

TRANSFORMERS

Screenplay by Arran McDermott

Based on the Hasbro toys and the Marvel comic

CHARACTERS

Autobots (the heroes):

OPTIMUS PRIME - the wise and noble leader, who is also a great warrior. His only real "weakness" is his compassion for all living things. Transforms into a tractor truck.

BLUESTREAK - a fast driving, fast-talking Autobot who often annoys his companions. Transforms into a Datsun.

BRAWN - a macho Autobot who lets his fists do the talking for him. Transforms into a Land Rover.

BUMBLEBEE - the smallest of the Autobots, yet one of the most useful. An expert in surveillance missions, who loves exploring new locations. Transforms into a yellow Volkswagen Beetle.

CLIFFJUMPER - an energetic Autobot who enjoys stunt driving. Transforms into a Toyota.

GEARS - a grumpy Autobot who complains constantly that he is taken for granted by his companions. Transforms into a 4WD off-road truck.

HOUND - the scout of the team, who is an expert at tracking any target. Transforms into an army jeep.

HUFFER - a homesick Autobot, whose main skill is in construction. Transforms into a tractor cab.

JAZZ - the coolest of the Autobots. He always shows off in battle, and is obsessed with investigating new cultures. Transforms into a Porsche.

MIRAGE - unlike his companions, Mirage is not one hundred percent sure of their cause and sometimes wonders if he is fighting for the wrong side. However, he is still loyal to Optimus, and uses his ability to project copies of himself to great effect in battle. Transforms into a Formula 1 racer.

PROWL - Prime's right-hand 'bot is an extremely logical and loyal soldier. Transforms into a police cruiser.

RATCHET - the Autobot medic. Not skilled in combat, but just as brave as his companions. Transforms into an ambulance.

SIDESWIPE - brash Autobot who uses his jetpack to fight airborne Decepticons. Transforms into a red Lamborghini Countach.

SUNSTREAKER - Sideswipe's "brother" is a vain warrior who transforms into a yellow Lamborghini Diablo.

WHEELJACK - an engineer who is always coming up with new weapons and devices. Transforms into a Turbo racing car.

Dinobots (rebellious faction within the Autobots):

GRIMLOCK - the leader of the group. Not too bright, but a highly skilled and fearsome warrior. Often defies Prime, but still hates the Decepticons. Transforms into a tyrannosaurus.

SLAG - transforms into a triceratops.

SLUDGE - transforms into an apatosaurus.

SNARL - transforms into a stegosaurus.

SWOOP - transforms into a pteranadon.

Decepticons (the villains):

MEGATRON - the diabolical leader. His power is limitless, as is his hatred of the Autobots. Transforms into a Walther P-38 handgun.

FRENZY - a short but nasty Decepticon who can disrupt the electricity of anything he strikes. Transforms into a cassette.

LASERBEAK - condor-like robot with a laser that can cut through anything. Often sits on Megatron's shoulder. Transforms into a cassette.

RAVAGE - resembles a jaguar, and is a master of espionage. Transforms into a cassette.

RUMBLE - Frenzy's dumb but angry "brother" can cause earthquakes with his low frequency vibrations. Transforms into a cassette.

SHOCKWAVE - Megatron's second in command is a highly logical science officer whose power is almost equal to his commander's. Secretly craves leadership. Transforms into a giant purple laser cannon.

SKYWARP - a somewhat dim jet warrior, who has the ability to teleport over short distances. Transforms into an F-15 Eagle.

SOUNDWAVE - the communications officer who is fiercely loyal to Megatron. Transforms into a bulky portable stereo.

STARSCREAM - the treacherous missile with a mouth, who openly challenges Megatron's leadership. Fast and powerful, but his overconfidence is his weakness. Transforms into an F-18.

THUNDERCRACKER - a powerful Decepticon jet whose sonic booms terrify and deafen his enemies. Transforms into an F-16 Fighting Falcon.

FADE-IN:

EXT. ALPHA CENTAURI STAR SYSTEM

We hurtle through the depths of space. A robotic-voiced NARRATOR explains the story so far.

NARRATOR

Many eons ago, Cybertron came into being - a metallic world whose origin was lost in the distant past.

A planet sparkles in the far distance. It gradually grows larger as we move towards it. Various images fade in and out during the rest of the narration.

NARRATOR

Instead of carbon-based life forms, the dominant species that evolved were mechanical beings.

Crude, ROBOTIC FORMS rise out of the ground.

NARRATOR

Two societies formed on the planet. The peaceful Autobots.

We see a robot branded with an alien symbol. Many other robots walk through a tranquil and spectacular city.

NARRATOR

And the warmongering Decepticons.

Another robot is branded with a more sinister badge.

NARRATOR

Despite their differences, the two factions lived in relative harmony for many years. But the treacherous Decepticons were only biding their time and massing their forces.

A fearsome DECEPTICON LEADER leads troops into battle.

NARRATOR

Led by the malevolent Megatron, the Decepticons launched a surprise

attack. The Autobots were decimated in the initial attack, and were soon on the verge of being wiped out.

We see hundreds of defeated Autobots being dropped into a giant SMELTING POOL.

NARRATOR

Then, in their darkest hour, a great leader arose - Optimus Prime.

The tall and noble AUTOBOT LEADER appears. He is a red and blue robot with kindly, almost human eyes.

NARRATOR

He rallied the remaining Autobots around him with his strength and charisma. And so the war raged on for centuries, with neither side gaining the advantage. It seemed that the fighting would never end.

The giant, metallic world of CYBERTRON fills the frame. We descend through the smoky atmosphere.

EXT. CYBERTRON BATTLEFIELD - DAY

The thick smoke clears, revealing perhaps the most awesome battle in history. Thousands of ROBOTS are firing at each other with a variety of LASER weapons. Behind the soldiers are the ruins of a once great city.

Subtitle:

"THE PLANET CYBERTRON"
"65,000,000 YEARS AGO"

The AUTOBOTS and DECEPTICONS both suffer heavy casualties. The robots are mostly humanoid in appearance - only their badges differentiate the two sides.

Several giant Decepticon WAR MACHINES mow down scores of Autobots. A laser blast CUTS THROUGH a line of Autobots. Limbs are sent FLYING in a SPRAY of oil-like blood.

One DECEPTICON WARRIOR takes a tiny object out of a leg compartment. It TRANSFORMS into a huge laser cannon. He FIRES it at an UNFORTUNATE AUTOBOT, disintegrating him.

OPTIMUS PRIME stands courageously in the thick of battle, armed with a blaster. As his forces are pushed back, Optimus fires at any Decepticon that comes close.

Near the back of the Decepticon ranks, the distinctive silhouette of MEGATRON towers above his troops. He raises his FUSION CANNON and fires over the Decepticons. The blast DESTROYS a wave of Autobots near Optimus.

Optimus hears an electronic CRY for help. He reaches down and pulls up an INJURED AUTOBOT. He realizes his comrade is beyond saving - half of his head has been vaporised.

OPTIMUS

(shouts)

Retreat! We can't win this battle!

His forces reluctantly turn and run away from the battle.

A DECEPTICON SHIP streaks down, firing at Optimus and the others. Optimus returns fire and scores a DIRECT HIT. The ship CRASHES in a large FIREBALL, blocking the pursuit.

The flames reflect on Prime's metallic face, which somehow manages to convey horror at the carnage. He turns and joins the other Autobots as they flee into the ruins.

A black, CAT-LIKE SHAPE is glimpsed following them.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Optimus and several other battle-weary Autobots stand on the lift as it descends into the bowels of the earth.

The elevator stops in front of a large door with a faded Autobot symbol. Optimus puts his hand on a sensor. The door slides back. They enter the secret base.

INT. AUTOBOT BASE - MEETING ROOM - DAY

Several dozen Autobots are gathered in the wide room. Optimus approaches the podium at the front.

OPTIMUS

Greetings, my most trusted Autobots. I have called you all here for an emergency meeting. The war that has consumed our lives for so long now threatens to tear apart the very planet beneath our feet. Autobot scientists have informed me that, if the conflict continues, Cybertron may be shaken loose from its orbit, or even completely destroyed.

The assembled Autobots stare at him in shock.

OPTIMUS

This may not happen for many vorns, but I assure you it will happen. If we cannot make peace with the Decepticons, then all will perish.

BRAWN, a stocky green Autobot, speaks up.

BRAWN

There will never be peace until the Decepticon scum are wiped out.

OPTIMUS

I fear you may be right. But that is a course of action we cannot take. However, there is another option.

Optimus turns to a VIEWSCREEN. It displays an image of a familiar blue-green world.

OPTIMUS

I have secretly sent a team of Autobots, led by Grimlock, to search for an uninhabited world that we may colonise. Their last transmission confirmed that they had found a potentially suitable planet in a nearby solar system. However, we lost contact soon after they landed.

A sleek, blue and white Autobot named MIRAGE snorts derisively.

MIRAGE

Knowing Grimlock and his commandos,
I would guess they have gone AWOL.

OPTIMUS

We must find out the reason, which
is why I have asked my engineers to
begin construction on a ship called
the Explorer. I will lead a select
team to recover Grimlock and see if
this planet suits our needs. If so,
we can then evacuate Cybertron.

Excited murmurs run through the crowd. BUMBLEBEE, a
small, yellow Autobot, raises a hand before speaking.

BUMBLEBEE

What does the Council of Elders
have to say about this?

OPTIMUS

I have not informed them.

The murmurs turn into shocked GASPS.

OPTIMUS

This mission must be carried out in
the utmost secrecy. No one in this
room must speak of it outside, even
to your fellow Autobots. I will
only take volunteers with me, as I
cannot guarantee that we will all
survive the journey.

MIRAGE

And what will happen to the war
while we are gone? Shall we just
abandon our comrades?

BRAWN

I don't like that idea. This is our
world. We should stay and fight.

BUMBLEBEE

But Optimus is right. We lost five hundred troops in the last battle alone! This war has become futile.

MIRAGE

Has it? Or has our great leader finally developed cowardice?

PROWL, a tall Autobot with horns on his head, turns on Mirage angrily.

PROWL

How dare you! Optimus has fought longer and harder than any other Autobot. We would have been defeated long ago, if not for his bravery.

Optimus raises his hands to calm the tension in the room.

OPTIMUS

Please, we must not fight. I have made this decision and I will accept full responsibility for it.

(sighs)

Cybertron was once a paradise. I hope it will be again, but until then, we must take any chance for peace, even if it means leaving.

The Autobots all consider his words silently.

OPTIMUS

Those who wish to remain here will be allowed to. But if you wish to join me, raise your hand now.

Prowl is the first to raise his arm. Slowly, other Autobots join him, until thirteen hold their arms aloft. Finally, Mirage holds his hand up.

MIRAGE

Forgive my comments, Optimus. I will follow you anywhere.

OPTIMUS

Thank you, my Autobots. Thank you.

Above them, in the shadows, two eyes GLOW. They belong to the Decepticon spy, RAVAGE. He skulks away on all fours.

WIPE TO:

EXT. FORTRESS DECEPTICON - NIGHT

The foreboding structure towers over the ruins around it.

INT. FORTRESS DECEPTICON - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Ravage stands in front of Megatron. Several other Decepticons are gathered in the background.

A small, bird-like robot named LASERBEAK sits silently on Megatron's shoulder.

RAVAGE

Prime did not say when the mission was planned to leave. But I believe it will be soon.

MEGATRON

You have surpassed yourself again, Ravage. This news changes our plans. If Prime wants to leave, we will follow in our own spacecraft.

A white and red Decepticon named STARSCREAM interrupts. He speaks in a subtly mocking tone.

STARSCREAM

Forgive me, great Megatron, but now that we know the location of the Autobot base, would it not be wiser to attack before they leave and destroy them in one fell swoop?

MEGATRON

No, the Autobot base is too well protected. Even our master spy was barely able to gain entry. We will follow Prime and his ship of fools into space. Then, when they least

expect it, we will blast them into atoms. With their leader dead, the remaining Autobots will be easily defeated. Is that clear, Starscream?

Starscream bows in acceptance of Megatron's decision.

WIPE TO:

INT. AUTOBOT BASE - HANGER - DAY

HUFFER, a small purple Autobot, oversees construction of THE EXPLORER. The large, sleek ship is almost complete. Optimus joins Huffer's side.

OPTIMUS

How goes the construction?

HUFFER

We should be able to launch on schedule.

OPTIMUS

Good. Thank you for your hard work.

HUFFER

It was a pleasure.

(beat)

Optimus, will we ever see Cybertron again?

OPTIMUS

In the name of Primus, I promise you we will return one day, to bring peace to our world.

EXT. AUTOBOT BASE - DAY

The ground above the base appears quiet and undisturbed.

Suddenly, a large section of the ground begins to SLIDE BACK. The top of a RAMP rises up through the hole.

INT. THE EXPLORER - COCKPIT - DAY

Optimus and Prowl sit next to each other in the cockpit.

PROWL

We are ready to launch, Optimus.

OPTIMUS

Then let us not delay any further.

Prowl pushes a button. The cockpit begins to shudder. The FEMALE VOICE of the Explorer speaks.

EXPLORER (V.O.)

Launching in ten . . . nine . . .
eight . . . seven . . . six . . .

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - DAY

The thirteen Autobot passengers lock themselves into slots in the walls. A ROARING sound builds.

EXPLORER (V.O)

Five . . . four . . . three . . .
two . . . one.

EXT. THE EXPLORER - DAY

The Explorer is at the bottom of the ramp. Her rear rockets FLAME. The ship moves up, rapidly gaining speed.

EXT. AUTOBOT BASE - DAY

The Explorer ROCKETS out of the hole in the ground at a steep angle. She SOARS majestically into the sky.

INT. FORTRESS DECEPTICON - THRONE ROOM - DAY

SOUNDWAVE, a blocky robot, monitors a communications console. He speaks in an eerie electronic voice.

SOUNDWAVE

The Autobots have just launched.

MEGATRON

Then, Soundwave, it is time for us
to leave Cybertron also.

SOUNDWAVE

As you command, Megatron.

He pushes some buttons. The walls close in around them,
creating a cockpit.

EXT. FORTRESS DECEPTICON - DAY

There is a deep RUMBLING. The top of the Fortress SPLITS
apart. It transforms into the DECEPTICON SHUTTLE.

The Shuttle launches from within the shell of the base.
It HURTLES straight up into space.

INT. THE EXPLORER - COCKPIT

The stars are now visible through the cockpit window.

OPTIMUS

The first stage of our mission is
a success.

PROWL

I predicted that there was a 99.1
percent chance it would be.

OPTIMUS

Engage the hyperdrive.

EXT. SPACE

The Explorer hurtles into HYPERSPACE.

The Decepticon Shuttle moves into view.

INT. DECEPTICON SHUTTLE - COCKPIT

Megatron watches as the Explorer disappears from sight.

MEGATRON

Lock onto their co-ordinates, now!

Soundwave operates the console in front of him.

EXT. DECEPTICON SHUTTLE - SPACE

The Decepticons also travel into hyperspace.

EXT. SPACE

We see the same BLUE-GREEN WORLD that Optimus displayed on the viewscreen. A single moon orbits the planet.

