled Abominus but was cornered by Metlar. He couldn’t handle both threats at once. Metlar was about to deliver a massive fireball when he was assaulted by a strong stream of water courtesy of inferno

“If you can’t stand the water, stay out of the Big Apple, ya hot head!” Inferno said

Broadside then came to Superion’s side “C’mon matey let’s clobber these boneheads”

“Good idea Broadside” Ultra Magnus said as he addressed the other Autobots “All right Autobots, Superion and Broadside will take down the monster. We have to cover them”

“You’ll get no cover from us Magnus!” Weirwolf said firing at the Autobots

“Let’s see if wolves can see in the dark” Tracks said firing his black beam gun

“I can see in the dark just fine Autobot” Mindwipe boasted

“C’mon ladies we have to turn those stone soldiers into pebbles” Seaspray said to Nautica and Road Rage

“There are so many of them” Nautica said blasting at the stone warriors

“Then it’s a good thing we chose New York first” Repugnus said as he was crushing the stone warriors. The Monsterbots were taking on the warriors headfirst

“It’s the Monsterbots! You boys came at the right time” Road Rage said

“We’re always happy to be of service” Grotusque said slashing at a few soldiers

“C’mon guys we gotta stop these rocks before they hit the Big Apple” Doublecross said as his two heads pulled apart another warrior

Abominus got his wind back and started walloping Superion

“Abominus crush Superion” Abominus shouted

Back at the Terror Drome the Decepticons and Cobra were watching the battle in all three cities. Pleased by the chaos

“Looks like London Bridge will be falling down real soon!” Rumble said

“Yes it’s that lovely” Destro said showing his hatred of the English

“I do hope Dr. Fujiyama is unharmed” Nightbird said with clear insincerity

“Ooh that lady ain't looking so hot” Zaranna said as he saw Dirge and Ramjet and Slipstream double team and strafe Greenlight with Slipstream giving a serious blow.

“But look at New York, that stupid monster is wasting his time at the Statue of Liberty!” Cobra Commander yelled

“Spare me Commander! We all know about your debacle when you attempted to deface the moon” Serpentor said

Before Cobra Commander had a chance to respond, Zanya noticed Metlar was emitting special lava

“Uh what’s that thing doing?” Zanya asked

“Bah, Cobra Commander is right that monster is obsessed with destroying the Statue of Liberty” Megatron grumbled

“Negative, Inhumanoid Metlar not destroying statue” Soundwave noticed

“Yes wait he’s...no he’s bringing it to life!” Dr. Mindbender said in amazement. Indeed the Statue of Liberty had become animated

The Joes and Autobots back at the base were equally gobsmacked by what they were seeing

“Is the Statue of Liberty walking around?” Scarlett said dryly. All Snake Eyes could do is shrug his shoulders

“Me Sludge not know Statue Lady alive” Sludge said

“Me Slag not know either” Slag said

“This is insanity” Jem said to Synergy and the Holograms

“I have to do something to stop this” Synergy said

“Synergy, what could you do?” Aja asked

“You’d be surprised” Synergy said as her eyes started glowing

Chapter Four

Just when it looked like things were hopeless the Autobots managed to turn the tides in all three battles

In Tokyo the Autobots were focusing on Tendrill’s vines

“Leakin’ lubricants these things are worse then Morphobots” Ironhide said blasting some vines with liquid nitrogen

“Hey wait that’s it the Morphobots hate music” Minerva said snapping her fingers

“Right on!” Jazz said turning to Ricochet “Hey Ricochet you got a strong stereo like me right?”

“I sure do let’s whack this weed” Ricochet said as the two blared loud Earth rock music

The music was the right attack. Tendrill’s vines all started to wither and die away and Tendrill was in clear pain

“Aaaa no like music!” Tendrill yelled

“Oh great that overgrown weed is wilting” Wingspan whined

“And that music is ruining my appetite, appetite“ Shrapnel said

“Quiet you two! We have bigger problems!” Pounce said pointing to Piranacon

With Tendril incapacitated Piranacon was now being double-teamed by Raiden and Omega Supreme

“I don’t need that thing to beat you!” Piranacon said as he started to glow “I will...wait what’s happening?”

All of a sudden Piranacon disengaged into the Seacons

“Blast, we split at the wrong time!” Overbite said

“Perhaps I should extend the timer when we combine” Snaptrap admitted

“You sea slugs blew it!” Pounce said as the Autobots started firing on them all

“Then allow us to blow you up!” Artfire said

The Decepticons now found themselves outgunned

“Inhumanoid neutralized! Decimate Decepticons!” Omega Supreme said

“Guys we gotta get outta here!” Scylla said

“Blast she’s right let’s flee” Bombshell said as the Decepticons flew away

“Sayonara suckers!” Jazz said as the Autobots shared a laugh

In London Starscream was leading the Decepticons against the Autobots

“It’s all over Autobots!” Starscream yelled

“It’s looking bad Prowl” Ratchet said as he attended to Greenlight “We’re pinned down and losing power”

“Fear not I think I have an idea” Skyfire said as he was in the air firing on Thundercracker and Acid Storm. He then took a shot at Sunstorm “Sunstorm I challenge you to one-on-one combat!

“I accept your challenge, traitor!” Sunstorm said as he flew to Skyfire

“What’s your idiot brother doing?” Nova Storm said to Starscream

“Sunstorm no it’s a trap” Starscream warned his brother to no avail

Skyfire flew into the heart of the storm cloud and as he figured, Sunstorm fired his solar flare, but Skyfire evaded it and the flare evaporated the cloud. The sun was back and did its healing magic

The humans reverted to their form and to Trailbreaker’s relief he could disengage his force field “Thanks Skyfire you’re a lifesaver”

D'Compose too was weakened and in the chaos, Defensor and Sky Lynx threw Predaking into the Inhumanoid. The Predacons disengaged

“Curse that Sky Lynx he got us again!” Tantrum yelled

“Not again this is getting embarrassing” Divebomb complained as the Protectobots disengaged and attacked them

“How would you creeps like a fair fight” Blades said

“C’mon guys let’s harsh their mellow” Groove said riding Headstrong

“Get off me you Autowimp” Headstrong yelled

“My precious storm cloud destroyed!” Acid Storm whined

“Your stupid brother messed up again!” Thundercracker said as Ion Storm gave him a smack

“Oh Sunstorm” Starscream said in an uncharacteristic tone then turned to the Decepticons “Decepticons retreat!”

“Oh well at least we’ll be back for my cartoons” Rampage said as the Decepticons flew away

“Skyfire I salute you” Sky Lynx said admiringly “I am proud to inspire such a clever stratagem”

“Thank you Sky Lynx, but the battles not over yet” As the Autobots cornered D’Compose “Come comrades, let’s stop that ghoul”

At New York both the Autobots and Decepticons were shocked to see the Statue of Liberty come to life

“Suffering sea lions, am I hallucinating?” Seaspray asked

“If you are it’s a mass hallucination” Nautica said in awe

“At last my love we are reunited” Metlar said as he took the Statue of Liberty’s hand. Before she could respond Abominus stepped on her foot

“Ouch oh my foot” The Statue said “You big lummo!”

“Silence metal woman! Abominus...” Abominus was cut off when the Statue punched him in his face causing the Terrorcons to disengage

“That really hurt” Sinnertwin said “She stronger then Computron”

“Terrorcons no let metal woman hurt. We will crush her” Hun-grr ordered

“Ah shaddap!” The Statue barked “You bums are nothing but trouble. And you stinky take a bath!”

“Hey I don’t smell that bad!” Blot defended himself

“Oh yes you do!” The Statue insisted as she then grabbed Mindwipe, Skullcruncher and Weirdwolf “Are you jerks with these slob?”

Mindwipe tried to control the situation “You are under my control!”

“You shmuck, I should rip your wings off!” The Statue said and then turned to Metlar “Do you hang out with these creeps?”

“No dearest, they tried to control me but I focused to rescue you and...: Metlar started to explain before being interrupted

“And nothing, this is my town and I won’t let you or these weirdos wreck it!” The Statue said as she tossed the three to the ground near the Predacons “Now you jerks beat it before I turn you into tin cans!”

The Decepticons slinked away as Road Rage flew to Silverbolt’s side

“Silverbolt are you ok?” Road Rage said with concern.

“Yeah I’m OK” Silverbolt said

“You big dummy! You scared me!” Road Rage suddenly turned into anger born of love “Don’t do that again!”

“Yes dear” Silverbolt said somewhat embarrassed

“Aww....!” The other Aerialbots said razzing their leader

“Oh no knock it off you knuckleheads” The Statue said then turned to Silverbolt “Listen to your lady she knows best”

“Yes ma’am” Silverbolt said then turned to Road Rage and gave her a kiss that she reciprocated

Ultra Magnus led his Autobot forces to Metlar

“All right Autobots the Decepticons are gone so we focus on Metlar” Ultra Magnus commanded

“Wait a minute something’s happening to Mister Magma” Broadside noticed

Indeed at that time Synergy glowing bright alarming the humans with her

“Synergy, what's wrong? Jem said with concern

“Don’t worry she’s helping the Autobots” Arcee reassured her

Synergy then emitted a blast of energy and at one time the three cerebro-shells on all three Inhumanoids came off

“Ugh...what happen where am me?” Tendrill said rubbing his head

“Hey check it out Mister Green Jean was being controlled” Jazz said over the comlink

“Same here Jazz” Prowl said as D’Compose looked around confused

“Metal spider lady mess with my head” D’Compose remembered

“Sounds like Airachnid’s evil science to me” Skyfire pontificated

“Easy Autobots Metlar is still dangerous” Ultra Magnus warned

“And I don’t believe the uncouth being was affected“ Tracks surmised

“Yes, she tried to control me. But never! I will have my revenge” Metlar bellowed

“Oh no you won’t!” The Statue said giving Metlar a dope slap “You’ve caused enough destruction for today! Now you tell those two bozos you hang out with to slink back to their hovels, put me back to normal and apologize to the noble Autobots!”

“Yes dear” Metlar said with his head down “Sorry”

“Well as long as you can get the other two Inhumanoids to retreat and undo the damage they did apology accepted” Ultra Magnus said

With that Metlar summoned his remaining stone warriors to follow him

“Hey I was having fun making gravel” Repugnus said

“Sorry Repugnus fun time’s over” Ultra Magnus said as the Statue of Liberty went back to her stance “And thank you Lady Liberty”

“My pleasure I love you Autobots, especially after the corrostop” The Statue of Liberty said as she gave Ultra Magnus a kiss before turning back to a statue

“I think she likes you Magus” Inferno said as the other Autobots laughed

“Yes well, we better head back to GI Joe base” Ultra Magnus said blushing as the Autobots transformed

Chapter Five

The various Decepticons headed back to base upset at their defeat

“Those stupid organic monstrosities I knew we couldn’t trust them!” Starscream bellowed

“At least they tasted good” Kickback mused as he ate some of the vines he brought back with him

“Mmm can I have some?” Hun-grrr said with interest

“You’re both disgusting” Snaptrap said in disgust

“They are but we have more importing things to worry about” Slipstream said,

“Indeed we do!” Yelled Serpentor riding his Air Chariot “Those monsters were supposed to guarantee victory!”

“I apologize for the performance of my warriors Serpentor” Megatron said glaring

“It’s not our fault Megatron!” Weirwolf pleaded “Airachnid failed keeping control of Metlar”

“Don’t blame my science!” Airachnid hissed “It controlled the other two”

“Yes and we would have defeated the Autobots if someone didn’t screw up!” Acid Storm said acidly at Sunstorm

“My brother was battling a traitor to the Decepticon cause!” Starscream said coming to his brother’s defense “Don’t blame him for your shoddy weaponry!”

The Cobras were amused at the internal feuding

“Look at that Destro, fighting and blaming each other after defeat” Zartan quipped
“They really are like us”

“This is nothing” Octane said “You should see what happens when they’re really angry”

The shouting ended when Nightbird made a very loud whistle shocking all into silence

“Quiet, all of you! You all failed! But to dwell on failure is pointless! We must focus on victory over all else!” Nightbird demanded

The silence was punctured by Megatron “Well said my dear” As he held her hand

“Nightbird is correct!” Destro said “We have been united in our goals so far and if we continue to do so we will defeat our enemies”

“Agreed!” Serpantor said “The capture of Synergy is our priority and Megatron, your Lieutenant Shockwave is on his way to “liberate” her, correct?”

“Yes and once she is with us all prior setbacks will be inconsequential” Megatron then turned to his comlink “Scraper, come in!”

At a site in South America the Constructicons were hard at work. They were at the Decepticon warship the Nemesis!

“Megatron I read you” Scraper said

“How goes progress?” Megatron inquired

“Very good Megatron! Thanks to our Cobra allies we are ahead of schedule!” Scraper boasted

Scraper then showed on the screen the Constructions working with Scrap Iron and the Techno-Vipers

“C’mon guys let’s get the lead out!” Long Haul shouted as Nacelle loaded oversized gears

“Sorry Long Haul we’re having trouble with the shoulder joints” Scavenger said

“Yeah we have to be careful about circuitry” Bonecrusher said sarcastically

“We do have to be careful, Bonecrusher” Hook insisted. “ To install the needed circuit panels we had to remove armor to get access to them. It’s very delicate and time-consuming”

“Maybe not so time consuming” Scrap Iron said riding a Stinger as several Techno-Vipers departed “Techno-Vipers get in there and install those panels!”

“No problem we install motherboards like that all the time” The head Techno-Viper promised “C’mon boys time’s money!”

The Constructicons marveled at the benefit of human allies

“Well fellas you have to admit it’s sometimes small hands are the best for the job” Mixmaster said

“As you can see Megatron we’ll be ready when you are” Scrapper said

“Well done Scrapper, contact me after you’re finished. Megatron out!” Megatron commanded

“It sounds like all is well” Baroness said

“Yes, tell me Baroness, do you have the two secured areas to triangulate the energy to where construction is occurring?” Megatron inquired

“Indeed Megatron, Cobra already has an island base to act as a conduit between South America and the other area in Siberia.” Baroness said showing the areas on the screen

“Excellent then Serpantor I believe it is time we at last work together united on the battlefield!” Megatron said to Serpantor

“I agree, the Fusion robots and upgraded BATs are ready. I shall have them rendezvous with Shockwave” Serpantor said turning to several Vipers who went on their way

“If we are to be doing teamwork” Tomax said

“Then we should divide our enemies...” Xamot added

“With help from our patsies” The Twins said in unison

“Yes Soundwave, contact Flipsides” Megatron ordered then turned to Rumble. Frenzy and Ratbat “And you three help them”

“Yeah , those do-gooders are gonna tumble with Rumble!” Rumble said as they went to their mission

“Flipsides, continue Operation Disruption!” Soundwave said “Assistance on its way!”

“Roger, Soundwave I’ll be on the lookout” Flipsides said then addressed Overkill, Slugfest and Buzzsaw “Ok boys you ready to cause some chaos?” The response was positive growls

“Decepticons, we are at the cusp of victory!” Megatron said to cheers

“Yeah as long as Sunstorm doesn’t mess up” Skullcruncher snarked

“Oh shut up Skullcruncher!” Starscream yelled “Why don’t you show Megatron your impression of him?”

The other Decepticons slinked away as Megatron neared Skullcruncher with Nightbird glaring

“Well no Megatron, you know Starscream, he’s a liar” Skullcruncher stammered

“Do it” Megatron commanded

“Wha, ya see” Skullcruncher tried to speak as Nightbird silently took her sword out. Seeing no other option he did his impression “Decepticons, attack!”

The mood was lightened when Nightbird giggled. Her laughter led Megatron to simply walk arm in arm with Nightbird “I guess I do say that a great deal, don’t I my dear?” The various Decepticons were amazed at Megatron’s response. Before Skullcruncher would have been smacked at the least.

As the Decepticons and Cobra planned, the Autobots returned to GI Joe Headquarters. Ultra Magnus was the first to arrive

“Well done old friend” Optimus Prime said to Ultra Magnus shaking his hand
“Metlar was the most dangerous of the Inhumanoids”

“Maybe we can double date with Lady Liberty” Elita-1 one said smiling coyly

“Hey Tracks, is Raoul all right?” Hoist asked Tracks

“Oh most definitely” Tracks reassured “He was only sorry he missed seeing the Statue of Liberty get involved”

“We’re going to have to clamp down on that” Beachhead said to Gen. Hawk who nodded

The Autobots from London were in more serious condition. Ratchet bolted out with Greenlight inside his med-bay

“I need some help here!” Ratchet yelled

“Greenlight! Oh no!” Arcee cried

“Sis, sis hang on!” Bluestreak said in terror “What happened?”

“Easy there lad, your sister’s tough she’ll pull through” Kup reassured Bluestreak

“You’ll be ok....don’t worry...don’t fret,,,you’ll make it” Blurr said even faster then usual.

“It’s my fault” Trailbreaker said “She took a hit for me so I could keep my force field up”

“No Trailbreaker” Arcee reassured him “You were only trying to protect humans. This is on the Decepticons”

Trailbreaker then collapsed “Trailbreaker!” Arcee yelled as she and Lancer helped him up

“C’mon big guy we can’t lose you too” Lancer said

“He used up a lot of energon, Prime” Prowl told Optimus as they saw the Protectobots weakly depart Sky Lynx “So did they”

The Joes watching were amazed by the sight. Scarlett was near tears she saw Bluestreak and her brother going crazy. It reminded her of when Cobra brainwashed her father and brothers

“Uh Lady Jaye where’s Marissa?” Flint said worriedly

“Don’t worry Flint she’s with the Dinobots” Lady Jaye reassured her husband. Neither of them wanted their daughter to witness such a sight

“Here please let me help” Doc said as both Joe and Autobot Lifeline attended to Greenlight

“Thank you, but Greenlight needs serious medical attention” Ratchet said in a kind tone “Our medicine is not the same as yours”

“Trailbreaker and the other will be ok after a recharge Prime” Wheeljack said “But if we don’t get Greenlight help we might lose her”

Just when thing looked hopeless, Synergy ran to Greenlight “Wait, help is already here” Synergy said as an attachment came out and latched onto Greenlight

Those assembled were amazed to see pure energy come out from Synergy and into Greenlight. Before anyone knew it Greenlight sat up completely healed

“Greenlight, how do you feel?” Arcee said embracing her friend

“I feel great, like a new Autobot” Greenlight said as if she was never injured. She then went to Bluestreak 'C'mon Bluestreak what's wrong?’

“Nothing, nothing is wrong at all” Bluestreak said

“Synergy I had no idea...” Jem said unable to speak further at the miracle she witnessed

Scarlett finally let out a sob that only Snake Eyes and Beachhead witnessed. Snake Eyes held her and Scarlett regained her composure “I’m sorry Beachhead I think that Autobot almost...”

“Yeah no it’s OK Scarlett” Beachhead said with an unusually soft tone. He couldn’t stop staring at Greenlight embracing her friends and family. Friends and family he thought they’re not just machines

Synergy then went to Trailbreaker “Why Trailbreaker you’re dangerously low on power’

“I’ll be ok Synergy” Trailbreaker insisted

“Nonsense, you deserve this” Synergy said all of a sudden one of her hands transformed and a glowing energon cube came out “Now you take this right now!”

Trailbreaker couldn’t say no and ate the cube. He was fully energized immediately from pure energon

“Oh Synergy thanks so much!” Trailbreaker said full of vigor “I haven’t had energon like that since forever”

“Wait Synergy does that mean what I think it means?” Chromia said excitedly

“Yes Chromia, my energon synthesizer is fully operational again!” Synergy said as she produced more energon.

“Energon synthesizer, does that mean she can make energon for everyone?” Chip said amazed

“Sure does Chip” Ironhide said as he and Chromia enjoyed a cube each “And it’s the finest, purest energon”

Synergy then gave the Protectobots more cubes “Here, you boys need to get your strength back”

“I guess we could use a recharge” First Aid said accepting a cube

“Thanks Synergy this really hits the spot” Streetwise said

“Yeah you can say it hits the hot spot” Hot Spot said as the Autobots laughed

The Joes weren't laughing. They knew energon was a powerful fuel. If Cobra was truly allied with the Decepticons and had access to an unlimited supply they would be even more dangerous

The Holograms were also concerned. Synergy was clearly at home among her fellow Autobots and they might lose her to them forever

"If everything is all set, I'm going to join Sgt. Slaughter in interrogating our 'visitors' Flint said to the Autobots

"Yeah I think I'll join you I could use the amusement" Beachhead said then turned to Dialtone "You better tell Duke he can head back"

"Don't mind us we're just taking a break" Bumblebee said taking is energon cube

Chapter Six

"All right let's go over it one more time!" Stalker said to Rio and the Stingers with Recondo and Thunder watching "You folks know you're in a world of trouble"

"Sir I know this looks bad but I swear I'm no spy" Rio insisted then turned to the Stingers "They're the troublemakers"

"Hey we're not the ones to worry about!" Riot insisted "We're on the lookout for who you're looking for"

"A likely story!" Rio said staring daggers at Riot who stared back

"Can you believe these jerks?" Recondo said to Thunder

“Nope, I can’t understand why my sister is a fan of the Stingers” Thunder said thinking about his sister Chrissy talking about how handsome the lead singer was at his last visit home as he and his parents shook their heads in confusion

“Atten hut!” Sgt Slaughter shouted as he entered the room with Flint and Beachhead

“When are we getting out of here?” Minx demanded

“You’ll leave when we say you leave Missy!” Sgt. Slaughter barked

“So who is the one we should be worrying about?” Flint asked Riot

“All I know is that Eric Raymond and the Misfits had a meeting with some suits from Extensive Enterprises” Riot said

The mention of Extensive Enterprises had the interest of the Joes

“Are you sure about that son?” Sgt. Slaughter asked

“Yeah, are you calling us liars?” Rapture sniped

“Don’t pretend that we know you’re not a flimflam artist young lady” Beachhead said causing Rapture to slink back to her seat

“Listen I don’t like these guys but I’m not gonna lie I heard Extensive Enterprises too” Rio said backing up the Stingers

“Now think clearly, was there any talk of the Decepticons?” Flint asked

“Wha no? All we heard was the Misfits were told that the Holograms have secret tool provided to them by the government” Riot said

“That’s a bunch of bunk” Rio maintained then thought “Wait it that why the Autobots met us at the concert? And why there are Autobots all over the base? Where’s Jem? ”

“I’m ok Rio” Jem said as she and the Holograms entered the room with Lady Jaye, Lowlight and Tripwire behind her

“Jem!” Rio and Riot said at the same time adding to the tension

“Dang it Lady Jaye why’d you bring her here?” Beachhead whispered

“I’m sorry Beachhead she insisted on seeing him and the others” Lady Jaye maintained “Gen. Hawk gave his OK”

“This is getting ridiculous, things are getting out of hand.” Tripwire said

“Too bad I left my autograph book in my foot locker” Lowlight quipped

“Zip it you two” Beachhead ordered rubbing the temples of his forehead. He then turned to Sgt. Slaughter “I think I know why your friend Sparkplug and his boy hang out with the Autobots”. Sgt. Slaughter nodded in agreement

“Rio, were you spying on me?” Jem asked

“No I was spying on them” Rio pointed to the Stingers

“What of it son?” Sgt. Slaughter asked Riot

“Ok we were on our way to meet Eric Raymond about our contract” Riot explained
“He was with the Misfits when they were all met by two dudes. And that’s the truth”

The Joes talked amongst themselves

“Perfect, just perfect this is all we need” Beachhead grumbled

“Robots, monsters and now rock stars. What’s next?” Flint mused,

Flint’s question was answered when he and Jem simultaneously had messages.

“Excuse me, may I take this please?” Jem asked

“Why not” Beachhead sighed “But please keep it short miss”

Jem took her message from Video.

“Jem, Jem! I’ve been trying to reach you!” Video said she sounded agitated

“Video what’s the matter?” Jem asked

“You haven’t seen the news have you?” Video asked. Danse and Astral were with her

“Those Misfits they’re nothing but trouble” Danse grouched

“I’ll bet the Stingers are a part of this too” Astral added thinking of her run-ins with Rapture

“What news are you talking about?” Jem asked confused

“The news is we have a phalanx of reporters at the entrance of GI Joe Headquarters” Flint said with dread a feeling that spread among the Joes, Holograms and Stingers as well

Just before Breaker and Dial-Tone were communicating with Duke, several Joes entered the Com Room.

“Affirmative Duke the Autobots neutralized the Inhumanoids. Threat over” Breaker told Duke

“I can’t believe they let those monsters walk away” Duke said annoyed

“Optimus Prime said the priority was the people” Lifeline said “Plus I think they were upset the Decepticons brainwashed them”

“Well of course the safety of citizens is important” Duke sighed, swallowing his pride “OK we’re on our way back, Duke out!”

“Duke sounds upset” Mainframe noted

“Can you blame him?” Shipwreck said “Look at that the whole world is an Autobot lovefest” He then pointed to several news reports on the screen

“New Yorkers are known for dealing with any problem, but today was a big one” The reporter from New York said “Lady Liberty was saved thanks to the Autobots. We spoke with an eyewitness who is friends with them”

“Man when I saw my boy Tracks take on that overgrown lump of magma I knew we were fine” Raoul said enthusiastically

“Not since the Blitz had London been under such a dire threat” The reporter from London said “But the day was saved thanks to the noble Autobots. Word is the Queen is to offer knighthood to Autobot leader Optimus Prime. Buckingham Palace will neither confirm nor deny the story and....”

“Huh that reporter lady from Tokyo looks excited” Gung-ho replied dryly “Any idea what she’s saying?”

“Search me” Quick Kick said “The only language my folks encouraged me to learn was Spanish”

“Aww..isn’t that sweet, one of the Autobots is hugging some kids” Shipwreck said sarcastically. On the screen Minerva was greeting several school children who were cheering her.

“Shipwreck, are you jealous of the Autobots' popularity?” Spirit asked

“Yeah I guess I am” Shipwreck admitted “It’s just like the whole world loves the Autobots and sees us as a waste of tax money”

“Plus that school visit we had planned last month” Gung-ho added

“We didn’t visit a school last month” Dial-Tone said confused

“Yeah, we were supposed to have a few Joes have a school visit to my nephew Jesse’s school” Shipwreck said “But the principal put the kibosh on it”

“What why?” Dusty asked “We’ve visited schools before”

“Go ahead tell ‘em“ Shipwreck said to Gung-Ho as he put a video into the computer to show

“The Principal said she was uncomfortable having a military presence on school as it would be promoting recruitment” Gung-ho said rolling his eyes

“That’s a bunch of bunk” Dusty said “And I’m sure the kids were disappointed by no visit”

“Oh they had visitors” Shipwreck said as he turned on a video where the kids assembled were meeting Warpath, Pipes, Powerglide and Seaspray

“You gotta be kidding me” Dial-Tone said “I mean one of them literally has war in his name”

Spirit noticed Shipwreck had a disappointed face when Jessie was excited when Seaspray was chatting with him.

“Yeah well, Seaspray did say Jessie should be proud to have an uncle who’s a sailor” Shipwreck said

“Still I know you were looking forward to the visit” Spirit noted

Suddenly an alarm started blaring

“What is it, Cobra,the Decepticons?” Gung-ho said worriedly

“Nope it’s worse than that. Everyone be on your Ps and Qs!” Quick Kick said as he looked at the screen

At the same time Optimus Prime and Gen. Hawk were talking as the Autobots were enjoying their energon break.

They suddenly noticed a phalanx of cars and vans coming to the gate. Leading the group was a familiar face to both the Joes and Autobots

“Hey Optimus what’s going on” Bumblebee asked to his leader

“Let me see Bumblebee it appears to be a group of humans” Optimus said “Oh look there Hector Ramirez”

“Oh no it’s Hector Ramirez” Gen. Hawk said to Jynx and Mutt

“Well don’t blame me” Jynx said referring to her name

Optimus Prime and Gen. Hawk went to the gate. The group of humans were an assortment of reporters and journalists. Surely the latest battles had piqued the interest of the media

“Hello, Hector,” Optimus Prime said in a friendly tone. They Autobots had been on Twenty Questions several times and had overall positive experience each time

“Hello, Hector” Although Gen. Hawk greeted with the same words he was far more reserved and annoyed. Hector had been far more antagonistic to GI Joe

“Optimus Prime, hello always a pleasure” Hector said in a friendly manner. He then turned to Gen. Hawk “Gen. Hawk I’ll be blunt we have heard that the US Military has been supplying technology to Jem and the Holograms.”

”What? That’s preposterous!” Gen. Hawk shouted

“Then why may I ask, are they on your base?” Hector asked as he pointed to Jem and the Holograms.

The assorted Joes and Autobots were immediately worried and caught unaware. Synergy was especially scared and hid behind Ironhide and Chromia

“Synergy quick before they notice you sneak back inside” Chromia whispered

Synergy nodded and turned to Ultra Magnus who blocked her so she was unnoticed. Once inside Synergy met with assorted Joes and Marissa and Gauge

“What’s going on?” Marissa asked

“Nothing honey why don’t you show Synergy around?” Lady Jaye said

“Yeah!” Marissa took Synergy by the hand and excitedly gave a tour of the base

At the same time the Joes and Holograms along with Rio and the Stingers went outside

“What’s Rio doing here?” Shana asked

“Forget him, what are the Stingers doing here?” Raya asked

“Riot are you behind all this?” Kimber asked

“Relax Kimber, the Stingers aren’t behind this” Jem reassured her sister

“It’s true Kimber” Rio added putting Kimber at ease. She knew Rio’s dislike for Riot so it was the truth

Rio and Riot shared a curt nod as the Holograms headed to the front. They might dislike each other, but neither would stoop so low to gain Jem’s favor

“Nice to see you pretty boys making peace!” Sgt. Slaughter said “Now you two knuckleheads stay here while the grown-ups take of business. And that’s an order!”

“Yes sir!” Both Rio and Riot said in unison

“That goes double for you two jezebels” Beachhead said as Scarlett and Lady Jaye stared daggers at them

“C’mon we’re always good girls” Minx purred only to demur when Lady Jaye narrowed her glare

Once Jem got to the entrance she confronted Hector Ramirez immediately

“Jem how do you respond to news that you and the Holograms have received government assistance?”

“That’s a lie! And I’d like to know who said this!” Jem asked. Her question was answered seeing Eric Raymond and the Misfits right behind him with Pizzazz smirking

Chapter Seven

“Ugh...not this yoyo again” Shipwreck said remembering past experiences with Hector Ramirez

“At least you never had to go on his show” Lady Jaye said

“Man when Duke sees the Fourth Estate, he’s gonna get really irate” Roadblock added

“I know my blood pressure is rising” Beachhead said glad his mask was hiding his face “If these vultures learn about Synergy it’ll be a feeding frenzy”

“I don’t know what the Misfits have told you but they’re lying” Aja insisted

“If that is the case Miss can you explain why a rock band is at a major military base?” reporter Marty Minkler asked

“Well you see” Aja stammered

“Is that why the Inhumanoids were on a rampage?” Barbara Walker inquired “Gen Hawk, any comment?”

“Err...I have no comment at this moment!” Gen. Hawk said hurriedly

“Maybe we can get a comment from the hero of the day! Optimus Prime, a moment of your time?” Hector Ramirez said turning to Optimus

“Of course Hector, we’re always happy to speak with the press” Optimus Prime said making eye contact with Gen. Hawk

Gen. Hawk was relieved to be off the hook and immediately ran inside the base

“This is a disaster” Gen. Hawk said to Flint “If we don’t get a handle on this Col. Sharpe will have my stars”

Jem ran directly to Pizzazz and Eric Raymond “Are you two nuts? You’re this close to treason!”

