

STARSCREAM

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

THEN LET US GO TO ITS CORE AND  
 DRINK ITS POWER DRY!

He moves forward, heading for the crevice, but Megatron holds him back with an arm.

MEGATRON

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

I give the orders here, STARSCREAM.

UPSHOT ON MEGATRON'S FACE

THOSE MEGATRON (CONT)  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ energy waves could be  
 dangerously UNSTABLE.

He turns to Soundwave o.s.

ANGLE ON SOUNDWAVE

MEGATRON (CONT-VO)

Soundwave--send ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ AN AUTO-SCOUT  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ into the crevice!

Soundwave ejects a cassette from his chest compartment and it falls to the ground, o.s. as it transforms into...

CLOSER ON TRANSFORMATION

--a small machine on wheels, totally devoid of personality. A small lamp on the top blinks, the machine activated.

SOUNDWAVE (VO)

AUTO-Scout ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ OPERATIONAL,

It rolls towards the crevice o.s.

ANGLE ON CREVICE ENTRANCE

The scout machine rolls slowly down an incline, disappearing into the bright light of the crevice.

MEGATRON (VO)

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

IT IS PROGRAMMED TO ANALYZE AND  
 REPORT.

INSIDE THE CREVICE

In the intense light, the scout machine is little more than a silhouette, surrounded by several glowing light-emitting crystals about the size of bowling balls.

MEGATRON (VO)  
(impatient)

Well, [REDACTED] SOUNDWAVE?

ANGLE ON MEGATRON AND SOUNDWAVE

Soundwave picks up the readings sent out by the scout machine.

AUTO SCOUT Sensors [REDACTED] SOUNDWAVE REPORT LIGHT  
[REDACTED] ENERGY EMANATES FROM CRYSTALLINE  
STRUCTURES.

[REDACTED] MEGATRON  
[REDACTED] DESCRIBE MORE FULLY.

IN THE CREVICE

The scout machine scans the crystal formations with a special type of ray. They are a stunningly unique variety of quartz with densely-packed layers of multi-colored angular rods, each rod emitting its own intense color.

[REDACTED] SOUNDWAVE (VO) CRYSTALLINE STRUCTURES  
[REDACTED] ARE QUARTZ-LIKE AND  
[REDACTED] PACKED WITH LAYERS  
[REDACTED] OF MULTI-COLORED RODS....

ON MEGATRON, STARScream AND SOUNDWAVE

Starscream and Soundwave turn to look at Megatron, whose eyes glow with intensity.

MEGATRON  
Korlonium Crystals! [REDACTED] THE MOST  
[REDACTED] rare and dangerous form of RAW  
energy [REDACTED] IN THIS SOLAR SYSTEM!

BACK TO SCOUT MACHINE

The machine ejects a mechanical claw which reaches down and picks up one of the crystals...

MEGATRON (VO)  
Do not permit [REDACTED] THE AUTO SCOUT TO  
MAKE [REDACTED] contact [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] THOSE CRYSTALS ARE.....

The scout machine's electronic circuitry begins to SHORT OUT. Then flashes of electrical beams surround the machine and it EXPLODES! The screen is filled with flying pieces of the scout machine.

MEGATRON (VO-CONT)

...deadly!

BACK TO EDGE OF CREVICE

Starscream and Soundwave look at Megatron, stunned.

STARSCREAM

[REDACTED] I NEVER HEARD OF KORLONIUM CRYSTALS BEFORE.

MEGATRON IT'S JUST SUCH IGNORANCE WHICH FOREVER RELEGATES YOU TO THE RANKS OF UNDERLING, STARSCREAM.....

CLOSER ON MEGATRON

MEGATRON (CONT)

STAY WELL BACK! Korlonium crystals ~~will~~ destroy ~~the~~ electronic circuitry ~~at~~ AT THE LEAST contact.

ANGLE ON MEGATRON AND STARSCREAM

STARSCREAM

[REDACTED] THEN LET US TRICK his Autobots into this crevice!!! They would be destroyed at last!

P...MUS PRIME INTO LEADING

MEGATRON

Optimus Prime would never do anything so foolish--at least, not the real Optimus Prime!

Megatron crosses in front of Starscream, moving o.s.

STARSCREAM

[REDACTED] THE REAL WHO? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ON MEGATRON

He stands in front of a huge mountainous ridge, looking up into the sky.

MEGATRON (VO)

You shall ~~see~~ see...The Autobots WILL SOON NOTICE [REDACTED] THE CRYSTAL ENERGY [REDACTED] LIGHTS AND COME TO INVESTIGATE.....

Suddenly, what appears to be a chunk of mountain lowers INTO SCENE in the b.g.

CLOSER ON CHUNK OF MOUNTAIN

It is actually a rocket-type of vehicle on pods, constructed to resemble part of the mountainside. It lowers into place on the side of the ridge, perfectly camouflaged by the rocky ridge around it.

MEGATRON (CONT-VO)  
And I shall be [REDACTED] WAITING FOR THEM ----

BACK TO WIDER SHOT

Megatron gestures to the vehicle behind him, now barely recognizable against the mountainside.

MEGATRON (CONT)  
----- [REDACTED] in my temporary base of operations.

ANGLE ON SOUNDWAVE AND STARSCREAM

STARSCREAM  
What about us, Megatron?

MEGATRON (VO)  
You will join the other Decepticons in the foothills...

CLOSE ON MEGATRON

MEGATRON (CONT)  
--And prepare to attack AT MY COMMAND.

FLIP TO:

SAME SCENE - LATER

A full moon is out above a dune. The Autobots come INTO SHOT in automotive mode on the top of the dune, their MOTORS RUNNING, silhouetted against the moon.

