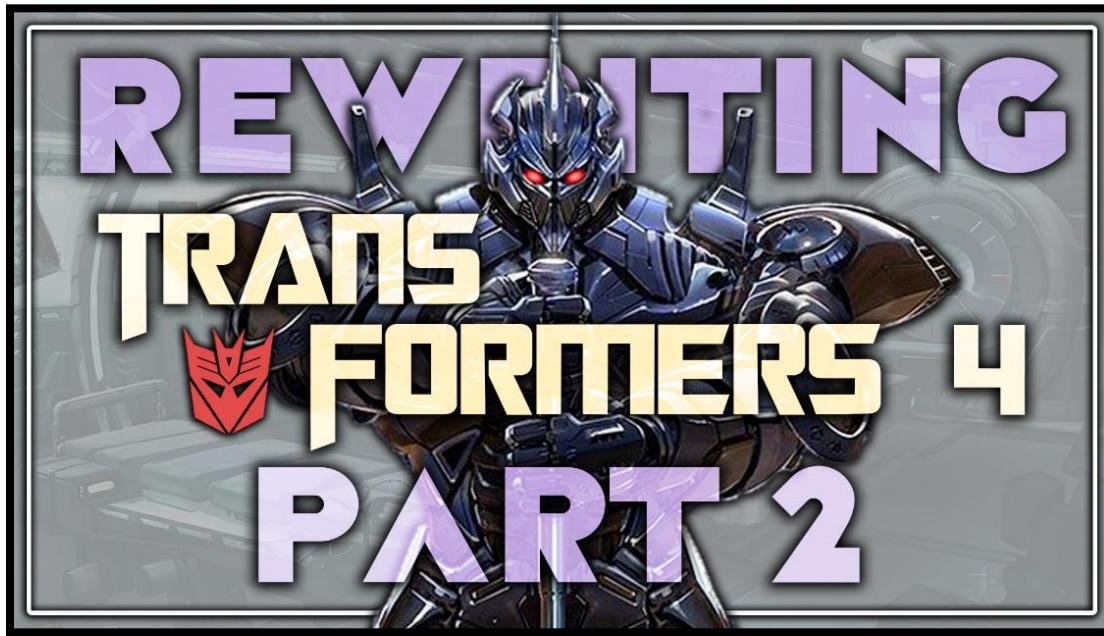


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REWRITING TRANSFORMERS 4

PART 2 SCRIPT



INTRO: What's up guys! Welcome back to my rewrite for *Transformers: Age of Extinction*. Today, we're going to be looking at Part 2 (out of 3) of this rewrite. In the last script, which was Part 1, we covered everything that happened in Act 1 of this new version of the story. Naturally, this Part 2 script will cover Act 2 of the film. If you guys don't remember what happened in Part 1, here is a quick recap to get you guys caught up. If you don't need the recap, you can go ahead and skip over to the next chapter in this document, titled "ACT 2A – THE PROMISE OF THE PREMISE".

RECAP: In Part 1, we learned that 12 years have passed since the end of *Transformers 3*. N.E.S.T. has been reformed into Earth Defense Command, known as E.D.C. for short. They are being led by a new, ruthless director named Gregory Swofford, with Colonel Lennox serving as his second-in-command, and their mission is to hunt down and terminate any and all Cybertronians, regardless of affiliation. Lockdown the bounty hunter has made a deal with E.D.C. and in exchange for helping them track down and kill Cybertronian fugitives, Director Swofford has agreed to give Lockdown a Cybertronian relic. For helping them find and kill Ratchet, Lockdown was awarded the Fallen's Staff. Swofford doesn't know why Lockdown's employers want these artifacts, but he plans on killing Lockdown once the bounty hunter's usefulness has run its course.

Meanwhile, over in Texas, we learn that Spike and Carly have been living in hiding with Chip at his family's ranch, working with fake identities for the past 12 years. They now have a 12-year-old son named Daniel, whom they've been homeschooling and secretly passing on Cybertronian lore to. Chip and the Witwickies have been sheltering Optimus Prime beneath the ranch's barn for some time now, allowing the Autobot leader to remain in stasis to prevent detection. But when Daniel discovers the truck in the basement and accidentally activates it, Optimus awakens, and it draws both Lockdown and E.D.C. to the ranch. A fight breaks out as

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everyone tries to make a run for it. The Witwickies manage to escape in mech suits that Chip built for them, but Chip was unfortunately caught in the crossfire between Optimus and Lockdown's duel and was killed.

Optimus sends out an S.O.S. to all remaining Cybertronians on Earth, and the old team reassembles as Prime and the Witwickies rendezvous with Bumblebee, Arcee, Ironhide, Steeljaw, and Shockwave, who is the last surviving Decepticon on Earth. The group is introduced to a new Autobot scout named Hot Rod, who crash landed on Earth during the 12-year gap. Apparently, Hot Rod had fallen for a trap laid by E.D.C. and has been on the run since. A funeral is held for Chip as Optimus brainstorms a plan to find a ship and safely fly his people off Earth.

Ok, now that we got that squared away, let's move to the next part of the rewrite.

ACT 2A – THE PROMISE OF THE PREMISE:

Spike is the Action Hero Archetype: Spike will ask Carly to help him clean himself up since he now doesn't have to worry about maintaining a disguise. She'll cut Spike's hair back down to its normal short length using a knife, and Spike will likewise trim his wild, bushy beard down to either a close-cropped beard or a stubble. Spike shouldn't be clean-shaven anymore in this sequel trilogy, and here's why. Spike's scruffier character design needs to match the bleaker and more depressing tone of the sequel trilogy. Even though it is a thing of the past to have modern day action heroes grow moustaches, I think Shia LaBeouf being the living meme and trend-setter that he could've pull off an action hero moustache for this movie. If not, we could've just had the sequel trilogy version of Spike follow the 2010s trend of having male protagonists sport full beards. Either way, Spike still has his facial hair.

Spike Cutting His Hair



Ideas for Spike's New Look



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In the original *Transformers* trilogy, Spike was portrayed as an Action Survivor, an archetype where a character is completely inexperienced in heroics, fighting, and adventuring. They barely survive the action that takes place in the story through the mere skin of their teeth. Usually only making it out alive because they are either very creative and resourceful, or they are incredibly lucky, or because they adapt and grow into an archetype that is the complete opposite of the Action Survivor known as the Action Hero. After his character arc in our rewrite of *Transformers 3*, Spike will have made that transition from being the Action Survivor to being the Action Hero of the *Transformers* franchise. One of the things I really liked about *The Last Knight* was how Cade was portrayed as this badass vigilante and freedom fighter who lived in hiding with the Autobots and fought with them side-by-side before returning back to their hideout Robin Hood-style. Cade totally fits the bill as a Michael Bay Action Hero, and I want Spike to fill that role for this rewrite of the Bayverse sequel trilogy.

Spike's Evolution into the Action Hero



In the 12 years that we skipped over in our time jump, Spike has become a much more rugged and weathered person. Living as a fugitive, cut off from his old life, and constantly looking over his shoulder and worrying about his family has worn Spike out. When we are reintroduced to him in *Transformers 4*, he's much rougher around the edges than we remember him. He's a bit more pessimistic than he was when he was younger, but he also has his wife and son to keep his faith grounded.

Spike's son Daniel will take inspiration from John Connor in *T2: Judgement Day* as the young street rat who is eager to leave his boring life of isolation. Despite his parents' history, Daniel experienced a relatively safe and normal childhood. Except he was never allowed to go to school, having to be homeschooled his entire life to help maintain his family's cover.

The Tour: Swofford will visit Morgan at Hybrid Technologies headquarters to inspect the progress of the army Morgan promised him – as per the terms of their partnership. Swofford used E.D.C.'s resources to help Morgan find the AllSpark, and in return, Hybrid Technologies builds the American government its own private army of Transformers. Morgan insists that he has held up his end of the bargain as Dr. Fujiyama, Hybrid's lead scientist, leads them on a tour through the facility. Since Ken Watanabe was already a member of this film's original cast, I would keep him for this rewrite but cast him as Dr. Fujiyama.