The Explorer suddenly EXITS into real space with a BANG.

INT. THE EXPLORER - COCKPIT

Optimus gazes at the planet.

OPTIMUS

We have reached our goal.

CHEERS are heard from the Autobots in the cabin behind. Prowl looks at his console, alarmed.

PROWL

Something is wrong, Optimus.

OPTIMUS

What is it?

PROWL

Another craft is emerging out of hyperspace behind us.

OPTIMUS

Decepticons.

EXT. DECEPTICON SHUTTLE - SPACE

The enemy craft comes to a stop just behind the Explorer.

INT. DECEPTICON SHUTTLE - COCKPIT

Megatron smiles in triumph as he sees the defenceless Autobot ship in front of him.

MEGATRON

Now, before they have a chance to react, fire!

SOUNDWAVE

I am sorry, Megatron. The power to our weapons systems appears to have been depleted.

Megatron turns towards SHOCKWAVE, a tall, purple robot with one eye in the center of his head.

MEGATRON

Shockwave, I thought you had the weapons recharged before we left?

SHOCKWAVE

I did. Perhaps the journey through hyperspace drained them.

Megatron SLAMS his fist into the wall.

MEGATRON

We will have to destroy them the old-fashioned way. Soundwave, ready the troops for an extra-vehicular assault.

Soundwave nods and exits.

SHOCKWAVE

Shall I join you?

MEGATRON

No, you will remain on board for security. This won't take long.

He gives Shockwave a suspicious glare, then turns away.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN

Optimus joins his anxious troops.

BUMBLEBEE

What is happening?

OPTIMUS

The Decepticons have pursued us through space. Prepare to resist their boarding party.

The Autobots all grab their weapons.

Tense seconds pass. The sound of metal SCRAPING on metal can be heard.

Suddenly, a section of the hull IMPLODES. The Decepticons SWARM inside the ship like insects. They clearly outnumber the frightened Autobots.

Optimus fires his blaster. He HITS two Decepticons and they are FLUNG OUT into space.

The laser blasts come thick and fast. Many Autobots are CUT DOWN in the crossfire.

Prowl and Optimus stand side by side, FIRING at the seemingly endless line of invading Decepticons. The Autobots's ranks rapidly dwindle.

PROWL

I must tell you that I predict defeat is imminent with 5.6 -

OPTIMUS

No need, old friend. There is only one course of action open to us. You know what you have to do. Go, I will cover you.

Prowl reluctantly heads for the cockpit. Optimus provides covering fire.

Megatron suddenly LOOMS into view. His eyes lock with Prime's. They stride towards each other.

MEGATRON

We meet again, for the last time.

Megatron lunges at him. They fall to the floor.

Megatron locks his hands around Prime's neck. He begins to squeeze, CRACKING the metal skin.

OPTIMUS

This time, we both lose.

The ship suddenly TILTS downwards.

MEGATRON

You fool! What have you done?

OPTIMUS

This war must end. By following us here, you have provided me with the means to end it. I have programmed the Explorer on a suicide course into the lifeless planet below.

MEGATRON

Nooo!

He raises his cannon towards Optimus. Before he can fire, the floor tilts at a steeper angle. Megatron slides away from Optimus and SLAMS into the hull.

EXT. THE EXPLORER - SPACE

The ship hurtles out of control down towards the planet.

INT. DECEPTICON SHUTTLE - COCKPIT

Shockwave watches the events calmly on the monitor.

SHOCKWAVE

Farewell, Megatron.

EXT. THE EXPLORER - DAY

The ship enters the atmosphere of the planet and drifts over a prehistoric jungle. The ship's afterburners FRY the vegetation below. The Explorer approaches a mountain.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The Explorer SLAMS into the base of the mountain at a tremendous speed.

There is a massive EXPLOSION of fire, dust and rubble. The dust cloud BLOCKS OUT the sun. Everything goes grey. We hear the distant ROAR of some massive beast.

DISSOLVE TO:

MOUNTAIN - DAY

The dust clears. The location is the same, but an eternity has passed.

Subtitle:

"THE PLANET EARTH"
"PRESENT DAY"

The place is Mount St. Hillary, Oregon. The volcano has remained dormant for many years. Until now.

The ground SHUDDERS. The volcano ERUPTS, spewing lava. The tremors spread out through the nearby forests. Wildlife flees in panic.

The eruption finally ends. Some rocks CRUMBLE away at the base of the mountain. Metal glints through the new hole.

A laser suddenly turns on. It CUTS AWAY more of the rock. The Explorer is revealed in a cave underneath the mountain. She has been preserved remarkably well. There is some crash damage, but not a spot of rust.

The ship HUMS back into life. A hatch OPENS in the hull. A small SCOUT SHIP shoots out of the opening. It FLIES UP into the air and circles the mountain.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The scout flies over the forest. There is a wide variety of wildlife clearly visible below.

SCOUT'S VIEWSCREEN:

"NO LIFEFORMS DETECTED"

The Scout heads away from the forest. It BEEPS.

SCOUT'S VIEWSCREEN:

"LIFEFORM DETECTED"

A military PLANE is visible in the distance. The Scout zooms in to scan the configuration of the jet fighter.

EXT. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY - DAY

The Scout arrives at the busy highway. The huge amount of vehicles almost overloads its sensors.

The Scout follows the road towards a major city.

EXT. PORTLAND - DOWNTOWN STREET - DAY

The Scout flies over the city streets. It scans more electronic devices - televisions, stereos, etc.

It also monitors radio waves and telephone communications. We hear fragments of countless different conversations, all intermingled.

SCOUT'S VIEWSCREEN:

"MISSION COMPLETE"

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The Scout Ship returns home. It flies into the cave.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - DAY

The scattered Autobots and Decepticons still lie where they fell.

EXPLORER (V.O.)
Commence revival procedures!

GIANT ROBOT ARMS come out of the walls and gather up the deactivated robots.

MONTAGE

The Explorer repairs both the Autobots and the Decepticons. Circuitry is rewired, limbs are reattached and bodies are repainted.

Eventually, all the robots are repaired. They look brand new, and their shapes have been slightly altered. The Decepticons are the first to reawaken.

Soundwave RISES to his feet. He looks down at the inactive Megatron. Starscream also stands.

STARSCREAM
Where are we?

SOUNDWAVE
The Explorer. The ship has evidently repaired and revived us.

STARSCREAM
The Autobots haven't revived yet.
We should destroy them, permanently.

SOUNDWAVE
Negative. We are outnumbered. Our primary objective is to get our leader to safety.

STARSCREAM
Who put you in charge?

SOUNDWAVE
Megatron is still in charge, but he trusts my judgement, not yours.

Two other Decepticons (similar in build to Starscream, but with different color schemes) step forward. They are THUNDERCRACKER and SKYWARP. They lift up the unconscious Megatron. They suddenly TRANSFORM into jet fighters.

Soundwave and FOUR OTHER DECEPTICONS transform into much smaller forms. As they transform they leap into the open cockpit of one of the jets.

Finally, Starscream transforms and the three Decepticon jets take off. They carry Megatron below them. The jets BLAST A HOLE in the Explorer and exit.

Optimus Prime wakes up just in time to see the Decepticons flee. Prowl also watches their escape.

PROWL

Did you see their shapes, Optimus?

OPTIMUS

Yes, the Explorer has remodelled our bodies to allow us to imitate lifeforms native to this planet.

PROWL

But why revive the Decepticons?

OPTIMUS

The Explorer's circuits must have been damaged in the crash, meaning it repaired friend and foe alike.

The other Autobots get up, looking disorientated.

OPTIMUS

Before we learn more about our surroundings, let us ensure all our companions have survived. Remember to use your codenames while here.

(beat)

Bluestreak?

BLUESTREAK, a silver/blue robot, replies in a rapid tone.

BLUESTREAK

Yeah, I'm here so everyone relax now. I'm roaring to find out where we are, take a drive, maybe kick some Decepticon a-

OPTIMUS

Brawn?

BRAWN

Oh yeah. It's payback time.

OPTIMUS

Bumblebee?

BUMBLEBEE

I'm fine. I hope they have some oil lakes here to swim in.

OPTIMUS

Cliffjumper?

CLIFFJUMPER is a small red Autobot.

CLIFFJUMPER

Yeah. I'm ready to cruise.

OPTIMUS

Gears?

GEARS is a short, bored-sounding Autobot.

GEARS

I'm here. I suppose I'll be used as a mobile maintenance unit again.

OPTIMUS

Hound?

HOUND is a blocky, green robot.

HOUND

Reporting for duty, Optimus. I look forward to performing reconnaissance missions on this new planet.

OPTIMUS

Huffer?

HUFFER

Here. Now let's repair the Explorer already and go home already.

OPTIMUS

Jazz?

JAZZ, a stylish white Autobot, jumps forward.

JAZZ

Yo, Prime! Jazz is in the house. I love everything about this planet already! I dig the language, I dig the music, and I can't wait to meet some of those fine lady machines. Let's get it on!

Optimus and Prowl exchange a baffled look.

OPTIMUS

Mirage?

MIRAGE

Here, alas.

OPTIMUS

Ratchet?

The Autobot medic, RATCHET, is a white and red robot who stands on a floating platform.

RATCHET

I'm here. I'm glad the Explorer has done all the repair work for me.

OPTIMUS

Sideswipe?

A sleek red Autobot named SIDESWIPE answers.

SIDESWIPE

I'm here, Optimus. If you want, I can use my jetpack to follow the Decepticons.

OPTIMUS

That is not necessary. Sunstreaker?

SUNSTREAKER is a yellow Autobot.

SUNSTREAKER

Here I am. Can't wait to show off my new form around town.

OPTIMUS

Wheeljack?

WHEELJACK is a grizzled, white robot.

WHEELJACK

Yes, I'm here. And I can't wait to start developing some new gadgets.

CLIFFJUMPER

Better get the force fields ready.

WHEELJACK

Hey, I only disintegrated one lab.

OPTIMUS

Thank Primus that we are all still operative. And perhaps the Explorer is not beyond repair either. What say you, Huffer?

HUFFER

I hope not, but I'll have to take some readings before I can be sure.

OPTIMUS

The Explorer has already programmed the local language into our data banks. Let us see what else we can learn about our new environment.

A large viewscreen DROPS DOWN from the ceiling. The Autobots all turn towards it. It displays images captured by the Scout Ship, including the Earth vehicles.

OPTIMUS

This life has evolved on the planet Earth since we crashed. And all of them are unaware of the Decepticon menace in their midst. It is clear that we must put aside everything else to protect the Earthlings.

HUFFER

What of Cybertron?

OPTIMUS

It has been many vorns since we crashed. We must accept the sad truth that our home may no longer exist. But we will send a distress call to Cybertron before we counter the Decepticon threat.

CUT TO:

EXT. PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Carbon-based life carries on as normal at a typical suburban high school.

INT. PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

BUSTER WITWICKEY opens his locker. Seventeen years old, he's good-looking in a geeky sort of way.

Inside his locker, as well as the standard schoolbooks, are a variety of comic books and sci-fi novels. Buster takes out a schoolbook and SLAMS the locker. He turns round, and suddenly forgets how to breathe.

Walking towards him slowly is JESSIE BELLER. She's the same age as Buster, but is in a totally different class. She's a tall, lithe redhead with a perfect complexion. Undoubtedly the most beautiful girl in school.

JESSIE

(smiles at him)

Hi, Buster.

BUSTER

Hi.

JESSIE

How's it going?

BUSTER

Good.

JESSIE

See you in history?

BUSTER

Sure.

She walks on by. Buster just stares after her in awe.

BOY'S VOICE

Don't even think about it, dude.

Buster turns round and sees his tubby best friend, OTTO.

BUSTER

What're you talking about?

OTTO

Girls lead to rejection. Rejection
leads to heartbreak. Heartbreak
leads to suffering.

(beat)

Believe me, man, I've been there.
A girl like Jessie ain't meant for
teenage dirtbags like us.

BUSTER

I think she likes me.

OTTO

Come on. Girls act nice all the time.
And even if she did like you, you
still have that little problem of
not being able to say more than one-
syllable words when she's around.

BUSTER

You know, Otto, I'm glad you're
always here to cheer me up.

Otto pats him on the back.

OTTO

No problem.

EXT. PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL - RECREATION AREA - DAY

Buster sits on a bench, alone. He eats a sandwich while
reading "I, Robot" by Isaac Asimov.

He looks up and sees Jessie talking to an OLDER BOY. He's a muscular guy in a leather jacket. She laughs at something he says. He leans down to kiss her.

Jessie suddenly points in Buster's direction. The Older Boy turns and looks at him. He begins to walk towards Buster. Buster quickly buries his face in his book.

OLDER BOY (O.S.)

Yo.

Buster slowly looks up. The other boy towers over him.

BUSTER

Yeah?

OLDER BOY

Your name Buster?

BUSTER

Yeah, why?

OLDER BOY

I'm Steve. My girl Jessie tells me your dad's a mechanic, right?

Buster puts down his book and stands up.

BUSTER

Yeah, that's right.

STEVE

Listen, can you do me a big favor? I was gonna take Jessie to the drive-in tonight, but I totalled my car. Do you think your old man could lend us one of his spares? I'll pay for the gas and all that shit.

BUSTER

I dunno. I'd like to help, but-

Jessie suddenly joins them.

JESSIE

How's it going?

STEVE
Buster was just thinking about it.

JESSIE
(smiles)
Please say yes, Buster. We'll owe you one, big-time.

BUSTER
Well, my dad's got lots of cars in the shop at the moment. Should be no problem to loan one out.
(beat)
Except . . .

STEVE
Except what?

BUSTER
My dad would go mental if he found out I let someone else drive one of his cars. He barely trusts me.

STEVE
Oh.

Jessie suddenly has a bright idea.

JESSIE
Hey, why don't you come with us?

Steve and Buster both look skeptical.

BUSTER
That'd be okay with you guys?

JESSIE
Oh, totally. It'll be a fun night.

BUSTER
Okay, I'll pick up the car straight after school.

JESSIE
Thanks. You're a sweetie.

Jessie takes out some notepaper and writes on it.

JESSIE

I'll give you my address. You can pick us up at seven, 'kay?

BUSTER

Cool.

She hands him the paper. Buster puts it in his pocket.

JESSIE

See ya later.

BUSTER

Bye.

Steve punches Buster affectionately on the shoulder. Buster winces.

STEVE

'preciate it, dude.

(beat)

Oh, and try and bring along another girl. Make it like a proper double date, ya know?

BUSTER

Sure.

The couple walks off.

BUSTER

Double date? Riiight . . .

EXT. CLIFF-FACE - DAY

The Decepticons are gathered at the top of the cliff. Megatron appears to be still inactive. Starscream and Soundwave are deep in argument.

STARSCREAM

We should strike quickly! Megatron would want us to get something done in his absence.

SOUNDWAVE

Megatron is not absent. And we will not act before we have absorbed more data about this planet.

STARSCREAM

I say we put it to a vote!

MEGATRON (O.S.)

I say you should close your vocal transmitter.

Starscream is shocked to see Megatron get to his feet.

SOUNDWAVE

Are you fully functioning, commander?

