



THE TRANSFORMERS: REANIMATED
"WHO SWARMS THERE?"

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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, PLANET SNEKKER

The ICY-BLUE planet of SNEKKER sits alone amid a backdrop of otherwise-empty SPACE.

CAPTION: Deep space...

BACKSTREET
(captioned)
I still don't know why we had to
come **here**...

PANEL 2:

EXT. THE SURFACE OF SNEKKER - DAY

A solitary OUTPOST FACILITY, adorned with the AUTOBOT INSIGNIA, is the only point of interest on this OTHERWISE-BARREN, FROZEN WASTELAND of a world.

Thick snow surrounds the outpost on all sides, a BLUSTFUL BREEZE sweeps a plume of snowflakes across the panel, and every other inch of the facility drips with the remnants of frostbitten ICICLES.

This world is COLD exemplified.

BACKSTREET
(captioned)
I mean, really? Here? Snekker, the
dimnest speck of a world in the
entire galaxy. **This** is where we're
supposed to hold our all-important
summit?

PANEL 3:

INT. OUTPOST COMMAND CENTER

BACKSTREET stands SHRUGGING HIS SHOULDERS, as his fellow TRIGGERBOTS: DOGFIGHT and OVERRIDE attempt to ease his concerns.

Behind them, Autobot scientist, FLAME sits monitoring several TELETRAAN-LIKE DATA SCREENS.

BACKSTREET

I mean, our long range transmitters
still aren't working in this
weather.

DOGFIGHT

Take it, easy, Backstreet. You'll
blow a gasket.

OVERRIDE

I agree with Dogfight. Relax.
Besides, this planet's isolation is
precisely why we're here. Right,
Flame?

FLAME

Right, Override. Best to hold
secret talks on a **secret** world. And
speaking of which...

PANEL 4:

SPLASH PANEL - The room's doors slide apart to reveal its
newest occupants: STAR SABER, DAI ATLAS, and behind them:
ROADFIRE.

FLAME (CONT'D)

(off-panel)

... our guests have arrived.

STAR SABER

Greetings. Star Saber, reporting
for duty, alongside my lieutenants,
Dai Atlas and Roadfire.

PAGE TWO:

PANEL 1:

BIRD'S EYE VIEW - Flame shakes hands with Star Saber, as Dai
Atlas, Roadfire, Dogfight, Backstreet and Override gather
round.

DAI ATLAS

Hello.

FLAME

(to Star Saber)

A pleasure to finally meet you,
sir. Welcome to the Snekker
Outpost.

STAR SABER

Thank you. We should probably get straight to business. And that is rejoining the war effort now that Optimus Prime is known to have reclaimed the Matrix of Leadership.

DOGFIGHT

Whoa, Prime has the Matrix back? Then, surely that makes him the Chosen One, right?

PANEL 2:

Backstreet points to a nearby data screen and its ALERT status.

BACKSTREET

Uh, I hate to interrupt. But, the computer is registering that some kind of object just crashed into the ice not far from here.

FLAME

(off-panel)
Visual?

PANEL 3:

FROM BEHIND - Flame, Backstreet and Star Saber look on at the viewscreen.

Its digital image reveals a SAUCER-SHAPED VESSEL, half-buried in the frozen surface of the planet.

BACKSTREET

It's a ship.

FLAME

Not a design I recognize.

STAR SABER

Nevertheless, we should investigate.

PANEL 4:

Star Saber takes command of the situation, pointing towards the room's exit.

Flame, Dai Atlas and Dogfight look on.

STAR SABER (CONT'D)

Autobots, prepare for travel.

DAI ATLAS

Yes, sir.

PANEL 5:

EXT. OUTSIDE THE OUTPOST - DAY

WIDE SHOT - Each of the seven Autobots race away from the outpost in their various vehicle-modes.

Not far from the outpost, sits Star Saber's AUTOBOT SHUTTLECRAFT.

STAR SABER

Roll out!

PAGE THREE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. A FROZEN TUNDRA - DAY

FROM BEHIND - Each of the seven Autobots (now in robot-modes) stand overlooking the crashed saucer ship.

It remains half-buried in the snow.

CAPTION: Soon after...

FLAME

Curious. Where do you think it came from?

BACKSTREET

I don't know, but I don't like it.

