

Autobus Prime's

BLURRY ROBOT THEATER



CYKILL
RULES

8 CONJUNCTION

BLURRY ROBOT *CROSSOVER*



NEWARK CITY SUBWAY PHOTO
2002 BY OTTO VONDRAK

TransShinki World (and Friends)

HEROES...



**MECHANICAL
AMAZONS, 'SHINKI'
BY NAME...**

**FROM A
WORLD UNDER
SHADOW...**



**A SHADOW
OF WAR!**

**...SO THE ENEMY THOUGHT, BUT THE HEROES
LIVED ON, ALBEIT LEADERLESS, LOST, TRAPPED
IN A WEIRD NEXUS WHERE MANY WORLDS MEET.**



**EIGHTEEN IN
ALL...TWELVE
SHINKI, SIX
AUTOBOTS...**

**...ALL WITH ONE COMMON LONGING FOR THE HOME
THEY HAD LOST... AND IN THIS SHARED HOPE, THEY
SOON FORMED A PLAN...**

**See
TRANS-SHINKI WORLD (and friends)
for more details...**



**A SHADE OF DARK AVARICE, MALICE,
AND HATRED...FOR THE BOLD GYNOID
WARRIORS, FOR THEIR AUTOBOT ALLIES...**

...IN THE END, THE NIGHT FELL.

**THEY WOULD SPLIT INTO TEAMS, AND SEARCH
LINKED DIMENSIONS. THEY WOULD FIND A WAY
HOME...OR PERISH IN THE ATTEMPT!**



**AND SO IT
WAS DONE...**

**...BUT THREE RAN
OUT OF TIME!**

INTO UNSPACE
THEY PLUNGED!

WHERE
ALL IS
VOID...

A STATE OF
NONBEING...

AND REALITY
DECOHERES!

YET AGAINST
ALL ODDS,
THE TRIO
SURVIVED!

SOON IT WAS KNOWN THAT THIS LIFE
HAD A PRICE...TO BE CHAMPIONS OF
TIME, AND SO FIND THEIR PATH HOME...

See chapter 5: "Team Ironhide"

ONLY TO
FALL AGAIN...

BUT THE PATH LED TO BATTLE! THOUGH THE FIELD
WAS FOREIGN, THE FOE WAS FAMILIAR, AND
THE HEROES FOUGHT BRAVELY...

DOOMED
BY RASH
ACTION!

THEN IN THE COLD MOONLIGHT,
ONE MADE A VOW...



THE ONE CALLED TSUGARU,
THE LEAST OF THE THREE...

IMPULSIVE AND
BRASH, SHE
HAD BROUGHT
HER FRIENDS
DOOM.



A TERRIBLE DEBT,
AND SHE VOWED
NOW TO PAY...

TO THE UNDERWORLD THEN
SHE WAS BORNE DOWN BY MONSTERS...



WEARY AND WOUNDED,
AT LAST SHE COLLAPSED.



BUT A NEW HOPE AWOKE
IN A HOSPITAL BED...

IN THE DARK CHAMBER,
SHE GAVE FLESH AND FUEL,
SHE BEGGED FOR THEIR LIVES
AT THE POINT OF A GUN...



...AND WHEN
THEY WERE TAKEN,
TSUGARU WAS CRUSHED.

**See chapter 6:
"The Frozen World"**

A FORTUNATE SOLDIER...



...WITH A HEART FULL OF BATTLE...

...A MARINER,
SAILING...



...BY A LONG-
FALLEN STAR...

TSUGARU STILL
HOPED THAT HER
FRIENDS WERE
ALIVE...

BUT WE QUICKLY
FORGET WHAT
WE FEAR WE
KNOW WELL...

...INDEED,
SHE HAD NOT
MANY REASONS
TO HOPE....

...AND NEITHER
DID THEY...

...IN THE
SEEKERS' GRIM CARE.

THEN, UP THROUGH
THE SNOW...

A CHRISTMAS
ROSE BLOOMED...

THE SKY RANG
WITH THUNDER!

A VISION TOOK
SHAPE...OUT OF
SCRAP AND OLD
WRECKAGE...

THE SEEKERS
FOUND JUSTICE!

...AND ALONE IN
THE HEAVENS,
TSUGARU THE
SHINKI...

...HAD HER MISSION
AT LAST, AND SHE
KNEW WHAT TO DO!

**See Chapter 7:
"The Beast
and the Bird"**

*SMALL MECHS...IN A SMALL CITY...
FIGHTING IN A SMALL WAR...*

Blurry Robot Productions

Cybertropolis (Iacon)

Praxis
Upper Valvolux
Uraya
Lower Valvolux
Hermeun

Altihex

Tagon

Polyhe

Nova
Cronum

*THE PLANET ITSELF IS A
SPECK IN THE COSMOS...*

Neutral
Territories

Kalis

Independent

Sonic
Canyons

Stanix



Micronia

Independent

Krystagon

Oreon

**Planet of Cybertron
Alternity TFW-2005-AP-0605
Stanix and Neighboring States**

**Based on independent research
conducted by KoiLungfish**

*WHAT DOES IT MATTER,
THIS ONE TINY POINT?*

Kaon

Vihnacron

PERHAPS, IN THE END, WE WILL KNOW...

MAGNUS...A LEGEND
AMONG MICRONS...

LEADER IN A WAR
THAT CANNOT BE WON.

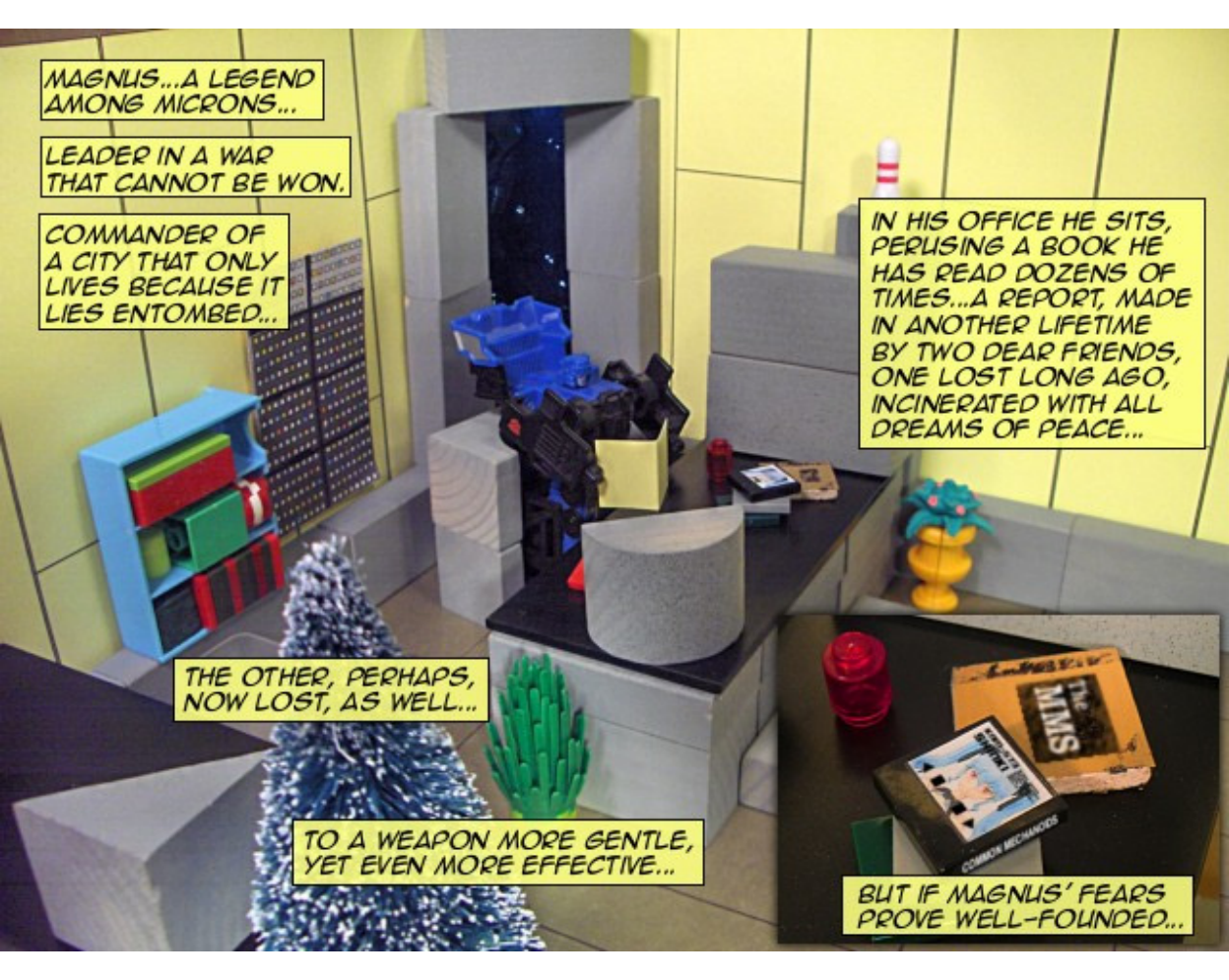
COMMANDER OF
A CITY THAT ONLY
LIVES BECAUSE IT
LIES ENTOMBED...

THE OTHER, PERHAPS,
NOW LOST, AS WELL...

TO A WEAPON MORE GENTLE,
YET EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE...

IN HIS OFFICE HE SITS,
PERUSING A BOOK HE
HAS READ DOZENS OF
TIMES...A REPORT, MADE
IN ANOTHER LIFETIME
BY TWO DEAR FRIENDS,
ONE LOST LONG AGO,
INCINERATED WITH ALL
DREAMS OF PEACE...

BUT IF MAGNUS' FEARS
PROVE WELL-FOUNDED...





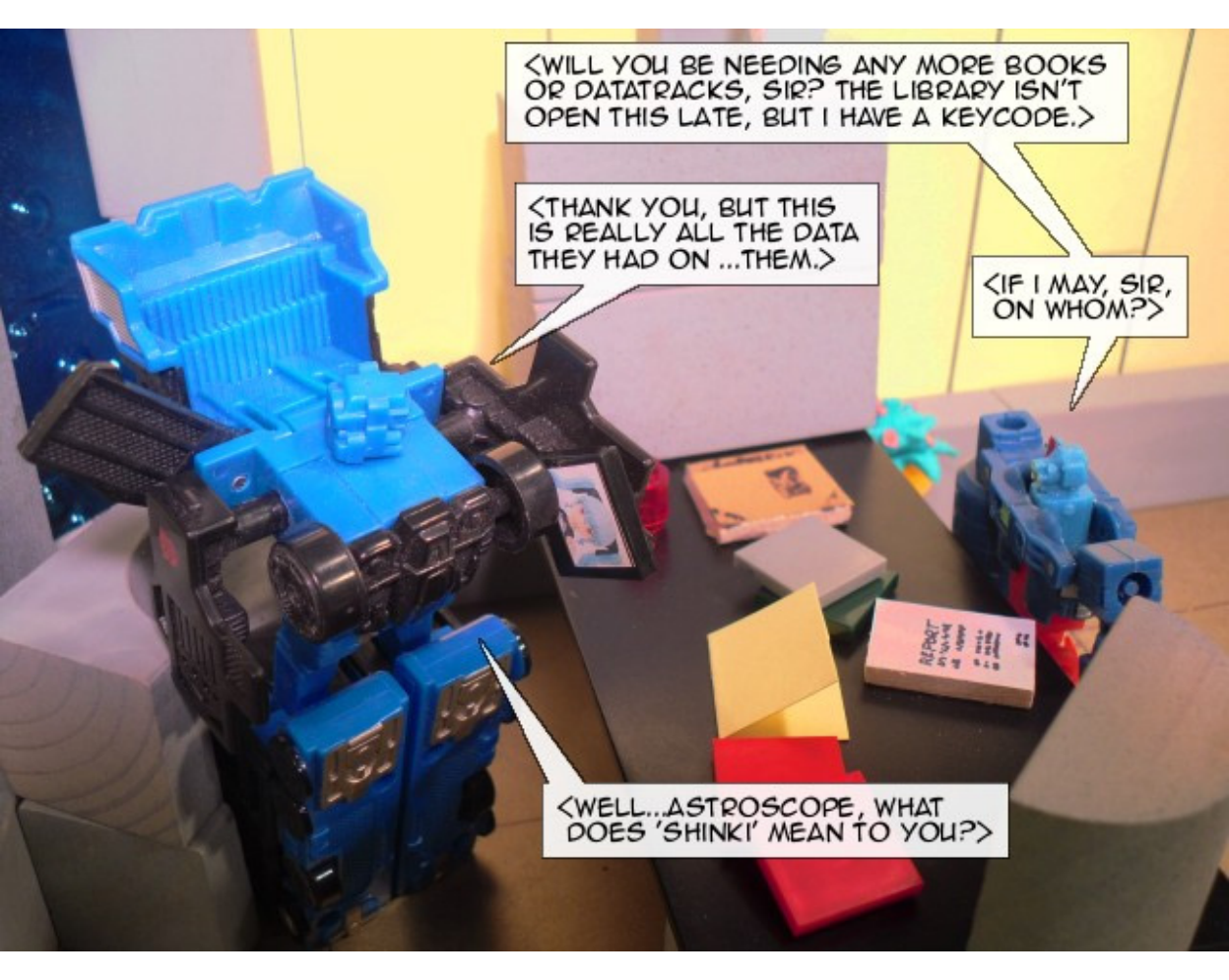
THUDD!

The scene is a LEGO minifigure desk. A blue robot minifigure stands on the left. The desk is black and holds a red stapler, a red pen, a yellow notepad, a red notepad, a grey semi-circular object, and a small report. A blue minifigure is on the right. The background is a yellow wall with grey blocks. A small inset in the top left shows a report titled 'REPORT'.

<THAT'S A
BIG REPORT,
ASTROSCOPE!*>

<I FOUND A LOT,
COMMANDER.>

*TRANSLATED FROM MICRONESE - ED.

A blue and black toy robot, resembling a Transformer, is positioned on the left side of a dark desk. The robot has a blue upper body with a ribbed back and a black lower body. It is surrounded by various items on the desk: a small orange book, a grey book, a yellow sticky note, a red sticky note, a pink sticky note with the word 'REPORT' written on it, and a small blue toy figure. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

<WILL YOU BE NEEDING ANY MORE BOOKS OR DATATRACKS, SIR? THE LIBRARY ISN'T OPEN THIS LATE, BUT I HAVE A KEYCODE.>

<THANK YOU, BUT THIS IS REALLY ALL THE DATA THEY HAD ON ...THEM.>

<IF I MAY, SIR, ON WHOM?>

<WELL...ASTROSCOPE, WHAT DOES 'SHINKI' MEAN TO YOU?>



<I BELIEVE IT MEANS 'GODLY PRINCESS'
OR SOME SUCH THING, COMMANDER.>

<HMM. SO IT MIGHT.
...AND IT IS THE SORT OF THING SPARK
MIGHT SAY...PERHAPS IT WAS NO MORE
THAN A COMPLIMENT.>

<PRIMUS, I HOPE SO...>

<ASTROSCOPE, GO GET SIDESWIPE.
I NEED TO SPEAK TO HIM RIGHT AWAY,
ASK HIM A FEW QUESTIONS...>

<NO...>

<I NEED TO TELL HIM A FEW THINGS...
THINGS HE DOESN'T KNOW, AND NEEDS
TO...RIGHT AWAY. TELL HIM THAT.>

<YES, SIR.>

<ASTROSCOPE - WAIT.
ONE MORE THING...>




<SIR?>

<MAKE SURE THE
AERIALBOTS ARE
READY TO FLY.>



<BUT KEEP IT QUIET.
UNDERSTOOD?>

<SILENT AS THE
GRAVE, SIR.>

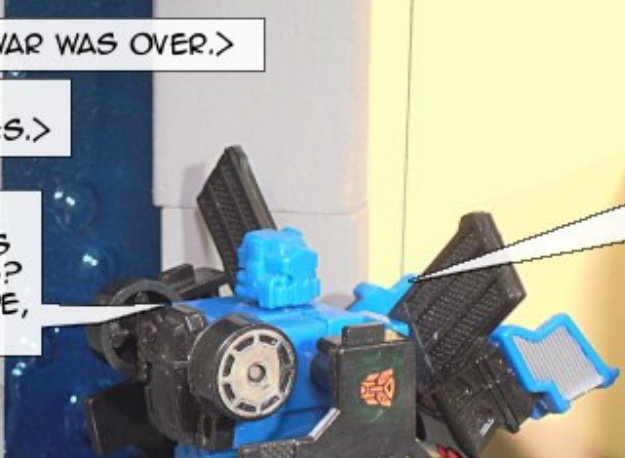


<COMMANDER MAGNUS, SIR!>

<AT EASE,
SIDESWIPE.>

<FIRST, LET ME MAKE ONE
THING PERFECTLY CLEAR...
I KNOW YOU ARE HIDING
SOMETHING FROM ME.>

<DON'T PROTEST. I WASN'T
BUILT YESTERDAY.>

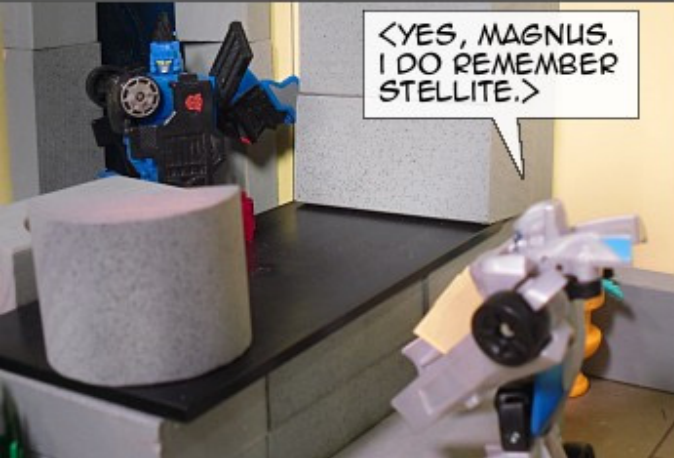


<PRIMUS! I WISH THIS WAR WAS OVER.>


<NO MORE SEEKERS
AND SECRETS AND LIES.>

<REMEMBER HOW WE
USED TO PLAY PRAXUS
FOLD 'EM ON FRIDAYS?
YOU, ME, ASTROSCOPE,
STELL ->

<I'M... I'M
SORRY,
SIDESWIPE.
I DIDN'T
MEAN TO->



<YES, MAGNUS.
I DO REMEMBER
STELLITE.>



<DO YOU KNOW HOW
LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE
I HEARD YOU SAY- >