MEGATRON

Yes, give me a status report.

SOUNDWAVE

As you command.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The sun begins to set over Mount St. Hillary.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - DAY

Prowl, Brawn, Bumblebee, Cliffjumper and Hound stand before Optimus. The other Autobots are hard at work in the background, attempting repairs on the Explorer.

OPTIMUS

Your mission is very important. I want you to observe the Earthlings, but do not yet interact with them.

PROWL

Affirmative. What if we encounter the Decepticons?

OPTIMUS

Return to the Explorer immediately. I do not want you to engage them in

combat unless your lives are in
immediate danger.

Brawn lets out a disappointed GROAN.

PROWL

I understand, Optimus. We will not
fail you.

(beat)

Autobots . . . roll out!

As Optimus watches, we hear (but don't see) the five
Autobots TRANSFORM into their Earthly disguises.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DUSK

The five Autobots drive out of the mountain on a
makeshift road.

Far above them, Laserbeak flies into view. He makes
several electronic SQUAWKS.

MEGATRON (V.O.)

Message received, Laserbeak. The
Autobots must be trying to make
contact with the Earthlings. We
cannot allow that. Continue to
monitor their progress. My troops
are on the way.

Laserbeak makes another SQUAWK. He flies off in pursuit.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - DUSK

A HITCHHIKER stands beside a lonely stretch of road a few
miles from Mount St. Hillary. He holds up a board, which
reads: "ANYWHERE BUT HERE". There is no sign of any cars.
He sighs in frustration.

Suddenly, he hears the sound of CAR ENGINES approaching.
He runs into the road excitedly, thumb out. The engine
noise grows louder. The Hitchhiker looks alarmed.

He stares in amazement as FIVE CARS HURTLE towards him at
top speed. He waves his arms, but they show no sign of

slowing. At the last second, he LEAPS out of the road. A red Toyota narrowly misses him.

The five driver-less cars continue to race down the hill. The Autobots communicate on their radios.

BUMBLEBEE

Wanna bet I'll be the first one to spot an Earthling?

PROWL

Easy, Bumblebee. Remember, our mission is mainly reconnaissance.

Cliffjumper speeds ahead of his companions.

CLIFFJUMPER

You guys are too slow. Try and keep up, huh?

PROWL

Slow down, Cliffjumper. We don't need any accidents.

Cliffjumper does as Prowl asks.

PROWL

Hound, are you picking up anything?

HOUND

Nothing.

(beat)

Wait. There are numerous life readings over the next hill.

EXT. HILL - DUSK

The Autobots slow to overlook the hill. Below, hundreds of cars are parked in front of a drive-in movie screen.

BUMBLEBEE

Is that them? Have we found the Earthlings?

PROWL

It appears so.

BUMBLEBEE

But why are they all gathered there,
motionless?

PROWL

Perhaps it is some sort of religious
ritual. The only way we will find
out for sure is to observe from a
closer standpoint.

BUMBLEBEE

Then what are we waiting for?

Bumblebee SCREECHES off down the hill. The others follow.

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - TICKET OFFICE - NIGHT

The Autobots approach the entrance to the drive-in. A
FEMALE CASHIER leans out of her booth as they pass.

FEMALE CASHIER

How many? Come on, you pay by the
head.

She stares in astonishment as the empty cars drive on by.

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - NIGHT

The Autobots stop near the back of the parking area.

HOUND

What is our next move?

PROWL

There are many things to consider.

BUMBLEBEE

They look friendly enough. I'm gonna
greet an Earthling right now!

Bumblebee drives off again.

PROWL

Wait!

Bumblebee ignores him.

HOUND

You can't check the exuberance of
youth, Prowl.

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - BUSTER'S CAR - NIGHT

Buster's car is parked near the screen. He sits in the
driver's seat. Jessie and Steve are in the back.

INT. BUSTER'S CAR - NIGHT

Buster sips on a soda as he watches the action movie. He
smiles at an impressive explosion.

BUSTER

That was pretty cool, huh?

He looks in the back and his smile disappears. Jessie and
Steve are making out. They seem totally oblivious to him.

BUSTER

I'm gonna get some more popcorn.

He exits the car, visibly upset.

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - BUSTER'S CAR - NIGHT

BUSTER

Why did I come here?

He heads towards the concession stand. He doesn't notice
a Volkswagen Beetle drive up behind his loaned car.
Bumblebee approaches the car without stopping.

INT. BUSTER'S CAR - NIGHT

Steve and Jessie kiss passionately. He starts to reach
under her top. Jessie puts up a hand to stop him.

JESSIE

Don't.

STEVE

What's the matter? The nerd's gone.

JESSIE

Don't call him that. And this has nothing to do with Buster. I just-

She is interrupted as the car is BUMPED from behind.

JESSIE

Ow!

STEVE

What the hell?

They both get out of the car.

EXT. DRIVE-IN - BUSTER'S CAR - NIGHT

Steve examines the damage.

STEVE

Goddamn Beetle! I'm gonna kill whoever's in there!

JESSIE

Chill out. It's not your car.

STEVE

So?

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Steve approaches the VW. He WRENCHES the door open. He peers into an empty car.

STEVE

What the hell's going on here?

Suddenly, they hear the ROAR of a JET ENGINE.

JESSIE

Is it me, or does that sound bad?

They watch as Thundercracker, in his jet form, BURSTS THROUGH the movie screen. The jet soars low over the parked cars. The SONIC BOOM is deafening.

Steve and Jessie drop to the ground, terrified.

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - CONCESSION STAND - NIGHT

Buster runs out of the stand, spilling popcorn. He stares in amazement as THREE JETS fly overhead and circle back. He runs back towards his car.

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Steve and Jessie still lie on the ground beside the VW.

JESSIE

(screams)

What's happening?

STEVE

I dunno!

One of the jets above suddenly FIRES a missile. It heads right for Buster's car.

BUSTER

Look out!

Steve and Jessie look up in time to see the missile. They dive for cover.

The missile HITS Buster's car and OBLITERATES it. Bumblebee is jolted by the blast and lets out an unmistakable CRY OF PAIN.

Jessie and Steve are shaken but unhurt. Buster crouches down beside them.

BUSTER

You guys all right?

They nod.

BUSTER

What's going on?

JESSIE

We don't know any more than you!

STEVE

It's like the movie came alive, or something. It's a freaking warzone!

JESSIE

What do we do?

STEVE

I ain't sticking around here!

BUSTER

But people might be hurt. I heard someone cry out just now.

JESSIE

Maybe Buster's right. We should stay and see if we can help.

Steve looks at them both as if they're crazy.

STEVE

Screw you guys! I'm getting the hell outta here!

He stands up and runs off.

JESSIE

Steve, come back!

She starts to get up, but Buster stops her.

BUSTER

Stay here! It's not safe out there.

JESSIE

It's not safe here!

BUSTER

Good point.

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - NIGHT

The four Autobots remain in car mode as the carnage happens around them. Vehicles are BLOWN UP and pedestrians run for their lives.

PROWL

This is terrible! The Earth machines are making no attempt to defend themselves from the Decepticons. Perhaps the ritual is so involving-

A missile EXPLODES a few feet away from Brawn, showering him with SHRAPNEL.

BRAWN

Sorry to interrupt your computations Prowl, but I don't intend on sitting here as target practise all night.

PROWL

Very well. I had hoped we could avoid this, but the Decepticons leave us no other option.

(beat)

Assume defensive configurations!

The four Autobots TRANSFORM into robot mode instantly. They tower over the panicking humans around them. They also move more sluggishly in Earth's gravity.

BRAWN

Now yer talking my lingo!

Now that they have revealed themselves, the Autobots become direct targets for the Decepticons.

The Autobots DRAW THEIR BLASTERS and return fire.

PROWL

Hound, can you search for Bumblebee while we hold off the Decepticons?

HOUND

I'll try my best.

He leaves his companions.

Skywarp and Starscream zero in on Cliffjumper's back.

STARSCREAM

These full frontal assaults are so
pointless.

SKYWARP

I just follow orders.

STARSCREAM

Then take the small one!

Cliffjumper turns at the last second and SPRAYS some sort
of gas gun at them.

CLIFFJUMPER

I don't think so.

The wings of the two Decepticons suddenly become as
brittle as glass. They CRUMBLE.

Starscream transforms into robot mode to avoid a crash.
The other Decepticon jets also transform and land.

Meanwhile, Hound tries to determine Bumblebee's location.
His sensors BEEP as he gets closer.

Suddenly, Ravage LEAPS OUT, blocking his path. He SNARLS.

Hound FIRES a missile directly at him. Ravage flees as
quickly as he appeared. The missile DISAPPEARS. It was
only a hologram. Hound continues his search unimpeded.

Back in the thick of the battle, Laserbeak FLIES at
Brawn, SCREECHING.

BRAWN

Chew on this!

He PUNCHES the small Decepticon out.

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Buster and Jessie continue to search for whoever is
making the pained noises.

JESSIE
Well, is there anyone here or not?

BUSTER
I can't see anyone.

JESSIE
Then let's go!

BUSTER
But there's got to be someone
making those noises!

He leans in close to the VW. The WHIMPERS seem to be coming from the car itself.

BUSTER
(thinks quickly)
Look, we might as well use this car
to escape.

JESSIE
How do you know it's still working?

BUSTER
Only one way to find out.

They both jump into the car.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Buster looks down at the controls. The interior is totally bizarre. There is no ignition or gear-stick, and the display on the dashboard seems almost alien.

JESSIE
What's the matter?

BUSTER
Just trying to figure out how to
start her.

The engine STARTS UP, without Buster touching it.

BUSTER

That did it.

JESSIE

Just go, please.

The car moves off jerkily.

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

The VW heads for the exit, rapidly gaining speed.

Suddenly, Thundercracker STOMPS into view, blocking their escape.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

JESSIE

Oh shoot!

Buster turns the wheel frantically to avoid a collision.

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Thundercracker moves towards the car. Buster aims between his legs. He narrowly makes it, SCRAPING the car's sides.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Buster and Jessie both breathe a sigh of relief.

BUSTER

That was a close one.

JESSIE

What were those things?

BUSTER

They looked kinda like giant robots.

JESSIE

I hope Steve's all right.

BUSTER

Don't worry, he'll be fine.

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER - NIGHT

The battle rages on. Prowl finally notices the humans fleeing the scene. He points them out to Cliffjumper.

PROWL

Do you see those small objects
fleeing the vehicles?

CLIFFJUMPER

Yeah. What are they?

PROWL

I think the Explorer was in error.
The Earth machines are not alive.
Those beings inside them must be
the planet's dominant lifeform.

CLIFFJUMPER

But they're so tiny.

Nearby, Soundwave and a short Decepticon called FRENZY also notice the Earthlings.

FRENZY

What are those pink things?

SOUNDWAVE

Perhaps they are some sort of virus.
We must not let them infect us.

A man runs past Soundwave. He LIFTS HIS FOOT to crush the little person.

Prowl BLASTS HIM before he can do so. Soundwave FALLS flat on his back.

PROWL

Autobots, roll out!

BRAWN

We're leaving already?

PROWL

Yes. This new information changes everything. These tiny Earthlings do not seem capable of defending themselves. We must draw the Decepticons away, then return to the Explorer.

The Autobots transform back to car modes. Hound rejoins them.

HOUND

I was unable to locate Bumblebee.

PROWL

Then we must hope the little one was not seriously injured and made her own escape from the battle. There is nothing more we can do now.

The Autobots transform and DRIVE OFF. They soon leave the Decepticons behind.

EXT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

The car drives through a suburban neighborhood.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Buster doesn't seem to be controlling the speed. He just steers the car where he wants to go.

Jessie stares out the passenger window.

JESSIE

This is my stop.

BUSTER

Yeah, I'm just trying to figure out-

The car SCREECHES to halt, jerking them both forwards.

BUSTER

Sorry.

JESSIE

This is one weird car. I wonder who owns it?

BUSTER

I don't know. I think I'll take it back to my dad's shop. See if he can fix it up.

JESSIE

I better get inside, let my folks know I'm okay.

BUSTER

Sure.

JESSIE

(smiles)

And when I see Steve, I'm gonna go wire-fu on his ass for running out on us.

BUSTER

You go girl.

JESSIE

Thanks, Buster, for everything. You really came through.

BUSTER

It was nothing.

JESSIE

Don't put yourself down.

Buster smiles at her.

JESSIE

See you Monday, okay?

BUSTER

Okay. Bye.

She gets out of the car. Buster watches as she walks up to her house. She turns round to wave goodbye.

Buster raises his hand to wave. The car suddenly DRIVES OFF on its own.

EXT. WITWICKEY HOME - NIGHT

The Witwickey residence and business establishment are both on the same site.

Banging and crashing can be heard from SPARKPLUG'S GARAGE. A LIGHT comes on in the bedroom of the house. Soon, a figure exits the house.

IRVING "SPARKPLUG" WITWICKEY is a world-weary middle-aged mechanic. He cautiously approaches the open garage.

INT. SPARKPLUG'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Buster has the Volkswagen raised on a platform. He is covered in dirt and grime. He stares at the underside of the car, totally baffled. He doesn't see his father enter the garage behind him.

SPARKPLUG

What the bejeezus is going on here?

Buster whirls round with a guilty expression on his face. He has a wrench in his hand.

BUSTER

Uh, hi Dad. Sorry I'm late.

Sparkplug examines the car.

SPARKPLUG

Decided to finally put aside the books and follow your old man's business, huh?

BUSTER

Yeah. Sort of.

SPARKPLUG

Mind telling me where this car came from?

BUSTER

Sure, that's easy to explain.

SPARKPLUG

I'm looking forward to hearing it.

BUSTER

Okay. I was at the drive-in, and everything was going fine. Then these jet planes showed up and started shooting at everybody. Then these cars suddenly changed into robots and shot back at the planes. Anyway, I heard this car cry out in pain, so I decided to drive it back here. Well, it pretty much drove itself. All I did was steer.

SPARKPLUG

(calmly)

I see. And I don't suppose you know what happened to the car I loaned you?

BUSTER

Oh, it got blown up. Sorry.

SPARKPLUG

I don't know what they're putting on the popcorn there, but I hope it's not addictive.

BUSTER

Look, I know it sounds crazy, but I'm telling the truth. This isn't like a regular car.

Sparkplug examines the leaking vehicle more carefully.

SPARKPLUG

Well, it looks like a regular car to me. It's even leaking oil.

BUSTER

I don't think that's oil. I think it's blood.

SPARKPLUG

Come on, son. Give me some credit.
I may be tired, but that doesn't
mean I'll believe any crazy story.

BUSTER
Just take a look at the car, please.
It's not just a machine.

SPARKPLUG
What the hell would you call it?

BUMBLEBEE (V.O.)
(groans)
Help me, please. I'm dying . . .

Sparkplug and son both stare at each other in disbelief.

BUSTER
Um . . . alive?

SPARKPLUG
Is your friend Otto in there?

BUSTER
No.

SPARKPLUG
A tape recorder?

BUSTER
No, I swear.

SPARKPLUG
Then what's going on?

BUSTER
I told you. This car's alive. If
you don't fix it, it'll die.

