THE TRANSFORMERS: REGENERATION ONE

“Regret, Part 3”

CAST LIST (speaking parts only)

AUTOBOTS:

Rodimus Prime

Drift

Nautica

Side Burn

Stratosphere

OTHERS:

Varia

High Beam

Double Clutch

Gearhead

Ubo

Shadow Raker

Sideways

Hooligan

Skyjack

Space Case

Swindle

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FADE IN TO

THE TRIBE’S CAMP – EXTERIOR

We see the Tribe’s people doing their regular routine. We also see NAUTICA and SIDE BURN among them. SIDE BURN is checking out some of the robed girls standing near a tent while NAUTICA is with UBO.

NAUTICA

(with a peppy smile)

Okay… now you try it.

UBO does a handstand and started twisting his waist around and walking with his hands. He starts doing backflips while his waist still spins around. He is doing this quite well on his own.

UBO

(with excitement)
I DID IT!!!

NAUTICA

YEAH!!! Now you’re a master of the super-duper-uber-awesome, totally radical and gnarly handstand twist. This move will give you quite a handful of popularity points at parties. Now, let’s both try it.

Both NAUTICA and UBO perform the handstand twist at the same time to save time.

UBO

(excited)
WHEEEEEEEE!!! THIS IS FUN!!!

As NAUTICA and UBO do the handstand twist, we focus on SIDE BURN, who is going after the ladies. One mysterious robed figure, whose back is facing us and SIDE BURN, walks away, but SIDE BURN looks at the legs and they seem slim and very good looking. He decides to give it a shot.

SIDE BURN

(smoothly)
He-llooooo, legs.

SIDE BURN heads for the mysterious robed figure, who seems rather large, but the legs look smaller than the robes, he thinks that the lady must hide a lot inside.

SIDE BURN

Pardon me, young lady, but would you mind if I made your acquaintance today?

SWINDLE

(turning around, grinning widely)

E-YEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEES!!!

SIDE BURN’s expression of smooth confidence immediately turns into horror and shock at the drop of a hat. SWINDLE removes his robe and reveals that he’s sitting on a platform, with his legs crossed like a Native American. Below the platform were the two curvy legs that SIDE BURN saw. They start walking as SWINDLE uses a remote control, carrying him away like a mule would carry its load. SIDE BURN just looks at this with disbelief, then looks at us.

SIDE BURN

(to us, still taken aback)

Lady turned out to be a dude sitting on disembodied lady legs!!!

As SIDE BURN is still confused about this recent experience, we turn to STRATOSPHERE standing a bit further from the camp, chatting with HIGH BEAM along with his troopers DOUBLE CLUTCH and GEARHEAD. DOUBLE CLUTCH is the defensive strategist of the Tribe, and GEARHEAD is one of its most experienced warriors. GEARHEAD also used to be a racer back in his younger days and it is said that even though he has aged, his speed is still quite a match for any young racer.

STRATOSPHERE

So you guys are gonna plan a raid on the capital?

DOUBLE CLUTCH

Yes… the problem is that we need to wait until we get some insider information.

GEARHEAD

That’s how we’ve gotten our info we know so far. Shadow Raker doesn’t even know that there is an actual traitor in his employ.

STRATOSPHERE

Yes… and Drift is also on the inside, trying to get Shadow Raker to distrust everyone in his organization.

HIGH BEAM

I can only hope that your friend comes out of there in one piece. If anything goes wrong, it could mean his end.

TRANSITION TO

CAVERN – INTERIOR

Inside a cavern, RODIMUS is holding VARIA in his arms after sharing a rather tender and passionate moment. RODIMUS is looking into the distance. VARIA wakes up and looks at him.

VARIA

(waking up)

Mmmmmm… is something wrong?

RODIMUS

I am just thinking… about what it would be to live like a normal person. To have a job, to have qualifications… to be able to love without suffering the pain of loss every single day.

VARIA looks at him and kisses his cheek.

