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THE GREATEST SPACE-FANTASY FILM OF ALL!

STAR WARS



AT LAST!

THE BATTLE WITH
DARTH VADER
TO THE DEATH!!



**NO,
LUKE!**

HERE I
STAND--
THOUGH
I MAY
DIE!



Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

STAR WARS

THE GREATEST
SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

ROY THOMAS *
SCRIPTER/EDITOR

HOWARD CHAYKIN & STEVE LEIALOHA *
ILLUSTRATORS IN TANDEM

TOM ORZECZOWSKI *
LETTERER

ARCHIE GOODWIN
CONSULTING EDITOR

BASED ON THE FILM BY GEORGE LUCAS * A 20th CENTURY FOX RELEASE

IN
BATTLE
WITH

DARTH VADER



NEVER MIND THE COMPLAINTS, CHEWIE-- JUST KEEP FIRING!

SOLO-- THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER!

GRUNK!

ZIK

ZRAP

ZIK

ZIK

TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW, KID!

NOW I KNOW WHY THEY CALL THIS PLACE DEATH STAR!

WE'RE KIND-OF IN A HURRY THIS ISSUE, SO PAY ATTENTION:

HAN SOLO'S SHIP, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON, HAS BEEN SNATCHED UP BY THE DEATH STAR, THE ALL-BUT-INVULNERABLE SPACE BATTLE-STATION OF THE GALACTIC EMPIRE.

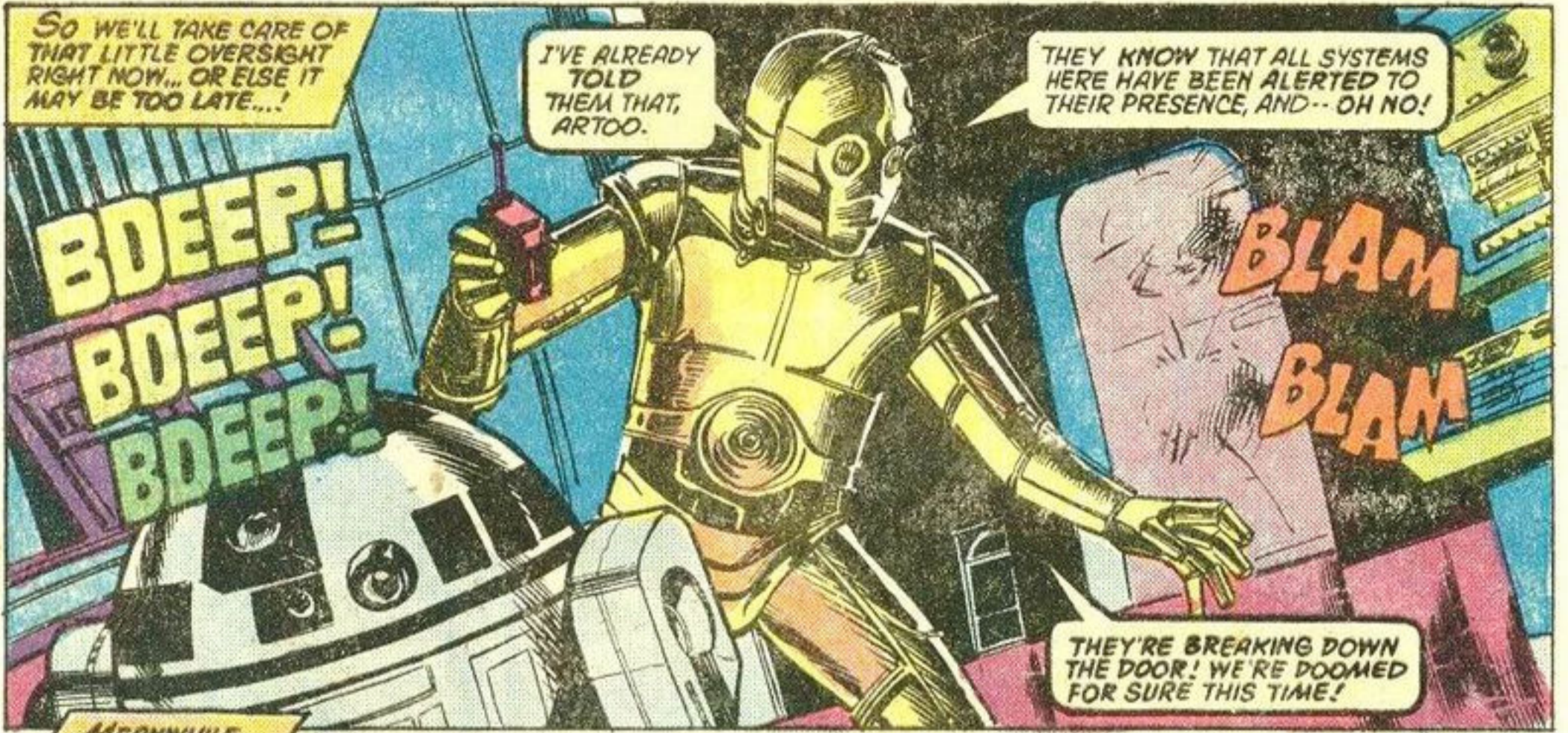
LUKE SKYWALKER HAS MANAGED TO FREE THE CAPTIVE PRINCESS LEIA-- BUT NOW, DARTH VADER'S STORM-TROOPERS HAVE CORNERED LUKE, LEIA, AND SOLO-- AS WELL AS SOLO'S RIGHT-HAND MAN, CHEWBACCA THE WOOKIEE.

MEANWHILE, BEN KENOBI IS SEEKING A WAY TO DEACTIVATE THE TRACTOR BEAM WHICH HOLDS THEIR SPACESHIP HELPLESS.

OF OUR ORIGINAL CAST, THAT LEAVES ONLY THE ROBOTS SEE THREPIO AND ARTOO DETOO UNACCOUNTED FOR--

ZIK

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SO WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT LITTLE OVERSIGHT RIGHT NOW... OR ELSE IT MAY BE TOO LATE...!

I'VE ALREADY TOLD THEM THAT, ARTOO.

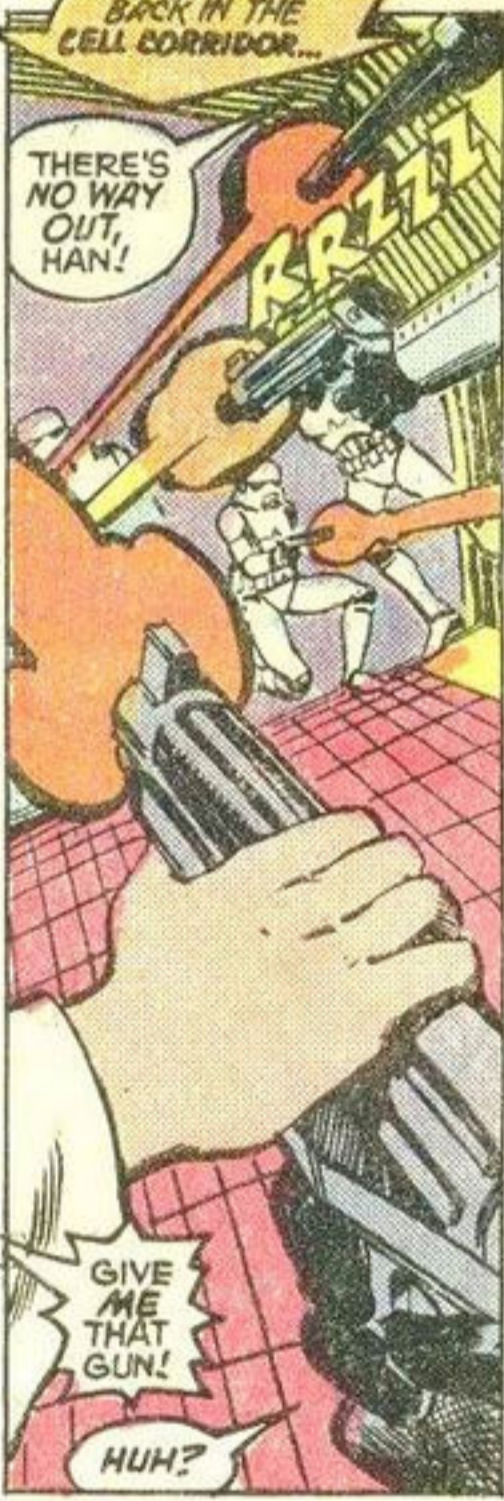
THEY KNOW THAT ALL SYSTEMS HERE HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO THEIR PRESENCE, AND-- OH NO!

**BDEEP!
BDEEP!
BDEEP!**

**BLAM
BLAM**

THEY'RE BREAKING DOWN THE DOOR! WE'RE DOOMED FOR SURE THIS TIME!

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE CELL CORRIDOR...



THERE'S NO WAY OUT, HAN!

RRZZZ

GIVE ME THAT GUN!

HUH?



THIS IS SOME RESCUE!

WHEN YOU CAME IN, DIDN'T YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR GETTING BACK OUT?

ZRAK

HE'S THE BRAINS, SWEET-HEART.

HEY! STOP WASTING AMMO SHOOTING HOLES IN THE WALL!



JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

I'VE DECIDED IT'S UP TO ME TO SAVE OUR SKINS.

GET INTO THAT CHUTE, FLYBOY!



GEORGE!

NO, CHEWIE-- DON'T RIP HER APART.

AND I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL.

