

THE TRANSFORMERS REANIMATED



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AFER
LARSEN & SIMONSON

THE TRANSFORMERS: REANIMATED.
"THE CON JOB."

Written by
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Youseph "Yoshi" Tanha.

Art by
Winston Chan.

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. THE MOON'S SURFACE - "DAY".

In jet-mode, STARSCREAM manages to SPUTTER towards the moon, leaving the small image of EARTH behind him in the distance.

His normally-pristine paint job is UNCHARACTERISTICALLY-SHODDY, while a PLUME OF UGLY SMOKE trails from his rear thrusters.

Starscream has seen BETTER DAYS.

CAPTION: The Moon...

STARSCREAM
Got to... hold on. Almost... there!

PANEL 2:

Starscream TRANSFORMS to robot-mode to unceremoniously CRASH into the moon's surface.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
Made it! UGH!

PANEL 3:

BIRD'S EYE VIEW - A CLEARLY-RUNDOWN Starscream lies DEJECTED in the soft moon soil, splayed out as though he were about to begin making SNOW ANGELS.

However, it is obvious he is in no mood, nor condition, to do so.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
(captioned)
So, this is how it ends. Cast out. Underappreciated. Forced to drag myself to a moon orbiting a planet of worthless flesh-creatures... all because I **dared** to exact my rightful destiny as ruler of the Decepticons.

PANEL 4:

EXT. THE OCEAN WAVES OF EARTH - DAY.

FLASHBACK SCENE - (From 'Piranacon, Part 2') Starscream stands on the shoulder of his minion, PIRANACON, as several AUTOBOTS and DECEPTICONS: JAZZ, IRONHIDE, SOUNDWAVE and SKYWARP, battle the creature from both the surface of the water and the air.

STARSCREAM

(captioned)

I had it all. Piranacon was **mine**,
and even those foolish Autobots
were powerless to stop me!*

CAPTION: *Back in issue #25.

PANEL 5:

EXT. THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN - DARK.

STILL WITHIN THE FLASHBACK - Starscream looks on in HORROR as Piranacon is SUCKED INTO A SUBAQUATIC PORTAL as both OPTIMUS PRIME and MEGATRON fire upon him, reminding the reader of the conclusion to 'Piranacon, Part 2'.

STARSCREAM

(captioned)

But, then it all went so horribly,
horribly wrong.

PAGE TWO:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE MOON - "DAY".

BACK IN THE PRESENT - Starscream remains lying on his back in the moon's soil, GAZING UP into the heavens to see the stars above.

His DECEPTICON RED OPTICS have become a PALE CRIMSON, a sign he is close to FULL SYSTEM SHUTDOWN.

STARSCREAM

(captioned)

My attempt to control Nightbird**
and my alliance with the ancient
Decepticon, Trannis*** also proved
pointless. So now, I'm an outsider.
A fugitive from so-called
Decepticon justice, astro-seconds
away from shutdown.

(MORE)

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

My allies have forsaken me, which means my only hope of survival...

CAPTION: **In issue #33. ***And issue #34.

PANEL 2:

STARSCREAM'S P.O.V. - A relatively-small SPACECRAFT appears amongst the stars, making its way towards the moon.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

(off-panel)

... lies with an 'old friend'. Life can be so unkind.

PANEL 3:

OVER STARSCREAM'S SHOULDER, LOOKING UP AT THE SPACECRAFT that has now landed on the moon. The ship's EXIT HATCH has opened to extend a RAMP down to the moon's surface.

Standing at the top of the ramp and GRINNING like the opportunist he is, is the TRIPLE-CHANGER, OCTANE.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

Octane... You made it.

OCTANE

Of **course** I made it. Have I ever given you reason to doubt me, old buddy?

PANEL 4:

INT. INSIDE OCTANE'S SHIP.

Octane helps Starscream into the COMMAND CENTER of his vessel as though helping an old lady cross the street. Its MEAGER INTERIOR resembles an INTERGALACTIC BARGE or SCOW, like the 'NOSTROMO' from 'ALIEN'.

OCTANE

Easy does it. We'll get you some fresh Energon from the ship's reserves and you'll be on your feet in no time.

STARSCREAM

Excellent. And the plan?

OCTANE

Already in motion, my friend.

PANEL 5:

EXT. SPACE.

Octane's ship CRUISES away from the moon, leaving it behind as an almost-insignificant speck in the distance.

OCTANE
(captioned)
Next stop... Cybertron!