SPARKPLUG
Don't be ridiculous.

BUSTER
Look, I'll never ask for anything
again. Please, just fix it.

Sparkplug sighs. Then he nods reluctantly.

SPARKPLUG

Okay, I'll take a look. But if this is a prank, I'll ground you until you're thirty.

Sparkplug approaches the car. He looks baffled by the design of the vehicle.

We see a montage sequence of him doing his best to patch the vehicle up. Buster watches anxiously throughout.

Finally, Sparkplug steps away, exhausted. The oil leak has stopped.

BUSTER

Is it healed?

SPARKPLUG

Damn it, son! I'm a mechanic, not a doctor! All I did was-

A sudden CREAKING noise cuts him off. The Volkswagen looks like it is collapsing.

SPARKPLUG

It's falling apart!

BUSTER

I don't think so.

The car TRANSFORMS into its robot mode. Bumblebee stands before the two astonished humans.

BUMBLEBEE

Greetings, Earthlings!

SPARKPLUG

It talks.

BUMBLEBEE

I know, I told you. This must be one of the same robots I saw at the drive-in.

SPARKPLUG

One of the good robots, right?

BUSTER

I hope so.

Bumblebee flexes her arms.

BUMBLEBEE

Thank you for repairing me, human.
Your skills equal that of our own
medic, Ratchet.

SPARKPLUG

Who are you, where do you come from
and what are you doing here?

BUMBLEBEE

I am an Autobot from the planet
Cybertron. We crash-landed here
millions of years ago, and were
recently awakened. I was injured in
battle with our mortal enemies, the
Decepticons, and your son was kind
enough to drive me here.

(beat)

Do all small pink things ask so
many questions?

SPARKPLUG

Well, that shut me up.

BUSTER

Do you have a name?

BUMBLEBEE

Back home I am known as-

Bumblebee emits a long, high-pitched BEEP. Buster and
Sparkplug clap their hands over their ears in pain.

BUMBLEBEE

But my codename here is Bumblebee.

BUSTER

Let's use that one.

(beat)

I'm Buster, this is my dad.

BUMBLEBEE

The Autobots are forever indebted to you both.

BUSTER

You're welcome. These Deceptions-

BUMBLEBEE

Decepticons.

BUSTER

They're bad guys, right?

BUMBLEBEE

They are pure evil. If they get the chance, they will plunder all of your planet's resources and leave it a barren wasteland.

Bumblebee suddenly STAGGERS, and almost falls.

BUSTER

Are you all right?

BUMBLEBEE

Yes. I just lost more fuel than I realized.

SPARKPLUG

There's a pump outside if you want to fill up.

BUSTER

I doubt an extra-terrestrial robot can guzzle premium unleaded, dad.

SPARKPLUG

You never know.

BUMBLEBEE

Perhaps we can work out a conversion process that will allow us to consume your primitive fossil fuels.

SPARKPLUG

I might be able to work that out.
(shakes his head)

Can't believe I'm having this conversation.

EXT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANET - DAWN

The power plant sits in a valley. It appears to be still under construction. The workers arrive at the power plant for the morning shift.

A dark, CAT-LIKE SHAPE suddenly flashes past the workers.

EXT. HILL - DAWN

All of the Decepticons are gathered overlooking the power plant. Ravage returns to them.

MEGATRON

What have you learned, Ravage?

RAVAGE

The facility below is a source of great power. If we can find a way to harness that energy, it could provide a source of unlimited fuel.

MEGATRON

I want that facility disassembled and brought back to our new base. Soundwave will keep me in radio contact with you.

(beat)

Fly, my Decepticons!

The jet warriors TRANSFORM and take to the air.

EXT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - DAY

Thundercracker signals the start of the attack by SWOOPING LOW overhead. Workers fall to their knees.

A SECURITY GUARD tries to raise help on his walkie-talkie.

SECURITY GUARD

We're under attack, over!

All he receives in reply is STATIC, thanks to Frenzy.

SOUNDWAVE (V.O.)

Begin dismantling the plant.

A small Deception named RUMBLE stomps his feet on the ground. EARTHQUAKE-like vibrations run through the ground. The building and machinery begins to COLLAPSE.

The Decepticons gather up the various scattered parts.

RUMBLE

That was too easy.

STARSCREAM

Yes, the humans put higher design standards on their machines than on themselves. What a backward world.

The Decepticons leave with their stolen equipment as quickly as they arrived. The human workers are left completely shell-shocked.

INT. SPARKPLUG'S GARAGE - DAY

Bumblebee is working on some sort of makeshift transmitter. Sparkplug and Buster both doze on chairs.

Bumblebee presses a button on the device and receives a burst of STATIC. Buster awakes, yawning.

BUMBLEBEE

Hello, Buster. Did you enjoy your shutdown period?

BUSTER

Yeah. What's up?

BUMBLEBEE

My transmitter was damaged when I was hit. I have made a temporary one from the spare parts in your garage. I hope you do not mind.

BUSTER

No, help yourself.

(beat)

Hey, I wonder if there's anything
on the news about last night.

He turns on a portable TV on a desk.

A news report comes on. It shows images of the aftermath
of the attack on the power plant.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Details are sketchy, but there are
reports that the plant was attacked
by some sort of giant machines.
Security has been stepped up at
other installations in the area.

BUSTER

Holy cow! Do you think that was the
Decepticons again?

BUMBLEBEE

Almost certainly. Tell me, Buster,
what sort of energy was harnessed
at that power plant?

BUSTER

It looked like a nuclear power
plant. That's probably the most
powerful and dangerous energy
source we have.

BUMBLEBEE

Optimus must be informed at once.
Excuse me, Buster.

Bumblebee turns his attention back to the transmitter.

BUMBLEBEE

(into device)

Autobot Bumblebee calling Explorer.
Are you receiving me?

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - DAY

Hound is monitoring the communications console. It BEEPS.

HOUND

Optimus! We're receiving a distress call on Autobot frequency.

OPTIMUS

That must be our friend Bumblebee.

Hound presses some buttons.

BUMBLEBEE (V.O.)

Repeat, are you receiving me?

OPTIMUS

Affirmative, Bumblebee. It is good to hear your voice.

BUMBLEBEE (V.O.)

I have new data to report.

OPTIMUS

Go on.

BUMBLEBEE (V.O.)

The Decepticons have attacked a human energy plant and stolen its resources.

OPTIMUS

That is worrying.

BUMBLEBEE (V.O.)

But I have some good news, too. I have managed to make contact with a human named Sparkplug Witwickey who may be able to help us convert this planet's fuel for our own use.

OPTIMUS

Well done, Bumblebee. That is just the sort of alliance we need.

BUMBLEBEE (V.O.)

I do not have enough fuel at present to return to the Explorer.

OPTIMUS

That is no problem. We will home in on your signal and meet you there.

BUMBLEBEE (V.O.)

Then I'll see you soon.

The transmission ends. Optimus turns to his troops.

OPTIMUS

Attention Autobots! I want everyone except Ratchet and Wheeljack ready to roll out in ten Earth minutes. We're meeting some new friends.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

The Decepticons have already begun construction on a new base using supplies from the power plant.

Soundwave emits a BEEPING noise.

MEGATRON

What is it?

SOUNDWAVE

I have intercepted a message on Autobot frequency.

MEGATRON

Can you de-scramble it?

SOUNDWAVE

Yes, but it will take some time.

Soundwave pauses for about half a second.

SOUNDWAVE

Sorry for the delay. The Autobots are about to rendezvous with some humans who they believe can convert Earth fuel for their use.

MEGATRON

Do you have the destination coordinates?

SOUNDWAVE

Affirmative.

MEGATRON

We cannot allow our enemies to form an alliance with the fleshlings. I will lead an attack to intercept them, and capture this human for our own purposes. Stay here and oversee the construction of our base.

SOUNDWAVE

As you command.

EXT. SPARKPLUG'S GARAGE - DAY

Buster is joined outside the garage by his dad. Sparkplug is wearing his grubby overalls from the night before.

BUSTER

Morning, pop.

SPARKPLUG

Morning. I guess that wasn't a dream last night, was it?

BUSTER

What gave it away?

SPARKPLUG

Oh, just the fact that I woke up to find a giant robot staring at me.

BUSTER

Thanks for what you did last night.

SPARKPLUG

My pleasure. So I suppose Bumblebee will be on his way soon?

BUSTER

Her way. No, I kinda invited her friends to come round and meet us.

SPARKPLUG

Friends?

BUSTER
You're not mad, are you?

SPARKPLUG
I suppose not.
(sighs)
I better change if we're having
company.

He heads into the house. Buster hears a noise and turns
back to the garage. He pauses at the entrance.

BUSTER
Bumblebee? You there?

Suddenly, a hand falls on his shoulder.

OTTO (O.S.)
Halt, Earthling!

Buster whirls round in surprise. He relaxes when he sees
his friend.

BUSTER
Otto? Don't do that!

OTTO
Why so jumpy, bud?

BUSTER
What are you doing here?

OTTO
I heard about the drive-in turning
into an ILM showreel. You see 'em?

BUSTER
See what?

OTTO
The giant robots, of course.

BUSTER
I dunno. It was kind of a blur. I
remember lots of stuff blowing up.

OTTO

Cool. So how'd you get on with Jessie?

BUSTER

Listen, my dad's got something planned today. You mind if we-

They are interrupted by the sound of approaching vehicles. They both look round as a PROCESSION OF CARS enter the parking lot. At the head of the line is a RED TRUCK towing a trailer. All the vehicles are shiny and new. None of them have any drivers.

OTTO

Whoa, looks like your dad hit the jackpot.

The vehicles park in front of the garage.

OTTO

Hey, those cars don't have any drivers.

BUSTER

Uh, yeah. My dad's got them hooked up by remote control.

OTTO

Awesome.

Sparkplug comes out looking cleaned up.

OTTO

How's it going, Sparky?

SPARKPLUG

That's Mr. Witwickey, Otto.

He examines the parked vehicles.

SPARKPLUG

Is this them, Buster?

BUSTER

I think so.

BUMBLEBEE (O.S.)

Yes, it is.

Otto is astonished as Bumblebee steps out of the garage.

BUMBLEBEE

(points to the truck)

Buster and Sparkplug Witwickey, meet
Optimus Prime, our great leader.

SPARKPLUG

Your leader is a truck?

OPTIMUS (V.O.)

Forgive me, humans. This disguise
allows us to blend in on your world.
However, since we all appear to be
friends here, you deserve to see
our true forms.

(beat)

Autobots . . . transform!

Optimus CHANGES into robot mode. He is almost twice as tall as Bumblebee. The other Autobots also transform. The three humans stare up in amazement.

BUSTER

Wow.

SPARKPLUG

My God.

OTTO

Buh?

OPTIMUS

We owe you our thanks for repairing
our friend, Bumblebee.

SPARKPLUG

No problem. Just hope the neighbors
don't call the cops.

OPTIMUS

I hope this will be the beginning of a long friendship between the peoples of our two planets.

OTTO

Oh, this is so cool. He's like "I come in peace, take me to your leader", right?

They hear the sound of an APPROACHING JET.

BUSTER

Oh no. Not again.

The Decepticon jets STREAK OVERHEAD.

OPTIMUS

They must have intercepted our transmission! Bumblebee, take the humans to safety while we counter this threat.

BUMBLEBEE

As you wish.

(to the humans)

This way, my small friends.

OTTO

Where we going?

BUSTER

Anywhere but here!

They follow Bumblebee round the side of the building.

Seconds later, the first Decepticon missile is FIRED. It DESTROYS a scrap car. The Autobots all DRAW THEIR WEAPONS in defence.

SIDESWIPE

Time to get up close and personal.

A jetpack on his back IGNITES. He FLIES UP towards Skywarp, firing his blaster.

SUNSTREAKER

Show-off.

Some of the Decepticons land in their robot forms and return the Autobots's fire. The area outside the garage becomes a war zone.

Ravage LEAPS ONTO Mirage, RAKING him with his claws.

MIRAGE

Why must we always fight?

RAVAGE

Less talk, more die!

Ravage lowers his mouth, TEETH BARED to rip out Mirage's throat.

The Decepticon is suddenly knocked aside by a POWERFUL BLOW from Brawn.

BRAWN

Was this kitty-cat bothering you?

MIRAGE

Thanks Brawn.

He helps Mirage to his feet.

Jazz faces Thundercracker. LOUD MUSIC blares from the Autobot's speakers.

JAZZ

Flame time, Decepti-creep!

He ignites his FLAME-THROWER. Thundercracker retreats with a CRY of pain.

Optimus Prime fires at various Decepticons flying overhead. He hits the target every time.

PROWL

Where is Megatron?

OPTIMUS

Not far away, I fear.

Suddenly, several POLICE CARS arrive on the scene.

Two UNIFORMED COPS get out of their car. They take some POT SHOTS at the Transformers, to no avail. A FLAMING CAR WRECK lands inches away from them.

UNIFORMED COP #1

I think this is out of our league.

They quickly get back in their patrol car.

EXT. SPARKPLUG'S GARAGE - SCRAPYARD - DAY

Bumblebee and his human wards watch the battle from behind a scrap car.

A Decepticon is hit by a BLAST and LANDS on top of an empty car, CRUSHING IT.

SPARKPLUG

They're turning my scrapyard into...
scrap.

BUSTER

At least it looks like the Autobots
are winning.

OTTO

Yes!

(beat)

Who the hell are the Autobots?

BUMBLEBEE

I'm inclined to agree, Buster, and
I don't usually jump to con-

Megatron suddenly appears behind Bumblebee. He brings his FIST DOWN on the Autobot's unsuspecting head. Bumblebee CRUMPLES to the ground.

MEGATRON

Overconfident fools! They trusted
the human to their weakest member.

Buster and his companions back away fearfully.

MEGATRON

Which of you fleshlings is known as
Sparkplug Witwickey?

They all remain silent.

MEGATRON'S POV - his eyes ZOOM IN on Sparkplug's nametag.

MEGATRON
You are coming with me.

He reaches out and picks up Sparkplug in one hand.

BUSTER
No! Let him go! Somebody help!

EXT. SPARKPLUG'S GARAGE - DAY

Optimus turns round at the sound of Buster's cry for help. He storms off.

EXT. SPARKPLUG'S GARAGE - SCRAPYARD - DAY

Optimus marches toward Megatron, blaster raised.

OPTIMUS
Release the human at once, or
suffer the consequences.

MEGATRON
In a word, Prime . . . no!

He swings up his fusion cannon and FIRES.

Optimus DIVES out of the way just in time. The recoil causes Megatron to release Sparkplug. He drops safely to the ground.

Optimus stands up. His side is singed, but he is otherwise uninjured. He advances on Megatron before the Decepticon leader can recharge his weapon.

OPTIMUS
How dare you endanger this planet's
inhabitants!

MEGATRON

You self-righteous fool! Your processor is just as faulty as it was millions of vorns ago.

Megatron picks up a large hunk of scrap metal.

MEGATRON

Maybe this will stop your senseless prattling.

He THROWS THE METAL at Prime's face.

OPTIMUS

Why do I insist on reasoning with you, when the only language you understand is violence?