<IT'S... A HELL
OF A THING...>





<COMMANDER...
I HAVE SOMETHING
TO TELL YOU.>

<NO. YOU DO NOT!>



<YOU HAD A
PICNIC, AND
IT WENT BAD.>

<WE DID NOT FIND ANY LARGE,
UNACCOUNTABLE SHELL CASINGS,
ANOMALOUS RADIO SIGNALS, OR
UNUSUAL TRACE ELEMENTS.>

<THE REPORT HAS BEEN
FILED, AND YOU ARE NOT TO
DISPUTE ITS FINDINGS!
IS THAT CLEAR, SOLDIER?>



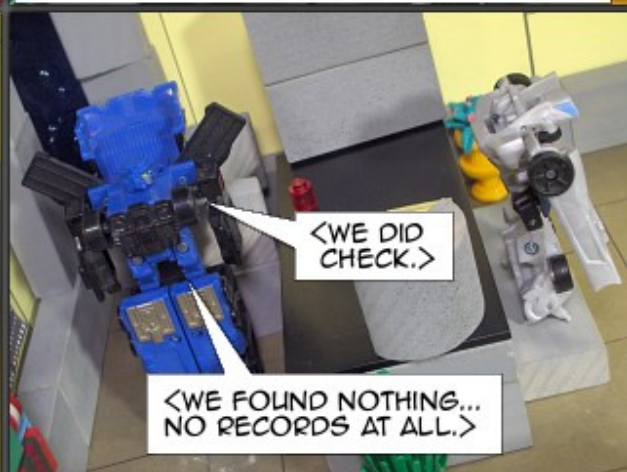
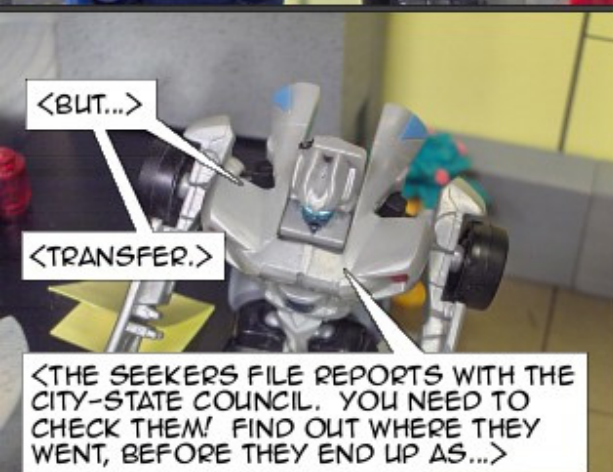
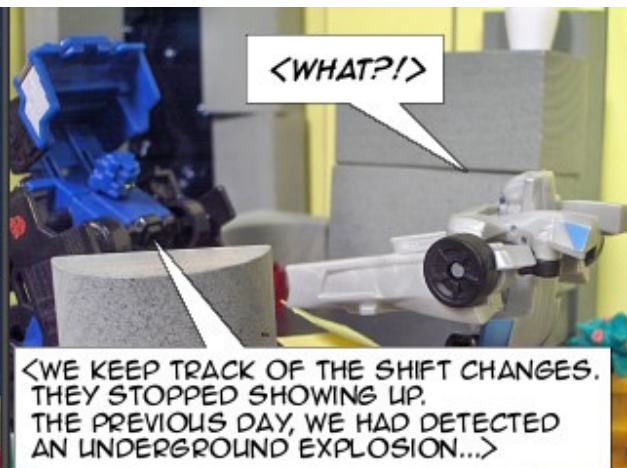
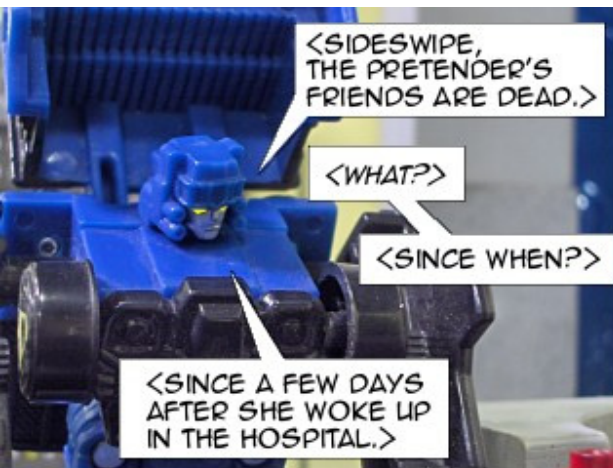
<"YES, SIR.">

<GOOD.>

<NOW READY YOUR AUDIO
RECEPTORS, BECAUSE I HAVE
NEWS YOU NEED TO HEAR...>



<...CONCERNING THE PRETENDER.>





<NO REPORT OF
THEIR CAPTURE...>



<NO RECORD OF
THEIR EXISTENCE...>

<THEY WERE UNPERSONS,
SIDESWIPE...AND NOW THEY
HAVE BEEN ERASED.>

<PRAY IT WAS IN
THE EXPLOSION...>

<UNPERSONS...>

<YES. THEY WERE
UNPERSONS...>



<TO YOU!!>

**<YOU KNEW! YOU KNEW
FOR MONTHS, AND
YOU DIDN'T TELL!>**

**<I WAS WAITING FOR
CONFIRMATION...>**

**<BULLGEARS! YOU WERE
HOLDING YOUR CARDS!
PRAXUS FOLD 'EM, ALL RIGHT!
DON'T YOU LOVE THAT GAME?>**

**<SHE WOULDN'T PLAY, WOULD SHE?
SO NOW YOU'RE GOING TO CRUSH HER...>**

**NO. YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME DO IT...
BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DEAL WITH HER.
SHE MAKES YOUR **SERVOS** FEEL SMALL!>**



ENOUGH!

<SIDESWIPE, I AM YOUR
SUPERIOR OFFICER!
NEVER FORGET THAT!>

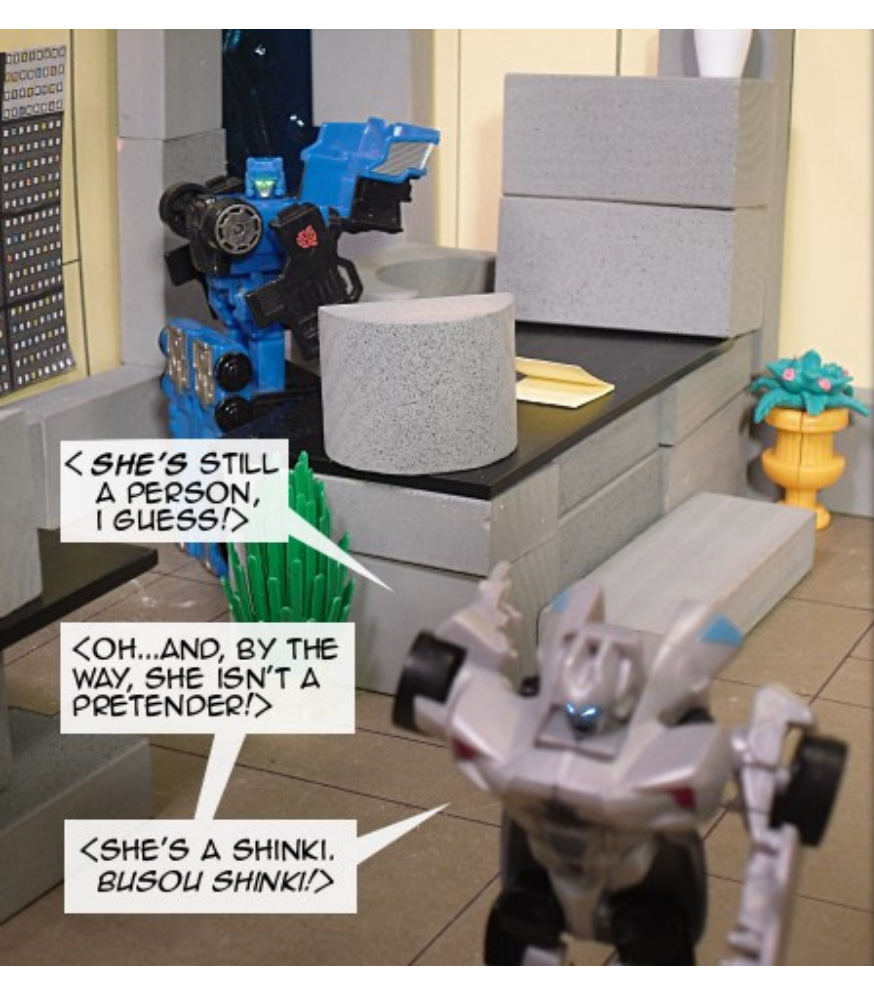
<YOU WILL TAKE THIS NEWS TO THE PRETENDER,
AND YOU WILL EXCUSE HER FROM THE MISSION.
I WILL NOT FORCE HER TO GO. HER FRIENDS ARE
GONE, AND OUR ARTIFACTS ARE NOTHING TO HER.>

<WE CAN RECOVER
THE SPINEL WITHOUT
HER HELP...>

<...AND, IF NECESSARY,
WITHOUT YOURS!>

<OH, DON'T WORRY, *COMMANDER*.
I'LL TELL HER. SHE DESERVES TO
KNOW THE TRUTH!>






< SHE'S STILL
A PERSON,
I GUESS!>

<OH...AND, BY THE
WAY, SHE ISN'T A
PRETENDER!>

<SHE'S A SHINKI.
BUSOU SHINKI!>



<...NOT THAT IT
MEANS ANYTHING
TO YOU!>



I KNOW, I SHOULDN'T HAVE LOST MY COOL...
MAGNUS PULLS THIS SLAG ALL THE TIME!


IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN IT'S...YOU KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M
GOING TO TELL HER...

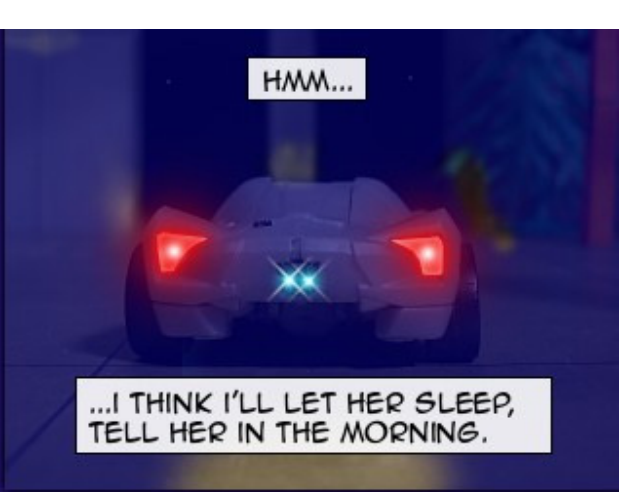
HERE I GO, TALKING WITH YOU ABOUT
HER, AGAIN. DOES IT BOTHER YOU?

IT'S OKAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO ANSWER.

I KNOW YOU CAN'T
REALLY HEAR ME.




-THE LIBRARY...



HMM...

...I THINK I'LL LET HER SLEEP,
TELL HER IN THE MORNING.



LET'S GO IN AND SIT DOWN...
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, RIGHT?

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO
READ UP ON VECTOR
PRIME, ANYWAY.

WANT TO HELP? YOU
WERE ALWAYS THE
BETTER DIGGER.

WHAT ARE YOU SMILING ABOUT? OF COURSE I HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING!

I COULDN'T FIND A MOLYBDENUM MAMMOTH IN... IN A BREADBOARD BOX. RIGHT, STELLITE?

THEN I'D LOOK UP, AND YOU'D HAVE IT...THE BOOK, THE FILE, THE ARTIFACT...

...EXCEPT FOR THAT ONE TIME...REMEMBER? YOU WERE SO MAD...



⇒YAWN⇐

I'M TIRED, STEL. MIND IF I CATCH A QUICK STASIS NAP?

SURE! SEE WHAT YOU CAN DIG UP...

I LOVE YOU TOO.

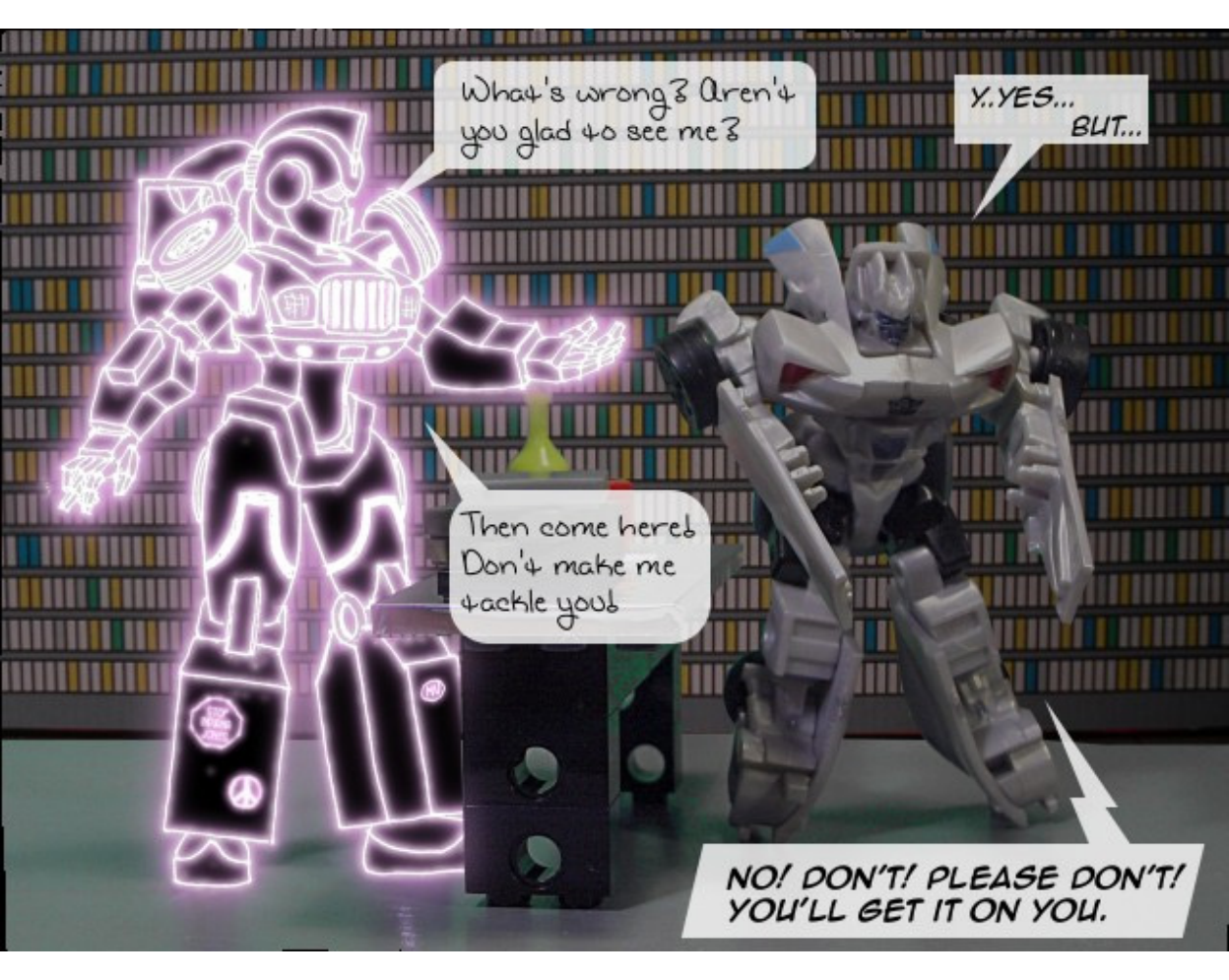
Sideswipe

Sideswipe
Wake up

Morning,
stasis-head

Is this
seat taken?