PAGE THREE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. DECEPTICON HQ, CYBERTRON - NIGHT.

DECEPTICON HQ sits BATTERED and BURNT. Like Starscream, it has seen better days.

CAPTION: Cybertron...

PANEL 2:

INT. INSIDE DECEPTICON HQ, SHOCKWAVE'S LABORATORY.

SHOCKWAVE stands in the center of his WORKSHOP, holding a RING-SHAPED device before him. The device appears like a TRANSFORMER-SIZED HULA-HOOP, albeit constructed from high-tech, mechanical materials.

Over Shockwave's shoulder, his curious TETRA-JET minions: ACID STORM, NACELLE, BITSREAM and HOTLINK look on.

NACELLE
Wow, is that what I think it is?

SHOCKWAVE
Indeed, Nacelle. This portable space-bridge activation unit is almost ready.

HOTLINK
Awesome.

PANEL 3:

Shockwave now stands before the room's COMMUNICATIONS DATA SCREEN.

SHOCKWAVE
Megatron... Come in, Megatron.

PANEL 4:

OVER SHOCKWAVE'S SHOULDER - MEGATRON'S face appears on the data screen.

MEGATRON
(on-screen)
Shockwave. What news from
Cybertron?

SHOCKWAVE
As you commanded, we are almost ready, Lord Megatron. Alongside the Energon you have already collected on Earth*, soon, we shall be able to repower Iacon **and** bring your forces home for good.

CAPTION: *As seen last issue!

PANEL 5:

CLOSE ON the data screen and Megatron's face.

MEGATRON
(on-screen)
Excellent. Ever since Starscream destroyed our undersea base with that Piranacon creature, my Earth-bound Decepticons and I have been forced to live like worthless scavengers.

SHOCKWAVE
(off-panel)
We also have suffered our share of Energon shortages, Megatron. With Elita-One's squadron having merged with Impactor's, their combined Autobot forces have made things... difficult.

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Shockwave.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)

But, no more. Once my subordinate arrives with the final component of my plan, we shall extract the power we need from the very **heart** of Cybertron. From **VECTOR SIGMA!**

PAGE FOUR:

PANEL 1:

INT. INSIDE OCTANE'S SHIP.

Within the control room of Octane's vessel, Starscream stands somewhat REJUVENATED. He looks much better than he did before; healthier, more like we expect.

Behind Starscream, Octane sits PILOTING the ship before his COCKPIT VIEW OF THE GALAXY.

OCTANE

How you doin' back there, pal?
Better?

STARSCREAM

Oh, yes. **Much** better. Were you able to obtain the Energon storage unit?

PANEL 2:

Octane lifts the aforementioned ENERAGON STORAGE UNIT into frame. A MECHANICAL CONTRAPTION, its BATTERY-LIKE DESIGN demands that Octane hold it in TWO HANDS like some kind of PERVERTED MATRIX; its mass half the size of his torso.

OCTANE

Oh, for sure. Took a while to find the remains of the Guardian Robot that had it, but I got it. Shockwave thinks I'm on my way to deliver it to him right now.

PANEL 3:

Standing behind Octane as he continues to pilot the ship, Starscream's expression conveys his DISSATISFACTION.

STARSCREAM

Good. I can't wait to beat Shockwave at his own game. I just wish I had a little muscle at my side.

(MORE)

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

I was once the Decepticon Air
Commander, leader of the almighty
Seekers!

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Starscream's HEAD AND SHOULDERS in the foreground,
as behind him, a DREAM-LIKE IMAGE of SKYWARP, THUNDERCRACKER,
DIRGE, THRUST and RAMJET appears behind him like a window
into his mind.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

Skywarp, Thundercracker, even those
'cone-headed buffoons', Dirge,
Thrust and Ramjet... once, they
followed **my** commands. Now, they
blindly follow Megatron, that
ungrateful hack!

PANEL 5:

FROM BEHIND STARSCREAM - Octane TURNS BACK from his ship's
controls to face Starscream.

OCTANE

You know, I think I know how we can
get the help we need.

STARSCREAM

What are you talking about?

OCTANE

You wish you had your Seekers
again, right? Well...

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Starscream's face and his WICKED SMIRK.

OCTANE (CONT'D)

(off-panel)

... I know just where to find some.

PAGE FIVE:

PANEL 1:

INT. DECEPTICON HQ, MAIN CONTROL ROOM.

CAPTION: Later...

