

THE TRANSFORMERS

ReAnimated X



Between the Lines

Transformers ReAnimated X
Episode 6

'Between the Lines'

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Based on the original Transformers cartoon series...

... and inspired by the original Transformers Reanimated stories
Transformers ReAnimated X continues the story after the original series.

PAGE 1

PANEL 1:

CAPTION: The Planet Xetaxxis, the Earth Year 2010

EXT. A spaceship is arriving in orbit and lowering itself into the atmosphere.

PANEL 2:

INT. The crew consists of robotic beings - natives of the neighboring Planet Lanarq.

On the bridge the crew is just preparing the landing. They consist of mostly grey, yellow and red armored robotic beings with yellow eyes - natives of the Planet Lanarq.

On a screen in front of them is the face of one of the natives of the planet they are landing on - **another** mechanoid race.

This one has an appearance that on the first look resembles an human beduine. Only made of metal.

XETAXXAN FLIGHT CONTROLLER

This is Spaceport Control. Landing is permitted. You are welcome...
FOR NOW (growling)

LANARQ PLOT

Acknowledged. We beginn landing

Captioned: The planets Lanarq and Xentaxxis and their robotic inhabitants had been at war for centuries. It had ended a few years ago.

PANEL 3:

CAPTION: This is the first time since the war that a diplomatic vessel of the Lanarg is allowed on this planet.

INT. Inside the spaceport

XETAXXAN FLIGHT CONTROLLER

(shouting)

What are you doing? You are loosing altitude!

Captioned: Then suddenly...

PANEL 4:

WIDE SHOT, HIGH ANGLE - The ship is plummeting...

... downwards to the surface...

PANEL 5:

... and crashing, causing a giant explosion that covers an entire region of the planet.

Captioned: The ship has crashed on one of Xentaxis largest cities... and nearly completely devastated it.

PANEL 6:

CAPTION: March the 6th 2010

EXT. Another spaceship is approaching the planet. It is the Autobot SKYLINX in space-shuttle form.

PAGE 2:

PANEL 1:

INT. On board are HOTROD his Targetmaster partner FIREBOLT, PERCEPTOR, OUTBACK, The PROTECTOBOTS, GRAPPLE, HOIST and the three Targetmasters LANDFILL, QUICKMIX and SCOOP.

They all have serious expressions on their faces. Which is no surprise given the reason they are here.

CAPTION: The Great War between the Autobots and Decepticons had ended over two years ago. Cybertron is at peace... and Earth mostly. Now the Autobots are here to prevent ANOTHER WAR from breaking out again.

HOTROD

You all know the situation. Officially we are here to give disaster relief.

But we also want to do everything to keep the war between this two planets from breaking out again.

Captioned: ... Earth was at peace, except for a splinter faction of the so called 'Church of Cybertron' and their remote controlled Transformers.

PANEL 2:

NOTE: Flashback,

CAPTION: A day earlier.

WIDE SHOT - Hotrod, Springer and Ultra Magnus are standing around the once again human turned Arcee.

ARCEE

I understand that you have to go Hotrod.

SPRINGER

Don't worry Rod. We will find Marissa and also Arcee's body. And we will get the bastards who did it.

Captioned: Of course Hotrod would have rather staid on Earth with them.

PANEL 3:

CAPTION: But he is Rodimus Prime... and on a mission to keep another war from breaking out again.

EXT. Skylinx lands on the surface of Xetaxxis, a short distance from the disaster area.

In front of a delegation of Xetaxxans waiting for them.

PANEL 4:

WIDE SHOT - The Autobots had stepped outside and Skylinx transformed into his 'dinosaur' mode right in front of the Xetaxxans and their planet's Leader named Kral.

KRAL

Autobots, welcome on Xetaxxis - I greet you all in the name of our people.

Rodimus Prime, Outback, Skylinx - it is good to see you again.

HOTROD

Thank you. But it is just Hotrod now. Rodimus Prime was my name as Autobot Leader.

Captioned: The war between the two planets had raged for centuries. And it were the negotiation led by Rodimus Prime and the information about the Quintesson's plot brought by Skylinx and Outback that had finally ended it.

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - Hotrod and Outback are standing in front of the Xetaxxan Leader.