STAR SABER

Let's take a look. Roadfire, please blow the hatch if you don't mind.

ROADFIRE

You got it.

PANEL 2:

INT. INSIDE THE SHIP

Looking outward through the freshly-torn-open hatch, Star Saber, Roadfire and Backstreet look in towards the reader.

Each of them share the same HORRIFIED EXPRESSION.

ROADFIRE

There, she's open.

BACKSTREET

What on Cybertron?

PANEL 3:

SPLASH PANEL - The gruesome remains of what appears to be the MICROMASTER ASTRO SQUAD are littered throughout the ship's command center.

The burnt husk of BARRAGE lies on the floor in the background, beside an equally-as-charred, misshapen and melted HEAVE.

PHASER appears to be ELONGATED out of shape like something from a twisted FUNHOUSE MIRROR, dangling upside down from the ceiling.

BLAST MASTER sits upright in a chair near the ship's computer, FUSED to the seat by tendrils of MOLTEN METAL.

And most unsettling of all, what used to be both MOONROCK and MISSILE MASTER cover the foreground floor, morphed together into some kind of abhorrent, TWO-FACED CREATURE.

The expressions of each of the Astro Squad members are contorted into grimaces of agony, leaving no mistake as to the nature of their frightful demises.

BACKSTREET (CONT'D)

(off-panel)

Who are they? What... what happened
in here?

PANEL 4:

Flame looks down at his HAND-HELD SCANNER, pointing with his other hand towards what appears to be a SEALED DOOR in the corner of the room.

Star Saber stands nearby.

FLAME

Commander, I'm registering a
solitary life-sign. In there.

STAR SABER

Then let's unravel this mystery.
Roadfire, open it up.

PANEL 5:

The door to the brig is now wide-open, revealing NIGHTBEAT, standing alone and brandishing an ENERGON-FLAME-THROWER.

NIGHTBEAT
Stay back! Stay back!

FLAME
(off-panel)
Nightbeat?

PAGE FOUR:

PANEL 1:

EXT. A FROZEN TUNDRA - DAY

The crashed saucer ship remains lodged in the snow and ice.

CAPTION: Ten astro-minutes later...

NIGHTBEAT
(captioned)
Trust me, I wouldn't have believed
it either...

PANEL 2:

INT. INSIDE THE SAUCER SHIP, BRIDGE

Nightbeat now sits on a METALLIC STOOL just outside the brig, flanked by the standing Star Saber, Flame and Dai Atlas.

NIGHTBEAT
... if I didn't see it for myself.

STAR SABER
What happened here, Nightbeat? And
where have you been? I haven't seen
or heard from you for vorns*.

CAPTION: *1 vorn = 83 Earth years.

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON Nightbeat.

NIGHTBEAT
Oh, I've been busy. **Real** busy.

PANEL 4:

EXT. A CYBERTRONIAN-LIKE PLATEAU - NIGHT

FLASHBACK - On what looks to be an ALTERNATE UNIVERSE CYBERTRON, Nightbeat is seen standing with the OMNIBOTS: CAMSHAFT, DOWNSHIFT and OVERDRIVE.

All four are WAVING to the MONSTERBOTS: GROTUSQUE, DOUBLECROSS and REPUGNUS (each in their robot-modes) as the Monsterbots happily head towards the HORIZON.

NIGHTBEAT

(captioned)

It's a long story*, but some time ago, I joined the interdimensional Omnibots in their quest to rescue their friends, the Monsterbots from... well... themselves.

CAPTION: *See issue #21!

PANEL 5:

INT. INSIDE THE SAUCER SHIP, BRIDGE

FLASHBACK - Nightbeat now sits in the central chair of the saucer ship's command center, surrounded by the very-much-alive Astro Squad members, each manning various computer panels.

NIGHTBEAT

(captioned)

As I returned to this reality, I was joined by a small squad of eager adventurers, the Astro Squad. But, no sooner had we arrived back in **this** universe...

PANEL 6:

EXT. SPACE

The saucer ship is descended upon by THE SWARM: A CLOUD of BUZZING, BLACK, INSECT-LIKE PARTICLES.

NIGHTBEAT

(captioned)

... then we found ourselves under attack!

STAR SABER

(captioned)

Attacked? By who?

