



DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON

MIKE SPICER

# TRANSFORMERS

image®

#02



# ENERGON UNIVERSE

# TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE TWO

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON  
WRITER, ARTIST

MIKE SPICER  
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON  
LETTERER

## COVERS

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON & MIKE SPICER

AFU CHAN

ORLANDO AROCENA

BRYAN HITCH & ALEX SINCLAIR

TOM REILLY

SEAN MACKIEWICZ & JONATHAN MANNING

EDITORS

ANDRES JUAREZ

PUBLICATION DESIGN

Licensed by:



Special thanks to Hasbro's Michael Kelly, Ed Lane, Linda Lee & Tayla Reo for their invaluable assistance.

FOR SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT: ROBERT KIRKMAN CHAIRMAN | DAVID ALPERT CEO | SEAN MACKIEWICZ SVP, PUBLISHER | ANDRES JUAREZ CREATIVE DIRECTOR, EDITORIAL | ARUNE SINGH VP, BRAND, EDITORIAL | SHANNON MEEHAN SENIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER | ALEX ANTONE EDITORIAL DIRECTOR | AMANDA LAFRANCO EDITOR | JONATHAN MANNING EDITOR | JILLIAN CRAB GRAPHIC DESIGNER | ASHBY FLORENCE PRODUCTION ARTIST | RICHARD MERCADO PRODUCTION ARTIST | MORGAN PERRY BRAND MANAGER, EDITORIAL | SARAH CLEMENTS BRAND COORDINATOR, EDITORIAL | NIA PHILLIPS PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST | DAN PETERSEN SR. DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS & EVENTS | Foreign Rights & Licensing Inquiries: contact@skybound.com | SKYBOUND.COM

FOR IMAGE COMICS, INC: ROBERT KIRKMAN CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER | ERIK LARSEN CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER | TODD MCFARLANE PRESIDENT | MARC SILVESTRI CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | JIM VALENTINO VICE PRESIDENT | ERIC STEPHENSON PUBLISHER / CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER | NICOLE LAPALME VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE | LEANNA CAUNTER ACCOUNTING ANALYST | SUE KORPELA ACCOUNTING & HR MANAGER | MATT PARKINSON VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES & PUBLISHING PLANNING | LORELEI BUNJES VICE PRESIDENT OF DIGITAL STRATEGY | DIRK WOOD DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL SALES & LICENSING | RYAN BREWER INTERNATIONAL SALES & LICENSING MANAGER | ALEX COX DIRECTOR OF DIRECT MARKET SALES | CHLOE RAMOS BOOK MARKET & LIBRARY SALES MANAGER | EMILIO BAUTISTA DIGITAL SALES COORDINATOR | JON SCHLAFFMAN SPECIALTY SALES COORDINATOR | KAT SALAZAR VICE PRESIDENT OF PR & MARKETING | DEANNA PHELPS MARKETING DESIGN MANAGER | DREW FITZGERALD MARKETING CONTENT ASSOCIATE | HEATHER DOORNINK VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION | DREW GILL ART DIRECTOR | HILARY DILORETO PRINT MANAGER | TRICIA RAMOS TRAFFIC MANAGER | MELISSA GIFFORD CONTENT MANAGER | ERIKA SCHNATZ SENIOR PRODUCTION ARTIST | WESLEY GRIFFITH PRODUCTION ARTIST | IMAGECOMICS.COM

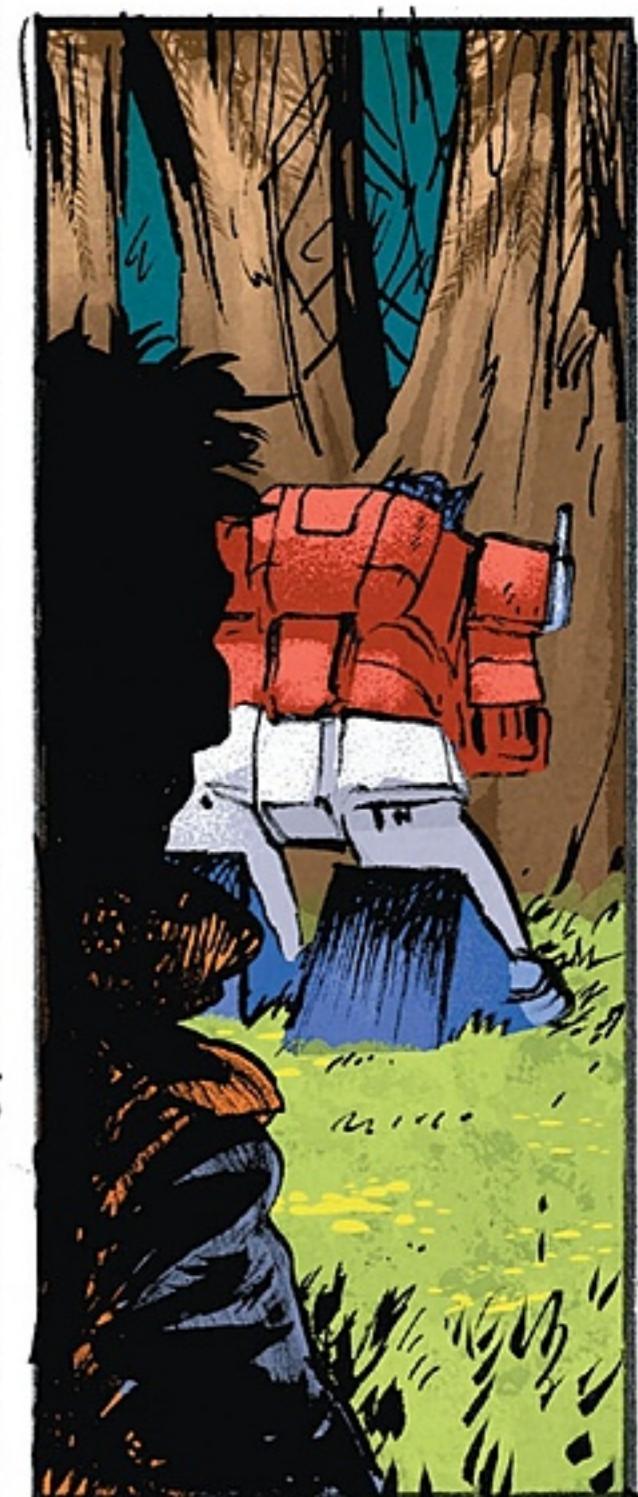
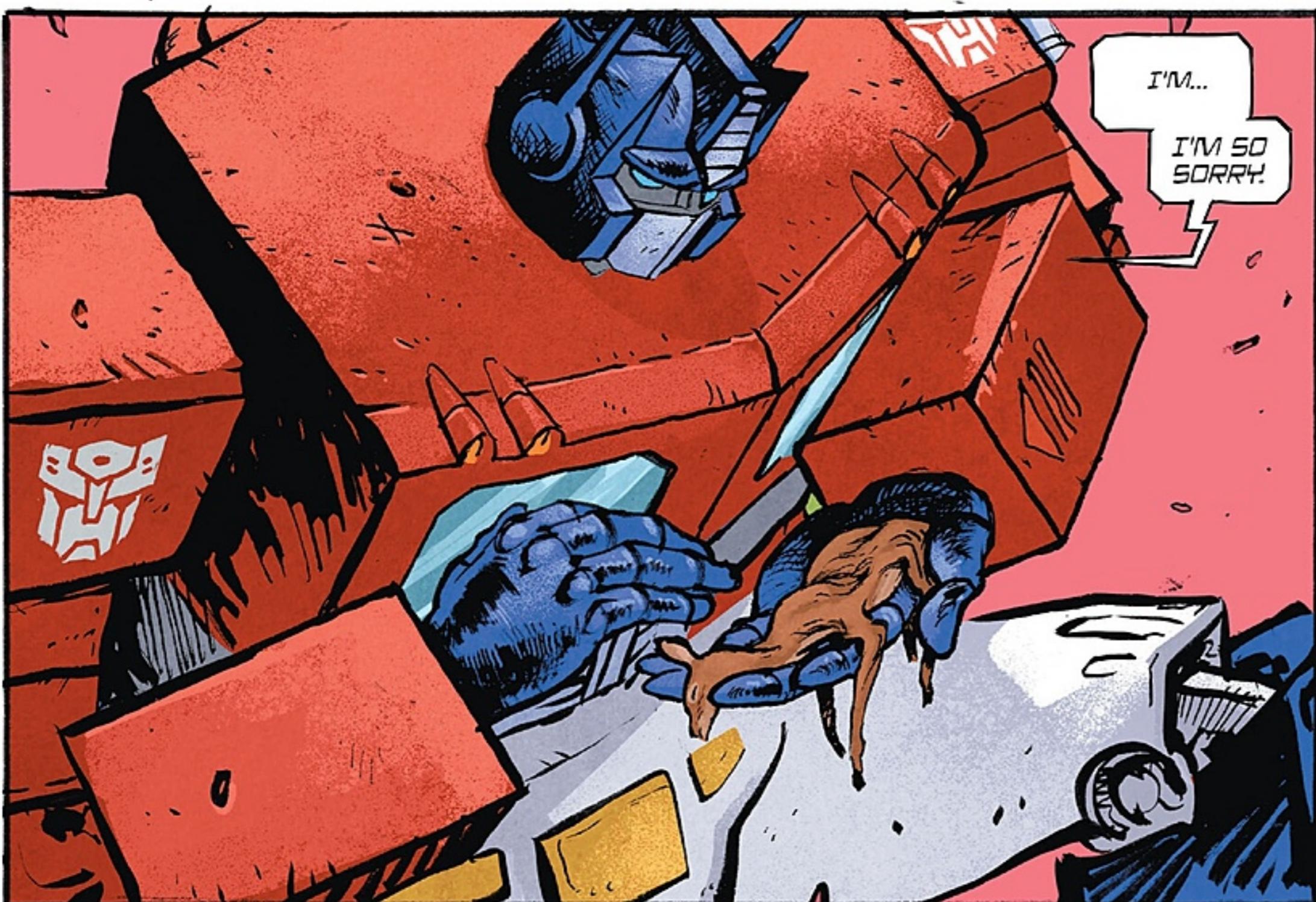
TRANSFORMERS #2. NOVEMBER 2023. PUBLISHED BY IMAGE COMICS, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: PO BOX 14457, PORTLAND, OR 97293. TRANSFORMERS AND HASBRO AND ALL RELATED TRADEMARKS AND LOGOS ARE TRADEMARKS OF HASBRO, INC. ©2023 HASBRO. IMAGE COMICS® AND ITS LOGOS ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS AND COPYRIGHTS OF IMAGE COMICS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS (EXCEPT FOR SHORT EXCERPTS FOR REVIEW PURPOSES) WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF IMAGE COMICS, INC. ALL NAMES, CHARACTERS, EVENTS AND LOCALES IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE ENTIRELY FICTIONAL. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS (LIVING OR DEAD), EVENTS OR PLACES, WITHOUT SATIRIC INTENT, IS COINCIDENTAL. DIGITAL EDITION.