VARIA
Someday, you might… unlike me. I have to live with the bane of my progenitor’s identity. Whenever someone sees me, they immediately fear me. They know from my appearance alone that I am the daughter of an assassin. At least you have someone to go back to… your people, your woman… I… I have no one… if only I could have you… ummm…

Even though she has just made love with this troubled man, she still doesn’t know his name.

RODIMUS

(softly)
Rodimus.

VARIA

Right… Rodimus… you still have a family to go back to… I don’t. I bet my father resents me over my foolishness.

RODIMUS

Your father would only blame himself for all of this… never you. You are his daughter, his pride and joy, his hope for the future. I harmed too many people in my lifetime… I can’t be close to anyone without painting a target on their back. I am afraid to lose my people, who are the only ones I have left in my life.

VARIA looks at RODIMUS and caresses his face.

VARIA

I guess we both are afraid.

RODIMUS holds VARIA’s hands. As he speake to her, there is passion and sadness in his voice.

RODIMUS

(passionately)

If I could, I would let you be with my friends so that you can finally have people to be with… you deserve them more than I do… I am the one who deserves the punishment of loneliness… not you… never you…

VARIA tears up as she hears these words.

VARIA

As much as I appreciate the sentiment, Rodimus… I just wouldn’t be able to accept it. You need people to support you, to nurture you… without them… what’s the point of living?

RODIMUS

I can’t live… not anymore… not with my past haunting me and driving me mad!!!

RODIMUS clutches his head and starts tearing up.

RODIMUS

(sadly)
I can’t handle this anymore. I’ve lost my whole youth in the war, tried to block and repress all the trauma, but the memories once again have come back to me… they won’t leave me alone… I can’t even bring myself to sleep because of fear... sometimes, when I wake up after having a nightmare… I don’t even know where I am or… what I am…

VARIA looks at him and hugs him. She has never before met someone who had such a large amount of anger, pain, anguish and hopelessness in his life.

RODIMUS

You are young, Varia… you can fix your life and learn to be proud of yourself. I can’t… I’ve been running away for way too long… I don’t know how much more of this

I can take…

VARIA just strokes RODIMUS’ chest, trying to make him feel better.

VARIA

Rodimus… I… I must say that… with you around, I do feel safe… I know you don’t trust yourself, but when I first saw you, I saw someone that would be there for me… someone who would protect me with his life… you helped me escape…

RODIMUS

I’m more worried about what might happen next… if I failed you… I wouldn’t forgive myself. I’ve already failed a lot of people before… I just can’t afford to do it again.

VARIA

You won’t… I know you won’t… and don’t say there isn’t any hope for you… please. When I see you hurt yourself like this, it hurts me too.

VARIA kisses RODIMUS passionately. RODIMUS kisses her back and hugs her tightly, not wanting to let go of this beautiful young girl. But even then, he has his fears about failing her. Still, something about her has brought him something he hadn’t felt in quite a long time: a sense of hope. Once the kiss is released, VARIA and RODIMUS look at each other sweetly. VARIA smiles shyly. RODIMUS, for the first time in what seemed like an eternity, smiles back at her. His smile is warm and loving. He gently holds her chin and strokes her face.

RODIMUS

Well… I guess we should try and see whether your faith in me is misguided or not.

RODIMUS kisses VARIA’s hand and then, they both head off to find the other Autobots. They hold hands as they walk out of the cave. Meanwhile, at SHADOW RAKER’s base, DRIFT is in SHADOW RAKER’s office, looking out the window. He seems rather calm and stoic. Any normal bot would be shaking in their boots by now or smoking Cyber-cigarettes without end, but not DRIFT. His training has allowed him to keep his composure even under the most dangerous of circumstances. Then, SHADOW RAKER walks into the office.

SHADOW RAKER

Forgive me for the delay, senshi, but I decided to give you a reward for your services.

He tossed a large bag of Energon cash onto the desk.

