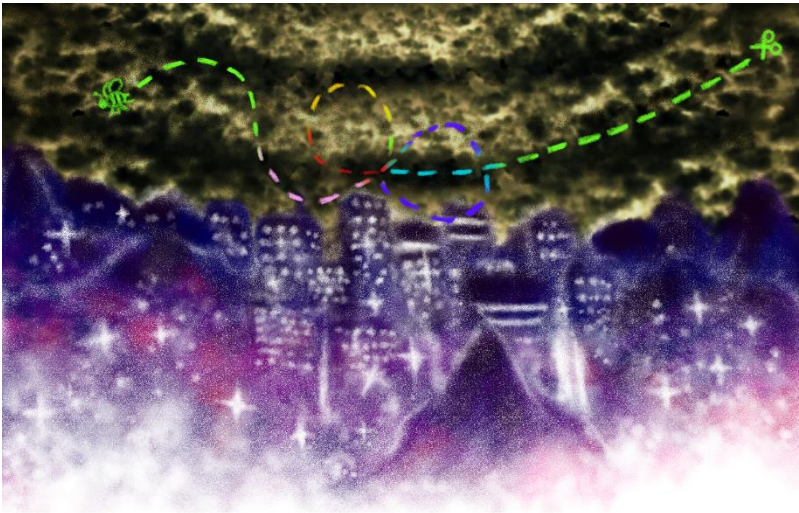
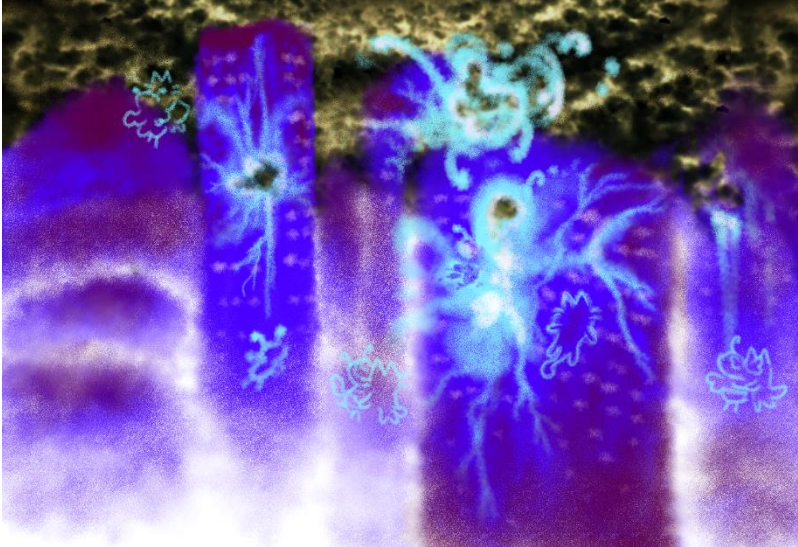
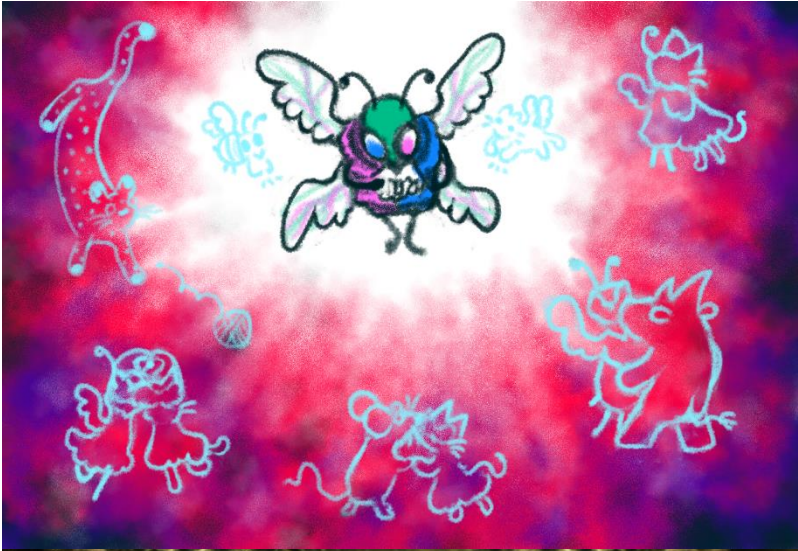


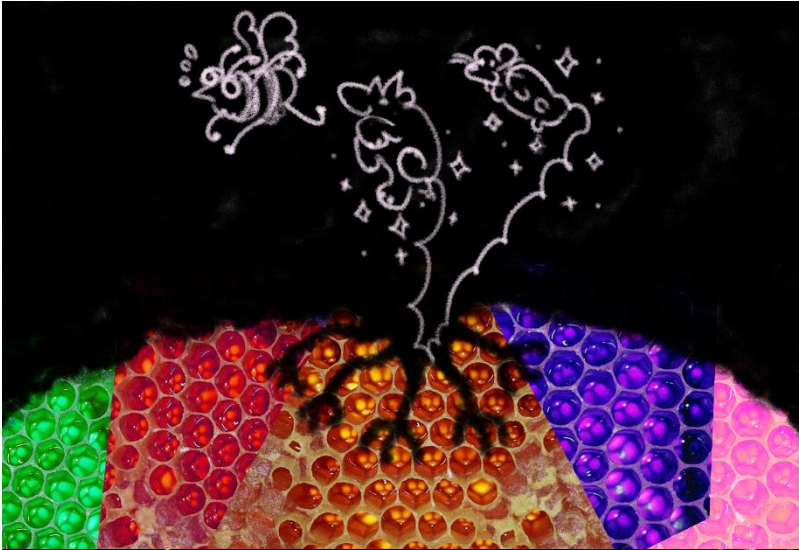
"There are those who fight, for the sake of hope and ending despair. The ones who fight are Magicals, who only hold the power to plant the seeds for the future. As bright as their sparks burned was as dark as they fell into the pits of despair. Until one Magical gave salvation for all Magicals to save them from their cursed fate. Escaping this fate, we fight for the sake of our wishes to eventually be taken away by the law of cycles, our salvation. One day we all be reunited as one, in unity of peace and fulfillment. In this irredeemable world forever repeating its tragedies and violence, I dreamt that I was once again reunited with a blooming smile from the distant past."

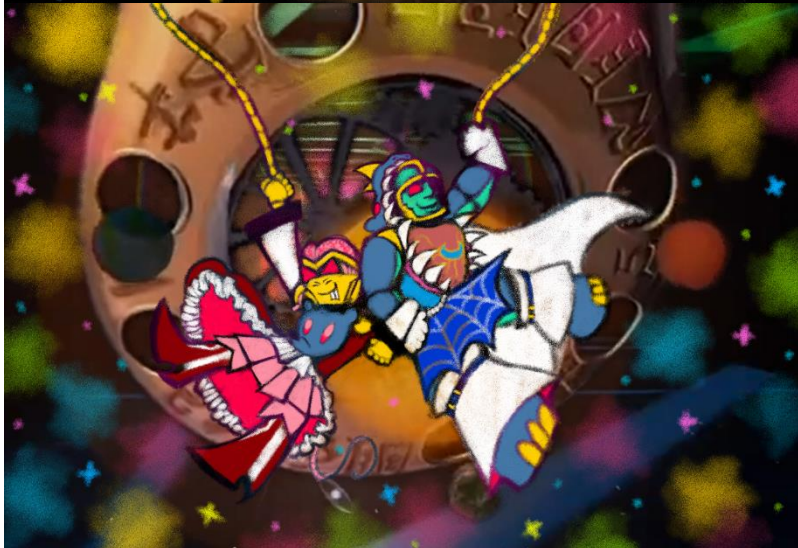




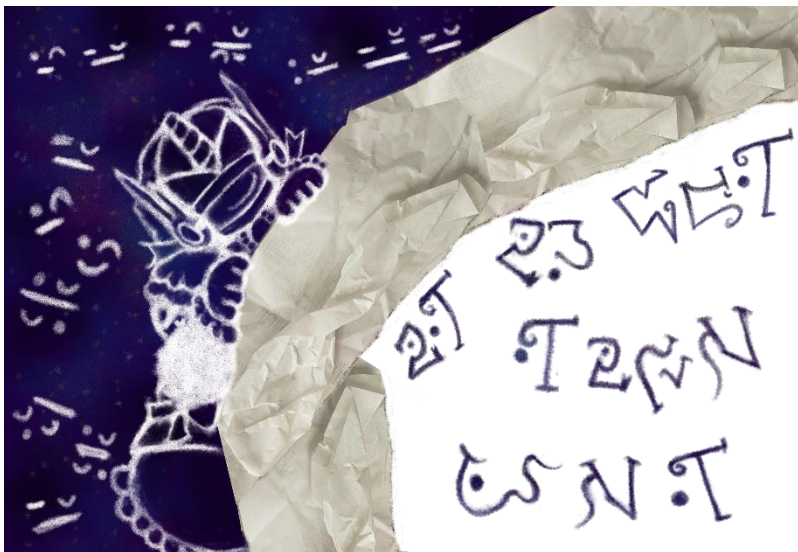






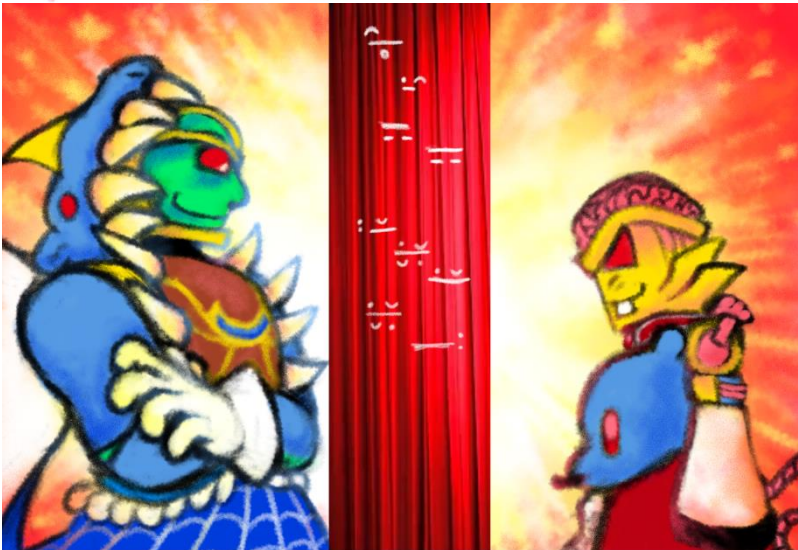
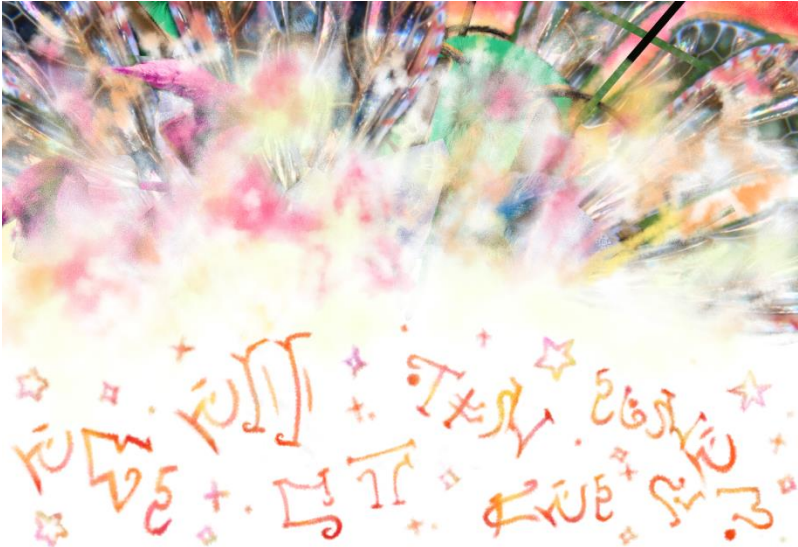














His internal alarms go off. He doesn't want to get up but he needs to for today. He feels his entire weight slump out of his bed which nearly knocks over his nightstand. "Does it have to be morning already..." he eventually left the floor because it was starting to get uncomfortable and stretched a bit until his comm link kept beeping at him. "Hey monkey bot." "Rhinox don't call me that." "Sorry. I guess hearing it enough from Rattrap sometimes it slips off my tongue." "Uh huh." Optimus answered with a grunt. "Are you out of bed yet?" "Yeah, just barely made it out. What's with these maleficons that just won't go away?" "It's just a manifestation of people's problems. It's just a part of life we got to accept." Optimus sighed. "You're always right Rhinox. Why aren't you leading our group of magicals?" "You know there would be a lot more maleficons we would have on our plate right?" Optimus laughed at that. He was really grateful that he has such amazing friends and people to depend on in life. It's like he finally feels at peace despite the world's problems. He can still go on and face everything without having to be so alone. "Don't let Rattrap make you late." "You wanna talk to him?" He heard a muffled groggy voice. "Eh..I

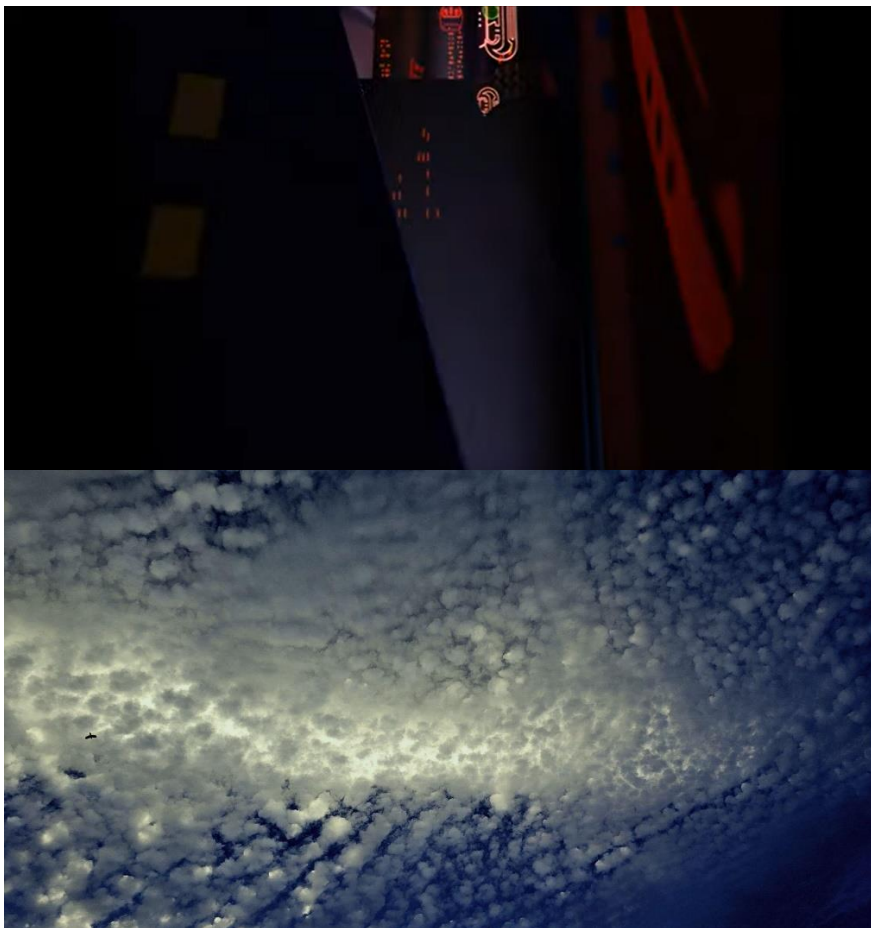
hear yeh.." "You sure you don't need someone to drag you out of bed?" He heard Rhinox pull at some blinds. "YEOOWW!!!! EY! MAYBE A WARNING NEXT TIME WOULD GO A LONG WAY!!" "Well maybe not having to tell you so many times that staying up playing video games isn't going to help your sleep schedule!" "I'll see you guys soon." Optimus abruptly hung up while he went to go wake someone else up. "Morning sleepy skull." Optimus petted Vok's airy hair which nestled Vok in their little bed. They silently yawned before sneaking back to sleep while Optimus checked on his garden. "Today's gonna be a big day huh? You guys really know how to make someone feel welcomed despite not being from here." Optimus turned to Vok peeking from one of the plants trying to surprise Optimus. He only smiled. "I feel like you guys are gonna have a lot in common with each other." Optimus opened the door from his apartment and took off, Vok closely following perching on his shoulder.

"Morning gang." Optimus approached confidently. "Good thing you're not late this time." "Eh who cares? Cheetor needs to chill out with nagging us if things don't go his way." "Shut up Rattrap." "Already? Doesn't seem like monkey bot got his precious 8 hours of beddy bye last night." "Look who's talking." Rattrap could only give a playful glare to Rhinox which made him look like he was glaring at a building. "How's Blackarachnia?" "She's handling it as best as she can with Silverbolt." "Oh dear." "Oh boohoo! I can't make it tonight! I gotta work on my highly illegal science project again! What does she even see in that dumb mutt anyways?" "You wanna say that about us?" "Hey at least I make time for us to go out more than she does! And I got twice the class and charm." "Seems that you were pretty busy with playing Doom last night as I recall. That's definitely classy and charming." "Oh yeah? You wanna see who's really gonna be late this time?" Rattrap

transformed into beast mode. "See ya there rotten eggs!" "Oh now you done did it!" Rhinox charged after Rattrap which left Optimus in the dust once again. Vok tried cheering up the slightly distressed Optimus which was interrupted with Rhinox calling out to Optimus. "C'mon Vok. Don't want to be late again."

