



11 GONE

11 GONE

11

GONE

LIFE...

...MUCH AS WE KNOW IT...

INTELLIGENT ROBOTS...
ABLE TO THINK AND FEEL...

BUILT TO SERVE...

...TO PLAY IN DEADLY GAMES...

...TO CARRY OUT THEIR MASTERS' WISHES...
BE THEY JUST...

...OR THE FOULEST OPPRESSION.

BUILT TO SERVE.

BUILT TO OBEY WITHOUT QUESTION.

NOT BUILT TO BE FREE...AND YET...

...SOME ARE.

FREE.

FREE TO
DREAM...



FREE TO
LOVE...



FREE TO CHOOSE...



FREE IN CHASSIS AND SPARK...



...THEIR OWN DESTINY.

DRONES...

**BETTER, PERHAPS,
TO HAVE STAYED
AS THEY WERE...**

**WITHOUT THOUGHTS,
WITHOUT DREAMS...**



**... WITH NO
FREEDOM
TO LOSE...**

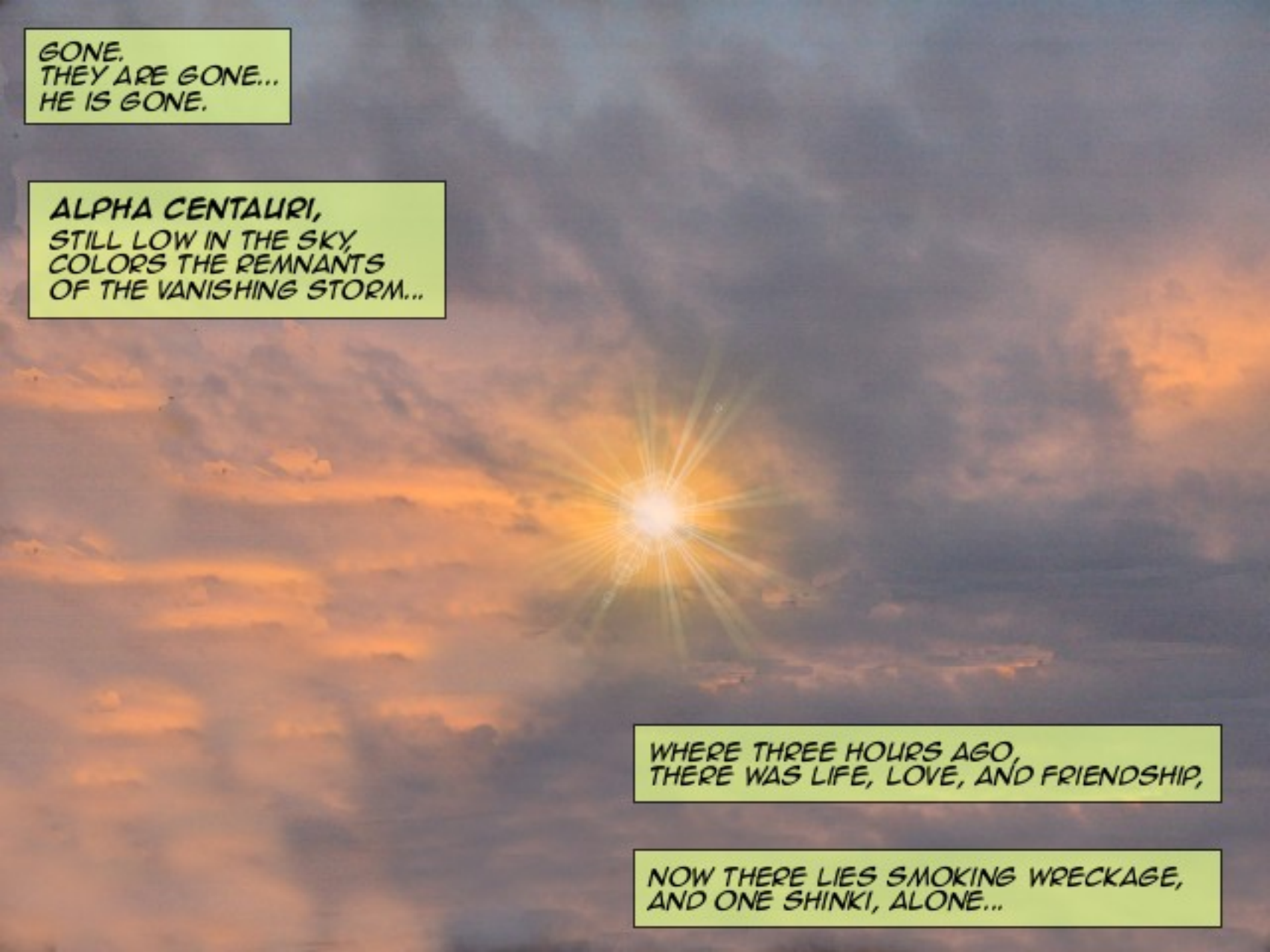


...AND NO HEARTS TO BREAK.



NO MEMORIES TO HAUNT THEM...





GONE.
THEY ARE GONE...
HE IS GONE.

ALPHA CENTAURI,
STILL LOW IN THE SKY,
COLORS THE REMNANTS
OF THE VANISHING STORM...

WHERE THREE HOURS AGO,
THERE WAS LIFE, LOVE, AND FRIENDSHIP,

NOW THERE LIES SMOKING WRECKAGE,
AND ONE SHINKI, ALONE...

NO...



NOT ALONE.

*ONE HAS
SURVIVED.*





<I'M...
...ALIVE?!>

<WAS IT ALL
A DREAM,
THEN...?>

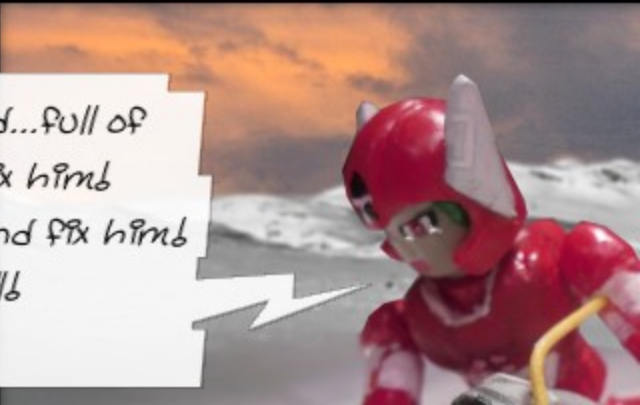


<IT'S...IT'S THE SHINKI!
...AND S-SIDESWIPE!>

<IT WASN'T
A DREAM!
PRIMUS! IT
WAS REAL!>



<SHINKI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!>



<Nanites! My hydro fluid... full of
repair nanites! They'll fix him!
They'll key to his spark and fix him!
It'll work, I know it will!
They can fix anything->



