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THE TRANSFORMERS REANIMATED

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*Bob
Schwarz*
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THE TRANSFORMERS: REANIMATED.
"RUN, PLODD... RUN."

Written by

Greig Tansley &
Youseph "Yoshi" Tanha.

Art by
Bob Budiansky.

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. A BATTLEFIELD, CYBERTRON - NIGHT.

ULTRA MAGNUS fires his ENERGY RIFLE at an off-panel enemy.

CAPTION: Cybertron...

ULTRA MAGNUS
Don't let up! Move it, move it!

PANEL 2:

ELITA-ONE, MOONRACER, GREENLIGHT and CHROMIA also stand in the MIDST OF BATTLE against UNSEEN FOES. While the others fire their BLASTERS towards an off-panel target, Elita-One looks to the sky.

CHROMIA
Ha-Ha! I'm startin' to enjoy this!

ELITA-ONE
Don't get cocky, Chromia! Where's our air support?

PANEL 3:

In the SKY ABOVE, SPRINGER and WHIRL (both in helicopter-mode) ZOOM IN to attack, firing towards the (off-panel) ground.

WHIRL
Hold your hydro-horses, Elita-One!
We're right here!

SPRINGER
Easy, Whirl. Focus on the mission.
I got better things to do tonight
than...

WHIRL
Yeah-yeah, whatever.

PANEL 4:

As LASER BLASTS whizz past them, ARCEE, FIRESTAR and ROADBUSTER return fire from their own ENERGY WEAPONS.

FIRESTAR
These guys don't know when to quit!

ARCEE

Don't worry, Firestar... neither to
we!

PANEL 5:

IMPACTOR charges into the front of frame, flanked either side by PIPES and SWERVE, all discharging ENERGY RIFLES of their own.

IMPACTOR

You heard the lady. Autobots...
MOVE IN!

PAGE TWO:

PANEL 1:

SPLASH PANEL, WIDE SHOT - In the sky, three TETRA-JETS: SUNSTORM, NACELLE and HOTLINK open fire on Springer and Whirl, who avoid the blasts with some impressive AERIAL MANEUVERS.

On the ground in the center of the panel, Impactor, Elita-One and Chromia lead the way into the background, BLASTING the DIVE-BOMBING aerial-mode of WINDSWEEPER to smithereens.

In the LEFT of the foreground, Arcee and Firestar are caught in a FIRE-FIGHT with FLYWHEELS and BATTLETRAP (both in robot-mode).

On the RIGHT, Ultra Magnus lifts his rifle with one arm to shoot up at a flying MISFIRE, while delivering a SOLID PUNCH to the jaw of NEEDLENOSE before him.

IMPACTOR (CONT'D)

Go-Go-Go!

CHROMIA

Ha-Ha!

NEEDLENOSE

Give it up, Autobot! You'll never
defeat... Ow!

ULTRA MAGNUS

Pipe down, Decepticon!

PANEL 2:

SMALL INSERT PANEL - Swerve and Pipes LEAP TO THE GROUND, as Nacelle, Sunstorm and Hotlink DIVEBOMB the smaller Autobots with LASER FIRE.

SWERVE
Whoa! Hit the deck, Pipes!

PIPES
Right with you, buddy!

SUNSTORM
Foolish mini-bots! Your time has
come!

PAGE THREE:

PANEL 1:

PLODD, a ROTUND, BLUE Autobot, SLUGGISHLY moves towards Swerve and Pipes, still UNDER SIEGE by the Tetra-Jets.

PLODD
Swerve! Pipes! Hold on! I'm coming!

NOTE: Plodd resembles one of the old Guardian Robots from *War Dawn* and *The Secret of Omega Supreme*, although not nearly as tall. He is approximately the same height as Arcee and unlike the Guardian Robots, he has two regular hands.

PANEL 2:

Plodd SHIELDS both the smaller Swerve and Pipes beneath his body, as Sunstorm PEPPERS his BACK with ENERGY RAY ATTACKS.

PIPES
Plodd, no! What are you doing?

PLODD
It's okay! Ugh! My armor is thicker
than most! It'll protect you!

SWERVE
Yeah, but not for long!

PANEL 3:

As Impactor looks on, Swerve and Pipes RUSH TO SAFETY, as Plodd remains trapped by the continuing attacks of Sunstorm, Nacelle and Hotlink.

IMPACTOR
Plodd? What are you doing? Plodd!

PIPES
C'mon, let's go!

SWERVE
Run, Plodd... **RUN!**

PLODD
 Ugghh! I... I can't! I'm stuck!
 Just go! Get to safety!