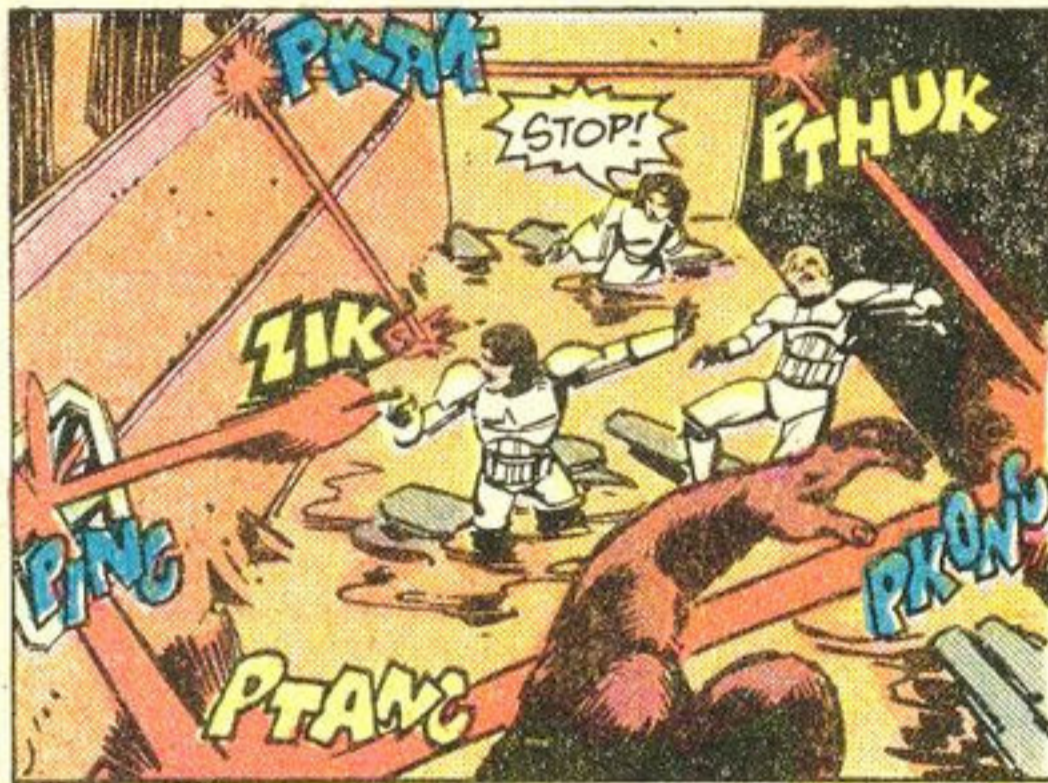
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT--

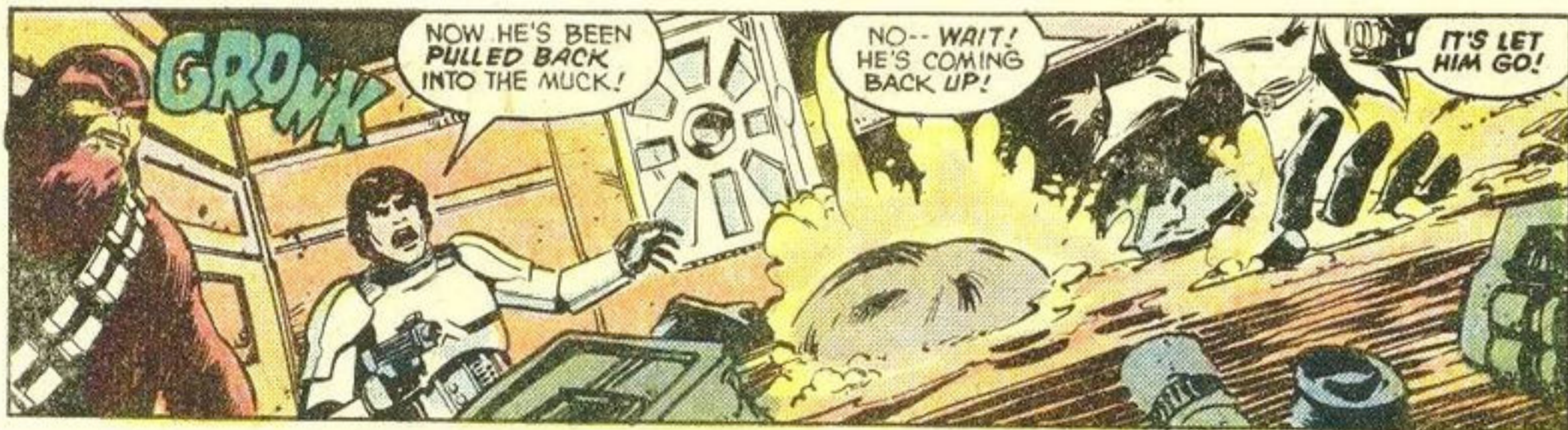


--NNNOWWWW!

HOLY--! IT WAS A GARBAGE CHUTE!

THIS WAS A WONDERFUL IDEA YOU HAD, PRINCESS!





GRONK

NOW HE'S BEEN PULLED BACK INTO THE MUCK!

NO-- WAIT! HE'S COMING BACK UP!

IT'S LET HIM GO!



YOU OKRY, KID?

WHAT HAPPENED TO IT?

SPUT

I-- DON'T KNOW! IT JUST-- DIS-APPEARED!

WH-WHATS THAT SOUND?

RRRRRR



THE WALLS! THEY'RE COMING CLOSER!

I'VE GOT A VERY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

MMME



DON'T JUST STAND THERE! TRY TO BRACE IT WITH SOMETHING!

KRUNK

NO, I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO WORK EITHER, CHEWIE--

BUT WE'VE GOT TO TRY!

BLLLL



PTAK

THEY'RE SNAPPING-LIKE TWIGS!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE HAD IT-- AND IN OUR STOLEN STORMTROOPER OUTFITS YET!

BLLLL



ARRAG

OUR ONLY HOPE ARE THE DROIDS!

SNAP!

ARTOO'S PLUGGED INTO THE DEATH STAR'S MONITORING SYSTEM! MAYBE HE CAN--

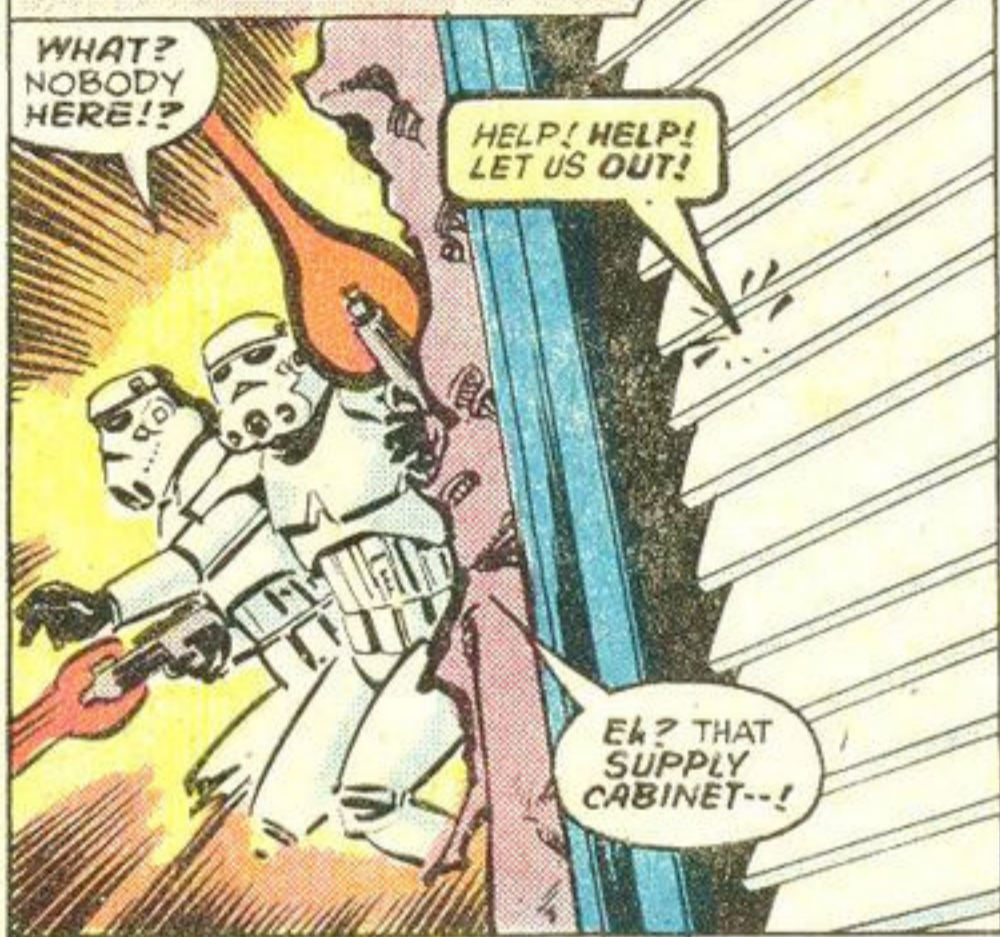
THREEPIO! COME IN, THREEPIO--!

BUT, EVEN AS LUKE'S MUTED VOICE IS HEARD, COMING OVER THE ROBOT'S HAND COMLINK IN THE COMMAND OFFICE--



--COME IN, THREEPIO!