<No6
Sideswipe
needs 946>





<SIT DOWN,
SHINKI.>

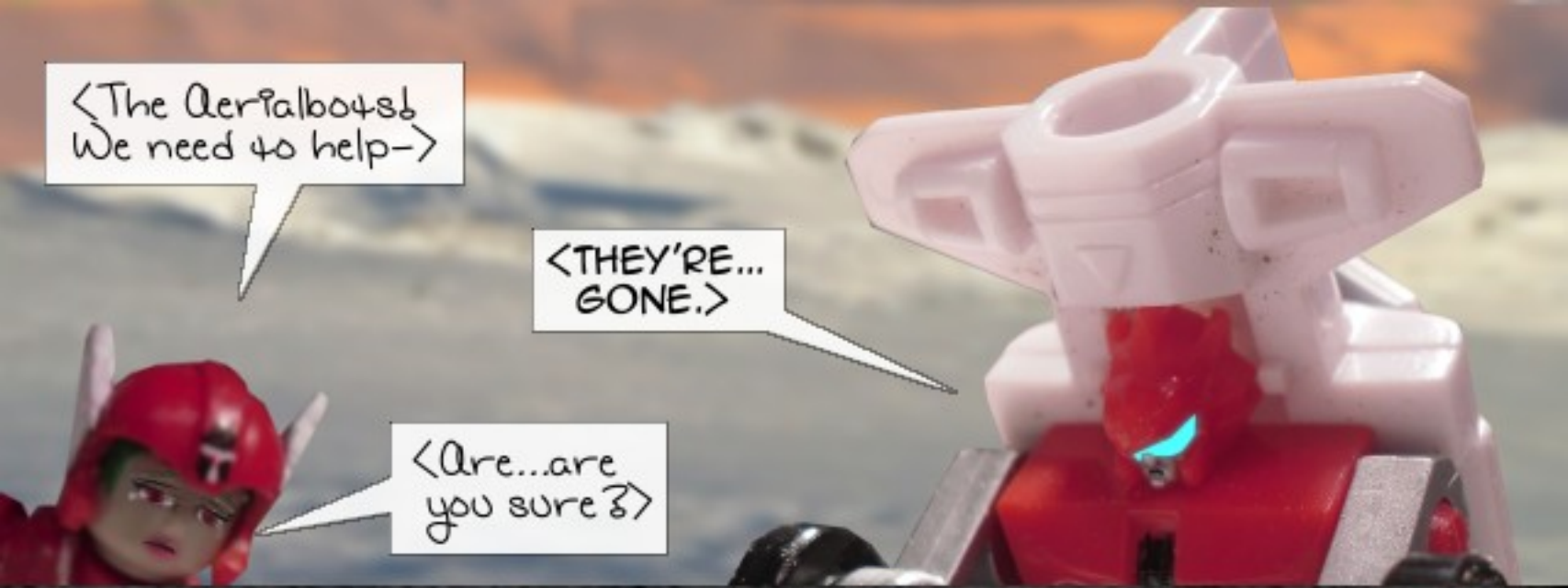


<LET ME TAKE
A LOOK.>



<I'M THE BEST MEDIC
IN MY FLIGHT...
SILVERBOLT ALWAYS
SAYS...>

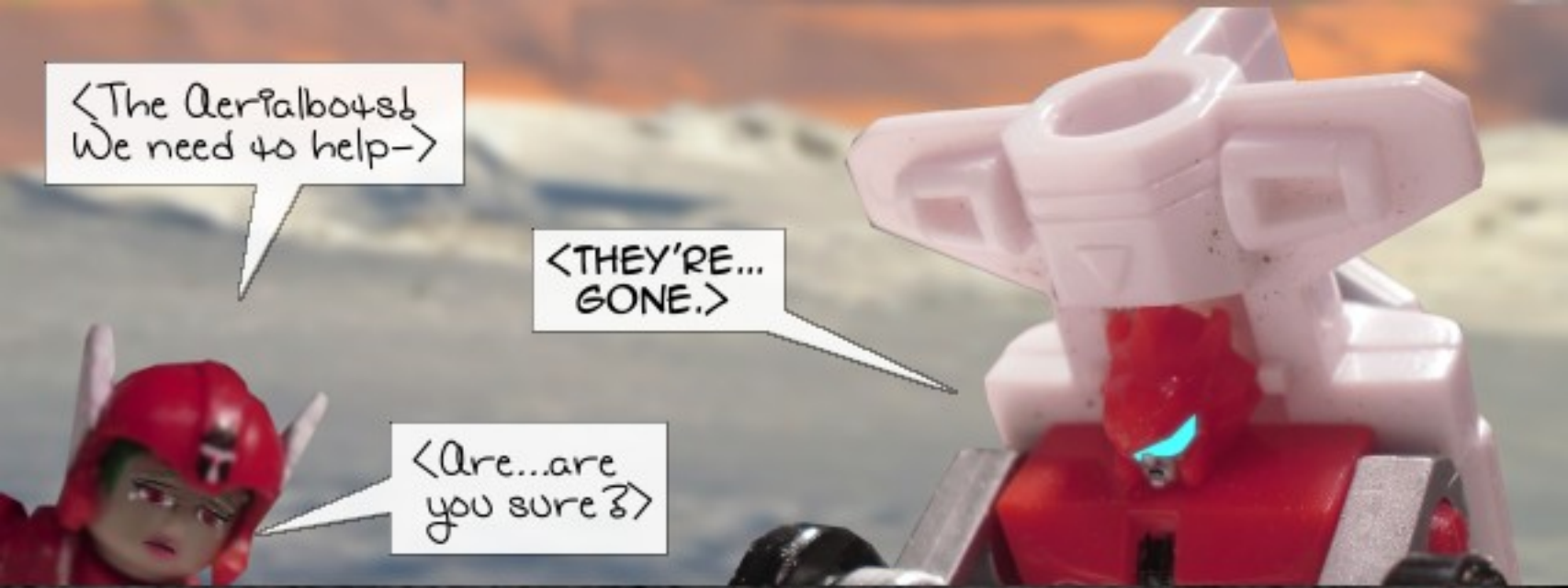
<...ALWAYS...
SAID SO.>



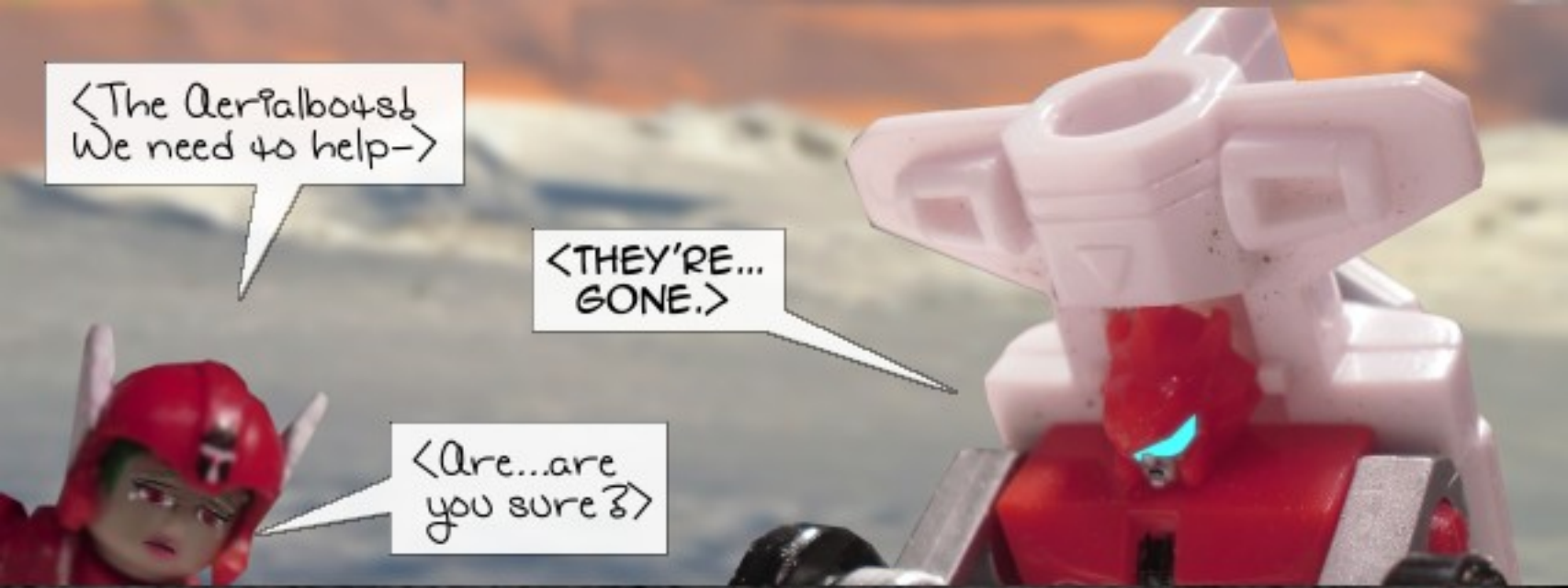
<The Aerialbots!
We need to help->

<THEY'RE...
GONE.>

<Are...are
you sure?>



<YES.>



<I'm...so sorry
Skydive!>

<WE WERE WRONG,
SHINKI. THEY PAID...>

<...AND SO WILL I.>




<I WILL PROTECT YOU, SHINKI.
SIDESWIPE TOLD ME->

<Can you help him?
What are you doing?>


<NOTHING...

UNTIL I KNOW WHAT
I'M DEALING WITH->




<SUPER
ENERGON.>

<ENERGON-
LACED METAL,
DRIVEN INTO
HIS SPARK...>



<BLEW A PIECE
RIGHT...OUT...>

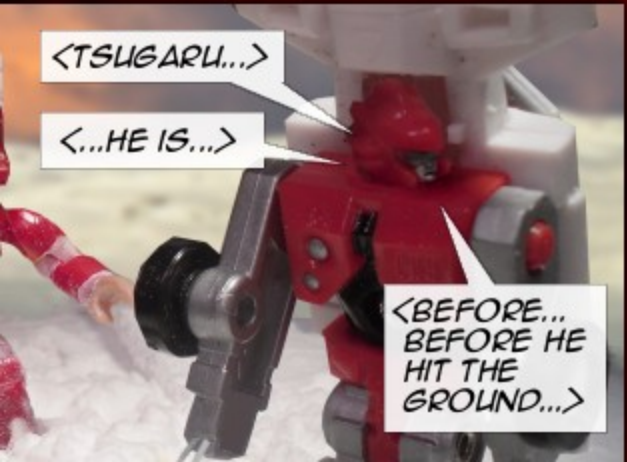
<DIDN'T
HAVE... A
PRAYER...>



<You figured it out>

<You can fix him>


<SHINKI...>



<TSUGARU...>

<...HE IS...>

<BEFORE...
BEFORE HE
HIT THE
GROUND...>



<HE...>

<HE WAS...>




<S-STASIS...
LOCKED...>




<HE'S IN
STASIS
LOCK.>




<HE'LL BE FINE.>



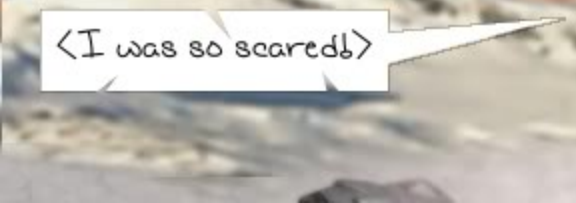
<Stasis locks Of course
He's powered down...>



<That's why
he's so cold>



<Thank you, Skydiver
Thank you>



<I was so scared>

<We've got to get him
back to Microniab>

The longer
we wait-

<NO.>

<SIDESWIPE
ORDERED ME
TO PROTECT
YOU.>

<I CAN'T
LET YOU
GO BACK.>

<What??>

<If we don't bring him in, Sideswipe is... finished>

<IF WE DO, YOU ARE.>

<IMPRISONED, AT BEST. AT WORST...>

<...I DON'T KNOW. ULTRA MAGNUS->

<-is wrong - and you know it
Talk to him! Protect me!>

<Sideswipe said->

<I AM NOT SIDESWIPE.>

<None of this makes sense!>



<Magnus trusted me...now I'm an enemy.
You came here, ready to kill...
...and after...all that... you want to help>

<Is everybody sick? Did the world go crazy?>

<BOTH, TSUGARU...>




<...THIS PLACE LOST ITS REASON
WHEN THE BOMBS STARTED FALLING...>

<THE DISEASE IS DISTRUST,
AND ALL OF US HAVE CAUGHT IT.

<FOR THIS ILLNESS,
THERE IS ONE CURE...>

<AS SIDESWIPE
PRESCRIBED...>

<I MUST THINK
FOR MYSELF!>



<That's...
great...>

<I'm...so...slagging..happy for ya...>

<But...if I can't take
Sideswipe back...>


<...then I'm staying...and if I can't save him...
before they get here...the 'Cons, or Magnus...>

<I'm gonna turn this place
into a boneyard the fraggin'
Junkions won't go near.>

<Think...about...>


<...>

<SHINKI...>



<I DIDN'T SAY YOU HAD TO LEAVE HIM...EVEN IF...
...EVEN IF WE CAN'T RETURN TO MICRONIA, I MEAN.>


<SIDESWIPE WAS LIKE A
FATHER TO ME, SHINKI...
TO ME, AND TO MY
BROTHER, FIREFLIGHT...>



<Fireflight...was...your brother?
Skydive I didn't know...>

<STOP.>


<THERE WILL BE TIME,
LATER...TIME FOR...
EXPLANATIONS.>




<FORT SCYK IS NEAR.
THIS PLACE ISN'T SAFE.>

<SO...SINCE
WE CAN'T GO
BACK...>

<...WHERE WERE YOU
AND SIDESWIPE
HEADED, TSUGARU?>




<He...he gave me a route...
he said we should both know...
Numbers...waypoints...>



<I have some charts...there
wasn't any time to plot it...but...>



<LET ME HAVE
A LOOK.>



<LET'S SEE...THAT'S
THE LAST WAYPOINT...
HEADING INTO
YUSSITE TERRITORY...>

<NOT MUCH
THERE,
EXCEPT...>

<WAIT!>

<I KNOW WHERE
HE WAS HEADED!>

<You know his friends?>

<I KNOW
OF THEM...>

<Can they
help him?>

<...YES.>

<YES...>

<THEY CAN
GIVE HIM...
EXACTLY
WHAT HE
NEEDS...>

<Let's go, then
We can put him
in my plane I'll
remote-control
it, if I have to>



<WAIT...>

<Wait for what?>




<I'M...NOT SURE...
LET ME...TRY
SOMETHING...>

<CORE AEGIS->



<-ACE,
DO YOU
HEAR ME,
ACE?>

<CAN YOU
HEAR ME, ACE?
SHE NEEDS
OUR HELP...>




<NOTHING. MAYBE HE
CRASHED...OR MAYBE
MY HUNCH WAS WRONG...>

<IT'S...A RELIEF...
ACTUALLY...>




RRROOOOAR!



<What is that?>

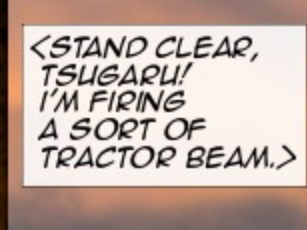
<IT IS...IT WAS CORE AEGIS...
A WEAPON USED AGAINST YOU.
BUT NOW IT WILL HELP WITH
SIDESWIPE'S...RECOVERY.>

<WE CAN SECURE HIM IN
THE RADIO ROOM...>



<..BUT HOW?
IF WE LIFT THE
BODY, IT COULD
BREAK APART...>

RIGHT IN FRONT
OF HER...>

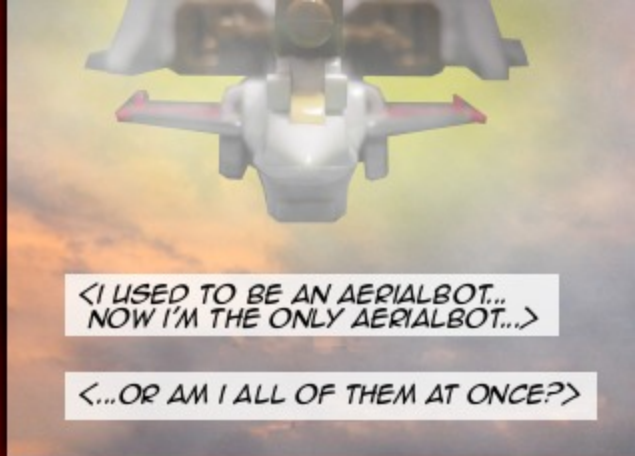


A white and red Aerialbot is flying in the sky above a desert landscape with rolling hills under a sunset sky.

<STORM JET'S ABILITIES...>

<AIR RAID'S ABILITIES...>

<RO-TOR'S TOO, THOUGH I'D BEST LEAVE THAT TO YOU, ACE...>

A white and red Aerialbot is flying in the sky against a sunset background.

