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THE TRANSFORMERS

REANIMATED



DIRECT EDITION

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THE TRANSFORMERS: REANIMATED.
"DOWN UNDER BLUNDERS."

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. SPACE.

CAPTION: Four-and-a-half million years ago...

WITH A SPLASH PANEL, a BROKEN-DOWN SPACECRAFT flees through the cosmos, chased by its MUCH LARGER and IMPOSING pursuer as both ships DUCK-AND-WEAVE through an ASTEROID FIELD.

PROWL
(captioned)
You were right, Magnus. We've found them!

PANEL 2:

INT. PROWL'S SHIP.

PROWL sits in the CAPTAIN'S CHAIR in the center of the ship's CONTROL ROOM. At the forward HELM CONSOLE, TOP SPIN pilots the ship, while TWIN TWIST mans a SCIENTIFIC CONSOLE on the left. All three Autobots look up at the ship's DIGITAL VIEWSCREEN, on which, the face of ULTRA MAGNUS can be seen.

PROWL
That tip from Nightbeat seems to have paid off. I've got the convicts right where I want them.

ULTRA MAGNUS
(through the viewscreen)
Excellent work, Prowl. Those three have run wild for far too long. And stealing the prototype Advanced-Computer-Enhancer has crossed the line!

TOP SPIN
(under his breath)
I prefer to call it the ACE.

PANEL 3:

As Top Spin and Twin Twist continue manning their stations, Prowl ends the conversation. The viewscreen WINKS OUT like old BLACK-AND-WHITE TELEVISION, but not before hearing Ultra Magnus's final words.

PROWL

I agree, Magnus. We'll have all three convicts in custody within the hour.

ULTRA MAGNUS

Excellent. That'll be one less unsolved mystery to deal with. Ultra Magnus, out.

PAGE TWO:

PANEL 1:

Twin Twist's COMPUTER CONSOLE bathes him in RED LIGHT as Prowl looks over his shoulder.

TWIN TWIST

Prowl, we've got a problem. Sensors are reading a massive spatial anomaly is about to open up directly ahead.

PROWL

A spatial anomaly?

TWIN TWIST

Yep...

PANEL 2:

EXT. SPACE.

Both ships are dwarfed by the appearance of a WORMHOLE. Its edges swirl like the MILKY WAY itself, while its center looks like BATH WATER DISAPPEARING DOWN A DRAIN.

TWIN TWIST

(captioned)

... a **WORMHOLE!**

PANEL 3:

INT. THE CONVICT SHIP.

THREE PANICKED TRANSFORMERS stand cramped in a tiny CONTROL ROOM that appears to be much smaller and far less comfortable than Prowl's.

RUNABOUT and his partner-in-crime, RUNAMUCK, stand gawking at their own VIEWSCREEN IMAGE of the wormhole.

The ship's pilot can barely be seen. Only his SHOULDER is visible in the corner of the panel.

RUNAMUCK

What the heck is that?!

RUNABOUT

(to the off-panel pilot)

Who cares? Just get us out of here, pipsqueak!

PANEL 4:

The one we all know as OUTBACK sits in the pilot's seat, turning to face Runabout and Runamuck behind him. His color scheme at this point is a combination of several SILVERS and GREYS, while his finish is IMMACULATE.

Runabout holds a GLOWING METAL ORB in his right hand. It is the stolen ADVANCED-COMPUTER-ENHANCER, or ACE for short.

OUTBACK

I keep telling you, that's **not** my name!

RUNAMUCK

I don't care what your name is! Just get us out of here! Full speed!

OUTBACK

Full speed, are you crazy? Not only are we being chased by the greatest Autobot cop in the system, but that's a **wormhole**! We fly too close and... **BOOM**! Maybe we should just turn ourselves in?

RUNABOUT

Turn ourselves in? To Prowl? Yeah, right. We didn't steal the ACE prototype to give up now. This little gadget holds the key to advancing the learning capabilities of any Teletraan-model computer system. You know how much we can sell this for? Besides, you think the Autobots will just give up, now they know we've got their property?

RUNAMUCK

Exactly. Full speed, **now**!

PANEL 5:

Outback reluctantly agrees with the monochrome twins.

OUTBACK
Okay, just hold onto something.
This is going to be rough.

PANEL 6:

EXT. SPACE.

The convict ship ZOOMS CLOSER to the wormhole as Prowl's ship cautiously lags behind.

RUNAMUCK
(captioned)
Ha-ha! Eat it, Autobots!

PAGE THREE:

PANEL 1:

INT. THE CONVICT SHIP.

Both Runamuck and Runabout look over Outback's shoulder. Runabout still holds the ACE in his hands.

OUTBACK
Uh-oh.

RUNAMUCK
Uh-oh? What uh-oh?

OUTBACK
I told you the wormhole was too unstable! At this speed and this course heading, we can't stop!

PANEL 2:

The convict ship is pulled towards the wormhole's GAPING MAW.

