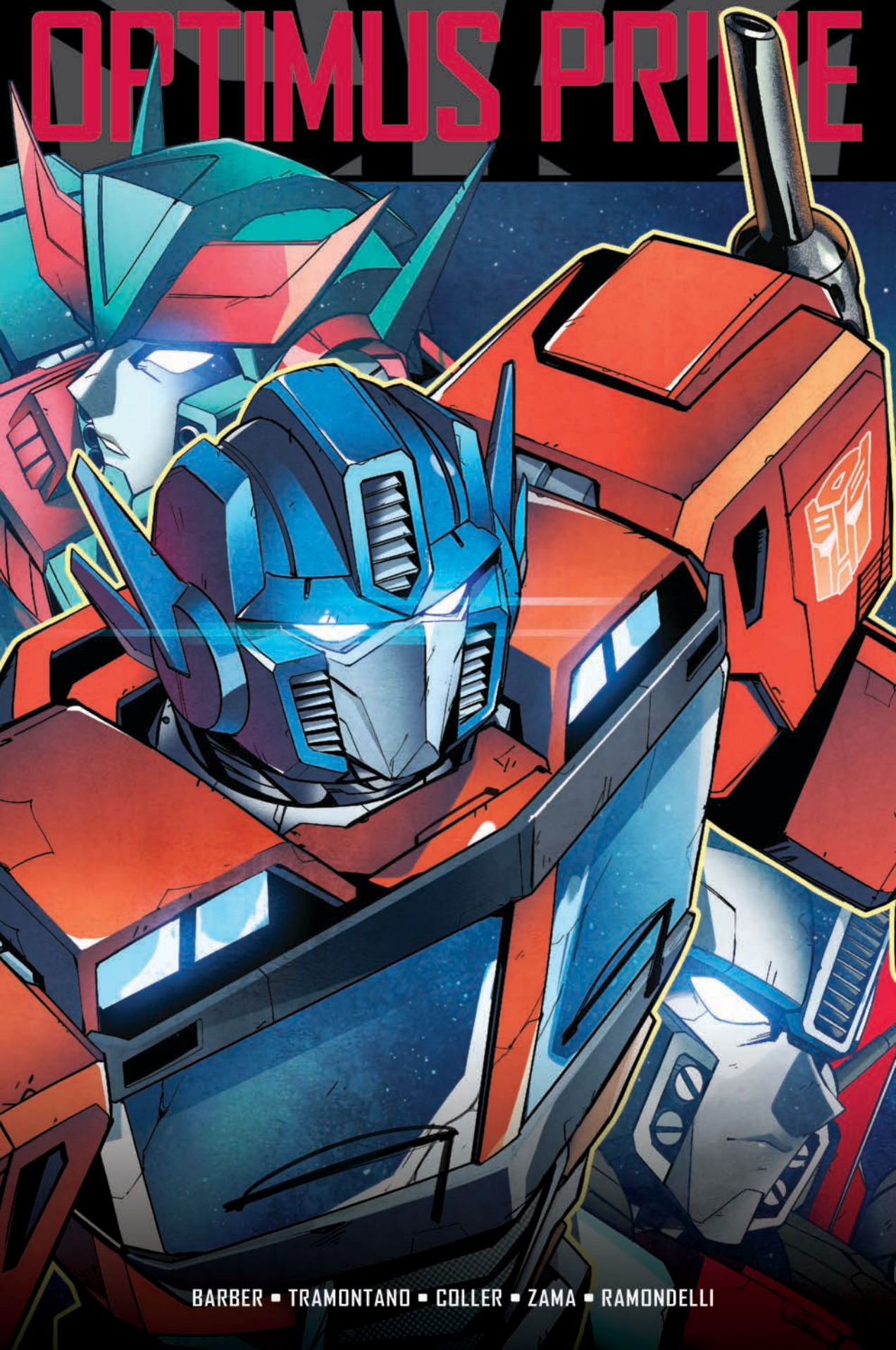


OPTIMUS PRIME



BARBER ■ TRAMONTANO ■ COLLER ■ ZAMA ■ RAMONDELLI



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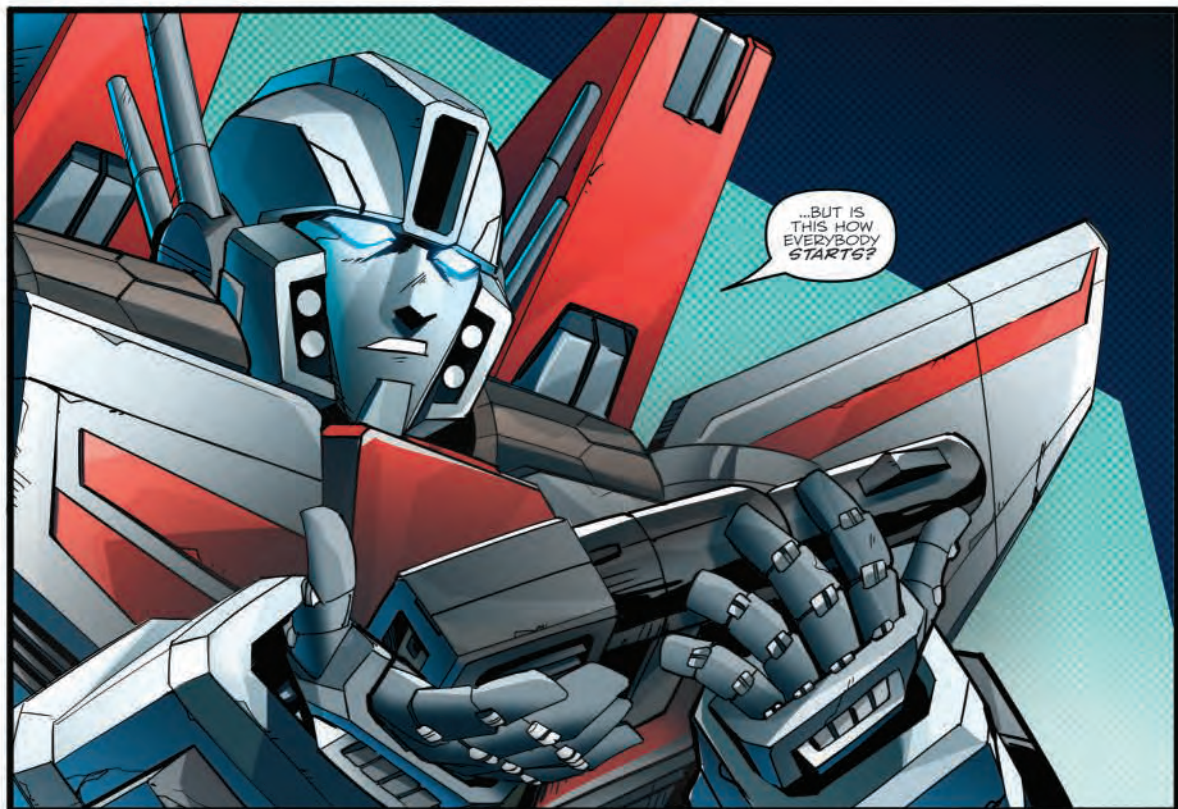
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**CYBERTRON.
FOUR MILLION YEARS AGO.**





THE NEXT DAY



**EARTH. TODAY.
AUTOBOT CITY.**

AH.
MADAME
PRESIDENT.

I APPRECIATE
YOUR PAYING ME
THIS VISIT.

CUT THE
CRAP. LAST
TIME I WAS
HERE I GOT
CAUGHT UP
IN THE...

...LET'S
SEE...

THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED
STATES.

AILERON.
AUTOBOT.

OPTIMUS PRIME.
AUTOBOT LEADER.

...TWO,
THREE...

...FOURTH ALIEN
INVASION OF MY
PRESIDENCY?

FOURTH THAT
I KNOW OF.

I ASSURE YOU,
I WOULD KEEP
**NO INCURSION
SECRET**
FROM YOU.

UH-HUH.

SO—PUTTING
DOWN YOUR GUN
AND LOOKING
FOR **PEACEFUL
SOLUTIONS**... IS
THAT YOUR WAY
FORWARD?

MY SPECIES DOES
NOT HAVE MUCH
OF A HISTORY OF
**NONVIOLENT
STRATEGIES**.

BUT I BELIEVE THE
END OF **WARFARE**
IS A WORTHWHILE
PATH, IF NOT A
REALISTIC GOAL.

YOU KNOW
WHO MY
FATHER
WAS?

ONE HALF
OF A **MATING
PAIR** WHOSE
OFFSPRING—

I MEAN
WHAT HE
DID.



MY FATHER WAS A NONVIOLENT ACTIVIST IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

HE WAS MY INSPIRATION.



I HADN'T REALIZED.

THE PEOPLE THAT DIDN'T WANT THINGS TO CHANGE—THEY KILLED PLENTY OF MY DAD'S FRIENDS.