PAGE FIVE:

PANEL 1:

INT. INSIDE THE SAUCER SHIP, BRIDGE

The Swarm surrounds Heaver like a whirlwind of bees.

NIGHTBEAT

(captioned)

I don't know what it was. But, it penetrated our hull and attacked Heaver. He didn't stand a chance.

PANEL 2:

Heaver (now seemingly-infected by a rabid plague) leaps towards Phaser.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)

(captioned)

It... infected him somehow. Changed him on a molecular level. And within astro-seconds, he'd attacked poor Phaser.

PANEL 3:

Nightbeat, Missile Master and Moonrock BLAST Heaver with several hand-held ENERGON-FLAME-THROWERS.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)

(captioned)

We found a way, the **only** way, to stop Heaver, but unbeknownst to us...

PANEL 4:

Phaser stands deformed, his hands now morphed into hideous, MELTED CLAWS, while his face has become stretched out with a scream of MISERY and PAIN.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)

(captioned)

... he'd already infected Phaser.

PANEL 5:

Nightbeat, Moonrock and Missile Master blast their Energon-flame-throwers towards the reader.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)
(captioned)
So, we did what we had to.

PAGE SIX:

PANEL 1:

INT. INSIDE THE SAUCER SHIP, BRIDGE

LOW ANGLE, LOOKING UP - Nightbeat remains seated on his stool, as Dai Atlas, Star Saber and Flame surround him.

Flame appears to be CONSOLING Nightbeat, while Dai Atlas has turned to face Star Saber.

NIGHTBEAT
So, when I heard you entering the bridge earlier, I assumed the Swarm had returned and hid.

FLAME
It's okay, Nightbeat. It's over now. You're safe.

DAI ATLAS
So. What do we do now, sir?

PANEL 2:

OVER STAR SABER'S SHOULDER as he looks down at Flame and Nightbeat.

FLAME
If I may. I'd like to study what's left of the Astro Squad.

STAR SABER
Why?

FLAME
Because whatever this Swarm is, was, whatever... We should at least try to learn what happened. **Why** did it react the way it did? **Where** did it come from?

NIGHTBEAT
I disagree. I love a good mystery as much as the next detective, but in this case, I say... let sleeping diodes lie.

FLAME

But, we have a duty. To science. To the truth.

PANEL 3:

Star Saber stands before Flame and Nightbeat.

Behind them, Backstreet and Dogfight have lifted the merged two-faced creature from the floor.

STAR SABER

I agree with Flame. Dogfight, Backstreet take this... specimen back to the outpost. Flame, you can study it there.

FLAME

Thank you, sir.

PANEL 4:

WIDE SHOT - Star Saber leads Nightbeat, Dai Atlas, Roadfire, Override and Flame towards the bridge's exit.

Backstreet and Dogfight continue to carry the two-faced creature in the background.

STAR SABER

Then let's get moving. This ship is beyond saving. We'll head back to the outpost and consider our next move from there.

PANEL 5:

Backstreet and Dogfight continue to carry the remains of the two-faced creature.

Unbeknownst to anyone, a tiny collection of what look to be SWARM PARTICLES are moving from the creature onto Backstreet's hand.

DOGFIGHT

Sounds good to me. I've had enough of this place.

BACKSTREET

Me too. Let's get back to the outpost, ASAP.

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Backstreet's hand.

The Swarm particles appear to be entering the JOINTS of Backstreet's wrist.

BACKSTREET (CONT'D)
(off-panel)
I've had quite enough excitement
for one day.

PAGE SEVEN:

PANEL 1:

INT. OUTPOST SCIENCE LABORATORY

Inside his lab, Flame stands before a GURNEY and the remains of the two-faced creature.

Flame's arms are crossed, resting his right hand on his chin, DEEP IN THOUGHT.

Star Saber stands behind him.

CAPTION: Later...

STAR SABER
Well?

FLAME
This creature appears to be more,
much more than meets the eye. I
don't know **what** it is.

STAR SABER
You mean this... **thing** isn't
Moonrock and Missile Master?

FLAME
It was. And on a molecular level,
still is. Kind of. But, it's also,
was also... something else.

PANEL 2:

Star Saber touches a COMMUNICATIONS PANEL on the wall.

STAR SABER
Saber to Backstreet. Any luck
getting the long range transmitters
working again? Backstreet? Do you
read me?

