

Episode # 16

700-(12)
FINAL

TRANSFORMERS

"A Plague of Insecticons"

(Script)

(MP #700-12)

Final
8/13/84

RECEIVED
AUG 13 1984

DG

Written by:
Douglas Booth
7/27/84

REUSED BY RON FRIEDMAN
8/6/84

MARVEL PRODUCTIONS, LTD.

TRANSFORMERS

"A Plague of Insecticons"

(MP #700-12)

CAST LIST (speaking parts only)

AUTOBOTS:

OPTIMUS PRIME
JETFIRE
IRONHIDE
WHEELJACK
TRAILBREAKER
SIDESWIPE
SUNSTREAKER
WINDCHARGER
TRAILBREAKER
BRAWN
BUMBLEBEE

DECEPTICONS:

MEGATRON
THUNDERCRACKER
SOUNDWAVE
LASERBEAK
RUMBLE
RAVAGE

INSECTICONS:

SHRAPNEL
BOMBSHELL
KICKBACK

HUMANS:

NARRATOR
SPIKE
SPARKPLUG
BOATMEN (#'s 1, 2 & 3)
FARMER
FARMER'S WIFE
FARMWORKER #1
HARVESTER OPERATOR
REFINERY WORKERS (#1 & 2)
VILLAGERS (ad lib group hubbub)

TRANSFORMERS

"A Plague of Insecticons"

ACT I

FADE IN:

EST. SHOT - BALINESE JUNGLE SWAMP - DAY

PAN across this exotic, jungle-like swamp. Tropical birds, flowers, and large insects (but nothing like what we're going to see) catch the eye, as we TRUCK IN on a somewhat clear waterway down the center of the swamp. JUNGLE SFX

NARRATOR (VO)

~~On~~ ^{lies} the tropical island of Bali, ~~is~~ ^{is} THE ANCIENT
~~AND MYSTERIOUS EXPANSE~~
~~OF WATERY JUNGLE KNOWN AS DEMON~~
SWAMP

Three long, narrow boats GAIN INTO SCENE. Powered by PUTT-PUTTING outboard engines, they're loaded down with cargoes of wheat, corn, and bags of rice. There are three BOATMEN in all, one in each of the boats.

NARRATOR (VO)(CONT)

~~But they are unaware of the danger that lies~~ WHERE A STRANGE,
~~is lurking in the shadows of the jungle...~~ NEW FORM OF
ROBOTIC POWER.....

PANNING WITH BOATS

The boatmen nervously scan the dense jungle on all sides!

NARRATOR (VO)(CONT)

~~It is here that the danger lies~~ ... NOW STALKS
THE UNWARY TRAVELLER.

ANGLE - VEGETATION CHOKED SWAMP WATERS

As we see two large insect antennae protruding up from the water. Suddenly, SHRAPNEL, in Insecticon transform, rises from the water, having heard the OUTBOARD MOTORS of the boats!

~~NARRATOR (VO)(CONT)~~

WIDEN ANGLE as Shrapnel turns to a large moss and fungus-covered structure protruding up from the water nearby. It looks like what it is, the out-sized home for a family of gigantic swamp insects, and a BEAT after Shrapnel CLICKS his metallic mandibles... SHRAPNEL ECHOES THE LAST WORD IN HIS

SPEECHES IN A HOLLOW, METALLIC BUT HIGH-PITCHED VOICE

SHRAPNEL

(sotto)

... food approaches! APPROACHES!

CLOSER ON SHELTER

BOMBSHELL, also in Insecticon transform, scrambles out from the shelter! PAN with him as he joins Shrapnel and they both glide forward through the murky water, quickly disappearing from view.

ANGLE - LEAD BOAT - PANNING

As it suddenly BANGS up against something submerged in the water and stops dead.

BOATMAN #1

~~There's something in the water...~~ **THERE'S
SOMETHING IN THE WATER.....**

But as he leans forward to shove it away to fend it off with a paddle...

C.U. BOATMAN

His face is lit by horror at what he sees!

BOATMAN #1

(Scared yell)

WIDE

Bombshell rises up out of the water, using his front legs to hurl the boat up onto the bank, sending Boatman #1 flying as well! EXPLOSIVE WATER SFX

BOMBSHELL

(Roar)

ANGLE - SECOND BOAT

Boatman #2 REACTS with fear...

BOATMAN #2

~~What is happening?~~ **WHAT IS HAPPENING?**

ANOTHER ANGLE - FEATURING SHRAPNEL

And to make matters worse, this monstrous Insecticon bursts from the water not far away and sends two sizzling bursts of ELECTRICAL ENERGY from his antennae at the second boat! WATER SFX

SHRAPNEL

~~Welcome to Demon Swamp! Swamp!~~ **WELCOME TO
DEMON SWAMP! SWAMP!**

And the hull of this boat is shredded by the twin blasts, spilling its cargo and passenger into the swamp! MORE SPLASHING SFX

ANGLE - THIRD BOAT

As BOATMAN #3 GUNS his outboard, and maneuvers past the wreckage and floating cargo of Boat #2, pulling Boatman #2 into his craft as he goes by!

BOATMAN #3
 get out of here! **HURRY!**

ANOTHER ANGLE

As we see Boatman #1 running along the bank, to leap into Boat #3 as it passes by!

BOATMAN #1
 Wait for me!

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL AND BOMBSHELL

The two of them are already feeding greedily on the corn, wheat, and rice, both on the bank and floating in the water! But Shrapnel pauses long enough to raise his head, and signal their third partner...

SHRAPNEL/BOMBSHELL
 (Gobbling)

SHRAPNEL
 Your meal **IS ESCAPING, KICKBACK!**
KICKBACK!

ANGLE - TREE BRANCH

Where we see KICKBACK, the grasshopper Insecticon, perched for a moment before he leaps...

KICKBACK
 In that case, I'd better hop to it!

ANGLE - SWAMP CHANNEL

As Kickback lands on a rock in the center of the channel, plants his front legs, and lashes out with his back ones... SHATTERING the third boat as it GAINS INTO SCENE!

KICKBACK
 (Karate-like yell)

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the three Boatmen scramble up onto a floating log, two of them grabbing paddles which float nearby (along with the wreckage and cargo of the last boat), and paddle away as fast as they can go! SPLASHING SFX

BOATMAN #2
~~We've gotta get to the city and~~ **WE MUST**
 radio for help!

4.
YES! ~~WE CAN'T LET THOSE MONSTERS GET~~
BOATMAN #3
~~if those monsters find their way to the~~
~~back to the farm, it could mean~~
~~disaster!~~ **FARM!**

ANGLE - KICKBACK

He's already feasting on the floating produce, but as he hears these last remarks, he looks up!

KICKBACK
(Gobbling noises)
Farm? ~~There's~~ **FOOD** ~~There's~~ **more** to **DEVOUR ON A FARM!**

ANGLE - BOMBSHELL AND SHRAPNEL

They've finished up the last of their "snack"...

SHRAPNEL
~~Exactly...~~ **BOMBSHELL... KICKBACK-**
EXACTLY....

And TRANSFORM into humanoid robot mode!

SHRAPNEL (CONT)
... ~~transform~~ **transform** this snack
into energy, **ENERGY!**

CLOSER ON BOMBSHELL

As he breathes a FIREBALL out his mouth!

IT IS BOMBSHELL
~~done,~~ **done,** Shrapnel!

WIDER as Kickback leaps INTO SCENE and TRANSFORMS into humanoid robot mode, as well!

KICKBACK
~~Then let's head out for the main~~
~~course!~~ **TO THE FARM AND MORE FOOD!**

And with that, all three take to the air (heading in the direction the boats had come from).

WIPE TO:

EXT. AUTOBOT HEADQUARTERS - DAY

PAN down the Volcano exterior of Autobot HQ, PUSHING IN and --

~~Autobot HQ~~
~~Autobot HQ~~
~~Autobot HQ~~

CUTTING TO:

INT. AUTOBOT HQ

SPIKE is seated at the console of Telettraan I, wearing headphones. Also present are SPARKPLUG, JETFIRE, BRAWN, WINDCHARGER, and BUMBLEBEE. Spike REACTS to what he's hearing over the headphones. He turns to Sparkplug and hands the headset to his dad.

SPIKE

~~An emergency signal's coming in~~ **DAD!** IT'S AN S.O.S.
from ~~the planet~~ Bali!

SPARKPLUG

(reacting to what he hears
over the headphones)

THEY'RE BEING ATTACKED BY Gigantic robot insects!! ~~the trouble~~

ANGLE - JETFIRE

As the big Autobot TRANSFORMS into jet mode.

JETFIRE

SERVICE Don't worry, Sparkplug! The Jetfire **EXTERMINATOR**
is ~~on~~ on the way!

WIDEN ANGLE as the others (with ^{only} Sparkplug remaining behind) quickly clamber inside his capacious fusilage, as Jetfire's ENGINES begin to WHINE!