SPIKE (VO) [REDACTED] THAT WEIRD LIGHTS COMING FROM THAT CREVICE, OPTIMUS PRIME, IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

DOWNSHOT - AT AN ANGLE

At the bottom of the dune, the crevice glows as bright as before.

OPTIMUS PRIME (VO)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I'M SURE THERE'S A LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR IT, SPIKE. LET'S INVESTIGATE,

We hear MOTORS REV UP.

ANOTHER ANGLE

as the Autobots come down INTO SHOT and stop at the edge of the crevice, TRANSFORMING into their robotic forms.

CLOSER

As they peer down into the lights, they react, averting their eyes.

IRONHIDE

Wow! Those lights are [REDACTED] HOTTERN' A [REDACTED] CYBERTRONIC LASER FLARE!

ON JAZZ

shading his eyes with his hand.

JAZZ MAN, IF I COULD PUT ON A LIGHT SHOW [REDACTED] THAT COOL, I'D [REDACTED] DAZZLE MULTITUDES OF MUSIC LOVERS!

ON CLIFFJUMPER

as he heads for the incline that leads down into the crevice.

CLIFFJUMPER HOT, COOL, WHATEVER! WHILE YOU [REDACTED] MOTORIZED MUMBLERS [REDACTED] TALK, I'M GOING TO [REDACTED] CHECK THOSE LIGHTS OUT!

Prime's arm ENTERS SHOT clasping Cliffjumper's shoulder, and the CAMERA PULLS BACK to include him.

PRIME

[REDACTED]  
Take some readings first, CLIFFJUMPER. THE SOURCE [REDACTED] OF THAT LIGHT [REDACTED] ENERGY COULD BE DANGEROUS.

STARSCREAM (VO)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ALL THE DANGER YOU CAN HANDLE IS ALREADY HERE, FLOPTIMUS PRIME!

They turn around quickly to see...

THE DECEPTICONS - FEATURE STARSCREAM

standing on the dune, looking down at the Autobots o.s.

IRONHIDE (VO)  
Starscream! It's a trap!

STARSCREAM (SARCASTIC)  
[REDACTED] BRILLIANT DEDUCTION! - - - -  
Decepticons--FIRE!!

The Decepticons take aim with their weapons and BLAST away!

ANGLE ON AUTOBOTS WITH SPIKE

Before the Autobots can react, the Decepticon fire WHOOSHES, BLASTS, and SCREAMS INTO SHOT. Spike and the Autobots run for cover.

ON JAZZ, IRONHIDE, AND WINDCHARGER

RAMJET, in airplane mode, ZOOMS THROUGH SCENE, swooping low over their heads and drops several cluster bombs. The screen lights up with the EXPLOSIONS--and the three Autobots are surrounded by flames!

JAZZ

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] SOMEBODY BETTER COOL US OUT  
OR WE'RE GONNA NEED BARBECUE SAUCE ON OUR  
[REDACTED] SUSPENSION SYSTEMS!!

ON INFERNO  
tracking Ramjet from the ground. He FIRES a missile from his forearm. It WHOOSHES o.s.

ON RAMJET

as he's hit by the missile. Ramjet dives o.s., his MOTOR CUTTING OUT.

BACK TO INFERNO

He transforms into his fire truck mode and the CAMERA PANS with him as he zooms to the rescue. As he nears Jazz, Ironhide, and Windcharger, he brings his extinguisher up and sprays them with a full load of his flame-suppressing foam. SFX: EXTINGUISHER and SIZZLE as the fires are instantly put out, the foam covering each of the Autobots.

CLOSER ON AUTOBOTS

covered with foam, but grateful!

IRONHIDE

[REDACTED] YOU SAVED US, INFERNO! THANKS!

WINDCHARGER

Yeah... [REDACTED] REMIND ME TO STAY OUT  
[REDACTED] OF YOUR WAY THE  
[REDACTED] NEXT TIME I HAVE A HOT DATE,

ON SKYWARP, THUNDERCRACKER, AND STARScream

all in robot mode, as they run INTO CAMERA toward their intended victim, o.s.

DECEPTICONS  
(METAL-CORRODING YELLS)

ANGLE ON OPTIMUS PRIME

He swings around to face his attackers. Holding his laser rifle by the butt, he swings it at Skywarp who rushes INTO FRAME, hitting him with a powerful blow--SMACK!--that sends him flying o.s. Immediately, he then grabs both ends of his rifle and blocks a blow from Thundercracker, throwing him back o.s. As Starscream rushes INTO FRAME, Prime brings his rifle up under his opponent's chin with a mighty thrust, lifting the Decepticon off his feet and heaving him up over his head so that he flies o.s.

OPTIMUS PRIME

[REDACTED]  
I'M SORRY THERE'RE ONLY THREE OF YOU...  
[REDACTED] . CUT TO:

INT. OF TEMPORARY BASE - CLOSE ON VIEWING SCREEN

Optimus Prime can be seen on the screen in the same position we saw him earlier.

CLOBBERING LESS THAN FOUR DECEPTICONS AT A TIME IS BORING!  
[REDACTED] OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The CAMERA PULLS BACK to show Megatron sitting at a small console with several viewing screens. Soundwave stands behind him.

MEGATRON

[REDACTED] YOU WON'T BE BORED FOR LONG,  
[REDACTED] OPTIMUS PRIME!  
[REDACTED]

ANOTHER ANGLE

as they watch the viewing screen o.s.

MEGATRON

Soundwave--eject Laserbeak!

CLOSER ON SOUNDWAVE

MEGATRON (CONT-VO)

Target...Optimus Prime!

Soundwave presses his eject button. His chest panel opens and Laserbeak--in cassette mode--is ejected. The CAMERA PANS with him as he transforms and flies o.s.