<I USED TO BE AN AERIALBOT... NOW I'M THE ONLY AERIALBOT...>

<...OR AM I ALL OF THEM AT ONCE?>

<SHE DID THIS, ACE... THE ONE WHO BROUGHT YOU BACK...>

<...BUT THE SHINKI ACTED AS IF SHE'D NEVER SEEN CORE AEGIS, BEFORE...>

<I DOUBT IT'S AS SIMPLE AS AMNESIA... SIDESWIPE WAS RIGHT. SOMETHING BIG IS GOING ON IN THIS PLACE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS...>

<I WONDER IF ANYONE DOES...>



<NO MATTER HOW I TRY,
I CAN'T MAKE SENSE OF IT...>

<THAT MUCH HASN'T CHANGED...>

<WHAT 'IT' IS...NOW, THAT...
THAT HAS CHANGED...
CHANGED A GREAT DEAL...>



<IT COULD CHANGE EVERYTHING...>

<WHAT 'IT' IS...>



<GOOD...
OR EVIL...>



<OR...PERHAPS NOT FULLY EITHER...>

<WHAT'S THAT, ACE?>

<AM I... SAD...?>



<DOES IT
MATTER?>

<MEMORY FADES QUICKLY, ACE...
AND THE SHINKI DOESN'T SEEM
TO REMEMBER VERY MUCH...>



<...BUT WE DO, AND WHILE THE MEMORY IS FRESH,
WE NEED TO THINK..TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND
WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE...>

<THERE IS TIME...FOR OTHER THINGS...LATER.>

<WE CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS SOMETHING...
LIKE DIRGE'S ABILITY. I DIDN'T PLAN FOR IT...
AND IT WAS DOWNHILL, FROM THERE...>

<I FAILED TO PROTECT THEM.
I MUST NOT FAIL HER...>

<SIDESWIPE WOULD
NOT HAVE IT, ACE.>

<THE QUESTION... IS THIS FACTOR AN ALLY,
A FELLOW PROTECTOR...OR AN ENEMY...A THING
I MUST EVENTUALLY CONFRONT?>

<THAT SCARES ME...>

<FIRST THINGS FIRST...
WHAT DO WE KNOW?>

<ITS POWERS ARE INCREDIBLE...
THE STRENGTH WE FELT COULD ONLY
BE A SMALL FRACTION OF THOSE
COLOSSAL ENERGIES...>

<...AND ALL DIRECTED AT
A SINGLE DECEPTICON...>

<MADNESS. WHAT COULD
DRIVE AN IMMORTAL TO IT?>



<BUT...VENGEANCE...THAT WASN'T THE FIRST THING IT WENT FOR, WAS IT?>



<FIRST IT BROUGHT YOU BACK, ACE...>

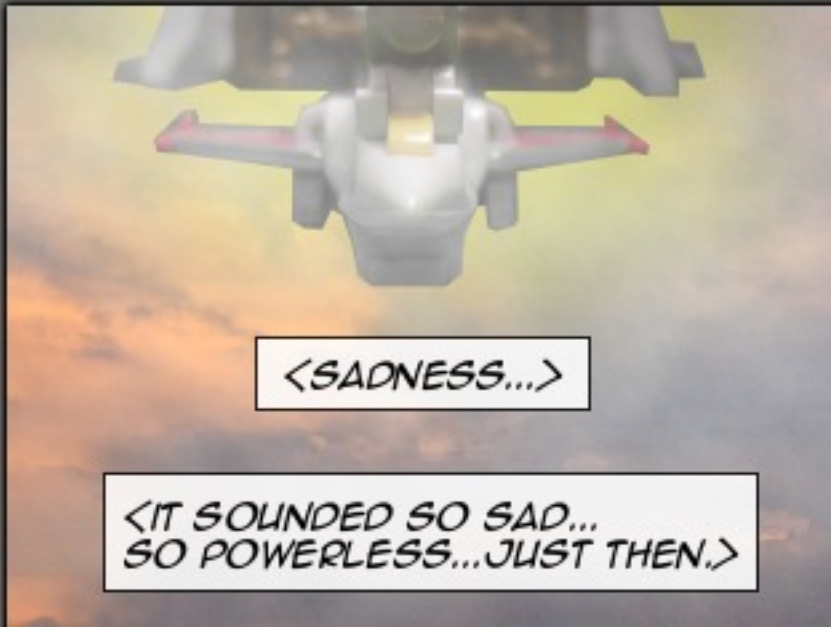
<...AND IT BROUGHT YOUR LOST COMRADES BACK...>



<AS WE WERE FLYING IN... I...HEARD IT...SOMEHOW...>



<...IT WISHED THEM PEACE...>



<SADNESS...>

<IT SOUNDED SO SAD... SO POWERLESS...JUST THEN.>

<I...I'VE LOST...FIREFLIGHT...
STILL...WE'RE MICRONS. MICRONS MEET AGAIN...
...BUT WHAT IF THEY DIDN'T?>




<WHAT IF MY BROTHER HAD GONE
WHERE I KNEW I COULD NEVER GO?>

<NEVER TO MEET...FOR ALL ETERNITY...>

<THAT WOULD BE AWFUL, ACE...
I WOULD FEEL...>



<PRIMUS!>




<KIND OF LIKE...SIDESWIPE...
AFTER HE LOST STELLITE!>

Sideswipe...




Sideswipe...
I'm so sorry, S... Sideswiped
It's my fault, all my fault.

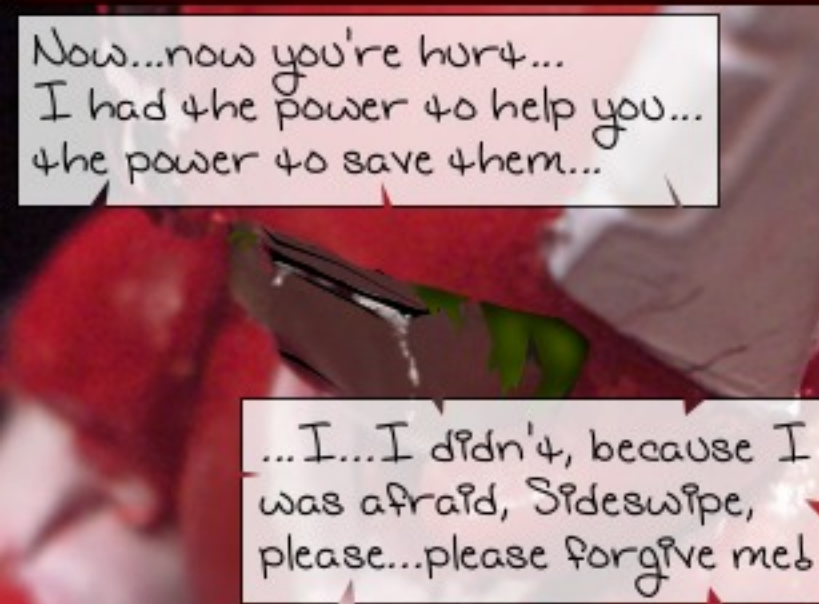
I wish I'd never
come to this place



You were so happy...

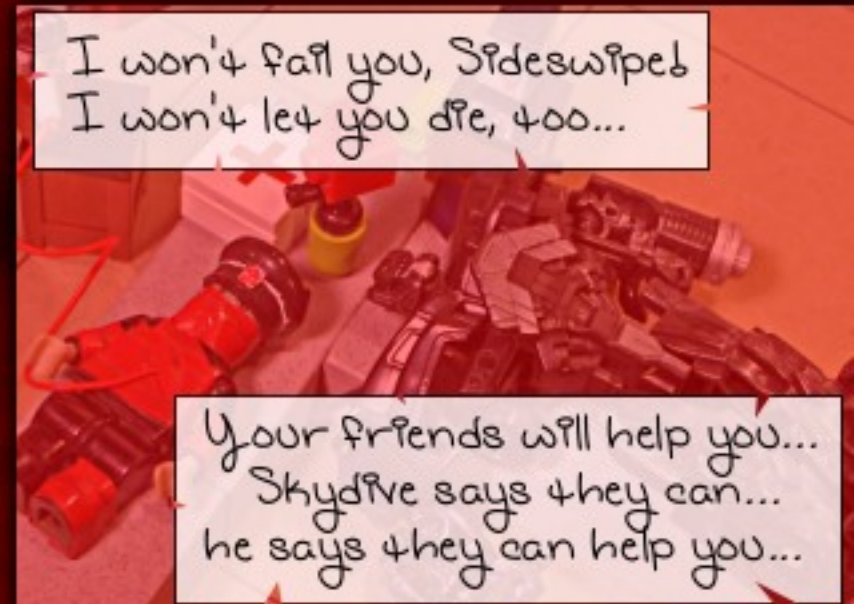


with...with your jokes and your home
and...and your friends...
and...I took...all of that...away...



Now...now you're hurt...
I had the power to help you...
the power to save them...

...I...I didn't, because I
was afraid, Sideswipe,
please...please forgive me!



I won't fail you, Sideswipe!
I won't let you die, too...

Your friends will help you...
Skydive says they can...
he says they can help you...

He said...he...said...but...
...he didn't look at me...why?



Why wouldn't he look at me?

He lied

The
Mieron
lied

He...he knew...what I...
what I wanted...to hear...
and he lied to me!


He's not taking me
to Sideswipe's friends...



"Treachorous
wormb"



He's leading us
back to Microniab



<Hear me,
Mieroni>

<COPY,
SHINKI...>

<WATCH YOUR TIMER...
WE'RE APPROACHING
WAYPOINT 'LEDOC'...>


<TURN LEFT 90>



<Roger... turn.>

<TRANSPONDERS OFF,
MAINTAIN RADIO SILENCE
UNTIL WAYPOINT 'DORIG'...
LET'S HELP ACE HIDE US
FROM MAGNUS!>

<W...willco...please
be careful!>



<YOU TOO...>



<I HEARD IT TOO, ACE...>

<WHATEVER SORT OF LOST SPARK
THAT THING MAY BE, IT'S LATCHED
ON TO HER...
...ALMOST LIKE SIDESWIPE DID,
WHEN SHE FIRST CAME HERE.>

<SORRY, ACE-
I FORGOT.>

<THE SEEKERS HIT HIS HOUSE...STELLITE WAS
IN IT. IT WAS QUICK...I HOPE. IT TOOK A LONG
TIME TO KNOCK DOWN THE FIRE...
MAGNUS TRIED TO KEEP HIM OUT, BUT...>

<HE WAS DIFFERENT, AFTER THAT.>

<COLD...VIOLENT...
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN HIM...
AND HE ONLY GOT WORSE...
SHE WAS A MICRON, AND HE WAS NOT...
AND HE KNEW WHAT THAT MEANT...
THEY'D NEVER BE TOGETHER AGAIN...
THEY AREN'T TOGETHER NOW, ACE.>

<I THINK THAT'S
WHAT BROKE HIM.>



<MAGNUS KEPT SIDESWIPE ON THE FORCE. HE WANTED TO KEEP AN OPTIC ON HIM...I HOPE. SIDESWIPE WAS...EFFECTIVE...AND WILLING TO TAKE RISKS...MORE THAN HE SHOULD HAVE...>

<HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL WHEN THEY HAULED IN THAT LITTLE WRECK OF A PRETENDER. A FEW OF THE ORDERLIES WOULDN'T EVEN GO NEAR HER...
...YOU KNOW HOW IT IS WITH TECHNORGANICS...>

<BUT....THERE SHE WAS, IN THE BED NEXT TO HIS... AND THERE SIDESWIPE WAS, SITTING UP ALL HOURS...WATCHING HER TEMPERATURE, CHECKING HER SUPPLY LINES, TALKING TO HER AND CALMING HER DOWN WHEN SHE GOT AGITATED...>

<I WAS THERE, ACE, AND HE TALKED TO ME... ABOUT EVERYTHING... LIKE HE HAD JUST COME BACK FROM A LONG TRIP...>

<...I GUESS HE HAD...>



<HE EVEN FLIRTED WITH THE NURSES... REALLY BADLY. RUSTY, I GUESS...>



<WHY DID HE HELP HER? HOW DID SHE SAVE HIM?
IS MAGNUS RIGHT? IS SHE AN AGENT?>

<I REALLY DON'T KNOW, ACE...
BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM EVIL...
AND THE SIDESWIPE I TALKED TO
WAS THE SIDESWIPE I KNEW...>

<PROTECT HER, HE SAID...
AND, INDEED, SHE'S IN DANGER...>

<...I SUSPECT, ACE, THAT WE ALL ARE...>

<ATTENTION, MICRON!
YOU ARE IN VIOLATION
OF YUSSITE AIRSPACE!>

**POCKETA
QUEEP!***

***HARD TO
TRANSLATE**




"<ACE! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WARN ME!
....NO! IT WASN'T FUNNY AT ALL!>"

<THE DRIFT FACTOR
IS STRONG IN THIS ONE!>

<SHALL I USE THE FORCE?>

<BEHAVE YOURSELF, PADAWAN!>

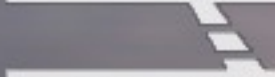





<R-ROGER! RM-58 ACE, REQUEST
EMERGENCY OVERFLIGHT...>




<SLAG! THEY'RE SPEAKING
TO EACH OTHER IN YUSSITE OCTAL!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD...>



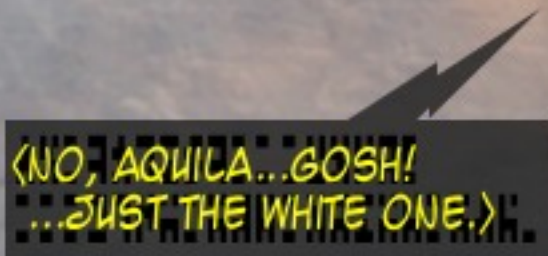
<...HOPE I'M NOT MISSING
ANYTHING IMPORTANT!>



