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#10

AT LAST! BEYOND THE MOVIE! BEYOND THE GALAXY!

STAR WARS



KEEP FIRING,
CHEWIE-- OR THIS
WHOLE PLANET IS
DOOMED!

--NOT TO
MENTION
US!



THE **BEHEMOTH**
FROM BELOW!

HOBERG

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

STAR WARS

THE GREATEST
SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

CONTINUING THE SAGA BEGUN IN THE FILM BY GEORGE LUCAS, RELEASED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX.

BEHEMOTH FROM THE WORLD BELOW

HAN SOLO'S
JOB SEEMED
SIMPLE
ENOUGH...

...GET TOGETHER
A BAND OF ALIEN
WARRIORS AND
SAVE A VILLAGE
FROM THE OUT-
LAW SERJI-X
ARROGANTUS
AND HIS MARAUD-
ING CLOUD
RIDERS!

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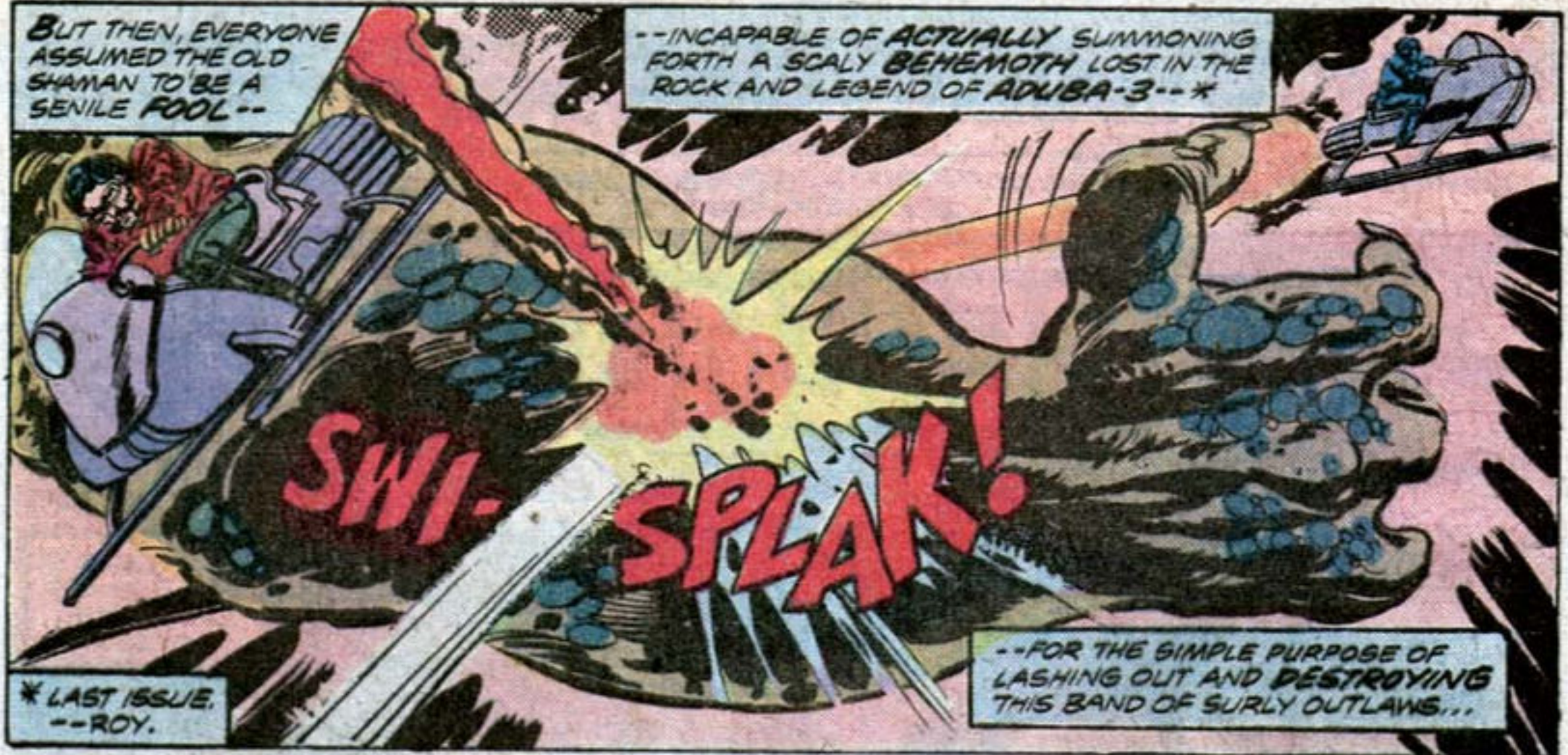
BUT IN THE ORIGINAL
DEAL, NO ONE SAID
ANYTHING ABOUT A
MONSTER!

C-726

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BUT THEN, EVERYONE ASSUMED THE OLD SHAMAN TO BE A SENILE FOOL--

--INCAPABLE OF ACTUALLY SUMMONING FORTH A SCALY BEHEMOTH LOST IN THE ROCK AND LEGEND OF ADUBA-3--*



* LAST ISSUE. --ROY.

--FOR THE SIMPLE PURPOSE OF LASHING OUT AND DESTROYING THIS BAND OF SURLY OUTLAWS...

...ESPECIALLY THEIR LEADER, SERJI-X... THE ARROGANT ONE!



I REMEMBER HEARING STORIES ABOUT THIS BEASTIE WHEN I WAS A YOUTH!

AND ONE THING ABOUT THOSE STORIES STICKS OUT IN MY MIND...



IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, IT JUST ISN'T GONNA GO AWAY! AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...

NO MORE TRIBUTE FROM THIS VILLAGE... NO MORE FEMALE AMUSEMENTS!



SO COME ON, MEN! LET'S GET RID OF THE BIG--

BUT SERJI-X BEGINS TO WONDER HOW FEASIBLE THAT MIGHT BE, AS ONE-BY-ONE HIS MEN FALL TO THE BEAST!



DON'T ASK ME, CHEWBACCA! THIS WASN'T IN THE ORIGINAL PROGRAM!





IT'S KNOCKING US DOWN LIKE MAZE-FLIES!! AND OUR BLASTERS DON'T EVEN FAZE IT!

HEY, LEADER MAN! WHAT D'YA SAY WE FORGET THIS PAUPER'S VILLAGE--

--AN' GET OUTTA HERE WHILE WE STILL CAN?!

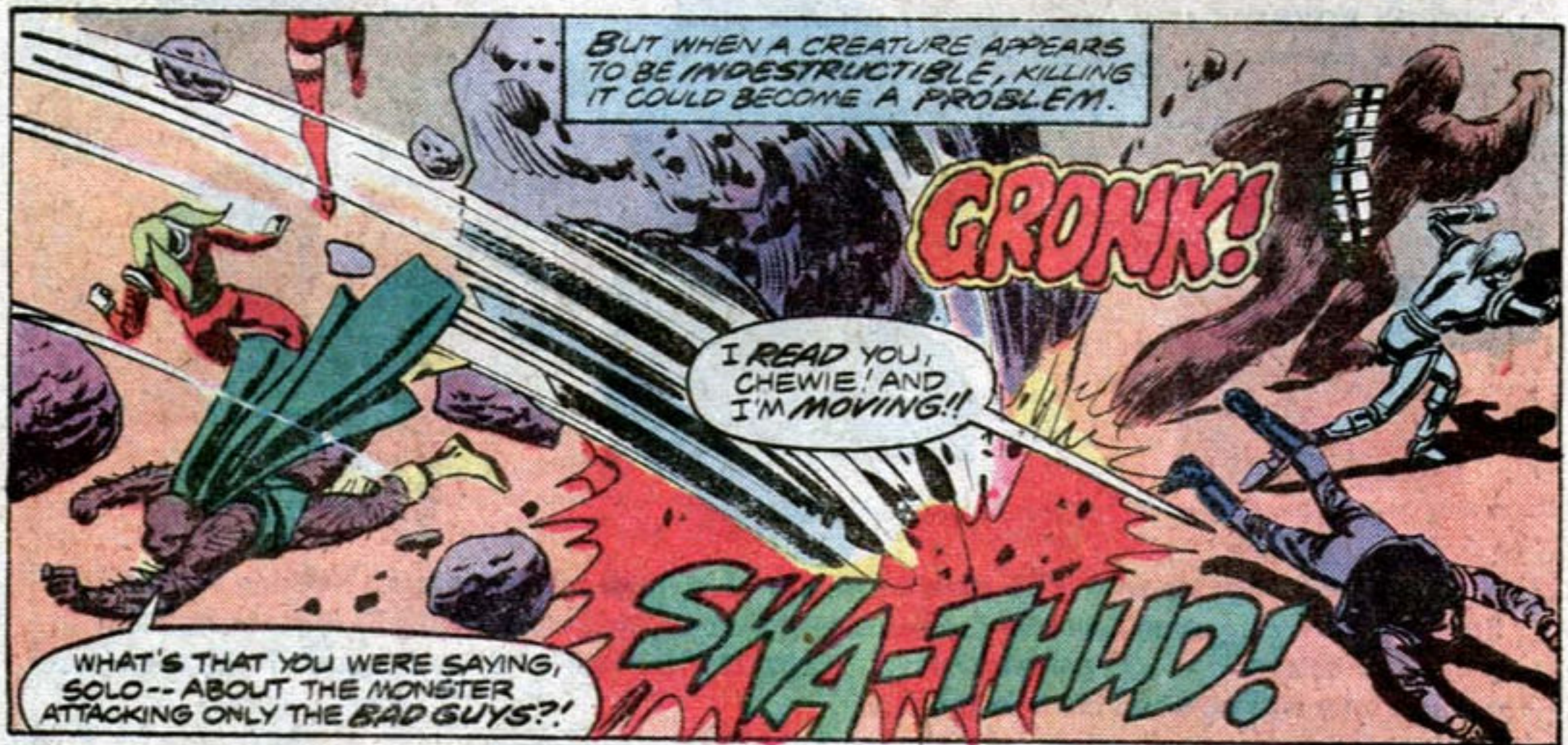
KA-SPLAK!