Inside the COMMAND CENTER of Shockwave's HQ, Nacelle, Hotlink and Acid Storm stand SHOCKED as the room's EMERGENCY SIRENS flare up beside another COMMUNICATIONS DATA SCREEN.

NACELLE

Whoa! We got an incoming emergency transmission!

ACID STORM

Oh, man! I bet it's trouble!

HOTLINK

We're doomed!

PANEL 2:

Shockwave stands before the data screen with Nacelle and Hotlink. Octane's aerial-mode appears ERRATICALLY FLYING through the Cybertronian skies.

OCTANE

(on-screen)

Shockwave! You gotta help me! I'm under attack! I got your Energon storage unit, but you ain't gonna get it if **Starscream** takes me out first!

SHOCKWAVE

Starscream? That traitor is here on Cybertron? How illogical of him.

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON the data screen and its image of Octane, now UNDER SIEGE by a barrage of ENERGY BLASTS.

OCTANE

(on-screen)

Logic's got nuthin' to do with it! I need help! I ain't as aerodynamic as he is! I need air support! Please!

PANEL 4:

Shockwave TURNS AWAY from the data screen and its image of Octane to order his troops into action.

SHOCKWAVE

Fear not, Octane. Help is on the way. Decepticons, destroy that outlaw, Starscream!

NACELLE
You got it, Shockwave!

HOTLINK
Ha-Ha! All right! Some action!

PANEL 5:

EXT. ABOVE THE DECEPTICON HQ - NIGHT.

FROM ABOVE, LOOKING DOWN AT THE HQ - Each in their Tetra-Jet alt-modes, Nacelle, Hotlink, Acid Storm and Bitstream ZOOM UP into the sky.

BITSTREAM
This is gonna be fun!

PAGE SIX:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE SKIES ABOVE CYBERTRON - NIGHT.

In their aerial modes and still maintaining their RUSE, Octane and the pursuing Starscream are joined by the Tetra-Jets as they RISE UP behind them.

CAPTION: Soon after...

HOTLINK
Give it up, Starscream!

BITSTREAM
Yeah! You can't outrun **us**!

OCTANE
All right, Starscream, here they come!

STARSCREAM
You've done well, Octane. Now, leave the rest to me.

PANEL 2:

Octane VEERS AWAY to the left of frame, as Starscream TRANSFORMS to drop towards the surface of the planet, still chased by the Tetra-Jets.

NACELLE
Hey! What's he up to?

PANEL 3:

EXT. THE SURFACE OF CYBERTON - NIGHT.

Starscream now stands SURROUNDED by the robot-modes of the Tetra-Jets. Each of them have their ARM-MOUNTED RIFLES trained on Starscream, who RAISES HIS PALMS in a SUBMISSIVE-YET-CONFIDENT POSE.

ACID STORM

Don't move!

HOTLINK

You shouldn't have come back,
Starscream.

BITSTREAM

Yeah, Shockwave says we're to
terminate you on sight.

STARSCREAM

Shockwave? You take orders from
that boring, purple cyclops these
days? How demeaning.

PANEL 4:

Nacelle and Acid Storm stand opposite Starscream.

ACID STORM

Demeaning?

STARSCREAM

Back in the day, you were like me.
No one ordered us around like
lackeys when I was Cybertron's Air
Commander. But, now you bow before
an uncharismatic bore, two steps
away from being a computer,
himself?

NACELLE

It's... it's not like that.

PANEL 5:

Starscream places his HANDS BEHIND HIS HEAD, as Nacelle STEPS CLOSER. Behind them, Hotlink, Acid Storm and Bitstream turn to one another in CONTEMPLATION.

STARSCREAM

But, if you're **happy** being
Shockwave's little lap-bots...

(MORE)

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

go ahead, bring me in, destroy me, whatever. It's just a shame you'll never reach your **true potential**, that's all.

NACELLE

Wait. True potential? What are you proposing?

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Starscream's DETERMINED EXPRESSION.

STARSCREAM

How many times have Shockwave's schemes failed? A hundred? A **thousand**? Four million years and this place is still a dump! He's yesterday's model. Join **me**. Help **me** restore the Seekers to greatness and together, we can rejuvenate Iacon **and** Cybertron's glory!

PANEL 7:

As Bitstream, Acid Storm and Hotlink TRANSFORM, ready to rocket into the sky once more, Starscream pulls Nacelle aside, whispering into his ear.

BITSTREAM

Ha-Ha! Yes! Let's do it!

HOTLINK

No more following Shockwave's orders like a sucker!

ACID STORM

He ain't gonna know what hit him!