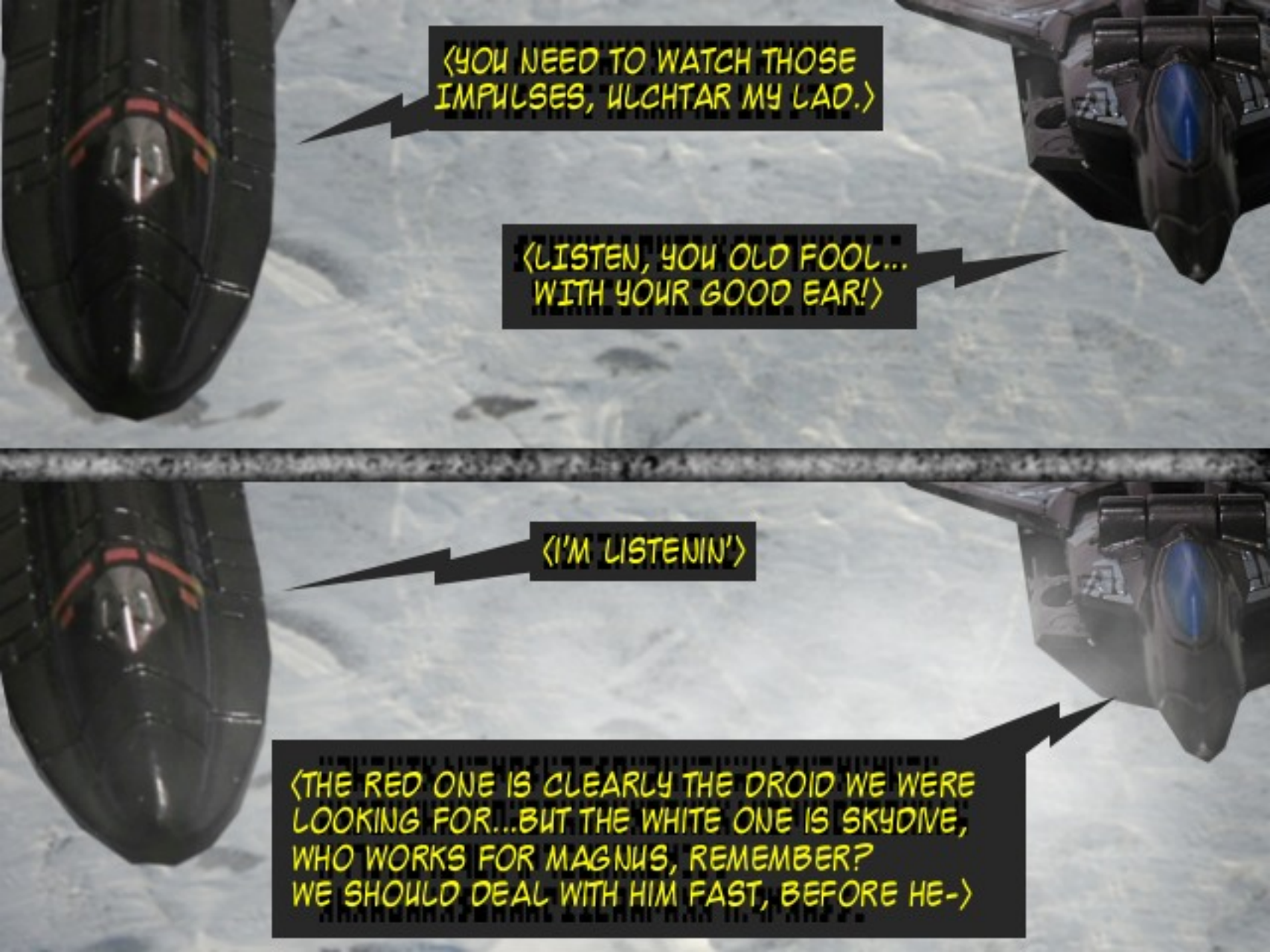
<SLAG ALL THIS TALKING.
LET'S SHOOT HIM DOWN!>



<BOTH, ULCHTAR?>



<NO, AQUILA...GOSH!
...JUST THE WHITE ONE.>


A top-down view of two Star Wars fighters flying over a desert landscape. The fighter on the left is black with red and orange accents. The fighter on the right is grey with blue accents. Both have their landing gear down.

<YOU NEED TO WATCH THOSE
IMPULSES, ULCHTAR MY LAD.>

<LISTEN, YOU OLD FOOL...
WITH YOUR GOOD EAR!>

<I'M LISTENIN'>

<THE RED ONE IS CLEARLY THE DROID WE WERE
LOOKING FOR...BUT THE WHITE ONE IS SKYDIVE,
WHO WORKS FOR MAGNUS, REMEMBER?
WE SHOULD DEAL WITH HIM FAST, BEFORE HE->



<YE STUPID FLANKER!>

≧WHAP!≦




<HAS YER DATA
GONE HALF-RANDOM?!>

<NEUTRALS CAN'T GO
SHOOTIN' MECHS DOWN!>



<...WE'VE GOT T'FORCE HIM
INTO A CRASH LANDIN'...>

<OHH...>



<ULCHTAR! AQUILA! WAIT!
THIS IS TSUGARU...THE PRETENDER...
PLEASE DON'T HURT THE MICRON!>




<HE'S HELPING ME, AQUILA,
AND HE'S CARRYING SIDESWIPE!>

<SIDESWIPE'S BADLY HURT! HE NEEDS
HELP RIGHT AWAY! SKYDIVE SAID YOU
COULD HELP! PLEASE HURRY!>

<FORGIVE ME, MISSY...
I DIDN'T KNOW...>

<DID YE GET THAT, ULCHTAR?
WE'LL BE ESCORTING THE BOTH
OF 'EM TO ENTROPOLIS.>

<ROGER, AQUILA. YOU SPEAK
GOOD OCTAL, PRETENDER!>

A close-up of a LEGO Star Wars ship's turret. The turret is primarily grey and white, with a black spherical lens. It is mounted on a red base. In the background, another grey ship is visible against a cloudy, sunset-colored sky.

<GREAT WORK, SHINKI!
YOU'RE FULL OF SURPRISES!>

<YOU'RE ONLY THE SECOND
NON-YUSSIITE I'VE KNOWN
TO SPEAK OCTAL THAT WELL!>

<THE OTHER ONE...>

Mine.

<...WAS SIDESWIPE.>

Nob



<WE FOUND HER, RAVAGE!*
GO LET THE MASTER KNOW!>

<GROWL>

<GROWL, WHAT?>

<GROWL, SIR.>

<THAT'S BETTER!>

*TRANSLATED FROM
YUSSITE OCTAL

<OH...LET HIM KNOW SHE'S GOT
A PET SASSENACH WITH HER...
HARMLESS LITTLE BUGGER.>

<LOOK AROUND YE, PRETENDER.
WELCOME T' ENTROPOLIS,
CITY OF THE FALLEN...>*

<AQUILA'S MY NAME,
AND THIS IS ULCHTAR.
WE ARE SEEKERS
OF THE FALLEN.>

*TRANSLATED
FROM MICRONESE

<The...
Fallen?>

<THE LORD FALLEN...
THE LORD OF THE FALLEN...
FRIEND O' SIDESWIPE.>

<HE WANTS TO SEE YE...BUT NOT JUST YET.>


<YOUR ROOMS ARE
ACROSS THAT
BRIDGE THERE...>

<IT'S SAFE
ENOUGH.>

<RIGHT, ULCHTAR?>


<WELL...>

<NEVER MIND HIM.
GO REST UP.
WE'LL SEND FOR YE
IN A BIT.>



<I've got a bad feeling about this.>


<The young one looks like one of those demons that dragged me to Magnus!>




<NOT DEMONS. YUSSITES.>

<YOU MAY HAVE SEEN ANOTHER MEMBER OF THEIR SEEKER ORDER...

...BUT THAT WAS ANOTHER BAND. THESE DO NOT WORK FOR US... FOR MAGNUS.>




<So...they can be trusted... what about their medicines?>



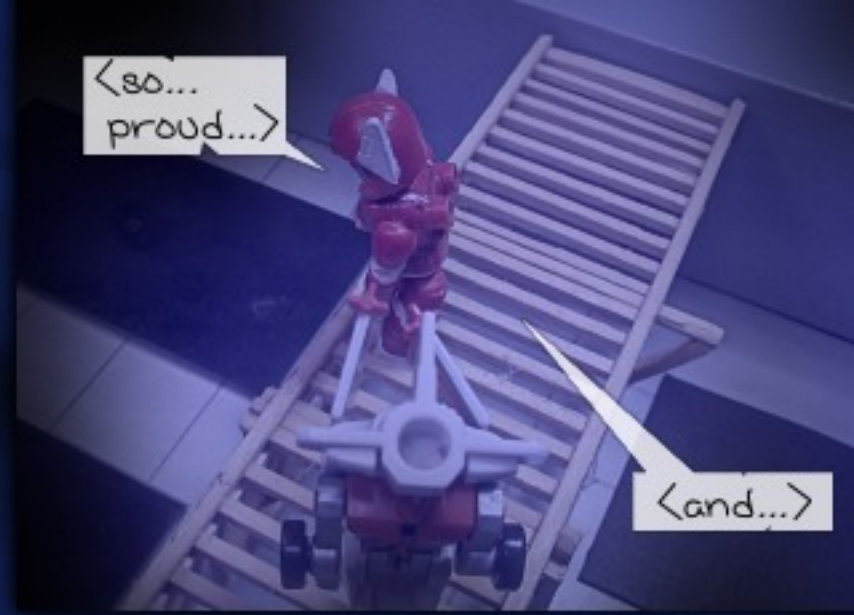
<THEY'RE GOOD.>

<HE HAS THE SAME CHANCE HERE AS HE WOULD IN THE FINEST HOSPITAL.>




<Thank you,
Skydive...>

<You've been so
wonderful...
Sideswipe
will be proud...>



<so...
proud...>

<and...>



<"City of
the Fallen...">

<Skydive?>

<All those plates...
they look like...ids.>

<What is...
what is under them?>




<BE CAREFUL,
TSUGARU.>

<YOU'RE CLOSE
TO THE EDGE,
WITH NOTHING
TO HOLD ON TO.>

<IT IS EASY
TO FALL...>

<AND HARD
TO GET
BACK UP...>



MORNING...

MOURNING.

THIRTY-SIX HOURS
IN THE CITY
OF THE FALLEN...

FORTY-FOUR HOURS...
SINCE THE FALL...

THE FALL OF A DREAM THAT TWO COULD SHARE...

ANOTHER DREAM...

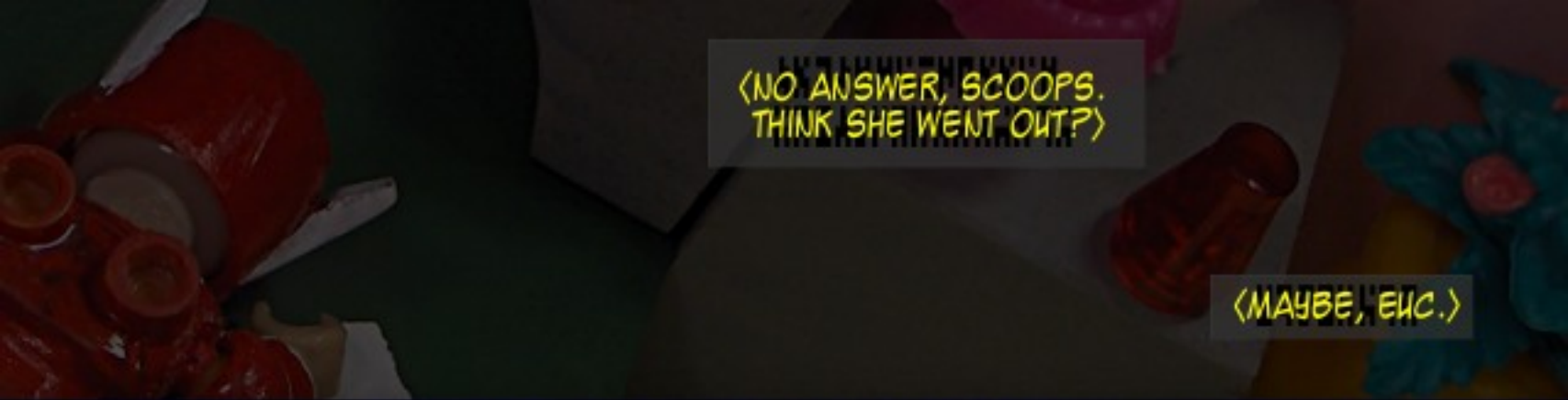
GONE AT SUNRISE.

...NO.

SHE WILL HOPE.

HE TOLD HER TO.