PANEL 3:

INT. THE OUTPOST, A CORRIDOR

Dogfight and Override wander down a CONFINING HALLWAY.

Each of them LOOK UP, as Star Saber's voice echoes through the outpost.

STAR SABER

(voice only)

Dogfight. Override. Find out where Backstreet has gotten to and see if he's fixed our communications yet.

OVERRIDE

Yes, sir. We're heading towards the comms station now.

DOGFIGHT

Yeah, we'll tell Backstreet to hurry...

PANEL 4:

INT. THE OUTPOST COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

FROM BEHIND - Dogfight and Override stand in the doorway, looking on at a seated Backstreet, now WRITHING and WRIGGLING, enveloped by an array of THIN, MECHANICAL TENDRILS.

DOGFIGHT

... up?

OVERRIDE

B-Backstreet?

PANEL 5:

Backstreet now appears like a RABID VERSION OF HIMSELF. Still Backstreet, yet CHANGED SOMEHOW.

He CHARGES towards Dogfight and Override with RAGE.

BACKSTREET

Raaaargh!

PAGE EIGHT:

PANEL 1:

SPLASH PANEL - Dogfight and Override dive to the floor, as Roadfire and Nightbeat enter the room, BLASTING Backstreet with their Energon-flame-throwers.

BACKSTREET (CONT'D)
Hrrrrghghhhh!

PANEL 2:

Now completely ABLAZE, Backstreet drops to his knees.

BACKSTREET (CONT'D)
Ruuuurghhhhh!

PANEL 3:

What's left of Backstreet BURNS in the center of the room, leaving Nightbeat and Roadfire to converse with Dogfight and Override.

OVERRIDE
What, what just happened?

NIGHTBEAT
I guess this isn't over, after all.
Poor Backstreet must have been
infected while we were on the
saucer ship.

ROADFIRE
Then that means **more** of us could be
infected.

PANEL 4:

Dogfight turns to Override with WORRY.

DOGFIGHT
Yeah, but... **who**?

PAGE NINE:

PANEL 1:

INT. OUTPOST SCIENCE LABORATORY

Flame sits before several COMPUTERS, seemingly analyzing a host of ENDLESS DATA READOUTS.

What looks like a COMPUTER SIMULATION OF CELLS appears on one of the DATA SCREENS before him.

Flame seems CURIOUS, yet also completely DEFEATED.

CAPTION: Later still...

PANEL 2:

OVER FLAME'S SHOULDER - He looks upon yet another data screen, this one displaying ANIMATED IMAGES of ONE PURPLE CELL SURROUNDED BY RED ONES.

The word 'SIMULATION' can also be seen on the screen.

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON the data screen. Its simulation now displays a purple cell LATCHING ONTO a red cell.

Words on the screen read: 'HOSTILE CORRUPTION PROCESS'.

PANEL 4:

Flame watches the simulation, as now ALL cells on the screen appear purple.

Words on the screen now read: 'RESULT: PERFECT IMITATION'.

PANEL 5:

Flame turns to look back towards the lab's doorway with DETERMINATION.

On the data screen behind him, its display reveals a collection of purple cells only, with the words: 'IF CURRENT PROCESS LEFT UNDISTURBED, TOTAL ASSIMILATION OF KNOWN GALACTIC LIFE IN NINETY ASTRO-YEARS.'

FLAME

No...

PAGE TEN:

PANEL 1:

INT. OUTPOST COMMAND CENTER

Star Saber stands before Nightbeat, Dai Atlas, Dogfight and Override.

Roadfire is manning what looks to be a COMMUNICATIONS PANEL on the wall.

CAPTION: One astro-hour later...

DOGFIGHT

So, what's the deal? We're leaving, right?

STAR SABER

Yes. Flame is preparing my ship for departure. He's reinforcing the onboard medical containment cells as we speak, in case we encounter any other... incidents on the journey back to HQ.

ROADFIRE

Roadfire to Flame. Come in, Flame. Any progress?

PANEL 2:

Star Saber and Nightbeat look over at Roadfire, who now SHRUGS WITH CONFUSION.

ROADFIRE (CONT'D)

No response, sir.

NIGHTBEAT

Uh-oh.

STAR SABER

Brilliant. Override, stay here and prepare to lockdown the outpost if necessary. The rest us you, come with me.