OUTBACK (CONT'D)
(captioned)
We're being sucked into it!

PANEL 3:

INT. PROWL'S SHIP.

Prowl looks at his viewscreen as the convict ship DISAPPEARS into the wormhole. Top Spin turns to face him, as does Twin Twist.

TOP SPIN

Prowl, they're being pulled in!
Should we follow them?

PROWL

No, it's too dangerous. We can't
risk it.

TWIN TWIST

But, we'll lose the ACE!

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Prowl and his ANNOYED EXPRESSION.

PROWL

I know. Lousy convicts.

PAGE FOUR:

PANEL 1:

EXT. SPACE - LIGHT YEARS AWAY.

The SEVERELY-DAMAGED convict ship appears with a FLASH. In the lower corner of the panel, sits a PREHISTORIC PLANET EARTH, with the CONTINENT OF AUSTRALIA clearly visible.

PANEL 2:

INT. THE CONVICT SHIP.

FLAMES LIGHT UP the control room. SPARKS FLY from several consoles. Runabout holds his panicked hands up to his head, while Runabout frighteningly-hugs the ACE as though he were protecting a child. Meanwhile, Outback is desperately trying to pilot the dilapidated craft.

RUNAMUCK

Whatta-we-do?! Whatta-we-do?!

RUNABOUT

C'mon, pipsqueak! Get us out of
here!

OUTBACK

I told you, that's **not** my name! I
also told you we shouldn't have
flown too close to that wormhole!

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON Outback.

OUTBACK (CONT'D)

But I think I can still save us.
All we need to do is carefully...

PANEL 4:

With his left hand, Runamuck **SHOVES** Runabout aside to reach
over Outback and **SLAM** his right hand on the **HELM CONTROLS**. As
such, Runabout begins to **AWKWARDLY JUGGLE** the **ACE**.

RUNAMUCK

Carefully, nothin'! Get us outta
here! **Now!**

RUNABOUT

Whoa!

OUTBACK

Hey! Stop it!

PANEL 5:

FROM BEHIND the convicts, we can see through their viewscreen
to witness the ship is now rapidly-careening towards the
Earth and more specifically, Australia.

Outback argues with Runamuck, while Runabout continues to
juggle the bobbling **ACE**, which has begun to **GLOW** a **PRECARIOUS**
YELLOW COLOR.

OUTBACK (CONT'D)

What have you done? I told you we
needed to be careful! Thanks to
your cave-bot touch, the ship has
gone into overdrive!

RUNAMUCK

Meaning?

OUTBACK

We're gonna crash!

RUNABOUT
(bumbling with the now-
glowing ACE)
Uh... guys? This thing is starting
to get weird.

PANEL 6:

Runamuck ANGRILY DRAGS the much-smaller Outback from the helm station, tossing him into Runabout (and the ACE).

RUNAMUCK
Outta the way, runt, I'll handle
this!

OUTBACK
Hey, watch it!

RUNABOUT
No, lookout!

PANEL 7:

The WHITE-HOT ACE sails out of Runabout's hands and BURNS ITSELF INTO OUTBACK'S CHEST.

OUTBACK
Aaaaaagh!

PAGE FIVE:

PANEL 1:

Even more VIOLENT SPARKS and ERRATIC FLAMES now litter the control room. As the ACE continues to melt into Outback's chest, Runabout confronts Runamuck, arrogantly trying to pilot the ship on his own.

RUNABOUT
What're you doing? Can you save us,
or not?

RUNAMUCK
Sure. It's a piece of cyber-cake.
All I gotta do is force the engines
into a full-throttle...

OUTBACK
Full throttle? No, stop!

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Outback. The ACE has now buried itself deep into his chest, causing SPIDERWEB-LIKE SCORCH MARKS to streak across his once-pristine finish and slowly changing it to his more familiar G1 KHAKI color scheme.

OUTBACK (CONT'D)
Not full throttle! That'll overload
the engines! Back out, Runamuck!
Back out!

PANEL 3:

EXT. EARTH'S UPPER ATMOSPHERE - DAY.

Like a FLAMING METEORITE, the convict ship HURTLES TOWARDS the AUSTRALIAN CONTINENT.

OUTBACK
(captioned)
I **said**, back out! Back out!

PANEL 4:

EXT. PREHISTORIC AUSTRALIA - DAY.

The convict ship CRASHES into the dirt like an OLYMPIC JAVELIN plunging into the ground. Certainly the kind of crash you wouldn't walk away from.

OUTBACK
(captioned)
Back...

PANEL 5:

The ship has now buried itself deep into the BLOOD-RED SOIL of a MOUNTAINOUS MOUND of earth. SMOKE RISES from the REAR THRUSTERS, reminiscent of a FAMOUS AUTOBOT ARK.

PANEL 6:

The crash triggers a LANDSLIDE, which COMPLETELY BURIES the convict ship.

PANEL 7:

EXT. MOUNT ISA, MODERN DAY - AFTERNOON.