Optimus retaliates by THROWING an empty car shell at Megatron.

Megatron leans down and RIPS A SMALL BUILDING off its foundations. He FLINGS the structure at Optimus, KNOCKING him to the ground.

Sparkplug watches this from a safe distance, alarmed.

SPARKPLUG

My car wash! That son of a-

BUSTER

C'mon, dad! We gotta get outta here!

Starscream SWOOPS LOW overhead. His hand comes out of the underside of the plane and GRABS HOLD of Sparkplug.

BUSTER

Nooo!

He watches helplessly as his father is placed into Starscream's cockpit.

Starscream streaks off into the distance. Megatron watches him leave.

MEGATRON

Decepticons! Our presence here is
no longer required!

Megatron KNOCKS Optimus back down. The Decepticons all
TRANSFORM and leave.

Buster runs over to where Optimus lies prone.

BUSTER

Optimus, they took my dad!

OPTIMUS

(groans)

I know Buster. I'm sorry we failed
you.

BUSTER

It's not your fault. But we have to
go now. We can still catch them!

OPTIMUS

As much as I would like to try, it
is impossible. Even if we were fully
refuelled, we could not pursue the
Decepticons in their aerial forms.
As it is, we barely have enough
fuel to return to the Explorer.

BUSTER

Then take me with you. I want to
help!

OPTIMUS

You shame us all with your bravery,
Buster. We would be honored if you
would accompany us.

Optimus stands up. He finds Bumblebee and helps the
groggy Autobot to his feet.

OPTIMUS

How are you feeling?

BUMBLEBEE

A little compressed. Did we win?

OPTIMUS

Not yet. Can you make it back to the Explorer?

BUMBLEBEE

With help.

OPTIMUS

(calls out)

Autobots, get ready to roll out.
If you're too low on fuel, you can ride in my trailer.

EXT. SPARKPLUG'S GARAGE - DAY

Sideswipe and Bumblebee drive into the back of Prime's trailer.

Buster climbs up into the cab. Otto stands outside.

OTTO

Dude, that was incredible! We have to hang out more. Can I help?

BUSTER

No, I gotta do this myself, okay?

OTTO

Good luck.

Optimus drives off in his truck form. The other Autobot cars file out behind him. Otto waves at the procession as it leaves.

EXT. JET PLANE - DAY

Sparkplug sits in the cockpit. He bangs on the glass.

SPARKPLUG

(muffled)

Let me outta here!

STARSCREAM (V.O.)

A foolish suggestion, fleshling.
Even a basic study of your pathetic

anatomy indicates you would not be able to survive such a fall.

Pull back to reveal that Starscream is flying thousands of feet above the ground.

The Decepticons head for their newly constructed base.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

The base is a crude approximation of their fortress back on Cybertron. The recycling of power plant equipment gives the building a patchwork quilt feel.

The Decepticons fly into the entrance.

INT. DECEPTICON BASE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

The Decepticons land and transform. Soundwave greets them.

SOUNDWAVE

Welcome. I see your mission was a success.

MEGATRON

And our base is nearly complete. Congratulations.

Starscream takes Sparkplug out of the cockpit, which is now in his chest. He dangles the human in front of Megatron over-dramatically.

STARSCREAM

Luckily, my superiority allowed me to succeed where others failed.

Megatron glares at him silently. He takes Sparkplug and places him on a huge desk.

Megatron leans down to make eye contact with him. Sparky tries to show no fear.

MEGATRON

Human, we are not of your world.

SPARKPLUG

Yeah, no shit.

MEGATRON

Silence! We require fuel to operate on this world. You will provide us with that fuel, or you will cease to exist. Do you understand?

SPARKPLUG

Yeah, I've been here before.

(beat)

I'm Sergeant Irving Witwickey,
United States Marine Corp. Serial
number -

Megatron slams down his fist in front of Sparkplug. The tremor knocks the man off his feet.

MEGATRON

Maybe you require further incentive.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The Autobots drive back to the mountain where the Explorer resides.

INT. TRUCK CAB - DAY

Buster sits up as he sees the hole in the mountain.

BUSTER

You crashed here?

OPTIMUS

A long time ago. We were recently awakened by a seismic phenomenon.

BUSTER

Oh, that must have been the eruption.
I heard about that.

EXT. THE EXPLORER - DAY

Ratchet walks out as the vehicles come to a stop. Buster climbs out before Optimus transforms into robot mode.

RATCHET

I'm glad you're back, Optimus. I've discovered something interesting in the Explorer's data banks.

OPTIMUS

There is no time for that now, I'm afraid. We must use what little fuel we have left to replenish our ranks. The Decepticons have taken Buster's father.

RATCHET

It is an emergency, I understand.

OPTIMUS

Please excuse me, Buster. We must begin planning our rescue mission immediately. You are welcome to tour the Explorer in the meantime.

BUSTER

Sure. Thanks.

The Autobots hurry inside. Ratchet is left alone with Buster.

RATCHET

Hello, Buster. I'm Ratchet.

BUSTER

Hi.

RATCHET

So . . . shall we start the tour?

BUSTER

Yeah, why not?

Buster follows Ratchet into the Explorer.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - DAY

Buster's eyes widen and his mouth drops as he gets his first look at the inside of the spaceship.

BUSTER

Zowee.

RATCHET

You sound impressed. Do you not have crafts such as this on your world?

BUSTER

Not yet. Probably not for a long time. There's so much I wanna ask.
(beat)

How do you guys reproduce? Do you have two sexes, like we do?

RATCHET

No. From the little I have studied of human physiology, your people are as different from ours as another living being could be.

BUSTER

So how do you make new Autobots?

RATCHET

Building the bodies is a simple task. But the new robots will only be mindless soldier drones unless they are infused with life by the sacred Creation Matrix.

BUSTER

What's that?

RATCHET

I'm sorry I can say no more. If the Decepticons ever discovered that power, your planet would be doomed.

INT. DECEPTICON BASE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Sparkplug stands against the wall. His face is drenched in sweat. A strange buzzing sound is heard.

SPARKPLUG

I've reconsidered. I think I will help you convert fuel.

MEGATRON (O.S.)

You have chosen wisely. Laserbeak, you may stop.

We pull back to show a glowing outline cut out in the wall around Sparkplug. Laserbeak turns off his laser a few centimeters away from Sparkplug's groin.

MEGATRON

How long will you need?

SPARKPLUG

It shouldn't take too long. But I'll need supplies, and a lab.

MEGATRON

Ask, fleshling, and you will receive.

SPARKPLUG

Okay, I'll need a sample of your fuel first.

Megatron glances at Rumble. The small Decepticon steps forward. He pulls a nozzle out of his lower torso and places it over a large beaker. The beaker begins to fill with his oil.

RUMBLE

Say when, scraplet.

SPARKPLUG

That's plenty.

He examines the fuel. The Decepticons watch him closely.

SPARKPLUG

Now I need you fellas to make a supply run.

INSERT:
TELEVISION REPORT

We see shaky camcorder footage of Soundwave stealing equipment from a technical college.

The image changes to a perky NEWSCASTER in her studio.

NEWSCASTER

This exclusive footage shows the latest attack by what can only be described as giant robots. There has been a string of sightings in the Portland area over the last two days. Who are they? What are they? Where do they come from? Reports say the National Guard has been mobilised, but officials refuse to comment.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - NIGHT

Buster lies on the floor watching the TV report on the Autobot's giant screen.

BUSTER

Looks like the Decepticons are after more supplies, Optimus.

OPTIMUS

Indeed. I fear they may be close to obtaining the fuel they crave.

BUSTER

Don't worry, my dad won't help them.

OPTIMUS

Your father is a brave man, Buster. But I hope that he does help them. The Decepticons will not harm him while he is still of use to them.

BUSTER

I've been thinking - can I go with you tomorrow?

OPTIMUS

I have already endangered your father. I won't allow you to fall into the Decepticons' clutches, too.

BUSTER

But I want to help!

OPTIMUS

Not this time. I give you my word that I will bring your father back.

Buster nods.

OPTIMUS

We will be leaving before dawn. You are welcome to spend the night here if you wish.

BUSTER

Thanks.

INT. THE EXPLORER - REPAIR BAY - NIGHT

Buster watches as Ratchet fixes up some minor injuries on his fellow Autobots.

Bumblebee heads for the exit. She spots Buster.

BUMBLEBEE

(embarrassed)

Hello, Buster.

BUSTER

Hi Bumblebee. How's your head?

BUMBLEBEE

Better, thank you. I am sorry I let your father be captured.

BUSTER

That's okay. Are they letting you join the rescue mission tomorrow?

BUMBLEBEE

Alas, no. Optimus feels I need more time to recover.

BUSTER

I guess we're both stuck here doing nothing.

(smiles)

You wanna go for a ride?

EXT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Bumblebee pulls up outside an expensive house.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

BUMBLEBEE (V.O.)

Why are we here?

BUSTER

I wanna pick up a friend.

(beat)

Say, is it okay if I bring someone back to the Explorer?

BUMBLEBEE (V.O.)

I should contact Optimus, first.

BUSTER

C'mon, you can trust me.

Buster gets out before Bumblebee can reply.

INT. BELLER HOUSEHOLD - JESSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jessie sits in front of her computer. Girl band rock music plays on the stereo.

There is a KNOCK at the window. She goes over to it. She sees Buster standing outside and pulls the window up.

JESSIE

Buster? What are you doing here?

BUSTER

I wanted to see how you were. We haven't talked since the drive-in.

JESSIE

You could have phoned me. Or knocked on the front door.

BUSTER

But where would be the fun in that?

JESSIE

So how's stuff?

BUSTER

Stuff's fine. You heard from Steve?

JESSIE

Yeah, he called me as soon as I got back. Tried to make a big apology for running out on us.

(smiles)

So, you wanna come in?

BUSTER

I was hoping you could come for a ride with me.

JESSIE

Where to?

BUSTER

It's a secret.

She looks down at his feet, confused.

BUSTER

What's the matter?

JESSIE

My window doesn't have a ledge.

BUSTER

Oh, right.

EXT. BELLER HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Buster is revealed to be standing on Bumblebee's outstretched hand.

BUSTER

I can explain, if you come with me.

JESSIE

Okay, but this better not be some cow-tipping trip.

BUSTER

No it'll be cool, I swear.

She slams the window shut.

EXT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Buster waits beside Bumblebee, who has transformed back into car mode. Jessie exits. She wears some clothes she just threw together, but still looks stunning.

Buster holds open the passenger door. Jessie pauses.

JESSIE

Hey, isn't this the car from the drive-in?

BUSTER

Yep. Told you my dad could fix it.

JESSIE

So are you gonna tell me where we're going?

BUSTER

You know those giant robots we saw?

JESSIE

Yeah, what about them?

BUSTER

I can show you where they live.

JESSIE

No way!

BUMBLEBEE (V.O.)

I don't think this is a good idea.

JESSIE

Buster, did your car just talk?

BUSTER

Yeah, it's one of those special Japanese models.

JESSIE

Japan doesn't make VW's, do they?

BUSTER

You got me. Look, hop in and I'll explain on the way. Okay?

Jessie nods and gets in. Buster makes a silent "yes" exclamation. He runs round to the driver's side.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Buster tries to start the engine to no avail.

BUSTER

Just give me a second.

(whispers)

C'mon, Bumblebee. Give me a break.

The car suddenly starts up. It moves off automatically.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

The car nears Mount St. Hillary.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Buster finishes telling his story to Jessie.

BUSTER

I couldn't sleep, so I decided to come see you.

Jessie stares at him in disbelief.

BUSTER

What do you think?

JESSIE

What do I think? Well, either you're insane, or that was the worst pick-up line in history.

BUSTER

You don't believe me? You saw the robots too.

JESSIE

That doesn't mean I believe there's an alien war going on, or that your dad got kidnapped by evil robots. That's Comic Book Guy stuff.

BUSTER

Jessie, I would never lie to you.

The heartfelt honesty on his face makes Jessie ashamed.

EXT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

The car stops a short distance from the cave entrance.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Jessie looks out the window, confused.

JESSIE

Why are we stopping here?

BUSTER

This is where they live.

He gets out of the car. Jessie remains seated. Buster pokes his head back in.

BUSTER

Come on, don't you wanna see their spaceship?

JESSIE
Spaceship?

EXT. THE EXPLORER - NIGHT

Buster approaches the entrance to the ship. Jessie follows him.

Behind them, Bumblebee TRANSFORMS to robot mode.

JESSIE
What do they look like?

BUSTER
Well, sometimes they look like cars.
Sometimes they look like Bumblebee
there.

Buster points behind her. Jessie turns and sees the Autobot. Bumblebee raises a hand in greeting.

BUMBLEBEE
Hello, Earth-female.

Jessie cries out in shock. She clutches onto Buster.

JESSIE
Oh my god! It's one of them!

BUSTER
Cool it. This is one of the good
guys, remember?

BUMBLEBEE
I am Bumblebee. Buster has been a
great ally to the Autobots.

JESSIE
You mean it's all true?

Buster nods.

JESSIE
Buster, I'm so sorry.

BUSTER

It's okay. The Autobots are gonna
get my dad back. Come on.

He leads Jessie through the entrance.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - NIGHT

Jessie is amazed as she sees the inside of the ship.

JESSIE

Wowzer.

BUSTER

That's what I said. Kinda.

JESSIE

I've never seen anything like this.

BUSTER

No one has. You want the full tour?

JESSIE

How long would that take?

Buster looks to Bumblebee for an answer.

BUMBLEBEE

To explore the entire ship would
take about two of your Earth days.

BUSTER

We'll just do the quick tour, then.

He takes Jessie's hand and leads her away.

DISSOLVE TO:

MAIN CABIN - NIGHT

Buster and Jessie return to the start of their tour,
looking exhausted. Jessie yawns.

BUSTER

Seen enough?

JESSIE

Oh yeah. This place would be great for a party.

BUSTER

You know you can't tell anyone else about it, though?

JESSIE

Of course. I'm not dumb.
(beat)
Can you take me home now?

BUSTER

Sure.

CUT TO:

EXT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Bumblebee returns to Jessie's house with the humans inside.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

JESSIE

Thanks for a cool night out.

She reaches for the door.

BUSTER

Jessie, can I ask you something?

JESSIE

What?

BUSTER

(nervous pause)
I don't wanna ask you this, cause I'm afraid of what you'll say. But if I don't ask, I'll be kicking myself for the rest of my life. So, would you like to go out with me again? Like on a proper date?

JESSIE

No. I mean, I like you a lot. You're a great guy. But I'm with Steve now. That's just the way it is.

Buster lowers his head, dejected. Jessie kisses him on the cheek and he brightens.

JESSIE

Any girl'd be lucky to have a guy like you, so don't give up.

She gets out of the car, then turns back.

JESSIE

Good luck with your dad. Let me know what happens.

Buster nods.

JESSIE

Bye.

(beat)

Nice meeting you, Bumblebee.

She waves to them, before running up to her house. Buster touches his cheek thoughtfully.

BUMBLEBEE (V.O.)

Buster, what is a date?

BUSTER

Something I'm never gonna get. Let's go.

