



Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye, Volume 1

James Roberts , Nick Roche (Illustrator) , Alex Milne (Illustrator)

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The ultimate *Transformers* saga begins here! *More Than Meets The Eye* reunites the fan-favorite creative team behind *Last Stand of the Wreckers* and sends the Transformers on an epic quest to the farthest reaches of the Transformers Universe -- and beyond! Also includes the one-shot *Death of Optimus Prime*.

Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye, Volume 1 Details

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From Reader Review Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye, Volume 1 for online ebook

Joshua says

Pretty enjoyable. The first part of this volume (The Death of Optimus Prime) was better than the later part, mostly because the later part was more reliant on humor that took the edges off in places where they should have been left (like Whirl's weirdly homicidal character or how no one can remember Rung or tell Ore and Shock apart and then they are tragically dealt with). Still the jokes were generally funny. "The Death of Optimus Prime" was good because it took a serious look at how the Autobots, Decepticons, and non-aligned Cybertronians deal with the end of the war that defined them.

As a side note, I got a kick out of reading reviews for this because there were a couple negative reviews from people who knew nothing about Transformers in general and therefore thought this book was bad.

David Edmonds says

So, Humble Bundle's newest offer the other day was pretty much the entire current run of IDW's Transformers run of comics (\$155 worth of comics according the website - I got it for \$15, so not a bad deal). I've been curious about the current run that IDW has been publishing, so this seemed like a ridiculously good deal to me. I read the first volume of each series and actually thought they were pretty good.

The whole idea between both volumes is that the war between the Autobots and the Decepticons has finally ended with the Autobots in charge of Cybertron (a Cybertron that has changed as a result of something that happened just prior to the beginning of these two stories, and something that I'm not at all familiar with). Since the war, more and more Transformers who had fled Cybertron in the wake of the war are now returning, and see no need to have either faction on the planet anymore, as both Autobots and Decepticons are equally seen as responsible for the destruction of the planet. However, the Autobots don't see it this way and want to set up a new government to try to keep another from happening. Optimus Prime sees himself as the most visible sign of the war, so relinquishes his title as Prime, returns to calling himself Orion Pax, and exiles himself from Cybertron, leaving Bumblebee in charge. Meanwhile, Rodimus sees no point in giving up their heritage and starting over so decides to travel from Cybertron in search of the Knights of Cybertron. This is where the series splits into two.

More Than Meets The Eye follows Rodimus and his crew in search of the Knight of Cybertron, while *Robots in Disguise* deals with Bumblebee trying to reestablish something of a government on Cybertron and dealing with the disillusionment felt by just about everyone over this, especially the newly returned, unaligned Transformers. I've read about the *More Than Meets the Eye* title from several sources around the internets, and it turns out that they weren't wrong about the title. It combines a pretty decent story with some great character development and just enough wit to make something that's actually fun to read. *Robots in Disguise* is intriguing as well, given the way the series is dealing with the repercussions and aftereffects of the war. Overall, both series are surprisingly good (I think it would be easy for most people to write off Transformers as a whole, but these are legitimately *good* comics), but I did find that I enjoyed *More Than Meets The Eye* more. I'm really glad I bought into this most recent Humble Bundle and will be gladly reading the rest of the volumes.

Dave Versace says

Uh, wow this comic about robots who turn into cars is charged with political philosophy and nuanced character development and...

look, I can't believe it either but it's about a thousand times better than it has any need to be. I'm a bit stunned, really.

(But in case you are worried there is this great bit where a monster-robot totally kills some other robots and it's rad as hell. Plus spaceships and explosions).

Merritt K. says

I haven't been into Transformers since I was a kid but this series is so great. Roberts takes the already-absurd premise of robots that turn into cars and is like, I don't care about Autobots vs Decepticons, I'm just putting a bunch of weirdos and nerds on a ship together and sending them after some mythical robot precursors who may or may not exist. All of the characters are endearing in their own messed-up kind of way, whether they're robot dermatologists who want to be bartenders, obsessive rule-enforcers, or frightful robot psychiatrists. It does take some time to be able to tell them apart, but the art is really expressive and fits the tone of the writing perfectly.

Swapnil Dubey says

I am writing this review after reading this comic three times. Everytime I found something new in this book. It's a Masterpiece. If you ask me, in the terms of awesomeness, how much would I rate it on scale of one to Optimus? Then surely it deserves.. Bumblebee.