What's wrong? Aren't you glad to see me?

Y..YES...
BUT...

Then come here!
Don't make me
tackle you!

**NO! DON'T! PLEASE DON'T!
YOU'LL GET IT ON YOU.**



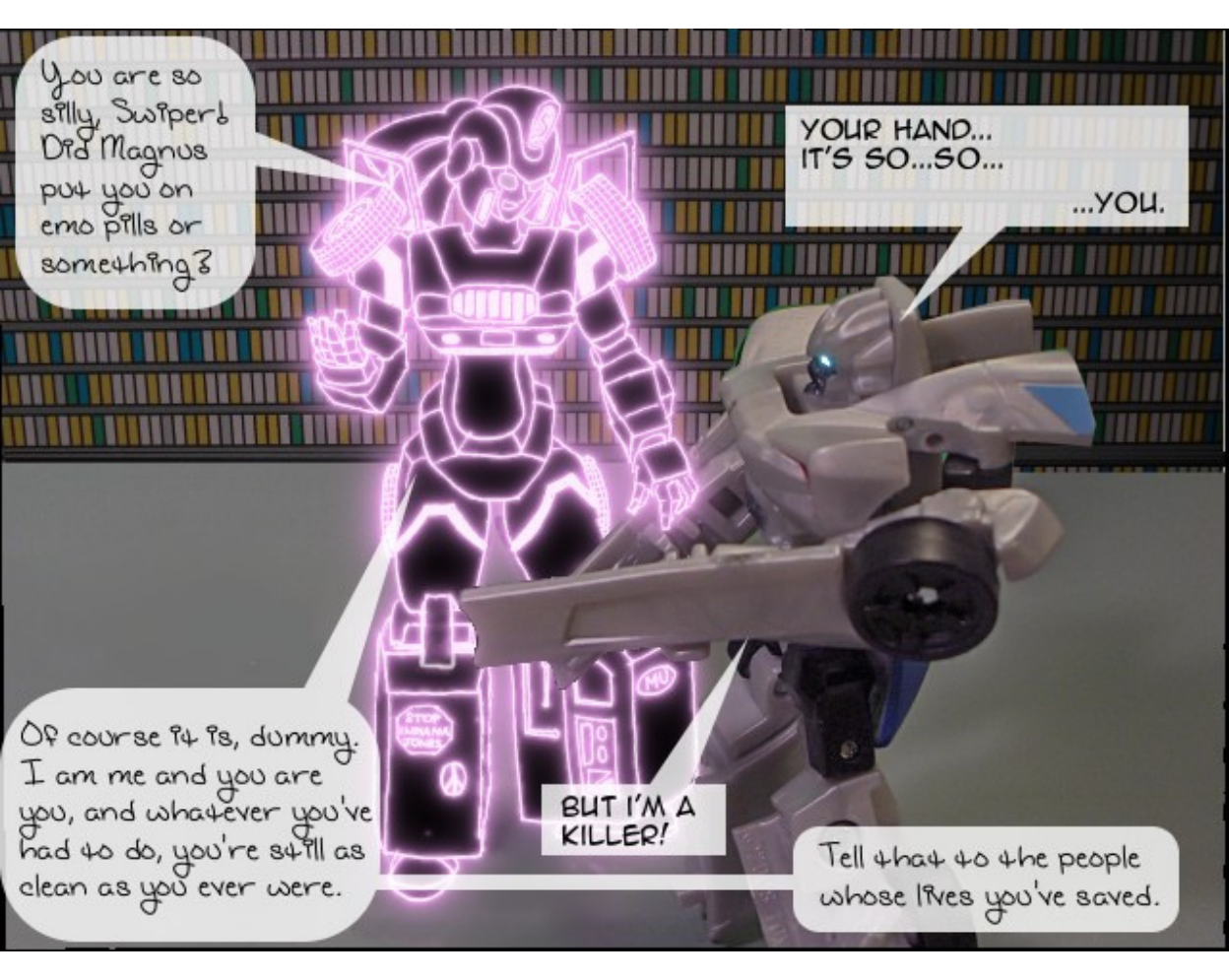
I'M NOT WHO I WAS. I'M A KILLER NOW.
I'M NOT CLEAN ANY MORE.

IT'S ALWAYS THERE...IT DOESN'T
COME OFF...

IF YOU TOUCH ME, YOU'LL GET IT
ON YOU. YOU'RE CLEAN. I WANT
YOU TO STAY CLEAN. PLEASE
DON'T COME NEAR ME!

I'M...I'M SORRY I TALKED TO YOU.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE LISTENING.
I PROMISE I WON'T DO IT ANY MORE.

Stop.

A comic book panel set in a library with bookshelves in the background. A glowing pink robot with a human-like face and a 'STOP SUICIDE TONES' sign on its chest stands in the center. To its right is a grey robot with a blue eye and a large black wheel. Speech bubbles contain dialogue between them.

You are so silly, Swiper! Did Magnus put you on emo pills or something?

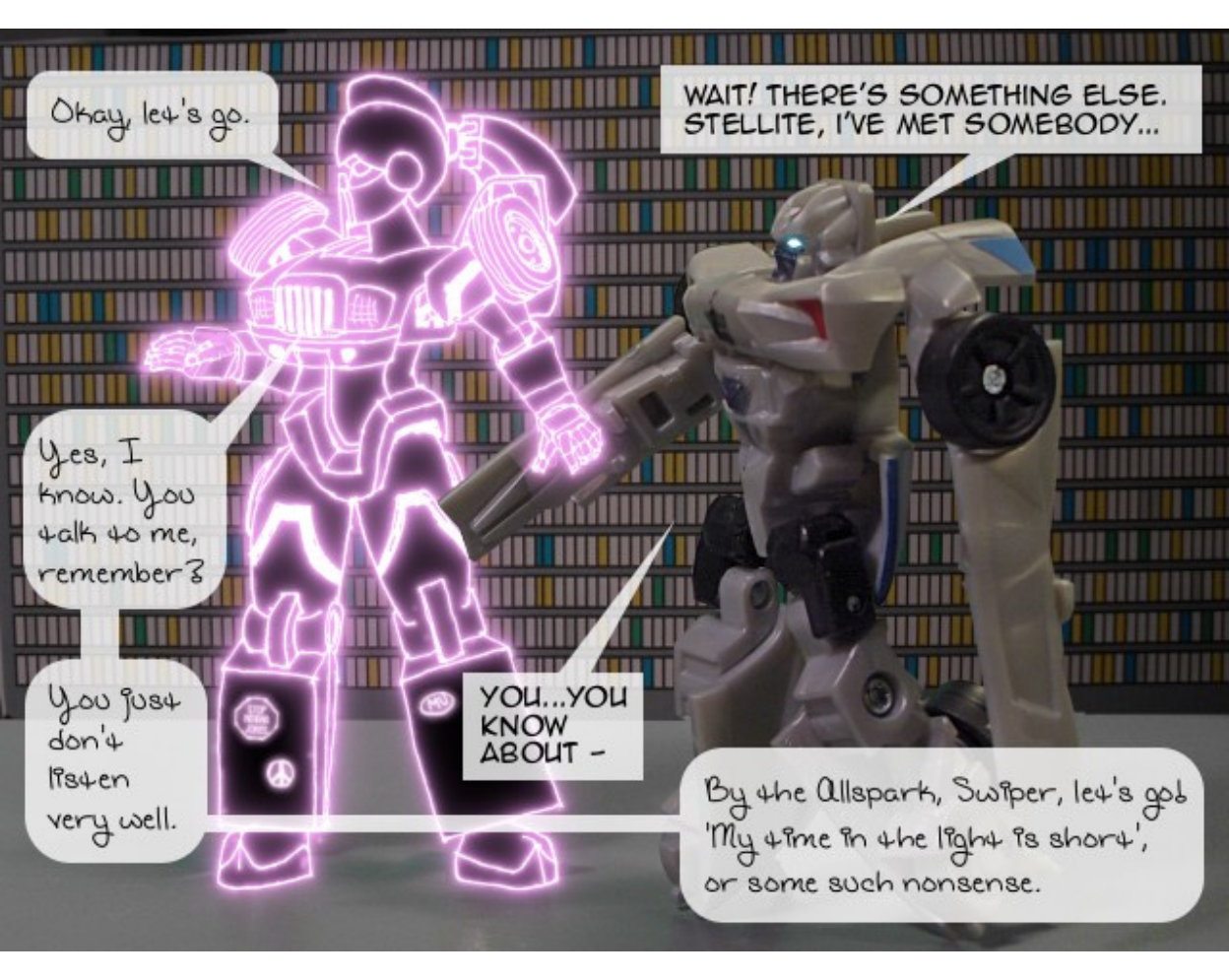
YOUR HAND...
IT'S SO...SO...

...YOU.

Of course it is, dummy.
I am me and you are you,
and whatever you've had to do,
you're still as clean as you ever were.

BUT I'M A
KILLER!

Tell that to the people
whose lives you've saved.



Okay, let's go.

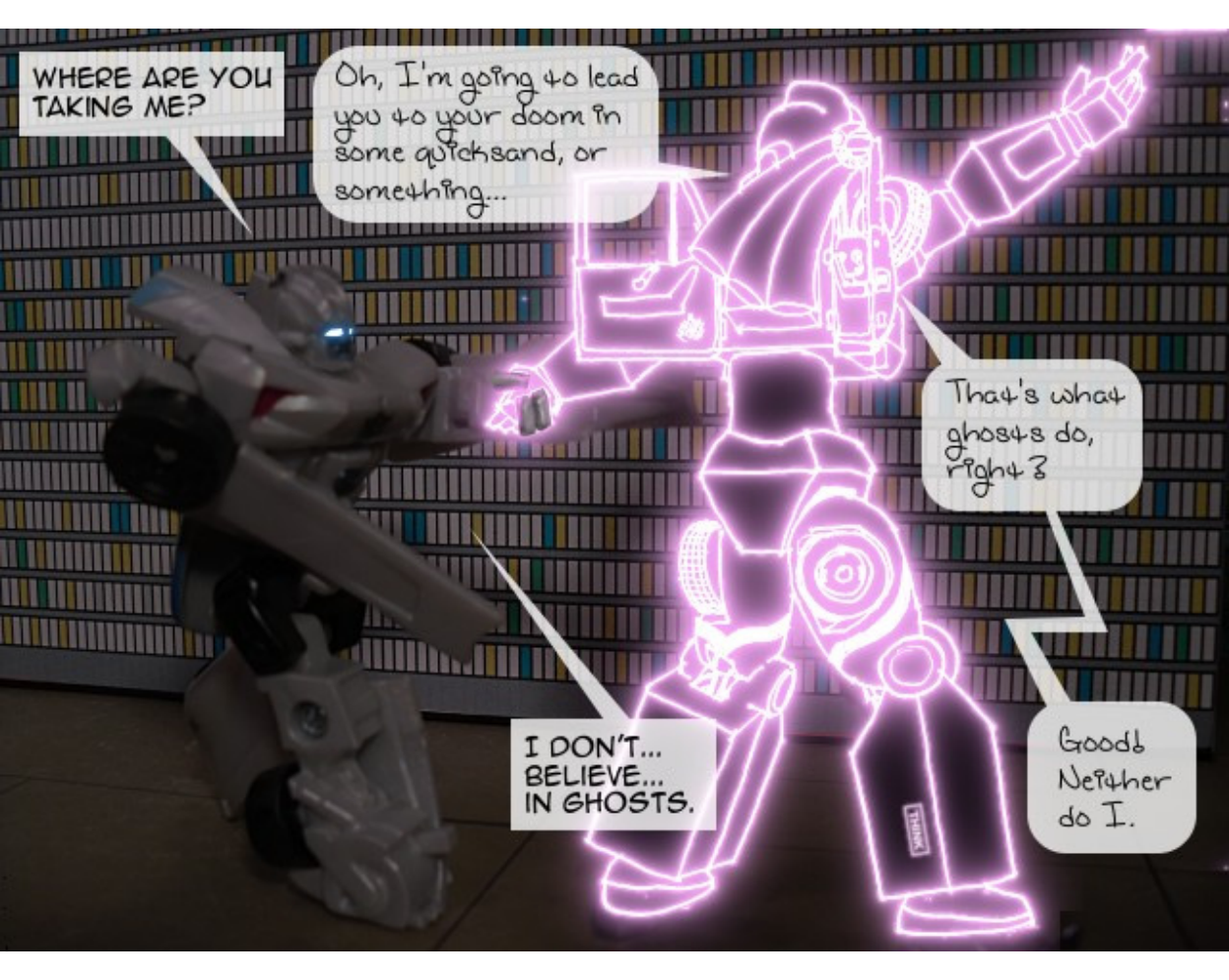
WAIT! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE.
STELLITE, I'VE MET SOMEBODY...

Yes, I
know. You
talk to me,
remember?

You just
don't
listen
very well.

YOU...YOU
KNOW
ABOUT -

By the Allspark, Swiper, let's go!
'My time in the light is short',
or some such nonsense.



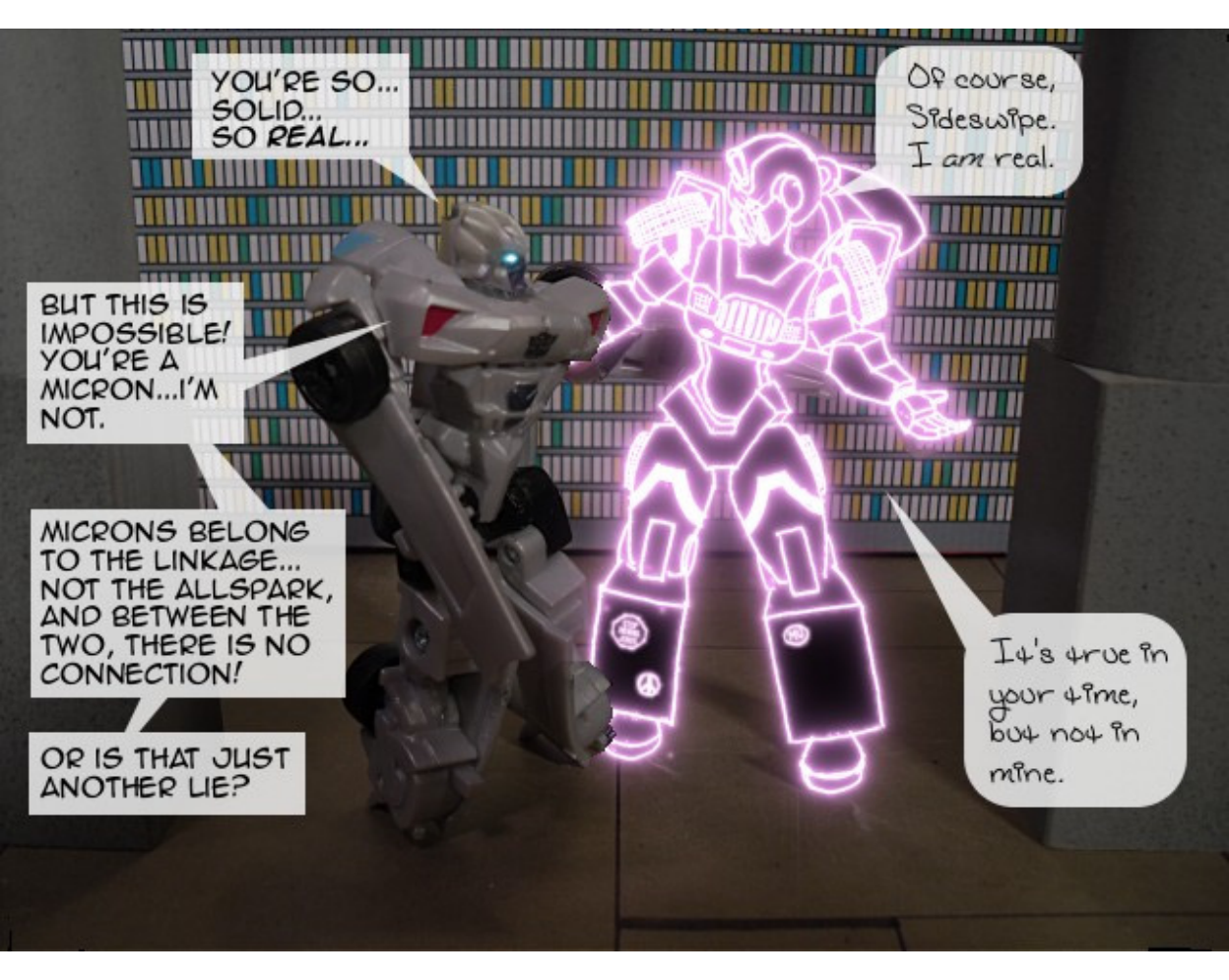
WHERE ARE YOU
TAKING ME?