BRAWN/WINDCHARGER/BUMBLEBEE

(ad lib)

Hey! Wait for me! Bye, Sparkplug!

SPIKE

YOU BETTER (shouting over jet engines **TO SPARKPLUG**)
~~Radio Optimus Prime and tell him~~

ANOTHER ANGLE as Jetfire begins to taxi towards the exit tunnel, with Sparkplug waving goodbye as Spike, grinning his farewell, pulls the hatch shut...

SPIKE (CONT)

I THINK WE'RE GOING TO NEED all the help we can get!

ANGLE - EXIT WAY

Like a rocket sled poised at the beginning of its track, Jetfire is now poised at the exit tunnel... and with a tremendous BLAST of JET POWER, he hurtles down it...

EXT. AUTOBOT HQ

To come ZOOMING out the end, immediately rising into the sky, and
O.S.!

WIPE TO:

ANGLE - SKY

Meanwhile, high above Decepticon Headquarters, Laserbeak flies INTO SCENE.

CLOSER - LASERBEAK

A radio antenna rises from his crest as he signals his boss.

~~LASERBEAK~~
~~Megatron! I've just intercepted~~
~~a radio transmission I think~~
~~you'll find interesting!~~

ANGLE - OCEAN SURFACE

PAN DOWN beneath the waves, to reach Decepticon Headquarters.

MEGATRON (VO)
 Giant ~~many~~ insects? Well done, Laserbeak!

INT. DECEPTICON HQ

As Megatron speaks into his communicator, as he strides into the "conning tower" that leads to the surface.

MEGATRON (CONT)

~~WE MUST INTERCEPT~~
~~THEM AT ONCE....~~

WIDEN ANGLE to reveal that he's being followed by SOUNDWAVE & THUNDERCRACKER.

~~PREPARE~~ MEGATRON (CONT)
~~for aerial rendez-vous!~~

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE

As the conning tower breaks the surface of the water (WATER SFX), and its doors open, revealing the Decepticons inside.

CLOSER

As Thundercracker completes his TRANSFORMATION into jet mode. All three take off with JET SFX..

WIPE TO:

HIGH ANGLE - DECEPTICONS (INCLUDING LASERBEAK)

As they approach the exotic island of Bali. Note: there is a small jungle-surrounded city on the coast-line they're approaching, with an oil refinery on the shore, a super-tanker docked nearby.

MEGATRON (VO)(CONT)
~~if these creatures are what I~~
~~have they are~~... IF THOSE "INSECTS" ARE ^{really} WHAT
 I THINK THEY ARE....

ANGLE - REFINERY

As the Decepticons swoop low through the refinery...

ANGLE - DECEPTICONS - TRAVELLING

And bank to avoid the city, heading instead into the jungle area, to follow a river heading towards the interior.

~~MEGATRON (CONT)~~

~~These Autobots are in for a~~ **OUR AUTOBOT FRIENDS**
~~horrible surprise~~ **ARE IN FOR A GHASTLY SURPRISE!**

WIPE TO:

ANGLE - SWAMP

Where the original attack took place. The Decepticons descend INTO SCENE, with Thundercracker transforming back to humanoid robot form (as he lowers himself to earth like a hovercraft). Laserbeak flutters to Megatron's shoulder.

~~LASERBEAK~~

~~These are the coordinates of the~~
~~original sighting.~~

~~MEGATRON~~

Soundwave, ~~Send~~ Ravage to investigate...

CLOSE ON SOUNDWAVE

He pops the RAVAGE CASSETTE, which TRANSFORMS into JAGUAR MODE!

~~SOUNDWAVE~~

~~Excellent idea!~~ Ravage, ~~see what~~ transform!
~~you can find!~~

CLOSE ON RAVAGE

The big cat SNIFFS the air, and then bounds O.S.

~~RAVAGE~~

(Sniffing... then a low snarl)

ANGLE - SWAMP

As Ravage bounds along a horizontal branch, and races O.S.

ANGLE - DECEPTICON GROUP

REACTING to what they see O.S.

~~THUNDERCRACKER~~

He's found something! Let's go!

ANGLE - INSECTICON DWELLING PLACE

As Soundwave, Megatron, and Thundercracker wade through the water to reach it, Ravage emerges from within.

~~RAVAGE~~

~~Deserted, but recently used!~~

~~THUNDERCRACKER~~

~~SOUNDWAVE~~

A fitting home for giant bugs!

CLOSER ON MEGATRON

As he uses one powerful metal hand to strip the moss away from the side of the structure, revealing the metal underneath, as well as the familiar mask-shaped symbol for Decepticons!

MEGATRON

NOT SO!

~~Much more than giant bugs!~~ Thundercracker

WIDEN ANGLE to include the startled faces of the others, as Megatron uses his immense strength to lift the entire structure from the swamp, revealing the rest of its metal body and aerodynamic lines! SFX: SUCKING NOISES OF MUD & MUCK

MEGATRON (CONT)

This is ~~a spaceship from the~~ A DECEPTICON
~~in Decepticon starship! It~~ ESCAPE MODULE. IT
~~it have been jettisoned before~~ WAS LAUNCHED
~~the rest of us crashed to Earth!~~ BEFORE OUR OWN
STARSHIP CRASHED ON EARTH ~~4 million~~ AGO!

ANGLE - THUNDERCRACKER

As he realizes...

THUNDERCRACKER

~~Then these robots are Decepticons like~~

THEN THE GIANT BUGS AREN'T BUGS AT ALL... THEY'RE DECEPTICONS
LIKE US !!!

CUT TO:

OTS INSECTICONS - ON FARMING AREA

The Insecticons are in humanoid robot form, perched high in the branches of a tree overlooking the main farming area! Note: It's a fertile valley with the village at the far hemmed in by steep hills, and an ornate temple on higher ground overlooking the fields. The fields themselves are divided equally among wheat and corn, with a large flooded area devoted to rice. The farm is a combination of ancient and modern, with the buildings reflecting traditional architecture, including an almost pagoda-style grain elevator, while an ultra-modern electronic harvester is harvesting, threshing, and bundling the wheat!

FRONT ANGLE - ON INSECTICONS

As they look greedily out over the fields. Even in humanoid transform, their insect features are still apparent.

THUNDERCRACKER (VO) (CONT) ~~AND THEIR IDENTO-~~
~~computers adapted them for life on Earth~~ **BY TURNING**
THEM INTO INSECTICONS!

ANOTHER ANGLE

SHRAPNEL
 Insecticons, transform, ...

And they do, into their Beetle, Lamellicorn, and Grasshopper modes!

SHRAPNEL (CONT)
 And attack! **ATTACK!**

WIDE

And with that, they leap into the air with a WHIRRING of wings...

ANGLE - FARMWORKERS

Who look skyward at the noise, REACT in terror, and flee!

FARMER
 A plague of monsters from
 the sky!

FARMER'S WIFE
 Run!!!

ANGLE - FIELDS

As the three Insecticons come swarming down to devour the wheat and corn fields as fast as their metallic mandibles can slice through the stalks, and shove the grain into their mouths! EATING SFX

ANOTHER ANGLE - FIELDS

As the farmworkers continue to run through the fields (towards the big harvesting unit, whose operator apparently hasn't gotten the message, because it's still in full operation, heading roughly towards the Insecticons).

SERIES OF CLOSE UPS

Of Kickback, Shrapnel, and Bombshell eating away! An awesome and terrifying sight! CONTINUED EATING SFX

WIPE TO:

ANGLE - NARROW ROAD

OPTIMUS PRIME, WHEELJACK, IRONHIDE, TRAILBREAKER, SUNSTREAKER, and SIDESWIPE, all in vehicle transforms, are barrelling down this road which eventually leads to the village and the valley beyond.

PRIME

! ACCORDING
 TO THE COORDINATES SPARKPLUG
 RADIOED
WE'RE GETTING CLOSE...

INT. PRIME'S CAB

As we see a blind curve ahead.

PRIME (CONT)

So be prepared for anything!

ANGLE - AUTOBOTS

As they round the curve...

ANOTHER ANGLE

And have to hit the brakes, immediately! SQUEALING BRAKE SFX

IRONHIDE

HIT THE BRAKES!

WIDEN ANGLE to reveal a noisy parade, complete with colorful floats of heroes and monsters from Hindu mythology blocking the road! Behind the VILLAGER participants is the village itself, nestled in the gap between two steep hills which form the entrance to the farming valley. (If possible, it would be nice to hear some kind of Balinese-style GAMESAN MUSIC accompanying the parade). The parade is in full swing (with no one aware of the catastrophe that's taking place in the valley beyond), and there's no way through or around it, either!

VILLAGERS

(Sounds of happy revelry)

ANGLE - AUTOBOTS

As Sunstreaker pulls up to the front of the blocked Autobot column, next to Prime.