--THE IMPERIAL STORMTROOPERS SUCCEED IN BREAKING THROUGH THE DOOR!



WHAT? NOBODY HERE!?

HELP! HELP! LET US OUT!

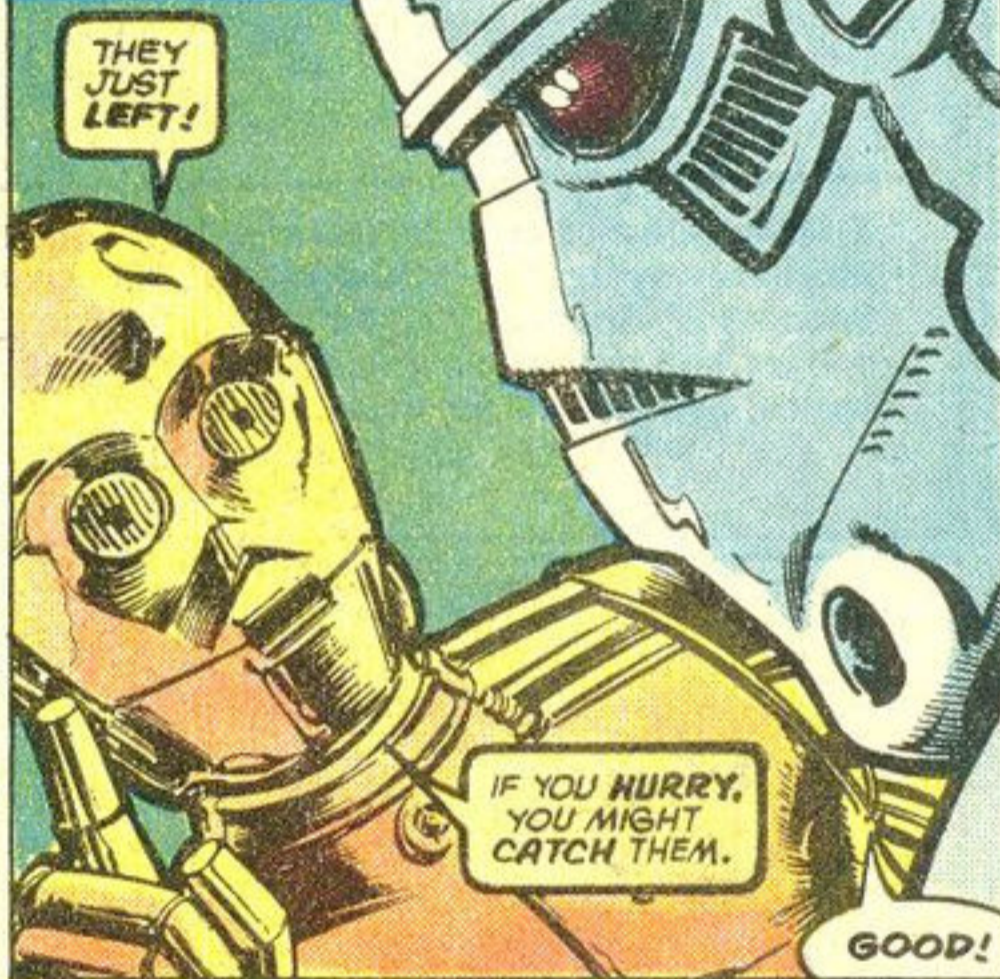
EH? THAT SUPPLY CABINET--!

BLAST! IT'S JUST A PAIR OF DROIDS!



WHO LOCKED YOU IN THERE?

THEY'RE MAD-MEN, SIR--THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE PRISON LEVEL.



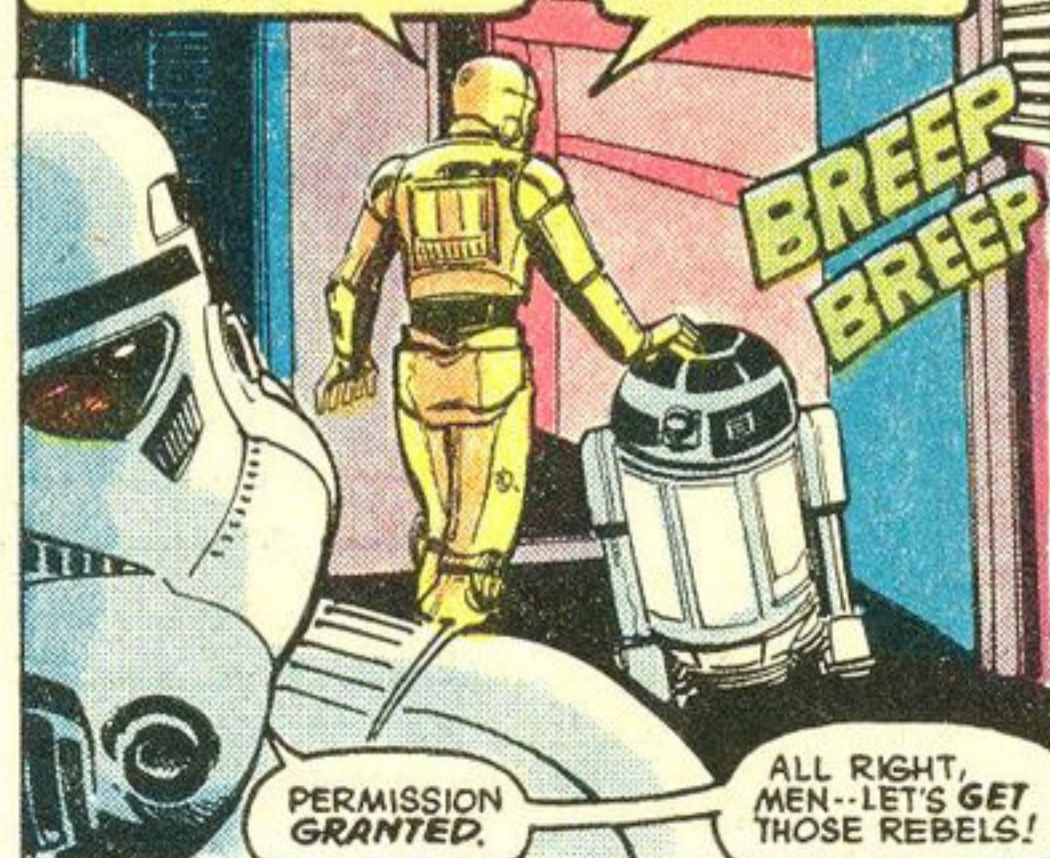
THEY JUST LEFT!

IF YOU HURRY, YOU MIGHT CATCH THEM.

GOOD!

ALL THIS EXCITEMENT HAS OVERRUN THE CIRCUITS ON MY R2-D2 COUNTERPART HERE.

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO TAKE HIM DOWN TO MAINTENANCE.



BREEP BREEP

PERMISSION GRANTED.

ALL RIGHT, MEN--LET'S GET THOSE REBELS!

BUT, DOWN BELOW, THE RELENTLESS WALLS CLOSING IN ON LUKE SKYWALKER AND COMPANY MAY NEED NO HELP...



GRRK!

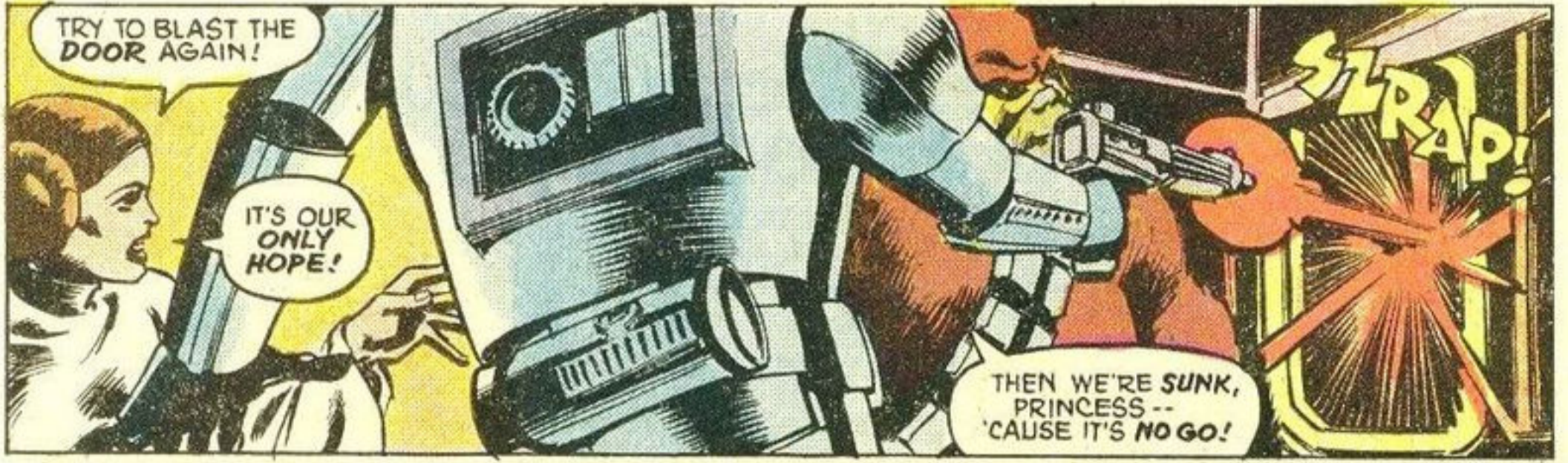
ONE SURE THING! WE'RE ALL... GOING TO BE... MUCH THINNER! Unh!