The VW drives off.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

Dawn breaks. The ARMY surrounds the Decepticon base. Further back, the huddled masses of the PRESS wait for something to happen.

INT. DECEPTICON BASE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Megatron approaches Starscream, Skywarp and Thundercracker.

MEGATRON

Soundwave informs me that the humans have their military forces camped outside our base. Deal with them.

Skywarp SMACKS his fists together.

SKYWARP

Finally, some action!

STARSCREAM

Destroying humans is like shooting Sharkticons in a barrel.

The three Decepticon jets leave.

In the background, a nervous Sparkplug continues to work on his fuel conversion formula.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

The Decepticon jets soar out of the base. Thundercracker's SONIC BOOM makes the assembled army clap their hands over their ears.

All three jets FIRE their missiles into various army vehicles, creating a chain reaction of EXPLOSIONS.

The grizzled GENERAL BARNES shouts into his walkie-talkie.

GENERAL BARNES

We're under attack by enemy fighters!
We need air support, now!

EXT. AIR FORCE BASE - DAY

Three F-18 jet fighters take to the air.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

The Decepticon jets circle over the army.

STARSCREAM (V.O.)
This is hardly worth the effort.

THUNDERCRACKER (V.O.)
My sensors detect Earth planes
approaching from the south.

STARSCREAM (O.S.)
Then let's meet them!

All three Decepticons streak off southwards.

EXT. F-18 #1 - DAY

The first of the human flown planes is in sight of the
Decepticon base.

INT. F-18 #1 - DAY

PILOT #1 looks down at his display, alarmed.

PILOT #1
Enemy at twelve O'clock.

EXT. F-18 #1 - DAY

Before the pilot can retaliate, Starscream HURTLES into
view at tremendous speed. He FIRES his lasers and
DESTROYS the first F-18.

EXT. F-18 #2 - DAY

Thundercracker is right on the tail of the second plane.
He fires his guns, but misses.

INT. F-18 #2 - DAY

PILOT #2 desperate tries to evade his enemy.
Thundercracker suddenly pulls ahead of him.

PILOT #2

This bogey's right up my nose!

He manages to veer off at the last second to avoid a collision.

EXT. F-18 #3 - DAY

The third plane pursues Skywarp.

INT. F-18 #3 - DAY

PILOT #3 sees his display indicate he has the target.

PILOT #3

I have a lock.

He FIRES his missiles. Skywarp suddenly BLINKS out of existence.

PILOT #3

What the . . ? Target is gone!

The pilot watches in horror as his heat-seeking missile turns towards the next nearest target - the other F-18.

PILOT #3

Kenobi, look out!

EXT. F-18 #2 - DAY

It is too late. The plane EXPLODES.

EXT. F-18 #3 - DAY

Skywarp suddenly REAPPEARS above the final F-18. He TRANSFORMS into robot mode and drops right on top of the F-18.

Skywarp TEARS the wings off the plane. It begins to PLUMMET like a bomb. Skywarp lets out a VICTORY YELL as he rides the falling cockpit.

Several hundred feet above the ground, Skywarp transforms back into plane mode and TAKES OFF. The F-18 HITS THE GROUND and EXPLODES.

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

The Decepticons jets are now many miles from the base.

STARSCREAM

Let's mop up the rest!

The three of them turn round and head back.

EXT. DESERTED HIGHWAY - DAY

The Autobots drive towards the Decepticon Base. They come to a stop at the crest of a hill.

Prime's headlights survey the scene below them. The scattered army is slowly regrouping. The members of the press have retreated to a safer distance.

OPTIMUS (V.O.)

It appears that the humans have already clashed with the Decepticons.

BRAWN (V.O.)

Then what are we waiting for? Let's get stuck in!

OPTIMUS (V.O.)

First, we need to send someone on a reconnaissance mission, in order to determine the best way to rescue our friend Sparkplug.

(beat)

Gears, would you mind volunteering?

GEARS (V.O.)

I suppose not.

He drives off.

OPTIMUS (V.O.)

Good luck.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

Gears approaches a commotion near the base.

Thundercracker is wading through the military ranks. They fire back, with little effect. He PICKS UP a tank.

A young NEWS REPORTER watches excitedly. He turns to his CAMERAMAN.

REPORTER

You getting this?

CAMERAMAN

Yeah, but don't you think we're a little clo-

REPORTER

We're fine.

Thundercracker suddenly THROWS the tank up in the air. The Cameraman drops his camera and runs away.

The tank SOARS UP and then comes down . . . right TOWARDS the Reporter. He watches, frozen in fear.

At the last second, Gear's HAND MOVES in front of him and DEFLECTS the tank.

THUNDERCRACKER

Typical Autobot spoilsport. I'd gladly crush you, but I must report back to Megatron.

The Decepticon TAKES TO THE SKY and returns to base.

REPORTER

I guess that was a little close.

He looks up at Gears.

REPORTER

Please don't squash me.

GEARS

Why would I want to do that?

REPORTER

You're not a bad robot?

GEARS

No, I am an Autobot. We are sworn to protect your people from the evil Decepticons. Don't ask me why.

REPORTER

I see. Where do you come from?

GEARS

A far away planet called Cybertron.

REPORTER

Is there a little green guy in there controlling you?

GEARS

No one controls me. I am alive.

REPORTER

Cool. You got a name?

GEARS

I am codenamed Gears.

REPORTER

I'm codenamed . . . Pete.

He looks around to check if no one is eavesdropping.

PETE

(smiles)

Say, how would you feel about giving me an exclusive to your story?

GEARS

I would like to help, human, but first I must scout an entrance into the Decepticon's base.

PETE

Why do you want to go in there?

GEARS

They have captured one of your fellow Earthlings.

PETE

Maybe I can help you rescue him.

GEARS

If you have any information we would be glad to hear it. But first I must report back to Optimus Prime.

PETE

What's that?

GEARS

Our great leader.

PETE

Is he far away?

GEARS

Yes, but I can get us there quickly.

Gears TRANSFORMS into vehicle mode as Pete watches, astonished.

PETE

Now that's more than meets the eye.

He climbs in.

EXT. DESERTED HIGHWAY - DAY

Gears, back in robot mode, reports to Optimus. Pete stands in the background. He takes a few still shots of the Autobots with his camera.

GEARS

The Decepticons have retreated to their base, but they are aware of our presence. The human military are still camped outside, despite the fact their weapons have proven ineffectual against the Decepticons.

OPTIMUS

(turns to Pete)
 Earthling, will you kindly instruct
 your military forces to fall back
 and allow us to deal with the
 situation?

PETE

(chuckles)
 Somehow I don't think they'll buy
 that. But I got another idea. Is
 that a jeep I saw back there?

Hound drives forward.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - MILITARY CORDON - DAY

The Autobot vehicles stop just out of sight of the
 cordon. Hound is in the lead.

A nearby ROOKIE SOLDIER comes over to investigate.

ROOKIE SOLDIER

Who's there? Identify yourselves!

Pete steps out of the jeep.

PETE

Hi. I have a press pass.

ROOKIE SOLDIER

Don't move!

Hound suddenly changes into robot mode. The Soldier
 stares in amazement.

Pete uses the distraction to grab the soldier's gun.

PETE

Put 'em up.

The Soldier surrenders.

Dissolve to Pete wearing the Soldier's uniform. The real
 soldier lies in the undergrowth, his hands tied.

PETE

Let's drive.

Hound transforms back to jeep mode and Pete gets behind the wheel.

INT. DECEPTION BASE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Sparkplug steps away from his lab, looking exhausted.

MEGATRON

Are you finished, human?

SPARKPLUG

Yeah, I'm done. There should be enough fuel here to keep you guys going for a while. And I've left instructions for how to make more.

MEGATRON

Excellent. You will soon be able to leave.

SPARKPLUG

(under his breath)
Yeah, right.

MEGATRON

We need someone to test this fuel.

He turns to face Rumble.

RUMBLE

Aww . . . no.

He reluctantly picks up a vial of BLACK FLUID. He nervously CHUGS it down. The other Decepticons wait for any reaction. Rumble wipes his mouth.

RUMBLE

That hit the spot!

MEGATRON

Time to face the Autobots.

Sparkplug retreats into a corner.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - MILITARY CORDON - DAY

Hound drives right through the cordon, closely followed by the other Autobots.

Pete salutes TWO TROOPS as they pass by.

TROOP #1

Where are they going?

TROOP #2

Who cares? We're moving out.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

The Autobots are soon crouched behind a small hill, which hides them from the Decepticons.

Hound projects a 3D map of the surrounding area.

HOUND

The main entrance to the Decepticon base is heavily guarded. It may be possible to gain entry at the rear of the base. However, the cliff face will prove most perilous.

OPTIMUS

It's a shame Sideswipe was not able to accompany us on this mission. It may be possible for one Autobot to gain access while we provide a distraction at the front.

They all look at Gears.

GEARS

(sighs)

I'm the only one with grappling hooks, so I suppose I'll get picked for the deadly mission, yet again.

OPTIMUS

Thank you, Gears.

Gears starts to move off.

PETE

Hey, you need any help?

GEARS

No, I only want to rescue one human.

PETE

Okay, I'll just take some pics.

Optimus turns to the others.

OPTIMUS

Autobots . . . charge!

They RACE over the hill, weapons FIRING.

Gears sneaks to the side of the base in the confusion.

Deception warriors emerge from the base and engage the Autobots in combat.

Soundwave's chest opens and Laserbeak LEAPS OUT, transforming in mid-air. He flies right at the Autobots, SCREECHING.

The few remaining military personnel FIRE at both Autobots and Deceptions indiscriminately.

EXT. REAR OF DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

Gears makes his way across a narrow ledge. Below him, the cliff drops away almost a thousand feet.

He points his arm upwards. His fist suddenly DETACHES from his arm and FLIES UPWARDS, attached to a cable. It fixes itself to the upper part of the base.

Gears checks the cable is secure and then begins to REEL himself upwards.

INT. DECEPTICON BASE - HANGER - DAY

Gears pulls himself up through a small entrance. He finds himself in the massive, but deserted hanger. He cautiously moves forward.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

Optimus and Jazz fight side by side. Jazz gets HIT by a stray BAZOOKA SHOT, which barely dents his hide.

JAZZ

Say, Op, any idea why the little dudes are firing at us as well as the Deceps?

OPTIMUS

All they see is giant robots, Jazz. They can't tell the difference.

JAZZ

Bummer.

Rumble STAMPS HIS FEET. The ground VIBRATES, and all the Autobots near him COLLAPSE.

Brawn heads right towards Rumble. He manages to keep his feet, despite the ground SHAKING AND SHIFTING.

BRAWN

Get a new trick, Rumble.

He SMACKS Rumble across the face, knocking him out.

Frenzy sees this and CRIES OUT in anger. He sends a BURST OF ENERGY towards Brawn.

FRENZY

How dare you strike my brother,
Autobot scum!

Brawn COLLAPSES in agony. Frenzy hits him with another ELECTRICAL BURST. Smoke POURS OUT of Brawn's head.

Frenzy picks up Rumble and walks away from the battle.

INT. DECEPTION BASE - CORRIDOR - DAY

Gears creeps along the corridor. Suddenly, he hears a GROWL. He freezes.

He turns round, and sees two GLOWING EYES. Ravage LEAPS OUT of the shadows and POUNDS straight towards him.

Gears jumps out of the way at the last second. Ravage barely grazes him.

RAVAGE

You shouldn't have come here,
Autobot! But at least you'll give
me a workout.

Ravage moves forward with lightning speed, TEETH BARED.

Gears LEAPS OVER the Decepticon and keeps running. He heads for a doorway as Ravage pursues him.

Gears dives through the doorway. He HITS A BUTTON on the wall and the doors SLAM SHUT.

INT. DECEPTICON BASE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

There is a LOUD BANG as Ravage hits the closed door from the other side. He SNARLS in rage.

Gears turns round and is surprised to see Sparkplug in the corner of the room.

Sparkplug looks up at him fearfully.

GEARS

Don't be afraid, human. I'm here to
rescue you.

A Walther P-38 handgun lies on a desk behind Gears. It starts to TREMBLE on its own.

SPARKPLUG

Thanks for coming, but I don't think
it's safe.

GEARS

That's why we have to move quickly.

He picks up Sparkplug gently.

The gun suddenly begins to increase in size. It OPENS UP AND TRANSFORMS until the fearsome form of Megatron stands in the room.

MEGATRON

Your time has run out, Autobot.

SPARKPLUG

This looks bad.

MEGATRON

In fact, the human has already served his purpose. Here, let me help you escape.

Megatron FIRES HIS FUSION CANNON at Gears's feet. The floor BUCKLES.

GEARS

Hold on.

They FALL THROUGH the floor.

EXT. REAR OF DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

Gears and Sparkplug fall from the overhang and HURTLE DOWN past the base.

Sparkplug SCREAMS in fear as Gears holds him tightly.

Gears points his fist up. He FIRES his grappling line.

His fist ATTACHES to the wall of the cliff. The line goes taut. Gears comes to a sudden STOP and SWINGS TOWARDS the cliff. Sparkplug cries out again as he sees the CLIFF WALL coming right at him.

Gears sticks his legs out before CRASHING AGAINST the wall.

There is a tiny ledge just above them. Gears holds Sparkplug up to it.

GEARS

Quick, climb on the ledge!

SPARKPLUG

What about you?

GEARS

Hurry! I don't know how long this line will hold!

Above them, the wire starts to COME APART.

Sparkplug climbs onto the ledge. He reaches out to Gears.

GEARS

Mission accomplished, friend.

The last strand of wire SNAPS.

SPARKPLUG

No!

Gears TUMBLES towards the ground far below. His eventual impact is only seen as a tiny cloud of dust.

Sparkplug leans back against the cliff face. There is no sign of any escape.

SPARKPLUG

Help! Somebody help!

Several seconds pass with no response.

PETE (O.S.)

Hey there!

Sparkplug looks up and sees Pete peering down from a ledge about fifty feet above him.

SPARKPLUG

Who are you?

PETE

A reporter. But any friend of the Autobots is a friend of mine.

SPARKPLUG

Can you tell them I'm here?

PETE

Sure. One minute.

He leaves Sparkplug alone.

EXT. BASE OF CLIFF - DAY

Sparkplug is hoisted down to the waiting Autobots. They all look battle weary. The wounded are lying nearby.

OPTIMUS

It is a pleasure to see you unharmed, Sparkplug.

SPARKPLUG

Thanks for coming to get me.

OPTIMUS

We had to, no matter what the cost.

Behind them, Autobots recover Gears's scattered parts.

SPARKPLUG

I'm sorry about Gears.

OPTIMUS

Don't worry, we will collect what's left of him.

Pete and Sparkplug share a confused look.

PETE

How can you be so cold about it? He died a hero.

OPTIMUS

But Gears is not dead, as you call it.

SPARKPLUG

You mean he's still alive?

OPTIMUS

Not exactly.

PETE

I don't get it.

OPTIMUS

Our concept of life and death is very different from yours, human. I would like to discuss this more, but we must return Sparkplug to the Explorer before the Decepticons regroup and attack. You have our thanks for your help.

PETE

No problem.

The Autobots transform into vehicle mode. The injured ones are loaded onto Prime's trailer.