SOUNDWAVE

Laserbeak...attack!

CUT TO:

EXT. OF TEMPORARY BASE

A hidden panel in the face of the mountainside base slides open, and Laserbeak flies out and o.s. The panel slides shut behind him--leaving no evidence of any entrance in the rock.

LASERBEAK

(CONDOR SCREECH!)

BACK TO OPTIMUS PRIME

Optimus Prime looks up as he hears Laserbeak's scream.

LASERBEAK

(SHRIEK!)

OPTIMUS PRIME

Laserbeak! You tin-foil turkey!

Prime brings his laser rifle up and FIRES as Laserbeak dives INTO SHOT directly at him. Prime misses, but the bird FIRES, backing Prime o.s. as Laserbeak swoops up and o.s.

ANGLE NEAR RAVINE

Prime is backed up to the edge of the small ravine -- and is hit by another BLAST that staggers him...

LASERBEAK

(SHRIEK!)

--and he falls backwards into the ravine.

AT BOTTOM OF RAVINE

as Prime tumbles head-first INTO SHOT, lands at the bottom and strikes his head on a boulder. (SFX: CLUNK!)

UPSHOT

as Laserbeak dives INTO CAMERA.

LASERBEAK  
(TRIUMPHANT SHRIEK)

ON MEGATRON IN TEMPORARY BASE

at his viewer. Off to his side is a large set-up comprised of a vertical monitor as tall as Megatron himself with a double row of buttons alongside. On the other side of the buttons is a closed set of panels as tall as the monitor. He speaks into a microphone alongside the video viewer.

MEGATRON  
Laserbeak...

CLOSE ON VIEWING SCREEN

On the viewer, Laserbeak is in his dive.

MEGATRON (VO-CONT)  
...hold your fire!

Laserbeak swoops up out of his dive without firing, then circles back and hovers over the unconscious Prime.

MEGATRON (VO-CONT)  
I want holographic views of  
Optimus Prime from every [REDACTED] ANGLE BUT DO NOT  
[REDACTED] HARM HIM!

CLOSE ON MEGATRON

MEGATRON (CONT)  
(evil chuckle) [REDACTED] THE AUTOBOTS, THEMSELVES, WILL  
[REDACTED] PUNISH HIM FOR US, WHEN  
[REDACTED] THE TIME IS RIGHT!  
(HE LAUGHS EVILLY)

ON LASERBEAK AND PRIME

Laserbeak hovers in the air over Prime. Magnetic rays emanate from his eyes. (SFX: ENERGY BUZZ)

CLOSER ON OPTIMUS PRIME

He is "unconscious," and is scanned by the beams from o.s.



CLOSER ON MEGATRON AND PRIME CLONE

as the Decepticon leader studies the results of his work.

MEGATRON (CONT)

Even his memory chips are the  
same! [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] BUT THERE IS  
[REDACTED] ONE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE-----

AT CONSOLE

Megatron moves INTO SCENE and picks up a high-tech looking headset, complete with microphone, and puts it on his head.

MEGATRON (CONT)

I control [REDACTED] THIS OPTIMUS PRIME  
[REDACTED] BY MENTAL PROJECTION-----

ANGLE ON PRIME DOUBLE

The clone of Optimus Prime steps forward out of the cabinet.  
(NOTE: As the Prime Double speaks, he speaks with exactly the same speech patterns and speed. It is not halting, or different in any way from that of the real Optimus Prime.)

PRIME DOUBLE

I am Optimus Prime, leader of the  
Autobots, and... AT MEGATRON'S COMMAND-----

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST MEGATRON

to the Prime Double in the b.g. Megatron is speaking into the headset--at the same time as the clone.

MEGATRON/PRIME DOUBLE

I will lead them to their doom!

EXT. OF TEMPORARY BASE - ON SECRET ENTRANCE

The panel in the rock slides open, revealing the Prime double behind it, with Soundwave behind him.

MEGATRON (VO)

On your way, Optimus Prime. You  
must join your Autobots -and win  
their confidence!

Soundwave flies out of the opening, carrying the Prime Double with him o.s.

CUT TO:

JAZZ AND TRAILBREAKER

They are firing away at the enemy o.s. Suddenly the Prime Double moves INTO SCENE behind them. They turn and react...

TRAILBREAKER  
Optimus! ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ I WAS WORRIED WHEN  
I SAW YOU tumble ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ into the ravine.

JAZZ  
We were heading to help you ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ BUT THE DECEPTICONS  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ SLOWED US DOWN,  
YOU OKAY?

CLOSER ON PRIME DOUBLE

He puts a hand to his head, a little shaken.

PRIME DOUBLE  
I will be. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ I MUST HAVE JARRED  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ MY PERCEPTOR CHIPS IN THE FALL.

CUT TO:

INT. OF TEMP. BASE - ON MEGATRON AT CONSOLE

Megatron speaks into the headset for the Prime Double. On the screen, we can see Jazz and Trailbreaker from the Prime Double's POV.

MEGATRON  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ BUT IT WILL STABILIZE...  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Now--

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON PRIME DOUBLE

PRIME DOUBLE  
(finishing the line)  
--let's finish these Decepticons!

WIDE ON DECEPTICONS

As we see the Decepticon's pulling back from exchanging fire with the Autobots and flying away o.s.

TRAILBREAKER (VO)  
Hey, perfect timing! ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ THE CREEPS ARE  
retreating!

WIDE ON AUTOBOTS - FEATURE PRIME DOUBLE

PRIME DOUBLE  
Autobots...transform!

Jazz and Trailbreaker transform to auto mode.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Prime Double transforms to truck mode, leading the way for the Autobots--also in auto mode--as they roll o.s.

