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CARL POTTIS

THE TRANSFORMERS: REANIMATED.
"SNOWBLIND."

Written by

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Based on the original cartoon series, The Transformers:
ReAnimated, bridges the gap between the seminal second season and
the 1986 Movie that defined the childhood of millions.

PAGE ONE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. YAMBURG GAS FIELD, U.S.S.R. - DAY.

FROM ABOVE - The SNOW-COVERED GAS FIELD of Russia sits amidst a SEA of FROZEN WHITE.

CAPTION: Yamburg Gas Field, U.S.S.R...

PANEL 2:

CLOSER on the gas field. A group of industrious GAS WORKERS toil away; tightening valves, taking energy readings and most of all, SHOVELING SNOW.

PANEL 3:

CLOSER STILL on a pair of workers performing maintenance checks on a set of gas pipes as PURPLE LASER FIRE begins to fall all around them.

RUSSIAN WORKER #1
Whoa, what?!

RUSSIAN WORKER #2
Comrades, we are under attack!

PANEL 4:

In the sky above the Yamburg Gas Field, we see THE DECEPTICONS; STARSCREAM and THUNDERCRACKER, lead by MEGATRON, flying through the air as the twin Seekers continue to RAIN DOWN LASER FIRE at the workers.

MEGATRON
Starscream! Thundercracker!
Continue the assault! I don't want
any human interference in my plans.

STARSCREAM
As you wish, Megatron.

PAGE TWO:

PANEL 1:

INT. THE GAS FIELD'S OFFICE HEADQUARTERS.

From the OUTSIDE COLD, one of the field workers BURSTS into an office to ANXIOUSLY address his boss, MARKO RAMIUS.

RUSSIAN WORKER #3

Mr. Ramius! We are under attack!
It's the Decepticons!

MARKO RAMIUS

The Decepticons? Then, we must
contact the Autobots!

PANEL 2:

Ramius picks up the PHONE RECEIVER from his desk and holds it
up to his ear.

MARKO RAMIUS (CONT'D)

Yes. It's Ramius. Put me through to
the Autobots!

PANEL 3:

EXT. MOUNT ST. HILARY, THE AUTOBOT ARK - NIGHT.

The AUTOBOT ARK rests in its usual mountain location.

CAPTION: The Autobot Ark...

PANEL 4:

INT. THE ARK.

OPTIMUS PRIME stands facing TELETRAAN-1, whose DATA SCREEN
displays the image of Marko Ramius's face.

MARKO RAMIUS

(from the screen)

Autobots, come in! Please! Help us!

OPTIMUS PRIME

This is Optimus Prime. How can I
help?

PANEL 5:

CLOSE ON Teletraan's data screen, displaying Ramius's face,
along with a series of data statistics about him, as well as
a small MAP OF THE U.S.S.R., pinpointing the location of the
Yamburg Gas Field.

MARKO RAMIUS

Optimus Prime, my name is Marko
Ramius.

(MORE)

MARKO RAMIUS (CONT'D)

I am contacting you now from the Yamburg Gas Field in the U.S.S.R. Moments ago, our facility was attacked by Decepticons.

PANEL 6:

WIDE SHOT, over Optimus Prime's shoulder at Teletraan-1 as half its screen displays STATIC.

MARKO RAMIUS (CONT'D)

They are destroying buildings and harvesting our natural gas. It won't be long before they find me and... Arrgh!

PAGE THREE:

PANEL 1:

Optimus Prime unsuccessfully tries to re-establish the connection with Ramius as Teletraan-1's screen flashes the words: LOST SIGNAL.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Mr. Ramius, come in! Do you read me?

PANEL 2:

Optimus Prime turns away from Teletraan-1 to face his troops, all lined up and at the ready. From LEFT TO RIGHT and STANDING AT ATTENTION, they are: IRONHIDE, PROWL, SUNSTREAKER, MIRAGE and BUMBLEBEE.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)

Autobots, we are needed in the U.S.S.R. I don't know what Megatron is up to, but whatever it is, you can bet it isn't good.

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON Ironhide, punching his RIGHT FIST into his open LEFT HAND.