“Hey we’re not the ones rumored to have special help from the government” Pizzazz insisted “Not that we need gimmicks like that”

Pizzazz and Eric’s grins went away when Arcee and Ultra Magnus stared at them

“You people are messing with powers beyond your comprehension” Ultra Magnus warned “If you don’t end this nonsense now and I mean right now the consequences will be serious”

“Is that a threat?” Eric said menacingly “I assure I have lawyers who are not afraid of going to court even against Autobots”

“Mr. Raymond that’s not a threat” Arcee said with mock sweetness “It’s a statement of fact”

At the same time Powerglide and Lifeline were seeing Pizzazz start barking words at Ultra Magnus and Arcee

“Gee she looks angry” Lifeline noted “What’s she saying”

“Heh nothing you wanna hear pal” Powerglide said “Astoria was right. Phyllis Gabor is nothing but a spoiled brat”

“That’s funny” Lifeline said “Bree, my er lady friend said the same thing” Being young women in high society both Astoria Ritz-Carlton and Bree Van Mark had had the displeasure of knowing Pizzazz and often gossiped about her with their respective consorts

“Huh it must be nice to have friends in high places” Lowlight quipped to Mirage

“Oh yes believe me friend, the high life is the best” Mirage said with a wink

While Jem confronted Pizzazz, Kimber had a moment with Stormer

“Stormer, what are you doing?” Kimber asked

“I know I tried to warn Eric and the Misfits but they won’t listen to me” Stormer insisted

“Well you better!” Kimber insisted “I can’t tell you why but things are real serious and this will only make things worse”

“Would you look at that” Lancer said to Cliffjumper and Greenlight as they noticed Kimber and Stormer talking “I thought they were enemies”

“I don’t trust the Holograms” Cliffjumper said to the other Autobots “The Joes are fighting a war like we are, but who are they fighting for?”

“They’re not warriors like us Cliffjumper” Greenlight said “They’re just trying to live their life, make music and make people happy”

“Yeah I guess you’re right” Cliffjumper admitted

“You’re not entirely wrong Cliffjumper” Red Alert said “They had access to Synergy for a long time. How could they not realize she was more than an Earth computer?”

Back at the Terror Drome the Decepticons and Cobra were watching the chaos unfold at GI Joe base

“Look at those worms squirm under when forced to explain their actions” Serpantor said with disdain

“It would appear the Misfits are not the only useful idiots at our disposal” Baroness scoffed as she turned to Destro and Storm Shadow

Both Destro and Baroness were surprised to see Storm Shadow’s detached manner. As one of the few members of Cobra they respected they had created a rapport with him and they could notice something was off.

“Storm Shadow my friend are you alright?” Destro said in a friendly tone

“Yes, Destro and I can tell something is not right with you” Baroness said “What is wrong?”

Storm Shadow thought long and hard and realized he had to get this off his chest and gave them a silent nod to bring them to another room for privacy. Nightbird noticed too and had Ravage discreetly follow them

“Blimey it is her!” Monkewrench said staring at the screen

“Her? You’ll have to elaborate” Airachnid said with bemusement

“Ah you mean Jetta” Zaranna said, showing her to Airachnid on the screen hanging back watching the chaos “She broke your heart didn’t she?”

“That she did” Monkeywrench “We had a blow up and went our separate ways.”

“Sounds like you’d like to see her again” Airachnid said seductively

“Maybe I do lady” Monkeywrench said fiddling with a firecracker

Suddenly Airachnid became annoyed “Hey I thought you’re afraid of spiders” she then transformed into her spider mode

“Real spiders give me the willies not metal ones” Monkeywrench said as he and the Insecticons laughed as she slinked away in disgust

“Perhaps a reunion is a good idea” Zartan mused

“Soundwave, how close is Shockwave’s strike force to the GI Joe base?” Megatron inquired

“Shockwave nearly at destination.” Soundwave computed

“Excellent” Megatron said then turned to Serpenter “The Autobots and Joes will be too focused on protecting the numerous humans on base. Synergy will be virtually defenseless”

Suddenly Soundwave's chest started glowing and let out a siren "Alert! Retreating GI Joe forces in the path of Shockwave!"

"Those Joes must have been on their way to assist the Autobots" Dr. Mindbender said

"Blast! They'll slow down their progress!" Serpantor yelled then smiled "Perhaps we can give your lieutenant some assistance"

"Ah you mean our collaboration, yes! Megatron agreed "Soundwave dispatch the Fusion tanks and make sure they have their 'crew' with them"

"As you command Megatron" Soundwave said

"Brilliant tactic almighty Megatron, there's just one problem" Starscream said pointing to the screen "The human media are leaving GI Joe headquarters"

Starscream's assessment was correct. To the great relief of the Joes and Holograms, the press had turned its focus from Jem and the Holograms to the Autobots.

"Now Hector as I said we have no evidence of Jem and the Holograms having any assistance with the government" Optimus said

"I understand Optimus" Hector Ramirez said "But may I ask what brings the Autobots to GI Joe? Are you concerned about the rumors as well?"

"Just a moment please" a female reporter excitedly interrupted "May we inquire as to who this lady is?"

“Oh of course, ladies and gentlemen I am proud to introduce Elita-1” Optimus said showing her to the crowd as Elita-1 gave a nervous smile and wave

The various reporters were excited at the sight of Elita-1 and were peppering her with questions.

“Is this your first time on Earth?” one reporter asked

“Is it true you’re considered the First Lady of Autobots?” another asked

“Well yes this is my first time on Earth and thank you for your warm welcome. Seeing the people of Earth I know understand why Optimus holds you all in such high regard” Elita-1 one answered courteously

“Prime, your lady is a natural diplomat” Gen. Hawk said to Optimus as Elita-1 was laughing at other questions

“Yes Gen., Elita-1 has both grace and power” Optimus said with clear admiration as Elita-1 gave him a smile back

Other reporters were interviewing other Autobots

“So what brings you guys to Earth?” Marty Minkler asked Hot Rod

“Hey what can I say? We just wanted to see firsthand these highways of Earth. Not to mention those baseball games we hear about” Hot Rod quipped

Hot Rod’s quotes earned laughs and further questions including his preference of Earth alternate mode

“Huh our boy’s enjoying being the center of attention” Kup said

“Believe me he’s doing us a favor” Flint reassured Kup

Arcee and other female Autobots were being interviewed by Cindy Tucker

“It’s so great to see more female Autobots. How are you liking Earth?”

“Oh it’s lovely especially all the animals” Greenlight said then turned to Gauge
“Isn’t that right Gauge?”

The young Autobot found herself rather shy “Umm..yeah” Gauge said looking down at her feet then ran to Arcee

“Gauge honey it’s alright” Arcee said gently “Why don’t you head inside?”

Gauge was more than glad to do so.

“Greenlight, you know how shy Gauge is!” Chromia chided then turned to Cindy
“You’ll have to forgive Greenlight she came here to visit her brother” Chromia then pointed to Bluestreak who waved

“That’s so funny, Autobot brother and sisters” Cindy said “I wonder if there are Autobot sisters too” It was Chromia who was now flustered

“Hey what’s going on?” Pizzazz said angrily at some reporters

“You didn’t tell us the Autobots were going to be here” One reporter said

“Yeah you gotta go with the top story and they’re the top of the heap” Another said as he noticed a favorite of the press in Grimlock. The Dinobot leader was always good a humorous quote

“Grimlock, Grimlock can we speak with you” A reporter asked

“Sure me Grimlock like to talk” Grimlock said

“Uh oh Optimus we may have trouble” Springer said as they saw Grimlock speak to a growing group of reporters

“Primus help us!” Optimus said as he raced to Grimlock. The Dinobot leader might unwittingly talk about Synergy and that was the last thing anyone wanted

“Grimlock, are the Autobots and Joes coordinating their forces?” Hector Ramirez asked

“Me Grimlock say no. But that because me Grimlock not know what that mean” Grimlock said to laughs

“All me Grimlock know is Joes fight Cobra like we Autobots fight Decepticons. Joes fight hard and are brave like Lowlife, umm...Cross Crunchy, Kick Quick, Shipshape and oh yeah Beachhead.” Grimlock said scratching his head trying to think of the names of the Joes

“Hey, that big bozo got my name wrong” Quick Kick said bemused

“At least it wasn’t an insult” Lowlight mused

“Hey Lowlife, tell Cross Crunchy to get the HAVOCs ready” Beachhead deadpanned

“Blaster this isn’t journalism” Slamdance said disappointingly to Roadblock and Blaster

“Slamdance learned firsthand if it bleeds it leads and the Autobots are always the prize to get the eyes” Roadblock said

“News people always like talking to Grimlock” Sludge told Scarlett and Spirit

“Yeah, it how we get to meet our friend Mr. T” Slag said showing a photo of Mr. T and the Dinobots together

“That’s terrific” Scarlett said as she suddenly noticed a small, aggressive robotic dino “Umm..who is that?”

“Oh that Tyrannitron” Snarl said “He only like us Dinobots and Huffer, Right Huffer?”

“Yeah that’s right” Huffer said as Brawn, Swerve and Tailgate laughed “Lucky me”

Suddenly Tyrannitron looked away with an intense look on his face and sniffing

“What’s wrong?” Scarlett asked

“Tyrannitron must smell something” Snarl said “He have good sense of smell”

“He’s not alone” Scarlett said seeing Timber now react the same

“There must be an intruder” Spirit said as Freedom flew away “Freedom will blaze our trail”

Scarlett, Spirit and the Dinobots followed to where Freedom, Timber and Tyrannitron led them. There was an intruder, who turned out to be Ba Nee!

“Ba Nee!” Scarlett gasped

“It ok Tyrannitron, it our friend Ba Nee” Swoop told Tyrannitron who stopped growling

“Ba Nee honey what are you doing here?” Scarlett asked

“I’m sorry it’s just that Rio called Starlight House to see if Jem came back. Mrs. Bailey said she was here and I really had to tell her about my dad” Ba Nee said near tears “You’re not mad at me are you?:

“It’s OK honey we’re not upset” Scarlet promised embracing her

“We are just concerned,” Spirit said. “Things are very tense right now. Perhaps we should go inside and talk with Jem. I think Roadblock made some cookies’

“Sure Ok!” Ba Nee said riding along atop Sludge

Just as Ba Nee entered the media began to dissipate. They had all the soundbites and headlines they needed and were sated

“There you have it folks once again the heroic Autobots there to save the day even after risking their lives against the Inhumanoids, This is Hector Ramirez over and out” Hector said to close out his report

“I think we have all we need” Hector Ramiez told his crew and then closed his live feed then turned to Optimus “Optimus Prime, always a pleasure. Maybe we can plan a his and her interview on Twenty Questions with you Elita”

“Err...well we will certainly try to plan it goodbye Hector” Optimus said diplomatically

Soon the vans and cars departed and the media storm was gone

“Are they all gone?” Jem asked rubbing her face in frustration

“Yep” Wheeljack said chuckling “Boy that Hector he’s a real character”

“Yeah a character for Autobots” Jem said “Eric Raymond that creep he’s got some nerve”

“I’d like to give him and the Misfits a piece of my mind,” Shana said “Hey, did they split too?”

The Misfits and Eric Raymond had indeed left when they saw the media blitz they hoped would humiliate the Holograms was interrupted by the Autobots.

“Well that was a bust,” Roxy whined

“Tell me about it,” Pizzazz said, pushing past Eric. “We were supposed to get serious dirt on those dweebs.”

“Maybe it’s for the best,” Stormer said. “The Autobots looked serious”

“The only thing they care about is being media darlings,” Eric insisted. “They were a real pain”

“You said it pal,” Flipsides said out of nowhere. The Misfits were trapped in their limo with Overkill on one side, Slugfest on the other and Buzzsaw circling around them

“Decepticons! Wha..what do you want?” Pizzazz insisted

“We ain’t here for autographs!” It was Rumble who was with Frenzy and Ratbat

“Hey, dudes, what’s the score?” Flipsides said

“We just wanted to have some fun,” Frenzy said. “Too bad the party’s over”

“Perhaps our guests would like to keep the festivities going on” Megatron said over the comlink

“Do you want us to invite them over?” Flipsides asked coyly

“Yes these fools still have use to us” Megatron ordered “Bring them back with and return to base”

“Wait what’s happening?” Eric said panicking

“Nothing much, we just want to invite you to our home away from home,” Rumble said as he turned to Overkill. “Overkill, get the door”

Overkill then bit the door off the limo as the Misfits screamed. When they tried to escape the other side Slugfest growled at them to stay. Buzzsaw and Ratbat then carried the limo in the air

“Megatron said to get hostages and who better than the Misfits?” Flispides said as the Decepticons flew back to the Terror Dome

“You think I’m one of the Misfits?” Clash said excitedly

“Not now Clash!” Stormer said as they flew. Seeing no other option, Eric and the Misfits buckled up

“I hope you don’t feel I was undermining your authority Serpantor” Megatron said

“Not at all Megatron, hostages are always a good idea” Serpantor said as the two leaders shared a laugh.

“Hey looks like we might still get a ransom eh Zartan?” Drag Strip said

“It looks like it, Drag Strip” Zartan said with a laugh

Chapter Eight

“What a complete waste of time!”! Duke said over the radio to the other Joes returning to base in their vehicles

“Believe me Duke this is the best option” Ace said in his Skystriker “You’ve never battled those freaks before I have and it’s not pretty”

“Don’t get us wrong Ace we’re glad you’re back full-time with the Joes” Lift Ticket said in his Tomahawk “It’s just lately we’ve been playing second place to the Autobots”

“Hey if those Decepticons are working with the snakes we’re gonna need all the help we can get” Barbeque said riding in his Silver Cycle with Blowtorch on his side

“That’s true boyo, I just those Autobots knew we’re on the same side” Blowtorch said

“Maybe they think we need our hands held like you jarheads” Wet-Suit snarked to Leatherneck

“Ha! Fat chance, it’s you navy boys who need the assist” Leatherneck retorted

“OK boys let’s call off the battle of the Hafields and McCoys” Cover Girl said riding her Wolverine “We should focus on regrouping and planning our next course of action”

“Action sounds good to me little lady” Wild Bill said

“I hear you Wild Bill” Duke said “We just have to wait for Cobra and/or the Decepticons make the next move”

The conversation ended with a blast of energy. The source was a giant sci-fi laser gun. A gun that transformed into a giant robot with a weird eye. The Joes didn’t recognize it, but they did recognize the Decepticon symbol on it!

“Be careful what you wish for flesh creatures!” Shockwave said as he and other Decepticons they did not recognize surrounded them “Decepticons prepare to terminate with extreme prejudice!”

As the Joes were on their way to the battle of their lives, the Misfits found themselves in the most dangerous moment of theirs.

“You can’t do this to us!” Roxy yelled as she and the other Misfits were shoved into a cell

“That’s funny we just did!” Drag Strip said with a laugh

“Hey, do you know who we are? We’re the Misfits!” Pizzazz bellowed

“Yeah and we’re Cold Slither love!” Buzzer said then turned to Beastbox and Squawktalk “Can you lads show ‘em?”

“Awk time to combine!” Squawktalk said as Beastbox grunted and the two merged into Squawkbox

“Do I have a request for Cold Slither?” Squawkbox asked the assembled Dreadnoks, Stunticons and Cassettebots to resounding cheers

“Then let me play DJ” Squawkbox said as he blared Cold Slither

“Cold Slither? You’re a flash in the pan!” Clash said

“Maybe you can get some new clients out of these fleshies” Flipsides said to Eric in another cell

“That accountant job is looking real good now” Eric said looking at the chaos

“All right you louts, the concert is over!” Yelled Zartan as the other Dreadnoks followed him into the prison area “This isn’t MTV”

“Bill is that you?” Jetta said in astonishment to Monkeywrench

“Bill? Is he the pigeon you fleeced before joining us?” Roxy said

“Not now Roxy” Stormer whispered. She was afraid Roxy’s mouth would raise tensions. Not to mention Pizzazz and her temper

“Long time, no see Jetta” Monkeywrench said “And I go my Monkeywrench now”

“C’mon can’t you let us out for old times sake?” Jetta asked seductively

Jetta’s answer was a wrap on the bars by Heartwrencher and her massive wrench.

“Listen up you, floozies, you’re our prisoners,” Heartwrencher said menacingly, then pointed to the Decepticons. “So straighten up or we’ll let our friends take you.”

“Yeah what she said,” Zaranna added. She and Heartwrencher then looked at each other and nodded in unison.

“Gee, she’s a tough one” Motormaster said to Zartan

“True, Heartwrencher doesn’t put up with nonsense,” Zartan admitted

“I can appreciate the sentiment,” Megatron boomed as he entered along with Serpantor, Nightbird, Starscream and Cobra Commander

“Flipsides, why did you bring these hasbeens to the base?” Starscream asked

“Think of these fools as insurance,” Serpantor said. “In the unlikely event the Joes or Autobots get wind of our plans we will use them as human shields.”

Megatron then turned to the Misfits “We still have matters to attend to” Megatron said pointing to Astrotrain “But Astrotrain shall take you to a secure prison.”

“You’re never going to get away with this!” Pizzazz yelled then pointed to Eric “Our manager has the best lawyers in the business”

Pizzazz’s rant merely had the effect of every Decepticon and Cobra member to laugh hysterically

“Oh no not lawyers” Cobra Commander said between fits of laughter

“Am I going to have to testify?” Breakdown added

When the laughter died down, Pizzazz was embarrassed by the lack of control she had. She wasn’t used to that feeling

“Ladies, you have two choices. You can either obey or...” Serpantor said as a door opened. A tall, muscular woman wearing a sports bra, and metal mask came out. “You can face Cobra discipline from Big Boa, the trainer of our Vipers.”

“I hope they remain defiant,” Big Boa said as she took off her helmet showing a surprisingly beautiful, amazonian woman. “These girls need a real attitude adjustment.”

The Misfits looked at each other nervously. They were way over their heads.

“All right, all right, you win,” Pizzazz said quietly

“Naturally,” Serpenter smirked.

“That goes for you too, slick” Wildrider said to Eric “C’mon we haven’t got all day”

“All right let’s get this over with,” Eric said unenthusiastically.

“Come now, Mr. Raymond, you are our guests to a free trip to South America,” Starscream smirked

“South America, why are we going there?” Stormer asked worriedly

“Now, now, we don’t want to ruin the surprise,” Dead End said as the cassettes who kidnapped them joined them on the ride with Astrotrain.

Astrotrain quickly transformed and was on his way to South America.

Soundwave approached Megatron

“Megatron, Shockwave reports he has made contact with group of GI Joes” Soundwave reported

“Excellent, clearly he had the element of surprise” Megatron said

“You can thank my Python Patrol technology that your forces used” Cobra Commander boasted

“And with the jamming antenna we provided, those Joes will have no one coming to their rescue” Serpenter said as the villains laughed again

The Joes were learning the hard way that while the Autobots valued human life in battle, the Decepticons clearly did not.

“Never seen any of these Decepticons before” Steeler said firing the cannon of the VAMP he, Grunt and Clutch were riding

“Nor shall you see any others when we are done with you puny human” Slugslinger bragged as he effortlessly evaded the blasts

“Can you believe we came back to our world for this?” Grunt said to the others

“We wouldn’t be back if it wasn’t for the Autobots came back to help the people there,” Clutch said. Unbeknownst to all but the highest brass, Steeler, Grunt and Clutch returned to their universe when the Autobots returned to help humanity. They were sworn to secrecy of where they were the time they were missing to only a few Joes.

“You’re right the Autobots are cleaning up our planet back there, the least we can do is make them proud here!” Steeler said. He had been on the fence about his role in battle before, but seeing firsthand what happened when Cobra ruled reinvigorated his desire to battle evil

“Decepticons show these flesh creatures the mercy they deserve” Shockwave said firing

“I think he means no mercy at all” Snapdragon said to his fellow Horrocon Apeface

“Ha that works for me” Apeface said as he grabbed Cover Girl out of her Wolverine
“I got you”

“Ugh, let me go you big ape,” Cover Girl said with disgust, then turned to Snapdragon “And you, ever hear of a bath?”

“He’s heard of them, he just never takes them” Misfire said as Triggerhappy and Slugslinger laughed in agreement

“Cover Girl, heads up!” Lt. Falcon said as he revved up an Armadillo that he got out of at the last minute. The Armadillo exploded, knocking down the Horrocons and allowing Cover Girl to escape.

“Thanks, I owe you one!” A grateful Cover Girl said to Falcon as she boarded her Wolverine again

“How about dinner this weekend?” Falcon said smoothly as Apeface roared in anger

“I will crush whoever did that!” Apeface yelled

“Socialize on your own time brother!” Duke said firing from a Mauler “We have metal to recycle now!”

The battle in the air was going better for the Joes. Wild Bill was evading Triggerhappy's blasts in his Dragonfly

"You're a shoot first, ask questions later type of fella, aren't ya buckaroo?" Wild Bill asked Triggerhappy

"What can I say, I love what I do!" Triggerhappy said with a laugh

"C'mon guys these Decepticreeps ain't so touch" Lift-Ticket firing a missile from his Tomahawk

Misfire lived up to his name as he missed Ace and Airborne by a wide margin in their Skystrikers

"That's for sure this guy couldn't hit the broadside of a barn!" Airborne said

"Maybe he does his target practice with Cobra" Ace added with a laugh

"Come now Misfire you're besmirching our reputations as warriors elite!" Slugslinger said

"Isn't that just like Misfire" Dreadwind said "We should have left him on Cybertron"

"Never mind him brother" Darkwing said "Let's do what we do best and spread the misery"

Darkwing's words inspired Dreadwind and the two were showing the Joes no mercy. Darkwing managed to nip Wild Bill's tail causing him to land and Dreadwind took down Airborne's Skystriker

“Uh oh Ripcord, looks like these flyboys are giving our pals a tough time”
Slipstream said

“Then let’s give them a tougher time” Airborne said, firing on the Decepticons
“C’mon you tinplated turkeys, Yo Joe!”

“That’s it let’s take the fight to them” Duke said “We don’t need the Autobots to
fight our battles”

“We don’t need ‘em, but I’ll take the help” Bazooka said

“Bazook that might be the smartest thing you ever said” Alpine said as he lassoed
Snapdragon’s mouth

All of a sudden a blue truck and purple car were driving to the battlefield

“Uh oh, Duke I think we got trouble” Wet Suit said

“Oh great civilians!” Duke complained “That’s the last thing we need”

“I’ll get them to turn back” Leatherneck said as he ran to the two vehicles “Hey you
get outta here! Decepticons are attacking”

Leatherneck got no response so he went to the purple car “Hey mac, did you hear
me? Amscray!”

Suddenly the purple car transformed into a feminine robot. It was the Decepticon
Shadow Striker

“Foolish flesh creature can’t you tell I’m a lady?” Shadow Striker said as she effortlessly fired at the Mauler Airtight and Footloose were in. They barely escaped in the nick of time

“Oh man, not more Decepticons!” Footloose said “That’s really harshing my mood”

“Ah Shadow Striker I see you came” Shockwave said. He could always count on her to be a loyal lieutenant

“I am happy to serve the Decepticon cause” Shadow Striker said humbly and then whispered “And I did not come alone”

“Excellent” Shockwave said as he fired at Barbecue and Blowtorch

“Suren’ we’re in a tough scrap,” Blowtorch said taking out his flamethrower

The blue truck was joined by a green tank, purple jet and gray helicopter

“Any chance they’re on our side,” Leatherneck hoped.

The two sets of vehicles merged together showing they were Battletrap and Flywheels the Duocons

“Does that answer your question, you jarhead?” Wet Suit asked with a heavy sigh

“Greetings all happy to join the soiree” Battletrap said firing on the Joes

“Hey, Misfire, how do you like Earth so far?” Flywheels asked his friend

“It’s not bad, but at least I’m meeting some interesting people,” Misfire said as he fired at Sci-Fi.

“Why can’t they all fight like this guy?” Sci-Fi said

Back at Autobot Headquarters, Windblade was doing her duties as City Commander.

“I tell ya, Windblade, I wish I fought the Inhumanoids,” Metroplex remarked over the comlink. “I hate not helping out”

“I appreciate that, Metroplex, but you’re so big. There could have been much more collateral damage,” Windblade reassured him

Suddenly an alarm blared from Teletran-1. “Alert, alert Decepticon activity”

“Oh no not more trouble,” Velocity said. “How much more is there going to be?”

“No matter the trouble we’ll handle it,” Strongarm reassured her. “We always do.”

“Check it out, hombres!” Six-gun said at the monitor. “I haven’t seen those Decepticreeps on Earth”

“You’re right, look there’s the Horrocons and Darkwing and Dreadwind, old Doom and Gloom,” Scamper noted.

“It’s a good thing I had Sky Spy on automatic recon, because they’re not on my radar” Windblade said “We better contact Optimus Prime. Prime? I’m not reaching him”

“Well you better get him” Strongarm said worriedly “Look who’s there!”

The Autobots saw the screen and were horrified by what they saw

“Oh sidewinders” Six-gun said

“Yeah that’s what I was thinking” Velocity said worriedly

“C’mon we’re not done yet!” Duke said “Yo Joe!”

Blowtorch bravely fired his flamethrower at Battletrap

“What’s the matter laddie, can’t take the heat?” Blowtorch asked

“You know what they say, if you can’t take the heat, get out of the planet” Barbeque added firing at Flywheels

“Careful guys, hot stuff is coming up” Flywheels said

“Maybe we should turn the heat up ourselves” Battletrap said

“That’s a good idea” Shadow Striker said pulling off the cannon of another Mauler then smiled at what she saw “And here comes the cavalry”

The Joes were dismayed to see a phalanx of HISS Tanks arrive. They were a different color then usual

“Oh perfect, perfect! Now we gotta deal with Cobra!” Leatherneck growled

“Aw man and they brought BATs with them” Footloose noticed as each HISS had at least a dozen BATs coming from them

“Wait look something’s happening” Airtight noticed “Look at the HISS Tanks, I think they’re transforming

Airtight was right the HISS Tanks were transforming. For they were not only HISS Tanks, but the Fusion drones.

“Ha puny Joes in deep slag” Apeface said

One more player joined the battlefield. It was a sleek fighter jet. The other Decepticons concentrated around it as it transformed into Sixshot

“You humans have real trouble now” Sixshot said confidently

Comic Issue 5-

Chapter One

The Joes under Duke’s command found their situation going from bad to worse. These new aggressive Decepticons were dangerous enough, but the reinforcements made the battle tougher

“Looks like Cobra wanted to join in on the fun” Barbeque said

“We’ve bashed BATs before we can do it again! C’mon Joes” Duke said firing on the Fusions and BATs

But the Joes found these foes a lot more fearsome. Bazooka had a direct hit on a BAT but there was no damage to it

“Wha, I don’t get it” Bazooka “Not even a scratch”

“Yeah what gives? We've made scrap metal out of these things before?” Alpine said blasting to no avail

“How do you Joes like the Fusion drones?: Triggerhappy taunted

“I think you’ll find them far superior to your meager abilities” Slugslinger added

“Megatron will be pleased at the success of our collaboration with our human allies. Shockwave told Shadow Striker and Sixshot

Shadow Striker was too pleased until she saw Apeface and Snapdragon lounging

“Get back to work you slobs” Shadow Striker ordered

“Ha why bother, let drones do our work for us?” Apeface said

“They’re not exactly wrong” Battletrap said “We got this wrapped up, look up in the sky”

Battletrap pointed to see Darkwing and Dreadwind take on the remaining Conquests and Tomahawk

“Let’s send these flesh creatures to the ground,” Darkwing said. He and his brother merged into the superjet Darkwind. Darkwind was even faster combined and fired

upon the vehicles forcing Slipstream, Airborne and Lift-Ticket to parachute to safety

“That was spooky” Ripcord said to his fellow pilots “Slipstream are you ok?”

“Yeah I’m ok. Any crash you can walk away from....” Slipstream said only to be interrupted

“Slipstream? That flesh creature’s name is Slipstream?” Triggerhappy said in fits of laughter

“Ha, the flesh creature has name of a femmebot!” Snapdragon snickered

“Maybe one of these others is named Strika” Flywheels said to more laughter

Soon the other Decepticons were laughing at the coincidence. Even Shadow Striker had to cover her mouth so she could giggle and Sixshot chuckled

“Not again” Slipstream said annoyed

“Are they laughing at us?” Duke said annoyed

“Hey, the more they laugh, the less they attack,” Barbeque said. The Joes realized they were going to have to swallow their pride to calm a superior enemy

Sixshot went to Shockwave laughing in a good mood “Shockwave I know Megatron has a strict no-killing policy on humans. We should just take them as prisoners”

Shockwave considered the logic of Sixshot's words. Indeed there was no honor or sport in human foes

"Perhaps you're correct Sixshot" Shockwave mulled. He then turned to the Joes

"Decepticons, we shall take these humans as prisoners. Our human allies shall have their way with them"

"No way we're going to kowtow to a bunch of overgrown scrap heaps" Lt. Falcon said defiantly

"Cool down Falcon" Duke ordered

"Falcon?" Shockwave said with a sudden icy rage in his voice "Is your name Lt. Falcon?"

"Uh..." Falcon stammered. He immediately heard the hatred in Shockwave's voice and the face of Sixshot who no longer had any joviality

The other Decepticons slinked away not wanting to be in the view of their wrath

"Oh that fleshie's done for" Misfire whispered

"Better him than me" Flywheels said wincing

"This won't be pretty but it will be quick" Shadow Striker said in apprehension

"You know Shockwave, There are always exceptions to every rule" Sixshot said staring daggers at Falcon

“Yes, a most logical conclusion” Shockwave said as Sixshot transformed into gun mode into Shockwave’s hand “We shall terminate *it* together!”

“Falcon no!” Duke shouted but he was too far to come to his brother’s rescue. The Joes were corralled and aghast

Falcon was saved at the last moment when a flurry of hand grenades attacked Shockwave forcing Sixshot to disengage and transform. It was Snake Eyes! The silent commando had managed to escape capture and hid until he was needed

“Good ole, Snake Eyes you can always count on him” Wild Bill whooped

“The only thing he managed to do was delay the inevitable!” Shockwave shouted
“Grab him you fools!”

The other Decepticons scrambled to capture Snake Eyes but he was surprisingly agile evading them. He moved at the last minute and Triggerhappy and Misfire knocked into each other trying to grab him

“Come Decepticons, surely we can neutralize one meager flesh creature” Slugslinger said, firing at Snake Eyes. He avoided the blast that destroyed a Fusion drone

“You sure you’re not the one named Misfire?” Falcon taunted an embarrassed Slugslinger

“Try not to antagonize any more alien robot invaders brother” Duke said annoyed

Snake Eyes was moving along, stopping only to fire a flare in the air. It was then that several BATs grabbed him and took him to Shockwave and the Decepticons

“The GI Joe commando Snake Eyes' ' Shockwave noted “Yes, we informed you that you are a skilled warrior. Impressive but futile”

“And his name is classified. I wonder what he’s hiding?” Shadow Striker inquired

“Why don’t we find out?” Triggerhappy said laughing. One of the BATs removed his mask

“Joes, don’t look. Believe me it’s not a pretty picture” Duke ordered. Only a few Joes had seen Snake Eyes unmasked.

The Joes (even Falcon) did as ordered and knew it was the right decision as they heard gasps and shrieks from the Decepticons

“Ugh so hideous” Slugslinger said in horror

“How did you survive your injuries?” Shadow Striker asked in awe.

“Human may be puny but he tough” Apeface said impressed

“I agree” Sixshot said as he put Snake Eyes’ mask back on his face “A true warrior, it’s a shame you’re our enemy”

“Your efforts are noble but pointless” Shockwave

“Not so pointless, Shockwave” A voice boomed, It was Ultra Magnus, leading his own strike team of Autobots!

“Autobots, how did they find us?” Battletrap asked

“It doesn’t matter, now Decepticons we’re having a true fight worthy of us! Attack!” Sixshot said as he transformed into his wolf mode and led them into battle

Darkwind fired on the Autobots from below

“It’s the gruesome twosome, Darkwing and Dreadwind” Sideswipe said to his brother Sunstreaker

“Why don’t we invite them down here” Sunstreaker said as he rode on Sideswipe’s back as he flew up on his jet pack

The two brothers were soon atop Dreadwing shaking them. They forced them to disengage into their plane forms

“Ugh we have Autobots on us” Darkwind whined

“We don’t give rides” Dreadwind said

“Did you hear that bro, doom and gloom don’t want to be our taxis” Sideswipe said

“Then why don’t we ground them” Sunstreaker said as he fired on them both then flew back down on Sideswipe as they left

Darkwing and Dreadwind crashed in a tree, transforming into robot mode

“Ugh I hate Autobots” Darkwing said rubbing his head shooing a robin away

The other Autobots had two goals, to battle the Decepticons and free the Joes.