PRIME DOUBLE (CONT-VO)  
..and return to headquarters!

The CAMERA HOLDS for a BEAT, then PANS DOWN to the ravine nearby, where the real Optimus Prime climbs out!

CLOSER ON REAL OPTIMUS PRIME

He shakes his head, not feeling his best, and looks around.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
(wincing)  
I Must have blacked out! Where is  
everybody?!

FLIP TO:

EXT. - AUTOBOT HEADQUARTERS

The CAMERA PUSHES IN on the volcano as we hear:

PRIME DOUBLE (VO)  
(upset)  
Bumblebee, come over here and  
check this circuit for me...

CUT TO:

INT. - AUTOBOT HEADQUARTERS

The Prime Double is standing before the main computer bank, punching a series of buttons...with no reaction from the computer. He looks frustrated. Standing a few steps off to the side is Ironhide.

PRIME DOUBLE (CONT)  
(upset)

~~THE COMPUTER IS NOT RESPONDING TO MY INPUT,~~  
THE COMPUTER'S NOT RESPONDING TO MY INPUT,

Ironhide, of course, does not respond. The Prime clone turns to him.

PRIME DOUBLE (CONT)  
Bumblebee! I'M SPEAKING TO YOU.

ANGLE ON IRONHIDE

Ironhide turns his head, looking around for Bumblebee.

IRONHIDE  
(confused)

[REDACTED] YOU'RE TALKING TO ME, YOU SAY?

PRIME DOUBLE (VO)  
Of course! [REDACTED]

IRONHIDE BUT I'M NOT BUMBLEBEE - I'M  
[REDACTED] IRONHIDE, PRIME!

ON PRIME DOUBLE

PRIME DOUBLE I MEANT TO SAY "IRONHIDE,"  
[REDACTED] NATURALLY..... TELL ME...

The Prime Double angrily punches up a series of buttons.

PRIME DOUBLE (CONT) WHEN WAS TELETAAAN I  
[REDACTED] CHECKED OUT? IT ISN'T  
[REDACTED] WORKING PROPERLY.

Jazz comes INTO SHOT.

JAZZ  
(puzzled) YOU DID THAT YOURSELF THIS  
[REDACTED]  
morning, Optimus...!

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST SPIKE AND WINDCHARGER

to Prime Double, Jazz and Ironhide. They exchange puzzled glances.

JAZZ (CONT)  
...and you're punching [REDACTED] the  
wrong controls! Teletraan I is  
on the main [REDACTED] FRAME ACCESS PANEL.

SPIKE  
Something's very wrong with  
Optimus Prime.

WINDCHARGER  
You're telling me!  
(projecting)  
Prime... WHATS WRONG WITH YOU?

Prime Double turns around to look at Windcharger and Spike.

ON WINDCHARGER AND SPIKE

WINDCHARGER (CONT)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOU DONT KNOW  
ANY OF US - LIKE YOU DONT EVEN KNOW  
ANGLE ON PRIME DOUBLE YOU'RE WAY AROUND!

PRIME DOUBLE

(stunned)  
What?  
(recovering)  
Uh... [REDACTED] IT WAS THE FALL...  
[REDACTED] I TOLD YOU IT RATTLED  
[REDACTED] MY CIRCUITRY.....  
[REDACTED]

But the Prime Double is cut off by SFX: ENTRY ALARM!

BACK TO WINDCHARGER AND SPIKE

They look at each other with puzzlement.

SPIKE → THE PERIMETER ALARM!  
[REDACTED] IT MEANS AN AUTOBOT IS  
approaching [REDACTED] THE AREA!

WINDCHARGER

But all [REDACTED] US AUTOBOTS ARE  
ALREADY INSIDE!  
ANGLE ON TELETRAAN'S CONSOLE

Jazz steps up to the computer console next to Prime Double...

JAZZ

Let's punch up the [REDACTED] VIEW SCAN AT THE ENTRY....  
[REDACTED]

...and pushes a button. The viewer lights up and..

JAZZ (CONT)

...so we can see who --

CLOSER ON VIEWER

..on it, Optimus Prime's face!

JAZZ (CONT-VO)  
(stunned)  
-- what?? It's...

WIDE ON SCENE

He and the others all look from the monitor to the Prime Double...amazed.

JAZZ (CONT)  
IT'S Optimus Prime?!

ON PRIME DOUBLE

Trapped, he points an accusing finger at the viewer.

PRIME DOUBLE  
[REDACTED] Amazing! He looks exactly  
like me!  
(a beat)  
Let him in.

WIDER - FEATURE PRIME

SPIKE  
But --?!

PRIME DOUBLE  
He's obviously a Decepticon  
imposter!

He looks at the others, scanning their faces from one to the other.

PRIME DOUBLE (CONT)  
As soon as [REDACTED] HE'S WITHIN RANGE...  
[REDACTED] -- shoot him down!

The Autobots stare at him intensely for a full beat, then exchange looks, then raise their weapons and turn to face the doorway. CAMERA HOLDS as we...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

SAME SHOT - INT. AUTOBOT HQ

The CAMERA HOLDS as the Autobots wait for Optimus Prime to enter. The door panel opens and we hear Optimus Prime's STEPS APPROACHING. The Autobots tense, weapons CLICKING as their SAFETY CATCHES are released. Optimus Prime comes into view in the opening.

PRIME DOUBLE  
Now, Autobots-- Destroy [REDACTED] THE IMPOSTER!

CLOSER ON DOORWAY

Ironhide quickly steps INTO SCENE in front of Prime.

IRONHIDE !  
No! Hold your fire, [REDACTED]

ANGLE ON PRIME DOUBLE

He lowers his weapon, giving Ironhide o.s. a hard stare.