Oh, I'm going to lead
you to your doom in
some quicksand, or
something...

That's what
ghosts do,
right?

I DON'T...
BELIEVE...
IN GHOSTS.

Good.
Neither
do I.



YOU'RE SO...
SOLID...
SO REAL...

Of course,
Sideswipe.
I am real.

BUT THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU'RE A
MICRON...I'M
NOT.

MICRONS BELONG
TO THE LINKAGE...
NOT THE ALLSPARK,
AND BETWEEN THE
TWO, THERE IS NO
CONNECTION!

OR IS THAT JUST
ANOTHER LIE?

It's true in
your time,
but not in
mine.

...THEN WHAT TIME
ARE WE IN, STELLITE?

This one's


You asked for my help,
didn't you? Well, I found
the book you needed.

YOU BROUGHT
ME HERE FOR
A BOOK ON
VECTOR PRIME?

No, you didn't need
that. What you
need is that book
up there...

Waaay up there!






ALL THE WAY UP *THERE?*

Yes, dear

AW, BOLTS...

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU
HAVE A LADDER...

No, dear



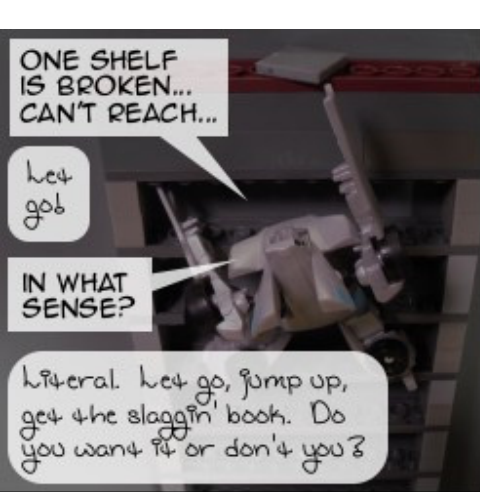
THE LIBRARIAN REALLY HATES
IT WHEN I CLIMB THE SHELVES.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS BOOK?

Where would I
be coming back
from, hmmm?

POINT.

HERE GOES NOTHING...



ONE SHELF
IS BROKEN...
CAN'T REACH...


Let
go!

IN WHAT
SENSE?

Literal. Let go, jump up,
get the slagg'in' book. Do
you want it or don't you?



I DO...



GOT IT!

OH
SLAG.



AUGH!


HELP!

TSUGARU!

TSUGARU!




GYAAH!



A DREAM.

≡SIGH≡

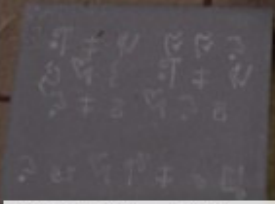


SLIPPED OUT
OF MY CHAIR...

⚡
WAIT...

THAT BOOK...
IT WASN'T HERE
BEFORE...

THOSE LETTERS!



THE MMS ...AND...
PRIMUS! 'THE MMS
AND THE SHINKI!'

-'BY SYNCHRO'!

VECTOR SIGMA!
THIS IS FROM THE
FIRST GOLDEN AGE!

BUT...IF TSUGARU
WORKS FOR THE
MULTIVERSE
MANAGEMENT
SERVICE...AND
THERE IS SOME
LINK TO SYNCHRO...

THEN THAT
MEANS...



MATRIX!

SHE IS AN
AGENT!

...AND MAGNUS
IS USING ME
TO FLUSH
HER OUT!


DING-A-LING-
A-LING!



DING-A-LING-
A-LING-A-LING
A-LING-A-LING-!


BONK!





Oh! Magnus got run over
by a Reindeer...(Buster)...

...Coming home
from our house,
Christmas Eve!



You may say
there's no such
thing as Santa...

But as for
me and
Sideswipe,
we bel-

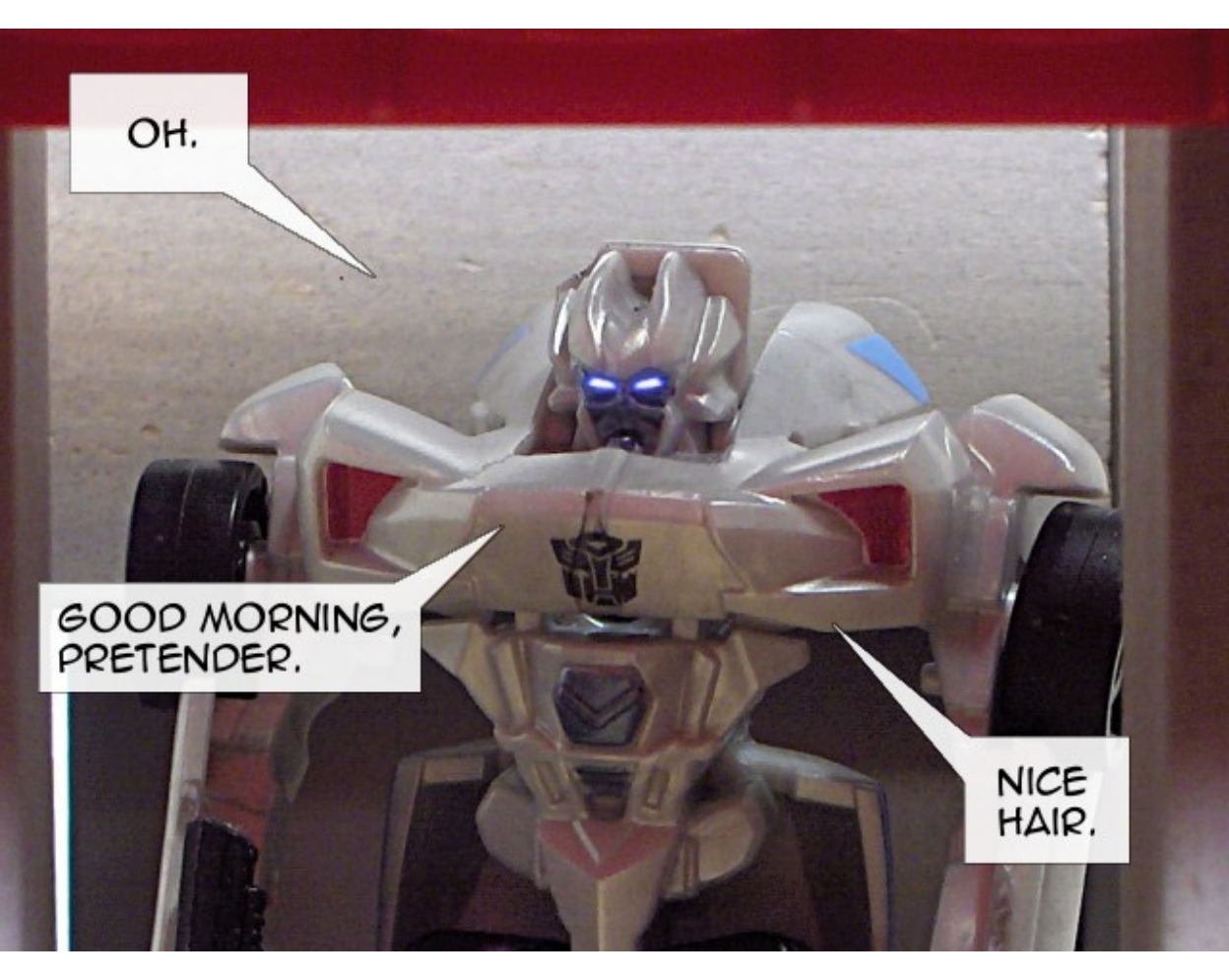
-Eek!



OH.

GOOD MORNING,
PRETENDER.

NICE
HAIR.



Jeez, Sideswipe
Creepy much?

I might not
have been decent

Tee hee

GET YOUR
THINGS.

WE'RE
GOING.



Wellb This certainly
is a nice, dark, dusty,
basement4-type place.



You still haven't told me
where we're going, you know.





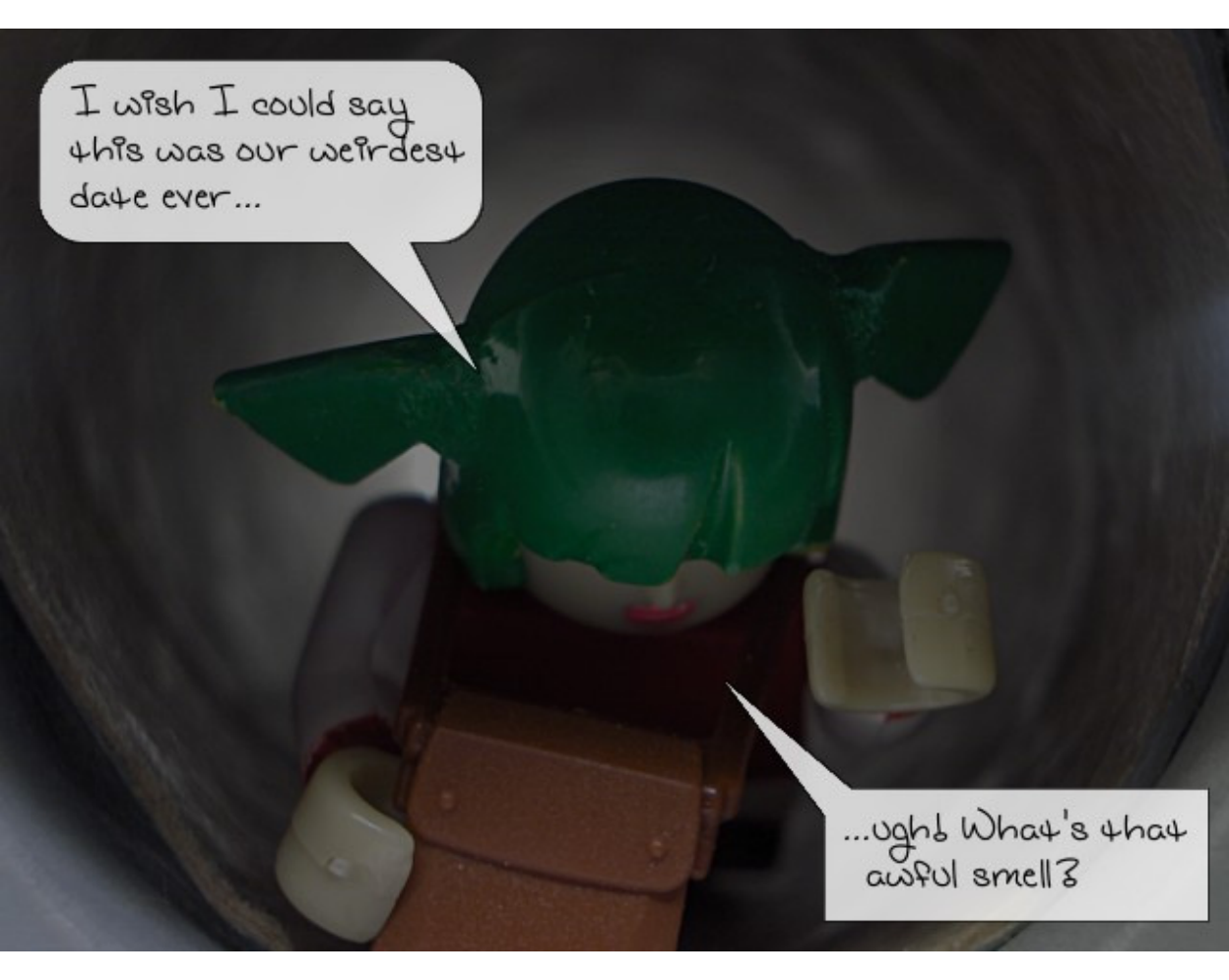
ALL RIGHT.
GO IN THERE.
I'LL FOLLOW.

Go in the pipe?
Are you serious?

YES.

There might
be rats...

NOT IN THERE.

A LEGO minifigure with green hair and a red top is inside a toilet bowl. The minifigure is positioned in the center of the bowl, with its head and upper body visible. The background is the white ceramic of the toilet bowl.

I wish I could say
this was our weirdest
date ever...

...ugh What's that
awful smell?

⇒KUK⇐

⇒BEEP⇐
⇒BEEP⇐

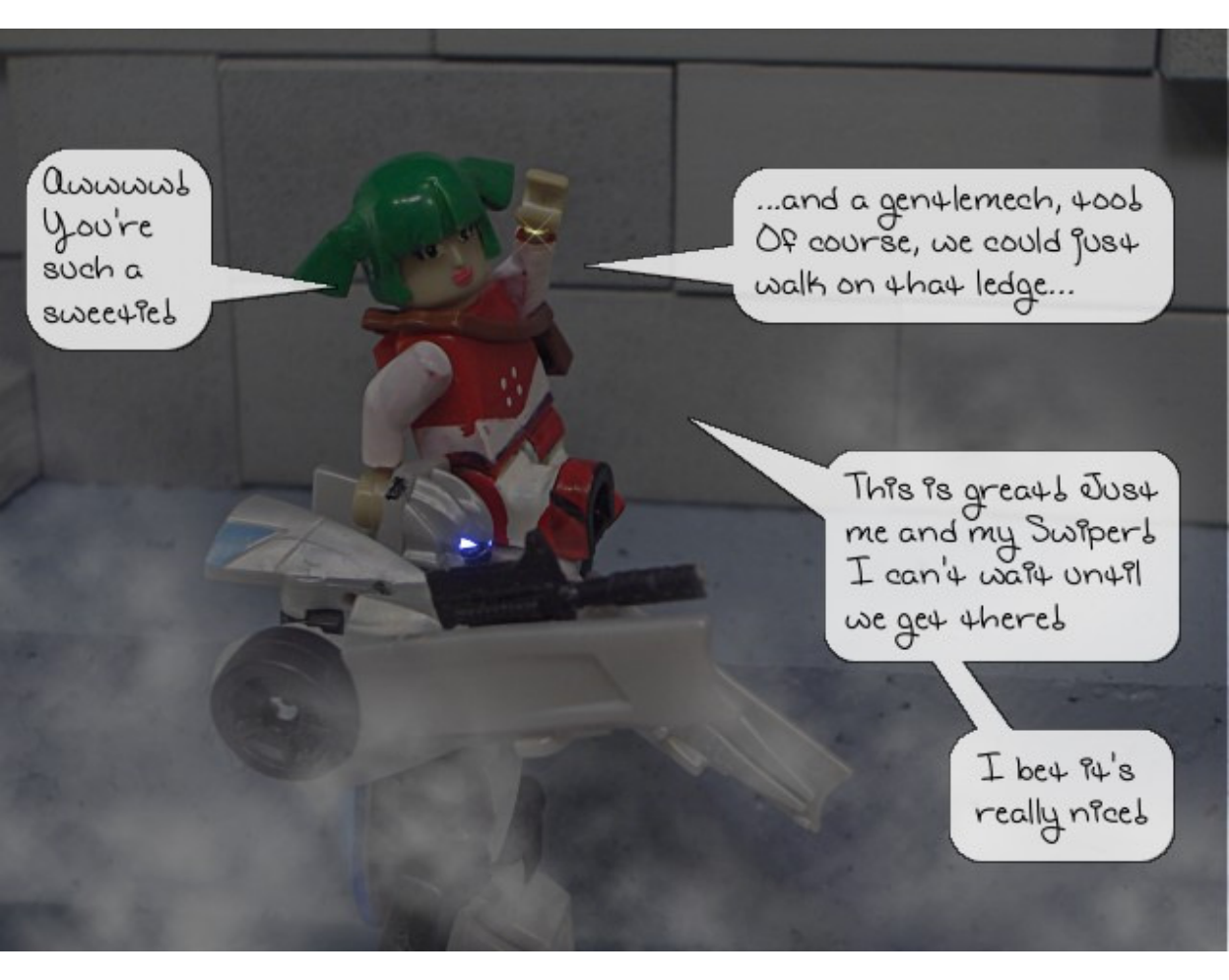
1717 1717
INACTIVE

The sewers! How romantic

Look at all the pretty steam...

