

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

STAR WARS THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR: THERE IS A REBELLION AFOOT AGAINST THE TYRANNICAL GALACTIC EMPIRE...



WELL, THE IMPERIAL SENATE
WILL NOT SIT STILL FOR THIS!

WHEN THEY HEAR
YOU'VE ATTACKED
A DIPLOMATIC--

DON'T PLAY
GAMES WITH
ME, YOUR
HIGHNESS!

THIS SHIP PASSED
DIRECTLY THRU A
RESTRICTED
SYSTEM.

SEVERAL
TRANSMISSIONS
WERE BEAMED
TO THIS SHIP BY SPIES,
WHO ARE NOW
UNFORTUNATELY
DEAD.

I WANT TO
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THOSE
DATA
TAPE.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT!

MEANWHILE, TWO
ROBOTS KNOWN AS
SEE-THREEPIO AND
ARTOO-DEETO ES-
CAPED IN A LIFEPOD
TO THE PLANET OF
TATOOINE...

WHAT A FORSAKEN
PLACE THIS IS!

WE SEEM
TO BE
MADE TO
SUFFER.

ELSEWHERE ON TATOOINE,
TATOOIN FARMBOY LUKE SKY-
WALKER DREAMED OF AD-
VENTURE...

HIS FRIEND SPEAKS OF JOINING THE REBELS...

I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT FOR
THE EMPIRE TO DRAFT ME
INTO SERVICE.

THIS REBELLION
IS SPREADING,
AND I WANT TO
BE ON THE SIDE
I BELIEVE IN!

AND I'M
STUCK
HERE ON
TATOOINE!

YOUR UNCLE'S
FARM WON'T MEAN
ANYTHING IN A FEW
YEARS, LUKE.
EVENTUALLY THE
GALACTIC EMPIRE
WILL OWN EVERYTHING!

ATTACK OF THE TUSKEN RAIDERS!

R. THOMAS • H. CHAYKIN & } ARTISTS • T. ORZ • H. BENDER
SCRIPTER S. LEIALOHA } LETTERS • TONES

THE STORY SO FAR:

PRINCESS LEIA, A REBEL CONSPIRATOR, WAS CAPTURED BY DARTH VADER, LORD OF THE EVIL GALACTIC EMPIRE!

OH!!

LATER, AT THE GIGANTIC SPACE STATION KNOWN AS THE DEATH STAR...

ANY ATTACK MADE AGAINST THIS STATION BY THE REBELS WOULD BE A USELESS GESTURE, NO MATTER WHAT TECHNICAL DATA THEY'VE OBTAINED.

THIS BATTLE STATION IS NOW THE ULTIMATE POWER IN THE UNIVERSE!

DON'T BECOME TOO PROUD OF THIS TECHNOLOGICAL TERROR YOU'VE CREATED ADMIRAL MOTTI.

THE ABILITY TO DESTROY A PLANET IS INSIGNIFICANT NEXT TO THE COSMIC FORCE!

MEANWHILE, ON PLANET TATOOINE, LUKE SKYWALKER WAS REPAIRING HIS UNCLE'S TWO LATEST ANDROID ACQUISITIONS, SEE-THREEPIO AND ARTOO-DETOO, WHEN...

LET'S SEE WHAT--
?OOOF!?

...OBI-WAN KENOBI!
--HELP ME! YOU'RE MY ONLY HO--

FASCINATED BY THE BEAUTIFUL HOLOGRAPH OF PRINCESS LEIA AND CONCERNED ABOUT HER PLEA FOR HELP, LUKE LEFT WITH THE 'DROIDS ON A SEARCH FOR OBI-WAN KENOBI...

WELL, COME ON-- IT'S GETTING LATE! I ONLY HOPE WE CAN GET BACK BEFORE--

NOW WHAT?

OH MY, SIR...

AND NOW, A SINISTER RAIDER TOWERS ABOVE THE TERRIFIED BOY--LAUGHING HIS HORRIBLE, IN-HUMAN LAUGH--

--HIS DREADED AXE-BLADE POISED TO KILL!

TUKKEN RAIDERS!

THE STORY SO FAR: LUKE SKYWALKER AND THE ANDROIDS, ARTOO-DETOO AND SEE-THREEPIO HAVE FOUND OBI-WAN-KENOBI! ACTIVATING THE HOLOGRAPHIC MESSAGE PROGRAMMED INTO ARTOO, THEY HEARD...

GENERAL OBI-WAN KENOBI-- I PRESENT MYSELF IN THE NAME OF MY FATHER, BAIL ANTELLIES, VICEROY OF ALDERAAN.

INFORMATION VITAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE HAS BEEN PLACED IN THIS DROID.

PLEASE SEE THIS R2 UNIT IS DELIVERED SAFELY TO ALDERAAN! YOU ARE OUR LAST HOPE...

YEARS AGO, COMMANDER, YOU SERVED THE OLD REPUBLIC IN THE CLONE WARS; NOW, MY FATHER, BEGS YOU TO AID US AGAIN.

BEN KENOBI INTERRUPTS IN A STRANGELY CONTROLLED VOICE...

YOU DON'T NEED TO SEE HIS IDENTIFICATION.

LATER, LUKE'S UNCLE AND AUNT WERE KILLED BY STORM TROOPERS OF THE GALACTIC EMPIRE, SO LUKE JOINED FORCES WITH OBI-WAN IN THE REBEL FORCES! THEY JOURNIED TO A PLANETARY SPACEPORT, WHERE...

YOU! HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD THESE DROIDS?

EH, UH...

DO YOU COME FROM THE SOUTH?

LET US SEE YOUR IDENTIFICATION!

YES, ALL RIGHT, I...

WE DON'T NEED TO SEE HIS IDENTIFICATION.

THESE AREN'T THE DROIDS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

THESE AREN'T THE DROIDS WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

HE CAN GO ON ABOUT HIS BUSINESS.

HE CAN GO ON ABOUT HIS BUSINESS!

ENTER: HAN SOLO SPACE PIRATE!

IN A SEEDY TAVERN, AN ALTERCATION ERUPTS, CAUSING BEN'S LIGHT-SABRE TO LEAP SUDDENLY TO LIFE--

LUKE SKYWALKER IS ABRUPTLY REMINDED THAT OLD BEN KENOBI WAS ONCE OBI-WAN KENOBI--

--A JEDI KNIGHT AND MASTER OF THE FORCE!

R. THOMAS • H. CHAYKIN & S. LEIALOHA • T. ORZ • H. BENDER
SCRIPT ARTWORK LETTERS TONES

THE WHOLE AFFAIR IS OVER AS QUICKLY AS IT STARTED, AND BEN STANDS ALONE AS THE VICTOR...

LUKE, THIS IS CHEWBACCA. HE'S A WOOKIEE.

THE STORY SO FAR:
LUKE AND BEN KENOBI COM-
MISSIONED HAN SOLO AND
HIS WOOKIEE FIRST MATE,
CHEWBACCA, TO FLY THEM TO
ALDERAAN.



JUST MYSELF,
THE BOY, AND TWO
DROIDS--WITH
NO QUESTIONS.

TEN THOUSAND--
IN ADVANCE.

MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE
DEATH STAR...



IT'S JUST A
MATTER OF TIME
BEFORE WE FIND
THE DROIDS!

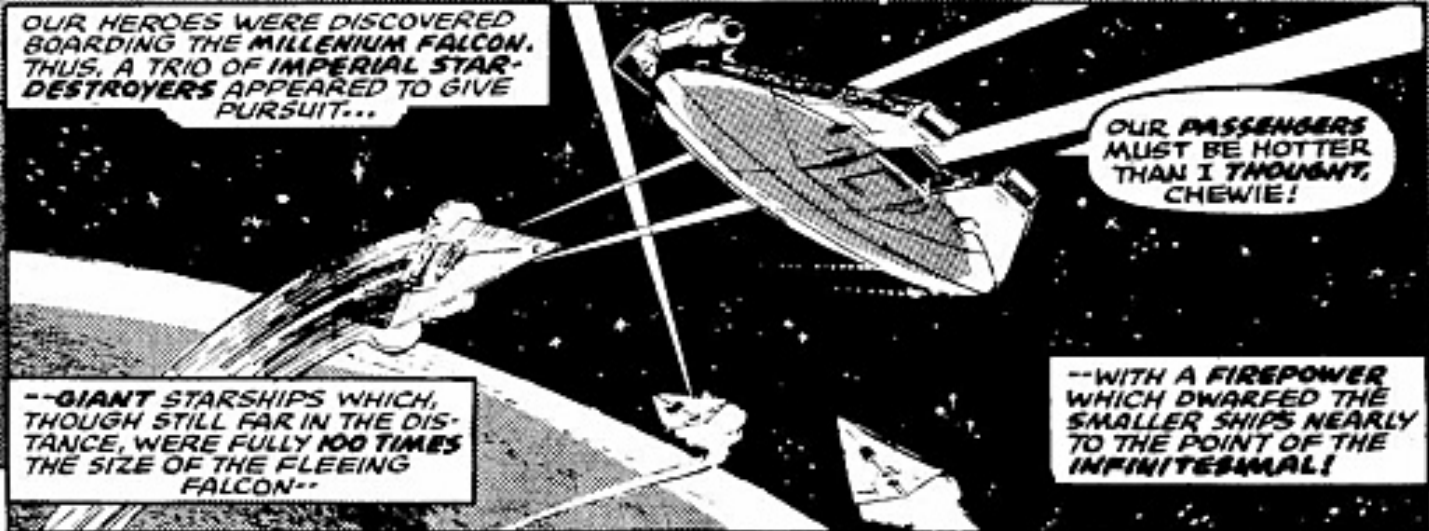
SEND IN
MORE MEN
IF YOU
HAVE TO!

IT'S HER HOPE
OF THAT DATA
BEING USED AGAINST
US THAT ENABLES
PRINCESS LEIA TO
RESIST THE
MIND PROBE.

WHEN SHE KNOWS
IT HAS BEEN
DESTROYED, ONCE
AND FOR ALL--
SHE WILL
BREAK!



OUR HEROES WERE DISCOVERED
BOARDING THE MILLENNIUM FALCON.
THUS, A TRIO OF IMPERIAL STAR-
DESTROYERS APPEARED TO GIVE
PURSUIT...



OUR PASSENGERS
MUST BE HOTTER
THAN I THOUGHT,
CHEWIE!

--GIANT STARSHIPS WHICH,
THOUGH STILL FAR IN THE DIS-
TANCE, WERE FULLY 100 TIMES
THE SIZE OF THE FLEEING
FALCON--

--WITH A FIREPOWER
WHICH DWARFED THE
SMALLER SHIPS NEARLY
TO THE POINT OF THE
INFINITESIMAL!

STRAP
YOURSELVES
IN!



WE'RE GOING
INTO HYPERSPACE--
MAKING THE JUMP
TO THE SPEED
OF LIGHT!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

STAR WARS THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

FASCINATED BY THE MYSTERIOUS HOLOGRAPHIC MESSAGE BY ARTOO DEETOO, LUKE ASSISTED IN THE ANDROID'S SEARCH FOR...



OBI-WAN KENOBI!

MEET ARTOO!

LUKE JOINED BEN, VOWING TO AID THE REBEL ALLIANCE. THEY COMMISSIONED HAN SOLO TO FLY THEM TO ALDERAAN. JUST AS THE IMPERIAL FORCES ATTACKED...



MEANWHILE, PRINCESS LEIA WAS AN UNWILLING WITNESS TO THE DEATH STAR.

ONE INSTANT, THE LASER WEAPONS OF THE MASSIVE, DEATH STAR WERE FOCUSED ON THE SMALL PLANET OF ALDERAAN...

THE NEXT INSTANT, IT CEASED TO EXIST.



SOON, PRINCESS, THE HOPELESS REBELLION WHICH YOU AND YOUR LATE FATHER CHAMPIONED, SHALL VANISH IN A SIMILAR FASHION!

SHORTLY, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON PHASED IN...

THAT'S NO MOON, MR. SOLO, IT'S A SPACE STATION!



CAPTURED BY TRACTOR BEAMS, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON WAS PULLED INTO THE DEATH STAR...

NO ONE ABOARD, LORD VADER!

SHIP'S LOG SAYS THE CREW ABANDONED SHIP RIGHT AFTER TAKEOFF.

NO DROIDS ABOARD EITHER!

KEEP CHECKING! I SENSE SOMETHING--



HALTING IN MID-SENTENCE, DARTH VADER EXITED, LEAVING THE OTHERS TO COMPLETE THE INVESTIGATION.

I'M GOING INTO THE HOLDS TO--
Yiiii!

THLAP!



THAT'S IT, CHEWIE--TEACH HIM TO MIND HIS OWN BUSINESS!

TO RESCUE A PRINCESS!

ROY THOMAS
SCRIPTER/EDITOR

HOWARD CHAYKIN & STEVE LEIALOHA
ARTWORK

T. ORZ
LETTERER

H. BENDER
TONES

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STAR WARS

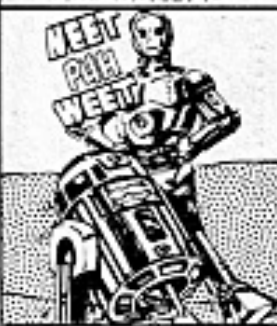
THE GREATEST
SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:
PRINCESS LEIA WAS
CAPTURED BY DARTH
VADER--



FOR POSSESSING SE-
CRET PLANS ABOUT
THE POWERFUL BATTLE-
STATION, DEATH STAR...

BUT THE PRINCESS
SENT A HOLOGRAPHIC
PLEA FOR HELP WITH
THE DROIDS ARTOO
AND THREEPIO--



WHO ESCAPED TO THE
WILDERNESS OF
TATTOINE...

THERE THEY JOINED FORCES WITH LUKE SKY-
WALKER AND BEN KENOBI, AND THE SMALL
BAND BRIBED HAN SOLO TO PILOT THEM TO
ALDERAAN...



OUR PASSENGERS
MUST BE HOTTER THAN
I THOUGHT, CHEWIE!

... A SPACE
BATTLE ENSUED!



THEY ES-
CAPED, ONLY
TO BE CAP-
TURED BY
THE DEATH
STAR, WHICH
HAD JUST
DESTROYED
THE PLANET
ALDERAAN.

I'VE GOT
A BAD
FEELING
ABOUT
THIS.

OUR HEROES
RESCUED PRIN-
CESS LEIA, BUT
BECAME LOST
IN THE BOWELS
OF THE DEATH
STAR...



... WHERE THEY
WERE ATTACKED
BY AN ALIEN
BEASTIE!

THE FUGITIVES GRADUALLY FOUND THEIR
WAY BACK TO THE MILLENNIUM FALCON...

... BUT JUST THEN...

UH OH!

THE BOYS IN
WHITE ARE
BACK!

STOP--
OR WE'LL
FIRE!



ROY THOMAS--SCRIPTER/EDITOR
HOWARD CHAYKIN & STEVE LEIALOHA
--ARTWORK
TOM ORZ--LETTERS
HOWARD BENDER--TONES

IN BATTLE WITH **DARTH VADER**

Long ago in a galaxy far, far away... there exists a state of cosmic civil war. A brave alliance of underground freedom fighters has challenged the tyranny and oppression of the awesome Galactic Empire. This is their story!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **STAR WARS** THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

PRINCESS LEIA WAS CAPTURED BY DARTH VADER SHORTLY AFTER SHE TRANSFERRED HER VITAL SECRETS TO THE ANDROID, ARTOO DEETOO...

THEY WERE CAPTURED BY THE DEATH STAR, BUT BEN DEACTIVATED THE TRACTOR BEAMS, ONLY TO ENCOUNTER... DARTH VADER!

MEANWHILE, LUKE, HAN, CHEWIE AND THE DROIDS CONVERGED AT THE MILLENNIUM FALCON, ALONG WITH THE RESCUED PRINCESS LEIA!

ARTOO AND HIS DROID COMPANION, THREEPIO, ESCAPED TO TATOOINE, WHERE THEY MET LUKE AND BEN, WHO BOTH VOWED TO AID THE REBEL ALLIANCE...

YOUR POWERS ARE WEAK, OLD MAN!

THE GROUP HEARING THE SOUND OF BATTLE BEHIND THEM, WHIRLED TO WITNESS THE DEATH OF BEN KENOBI!

...AND THEY BRIBED HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA TO CARRY THEM TO ALDERAAN...

...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SOLO? WHERE IS IT?

ALDERAAN'S BEEN BLOWN AWAY-- TOTALLY!

YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME BACK!

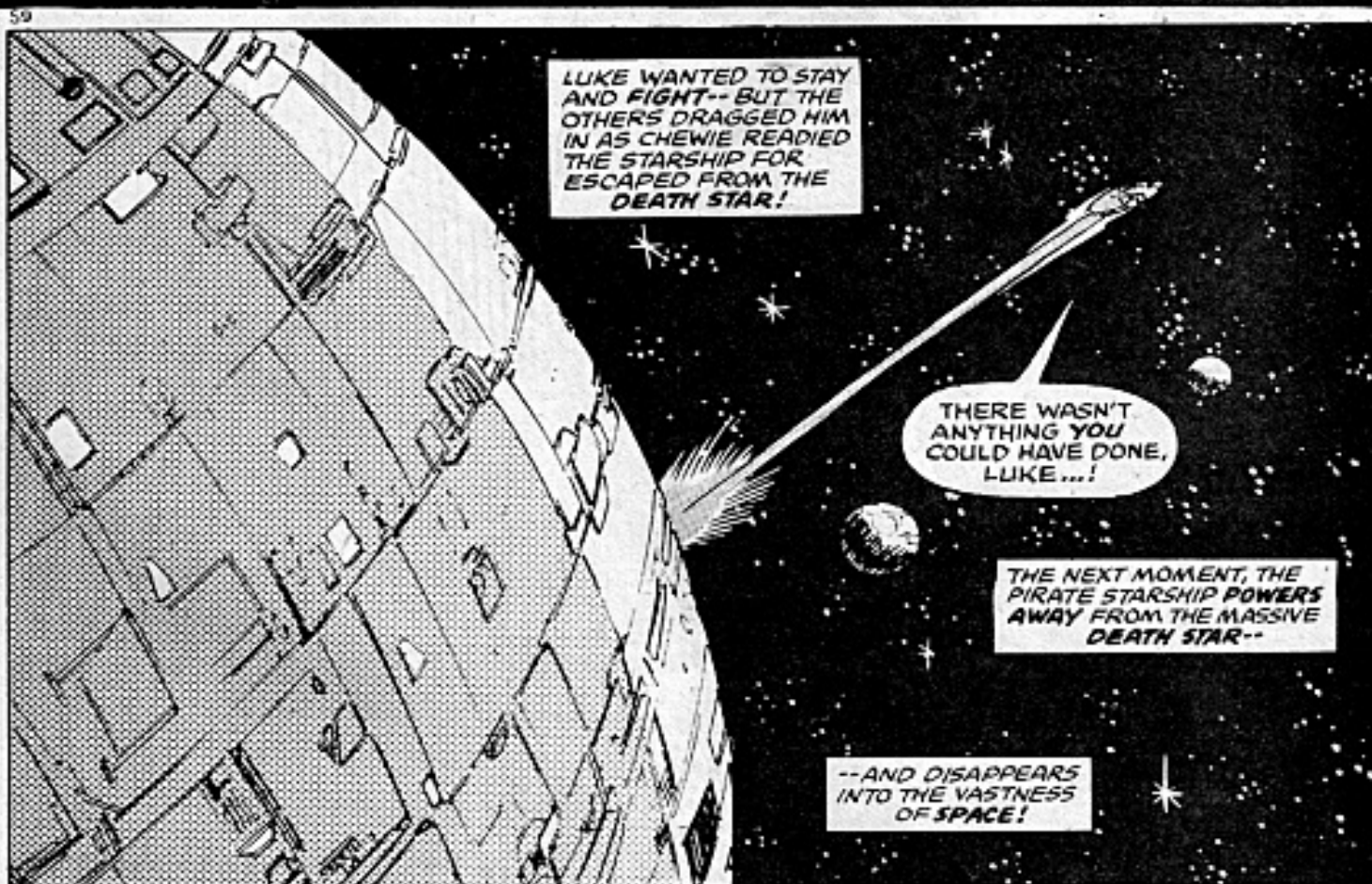
STRAK

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

I AM THE MASTER NOW!

I--

--DARTH VADER!!



LUKE WANTED TO STAY AND FIGHT-- BUT THE OTHERS DRAGGED HIM IN AS CHEWIE READED THE STARSHIP FOR ESCAPED FROM THE DEATH STAR!

THERE WASN'T ANYTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE, LUKE...!

THE NEXT MOMENT, THE PIRATE STARSHIP POWERS AWAY FROM THE MASSIVE DEATH STAR--

--AND DISAPPEARS INTO THE VASTNESS OF SPACE!

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THE STORY SO FAR:
WHILE DARTH VADER AND GRAND MOFF TARKIN HELD PRINCESS LEIA PRISONER ABOARD THE DEATH STAR...

OUR POSITION'S CORRECT-- ONLY THERE'S NO ALDERAAN.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SOLO? WHERE IS IT?

...OUR HEROES, ABOARD THE MILLENNIUM FALCON, ATTEMPTED TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE REBEL BASE AT ALDERAAN-- ONLY TO FIND...

TH--THE PLANET'S BEEN BLOWN AWAY-- TOTALLY!

SWIFTLY, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON WAS CAPTURED BY THE DEATH STAR, BUT THE DETERMINED BAND WAS STILL ABLE TO FREE THE PRINCESS LEIA!

ALAS, BEN KENOBI MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE TO ENSURE THEIR ESCAPE, FALLING BEFORE THE LIGHTSABRE OF DARTH VADER!

BEN'S STAND WAS NOT IN VAIN-- FOR THE FALCON SOON BURST FREE FROM THE DEATH STAR!

THEY DESTROYED THE FIGHTERS WHICH FOLLOWED THEM-- AND ESCAPED INTO DEEP SPACE!

THE FINAL FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

ROY THOMAS-- EDITOR/SCRIPTER
HOWARD CHAYKIN AND
STEVE LEIALOHA-- ARTWORK
TOM ORT-- LETTERS
HOWARD BENDER-- TONES

ARE YOU CERTAIN THE HOMING BEACON IS SECURE ABOARD THEIR SHIP--

--SO THAT WE CAN FOLLOW THEM WHEREVER THEY GO-- WHICH WILL DOUBTLESS BE THE MAIN REBEL BASE?

MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE DEATH STAR...

HAVE NO FEAR. THIS DAY WILL BE A DAY LONG REMEMBERED.

IT HAS SEEN THE END OF THE LAST OF THE JEDI KNIGHTS--

--AND SOON, VERY SOON, IT WILL SEE THE END OF THE REBELLION ITSELF!


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THE STORY SO FAR: PRINCESS LEIA, CAPTURED BY THE IMPERIAL FORCES BECAME AN UNWILLING PAWN IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CRUSH THE REBEL FORCES...

NO! ALDERAAN IS A PEACEFUL WORLD, GOVERNOR TARKIN! WE HAVE NO WEAPONS! YOU CAN'T--



ONE INSTANT THE LASER WEAPONS OF THE MASSIVE, APTLY-NAMED DEATH-STAR WERE FOCUSED ON THE SMALL GREEN PLANET OF ALDERAAN...

THE NEXT INSTANT, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES...IT CEASED TO EXIST.

SOON, PRINCESS. THE HOPELESS REBELLION WHICH YOU AND YOUR LATE FATHER CHAMPIONED SHALL VANISH IN A SIMILAR FASHION.

THEN, ENROUTE TO ALDERAAN, MAN, BEN, LUKE, CHEWBACCA, AND THE DROIDS WERE SNARED BY THE DEATH STAR'S TRACTOR BEAMS!



ABOARD THE BATTLE STATION, LUKE RESCUED PRINCESS LEIA...



I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

WE MADE IT! JUST IN TIME, TOO!

511
TOGETHER, THE DARING BAND ESCAPED THE DEATH STAR--ALL EXCEPT BEN KENOBI, WHO SACRIFICED HIMSELF SO THAT THEY COULD REACH THE MAIN REBEL BASE ON A MOON OF YAVIN!

BUT...



THE DEATH STAR HAS TRACKED US HERE!

BLUE BOYS, THIS IS BLUE LEADER!

ADJUST YOUR SELECTORS, AND CHECK IN. APPROACHING TARGET AT 1.3 PARSECS...

NOW--IT'S DO OR DIE!!

THUS, A SMALL FORCE OF X-WING REBEL FIGHTERS MUST FACE THE MASSIVE, SEEMINGLY INVULNERABLE MENACE OF THE DEATH STAR!

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THE STORY SO FAR: IT'S A LONG WAY TO TATOOINE FROM YAVIN--YET THAT'S WHERE IT ALL BEGAN FOR BOTH LUKE AND HIS FRIEND, BIGGS...



I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT FOR THE EMPIRE TO DRAFT ME INTO SERVICE.

THIS REBELLION IS SPREADING, AND I WANT TO BE ON THE SIDE I BELIEVE IN.

LUKE LEFT HIS HOME PLANET AS A FUGITIVE WITH BEN KENOBI, THE DROIDS, THE SPACE PIRATE, HAN SOLO AND HIS FIRST MATE, CHEWIE...THEY HOPED TO REACH ALDERAAN, A REBEL PLANET BASE--



BUT INSTEAD WERE BEAMED ABOARD THE DEATH STAR.

WAS THIS TRIP REALLY NECESSARY?

BEN KENOBI DIED AT THE HAND OF DARTH VADER, TO BUY TIME FOR THE ESCAPE OF LUKE, HAN AND THE GANG--ALONG WITH THE RESCUED PRINCESS LEIA!



THEY ESCAPED TO THE MAIN REBEL BASE ON A MOON OF YAVIN-- BUT WERE TRACKED BY DEATH STAR! THUS, LUKE AND OTHER REBEL PILOTS PITTED THEMSELVES AGAINST THE MASSIVE BATTLE STATION...

BUT THE REBEL FORCES ARE BRUTALLY DECEIMATED BY THE DEADLY COUNTER-ATTACK OF THE IMPERIAL FORCES, UNTIL JUST BIGGS...