NO!! IT'S GETTING TO BE A PERSONAL THING BETWEEN ME AND THIS BEASTIE--

--AND I STILL HAVE ME A MOOD TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT GIRL MERRI.

SO WE FIGHT... TILL THAT THING IS DEAD!!



BUT WHEN A CREATURE APPEARS TO BE INDESTRUCTIBLE, KILLING IT COULD BECOME A PROBLEM.

GRONK!

I READ YOU, CHEWIE! AND I'M MOVING!!

SWA-THUD!

WHAT'S THAT YOU WERE SAYING, SOLO-- ABOUT THE MONSTER ATTACKING ONLY THE BAD GUYS?!



WE JUST GOT IN THE MONSTER'S WAY, THAT'S ALL

HMMPF! THIS ARMOR MIGHT HAVE SAVED ME FROM THE SKY-SPEEDER'S BLAST--*

--BUT I FEAR IT'D NOT PERFORM A LIKE FUNCTION AGAINST THAT OF THE BEHEMOTH.

THEN KEEP HIDDEN BEHIND THESE ROCKS, DON-WAN KIHOTAY--

* SEE LAST ISSUE--RT.

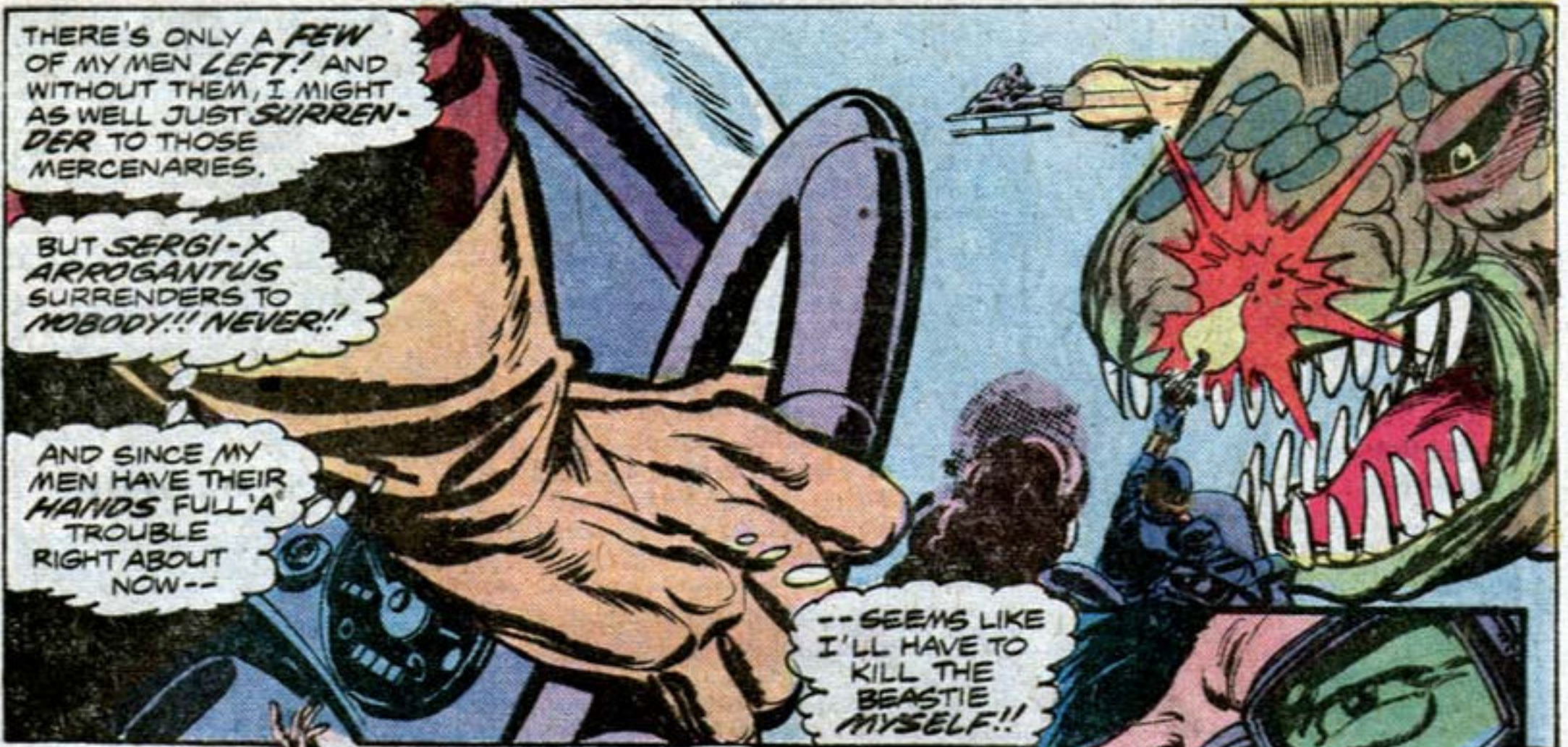


--AND LET'S JUST LEAVE OUR BEHEMOTH FRIEND BE--

ROO-AARR!

BLZZT!

--TILL HE'S FINISHED THE JOB THE OLD MAN CALLED HIM TO DO!