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THREEPIO?

WHY ISN'T HE SENDING US ESCAPE INSTRUCTIONS?

RUMBL

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



TRY TO BLAST THE DOOR AGAIN!

IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE!

THEN WE'RE SUNK, PRINCESS -- 'CAUSE IT'S NO GO!



MEANWHILE, IN THE MAIN FORWARD BAY OF THE DEATH STAR...

THAT'S IT, ARTOO! PLUG YOURSELF INTO THAT WALL SOCKET SO I CAN TALK WITH OUR MASTER AGAIN, AND --

BEEP BEEP BEEP

Oh NO! IS THAT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM? THAT'S TERRIBLE!



THREEPIO! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE WHERE ARE YOU??

ARE YOU THERE, SIR? WE'VE HAD SOME PROBLEMS...

THREEPIO, SHUT UP-- AND SHUT DOWN ALL THE GARBAGE MASHERS ON THE DETONATION LEVEL! DO YOU COPY?



Oh, MOST CERTAINLY, SIR! SHUT THEM ALL DOWN, ARTOO!

BDEEK

I ONLY HOPE WE'RE IN TIME!



ARTOO! THREEPIO! WE'RE ALL RIGHT!

DO YOU READ ME? YOU DID FINE!



NOW TO SCRAPE THE MUCK OFF THIS HATCH NUMBER, AND SEE JUST WHICH--

36611789

THREEPIO! HAVE ARTOO OPEN THE PRESSURE MAINTENANCE HATCH ON UNIT 36611789!

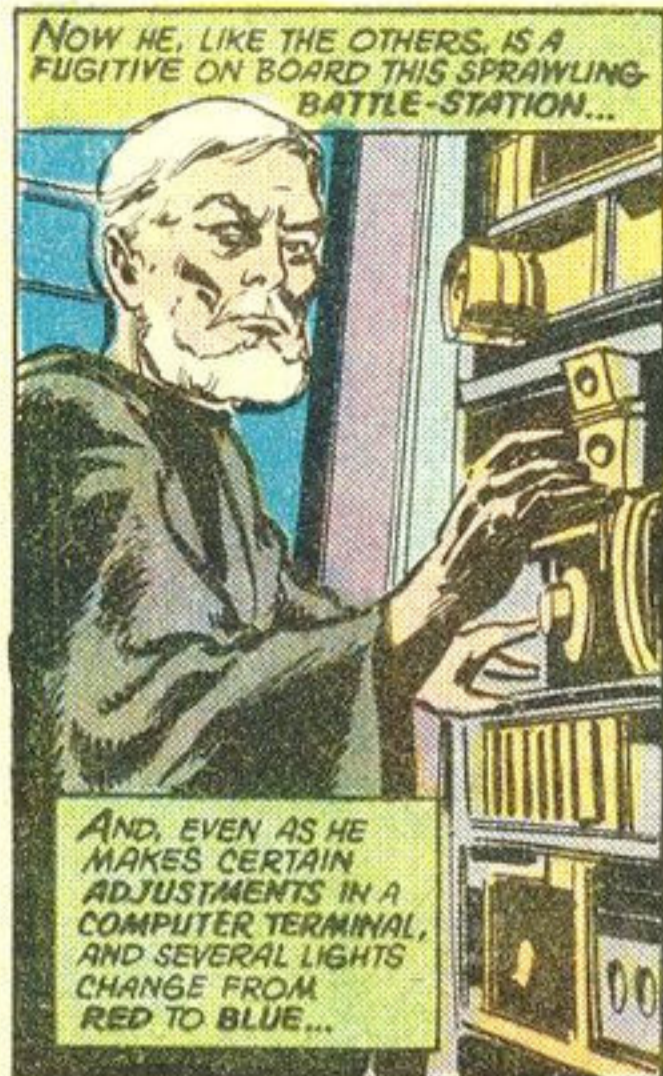
YES, MASTER. SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, SIR.



WHILE, NEARBY, BEN KENOBI HIDES AMID THE EQUIPMENT THAT POWERS THE GREAT TRACTOR BEAM...

... WHICH IN TURN HOLDS HAN SOLO'S SHIP IN THRALL!

BEN KENOBI: ONCE HE WAS OBI-WAN, OF THE FAMED JEDI KNIGHTS...



NOW HE, LIKE THE OTHERS, IS A FUGITIVE ON BOARD THIS SPRAWLING BATTLE-STATION...

AND, EVEN AS HE MAKES CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS IN A COMPUTER TERMINAL, AND SEVERAL LIGHTS CHANGE FROM RED TO BLUE...



... THE NET DRAWS TIGHTER!

SECURE THIS ENTRY AREA UNTIL THE ALERT IS CANCELLED!



AS FOR THE FOURSOME OF LUKE SKYWALKER, PRINCESS LEIA, HAN SOLO, AND A WOOKIEE NAMED CHEWBACCA... THEY STUMBLE FORTH FROM THE GARBAGE HATCH INTO AN UNUSED, DUSTY HALLWAY...

DOESN'T THAT THING EVER GIVE UP?

WAIT! SOMEBODY MIGHT HEAR--!

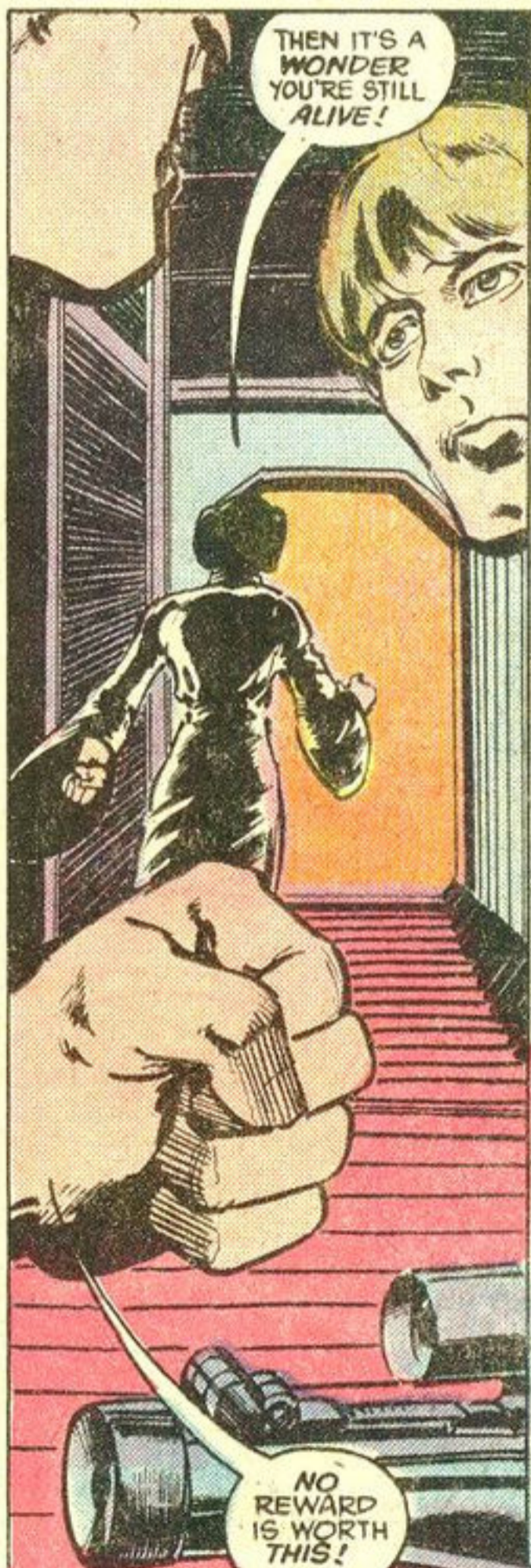
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU CAME FROM, BUT FROM NOW ON YOU'LL DO AS I TELL YOU!



AND YOU TELL THAT BIG HAIRY WALKING CARPET OF YOURS TO GET OUT OF MY WAY!

LISTEN, YOUR HOLINESS... LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT:

