



Transformers: Dark Cybertron Volume 1

James Roberts , John Barber , Phil Jimenez (Illustrations) , Andrew Griffith (Illustrations) , Brendan Cahill (Illustrations) , James Raiz (Illustrations) , Atilio Rojo (Illustrations) , Livio Ramondelli (Illustrations)

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THE END OF EVERYTHING! Shockwave makes a move millions of years in the planning -- an ultimate strategy to remake Cybertron and destroy both the Autobots and Decepticons!

Transformers: Dark Cybertron Volume 1 Details

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From Reader Review Transformers: Dark Cybertron Volume 1 for online ebook

Merritt K. says

Mostly read this because I wanted to know what happened in between More Than Meets The Eye volumes. The parts where you can feel James Roberts coming through are great but there's too much weird backstory and too many characters -- it's a very different kind of story than MTMTE and I'm just not that into it.

Christopher says

Transformers: Dark Cybertron Vol. 1 is a giant epic with all the characters currently still standing (and ones that aren't! :D) all piling into a time spanning alternate universe defying adventure that serves to combine casts and to illustrate and advance the storylines in development in both Robots in Disguise and More Than Meets the Eye as well as the other storylines into a big crossover event that see many of the 'exiled' characters including Orion Pax, Megatron and Galvatron and other Primes being brought back in to to make their play! :D

The art style has a lot of different artists and this propels the storyline on as different plotlines are reflected in the different styles that adds a surreal nature to the events that take place! :D

Transformers: Dark Cybertron Vol. 1 is a roller coaster ride that lays out storyline elements all over the place clearly setting things up for future books in a very inventive and creative way! :D Brilliant and highly recommended! :D

Callum Shephard says

Serving as the latest big WHAM! moment in a long series for the Transformers comics, Dark Cybertron returns once more to the threat posed by Nova Prime's ambitions. Thanks to the manipulations of Shockwave, the rogue Decepticon now has everything in his power to ravage what little remains of Cybertron's population. With a new form of energon under his command and his sights set on a massive target, the sheer scale of his plan soon becomes clear. It's a threat which will require not only the forces stationed on Cybertron but those of the Lost Light and Orion Pax to finally end.

Combining together multiple running titles, the book has the issue of trying to join multiple very tonally different tales. While the events on Cybertron and with Orion Pax were relatively straight faced, the Lost Light's search for the Knights of Cybertron had a considerable dose of zany in its writing. People died, the threats were serious and all that, but for lack of a better expression it was visibly more cartoonish. Thankfully, the actual events gel together surprisingly well. While hardly toned down, there is definitely a sense of avoiding some of the more overtly different moments. Such as, for once, Brainstorm developing something saner than fourth wall breaking weapons and Magnus being treated as less of a walking joke of a character. This can likely be attributed to the authors working together closely on the project and it's a rare example of an event comic where nothing feels as if it is out of place or one group is getting short changed.

Multiple characters are given good moments to themselves and many are still offered continuations of their individual storylines. The prophecy behind Starscream and his bid for power serves as a major part of the tale, as do his more underhanded efforts to retain that power. Cyclonus' history is noted when they are forced to send a scouting into the Dead Universe, with it adversely affecting him. Prowl's previous ambitions and previous manipulation, Megatron's previous upgrades, Orion's doubts of his right to call himself Prime, a vast multitude of characters are given moments which fit naturally into their personal arcs. Rather than abandoning them entirely in favour of the big threat, Dark Cybertron uses them to enhance its own narrative atop of it. It's honestly good to see and it helps bring about the idea of there being a much bigger universe involved.

This idea of it being a huge universe is actually helped most of all by the art. Along with Andrew Griffith and Alex Milne, the comic featured a multitude of artists frequently used in the franchise. Each of who was given the task of independently drawing a specific section of a tale or location, creating much more of a sense of separation or distance between events.

There's also a great mix of action and exposition. This is only the first part of the story and there's a definite effort to make it feel as if there is a huge event going on here. However, unlike other comics it does not simply start with a huge explosion but has more than enough quiet moments or speaking scenes to give the events some weight. Unfortunately it's here that some of the flaws start to become apparent as it seems a little too focused upon serving as the first act. There are not so much fight scenes as there are moments of action within the comic as the fights we do have are all very brief and hardly detailed. Instead we have a few groups of panels before the fighting either peters out or is dealt with in some way, with the more effective moments coming from the aftermath of the battles or talk.

Furthermore, once the characters do separate out, laying the crew of the Lost Light to themselves, some of that tonal consistency starts to leave the comic, reverting to some of the overly humourous elements which don't quite fit here. Especially once the Rod Pod is introduced and Magnus is given temporary command of the ship, leading to a few things which feel wildly at odds with the events elsewhere. This isn't helped by the art itself at times. While definitely a strength overall, some issues featured artwork which either failed to really encapsulate a scene's feel or led to very strange continuity hiccups which should not have been so much of a problem. Most notably when Orion suddenly loses his faceplate for several issues without any comment upon it being missing or even retracted in any way.