IRONHIDE (CONT-VO) NO SHOOTING UNTIL WE'RE  
SURE WHO'S FOR REAL  
AND WHO ISN'T!

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST AUTOBOTS TO ENTRANCE

as Optimus Prime comes through the entrance and INTO SHOT. He scans the group.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
(relieved)  
Well, it looks like you all made  
it back [REDACTED] SAFELY. I'M RELIEVED,

Ratchet moves up to him, a bit hesitantly...

RATCHET  
[REDACTED] AND WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME, PRIME?

OPTIMUS PRIME  
When Laserbeak attacked, I [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] fell into a CREVICE AND---

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Prime Double steps out from behind the Autobots. Optimus Prime stops in mid-sentence as the two Primes meet face-to-face for the first time.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT)  
What's going on? [REDACTED] IS THIS  
[REDACTED] some kind of game [REDACTED] ?

The CAMERA PANS DOWN to show Spike moving INTO SCENE between them and points to the Prime Double.

I'M AFRAID SPIKE  
It's no game. [REDACTED] He says  
he's [REDACTED] Optimus Prime!

ON OPTIMUS PRIME

He stiffens.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
[REDACTED] WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT  
I'M AN imposter!

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST OPTIMUS PRIME

to Prime Double...who nods his head, agreeing.

PRIME DOUBLE  
You can't talk your way out of  
this one. [REDACTED] EVERY AUTOBOT WILL  
[REDACTED] KNOW I AM THE GENUINE OPTIMUS PRIME!

CLOSE ON SPIKE

He looks from side to side, unsure of who is who!

CUT TO:

ON MEGATRON IN TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS

He sits before his console, wearing the headset. The picture of Spike is on his viewer. He removes the headset and talks into a communicator.

DELIGHTFUL! MEGATRON  
[REDACTED] Now to really shake  
things up!  
(into communicator)  
ATTENTION, Soundwave... [REDACTED]

CUT TO:

EXT. AUTOBOT HEADQUARTERS

Soundwave flies INTO SCENE and lands, off to the side.

SOUNDWAVE

[REDACTED] What are your  
orders, MIGHTY MEGATRON?

MEGATRON (VO)

Eject Rumble...

Soundwave ejects a cassette, which TRANSFORMS into Rumble.

MEGATRON (VO-CONT)

--and let him do what he does  
best!

CLOSER ON RUMBLE

losing Soundwave as he starts pummeling the ground with his  
jackhammer fists. (SFX: JACKHAMMER and CAMERA SHAKES)

CUT TO:

INT. AUTOBOT HEADQUARTERS

CAMERA SHAKING as the Autobots are thrown off their feet...

AUTOBOTS

(ad lib)

It's another earthquake! (CRIES  
OF CONFUSION, GROANS)

...and knocked into a pile.

CLOSER ON AUTOBOTS

as Ironhide and Sunstreaker get to their feet, Ironhide rubbing  
the back of his head.

IRONHIDE

[REDACTED] Now I'M SEEING  
DOUBLE DOUBLE!!

ON BOTH OPTIMUS PRIMES

and a few other Autobots as they all get to their feet.

RATCHET

[REDACTED]  
Now how're we going to tell  
one prime from another?

ANGLE ON TELETRAAN I

Bumblebee moves INTO SCENE, heading for the computer console. He punches up some buttons...

BUMBLEBEE

Teletraan...you're the only one  
who can tell us which Optimus  
Prime is [REDACTED] OPTIMUS PRIME!

--then takes one step to the side.

TELETRAAN I (VO)

[REDACTED] detailed [REDACTED] COMPARISON  
forthcoming --

A ray is emitted from somewhere on Teletraan I, shooting o.s. with APPROPRIATE SFX.

ON BOTH PRIMES

just getting to their feet. They stiffen up as they are enveloped by the ray coming from o.s.

UPSHOT PAST BOTH PRIMES

to the ceiling as another ray beams down on them from the ceiling with another HIGH-PITCHED BUZZ.

ON SPIKE AND AUTOBOTS

tense, as they exchange anxious glances.

BACK TO BOTH PRIMES - ANOTHER ANGLE

Beams flash out from o.s. on both sides, with HIGH-PITCHED BUZZES, each an x-ray shot revealing the inside structures of the two robots -- gears, transistor relays, etc.

ANGLE ON TELETRAAN I

On the computer's viewing screen, we can see the interior mechanisms as they are scanned and examined.

TELETRAAN I (VO)

Both subjects [REDACTED]  
identical. THEREFORE, BOTH ARE OPTIMUS PRIME!

ON SPIKE AND THE AUTOBOTS

as they sag, exchanging defeated looks.

SPIKE  
(determined)  
But there's only one [REDACTED] REAL PRIME! WE BETTER  
[REDACTED] set up some tests  
of our own!

ANGLE ON THE TWO PRIMES

OPTIMUS PRIME/PRIME  
DOUBLE  
(determined)

[REDACTED] I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE!

They turn to frown at each other as we...

FLIP TO:

EXT. - VALLEY

The two Primes, Spike and the Autobots are gathered at the foot of a cliff.

IRONHIDE  
This will be a test of LASER RIFLE  
[REDACTED] SHARPSHOOTING.....

ANOTHER ANGLE - FEATURE SPIKE

Spike points toward the top of the sheer wall of stone.

SPIKE  
[REDACTED] Hit that [REDACTED] STONE SLAB.....  
[REDACTED]

The CAMERA PANS up to the top, where it HOLDS on a vertical slab of stone.

SPIKE (CONT)  
--at the top of the cliff, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Then make it  
ricochet...

