



Transformers ReAnimated X
Episode 1

'Dark Victory - Part 1'

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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:

TEXT PANEL:

Recap: As part of a plan of Vector Sigma, the opening of the ancient device known as the Plasma Energy Chamber by the Decepticons had nearly caused a supernova that would have destroyed both Cybertron and Earth.

But instead Spike Witwicky, along with a group of the green skinned humanoid nebulons allied with the Autobots had managed to reverse the effect of the Chamber, preventing the Nova and restoring with nearly unlimited energy Cybertron to a New Golden Age.

The celebration about the victory over the Decepticons and their allies from the Planet Nebulon known as the Hive and their leader Lord Zarak and the beginning of Cybertron's New Golden Age had ended a couple days ago.

The Autobot Leader Optimus Prime, along with the Autobot Head- and Targetmasters, had travelled to Nebulon inside Fortress Maximus, to remove the remains of Zarak and the Hive's reign over the planet and reprogramm the machines they had used to oppress the people of Nebulus to help them instead.

PAGE 2:

PANEL 1:

CAPTION: The Planet Nebulon, the Year 2007 - a few days after the events of 'The Rebirth'.

INT. Fortress Maximus, City-mode

Things had become a bit quieter.

CLOSE SHOT - Especially for Optimus Prime, who is currently sitting alone in one of the rooms of Fortress Maximus, away from the other Autobots, thinking about all what had happened.

And with the first euphoria gone, another emotion was beginning to take place... doubt.

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT - Hotrod, who had for two years been the Autobot leader Rodimus Prime, finds him sitting there like this.

Optimus

"Hotrod. No – Rodimus. (He says his other name.) Tell me, did we do the right thing?"

Hotrod

"The right thing?"

PANEL 3:

Optimus

"You know what I am talking about. I refused to destroy the key. I practically intentionally let Galvatron open the Plasma Energy Chamber.

I risked the destruction of an entire star system, the lives of billions of living beings, the humans, the Autobots, even the inhabitants of the moon Titan, all for a promise of Vector Sigma."

Hotrod

"It worked out. But..."

PANEL 4:

Optimus

"Yes, but if even the slightest thing had gone wrong, everything could have been destroyed.

And it would have been my fault."

PANEL 5:

Hotrod

"Hey - we all trust you with our lives. I admit we all had our doubts, but we trust your judgement. And in the end you were right."

Optimus

"Did I? Or was it just coincidence that we survived? Just dumb luck? It seemed all so clear back then but now?"

PANEL 6:

Spike (who is now bonded to Cerebros and Fortress Maximus itself) his son Daniel, both of them in their Headmaster exo-suits, Arcee, Kup and the former Nebulon Rebel Leader Gort have just entered the room behind them.

Spike

"Hey - so this is where you are. We have been looking for you."

Optimus

"It is alright Spike. We have just been... talking about something."

PAGE 3:

PANEL 1:

Kup

"There is also something I wanted to talk about with you about Optimus. We have just gotten message from Cybertron.

It is like I feared, all traces in what direction Skorponok and Galvatron were send to are gone."

PANEL 2

Gort

"Is this really such a problem? They are gone. Nebulon, Cybertron and Earth are save."

Optimus

"Yes **we** are save. Others are not. They are out there somewhere between a trillion stars, with thousands of planets as possible targets."

(thinking)

`And all that because of Vector Sigma's plan.'

PANEL 3:

CAPTION: The Decepticon City/Flagship Skorponok. 'Deep Space' Millions of light-years away - in the area the humans call the Triangulum Galaxy

EXT. Skorponok, in his space-ship mode was still flying through an unknown region of space.

PANEL 4:

INT. A corridor inside Skorponok

TWO SHOT - Two Sweeps are standing guard in front of a room where...

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - Galvatron, Cyclonus, Scourge, Lord Zarak and the Headmaster Mindwipe, along with his nebulon partner the scientist Vorath, are having a very special discussion.

With all of them sitting in their respective, transformer- or in Zarak's case nebulon-sized chairs.

Cyclonus

"This should be about everything."

Zarak

"You are telling us that you yourself don't know why you opened the Plasma Energy Chamber?" he asked in disbelief.

"I heard that you used to have... well – mental problems."

NOTE: Zarak is in his Headmaster exo-suit, but without his helmet and his face visible.

PAGE 4:

Panel 1:

Galvatron

"Don't try my patience Zarak. That is in the past. I had Cybertron back under Decepticon control. Why should I try to destroy it?"

Cyclonus

"Zarak - we can not even remember clearly how we found out about the Plasma Energy Chamber in the first place. Something is wrong here."

PANEL 2:

This caused Zarak to frown. He had to admit they were right.

Zarak

"Okay - I admit there is something strange going on here."

Galvatron

"Did you find anything - Mindwipe, Vorath?"

