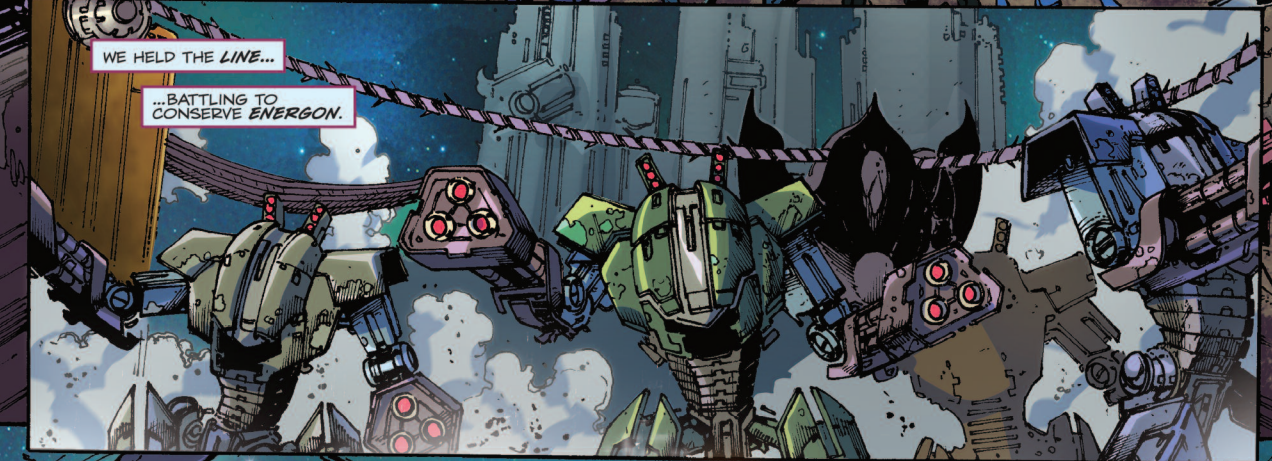


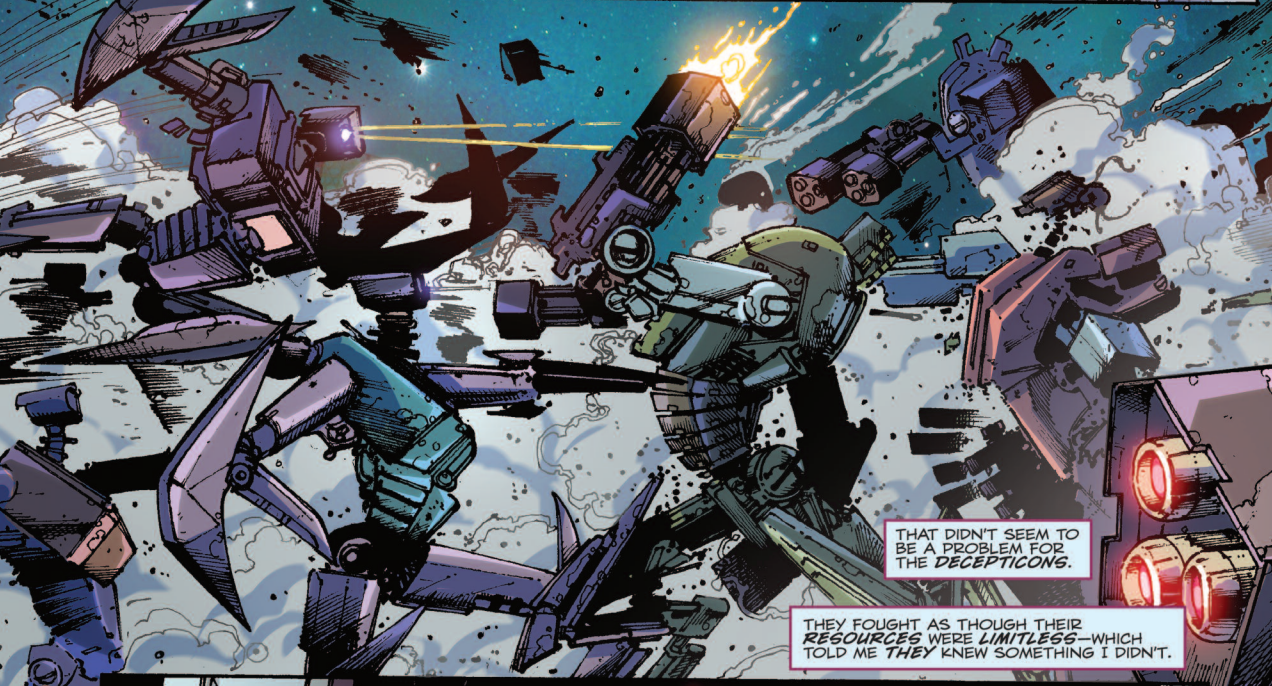
THEY CAME IN WAVES...