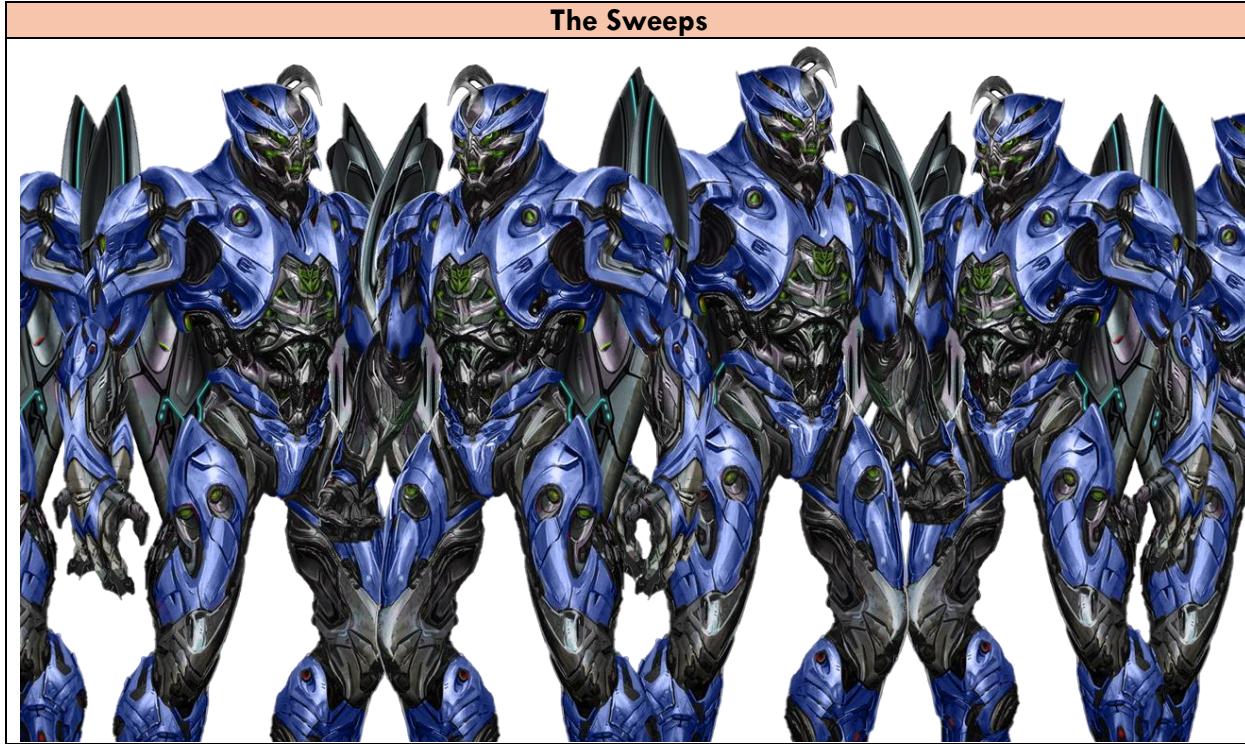
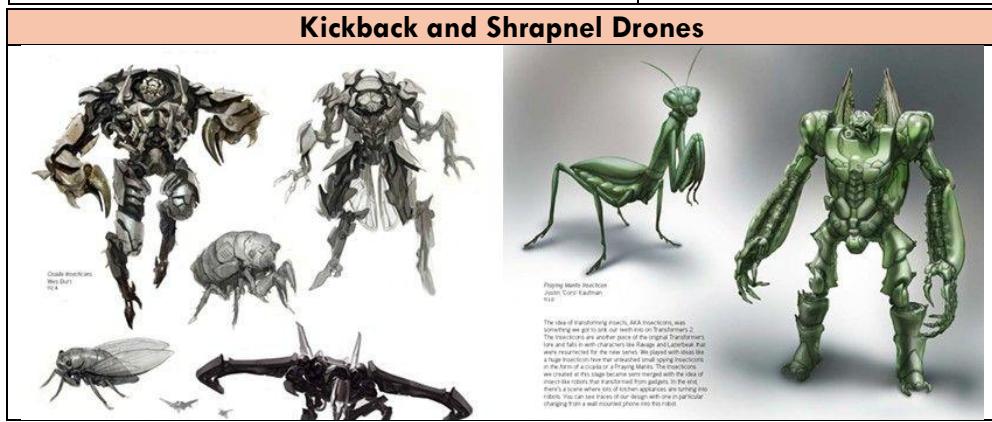
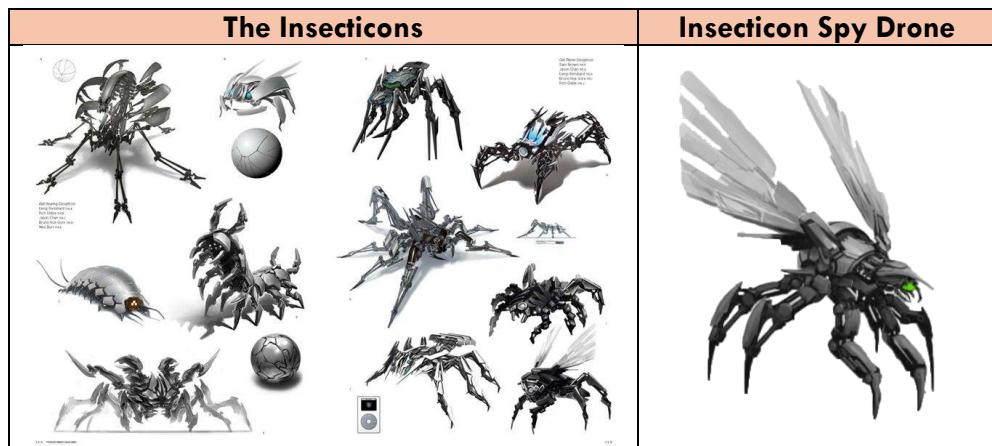
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Dr. Fujiyama	Morgan giving Swofford a tour.
	

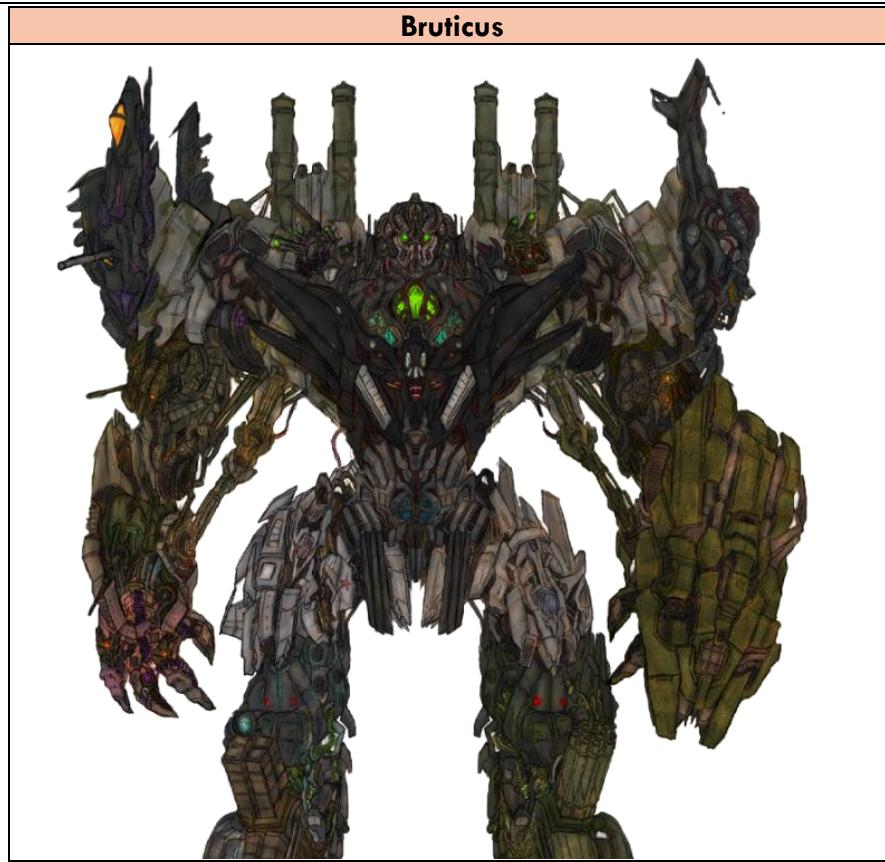
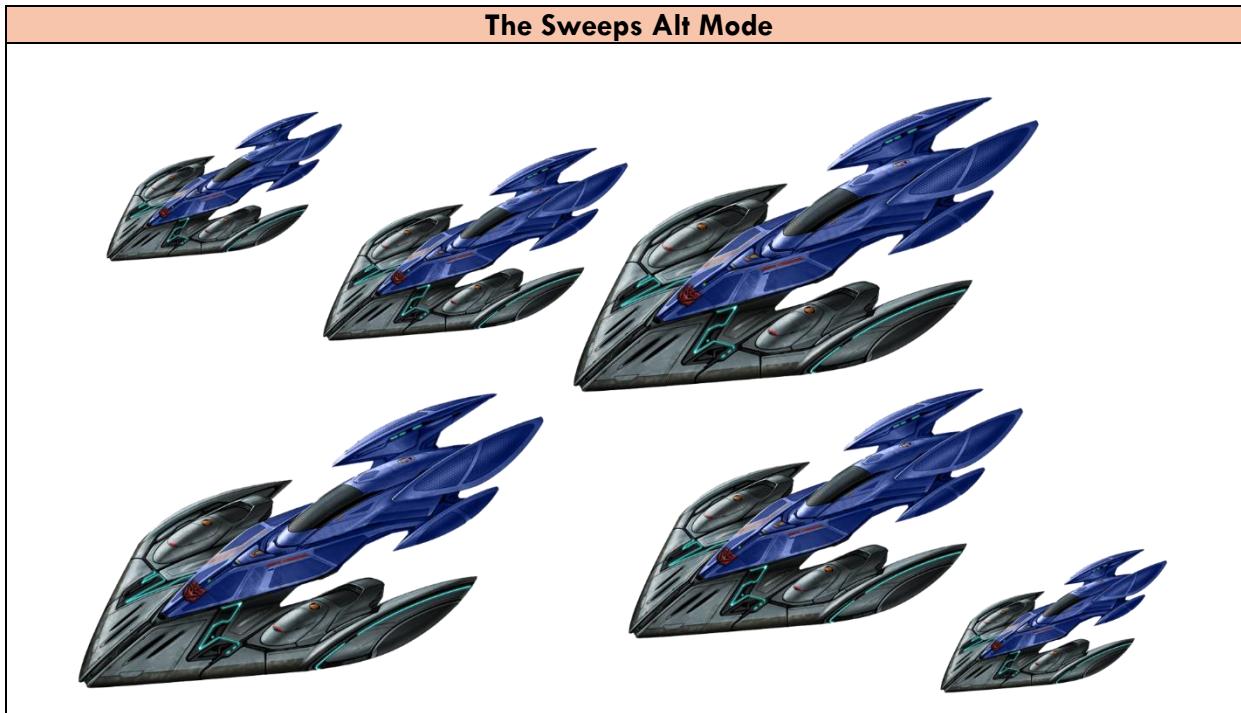
Morgan and Fujiyama will show off the Nightbird and Insecticon models for stealth and infiltration, the Combaticons that can combine into Bruticus as their heavy infantry, and finally, their Cyclonus and Sweeps models as their air support. The Sweeps will be Hybrid's answer to the Seekers and Nightbird will replace Stinger from the original film. Unlike Morgan, Dr. Fujiyama respects and admires the Cybertronians, and does not harbor any hatred towards the Autobots like most humans. Like his G1 counterpart, Dr. Fujiyama will reveal that the Nightbird model was his design and personal achievement. He replaces Su Yeming in the film and helps liaison with the Chinese factory Hybrid Technologies uses to build the artificial Transformers.