PANEL 3:

TWO SHOT: Mindwipe with his smaller Nebulon partner standing next to him.

Mindwipe

"Yes, you have definitely been manipulated by an outside force. There is something dark upon the three of you, very dark."

Vorath

"Now that was **really** helpful (sarcasm). But I agree. it seems you had been under some kind of mental influence.

PANEL 4:

WIDE SHOT: Galvatron sitting in his chair, with Cyclonus and Scourge (having stood up) standing next to him.

Galvatron truly wished Soundwave were here. He would have trusted him far more with this than this two. But Soundwave had been in charge of Trypticon during the last battle and had been left behind in their home-sector.

Well, Galvatron is sure Soundwave can take care of himself.

Scourge

"It - it was the Matrix. I remember now. After Optimus Prime opened it in front of us the knowledge just appeared in my head."

PANEL 5:

Galvatron

"Yes... yes - you are right. "I remember it too now."

Mindwipe

"But why would the Matrix want you to destroy Cybertron and Earth?"

That was a good question.

PAGE 5:

PANEL 1:

Scourge

"Maybe there are parts of it's plans that we do not know about. Maybe it set something in motion to save Cybertron before..."

Galvatron

"Going by the idea that there **is** a sentient entity behind the Matrix and it is not just a power source or weapon, right Scourge?"

There was a sharp undertone in Galvatron's voice as he said this.

PANEL 2:

Scourge

"Ah – yes." (nervously)

PANEL 3:

Cyclonus

(thinking)

`This is a dangerous topic between them, given Scourge's failed rebellion a few months ago'.

`When he had been influenced by the Matrix and temporally overthrown both Galvatron and himself. Scourge had claimed that he had been somehow possessed by it.'

CAPTIONED: This was something that Cyclonus had come more or less to accept. If **Galvatron** accepted it was another matter.

Nobody was absolutely sure how much of Scourge's actions at that time were completely his own, ... maybe not even Scourge himself.'

PANEL 4:

Still...

Cyclonus

"I don't think there should be much doubt about the Matrix being sentient at this point.

Anyway, I think we should go by the idea that Cybertron, Earth... and the Autobots, might still exist."

Galvatron looks thoughtful for a moment.

PANEL 5:

Galvatron

"Even if it does, it does not change anything about our plans now. Zarak - have you located a promising planet?"

Zarak

"Yes - it is a planet quite similar to Nebulon. Potentially rich sources of energy. We are receiving radio-signals."

Galvatron

"Get enough to analyse the natives language. It would be a hazzle to conquer people we can not even understand."

PANEL 6:

WIDE SHOT: Cyclonus and Scourge leaving the room through the opened door. (With Zarak, Mindwipe and Vorath having already left before them.)

With Galvatron behind them still sitting in his chair.

Scourge

"Galvatron's state has improved much."

Cyclonus

"Yes. First after Torkulon and then again after... the Hate Plaque."

After some unknown force, obviously connected to the Matrix, had brainwashed them. Cyclonus didn't need to say it.

Scourge

(off panel)

"It seems your efforts to help him have paid of."

Galvatron meanwhile stays behind by himself in his room.

And all what was left was doubt - Why exactly had he tried to destroy his home-planet in a supernova if he didn't have to?

PAGE 6:

PANEL 1:

INT.

WIDE SHOT – The Decepticons are assembled inside Skorponok's large body's different hangars and corridors. They include...

... the Targetmasters, including Cyclonus and Scourge, the Headmasters, five Sweeps,

The Constructicons, Sixshot, the Combaticons, Stunticons, Terrorcons and Predacons,
Astrotrain, Ramjet, Dirge, Thrust, Runabout, Runamuck, the Duocons Battletrap and Flywheels, the
two spies Wingspan and Pounce,
Spinister, Needlenose and Quake, Fangry, Squeezeplay and Horri-Bull,
The Triggercons Ruckus, Windsweeper and Crankcase,
The Actionmasters Krok, Treadshot, Take-off, Charger, Axer and Gutcruncher,
Carnivac, Snarler and Roadgrabber,
Fang, Triton, Earthquake...

A group of Seekers of the typical F15- 'standard' model named Skywraith, Dead Air, Gunwing and Havoc - a blue Seeker with brown wings, similar like Dirge... (The Seekers from 'Ultimate Doom' and 'Dark Awakening')

... and many more.

All who had been inside Skorponok when it had been blasted to another part of the universe.

All in all nearly 200 Decepticons, including Galvatron and Skorponok themselves.

On the first look it are not that much. Especially compared to populations of billions. But they are the core of the Decepticon army. And they would be the core of their new Empire.

Galvatron's voice comes over the loudspeakers.

Galvatron

"Decepticons - Attack. Destroy everyone who stands in your way."

PANEL 2:

EXT.

Skorponok had entered the atmosphere of the planet.