...AND THE WAVES NEVER STOPPED.



WE HELD THE LINE...

...BATTLING TO CONSERVE ENERCON.



THAT DIDN'T SEEM TO BE A PROBLEM FOR THE DECEPTICONS.

THEY FOUGHT AS THOUGH THEIR RESOURCES WERE LIMITLESS—WHICH TOLD ME THEY KNEW SOMETHING I DIDN'T.

I SENT ONE OF MY SOLDIERS TO INVESTIGATE... AND I NEVER HEARD BACK FROM HIM.

SO NOW IT'S MY TURN TO LOOK FOR ANSWERS. BECAUSE HOLDING THE LINE ISN'T ENOUGH.

HOLDING THE LINE DOESN'T WIN WARS.

I WIN WARS.

FOLLOW
ME IN—

—LET'S
TEACH THESE
BUTCHERS WHAT IT
MEANS TO FACE THE
LIGHTNING STRIKE
COALITION!

MY TEAM PASSES KNOWLEDGE
ALONG, ALL RIGHT.



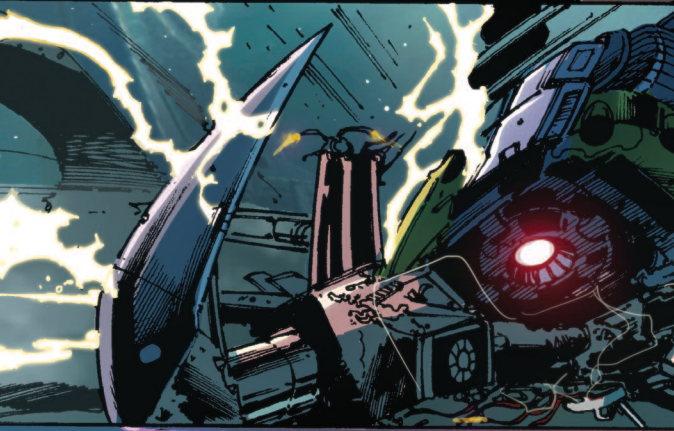
SNARL DOES JUST AS I TELL HIM—NOBODY CAN SAY HE HASN'T LEARNED A THING OR TWO FROM ME...



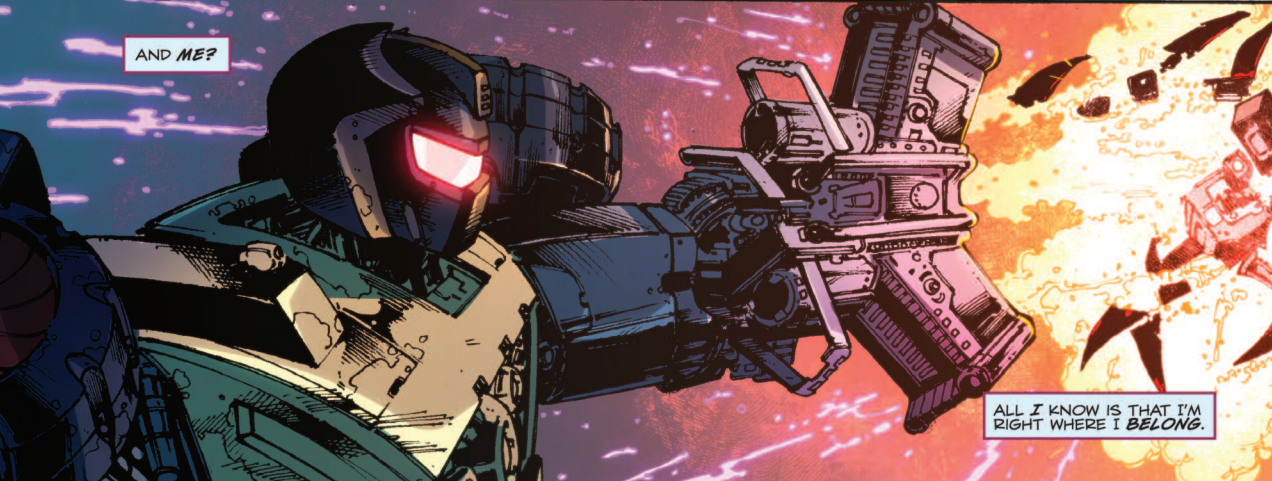
...AND THESE DECEPTICONS WON'T BE FORGETTING THE LESSONS SLUG GIVES THEM THIS NIGHT.