...WEDGE...



...AND LUKE...

...ARE LEFT ALIVE...



CLOSE IT UP!
WE'RE GOING IN!!

THE FINAL CHAPTER!

ROY THOMAS • HOWIE CHAYKIN & RICK HOBERG & BILL WRAY • LAY & ROYER • HOWARD BENDER
SCRIPT/EDITOR ARTWORK LETTERERS TONES

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THE STORY SO FAR:

FOR THOSE WHO WERE IN SIBERIA LAST WEEK AND MISSED THE CATACLYSMIC CONCLUSION TO OUR ADAPTATION OF THE GEORGE LUCAS FILM CLASSIC, LUKE SKYWALKER FLEW HIS REBEL FIGHTER TOWARD HIS TARGET WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE EMPIRE'S DEATH STAR...



...THE FATE OF THE REBEL MOON-BASE HINGED ON HIS ABILITY TO HIT THAT TARGET AND DESTROY THE DEATH STAR!



DISCONNECTING HIS AUTOMATIC TARGET SYSTEM, YOUNG LUKE ENTRUSTED THE FORCE AND THE VOICE OF BEN KENOBI, COMING FROM BEYOND REALITY, TO GUIDE HIM THROUGH THE FINAL SECONDS OF APPROACH!

THEN, AT THE CORRECT MICRO-SECOND... LUKE FIRED--AND HIT HIS TARGET!

AND ABOARD THE MILLENNIUM FALCON...



GOOD SHOT, KID! THAT WAS ONE IN A MILLION!

NOW LET'S GET SOME DISTANCE--



BEFORE THAT THING GOES SUPER-NOVA!

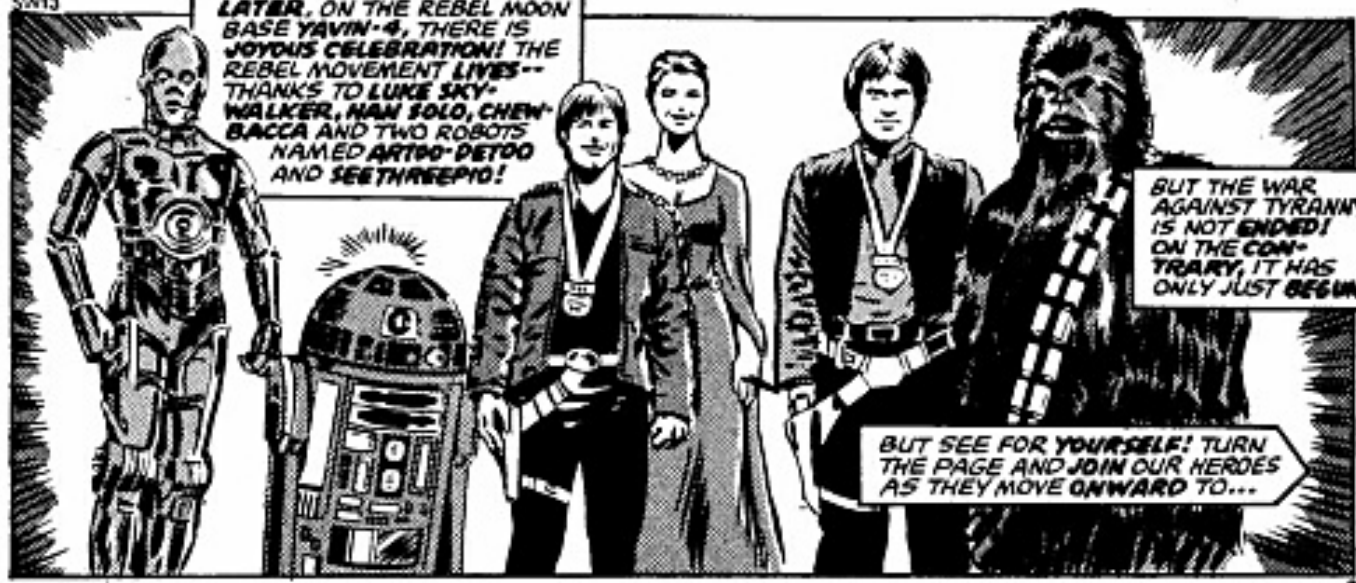
WITHIN SECONDS, THE MISSILE STRUCK HOME...



...AND THE DEATH STAR WAS NO MORE!

SW13

LATER, ON THE REBEL MOON BASE YAVIN-4, THERE IS JOYOUS CELEBRATION! THE REBEL MOVEMENT LIVES-- THANKS TO LUKE SKYWALKER, HAN SOLO, CHEWBACCA AND TWO ROBOTS NAMED ARTOO-DETOO AND SEETHREEPIO!



BUT THE WAR AGAINST TYRANNY IS NOT ENDED! ON THE CONTRARY, IT HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN!

BUT SEE FOR YOURSELF! TURN THE PAGE AND JOIN OUR HEROES AS THEY MOVE ONWARD TO...

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THE STORY SO FAR:

THE SPACE PIRATE CRIMSON JACK HAS ROBBED HAN SOLO AND CHEWIE OF THE REWARD MONEY WITH WHICH THEY'D HOPED TO CLEAR THEIR NAMES.

THUS, WITHIN ONLY A FEW HOURS, HAN AND THE WOOKIEE ARE AGAIN SPACE OUTLAWS, EACH WITH A PRICE ON HIS HEAD--

--AND WITH THIS GRIM REALIZATION THEY SWOOP LOW OVER THE PLANET ADUBA-3 IN HOPES OF HIDING OUT AMONGST ITS BARREN RUINS!

BUT ON LANDING, THEY DISCOVER LITTLE PRIVACY, FOR THE DECAYING SPACE PORT IS FAIRLY TEEMING WITH OTHER OUTCASTS--

--GALACTIC FLIGHTIVES WHO ARE PREOCCUPIED!

HE AIN'T PUTTING NO BORGs IN OUR MOUND!

YEAH! IF HE LIKES BORGs SO MUCH, LET 'IM DRAG THE CARCASS BACK TO THE MISSION!

NO WAY TO TREAT AN OUTLAW!

AND, AS HAN AND CHEWIE APPROACH THE SCENE OF THE COMMOTION...

LOOKS LIKE THE LOCALS HAVE IT IN FOR THAT INSECT-GUY ON THE BANTHA! WONDER WHO HE IS? HE'S DRESSED LIKE SOMEKIND OF PRIEST!

WELL, WHATEVER HE IS, HE'S OUT-NUMBERED! LET'S GIVE HIM A HAND...NUH, CHEWIE?



ROY THOMAS
WRITER/EDITOR *

HOWARD CHAYKIN
ARTIST *

FRANK SPRINGER
INKER *

JOE ROSEN
LETTERER *

H. BENDER
TONE S

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THE STORY SO FAR:

IT'S REST-AND-RECIPEPERATION TIME FOR THE SPACE OUTLAWS, HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA THE WOOKIE, AFTER A BRAWL WITH THE LOCAL PEOPLE OF ADUBA-3...

THAT WAS THIRSTY WORK, CHEWIE-- BUT AT LEAST WE GOT THE BORG BURIED.

AND AFTER THE LICKING WE GAVE 'EM, I DON'T THINK THE LOCALS WILL COMPLAIN ANY MORE.

WONDER WHAT OLD LUKE'S UP TO-- AND THAT CRAZY ARTOO AND THREEPIO...?

"YOU MUST BE FREAKIN' OUT, SOLD-- THINKIN' ABOUT ROBBS INSTEAD OF WOMEN--"

--AND PRINCESS LEIA IS DEFINITELY ALL WOMAN!"

CHWOOP! YOU SAID IT, OLD BUDDY! WHY MOON OVER HER...

...WHEN THIS PLACE IS CRAWLIN' WITH 'EM!

YEAH, A FELLA COULD LEARN TO LIKE IT HERE!

BLUE'S MY FAVOURITE COLOUR, HONEY! WHAT'S A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU DOING IN A DIVE LIKE THIS?

YOU TELL ME YOUR LIFE-STORY-- AND I'LL TELL YOU MINE! BUT NOT HERE! LET'S GO FOR A WALK!

OFFWORLDER! WE WISH TO PROFFER A PROPOSITION!

WHA... WHO, ME?

OKAY, BUT-- I GOT SOME PROPOSITIONS OF MY OWN TO PROFFER!

IT IS A MOST AGREEABLE PROPOSAL, WE ASSURE YOU...

...UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU HAVE AN AVERSION TO DYING...

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THE STORY SO FAR:

HAVING AGREED TO DEFEND THE NATIVES OF ADUBA-3 FROM AN IMPENDING ATTACK BY THE DREADED SERJII-X ARROGANTUS, HAN SOLO AND CHEWIE ARE NOW RECRUITING WARRIORS--

YOU'RE ON, HEDJI!

--IF YOU CAN HURL THOSE DEADLY QUILLS WITH THE ACCURACY YOU CLAIM--

--YOU'LL BE AS VALUABLE AS ANY BLASTER MARKSMAN!

THEN, AFTER THE FIRST RECRUIT HAS BEEN SIGNED ON...

HELLO, SOLO! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!

AMAIZA! I THOUGHT YOU DIED WITH THE REST OF THE BLACK-HOLE GANG!

YOU THOUGHT WRONG! HOW ABOUT IT? AM I IN?

SURE! YOU LOOK BETTER THAN CHEWIE-- AND YOU'RE GOOD WITH A BLASTER! WELCOME ABOARD!

MOMENTS LATER... I ALSO WANT TO JOIN YOUR CAUSE!

I AM DON-WAN KINGTAY... OF THE JEDI KNIGHTS!

--MASTER OF "THE FORCE," AND WIELDER OF THE LIGHTSABRE!

OKAY, OLDTIMER BUT IF YOU TURN OUT TO BE ALL TALK... WELL, IT'S YOUR LIFE!

ROY THOMAS, WRITER/EDITOR
HOWARD CHAYKIN, ARTIST
TOM PALMER, INKER
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER
HOWARD BENDER, TONES

IF THIS BE AN ARMY!

YES, WE KNOW THIS SPLASH IS SYMBOLIC AND INTERRUPTS THE STORY CONTINUITY! BUT DON'T RUST YOUR ROBOTS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO THESE CRAZY CHARACTERS ARE...



JUST TRUST US! YOU'LL LEARN THEIR IDENTITIES AND POWERS FOLLOWING THIS PAGE. READ ON!!

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: **STAR WARS** THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

HAN SOLO, CHEWIE AND SIX RECRUITED MERCENARIES ARRIVE AT AN ENDANGERED PEASANT VILLAGE TO PREPARE FOR AN IMPENDING ATTACK BY SERJI-ARROGANTUS...

BUT BEFORE THE EXPECTED ENEMY CAN ATTACK--AN UNEXPECTED ONE STRIKES--WINGED MONSTERS SEARCHING FOR HUMAN PREY!



DON'T RUB IT IN, CHEWIE! I KNOW IT'S NOT THE BEST ARMY I EVER RECRUITED!

MAYBE YOU'D RATHER GO IT BY YOUR LONESOME, BUDDY!

WHAT...AND DIE BY MY LONESOME?!

NOT A CHANCE! I WOULDN'T BET ON YOU AS WARRIORS-- BUT AS FELLOW CASUALTIES, YOU'LL DO JUST GREAT!



SKRAWN



AND HAN SOLO'S MISFITS SURPRISE EVEN THEMSELVES IN THE FACE OF THIS MORTAL DANGER--

--DRIVING OFF THEIR ENEMY, WITH A FLURRY OF DEADLY LASER BLASTS!

BUT WHILE THE MERCENARIES GIRD FOR THE BIGGER BATTLE TO COME--MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY, LUKE SKYWALKER ORBITS HIS SMALL STAR-CRAFT AROUND A BARREN PLANET...

AND TWO WILL DIE FOR ADUBA-3!



PARDON ME, MASTER LUKE-- BUT WOULD YOU ELABORATE UPON OUR MISSION?

GLADLY! WE'RE HERE TO FIND A NEW WORLD FOR THE REBELS TO MIGRATE TO-- BEFORE DARTH VADER UNLEASHES THE WHOLE IMPERIAL WAR-FLEET AGAINST THEM!

WE SEEM TO HAVE FOUND IT-- I'LL RADIO PRINCESS LEIA--

--AND HOPE NO EMPIRE WAR-SHIPS PICK UP MY SIGNALS!



ROY THOMAS WRITER/EDITOR • HOWARD CHAYKIN ARTIST • TOM PALMER INKER • JOHN COSTANZA LETTER • HOWARD BENDER TONES

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THE STORY SO FAR:

THE EERIE SILENCE ENVELOPING ADUBA-3 IS SUDDENLY SHATTERED...



...BY THE DEAFENING DRONE OF SPACE-CRUISERS FROM THE INVASION FLEET OF SERJI-ARROGANTUS!!

HAN SOLO AND HIS SMALL BAND OF MERCENARIES BRACE FOR THE DEADLY ONSLAUGHT!



WE COULD USE SOME OF THAT FORCE I KEEP HEARING ABOUT!



THEY OUT-NUMBER US TEN-TO-ONE-- AT LEAST!!

BUT ALTHOUGH THE OUT-NUMBERED FIGHT BRAVELY, IT'S USELESS...



ONE-BY-ONE, THEY FALL TO THE ENEMY ATTACKERS!

NO SOONER DOES THE ROBOT FE-9Q SUCCUMB TO ENEMY LASERS...

... THEN THE LAST OF THE JEDI KNIGHTS IS CUT DOWN, TRYING TO SAVE AMAIZA!



BUT WHILE THE STENCH OF DEATH PERMEATES THE BATTLEFIELD...

NO ONE NOTICES THE CHANTINGS OF A SEEMINGLY SENILE OLD MAN...

HEAR ME, SLUMBERING ONE! I BEG YOU AWAKEN!

EMERGE FROM YOUR CHAMBERS OF STONE-- AND SAVE US!

ROY THOMAS, WRITER/EDITOR
HOWARD CHAYKIN, ARTIST
TOM PALMER, INKER
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER

WHEN THE ROCK BEGINS TO SHIFT, EVEN HAN SOLO TAKES NOTICE!

UN, OH--AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT!!



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THE STORY SO FAR:

HAN SOLO AND HIS MERCENARIES WATCH THE AIR-BORNE ASSAULT OF SERJI-ARROGANTUS STOPPED COLD BY A MYSTIC CREATURE...



...SUMMONED FORTH AND MENTALLY-CONTROLLED BY AN OLD SHAMAN, WHO IS NOW THE SPACE PIRATE'S PRIMARY TARGET!

BUT AS SERJI-ARROGANTUS SWOOPS DOWN ON THE CHANTING OLD MAN...



...THE MONSTER TRAMPLES BOTH SHAMAN AND OUTLAW CHIEF!

AND THE BELEAGUERED BAND, PAUSING FOR A WELL-EARNED BREATHER NOW LEARNS THEY MUST FACE...



IT STOPPED ARROGANTUS... BUT NOW IT'S AFTER US!

IF THAT ARMY COULDN'T STOP IT-- HOW IN BLAZES WILL WE?!

YOU'RE RIGHT, OLD BUDDY-- WE COULD RUN!

BUT WE'RE HERE TO PROTECT THESE VILLAGERS-- AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO!

DON GLUT, HOWARD CHAYKIN, TOM PALMER, AL KUPPERBERG, J. COSTANZA, R. THOMAS, H. BENDER
WRITER ARTIST INKER LAY-OUTS LETTERER EDITOR TONES

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THE STORY SO FAR:

DEFEATED, SERJI-X ARROGANTUS AND HIS SPACE PIRATES FALL VICTIM TO THE FANGS OF A DREAD PREHISTORIC MONSTER--WHICH NOW TURNS ITS BLOODTHIRSTY ATTENTION TO A SMALL BAND OF MERCENARIES--



--AND ONLY HAN SOLO CAN PREVENT THEM FROM BECOMING THE CREATURE'S NEXT VICTIMS!!



NEVER USED A LIGHT SABRE BEFORE --AND I'M SURE NO JEDI-KNIGHT!

BUT IF I DON'T STOP THAT THING-- WE'VE HAD IT!



I ONCE READ ABOUT A KNIGHT WHOSE LIGHT-SABRE COUNTER-ACTED THE ENERGY IN A MONSTER'S FIN BOLTS!

I JUST HOPE THAT WAS MORE FACT THAN FICTION!

HOLY BEEK MONKEYS! IT'S WORKING!!

MOMENTS LATER THE MONSTER FALLS, SLAIN BY THE SHEER FORCE OF ITS OWN FIN BOLTS REFLECTED FROM HAN SOLO'S LIGHT SABRE!

IT'S OVER! WE'VE SAVED THE PEASANTS, KNOCKED OUT A MONSTER, AND EARNED A LITTLE MONEY-- ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET MY SHIP OUT OF HOCK.

AND, FOR A MINUTE, I KNEW HOW IT FELT TO BE... A JEDI-KNIGHT!

I'M GONNA MISS YOU GUYS--AND GAL! MAYBE WE'LL TRY IT AGAIN SOMETIME!



THEN, THE MOTLEY BAND OF SPACE MERCENARIES PREPARE TO DISBAND...

AND NOW, ONWARD, STAR-WARRIORS, TO THE SEARCH FOR LUKE SKYWALKER!!

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THE STORY SO FAR: AFTER LEAVING ADUBA-3, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON HEADS FOR THE REBEL BASE ON THE SEVENTH MOON OF YAVIN, WHERE HAN SOLO AND CHEWIE HOPE TO BE REUNITED WITH LUKE SKYWALKER AND PRINCESS LEIA...



WE'RE GOING BACK, OLD BUDDY!

BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO LOSE MY STATUS AS A MERCENARY!

THERE'S A BUCK TO BE MADE WITH THE REBELS, AND I WANT IT!

HOWEVER, BEFORE THEY CAN REACH THEIR DESTINATION, THE FALCON AGAIN ENCOUNTERS THE GIGANTIC SPACE CRUISER OF CRIMSON JACK!



AND THIS TIME, HAN SOLO ALLOWS HIS CRAFT TO BE CAPTURED WITHOUT A FIGHT!



GRONK!

I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, CHEWIE! THE REBELS COULD USE THE CRUISER! AND I'M GOING TO PLAY ON JACK'S GREED TO BRING IT TO THEM! FOR THE RIGHT PRICE, NATURALLY!

BUT, ONCE ABOARD THE PIRATE CRUISER...



SURPRISE, SOLO! NOW YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME WHERE THE REBEL BASE IS--OR THE PRINCESS HERE WILL FIND BREATHING DOWNRIGHT IMPOSSIBLE!

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LUKE SKYWALKER?



LEIA...DARLING!

PUT SOME FEELING INTO THIS, PRINCESS! CONSIDER IT A KISS TO LAST A LIFETIME, IF YOU GET MY DRIFT!

BUT...MMPPEFF!

SMOOCH WITH 'ER WHILE YA CAN, SOLO! IT'LL BE YER LAST CHANGE--UNLESS YOU TALK!

ARCHIE GOODWIN • WRITER • CARMINE INFANTINO • ARTIST • TERRY AUSTIN • INKER • JOE ROSEN • LETTERER • ROY THOMAS • EDITOR

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Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

STAR WARS

THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA, HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA THE WOOKIEE ARE PRISONERS ABOARD THE STAR-CRUISER OF SPACE PIRATE CRIMSON JACK!

THOUGH SENTENCED TO DIE, THEY WON A TEMPORARY REPRIEVE BY PROMISING THEIR CAPTOR A GREAT CACHE OF GOLD, SUPPOSEDLY HIDDEN ON THE LONE PLANET OF THE DREXEL SYSTEM...

... BUT WHILE THERE IS NO FORTUNE ON THAT WATER-COVERED PLANET, THERE IS...

... LUKE SKYWALKER!!

MYSTERIOUSLY DOWNED IN THE DREXEL SYSTEM WHILE SEARCHING FOR A NEW REBEL BASE SITE, THE YOUNG STAR-WARRIOR AND HIS DROIDS, ARTOO-DEETOO AND SEE-THREEPIO WATCH IN HORROR AS A MONSTER FROM THE DEPTHS DESTROYS THEIR SPACE CRAFT...

LUCKY YOU REMEMBERED THE LIFE POD, ARTOO!

OTHERWISE, THAT THING'D BE HAVING US FOR LUNCH!

WAIT A MINUTE!
THERE'S ANOTHER CREATURE!

... AND... SOMEONE'S RIDING IT!

IF THOSE THINGS CAN BE CONTROLLED-- WE MAY BE IN FOR EVEN MORE TROUBLE!!

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PRESENTS:

STAR WARS THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

MAROOINED ON THE LONE PLANET OF THE DREXEL SYSTEM, LUKE SKYWALKER AND HIS DROIDS WATCH IN DISBELIEF AS A STRANGE BATTLE RAGES ON THE SEA ABOUT THEM...

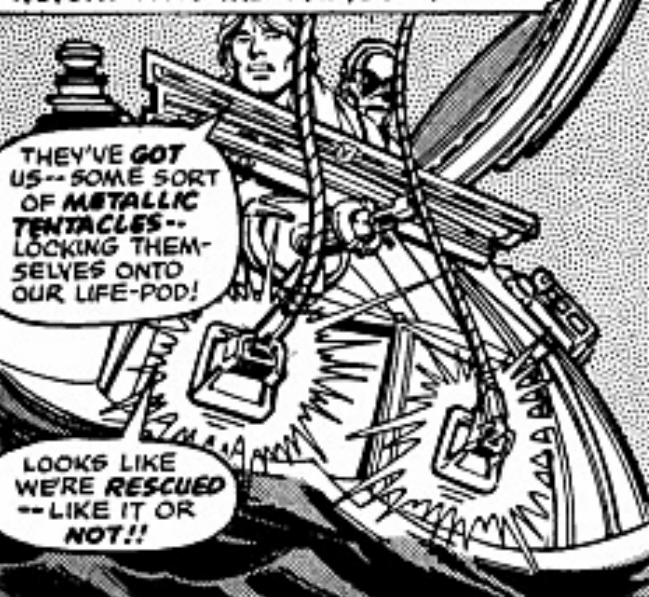
IT'S INCREDIBLE--MAN-CONTROLLED SEA-MONSTERS--FIGHTING SOME SORT OF PRIMITIVE HYDRA-CRAFT!



BUT WATCH IS ALL THEY CAN DO, AS THEY BOB HELPLESSLY IN THEIR LIFE-POD...



SOON, HOWEVER, THE BATTLE ENDS! AND THE VICTORS TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO...



THEY'VE GOT US--SOME SORT OF METALLIC TENTACLES--LOCKING THEMSELVES ONTO OUR LIFE-POD!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE RESCUED--LIKE IT OR NOT!!

AND, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT...

LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE NOT! BUT AS LONG AS I HAVE THE LIGHT SABRE...



KILL THE BOY AND DISMANTLE THE DROIDS--NOW!

...WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO STAY ALIVE UNTIL I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO THEIR LEADER!

SHOULD THE GOVERNOR CRY... DEATH!

THUS, AFTER A BRIEF DEMONSTRATION OF THE LIGHT SABRES POWER, LUKE AND HIS COMPANIONS ARE TAKEN TOWARD THE DISTANT HORIZON, AND WHATEVER WONDERS WAIT BEYOND IT!



MASTER LUKE...I FEAR THIS REPRESENTS MORE INPUT THAN MY COMPREHENSION CIRCUITS CAN ASSIMILATE!

I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT IS EITHER, THREEPIO! BUT I'M HOPING OUR MEETING WITH THE "GOVERNOR" CAN CHANGE ALL THAT!



ARCHIE GOODWIN • CARMINE INFANTINO
WRITER/EDITOR • ARTIST
TERRY AUSTIN • JOHN COSTANZA
INKER • LETTERER
HOWARD BENDER, TONES

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THE STORY SO FAR:

LUKE SKYWALKER AND HIS DROIDS SEE-THREEPIO AND ARTOO-DETOO ARE PRISONERS OF THE MERCILESS GOVERNOR QUARG ON THE LONE PLANET OF THE STAR/SUN DREXEL...

WHILE, AT THAT SAME MOMENT, NEARING THE DREXEL SYSTEM...

PERHAPS YOU AND YOUR ROBOTS CAN BE OF USE TO US IN OUR WAR WITH THE DRAGON-LORDS!

COME WITH ME-- AND WE WILL SEE!

THERE SHE IS, SOLO-- BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG!

YOU SAID THE REBEL TREASURE WAS STASHED ON THE DREXEL PLANET...

... BUT HOW CAN IT BE? THERE'S NO LAND MASS ON THE SURFACE-- NOTHING BUT WATER!

WHAT ABOUT IT? COULDN'T BE YOU'RE OUT TO TRICK OL' CRIMSON JACK, COULD IT... TO SAVE YER OWN HIDE MAYBE?

WELL, SOLO? I'M WAITING...?!

HAVE TO STALL HIM A LITTLE LONGER! THE PRINCESS SAYS LUKE'S DOWN THERE...

YOU'RE HOLDING THE BLASTER, JACK! JUST GET PRINCESS LEIA UP HERE... AND SHE'LL GIVE YOU THE PROOF YOU WANT!

... AND WE HAVE TO FIND HIM OR DIE TRYING!

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THE STORY SO FAR:

WITH BUT ONE HOPE TO SAVE HIS DROIDS, ARTOO-DETOO AND SEE-THREEPIO, FROM SCRAPPING BY GOVERNOR QUARG, LUKE SKYWALKER CALLS ON THE FORCE TO HELP MAKE A FAVOURABLE IMPRESSION ON HIS CAPTOR...

THIS OLD SHIP DOESN'T HAVE MUCH LEFT-- BUT I HAVE TO KNOCK OUT THAT TARGET--

--TO PROVE OUR WORTH TO THE GOVERNOR! NOW, IF ONLY ARTOO WAS ABLE TO FIX THE CRATE WELL ENOUGH...

GOT IT!! THAT SHOULD SAVE US-- AT LEAST FOR NOW!

THEN, A SHORT TIME LATER, ABOARD QUARG'S VESSEL...

YOUR DROIDS HAVE EARNED A LUBRICATION BATH-- AS WELL AS THEIR CONTINUED EXISTENCE!