"Terrible things happen in war. Terrible things happen in peace too." MTMTE V1

CYBERTRON ALIVE! After fighting for 6 million years the War for Cybertron is, somehow, finally over. Megatron's missing. Galvatron's presumed dead. Decepticons are behind the bars and directionless. The Matrix is being destroyed and Orion Pax is reborn. But is war really over? Or it's just the start of a new war?

THE STORY! Goes crazy with every page and the art becomes more mesmerizing. These are the stories that helped me to move on from Batman-Joker, Superman-Doomsday and MARVEL I rarely read. No. I mean, I am not comparing. Not at all. But all I got here, is a new world of imagination to wander with totally new characters, stories, writers, and artists.

FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH RODIMUS! I haven't read lots of things about many characters but RODIMUS is kinda cool and at the same time.. pathetic too. I mean he leaves Bee to chase some myths... Knights of Cybertron. Also he uses Rung as the bait to catch the Sparkeater. Bold moves.. sometimes can also be a reason for downfall. But as the legends say.. No Guts No Glory. The page where he catches the Sparkeater, when the Lost Light quantum jumps and flour the rules of physics.. must be one of the coolest

page in comics history. I don't understand what matrix found in him and allowed him to use it's powers. But he's all about action and hype. Reading those pages of that soul snatcher in the midnight... was kinda scary.

PHASE TWO! is more attractive than phase one. It's not about Optimus V Megatron, all the OLD old war that we have read and seen many times but it surely opens up the dimensions for new characters and stories for Transformers. I don't know where the story will go but wherever it goes, I am gonna follow it. The real deal. Worth the money. Totally.

TRANSFORMERS ARE HUMANS! or at least their behaviour when it comes to betray someone when they are not needed anymore. Prime is hate figure and the world sees him as the War. But when the time comes to make grand gestures and make unimaginable sacrifice.. no one can touch Optimus.

More Than Meets The Eye deserves your money.

Mark B says

Well, that was fun!* And slightly confusing, given that I've had nothing to do with Transformers since owning a very small collection of toys back in the 80s and early 90s**. Still, I held on tight, enjoyed the ride and came out on the other side wanting more. And more I shall have!

I'm sure there's far more here to enjoy for longtime fans but newcomers should be assured that it is well worth the effort to put your trust in the writers and just jump straight in. The characterisation of the different Transformers is rich enough that backstory and continuity aren't really necessary to sink your teeth into the here-and-now of the story.

I never thought that comics based on licensed properties could be this good. Shame on me! Good comics are good comics, and this comic was damn good.

*Fun enough for me to write a review, which I've never bothered with before!

**I did however have a whole mess of Mighty Machine Men. 80s nostalgia only works if your childhood self happened to fall on what would eventually become the cool side of pop culture.

Sam Quixote says

In Nick Hornby's excellent book, *The Polysyllabic Spree*, collecting his Believer columns discussing books he'd bought and read each month, the author talks about attempting to read a novel outside of his comfort zone. In his case, it was a sci-fi novel by Iain M. Banks called *Excession*. This was his reaction:

"The urge to weep tears of frustration was already upon me even before I read the short prologue, which seemed to describe some kind of androgynous avatar visiting a woman who has been pregnant for forty years and who lives on her own in the tower of a giant spaceship...By the time I got to the first chapter, which is entitled 'Outside Context Problem' and begins '(CGU Grey Area signal sequence file #n428857/119)' I was crying so hard that I could no longer see the page in front of my face."

This was basically my reaction to *Transformers: More Than Meets The Eye*, Volume 1, a comic about a series/cast of characters I thought would be interesting to read because I know next to nothing about them. I saw the first *Transformers* movie and about 15 minutes of the second, and that was enough - I hated both. I vaguely remember the '80s cartoon and I remember owning some *Transformers* toys as a kid. I know some names: Optimus Prime (hero), Megatron (villain) and Bumblebee (tool). That's it.

Having tried reading this, all I can say is: you need to know more - a LOT more! - to understand what's happening in this book.

