

STAR WARS™

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THE GREATEST SPACE-FANTASY FILM OF ALL!



STAR WARS

AT LAST!
THE SOUL-SHATTERING
CLIMAX
OF THE YEAR'S BEST MOVIE!

TODAY YOU
DIE, LUKE
SKYWALKER! THIS
IS YOUR
**FINAL
BATTLE!**



SEE
**LUKE SKYWALKER
BATTLE
DARTH VADER!**



Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

STAR WARS

THE GREATEST
SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

BASED ON THE FILM BY GEORGE LUCAS, RELEASED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX.

IS THIS-- THE
**FINAL
CHAPTER?**

THIRTY MINUTES!

THAT'S HOW LONG THE MAIN
REBEL BASE HAS BEFORE
THE DEATH STAR,
GIGANTIC BATTLE-STATION
OF THE GALACTIC EMPIRE,
WILL BE IN A POSITION TO
DESTROY IT.

NOW, LIKE
ANGRY MOSQUITOS,
THE REBEL FIGHTERS
STREAK UPWARD FROM
THEIR HIDDEN HANGARS
ON THE FOURTH
MOON OF YAVIN--

--TO ATTACK A TECHNOLOGICAL
TERROR WHOSE FIREPOWER
DWARFS THAT OF EVEN THE
IMPERIAL WAR FLEET!

THIS
IS IT, BOYS!
NOW LET'S--

BLUE TWO
--YOU'RE OUT
TOO FAR!
CLOSE IT UP,
WEDGE!

SORRY, BOSS
--MY RANGER
SEEMS TO BE A
FEW POINTS OFF;
I'LL HAVE TO GO
ON MANUAL.

ROY THOMAS & HOWARD CHAYKIN
WRITER & EDITOR ARTIST & STORYTELLER

RICK HOBERG & BILL WRAY EMBELLISHERS

PATY • COLORIST
LAY & ROYER • LETTERERS

ARCHIE GOODWIN
CONSULTING EDITOR

AND SOMEWHERE--
LUKE SKYWALKER
IS AMONG THEM!

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"STAND BY TO LOCK "S-FOILS" IN ATTACK POSITIONS!"

BLUE TWO
STANDING
BY, BLUE
LEADER.

BLUE
THREE
STANDING
BY.

BLUE FOUR
STANDING BY.

BLUE FIVE
STANDING BY.

BLUE SIX
STANDING BY.

EXECUTE!

LIKE NARROW SEEDS, THE
DOUBLE WINGS ON THE
X-WING FIGHTERS
SUDDENLY SPLIT APART.

THE SHIPS HAVE NOW BECOME
DEADLY, X-SHAPED DARTS,
THEIR WING-MOUNTED
ARMAMENT AND QUADRUPLE
ENGINES NOW DEPLOYED
FOR MAXIMUM FIREPOWER
AND MANEUVERABILITY.

THEIR TARGET: THE
LOOMING, EVER-NEARER
DEATH STAR!

AND, IN THE COCKPIT OF "BLUE FIVE",
ALIAS LUKE SKYWALKER:

BLUE LEADER, HERE! WE'RE PASS-
ING THROUGH THEIR
MAGNETIC SHIELDS--
HOLD TIGHT!

LOCK DOWN
YOUR CONTROL
UNITS--SWITCH
YOUR DEFLECTOR
SHIELDS ON--
DOUBLE FRONT!

CHECK,
BLUE
LEADER!

KEEP THE
CHANNELS QUIET
UNTIL WE'VE
REACHED THE
SURFACE!

ALL SIX MEN OF BLUE GROUP--AND THOSE OF
THE OTHERS, AS WELL--KNOW THAT THEY HAVE
NO CHANCE OF DENTING THE IMPREGNABLE
DEFENSES...

YET, THE REBEL LEADER SPOKE EARLIER OF ITS ONE WEAKNESS WHICH MAY BE EXPLOITED IF THE SPACE-GODS ARE KIND:

"THERE IS A SMALL, UNSHIELDED THERMAL EXHAUST PORT THAT RUNS DIRECTLY INTO THE REACTOR SYSTEM."

"A DIRECT HIT ON IT SHOULD SET UP A CHAIN REACTION THAT WILL DESTROY THE STATION."

"YOU MUST MANEUVER STRAIGHT DOWN THE SHAFT WHICH CIRCLES THE STATION; YOU MUST LEVEL OFF IN THE TRENCH THERE, AND SKIM THE SURFACE TO THE PRECISE TARGET AREA."