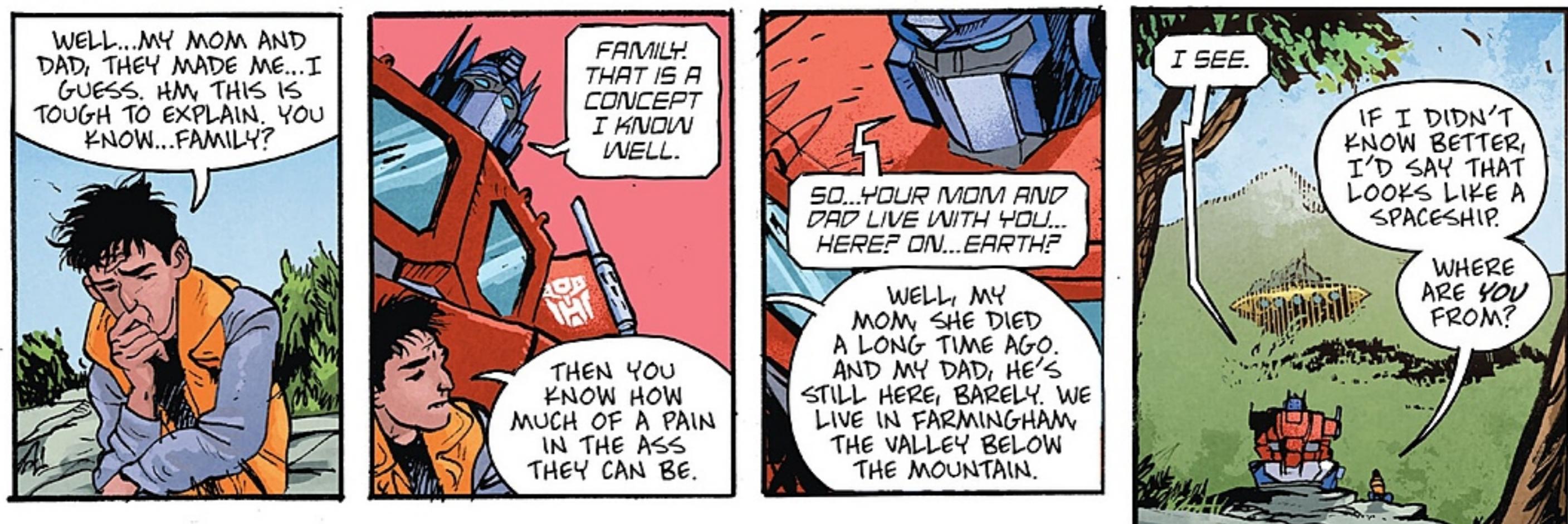
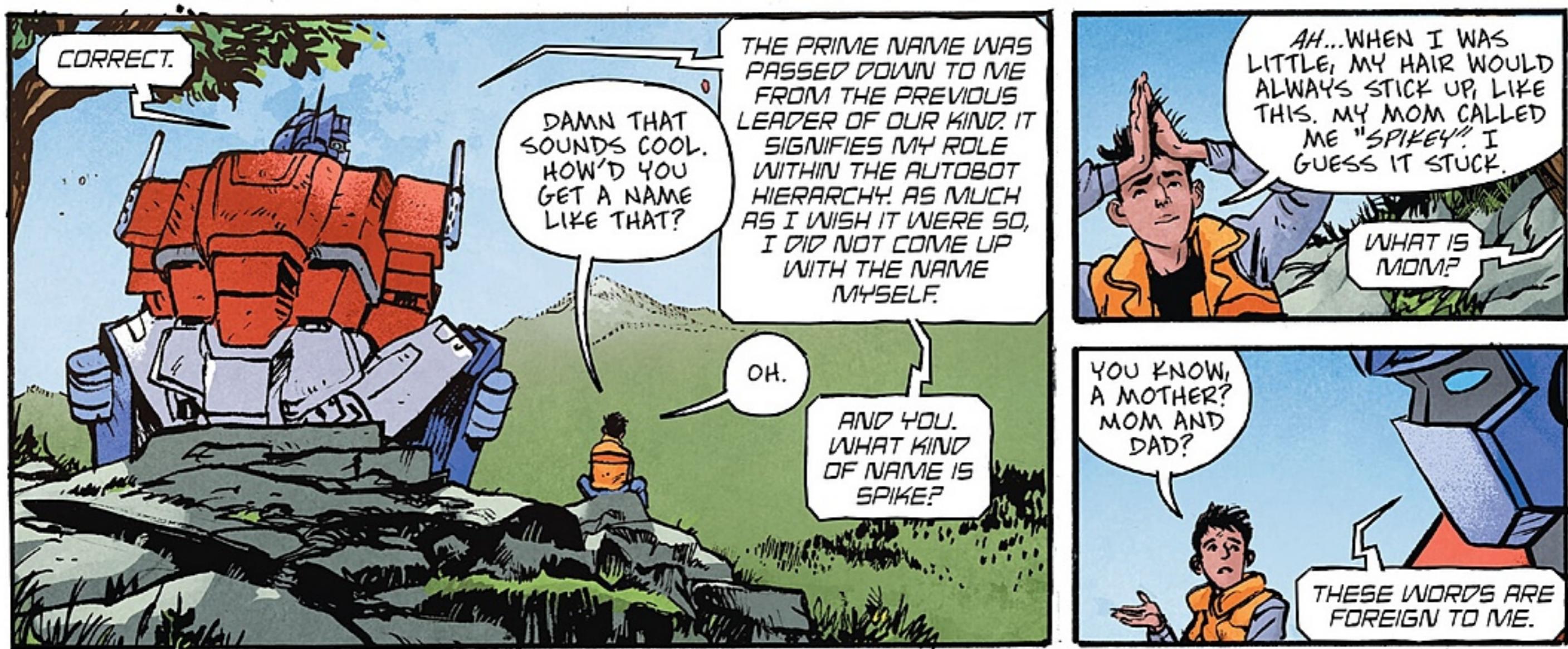
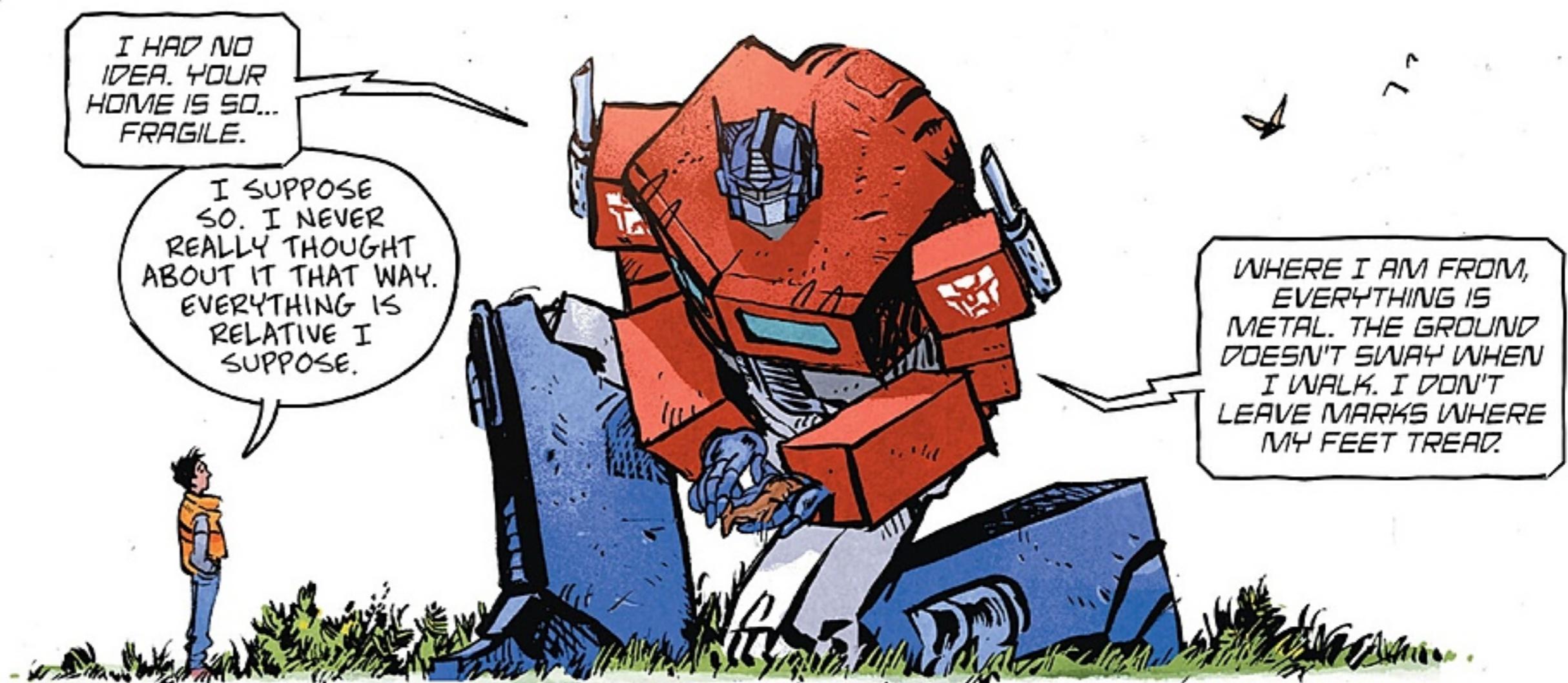
THIS  
WORLD...

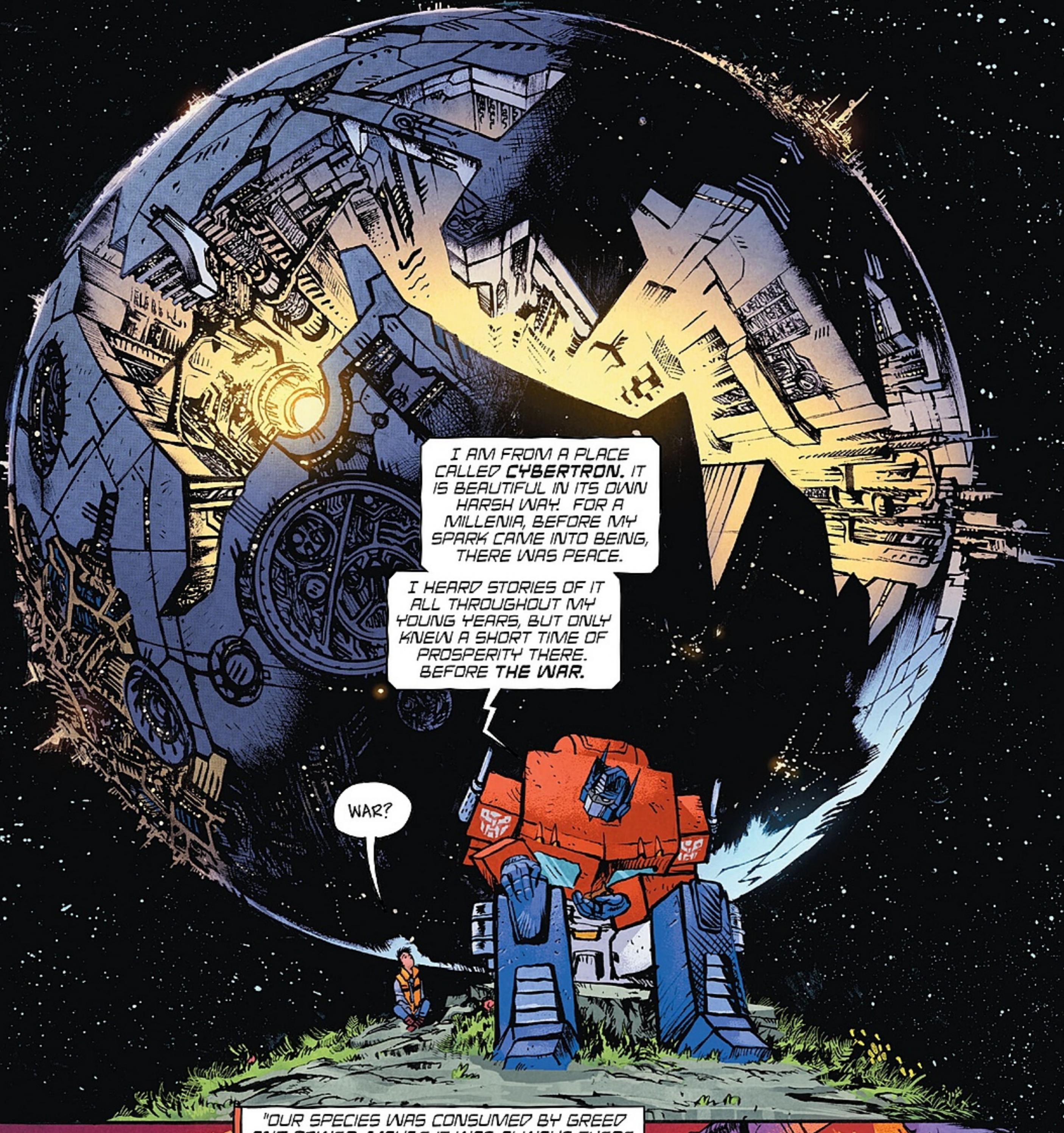
WHAT...  
BEAUTY.

IT'S  
UNBELIEVAB--

CRUNCH







I AM FROM A PLACE  
CALLED CYBERTRON. IT  
IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS OWN  
HARSH WAY. FOR A  
MILLENNIA, BEFORE MY  
SPARK CAME INTO BEING,  
THERE WAS PEACE.

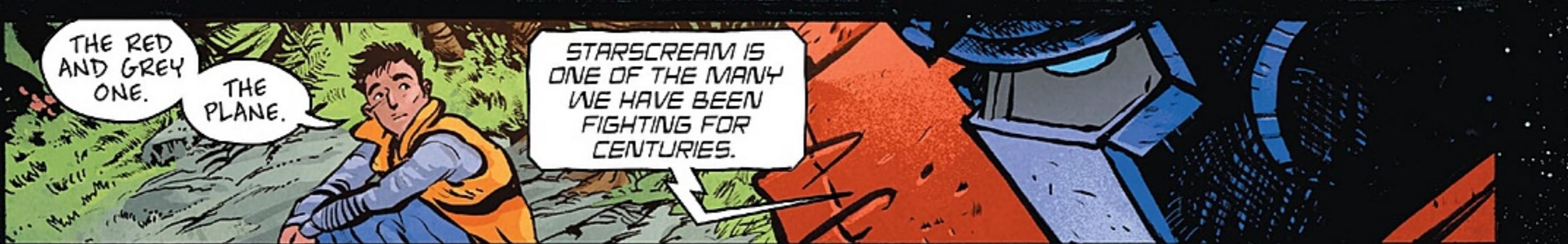
I HEARD STORIES OF IT  
ALL THROUGHOUT MY  
YOUNG YEARS, BUT ONLY  
KNEW A SHORT TIME OF  
PROSPERITY THERE.  
BEFORE THE WAR.

WAR?



"OUR SPECIES WAS CONSUMED BY GREED  
AND POWER. MAYBE IT WAS ALWAYS THERE,  
HIDING, SINCE THE BIRTH OF CYBERTRON."

"BUT TO ME, IT SEEMED TO RAISE ITS UGLY  
HEAD FROM NOWHERE, LED BY AN EXTREMIST  
FACTION ON OUR PLANET--THE DECEPTICONS."



THE RED  
AND GREY  
ONE.

THE  
PLANE.

STARSCREAM IS  
ONE OF THE MANY  
WE HAVE BEEN  
FIGHTING FOR  
CENTURIES.



"AMONG  
OTHERS.

"FOR TWO CENTURIES, MY KIND, THE AUTOBOTS, HAD BEEN FIGHTING FOR THE OLD WAYS OF PEACE, BUT OUR CASUALTIES WERE ASTRONOMICAL."

"OUR NUMBERS HAD DWINDLED SO BADLY THAT WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ABANDON OUR HOME TO OUR OPPRESSORS, TO SCOUR THE GALAXY AND FIND A NEW WAY TO RETAKE OUR HOME. WE LEFT IN THE SHIP YOU FOUND US ON, THE ARK."

"IT WAS DURING OUR ESCAPE THAT THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE DECEPTICONS CAME TO EXTINGUISH THE SPARK OF MY KIND FOREVER. DURING THE FIGHT, WE LOST CONTROL OF OUR SHIP."