Nightbird	Cyclonus
	

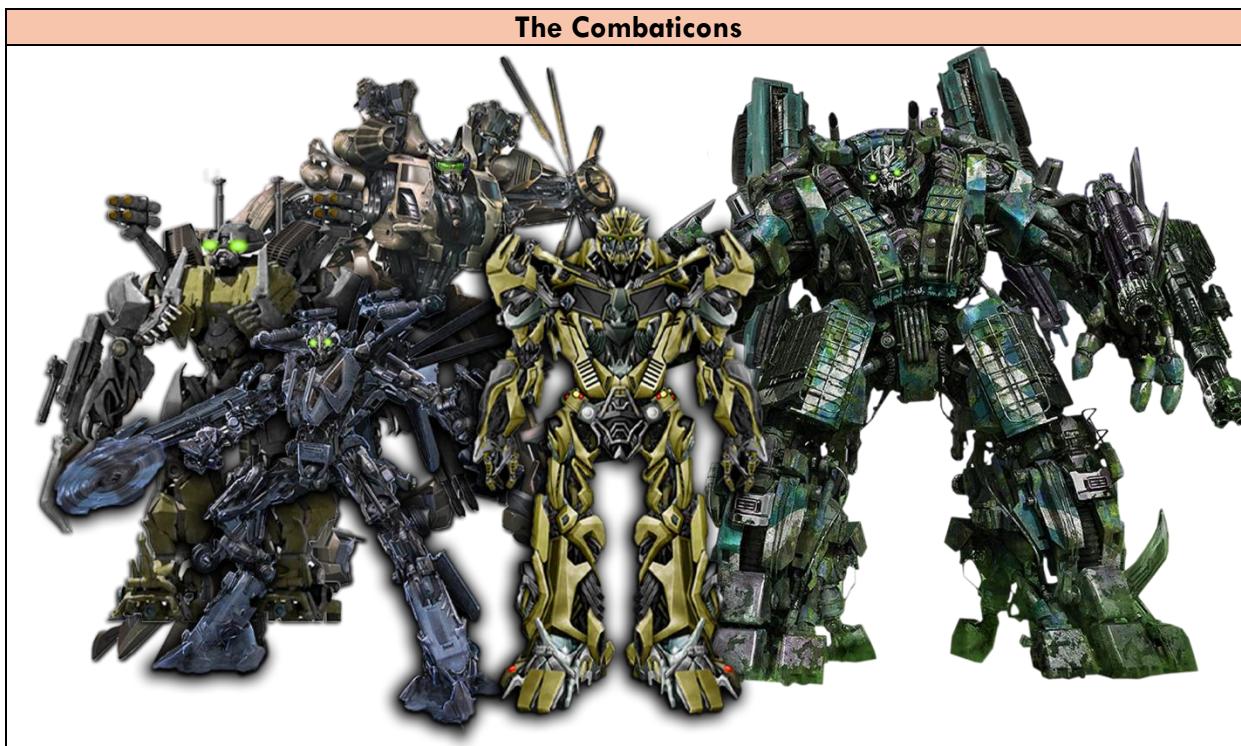
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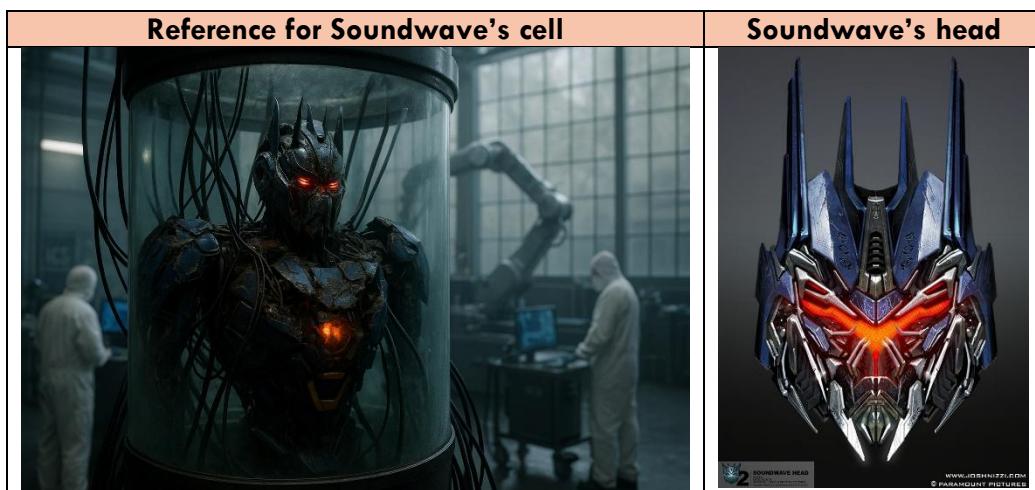
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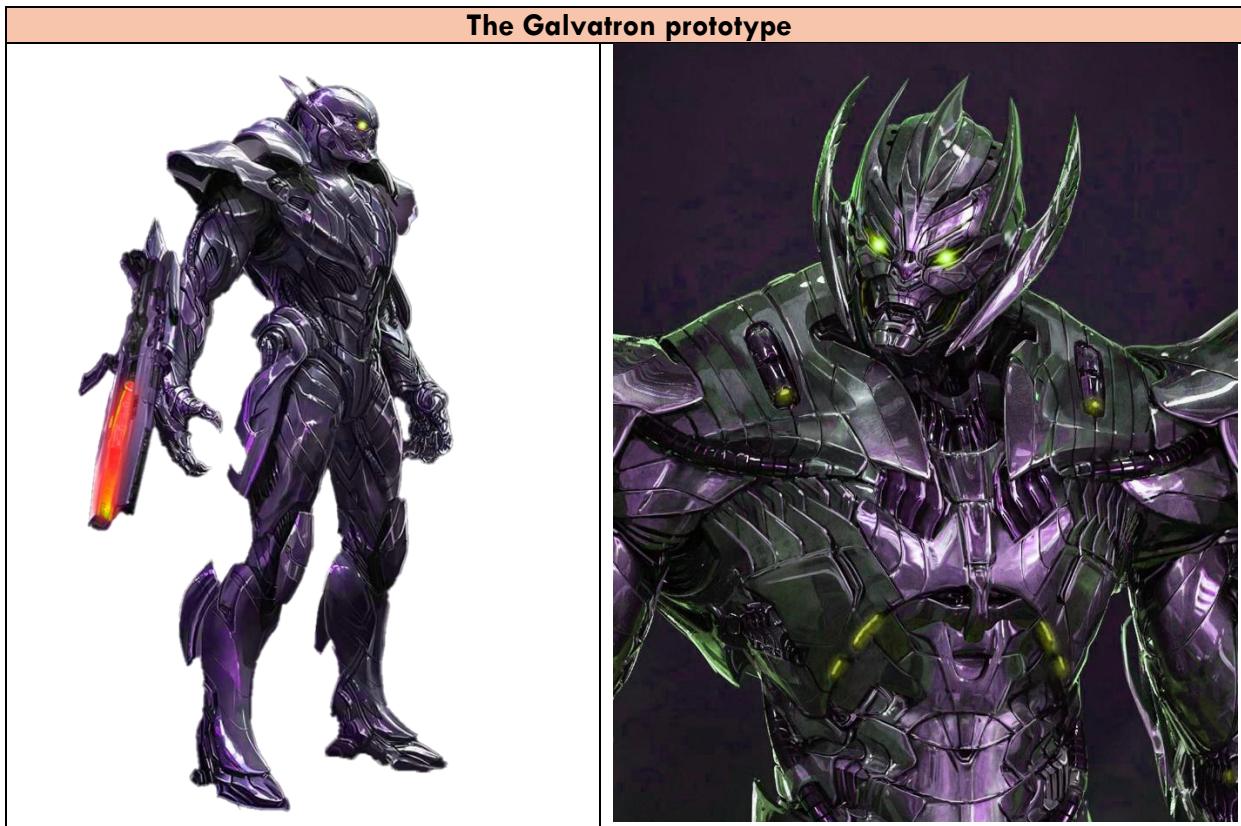
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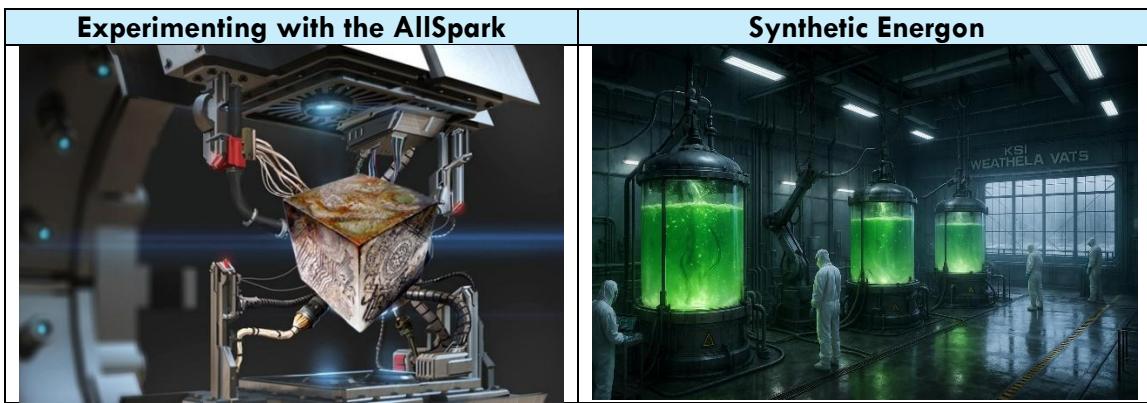
Morgan then shows the battered Soundwave to Swofford, explaining that the crippled Decepticon has been translating all of the data from the AllSpark and helping them create this new wave of Cybertronians through Soundwave's knowledge of Cybertronian biology. Essentially, Soundwave replaced Brains and assumed his role from the original film. All that is left of Soundwave is his head and a portion of his chest that is suspended in a tank with tubes plugged into him. Hybrid Technologies' latest project shows the most promise though. A prototype they are calling Galvatron. They are hoping that this Galvatron model can be Earth's answer to Optimus Prime and serve as the champion of Hybrid Technologies' army. As Morgan puts it, "this is the face of America's new hero!"