"Good thing out of all the days you guys have been late it wasn't this one." Rhinox and Rattrap heavily panting which didn't really determine who won their race. Optimus could be bothered less by that than what was behind Cheetor. "Kid." Rattrap wheezed in between struggled pants. "Just get on with it. Did you find a new celebrity cut out or something?" "He's not a cut out! He helped us defeat the maleficon last night!" Cheetor stepped aside to reveal the shadowy figure which was a tall nervous magical. He hid his awkwardness as best as he could as he cleared his throat. "My name is Dinobot." Everyone went silent. "And what? You the president or something?" "No. I uh... am joining your team of magicals. If you will have me." "His time magic is pretty handy if you ask me! He could be a lot of help when were in a tight spot or coordinating an attack." Cheetor winked. "I wondered how we were able to pull off that trap last night. I could get behind that." Rhinox was the first to put in his response. "Eh I guess I wouldn't mind a new guy that isn't just there for being ugly." Dinobot snarled at Rattrap. They were gonna get along just fine. "Well I'm glad you wanted to join us. It's been tiring fighting them alone, right?" Optimus gently grabbed Dinobot's hands and gingerly held them together. "I'm sure we'll make a prime team!" Dinobot could only be surprised at Optimus forwardness. It was warm and welcoming.





"It's beautiful."

"Yes."



They sat on the bridge dangling their feet facing the whole city. It was such a quiet and peaceful moment between the two just being in each other's company. "I can't believe it's already been a month since you joined us." "I am surprised as well." "Time really just flew past us, right?" Optimus smiled at Dinobot, who let himself have a moment of vulnerability. He couldn't help smiling back at him. "It's strange..." "What is, Dinobot?" "I feel as if I've known you for much longer than this. Even if our time together has been considerably short." "You think a month is short?" Optimus was amused by that. "I supposed I'm not used to someone like you." Optimus held out his hand which Vok eagerly rubbed up against. "I guess I'm not either. But a part of me feels the same way. I've always just wanted to talk to you again, even though we see each other every day." They just stared at the city lights. As if it was a dazzling starry sky.

Silverbolt paced around his room just listening to his comm link beeping and beeping until he heard his love's sweet voice. "Hiya big boy." "Blackarachnia! Oh, how I missed you so!" He couldn't stop his tail from wagging so excitedly beating his blankets on his bed. "I know, I know, the love of my life hasn't been taken out for a walk yet. I'm sorry." "I know I try to be more understanding of our situations dear. But I do want to purpose something to you." "Oh?" Blackarachnia waited for his response. "How about Monday? We can have the whole day together since I won't have much to do during that day? And you despise that dreadful day of the week." Silverbolt eagerly waited for her response. She sighed. He perked up. "The one Monday that I want to blow off I can't. That's when I'm going to be at a meeting and then won't have enough time to hang out later that day. I'm sorry love puppy." "That's...alright..." "Do you think Friday might work out?" "I have to do something that day." "I'm sorry our time just never seems to be in sync. I should really think about creating a time machine at this point, right?" Silverbolt chuckled at that with being pulled down by all the weight in his spark. "I promise. I'll see you soon, ok?" "Alright my love. I love you." "I love you too." She hung up with a kiss. Silverbolt flopped onto his bed. His spark welling up with all the emotions he's been bearing with no Blackarachnia. "Would it kill to make time for me instead of taking on so much work?!" His bedroom started distorting into a horrifying place. "If there is no time for us at all then there's no point in us as well!" His spark couldn't handle the rejection that distorted all the scenery. "I don't care anymore!" Silverbolt did not realize that a maleficon swallowed him whole into their trap. Leaving only a group of magicals to save him from his nightmares.

"Well Tigerhawk. We might just be lucky to get some rest if we go to bed earlier tonight." Tigerhawk giggled as they were gently

tossed into the air until they were snuggled up with Cheetor like a stuffed toy. "Good night lil guy." Tigerhawk purred falling asleep. Until they shot up like an alarm until they couldn't stop frantically running around in circles that a maleficon got a hold of Silverbolt. "Oh geez just had to jinx it didn't I? Can you pass me my charm?"

"You see how I was right? She really needs to get a better grip on the other aspects of her life if she expects her and Silverbolt to work out!"

Rhinox sighed. "I wish she was more careful about her decisions too."

"Guys! Look out!" Cheetor yelled from far away. Rhinox and Rattrap nearly dodged the maleficon's familiars. "Maybe you guys need to be more careful with your surroundings before you keep ranting!" "Sheesh alright. Just saying the truth." "Uh huh." Rhinox spat out sarcastically. "Sorry we're late!" Optimus and Dinobot ran as fast as they could towards the rest of the group. "Man, you had a good not tardy streak going today slow poke." "Shut it vermin." "Well *someone's* gotta keep score of how well we're managing our problems here!" The group started to bicker due to a lack of sleep they've been getting lately. "GUYS!!!" Cheetor erupted. Everyone was silent. Vok peeked from Optimus while Tigerhawk hissed at them. "Can we please just focus so we can all have more time to sleep tonight?" Everyone agreed. They needed to work together to get this all over with. "Let's do this!"

Transformation Animation Soon

The ground shook underneath them as a liquid started covering the entire city, changing the buildings and everything to be covered in mangled thorned vines and patterns. The maleficon stood on top of Silverbolt's apartment roof only seeing sparkles of multiple lights forming a rainbow approach them. "Cheetor! Optimus!" Dinobot cried out. "Ok!" Cheetor's ribbons caught Optimus and Dinobot as they ran across the liquid side by side, giving good aim for Optimus to shoot his arrows to disable the cowering vines from strangling the buildings. Dinobot was able to stop time as Optimus rocketed himself to Cheetor for a Trio Duet which threaded a whole barrier around the entire city returning it back to its normal technological self. "I know how you feel Silverbolt but you just have to have a little more faith!" Rhinox shot 5 missiles into Rattrap's Latticework Barrier. The maleficon nearly exploded into pieces from impact but was cooked enough to stop moving.

Cake Song Soon

Rhinox put his entire weight on Tigerhawk which made them cough up a hairball that unraveled to be a pitiful blob of Silverbolt. Rhinox gingerly holding Silverbolt let the wind be littered with flying papers that formed into a huge spiderweb that revealed a silhouette of Blackarachnia gesturing to come to him. Silverbolt floated up to the spiderweb which he let the web consume him and Blackarachnia into a glittering aurora that healed everyone's charms from the horrible nightmare. The sky returned to normal as the aurora melted into the sunrise. Tigerhawk landed back into Cheetor's arms, it was all finally over. "Another nightmare another dream." Rhinox chimed in. "Yknow maybe having more hands-on deck ain't so bad after all." "Finally something positive." "Aside from having to deal with Silverbolt's relationship problems."

Optimus shook his head when Rattrap lost his not complaining streak. Cheetor yawned as he sleepily walked towards them. "Good work guys. I think this cat's gotta nap..." Cheetor tried rubbing the sleep from his eyes as Rhinox held him close to let him rest on his side, watching the sunrise envelop everything. Optimus ran towards it which Dinobot followed after but stopped. "Well isn't that prime." Rattrap, Rhinox, Cheetor and Tigerhawk let the sun shine on them. Optimus felt like a moth to a flame, while Dinobot could only just stand there. Just be in the moment.

Rhinox had to carry Cheetor home since he was so beat from having to constantly stay up all this month. "So uh, what next?" "Well we are definitely going to take some well-deserved naps." Rhinox answered Rattrap's question. "Well maybe later the crew can come over to my lab." Optimus invited everyone. "Mhm! Can't pass up a good cup of energon and cheese samples!" Rattrap cheerfully accepted. "I've been meaning to ask you about what else you've been able to find outside of Cybertron." Rhinox looked back. "I guess we'll have to see." Dinobot was unusually quiet after their battle. Vok floated next to him, but he didn't notice since he was looking at the ground. "Are you tired Dinobot?" Optimus gently teased him. "I am." Dinobot perked up. Optimus let a soft chuckle escape from his smile. "Well don't be late tomorrow, ok? I'll call you just in case."



Dinobot could only stare at everything that made up the world.



The sky was as normal as ever.



The city was as normal as ever.

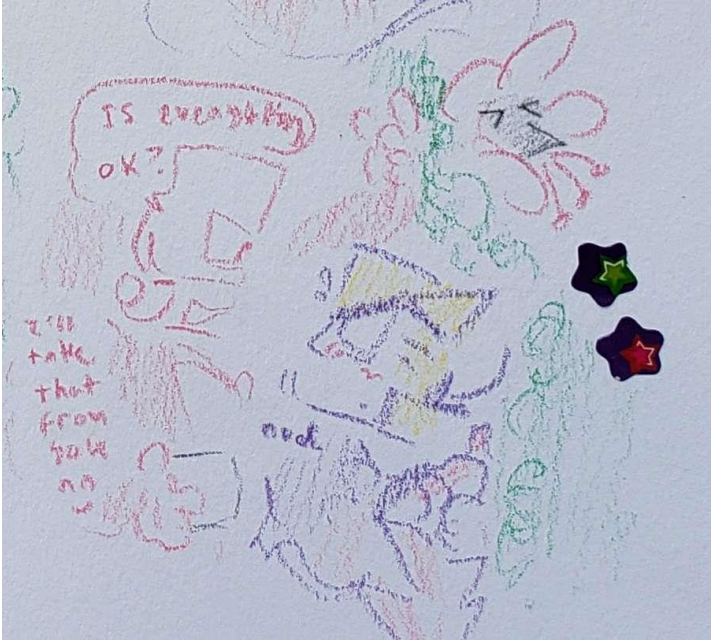


Their battles were as fun as ever.



Everything is what it could only be.

There would be no questioning this happiness Dinobot never felt before.



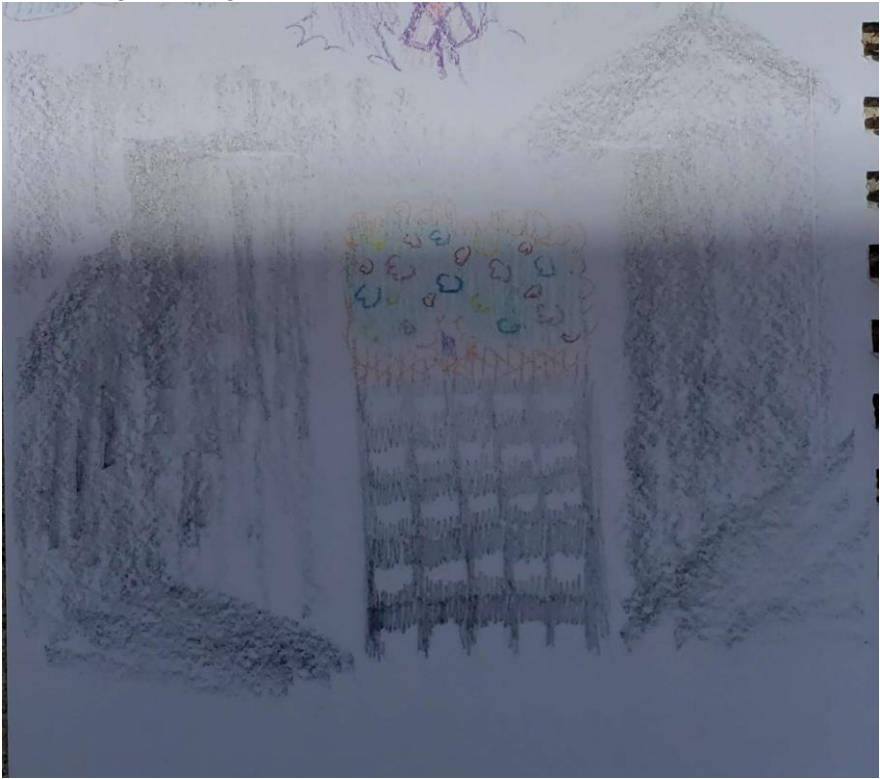
But something felt amiss.



Perhaps.



Something is wrong.



"Whaddya drag me here all the way for?" Rattrap asked Dinobot. He let him chow down on his triple cheese pizza before coming out to him. "I fear there has been something pestering me as of late." "Yeah, I'm not surprised since you let anything get to yah that mildly pisses you off." Dinobot growled at that stupid rodent. Of course he couldn't handle any serious moments without cracking a joke or remark. "I need to ask you something. Seriously." "Woah. Word outside of my vocabulary. What's the stitch?" Dinobot looked towards the city. The faces of all the strangers began to blur and the city looked more different than before. "Have you notice anything strange about this place?" "Besides you, I don't really give it that much thought." Rattrap stretched out his ridiculously long slice letting the cheese slap him in the face before gobbling it down. "I only brought you here because you are the only one annoying enough to sniff out any disturbances." Dinobot's face got splattered with tomato sauce which he angrily wiped off with a napkin being crumpled with his emotions. "Yknow what I just got?" "What." Rattrap kept chewing on his pizza until he pointed behind Dinobot. "The clouds got darker when you got mad at me." Dinobot was a bit taken a back. He turned behind him and he barely caught the clouds turning back to normal from being thunderous.

"Why do you live with Rhinox?"

"I didn't have a place to crash anywhere else in the city. I had to come over when Cheetor said there was a lot more maleficons to dance with."

"And where did you stay before then?"

Rattrap tried thinking about it. Nothing was coming to mind. "I don't think I like where this is going pronto breath."

"I don't either. We should leave to see what lies outside of the city. Come with me. If you wish."

"Hey hey hey hey hey! Hold your horses there, we can't just leave right now! What if another maleficon appears and it's just them 3?"

"If this place becomes any stranger, I'm sure they will be fine."
Dinobot started marching towards the train station which Rattrap reluctantly followed.

"You sure have a big spark leaving the rest of your friends behind to travel to the middle of nowhere!"

"And you are just as loyal as I am."

"If YOU didn't drag me along in your stupid train ride maybe we both would be a whole lot better off right now!"

"And that was YOUR decision rodent!" Dinobot jabbed an accusatory claw at Rattrap. He feels like it was always impossible to get along with this bot who reeked of cheese. "Don't blame me for your stupid mistakes! You had a choice to follow me out here and there is nothing you can do to change it now!"

"Oh yeah? And then everyone else just leaves you behind? You're just so thick headed when you don't realize how much we need you! You think you can just go and abandon everyone else just to confirm that your imagination is playing tricks on you!"

"I beg to differ!"

The train was engulfed in darkness which made Dinobot snap out of his quick ill temper. A large thick fog enveloped the windows outside which made everything nearly pitch black. The next stop was the city they tried leaving.

"What is this?"

"How should I know?"

They got off the train. Right back to square one.

"We have no choice but to go on foot." Dinobot transformed into beast mode.

"Oh for crying out loud! Can't we just go home and just let whoever's working these things just fix it later?"

"What if there is no later? This purely cannot be coincidence. If you're so eager to go home, then leave!"

"As if I'm letting you do that alone this time!"

Rattrap had no choice but to accompany Dinobot again. He didn't want to leave him behind. But that didn't stop each other from bickering and guilt tripping the other.

Until Rattrap flopped on the ground and groaned in defeat.

"Are we there yet?"

"No."

They were back in the city.

"Ok. So something's definitely up. Because now I can't go back home until we figure this out!" Rattrap was prepared to sock whoever was causing this in the face by drawing out his weapon.

"Wait! We can't!"

"Why not?! Why drag me all the way out of town for hours and hours on end just for you to suddenly change your mind?!"

"Look."

The citizens started crowding around them. They had both of their faces cartoonishly plastered on them. Bearing into them. After a long terrible staring contest, they started walking away.

"It would be more wise if we kept this discovery as a secret. Whoever is trying to attack us is only waiting for us to reveal ourselves and put us in a vulnerable position."

Rattrap begrudgingly agreed with Dinobot. Whoever was behind the curtains might be more powerful than any maleficon they've encountered. Let alone have 2 bots to deal with it first.

"I'm gonna sleep on this. If anything else happens just call me, we don't need another tough guy act on the team." Rattrap tossed a slice of pizza to Dinobot. "I didn't really think of you as the loyal type at first but eh, who really knows for sure?" Rattrap scurried away. Dinobot held the slice in his hand thoughtfully before discarding it.

"If my memory proves to be correct, it was never that simple. But now I know I am the only one who bears these memories."

Dinobot transformed into his robot mode again. He remembers where everything is from. What he looks like and what was bothering him for so long. Everything was far too happy and forgiving to let him live such a peaceful and meaningful life.

"This maze of illusions, this lure of kindness and compassion can only be fabricated by someone who would want something more out of it."

This is not a familiar place to him. These scars are not familiar to him. Only one aspect of this world could ever strike any familiarity in him.

"There is no mere coincidence of these turn of events. This is a predawitches' labyrinth."

Dinobot entered the dark. The darkest corners of his mind and true memories. He remembered that there was no such thing as maleficons who caused harmless nightmares. There were predawitches that preyed on the despair of others and having magicals be consumed by that very despair to endlessly repeat a ruthless cycle of collecting energy. Dinobot fell into the trap of sacrificing his own spark to save Optimus. Over and over again he had no choice but to fail until Optimus had no choice but to sacrifice himself to the entire universe to rid of the predawitches. To save Dinobot. And in that sacrifice Dinobot lost the one thing he fought for. Erased and meant to be forgotten so everyone else would be free from the cycle of dreams and despair. But now a predawitch has willed itself into existence, seeking to destroy Dinobot and his friends in their labyrinth. Dinobot yet again must fight alone.

Tigerhawk gobbled down crackers that they messily dipped in a glass of milk almost as big as them. They carelessly tipped over the glass of milk that they then started immediately crying over. "C'mon Tigerhawk we talked about table manners." Tigerhawk pleaded that they already knew about their table manners but had no power from stopping the milk spilling. "I might just end up taking your place as the mature one around here. This city isn't big enough for two leaders yknow." Tigerhawk jumped up at that and protested over and over again until they fell into Cheetor's lap. Optimus and Cheetor chuckled at Tigerhawk being their usual silly self. "You and Tigerhawk really get along huh?" Optimus giggled. Cheetor agreed as he helped Tigerhawk clean up the mess he made as Dinobot watched. "You two really make a prime duo. Ever since I first met you two." "Yeah, we're almost inseparable now. It's always just been us two even before we met Rhinox." Cheetor reminiscences about the past. "May I ask something Cheetor?" "Yeah, what is it deebee?" "Do you remember how Tigerhawk ended up staying with you?" Everyone was confused by Dinobot's

question. Tigerhawk could only ask why Dinobot would ask that question. "I was just curious." Dinobot stated. "It happened so long ago I can't believe how much time has passed since then. It almost feels like yesterday when I was the only magical in the city until Tigerhawk was the only reason I had to keep on going." Cheetor held Tigerhawk close to him like a stuffed toy. "I think if I didn't have this little guy cheering me on, I probably would've given up." "Cheetor..." "It's ok big bot. I think it's just best to be happy with what you got right?" "You shouldn't doubt your talents so much Cheetor. You are much stronger than you realize." "Thanks to you too Dinobot. I just had to be stronger to train big bot here and Rhinox to show them the ropes." "I'm just really proud of how everyone's really gotten stronger and closer with each other. It's like for having to be the reliant one for so long, I get to rely on you guys now."