STARSCREAM

Uh, Nacelle? A word... in private?

NACELLE

Uh, yeah. Sure. I guess. What's up?

PAGE SEVEN:

PANEL 1:

INT. DECEPTICON HQ, MAIN CONTROL ROOM, CYBERTRON.

Octane enters the command center to find Shockwave inside.

SHOCKWAVE

Octane? What happened to Starscream? Where are my warriors?

OCTANE

Bad news. They've **turned** on us. They joined up with that traitor and stole the Energon storage unit! I barely got away!

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Shockwave's SOLITARY EYE.

SHOCKWAVE

More traitors? Their actions are highly-illogical. But yet, Starscream **is** well-known for his persuasiveness.

PANEL 3:

Shockwave TURNS to move towards the command center's EXIT. Octane FOLLOWS like a LOYAL DOG.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)

No matter. It is merely one more hurdle to overcome.

OCTANE

Yeah, but you didn't hear what they're planning to do!

SHOCKWAVE

Which is?

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Octane's face. He seems GENUINELY TROUBLED.

OCTANE

Starscream told the others that **they're** gonna harvest that Energon from Vector Sigma. They're gonna bring **Megatron** here. And destroy him!

PANEL 5:

Octane LIFTS HIS HANDS TO HIS HEAD WITH PANIC, while Shockwave stands by.

OCTANE (CONT'D)

Starscream's got the tools to do it, too! He's got his **own** portable space-bridge generator! Says he found it while researching all that Piranacon stuff. And with the Energon storage unit he stole from me, what's to stop him?

SHOCKWAVE

We will stop him, Octane. Megatron must not be ambushed. Least of all by a conniving, charlatan like Starscream. Follow me.

PANEL 6:

EXT. ABOVE THE DECEPTICON HQ - NIGHT.

Shockwave (in space-gun-mode) and Octane (in aerial-mode) fly free of their HQ and into the night.

SHOCKWAVE

To Vector Sigma!

PAGE EIGHT:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE ENTRANCE TO VECTOR SIGMA - NIGHT.

WIDE SHOT - Starscream, Nacelle, Acid Storm, Hotlink and Bitstream stand before the TUNNEL to Vector Sigma.

Starscream holds the Energon storage unit in his hands.

STARSCREAM

All right, here we are. The entrance to Vector Sigma and the vast amount of Energon we need.

NACELLE

So, what's the plan? This isn't gonna be easy.

ACID STORM

Right. Ever since that old fool, Alpha Trion merged with Vector Sigma, it's been protected by a series of Autobot security protocol droids.

HOTLINK

Yeah, Shockwave told us how four separate components need to be disabled before we can enter the inner chamber.

PANEL 2:

Starscream addresses his four new minions.

STARSCREAM

Then, we'll split into teams. The security protocols won't be able to keep up with multiple intrusions. And once one component is disabled, that will allow the rest to be bypassed all the faster.

PANEL 3:

Starscream turns to Nacelle and Bitstream.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

We'll also need to take out any Autobot alarms. We don't want to deal with Elita-One or Impactor until we've secured the Energon.

NACELLE

You got it, Starscream. We can handle it.

PANEL 4:

As Bitstream, Hotlink and Nacelle DROP DOWN into the tunnel, Starscream GRABS Acid Storm by the shoulder.

HOTLINK

Yeah, let's do this!

STARSCREAM

Oh, Acid Storm? I have a little **extra** information...

ACID STORM

Huh?

PANEL 5:

CLOSE ON Starscream WHISPERING into Acid Storm's ear.

STARSCREAM

... For **your** audio-receptors only.

PAGE NINE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE TUNNELS OF VECTOR SIGMA - NIGHT.

CAPTION: A little later...

As Nacelle FIRES ENERGY BLASTS and DESTROYS a set of TWIN-TURRETS affixed to the OUTER WALL of Vector Sigma's DEFENSIVE PARTITION, Bitstream is WRIST-DEEP in a BUSTED OPEN SECURITY PANEL, twisting wires between his fingers.

NACELLE

C'mon, hurry it up! How many more of these alarms do we need to disable?

BITSTREAM

None. This is the last one.

PANEL 2:

Nacelle watches with interest as Bitstream SPEAKS into a POP-UP COMMUNICATOR now protruding from his FOREARM.

BITSTREAM (CONT'D)

Acid Storm, Hotlink. The alarms are down. You can go ahead with Phase Two.