"UNFORTUNATELY, THE TARGET IS ONLY TWO METERS ACROSS--AND YOU WILL HAVE TO HIT IT WITH PROTON TORPEDOES!"

WHILE, WITHIN THE DEATH STAR ITSELF...



THEY'RE MAD, THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE!

WHY AREN'T THEY SIMPLY DEFENDING THEMSELVES ON YAVIN'S FOURTH MOON AS WE EXPECTED?

NO MATTER! WE'LL BLAST THEM RIGHT OUT OF THE SKY!

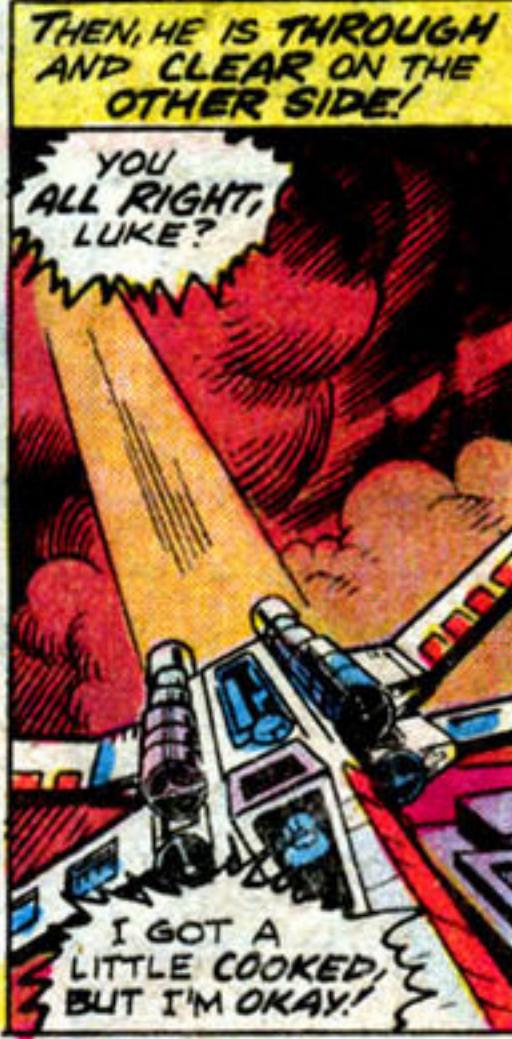
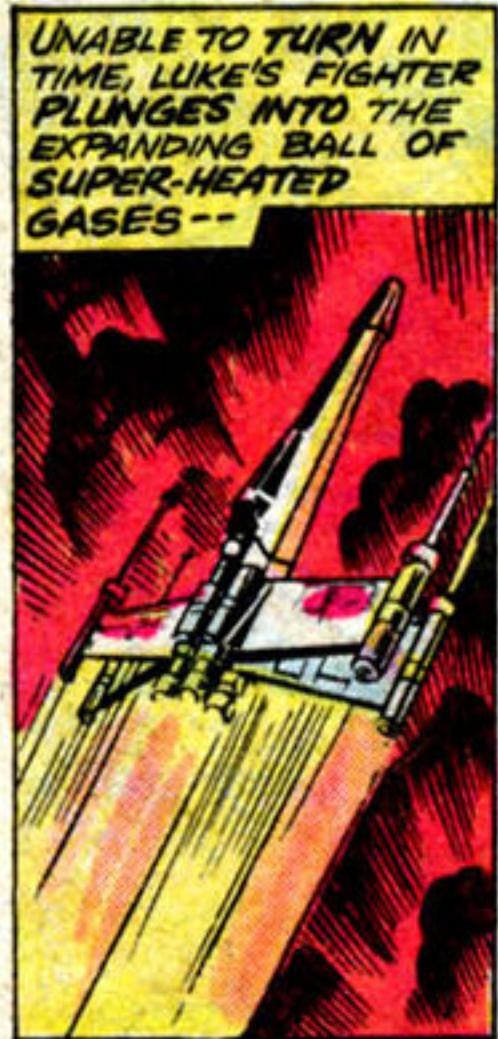
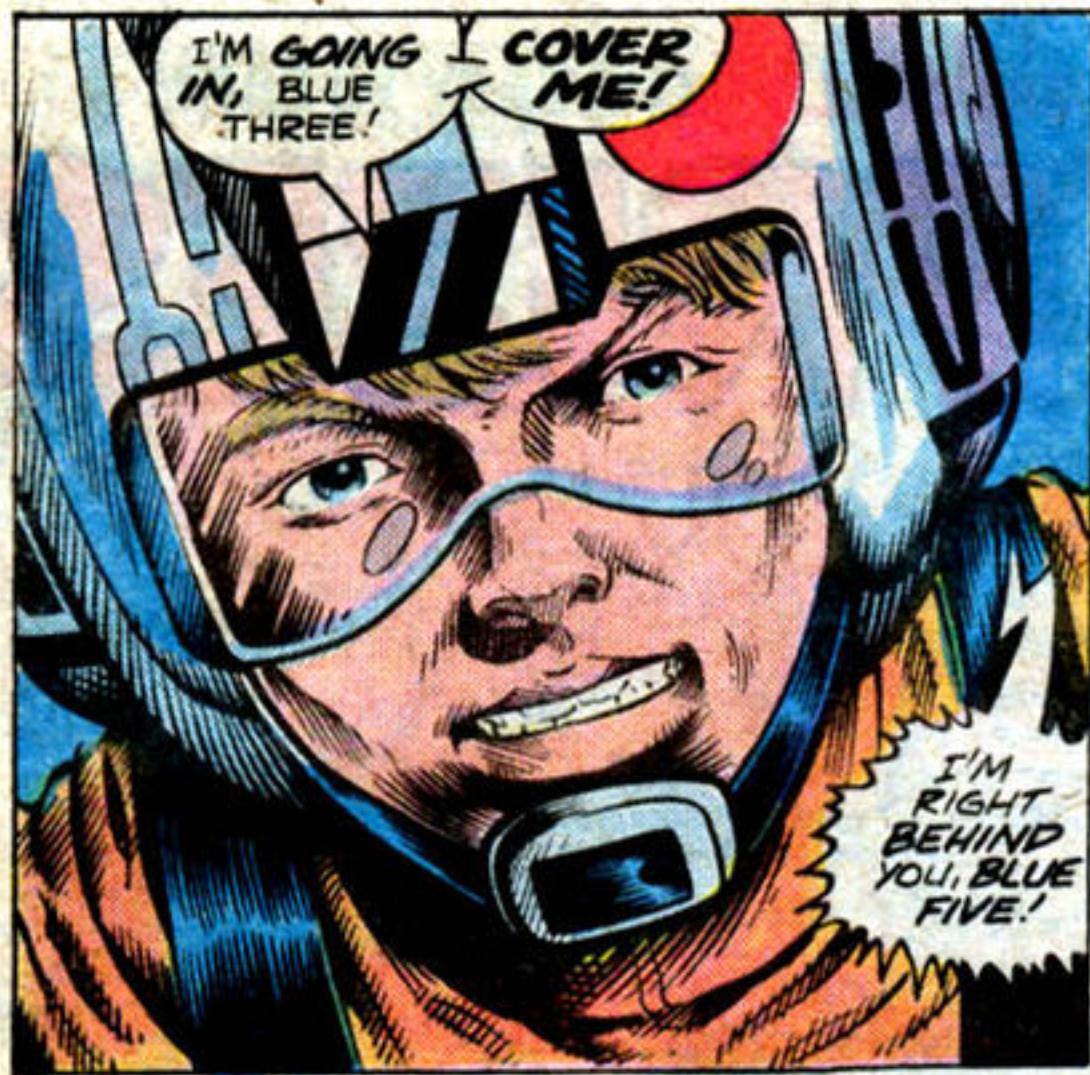
WITHIN MOMENTS, A WEB OF ANNIHILATION ENVELOPS THE APPROACHING STATION--