PANEL 4:

Impactor TRANSFORMS into his Cybertronian-tank-mode to BLAST Sunstorm to pieces. Both Nacelle and Hotlink FLEE IN FEAR.

SUNSTORM
 It's over, Impactor! I... HGNNNNN!

HOTLINK
 Whoa! S-Sunstorm?

NACELLE
 That Autobot ain't messin' around!
 Let's get outta here!

PANEL 5:

The skirmish is OVER. As the remains of Sunstorm CRASH near the horizon, Misfire, Needlenose, Flywheels, Battletrap and the remaining Tetra-Jets (all in their various aerial-modes) RETREAT into the distant sky.

Meanwhile, Impactor ANGRILY ADMONISHES Plodd in front of Swerve and Elita-One.

IMPACTOR
 Plodd, how many times do I have to tell you? You're **too slow** to make dumb battle-field decisions like that!

PLODD
 I know, I know. But, I...

IMPACTOR
 I don't want to hear it, Plodd!
 You're a liability in the field!

PANEL 6:

ASHAMED, Plodd TRANSFORMS to his Cybertronian-van-mode, DRIVING OFF to leave Impactor, Swerve and Elita-One behind. While Elita-One and Swerve appear SYMPATHETIC, Impactor stubbornly stands with ARMS FOLDED.

ELITA-ONE
 Go easy, Impactor. Plodd only did what he thought was...

PLODD

No. Impactor is right. I **am** a liability. I need to go. Have fun celebrating without me. I'll only get in the way like I always do.

SWERVE

Plodd, wait!

PANEL 7:

SMALL INSERT PANEL, OVER SWERVE'S SHOULDER - Swerve watches as Plodd (slowly) drives away.

SWERVE (CONT'D)

Plodd!

PAGE FOUR:

PANEL 1:

EXT. AN AUTOBOT BUNKER - NIGHT.

A BEDRAGGLED, BURNT FORTIFICATION sits within a shattered section of Cybertron's UNDERBELLY.

CAPTION: Autobot HQ. Later...

SWERVE

(captioned)

You were way outta line tonight, Impactor!

PANEL 2:

INT. INSIDE THE AUTOBOT BUNKER.

The HQ's HIGH-TECH INTERIOR is a stark contrast to its DILAPIDATED OUTER APPEARANCE. Bright-orange, ARK-LIKE walls surround Swerve and Impactor with ADVANCED MONITORS and PULSING LIGHTS, as the much smaller Autobot points an ANGRY FINGER towards his leader.

Pipes and Arcee NERVOUSLY watch on from the background.

IMPACTOR

Swerve, I...

SWERVE

Look, I know you're the boss around here. But, the way you treated Plodd was **not** okay!

(MORE)

SWERVE (CONT'D)

It's not his fault he's not as agile as the rest of us. His armor plating is made from the same design as the old Guardian Robots. It's a heavy alloy. It **slows him down!**

PANEL 3:

Impactor lifts his hands to try and appease Swerve as both Ultra Magnus and Elita-One join the conversation.

IMPACTOR

All right, I get it, Swerve. **You're** the metallurgist, I know. But, I can't have **any** Autobots endangering the squad.

ELITA-ONE

Sorry, Impactor, but Swerve is right. That's no way to treat a fellow Autobot.

ULTRA MAGNUS

I have to agree, my friend. Despite his shortcomings, Plodd is one of us. A loyal soldier for the Autobot cause.

PANEL 4:

Swerve again BERATES Impactor.

SWERVE

That's right! Not all of us were built to be warriors, Impactor. We have to make do with what we have. And so does Plodd. He'll prove himself one day. You'll see.

PANEL 5:

CLOSE ON Impactor, who now appears GENUINELY REMORSEFUL.

IMPACTOR

Look, I promise I'll apologize and straighten things out with Plodd when he gets back. Speaking of which...

PAGE FIVE:**PANEL 1:**

EXT. A SEEDY PART OF CYBERTRON - NIGHT.

Still in his clunky-van-mode, Plodd SLUDGES through a rundown Cybertronian district; a DECREPIT BOROUGH that looks like the worst parts of a ROBOTIC DETROIT.

CAPTION: Elsewhere...

IMPACTOR
(captioned)
... Where do you think he went?

PLODD
Why can't Impactor see that all I
want to do is help?

PANEL 2:

Plodd TRANSFORMS to robot-mode to move towards the edges of a nearby ALLEYWAY. In the distance, deep within the squalid backstreet, two shady characters: CRANKCASE and RUCKUS, appear to be trading information.