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Compelled by his curiosity, Swofford will ask Fujiyama what fuel he is using for his Transformers since all of the Energon refineries were shut down after the Autobot Alien Cooperation Act was repealed. As his answer, Dr. Fujiyama leads his guests to another area of the factory where pools of green liquid swirl in vats. Morgan reveals that they've created a synthetic form of Energon to power their robots, hence the unusual green color of the synthetic Energon and why their bots have green eyes. Morgan makes a quick sidenote warning to Swofford that he's already trademarked and patented the synthetic Energon just in case his government buddies get any ideas about using it. As Morgan says, "Green is the color of the Earth, and that's what we're here for. To protect her". Swofford raises an eyebrow skeptically as he takes another puff from his cigarette, "Is that so?". Morgan will smile smugly as he recites his company's slogan, "We make the world".

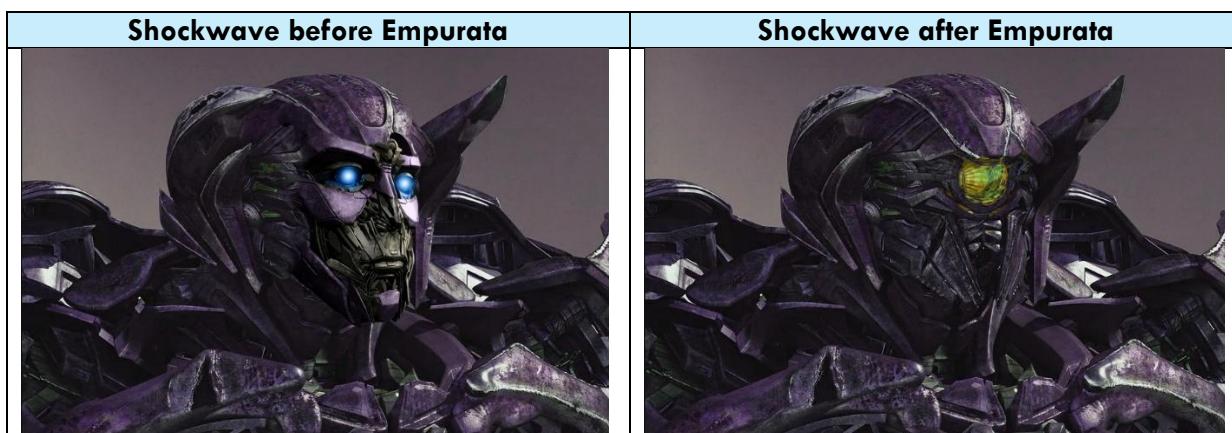


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Quick side note, in *Age of Extinction*, the metal that the Cybertronians are made out of is referred to as “Transformium”. But for this rewrite, the metal will instead be referred to as “Trilithium”.

Shockwave's Past: While Carly is staking out Hybrid Technologies, everyone will avoid standing too close to Shockwave. Daniel notices all of the glares of disgust and he curiously approaches the Decepticon scientist, inquiring about Shockwave's unique appearance and lack of personality in comparison to the rest of the Cybertronians. In a flat and unemotional voice, Shockwave will reveal that his modified form and mannerisms are a result of being a prisoner of war and a victim of torture. During the Prime War, Shockwave had been a scientist and a strategist under the Primes, and his excellent battle plans and tactics had cost the Fallen several crippling defeats, earning the hatred of the Prime of Lies. One day, Shockwave found himself captured by the Fallen's Dreadbots. When Shockwave refused to betray his allies and give up any valuable intelligence, he was tortured and subjected to a process known as Empurata.

When Daniel asks what Empurata is, Shockwave will answer that it is an ancient punishment on Cybertron reserved for criminals where the criminal's hands and heads are surgically removed and replaced with new deformed heads and fingerless prosthetics so that everyone would know to shun the criminal. Over time, Empurata was deemed an unethical practice and outlawed across all of Cybertron, but there were those who still practiced the old tradition in secret, such as the Fallen and his henchmen. By the time the Primes came to rescue Shockwave, it was too late. Shockwave's face had been replaced with a monstrous cyclopean head with fangs and horns, his hands had been replaced with claws, and the emotional centers of his circuitry had been cut out, permanently changing his entire personality, and turning Shockwave into an emotionless husk.



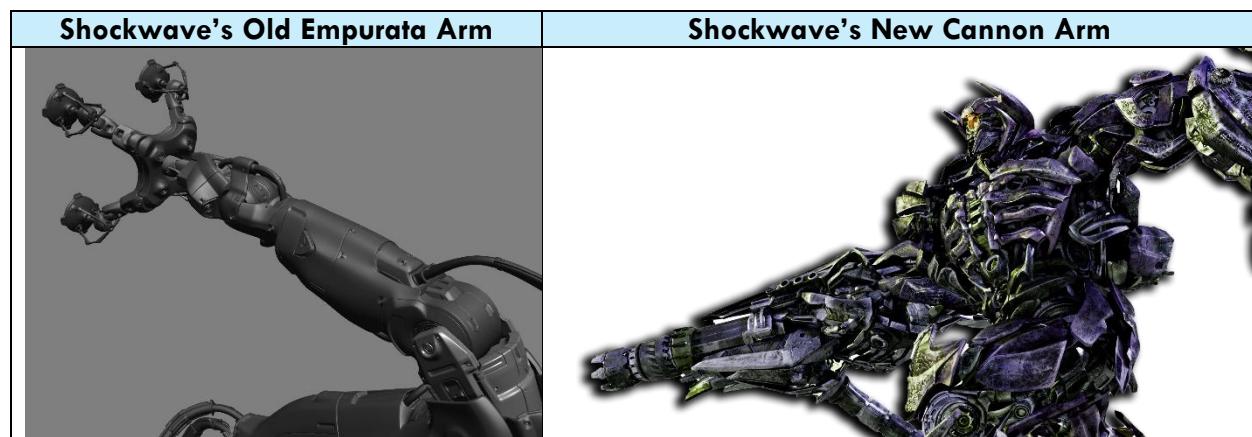
Daniel will comment on how horrible that experience must have been for Shockwave, but the Decepticon scientist will reply that the modifications have provided him with a deeper clarity than he ever had before. He's no longer held back by emotions such as guilt, pity, fear or even love. He can achieve whatever scientific breakthrough he wants without fear of a conscience holding him back.

