

TRANSFORMERS

ReAnimated X

Dark Victory
- Part 2



Transformers ReAnimated X
Episode 2

'Dark Victory – Part 2'

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Based on the original cartoon series, The Transformers -
that defined the childhood of millions...

... and the original ReAnimated stories by Youseph Tanah and Greig Tansley,
that bridges the gap between the seminal second season and the 1986 Movie,
Transformers ReAnimated X continues the story after the original series.

PAGE 1:

PANEL 1:

CAPTION: Autobot City Earth, December the 29th 2007

WIDE SHOT - Optimus Prime, Ultra Magnus, Hotrod, Kup, Goldbug, Jazz and Perceptor are sitting together, discussing the coming mission to New Quintessa .

Spike and Nebulon Leader Gort, who are currently on Nebulon, are also linked into the conversation through a video screen

They had just received information from the Autobots most important double-agent.

Ultra Magnus

"Punch has confirmed what our Quintesson guests have told us. The remaining Decepticons are in control of New Quintessa."

PANEL 2:

Ultra Magnus (cont.)

"He also confirmed two other things, Cyclonus is their leader... and that Trypticon is there."

Hotrod

"We need Fortress Maximus."

PANEL 3:

CLOSE SHOT at Spike on the computer screen.

Spike

"That will be difficult. You know that Cerebros had completely sworn off fighting."

PANEL 4:

Optimus

"We promised Cerebros that after the last battle he would never have to fight again. That was one of the reasons I named him guardian of Nebulon."

PANEL 5:

Hotrod

"Fortress Maximus is the only robot besides Metroplex who is actually able to take on Trypticon by himself. But unless Trypticon comes down here to Earth, Metroplex is..."

... could not fly, did not possess a flight capable or even mobile alt-mode, in one word: is permanently stuck on Earth.

He doesn't even need to say it. They all know that.

PANEL 6:

TWO SHOT – Ultra Magnus and Perceptor

Ultra Magnus

"Excuse me, but that might actually not be the case, at least not for much longer."

Perceptor

"We are currently working on a way to upgrade Metroplex and give him a spaceship form as second alt-mode."

PAGE 2

PANEL 1:

Optimus

"How long more will it take?"

Perceptor

"It should be finished within the next 20 hours."

PANEL 2:

In this moment Optimus receives a call from Mirage.

Mirage

(over the com)

"Excuse me Optimus, I just want to tell you that Elita's shuttle is arriving."

Elita One and the surviving members of her team had fled Cybertron during the Unicron Battle to the planet Athenia and built up a base there.

But some time ago, after hearing of Optimus return from the dead, she had decided to move to Earth and leave the Athenia base to others.

CLOSE SHOT at Optimus face.

Optimus

"Elita."

PANEL 3:

CAPTION: Decepticon occupied New Quintessa System

EXT. On the surface

The Autobot secret agent Punch - also known as the Decepticon Counterpunch - is trying to leave the star system.

NOTE: Punch is unique under the Transformers, since he possessed two robot-modes, his own and that of a Decepticon. Officially two robots created at the same time, he had been playing the role of a spy under the Decepticons for many years.

But that is over now. He had known that the last message he had send to the Autobots had gone too far. He had been pretty sure that it would be discovered and traced back to him. Especially with the security they had set up.

But he had to warn the others that the Decepticons had taken over the New Quintessa system. So he had send it anyway. And along with his message asked for someone to get him away from here.

To Punch's luck his Decepticon alt-mode could fly like any regular Decepticon. So he had just lifts up and leaves the planet itself behind.

PANEL 4:

But leaving the SYSTEM is another matter.

Punch is now waiting on the surface of an asteroid in some distance away for his contact to arrive.

PANEL 5:

His 'contact' arrives a few minutes later.

A large grey space-rocket that is approaching the asteroid.

PANEL 6:

That in the next moment transforms into robot-mode.

LOW ANGLE – Punch's small frame standing in front of Omega Supreme's giant one.

Omega Supreme
"Autobot agent Punch located."

Punch changes into his Autobot-form.

Punch
"It is good to see you Omega Supreme."

Punch has hoped that he had gone away unnoticed. But as it turns out this hope has been in vain.

PAGE 3:

PANEL 1:

WIDE SHOT - The Insecticons Venom, Barrage and Ransack - along with a number of clones of Shrapnell, Kickback and Bombshell - had been hiding in their small insect-modes behind a rock formation close by...

PANEL 2:

... and are now showing themselves.

Venom
"Attack."

They transform into robot-mode... or into their larger insect-forms.

PANEL 3:

But it comes even worse.

LOW ANGLE - They see that Trypticon in his giant dinosaur mode is approaching the asteroid quickly.