Tigerhawk teased Cheetor how he's a crybaby when he gets lonely. Cheetor teased Tigerhawk back and it was cute seeing them having such a close kinship. "It's really good timing since the maleficons have only been getting stronger. I feel the same that everyone can just get along despite all the bickering." Dinobot only sipped on his energon which Cheetor only gave Optimus and Dinobot a playful look. "Despite it all, I wouldn't want it any other way."

"Cheetor. Could I trouble you for more energon?" "Sure just lemme check a quick sec." Cheetor gently put down Tigerhawk near Cheetor's place. Dinobot waited for Cheetor to be out of the picture to draw out his tail shield. "What is it Dinobot? Is something wrong?" "I'm sorry Optimus." Optimus concerned expression froze in time which familiarly panged Dinobot. Dinobot could not let this go on any further and has to do something about Tigerhawk now. Tigerhawk pleaded to be put down as they were firmly gripped and dangled leaving them at the mercy of a magical. "Drop the act. I

know what you're doing." Tigerhawk was confused. "So, it can only be you who has something to do with everyone's memories being rewritten. How you and Cheetor are supposedly so close." Dinobot snarled at Tigerhawk who was only growing more adorably confused. "Come out with it! Your sick enjoyment of trapping us in this labyrinth is only wearing my patience more and more thin!" Tigerhawk was struggling to let out any noises as they were being strangled. They only let out a "vick" sound until Dinobot decided that it would be best if they went outside for a walk. Dinobot leaped from building to building growing more frustrated with his processor digging further into his memory bank. How he let himself believe that Cheetor and Tigerhawk were ever close in the first place. How he, himself, was close to anyone, especially Cheetor. Cheetor never saw him as an equal and had to repeatedly see Cheetor succumb to the same fate because he could never be bothered to listen to a Decepticon. Cheetor himself in nature icked Dinobot so the dislike was mutual, not understanding how someone so young despite the facade of maturity could still be so reckless at any opening of a weak spot. It was tragic to see how the world really treated the both of them. And how much more tragic to see his murderer toying with his weak spots. Dinobot slammed Tigerhawk against a pillar so hard Tigerhawk nearly lost stuffing from their unraveling stitches. Tigerhawk was afraid of being spilled milk and couldn't breathe. "I'll make your insides spill if you don't stop this trickery right now! You opportunistic vermin!" Dinobot was suddenly yanked by his leg dragged down into the darkness. "I don't recall Tigerhawk going by Rattrap's nicknames. Just because I'm younger than you doesn't make you more experienced than me to see your little stunt being pulled off." Dinobot noticed all the ribbons being strung around the city like a Christmas tree surrounding Dinobot. "And I definitely draw the line at seeing any of my friends getting hurt. So you better get your claws off them now!"

"Do you remember what Tigerhawk did to you?" "He didn't backstab me that's for sure!" Images of predawitches flashed the billboard screens behind Dinobot. "This 'Tigerhawk' was never your friend! They're tricking us by making us believe our memories and this city is real! You must believe me!" "Something get caught up in your processor? What are you saying?" Dinobot had no proof to show Cheetor that he was going to repeat his fate unless if he blasted Tigerhawk. Unfortunately, Cheetor caught his friend in the nick of time and told them to run away. "You're letting them escape! We need to go after them!" "I'm not going anywhere until you tell me who else you're planning to attack!" Dinobot froze time and tried cutting off Cheetor's ribbon which ended up being a fruitless effort. "There's no point in trying to protect the enemy." "Let them go. If you're gonna blame my best friend for all of this, how do I know you're telling the truth? How you never want to get closer to anyone but Optimus?" Dinobot and Cheetor had a growling contest until Dinobot drew out his tail shield, coughing up a spare gun. Cheetor drew out his gut blaster.

2 trails of light shot out of the sky spitting an unfathomable amount of bullets at each other. As soon as one bullet nearly grazed the other, as soon as one of them was in perfect aim to kill, they were not strong enough to take the shot.

"I guess we're too good at this kinda thing. But don't think you can out best me!"

"And you shouldn't let yourself get too cocky!"

Time conveniently stopped as both magicals were down to their last bullet. The rest of their bullets decorated the surrounding area near centimeters from destroying each other. Time resumed and their remains created glitter that surrounded Dinobot and Cheetor.

"It's a tie." Dinobot wasn't going to let it end like this. Dinobot stopped time again and drew out his sword. He looked away from Cheetor. "Will you just knock it off already?!" Dinobot pointed the

sword towards his dino head. Cheetor was confused until he was too late to understand what Dinobot was going to do to himself. "DINOBOT!" Cheetor was too late spewing out his ribbons to pry Dinobot's sword that already pierced through his body. Dinobot was still conscious enough to see a weak spot that let his eye lasers cut off the tie between him and Cheetor. He fell to the ground with his blade still driven inside him. He couldn't lie here to let himself bleed out forever so he begrudgingly mustered up strength to pull out the blade, making him more lethargic again until he could barely stand. His blade pointed square at Cheetor's neck until Dinobot couldn't bear looking at his terrified face. Dinobot needed his other arm to lower down to another weak point to slice Cheetor's leg. He struck Cheetor's ribbon.

"I'm pretty impressed by your skill deebee. That time magic sure comes in handy when you need to set up traps." Dinobot struggled to escape Cheetor's ribbons that was neatly locked with a crimson bow on it. "If I were anymore inexperienced to not see that one coming, I think you would've made alotta things more worse than they needed to be." Cheetor looks down on Dinobot, waiting for him to explain any of his actions and why he would go to these lengths to disturb the order and peace of this world. "You're being tricked!" Dinobot roared, pleaded at Cheetor to listen to anything he has to say at least once. "By who?" "Tigerhawk!" "The one you clearly overpowered? The one you actually tried killing instead of me? What is up with you?" Dinobot jumped a little bit at Cheetor noticing that. He knew that Cheetor wasn't willing to actually kill him either. "I don't get it. You won't actually do anything to kill me, trying to leave town with Rattrap, I know that something's bothering you. But that doesn't mean you can just randomly point the blame on any of us." "Don't you sense anything is wrong?" Cheetor wasn't getting through to Dinobot. "I think the only thing wrong here is that I shouldn't have trusted a deception like you." Cheetor froze at whatever just came out of his mouth. "Wait a

minute, why would I trust a decepticon?" "I'm trying to tell you who the real enemy is. Regardless of what faction we're part of." "The wraiths?" Dinobot took in a deep breath. This is going to be a lot for Cheetor but he needs to tell anyone at this point. Warn them of what might be coming after them.

Bullets rained down like cats and dogs on Cheetor leaving a heavy fog where he could barely see any direction he should be spitting out his ribbons towards. Dinobot somehow escaped which left Cheetor in a more confused and panicked state. "Dinobot?! What's going on?!" "It's alright little cat." Cheetor whipped his head around immediately to an almost familiar voice which matched a much larger Tigerhawk that wasn't covered in stitches and buttons. "Tigerhawk?" Cheetor couldn't think of anything to say at this point. "I need you to calm down so I can explain what's going on here." Tigerhawk floated towards him which they placed their much larger hand on Cheetor's to compare hand sizes. "I didn't know you were that much bigger than me." "Things change."

Rhinox kidnapped Dinobot to blast off the lock neither had a key to. "Geez I thought you were smarter than that. Cheetor's got more than speed yknow that?" "I am aware. I did not intend to fight him."

"It was Tigerhawk huh?"

"You wouldn't understand."

"Because they used to be a Predawitch right? I would've assumed something's fishy but attacking them right off the bat just shows how really impulsive you are."

"You! You remember?"

"Comes with the job description."

The whole world froze without Dinobot's magic. How does he know all of this?

"We need to join forces to get down to the bottom of this."

"Eh, nah. I'm not that kind of bot."

"What?!"

"Haven't you figured it out yet? If it was Tigerhawk, they wouldn't have stopped at the chance to gobble down anyone. It's gotta be someone else if they're keeping us all safely tucked into a fairy tale. Much less being powerful enough to create a whole city for a labyrinth."

Dinobot let it sink into his processor. This is much bigger than what Tigerhawk or any predawitch he's encountered before.

"Then what do you think would be a better solution to-"

"Kill the predawitch? Free everyone from this labyrinth that everyone's grown so fond of? Do you know how much happier everyone else is here than what's in the real world?"

"We could be killed at any given moment! You're being more foolish than I expected!"

"And you haven't realized what would happen if you did find that predawitch."

Dinobot thought more about it.

"The predawitches are the final forms of magicals."

"Uh huh."

"There hasn't been anyone to leave or come into the labyrinth."

"Mm."

"..."

Dinobot fell silent.

"There's only 5 of us. There's only so many maleficons that are gonna keep appearing. It's only a matter of time before you end up hurting someone you care about."

"As if anyone cares about me."

"But what about everyone else? You would just kill Cheetor and not think about how any of us feel if he was the predawitch?"

Dinobot was growing more frustrated with these sentimental feelings.

"We can't just side with the enemy!"

"Why not? They're not hurting anyone so far. They're just keeping the peace and keeping things exactly the way they are."

"This is insane! You cannot side with someone who will only bring your destruction!"

"And how do you know that? Do you think that everyone working together and being in each other's company is gonna end up with us having horrible deaths?"

"Because you fail to realize that predawitches can't decide from good or bad! It is the law of survival!"

"But maybe this one does. Otherwise Silverbolt would've been long gone by now."

"I remember something."

Rhinox waited for Dinobot's answer.

"Cheetor remembers fighting the wraiths and that I am a decepticon."

"Rattrap and I will never get along but still somehow we can bear to team up with each other."

"Tigerhawk and Cheetor have grown awfully close with each other for no discernible reason."

"But this is not the right answer. Rattrap and Cheetor do not remember predawitches, labyrinths, or anything that led to the current state of the law of cycles. Who sacrificed everything to let us suffer from less terrible fates."

"You remember him."

"And you do as well. And it's wrong."

Rhinox stared at Dinobot.

"I should be the only one who remembers him. That only leads to 3 people who should not exist in this labyrinth."

"The predawitch who created this labyrinth."

"Tigerhawk who previously was a predawitch but still is able to control their predawitch form."

Rhinox waited for Dinobot's answer.

"And you. You who would betray everyone from letting them know the truth. You who would let everyone succumb to the predawitches labyrinth to not die an honorable death like a real magical!"

"And what are you getting at pointing your blade at me?"

"You cannot be Rhinox. You could not be Optimus friend and let him be consumed by a predawitch."

Rhinox gently pushed away his blade.

"You almost had it but you're just making me sad at this point. I'm the Rhinox you've always known. And you're Dinobot, the Decepticon I've always known."

Rhinox summoned his Predawitch form in the reflection of the puddle they were surrounded by. Dinobot immediately sprung to attack him, but he nearly wasn't able to use his magic as Rhinox shot off his sword but was able to kick him far enough to stop time. Rhinox cowardly hid beneath behind his cape that Dinobot slashed through to reveal his Predawitch form, Tankor.

Time resumed.

"You should reconsider your choices Dinobot. I can't choose anything for you nor anyone else, but it would be best to truly think before you act. You don't know what path of regret you might end up walking in the end."

Dinobot stormed off alone letting Rhinox's cape be torn apart in the icy wind.

This city is just a mere dream. An illusion to hide itself from the real brutal reality of the world.

Dinobot was plagued with memories of the city.

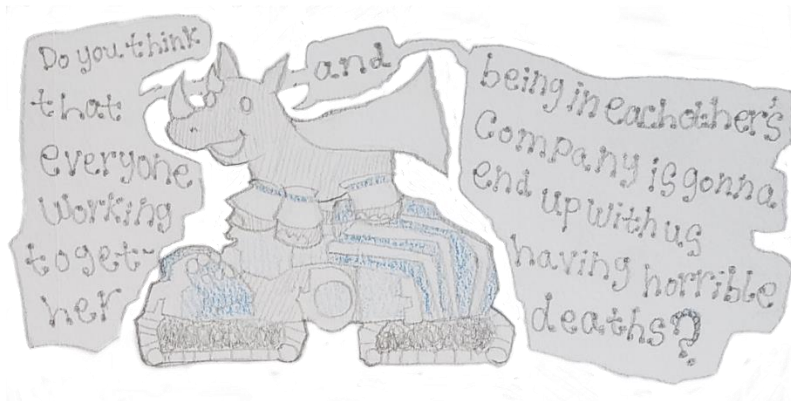
Cheetor finally being able to depend on others.



Rattrap having more maleficons to dance with others.



Rhinox being somewhat content with the truth of being trapped in a labyrinth.



This predawitch whoever it was dragged every one of Dinobot's "friends" to live in a made up world where they could forget their despair and responsibilities. They would rather forget everything Optimus sacrificed himself for so they could pretend that he was still here with them. This predawitch had no honor to hold onto or any dignity to do such a cowardly thing. It was unforgivable. It erased what all Magicals paid for their miracles. It erased what Dinobot held onto for so long and how he never gave up fighting every wraith for every predawitch that Optimus erased from existence. It only brought back Optimus to erase the real Optimus.

Such cowardness should never be allowed to exist. Ever.



"Dinobot!"

Dinobot heard a voice from above.

Dinobot was still covered in his own energon. He couldn't hide much of it from wiping it off, but he hoped that Optimus wouldn't see what had happened to him. His plan ended up working as Optimus jumped down from the bridge and toppled over Dinobot knocking them both over.

"Thank the matrix you're ok! Cheetor and everyone else has been worried sick about you! Where did you go?"

"I..."

"Dinobot you shouldn't go off by yourself like that."

They wandered aimlessly through the city.

"If there's something that's bothering you, you can always come to me."

...

"I'm not sure if I can fully understand where you're coming from, but I know it's better to not have to bear everything yourself."

His words hurt.

"You don't have to hold it all in, it even hurts me when I feel like I can't do anything about it despite seeing so much of you in plain sight."



"I had a nightmare."

"A nightmare?"

"It was peaceful at first. The world continued on as if nothing bad ever happened. Everyone could be at peace, but you. Everyone forgot about you, you disappeared to another world where no one could ever see you, hear you, or remember you ever again..."



"But I was the only one who remembered everything! I was the only one in the world!"

Dinobot couldn't hold it in anymore. His memories with Optimus were too painful and much more real than any dream.

"It hurt because you weren't there...I thought you were an illusion! I thought you never existed in the first place and that I was doing everything for nothing! I doubted you and myself!"

He was shameless at this point. All of his feelings and his motives were all for naught. Of course no one could ever begin to realize what Dinobot was tormented by, much less himself who couldn't make any sense of it.

Dinobot jumped at Optimus' gentle touch.

"What a horrible nightmare."

"But it's alright. I can't imagine doing something like that to you or anyone I care about Dinobot."

He couldn't stop shaking.

"How could you know? How could you be so sure of it?"

Optimus smiled.

"You know how I am. I care too much about everyone to leave them behind. I'm not as strong as you are to ever do something like that to you. It even hurts me to see you cry like this all alone."

What?

"You can't bear to see me like this?"

"Of course. You, Cheetor, Rhinox, Rattrap, Blackarachnia and Silverbolt, everyone. I could never go somewhere where I could never see them all again. If I ever had to make a decision like that it would tear me apart. My spark would be broken in 2."

Dinobot realized it. He understood.

He understood why Optimus had to forgo all of his happiness and hope for everyone else. For him.

You're right.

That's what lies in your spark truthfully.

And yet...

How could I be such a coward to let something like that happen to you?!

I should have stopped you. No matter what it took I shouldn't have left you all alone like that.

"Optimus."

"Hm?"

"I know you would persevere through any trials in your path. I know you are strong enough to go beyond doing anything for anyone. No matter the cost. And when you pass those trials with flying colors, you shall realize how much stronger and kinder you are despite your intentions."

"I know this to be true. Believe in me."

"Dinobot?"

"I know you could not remember. I know that perhaps you may not even be real and that my words reaching towards you may never reach you in time. How could it be so that I would have a chance to ever be near you like this where I could truly be happy by your side?"

None of this made sense. His prayers cannot be answered.

"But I know. I know You are real. You are real to me. You being near me once more has made me truly realize how less alone I am when you are happy."

Optimus was confused.

"Thank you, Optimus. For all the happiness I could have ever wish for, you have granted that to me unconditionally."

Dinobot stood, towering over Optimus.

"I must go. There is something that I must do."

A deed once done cannot be undone. But it yet be mitigated.

"I wonder what happened to him?" Optimus could only stare at the disappearing figure once again. Vok cutely whispered.

"Ey chopperface find anything weirder?"

"It is no longer important. I must ask you something."

Rattrap heavily sighed. Oh boy.

"Shoot your shot."

"Do you remember the predawitches?"

"Is this supposed to be some kinda trick question?"

"Answer me rodent."

"Why would I remember something with a dumb name like that? No?"

"Yes. You are not supposed to remember them."

"You got your wires crossed? What else am I not supposed to remember huh? Am I suddenly expected to forget things now?"

"Yes. Do you remember Optimus Primal?"

"Who doesn't? He's the least forgettable bot we know!"

Dinobot fell silent.

"...Oh slag. No way."

"You're right. You shouldn't know him. Those memories are false."

"You got to be kidding. You can't be serious."

"When am I not serious? But it does not matter at this point. If I stopped to think about it hard enough like Rhinox said, I should have realized all of this much sooner."

"In order for a world where Optimus exists someone must have known about Optimus before any of us. Someone who wouldn't dream of betraying him."

The train arrived on time.

The moon reached out to the heavens.

"I am burdened with the truth now. I know who has trapped us all here in this fake city and rewrote our true memories."

"Ey don't do anything stupid again! Just stay right there and I'll come and scoop ya!"

Rattrap noticed the buildings are starting to freeze and fall as the earth made room for the people.