SO LONG AS THEY SERVE ME IN MY WAR AGAINST THE DRAGON LORDS, THEY NEED NOT FEAR SCRAPPING!

FLIGHT OF THE MILLENNIUM FALCON!

AND, WHILE THE ROBOTS ENJOY THEIR HARD-EARNED RESPITE FROM THE JUNK-YARD...

GOVERNOR QUARG! THE TRACKING CREW REPORTS SOMETHING BIG IS ON THE WAY--

-- BIGGER THAN WE'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED YOUR HONOUR!

STOP WASTING TIME! LOCK IN ON IT-- AND BRING IT DOWN!

COME BELOW, SKYWALKER-- AND LEARN HOW YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE--

LOOK AT 'ER! THERE'S ENOUGH METAL THERE TO KEEP US WAR-READY FOREVER!

-- AND WHY YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE!!

WRITTEN AND EDITED BY ARCHIE GOODWIN DRAWN BY CARMINE INFANTINO AND TERRY AUSTIN SW28
LETTERED BY RICK PARKER, TONED BY HOWARD BENDER, JIM SNOOTER, CONSULTING EDITOR

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THE STORY SO FAR:

THE SPACE CRUISER OF CRIMSON JACK IS CAUGHT IN A DEADLY PULL EMANATING FROM THE WATERY PLANET OF THE DREXEL STAR SYSTEM!

IN THE ENSUING CONFUSION AND PANIC ABOARD THE SHIP, HAN SOLO, PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA AND CHEWBACCA THE WOOKIEE MAKE THEIR ESCAPE IN THE MILLENNIUM FALCON...

GET READY TO DIVE, PRINCESS!

WHATEVER BROUGHT LUKE SKYWALKER'S SHIP DOWN ON THAT PLANET...

... IS THE SAME THING THAT'S GOT JACK'S SHIP!

SO MAYBE-- JUST MAYBE, OL' LUKE'S STILL ALIVE DOWN THERE!

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER-- WE HAVE TO GO DOWN FOR A LOOK!

BUT, MOMENT'S LATER...

THE PULL'S GOT US, TOO! HANG ON TO YOUR HATS!

SPLASH!

THEN, BEFORE THE CRASH-LANDED PARTY CAN GET THEIR BEARINGS, THEY ARE ATTACKED BY THE SEA-GOING SKIMMERS OF GOVERNOR QUARG...

AND LUKE, FORCED BY QUARG TO PILOT A SKIMMER, LOOKS ON IN HORROR!

No!

ENRAGED, LUKE BLASTS HIS FRIENDS' ATTACKERS AND RACES TO THE SITE WHERE THE FALCON WAS DOWNED! BUT ONCE THERE...

CHEWBAC--

WROOO!

WOOKIEES ARE NOT SOPHISTICATED. SOMEONE IN A SKIMMER TRIED TO KILL HIM... SO ANYONE IN A SKIMMER IS SUSPECT!

THE GOVERNOR, HOWEVER HAS MANY MORE SKIMMERS... AND THEIR CREWS SAW HOW LUKE ATTACKED ONE OF THEIR OWN!

THEY EXACT A CRUEL VENGEANCE!

BUT AS LUKE REVIVES FROM THE BLAST, THE BLACKNESS CLEARS FROM BEFORE HIS EYES, ONLY TO REVEAL...

THREEPIO!

HELP ME, MASTER LUKE! CHEWBACCA HAS GONE MAD!

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THE STORY SO FAR:

ON THE WATER-PLANET OF THE DREXEL SYSTEM, LUKE SKYWALKER, HIS DROIDS, AND CHEWBACCA ARE PRISONERS OF THE MERCILESS GOVERNOR QUARG!

BUT A MISUNDERSTANDING HAS TURNED CHEWIE AGAINST HIS FRIENDS, LEAVING THE THREE TO FACE AN ENRAGED WOOKIEE!

IT WORKED, SIR! I MANAGED TO TRIP HIM! BUT WON'T HE BE EVEN ANGRIER WHEN HE GETS UP?

HE WON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO BE-- IF ARTOO CAN DO HIS JOB!

ARTOO!
YOW!

USE YOUR EXTINGUISHER!
FULL BLAST!

SPRAY FOAM SPEWS FROM THE RZ UNIT. FOAM MEANT TO SMOTHER THE FLAMES OF BATTLE!

NOW THAT SAME FOAM CHOKES OFF AIR AND KNOCKS OUT THE RAGING WOOKIEE!

THAT WAS CLOSE! IF ONLY CHEWIE UNDERSTOOD IT WASN'T WE WHO BROUGHT THE FALCON DOWN!

AND SPEAKING OF THE FALCON, WHERE THE DEVIL IS HAN SOLO?!

WHERE? WHY, HE'S IN THE UNDERWATER CAVERN WHICH SERVES AS BATTLE HEAD-QUARTERS FOR THE EMBATTLED PLANET'S DRAGON-LORDS, NATCH!

I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE--

-- BUT THERE'S A SUSPICIOUS SIDE OF ME THAT KEEPS WONDERING WHY YOU BOTHERED!

STAR WARRIORS REUNITED!

ARCHIE GOODWIN WRITER/EDITOR • CARMINE INFANTINO ARTIST • TERRY AUSTIN INKER • DENISE WOHL LETTERER • HOWARD BENDER ZIP-A-TONER

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THE STORY SO FAR:

THE BATTLE FOR THE WATER-COVERED LONE PLANET OF THE DREXEL SYSTEM NEARS ITS FATEFUL FINALE! AND AT THE SAME MOMENT, PRINCESS LEIA NEARS HERS...

NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN, GIRL! NOW YOU'LL DIE-- ALONG WITH SKYWALKER AND THE WOOKIEE!

THEN KILL ME-- BUT YOU CAN NEVER KILL THE FORCE!

THEN, FROM OUT OF NOWHERE...

NOR THE SON OF A JEDI KNIGHT, PRINCESS!

THE EVIL MAYOR QUARG TUMBLES DOWNWARD TO HIS DEATH! THEN AS LUKE'S BACKSWING BEGINS... THE PRINCESS LEAPS!

AND, SEEING HIS FRIENDS ARE SAFE, HAN SOLO TRAINS THE GUNS OF THE MILLENNIUM FALCON ON THE MAINMAST...

WOOK

...AND FIRES!!

THEN, AS THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE FADE INTO THE DISTANCE, HAN SOLO'S THOUGHTS TURN TO OTHER, MORE PRESSING MATTERS!

HE STARES AT THE SKY, DEEP IN THOUGHT... ABOUT A GREAT BATTLE CRUISER WHICH MAY STILL BE THERE... AND ITS MASTER, CRIMSON JACK!!

Long ago in a galaxy far, far away... there exists a state of cosmic civil war. A brave alliance of underground freedom fighters has challenged the tyranny and oppression of the awesome Galactic Empire. This is their story!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

STAR WARS

THE GREATEST
SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

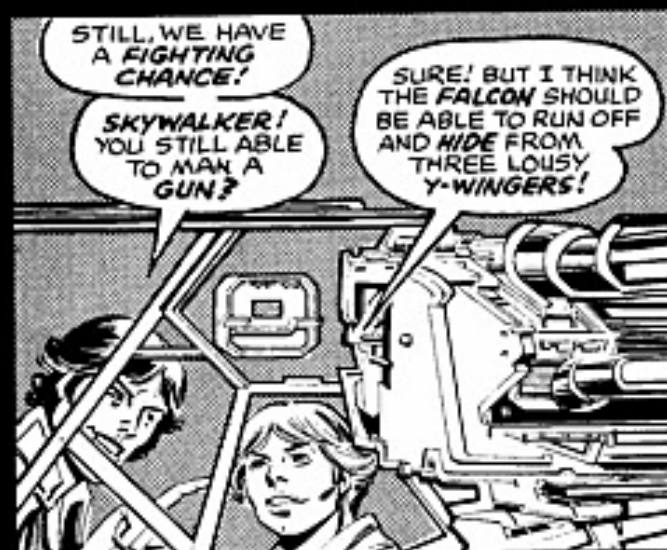
THE STORY SO FAR:



THE MILLENNIUM FALCON BLASTS OFF FROM THE LONE PLANET OF THE DREXEL SYSTEM, UNDER HEAVY BOMBARDMENT BY THREE Y-FIGHTERS FROM THE ORBITING CRUISER OF CRIMSON JACK--

WHAT A WAY TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO A WORLD WE JUST SAVED!

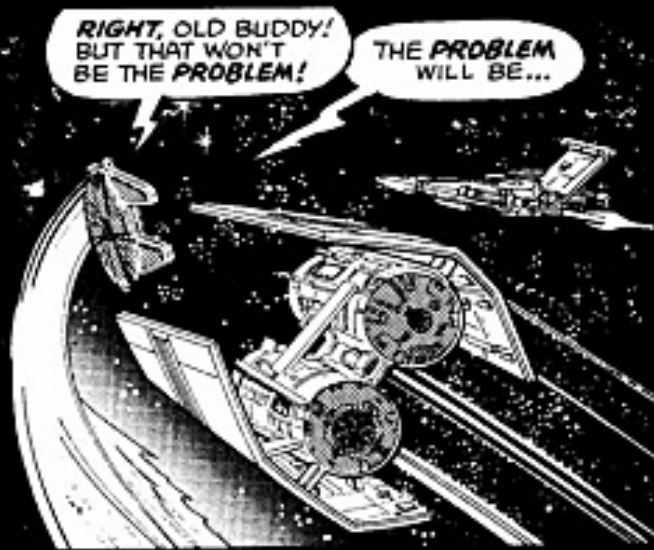
NOW ALL WE'VE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT IS SAVING OURSELVES!



STILL, WE HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE!

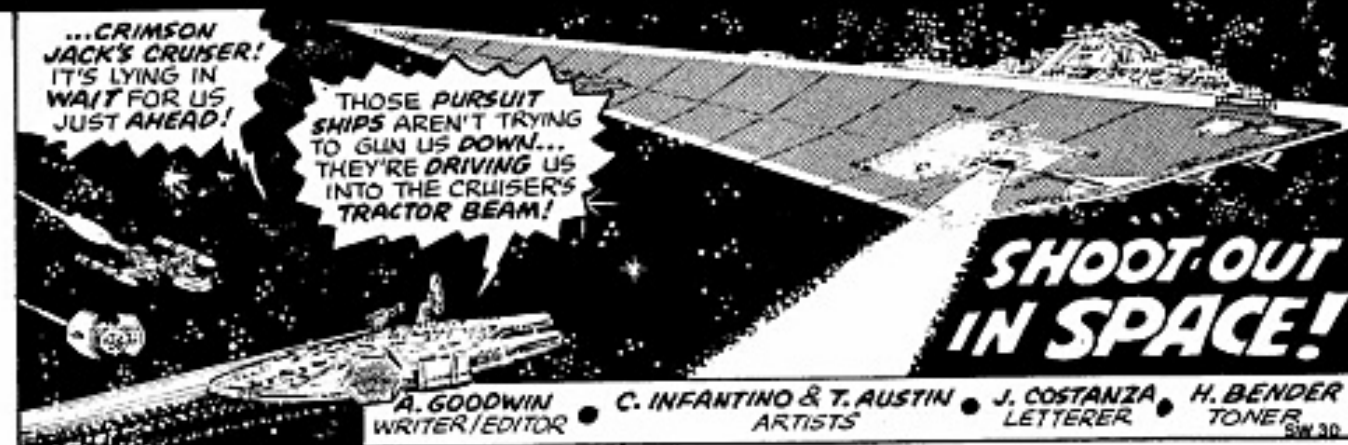
SKYWALKER! YOU STILL ABLE TO MAN A GUN?

SURE! BUT I THINK THE FALCON SHOULD BE ABLE TO RUN OFF AND HIDE FROM THREE LOUSY Y-WINGERS!



RIGHT, OLD BUDDY! BUT THAT WON'T BE THE PROBLEM!

THE PROBLEM WILL BE...



...CRIMSON JACK'S CRUISER! IT'S LYING IN WAIT FOR US JUST AHEAD!

THOSE PURSUIT SHIPS AREN'T TRYING TO GUN US DOWN... THEY'RE DRIVING US INTO THE CRUISER'S TRACTOR BEAM!

SHOOT OUT IN SPACE!

A. GOODWIN
WRITER/EDITOR

C. INFANTINO & T. AUSTIN
ARTISTS

J. COSTANZA
LETTERER

H. BENDER
TONER

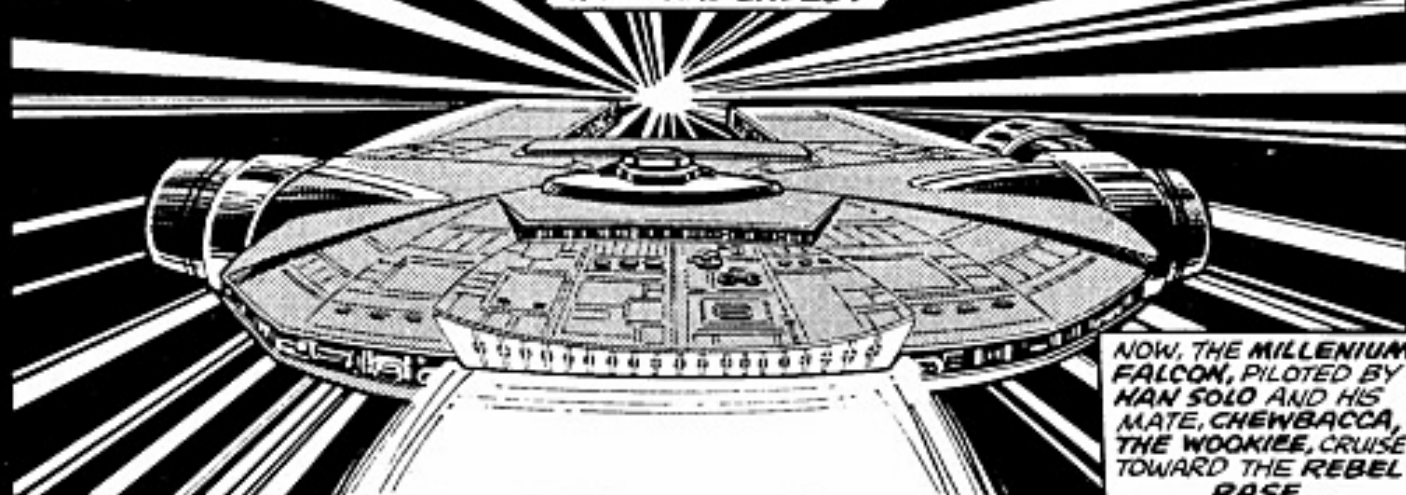
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THE STORY SO FAR:

THE BATTLE TO ESCAPE THE DREKEL SYSTEM AND THE SPACE PIRATE CRIMSON JACK HAS ENDED!



NOW, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON, PILOTED BY HAN SOLO AND HIS MATE, CHEWBACCA, THE WOOKIEE, CRUISES TOWARD THE REBEL BASE...



...WHILE HER PASSENGERS THINK OF THE PAST--AND OF THE FUTURE...

LUKE SKYWALKER CANNOT FORGET THE EPIC CLASH BETWEEN OBI-WAN KENOBI, LAST OF THE JEDI-KNIGHTS--AND THE EMPIRE'S LIVING SYMBOL OF EVIL INCARNATE, DARTH VADER!



NOR CAN HE HELP BUT WONDER IF VADER STILL LIVES--AND IF EVEN THE FORCE CAN OVERCOME HIM IF HE DOES!

EVEN THE DROIDS, ARTOO-DETOO AND SEE-THREEPIO, ARE APPREHENSIVE...



OF COURSE I'M WORRIED, ARTOO--BUT NOT ABOUT RETURNING TO THE REBEL BASE!

I SENSE AN EVEN GREATER IMMEDIATE DANGER THAN THE EMPIRE--LURKING OUT THERE--SOMEWHERE...UNSEEN...UNKNOWN...

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THE STORY SO FAR:

THE MAN'S NAME IS VALANCE, A BOUNTY HUNTER IN SEARCH OF A YOUNG MAN WHO, WITH THE HELP OF DROIDS, HELPED TO DESTROY THE EMPIRE'S DEATH STAR...

FIND THEM AND WE'LL FIND THE BOY AND HIS DROIDS!

WE'RE ON THE TRAIL OF THOSE WHO HELPED HAN SOLO ON ADUBA-3!

WHILE, ON THE AFOREMENTIONED PLANET...

THUS, A SHORT TIME LATER, ON ADUBA-3'S ONLY FARMABLE PLAIN, THE STARKILLER KID IS REUNITED WITH TWO OLD FRIENDS...

BUT THAT'S CRAZY! HOW COULD HE GET ME MIXED UP WITH THIS SKYWALKER GUY?

ANYBODY CAN SEE I'M JUST A NEWLY-WED FARM BOY!

BETTER COME WITH ME, AMAIZA! I GOT WORD THERE'S A MANHUNTER AFTER THE STARKILLER KID!

SEEMS HE'S GOT 'IM MIXED UP WITH LUKE SKYWALKER OR SOMETHIN'!

WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?

YOU KNOW I NEVER TURN DOWN A FIGHT!

JAXXON... AMAIZA! WHAT BRINGS YOU TWO HERE?

NOTHING SERIOUS, KID! THERE'S JUST A BOUNTY-HUNTER ON YER TAIL--

--AND HE'LL PROBABLY WIPE OUT YER ENTIRE VILLAGE JUST TO GET AT YOU!

I'M JUST GIVIN' YOU THE FACTS, KID--AND OFFERIN' OUR HELP IF YA WANT IT!

WHILE, AT THAT SAME MOMENT, HIGH ABOVE THE ATMOSPHERE OF ADUBA-3...

OUR COMPUTERS SHOW THE TARGET IS ON THE PLANET BELOW!

PUT ALL STATIONS ON BATTLE-ALERT! THE BOY AND THE DROIDS MUST BE CAPTURED!

THE EMPIRE WILL PAY DEARLY FOR THEM--AND I WILL BE ONCE MORE ACCEPTED INTO ITS FOLD!

MARK OF THE DROID HUNTER!

ARCHIE GOODWIN, WRITER/EDITOR
WALT SIMONSON & BOB WYRCEK, ARTISTS
D. WOHL, LETTERER • H. BENDER, TONER

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THE STORY SO FAR:

IN THE DAYS BEFORE LUKE SKYWALKER JOINED THE REBEL ALLIANCE, HE WAS A TYPICAL NOTROODING TEENAGER ON HIS HOME PLANET TATOOWINE...

HEADS UP, LUKE! YOU MAY BE MY BEST BUDDY-- BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT OL' BIGGS DARKLIGHTER...

...IS GONNA LET YOU TAKE HIS PLACE AS TATOOWINE'S TOP SKYHOPPER DRAG-RACER. I'M MAKING MY MOVE-- NOW!

YOU TALK A GREAT RACE, PAL-O-MINE!

BUT YOU LEAP-FROGGED ME TOO SOON! THERE'S STILL TIME FOR ME TO JUMP YOU BEFORE THE LAST TURN--

-- AND NO ROOM FOR YOU TO OVERTAKE ME AFTER THAT!

BUT AS LUKE STARTS HIS JUMP...

...BIGGS BRAKES WITH HIS RETROS...

...LEAVING LUKE NO CHOICE BUT TO--

-- PULL UP OR COLLIDE!

BIGGS RETAINS HIS TITLE...

...AND THE FAREWELL PARTY-- CELEBRATING HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE ACADEMY-- CONTINUES. UNTIL...

HEY! THAT SPEEDER'S ON FIRE!

IT'S GOING TO CRASH! LET'S GET TO IT-- FAST!

BIGGS-- THIS GUY'S A MILITIA SCOUT!

EASY, MISTER... YOU'RE OKAY NOW.

N-NO! GOT TO WARN EVERYONE! BIG TROUBLE...!

CRUCIBLE!

ARCHIE GOODWIN, WRITER/EDITOR • CHRIS CLAREMONT, PLOT • HERB TRIMPE & WINDSOR NEWTON, GUEST ARTISTS • HOWARD BENDER, TONER • RICK PARKER, LETTERER • JIM SHOOTER, CONSULTING EDITOR.

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**ACTION!
ADVENTURE!
DRAMA!**

ENTER THE EXCITING LIVES OF OUR SIX STAR WARRIORS! THREE HUMANS, ONE WOOKIEE AND TWO ROBOTS--IT IS THIS UNLIKELY COMBINATION THAT HAS CREATED THE LEGEND WHICH IS STAR WARS! WHO ELSE BUT THESE SIX COULD HAVE SINGLE-HANDEDLY FACED THE TYRANNY OF THE ENTIRE GALACTIC EMPIRE AND COME UP WINNERS?!!



**TURN THE PAGE! GET SET FOR YET ANOTHER ACTION-FILLED
ADVENTURE STARRING THE GREATEST HEROES OF AN
ENTIRE GENERATION!!**

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TRAPPED!

ARCHIE GOODWIN
WRITER/EDITOR,
CARMINE INFANTINO
E. GENE DAY,
ARTISTS
RICK PARKER,
LETTERER,
BEADER/ESPOSITO,
ZIP-A-TONERS.

ABOARD THE MILLENNIUM FALCON, EVENTS ARE HAPPENING FAST!!!

PRINCESS LEIA!
CAPTAIN SOLO!
COME QUICKLY!
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENED TO
MASTER LUKE!



HIS BODY IS SHUT DOWN!
HE'S NOT MOVING!

LUKE!!-- WE
HAVE TO JET HIM
TO A REBEL
MEDIC BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE!!

FREEEP!
DOOT?

A MALFUNCTION IN
THE MILLENNIUM FAL-
CON'S INSTRUMENTS
LEADS THE UNSUSPECT-
ING REBEL BAND
RIGHT INTO AN UN-
AUTHORIZED MILITARY
CONTAINMENT ZONE!
WHICH MEANS TROUBLE!

BUT THEIR TROUBLES
ARE ONLY BEGINNING
AS THEY NEXT SPOT A
FELLOW REBEL
STRANDED IN SPACE--
CONSPICUOUSLY FLOAT-
ING NEAR A PLUNDERED
RUINED MERCHANT
SHIP!



THEY BRING HIM
ABOARD, AND:



AN
IMPERIAL
TIE FIGHTER!
IT'S EITHER
THEM OR
US!



YOU'VE PLAYED INTO
THEIR HANDS!-- THE
EMPIRE FORCED US
ABOARD THE MER-
CHANT SHIP-- THEN
THEY DESTROYED IT
-- THEY MADE IT
LOOK LIKE A REBEL
RAID!-- THEY'LL
FRAME YOU FOR IT!
TRY TO ESCAPE BE-
FORE IT'S TOO
LATE!

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SW 37

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **STAR WARS** THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

OUR HEROES ARE TRAPPED ON THE WHEEL --A MAN-MADE SPACE STATION! IT IS HERE, IN ONE OF ITS DOCKING BAYS, THAT A LIFE-AND-DEATH RACE TO ESCAPE PURSUING STORM-TROOPERS BEGINS!

MASTER LUKE IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS! HE'S BARELY BREATHING! WE MUST FIND OUR WAY TO THE HOSPITAL FACILITIES!

OH, ARTOO-- THESE ACCESS-CORRIDORS SEEM ENDLESS! I'M AFRAID WE'RE LOST!-- AND MY SERVO-MOTORS ARE ALREADY OVER-STRAINED! THE STORM-TROOPERS WILL SURELY CAPTURE US SOON IF WE DON'T...

WHAT?! YOU'RE TRYING TO TAP A MAIN COMPUTER LINE IN THE WALL CIRCUITRY?

I ONLY HOPE WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME!

PREYER & FIORICOLA FOR

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THE STORY SO FAR:

AFTER LUKE SKYWALKER WAS BADLY INJURED WHILE MEDITATING ON THE FORCE, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON LANDED ON THE WHEEL, AN ENORMOUS MAN-MADE SPACE STATION RUN BY SENATOR GREYSHADE...

WHILE ARTOO AND THREEPIO HAD TO GET LUKE TO THE WHEEL'S HOSPITAL, HAN AND PRINCESS LEIA WERE PINNED DOWN IN ONE OF THE STATION'S DOCKING BAYS...

... BY IMPERIAL STORMTROOPERS!

HOWEVER, ONCE WHEEL SECURITY FORCES MOVED IN, THE PAIR SURRENDERED, ONLY TO BE SEPARATED. HAN WAS TAKEN TO THE FALCON WHERE HE WAS ORDERED TO HELP IN SEARCHING HIS OWN SHIP FOR PIRATED WHEEL PROFITS.

WHILE THE PRINCESS WAS TAKEN DIRECTLY TO SENATOR GREYSHADE...

CHEWBACCA, MEANWHILE, HAD ELUDED DETECTION AND FOUND HIS WAY TO THE WHEEL'S UPPER LEVEL--

CHEWIE'S LUCK RAN OUT! HE WAS CAPTURED BY WHEEL SECURITY AND SENT TO THE DREADED GLADIATOR PITTS!

--A VAST CITY DEDICATED TO PLEASURES OF ALL KINDS, BUT WITH THE ACCENT ON GAMBLING!

NOW WE REJOIN SOLO, LOOKING ON HELPLESSLY AS THE FALCON IS METHODICALLY STRIPPED AND SEARCHED FOR THE STOLEN WHEEL LOOT...

WE KNOW YOU'VE GOT THAT CASH, SOLO! IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL WE FIND IT!

SENATORS, BLASTERS, & MONEY!

ARCHIE GOODWIN • CARMINE INFANTINO • BOB WIACEK • JIM SHOOTER • HOWARD BENDER
WRITER/EDITOR • PENCILER • INKER • CONSULTING EDITOR • TONES

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THE STORY SO FAR:

OUR HEROES ARE HELD CAPTIVE ABOARD THE WHEEL, ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE THAT IS HOME TO A CITY OF CASINOS!
WITNESS:

PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA!

IF GREYSHADE DOESN'T SPOT THE SERVING KNIFE I'M HIDING BEHIND MY BACK, I WON'T BE HIS PRISONER FOR LONG!



WITNESS: LUKE SKYWALKER!