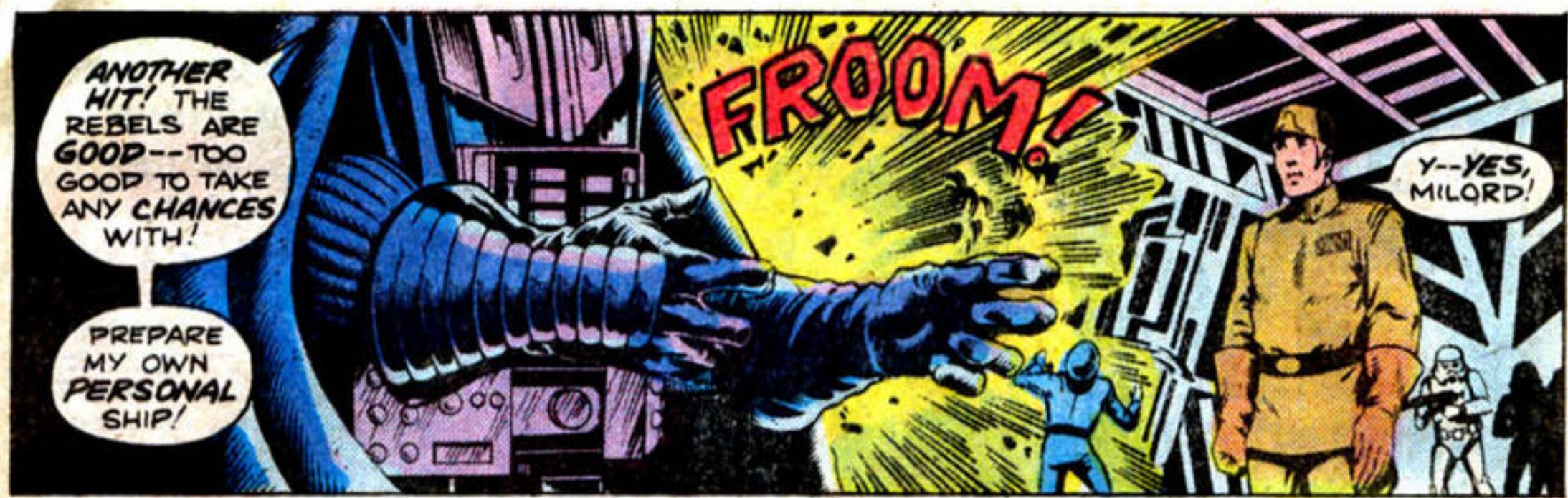
--AS ENERGY BOLTS AND EXPLOSIVE SOLIDS RIP OUT AT THE ON-COMING REBEL CRAFT.