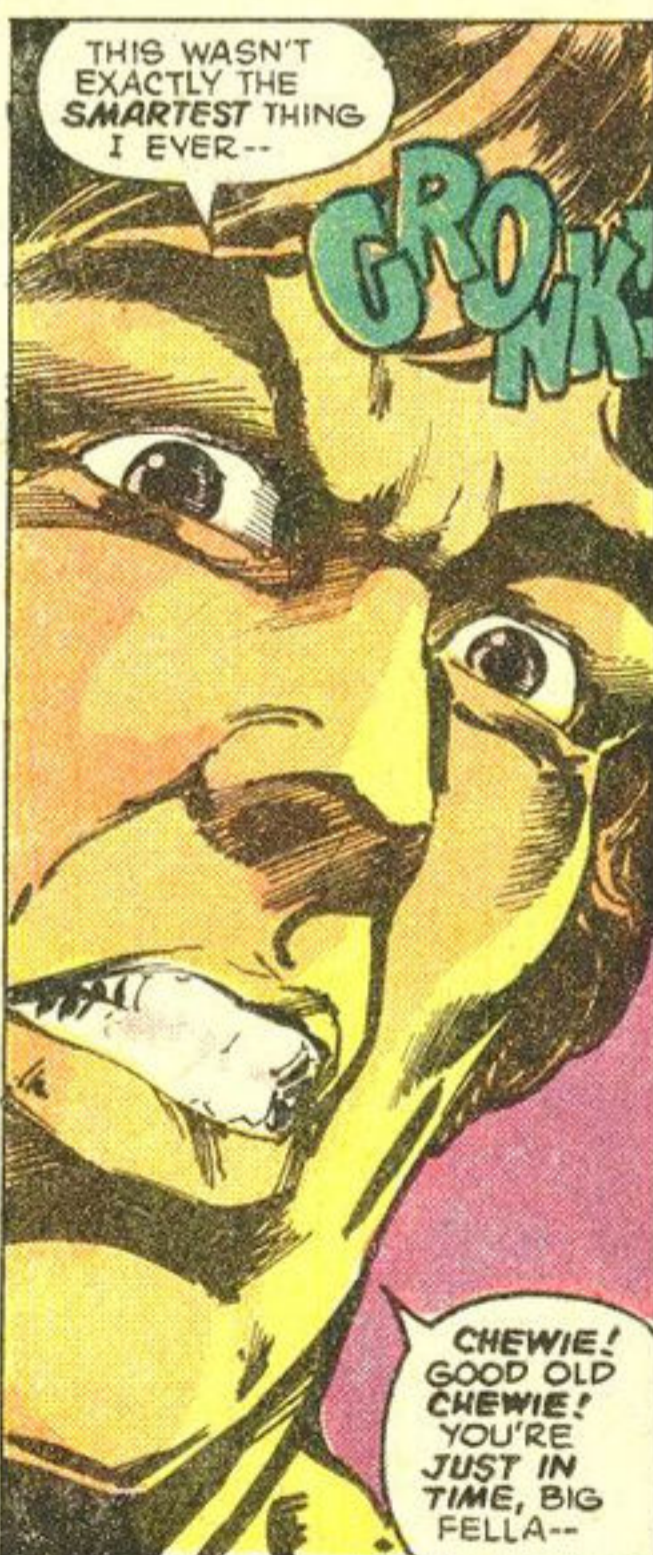
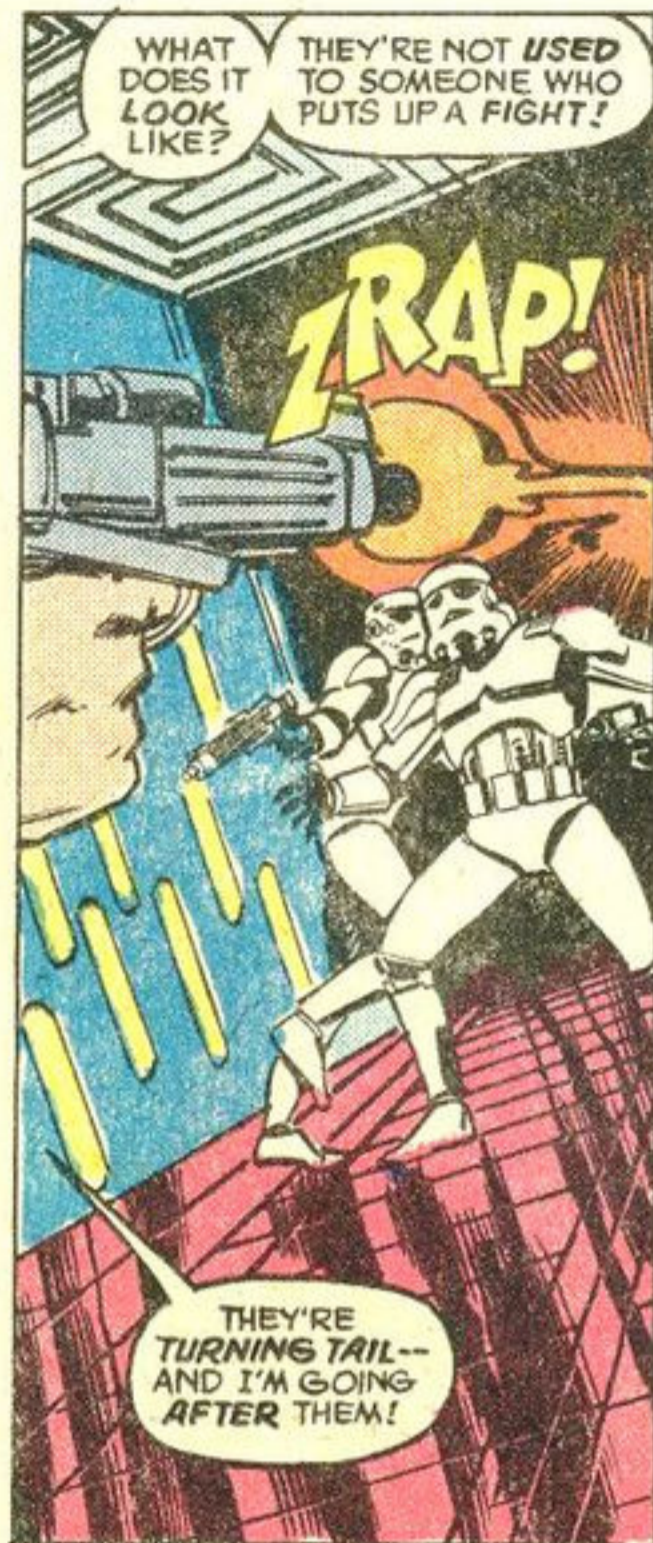
I TAKE ORDERS FROM ONE PERSON-- ME!



THEN IT'S A WONDER YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!

NO REWARD IS WORTH THIS!







MEANWHILE, CHASED BY STILL OTHER IMPERIAL TROOPERS, LUKE AND LEIA RUSH DOWN A NARROW SUB-HALLWAY...

LOOK, PRINCESS! WE'RE REACHING THE END-- AND THERE'S AN OPEN HATCHWAY!

WHEN WE GET THRU IT, WE SHOULD BE HOME FREE--



-- UNLESS WE MADE A WRONG TURN!

Ohh--!

THE DEEP SHAFT JUST BEYOND THE NARROW BRIDGE SEEMS TO GO DOWN, DOWN ALMOST TO INFINITY...!

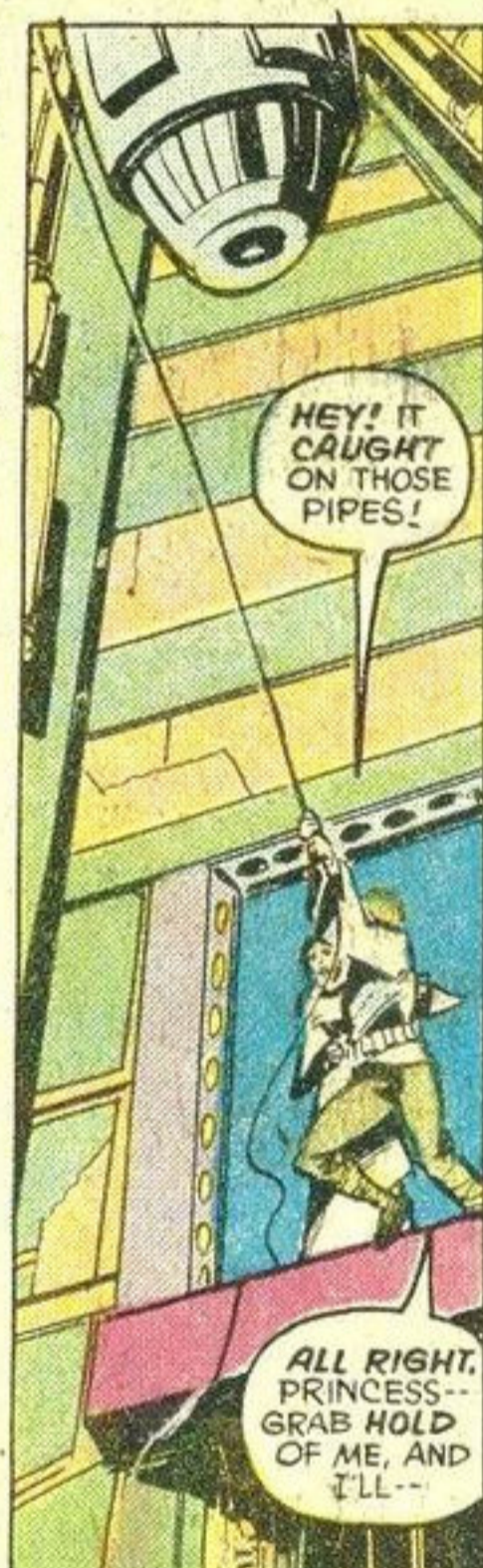


I'VE SHUT THE SHIELDED DOOR-- BUT IT WON'T HOLD THEM LONG!

WE'VE GOT TO GET ACROSS THIS THING, TO THE OTHER SIDE...



... AND IT LOOKS LIKE THIS CABLE IS OUR ONLY CHANCE!



HEY! IT CAUGHT ON THOSE PIPES!

ALL RIGHT, PRINCESS-- GRAB HOLD OF ME, AND I'LL--



WHA--?