PETE

I still got an exclusive on this story, right?

They drive off.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - NIGHT

Buster is waiting with Bumblebee. He hears engines approaching. He runs to the exit excitedly.

EXT. THE EXPLORER - NIGHT

Optimus parks outside the Explorer. Sparkplug gets out.

Buster sees his father and runs towards him. They hug.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - NIGHT

The Autobots are gathered with the two humans. Ratchet works on repairing Gears in the background.

BUSTER

I thought I'd never see you again, dad.

SPARKPLUG

You can't keep a good mechanic down.

OPTIMUS

It please my processor to see you two reunited. But we can ask no more of you now.

BUSTER

Are you sure?

OPTIMUS

Yes. We must finish our conflict with the Decepticons alone.

SPARKPLUG

Well, at least let me try and help you with your fuel problem.

OPTIMUS

That would be most helpful.

Ratchet approaches them.

RATCHET

Optimus, I've managed to reengage Gear's primary logic circuits.

SPARKPLUG

You mean he's awake?

RATCHET

He can process input, but not much else.

SPARKPLUG

Then let me give him my thanks.

Sparkplug and Buster approach Gears. His head is still detached from his body, powered by a portable generator.

Gears opens his eyes. His mouth opens, and some oil leaks out.

PROWL

He's trying to talk.

GEARS

Meg-

(beat)

Megatron got what he wanted from
the human.

The Autobots stare at Gears in shock. Then their eyes
turn towards a nervous looking Sparkplug.

BUSTER

You didn't help them, did you dad?

SPARKPLUG

I can explain.

Huffer storms forward.

HUFFER

That's it! We've already had several
causalities protecting this mudball.
Now we find out the humans have
given the Decepticons the means to
destroy us!

PROWL

Easy Huffer. You forget how frail
humans are. He could not help but
co-operate with the Decepticons.

HUFFER

Have your logic circuits decayed
with age? Why do you defend him?

PROWL

We all know the Decepticons are
capable of using any means necessary
to get what they want - including
torture.

HUFFER

So what? This is war.

While the Autobots are preoccupied, Sparkplug grabs
Buster's hand and starts to lead him away.

SPARKPLUG

These guys have got a few screws loose. Let's get out of here.

MIRAGE

I say we fix up the Explorer and leave this lousy planet. Let the Decepticons rule these weaklings.

OPTIMUS

That I cannot allow. We brought this war here. It is our burden, not theirs.

MIRAGE

But-

OPTIMUS

Enough! To debate further is both pointless and dangerous. We cannot afford to waste anymore time while the Decepticons are no doubt preparing a final assault. It matters not how the Decepticons obtained their fuel, but how fast we can make our own.

BLUESTREAK

Prime's right! If Huffer had harmed the humans we'd be in deep trouble. The Decepticons are at full fuel so we better get moving and-

HUFFER

If you'd stop babbling for a moment, Bluestreak, you'd see the heroic humans are running away.

The Autobots see that Buster and his father have almost made it to the exit.

JAZZ

Don't have a cow, I'll keep the little dudes in here.

Jazz raises his flame-thrower.

OPTIMUS

No!

Jazz ignores the warning and fires a QUICK BURST OF FLAME in front of the fleeing humans. They both stop.

Sparkplug suddenly CLUTCHES HIS CHEST in pain. He COLLAPSES to the floor.

BUSTER

Dad!

Buster crouches down by his father. Sparkplug wheezes.

SPARKPLUG

Heart . . .

The Autobots watch with concern.

OPTIMUS

What is the matter, Buster? Is your father malfunctioning?

BUSTER

My dad's not a machine, Optimus! I think he's having a heart attack.

JAZZ

Sorry, Buster. I didn't realise-

BUSTER

Never mind that now! If my dad doesn't get to the hospital, he might die!

Optimus looks at Ratchet.

RATCHET

Please allow me to help, Buster.

He TRANSFORMS into ambulance mode. Buster helps his father into the back of the ambulance.

BUSTER

Hold on, Dad.

He slams the back doors. He runs round and gets in the driver's seat.

BUSTER

Drive!

The ambulance SPEEDS out of the Explorer, lights flashing and SIREN wailing. The Autobots look ashamed.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

All is quiet outside the base as the sun rises. General Barnes is surrounded by his remaining soldiers.

Suddenly, the giant doors start to slide open.

GENERAL BARNES

Look alive, men! This may be our last shot at this. Get ready to fire on my command.

Megatron STOMPS out of the entrance, shaking the ground around him. He studies the assembled army coldly.

MEGATRON

Go ahead, fleshlings. Do your worst.

GENERAL BARNES

(mutters)

Son of a bitch.

(beat)

FIRE!

The army LETS LOOSE with everything they've got. MACHINE GUNS and ROCKET LAUNCHERS are fired at Megatron. A row of tanks behind the troops also FIRE up at the Decepticon.

Even General Barnes joins in with his sidearm.

Megatron soon becomes obscured by SMOKE, but the BARRAGE carries on for another minute.

The General waves his arms to signal the end.

GENERAL BARNES

Cease fire!

Most of the shooting ceases, but some overzealous troops continue to fire.

GENERAL BARNES
I SAID CEASE FIRE!

The FIRESTORM eventually stops. The soldiers wait apprehensively for the smoke to clear.

Finally, it does. Megatron stands. Not a mark on him.

MEGATRON
HA!

He turns and casually STOMPS back inside the base.

General Barnes looks defeated. He picks up a phone.

GENERAL BARNES
Get me the President.

INT. DECEPTICON BASE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Megatron rejoins his troops. They all look eager for action. In the background, EIGHT DRONE BODIES are being assembled by automated machines. Megatron watches with approval.

MEGATRON
Excellent, our army is almost ready.

Frenzy flexes his arms.

FRENZY
That pathetic human did an amazing job. I've never felt more powerful.

MEGATRON
Conquering this planet will be a ridiculously simple task, once the Autobots are eliminated.

Starscream clears his vocal transmitter noisily.

STARSCREAM

Of course, it was unfortunate that Megatron allowed the human to escape. He could be providing the cursed Autobots with fuel, as we speak. Perhaps another's leadership is called for at this time.

MEGATRON

I'm afraid I've heard . . . enough!

Megatron raises his fusion cannon with lightning speed and BLASTS Starscream. The treacherous Decepticon FLIES across the room and lands in a CRUMPLED HEAP.

MEGATRON

Add Starscream to the damage report.

The other Decepticons barely react.

MEGATRON

Despite his treasonous tone, he had a point. Ravage, go to the Explorer and survey the Autobot's condition.

RAVAGE

Yes, Megatron.

Ravage slinks away.

INT. THE EXPLORER - COCKPIT - DAY

Optimus sits, staring off into space. Wheeljack enters the ruined cockpit.

WHEELJACK

Forgive my interruption, Optimus.

OPTIMUS

No. I welcome the break from my own pessimism.

WHEELJACK

There is something I think you should see. Something that Ratchet tried to show you earlier.

OPTIMUS

Will it be any help in our present circumstances?

WHEELJACK

Possibly.

Optimus follows Wheeljack out of the cockpit.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - DAY

Wheeljack presses a button. A giant VIDEO SCREEN lowers from the ceiling.

WHEELJACK

We assumed that the Explorer was deactivated as soon as it crashed, but that was not the case. Some of its sensors were still working for several breems before shutting down. It picked up a transmission during that period, from a group known as the Dinobots.

An image appears on the screen. The face of the battle-hardened DINOBOT LEADER looks into the camera.

OPTIMUS

(stunned)

Grimlock.

GRIMLOCK

Greetings, Prime. Sorry we didn't call sooner, but we've been having too much fun exploring this place. Our ship detected no life forms when we approached, but the sensors were wrong. There are millions of lifeforms here. Some are even as big as us, but they look a whole lot different.

The camera pans to show Earth wildlife from some 65 million years ago.

A TYRANNOSAURUS REX attacks a wounded TRICERATOPS.

GRIMLOCK (O.S.)

We decided to use the technology on the shuttle to enable us to change into forms similar to these beasts. They must be pretty dumb, since they fall for the trick most times.

The camera pans further. We see the Dinobot's SHUTTLE obscured by foliage.

Another Dinobot, SLUDGE, transforms into a metallic APATOSAURUS. He walks among similar large herbivores, which barely notice him.

The camera pans back to Grimlock.

GRIMLOCK

Anyway, this place should be okay, even for a perfectionist like you. But that's not why I'm calling. We've just received a message that a Cybertronian lifeform has been detected approaching our location. We were hoping it's an Autobot, but if it is a Decepticon, we should be able to vaporise him no problem. But if you don't hear from us, I guess you'll know why.

The Dinobot SNARL runs into frame in robot form.

SNARL

Grimlock, it's Shockwave! He's here!

The five Dinobots turn and charge into battle. SWOOP flies over the heads of his companions in his PTERANADON mode.

Shockwave lands in front of them. SLAG, in TRICERATOPS mode, breathes FLAME at Shockwave.

Shockwave fires his LASER CANNON directly at the camera and the SCREEN GOES BLANK.

WHEELJACK

That's all we received.

OPTIMUS

Shockwave must have been aboard the Decepticon's shuttle. No doubt he flew down to the surface when he received no communication from his fellow Decepticons. It looks as if our arrival here may have partly caused the extinction of these dinosaur creatures. It is another burden of guilt I must bear.

WHEELJACK

The message was also transmitted to Cybertron. I wonder why they never answered it.

OPTIMUS

They may not have received it, or our base may have been destroyed. It's no concern now, nor is finding out what became of Shockwave and the Dinobots.

WHEELJACK

But we need all the reinforcements we can get. If the Dinobots are still functional -

OPTIMUS

Unlikely. But I suppose we can send a scout craft to the origin of the transmission to find out for sure.

Wheeljack nods.

OPTIMUS

Now we must turn our attention to how to solve our fuel crisis.

The console BEEPS into life.

RATCHET (V.O.)

Optimus, are you receiving me?

OPTIMUS

Yes, Ratchet?

RATCHET (V.O.)

Buster and Sparkplug are still in the hospital. Should I return?

OPTIMUS

Negative. There is little you can do here. Continue to report on Sparkplug's progress.

Above them, Ravage's eyes GLOW in the dark.

EXT. PORTLAND HOSPITAL - DAY

Ratchet is still parked outside the hospital.

Two PARAMEDICS rush outside. Ratchet is the only ambulance nearby. They climb inside.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

RATCHET (V.O.)

Hey!

PARAMEDIC #1

Did you hear that?

PARAMEDIC #2

Sounded like a squeak. Maybe it needs servicing.

PARAMEDIC #1

That can wait til after this call.

Ratchet puts up no resistance as they drive him away at full speed.

INT. PORTLAND HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Buster sits in the hall outside his father's room, half-asleep. A DOCTOR approaches him, his expression unreadable.

DOCTOR

Mr. Witwickey?

Buster gets up, disorientated but alert.

BUSTER

Uh . . . yeah. How's my dad?

DOCTOR

He's . . . stable. Luckily it was only a mild heart attack. He's resting at the moment. You should be able to see him later today.

BUSTER

(breathes sigh of relief)

Thanks, Doc.

DOCTOR

The important thing is that your father mustn't get involved in any more stressful situations.

(beat)

I'm needed in the OR, but I'll keep you informed.

Buster nods. He stands around, not sure what to do. Then he spots a payphone.

INT. DECEPTICON BASE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Ravage reports back to Megatron.

RAVAGE

The Autobots are defenceless. The time is right to attack.

MEGATRON

Excellent. We will crush all of the Autobots swiftly. Soundwave?

SOUNDWAVE

Yes, Megatron?

MEGATRON

I want you to locate the nearest fleshling repair center. The soft-

headed Autobots must have brought the faulty human there. Find him and terminate him, to ensure he cannot provide the Autobots with fuel later on. After, you can join us in our assault on the Explorer.

SOUNDWAVE

As you command.

MEGATRON

Thundercracker, drop him off on the way to the Explorer.

Soundwave and Thundercracker exit.

MEGATRON

I want all troops ready to leave in five Earth minutes!

The Decepticons scramble into action.

Rumble bends over to pick up a weapon. His leg LOCKS up.

FRENZY

What is it?

Rumble BANGS his leg to get it moving again.

RUMBLE

Felt like a scraplet was loose in there. It's okay now.

FRENZY

Good. It's time to fry the Autobots!

Frenzy's eyes CRACKLE with electricity.

INT. PORTLAND HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Buster waits anxiously. He looks up and sees Jessie standing down the hall. He smiles and goes to her.

BUSTER

Hi.

JESSIE

Hi.

They stand apart awkwardly.

JESSIE

You can have a hug if you want.

Buster gives her a quick hug.

BUSTER

Thanks for coming. I just needed to talk to someone.

JESSIE

No problem. I was here visiting my grandma last week. I love her, but it's so depressing in these places, ya know?

Buster nods.

JESSIE

How's your dad?

BUSTER

They say he's okay, but they won't let me see him yet.

JESSIE

That sucks. So, are you gonna tell me everything that's happened?

BUSTER

It's a long story. You wanna go to the cafeteria?

JESSIE

(smiles)
Hospital food? Yummy.

They start to walk off.

JESSIE

If everything turns out okay, you wanna go to the drive-in again?

BUSTER

Just you and me?

JESSIE

Unless you wanna bring Otto.

BUSTER

Wouldn't Steve kinda mind?

JESSIE

Maybe. But it doesn't really matter since we broke up.

BUSTER

(stunned)

When did that happen?

JESSIE

The day after the drive-in. We had a big fight about what a wimp he was, and I told him I didn't wanna date him anymore.

Buster stops dead. Jessie turns back.

BUSTER

Why didn't you tell me that the other night?

JESSIE

I wanted to see if it would put you off or not. I like determined guys.

BUSTER

(wags his finger)

You are a naughty girl.

Jessie hooks her arm around his and they walk off.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - DAY

Wheeljack walks up excitedly to Optimus.

WHEELJACK

Optimus, I have an idea.

OPTIMUS

What is it?

WHEELJACK

The tubes of transference.

OPTIMUS

Of course! Do they still work?

WHEELJACK

That's the hitch. The only way to test it is to try them on ourselves. Five Autobots will have to give up their energy for it to work.

OPTIMUS

We must move quickly.

INT. THE EXPLORER - TUBES OF TRANSFERENCE CHAMBER - DAY

The ten clear tubes are lined up either side of the room.

In the tubes on the left stand Optimus, Prowl, Huffer, Mirage and Sunstreaker. Wheeljack, Jazz, Hound, Cliffjumper and Bluestreak are in the tubes on the right.

OPTIMUS

Is everyone ready?

JAZZ

This is just gonna be like a nap, right Optimus?

OPTIMUS

Yes. I just hope when you awake it will be to witness our victory.

(beat)

Begin the transference!

Wires come out of the roof and attach to the top of all the tubes.

ENERGY CRACKLES through the tubes. The energy is drawn from the Autobots on the right and deposited in the five on the left. The drained Autobots slump against the wall of the tubes.

The doors to the tubes on the left open. Optimus and the others step out, fully energised.

OPTIMUS

It worked.