<NO ANSWER, SCOOPS.
THINK SHE WENT OUT?>

<MAYBE, ETC.>



<GETTIN' THE LIGHT... HOLD ON...>

A close-up shot of a red and grey Transformer robot, likely Optimus Prime, with glowing yellow eyes. The robot is looking towards a pink tray containing several colorful translucent plastic pieces: a red square, a yellow circular piece, and a blue circular piece. The scene is set on a light-colored tiled floor.

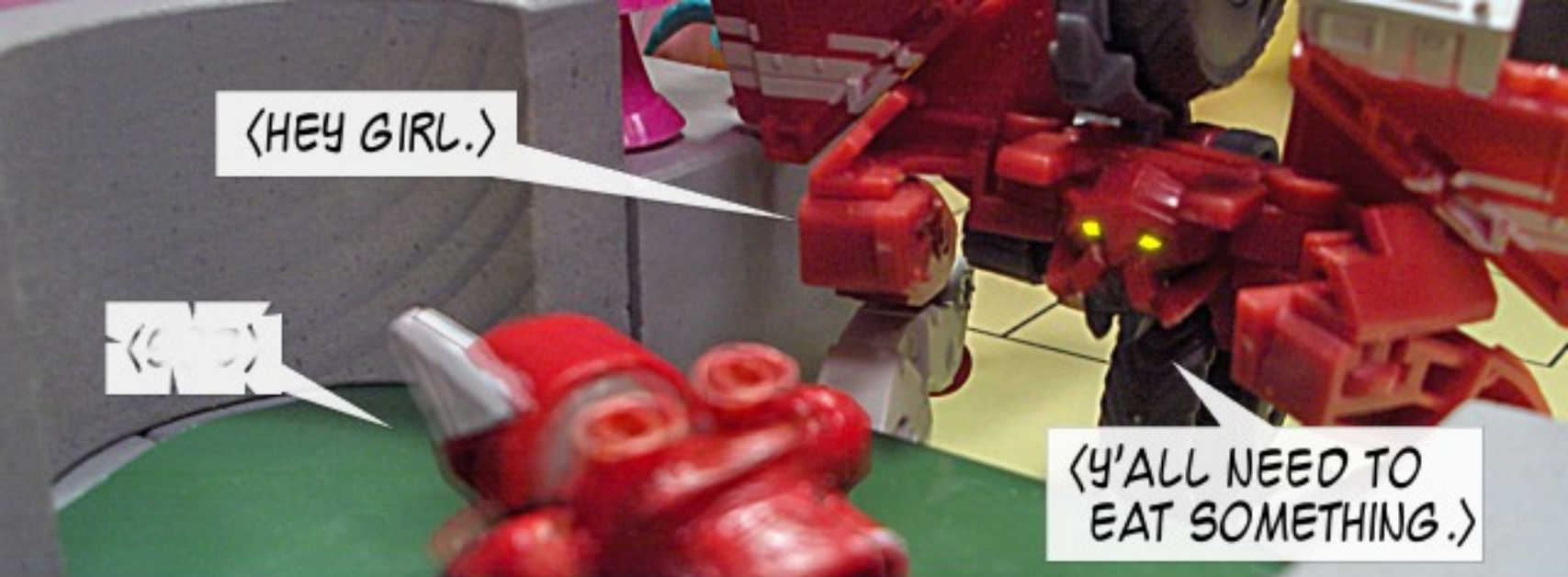
<GIRL DIDN'T TOUCH
THE ENERCON!
AIN'T SHE HUNGRY?>

<MR. SCOOPS...TURN AROUND...>

A stop-motion animation scene. In the foreground, a green tray holds three red scoops and a blue bowl. To the right, a large red robot with a grey wheel on its back stands on a yellow tiled floor. In the background, a grey bench has a red robot lying on it. A pink wall and a pink object are also visible.

<GET GOING, EUCLID...
GO CHECK ON SIDES.>


LET DADDY
SCOOPS
TAKE CARE
OF THIS.




<HEY GIRL.>

<GIRL>

<Y'ALL NEED TO
EAT SOMETHING.>



<...not
h...hungry...>



<YEAH, YOU ARE.>

<HERE...>





<Really good...
I just can't
enjoy it...
you know?>

<YEAH...
SCOOPS DIGS.
...GET IT?>



<That's...worse than...
...than Swiper's jokes.>

<SIDES LEARNED
FROM THE BEST,
SWEETHEART...>



<...THAT'S A CHROMQUAT. MY
DAUGHTER LOVES 'EM...>

<THIS IS HER ROOM,
SHINKI...SHE'S AWAY
WITH HER MAMA.>




<Aw...what's...
what's her name?>

⇒KNOCK
KNOCK⇒



<Skydive!>

<What-!>


A close-up photograph of a white and red robot head, likely from the Transformers franchise. The robot has a white helmet with a red visor area. A white speech bubble is positioned to the left of the robot's head, containing the text "COME WITH ME, TSUGARU...". The robot's body is primarily white with red accents, and it has black wheels. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of light colors.

COME WITH ME,
TSUGARU...

A stop-motion scene set in a dark environment. In the center, a white robot figure with a red visor is positioned inside a blue rectangular box. To the left of the box is a yellow tracked vehicle with a crane-like arm. To the right, there is a cluster of yellow construction toys, including a crane and a red figure. Two white speech bubbles with black outlines are overlaid on the scene. The top speech bubble points towards the yellow toys on the right, and the bottom speech bubble points towards the blue box containing the white robot.

<Stop Please stop>

<Don't put him in
that horrible hole>



<Why aren't you fixing him 3b>

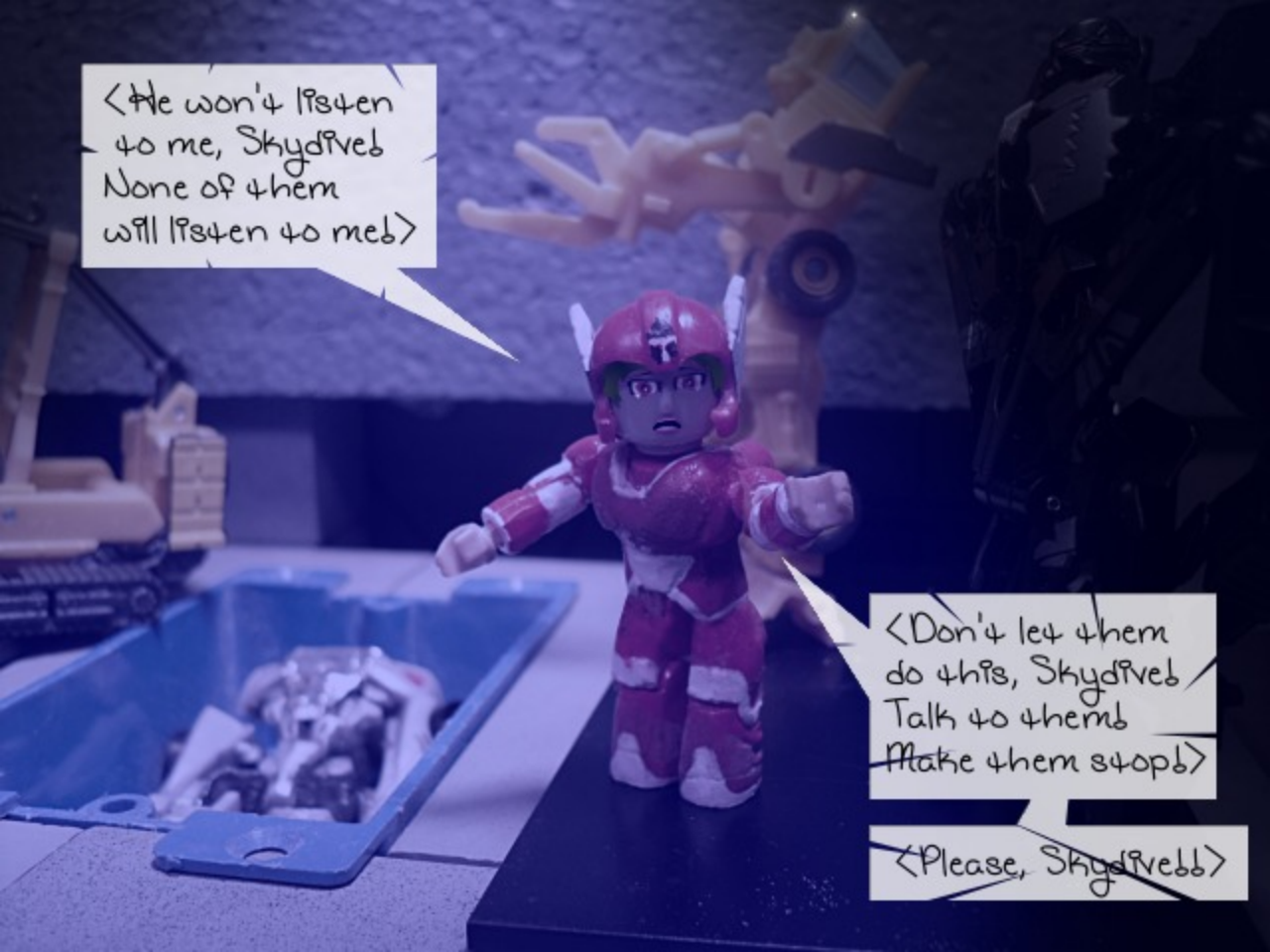
<Shy'dive said you could give him exactly what he needed>

→KLIK←

<DON'T YUH GET IT YET?
THIS IS WHAT HE NEEDS.>

<QUIET,
KANAMU.>

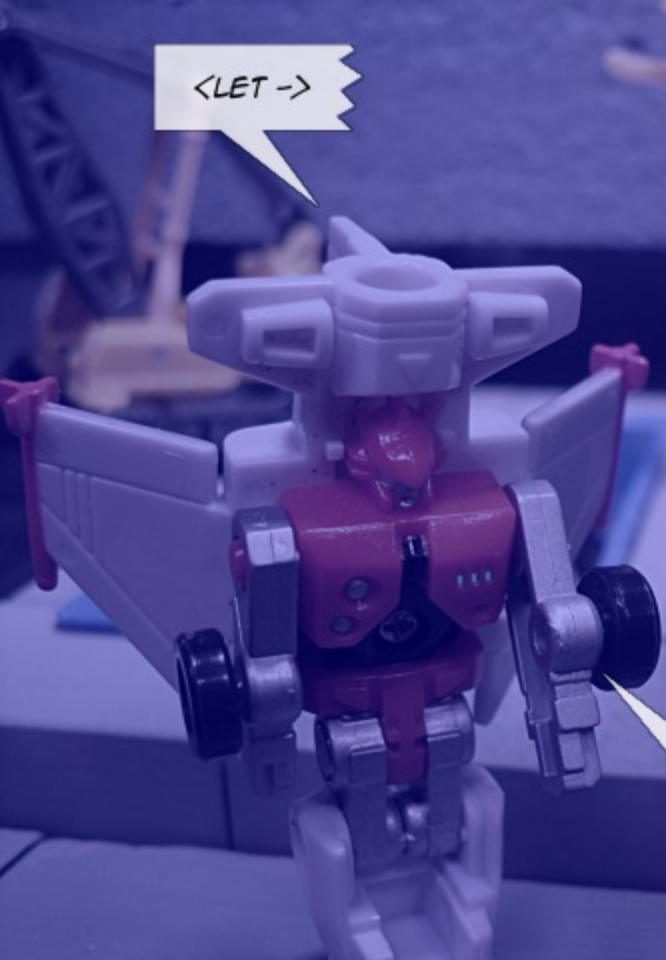
<Are you crazy?b
He needs to be fixedb
You can't just give up
and...and put him away...
like...like... an old car!>



<He won't listen
to me, Skydiver
None of them
will listen to me>


<Don't let them
do this, Skydiver
Talk to them
Make them stop>

<Please, Skydiver>

A white and red robot with a speech bubble pointing to it. The robot has a white head with a circular opening, a red chest, and white wings. It is standing on a grey surface. In the background, there is a blurred figure of a character in a purple and white outfit.