PANEL 4:

... and flying out of his his mouth are 'Cyclonus', a Sweep and another Shrapnell and Kickback clone.

'Cyclonus'
"Yes - it is **really** good to see you Omega Supreme."

Punch and Omega Supreme realize that they has been watched and recorded the entire time if he knows what they had said to each other a minute earlier.

This was a set-up. They have been following Punch from the start.

PANEL 5:

`Cyclonus' (cont.)

"You will be a great test subject. Thank you Counterpunch - or should I say Punch? - for bringing him here. You have really fulfilled your duty... as a Decepticon."

He grins. It es an expression quite unlike the Cyclonus they met before.

Omega Supreme

"Identification inconclusive. Cyclonus - status: missing in space."

PAGE 4:

PANEL 1:

Off panel:

`Cyclonus'

"Ah, Omega - you make the mistake to believe that there is only ONE of us."

To Punch's and Omega Supreme's shock, behind him three more, identical looking, Cyclonus copies are just coming out of Trypticon.

PANEL 2:

`Cyclonus'

"They are only mindless drones of course. Cloned with the help of my Insecticon friends."

PANEL 3:

CAPTION: Autobot City Earth

WIDE SHOT - Elita One has just arrived. She is standing in front of the shuttle, with a group consisting of the three Female Autobots Moonracer, Firestar, Greenlight and also Getaway, Joyride and Slapdash behind her.

Elita

"Optimus."

Optimus

"I am glad that you have returned."

PANEL 4:

He lays his arms on her shoulders.

Next to them Arcee is greeting the three other Female Autobots.

Elita

"I am happy that **you** are back Optimus. I am so glad that you are alive."

But Optimus can see that something is bothering her.

PANEL 5:

Flashback:

CAPTION: The year 2005, in space close to Cybertron

INT. Inside their shuttle Elita and the members of her improvised team of three of her femmes and several other Autobots are watching in horror as the monstrous carnivorous planet they have already seen consuming Moonbase 1 and 2 had transformed into a gigantic planet-sized robot...

PAGE 5:

PANEL 1:

... and is now attacking Cybertron. They see him smash his hand on the surface of the planet, crushing an area in the size of an entire sector and killing Matrix knew how many cybertronians.

This should have originally only been a trip to retrieve Chromia and Lancer from their spy-mission on Cybertron.

But first they had gotten a message from Earth that Autobot City had been attacked. That Optimus and several other Autobots were dead.

Then the Moonbases were getting destroyed by this monster. Jazz, Cliffjumper, Bumblebee and Spike were consumed by this and most likely dead as well.

The Decepticons on Cybertron were put into constant alert for the last days, what made it practically impossible to reach their friends on the planet.

... and now **this**.

PANEL 2:

Elita

"Slapdash - get us out of this star system."

They all looked at her as she made that decision.

PANEL 3:

Flashback End:

CLOSE SHOT at Elita's face.

Elita (quietly)

"I left them behind Optimus. I left Chromia and Lancer to die."

They had not survived Unicron's attack.

PANEL 4:

Optimus

"You made a decision that you believed would save the Autobots that you **could** save. You know how happy I am that **you** survived Elita."

Did she? Or had all that happened, including the news of Optimus death, just broken her resolve? she asked herself.

PANEL 5:

CAPTION: Millions of light-years away, the planet Quol - Newly conquered Decepticon Territory.

EXT. The entire planet and the area of space around it has been turned into a battlefield.

WIDE SHOT - The orbit around the planet Quol is filled with the wrecks and debris of dozens of large wedge-shaped space-ships and hundreds of smaller fighters.

But only ships and fighters of the species called the kyrix. None of the Decepticons who had been fighting them. The Decepticons have not lost a single man.

The failed attack on the Decepticon occupied planet Alera by the race known as the kyrix five days ago had been the beginning of what had become probably one of the most brutal wars ever fought.

Brutal yet entirely one-sided.

The Decepticons in return responded by attacking the closest and the last planet that had been conquered by the kyrix, less than two years ago.

PANEL 6:

At some places over the planet Decepticon Seekers, Sweeps and some other Decepticons are still hunting down and eliminating some remaining kyrix units.

PAGE 6:

PANEL 1:

Flashback: 30 minutes earlier

EXT. The battle over the planet is in full heat.

WIDE SHOT - After half of their battleships had been destroyed and it became clear that they could not win, the remaining fleet of the kyrix has turned around and are unleashing their combined fire-power down on the planet.

Despite that there are hundreds of millions of their own people on it... plus the few remaining members of the native species they had not managed to wipe out yet.

PANEL 3:

Scene of laser blasts raining down on a city.

Captioned: They target cities, that are completely blown off the face of the planet, military and civilian installations, forests, seas, entire areas that are turned to burning ash - everything that made, at least ORGANIC, life possible.