CAPTION: Outside Mt. Isa, Australia, four-and-a-half million years later...

The convict ship's former crash-site has now become a modern-day ZINC MINE, complete with TALL SMOKE STACKS, MAN-MADE DIRT TRACKS and WORKER CARAVANS. The small town of MOUNT ISA can be seen on the horizon.

PAGE SIX:

PANEL 1:

TWO EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BOYS run by a BARRICADED SIDE-ENTRANCE to the mine. TREVOR is BLONDE-HAIRED and BLUE-EYED, while CAMERON is of ABORIGINAL HERITAGE. Cameron also holds a WALKIE-TALKIE in his hand.

NOTE: Cameron is dressed in shorts and a tank-top, while Trevor wears a T-shirt, shorts and a backwards cap. Both boys also wear 'FLIP-FLOPS' on their feet, known by Australians as 'THONGS'.

CAMERON
(into his walkie-talkie)
Come in, Moon Command! This is
Captain Cameron. Come in, Moon
Command!

TREVOR
Heh.

PANEL 2:

Trevor and Cameron stare at the walkie-talkie as a VOICE REPLIES. We'll soon find out it belongs to their friend, FAYE.

FAYE
(through the walkie-
talkie)
Readin' ya loud-and-clear, Captain!
Proceed with your mission!

TREVOR
Wait. Where **is** she?

CAMERON
We need your location, uh... Moon
Command. Where are ya?

PANEL 3:

Faye, another eight-year-old, this time, a girl with RED-PIGTAILS and FRECKLES, stands BEHIND the barricades that block the mine entrance. She smiles at her two friends as both Cameron and Trevor TURN BACK to face her with SURPRISE.

NOTE: Faye is slightly better dressed than her friends. She wears what might be considered 'tomboy' overalls over her T-shirt, with dusty sneakers on her feet.

FAYE

Behind you! Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha!

TREVOR

Whoa!

CAMERON

Hey!

PANEL 4:

Cameron angrily confronts Faye, while Trevor seems worried.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Hey, you know the rules, Faye! My dad says we can't be playin' or hidin' up around here!

TREVOR

Yeah, Cameron's right, hey. **My** dad says the same thing.

PANEL 5:

INT. INSIDE THE MINE ENTRANCE.

FROM INSIDE THE DARK TUNNEL, Faye scuttles further into the mine, leaving both Cameron and Trevor to peer in with trepidation.

FAYE

What? No way! Don't be a pair of scaredey-cats! Besides, I **found** somethin' cool! C'mon!

PANEL 6:

Both Cameron and Trevor chase after Faye as she DISAPPEARS further down the dark tunnel.

CAMERON

Faye, wait! I'm serious!

TREVOR

Where're you goin'? You're gonna get us all in trouble!

PANEL 7:

CLOSE ON Cameron's ASTONISHED FACE.

CAMERON
What the heck?!

PAGE SEVEN:

PANEL 1:

INT. DEEPER INTO THE TUNNEL.

Both Trevor and Cameron stand in shock as a BRIGHT YELLOW LIGHT emanates from several CRACKS and FISSURES permeating the tunnel wall. Faye stands before them with her back to the light, AS PROUD AS PUNCH.

FAYE
Check it out, fellas.

TREVOR
Crikey!

CAMERON
What is it?!

PANEL 2:

Faye is about to CRAWL INTO what looks like a SMALL, CHILD-SIZED APERTURE in the tunnel wall. Standing behind her, only Cameron and Trevor's FEET can be seen in the panel.

FAYE
Well, that's what we're gonna find out, ya dill. Come on!

PANEL 3:

INT. A LARGE, SUBTERRANEAN CAVE.

Having crawled through the hole and arrived on the other side, all three kids stand aghast as they have found THE CONVICT SHIP.

The space vehicle is CRUSHED BEYOND BELIEF. Its COCKPIT WINDOWS are COMPLETELY SHATTERED. However, more radiance seeps out from within: the source of the yellow light Faye has discovered.

CAMERON
It's a **spaceship!**

TREVOR

How did a spaceship get here? You think its full-a aliens?

FAYE

I don't know. It seems really old. But, look! That light is comin' from outta those windows. Let's take a gander!

PANEL 4:

Cameron and Trevor remain in place, while Faye has already CLIMBED ONTO THE SHIP, ready to crawl in through its shattered cockpit windows.

CAMERON

Faye! Come back! You can't just climb into a spaceship like that!

FAYE

Why not? I'm not afraid. Besides...

PANEL 5:

INT. THE CONVICT SHIP.

An INERT and now RUST-BROWN-COLORED Outback SITS ON THE FLOOR, the ACE still fused to his chest and emitting the yellow light from earlier. Over his shoulder, Cameron and Trevor have now joined Faye to PEER INTO THE SHIP through the shattered cockpit windows. Both boys appear SHOCKED, while Faye is noting but ELATED.