KRAL

Of course. In any case it is good that you are here. The situation is bad.

Captioned: ... and it were Rodimus, Ultra Magnus and Skylinx who had saved both planets as the Quintessons tried to destroy them when their scheme was finally exposed. Making them HEROES to **both** planets.

PANEL 6:

KRAL

It is not just the disaster itself. Which is already bad enough. The city has been nearly wiped out. Thousands are dead. And that while our population is still recovering from the war. But...

HOTROD

(questioning)

But...?

Captioned: Hotrod is already suspecting the answer.

PAGE 3:

PANEL 1:

CLOSE SHOT – on the Xetaxian Leader's face

KRAL

There are some who believe that the ship was, a decoy, an attack disguised as an accident. They want to strike back... restart the war.

Captioned: Rodimus/Hotrod, Magnus, Skylinx and Outback became heroes for both sides. And so the ideal mediators.

PANEL 2:

OUTBACK

You realize that this makes no sense right? The Lanarq are just as bad off from the war as you. And since it came out that the Quintessons were behind it, they have no reason to do that.

KRAL

Believe me, I have learned my lesson of blaming the Lanarq for everything. While I don't like them, I don't believe they are responsible either.

PANEL 3:

NOTE: FLASHBACK

CAPTION: The GREAT GALACTIC TRIAL (against the Quintessons) - two years ago

WIDE SHOT, HIGH ANGLE - Inside a giant hall. A group of ten five-faces Quintesson Judges and twice as many one-faces military officers and Quintesson scientists is standing on a large podium inside the hall, surrounded by an energy-field.

Behind them were long lines of spectator-ranks from where groups of representatives of many different alien species were watching the trial.

Captioned: The Quintessons are put on trial in front of the galaxy. One of the many charges: their involvement in the Lanarq-Xetaxxis War and the attempted destruction of both planets.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE SHOT on a Quintesson Judge and a Scientist standing next to him.

Captioned: During the trial, a few of the Quintessons also admitted one interesting detail. In opposite to some of their earlier claims, they had not truly created Cybertron. They had just taken over the unpopulated planet and Vector Sigma in the far past.

PANEL 5:

NOTE: FLASHBACK END

HOTROD

But we can not rule anything out yet. The Lanarq Government might not, but there is the possibility of some group of fanatics being behind it.

KRAL

I fear this makes no difference. Many of our people resent the Lanarq so much that they will not care if it were only a few extremists, as long as any Lanarqs were involved.

PAGE 4:

PANEL 1:

HOTROD

I see. Could we maybe help you review the data of the crash. Flight data, communications - **all** of it.

KRAL

Of course. In fact, I wanted to **ask** you to do exactly that.

PANEL 2:

CAPTION: A short time later, in the devastated city

EXT. The Autobots are helping the Xetaxxan forces between the ruins.

WIDE SHOT - Grapple, Hoist and the three Targetmasters Landfill, Scoop and Quickmix and their Targetmaster partners are helping a number of Xetaxians forces to rescue survivors from a line of crumbled buildings in a completely collapsed area of the city.

Grapple is discussing their efforts with the leaders of the xetaxxan rescue forces.

Hoist has transformed his hand into a welding-tool to mend a few bearing steel beams of a building together.

Scoop is meanwhile moving debris out of the way in his forklift-mode, while Landfill in truck-mode is carrying rubble away... and Quickmix preparing substances to try to stabilize a few of the buildings.

PANEL 3:

HIGH SHOT - Skylinx and Blades in helicopter mode are flying in the air above them.

The two are scanning the entire area looking for signs of more survivors.

PANEL 4:

WIDE SHOT (back on the ground) - Hotspot in his firetruck-mode and First Aid, Streetwise and Groove - in robot form - are helping the Xetaxxan firefighting-units and their machines that look like oversized futuristic firefighting-vehicles to put out a fire in a burning fuel factory.

PAGE 5:

PANEL 1:

HIGH SHOT (over the whole city) - In the center of the city there is a giant gaping crater.

PANEL 2:

INT. Meanwhile, inside the air-surveillance center of the planet

Hotrod, Perceptor and Outback, together with two Xetaxxan scientists named Kos and Dar, are watching a recording of the communication between the Lanarq ship and the flight-control before the crash.