PANEL 3:

The pop-up communicator RETRACTS into Bitstream's forearm. Behind him, Nacelle RAISES HIS ARM RIFLES towards Bitstream's back.

ACID STORM

(from the communicator)
Copy that.

NACELLE

So, we're good?

BITSTREAM

Yeah, this is done here.

PANEL 4:

Nacelle BLASTS Bitstream in the back, causing an EXPLOSION to DETONATE OUTWARD from his chest. SMOKE POURS from Bitstream's mouth, while his eyes are now BLANK AND LIFELESS.

NACELLE

Good.

BITSTREAM

Baaaaaghh..?!

PANEL 5:

CLOSE ON Nacelle's STARSCREAM-LIKE SMIRK.

NACELLE

Then you're done too.

PAGE TEN:

PANEL 1:

INT. ANOTHER TUNNEL OF VECTOR SIGMA.

Acid Storm and Hotlink CHARGE THROUGH the SEWER-LIKE CONDUITS of Vector Sigma. Both of them are firing their arm rifles towards a small group of FOUR HOVERING SECURITY DRONES as they make their way towards what looks to be some kind of CONTROL PANEL, built into the surrounding conduit.

ACID STORM

All right, nearly there!

HOTLINK

There it is! We can override the last of the security locking mechanisms from that panel over there!

PANEL 2:

Acid Storm BLASTS three of the drones, while Hotlink takes out the fourth.

ACID STORM

Well, come on then! Get to it!

HOTLINK

Okay, okay... take it easy!

PANEL 3:

OVER HOTLINK'S SHOULDER, as he reaches ELBOWS-DEEP into the control panel, DISCONNECTING several of the MECHANICAL COUPLINGS housed within.

HOTLINK (CONT'D)

Almost done. Just a few more of these couplings and we can move onto the next phase.

PANEL 4:

Behind Hotlink, Acid Storm raises his arm rifles towards him as Hotlink closes the control panel.

HOTLINK (CONT'D)

All right, I'm finished.

PANEL 5:

Acid Storm FIRES UPON Hotlink, blowing several holes in his body. Like Bitstream earlier, Hotlink's eyes have now faded to nothingness.

ACID STORM

You sure are, pal.

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Acid Storm's SINISTER GRIN.

ACID STORM (CONT'D)

You sure are.

PAGE ELEVEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE ENTRANCE TO VECTOR SIGMA - NIGHT.

Back on the surface of Cybertron, Starscream looks into the sky to see both Octane (in aerial-mode) and Shockwave (in space-gun-mode) flying towards him from the HORIZON.

STARSCREAM

Shockwave. Predictable as usual.

PANEL 2:

Shockwave and Octane close in on Starscream's location, as Starscream gives them a FLIPPANT WAVE.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

That's it, Down here, you one-eyed buffoon!

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON Starscream's SMILING FACE.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
Oh, this is going to be fun.

PANEL 4:

Starscream TRANSFORMS to jet-mode to escape into Vector Sigma's tunnel, allowing Shockwave and Octane to follow.

SHOCKWAVE
Starscream! Surrender, at once!

STARSCREAM
Ha! I don't think so, you blithering, purple fool! You'll have to catch me first!

PAGE TWELVE:

PANEL 1:

INT. ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED TUNNEL WITHIN VECTOR SIGMA.

Nacelle BATTLES HIS WAY through a separate conduit-like passageway, FIGHTING OFF more hovering security drones.

NACELLE
Ugh! These things are everywhere!

PANEL 2:

INT. YET ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS TUNNEL WITHIN VECTOR SIGMA.

Likewise, Acid Storm does the same in his own section of Vector Sigma's maze, blasting three ANCIENT SENTRY ROBOTS to smithereens.

ACID STORM
Come on, is that all you got? You gotta do better than that to take out a **Seeker!**

PANEL 3:

INT. THE DOORS TO VECTOR SIGMA'S ENERGY CHAMBER.

From either side of the panel, Acid Storm and Nacelle reconvene outside the ENORMOUS, SEALED TWIN-DOORS leading into VECTOR SIGMA'S ENERGY CHAMBER as though awaiting entry into THE EMERALD CITY OF OZ.

NACELLE
Acid Storm? You made it!

ACID STORM
You too. Where's Bitstream?

PANEL 4:

Nacelle moves forward, closer to the sealed doors.

NACELLE
Ah, Starscream told me to take him out. One less piece of the puzzle, right?

ACID STORM
Funny, he told me to do the same to Hotlink...