PANEL 3:

EXT. A FROZEN TUNDRA - NIGHT

Star Saber tracks through the snow with Nightbeat, Dai Atlas, Roadfire and Dogfight.

Star Saber's shuttlecraft can be seen on the HORIZON, as well as what looks to be Flame's tank-mode coming towards them.

CAPTION: Soon after...

ROADFIRE

Look! There he is!

STAR SABER

Flame?

PANEL 4:

Nightbeat, Star Saber and Roadfire dive to the left - Dai Atlas and Dogfight dive to the right, as Flame's tank-mode ZOOMS between them, DISSECTING the team.

STAR SABER (CONT'D)
Flame!

NIGHTBEAT
Whoa!

PANEL 5:

OVER STAR SABER'S SHOULDER - He and Nightbeat shield their faces as Star Saber's shuttlecraft EXPLODES.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)
What has he done?

STAR SABER
We need to get back to the outpost.
Now.

PAGE ELEVEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. OUTSIDE THE OUTPOST - NIGHT

FROM BEHIND - Star Saber leads Nightbeat, Dai Atlas, Dogfight and Roadfire towards the outpost.

CAPTION: Moments later...

FLAME
(voice only, coming from
the outpost)
Stay back! All of you! Come no
closer!

NIGHTBEAT
Flame! Just listen to us! We can
talk about this!

DAI ATLAS
Looks like a stand-off, sir.

STAR SABER
Agreed. We need to shut this down,
and quick.

DOGFIGHT
But, what about Override? He's
still in there!

PANEL 2:

CLOSE ON Flame, now FIRING his BLASTER out of a small opening in the outpost entryway.

FLAME

I said, stay back! This creature doesn't want to be some Swarm! It wants to be **US!**

PANEL 3:

INT. INSIDE THE OUTPOST

Flame continues to fire his blaster towards the outside. In the foreground, a VISIBLY-BEATEN Override nurses his head.

The entire room appears as though it has been TRASHED BY A MADMAN.

FLAME

Stay back! I'll eliminate all of you if I have to! This ends here! This ends **now!**

PANEL 4:

EXT. OUTSIDE THE OUTPOST - NIGHT

Dai Atlas and Nightbeat charge towards the outpost, as Star Saber directs Dogfight and Roadfire to RETURN BLASTER FIRE towards Flame's attacks.

STAR SABER

Enough of this madness. Return fire! Atlas, Nightbeat... get in there and take care of this.

PANEL 5:

INT. INSIDE THE OUTPOST

Dai Atlas BURSTS THROUGH Flame's makeshift barricade, as Nightbeat (in auto-mode) SLAMS HEAD-FIRST into Flame.

DAI ATLAS

Now, Nightbeat. Take him down!

FLAME

No! Uuughh!

PANEL 6:

Dai Atlas and Nightbeat (TRANSFORMING back to robot-mode) stand over an UNCONSCIOUS Flame.

Override rises to his feet, still nursing his head.

OVERRIDE

Thanks, guys. He just went crazy.

DAI ATLAS

And **now** what do we do with him?

PAGE TWELVE:

PANEL 1:

EXT. OUTSIDE THE OUTPOST - NIGHT

Nightbeat and Roadfire stand outside the outpost's nearby SUPPLY SHED, as MORE SNOW begins to rain down on them from the night sky.

Roadfire is SECURING THE DOOR from the outside as Nightbeat looks on.

CAPTION: Soon after...

FLAME

(voice only, through the door)

Look, I'm sorry. I'm better now. I don't see why I have to be locked up.

ROADFIRE

For your own safety, Flame.

NIGHTBEAT

Are you sure about this?

ROADFIRE

Hey, Star Saber's in command. And he wants Flame locked up safe out here until we can... well, fix this mess I suppose.

PANEL 2:

Roadfire watches as Nightbeat turns back in the direction of the outpost. It remains in the distance, almost shielded by the now-heavily-falling snow.

NIGHTBEAT

I guess. C'mon, let's head back.
Before we get caught in this
weather.

ROADFIRE

Lead the way.

PANEL 3:

WIDE SHOT - Roadfire begins to trail behind Nightbeat, both
of them savaged by the falling snow.