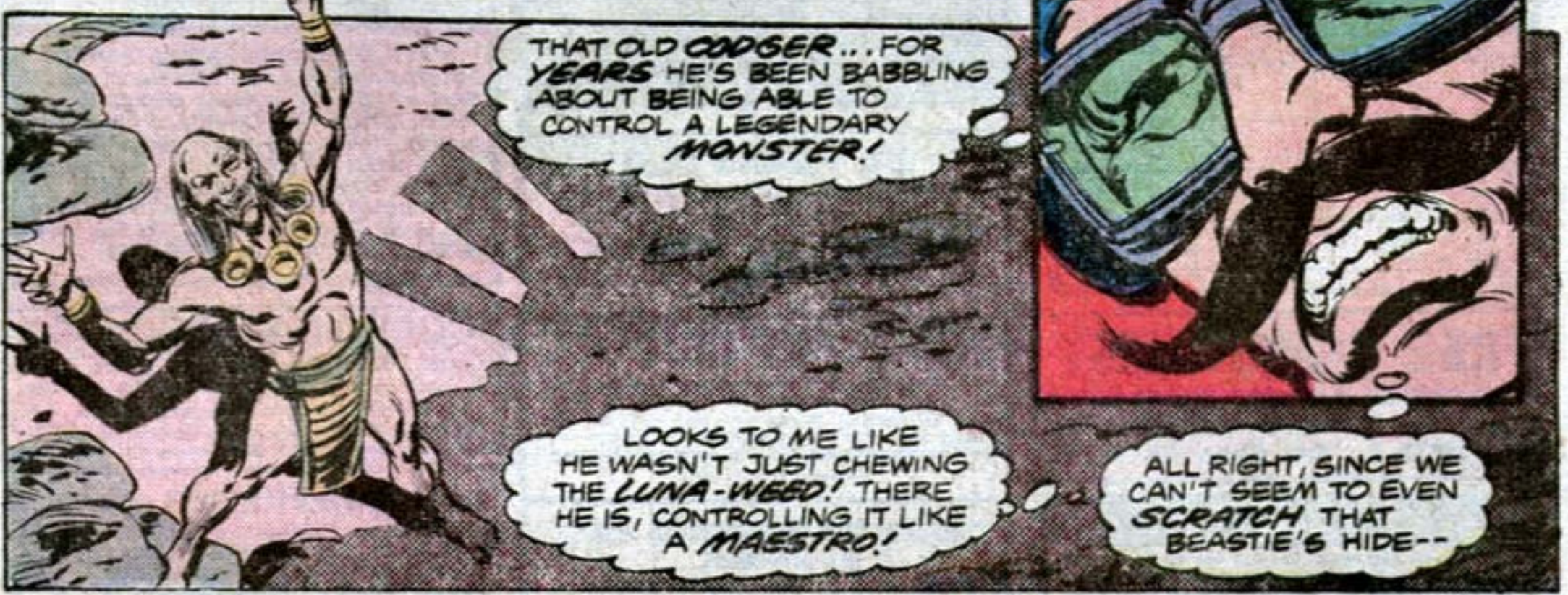


THERE'S ONLY A FEW OF MY MEN LEFT! AND WITHOUT THEM, I MIGHT AS WELL JUST SURRENDER TO THOSE MERCENARIES.

BUT SERGI-X ARROGANTUS SURRENDERS TO NOBODY!! NEVER!!

AND SINCE MY MEN HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL A TROUBLE RIGHT ABOUT NOW--

-- SEEMS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO KILL THE BEASTIE MYSELF!!



THAT OLD CUDGER... FOR YEARS HE'S BEEN BABBLING ABOUT BEING ABLE TO CONTROL A LEGENDARY MONSTER!

LOOKS TO ME LIKE HE WASN'T JUST CHEWING THE LUNA-WEED! THERE HE IS, CONTROLLING IT LIKE A MAESTRO!

ALL RIGHT, SINCE WE CAN'T SEEM TO EVEN SCRATCH THAT BEASTIE'S HIDE--



-- IT APPEARS I'LL HAVE TO ATTACK IT THE ONLY WAY IT'LL DO ANY GOOD!

THAT'S IT, OLD MAN! KEEP STANDING THERE IN ONE SPOT--

-- AND YOU'LL MAKE A PERFECT TARGET!

BROO-SH!



THE SHAMAN DOESN'T MOVE. BUT SERGI-X ARROGANTUS NEVER QUITE KNOWS IF HE STRIKES HIM OR NOT...

... AS BOTH SHAMAN AND OUTLAW CHIEF ARE TRAMPLED BY A SINGLE GARGANTUAN FOOT!

WOMP!

SPLAT!



AND, WITHOUT THEIR LEADER--

--THE FEW REMAINING CLOUD-RIDERS ARE QUICK TO FALL.

GUESS THAT'S THE END OF THOSE OUT-LAWS!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BEHEMOTH?



WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT?

WITH THE OLD MAN DEAD, IT COULD MEAN BAD NEWS FOR MY ENTIRE VILLAGE--

--AND EVERY ONE IN IT!

THE STAR-KILLER KID AIN'T JUST SUPPOSIN', SOLO!

WITHOUT THE SHAMAN TO CALL THE SHOTS, THAT BEHEMOTH'S STARTIN' TO GET REALLY MAD!

I THINK YOU'RE GETTING MY MESSAGE, JAXXON!

AND THIS TIME I DON'T THINK IT'S GONNA BE SO PARTICULAR ABOUT WHO IT STOMPS!



HOLD IT THERE, SOLO! WE DIDN'T SIGN ON TO THIS LITTLE BLAST-PARTY OF YOURS TO FIGHT ANY MONSTER!

WE'RE BEING PAID TO GET RID OF SERTI-X AND HIS CRONIES--

--AND SINCE I DON'T SEEM TO SEE THEM AROUND ANYMORE...



LISTEN TO ME-- ALL OF YOU SPACE FREAKS!!

WE DIDN'T EARN THE PAY WE'RE GETTING FOR THIS JOB! THE BEHEMOTH DID!

HMMPF! SOME PAY!

AND IF YOU WANT TO GET EVEN THAT, THERE'D BETTER BE A VILLAGE LEFT STANDING TO PAY US!

BESIDES, I'M GETTING TO LIKE SOME OF THE LOCAL FOLK IN THIS TOWN!



AWWRIGHT, AWWRIGHT ALREADY! SO WE KNOW YOU'RE A LITTLE SOFT ON THAT MERRI FEMALE.

SO YOU TWO CAN STAND AROUND ARGUIN' ABOUT IT!

BUT Y'KNOW HOW US ROCKET-RABBIT TYPES ARE:

WE JUST CAN'T STAND STILL!!

JAXXON!!



AND SINCE I ALWAYS SAY, "NEVER SEND A MAN OUT TO DO A RABBIT'S JOB--"

NO WAIT, JAXXON--!!

BZZZAK!

GROARR!

THE *LEPUS CARNIVORUS* IS FAST--POSSIBLY THE SWIFTEST BIPED ON ALL OF ADUBA-3...



BUT IT'S NOT EASY FOR EVEN A HUMANOID RABBIT TO OUT-SPRINT THE MONSTER'S WELL-AIMED ENERGY BLASTS...

THAT LAST SHOT ALMOST TOOK OFF THE RABBIT'S TAIL!

BUT EVEN THOUGH IT MISSED HIM, THE BURST HIT THE ROCK WALL AND--



CRUM-MBL!

HEAVENLY HUTCHES! ROCKS KNOCKED THE GUN OUT'A MY HAND!!

GOT TO REACH THE CRUMMY THING BEFORE--



LEAVE THE BLASTER, JAX!

AND TAKE COVER BETWEEN THE ROCKS! YOU'LL NEVER--

ALREADY HAVE, AMAIZA! BUT DID THESE FLOPPY EARS'A MINE DETECT A LITTLE AFFECTION IN YOUR VOICE?

HMMMMMM?!