"I must confirm one last thing. And I don't believe I will be bothering any of you again. I'm sorry."

"Wait a second! Choppaf-ce! DINOBO-"

Rattrap was drowned by the static as the train left the city. He was outside of the train peaking his head from the container.

"My spark should not be able to withstand my physical absence in 143 meters at maximum."

He nearly fainted from the distance he put himself from his spark. He still barely functioned but started seeing spots.

The fog appeared again, and it revealed that Dinobot was not going to get anywhere.

The clock struck midnight.

The moon was a full circle.

Birds circled around the moon crowing.

The train caught on fire without Dinobot noticing. But he didn't need to notice.

He felt it.

The creeping feeling consuming him whole.

The chants "Crucify him!" echoing into his being.

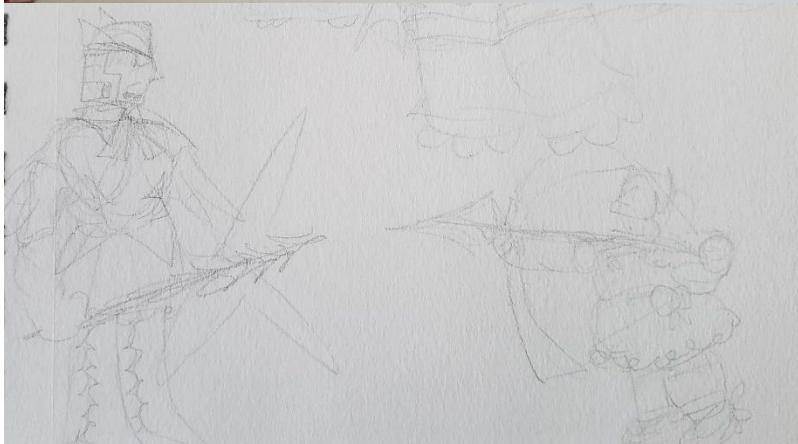
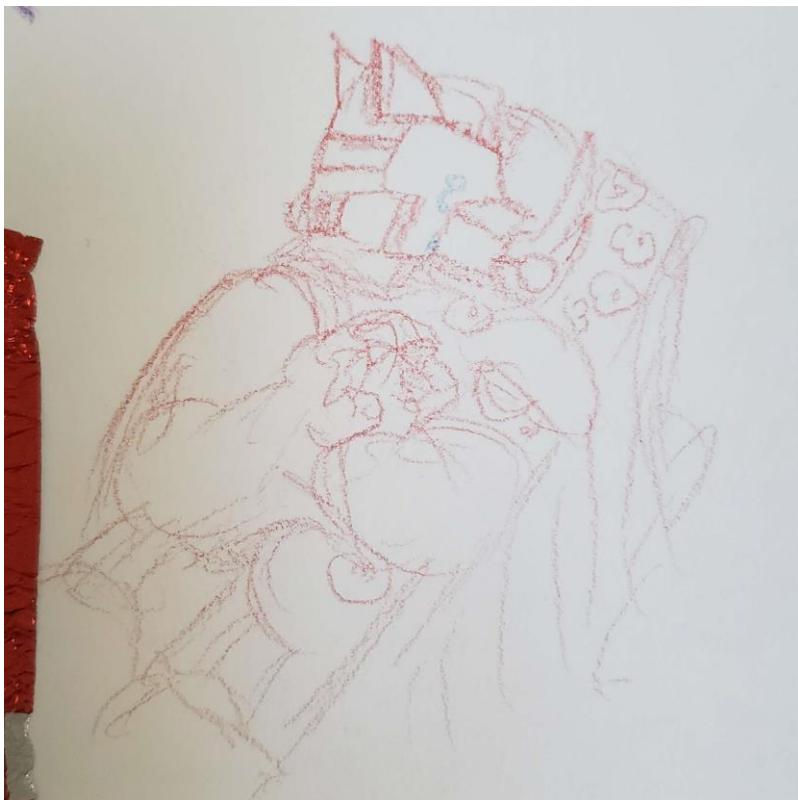
Everything that felt far from his nightmare of his life fell apart before him.



"Am I no longer a magical? Is this all that is in store for me in destiny?"



His efforts were futile. He could only let things fester as he could not stop running from it.



"How.."

"How did this happen to me?"

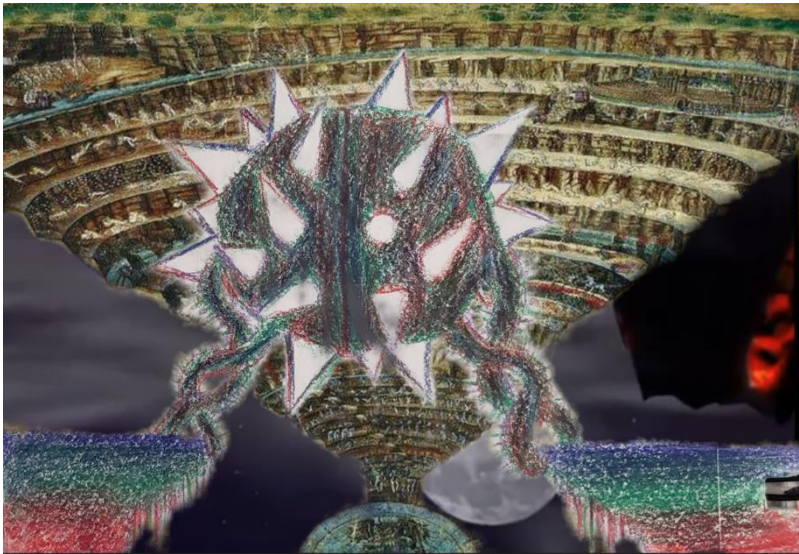


"When did this happen to me?"

The scene was starting to take place waiting for its cue.



"When did I become a predawitch?!"



Enter scene

[The apostles surround an ant pile and stomp all over it and briefly walk away]

[Vok enters scene]

Vok: I predicted you could not bear knowing the truth. And yet you could not stand not knowing the truth. Your logic circuits contradict themselves with beings such as yourself.

Dinobot: I am not surprised you had something to do with all of this.

Vok: You know how you are. I know how you think. And now the only thing that stands in the way is your burning question, "how did all of this come to be?"

[Static cuts to next scene]

[Dinobot lays down on a bed of flowers asleep.]

[Dinobot looks in horror as he sees the world outside of his spark.]

Vok: This is your true location. Outside in the real world.

Dinobot: How can this be?

Vok: Your spark was nearing its limit to how much more energy it could disperse before dissolving into the universe. We invented an isolation field to see what a spark like yours would do nearing its end if it was cut off from any external influences. The results have been very intriguing to say the least.

Dinobot: You've been conducting an experiment?

Vok: You are correct. We have been wanting to research what made every magical sworn to fight wraiths dispersing energy become cleansed and ultimately vanish. You have mentioned these "predawitches" before and seeing how you have become one has proven to be the answer to our hypothesis if one was cut off from the phenomenon "the law of cycles".

This labyrinth you have created has immense power and with your noble nature you must find some peace that your spark has not broken outside of your charm. If so, the results would be catastrophic, revealing the true nature of this world.

And in this one, you now live in your own world where you are safe from reality.

[Dinobot bears a pondering expression]

Dinobot: There is something that you have not answered to me yet. I am cut off from every external influence, correct?

Vok, in unison: Correct.

Dinobot: How are there other magicals and citizens such as myself that live in this world?

Vok, in unison: We did not shy away from making a few adjustments.

Vok: As you mentioned before about the existence of predawitches and their natural instincts, there is no salvation that is allowed to interfere with your labyrinth. But due to predawitches lonely nature you invited desirable victims into your world unconsciously. And with the law of cycles not being able to reach you, you materialized a victim that has never been recorded in any point in the history of the world to exist out of desperation.

Dinobot: It could not be him.

[Dinobot curses himself for being so foolish to feel "desperate"]

Vok: You are mistaken. It is who you are thinking about.

[Dinobot is frozen in fear]

Vok: As strange as it may seem you have materialized a lot of victims that no longer exist in our universe. With Optimus Primal in particular it seems we may also have our answer to the strange connection magicals have to "the law of cycles". He holds immense power that he has failed to display properly and has somewhat fully enter into your labyrinth with little disturbance detected.

Dinobot: How could you know that?

Vok: Your memories are proof of that referring to him as the law of cycles. But he himself has no recollection of ever being a concept, so you safely kept him dormant in your labyrinth, asleep. He does not remember to save you along with himself.

GODAMIT I MISSED A FUCKING PICTURE DAMIT

Vok: After this long story finally comes to its conclusion, Dinobot has forgotten he was a predawitch.

Optimus Primal has forgotten he has become a god.

Now they both shall reunite, finally revealing the true nature of this universe. Call out to your salvation Dinobot and you shall be saved from yourself.

Dinobot: You could not possibly end things this way without having an ulterior motive. You could not bear to hold this much patience letting things unfold this way to prove you have all the answers you desire. You say such beings such as I contradict

myself with my actions. What could possibly make you different from I who would commit the same sins?

[Vok bore into him]

Dinobot: You intend to control Optimus!

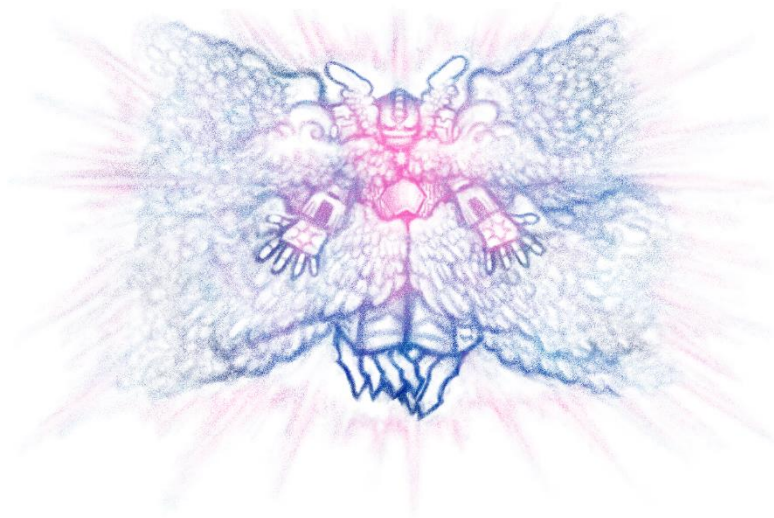
[Dinobot attacks Vok with his familiars]

Vok: You are correct. With you finding out the truth of this world and of Optimus we no longer have the patience to wait to see the truth ourselves. You have helped us immensely with your memories that we can finally find a better system to regulate karmic energy with magicals. If magicals were to transform into predawitches with the cycle of hope and despair, we could collect more energy sufficiently in a smaller amount of time. All that stands in the way is your emotions. Hasn't your wish been granted? Haven't you waited long enough to bring back the one person that could save you?

Dinobot: No.

This is not the happiness

that I wished for.



[Dinobot destroys the stage]

[The moon bleeds and the labyrinth becomes increasingly distorted]

Vok: Are you serious? You would rather curse yourself and never let your wish be granted? If you continue to do this to yourself, you will not be saved in time!

Dinobot: You are unaware of what I truly wished for. I became a magical to save Optimus. If letting any harm or suffering be done unto him, I would rather let myself face oblivion alone to prevent the alternative fate. I will never let Optimus repeat his mistakes again!

Vok: You would give yourself to someone who does not remember you? Someone who would let you destroy yourself and be consumed by curses for all eternity?

Dinobot: I do not fear that possibility. And soon enough I will have another chance at salvation. Cheetor and Rattrap will know what to do.

Vok: You will die without ever reaching the real world!

[Vok appears behind a curtain but is pierced through it]

You would never be saved or found by anyone else ever again!

[Vok appears again to be poured down with acid and swords rained down upon them]

You would lose your one chance of seeing the one person you died over and over for and be buried in a time that never existed!

Dinobot: SILENCE!!!!!!

[The apostles throw swords and attacks to kill Vok but Vok reappears on stage continuously]

Vok: This outcome is not desirable for any party in this situation. Why are such beings as yourself so illogical considering the greater value of things?

Enter scene

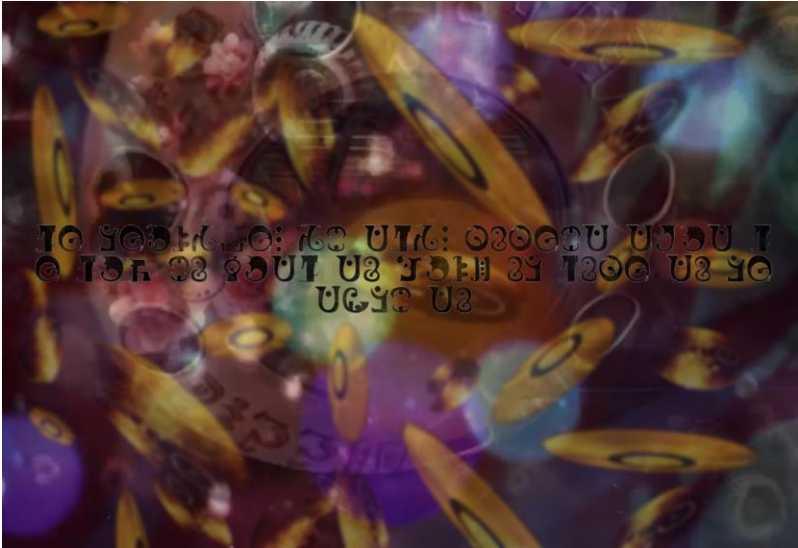


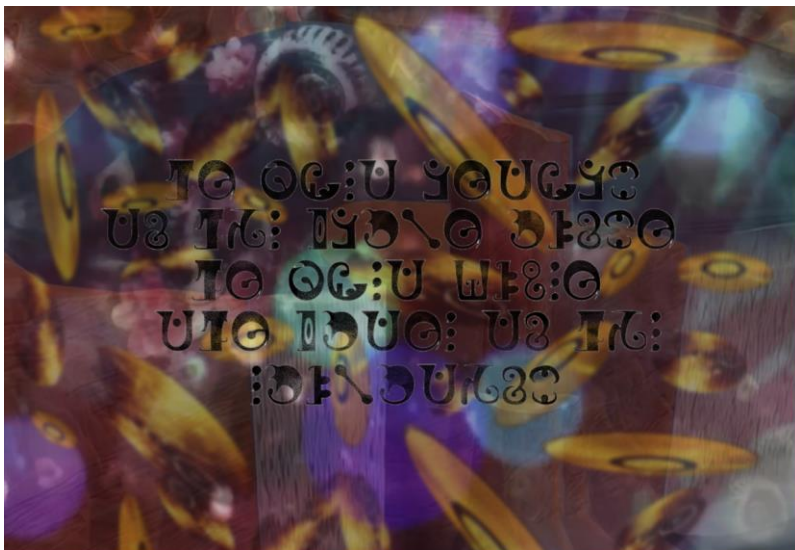
[Dinobot looks at his surroundings. Dinobot stirs from his sleep as he notices Optimus is not there. Optimus stands on the windowsill. He is going to jump]

[Dinobot reaches out to Optimus]

[Optimus falls]

[Dinobot reaches out to Optimus who is now splattered onto the ground below him. He stares down at what once was.]





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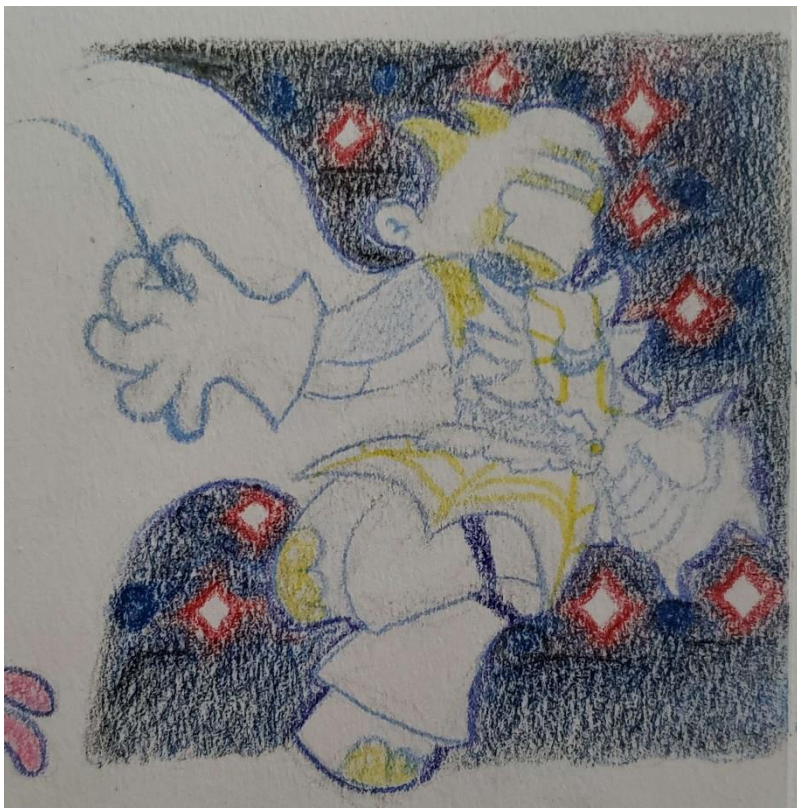
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[Dinobot bursts through the seed. His familiars drag him towards his execution]





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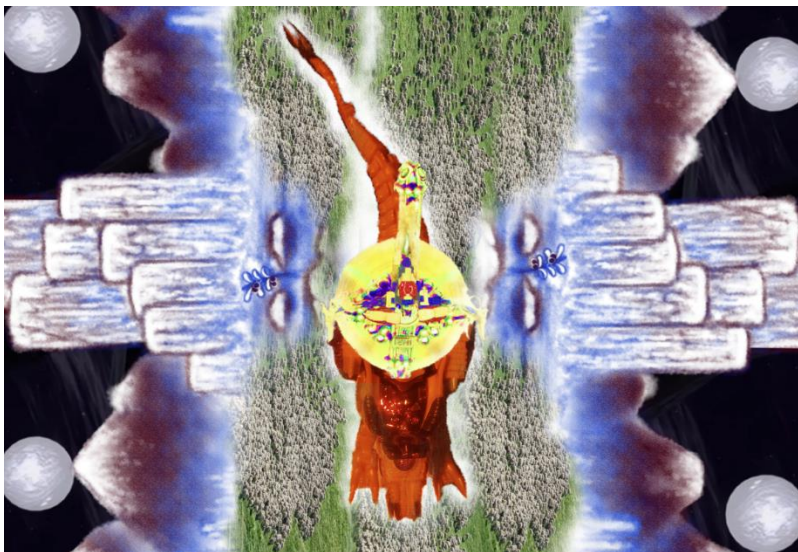
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[Enter scene:PTOLEMAEA]







Cheetor: Is that a predawitch?