Brawn led Windcharger, Cliffjumper and Tailgate against the BATs and Fusion drones

“Careful everyone” Tailgate said grabbing a BAT “We have to make sure we don’t harm our enemies”

“They’re not alive Tailgate they’re drones” Brawn said knocking the heads off two BATs “We can bash them without any guilt”

“Sounds good to me” Cliffjumper said, firing his glass gas at three more. The BATs were brittle and immediately shattered “Anyone for broken BATs?”

They were fired upon by a pair of Fusion drones who transformed into robot mode. One of the them suddenly was being held high in the air then shattered into pieces when it fell

“I hope Cobra likes my magnetic personality as much as the Decepticons” Windcharger said

“Ha I think so Windcharger! We only got one more left!” Brawn said before Repugnus came and shredded it into scrap

“Hey leave some for me to scrap” Repugnus said to the other Autobots

“Sorry Repugnus” Brawn said bashing another BAT “Once you start it’s hard to stop!”

Grotusque and Doublecross the other Monsterbots were tussling with the Duocons

“Careful Doublecross, the Duocons have two vehicle modes.” Grotusque warned. Flywheels transformed into tank and plane and fired at them

“That’s ok I’ll double my fun” Doublecross said as each head fired at the targets

Ultra Magnus and Shockwave were firing at each other and soon grappled together, each trying to overpower the other

“Magnus, how did you find us?” Shockwave inquired “We were completely undetected”

Ultra Magnus only answered with a grin

Chapter 2

The answer was deceptively simple. Earlier at GI Joe base, Marissa Fairborn and Gauge were chatting with Sandstorm and Broadside

“Wow Broadside you mean you weren’t always a Triple Changer?” Marissa asked in awe

“That’s affirmative” Broadside said, showing the pair his previous form (that had a red face) “I got into a scrap with some Decepticons on the planet Junkion.” We see Broadside battling the Insecticons Venom, Barrage, Chop Shop and Ransack as they were harassing Wreck-gar and his consort Nancy

“As thanks Wreck-Gar their leader repaired me and upgraded my cog to a triple changer” Broadside continued as he was now in his improved form to the cheers of the other Junkions.

“So that’s why you’re much bigger than you were before” Gauge said suddenly feeling her lack of size

“And Sandstorm you’re not from Cybertron?” Marissa asked

“Yup, I’m from a colony called Paradron” Sandstorm “When we reconnected with the Autobots, me and Lifeline were chosen as liaisons. I came online with a triple changing cog and..”

Sandstorm’s story was interrupted by a beeping from Gauge’s comlink

“I’m sorry about that” Gauge said as she saw Windblade on her screen “Oh hello Windblade is everything ok?”

“Gauge, thank the Matrix I was trying to contact Optimus Prime but I can’t reach him or any other Autobots”

“Yeah Arcee gave me this so I can contact her any time” Gauge then looked worried “Is everything ok?”

“I’m afraid not” Windblade said then noticed Sandstorm and Broadside “Oh good you’re not alone”

“Sounds like trouble, what is it Windblade?” Sandstorm asked

“No time to explain, we have to speak with Optimus Prime now!” Strongarm interjected

Optimus Prime was informed and had Ultra Magnus lead a team to rescue the Joes. All the while Gen. Hawk was having a tense meeting with Col. Sharpe

“Dang it Clayton you have to get a handle on this!” Col. Sharpe shouted

“Sir I assure you I am gravely aware of the severity of the situation” Gen. Hawk said solemnly

“Ah, I’m sorry Clayton I don’t mean to undermine your authority” Col. Sharpe said apologetically “It’s just Cobra allying with the Decepticons has always been the nightmare scenario.”

“It looks like that is the reality we’re facing” Gen. Hawk said “If Synergy is an Autobot and her abilities are what we think they are the Autobots might want her to return to Cybertron”

“That may be for the best. At least she won’t be used as a tool for Cobra or other players. It’s imperative you contact the president immediately. Col. Sharpe over and out” with that Col. Sharpe ended the communication

Gen. Hawk barely had a minute to take a moment when he heard

“Sparks what’s happening?” Gen. Hawk asked

“Looks like some of the Autobots are leaving base” Sparks said, newly returned to GI Joe “It must be serious”

“Never mind I’ll see myself” Gen. Hawk said cursing Cobra and the Decepticons under his breath

“What’s going on?” Gen. Hawk asked

“The Decepticons have a squad of Joes pinned down” Optimus explained “But I sent a squad of Autobots to their rescue”

“Oh lord this is spinning out of control” Beachhead said thinking about all the goings on.

“Sergeant-Major I promise you, your fellow Joes will not be the first human casualties” Elita-1 promised

“Yes ma’am I believe you, This is my promise to you” Beachhead said as he saw the concern in her face

Back at the battle, Grapple and Hoist came to the Joes rescue freeing them from their energon cell

“Fear not your rescue is at hand” Grapple promised

“Thank for the assist, but we can take care of ourselves” Duke said seeing Snake Eyes distract Slungslinger again “But Snake Eyes is out there vulnerable””

The Throttlebots were taking on the Horrorcons with three on one.

“C’mon guys let’s tame these beasts!” Rollbar riding on Apeface’s back in ape form

“Stupid Autobot get off me!” Apeface roared swatting at Goldbug

“No way you big ape you’ve caused enough trouble today” Goldbug said

Snapdragon was having trouble with Chase, Freeway and Wideload

“You should have stayed on Cybertron Snapdragon!” Chase said

“Bad enough I have to fight lousy Autobots but do they have to be smelly too?”
Snapdragon whined

“Who are you calling smelly?” Wideload said angrily “I’m not the bot with the hygiene problem”

“Wideload really does take care of himself but he his duties require getting his hand rather dirty” Hoist explained to the Joes

“All the dirty jobs right, Cover Girl? Uh, Cover Girl?” Duke noticed Cover Girl had left. Where was she?

Suddenly a shot fired right above his head

“Careful when Misfire is on the battlefield” Outback said

“Hey it wasn't me. It was him” Misfire pointed to Swerve. Among the Autobots Swerve was as bad a shot as Misfire was

“Heh sorry about that” Swerve said embarrassedly as he took one of the deactivated Fusion drones with BATs inside it “I just wanted to take one of these drone for inspection”

“You’re not going anywhere Autobot!” Boomed Sixshot. Sixshot showed his status as super warrior was well founded as in a matter of moments he transformed into his various forms of jet, tank, wolf. carrier and laser gun and managed to incapacitate the Autobots on the battlefield save Hoist

“Ugh he’s a one-bot army all right” Windcharger groaned

“Ah he’s not so tough” Repugnus said as he staggered to stand up

“Repugnus that’s a lie” Tailgate said

“It is a lie Autobot, and the last one you’ll ever hear” Sixshot said as he powered his weapons

“Wait you can’t harm the humans” Hoist pleaded

“Your concern for the flesh creatures is admirable but they’ll be spared” Sixshot promised then turned to Falcon “Except for one maybe”

Before Sixshot could fire a barrage of missiles all fired and attacked him. The missiles came from a Wolverine Cover Girl managed to get into during the chaos. Sixshot fell to the ground

“Any of you creeps want the next round” Cover Girl said to the other Decepticons.

Cover Girl’s question was answered in a way she didn’t want. Sixshot started chuckling. He wasn’t even dented!

Still laughing, Sixshot ambled his way to the Wolverine. Cover Girl tried to run but Shadow Striker held her in place

“Nice try flesh creature, but futile” Shadow Striker said

“Heh, heh it was a nice try, " Sixshot said, still laughing “I respect the strategy. You went straight for my head with all your missiles. I’m sorry for you it just wasn’t enough”

“Did you even feel it” Cover Girl asked weakly as she was placed back in the cage with other Joes

“I’d be lying if I said it didn’t tickle” Sixshot said still laughing “Well this had been fun but we have Autobots to terminate, this won’t take long”

“Time correct, reason incorrect” Boomed the mighty Omega Supreme

“Uh on I think we got trouble” Darkwind said

“Omega Supreme? Ah a true challenge” Sixshot said excitedly

“Sixshot ignore Omega Supreme he is not our priority” Shockwave ordered

“But Shockwave I get so few challenges. To battle Omega Supreme one on one is to tempting” Sixshot pleaded

“Incorrect, Omega Supreme not alone” Omega Supreme said as he moved to a side showing that he had brought not only the Technobots but Springer along with a quartet of Autobots

“Datum, Sixshot powerful warrior, conclusion attack with overwhelming forces” Computron stated

“Blast it’s the Wreckers” Shockwave said “This is you’re doing isn’t it Magnus?”

“I wish I could take credit Shockwave” Ultra Magnus said as he took the opportunity to throw Shockwave into the Decepticons

““That’s right Shockwave and we’re ready to wreck all over you!” Roadbuster said firing on the Decepticons

“C’mon bro let’s take them down” Topspin said to Twin Twist

“Good idea, you go high” Twin Twist said transforming in his drill mode “and I’ll go low”

Twin Twist dug underneath the Decepticons causing the ground under them to weaken making them fall

“Begorrah they’re turning the tides” Blowtorch said amazed

“Yeah and check that guy out” Airtight said in awe of Roadbuster manhandling the Horrocons with ease

“You Horrocons have no conditioning” Roadbuster taunted

“Hey Roadbuster quit playing with your friends” Whirl said “Let’s recycle them”

The Autobots took the number advantage and reigned fire on the Decepticons. Even Sixshot was at a loss

“Curses we’re outnumbered. Decepticons retreat!” Shockwave ordered. The Decepticons quickly fled in one direction, save Sixshot who went the other way

“What's the matter, you bums don’t like an unfair fight?” Brawn said

“Sorry Brawn the party’s over” Springer said

“He’s right. OK Autobots let’s take the Joes back to base. We have to regroup”
Ultra Magnus ordered

“Ultra Magnus we should study these drones to see any weakness they have”
Swerve insisted. Magnus agreed and soon the Autobots and Joes boarded Omega
Supreme. En route Duke spoke with Ultra Magnus

“You saved our hides out there, thanks” Duke said

“Heh I know how hard it is being second in-command” Ultra Magnus said as they
shared a laugh. Duke then turned to Springer

“Wreckers huh, I guess you have your special forces” Duke said

“We handle the dirty jobs” Springer said “I made the call to have them come to give
us some muscle”

“Yeah, I guess when you’re that big you think first and ask permission after’ Duke
said. He and Springer looked at each other. They clearly had a mutual dislike that
permeated

“Oh dear I sense tension” Hoist said

“Ah yup, let’s hope the kettle doesn’t boil over” Barbeque noted

“Well that was a waste of time” Starscream griped “And now the Wreckers are
involved”

“Once again Starscream you fail to grasp the bigger picture” Megatron said “We are closer to our grasp more than ever. I know Synergy and how she thinks. She will crave seeing this world and we’ll be ready”

Chapter Three

The Joes and Autobots soon arrived at GI Joe Headquarters. Gen. Hawk and Optimus Prime went to greet their troops

“Well done Autobots, the Decepticons once again underestimated us” Optimus said

“Thank you Prime but we have serious issues” Ultra Magnus said “Shockwave is on Earth

“What’s old one-eye doing here?” Jazz inquired

“I don’t know but chances are he helped make these” Swerve said showing them the acquired Fusion

“Kinda looks like a HISS Tank” Gung-ho said

“And check this out” Alpine said shoving a BAT “This isn’t your normal BAT”

“Yeah they’re stronger” Bazooka said

“Hmm...human and Cybertronian technology” Prowl said thinking “You know Prime rumor on Cybertron is that Dr. Arkeville found his way back to Earth”

“Dr. Arkeville? He’s a traitor to the human race” Sparkplug said in disgust

“No doubt Sparkplug” Prowl said then turned to Gen. Hawk “Gen. Hawk with your permission may we check out Sky Spy on your computer”

“Uh yes of course” Gen. Hawk said suddenly nervous

“Err..Prowl you may not be used to our system, why don’t I help you with it” Beachhead said also nervously.

Prowl saw nothing wrong with the offer and went with Jazz and Elita-1. Elita had dealt with Arkeville on Cybertron and had a dislike for him

The last Joe to depart Omega Supreme was Snake Eyes and he clearly in pain

“Snake Eyes!” Scarlett said running to him and embracing him warmly “You big dope were you brave again?”

“He sure was!” Brawn said in admiration then turned to the other Autobots “You should have seen him guys he was holding toe to toe with those chrome creeps. Even Shockwave and Sixshot”

“Sixshot? Leakin lubricants! He’s one tough hombre” Ironhide said

Snake Eyes was getting accolades from all and it gave Duke mixed emotions. On one hand, Snake Eyes was his closest friend on th Joe team and once again he went above and beyond the call of duty. But on the other hand he could see Scarlett getting closer to him and Duke couldn’t ignore his feelings for her

Timber ran to his master to make sure he was unharmed

“Timber slow down boy,” A young girl’s voice said. It was Ba Nee. What was she doing here

“Ba Nee what are you doing here!?” Jem shouted, making sure to depower to Jerrica

“Jerrica? Wha...” Ba Nee said confused after she accidentally bumping into Synergy “I’m sorry, oh are you an Autobot from Cybertron?” To Ba Nee, Synergy was simply new to Earth but both she and the Holograms were aghast at her meeting them”

“Never mind that young lady! Just what are you doing here?” Jerrica said almost shrieking

“Ms. Benton please calm yourself” Spirit said “There is a valid reason Ba Nee came”

“Criminy, orphans, rock stars and robots” Shipwreck said “This is some military base”

As Spirit and Scarlett explained why Ba Nee was there, Storm Shadow was doing the same to Destro and Baroness. He had to get this off his chest and they were his closest allies

“So now I must take the next course of action very carefully” Storm Shadow said

“Yes that is quite a conundrum” Destro said as he and Baroness tried not to show their amazement

“Hey Zartan look like one of those Starlight brats are at the base” Torch shouted

Storm Shadow immediately had a panicked look on his face.

“Not to worry, Storm Shadow, you can count on us. Plus any daughter of yours will make a fine member of Cobra” Baroness promised

As they left, Ravage came out of the shadows as did Zanya. To their shared amusement neither had noticed the other spying

“I can keep a secret if you can too” Zanya said to Ravage who growled his agreement

To Storm Shadow’s fear it was Ba Nee on base. Fortunately the others didn’t care.

“What is that brat doing there?” Cobra Commander inquired

“She probably wants Optimus Prime’s autograph” Zaranna sniped

“Today will be her last chance to do so” Megatron said

“Bah never mind this waif, have the camera focus on Optimus Prime and Gen. Hawk” Serpantor ordered and to Storm Shadow’s relief Ba Nee was overlooked just as Jerrica learned why she was there

“Oh my Ba Nee, honey I’m so sorry” Jerrica said as she warmly embraced Ba Nee

“That must be really weird for you” Kimber said

“Yeah I guess that means I’m not an orphan any more” Ba Nee said “Does that mean I have to leave Starlight House?”

Jerrica thought it over. Storm Shadow was a prominent member of a terrorist group. Would the courts actually let him gain custody? Or worse would she run away to be with him?

“Ba Nee I promise, you’ll always have a home with us” Jerrica promised

“Thanks, that’s what Moonracer said” Ba Nee said relieved

“Moonracer wha?” Jerrica said confused

“Yeah when we left the Dreadnoks I talked with her. She said we should tell Chromia about what to do” Ba Nee said as she pointed to Chromia and Ironhie who responded with a friendly thumbs up

“Oh Ba Nee I thought you told us first” Scarlett said pointing to Spirit and Snake Eyes

“Nope” Ba Nee said, unwittingly giving Scarlett humble pie. She knew how Lady Jaye felt with Marissa.

“Ba Nee, since you’re here why don’t you go hang out with Marissa and Gauge. I’m sure they’d like to meet you too?” Scarlett said

“I think that’s a great idea, besides we’re just talking boring grown-up things” Jerrica said

Ba Nee thought it was a good idea too and went off to them with Timber. Once she was gone, the Holograms found Scarlett and Spirit now had a serious expression.

“Is everything all right?” Aja asked with concern

“That depends” Scarlett said as she looked Jerrica in the eye “Did you know?”

“I beg your pardon?” Jerrica asked

“Scarlett was asking if you knew that Ba Nee was Storm Shadow’s daughter” Spirit inquired

“Hey what’s the matter with you people?” Shana said with outrage “Nothing and I mean nothing is more important to us than the welfare of our girls and if you think...”

“Yes,” Jerrica said in a very small voice. The Holograms were stunned as was Scarlett who walked away in a scowl as silent as Snake Eyes.

Jerrica explained to the girls she had Synergy reach out to see if any of the Starlight Girls had blood relatives. When it came to Ba Nee she was at a loss how to act. The Holograms were understandable but the news was not private. Soundwave was able to listen with his amazing hearing and decided to hold on to that information

Meanwhile Jazz, Prowl and Elita-1 were checking the status of various rogues

“Well let’s see what we can see,” Jazz said. He and Prowl didn’t notice Beachhead looking nervous, but Elita-1 did and was confused

“Dr. Henri Arkeville, status unknown” The Computer blurted

“Hmm...Arkeville might be back after all” Prowl said

“Yeah, say why don’t we head back” Beachhead said worriedly

“Well let’s just check up on other bad hombres” Jazz said as the computer reviewed other villains

“Games Master: Status Unknown”

“Hey he’s the cat that kidnapped some of the Joes and Snakes” Jazz noted

“Shawn Berger: Trial delayed”

“What still? When will he ever face justice?” Prowl complained

“Hmmpf, he’s lucky the punishment is not what almost happened to you” Elita-1 mused remembering how the Autobots were nearly hurled into the sun

“Lord Chumley: Status...”

The information on the screen froze all three Autobots in their tracks. Beachhead’s guilty face was proof enough the information was correct

“All right thanks Doc” Gen. Hawk said over the comlink then turned to Optimus

“That was Doc, he and Nautica are studying that drone to see any weaknesses”

“I think it’s time we inform the President” Duke said as Optimus agreed

“You’re right Duke. We’ll have to set up a communique immediately.” Gen. Hawk said then turned to Breaker and Dial-Tone “All right men it’s a long process so get started with the protocol and...”

“Yes Mr. President, I agree Megatron and Cobra are threats to world peace”
Optimus Prime said in his comlink. He was already speaking with the president

“I don’t believe it” Duke muttered

“Wait, is Optimus talking with the president?” Jem said amazed

“Absolutely, I installed the line to White House myself,” Blaster said. Bumblebee motioned Blaster as he noticed the Joes seemed annoyed how easy it was for them to speak with the president

“Yes Mr. President, we will coordinate with the Joes” Optimus continued “We’ll keep you involved. Ultra Magnus is with the Vice President as we speak”

Indeed Ultra Magnus was speaking with the Vice President

“Believe me Mr. Vice President the Decepticons are tricky bunch” Ultra Magnus said laughing “Yes we’ll contact NATO and the Joint Chiefs as well”

“Do the Autobots talk with the president often?” Flint asked

“Well to be honest yes” Sparkplug said a bit sheepishly

“I don’t believe it, now he’s conferencing with the Kremlin” Duke said getting more annoyed

Optimus was on a three-way call with the leaders of the Soviet Union and United States. Optimus assured both leaders that the Decepticons and Cobra would be taken care of

It irked Duke to no end that the Autobots were able to speak with world leaders with such ease. The whole world loved the Autobots and treated the Joes almost as an annoyance.

The Decepticons and Cobra watching the goings on could sense the tension too

“That vein on Duke’s forehead looks like it’s going to pop” Firefly noted

“Yeah it’s never good to keep your anger. You have to let it out” Tantrum said

Duke took a walk to clear his head not noticing Prowl, Jazz and Elita-1 coming back with somber faces

“Prowl are you ok?” Chip said worriedly

“At the moment no Chip” Prowl admitted but seeing the concern “But don’t worry we’ll take care of it”

Elita-1 wordlessly walked to Optimus and gave him an extended embrace

“Something is wrong, Elita-1 looks quite upset” Nightbird noted

“Yes I noticed that too” Baroness agreed

“What makes you say that?” Cobra Commander inquired

“Women’s intuition Commander” Baroness said

Duke marched past Sunstreaker who looked annoyed and then sarcastically said
“You’re welcome”

“What did you say?” Duke said having had the last straw

“Look out friend, I think the fireworks show is about to begin” Zartan said to the others. The villains inched closer knowing something bad was going to go down and that was good for them

Chapter Four

Duke’s frustration at the situation was increasing. First Cobra had officially allied with the Decepticons, then a super powerful computer was in the hands of a rock band and now his brother was almost killed by other Decepticons. Sunstreaker’s snark was all he could take

“What did you say?” Duke said with a cold tone in his voice

“Hey, we saved your skin from the Decepticons” Sunstreaker said as Bumblebee started to wince “And not just any Decepticons, Sixshot and Shockwave. So ya know some thanks wouldn’t be too much to ask for”

“Heh when an Autobot’s right he’s right” Slugslinger bragged as he and the other Decepticons entered the base

“Well if you’re so tough why didn't you catch those humans?” Slipstream asked. She had enough of Slugslinger’s self-importance

“I assure you Slipstream our mission was not a failure” Shockwave said then turned to Megatron “I have already planned contingencies to bring Synergy back”

Shadow Striker was met by her friend Kaskade “Shadow Striker I am glad to see you” Kaskade said

“Thank you Kaskade, Earth is certainly exotic” Shadow Striker said as she was glomped by Flamrwar

“Hi girl! I’m so glad you’re here! Flamewar said happily and hugging her pet gator
“And so’s Scales!”

“Um hello Scales” Shadow Striker said confused

“Hey, that walking luggage ate me doughnuts!” Torch complained

“Ah you didn’t need them” Zaranna snarked

“Flamewar get that thing out of here!” Starscream ordered

“Hey Scales doesn’t like being alone” Flamewar whined

“Good news, he won’t be lonely” Dr. Mindbender said “Croc Master!”

Coming from a door, Croc Master (Cobra’s reptile handler) entered the room.
Between his bulk, mask and hook in place of hand, he was an intimidating presence

“You called Dr. Mindbender?” Croc Master said

“Please introduce Scales to your menagerie” Dr, Mindbender said

“But of course” Croc Master said as he whistled for Scales to follow him. To the surprise of the Decepticons, Scales followed. Croc Master ordered Scales out of the room only to compliment Skullcruncher on his alt mode, who was flattered

“Silence all of you!” Serpantor bellowed “What happens now is crucial to our victory!”

At the same time in South America, the Constructicons and Cobra were nearly done with their job

“We’ve made excellent progress in our mission” Hook said to Scrapper

“Yes, all we have to do is remove the Nemesis from the bedrock” Scrapper said

“I think I have the perfect tool” Scrap Iron said as a trio of Buzz Boars departed the ship. The started to saw away from the rock around the Nemesis

“Our Buzz Boars are very sharp and very fast” Scrap Iron said showing them work

“Hmm...crude but effective” Hook admitted

“Wait I brought four Buzz Boars where’s the other one?” Scrap Iron said

“Umm...it’s being used for another job” said one of the AVACs who pointed to some Decepticons using it as a back scratcher

“Oh this thing is heaven, heaven, heaven!” Mixmaster said

“Hey c’mon guys don’t hog the Buzz Boar” Nacelle asked

“Yeah we worked hard too” Bitstream added

“All right you louts enough of that” Scrapper said “We still have work to do”

“Including giving hospitality to our new guests” Hook said with a grin

As Megatron ordered the Misfits and Eric Raymond were now imprisoned with them

“Hey let us out you jerks!” Pizzazz said

“Don’t you know who we are?” Roxy said to a pair of Techno-Vipers

“Forget it lady just make the best of the situation” One of the Techno-Vipers laughed

“You’re all going to regret this” Eric insisted

“Ah shaddap!” Bonecrusher yelled “You’re just lucky my brother is still on Cybertron!”

“You wouldn’t want to get him angry” Long Haul said laughing “Not Gravedigger” Bonecrusher laughed in agreement and clapped Long Haul on the back

“Gravedigger?” Stormer said fearfully

“Relax it’s just a name” Hotlink said

“Yeah Gravedigger usually leaves bodies where they are” Scavenger said to more laughter

Serpentor had been right about as all resentment were finally overflowing out

“Thank you? Thank you? You got some real gall fella!” Duke yelled

“Hey you can’t yell at my brother like that!” Sideswipe said coming to his brother’s defense

“And you can’t talk to my brother like that!” Falcon said

“You got some nerve!” Chromia suddenly yelled “Are you saying your brother is better then It?”

Ironhide and Scarlett tried to calm Chromia and Duke to no avail. They made eye contact indicating the worst was yet to come

“Are you still sore about that?” Falcon said with indignance “Look lady that was a mistake, a simple human mistake”

“Yeah you humans make a lot of mistakes,” Springer said. Optimus Prime and Gen. Hawk were aghast at the cascading anger

“Hey! This is our planet!” Gung Ho said angrily at Springer’s remark “And we have enough problems to deal with without giant alien robots rampaging all over!”

“Now wait a moment!” Ratchet now said “You act like we don’t care about the people of this planet. Our highest priority is making sure not one human has ever been harmed. And we are proud that remains zero”

“That’s all well and good Ratchet, but as we're GI Joe and as crass as it sounds our priority is protecting the United States, our nation” Flint said.

“Flint the fact is you share this planet with other nations” Prowl now said “And we Autobots have to look out for the other people”

“So why don’t you guys just leave Earth?” It was Riot. He and the Stingers wandered in about the hubbub and Rio followed too

“Hey this is classified!” Beachhead said angrily “No civilians are authorized!”

“Why is that anyway?” Blaster said a bit annoyed “The governments of this planet are always keeping secrets from their citizens”

“You don’t understand,” Duke said, looking at Smokescreen “We have a responsibility to defeat Cobra! And that’s not being helped by monstrous aliens coming by without our say so!”

“That monster alien is my friend Bosch ” Smokescreen said defensively “We had our holiday in Monte Carlo, well out of your jurisdiction. And may I add none of the people had a problem with him”

Shipwreck had Dialtone put footage on the screen. Bosch was indeed a hit at the blackjack table along with Smokescreen, Devcon and Slizardo.

“Yeah and why weren’t they freaking about him or lizard lips?” Shipwreck asked pointedly

Smokescreen now was a bit embarrassed “We told everyone they were testing organic armor. But the fact is there were no problems”

“Hey was that Devcon?” Whirl asked about his old friend

“Yes that was his first vacation in six million years” Smokescreen said now staring at Duke “And it was a day he’ll never forget”

“Did you know about this Optimus?” Gen. Hawk whispered

“Despite my reservations, I did give my permission” Optimus admitted

“The fact is that you share this world with other countries” Ultra Magnus now said
“And you share this universe with many more worlds. And the best course of action is to share information”

“Believe me Magnus we know about aliens” Leatherneck said

“Yeah and they’re a little too close for our comfort” Wet Suit said

“The Titans are a noble people” Perceptor now interjected

“Wait Titan, you mean like the moon of Saturn?” Shana said worriedly

“Oh dear” Perceptor realized news of aliens in Earth’s solar system was classified,
He, Leatherneck and Wet Suit knew they made an error to speak about them in mixed company

“You mean, right here just a few planets near Earth there are aliens like us?” Jem said as she, the Holograms, Rio and Stingers were shocked at such news

“Jem while it is correct, I can assure you they are a good people” Perceptor said reassuringly “ True they are more primitive then you now but they are not malevolent” He then muttered under his breath “Unlike some species”

“I’m sorry robot aliens are one thing, but flesh and blood ones are just too weird” Recondo said

“Yeah, you’re all here for energy, but they might want something else” Thunder said thinking about his sister

Seaspray was about to say something about Alanna but Bumblebee and Cosmos convinced him to stay out of this

”Everyone please we’re getting off topic. Cobra and the Decepticons are our enemies!” Scarlett said trying to calm everyone's nerves

“Yes this is about protecting Synergy and making sure the Decepticons don’t take her from us” Arcee said holding Synergy’s hand

“Pardon me miss and with all due respect” Wild Bill said looking at Chromia “But what makes her so special? I understand she’s kin and that makes her important to you.”

Synergy looked self-consciously down to where her energon synthesizer was.

“I think the lady answered your question Wild Bill” Dusty said “She’s not just another Autobot, she’s got the ability to heal and fuel the Transformers.:

“This is true, I do have abilities that Megatron tried to use before and I fear he will exploit them again” Synergy said ruefully

“Then come back to Cybertron” Chromia pleaded “You belong there with us...with me!”

“No wait, she can't,” Kimber said. “Please she can’t leave”

“Synergy we still need you” Jem pleaded “We owe you everything”

“I hope I am able to pay back with interest” Shockwave said intensely.

Thundercracker and Wild Weasel were standing near Shockwave and made sure to move away

“Word to the wise, do not get in his way” Thundercracker said to Wild Weasel who nodded

“You got that right” Lady Jaye said under her breath

“I’m sorry, what did you say?” Jem said annoyed

Flint tried to talk Lady Jaye from responding but she couldn't hold her tongue anymore

“You and your friends saw Synergy and used her for what to become rock singers?” Lady Jaye said “You didn’t think she was more than a hologram maker?”

“Not that she used Synergy for any real good” Scarlett said sternly standing next to Lady Jaye

“Whoa lady you’re way outta line!” Rio said thinking “I know what this is about. You’re just jealous that the people, including your daughter, love and respect the Autobots way more than GI Joe”

Lady Jaye got quiet and closed her eyes “You know what you’re right. Flint and I have always been a little jealous that our daughter loved the Autobots so much” She and Flint looked to make sure Marissa was not in listening distance ‘But you know what there are far worse role models for a young girl to have”

Rio’s remark and Lady Jaye’s response hit heavy, Many of the Joes and Autobots winced at it and even some of the Decepticons and Cobra

“Tell me we’re taping this” Cobra Commander said to one of the Tele-Vipers and Reflector

“Don’t worry we have it taken care of” Reflector said

“This is not the time for this” Duke complained

“Well maybe when they saw their superior officer go off it gave them permission” Beachhead said sternly. Duke realized this whole mess was because of him

“The fact is that Synergy is not an ordinary Autobot” Flint added and turned to her “We saw your synthesizer make energon for all the Autobots here. And if Cobra and the Decepticons get a hold of you, power will be tipped in their favor. We have to get a handle on that power”

“Is that what this is all about?” Skids said suddenly and very intensely “Do you see Synergy as a weapon to be used?”

Skids's words agitated the Autobots. She was one of them and didn't want her to be used as a weapon.

"Hey, we're an American military unit and we have to defend America at all cost!" Gung-ho said angrily then looking at the Aerialbots "Maybe if some of you Autobots didn't have conflicting loyalties we wouldn't have to worry"

"Hey Jumal is a friend!" Slingshot said equally angrily referring to their friend Prince Jumal "You can't talk about him like he's a menace"

"Slingshot..." Silverbolt started to scold his squadmate but then stopped "You know what, you're right. And I for one will not apologize. I'm proud to call Jumal a friend"

"Yeah and with a few exceptions" Skydive said looking at Spike and Sparkplug "No other human has shown us true friendship"

"Is that why he gave you flyboys a tanker full of oil last month" Leatherneck said "I read the papers. Sounds like quid pro quo to me"

"That was a gift from a friend" Fireflight said "A thank you gift for staving off an invasion from that weirdo Abdul Fakhaddi"

"I'll bet he was set up in Carbombya" Mirage muttered implying the US military helped stage a coup. Snake Eyes and Spirit heard that and like Seaspray chose not to comment due to tensions

"You wanna talk loyalty" Cover Girl said looking at Kimber "I heard you're pals with one of the Misfits"

“Stormer, what about her?” Kimber said nervously

“How do we know you didn’t help your pal set up that press trap earlier today”
Cover Girl said

“Yeah that’s true I saw you two chatting when they were here” Jynx said backing up
Cover Girl.

“Is that true? Aren’t you and the Misfits enemies?” Red Alert asked worriedly

Back in South America, the Decepticons and Cobra were equally amazed at the
squabble. When Stormer heard she started to blush in embarrassment.