PLODD (CONT'D)
It's not **my** fault I'm so slow. I
just... Hey, what the...?

CRANKCASE
So, what's the deal, Ruckus? You in
or out?

RUCKUS
Look who you're talkin' to,
Crankcase. I'm in. When the big Con
calls, I answer.

PANEL 3:

EXT. INSIDE THE ALLEYWAY - NIGHT.

CLOSE ON Ruckus and Crankcase continuing their conversation, while Plodd appears PEEKING around the corner and into the alleyway from the background.

CRANKCASE
Yeah, but... the planet core?
Shockwave might've gone too far
this time.

RUCKUS
Who cares? We gotta get Energon
from **somewhere**, right?
(MORE)

RUCKUS (CONT'D)

And if Shockwave thinks he can drain it from Cybertron's core, I say, good for him.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Plodd's SHOCKED EXPRESSION as he overhears more of the Decepticons' conversation.

RUCKUS (CONT'D)

(off-panel)

Besides, this new chrono-drive he's created is supposed to solve all our problems and help bring **Megatron** back here for good!

PANEL 5:

EXT. A SEEDY PART OF CYBERTRON - NIGHT.

Plodd leans away from the alleyway and OUT OF SIGHT of the two Decepticons, as both Crankcase and Ruckus (now in vehicle-modes) EXIT the backstreet's sordid filth to CRUISE into the street.

CRANKCASE

Then let's go! I can't wait to see Megatron back! I miss that guy.

RUCKUS

For sure! He'll **crush** those Autobots, once and for all! Ha-Ha!

PLODD

(quietly)

Oh no. Megatron?

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Plodd. This time, his face is one of PURE DETERMINATION.

PLODD (CONT'D)

I've got to warn the others!

PAGE SIX:

PANEL 1:

EXT. DECEPTICON HQ - NIGHT.

The RUNDOWN DECEPTICON HEADQUARTERS stands within yet another DILAPIDATED CYBERTRONIAN TERRITORY. This HQ resembles the previous, well-established Decepticon base of operations from the G1 cartoon (destroyed in Issue 17); however, this version appears HEAVILY DAMAGED by the war, and FAR FROM PERFECT, almost as though it is running on HALF its necessary power requirements.

CAPTION: Meanwhile...

PANEL 2:

INT. INSIDE DECEPTICON HQ.

Within the base's DIMLY-LIT COMMAND CENTER, Hotlink and Nacelle look to the background to find SHOCKWAVE standing before a WALL-MOUNTED DATA SCREEN.

On its display, the faces of both Sunstorm and Windsweeper can be seen, each STAMPED with the word: TERMINATED.

NACELLE

Oh, man. Poor Sunstorm. He really bit the dust this time.

SHOCKWAVE

I prefer to think of it as a sacrifice for the Decepticon cause, Nacelle.

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON Shockwave. Over his shoulder, Ruckus and Crankcase enter the command center from its ELEVATOR SHAFT, gaining Nacelle and Hotlink's attention.

NACELLE

Of course, Shockwave. Uh, by the way. You-know-who is back.

SHOCKWAVE

I am aware. Well, Ruckus? Can I assume your mission was a success?

PANEL 4:

TWO SHOT of Ruckus and Crankcase, standing together like a pair of OVERCONFIDENT MAFIA THUGS.

Ruckus PUNCHES HIS FIST into his palm with confidence.

RUCKUS

You know it! We did **exactly** like you said.

CRANKCASE

Didn't take long, either. As soon as we knew we'd been spotted, we let that Autobot hear **everything**.

PANEL 5:

FROM BEHIND Ruckus and Crankcase - Shockwave turns to face them, **CLENCHING** his solitary fist.

SHOCKWAVE

Excellent. Then right now, that Autobot is no-doubt informing his superiors of the information he has 'discovered'. Impactor and his unit will soon be **exactly** where I want them. Contact Bitstream at the site of the chrono-drive and inform him we are on our way.

PANEL 6:

CONFUSED, Nacelle **CREEPS CLOSER** to Shockwave to question his leader.

NACELLE

I still don't get it, Shockwave. Why do you **want** the Autobots to interfere with your plans?

SHOCKWAVE

Simple, Nacelle. We require vast quantities of Energon to repower Cybertron and bring Megatron's forces home. The chrono-drive I have invented will allow us to do exactly that.

PANEL 7:

Shockwave stands in the center of the panel. To his right, stands the **SMILING** pair of Ruckus and Crankcase. In the background, both Nacelle and Hotlink **EXCITEDLY** look on.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)

However, Autobots cannot resist interfering in Decepticon affairs.