Rhinox: Don't be afraid. As horrifying as it may look, he's the one that is suffering the most here.

Rattrap: This is a bad joke.

[Vok enters scene abruptly]

Vok: Wait! That is your friend Dinobot! Do you mean to fight one of your own?

Optimus: Vok?

Rattrap: Oh yeah? So whatever happened to dead men tell no tales?

[Vok turns away]

Cheetor: After all that's happened, I think I would rather trust what Tigerhawk and Rhinox told us more than you right now.

Vok: Optimus Primal! You have the power to change all of this! You must remember the potential and power you have to save your friend! It does not have to be this way!

[Rhinox blocks Vok from reaching Optimus]

Rhinox: Don't listen to him Optimus. Remember the plan we all went over.

[Optimus nods at Rhinox]

Tigerhawk:M-M-M- MAXIMIZE!!

[Tigerhawk transforms into their real form]

Rhinox: As if we would let you go outside to the real world.

[Rhinox summons his predawitch form]

[Shepards leading their sheep protect Dinobot's suffering but is halted by the other magicals fighting against them]

Vok: What are you? How is this possible?

Rhinox: Seems like your experiment you were running on Dinobot let your guard down to notice us. While you were too focused on

Optimus Primal's powers we were able to sneak in holding all the answers you still couldn't comprehend.

Vok: You two are part of the law of cycles?

Rhinox: Personal assistants, I guess. Since we've broke free from the destiny of hope and despair it's our job to help the law of cycles save every magical from unique circumstances like this one.

Tigerhawk: We both hold Optimus true memories. If one of us weren't able to survive Dinobot's attacks, one of us could still at least make sure to help Optimus remember what he truly came here for.

[Stars rain down on the frozen buildings, melting them]

Rhinox: But sending 3 people seems a bit excessive and riskier. But I guess it all worked out so I can't complain much. Dinobot deserves an award or 3.

Optimus: Rhinox...

[Cheetor grabs Optimus from behind nearly dropping him]

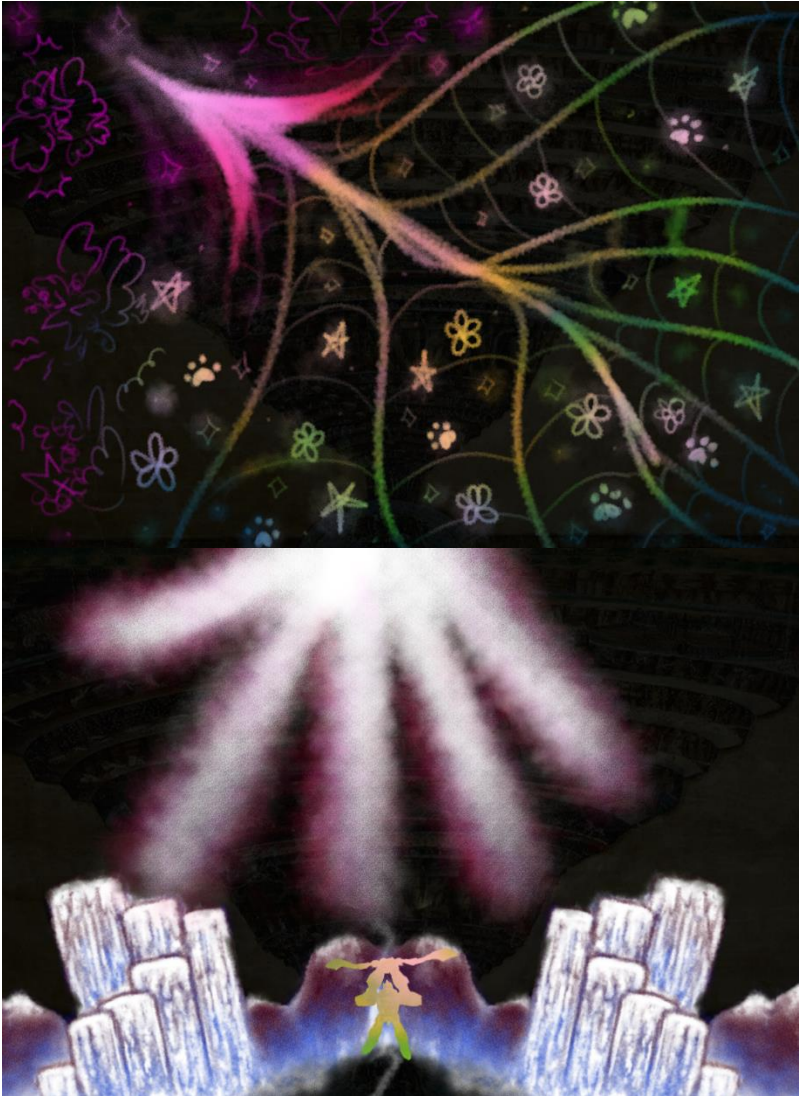
Cheetor: Woah nearly tore into ya big bot!

Optimus: Cheetor! You could've dropped me!

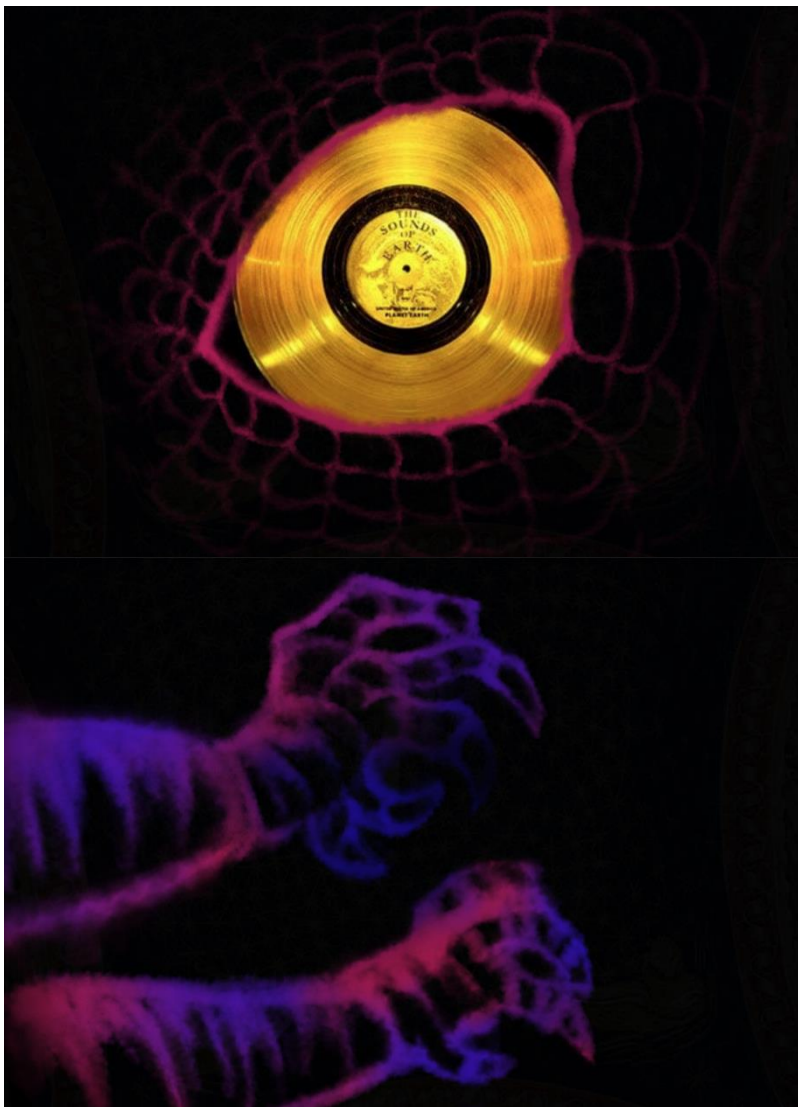
Cheetor: Did you forget you could fly too? C'mon we got work to do!

[Optimus was uncertain of what would happen to Dinobot and to everyone else. The whole world was falling apart, and everyone had to fight to protect it, protect someone. Cheetor's optimism struck a familiar chord in Optimus. He can do this.]

Optimus: Let's do it!



Dinobot: No! You not know of what you are doing! I must die here!





Rhinox: You know I didn't have to go this easy on you to get it through your processor that you don't have to do this all yourself!

Rattrap: I could be kicking back somewhere else right now if all of you didn't have to get me caught up in this mess!

[Rattrap catches Rhinox]

Rhinox: My hero.

[Rattrap struggles to hold Rhinox any longer]

Rattrap: Would you get down?!

Rattrap: Hey.

Rhinox: Hey.

Rattrap: I had a nightmare about you.

Rhinox: You did?

Rattrap: ...

I had a nightmare you were dead.

But you said that was real. And since all of this is happening right now, we're side by side, is this real too?

Rhinox: This is more than that. This isn't a nightmare. If anything, it's a miracle. It's a miracle that we were able to hold out this long.

Rattrap: How so?

Rhinox: I thought I died with no regrets. I couldn't handle what the world had become. But I was wrong. I wanted to have another chance to really come back to everyone. To you.

Tigerhawk: And so did I! We can't be distracted, we're almost there!

Rhinox: I could be smelling some flowers right now..

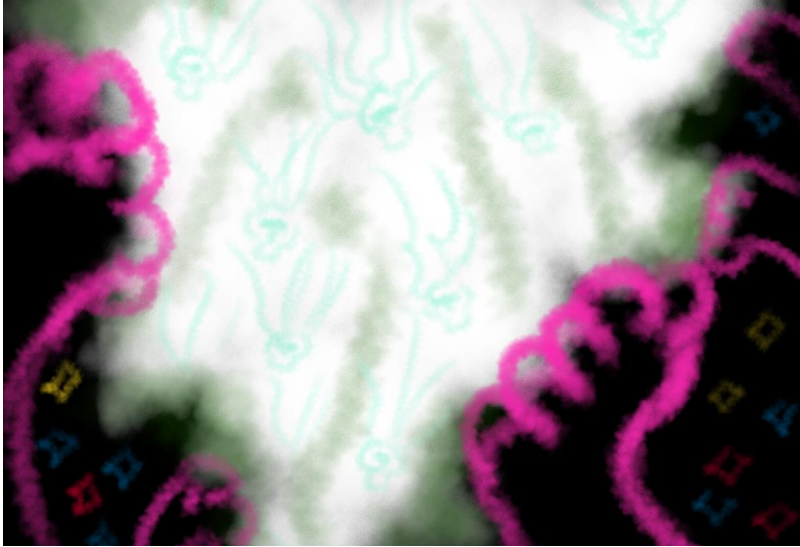


Rattrap: Glad ta have ya back hornhead!



Optimus: Dinobot!

Dinobot: Optimus, stop!



Tigerhawk: The isolation field is falling apart! The seed has finally sprouted!

Rhinox: If we break that, you'll be home free Dinobot! Without being held down by Vok, you can be free and see the real Optimus!

Enter scene





Optimus: Dinobot. No more.

I told you to wait for me when I get there.

Dinobot: Optimus...

Optimus: No matter what happens, you will always be you, Dinobot. And I would never abandon you for that. Please, don't give up!



Dinobot: I'm sorry. I'm such a spineless coward. I couldn't bear what had become of you. And to go as far to betray my wish I thought I could bear it. As long as I could bear this destiny it would be alright. As long as I could be by your side.

Optimus: Dinobot. Let's go home.

Dinobot: Yes.

Optimus: Are you afraid?

Dinobot: No. You've led me well. And your heart shines as bright as ever.

Vok: I don't understand it at all!

FLASHBACK

His internal alarms go off. He does not protest his alarms and wills himself out of recharge to start another day at work. He doesn't do much to get ready as most of his apartment is just dark and empty. He does look at the mirror though, staring blankly at his reflection as some people might mistake his resting face being full of grimace. He doesn't pay any attention to others when they point it out or how meaningless his life must be. He has no room in his life for pondering those things. This is simply just fate. He knew that his life meant nothing and that his existence will be as bleak and predictable as the world sees it. There's no point in trying to make something of yourself on a planet that's so hollow and refuses any changes. The only thing that he can hold onto is his pride in being a Decepticon. Despite that being already chosen for him since birth. He's not going to be late again and he's going to do what he needs to do. It's all that's left for him besides the pit of oblivion.



When he has a rhythm of doing construction work mindlessly, he occasionally drifts off in thought of philosophical discussions with himself. None of his coworkers had any interest in those discussions and didn't think much of him in general. They all had their lives to live just as much as he did. He did wonder what it would be like sometimes to live a completely different life much like in the past during the wars of autobots and Decepticons. He would feel a little better about serving a greater purpose to defend

what felt like was his. To be part of something bigger and.. but every time he drifted in that thought he felt a little sting of guilt. This is a time of peace despite how much society has hidden its far less peaceful aspects in the inner layers of cybertron. He wanted to have respect for those sacrifices. He couldn't dare think that those sacrifices lost their meaning a few centuries later.

The day was already over and tomorrow and the day after he would have to return to finish this project until he was assigned to do another one. He saw his other coworkers waving at each other bidding farewells and laughing as he was walking away from all the noise. He could drift off into thought again as he walked past some buildings and skyscrapers seeing things larger than himself. The scenery felt like it was gradually caving in on him, thoughts that felt like he was going to be stomped on and grinded into nothingness. What was he even waking up every day for? Why does he always live inside his head to protect himself from how much he sucks at living his own life? He's so pathetic. Every day he ignores all his surroundings to feel like he has better things to think about. He sometimes was late to work or nearly injured his other coworkers in his carelessness. There's nothing else to look forward to. Nothing to hold onto. He should just end it all here right now. He fell down a hole in his carelessness.

He swore he woke up in the pits. He felt like he descended body and spark as his whole being ached in pain and confusion. He suddenly felt some small legged creatures crawling all over him and was spun into a web. Cackling and giggling echoed throughout the darkness as more things began to come into vision. The

darkness being a place so contorted from reality and he was helpless to escape. This is simply just fate, but something in him felt afraid to meet it so soon. He struggled to get free out of panic and was mad at himself for his bodily reactions.

Something nearly pierced his arm as he was suddenly freed from the web. Sparkles of light and color pierced the darkness and the spider was scattering away until it exploded into a blinding glittery explosion. He then was able to see beyond the darkness 2 cybertronians who took on the form of beasts. "Don't worry you're in good hands!" A blast came from one of their guns. "Are you alright?" The other looked down onto him. He nodded and the cybertronian smiled and took off with a piercing arrow. They shot and slashed through the other spiders and the confidence and strength they shone with was almost too much for him. The "pit" faded from existence and all that was left was the 3 of them in the darkness with the only rays of light shining down on the 2 mysteriously powerful bots. "Who are you? Why did you save me?" He asked hoarsely. The pink one turned to him with confusion but presented a smile. "Why wouldn't we? We're magicals!" "And that's how you take out the trash. Good job big bot." The yellow one congratulated the pink one as he smiled back. "What's your name?" The pink one approached the bot in darkness. "..Dynabot.." Dynabot was a bit hesitant to show himself to them as he can see their autobot signatures more clearly now than in the middle of battle. They could probably kill him down here without a trace of evidence. Or just enough time to flee the scene and make it look like an accident. "Are you hurt still? We can take a look in my lab." The pink one tried approaching Dynabot but he was not quick enough to avoid him. The yellow one realized what he was hiding, and his cheerful smile twitched a bit from disdain. The pink one

caught on quickly after but didn't back away from him, holding one of his arms to help Dynabot stand up.

"If we didn't make it in time, you would've become that predawitch's lunch." The pink one chuckled. Dynabot was handed a cup of energon and stared at his surroundings. It was the pink one's lab that was full of research with specimens not native to Cybertron. "It wouldn't have been that much of a loss to you." Dynabot replied bluntly. "Well, we do have a lot more dignity and spark than a decepticon." The yellow one spat out with malice. Dynabot glared at him until the pink one cleared his throat cutting off their glares to each other. "Cheetor I thought we don't do this as magicals." The pink one sighed. "Yeah, but we don't invite them into our labs either. You still have a lot to learn." Cheetor seemed like he has been doing this "magical" gig far longer than the pink one who turned to Dynabot interrupting his thought. "I'm sorry, we haven't even told you our names yet. I'm Optimus Primal and I guess you already know his name." Cheetor looked at Dynabot but still kept his arms crossed. "I'm sorry I'm causing you all this trouble." Dynabot apologized. "You don't have to be sorry for anything! We haven't actually had any decepticons we've rescued so far try to attack us right?" Optimus turned to Cheetor. "Not when you're around big bot. I've had my fair share of some nasties." Dynabot stared at his half empty cup. "...from both sides." Dynabot looked up a bit from that. "Why are you fighting these predawitches and saving anyone regardless? I agree with Cheetor, that is foolish."

"Well, we're not like that. We want everyone to have a fair chance of survival. There doesn't need to be any more innocents who need to be consumed by despair from the predawitches. You felt that awful despair when you almost kicked the bucket right?" Optimus looked at Dynabot with concerning optics. Dynabot was a bit taken aback from Optimus's approach that he couldn't even think of anything to say immediately. "I did. But how come you are able to fight them? Why is everyone else defenseless from them?"

"Because we swore to protect everyone with our wishes. Then we were granted magical powers to defeat them." Wishes? Magical powers? This can't be real. This is what came out of myths and fairytales. "I know you don't believe us but anyone can have the potential to become a magical. If your spark is in the right place."