“Hey you ladies are way out of line!” Riot said coming to Kimber’s defense Then
looked at Mainframe ‘The way I hear it this guy is dating one the Dreadnoks,
what’s her name Zaranna.’”

Mainframe suddenly felt nervous. So did Zaranna who was afraid that Mainframe
would be punished for disloyalty

“Relax Zaranna” Dead End reassured “When we beat the Joes and Autobots you
can be with him free and clear”

“Uh yeah thanks” Zaranna said hoping he was right

“Hold it son you don’t know what you’re talking about” Beachhead said intensely
“Mainframe is no traitor. I looked him over with a fine-tooth comb. He is a loyal
American” Mainframe was grateful as he knew Beachhead would never pull
punches

“I’ll be darned if I’ll let the good name of GI Joe be besmirched” Duke said “We only have the best intentions. Yes for the US first but also for the rest of the world and....

“Lord Chumley” Elita-1 said coldly

“Oh lord no,” Gen. Hawk said. He knew things were about to get even worse

Chapter Five

“Lord Chumley?” Bumblebee said confusedly

“Elita-1 why would you mention the name of that uncouth ruffian?” Tracks asked

Elita-1 knew that Tracks had been kidnapped by Chumley and politely said “We were going over the status of Dr. Arkeville, he’s MIA by the way. Lo and behold my surprise to see that he had received a full pardon for his crimes”

The Autobots gasped in shock and horror. Lord Chumley was perhaps the most hated human by the Autobots, even more than Dr. Arkeville or Shawn Berger for wanting to mount the head of their leader as a trophy

“No way that’s gotta be wrong” Blaster said remembering his past with Chumley

“I’m afraid not” Prowl said “Jazz and I confirmed the report”

“Wait isn’t he the weirdo that almost caused World War 3 when he stole a Soviet jet?” Shanna said remembering the scary news

“He sure did!” Brawn said angrily then looked at Flint and Duke “Does Daina know about this?” Daina the member of Oktober Guard almost lost her life when the jet was stolen and she had befriended the Autobots when they teamed up when the Decepticons raided Siberia last year. She and Brawn mutually admired their bravery in battle

“Yes but you don’t understand.” Flint said

“Oh really?” Grapple said “What if the Gamesmaster who kidnapped you and Lady Jaye received a similar absolvment of his crimes. How would you feel?”

Flint and Lady Jaye looked at each other then turned to Grapple in shame unable to answer back

“Hmph...that what I thought” Grapple said

Back at the Terror-Drome Cobra and the Deeceptions were shocked by the news as well

“I know I would be incensed if that bald goon received a pardon!” Baroness said with rage as Cobra Commander nodded his agreement

“When Blitzwing finds out that fool who trapped us is free he...” Astrotrain said then noticed his fellow Triple Changer was missing. He hadn’t seen him for awhile and turned to Octane who shrugged his shoulders

“Hey where is Blitzwing anyway?” Octane asked

“He’s on assignment” Megatron said as he raised to his hand to indicate his minion to silence so he could listen

“Sarge, did you know about this?” Sparkplug asked

“Yeah I’m sorry to say” Sgt. Slaughter said in uncharacteristic meekness. He was clearly ashamed by the news

Optimus was quite shocked by the news. It was one thing not to be told about Nightbird, nor Synergy’s ship being discovered. But this was personal, He knew he had keep his composure as the room was becoming an emotional powder keg

During the arguments, Marissa, Ba Nee and Gauge innocently walked in the door near the Dinobots.

“Grimlock look!” Sludge said

“Uh oh...me Grimlock mean hello!” Grimlock said

“What’s going on?” Marissa asked “We heard a lot of noise”

“Umn...just boring grown-up stuff” Grimlock said “You kids not want to be here. It sooo boring.!”

“Why not take Tyrannitron on walk” Snarl said as Tyrannitron came out. Luckily the temperamental Dinobot was friendly to the kids

“Wow he’s a mini-Dinobot!” Marissa said excitedly. Soon the girls left the room

“Nice job Grimlock” Kup said

“Yeah those kids are way too mature to be here” Hot Rod said shaming Arcee and Scarlett with the truth

“Everyone, I feel an explanation is in order,” Gen. Hawk said. Hawk said a few months back that Cobra was on the trail of an experimental doomsday weapon from World War II. The Joes searched all over for it to no avail. Until they were approached by Chumley who knew and thus

“Ah this is jolly good of you fellows” Lord Chumley said merrily. He was given a new lease on life and was in a excellent mood

“Let’s get this over with” A disgusted Duke said “Now get this Chumley. If your intel is false you go back to the gulag.” He then turned to Dinsmoore who was next to him “And that goes for you too Jeeves!”

”My name’s Dinsmoore sir” The elderly Dinsmoore said

“Come now, never let it be said Lord Chumley is a liar” Chumley said showing them the location via satellite “I have a reputation, you know”

“Reputation my...” Beachhead said in disdain. He envied Flint for being at the site .“Flint did you find it?”

“Affirmative, Beachhead” Flint said “We’re going to disassemble the thing and destroy the schematics”

“There you see!” Chumley said then turned to Dinsmoore “Dinsmoore be a good man and brew us up some tea”

“Very good sir” Dinsmoore said “Do you chaps take lemon or honey?”

“Stuff it!” Beachhead said “I need a shower”

Gen. Hawk’s explanation mollified Optimus but not Elita-1 or many of the Autobots. There was a tense silence between them, the Joes and the Holograms. Megatron was watching with rapt attention

“Isn’t that nice, he remembered to give his butler a pardon too” Inferno said sarcastically as Firestar held him

“Sure good help is hard to find” Springer said dryly

The more level-headed Joes (Lifeline, Spirit and Roadblock) and Autobots (Beachcomber, Groove, First Aid, Seaspray) were worried about further tensions

“I don’t like the vibes going here man” Groove said worriedly

“Yeah you can cut the strife with a knife” Roadblock added

“Now everybody, let’s take a step back, take a deep breath and think before we say anything that can’t be taken back” Beachcomber said “Now I was kidnapped by Chumley too, but the Joes didn’t pardon him because of a vague reason. There was a real threat to the world. And I for one would have understood why they did it”

“The problem is communication or the lack of communication” Lifeline added “We have to remember we’re all on the same side.”

“Lifeline...” Beachhead said harshly but then suddenly gently “Is absolutely right” His words shocked the Joes who knew him for years.

“Before the past few days I thought the Autobots were simply alien robots with alien beliefs. But I was wrong. You’re like us. You have family, loved ones.” Beachhead said “I can’t imagine what it’s like being at war or away from loved ones for millions of years.” He then turned to Elita-1 “I am sorry ma’am sincerely but we had to make the best decision in the little time we had. And I know you can appreciate that”

Elita-1 was touched by sincerity and warmly responded “I do, thank you”

Beachhead took a breath and sat down and was met by several Joes including Duke.

“Who are you and where’s the real Beachhead?” Cover Girl asked

“Very funny” Beachhead said in mock sarcasm

“I didn’t think you had that in you” Duke said admiringly

“Me neither” He then pointed to Lifeline “Lifeline I blame you for being a bad role model”

Optimus Prime and Gen. Hawk were relieved that the tension was lessened. But it was still in their air. Ultra Magnus then spoke

“I think what we have to remember is that our main focus should be Synergy,” Ultra Magnus said, looking at different people. First to Jem and the Holograms “Maybe she’ll want to remain where she is” then looking at Chromia “Or she might return to Cybertron” then the Joes “Or she might want to help with global security.. The point is we have to respect Synergy’s choice”

“Yeah you’re right, Synergy what do you...” Jem said then she noticed Synergy was not in the room “Synergy where is she?”

“If I know my sister she went for a walk to clear her head” Chromia said

Lady Jaye then realized “Wait, Flint where’s Marissa?”

“Don’t worry, me Grimlock tell kids this boring grown-up stuff. They take Tyrannitron for walk” Grimlock assured

“That’s probably for the best” Arcee said as Jem and Lady Jaye agreed

“”Better them than me” Gears said to laughs

“Don’t worry Junkyard will find the kids” Mutt said “Go on boy!” Junkyard did go searching along with Freedom and Timber.

“Well come on featherface” Shipwreck said to Polly “Quit goldbricking and help out”

“Awk, awkward above my paygrade!” Polly whined but he did as told

Chromia was right about Synergy. She was enjoying the fresh air and seeing the sunset. She realized in all her years on Earth she had spent so very little time outdoors. Now she was thinking where did she truly belong? She sat down resting up against one of the tanks and started to meditate. She was then startled by someone near her.

To her relief it was Gauge, Marissa and Ba Nee. “Oh hello children, please don’t be shy come here”

The three girls were happy to do so. Marissa was in heaven meeting so many Autobots

“We haven’t been formally introduced have we? I’m Synergy” Synergy said warmly

“Hi Synergy” The three said. Marissa turned to Gauge “Gauge, have you really never met Synergy before?” Gauge nodded

“Well to be honest I haven’t been on Cybertron for a very long time. I must admit I do miss it” Synergy said looking at the sky

The four were enjoying the peace of the moment, not worrying about the troubles for the moment. Synergy wanted to tell Ba Nee what she knew but realized Jem would be the right one to do so.

The serenity ended when Marissa looked back at the tank they were near and looked puzzled

“That Mauler looks different” Marissa said

“Maybe it’s new for the Joes” Ba Nee said

Synergy now looked back and to her horror saw a Decepticon symbol!

“Children run!” Synergy shouted but it was too late. The tank was not a tank but Blitzwing

“Hello Synergy” Blitzwing said warmly

Gauge and Ba Nee were terrified but Marissa was outraged

“Hey you Decepticreep, what do you think you’re doing here?” Marissa asked

“How lively” Blitzwing laughed “Synergy please I beg you come with peacefully. I don’t want a fight”

“Well you’re going to get one!” Marissa said

“Marissa hush” Synergy hissed. She then turned to Blitzwing “Blitzwing you know I can’t do that.. I’ve seen the news, Megatron hasn’t changed a bit. I can not, will not help his cruel ambitions”

Blitzwing knew it was futile to argue. He smiled sadly and then nodded. The nod was for someone behind Synergy confusing her

When she turned her head her horror magnified to see Sixshot! Sixshot was bigger than she last saw her and faster too. Before she could make a move, Sixshot swooped in and grabbed Gauge, Ba Nee and Marissa

“Synergy now you must realize Megatron is our leader” Sixshot said while holding the panicking girls firmly “We’re taking these girls with us. The choice is yours if you join them for their safety.”

Synergy lowered her head in defeat. Blitzwing and Sixshot looked at each other relieved it was over. The mood changed when Tyrannitron jumped in and attacked Blitzwing

“Bah, lousy Dinobot drone” Blitzwing shouted “Get this thing off of me!”

Tyrannitron was joined by Timber and Junkyard who both barked loudly

“What’s going on?” Jem asked

“Oh that must be Timber” Scarlett said

“Nope, that’s Junkyard,” Mutt said. He knew the barks of his dog

“I hear two different barks” Blaster said listening

“Wait Timber and Junkyard?” Duke said worriedly

“Awk, awk we got trouble, big trouble!” Polly said squawking

“Everybody follow that bird!” Shipwreck said as the assembled all did that

To their horror Blitzwing had Synergy, even worse Sixshot had the kids!

“Marissa!” Lady Jaye screamed

“No, Ba Nee!” Jem wailed

“Don’t even think of following us!” Sixshot warned as he transformed into his jet mode “Or I’ll forced to drop my cargo”

“You monsters!” Arcee shouted as she took out a pair of blades “I’ll have your heads!”

“Unlikely Autobot” Blitzwing said as he transformed and Synergy unwillingly entered making a sad look at both Jem and Chromia

With their hostages secure, Blitzwing and Sixshot flew back to base in victory with the Joes and Autobots in miserable helplessness

Chapter Six

At the Terror Drome, Serpantor and Megatron were planning their final plan of action. There was just one more component missing. That was until Blitzwing reported

“Megatron, this is Blitzwing, Sixshot and I are returning to the Terror Drome with Synergy!” Blitzwing said

“Well done, Blitzwing!” Megatron said. He then turned to Serpantor “Once Synergy ‘donates’ her energon synthesizer we are on our way to victory!”

Blitzwing and Sixshot landed on the airstrip at the Terror Drome. Synergy sadly departed Blitzwing seeing to her displeasure a group of Decepticons. Some were new but many more she knew well

“Greetings Synergy” Megatron said flanked by Nightbird and Starscream “It has been far too long”

“Megatron” Synergy said passively then looked at Starscream “Starscream” She said with contempt

“Hmph...I see your memory circuits are intact” Starscream said with disdain. They never got along

“Blitzwing, how did you get Synergy to come with you?” Thundercracker asked.
He got his answer when the three hostages came from Sixshot

“What’s this, more guests?” Serpantor said laughing

“Let us go you lousy snakes!” Marissa insisted “My mom and dad are gonna make you pay”

“Highly unlikely my dear” Tomax said

“Soon they will be defeated” Xamot said

“No way you gruesome twosome” Marissa said kicking Tomax causing both
Crimson Twins to wince in pain

“Why you little brat” The said in unisons to derisive laughs

“You better not try that with us Autobrat!” Pounce warned Gauge. Gauge noticed
Reflector making a video of the Joes and Autobots arguing and knew it was nothing
good

Ba Nee was far more petrified than Marissa. This was even worse than being
captive of the Dreadnoks. Only when she made eye contact with Storm Shadow did
she calm

“Storm Shadow my friend I promise no harm will come to her” Destro whispered.

“Now see here you brats! You are our prisoners!” Cobra Commander boomed

“You don’t scare me Cuckoo Commander. My mom and dad always talk about how big a geek you are,” Marissa said dismissively then added, “You’re all going to jail”

“You’re a spirited one, aren’t you little one?” Serpantor said then turned to Heartwrencher “Take our guests to our welcoming area. Perhaps they will learn manners there”

“Ravage, Laserbeak bring this puny Autobot there too” Megatron ordered. Soon the girls were taken away

Megatron turned to Synergy “Now my dear our reunion is not over yet” He then took Synergy to a private room; “Someone is excited to see you”

Sixshot along with Soundwave, Kaskade, Blitzwing and a squad of Vipers to where Shockwave was.

“I don’t know what you think can...” Synergy trailed off, stopping in her tracks. Before her stood Shockwave.

“Hello Synergy ” Shockwave said in his usual monotone “Leave us” He ordered. Blitzwing shepherded the others out with a smile

The Decepticons and Cobra were watching the goings on at the main monitor

“Once Shockwave acquires the energon synthesizer, our forces will leave for their destinations!” Megatron said

“I hope he doesn’t take his time getting it” Cobra Commander said turning to Starscream “Time is vital in our plans too”

Shockwave and Synergy stared at each other intensely until he finally walked towards her. Cobra thought he was going to attack her to gain the synthesizer, but the opposite happened. He was embracing her!

“Synergy it is you. All these millions of years I thought...” Shockwave said softly

“I know, I know” Synergy said “I missed you too”

The various Cobra members were surprised to see many of the Decepticons emotional themselves

“Turn the monitor off” Megatron said to a Tele-Viper. After a nod from Serpantor he did as ordered

“He loves her” Storm Shadow said in amazement

“Yes” Megatron said with surprising emotion then caught himself “But this will be to our advantage. Shockwave will get us the energon synthesizer”

Shockwave and Synergy’s reunion went long and would have longer had not Shockwave remembered his duty

“Synergy my love” Shockwave said, his eye changing to almost green. “I hate to ask this but I have my orders and I need....”

“I know and while I hate that Megatron is forcing this I know there is no other option” Synergy said “I’ll do it but on one condition”

In the detention area, Ba Nee, Marissa and Gauge were being threatened by Laserbeak and Ravage as Soundwave watched.

“You creeps better knock it off!” Marissa said. Laserback answered back with a screech

“Ravage stop that!” It was Synergy who walked in with Shockwave “Is this what you’ve become a feral cougaraider? And you Laserbeak are you still spying for Megatron?”

Ravage slinked in shame being chided by Synergy as did Laserbeak

Synergy then turned to Soundwave ”Soundwave how could you let Megatron go on unabated like this”

“Megatron is our leader, He must be obeyed” Soundwave said looking ashamed as well

“Now, now, Synergy don’t be harsh on Soundwave,” Megatron said as he entered the room with higher ups of Cobra and the Decepticons.

“Megatron, I am disappointed,” Synergy said. “I hoped when you took leadership of the Decepticons it could lead to peace between you and the Autobots.”

“There can never be peace without power and Megatron has the force of character to do what’s necessary,” Nightbird said defensively.

Synergy looked around and at the girls in their cell. She saw only a few options.

“Very well I’ll do as you wish, but first let me see the children” Synergy said

“My patience is wearing thin” Serpantor said then turned to Megatron “Let her see the waifs. Time is of the essence”

The cell bars were lowered and Synergy went to Ba Nee, Marissa and Gauge “Girls don’t worry everything will be fine” She discreetly removed a device that went to the ceiling unseen

“I’m not worried” Marissa said definitely at her captors “They’re going to lose like always”

“You are a spirited flesh creature” Megatron smirked “Now Synergy you gave your word”

Synergy then transformed and disengaged her energon synthesizer. Megatron was ecstatic

“At last the synthesizer!” Megatron said, turning on a dial. Soon an endless number of energon cubes came out

“Decepticons let us enjoy this bounty” Megatron said as Soundwave tossed energon cubes to the others

“Ah pre-war energon” Blast Off said as he and Dead End had theirs “I tell you Dead End there's nothing like it”

“This is great, I'm fully energized” Astrotrain said “I could fly to Cybertron!”

“Good Astrotrain then take your retinue and set up our satellite in orbit” Megatron ordered. As Astrotrain departed, Megatron turned to Octane “Octane, do your job and fuel Trypticon. I’ve kept him off until now”

“Sure thing Megatron” Octane said transforming into tanker mode and traveling to Trypticon outside the Terror Drome

“Hey Trypticon-baby is fueling time!” Octane said as Brunt and Full-tilt Trypticon’s helpers set up cables with energon

“Yum, good energon!” Trypticon bellowed “Trypticon full, want to destroy!”

“Well good news big guy!” Octane said giving some energon to Full-Tilt and Brunt
“From now on it’s all you can eat. C’mon boys you too”

“Hey this is great!” Full-Tilt said “I feel like a new Decepticon”

“Octane, get Trypticon ready, we are to rendezvous with the Constructicons in South America!” Megatron said “Once we and your vehicles are fully energized we will be ready for the final assault. Are the stations in Siberia and Cobra Island ready?”

“All ready, Megatron” Baroness said “On the off chance they discover, neither the Autobots or Joes can stop us!”

“Then let us begin, this I command!” Serpenter yelled then turned to the girls “Any questions ladies?”

“How come Decepticons can fly?” Marissa asked

“Wait what?” Serpenter said confused

“Yeah, all the Decepticons can fly, not just the ones that are planes. Why is that?”
Marissa asked

Marissa’s question stymied Cobra. The truth was they always wondered about that too

“It is a strong advantage you have over the Autobots' ' Baroness said to Megatron.
Nightbird realized she didn’t know the answer either

“You know I always wanted to know that myself” Dead End said to Blast Off

“Well be that as it may” Megatron said somewhat flustered “You will learn that
after we conquer this planet. Decepticons attack!”

“Ooh, ooh!” Flamewar said excitedly “Can I bring Scales?”

Megatron facepalmed at Flamewar’s jubilation but quickly regained his composure
“Yes Flamewar, but Scales must come to you”

“I’ll be right back!” Flamewar said scooting

“She’s enthusiastic” Megatron said to Serpentor who politely nodded

To Megatron’s surprise Flamewar had Scales in her hand with Croc Master to
confirm she chose her pet

“Alligators are quite intelligent creatures” Croc Master said

With no other distractions, Cobra and the Decepticons went on their way

“While we await the components you must tell me about that secret” Cobra Commander said to Starscream who was amused by the chaos

The chaos continued at GI Joe Headquarters. Whatever peace Beachhead made was shattered when the children were captured. Optimus Prime and Gen. Hawk look aghast at what was unfolding

So did Grimlock. He told the kids to go off elsewhere. Was this his fault? The Dinobot leader had enough. He started breathing heavily.

“Err...Grimlock” Kup said concerned “Are you alright lad?”

“Quiet!!!” Grimlock shouted. Everyone was silent and shocked

“Everybody acting like jerks!” Grimlock said pointing at the Joes “You upset world loves Autobots” then to the Autobots “You forget they soldiers and brave enough to risk their lives” then to the Holograms, Rio and Stingers “And you not acting like this very serious. Well it is!”

Pointing at a screen with the Cobra and Decepticon symbols he continued. “They the bad guys and they working together! If we don’t do that they take over world, they take over universe! And all kids lives in danger. And all sisters too!” with that Grimlock slumped, breathing tiredly. Arcee patted on the back to calm him.

Those assembled were shocked and silenced by Grimlock’s words. They were ashamed it took them to make them realize what was important.

“He’s right” Duke said quietly to break the silence “We- I’ve been a pig headed fool. Focused on petty jealousy and insecurity”

“No Duke you were right before” Ultra Magnus said “We have all been fools. Our focus should be stopping Cobra and the Decepticons. And we Autobots bear a strong responsibility for that”

“Yes you all are trained soldiers like us” Prowl added “And if had worked together before then we wouldn’t be in this mess”

“Then I say we end this pity party and focus on three things” Sgt. Slaughter said “Autobots make scrap out of Decepticons, Joes make mincemeat out of Cobra and most important rescue those prisoners what do you say?”

The assembled shouted in unison. Optimus Prime and Gen. Hawk were relieved. Grimlock saved the morale and they went to Grimlock to congratulate him

“Well done Grimlock we now have a chance to save the day” Gen. Hawk said

“Thank you general” Grimlock said then turned to Optimus “Optimus me Grimlock know you not jerk, It’s just being leader of all Autobots you can’t say what you always want. But me Grimlock can”

“That’s true Grimlock” Elita-1 said embracing Optimus “Being a leader is hard, so we should all help”

Chromia went to Jem, Flint and Lady Jaye much ashamed

“I just want to say it was cruel of me to ignore your loved ones now. If Synergy was here she’d shame me for my behavior and she’d be right” Chromia said humbly

“Believe me I know Synergy” Jem said with a laugh then turned to Flint and Lady Jaye “Marissa is as tough as her parents and I know Ba Nee will be safe”

“Autobots, Joes it’s imperative that we stop Cobra and the Decepticons before it’s too late” Optimus said

“Right but where do we go?” Springer asked “Do we raid the Terror Drome or Decepticon’s underwater base?”

Optimus was not sure, luckily he got his answer from Cosmos. Ultra Magnus had him go into lunar orbit to coordinate with Sky Spy

“Optimus Prime, come in “ Cosmos said “I was on with Windblade and we found some important information”

“What is it Cosmos?” Optimus said as the screen came to life showing Astrotrain and a set of strange space ships

“Astrotrain is setting up a satellite in orbit.” Cosmos explained

“Yes and I had Sky Spy look around and found three installations” Windblade continued “One in Siberia, another on an unidentified island and another in South America”

“Blow me down, they're not making another Pyramid of Darkness are they?” Shipwreck asked

“If they are, we'll put out their lights! Right everyone?” Ironhide said to cheers

“Breaker contact Admiral Ledger we'll take the USS Flagg to the island” Gen. Hawk said

“I’ll have Blaster contact the Oktober Guard” Ultra Magnus said “After all it is their nation”

“Fair enough” Duke said “All right everyone we’re going to beat those creeps and do it together, Yo Joe!”

Jem, Rio and the Holograms went to Optimus and Duke saying they were going too. Before anyone could argue Jem made it apparent she was not taking no for an answer. Rio said the same for the Stingers and due to the time crunch they were allowed to go, under direct supervision of Sparkplug, Spike, Carly and Chip

Chapter Seven

At the Terror Drome, Thrust and Dirge were on guard of the prisoners and quite annoyed at Gauge

“Quit yer whining!” Thrust bellowed then pointed to Marissa “The humans aren’t whimpering and they’re even punier then you”

“You’re going to pay you Decepticreep!” Marissa said sticking her tongue defiantly

“Are not you little!” Thrust said outraged

“Oh I knew we should have gone with Ramjet” Dirge complained

“Now who’s whining?” Marissa taunted. Suddenly loud, excited running came. It was Blast a black Conehead new to Earth

"Guys, guys what are ya doing?" Blast said "Megatron ordered all hands on deck. We're gotta head to Trypticon and the last Decepticon is on guard duty."

Blast ran back not wanting to left behind

"Aww...I don't want to be stuck on guard duty" Thrust whined

"Hey neither do I, but I obey my orders" Big Boa said. She was chosen to guard as she was a woman and the prisoners were both girls. She understood the logic but was still annoyed.

Baroness was on the screen "I apologize Big Boa, but you won't be alone" Pointing to Lisa a blonde Cobra officer

"I don't like her" Baroness said to a confused Nightbird

"Ah" Nightbird understood and teased Destro "Destro you dog you" She could tell Destro was blushing under his mask and shared a laugh with Baroness

Dirge and Thrust were saved from guard duty by Counterpunch

"Hey thanks Counterpunch, are you sure?" Thrust said

"Sure just doing my part" Counterpunch promised as Dirge and Thrust ran off

Starscream and Slipstream watched Counterpunch greet Big Boa with suspicious glances

"Strange Megatron how Counterpunch always volunteers for mundane duties" Starscream noted

“Counterpunch knows being a loyal Decepticon requires such sacrifices, you wouldn’t understand” Megatron scoffed

“For once I agree with Starscream” Slipstream said thinking back

“Ah don’t let Starscream’s jealousy affect you Slipstream” Megatron insisted. He appreciated a minion who was helpful

“And what is Storm Shadow doing there?” Cobra Commander noted seeing his bring a tray of food

“Storm Shadow you softy” Big Boa said teasingly “What are you doing?”

“I am just ensuring they do not bother you with requests for food” Storm Shadow said then gave them the tray “Be mindful of your guards and this will go by quicker”

Ba Nee noticed a strange capsule and made eye contact with her father. He gave a stony nod and Ba Nee made sure to take the capsule and hide it

“I must go now, for the final battle” Storm Shadow said leaving on a Flight Pod

“Have fun!” Big Boa said “I know I won’t”

The Joes and Autobots were traveling to the three locations Cobra and the Decepticons set up bases

Sky Lynx and Skyfire flew to Siberia with the Joes and Autobots inside them

“Boy this is the best weather on Earth!” Iceberg said ”Do you Autobots have ice and snow in Cybertron?”

“Well no, but I myself spent four million years in the ice” Skyfire said with a shiver

“That sounds like heaven to me!” Iceberg said

“Heh old Iceberg is a real winter enthusiast” Snowjob said to Ultra Magnus and Duke

“Ok I spoke with Col. Brekhov, Oktober Guard is on their way” Duke said

“We’ll know they came when I can smell Horrorshow” Gung Ho said laughing

The Joes and Autobots departed with the Joes riding their Snow Cats. All they could see was ice and snow

“All quiet on the western and eastern front” Beachcomber said “We should check in with the locals for the scoop”

“That’s a good idea Beachcomber but we’re in the wilderness” Duke said looking around

“Ah there’s someone right now” Beachcomber said, walking to a Siberian tiger!

To the Joes amazement, Beachcomber was conversing with the tiger

“Hey is your buddy talking to that tiger!” Frostbite said in wonder

“Yeah, he has a way of talking with the animals” Trailbreaker said chuckling

“How about that Dr. Doolittle is a robot!” Snowjob quipped

Beachcomber told the others that the tigress informed him of a group of outsiders pitching camp only a few miles away

“If we go left we’ll have the element of surprise” Ultra Magnus said but there was a chasm at this shortcut

“Oh great so much for the element of surprise” Gears whined “We’ll have to head back”

“No we won’t” Duke said “Ok Tollbooth, you’re up!”

In an instance Tollbooth brought out the Bridgelay. It expanded and became a bridge the Joes and Autobots crossed

“Excellent, say we won’t be too much for it will be?” Trailbreaker asked

“Nah, not to worry, the Bridgelay is strong enough for an aircraft carrier!” Tollbooth promised

“That’s for sure, OK Tollbooth you and Trailbreaker guard our rears” Duke said

“You got it Duke, Yo Joe!” Tollbooth shouted

At the same time Sixshot was overseeing the construction of an installation with a satellite to it. Firefly led a contingent of Snow Serpents and SNAKE robots along with the Combaticons and Rainmakers

“Ah brisk!” Onslaught exhaled “One thing I like about this planet is the wide variety of climates”

“Yes I quite agree” Sixshot said admiring the frozen splendor “It’s made for a true warrior”

Blast Off had the enmity of leading a squad of Snow Serpents in cable installation only for a gust of snow blown by Vortex to hit him in square in the face

“Whoops my bad” Vortex said laughing

“Curse you Vortex” Blast Off complained “Where’s Swindle? I insist he take part in this as well!”

“I’ll go look for him, ” Firefly volunteered. Firefly left to find Swindle digging up red, radioactive crystals

“Hey careful, they’re radioactive” Firefly said from a safe distance

“Don’t worry pal” Swindle said bring out a chest “This is lead-lined, you’ll be fine”

“Good” Firefly said speaking in a comlink “Cobra Commander, we have the crystals”

“Excellent work Firefly, meet us as soon as you can” Cobra Commander said as he and Starscream smiled at the news

“Commander, what are you up to?” Serpenter said. He and Megatron noticed their would be usurpers together and didn’t like it

“Forgive us great Serpantor, Firefly your loyal saboteur had to tell us Swindle was searching for gold instead of his job” Starscream said

“Hmmp, a likely story” Megatron said then thought “Then again Swindle is greedy,” As he and Serpantor went back he turned to Serpantor with a thought he had

“Serpantor, tell me why do you humans value gold so much?” Megatron asked

“I’ll be honest Megatron I never understood it myself” Serpantor admitted “Once we rule the world I will have to do something about that”

“There you are, Swindle, where were ya?” Brawl blared

“Not so loud Brawl you’re gonna cause an avalanche” Swindle pleaded

“You got bigger problems than that Decepticreeps!” Cliffjumper said jumping into the fray

“Yo Joe!” Snow Job said firing missiles from his Snow Cat

“It’s the Autobots, and the Joes!” One of the Snow Serpents said “Open fire!”

Soon the Joes were battling the Snow Serpents. Iceberg punched one Snow Serpent and threw him at Frostbite who tossed him into a snowbank

“Ha nothing like throwing some snowballs!” Iceberg said to Frostbite

“Hey Duke, the SNAKE robots are drones right?” Brawn asked

“They sure are Brawn, be my guest!” Duke said, then looked at Tripwire with his equipment “What is it Tripwire?”

“Duke that gizmo they’re building is off the charts” Tripwire reported “And I’m picking up some faint radiation.” Suddenly the head of a SNAKE robot flew over Tripwire’s head

“Heads up!” Windcharger said as he and Cliffjumper fought the Combaticons and SNAKEs

“Hey watch it! I’m working here” Tripwire said

“Autobots, make sure to keep Onslaught isolated” Ultra Magnus ordered

“Sure thing Magnus, we don’t need Bruticus to join the party” Outback said

Suddenly a fireball flew near Outback “Blimey what’s that?”

“Just turning up the heat, Autobots” Firefly said, firing his flamethrower. Beachcomber tried to get near Firefly

“ Hey friend don’t you realize you’re damaging this snowy paradise?” Beachcomber asked

“This isn’t my nation, naïve Autobot! Why should I care?” Firefly said

Firefly got his answer by a blast from the sky. In their Attack Helicopter, the Oktober Guard joined the fray

“No but this is Mother Russia, our homeland!” the leader Col. Brekhov shouted

The Guard jumped from the plane. Horrorshow helped rescue Gung-Ho from a squad of Snow Serpents

“Ha, weak Yankee needs strong Russian to save his hide again!” Horrorshow boasted

“You dumb Russian bear, I had ‘em right where I wanted them” Gung-ho said. The two then shook hands and faced more Snow Serpents

Brawn was facing Brawl in a fight only to be double-teamed by a squad of SNAKE robots.