FAYE

... I reckon we just found a **Transformer!**

PAGE EIGHT:

PANEL 1:

EXT. MT SAINT HILARY - THE AUTOBOT ARK - NIGHT.

The famous AUTOBOT ARK sits in its mountain home.

NEWS REPORTER

(captioned)

Former businessman and Decepticon sympathizer, Shawn Berger, was controversially released from prison today, on what many legal experts are calling a technicality...

PANEL 2:

INT. THE AUTOBOT ARK.

Prowl sits alone watching TELETRAAN-1 and its DATA SCREEN IMAGE of SHAWN BERGER (from *Megatron's Master Plan*). As he gazes upon Berger's face, Prowl seems less than impressed.

PROWL

Unbelievable.

NEWS REPORTER

(voice only, stemming from Teletraan-1)

Earlier, Mr. Berger stated he held no ill will towards the government, and more importantly, the Autobots for his so-called 'wrongful imprisonment', vowing to get on with his life and return to...

PANEL 3:

Prowl sits up with sudden interest as Teletraan-1's data screen switches from the image of Berger to an ALERT SCREEN, now displaying the words, 'WARNING: UNIQUE ENERGY SIGNATURE DETECTED'.

PROWL

Hey, what's all this about? Unique energy signature?

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Prowl's face as it becomes clear he has stumbled upon some shocking information.

PROWL (CONT'D)

It can't be. After all this time?

PANEL 5:

Prowl looks over his shoulder to see SIDESWIPE walking by.

PROWL (CONT'D)
Sideswipe, something's come up!
Mind if I borrow your jet-pack?

SIDESWIPE
Sure thing. But, what's the
situation? Need a hand?

PROWL
No, I'll take care of it. It's...
personal.

PANEL 6:

With the jet-pack in his hands, Prowl TRANSFORMS into police-car-mode, then races towards the Ark's EXIT while Sideswipe watches on.

PROWL (CONT'D)
Tell Prime I'll be back in a day or
two. I've waited a long time for
this.

PANEL 7:

EXT. MT SAINT HILARY, THE AUTOBOT ARK - NIGHT.

LIKE A ROCKET, Prowl ROARS OFF INTO THE NIGHT SKY with Sideswipe's JET-PACK strapped to his back. Both the mountain and the Ark appear on the ground far below him.

PROWL
Lousy convicts. I've got you now.

NOTE: This panel should homage Starscream's "Ow, my foot!" moment from the 1986 Movie.

PAGE NINE:

PANEL 1:

INT. THE CONVICT SHIP.

Inside the DEVASTATED CONTROL ROOM, Cameron, Trevor and Faye stand before the dormant Outback. The ACE continues to glow. The APPARENTLY-DEACTIVATED bodies of both Runamuck and Runabout lie nearby. Runabout is SLUMPED in a sitting position, while Runamuck is FACE-DOWN on the floor.

CAMERON

Wow, real-life Transformers! Three of 'em, just like the ones I saw on the tele!

TREVOR

What's wrong with the brown one? And what's that glowy do-dad stickin' out him?

FAYE

I dunno. Let's have a closer look. Whatta ya reckon?

PANEL 2:

Faye tries to PULL the ACE free of Outback's chest.

TREVOR

(off-panel)
Oi, Faye! Wait!

PANEL 3:

A BLAST OF YELLOW ENERGY shoots out from the ACE like a SHOCKWAVE (the other kind), filling the room and subtly WASHING OVER both Runamuck and Runabout.

PANEL 4:

The kids eagerly stand before Outback as his EYES LIGHT UP and a large ENERGO-BLADE PROTRUDES from his wrist like WOLVERINE'S CLAWS.

CAMERON

Uh oh, look! He's waking up!

TREVOR

Whoa! Where'd that sword come from?

FAYE

Hey, big-man. We're friends, all right? Friends. Can you talk?

PANEL 5:

CLOSE ON Outback's CONCERNED FACE.

OUTBACK

... out! Back... Out! Back...

PANEL 6:

The kids continue to stand before Outback as he RISES TO HIS FEET.

FAYE

Outback? Is that your name? That's funny.

CAMERON

Uh, I don't think he can talk properly, Faye. The crash must-a busted him up good-and-proper.

TREVOR

Let's take him back to my place. My dad won't be back until tonight. Is that okay with you... 'Outback'?

PANEL 7:

Outback's energo-blade disappears back into his wrist, as he gives a THUMBS UP with the other hand.

FAYE

Yes! This is the best day ever!

PANEL 8:

In the background, Outback and the kids have climbed up and through the shattered cockpit, while in the foreground, with his face on the floor, Runamuck's eyes begin to GLOW RED.

FAYE (CONT'D)

And it's only gonna get better!

PAGE TEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. TREVOR'S PLACE - AFTERNOON.