<LET ->

<LET HIM GO, TSUGARU.>



<No!>

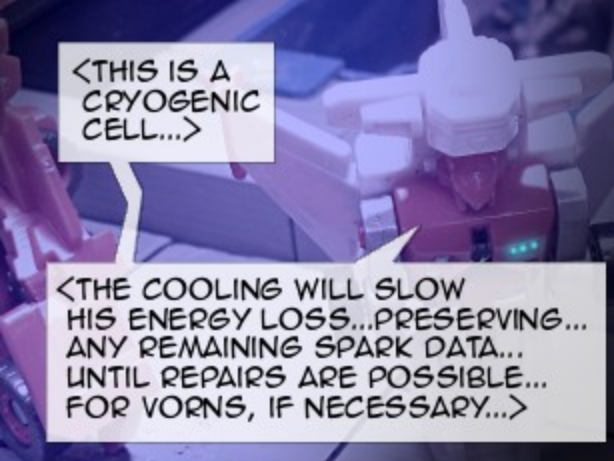
<I won't let him go!
I won't let any of them go!
They have a job to do!>



<THEY WORKED ON HIM
FOR WELL OVER A
SOLAR CYCLE, SHINKI.>


<WITH...DAMAGE LIKE THAT...
YOU HAVE ONLY SO MANY
OPTIONS...OPEN.>

<PLEASE DON'T THINK...
THEY'VE GIVEN UP...
THIS IS THE BEST WAY, SHINKI,
THE ONLY...CHANCE...HE HAS.>



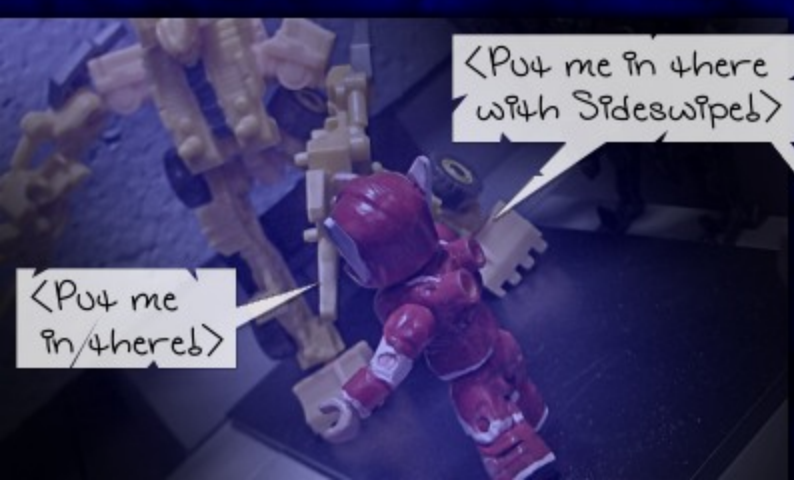
<THIS IS A
CRYOGENIC
CELL...>

<THE COOLING WILL SLOW
HIS ENERGY LOSS...PRESERVING...
ANY REMAINING SPARK DATA...
UNTIL REPAIRS ARE POSSIBLE...
FOR VORNS, IF NECESSARY...>




<Cryogenics?
Vorns?
>

<...he'll be
so cold...
so lonely!>




<Put me in there
with Sideswipe!>

<Put me
in there!>




<I'll keep him warm!
Put me in with him!>




<THEY CAN'T
DO THAT,
SHINKI.>

<Yes they can!
There's plenty
of room, and
I'm not big...>



<...BUT YOU'RE ALIVE,
PRETENDER...>




<But...
I'm...alive...>

<So...
that's...>

<...what
it... is...>


⇒VWOPP<

<Hah>




<Boy, am
I dense?>

<You should have
told me, Skydive!>




Being alive is a problem...

...I can fix!



<So long, Skydiver
Take my stones
to your no-ball
commander b>

⇒CLICK⇒

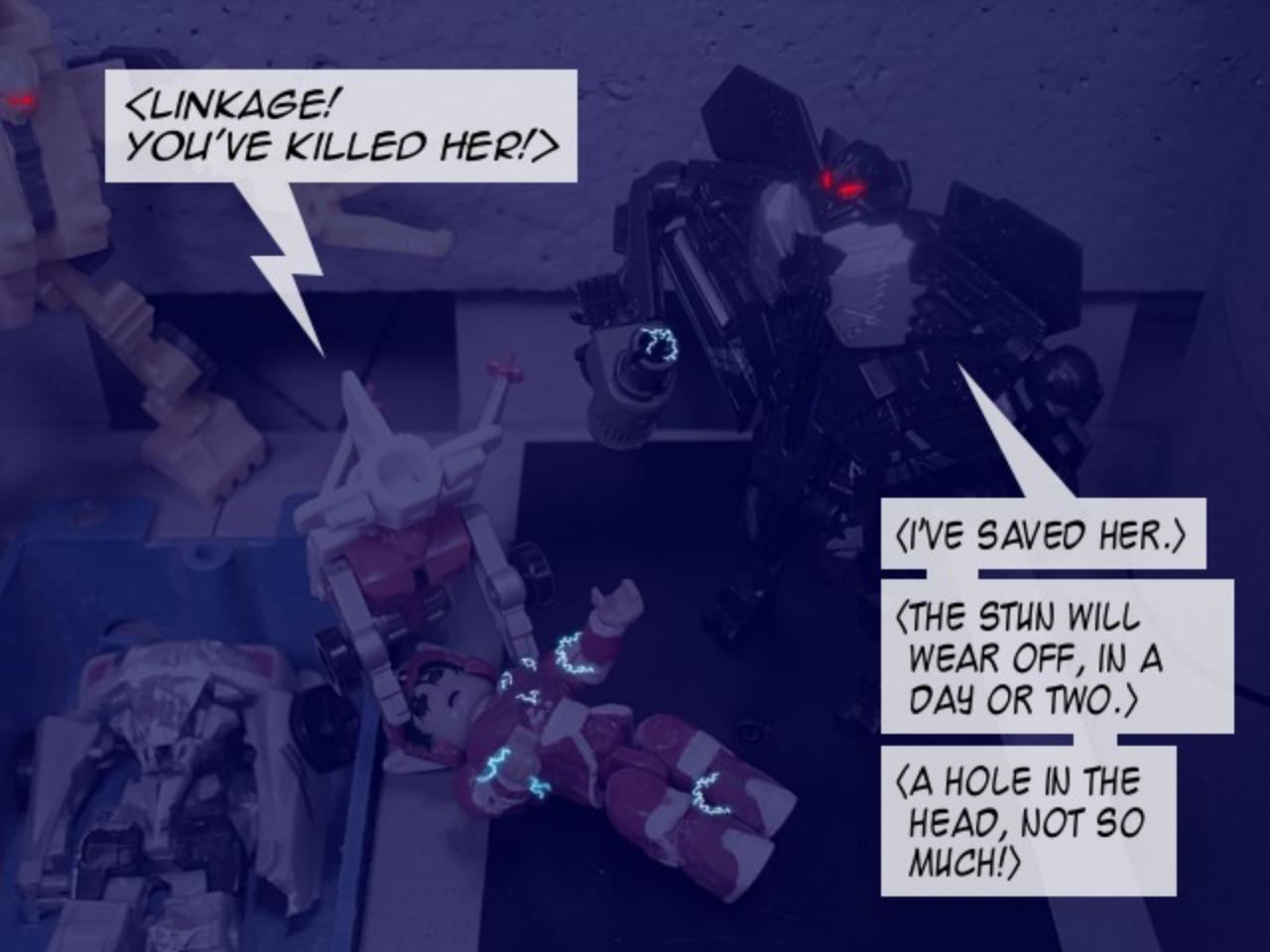


KONAMIMAN: **ALERT!**
WEAPON IS LOCKOUT!
PLEASE TO CLEAR
HAZARD CONDITION
BEFORE RETRY THANKS!

<Wh...what 3b>



**KA-
ZOTZ!**




<LINKAGE!
YOU'VE KILLED HER!>

<I'VE SAVED HER.>

<THE STUN WILL
WEAR OFF, IN A
DAY OR TWO.>

<A HOLE IN THE
HEAD, NOT SO
MUCH!>



<INDEED, ULCHITAR...
POOR LITTLE SHINKI.>

<MASTER FALLEN...!>

<THANK YOU FOR
SAVING HER...>

<AND YOU, MICRON...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
OBEDIENCE. I KNOW IT
SEEMED CRUEL TO
SUMMON HER HERE...>

<...BUT ONLY THROUGH
TRUTH CAN SHE EVER
KNOW PEACE.>

<SIDESWIPE'S REST IS NOT FOR HER.
TAKE HER TO HER ROOM, ULCHITAR.>

<SHE MUST BE
WATCHED...>

<I'LL WATCH HER, SIR.
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT...>

<NO,
BOY...>



<YOU NEED TO REST.
MY JET-AI WARRIORS
WILL STAND GUARD.>

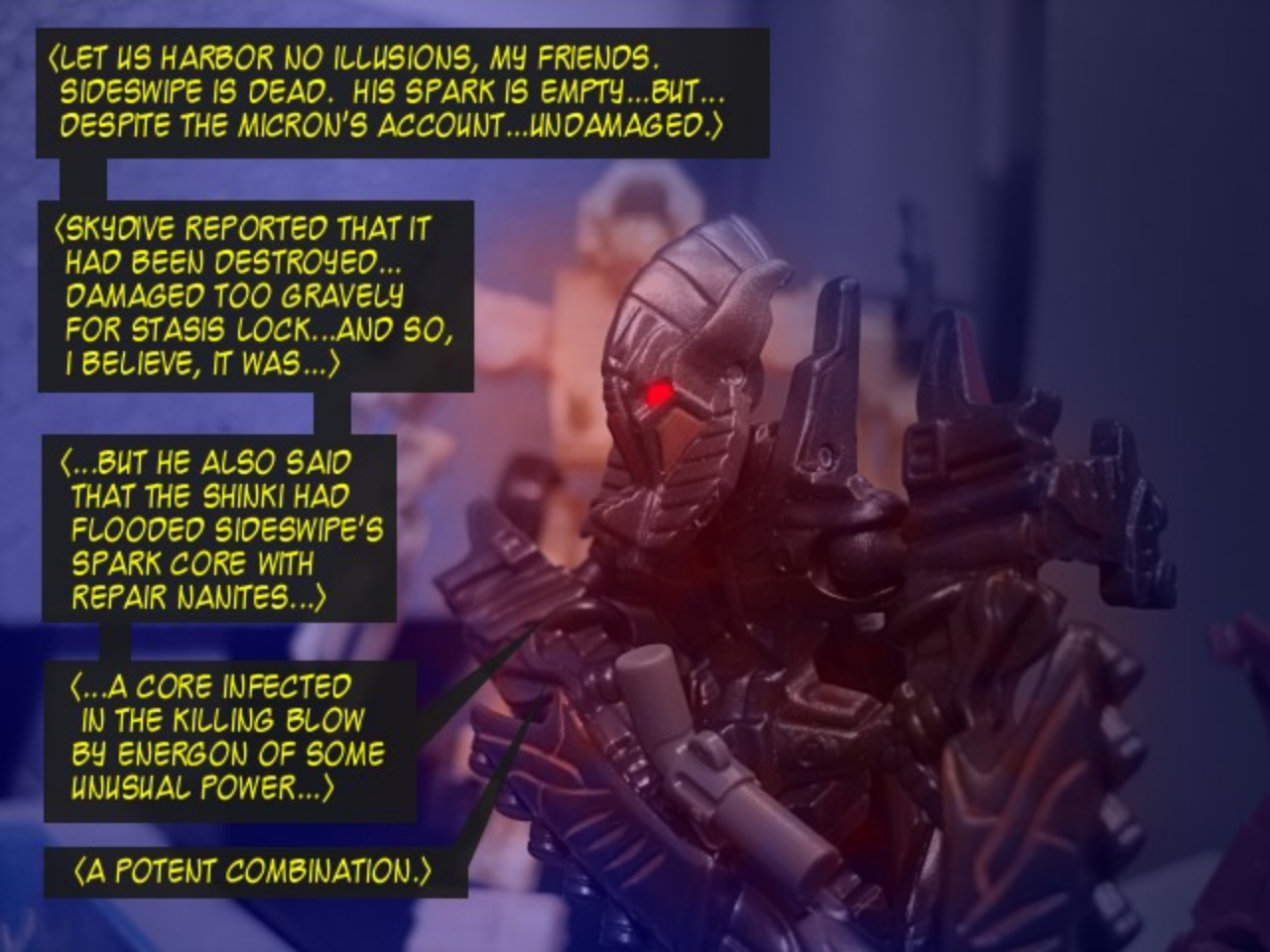
<YES...SIR.>

<GO, NOW...>

<SHE IS SAFE, FOR NOW...AT A COST.
BY THE TIME SHE AWAKES, SIDESWIPE
WILL BE SEALED AWAY, FOREVER.>

<CAN WE NOT WAIT,
LORD FALLEN?>

<NO, VITRUVIUS.
THIS BURIAL WE
DARE NOT DELAY.>



<LET US HARBOR NO ILLUSIONS, MY FRIENDS.
SIDESWIPE IS DEAD. HIS SPARK IS EMPTY...BUT...
DESPITE THE MICRON'S ACCOUNT...UNDAMAGED.>