Not realizing that their new opponents are in fact not machines controlled by another species, but the other species themselves. And that this massacre would not really make the planet useless to them.

PANEL 3:

WIDE SHOT – Scene of multiple vulcano's erupting on the surface.

On top of that their bombardment is – as it seemed on purpose - activating several volcanos around the globe and trigger a series of eruptions that is devastating the rest of the planet's surface, destroy the biosphere and fill the atmosphere with burning ash and gas.

PANEL 4:

Flashback End:

INT. Inside one of the last intact kyrix battleships, that had been breached and entered by the Decepticons

The kyrix are an organic species, who has however augmented themselves with cybernetic implants.

The kyrix are nearly three meters tall. Their upper bodies somehow resembling that of grey colored squids, but walking on two massive legs. They have two pairs of green glowing eyes. In addition to a pair of broad arms, they also possess a couple of long tentacles at their waist.

In short they are looking like something out of an human horror movie.

They are a terrifying sight and a terrible threat to most other organics.

From what they had translated from their language, the Decepticons know that the kyrix saw themselves as the optimum of life. They were the apex predators, the perfect lifeforms and the only ones with the right to exist. While everyone else were 'inferior beings' and 'vermin'.

To the Decepticons they are not much more than **target practice**.

The New Target- and Headmasters Spinister, Quake and Needlenose and Fangry, Horri-Bull and Squeezeplay are blasting 10 of them to atoms in mere seconds.

PANEL 5:

Next to them, the Terrorcons and some others are overrunning and wiping out the rest of the crew that had once consisted of hundreds and are at the side also destroying some automatic defense systems during it.

The Decepticons had not really needed to breach the ship. They could have just as easily blown it apart like the others. But they wanted to do both, test their new Head- and Targetmasters, whose bonding partners were not Nebulons but natives of the planet Alera...

... and gain some close up information on the kyrix species itself as well.

Besides that, some of their ground-troops simply wanted some sport.

PAGE7:

PANEL 1:

WIDE SHOT - Galvatron and Cyclonus just stand by and observe the fight, if you could even call it one, on board the ship. Both of them see this extermination as not even worth taking part in.

Standing in a close distance to them are Scourge, two Sweeps and a purple and black colored female Seeker named Skywing.

Skywing had been built only a few months ago on Alera. She is based on the technical data of Skywarp and possess the same teleportation-ability. Besides the usual arm cannons of the Seekers, she is also carrying a hand-blaster.

For one special reason. Skywing has been created as a Targetmaster. Her partner is Aira, a young female Alerian, who was the daughter of the old Alerans Leader Karid.

The same one who had been standing next to him when he had surrendered to the Decepticons.

There was no shortage of volunteers for the bonding process under the Alerans... For the chance to fight against the kyrix. Even if their race had now been subjugated by the Decepticons. Something most alerans had now fully realized.

While Galvatron and the rest of them had been praised as saviors at first, the sober awakening came a short time later. They were a conquered species.

But still ironically the far majority of them saw it as a far better alternative than extermination by the hand of the kyrix. And so they staid loyal to the Decepticons. Or at least cooperated with them out of sheer necessity.

Even two of the Sweeps have become Targetmasters so far.

PANEL 2:

None of the kyrix they are fighting (or rather slaughtering) had tried to surrender. And even if they did, Galvatron was not thinking that he would have been in any mood to accept it.

Cyclonus

"They are fighting to the last man. If they had even the **slightest** chance, I would respect their resilience.

But here it just seems a pointless waste out of false pride."

Aira flies from Skywing's hand and transforms out of gun-mode into humanoid form.

Cyclonus own partner Nightstick follows her example and stood next to her. The two of them were getting along well from the time Aira had joined them as part of a Targetmaster team.

Cyclonus has the impression that Nightstick and Aira had gotten quite close to each other, despite being different species. Not that this was the first time something like this had happened. In their case they are at least **both** humanoid shaped organics.

Cyclonus is thinking about a certain Autobot plane. By what he had last heard some years back, Powerglide and that crazy human of his had been still together back then.

But then, that was several years back.

PANEL 3:

LOW ANGLE – Aira facing up to Cyclonus:

Aira

"The kyrix never gave **us** any chance to surrender. Or anyone else. Why should we give one to them?"

Cyclonus

"It is the fate of of the beings who are not able to fight for themselves - or not willing to - to be subjugated and serve the stronger ones. That is the way the universe works."

He was thinking about the wayward Autobots on the planet Paradron, who possessed power and were swimming in energon. But were not willing to fight for it, even when they were being invaded. So in Cyclonus opinion they had deserved to loose it.

PANEL 4:

Cyclonus (cont.)

"But there is also no need to slaughter them for no reason, like this creatures here do."