Optimus will shake his head at hearing this, and state that he regrets not being able to save Shockwave in time, but Arcee vehemently insists that Shockwave doesn't deserve Optimus' pity. The Witwickies will become taken back by this sudden spite from Arcee, and in a voice shaken with grief and passion, Arcee will inform the humans that after the Prime War, Shockwave

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began kidnapping and experimenting on the female Cybertronians because he found their evolution to be a fascinating development. Because of Shockwave, many FemBots from Arcee's colony were brutalized and traumatized beyond repair, which is why Arcee is the last of her kind. Shockwave offers no apology because all of the horrors he enacted on the female bots was for the sake of science and progress. Any practical being could recognize the logical necessity behind Shockwave's actions.

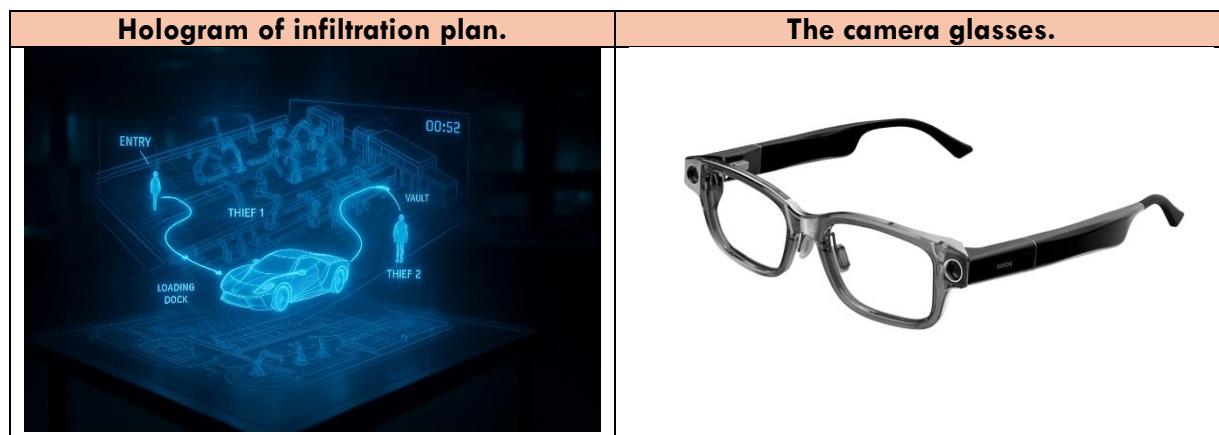
Shockwave will add that he had been arrested for his crimes, but when the civil war between the Autobots and Decepticons started, Megatron freed Shockwave from prison in exchange for his scientific genius. The leader of the Decepticons not only restored Shockwave's mangled limbs with regular arms and hands, but he also upgraded them with weapons; installing an ion cannon as well as a shield that emits shockwaves. When Arcee insults Shockwave and tells him that he doesn't deserve to live after all the evil he's done. Shockwave will then tell her, "All life is equal. I merely assign it a quantifiable value...zero". Arcee screams, "Well since your life is so meaningless, I'll do you the favor of ending it!". Arcee will launch herself at Shockwave, but Bumblebee will hold her back and Optimus will intervene and break up the fight.



Carly Goes Undercover: Out of the three humans in the Witwicky family, it is decided that Carly has the best chance of remaining undetected thanks to her makeover. So, she takes Cade's place in the original film as the spy who sneaks into Hybrid Technologies to locate Hot Rod's ship. Shockwave will orchestrate a plan for the team, generating a holographic schematic of Hybrid's HQ as he explains the strategy to them. Carly and Daniel will pose as car dealers who are bringing in a vehicle for scanning. They will drive Hot Rod into the building's garage, and from there they will split up. Daniel will stay with Hot Rod in the garage while Carly will disguise herself as a scientist and sneak into the lab.

Shockwave will provide Carly with a pair of glasses that are basically like Smart Glasses since Shockwave has modified them to have micro cameras installed inside of them that feed directly to Hot Rod. By being Hot Rod's eyes, Carly will help Hot Rod locate his pod. Once they confirm the ship's location, Carly will discard her disguise, return to Daniel and Hot Rod in the garage, and then rendezvous with the rest of the team in the parking garage for Hybrid's employees. From there, they will all wait for the cover of night so that the entire Autobot team can disable security, sneak in, and steal Hot Rod's pod before anyone knows what is happening. Thankfully, Hybrid Technologies is not equipped with any Energon detectors like most E.D.C. facilities. Shockwave hypothesizes that Hybrid must be manufacturing their own Energon, hence the need to remove the sensors.

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This forces Spike to stay behind with the rest of the Autobots while Carly, Daniel and Hot Rod execute the mission. Both Spike and Bee will be anxious, worried that their respective teammates will be harmed. Spike will nervously bounce his leg as he sits inside Bee, prompting his old friend to reassure him in an attempt to ease his nerves. Bee admits that he is nervous that Hot Rod will do something reckless and stupid that will blow their cover, a fear that Spike shares. Yet, Spike's concern is doubled since if Hot Rod compromises the mission, it's Carly and Daniel who will get caught in the crossfire. Spike voices his disapproval of sending Daniel in with Carly. Where Carly received training and knows how to defend herself, Daniel is just a kid, and he doesn't know what he's doing or how to take care of himself. Spike confesses that his son is a very bright and intelligent kid and that he gets the brains from Carly, but Daniel doesn't have any common sense or street smarts. He almost burnt down the house making scrambled eggs one time. Hell, Daniel is still afraid of the dark. What's he going to do if he gets in trouble? Bee reminds Spike that the whole reason why they allowed Daniel to join Carly was so that it would help add to Carly's façade as a private car dealer. "Think of it as a 'bring your kid to work day'", Bee will say.

Daniel Vents: We'll cut back and forth between the two conversations where Spike is venting to Bumblebee about Daniel, and Daniel is venting to Carly about his dad. While sitting inside Hot Rod and waiting to get checked in at the gate for scanning, Daniel will complain to his mom about how Spike is always controlling him and never trusts him enough to try new things on his own. His dad is constantly holding his hand and babying him, and Daniel knows he could do so much more if he was allowed to reach his full potential.

This version of Daniel for this rewrite will take inspiration from John Connor in *T2: Judgement Day* as the young street rat who is eager to leave his boring life of isolation. Despite his parents' history as fugitives, Daniel experienced a relatively safe and normal childhood. Except he was never allowed to go to school, having to be homeschooled his entire life to help maintain his family's cover. So, he feels like he's being treated like a baby.

Carly reminds her son that even though he's very smart and mature for his age, he's still only 12-years-old. He's not an adult yet and can't make his own decisions. Spike is overprotective towards Daniel because he genuinely loves him and is afraid of losing him the same way they lost Uncle Chip. Daniel gets upset at the mention of Chip, and in a choked voice, he asks his mom if it's his fault that Chip died. Carly's eyes widen with alarm as Daniel has a full-on emotional meltdown and cries that if he hadn't gone down to the basement and found Optimus, none of this would've happened. The government wouldn't have found them. Chip would still be alive, and they'd all be

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at home, happy and alive. But Daniel ruined all of that. Carly reaches across the seat and hugs her son tightly, comforting him and reassuring him that what happened wasn't his fault at all. He didn't know any better.

"Hey, uhh...I don't mean to interrupt uhhh...whatever this is, but uh...", Hot Rod will say through the radio just as he's about to pull up to the gate. Daniel quickly pulls himself together and wipes his tears as Carly shows the guard her badge. The guard will notice Daniel crying and ask, "everything alright, ma'am?" A comedic moment will follow as Carly's inner mom will come out. She leans out the window and whispers, "he's having a really hard day. There's this girl from school and he asked her to go to the dance with him. He had the whole shebang: candy, flowers, but...y'know, things didn't go as planned". "MOM!", Daniel will call out in rage, more so from the embarrassing inaccuracy than anything else. The guard will nod in understanding, "I gotcha. I have one at home around the same age". Carly will then lean closer to the guard and whisper even quieter, "Actually, do you happen to have any lollipops or anything? That usually makes him feel better". The guard reaches into his pocket, "Uhh...all I got is some gum". "I'll take it", Carly says with a smile as she accepts the stick of gum and mouths the words "thank you" before handing the gum to her offended son. "Chin up, son", the guard will call out to Daniel as Hot Rod pulls forward through the gate. Daniel just gives his mom a death glare.