On a large, expansive PLOT OF LAND, a DECENT-SIZED-YET-SEMI-RUNDOWN SHED sits in the foreground, with the residence's MAIN HOMESTEAD perched in the background. The shed is clearly housing some kind of activity, with various CLANGING SOUNDS echoing from its CORRUGATED-IRON CONSTRUCTION.

NOTE: The house in the background should resemble what is known in Australia as 'AN OLD QUEENSLANDER'.

FAYE

(unseen - inside the shed)
So now whatta we do?

PANEL 2:

INT. INSIDE THE SHED.

Outback sits CRAMMED INSIDE the shed. While not the biggest of bots, he still dwarfs all three of the kids. He sits with BLANK EXPRESSION, as the three children stand around him, pondering his fate.

TREVOR

Whatta ya mean, 'whatta we do?' He can just stay here until he gets better.

CAMERON

Gets better? How long is that gonna take?

PANEL 3:

Faye stands before an old-fashioned, 1970s BLACK-AND-WHITE TELEVISION, which sits on top of a stack of three other non-functional sets.

FAYE

Who knows? In the mean time, though...

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Faye's hand, flicking the television's ON SWITCH.

FAYE (CONT'D)

... let's see what's on the tele.

PANEL 5:

The television LIGHTS UP to reveal a SMALL BOY talking to a KANGAROO, triggering a GLOWING reaction from the ACE, still lodged in Outback's chest. The kids react as though a set of FIREWORKS has just gone off in front of them.

FAYE (CONT'D)

What the heck?

TREVOR

Whoa!

NOTE: The TV show that appears is called 'Skippy the Bush Kangaroo' a staple of 1970s / 1980s Aussie Children's TV.

PANEL 6:

A BEAM OF SOLID ENERGY shoots out of the ACE and into the television, which then fires a similar BURST from its WIRE COATHANGER ANTENNA, up and THROUGH the roof of the shed.

PANEL 7:

EXT. SPACE, ABOVE THE EARTH.

With a GLOBAL VIEW OF AUSTRALIA, the energy blast ROCKETS UP from Mt. Isa and into an ORBITING SATELLITE.

PAGE ELEVEN:

PANEL 1:

INT. INSIDE THE SHED.

The energy now surrounds both Outback and the television, as the three kids stand watching with WORRIED EXPRESSIONS.

CAMERON

Uh..?

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Outback's face as he appears to be OVERLOADING.

PANEL 3:

The energy has faded, leaving Outback sitting before the three kids, with SMOKE and STEAM pouring off his metal hide. While Cameron and Faye turn to each other with concern, Trevor looks off-panel as his FATHER'S VOICE cries out.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

What was that all about?

TREVOR'S FATHER

(from off-panel)

Trevor? What's goin' on out there?

TREVOR

Uh-oh, it's my old man! He's home early!

PANEL 4:

Trevor's hands are now CUPPED AROUND HIS MOUTH, as he calls out to his father. A seemingly CATATONIC Outback remains in the background, while both Cameron and Faye move towards the shed's exit.

TREVOR (CONT'D)
Nuthin, Dad! I'll be right there!

CAMERON
We gotta go!

FAYE
Yeah, if **any** of our parents find out about Outback, we'll all be in massive trouble!

PANEL 5:

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE SHED - EVENING.

Trevor stands closest to the shed's now-closed, CORRUGATED-IRON DOOR, while both Cameron and Faye DASH OFF towards the edges of the panel.

TREVOR
Don't tell no one about this, and we'll meet back here in the morning, alright?

CAMERON
Sounds good, mate.

FAYE
See ya then, fellas.

PANEL 6:

INT. INSIDE THE SHED.

Outback remains sitting before the television as it suddenly POPS BACK TO LIFE, revealing what looks like a commercial for a MINI, OFF-ROAD SUV.

PANEL 7:

CLOSE ON Outback's eyes. The REFLECTION of the television screen can be seen in his VISOR OPTICS. Several sounds of TV programming can be heard from off-panel.

TELEVISION
(off-panel)
Don't miss this week's edition of *Hey Hey, It's Saturday!* Guests include: Ugly Dave Grey, Ricky May and...

PAGE TWELVE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.

TWO PAIRS OF DECEPTICON FEET; one white, the other black, stand beside the LONELY ROAD that leads towards Mt. Isa.

RUNAMUCK

You're sure it's him? **And** the ACE?

RUNABOUT

It's gotta be him! This is the only sign of 'civilization' around here, even if it **is** filled with worthless flesh-creatures.

PANEL 2:

Runabout holds what appears to be a TRACKING SCANNER in his hands (similar in design to Ripley's from *Aliens*). Runamuck faces Runabout.

RUNAMUCK

Then, let's go get him! We'll teach him not to take the ACE without us!

RUNABOUT

Yeah, but let's take it slow. Our old partner might have his own plans for this place. I say we sneak in, all stealth-like. Strike when it suits **us!**

RUNAMUCK

Oooh, stealthy? I can dig that!

PANEL 3:

Both Runamuck and Runabout TRANSFORM into CAR-MODE and cruise towards the town.