“What’s the matter Brawl don’t you like a fair fight?” Brawn asked

“Ha, not when I can help it! Brawl said suddenly the SNAKE robots were blasted to scrap courtesy of Daina in a Snow Cat

“Daina, always a pleasure to see you” Brawn said

“Said here comrade Brawn” Daina said happily

Once again Sixshot was giving the Autobots a tough time in the battle. He resisted Windcharger’s magnetic ability, shrugged off Cliffjumper’s glass gas and had Hound pinned in a corner

“Nice try with the hologram Autobot, but it’ll take a lot more to stop me” Sixshot boasted

“Challenge accepted” Springer said leading the Wreckers into battle

Sixshot tossed Hound aside and went at the Wreckers with glee. They were true soldiers. Unfortunately for the Wreckers, they learned painfully why Sixshot was called the one-bot army

Sixshot overpowered Roadbuster and evaded Whirl's assault and tossed Roadbuster onto him, Topspin and Twin Twist

"Hey Roadbuster get off us" Topspin whined

"I'm going to dig in" Twin Twist said transforming into drill mode

Springer gave it his all, but Sixshot was too strong.

"Hey Triple Changer you're still half as tough as me!" Sixshot said

Not even Sunstreaker's assistance did any good. Sixshot threw them down a snowbank and was ready to fire upon them in tank mode

"Hey tough guy, cool off!" It was Duke firing a volley of missiles to a snow hill that became an avalanche that trapped Sixshot

Springer transformed to copter in the nick of time and gave Sunstreaker a ride to safety. They landed near Duke

"You saved our chassis" Springer said gratefully "Thanks"

"You're welcome" Duke said smiling at Sunstreaker who grinned back

But just as quickly, Sixshot flew out of the snow like an icy volcano. He was more impressed then angry

“Heh, ok fair’s fair ya got me human” Sixshot said with a nod

Firefly and Swindle were busy loading the crystals into a Pit Viper

“Ok the Pit Viper is automatically set to South America” Firefly said

“It is time for us to depart, activate the installation!” Onslaught ordered

The Snow Serpents did as ordered and soon a beam of energy flew from the satellite and an energy shield protected it. The Decepticons and Cobra boarded Blast Off

“Dasvidaniya!” Sixshot said with a laugh

The Joes, Autobots and Oktober Guard examined the installation and found it impenetrable

“Ok Roadbuster that’s enough stop punching it” Ultra Magnus ordered

“But Magnus I can break it down” Roadbuster pleaded

“Fraid not big guy” Duke said he turned to Col. Brekhov “Colonel we’re going to follow those creeps. Do you think you can turn this gizmo off?”

“If there is a way, we will find it” Schrage promised

“Hah, Horroshow’s breath should be enough to blow it up” Gung-ho said as everyone laughed

“We will keep you updated comrades!” Col. Brekhov promised “Yo Joeskis!”

The Joes and Autobots crossed the Bridgelayer back to Sky Lynx. Brawn walked to Duke and Ultra Magnus

“I had a chat with Daina after the battle” Brawn said humbly

“Oh?” Duke said with interest

“Yeah she told me that she knew about Chumley’s pardon” Brawn said “And that you personally met with her to make sure she was ok with it.”

“We’re all soldiers Brawn and soldiers have to make tough choices” Ultra Magnus said

“That’s true but now our choice is easy, we meet up with Optimus Prime and kick the snakes and Cons!” Duke said “Let’s go!” Once everyone was aboard Sky Lynx they headed to South America

Meanwhile the majority of Cobra and Decepticon forces landed in South America traveling via Trypticon

“Hail Megatron!” The Constructicons greeted

“Scrapper, are you all ready?” Megatron asked

“Indeed Megatron and we can thank our human allies both new...” Scrapper said pointing to Scrap Iron “....and old”

Out of the shadows came Dr. Arkeville! He was indeed back on Earth

“Greetings Megatron, it seems fate has brought us on the same side” Dr. Arkeville said with a smile

“I had seen what Dr. Arkeville did when he worked for you” Cobra Commander explained to Starscream “I was key in recruiting him to Cobra”

“He is a brilliant scientist” Starscream admitted “If not completely mad”

“So it is doctor” Megatron said “All things considered you look well enough”

Megatron then turned to Synergy “And you my dear are the key to victory. And I do mean that literally. For I know in your hardware you have a copy of the Key to Vector Sigma!”

“Vector Sigma!” The Stunticons shouted in amazement

“What’s Vector whatever?” Zaranna asked

“Vector Sigma gave us our sparks” Dead End explained

“Yeah without it we’d be dumb drones like them” Drag Strip said pointing to Fusion Drones and BATs

“I heard a great deal about you during my time on Cybertron” Dr. Arkeville said to Synergy with great interest

“I warn you Arkeville, any harm that comes to her will be met with harsh punishment!” Shockwave said

“Fear not Shockwave, the procedure will be completely harmless” Dr. Arkeville promised as he turned to an aide “Come Charlie”

“Techrat! Is that you” An amazed Eric asked. ‘Charlie’ was Techrat, Eric’s go-to tech genius

“Sorry Mr. Raymond but Cobra pays better” Techrat sad “Nothing wrong with a little moonlighting”

“Just as long as remember Cobra is your priority boy” Serpenter said harshly

All those in attendance when Synergy showed her powers when Megatron had her use her link on Nightbird. With Vector Sigma, Nightbird now had a spark. She was a Decepticon in every sense of the word

“Impressive!” Destro said admiringly “Tell me Megatron how will you use this ability?”

Destro’s answer came when Metroplex landed squarely at the base of the Nemesis. Scores of Autobots and GI Joes flew out from him

“Megatron, your mad ambitions end today!” Optimus Prime commanded

Chapter Eight

“Autobots roll out!” Optimus Prime charged firing his ion cannon

“Yo Joe!” Gen. Hawk yelled riding from a HAVOC

“Ok guys let’s take the fight to these creeps!” Hot Rod said as he fired at Starscream

“You’ve bitten off more than you can chew Autobot!” Starscream shouted

Sgt. Slaughter drove on his Triple T with the Marauders riding with him “All right Marauders let’s kick snake!”

“Don’t have to tell me twice!” Taurus said as he threw a Viper onto a pair of Cobra Soldiers

“Joining Cobra was the biggest mistake of my life and I’m gonna fix it” Mercer added firing his rifle

Major Bludd oversaw the action atop a CLAW flying around. ”All right lads this is the big one let’s take ‘em down for good! Cobra!”

Megatron transformed into his gun mode and was caught by Serpantor “Serpantor you have the honor of being the first human to wield me into battle” Megatron said

“Well I hope I have the honor of achieving victory” Serpantor said as he fired at Blurr

“Too slow...can’t catch me...missed me again!” Blurr said as he evaded each blast

“Don’t get cocky Blurr” Arcee warned as she tossed Apeface onto Shadow Striker

Megatron transformed back to robot mode “Bah we must keep the fools occupied. Trypticon come forth!”

Trypticon growled in terror “Trypticon want to destroy!” He got the answer from a punch from Metroplex

“You’ll have to go through me first, ” Metroplex commanded. The two city-bots began grappling although Metroplex made sure to move away in order to avoid casualties

Dr. Mindbender rode by Megatron and Serpenter in a Ferret “I spoke with Firefly the Siberian outpost is activated”

“Excellent, once Cobra Island is the same we shall achieve victory, this I command!” Serpenter yelled as he threw a snake at Gen. Hawk. A snake that Ironhide froze with liquid nitrogen

Meanwhile another battle raged in the Pacific Ocean at Cobra Island. Cobra’s fleet was guarding the second underwater installation. Two aircraft carriers were heading to it. One was the USS Flagg with GI Joe’s naval members. The other was Broadside carrying Autobots led by Kup and Prowl

“Beautiful isn’t it Kup?” Prowl said

“Sure is lad, reminds me of the time of a battle on Aquatron. We were...” Kup said before being interrupted

“Ahoy Autobots, you lads see the snakes yet?” Admiral Ledger asked.

“We’re not all lads admiral” Nautica said teasingly “Seaspray and the Killer Whales are scouting ahead. We’ll know soon”

“I don’t know about you guys but I’m aching for some action” Torpedo said to the Joes who were getting into their SHARCS

“Just keep you mind on the job funny guy” Deep Six commanded “We’ll be plenty busy soon”

Seaspray and the Killer Whales were speeding to the island

“Looks like a peaceful island” Seaspray said

“With Cobra looks are always deceiving so keep an open eye” Cutter said

Cutter’s words proved to be correct for underneath the island, Cobra’s submarine was overseeing the installation. Eels were working on the installation alongside Reflector

“Autobots are approaching the island” Reflector said to the Submarine Commander

“Hey Commander how about we give our guests a howdy” Copperhead said

“I think you’re right, This will be a field test for the BUGGs” The Commander said. She then turned to her comlink. “Are you Decepticons ready?”

“Affirmative, we will terminate with prejudice” Ramjet said

“So far it’s clear sailing” Admiral Ledger said, peering from binoculars. The peace was shattered by blasts from Copperhead’s Water Moccasin. He was flanked by several Morays, Hydro Vipers riding Hydro Sleds and several Cobra BUGGs

“Looks like Cobra has some new toys” Torpedo said firing at one of the BUGGs

“Then let’s play with our own” Wet Suit said from his Devil Fish

The Joes were fighting valiantly but their firepower had no effect on the Cobra vehicles

“Ha the Joes have no idea how to handle our upgrades” One of the Lampreys driving a Hydrofoil boasted

“Let’s bring the fight to them!” One of the Sector-Vipers in the BUGGs said

“Good idea” Copperhead ”But let’s invite our new pals to take part”

Just then a massive battleship came from the island. The Seacons and Ramjet were manning it

“Looks like Cobra has a new battleship” Cutter said

“That’s no battleship” Seaspray warned

Indeed once Ramjet and the Seacons departed, it transformed into the massive warrior Tidal Wave

“Good many Autobots to destroy” Tidal Wave growled

“Yes but remember that our human allies will battle the Joes” Ramjet said to Tidal Wave who nodded. Ramjet had the unofficial role as Tidal Wave’s handler

“Ha still stuck babysitting him eh Ramjet?” Skalor said with a laugh

“Nevermind that stinky, tell me if that handsome Seaspray is here!” Scylla said looking around

“I have good news for you sister,” Tentakill said, pointing to Seaspray. Scylla shouted with glee and flew to him

“Uh oh we got real trouble” Kup said seeing Tidal Wave

“Let’s go Aerialbots” Silverbolt said. They flew off Broadside and engaged Tidal Wave and Ramjet

“Hey Ramjet you can’t beat us!” Slingshot said

“Ha, incorrect Aerialbot!” Ramjet said firing back

“Excellent, the Aerialbots are occupied, Seacons attack!” Snaptrap said leading the Seacons into battle

“It’s the Seacons! We better...” Seaspray said suddenly he was grabbed by tentacles. It was Scylla who had him in an embrace

“Hello handsome!” Scylla said seductively

“Scylla! I told you before, I’m seeing someone!” Seaspray pleaded. Her crushing forced him back to robot mode

“Nonsense, what can that organic Alana offer that I can’t” Scylla said as she transformed “How about a kiss?”

Scylla's kiss received a punch from Nautica as Shipwreck caught Seaspray in his SHARC.

“Sorry buddy I know what a clingy dame is like” Shipwreck said

“Awk no means no!” Polly chirped

“Scylla focus on the mission!” Seawing barked

“Correct, Seacons merge into Pirahanacon!” Snaptrap ordered. The Seacons merged into Pirahanacon who fired upon Broadside with Nautulator

“Ahoy mates, I’m gonna have to ask you to jump ship” Broadside said “I have to take fishface head on”

The Autobots left and boarded the Flagg. Broadside transformed into his jet mode and fired on Pirahanacon and Tidal Wave

“Broadside, why don’t we switch dance partners,” Silverbolt said. The Aerialbots merged into Superion. Superion and Pirahanacon fought in the water while Tidal Wave and Broadside were having a test of strength

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“Ah, me crush Autobot” Tidal Wave promised

Superion was faster and stronger than Pirahanacon but the water was his element and he was able to swim away to safety

During the chaos, Seaspray managed to rejoin the Killer Whales

“I don’t see what’s Cobra building on that islands” Leatherneck said firing at a Water Moccasin

“That’s because it’s underwater,” Deep Six said. He and Torpedo fought the BUGGs to no avail. They were in trouble until Seaspray rescued them. His weaponry was enough to damage the BUGGs. One detached their pods while the other swam away

“Curse that Autobot he’ll get here” The Submarine Commander shouted.

“We need to distract him,” Pirahanacon said, spotting a pod of orcas.. “A shame I rather admire killer whales. Blast, where is Nautilator?”

“Not to worry” The Commander said, turning to her crew of Eels “Fire torpedoes!” The Eels did and fired a pair towards the orcas.

“Those torpedoes are way off course,” Torpedo said

“No they’re not!” Seaspray said. He knew the orcas were in danger and swam to their rescue

“What’s he doing?” Admiral Ledger said confused

“Seaspray’s going to save those orcas from those torpedoes” Prowl noted

“Is he nuts, we have to get Cobra.” Cutter shouted. He understood the sentiment but Cobra had to be stopped

Seaspray managed to blast the torpedoes so they exploded harmlessly. The pod of orcas gave their thanks to Seaspray

During the fray, Nautilator was deep underwater with a troop of Eels and Hydro-Vipers. They were searching for something

“Did you find it?” One of the Hydro-Vipers asked

“Wait, wait, yes there it is!” Nautilator said. He found heavy water and sucked up a gallon of it. The Hydro-Vipers took the Heavy Water and handed it to Copperhead

“Commander we have the heavy water” Copperhead told Cobra Commander

“Excellent Copperhead, have Ramjet fly it over to us” Cobra Commander said as he and Starscream took the crystals from the Pit Viper. Cobra Commander was in the Pogo, his new vehicle

“Now all we need is the final element from Astrotrain” Starscream said

“But are these enough of the three elements? They’re very rare” Cobra Commander inquired

“Not to worry Commander, once we defeat the Autobots we will have access to their matter duplicator” Starscream promised

The villains shared a laugh and noticed the battle unfolding. They realized they had to take part to allay suspicions of their treachery

Underwater, Reflector activated the installation

“We’re ready, we better go now” Reflector said in triplicate.

Cobra's forces all went inside the submarine and the submarine itself was picked up by Tidal Wave who transformed back into battleship mode.

"Pirahnacon, Megatron ordered us back to join him!" Ramjet said as he and Reflector boarded Tidal Wave.

The Seacons disengaged. Scylla blew Seaspray a kiss as Tidal Wave flew away

"Blow me down they turned chicken" Shipwreck noted

"I don't like it. Why did they turn tail?" Prowl asked

Prowl got his answer when the underwater installation activated and a pulse of energy came out causing wild waves. The Flagg was able to stay afloat but Cutter and Wet Suit were having trouble. Nautica caught Wet Suit but Cutter was not so lucky

"Man overboard!" Deep Six yelled "Cutter's in the drink"

"I'm OK guys!" Cutter assured them. He was caught by one of the orcas Seaspray saved

"Thank fellas!" Seaspray said to the orcas

The Joes and Autobots regrouped on the Flagg

"Admiral, I just spoke with Gen. Hawk. He wants the Joes and Autobots to meet up with him," Prowl said

“Ahoy we’ll keep an eye on this gizmo” Admiral Ledger said as the Joes and Autobots boarded into Broadside’s jet mode

Meanwhile in orbit Astrotrain and Wild Weasel oversaw the installation of the satellite,

“We’ll be ready when the installations are powered” Astrotrain said

“Yes” Wild Weasel turned to the Star Vipers. “Now you all go back to our forces. The Stilettos will be an asset”

“Hey yeah, they are our best we’ve flown in” one of the Star Vipers said. They departed immediately and Astrotrain flew to the moon. Cosmos followed the Stilettos

“Look there’s the meteorite” Astrotrain said of a meteorite that crash landed on the moon

“Excellent then let’s get the ore and join the others” Wild Weasel said as he manned a drone that brought the meteorite inside Astrotrain.

Meanwhile back at the battle, Soundwave contacted Megatron,

“Attention Megatron, Sixshot and Ramjet reported in. Both installations are operational!” Soundwave said

“Splendid, then we need to keep the distractions, Constructicons unite!” Megatron ordered

“It’s about time, all the other combiners got to have fun!” Long Haul said hi-fiving Bonecrusher. In an instance the Constructicons merged into Devastator

“Nothing can stop Devastator! Nothing!” Devastator announced as he fired indiscriminately at the Joes and Autobots.

“Predacons merge into Predaking!” Razorclaw ordered and soon Predaking joined Devastator on the battle

“Good lord we have combiners at 12 O’Clock” Gen. Hawk noticed and spoke to Lift-Ticket “Fire the Gestalt Ray”

Lift-Ticket fired the Ray. Devastator and Predaking looked at each other and laughed heartily

“Ha that doesn’t even tickle!” Devastator said firing his eye beams

“Your ray has no effect on us humans!” Predaking bragged

Cobra Commander hopped in the battle from his Pogo “You fail again Joes! Shall we Starscream?”

“Yes let’s” Starscream said firing his null ray

“Why should they have all the fun?” Breakdown said

“Yeah Stunticons, merge into Menasor!” Motormaster ordered. Menasor roared into action

“Menasor crush Autobots, Menasor crush Joes!” Menasor roared again. He then noticed a worried look on Zaranna

“But Menasor not crush Mainframe,” Menasor promised.

During the battle Jem, the Holograms and others were watching the battle in relative safety.

“I’m starting to think we made a mistake coming,” Jem said regretfully

“No choice now, young lady, we’re in the thick of it,” Sparkplug said as he saw Roadblock fire a Mauler at the Insecticons.

“Gonna feed some slugs to those steel-plated bugs,” Roadblock said, firing at Kickback

“You should focus on an enemy you have a chance against human!” Airachnid said as she fired a strong energon web on the Mauler. Roadblock managed to evade in the nick of time

“WHAM! POW! That spider may be poisonous but she can still be ZAM! squashed” Warpath said firing his cannon at Airachnid scaring her off the battlefield

Storm Shadow was giving the Joes a tough time in battle. Throwing Recondo onto Footloose, evading Blowtorch’s flames and being too fast for Airtight.

He then noticed Jinx using her martial arts skills on a platoon of Vipers and Crimson Guards and came to their aid

“Ha, you snakes are a cinch to Arashikage style” Jinx boasted only to be cause unaware when Storm Shadow pinned her to the ground

“Impressive Joe. Arashikage do not often admit women” Storm Shadow said as he avoided her punches and kicks and used her momentum to knock her to the ground.

“Ugh just my luck” Jinx whined

But Jinx did have luck on her side as Lady Jaye trapped Storm Shadow in one of her spear nets.

“Where is Marissa?!” Lady Jaye shouted

“Your daughter is safe, as safe as my own” Storm Shadow promised. Lady Jaye immediately relaxed and saw someone in peril

“Now why did Lady Jaye let Storm Shadow go?” Zartan noticed.

“Uh... I don't know dad” Zanya said as she and Ravage looked nervous

Dusty and Hauler were sneaking around amongst the chaos

“If I know the Constructicons they were taking part in an engineering feat” Hauler said to Dusty

“We better find out what they're up to” Dusty said

They were being watched by Clay Moore in a Stinger and Kaskade

“It's that traitor Hauler,” Kaskade said in disgust.

“I see two traitors,” Moore said, remembering Dusty’s betrayal and aiming the missiles from the Stinger. Moore turned to Kaskade “Do you mind?”

“Oh by all means,” Kaskade said, politely allowing Moore to get revenge on Dusty. The Stinger fired its volley of missiles. Hauler and Dusty were unable to react in time but the missiles were all shot and destroyed courtesy of Arcee and Lady Jaye in a Sky Hawk

“Much obliged ladies” Dusty said in gratitude

Blast Off and Tidal Wave returned to the battle about the same time.

“Ramjet, is your installation all set?” Sixshot asked.

“Affirmative, we will be ready!” Ramjet promised

At the time Megatron and Nightbird were fighting together against Optimus Prime and Elita-1

“So you’re Nightbird?” Elita said. “I’m not impressed”

“You will regret your hubris, Autobot!” Nightbird vowed. Her reflexes were faster than Elita. Nightbird knocked her down and was about to slice her with her katana only stopped by the interference from Windblade and Scarlett.

Scarlett’s fired a volley of arrows from her crossbow and Windblade broke Nightbird’s katana with her swords

“Foolish interlopers, you will pay!” Nightbird hissed

“No Nightbird you are mistaken” Optimus Prime said. He then turned to Megatron
“You see Megatron by working together we shall achieve victory!”

“You’re a fool Prime” Megatron said blasting his fusion cannon “But for once
you’re right. Shockwave are you ready?”

“Yes Megatron we are at the center,” Shockwave said. He was with Synergy,
Blitzwing, Dr. Mindbender and Dr. Arkeville

“Synergy I know this is highly irregular but you must do this” Shockwave pleaded.
Blitzwing had a similar face. Dr. Mindbender was getting impatient but he knew
better than to complain.

“We’re running out of time” Dr. Arkeville said adjusting the panels “We have to get
her ready”

“Silence flesh creature!” Blitzwing shouted “Or half flesh creature, Synergy will be
ready when she’s ready and...”

“I’ll do it,” Synergy said solemnly. She had no other choice. Synergy sat down and
allowed herself to be attached to cables.

In her mind, Synergy spoke with Vector Sigma who asked what she wanted.

“Is it working?” Dr. Mindbender asked. Soon Synergy started to glow

“Does that answer your question doctor?” Dr. Arkeville snarked

Soon the entire Nemesis started to glow. Shockwave and Blitzwing immediately escaped with the two doctors and Synergy.

“Megatron success, success!” Shockwave said as he pushed buttons on a remote. In an instance the installation in Siberia pulsed even more energy and exploded

“Bozhe moi, what happened?” Horrorshow asked

“I’m afraid comrade we will learn very soon” Daina said worriedly

The installation at Cobra Island did the same and exploded as well

“Great Neptune, something big happened!” Admiral Ledger shouted

The two energy pulses went to the satellite and redirected right onto the Nemesis. The Nemesis was blasted with a great deal of energy

Cosmos flew right to Optimus. “Prime, did I get here before Astrotrain?” Cosmos asked

“He just arrived Cosmos” Optimus said as he noticed Wild Weasel and Copperhead were giving Cobra Commander and Starscream two packages

Suddenly the Nemesis started shaking, The battle stopped and both sides were frozen. Even Trypticon and Metroplex stopped their fight

“What’s happening?” Kimber asked in awe

“I think the Decepticons used that satellite as an energy conduit” Chip theorized

“Yeah but for what?” Rio asked. He would soon get his answer

The Misfits were still their energon cage and Pizzazz had had enough

“That’s it! What good are the Autobots and GI Joe if they can’t rescue music royalty!” Pizzazz whined.

Pizzazz was ranting so much she didn’t notice the sun being blocked but Eric and the Misfits were looking on in horror. It took Stormer forcing Pizzazz to look to finally silence her.

The Nemesis was in the air, glowing brightly and fully powered.

“Oh no, the Decepticons powered up the Nemesis,” Wheeljack said

“Wrong, Autobot, not the but *she*!” Megatron said as he smiled at Nightbird.

The Nemesis, to the horror of the Autobots and Joes, began to change. No, it transformed. The ship was turning into a giant robot. But it was no mere drone. The Nemesis had a spark and was a full Decepticon!

“Hello all, Nemesis is my name and I’m so glad to crash your party,” Nemesis said in a wily, feminine voice.

“Uh oh, me Grimlock think this not good,” Grimlock saying what the others felt

Comic Issue 6- All Together Now

Chapter One

To the horror and amazement of the Joes and Autobots, the Nemesis had come to life and she was a Decepticon!

Stretching and yawning, Nemesis was looking around at her surroundings

“Oh my you’re all so puny!” She said with a laugh

“Hey Trypticon not puny!” Trypticon roared “Trypticon strong!”

“Of course you are,” Nemesis said, patting Trypticon on the head. For the first time in his life, Trypticon was not the biggest on the battlefield and was a bit embarrassed

“Hey now you know how we all feel Trypty baby” Octane said reassuringly

“Optimus, what’s going on?” Jem asked astonished at what she saw

“Jem, I know this is incredible to believe but Synergy had in her an artifact from Cybertron called the Key to Vector Sigma,” Optimus explained. “Megatron used it and her to turn the Decepticon warship, the Nemesis, into a Decepticon.”

“I guess sometimes secrets are kept for a reason,” Flint noted. The assembled Autobots couldn’t help but agree with him.

Watching from their cage, the Misfits were still in shock by what they saw.

“This is nuts! Their ship is a Decepticon too?” Stormer gasped.

“That’s it!” Roxy shouted. “I want out of here now!”

“Hey just calm down or you’ll overheat yourselves” The Viper near them ordered

Eric recognized the voice. “Zipper is that you?” he asked

The Viper laughed and took his helmet off. Indeed it was his hired thug Zipper

“Sorry Mr. Raymond, but Techrat’s right. Cobra pays better” Zipper admitted

“C’mon, mate, it’s time to earn your paycheck,” Maj. Blood ordered. Riding in a Stinger, Zipper just shrugged his shoulders and drove off.

Sixshot and his forces arrived to see Nemesis’s arrival.

“Megatron, does this mean our mission was a success?” Sixshot laughed, already knowing the answer

“Indeed Sixshot, a job well done” Megatron said

“Commander ,did you get the ‘package’? Firefly inquired

“Yes, Firefly, we have all we need,” Cobra Commander said pointing to Starscream with a large weapon with three elements

Nacelle, Hotlink and Bitstream were congratulating themselves on a job well done

“We did it guys, all the hard work paid off,” Bitstream boasted.

“Was there any doubt? We have the talent,” Hotlink added.

The Storm Sisters were less than impressed.

“Don’t get cocky boys,” Acid Storm said. “The job is only half done.”

“You are correct, Acid Storm. Only when the Autobots are scrap metal can we say mission accomplished,” Megatron ordered.

At the same time the Autobots from Siberia and Cobra Island met up and were now traveling together in Sky Lynx

“I guess Cobra managed to activate the installation you were at too right?” Prowl said to Duke.

“Afraid so,” Duke said, taking a swig of coffee from his thermos. “The power is still on, I guess we’ll know when we get to our...”

Duke stopped his conversation, dropping his thermos as those inside Sky Lynx were shocked by what they saw

“I see it, but I still don’t believe it” Springer said in awe

“By the Matrix they did it. They turned Nemesis into a Decepticon” Ultra Magnus said in awe and horror. He then turned to Duke apologetically “You were right, we should have taken custody of the Nemesis”

“Nah, you were right too. It would have caused an international incident” Duke reassured him

“What do we do now?” Iceberg asked looking at the screen

“I tell you what we do, we join the battle and teach that lady you don’t mess with Earth” Cliffjumper said energizing the troops

“Well said, if a bit parochial” Sky Lynx said “Come comrades we shall join the fray headfirst!”

Nemesis was still looking around on the battlefield. She was amused by how fragile looking humans are, but then she saw something that caught her attention. It was Metroplex

“Why hello there handsome” Nemesis purred

“Err..handsome?” Metroplex said confusedly

“My, my aren’t you a little cutie” Nemesis said looking at Metroplex very interested. To Metroplex’s astonishment she started caressing him. Metroplex didn’t know how to react

“What is tarnation?” Six-Gun said confusedly

“I’ve always had a thing for taller women myself” Shipwreck said from Sky Lynx drawing jeers

“Some super-warrior Megatron!” Starscream snarked

“Maybe she can go to Paris. It is the City of Love!” Cobra Commander said laughing with Starscream

Megatron went to Synergy “Synergy my dear, are you responsible for her demeanor?”

“Why Megatron you said you wanted her to be a Decepticon, not be a bloodthirsty warrior?” Synergy said with false sincerity

Despite her trick, Megatron couldn't help chuckle and simply walked back. Nemesis was a Decepticon and that's all that mattered. Slipstream and Nightbird didn't think it was funny and glared at Synergy

“I must admit I was hoping she would be a juggernaut on the battlefield” Serpantor said watching Nemesis now kissing Metroplex on the forehead

“Nonetheless, we still have a trump card to victory” Megatron maintained

“Bah, she needs discipline,” Slipstream declared, transforming into jet mode and flying up to Nemesis. “Hey you over here!”

Nemesis looked at this outspoken Seeker with incredulity.

“Sis, be careful she can squash you like an Insecticon,” Skywarp pleaded.

Slipstream was undaunted. “Now you listen, you're a Decepticon. And the Decepticon cause supersedes everything and that includes love!”

Nemesis started at Slipstream amazed by her moxie. “Is that the same for you too?”

Slipstream looked nervously at Sunstorm who was equally nervous. Their glance was overlooked with the exception of Zaranna

“Blimey are they?” Zaranna said

“Correct” Soundwave responded surprising Zaranna more

The arriving Joes and Autobots regrouped with their comrades. Duke and Ultra Magnus went to Optimus Prime and Gen. Hawk

“Now we know what the fiends were up to” Ultra Magnus said

“So what now, do we go to them?” Duke asked

“I don’t think that’s a good idea, Duke. They have the upperhand” Gen. Hawk said pointing at Nemesis

Nemesis looked back at Metroplex then sadly walked to Megatron

“The little one is correct, before pleasure, business must be done” Nemesis said obediently

“Well said my dear” Megatron said giving Slipstream a proud look that made her glow with pride

“What are we waiting for? Let's destroy them all!” Cobra Commander said getting back into his Pogo

“No, even better we should make them watch our victory.” Serpenter said “I want these fools to suffer and learn they have no power over our combined forces”

“Yes I agree” Megatron said as an evil smile crept his face “Nemesis use your tractor beam”

Nemesis did as ordered and she used it to force the Joes and Autobots to be forced into one area. Despite their strength or willpower it was too much. Seeing no other option, the Joes hunkered down and looked after the civilians in their group

“Are you ok Chip?” Carly asked

“Yeah, but I’m more worried about what Starscream is doing.” Chip said “I saw him with heavy water and some strange crystals”

“Heavy water and crystals?” Scarlett said “Uh oh I think I know what he’s up to”

“Everyone try to hold down!” Flint said but it was to no avail. Even the mighty Omega Supreme and Metroplex were unable to withstand the strength of the tractor beam.

“Ugh me Grimlock not like this” Grimlock said trying to fight to no avail

Optimus Prime was the closest to escaping the tractor beam but it was too much. He fell back had only to be helped up by Elita-1 and Ultra Magnus Prime

“It’s all over Prime!” Megatron boasted “Soundwave active the force field”

“As you command Megatron ” Soundwave did as ordered and the satellite now fired down a beam of energy that formed an energy barrier all over where the Joes and Autobots were.

“It’s an energy shield” Wheeljack said “We’re trapped!”

“No way, we can’t let them win!” Gung-ho said, firing a cannon from a Mauler. But it did nothing

Nemesis then transformed and the forces of Cobra and Decepticons boarded her. Trypticon took the remaining forces.

Serpentor rode his Air Chariot in Nemesis “You fools are to witness our moment of triumph”

Shockwave accompanied Synergy inside who looked back at Jem and Chromia. Jem was frightened, but Chromia was incensed

“Shockwave if you harm her, there won’t be enough of you to fill a microcube” Chromia warned

“You know me better than that, " Shockwave said. He then turned to Synergy “They will be safe my dear I promise you”

Megatron was the last to enter Nemesis, taking Nightbird by the hand.

“Come my dear we have a planet to conquer” Megatron said as Nightbird gleefully entered

“Farewell Prime, next time we meet, the Earth will be under better Decepticon rule!” Megatron said laughing evilly

“Megatron!” Optimus Prime shouted as the Nemesis flew away

Chapter Two

During the ensuing chaos the Terror Drome was eerily silent, Nearly all of Cobra was away either going to Siberia, Cobra Island or South America. The only ones

there were Ba Nee, Marissa and Gauge as well as their guards Lisa, Big Boa and Counterpunch.