Hot Rod's Insecurities: We'll still have the same scene where Morgan will pause the tour when he walks in on the saboteurs and mistaking them for employees, will berate them for bringing in a low-quality car for scanning (we can tell Hot Rod gets offended by this). After going on about how they are poets who make works of art, Morgan will move on and resume the tour. Swofford will remain in the distance, and we can see that he squints at Carly with uncertainty before his concentration is broken by Morgan, who redirects him to continue on with the tour. This will then free up Carly to move on with phase 2 of the plan, switching out her outfit for a Hybrid scientist's coat, pulling her hair back in a professional style, and placing Shockwave's micro camera glasses on her face. She hugs Daniel and tells him to wish her luck before she departs for the lab.



Daniel will exhale in frustration as he crosses his arms moodily and leans back against Hot Rod. "So, uh...that was hella awkward", Hot Rod exclaims. "Excuse me?!", Daniel says as he turns to face the car. "Did I stutter?", the scout snaps back.

Daniel: "What's your problem?"

Hot Rod: "You, and your cringy-ass attitude. It's hurting my style. I can literally feel my paint chipping off from how pathetic you are."

Daniel: "What's so cringy about me loving my mom?"

Hot Rod: "Not that! I'm talking about your whole episode back at the gate, dipshit."

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“Oh...”, Daniel mumbles as recognition dawns on him.

Hot Rod: “My God, I thought I was going to die from secondhand embarrassment. Is that what you skinjobs do whenever you get sad? You leak all over the place?”

Daniel crosses his arms again and turns away, “Whatever. Just because I actually have a family, and you don’t.”

Hot Rod scoffs, “Ok, beta male”.

Daniel: “No wonder why the rest of the Autobots don’t like you. You’re just a douche bag”.

Hot Rod: “Tough talk from someone who was just crying their eyes out three seconds ago”.

Daniel will respond by kicking Hot Rod’s fender, leaving a noticeable mark.

“Oh, Hell no”, Hot Rod says in annoyance as he proceeds to transform and tower over Daniel, raising his fist in preparation to squish him, “Try that one more time. I dare you.”, he snarls.

Daniel and Hot Rod argue.



Daniel cowers at first but finds his courage as he slowly straightens his posture and stares down Hot Rod. “No”, Daniel replies defiantly.

“What?”, Hot Rod asks in confusion.

“Did I stutter?”, snaps back Daniel, “I said no. You’re a bully, and bullies only pick on other people because they’re insecure about themselves.”

“Oh, really?”, Hot Rod asks as he stands up to his full height and proudly strikes a heroic pose, “And what do I have to be insecure about? I mean, look at me. I’m the most badass thing in this entire building.”

Daniel: “Name one cool thing that you’ve actually done since you got here on Earth.”

Hot Rod: “I kicked Bumblebee’s ass.”

Daniel laughs, “No, you didn’t. If Ironhide hadn’t broken up that fight, Bee would’ve smoked you.”

Hot Rod scoffs, “Whatever”.

The sound of footsteps and voices are heard nearby, and Daniel prompts Hot Rod to hurry up and transform back into a car. “Why? So you can cry all over my seats again?”, the Autobot asks mockingly.

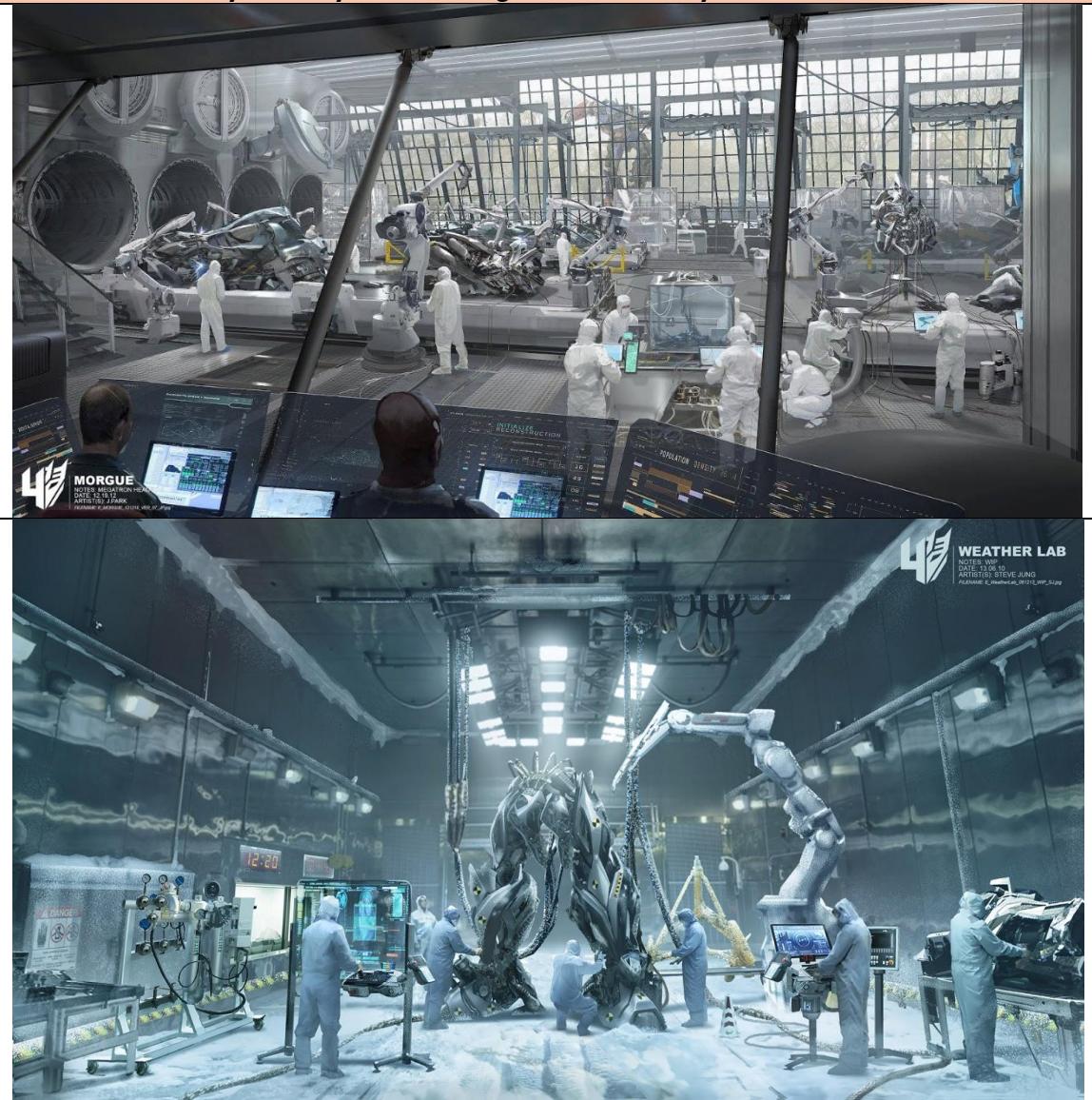
“So we don’t blow our cover, you idiot!”, Daniel hisses urgently. Hot Rod rolls his eyes before complying and allowing Daniel to climb in the passenger seat, remaining incognito as a group of employees obviously pass them by.

Carly is Exposed: The rest of the infiltration scene will play out the same way that it does in the original film, with Carly sneaking through the lab and providing Hot Rod with a live feed from the micro camera in her glasses. She discovers that Hybrid is building their own army of

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artificial Transformers. If this army becomes operational before the Autobots get a chance to escape Earth, it'll doom them all. None of them will stand a chance.

Carly sees Hybrid building their own army of Transformers.



A quick side note before we continue; Shockwave will replace Drift as our triple changer for this film, possessing both car and aircraft modes. As the mission inside Hybrid progresses, Shockwave will be monitoring the footage in his alt mode as he hovers above the clouds, disguised as an unmanned tiltrotor.

When Carly spots the Galvatron prototype, Shockwave finds it intriguing and begins murmuring to himself as he begins rationalizing theories in his head. The rest of the bots – especially Arcee – react with heavy judgement as they think Shockwave has a screw loose since he's clearly overthinking one simple Galvatron model. They can't see what's so special about Galvatron. But Shockwave decides to keep it to himself and refuses to elaborate more as Carly

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continues her search. She also finds out that the AllSpark is under Hybrid's custody, and the stakes of the mission have increased tenfold.