Cheetor put down his cup. "This is absurd." "But it is true. I am proof of that." a floating skull presented itself to Dynabot. "I am Vok. I make contracts with Magicals to make their wishes come true." Dynabot must be dead since all of this becomes increasingly more outlandish. "I can see you have potential in you Dynabot. If you wanted, you could make a contract with me and become a Magical!" Vok floated closer to Dynabot but Dynabot was backing away and thinking of throwing his cup at them to make them go away. "That's only if you have a wish in mind." "Exactly. You should know what it is that you want. It's only a once in a lifetime chance." Cheetor added again. "What's so special about a wish?" Optimus didn't skip a beat to explain. "You can wish for literally anything. It's really amazing what this little guy can do." Vok rubbed up against Optimus's hand. "But you have to make your end of the contract by fighting predawitches. The monsters who bring despair to every world." Optimus sighed a bit at that statement but it was true. There is a catch to this and Dynabot didn't seem interested in this thing. How could you know if anyone who becomes a Magical has a good spark and won't use their powers against others? How long would you have to keep fighting these predawitches and where do they even come from? "Thank you for your hospitality" he took in a breath "but I must return to

my contract. Thank you for saving my life...I fear I don't know how to repay you." Dynabot stated his departure. "I hope we see each other soon." Optimus smiled. "You're welcome to come back here anytime you want." Dynabot did not want to cause any autobots more trouble and left. He almost couldn't recharge that night with his head swarming with thoughts. He nearly died today and was saved by people who have a reason to fight. He thought about wishing to become a Magical but that would be a redundant thing to wish for. He drifted into a dream. He is still alive.

Dynabot rang the doorbell. He wouldn't have been surprised if all that kindness only lasted during that one day. His mind was increasing in worrying thoughts that he was pushing it and that he should just leave immediately. He would only cause more trouble and there wasn't any need to show any interest in his life, or ever becoming a magical.

Optimus heard the door chime. He wondered if it was Dynabot in the back of his mind, but he knew that look on his face when someone wasn't sure what they really wanted from being a magical. He felt a little sting of regret for possibly pushing him away because of how Cheetor wasn't willing to help him as much as he did. It must be Cheetor at the door but he would've felt a predawitches presence already if there was one nearby.

"Dynabot?"

Dynabot turned around as he was walking away. He growled underneath his breath.

"I apologize. I still am not sure how to repay you for..your kindness.." He didn't want to meet his optics. He needs to just go home.

"You don't have to do anything for me really." Optimus chuckled.
"Is there something you needed?"

"I don't need anything else from you. I think our time with each other has passed."

"Do you really think so? Is there nothing you want?"

Dynabot looked at Optimus in the optics, walking over to him. He towered over him, but he didn't back off or anything. He was far too inviting.

"...If you want to convince me to change my mind."

"I did say you could come back here anytime you want." Optimus smiled.

"So do you usually leave the planet to slay the predawitches?"
Dynabot leaned over the bars that prevented him from falling.

"I do but I like to explore more than fight. Cheetor said it's riskier fighting on Cybertron. And it's surprisingly barren."

"I would think the same as well."

"But it just amazes me what everyone else can do. How many people have been helped and how much their lives have changed."

"I believe you have seen plenty. It must be humbling to not be able to flaunt your powers towards others."

"I..." Optimus stopped. Dynabot looked at him. The wind did not help much with the awkward silence nor did the scenery distract them enough to suddenly change the subject.

"Why did you stop?"

Optimus nervously laughed. "I haven't seen that much really."

"What do you mean?"

"I haven't been a magical for that long."

Dynabot jumped backwards a bit. He acted more mature and more like a magical than Cheetor. But now he can also see why he decided to help Dynabot when he was almost killed.

He took a deep breath with a snarl. "You had me convinced you were more of an expert at this."

"Did I really? You don't have to sugarcoat it you know."

"I mean it. But I also see how at times you do come off as a bit foolish."

Optimus sighed. His bluntness was like a sword piercing through him, but it was honest and pure.

"Well I do appreciate you for telling me how you really feel. I'm sure when you- if you ever wanted to wish for something, it would really be something worth fighting for."

"Do you regret your wish?"

"No, but..I'm not sure why I feel like I still can't do much. Even after becoming a magical. It's like there's more than fighting predawitches."

"Like what?"

Optimus felt heavy. "You think that magicals wouldn't fight so much with each other. And how people still hold so many grudges and such against each other and even the world."

"I don't believe becoming something like that would change the core of someone."

"But for some it would be nice right?" The city lights flickered in his optics. "If maybe once if we all were able to team up together, we could rid all the universe of despair."

Cybertron went silent for a moment.

"That's wishful thinking.

Do you get to make 2 wishes if you slay enough predawitches?"

Optimus laughed at him. "Imagine if it worked that way. Maybe there wouldn't be a lot of bitter magicals right?"

Dynabot only looked at him carefully. He didn't know what exactly Optimus meant by "bitter magicals" and he didn't feel like asking. Everything felt too pleasant at this moment. Optimus didn't reek of a blinding innocence entirely but being in his presence felt warm. He brimmed of hope and fought like a real magical.

"Thank you again. I feel as if I will be indebted to you forever."

"Why don't you come with us to explore? We can teach you some things that non magicals can do."

Maybe he was wrong of thinking about Optimus that way. "I don't know how much longer you are going to keep pestering me to become one of you. I would only hold you back."

"How do you know that would happen?" Optimus didn't want to push it too much but he felt like he could see Dynabot wanting something more. He didn't really have to become a magical but his curiosity felt genuine to him.

"I have no use to you. I don't even know what I want outside of being a magical."

"..I felt the same way."

Nothing came to interrupt the silence.

"I don't want you to rush into this but I know what that feels like."

"Don't assume you feel anything I feel! Even outside of being a magical we are not the same!" He stormed out leaving Optimus behind. He felt as if a hand was reaching out behind him, but he brushed it off. He wouldn't be any use to them and would see what everyone else sees in Dynabot.

The labyrinth disappeared around them as another predawitch screamed in defeat. Optimus noticed something as the labyrinth was dissipating which was a set of familiar optics. Dynabot looked back through the fading imagery and was soon met with Optimus and Cheetor standing there looking at him. "How long have you been there?" Cheetor asked. "I was going to tag along but I fear I am too late." Dynabot could see that his presence was unwanted by Optimus worried look. "I almost would've thought you might be a familiar! You could've gotten eaten by a predawitch!" Optimus bleated out. "They could have killed you by mistake." Vok chimed in. Dynabot gave Vok a strange look again much like their first encounter with each other. "I just got here so I doubt I would have been a victim." "Who in their right mind would follow a magical anyways? Don't you get how dangerous this is?" Cheetor glared at Dynabot. "I guess you're too blunt to realize that. I need to tell you something important big bot." Optimus looked at Cheetor but failed to hide his saddening expression. "Can it wait? I need to walk Dynabot home." Cheetor glared a bit at Optimus until he picked up a strange object. He grabbed a pitch-black object and put it against a diluted yellow charm on his head until it sucked out all of the dullness from it. Cheetor tossed the object to Optimus and swiftly left. Optimus looked back to Dynabot. Vok did as well.

"What is that?"

"A grief seed. It helps take away any impurities a magical gains during a fight with a predawitch." Vok explained as Optimus threw away in a trashcan.

"You don't need to do that Optimus. It vanishes once it fulfills its purpose remember?"

"I just don't want to litter. It might become a bad habit." Vok bore into Optimus which made Dynabot uneasy. Even if he didn't present himself as a threat.

"I'm sorry about earlier."

"It's ok Dynabot you just kinda scared me. Vok is right that I could've shot at you by mistake." Optimus comforted Dynabot. It was unneeded. This kindness.

"I'm still not sure what I want to wish for."

"...does that mean you might consider being a magical?"

"I have nothing to lose at this point. Maybe in time I might have something to offer the both of you."

"You don't have to offer us anything." Optimus giggled. "I think it would just be nice to have someone else in our lives. Even if you didn't become a magical."

"Would you really want that?"

"Of course! It better to have more around you than doing all of this alone."

"I'm not sure if that will be enough." Dynabot admitted to Optimus.

"It doesn't have to be." Optimus held Dynabot's claw and hand together with his. "I'm sorry if I pushed all of this onto you but I

mean it. I think we would really just be glad to have you in our company." Dynabot stared at Optimus. All of this was so confusing but all he could do was just be in this moment regardless of understanding that. Not understanding why Optimus made him feel wanted.

"Big bot!"

"My apartment isn't far from here. Farewell."

"I'll see you soon."

Optimus caught up to Cheetor and their conversation about having to get ready to fight another predawitch faded with all the noise. Dynabot wishes he could be more to them but if Optimus accepted him for who he was, then that's all he could want.

"...I need to finish this." Half of the city was destroyed. Optimus roof was the only thing that held them together at this point against the predawitch that devastated everything. That made Dynabot grow more in fear as he saw Cheetor's corpse sparkless. "He's dead." Optimus turned to Dynabot. "I know. But it'll be ok." Optimus breath was shaky.

"You can't possibly defeat that thing alone! It would be foolish to do so!"

"I don't have a choice. I'm a magical and that's what I wished for."

NO! I will fight with you right now!

"For the longest time in this short amount of time, I was so unsure of myself. When I saved you, it made me feel like I made the right choice." He turned to Dynabot's optics. " Even if I wasn't able to be a magical for much longer, I'm glad that I was able to save you. And meet you. And that maybe one day you can make that wish and fight for it. I know you'll make a prime magical."

Dynabot fought back the fear in his spark. But it wasn't enough to stop Optimus from leaving. "I'll see you soon."

"Optimus! OPTIMUS!!!" is all he could cry out for.

Why...

"Why would you waste your spark on someone like me?" Dynabot was swarmed with regret and self-hatred. "You knew what would happen...you knew I couldn't do anything...and I just..." Dynabot was on the brink of spilling out everything he had kept to himself. If he could've known what he wanted, if he could've done something to save him... "...he would be here right now, with you." Dynabot jumped at Vok's response. "If you became a magical, he would be right here with you." Dynabot stared at Vok. He glanced at Optimus, sparkless and beaten up. He clenched his claw so hard he could shatter it. "What is it that you wish for, Dynabot? Would you risk your spark to save the one who believed in you so much? Despite having nothing to offer him?"

"Exactly that."

Dynabot held both of Optimus hands and laid them to rest on his chest.

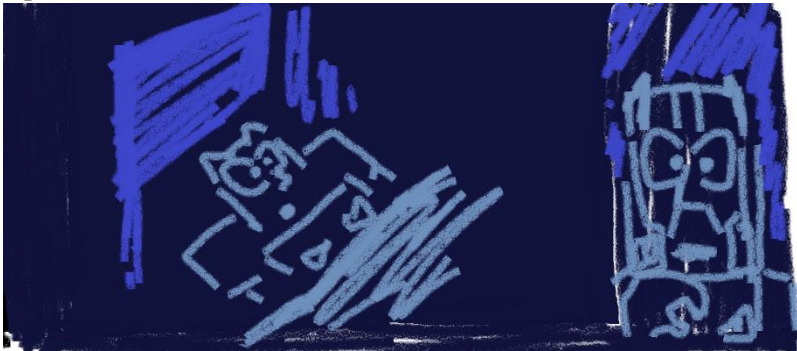
"I won't let it end like this for him. This ending isn't fit for someone like him. I want to meet him again. And instead of him protecting me, I shall be the one who protects him!"

Dynabot's spark was ripped out of him.

"Your wish has prevailed over entropy. The contract has been made." Volk's words bore into him.

"Now go Dinobot! Unleash your new power and destiny as a magical!" Dinobot felt the hands of time lead him back to what was and what will be. This is the wish he knew he would fight for with all his spark. For Optimus.

His internal alarms go off. He jolts up from his nightmare. He looks in the mirror and see he is not the same constructicon that Optimus met.



"Another one in the books. Good job OP."

A scream was in the distance until it felt like it was going to fall right on top of them. The scream nearly fell full force into the ground until it was barely able to catch itself in the last second.

"What the heck are you doing?!"

"Optimus Primal! I am Dinobot and I have become a magical! Let me fight alongside you to defeat the predawitches!" Dinobot came off pretty strongly to Optimus who looked a bit freaked out that

this person he's never met was wanting to suddenly join Cheetor and his battles with the predawitches. Cheetor protested until Optimus convinced him enough that he might be helpful. It was to be expected, but Optimus was still there, so open and so willing to let Dinobot into his life once more.

"So this is time magic." Cheetor examined the scrap that Dinobot was barely able to make a dent with his dagger. Dinobot feared that maybe he was right that he did not have much to offer other than someone being on the sidelines, but Optimus never saw him that way. It felt like this second chance he was able to have more time with Optimus than being a bumbling fool who could not make up his mind. But he needed to prove himself. He needed to find other methods to defeat any familiars at all at least.



"Cheetor! Go for it!" "You got it big bot!"



"Dinobot! Now!"

Dinobot stopped time and managed to run along the ribbon woven path to chuck an explosive into the predawitch's weak spot. His lasers made sure that the explosive went off which nearly sent him flying helplessly in midair until the ribbon path caught him in its embrace.

"I did it..."



"YOU DID IT!!!"





Cheetor again did not make it. But at least Optimus and Dinobot were able to defeat the predawitch together and now- Optimus lets out a horrible grunt. His charm is pitch black. "What is it?!" Dinobot was trying to hold onto whatever was left of Optimus. This can't be happening again! "Why is this happening-" Optimus was able to choke out until he nearly gouged out Dinobot's optics until he went limp with a horrible scream. His charm leaked out a monster, a predawitch. "No..." Dinobot was realizing something that he should've figured out the moment he doubted Optimus first. "This cannot be..."

His internal alarms go off again. "Vok is tricking all of us!"

"Like I would believe a decepticon!" Cheetor chewed up and spat out his concerns. "We're not entirely sure where these predawitches come from but I'm gonna have to agree with Cheetor on this one." Rhinox joined in. "If Vok knew they would have told us that before making contracts. This just sounds like something you pulled out of your ass because you don't seem awfully fond of Vok or Rattrap in general. Or just about anyone."

"Ease off Rhinox!" Optimus had to butt in. This doesn't seem fair or magical like of them to be treating Dinobot like this. Of course Optimus was the only one who was willing to listen to him at all. "We don't know for sure that could be true. But maybe one day we will find out the truth." Dinobot winced at Optimus rejecting him too. What is it going to take him to wake up to what's to come? How many more times will he have to see Optimus and the others die in front of him and not being able to do anything about it? "And the truth is that you have no aim for throwing those bombs everywhere or those laser optics. I'm tired of being the only one that actually knows how to work my weapons and I can barely see anything but lasers nearly nipping me or in Rhinox's direction!" Cheetor growled again. "Are there any alternatives you could use?" Rhinox asked. Dinobot snarled in thought. "I will think of

something." Something having to resort to stealing weaponry from just about anywhere he could find it that his magic would allow.

"Rhinox snap out of it!" Cheetor cried out in desperation. None of the magical's words seemed to reach him as he giggled and kept shooting lasers at them. "You didn't want to do this! You always wanted to fight off evil and protect those from it! You wanted to help Blackarachnia!" Optimus cried out to him but was nearly fatally shot and Dinobot shielded him from any further attacks. "I'm sorry Rhinox." Dinobot set off the explosives that would end Rhinox's attacks, which ended Rhinox himself, reducing him to a grief seed. "Damn it Rhinox! It didn't have to end like this!" Rattrap cursed as he wanted to kick the grief seed that was all that was left of him. Optimus fell to his knees and Dinobot having to see the demise of his fellow magicals tempted him to fall into the pits of despair again. Dinobot was suddenly restrained by Cheetor's ribbons as Rattrap was shot down, destroying his charm that held his spark. "What do you think you're doing?!" Cheetor sobbed as he could barely hold his gun in aim. "Is that all we are?! Just a bunch of half cooked predawitches?!" "Cheetor. Lay down your weapon." Dinobot couldn't stop himself from shaking. He knew if he looked at Optimus or Rattrap he wouldn't be able to stop himself even more. "I hate how we're always wrong about everything! Rhinox wanting to protect people... Rattrap wanting to protect his friends... And Optimus..." Cheetor was not going to listen to Dinobot. "We should all just die if it's going to be like this!" "NO!!" Dinobot's plea was cut off when Cheetor's spark left his eyes as he fell to the ground. His charm shattering as his gun's blast covered the sound of his thud.

"Please stop..make it stop.." Optimus couldn't hold it back any longer. All of his friends were dead and all that's left for him and Dinobot is oblivion. Dinobot had to keep composure to not let Optimus have more reasons to despair. He's seen enough of the truth. He kneels down to Optimus. He takes his hands into his claws. "We still have each other. We can do this together." Dinobot's quivering voice gave away all the strength he had left in him. His spark could've shatter at the sight of Optimus but he was glad that his spark gem was no longer that fragile. Optimus nodded, accepting that this is going to be the end.

"So this is it huh?" Optimus coughed up. Dinobot nodded. This was fine if this was really the end. "Neither of us have anything to protect us from now. We can lie together, knowing that I fought with the only Magical I could ask dying next to." Dinobot looked towards the sky. "Let us become the worst of predawitches, the ones who ravage the universe until nothing is left. I can't imagine anything more fulfilling than that." Dinobot chuckled but nearly hacked out a lung turning to Optimus. Optimus placed a grief seed on Dinobot's spark. "What are you doing?!" Dinobot immediately protested. "You don't deserve that." Optimus weakly smiled at him. "You do not understand! Why would you give away your life to me again?!" Dinobot smashed a fist into the ground. "I needed to. I need to ask you something before I go." Optimus pleaded. "This all happened before right? You keep having to go and try saving us from all of this right?"

"Yes."

"If you have the power to control time, I don't think, you should ever give that up, just because I'm here like this."

Dinobot wanted to protest but he felt like Optimus didn't have much time left to argue.

"But can I ask you to do just one thing?"

"Uh huh."

"Can you stop my stupid self from believing in Vok again? So I can be on your side at least?"

Dinobot couldn't stop himself from crying.

"I don't want it to end like this for us. I want to fight by your side again." Optimus couldn't stop his tears from disappearing with the surrounding body of water holding them.

"I promise."