IRONHIDE

Ah, shoot, Prime. You know I'm always down to bust some Decepti-chops.

PANEL 4:

FOUR SHOT of the rest of the Autobots. LEFT TO RIGHT: Prowl, Sunstreaker, Mirage and Bumblebee.

PROWL
We're **all** ready, Optimus. Just lead
the way.

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - Optimus Prime stands before his team as they TRANSFORM into their vehicle-modes. SPARKPLUG has now entered the scene to stand near Optimus Prime's feet.

SPARKPLUG
I'm coming too, Optimus.

OPTIMUS PRIME
Okay, Sparkplug. But, you ride with
me. Autobots, transform...

PANEL 6:

Optimus Prime TRANSFORMS into his eighteen-wheeler-alt-mode.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)
... and **ROLL OUT!**

PAGE FOUR:

PANEL 1:

EXT. YAMBURG GAS FIELD, U.S.S.R. - DAY.

CLOSE ON Megatron, now looking out over the Yamburg Gas Field as SOUNDWAVE lands on his feet behind him.

SOUNDWAVE
Megatron.

PANEL 2:

Megatron faces Soundwave.

MEGATRON
Report, Soundwave.

SOUNDWAVE
The area is secure. We are ready to
harvest the Energon.

PANEL 3:

SATISFIED, Megatron turns away from Soundwave to focus on other tasks.

MEGATRON

Excellent! You may proceed,
Soundwave.

SOUNDWAVE

As you command, Megatron.

PANEL 4:

Soundwave presses a BUTTON just above his WAIST as he starts producing EMPTY ENERGN CUBES from his chest's cassette window.

SOUNDWAVE (CONT'D)

Viewfinder, Spyglass, Spectro,
begin filling the Energon cubes.
Operation: Rejuvenation.

PANEL 5:

The REFLECTORS: VIEWFINDER, SPYGLASS and SPECTRO carry empty Energon cubes, ready to be filled from the MAIN LINES of the Yamburg Gas Field.

NOTE: The Reflectors all speak in unison.

VIEWFINDER

Yes, Soundwave.

SPYGLASS

Yes, Soundwave.

SPECTRO

Yes, Soundwave.

PAGE FIVE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. 50 MILES OUTSIDE THE YAMBURG GAS FIELD - DAY.

The Autobots, now in the U.S.S.R., are driving in a convoy-like line towards the natural gas field. They are lead by Optimus Prime, who carries Sparkplug within his cab.

SPARKPLUG

Y-y-you mind t-t-t-turning up the
heat a little, Optimus? I c-c-can't
feel my n-nose anymore.

PANEL 2:

INT. INSIDE PRIME'S CAB.

Sparkplug sits in the DRIVER'S SEAT, his arms folded across his chest to keep warm, while the semi steers itself. Sparkplug is wearing a TAN COAT and an AVIATOR HAT, complete with EAR FLAPS lined in FAUX FUR. Due to the cold, when he speaks, his breath is VISIBLE like that kid from *The 6th Sense*.

OPTIMUS PRIME
Sure thing, Sparkplug. My
transistors are getting a little
cold as well.

SPARKPLUG
A **little** cold is an understatement,
Optimus. I'm f-f-freezing!

PANEL 3:

EXT. 50 MILES OUTSIDE THE YAMBURG GAS FIELD - DAY.

WIDE SHOT, FROM THE SIDE - Optimus Prime drives down the frozen road, followed by Ironhide, Prowl, Sunstreaker, Mirage and Bumblebee.

BUMBLEBEE
Sparkplug is right. Are we almost
there? My tires are frozen!

PROWL
What's wrong, Bumblebee? Siberia
too cold for you?

MIRAGE
Hey, lay off the little guy, Prowl.
We're **all** cold, but we need to stay
focused on the task at hand.

IRONHIDE
Mirage is right, everyone. We'll
have plenty of time to warm up
after we blast some Decepti-scum.

SUNSTREAKER
So long as we hurry. Before all
this snow ruins my perfect paint-
job.