The Decepticons fly out of his space-ship form. A large number of them transforms into their jet- or other flight capable alt-modes, while some staid in robot-mode.

With Cyclonus in his spacejet-mode taking the lead of the jets. Flanked by Scourge, the Targetmaster Slugslagger and one of the Sweeps.

PANEL 3:

WIDE SHOT - At the same time a large swarm of atmospheric fighters is rising up to confront them.

PANEL 4:

And on the surface meanwhile troops of tank-like combat-vehicles and gun turrets are being activated and ground troops mobilized.

The natives were a human-like organic species. Their technology however is only slightly more advanced than the humans had been when they had first met the transformers.

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - The native air fighters approaching the Decepticons are firing dozens of missiles at the Decepticons.

PANEL 6:

But the Decepticons, with their more advanced weapons, just shoot and destroy them before they projectiles reach them.

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PANEL 1:

And in return the Decepticons open fire themselves.

Cyclonus missiles hit one of the native aircrafts and blow it to atoms.

PANEL 2:

The explosion damages another one and forces two more to change course.

PANEL 3:

Scourge and two of his Sweeps blasts hit and blow up a second aircraft.

With Slugslagger destroying another one next to them.

PANEL 4:

Sixshot, Apeface, Snapdragon, Vortex, Ramjet, Thrust, Misfire, Flywheels and Triggerhappy, who lives up to his name, shoot down a dozen more within seconds.

Which causes the rest of the native fighters to withdraw.

It was not so much a battle, but a one sided massacre.

Triggerhappy

"Look, they are running."

PANEL 5:

Cyclonus

"No reason to get too excited. This creatures were never a worthy opponent for us in the first place."

PAGE 8:

PANEL 1:

Meanwhile on the ground another Sweep and the Seekers Skywraith and Gunwing blow up a couple of tanks.

PANEL 2:

And Galvatron is blowing up a defense installation with two large gun-turrets on top of it, leaving just a large crater in the ground.

PANEL 3:

Then he re-aims his cannon and destroys two more tanks.

Galvatron

"This should be enough. I think they understand the situation.
Skorponok send our 'offer' to surrender to the natives."

Galvatron looks around at the destruction.

Just a few months ago, he knows, he would have probably lost himself in the fight and simply continued the destruction and carnage just for the sake of it.

But not anymore. He is not longer insane.

There is no reason to lay waste to the planet he intends to conquer.

PANEL 4:

EXT. A group of the Decepticons is standing in front of the building that they had identified as the government building - or at least the military control-center - of this place.

WIDE-SHOT - The Decepticons present are Galvatron, Cyclonus, Scourge and two Sweeps, Zarak in his Headmaster robot-suit, Slugslagger, Triggerhappy and Misfire, Astrotrain and Mindwipe and Weirwolf in their beast-modes with their nebulon partners standing next to them...

Devastator, Menasor and Bruticus...

it was a show of force...

... and in some greater distance the rest of the Decepticon force and Skorponok's city-mode just outside the borders of the natives city.

PANEL 5:

The name of the planet, as they had found out, was Alera.

The alerians are a humanoid species with light blue skin, looking not quite unlike humans or nebulons. Which was a bit surprising given that they were in another galaxy.

Only they had larger and lightly pointed ears (which made them look a bit like elves) and four fingers instead of five and seemingly completely black eyes. Their hair color ranged from shades of black to white.

Their clothes seem to consist either of some kind of grey or white robes or more practical looking full-body suits.

WIDE SHOT - A number of them are standing outside of the building. They had been waiting for the Decepticons. All of them with a clear expression of fear.

With a large number of more alerians assembled around them in the city.

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PANEL 1:

WIDE SHOT - The leader of the alerians, by his appearance, is an old man. He has completely white hair. Not that this seemed to say much about the age of his species, since many yong have the same hair color. But his blue skin is also wrinkled and looks paler than the younger alerians.

Standing close to him are two middle aged dark haired men in a similar white robe like the Leader himself and a young female who had also white hair who is wearing a body-suit...

... and behind them a male and female who are wearing armor similar to the soldiers they had seen, obviously guards.

PANEL 2:

The smaller Alerian Leader, visibly uneasy and desperate, LOOKING UP at Galvatron and Cyclonus.

Alerian Leader

"We did as you ordered. - Are you machines serving the Kyrix?"

Cyclonus

(sharply)

"We serve **nobody** but ourselves."

PANEL 3:

Galvatron

"Listen organic creatures, I am Galvatron - Leader of the Decepticons. You and your planet from now on belong to the Decepticon Empire.

From now on you only exist to further our goals and for the glory of the Decepticons."

Alerian Leader
(confused)
"You - you are letting us live?"

The tone in his voice suggested that the mere fact completely surprised him.
Actually his voice sounded nearly... hopeful?

