

BEAST WARS Equal Measures  
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ACT I

FADE IN:

1. ext. planet surface - day

Heavy storm clouds collide over the horizon - CLAPPING WITH THUNDER - a lightning bolt cleaving open a mountain – an exposed ENERGEN DEPOSIT glowing and pulsing.

Lightning stabs at the energon repeatedly until it ERUPTS in a BLINDING EXPLOSION - a wave of wind expanding outward.

2. ANGLE ON OPTIMUS - IN beast MODE

Perched nobly on a rocky peak, witnessing the mountain's destruction. He turns away from it, activating his com-link.

OPTIMUS(b) \*\*(yelling over wind)  
Optimus to Command Center. Scrub the mission! Looks like one extremely ill wind is  
blowing our way. (beat -- only static)  
Command center! Do you read...!?

The com-link BLARES STATIC. Optimus frowns, then leaps off the peak, one mighty arm grabbing a protruding root as he swings OS. LIGHTNING FLASHES.

MATCH CUT TO:

3. int. maximal base - MAIN CHAMBER - day

CLOSE ON A SPARKING CIRCUIT TESTER - as it touches several circuit points. PULL OUT TO REVEAL – RHINOX - IN ROBOT FORM - working on one of a series of five SURVEY POSTS, all lined up, their small antennas twitching in succession down the line.

One more adjustment by Rhinox, and the posts telescope down to the size of hockey pucks. He then leans back, satisfied,

shifting to BEAST MODE.

rhinox(B)  
\*\*That does it. Survey posts are ready for duty. Any word from Optimus?

4. on RATTRAP, cheetor and dinobot (ROBOT MODE) \*\* Cheetor and Dinobot are working on a high-tech explosive device. Rattrap is at the comm panel. SFX: STATIC

Rattrap \*\*  
Not a freakin' flicker. This storm's trashin' the comlinks worsen' usual -- and that's bad enough.

5. DINOBOT brooding over the high-tech device, which is anchored to the floor by three magnetic clamps.

dinobot(R) \*\* (tersely)  
This mission is too critical to be interrupted by a minor variation of weather.

Dinobot reaches for a tool, but doesn't find it.

dinobot(R) (impatiently)  
Who took the synchro-laser?!

cheetor(R) \*\* (coming in with the laser)  
Mrow! Allow me.

Cheetor elbows past Dinobot and inserts the tool - BZZZAP! The magnetic clamps short circuit and withdraw back into the device. As a result, the device falls over like a log and rolls OS.

Dinobot growls menacingly, eyes flared.

DINOBOT(r) \*\* (menacing growl)  
You hyper little --

6. angle on the hull door

where the bomb stops. The door WHISKS open revealing an imposing Optimus (Beast Mode), the storm exploding in the distant skies behind him. He steps in, the door sliding shut.

optimus (B) \*\*  
Some sort or trouble?

7. Dinobot and cheetor

Dinobot(R) \*\* (subdued growl)

Cheetor hastily moves to retrieve the bomb.

cheetor(R) \*\*  
Hey, Big Bot, we're just lockin' down the the big ba-bang, here. One last adjustment and... (fiddles with it)  
...there! We're set to blast that Predacon base back into orbit. As space debris!

The bomb's magnetic clamps suddenly flip crazily in and out until they seize up in a gasp of smoke, an electrical charge zapping Cheetor, who drops it.

cheetor(R) \*\* (cat squeal)

optimus(b)  
Put it to bed. We're stalled.

8. wide angle as everyone reacts. cheetor/dinobot/rhinox/ratrap (angry ad-libs)

cheetor(R)  
It's just a crossed quasar circuit! I can fix it!

optimus(b)  
That storm'll hit us within the hour.

cheetor(R) \*\*  
An hour? Not a problem, fellow beasts - I can outrun anything the skies can dish.

optimus(b)

Sorry, Cheetor. It's too risky. The placement of those survey posts must be thoroughly calculated to avoid contact with any underground energon deposits.

cheetor(R)

I'm not just some dippy cub, y'know. I can do this. Try havin' some faith in me for once!

optimus(b)

As much as you prefer to think so, Cheetor, this isn't about you.

Cheetor doesn't have a retort. Instead, he stares at him for a beat, then walks out of the room.