IN A MYSTERIOUS STATE OF SHOCK, HE IS BEING TREATED IN THE WHEEL HOSPITAL...



UNFORTUNATELY, THE DOCTORS ABOARD THIS SHIP NEVER SWORE TO THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH!

WITNESS: ARTOO DETOO AND SEE-THREEPIO!



SHOVED INTO A WHEEL STORAGE UNIT, THE PAIR IS SLATED TO HAVE THEIR MEMORIES FLUSHED AND THEIR BODIES MELTED INTO SLAG!

WITNESS:

HAN SOLO...
GLADIATOR!

IF THIS IS A FAIR FIGHT, I'M A SPACE MONKEY! BUT BEATING THIS BOZO IS THE ONLY HOPE WE'VE GOT OF GETTING OFF THE WHEEL ALIVE!

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT MY LI'L BUDDY HERE HAS UP HIS SLEEVES...



ARCHIE GOODWIN, WRITER/EDITOR
CARMINE INFANTINO AND
BOB WIACEK, ARTISTS
JIM SHOOTER, CONSULTING EDITOR
HOWARD BENDER, TONER

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STAR WARS THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

LUKE SKYWALKER HAS BEEN HELD AN UNCONSCIOUS CAPTIVE IN THE HOSPITAL OF THE GALAXY'S GREATEST ENTERPRISE... THE WHEEL!

HIS BODY HAS REMAINED IN THE SAME TRANCE-LIKE STATE IT FELL INTO ABOARD THE MILLENNIUM FALCON WHILE PRACTICING A MEDITATION ON THE FORCE...

...AND NOW-- AT LONG LAST--

FREE... MUST... GET... FREE...!

BEFORE ALARMS CAN BRING HOSPITAL ORDERLIES, LUKE IS ON HIS WAY... RACING ALONG WHEEL ACCESS CORRIDORS...

EVEN AS HORRIFYINGLY REAL DREAM IMAGES TAKE HOLD OF HIS MIND!

LUKE BEGINS TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH:

IT IS THE SAME POWERFUL IMAGES THAT WERE THE CAUSE OF HIS TRANCE!

DARTH VADER! I'VE BEATEN HIM! I'VE AVENGED YOU! WE'RE FINALLY FREE OF HIM!

NO, LUKE... IT IS MERELY A SHADOW OF HIM. A SHADOW THAT IS YOUR OWN FEAR-- THE FEAR THAT WAS SO AWFUL IT ALMOST DEFEATED YOU!

YOU'VE FOUGHT AND WON, YOUNG LUKE. NOW IT'S ALL OVER.

LUKE! THANK THE STARS YOU'VE FINALLY COME AROUND!

--I JUST ESCAPED FROM MY PRISON CELL AND FOUND THREEPIO AND ARTOO IN THE CRIMSON CASINO WHEN A TRANSMISSION CAME THROUGH ABOUT YOU! A FULL RIOT ALERT!

I... DID THIS! MUST'VE BEEN OUT OF MY HEAD... FIGHTING THAT TRANCE I WAS IN... IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE-- BUT SOMEHOW, IT WAS REAL! I... TOUCHED SOMEONE ELSE'S MIND! IT WAS TWISTED... EVIL... AND STRONG!

AND THAT CONTACT MADE CERTAIN WHAT WHAT WE COULD ONLY SUSPECT UP TO NOW--

DARTH VADER IS ALIVE!
--AND SEARCHING FOR US!

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THE STORY SO FAR:

ABOARD THE MILLENNIUM FALCON, PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA RECOUNTS TO HER FELLOW STAR WARRIORS A TALE OF BEN KENOBI--

IT'S A STORY MY FATHER TOLD ME-- IT HAPPENED MANY YEARS AGO-- BACK IN THE DAYS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC...



"BEN WAS ON A PLEASURE CRUISER AND HAD BE-FRIENDED A DROID NAMED RKO WHEN...

HEY! WHY DON'T YOU GO BELOW DECK WHERE YOU BELONG?!"

"WE DON'T LIKE DROIDS MIXING WITH PEOPLE!"



"MIND YOUR MANNERS, FRIEND! THE DROID'S WITH ME!"

"ANGERED AND DRUNK, THE DROID-HATER LATER ATTACKED THE JEDI FROM BEHIND. BEN USED THE POWER OF THE FORCE TO PROTECT HIMSELF..."



"AAGH!"

HOW?! YOU DIDN'T EVEN SEE ME!"

"THAT INCONVENIENCE DISPOSED OF..."

"...BEN AND RKO DEPARTED FOR THEIR CABIN, BUT WERE SOON SUMMONED BY CAPTAIN QUASAR...!"

SPACE-TRAP!

THOSE ARE HOSTILE MERSON SHIPS OUT THERE! --ONCE WE LEFT HYPER-SPACE WE HAD TO SHUT OFF OUR SYSTEMS SO THAT THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DETECT US. --WE CAN'T BE SURE IF THEY'VE ACTUALLY SPOTTED US YET... WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO?"



EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING. WAIT AND SEE IF THEY TAKE HOSTILE ACTION."

MARY JO DUFFY / C. INFANTINO & R. WIACEK / RICK PARKER / HOWARD BENDER / A. GOODWIN
SCRIPT ARTISTS LETTERER TONER EDITOR

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THE STORY SO FAR:

IT IS A DUEL TO THE DEATH!--HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA ARE TRAPPED IN THE ZERO-GRAVITY GLADIATORIAL ARENA ON BOARD THE WHEEL!

WORRK!

BA-WOOM!

--IF WE STICK TOGETHER WE JUST MIGHT SURVIVE TO UNCOVER THE EMPIRE'S SCHEME TO FRAME THE REBEL ALLIANCE FOR THE ROBBERY OF THAT CARGO SHIP!

BLAST YOU, GREYSHADE!--THOSE TWO SHOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED BY NOW!--YOU SHOULD HAVE GIVEN ALL OF LEIA'S FRIENDS TO ME--FOR EXECUTION!

NOT WHEN THE EMPIRE IS TRYING TO FOOL EVERYONE INTO BELIEVING THAT THE WHEEL AND ITS PATRONS HAVE BECOME TARGETS OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE...

...THEREBY JUSTIFYING AN IMPERIAL TAKEOVER OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT AND ITS PROFITS!

...IF THOSE TWO LIVE TO BLURT OUT ALL...

SUDDENLY, IMPERIAL COMMANDER STROM STAGGERS AND FALLS!

AH, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A DRUGGED DRINK TO SETTLE AN ARGUMENT.

AAAANK!

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE ON THE WHEEL--

THERE'S A BAY AHEAD, PRINCESS! GREYSHADE'S SECURITY GUARDS WENT INSIDE!

YOU AND ARTOO GO AHEAD TO THE DOOR AND CONTINUE TAPING.-- WE'LL SOON HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO PROVE THE "STOLEN" LOOT WAS ON STROM'S SHIP... AND THAT GREYSHADE'S GOONS JUST NOW FILCHED IT!

BUT AS ARTOO AND LUKE REACH THE DOCKING BAY DOOR, IT SHOOTS OPEN TO REVEAL--

SUDDEN DEATH!

WE'RE THE SENATOR'S HAND-PICKED ELITE, FARM BOY! DID YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TRULY IMAGINE--

--WE COULD BE FOLLOWED ON OUR TERRITORY AND NEVER CATCH ON?!

BLOOP!

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THE STORY SO FAR:

THE JIG IS UP! THE STAR-WARRIORS HAVE MANAGED TO STAY ALIVE ABOARD THE SPACE-BORNE WHEEL THROUGH CUNNING AND LUCK, BUT NOW...



ARCHIE GOODWIN,
WRITER
CARMINE INFANTINO,
& BOB WIACEK,
ARTISTS.
H. BENDER, TONER.

FLIGHT INTO FURY!

THEN... EVEN IF WE ESCAPE THE WHEEL-- WE'LL STILL HAVE TO FACE HIM!

WHILE...

Editor: Dez Skinn Assistant Editor: Richard Burton

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THE STORY SO FAR:

HIS NAME IS TAGGE! HIS TRADEMARK IS RUTHLESSNESS-- BOTH IN GALAXY-SPANNING COMMERCE AND IN COMBAT...

YOU'RE TOO SKILLFUL WITH THE LIGHT SABRE, BARRON TAGGE! ONLY A JEDI KNIGHT COULD EQUAL YOU NOW!

--AND THEY NO LONGER EXIST!



ONE DOES, SHANKS--

--DARTH VADER! WHOSE OWN LIGHT SABRE LEFT ME LIKE THIS!

THE ELDEST BROTHER OF THE TAGGE LINE, HELPLESS... WITHOUT MY CYBER-VISION!



I MUST KEEP PRACTICING SO THAT SOMEDAY I'LL BE READY TO REPAY VADER IN KIND... AND WITH INTEREST.

BUT WHILE THE BARON MAY HAVE TO WAIT TO LOOSE HIS WRATH UPON DARTH VADER... ANOTHER WIELDER OF THE FORCE IS ABOUT TO BECOME HIS TARGET.

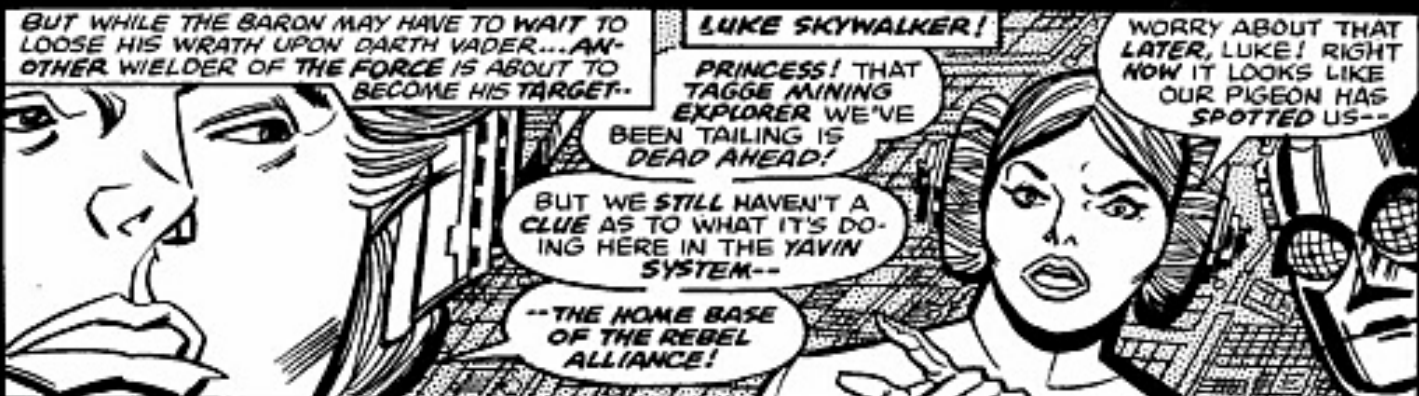
LUKE SKYWALKER!

PRINCESS! THAT TAGGE MINING EXPLORER WE'VE BEEN TAILING IS DEAD AHEAD!

BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T A CLUE AS TO WHAT IT'S DOING HERE IN THE YAVIN SYSTEM--

--THE HOME BASE OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE!

WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER, LUKE! RIGHT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE OUR PIGEON HAS SPOTTED US--



--AND BOOBY-TRAPPED THE AREA WITH MINES!

WE'RE HIT -- BUT OUR SHIELDS SAVED US FROM SERIOUS DAMAGE!

THEY WON'T HELP US MUCH LONGER, MASTER LUKE. ARTOO SAYS THAT ONE HIT HAS OUR SHIELDS FAILING!



SIEGE AT YAVIN!

ARCHIE GOODWIN • CARMINE INFANTINO • GENE PAY • JOHN COSTANZA • HOWARD BENDER
WRITER ARTIST INKER LETTERER TONER

STAR WARS WEEKLY Number 54

Editor: Dez Skinn Assistant Editor: Richard Burton Founder: Stan Lee

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: **STAR WARS** THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

ON THE FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN--HOME TO THE REBEL ALLIANCE--WE FIND A FRENZIED LUKE SKYWALKER BOARDING HIS STAR-SHIP--

IF I CAN GET TO THAT OTHER MOON AND LOOK THROUGH THE TIE FIGHTER WE DOWNED EARLIER--

WE'LL FIND THE SIGNAL UNIT THE IMPERIAL FLIERS USE TO CREATE A STORM CORRIDOR AND HOME IN ON THEIR SPACE STATION IN THE GASES OF YAVIN!

IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE'LL EVER STOP THEIR ATTACKS ON OUR BASE HERE!



AND AS LEIA AND DODONNA LOOK ON, YOUNG LUKES TAKES OFF...

LANDED ON THE OTHER MOON, LUKE SPOTS THE HOMING DEVICE HE HAS COME FOR, BUT BEFORE HE CAN GET TO IT--

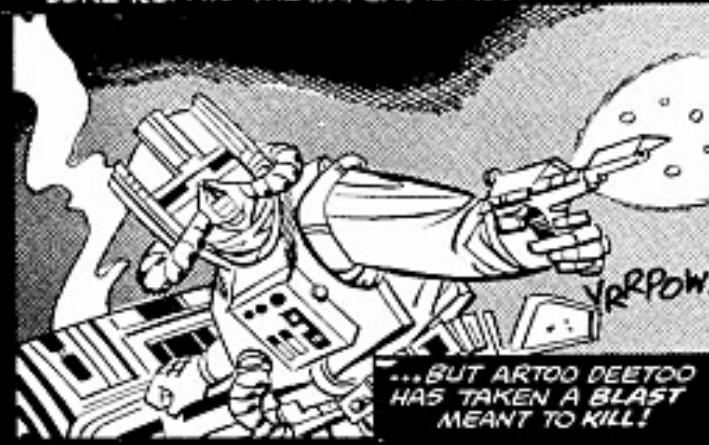


BLASTED REBELS! YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME--OR MY SHIP!

ARTOO!

POOW

LUKE REPAYS THE IMPERIAL PILOT IN KIND...



...BUT ARTOO DEETOO HAS TAKEN A BLAST MEANT TO KILL!

DOOM MISSION!

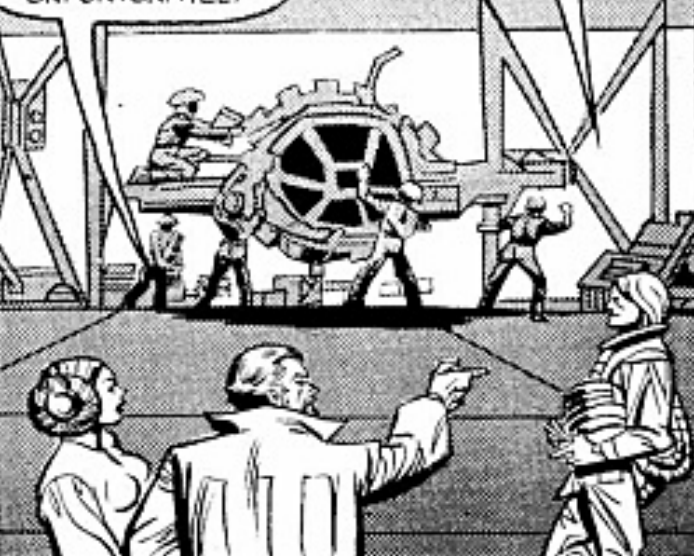
AND BACK ON THE BASE...

I'LL BE HONEST, LUKE... THIS IS A SUICIDE MISSION. BUT IT MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED-- AND YOU'RE OUR BEST MAN!

WHEN I DESTROY MY TARGET, I DESTROY WHATEVER CREATES THE STORM CORRIDOR... THE ONLY WAY OUT OF YAVIN'S GAS ATMOSPHERE.

I UNDERSTAND. AND I'M READY TO GO--NOW!

WE'VE OUTFITTED THIS CAPTURED TIE FIGHTER WITH THE TAGGE SIGNAL DEVICE YOU RETRIEVED... AND ENOUGH PROTON CHARGES TO LEVEL A CITY. UNFORTUNATELY--



ARCHIE GOODWIN, WRITER; CARMINE INFANTINO AND BOB WIACEK, ARTISTS; I. KLINGER, TONER; JOHN COSTANZA LETTERER.

STAR WARS WEEKLY Number 56

Editor: Dez Skinn Assistant Editor: Richard Burton Publisher: Stan Lee

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Long ago in a galaxy far, far away... there exists a state of cosmic civil war. A brave alliance of underground freedom fighters has challenged the tyranny and oppression of the awesome Galactic Empire. This is their story!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

STAR WARS

THE GREATEST
SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

BEHOLD VALANCE, THE MOST FEARED BOUNTY HUNTER IN THE GALAXY--AND AN OBSESSED DROID HATER...

...A BITTERLY IRONIC FACT, FOR VALANCE HIMSELF IS HALF-DROID-- A CYBORG!

EVEN AS WE LOOK ON, VALANCE SEARCHES FOR THE PREY HE HAS SWORN TO DESTROY...

...A DROID-LOVER WHO RIGHT NOW HAS OTHER PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH--

--LUKE SKYWALKER!

MASTER LUKE! THAT IMPERIAL BATTLE CRUISER IS PURSUING US! WE'LL NEVER OUTFRIN IT!

WE'VE GOT TO, THREEPIO. NOT JUST FOR OURSELVES--

--BUT FOR ARTOO WHO DESPERATELY NEEDS THOSE NEW PARTS WE'RE AFTER!

AND USING FLYING SKILLS LEARNED FROM FELLOW STAR-WARRIOR HAN SOLO, LUKE LEADS HIS PURSUERS IN A DEADLY GAME OF THREADING THE ASTEROIDS, UNTIL...

WE DID IT, THREEPIO! THE CRUISER COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH US--THEY'VE CRACKED UP!

BUT WHILE LUKE AND THE GOLDEN DROID CELEBRATE THEIR NARROW ESCAPE...

...VALANCE INDULGES IN HIS FAVOURITE PASTIME--DROID BLASTING!

I'M ONLY SORRY THESE AREN'T THAT REBEL AND HIS DROIDS, SKINKER...

BUT I KNOW YOU'LL INFORM ME IF THEY SHOW UP IN THESE PARTS--WON'T YOU?

LIKE A HUNTER IN THE NIGHT!



YOU KEEP PAYING, MY FRIEND, AND I'LL KEEP LOOKING!

ARCHIE GOODWIN / WRITER | CARMINE INFANTINO & BOB WIACEK / ARTISTS | JOHN COSTANZA / LETTERER | HOWARD BENDER / TONER

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: **STAR WARS** THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR: WELCOME TO JUNCTION, AN OUTWORLD TRADING POST WHERE THE EMPIRE'S GRIP IS NOT SO FIRMLY FELT. ONLY ON A SEMI-CIVILIZED PLANET SUCH AS THIS CAN YOU FIND...



...REBELS SUCH AS LUKE SKYWALKER AND SEE THREEPIO, IN SEARCH OF PARTS TO REPAIR ARTOO DETOO, THEIR DROID COMPANION FALLEN IN BATTLE...

...AND BOUNTY HUNTERS SUCH AS VALANCE, THE DROID-HATER--WHO IS IN HOT PURSUIT OF LUKE AND THE DROIDS!



HERE'S A LIKELY LOOKING SALVAGE YARD, THREEPIO.

EXCUSE ME, SIR-- CAN YOU GIVE US SOME HELP...?

SURE CAN, LAD...

...AFTER I SEND WORD TO VALANCE THAT YOU'RE HERE!



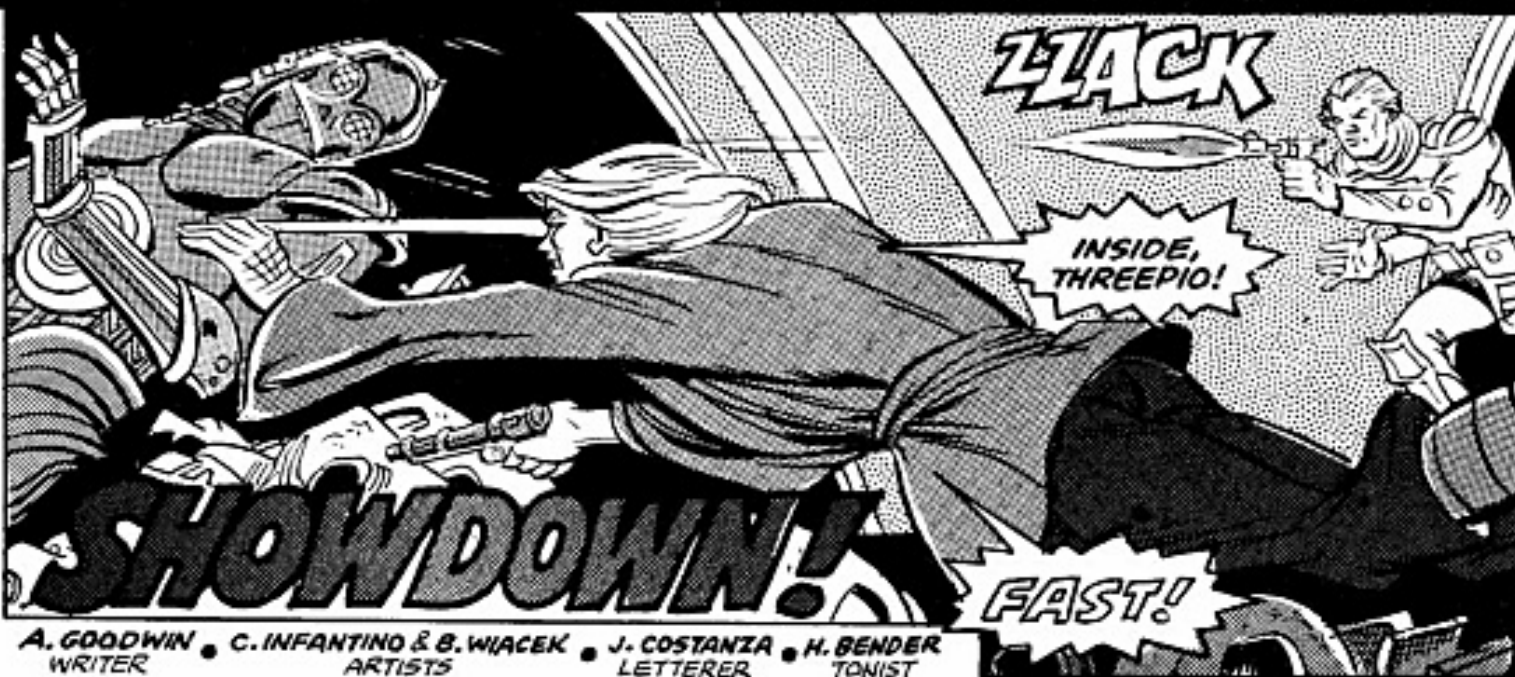
AND AS LUKE AND THREEPIO WAIT FOR THEIR ORDER TO BE PACKED...

SO, DROID-LOVER, WE MEET FOR THE FIRST-- AND LAST-- TIME!

NOW STEP BACK... BEFORE KILLING YOU, I'LL MELT YOUR PET JUNK INTO SLAG!

SLAM!

MASTER LUKE! HE--



ZLACK

INSIDE, THREEPIO!

FAST!

A. GOODWIN WRITER • C. INFANTINO & B. WACEK ARTISTS • J. COSTANZA LETTERER • H. BENDER TONIST

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: STAR WARS THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

IF HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA LOOK JUST A LITTLE ANXIOUS... BELIEVE US, THEY'VE GOT GOOD REASON!

WHEN THEIR FREIGHTER, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON, MALFUNCTIONED AFTER ESCAPING DARTH VADER'S BATTLESHIP...

...THEY RETREATED TO THEIR SECRET CAVE EMERGENCY STATION ON ORLEON!

BUT THEIR HIDEOUTS LOCATION WAS NO SECRET FROM THEIR ENEMY, JABBA THE HUT, WHO-- AIDED BY HIS BAND OF SPACE-THUGS-- IMMEDIATELY BE-SIEGED THEM!

SURRENDER NOW AND WE'LL GIVE YOU A SWIFT, DIGNIFIED DEATH, SOLD!

HOLD OUT... AND I MAY NOT BE SO GENEROUS!

AS IF THAT WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH, THEY FOUND THE INTERIOR OF THEIR CAVE SUDDENLY SWARMING WITH--

STONE MITES!

THEY'RE THE ULTIMATE SCAVENGERS, CHEWIE! THEY'LL EAT ANYTHING! ROCKS, MACHINES... US!

RIGHT! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE FALCON AND FIND A WAY OUT!

NARR!!

BEFORE IT BECOMES A MAIN COURSE... AND YOU AN' ME THE DESSERT!

ON ALL SIDES... DEATH!!

ARCHIE GOODWIN * WRITER

CARMINE INFANTINO * ARTIST

GENE DAY * INKER

JOHN COSTANZA * LETTERER

HOWARD BENDER * TONIST

STAR WARS WEEKLY Number 61

Editor: Dez Skinn Publisher: Stan Lee

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PRESENTS:

STAR WARS

THE GREATEST
SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

WITH A VENGEANCE-SEEKING JABBA THE HUT AND CO. LAYING SIEGE TO THEIR ORLEON CAVERN HIDEOUT...

...AND MAN-AND-METAL EATING STONE-MITES ATTACKING THE CAVERN'S INSIDE...



IT'S NO WONDER THAT HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA ARE DESPERATE TO GET THE HELL OUT OF THIS MESS AND INTO THEIR SHIP...

...AND GENERATE ENOUGH HEAT TO BURN THE LITTLE DEMONS OFF!

JABBA WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT HIS TURN TO KILL US!



WE DID IT! BY OPERATING OUR DE-ICERS AT FULL POWER...

...WE'RE SCORCHING THEM OFF! LOOKS LIKE OUR UNINVITED GUESTS DON'T LIKE HAVING THEIR FOOD FRY THEM!



ARCHIE GOODWIN * WRITER * CARMINE INFANTINO * ARTIST * GENE DAY * INKER * HOWARD BENDER * TONIST * JOHN COSTANZA * LETTERER

STAR WARS WEEKLY

Editor: Dez Skinn Publisher: Stan Lee

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Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

STAR WARS THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

DARTH VADER GLEEFULLY TORTURES A REBEL SPY...