SUNSTREAKER

How long before we get to transform the Decepticons into scrap metal?

OPTIMUS

I fear they will be here soon.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - DAY

The Autobots head towards their weapon's hold.

Suddenly, a hole EXPLODES in the roof of the cabin.

HUFFER

Decepticons!

MIRAGE

(wryly)

You compute?

MEGATRON (O.S.)

Prime! Surrender . . . or prepare to be deactivated!

SUNSTREAKER

That rusty maniac. Let's get him!

Optimus gently restrains Sunstreaker.

OPTIMUS

No, let them come to us. If we rush out, it'll just make it easier for them to pick us off.

The Autobots stare up at the hole in the roof anxiously.

EXT. PORTLAND HOSPITAL - DAY

We hear the sound of a jet streaking overhead. A LARGE BOOM BOX lands on the sidewalk outside the hospital.

An ORDERLY walks past and does a double take. He checks the coast is clear and tries to pick up the stereo unit. It is too heavy and he almost gives himself a hernia.

The boom box suddenly starts to INCREASE IN SIZE and open out. The Orderly backs away fearfully.

ORDERLY

It's a bomb!

He runs for his life. Several other bystanders also flee in panic.

The box takes on the shape of a robot. Soon Soundwave finishes his transformation. He stomps towards the main entrance to the hospital.

Soundwave CRASHES THROUGH the wall, sending the floor above him TUMBLING DOWN as well.

INT. PORTLAND HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

Soundwave marches down the hall. A NURSE comes to see the commotion and SCREAMS.

INT. PORTLAND HOSPITAL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Buster and Jessie jump up from their table as the room SHAKES. Another VISITOR runs past them.

VISITOR

Run! It's one of those giant robots!

BUSTER

(horrified)

Dad.

He runs off.

JESSIE

Buster, wait!

She quickly follows him.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - DAY

The Autobots wait with their weapons drawn.

A SCREECHING sound draws near.

OPTIMUS
Get ready. Here they come.

Laserbeak SWOOPS inside the hole in the roof. He SCREECHES and flies right at Optimus.

Optimus waits until Laserbeak is almost upon him, then raises his rifle and FIRES. The Decepticon EXPLODES.

SUNSTREAKER
That bird-brain flew right into that one!

OPTIMUS
(troubled)
Yes. Choose your targets carefully.

There is a SONIC BOOM as Thundercracker swoops overhead. He drops a MISSILE through the wall.

The Autobots are shaken but unhurt by the EXPLOSION.

PROWL
If the Decepticons continue to attack us here, there's an 85% chance The Explorer will suffer irreparable-

OPTIMUS
Point taken, Prowl.

They head for the exit.

EXT. THE EXPLORER - DAY

The Autobots move out of the ship. The seven remaining Decepticons stand in a line a short distance away.

The outnumbered Autobots hold their ground defiantly. Optimus LOCKS EYES with Megatron.

Megatron raises his cannon.

MEGATRON
DESTROY THEM ALL!

The Decepticons CHARGE FORWARD. LASER BLASTS fly back and forth.

Mirage panics and retreats towards the Explorer. Ravage LEAPS ON HIM before he can make it.

MIRAGE
Not you again!

RAVAGE
(monotone)
Running away, Autobot?

Ravage SCRATCHES Mirage's chestplate open. Mirage SHOVES HIS BLASTER in Ravage's mouth.

MIRAGE
Not anymore.

He PULLS THE TRIGGER. Mirage heaves the limp Decepticon off of him. He runs to rejoin his comrades in battle.

Sunstreaker stands tall as Thundercracker comes swooping in, lasers FIRING. The EXPLOSIONS go off either side of Sunstreaker. He RETURNS FIRE with a surface to air missile. He smiles as Thundercracker EXPLODES.

Prowl struggles with Frenzy. He picks the little Decepticon up and THROWS him at Rumble. Both Decepticons are deactivated.

Starscream suddenly arrives on the scene. He FIRES his powerful lasers at Prowl. The Autobot collapses.

Starscream sneaks up behind Mirage. He fires at his back, but the laser blasts pass harmlessly through the HOLOGRAM. The real Mirage RETURNS FIRE and BLOWS the top of Starscream's head off.

Mirage stares at Starscream's empty brain cavity.

MIRAGE

Optimus, this isn't the real Starscream! We've been fighting-

MEGATRON (O.S.)

Drones?

Mirage looks up into Megatron's smiling face, just in time to be hit by a CANNON BLAST.

Optimus watches in horror as Megatron's UNHARMED TROOPS, the real ones, appear behind him. The Autobots have wasted all their energy fighting mindless drone copies.

INT. PORTLAND HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Soundwave continues to make his way towards Sparkplug's room, CRUSHING everything in his path. He PUNCHES through walls and coldly examines the TERRIFIED PATIENTS within.

INT. PORTLAND HOSPITAL - SPARKPLUG'S ROOM - DAY

Sparkplug's whole room SHAKES. He comes awake, totally disorientated.

The door BANGS open. Buster and Jessie enter the room.

BUSTER

Dad! We have to get out of here!

SPARKPLUG

What in the hell is going on, son?
Is it an earthquake?

BUSTER

No, worse.

Sparkplugs nods in silent understanding.

BUSTER

Can you walk?

SPARKPLUG

I can try.

Buster starts to help his father out of the bed.

Suddenly, the wall of the room is RIPPED AWAY.

SOUNDWAVE (O.S.)

Just the fleshlings I'm looking for.

A GIANT HAND reaches into the room, heading right for Sparkplug.

EXT. THE EXPLORER - DAY

The surviving Autobots are on their last legs. They fall back into a tight group as the Decepticons close in.

Skywarp TELEPORTS in front of Bluestreak. The Decepticon knocks the other Transformer's weapon away.

BLUESTREAK

Uh, you wouldn't fire on an unarmed Autobot, would you?

Skywarp raises his weapon to fire.

Optimus LEAPS IN THE WAY at the last moment. He knocks Bluestreak clear and takes the BLAST in his left arm, which DISINTEGRATES below the elbow. Optimus CRIES OUT in pain, but still manages to raise his own blaster.

Skywarp quickly teleports away. Optimus FIRES anyway and his laser blast HITS Skywarp when he reappears.

BLUESTREAK

You saved me!

OPTIMUS

(pained)

I just hope someone can save us.

Frenzy suddenly hits the Autobots with a burst of ELECTRICITY. Everyone except Optimus and Huffer SHORT CIRCUIT.

HUFFER

I'll fight til the end, Optimus!

Thundercracker BLASTS Huffer. Optimus KICKS Frenzy into Thundercracker, electrocuting them both.

Megatron steps forward. His gaze locks with Prime's.

MEGATRON

Prime!

They RUN at each other. Megatron LASHES OUT with his fist and knocks Optimus onto his back. Optimus stands back up, and Megatron DIVES at him. Optimus ducks, and Megatron sails overhead.

Optimus is distracted, allowing Rumble to hit him with a BARRAGE of laser fire. Ravage FIRES THE MISSILE mounted on his back at Optimus. The Autobot drops to his knees.

Megatron returns and stares down at Optimus.

MEGATRON

It will only take one breem for my cannon to recharge. Then, you will cease to function.

Optimus can only watch as Megatron raises his cannon.

Suddenly, Rumble CRIES OUT. His body locks up completely.

MEGATRON

What is happening?

One by one, the other Decepticons lock up. Their frozen bodies TOPPLE OVER.

Megatron lets out an electronic SCREAM as his own body starts to FREEZE.

MEGATRON

No, I won! I won't be cheat-

His mouth freezes, along with the rest of him. He topples backward with a MASSIVE THUMP.

Optimus gets slowly to his feet, barely able to believe that he has survived.

Bluestreak comes round. Optimus helps him up.

BLUESTREAK

What happened?

OPTIMUS

We won.

BLUESTREAK

How?

OPTIMUS

Sparkplug Witwickey must have given the Decepticons contaminated fuel. We and everyone else on this world owe him a debt. I just hope we will have the chance to repay it.

INT. PORTLAND HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Buster, Sparkplug and Jessie make it out of the room. Soundwave is right behind them.

Suddenly, Buster TRIPS and falls. Soundwave's hand reaches to crush him.

Jessie SCREAMS.

Then the Decepticon FREEZES, just like his companions.

BUSTER

Huh?

JESSIE

Is it a trick?

Sparkplug, lying propped up against the wall, is amused.

SPARKPLUG

No. That's my corrosive fuel eating through his system. I was surprised it took so long.

BUSTER

Did you do that to all of them?

SPARKPLUG

Of course. It worked with the Vietcong's vehicles, so why not alien robots?

BUSTER

All right, dad!

He claps him on the back, and Sparkplug winces.

BUSTER

Sorry.

JESSIE

You guys are so brave.

SPARKPLUG

So are you going to introduce me to your girlfriend, Buster?

BUSTER

(embarrassed)

Um, this is Jessie.

JESSIE

Nice to meet you, Mr. Witwickey.

She shakes his hand.

EXT. PORTLAND HOSPITAL - DAY

Ratchet returns to the hospital in ambulance mode. Buster and Jessie come out to greet him.

BUSTER

We've got great news, Ratchet!

RATCHET (V.O.)

I know. I have already been in communication with Optimus. We owe your father everything. How is he?

BUSTER

We ran into a little trouble with Soundwave, but he's fine.

RATCHET (V.O.)
Optimus will want all the inactive Decepticons retrieved.

BUSTER
(to Jessie)
Ready to go?

JESSIE
Sure. But one thing first.

She pulls him close and they KISS passionately. When she pulls away, Buster looks stunned.

RATCHET (V.O.)
Buster, was that some sort of fuel transferral process?

BUSTER
Uh, it's kind of hard to explain.

Jessie smiles and climbs into the ambulance.

EXT. DECEPTICON BASE - DAY

The base looks deserted.

INT. DECEPTICON BASE - STASIS ROOM - DAY

The row of low containers is designed to repair damaged Decepticons.

One of the containers BEEPS and the door SLIDES OPEN. Starscream climbs out of the container, fully refreshed. He examines his surroundings.

STARSCREAM
Where is everybody?

He approaches a beeping console. He presses a button. Starscream smiles as he sees the message left there.

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - DAY

A limping Prowl approaches Optimus.

PROWL

All of the Decepticons have been safely contained Optimus.

OPTIMUS

Good work. What about Soundwave?

PROWL

Ratchet tells me that the human military have closed off the area. We may have to contact them and ask them to return Soundwave to us for safekeeping.

OPTIMUS

Let us hope that they are more open to communication this time.

PROWL

There is one other thing. The scout has discovered the location of the Dinobots. They were buried under ice near the South Pole of the planet.

OPTIMUS

Then we should ready a shuttle to retrieve them.

PROWL

Right away, Optimus.

EXT. ANTARCTICA - ICE FIELD - NIGHT

The Autobot's short-range SHUTTLECRAFT lands by an excavated site. A searchlight illuminates the snowy landscape.

The five DINOBOOTS, still frozen in ice, are transported onto the ship by automated handlers.

INT. SHUTTLECRAFT - NIGHT

Optimus and Prowl examine the frozen forms.

PROWL

We don't know what damage millions
of years under the ice did to them.
We may not be able to revive them.

OPTIMUS

We will not know for sure until we
return to the Explorer.

The door closes and the ship takes off.

INT. THE EXPLORER - REPAIR BAY - NIGHT

Ratchet examines the thawed Dinobots. Finally, he reports
to Optimus.

RATCHET

Their life systems are still active.
They appear to have gone into a
state of suspended animation.

OPTIMUS

When will they awake?

RATCHET

That I don't know. It could be soon,
or possibly never.

OPTIMUS

Keep me informed. Now I must attend
to other important matters.

EXT. PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

It's another typical day at school.

INT. PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL - LUNCHROOM - DAY

Buster sits down in front of Jessie.

BUSTER

Hi.

JESSIE

Hi.

BUSTER

Guess what?

JESSIE

What?

BUSTER

The Autobots invited me and my dad back to the Explorer, to thank us for everything. There's even gonna be a press guy there. Wanna come?

JESSIE

Why would I wanna do that?

Buster looks dejected. Jessie grins.

JESSIE

I'm just screwing with ya. Course I'll come. But I didn't really do anything.

BUSTER

Yes you did. You gave me something to act all heroic for.

They lean in to kiss.

OTTO (O.S.)

Hey, hey!

Buster and Jessie pull away. Otto sits down between them.

OTTO

So, buddy, when you gonna take me on a tour of this spaceship?

BUSTER

I don't know, it's kind of top secret stuff, ya know?

OTTO

But Jessie's already been!

BUSTER

Yes she has.

Buster and Otto just stare at each other.

JESSIE

Oh, let him come.

BUSTER

Okay, if you say so.

OTTO

Yes!

INT. THE EXPLORER - MAIN CABIN - DAY

All the Autobots have been repaired and given sparkling new paint jobs. They stand to attention.

Buster, Sparkplug, Jessie and Otto enter the ship. They walk towards Optimus at the far end.

Pete the reporter films their progress with a camera.

The humans stop before Optimus. He kneels down before them.

OPTIMUS

Buster and Sparkplug Witwickey, for your bravery against the Decepticons I am proud to give you these Cybertronian medals of honor, the highest award we can bestow.

He places the medals over the father and son's heads.

OPTIMUS

You are now honorary Autobots.

Buster and Sparkplug bow. The Autobots CHEER. Jessie and Otto CLAP excitedly.

Optimus stands and addresses his fellow Autobots.

OPTIMUS

We may have won the war on Earth,
but we still have our home planet
to reclaim. We shall rebuild the
Explorer and return home to bring
peace. We will never surrender,
until all are one!

The Autobots CHEER even louder.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. ANTARCTICA - ICE FIELD - DAY

An F-18 jet lands on the snow. It TRANSFORMS into
Starscream.

He takes out a TRACKING DEVICE and scans the ground.

STARSCREAM

Come on, Shockwave. I never liked
you but I need your help now.

He ventures further into the snowy wastes. Finally, he
picks up a signal.

He drops the scanner and uses finely tuned laser blasts
to dig away at the ground. Eventually, he sees a glimpse
of purple metal.

Starscream begins digging with his hands. He soon
unearths the complete body of Shockwave. Starscream
KNOCKS on the head.

STARSCREAM

Anyone in there?

There is no response. He turns away, and Shockwave's hand
suddenly FLIES UP and CLOSES AROUND his throat.

SHOCKWAVE

Who dares?!

STARSCREAM

(gasps)

Stop . . . it's Starscream . . . a
Decepticon, remember?

He pauses for a second then lets go of Starscream.
Shockwave stands up.

SHOCKWAVE

My sensors tell me I have been in
suspended animation for a long time.
Give me a status report.

STARSCREAM

The quick version is: we landed on
a planet inhabited by non-mechanical
lifeforms and they helped the
Autobots defeat us. I'm the only
one left.

SHOCKWAVE

So Megatron has failed again.

STARSCREAM

The Autobots rule the planet now.

SHOCKWAVE

Not for long . . .

Shockwave tests his laser cannon, BLOWING UP an avalanche
of snow and debris. Starscream smiles.

FADE TO BLACK