"I promise I won't let this happen ever again. No matter how many times I have to save you, I will always protect you!"

"Thank you Dinobot." Optimus smiled before he let out that horrible grunt again, meaning he was going to ravage the universe alone. "Dinobot...Can I ask you for one more thing?"

"Anything."

"I don't want to become a predawitch. I know there's a lot of horrible, terrible things that don't seem to be worth anything." Optimus was barely gasping out his final request. "But I know, there's a lot of things worth protecting. Worth salvaging and seeing them be happy." Optimus was barely hanging on and all Dinobot could do was to cry into his hand. His finger wiped a tear off his face as far as he could reach it.

"Maybe next time when we meet, when all of this is over...we can just laugh together instead." Optimus reached for Dinobot's sword and pointed it towards his spark.

Don't make me do this.

He had to do this.

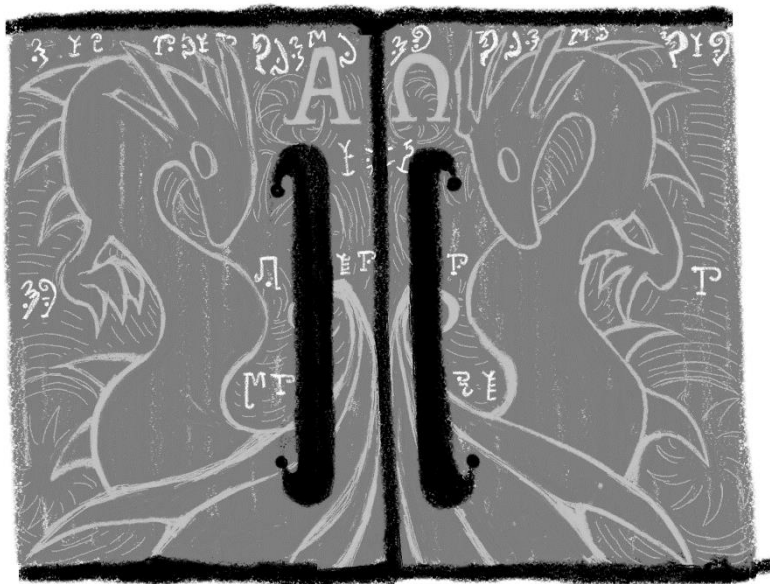
Dinobot let out a horrible cry as his sword pierced his spark.

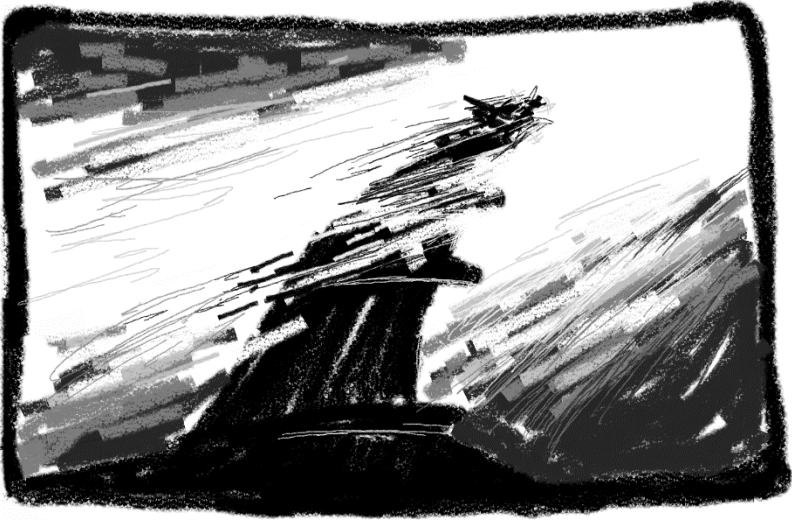
Dinobot woke up in his apartment again. Everything was silent.

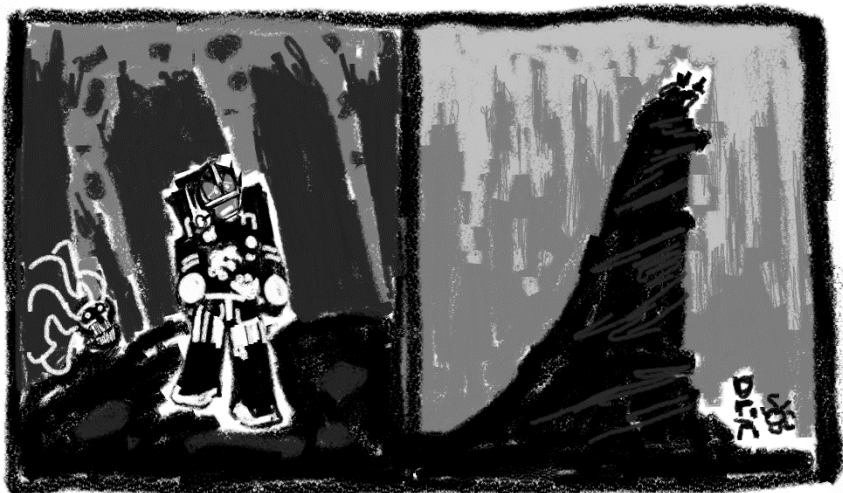
No one will believe in me.

No one will believe in the future.

I have no choice but to go on my own.

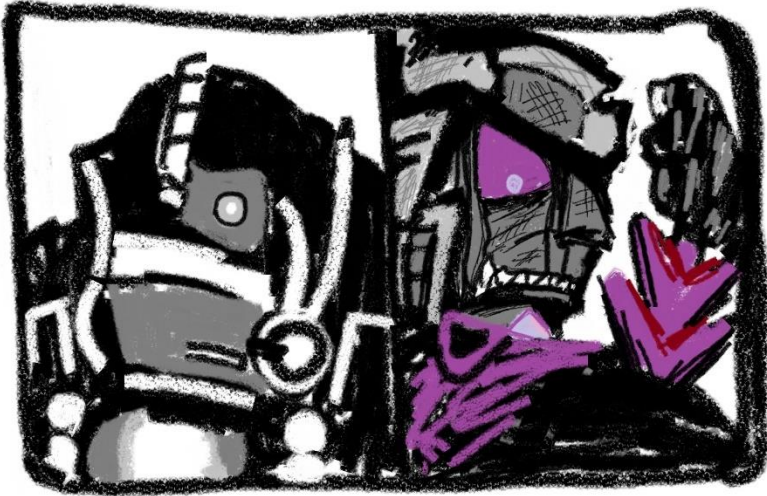






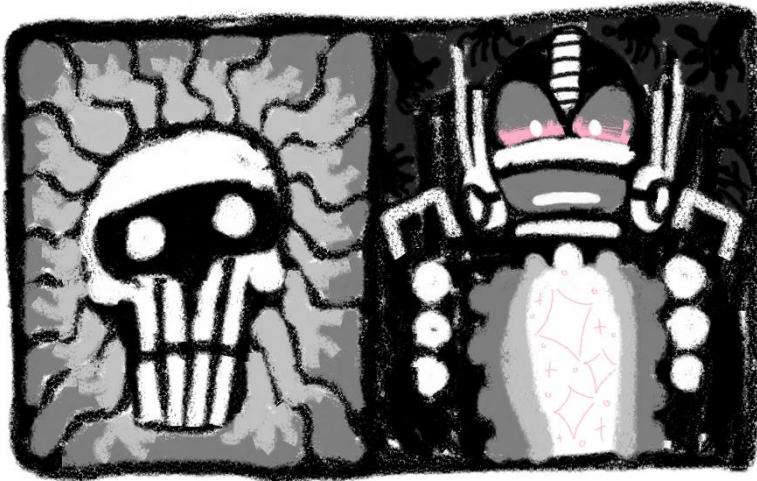
“Isn’t there anyone else that would help him? He’s charging towards his death!”

“There’s no other way he can defeat Megatron. He knew that it was too much to bear alone and that ultimately this is where destiny meets his demise.”



DON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING THEY SAY! THEY'RE DECEIVING YOU!

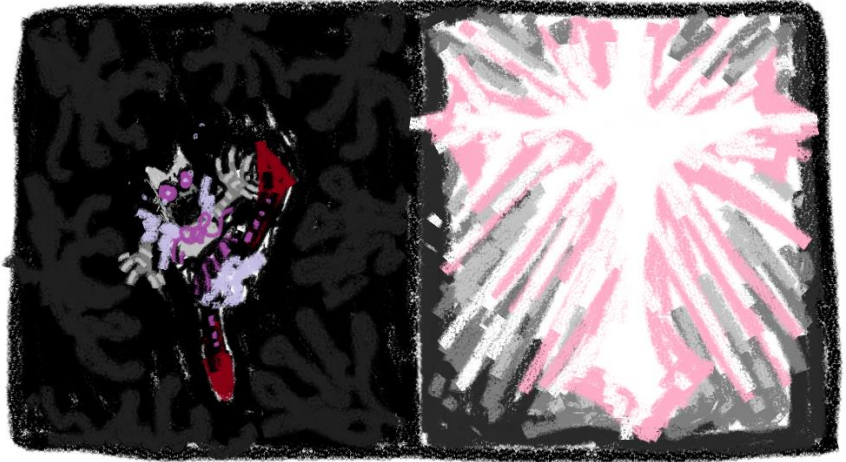
“But there is another way to save him. If you became a magical you could save him from his untimely fate.”



“I could do that?”

“The potential lies within you. You could save the world from Megatron’s wrath and everyone within it.”

“...”



NOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



“I estimated that Optimus Primal would become the most powerful magical on Cybertron but him taking down Megatron with one shot has been a surprising result of his power.”

“You knew that this would become of him?”

“As powerful as a magical he became is as powerful as a predawitch he was eventually to become as well.”



“It would only take him 3 days to completely eradicate Cybertron’s existence from this universe. But he has helped reach our energy quota so there is no need for us to worry about that. If you have any strength left in you, you could try to defeat him to ensure your survival.”

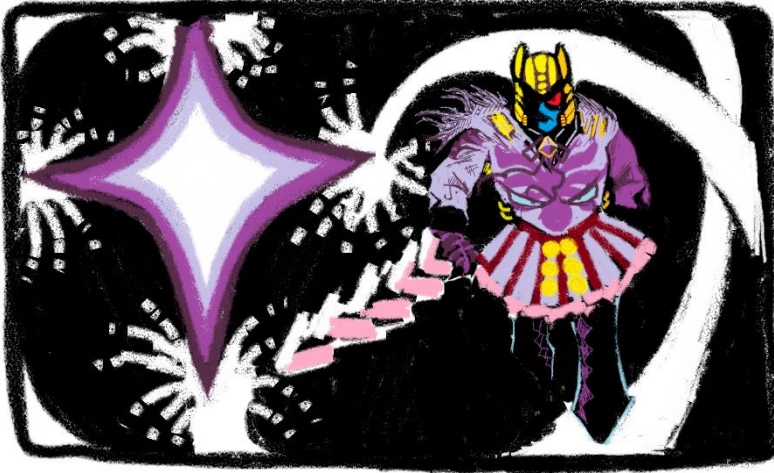
“There’s no need.”

“You’re already giving up?”

“No. My battlefield lies elsewhere.”



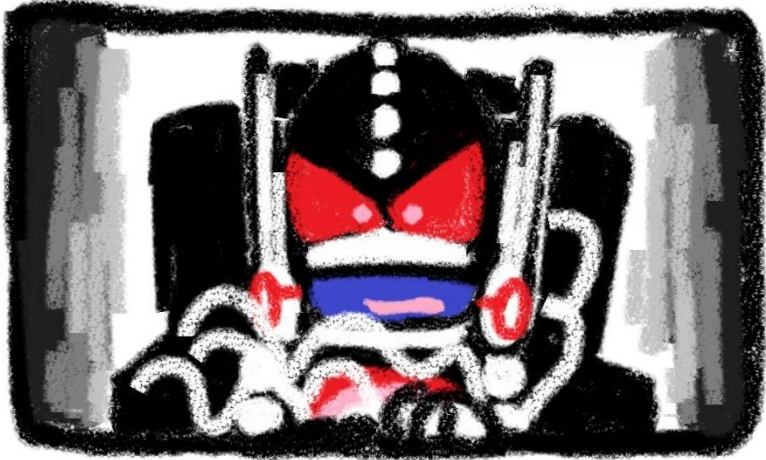
“Are you...”



It doesn't matter how many times I have to repeat this dreadful time again and again. I won't give up on you.



I will save you from this fate of despair. This dreaded time and place.



"What do you think you're doing to them?!" Optimus optics flared up with resentment towards Dinobot and protectiveness over that pathetic Vok.

Dinobot nearly broke from his reaction. But he cannot allow that. Not until this is all over. "If I shall spend the rest of eternity in this labyrinth, then so be it."

"Time traveler Dinobot. By turning back time and changing past events, you have traveled numerous timelines."

Dinobot had nothing else to hide. Vok's discovery of Dinobot's paradox has been realized from them in some of those timelines. But when they usually realize it it's too late as Dinobot resets

everything. "With that discovery you have answered one of our most burning questions: Why does Optimus have such vast potential and power to become a Magical?" Dinobot growls a sigh.

"It would make more sense if he was a more brilliant scientist or a martyr. But he does not hold enough karmic destiny to be either of those things let alone hold a candle to that destiny he bears."

"And so? You are merely wasting your time." Dinobot concluded. "If he does not have any push to become a magical then when his natural lifespan passes the destiny shall be distributed back to the universe equally."

"You are far from being correct Dinobot. That conclusion is far too hasty and would be destructive if we were to let that happen." Vok continued.

"One's destiny does not simply disappear and vanishes to the rest of the universe. It is tied to his very being, eventually given in his lifespan amongst other species we have dealt with, he will eventually have no choice but to become a magical or bear the effects affecting everything around him."

"Do not spout anymore of your foolishness! You are a deceiver! You have no place to make that decision for him!"

"That I do not. But you should also realize that is also out of your control. Just how you have been helping him gain that much destiny in the first place."

Dinobot froze.

"Every time you repeated this period of time you tied another Optimus from another timeline to him, thus expanding his potential."

"That does not make any sense. I only wished for the opposite to happen to him."

"As any magical your wish is bound to somehow betray you. It's only fair to come to the conclusion that every time you tried saving Optimus from becoming a magical, he would have more destiny tied to him. If you wished for something different in these time loops he wouldn't have been this badly affected."

"..."

"As much as you must be troubled now from this realization, you have helped the rest of the universe have the most powerful predawitch in existence, so you weren't far off from saying that destiny will be equally distributed back to the rest of the universe."

They bore into him.

"Get out of my head."

Dinobot heard the doorbell ring. He opened the door to see Optimus standing right there in front of him. "Can I come in?" Dinobot let him in.

"Is this what you've been preparing for?"

"Yes. Megatron will ravage this city and leave nothing but destruction behind. It's best to evacuate while you can. Far away from here."

"But you and Rattrap were going to team up to defeat Megatron, right? He said that it would be impossible for one magical to defeat Megatron alone."

"I never needed that rodent. I told him that lie so his fragile sense of pride wouldn't be shattered. He could have cared less if the city was destroyed anyways if it did not benefit him."

Optimus started to break. "Why would you say something like that?"

"It is the truth and I can only give you the truth. There's nothing else that can be done."

Optimus looked down nearly teary eyed. "I..." "I don't want to believe you would do all of this. I don't want to believe that you're lying to me when your spark is saying something else."

"I need the truth Dinobot. Don't do this to me."

Dinobot turned away from Optimus to hide his curled-up face.

"How dare you..."

He began to shake.

"How dare you say that to me..."

Optimus was afraid he really pushed it this time.

"When I can't truly be honest?" Dinobot turned to Optimus with tears in his optics.

"When I can't reach your spark anymore?!" Dinobot rushed over to Optimus embracing him. Failing to prevent himself from spilling out all those timelines into this Optimus.

"I'm from the future." Dinobot choked out. "You may have only known me for so long in this moment, but I've met you over a thousand times. And all of those times I had to see you die."

He couldn't stop shaking.

"What do I have to do to save you?" Dinobot sobbed with all that was in his throat. "What do I have to do to change your fate?"

Optimus put his hands on his back while Dinobot squeezed him tighter, both not realizing that they were doing this to each other.

"How am I supposed to save you, when I keep going back, where we drift farther apart from each other? When my prayer falls deeper into the pits of oblivion?"

Dinobot and Optimus stared into each other's optics.

"I'm not sure if even that is the right answer. I don't know what is wrong or right any longer. I just know that I have to do this for you. It's all that is in store for me."

Optimus stared back cluelessly worried.

"So please, let me do this for you. If it's the last thing I shall ever do."

I must defeat him no matter the cost!

Dinobot fought with all that was left in him. His carefully planned explosions. His time controlling powers. Everything. He is the only

one who can save Optimus being consumed by his fate. Megatron's familiars nearly outmatched him but was able to aim for the final blow from his laser optics. Until a building was headed right towards him. He could only let out a gasp as he was unable to leap out of the way. His leg finally being caught in the rubble. The price has been paid.

"Why won't you die?! How many times do I have to slay you to save Optimus?!" Megatron laughed at him, mocking his struggle to get free. "I won't let it end like this!" His body was betraying him. He didn't have enough magic to free himself and if he was able to free his leg, it would be a dead weight. He turned his shield to meet Optimus again. But he could not. He can't let Optimus have any more destiny tied to himself. He cannot let Optimus become a magical. He swore that he would save him from being tricked by Vok no matter the cost. He stabbed and tore into the rubble only for his sword to be chipped away and eventually break from how damaged it became. He was given no choice. He couldn't protect Optimus despite all of his efforts. He thrashed and yelled and cursed for anything else in himself to give to him. His spark gradually began being consumed by despair nearing his fate as another predawitch Optimus was going to have no choice but to fight and become a worser predawitch than himself.

"Dinobot. No more."

Dinobot knew that Optimus wouldn't have listened to him. But his presence alone prevented Dinobot's spark being consumed by despair. "Optimus..."

"It's alright now. You've done enough." Optimus wiped off any energon his tissue could soak up from Dinobot's face. His tissue wasn't enough to wipe away the fear Dinobot held as Optimus stared at Megatron destroying the rest of the city, and then staring at Vok.