SHADOW RAKER

I thought you would like to know that the information you gave me paid off. I got the one who set me up.

DRIFT examines the bag and looks at the cash inside.

DRIFT

(replying to SHADOW RAKER as he examines the bag)

Only one?

SHADOW RAKER

What do you mean?

DRIFT

(still examining the cash)
I just thought… no one would be brainless enough to think they could take you down on their own.

There is a moment of silence between SHADOW RAKER and DRIFT as SHADOW RAKER processes that statement carefully. He just cracks a sly smile and chuckles at the thought. He stands up and starts walking away.

SHADOW RAKER

I want you to come with me tomorrow.

DRIFT

Where are we going?

SHADOW RAKER turns around and glances at him with a confident smirk.

SHADOW RAKER

It is a surprise. You are going like it.

SHADOW RAKER smiles and walks out. He closes the door behind him once he’s out. DRIFT walks to the door and overhears a conversation between SIDEWAYS, SKYJACK and SHADOW RAKER.

SHADOW RAKER

(to SIDEWAYS)

We’re taking the new guy to the plant tomorrow when we unveil it to our investors, do not give him any trouble. Understand?

SIDEWAYS

Yes, sir.

SKYJACK

…but we should tell you.

SHADOW RAKER

Hm?

SIDEWAYS

Yeh, I got some bad news… da red ‘bot wit’ da decals and Deadlock’s daughter escaped.

DRIFT silently sighs with relief. VARIA was safe, and with RODIMUS protecting her, he feels that she will survive this whole ordeal. We cut to SHADOW RAKER, SIDEWAYS and SKYJACK talking outside.

SHADOW RAKER

And Stockade?

SKYJACK

Disappeared… he might be searching for ‘em. Anyway, I just got in contact with Hooligan. I told him to go to the warehouse and get the Thermo Rocket Launchers just like you ordered.

SHADOW RAKER

Good, everything seems to be in order. I just hope it stays that way. I won’t tolerate any more betrayals.

SIDEWAYS

Ya got it, boss.

SHADOW RAKER, SIDEWAYS and SKYJACK head off to different stations. We focus on SKYJACK. DRIFT silently opens the door and sees SKYJACK going to the communications room. He follows him without getting caught and peeks into the room, where he sees SKYJACK using a computer to communicate with someone. Then, we see HIGH BEAM on the monitor.

HIGH BEAM

We were waiting for your report, Skyjack.

SKYJACK

Tornado’s dead. We found some money in his safe and decided to get rid of him. However, there is also this new guy who got the info.

HIGH BEAM

Yes, we’ve been informed about him. Do not engage him in battle if things go sour. His life is on the line just as much as yours is.

SKYJACK

Very well, I won’t do anything to him. I also need to tell you about tomorrow. Raker is gonna have a meeting with the drug dealers, he’ll give them a tour of the drug processing facility.

HIGH BEAM

Then that is where it’s going to happen. We shall put an end to Shadow Raker’s reign of terror at his most important source of income.

SKYJACK

Yes. We can strike at him hard and fast. I have to go now; I’ll send more information once it becomes available.

SKYJACK shuts off the transmission to HIGH BEAM. He then communicates with someone else. We see JHIAXUS on the monitor.

SKYJACK

(with a devious tone)

Skyjack to Jhiaxus, it’s done. The Ronimar Tribesmen are about to wage war with the Iabonian Mafia.

JHIAXUS grins as he hears this news. Outside, DRIFT reacts to this with shock.

DRIFT

(silently, to himself)

A triple agent!!! He is playing everyone against each other!!!

The screen fades to black.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN TO

SHADOW RAKER’S HEADQUARTERS – RAKER’S OFFICE

DRIFT is standing in front of the window overlooking the city. He looks off into the distance as he reflects on his plight.

DRIFT

(to himself)
Even if Skyjack is a triple agent, why would he neglect to mention that his allies are smuggling Thermo Rocket Launchers?