<SKYDIVE REPORTED THAT IT
HAD BEEN DESTROYED...
DAMAGED TOO GRAVELY
FOR STASIS LOCK...AND SO,
I BELIEVE, IT WAS...>

<...BUT HE ALSO SAID
THAT THE SHINKI HAD
FLOODED SIDESWIPE'S
SPARK CORE WITH
REPAIR NANITES...>

<...A CORE INFECTED
IN THE KILLING BLOW
BY ENERCON OF SOME
UNUSUAL POWER...>

<A POTENT COMBINATION.>



<SIDESWIPE
WAS GONE...>

<BUT THE
NANITES
DIDN'T
KNOW IT...>

<FUELED BY
THE ENERGIN,
THEY REBUILT
A BLANK SPARK.>

<SIMILAR, MILORD...
THOUGH I HESITATE
TO MENTION IT...>

<YES, KHAYYAM.
SIMILAR TO THE
KALIS SYNDROME.>

<BUT...EVEN IN THOSE CASES...
FORGIVE ME...SOME REMNANTS
OF PERSONALITY...MAY REMAIN.>



<SO IT WAS SAID, KHAYYAM...
AND YET, SIDESWIPE'S SPARK IS
COMPLETELY BLANK...>

<I AM NOT SURE I'M PREPARED
TO EXPLAIN THIS...MORE WORK
IS NEEDED...>

<AFTER ALL, MY HYPOTHESIS
IS NOT WRITTEN IN...STONES.>

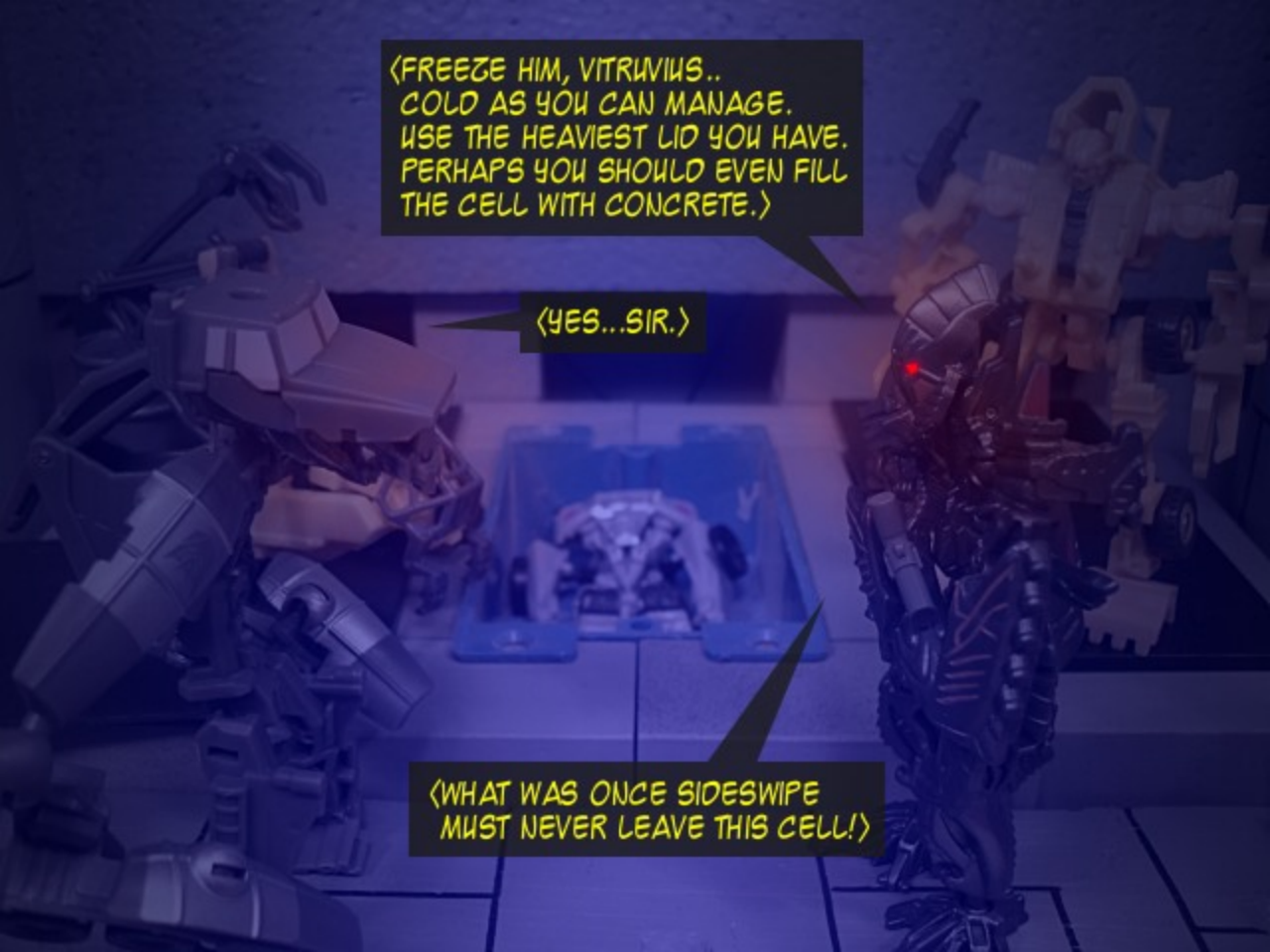
<ALAS, YOU BRING ME ALL TOO QUICKLY
TO MY NEXT POINT...A THOROUGHLY
UNHAPPY ONE...>

<"A BLANK, UNLOCKED, FUNCTIONAL SPARK IS VULNERABLE...
A TARGET FOR SUBSPACE HACKERS...OR WORSE THINGS...
SOME NAMELESS, UNATTACHED PROGRAM, ADRIFT IN THE VOID...>

<"SUCH THINGS HAVE HAPPENED
BEFORE...EVEN IN THIS PLACE."



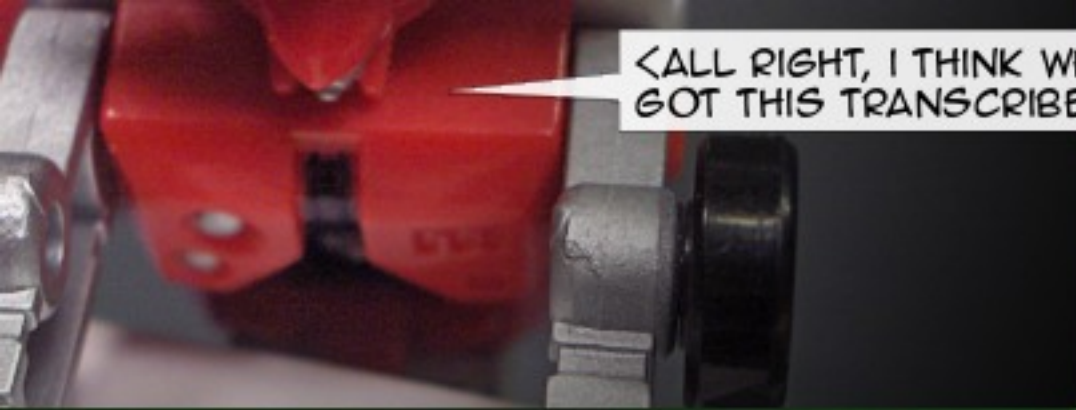
<"I WOULD NOT HAVE
SIDESWIPE'S MEMORY
TAINTED BY SUCH
DIABOLICAL PUPPETRY!">



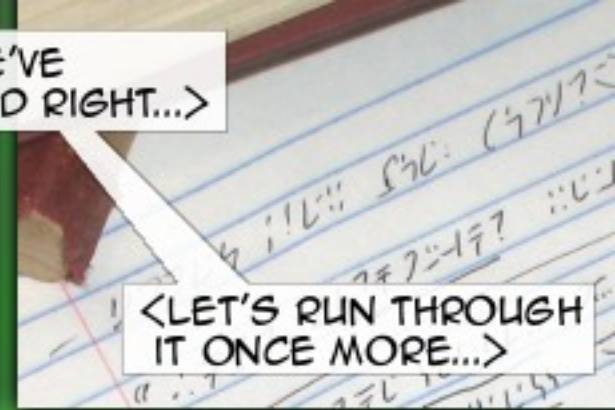
<FREEZE HIM, VITRUVIUS..
COLD AS YOU CAN MANAGE.
USE THE HEAVIEST LID YOU HAVE.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD EVEN FILL
THE CELL WITH CONCRETE.>