(MORE)

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)

Therefore, logic dictates we use knowledge of the chrono-drive's existence to lure them into a trap and **crush** them once and for all!

PAGE SEVEN:**PANEL 1:**

INT. INSIDE THE AUTOBOT BUNKER.

CAPTION: Soon after...

Plodd BURSTS into the Autobot hideout to find Impactor, Elita-One and Ultra Magnus.

PLODD

Impactor! I have news! Shockwave's forces are planning to drain Energon from Cybertron's core!

IMPACTOR

Plodd?

ELITA-ONE

Cybertron's core? Surely not!

PANEL 2:

Plodd continues to explain to Impactor, as Elita-One turns to LANCER.

PLODD

It's true! He's created something called a 'chrono-drive'!

IMPACTOR

Easy, Plodd. I can't believe I'm about to say this, but **slow down!**

ELITA-ONE

A 'chrono-drive'?

LANCER

Uh oh. That's not good.

PANEL 3:

While an EXHAUSTED Plodd leans against the wall for support in the background, Lancer WORRIEDLY explains the chrono-drive to Elita-One and Impactor.

LANCER (CONT'D)

Theoretically, a 'chrono' or **chronological** drive is a device designed to not only siphon raw Energon, but create a space/time anomaly to 'speed up' the maturation process and enhance its potency much, **much** faster than normal.

IMPACTOR

I feel like there's a 'but' in there somewhere.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Lancer.

LANCER

But... if Shockwave's calculations are off by even the **slightest** margin, not to mention the millions of unpredictable variables involved, the chrono-drive could actually malfunction and wipe out **half the planet!**

PANEL 5:

Elita-One turns to Impactor and Ultra Magnus.

ELITA-ONE

Half the planet? We can't let Shockwave get away with this!

IMPACTOR

We won't. Magnus, rally the unit.

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Impactor's face.

IMPACTOR (CONT'D)

Shockwave's going down this time!

PAGE EIGHT:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE SITE OF THE CHRONO-DRIVE PIT - NIGHT.

WIDE SHOT, FROM ABOVE - In their helicopter-modes, Springer and Whirl approach a MASSIVE CAVITY, dug into the metallic surface of Cybertron like an oversized SINKHOLE.

Some kind of OMINOUS, PINK LIGHT can be seen GLOWING up out of the hollow like a NUCLEAR POWER PLANT in meltdown.

WHIRL

Whoa! Would you look at that?

SPRINGER

Plodd's Intel was right! That pulse **has** to be the raw Energon from the planet's core!

PANEL 2:

On the ground, Impactor, Ultra Magnus and Elita-One TRANSFORM from their vehicle-modes to robot-modes. Behind them, Swerve and Plodd do the same.

Impactor lifts a COMMUNICATOR up to his face.

SPRINGER (CONT'D)

(from the communicator)

Impactor, are you seeing this?

IMPACTOR

Unfortunately, yes. Keep an eye out for potential aerial threats, Springer. We'll lead the assault from down here.

PANEL 3:

Chromia stands with Arcee, Firestar and Pipes.

CHROMIA

I don't know. I don't like this.

ARCEE

I agree. All of this feels...

PANEL 4:

SPLASH PANEL - The Autobots (Impactor, Elita-One, Ultra Magnus, Plodd, Swerve, Chromia, Arcee and Firestar) STAND SURPRISED, as several Decepticons: Flywheels, Battletrap, Misfire, Needlenose and the Tetra-Jets; Nacelle, Hotlink, ACID STORM and BITSTREAM, BURST FREE of the pit to ZOOM into the sky.

ARCEE (CONT'D)
... a little too easy!

ELITA-ONE
Decepticons!

IMPACTOR
Autobots! Fan out and attack!

PAGE NINE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. INSIDE THE PIT - NIGHT.

Deep within the SEEMINGLY-ENDLESS SHAFT, Shockwave stands with Ruckus and Crankcase on a METALLIC PLATFORM that juts out from either side of the canyon walls to form a RUDIMENTARY BRIDGE.

Below them, the INTENSE PINK GLOW of the core's raw Energon threatens to overwhelm them at any moment.

While Ruckus and Crankcase look up to the SKY ABOVE to see Springer and Whirl are being PURSUED by Acid Storm and Nacelle, Shockwave remains as STOIC as ever.

RUCKUS
You were right, Shockwave!

CRANKCASE
Your trap is going exactly as planned!

SHOCKWAVE
Of course. All that remains...