PANEL 5:

CLOSE SHOT - Aira removes her helmet and shows her actual blue-skinned humanoid face.

Aira

"Excuse me Lord Cyclonus, by all respect, but that is easy to say if you are a giant powerful robot.

The kyrix decided to simply exterminate us and every other sentient lifeform in this quadrant.

They never even gave us the **option** to serve them. They never even tried to **talk** with us."

Behind her the Terrorcon Blot in his monster form is shown in this moment blasting another kyrix soldier.

PANEL 6:

Aira (cont.)

"And they were technological so far ahead of us that it did not even matter if we decided to fight or not. So what chance did we ever had until you arrived?"

'Lord Cyclonus', she said this words without any irony. She has truly accepted the Decepticons as her masters, simply because it was hers and her entire race's best chance at survival.

But that does not keep her from speaking her mind from time to time.

PAGE 8:

PANEL 1:

Aira (cont.)

"The truth is the weaker lifeforms are entirely at the mercy of the whims of the stronger ones. That is the way the universe works. So thank you **my masters**, for giving us this chance to survival."

Her voice shows a strange mix of bitterness, resignation... and acceptance.

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT - The Decepticons around them have overheard their exchange and are now looking at her for a moment – Cyclonus, Skywing, Scourge, the Sweeps, even Galvatron.

There was nothing they had to reply to what the small organic female had just said... not really.

Of course they had been ready to blast her and just replace her with someone else, even if Skywing would not have liked it, if she had shown any signs of disrespect or disloyalty.

But in the opposite, despite her bitter tone and fatalistic attitude, she had just declared her complete loyalty to them.

So why should they say anything against it?

PANEL 3:

CAPTION: Down on the planet Quol, a few hours later

EXT. Galvatron is now standing on the surface. In the middle of a burning devastated landscape.

It is a victory... technically. The planet and all it's resources are his.

This is what he was created for. To fight, battle and conquer.

And still something about it feels empty.

The kyrix had rather destroyed EVERYTHING on the planet than loose it to them.

They probably did not realize that it were in the first line it's energy-resources that were useful for the Decepticons and not the biosphere or the creatures living on it. And that they would still be able use many of these resources even if the planet was devastated and lifeless.

In the worst case the Decepticons have missed the chance to conquer a few more subjects.

Still, somehow it felt... empty. Like he had let this pathetic enemy get the better of him, even if it was only for a moment.

Galvatron looks at the destruction around him.

PANEL 4:

For a moment he imagines himself – himself at the time when he was still insane - destroying the place himself.

NOTE: Imagined scenes

Galvatron shooting at buildings in the distance, blowing them up in large explosions, laughing wildly.

Galvatron (imagined)

"Yes! Ha ha ha ha ha!"

PANEL 5:

CLOSE SHOT - Galvatron standing smiling in front of the landscape he had set on fire.

Galvatron (imagined)

"Beautiful. Yes, this is the beauty of destruction. Ha ha ha."

PANEL 6:

NOTE: Reality

Galvatron is just standing there motionless.

He suddenly thinks about how he had nearly destroyed his own home-planet while under some kind of mysterious mind-control. How much of his actions back then had been his own and how much something else?

Behind him Cyclonus, Scourge and a Sweep come flying in.

PAGE 9:

PANEL 1:

WIDE SHOT of them transforming into robot-mode, with their Targetmaster partners and Lord Zarak in their exo-suits next to them transforming into their own 'robot'-modes and landing beside them.

Zarak has, along with Nightstick, been sitting inside Cyclonus cockpit, a honor that normally only belonged to Galvatron.

Captioned: Cyclonus and the Hive leader had by now developed a strange mutual respect. Both respect the others skills and competence. Cyclonus is of course aware of Zarak's ambition, but he also knew that the Nebulon would not act against Galvatron, unless things changed drastically.

Not only because of the security-protocols inside Skorponok, but also because Zarak is intelligent enough to realize that most Decepticons would not accept him as their leader and could easily terminate him whenever he was not in his city-sized super-form.

Cyclonus is still the official Second in Command and Zarak officially outside of the regular Decepticon ranks and only in charge of his Nebulons. Inofficially however they are pretty much shared the role of Galvatron's Second.

PANEL 2:

Scourge

"Scans confirm there is no life left on the planet. We also found remains what looks like several mass-graves on the parts of the surface that is still somewhat intact.

Obviously left from what happened to the native species of this planet."

The Nebulons, even Zarak, look a bit disturbed about this. The faceplates of their exo-suits (without those they would not even be able to survive here) giving a replication of the expression on their real faces underneath.

Galvatron

"I see. It does not matter. When the lava has cooled down enough we set up a base to exploit the resources that are still usable... then we move on."