IF THEY THINK THEY CAN GET THROUGH OUR PERIMETER AND HIT AUTOBOT CITY...



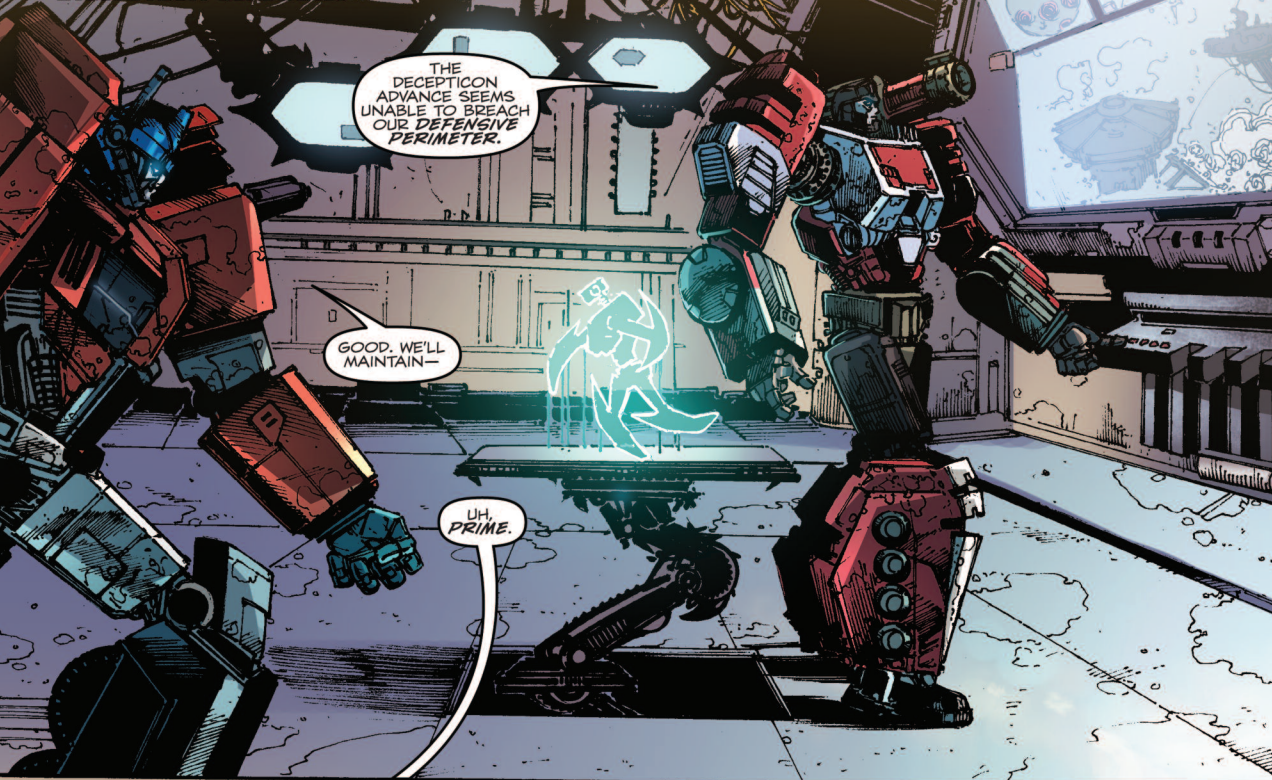
...SLUDGE WILL BE THERE TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS, THE ONLY WAY HE KNOWS HOW.