9. angle on rattrap Holding up one of the puck-sized relays and rapping it on a console to show how benign it is.

\*\* rattrap(R)

Optimus, they're harmless little scanning relays. All they're supposed to do is detect Pred energy signatures. Right, Rhinox?

Rhinox snatches the pucks away. rhinox(R)

I'm with Optimus on this one. Energon's an untested variable. We gotta be careful.

10. angle on dinobot probing the explosive device with a tool.

dinobot(R) \*\*\*

And does it matter if we blow some energon?

Maybe it will take a few Predacons with it. That is what we want, is it not?

optimus(b)

This mission, Dinobot, is to gain tactical advantage by taking out their base. Defeating them does not mean we have to annihilate them. You seem to have trouble understanding that.

Dinobot takes a step toward Optimus.

dinobot(R)

What I understand is this: if situations were reversed, Megatron would spare the base and annihilate us!

optimus(b)

This eagerness of yours to scrap Megatron is clouding your judgment.

dinobot(R)

We are at war, Optimus. War! I think it is your judgment that is clouded!

He shoves the bomb into Optimus' arms, then marches out of the room.

11. on optimus, feeling the eyes of Rhinox and Rattrap, his jaw set in resolve.

cut to:

12. int. cheetor's quarters - day Cheetor (now in Beast Mode) is sulking on his bunk. SFX: DOOR CHIME.

\*\* cheetor (B)

(grumpy) Come in.

13. dinobot (BEAST MODE) \*\* Is revealed in the doorway.

cheetor(B)  
Come to chew my tail for fritzin' that bomb?

dinobot(B) \*  
No. I am confident you could fix it. Just as I am confident you could beat the storm and plant those survey posts.

cheetor(B)  
Then you're the only one who thinks so.

dinobot(B) \*  
Do not mind Optimus. To him, you are a mere child incapable of handling such an important task. Like you said, he has no faith.

cheetor(B)  
Yeah, well, I could show him a thing or two.

Dinobot's expression turns deadly serious. dinobot(B)  
\*\*Then why not do so?

cheetor(B)  
What?

dinobot(B) \*  
You have mapped every energon deposit for five hundred meters. And your land speed is unequalled. In fact, you are the only one who could pull off this mission.

14. close on cheetor: as Dinobot's words start making sense... and he starts to smile.

quick cut to:

15. ext. planet surface - day

16. CLOSE ON CHEETOR (BEAST MODE) - sprinting with great speed across the terrain.

17. wider -- long to show the storm churning overhead, crackling with unbridled power. Cheetor slides to a stop, TRANSFORMS briefly into Robot Mode, withdraws a puck from an internal carrier, and enlarges it.

18. closer as the puck telescopes to a full six feet. Cheetor raises it over his head with both robotic hands, then SPEARS it into the ground. The puck glows, its tiny antennas twitching.

cheetor (R) \*\*  
Beast mode!

Even as he transforms, a LIGHTNING BOLT blasts the ground a few feet away, Cheetor thrown hard to the ground.

cheetor(b) (yell, landing grunt) WIDEN as Cheetor rises painfully, shaking off the effect.

cheetor(b) (yelling into the sky)  
Was that supposed to scare me?

The storm gives him a menacing reply, CRACKING LOUDLY. Cheetor loses all bravado and DARTS O.S.

19. ext. another area - close on cheetor (beast mode) – storm Lightning strobes across Cheetor as he TRANSFORMS, raises another extended post above his head and STABS it into the ground.

20. several quick shots

1) Cheetor inserts another post into the ground, the storm intensifying.

2) A nearby mountain glows from the energon within, a lightning strike exposing it, then obliterating it. PULL BACK to Cheetor in FG, unnerved, then thrusting another post in the ground.

3) In another area, a bolt of lightning splits the ground into a gaping crevice, a sprinting Cheetor headed right for it.

cheetor (B)

Cheetor - MAXIMIZE! As he leaps over the chasm he shifts to ROBOT MODE.\*\*

21. ext. near predacon volcano - day

On Cheetor (robot), lightning blasting the ground at his heels as he extends the last post to full length.

\*\* 22. a massive bolt of lightning nails him, the post sent darting through the air like a javelin.

