

BARBER • ZAMA • BURCHAM

OPTIMUS PRIME

THE FALLING, PART 3



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OPTIMUS PRIME



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COVER A

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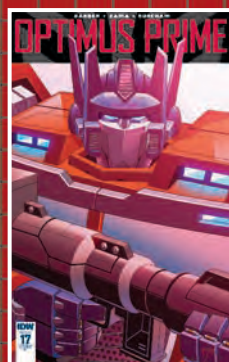
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I GUESS I SHOULD BE **GRATEFUL** FOR GROWING UP ON **CAMINUS**.

I DIDN'T LIVE THROUGH MILLIONS OF YEARS OF **WAR**, MY COLONY WASN'T WIPE OUT BY THE **BLACK BLOCK CONSORTIA**...

...I ONLY REMEMBER ONE PERSON EVER EVEN **DYING** IN MY VILLAGE.

LOTS OF PEOPLE HAD IT **LOTS** WORSE. SO DON'T GET ME WRONG...

...I JUST WANTED SOMETHING **ELSE**.



MY BEST FRIEND **STERLING** AND I USED TO MAKE UP STORIES ABOUT **CAMIEN HEROES**. IT PASSED THE TIME...



PYRA MAGNA, THE NEW LEADER OF THE **TORCHBEARERS**.

I HEARD SHE WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING—BUT ALL I KNOW IS...

...SHE WAS **AMAZING**.

...UNTIL ONE **SHOWED UP**.

I STARTED TO READ A LOT ABOUT THE TORCHBEARERS, THEN THE PRIMES. NOT JUST THE RELIGIOUS STUFF THEY TEACH YOU AT THE FORGE...

...BUT THEIR ADVENTURES, LOVE AND BETRAYAL, AND ACTION AND PATHOS... EVERYTHING A 'BOT COULD WANT.

I DRAGGED STERLING TO THE CITY.

HE WASN'T HAPPY, BUT HE DID LIKE ATTENDING SERVICES PRESIDED BY THE MISTRESS HERSELF.

THEN IT ALL CHANGED.

CYBERTRON—OUR LONG LOST HOMEWORLD—REAPPEARED IN OUR SKIES.

AND I LEARNED THERE WAS A LOT WORSE THAN BOREDOM.

THE CITY WAS DEVASTATED—WE'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.

BUT THAT'S WHEN I SAW HIM.

THE TRUE PRIME... CARRYING THE MATRIX OF LIGHT, FORGED BY SOLUS PRIME FROM PRIMA'S SWORD.

THE PRIMES WERE REAL.

SO GUESS WHO I FOLLOWED NEXT...

**AUTOBOT CITY,
2,000 FEET ABOVE
THE ORE-13 MINE,
KENTUCKY,
EARTH. TODAY.**

...AND GUESS WHOSE
EXCITEMENT GOT
STERLING KILLED.

AND NOW, WATCHING THE
SCENE ON CYBERTRON—

SOLLUS'
FORGE.

AILERON.

—IT SEEMS LIKE
THE SAME THING'S
HAPPENED TO A PRIME.

I CAN SEE
WITH MY OWN
EYES THE PRIME
ALPHA TRION
IS AMONG THE DEAD...

...BUT THERE
HAVE BEEN NO
FURTHER ATTACKS
SINCE THE EXPLOSION
AT THE SPIRE.
RESCUE CREWS ARE
SCRAMBLING—

—A NOT-
UNUSUAL
SIGHT HERE IN
THE CITY OF
IACON THESE
DAYS.

JETFIRE—
GET THE
SPACEBRIDGE
ONLINE, WE'VE
GOT TO HELP.

ALPHA
WOULDN'T
WANT US
CHARGING
IN WITHOUT
THINKING.

HE'S DEAD,
ARCEE! AND
ONYX DID IT!