So apparently Optimus Prime died. A robot - at least, I think that's what he is, right? - "died"? OK. They're machines but whatever. Then he winds up in somewhere called the Afterspark which I guess is robot afterlife? It wasn't explained. But there's a ton of other robots there and they're all alive - so he didn't really die? Then there's mention of Primus (not the band) who's God or something - do robots have religion? These ones seem to!

Then we're on Cybertron which I guess is the *Transformers*' home planet - except Optimus is surprised that it's populated. So I suppose it was uninhabitable before and now it is - for robots to "live" on?

Then you start getting battered with labels: Vector Sigma, Grand Imperium, Galvatron's Sweeps, Greater Iacon, Vela Pulsar, The Battle of Kimia, Dai Atlas and the Circle of Light, the Matrix (not the movie), Alchemy-Seven Crew; do you know what any of these mean? Because they're not explained in the comic! I was beyond lost at this point.

Then the *Transformers* are introduced: Sideswipe, Prowl, Whirl, Rodimus, Turbofox, Wheeljack, Perceptor, Metalhawk (who, confusingly, doesn't transform into a hawk but an X-Wing instead!), Ratbat, Rewind. I have no idea who any of these characters are. Are they good guys, bad guys? Even Optimus Prime - the only character name I recognise - was made baffling because everyone was calling him Orion Pax. Is that another character or his real name or a title or what?!

Believe it or not, all of that information isn't even 20 pages of this book, but that's where I stopped. If, not even by page 20, I have no clue what's happening on any level in a book, I'm done, and that was the case with this one. Apparently Optimus was dead, then he was alive, then he was leader again and everyone wanted him gone for some reason. I...

So that's my first and last foray into *Transformers* comics - I knew there was a reason I didn't read them! Check them out only if you know a lot about *Transformers* already or are willing to do the homework and have the patience to figure them out!

Jesse Slater says

Originally read this a few years ago, but finally getting back to reading the series and needed a refresher. The setup gives a plot hook for many characters, giving some puzzling mysteries that you just have to keep reading to find out the truth about. Characterization reminds me of a motley crew story such as *The Usual Suspects*. Excited to finally continue this series.

Nicolo Yu says

Although branded as a *Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye* collected edition, this trade also contains the *Death of Optimus Prime* one-shot that sets the stage for two ongoing *Transformers* series from IDW. The one-shot sets the impetus for both *More Than Meets the Eye* and *Robots in Disguise*.

While the latter is a Cybertron-based series that leans to a more political and grounded story, *More Than Meets the Eyes* is set in space; more specifically, the Lost Light commanded by Rodimus.

Each issue of *Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye* is structured like a *Star Trek* episode. Each installment has main story which is resolved in a issue and some secondary plots that moves that particular story thread to a payoff in a future issue. It also has an overarching story which drives this title.

Each issue of *Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye* is a whole lot more entertaining than some comics out there because with each issue being one and done, there's a lot more going that a reader will surely get his/her money's worth.

James says

Beautifully drawn with some really dark illustrations for *Transformers*, perfect for the older reader and nostalgic fan. I can't quite work out what goes before this as it states volume one, though I'm clearly missing something. Thanks to Norfolk Library service as this is my first book taken out in 10+years

Andrew says

I have no sentimental attachment to the *Transformers* cartoon or the toys. The one *Transformers* movie I saw felt like it lasted 17 years and it gave me a headache that lasted even longer. The whole idea of robots that are also aliens and also cars is impossibly stupid. AND YET, I kept reading that the recent IDW *Transformers* comics were "good, actually," and "way smarter than they need to be." So I decided to check them out. Turns out the reports are true. This first volume is actually good and actually way smarter than it needs to be.

The premise is this: after four million years (?!?) the Autobots have finally won the war against the Decepticons, and refugees are returning to Cybertron (dope name for a planet btw) in droves. But rather than greeting the Autobots as liberators, the repatriated refugees view them as just a bunch of assholes who wrecked their planet with war for four million freaking years. The *Robots In Disguise* series follows events on Cybertron, while this series follows a group of Autobots who saw all that civil unrest and decided it was a good time to pack up and take a space adventure. The set-up (a big crew exploring the galaxy in a ship) is a bit like *Star Trek*, but with robot-alien-car people instead of Vulcans and Ferengi.