PANEL 3:

Cyclonus looks at Galvatron.

Cyclonus

"Yes Galvatron. Is there everything else?"

Galvatron

"No. there is not."

PANEL 4:

CAPTION: Nebulon System

EXT. Omega Supreme in his space-rocket mode is approaching the planet Nebulon.

PANEL 5:

INT. Punch sitting behind Omega's consoles.

Punch

"Autobots Omega Supreme and Punch calling for Fortress Maximus."

PANEL 6:

Spike

(over the com)

"We hear you Punch, don't worry."

Punch

"We need help. I had been found out. Decepticons are following us."

PANEL 1:

INT. Inside Fortress Maximus base-mode.

WIDE SHOT at Spike and Cerebros having received Punch's distress-call with the Headmasters Highbrow, Hardhead and Chromedome standing behind them.

Spike

"Alright Punch - tell Omega to land at our coordinates. We face them together."

Cerebros

"So much for not longer having to fight."

But he too was getting ready. Despite hating this, he knew there was no other choice.

PANEL 2:

Highbrow

"We are detecting both Trypticon and the battleship Revenge approaching the planet."

Gort (from inside Highbrow's head)

"We should call Earth and Cybertron for assistance."

PANEL 3:

EXT. Cerebros and Spike combine into Fortress Maximus and transforming into robot-mode.

While Omega Supreme lands close by at the same time.

PANEL 4:

Highbrow, Cromedome and Hardhead are meeting them, with Fortress Maximus standing close by.

Cromedome

"Are you...?"

PANEL 5:

But before he could finish his words, Punch suddenly opens fire on them.

The blast hit Chromedone in the shoulder.

PANEL 6:

Hardhead

"What the hell are you doing?"

He jumps at Punch and put him into a stranglehold.

Highbrow

"Wait."

PAGE 11:

PANEL 1:

Highbrow reaches for something on Punch's forehead.

Highbrow

"A cerebro shell. The Insecticon Bombshell has been using them. He was being mind-controlled. Wait, that means...?"

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT at Omega Supreme opening fire at Fortress Maximus.

With Trypticon and the Revenge at the same time descending down from the sky.

PANEL 3:

LOOKING UPWARDS - Above them the locks of the Revenge open and coming out are Cyclonus
- no 4 of him...

and also... an army of hundreds of Insecticon clones.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE SHOT on Hardhead's face.

Hardhead

"What the hell...?"

But they have bigger problems than having 4 versions of Cyclonus around.

PANEL 5:

CLOSE SHOT on Omega Supreme.

Inside his mind, a part of Omega Supreme is trying to resist the mind-control. The part that was still aware.

But it is like watching his own body moving in a dream.

NOTE: Flashback scene in Omega's mind showing two Bombshell clones working on Omega Supreme, while 'Cyclonus' is standing by watching.

PANEL 6:

NOTE: text panel

Omega Supreme remembers the words of the false Cyclonus, as they were scanning, examining and finally taking over his mind.

'Cyclonus' (in memory)

*"Yes – for you I think we should not simply **place** a cerebro-shell on you. We will do something a bit more thorough."*

He realized that the Bombshell clones were preparing to open him up, to place it inside of him. But his limbs were deactivated. There was nothing he could do.

'Cyclonus' (in memory)

"Well - who would have thought? The great Omega Supreme - behind that facade of the hard and cold battle-machine, you are just a soft fool who couldn't get over the fact that your friend turned against you, aren't you?"

"You are a living contradiction. The last Guardian robot - you were never meant to guard cities and protect them. The truth is your kind was designed by the Quintessons to control and oppress other Cybertronians."

*"You should be **glad** that I will bring you closer to your true purpose."*

PAGE 12:

PANEL 1:

EXT.

WIDE SHOT of Fortress Maximus now facing Trypicon and the mind-controlled Omega Supreme at the same time.

To that comes the army of Insecticon clones, who are swarming the place and attacking from all sides.

In short words, he and the other Headmasters are outmatched.

Spike

"We have to retreat."

PANEL 2:

CAPTION: Autobot City - Metroplex

INT. Inside a large hangar room inside Metroplex.

WIDE SHOT of Perceptor having brought Optimus, Ultra Magnus, Hotrod, Arcee and Daniel and Elita One and her group to show them the results of their work.

They had just gotten the message about the attack on Nebulon. All of them know the situation was urgent.

Perceptor

"Optimus - let me introduce you to what the humans would call our think-tank."

PANEL 3:

Perceptor (cont.)

"You already know Brainstorm and Arcana of course. And this are Ginrai – he also goes by the code name Hi-Q, his wife Lyra and Rev three of Nebulons best scientists. This are Lube and Hotwire, their fields are fuels and mechanics."