SUNSTREAKER

THAT

~~Well, boss, what're we gonna do~~ VILLAGE
~~...?~~ CELEBRATION IS BLOCKING THE ROAD.

ANGLE - SIDESWIPE

While his brother prowls down what looks like an animal track leading away from the road, and in the direction of the hills screening the valley.

SIDESWIPE

~~Well, I've got an idea! Follow~~ Haven't
~~me!~~ EVER HEAR ~~OF~~ YOU GUYS
OF A SHORT-CUT? COME ON!

And with that, Sideswipe PEELS OUT along the dirt track, avoiding the parade, but heading towards who-knows-where!

ANGLE - SUNSTREAKER AND OTHERS

Sunstreaker pivots to point down the dirt track... and then he and the rest ZOOM after the new leader!

SUNSTREAKER

SINCE WHEN DO YOU KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT THIS
COUNTRYSIDE?

ANGLE - SIDESWIPE & OTHERS

As they ZOOM and bounce across the cross-country trail!

SIDESWIPE

LISTEN, I'VE GOT
INSTINCTS

SEARCH

LIKE A PROTON-
POWERED PATHFINDER...

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Sideswipe suddenly HITS THE BRAKES, and goes into a
sideways SKID, forcing Sunstreaker and the others to stop as
well.

SIDESWIPE (CONT)

Yikes! ~~_____~~

WIDE - AREA IN FRONT OF CLIFF FACE

As the entire column SKIDS to a halt, narrowly missing multiple
collisions with each other, in front of a sheer granite cliff,
100 feet high (at whose base the trail deadends).

ON WHEELJACK

As he starts to TRANSFORM into humanoid robot form...

WHEELJACK

PROTON-POWERED
PATHFINDER, HUH?

WIDE

As we see the rest of the Autobots also TRANSFORMING into
humanoid robot mode. Sideswipe, undeterred, saunters up to the
face of the cliff...

SIDESWIPE

(trying to recover his cool)

Uh, ~~_____~~, well... SURE! SEE...

ANGLE - CLIFFFACE

As Sideswipe steps up to it, testing it with his steel hands.

SIDESWIPE (CONT)

... IF WE CAN'T GO THROUGH THOSE VILLAGERS, WE CAN GO UNDER
THEM!

CUT TO:

THE FIELDS

Where several of the Farmworkers run past the Harvester, which
is heading in the opposite direction. HARVESTER SFX

RUN!

FARMWORKER #1
 (to Harvester Operator)
~~out of there!~~ There are
monsters in the fields!

CLOSE ON HARVESTER OPERATOR

Still working the big machine... SFX CONTINUE THROUGH SEQUENCE.

OPERATOR
 Monsters? What are they
 talking...

But suddenly he does a horrified TAKE...

HIS POV

As he sees Kickback and Bombshell appear in the swatch of waving wheat he's heading towards!

KICKBACK/BOMBSHELL
 (Menacing noises)

ANGLE - HARVESTER

As the Operator leaps from the high cab and joins the general stampede!

OPERATOR
~~What~~ I knew we should ~~have~~ **HAVE SPRAYED**
 the ~~fields~~ **CROPS.**

CLOSER - BOMBSHELL AND KICKBACK

As the Harvester THRESHES closer, Bombshell moves aside, and Kickback turns, plants his front legs...

KICKBACK **FOOL!**
 (contemptuous) **- THERE IS NO SPRAY TO**
~~prevent this!~~ **PREVENT THIS!**

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Kickback lashes out with an incredibly powerful kick, SMASHING into the front end of the Harvester...

KICKBACK (CONT)
 AI-EEEEEE!!!! **HOW WAS THAT, SHRAPNEL?**

And the machine SHATTERS and flies into a hundred pieces!!!

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

^{his shell}
 He pulls his head ^{into} as hunks of the Harvester fall about him, some of them CLUNKING off his metallic shell!

RESTRAIN YOURSELF, SHRAPNEL

~~SHRAPNEL~~ Kickback! ~~SHRAPNEL~~

WE'RE HERE TO
FEED, NOT PLAY. PLAY.

Suddenly, however, we hear JET SFX... and Shrapnel looks up...

ANGLE - FARMWORKERS

As do the terrified farmworkers, at the far end of the fields...

FARMWORKER #1

Look!

THEIR POV

As streaking in low over the valley is Jetfire! CONTINUED JET SFX

ANGLE - INSECTACONS

As they TRANSFORM into humanoid robot form...

SHRAPNEL

Let's give our visitors a ~~WELCOME~~ **FATAL**
welcome! **WELCOME!**

CLOSE ON JETFIRE

As, streaking low over the flooded rice paddies, Jetfire slows to near hover-speed and TRANSFORMS...

JETFIRE

Okay ~~everybody~~... everybody out!

And as CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION, Brawn, Windcharger, and Bumblebee (with Spike riding Bumblebee piggy-back) come tumbling out of the transforming Jetfire, ~~tumbling down~~ towards the flooded rice paddy!

AUTOBOTS

(Ad lib)

Yippee! Geronimo!

ANGLE - INSECTICONS

As they flame out alcohol-fueled FIRE BALLS...

SHRAPNEL

Fire!!! **FIRE!**

ANGLE - AUTOBOTS & SPIKE

^{heroes} Our ~~heroes~~ SPLASH under the protection of the water in the paddy, as the FIRE BALLS flame over them! Our heroes rise back up a second later...

WINDCHARGER

Boy! ~~_____~~ **TALK ABOUT
HOT LIPS!**

BRAWN

~~_____~~
~~_____~~ **BUT NOT HOT ENOUGH...**

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the Insecticons fire another series of FIRE BALLS...

ANGLE - BRAWN

Which FLAME around Brawn's metal body, and then disippate!

BRAWN (CONT)

~~_____~~
~~_____~~ **.... TO SINGE OUR STEEL.**

ANGLE - WINDCHARGER

As he, too, rises out of the paddy.

WINDCHARGER

~~_____~~ **YEAH, THOSE ROBOT BEDBUGS
AREN'T THAT BIG A DEAL...**
~~_____~~

WIDEN ANGLE to include Bumblebee and the huge form of Jetfire joining Brawn and Windcharger, with Spike remaining in the relative safety of the paddy.

JETFIRE

(picking up from Windcharger)

We ~~_____~~ 'em outgunned and outnumbered!

GOT

ANGLE - BOMBSHELL

As he turns and FIRES his head-mounted mortar...

BOMBSHELL

~~_____~~
BUT NOT OUTSMARTED! TRY MY INSECTA-SHELLS!

WIDEN ANGLE

As the shell STREAKS off into the wreckage of the Harvester!

CLOSE ON HARVESTER

As the shell hits with a SOFT EXPLOSION... and myriads of tiny, but ultra-strong, conducting wires and micro-circuits ZING out from the shell, connecting all the shattered pieces of scrap metal...

BOMBSHELL (VO) (CONT)

THEY Will ~~_____~~ even the odds.

OTHER ANGLES

Within the main body of the wreck, or among the pieces scattered about!

ANGLE - BOMBSHELL AND SHRAPNEL

Shrapnel's twin antennae suddenly radiate lightning bolt-like ELECTRONIC CONTROL RAYS...

SHRAPNEL
And my electronic **CLONE** beams...

ANGLE - WRECKAGE OF HARVESTER

Which ZAP into the filaments, sending their GLOWING power throughout all of them, causing the scrap, itself, to start to glow...

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

As we now see concentric type CONTROL BEAMS radiating out from his antennae with APPROPRIATE SFX...

SHRAPNEL (CONT)

ANGLE - WRECKAGE

And as these beams hit the wreckage, it starts to TRANSFORM... with the glowing filaments suddenly drawing the pieces of scrap together... into three more insect-mode INSECTICON CLONES (to be known from this point as SHRAPNEL II, BOMBSHELL II, and KICKBACK II)! While they don't have the power to change into humanoid robot form, they're quite deadly, all the same! VARIOUS APPROPRIATE MECHANICAL & ELECTRONIC SFX

ANGLE - AUTOBOTS

Amazed!

BUMBLEBEE
(nervously) **HOW DO THEY LOOK TO YOU, GUYS?**

BRAWN
(scoffing)
Aw... they're probably just optical illusions!...**I HOPE!**

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

CLONE
As ~~SHRAPNEL~~ BEAMS continue to radiate from his antenna...

SHRAPNEL
Fire! **FIRE! FIRE!**

ANGLE - CLONE INSECTICONS

And the by-now fully formed Insecticon Clones turn toward the Autobots.... with Shrapnel II unleashes a 40,000 volt antennae BLAST, Bombshell II FIRING his head-mounted mortar, and Kickback II leaping high into the air, O.S. --

ANGLE - AUTOBOTS

As Brawn is ZAPPED in the chest by the antennae BLAST, which sends him hurtling back into the rice paddy with a SPLASH, while Windcharger and Humblebee have to hit the deck as the mortar shell EXPLODES between them...