NAAWWW! LIKE MY MOTHER TOLD ALL EIGHTY OF US KIDS--

IT'D NEVER WORK OUT! MARRY A NICE GIRL FROM A NICE BURROW, AN'--

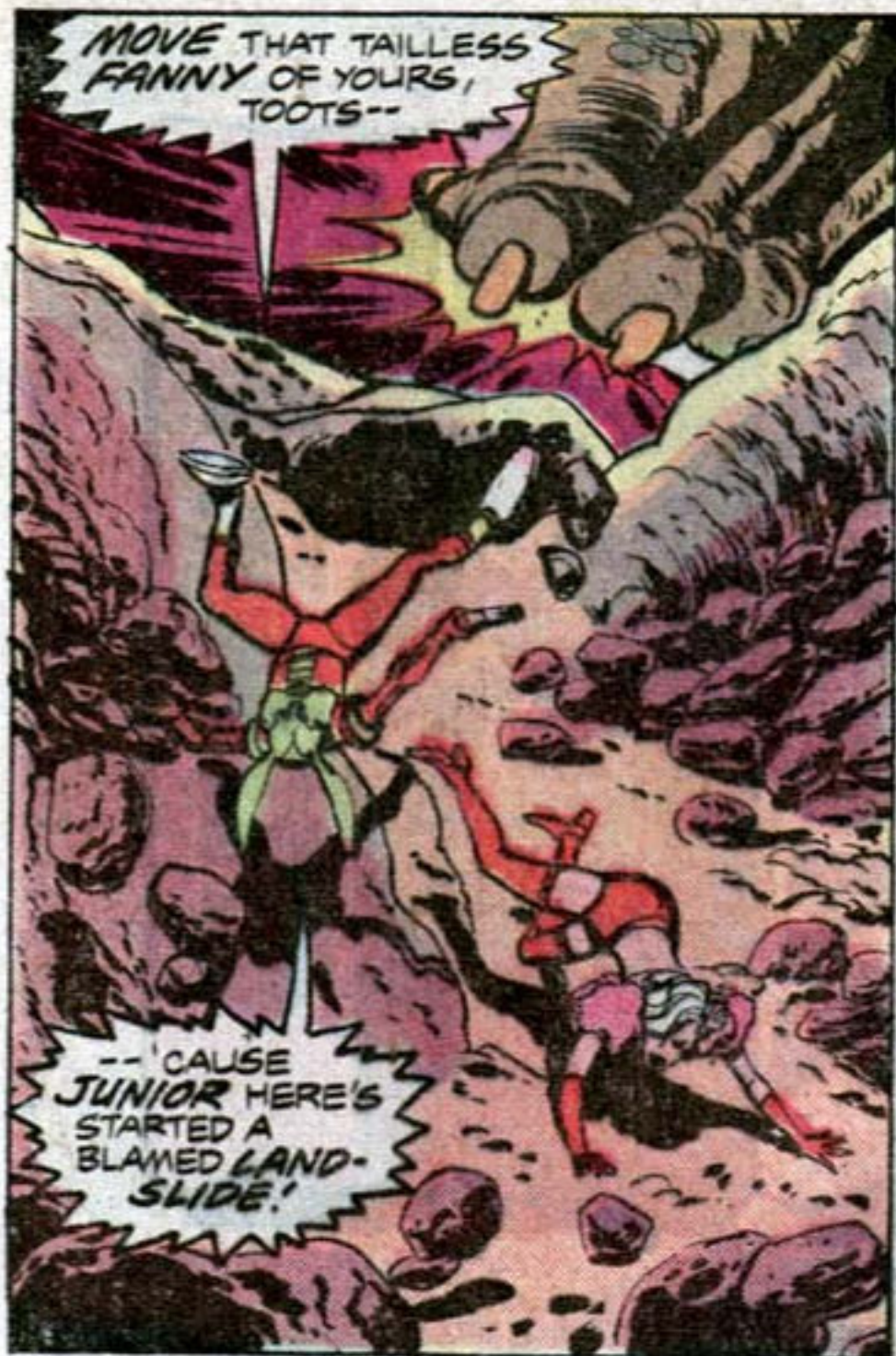


WHOOOEEEE!! ALMOST DIDN'T SEE THAT ONE!

MAYBE I OUGHT'A GET MY EYES CHECKED IF WE EVER GET OUT'A THIS MESS!

KWIMP!

...WHICH JAXXON BEGINS TO DOUBT, AS HE HEARS A PORTENTIOUS RUMBLE FROM ABOVE...



MOVE THAT TAILLESS FANNY OF YOURS, TOOTS--

-- 'CAUSE JUNIOR HERE'S STARTED A BLAMED LANDSLIDE!



COME ON, CHEWIE! GET THAT SEVEN-FOOT WOOKIEE CARCASS OF YOURS MOVING AT TOP SPEED!

YOU OKAY, LADY?

JUST TWISTED MY ANKLE! BUT I'LL LIVE!

HRUG!

HOW ABOUT YOU, JAXXON?

GOT THE WIND KNOCKED OUTTA ME... AND MUSSED UP MY TAIL! BUT OTHERWISE...

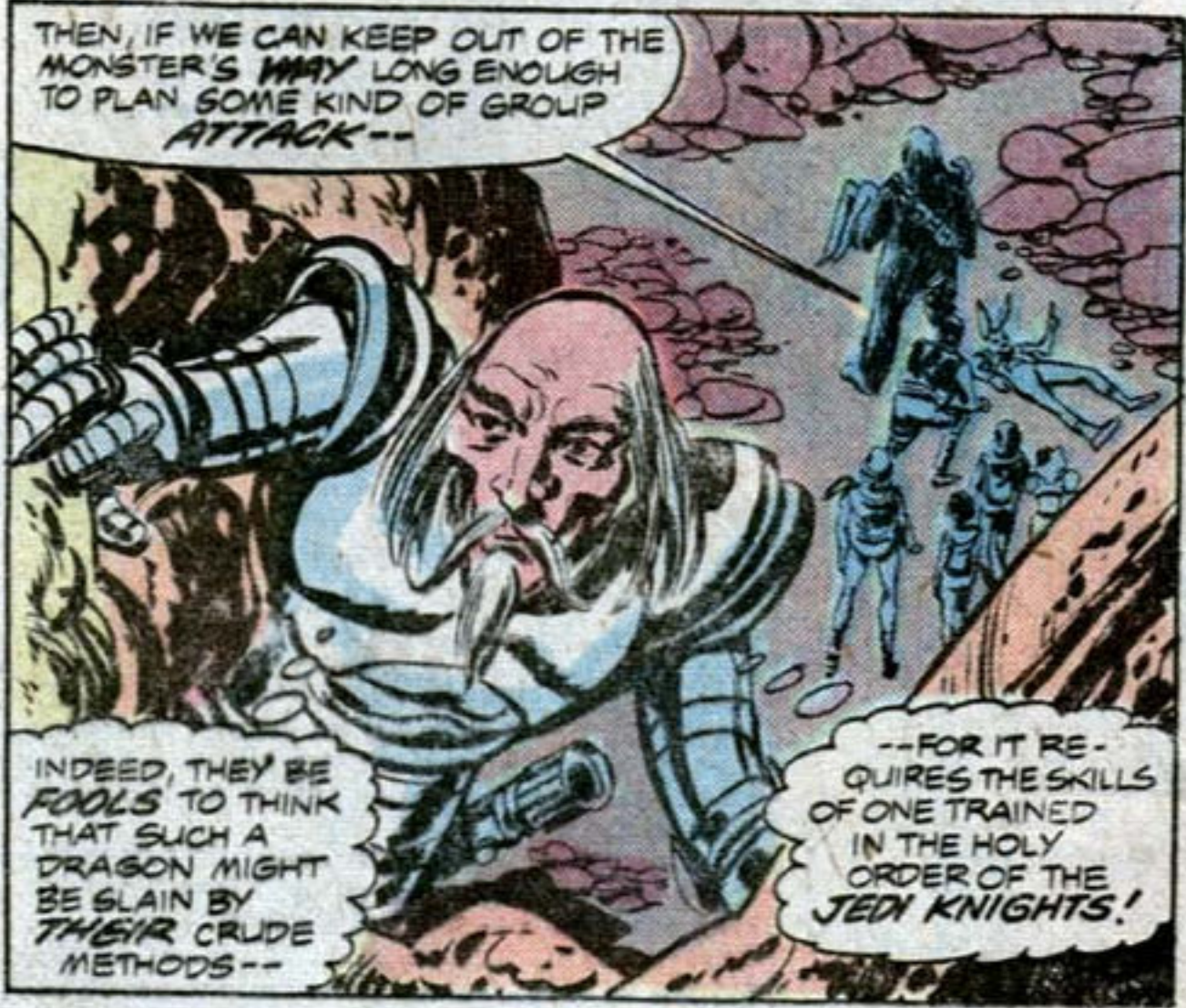


ALL RIGHT! THEN, BEFORE THE ROCKS START FALLING AGAIN... CHEWIE, TAKE AMAIZA WHERE IT'S SAFE--

-- BUT DON'T SQUEEZE TOO HARD!

LOOK, GROUP! IF WE'RE GONNA KILL THAT WALKING HUNK OF POWER, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO IT AS A TEAM.

EVERYBODY GET BEHIND THESE ROCKS!



THEN, IF WE CAN KEEP OUT OF THE MONSTER'S WAY LONG ENOUGH TO PLAN SOME KIND OF GROUP ATTACK--

INDEED, THEY BE FOOLS TO THINK THAT SUCH A DRAGON MIGHT BE SLAIN BY THEIR CRUDE METHODS--

--FOR IT REQUIRES THE SKILLS OF ONE TRAINED IN THE HOLY ORDER OF THE JEDI KNIGHTS!



OOOPS!! WE'LL DO OUR PLANNING LATER!

BLAZT!

'CAUSE RIGHT NOW, GUESS WHO'S BACK?!



RUNK!

DIDN'T MEAN THAT *LITERALLY*, CHEWIE!

OKAY, HEROES-- GET YOURSELVES OUT OF SIGHT AND DO IT *FAST!*

THE BEHEMOTH'S SHOOTING THOSE RAYS AT US AGAIN!



BUT IF IT DOESN'T *SEE* US FOR A WHILE, MAYBE IT'LL THINK IT GOT US!

THEN MAYBE WE'LL BUY THE *TIME* TO--

SCRATCH THAT PLAN! THE THING'S READY TO BLAST US AGAIN! AND IT'S AIMING RIGHT FOR THAT WA--



BRM-MMBL!!

ANOTHER LANDSLIDE!!

GRK!

IF ANYBODY EVER TOLD ME I'D HAVE 'TA DO THIS MUCH RUNNIN' ON THIS MISSION, I'D OF--

HEY, CHEWBACCA-- LET GO!

I CAN MOVE OUTTA THE WAY MYSELF, Y'KNOW!



THE BEHEMOTH DOESN'T GIVE UP, DOES IT?!