NOTE: Both Runamuck and Runabout's car-modes should still be Cybertronian in appearance, but reminiscent of their classic G1 designs.

RUNABOUT

This is gonna be fun!

PANEL 4:

EXT. THE SHED - MORNING.

CAPTION: The next morning...

With the EARLY MORNING SUN beaming down upon them, Faye walks into frame to meet Trevor and Cameron outside the shed. Both boys seem concerned, as several CLASSIC AUSSIE SAYINGS echo out from within the shed through the use of SEPARATE WORD BALLOONS.

BALLOON #1

Strewth!

CAMERON

Faye! Where've you been?!

BALLOON #2

Whacky-do!

TREVOR

Yeah, we've been waitin' for ages!
Something weird's going on in
there, eh?

BALLOON #3

Crikey!

FAYE

Righto, hold your horses, fellas.
Let's see what's goin' on...

PANEL 5:

INT. INSIDE THE SHED.

LOOKING IN OVER THE KIDS' SHOULDERS - Outback sits before the television, THOROUGHLY-ENJOYING a relaxing binge session.

FAYE

... inside?

PANEL 6:

Outback turns towards the kids with a cheery smile.

OUTBACK

Oi, get a Captain Cook at this!
It's me favourite billy-lids! Where
have you been? I've been here for
ages waitin' for you to come back
so I could say, 'thanks heaps' for
mendin' me melon!

PANEL 7:

All three kids react differently to Outback using their local colloquialisms. Trevor appears CONFUSED, Cameron's jaw falls WIDE-OPEN with shock, while Faye is ALL SMILES.

OUTBACK (CONT'D)

I mean, what's the John Dory? I've been here all night, havin' a spiffy old time, flat out like a lizard drinkin', watching the ol' tele!

TREVOR

What happened to him? Where'd he learn to talk like that?

FAYE

It's the TV. He's learned everything from the TV. **Australian** TV.

PAGE THIRTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Outback points a FRIENDLY FINGER towards Faye, while motioning to the ACE in his chest with another.

OUTBACK

Bingo, darl'. I thought I was cactus for sure, but thanks to this little beauty jammed into me chest, I'm flyin', mate. Flyin'!

PANEL 2:

Faye TAKES A CLOSER LOOK at the ACE, as Outback continues.

FAYE

This thing absorbed all the local TV and taught you to be Australian?

OUTBACK

My oath, luv! And after being cooped up all night, I say we all bust outta here and hit the frog and toad! Whatta ya reckon? It'll be dead-set better than a Vegemite sandwich.

PANEL 3:

Trevor remains cautious, as an eager Outback seems disappointed by the boy's reply.

TREVOR

Uh, I don't know, Outback. I don't think we should.

OUTBACK

Oh, come on, mate, fair suck of the sauce bottle. I'm not tryin' to pull the wool over your eyes. It'll go off, I promise. Watch.

PANEL 4:

Still inside the shed, Outback TRANSFORMS into an OFF-ROAD, MINI SUV, just like one seen on the TV earlier. All three kids STAND BY IN AMAZEMENT.

FAYE

Whoa!

OUTBACK

Come on, jump in, squires! We'll go for a quick hoon and sus out the town, eh?

TREVOR

Around town? But... but, we can't drive.

PANEL 5:

CLOSE ON Outback, still in SUV-mode.

OUTBACK

Drive? You? Fair dinkum, mate... you must be a few bottles short of a six-pack if you think I'm lettin' **you** drive. Yeah, nah...

PANEL 6:

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE SHED - MORNING.

With all three kids onboard, Outback BURSTS THROUGH the shed's corrugated-iron door, LEAPING FORTH and into adventure.

OUTBACK

... I'll do the drivin'! Coooo-
eeee!

INT. INSIDE OUTBACK'S CAB.

Faye is distracted by flashes of RED-AND-BLUE-LIGHT appearing in the rearview mirror. Cameron also looks up at the mirror, while Trevor has turned to look behind them.

FAYE

Uh, I think we might have a problem, Outback.

CAMERON

The police are behind us.

TREVOR

Yeah, but that doesn't look like any police car **I've** ever seen before.

PANEL 6:

EXT. THE STREETS OF MT. ISA - DAY.

Prowl's (driverless) police-car-mode closes in on Outback and the kids.

TREVOR

(off-panel)

It's steerin' wheel is on the wrong side. And... **nobody's** driving it!

PAGE FIFTEEN:

PANEL 1:

INT. INSIDE OUTBACK'S CAB.

CLOSE ON Outback's INTERIOR CB RADIO SYSTEM.

OUTBACK

Oh no, it's **Prowl**! We gotta bail, or we'll be up the creek without a paddle, spearin' tadpoles with a crowbar!

PANEL 2:

EXT. THE STREETS OF MT. ISA - DAY.

Outback HITS A BURST OF SPEED to RACE AWAY from Prowl.