So, where
do we go
next?

SOMEWHERE WE
CAN BE ALONE.

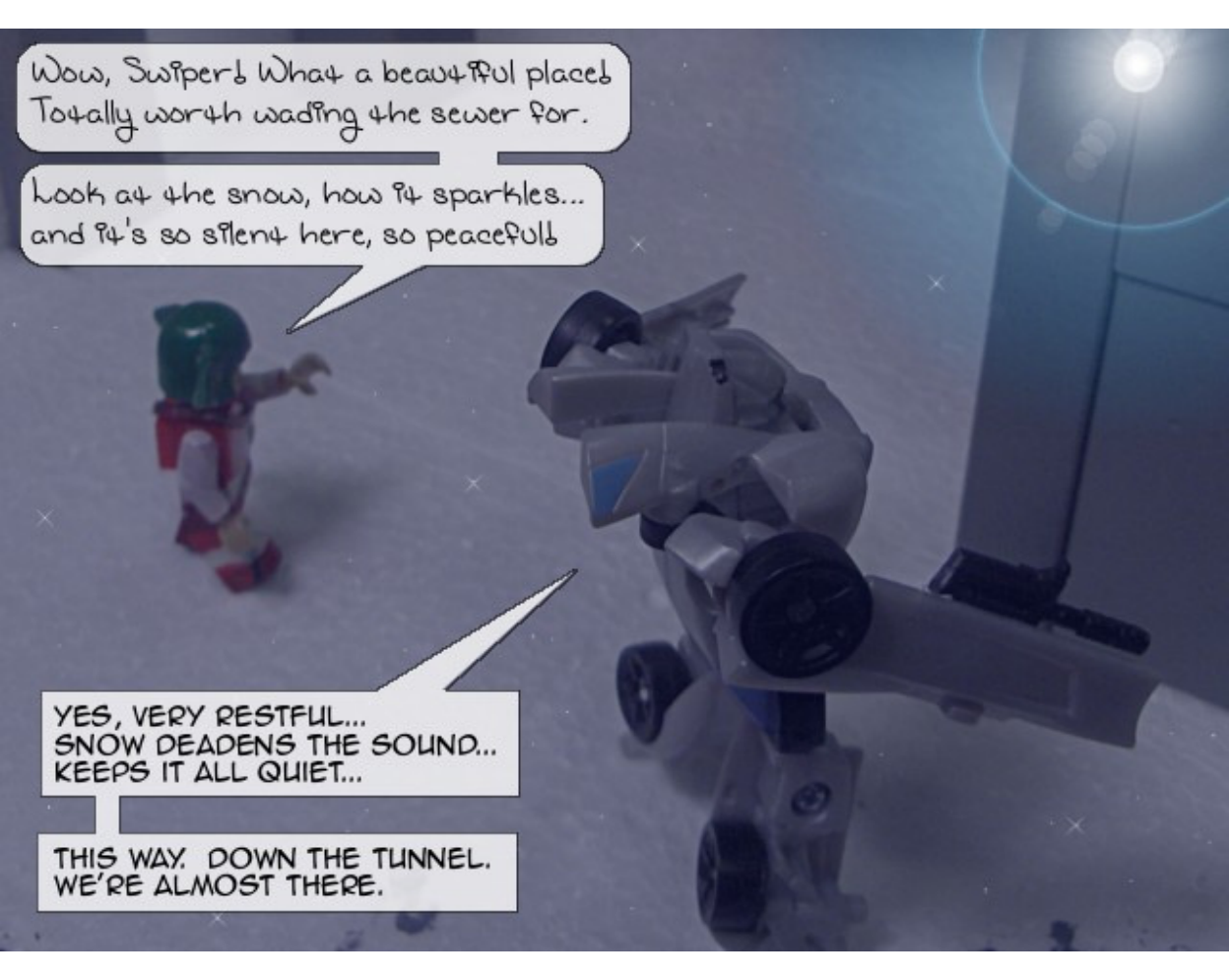


Awwww!
You're
such a
sweetie!

...and a gentlemech, too!
Of course, we could just
walk on that ledge...

This is great! Just
me and my Swiper!
I can't wait until
we get there!

I bet it's
really nice!




Wow, Swiper! What a beautiful place!
Totally worth wading the sewer for.

Look at the snow, how it sparkles...
and it's so silent here, so peaceful!

YES, VERY RESTFUL...
SNOW DEADENS THE SOUND...
KEEPS IT ALL QUIET...

THIS WAY. DOWN THE TUNNEL.
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.




HERE WE ARE,
PRETENDER.
THIS IS THE PLACE.

...Through the
door, you mean.

NO.

I THINK...

I THINK I
HAD BETTER
DO IT HERE
AND NOW.



IT'S THE
KIND OF
THING...

DOESN'T
GET EASIER...

IF YOU
WAIT...

Um...I don't
get what you're
proposing, here...

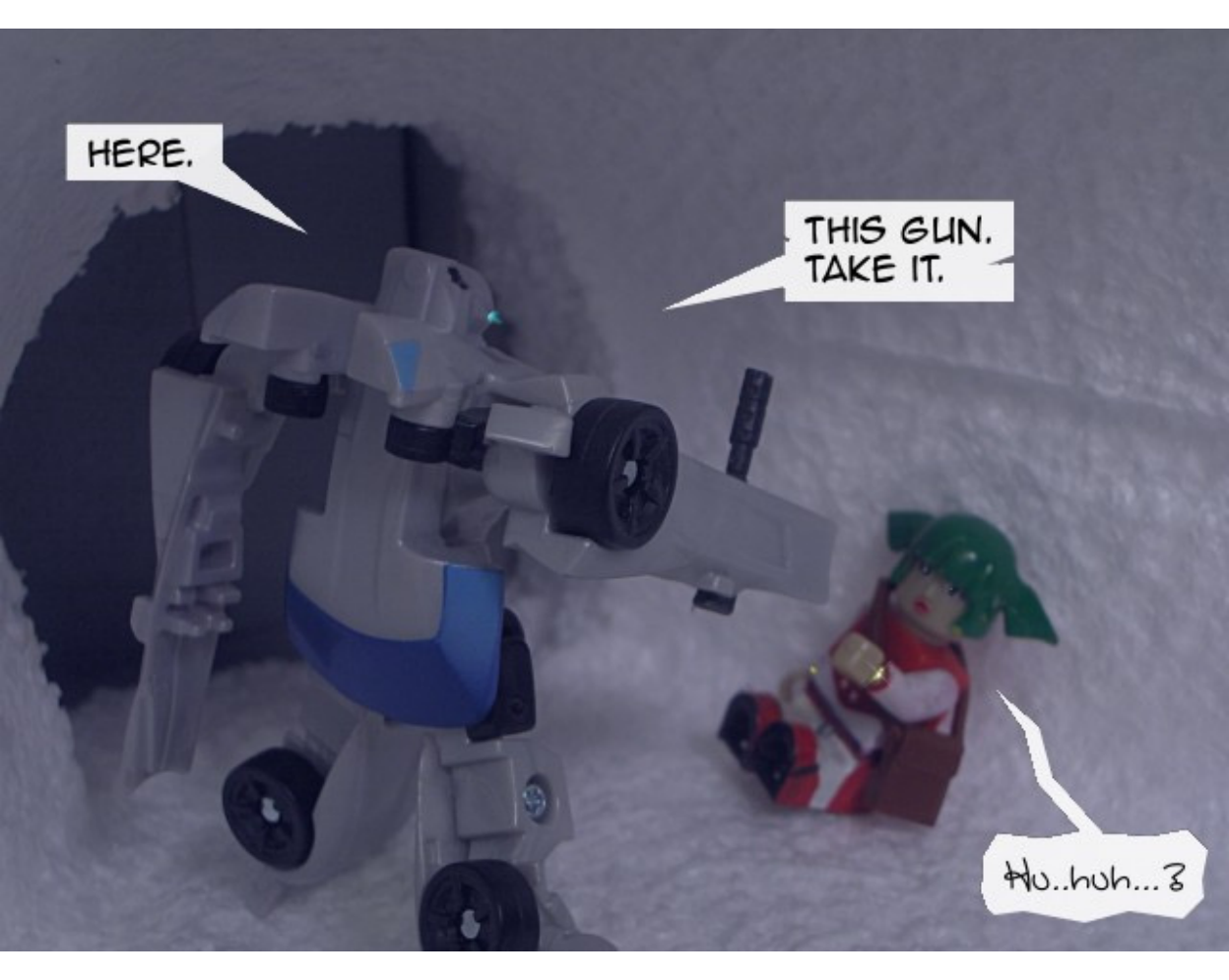
...wait a klirk

You...you have
something to
give me, don't you?

A LEGO MOC (My Own Creation) featuring a large, white, stylized robot with blue eyes and a small green-haired girl minifigure. The robot is constructed from white and grey LEGO bricks, with blue eyes and a small blue and white emblem on its chest. The girl minifigure has green hair, a red top, and is holding a brown object. The background is a dark, jagged, cracked surface. Two speech bubbles are present: one from the robot saying "Y...YES, ACTUALLY..." and one from the girl saying "I...I DO...".

Y...YES,
ACTUALLY...

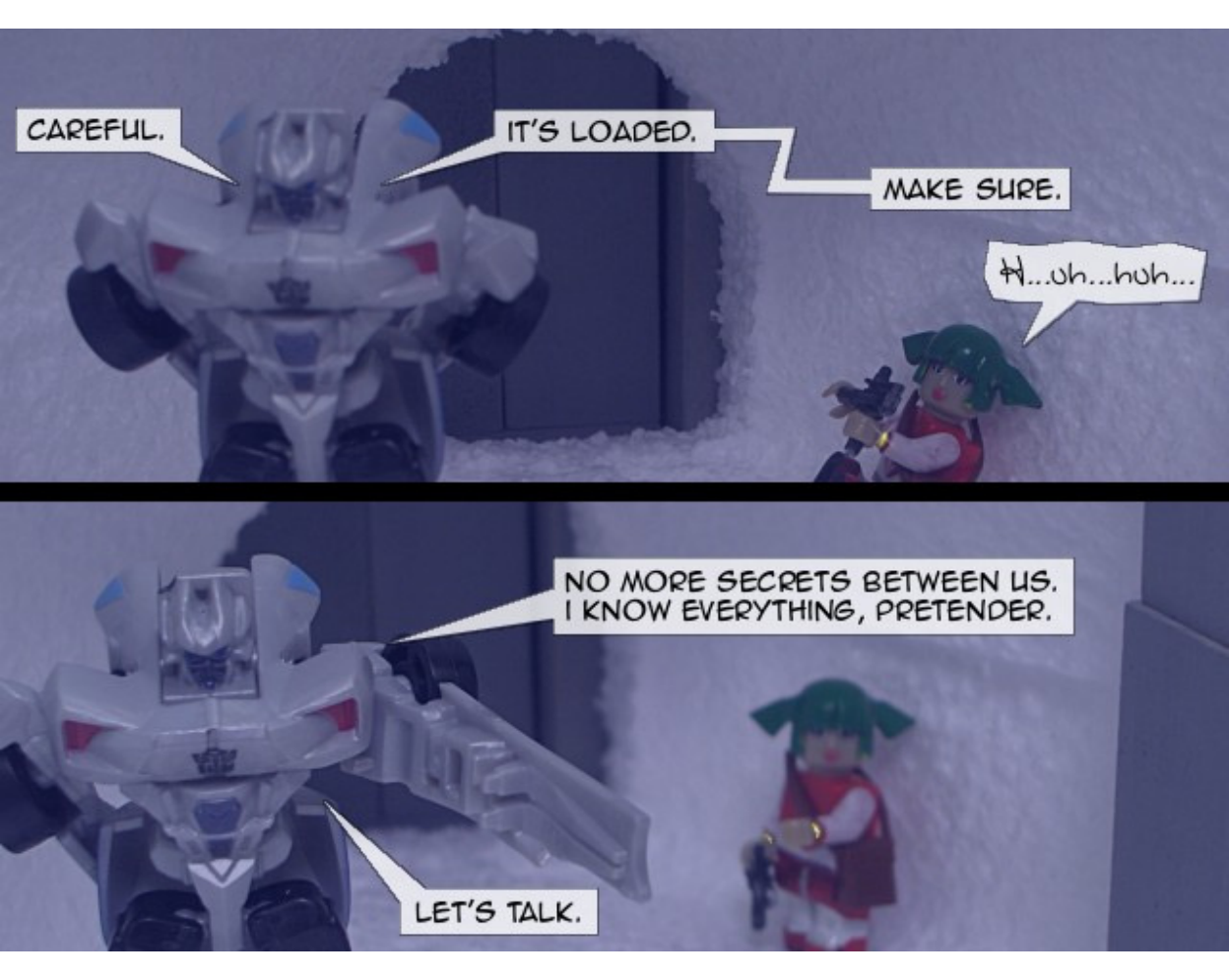
I...I DO...



HERE.

THIS GUN.
TAKE IT.

Hu..huh...?



CAREFUL.


IT'S LOADED.

MAKE SURE.

H...uh...huh...

NO MORE SECRETS BETWEEN US.
I KNOW EVERYTHING, PRETENDER.

LET'S TALK.



NO MORE PRETENDING!
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT FROM THIS PLANET...
OR THIS UNIVERSE!

YOU WERE SENT HERE! SENT TO THE
SPIRE OF SYNCHRO...SENT AFTER WHAT
IT CONTAINED...THE SAME SPINEL CRYSTAL
THAT THE DECEPTICONS STOLE!

NOT EVEN GOING TO TRY AND DENY IT, EH?
THAT'S GOOD. TOO MANY LIES AROUND
HERE, AS IT IS.



BESIDES, I KNOW WHAT THE CRYSTAL DOES.
VERY POWERFUL. HARD TO SEE HOW SYNCHRO
GOT IT. STOLE IT FROM YOUR BOSSES,
DIDN'T HE?



PLEASE.

My...bosses?



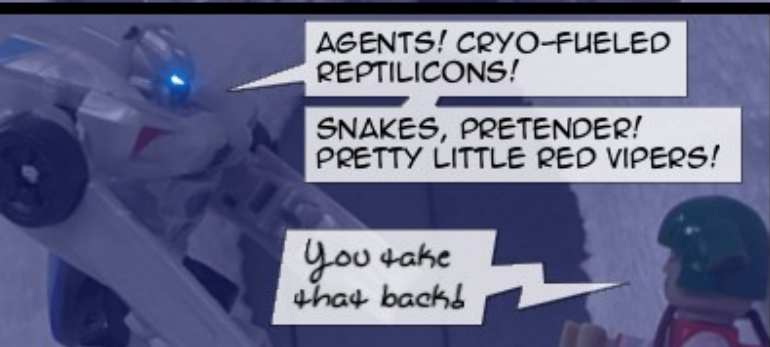
THE MULTIVERSE MANAGEMENT SERVICE.
GOT A LOT LIKE YOU. SHINKI. AGENTS!



I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THROUGH IT!
'TRUST ME, SIDESWIPE'. 'TALK TO ME'.
BET IT WAS USEFUL. MAYBE EVEN FUN.

BUT...DECEPTION, THAT'S THE REAL
THRILL, ISN'T IT? THAT'S HOW
YOUR KIND OPERATES...

My kind 36



AGENTS! CRYO-FUELED
REPTILICONS!

SNAKES, PRETENDER!
PRETTY LITTLE RED VIPERS!

*You take
that back!*



OH, I'D
LOVE TO!

I'D LOVE TO TAKE
IT ALL BACK...

Then *fake* it!

POW!




⇒COUGH⇒

THAT WAS...

⇒COUGH⇒

THE RIGHT...ANSWER.





THEN...YOU ARE
WHO YOU SAY
YOU ARE...

≡UFF≡

...OR AT
LEAST, YOU
AREN'T WHO
YOU HAVEN'T
SAID... YOU
WEREN'T....

You're not making sense.
Were you over-energizing
all night, or something?

TSUGARU, I SPENT LAST NIGHT
AT THE LIBRARY WITH...

A BOOK...THAT I FOUND.

...BUT I SHOULDN'T HAVE
FOUND IT. ALL THE COPIES
WERE LOST...AGES AGO...

...LOST, OR
STOLEN...

THE BOOK
HAD YOU
IN IT.