AND ME?

ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'M RIGHT WHERE I BELONG.

IACON. HIGH COMMAND.



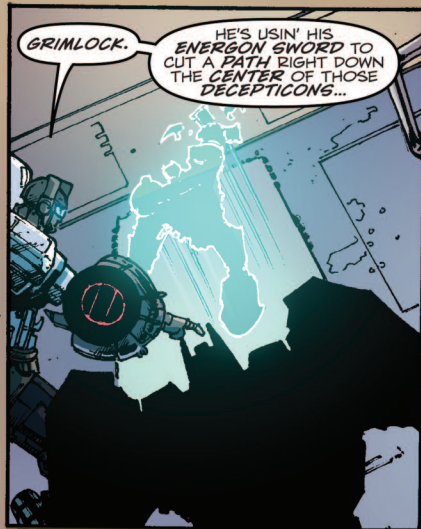
THE DECEPTION ADVANCE SEEMS UNABLE TO BREACH OUR DEFENSIVE PERIMETER.

GOOD, WE'LL MAINTAIN—

UH, PRIME.

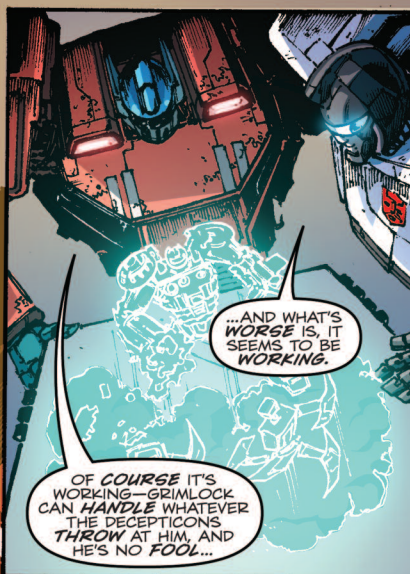


WHAT IS IT, JAZZ?



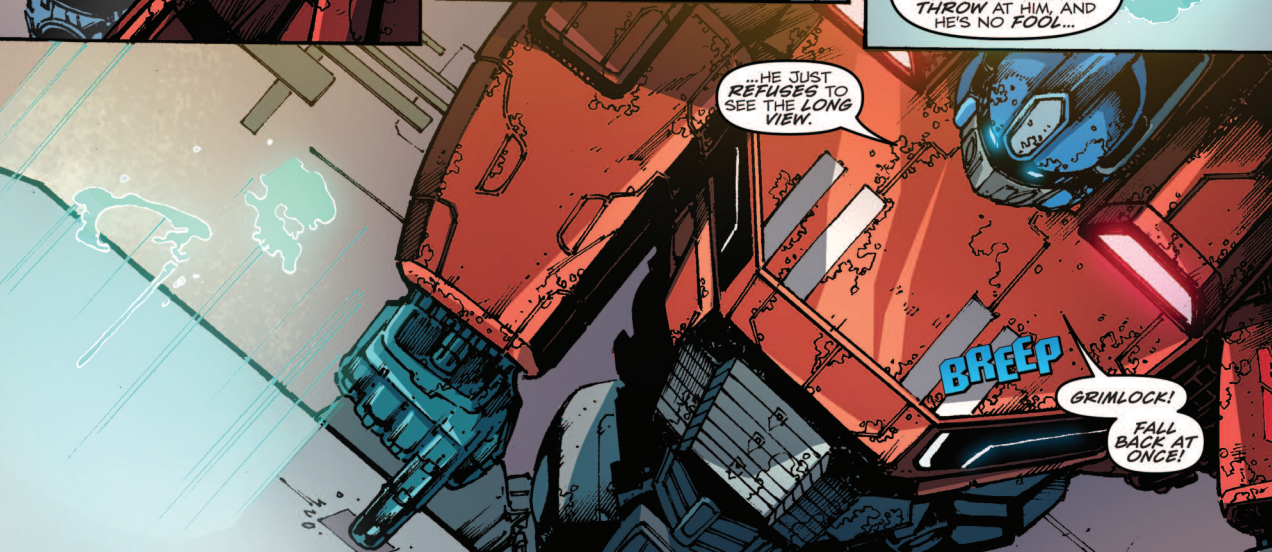
GRIMLOCK.