SWIVEL PAN OVER to an overhang about 45 degrees from the stone.  
PAN ENDS and holds on a painted "X" a few feet down under the  
overhang. The CAMERA MOVES CLOSER and holds on the "X."

SPIKE (VO-CONT)  
-- to that exact spot [REDACTED] marked  
[REDACTED] "X"...

BACK TO GROUP

SPIKE (CONT)

--then ricochet back  UP AGAIN TO  
 THAT SAME STONE!

TRAILBREAKER

PIECE OF CHROMALLOY CAKE, HUH?

The two Primes nod, accepting the challenge.

WHEELJACK

Take your positions..

ANGLE ON THE TWO PRIMES

IRONHIDE (VO)

--and fire when ready!

Optimus Prime gestures for the Prime Double to move forward.

MAY

OPTIMUS PRIME

You<sup>1</sup> go first.

The CAMERA PANS as Prime Double steps foward, moving to his side and losing Optimus Prime. He stops and brings his laser up. He waits for a beat.

ON SPIKE AND THE AUTOBOTS

Spike holds his breath as they all watch o.s.

BACK TO PRIME DOUBLE

As he fires his LASER RIFLE. The laser beam goes up and o.s.

STONE SLAB

As the beam zooms INTO SHOT, hits the slab and ricochets o.s.

ON "X"

under the overhang. The beam zooms INTO SHOT, hits the "X," and is deflected back the way it came o.s.

STONE SLAB

Half of the slab is destroyed when it is hit by the laser beam.  
(APP. SFX)

ON SPIKE AND THE AUTOBOTS

They nod appreciatively.

WHEELJACK

Perfect. Now it's your --

He's cut off by a sharp CRACKING SOUND.

ON OVERHANG

to reveal that a fissure has splayed out from the "X" and up to the overhang -- which is breaking away from the mountain.

UPSHOT

shooting past Optimus Prime up at the rock as it plummets down INTO CAMERA.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the rock falls INTO SHOT, blocking Optimus Prime from view and lands with a CAMERA-SHAKING CRASH!

WIDE

Shocked reactions from Spike and the Autobots. Prime Double looks pleased.

PRIME DOUBLE

Well, it seems this contest is already over.

The CAMERA PANS over to the huge rock, now imbedded into the earth. After a beat, the rock begins to shake, SFX: TO SUIT -- then is flung into the air and lands o.s., CAMERA SHAKING, as Optimus Prime rises up from the hole, dusting himself off.

OPTIMUS PRIME

They just don't make  ROCKY OVERHANGS like they used to!

ON SPIKE AND THE AUTOBOTS

They all breathe a sigh of relief!

FLIP TO:

EXT. - DESERT FLATLANDS

Both Primes are standing behind a starting line with Cliffjumper off to the side.

CLIFFJUMPER

Okay--transform!

Both Primes TRANSFORM together into identical truck modes.

ON SPIKE AND THE AUTOBOTS

They watch o.s., shaking their heads with frustration.

SPIKE

Even their trans-forms are the same!

CLIFFJUMPER (VO)

First one to the other side of the flats and back is the winner!

BACK TO PRIMES AND CLIFFJUMPER

Cliffjumper raises his arm...

CLIFFJUMPER (CONT)

On your marks...GO!!

Cliffjumper gives the signal, and the two trucks speed o.s.-- one in front of the other--leaving clouds of dust. (SFX: ROARING MOTORS)

CLOSER ON CLIFFJUMPER

The dust dissipates, leaving Cliffjumper looking a little sheepish. Trailbreaker moves INTO SCENE next to him.

TRAILBREAKER

What happened to [REDACTED] "READY" AND "GET SET?"

CLIFFJUMPER

[REDACTED] I GOT SO EXCITED I GUESS I FORGOT,

ANGLE ON SPIKE

shielding his eyes with a hand, he surveys o.s.

SPIKE

They're raising so much dust I can't [REDACTED] see who's [REDACTED] WINNING.

The CAMERA PULLS BACK to include Ironhide next to him.

IRONHIDE

[REDACTED] Stand aside [REDACTED] - HERE THEY COME!

WIDE ON SCENE

They stand back as the two trucks ZOOM INTO SCENE, the dust clouds FILLING THE FRAME so that it's impossible to tell who won!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The dust clouds dissipate, revealing one of the Primes (the one who speaks) already transformed to his robot mode and seated on a rock looking terribly casual. The other Prime is still in truck mode.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
What took you [REDACTED] SO LONG?

ANGLE ON SPIKE AND OTHER AUTOBOTS

Spike just rolls his eyes skyward!

FLIP TO:

INT. - AUTOBOT HQ - ON SPIKE AND AUTOBOTS

Spike sits, his head in his hands as the others are clustered around him, looking equally frustrated.

SPIKE  
I guess we struck out on the tests.

IRONHIDE  
We still don't know [REDACTED] which PRIME IS OPTIMUS----

WHEELJACK  
(disgusted)  
-- [REDACTED] WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED---- CONFUSED!

ANGLE ON BUMBLEBEE

He stands in front of the control console of Teletraan I.

BUMBLEBEE  
Hey, guys! Teletraan I [REDACTED] REPORTS MORE [REDACTED] activity at the [REDACTED] LIGHT ENERGY CREVICE!

Ironhide, Spike, and some others move INTO SCENE to see for themselves...

BUMBLEBEE (CONT)  
The lights are glowing more and more intensely... [REDACTED]

ANOTHER ANGLE - IRONHIDE AND VIEWSCREEN

IRONHIDE THEY'RE REACHING CRITICAL TEMPERATURES!  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] We've got to STOP THE REACTION  
[REDACTED] BEFORE THEY EXPLODE!