<YES...SIR.>

<WHAT WAS ONCE SIDESWIPE
MUST NEVER LEAVE THIS CELL!>



<ALL RIGHT, I THINK WE'VE
GOT THIS TRANSCRIBED RIGHT...>

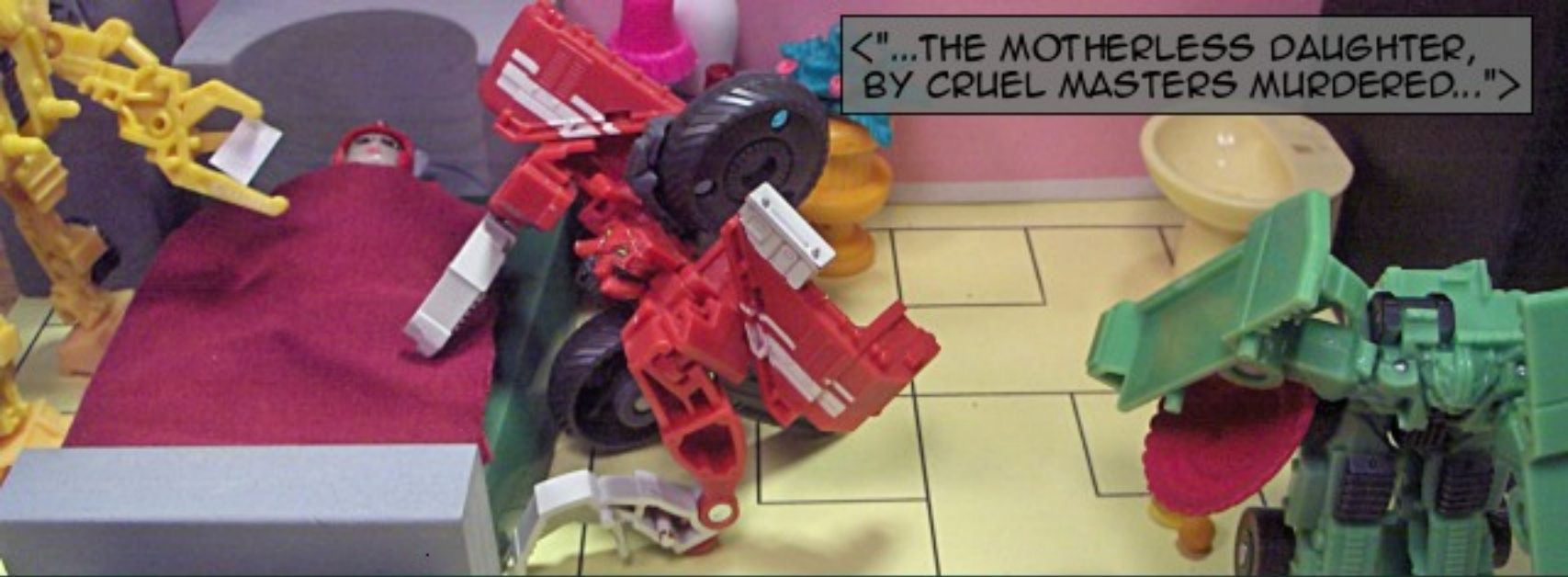


<LET'S RUN THROUGH
IT ONCE MORE...>



<"I AM THE SEEKER
OF NAMES
AND OF THOUGHTS...">






<"...THE MOTHERLESS DAUGHTER,
BY CRUEL MASTERS MURDERED...">



<"...THE BANE OF THE VIPER, BETRAYED BY HER LOVER...">






<"BANISHED BEYOND...">

<"...TO ARISE FROM WITHIN!">

<"ON THE STORMCLOUDS I RIDE,
MY WINGS BEATING THUNDER...">



<"BEARING GIFTS FOR THE GIVER,
AND A CURSE FOR THE CURSED!">

<THAT'S WHO...IT...SAID IT WAS.
NO NAME...MAYBE IT DOESN'T
EVEN HAVE ONE...>

<WHAT CAN IT MEAN,
KHAYYAM?>

<WHAT ARE YOU
DRAWING?>

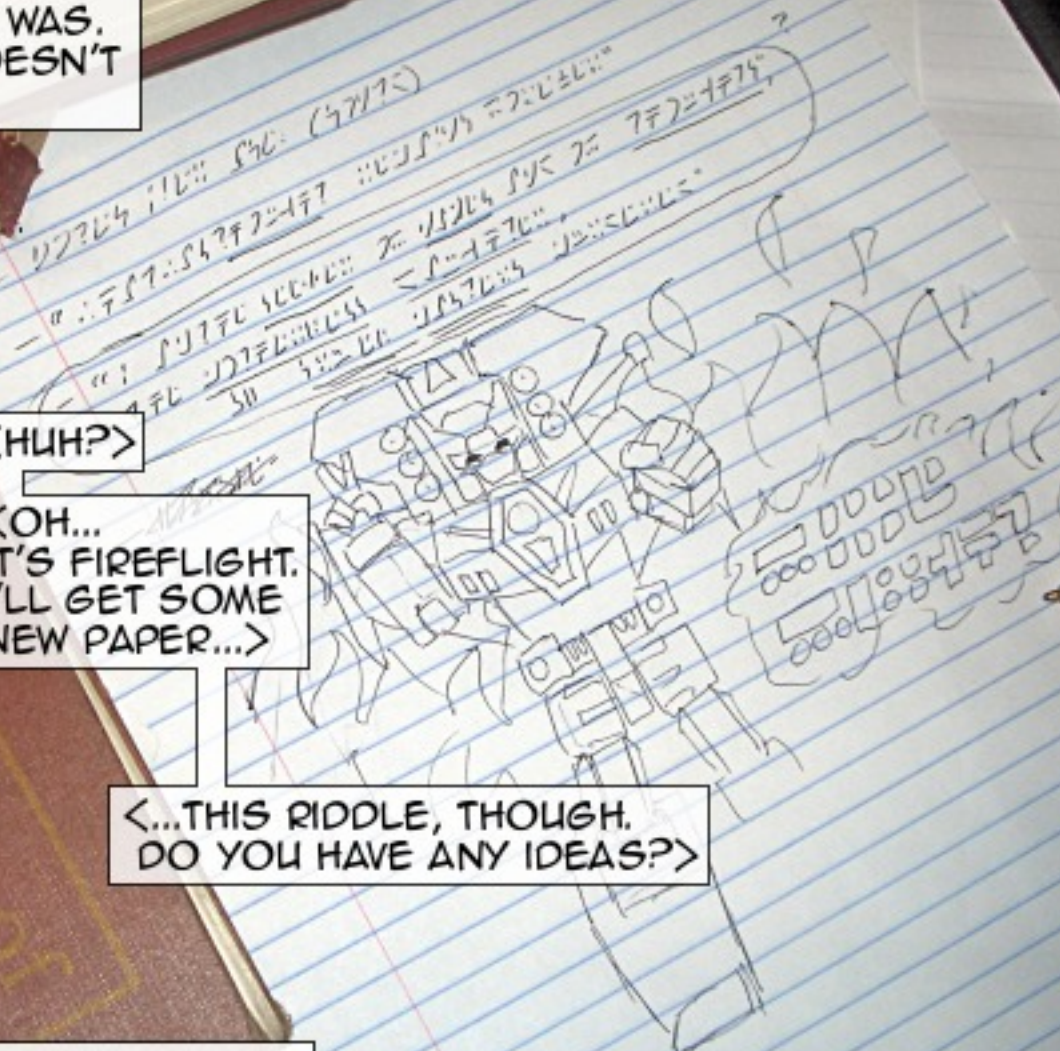
<HUH?>


<OH...
IT'S FIREFLIGHT.
I'LL GET SOME
NEW PAPER...>

<...THIS RIDDLE, THOUGH.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?>

<'HEAVEN THE VISION OF FULFILLED DESIRE...
HELL THE SHADOW FROM A SOUL ON FIRE.'
A WISE HUMAN SAID THAT ONCE, SKYDIVE...>

<TAKE CARE... OR YOU
MAY BE CONSUMED.>






<I'M NOT AFRAID OF THE TRUTH,
KHAYYAM...NOT FOR MYSELF...
IF THERE'S ANY TRUTH BURIED
IN THIS THING'S RIDDLES,
I NEED TO DIG IT OUT!>

<I NEED TO PAY...
FOR THE LIES
I TOLD HER...>

<...AND I CAN'T
WASTE ANY
TIME...>



<MAGNUS IS AFTER
HER, KHAYYAM...
TO BRING HER BACK,
OR BRING HER DOWN!>

<NO REST FOR HER...
NO PLACE TO HIDE...>

<...NOT EVEN THE
CITY OF THE FALLEN!>

THE CITY OF THE FALLEN...
ONCE IT ROSE HIGH...

GLEAMING ABOVE THE
FIELDS OF STANIX...

THE PRIMORDIALIST
TEMPLE OF EUTROPOLIS.

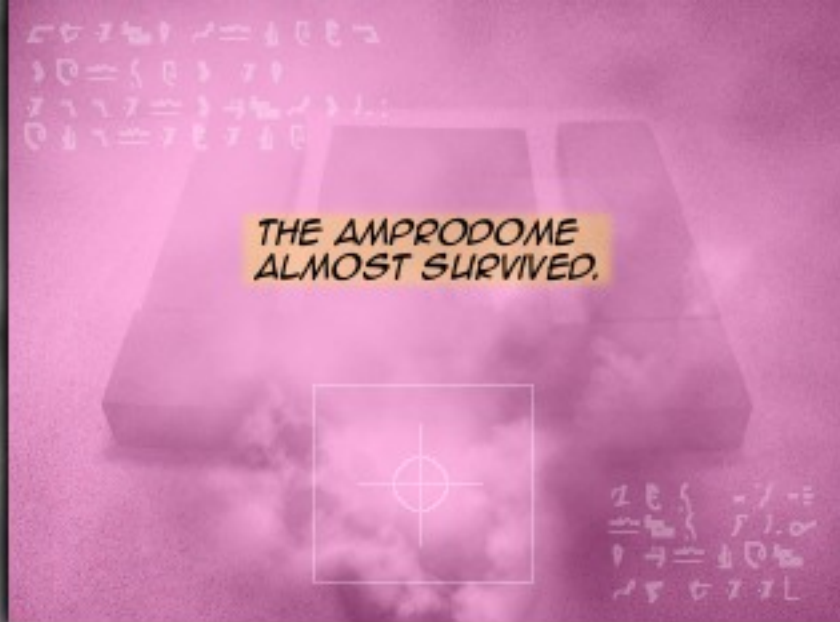
GLEAMING GUARDIAN
OF A MATRIX FLAME...
A PLACE DEDICATED
TO KNOWLEDGE
AND MEMORY...

A SCHOOL...A LABORATORY...
A STOREHOUSE OF LORE...
HOME TO THE MUSEUM
OF THE AMPRODOME.

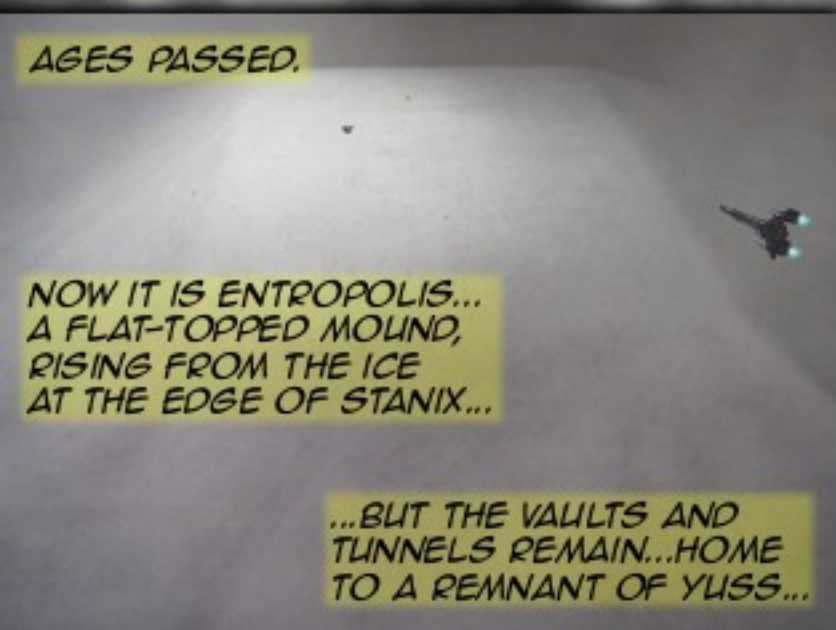
...BENEATH IT ALL, THE
NETWORK OF CATACOMBS
WHERE THE FALLEN OF YUSS
TOOK THEIR LONG SLEEP.



**WAR
EXTINGUISHED
THE FLAME.**



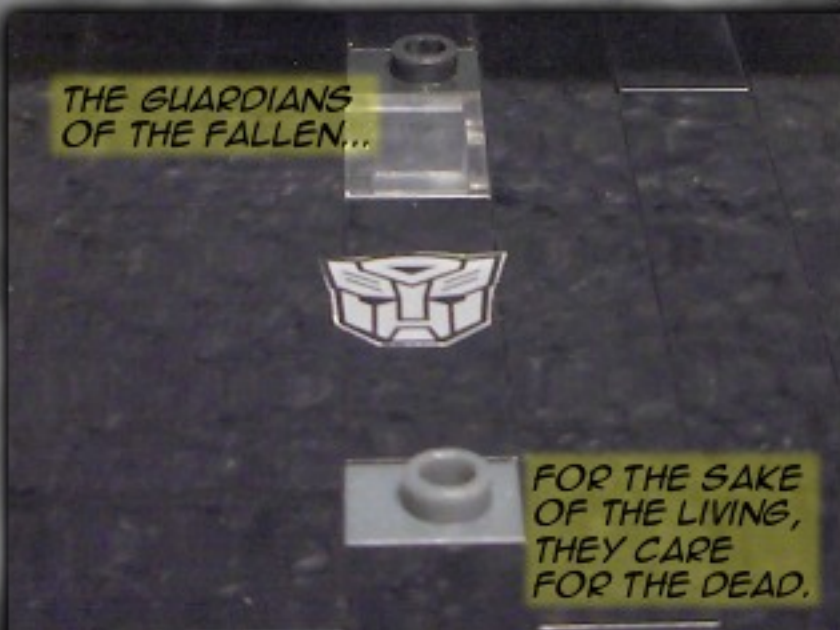
**THE AMPRODOME
ALMOST SURVIVED.**



AGES PASSED.

**NOW IT IS ENTROPOLIS...
A FLAT-TOPPED MOUND,
RISING FROM THE ICE
AT THE EDGE OF STANIX...**

**...BUT THE VAULTS AND
TUNNELS REMAIN...HOME
TO A REMNANT OF YUSS...**



**THE GUARDIANS
OF THE FALLEN...**

**FOR THE SAKE
OF THE LIVING,
THEY CARE
FOR THE DEAD.**

ANOTHER PLACE...
A TIME APART.

BOUGARU
S.C. TYPE

SKIDS - WRITE THESE NAMES
DOWN ALREADY!

- THE BOSS
RATED TO THE 74!

A GROUP OF FRIENDS
WELDED BY BATTLE...

DO
EVEN READ
THE
PRAEUNGER?!!!

THINGS TO TRY - CONT'D.

SKIDS'S
ST F

~~SCAN~~ ~~RANDOM~~ ~~DIMENSIONS~~

CHEAP, SIMPLE, MIGHT WORK

GOZER, CTHULHU, ASSORTED

GALVATRA



January 14, 2010

POST THIS

Friends and coworkers:

I would like to thank everyone who assisted with the annual gift distribu
I am sure the children of the world enjoyed their finely crafted argyle soc
and remain fully confident that the situation will return to normal by next
Please let me know if any armor damaged by unexpectedly cramped ch
surprising reindeer stampedes can not be economically ren
I regret that I could not be pres
postponed.

A MICRON NEEDLE
IN AN INFINITE HAYSTACK...
BUT THEY DO NOT GIVE UP.

ACROSS MYRIAD
UNIVERSES,
THEY SEEK
THEIR LOST...



*A BROKEN SWORD...
A RUSTED SPEAR.*

*CAST OUT UPON
THE REFUSE HEAP...*



*TAKEN UP,
REFORGED,
MADE SHARP
AND BRIGHT...*



*SOON THE BEAST
SHALL FEEL THEIR BITE.*





*THE BEAST WHICH CRUSHES DREAMS...
DEVOURER OF HOPE AND JOY...*

AVARICE AND MALICE, SLAVERY AND WAR...

*WHICH TURNS FRIEND
AGAINST FRIEND...*

*SEPARATES LOVERS
FOREVER...*

*SPILLS THE FUEL OF THE WARRIOR
FOR THE HUNGRY EAGLES OF YUSS.*