Oh, you read a book. Now I understand.
It turned you into a murderous psycho
jerkface who calls me names.
That totally makes sense.

Who the Gobotron are they?

THEY'RE NOT FROM GOBOTRON. THEY'RE A
BLUNCH OF SELF-STYLED 'MULTIVERSAL
STEWARDS' WHO 'MONITOR AND MAINTAIN
MULTIVERSAL COHESION'...

...IN OTHER WORDS, THEY FUNCT WITH TIME AND STEAL ARTIFACTS.
VECTOR PRIME PROBABLY THINKS THEY'RE CHAOS INCARNATE.*

Vector Prime? Don't tell me stories about Vector Prime!

I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH, TSUGARU! THIS WAS ALL IN THAT BOOK, AND SO
WERE YOU. THERE WAS A WHOLE CHAPTER ON THE SHINKI AGENTS EMPLOYED
BY THE MMS, AND A PICTURE THAT LOOKED A LOT LIKE YOU, WITH YOUR NAME
NEXT TO IT...AND SYNCHRO, THAT SYNCHRO, WROTE THE BOOK.

THE PIECES WERE FALLING INTO PLACE. I DIDN'T LIKE THE PUZZLE. I SAW AN
AGENT, SENT TO RECOVER THE SOCIETY'S ARTIFACT...AND SHE STARTED TO
LOOK LIKE YOU. I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, BUT THE PIECES FIT TOO WELL.
I HAD TO PROVE MYSELF WRONG. I HAD TO TEST YOU.

*SEE ALSO: PRIME TIME!

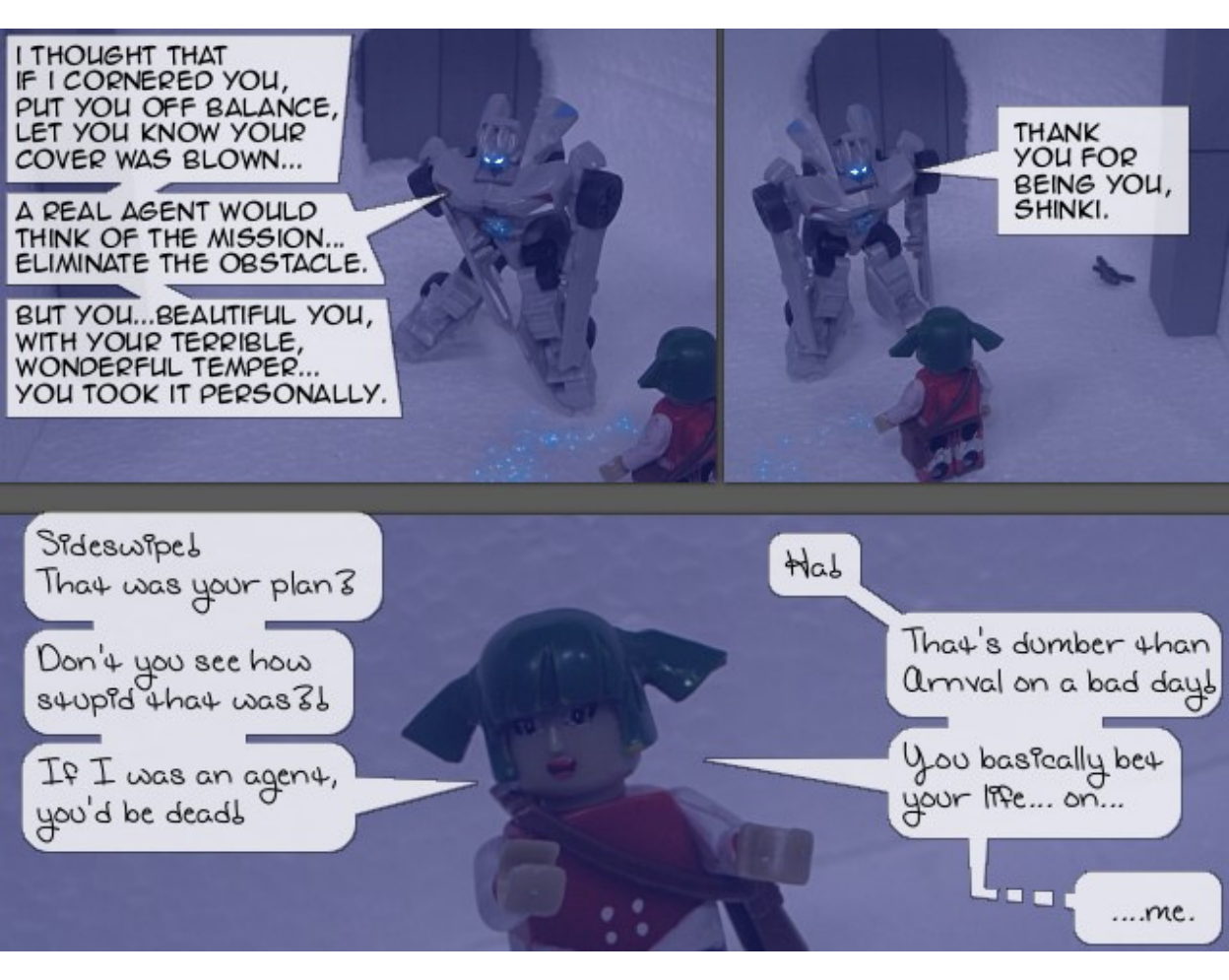
TSUGARU

TSUGARU, I'M SORRY.
I HAD TO BE SURE YOU DIDN'T
WORK FOR...THE MULTIVERSAL
MANAGEMENT SOCIETY...I KEEP
GETTING THE NAME WRONG...

AGE: 21
DNA TYPE: HUM/ELF
BORON MODIFIED

TURN-ONS: GUNS, FAST CARS

GEAR-UP LANDINGS



I THOUGHT THAT
IF I CORNERED YOU,
PUT YOU OFF BALANCE,
LET YOU KNOW YOUR
COVER WAS BLOWN...

A REAL AGENT WOULD
THINK OF THE MISSION...
ELIMINATE THE OBSTACLE.

BUT YOU... BEAUTIFUL YOU,
WITH YOUR TERRIBLE,
WONDERFUL TEMPER...
YOU TOOK IT PERSONALLY.

THANK
YOU FOR
BEING YOU,
SHINKI.

Sideswipe!

That was your plan?

Don't you see how
stupid that was?

If I was an agent,
you'd be dead!

Hah

That's dumber than
Arrival on a bad day!

You basically bet
your life... on...

....me.



YEAH,
SHINKI.
I DID.

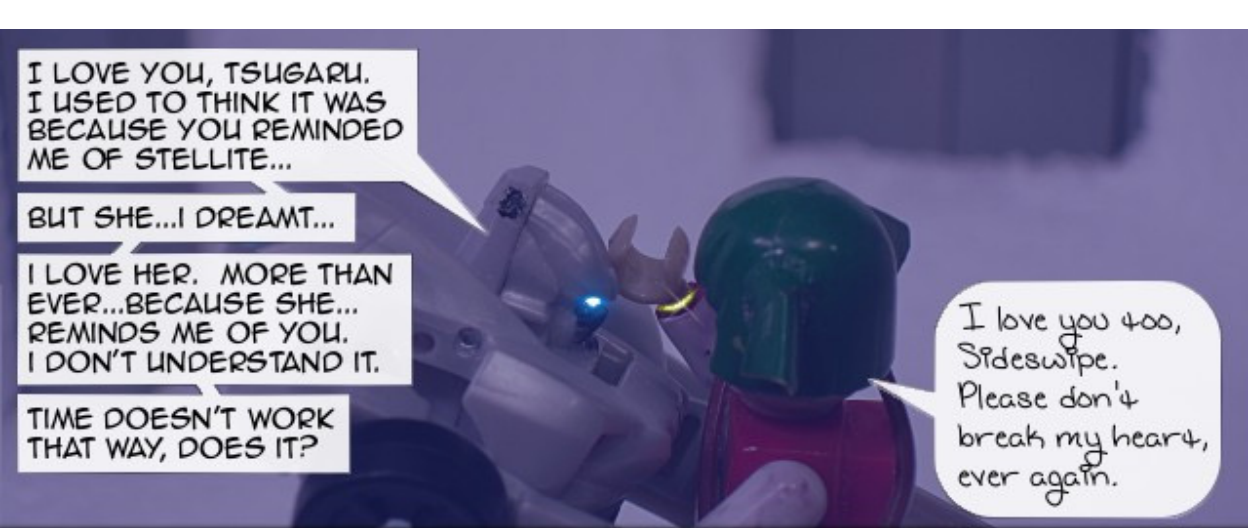
IF YOU WERE
A LIE, IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN
WORTHLESS,
ANYWAY...

BUT
YOU'RE
REAL...

AND YOU'VE ALSO
GOT A WICKED PUNCH!

What did you expect?
I mean, I can handle
a few tons of armor!





I LOVE YOU, TSUGARU.
I USED TO THINK IT WAS
BECAUSE YOU REMINDED
ME OF STELLITE...

BUT SHE...I DREAMT...

I LOVE HER. MORE THAN
EVER...BECAUSE SHE...
REMINDS ME OF YOU.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.


TIME DOESN'T WORK
THAT WAY, DOES IT?

I love you too,
Sideswipe.
Please don't
break my heart,
ever again.



...I HAVE TO.

YOUR FRIENDS,
TSUGARU...IRONHIDE
AND MURMELTIER...



THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION...

THEY... DIDN'T MAKE IT.

I'M SO SORRY, TSUGU...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...




Don't.

Just...hold me. Okay?

I shouldn't be sad...
they're...safe...

Aren't they?



TSUGARU, THEY...THEY ARE...
SAFER THAN WE COULD EVER IMAGINE.

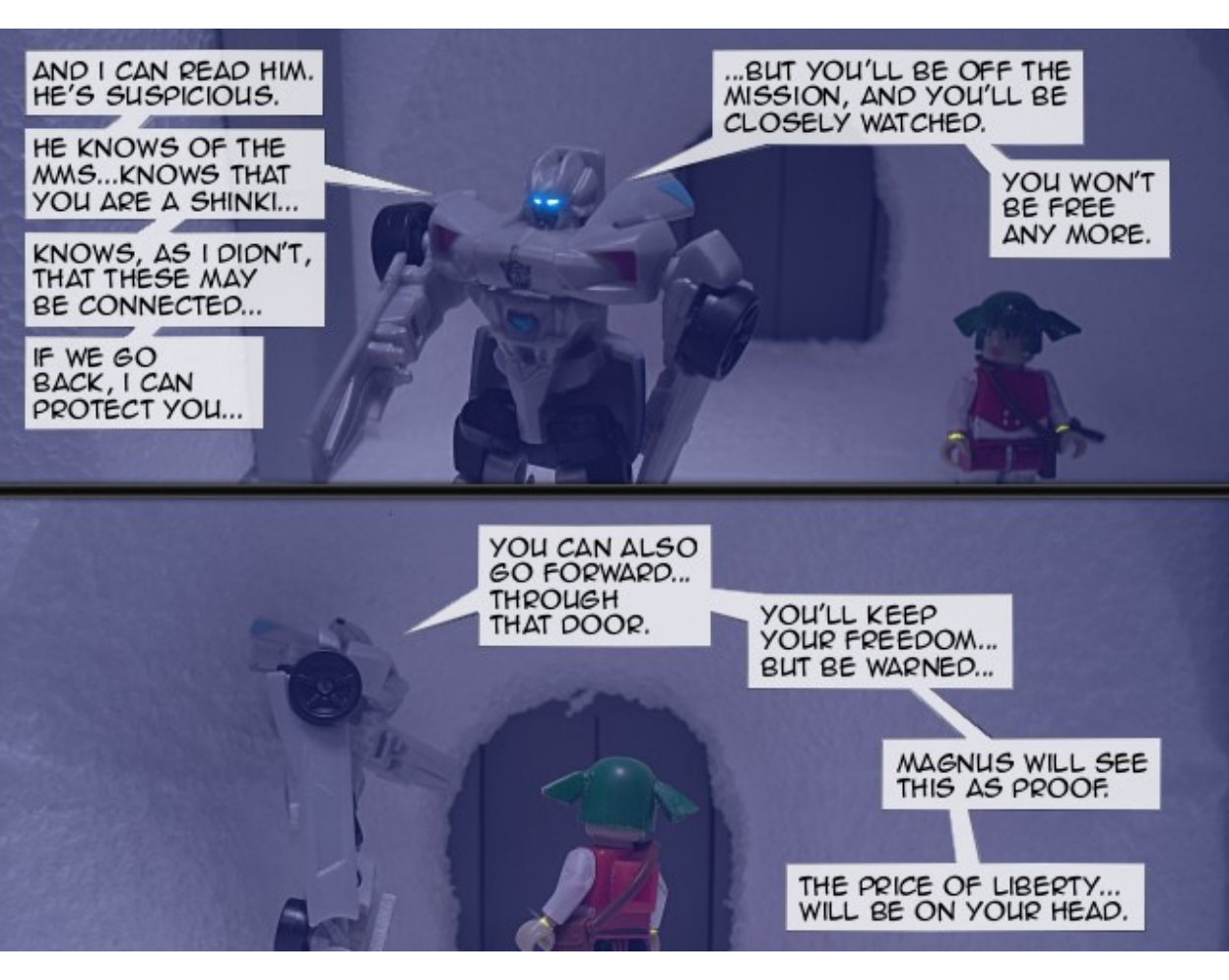
...IT'S YOU WHO AREN'T SAFE, TSUGU...
YOU'RE IN VERY GREAT DANGER...

...AND IT'S NOT FROM ANY
OF THE DECEPTICONS.

SYNCHRO'S BOOK...
IT WAS LOST...ALL
FULL COPIES WERE
LOST, AS WELL...

WE KNEW
OF THE MMS
FROM A FEW
SURVIVING
PAGES...

MAGNUS HAS
READ THOSE
FRAGMENTS...



AND I CAN READ HIM.
HE'S SUSPICIOUS.

HE KNOWS OF THE
MMS...KNOWS THAT
YOU ARE A SHINKI...

KNOWS, AS I DIDN'T,
THAT THESE MAY
BE CONNECTED...

IF WE GO
BACK, I CAN
PROTECT YOU...

...BUT YOU'LL BE OFF THE
MISSION, AND YOU'LL BE
CLOSELY WATCHED.

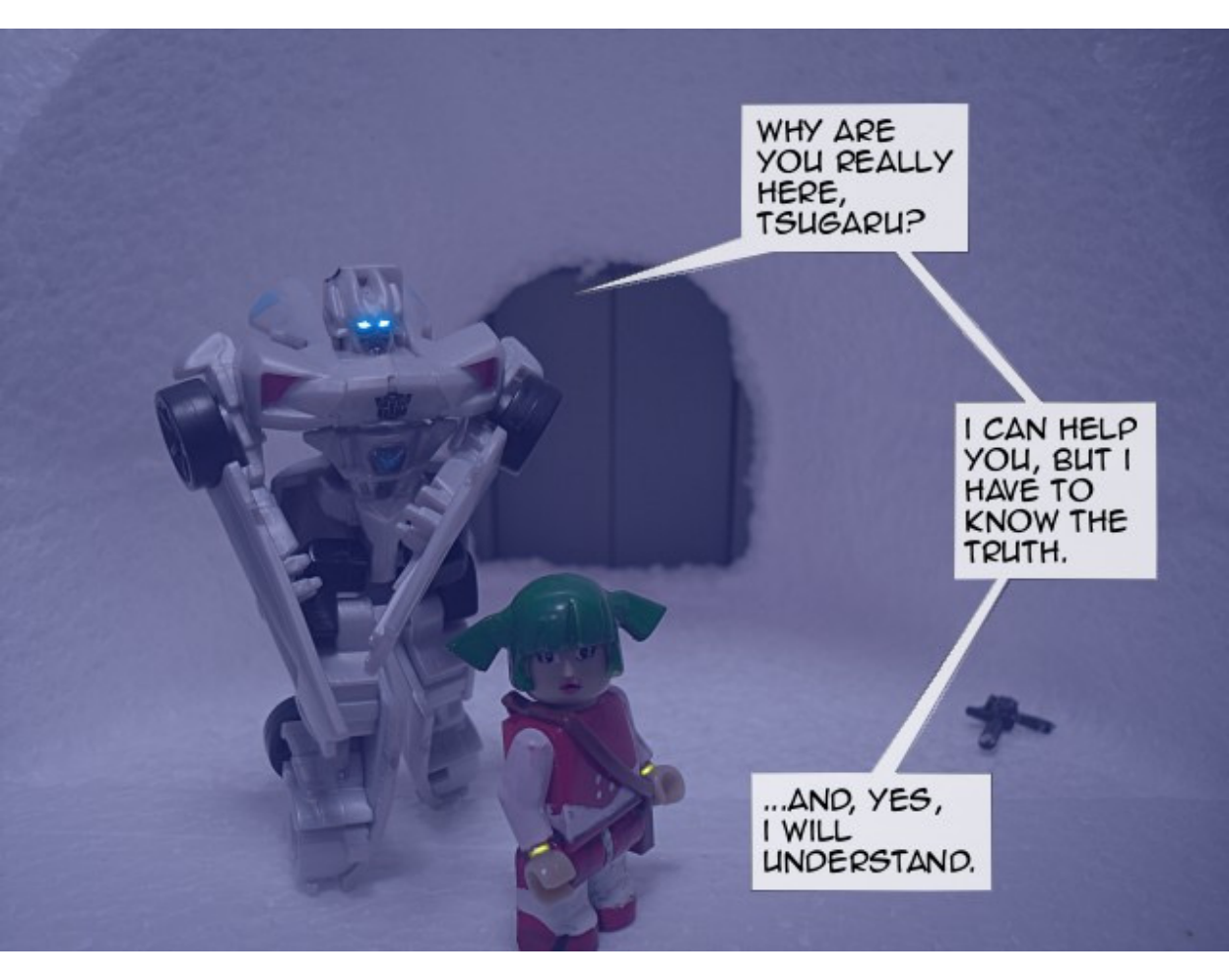
YOU WON'T
BE FREE
ANY MORE.

