THE TRANSFORMERS: REGENERATION ONE

“Regret, Part 2”

CAST LIST (speaking parts only)

AUTOBOTS:

Rodimus Prime

Drift

Nautica

Side Burn

Stratosphere

OTHERS:

Varia

High Beam

Shadow Raker

Sideways

Hooligan

Skyjack

Space Case

Tornado

Guard #1

Guard #2

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ACT ONE

FADE IN

THE DESERT – THE TRIBE’S CAMP

NAUTICA arrives at the location of the Tribe’s camp. She looks around for SIDE BURN and finds him talking to HIGH BEAM, the leader of the Tribe. SIDE BURN turns around and sees NAUTICA.

SIDE BURN

Hey, Nautica. Glad to see that you made it. Here, I’d like you to meet someone.

SIDE BURN lets NAUTICA sit beside him and she listens to HIGH BEAM. When HIGH BEAM speaks, we hear that he has a sort of middle-Eastern accent and a very soft-spoken, gentle yet authoritative voice.

HIGH BEAM

My name is High Beam. I am the leader of the Tribe. For years, this planet has been ruled by Shadow Raker. He has taken over the capital of Ronimar and now controls everything. Transports, businesses, the government… all you can think of. And worst of all, he plans to spread his empire, like a disease.

NAUTICA

Well, now you have us for a cure. But first, we need some information. When is the next shipment of money scheduled to go to the capital?

HIGH BEAM

Tomorrow. We have spies guarding Tornado’s base of operations.

SIDE BURN

Tornado?

HIGH BEAM

Raker’s lead smuggler and transport supplier.

NAUTICA

Then we’ve got to act fast. We’ll plant some money into this Tornado guy’s vault so our ally’s cover isn’t blown.

HIGH BEAM

(uncovering a stash of Energon bills)

How fortunate for you that we have a stash from our bank heists.

NAUTICA looks at the money.

NAUTICA

Yeah, this will suffice. Now tell me, are there any ways to get into the ship?

HIGH BEAM  
The lower hatch, but you need a special key to open it.

NAUTICA

(smirking)

Don’t worry… I have all of the special stuff I need in MY key.

NAUTICA draws her wrench and it automatically turns into a rather futuristic looking key. Once placed inside a keyhole, this key will instantly take the shape of the key that is meant to open the door.

TRANSITION TO

PRISON SHIP – TORTURE CHAMBER

RODIMUS is strapped to a metal frame, getting tortured by electric shocks. RODIMUS grunts as he is electrocuted. SIDEWAYS looks at this and grins sadistically.

SIDEWAYS

Just keep the torture goin’. We must make ‘im pay for goin’ against us.

As this goes on, someone else is watching. This is VARIA, DRIFT’s daughter. Her appearance is similar to DRIFT’s previous body before he changed factions, but with a more distinctive feminine look. She tears up as she sees this.

VARIA

(thinking)  
When will this stop? When will there be a chance to live in peace?

She looks at RODIMUS. Even though he keeps his composure and remains stoic after every electric shock, VARIA instantly sees that beneath the stoic exterior, there is immense pain, suffering and a sense of loss and abandonment. She feels for him. Later, after hours of torture, RODIMUS is sent to the same cell where VARIA is. He is thrown inside and lands on the ground with a hard thud. He is weakened and doesn’t have the strength to get up.

SIDEWAYS

(off-screen, to a guard)

I’ll be back soon. Once I return, we’ll have a few more hours of fun torturing the new loser.

VARIA looks at him and turns him over, splaying him on his back. She looks at all the scars and burns he has all over his body. She starts healing him.

RODIMUS

(delirious)

Ughhh… why… why is this happening?

VARIA

Take it easy… I will help you.

RODIMUS opens his eyes and through his blurred vision, he thinks he sees ARCEE for a bit, but once his vision adjusts, he manages to get a glimpse of the beautiful young girl who is in front of him.

RODIMUS

W-who are you?

VARIA

My name is Varia. I hate to say this, but I’m…

RODIMUS

…the daughter of an assassin?