IF YOU VALUE YOUR
PITIABLE LIFE...
TALK!!

FIRST...
HIS
NAME!

LUCIEN...
TYLER
LUCIAN...

AND IN A CENTAURS CANTINA, VALANCE THE
BOUNTY HUNTER IS ALSO ASKING QUESTIONS...

TALK, MERL!
TELL ME WHERE
I CAN FIND
TYLER
LUCIAN...

...OR I'LL
DO TO YOU
WHAT I DID
TO YOUR
THUGS!

I'LL TELL,
I'LL TELL!
JUST LET GO
OF MY
HAND!



BUT THE EMPIRE'S TROOPERS-- INVESTIGATING
THIS "DISTURBANCE"-- LOOK A BIT TOO CLOSELY...

A BORG! YOU'RE A
MISERABLE CYBORG,
VALANCE-- TRYING
TO PASS!

WE CAN'T LET HIM
GET AWAY WITH
KILLING NORMAL
ORGANICS!



THANK YOU, TROOPER!
UNTIL NOW I DON'T
THINK I WAS CERTAIN
ABOUT MY COURSE
OF ACTION--



NOW I'M COMMITTED
IN A RACE AGAINST
DARTH VADER--

--AND
TYLER
LUCIAN IS
THE
PRIZE!



THE HUNTED AND ...THE HUNTER!

BUT NOW
WE SHIFT
OUR SCENE...

ARCHIE GOODWIN * WRITER * CARMINE INFANTINO & BOB WIACEK * ARTISTS * HOWARD BENDER * TONIST * JOHN COSTANZA * LETTERER

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Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

STAR WARS THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

THE STORY SO FAR:

FIRST, THE GOOD NEWS: ARTOO DEETOO HAS BEEN REPAIRED AND IS BACK IN ACTION...

YES, ARTOO, I AM GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK...

BUT DON'T THINK THAT ENTITLES YOU TO SPECIAL TREATMENT, YOU MASS OF MISMATCHED COMPONENTS!

FRA-DEEP!

WHAT! WHY, YOU LITTLE TWERP...!

NOW THE BAD NEWS: DARTH VADER AND VALANCE THE HUNTER ARE IN A RACE TO FIND THE EX-REBEL CALLED--

TYLER LUCIAN! HE IS HIDING ON CENTARES. WE MUST FIND HIM, WERMS...

...AND WRING THE NAME OF THE REBEL WHO DESTROYED THE DEATH STAR FROM HIM!

"WE ALL KNOW LUKE SKYWALKER DID IT--BUT VADER DOESN'T KNOW HIS NAME,"--EDITOR.

VALANCE FINDS LUCIAN FIRST--

YOU WON'T ESCAPE FROM ME IN THAT TOWER, LUCIAN! I'LL GET YOU.

BUT THE HALF-ROBOT HUNTER'S REAL BATTLE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. FOR BEFORE HE CAN GIVE CHASE...

...A DISTINCTIVE TIE FIGHTER LANDS. AND ABOVE THE LETHAL WATERS OF RUBYFLAME LAKE...

...A CONFRONTATION BEGINS.

TO THE DEATH!

LUCIAN KNOWS A NAME I REQUIRE, CYBORG. LET ME PASS.

NO, LORD VADER, I STAND MY GROUND.

ARCHIE GOODWIN * WRITER * CARMINE INFANTINO & BOB WIACEK * ARTISTS * HOWARD BENDER * TONIST * JOHN COSTANZA * LETTERER

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WHILE LUKE SKYWALKER AND HIS DROIDS ARTOO DEETOO AND SEE THREEPIO AWAIT THEIR NEXT MISSION...

THIS SITTING AROUND IS DULLER THAN MOISTURE FARMING!

YOUR MOVE, ARTOO.

SAVE THE WINNER FOR ME, FELLOWS.

FRA-DEEP!

...AND HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA SEEK OUT THEIR NEXT BIG SMUGGLING SCORE...

CHEWIE-- I'VE GOT AN IDEA FOR A GREAT NEW SCHEME--

OH, YEAH? WELL THE SAME TO YOU, FELLA!

GRONK!

...THEIR COMPANION-IN-ARMS, THE PRINCESS FROM ALDERMAN, IS DOING ANYTHING BUT SITTING ON HER HANDS! SO LET'S LOOK IN ON--

--PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA: STAR WARRIOR!

I'VE COME TO THIS GODFORSAKEN FACTORY PLANET, METALORN, TO SPREAD WORD OF THE REBELLION AGAINST THE EMPIRE--

PURSUIT!

-- BUT THAT SECURITY CHECK FORCED ME TO BLOW MY COVER! MY FIRST PRIORITY NOW IS TO STAY ALIVE!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT REBEL SPY IS, BARON TAGGE...

YOU'RE INCOMPETENT, CORWYTH! SHE SHOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN THIS FAR TO BEGIN WITH!

... BUT THE TROOPER'S BLASTER SHE STOLE EMITS A SIGNAL WHICH WILL LEAD US RIGHT TO HER!

ARCHIE GOODWIN,
WRITER.
CARMINE INFANTINO,
ARTIST.
GENE DAY,
INKER.
HOWARD BENDER,
TONIST.
JOE ROSEN,
LETTERER.

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THE LADY WITH THE BLASTER--IN CASE WE HAD TO TELL YOU--IS THE FORMER SENATOR FROM ALDERAAN, PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA...

HERE--THIS ENOUGH ID FOR YOU?

WELL, I JUST SAVED MY OWN SKIN--BUT I BLEW MY COVER!

IF I WANT TO LIVE TO SPREAD THE REBEL WORD HERE ON METALORN...

Book!



...THEN I'D BETTER MAKE MYSELF SCARCE --AND FAST!

WHERE'D SHE GO? SHE WAS JUST HERE...!



LEIA'S REBEL TRAINING PAYS OFF--SHE ELUDES THE STORM TROOPERS WHO PURSUE HER THROUGH THE BOWELS OF THIS DREARY IMPERIAL FACTORY WORLD.

AND SOMETIME LATER...

...REMEMBER...DO NOT BE ALARMED BY ANY TROOPER ACTIVITY YOU SEE. THIS IS MERELY A SECURITY TEST...

AND A REMINDER! SHIFTS 14 E AND 111 B... YOU HAVE NINE MINUTES LEFT ON YOUR MEAL PERIOD.

ARN MORADA...?

D-DO I KNOW YOU?

YES... I WAS A STUDENT OF YOURS YEARS AGO, PROFESSOR MORADA--PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA!

NO! THE ENTIRE ROYAL HOUSE OF ALDERAAN IS DEAD!

NOT YET, PROFESSOR--



--BUT IT SOON WILL BE!

YOU... YOU'RE BARON TAGGE!

TO PLANT A SEED!

ARCHIE GOODWIN * CARMINE INFANTINO * HOWARD BENDER * JOE ROSEN
WRITER & GENE DAY, ARTISTS * TONIST * LETTERER

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THE STORY SO FAR:

HE'S COME A LONG WAY, THIS FARMBOY. IN THE SERVICE OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE HE'S FACED UN-IMAGINABLE DANGERS -- AND EMERGED TRIUMPHANT.

NOW LUKE SKYWALKER RETURNS--OLDER, WISER, SADDER-- TO THE PLANET HE ONCE CALLED HOME...

TATOOINE! NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE BACK HERE, THREE-PIO. BUT WE'VE GOT A MISSION -- TO RECRUIT BLOCKADE RUNNERS FOR THE ALLIANCE.

STRANGE, THOUGH... THERE NEVER USED TO BE SO MANY IMPERIAL TROOPERS AROUND...

WE'LL HAVE TO HEAD TO THE CANTINA IN MOS EISLEY TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE HERE FOR.

EN ROUTE TO THAT INFAMOUS WATERING-HOLE-- WHERE HE FIRST MET HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA-- LUKE AND THE DROIDS MAKE A SENTIMENTAL STOP...

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THESE RUINS ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF AUNT BERU, UNCLE OWEN... OF MY PAST--WAIT!

THAT VAPORATOR-- IT'S WORKING... ACTIVE!

THAT SHOULDN'T BE!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

DO EXACTLY WHAT I SAY... OR START SPENDING THE REST OF YOUR LIFE DEAD!

DAY OF THE BANTHA!

ARCHIE GOODWIN
WRITER

CARMINE INFANTINO & BOB WIACEK
ARTISTS

HOWARD BENDER
TONIST

JIM NOVAK
LETTERER

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THE STORY SO FAR:

ON A MISSION FOR THE REBEL ALLIANCE, LUKE SKYWALKER RETURNS TO HIS HOMEWORLD--TATOOINE-- AND RUNS INTO SOME OLD FRIENDS...

THINGS ARE QUIET HERE, LUKE. CAMIE AND I JUST DO OUR JOB LOOKING AFTER TAGGE FAMILY PROPERTY...

...AND TRY TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

BUT WORKING FOR THE TAGGES IS LIKE WORKING FOR THE EMPIRE, FIXER. THEY--

MASTER LUKE-- IMPERIAL TROOPERS!!

LUKE AND THE DROIDS BEAT A HASTY RETREAT ONLY TO RUN HEAD ON INTO--

A BANTHA!

HOLD ON! IT'S GONNA BE CLOSE!

LUKE'S SKILL NARROWLY AVERTS A FATAL COLLISION...

AND, SECONDS LATER, A STARTLING DISCOVERY IS MADE--

THIS BANTHA-- IT'S DEAD...AND FROZEN STIFF--

--RIGHT HERE UNDER TATOOINE'S TWIN SUNS!

MASTER LUKE-- THOSE TROOPERS ARE COMING THIS WAY --WE'VE GOT TO HIDE!

AND NO SOONER DO LUKE AND CO. GET TO COVER, THAN THE TROOPERS ARRIVE...

...AND DESTROY ALL TRACES OF THE FROZEN CREATURE.

BUT WHY WOULD THEY VAPORIZE SOMETHING ALREADY DEAD?

MAYBE SO NO ONE CAN LEARN HOW IT DIED, THREEPIO.

A NIGHT AT THE CANTINA

I KNOW OUR FIRST DUTY IS TO DIG UP BLOCKADE RUNNERS FOR THE ALLIANCE...

BUT I'M NOT LEAVING TATOOINE UNTIL I FIND OUT JUST WHAT THE TAGGE FAMILY IS UP TO!

ARCHIE GOODWIN WRITER • CARMINE INFANTINO & BOB WIACEK ARTISTS • HOWARD BENDER TONIST • JIM NOYAK LETTERER

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

ARCHIE
GOODWIN
WRITER

CARMINE AND BOB
INFANTINO AND WIACEK
ARTISTS

JOHN
COSTANZA
LETTERER

HOWARD
BENDER
TONIST

AFTER A DARING ESCAPE FROM IMPERIAL TROOPERS AT THE CANTINA IN MOS EISLEY...



...HAN, CHEWIE, LUKE AND THE DROIDS FIND THEMSELVES STRANDED...

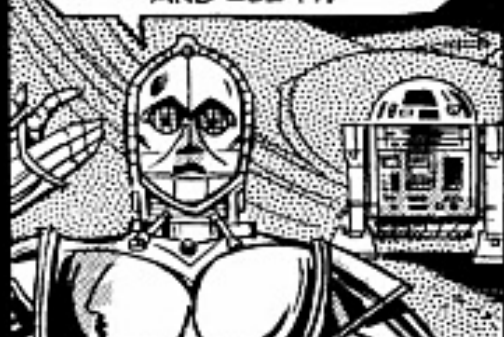
...IN THE SCORCHING DESERT WASTES OF TATOOINE!

COOLANT'S LEAKED OUT--AND WE'VE GOT NONE TO REPLACE IT!

YEAH--THAT TROOPER'S SHOT BACK IN MOS EISLEY FIXED US BUT GOOD!



THERE IS A WAY OUT, LUKE. DROIDS ALSO USE COOLANT. IF THE TWO OF US SHUT DOWN, YOU CAN DRAIN OUR COOLANT AND USE IT.



THE GOLDEN DROID'S PLAN IS PUT INTO EFFECT...

...AND THE FOUR REACH LUKE'S HIDDEN SHIP, ONLY TO FIND--



JAWAS!

THEY'RE SCAVENGING MY SHIP! I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!

NO, KID! THE SHIP'S TOO FAR GONE--AND WE NEED ALLIES. TIME TO GET CHARMING!

SO IT'S AGREED. YOU GET OUR LANDSPEEDER AND THE DROIDS IN RETURN FOR GETTING US BACK TO MOS EISLEY...



...WHERE THE FALCON IS DOCKED. THEN WE CAN BUY THE DROIDS BACK WITH LOOT WE'VE GOT STASHED ON BOARD.

NOT THE GREATEST DEAL OF ALL TIME-- BUT AT LEAST WE'RE STILL BREATHIN'!

BUT ONCE ABOARD THE JAWAS' SAND-CRAWLER...

OH GREAT, KID! NOW WE FIND OUT--THE JAWAS' ROUTE DOESN'T GET TO MOS EISLEY FOR THREE MONTHS!

DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU, HAN... WE'VE GOT MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS! LOOK--!

THE OMEGA EFFECT!



HALT THAT VEHICLE!

SUSPECTED REBELS ARE IN THE AREA... WE'RE COMING ABOARD TO SEARCH!

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

ARCHIE GOODWIN
WRITER

CARMINE AND BOB INFANTINO AND WIACEK
ARTISTS

JOHN COSTANZA
LETTERER

HOWARD BENDER
TONIST

BEHOLD: THE OMEGA EFFECT!

IT IS THE GALACTIC EMPIRE'S MOST FEARSOME WEAPON SINCE THE DEATH STAR! ANY AREA BETWEEN THE TWO TOWERS FREEZES INSTANTANEOUSLY...

ANY OBJECT IN THAT AREA-- MACHINE OR MAN-- SHATTERS FROM THE UNIMAGINABLE COLD!

SSHHRAAKKK!

THAT COULD'VE BEEN US, KID... IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN US OUT OF THE WAY!

?? Zab!

DON'T THANK ME YET, HAN. ONE OF OUR JAWA BUDDIES SAYS THAT MORE TROUBLE'S ON THE WAY!

TROUBLE INDEED, LUKE...

...IN THE FORM OF THE BROTHERS TAGGE!

SO, BROTHER ORMAN, I BELIEVE WE CAN CALL THE OMEGA FROST AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS!

YES, SILAS... IT WILL BE THE CLUB WITH WHICH WE BEAT DARTH VADER FROM THE EMPEROR'S FAVOUR!

BUT NOW WE MUST DEAL WITH THOSE REBELS WHO THINK THEY'RE WATCHING US UNOBSERVED!

AND WITH THE TAGGES ABOARD, AN IMPERIAL TROOP CARRIER SUDDENLY, SWIFTLY MOVES...

...OPENING FIRE WITH ITS LASER CANNON!

NOT TOO CLOSE TO THEIR POSITION--

--ONE OF THEM IS LUKE SKYWALKER.

I WANT HIM ALIVE... TO DEAL WITH PERSONALLY!

THE JAWA EXPRESS!

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THE SCENE: HYPERSPACE



MOVE IT, HAN! WE MUSN'T LOSE BARON TAGGE'S SHIP.

WE'VE GOT TO KEEP UP WITH HIM-- FIND OUT WHY HE'S HEADING FOR JUNCTION!

KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON, LUKE! IF WE GET ANY CLOSER, WE'LL BE IN FRONT OF HIM!

AND ONCE THE PLANET CALLED JUNCTION IS REACHED...

HAN-- THEY'RE HOOKING UP WITH THE IMPERIAL BATTLE CRUISER THAT TAGGE'S BROTHER COM-MANDS! BUT WHY?

NO WAY OF TELLING, KID... UNLESS THEY INVITE US IN FOR TEA!

THEY DON'T HAVE TO, HAN... I SEE A WAY I CAN GET ABOARD!

AND MINUTES LATER, A LONE FIGURE FURTIVELY CASTS OFF FROM THE FALCON...



I'VE GOT TO CAREFUL! IF THEY SEE ME COMING, I'M AS GOOD AS DEAD!

A PAWN IN THE HAND!
PAWN THE HAND!

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SPYING ON AN IMPERIAL OPERATION, LUKE SKYWALKER RUNS INTO SOME UNEXPECTED TROUBLE...

HAN! CHEWIE! I'M CAUGHT! THE EMPIRE'S GOING TO USE THE OMEGA FROST ON JUNCTION!

YOU'VE GOT TO GET AWAY... STOP THEM FROM--JUNGH!!



BLAST IT! WHY'D I LET THE KID PULL A FOOL STUNT LIKE THAT?!

WELL-- WE'VE GOT TO HOPE FOR THE BEST AND GET HELP FROM THE REBELS...



OR ELSE JUNCTION'S GONNA END UP A GIANT ICEBALL-- COURTESY OF THE HOUSE OF TAGGE!

LUKE AWAKENS TO FIND BOTH HIMSELF AND HIS LIGHT SABRE CAPTIVE ABOARD BARON TAGGE'S SHIP...

YOU'RE AUDACIOUS, SKYWALKER-- BUT YOU'VE DOOMED YOUR FRIENDS!

WE'RE NOT GOING TO USE THE FROST ON JUNCTION... WE'RE GOING TO ACTIVATE IT ACROSS THE ASTEROID CORRIDOR WHICH THEY MUST CROSS TO GET THERE...



THE COLD WAVE WILL DESTROY THEM!

NO--!

AND FUELED BY RAGE...

LUKE MAKES A DESPERATE LUNGE FOR HIS SABRE -- A MOVE WHICH, AGAINST THE BATTLE-WISE BARON, SHOULDN'T SUCCEED...



...YET SOMEHOW DOES!

OR SEEMS TO!

HE'S ESCAPED-- AS I PLANNED!

I LET THE BOY REGAIN HIS OWN LIGHT SABRE AND GET AWAY--

AFTER ALL... WHEN THE TIME COMES TO AVENGE MYSELF ON DARTH VADER WITH A SABRE-- THE WEAPON HE USED TO BLIND ME--

--IT WILL BE USEFUL TO KNOW THAT MY KILLING TECHNIQUES WORK!



SABRE CLASH!

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YOU ARE GAZING UPON AN AWESOME SIGHT: THE MILLENNIUM FALCON LEADING A REBEL FLEET THROUGH THE DEPTHS OF SPACE...

CAN'T YOU GO ANY FASTER, HAN? LUKE'S LIFE IS AT STAKE-- AS WELL AS THE PLANET JUNCTION'S!



WE'RE IN THE ASTEROID CORRIDOR, PRINCESS. IF I GO ANY FASTER WE'LL END UP IN MORE PIECES THAN I'D WANNA COUNT!

BUT UNKNOWN TO THE STAR WARRIORS, A TRAP IS BEING LAID FOR THEM EVEN AS THEY SQUABBLE...

LAUNCH
OMEGA TOWER
--NOW!



...BY THE EMPIRE'S OWN TAGGE FAMILY!

...BUT HE MY BROTHER REMAINS IN THE STATE OF SHOCK TO WHICH HIS SABRE BATTLE DEFEAT BY LUKE SKYWALKER REDUCED HIM...

...BUT HE CAN REST ASSURED THAT NEITHER THE FARM BOY NOR HIS FRIENDS WILL LONG REMAIN ALIVE!



AND SILAS TAGGE MAY BE ALL TOO CORRECT! FOR AS HAN AND COMPANY SPEED NEARER THEIR FROSTY DOOM...

...LUKE'S POST-DUEL ESCAPE HAS LEFT HIM, TOO, AWASH IN THE ASTEROID CORRIDOR--

I GOT AWAY ALL RIGHT-- BUT IN A TIE FIGHTER THAT WAS RIGGED TO GIVE OUT HERE!

GOT TO BAIL OUT NOW-- BEFORE THE SHIP COLLIDES WITH AN ASTEROID AND I BECOME JUST A PLEASANT MEMORY!

ASSAULT ON OMEGA!



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IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ASTEROID CORRIDOR, LUKE SKYWALKER-- LOST AMONG MASSIVE HUNKS OF STONE-- TRIES DESPERATELY TO MANOEUVRE HIS WAY...



GOT TO GET TO THE OMEGA TOWER... DESTROY IT BEFORE IT GENERATES ENOUGH COLD TO KILL...

"...HAN, LEIA, CHEWIE, THE DROIDS AND THE REBEL FLEET THEY'RE LEADING!"



GRRRLLL!

YOU SAID IT, CHEWIE! IF WE DON'T STEP ON IT WE'LL NEVER BE IN TIME TO SAVE LUKE-- OR THE PLANET JUNCTION!

BUT IF HAN COULD SEE THE LAD FROM TATOOINE NOW, HE'D REALIZE THAT WHATEVER RESCUING HE AND THE REBELS MAY BE DOING IS BEING REPAID-- IN ADVANCE!



BLAST! MY LIGHT-SABRE'S USELESS!

SHRA-DAAK!

THE TOWER'S GOT A FORCE FIELD PROTECTING ITSELF!

AND ON THE TAGGE FAMILY'S SHIP...



SILAS-- IF THE BOY SHOULD DAMAGE THAT TOWER OUR PLAN WILL FAIL!

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, SHANKS. BUT WE SHALL TAKE NO CHANCES!

ACTIVATE THE OMEGA FROST... NOW!

HAN, WE'VE HAD ONE SHIP TURN BACK FROM COLLISION DAMAGE... DOES THE GOING GET WORSE?



THUNDER IN THE STARS!

TAKE HEART, PRINCESS... WE'RE APPROACHING THE HALFWAY MARK. OLD SMUGGLING HANDS SAY IF YOU MAKE IT THIS FAR--

--ODDS ARE YOU'LL GO THE DISTANCE. PROVIDED NOTHING HAPPENS TO CHANGE THE ODDS. OLD SMUGGLING HANDS ARE FOND OF HEDGING.

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AMIDST THE BLOOD-STREWN RUBBLE OF A REBEL REFUELING STATION, DARTH VADER EXULTS...

AT LAST I'VE TRACKED DOWN THE NAME OF THE T-65 PILOT WHO DESTROYED THE DEATH STAR... LUKE SKYWALKER!

NOW I NEED TAKE ONLY ONE MORE STEP BEFORE I PUT MY MASTER PLAN INTO OPERATION.

SO SAYING, THE DARK LORD OF THE SITH SPEEDS TO THE BATTLE CRUISER OF GENERAL TAGGE AND...

TAGGE-- YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE WORKED AT CROSS PURPOSES TO ME FOR TOO LONG!

CO-OPERATE WITH ME... OFFER YOUR COMPLETE LOYALTY-- OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!

I-I'M WITH YOU, LORD VADER!

AND WHILE THE FALLEN JEDI-- NOW ASSURED OF THE SUPPORT OF HIS ONE-TIME RIVAL-- PLOTS HIS PLOT OF REVENGE...

...THE OBJECT OF HIS SCHEMING SPENDS HIS TIME SERVING THE REBEL ALLIANCE...

BLUE LEADER TO BLUE FLIGHT... I FIGURE WE'RE GOOD FOR FIVE MINUTES MORE PATROL WITHOUT TAXING OUR FUEL. DO YOU COPY? OVER.

ROGER, BLUE LEADER. BUT ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT FUEL... OR THE FACT THAT HAN SOLO IS BACK AT THE BASE WITH THE PRINCESS?

MISSION TO MONASTERY!

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A VILLAIN POSSESSED OF THE SHEER POWER OF DARTH VADER NEEDN'T ALWAYS USE FORCE. HIS CHARM CAN BE EQUALLY CHILLING...

I AM VERY PLEASED YOU HAVE SWORN YOUR LOYALTY TO ME IN MY QUEST TO DESTROY LUKE SKYWALKER, GENERAL TAGGE...

...IT WILL PROVE MUCH HEALTHIER AROUND!

M-MY PLEASURE, LORD VADER.



BUT, UNAWARE OF VADER'S NEW SCHEME, LUKE AND HIS FELLOW REBELS ARE BUSY WELCOMING A GUEST TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS...

I AM SISTER DOMINA, PRIESTESS IN THE ORDER OF THE SACRED CIRCLE. WE HAVE COME TO SEEK YOUR COUNCIL...AND, PERHAPS YOUR AID.

UH... WELCOME...UH...TO OUR PLACE, SISTER.



SOMETIME LATER...

...SO YOU SEE, OUR INFLUENTIAL ORDER HAS BEEN NEUTRAL IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE REBELS AND THE EMPIRE!

NOW, HOWEVER, WE WISH TO CHOOSE SIDES. BUT WE MUST HEAR BOTH VIEWPOINTS BEFORE DECIDING WHICH.



YOU MUST SEND A REPRESENTATIVE. THE EMPIRE HAS ALREADY PRESENTED A FORCEFUL ONE--DARTH VADER!

GENERAL DODONNA, I'M NO DIPLOMAT-- BUT YOU'VE GOT TO SEND ME!

YES, I SENSE IN LUKE A SINCERITY WHICH OUR ELDERS WOULD FIND IMPRESSIVE.



ALL RIGHT, LUKE. THE MISSION'S YOURS.

BUT GENERAL DODONNA IS NOT SO NAIVE AS TO SEND A CALLOW EX-FARM-BOY ON SUCH A VITAL MISSION TOTALLY ALONE. FOR THOUGH THE REBELS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO LAND ONE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ORDER'S HOME PLANET, MONASTERY...

THAT'S MONASTERY DEAD AHEAD, FOLKS. LUKE SHOULD BE DOWN THERE BY NOW...IF HE'S IN TROUBLE WE OUGHT TO LEARN ABOUT IT SOON!

...NO PROHIBITION WAS MADE ON HAVING A TAIL PUT ON THAT ENVOY!



THE FACE OF DEATH!

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WHILE LUKE SKYWALKER IS ENGAGED IN DELICATE DIPLOMATIC IN-FIGHTING WITH DARTH VADER ON THE PLANT MONASTERY, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON--ORBITING ABOVE--IS BOARDED BY VADER'S OWN CAPTAIN WERMIS & CO....

KEEP SEARCHING, MEN! I KNOW WE'LL FIND PRINCESS LEIA IN ONE OF THOSE HIDDEN COMPARTMENTS!