23. close on post as it lands, sticking solidly into the ground, then activating, sparking like crazy from the lightning. The electricity SURGES into the ground. WIDEN - as Cheetor struggles toward it, sparking. That's when he notices that the ground beneath him starts glowing and pulsing from an energon deposit within. \*\*

24. HIGH ANGLE showing the deposit is really a massive vein, traveling and pulsing far into the distance.

cheetor(R)

Uh-oh. Energon! And it's going to blow!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

fade in:

25. ext. near predacon volcano - as before

Cheetor desperately tries to pull out the survey post, but it's glowing brightly, giving him electrical shocks at every touch.

cheetor (R)

Yeeeeouch! Ouch-ouch-ouch!

The storm CRACKS LOUDLY right above him.

cut to:

26. int. predacon base - communications room - same time -- CLOSE ON A perimeter scanner

(NOTE: The interior of the Predacon ship is mostly floorless in its main section. There are walls and hatches descending from the ceiling but they lower toward volcanic depths. Other parts of the ship -- and



cheetor(R)  
Cheetor - MAXIMIII did that already.

FOOM - Terrorsaur fires his Plasma Rifle, Cheetor leaping away from the console just in time, the blast burning a hole in it.

33. cheetor lands on another moving platform in a crouch - returns firing with his Quasar Cannon, then SWERVES the platform away.

34. terrorsaur twists sideways, the cannon blast sizzling by him by mere inches, as he fires his rifle again.

35. cheetor is hit in mid-air, sending him flipping through the air. But he grabs the edge of the platform just in time.

36. reverse angle - up at terrorsaur Moving his platform in menacingly.

terrorsaur(R)  
\*\* I heard you were fast, kitty. You don't seem so swift to me.

cheetor(R)  
\*\* Yeah? Just wait'll I get in SHAPE! BEAST MODE! (SNARL)

37. wider Cheetor hurls himself upward, TRANSFORMING into BEAST MODE as he does so. He slams right into -- \*\*

38. Terrorsaur knocking him flying back into the communications console.

terrorsaur(r) \*\*  
Whaaaa-- UH!? Suddenly, a power surge lashes out and envelopes Terrorsaur. In a blinding flash, he disappears.

39. on cheetor gawking.

cheetor (b)  
\*\* Whoaa... Cool.

He turns the platform toward the door -

RACK FOCUS to WASPINATOR and SCORPONOK in BEAST MODE on a pair of platforms coming toward him.

SCORPONOK(B)  
Scorponok - TERRORIZE! (SCREECH!)

waspinator(B)  
Waspinator - TERRORIZE (SCREECH!)

They shift to ROBOT MODE and fire weapons at -

40. cheetor who swerves his platform away just in time, banking off a console, then a wall, laser fire trailing him.

41. on a ventilation screen as Cheetor rebounds off of it, laser fire following, hitting the screen, leaving a smoking hole.

42. WIDER -- cheetor's platform as Cheetor crouches, then leaps through the now open vent, his voice echoing back.

cheetor(b)

\*\* (echo reverb) Yeah! Thanks for showin' me the way out, ya lamers.

43. angle on waspinator and SCORPONOK

SCORPONOK(r)

\*\* He's gone into the vents. You better report this to Megatron.

WASPINATOR(r)

Me? You're second in command!

SCORPONOK(r)

So make it an order!

cut to:

44. ext. maximal base - day establish. The storm bears down hard.

45. int. maximal base - communications room - day The communications console suddenly spews sparks as Terrorsaur materializes, still in Robot Mode. He looks around, confused.

terrorsaur(R) (confused)

Where'd he go?! (beat, glances around) Where'd I go?

dinobot(b)

Welcome to Enemy Arms, my former comrade.

DINOBOT steps out of the darkness nearby. \*\*

dinobot(B)(cont)

I hope you'll enjoy your stay. Dinobot - MAXIMIZE!

As Dinobot shifts into ROBOT MODE, Terrorsaur turns, ready for a fight.

terrorsaur (r)

I don't know how you brought me here, traitor, but prepare to stain the deck!

46. on dinobot suddenly considering Terrorsaur's words.

dinobot(r)

\*\* Hmm. Wait! He then studies the communications console.

dinobot(r)

\*\* Could it be that an accident of technology and nature has actually created a... transporter? Hmm...  
Terrorsaur, perhaps a truce is in order.