NOR WELL, NEITHER DO WE! AND I'M GETTING AN IDEA HOW WE MIGHT GET RID OF THAT NIGHTMARE!

BUT IT'S GONNA TAKE DON-WAN'S LIGHT-SABRE TO DO IT

YOU HEAR ME, DON-WAN? YOU NEVER TOLD HOW YOU GOT A JEDI KNIGHT'S WEAPON, BUT IT STILL--



DON-WAN...?

OH NO! LOOK!! WE'VE GOT TO HELP HIM!

BUT WHAT HAN SOLO HAS JUST SEEN MEANS NOTHING TO THE PILOT OF A SMALL SPACE CRUISER--

--WHICH NOW STREAKS FROM THE DENSE JUNGLE GROWTH OF THE FOURTH SATELLITE OF THE PLANET YAVIN--

--TO BE SWALLOWED BY SILENT SPACE...

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO GENERAL DODONNA AND THE OTHERS! I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS RIGHT AWAY!

THE PILOT: PRINCESS LEIA, A MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL SENATE...

HER MISSION...?

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO LUKE AND I'M GOING TO FIND HIM--

--EVEN IF I'VE GOT TO DO IT ALONE!

HE'D GONE OFF WITH THE TWO ROBOTS TO FIND A NEW PLANET FOR THE REBELS...

AND THEN, JUST AS HE SAW SOMETHING AND WAS ABOUT TO TELL US WHAT IT WAS--

--WE LOST ALL COMMUNICATION WITH HIM!*

AND THERE WAS NO WAY FOR US TO MAKE CONTACT WITH HIM AGAIN!

*LAST ISSUE AGAIN.--ROY.

BUT IF I CAN FIND THE POINT LUKE WAS AT WHEN WE LAST HEARD FROM HIM, MAYBE THERE'LL BE SOMETHING I CAN DO!

I CAN'T JUST LET HIM BE SWALLOWED UP-- ONE MORE CASUALTY OF THE REBELLION AGAINST THE EMPIRE!

IT'S TOO BAD HAN SOLO HAD TO ROCKET OFF TO SPEND HIS REWARD MONEY!*

I COULD USE THAT STAR-HOPPER'S HELP RIGHT ABOUT NOW!

*STAR WARS #7.--R.T.



HELP?!?

A JEDI KNIGHT NEEDS THE HELP OF NO ONE--LEAST OF ALL A MERCENARY SUCH AS HAN SOLO!

ALL THAT I NEED IS THE LIGHTSABRE HELD IN MY STEADY HAND...



... AND THE COURAGE AND SKILL TO USE IT!

HOLD, BEHEMOTH! AND, IF YOU DARE, FACE ME!

GRRRR!

WHETHER IT IS THE SOUND OF THE OLD MAN'S VOICE OR THE PULSATING WEAPON THAT HE HOLDS--

-- SOMETHING ATTRACTS THE BEHEMOTH'S ATTENTION!



LOOK! YOU SEE WHAT THAT CRAZY OLD FOOL IS DOING?!

SURE DO! HE'S LEADING THAT MONSTER AWAY FROM US... SO'S HE CAN FACE IT ALONE!

MAYBE HE'S NOT SO CRAZY! MAYBE HE REALLY WAS A JEDI KNIGHT--

YEAH! LIKE HOW TO GET YOURSELF KILLED IN ONE EASY LESSON!

-- AND KNOWS SOMETHING WE DON'T!



YOU HEAR THEIR JEERS, BEHEMOTH? THEY THINK DON-WAN KIHOTAY TO BE TOO OLD FOR THE NOBLE ART OF COMBAT!

YET EVEN ONE OF SO ADVANCED YEARS IS STILL AS ONE WITH THE FORCE--

--WHICH PERMITS EVEN THESE STIFF AND WEARY BONES--



-- TO EVADE WHATEVER HELL-SPAWNED BOLTS YOU MIGHT HURL TOWARD ME!!

BZZAM!

STAR-WARDS

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SPECIAL NOTE FROM EDITOR ROY THOMAS:

It's been a blast, people, but it's time to move on.

With this issue, artist Howard Chaykin and I have decided to leave the drawing-and-writing chores on Marvel's blockbusting STAR WARS comic-mag to other hands.

Each of us has his reasons. For Howie, it's a desire to do other types of art, including some painting; you'll be seeing one of his covers on an issue of our companion title THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN any day now.

For myself, it's a bit more complicated and personal. Suffice it to say that, after two or three post-movie issues of STAR WARS, I found that—much as I love space opera—I'd be doing myself and Marvel a lot more good by writing/editing others mags instead. (Said "others mags" to include a certain gold-tressed Thunder God, just a few short weeks from now—and a couple of truly spectacular projects which are likewise in the works.)

So, I thought I'd get off at the top, as it were—while STAR WARS the comic-book is a virtual phenomenon, easily the most-published four-color comic in at least twenty years and then some! (And nope, Howie and I are certainly not taking credit for that; it was George Lucas' film, of course, which spurred the success. My own contributions, primarily, were: (1) the fact that there was/is a STAR WARS comic-mag; (2) a certain sureness that the movie would be at least a fair-to-middling hit, and would be the type of thing that comics readers were ready for; (3) the choosing of Howard Chaykin, one of the finer new talents around, as artist.

And now, with fond farewells to Titanic Tom Palmer and the other inker/embellishers who've helped us launch the STAR WARS mag, Howie and I would like to fade gracefully into a Tatooine-type sunset, with best wishes for the talented team of Archie Goodwin and Carmine Infantino, who plan to pick up the Luke Skywalker sub-plot where Mr. C. and I left off.

Oh yes, and since I won't be handling future letters pages, I thought I'd best respond to a mountain of missives which pointed out that, in issue #7, Han Solo referred to a given planet as Dantooine in one planet, Tatooine in the next. 'Twas, alas, a typographical error Ye Writer/Editor made, typing "Dantooine" twice on page 2 when he meant "Tatooine" both times. He phoned in the correction later while the issue was in production in New York, but somehow only *one* of the offending references was corrected. That's the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but—so help me, Darth Vader!

Now for a few letters on STAR WARS #6, which concluded Marvel's adaptation of the monumental movie itself—!

Without a doubt, the sixth issue of STAR WARS was one of the best Marvel Comics I have ever read. ("The Year's Best Comic"?) I thought I had witnessed high points in comics history with the appearance of the Silver Surfer or the coming of Conan or the more recent Fu Manchu epic in MASTER OF KUNG FU. But against your awesome adaptation of George Lucas' fantastic film, they all vanish into nothingness. And the art—fantabulous! At first I was a bit wary of Howard Chaykin's illustrations, but he has improved a hundredfold since #1. Indeed, the last few pages were simply beyond any form of earthly description. I'm glad to see that Han and his furry friend will be going on some solo (chuckle) adventures. In

fact, the Corellian is far too restless to remain beside Luke forever. Why don't you give him his own mag? May the Force be with you!

Mike Heisler
118 Lexington Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

STAR WARS is success supreme! When's the Annual gonna come?

Burton Glass
Milford, OH 45150

As Leia said to Han Solo: "You're braver than I thought"—for going on past the end of the movie. Keep on trekkin' and make mine Marvel!

Rod Richards
USS Kansas City AOR-3
FPO San Francisco, CA 96601

This is a sincere thank-you for your wonderful adaptation of "Star Wars." I have avidly read issues #1-6 and have come to the conclusion that no one could have done better. The art was lovely and the writing of first-class quality. After standing in long lines and paying a bundle to see the movie six times, it was refreshing to enjoy this enchanting story in my home. May the Force be with you always!

Pammi Bowen
Bridgeport, CT

I have only one thing to say about STAR WARS #6: YES!!

Doby Dunn
(No Address Given)

I recently purchased the December issue of your STAR WARS comic. I would like to say you've done an excellent job of it. My only regret—being a big "Star Wars" fan—is that I wasn't aware of the existence of such a comic before today. Naturally, I'm interested greatly in all Star Wars material. Is there any way I could acquire the previous issues of this comic-book? I'm sure many other late-comers would also be interested in knowing.

Nancy E. Porter
244-22 136 Ave.
Rosedale, NY 11422

At present, Nancy—as we've mentioned before in recent issues—there are some two million copies or thereabouts of Marvel's version of "Star Wars" in print, counting two or more printings of the comics themselves (all but the first edition saying "reprint" clearly on the cover but otherwise identical to the first editions); the two Marvel Treasury editions which, between them, re-presented the whole epic and a few new drawings besides; and a just-out paperback which includes the entire 100 pages between two covers. Our companion-mag PIZZAZZ, which also includes three pages of "Star Wars" madness each and every month (by the same Thomas/Chaykin team which brought you #1-10), has featured our own ads for the Treasuries—and we're sure that ads for the other editions will pop up in our mags and elsewhere, to boot. Good hunting, Nance!