PANEL 4:

CLOSE SHOT at Galvatron's face.

Galvatron
"The dead are of no use. As little use as your frail organic species is
anyway."

Despite his indifferent words, he can not help to feel somehow surprised by the Leader's reaction.

PANEL 5:

CLOSE SHOT at the female alerian standing next to the Leader.

Female alerian
"What if the Kyrix are coming for this planet, like they did for others?
Are you going to defend us from them?"

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PANEL 1:

Galvatron lifts his right arm with his particle-cannon in a aggressive gesture.

Galvatron
"I will **destroy** everyone else who is trying to claim this planet."

PANEL 2:

The reaction to this words however is the last thing what Galvatron or any of the other Decepticons would have expected.

WIDE SHOT - The Leader lowers his head to them, just like the alerians next to him. Then the Leader says a word the Decepticons first think has been mistranslated.

Alerian Leader

"Savior."

The Leader is the first one who says it, closely followed by his entourage.

There had not been many situations in his life where Galvatron has been completely dumbfounded. But this is definitely one of them.

PANEL 3:

And a few moments later the large gathering of alerians in the city around them is starting to chant the same word.

"Savior, savior..."

Sweep

"What in the world is going on here?"

PANEL 4:

INT. Inside Skorponok, a short time later.

Cyclonus

"By what we have found out from the alerians, the Kyrix are a race that has during the last 40 years conquered 3 habitated planets in this part of space..."

PANEL 5:

Cyclonus (cont.)

"... and completely wiped out the native population. They also attcked several other planets."

PANEL 6:

Cyclonus (cont.)

"They are an organic species. Their technological level seems to be comparable to the human's current one."

With other words, no real threat to them.

Zarak

"I am starting to see why they consider being conquered by **us** as some kind of salvation."

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PANEL 1:

CLOSE SHOT at Galvatron with a smile forming on his face.

Galvatron

"No matter. It seems we have a competitor in this part of space. We will soon show them how it is to **be** conquered."

PANEL 2:

TWO SHOT: Galvatron with Zarak sitting close to him.

Galvatron (cont.)

"Tell the alerians we are taking control of their planet's energy sources. The first priority is to get Skorponok repaired. Oh - and Zarak, I will tell the Constructicons to install a few security protocols."

PANEL 3:

Galvatron (cont.)

"Just in case you come to the idea to for example... use it against me."

Zarak

"Of course Galvatron."

PANEL 4:

CAPTION: Planet Cybertron

EXT.

Optimus, the Targetmasters, Spike, Daniel and Arcee have by now returned to Cybertron. With Cerebros - the 'other half' of Fortress Maximus and the Headmasters staying on Nebulus for now.

Here they are already being expected. By more than one person.

WIDE SHOT - Standing beside Ultra Magnus at the landing sight of the shuttle is Spike's wife Carly.

Daniel

"Mom!"

PANEL 5:

Carly

"I have heard what happened, to Daniel... and to you."

Daniel nearly killed. Both of them becoming Headmasters. Yes, a lot has happened.

Spike

"There was no other choice. It was either this or our son would have been unable to even move."

PANEL 6:

Carly

"I know, Ultra Magnus has told me everything."

They both embrace each other.

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PANEL 1:

INT. Cybertron, Vector Sigma

WIDE SHOT - Optimus Prime, Hotrod and Ultra Magnus are once again entering the underground-hall inside Cybertron of the super-computer Vector Sigma.

Ultra Magnus

"Are you sure about this?"

Optimus

"I have to do this."

Optimus has the now emptied shell of the Matrix in his hand and once again uses it to activate Vector Sigma.

PANEL 2:

The transparent figure of Alpha Trion appears before them.

TWO SHOT: Alpha Trion and Optimus

Alpha Trion (projection)

"Optimus - why have you come again?"

Optimus

"I had to talk to you. There are some questions I have."

PANEL 3:

Alpha Trion

"Questions?"

Optimus

"About the things that happened. Galvatron is still out there. He and Zarak are now in an unknown part of space. They could attack other planets and we would not even know about it."

(thinking)

'As a result of Vector Sigma's own plan'

He doesn't say the thought loud.

PANEL 4:

Alpha Trion

"Do not bother about Galvatron. He is not longer your problem to worry about."

Optimus

"But..."

PANEL 5:

Alpha Trion

"Galvatron is fulfilling his own role in the plan. Leave now - and enjoy the New Golden Age that you and your Autobots had brought for Cybertron."

The projection of Alpha Trion shows a smile on his face as he said this to them. For a moment Optimus, Hotrod and Ultra Magnus want to believe him. But they can still not help but feel that something was wrong.

And then...

PANEL 6:

Suddenly the figure of a second Alpha Trion appears right next to them, a few meters beside the first one.

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PANEL 1:

Second Alpha Trion

"No - you must not listen to him Optimus. He has been corrupted... the enemy."