PANEL 2:

SPLASH PANEL, FROM ABOVE - Shockwave, Ruckus and Crankcase stand before the center of the bridge and a CYLINDRICAL, CHAMBER-LIKE DEVICE.

Easily four times the size of Shockwave himself, the base of the SPACE BRIDGE-LIKE CHRONO-DRIVE is attached to an ALMIGHTY CONDUIT that sinks down and ultimately DISAPPEARS into the PINK RADIANCE of the ENDLESS CHASM below.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)
...is to activate the chrono-drive.

PANEL 3:

Back on the bridge, Shockwave looks on to see the chrono-drive's chamber LIGHT UP with Energon.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)

It's working! Within astro-minutes, this device will have gathered enough raw Energon to attempt the enhancement procedure.

PAGE TEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE SITE OF THE CHRONO-DRIVE PIT - NIGHT.

In the sky, Whirl and Springer each NARROWLY AVOID laser blasts from Acid Storm and Nacelle.

SPRINGER

Why do I get the feeling this was all some kind of trap?

WHIRL

Duh.

PANEL 2:

From the ground, Arcee, Greenlight, Moonracer and Firestar fire their weapons up towards Bitstream and Hotlink as they fly by.

Meanwhile, Ultra Magnus takes a BLAST to the shoulder from a flying Misfire.

ARCEE

They just keep coming!

ULTRA MAGNUS

Ugh! We can't waste time on these underlings! We need to find Shockwave!

PANEL 3:

With Chromia and Lancer beside her, Elita-One points towards the EDGE of the pit. Battletrap, Needlenose and Flywheels STAND GUARD, firing their own weapons towards the Autobots.

ELITA-ONE

I think I know where he is, Magnus.

CHROMIA

Yeah, but the problem is **gettin'** to it!

PANEL 4:

Pipes and Swerve appear beside Elita-One, with both Plodd and Roadbuster by their side.

SWERVE

I think you might need an escort, Elita. What do you say, fellas?

PANEL 5:

Plodd and Roadbuster TRANSFORM to their bulky-alt-modes.

ROADBUSTER

Sure thing!

PLODD

Lead the way, Roadbuster!

PAGE ELEVEN:

PANEL 1:

FROM BEHIND Misfire and Needlenose - Roadbuster and Plodd LEAD THE WAY, driving towards the Decepticons at the edge of the pit. Several INEFFECTIVE BLASTS bounce off the toughened armor of the two bulky Autobots, while Elita-One, Lancer, Pipes and Swerve RUN BEHIND their escorts.

NEEDLENOSE

I can't believe it! They're **still** coming!

PANEL 2:

While Greenlight fires her blaster into the air, Chromia looks over her shoulder. In the background, the Autobot convoy of Plodd, Roadbuster, Elita-One, Pipes, Lancer and Swerve are nearing Battletrap, Flywheels and Needlenose at the edge of the pit.

CHROMIA

It's working! Keep it up, Elita! We'll cover you!

PANEL 3:

Having now reached the edge of the pit, Roadbuster TRANSFORMS to robot-mode, allowing Needlenose, Flywheels and Battletrap to finally TAKE HIM DOWN with a number of energy blasts.

Behind Roadbuster, Plodd continues to drive forward in front of Elita-One, Swerve, Pipes and Lancer.

ROADBUSTER
C'mon, we're almost there!
Aaaaaghhh!

ELITA-ONE
Roadbuster!

PANEL 4:

Elita-One OPENS FIRE on Flywheels. The blast pierces his chest with an EXPLOSION that detonates out his back, causing his eyes to FADE OUT.

FLYWHEELS
Ugh..?

PANEL 5:

Battletrap and Needlenose TRANSFORM into their aerial-modes to flee the scene, as Elita-One, Swerve, Pipes and Lancer tend to a fallen Roadbuster. Meanwhile, Plodd TRANSFORMS to robot-mode.

BATTLETRAP
Whoa! Regroup! Regroup!

NEEDLENOSE
Let's get outta here!

ELITA-ONE
Roadbuster, are you all right?

ROADBUSTER
Yeah, I'm... I'm okay. But, you'll have to go after Shockwave without me.

PIPES
Go, Elita ! I'll look after Roadbuster.

PANEL 6:

LOOKING UP FROM THE EDGE OF THE PIT - Elita-One, Lancer, Swerve and Plodd LEAP into the opening of the chasm.

ELITA-ONE
You heard him, Autobots. Follow me!

PAGE TWELVE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. INSIDE THE PIT - NIGHT.