YOU CAN ALSO
GO FORWARD...
THROUGH
THAT DOOR.

YOU'LL KEEP
YOUR FREEDOM...
BUT BE WARNED...

MAGNUS WILL SEE
THIS AS PROOF.


THE PRICE OF LIBERTY...
WILL BE ON YOUR HEAD.



WHY ARE
YOU REALLY
HERE,
TSUGARU?

I CAN HELP
YOU, BUT I
HAVE TO
KNOW THE
TRUTH.

...AND, YES,
I WILL
UNDERSTAND.




Sideswipe...you were right. I am from another universe...and I was sent here...


...but I have never heard of this MMS. I work for ShadowDragon...

My friends and I got lost in time... Vector Prime rescued us, but not for free.

He sent us here on a mission...



...and now, it's just... my mission...




...No. You know what?
It's not my mission.
It never was my mission.

...you are, Sideswipe!
I know that now!


It came to me...up
there in the sky...

I'll go back with you.
I'll stay here...be a
Micronian with you...




VECTOR PRIME!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE
MAKING ALL THIS UP!

MATRIX! THE WHOLE
UNIVERSE IS IN DANGER!



I'm...not.
It's the truth,
Sideswipe.



Vector...he said that...
said it was in danger.
We had to destroy...
an artifact.

THEN LET'S GO
AND SMASH IT!
WHERE IS IT?


He said... Vector
said... it was in...
the Spire of
Synchro...

THE SPINEL!

ARE YOU SURE
IT WAS VECTOR?

He sliced open space...
with a sword

Are you sure
it's the spinel?




YES. THE REST OF
SYNCHRO'S SYSTEM IS
JUST BASIC CIRCUITRY...
I STUDIED IT.

THE CRYSTAL IS
THE HEART.
WITHOUT IT...


THE MACHINE...
WON'T WORK...
AND...



VECTOR
PRIME...



AW,
SCRAP.



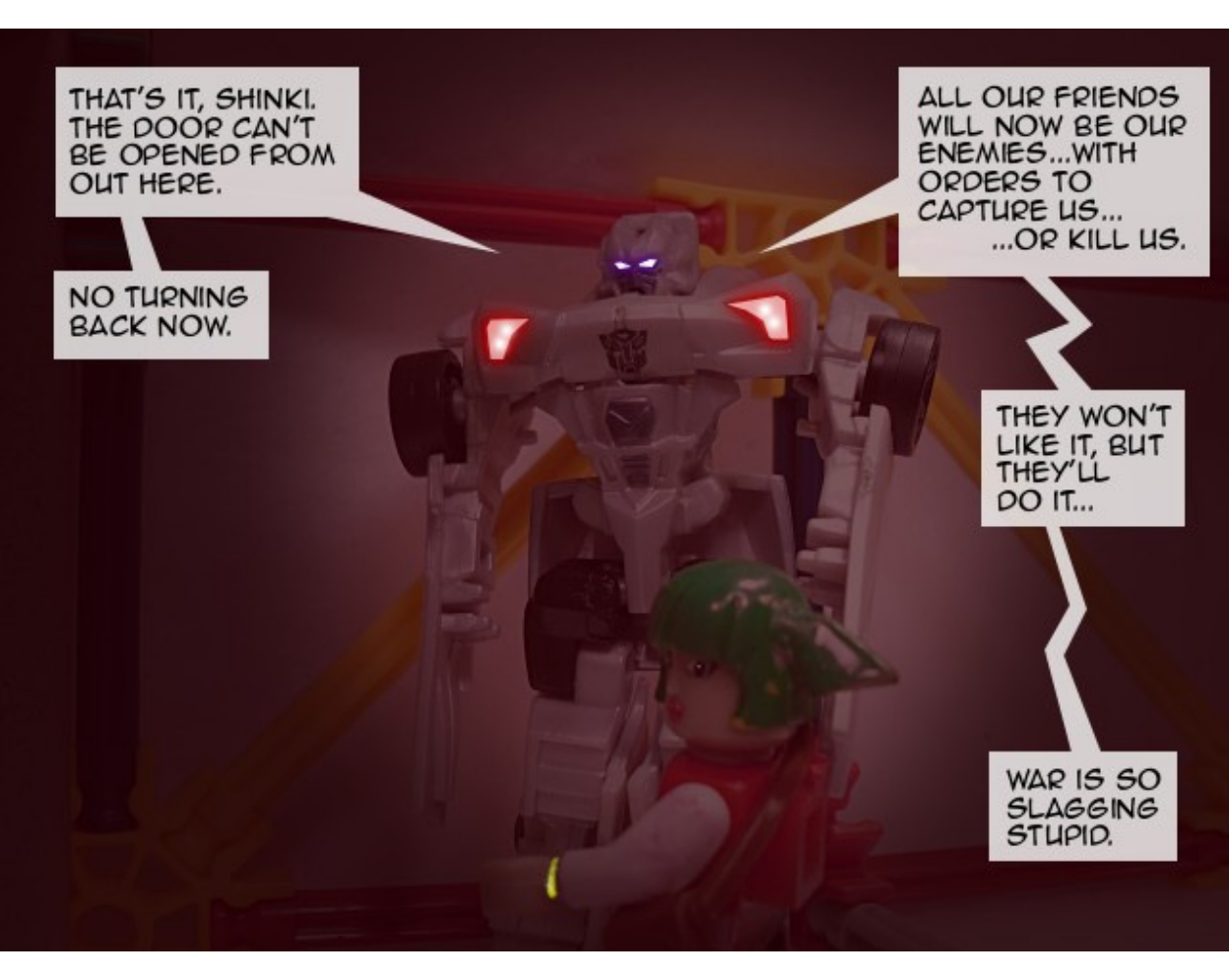
COME ON, SWEETHEART.
LET'S GO SAVE THE
UNIVERSE.

CREAKING ON DISUSED TRACKS,
THE DOOR GRINDS SLOWLY SHUT...



GOODBYE...

...AND...THANK YOU.

A LEGO comic panel set in a dark, industrial environment. Optimus Prime, a large white and grey robot with glowing red eyes and purple visor, stands in the background. In the foreground, a Minifigure with a green helmet and a red vest is seen from the side, looking up at the robot. The scene is dimly lit with some yellow light sources in the background.

THAT'S IT, SHINKI.
THE DOOR CAN'T
BE OPENED FROM
OUT HERE.

NO TURNING
BACK NOW.

ALL OUR FRIENDS
WILL NOW BE OUR
ENEMIES...WITH
ORDERS TO
CAPTURE US...
...OR KILL US.

THEY WON'T
LIKE IT, BUT
THEY'LL
DO IT...

WAR IS SO
SLAGGING
STUPID.

NO USE TALKING ABOUT IT. WHO IS THIS SHADOWDRAGON? SOUNDS LIKE A CRIME LORD. WHAT SORT OF JOBS DID YOU DO?

BANK HEISTS,
ASSASSINATIONS,
HOSTILE MEDIA
COMPANY
TAKEOVERS, THAT
SORT OF THING?


→WOPP←

Huh? No! He's not a crime lord.

He's an independent
armed-service contractor.
Owns a bunch of us Shinki?

Business wasn't so hot. We spent a lot of
time training, sparring, fabricating
exciting armor...but that all changed, when -

WAIT A KLIK!
SHADOWDRAGON
OWNS YOU?!
YOU'RE SLAVES?




No! We're not slaves!
Shadow bought us...
...or...had us...built...

...but we're free to
manage ourselves. We're
a sort of commune...

Shadow doesn't interfere.
In fact, I've never even
seen him in person!

Any of the jobs we've
had, he's given us
over the phone.



'Hello, angel,' he'd say,
'Time to go to work'

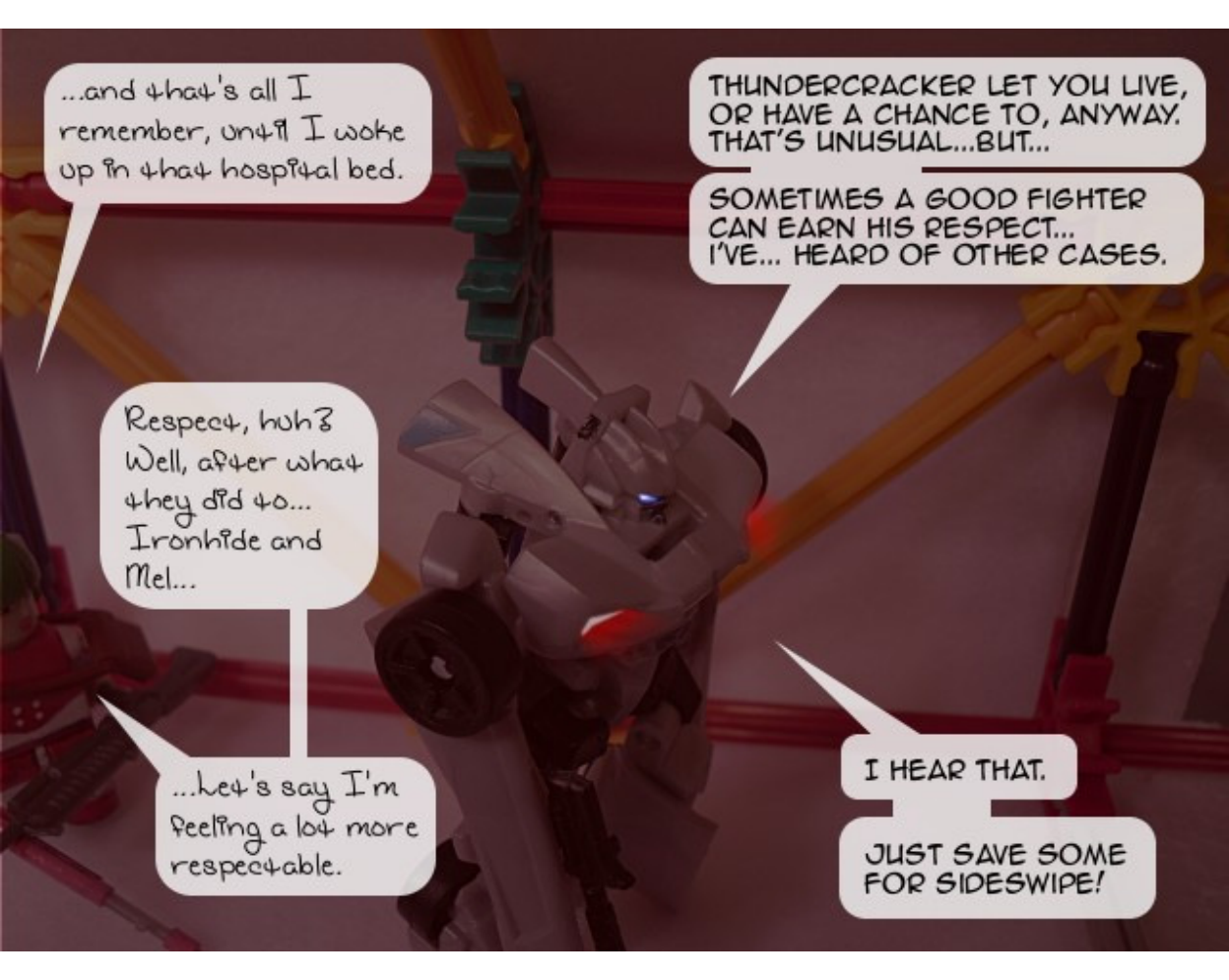
...well, he says that when
Arrival answers the phone...
she's an 'Angel Type', see...

Um, no...
why?

YOUR BOSS NEVER GOES
BY THE NAME 'CHARLIE',
DOES HE?

NEVER MIND.
IT WAS A FARRAH
BAD JOKE...

...MIGHT AS WELL TELL
YOUR WHOLE STORY...WE'VE
GOT A LONG WALK AHEAD.



...and that's all I remember, until I woke up in that hospital bed.

THUNDERCRACKER LET YOU LIVE, OR HAVE A CHANCE TO, ANYWAY. THAT'S UNUSUAL...BUT...

SOMETIMES A GOOD FIGHTER CAN EARN HIS RESPECT... I'VE... HEARD OF OTHER CASES.

Respect, huh?
Well, after what they did to...
Ironhide and Mel...

...let's say I'm feeling a lot more respectable.

I HEAR THAT.

JUST SAVE SOME FOR SIDESWIPE!

You can have him when I'm done...
and I've had a long time to think
about what I'm going to do...

THAT'S A DANGEROUS ROAD, SHINKI.
SMOOTH, FAST, AND ALL DOWNHILL...
IT'S EASY TO GET ON...
...BUT IT'S VERY HARD TO TURN BACK.

I...I know.
I'll try, Swiper...

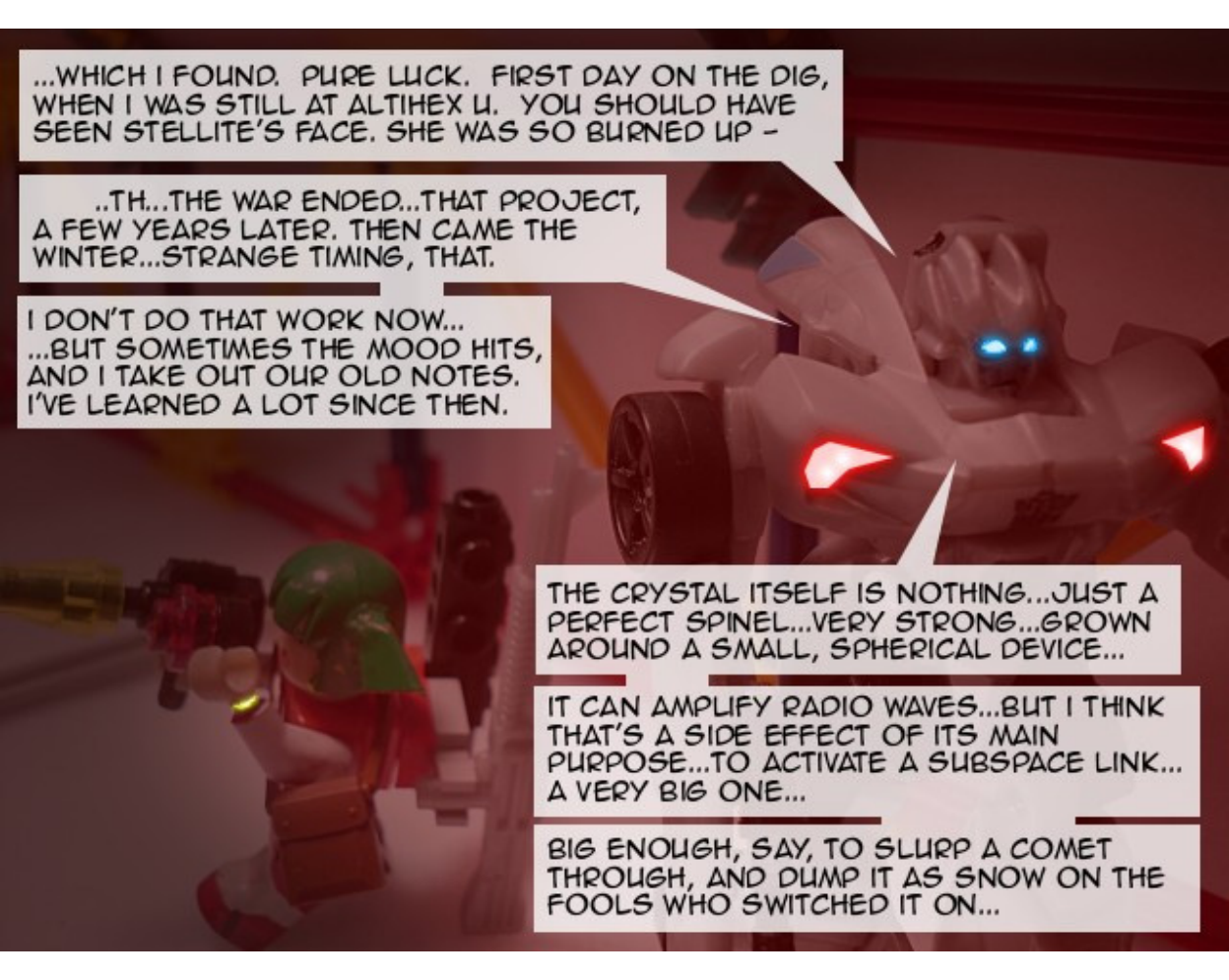
≡VWORP≡

...but I close my
eyes, and I see
Mel's scowl, and
Ironhide's...
...uh, cannons...