VARIA looks at RODIMUS with shock.

VARIA

How do you know about…?

RODIMUS

Your father… he is with me… he told us about you.

VARIA tears up after she hears this. It does seem like such a statement reopened a lot of old wounds for her.

VARIA

(crying)

Why did he go with you? Does he want to make me suffer like he did when he reformatted himself?

RODIMUS

He may have altered his appearance… but his personality is the same. He still loves you, Varia… and looks alone cannot change that.

VARIA

(crying)  
Does he feel ashamed about having me as a daughter? I look almost exactly like he used to.

RODIMUS

He changed because he felt that you might be safer by staying with a warrior whose appearance no one would recognize. Of course, you left… and now, he has no choice but to face his past demons again.

VARIA cries with shame. RODIMUS’ words made sense. She feels like such a fool for thinking that way. RODIMUS just lays back and closes his eyes a bit.

RODIMUS

Sometimes I wonder why I can’t be as brave as he is. Whenever I deal with past nightmares, I start breaking down… I can’t hold it together, I lose my cool way too easily. I can’t bring myself to love anyone now.

As he says that, RODIMUS has a flashback to the aftermath of his first confrontation against BLITZWING, where he tossed an engagement ring down into a canyon. The ring was originally meant for VELOCITY, and pretty recently, ARCEE, but with the unpredictability of his mental state, he felt that once the war was over, he should go somewhere far away where he wouldn’t be able to harm anyone. VARIA looked at RODIMUS and gently stroked his face.

VARIA

You had someone special in your life?

RODIMUS

Yes… two girls… one of them died because of me… the other… I’m afraid to even get close to her after I went berserk in battle. I could harm her… and I don’t want any more blood on my hands. I have taken too many lives already… why doesn’t anyone show just a bit of mercy and take my life already?

VARIA looks at RODIMUS. She is starting to feel things that she never felt before. She didn’t know what it was, but for some reason, this troubled man, much older than she was, left a very big impression on her. Even though she didn’t know if this would last or if he would want it, she thought about being with him.

TRANSITION TO

SHADOW RAKER’S HEADQUARTERS – MEETING ROOM

DRIFT was in SHADOW RAKER’s meeting room. He received a coded message from NAUTICA on the screen of his wrist communicator. The message said “Found someone to frame. Transport takes off tomorrow night.” This was what DRIFT was waiting for. He closed his communicator and then, SHADOW RAKER comes back after talking to some security guards.

SHADOW RAKER

Forgive me for taking so long, but after an attempt on your life, you have to make sure to take precautionary measures.

DRIFT  
Oh, I understand. It is what our way of life brings.

There is a short pause as SHADOW RAKER is serving DRIFT some Energon wine. He speaks up.

SHADOW RAKER

These people… they tried to kill us.

(with a sly smirk)

Who would do such a thing?

DRIFT

Well, from what I gathered during my unpleasant encounters with them, they are being financed by someone inside of your operations.

SHADOW RAKER

Did they mention a name?

DRIFT

No… but I know that they expect to receive the money tomorrow night.

There is a moment of silence as SHADOW RAKER strokes his chin, thinking.

DRIFT

Anyone you can think of?

SHADOW RAKER

Everyone in my organization is 100% loyal, Drift-san.

DRIFT  
Then I guess we don’t have anything to worry about.

SHADOW RAKER

(standing up)

Yes indeed, well… I have to check in on a few things. In the meantime, you can stay here as my guest.

DRIFT

Thank you.

SHADOW RAKER nods and walks out the door. Once outside, he meets up with SIDEWAYS.

SHADOW RAKER

Ah, Sideways. Have you found Stockade and Hooligan?

SIDEWAYS

Stockade is in da prison ship. Dunno where Hooligan is.

There is a moment of silence. SHADOW RAKER seems to be thinking of how to handle HOOLIGAN’s absence. He speaks up afterwards.

SHADOW RAKER

We’ll have to do without him for now. Tell Skyjack and Space Case to meet me at the docks tomorrow. We’re going to inspect Tornado’s ship once he arrives.