P.S.:—Oh yes, and Rascally Roy Thomas would like to thank his good buddy Don Glut for stepping in to dialogue this tenth issue after he and Howie had plotted it out. May you find a Rocket Rabbit in your own briar-patch, Don!



AND NOW, BEHEMOTH, THE TIME FOR A FINAL CONFLICT IS UPON US!

NEEDLESS TO ADD--

--BUT ONE OF US SHALL EMERGE FROM THE BATTLE ALIVE!!



BOLDLY, THE AGED WOULD-BE KNIGHT STALKS TOWARD THE BEHEMOTH--

--AND, IF ONLY FOR MOMENTS, THE MONSTER PAUSES, ITS SCALY HEAD LIFTING.



YOU SEE THAT??!

THE MONSTER'S REACTING FUNNY, THE CLOSER HE GETS WITH THAT LIGHT-SABRE!

THEN I THINK MY HUNCH IS RIGHT! I THINK IT'S--



--HEY, MEDJI... SPINER... WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!

WHERE YOU SHOULD ALL HAVE BEEN BY NOW, HAN SOLO--

--TO HELP AN OLD WARRIOR WHO'S PUT HIS OWN LIFE ON THE LINE TO SAVE ALL OF US!



LISTEN TO ME, DON-WAN! MAYBE YOU DID STUMBLE ONTO A LIGHTSABRE SOMEWHERE, AFTER THE EMPIRE HAD CRUSHED THE REAL JEDI KNIGHTS--

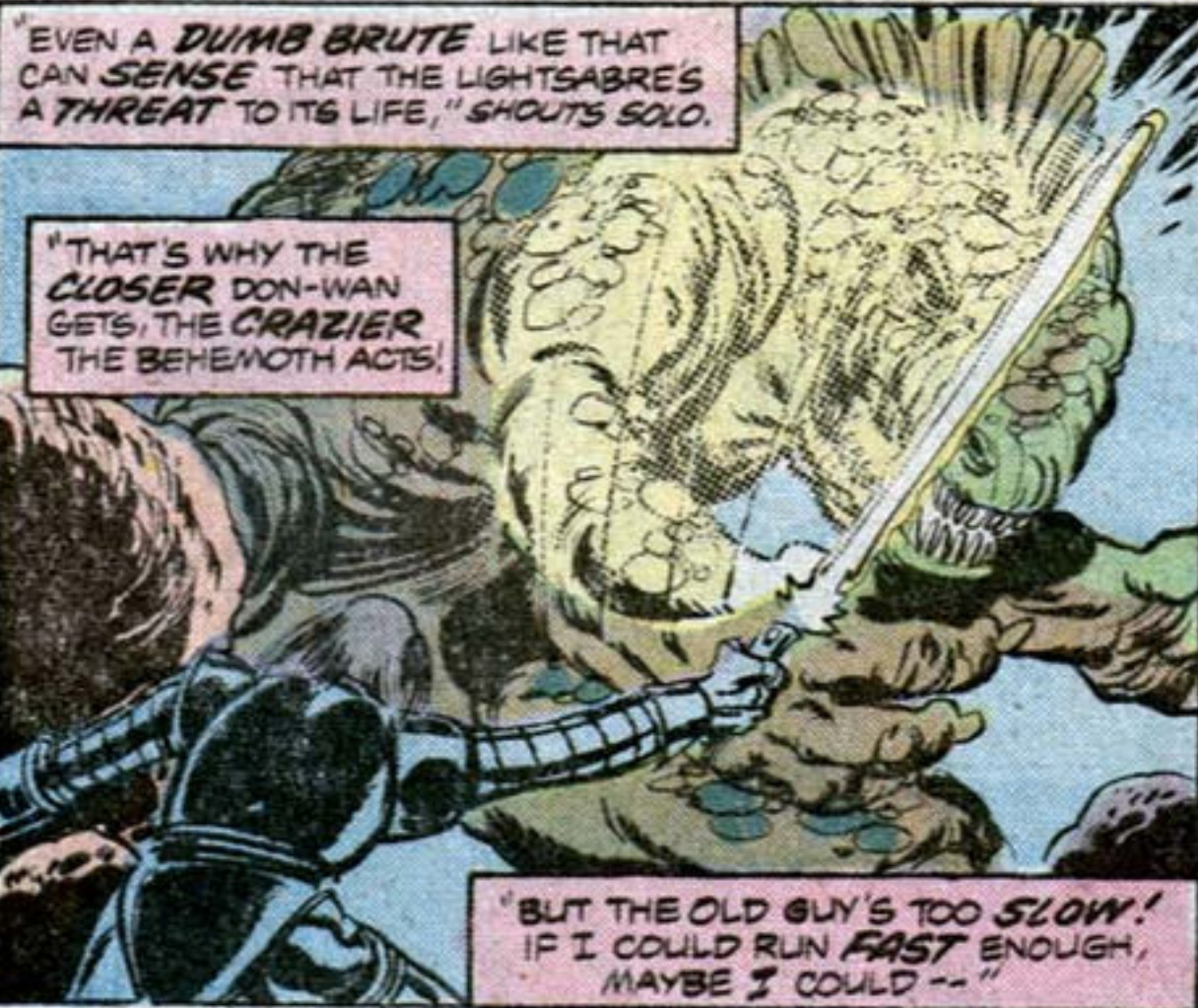
--AND MAYBE IT WARPED YOU INTO THINKING YOU WERE A JEDI--

--BUT YOU'RE NOT FAST ENOUGH TO KEEP AVOIDING THOSE BOLTS!

KEEP BACK! NO ONE... NEITHER MAN NOR SPINER... MUST INTERFERE WITH A JEDI KNIGHT'S TASK!

SLAYING THE BEAST IS MY MISSION! AND SLAY HIM I SHALL!!





"EVEN A DUMB BRUTE LIKE THAT CAN SENSE THAT THE LIGHTSABRES A THREAT TO ITS LIFE," SHOUTS SOLO.

"THAT'S WHY THE CLOSER DON-WAN GETS, THE CRAZIER THE BEHEMOTH ACTS!

"BUT THE OLD GUY'S TOO SLOW! IF I COULD RUN FAST ENOUGH, MAYBE I COULD --"



GRONK??

URK!!

EVEN I READ THAT ONE, CHEWBACCA! DO IT!!



WHICH THE TOWERING WOOKIEE DOES... WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED...

HEEEY, YOU STUFFED--

OH, I GET YOU!