PANEL 5:

Nacelle TURNS to see Acid Storm has trained his arm rifles on him.

ACID STORM (CONT'D)
... And to **you!**

NACELLE
N-No, wait!

PANEL 6:

FROM BEHIND Nacelle, Acid Storm BLASTS a HOLE THROUGH HIM large enough for us to see the GRINNING, GREEN DECEPTICON.

NACELLE (CONT'D)
Wait! Noooooooooooo!

PANEL 7:

Acid Storm STEPS OVER Nacelle's LIFELESS BODY, moving towards the twin-doors of Vector Sigma.

ACID STORM
Sorry, Nacelle. Just business, pal.

PAGE THIRTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Acid Storm stands over Nacelle's STILL-SMOKING CORPSE.

STARSCREAM
(off-panel)
Very good, Acid Storm.

PANEL 2:

Acid Storm **TURNS** to see Starscream has finally joined him before the gigantic twin-doors leading into Vector Sigma's energy chamber.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
I see I chose well in making you my
closest ally.

PANEL 3:

Acid Storm watches as Starscream **MOVES PAST HIM** to stand before the sealed twin-doors, his hands on his hips.

ACID STORM
Nacelle and the others couldn't be
trusted. But you, Acid Storm. **You**
share my vision for the
Decepticons... for **CYBERTRON!**

PANEL 4:

Starscream **PRESSES HIS HANDS** against two **DIGITAL SCANNERS**, built into one half of the twin-doors. The scanner **SHINES YELLOW**, bathing Starscream in its **WARM GLOW**.

STARSCREAM
And now that all the security
protocols have been disabled, we
are free to enter...

PANEL 5:

FROM BEHIND Starscream and Acid Storm - The once-sealed twin-doors **SEPARATE** like the **CURTAINS OF A STAGE PLAY** to reveal the inner **ENERGY CHAMBER** of **VECTOR SIGMA**.

Its **DAZZLING, YELLOW ORB OF ENERGY** radiates an **INTENSE LIGHT** that washes over the entire panel like an **EARLY-MORNING SUNRISE**.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
... VECTOR SIGMA!

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Starscream, as he looks back **OVER HIS SHOULDER** at Acid Storm.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

Now, hurry!

PAGE FOURTEEN:

PANEL 1:

INT. ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED PASSAGE WITHIN VECTOR SIGMA.

Charging through the cylindrical conduit, bypassing what remains of several SEMI-DESTROYED SECURITY DRONES that litter the ground at their feet, Shockwave leads Octane towards the front of frame.

SHOCKWAVE

Quickly, Octane! With the internal security measures disengaged, Starscream is free to enter the energy chamber!

PANEL 2:

Shockwave and Octane continue their way through the tunnel.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)

He **cannot** be permitted to drain that Energon! **We** must prevent him from assassinating Lord Megatron!

PANEL 3:

As Shockwave TAKES MORE OF A LEAD, Octane trails behind somewhat.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)

To allow such an action would condemn the Decepticons to eons of Starscream's incompetence! We must not be late!

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Octane's CONNIVING face.

OCTANE

Don't worry. We won't be.

PAGE FIFTEEN:

PANEL 1:

INT. VECTOR SIGMA'S ENERGY CHAMBER.

Starscream watches as Acid Storm rigs the ENERGON STORAGE UNIT to the MEGA COMPUTER beneath Vector Sigma's SHINING ORB.

STARSCREAM

That's it, Acid Storm. Once the Energon storage unit is connected to Vector Sigma's vast reserves of Energon, the ability to repower Iacon will be mine!

PANEL 2:

Starscream lifts a TRANSFORMER-SIZED MECHANICAL HOOP before his chest. It is an EXACT DUPLICATE of the portable space-bridge device Shockwave was seen with earlier.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

And thanks to Octane, this duplicate of Shockwave's portable space-bridge portal generator will let me lock onto Megatron and bring him all the way here.

PANEL 3:

Starscream looks on to see the Energon storage unit is filling with LUMINOUS, PURPLE ENERGON, now SHINING just as bright as Vector's Sigma's orb.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

Excellent! It's working! I can't wait to see the look on Megatron's face right before I **smite** him out of existence!

ACID STORM

(off-panel)

And let me guess... Then you destroy **me**, right?

PANEL 4:

REVERSE ANGLE, FROM BEHIND STARSCREAM, as he stands facing Acid Storm and the STILL-OPEN DOORS of Vector Sigma's chamber.

Acid Storm's arm rifles are trained on Starscream WITH INTENT.