“The greatest battle ever and I’m stuck babysitting these brats” Big Boa muttered under her breath

“Hey if you’d like to go I can cover for you” Counterpunch offered “I don’t mind”

Big Boa thought about it for a moment but stopped “Thank you but no. We’re soldiers so we always obey orders”

Counterpunch was annoyed but didn’t show it. He had to do something and fast.

Inside the cell, Marissa whispered to Ba Nee

“Oh hey Cobra ladies, Marissa escaped come here and look” Ba Nee said

Big Boa has Lisa check it out and she could tell Marissa was simply hanging from the ceiling

“Nice try kiddo, but that won’t work on me. Your mom did the same trick” Lisa said with a sly smile

“Ok you little brats, if you keep that up you won’t be fed” Big Boa said

“We already had ‘dinner’ Marissa sassed back

“Then you won’t have breakfast” Big Boa set back to her chair muttering at being a nanny

Just then inside Nemesis and unnoticed, Synergy activated the pod that she placed in the cell. Soon music was piping in the cell.

“Did someone turn on the radio?” Big Boa said confused

“Don’t look at me” Marissa sniped

“I like it it’s kinda soothing” Lisa said with a yawn and soon fell asleep

Big Boa yawned too. She took off her helmet to slap herself awake but to no avail. She was out like a light, snoring loudly

Marissa started to yawn and Ba Nee realized she had to use what Storm Shadow gave her. Inside the pod were two sets of earplugs. First she put hers in and then Marissa who woke up

“Wow I almost fell asleep” Marissa said “It was that music. Lucky you had those earplugs”

“Yeah” Ba Nee said “What is that music?”

“It sounds familiar” Gauge said

Counterpunch also recognized the music and after seeing his Cobra allies asleep knew this was his chance

“Ugh...what’s happening to me” Counterpunch said acting in pain “I’m going into stasis-lock”

Marissa and Ba Nee looked at Gauge who simply shrugged her shoulders. She was having no ill effects

Just as Counterpunch fell unconscious, the prison bars went offline.

“This is our chance, let’s scoot!” Marissa said as Ba Nee and Gauge quickly followed her.

Once they left the room, Counterpunch quickly got back up. He checked on Big Boa and Lisa. Big Boa’s loud snoring confirmed they were not waking up any time soon.

“Heh, you’re still a great actor Punch” He said to himself

Marissa, Ba Nee and Gauge were in the main room. Gauge stopped momentarily to take the video of the Autobots argument with the Joes.

“Gauge what are you doing?” Ba Nee asked

“It’ll just be a microsecond,” Gauge promised. Taking the tape, she crushed it in her hands. She knew whatever was on it was no good.

“We gotta get out of the place” Marissa looked around “Does anyone know the exit?”

“Hey what are you brats doing?” A booming voice said. It was Croc Master. He too was left behind as security

“Uh oh we’re not alone” Ba Nee said. She was then met by a screech. Raptor, Cobra’s falconer, was there too with one of his falcons

“I don’t know how you kiddies got out but we’ll put you back in your cage” Raptor said then commanded his falcon “Peregrine attack!”

Peregrine flew to the girls, but fortunately for them Gauge transformed and let Ba Nee and Marissa in and drove off

“See ya later alligator!” Marissa said as she rode in Gauge

“Blast, they're getting away! Follow them!” Croc Master and Raptor rode on Ferrets and were on Gauge’s trail.

Gauge was speeding throughout the Terror Drome

“We gotta get out of here!” Gauge said driving wildly. She made sure to fasten the seatbelts for both of her passengers

“I saw how we got in” Marissa said “Gauge quick turn left”

“They’re getting away” Raptor said

“That Autobot is too fast” Croc Master said firing ahead of Gauge to get her to slow down

Gauge sped up in time and avoided the blast. She followed Mariss’s instructions and drove out of the Terror Drome and to freedom

“Bye, bye birdie!” Ba Nee said as Marissa waved bye mockingly.

“How did they get out of their cage anyway?” Raptor asked

Raptor and Croc Master headed back to the cells. They saw Counterpunch groggily get up and Lisa and Big Boa still asleep.

“Boa get up!” Croc Master ordered. Big Boa responded with a loud snore

“What happened?” Raptor asked

“Ugh, Synergy when she saw those brats, she put this in” Counterpunch said showing the pod then pointed to Big Boa and Lisa “They’ll be asleep for 24 hours”

“That’s just perfect” Croc Master said annoyed “We have to tell Serpentor and your boss too”

“Yes, maybe I can find them” Counterpunch said

“Ah, don’t bother they have too much of a head start” Raptor said equally annoyed

“Nonetheless, I have to make up for my error. I’ll keep you updated” Counterpunch transformed and left the Terror Drome

Big Boa and Raptor looked at each other in exasperation then Big Boa and Lisa again. Big Boa let out another loud snore

“Ah shaddap” Croc Master said sarcastically

Once outside the Terror Drome. Counterpunch transformed into his true form Punch the Autobot spy!

Going into his comlink, Punch made his report “Ultra Magnus, this is Punch. The children are free. I repeat the children are free”

Back in South America, Ultra Magnus received Punch’s report

“Optimus, I have good news. Marissa, Ba Nee and Gauge, they escaped the Terror Drome” Ultra Magnus said,

“Thank Primus” Optimus said he saw the look of relief on Flint and Lady who embraced each other, Arcee and Greenlight who did the same and Jem who was consoled by Rio.

“Wait Magnus, are we sure that the news is trustworthy?” Red Alert said worriedly

“Affirmative Red Alert, it came from Punch” Ultra Magnus promised

“Punch you say, well I’m convinced” Red Alert said with relief

“I’m sorry but who’s Punch?” Scarlett asked

“He’s our best spy” Cliffjumper said confidently “Good old Punch, I’d trust him with my spark”

“I’ve only seen a few times at the base” Carly said

“That’s because he’s on the line” Brawn said then realized “Hey wait a sec, he can get here and free us!”

“No can do Brawn, Megatron made it so we can get information in, but nothing out” Ultra Magnus said he then turned to Blaster who was working with Hubcap, Breaker and Dial-tone to fix that

“Anything yet Blaster?” Duke asked

“Sorry Duke this is a big mess but we’re working on it” Blaster promised

During this downtime the Joes and Autobots tried to kill time. Kup was telling the Dinobots stories that more than a few Joes were getting into. Swerve gave his assessment of the Fusion drones and any possible weaknesses.

Others were more proactive. Zap and Bazooka fired the barrier with their bazookas

“I wish we making a difference but our weapons have no effect at all” Zap said

“Well I’m not giving up!” Short-Fuze said firing the missiles of a Wolverine

“Save your ammo Short-Fuze” Gen. Hawk ordered

Roadbuster kept punching at the barrier “Ugh c’mon you stupid wall go down!”

“C’mon Roadbuster brute strength isn’t gonna do anything for us” Whirl said feeling as frustrated

Jem and the Holograms were sitting together when Scarlett and Lady Jaye walked to them

“Can we have a minute with Jem please?” Scarlett asked

Kimber started to interject, but Rio said it would be ok if they spoke in private. He could tell they had something important to talk about

“Good news about the kids huh?” Lady Jaye said

“Yeah, Marissa is a brave girl” Jem said

“Well so is Ba Nee” Lady Jaye said. She then looked shameful “Jem I was out of line with what I said”

“Me too” Scarlett said “I mean Storm Shadow is a dangerous man. I have no place judging someone who took in orphans”

“No, no I was wrong too” Jem said “Once Synergy confirmed the information I should have told you. I was just afraid...”

“Yeah, afraid we’d take Synergy away from you” Scarlett said. “We’re all a bunch of fools aren’t we?” Scarlett’s words had the women all laugh all bad feelings away

During all of this, Skids was contemplating a course of action when it suddenly hit him.

“Wait a minute we can drill ourselves out!” Skids said

“Of course the simplest answer is sometimes the best one” Wheeljack agreed

“Twin Twist, Nosecone transform and make a tunnel.” Optimus said “When enough of us can get out we’ll destroy the forcefield from the outside .

“You got it, Optimus” Twin Twist said as he and Nosecone started drilling. Unfortunately, they didn’t get far and came back to the surface

“Prime you’re not going to believe this but the barrier is underground too. We can’t drill through it” Nosecone said holding his head

“Great, what else can go wrong?” Jynx said. She got her answer when all of a sudden from two mountains, a pair of Giant Cobra Mechs came out firing lasers and flames from their mouths

“You and your luck“ Falcon deadpanned to Jynx

Chapter Three

Aboard Nemesis, the Decepticons and Cobra were toasting to their imminent victory. For Cobra it was champagne and blood wine for Serpenter. The Decepticons were toasting to energon wine.

“Decepticons a toast to our conquering of Earth. Soon it will be in better hands” Megatron said

“Ooh Destro you know how champagne goes straight to my head” Baroness said with a laugh

“Nah, no thanks mate” Torch said declining his “I’ll take some grape soda if ya got it”

Zanya went for it only to be stopped “What do you think you’re doing girl?” Zartan said sternly

“Aww...dad” Zanya pleaded

“Don’t ‘aww...dad’ me you’re not old enough” Zartan insisted

“Mmm...that’s good energon wine” Headstrong said slurping down

“Thanks” Mixmaster said as it was coming from his mixer “Once we take over Cybertron I can start my homebrew again”

“Would you like a glass my dear?” Shockwave asked Synergy. She was being guarded by Sixshot

“Thank you, no,” Synergy said politely.

“Synergy, don’t be upset” Sixshot said, taking the wine. “We’re doing these flesh creatures a favor. With Cobra in control Megatron won’t bleed it dry.”

“Yes, Sixshot, you’re absolutely right,” Synergy said. Once again unnoticed she started to send a message deep into space.

Slipstream was chatting amiably with Sunstorm when they noticed Ramjet and Octane coming by. They immediately straightened up

“Err do yes Sunstorm I’ll discuss the battle plan later with you” Slipstream said as Sunstorm walked swiftly

“Hey congrats Slipstream, you joined the club” Octane said taking a sip

“What club?” Slipstream said confused

“The caretaker of the super warrior club,” Octane said “It makes you important and keeps you out of hard jobs.”

“Bah, don’t listen to him!” Ramjet said “Our duty is vital to the Decepticon cause and help ensure our victory”

“You’re right Ramjet, to be Nemesis’ caretaker is a responsibility I take seriously” Slipstream said sweetly then sharply to Octane “And you should know better then to use yours with Trypticon to be what humans call a silverbrick”

“The term is goldbrick,” Eric Raymond said dryly. He and the Misfits were still in their energon cage

“Err..ok whatever” Slipstream said confused. Then turned to Ramjet “I don’t get human terms do you?” Ramjet could only shrug in confusion

“This is crazy” Stormer “Things have gotten out of hand!”

“We’ve only just begun!” Cobra Commander boomed “You fools are witnesses to history. I suggest you deal with it”

“What have you and Starscream been working on Commander?” Destro inquired seeing Starscream work on a strange weapon.

“Ah my dear Destro, don’t you recognize it?” Cobra Commander said as Destro noticed the three elements. He was surprised

“Impossible! You’ve created the MASS Device!” Destro said in astonishment

“MASS Device? Yes I was intrigued by that creation of yours Commander”
Megatron said impressed by the weapon

“But before we use it, we must decide who to invade first?” Serpenter inquired

“Why don’t we go to Sublantica and teach that two-faced mackerel Nergil a lesson”
Starscream pondered

“Nergil, you mean the Deep Ones?” Destro said remembering the tales he heard of them

“Perhaps Starscream, but I feel we should make a statement by invading one the largest cities of Earth” Megatron said from the captain’s chair of Nemesis

“The city of Los Angeles is the second largest city of the United States” Soundwave mentioned

“Hey yeah, why don’t we head to Hollywood and rock it!” Rumble said

“No, you can’t!” Stormer pleaded “My brother lives there”

Serpenter and Megatron looked at each other annoyed and Serpenter flew on his Air Chariot high above Stormer

“Then I hope for your sake he’s not foolish enough to cross us” Serpenter said with clenched teeth. Stormer shed a tear at the thought of her brother Craig being a casualty of war

Serpenter then went back to Megatron in a calmer tone “Actually Megatron, I was thinking we should invade Washington DC. It was the scene of my first attack as

Cobra Emperor. And with our enemies trapped and our superior forces we will be triumphant!”

“Yes, Washington DC does sound ideal” Megatron said viewing the Lincoln Memorial on the screen “Plus it would give me a chance to get my favorite throne back”

“But we should make sure the president is in Washington” Tomax said

“Or else our surprise attack” Xamot added

“May be a wasted opportunity” The Twins said in unison

Dr. Mindbender had the Tele-Vipers check all intel.

“Good news, oh Cobra Emperor. The Tele-Vipers confirmed that the President was in Washington. In fact he is at the Capitol meeting with Congress” Dr. Mindbender stated

“This is perfect! We will capture the president and Congress and have two of the branches of government as our prisoners” Serpentor said

“Yeah and the best part is they’re politicians. Even if there are casualties there won’t be any humans at risk” Swindle said to laughter

“I can’t wait to tell the gang about this” Misfire said to Flywheels

“And who is the gang?” A curious Zartan asked

“They’re our pals on Cybertron. Crankcase, Spinister, Krok, Gatoraider and of course Fulcrum” Flywheels said showing a photo of them together

“Attention Megatron, report from Counterpunch” Soundwave said

“We’re getting a message from Croc Master at the Terror Drome as well” Major Bludd said

They both gave their leaders reports of what happened. Megatron had Squawkbox and Flipsides listen to the music

“Hey that’s the Empyrean Suite” Squawkbox said.

“You don’t say?” Starscream said looking at Synergy “And I’m sure you’re not behind this are you Synergy?”

“Watch yourself Starscream!” Shockwave said as Blitzwing and Sixshot stood behind him

“It doesn’t matter if those brats escaped. They can do nothing” Megatron said. Turning to the comlink “Counterpunch continue your search”

“And you two stand guard at the Terror Drome” Serpentor ordered “We may need your further assistance.”

Big Boa and Lisa then both snored loudly causing snickers from those who heard it

“You certainly can’t count on them for help” Baroness snarked

“Err..Megatron perhaps we should send another Decepticon instead of Counterpunch” Slipstream said

“Nonsense Slipstream” Megatron “Nemesis to Washington DC!” Megatron then turned to Nightbird “More Energon wine my dear?”

“Thank you, but no Megatron,” Nightbird said, brandishing her katana. “I wish to be fully ready for battle!”

“I hope the Joes and Autobots are enjoying the entertainment we left behind for them” Destro said as the villains laughed again

At that time the Giant Cobra Mechs were attacking the Joes and Autobots. One fired a missile that Omega Supreme crushed with his claw hand

“Missile neutralized” Omega Supreme stated

“Everyone take cover,” Optimus Prime said, firing his ion cannon.

Trailbreaker made sure to keep the civilians safe under his forcefield

“All right that’s it, enough’s enough!” Afterburner shouted “Let’s take the fight to these overgrown tin cans!”

“Sounds good to me, c’mon! You want a piece of this!” Strafe transformed and flew at the two Mechs firing wildly

“Strafe we should work together” Lightspeed advised

“You’re right, Lightspeed” Scattershot said, transforming from his third cannon mode “Technobots merge into Computron!”

The Technobots merged into Computron and grappled with one of the Mechs. The Mech used it's claw arm to clamp onto Computron

"Datum, claw hand of Mech is entrenched, Conclusion..." Comuptron computed only for a missile to blow the claw off.

"Conclusion we turn that thing into scrap metal!" Sgt. Slaughter shouted from his Triple T as the Marauders fired on it

"Yeah those snakes got some gall to sic those overgrown toys on us!" Red Dog shouted firing.

"Let's see how they like Glass Gas" Cliffjumper said firing too

The two Cobra Mechs then opened up ports that SNAKE robots and BATs came out of

"Looks like we're in for a demolition derby" Kup said firing his musket

"That works for me, C'mon guys" Leatherneck said

The Joes focused on the BATs while the Autobots took on the Mechs and SNAKES

Warpath blasted from his cannon at the arm of the mech fully blowing it off

"WHAM! Direct hit!" Warpath boasted

"Don't hog all the fun mate!" Outback said firing at it

The other Mech was being absolutely torn to pieces literally by the Dinobots and Monsterbots

“Me Slag like munching metal” Slag said ramming his horns on the leg of the Mech

“Yeah me too” Repugnus said slashing with his claws “Head up for scrap metal everyone!”

“Looks like our troops are blowing some steam off” Ultra Magnus said to Gen. Hawk

“It’s good for them, Magnus” Gen. Hawk said. One of Ultra Magnus’s missiles blew off the head of the remaining mech

“Yes I quite agree,” Ultra Magnus said with a smile. In a moment the Mechs were nothing more than piles of scrap

“Woo...what a mess huh Spike?” Bumblebee said “Spike...”

Spike was looking forlornly at the barrier.

“This is my fault, all this happening” Spike said

“Spike no what do you mean?” Carly said worriedly

“I just wanted to take you to a concert, I didn’t know that would lead to all of this” Spike said “Cobra and the Decepticons are going to conquer the world and it’s all because of me’

“Whoa son, that a bunch of bunk” Sgt. Slaughter said “This isn’t on you”

“He’s right” Jem reassured him “You had no way of knowing about Synergy or all the secrets we were all keeping from each other”

“All of this going on is because of Cobra and the Decepticons” Sparkplug promised
“And it’s up to us to stop them”

Hearing the encouraging words restored Spike’s morale “Then we better find a way to break this barrier and then break Megatron and Cobra!”

“Absolutely, Spike!” Optimus said giving a thumbs up “Any luck Blaster?”

“I’m trying Prime” Blaster said “Hold up everyone I’m getting a strong signal”

Hubcap used his ability to create a visual on the barrier as a screen. To the horror of all, they could see Cobra Commander.

“Citizens of the World, greetings” Cobra Commander said “We at Cobra have hijacked the world’s broadcasts to bring you important news”

The screen now showed Cobra’s forces along the Decepticons.

“Cobra has made an alliance with the most power force in the galaxy, the Decepticons”

The screen showed past footage of the Decepticons attacking power plants and energy sources.

“For years the Decepticons have attempted to pillage our planet for its vast natural resources”

Megatron and Serpentor are now seen in the throne room with Decepticon and Cobra higher ups

“But we at Cobra have brokered an alliance. This alliance will make the Earth part of a vast empire.”

Footage showed the Autobots fighting the Decepticons

“I’m sure you’re thinking the Autobots will stop the Decepticons like they always have”

The footage now showed the Joes and Autobots trapped in the barrier

“Well think again! The Autobots and GI Joe are at our mercy! They cannot help you”

The footage showed the landmarks of Washington DC

“If this upsets you, and it should, lay the blame on your leaders. They have failed you. And we shall exact your vengeance”

Cobra Commander then gave the screen to Megatron

“But you don’t have to take my word for it. Megatron?” Cobra Commander gave the screen to Megatron

“Thank you Commander.” Megatron said to the universe, “The Earth was wise to side with the Decepticon empire and the rest of the universe had better wisen up as well.”

Megatron showed on screen the various Decepticon warriors looking as menacingly as possible. Save Flamewar who had a goofy grin, while holding Scales.

“The Decepticon army is fully armed and fully fueled. Any planet that resists our power will be dealt with harshly. End communication.”

Soundwave ended the communication as ordered. Megatron and Cobra Commander joined the others.

“I must give you credit when credit’s due Commander. You are an impressive orator,” Serpentor complimented. “Once we conquer Washington the rest of the world will learn they were not mere words.”

“Do you think that video went past Earth, Megatron?” Rumble asked.

“Attention Megatron, message from Lord Gyconi” Soundwave stated

“Put him on Soundwave,” Megatron said with a smile. Lord Gyconi was seen. His alien appearance, and that of his Skuxxoid henchman, was a shock to Cobra

“Lord Megatron, I just watched your message” Gyconi said sweatily “I just wished to congratulate you on your victory over the Autobots”

“Why thank you Gyconi” Megatron said smugly “I trust when I wish to take a holiday on Monacus I will be your most honored guest?”

“Guest? Why yes of course. I would be more than honored to treat you to the finest entertainment Monacus has to offer.” Gyconi stammered “Why just the other day

your bounty hunter Lockdown brought me a most gruesome monster called Chaos to fight my Animaliens and...”

“End communication” Megatron said dryly. The screen went blank much to Gyconi’s relief

“Ugh what a disgusting creature” Baroness said with a shudder

“He smells worse then he looks” Dirge said causing more groans

Soon Nemesis and Trypticon were over Washington

“Attention everyone this is your ride speaking, we’re in Washington DC!” Nemesis said

“Decepticons prepare for battle,” Megatron said with his eyes glowing red

Chapter Four

Cobra and the Decepticon’s message had indeed traveled around the world. Friends, allies and even enemies of the Autobots, Joes and Holograms had watched it.

Astoria Carlton-Ritz and her friend Bree Van Mark were sunbathing on the French Riviera.

“Pfft, that creep Megatron doesn’t scare me,” Astoria scoffed. “Did I tell you about the time he kidnapped me?”

“Yeah,” Bree said. “I just hope Lifeline is ok”

“Oh he’ll be fine,” Astoria insisted. “C’mon, let’s get lunch.”

Lord Chumley was also watching attentively as he welcomed a guest

“I say old boy, things are certainly heating up. Reminds me of a dustup in Casablanca,” Chumley pondered. “Dinsmoore, more tea please.”

“Right away, sir,” Dinsmoore said, bringing a tea set. He then turned to their guest “Would you care for more biscuits sir?”i

The guest who turned out to be the Gamesmaster responded, “Oh yes please, Mr. Dinsmoore, they’re yummy.”

In Tokyo, Dr. Fujiyama was with the Autobots stationed in Japan and handed them a metal case.

“I hope we’re not making things worse,” Dr. Fujiyama said with concern along with his intern

“Me too doctor, but desperate times mean desperate actions,” Twincast said. The Autobots promised they will be careful and boarded Raiden

“Hold on, guys, I’m coming too.” The intern, Elsie Pressler said “I’m the only person he listens to.”

Megatron’s video had gone around the universe. On Quintessa, the Quintessons watched with interest. It may be time to become proactive against their creations. On Lithone, Arblus and Kranix were fearful of a Decepticon invasion.

On Nebulos things were heating up. Lord Zarak and his minions of the Hive watched with great interest.

“Well, Lord Zarak, it would appear you forged your alliance with us at the perfect time.” A massive voice boomed. It was Scorponok. He was the leader of a ragtag group of Decepticons (among them Horror-bull, Squeezeplay, Fangry, Quake, Spinister and Needlenose).

“Yes, as they say timing is everything,” Lord Zarak mused. “When your leader conquers this planet, perhaps we should invite him to Nebulos. Then we’ll crush the rebellion once and for all.”

Neither Zarak nor Scorponok noticed a bug. The Nebulon Rebellion led by Gort were listening with fear.

“Don’t you believe them, Gort,” a voice reassured him. It was Metalhawk, the leader of a group of Autobots assisting the rebellion.

“Thank you Metalhawk I just hope you’re right” Gort said worriedly

“We’ll contact Optimus Prime and he’ll give us the support to put the Hive down and free Nebulos,” Nightbeat promised

On the planet Prysmos, another group of Autobots were with the heroes of the planet, the Spectral Knights.

“We’re forever in your debt Autobots” Leoric their leader said

“Thanks to you we not only restored technology to our planet but we’ve ended the threat of the Darkling Lords once and for all” Ectar said showing their enemies the Darkling Lords in an energon prison

“You will rue the day you crossed us!” Darkstorm their leader vowed

“This won’t keep me caged for long!” Cindarr said whacking the cage as it gave him a shock

“It was our pleasure to take part in such a noble goal” Highbrow said with pride

“Yeah plus it was fun for us too” Sureshot said brandishing his weapon

“As Autobots it’s our duty to help those who are in need” Chromedome added

“We shall learn to keep the balance of science and sorcery in order” Merkllynn

Just then Glyph came out of the Autobot’s ship in excitement

“Guys, guys you gotta see this!” Glyph said. This was unlike Glyph as she was usually the calmest of their group

“What is it, Glyph?” Crosshairs asked.

Glyph replayed Megatron’s message. The Autobots were all concerned

“Megatron’s gone too far this time!” Brainstorm said “We have to stop him!”

“But Earth is so far away” Cerebros said worriedly “What good can we do anyway?”

“Why Cerebros without you and the Autobots we would have never achieved victory” Galadria said

“Maybe but it seems we do more harm than good” Cerebros said

“Hey check it out look who’s with Megatron” Pointblank said

To the amazement of the Autobots, it was Synergy. She was clearly a prisoner

“Is that Synergy? No it can’t be” Brainstorm said

“It is her,” Chromedome said. “Megatron must be using her for her energon synthesizer.” Cerebros looked with an intensity. He always admired Synergy

Suddenly, Glyph’s comlink started beeping. She listened intently

A figure came from the Autobots ship. It was Drift the nominal second-in command

“Well Autobots it looks like we have another mission to take part of” Drift said

“What are we waiting for?” Cerebros said “We gotta go to Earth and save Synergy!”

“You can count on us” Cloudraker said

“All for one and one for all” Fastlane added

“Wait guys! I’m getting a message from Synergy. We have to make two stops before we head to Earth” Glyph said

The Autobots boarded their ship and departed Prysmos. The Visionaires wished them luck

“Godspeed, friends” Cryotek said “We wish you a swift victory”

Back in South America the Joes and Autobots were still fruitlessly trying to destroy the barrier.

Gen. Hawk turned to Duke and Flint.

“Well, did we learn any way to destroy this blasted thing?” Gen. Hawk asked

“No but we learned the Autobots are friends with the cast members of MASH” Duke said dryly

“Heh, who’s pals with Radar?” Gen. Hawk asked . Hound raised his hand

“Me and Beachcomber. Met him at a bird preservation” Hound said reservedly

All of a sudden a series of things happened. The Statue of Liberty was suddenly outside their barrier

“What the...! That had to be Cobra with the MASS Device” Wheeljack exclaimed

Wheeljack was right because on their way to Washington, Cobra Commander and Starscream used their MASS Device to transport the Statue

“Wasn’t that a waste of the MASS Device?” Baroness snarked

“Actually Baroness a statement like that does show we are serious” Megatron said

The next was more important. The satellite fueling the energy barrier was destroyed.

“The barrier is destroyed!” Jem said happily

“But how everything we did have no effect” Chip said confused

Chip got his answer when a spaceship landed

“Is that a spaceship?” Scarlett then saw an Autobot symbol “Yes it’s an Autobot ship!”

Ultra Magnus saw the ship and smiled “That’s not an Autobot ship, it’s an Autobot!”

The assembled group greeted the ship and were excited to see the group of Autobots. The Autobots greeted their old friends

“Chromedome it’s been too long” Rewind said

“That’s for sure Rewind” Chromedome said to his friend

“Are you still crushing Decepticons?” Arcee asked Hardhead

“Heh you know me all too well” Hardhead said with a laugh

“You’re all a sight for sore eyes” Flint said “But how did you know where we were?”

“Confidentially, we had some help,” Crosshairs said, pointing to Marissa, Ba Nee and Gauge coming out after.

Jem, Flint, Lady Jaye, Greenlight and Arcee happily reunited with their girls. Marissa was exceedingly telling their tale of their escape .

“And after we drove away, we met up with even more Autobots!” Marissa said “It’s so cool!

“Thank goodness you’re safe” Lady Jaye said kissing her daughter

“Aww...,mom” Marissa said a little embarrassed

“Now that we’re free we gotta speed to Washington!” Ironhide said

“Actually Ironhide I was thinking we can bring the Decepticons here” Brainstorm said bringing out the three elements needed for the MASS device

“We stopped by Tlalakan for some Heavy Water,” Cerebros said. We see Alana and Tlaloc giving the Autobots the heavy water

“And then we met with Landmine’s mining team for the other two” Glyph said “By the way Beachcomber, Azimuth says hello”

“Aww...that’s nice” Beachcomber said blushing

“Incredible, but how did you know about the MASS Device?” Optimus Prime asked.

“Well Optimus, Synergy contacted me and told me what to do” Gauge said showing the beeping comlink

“What is that?” Duke asked

“Think of it as Autobot Morse code” Ultra Magnus said then turned to the group
“All right Autobots we have to fight fire with fire”

“Way ahead of you Magnus!” Wheeljack said, showing he, Perceptor, Hoist, Nautica and Ratchet had already built a MASS Device from the remains of the Mechs

“Install those elements” Gen. Hawk ordered “It’s time we bring the fight to Cobra and Megatron. Yo Joe!”

Nemesis and Trypticon were over Washington and Cobra and the Decepticons were ready to begin their invasion

“All forces ready for assault!” Megatron ordered. “We shall land near the Capitol”

“Let the conquest begin!” Serpenter bellowed “This I...”

All of a sudden a blast of energy engulfed both Nemesis and Trypticon. They found themselves back in South America

“Command?” Serpenter said surprised

“What the...we’re back in South America?” Megatron shouted. “Starscream, that MASS Device is defective!”

“No, Megatron, it’s not my fault!” Starscream pleaded.

“As much as I hate to admit it, Starscream is right. Look!” Nightbird said, pointing to the Autobots and Joes. They had their own MASS Device.

“How dare they!” Serpenter fumed. “This outrage will not go unabated!”

“Yes, Soundwave, bring out the camera” Megatron ordered. “The world shall see us destroy the Autobots and GI Joe!”

“Look out gang, the snakes and cons are on our trail and they look ticked off!” Shipwreck said

“Then let’s welcome them back!” Optimus Prime ordered. The Autobots all transformed and went along with the Joes in their vehicles.

In a HAVOC, Roadblock turned to Cross Country “Now’s the time we hear Optimus Prime shout...”

“Autobots, transform and roll out!” Optimus Prime said.

Cobra and the Decepticons piled out of Nemesis and Trypticon

“This is it, no quarter!” Serpenter ordered. “Cobra!”

“No mercy!” Megatron added. “Decepticons!”

The two leaders looked at each other and in unison shouted “Attack!”

Chapter Five

Once her passengers disembarked, Nemesis transformed into robot mode.

“Yoohoo, Metroplex where are you sweetheart?” Nemesis said romantically

“Dear Primus, I have no idea how to deal with her.” Metroplex said embarrassedly.

“Metroplex I hate to say it, but the more Nemesis flirts with you that keeps her off the battlefield” Windblade said

“Yeah I know you’re right, but what about Trypticon?” Metroplex asked

“Don’t worry, we have the ruffian taken care of!” Highbrow promised

Megatron blasted at the Autobots with his fusion cannon

“Prime I don’t know how you destroyed the barrier, but you’ll rue that decision” Megatron vowed

“We had help Megatron from an old friend!” Optimus Prime said as from the ground a massive Autobot came out. He was the size of Metroplex himself. It was the Autobot commander Fortress Maximus!

“No it cannot be! Fortress Maximus!” Megatron said in astonishment

“What they have another warrior the size of Metroplex?” Destro said amazed at the sight of the warrior

The Decepticons who knew Fortress Maximus were shocked to see him this size! He was always a massive Autobot but never of this scale

“Maximus?” Synergy said “He’s gotten...bigger”

“Yes, when he left Cybertron with his soldiers he was not this ...impressive”
Shockwave said

“It isn’t possible,” Starscream said. “What happened?”

Only Sixshot did not show fear or amazement

“You’re looking good Maximus” Sixshot said “Not that it’ll *do* any good”

“Yes I’ve had some upgrades” Fortress Maximus said “All the better to stop you fiends”

“It doesn’t matter how large they are, we won't give up!” Cobra Commander vowed

Cobra led their full force against the Joes. In the skies were Rattlers, Stilettoes, Night Ravens, FANGs, Firebats, CLAWS and Flight Pods. On the ground, HISS tanks, Stuns, Asps, Stingers and Ferrets. Sea vehicles BUGGs, Water Moccasins and Hydrofoils had been reconfigured to fight on the land as well.

The Dreadnoks went into battle with the Thunder Machine and Swampfires. Cobra Commander led the Python Patrol from his Pogo and Serpenter led all from his Air Chariot

The Joes had their forces ready too. In the air were Skystriders, Conquests, Tomahawks, Dragonflies and Sky Hawks. On the ground were HAVOCS, Maulers, Wolverines, VAMPs, SHARCs and Killer Whales. Sgt. Slaughter led his Marauders from his Triple T.