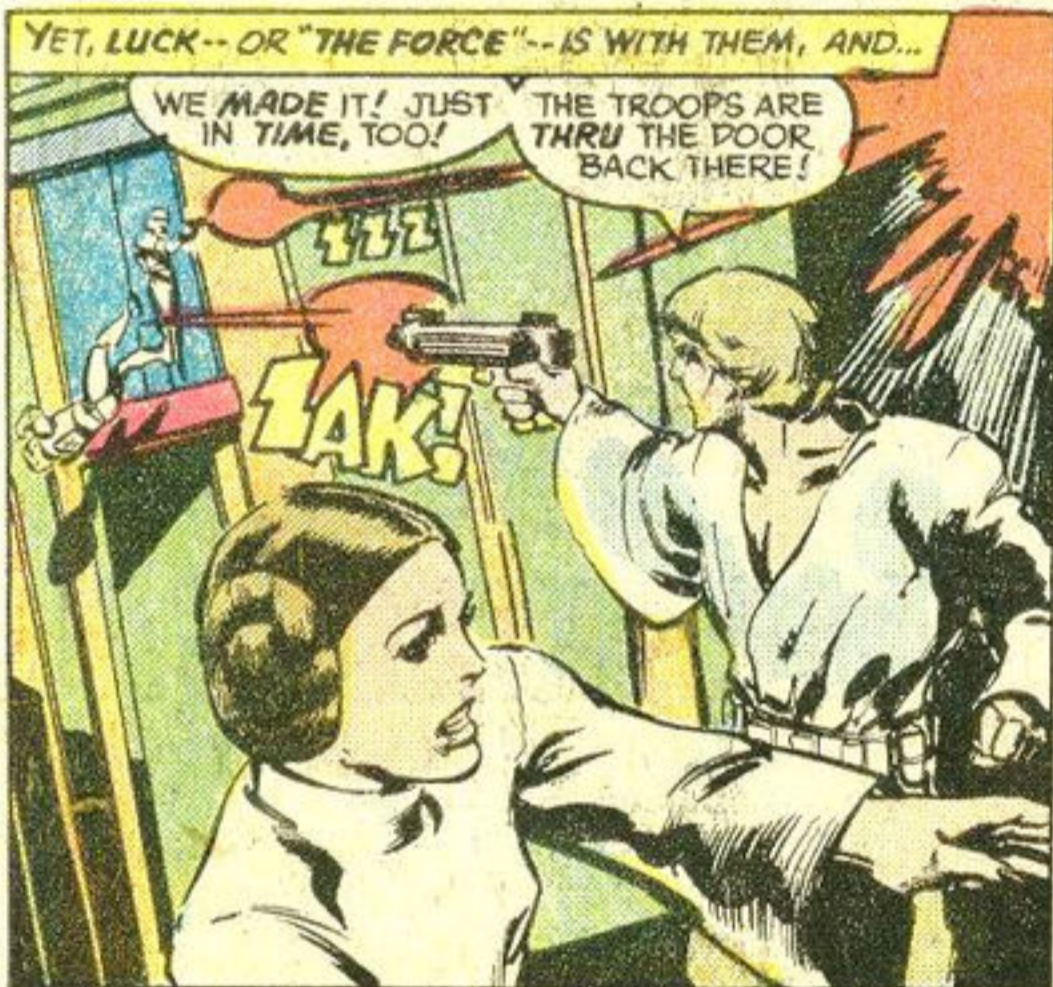
JUST FOR LUCK!

WE'RE GOING TO NEED IT!



YOU'RE TELLING ME!?

EVEN AS THEY SWING ACROSS, LUKE KNOWS THAT EVEN A SLIGHT MISCALCULATION IN ARC, AND THEY WILL MISS THE OPPOSITE OPEN HATCH-- SLAMMING INTO THE METAL AROUND IT!



YET, LUCK-- OR "THE FORCE"-- IS WITH THEM, AND...

WE MADE IT! JUST IN TIME, TOO!

THE TROOPS ARE THRU THE DOOR BACK THERE!

ZAK!



WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE OTHERS!

LET'S GET MOVING, PRINCESS!

FRAZZK!



BEN KENOBI SEEMS NEARLY A PART OF THE PASSAGEWAY ITSELF, AS A LARGE CLUSTER OF TROOPERS HURRIES PAST HIM...

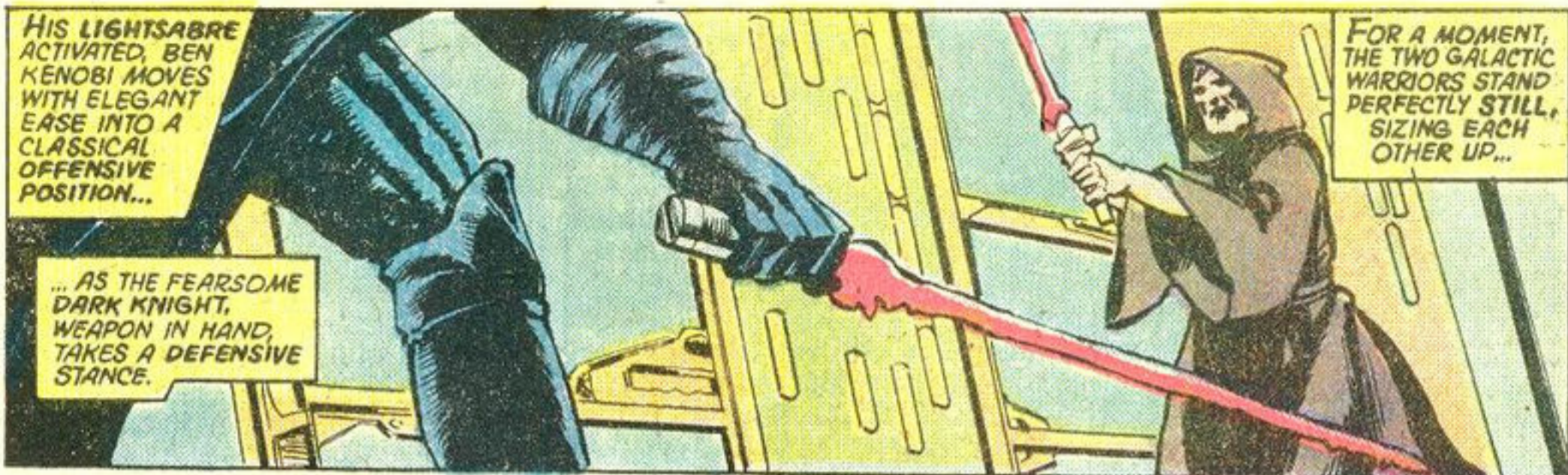


THEN, PAUSING TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY'VE ALL PASSED, HE STARTS DOWN IT HIMSELF...



...FAILING TO SEE THE DARK SILHOUETTE WHICH ECLIPSES THE LIGHT FAR BEHIND HIM.





HIS LIGHTSABRE ACTIVATED, BEN KENOBI MOVES WITH ELEGANT EASE INTO A CLASSICAL OFFENSIVE POSITION...

FOR A MOMENT, THE TWO GALACTIC WARRIORS STAND PERFECTLY STILL, SIZING EACH OTHER UP...

... AS THE FEARSOME DARK KNIGHT, WEAPON IN HAND, TAKES A DEFENSIVE STANCE.



THEN--

YOUR POWERS ARE WEAK, OLD MAN!

YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME BACK!

SZRAK

YOU... ONLY KNOW... HALF "THE FORCE"... VADER...!



YOU PERCEIVE ITS FULL POWER... AS LITTLE AS A SPOON... PERCEIVES THE TASTE OF FOOD!

FZIT

YET, EVEN AS THEY FIGHT, BEN SEEMS TO BE UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE AND STRAIN-- AS IF AN INVISIBLE WEIGHT WERE BEING PLACED UPON HIM...



HE MAKES A SUDDEN LUNGE AT HIS FOE--

ZAP

--BUT IS CHECKED BY A LIGHTNING MOVEMENT OF THE TOWERING ARMORED GIANT!



THEN, HIS SWORD LOCKED WITH VADER'S, BEN BEGINS BACKING INTO THE MASSIVE STARSHIP HANGAR.

THEIR LIGHT-SABERS LOCKED IN MID-AIR, THE TWO POWERFUL WARRIORS STAND MOTIONLESS...

...LIKE TITANS OUT OF SOME LOST TIME!



AND, EVEN AS THE FORMER JEDI KNIGHT AND LORD OF THE SITH JOIN TOGETHER IN THIS GRIM TABLEAU--

IT'S GOOD WE'RE ALL TOGETHER AGAIN... BUT, THERE ARE SO MANY STORMTROOPERS MILLING ABOUT THE ENTRY RAMP OF MR. SOLO'S STARSHIP...!

LUKE! PRINCESS! WHAT KEPT YOU?

WE RAN INTO SOME OLD FRIENDS.



IS THE MILLENNIUM FALCON ALL RIGHT?

IT'LL GET US OUT OF HERE OKAY-- IF WE CAN GET NEAR IT, BUT I--

OH-- WAIT--



LOOK!

THEN, BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF HUMANS, DROIDS, AND WOOKIEE--



-- BEN AND VADER EMERGE FROM THE HALLWAYS ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE DOCKING BAY--

--STILL LOCKED IN THEIR DEADLY LIGHTSABRE DUEL!

PREPARE TO MEET "THE FORCE," OBI-WAN.

THIS IS A FIGHT YOU CANNOT WIN, DARTH--FOR, I HAVE GROWN MUCH SINCE OUR PARTING...



IF MY BLADE FINDS ITS MARK, YOU WILL CEASE TO EXIST.

BUT, IF YOU CLIT ME DOWN-- I WILL ONLY BECOME MORE POWERFUL...!

AS HE SPEAKS, BEN KENOBI SEES TROOPERS CHARGING TOWARD HIM... AND REALIZES HE IS TRAPPED!