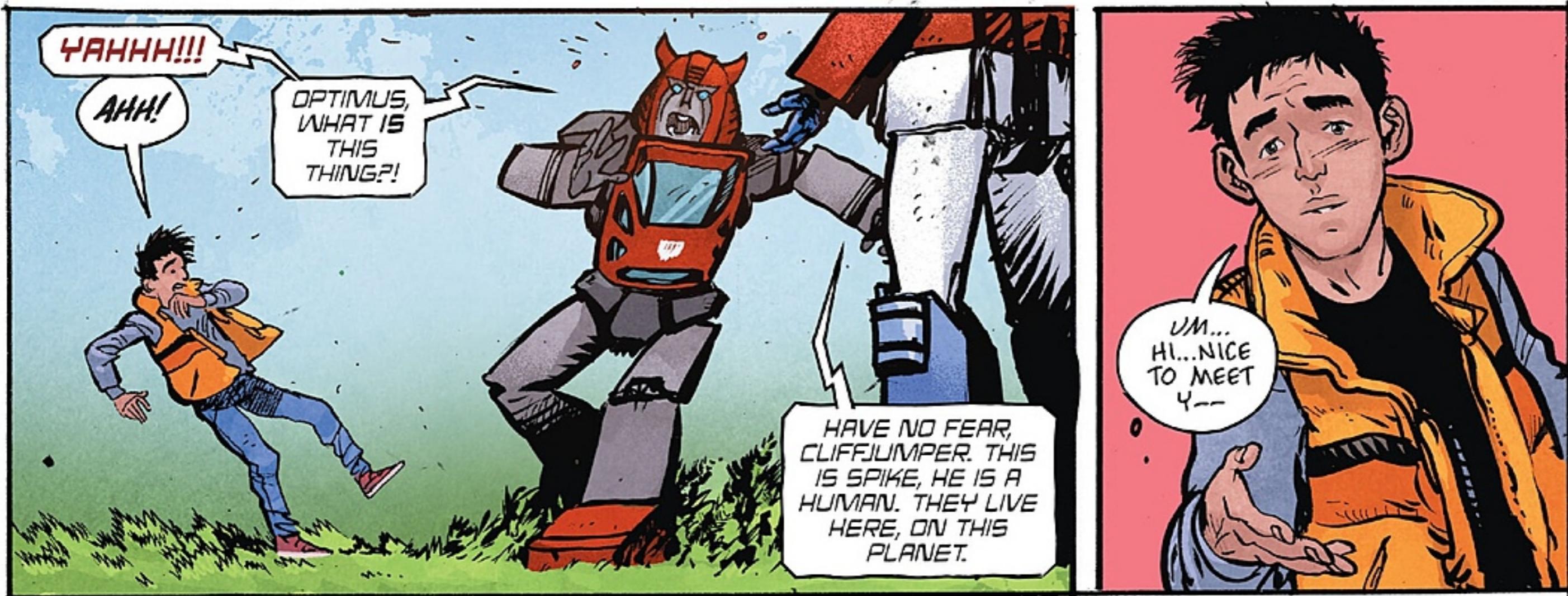
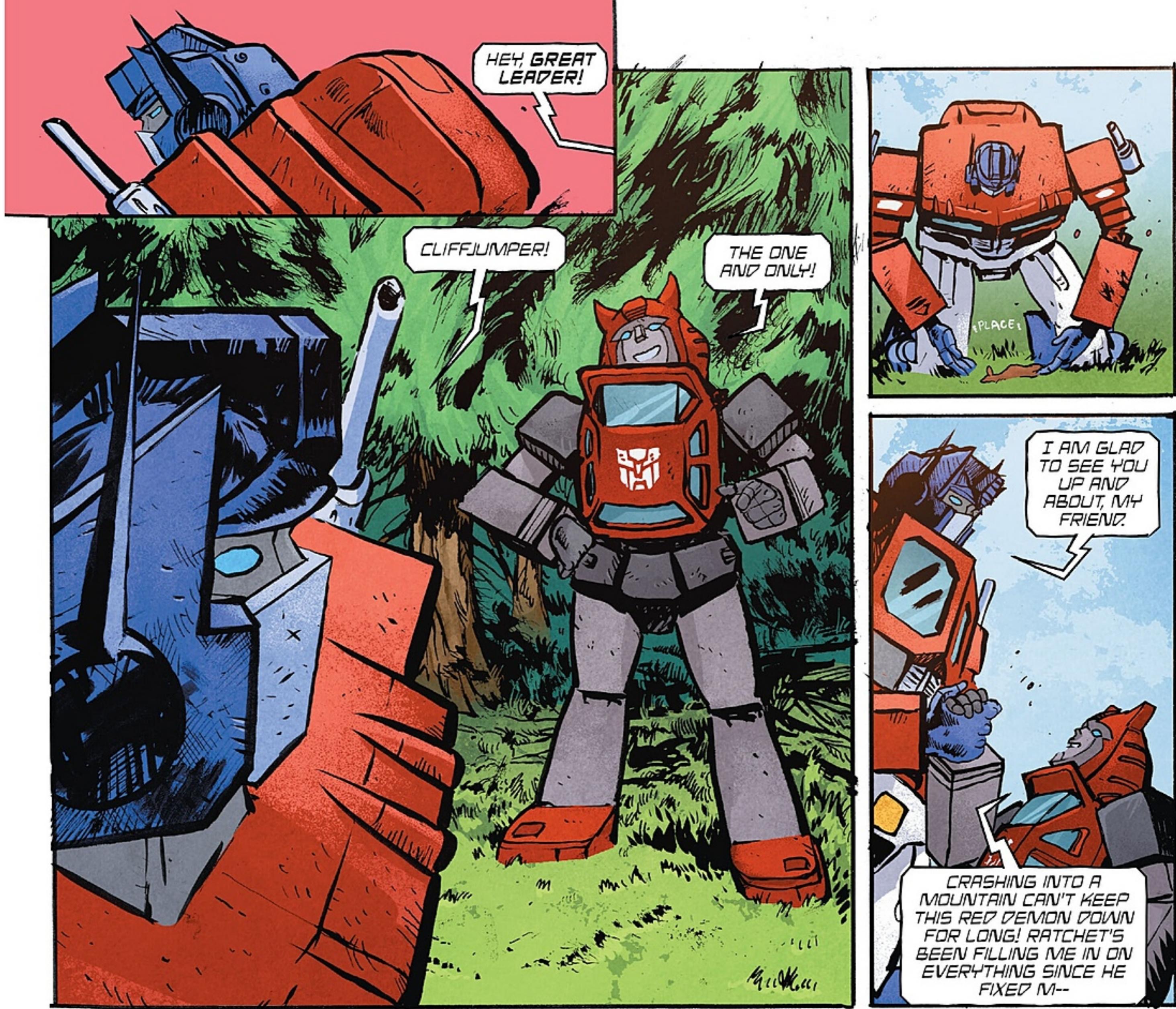
"THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS SEEING YOUR PLANET, RIGHT BEFORE ENTERING ITS ATMOSPHERE."

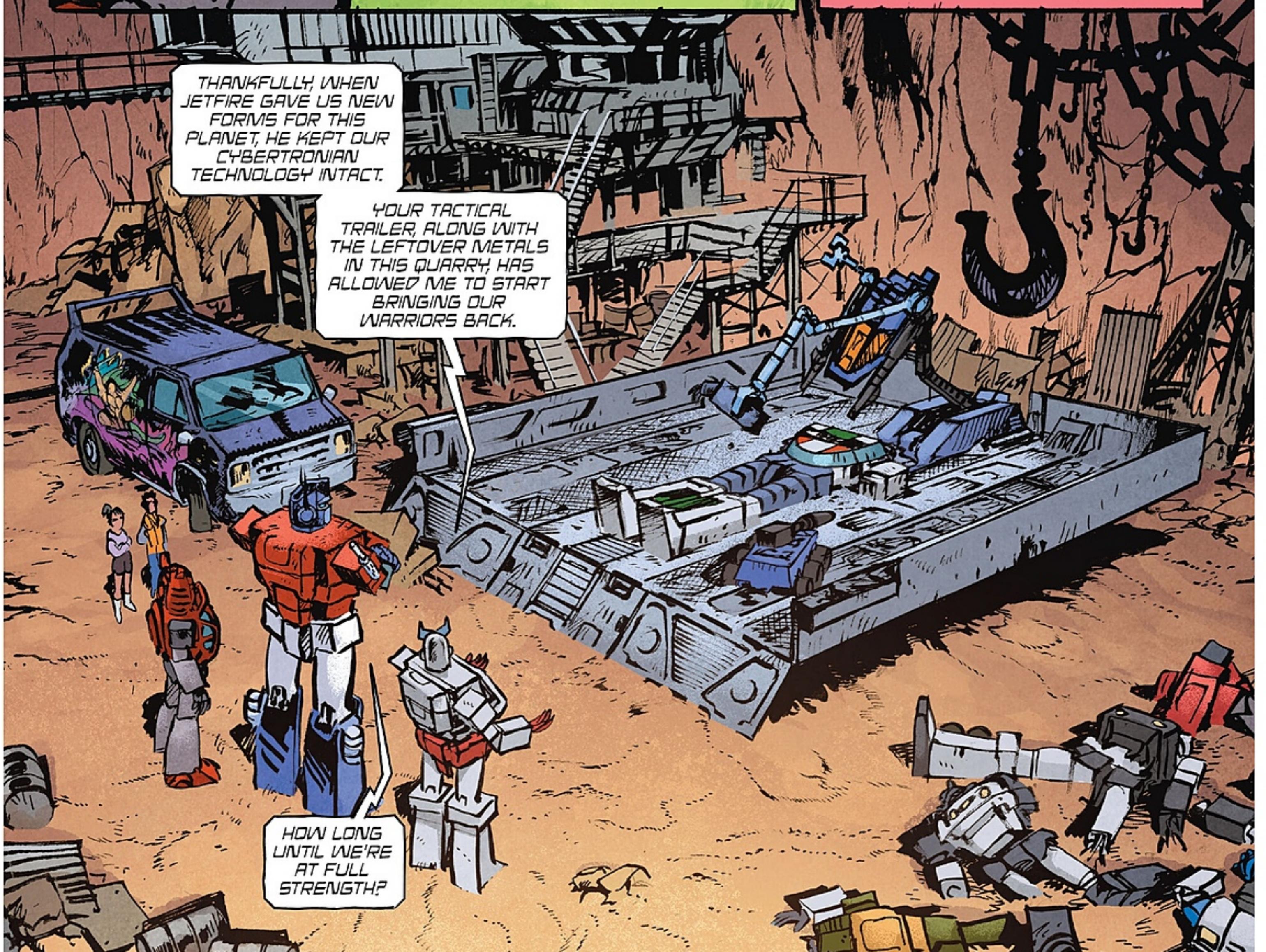
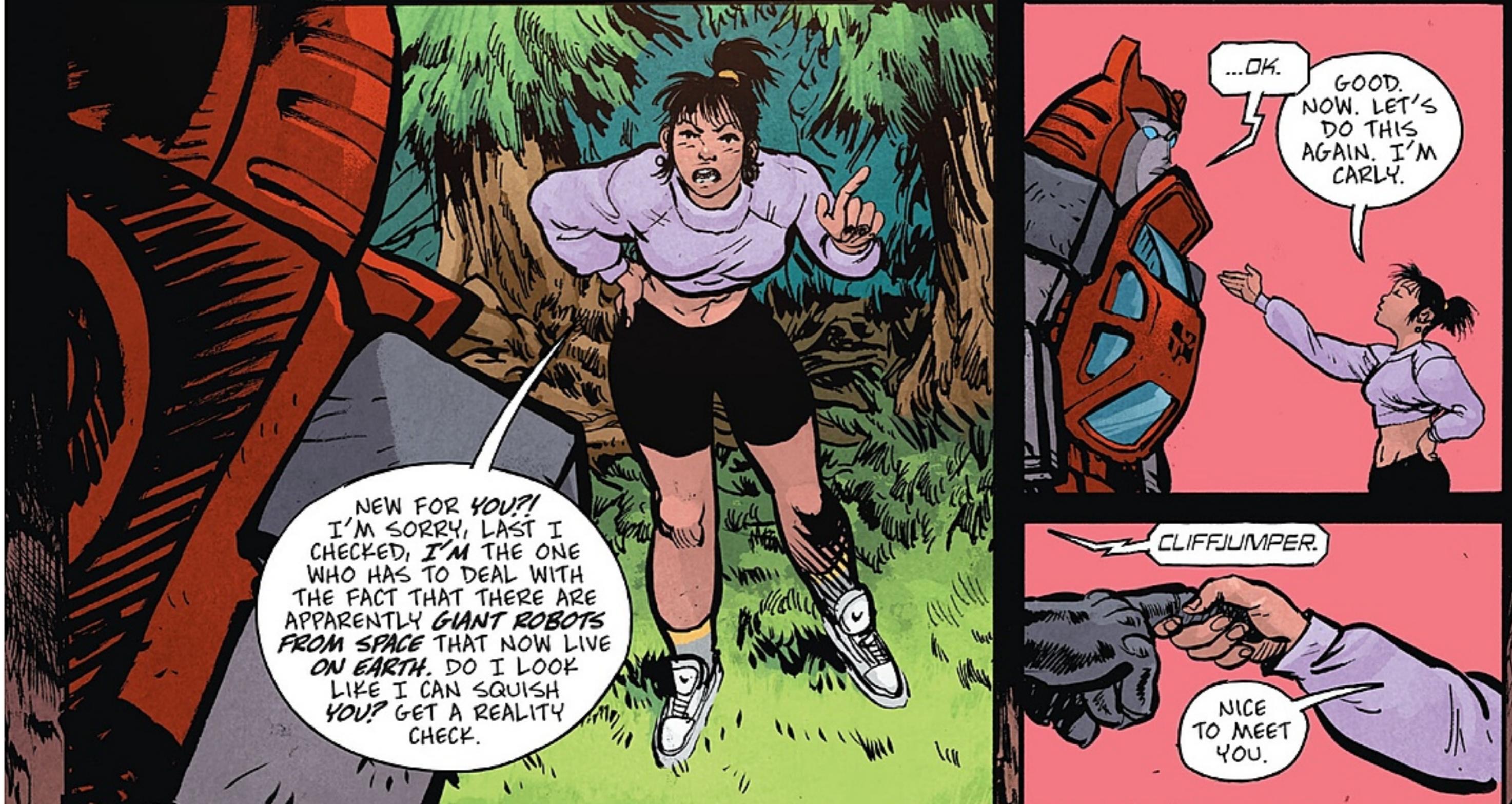
AND YOU CRASHED INTO THE MOUNTAIN. WHERE WE FOUND YOU.