“All right, Autobots, we focus on the Decepticons and let the Joes take on Cobra!” Optimus ordered

“C’mon boys we gotta do our part,” Sparkplug said, leading Rio, Spike and Riot only to be stopped by Beachhead.

“Whoa there, the battlefield is no place for civilians” Beachhead said

“Civilian nothing, I was a sergeant in the US Army” Sparkplug said

“Fair enough, but you two pretty boys are still civilians” Beachhead said

“If you think I’m going to sit back and not join you're crazy!” Rio said

“What he said” Riot added

“All right, fine, just keep back.” Beachhead said. He had to admire their courage

“I’m coming too!” Spike said

“Wait Spike, stay here with me please!” Carly asked. Spike did so. Sparkplug was grateful to Carly for keeping his son safe

Cover Girl turned to the Holograms, Minx and Rapture

“Ladies the best thing you can do is lay low. Otherwise you’ll be a target” Cover Girl

Jem and the Holograms were reluctant but Minx and Rapture were more than glad
“Believe me we’re staying safe” Minx said

The battle began in full. Starscream led the Seekers against the ground forces

“I got a score to settle with you in London” Bluestreak said firing at Slipstream

“Foolish Autobot you weren’t even there” Slipstream said

“No but my sister was!” Bluestreak said angrily

Marissa, Ba Nee and Gauge were watching the action and Arcee and Lady Jaye noticed Marisa was getting closer

“Marissa, what are you doing?” Lady Jaye yelled

“Awe...I just wanted to see what was happening” Marissa pouted

“This is no place for children!” Arcee insisted

Grimlock had Slugslinger in his jaws overhearing what was happening and spit him out and ran to Arcee

“Me Grimlock know where kids can be safe” Grimlock promised

Arcee was confused but had to help Lancer against Weirwolf. She hoped she made the right decision

Grimlock called over Strongarm and Velocity. “Kids need to be safe. We have to take them with friends”

The girls were confused by friends, but Strongarm and Velocity knew immediately what to do. Velocity took them in a corner and Strongarm took out a strange, magical key that started glowing

In Paradise Estate, the main town of Ponyland, the Ponies were all going all their merry way together with their dragon friend Spike and human friend Megan Williams and her younger brother and sister Danny and Molly.

The key opened a magical door that Velocity and Strongarm led Gauge, Marissa and Ba Nee

“Where are we? Is this a farm you took us to?” Marissa asked looking around

“Look at all the horses” Ba Nee said amazed

“Actually we’re ponies” Magic Star said shocking the girls

“Wait talking ponies? Wow!” Marissa said, amazed “And are you a dragon?”

“Yes, hello my name is Spike!” Spike said

“Hello, welcome to Ponyland my name is Megan.” Megan said showing everyone

“Megan this is Ba Nee, she is a friend of Jem and the Holograms” Strongarm said

“Wow Jem and the Holograms! They’re me and Megan’s favorite band!” Molly said excitedly

“Ah that’s a bunch of mushy stuff” Danny said with a huff

“And this is Marissa, her parents are members of GI Joe” Strongarm said with a smile

“GI Joe! Oh wow that’s cool” Danny said suddenly said interested

“We always glad to meet Autobots!” Spike said happily

Strongarm explained that the Autobots came to the rescue of the Ponies when some Decepticons came to Ponyland to conquer it with some of their enemies. We see Optimus Prime lead Windblade, Strongarm and the Dinobots against Tiroc and Grogar who had allied with Slipstream and the Terrorcons

Megan and her siblings and the other ponies went to meet their new guests as did two larger beings. The girls were shocked to see two new Dinobots! One was an ankylosaurus (Scarr) and the other was a velociraptor (Slash). When they transformed to robot mode they noticed Slash was a female Autobot

“Whoa, are you Dinobots?” Gauge asked

“Yes, my name is Scarr and this is Slash” Scarr said

“Greetings, we’re always happy to meet new Autobots” Slash said. The girls were shocked to see such intelligent, erudite Dinobots

“Where did you come from?” Ba Nee asked

“Dinobot Island” Slash said then noticed Strongarm and Velocity’s worried faces

“Strongarm is everything all right?”

“I’m afraid there’s a big battle going on Slash” Strongarm said Velocity showed them footage of the battle

“You need us there!” Scarr said transforming again

“No Scarr we need you and Slash to keep our charges safe until the battle is done” Velocity said “I promise we will be fine. We gotta go back”

Strongarm and Velocity then reopened the door and headed back. When they returned they saw the battle going strongly. Velocity sped to where the Holograms were safely secure.

“Jem I promise you the kids are completely safe” Velocity promised. Her words soothed the worries of the Holograms

The Joes were battling on the air and land. “Yee haw, c’mon buckaroos let’s clip the wings of those snakes” Wild Bill said firing from his Dragonfly

Wild Weasel led Cobra’s air forces “You won’t stop us this time Joes. I rule the skies” Wild Weasel said firing a missile

The Firebats were too fast for the Joes but not the Aerialbots, Fireflight and Slingshot crowded a pair and slowed them down enough for Ace to shoot them down. The AVAC pilots left and hitched a ride to the ground from Thundercracker.

“Thanks for the ride” One of the AVAC said

“No problem, just take care of the Joes on the ground” Thundercracker said as the AVACs manned an ASP and firing at the Dragonflies

Dirge, Thrust, Ramjet and Blast led another squad of FANGs and Stilettos

“C’mon guys let’s scrap these Autobots” Blast said firing at Tailgate

“Uh oh I’m getting pinned down” Tailgate said firing back

“Don’t worry the cavalry’s here” Ace said leading Airborne and Ripcord in Skystrikers

“Puny humans you can’t stop us” Thrust boasted only to be shot by a missile

“Really, looks like we stopped you pal!” Airborne said

Cobra Commander led the ground forces from his Pogo

“Ferrets and Stuns circle the Joes! Stingers and HISS tanks go forward!”
Commander ordered

Flint was leading the Joes. “The Snakes outnumber us but we if we whittle them down we’ll be ok”

Just then, the Python Patrol fired on the other side.

“You were saying Joe?” Cobra Commander said. A group of Autobots joined the Joes and shot down one of the Python Patrol Conquests

“He was saying, we’ll beat you by working together’ Bumblebee said

Elsewhere, Drift was battling Hotlink and Nacelle overpowering the two Seekers. Hoist was having equal trouble with Sixshot. He came to the aid of Grapple but Sixshot was too much for them both

Sixshot was about to strike Hoist when he noticed Drift.

“Drift!” Sixshot shouted, surprising him. He turned to Hoist “You’re the luckiest Autobot in the world”

Hoist took the opportunity to drag Grapple to safety and Hotlink and Nacelle were equally glad to retreat.

Sixshot and Drift went head to head in a swordfight

“It’s been too long *Deadlock?*” Sixshot said with a sneer

“Yes it has hasn’t it *Greatshot!*” Drift retorted back

Skywarp and Bitstream led FANGs to buzz around Broadside

“C’mon Bitstream let’s keep this big lug distracted” Skywarp said

“Ahoy mateys I could use a little help” Broadside said

“Never fear we shall prevail through teamwork” Spirit said from a Dragonfly with Whirl and Springer in their helicopter modes

Serpentor was a frontline leader high in the air from his Air Chariot

“You Joes will rue the day you crossed Serpentor, this I command!” Serpentor yelled.

Serpentor saw Duke and aimed one of his snakes right to his heart. Luckily it was destroyed by a blast from Hot Rod. Duke and Hot Rod shared thumbs up as thanks.

Squawkbox and the Duocons were battling the Throttlebots

“C'mon guys we can take these creeps” Rollbar said firing at them

The Throttlebots outnumbered them so Squawkbox said to the Duocons “Hey guys I think we better divide and conquer”

They agreed and the Duocons transformed into their two components as did Squawkbbox who transformed into Squawktalk and Beastbox. Beastbox was trying to overpower Wideload while Squawktalk was firing on Chase

“Awk, awk blast the Autobots,” Squawktalk chirped.

Goldbug found himself atop Battletrap’s truck form.

“Hey Autobots no riders allowed” Battletrap said

“Prime told me there’d be days like this” Goldbug said

The Dreadnoks were on the offensive against the Joes. Airtight and Footloose came at the Dreadnoks in an AWE Striker

“You Joes won’t take down the Thunder Machine with that mate!” Thrasher bragged

“C’mon those punks don’t have a chance against us” Zap said as he and Bazooka fired at them only to be knocked down by Heartwrencher and her own bazooka

“You boys call that a bazooka?” Heartwrencher said with a smile

Suddenly the Dreadnoks were surprised to see their weapons in the air. Windcharger used his magnetic power as Alpine, Iceberg and Ramhorn came to their defense

“Don’t worry Bazook we got your back” Alpine promised

“Hey me saw, give that back ya blighters” Buzzer shouted

“You want it, come get it creep!” Ramhorn snorted

Sideswipe and Sunstreaker were helping Deep Six and Torpedo battle the land faring BUGGs and Morays

“C’mon bro if these are bugs let’s squash ‘em!” Sideswipe said flying his using his jetpack

“Hey when this is done can I take a picture with you?” Torpedo asked Sunstreaker
“My folks will flip seeing me riding a lamborghini!”

“Oh great I’m surrounded by funny guys” Deep Six grouched

Nightbird was ecstatic being on the battlefield once again giving the Autobots trouble. When she tried to once again knock Strongarm and Road Rage’s head though this time she was stopped by Blurr

“Too slow...can’t catch me...” Blurr said

“Grr...you annoying Autobot I’ll make scrap metal out of you” Nightbird said with annoyance

“Easy lads, that lady’s a tough chrome-cookie” Kup warned Blurr and Hot Rod.

“She’s no lady Kup” Hot Rod said only to be shot at by Megatron

“I heard that you puny Autobot” Megatron said with anger. “Soundwave, is Synergy secure?”

Megatron had Soundwave guard Synergy with Laserbeak, Ravage and Buzzsaw

“Synergy is in Decepticon custody” Soundwave promised

Meanwhile the Misfits were still in their energon cage, Flipsides, Overkill and Slugfest were attacking near them.

“That’s it I want out and I want out now!” Pizzazz shouted

Overkill growled at her “Ah shut up creepasaurus rex!” Pizzazz snapped no longer scared. Overkill was shocked and quieted down

“Sorry ladies but we still need ya as hostages,” Flipsides said

Just then Glyph and Slamdance came by.

“Excuse me, but I don’t think you should imprison humans like that,” Glyph said reservedly

“Don’t make me laugh, what can a wimpy Autobot like you do?” Flipsides laughed. Flipsides learned the answer when Glyph caught Flipsides in a headlock and pinned her to the ground. Slamdance transformed into Raindance and Grand Slam. Grand Slam fired on Slugfest and Raindance buzzed around Overkill.

The Misfits were alone but still unable to leave. Then the Terrorcons appeared and approached the cage.

“Oh great, here come more Decepticons,” Roxy grumbled.

“Hey are you Misfits?” Hun-grr said curiously

“Err yes, are you fans?” Stormer asked. The Terrorcons responded enthusiastically

“Yes we Terrorcons enjoy your music very much!” Rippersnapper said

“We heard your music when Rampage was watching one of your music videos” Cutthroat added

“Other Decepticons not care about music but what do they know?” Sinnertwin said

“I can’t wait to tell my brother Blip about this,” Blot added.

“If you’re big fans then you’ll free us and get us out of here right?” Pizzazz said to a positive roar. At last the Misfits luck was turning

Moonracer was shooting at Triggerhappy when Kaskade aimed her rifle. A Night Raven flew by her.

“Come on down, Autobrat” Kaskade said with a smile. She was about to fire only to be distracted by a blast from Sgt. Slaughter from the Triple T. She missed and hit the Night Raven. The Strato-Vipers bailed out but the Night Raven landed on Kaskade.

“And they said I’m a bad shot” Misfire said as he helped the groaning Kaskade up

“Thank for the help” Moonracer said

“You gotta be careful out there little lady” Sgt. Slaughter said

Ironhide, Prowl, Ratchet and Brawn were pinned down by Megatron, Starscream and the Constructions.

“Die Autobots!” Megatron roared as he transformed into gun mode and was gripped by Starscream. He was aimed at Brawn, but Velocity managed to push him out of the way at the last minute.

“Thanks, Velocity,” Brawn said. “He almost got me in the shoulder.”

Scavenger was about to hit Prowl right in the chest when Strongarm fired upon him.

“Darn, I almost had him!” Scavenger cursed.

Chromia and Firestar joined them and the eight Autobots fired together on the Decepticons. Windblade flew by, giving them covering fire.

Megatron transformed again, frustrated. “Curse those female Autobots. Such heroic nonsense,” he complained. Starscream transformed and flew after Windblade.

“We need to use our full strength, great Emperor” Dr. Mindbender said flying in a Flight Pod.

“Yes, doctor, I quite agree,” Serpantor concurred, then turned to his comlink.

“Megatron, tell your best warriors to attack!”

Megatron agreed. “Constructicons, merge for the kill!”

The Constructions merged into Devastator “Prepare for extermination!” He bellowed as Scorpulator, his assistant, transformed into a weapon for Devastator.

“More, more!” Megatron ordered. “Stunticons, Combaticons, Predacons, Terrorcons, Seacons do the same!”

Soon Menasor, Bruticus, Predaking and Pirahnacon joined Devastator

“Uh oh guys we gotta level up” Silverbot said as the Aeraibots were dogfighting the Rainmakers. They disengaged to form Superion

“Hey come back flyboys” Acid Storm said

The Protectobots and Technobots joined them and together Superion, Defensor and Computron confronted the other Combiners

Slipstream flew by the Terrorcons. “All right you freaks, Megatron wants Abominus on the battlefield” She sniped

The Terrorcons did so and became Abominus who went to join the other combiners

“Hey you said you’d free us!” Clash yelled

“Other Terrorcons like Misfits, Abominus can take or leave you.” Abominus said with a shrug.

The six combiners were in a row and marching to the Autobots and Joes

“Uh oh I don’t like the looks of that” Duke said

“Why don’t we make things worse” Airachnid said then turned to Dr. Arkeville “Are the clones ready?”

“Yes, as are the Fusion drones” Dr. Arkeville said then pushed a panel. Waves of Insecticon clones flew in the battlefield with Fusion drones and BATs on the ground

“You didn’t think it’d be easy did you?” Scarlett said firing her crossbow

Chapter Six

“All right Autobots, Megatron is pushing us, so we push back!” Optimus Prime said as he fired at the Insecticon clones

“You heard him Joes, let’s squash those bugs!” Duke said as a Mauler took down another clone

“Sounds like a dirty job, perfect for the Monsterbots” Repugnus said as he started slashing at the clones

“Dinobots crush clones! Dinobots attack!” Grimlock said as his firebreath melted a pair

“Monsterbots, go left, Dinobots go right!” Ultra Magnus ordered.

“Why Dinobots have to go that way?” Slag whined.

“Slag, I thought you’d want to crush the most clones and the most are to the right,” Elita-1 said using reverse psychology

“Oh that different! Me Slag go right!” Slag said firing his flames at the clones

“Give it up Prime you can’t win!” Megaton said bringing out his energon mace

“Never Megatron!” Optimus said doing the same with his energon axe.

Nightbird was battling Lancer and Greenlight and easily handling them. She unsheathed her katana and sliced Lancer’s lance in half

“You’re next Autobots” Nightbird vowed

“Nightbird!” Arcee shouted, taking out a pair of small swords. “En garde”

Nightbird smiled and went straight to Arcee and the two began a swordfight

All around the world, people were watching the action unfurl. They saw the Autobots and Joes work together to battle Cobra and the Decepticons.

The Aerialbots transformed into Superion and joined Defensor and Computron against the six combiners

‘Datum, Decepticons outnumber two to one’ Computron said “Conclusion...”

“Conclusion, Bruticus destroy you!” Bruticus said to the laughter of the combiners.

“Sky Lynx, Omega we need your help!” Defensor called.

“Apologies comrades but these Cobra ships are star worthy.” Sky Lynx said as he battled the squadron of Stiletos.

“Omega Supreme also unfortunately occupied” Omega Supreme added as Tidal Wave rammed him

“Tidal Wave crush Omega!” Tidal Wave vowed.

Superion was undaunted and ran to the combiners. In his palace, Prince Jumal was worried for his friends the Aerialbots

“Be careful my friends I want you to return for a visit” Jumal said watching Superion tackle Abominus

Powerglide was leading Conquests against Dirge, Thrust, Ramjet, Blast and a squad of Night Ravens.

“You Decepticreeps can’t outfly old Powerglide” Powerglide boasted

“We’ll make scrap out of you yet Autobot!” Blast vowed. Blast was so focused on Powerglide that he missed Sureshot, Crosshairs and Pointblank fire on Dirge, Thrust and Ramjet

“Ha we got ‘em three for three” Sureshot boasted

“Way to go Powerglide, you took care of those turkeys!” Astoria yelled

“Is Lifeline OK?” Bree inquired. She wasn’t the only one asking about him

At his home, Rev. Steen was pacing around as his daughter Stephanie and son-in-law Peter watched the footage

“I can’t watch this senseless violence” Rev. Steen said

“Dad I understand but this is important” Stephanie said to him

Suddenly on the screen they heard a voice say “Lifeline is in danger”

“What!” Rev. Steen said with panic in his voice. To his relief the Lifeline was the Autobot who was being cornered by Pounce and Wingspan. Luckily she was saved by Fastlane and Cloudraker

“We’ll take of these creeps Lifeline!” Fastlane promised

“Yeah they’re right up our alley” Cloudraker said

Lifeline was flown to safety by Sandstorm. Rev. Steen was relieved to see his son unharmed and helping the Joes and Autobots. He then saw Firefly about to fire his flamethrower on Hauler and Wheeljack and Lifeline was unsure what to do.

“Fight son, fight for your life. This is life or death!” Rev. Steen shouted, shocking not only his daughter and son-in-law but himself as well “Err...pardon me” He said abashed

Lifeline was uncertain what action to take. Luckily, he didn’t have to make a violent one as Barbeque riding Inferno along with Blowtorch doused Firefly with a wave of foam,

“Way to go Barbeque you snuffed out that firebug” Inferno said

“I’ve taken on bigger flames” Barbeque said as he was being cheered by his old firehouse in Boston

Col. Llewellyn was on the phone with Col. Sharpe while his wife Mildred watched the battle.

“Sharpe, we have to get our bombers there as soon as possible,” Col. Llewellyn said. He suddenly heard his wife scream.

“Oh my God it’s Rory!” Mildred yelled. To Col. Llewellyn’s shock his son Riot (Rory) was bravely fighting a group of Vipers and Cobra Soldiers, even saving Beachhead from an attack

“Well do you still think he’s a sissy?” Mildred asked her husband harshly

Col. Llelwyn was unable to answer. “Answer your wife colonel!” Col. Sharpe said equally harshly

“No, I guess I don’t,” Col. Lleweyn said humbled

Everywhere the family members of the Joes were rooting for them,

Thunder’s family saw him and Warpath take on Blitzwing and HISS Tanks.

“POW! ZAP! Let’s turn those tanks into scrap! Warpath shouted

“Never going to happen, Warpath!” Blitzwing boasted as Thunder blasted one of the HISS tanks

“You sure about that buddy!” Thunder said as the HISS Drivers ran to safety

Flamewar saw Huffer and tossed Scales at him again

“Hey Autobot, guess who’s back?” Flamewar laughed

“Oh no not again” Huffer said

“Don’t worry pal, I got ya” Gung-ho said tackling Scales “I’ve been wrestling gators since I was a kid”

Back in Fer-de-Lance, the LaFitte clan was cheering Gung-ho on as he wrestled Scales

“Hey Ettienne way to humble that gator” One of his cousins said then turned to a large gator in the swamp. “You taught him well Little Sh-Shu” Little Shu-Shu responded with a growl.

Flame ran to Scales defense. “Scales! Why you lousy human, did you hurt him?”

“Relax, lady, your gator’s fine,” Gung-ho said punching out a Crimson Guard “And just so way know, Scales is a she”

“Huh ok then” Flamewar said transforming and taking her and Scales away

Quick Kick’s family were watching the battle from their corner store. With them were Mrs. Jackson, a regular customer, and Amber, Quick Kick’s girlfriend.

“Oh dear, does anyone see Mac?” Mrs Ito said worriedly

“Look there he is, way to go Quick Kick” Amber said cheering her man as Quick Kick was taking down numerous Vipers and shooting down a FANG from the cannon of a HAVOC.

“Look Mr. Ito aren’t those the Autobots that stopped that robbery” Mrs. Jackson said as Blaster and Steeljaw fired on Thundercracker and Skullcruncher.

“Oh yes it is” Mr. Ito said “I’m glad Mac has such good friends”

In a diner the owner and waitress were watching with interest. Slipstream led the Conquests and took down one Night Raven and aimed at another

“That’s the flyboy who you met in the air right?” the proprietor BA LeCarre asked.

“Slipstream’s one ace of a pilot” Raven said with a giggle “Too bad he has the name of a lady Decepticon”

“How’s my pal Roadblock doing?” LeCarre asked. He was relieved to see him knock two Vipers out. Hardhead noticed what he did and did the same to Runamuck and Runabout

“Nice move” Hardhead said to Roadblock who gave a thumbs up back

“Yeah nice move to do, not feel” Runamuck said rubbing his head

In Thailand, the former Dust Children were cheering Leatherneck as he fired at a Stun from atop a HAVOC. When the Motor-Vipers tried to rush him, Pipes rushed in and drove him out.

“Thanks for the ride” Leatherneck said

“No problem we’re on the same side right” Pipes said

“Go Leatherneck! Way to go sir!” Mei-lee shouted

“Remember don’t call him sir he works for a living” Their caretaker Mr. Neun reminded her

Tracks and Lowlight were working together to take down several BATs. Tracks fired his black beam gun and Lowlight blasted them with the cannon of a VAMP

“My compliments you hit everyone of those drones” Tracks said

“Believe me Tracks I’m used to the darkness” Lowlight said as he fired at the last BAT.

In New York, Raoul was cheering Tracks along with Poplock and Rocksteady

“Way to go Tracks, you’re taking those clowns down with style” Raoul shouted

Lowlight had his supporters in his sister Una and her roommate Satin

“Your brother is knocking them dead, but how’s Shipwreck doing?” Satin asked She got her answer as she saw him strafe a BUGG in his SHARC

Patrick O’Hara and his three sons were cheering for Scarlett and saw her and Snake Eyes take down a large number of Vipers and Cobra Soldiers.

“They make a good couple, don't they dad?” Scarlett’s brother Brian said to Patrick

”Aye son, but we have to let Shannon make her decision. It’s her life” Patrick said

Just then Frenzy and Rumble went to attack them but Rewind and Eject came in at the nick of time as they blasted away at the two to scare them off.

“Thanks boys” Scarlett said as Snake Eyes gave a thumbs up.

“It’s our pleasure” Eject said “We love any opportunity to humble Rumble!”

The battle was being aired not only on Earth but throughout the universe

On Tlalakan, Alana watched with annoyance as Scylla again was harassing Seaspray. Seeing Seaspray again reject her advances and for her made Alana love him even more.

On Monacus the crowds were now taking bets on who would win. At one tavern a trio were watching intensely

“I should be there helping the Autobots” Devcon said ruefully. His partner Slizardo babbled to him

“Slizardo’s right” Bosch said “We’ll never make it in time.” They then saw Smokescreen use his smoke to trick Triggerhappy and rescue Red Alert from an attack “Besides our friends are doing pretty good”

The Titans were watching as Jazz and Perceptor teamed against Astrotrain and on Junkion, the Junkions saw Fortress Maximus battle Trypticon and Metroplex try to evade Nemesis

Maximus was doing well with Trypticon only for Octane, Full-Tilt and Brunt to fire at his side

“Hey now that’s cheating” Fortress Maximus said

“You got a problem with that?” Octane quipped as he was fired upon by Six-Gun, Scamper and Slammer

“As a matter of fact we do” Scamper said

“C’mon buckaroos, let's finish this roundup!” Six-gun said

“We have the unstoppable force vs. the immovable object” Wreck-gar commentated ala Howard Cowsell “Not to mention the battle of the sexes”

Hector Ramirez was watching and making sure to record all the footage.

“This is going to get me a Pulitzer” Hector said as he saw Fortress Maximus grapple with Trypticon “Maybe even a Nobel Prize!”

Hector wasn’t the only one with ideas of grandeur. Director George Landisburg and his cousin Alan were taking notes for a script

“Look at those two! We gotta make a movie from this battle!” George said

“I’ll ask my pal Moist about him!” Alan said and then saw Sixshot and Drift continuing their sword fight “Now that’s what I call action”

Sixshot and Drift were fighting fiercely. It had not been their first battle

“You have some nerve wearing that insignia,” Sixshot said to Drift. With that comment the both of them went back millions of years ago.

During that time, Cybertron was in its second Civil War. The Decepticons were led by merciless warlords. Synergy was with Megatron, then an ally of the Autobots.

“Megatron I beg you please reconsider these upgrades” Synergy said

“Synergy I appreciate your concern but this must be done” Megatron said reassuringly “The Warlords will not stop. As much as I hate to say it, they will only respond to force”

“Well then please let me oversee it” Synergy asked, Megatron considered it until Alpha Trion and Beta ran in with a critically injured Autobot

“Synergy thank Primus you’re here. This Autobot needs a spark jumpstart” Beta said

“Oh my” Synergy said running to the Autobot “What’s your name dear?”

“Ugh...Greatshot” the young Autobot said “Please help me”

“It was that rogue Deadlock” Alpha Trion said “We have to help him immediately”

Synergy looked at him, then Megatron who smiled back. “Do not worry Synergy, the Constructions will oversee my upgrade. Help this poor bot”

With no other time, Synergy hooked up to Greatshot and gave him a sparkjump making him bigger and stronger

Back in the present, Drift and Sixshot continued their battle. “I’ve made amends for my actions. But you’ve wasted the gift the Synergy gave you”

“I learned a lesson you forgot” Sixshot said ”That only those with power can be free”

Synergy saw their battle and shook her head sadly. She turned to Soundwave

“Soundwave this madness has gone on long enough. Please help me end this” Synergy pleaded

Soundwave paused for a moment then said solemnly “Megatron is Decepticon leader and must be obeyed”

The solemnity was broken up by the Dinobots! They managed to scrap all the Insecticon clones they came across and saw they could free Synergy!

“Dinobots save you Synergy!” Grimlock said with a fireball

“Laserbeak, Ravage, Ratbat attack!” Soundwave said firing on the Dinobots to no avail. They were too heavily armored to do damage

Rumble and Frenzy arrived and transformed their piledrivers

“You Dino dweebs are gonna stumble, because you’re going to face Frenzy and Rumble!” Rumble shouted, firing up his piledrivers. Sludge responded by stomping heavily. Frenzy and Rumble’s piledrivers fell off

“Oh no not again! I hate when they do that!” Rumble said as he and Frenzy hurried to reassemble their arms back on

Swoop divebombed on Laserbeak and Buzzsaw and Snarl’s solar spikes fried Ravage and Ratbat. With Soundwave’s forces incapacitated, Tyrannitron snuck in and gnawed Synergy’s stasis cuffs. Grimlock then carried Synergy to safety

“My heroes” Synergy said kissing the Dinobots on their foreheads

“Aww...me Grimlock just happy to free you” Grimlock said blushing

“You boys are very brave” Synergy said looking around “Have you heard of the Enigma of Combination?”

The Dinobots looked confused until Swoop remembered “Oh yes me Swoop heard Kup tell story. It old legend“

Synergy smiled and removed a strange object bewildering the Dinobots

Defensor, Computron and Superion were holding their own but were overwhelmed. Defensor used his force field when Devastator fired acid from Scorpulator

“I can’t keep the force field up for long” Defensor said

“Can’t give up!” Superion said firing

“Then we came in the nick of time!” It was the Trainbots, Minerva, Ricochet, Artfire and Twincast departed him, allowing them to transform to Raiden

“Thank the Matrix you came!” Optimus Prime said to them

“Sorry I didn’t help out before Prime, but I was aiding the people in Tokyo”

Twincast said as Stripes, Rosanna and Stinger came out “But we’re ready to rumble aren’t we?”

“And we brought a friend,” Minerva said as Elise Presser waved, holding a metal case.

“We don’t need another civilian here,” Duke said, seeing Elise.

“Don’t worry I brought a secret weapon” Elise said “Hey is that Jem and the Holograms?”

“Uh Elise focus on the mission” Rosanna said

“Oh yeah, come out Kremmy” Elise said, opening her case. Kremmy was Kremzeek!

“Kremzeek! Kremzeek!” Kremzeek babbled

“What is that thing?” Dr. Mindbender said amazed

“The Decepticons created that electric gremlin” Dr. Arkeville said remembering the chaos caused by Kremzeek

“We managed to tame Kremzeek and he wants to make up for his past naughtiness” Minerva explained

“Nice try Prime!” Megatron said “But I took the precaution of making all Decepticons immune to Kremzeek! And I do mean all” Megatron said, pointing to Nemesis who was cuddling an embarrassed Metroplex.

“Then it’s a good thing I had other plans for him” Optimus said. Kremzeek then went to each of the Fusion drones. Soon they were glowing and going berserk and attacking Cobra and the Decepticons

One of them fired near Maj. Bludd causing him to crash his CLAWS. “Blimey they went rogue on us” Major Bludd shouted

A squad of them fired at the Storm Sisters and a trio of Rattlers

“Those stupid drones, I ought to give them an acid shower” Ion Storm said

“Way to go Swerve your analysis was dead on” Tailgate said

“Thanks, it just goes to show what a little research can do” Swerve said as an errant shot missed Shadow Striker by a mile wide

“Still it wouldn’t hurt to do some more target practice” Gears said as Swerve smiled

“Arkeville, Mindbender control those things!” Serpenter ordered

“We’re trying Serpenter” Mindbender said as he, Dr. Arkeville, Scrap Iron, Tech Rat and the Techno Vipers scrambled

“It’s no good, we lost all control of the drones” Techrat said

Another Fusion inadvertently helped the Throttlebots against the Duocons.

“Never give a gift drone in the mouth” Rollbar quipped

“All right that’s it no more mister nice Horrocon” Snapdragon said as he and Apeface crushed a pair into scrap.

“Just destroy the blasted things!” Zartan yelled “They’re more harm than good”. Just then Zaranna blasted another one into pieces

“You’re welcome,” Zaranna said sarcastically. The Fusion fired at her Swampfire forcing Zaranna to land. When she got out, Zaranna found herself bumping into Mainframe. It was a long awkward pause among the chaos

“Hello Mainframe” Zaranna finally said

“Hello yourself” Mainframe said back

“Looks like you fellas could use a hand” Raiden said standing as he ran to the other combiners

“It doesn't matter. We still outnumber and overpower you!” Predaking said :

Suddenly the Dinobots arrived

“Dinobots stop Decepticons!” Grimlock shouted

“Not a chance! We have the upperhand!” Pirahnacon boasted

“Oh yeah! Dinobots transform!” Grimlock ordered and the Dinobots transformed into their robot mode

“Wait, why are they transforming into their more vulnerable robot mode?” Megatron inquired. His answer was not one he wanted to see

The Dinobots to the horror of Cobra and the Decepticons combined into a new warrior

“I, Volcanicus vow to defeat you rogues no matter the cost” Volcanicus said in a deep, intelligent voice

“Impossible the Dinobots have merged into a combiner!” Destro said in awe

“They can do that?” Baroness said “Why didn't we know?”

“I don’t think we’re the only ones” Destro said pointing to the equally shocked Joes and Autobots

“Optimus Prime, how long have you kept this secret?” Gen. Hawk asked. Optimus could only respond with a shocked shrug

“I didn’t think those big bozos had it in them” Hot Rod said in amazement

“I know ,lad, it looks like the work of...no can’t be” Kup said looking at Synergy. Did she have the Enigma of Combination?

Volcanicus joined the other Autobot combiners. It was now five to six but the odds were better.