So how about this crystal, huh?
What does it do? You said the
Spire was some kind of machine?

YES. IT'S A WEATHER MACHINE.
SYNCHRO BUILT IT SECRETLY,
BUT HE LEFT DETAILED NOTES...





...WHICH I FOUND. PURE LUCK. FIRST DAY ON THE DIG,
WHEN I WAS STILL AT ALTIHEX U. YOU SHOULD HAVE
SEEN STELLITE'S FACE. SHE WAS SO BURNED UP -


..TH...THE WAR ENDED...THAT PROJECT,
A FEW YEARS LATER. THEN CAME THE
WINTER...STRANGE TIMING, THAT.

I DON'T DO THAT WORK NOW...
...BUT SOMETIMES THE MOOD HITS,
AND I TAKE OUT OUR OLD NOTES.
I'VE LEARNED A LOT SINCE THEN.

THE CRYSTAL ITSELF IS NOTHING...JUST A
PERFECT SPINEL...VERY STRONG...GROWN
AROUND A SMALL, SPHERICAL DEVICE...

IT CAN AMPLIFY RADIO WAVES...BUT I THINK
THAT'S A SIDE EFFECT OF ITS MAIN
PURPOSE...TO ACTIVATE A SUBSPACE LINK...
A VERY BIG ONE...

BIG ENOUGH, SAY, TO SLURP A COMET
THROUGH, AND DUMP IT AS SNOW ON THE
FOOLS WHO SWITCHED IT ON...



Radio 36 Sideswipe, does this crystal have a resonance frequency around 573 kilohertz?

YES...IT DOES.
HOW DID YOU KNOW...

...WHAT IS
THAT?!

Huh? It's a gun.
What does it
look like?

OBSESSION?

Mechs6 Always so insecure about...
...Never mind. Tune your radio to 573 kHz6

→VWEEEEEEEEEE←

THAT SOUND!
WHAT IS IT?

It's me, Sideswipe!

I know what's
inside that crystal

I've got three in my chest

Synchro's device is a CSC orb

"CSC ORBS? YOU MEAN THOSE THREE CHRISTMAS BALLS BEHIND YOUR CHESTPLATE? THE DOCS WEREN'T SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THOSE...BUT THEY THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE YOUR SPARK, SO THEY TRIED REALLY HARD NOT TO DISTURB THEM."

⇒CLUNK⇐

⇒BONK⇐

"Thank Konami! Actually...no. Don't. They only built us to be combat drones. We're only alive at all because the CSC system is buggy."

"It was designed as a subspace memory. Consciousness is a side-effect..."

"HECK OF A SIDE EFFECT!"

"Yeah. Quantum weirdness. I'm not too clear on the details.* There are other effects, too."

⇒PING!⇐

"YOUR SUBSPACE ACCESS!"

⇒BONK⇐

"Right! I like that one... but there's...one really bad thing... about the CSC system..."

**"SEE POLENICUS' WARRING AT PLAY,
WHICH WE ARE SHAMELESSLY 'HOMAGING'."**

"It's...volatile. Take out the orbs, or stop them from vibrating...and I'm gone...forever."

"GONE? BUT WHERE TO?
TO JOIN THE ALLSPARK?"

"I...I hope...somewhere...but I don't know...
I don't even think Vector Prime knew...
Sometimes... I'm...afraid.
It's an accident that we're people at all...

"TSUGARU...YOU AND I MET BY ACCIDENT...
IN A CITY FULL OF ACCIDENTAL PEOPLE.

"THE MICRONS ARE A LOT LIKE YOU. THEY WERE SUPPOSED
TO BE SMART TOOLS, NOTHING MORE. THEIR SPARKS
AREN'T FROM THE ALLSPARK, LIKE OURS. THEY'RE JUST
LINKS TO THEIR SHARED DIMENSION OF CONSCIOUSNESS...

"...THE MICRON LEGENDS CALL IT THE 'LINKAGE'."

"IT'S NOT THE ALLSPARK.
THE TWO ARE...SEPARATE. FOREVER. MAYBE-
BUT... IT EXISTS...AND FOR THE MICRONS, IT'S HOME.

"SOMEWHERE, SHINKI, YOU'VE GOT A HOME."

"...I'M TALKING TOO MUCH."

"I like to hear you talk."

"HEH...BUT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT CSC ORBS.
I'LL BUY THAT SYNCHRO MIGHT HAVE USED ONE,
BUT WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?"

"There's one
big reason!"

...the weather! It snowed both times I went up in the air!

The second time was after Thundercracker took the crystal! Synchro's device couldn't have activated his subspace link...

...but I could have, when I powered up for flight mode!



**PRIMUS!
YOU COULD
HAVE!**

...AND THAT'S NOT ALL, SHINKI!
SYNCHRO'S SYSTEM IS A FEEDBACK CIRCUIT!

ONCE IT STARTS, IT KICKS BACK ENERGY FROM THE
STORM! NO WONDER YOU DIDN'T USE FUEL! YOU
WERE HOOKED UP TO A POWER PLANT!

Oh yeah! I'm awesome.

YOU ACTIVATE SUBSPACE...KICK UP A STORM...STORM GENERATES POWER...

...BUT WHAT POWERS THE SUBSPACE LINK? MUST BE SOMETHING BIG,
SOMETHING EXTERNAL ... A BLACK HOLE, A QUASAR...



TSUGARU...THE STORM ENDED ABOUT THE TIME
YOU HAD THAT BIG POWER SURGE. REMEMBER?
DID THAT HAPPEN BOTH TIMES, TSUGARU?

"Yes...both 4 times...even 4 the clouds
started 4o break up..."

"WELL, THERE YOU ARE."

"YOU START OUT ON YOUR ENGINES..."

"YOU CALL UP A STORM, AND GET REALLY ENERGIZED..."


"...AND THAT JUICES YOU UP TO THE POINT
WHERE YOU CAN PLUG INTO...
WHATEVER IT IS THAT RUNS SYNCHRO'S MACHINE...
AND IT'S GOT TO BE HUGE..."

"THE SEEKERS HAVE THE
ORB...THEY COULD DO
THIS, TOO...BUT THEY
DON'T HAVE SYNCHRO'S
MACHINE. EVEN IF THEY
KNOW WHAT THE ORB IS,
THEY'LL HAVE TO START
FROM SCRATCH!"

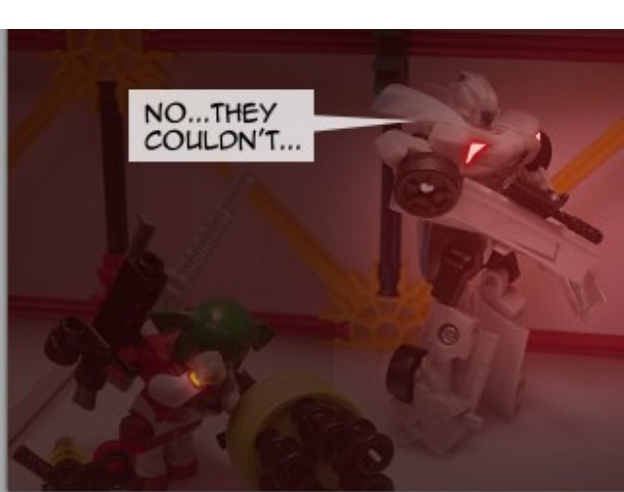
"Konami! No...4 they won't
My friend...Murmeltier!
She's not a Pretender..."

...she's a Shink!

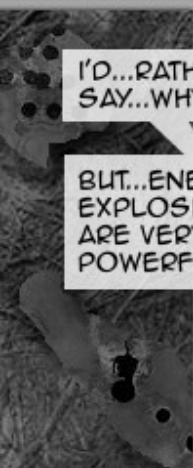




Murmeltier has all
the same systems!
Even if she...is...
...they...they could...




NO...THEY
COULDN'T...



I'D...RATHER NOT
SAY...WHY...


BUT...ENERGON
EXPLOSIONS
ARE VERY...
POWERFUL.



THEY WON'T HAVE...
ANYTHING THEY
CAN...ABUSE...

EVEN IF THEY KNEW
WHAT SHE WAS...

...AND I DON'T
THINK THEY DID.




IF SHE HAD BEEN
RECOGNIZED AS AN
UNUSUAL TYPE, SHE
WOULD HAVE
ESCAPED THE MINES...

THEY'D HAVE TAKEN
HER STRAIGHT TO
THE MAIN SEEKER
BASE AT VOS NOVA...

FOR...EXPERIMENTS...

I TOLD YOU ONCE THAT
YOUR FRIENDS WERE
TWO LUCKY MECHS...
THAT WASN'T A LIE.

VOS NOVA IS
THE PIT ITSELF...



Goodb then...then the g...glitches
should feel right at home where
I'll be sending them

Right...Swiper?

YEAH...

RIGHT!

SORRY...LIFE FLASHING BY...AGAIN.
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT THING?

I saved up
robot points...

OH.

...From actual robots.

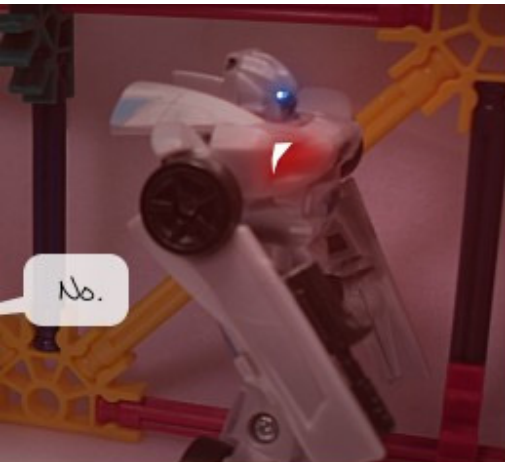
⇒ULP<



...OKAY, JUST
A BIT FARTHER
AND THEN...

AW, LUGNUTS.

CAVE-IN.
WE'LL HAVE
TO BACK UP,
FIND A WAY
AROUND-



No.

I have
a much
better
idea.

Hee
hee.



Stand
back!

BROOOOOOOOARR

Grrraaaarrrrrrggggghh
ooo



I HAVE...
THE
WEIRDEST
MIX OF
FEELINGS
RIGHT
NOW...

OoooOooOooo.
I like you

I think I'll call you "Little Mel"

Hey, Sideswipe? It's getting a little tight, so I'm gonna fridge the toys for a while.

Aw, come on. They can't be fired accidentally. They're keyed to my CSC system...

You're as safe with me as you'd be anywhere in the universe...


...which is, um, not that safe... I guess. I still can't see how one little CSC orb could be such a threat.

GOOD. THAT SHOULD STOP THOSE CHILLS THAT KEEP CIRCULATING UP AND DOWN MY POWER CONDUITS.

IT PROBABLY ISN'T A THREAT... NOT YET.

YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND HOW VECTOR PRIME WORKS...





HE TAMPERS ONLY
AS MUCH AS HE HAS TO
TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

BIG PROBLEMS ARE ALWAYS SMALLER
AT SOME POINT. VECTOR CAN LOOK
THROUGH TIME, FIND THAT POINT, AND
THROW A LITTLE PEBBLE AT IT.

THIS MISSION OF OURS
IS AN UNUSUAL ONE...
MOST OF HIS ROCKS
DON'T EVEN KNOW
THEY'VE BEEN THROWN.

How do you
know all this?

I STUDIED, TSUGARU. REMEMBER,
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I THOUGHT
I'D BE MORE THAN JUST A MECH WHO
CHOPS THINGS UP.

Holy Vitulust
What is that
monster?

IT'S A THING
I CHOPPED UP.
IT'S ALSO WHAT
LANDED ME IN
THE HOSPITAL
LAST TIME.

The Seekers'
transport
Magnus told
me about
that...


Let me guess...
boring story?

PRETTY MUCH.
THE ENEMY HAD
THE BRIGHT IDEA
TO DRILL INTO
MICRONIA...

WE DROPPED THE
DRILLING MACHINE
INTO THIS CAVERN
WITH EXPLOSIVE
CHARGES, AND I
WENT IN AND CUT
SOME LINES...
AND THINGS.

...AND LEARNED A
REALLY VALUABLE
LESSON ABOUT
STRONG OXIDIZERS.





Didn't read
the signs,
did you?

I HAD GOTTEN...
CARELESS, BACK THEN.
YOU REALLY DID SAVE
MY LIFE, TSUGARU.


ANYWAY, THIS
BEAST IS OUR
MEAL TICKET.

IT'S MOSTLY GUTTED AND...WELL,
SALVAGED, BUT I'VE HAD SOME
FUEL CACHED IN ONE OF THE TANKS.
YOU CAN RUN ON ENERGON, RIGHT?

Sure, if it's not contaminated
with anything weird. I was
using it back in Micronia.

GREAT. WE'LL FILL UP AND GRAB
A FEW HOURS OF SHUTDOWN.
I DON'T THINK WE'LL GET MANY
MORE CHANCES TO.

TOMORROW WE'RE GOING UP
TO THE SURFACE. WE'RE NOT
DEEP AT ALL RIGHT NOW.
IF THE SUN WAS UP, YOU'D SEE
SOME LIGHT.



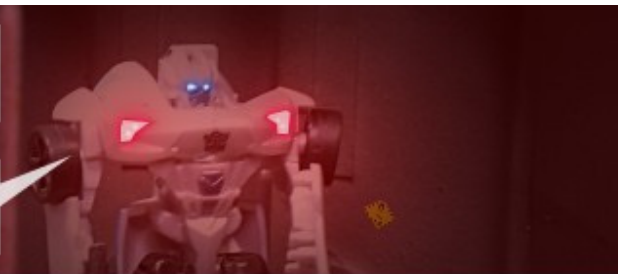
Any port in
a storm, I guess...

Hey...wait a tick.

Drilling machine...
boring story...


Konami, Swiper!
You are such a dork!

WHY, THANK YOU!
I'M FLATTERED.



HEY, TSUGARU! YOU MIGHT WANT TO HAVE A LOOK AT THESE OXIDIZER TANKS. I THINK IT'S THE SAME STUFF YOU USE.


TRUCKDOR'S SQUAD SEALED THE TANKS AND STUCK LABELS ON THEM...SAID IT WAS TOO RISKY TO ATTEMPT SALVAGE.



TSUGU, I...I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT ALL THOSE THINGS I SAID BACK THERE...

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I COULD TRUST YOU...

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO MAKE IT UP...




Sideswipe?

Can you come here, please?

I need your help
with something.

BE RIGHT THERE!




Hello,
Sideswipe.

WH-WHOA!
YOU'RE ALL...ALL...

≡VRRRRRR≡


...ARMORED.



...and you're
fast-idling again.

That could
be a sign of
engine trouble!

⇒VRRRRRRR-RRRRR!⇐



Good thing
I'm a very
skilled...
mechanic!

Let's start
with a...
performance
evaluation!



UH...

UH...

⇒...VROOM!⇐

⇒KLINK!⇐

⇒KLINK!⇐

WOW.

CLANK!



HEY, LOWCARBS, I NEED AN ELEVEN
LETTER WORD FOR "AN ABRUPT AND
UNEXPECTED SHIFT IN PLOT OR SETTING."

NON-
SEQUITUR,
HAXBRO.

IT FITS!

CARBLAST, PLEASE REPORT TO THE FRONT DESK.
WE'VE GOT A CROWD OF ANGRY READERS UP HERE.
ONE OF THEM IS BEATING BLURR WITH A CANE.