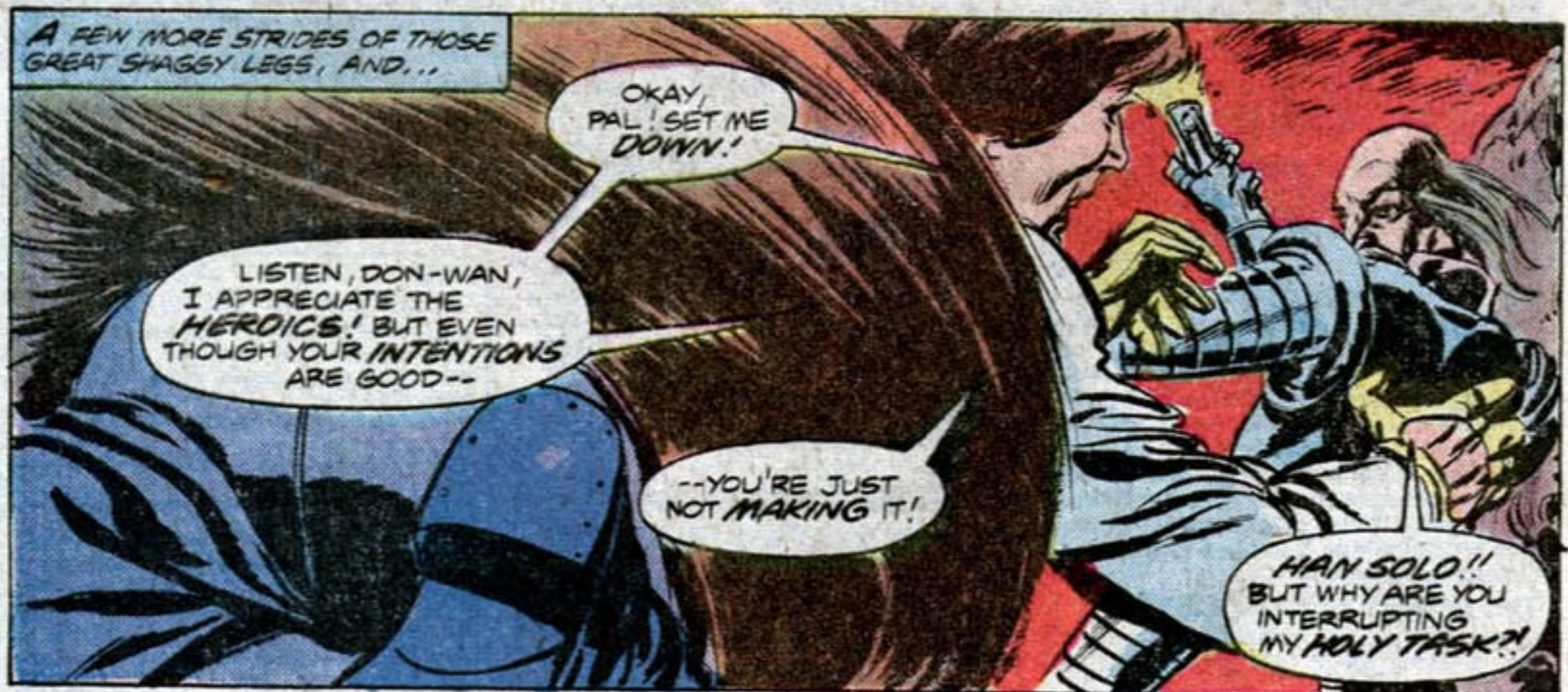
SURE! WITH THOSE STOVE-PIPE LEGS OF YOURS AND THE SPEED THAT COMES WITH 'EM--



GREEA

-ARRG!

--WE JUST MIGHT SAVE THE OLD MADMAN YET!!



A FEW MORE STRIDES OF THOSE GREAT SHAGGY LEGS, AND...

OKAY, PAL! SET ME DOWN!

LISTEN, DON-WAN, I APPRECIATE THE HEROICS! BUT EVEN THOUGH YOUR INTENTIONS ARE GOOD--

--YOU'RE JUST NOT MAKING IT!

HAN SOLO!! BUT WHY ARE YOU INTERRUPTING MY HOLY TASK?!

YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING I NEED, FRIEND--AND I JUST STOPPED BY TO BORROW IT!



N-NO! YOU COMMIT BLASPHEMY!

PERHAPS, AND THOUGH DON-WAN KIHOTAY TRIES IN VAIN TO TEAR THE LIGHTSABRE FROM SOLO'S GRASP--

--AGAIN, THE TASK IS BEYOND ONE OF HIS YEARS...

NEVER USED ONE OF THESE GADGETS BEFORE! AND I'M CERTAINLY NO JEDI KNIGHT!

BUT I'VE USED MOST OTHER HAND-WEAPONS--



--SO MAYBE THIS BABY WON'T GIVE ME TOO MUCH TROUBLE! MAYBE.

SEEMS I REMEMBER HEARING ONCE ABOUT A JEDI KILLING A MONSTER SOMETHING LIKE THIS WITH A LIGHTSABRE...

...SOMETHING ABOUT THE LIGHT-BLADE COUNTER-ACTING THE ENERGY--



--THAT POWERS THE MONSTER'S FAN BOLTS AND--

HOLY BEEHIVES! THAT WAS CLOSE!!

ALL RIGHT, UGLY! I'VE NO MORE TIME TO FOOL AROUND WITH YOU!

IT'S ABOUT TIME I FIND OUT IF THAT IDEA OF MINE IS RIGHT OR WRONG!

THEN, THRUSTING WITH A WEAPON HE HAS NEVER WIELDED BEFORE--



--HAN SOLO MAKES A SUDDEN DASH TOWARD THE CREATURE'S CHEST.

A MOMENT LATER, THE MONSTER GOES BERSERK--

--LASHING AND BLASTING AT EVERYTHING...

ROARING HIDEOUSLY...

TAKE COVER!!



DON'T KNOW IF I DID THE BEHEMOTH ANY DAMAGE!

BUT I SURE AS BLAZES GOT IT AHEAD!!



MARVEL® BULLPEN BULLETINS

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THIS IS IT!

The world-shaking announcement you've been waiting for!



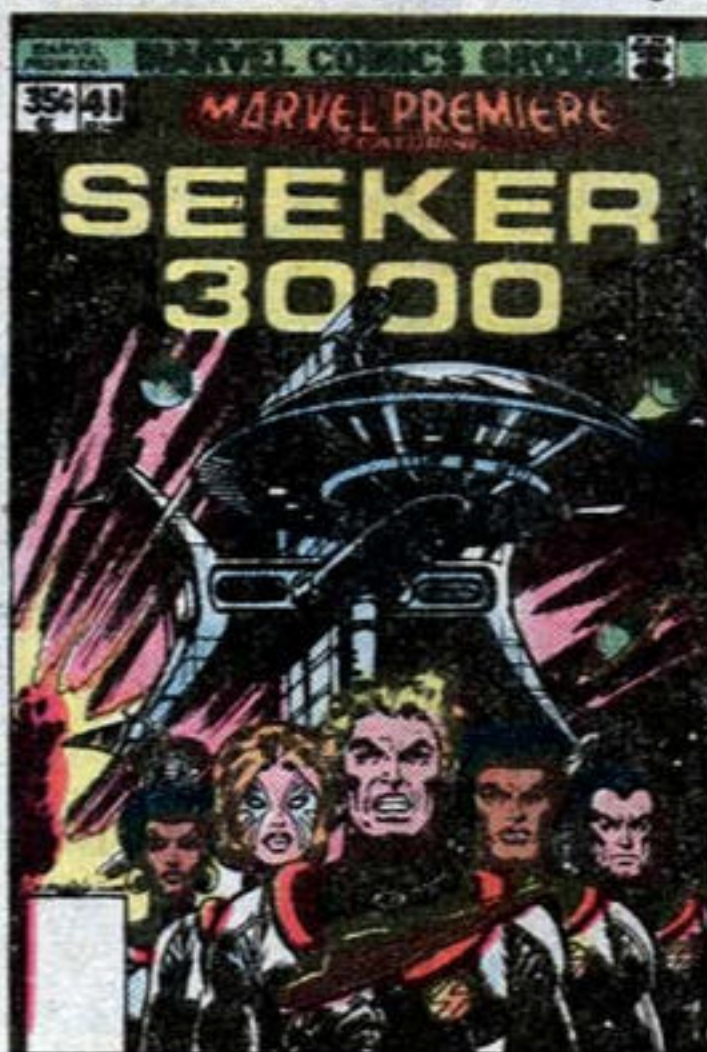
If you've ever wanted to draw your own comic strip, or even if you just wanted to learn the inside story of how it's done, here's where you get your wish! Even as you read these wondrous words with your senses reeling, "How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way" is going on sale throughout the nation! It's the only book of its kind which specializes exclusively in showing you how to draw superhero comics—and it shows you how to do it Marvel style! Designed and illustrated by Big John Buscema, it's a visual delight which will dazzle your eyes while it answers virtually any question you could ever dream up about drawing your own comic strip! As for the text, it's written by yours truly—but don't let that turn you off—you'll be so busy drooling over the illustrations that not even my little literary lunacy will bother you! And now here's the best part! You can get your happy little hands on "How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way" for only \$8.95 a copy! But please, don't embarrass us with your tearful expressions of undying gratitude! Just promise one thing—after you've read the book (published by good ol' Simon & Schuster, and on sale at better book stores everywhere), and after you've learned our secrets and become the artist you've always longed to be, promise you won't go to work for our competition! And now, as you prepare for the mad dash to your neighborhood book store, I'll head for the hills before you get the idea that I'm trying to sell you something! Or, as the noble Romans might have put it: In hoc signo vinces!

Excelsior!