Elita-One, Swerve, Lancer and Plodd LAND on the pit's central bridge. With the chrono-drive behind him, Shockwave orders Crankcase and Ruckus forward with a COMMANDING POINT of his GUN HAND.

ELITA-ONE

It's over, Shockwave! Give it up!

SHOCKWAVE

I think not, Elita-One. Ruckus, Crankcase, dispose of this Autobot riffraff.

PANEL 2:

Elita-One BLASTS Ruckus THREE TIMES with her weapon, while Lancer lands FOUR SHOTS on Crankcase.

LANCER

I don't think so!

RUCKUS

Hn-Gaaaagh!

CRANKCASE

Yaaaaaargh!

PANEL 3:

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE BRIDGE - Shockwave stands opposite Elita-One, Swerve, Plodd and Lancer as the SMOKING HUSKS of both Crankcase and Ruckus fall into the GLOWING PINK ABYSS.

SHOCKWAVE

What?! No! You useless hoodlums!

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Shockwave. He stands beside the chrono-drive chamber, PULLING DOWN its ACTIVATION LEVER with his RIGHT HAND.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)

No matter. I've already drained enough raw Energon from the planet's core. Now it's time to active the chrono-drive!

ELITA-ONE
 (off-panel)
 NO!

PANEL 5:

EXT. THE SKY ABOVE THE PIT - NIGHT.

Still in helicopter-mode, Whirl LOOPS BEHIND Battletrap's own helicopter-mode to DESTROY HIM with a DOUBLE-MISSILE ATTACK.

BATTLETRAP
 It's over, Whirl. Wait, huh?

WHIRL
 Boom! Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha!

PANEL 6:

Battletrap's FLAMING FORM spirals down into the pit as Whirl flies away.

WHIRL (CONT'D)
 Happy trails, Battletrap.

PAGE THIRTEEN:**PANEL 1:**

EXT. INSIDE THE PIT - NIGHT.

FROM BEHIND Elita-One, Lancer, Plodd and Swerve - Shockwave remains standing in the center of the bridge, blocking access to his NOW-ACTIVE chrono-drive further behind him.

He holds the Autobots at bay with his gun hand, creating an IMPOSING FIGURE of CONFRONTATION.

While all of the Autobots are rightly focused on Shockwave, Swerve is the only one LOOKING UP.

SHOCKWAVE
 Stand down, Autobots. None of you
 have the power necessary to defeat
 me.

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Swerve. He remains LOOKING UP, as a SHADOW begins to fall across his face.

SWERVE
No, but **he** might.

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON Shockwaves face. The shadow has now GROWN LARGER and what appear to be FLAMES are REFLECTED in his SOLITARY EYE.

SHOCKWAVE
What? No...

PANEL 4:

The FLAMING REMAINS of Battletrap LAND ON Shockwave, CRUMPLING him under a PILE OF WRECKAGE.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)
Ugghhhh!

PAGE FOURTEEN:**PANEL 1:**

With Shockwave BURIED beneath a FLAMING PILE OF WRECKAGE, Elita-One, Swerve and Lancer approach the active chrono-drive.

ELITA-ONE
C'mon, now's our chance!

PANEL 2:

Lancer inspects the chrono-drive's CONTROL PANELS, while Plodd stands beside her.

LANCER
Oh, no. The enhancement procedure is already underway!

PLODD
Can't you just turn it off?

PANEL 3:

The chrono-drive's cylindrical chamber LIGHTS UP like a NEON SIGN behind Plodd, Lancer and Elita-One.

LANCER
No. I can't. Interrupting the flow of Energon currently being enhanced would cause it to spill out of the chamber and take out this entire area!

PANEL 4:

Shockwave CRAWLS FREE of Battletrap's wreckage.

PANEL 5:

SHOCKWAVE'S P.O.V. - Looking down the LINE OF SIGHT of his gun hand, Shockwave targets Lancer.

SHOCKWAVE
N-no... logic must... prevail.

PAGE FIFTEEN:**PANEL 1:**

Plodd looks back to see Shockwave ready to fire.

PLODD
LOOKOUT!

PANEL 2:

Plodd BLOCKS Shockwave's blast with his ARMORED BACK, protecting Lancer from harm while Elita-One and Swerve look on with CONCERN.

PLODD (CONT'D)
Aaaagh!

SWERVE
Plodd!

PANEL 3:

The blast SHOVES Plodd forward and against the chrono-drive chamber causing a FLURRY OF SPARKS to SHOOT OUT from the device.

PLODD
Ugh!

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Shockwave's face.

SHOCKWAVE
Foolish Autobot. You've now doomed the chrono-drive to failure! Its energies will now explode and take this entire section of Cybertron with it!