SIDEWAYS

Somethin’ da matter wit’ Tornado?

SHADOW RAKER

We shall see. And you will come with us too.

SIDEWAYS

Should I bring Stockade too?

SHADOW RAKER

No… let him guard the prisoners. We need to make sure there are no more slip ups.

SIDEWAYS

Yes, sir.

SIDEWAYS walks out to warn SPACE CASE and SKYJACK about the next day’s plans.

TRANSITION TO

THE RONIMAR SEA – TRANSPORT SHIP

NAUTICA is slowly moving below TORNADO’s transport ship.

NAUTICA

Side Burn; tell High Beam that this special stealth coat of paint works like a charm. The sensors aren’t picking me up judging by the lack of activity around me, and it looks pretty spiffy to boot.

SIDE BURN

(VO, through intercom)

Right. Now just do what you have to do. Once you’re done, call us.

NAUTICA  
Roger, over and out.

NAUTICA transforms into robot mode and swims slowly towards the hatch. She uses her “skeleton key” and puts it in the keyhole. She fiddles around with it and opens the hatch. She goes into the ship’s lower vault. There is a safe there. She grabs the key, which changes into a special combination cracking device. She places it against the safe door. After a few seconds where tumblers click and move around, the safe is open. NAUTICA transforms into vehicle mode and throws bags of Energon currency out of her window. She transforms into robot mode again and takes a dive into the sea. She closes the hatch and transforms back into vehicle mode. She speeds away into the murky depths below.

NAUTICA

Nautica to Side Burn, mission accomplished. The pearls are in the clam.

SIDE BURN

(VO, through intercom)

Great… now we just have to sit back and wait for you to arrive. High Beam has a plan for our next move.

NAUTICA

Okay, I’m off.

NAUTICA heads back to the Tribe’s camp.

NAUTICA

(to us)

Y’know, being a spy is not bad. It’s actually kind of fun.

NAUTICA arrives to the shore and transforms into robot mode as she rises from the water, she tosses her head from side to side, flinging the water off of her body.

NAUTICA

(to herself)

Ursula Andress, eat your heart out.

NAUTICA looks at us, smiles and winks as the screen fades to black.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

PRISON SHIP – CELL

The next day, RODIMUS wakes up and sees VARIA sleeping in her bunk. VARIA is trembling. RODIMUS sees a torn sheet of metal and gently covers her with it. VARIA now stops trembling when she feels the warmth of the newly made bed sheet. RODIMUS looks at her and smiles a bit, but then he frowns. He wishes that he could trust himself with the safety of this girl. DRIFT’s whole mission depended on her survival. He sighs and looks off into the distance. He looks at his hands as he curls them into fists, determined to escape with her. Suddenly, he hears a guard coming in. He sees this as a chance to make a getaway. The guard opens the cell door.

GUARD #1

Alright, you… it’s time for a few more hours of torture.

(looking around)  
Where did he go?

RODIMUS is hiding beneath the bunk where VARIA is sleeping. As the guard looks around, RODIMUS grabs his foot and pulls at it, making him trip. RODIMUS proceeds to punch the guard in the face.

GUARD #1

(getting punched in the face)

AGH!!!

RODIMUS grabs the guard’s rifle along with VARIA, who wakes up once she is grabbed, and runs away. On his way out, he encounters three more guards who fire back at him. RODIMUS takes cover and fires back at the guards. STOCKADE runs in and sees this. He grins as he heads for RODIMUS, who basically looks down and notices a hatch. RODIMUS blasts the hatch open and STOCKADE comes to a stop. He looks down and then looks at us with despair while he waves goodbye and falls down in a WILE E. COYOTE fashion. RODIMUS shoots the guards, killing two of them and blasting one of them in the knee, which makes him fall down into the hatch. The guard manages to grab onto the hatch door. He holds on tight when he looks at RODIMUS with a frightened expression on his face.