ITEM! When you stroll down the hallowed halls here at mighty Marvel, there's a better than average chance you'll see something out of the ordinary. It could be a writer and artist throwing punches and kicks as they discuss how they're going to handle one of the quieter moments in the latest POWER-

MAN; it could be a shouting match between two stalwarts of the editorial department over whether Magneto is pronounced with a long or short "e"; or it could even be our exemplary editor-in-chief ARCHIE GOODWIN doing one of his famous pratfalls which have earned him applause and more than a few odd stares at various insignificant social gatherings. Let's face it, it takes quite a bit to surprise the average ambler down the corridors of Marvel. But there are some things that stop even our jaded armadillos in their tracks. . . like rounding a corner in the office and suddenly coming face-to-face with Howard the Duck! Or Spider-Woman. Or Captain America. In the flesh. It *actually* happens, although for a few moments you always wonder if you've been working too late or too long. *How* does this come about? Well, mostly through the hard work and effort of our publicist, Nifty NANCY ALLEN and her assistant, Ravishing RONI POLLOCK. They're the folks in charge of lining up actors and models to impersonate our cavorting characters at a multitude of varied functions, all the way from shopping center openings to state fairs. And just to make certain that their players are correctly costumed, Nancy or Roni usually rush them over to us comic book types for a final opinion on how they look. Hence, sometimes when we least expect it, we suddenly find ourselves eyeball-to-eyeball with a personality right off our printed pages! It's sort of neat. . . once you get over the shock. But find out for yourselves. Keep an eye and an ear on local advertising. There's no telling when your favorite Marvel superstar may be making a personal appearance; Nancy and Roni are working full-time to bring them your way!

ITEM! You know, one of our favorite TV shows was STAR TREK, and one of our biggest disappointments was that the rights



to do the show as a comicbook series have always been tied up. Still, we've had the itch to do a non-superhero oriented s-f strip, and even our sensational STAR WARS book hasn't totally satisfied it. In fact, judging from the cards and letters we're getting, STAR WARS' success has sparked a demand for *more*. So, we've set Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH and Titanic TOM SUTTON to work on a science-fiction special for MARVEL PREMIERE #41. It's called SEEKER 3000, and introduces a set of characters forced to depart a doomed earth and find new salvation for humankind in the stars. We think it's out of the ordinary comics fare, and we're more than just a bit excited about it. So set aside the necessary thirty-five cents; it's due your way this January. We're betting you'll find it money well spent!

ITEM! Most of this month's comings and goings seem to be in Vice President of Operations, Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY's department. Sol's got a new assistant, Bouncing BOB MARCZAK, to help keep our torrent of special merchandising projects (you know, all those books, records, cups, and other products that feature our characters) flowing smoothly. But the Jolly One spent a few misty-eyed moments what with his secretary, Lilting LINDA TAXEL, abandoning him for a special project of her own, namely the imminent arrival of her first child. Fortunately, Fetching FLORENCE TUMMINELLO has stepped neatly into the ranks to fill the vacancy. So, a big "welcome" to you, Florence, and to Bob, plus an equally big "we'll miss you and best wishes on the new addition to the family" to Linda!

ITEM! If a lot of large "ooooohs and aaaaahs" have been echoing out onto Madison Avenue from 575, it may just be because the boisterous Bullpen has started getting a look at some of the original art done by Big JOHN BUSCEMA for the up and coming CONAN THE BARBARIAN comic strip. We don't want to say *too* much about it here, because Rascally ROY THOMAS, who just happens to be the *writer* of the strip as well as editor, scribe, and guiding light of all our Conan material, has prepared a special article on the subject for issue #27 of SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, which also just happens to be going on sale about this time. The strip, which will run both daily and Sunday, should be appearing sometime in early Spring. Like SPIDER-MAN and HOWARD THE DUCK, it's being distributed by the nice folks of the Register and Tribune Syndicate. We don't have any way of knowing yet which newspapers will carry it, but it might not hurt to ask your local paper if they are considering it. If they're not, your inquiry might just sway them into doing so. Crom will thank you for it!

MAKE MINE MARVEL!

BUT SURPRISINGLY, THE BEHEMOTH SUDDENLY HALTS ITS HAPHAZARD ATTACK... ITS MASSIVE HULK NOW TWISTING IN CONVULSIONS...

THEN, THE LIGHT-SABRE FLASHING IN THE MONSTER'S HEAVING CHEST, THERE COMES A STRANGE CRACKLING FROM WITHIN THE CREATURE AND...

AARR-RA!!

THE FORCE IS WITH US, HAN SOLO! THE LIGHTSABRE IS DESTROYING THE BEHEMOTH! THE DEMON IS BEGINNING TO DISINTEGRATE!

YOU HEAR THE MAN, CHEWIE? LOOKS LIKE YOUR SMUGGLER PAL CAME THROUGH AFTER ALL!

FRONK!!

WHEN THE LAST FADING IMAGE OF THE BEHEMOTH IS SWEEPED AWAY BY THE WINDS OF ADUBA-3...



GUESS IT'S ALL OVER, HEROES!

NOT QUITE, LEADER-MAN! MY POCKETS ARE STILL EMPTY!

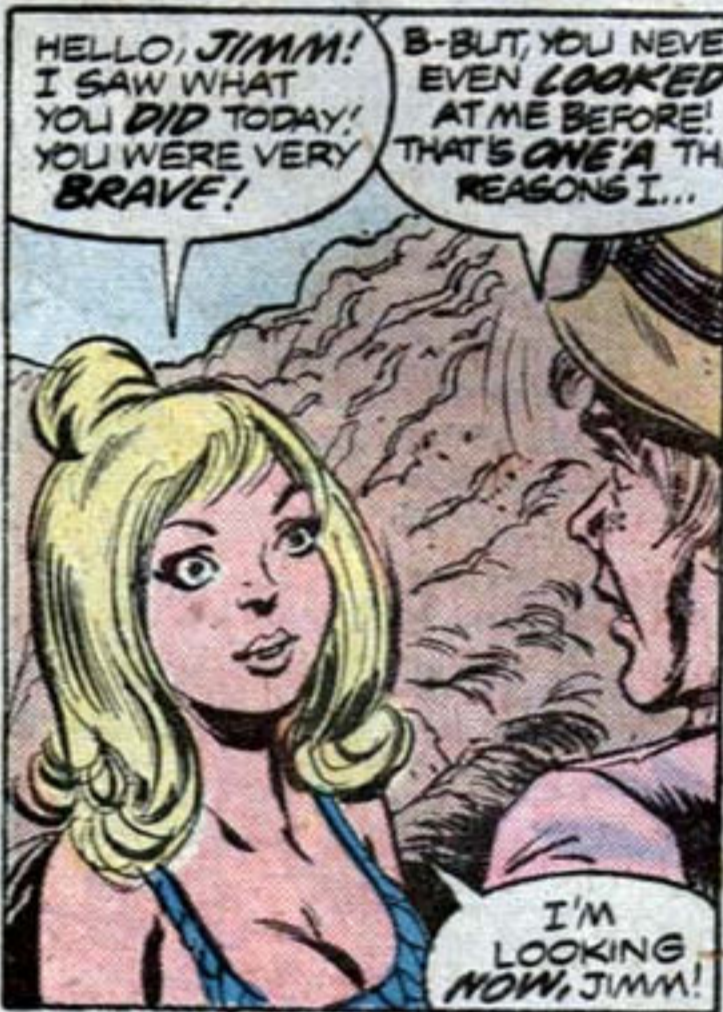
THEY WON'T BE, SOON AS THE PEASANTS PAY US!

SPEAKING OF WHICH... HERE THEY COME!

GREAT! THEN AFTER I GET MY SHARE, I CAN FINALLY GET OFF THIS CRUMMY PLANET--



--BEFORE I TOTALLY CRACK... UP?



HELLO, JIMM! I SAW WHAT YOU DID TODAY! YOU WERE VERY BRAVE!

B-BUT, YOU NEVER EVEN LOOKED AT ME BEFORE! THAT'S ONE'A THE REASONS I...

I'M LOOKING NOW, JIMM!



AND PERHAPS I CAN SOMEHOW CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT LEAVING OUR LITTLE VILLAGE!

BUT FIRST--

--THANK YOU, HAN SOLO...

HUH?!

...FOR SAVING OUR VILLAGE... AND ALSO BRINGING OUT THE MAN IN THE STAR-KILLER "KID"!



AFTER THE MEAGER PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE...

...AND FIVE WEARY HEROES RETURN TO THEIR BANTHA MOUNTS...

SO I DIDN'T GET THE GIRL! WHO CARES?! SHE WAS KIND OF YOUNG ANYWAY!

AT LEAST NOW I CAN AFFORD TO GET THE MILLENNIUM FALCON OUT OF HOCK!

AND IF ONLY FOR A MINUTE, I GOT A LITTLE FEELING OF WHAT IT'S LIKE--

--TO BE A JEDI KNIGHT!

SEE YOU AROUND, SOLO! DROP BY THE VILLAGE SOME-TIME! HEAR?

NEXT ISSUE: STAR WARS CONTINUES WITH THE SEARCH FOR LUKE SKYWALKER!