One screen shows the interior of the Lanarq ship and the pilot. The other one the face of the flight controller down here.

They are rewatching everything what had been said and done... and they have just arrived at the critical point.

KOS

Here is it.

PANEL 3:

REVERSE SHOT - They see on the screen the Lanarq pilot's expression suddenly becoming blank and then pulling down the ship.

DAR

The pilot crashed the ship? Was it a suicide attack after all?

PERCEPTOR

I don't think so. Did you see his expression? It looked like his mind suddenly phased out, just before he pulled down the ship.

PANEL 4:

OUTBACK

Do you think he had some kind of malfunction? The pilot, I mean - not the ship?

PERCEPTOR

I am not sure.

HOTROD

Wait a moment. Replay the last scene.

PANEL 5:

CLOSE SHOT – Of the screen showing the Lanarq pilot who was just about to crash their ship into the city.

Just in the moment before his expression became blank, he was being surrounded by a STRANGE GLOW.

PAGE 6:

PANEL 1:

CLOSE SHOT - On Hotrod's face, with a thoughtful expression.

HOTROD

Perceptor - does this glow seems familiar to you?

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT - All four of them standing next to each other.

PERCEPTOR

Now that you mention it...

DAR

Have you found something?

HOTROD

Maybe.

PANEL 3:

CAPTION: Meanwhile in front of the Xetaxxan Government Building

EXT. A large crowd of Xetaxxan citizens has gathered before the building.

Some of them are carrying simple shields with letters written on it. Others small portable holo-projectors, that are projecting messages into the air before them.

But the messages were all of the same kind:

'No quarter for Lanarq', 'Till here and no further.' and 'Strike back now.'

PANEL 4:

INT. Inside the building the Xetaxxan Leader Kral is standing next to the Xetaxxan's military commander General Xarn.

GENERAL XARN

It seems it has began.

KRAL

Yes.

PANEL 5:

SPLIT PANEL - Another view at the crowd of Xetaxxans outside at the left side...

... and at the right one a CLOSE SHOT at General Xarn's face. That has a smile on his mouth and a sinister gleam in his eyes.

PAGE 7

PANEL 1

CAPTION: The Triangulum Galaxy - millions of lightyears away. The planet SKORAL. Both the sky and the ground of the planet's Capital are filled with Decepticon forces.

WIDE SHOT, HIGH ANGLE - Frontal view on CYCLONUS flying in jet-mode over a light blue sky, with SCOURGE, MISFIRE and SKYWING (in her F15 mode) beside him

and the HORRORCON HEADMASTERS APEFACE and SNAPDRAGON flying closely behind them.

PANEL 2:

REVERSE ANGLE - View at their jet-forms from behind...

... as they fire their combined laser-weapons at a oval-shaped over hundred meters long skoralian space battleship with a squad of small one-manned skoralian spacejet fighters flying around it.

PANEL 3:

INT. A look inside the cockpit of one of the small wedge shaped jets the Decepticons are fighting shows a human sized lizard-like creature with two large arms and two smaller ones beneath them at the controls.

PANEL 4:

TEXT PANEL:

When the Decepticons arrived in this part of space over two years ago, they began to invade and take over local planets.

But so they came also into conflict with the malevolent species known as the kyrix, that was attacking and ultimately wiping out any other race they came in contact with.

The Decepticons offered every other intelligent species in this quadrant protection from the kyrix - under the condition of complete submission under the RULE of the DECEPTICONS of course.

The alerians were the first who 'accepted' their offer... followed by two other races.

The skolarians however - a reptilian race with a rigid warrior culture, a highly developed sense of independance and a good level of paranoia - refused

PANEL 5:

The ship is hit by their blasts and blows up in a large explosion. With the small spacejets around it scattering.

Captioned: . So the Decepticons decided to conquer the planet the 'normal' way.

PAGE 8:**PANEL 1:**

WIDE SHOT, HIGH ANGLE - Shows two spacejets getting hit and destroyed by the fire of the explosion and two others getting away.

Captioned: A few of the skoralian fighters do not make it in time, while the rest get away and regroup.