PANEL 2:

CLOSE SHOT - The form of the second Alpha Trion suddenly starts to flicker before their eyes and he bends down slightly, nearly as if he is in pain.

They remember that the figure of Alpha Trion they see is only a projection. His true self, his spark, was merged with the super computer. So more than one of them appearing was possible. Feeling pain however should have not, just like the two disagreeing and accusing each other.

What is going on here?

Second Alpha Trion

"The Darkness - the Darkness is..."

PANEL 3:

WIDE SHOT - Then he and the first one both disappear. There is nothing but empty spots were both had been a moment before.

PANEL 4:

TWO SHOT – Ultra Magnus and Optimus standing next to each other.

Ultra Magnus

"I think this settles it. Vector Sigma must be malfunctioning somehow, maybe even gone insane. We should not longer activate it, at least for the time being."

Optimus

"I agree with you."

Captioned: And Alpha Trion mind – and his spark - was trapped inside of it. Optimus wished he knew a way to help his mentor. But he had none. At least not now.

PANEL 5:

Hotrod

"But this means we have lost both Vector Sigma and the Matrix."

Optimus

"We will restore the Matrix... over time. And we will try to correct whatever is wrong with Vector Sigma, somehow."

They all knew how small the chances of that were. Vector Sigma was older than Cybertron itself. Nobody alive really fully understood it.

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PANEL 1:

CLOSE SHOT - Optimus looks downwards as the full implications of what they found out fully settle in. Vector Sigma was broken, somehow defect.

And he had blindly followed it's orders.

No, looking back it seemed as if Vector Sigma had used some kind of mental influence on him. He had been manipulated by it.

Optimus

"What have I done?"

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT - As the three leave the hall, both Optimus and Hotrod both feel for a moment as if they hear quiet deep laughter halling through the room.

But only for a short moment. As they look around there is nothing to hear. So they both think they had only imagined it.

PANEL 3:

CAPTION: Autobot City Earth - 8 months later

December the 24rd 2007 - Christmas Eve

WIDE SHOT - It is Winter.

The year is nearly over and the area around Autobot City is covered in snow.

PANEL 4:

INT. A conference room inside Autobot City

Ultra Magnus is in a... well - interesting meeting.

Ultra Magnus

(thinking)

'Why is it always me who has to take care of things like this?'

WIDE SHOT - He is currently in the company of three humans. They are sitting together at a specially modified table on different-sized chairs.

The first is EDC Captain and one of his personal friends - Marrison Fairborn.

The second is Carly, who had taken over as Ambassador to Cybertron from her husband. While Spike had switched to being Ambassador to Nebulon instead.

The third however is a middle aged man who is wearing a strange looking grey robe with two vertical metallic silvery stripes along it's shoulders and two symbols painted on them.

Ultra Magnus recognizes them as the old-egyptian Aang and the Omega symbol.

The man is a representative and so called CARDINAL of the so called 'Church of Cybertron'.

A new, well - Religion, that had spread and become known in public during the last couple years.

There had actually been a trend going on in human society for a long time now that more and more humans came to use cybernetic and even completely robotic enhancements, not simply to repair injuries, but to become stronger and enhance their lifespan.

The 'Church of Cybertron' however had taken it one step further, to worshipping Transformers - Cybertronians and to some degree off-shot races like the Junkions - and making it their declared goal to become more similar to them and turn themselves into 'higher beings' as well.

Most of the other humans consider a 'weird cult'. But that doesn't change that they have by now gained a larger number of followers and resources.

PANEL 5:

TWO SHOT – Ultra Magnus and the Church of Cybertron Cardinal

Cardinal

"Please Holy One - could you at least consider our request?"

Ultra Magnus

"For the last time Cardinal, we will not hand you over the bodies of any dead Transformers. Neither Autobots or Decepticons.

And would you please stop calling me Holy One?"

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PAGE 1:

Cardinal

"You should not think that we would disrespect the bodies. They would be objects of worship and we would only perform the research that is permitted and legal. We are an integrous and true faith."

PANEL 2:

CLOSE SHOT on Marrissa.

Marrissa

"May I remind you that some members of the 'Church of Cybertron' were just recently responsible for the theft of some parts of cybertronian technology given to the human military?"

It was in fact this incident that caused Marrissa to first actually draw the attention of the Autobots to this particular sect.

PANEL 3:

Cardinal

"There are always some bad sheep in every Religion. Most of our members are good citizens who just want to use technology to become divine beings as well.

Or at least as close as possible"

Ultra Magnus

"We are not divine beings."

PANEL 4:

Cardinal

"Holy One - you can live for millions of years, maybe even forever. You are physically much stronger than us. You can change shapes, repair injuries and even transfer yourself to other bodies. How can you deny it?"

