

BARBER • ZAMA • COLLER • BURCHAM

OPTIMUS PRIME

THE FALLING, PART 5



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COVER A
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OPTIMUS PRIME



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I OWE MY LIFE TO OPTIMUS PRIME.

OKAY, BACK THEN HE STILL WENT BY ORION PAX, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

ALL THAT MATTERS, BUMBLEBEE, IS THE OATH I TOOK...



...AND UPHOLDING THE LAW.

IT'S A WHOLE STORY, BUT HE SAVED ME FROM A DECEPTICON SCHEME THAT WAS DRIVING ME NUTS.*

THEN I STARTED TAGGING ALONG.

*SEE TRANSFORMERS: ANNUAL 2017



HANDS ON YOUR HEADS, DECEPTICONS!

WHA—!

PAX!

PRETTY SOON, I WAS A FULL-FLEDGED COP. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

LITTLE OLD BUMBLEBEE, WHO SPENT THE LAST THOUSAND YEARS GETTING YELLED AT WHEN I DELIVERED RETICULATED SPROCKETS TOO SLOWLY.



I WAS JUST VISITING.

WAIT, THEY'RE GUNS?!

I THOUGHT WE WERE MAKING CRANKSHAFTS.

AFTER WHAT THEY DID TO ME, SEEING DECEPTICONS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FELT REAL NICE...



...UNTIL IT DIDN'T.

FORTY-THREE SWINDLE.

THAT'S HOW MANY PEPTEX CITIZENS YOUR GUNS KILLED.

I HAVE A LICENSE, PAX! HONEST! SIGNED BY THE MAYOR OF VOS—

—OR SOMETHING.



SHEESH. HE'S BEING... A LITTLE HARSH.

YOU'RE JUST NOW NOTICING?

HE'S FAR FROM THE ORION PAX THAT STOOD UP TO THE SENATE.



BACK OFF!

DON'T TELL ME—

WE'RE HERE TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT, NOT WHAT FEELS GOOD. IF SWINDLE CAN'T TELL US WHO'S FUNDING THIS, WE'RE NOT GOING TO SAVE LIVES.



WHEN PROWL'S THE VOICE OF REASON, YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.

SO WHY DO YOU STAY?

I'VE ASKED MYSELF THAT FROM PAX ONE, BUMBLEBEE. WHY DO YOU STAY?

BECAUSE I OWED MY LIFE TO HIM...



...AND MY FAITH WAS JUSTIFIED WHEN WE TEAMED UP WITH MEGATRON TO TAKE DOWN ZETA PRIME.

WHEN I SAW WHAT WE COULD ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER...

...I KNEW I'D BE FOLLOWING OPTIMUS PRIME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.



WHICH LASTED A TAD OVER
FOUR MILLION YEARS.

THEN, IN THE MIDST OF
SHOCKWAVE TRYING TO
DESTROY THE UNIVERSE,
I DECIDED TO CONVINCE
MEGATRON TO TURN GOOD.

MAYBE I HAD
IT COMING.

SEE, THE WAR WAS
OVER, AND WE
SHOULD HAVE HAD
A FUNCTIONING
DEMOCRACY.
INSTEAD, WE GOT
MORE MISTRUST—



—MORE DEATH.

IT COULDVE ALL BEEN
AVOIDED IF I'D BEEN
A GOOD LEADER.

MAYBE I SHOULDVE
STUCK WITH 20-MINUTE-
OR-LESS DELIVERIES.

MAYBE THINGS
WOULD HAVE
TURNED OUT
BETTER.



BUT, THEN...

...WHO AM I
TO COMPLAIN?

THE FALLING

CHAPTER 5: ENDLESS FOREVER

IS THIS ONE OF
THOSE THINGS WHERE
YOU *HANG AROUND*
BY YOURSELF AND THEN
ALL OF A SUDDEN
EVERYBODY YOU *KNOW*
SHOWS UP?

BUMBLEBEE.
EVIDENTLY NOT
A GHOST.

OPTIMUS PRIME.
FALLEN HERO.



BUMBLEBEE...
ARE YOU... HOW...

...HAVE YOU
BEEN HERE
THE *ENTIRE*
TIME...?

YEAH,
PRIME.

ALL BY
MYSELF.



NO SHOCKWAVE?



WHAT? NO.

SHOCKWAVE'S DEAD. YOU GUYS KILLED HIM, RIGHT?

THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.



HE'S BACK. OR... OR HE NEVER LEFT. I'M NOT SURE ANYMORE.

THIS... IS THE CRYSTAL CITY. I SAW IT COLLAPSE INTO SHOCKWAVE— TAKING YOUR BODY WITH IT.

HOW FAR DOES THE CITY EXTEND?

I COULD NEVER FIGURE THAT OUT.

THE FURTHER YOU GO, THE HARDER IT GETS TO MOVE.

I'M SURE WHEELJACK'D HAVE SOME MATH THING TO EXPLAIN IT.



SO... WE'RE STUCK HERE, AND WHATEVER SHOCKWAVE IS DOING, WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO STOP IT.

BUT THAT'S OKAY. PYRA, ARCEE, PROWL, WINDBLADE, ICEHIDE... THEY CAN HANDLE IT.

THEY'LL SAVE CYBERTRON.



COME ON, PRIME.

I SAID I WAS STUCK HERE. UNTIL RIGHT NOW...