PAGE SIX:

PANEL 1:

EXT. YAMBURG GAS FIELD, U.S.S.R. - DAY.

Starscream stands beside Megatron as the two Decepticons overlook the Yamburg Gas Field and the Energon collection process underway by the Reflectors.

Beside Megatron and Starscream stands a TALL PYRAMID of already-full Energon cubes.

STARSCREAM

Your plan is working perfectly, Megatron. At this rate, we will soon have enough Energon to re-power our forces and bring Cybertron completely back online. And then...

MEGATRON

And then, Starscream, I will personally see to it that those bothersome Autobots never interfere with us again! Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha!

PANEL 2:

Soundwave approaches Megatron and Starscream.

SOUNDWAVE

Megatron.

PANEL 3:

Soundwave now stands closer to Megatron and Starscream.

SOUNDWAVE (CONT'D)

Our first payload of Energon is nearly complete. Request Astrotrain for pick up and delivery.

MEGATRON

Proceed, Soundwave.

PANEL 4:

Megatron watches as Soundwave again pushes a button on his waist to contact ASTROTRAIN. Astrotrain's response can be heard through the very same button.

SOUNDWAVE

Astrotrain, you are required for Energon pickup.

ASTROTRAIN

Acknowledged, Soundwave. I'm on course to arrive in twenty-five Earth minutes.

SOUNDWAVE

Acknowledged.

PANEL 5:

Starscream looks on as Megatron praises Soundwave.

MEGATRON

Good, Soundwave. Continue filling Energon cubes.

SOUNDWAVE

As you command, Megatron.

PAGE SEVEN:

PANEL 1:

In the foreground, the Autobots hide behind a nearby SNOW DRIFT. Bumblebee is PEEKING out to see Megatron and Starscream in the distance.

MEGATRON

It won't be long now, Starscream. Soon, we will have depleted all the natural gas from the area.

STARSCREAM

And then we can return to our home back on Cybertron?

MEGATRON

Yes, and the Autobots will be powerless to stop us!

PANEL 2:

CONFUSION spreads across both Megatron and Starscream's faces as the panel is filled with INCOMING BLASTER FIRE.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

What?!

STARSCREAM

It's the Autobots! They've found us! But, how?

PANEL 3:

While Megatron and Starscream BICKER at each other, Starscream is struck in the shoulder by more blaster fire.

MEGATRON

The humans must have contacted them. Clearly, Starscream, you have failed in your task to round up **all** of the flesh-creatures.

STARSCREAM

(offended)

I did not fail! I ordered Thundercracker to check all the human buildings. One of them must have... Aarghh!

PANEL 4:

Megatron orders his troops to attack while he TAKES COVER.

MEGATRON

If it's a fight Prime wants, then it is a fight he shall have. Decepticons, **ATTACK!**

PANEL 5:

Soundwave presses his EJECT BUTTON and several CASSETTE TAPES: LASERBEAK, RAVAGE, RUMBLE and FRENZY jump out of his chest compartment to TRANSFORM.

SOUNDWAVE

Laserbeak, Ravage, Rumble,
Frenzy... eject. Operation:
Retaliation.

PAGE EIGHT:

PANEL 1:

Taking cover behind a SNOW-COVERED BUILDING with Optimus Prime and Sunstreaker, Ironhide fires his blaster towards off-panel Decepticons.

IRONHIDE

The Decepticons have a lot of Energon cubes stacked up all around, Prime.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Make sure you do not accidentally fire at them, Ironhide.

(MORE)

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)

One explosion from a single Energon cube could ignite the natural gas and cause this whole area to blow up.

PANEL 2:

Holding ground behind STACKED METAL PIPES, Bumblebee, Prowl and Mirage RETURN FIRE at more off-panel Decepticons. Sparkplug attempts to stay out of harm's way as much as possible.

BUMBLEBEE

Does someone want to tell Megatron that?

MIRAGE

You can tell him yourself, Bumblebee. Just as soon as we've captured him.

PANEL 3:

Megatron lifts his FUSION CANNON and FIRES a blast from it.