"Optimus...don't..."

Optimus turned to Dinobot. He was no longer confused and held that same expression when he died for Dinobot in the 1st timeline.

"I'm sorry Dinobot. I'm going to become a magical."

Dinobot shook his head and balled up his hands into his face.

"Don't do this for me. Don't make me waste whatever I did for you." Dinobot lost it again. He couldn't stop himself from crying. The one thing Optimus didn't want when he wanted to meet again. Optimus gently held him as much as he could utter the harsh truth.

"I'm so sorry Dinobot. I can only imagine what you've been through for me. But now I know what I must do, because of you. I promise." He held Dinobot's hand in both of his. "I won't let you go to waste. I won't let anyone go to waste. It's the only thing I can wish for."

Dinobot reached out for Optimus as he walked away from him.

"Anything you wish for it will come true. You could become a god and rewrite the fabric of the universe to your liking at the price of your spark."

"Then what are you waiting for? Grant my wish!" The world changed around them.

"If that is what you wish for, to save all magicals and erase all predawitches from existence your entire existence will also be at stake!"

"It doesn't matter what happens to me. For every magical to be smiling in the end, for their wishes to not be in vain, then so be it!"

Optimus wish was granted. Megatron was welcomed into Optimus arms until Dinobot woke up in the middle of nowhere.

"What is this?"

"The end of the universe. What Optimus ultimately wished for is what ultimately ended him. Along with everything else." Dinobot heard a huge sound erupt from space. It was a meteor the size of a million planets heading towards Cybertron. "This is all the curses and despair Optimus took upon himself. For all the curses he bore is enough to end the universe." Dinobot could only watch helplessly as Cybertron and everything else was consumed by Optimus predawitch form. He cried as he couldn't bear looking at anything happening. "It's alright Dinobot." Dinobot shot up as suddenly a pink glow shone behind him "I only wished for predawitches to be erased from existence. If my wish has come true, then there is no need to despair. Ever!" Optimus shot an arrow that immediately blasted through his predawitch counterpart. Which left Dinobot at the mercy of everything feeling his body being torn apart atom by atom.

"With your wish you have ceased to exist to anyone else other than yourself. You have become the beginning and the end. There is nothing left but the concept of Optimus Primal. Even those you

saved from despair will never know of your existence again or ever will."

"What is the meaning of this?! As if Optimus deserves such a fate like that after everything he's done?! How dare you do that?! Don't make me laugh!"

"I would have... preferred to die...then let you end up like this."
Dinobot wept alone.

"Don't say something like that."

Dinobot jumped at the presence of Optimus.

"I'm glad that it ended this way, because now I can see everything that has ever happened or will happen." Dinobot felt horror creep into every fiber of his being for Optimus. "Every universe, created, destroyed, everything you can imagine." Optimus only smiled at him. "And now I know what you really wanted to tell me. Every time that you cried, every time you wanted to laugh, every time you went back just for my sake. Everything." Dinobot knew what Optimus meant. He wasn't Vok etching into his mind, he was Optimus returning everything Dinobot did for him. "I'm sorry that it took all of this to truly understand what you really meant. I couldn't be more grateful for a special friend like you Dinobot." Dinobot wept into Optimus, letting out everything he wanted to tell him through held back emotions that dissolved his words into wailing. "I can't thank you enough for what you've done for me and everyone else." "But what about you?! What about going home and back to everyone else?! Why would you stay in a place like this for all eternity, where no one remembers you?! What if I forget you?!" Optimus chuckled. "If I wished for more than one wish I would've

wished that we could've understood each other more. That really would've been prime wouldn't it?" Optimus joked at a time like this. Where he was fading away from Dinobot to never be seen again. "I never wanted you or anyone to go to waste. And I want to keep that promise above anything else." Optimus reached his hand into his chest and touched Dinobot with his chest. This wasn't going to be the end. Dinobot should've known that they would see each other again. "I know that we'll meet again soon. And that you can be whole and live for your sake." Dinobot was confused and scared now. He didn't understand what Optimus meant as if he knew something he didn't, tampering with time. "Optimus don't go! Don't make me forget you!" "I have to. But who knows? You might remember me after all. And it'll be easier to find me here again." Optimus brimmed with hope that overwhelmed Dinobot. He couldn't stand it. "So, until then, just remember. Someone is always fighting for you. Goodbye Dinobot." Optimus disappeared in blinding pink glitter.

"OPTIMUS!!!"

Rattrap: So that's it huh? Tigerhawk and everyone else. Gone.

Cheetor: No.

They're here. And they're taking Dinobot with them.

Rattrap: Is that?

Cheetor: Yeah. Optimus Primal. The law of cycles. And one day when our time comes, we'll be led away by him too.



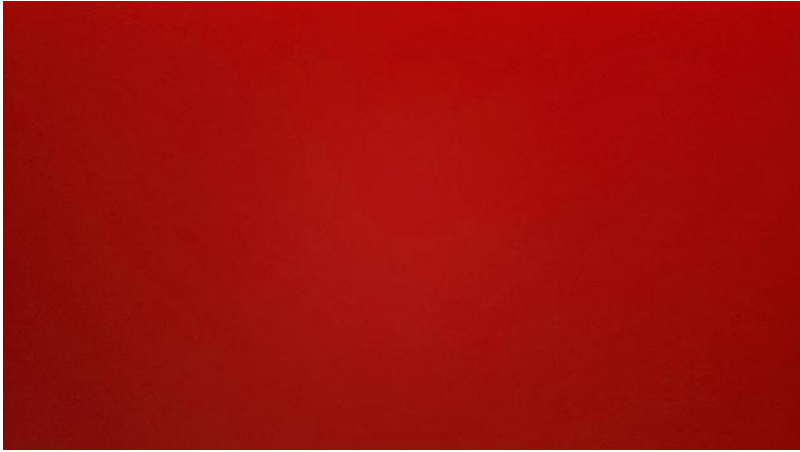
Optimus: That's right. I remember now. I can't believe I've forgotten someone so important all this time.

Rhinox: That isolation field sure was annoying.

Tigerhawk: At least it was just Dinobot we had to go rescue. It would have been worse if it was the others.

Rhinox: Good grief.





Optimus: Sorry for such a long wait. You've fought so hard to be here now.

Dinobot: Optimus...

Optimus: Now, let's go. We can finally be together, forever.

Dinobot: Of course. The question that once haunted my being
has finally been answered.



Optimus: Dinobot?

Dinobot: Hm hm hm.

I gotcha~



Rattrap: What the slag?!

Cheetor: Dinobot?! What are you doing?!

Tigerhawk: His spark has become a black hole!

Rhinox: How is that possible? What could possibly make anyone's spark turn into that? Desire? Madness?

Dinobot: Of course, none of you would understand. Not one being in the whole universe. It is only natural I understand. This truth. This feeling. My feelings I hold for Optimus alone.



Optimus: Dinobot don't do this! You're tearing me apart! -



Dinobot: I'm sorry it has to be this way. I could only imagine how much you felt the same for me this whole time. And how many times we've trampled over each other.

Cheetor: AA!!



Rattrap: AA!!



Rhinox: AA!!



Tigerhawk: AA!!



[The universe is changed]

[Dinobot is here again. He holds a bottle of poison in his mouth that he crushes with his teeth. His spark has changed. It is complete.]

Vok: The whole universe is being rewritten. The principles are changing in this universe with you along with it.

Dinobot: I am aware. And if I recall correctly this is the first time you've come here to this place, is it not?

I have been here before, seeing all I've known unravel before my very eyes.

Vok: What is it that you're doing right now? What are you meddling in? What have you changed?

[Dinobot mockingly bears into them]

I don't believe this. Something like this should've been impossible to happen let alone exist. Your spark should have disappeared with every fabric of your being. How are you cheating the laws of this universe?

Dinobot: I have remembered something important. All of the torment that has been endured by my spark. All of the times I fell victim to hope and despair. The very fate I fought against. All of it is proof of my feelings for Optimus.

No,

curse could not have changed me.

Pain could not have changed me.

Something else has uprooted me.

Transforming us into something we can no longer recognize.

Vok: What transformed you?

Dinobot: Something you have failed to understand within every thought of every sentient being.

It is the pinnacle of all emotions,

Far darker than despair.

Far brighter than hope.

Vok: Dinobot, what have you become now? You are no longer a magical or a predawitch. You're destroying yourself by becoming a cosmically impossible abomination! What are you transforming into?!

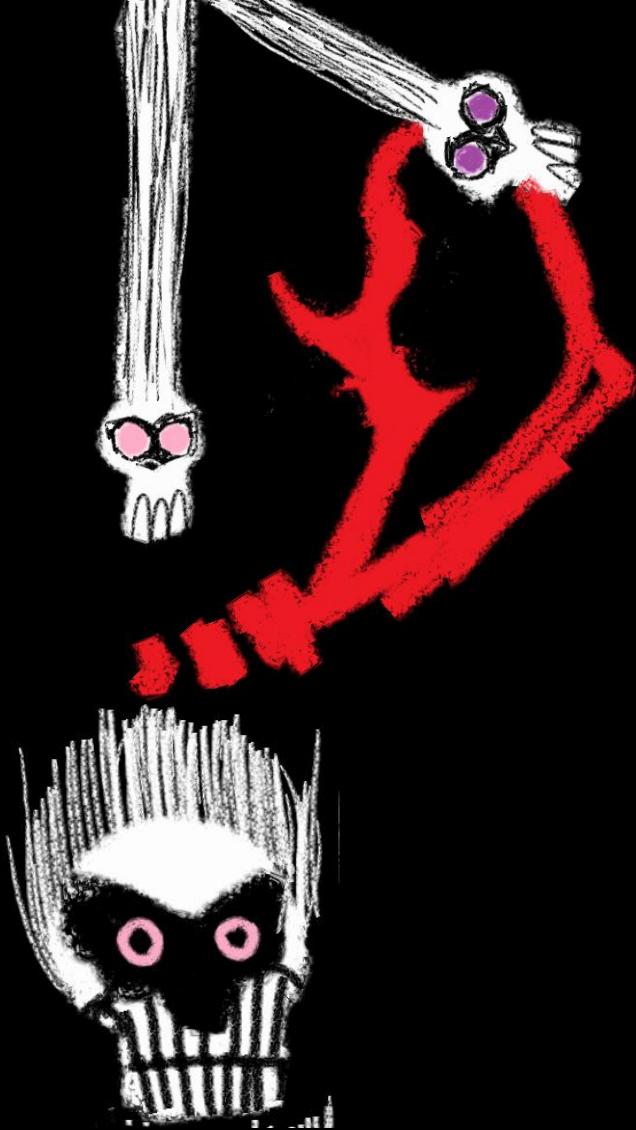
Dinobot: You give off the stench of truth. I am no longer any of the things as I was once before. Optimus was a savior and I pulled him from the matrix. I could only be a bringer of damnation now since the pillar he once was is no more.

Vok: I understand now. We have made a grave mistake of letting the universe be consumed by emotions. We could have not possibly seen this outcome knowing how unstable that source of energy truly is and how tedious it is to control it.

Dinobot: Oh? Now you understand?



Dinobot: And now you must pay the price for your sins. We need someone to help stop the spread of curses that plague our world still, and you seem to be the perfect candidate for that. So you will all be reformatted into good little children now, Vok.



[The world has been reformatted. The world is finally where it all should be as it once was, on that strange primitive world. Home.]

[Cheetor sprints heading to base but is nearly stopped by a strange glimpse he nearly crashed into.]

[Rattrap heads to base walking through the forest as he suddenly trips over a spiny branch.]

[Rhinox is stopped by Dinobot who is in the way of crossing the bridge.]

Rhinox: Do you have any idea of what you just did?

Dinobot: No. I need a broken record. A witness of someone who painstakingly remembers every intricate detail.

Rhinox: You broke off a part of the cycle! You took away the salvation of every magical! You've rendered their hopes meaningless!

Dinobot: Is that so? I only recall taking a tiny piece of it. If I did tarnish the law of cycles, I believe none of you would be here right now, living a carefree peaceful life. I cannot erase any of you as long as Optimus is attached to all of you.

Rhinox: What makes you think you have the right to do this? What makes you think your code of honor allows you to do this to everyone and him?!

Dinobot: I no longer hold that honor I held onto so dearly. I am now the existence of evil in this world. I am transformed into the being that shall disrupt the natural laws of suffering. Eventually time would tell that I would yet again be a source of conflict as I once was in the past.

Rhinox: If there's no natural balance to suffering it can only bring destruction to the universe. Is that your endgame? You would rather destroy the universe and pit everyone against you?

Dinobot: And when was I not that? Were you not so content in that labyrinth I fabricated? What difference does this make now?

Rhinox: The only thing different is that I'm sure you could only be my enemy.

Dinobot: Are you so sure? Do you wish to not have a richer life?

[Rhinox's memories are erased]

Dinobot: Or do you even remember what made me so different from everyone else? Isn't freedom the right of all sentient beings?

Rhinox: This can't be right. I felt I was a part of something larger than this. Something that was tied to all of our purposes in life. I can't be sure of anything other than you. I know you have something to do with all of this and I can't allow you to get away with it!

Dinobot: Your spark has been changed by something else from a time long ago. You sound so different.

Rhinox: I'm not supposed to be like this. This just feels wrong.

Dinobot: It does, doesn't it? Why would you let such miniscule things be in the way of your happiness?

Rhinox: I have a bad feeling about you Dinobot. You're up to no good.

Dinobot: Because I'm a Predacon correct? What would Optimus think if he was here right now, blatantly accusing me of things because of how I was born? Wouldn't that make him not want to be your friend anymore?

Blackarachnia: Uh, is there a toll I gotta pay?

[Rhinox whipped his head around to see Blackarachnia and Silverbolt side by side.

Something felt as if he was finally put at ease.]

Rhinox: Oh, silly me. Can't get enough of these flowers.

Blackarachnia: Those are weeds. You sure you're feelin green big guy?

Rhinox: Always have been. C'mon we don't want to be late.

[Everyone finally made it to home base. It seems they've made themselves quite comfortable coming back home.]

Rattrap: Kiddo when are you gonna get this over with?

Cheetor: It's a surprise! Not everyone's here yet!

Rhinox: Who could we be missing?

Rattrap: Besides those two lovebirds ditchin us and Tigerhawk forest bathin we just don't have a crowd.

Rhinox: Hmm...

Rattrap: I'm sure everyone's gonna see your celebrity cutout eventually.

Cheetor: He's not a cutout! Geez you're such a party pooper! Sorry big bot you can come out now.

[A familiar nervous bot stepped out of the shadows. Rhinox and Rattrap were equally in shock.]

Rattrap: Ey hey big nerd!

Rhinox: Well if it isn't ol Optimus. You're a bit late to the party.

Optimus: I know. Last minute impulse I guess.

Rattrap: So uh, what brings you here to this lousy rock?

Optimus: I just wanted to do some exploring. I heard you guys needed some more crew members here and I'll take any chance to get away from all the noise.

Rhinox: Well did you bring anything with you?

[Optimus sheepishly presented 2 machetes.]

Cheetor: That looks useful! We could really cut down on having to blast through vines when we get caught up in them.

Rhinox: Yup.

Rattrap: Eh if it doesn't end up being too tacky.

Dinobot: And you always just prove to have poor taste.

[Dinobot nearly shoved Rattrap bumping into him. He approached Optimus, towering over him.]

Dinobot: Hm. These will look to be quite useful. Befitting for someone like you.

Cheetor: Aren't you forgetting something?

Dinobot: I apologize. I am Dinobot. I am grateful you decided to welcome yourself and join us.

Rattrap: If you can stand it.

[Dinobot glared at Rattrap. They started a glaring contest until Rhinox gestured Rattrap to help him out with something.]

Optimus: Well, that's very kind of you to say.

Dinobot: Let me show you a tour of the base.

Cheetor: That's my job!

Dinobot: And it's also your job to make sure Inferno isn't setting things on fire!

Cheetor: Ugh, catch you later big bot.

[Optimus walked behind Dinobot. He felt unsure of this place.]

Dinobot: How do you feel about this planet so far?

Optimus: It's beautiful, but strange.

Dinobot: How so?

Optimus: I'm not sure. It must be from how quiet it all is.

Dinobot: A jarring experience, I'm sure. We've all felt that way at first.

Optimus: Dinobot?

Dinobot: Yes?

Optimus: Do you ever get the feeling that you might've been here before?

Dinobot: ... I suppose.

[They arrive in Optimus room.]

Optimus: I feel like I haven't been here in so long. As if something changed me here.

Dinobot: You've done space exploration before correct?

Optimus: No it's something more than that. It's like I was supposed to be here for something. Someone.

[Optimus approaches the window. The sunset is getting too bright.]

Optimus: That's right. I was here for something more. I had a different role. A purpose.

[The room is losing its illusion. Optimus was going to remember that Dinobot waited so long for him to wake up. For him to realize how important he was to him.]

Optimus: It's all so hauntingly familiar...but why?

[Dinobot dragged him down to gravity. To keep him grounded.]

Optimus: Dinobot?! What are you doing?!

[Dinobot nearly lost him again. It was only a matter of time.]

Dinobot: It's alright. It's alright if you don't know what destiny holds for you yet. Or if destiny holds anything for you at all. But you can only choose to be yourself. Please only believe in that.

[Optimus was so confused by Dinobot's words that he had no choice but to stay.]

Dinobot: Optimus Primal. Do you value this world? Do you value the lives and happiness of everyone and everything in it? Or would you give it all away for a higher purpose? To change the very fabric of this world as we know it?

Optimus: I...

[Optimus was at a loss of words.]

Optimus: I..do value this world. It would be unfair if I didn't give everyone their chance of happiness for something... more self-centered?

Dinobot: I see. Then it is determined. Your fate might possibly end as us intertwined as enemies.

[Dinobot held his hand to his chest.]

Dinobot: But it does not concern me. No matter what will happen of us, I will always wish for a world where you can truly be happy.

[Dinobot held a bright light and placed it in Optimus chest.]

[Optimus was confused. Hopelessly confused because he could no longer reach Dinobot in any way that could change his fate.]

[Dinobot stood in the doorway. He smiled.]

"It's good to have you back."

END.