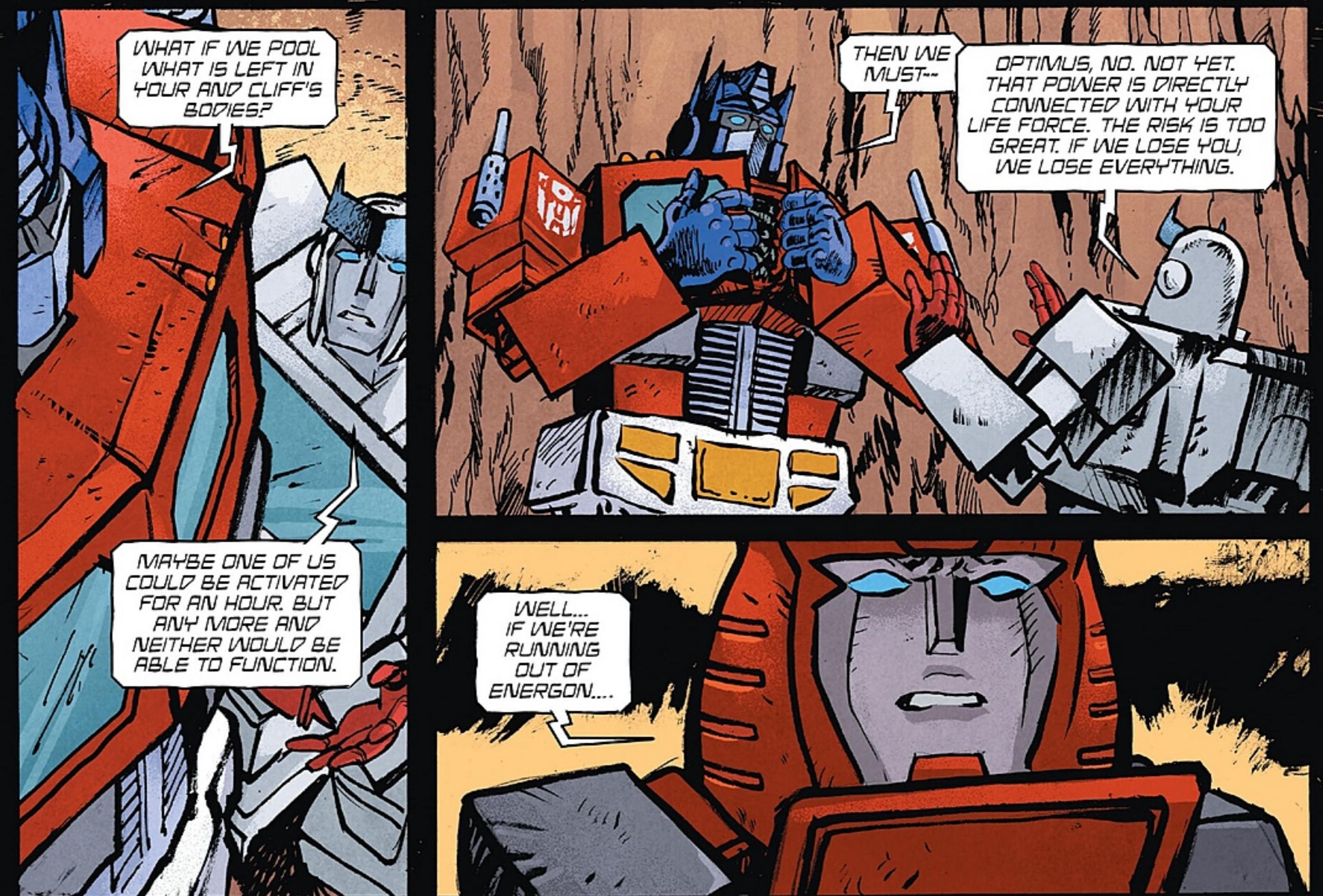
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE, SPIKE. WITHOUT YOU, I'M NOT SURE WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE.

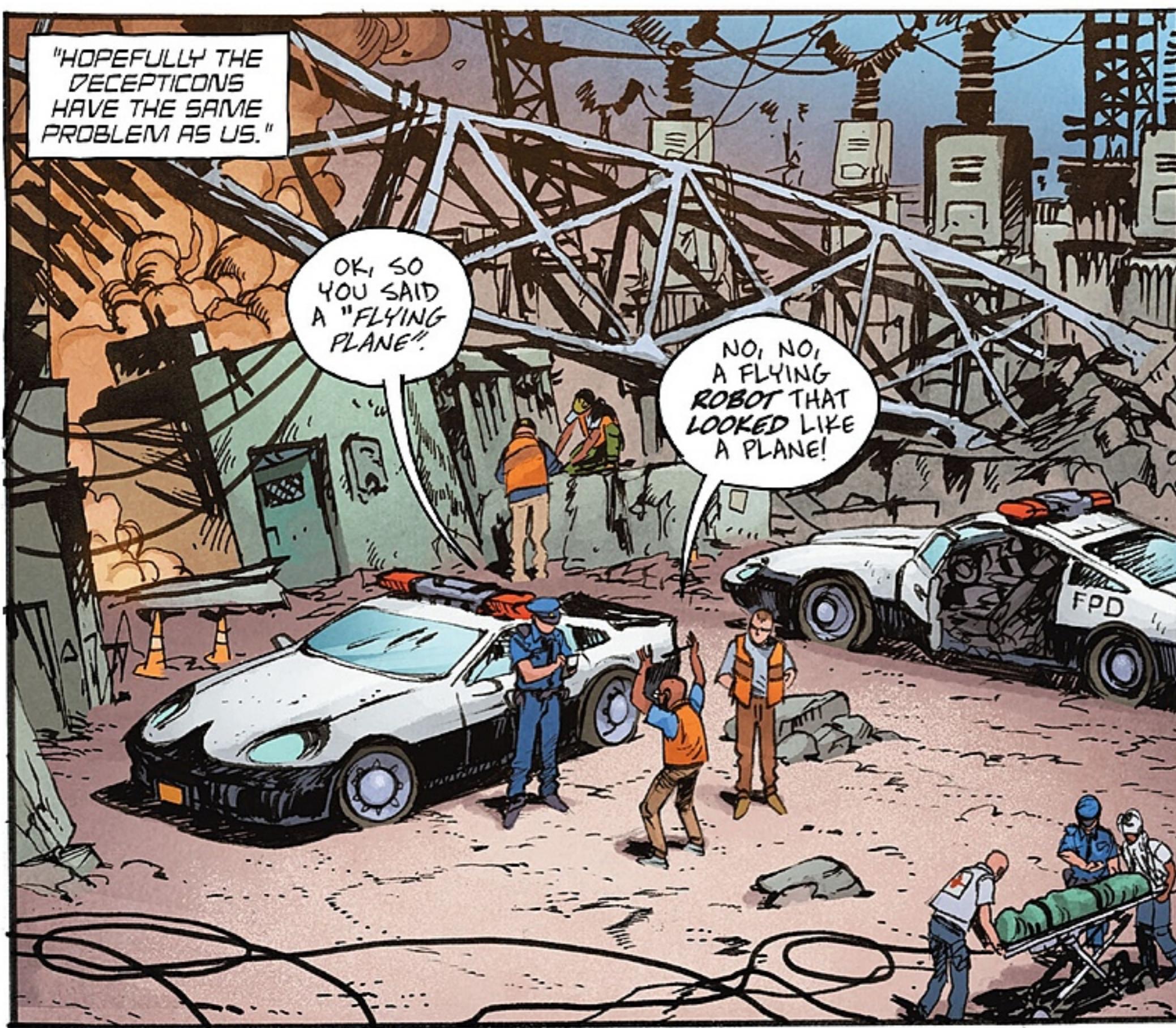
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND. THE YELLOW ONE.

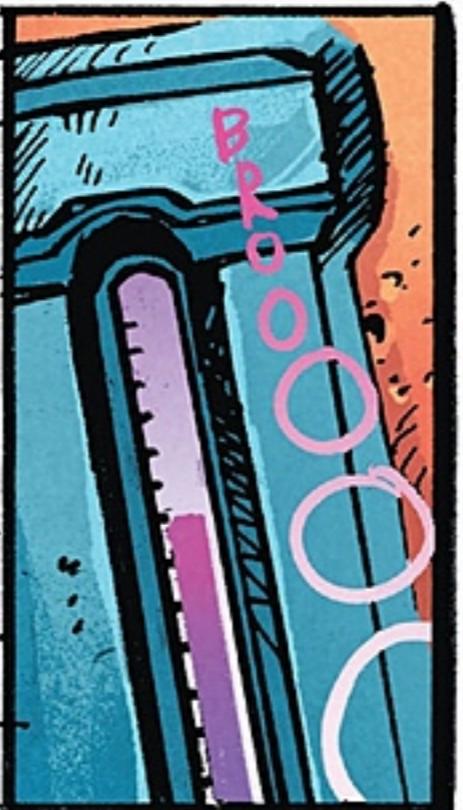
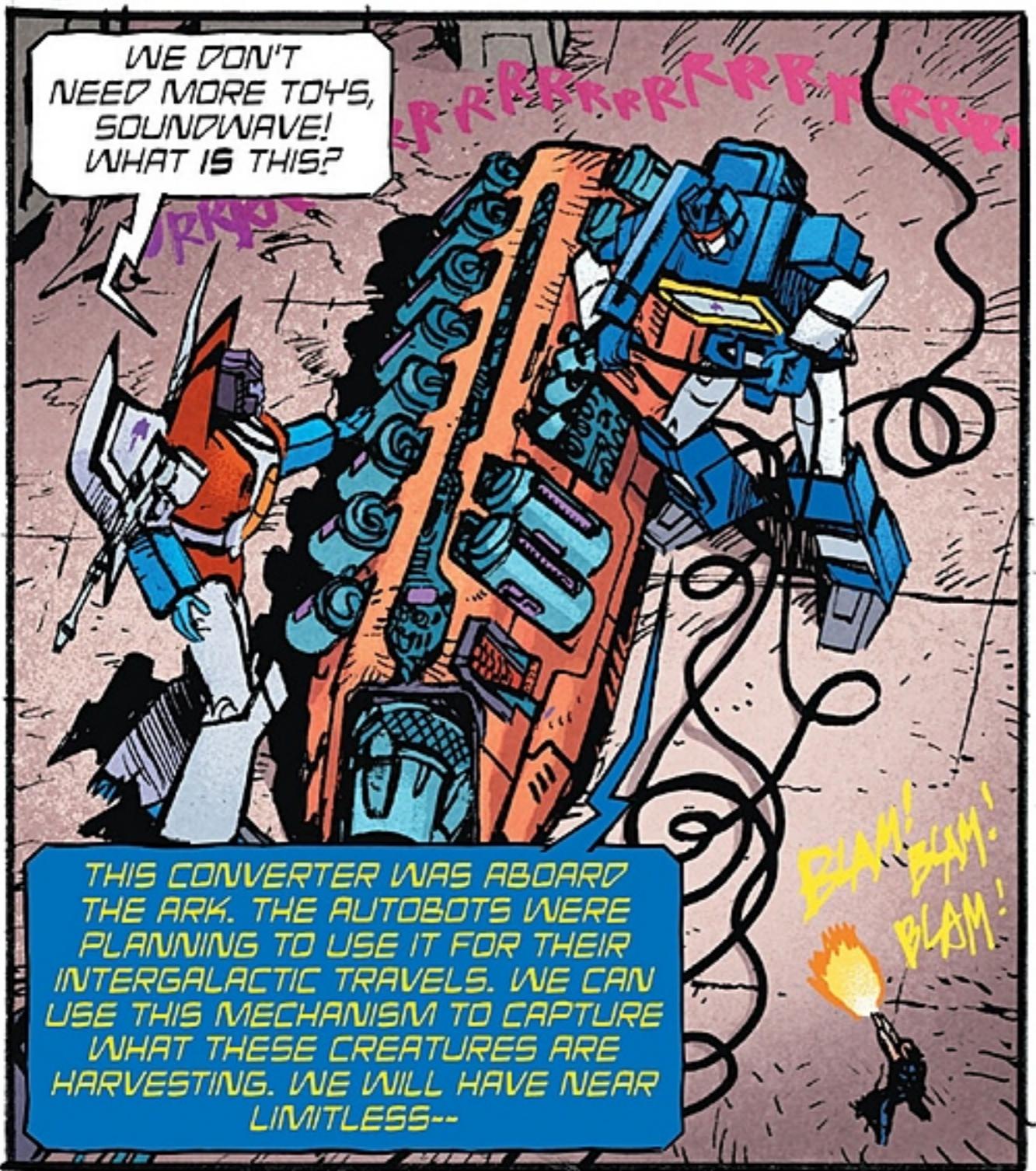
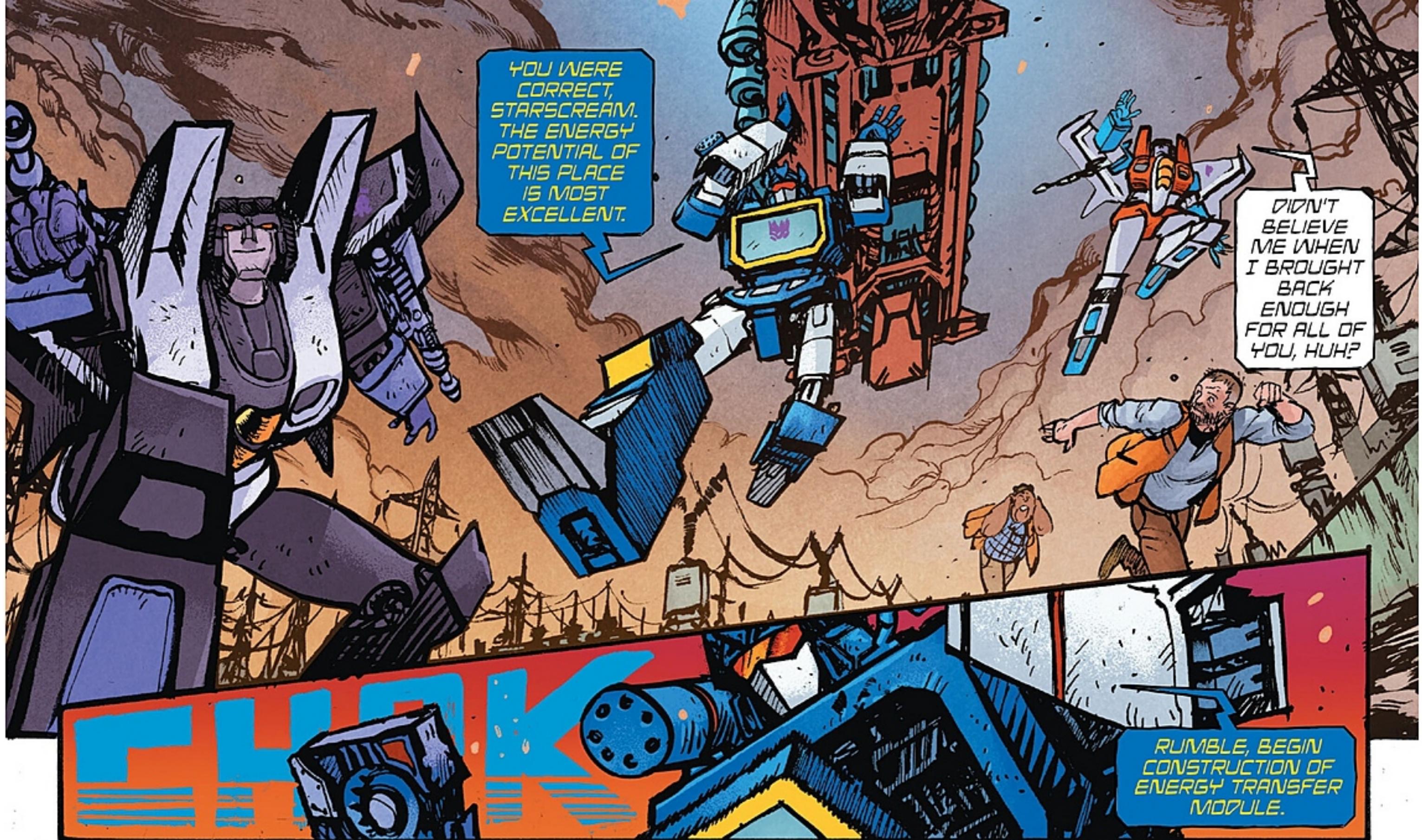
FAMILY.