PROWL
Convict C-59, pull over
immediately!

OUTBACK
Yeah, nah, you got Buckley's of
that happening, me ol' mucker. I'm
outta here faster than a blue-tail
fly!

PANEL 3:

At TOP SPEED, Outback ROARS through the town of Mt. Isa, with Prowl in HOT PURSUIT.

PROWL
Convict C-59! I **said**, pull over and
surrender! **Immediately!**

OUTBACK
Uh, no way I'm doing that, by-jingo-
by-crikey!

PANEL 4:

INT. INSIDE OUTBACK'S CAB.

Cameron, Faye and Trevor plead with Outback to stop.

FAYE
Outback! You can't do this! You
need to pull over!

CAMERON
Yeah, that's an **Autobot** behind us!
They're the good guys, right?

OUTBACK
But that's Prowl! He's as cunning
as a dunny rat and as mad as a cut
snake!

TREVOR
It doesn't matter, Outback...

PANEL 5:

EXT. THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN - DAY.

Outback and Prowl have now reached the edges of Mt. Isa, returning to the familiar highway we've seen previously.

TREVOR

... there's nowhere else to go!

PANEL 6:

Outback TRANSFORMS to robot-mode, as all three kids jump to safety and land on their feet. Prowl also TRANSFORMS to robot-mode, lifting his RIFLE at Outback.

PROWL

They're right, Convict C-59. Listen to the humans.

OUTBACK

You listen, mate. I dunno what you want from me. Just don't go troppo, okay? I don't want any dramas. Take a chill-pill and let's have a bit of a chin-wag, alright?

PAGE SIXTEEN:

PANEL 1:

As he stands with a MECHANICAL, CATCHER'S MITT-TYPE DEVICE in one hand, Prowl appears CONFUSED by Outback's ramblings.

PROWL

What are you babbling about? All I want is the ACE. The ACE you **stole** four-and-a-half million years ago!

PANEL 2:

Prowl's odd device SUCKS THE ACE free of Outback's chest to sail into the CLAW-LIKE CONTRAPTION.

PROWL (CONT'D)

There. Much better.

PANEL 3:

With the kids now behind him, Outback approaches Prowl, hands RAISED INTO THE AIR.

OUTBACK

Righto, you got your fancy thing-a-ma-bob, so how 'bout you just leave me be so I can go Walkabout by meself?

PROWL

Uh-uh. We're not done yet. Where are your two cohorts? Where are Runabout and Runamuck?

PANEL 4:

Two LASER BLASTS strike Prowl IN THE BACK.

PROWL (CONT'D)

AAAAAAGH!

PANEL 5:

Runabout and Runamuck both stand with LASER PISTOLS in one hand, and GLOWING ENERGO-BLADES in the other. Prowl now lies in pain at their feet, STEAM RISING from his SINGED BODY.

NOTE: Both energo-blades are approximately half the size of the one Outback displayed earlier in the story.

RUNAMUCK

Right here, Autobot!

RUNABOUT

Yeah, if you think you're taking us in, you're in for a huge disappointment.

PROWL

Ughhhh...

PANEL 6:

Outback stands protecting the three frightened kids as Runamuck approaches him. Runabout continues to hold his laser pistol at Prowl, who shows no signs of getting up.

RUNAMUCK

Good to see you again, pipsqueak.

FAYE

Outback, these blokes were in the ship we found you in. I thought they'd be your friends?

OUTBACK

Nah, they're about as much fun as a dropped pie. What are you two bogans doing here? I thought you'd carked it for sure.

PANEL 7:

Runamuck turns back to look at Runabout, who is now holding the ACE in his hands.

RUNABOUT
What's wrong with him?

RUNAMUCK
Who cares? Now that we got the ACE,
we can sell it to the highest
bidder and live like cyber-kings!

PAGE SEVENTEEN:

PANEL 1:

FROM BEHIND Runamuck and Runabout, framed in the background between them, Outback stands with the kids, looking JUST AS WORRIED as they do.

RUNABOUT
Whatta we do about our old partner?
Two shares of the ACE bounty is a
lot more than three.

RUNAMUCK
You're right. We'll take care of
him and the flesh-creatures in a
minute.

PANEL 2:

Laser pistol and energo-blade still in hand, Runamuck kicks Prowl ACROSS THE FACE, causing his ICONIC HEAD CREST to BREAK OFF and fly towards the foreground.

RUNAMUCK (CONT'D)
First, I wanna take care of this
meddling Autobot!

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON Outback's knees and feet, as Prowl's crest lands before him in the dirt.

OUTBACK
Huh?

PANEL 4:

Runamuck once again MENACES PROWL, while Runabout cheers him on in the background. Prowl has clambered to all fours, but remains vulnerable.

RUNAMUCK

What do you think, Runabout? Do I shoot first? Or knife first?

RUNABOUT

Knife him, Runabout! Knife him real good!