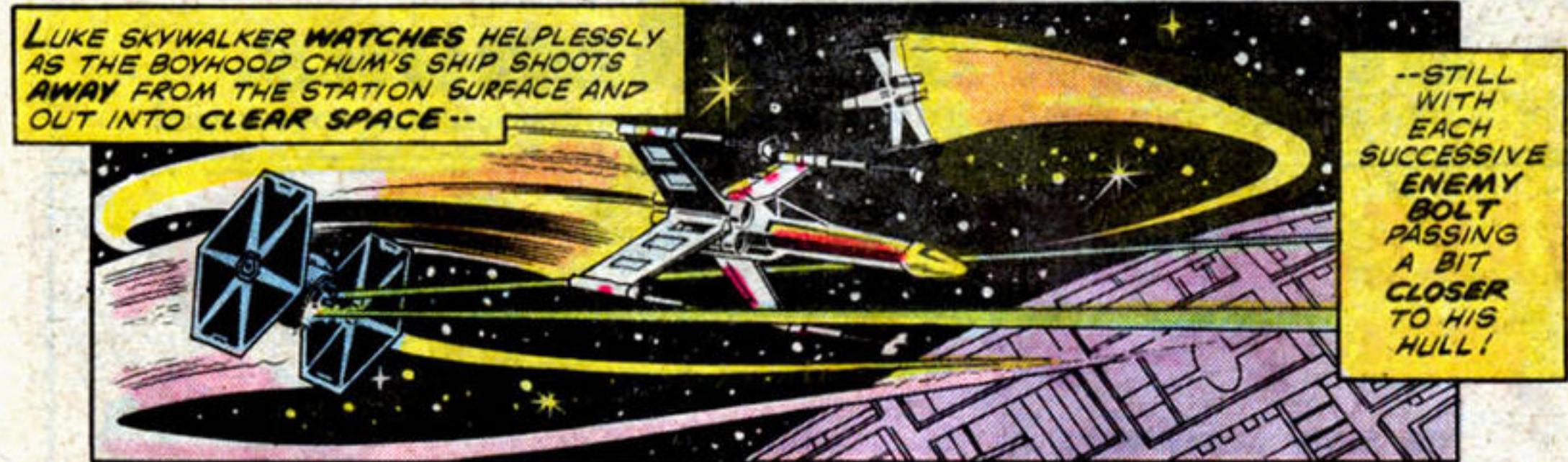
THEN, AS BLUE GROUP DRAWS NEAR THE BATTLE-STATION...