HE'S USIN' HIS ENERGERON SWORD TO CUT A PATH RIGHT DOWN THE CENTER OF THOSE DECEPTICONS...



...AND WHAT'S WORSE IS, IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING.

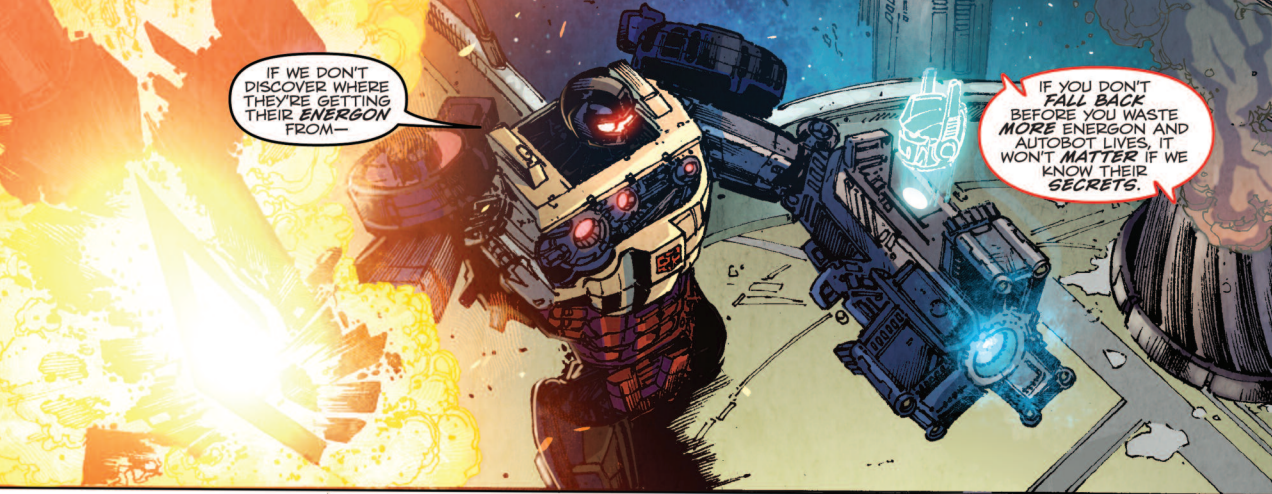
OF COURSE IT'S WORKING—GRIMLOCK CAN HANDLE WHATEVER THE DECEPTICONS THROW AT HIM, AND HE'S NO FOOL...



...HE JUST REFUSES TO SEE THE LONG VIEW.

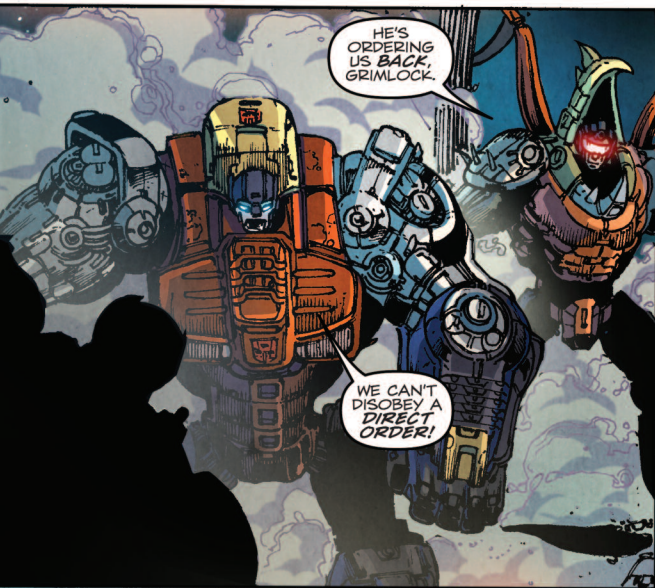
BREEP

GRIMLOCK!
FALL BACK AT ONCE!



IF WE DON'T DISCOVER WHERE THEY'RE GETTING THEIR **ENERGON** FROM—

IF YOU DON'T **FALL BACK** BEFORE YOU WASTE **MORE ENERGIN** AND **AUTOBOT LIVES**, IT WON'T **MATTER** IF WE KNOW THEIR **SECRETS**.



