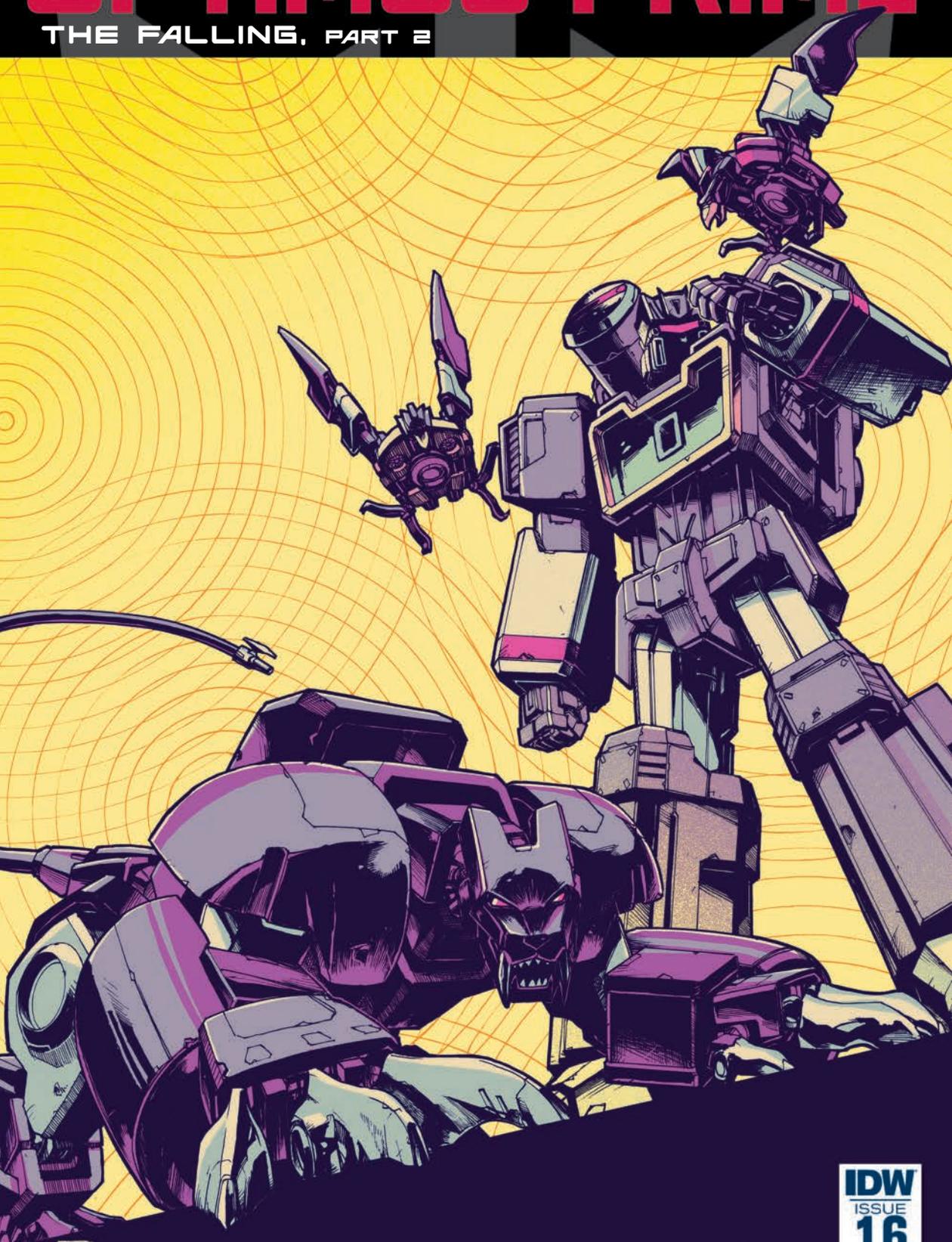


BARBER • ZAMA • BURCHAM

# OPTIMUS PRIME

THE FALLING, PART 2



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2017

IDW  
ISSUE  
**16**  
COVER A  
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# OPTIMUS PRIME



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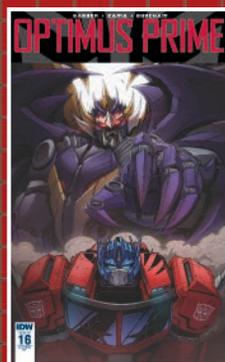
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LASER CUTTING  
SPARKING SHRIEKING  
CRYING I WANT TO GO

HOME YOU DON'T  
BELONG HERE  
THIS ISN'T WHAT  
I WAS MADE

FOR PRIMUS  
PLEASE LET ME  
GO THE CHANCE  
TO BE ALONE  
TO SEE TO

FEEL NOT ALONE JUST  
FOR A MOMENT SHARING  
IN THE BOND OF TWO

PEOPLE TRAPPED WHILE  
ALL ON THE PLANET  
BELOW FREE AND WHY

CAN'T THE RUMBLE  
OF THE OVERSEERS  
THAT ONE HE'S  
LOST HIS DOESN'T

BELONG AMONG US  
NOT AMONG ANYONE  
DOES NO ONE

LISTEN.