PANEL 4:

The front end of a long office building EXPLODES from Megatron's assault. Crouched at the back end of the building is Mirage, Prowl, Bumblebee and Sparkplug.

CRIES FOR HELP can be heard coming from within the damaged dwelling.

BUMBLEBEE

Whoa!

PANEL 5:

CLOSE ON Mirage, Prowl and Sparkplug, still crouched for protection as LASER FIRE flies all around.

MIRAGE

I guess you're not cold anymore, eh, Sparkplug?

SPARKPLUG

No. But, we have to save those people inside. Cover me, guys?

PROWL

You got it, partner!

PAGE NINE:

PANEL 1:

Sparkplug makes a run for the building's ENTRANCE while Mirage and Prowl lay down cover fire.

PANEL 2:

INT. THE GAS FIELD'S OFFICE HEADQUARTERS.

Sparkplug CRASHES through the door as FIVE other people (including Ramius) are huddled behind cheap-looking OFFICE FURNITURE. The other end of the building is ON FIRE, and DAYLIGHT is pouring through the MASSIVE SMOULDERING HOLE created by Megatron's blast.

PANEL 3:

Sparkplug gets his bearings and speaks to Ramius and the other frightened workers.

SPARKPLUG
Everyone! Follow me! We can't stay
here any longer! It's not safe!

PANEL 4:

EXT. YAMBURG GAS FIELD, U.S.S.R. - DAY.

With his ION BLASTER, Optimus Prime returns fire from his cover point while Ironhide speaks.

IRONHIDE
Sparkplug is gonna need help,
Prime.

OPTIMUS PRIME
Then, we've got to create a
distraction.

PANEL 5:

Optimus Prime stands up as a loud "CUR-THUNK" sound emanates off-panel behind him.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)
And I think I have an idea... what?

PAGE TEN:

PANEL 1:

Optimus Prime turns to see that Astrotrain is now behind him, SMASHING Ironhide and Sunstreaker's heads together like they are a pair of Stooges.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)
Astrotrain?

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT - Optimus Prime stands face-to-face with Astrotrain, who simply SMIRKS at him. Unbeknownst to Optimus Prime; Spyglass, Viewfinder and Spectro appear BEHIND HIM.

NOTE: Once again, Viewfinder, Spyglass and Spectro speak in unison.

VIEWFINDER
Hey, Prime!

SPECTRO
Hey, Prime!

SPYGLASS
Hey, Prime!

PANEL 3:

Viewfinder, Spyglass and Spectro MERGE TOGETHER to TRANSFORM into their combined camera-mode of REFLECTOR as Optimus Prime turns his head towards their voices.

REFLECTOR
Say cheese!

PANEL 4:

Reflector BLINDS the Autobot Leader with a DAZZLING FLASH from his camera-mode as Astrotrain looks on with a smile, pulling back his fist, ready to strike.

Optimus Prime LIFTS his arm to shield his eyes from Reflector's flash, but it is TOO LATE.

OPTIMUS PRIME
Uuugh!

ASTROTRAIN
Lights Out, Prime!

PANEL 5:

Amidst an ALL BLACK PANEL, the SOUND EFFECT: "WHAMM!" is colorfully displayed.

PAGE ELEVEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. YAMBURG GAS FIELD, U.S.S.R. - DUSK.

CAPTION: Later...

WIDE SHOT of the Gas Field. Optimus Prime, Ironhide and Sunstreaker sit on the ground, BOUND in ENERCON RESTRAINTS - arms behind their back. Their ankles are also bound.

Megatron and Starscream overlook their prisoners, while Soundwave and Thundercracker are loading the HUGE STOCKPILE of Energon cubes into the rear of Astrotrain's shuttlecraft-mode.

MEGATRON

Pity.

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Megatron KNEELING in front of Optimus Prime.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

You and your Autobots didn't put up much of a fight, Prime. There was no fun in your capture.

PANEL 3:

Megatron lifts his fusion cannon up to Optimus Prime's head.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

Perhaps I'll find more joy in your termination?

PANEL 4:

Megatron stands up, looking down at Optimus Prime with DISAPPOINTMENT.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)

But not like this. You deserve a more fitting execution. Right, Starscream?