47. NEW ANGLE as Terrorsaur joins him, staring at the glowing console with wonder.

terrorsaur(r)

\*\* A transporter? Oh, yeah! So that's how that kid cat ended up in our base.

dinobot(r)

And you here. Interesting development.

terrorsaur (r)

\*\* Yeah! Yeah, say! We can turn our truce into an alliance, Dinobot!

dinobot(r) (craftily)

An alliance? To what end?

terrorsaur(r)

Think of the cosmic magnificence! Together, we'll overthrow these low-grade metal knock-offs you've joined, and then rule the Predacons with two iron fists!

48. closer as Terrorsaur thrusts his robot fist into the air.

49. dinobot looks devious. He raises his arm, the two metal fists clanking in agreement.

terrorsaur (R)

Nothing can stop us!

50. close on dinobot Looking like he's got something up his sleeve.

wipe to:

51. ext. predacon base - day The storm continues to rage overhead.

52. int. predacon base - ventilation ducts - day

In beast mode, Cheetor scrambles through the ventilation system, laser fire from below blasting holes in the ducting behind him.

cheetor(b) (panting)

53. int. open area below - same time Waspinator drifts above the volcanic floor on his platform, searing holes through the ventilation ducts with his quasar rifle.

54. int. ventilation ducts - same time The vents have an intersection, Cheetor clawing himself around a corner.

cheetor(b) (straining, panting)

55. int. open area below - same time Waspinator stops at the intersection of the vents above, revealing –

56. SCORPONOK - in robot mode

Not far away, also scanning the vents from his platform.

57. scorponok's p.o.v. - of the ceiling showing Cheetor's glowing thermal emission moving toward him.

58. back to scorponok scorponok(r) I have him!

FSSST - He launches a CYBERBEE from his right claw, the projectile piercing the vent --

59. int. ventilation ducts - continuous

The CyberBee BUZZES down the narrow ducting right toward --

60. cheetor who back-peddles to a stop. A glance behind him confirms the relentless approach of Waspinator's quasar rifle.

cheetor(b) Shredded or sizzled, what a choice!

As certain destruction closes in from both sides --

freeze frame

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

61. int. ventilation ducts - as before As both the CyberBee and rifle blasts close in, Cheetor quickly reverses course and sprints past the lasers, one singing his tail, scooting him faster.

cheetor(b) (painful cat squeal)

The lasers hit the CyberBee, detonating it.

62. int. open area below - continuous The explosion rips out the ceiling, spinning Waspinator and Scorponok away on their platforms.

waspinator/scorponok(r)  
Yaaaaaaa!

63. int. ventilation ducts - same time - TRACKING A fireball roars through the duct toward a running Cheetor, who looks nervously back at it.

cheetor(b)  
Cheetor - MAXIMIZE!

Cheetor shifts into his ROBOT MODE on the run just as the fireball catches up to him - propelling him forward! \*\*

cheetor(r)  
Yeeeeooowwww - bullet traain --!

WHOOSH - Cheetor zips through the ducting at high velocity.

64. int. environmental analysis console - next moment --angle on a high vent register as a THUNDEROUS ROAR precedes Cheetor exploding out of it in a flash of flame.

cheetor(r)  
Whoooooaaaaa! Ooof!

65. cheetor (ROBOT) tumbles to a sudden stop against the console - dazed.

\*\* cheetor(R)  
Comin' through.

wipe to:

66. ext. maximal base - day

As the storm continues its brutal attack on the planet --

67. int. maximal base - corridor - day

Dinobot escorts Terrorsaur (beast modes) down a corridor.

dinobot(b)

And by simply coming in contact with the communication console, this initiated the transport?

terrorsaur(b)

That's all I did. Nothing to it.

dinobot(b)

\*\* Excellent. Then I should have no difficulty duplicating the procedure without you.

terrorsaur (b)

\*\* Wha...? HEY!

Dinobot abruptly shoves Terrorsaur into a small chamber marked with a trash can symbol, then hits a control pad on the corridor wall, causing a door with a window to slam shut. Terrorsaur bangs on the door, but his voice is muted.

terrorsaur (b)

\*\* Hey! Whaddya doing? We're partners!

dinobot(b)

In case you had not realized, needle nose, I am not a team player.

Dinobot hits another button and - FOOSH - Terrorsaur drops from sight in a blast of compressed air.