ELSE FEEL THIS AM I

CONCENTRATE.

ALONE WHY HAVE YOU

LISTEN  
TO MY  
VOICE.

FORSAKEN  
ME PRIMUS

YOU'RE  
SOUNDWAVE.

HOLD ON TO  
YOURSELF...



...YOU'RE NOT ALONE AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY.

IT REMAINS DIFFICULT TO SORT MEMORIES INTO COHERENCE, EVEN AFTER PRACTICE.

LONG, LONG AGO... I WAS A SUPERVISOR ON THE MINES OF LUNA-2.

LET'S GET YOU BACK HOME.

THE OVERSEERS ARE OVERSEEING AGAIN.

MY FRIEND— MY EARLIEST FRIEND, RAVAGE TRIED TO TEACH ME CONTROL.



BUT SENTINEL PRIME CARED NOT FOR OUR STRUGGLES.

WHAT'S THAT ONE DOING?

PROWL. SECURITY.

SENTINEL PRIME. LEADER OF CYBERTRON.



TELETRAAAN SAYS THAT'S... SOUNDWAVE. HE'S NEW HERE.

THEY SENT HIM FROM SOME SCHOOL IN THE NORTH. SUPPOSED TO BE SMART, BUT HE'S GOT ISSUES.



HE CLEARLY DOES. PUT HIM ON REPORT AND MOVE ON.

I HAVEN'T ALL DAY FOR THIS INSPECTION.



I WAS NOTHING TO HIM.



LATER, I WOULD HELP CAUSE SENTINEL PRIME'S DOWNFALL, AND THE DOWNFALL OF HIS REPLACEMENT.



I FOUGHT A WAR FOR EQUALITY. TO BE FREE FROM PRIMES.

MY SIDE DID NOT WIN... YET I DID NOT LOSE.

WITH THE PEOPLE OF EARTH, WE BUILT SANCTUARY STATION. A REFUGE; A COMMUNE.



BUT THERE REMAINED A PRIME.

THE LAST OF HIS KIND, OR SO I BELIEVED. OPTIMUS PRIME.

MY ENEMY. MY FRIEND.



HE CAME TO ME TO DO BATTLE USING MY ACTIONS AS WEAPONS.

NEEDLENOSE AND PRESUMABLY THE REST OF THE DECEPTICONS BELIEVE BUMBLEBEE DETONATED THE I/D CHIP THAT KILLED HORRI-BULL.

BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE.

YOU, SOUNDWAVE, HAD SECRETLY DISABLED THE CHIPS BEFORE HORRI-BULL DIED. BUMBLEBEE TRIED TO KILL HIM, BUT IN TRUTH...



...YOU PULLED THE TRIGGER.

IF NEEDLENOSE LEARNED THE TRUTH, AND TOLD THE OTHERS, THAT WOULD BE THE END OF YOUR DREAM.

I HAD PURSUED A NOBLE GOAL... BUT COMPROMISED SO MUCH ON THE WAY.

HE WANTED ME TO KNOW WHERE I STOOD... HE WANTED ME TO BOW TO HIM.

THOUGH HE SAID HE STOOD FOR FREEDOM.

**ORE-13 MINE.  
KENTUCKY, EARTH.**

THIS, TODAY... I  
FIND MYSELF ON  
ANOTHER WORLD,  
IN ANOTHER MINE.

THIS IS  
SOUNDWAVE.  
I READ YOU.

WHAT IS  
WRONG?

SOUNDWAVE.  
ALWAYS LISTENING.



I SEE. I SHALL  
BE THERE  
PRESENTLY.

I HOPE  
THAT'S FINALLY  
A RESPONSE FROM  
CYBERTRON.

DID THEY GET  
OUR DELIVERY OF  
ORE-13 OR NOT,  
SOUNDWAVE?

THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED  
STATES.



OPERATION:  
AMBULATION.

I AM  
NEEDED ON  
AUTOBOT CITY.

I APOLOGIZE  
FOR MY BRUSQUE-  
NESS, MADAM  
PRESIDENT.

BUT—  
WHAT'S—



HE'S WORSE  
THAN THE BIG  
RED GUY.

I REALLY HOPE  
MARISSA KNOWS  
WHAT SHE'S DOING  
UP THERE.

YEAH—  
ME, TOO.

CHAMELEON.  
G.I. JOE AGENT.

FLINT.  
G.I. JOE AGENT.



ONCE AGAIN, THE  
PRIME'S QUEST  
REQUIRES MY AID.

ANOTHER  
COMPROMISE?