STARSCREAM

A more fitting... what?!

PANEL 5:

Megatron BACKHANDS Starscream across the FACE, silencing him halfway through his condescending lecture.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

These Autobots deserve no such courtesy. If **I** were leader, I would have given Astrotrain the order to dispatch them as soon as he had the upper han... **Aaagh!**

MEGATRON

Silence, Starscream.

PAGE TWELVE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. YAMBURG GAS FIELD, U.S.S.R., A LITTLE FURTHER AWAY - DUSK.

Hiding behind a SNOW DRIFT, Bumblebee, Prowl and Mirage are wrestling with what they should do next, while both Sparkplug and Ramius look concerned. Mirage is looking over the snow drift to see what is happening to their Autobot allies using a set of DIGITAL BINOCULARS.

MIRAGE

Yep. They're in trouble, all right.

BUMBLEBEE

Come on, Prowl! Let's blast those Decepticons and free Prime and the others!

MARKO RAMIUS

No, Bumblebee! You don't want to do that. Some things around here don't react kindly to blasters.

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Sparkplug and Ramius looking up at Bumblebee.

SPARKPLUG

Ramius is right, Bumblebee. There's gotta be another way.

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON Bumblebee.

BUMBLEBEE

Yeah, but how?

PANEL 4:

Mirage turns and crouches down beside Bumblebee and Prowl.

MIRAGE
I've got a plan.

PANEL 5:

Prowl, Sparkplug and Ramius look at Mirage as he speaks to Bumblebee, causing the smaller Autobot's expression to SINK.

MIRAGE (CONT'D)
But, I'm afraid you're not going to like it.

PAGE THIRTEEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. YAMBURG GAS FIELD, U.S.S.R. - DUSK.

HERO SHOT - Megatron points off into the distance like STALIN.

MEGATRON
Soundwave! Once the Energon has been secured aboard Astrotrain, move the prisoners into the hold as well.

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Megatron's face.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)
We'll bring them back to Cybertron with us.

PANEL 3:

Megatron looks down at a shackled Optimus Prime.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)
It seems only fitting that your death will also be the birth of a **new** Cybertron under **my** rule!

PANEL 4:

Optimus Prime DEFIANTLY looks up at Megatron.

OPTIMUS PRIME

You may take my life, Megatron, but so long as Autobots exist, you will always be on the losing side.

PANEL 5:

Megatron looks over his shoulder to see Bumblebee WALKING towards him from a distance, along with Sparkplug and Ramius. They all have their HANDS UP in the air, but Bumblebee still holds his BLASTER.

BUMBLEBEE

Don't shoot! Don't shoot! We surrender!

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Megatron's face looking back down at Optimus Prime.

MEGATRON

Hah! The losing side of battle, you say? I think your ego subroutine needs a systems check, Optimus. Let's hope all of your remaining Autobots are as smart as this one.

PAGE FOURTEEN:

PANEL 1:

WIDE SHOT - Megatron and Starscream stand in the foreground, looking to the distance at Bumblebee, Sparkplug and Ramius as they TRUDGE through the snow towards the Decepticons, HANDS HELD HIGH. Starscream is pointing his arm-mounted NULL RAY at Bumblebee, who still holds a blaster of his own.

STARSCREAM

Drop your weapon, Autobot, or face my wrath!

PANEL 2:

CLOSER IN on the surrendering party as Bumblebee tosses his weapon to the side. Behind Sparkplug and Ramius, we see their footprints in the snow, as well as those of Bumblebee's and a FOURTH set of prints made by a larger, UNSEEN BOT.

PANEL 3:

Bumblebee and his two human friends have now walked up to Megatron and Starscream. Starscream SHOVES Bumblebee down to his KNEES before Megatron.

Again, a pair of TRANSFORMER-SIZED FOOTPRINTS can be seen in the snow, still walking behind Starscream to move off-panel.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

Kneel before your new leader,
Autobot.

BUMBLEBEE

Ugh.

SPARKPLUG

Hey!