GUARD #2

(scared)  
Please… help me…

RODIMUS just looks at him with a cold expression. As if all the suffering and pain had taken its toll on him. He replies with a rather cold tone in his voice.

RODIMUS

Those are the same words I uttered when I lost the first person I loved… and no one helped me… now you know how it feels. How it feels to be completely helpless… and alone.

RODIMUS kicks the guard in the face, which causes him to fall. The guard screams as he falls to his doom while RODIMUS watches without any hint of emotion other than boiling anger. VARIA looks at this with fright. Was the damage so much that RODIMUS had lost his sanity? She didn’t want to think about it. She hoped that deep down; RODIMUS hated doing all this. He jumps down as well and transforms into vehicle mode, while placing VARIA inside his trailer. If RODIMUS landed on his tires, he would be able to drive off, but if he didn’t, at least VARIA would survive. RODIMUS lands on his tires and drives away. Later, at an underground cave, RODIMUS and VARIA are hiding. VARIA looks at RODIMUS and tries to get him to talk.

VARIA

Why did you do it? Why did you heartlessly kill that guard?

RODIMUS

Because I gave up on life… I gave up on everything… besides, no one would miss me.

VARIA shook her head and teared up.

VARIA

(tearing up)

No… that’s not true… I’ve seen you over the last few hours… you aren’t a cold-blooded murderer… it’s not in you… you just want someone to understand what you’re going through… you can’t escape your past, but you can move on… when I first saw you… you were almost like a lost child, filled with fury and sorrow… someone who needs to be loved, who needs people to support him… please… let me help you… you do care deep down… I know you must regret so many calls you have made…

RODIMUS starts crying without hope. He realizes that she’s right. He still has feelings deep down.

VARIA

You see? You are not a heartless brute… you are a victim of circumstance… someone who needs attention and love.

VARIA got close to him and stroked his face.

VARIA

(shyly)

Maybe I… I could be that someone… at least, until this is all over.

VARIA blushes a bit and turns around. RODIMUS grabs her hand gently and strokes her face. His expression softens up. He looks longingly at her.

RODIMUS

If only I could trust myself…

VARIA

Just be glad that I trust you.

VARIA slowly gets closer to RODIMUS and they both kiss. Although RODIMUS wonders what ARCEE would say if she saw him with DRIFT’s daughter, he accepts the gesture and kisses her back. RODIMUS kisses VARIA’s neck. VARIA moans as her neck is kissed and as this keeps going on, we immediately transition to NAUTICA walking around the desert. She is humming a tune to herself. The tune she hums is “Underneath the Mango Tree”. Suddenly, she hears blasts going off nearby.

NAUTICA

(startled)  
The heck? What’s going on in there?

STRATOSPHERE is firing blasts at HOOLIGAN in the distance. The giant Autobot has been searching for RODIMUS and instead, ended up finding the foe he has previously humiliated. HOOLIGAN wants nothing more than payback.

HOOLIGAN

I’m gonna get you now, you gigantic piece of refuse!!!

STRATOSPHERE

Now, that ain’t nice.

STRATOSPHERE draws a Gatling gun from his wrist and started firing at HOOLIGAN, who tries his best to evade the spread of bullets. NAUTICA sees this and decides to help out.

NAUTICA

Hold on, Sphere!!! I’m comin’!!!

STRATOSPHERE turns around and sees NAUTICA.

STRATOSPHERE

How tha heck didja get here?

NAUTICA

(sardonically)

Oh, I dunno… maybe your size really makes you stand out.

STRATOSPHERE

You wus just waitin’ to use that joke on me, wusn’t ya?

NAUTICA grabs her wrench and it turns into the Cybertronian equivalent of an Uzi pistol. She fires at HOOLIGAN.

HOOLIGAN

(getting hit)

YOOOOOWCH!!!

HOOLIGAN falls to the ground, landing with a hard thud. He springs back up to his feet and draws a knife.

NAUTICA

Oh, so it’s knife time, eh?

NAUTICA changes her “Uzi” into a machete.

STRATOSPHERE

Overcompensating much?