ANGLE - JETFIRE

And Jetfire sustains a mid-air kick in the chest from Kickback, that sends him SPLASHING into the paddy next to Brawn! SFX: CLANG

JETFIRE

(to Brawn)

STILL THINK THEY'RE Optical illusions, Brawn?

Brawn gives his pal a sheepish and worried look...

ANGLE - INSECTICONS

As the humanoid robot forms of Kickback, Shrapnel, and Bombshell ready their weapons (with appropriate SFX, such as the CLEARING OF THE ACTION of Kickback's sub-machine gun)...

BOMBSHELL

~~Right! And our next action will~~~~be the~~ Autobots...

(menacing snarl)

 PREPARE FOR TERMINATION!**THIS IS NO ILLUSION,**

PUSH IN CLOSER on the menacing faces of these three as we --

FADE OUT

END ACT I

As Sideswipe sets his jaw, and starts SMASHING away harder than before!

SIDESWIPE

**I STILL THINK ~~THIS~~ THIS IS
THE BEST WAY TO
GO. YOU'LL SEE!**

CUT TO:

INSECTICONS

As they scan the fields...

BOMBSHELL

The cowards have hidden from us!

THEIR POV

We see merely the waving field of wheat.

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

As he readies his grenade launcher...

SHRAPNEL

But not for long! **LONG!**

And FIRES the 30-pound steel ball...

ANGLE - WHEATFIELD

Which splinters into thousands of razor-sharp spikes in mid-air!
And with a WHOOSHING, SCYTHING SOUND, the spikes turn the wheat
into rubble...

ANGLE - AUTOBOTS

As the Autobots and Spike dive behind Windcharger (all of them
crouched down amid the wheat); a split second before the spikes cut
down the field around them... as Windcharger activates his MAGNETIC
REPULSOR FIELD (REPULSOR SFX)...

WINDCHARGER

Quick! Behind me!

ANOTHER ANGLE

And as the razor-sharp metal spikes CLANG into the concentric lines
of force, they drop harmlessly to the ground! Note: needless to
say, not all the Autobots can fit behind Windcharger, but the
magnetic repulsor field covers an area more than big enough to
protect them all.

**THOSE SPIKES CAN'T
PENETRATE**

WINDCHARGER (CONT)

~~my~~ ~~repulsor~~ repulsor field **!**

CLOSE - SPIKE

He picks himself up, looking skyward as he hears DESCENDING JET SFX.

SPIKE

Great work, Windcharger, but ~~we're still in trouble!~~ **WE'RE STILL IN TROUBLE!**

HIS POV

Megatron, Soundwave, Thundercracker (who transforms to humanoid robot mode) and Laserbeak descend from the sky to land next to the Insecticons!

ANGLE - JETFIRE

He tries to transform, but he can only get into the very first stages of it, before various SPARKS and SHORT CIRCUITS take place, and he has to revert back to humanoid form.

JETFIRE

~~I~~ I can't ~~fly~~ fly us outta here.
~~That~~ That wallop from Kickback shorted my transform circuits!

WIDEN to include the rest as they grimly ready their weapons, with various CLICKS, SNAPS, and the like, preparing to sell themselves dearly.

BRAWN

Well, let's look at the ^{bright} ~~good~~ side! At least they didn't bring that sawed-off **NERD,** ~~Rumble~~ Rumble, along!

CLOSE ON SOUNDWAVE

As the RUMBLE CASSETTE suddenly EJECTS himself and TRANSFORMS into the tough little Decepticon! Angrily STOMPING his foot...

RUMBLE

~~WRONG, RUST BUCKET!~~ **WRONG, RUST BUCKET!**

The inevitable EARTHQUAKE begins, spreading towards our heroes...

CUT TO:

AUTOBOTS & SPIKE

Where the SHAKING EARTH knocks them all off their feet, sending them CRASHING to the ground!

AUTOBOTS & SPIKE

Yikes!!!

~~Me~~

CUT TO:

MEGATRON AND INSECTICONS

As the three true Insecticons look at Megatron and the rest, their eyes glinting evilly.

SHRAPNEL

I don't know you, and yet I feel
a kinship. **KINSHIP.**

CLOSE ON MEGATRON

His eyes glint with a similar evil spark, ^{as he} indicates the Decepticon mask symbol on this chest.

MEGATRON

Decepticon **SCIENCE GENERATED**

YOU JUST AS IT GENERATED US!

WIDEN ANGLE as Shrapnel ENTERS SCENE. Shrapnel looks from the Decepticon mask symbol on Megatron, to his own, and then extends his arm towards the Autobots... (OS)

SHRAPNEL

In that case, it's my honor to
ask you to help us destroy...

THEIR POV

As we see the Autobots bravely waiting their fate!

SHRAPNEL (VO) (CONT)

These animated **scrap PILES! SCRAP PILES!**

ANGLE - MEGATRON, DECEPTICONS, & INSECTICONS

As they all raise their weapons...

MEGATRON

With pleasure!

CUT TO:

INT. SIDESWIPE'S TUNNEL

He's just SLAMMED another mighty fist into the end wall, and more rock CRASHES to the ground as...

SIDESWIPE

(Labored breathing)

STAND BACK,

PRIME (VO)

Sideswipe, **It's my turn!**

And Sideswipe gets out of the way, **OBVIOUSLY EXHAUSTED BY HIS WORK BUT TRYING NOT TO SHOW IT.**

SIDESWIPE

Well, **I'M NOT REALLY TIRED, BUT IF YOU INSIST....**

ANOTHER ANGLE - TUNNEL

As we see Prime, now in vehicle transform, pop his clutch and come ZOOMING towards the end wall... KLAXON HORN SFX

EXT. HILL - VALLEY SIDE

And the huge trailer truck that is the Autobot leader comes CRASHING through the side of the hill... followed by the rest his party, now also in vehicle transform, as they come ZOOMING across the fields, with the twin contachs of Sunstreaker and Sideswipe whizzing into the lead at 150 mph plus!

ANGLE - JETFIRE'S PARTY

REACTING with joy!

SPIKE
It's OPTIMUS AND THE OTHER GUYS!

ANGLE - MEGATRON AND THE REST

They're startled for a moment...

ANGLE - SUNSTREAKER AND SIDESWIPE

And that's all it takes! With ENGINES SHRIEKING, these two high-revving heroes slam into a slight bump in the field, which sends them flying... and as they soar OVER CAMERA, they TRANSFORM into humanoid robot form --

SUNSTREAKER & SIDESWIPE
(Exuberant battle cries)

ANGLE - DECEPTICONS & INSECTICONS

To CRASH into the assembled villains, with a couple of championship cross-body blocks! Most of them go down in a heap, as various WEAPONS FIRE harmlessly into the air...

ANGLE - AUTOBOTS

As the rest of the Autobot column TRANSFORMS into humanoid robot form, to join with Spike and the rest of the team!

SPIKE
Boy, are we glad to see you!

ANGLE - HEAP OF DECEPTICONS, ETC.

As Megatron KNOCKS Sunstreaker off him and grabs Sideswipe by the leg, and, as he struggles to his feet, the giant Decepticon swings the startled Autobot around his head and hurls him O.S.!

MEGATRON
(Grunts of exertion)

SIDESWIPE

Whoaaaaaa....

ANGLE - AUTOBOTS

As Sideswipe comes pinwheeling INTO SCENE, to CRASH into Jetfire, who manages to catch him without injury to either!

JETFIRE

~~THAT'S NO WAY TO TRAVEL, LITTLE FEELAH,~~
 SIDESWIPE ~~YEAH - NEXT TIME I'LL CALL~~
 A CAB.

ANGLE - PRIME

As he shoulders his laser rifle...

PRIME

~~Autobots~~ **ATTACK!** *starting to*

WIDEN ANGLE to include the other Autobots similarly, BLAST away!

ANGLE - DECEPTICONS

And, suddenly finding themselves on the defensive, the Decepticons and their new allies take to the air, LASER BURSTS SIZZLING past, and rockets EXPLODING!

MEGATRON

Decepticons, Insecticons, take to the air!

ANGLE - SKY

The retreating bad guys fly INTO SCENE...

AN MEGATRON (CONT)
~~oil refinery awaits~~ **OUR PLEASURE!**
~~its power...~~

ONCE WE'VE TAKEN

ANOTHER ANGLE - DECEPTICON/INSECTICON COLUMN

MEGATRON (CONT)

... ~~we~~ we will deal with our enemies, once and for all!

And with that, we --

CUT BACK TO:

GROUND LEVEL

Where Wheeljack finishes re-soldering a connection in Jetfire's chest compartment (SPARKING SFX), then slams it shut.

WHEELJACK
 There ya go, Jetfire! ~~transform mechanism~~ ^{YOUR} ~~UNFRITZED,~~

With that, Jetfire TRANSFORMS into jet mode...