“Chances of victory, gone from 25% to 65%,” Computron calculated

“I like those odds,” Raiden said

“Then let the battle be joined” Volcanicus said unsheathing a large blade

Chapter Seven

With the arrival of Volcanicus and Kremzeek the tide turned in favor of the Autbots and Joes.

Volcanicus was bigger, stronger and faster then the Decepticon combiners, even Predaking. With one slash of his sword, the Stunticons disembarked from Menasor

“Ow...my aching chassis,” Drag Strip whined

“Have those dino dodos been able to do that this entire time?” Breakdown worried

“Forget him, let’s hit the road and blast Autobots” Wildrider said

“Good idea, Stunticons split up!” Motormaster said as he fired on Ironhide and Chromia

Dead End was skulking around when he saw Zaranna and Mainframe and took out his pistol

“How nice to see the lovers together” Dead End said

“Slag off Dead End!” Zaranna shouted. “This is personal”

“True but I’m afraid it’s business now. We’ll need a hostage and you, my human friend, just volunteered.” Dead End said to Mainframe. With no other option he held his hands up.

Volcanicus then turned to Bruticus. He was must faster then Bruticus and slammed him to the ground forcing the Combaticons to disengage

Defensor saw the success of Volcanicus “Fair is fair” and disengaged into the Protectobots

“We’ll help the others where we’re needed” Hot Spot said to the combiners

“A good idea” Volcanicus turned to Superior “We can use air support as well”. Superior disengaged into the Aerialbots

“Are you sure you don’t need our help?” Silverbolt asked

Just then Sky Lynx arrived on the scene, several Star Vipers ran away from him when he landed along with several wrecked Stilettos

“Such ingratitude.” Sky Lynx said. “I could have left those bounders on the moon, but they promised to surrender.”

“Hey, we’re Cobra we lied” One of the Star Vipers said

“That’s OK Sky Lynx we need you now” Silverbolt said pointing to Devastator, Predaking, Abominus and Pirahanacon

“Ah my duties never end, but I shall humbly prevail” Sky Lynx said blasting at the combiners “Come comrades to victory!”

“Forget this guy” Swindle said

“I agree we should fight elsewhere” Onslaught said looking at a familiar face.
“Why look at who it is.”

The Combaticons surrounded Elise “Well, well if it isn’t our friend Miss Presser” Blast Off said tauntingly “What brings you here?”

“Uh oh” Elise said nervously

“Uh oh, is right!” Brawl said “You and your numbskull friends put my brain in your stupid BOT! And now it’s payback time!”

Elise was about to be crowded until a flash of lightning came to her defense. It was Kremzeek

“Kremzeek, Kremzeek!” Kremzeek screeched

“Careful guys, that thing’s all over!” Vortex said

Elise was able to get to safety thanks to Rosanna, Stripes and Stinger

“Hurry Elise hitch a ride on Stripes” Rosanna said

“You bet and thank you Stripes” Elise said to Stripes who growled his thanks

During the battle Doc, Perceptor and Wheeljack saw Volcanicus in action dominating

“Incredible, he is fast, strong and intelligent” Doc said

“Yeah, he sounds like Grimlock when he got super smart, remember Perceptor?” Wheeljack said

“Yes, that was ... interesting” Perceptor said remembering his jealousy of Grimlock’s intelligence “However it was beneficial as it led to the Technobots joining our ranks.” At that moment Computron knocked around Abominus to the ground

“There goes our ride,” Eric said sarcastically at the sight. Stormer then saw Jem and the Holograms.

“Kimber! Kimber! Please help us!” she pleaded.

Kimber immediately ran to their energon cage. Jem, Aja, Shana and Raya followed her.

“Kimber, are you crazy running in this chaos!” Jem shouted

“Si, you could get killed,” Raya added.

“So could we, just get us out now!” Pizzazz shouted.

Jem saw the desperate situation they were in and although she disliked the Misfits they didn’t deserve such a fate.

“Ok just hold on we’ll free you,” Jem said suddenly she was fired upon. It was Tomax and Xamot each in Flight Pods

“On the contrary.” Tomax said

“It is you will be caged” Xamot added

“Caged like songbirds” they said in unison

“Those are the geeks from Extensive Enterprises” Roxy yelled

“You told us to go to GI Joe base,” Stormer said in anger “You got us captured.”

“Guilty as charged” Tomax said as Zipper on a Ferret and Reflector joined him as backup

“But now we have a better bargaining chip” Xamot added

“Move into the cage slavers of Synergy” Reflector said in triplicate

“Slavers of what?” Eric asked. It looked bad for the Holograms

Megatron was leading the battle when Soundwave contacted

“Attention Megatron, Synergy has been freed!” Soundwave said

“Curses!” Megatron said “It doesn’t matter, we still have her synthesizer. But where is she?”

Megatron looked around and saw her reunited with the Autobots. Chromia ran to Synergy and embraced her sister even after shooting down Darkwing. Synergy met with Optimus Prime, Elita-1, Ultra Magnus, Duke, Flint and Gen. Hawk”

“It’s bad isn’t it?” Synergy said looking at the massive battle

“Heh, we've been through worse” Duke said as Fortress Maximus now threw Trypticon by the tail “Mostly”

“If only there was a way to end the chaos instantly” Gen. Hawk said

“We may have the very tool to do that!” Synergy said pointing to Optimus Prime’s chest

“Synergy what do you...:” Optimus said until he realized she meant “You mean the Matrix?”

“The what?” Flint asked.

“The Autobot Matrix of Leadership” Ultra Magnus explained “It’s our most powerful talisman”

“Synergy, how can it help you?” Elita-1 asked

“A secret Alpha Trion swore to me long, long ago” Synergy said

“That’s all I need to hear” Optimus said as he took the Matrix from his chest “May the Matrix aid you in this our darkest hour”

Megatron saw all of this in awe “The Matrix of course” He then turned to Serpantor of the goings on and he did the same to the Decepticons. Above all else take the Matrix!

Just as Optimus was about to hand it a blast knocked it from his hands. Zartan was atop the Thunder Machine!

“Good shot Zartan” Thrasher said

“Naturally” Zartan said “Anyone going to grab that thing?”

Ravage ran to the Matrix and took it in his jaw

“The Matrix! Someone stop Ravage!” Elita-1 shouted

Hot Rod made the save after giving Ravage a swift kick, Before he could take possession an immense blast created a massive crater. Nemesis fired her weaponry

“Sorry dear, but duty calls” Nemesis said as she transformed and flew to the crater

“Wait, uh, let's cuddle some more” Metroplex said unconvincingly. Still it did give Nemesis pause

“Ugh...do I have to do everything?” Slipstream said flying towards Nemesis

At the same time Starscream was in a dogfight with Windblade

“Foolish Autobot you’ll never win!” Starscream said firing at her

“Starscream, why must we be enemies?” Windblade asked.

“You truly are naïve!” Starscream said. Windblade had been from the colony planet Caminus and they had been free from the conflict for millions of years

Starscream and Windblade flew around the Statue of Liberty. Sunstorm flew to them

“Never fear brother, I shall help you!” Sunstorm said transforming and glowing to get ready to use his solar flare

At the same time Kremzeek flew by among the three of them

“Watch out!” Windblade said “That creature looks dangerous!”

“Ha don’t try to trick me, Autobot!” Starscream taunted until he saw Kremzeek crash into Sunstorm “Wait Sunstorm!”

The combination of the solar flare and electric charge of Kremzeek caused a massive explosion. It destroyed the camera that was airing the battle around the world

“I say we lost the program how dreadful” Lord Chumley said

“Oh my yes” Gamesmaster said “I wanted to see more of that lady Autobot who becomes a plane. She’s pretty”

Raptor and Croc Master were still able to view the battle

“Whew what a battle” Raptor said as he fed scraps of meat to Peregrine

“I know I wish we were there” Croc Master said feeding one of his gators

Big Boa let out another loud snore as she and Lisa were still asleep

“I guess that makes it unanimous” Raptor said as he and Croc Master laughed at Big Boa

Starscream rushed to Sunstorm’s side “Sunstorm, Sunstorm speak to me!”

Sunstorm was alive but barely. His circuits were nearly fried and his spark was damaged

“Brother, help me” Sunstorm pleaded

Starscream was a talented as a medic but here he was helpless

“Let me help him” Windblade said looking at his systems

“Don’t make me laugh, no Autobot would help a Decepticon,” Starscream said panicking

“I’m not you,” Windblade insisted.

“Neither am I.” It was Synergy she ran to the explosion

“Synergy you have to help him!” Starscream pleaded. Then, very uncharacteristically, solemnly “Please”

Just then Slipstream flew to Sunstorm’s side pushing Starscream and Windblade aside. Her face too plead for help

Synergy could not let a life expire when she could help and that included a Decepticon. Just as she did with Greenlight, she took out cables and linked them to Sunstorm. Pure energy restored Sunstorm’s spark. He was fully repaired

“Brother, I am healed,” Sunstorm said, amazed. Although his solar flare would not ignite.

“It will take some time for your solar flare to be operational,” Synergy said, smiling despite herself

“I must do my duty as a Decepticon.” Sunstorm said. “Still I thank you for your deed. Primus be with you” Sunstorm then transformed and flew away.

“Hmph...I guess I owe you thanks too,” Starscream said in embarrassment.

“Yes it’s good for my...comrade to be healed,” Slipstream said, regaining her composure

“I wouldn’t have gotten here if it wasn’t for her,” Synergy said, pointing to Windblade.

“Like I said, naïve Autobot” Starscream said with a smirk and flew away. Slipstream flew away too, failing to hide her relief.

Minerva, Chromia and Ironhide drove to Synergy and Windblade

“Leakin lubricants, are you ladies all right?” Ironhide asked.

“We’re fine Ironhide, honest” Windblade promised

Elise came out of Minerva. “C’mon, Kremy, why don’t you head back in?” Kremzeek then went back inside the case to safety.

Chromia smiled seeing her sister safe, but Synergy had a serious look on hers. She had had enough.

“Where’s the Matrix?” She asked

At the time the Matrix was on the edge of the crevice. Hot Rod almost had it but Nightbird ended her duel with Arcee to fire a blast at Hot Rod. He fell off the cliff with the Matrix.

“Farewell Autobot!” Nightbird boasted as she transformed and joined Megatron at his side.

“Well done my dear” Megatron said :”It’s all over Prime! Without the Matrix you’re nothing!”

Just then the crevice glowed, Hot Rod had caught it! Synergy, Kup and Optimus Prime ran to him

“Well done Hot Rod!” Optimus said

“You really came through lad!” Kup said lauding him

For a moment Synergy saw Hot Rod in a more powerful form (Rodimus Prime). He was clearly meant for greatness

“This belongs to you I believe,” Hot Rod said, giving Optimus the Matrix. But Optimus handed to to Synergy

“Thank you, Optimus, before I use it I think I should do something else.” Synergy said as both she and the Matrix glowed. The other Autobots were amazed by what they saw.

Dead End still had Mainframe covered. He looked to Zaranna.

“Dead End, we don’t need Mainframe as a hostage,” she pleaded.

“I’m sorry Zaranna but that isn’t so,” Dead End said firmly but politely. He then turned to Mainframe. “Now I’m going to transform and you’re going to go inside my back seat.”

Just then Blast Off ran by.

“Dead End, forget the human! Megatron wants all Decepticons to focus on Optimus. Let your friend handle him.” Blast Off said

Dead End and Zaranna looked at each other and then at Mainframe

“Well it appears you’re the luckiest human in the world” Dead End said as he transformed and drove away

Mainframe and Zaranna were once again alone. He leaned in and kissed her

“I gotta go” Mainframe said

“Yeah I know, take care of yourself, Mainframe” Zaranna said and watched Mainframe join the Joes. Zartan and Zandar joined her

“You’re an old softy sister” Zandar said

“Ah shut yer maw,” Zaranna grumbled. “You’re always talking so much”

The chaos also helped the Holograms. Zipper was annoyed when someone poked him in the back.

“What’s your problem, buddy?” Zipper asked only to get a punch from Sparkplug.

“No problem, sonny,” Sparkplug said as Rio and Riot joined them.

“C’mon Riot let’s take these clowns down.” Rio said punching Tomax

“Sounds good to me” Riot said punching Xamot

“Ugh brother we must retreat,” Tomax said as he, Xamot and Zipper escaped

“Just try to do that to us humans” Reflector said as Silverbot and Road Rage came in and blasted Reflector away

“Thanks for the help” Jem said to her protectors

“No problem, it’s good for couples to do things together,” Road Rage said with a laugh.

Silverbolt and Road Rage joined the other Autobots and Sparkplug, Riot and Rio had to keep fighting too. Aja went back to freeing the Misfits

“C’mon. c’mon hurry up already,” Pizzazz whined.

“You know we could leave you here,” Shana said. That shut Pizzazz up. Aja managed to open the energon cage and Eric and the Misfits ran out. Only Stormer gave thanks.

By this time the Dreadnoks had regrouped

“Blast now those chippies made a break” Buzzer said

“Should we recapture them” Heartwrencher asked

“Nah, forget it, let’s focus on the Joes” Zartan said turning to Monkeywrench

“Think of it as old time’s sake”

“Now who’s the softy,” Zaranna snarked as the Dreadnoks returned to the battle but Zanya saw something that caught her attention.

Jem and the Holograms tried to run back to their safe area only for a ring of fire to encircle them. The cause of the fire was Shockwave!

Before Shockwave had been battling Cerebros. He was outpowered but Cerebros put up a brave fight.

“You’ll never get a chance to corrupt Synergy to your twisted goals,” Cerebros insisted.

“You’re an ignorant fool Cerebros!” Shockwave tossed him aside. “If you only knew the truth. She…”

Shockwave froze in his tracks when he noticed Jem and the Holograms. The sight of them stirred an intense rage and hatred.

Ignoring Cerebros, Shockwave transformed into his gun mode and fired a blast at the ground next to them, forming a ring of fire around them.

“You!” Shockwave bellowed with a never before heard rage in his voice. “You are the slavers of Synergy!”

“What, no, it’s not true,” Jem insisted, shocked.

“Spare me! I know the truth. Your father found her and turned her into a tool for you. For what? Fame! Wealth!” Shockwave’s eye turned a malevolent red. “I only regret that he is not here to share your fate!”

“No, you don’t understand! Our father thought she was a computer, not an Autobot,” Kimber pleaded.

“Don’t insult my intelligence!” Shockwave yelled “No human could ever create something with her grace, beauty and intelligence” He then turned to Aja, Raya and Shana “It is your bad luck to share the fate of these two”

Rio saw Jem was in trouble and tried to run to Jem only to be held back by Sparkplug.

“No son, don’t do it. You can’t get through the flames” Sparkplug said

“Jem!” Rio shouted

Stormer saw they were in trouble and tried to get them to safety only to be pulled back by Eric

“Forget it, they’re done for. We have to look out for ourselves” Eric said as Roxy and Clash pulled Stormer away.

Baroness also saw Shockwave as he powered up his arm cannon ”Well Megatron it appears that your lieutenant is going to be the first Decepticon to take a human life”

“Unfortunately for them, Shockwave must have his vengeance” Megatron noted

Suddenly a flash of light came on the battlefield. It was Optimus Prime!(In his Powermaster body)

“Is it my imagination or does Optimus look bigger?” Chip said

“It’s not just you Chip,” Bumblebee said in awe.Optimus was much taller and larger with twin cannons on each side

“Megatron, your madness ends now!” Optimus boomed.

“Never! Decepticons attack!” Megatron ordered. Soon every Decepticon focused on Optimus

Optimus transformed into his truck mode that was also bigger. Roller departed from him and hurried the Matrix to Synergy

Optimus first rammed directly into Predaking forcing the Predacons to disengage

He then barreled over Mindwipe, Dreadwind and Brawl. The assembled Decepticons focused together to gang up on Optimus, but when he transformed he blew them away.

Devastator and Pirahnacon also disengaged. Scorpulator fired a stream of acid but Optimus’ glare scared him away. The Seacons and Constructicons tried to dogpile Optimus but he tossed the entire dozen and they all flew around.

Optimus was firing on the Decepticons blasting at them all. Even Tidal Wave was no threat, Optimus caught his punch and threw him on a group of Decepticons. In the end the only Decepticons able to fight were Megatron, Shockwave, Sixshot, Trypticon and Nemesis

“Ugh anybody got the license of that truck?” Flamewar said staggering

“You’re next Megatron” Optimus Prime said staring at Megatron

“You’ll have to go through us Prime!” Nightbird said as she and Sixshot teamed up against Optimus

“Whoa what was that?” Kimber asked

“Inconsequential! Your fate is sealed!” Shockwave said as his cannon was at full power. The only one close to him and the Holograms was Storm Shadow. For once he was at a loss. He didn’t care about them, yet someone he cared about did.

Unbeknownst to all, Ba Nee and Marissa were still watching the battle. Ba Nee was afraid for Jem. But her father came to their defense

“Wait!” Storm Shadow shouted

Shockwave turned his head “What? If you’re worried about any consequences they will be mine. Now move!”

“But think of how Synergy will react?!” Storm Shadow shouted

At this Shockwave stopped. He pondered and then his cannon powered down. His eye went from red to yellow. Storm Shadow was right, chances are she did care about these flesh creatures

Shockwave turned to both Storm Shadow and then the Holograms. He spoke to Jem “Thank this human. He saved your worthless lives. Bah my leader needs me” Shockwave then flew away in disdain

The Holograms were saved and grateful. Jem looked at Storm Shadow, silently asking why he intervened.

“I didn’t do it for you, you know who I did it for” He said turning away

“Who’s that ninja?” Danny asked. He looked like Cobra but he did a heroic deed

“That’s my dad” Ba Nee said with love and pride

Optimus was now overpowering Nightbird and Sixshot

“Heh me and my big mouth about wanting a challenge” Sixshot griped. Suddenly a blast from Shockwave in gun mode hit Optimus causing him to revert to his regular form

“So much for your upgrade Prime” Megatron taunted “It’s over”

But then another glowing light came. It was Synergy empowered by the Matrix

“Enough, enough!” She yelled silencing the battlefield

“It’s never enough, until victory,” Cobra Commander shouted from his Pogo. Synergy’s angry glare quickly cowed him.

“All these years I managed to live in peace,” Synergy said glowing further. “I had hoped the war on my home planet had ended but I was sadly wrong.”

“War and conquest are a part of life,” Serpantor said. “You cannot change that.”

Synergy looked to Chromia to make sure Jem and the Holograms were safely behind a barrier Sparkplug, Spike, Chip and Carly were

Destro then noticed the Joes were going behind that barrier as well

“Something’s wrong; the Joes are retreating,” Destro observed.

Synergy then unleashed an energy ring. The Autobots and Decepticons were unaffected but Cobra, Rio, the Stingers and Misfits were caught in it.

“Your gesture was futile, my dear,” Megatron boasted. “Today the Autobots and GI Joe will be defeated.”

“Who is that Autobot you’re talking to?” Serpantor asked

“What?” Megatron said in shock “You don’t remember?”

“I remember we were going to invade Washington but the Autobot used the MASS Device on us” Serpantor said rubbing his head

“Was she the Autobot who created the energon synthesizer?” Destro asked.

“Don’t you remember what happened?” Starscream asked Cobra Commander

“I know we were going to defeat the Autobots and Joes. But who are those weirdos?” Commander said pointing to the Misfits

“Where the heck are we?” Pizzazz said

“I think Cobra kidnapped us” Eric said struggling

“Well of course, we’re superstars” Pizzazz said

“The Synthesizer, where is it?” Megatron asked. He saw it but it was destroyed by Hot Rod

“Looks like you’re out of gas” Hot Rod quipped .

“You impudent Autobot, I'll have your head!” Megatron shouted

“You’ll have to go through us Megatron!” Optimus said as all the Autobots and Joes came together. Their forces were too strong and the Decepticons and Cobra were too broken

“Curse you Prime!” Megatron shouted “Decepticons retreat!” With that the Decepticons hurried back to Trypticon. Scavenger was carrying Kickback while Long Haul was carrying Airachnid

“You better be injured” Long Haul grumbled

“Oh I am” Airachnid said unconvincingly. Flamewar jumped on along with Scales for a ride

Nemesis transformed too not before planting a kiss on Metroplex. Megatron looked back only to double take when Slipstream carried Sunstorm inside

“I’m simply helping a fellow Decepticon in peril” Slipstream claimed, Megatron was in no mood to discuss the matter

“Shockwave we must depart!” Megatron commanded

Shockwave looked at Synergy then the Holograms

“I was without you for four million years. I can wait the lifespan of a few meager humans” Shockwave said giving Synergy a quick embrace then headed back

“Another time Prime!” Megatron said

“Another time Megatron!” Optimus said back

Cobra too took the opportunity to retreat in their Transport Plane. Dr. Mindbender was doing a headcount

“Wait, where's Zanya?!” Zartan said in a panic

“I’m right here dad!’ Zanya said riding on a Buzz Boar to his relief

“Commander wait Storm Shadow is not here” Destro said

“Unfortunately we have to depart!” Cobra Commander said “We’ll free him if he’s imprisoned”

With Cobra and the Decepticons gone, GI Joe and the Autobots had an assessment. The first thing they did was use their MASS Device and put the Statue of Liberty back in place. Synergy explained she used the Matrix to be a power source so the humans affected by the wave would forget who she was and her functions

“Clever move and thanks for trusting us with your secret” Duke said

“But what about Megatron? He won’t stop trying to capture you” Jem said

“Actually, I think he will. He knows that took a lot of energy from me and I won’t be able to make another energon synthesizer or link with Vector Sigma” Synergy explained “If I’m not a threat I hope that he has a modicum of grace and allow me to be in peace”

“We can only hope” Ultra Magnus said “I had Sky Lynx take the Misfits and Stingers back to their homes. Fortunately Rio volunteered to chaperone them”

“And the best part is all those Snakes have no memory of what happened”
Shipwreck said to laughter

All of a sudden from the debris of a Fusion drone, Storm Shadow emerged. He had escaped the wave’s powers by hiding it.

“I know and you’ll have to kill me to not tell” Storm Shadow said with intensity
“Go ahead lock me up. I’ll escape but I will tell what I know. And Cobra will believe me, especially when the Decepticons confirm it. I will not betray Cobra”

“What about Ba Nee?” Synergy said innocently. At her name Storm Shadow was silent. All other loyalties were below that of his child. Optimus Prime then went to him

“Swear on your daughter that you will keep the secret” Optimus said intensely
.Storm Shadow looked at Jem then again at Synergy

“Very well. I swear on my daughter that I will keep the secrets to my grave” Storm Shadow said “But if they are shared independently I will not lie.”

“Fair enough” Gen. Hawk said “All right you can go”

Storm Shadow bowed in respect then turned to Jem “Miss Benton take care of Ba Nee and let her know she has a father who loves her”

“I will and thank you for saving us,” Jem said. Storm Shadow bowed again and flew off in his Flight Pod.

Chapter Eight

After cleaning up the mess at the battle, the Joes and Autobots returned to Autobot Headquarters. Ba Nee, Marissa and Gauge came back safe and sound, telling tales of talking ponies. Jem, Flint and Lady Jaye thought their girls were telling tall tales, but Optimus gave the girls a secret thumbs up to keep the secret of the Ponies.

“Yes, Mr. President, it’s probably best that the public be told the ships over Washington were holograms by Cobra and the Decepticons,” Optimus said. “Yes and the same with the Statue of Liberty. We will liaison with GI Joe and keep you updated. Thank you, Mr. President, goodbye!”

“I have a feeling Cobra and the Decepticons will keep a low profile for a while,” Ultra Magnus remarked to Gen. Hawk.

“I believe you’re right,” Hawk agreed. “But still this whole situation proves to me that the US can’t go it alone. We have to unite with the other nations of the world. Cobra, Decepticons, Inhumanoids, there are a lot of threats out there and we have to work together.”

“Do you mean we incorporate the Earth Corps with GI Joe?” Beachhead inquired.

“More than that,” said Gen. Hawk. “I think I’ll give Matt Trakker a call. He’s been working on something special.”

“I guess that means you can return home with us, right Synergy?” Jem said

“Yes it looks so. Although I shall merge my system to be in sync with Teletran-1” Synergy said, then turned to Chromia. “Well, sister, are you heading back to Cybertron?”

“Are you kidding?” Chromia shouted. “I haven’t seen you in four million years! I’m sticking around, you’re gonna be sick of my face.”

“Aww..Chromia that’s not possible,” Ironhide said with glee his love was staying on Earth

“Besides this place definitely needs a woman’s touch” Elita-1 said to laughs

”I’m glad to hear it.” Synergy then showed schematics of not only an energon synthesizer but for a Space Bridge!

“Our own space bridge!” Optimus Prime said. “With that we can turn the war to our tide.”

“I know just the Autobot for the job” Ultra Magnus said “And to make a synthesizer we’ll need rare metals to make one”

“You can count on us!” Fortress Maximus promised “We got an SOS from Metalhawk on the planet Nebulos. We’ll see what they have”

With that Fortress Maximus’s forces headed into space. Kup, Blurr and Hot Rod joined them as extra help

“I think it’s a neat idea!” Marissa said, holding hands with her parents. “All the world working together”

“We can talk about that in the morning young lady, it’s way past your bedtime”
Flint said

With that the Joes headed back to their base after saying their goodbyes to the
Autobots

“All right everyone, roll out!” Gen. Hawk cried.

“Yo Joe,” Optimus Prime said quietly.

Back at Decepticon Headquarters, Megatron was teleconferencing with Serpantor

“So you still have no memory of the Autobot Synergy?” Megatron asked

“No I’m afraid not. Croc Master and Raptor had no memory either” Serpantor said
as two female Vipers carried the still sleeping Big Boa and Lisa as Big Boa let out
another loud snore “And as you can see these two are of no help”

“Still I hope this does not mean you wish to end our alliance” Megatron said

“Certainly not, together we nearly defeated our enemies.. With the correct plan I am
positive we can do so again!” Serpantor said

“True and as much as it pains me, Cobra Commander and Starscream came up with
an interesting idea” Megatron said showing on the screen monstrous creatures
(Skullgrin, Submarauder and Bomburst)

“Yes using our Synthoids as shells resembling organic monsters for deception”
Serpantor said “When you have the Decepticons chosen let me know, Serpantor
out” Serpantor then ended the communication

“With this plan, great Serpenter GI Joe and the Autobots have no chance” Dr. Mindbender said “And as you ordered, I spoke with Miles Mayhem. His organization VENOM is ready to be a part of Cobra

“You can thank me for my brilliance later” Cobra Commander said bumping into Storm Shadow “Ah Storm Shadow I knew you’d escape. My apologies for leaving without you”

“No apologies are necessary Commander, I am now more focused on Cobra’s victory then ever” Storm Shadow said as he met with Destro and Baroness

“Storm Shadow my friend, Destro and I wanted to assure you we shall keep your secret with us” Baroness assured him

“Indeed, your child should be honored to have such a warrior as a father. Our own son has learned much from your training” Destro said

“I thank you both, if you don’t mind I have matters to attend to” Storm Shadow said making his goodbye. As he walked by the Dreadnoks once again arguing about mints, Zanya came by

“Storm Shadow, I can keep secrets too” Zanya promised

“You are a clever girl. I only hope my daughter is as independent as you” Storm Shadow said

At the same time, Megatron was conferring with the Decepticons

“Well this whole affair was a waste of time” Slipstream grouched

“Slipstream you surprise me” Megatron said taking Nightbird’s hand “Our alliance had more than a few benefits”

Nemesis was on Mars, carving a statue that resembled Metroplex “Once we have enough energon, we can fully power Nemesis and she can lead our armada to victory” Megatron said

Megatron was now teleconferencing several Decepticons on Cybertron. They included Strika, Deathasaurus, Overlord and Shockwave who returned via the Space Bridge

“As always Megatron we are at your service” Deathasaurus promised

“How nice of my old friend Fortress Maximus to better himself” Overlord mused “I must give him my greetings.”

“You may well have a chance for that. I received a message from Scorponok, he’s allied with the organic creatures on the planet Nebulos. They need help to quash a rebellion helped by Autobots led by Metalhawk” Megatron ordered

“Fascinating and Maximus does love helping lost causes” Overlord said to the strike team that accompanied Shockwave “What do you say boys, are you up for another visit to an organic planet?”

“Why not? Sounds like a fun time!” Sixshot said

“Blitzwing, my dear” Strika said to her consort “I too am glad Synergy lives. I am sure together we can convince her to join our side”

“Yes of course Strika, together we are unstoppable” Blitzwing said

Megatron then ended communication with them save Shockwave

“Megatron a query those who were changed by the Robosmasher. Do they retain their personality?” Shockwave asked

“Well Shockwave, to be honest no. They are never the same as they were before.” Megatron said

“As I suspected, nevermind it is of no matter, Shockwave out” Shockwave said then silently entered a room. They sound of a blast and scraps of metal followed
“Fistfight clean this debris”

A few months later much had changed. Autobot City was nearing completion. The Autobots' hard work had led to it ahead of schedule. Elita-1 made it her special project and many of the Autobots said it wouldn't have happened without her

And the Space Bridge was nearly ready thanks to Space Bridge engineer Bulkhead.

“Looking good Bulkhead” Ratchet said

“Thanks I'm just happy to do my part” The immense yet humble Bulkhead said

“A bit garish isn't it” Sky Lynx pondered

“Sky Lynx you're not afraid you'll be out of a job will you?” Arcee said as she and Gauge were touring it as they were leaving the base

“Nonsense my superior leadership skills are vital to the war effort” Sky Lynx said

The Autobots made a point to visit Synergy often when the Starlight Girls were at school. Only Ba Nee know and she had become close friends with Gauge

Meanwhile at GI Joe Headquarters, Beachhead was inspecting a new group of GI Joe Recruits. They included Tunnel Rat, Big Lob, Chuckles, Law and his dog Order, Salvo a muscular Samoan woman and Firewall a small Asian-American woman.

“All right you Rawhides, if you think you’re ready to become members of GI Joe think again!. It takes long, hard arduous work! And I’m going to whip you punks into shape” Beachhead shouted

“Neat! I can’t totally wait to upgrade the coding!” Firewall said enthusiastically

“Big Lob is going to make the leap to the big leagues!” Big Lob yelled with gusto

“Lord save me” Beachhead muttered “All right you Rawhides we’re going on a ten-mile hike. Any questions? Good! Now ten-hut!” With that the Rawhides went on their run as Scarlett, Snake Eyes and Duke came up to him.

“You’re enjoying this way too much” Scarlett teased

“I won’t deny your accusation” Beachhead said with a grin.

“Well we’re on our way to meet our Autobot friends to link up Autobot City’s security to ours. See ya” Scarlett said going hand in hand with Snake Eyes to greet Spike and Carly with Windblade and Bumblebee

“I guess Scarlett make her choice” Beachhead said with sympathy

“Yeah, well you can’t win them all” Duke said with a twinge of regret

“C'mon let's show those Rawhides what for” Beachhead said as he and Duke joined them on the run

But all was not well. On the Planet Quintessa, the Quintessons were discussing the current events. The Autobots and Decepticons were active after years of dormancy. It was time for them to regain control of their property. All the while a small Autobot Wheelie was taking note of the situation

“The Quints are bad dudes up to no good” Wheelie said eyeing a small screw-shaped ship

At the same time in the Himalayas the civilization of Cobra-la was also planning

“I just received a message from our allies from beyond” Their leader Golobulus said to his lieutenants Pythona and Nemesis Enforcer “Once we help them enslave their creations they will help us conquer Earth”

“Then it is time for me to make my visit to the surface world” Pythona said grabbing her cloak

Most seriously a portal through time tore in Death Valley. Three sinister Decepticons came out of it

“Where are we?” Scourge whined

“Earth just as where we departed” Cyclonus said admiring the scene of the desert

“What is important is when we are”

“Well it's still better than Chaar” Scourge said “Too bad we couldn’t bring the Sweeps”

“It doesn’t matter where or when” The leader Galvatron said with an evil gleam
“All that matters is that I reclaim leadership of the Decepticons and crush the Autobots no matter the cost!

Synergy Modes

Supercomputer

Hologram Maker

Energy Synthesizer

Key to Vector Sigma

Enigma of Combination

Robot