Ultra Magnus

(thinking)

`Yes - why was it always **him** who had to take care of things like this? How am I even supposed to reply to something this crazy?`

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - It is in this moment that Blaster and Jazz came practically running through the door.

Jazz

"Ultra Magnus - we have just received an transmission."

Ultra Magnus

"And that is important enough to just burst in here?"

Secretly though he is glad for this interruption.

PANEL 6:

Blaster

"In this case yes. A ship has just entered the system and is approaching Earth. They are Quintessons - Quintessons... and they are asking for asylum and for our help."

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PANEL 1:

WIDE SHOT - That statement is enough to make all of them stare in open surprise - Magnus, Carly, Marrissa and even the `Cardinal` from the Church of Cybertron.

Jazz

"It comes even worse. They claim that a group of Decepticons has taken over their new home system."

PANEL 2:

CLOSE SHOT on Ultra Magnus face. Magnus barely manages to hide his smile.

Ultra Magnus

"I see, this **is** serious. I am sorry Cardinal, but it seems we have to interrupt our meeting."

PANEL 3:

EXT. A few kilometers away from Autobot City, at the closest neighboring human town

WIDE SHOT - The town and the surrounding area is covered in snow. It is the picture of a peaceful looking winter landscape.

Optimus, who is currently off-duty, has been taken a drive to relax and have some time for himself.

Right now he had makes a stop and is standing in the snow covered landscape. And he is looking at a few humans doing their daily business.

That included a group of children playing in the snow.

Captioned: Peace - Had they really achieved it this time?

At least for the foreseeable future? There had not been any fighting for over a half year now. The remaining Decepticons had withdrawn and gone into hiding.

Despite Vector Sigma's questionable state, it seems there had come some good out of all this after all.

Captioned: Of course there was the possibility that Galvatron and Zarak were out there conquering one planet after the other in the unknown regions of space. While he and the other Autobots are sitting here and having a peaceful time.

PANEL 4:

In this moment Optimus sees Ultra Magnus and Hotrod approaching.

Magnus had already informed him about the Quintessons over the com. And that he had prepared everything for their reception. It looks however like he and Hotrod took the chance to get out for a bit as well.

Ultra Magnus

"Optimus – our 'guests' are about to arrive."

PANEL 5:

CAPTION: Autobot City

INT. The same conference room like before, a half hour later

WIDE SHOT - Optimus, Ultra Magnus, Hotrod, Jazz, Blaster, Carly and Marrison are sitting together together with two Quintesson Judges, a General with the typical look of one face and sharp metallic teeth and one Quintesson Scientist.

1st Quintesson Judge

"As you know, we lost control of our new home system during the Hate Plaque epidemic.

The insane driven Sharkticons had forced us off our planets. That means the ones of us who had not been killed by them. And we have not been able to regain control."

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PANEL 1:

Ultra Magnus

(sarcasm)

"So your slaves rebelled and kicked you off the world you controlled, like it happened on Cybertron. We **really** feel sorry for you here."

PANEL 2:

Quintesson General

"**We** were not able to regain control, but someone **else** was. We managed to deactivated most of the Guards when they went insane.

In our absense they somehow managed to change their programming and reactivated them and then used them to take over the Sharkticons."

PANEL 3:

Quintesson Judge

"One of our remaining spy-drones was able to get a picture of the beings who now control our system."

He lifts a small holo-projector he was holding in his tentacles... and activates it.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE SHOT on Optimus face.

Optimus

"That is impossible."

PANEL 5:

The picture shows nobody else than Cyclonus, with a Sweep standing next to him and worse, Galvatron's flagship the Revenge hanging in the sky behind them.

PANEL 6:

Hotrod

"Cyclonus was inside Skorponok. We saw him. He nearly killed you."

Optimus next to him nods.

PAGE 18:

PANEL 1:

CAPTION : The Decepticon City Trypticon, somewhere in space.

EXT. Trypticon is in city-mode somewhere on the surface of an unpopulated planetoid.

PANEL 2:

INT. Inside Trypticon

WIDE SHOT - The temporary and provisorical Decepticon Leader Soundwave is looking at the Decepticons who were still there.

Or better said the parts of the Decepticon Army that had **not** been inside Skorponok when it had been hit by the blast of the Plasma Energy Chamber. Before they had lost all contact with them. There was no denying it, it would be a long time until Galvatron returned.

If he did at all.

Standing next to him is Blitzwing, who Galvatron had in opposite to his earlier words, accepted back into the Decepticon ranks a short time after their falling out.

PANEL 3:

Then there are the two Seekers Darkwing and Dreadwind standing next to them.

PANEL 4:

The assembled Micromaster Air Strike, Sports Car and Military-Patrols.

PANEL 5:

... the monster-formed Pretender group of Bomburst, Iquanus, Submarauder, Skullgrin and Bugly.