PANEL 5:

LOW ANGLE - While Lancer helps Plodd to stand, Elita-One and Swerve watch as Shockwave TRANSFORMS into space-gun-mode to ROCKET out of the pit and into the sky above.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)
Farewell, Autobots. We shall not meet again!

ELITA-ONE
Shockwave, you lousy, one-eyed...

PAGE SIXTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Faced with a MALFUNCTIONING chrono-drive, Elita-One turns to Lancer for advice.

ELITA-ONE (CONT'D)
Lancer, tell me there's **something** we can do to stop this thing.

LANCER
Well, maybe. It runs on a circular momentum. If we could **reverse** that momentum, maybe we could shut it down.

PANEL 2:

Lancer continues to explain to Elita-One as Swerve CHIMES IN.

LANCER (CONT'D)
Problem is, it would have to be done from the **inside** the chamber.

ELITA-ONE
Fine! Just tell me what to do!

SWERVE
No, you can't! The energies swirling around inside that thing would eat away at your body until it tore you apart!

PANEL 3:

Swerve stands with Plodd.

SWERVE (CONT'D)
Only someone with naturally **thicker** armor could withstand such energies. And even then, not for long.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Plodd's face. He knows what he must do.

PLODD
(quietly)
I'll do it.

PANEL 5:

Swerve turns to Plodd IN HORROR.

SWERVE
What? Plodd, no you can't!

PLODD
Swerve, I have to. You said it
yourself, only someone with thicker
armor can do this.

PANEL 6:

Lancer stands at the chrono-drive's control panel. As Plodd moves past Elita-One to approach the chamber and the SWIRLING, NEON ENERGIES within.

ELITA-ONE
Plodd, are you sure about this?

PLODD
It's the only way. Lancer, open the
chamber.

PAGE SEVENTEEN:**PANEL 1:**

With Lancer at the controls, Plodd JUMPS INTO the open chamber.

PANEL 2:

INT. INSIDE THE CHRONO-DRIVE.

Now SEALED WITHIN the chamber, Plodd stands among the mass of SWIRLING ENERGY. Swerve, Elita-One and Lancer's faces appear on the outside, looking in.

ELITA-ONE
Plodd? Are you all right?

PLODD
 I-I think so. Yeah. I'm... I'm
 okay. But, what do I do now?

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON Swerve, his face almost PRESSED AGAINST the glass of the chamber.

SWERVE
 Run, Plodd... Run.

PANEL 4:

Plodd begins to TRUDGE FORWARD, as the chrono-drive's swirling energies start to LATCH ONTO his body.

PLODD
 Uuughh! I'm trying! I'm trying!

PANEL 5:

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE CHRONO-DRIVE CHAMBER - NIGHT.

While Swerve continues to watch Plodd slowly move within the chamber, Elita-One and Lancer face one another with HOPE.

ELITA-ONE
 He's doing it! He's actually doing
 it!

LANCER
 If he can power through and work up
 some kind of steady momentum, this
 might actually work!

PANEL 6:

INT. INSIDE THE CHRONO-DRIVE.

Plodd continues forward, moving into a JOG as the chrono-drive's energies have begun to cause him to SPARKLE, GLOW and SHINE.

PLODD
 Hey, something's happening! I feel
 lighter! F-Faster!

PAGE EIGHTEEN:**PANEL 1:**

EXT. THE SITE OF THE CHRONO-DRIVE PIT - NIGHT.

Up above, Impactor, Ultra Magnus and Springer watch as Shockwave FLIES FREE of the pit and towards the HORIZON. Misfire, Needlenose and the four Tetra-Jets follow his lead.

SHOCKWAVE

Decepticons, the time has come to withdraw from this battle!

IMPACTOR

What on Cybertron?

ULTRA MAGNUS

Where are they going in such a hurry?

SPRINGER

I don't know, but **something** down there spooked old one-eye.

PANEL 2:

INT. INSIDE THE CHRONO-DRIVE.

Plodd continues to RUN against the momentum of the chrono-drive. However; his body has become ENCAPSULATED by its swirling energies, WARPING his body as though it were trapped within a FUNHOUSE MIRROR.

SPRINGER

(captioned)

I hope everything's okay down there.

PLODD

Ugh! S-Something... something's happening to me!

PANEL 3:

The surrounding energy has now affected Plodd to the point where his body has become SLEEKER, SLIMMER and more AERODYNAMIC. Swerve and Lancer LOOK IN from the outside with SURPRISE.

SWERVE

What's happening to him?