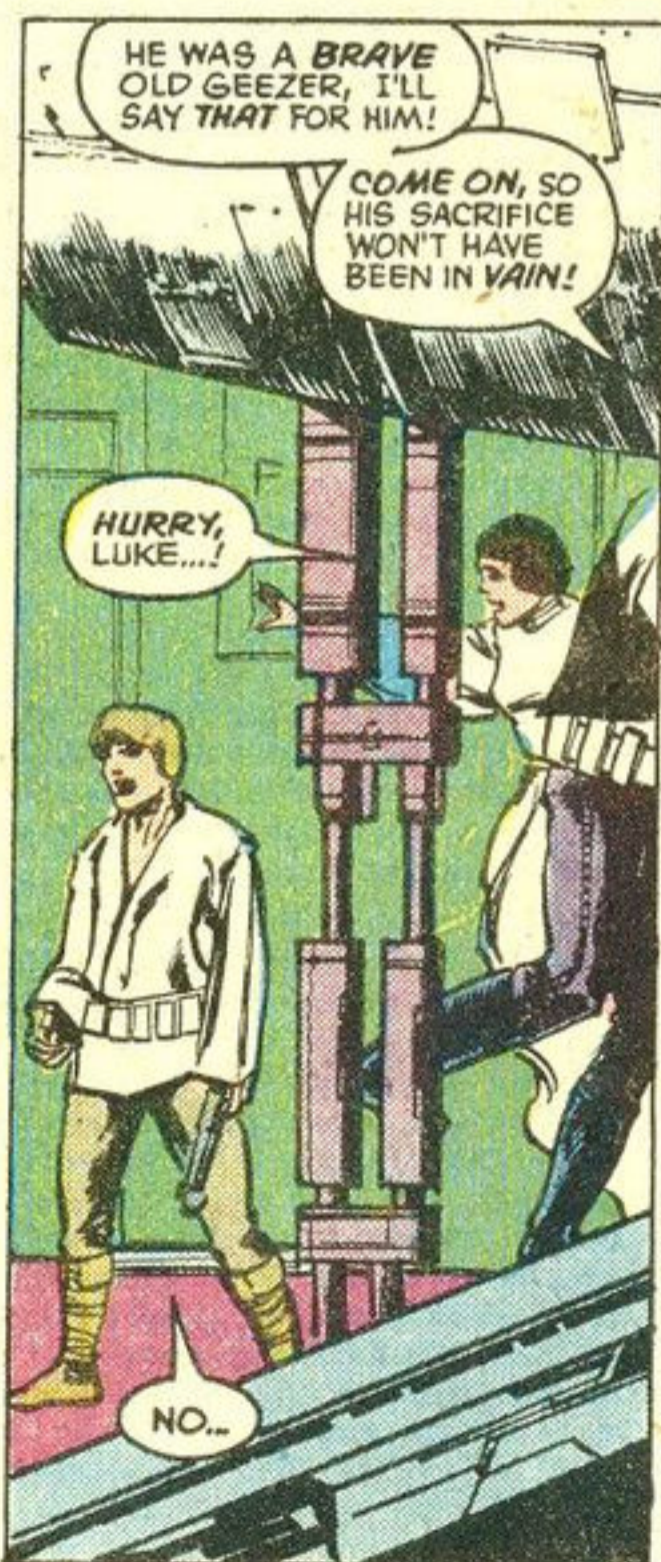
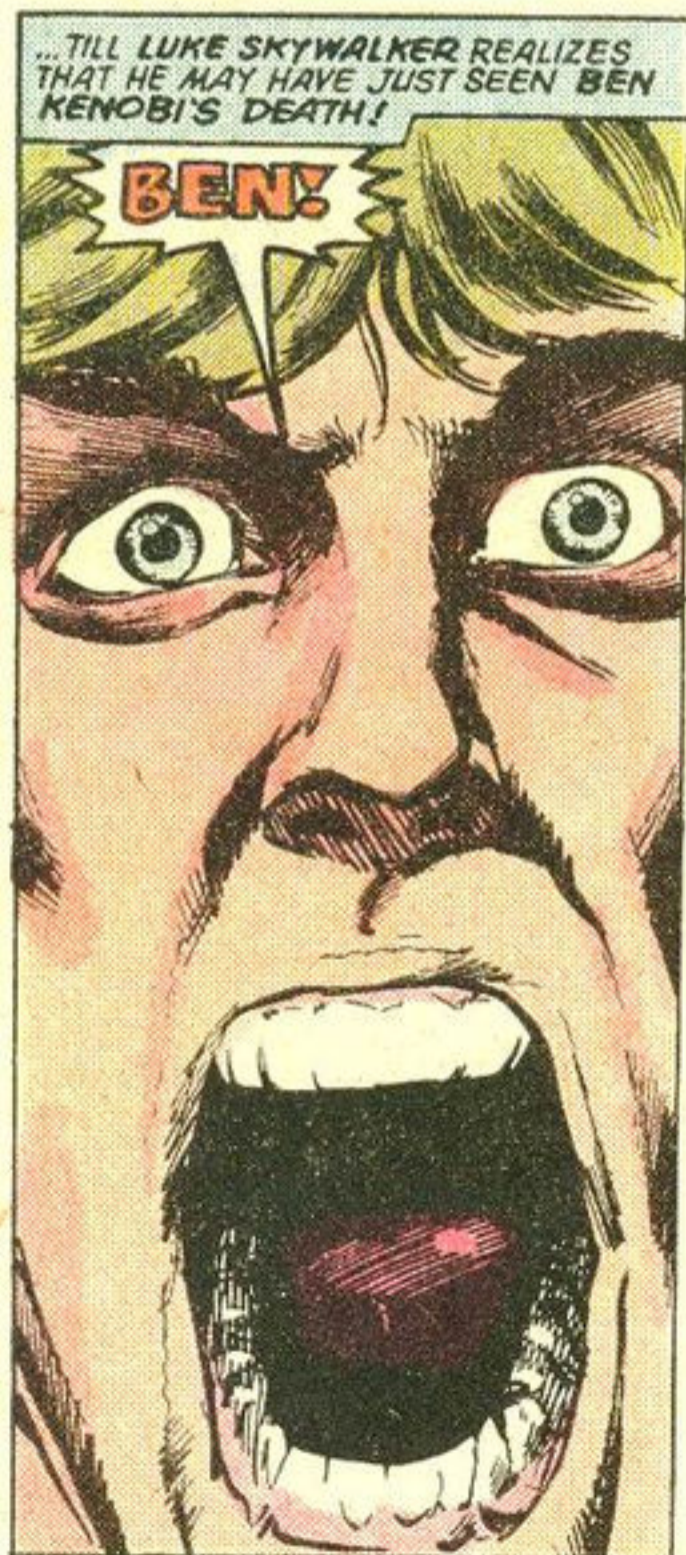
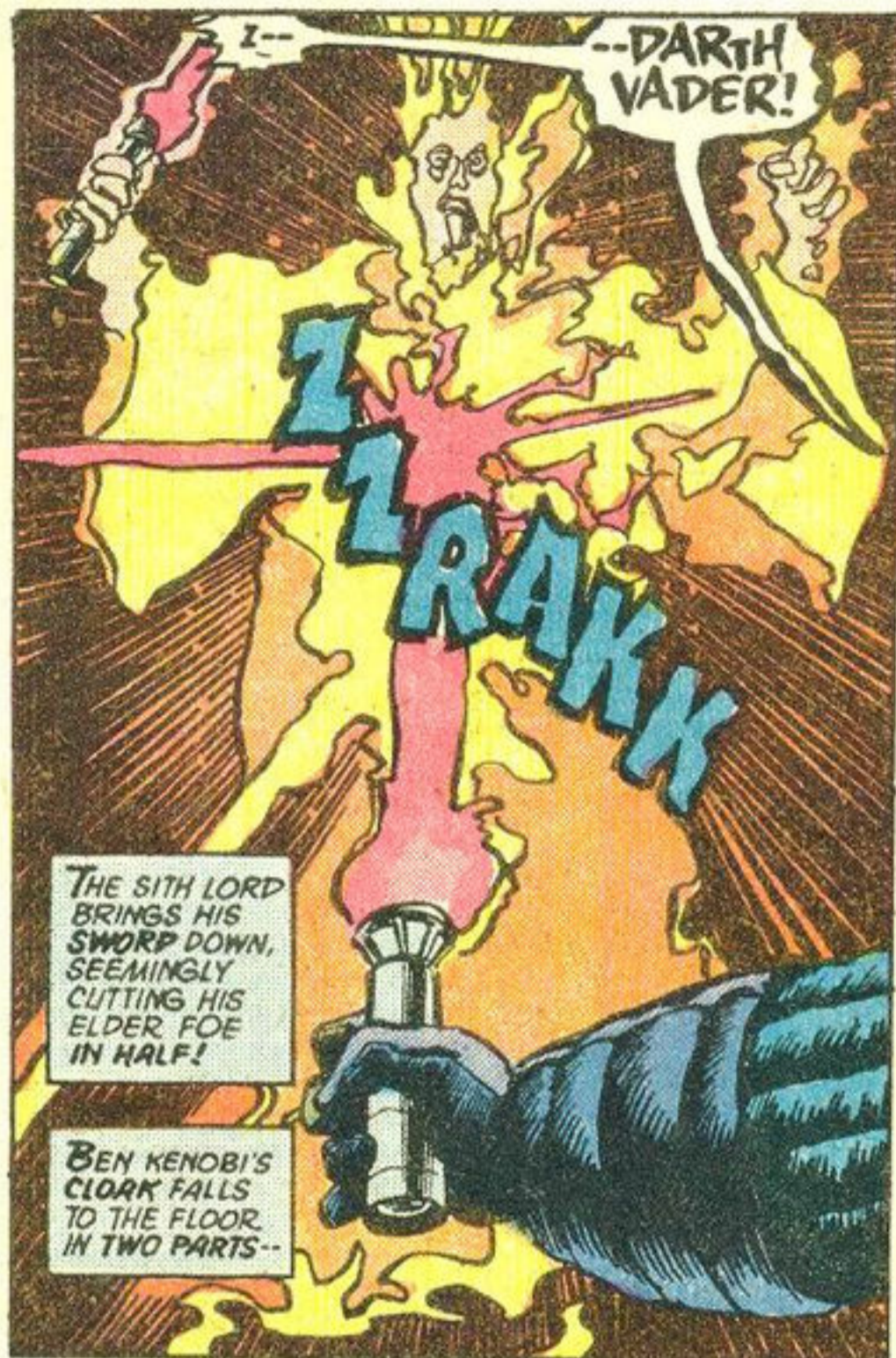


STILL, HIS TONE IS DEFIANT...