PANEL 6:

WIDE SHOT - ... and a large number of others – Seekers, car-, tank and animal-mode Decepticons.

It are nearly a hundred Decepticons alone here at this place, assembled inside Trypticon.

But most of the best and most powerful are gone.

For security reasons, the remaining Decepticons had given up their headquarter on the planet Chaar and moved for now to this planetoid.

Chaar was just not longer save with so many of their ranks missing.

To spare energy Trypticon also staid in city-mode and had most of his systems deactivated.

They question was: What now?

That was the question they were discussing right now.

PAGE 19:

PANEL 1:

TWO SHOT – Bomburst in his pretender form and Darkwing.

Bomburst

"We could try to find another planet with rich energy resources and take it over."

Darkwing

"The Autobots would be on us in no time in any known system.

We would have to leave known space entirely and find an unknown planet. Not to mention the energy it would cost us to **get** there."

PANEL 2:

CLOSE SHOT on Soundwave.

Soundwave

"A risk we might have to take."

It is at this time that they are receiving a message.

PANEL 3:

The face that appears on the screen belonged to nobody else than Cyclonus.

Soundwave

"Impossible."

Ironically his reaction perfectly mirrored Optimus Prime's.

PANEL 4:

tanding beside Cyclonus on the screen is a Sweep... and the Insecticons Shrapnell and Venom.

Cyclonus

"Soundwave, Blitzwing - as you can see, despite claims of the opposite, I have not disappeared together with Galvatron."

PANEL 5:

CLOSE SHOT on Blitzwing's face.

NOTE: Blitzwing's thoughts.

Captioned: The Insecticons. Blitzwing for his part could have easily lived without ever seeing **them** again.

Till today they had not even bothered to tell anyone if it had been their real selves or clones who had been morphed into the Sweeps by Unicron.

It was some years ago they had managed to clone fully sentient copies of themselves. Megatron had tolerated it, since short of eliminating the entire group he could not really do anything to stop them. And for that they were still too useful.

Since Galvatron and the others had gone missing, they had vanished completely.

Until now.

PANEL 6:

Soundwave

"Data confirmed that Cyclonus was inside Skorponok when he was hit by the plasma energy... And yet you are here."

PAGE 20:

PANEL 1:

Cyclonus

"It seems your data is faulty. I have obviously not been on Skorponok. Otherwise I would also be on the other side of the universe right now. Isn't that right?"

Soundwave

"Correct."

PANEL 2:

Cyclonus

"Good that we agree. I am taking over until Galvatron returns. I want you to bring Trypticon to the former Quintesson Sector."

Blitzwing

"Who tells us that this call is not a fake and that you are who you claim to be? This could be a trap."

PANEL 3:

Cyclonus

"Are you questioning my authority Blitzwing?"

Blitzwing

"No."

PANEL 4:

Cyclonus

"Good - you remember what happened the last time you questioned a Decepticon Leader. I expect you within 100 Astro-hours."

PANEL 5:

The screen becomes dark.

TWO SHOT - Soundwave and Blitzwing look at each other without saying a word.

PANEL 6:

CAPTION: Light-years away in the former Quintesson territory.

WIDE SHOT - 'Cyclonus' had just ended the transmission.

The two Insecticons beside him take a step closer to him.

(Sentient) Shrapnell Clone

"That was a great performance, Bombshell – Bombshell."

PAGE 21:

PANEL 1:

CAPTION: Autobot City Earth

INT. The Autobots and the two humans are now sitting together to discuss their conversation with the group of Quintessons.

Ultra Magnus

"Our Quintesson 'friends' are safe and secure in a few cells in our brig."

Marrissa

"I wish we could just leave them there, but they had officially requested asylum."

PANEL 2:

Hotrod

"Another question is, how much of what they said is even true? That picture of Cyclonus and also this entire story might be fabricated."

Optimus

"We will have to observe the sector and find out the truth ourselves."

PANEL 3:

CAPTION: Millions of light-years away, the planet Alera

It has come like the Alerians had expected it would.

The species known as the Kyrix is making a 'visit' to their world. Three large battleships, each rivaling Skorponok in size, are approaching the planet.

WIDE SHOT - These three ships are releasing hundreds of smaller fighters and shuttles.

While Skorponok rises up from the surface into the orbit, along with dozens of Decepticons in aircraft or robot form and are engaging them

PANEL 4:

WIDE SHOT - Cyclonus in his jet-mode is flying in front of a group consisting of Scourge, two Sweeps and the other Targetmasters, who are destroying enemy fighters left and right.

Next Cyclonus fires a couple of his missiles, quickly followed by another two at one of the large battleships.

PANEL 5:

The Kyrix ships possess energy-shields, but their technology is not comparable to the Decepticon's or Autobot's.

So their shields instantly break down and Cyclonus missiles pierce through the hull into the bridge and machine-section and are blowing the ship up from the inside out, killing the entire crew.