AND WHAT OF LUKE? HE SEEMS TO BE INVOLVED IN MORE IMMEDIATE--IF NO LESS SERIOUS-- DANGER... HOLD TIGHT, SISTER DOMINA--I'LL SAVE YOU!



WET, WEARY-- BUT VICTORIOUS -- LUKE TURNS TO FIND HIS HEROIC ACT HAS BEEN CONDEMNED.

LUKE-- THAT SABRE CAT WAS A HARMLESS PET! YOUR RASH ACTION WILL TURN THE ELDERS AGAINST YOU.



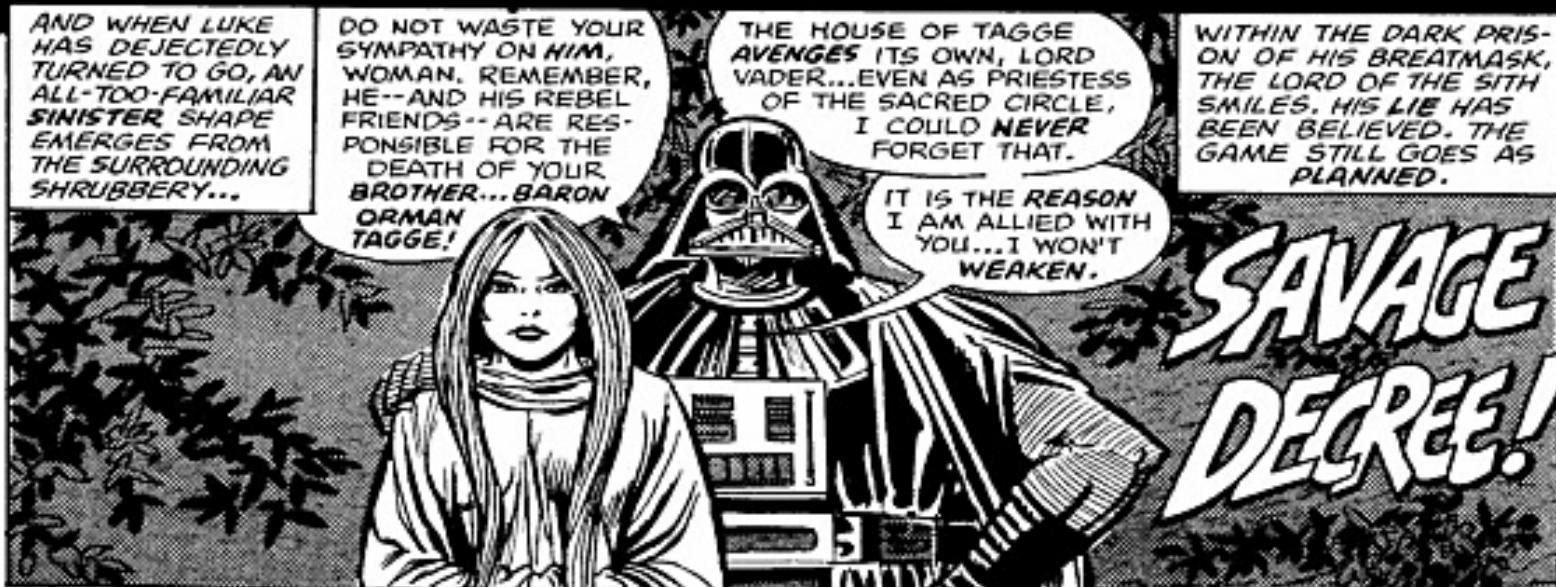
AND WHEN LUKE HAS DEJECTEDLY TURNED TO GO, AN ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR SINISTER SHAPE EMERGES FROM THE SURROUNDING SHRUBBERY...

DO NOT WASTE YOUR SYMPATHY ON HIM, WOMAN. REMEMBER, HE--AND HIS REBEL FRIENDS--ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF YOUR BROTHER... BARON ORMAN TAGGE!

THE HOUSE OF TAGGE AVENGES ITS OWN, LORD VADER... EVEN AS PRIESTESS OF THE SACRED CIRCLE, I COULD NEVER FORGET THAT.

WITHIN THE DARK PRISON OF HIS BREATMASK, THE LORD OF THE SITH SMILES. HIS LIE HAS BEEN BELIEVED. THE GAME STILL GOES AS PLANNED.

IT IS THE REASON I AM ALLIED WITH YOU... I WON'T WEAKEN.



SAVAGE DECREE!

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THE SCENE: THE MILLENNIUM FALCON ORBITING THE PLANET MONASTERY. THE SITUATION: AN ANGRY CAPTAIN WERMIS CONFRONTS HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA...

WE MAY NOT HAVE FOUND PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA ABOARD YOUR CRATE, SOLO...

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T PUT YOU TWO AWAY! LORD VADER WILL DEAL WITH YOU WHEN HE RETURNS!



BUT HAD WERMIS LOOKED JUST A LITTLE HARDER...

I GUESS HAN'S NOT AS DUMB AS HE LOOKS... THESE FALSE BOTTOM BINS OF HIS JUST SAVED MY LIFE!

THREPIO! WE'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH TO LUKE ON YOUR LASERWAVE LINK!



AND SECONDS LATER, ON MONASTERY...

LUKE! HAN, CHEWIE AND I ARE TRAPPED ON VADER'S CRUISER!

HE OBVIOUSLY HAS SOME SCHEME TO GET US ALL... SO BE ALERT WHEN YOU DEBATE HIM. YOU MUST WIN THE ORDER OF THE SACRED CIRCLE TO OUR SIDE! GOOD LUCK!



BUT THE ORDER IS NOT FOR WINNING. FOR UNKNOWN TO LUKE, SISTER DOMINA--PRIESTESS OF THE ORDER--IS IN LEAGUE WITH VADER.

SKYWALKER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF MY BROTHER--BARDON ORMAN TAGGE. THEREFORE, LORD VADER...

...THOUGH MY FAMILY HAS LONG BEEN YOUR RIVAL...NOW, FOR VENGEANCE'S SAKE, I AM YOUR ALLY.



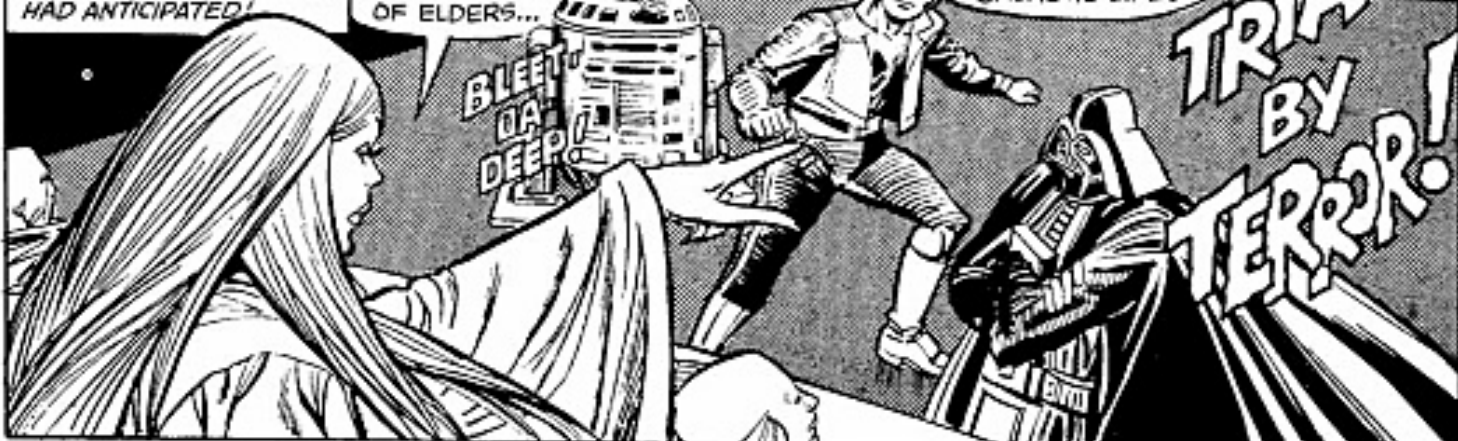
THE DARK LORD SMILES TO HIMSELF. HIS LIES HAVE DONE THEIR DIRTY WORK.

AND SO, WHEN LUKE FINALLY HAS HIS AUDIENCE WITH THE ELDERS OF THE SACRED CIRCLE...HE FACES A SITUATION FAR DEADLIER THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED!

THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER HAVE JUST VOTED TO REVOKE THE AUTHORITY OF THE CIRCLE OF ELDERS...

...AND NAMED ME AS ALL HIGH PRIESTESS!

AND MY FIRST DUTY IS TO SEE THAT YOU AND THE REBEL ALLIANCE ARE ELIMINATED AS THREATS TO THE NATURAL CYCLE OF GALACTIC LIFE!



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ON THE PLANET MONASTERY, LUKE SKYWALKER MAKES HIS WAY TO A DUEL TO THE DEATH WITH DARTH VADER, BUT THE TRAPS OF THE CRYSTAL VALLEY MAY GET HIM BEFORE HE EVEN MEETS HIS ARCH-ENEMY...

THESE CRYSTALS JUST BURST UP FROM THE GROUND... OR SHATTER AND FALL!

EITHER WAY... THEY'RE LETHAL!



THE SITH LORD, HOWEVER, HAS HALTED HIS DESCENT INTO THE VALLEY, AVOIDING THE CRYSTALS...



HE LOOKS UP AND SEES, AS EXPECTED, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON WHICH HAS JUST "ESCAPED" HIS OWN ORBITING CRUISER.

BUT, ABOARD THE FALCON, THE REST OF THE STAR WARRIORS HAVE MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS...

EASY WITH THAT BLASTER, BARON TAGGE. IT'S NOT GOOD FORM TO KILL YOUR PILOT.

DON'T BE SO WISE, CORELIAN! WE'VE GOT TO GET DOWN THERE TO MAKE SURE MY SISTER, DOMINA IS SAFE!



A ROCKY LANDING, HOWEVER, SUDDENLY CHANGES THINGS...

HAN! THE CRASH MADE TAGGE DROP HIS GUN! I'VE GOT IT...

... AND I'VE GOT HIM PRINCESS!



WELL, WITH THE GOOD BARON SUBDUED... LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S BACK UNDER CONTROL!



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IT'S ALL HAPPENING ON MONASTERY, FOLKS! AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US, JUST READ ON...

BULLS-EYE! THAT'S THE LAST TIE FIGHTER, PRINCESS!

NICE SHOOTING, HAN, BUT DURING ALL THE EXCITEMENT, BARON TAGGE ESCAPED INTO...



"...THE CRYSTAL VALLEY!" WHICH IS WHERE WE NOW FIND LUKE SKYWALKER, EN ROUTE TO A DEATH-DUEL WITH DARTH VADER!

CRIPES! THESE ERUPTING CRYSTALS ARE LETHAL! THAT ONE JUST MISSED ME!



MEANWHILE, THE DARK LORD AND TAGGE MEET UP IN ANOTHER PART OF THE VALLEY...

TOO LONG HAVE YOUR PLANS THWARTED MINE, TAGGE.

I COULD CRUSH YOU WHERE YOU CRINGE WITH THIS MASSIVE CRYSTAL-- BUT YOU CAN BE OF USE TO ME BEFORE YOU DIE!



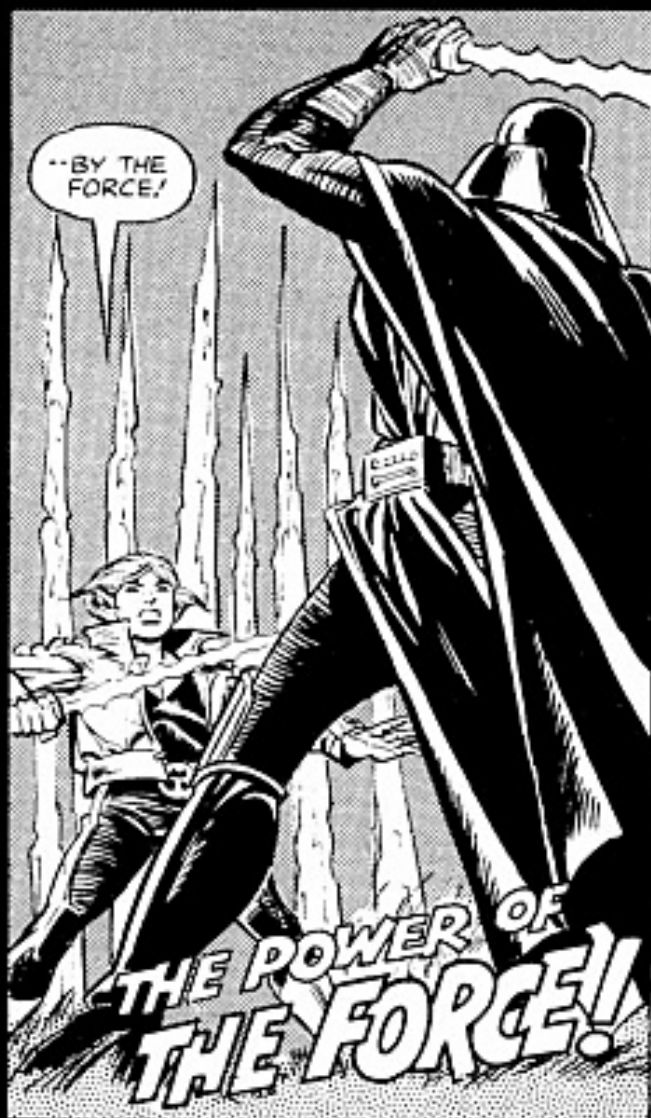
AND WHILE VADER TORTURES THE LUCKLESS BARON, LUKE STILL STRUGGLES MERELY TO SURVIVE AMID THE SPROUTING, FALLING CRYSTALS...

THAT SHARD...! IT DIDN'T FALL OR ERUPT!

IT SEEMS TO HAVE ALMOST BEEN...THROWN--



--BY THE FORCE!



THE POWER OF THE FORCE!

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HOWARD BENDER
TONIST

SHORTLY BEFORE THEY MET UP WITH BEN KENOBI AND LUKE SKYWALKER, HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA MAKE A SMUGGLING DEAL IN ZORR'S ATMOSPHERE BATHS ON THE PLANET FORMOS...

THINGS ARE--IF YOU'LL PARDON THE PUN, SOLO--HOT, AND THEY'LL STAY HOT AS LONG AS THE EMPIRE'S QUIRT IS HERE LOOKING FOR SLAVE LABOUR.

JABBA WANTS YOU TO LAY LOW--AND KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE --UNTIL I CONTACT YOU ABOUT THE SPICE.



TRUST JABBA TO HAVE A WORRIER WORKIN' FOR HIM! N'MIRTH ACTS LIKE WE'RE GLORY-BRAINED REBELS... READY TO LAY INTO THE FIRST SQUAD OF STORM TROOPERS WE--

A-WORRK!



CHEWIE...? CHEWIE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? NO!



AND AS CHEWIE RUSHES TO ATTACK THE ARMED GUARDS...

PEACE, FELLAS...! PEACE! MY BLASTER WAS SET ON STUN...!

THIS IS ALL A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING ...BUT I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING! JUST... UH... GIVE ME A COUPLE OF SECONDS...!



...HAN SOLO REALIZES THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP THE SUDDENLY ENRAGED WOOKIEE...



POAK!

AND DOES!



CHEWBACCA FIGHTS ALONE!

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SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THEIR FIRST FATEFUL MEETING WITH BEN KENOBI AND LUKE SKYWALKER, WE FIND HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA ON THE PLANET FORMOS--IN BIG TROUBLE...

CHEWIE'S ABOUT TO ATTACK THAT GROUP OF IMPERIALS WHO'VE GOT A WOOKIEE PRISONER.

GOT TO STUN-BLAST HIM...QUICK!



LATER, CHEWIE EXPLAINS THAT THE CAPTIVE WOOKIEE WAS AN OLD RIVAL OF HIS. THEY HAD BEEN BATTLEING TOGETHER...



...WHEN IMPERIAL SLAVERS BROKE UP THEIR BATTLE A BATTLE WHICH REMAINED UNRESOLVED!

WELL, THAT'S A HEART-RENDING STORY, CHEWIE. BUT YOU GOT AWAY-- AND THE EMPIRE GOT HRONK! SO... POOF! NO MORE FEUD!

YOU SAY I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THE WAY OF THE WOOKIEE? WELL, MAYBE NOT...



...BUT WE'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT-- LIKE THAT SPICE N'MIRTH IS HELPING US SMUGGLE OUT TODAY!

BUT A SHORT TIME LATER, WE FIND CHEWIE ENGAGED IN A ONE-MAN RESCUE MISSION ON AN IMPERIAL PRISON SHIP...



...A MISSION WHERE THE RESCUED HAD TO BE STUNNED BEFORE HE WOULD ACCOMPANY HIS RESCUER!

AND AS THE ILLICIT SPICE IS BROUGHT ABOARD THE FALCON...

I AM CONCERNED, SOLO...LOADING IS NEARLY COMPLETED AND YOUR FIRST MATE IS CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT.

WITH THE GREAT CLAMOUR OVER AT THE IMPERIAL LOADING ZONE...A DELAYED DEPARTURE WOULD SEEM MOST INADVISABLE.

CHEWIE NEVER MISSED A TAKE-OFF IN HIS LIFE, N'MIRTH. LIKE I SAID, HE HAD TO RUN INTO TOWN AT THE LAST MINUTE TO-- UH--



SWITCH!

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ARCHIE GOODWIN • CARMINE INFANTINO & GENE DAY • IRV WATANABE • HOWARD BENDER
WRITER ARTISTS LETTERER TONIST

IT IS THE DAY AFTER THE MOMENTOUS BATTLE OF THE DEATH STAR. LUKE SKYWALKER STANDS ON THE FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN, REFLECTING ON THE GLORY THAT HAD SO RECENTLY BEEN HIS.

WHAT A GREAT VICTORY THAT WAS FOR THE REBELS!

BUT I COULD NEVER HAVE BLOWN THE DEATH STAR WITHOUT BEN KENOBI... AND THE FORCE!

BLAST IT...! WHO COULD EVEN THINK OF SLEEPING OR RESTING AFTER ALL THIS?

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING...OR BUST!

THERE, LUKE IS ALONE WITH HIS THOUGHTS AND WITH THE X-WING IN WHICH HE DID HIS DEED. UNTIL--

HEY! W-WHO--?!

SORRY, SIR-- BUT ARTOO DETOO SAW YOU WERE MISSING FROM YOUR QUARTERS AND INSISTED YOU MIGHT NEED US.

YOU KNOW, THREEPID, THAT LITTLE DROID MAY HAVE SOMETHING THERE...!

SO SAYING THE YOUNG HERO DESCENDS TO THE HANGAR LEVEL OF THE ALLIANCE STRONGHOLD...

AND NOT MANY MOMENTS LATER... THE X-WING IS AIRBORNE!

YOU SAID IT, ARTOO-- IT SURE IS GREAT TO BE IN FLIGHT AGAIN!

OH, DEAR! I'M NOT CERTAIN IF I DID THE CORRECT THING IN HELPING THEM TO LAUNCH THEIR STARCRAFT! STILL--

--MASTER LUKE IS AN EXCELLENT PILOT. SURELY NOTHING CAN GO WRONG!

TA-BLEET!

SPACE DUEL!

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IT IS THE DAY AFTER THE BATTLE OF THE DEATH STAR. LUKE SKYWALKER, UNABLE TO CONTAIN HIS EXCITEMENT AFTER THAT MOMENTOUS DAY, TAKES TO SPACE IN HIS X-WING FOR A JOY-RIDE...

...AND RUNS SMACK INTO TROUBLE!

ARTOO! THAT'S AN IMPERIAL TIE FIGHTER! AND HE'S OUT FOR BLOOD!

BUT WE'VE OUT-MANOEUVRED HIM IN THIS DOGFIGHT!

NO NEED TO USE THE FORCE ON HIM! HE'S LOCKED IN TIGHT ON MY SCREEN--

ARTOO! THE GUNS AREN'T FIRING!

I FORGOT TO HAVE THEM ENERGIZED!

WE'VE HAD IT! UNLESS--

DID IT! OUR WING TOOK OUT HIS SOLAR PANEL!

THE QUESTION NOW IS-- CAN WE SURVIVE A CRASH BACK ONTO YAVIN'S MOON?!

EMPIRE KILLS!

A GOOD QUESTION, LUKE...

ONE WHOSE ANSWER YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE!

KAWAM!

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IN SPACE ABOVE THE PLANET MARAT V-- KNOWN TO ITS INHABITANTS AS SKYE-- HAN SOLO LEADS THE STAR WARRIORS ON A MISSION OF VENGEANCE...

KATYA DEAD... LUKE WOUNDED! WE'RE NOT RUNNING ANYMORE, PRINCESS! WE'LL BRING THE BATTLE TO THE MAJESTRIX AND--

HAN! TIE FIGHTERS-- A WHOLE SQUADRON!

TAKE THE TOP TURRET, PRINCESS, WHILE I TRY TO LOSE 'EM!

HOLD THE FALCON STEADY, HAN! I'M LOCKED ON SOME TARGETS.



BUT GOOD AS THE PRINCESS' SHOOTING MAY BE...

-- THERE ARE TOO MANY TIES FOR EVEN HER TO PICK OFF.



AND AS THE DISABLED FALCON PLUMMETS TOWARD SKYE...

AND WHEN A WEAKENED LUKE AWAKENS, HE FINDS...

WE BLEW IT, LUKE. THE FALCON GONE! OUR LIFE-POD WAS CAPTURED! AND NOW...

...AND NOW YOU ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL BY THE COUNCIL OF THE S'KYTRI-- THE WINDBORN!

...PREPARATIONS ARE MADE FOR LUKE, LEIA AND THE DROIDS TO ABANDON SHIP...

INTO THE LIFE-POD, YOU GUYS. CHEWIE AND I WILL RUN INTERFERENCE WHILE YOU ESCAPE!

HAN--N-NO...! WE CAN... HELP YOOOO...

HE'S PASSED OUT! HELP ME WITH HIM, THREEPIO.



THE PRESENCE OF YOU WALKERS HAS PROFANED OUR SACRED AERIES. NOW THE COUNCIL WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE--

LIFE OR DEATH!

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ON THE PLANET CALLED SKYE-- LUKE AND LEIA STAND TRIAL BEFORE THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE WINGED PEOPLE... THE S'KYTRI...

YOU HAVE VIOLATED SKYTRI SPACE... COME TO OUR WORLD BEARING WEAPONS AND THE STENCH OF BATTLE...

AND MORE, YOU, LEIA ORGANA, ARE A LEADER OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE-- ENEMIES OF THOSE WE ARE SWORN TO SERVE!

THEN WE'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD!

WANTED!

STREASON

BUT THE YOUNG MAN'S WEAPON --IT MAY HOLD THE KEY TO YOUR SALVATION! WHAT IS YOUR NAME, BOY?

LUKE SKYWALKER.

THE NAME SEEMS TO SPARK A COMMOTION AMONG THE COUNCIL, UNTIL FINALLY.

THE COUNCIL HAS DETERMINED THAT THE LAD IS... THE ONE! THEREFORE WE PROCLAIM LUKE SKYWALKER AND LEIA ORGANA FRIENDS OF THE S'KYTRI.

WHAT AID WE CAN GIVE THEM IN FINDING THEIR MISSING FRIENDS IS THEIRS FOR THE ASKING...

SPEAKING OF "MISSING FRIENDS", WE NOW SWITCH OUR SCENE TO THE FORTRESS-- KEEP OF KHARYS, THE MAJESTRIX OF SKYE--

YOU'RE AS INSOLENT AS EVER, SOLO! THOUGH YOU ESCAPED ME ON YOUR LAST VISIT HERE... WHEN I SLEW YOUR FELLOW CORRELLIANS...

THIS TIME YOU WON'T BE QUITE SO LUCKY!

WINGED DESTINY!

BEFORE I TAKE YOUR LIFE, HOWEVER...

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A PRISONER OF THE MAJESTRIK OF THE PLANET S'KYE, HAN SOLO FACES HER HIDEOUS TORTURE ORB...

IT'S A PITY, SWEET SOLO, YOU WON'T TELL ME ABOUT PRINCESS LEIA... AND ESPECIALLY ABOUT LUKE KYWALKER. DARTH VADER WOULD LOVE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THEM.

YOU FORCE ME TO RESORT TO THE TENDER MERCIES OF AN IMPERIAL INTERROGATOR.



BUT HAN WON'T HAVE TO ENDURE THOSE MERCIES LONG... HOPEFULLY NOT, ANYWAY...

ONE SIDE, SMALL STUFF! WE MAY NOT BE NATURAL BORN FLIERS...

BUT WE'RE NO SLOUCHES IN A FIGHT, EITHER!

SOUND THE ALARM! IT'S AN AMB-- AARRGGHH!



AND WHILE LUKE KEEPS THE IMPERIALS OCCUPIED...

EVERYONE-- FREEZE!

RELEASE HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA-- NOW! AND NO FALSE MOVES!

...UNLESS YOU THINK YOUR WINGS CAN OUTFLY MY BLASTER FIRE!



BUT WHILE LEIA AND KHARYS STARE EACH OTHER DOWN, THE MAJESTRIK'S CATUMAN WARRIORS TAKE THE OFFENSIVE...

AAYIIII!

THERE GOES MY RIFLE! GOT TO HOPE!



...MY HAND BLASTER IS ENOUGH TO STOP HIM.

A DUEL OF EAGLES!



BUT QUICK AS LEIA IS, THE CATUMAN IS EVEN QUICKER!

NO!

THE WARRIOR'S ARM HITS LEIA LIKE A STEEL BAR AND HER LIMB GOES NUMB.

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ON A MISSION FOR THE REBELS, LUKE, LEIA AND THE DROIDS RUN INTO SOME UNEXPECTED TROUBLE: IMPERIAL STORM TROOPERS--

SAVE ARTOO, LUKE!
I'LL COVER YOU!

NO PROBLEM, PRINCESS.
THE WAY YOU HANDLE A
BLASTER... WE'LL BE ABLE
TO TAKE OFF WITHOUT
ANY PROBLEM!