ACID STORM (CONT'D)

Like how you told the others to destroy each other? Right?

PANEL 5:

Starscream RAISES HIS HANDS into the air in SURRENDER.
However, his face is ALL SMILES.

STARSCREAM
No, no, no... I don't destroy you.
You get destroyed by **Shockwave**.

ACID STORM
Huh? What?

PAGE SIXTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Shockwave and Octane BURST INTO Vector Sigma's chamber, much to the SURPRISE of Acid Storm. In the background, Starscream carefully STEPS ASIDE.

ACID STORM (CONT'D)
Shockwave? I... uh, I...

SHOCKWAVE
Save your treasonous excuses, Acid Storm.

PANEL 2:

Shockwave TRANSFORMS into space-gun-mode.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)
Your true nature has been weighed,
measured...

PANEL 3:

Shockwave FIRES UPON Acid Storm with a BLAST that COMPLETELY CONSUMES the green Decepticon.

SHOCKWAVE (CONT'D)
... And found wanting!

ACID STORM
Gaaaaaaagghhhh!

PANEL 4:

As Shockwave TRANSFORMS back to robot-mode, Starscream FIRES UPON him with his null rays.

SHOCKWAVE
And now for you, Starscream... Ugh!

STARSCREAM

Not so fast, Shockwave! You won't stop me now that I've come **this** far!

PANEL 5:

Shockwave LIES DEFEATED, smoke rising from his CHARRED BODY.

SHOCKWAVE

A surprisingly analytical assessment, Starscream. However, you forget I am not alone. Octane, annihilate him!

PANEL 6:

LOOKING UP AND OVER SHOCKWAVE'S SHOULDER - Octane now STANDS WITH Starscream as both of them LOOK DOWN at the defeated Shockwave.

OCTANE

Yeah, about that, 'boss'.

STARSCREAM

Oops. Looks like someone switched sides.

SHOCKWAVE

Octane? But... to join Starscream... to stand against Megatron? It is illogical.

PAGE SEVENTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Octane looks down at Shockwave. Behind him, the Energon storage unit FILLS WITH MORE ENERGY as Starscream powers up his hoop-like portable space-bridge generator.

OCTANE

Yeah. But, Megatron ain't gonna be around for much longer, is he?

PANEL 2:

Starscream places the portable space-bridge generator on the floor as though LAYING A WREATH. Its mechanical edges LIGHT UP with some kind of ACTIVATION.

OCTANE (CONT'D)

(off-panel)

How're we doing, Starscream?

STARSCREAM

The space-bridge has pinpointed Megatron's location. It will teleport him here in a matter of astro-seconds.

PANEL 3:

FROM BEHIND STARSCREAM AND OCTANE - A COLUMN OF LIGHT shoots up out of the portable space-bridge generator, showcasing the SILHOUETTED IMAGE of none other than Megatron.

OCTANE

It's working! He's here! Now's your chance, Starscream! Do it now!

STARSCREAM

Oh, I will, Octane. Indeed I will.

PANEL 4:

As Megatron stands DISORIENTATED within Vector Sigma's energy chamber, Starscream approaches, holding the now FULLY-POWERED Energon storage unit.

MEGATRON

What? Wh-Where am I? Starscream?

STARSCREAM

Yes, it's me, Megatron. And boy, do I have something for **you!**

PANEL 5:

LOOKING DOWN OVER MEGATRON'S SHOULDER - Starscream KNEELS before the Decepticon Leader, offering up the Energon storage unit as though he were offering the HOLY GRAIL to a priest.

In the background, Octane stands UTTERLY STUNNED.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

Mighty Megatron, I offer you the **additional** Energon needed to repower the city of Iacon in the name of the Decepticons.

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Octane's face. He is PERPLEXED.

OCTANE

Wait... **what?!**

PAGE EIGHTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Shockwave clammers to his feet as Starscream continues to pledge himself to Megatron.

SHOCKWAVE
Ill-Illogical...

MEGATRON
What new devilry is this,
Starscream?

PANEL 2:

LOOKING DOWN, OVER MEGATRON'S SHOULDER - Starscream offers the Energon storage unit once more, this time looking as MEEK AND MILD as he could ever hope to appear.

STARSCREAM
None, my lord. After being 'possessed' by that Piranacon creature and forced to do its bidding, I am finally free. And I realize **you** are the true leader Cybertron requires.

PANEL 3:

Starscream is now back on his feet, as Megatron takes the Energon storage unit.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
I even squashed a coup by Nacelle's jets to overthrow Shockwave and destroy you.