PANEL 2:

At the same time the airborne Decepticons themselves are being fired at by another group of skoralian fighters that is flying in from the other side.

LOW ANGLE - View on the skoralian jets coming in, firing their weapons.

PANEL 3:

HIGH ANGLE - Misfire and Skywing are getting hit by laserfire. Misfire at the side next to his cockpit and into his wing. Leaving noticeable damage.

Skywing into the edge of her own wing.

PANEL 4:

View on Misfire burning from one of his wings...

MISFIRE

I am hit. I have to pull down.

... and Skywing evading another laserblast.

PANEL 5:

INT. Inside Skywing's cockpit, her bonding partner Aira in her Targetmaster suit is sitting in the pilot-chair with her hands on the controls.

AIRA

That was close.

SKYWING

I know. Thanks for taking control Aira.

PAGE 9:

PANEL 1:

EXT. Outside Apeface jet-mode is now flying next to Skywing

APEFACE

This is your first invasion, isn't it? Should I maybe help you out a bit?

SKYWING

I might be new created...

PANEL 2:

CAPTION: Skywing teleports...

HIGH, DIAGONAL ANGLE - View on Skywing with a light glow around her appearing behind a couple of enemy jets. Shooting and blowing up one of them.

SKYWING

(cont.)

... but not so much that I need assistance from a guy named Apeface.

PANEL 3:

CLOSE SHOT - on Apeface jet form.

APEFACE

Better don't be so cocky you bitch. You might regret it.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE SHOT, HIGH ANGLE - on Cyclonus

CYCLONUS

Enough you two! Stop this bickering, both of you.

PANEL 5:

CAPTION: Around them there are even more aircrafts of both sides filling the sky.

WIDE SHOT - SIXSHOT, the Targetmasters SLUGSLINGER, TRIGGERHAPPY, SPINISTER and NEEDLENOSE, DIRGE, RAMJET and THRUST, the Combaticons VORTEX and BLAST-OFF and the Predacon DIVEBOMB are fighting more skoralian jets and another of their larger spaceship.

But the spaceship in question is already damaged and burning, most of the remaining jets either already retreating or about to be shot down.

PAGE 10:

PANEL 1:

SPLIT-PANEL – Slugslinger and Triggerhappy blow up two more enemy-jets.../... and Spinister another one.

PANEL 2:

Sixshot transforms from his jet- into his winged-puma mode and bites into another jet and literally tears it apart.

PANEL 3:

Before he transforms into his giant gun-mode and fires at the already damaged spaceship.

PANEL 4:

CAPTION: A half minute later

Cyclonus is in the air in front of the mangled and burning wreck of another skoralian spaceship that is falling downwards to the ground.

CYCLONUS

All enemy fighters eliminated or retreating Galvatron. The air-space is ours.

GALVATRON

(over the com)

Very good Cyclonus.

PANEL 5:

CAPTION: On the SURFACE

WIDE SHOT, HIGH ANGLE - Down on the ground, GALVATRON is walking through the Capital City of the planet.

Closely followed by the four recently upgraded Actionmasters KROK, TREADSHOT, CHARGER and TAKE OFF and the Headmasters FANGRY and HORRI BULL.

Destroying the remains of the hopelessly outmatched native combat forces... and **everything else** that gets in their way.

The city has literally been turned into a battlefield.

Next to them a few buildings have completely collapsed. A few others are standing in flames.

The streets are broken and covered with the wrecks of combat- and civilian vehicles.

Everywhere around them the human-sized reptilian-like skoralians are fleeing in panic.

PAGE 11:

PANEL 1:

DIAGONAL ANGLE - Galvatron fires at and destroys a large armored combat-vehicle.

The blast however does not stop at it and also hits the building behind it, that blows up in an explosion.

Around even more skolarians - civilians and warriors alike - are running for their lives.

GALVATRON

Decepticons crush the rest of their puny resistance.

PANEL 2:

CLOSE SHOT, HIGH ANGLE - Fangry has transformed into his monster form and is intentionally breaking the walls of another building.

Tearing it apart and throwing the rubble down at some fleeing skolarian soldiers and civilians.

FANGRY

Ha ha ha!