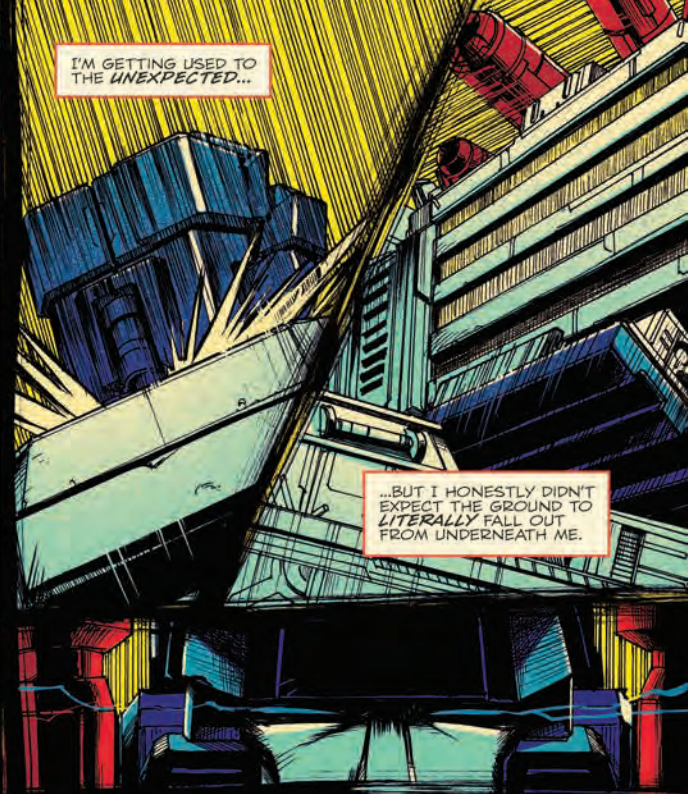
ARCEE.



PYRA AND THE TORCHBEARERS ARE ALREADY—

WAAA!

AILERON!



I'M GETTING USED TO THE UNEXPECTED...

...BUT I HONESTLY DIDN'T EXPECT THE GROUND TO LITERALLY FALL OUT FROM UNDERNEATH ME.



AUTOBOT CITY JUST SWALLOWED AILERON!

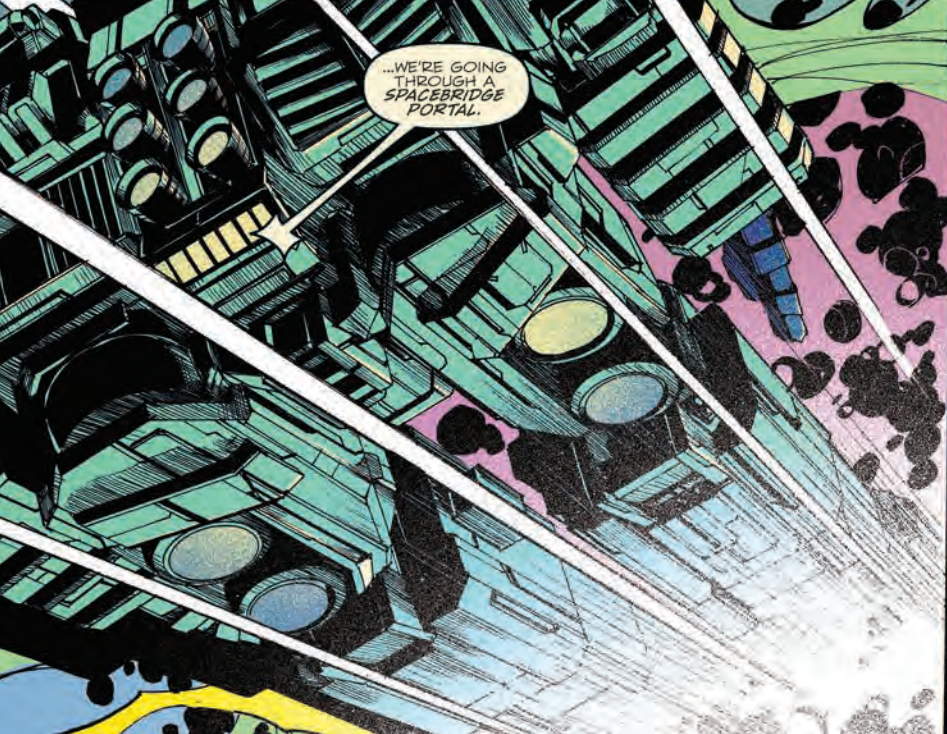
I'M GOING AFTER HER.

CAN YOU OVERRIDE OR—OR WHATEVER YOU DO?

JETFIRE.

AUTOBOT CITY IS A TITAN. IT LITERALLY HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN...

...AND IT SEEMS TO BE THINKING UP SOMETHING BIG...



...WE'RE GOING THROUGH A SPACEBRIDGE PORTAL.



WHAT THE HELL?

THEY'RE LEAVING WITHOUT US?

WHAT A RIP-OFF.

THE FALLING

CHAPTER 3: THE GROUND



I CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE.

CYBERTRON.



DOES ANYONE HAVE EYES ON LIEGE MAXIMO?!

I GUESS CYBERTRON REALLY IS ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

MARISSA FAIREBORN.

WINDBLADE.



COME ON, YOU BIG JERK, DON'T DIE ON ME.

SOME-BODY—HELP!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SOUNDWAVE DID THIS?

SWIFT.

NEEDLENOSE.

TRACKS.