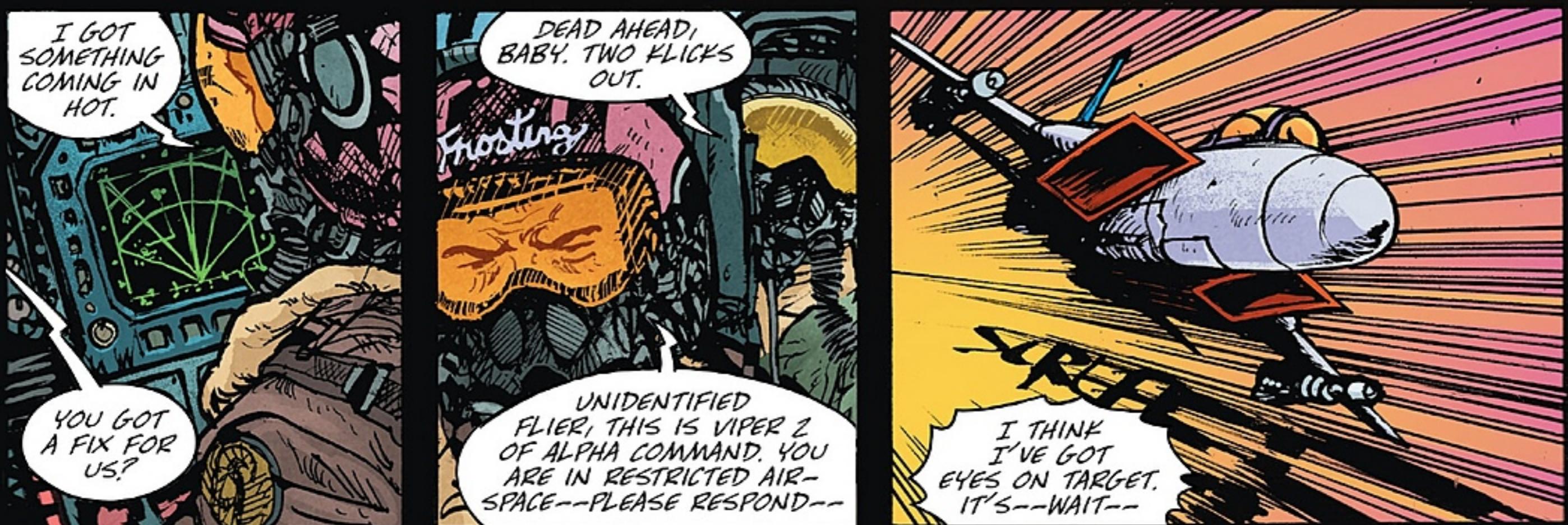
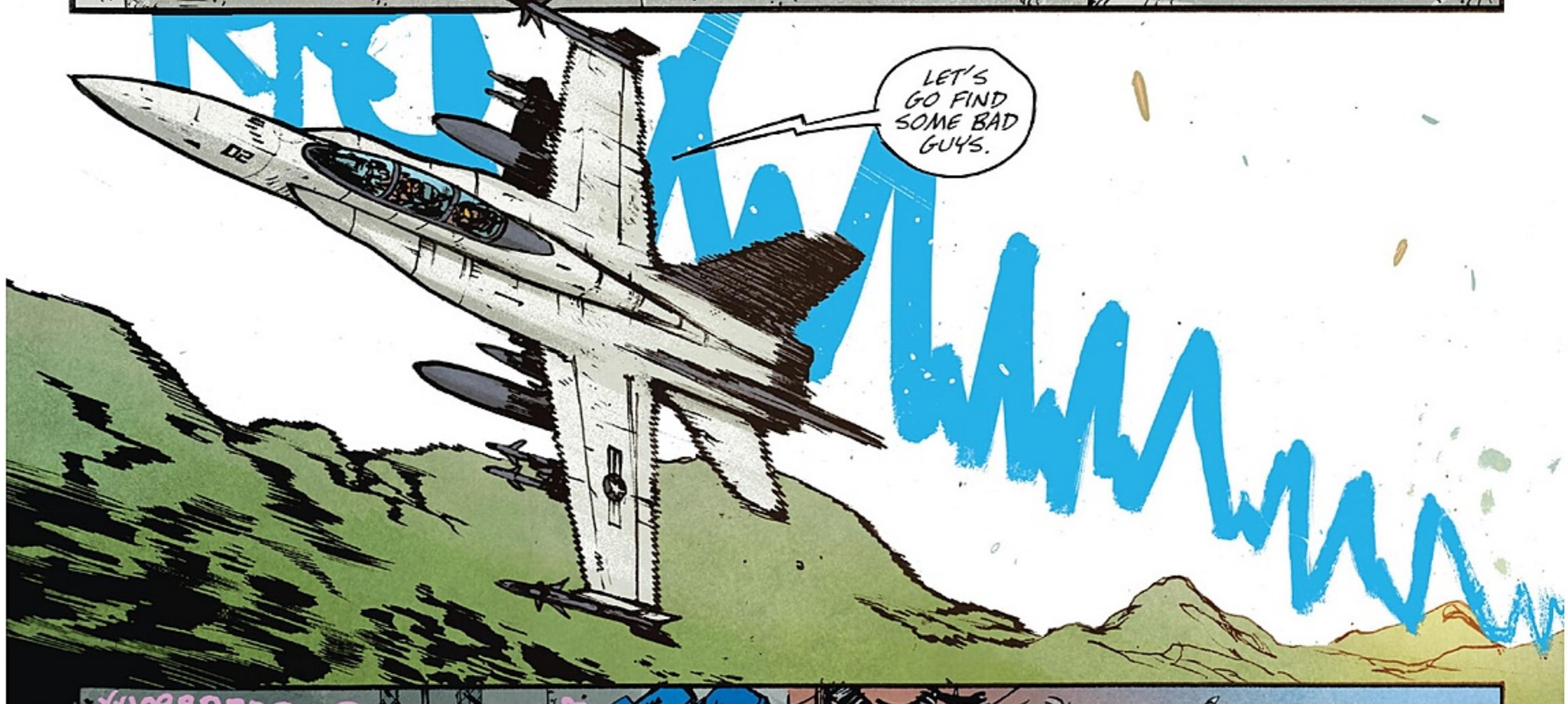
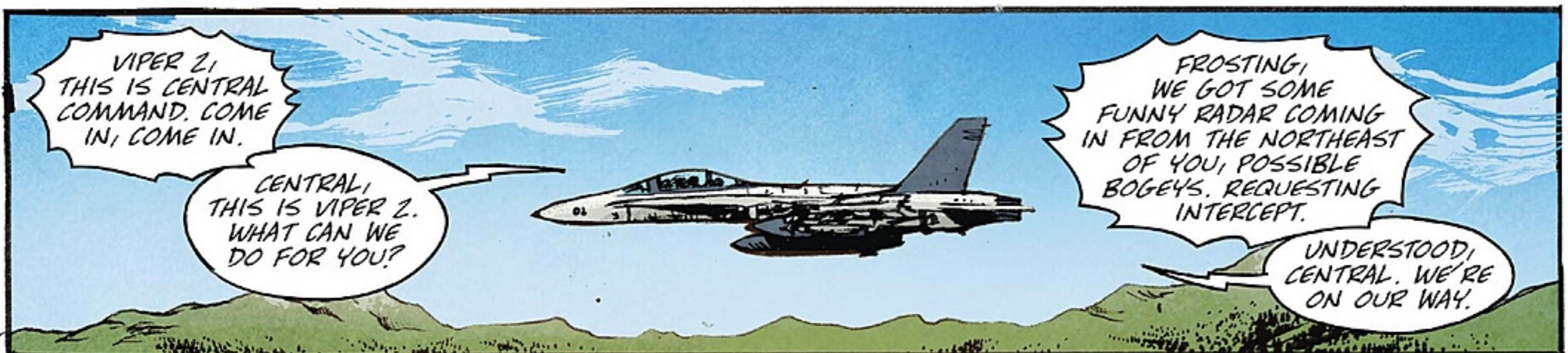


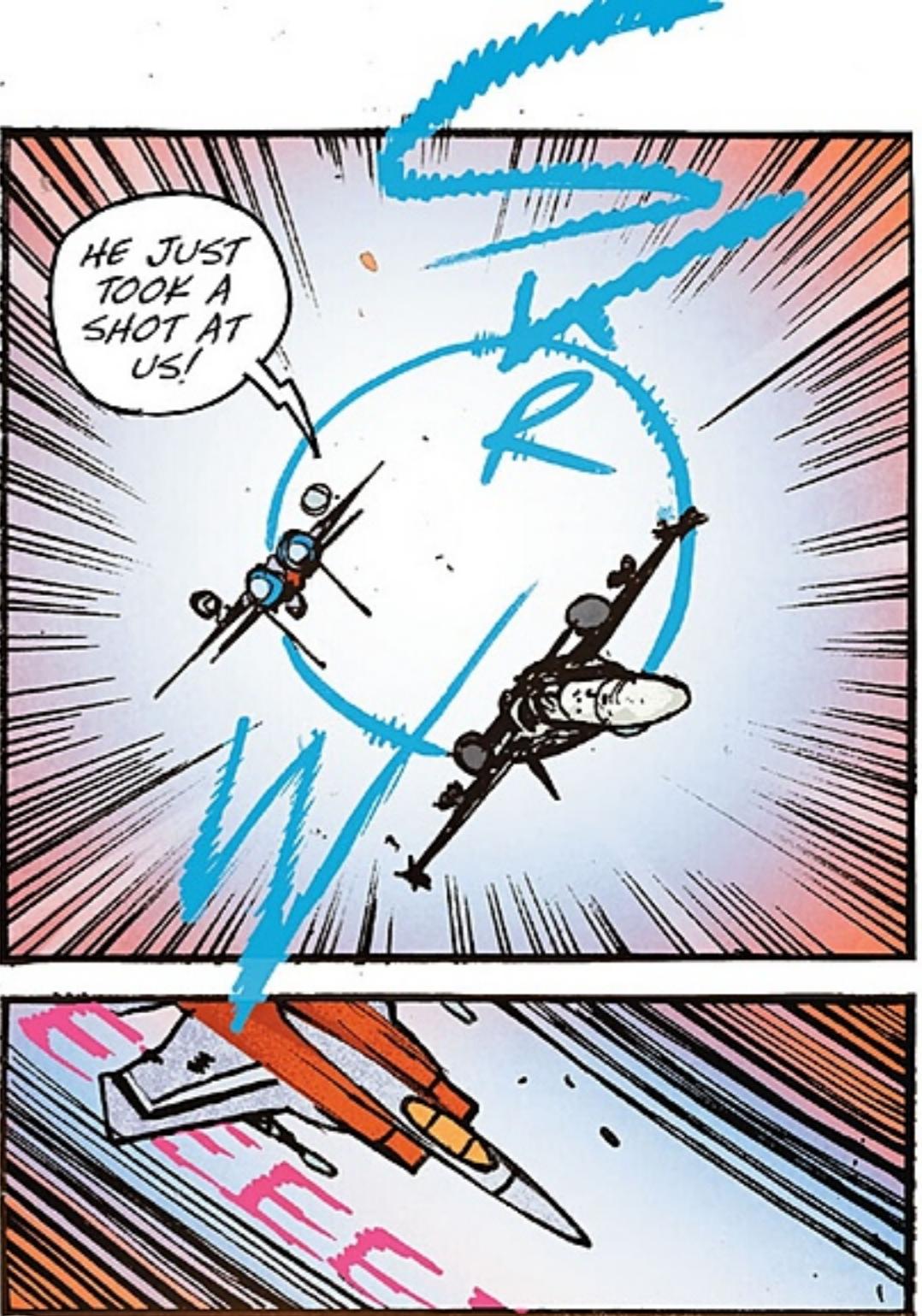
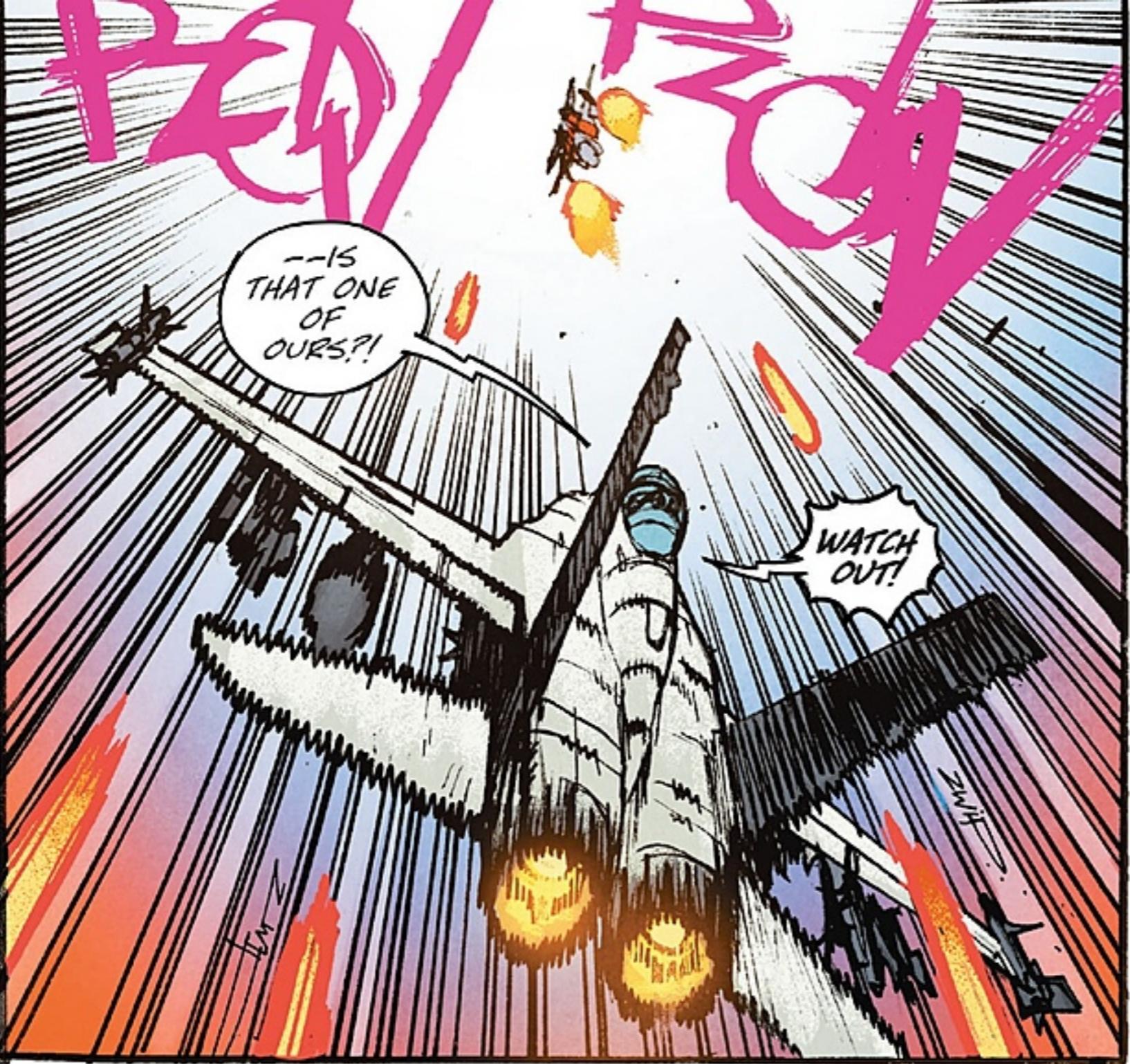