PANEL 4:

Megatron RAISES his fusion cannon to Bumblebee's HEAD.

MEGATRON

Tell me, Bumblebee... How many more
traitors are hiding out there among
the snow drifts?

BUMBLEBEE

None. Just me.

PANEL 5:

With a look of DISGUST, Megatron pushes the barrel of his fusion cannon against Bumblebee's FACE. Bumblebee is rightfully TERRIFIED.

MEGATRON

Don't lie to me! I'll reduce you to
space-dust!

BUMBLEBEE

I swear it, Megatron! It's just me!

MEGATRON

Pathetic! Thundercracker! Go check
the perimeter, just in case he **is**
lying.

PAGE FIFTEEN:

PANEL 1:

CLOSE ON Optimus Prime's RESTRAINTS. They are being loosened from around his wrists as though untied by an INVISIBLE BEING.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)
(off-panel)
The fate of the entire Autobot
Resistance rested on you,
Bumblebee...

PANEL 2:

With his ARMS FREE, Optimus Prime begins removing his own
ankle restraints.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)
(off-panel)
... And rather than make a last
stand like a warrior, your pathetic
Autobot programming forces you to
surrender like the little yellow
coward you are.

PANEL 3:

Megatron lowers his weapon while speaking down to Bumblebee.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)
The **true** nature of an Autobot. Bah!

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Megatron's SURPRISED EXPRESSION, as he is DISTRACTED
by a voice from off-panel.

OPTIMUS PRIME
(off-panel)
Tell me, Megatron...

MEGATRON
What? Prime? But, how?

PAGE SIXTEEN:

PANEL 1:

FULL SPLASH PAGE - Optimus Prime delivers a DECISIVE UPPERCUT
to Megatron's face that lifts the Decepticon OFF HIS FEET.
Starscream stands in SHOCK, while both Sparkplug and Ramius
jump up and down, cheering.

OPTIMUS PRIME
Does **this** feel like cowardice?

PAGE SEVENTEEN:

PANEL 1:

CLOSE ON Soundwave, issuing orders to his minions. Rumble and Frenzy stand in front of him, Energon cubes in their hands.

SOUNDWAVE
Decepticons, attack!

PANEL 2:

Once again in their INDIVIDUAL FORMS, Viewfinder, Spyglass and Spectro are seen in various states of being KNOCKED TO THE GROUND by an UNSEEN FORCE. There is NO TRACE of their attacker, save for more FOOTPRINTS in the snow.

VIOLENT SOUND EFFECTS are displayed across the panel, while Energon cubes are seen strewn about the gas field.

VIEWFINDER
What?

SPYGLASS
Ughnn!

SPECTRO
Aaaagh!

PANEL 3:

Laserbeak, Ravage, Rumble and Frenzy appear in various states of DISTRESS, also under assault by the INVISIBLE ADVERSARY. Soundwave stands in the background, observing the chaos.

RUMBLE
Hey!

FRENZY
What the heck!?

SOUNDWAVE
I can **hear** you, Autobot.

PANEL 4:

Mirage REAPPEARS to LEAP at Soundwave, who DUCKS the attack.

NOTE: Only Mirage's upper body is visible, while his legs have not yet fully reappeared.

SOUNDWAVE (CONT'D)
I hear **everything**.

PANEL 5:

With a CHUN-LI/SONYA BLADE-STYLE MANEUVER, Mirage's UPTURNED LEGS become VISIBLE to KICK Soundwave in the head.

PANEL 6:

Now COMPLETELY VISIBLE and standing over Soundwave's PRONE BODY, Mirage smiles.

MIRAGE
Perhaps, Soundwave. But then, you
literally didn't **see** that coming,
did you?

PAGE EIGHTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Megatron GINGERLY sits up, rubbing his jaw to see Ironhide, Sunstreaker and Bumblebee now on their feet with weapons loaded.

In the background, we can see a DISARMED Thundercracker, hands behind his head, walking towards the others with Prowl following close behind and holding him at GUN POINT.

MEGATRON
Impossible.