JETFIRE
 Thanks! I'll keep an eye on ~~THE DECEPTICONS~~ ^{FROM} ~~SKY~~ ^{SKY} ~~SIDE~~ ^{SKY} ~~....~~

And takes off! JET SFX

ON PRIME

As he, too, TRANSFORMS...

PRIME
 (via communicator)
 Remember, Jetfire, we can't ~~help~~
 help you from the ground, so be careful!

WIDEN ANGLE as we see the rest of the Autobot column TRANSFORM
 (with Spike climbing into Bumblebee's passenger compartment)
 and roll out. ENGINE SFX

CUT TO:

TRAVELLING SHOT - AIRBORNE DECEPTICON/INSECTICONS

PUSH IN on Soundwave, as his sensors pick up the faint sound of
 JETFIRE'S ENGINE (a slightly different sound from
 DECEPTICON/INSECTICON FLIGHT SFX).

~~WAVE~~ ^{WAVE} ~~SOUND~~ ^{MY SENSORS} ~~INDICATE WE ARE~~
~~NO LONGER ALONE.~~

ANOTHER ANGLE

INVESTIGATE, Laserbeak! ^{MEGATRON} ~~MEGATRON~~

And the Robot Condor swoops up and away from the formation...

LASERBEAK
~~With pleasure!~~ (CONDOR SHRIEK!)

DOWN ANGLE - JETFIRE

To soar INTO SCENE, spotting Jetfire who is approaching from
 below! Laserbeak immediately goes into a twisting powerdive...

PANNING WITH LASERBEAK

As he maneuvers himself so he's able to fire his LASER BLASTERS
 down at his foe!

ANGLE - JETFIRE

Who quickly becomes aware of this new and deadly menace! For his part, Jetfire roars into a loop-the-loop dog-fighting maneuver...

JETFIRE

~~SHRAPNEL~~ **BAD BIRDS GET BURNT!**
DIDN'T MEGATRON EVER TELL YOU

And now he's behind Laserbeak! He fires a heat-seeking missile at the robot condor... and now we PAN with the missile and Laserbeak, who rapidly accelerates, leaving Jetfire behind!

LASERBEAK

(Enraged condor cry)

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION, Laserbeak tries in vain to evade the missile... flying so fast, he actually passes the Decepticon column! But this missile is still on his tail, gaining fast, and his only chance is to fly into the open mouth of a cave! The missile follows him in, and Laserbeak seems doomed, until we suddenly WIDEN ANGLE to reveal a secondary exit at the top of the hill, out of which soars Laserbeak just as the missile EXPLODES inside the cave, and a cloud of dust (but nothing more) shoots out this top exit as well!

LASERBEAK

(Terrified cry)

ANGLE - MEGATRON AND INSECTICONS

MEGATRON

All right, Insecticons... we'll
 take care of your clones, ~~SHRAPNEL~~ **YOU**
 take care of Jetfire!

Kickback, Shrapnel, and Bombshell immediately peel off...

WITH

SHRAPNEL

~~SHRAPNEL~~ pleasure, Megatron! **MEGATRON!**

PANNING - INSECTICONS

And Bombshell and Shrapnel TRANSFORM in mid-air into insect mode (complete with BUZZING SFX, which continues whenever they're flying in insect mode), while Kickback retains his humanoid robot mode.

OTS JETFIRE - ON APPROACHING INSECTICONS

Shrapnel and Bombshell are at 12 o'clock, and closing fast, while Kickback is nowhere to be seen.

JETFIRE (VO)

Uh oh! ~~SHRAPNEL~~ **WHAT I WOULDN'T
 GIVE FOR A LASER-POWERED FLY SWATTER!**

PANNING WITH KICKBACK

As he's climbing steeply from underneath Jetfire, BLASTING away with his sub-machine gun!

KICKBACK

~~SWAT THIS, AUTOBOT BOOBY!~~ (you)

UP ANGLE - JETFIRE'S BELLY

As the machine gun bullets RICOCHET off Jetfire's metallic skin.

ANOTHER ANGLE - JETFIRE

But before he can REACT...

JETFIRE

Hey! ~~SWAT THIS, AUTOBOT BOOBY!~~

Bombshell and Shrapnel WHIR INTO SCENE, and grab hold of the tops of Jetfire's wings!

JETFIRE (CONT)

(very startled)

~~SWAT THIS, AUTOBOT BOOBY!~~ STOP BUGGING ME!

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Jetfire goes through a wild rolling dive, trying to shake them loose!

CLOSE - SHRAPNEL AND BOMBSHELL

As they bite down with their steel mandibles to help them stay on!

BOMBSHELL

Bite down, ~~SWAT THIS, AUTOBOT BOOBY!~~ it's our only chance to ~~SWAT THIS, AUTOBOT BOOBY!~~ HANG ON!

HIGH ANGLE - AUTOBOT COLUMN

Meanwhile, the Autobot column is pursuing from beneath...

INT. BUMBLEBEE'S COMPARTMENT - OTS SPIKE THROUGH WINDSHIELD

Spike spots the wild dogfight overhead, and points!

SPIKE (VO)

~~SWAT THIS, AUTOBOT BOOBY!~~ LOOK!
Jetfire's in trouble!

EXT. AUTOBOT COLUMN

As Wheeljack SPINS his Lancia-form to a halt, TRANSFORMING to humanoid robot mode. And, activating the jet packs in his arms, he STREAKS skyward! JET SFX

WHEELJACK

~~I'm not exactly a flyer, but
I need help!~~I'M NOT EXACTLY
A FLYING ACE, BUT
HE NEEDS HELP!

ANGLE - SKY

As we see Jetfire, Bombshell, and Shrapnel in what looks like a mid-air wrestling match (although, of course, Jetfire's still in jet mode).

ANGLE - WHEELJACK

He FIRES his shoulder cannon twice...

WHEELJACK

~~Autobots target him
... Fire!!!~~

ANGLE - JETFIRE, SHRAPNEL, BOMBSHELL

And the two CANNON BLASTS knock Shrapnel and Bombshell right off Jetfire's wings!

SHRAPNEL

(Frustrated shriek)

THANKS FOR THE HAND, JETFIRE
~~Wheeljack!~~ Wheeljack!

ANGLE - KICKBACK

As he speeds forward, TRANSFORMING to insect-mode and pivoting...

KICKBACK

~~Now try a foot!~~ NOW TRY A FOOT!

WIDE

To plant a mid-air KICK in Wheeljack's back, knocking the Autobot into a plummeting dive!

WHEELJACK

Whoaaaa!!!

ANGLE - TREE OVERHANGING ROAD

As Wheeljack CRASHES into and through the tree...

ANGLE - PRIME

And, as Prime, in trailer truck mode, goes ROARING by underneath, Wheeljack drops down onto the trailer top with a loud CLANG! PAN with them, as Prime never even slows down, and Wheeljack catches his breath!

PRIME

~~Wheeljack!~~ Wheeljack!
CONTACT,

WHEELJACK

THANKS, PRIME... ~~THANKS~~,~~KEEP ON TRUCKIN'!~~

CUT TO:

OIL REFINERY AND DOCK AREA

As Megatron, Soundwave, Laserbeak, Thundercracker, and the Insecticon Clones swoop down on the refinery! The human WORKERS take one look and run for it!

WORKER #1

 The monsters are back!

WORKER #2

 FLEE!

ANGLE - SOUNDWAVE

The moment his feet hit the ground, he starts producing ENERGON CUBES from his chest "cube synthesizer".

SOUNDWAVE

Energon cubes in production!

WIDEN ANGLE to include Megatron, who gestures to Thundercracker, in the process of TRANSFORMING to humanoid robot mode.

MEGATRON

Thundercracker... the pipes!

ANGLE - PIPES LEADING FROM STORAGE TANKS

The now completely transformed Thundercracker ENTERS SCENE and tears one of the pipes up from its bottom, and straightens out its right angle... as we WIDEN ANGLE to include the rapidly growing stack of Energon Cubes! Thundercracker jams the pipe (already gushing oil) into the top of the stack, which immediately starts filling up.

UP ANGLE - MEGATRON

Gloating!

MEGATRON

ONCE WE HAVE ENERGIZED, OUR ENEMIES ARE FINISHED!
(EVIL LAUGH)

CUT TO:

AUTOBOT COLUMN

As it continues to ROAR along!

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL, BOMBSHELL, & KICKBACK

Shrapnel spots the column below, and peels off...

DISTRACT

SHRAPNEL

~~Jetfire~~ I'm going to use my special ~~control waves~~

~~control waves~~ **WAVES ON HIS FRIENDS BELOW...** ~~control waves~~ **OVERRIDE**

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL - PANNING

His antennae start to CRACKLE with "control waves" as he streaks low over our heroes.

SHRAPNEL (CONT)

~~control waves~~

..THEY WILL BE POWERLESS TO RESIST ME! ME!