With his Headmaster partner Brisko sitting on his shoulder and firing from it at the skolarians below.

PANEL 3:

WIDE SHOT – View at the Actionmasters Krok and Take off, with their 'Partners', in the form of mechanical animals.

Krok with Gatoraider walking next to him in his crocodile form. Take Off with the bird Screech sitting on his shoulder.

Captioned: The Actionmasters had once been a group of Autobots and Decepticons that had been stranded on a remote planet, where the element called NUCLEON had robbed them of their ability to transform. An attempt to finally rescue them however ended with an 'incident'.

PANEL 4:

FLASHBACK: Showing a large explosion

Captioned: (See original Transformers Reanimated serie issue 71.) But the other Decepticons recovered their remains later and rebuild them, also giving them back their transforming abilities.

PANEL 5:

In the next moment Gatoraider has transformed into a large cannon carried by Krok and Screech into some sort of 'battle-mask' covering Take Off's head.

Captioned: Their 'upgrade' has been Galvatron's personal idea. Their 'partners' are non-sentient robot-drones, but programmed and intelligent enough to follow orders and now mentally linked akin to a simplified binary bonding.

PAGE 12:

PANEL 1:

CLOSE SHOT - View on Galvatron.

GALVATRON

(speaking into his com.)

Enough playing around. Zarak - transform and show them Skorponok.

Captioned: A voice deep inside him tells Galvatron to continue, to lay waste to the entire planet, to kill everyone and everything in his way and enjoy the carnage and destruction.

No, he tells himself. And keeps his grip on his own mind.

PANEL 2:

EXT. Skorponok's spaceship-mode is lowering into the atmosphere.

Firing blasts that his and instantly blowing up **another** remaining skolarian battleship.

PANEL 3:

INT. Inside Skorponok's control center

CLOSE SHOT on Zarak, wearing his Headmaster suit without it's helmet.

ZARAK

As you wish Galvatron.

Captioned: Zarak has his own ambitions of course. But he knew that most Decepticons would not accept him as a leader. And whenever he was not combined with Skorponok, he was small weak and vulnerable, with only his mental powers as defense.

PANEL 4:

SPLIT PANEL - On the right side Zarak's helmet materializing over his head and face... and on the left the outside view of Skorponok transforming.

Captioned: Any of them might be able to assassinate him, while he was eating, during his sleep or just during a random conversation. So Zarak recognized that he needed Galvatron, to be both his ally and his shield... at least for the time being.

PANEL 5:

LOW ANGLE - View on Skorponok's full robot-mode floating in the air.

SKORPONOK (ZARAK)

I am Skorponok. Surrender, while you still can.

Captioned: Skorponok's giant robot form is levitating above the city. It is a calculated move... that breaks any remaining hope and the last resistance of the skolarians.

PAGE 13:

PANEL 1:

CAPTION: A short time later...

Three skoralians are kneeling before Galvatron, with Cyclonus and the smaller figure of Zarak standing at his sides.

GALVATRON

Welcome Skolarians... to the Decepticon Empire.

Captioned: ... the skolarian leadership - their highest political and military leaders – surrender.

PANEL 2:

CLOSE SHOT – on Zarak's face. As he is silently standing next to Galvatron.

Captioned: Zarak is working on ways to use technology to extent his life infinitely. Besides it was maybe better to be second or third in a vaste Empire, than sole ruler of one planet.

PANEL 3:

Caption: Back on the planet Xetaxxis

WIDE SHOT, HIGH DIAGONAL ANGLE - Front view at the large crowd of protesting Xetaxxans in front of the Government Building (with the building filling the right side of the panel).

Captioned: The crowd has become even larger.

PANEL 4:

WIDE SHOT, REGULAR ANGLE - A group of Xetaxxans showing messages like 'Peace', 'Remember the Victims' or 'Never again'.

Captioned: There is also a group at the side showing messages that reminded of the devastation and the horror of the war and warnings about starting it they are in the minority.

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT, SIDE ANGLE - The Xetaxxan Leader Kral had come outside to address the people, with General Xarn at his side.

They are standing next to each other on a small podium in front of the building,

The Autobot group of Hotrod, Perceptor, Outback and Skylinx in his 'dinosaur'-mode is also standing in a close distance right next to the podium... so far just watching.