AND MINUTES LATER...

WE MADE IT, FOLKS.
WE'LL BE IN HYPER-
SPACE BEFORE THE
IMPERIALS CAN
CLOSE IN.

BUT PRINCESS--YOU NEVER DID
TELL US WHERE YOU-- A SURVIVOR
OF A WEAPONLESS PLANET
--LEARNED TO SHOOT
LIKE THAT!



IT'S A SAD
STORY, LUKE...
BUT I'LL
TELL IT...

"DURING MY FIRST TERM AS AN IMPERIAL SENATOR, AN ATTEMPT ON MY LIFE WAS MADE ON THE PLANET CHAL-LON. AN ATTEMPT FOILED BY GILES DURANE... THE WEAPONS MASTER--

YOUR FATHER HIRED ME
TO TEACH YOU HOW TO
USE WEAPONS TO
DEFEND YOURSELF...

...AGAINST
AN ATTACK
LIKE THAT!
BUT WE HAVE
NO WEAPONS
ON ALDERAAN!



THE REST OF
THE GALAXY
ISN'T SO
PEACEFUL,
PRINCESS!

WE HAVE A COMPLICATION, TORGAS.
CAN YOUR ASSASSIN'S GUILD STILL
HANDLE THE MATTER? THE EMPIRE
MUST NOT APPEAR INVOLVED WITH
SENATOR ORGANA'S... DEMISE!



DURANE'S PRESENCE
MAKES OUR TASK
HARDER, GENERAL
EMIR... BUT WE
WILL NOT FAIL!

"I LEARNED ABOUT THE EMPIRE'S
INVOLVEMENT LATER..."

"... BUT AT THE TIME I
WAS TOO BUSY BEING
TRAINED BY THE
WEAPONS MASTER..."

YOU'RE SMART, LASS... YOUR
REFLEXES ARE GOOD... BUT
YOU HAVEN'T MASTERED
HANDGUN TECHNIQUE YET!

I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH
LARGER WEAPONRY... BUT THE BLASTER
MAKES KILLING TOO PERSONAL!

KILLIN' IS UGLY, YOUR
HIGHNESS... BUT WE'RE
TRYIN' TO TEACH YOU TO
DEFEND YOURSELF, AND IF
THE SPEED, THE AIM, AND
THE REFLEXES DON'T
COME TOGETHER--

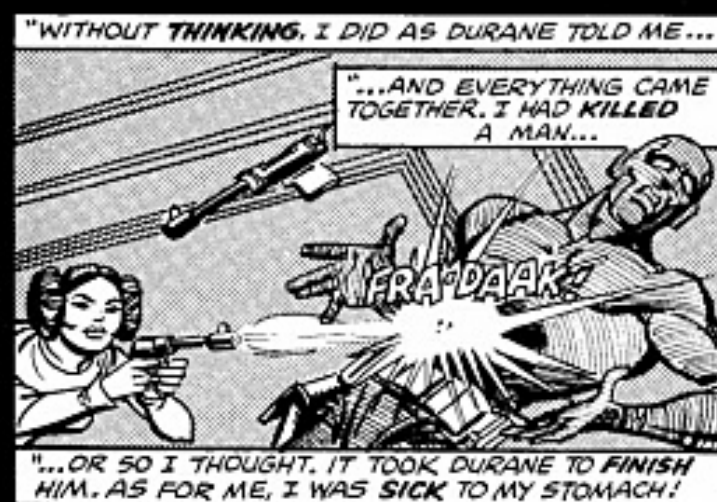


--IT CAN
BE A FATAL
FLAW!

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THE PLANET IS CALLED **FOUNDRY** AND IT IS ONE OF THE GALACTIC EMPIRE'S PRIMARY STARSHIP CONSTRUCTION FACILITIES.

SO BEING, IT IS ONE OF THE MOST HEAVILY GUARDED WORLDS IN THE GALAXY. SO BEING, IT IS A PRIME TARGET FOR THE REBEL ALLIANCE...

MOVE, EVERYBODY! THE PRINCESS CAN'T KEEP THOSE **STORM-TROOPERS** AT BAY FOREVER! WE'VE GOT TO GET THE **STARAKER** READY FOR TAKE-OFF--**FAST!**

DID YOU THINK WE'D FORGOTTEN, LUKE? AFTER ALL...WE ARE HERE TO **STEAL** THE **BLASTED THING!**

AND AS LUKE, WICK, AND THE DROIDS PRIME THE SHIP FOR IGNITION... PRINCESS LEIA IS HAVING TROUBLES OF HER OWN...

HURRY, LUKE! THE TROOPERS REACTED **FASTER** THAN WE ANTICIPATED.

I CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!

LEIA! WE'RE ALL SET! HEAD FOR THE RAMP! I'LL COVER YOU!

OKAY, WICK, HERE I COME!

LEIA SPRINTS FOR THE STARAKER, FIRING AS SHE RUNS. BUT THERE IS TOO MUCH TROOPER BLASTER-FIRE FOR EVEN HER TO AVOID.

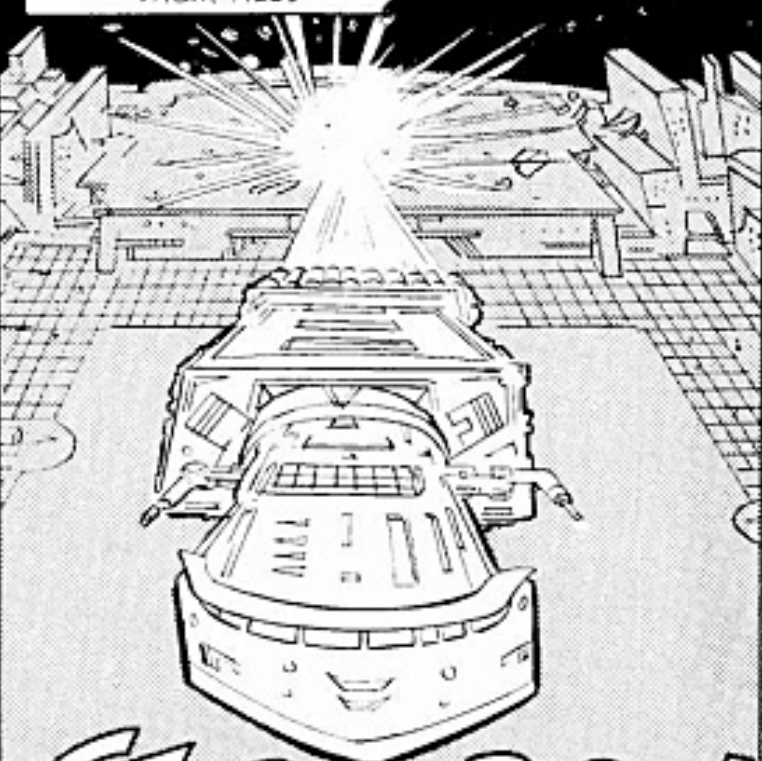
GUNHHH!!

PRINCESS!!

EVERYBODY STAY PUT! I'LL GET HER ABOARD. IT WAS ONLY A **STUN BOLT!**

AND SECONDS LATER, THE HANGAR TREMBLES AS THE STARAKER'S ENGINES KICK ON. ITS BLASTER BEAMS PUNCH A MASSIVE HOLE IN THE STRUCTURE'S ROOF...

...AND OUR HEROES LIFT OFF, PRAYING THAT THE BRUTAL ACCELERATION ENDS BEFORE IT CRUSHES THEM ALL!



STAR TERROR!

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ACCOMPANYING LUKE, LEIA AND MICI SHABANDAR ON A MISSION. ARTOO DETOO AND SEE THREEPIO--AS USUAL--BICKER...

YES, I CAN SEE YOU'RE EXCITED, ARTOO! BUT I'M MORE NERVOUS THAN EXCITED...

NOT ONLY ARE WE IN A SHIP HIJACKED FROM THE EMPIRE, BUT NOW WE'RE BEING SENT TO INVESTIGATE STRANGE DISAPPEARANCES OF REBELS ON...

"...ALASHAN!"

WE'RE HERE, FOLKS...BUT SO ARE THESE TIE FIGHTERS! ONLY--WHERE'D THEY COME FROM? OUR SENSORS SHOWED CLEAR SPACE.

WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER, LUKE. RIGHT NOW YOU CONFUSE 'EM...AND I'LL BLAST 'EM!

AND COMBINING HIS HARD-LEARNED FLYING SKILLS WITH LEIA'S SHOOTING ABILITY, THE STAR WARRIOR MAKES FULL USE OF THE ADVANCED DESIGN OF THE STARAKER!

BULLSEYE, PRINCESS! YOU GOT 'EM ALL!

COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU, BIG BOY!

BA-DOOT!

CALM DOWN, ARTOO...CALM DOWN!

NOW WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE OTHER REBELS.

MAYBE...MAYBE NOT. FIRST I WANT TO KNOW WHERE THOSE TIES CAME FROM.

AN IMPERIAL CRUISER!

ALL ABOARD TENSE, EXPECTING THE WORST. A BLAST FROM THE CRUISER'S MAIN GUNS COULD DESTROY THEM.

WAIT! THERE'S YOUR ANSWER!

BUT THE SHOT IS NEVER FIRED.

INSTEAD, A BEAM OF EYE-SEARING, SENSES-STUNNING ENERGY LANCES UPWARD FROM ALASHAN'S SURFACE--

--AND THE CRUISER IS NO MORE!

MOLTEN DOOM!

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OUR SCENE IS THE PLANET ALASHAN, BUT IT MIGHT AS WELL BE HADES ITSELF AS FAR AS LUKE SKYWALKER IS CONCERNED...

BOY, I SURE DID IT THIS TIME! LEIA, MICI, THE DROIDS AND I MANAGED TO HIJACK THE EMPIRE'S NEW STARAKER SHIP...



... BUT A MYSTERIOUS FORCE HERE ON ALASHAN SHOT US DOWN AND NOW WE'RE TRAPPED IN THIS PLAIN OF HARDENED LAVA!

NOW I'VE GOT TO DIG US OUT WITH MY LIGHTSABRE.



BUT IT'S SO HOT HERE... HARDLY ANY AIR... CAN'T BREATHE!

AND AS LUKE STRUGGLES TOWARDS THE SURFACE...

YES, ARTOO, IT IS TAKING A LONG TIME. BUT WE MUST BE PATIENT!



BA-DEET!

AT LEAST MICI DOESN'T HAVE TO SEE THIS. SHE'S STILL OUT COLD FROM THE SURGERY I HAD TO DO ON HER.

FINALLY, AFTER MUCH BACK-BREAKING LABOUR, LUKE REACHES THE SURFACE, BUT...

ON YOUR FEET, GRUBBER!

HEY!!



IN HIS WEAKENED CONDITION, THE YOUNG STAR WARRIOR IS UNABLE TO PUT UP MUCH OF A FIGHT, AND SO HE LISTENS IN SILENCE TO THE WORDS OF HIS "HOSTS" (LEFT TO RIGHT)...

... ENSIGN IOPAKI OF THE IMPERIAL COMMANDOES ...

... MAJOR GRAU ...

... AND FLEET SERGEANT ANARINE ...

DON'T BE FOOLISH, LADDY! MAKE A WRONG MOVE-- AND IT'LL BE YOUR LAST!

BUT, SAY, YOU DO CARRY A RARE WEAPON-- A LIGHTSABRE, THE MARK OF A JEDI KNIGHT. PERHAPS ALSO...

... THE MARK OF A REBEL?!



UNHOLY ALLIANCE!

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THEY SAY THAT WAR MAKES FOR STRANGE BEDFELLOWS. SO IT IS THAT WE FIND LUKE AND THE PRINCESS SCOUTING THE PLANET ALASHAN IN THE COMPANY OF... IMPERIAL COMMANDOES!

THERE'S WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR FELLOW REBELS' BASE. IT WAS DESTROYED BY THE SAME MYSTERIOUS FORCE THAT STRANDED US HERE...

GRAY-- YOU FOOL!

JABBERING WITH THOSE WHO SHOULD BE YOUR PRISONERS! TREATING THEM AS ALLIES, NOT BITTER ENEMIES!

...WHICH IS WHY WE'VE GOT TO PULL TOGETHER NOW, MAJOR GRAY, SO WE CAN SAVE OURSELVES AND GET OFF THIS HELL PLANET!



ENSIGN KYRIL LOPAKI WILL NOT BE SO LENIENT!

BUT AS LOPAKI PLOTS...

...LUKE TUNES IN ON A DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE, AND --

AND WHEN THE SMOKE HAS CLEARED...

LUKE, YOU COULD HAVE LET THAT BEAM CRISP US-- BUT YOU DIDN'T.

YOU'VE EARNED THE RETURN OF YOUR LIGHTSABRE... AND MY TRUST.

THANKS, MAJOR. BUT RIGHT NOW I'M MOST CONCERNED WITH MICI AND THE DROIDS BACK ON OUR SHIP--



EVERYBODY-- DOWN!

THE ENERGY BEAM MEANT FOR THE GROUP MISSES, BUT TRIGGERS AN EQUALLY LETHAL AVALANCHE!



LOOK! TO THE WEST!

JUST BEYOND THE HORIZON, A NOW FAMILIAR PULSE OF PURE ENERGY RAKES THE LAVA WITHIN WHICH LUKE'S STARAKER IS TRAPPED.

THE BEAM IS DEADLY, EXPLOSIVE... UNSTOPPABLE. ITS TOUCH IS DEATH, ITS AIM UNERRING!



A CREATURE IN THE STARS!

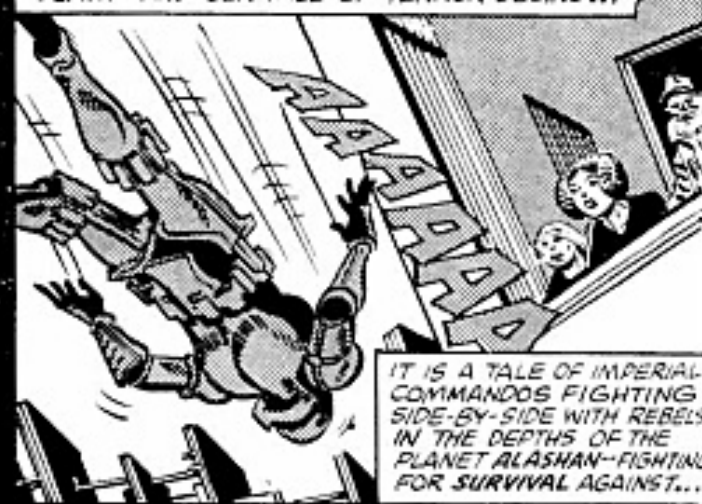
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AN IMPERIAL STORMTROOPER PLUNGES TO HIS DEATH--AND OUR TALE OF TERROR BEGINS...



IT IS A TALE OF IMPERIAL COMMANDOS FIGHTING SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH REBELS IN THE DEPTHS OF THE PLANET ALASHAN--FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL AGAINST...

THE MONSTER! IT'S ATTACKING! THAT MUST BE WHAT KILLED OUR REBEL ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEAM--AND STRANDED US ALL HERE!



CAN THE SMALL TALK, LUKE--AND KEEP FIRING!

THERE IS NO TIME FOR SMALL TALK! BUT AS THE GRIM BAND FIGHTS FOR ITS LIFE, WE CAN TAKE THE LUXURY OF A FEW MOMENTS TO MEET THEM...

MAJOR GRAU, DEDICATED IMPERIAL, BUT ONE WHO HAS COME TO RESPECT LUKE AND LEIA IN THE COURSE OF THE GROUP'S STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE...

...LEIA ORGANA, PRINCESS FROM ALDERAAN, REBEL LEADER...

...LUKE SKYWALKER, YOUNG REBEL AND FLEDGING MASTER OF THE FORCE...

...FLEET SERGEANT ANARINE, LOYAL TO HIS MAJOR...



...AND ENSIGN KYRIL LOPAKI--CLEVER, AMBITIOUS, AND DETERMINED TO KILL LUKE AND LEIA BEFORE THEY LEAVE THE PLANET.

THE CREATURE GLOWS STAR-BRIGHT AS THE BLASTER-FIRE HITS IT...

...THEN DISAPPEARS... AS THE SHOCK-WAVES FROM THE FIGHT CAUSE A ROCKSLIDE.



WE DID IT! WE DESTROYED THAT THING!

PERHAPS, ENSIGN, BUT IF WE DIDN'T...

--WE JUST SEALED OURSELVES IN HERE WITH IT.



THE FIVE DECIDE TO LEAVE THE ROCKFALL ALONE FOR AWHILE AND CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE FANTASTIC CITY...

STILL NO SIGN OF ANY INHABITANTS--EXCEPT FOR THAT CREATURE, AND I PRAY WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF HIM.



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IN THE FANTASTIC CITY DEEP WITHIN THE PLANET ALASHAN, PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA MAKES A STARTLING DISCOVERY...

AT LAST! I'VE FINALLY DECIPHERED THE SECRET OF THE HIEROGLYPHICS THAT ARE ALL OVER THIS CITY!

WISH LUKE AND I HAD MORE TIME TO RECOVER FROM THAT FALL WE JUST TOOK WHILE ESCAPING FROM THE CITY'S MONSTER-GUARDIAN... BUT WE'VE GOT TO MOVE!

UNNNHHH...
WHA...?

WHY THE RUSH, PRINCESS? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

I'VE DECIPHERED THE PICTO-GRAPHS!

I ONLY HOPE MY DISCOVERY COMES IN TIME TO SAVE GRAU AND THE OTHERS!

AS FOR OUR DESTINATION... YOU'LL SEE WHEN WE GET THERE!

CUT TO: ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY WHERE MAJOR GRAU AND SGT. ANARINE OF THE IMPERIAL COMMANDOS ARE IN DEADLY DANGER--

I GUESS OUR DECISION TO ALLY WITH THOSE REBELS FOR SURVIVAL ON THIS PLANET WON'T EVER BE JUDGED, ANARINE. THIS IS IT!

AS LEAST WE GO TOGETHER, MAJOR--AS BATTLE COMRADES SHOULD--EH?!

IT-- IT'S DISAPPEARED!

IT MUST BE ABLE TO TELEPORT ITSELF! IT MUST BE HEADING FOR THE OTHERS!

MEANWHILE, LUKE AND LEIA REACH THEIR DESTINATION...

THIS IS THE CONTROL CENTRE FOR THE ENTIRE CITY, LUKE-- PERHAPS FOR THE ENTIRE PLANET! THOSE HIEROGLYPHS TELL ITS HISTORY-- AND HOW IT ALL WORKS!

WE'D BETTER MOVE FAST. GRAU RADIOED THAT HE THINKS THE MONSTER'S HEADING HERE!

I'VE FOUND THEM!

THE MONSTER'S SECRET!

FREEZE, REBELS!

YOUR TIME HAS COME TO DIE! THOUGH YOU CORRUPTED MY FELLOW COMMANDOS-- YOU COULDN'T FOOL KYRIL LOPAKI! YOU-- AND SOON THEY-- SHALL DIE FOR TREASON!

THE ENTRANCE-- IT'S SLIDING SHUT-- TRAPPING US!

LOPAKI-- BEHIND YOU!

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Stan Lee
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STAR WARS

THE GREATEST
SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

CONTINUING THE SAGA BEGUN IN THE FILM BY GEORGE LUCAS RELEASED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX.
ARCHIE GOODWIN, MICHAEL GOLDEN, TERRY AUSTIN, HOWARD BENDER, JOE ROSEN
WRITER PLOTTER/PENCILER INKER TONIST LETTERER



INDEED EACH REBEL IS
SENT TO HIS OWN
PRIVATE HELL. LEIA
PUTS UP A VALIANT
STRUGGLE AGAINST THE
ROOM OF LIVING TEN-
TACLES...



WHILE LUKE BARELY
OVERPOWERS A LIGHT-
SABRE-WIELDING
DROID CREATED JUST
FOR THE OCCASION BY
THE SHIP!



THE SHRIEKING SOUNDS
THROUGHOUT THE VESSEL
RISING IN SHEER HYS-
TERIA, UNTIL...



... SUCKING OUT
ATMOSPHERE
WITH HURRICANE
FURY AND CAUGHT
WITHIN THE HOWLING
GALE...



WAR NO MORE!

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ARCHIE GOODWIN AL WILLIAMSON CARLOS GARTON JIM NOVAK HOWARD BENDER
WRITER ARTISTS LETTERER TONIST

ON HOTH IT IS ALWAYS WINTER. HERE LUKE SKYWALKER-- IN THE SERVICE OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE-- EXPLORES HIS ALLIES' NEW BASE OF OPERATIONS...

THIS FORAY HAS BEEN UNEVENTFUL. LUKE MAKES A DECISION...

GUESS I'LL HEAD BACK AS SOON AS I CHECK OUT THAT METEORITE THAT JUST HIT.

BUT BEFORE LUKE CAN MAKE HIS WAY TO THE SITE...

SOMETHING HUGE AND HEAVY SLAMS INTO HIS FACE...

SOMEWHERE ACROSS THE HORIZON, A CRATER SMOULDERS AND STEAMS...

...A CRATER LUKE WILL NEVER KNOW WAS NOT MADE BY ONE OF THE METEORITES WHICH FREQUENTLY BOMBARD THE PLANET'S SURFACE.

ELSEWHERE, WITHIN CAVERNS OF LASER-BLASTED ICE, A REBEL STRONGHOLD IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. AND THERE, TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES ENGAGE IN A FAMILIAR ARGUMENT.

I'M TELLING YOU FOR THE LAST TIME, PRINCESS... ME 'N' CHEWIE CAN'T STAY! JABBA'S PRICE ON OUR HEADS MAKES IT UNHEALTHY FOR US TO BE IN ANY SPOT TOO LONG.

BUT YOU'RE A NATURAL LEADER. WE NEED YOU.

... BUT DID YOU FOLLOW ME JUST TO SAY THAT-- OR TO KISS ME GOODBYE?

KISS YOU, SOLO? I'D JUST AS SOON KISS A WOOKIEE! ENJOY YOUR TRIP, HOTSHOT!

LEIA ORBANA STORMS AWAY IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, NEVER HEARING THE CRUMBLING OF AN ICY WALL BEHIND HER...

... OR GLIMPING WHAT CAUSES IT.

MAYBE, MAYBE NOT...

AN ICY DEATH!

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WRITER ARTISTS TONIST

AN ICY GORGE ON THE FROZEN PLANET, HOTH, LUKE SKYWALKER, IN THE SERVICE OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE, FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE AGAINST A MONSTROUS FOE!



THE EX-FARM-BOY ROLLS, LASHING OUT WITH HIS LIGHTBLADE...



...AND A SCREAM OF PAIN FILLS THE ICY GORGE.

MEANWHILE, IN THE LASER-BLASTED ICE CAVERN THAT IS THE REBELS' STRONGHOLD...



FORGET THE RESCUE MISSION. SOLO. THE NIGHT STORMS WILL START BEFORE ANY OF YOU REACH THE FIRST MARKER.

THEN I'LL SEE YOU IN HELL!

HE LIMPS INTO THE GATHERING GRAYNESS OF HOTH'S SUB-ZERO NIGHT...



...INTO BLASTS OF CUTTING WIND AND SNOW.

IN THE FADING TWILIGHT, A YOUNG MAN IS ABOUT TO ABANDON ALL HOPE, WHEN...

YOU MUST GO ON, LUKE... YOU MUST SURVIVE...



YOU MUST GO TO THE DAGOBAH SYSTEM TO LEARN FROM YODA, THE JEDI MASTER WHO TAUGHT ME.

YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE, LUKE.

B-BENNNNNN

THE VISION FADES, AND WITH IT, LUKE'S RESISTANCE...

EVEN AS AN EXHAUSTION SPENT TAUNTAUN AND RIDER APPEAR.

THE KID'S ALIVE... JUST BARELY



BUT MY TAUNTAUN'S HAD IT... AND THE BLASTED COM-LINK IS USELESS IN THIS STORM!

IF I DON'T GET SOME SHELTER UP EAST, JABBA WON'T EVER BE ABLE TO COLLECT WHAT I OWE HIM!

WITHIN... WITHOUT... THE ENEMY!

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ARTISTS

RICK VEITCH
LETTERER

HOWARD BENDER
TONIST

INSIDE A HUGE IMPERIAL COMMAND SHIP, A LONG, FRUSTRATING SEARCH IS ABOUT TO COME TO A CLIMACTIC-- IF NOT FULLY SATISFYING-- CONCLUSION...

WE ARE APPROACHING HOTH, LORD VADER. BUT THE REBELS HAVE ACTIVATED A PROTECTIVE ENERGY FIELD AROUND THEIR AREA.

THE SCUM KNOW WE'RE HERE, VEEKS. ADMIRAL OZZEL BROUGHT THE FLEET OUT OF LIGHT SPEED TOO CLOSE TO THE SYSTEM.

HE SHALL BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY!

VADER SWIFTLY DISPENSES HIS OWN BRAND OF DISCIPLINE. CHOKING... GASPING... THE SHIP'S ADMIRAL SUECLIMBS, ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE FORCE'S DARK SIDE.

THE COMMAND IS NOW YOURS, PIETT. MAKE READY TO LAND ASSAULT TROOPS BEYOND THE ENERGY FIELD... AND DEPLOY VESSELS TO CONTAIN THE ENEMY.

Y-YES SIR!

MEANWHILE, PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA BRIEFS HER OWN COMRADES ON DEFENSIVE STRATEGY...

WE'VE GOT TO EVACUATE BEFORE THE EMPIRE MOVES IN. YOU'LL HAVE SOME HELP FROM THE ION CANNON.

AS THE REBEL FORCE GOES ABOUT THEIR GRIM DUTIES...

OWWWW!

AWRIGHT, CHEWIE, AWRIGHT! MAYBE THE FALCON DOES NEED A LITTLE WORK BEFORE WE TAKE OFF!

GRIFES!

HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA READY THEIR OWN UNIQUE CRAFT FOR DEPARTURE INTO THE UNKNOWN.

ONCE YOU CLEAR THE ENERGY FIELD-- WHICH WILL BE OPEN FOR ONLY A SPLIT SECOND-- PROCEED TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT. GOOD LUCK!