ANGLE - CONTACHS

Sunstreaker and Sideswipe, impatient as usual, are racing ahead of Prime when Shrapnel WHIRS down from above! His "control waves" radiate out... and suddenly the two Contach-mode Autobots ROAR even faster ahead of the column with Shrapnel controlling them (and keeping pace) from above!

SUNSTREAKER

Hey, ~~Jetfire~~ **SOMEBODY ELSE IS DRIVING ME!**

SIDESWIPE

~~control waves~~ **THAT BIG UGLY BUG'S RUNNING US ON ~~OVERRIDE~~!**

And by now, the two Contachs are way ahead of the rest. Suddenly, however, thanks to Shrapnel's control, they whirl around to face back the way they came... and as their wheels SPIN wildly, they dig out, heading towards sure disaster!

SUNSTREAKER

~~control waves~~ **HE'S GOT US ON A COLLISION COURSE!**

ANOTHER ANGLE

As these two cars (with Shrapnel flying overhead) go zooming what looks like a sure head-on collision with Prime and the rest! Prime BLASTS his HORN in warning...

SIDESWIPE

Prime, ~~Jetfire~~ **get out of the way!**

WIDE

And Prime and the rest have to SKID off the road as the two Contach's ZOOM through!

SUNSTREAKER

Somebody shoot out our tires before he makes us do it again!

ANGLE - CONTACHS

They've made it through the end of the line, but now Shrapnel causes them to SPIN around again, and away they go for another run!

SHRAPNEL

~~SHRAPNEL~~ YOU WILL DESTROY YOUR FRIENDS!
FRIENDS!

ANGLE - TRAILBREAKER

However, their buddy quickly transforms into humanoid robot mode...

TRAILBREAKER

~~TRAILBREAKER~~ SAVE YOUR TILES, GUYS. LET'S TRY A LITTLE...

WIDER

And as the Contachs come streaking straight towards him...
Trailbreaker projects his FORCE FIELD (concentric radiating rings of power)...

TRAILBREAKER

... ~~TRAILBREAKER~~ force field ~~TRAILBREAKER~~

TO INTERRUPT HIS OVERRIDE WAVES!

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

And as the radiating force field hits him, his SPARKING antennae suddenly go dead...

SHRAPNEL

~~SHRAPNEL~~ INTERRUPTION! INTERRUPTION!

ANGLE - TRAILBREAKER

As Sunstreaker and Sideswipe are able to SKID to a halt, a foot away from their friend!

SIDESWIPE

~~we're~~ we're free!

ANGLE - BRAWN AND PRIME

As these two also TRANSFORM into humanoid robot form.

BRAWN

~~BRAWN~~ Give me a ~~BRAWN~~ TOSS,
Optimus, ~~BRAWN~~ I WANT TO
teach that bug a lesson!

And Prime has ^{already} placed his fingers together, bent down, and when Brawn steps into the catapult thus formed, Prime straightens, and hurls his smaller friend skyward!

OPTIMUS

GO GET HIM. BRAWN!

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

~~Shrapnel~~
And as ~~Shrapnel~~ flies to rejoin his friends, Brawn suddenly zooms INTO SCENE, to tackle him from beneath!

BRAWN
Gotcha, bettle- ~~SHRAPNEL~~ BRAIN!

SHRAPNEL
Ouf!

But as the two wrestle in mid-air...

ANGLE - KICKBACK

Kickback, still in insect mode, flutters his grasshopper wings to maneuver into position...

KICKBACK ~~SHRAPNEL~~ 'GOODBYE, AUTOBOT!'

ANOTHER ANGLE

As he BOOTS Brawn clear off of Shrapnel, sending the tough little Autobot flying!

BRAWN
Ouf!

KICKBACK THAT'S WHAT I CALL GOING
~~DOWN TO DEFEAT FROM DE FEET!~~
(CACKLES AND BUZZES)

ANGLE - JETFIRE

As he goes into a power dive...

JETFIRE

~~SHRAPNEL~~ COMING, BRAWN!

ANGLE - BRAWN

He drops onto Jetfire's back with a CLANG as the big jet zooms by underneath! PAN with them as Brawn tries to catch his breath.

BRAWN
Ouf! Thanks, Jetfire! I don't mind the take-offs, but the ~~landings~~ ARE MURDER!

ANGLE - BOMBSHELL

Flying... as he's joined by Kickback and Shrapnel.

WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME
ON THE AUTOBOTS,
ON TO THE OIL REFINERY
WHERE WE WILL

SHRAPNEL

~~SHRAPNEL~~ claim our share of ~~THE ENERGY!~~
ENERGY! ENERGY!
FADE OUT

END ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN

WIDE - REFINERY AREA

As little Rumble is supervising the filling of one set of stacks of energon cubes with oil from the refinery tanks. (Note: other groups of Decepticons and Insecticon clones are performing similar operations elsewhere in the Refinery area) The three pyramids of cubes nearest Rumble are filled, and he gestures...

RUMBLE

Thundercracker, more cubes! Hurry!

ON THUNDERCRACKER

Who is picking up a fresh stack of cubes, as Soundwave is generating yet more of them from his chest "cube synthesizer".

ANGLE - RUMBLE

As Thundercracker sets this fresh stack down, Rumble transfers the pipe from the filled stack to this one...

ANOTHER ANGLE

And Thundercracker applies his full weight to the first of the filled stacks, and as he crushes it down, the oil inside is converted to RAINBOW COLORED ENERGY! (see mini-series, Day #1, Act III (#4023). ENERGY SFX

ANGLE - INSECTICONS

As they WHIR INTO SCENE, landing next to Megatron.

SHRAPNEL

~~I~~ you've been busy in our absence! **ABSENCE.**

MEGATRON

And I'm sure fighting Autobots has given you an appetite!

ANGLE - BOMBSHELL AND KICKBACK

They look at each other and nod hungrily.

ON MEGATRON

He points to the tanker moored to the dock (and parallel to the shore).

MEGATRON

Gnaw a hole in the side of that tanker, and ~~y~~ drink your fill...

ANGLE - BOMBSHELL, SHRAPNEL & KICKBACK

Their faces assume excited, hungry expressions as they listen!

MEGATRON (VO)(CONT)
Of cool, refreshing oil!

BOMBSHELL
Mmmmm....

ANGLE - TANKER

As the Insecticons WHIR INTO SCENE, to cling to the side of the ship. They've split up so Bombshell and Kickback are at the stern...

CLOSER - BOW

And Shrapnel is nearer the bow. He immediately takes a big bite out of the metal in the hull... and the oil from the tanks inside immediately starts GUSHING OUT! He drinks greedily, but much of it escapes and SPLASHES down into the water below!

SHRAPNEL
~~delicious!~~ **DELICIOUS!**

ANGLE - BOMBSHELL AND KICKBACK

As they similarly have gnawed their holes and are GULPING down the gushing oil!

BOMBSHELL
And so ~~delicious!~~ **RICH IN ENERGY!**

And with that, Bombshell breathes out a breath of pure flame... nearly singing Kickback's antennae!

KICKBACK
~~delicious!~~ **WATCH IT, DRAGON BREATH!**

PAN DOWN with the oil they don't drink, to where it SPLASHES into the water below, spreading out into a wide slick. Suddenly, we hear APPROACHING JET SFX.

ANGLE - MEGATRON

He REACTS to the SOUND, shouldering his fusion cannon.

MEGATRON **A VISITOR!** LET'S PREPARE
~~delicious!~~ **A SUITABLE WELCOME!**

WIDE - REFINERY AREA

The various Decepticons and Insecticon Clones similarly prepare as Jetfire appears low to the horizon, streaking towards them! JET SFX CONTINUE THROUGH SEQUENCE. And, as he swoops in closer, everyone starts firing! BLASTING SFX

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Rumble has to dive out of the way of a series of Jetfire BLASTS.

WIDEN ANGLE as we see Jetfire STREAK THROUGH SCENE, as Megatron, himself, FIRES after him with his fusion cannon.

ANGLE - JETFIRE

As he banks and comes back for another run...

ANGLE - TANKER

This time, flying low on the port (landward) side of the tanker! The three Insecticons, still glugging away at the oil, look up in alarm...

BOMBSHELL

IT'S THAT CRAZY

~~jet again!~~

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Jetfire streaks so close to the tanker, his wingtip SMASHES Bombshell and Kickback, knocking them from their perch into the water!

C.U. SHRAPNEL

But Shrapnel lets loose a FLAME BREATH so intense...

WIDER

That Jetfire has to rise up and away to avoid getting scorched!

ANGLE - BOMBSHELL & KICKBACK

As they struggle out of the oil-covered water, climbing back up onto the dock.

CAREFUL, KICKBACK

~~Shrapnel!~~ Shrapnel! You could set the whole place on fire!

CLOSE ON MEGATRON

And he REACTS upon hearing the SOUND of MULTIPLE ENGINES ROARING up the road to the refinery!