Galvatron is standing on Skorponok's space ship form. He transforms into his cannon-mode and fired a shot with his full power at one of the other two enemy ships.

PANEL 6:

Cyclonus remembers how a similar shot had blown up the dwarf planet Thrull.

And the same happens now to the second Kyrix battleship, as it blowing up in a gigantic explosion.

While the third one is being destroyed under the combined fire of Bruticus, Predaking, Abominus and Sixshot.

As the other Decepticons are decimating the remaining enemy fighters.

The battle is over within minutes.

Captioned: And at the same time, yet another war has begun.

Thank you for reading.

This story is based on the original Transformers ReAnimated stories and of course of the original cartoon itself.

Like Transformers ReAnimated is the author's idea for the events between Season 2 and the Movie, this is mine for a continuation of the series after 'Rebirth'.

'Dark Victory – part 1' is the first part of a three-part story and serves so as pilot multiparter.

xxx

Regarding the 'two Cyclonus' reveal at the end.

The idea was actually inspired by the '10.000 pardons, you mean Bombshell...' short film written by Flint Dille and Co.

Which - aside from confirming Skywarp to be (the real) Cyclonus – suggested, mostly jokingly, that the second Cyclonus during the reformation scene in the movie might actually exist and just had deserted shortly after his creation.

Here however the idea is taken more serious and part of an important plot-line. The circumstances about how and why however are still secret for now and will be revealed in the next two issues.

The idea that the Insecticons had by the time of the Movie been able to create sentient clones is pretty much my explanation of their appearances after the Sweeps had been reformed.

Since the NON-sentient clones are shown to fall apart as soon as they are not longer controlled by the original, logically at least one set of clones that can at least exist independent at the point of the movie.

xxx

This scrip was as I admit to some degree also inspired by some of my personal issues about the Rebirth three-parter.

Like Vector Sigma's 'plan' endangering multiple populated worlds and Optimus Prime just getting along with it without question and even considering the idea of destroying the key to the Plasma Energy Chamber.

Or Galvatron trying to destroy Cybertron AFTER the Decepticons had already successful reconquered it. And even more important, no other Decepticon even disagreeing with that plan.

With Galvatron alone, you could have argued that he was still (or was once again) be insane. But since the other Decepticons just accepted the idea without saying a single word, this is obviously a writing issue and not one of Galvatron's mental state.

That Galvatron, Cyclonus and Scourge – just as Optimus as well - had been under some kind of mental influence by Vector Sigma/the Matrix to engage his plan to restore Cybertron is an idea that had made more and more sense to me, the more I thought about it.

At the same time however the idea came to me - what if Vector Sigma had somehow been corrupted and could not longer be trusted? And Optimus that blind obedience to it had not been such a good idea after all?

Which leads me to another point that bothered me about that entire Rebirth storyline.

At the end of Rebirth Galvatron and the Decepticons are send to an unknown area of space and are given pretty much free reign to attack and conquer as many planets there as they want to, as a result of Vector Sigma's plan.

And neither Vector Sigma or Optimus seemed to be bothered by that at all?

Well, to some degree this thoughts ultimately led me to some of the ground ideas for this storyline. I however fully intend Dark Victory to be a story in it's own right, instead of just a 'fix-it' for Rebirth.

xxx

There is also to a smaller degree the fact that many (Decepticon) characters simply not appear in Rebirth, who should have been on the forefront (Trypticon, Sweeps, unnamed Decepticons etc.), despite that it were supposedly all Decepticons involved in the battle.

My explanation is that they were there, but simply never shown on screen.

x

First of, I find the idea utterly stupid that the entire Decepticon and Autobot forces would consist only of the named characters at the point of season 3/4. Which would make both the Decepticon army (who have the stated goal to conquer the universe) and the Autobots (who have the stated goal to stop them) be less than 100 people each. And this would make the entire Autobot-Decepticon war a complete joke.

Besides, both The Movie and Five Faces of Darkness suggests that the Decepticon forces are far larger and include a great number of unnamed Decepticons.

The Movie showed a few glimpses of this greater army when Unicron attacked.

Five Faces of Darkness - animation errors aside - had the Decepticon forces attacking Cybertron be shipped in by five Quintesson ships.

One of this ships is shown to be able to carry at least 40 to 50 Decepticons. Which suggest that Galvatron's invasion-force consisted of at least 200 to 250 Decepticons. And that with many Decepticons not even part of that invasion-force.

x

For this story, most of the known Decepticons (and several more) were inside Skorponok when it was hit by the plasma-energy-blast and most who were not were with Soundwave and Trypticon, who had lifted off from Cybertron's surface earlier, before Galvatron opened the chamber.

Also, when Optimus said 'all Decepticons' there is also the possibility that he just meant Galvatron's army, but not necessary all members of the Decepticon race.