PANEL 2:

Megatron gets to his feet, while Starscream stands nearby.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)
There is no way you could have
freed yourself from those
restraints.

PANEL 3:

Mirage's SPEECH BUBBLE appears right in front of Megatron and Starscream. Although, Mirage cannot be seen at all.

MIRAGE
(invisible)
You're right, Megatron.

STARSCREAM
What?!

MEGATRON
How... how is this possible?

PANEL 4:

Mirage appears before both Decepticons, now FULLY-VISIBLE once again (all except for his still-materializing feet) to BLAST Megatron in the chest at CLOSE RANGE with his SHOULDER-MOUNTED MISSILE.

MIRAGE
I freed them.

PANEL 5:

Starscream staggers backwards in shock as Megatron clutches his DAMAGED CHEST. He seems to be BADLY HURT.

MEGATRON
Curse your abilities, Mirage. I
once... had big plans... for you.

PAGE NINETEEN:

PANEL 1:

CLOSE ON Megatron's ANGERED face.

MEGATRON (CONT'D)
Decepticons! The day is lost!
Retreat!

PANEL 2:

Soundwave's cassettes, along with Viewfinder, Spectro and Spyglass FLY OFF into the sky as Soundwave LEAPS into the air to join their escape.

SOUNDWAVE
Operation: Evacuate.

PANEL 3:

Astrotrain (in shuttle-mode) BLASTS OFF into the sky, leaving the Energon cubes to SPILL OUT of his open rear doors. In the foreground, Ironhide, Ramius and Sparkplug POINT and LAUGH.

IRONHIDE
Ha-Ha! They're so eager to hightail
it outta here, they've forgotten to
secure their load.

SPARKPLUG
They're losing all the Energon
cubes they collected! Ramius, you
won't lose any power after all!

PANEL 4:

Starscream and Thundercracker LEAP into the air, TRANSFORMING into jet-mode as Megatron flies alongside them, one hand still clutching his injured chest.

STARSCREAM

Another stunning victory, oh,
'mighty' Megatron.

MEGATRON

Shut up, Starscream.

PANEL 5:

FROM BEHIND Bumblebee's head - Starscream, Thundercracker and Megatron fly away into the distance.

BUMBLEBEE

Yeah! Who's programing was written
with a cowardice subroutine now?!

PAGE TWENTY:

PANEL 1:

Ramius stands before the assembled Autobots (Optimus Prime, Prowl, Ironhide, Sunstreaker, Bumblebee, Mirage) and Sparkplug with a THANKFUL HAND GESTURE.

MARKO RAMIUS

Thank you, Autobots. Thank you,
Comrade Prime. Because of your
actions today, my people will not
suffer through another long and
cold winter.

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Optimus Prime.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Thank you, Mr. Ramius, but the real
recognition should go to Mirage.
He's the reason we were able to
overpower the Decepticons.

PANEL 3:

STILL CLOSE ON Optimus Prime.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)

Now, Autobots, it's time to help
the Russians clean up and repair
their natural gas field.

PANEL 4:

TWO SHOT - Ironhide and Bumblebee. Bumblebee is looking off-panel, SLIGHTLY CONFUSED.

IRONHIDE

Aw, Prime. Ain't it enough that we saved the humans' fuel source?

BUMBLEBEE

Don't worry, Ironhide. It won't take long. Isn't that right, Mirage? Mirage?

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - Looking over a clearing of pristine snow, a NEW set of Autobot FOOTPRINTS walk away from the reader. A SPEECH BUBBLE with no apparent owner LAUGHS while Bumblebee can be heard off-panel.

BUMBLEBEE (CONT'D)

(off-panel)

Mirage?

MIRAGE

(invisible)

Heh-heh.

THE END

We want to thank each and every one of you who took the time to read our script. If you liked what you read here and would like to see more stories in the Transformers G1 cartoon universe, Greig and I would love to keep writing. You could help by contacting IDW Publishing by E-Mail (letters@idwpublishing.com) or on Twitter (@IDWPublishing), and let them know you want to see Transformers: REANIMATED written by Yoshi and Greig Tansley as an ongoing comic book series. Thank You All!