68. ext. maximal base - continuous A chamber on the side of the ship opens up and FOOSH - Terrorsaur is launched out like so much garbage.

69. INT. MAXIMAL BASE - another corridor - DAY Dinobot exits the corridor into another, stepping through a door, startled as Optimus (Beast Mode) comes around the corner.

optimus(b)

Dinobot! The survey posts are missing, as is Cheetor. Do you know anything about it?

Dinobot considers his response carefully.

dinobot(b)

So that's what he was doing out there.

optimus(b)

What are you talking about?!

dinobot(b)

I... overheard a Predacon communication. A lightning strike on the sensor posts has had the unexpected result of transporting Cheetor into the Predacon base. Regrettable. He has surely been destroyed by Megatron.

70. close on optimus as his rage builds.

optimus (b) (deep growl)

dinobot (b)

But take heart in the fact that, through the cat's ultimate sacrifice, we have been furnished with a way to defeat them.

optimus(b)

How?

dinobot(b)

Somehow, the relay posts, the storm, and the energon, have all conspired to create a transporter, which connects our com-room to theirs. We can beam the explosive right into the heart of Megatron's lair.

Optimus frown, considering Dinobot's proposal. cut to:

71. int. predacon base - environmental analysis area - day where Scorponok and Waspinator (robot modes) are seen moving their platforms past the area. CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal Cheetor (Robot Mode) with his platform hidden behind some equipment. Once clear, he moves quickly to a --

72. COMPUTER CONSOLE and enters in some commands.

cheetor(R)

Well, as long as I'm here, might as well roll with it. Maybe finger some facts... (continues typing) ...like coppin' their maps of surrounding energon deposits.

73. close on computer holo-screen where a grid-map appears, revealing small, sporadic clumps of glowing energon. IMAGE ZOOMS and ROTATES to high-light the energon vein at the base of the Predacon volcano.

74. close on cheetor's face aglow from the monitor. He realizes something.

cheetor(R)

Hold it-hold it-hold it! Oh man... show Maximal perimeter grid-map! Add surrounding energon deposits!

After the grid map appears, small glowing deposits fade in, particularly the glowing energon vein. It's clear that --

cheetor(r) Rrowl!

The same energon vein runs under both bases!

75. close on cheetor as he realizes the danger of his findings.

cheetor(r)

An explosion at either base would destroy us all! Make copy! (an iridescent datadisk slides from the console into his hand)\*\* I gotta warn Optimus!

scorpinok (R VO)

There he is!

Cheetor whirls, reacting to:

76. Scorponok and waspinator in Robot Modes

Scorponok whipping another CyberBee from his claw.

77. CHEETOR Swerves his platform, but the CyberBee follows him. Cheetor swings the platform in a fast circle, the

CyberBee following. Waspinator and Scorponok attempt to move their platforms to intercept, Scorponok's claws clicking.

waspinator (R)  
Waspinator get him!

scorpinok (R) (panicking)  
Get out of the way, you -- AAAAGH!

Cheetor ZIPS his platform between them just as Waspinator and Scorpinok CRASH their platforms together -- and the CyberBee following Cheetor SLAMS comically into them. KABLAM!

zip to:

78. int. maximal communications room - next moment With Optimus grimly watching, Dinobot clamps a cable to the explosive device and prepares to attach the other end to a terminal on the console.

optimus (b)  
Wait!

Dinobot impatiently turns to him, the clamp only inches away.

optimus(b)  
You're positive the detonation countdown will give the Predacons time to flee the base?

dinobot (b)  
\*\* They shall have thirty seconds. Any more and they might be able to disarm it.

optimus(b)  
Proceed.

Dinobot clamps the cable to the terminal. Electricity arcs over it, traveling down the cable to envelop the bomb...

zip to:

79. int. predacon communications room - next moment

Cheetor (Robot Mode) streaks his platform in. He goes directly to the console, tossing the disk onto it, and then raises his hands, preparing to activate.

cheetor(b)  
Okay! Let's take this cat homeward!

But before he can touch it, the console surges with energy, sparks flying, then - FLASH - the disk VANISHES and the bomb MATERIALIZES, Cheetor sent flying to his butt. CLANK-CLANK-CLANK - the magnetic clamps anchor the bomb to a support stanchion.