The CAMERA PUSHES IN on the viewscreen, where we see the crevice glowing brighter than before...

CUT TO:

THE CREVICE

But in reality, the glow is no more intense than it was when last shown. The CAMERA PULLS BACK to include sound waves reaching the crevice.

ANGLE ON TEMPORARY BASE

Huge amplifiers are beamed at the crevice, beaming the sound waves o.s.

INT. OF BASE - ON MEGATRON

He is at his computer controls, and punches up a button. SFX: WEIRD COMPUTER CONTROLS and STRANGE LIGHT EFX give him an unearthly glow --

MEGATRON  
These [REDACTED] ENERGY AMPLIFIERS ARE  
GIVING Teletraan I exactly the wrong  
readings-- [REDACTED] WHICH ARE JUST THE  
RIGHT READINGS TO [REDACTED] lure [REDACTED] the Autobots  
back to the crevice AND THEIR DOOM!  
(HE LAUGHS MANIACALLY)

CUT TO:

INT. - AUTOBOT HQ - ON PRIMES

OPTIMUS PRIME/PRIME  
DOUBLE  
Autobots -- !

Ironhide cuts them off.

IRONHIDE  
Hold it! Until we [REDACTED] GET YOUR IDENTITIES  
UNSCRAMBLED, [REDACTED] I'll give the orders!

He swings around to the others.

IRONHIDE (CONT)  
Autobots...transform!

ANGLE ON PRIMES AND AUTOBOTS

The Autobots start to TRANSFORM and roll o.s.

IRONHIDE (CONT-VO)  
...and roll out for the [REDACTED] LIGHT CREVICE!

FLIP TO:

EXT. - CREVICE SITE

The Autobots roll INTO SCENE, with the two Optimus Prime trailer trucks riding abreast.

IRONHIDE (VO)  
Autobots...transform!

ANGLE ON THE TWO PRIMES

as both of them TRANSFORM to robot mode...

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Be on [REDACTED] guard. We could be HEADING INTO  
[REDACTED] ANOTHER DECEPTICON TRAP!

PRIME DOUBLE  
[REDACTED]  
We'll spring any traps [REDACTED] FROM HERE ON, AUTOBOTS---

ANGLE ON OTHER AUTOBOTS - FEATURE HUFFER

They have just transformed to robot mode. Suddenly a laser blast WHOOSHES over their heads and they hit the dirt.

HUFFER  
[REDACTED] DID SOMEONE MENTION  
"TRAPS"?

CLOSE ON GEARS

His face in the dirt.

GEARS  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I DON'T MIND HITIN' THE DIRT...  
(spitting dirt out)  
[REDACTED]  
BUT I DON'T ENJOY EATIN' IT!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Skywarp pops up from behind a mound directly off to the side and lobs one of his concussion bombs.

WIDE ON AUTOBOTS

The bomb EXPLODES, and the Autobots are momentarily frozen in action as the SCREEN REVERBERATES and CONCENTRIC CIRCLES WIDEN and go o.s. (SFX: HIGH-PITCHED WHINE)

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the effect is wiped, the Autobots spin away from the center of the blast and go o.s., in all directions, some running, some crawling, some staggering.

ON SQUAD OF DECEPTICONS

running INTO SHOT, firing their weapons INTO CAMERA.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Prime Double and the Autobots return the fire.

PRIME DOUBLE  
Stand your ground and return [REDACTED]  
fire, Autobots!

WIDER

to include Optimus Prime.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
NO! Fall back and regroup!

Confused, they turn to run for cover -- only to find another barrage of fire coming at them from the other side.

WIDER

to include another squad of Decepticons coming INTO SHOT, firing. Trapped in the line of fire, they are beginning to get rattled by the conflicting orders of the two Optimus Primes. They duck and feint, trying to avoid being hit by enemy fire, wildly firing their weapons as they mill around in confusion. (SFX: LASER FIRE!)

The CAMERA PULLS BACK to include Megatron and Starscream, their backs TO CAMERA as they watch the action on their viewing screen inside the temporary base.

STARSCREAM (VO)  
(gloating) THE AUTOBOTS ARE GLORIOUSLY CONFUSED!  
[REDACTED] WE SHALL CRUSH THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL!

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST STARSCREAM TO MEGATRON

MEGATRON (VO) NOT YET! FIRST MY PRIME CLONE MUST WIN THE AUTOBOTS' TRUST - THEN THEY WILL FOLLOW HIM INTO THE CREVICE....

CLOSE ON MEGATRON

He doesn't take his attention away from the screen o.s.

MEGATRON (CONT)  
THEREFORE, He must destroy one of [REDACTED] OUR NUMBER!

BACK TO TWO SHOT - STARSCREAM AND MEGATRON

Starscream smiles, thinking it's an excellent plan...

STARSCREAM  
Yes...yes... [REDACTED] DESTROYING A DECEPTICON WILL CONVINC THE AUTOBOTS YOUR REPLICA IS THE REAL OPTIMUS PRIME!

CLOSE ON MEGATRON

He smiles, too!

MEGATRON  
Exactly! And do you have any idea WHICH DECEPTICON WILL BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO MAKE THAT SACRIFICE?

ANGLE ON MEGATRON AND STARSCREAM

As Megatron continues watching the screen with his back TO CAMERA, Starscream paces behind him, thinking...

STARSCREAM  
(pauses, thinking)  
It should be [REDACTED] A trusted officer, to make it look really good.

MEGATRON (VO)  
Precisely...  
(evil chuckle)  
[REDACTED] why I've decided on...you.  
WHICH IS

CLOSE ON STARSCREAM

STARSCREAM

(panicked)

[REDACTED]

ANGLE ON ARCHWAY I? STARSCREAM, THE PRIDE OF THE DECEPTICON WAR ACADEMY?  
NEVER! DO YOU HEAR ME —

He rushes through a doorway and o.s.