HEED MY WORDS!

NOT THIS TIME!

I AM THE MASTER NOW!



LIKE VENGEFUL WHITE ROBOTS--THE MEN WITHIN SUBMERGED IN THE CAUSE OF GALACTIC POWER-- THE STORMTROOPERS SURGE FORWARD--



-- AND, THOUGH LUKE SKYWALKER FIRES WITH A SURE AIM HE WOULD SCARCELY HAVE THOUGHT POSSIBLE A FEW DAYS BEFORE, THERE ARE MORE OF THEM THAN HE CAN HOPE TO SLAY--!

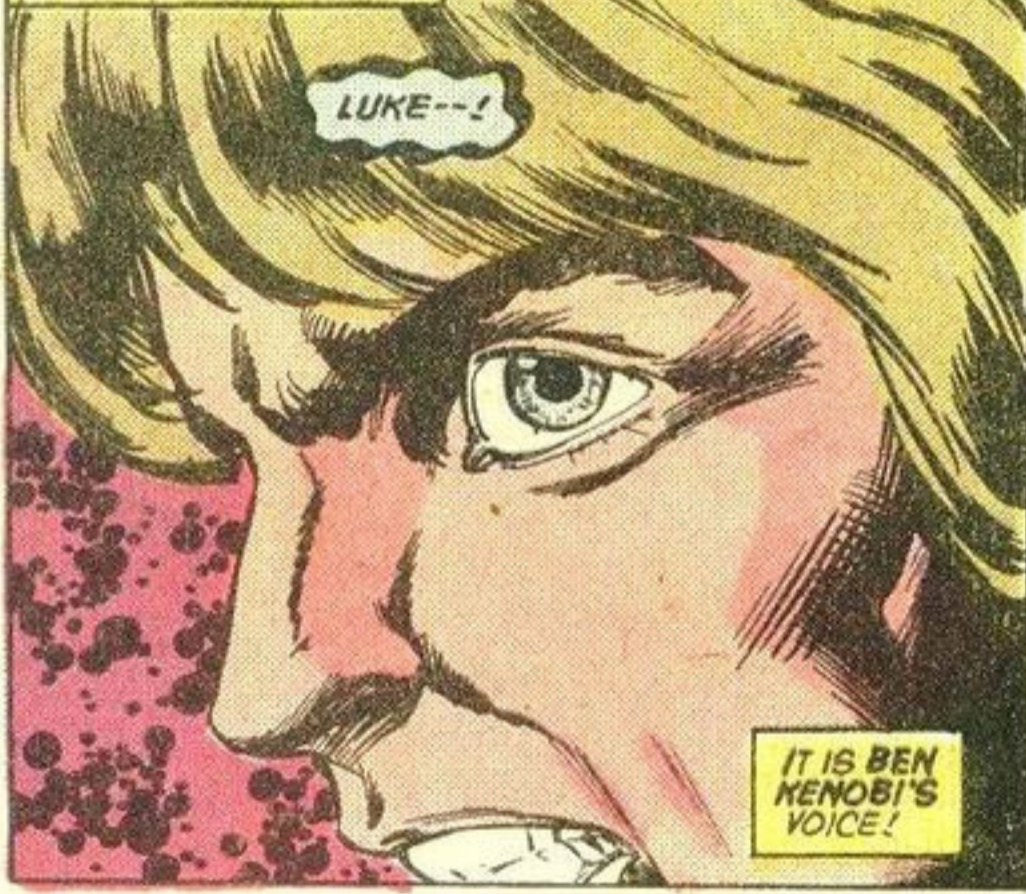
IT'S TOO LATE, LUKE! COME ABOARD!

WE'VE GOT TO GO, BEFORE THEY--

NO!

BARK

THEN, SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR YET DIFFERENT VOICE RINGS INTO HIS EARS:



LUKE--!

IT IS BEN KENOBI'S VOICE!

STUNNED, LUKE WHIRLS TOWARD THE SOURCE OF THE VOICE-- BUT SEES ONLY PRINCESS LEIA--!



COME ON!

DID HE IMAGINE THE OLD MAN'S EERILY ALTERED VOICE, OR..?

THERE IS NO WAY TO KNOW... FOR THE MOMENT.



FRANK!

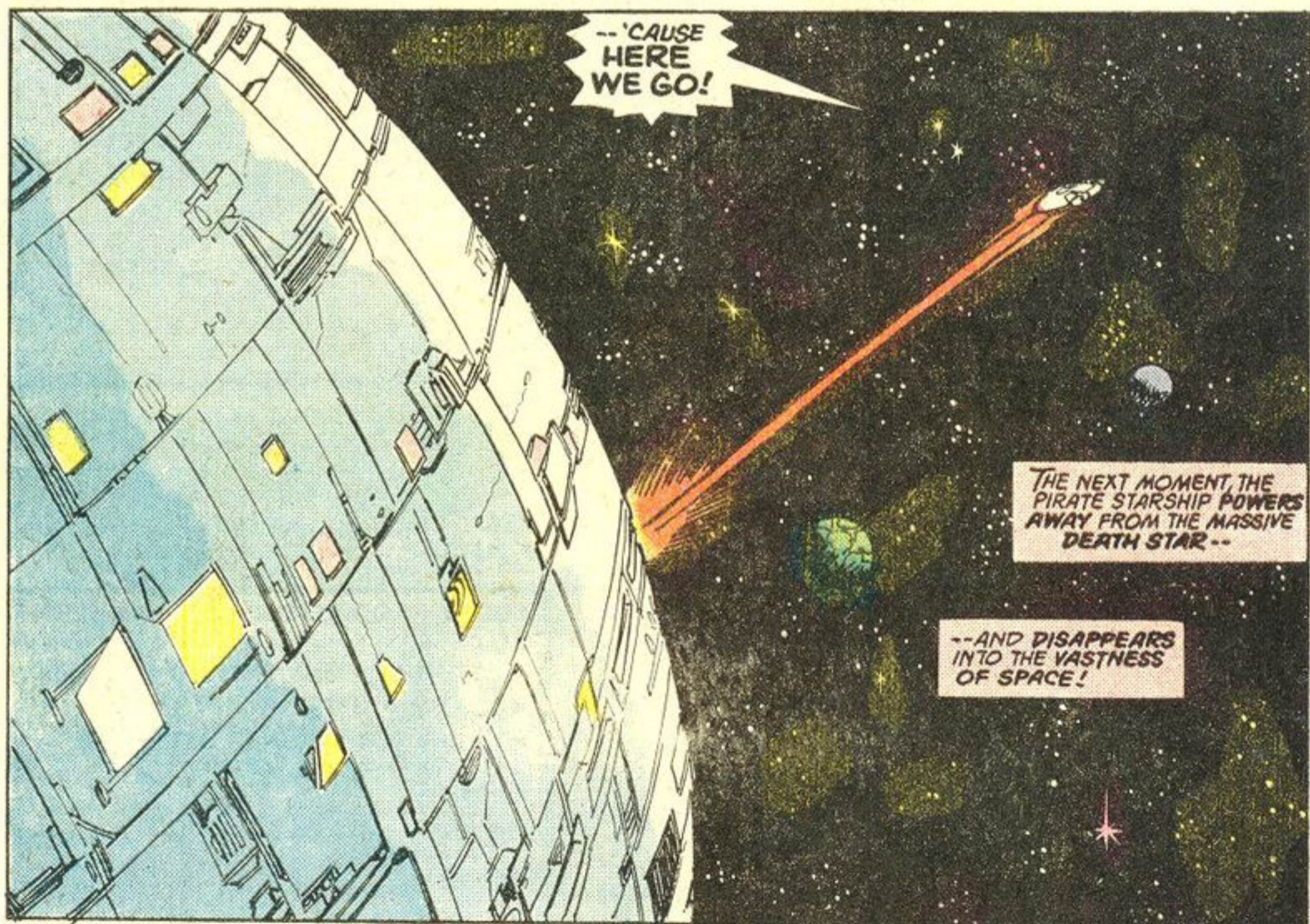
SO HE TURNS-- AND RACES UP THE RAMP--

-- INTO THE MILLENNIUM FALCON!



I... I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S... GONE!

BOOP



NEXT ISSUE: **ESCAPE** TO THE MOONS OF **YAVIN!**