NOTE: View from the back of the crowd at the two podium with the two leaders on it and the Autobots beside them.

KRAL

Citizens of Xetaxxis, I know how you feel. And I feel the same way.
But I have to remind you that the investigation is still going on and we
don't know what exactly happened yet.

XETAXXAN PROTESTER 01

It were the Lanarq.

XETAXXAN PROTESTER 02

They attacked us again.

PANEL 6:

General Xarn is turning his face to Kral.

KRAL

We – We don't know that for sure.

GENERAL XARN

Why don't you tell them the truth?

PAGE 14:

PANEL 1:

GENERAL XARN

Tell them that the recordings from the flight-control shows the Lanarq
pilot intentionally crashing the ship.

KRAL

What are you doing? This is classified information.

PANEL 2:

WIDE SHOT, REVERSE ANGLE - at the faces of the crowd before them.

XETAXXAN PROTESTER 03

What?

XETAXXAN PROTESTER 02

I told you they did it. We have to strike back.

PANEL 3:

REVERSE ANGLE - the crowd looking at Kral and Xarn.

KRAL

Like I said, this information was not open for the public yet. We know that the pilot crashed the ship. We don't know if it was the Lanarg Leadership, a rogue group or if he acted alone.

XETAXXAN PROTESTER 01

What is there to find out? Thousands of us are dead.

XETAXXAN PROTESTER 04

Our hometown is destroyed. It is pure luck that we are still alive. War.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE SHOT - on Kral's face, looking downridden.

Captioned: The Xetaxxan Leader is looking more and more desperate now. Just a few years back, when the war was still going on, he thought just like them. Until he saw how their world was nearly destroyed.

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT, LOW ANLGE – the crowd looking upwards at Kral.

KRAL

Remember how much harm and destruction the war had cost to our world. Our planet might not survive it if it begins again.

XETAXXAN PROTESTER 05

There is no other choice.

XETAXXAN PROTESTER 06

They are the ones who have started it again. Death to Lanarq.

PAGE 15:

PANEL 1:

XETAXXAN PROTESTOR 02

Death to Lanarq!

XETAXXAN PROTESTOR 03

Death to Lanarq! DEATH TO LANERQ!

Captioned: The crowd is chanting the words now. But Kral still hesitates.

PANEL 2:

KRAL

No. I know this is what many of you want, but I can not risk another war that could destroy us all.

XETAXXAN PROTESTOR 02

(shouting)

Traitor!

PANEL 3:

In this moment General Xarn draws his gun and aims it at Kral.

KRAL

Xarn?

GENERAL XARN

I am only acting in the interest of the citizens of Xetaxxis. And if you don't want to strike back against Lanarq, you will have to be removed.

PANEL 4:

CLOSE SHOT - In this moment Hotrod jumps on the podium...

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - ... and he places himself between Kral and General Xarn.

HOTROD

Oh really? I don't think so.

GENERAL XARN

What are you doing?

CROWD

(murmuring)

Rodimus Prime... Rodimus Prime

PAGE 16:

PANEL 1:

CLOSE SHOT at General Xarn

GENERAL XARN

Are you interfering in internal business of the planet Xetaxxis...
'Rodimus Prime'?

PANEL 2:

CLOSE SHOT at Hotrod

HOTROD

Shouldn't that be **my** line... STARSCREAM?

Captioned: Starscream? What follows are a few moments of confused silence. From Leader Kral, from 'General Xarn', even from the crowd of protesters.

PANEL 3:

WIDE SHOT - Hotrod standing on the podium next to General Xarn... and Perceptor, Outback and Skylinx beside it, a few meters away from them, with the Xetaxxan protestors behind them.

HOTROD

Perceptor! Now!

Perceptor is holding a device in his hands, looking like a mixture of a gun and a portable radio.

Captioned: ... and he activates the device.

PANEL 4:

SPLIT PANEL - Perceptor pushes a few buttons on the device and at the same moment General Xarn suddenly starts to scream and something, a halftransparent transformers-shaped figure is appearing from inside of him. A figure that is only all too familiar to the Autobots present.

For a moment it looks as if Starscream's head and upper body is literally growing out of General Xarn... before he is fully being pushed out of him.