NAUTICA

Hey, just because I’m on your team doesn’t mean I have to play fair.

HOOLIGAN charges towards NAUTICA and starts swinging his knife around. NAUTICA parries against HOOLIGAN’s knife using her “machete”.

NAUTICA

What’s that old saying? Never bring a knife to a machete fight?

NAUTICA kicks HOOLIGAN in the gut, making him drop the knife.

NAUTICA

Sorry, ol’ fella, but you can’t beat the master of partying and the machete fight.

HOOLIGAN charges towards NAUTICA. NAUTICA steps aside and looks at him zip past her, she takes out a muleta, waving the red cloth at the end back and forth mockingly.

NAUTICA

Olé, toro!!!

HOOLIGAN desperately tries to stop, but crashes into a tree. The sounds of birds chirping are heard as HOOLIGAN lies there.

NAUTICA

Well, that’s that… now c’mon. We gotta get to our allies.

STRATOSPHERE  
So you found people to help us?

NAUTICA

Yeah… just follow me, big guy, and we’ll be with them in no time flat.

NAUTICA transforms into vehicle mode and speeds on ahead, with STRATOSPHERE following her on foot as the screen fades to black.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN TO

THE DESERT – NEAR THE TRIBE’S CAMPSITE

NAUTICA and STRATOSPHERE are heading for the campsite. Once there, they are greeted by SIDE BURN, HIGH BEAM and some of the tribesmen, which includes UBO’S FATHER. NAUTICA transforms into robot mode, makes a handstand and springs through the air, landing on her feet as she raises her arms victoriously.

NAUTICA

(with excitement)

And now, for my next miracle…

SIDE BURN

You can demonstrate your next miracle later, Nautica. Right now, we have some stuff to do.

HIGH BEAM

Agreed… however, I do think that you all need rest. Tomorrow morning, we shall plan our attack on Raker’s central operations. You have done well, my friends.

NAUTICA

Gee, sounds rad. Maybe we’ll get a chance to hang out with the cool kids.

SIDE BURN

Yeah. C’mon, Nautica, I’m gonna introduce you to my friend Ubo.

As NAUTICA and SIDE BURN walk to one of the tents, we transition to the docks, where SHADOW RAKER, SKYJACK, SIDEWAYS and SPACE CASE are waiting for TORNADO’s transport vessel. As the vessel approaches, SHADOW RAKER speaks with SKYJACK and SPACE CASE.

SHADOW RAKER

Now, you two see if there is a safe inside the ship. If there is, then that is where we will find the money.

The vessel anchors near the docks and TORNADO comes out of the command center.

TORNADO

Ah, Raker. What a pleasant surprise.

SHADOW RAKER

This is just supervision, Tornado. You see, we had a few accidents lately and I want to make sure that they do not happen again.

As RAKER speaks, SPACE CASE and SKYJACK enter the ship and start checking every room inside of it.

TORNADO

Really? Accidents? Like what?

SIDEWAYS

Someone tried to kill da boss last night. Dey used one of ‘em new grenade launchers dat have been becomin’ popular wit’ black market dealers recently.

TORNADO

Jeez… sounds like a whole buncha terrorists want to get back at ya.

SHADOW RAKER

Perhaps… but we shall see.

As they keep talking, SPACE CASE and SKYJACK keep searching the rooms until they come across a guard stationed at the lower vault’s door.

SKYJACK

Excuse me, but we came here to inspect the rooms. We must check everything before making our deal.

The guard just opens the door to the vault. The two soldiers go down the stairs and look around. Then, SKYJACK finds the safe.

SKYJACK

Hey, Space Case!!! Tell the boss I found it.

SPACE CASE

Right.

SPACE CASE heads back up to inform SHADOW RAKER about what they found. Up on the deck, SHADOW RAKER and SIDEWAYS are still talking to TORNADO.

TORNADO

I tell you, there’s nothing to worry about. There aren’t any spies hiding in here. If there were, my people would have shot them dead and tossed them overboard.

SPACE CASE arrives and whispers into SHADOW RAKER’s ear module.