PANEL 5:

From the BOTTOM-LEFT of frame, Prowl's crest FLIES INTO THE PANEL, knocking the gun from Runamuck's hand, before TURNING BACK in a CIRCULAR, BOOMERANG-LIKE TRAJECTORY to soar back into the foreground.

RUNAMUCK

Huh?!

OUTBACK

(off-panel)

Sorry, mate, can't let you do that.

PANEL 6:

Prowl's crest flies BACK INTO OUTBACK'S HAND like MJOLNIR returning to THOR, as he stands in a COMBAT-READY STANCE.

OUTBACK (CONT'D)

Besides. That's not a knife...

PAGE EIGHTEEN:

PANEL 1:

SPLASH PANEL - Outback lifts his own (larger) wrist-mounted energo-blade like EXCALIBUR. In the background, Faye, Trevor and Cameron stand CHEERING TRIUMPHANTLY.

OUTBACK (CONT'D)

... now, **that's** a knife!

PANEL 2:

Outback DIVES FORWARD, and with one MIGHTY SWING, SLICES RUNAMUCK in half, separating his torso from his legs. Runabout stands PETRIFIED in the distance.

RUNAMUCK

Yaaaaghh!

OUTBACK

Ha! Get that into ya, ya flamin' dropkick!

PANEL 3:

Outback hurls his makeshift boomerang into Runabout's head. It bounces off the would-be Decepticon with a CLANG.

OUTBACK (CONT'D)
Cop this, you dopey drongo!

RUNABOUT
Ugh?!

PANEL 4:

Outback TRANSFORMS into SUV-mode and SLAMS INTO Runabout's chest like a BATTERING RAM.

OUTBACK
I am the Nightrider. I'm a fuel injected suicide machine. I am the rocker, I am the roller, I am the **out-of-controller!**

PAGE NINETEEN:

PANEL 1:

With both Runamuck and Runabout laying defeated, Prowl is back on his feet. Outback hands him his crest.

OUTBACK (CONT'D)
Here you go, mate. Whack that back on yer noggin' and she'll be apples.

PROWL
Um, thank you, Convict C-59.

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Faye, Trevor and Cameron.

FAYE
Hey, his name is **Outback!**

CAMERON
Yeah! He's a hero!

PANEL 3:

All three kids stand with Outback, as Prowl looks down at the much smaller bot while re-affixing his crest.

PROWL

Indeed. Thanks for the assistance, uh, **Outback**. Unfortunately, I still have to take you in.

OUTBACK

Seriously? I know I had a bad trot for bit, but I'm a changed bot! No need for any more barnies. Can't we just share a cold one and shoot the..?

PANEL 4:

Prowl remains annoyed at Outback's colloquialisms.

PROWL

Shhh! I don't know what's happened to you here, but there's only **one** person who can solve this dilemma.

OUTBACK

Fair dinkum? Who?

PANEL 5:

EXT. THE STREETS OF MT. ISA - DAY.

CAPTION: One hour later...

In the center of town, surrounded by a CROWD OF PROUD LOCALS, Prowl stands holding the ACE in one hand, and a HAND-HELD HOLOGRAPHIC DEVICE in the other. The hologram shines a BRIGHT BLUE COLOUR, revealing the face of OPTIMUS PRIME.

Outback, Faye, Cameron and Trevor watch on with ANTICIPATION. Meanwhile, both Runabout and Runamuck (both bound by energon cabling) sit idly by in disgust.

OPTIMUS PRIME

I can't ignore what you've told me, Prowl. It sounds like we have a tricky situation on our hands.

PROWL

I agree, Optimus.

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Prowl's hand, and the holographic image of Optimus Prime's face. Outback and the three kids look up from below.

OPTIMUS PRIME
However, I **also** cannot overlook the
heroism on display today.

PAGE TWENTY:

PANEL 1:

Still holding the holographic projector and its image of
Optimus Prime's face, PROWL hands Outback an AUTOBOT BADGE.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT'D)
Convict C-59, for saving Prowl's
life, defending the humans of Mt.
Isa and helping to capture the
criminals know as Runabout and
Runamuck, I hereby bestow you with
official Autobot status.

OUTBACK
Wow, that's better than a poke in
the eye with sharp stick, eh?

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON the digital image of Optimus Prime's face.

OPTIMUS PRIME
On the condition that you become
Earth's official **Down Under**
Guardian!

PANEL 3:

Prowl looks down at Outback and the kids. Outback has now
placed his Autobot badge over the hole in his chest where the
ACE once sat.

PROWL
Well, Outback? What do you say?

OUTBACK
Mate, there's only one thing **to**
say...

PANEL 4:

With Prowl, the captured Runamuck and Runabout, the town and
people of Mt. Isa in the background, Outback (in SUV-mode)
ZOOMS TOWARDS THE FOREGROUND, with Faye, Cameron and Trevor
CELEBRATING in his cab.

OUTBACK (CONT'D)
CRUIKEY!

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!