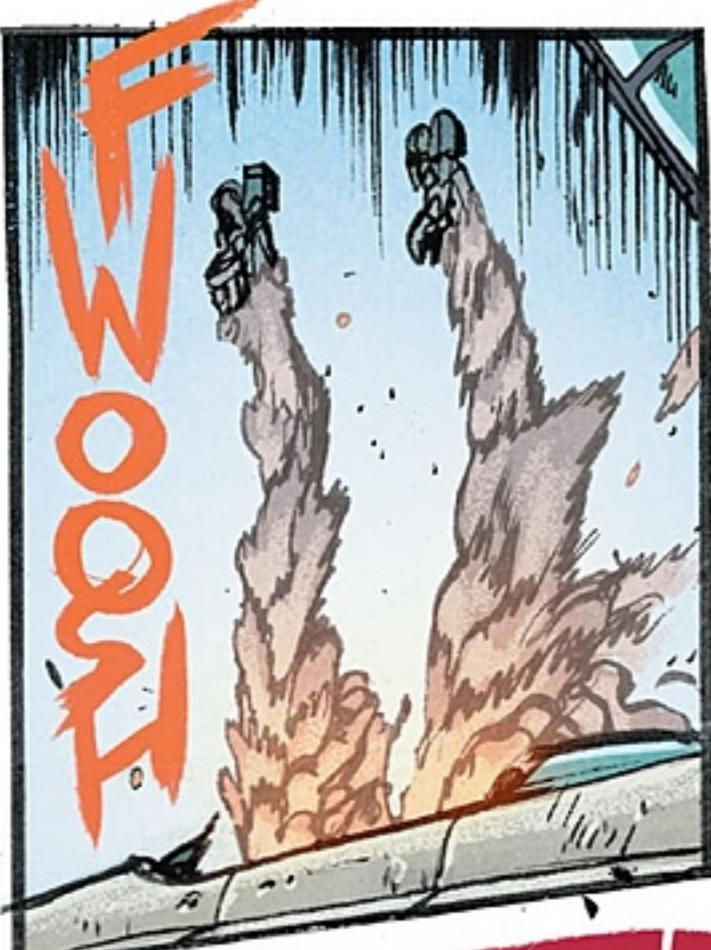


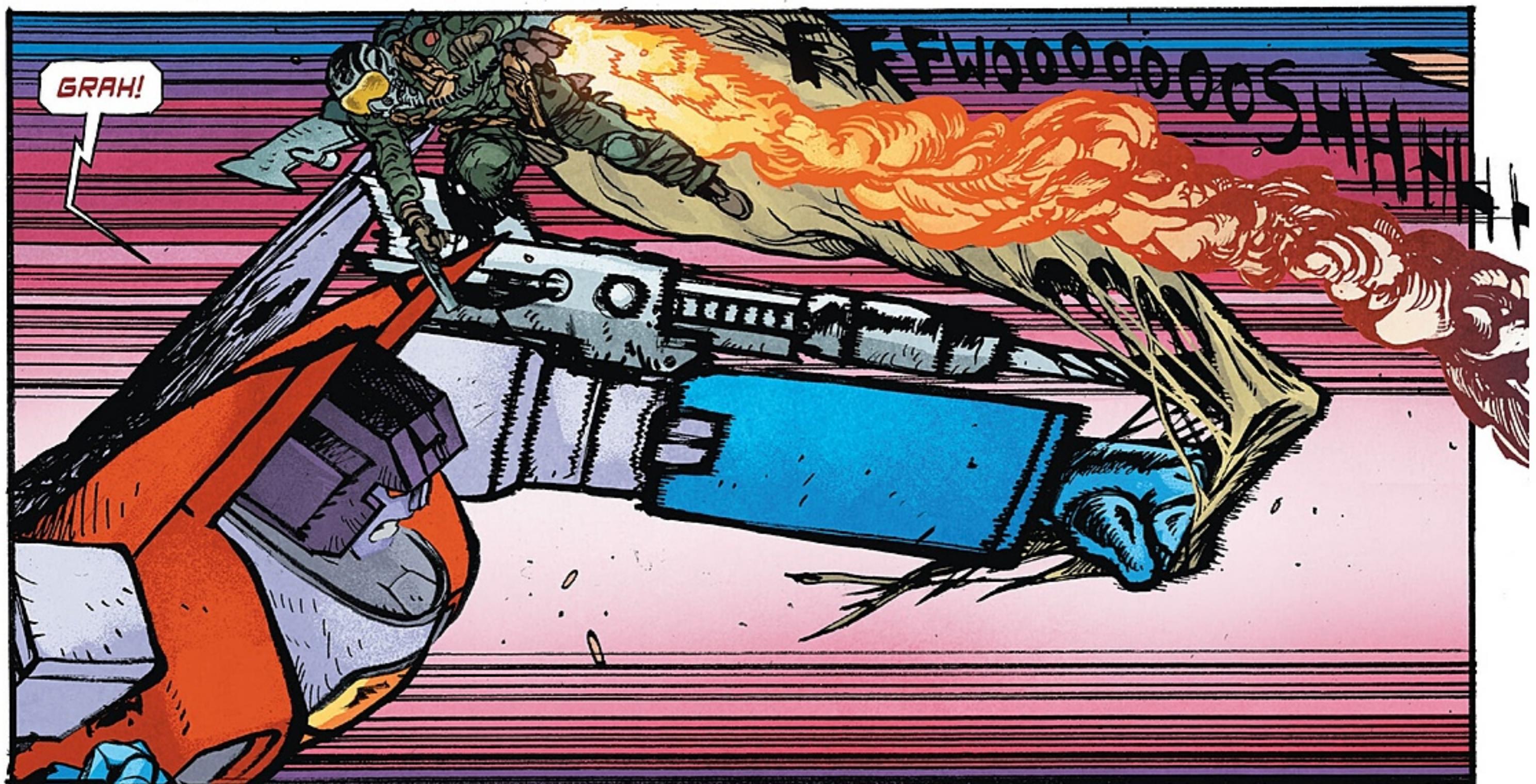




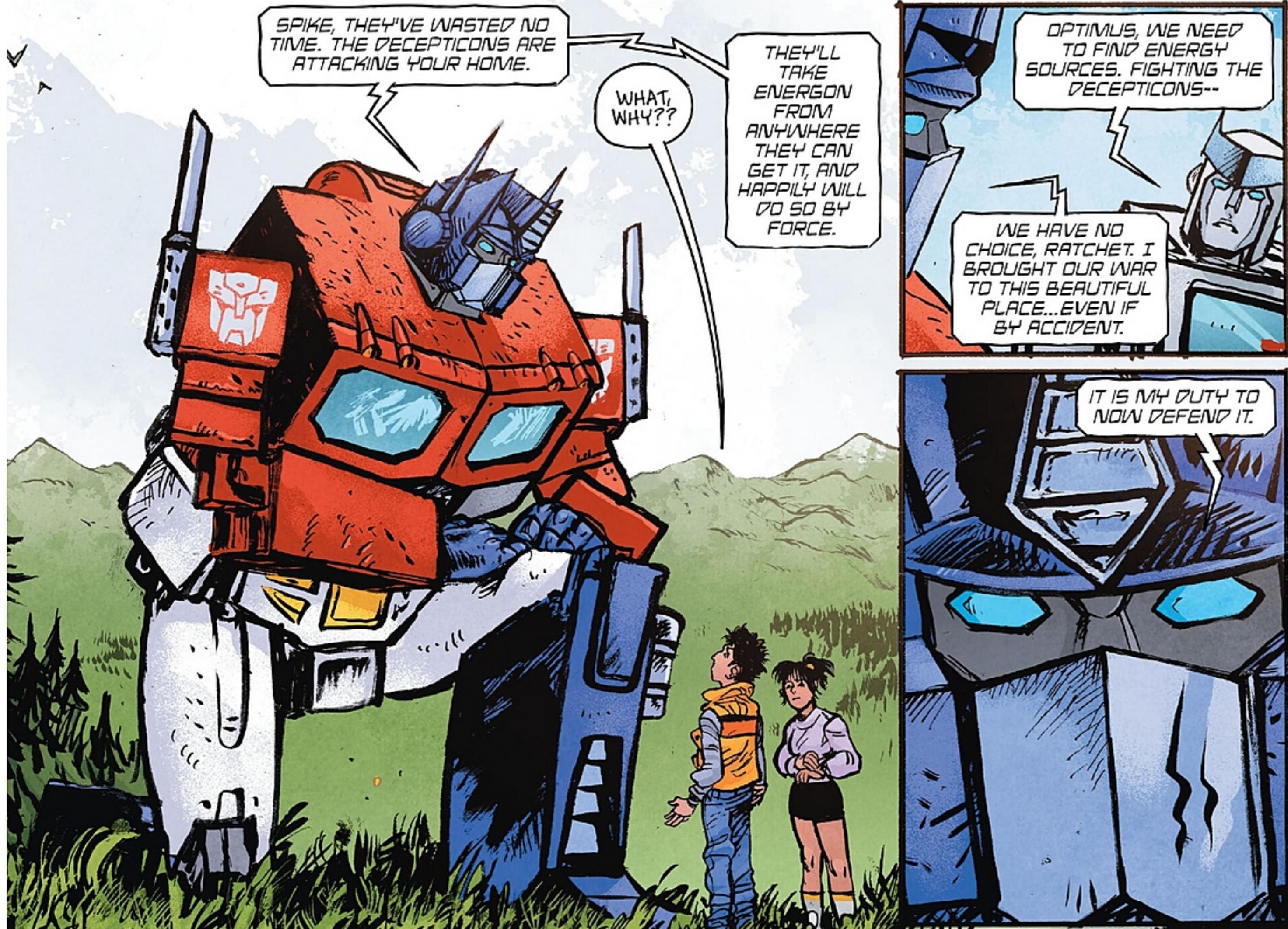
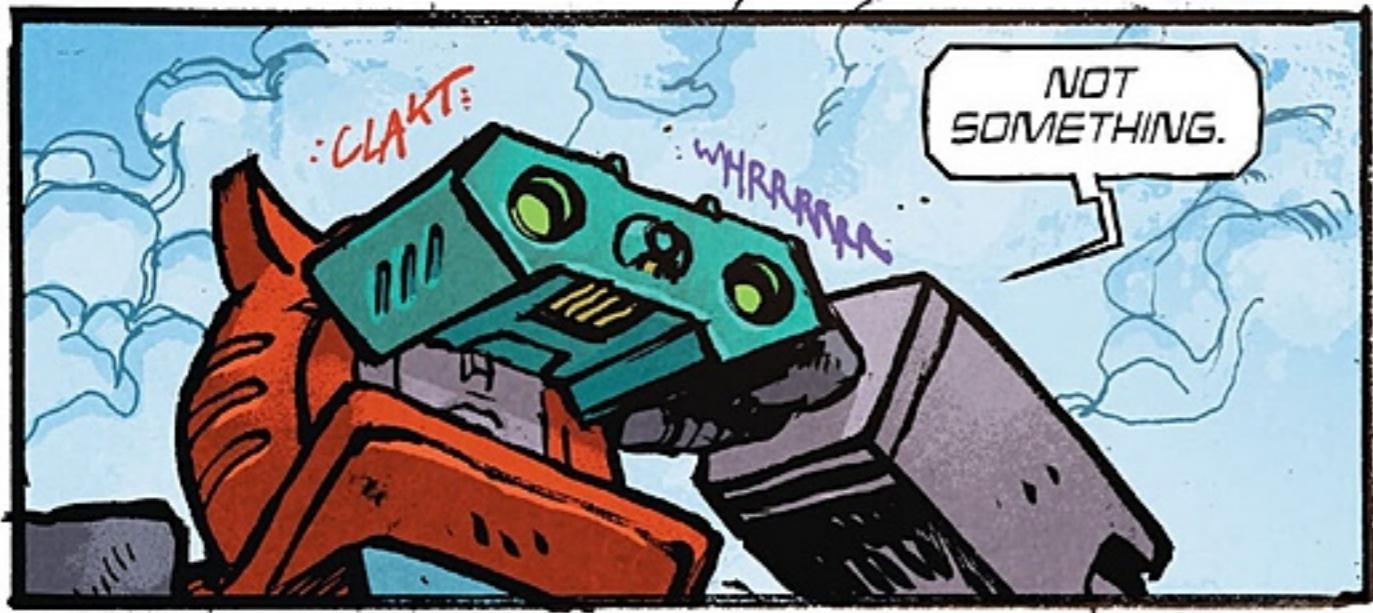