STARSCREAM (CONT)

[REDACTED] NEVER!

EXT. OF TEMPORARY BASE

The wall of the mountain slides open as before, and Starscream leaps out and flies o.s. The mountain wall noiselessly slides shut.

BACK TO MEGATRON - INT. OF BASE

MEGATRON

Soundwave!

Soundwave steps INTO SHOT and snaps to attention.

MEGATRON (CONT)

Eject Laserbeak!

CLOSER ON SOUNDWAVE

Soundwave nods and presses his chest, activating the panel to open. The cassette pops out and the CAMERA PANS with it as it TRANSFORMS to Laserbeak and hovers in front of Megatron, awaiting his orders.

MEGATRON

Bring Starscream back [REDACTED]  
-- without delay!

LASERBEAK

(SHRIEKS)

Laserbeak flies o.s.

EXT. OF BASE

The panel slides open, and Laserbeak flies out. The CAMERA PANS DOWN the mountainside at an angle to reveal Spike, Windcharger, and a few other Autobots as they duck along a ridge to get out of the line of Decepticon fire. Spike catches Laserbeak out of the corner of his eye and glances, pointing up.

SPIKE  
Windcharger, look...Laserbeak and  
Starscream! They came out of the  
mountainside. [REDACTED]

POV

Starscream flies o.s. Laserbeak is just emerging from the  
hidden exit which silently closes after them.

LASERBEAK  
(SHRIEK)

WINDCHARGER (VO)  
Yeah...and something funny's going  
on with those two [REDACTED] DECEPTICONVICTS!

ANOTHER ANGLE IN THE SKY

SPIKE (VO)  
It looks like Laserbeak's chasing  
Starscream!

Laserbeak circles back, swoops over Starscream's head.  
Starscream ducks as Laserbeak goes up and o.s.

LASERBEAK  
(WARNING SHRIEK)

BACK TO SPIKE AND WINDCHARGER

WINDCHARGER  
[REDACTED] THEN LET'S FIND OUT WHY?  
[REDACTED]

SPIKE  
No-- [REDACTED] CHECK OUT THAT  
mountainside. [REDACTED] THEY SEEMED TO COME  
RIGHT out of it!

They begin to move o.s.

BACK TO LASERBEAK AND STARSCREAM

Starscream holds onto a small abutment with one hand and leans  
out from the mountainside as Laserbeak swoops down at him again.

LASERBEAK  
(ANGRY SHREIK)

STARSCREAM  
You're not taking me back!

He FIRES his NULL-RAY. Laserbeak easily dodges the blast, swooping in under the ray and fires his LASER CANNON.

STARSCREAM (CONT)

[REDACTED] I REFUSE TO SACRIFICE MYSELF-----

Starscream is cut off in mid-sentence as he's hit and releases his grasp, falling away from the mountainside.

CLOSER

As Laserbeak swoops INTO SHOT, digs his talons into Starscream, catching him in mid-air.

ON SPIKE AND WINDCHARGER

scanning the mountainside looking for an entrance as they quickly climb up the face of the mountain.

SPIKE

(puzzled)

There's got to be [REDACTED] A WAY IN BECAUSE THIS [REDACTED] is where they came out!

Windcharger glances back over his shoulder and o.s.

WINDCHARGER

Quick, Spike--Duck!!

He pushes Spike out of view into a tall recess in the mountainside. The CAMERA HOLDS and Laserbeak flies INTO SHOT carrying Starscream in his talons.

LASERBEAK

(SHRIEK)

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST SPIKE AND WINDCHARGER

As Spike and Windcharger look out from their cover behind the ridge, a section of the mountainside in the b.g. slides open and Laserbeak and Starscream fly into the opening.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Spike and Windcharger exchange a quick glance...and then quickly move out around the ridge and head in through the opening just as it closes behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. - TEMPORARY BASE

Starscream cringes as he faces Megatron. Soundwave trains his blaster gun at Starscream. Laserbeak is perched nearby. Just off to Starscream's side is the machine used to create the Optimus Prime clone.

MEGATRON

[REDACTED] (CYNICALLY)  
[REDACTED] YOUR COWARDICE PREVENTED  
[REDACTED] YOU FROM HEARING ME OUT, STARScream...

ANGLE IN TUNNEL

Spike and Windcharger hide next to the opening leading into the base. Through the opening, we see Megatron and Starscream.

MEGATRON (CONT)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I MEAN TO HAVE  
MY CLONE OF OPTIMUS  
PRIME DESTROY YOUR  
HOLOGRAPHIC CLONE. NOT  
YOU!

CLOSER ON SPIKE AND WINDCHARGER

They react, exchanging stunned glances.

MEGATRON (VO-CONT)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

AFTER THAT SHOW OF  
LEADERSHIP, THE AUTOBOTS  
WILL FOLLOW THE FALSE  
PRIME INTO THE LIGHT  
CREVICE AND CERTAIN  
DOOM.  
(HE LAUGHS)

ANGLE ON MEGATRON

Megatron approaches the cloning machine and operates some controls. A ray shoots out and o.s.

ON STARScream

The ray envelopes him as he looks down, startled.

STARScream IT DOESN'T EVEN TICKLE MY  
[REDACTED] TRANSISTORS!

ANGLE ON VERTICAL CLONING MONITOR

Just as when Optimus Prime was cloned, Starscream's circuitry appears in the monitor. The CAMERA PANS over to the tunnel entrance. The Decepticons, intent on the cloning operation, are unaware that Spike and Windcharger have poked their heads in through the opening and are watching the process, amazed.