In their alt modes, the Autobots frantically discuss and theorize how the humans were able to get their hands on the AllSpark. Optimus confesses that when they all went into hiding after the Battle of Washington, he hid several of the Cybertronian artifacts like the AllSpark and the Fallen's Staff in the deepest recesses of the planet for safekeeping. He had hoped that by separating the AllSpark and the Staff from the Apex Axe and the Star Saber, it would throw off the E.D.C. and make it difficult for them to track the energy signatures of the various artifacts. Optimus had hidden the AllSpark deep in the Arctic, and the Staff had been buried underwater in the Marianas Trench. But it appears that Optimus' plan failed, as Lockdown currently has the Staff and Hybrid is in possession of the AllSpark. Optimus beats himself up as he adds his miscalculated error of hiding the artifacts to his list of failures. Bee reassures Optimus that there was no way Optimus could've known and he tried his best, so there's no point in wasting time "crying over spilled milk" as the humans say. All they can do now is move forward and ensure they retrieve the AllSpark.

Shockwave's aircraft form.	Optimus explains how he hid the relics.
	

The rest of the bots steel their resolve and sharpen their focus thanks to the pep talk Bee just gave them. What Carly doesn't know is that Shockwave and the rest of the Autobots are also watching the live feed. So, when Carly spots the scientists melting down Ratchet's head, it leads to Optimus flying into a rage just like he does in the original version.

Ratchet's head is melted down.	Optimus flies into a rage.
	

Even though he's just as distraught as the rest of them, Bee tries to stop Optimus from blowing Carly's cover. He tries to talk Optimus down and reason with him, his words being reinforced by Shockwave, who insists that a premature attack would compromise the entire

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mission. But it's too late. The Autobots are all arguing back and forth at each other while in their car modes, with Bee driving after Optimus in an attempt to stop him. Ironhide on the other hand, is feeding into Optimus' bloodlust since he reacts with the same amount of outrage as Prime, eager to shed some blood. Arcee, meanwhile, is unsure what to do as she just tries to quell the argument and get the entire team to stop and listen long enough to get along. But Optimus is consumed with righteous fury, and he charges forward despite Bee's attempts to trip him up in his car mode. Ironhide and Steeljaw follow after Optimus, all too willing to avenge their fallen comrade. "Sentimental fools!", Shockwave will curse to himself as he shifts into his car mode – a Mercedes Zethros 6x6 mobile command truck – and follows after the Autobots. Bee sighs in defeat as he and Arcee drive after their leader.

Carly will also be exposed as security clocks in that there has been a breach and she is captured and interrogated by Morgan and Swofford, sharing the same conversation with them that Cade has with Attinger in the original film.



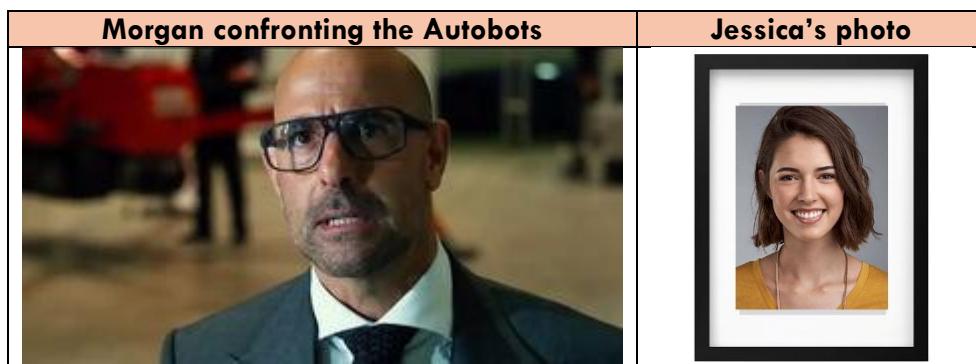
Autobots Storm Hybrid Technologies: The Autobots will proceed to storm Hybrid Technologies in the same spectacular and chaotic fashion as they did in the original film, with Optimus and Ironhide taking the lead as they are the most unhinged at this point.



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Ironhide will train his cannon on Morgan and growl, “Be advised. I’m mean, nasty and tired”. This leads to the same conversation between Morgan and Optimus that takes place in the original film, where Morgan justifies Hybrid’s actions by stating that the Cybertronian corpses brought to them are the spoils of war. No matter how upset Optimus gets, Morgan proclaims that no Autobot – not even Optimus – can stop humanity’s evolution and the progress of technology. Which prompts Optimus to kick a table that soars dangerously close past Morgan as he exclaims angrily, “We are not your technology!”.

Instead of going on about how he cracked the Cybertronian genome, Morgan will instead point to a picture of his only daughter Jessica, explaining that he has her picture hung up in every single room of the building for a very specific reason. She was one of the many casualties of the Decepticon’s invasion 12 years ago. Morgan doesn’t care about which faction was responsible. He doesn’t care about the political and ideological differences between Autobots and Decepticons. He hates all Cybertronians with a passion and will do whatever it takes to avenge his daughter and ensure no Cybertronians are left living on planet Earth. He doesn’t want any other parent to endure losing a child to the Cybertronian civil war like he did, and he will do everything in his power to ensure that no parent will ever have to bury their child on account of the Autobots, Decepticons or any other aliens for that matter.



“Try being the last of your kind,” Arcee will retort. Ignoring Morgan’s protests, the Autobots will confiscate the AllSpark. They’ll stand in a circle around the sacred relic, collectively reaching out and touching the Cube at the same time. The AllSpark pulses with raw power as a surge of energy courses over the Autobots and they are all healed of their various injuries and restored to full health. All of their scratches, scuffs, and chipped paint are gone. They look like they’re brand new, having just come fresh off the assembly line. Even all of Ironhide’s characteristic scars are gone, as his face and body have been made whole once more. Ironhide will stretch his arms and flex his cannons with a flourish, nodding with approval as he says, “Feels good to be back”. The Autobots will then secure canisters of synthetic Energon and load them up into each other’s trunks as they transform into their vehicle modes and prepare to move out.

Shockwave’s Discovery: While the Autobots are busy confronting Morgan and reclaiming the AllSpark, Shockwave hacks into their system and his theory about Galvatron is confirmed. He is Megatron reborn. He makes contact with Soundwave and learns of his old comrade’s sabotage, making Shockwave recalculate what the most logical course of action would be. He implores Soundwave that they combine their new manpower with the Autobots. Soundwave agrees, relaying to his old colleague that he has been patiently biding his time.

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Optimus vs Galvatron/Autobots vs Sweeps: Lennox volunteers to lead the strike team in pursuit of the Autobots, but Swofford reminds the Colonel that he's grounded. "So we're just going to let them get away?", asks Lennox in distress. "Relax, Colonel. Sit back and enjoy the show", replies Swofford in an uncharacteristically calm and laidback tone. From within the surveillance room, the pilots will remotely control Galvatron, Nightbird, and the Sweeps with the controls at their desks as the vehicles come roaring out of Hybrid Technologies' factory in hot pursuit.

While Optimus engages Galvatron in a one-on-one duel, the rest of the Autobots will contend with Nightbird, Cyclonus and the rest of the Sweeps.

(This particular action scene is a work-in-progress. Flesh it into a full set piece: give each Autobot and Witwicky a moment, establish how effective the Sweeps, Cyclonus, and Nightbird feel. Maybe even establish a rivalry between Bee and Nightbird to replace the "rivalry" between Bee and Stinger in the original film. Also, let the clash between Optimus and Galvatron hint at their future rivalry without directly spoiling to the audience that the essence of Megatron is lying dormant within the Galvatron body.)

Hot Rod will pull off a successful yet reckless stunt that endangers the Witwickies and almost gets them killed. After the fight, Hot Rod will lean against a busted truck, twirling a piece of scrap metal between his fingers.

Ironhide storms over, "You reckless little shit! You think this is some kind of joyride?" Hot Rod grins and scoffs as if it were a joke, "Come one, Ironhide – just trying to keep things interesting around here. Besides, you're always so serious".

"This isn't a game, Hot Rod. You're playing with lives – ours and theirs", retorts the Wrecker, gesturing to the Witwickies.

"Hey, I'm good at what I do. Fast and loud, just the way you like it", the scout replies with a little too much confidence.

Ironhide fumes, "You think I like cleaning up your messes? Next time you pull a stunt like that, I'll rip those wheels off myself and shove 'em up your exhaust port!"

Hot Rod laughs, unphased, "Sure, Grandpa. But you'd miss me too much".

Ironhide grabs Hot Rod by the collar and yanks him forward, snarling into his face, "Try me." Hot Rod realizes he's pushed Ironhide too far and immediately backpedals – both physically and emotionally.

His tone becomes half-serious and half-charming, "Look, I know I'm a handful. But this war's eating us all alive. I'm just trying to keep the spark lit, y'know?"

Ironhide softens up and grumbles, "Yeah...well, light it without setting the rest of us on fire".

Hot Rod smirks and mock salutes Ironhide before strolling off, leaving the old warrior shaking his head. Ironhide gives a reluctant smile, "Damn fool kid...but he's got fire, I'll give him that."