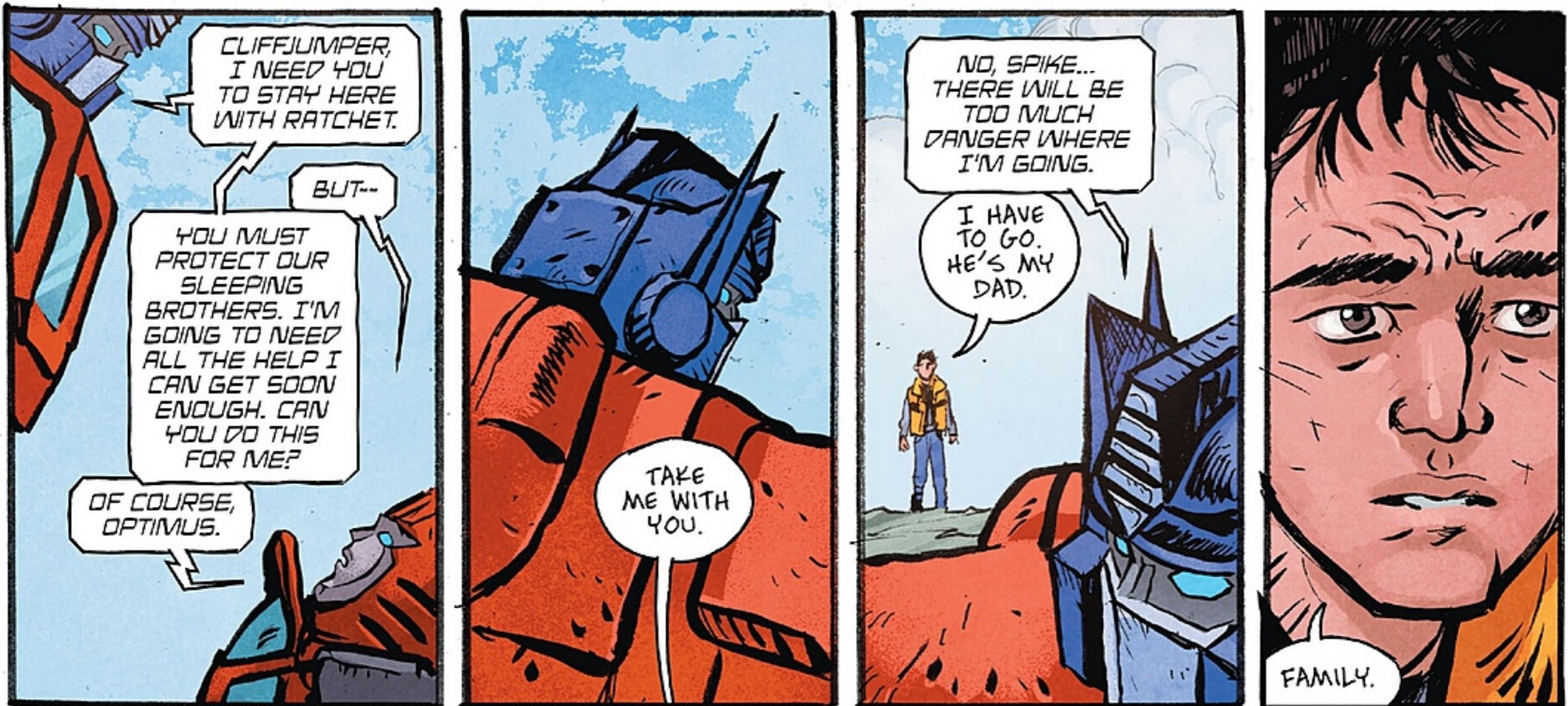


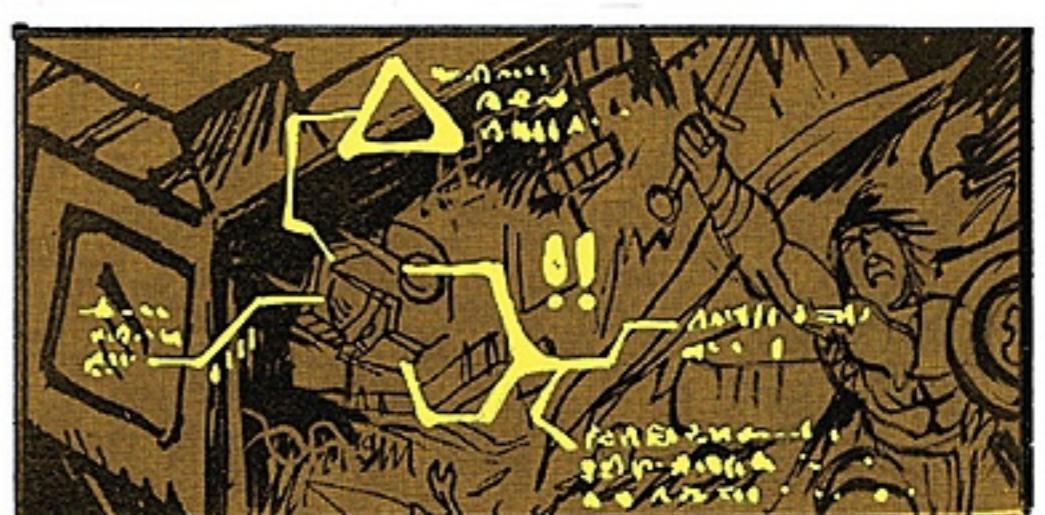
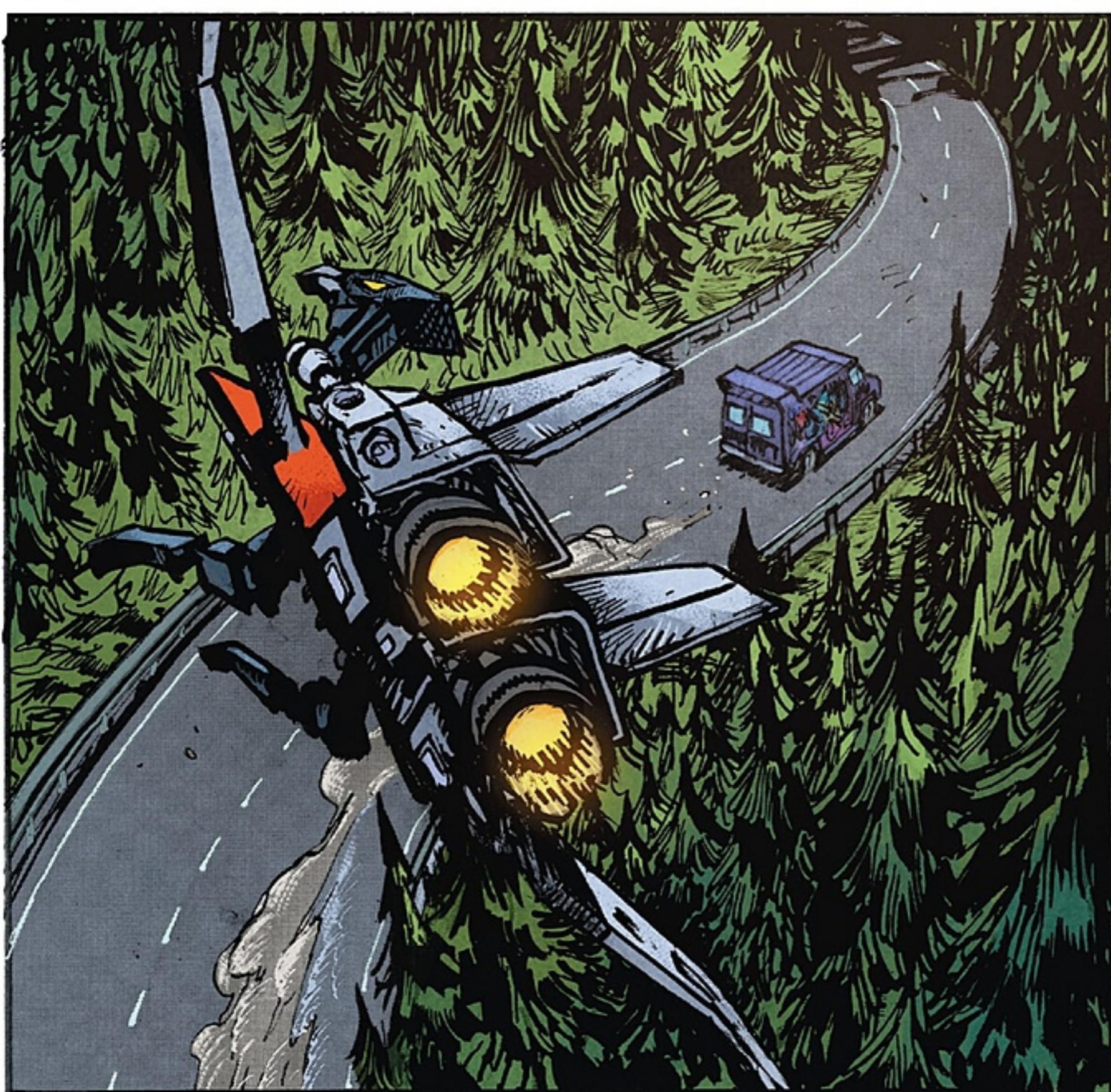


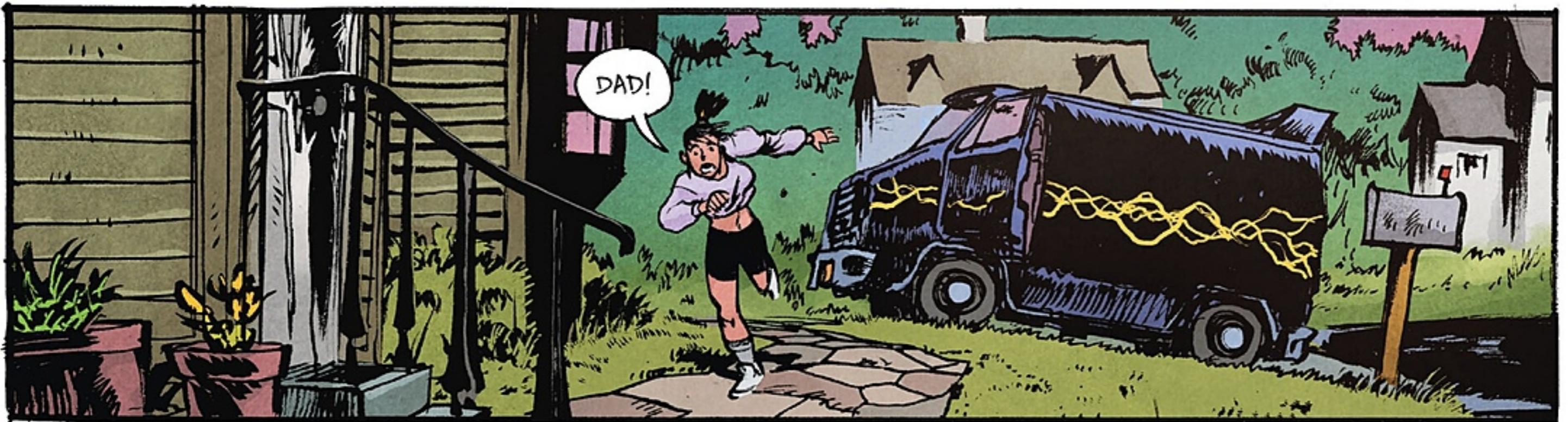












Hey gang,

Welcome to the inaugural TRANSFORMERS letters column! I'm Jonathan, the editor, joined by Daniel, writer-artist extraordinaire. We were so thrilled to find our inbox brimming after just one issue that we had to dive right in! I mean, after seeing Optimus Prime clothesline AND suplex Starscream in issue #1, how could you not write in? I think that scene has caused a universal paradigm shift.

*Hey, all! DWJ here in italics. Glad to have you here! Just jamming some Blood Incantation with their new EP "Obliquity of the Ecliptic" while answering your letters, just FYI. The response to TF issue 1 has been overwhelmingly awesome. Thank you so much for all your positive thoughts and words as the book has come out. I work so hard on this stuff and it feels good to have that energy come back around. Let's do this!*

Oh! One more thing—our letters column needs a name! So, send your best ideas to the email address above. We'll pick a name before the end of the first arc, and the winner will receive some cool stuff (to be mailed later)!



This is my very first time picking up a Transformers comic, and I'm glad I did. I had a great time reading this, and I'm thoroughly looking forward to the next one. I did have a few questions about your experience writing this. How have your previous comics prepared you for this series and what is different about writing Transformers compared to the other stuff you've done?

Thanks again for giving me a new series to pick up. Can't wait to see more!

Thanks,

Camden  
Tampa, FL

*Thanks, Camden. The first book of*

SEND LETTERS TO  
[TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM](mailto:TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM)

*mine that comes to mind is THE GHOST FLEET that I worked on with Donny Cates, where I really had to learn how to draw cars and trucks in order for the story to work, and the same goes for TF! As to what's different? Kind of everything! It's hard to write characters like Optimus that don't naturally emote with their faces, so I have to find alternate ways to have them show the readers what they're feeling, sometimes in the script, but also in the art. Glad you enjoyed it!*



Howdy!

I just picked up Transformers #1, and I was completely blown away. Stellar art, awesome writing, great pacing, it was everything I hoped for and then some!

Optimus suplexing Starscream is, without a doubt, my new favorite comic panel of all time.

*Welcome to the Optimus(plex) fanclub! After reading this issue dozens of times... this scene only gets better and better.*

My question is, are we going to see Prime suplexing more Decepticon baddies?

*Uh, YES. Also, Google "Kenta Kobashi burning hammer," and prepare yourself. You shall recognize it soon.*

Thanks for the great issue!

– Cody



I am writing to compliment you on your excellent first issue of Transformers. My praise especially to Daniel Warren Johnson, who has a good grasp of character voice already and whose excellent art is both dynamic and perfectly matched with the story. Sometimes when I read a fight scene in a comic, it is difficult to tell what exactly is going on – no such problems

here! The all-too-brief scuffle in the Ark is handled beautifully. As for story, the mix of the familiar and the new is a good way to draw in cautious readers (although considering I managed to snag the last copy in the store, I don't believe that will be an issue) and it was a very good start, although I hope we get some more good-old-fashioned-Transformers-weirdness in future stories.

And not just any fight scenes, but fight scenes with giant robots (sometimes still in the middle of converting from a jet to a bot)! Daniel's action sequences always feel so organic, even when the characters are made of metal.

*Bro you're making me blush.*

My only concern going forward is the shared universe. Am I going to have to buy Transformers and Void Rivals and G.I. Joe to understand the plot? Or can I content myself with Transformers and rest assured I'm not missing huge gaps of story?

Rest assured! Each series in the Energon Universe provides a self-contained story. We are focused on delivering the best comics possible for each title, and the reading experience will never be exclusionary. That said, exploring each series is rewarding, both as individual stories and as a shared universe. To boot, our aim is always quality over quantity, and even with a few Energon Universe comics on the shelves each month, they will always be highly curated and will never bloat your pull list.

*I do my best to make stuff that can be enjoyed ON ITS OWN, and was a big part of why I decided to do this book. Have no fear!*

Thanks!  
Geneva Singleton, college student.

First of all, this is a fantastic first issue! I think this is the first comic to literally get my

heart pounding. It had hand to hand combat, aerial combat, chases, and shootouts. I also really love your take on Starscream. This is probably my favorite version of Starscream ever!