The moment DRIFT thinks about this, it instantly dawns on him. He looks horrified by this.

DRIFT

(to himself)
Of course… the rocket launchers need to be field tested. And what better way to test them than to use them in battle?

He punched the wall in frustration.

DRIFT

(to himself)

The natives are in trouble. Their weapons will be useless against those rocket launchers… and I can’t do anything to help them. I can only receive coded messages, but if I send one, they will trace it. I’ve never felt so helpless in my entire life. I swore to protect people, and now, I cannot even do that.

As DRIFT contemplates his dilemma, we transition to the desert, where RODIMUS and VARIA are riding on RODIMUS’ battle platform, which normally forms his trailer in vehicle mode. They are having fun on the platform as they travel across the desert. RODIMUS is teaching VARIA how to drive the platform. VARIA is standing in front, while RODIMUS is behind her, wrapping his arms around her waist.

VARIA

(with excitement)

This is so much fun!!!

RODIMUS

(smiling warmly)

Yeah, it can really take your mind off things at times.

VARIA turns a knob and makes the battle platform do a sharp left turn.

VARIA
WOOOOOOO-HOOOOO!!! YEAH!!!

As VARIA keeps piloting the battle platform, she and RODIMUS look at each other. They once again smile and kiss. RODIMUS feels a bit of sadness at the thought that this might only be a temporary fling.

VARIA
(with concern)

Is something wrong?

RODIMUS

(conflicted)
Well… I’m just thinking about… what will happen to us once this whole ordeal is over. I may have to go back to my people, but part of me wants to be with you… to stay with you and find a world where we can finally be at peace. But I also know that I can’t abandon my other woman…

VARIA strokes his face and looks at him sweetly.

VARIA

(with a kind, soft tone)

Rodimus, whatever your decision is, I will support it…

RODIMUS

Thank you… but know this… when I fall in love, I mean it. You really have made me feel things that I hadn’t felt for a long time, Varia… and even though I would hate to leave you, if I have no choice, know that you will always have a place in my spark… and that my love for you will never go away.

VARIA tears up after hearing this. In all her life, she had never felt so appreciated and loved by a man before. Of course, her father raised her, but this ‘bot before her… he understood her and showed genuine affection for her. He took this innocent girl and made her a woman, bringing her a sense of fulfillment that she had never experienced before. She kisses him on the cheek and smiles as RODIMUS wipes her tears from her cheeks.

VARIA

(smiling)

I believe you, Rodimus… and whatever fate might bring to us, our love will still remain intact.

VARIA continues piloting the battle platform. RODIMUS notices something hanging from her waist belt. It’s a small yet rather fluffy stuffed toy.

RODIMUS

Childhood memento?

VARIA

Yeah… my best friend since childhood. My father made it for me. I thought of throwing it away after our last encounter, but I just couldn’t bring myself to do it. It’s the only thing that I had which brought me memories of him before the transition… If only our parting wasn’t so unpleasant and harsh…

RODIMUS

Believe me, he never stopped loving you, and he would be very happy to see you again.

VARIA

I truly hope so… I must make amends… no matter how hard it may be.

As they keep driving into the desert in order to find their allies, we transition to a warehouse near the Ronimar docks. HOOLIGAN and SPACE CASE are with some of SHADOW RAKER’s drones, looking at the new rocket launchers that have been sent from their home planet of Iabos.

HOOLIGAN

(holding one of the rocket launchers)

Yeah… perfect.

SPACE CASE also grabs a rocket launcher and starts loading it. HOOLIGAN looks at SPACE CASE.

HOOLIGAN
Are you ready to test these babies out on the Tribe’s hapless people?

SPACE CASE

Just give the order and I’ll be off like a shot.

HOOLIGAN

Good. Then let’s get on with it.

HOOLIGAN and SPACE CASE both transform into jet mode and head off to the desert, followed by the drones.