80. on cheetor stunned as he recognizes the bomb.

cheetor (r)  
Holy Cat's Meow, it's the bomb!

quick zip to:

81. int. maximal base

Optimus (Beast Mode) is lifting the still-steaming high-tech disk from the console.

dinobot (B)  
What is it?

optimus (B)  
A data disk -- (sniffs it with sensitive ape nostrils)  
\*\* And it has Cheetor's scent!

He turns, shoving the disk into the console's slot.

optimus (b)  
Play this! Now!

cut back to:

82. int. predacon base Cheetor REACTS to the bomb, now clamped to the stanchion.

cheetor (r)  
Yowwwwl! They sent the bomb! I gotta get it outta here before it blows both bases!

terrorosaur(os)  
Freeze, freckles!

83. angle on terrorosaur - robot mode Moving up on a platform, weapon trained on Cheetor. Behind him, MEGATRON in Beast Mode moves in on his own ornate platform.

terrorosaur(r)  
It's as I said, Megatron. One bomb, C.O.D.

megatron(b)  
Do not attempt to escape, young one. Terrorosaur, disarm it.

83. Terrorosaur confidently goes to the bomb and opens the panel, peering inside with a synchro-laser.

85. on cheetor trying to control his panic.

cheetor(r)  
There's no time!

Terrorosaur looks up from it, slightly panicked.

terrorosaur (r)  
He's right! It's anchored down and gonna blow in twenty seconds!

cheetor(r)  
\*\* I can release the anchors! Lemme at it!

86. on megatron thinking for a tense beat.

megatron (B)  
\*\* Hmm.

cheetor (R)  
\*\* Come on! You'd rather be vaped!?

countdown voice Ten. Nine. Eight...(carry over)

megatron  
Do it!

87. on cheetor grabbing the synchro-laser from a sneering Terrorsaur, then probing inside with it. It starts shorting out, but the clamps remain in place. The countdown voice reaches FIVE, FOUR --

cheetor(r)  
C'mon, remember me? Ole fumble fingers?

Then, FIZZIT - the anchor clamps withdraw into the device.

cheetor(r)  
Go!

Terrorsaur grabs the bomb and flaps his mighty wings toward the ceiling, with slides open.

88. ext. predacon base - day - continuous

Terrorsaur flings it into the air just as it explodes. The storm doubles in intensity as a result --

89. fast shot -- the relay posts

As lightning begins CRASHING around them.

90. int. predacon communications room

Megatron levels his weapon at Cheetor, who TRANSFORMS back to Beast Mode.

megatron(b)  
And now for you!

cheetor(b)\  
Sorry -- this cat's gonna scat!

Just as Megatron FIRES, Cheetor leaps onto the console and - FLASH - vanishes.

91. ext. outside terrain

As Cheetor's impulse passes along them, one by one, the survey posts OVERLOAD behind him and blow up.

92. int. maximal base - communications room - next moment Cheetor materializes in a swarm of electric discharge. He looks up to see Optimus and Dinobot staring at him in surprise. The holo image of the deadly Energon vein is displayed behind them.

cheetor(b)  
Hiya, cats! Miss me?

and diss to:

93. int. main chamber - later Cheetor basks in the glory of heroism, Rhinox giving him a hearty pat on the back next to Rattrap.

rhinox (B)

\*\* Yo, Cheetor. Got your disk. You saved us from ourselves, lad. Thanks.

rattrap (B)

Yeah! Ya may have stepped in it, kid, but ya came out smellin' like a rose.

cheetor (B) (preening)

All parta bein' perfect.

Cheetor glances over at --

94. dinobot (BEAST MODE) arms folded, glowering. He wordlessly turns and walks out.

95. back to cheetor who turns to face Optimus. They smile at each other.

cheetor (B)

Sorry for disobeyin' your order, Big Bot.

optimus(b)

\*\*\* It's all right, Cheetor. After all, you did end up saving the day.

He faces the others.

optimus (B cont)

\*\*\* Just remember -- you don't need to earn my respect. You -- all of you -- already have it. We're the Maximals.

96. ext. the maximal base -- wide

We see the storm clearing and a spectacular Energon rainbow arcing through the sky. PULL BACK as we hear:

optimus (B, VO)

\*\*\* We're part of a team.

And we:

fade out:

the end