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - Starscream's 'ghost' is now fully standing beside Hotrod, General Xarn and Leader Kral, in front the assembled Xetaxxan's and Autobots.

Outback and Perceptor have followed Hotrod and are now standing on the podium, while Skylinx large dinosaur form is standing right behind, with his head reaching unto the podium beside them.

STARSCREAM

(growling)

What have you done to me?

HOTROD

It was you. You have possessed first the Lanarq ship's pilot and then General Xarn. You caused the disaster and use it to try to cause a new war with Lanarq.

GENERAL XARN

Yes - that is true. This thing took over my body. I can only remember a few glympsies of what had happened. But I - I saw some of **his** memories.

PAGE 17:

PANEL 1:

View on Starscream (ghost form) and Outback, Perceptor and Skylinx in the background.

STARSCREAM

Thing? I am Starscream. Former Second in Command and rightful Leader of the Decepticons and ruler over the entire universe.

OUTBACK

You are truly the only one who believes that Starscream. Tell us what were you trying to achieve restarting the war with Lanarq?

PANEL 2:

View on Starscream and Kral.

STARSCREAM

Isn't it obvious? I would have let them decimate each other and then take over the leader of which-ever planet wins and rule both of them. And in the whole chaos nobody would have noticed or cared if their leader act a 'little bit' authoritative, right?

KRAL

You would have started a war that could destroy both our planets, just to be in charge?

STARSCREAM

Without any hesitation.

PANEL 3:

HOTROD

He was the one who reactivated Unicron and put the entire universe at risk.

KRAL

That was him?

HOTROD

Yes. And to answer your question Starscream. After our last encounter we invented a device that can affect lifesparks. You see - by what we discovered, you are not simply a ghost, but a technically a spark that can survive without a body.

PANEL 4:

View on Starscream on the podium and Perceptor, Outback and Skyling. With Perceptor lifting up and showing the device he is still holding.

PERCEPTOR

So we invented a device that can affect and disrupt spark-energy. Of course that would normally harm everyone else who has a spark too. But as it turned out, the same let's say 'mutation' that gave you your

immortality also caused your spark to have a slightly different energy-signature than a normal one. So we were able to create a weapon that affects **only** you.

STARSCREAM

(growling)

You!

PANEL 5:

WIDE SHOT - Starscream in front of the crowd of Xetaxxan citizens.

XETAXXAN PROTESTER 01

(shouting)

Murderer!

XETAXXAN PROTESTER 02

(shouting)

Monster!

XETAXXAN PROTESTER 03

(shouting)

Psychopath!

PANEL 6:

STARSCREAM

Shut up! You are all so gullible and easy to fool, being used as cannon-fodder is really the only thing you are good for.

PAGE 18:

PANEL 1:

Starscream turns to the Autobots.

STARSCREAM

As you said, I am immortal. You will never manage to stop me for good. Ha ha ha!

OUTBACK

We will see about that Pal.

HOTROD

We will find a way.

PANEL 2:

CAPTION: In the next moment Starscream is gone.

WIDE SHOT, HIGH ANGLE - Hotrod, Perceptor, Outback, Skylinx and the assembled Xetaxxans are looking at the spot where he has just disappeared.

HOTROD

This means the idea of a new war with Lanarq is off the table? Right?

KRAL

Yes of course.

GENERAL XARN

You can count on that.

CROWD

Murmuring.

PANEL 3:

CAPTION: A short time later

WIDE SHOT, REGULAR ANGLE - Hotrod is standing between Kral and a hologram of the SUPREME LEADER of the planet Lanarg.

With Perceptor, Outback, Skylinx, the Protectobots and Landfill, Quickmix and Scoop standing close by in the bckground.

HOTROD

So this is how we realized Starscream was involved.

LANARQ LEADER

I understand. So you saved our two planets once again. Thank you Rodimus Prime.

Captioned: This time Hotrod does not deny the name.

PANEL 4:

SKYLINX

(proudly)

And so we have saved this two planets once again.

OUTBACK

I don't think we did much this time Skylinx. It were just Hotrod and Perceptor who had exposed Starscream.