NIGHTBEAT

C'mon, catch up, Roadfire. We don't
want to get separated out here.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Nightbeat, as he turns to look back over his
shoulder.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)

Roadfire, I said...

PANEL 5:

Nightbeat STANDS ALONE in the falling snow.

Roadfire is nowhere to be seen.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)

Roadfire?

PAGE THIRTEEN:

PANEL 1:

INT. INSIDE THE OUTPOST

Dai Atlas, Override and Dogfight stand with Star Saber.

STAR SABER

Here's the plan. With Flame
secured, we can focus on fixing the
communications and call for help.

PANEL 2:

Star Saber and Dai Atlas turn to the outpost's newly-
reinforced doorway.

A BANGING SOUND emanates from outside.

ROADFIRE
(from outside)
Let me in! Let me in!

DAI ATLAS
Roadfire?

PANEL 3:

FROM BEHIND - Star Saber and Dai Atlas now stand looking at Roadfire (half-covered in snow), standing in the now-open doorway.

Behind him, the icy night can be seen outside.

STAR SABER
Roadfire, what happened? Where's Nightbeat?

ROADFIRE
I don't know. We got isolated. I think he might have been trying to lead me somewhere. I think... I think he may be part of that Swarm.

DAI ATLAS
Wait, how do we know **you're** not part of the Swarm?

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Roadfire, as he turns to look back over his shoulder with a PANICKED EXPRESSION.

NIGHTBEAT
(off-panel)
You don't.

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - Star Saber, Dai Atlas, Roadfire, Dogfight and Override turn to look to the rear of the room.

Nightbeat has BROKEN INTO the outpost, holding his Energon-flame-thrower trained on the CONFUSED group of Autobots.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)
But, **I** know how to solve this mystery.

PAGE FOURTEEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. THE OUTPOST - NIGHT

The outpost remains alone in the icy night.

DAI ATLAS
(captioned)
This is ridiculous...

CAPTION: Soon after...

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT - Nightbeat stands holding his Energon-flame-thrower, while Star Saber, Dai Atlas, Override, Dogfight and Roadfire all sit before him.

Each of their wrists are SHACKLED together with ENERCON RESTRAINTS.

DAI ATLAS (CONT'D)
We are not prisoners. We're all
Autobots!

NIGHTBEAT
Are we? Some of you might not be
who you **say** you are.

PANEL 3:

CLOSE ON Nightbeat's face.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)
I know who **I** am. And I know you
can't **all** be part of that Swarm or
you'd have just ganged up and
attacked me. It could be one of
you, it could be many of you. But
we need to test our Energon
reserves for signs of
contamination.

PANEL 4:

Nightbeat stands holding a HAND-HELD SCANNER up to his OPEN CHEST COMPARTMENT and what looks to be its inner LASER CORE.

The scanner's ON-SCREEN LIGHT is GREEN.

Dai Atlas remains ANGRY, sitting beside Star Saber.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)
Like me. See? All clear.

DAI ATLAS

This is preposterous. Who made you
the judge and jury, Nightbeat?

STAR SABER

No, he's right. We need to know.
Nightbeat, I'll go first.

PANEL 5:

Star Saber's CHEST COMPARTMENT opens up to reveal his INNER
MECHANICS, including what looks to be some kind of ENERGON
FUEL RECEPTACLE.

Nightbeat holds his scanner close to Star Saber's open chest.

NIGHTBEAT

No signs of contamination. You're
clear, Star Saber.

PANEL 6:

CLOSE ON Nightbeat.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)

So... who's next?

PAGE FIFTEEN:

PANEL 1:

A RELIEVED-LOOKING Override sits with his chest compartment
open, as Nightbeat holds his scanner close to his mechanical
innards.

Star Saber looks on.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)

All clear, Override.

OVERRIDE

Oh, thank the maker.

PANEL 2:

Override and Star Saber stand free as Nightbeat checks his
scanner.

ROADFIRE

C'mon, this is crazy. We're fine.
There's no need for this.

NIGHTBEAT

Gotta test everyone, pal.

PANEL 3:

Dogfight SMILES as he sits with Roadfire and Dai Atlas, their wrists still bound by Energon restraints.

Nightbeat remains nearby with his scanner as Star Saber looks on.

ROADFIRE

But, I'm fine! I swear. C'mon, let me loose.

STAR SABER

Just relax and let Nightbeat do his work.