PANEL 4:

With Megatron watching with CURIOUS EYES, Starscream turns back to face Shockwave.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
Isn't that right, Shockwave? **I** defeated those traitors, **I** amassed the remaining Energon the Decepticons need for victory. Anything else would mean more in-fighting, **more** unnecessary wastes of resources, time better spent returning the planet to glory under Megatron's rule. Anything else would be... **illogical**. Right?

SHOCKWAVE
I-Illogical?

PANEL 5:

Megatron looks to Shockwave for answers.

MEGATRON
Well, Shockwave? Is this true?

SHOCKWAVE
Y-Yes, Lord Megatron. It... is
true. Logic dictates that
Starscream... is the hero of today.

PANEL 6:

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE TWIN-DOORS OF VECTOR SIGMA'S ENERGY
CHAMBER.

Unseen by the others, Octane has SNUCK OUT of Vector Sigma's
energy chamber to HIGHTAIL it into the adjoining corridors.

Still inside the chamber, still holding the Energon storage
unit, Megatron stands with a unified Starscream and
Shockwave.

MEGATRON
Well, where shall we begin?

OCTANE
(to himself)
Starscream, you robo-rat! You
conned us **all!** I gotta rethink this
Decepticon ideology. Go it alone,
for now...

PAGE NINETEEN:

PANEL 1:

INT. INSIDE DECEPTICON HQ, A HALLWAY.

CAPTION: A few days later...

Starscream wanders the corridor of Decepticon HQ. His stride
is confident, his expression even more so.

STARSCREAM
(captioned)
And so this is how it begins.
Again.

PANEL 2:

Starscream continues to stroll through the HQ, passing DIRGE, RAMJET and THRUST. Each of the coneheads appear to be quietly MUTTERING to one-another as though the subject of their gossip had just arrived.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
(captioned)
I'm back. Reinstated. A hero of the Decepticon cause...

PANEL 3:

INT. DECEPTICON HQ, MAIN CONTROL ROOM.

At the rear of the panel, Starscream arrives in the HQ's MAIN CONTROL ROOM via its ELEVATOR DOORS. In the foreground, SKYWARP, THUNDERCRACKER, ASTROTRAIN and BLITZWING turn to face him. Like the coneheads, each of them seems UNEASY at Starscream's presence.

STARSCREAM
(captioned)
Returned to glory. Respected, **feared**. Life is good.

PANEL 4:

Starscream moves towards a set of CLOSED TWIN-DOORS that seemingly lead to an OUTSIDE BALCONY of sorts. Through the doors' TRANSPARENT WINDOWS, the backs of Megatron and Shockwave can be seen.

As Starscream moves towards the twin-doors, RUMBLE and FRENZY make sure to move out of his way.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)
(captioned)
While I tried and failed to usurp Megatron, now, thanks to me, the fight against the Autobots can continue.

PANEL 5:

EXT. BALCONY OF DECEPTICON HQ - NIGHT.

As the twin-doors separate to allow Starscream onto the EXTERNAL TERRACE, he joins Megatron to stand with Shockwave as well as SOUNDWAVE and RAVAGE. LASERBEAK rests on Megatron's SHOULDER as he LOOKS DOWN to the ground below.

Each of the other Decepticons are also looking down with Megatron. Only Shockwave has TURNED HIS HEAD to gaze at Starscream.

STARSCREAM

(captioned)

He sees my value now. And I see **his**. Sometimes it is better to serve the king than to be hunted by him.

PAGE TWENTY:

PANEL 1:

SPLASH PANEL - REVERSE ANGLE, FROM BEHIND - Megatron (with Laserbeak), Starscream, Shockwave, Soundwave and Ravage OVERLOOK a NEWLY-REPOWERED and ENERGIZED IACON CITY.

The streets below GLOW WITH RADIANCE, once again functioning at PEAK CAPACITY.

On the ground, SEVERAL DECEPTICONS stand CHEERING, pumping EXCITED FISTS into the air towards their hero, Megatron.

Among several GENERICONS, others include: MISFIRE, NEEDLENOSE and TRIGGERHAPPY.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

(captioned)

But, only for a time. Only until the time is right...

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Starscream, once again SMIRKING with CONTENTMENT.

STARSCREAM (CONT'D)

(captioned)

... to **strike!**

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 SkyBound Entertainment by E-Mail (info@skybound.com) or on Twitter (@SkyBound), 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!