KRAL

Even so you all did much to help our rescue forces and saved many lives. For that I want to thank you again.

Still, it will take a long time till everything will be like before.

PANEL 5:

Hotrod is still standing directly between Kral and the hologram of the Lanarq Leader... looking first at Kral...

HOTROD

But there is one question that does not go out of my mind.

What if it had not been Starscream? What if it had truly been an accident?

PAGE 19:

PANEL 1:

HOTROD

(CONT.)

What if there had no outside force to blame? Would your people truly have began a new war... again? Over an accident, no matter how tragic?

PANEL 2:

... and then he looks to the Lanarq Leader.

HOTROD

(CONT.)

Would you two have been able to stop them? Would you have eventually destroyed yourself over it?

Captioned: Both leaders look downwards. Neither of them says anything for a few moments. Yes - that might have happened?

PANEL 3:

CAPTION: Cybertron

WIDE SHOT, HIGH ANGLE - View on Cybertron's now golden shimmering surface.

A red and a grey Autobot are walking along a gangway on a ramp between two buildings. Two others in vehicle form, a grey transport vehicle and a green sportscar are driving over a highway behind them.

Captioned: A now peaceful Cybertron, with Autobots just living their daily lives. But... there is a shadow looming over the planet...

PANEL 4:

CAPTION: The Chamber of Vector Sigma

WIDE SHOT - The Autobots BRAINSTORM, HIGHTBROW and the female Autobot GREENLIGHT, along with Brainstorm's and Hightbrow's nebulon partners Arcana and Gort are standing inside the large underground chamber.

Captioned: ... and deep inside of it.

PANEL 5:

GREENLIGHT

No. Nothing. No conclusive evidence.

GORT

Like the last hundred or so times before. Just say it, we are wasting our time. We have not found out anything useful in the last two years.

HIGHTBROW

I have to agree with Gort.

Captioned: For the last two and a half years the Autobots have been trying to find the source of the malfunction that had seemingly caused Vector Sigma to go insane. With no results.

PAGE 20:

PANEL 1:

REVERSE ANGLE - Somewhere at the edge of the room, behind the backs of the group of Autobots and Nebulons, something that looks like a black tentacle made of pure energy is growing out of the ground. But none of them notices this.

HIGHBROW

(CONT.)

The best heads of the Autobots and Nebulons have tried, well not hundred but at least a dozen times. At this point we are practically just regular checks without anything new.

BRAINSTORM

Many things about Vector Sigma are not even known. We have to continue.

PANEL 2:

CLOSE SHOT - But a moment later another similar but brightly white glowing tentacle appears, wrings itself around the black one and they both disappear.

Captioned: The reason they could not find anything is that there is nothing wrong with the computer itself. They continue their 'check-up' without finding anything like usual.

PANEL 3:

WIDE SHOT - Brainstorm, Greenlight, Highbrow, Gort and Arcana continue their conversation.

GORT

For how many centuries?

BRAINSTORM

As long as it takes.

Captioned: 'No, not yet,' the presence that had infiltrated Vector Sigma and was spreading over Cybertron thinks. 'HE was still holding him back. But his power was growing. He had time... all time in the universe.'

PANEL 4:

FLASHBACK SCENE:

Starscream standing in front of Unicron's head on the surface of Cybertron.

Captioned: That fool Starscream thought just dropping a few cables could stop him from connecting himself to Cybertron... but he was wrong.

PANEL 5:

FLASHBACK END:

EXT. Hotrod, Perceptor, Outback and the others are just entering Skylinx shuttle-form to return to Earth.

With Leader Kral, General Xarn, a large number of other Xetaxxans and even a contingent from the Lanarq standing by.

END

Thank you for reading.

I believe it makes sense that the planets Xetaxxis and Lanarq from the Episode 'The Quintessons Journal' and their inhabitants would consider the Autobots Rodimus/Hotrod, Ultra Magnus, Skylinx and Outback as heroes. Like it is shown in this issue.

Rodimus and Ultra Magnus for leading the peace conference and saving their planets from destruction, along with Skylinx. And Skylinx and Outback also for delivering the journal that exposed the Quintessons and the role they played in their war.

The storyline that began in 'Only Inhuman' will be continued in the next issues.