HOOLIGAN

(with a devious tone)

This is gonna be fun!!! HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAAAAAAAAAAA!!!

As HOOLIGAN and SPACE CASE head for the Tribe’s campsite, we transition back to RODIMUS and VARIA, who are still trying to find the Tribe’s hideout.

VARIA

I heard the Tribe has a campsite near the outskirts of the city.

RODIMUS

Any reason why Shadow Raker has let them live for this long?

VARIA

Arrogance. He considers the tribesmen to be nothing more than low-level bank heisters, and doesn’t want to be bothered with them.

RODIMUS

It figures… the bad guys always underestimate the people with fewer resources.

As they keep driving ahead, they are being observed by an all too familiar figure. Once again, STOCKADE has proven his superior endurance by surviving a fall that would have killed any ordinary ‘bot. He grins wickedly as he sees RODIMUS and VARIA driving away on the battle platform. He draws a laser cannon and fires it at the battle platform.

VARIA

(startled by the blast and turning to the source)

WHAT THE-? IT’S STOCKADE!!!

RODIMUS turns and sees STOCKADE heading their way.

RODIMUS

I should have figured this guy would have survived the fall, especially after the first time we tangled.

RODIMUS jumps out of the battle platform and charges towards STOCKADE. They both start clinch fighting. RODIMUS punches STOCKADE in the jaw, but the lumbering Iabonian just grabs him and slams him to the ground. He then grips RODIMUS by the neck with both hands and starts strangling him.

VARIA

(with fright)

RODIMUS!!!

As RODIMUS is being strangled, he tries to grab STOCKADE’s face, violently clawing at it. As the two powerful opponents keep fighting, we fade to black.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

THE DESERT – RODIMUS FIGHTING STOCKADE

RODIMUS is being strangled by STOCKADE. VARIA desperately grabs the battle platform’s gun turret, aims it at STOCKADE and fires. She closes her eyes tightly when she fires. STOCKADE is hit by the blast and gets stunned. Once he is able to move again, he stands up, walking dizzily. RODIMUS also stands up and sees him stumble around in a daze. RODIMUS just follows him and taps his shoulder. STOCKADE turns around and looks at RODIMUS. He smiles deliriously. RODIMUS once again mockingly grins back and then flicks STOCKADE’s chest, which is enough to make him fall flat on the ground. RODIMUS turns towards VARIA, who immediately hugs him once he’s close enough. RODIMUS hugs her back, knowing that it must have been shocking for her to use a gun.

RODIMUS

(trying to comfort her)

There, there… it’s alright… there’s always a first time for everything.

VARIA

(still somewhat shaken)

I’ve never shot someone… and I don’t want to do it again… especially considering that I might kill them.

RODIMUS looks back at the battle platform and grabs a small gun from it. He hands it over to her.

RODIMUS

This is a stun gun. It’s designed to paralyze, not to kill. I wouldn’t want you to have the same amount of blood on your hands as I do.

VARIA innocently looked at the gun. She took it and fired it, and a beam came out. The beam had a whirring sound to it as it hit a rock, engulfing it in its rays.

RODIMUS

See? Not destructive at all. I want you to keep this.

VARIA

Wait… won’t you need it?

RODIMUS

Not really… I already have too many guns… and besides, this is more your style. Stealthy, silent, merciful and gentle.

VARIA looks at RODIMUS and blushes a bit. RODIMUS smiles and kisses her on the cheek.

RODIMUS

(with a playful tone)
Now, shall we move along?

VARIA smiles at him.

VARIA

(with the same playful tone)

Certainly, darling.

They both chuckle as they hop on to the battle platform and drive away. Meanwhile, back at the Tribe’s camp, STRATOSPHERE, NAUTICA and SIDE BURN are meeting with the leading members of the Tribe.

HIGH BEAM

(looking at the plans for the drug processing facility)

This is the building where Shadow Raker has his most lucrative business. The plans were sent to us by our contact on the inside.