The artwork isn't the only editing problem either, with some unnecessary elements from the issues being carried over. While certain elements such as the recap pages and lists of characters involved are a very welcome addition to any individual comic, they're definitely a pointless addition when reading it in trade format. Getting rid of them, except for perhaps the occasional character list, would have freed up pages for something more worthwhile or content unique to the trade.

Finally, the last few pages are definitely dragging their feet. Despite a good build-up early on, it feels as if certain events were stretched out in the final issue of this volume in order to save a pair of sudden reveals for the finale. While not the worst of flaws, after such a consistently steady pace, you'll likely be left wondering why there was such a sudden drop towards the very end.

At the end of the day, Volume 1 is a good start to the story but it's definitely lacking in places. It's definitely not one for new fans thanks to the heavy continuity heavy nature, but it's trying something very different and is for the most part presenting it well. If you've been reading the comics up to this point or are familiar with the IDW universe in general, see if you can find a preview but don't try to instantly buy it without taking a look at the contents first.

Clint says

Pretty Interesting

There is a lot of cool stuff going on in this story. You finally start understanding what Shockwave has been up to all this time. Plus you start to really see Autobots and Decepticons working together. It has lots of good humor too. (The "Rodpod" made me chuckle.) Good art. Highly recommended!

Josh Patton says

If you haven't been keeping up with any of the Transformers series in recent years, don't read this. There are too many references and questions about the history that is different from any of the series that will leave you confused.

Read the "More than meets the eye" collected works first. Just so you can understand why Decepticons and Autobots are on the same ship working together.

Outside of that... this is a good complicated story. It's hard to tell who is the bad guy and who isn't in this arc. Well, outside of Shockwave. The art styles are inconsistent between the pages, which can be a little distracting. But the story is well done and complex. Plans within plans within plans. Looking forward to Volume 2!

Nicolo Yu says

Dark Cybertron is a great way to mark two years of stories for the twin Transformers titles; *More Than Meets the Eye* and *Robots In Disguise*. *Dark Cybertron* is an epic story that merged the cast of the two books, and bought Orion Pax (nee Optimus Prime) back into the fold. IDW even sprung for acclaimed artist Phil Jimenez to do alternate covers and layouts on the first over-sized chapter of the story.

The art is a mess though; there are two many artist doing too many sections that there isn't any cohesiveness to it. There's one perfect fit though; artist Livio Ramondelli's contribution was set in the Dead Universe and his post-apocalyptic styling was a perfect fit storytelling wise. The reader could see that this was a different universe and the robots don't belong in it.

There's a promise of payoff in volume two so it would make sense to read that as well when you're done with this one. I felt obligated to read this story because I was following the Lost Light crew on *More Than Meets the Eye* and though it was great to have the great Orion Pax on board, I felt that this story distracts from the overall story of the monthly series. I guess the reader would know for sure with volume two.

Beyond the Pages says

Simply outstanding! This C & G was really good. There was so much detail and history, plus a prophecy was revealed. I learned more than I ever knew. Questions were answered, but still other questions came. All I know is that I want more!

A complimentary e-ARC was provided in exchange for an honest review.

Sud666 says

Apparently much has changed in the Transformer's universe since I last read any of this stuff. Optimus Prime is back to being Orion Pax and is no longer leader of the Autobots, Bumblebee is. Rodimus Prime is also no longer a Prime and is travelling around with some other Autobots looking for a titan. Megatron was in some kind of stasis but is being used as a spacebridge by Shockwave, who for some reason is in the service of Nova Prime (one of the original Primes)..who somehow has Galvatron wandering around beside him....which means he and Megatron are separate entities now. Starscream is now Starcream the First, elected leader of Cybertron. Autobots and Deceptions seem to have laid aside their differences and are all Cybertronians. This is all on top of this weird Dark Cybertron story.

Apparently Shockwave has located the dead Universe and is using it's energy to power a Titan. There is something about a prophecy that Starscream is the chosen one who will bring about the destruction of Cybertron. As a group of Autobots go looking for Metroplex, another group with Orion Pax end up in the Dead Universe with Cyclonus and get trapped there by a dead Autobot named Nightbeat and then they run into Nova Prime, who attempted to enter the Cybertronian universe via Megatron but failed. So now the dark titan is destroying Cybertron and Starscream is doing everything in his power to stop it. While a combined force of Autobots and Decepticons are trying to fight Shockwave.

Is any of this making sense to you? Well then you are far more aware of what's going on than I am. I truly had no clue what was happening or why. The parts about Shockwave's Plan were ok, the rest was a jumbled mishmash of goings-on. With the completely changed world where Autobots and Decepticons are working together, Starscream being leader, Bumblebee as leader (a piss poor one it seems) of the Autobots, and Rodimus and Orion both forswearing the title of Prime....and Megatron..not sure what's going on with Megatron or why Galvatron is some other being. Ahhhh...it's too much. So bearing in mind my complete and utter confusion, and this story failing to clear any of it up for me, this is getting a 2/5. The artwork is quite good though. But, until I backtrack and find out what's been happening in the Transformers world over the past several years...I found this issue to be a nearly indecipherable mess. Sorry.