PANEL 4:

Dogfight's chest opens up, and Nightbeat holds his scanner close.

NIGHTBEAT

Yeah, take it easy, Roadfire. This won't take more than an astro...

PANEL 5:

Dogfight's eyes TURN BLACK, as the Swarm LEAPS FREE of his chest and towards a STARTLED Nightbeat.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)

... second?!

PAGE SIXTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Nightbeat falls backward to the ground, crushing his scanner, as Dogfight stands, now MUTATED and WARPED by the Swarm into some kind of TENTACLED, ROBOTIC BEAST.

Dai Atlas has fallen to safety, yet the creature's tentacles have latched onto poor Roadfire, SHREDDING HIM TO PIECES.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)

Ughh!

ROADFIRE

Aaaaaghhh!

PANEL 2:

Nightbeat rises to one knee to BLAST Dogfight with his Energon-flame-thrower.

NIGHTBEAT
I'm sorry, Dogfight.

DOGFIGHT
Uuuurghhhh!

PANEL 3:

Dogfight, NOW ON FIRE, falls backwards to crash against the floor with a 'WHUMP'.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE ON Dogfight's LIFELESS EYES.

The legs and feet of Nightbeat, Star Saber and Override stand around his distorted form.

OVERRIDE
You know, I'm gonna be **real** happy
when this is over.

PANEL 5:

EVEN CLOSER ON Dogfight's eyes. They LIGHT UP once more with an ORANGE GLOW, as what look like METALLIC SPIDER LEGS grow out from his helmet.

PANEL 6:

HIGH ANGLE, LOOKING DOWN - Nightbeat, Star Saber, Dai Atlas and Override watch as Dogfight's head DETACHES to SCURRY AWAY like a frightened spider.

STAR SABER
D-Dogfight?

DAI ATLAS
You gotta be kiddin' me...

PAGE SEVENTEEN:

PANEL 1:

Dogfight's spider-head LEAPS UP from the floor to attach itself to the CHEST of Dai Atlas.

DAI ATLAS (CONT'D)
Yaaaaagh!

PANEL 2:

Dogfight's spider-head drives its CRAB-LIKE legs into Dai Atlas, causing the lights of his eyes to FADE OUT.

In the background, Star Saber is POINTING towards Dai Atlas, urging Nightbeat to act with his Energon-flame-thrower.

DAI ATLAS (CONT'D)

Uhhh...?

STAR SABER

Now, Nightbeat! Blast it!

PANEL 3:

Nightbeat BLASTS Dogfight's spider-head and the lifeless body of Dai Atlas with his Energon-flame-thrower.

DOGFIGHT'S SPIDER-HEAD

SCREEEEEEEEEE!

PANEL 4:

Nightbeat stands with Star Saber and Override, as the SMOKING RUINS of Dai Atlas SMOULDER on the floor in the background.

The walls of the outpost have caught fire and its flames are starting to spread.

STAR SABER

Then, that's that. **We're** not infected, and we're the only ones left.

NIGHTBEAT

Not the **only** ones. Flame.

STAR SABER

You're right. We need to test him too. But, how? Your scanner is destroyed. How will we know if he's infected or not?

PANEL 5:

EXT. OUTSIDE THE OUTPOST - NIGHT

Nightbeat, Override and Star Saber exit the burning outpost.

Both look off towards the reader and something off-panel.

NIGHTBEAT

Uh...?

PANEL 6:

REVERSE ANGLE, BEHIND Nightbeat as he POINTS to the distant supply shed.

Its interior is literally GLOWING a disconcerting ORANGE COLOR.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)
... I think we can safely answer
that.

PAGE EIGHTEEN:

PANEL 1:

EXT. A FROZEN TUNDRA - NIGHT

Star Saber leads Nightbeat and Override towards the glowing supply shed.

Star Saber is wielding some kind of ENERGON GRENADE.

STAR SABER
C'mon, let's finish this. But, be
careful.

PANEL 2:

SPLASH PANEL - Flame BURSTS FREE of the supply shed. He has now MORPHED into some kind of HIDEOUS TRANSFORMER CRYPTID - neither robot-nor-beast-nor-monster, but an UNSETTLING MIX OF THEM ALL.