Ginrai is a young nebulon man around 30 with shoulder long black hair. Lyra is around the same age as her husband, with light blue eyes with long green hair.

PANEL 4:

TWO SHOT of Optimus and Ginrai facing each other.

Ginrai

"It is a honor to meet you Optimus Prime. You Autobots freed us from the Hive after all"

Optimus

"It is good to meet you. And I did not do that much. It are Spike and Cerebros you should thank."

They had saved them all, he thinks.

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT of a group of six Autobots, three of them in vehicle form and six Nebulons in Head- and Targetmaster suits next to them.

Brainstorm

"Optimus - for the start let us introduce you to our new Head- and Targetmasters.

You know Nightbeat, Hosehead, Siren, Landfill, Quickmix and Scoop of course...

The Autobots.

PANEL 6:

Brainstorm (cont.)

"... and here the Nebulon volunteers Lug, Muzzle, Quig, Flintlock, Boomer and Tracer.

They transform demonstratively. The Headmasters merge with the Nebulons forming their heads as they turn into robot-form and the other three Nebulons becoming the weapons of the Targetmasters.

PAGE 13:

PANEL 1:

Ultra Magnus

"This is all good and fine, but far more important are your modifications on Metroplex. Will he be able to move to Nebulon?"

Perceptor is looking at Brainstorm, who in opposite to him had actually been here during the last couple hours.

PANEL 2:

Brainstorm

"Yes. We have just finished it. We were not able to run a test yet, but it should work."

Optimus

"Very good."

PANEL 3:

Ginrai

"There is something else. We are working on a third version of binary-bonding besides Head- and Targetmasters. We call it the Powermaster process."

Optimus

"Show it to me on the way Ginrai."

PANEL 4:

Optimus turns around to the Autobots standing next to him.

Optimus (cont.)

"Ultra Magnus, Hotrod - I want you two to lead the mission to New Quintessa, while I will be leading the one to Nebulon."

PANEL 5:

CAPTION: A short time later.

The mission to free New Quintessa has begun.

EXT. The same Quintesson Spaceship that had come five days earlier is now leaving Earth.

PANEL 6:

INT. Inside the ship

WIDE SHOT of a group of Autobots consisting of Ultra Magnus, Hound, Perceptor, the Targetmasters Hotrod, Kup, Blurr, Pointblank, Shureshot and Crosshairs, together with their Nebulon Partners...

... and the Dinobots and Aerialbots.

Together with one of the two Quintesson Judges and the Quintesson General who had come to Earth to seek asylum.

PAGE 14:

PANEL 1:

CAPTION: Autobot City Earth

EXT.

Metroplex is transforming. But not into his regular base-mode, but into a space-ship.

And he lifts off the ground.

PANEL 2:

INT. Inside Metroplex

Brainstorm

"It is working."

Arcana

(inside Brainstorm's head)

"Yes it is. **Now** we will save Nebulon."

They hear Metroplex voice through the room.

Metroplex

"This is the first time I am leaving Earth. Thank you."

PANEL 3:

WIDE SHOT of Ginrai a few minutes later explaining the details of the Powermaster process to Optimus Prime, Elita One and everyone else.

Ginrai

"For the Powermaster process, the bonding partner combined himself with the energy-engine, letting the binary bonding optimize and even mentally manipulate the energon-flow."

PANEL 4:

Optimus

"I see."

Ginrai

"Optimus - there is one thing I want to say. I want to volunteer to become a Powermaster."

Everyone's eyes turn to him.

PANEL 5:

Ginrai (cont.)

"During the time of Zarak's tyranny, I had not been able to do anything, to make any difference. But now I have the chance."

Lyra

"I want to volunteer as well."

PANEL 6:

Optimus and Elita are looking at each other.

Elita

"So do I. I will become a Powermaster."

Optimus

"It seems you both have just found your partners Ginrai."

PAGE 15:

PANEL 1:

WIDE SHOT of the Autobots Getaway, Slapdash and Joyride standing besides the Nebulons Rev, Lube and Hotwire.

Rev

"And so do we."

Getaway

"The same goes for us."

PANEL 2:

CAPTION: New Quintessa System

EXT. The Quintesson vessel has now reached the edge of the star system.

Quintesson Judge

"I am still not convinced that this is a good idea."

Ultra Magnus

"Fine. But you were the one who asked for help. Quiet now. We are reaching the security parameter."

PANEL 3:

TWO SHOT - Ultra Magnus looks at Hound. His presence on this mission has a special reason, a very special one.

Hound

"Okay - then I guess it is my turn now."

PANEL 4:

WIDE SHOT - Hound activates his hologram projector and he, Ultra Magnus, Hotrod, Kup and Blurr who were standing in front of the screen are replaced with the picture of two Quintesson guards and three Sharkticons.