Adelaide Metzger says

Now that I'm all caught up on Robots in Disguise and More Than Meets the Eye series I can completely wrap my head around Dark Cybertron.

Dark Cybertron is an almost perfect blend of tag team writing between John Barber (RiD) and James Roberts (MTMTE). The two writers really work well together considering there are a LOT of characters to keep track of in this Transformers universe. Amazingly, whoever edited the joining of the two series did a great job at having the narrative appear seamless to the reader.

I freaking loved the concept here! Never before has there been a Transformers series that made Shockwave the primary villain and death-bringer. To surround a plot with Shockwave's dark science and his overpowering intelligence--border lining insanity--is just gold. What Transfomers fan doesn't like Shockwave? I'd read some Dawn of the Autobots after the original issues of Dark Cybertron ended and it's interesting to see Starscream's character so different in this compared to after and before. Building up to Dark Cybertron he doesn't quite understand what leadership is and then when true tragedy strikes he's kind of slapped in the face with reality and then his true concerns come out. I don't get why he didn't stay that way because in the Windblade: Dawn of the Autobots arc he's back to being a deadly jerk who wants nothing but power. Just something to think about; I guess the majority doesn't like a goody two-shoes Starscream--either that or old habits die hard.

The first two issues of Dark Cybertron were given to me as birthday gifts back in 2013, so I proceeded to get the rest of the arc run without knowing *anything* about the IDW Transformers comics. After that I did what fans would see as abhorrent and bounced around from MTMTE to the IDW collections, back to MTMTE, then getting RiD, then Windblade: Dawn of the Autobots, then more MTMTE, and so on. I kept my head for a while, but the more I read out of order the more frustrated I got. I eventually just had to sit down and reread both James Robert's series and John Barber's series and now I have a sense of clarity in the world of Transformers IDW.

I really love Dark Cybertron because it goes in an area that we haven't seen in the Transformers universe--actually, none of the IDW Transformers comic have. That's why they're so entertaining to get into. Now just to finish the second volume to seal the deal and I'll be ready to officially move on with where the current series will take me.

Marta Dulce ?i Gavina says

Some good moments (in the Dark Universe and the Rod Pod parts), but mostly boring.

Wayne McCoy says

'Transformers: Dark Cybertron Volume 1' collects the first part of a larger story arc, but doesn't complete it within this volume. For that, you will need to find further volumes.

What you will find is a huge story with uneven art transitions. I assume this happens since the story takes place over different issues of the comic. Shockwave tries to remake Cybertron. There are uneasy alliances amongst the Autobots and Decepticons. There are prophecies involved, and a gigantic Transformer is awakened which has a role to play. It's all big and grand and a bit confusing to those not as familiar with where the Transformers are currently. I suggest this may not be the best place to start.

It's a good story, but it takes a while to kind of kick in. I did like it when it was almost over. I've read a few Transformers graphic novels over the past few months, but I was a bit lost at the beginning of this story. I also note that my review copy was a number of pages shorter than the advertised page count, so that might be the problem.

I was given a review copy of this graphic novel by Diamond Book Distributors and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this graphic novel.

Tamera says

So... I have a Shockwave obsession. I also love dark plots, thrills, and the unexpected in my comics. I freaking LOVED the Dark Cybertron arc. It gave me fangirl fits. The ONLY issue I have is that the art jumps around due to many fingers in the pie, but it's a project that brings together the current artists of the TF-verse so that is to be expected to a degree.

The story is fantastic but you need to understand that this is a co-op project and not a standalone series. You must be aware that this arc, both volumes, crosses between More Than Meets The Eye and Transformers (formerly Robots in Disguise) which run in parallel at the same time, just different sects of bots. This really won't throw you off much if you have only read one or other other, a lot is explained within the arc.

This ESSENTIAL reading for both series- so before you keep trucking through those volumes, make sure you read Dark Cybertron.

Craig says

Occasionally interesting but the constant art changes are distracting and the plot takes too long to get the protagonists into place. Worth sticking with as the payoff in vol 2 is an improvement.

Patrick says

If you haven't been reading this series before this it's a little confusing as to all the various factions and changes to continuity and so forth.

Keith Irwin says

This is special starts to bring together all the disparate plot threads from More Than Meets the Eye and Robots in Disguise bringing the whole thing to a gigantic head. It's nice to see it all come together and some of the dialogue is very well done. But it's such a big story that it makes the whole of it hard to follow and understand. And some of the individual actors in it seem to be doing things in order to be in the right place for the big finale rather than actually taking sensible actions for their personal situation.