THERE WERE PEOPLE ON HIS SIDE WHO RETALIATED OR ADVOCATED RETALIATION. BUT MY FATHER NEVER TOOK UP ARMS, OR FISTS.

HE BELIEVED VIOLENCE TO BE **INHERENTLY** WRONG, EVEN IF YOU'VE GOT A VALID REASON TO COMMIT IT.



I THINK ABOUT THAT EVERY DAY. THE THINGS WE'VE ENDURED WHILE I'VE BEEN PRESIDENT... I **GET** BEING ANGRY.

AND MY DAD WAS **RIGHTEOUSLY** ANGRY. MAKE NO MISTAKE.

BUT HE COULDN'T ACT ON IT, BECAUSE OF HIS BELIEFS.

AND I CAN'T BECAUSE OF **THE JOB**. I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT **PRACTICAL** SOLUTIONS, NOT THE MOST MORALLY CORRECT ONES.



I SOMETIMES WONDER WHAT MY DAD WOULD MAKE OF ME.

OUR WORLDS HAVE **SIMILAR** HISTORIES OF OPPRESSION.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT'S TERRIFYING OR COMFORTING. HOW DID YOU **SOLVE** THINGS?



WE FOUGHT A **WAR** FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS AND LEFT THE MATTER **UNRESOLVED**.

SO YOU **KNOW** WHAT YOU'RE GETTING US INTO, MAKING PEACE WITH THE **JUNKIONS**.

NOT FOR LACK OF TRYING, BUT **ENDLESS** FIGHTING HAS NOT PROVIDED AN ANSWER TO OUR TROUBLES.



THERE ARE THINGS I **KNOW** ARE **RIGHT** THAT I'LL NEVER **SEE** IN MY LIFETIME.

YOU LEARN TO TRY AND MAKE THINGS **LESS** BAD. IF YOU CAN'T MAKE THEM **GOOD**.

THE **WORTH-WHILE** PATH...