Only the two Quintessons stay looking like they truly were.

PANEL 5:

A screen above the consoles before them activates and shows the face of a clone of the Insecticon Shrapnell.

Guard 1 (Ultra Magnus)

"We have captured two of our former masters and are bringing them in."

PANEL 6:

Shrapnel Clone

"Alright. You can land on landing-platform beta – beta."

PAGE 16:

PANEL 1:

EXT. The surface of New Quintessa.

The ship has landed.

The two real Alicon guards who await them are completely surprised when they are grabbed and quickly overpowered, as the lock opens and Ultra Magnus and the Autobot Targetmasters appear instead of their fellow guards.

PANEL 2:

CLOSE SHOT of Perceptor holding one of the modified cerebro-shells they have taken from the Quintesson guards in his fingers.

Perceptor

"It is like we have thought, the Guards are all implanted with modified versions of Bombshell's cerebro shells."

Hotrod

"Can you deactivate them?"

PANEL 3:

Perceptor

"Yes - they are all linked to each other. I should be able to use this two to send a signal to shut them down."

PANEL 4:

CAPTION: A short time later.

Perceptor

"This should be it."

He is holding a remote in his hand with one green button and a red one on it.

PANEL 5:

CLOSE SHOT of Perceptor's hand pressing the green button.

PANEL 6:

CAPTION: Outside - few minutes later.

WIDE SHOT - Ultra Magnus, Hotrod and the other Targetmasters, Hound, the Dinobots and the Aerialbot Combiner Superion are now easily overpowering the few Insecticon clones and Decepticons who had remained on New Quintessa.

With the guards now actually being on **their** side, after Perceptor had deactivated the cerebro shells and the Quintesson Judge had retaken command.

Most of their clone-opponents are mindless drones.

Ultra Magnus, Kup and Pointblanc are in this moment just blasting their way through a group of this clones.

PAGE 17:

PANEL 1:

Two who are certainly **not** drones however are two clones of Bombshell who are both shouting.

TWO SHOT at two Bombshell clones standing next to each other.

Bombshell clones

(screaming)

"No - it can't end like this. Kill them!"

"Kill them all!"

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT - In return Ultra Magnus and Hotrod shoot the two Bombshells right into their heads. The head of the one of the left completely explodes, while the one at the left has a large hole inside his.

PANEL 3:

WIDE SHOT - As the two fall down dead, the rest of the clones around them stop moving in the same moment.

And most of them fall apart into their components. Without their two leading units, the clone army was being decapitated.

PANEL 4:

EXT. In some distance from the battlefield.

A single Sweep is trying to get away. He is running, attempting to get far enough away so that he could transform and fly off-planet without being noticed by the Autobots.

PANEL 5:

Then to his surprise around a corner Blitzwing is suddenly appearing in front of him.

Sweep

"Ah Blitzwing - good to see you. We need to get away from here."

PANEL 6:

But then, to his even greater surprise Blitzwing is pointing a gun at him.

PAGE 18:

PANEL 1:

EXT. WIDE SHOT - Ultra Magnus, Hotrod and their team have gathered again.

They are now standing next to and surrounded by an army of thousands of Alicons and Sharkticons. Most of them in robot-mode.

And the Quintesson Judge and General, who had spend the battle inside their ship, are with them again.

Ultra Magnus

"It seems it is over. Your plan worked perfectly Hotrod."

Quintesson Judge

"Yes - it is over. Guards, Sharkticons - arrest them."

He gives this order to the assembled Quintesson Guards and Sharkticons.

PANEL 2:

Hotrod

"Do you really think we would trust you and not see this coming Quintessons? Perceptor now."

PANEL 3:

Perceptor pushes the other button on his remote. The red one this time.

And all the Quintesson Guards freeze and stop moving. They have reactivated the cerebro-shells for a moment, but not to control the guard's minds, but to put them into stasis.

The two Quintessons look around shocked.

PANEL 4:

Quintesson General

"No. Move damn it."

But that still left the Sharkticons. The Judge turns to them.

Quintesson Judge

(shouting)

"Sharkticons - kill them all. Execute them."

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - But the Sharkticons look unsure and hesitant. They are obviously scared to attack that many powerful Autobots.

Besides, they had not followed orders from the Quintessons for over a year now.

Quintesson Judge

"I said **kill** them!"

PANEL 6:

But in this moment Grimlock steps forward.

WIDE SHOT - Grimlock in dinosaur-mode with the other Dinobots behind him, glaring at the Sharkticons around them..

Grimlock

"Me Grimlock - some of you remember me, yes?"

PAGE 19:

PANEL 1:

WIDE SHOT - The Sharkticons look at them, visibly intimidated. Many did remember the damage Grimlock and the other Dinobots had caused to them a few years ago.