MEGATRON **MORE INTERLOPERS!**

~~Soundwave,~~
activate the Ravage cassette!

ANGLE - SOUNDWAVE

The Ravage cassette is POPPED and TRANSFORMS into his Jaguar mode!

RAVAGE

(Snarl)

WIDE

Meanwhile, the Decepticons and their allies deploy, fanning out across the area...

ANGLE - AUTOBOTS

As the Autobots ENTER SCENE, going into hard turns which send them in sideways SKIDS... during which they already begin to TRANSFORM!

PRIME

~~Let's get~~ Let's get **THEM, AUTOBOTS!**

But the Decepticons, et al., have the jump on them, and WEAPONS' FIRE immediately starts blasting around them!

ANGLE - DECEPTICONS

As we see Megatron, Thundercracker, and Soundwave all FIRING away!

ANGLE - PRIME, WHEELJACK, & BRAWN - PANNING

These three are running, FIRING, and dodging BLASTS as they're heading towards the shelter of crates stacked on the dock.

WHEELJACK

This way, guys!

But just as they've dodged behind the crates...

ANOTHER ANGLE - DOCK

Kickback and Bombshell scramble up onto the dock (on the opposite side of the crates), and are quickly joined by Shrapnel, who flies down to join them! As Kickback TRANSFORMS to humanoid robot mode and readies his sub-machine gun, Shrapnel puts one of his six legs on Kickback's arm to stop him, and readies his own his grenade launcher instead...

SHRAPNEL

Allow me! ~~ME!~~ **ME!**

ANGLE - WHEELJACK, PRIME, BRAWN

Although shielded by the crates, when they hear...

SHRAPNEL (VO)(CONT)
I think this calls for a Shrapnel
Grenade! **GAENADE!**

They stare at each other in horror...

WHEELJACK

SPLIT!

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

And when Shrapnel FIRES his fragmenting steel ball..

ANGLE - CRATES AND AUTOBOTS

Our three heroes leap into the water, just as the thousands of razor-sharp spikes the ball has split into shred the crates into sawdust (and would have done the same to the Autobots had they not jumped over the edge the second before)! SPLASHES, BUZZ SAW SFX

DOWN ANGLE - AUTOBOTS

Wheeljack, Prime, and Brawn are all in the oil-covered water...

PRIME

EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION!
We're ~~floating~~ **FLOATING IN**
A POTENTIAL INFERNO!

THEIR POV

And he's right, because Thundercracker is now glaring down at them, and he fires a STREAM OF FLAME out of his incendiary gun...

THUNDERCRACKER

Megatron ~~said to give you a~~ **SAID TO GIVE YOU A**
warm welcome.

ANGLE - WATER

And the oil instantly ignites into a carpet of FLAMES, with the Autobots barely diving beneath the surface in time...

ANGLE - AUTOBOTS

And they swim only a short distance...

UNDERSIDE OF DOCK

To resurface underneath the dock! Suddenly, all three of them exchange glances, and, as one, surge upward, mighty arms upraised...

ANGLE - TOP OF DOCK

And the entire dock buckles and BREAKS, as the Autobots surge up from beneath... and Thundercracker and those of the Insecticons who haven't scrambled to safety now tumble into the water! SFX: CRACKING OF WOOD, SPLASHES

ANOTHER ANGLE

But as the three Autobots clamber up onto the shoreward side of the dock, Prime looks back out to sea to see...

PRIME
~~There~~ The ~~burning~~ OIL TANKER!

HIS POV

We see that the burning water has spread to the side of the tanker, and a moment later, the entire oil-laden ship BURSTS INTO FLAME!

PRIME (VO)(CONT)
 Ironhide! Quick!

ANGLE - IRONHIDE - PANNING

As he runs, also having to dodge various Decepticon BLASTS, out to the splintered pier to join Prime and the others.

PRIME *REACH*
 If the flames ~~reach~~ the refinery,
 the whole place will explode!

And he immediately starts spraying supercooled nitrogen gas over the water and ship... SPRAYING SFX

ANOTHER ANGLE

And as we PAN from the water to the ship, we see that he has, indeed, put out the blaze! HISSING AND DYING FIRE SFX

ANGLE - REFINERY AREA - PANNING

Meanwhile, various other battles (with ACCOMPANYING SFX) are taking place... as Windcharger wrestles with Ravage, Sideswipe is flipping Soundwave over his back, and Trailbreaker is trading SHOTS with...

ANOTHER ANGLE

The three clone Insecticons! MORE BATTLE SFX

ANGLE - SPIKE AND BUMBLEBEE

And these two of our heroes have to dodge behind a maze of pipes as SUB-MACHINE GUN BULLETS CLATTER all around them...

SPIKE
Quick, Bumblebee, in here!

ANGLE - KICKBACK

As the true Insecticon, in humanoid robot form, BLASTS away at them! Suddenly he stops, as the scene suddenly becomes dark, and looks skyward!

KICKBACK
(evilly elated)
Bombshell, Shrapnel! Stormclouds!

HIS POV - CLOUDS

As we see massive thunderheads rolling in overhead.

KICKBACK (VO)(CONT)
The day is won!!!

ANGLE - MEGATRON

He looks skyward, dubiously, as the SOUNDS OF BATTLE continue to rage!

MEGATRON
What is that HELIUM HEADED GRASSHOPPER
 talking about?

WIDEN ANGLE to include Bombshell, who TRANSFORMS to humanoid mode and readies his head-mounted mortar...

BOMBSHELL (END OF THE)
He's talking about the Autobots!

And with that, he FIRES...

ANGLE - SKY

What looks to be a skyrocket, which WHOOSHES skyward! PAN UP with it, as it penetrates the thunder clouds overhead and EXPLODES in a fireworks-like display of power and light!

CLOSE ON MEGATRON

Dubious.

~~ME~~ MEGATRON
Our enemy is on the ground, not in the sky!

Suddenly, however, there's a PEAL of THUNDER and a FLASH of LIGHTING!

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

As he, too, TRANSFORMS to humanoid robot mode.

SHRAPNEL

But our weapon is in the clouds,
and Bombshell's explosion has
brought it to us! **US!**

WIDE - CLOUDS

As THUNDER continues to roll, and LIGHTNING to flash (no rain)!

ANGLE - TRAILBREAKER AND WHEELJACK

While the battle's at a lull, the storm is certainly doing its best to fill in the gap! CONTINUED STORM SFX THROUGHOUT SEQUENCE. The two Autobots look at each other nervously.

TRAILBREAKER

What's goin' on?

WHEELJACK

I wish I knew!

WIDE - SHRAPNEL

He's standing alone...

SHRAPNEL

~~SHRAPNEL~~ **YOU WILL - NOW! NOW!**

And with that, the next LIGHTNING BOLT SIZZLES down to strike Shrapnel's antennae... and as the power CRACKLES all over his body, he holds up a hand, sending it back out in a stunning BOLT of PURE LIGHT!

SHRAPNEL
TASTE THE LIGHTNING, AUTOBOT FOOL! FOOL!

ANGLE - WHEELJACK & TRAILBREAKER

And the two of them are BLASTED by it! They're tumbled end over end, to SMASH into a chain-link fence!

WHEELJACK

(weakly)

~~WHEELJACK~~ **IT TASTES TERRIBLE!**

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

Another LIGHTNING BOLT hits him, and he once again channels its power out his hands in an awesome BLAST...

ANGLE - PRIME

Which SMASHES Prime off his feet as well!

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL II

And even Shrapnel's insect mode clone gets into the act! The next LIGHTNING BOLT hits his antennae, and he channels it out his eyes in PULSING BURSTS...

ANGLE - BRAWN, WINDCHARGER & IRONHIDE

Blasting Brawn, Windcharger, and Ironhide in quick succession! They all go down like felled trees!

ANGLE - MEGATRON

And the Decepticon leader's loving it!

MEGATRON
(Evil laughter) **MAGNIFICENT!**
~~Now that he's right for me!~~

ANGLE - BUMBLEBEE AND SPIKE

Still hiding amid the maze of pipes, they watch in horror.

BUMBLEBEE
There's gotta be something we can
do **BEFORE WE ALL GET FRIED!**

SPIKE
(thinking a moment)
There is! Bumblebee, you've
gotta ~~transform~~ **TRANSFORM.....**

And as Bumblebee starts to TRANSFORM...

ANGLE - PRIME

Struggles to his feet. He REACTS in horror as he sees...

PRIME
Spike, Bumblebee! ~~STAY BACK!~~ **STAY BACK!**

ON SPIKE AND BUMBLEBEE

Spike climbs into Bumblebee, and the little Autobot is ZOOMING off even before he's SLAMMED the door...

ANOTHER ANGLE

Straight towards Shrapnel!!!

PRIME (VO)(CONT)
You'll be destroyed!!!

DRAMATIC ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

As his antennae are hit another searing LIGHTNING BOLT, and he BLASTS it out with his hand...