SPACE CASE

(whispering)  
We found the safe, boss.

SHADOW RAKER has a very cunning, methodical look on his face before glancing back at TORNADO. We cut to the vault as SHADOW RAKER arrives there, followed by TORNADO, SPACE CASE, SIDEWAYS and the guard who greeted SPACE CASE and SKYJACK before. SKYJACK is waiting near the vault. SHADOW RAKER looks at the guard.

SHADOW RAKER

Open it.

The guard nods and starts opening the safe. Once he has set the combination, he opens it. Then, we see all the Energon cash that NAUTICA has placed in there. For the first time, we see extreme fury on SHADOW RAKER’s face, he looks furiously at TORNADO, who is now sweating and shaking.

TORNADO

(nervous)

T-that’s not my money… I swear…

SHADOW RAKER only looks angrier; he glares daggers at TORNADO in response.

SHADOW RAKER

(seething with rage)

That’s right, friend. It’s mine…

SHADOW RAKER grabs TORNADO forcefully by the shoulders. He is completely enraged by the apparent treason.

SHADOW RAKER

(furious)

You think I am stupid?!!! YOU RIP ME OFF AND THEN USE MY OWN MONEY TO PAY SOMEONE TO KILL ME?!!!

TORNADO is now completely horrified. He doesn’t know where this money came from, but he knows the fact that it was in his safe was enough to bring the wrath of God unto him.

SHADOW RAKER

If you want it so bad… THEN TAKE IT!!!

SHADOW RAKER holds TORNADO in place and kicks him into his own safe.

TORNADO

(kicked into the vault)  
AGH!!!

Once TORNADO is in the safe, SKYJACK closes the door to it while the guard just looks at what is happening, not wanting to make things worse. We see TORNADO peeking out from a small window in the safe.

TORNADO

(muffled, from inside the vault)  
WHADDYA DOING?!!! WAIT, LET ME TALK TO YA!!! THIS IS NOT MY MONEY!!!

SHADOW RAKER goes to a console which activates a decompression chamber inside the safe. He turns a knob around that starts increasing the air pressure within the safe.

TORNADO

(muffled, noticing the pressure increasing in the vault)

No!!! AAAAAAAGH!!! AGH!!!

TORNADO covers his audio modules as the air pressure keeps increasing. SHADOW RAKER looks at this without a hint of emotion. He glances at SIDEWAYS, who walks to the side of the vault, where he finds an axe. SIDEWAYS hands the axe to SHADOW RAKER. SHADOW RAKER looks at the axe and then smirks sadistically.

TORNADO   
(muffled, scared when he sees SHADOW RAKER grabbing the axe)   
PLEASE, RAKER!!! NOOOOOO!!!

SHADOW RAKER does a fatal move: he uses the axe to cut the vent pipe leading to the inside of the safe. Once he does this, we see TORNADO’s optics bulging as he yells due to the sudden drop in pressure.

TORNADO

(muffled)

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGH!!!

Then, SHADOW RAKER looks through the window and sees that TORNADO’s head is inflating like a balloon. TORNADO seems to be holding his head together before it explodes into a mess of wires and purple liquid, which splatters all over some of the money. Once TORNADO is done for, SHADOW RAKER shuts off the machine and starts walking off, but not before SPACE CASE talks to him.

SPACE CASE

What about the money, boss?

SHADOW RAKER pauses for a bit and then looks at SPACE CASE.

SHADOW RAKER

(coldly ignoring what just happened)

Launder it.

SHADOW RAKER walks out, followed by SIDEWAYS.

SHADOW RAKER

Once the money is cleaned up… we will have to reward our newest ally for saving our organization.

SIDEWAYS

Yes, sir.

As SIDEWAYS walks off, SHADOW RAKER looks off into the distance without a trace of emotion on his face. He seems to be thinking about his next move. As he gazes on in an unsettling manner, we see the words “TO BE CONTINUED” at the bottom of the screen.

TO BE CONTINUED

END OF ACT THREE