PANEL 2:

Grimlock (cont.)

"Me say you were slaves... Me say you still **are** slaves. Just switched masters. Me say stop follow orders from people who not care if you die. Stop being slaves... Either that or face us Dinobots."

The Sharkticons look from Grimlock to each other and back, similar like they had done it on the old planet Quintessa a few years earlier.

PANEL 3:

And then... they start to cheer for Grimlock.

Ultra Magnus

"Good work Grimlock."

Grimlock

"Thank you."

PANEL 4:

Magnus turns to the two Quintessons.

Ultra Magnus

"It seems your reign is over for good this time. We will free your guards from any programming that controls them, including yours.

And we will also arrest you and your fellows for crimes against other planets and sentient beings."

The Quintessons were staring at him in silent anger and rage, but there was nothing they could do about it.

They had lost. They had failed to regain control of their slaves' races. And now it seemed they and the rest of the Quintessons might have lost that control forever.

PANEL 5:

CLOSE SHOT at Hotrod.

Hotrod

"**Now** it is over."

(Off panel)

Blitzwing

"Not completely yet. There is one last thing Hotrod."

PANEL 6:

WIDE SHOT - They all look around and see the tripple-changer appearing out from between a couple of buildings. With Rumble walking next to him and Laserbeak sitting on his shoulder...

... and dragging an unconscious Sweep after him.

Blitzwing

"We don't want to fight Autobots. We just want to talk. Don't shoot."

(Off panel)

Hotrod

"Blitzwing?"

PAGE 20:

PANEL 1:

Blitzwing

"Yes. I guess that's deya vu, right?"

Rumble

"You can call us secret envoys.or something like that."

They remember how Blitzwing had warned them about the Quintesson's trap a few years ago, that Galvatron did not want to listen about.

Which had been the beginning of their temporally falling out back then.

PANEL 2:

Ultra Magnus

"What do you three want?"

Blitzwing

"To make it short, the guy now leading us is looking exactly like Cyclonus. But Soundwave thinks he is not the real deal and so do we."

PANEL 3:

CLOSE SHOT at Blitzwing lifting the unconscious Sweep up a bit.

Blitzwing (cont.)

"And we are pretty sure this guy knows more."

PANEL 4:

INT. A short time later the Sweep is sitting in chains on a chair inside the captured Quintesson ship. He is just regaining consciousness.

WIDE SHOT - The Sweep sees that he was surrounded by an circle of Autobots... and Decepticons? that consisted of Ultra Magnus, Hotrod, Kup, Blitzwing, Rumble and Laserbeak.

Ultra Magnus

"So I guess we can start now. Who is the guy who looks like Cyclonus?"

Sweep
"What? What happened?"

PANEL 5:

Blitzwing
"You heard the question. We know perfectly well he is not Cyclonus."

Sweep
"Blitzwing? So you are colluding with the Autobots again?"

Rumble
"That comes from someone who helped an impostor taking over?"

PANEL 6:

Kup
"Maybe we should follow an old tradition here and feed him to the Sharkticons."

Sweep
"No, no - I will talk. I will tell you everything."

Thank you for reading.

Before anyone say it, I know according to the drafts of the movie the Autobots Mirage, Trailbreaker and Red Alert are supposed to have died in the 86 Movie.

But the drafts and storyboards are not canon and differ from the finished movie. Otherwise we would have at least three Cyclonus right from the start and Ultra Magnus would have been quartered by the Sweeps instead of shot and blown apart etc.

So I consider this Autobots still alive.

xxx

The three non-sentient Cyclonus copies introduced here, were of course created with the Insecticon cloning ability, as Bombshell-Cyclonus has hinted (An ability that the reformed Insecticons still possess, as shown in the Sweeps) and that the Insecticons helped him to reactivate.

Like I mentioned earlier, the idea that the second Cyclonus actually existed and then disappeared was inspired by the short film `10.000 pardons, you mean Bombshell...` where it was mostly played for laughs. Here however it is part of a more serious storyline.

xxx

For Optimus Prime's Powermaster partner, I preferred the japanise name Ginrai over the american Hi-Q, simply because it sounds and works more like an actual name. I however left him a nebulon, instead of a human like the japanise version, but made him younger than in the comics.

So his character is (for now) basically a mix of the marvel comic and the japanize version.

Ginrai/Hi-Q's wife Lyra is an OC created by me, just like the Decepticon Skywing and her partner Aira.

xxx

Side Note: For this story, I also made the partners of the second set of Decepticon Head- and Targetmasters humanoid aliens of the from me invented alerian species, instead of nebulons. Well, the japanize continuity took even greater liberties in making them humans with Transtactors.

The next issue will be the final part of the pilot three-parter.