Don't let anyone tell you your art is not good. It's awesome. That Starscream cover for Issue #2 is absolutely incredible. How long until we get to see you take on Megatron? I cant wait.

Show me someone who says the art is no good! I dare you! And as for Megatron, with such a... mega... villain, we've got big plans for his arrival to be as monumental as possible. So, keep on reading, it'll be well worth the wait.  
**#WhereIsMegatron**

Did you ever get Optimus Prime's hands back?

Thanks! Zack Haney.

*Zack, alas, I never got those hands back. I keep meaning to get them on eBay but I still haven't. I recently bought the Masterpiece Missing Link pre-order for the more poseable figure, so that will hopefully heal some old wounds once it arrives!*

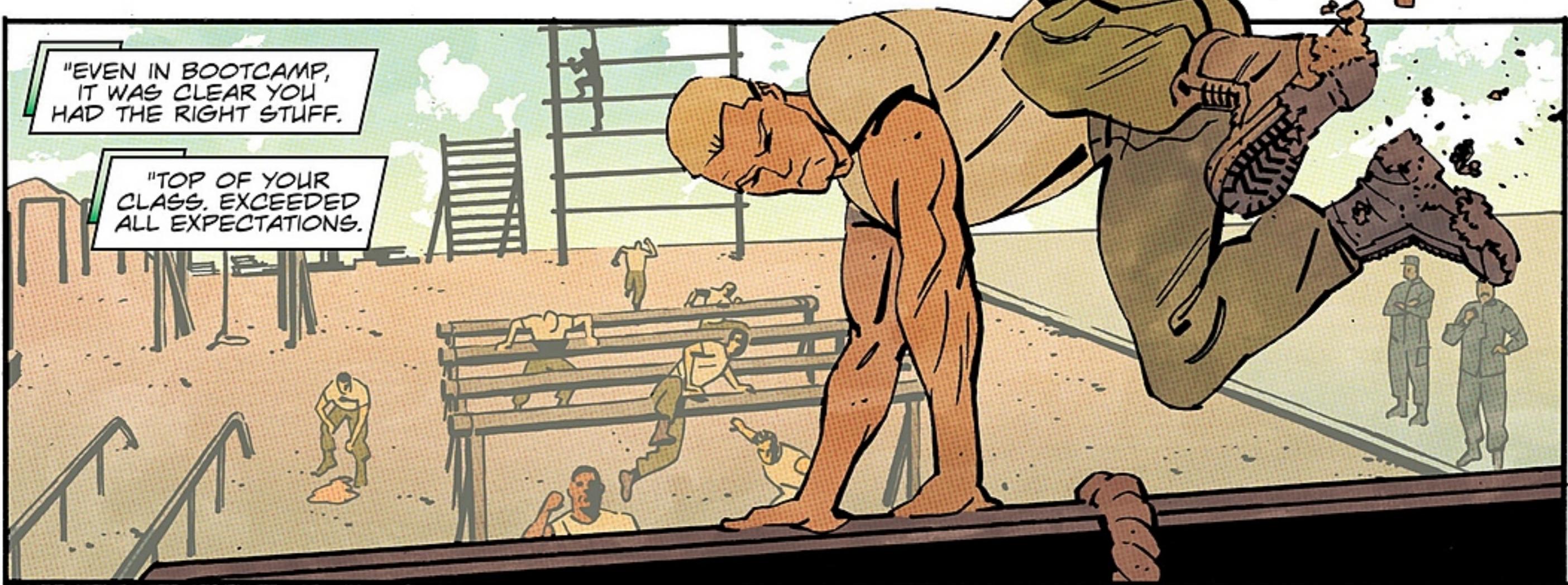


Thanks for reading and writing in, folks! We'll see you here next month after you've thoroughly processed Starscream's utter villainy. Not to mention... the FIRST APPEARANCE of DUKE in the Energon Universe! Speaking of which, don't roll out just yet because we have preview pages of DUKE #1 on the next page!

-Jonathan

*On my way to NYCC as I write this! Hopefully I'll see some of you cool peeps at the show. Special thanks to JOHN CARPENTER, whose LOST THEMES records helped me write this issue. Check 'em out if you need some inspirational background jams. Thanks again for being here. I'm so excited for you to read issue 3!!!*

-DWJ



**"A MAN OF ACTION!"**

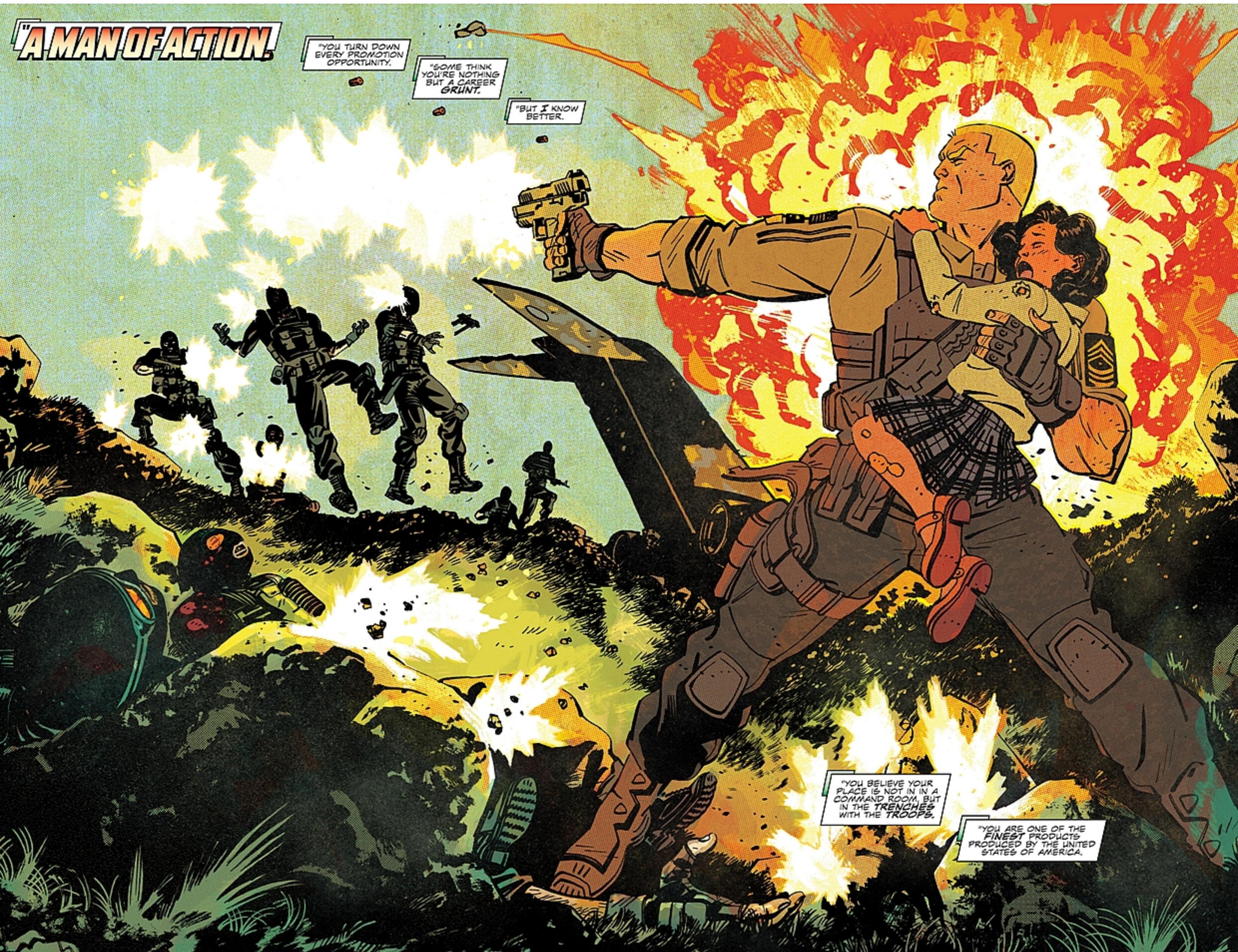
"YOU TURN DOWN  
EVERY PROMOTION  
OPPORTUNITY."

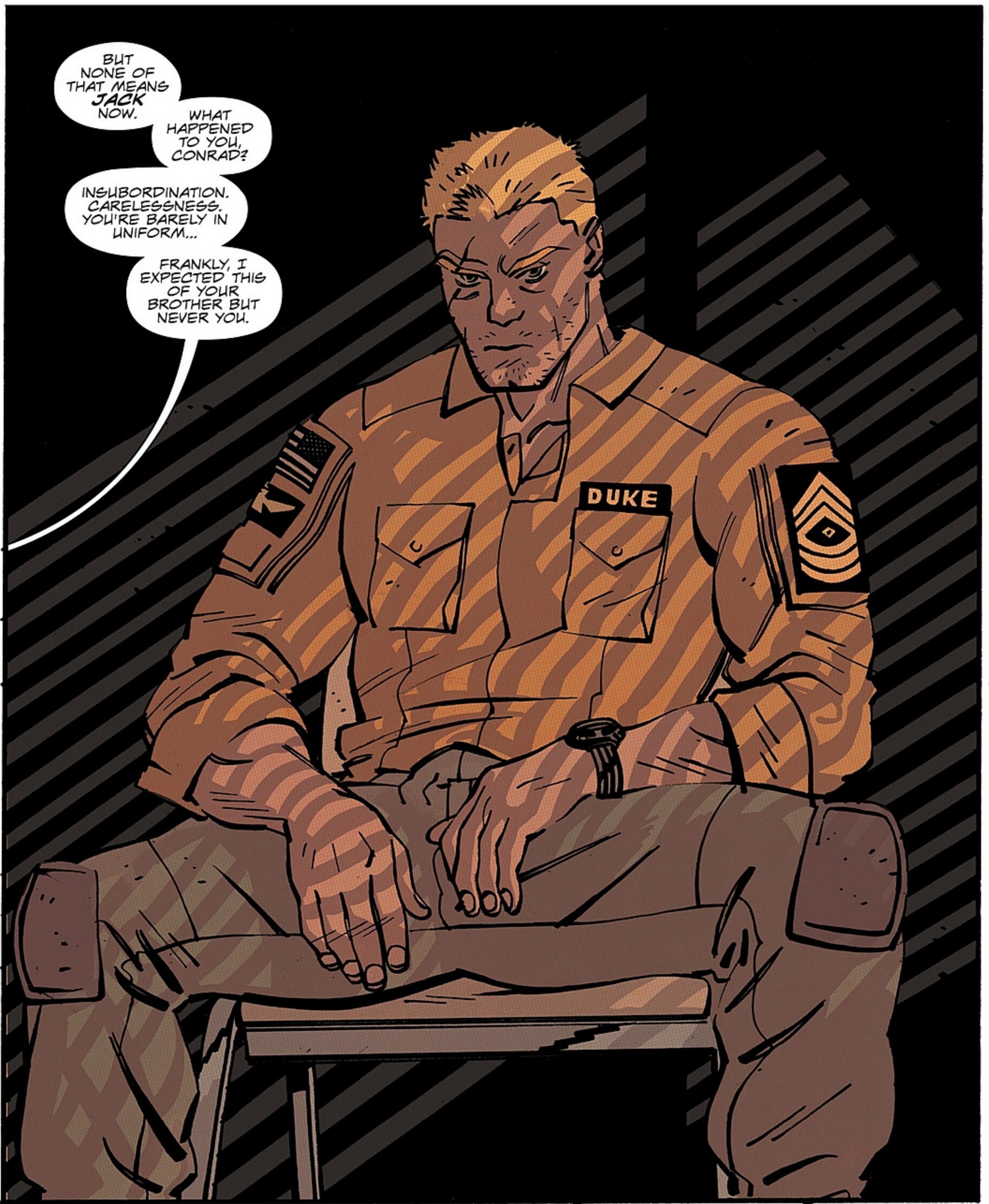
"SOME THINK  
YOU'RE NOTHING  
BUT A CAREER  
GRUNT."

"BUT I KNOW BETTER."

"YOU BELIEVE YOUR  
PLACE IS NOT IN A  
COMMAND ROOM, BUT  
IN THE TRENCHES  
WITH THE TROOPS."

"YOU ARE ONE OF THE  
FINEST PRODUCTS  
PRODUCED BY THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA."





CODENAME **G.I.JOE** STARTS HERE!

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON ★ TOM REILLY ★ JORDIE BELLAIRE

# G.I.JOE

Superstar writer **JOSHUA WILLIAMSON** (DC's *Superman*, *Dark Ride*) teams up with acclaimed artist **TOM REILLY** (*Marvel's The Thing*) to reveal the origins of G.I. JOE in a world impacted by the arrival of Autobots and Decepticons.

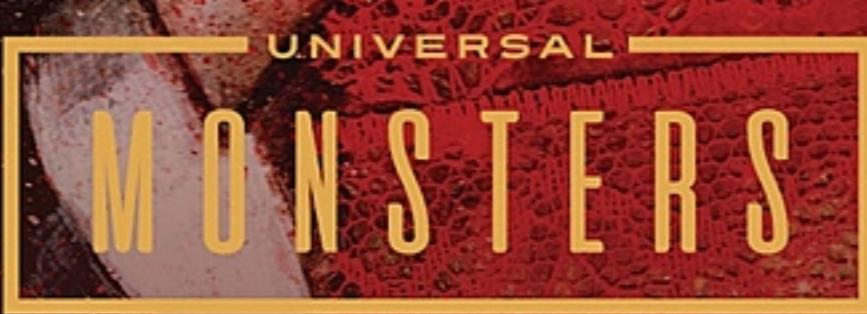
ISSUE #1 AVAILABLE DECEMBER 27!



WELCOME TO THE ENERGON UNIVERSE

G.I. JOE, TRANSFORMERS, and HASBRO and all related trademarks and logos are trademarks of Hasbro, Inc. ©2023 Hasbro. SKYBOUND and all related images are owned by Skybound, LLC. IMAGE COMICS and all related images are owned by Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

JAMES TYNION IV AND MARTIN SIMMONDS  
HAUNTINGLY REIMAGINE THE MONSTER  
WHO STARTED IT ALL.



# Dracula

The Eisner Award-Nominated *Department of Truth* team kick off Skybound's resurrection of Universal's most iconic monsters.

**AVAILABLE NOW!**



UNIVERSAL MONSTERS: DRACULA © 2023 Universal City Studios LLC. All rights reserved.  
Skybound™ and its logos are © of Skybound, LLC. All rights reserved. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.