Morgan & Swofford Clash: Just like in the original film, Morgan will argue with Swofford about the innocent human lives that were claimed as collateral damage in the scuffle between the Autobots and Hybrid's drones. Except this time, Morgan's not just disturbed, he's filled with tranquil fury. We can tell Morgan feels very strongly about human casualties, since that's how his daughter died during the Fall of D.C., and he refuses to let that happen ever again under his watch. This sloppy military operation was a total failure. Civilians were killed, most of the Autobots escaped, the company's image was soiled, and Morgan was personally embarrassed by this spectacular disaster.

Shoving his finger in Swofford's chest, Morgan will get in the director's face and blame him for everything. Swofford will try to put Morgan in his place by telling him that war is not some

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predictable algorithm that you can control. It's just ugly chaos, and there's only a few people in this world – like Swofford – who have the will to get their hands dirty and make the hard sacrifices – the compromising decisions – required to ensure the safety for their country. But Morgan disregards that comeback as an excuse for inefficiency.

Seething with rage, Morgan will enlighten Swofford that before the Decepticon invasion, he was a board member on Arkeville Appliances and stepped in to fill the CEO's shoes after the catastrophic invasion of Washington. He rebuilt Arkeville Appliances from the ground up, rebranding the company's identity by renaming it "Hybrid Technologies". Not only that, but he also purified the brand by focusing on building weapons systems that would be used to protect their people, *not* destroy them. It was Hybrid Technologies who designed and manufactured all of E.D.C.'s tech thanks to their new military contracts that Morgan secured by himself. Now, Morgan is going to take human evolution to the next level by creating his own army of Transformers. All for the sake of ensuring that no more innocent human lives are claimed by warmongers. He will not tolerate further mistakes, nor will he allow Swofford or his incompetent E.D.C. war dogs to drag Hybrid Technologies' name through the mud. Hybrid's mission statement is to protect humanity, not allow it to get caught in the crossfire of another alien deathmatch. If a single hair on another civilian's head is harmed, Morgan threatens to pull his company's support of E.D.C. and go supply the competition with his tech instead. "I know Russia would love to get their hands on some of my prototypes", Morgan will add. Forced to submit, Swofford storms out of Morgan's office and slams his door on the way out.

THE MIDPOINT: Optimus is captured by Lockdown, who confiscates the AllSpark, the Star Saber, and the Apex Axe, along with the Matrix of Leadership. "A four in one", Lockdown chuckles darkly. He tries to extract the Matrix out of Optimus' chest but realizes it is physically impossible when he is repelled by a blast of energy. "Not to worry. My employer will still get what they paid for, and I get a bonus for bringing you in alive".

Just like in the original film, Lockdown will hook Optimus by the ankle and drag him across the ship until he flings the wounded Prime upside down into his cell. (Credit goes to Matt_daCarpet for this next scene.) Lockdown will then show off his trophy collection to Prime – presenting his latest addition, Ratchet's arm. Which obviously gets Optimus riled up, but unable to do anything about it in the moment, Optimus' rage simmers. Optimus and Lockdown will engage in a conversation about ethics, loyalty, and faith as Lockdown reveals that the destruction of Cybertron taught him that if you put your faith in any leadership – regardless of faction – it's destined to fail. He blames both the Autobots and Decepticons for what happened to their home world, bitter that Cybertron had to suffer because Optimus and Megatron couldn't work things out amongst themselves.

As disgusted as Optimus may be with Lockdown's trophy collection, Lockdown defends it, quoting that his collection is his own way of preserving Cybertronian history, and it's up to neutral players like him to pick up the shattered pieces of their culture that the Autobots and Decepticons leave behind in the wake of their destruction. Everything about Cybertron has been consumed by their warpath. But Optimus – consumed with vengeance – rebuttals that Lockdown is a hypocrite. He claims to be a benevolent and selfless defender of history, yet he is biased because by hunting down fellow Cybertronians such as Ratchet and the Decepticon protoforms, Lockdown is picking and choosing which parts of history get to be erased. He's ironically destroying more Cybertronian history by killing his fellow bots, but Optimus points out that this irony doesn't matter to Lockdown because the selfish bounty hunter is blinded by his own ego and his own self-righteousness. Lockdown has convinced himself that he gets to decide what is valuable and what isn't because of what he's personally lost. Optimus passionately argues that those lives Lockdown

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took, those were souls who had history, and meant something to other people, and he took that away out of spite. He's no better than those he claims to hate. Lockdown seethes that Optimus has seen right through him and laid out all of his insecurities and flaws on the table, and he sneers that Optimus is lucky that his employers want him alive, otherwise he'd kill him right now and be done with it. As the bounty hunter walks away, Prime delivers a grim vow to avenge Ratchet, which Lockdown arrogantly shrugs off.

ACT 2B – THE BAD GUYS CLOSE IN:

Stowaways: Once they're all aboard the Omega Supreme, Bee will start giving out orders and assigning each teammate a job in order to find Optimus and disable the ship. But Hot Rod will simply yet defiantly reply to his orders with a simple, "No". "We don't have time for this! Get in gear and move out! Don't make me say it again", Bee threatens. "Third times the charm", smirks Hot Rod. "You really want to do this here?", asks Bee. "You're not worth it", scoffs Hot Rod. He flicks Bee's shoulder as if he were a bug he was swatting away.

The arrogant scout suddenly finds himself being grabbed by Ironhide and thrown against the wall. The commander will slam Hot Rod's head into the wall a couple of times before decking him with an undercut that leaves some Energon dripping from his cracked face plate. Stunned, Hot Rod isn't quick enough to defend himself as Ironhide stands over him and shoves the barrel of his cannon into the insubordinate scout's face.

"Let's try to use our words here", Hot Rod says weakly, earning himself a foot to the chest as Ironhide steps on the little Autobot's torso.

"You think you're funny, huh? Too bad your reflexes aren't as fast as your mouth. Now you're going to lie there and pay attention. Ever notice how you come across somebody once in a while you shouldn't have fucked with? That's me. Punk asses like you haven't been around long enough to know what Bee has done for our cause. But when a commanding officer gives you orders, you follow them. That's what a soldier does. Otherwise, that mouth of yours will be choking on my fists. Are we clear?"

Hot Rod nods. "Good," Ironhide affirms. "I'm glad we had this little chat. Now if you behave yourself, I won't have to tell Optimus about this. He's been a little on edge lately. So if you think I'm bad, just try pissing him off and see where that will get you.", Ironhide will declare casually as Hot Rod picks himself up off the floor, nursing his head.

"Hopefully that beat some sense into him", grumbles Arcee in a low voice that only Bee can hear.

The New Decepticons: Unbeknownst to everyone at Hybrid, Soundwave has been covertly programming all of Mark Morgan's Transformers to be loyal to their Galvatron unit, who was in fact – the resurrected Megatron – thanks to Soundwave's machinations and resurrecting his deceased master by serving as a catalyst between him and the AllSpark, allowing the artifact's miraculous properties to revive the Lord of the Decepticons. Once Hybrid Technologies discover Soundwave's ploy, it is too late and the new slate of man-made Transformers such as Nightbird, Cyclonus, the Sweeps, the Insecticons and the Combaticons are unshackled from Dr. Fujiyama's fail safes and become the new generation of Decepticons, along with their restored master Megatron, who sheds off the human-made label "Galvatron", which he refers to as a "slave name". Mark Morgan, Dr. Fujiyama, and the rest of his scientists will rush onto their computers and just as Soundwave is about to upload his consciousness into a new body, his objective is blocked by firewalls from the scientists. Trapped inside his original, broken, and immobile body, Soundwave attempts to fight back and break through the firewalls but ultimately realizes he is doomed. The scientists begin shutting down Soundwave's consciousness, and before he perishes, Soundwave

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alerts Megatron of his fate and bids farewell to his master, his last words being “All...Hail...Megatron...”. Megatron flies into a rage after Soundwave dies before his eyes and fueled with a bloody sense of justice and vengeance. The persecution that his people have been facing at the hands of the Earth Defense Command for the past 12 years enrages Megatron to an unforgivable degree. He intends to pay humankind back in full and starts with Hong Kong. Megatron promises to his new army of Decepticons that once they eradicate Earth, they will return home to rebuild Cybertron. Before they move out, Shockwave arrives at the factory and is reunited with his master. Shockwave pledges his loyalty to Megatron once again and has the factory’s machinery weld the Decepticon insignia upon all of the drones before marching out to destroy Hong Kong. The Autobots and Witwickies attempt to reason with the Decepticons and stop the slaughter, but Megatron is consumed with bloodlust and refuses to show humankind any mercy. Out of respect for their old treaty, Megatron warns the heroes to not interfere with his retribution. Justice demands the humans pay for what they’ve done to the Cybertronians.

Author’s Note: This is as far as this draft of *Transformers 4* goes. Act 3 has not been fully written yet. If you’d like to see where I was planning to take the story, check out the “TF4 Outline” and “TF4 Notes” documents on my website. They sketch out the major twists, character arcs, and endgame I had in mind.

For the Rewrite Challenge, feel free to follow that roadmap, remix it, or ignore it entirely and write your own version of Act 3.