AND ON PATROL ABOVE HOTH'S GLISTENING WHITE SURFACE...

SIR! REBEL SHIPS COMING INTO OUR SECTOR... A TRANSPORT AND ESCORTS!

GOOD. OUR FIRST CATCH OF THE DAY.

CHAPTER II BATTLEGROUND HOTH!

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REBEL HEADQUARTERS ON THE PLANET MOTH. AN EMERGENCY EVALUATION IS UNDERWAY AND IN THE MIST OF THE CHAOS TWO FRIENDS PAUSE TO TAKE LEAVE OF EACH OTHER... PERHAPS FOREVER!



HAN I HOPE YOU MAKE YOUR PEACE WITH JABBA. EVEN IF IT DOES THROW HALF THE BOUNTY HUNTERS IN THE GALAXY OUT OF WORK.



DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. KID YOU AND YOUR PALS'RE GONNA HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE JUST GETTING PAST THE EMPIRE'S ARMADA!

A BROADCAST COMMAND SENDS LUKE--AND HIS FELLOW REBEL PILOTS--RUNNING TO THEIR FIGHTERS.

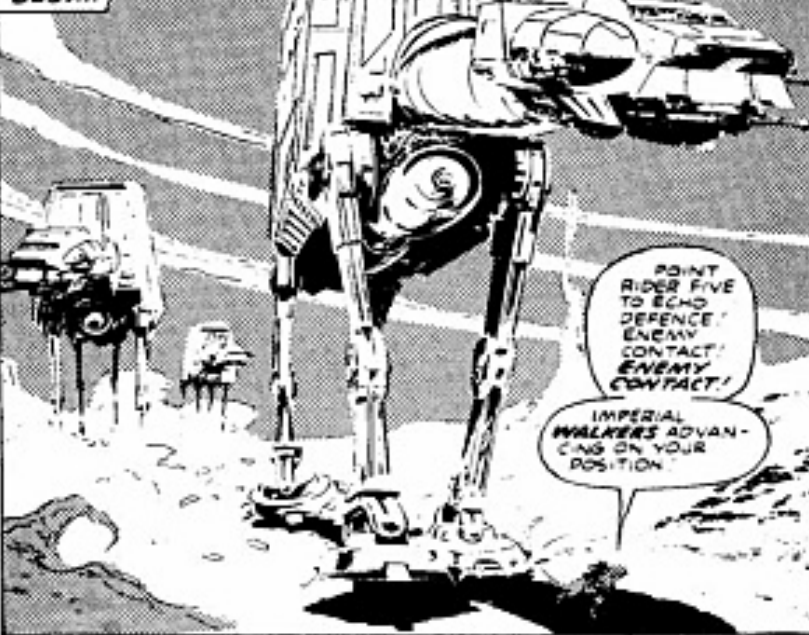


EVERYTHING OKAY, DACK...?

WITH YOU BACK AND WELL, SIR--I FEEL LIKE WE CAN TAKE ON THE WHOLE EMPIRE...

DON'T WORRY, DACK. THIS TIME YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE ON THE WHOLE EMPIRE...

...JUST A PART OF ITS VAST MILITARY MACHINE BUT THAT OUGHT TO BE ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU BUSY...



POINT RIDER FIVE TO ECHO DEFENCE! ENEMY CONTACT! ENEMY CONTACT!

IMPERIAL WALKERS ADVANCING ON YOUR POSITION.



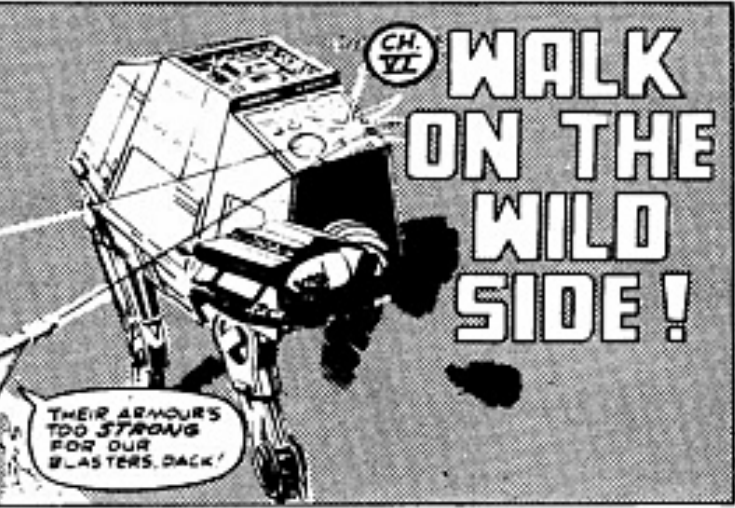
AND BEFORE THE GUNS OF THE LUMBERING, AWWKWARD-SEEMING BEHEMOTHS...

THE REBEL GROUND FORCES KNOW DEVIATION!

BUT THEY DO NOT FIGHT ALONE. LUKE LEADS HIS FIGHTER TEAM INTO THE BAY.



SIR, WHAT'S WRONG?



THEIR ARMOURS TOO STRONG FOR OUR BLASTERS, DACK!

CH. 11 WALK ON THE WILD SIDE!

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REBEL HQ ON THE ICE-PLANET HOTH IS UNDER ATTACK BY BARTIN WADER'S IMPERIAL FORCES. AND IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE DEFENSE IS...

...LUKE SKYWALKER!

THERE! I'VE MANAGED TO PLANT A CHARGE INSIDE THIS IMPERIAL WALKER!

NOW I'VE GOT TO HIGHTAIL IT...

...BEFORE THIS THING...

"...BLOWS!"

THAT BUYS LEIA AND THE OTHERS A LITTLE MORE TIME!

BUT IS IT ENOUGH?!

A GOOD QUESTION. FOR AT THAT MOMENT, THE IMPERIAL ATTACK IS CRUMBLING THE REBELS' UNDERGROUND SANCTUARY...

MOVE IT PRINCESS... YOU TOO, THREEPIO!

THEY NAILED OUR MAIN GENERATOR... NO MORE SHIELD AROUND THE AREA! OUR ONLY HOPE'S THE FALCON!

AT THE STRONGHOLD'S MAIN HANGAR, CHEWBACCA ANXIOUSLY AWAITS HIS FRIENDS' ARRIVAL...

THERE IS GOOD REASON FOR HASTE. SOMEWHERE BEHIND THEM, THE LAST DEFENCES FALL BEFORE ADVANCING STORMTROOPERS.

STAR CRANKIN' HER UP, YOU BIG FURBALL! I WANNA SET SOME KINDA RECORD FOR FAST TAKE-OFFS!

NOW JOINED PERSONALLY BY THEIR SUPREME COMMANDER.

CHAPTER VIII

IMPERIAL PURSUIT!

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WRITER * ARTISTS LETTERER * TONIST

EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF REBEL HQ ON THE PLANET HOTH. THE MILLENNIUM FALCON IS ONE OF THE LAST SHIPS TO LEAVE...



AT LEAST HAN, CHEWIE, AND THE PRINCESS GOT AWAY IN THE FALCON. WEDGE, YOU AND THE OTHERS TAKE TO YOUR SHIPS.

WITH LUKE SKYWALKER'S DEPARTURE... THE ICE PLANET IS LEFT TO ITS IMPERIAL CONQUERORS.

SEVENTEEN SHIPS DESTROYED. LORD VADER, WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY GOT AWAY.

BUT THE FLEET'S TRACKING SCANNERS ARE ON THE MILLENNIUM FALCON.



I WANT THAT SHIP!

AND WHAT DARTH VADER WANTS...



AS I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU, CAPTAIN SOLO, THE ENTIRE PARA-LIGHT SYSTEM IS DAMAGED...

... WHICH MEANS WE CAN'T ESCAPE THAT IMPERIAL CRUISER AND ITS TIES BY JUMPING INTO LIGHT-SPEED, WE'RE IN TROUBLE!

BUT WHILE HIS FRIENDS FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES, LUKE'S CRAFT MOVES FREE AND CLEAR IN ANOTHER DIRECTION...

THAT'S RIGHT, ARTOO... WE'RE NOT REGROUPING WITH THE OTHERS. WE'RE GOING TO A PLACE CALLED DAGOBAH!

TA-DOOT?!

BEN KENOBI TOLD ME ABOUT IT... WHEN I WAS WOUNDED AND WANDERING ON HOTH, AND EVEN THOUGH IT ISN'T ON ANY CHARTS... I KNOW HOW TO GET THERE.



BACK ON THE FALCON...

YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY GOING INTO THAT ASTEROID FIELD?

IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE, PRINCESS.

IF I MIGHT REMIND YOU, CAPTAIN, THE PROBABILITY OF SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATING SUCH AN OBSTACLE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.467 TO 1!



SANCTUARY!

CH IX

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HOWARD BENDER
COLORIST

ON THE SWAMP PLANET OF THE DAGOBAH SYSTEM, LUKE SKYWALKER'S QUEST BEGINS...

I-- I DON'T KNOW WHO--OR WHAT--YOU ARE... BUT CAN YOU HELP ME FIND YODA THE JEDI MASTER?



YOU SEEK YODA? I TAKE YOU TO HIM.

YOU KNOW HIM?

FAR AWAY FROM THE MISTS OF DAGOBAH, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON HAS FOUND REFUGE FROM PURSUING IMPERIALS--IN THE HEART OF A GREAT ASTEROID...



DEAR ME! THOSE CHARGES ARE COMING SO CLOSE! I DO HOPE WE'RE SAFE HERE!

THE REST OF THE FALCON'S CREW IGNORES SEE-THREEPIO'S DISTRESS...

THEY ARE BUSY MAKING MUCH NEEDED REPAIRS... AMONG OTHER ACTIVITIES.



BUT THE TIME FOR EXPLORING SUCH TENDER FEELINGS WILL SOON BE ENDED. FOR EVEN NOW A SISTER MEETING TAKES PLACE...

YOU MUST DESTROY THE SON OF SKYWALKER...OR HE WILL BE OUR UNDOING.

HE'S NOT A JEDI, MY EMPEROR... JUST A BOY. OBI-WAN COULD NOT HAVE TAUGHT HIM VERY MUCH.



YET WITH THE FORCE SO STRONG WITHIN HIM...HE COULD BE A POWERFUL ALLY. IF HE COULD BE TURNED...

FOR A LONG MOMENT THE HUGE HOLOGRAPH IMAGE FLICKERS SILENTLY. THEN...

YES...YES. HE WOULD BE A GREAT ASSET. CAN IT BE DONE?

HE WILL JOIN US, MY MASTER--

--OR DIE!

CHAPTER II
THE TRAINING!



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HOWARD BENDER
TONIST

A MOMENT AGO THEY HAD THOUGHT OF IT AS SANCTUARY. BUT NOW, THE CREW OF THE MILLENNIUM FALCON REALIZES JUST HOW WRONG THEY HAD BEEN...

HAN, YOU'RE CRAZY! IF WE LEAVE THIS ASTEROID'S CAVE, WE'LL BE SITTING DUCKS FOR THE EMPIRE AND THE ASTEROID FIELD!

MAYBE SO, PRINCESS... BUT LOOK JUST AHEAD OF US!

THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE... IT'S CLOSING...!

MOUTH IS RIGHT, PRINCESS...

WE JUST ESCAPED A GIANT SLUG!

YOWARRRK!

MEANWHILE, IN THE DAGOBAH SYSTEM...

UNLEARN, LUKE SKYWALKER... UNLEARN!

WHILE HIS FRIENDS FIGHT THE EMPIRE, LUKE HAS DECIDED TO FOLLOW ANOTHER PATH THAT HE FEELS WILL BRING THE EMPIRE'S DEFEAT THAT MUCH CLOSER.

IT IS NO EASY TASK TO BECOME A JEDI.

I... I COULDN'T LIFT THAT SHIP MYSELF... AND YET YOU DID IT EASILY, M-MASTER...! I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT...!

THAT IS WHY YOU FAIL.

HE STUDIES AND WORKS AS NEVER BEFORE... TO LEARN FROM THE MYSTERIOUS YODA THE WAYS OF THE FORCE... AND OF THE JEDI KNIGHTS.

BUT THERE ARE LIMITS TO HIS PROGRESS...

CHAPTER III

ELSEWHERE, STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO AVOID FAILURE OF ANOTHER SORT...

BOUNTY HUNTERS! WHY SHOULD LORD VADER BRING THEM INTO THIS, ADMIRAL PIETT? THE REBELS WON'T ESCAPE US.

THERE'D BEST BE EVIDENCE OF THAT SOON...

INTO THE HEART OF THE EMPIRE!

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IN CLOUD CITY, A REUNION TAKES PLACE...

THIS IS GONNA BE A SHORT VISIT, LANDO. WE'LL BE HERE JUST LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE REPAIRS ON THE FALCON. HER HYPER-DRIVE'S BUSTED.

I'LL HAVE MY PEOPLE GET TO WORK RIGHT AWAY. HATE THE THOUGHT OF THE MILLENNIUM FALCON WITHOUT HER HEART!

AS THE LAUGHING GROUP MOVES ALONG... NO ONE NOTICES THAT SEE-THREEPIO HAS NOT KEPT UP WITH THEM...

... AND HAS RUN INTO TROUBLE.

OH, MY! THOSE LOOK LIKE --

THE SENTENCE IS CUT SHORT BY THE UGLY WHINE OF LASER BLASTS!

DAGOBAH! LUKE SKYWALKER'S TRAINING-- UNDER THE JEDI MASTER YODA CONTINUES.

THE BLACK HELMET-MASK SEPARATES FROM THE BODY, FALLING WITH A DREAM-LIKE MOTION TO SMATTER UPON THE CAVERN FLOOR...

IN AN EVIL-REEKING CAVERN, HE FIGHTS A VICTORIOUS LIGHTSABRE DUEL WITH DARTH VADER...

... AND REVEAL THE GREATEST NIGHTMARE OF ALL!

N-NO...! THAT'S MY FACE!

CLOUD CARS PASS LAZILY OUTSIDE THE WINDOW OF THE SUITE LANDO HAS PROVIDED FOR THE FUGITIVE REBELS. HAN SOLO WATCHES THEM UNTIL NOW, WHEN LEIA ENTERS FROM HER ROOM...

HAN, HAS THREEPIO TURNED UP YET?

HUH? OH YEAH... HE'S BEEN GONE TOO LONG TO BE JUST LOST.

BUT BEFORE WE ORGANIZE THE SEARCH PARTIES... LET ME GET A LOOK AT YOU! YOU LOOK GREAT!

BETRAYAL & BESPIN!

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WRITER ARTISTS LETTERER IDWIST

BESPIN'S CLOUD CITY, HAN, LEIA AND CHEWBACCA AND THREEPIO FIND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN BRUTALLY BETRAYED... AND HAN'S WEAPON FLIES ACROSS THE ROOM TO HIS FOE!



BOBA FETT AND I WOULD BE HONOURED IF YOU WOULD JOIN US.

DARTH VADER'S WIT IS LOST ON THE REBELS.

AND ON FARAWAY DAGOBAH, A TORN LUKE SKYWALKER PREPARES TO HEED THE ANGUISH HE SENSES FROM HIS FRIENDS.

LUKE, I CANNOT PROTECT YOU, IF YOU FACE VADER... YOU DO IT ALONE. USE THE FORCE FOR DEFENCE... DON'T GIVE IN TO HATE, ANGER, FEAR... TO THE DARK SIDE.



I-I'LL REMEMBER, BEN. AND I PROMISE... I'LL BE BACK TO FINISH MY JEDI TRAINING WITH YODA.

BUT IF I DON'T HELP MY FRIENDS... THEY'LL DIE! I CAN FEEL IT!

THEN WITH A ROAR OF ROCKET ENGINES... THE FIGHTER CRAFT SOARS UP INTO THE MISTS.



HE'S STILL RECKLESS, YODA... THINGS ARE GOING TO GET WORSE I FEAR. BUT THE BOY IS OUR LAST HOPE.

NO, OBI-WAN... THERE IS ANOTHER.

BACK IN THE CLOUD CITY ABOVE BESPIN... SCREAMS ARE HEARD. THEY COME FROM HAN SOLO.



DARTH VADER LISTENS FOR A WHILE WITHOUT GREAT INTEREST. THEN TURNS...

TO JOIN BOBA FETT AND LANDO CALRISSIAN.

I'M CONCERNED THAT THE CAPTAIN WILL BE DAMAGED, LORD VADER. JABBA THE HUT PAYS DOUBLE IF HE'S ALIVE!



HIS PAIN IS GREAT, BOUNTY HUNTER... WITHOUT BEING PERMANENT, BUT YOU DON'T GET HIM UNTIL I GET SKYWALKER.

WHAT ABOUT LEIA AND THE WOOKIEE...?

SO COLD...SO EVIL!

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IN BESPIN'S CLOUD CITY, HAN SOLO HAS FOUND HIMSELF THE FROZEN VICTIM OF A CRUEL EXPERIMENT BY DARTH VADER...

THE FREEZING PROCESS APPEARS TO WORK... SOLO LIVES.

BOBA FETT CAN TAKE HIM TO JABBA FOR THE REWARD.

NOW THAT WE'RE CERTAIN THAT IT PRESERVES WITHOUT KILLING... RESET THE CHAMBER FOR LUKE SKYWALKER!

KNOWING IT IS A TRAP, LUKE MAKES HIS WAY THROUGH THE CITY'S HEART UNTIL HE REACHES THE CARBON-FREEZING CHAMBER... AND THE INEVITABLE.

SHOW YOURSELF, DARTH VADER... OR DO YOU FEAR ME?

THE FORCE IS WITH YOU, YOUNG SKYWALKER... BUT YOU'RE NOT A JEDI YET!

TWO LIGHT-SABRES IGNITE... AND A BATTLE LONG COMING BEGINS.

MEANTIME, AS THE IMPERIALS HUSTLE LEIA AND CHEWBACCA, WITH HIS BURDEN OF THE BLASTER-DAMAGED SEETHREEPID, THROUGH THE MINING OUTPOST'S INTERSECTING BYWAYS...

LANDO SUDDENLY SPEAKS...

CODE FORCE... SEVEN.

ALMOST INSTANTLY, CLOUD CITY GUARDS SURROUND THEM ALL.

WHAT'S HAPPENED, CHEWBACCA? TURN ME AROUND SO I CAN SEE!

AND WHEN LANDO'S FORCES HAVE FREED THE CAPTIVES, CLOUD CITY'S LEADING CITIZEN LEADS A DESPERATE RACE TO THE LANDING AREA...

LOOK! IT'S ARTOO! HE MUST'VE BEEN WITH MASTER LUKE!

HURRY, ARTOO... THIS WAY!

IT MAY NOT MEAN MUCH AT THIS POINT... AFTER VADER FORCED ME TO BETRAY YOU ALL... BUT WE CAN STILL SAVE HAN-- IF WE CAN STOP BOBA FETT'S SHIP!

UREETA
BLIT
WA-DOOT!

CHAPTER
XVII

DUEL A DARK LORD!

Long ago in a galaxy far, far away... there exists a state of cosmic civil war. A brave alliance of underground freedom fighters has challenged the tyranny and oppression of the awesome Galactic Empire. This is their story!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: STAR WARS THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

CONTINUING THE OFFICIAL COMICS ADAPTATION BASED ON THE SCRIPT BY LEIGH BRACKETT AND LAWRENCE KASDAN FROM THE STORY BY GEORGE LUCAS, A TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX RELEASE.

ARCHIE GOOPWIN
WRITER

AL WILLIAMSON AND CARLOS GARZON
ARTISTS

RICK VEITCH
LETTERER

HOWARD BENDER
TONIST

WHILE LEIA, CHEWBACCA, LANDO, AND THE DROIDS RACE TO SAVE HAN SOLO FROM BOBBA FETT THE BOUNTY HUNTER, LUKE SKYWALKER ENGAGES IN THE MOST MOMENTOUS BATTLE OF HIS LIFE!

OBI-WAN HAS TAUGHT YOU TO CONTROL YOUR FEAR, SKYWALKER! NOW RELEASE YOUR ANGER! I DESTROYED YOUR FAMILY... TAKE YOUR REVENGE!

LUKE IS TEMPTED TO GIVE IN... BUT HE REMEMBERS BEN KENOBI'S WARNINGS AND STAYS CALM.

BUT GOOD AS THE YOUTH MAY BE, VADER IS STILL THE MASTER. WITH A CRUEL STROKE, THE DARK LORD'S LIGHTSABRE SLICES CLEAN THROUGH LUKE'S ARM, CRIPPLING HIM.

AND AS THE TWO STAND ABOVE THE DESOLATE CANYON OF MACHINERY, VADER UTTERS THE MOST ASTONISHING WORDS LUKE WILL EVER HEAR...

JOIN ME, LUKE. TOGETHER WE WILL BE MORE POWERFUL THAN THE EMPEROR.

IT WAS MEANT TO BE! THERE ARE MANY THINGS OBI-WAN HAS KEPT FROM YOU. SUCH AS WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHER...

BEN TOLD ME ENOUGH. HE TOLD ME YOU KILLED MY FATHER!

NO, LUKE. I AM YOUR FATHER.

N-NO...!
NO!!!

SEARCH YOUR FEELINGS, YOUNGSTER. YOU KNOW IT TO BE TRUE!

LUKE, YOU CAN DESTROY THE EMPEROR... HE HAS FORSEEN THIS. WE CAN RULE THE GALAXY TOGETHER... FATHER AND SON! COME WITH ME! IT'S THE ONLY WAY!

STUNNED, LUKE PONDERES, THEN SUDDENLY REALIZES THAT HE HAS NO CHOICE...

...AND STEPS OFF INTO NOTHINGNESS!

VADER STARES AS THE YOUTH VANISHES INTO THE DARKNESS. IT IS OVER. THE SHAFT'S CHANGING AIR CURRENTS MAY CUSHION HIM MOMENTARILY, BUT SOMEWHERE BELOW ARE EXHAUST VENTS. CERTAINLY THE BOY WILL BE DRAGGED INTO ONE OF THESE... AND SPEWED OUT OF CLOUD CITY MILES ABOVE THE GASEOUS SURFACE OF BESPIN.

CHAPTER XVIII:

AN END TO INNOCENCE!

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LARRY HAMA ★ CARMINE INFANTINO & CARLOS GARZON ★ RICK PARKER ★ RAHID KHAN ★ LOUISE JONES ★ JAMES SHOOTER
WRITER ARTISTS LETTERER TONIST EDITOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

AARGAU (ar'gau), THIRD PLANET OF THE ZUG SYSTEM. THE STABILITY OF AARGAU'S CURRENCY, THE TECHNICAL SUPERIORITY OF ITS ARMED FORCES AND ITS STRICT LAWS GOVERNING WEAPONS POSSESSION AND PRECIOUS METAL EXPORTS HAVE MADE IT THE MAJOR BANKING CENTER OF THE GALAXY.

I, PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA, AM ACTING AS ROYAL ESCORT TO FINANCE MINISTER VISCOUNT TARDI WHO HAS BEEN CHARGED BY THE REBEL ALLIANCE WITH THE TASK OF PROCURING FINANCING TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A NEW SQUADRON OF X-WING FIGHTERS...

AARGAU IS A DANGEROUS PLANET, PRINCESS. HORRIBLE ACCIDENTS MAY OCCUR-- ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE BAN ON DEFENSIVE WEAPONRY...

DARTH VADER!
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO AARGAU? CHECKING UP ON YOUR SECRET NUMBERED ACCOUNTS?

I SEE YOU DIDN'T BRING YOUR USUAL COMPLIMENT OF STORMTROOPERS. BUT THEN THEY'RE NOT MUCH GOOD WITHOUT THEIR LASER BLASTERS!

THE THIRD LAW

CHAPTER TWO

Long ago in a galaxy far, far away... there exists a state of cosmic civil war. A brave alliance of underground freedom fighters has challenged the tyranny and oppression of the awesome Galactic Empire. This is their story!

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EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...



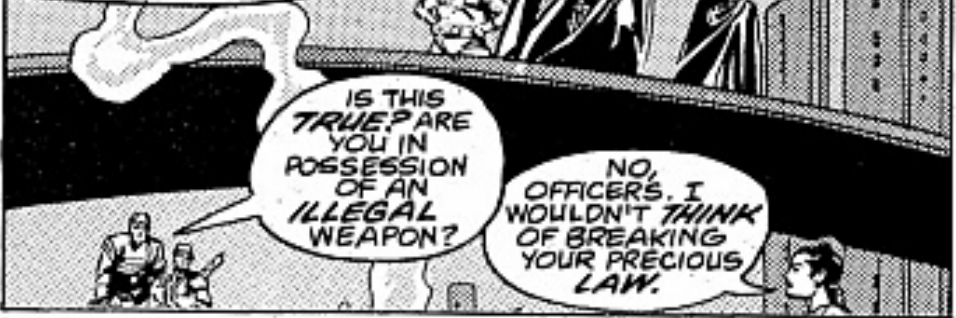
WE SEEM TO HAVE CAPTURED THE ATTENTION OF VADER'S "PORTER," THE HIGH-GRAVITY RIGELLIAN...

YOU KNOW - SOMETHING THAT HEAVY AND DENSE SHOULDN'T STAND AROUND THE EDGES OF BRIDGES...

OH, I DOUBT THAT A FALL COULD HURT HIM MUCH--



OFFICERS! I DEMAND THAT YOU TAKE ACTION AGAINST THESE LAWBREAKERS IMMEDIATELY! THIS CRIMINAL HAS VAPORIZED MY PORTER WITH A PROSCRIBED ENERGY WEAPON!



I SAW IT! THE POOR FELLOW FELL, AND SHE MURDERED HIM!

IS THIS TRUE? ARE YOU IN POSSESSION OF AN ILLEGAL WEAPON?

NO, OFFICERS. I WOULDN'T THINK OF BREAKING YOUR PRECIOUS LAW.

THIS IS A STANDARD MODEL GRAVITATIONAL FIELD DISRUPTOR, AVAILABLE IN ANY SPACE-PORT DUTY-FREE SHOP. YOUR PORTER WASN'T VAPORIZED. I MERELY INCREASED HIS RELATIVE DENSITY--



THE THIRD LAW

CHAPTER THREE