It's MANDIBLED MAW SNARLS as one CLAWED ARM flails above its SERPENTINE HEAD with its other TENTACLED LIMB.

THE FLAME CREATURE
ROOOOAAAAAARRRRGHHHHH!

PANEL 3:

Now free of the supply shed, the gigantic Flame creature knocks down Star Saber with its clawed arm, at the same time, flicking Nightbeat with its tentacle to send the Autobot detective HURTLING THROUGH THE AIR.

Override stands front-and-center, seemingly at a loss as to what he should do.

THE FLAME CREATURE (CONT'D)
GRRROOOOOOARRRR!

STAR SABER

Uunnf!

NIGHTBEAT

Aaaaagh!

OVERRIDE

Saber! Nightbeat! I... I...

PANEL 4:

FROM BEHIND OVERRIDE as the Flame creature brings down both its appendages to SPLIT ROADFIRE IN TWO.

OVERRIDE (CONT'D)

Urrrk!

PAGE NINETEEN:

PANEL 1:

FROM BEHIND - The Flame creature now CONFRONTS Nightbeat and Star Saber, towering over him with its DEMONIC PRESENCE.

The devastated supply shed continues to BURN in the background, casting an ORANGE HUE across the entire panel.

THE FLAME CREATURE

RRAAAAARGH!

PANEL 2:

Star Saber tosses his Energon grenade towards the Flame creature.

Nightbeat TAKES AIM with his Energon-flame-thrower.

STAR SABER

Nightbeat! Now!

THE FLAME CREATURE

RRRROOOOOOAAAAAAAARGHHH!

NIGHTBEAT

(focused on the creature)

Yeah? Well...

PANEL 3:

Nightbeat fires his Energon-flame-thrower at the Flame creature, IGNITING the Energon grenade at the same time to cause a MAMMOTH EXPLOSION.

NIGHTBEAT (CONT'D)
... Same to you!

PANEL 4:

WIDE SHOT, FROM A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE AWAY - The Flame creature is now nothing more than a MASS OF FIRE, burning in the center of the panel, watched by both Nightbeat and Star Saber.

A CLOUD of the Swarm RISES from out of the fire to SOAR up into the NIGHT SKY.

STAR SABER
Nightbeat, you did it!

PANEL 5:

EXT. THE SKIES OF SNEKKER - NIGHT

The Swarm SPIRALS its way upward through the sky and the subsequent SNOWFALL.

STAR SABER
(captioned)
It's leaving.

PAGE TWENTY:

PANEL 1:

EXT. A FROZEN TUNDRA - NIGHT

Nightbeat and Star Saber stand before what has become a GIANT BONFIRE.

Nearby, the supply shed is no more.

And in the background, the ruined outpost BURNS.

NIGHTBEAT
But, now what? We're stranded here.
No fuel. No shelter. No ship. And
no one is coming for us.

STAR SABER
You're right. Also...

PANEL 2:

OVER STAR SABER'S SHOULDER, as he looks towards an EXHAUSTED Nightbeat.

STAR SABER (CONT'D)

... I hate to say it, but I saw that thing **touch** you during its attack. **You** could be infected.

NIGHTBEAT

True. But, it attacked **both** of us. I could say the same for you. Sir.

PANEL 3:

Nightbeat and Star Saber share an expression of PARANOIA and MISTRUST.

STAR SABER

Terrific. So, you don't trust me, and I guess I don't trust you. Plus, the fire's taken over the outpost. Soon we'll be sitting here alone in the cold. And the dark. 'Cause that fire won't last long.

NIGHTBEAT

Then, neither will we.

PANEL 4:

Each Autobot SLUMPS to the ground to sit in the ever-deepening snow. Each of them is still lit by the nearby fire.

STAR SABER

How will we make it?

NIGHTBEAT

Maybe we shouldn't.

STAR SABER

Look, if you're worried about me...

NIGHTBEAT

Sir, if we've got any surprises for each other, I don't think we're in much shape to do anything about it.

PANEL 5:

Nightbeat looks over to Star Saber.

Each of them is now semi-buried in the snow.

STAR SABER

Well, what do we do?

NIGHTBEAT

Why don't we just... wait here a while...

PANEL 6:

EXT. SPACE

The Swarm flies free of the planet Snekker to continue its journey into space.

NIGHTBEAT

(captioned)

... And see what happens...

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!