This isn't the easiest introduction to the world of *Transformers*: the crew is waaaay too big for me to remember everybody's name, and the artists don't make enough of an effort to differentiate the various characters from one another. As such, I spent long stretches having no idea what was going on. But by the end of the volume, I got my bearings. Then I began to enjoy the quippy dialog (these robot-alien-car people are SASSY) and all the neat sci-fi ideas on display. This was a fun, fast-paced volume of comics, and I'm

looking forward to seeing where this series (and the presumably more serious and political "Robots in Disguise") goes from here.

Seth says

I really dug this story and I came to appreciate the uncharacteristic cast of Bots used to make it up. The story centers around Rodimus Prime and his expedition to uncover the true story behind the Knights of Cybertron. The real fun of the story is the unreal sequence of events that take place, and some of the comedic timing of some of Rodimus's crew. There is a sense of humor that I have come to appreciate in the dialogue of this book.

Michael Church says

I had heard some really good things about this book, including that there was a relationship between two male-coded characters (and I'm a sucker for gay romance in comics). I had almost no frame of reference for Transformers beyond the 90s "Beast Wars" cartoon and things like Autobots are good and Decepticons are evil. Honestly? That was really OK.

This is sort of a new era for Transformers and clearly meant as some level of jumping on point for new readers. There are solid introductions to these characters and a good amount of exposition. I'm genuinely interested in what happens to the Lost Light and its crew. The obvious decades (or centuries, in continuity) of history with these characters makes them more interesting to me.

I was a little disappointed with how death was handled. There are a handful of characters who die through this first volume, but it's so quick and so shortly after we meet them that there's no weight to it. I remember being frustrated in the Transformers movies that it seemed like it took SO MUCH to kill something, but in the book it seems like it's almost too easy. I'm also disappointed with how infrequently the Transformers, well, transform. I'm really curious what everyone's "alt-mode" is, but I think we only see maybe 3.

The art is really cool, though. Nick Roche has a great animated style. It feels like something from a cartoon and manages to convey a real sense of motion at times. Alex Milne does a good job of picking up the book with issue 2 without it being a jarring transition. The bots all look cool and interesting, but it can be a little hard to figure out who you're looking at in a given panel. I think it'll get easier the more I read, but it did make me keep going back to the character list at the beginning.

Overall, I think it's an excellent launch of a new book. Enough to get readers interested and laying plenty of groundwork for some interesting stories in the future. I'm excited to read more.

Miguel Jose says

I preface this by saying I never really gave a shit about the Transformers. While I have some modicum of nostalgia for the original cartoon, it's impossible to insinuate it was anything other than a toy commercial, and a rather unbearable and shoddily done one at that. The live action movies are trash, don't bother. I read a

few issues of the Marvel book in the 80s, but it didn't leave much of an impression.

I need you to understand all of this. I need you to understand that this isn't rosy memories clogging my brain. This isn't wishful, pointless grasping for lost innocence. I am being as impartial as I can when I tell you: **HOLY SHIT THIS IS AMAZING.**

I could try to form a coherent synopsis, but it would take a long time and I would probably fail. There are so many characters, so much lore and backstory, so many goings on I'm still a little confused about what I read, but I loved every minute of it.

The Autobot/Decepticon war, while lasting millions of years, is finally over. A bunch of stuff happened I don't have knowledge of, having never read any of the IDW series before now. Megatron and Optimus Prime are both gone. There is now an angry civilian population on Cybertron (which has like reverted to primordial form? rebooted? this is so complicated) that wants both factions gone, blaming them and their endless war for the status of the planet.

A ragtag group compromised of both sides agree to leave the planet, searching for a new life by way of finding their creators.. ancestors? Both? Did you know sometimes sentient robots have religion? And this is the story of that crew.

It's fun, it's funny, it's sad, it's exciting. It isn't yet arousing but I'm willing to wait and see. The characters despite all looking very similar have distinct voices and its really not hard to tell anyone apart. The dialogue is a joy.

Really, this is the best comic book I've read in years and I'm kind of embarrassed that it's a Transformers property. Read it!

Christopher says

From a pure nostalgic perspective, a very enjoyable book where you get several of your Generation 1 Transformers in big splashy colors. The plot, however, is a bit slow-going as the Autobots (led by Bumblebee?) try to institute a new government on Cybertron. So if you like giant robots discussing fair housing, this book is awesome. If you were hoping for something a bit more...kinetic, then maybe patience is necessary.