LANCER

It's the chrono-drive! Not only is it speeding up and enhancing the Energon, but it's doing the same thing to Plodd!

PLODD

W-What? Do you mean? *Whatta-you-mean-it's-making-me-faster?!*

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Plodd's NEW FACE, now streamlined by the chrono-drive. Energy STREAKS by his face like LIGHTNING.

PLODD (CONT'D)

It-is-making-me-faster-Faster-than-I-ever-dreamed-This-is-incredible-I-can't-believe-it!

PANEL 5:

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE CHRONO-DRIVE CHAMBER - NIGHT.

Swerve peers into the chamber, while Elita-One stands looking towards Lancer at the control panel.

ELITA-ONE

Lancer, what's happening in there?

SWERVE

Uh, Elita?

PANEL 6:

INT. INSIDE THE CHRONO-DRIVE.

Nothing can be seen of Plodd now besides a BLUE BLUR, rapidly circulating within the chrono-drive OVER-AND-OVER-AGAIN.

SWERVE

(off-panel)

I think you should take a look for yourself!

PAGE NINETEEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE CHRONO-DRIVE CHAMBER.

Elita-One, Swerve and Lancer SHIELD THEIR FACES, as SPARKS SHOOT OUT from the chrono-drive. LIGHTNING-LIKE TENDRILS wrap the entire device in ENERGY as an UNNERVING SOUND echoes from its core.

ELITA-ONE
Now, what's happening?

LANCER
He did it! He's reversed the momentum of the chrono-drive! It's overloading!

PANEL 2:

Lancer and Swerve look over the edge of the bridge to see that below the chrono-drive, its power conduit has SNAPPED OFF and PLUMMETED into the chasm below.

LANCER (CONT'D)
See? We're safe!

SWERVE
Yeah, **we** are. But, what about..?

PANEL 3:

SPLASH PANEL - The NEW BODY OF PLODD (which resembles that of the G1 Autobot we have always known as BLURR) emerges from the chrono-drive's chamber surrounded by HAZY SPEED TRAILS that make it obvious is he MOVING MUCH FASTER than any other Autobot ever has before.

Swerve, Elita-One and Lancer can only look on with ASTONISHMENT.

SWERVE (CONT'D)
... Plodd?

PLODD
Wow-Swerve-you'll-never-believe-what's-happened-to-me-The-chamber-has-changed-me-and-made-me-faster-Much-faster-Really-faster-Like-so-very-much-faster!

PANEL 4:

Elita-One turns to Lancer.

ELITA-ONE
Lancer?

LANCER

He's right. The chrono-chamber's energies have sped up and enhanced everything about Plodd. In simple terms... he's fast now.

PAGE TWENTY:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE SITE OF THE CHRONO-DRIVE PIT - NIGHT.

Elita-One, Lancer and Swerve CRAWL OUT of the pit to see Ultra Magnus, Arcee and Impactor waiting for them.

ULTRA MAGNUS

What happened down there?

ARCEE

Yeah, I've never seen Shockwave tuck tail and run like that.

ELITA-ONE

It's complicated.

IMPACTOR

I'll bet. But, where's Plodd?

PANEL 2:

In his new vehicle-mode (identical to that of G1 Blurr's), Plodd SAILS FREE of the pit, causing Impactor to LEAN BACK with SURPRISE.

IMPACTOR (CONT'D)

What the..? Plodd?

PANEL 3:

Plodd TRANSFORMS back to his new, sleek robot-mode, EXCITEDLY RAMBLING to a STUNNED Impactor.

PLODD

Yes-it's-me-Impactor-I've-changed-I'm-fast-now-Fast-and-sleek-and-slim-and-better-than-ever!

PANEL 4:

Impactor apologizes to Plodd.

IMPACTOR

Wow. Listen, Plodd. I was wrong to treat you the way I did. You're a loyal Autobot and you just saved us all! I'm sorry.

PLODD

It's-okay-Impactor-I'm-just-glad-to-be-part-of-the-team-And-now-that-I'm-as-fast-as-I-am-I-can-take-down-Decepticons-on-the-ground-Decepticons-in-the-air-Decepticons-anywhere-uh-huh!

PANEL 5:

OVERJOYED by his new form, Plodd RACES AWAY like THE FLASH, zipping by Swerve and Pipes IN A BLUR, as Elita-One, Impactor, Arcee, Springer and Ultra Magnus watch on from the background.

Pipes leans over to Swerve.

PIPES

You know we're gonna have to give him a new name now, right? Any ideas?

SWERVE

Eh, we'll think of something.

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!