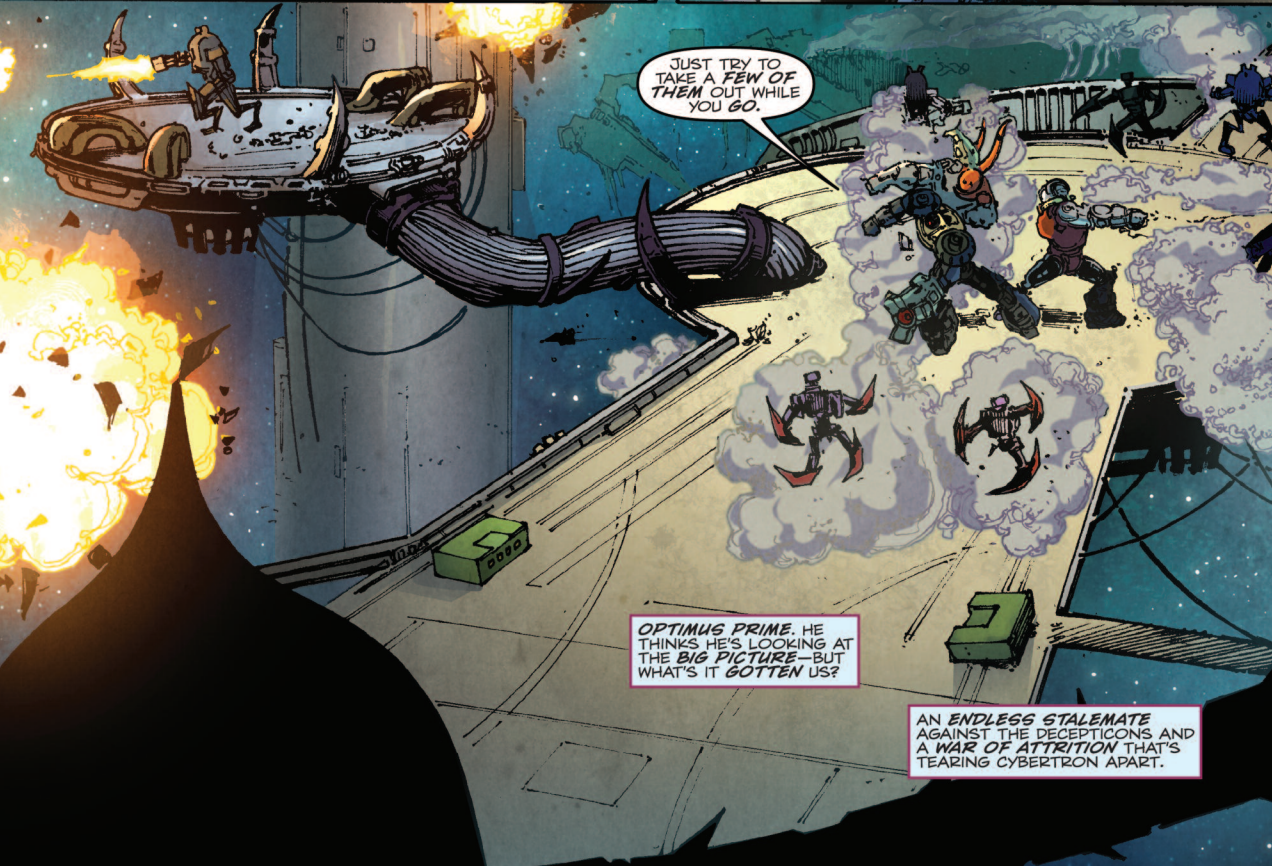
HE'S ORDERING US **BACK**, GRIMLOCK.

WE CAN'T DISOBEY A **DIRECT ORDER!**



GYAH!

FALL BACK TO **IACON**.



JUST TRY TO TAKE A FEW OF THEM OUT WHILE YOU GO.

OPTIMUS PRIME. HE THINKS HE'S LOOKING AT THE **BIG PICTURE**—BUT WHAT'S IT **GOTTEN** US?

AN **ENDLESS STALEMATE** AGAINST THE **DECEPTICONS** AND A **WAR OF ATTRITION** THAT'S TEARING **CYBERTRON** APART.