STRATOSPHERE
Hmmmm… very big complex. This guy has quite the layout.

SIDE BURN

Yeah, and I bet it’s well-guarded, too.

NAUTICA

(turning to DOUBLE CLUTCH)

Any chance that we can breach their defenses?

DOUBLE CLUTCH

The only way I can think of getting into their fortified factory is to attack it from all sides. However, we need something to transport us there as very few of our warriors have vehicle modes.

NAUTICA

Jeez…

(looking around)

Anyone know where we can rent Cyber-horses?

SIDE BURN scratches his chin, thinking. Then he snaps his fingers.

SIDE BURN

EUREKA, I’VE GOT IT!!!

NAUTICA

Got what? A chick?

SIDE BURN

No, not yet, you silly goose… an idea for transportation, but I’ll need money.

GEARHEAD
Well… how much?

SIDE BURN

Every bit of cash you can spare. I know it sounds excessive, but considering the circumstances, it just might work.

GEARHEAD goes to get a box containing bags filled with Energon bills. SIDE BURN transforms into vehicle mode and opens his windshield. GEARHEAD and DOUBLE CLUTCH start loading the money bags on SIDE BURN’s seats.

NAUTICA

(still a bit dubious)
Okay, Side Burn… we’ll let you go find our transportation.

STRATOSPHERE

But no going out to automotive shows… we know how you react to little red sports-cars.

SIDE BURN

Hey, there aren’t any shows like that in Ronimar, so I won’t be distracted. Goodbye, sayonara, auf wiedersehen, adios, buh-bye.

SIDE BURN drives off to find his method of transportation, while NAUTICA and STRATOSPHERE look at him go.

NAUTICA

Now whaddaya think he’s up to?

STRATOSPHERE

Beats me… but at least we can trust him, unlike Smokescreen.

NAUTICA

Well, I guess you’re right.

STRATOSPHERE

Yeah, he would just take all the money and use it for gambling.

Suddenly, an explosion was heard.

STRATOSPHERE

WHAT THE-?

HOOLIGAN and SPACE CASE have arrived at the campsite, followed by SHADOW RAKER’s drones. They are using the new Iabonian Thermo Rocket Launchers.

HOOLIGAN

DESTROY THEM!!! DESTROY THEM ALL!!!

HOOLIGAN fires his rocket launcher at a tent. We see UBO and his parents running away in terror as their tent is destroyed behind them. SPACE CASE fires a rocket at another tent, which starts catching fire. Inside, a small sparkling is trapped.

NAUTICA

(with fright)

OH, GOD, NO!!!

NAUTICA desperately runs to the burning tent, transforms into vehicle mode with her arms sticking out, zips in and grabs the sparkling, catching fire around her arms.

NAUTICA

(with fire all over her arms)
OWOWOWOWOWOWOWOWOOWWWWW!!! NOT COOL, BOZOS!!!

HOOLIGAN and SPACE CASE keep firing their weapons and then look at each other.

HOOLIGAN

The dealer was right, these babies really are great!!! HEHEHEHEH!!! HAHAHAHAHAHAHAAAAAA!!!

HOOLIGAN keeps firing rockets as he laughs maniacally. The Tribe’s warriors start firing at the Iabonians, but their weapons are no match for the rocket launchers. Even the gigantic STRATOSPHERE is taken down by the explosive power of the rockets.

STRATOSPHERE

(getting hit by the rockets)
DAAAAAAAAAAAAGH!!!

NAUTICA

(with desperation)
SPHERE!!!

She looks back and sees the Iabonians wrecking down the place at a very alarming rate.

NAUTICA

(with a rather nonchalant attitude, but knowing the gravity of the situation)

Well… this is the pits.

As we cut once more to the Iabonians laughing maniacally and firing their weapons, we see the words “TO BE CONTINUED” below the screen before it all fades to black.

TO BE CONTINUED

END OF ACT THREE