SHRAPNEL

~~SHRAPNEL~~ PERISH, NOW! NOW!

REVERSE ANGLE

But when the ENERGY BLAST hits Bumblebee, nothing happens! The little Autobot keeps right on going...

SPIKE

(joyful)

We're still ~~SHRAPNEL~~ OKAY!

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

And the dumbfounded Shrapnel has to dodge out of the way!

SHRAPNEL

~~SHRAPNEL~~ WHAT WENT WRONG? WRONG?

INT. BUMBLEBEE

As Spike gets on the CB and let's everyone know...

SPIKE

Optimus, everyone... rubber tires ARE INSULATION!
~~SHRAPNEL~~ The lightning
 can't hurt you WHEN YOU'RE ROLLING ON THEM!

ANGLE - WHEELJACK

He brightens!

WHEELJACK

~~WHEELJACK~~ NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'!

WIDEN ANGLE as Sunstreaker and Sideswipe, now in auto-mode, SCREECH INTO SCENE.

~~SHRAPNEL~~ SIDESWIPEHop on, Wheel ~~SHRAPNEL~~ JACK!

And, as Wheeljack plants one foot on the roof of each, they ZOOM off, with him retaining a precarious balance!

~~SHRAPNEL~~ SUNSTREAKER!But watch ~~SHRAPNEL~~ MY ENAMEL!

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

Yet another LIGHTNING BOLT ZAPS him, and he sends his ENERGY BOLT out...

SHRAPNEL

No! You will not defeat Shrapnel! SHRAPNEL!

ANGLE - WHEELJACK

But when the bolt hits him... nothing happens!

WHEELJACK

~~WHEELJACK~~ BUG OFF, YOU INSECT-TWERP!

And with that, he BLASTS away with his own shoulder cannon...

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

And Shrapnel has to dodge...

SHRAPNEL

Oh no!!! NO!

WIDER as Prime, precariously balanced on the roofs of Brawn and Ironhide, ZOOMS past...

ANOTHER ANGLE

And the Insecticon Clone of Shrapnel, ZAPPED by more lighting, himself, FIRES away with his own PULSING BLASTS...

ANGLE - PRIME

But even though Prime is repeatedly hit, it has no effect on him or his "transport", and they keep right on rolling, as Prime shoulders his laser rifle, and fires a BLAST of his own...

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL II

And the Insecticon Clone has to dive out of the way!

ANGLE - MEGATRON

Disgusted, he makes his way towards the end of the splintered dock!

MEGATRON

So much for weapons from the sky!

~~MEGATRON~~ I HAVE THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON OF ALL FLOATING IN THE SEA!

And with that, he FIRES his fusion cannon into the still smouldering tanker...

ANGLE - TANKER

Setting it once more ablaze! FIRE SFX

WIDEN ANGLE as Megatron leaps into the sea to the stern of the tanker, and gives it a mighty shove, in the direction of the storage tanks of the refinery, nearest the shore!

MEGATRON

~~the Autobots will never know what~~
 UP, the Autobots will never know what
 hit them!

WHEN THE REFINERY GOES

ANGLE - PRIME, TRAILBREAKER & BRAWN - PANNING

Prime, still astride Brawn and Trailbreaker's auto-transforms,
 sees what's going on...

PRIME

The tanker!

And leaps O.S.! There's an O.S. SPLASH

ANGLE - SEA

As Prime lands in the sea, to block the forward surging ship
 with his mighty body (SFX: CLANG) and he then rolls the ship
 over, so it (and he) completely disappear underwater, and the
 FIRE HISSES OUT!

ANGLE - LAND

Meanwhile, as Trailbreaker TRANSFORMS to humanoid robot form...

SPIKE (VO)

Trailbreaker! Help!!!

ANGLE - SPIKE & BUMBLEBEE

As the three Insecticon Clones, Bombshell II, Shrapnel II, and
 Kickback II, are rapidly converging on them!

SPIKE (CONT)

Use your forcefield ~~to protect~~!
 It's our only chance!

ANGLE - TRAILBREAKER

As he immediately complies, and the concentric rings of his
 forcefield radiate out...

TRAILBREAKER

You've got it, Spike!

ANGLE - INSECTICON CLONES, SPIKE & BUMBLEBEE

Surrounding the Insecticon Clones...

ANGLE - SHRAPNEL

While there's a sudden SHORT-CIRCUIT-like SPARKING in the real
 Shrapnel's antennae, and then nothing!

SHRAPNEL

~~SHRAPNEL~~ He's cut off my control
beam! Our clones are doomed! **DOOMED!**

ANGLE - INSECTICON CLONES

And, sure enough, without this control, just as they were about to get to Spike and Bumblebee, they fall apart into CLANGING hunks of scrap (the material from which they were made) instead!

ON SPIKE AND BUMBLEBEE

What a relief!

SPIKE

Whew! ~~SHRAPNEL~~ **WE MADE IT!**

ANGLE - MEGATRON

Still shoulder deep in the water, he raises his fusion cannon and aims at our human hero!

MEGATRON

~~Indecent exposure cannon, you~~ **NOT YET, YOU**
~~SHRAPNEL~~ **PUNY HUMAN....**

But before he can shoot...

ANOTHER ANGLE

The wrecked tanker suddenly reappears from under the water, as Prime, in a magnificent display of strength, hurls it at the Decepticon leader...

PRIME

~~Wouldn't you like to see this?~~
~~SHRAPNEL~~ **MEGATRON - CATCH!**

ANGLE - MEGATRON

And Megatron takes the full force of the tanker CRASHING down on him before he can fire... and both disappear beneath the lapping waves! SPLASHING SFX

ANGLE - INSECTICONS

Witnessing this, the three "true" Insecticons, Kickback, Shrapnel, and Bombshell quickly TRANSFORM to insect mode...

BOMBHELL

Maybe we've ~~chosen the wrong~~ **PICKED THE WRONG**
~~allies~~ **ALLIES, SHRAPNEL.**

SHRAPNEL

~~SHRAPNEL~~ **WE INSECTICONS NEED NO**
ALLIES. WE SHALL PRESERVE OURSELVES. SELVES.

ANGLE - ENERCON CUBES

The rainbow-glowing energon cubes have been left unattended during the battle... but now the Insecticons WHIR INTO SCENE!

~~WE~~ KICKBACK ~~WE~~ ^{SO} let's
eat it and get out of here!

And with that, the three of them start engulfing the glowing cubes...

ANGLE - MEGATRON

He rises once again amid the wreckage of the ship, to see...

MEGATRON
(sputtering mad)
The traitors! We befriended them
and now...

HIS POV

As the Insecticons are consuming the last of the glowing energon cubes!

MEGATRON (VO)(CONT)
THEY STEAL OUR ~~ENERGON~~ ^{power source!}

WIDE

As the Decepticons, hearing his shrieks, look up...

MEGATRON (VO)(CONT)
Forget the Autobots...

ANGLE - INSECTICONS

Having eaten all the cubes, and fairly glowing with energy, the three Insecticons exchange looks... and Shrapnel uses one of his six legs to point skyward!

SHRAPNEL
~~INSECTICONS~~ ^{INSECTICONS, FLY! FLY!}

Thanks to their super-charged energy meal, the three of them fairly STREAK skywards!

DRAMATIC ANGLE - MEGATRON

Livid with rage

MEGATRON (CONT)
AND DESTROY THE INSECTICONS!

WIDE

And with that, the various Decepticons and their leader zoom off in hot pursuit of the "traitors", the Autobots totally forgotten!

ANGLE - SPIKE & BUMBLEBEE

And the littlest Autobot TRANSFORMS into humanoid robot form, to better watch their departing foes!

BUMBLEBEE

For once, I wish Megatron the best of luck!

WIDEN ANGLE to include the rest of the Autobots watching as well.

PRIME

Unfortunately for us, the Insecticons are Decepticons, too...

WHEELJACK

And with the same engineering, they won't stay enemies for long!

CLOSE ON PRIME

Thoughtful.

PRIME (CONT)

Very true, Wheeljack! They'll be back, but when they return...

ANGLE - BUMBLEBEE & SPIKE

BUMBLEBEE

They'd better watch out...

SPIKE

Cause we'll be ready for 'em!

WIDEN ANGLE as Prime gently pats Spike on the back, and our little hero beams under the praise...

PRIME

Spoken like a true Autobot, Spike!

SPIKE

Gee, do you really mean it?

ANGLE - WHEELJACK

Grinning.

WHEELJACK

Just say the word and I'll design a
vehicle transform ~~anyway~~ for you!
Maybe a motorcycle! Now that would be
something new!

ON SPIKE

He looks at himself...

SPIKE

(suddenly kind of worried at
the prospect of gaining a
new vehicular body!)

Uh... maybe we'd better wait
until I'm old enough to drive!

WIDEN to include his grinning Autobot pals.

WHEELJACK

You've got yourself a deal!

FADE OUT

THE END