BLUE THREE, THIS IS BLUE FIVE! HI, BIGGS!

HI YOURSELF, LUKE! WHAT--?



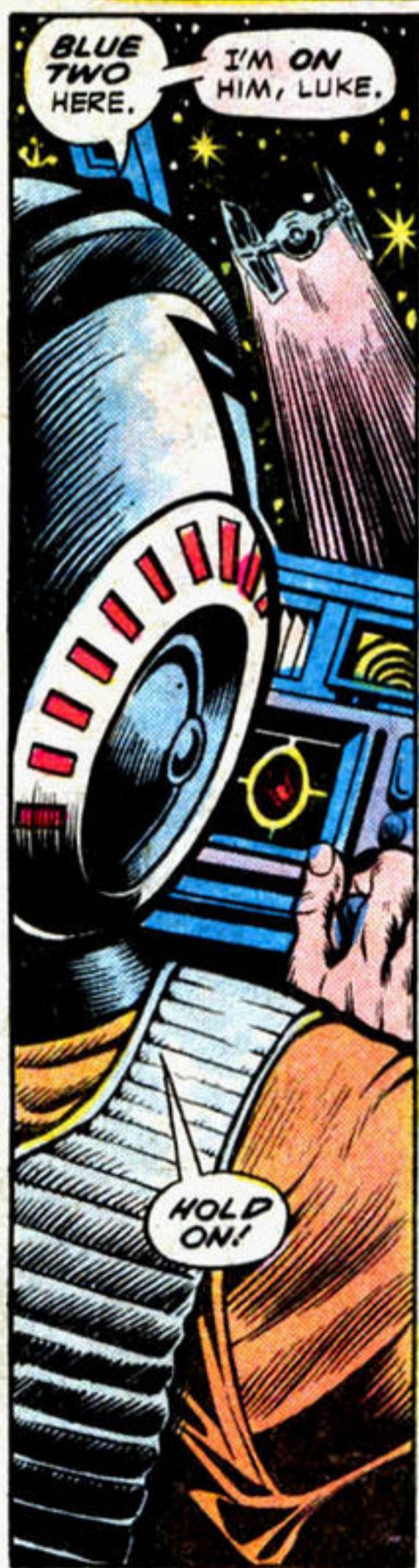




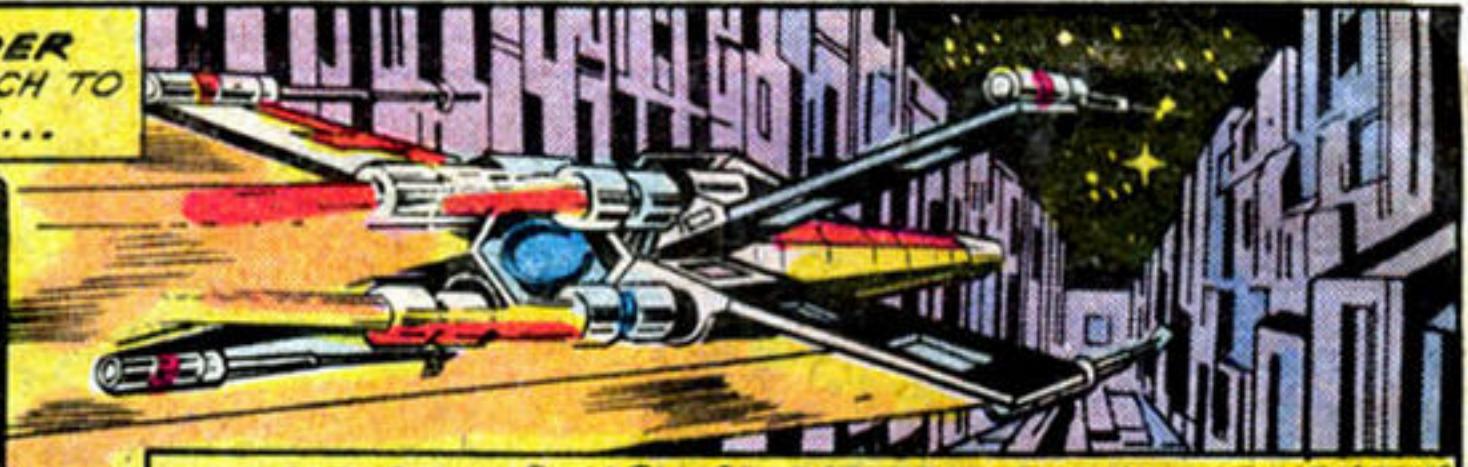
WITHIN THE REBEL TEMPLE-FORTRESS ON YAVIN'S MOON, LEIA AND HER GENERALS ARE OBSERVING THE ACTIONS ONE SECOND ON A SPACIOUS SCREEN--



MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE, BLUE FOUR HAS BECOME THE FIRST REBEL CRAFT OF BLUE GROUP TO FALL BEFORE THE DEADLY IMPERIAL LASERBOLTS...



AT THAT MOMENT, BLUE LEADER COMMENCES HIS OWN APPROACH TO THE DEATH STAR'S SURFACE...



... HIS TWO WING-MEN SO FAR BEHIND HIM THAT HE SEEKS ALONE IN THE VAST GRAY TRENCH WHICH LEADS TO THE TARGET THERMAL EXHAUST PORT AHEAD.

SUDDENLY, INTENSE STREAKS OF LIGHT SHOOT CLOSE BY, AS THE TRENCH DEFENSES OPEN UP--

THEN, JUST AS ABRUPTLY, THE ENERGY-BOLTS CEASE, AND ALL IS SILENT AND DARK AGAIN IN THE TRENCH.

YET, SEEING THEM IS NOT THE SAME AS EVADING THEM--



--AND NEAR MISSES BATTER BLUE LEADER'S WING-MEN, FOR WHAT SEEMS AN ETERNITY!

...DARTH VADER'S EYES DOUBTLESS NARROW, THEY FALL UPON THE SCREEN-IMAGE OF BLUE LEADER HIMSELF...

HE'S GETTING TOO CLOSE TO OUR VULNERABLE POINT!

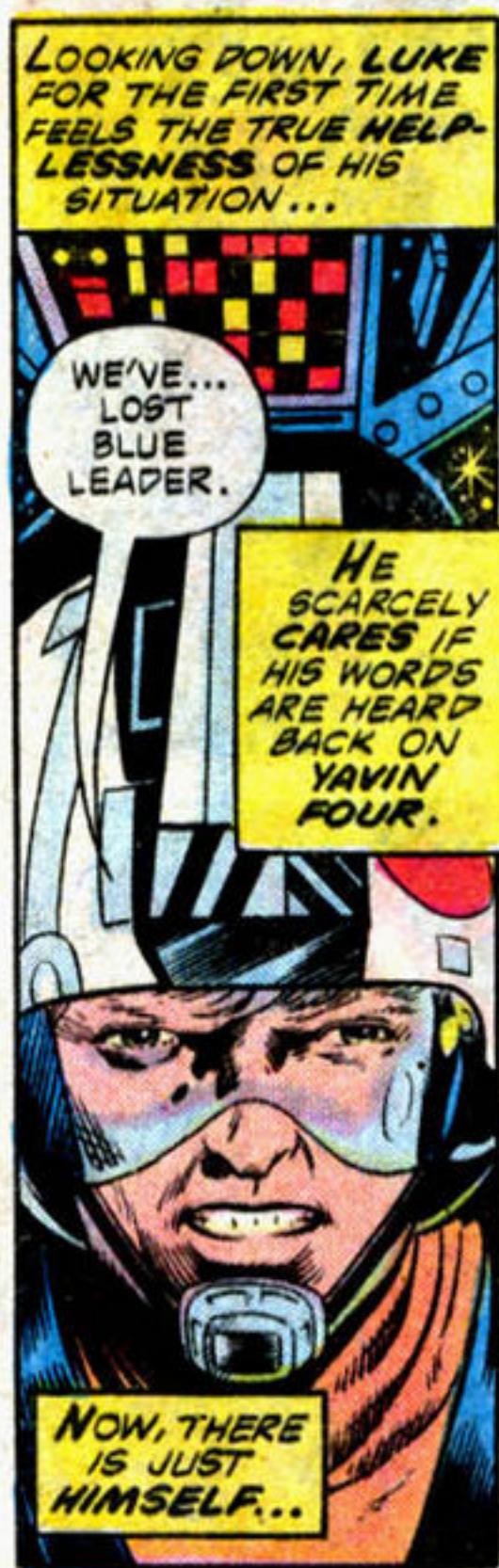
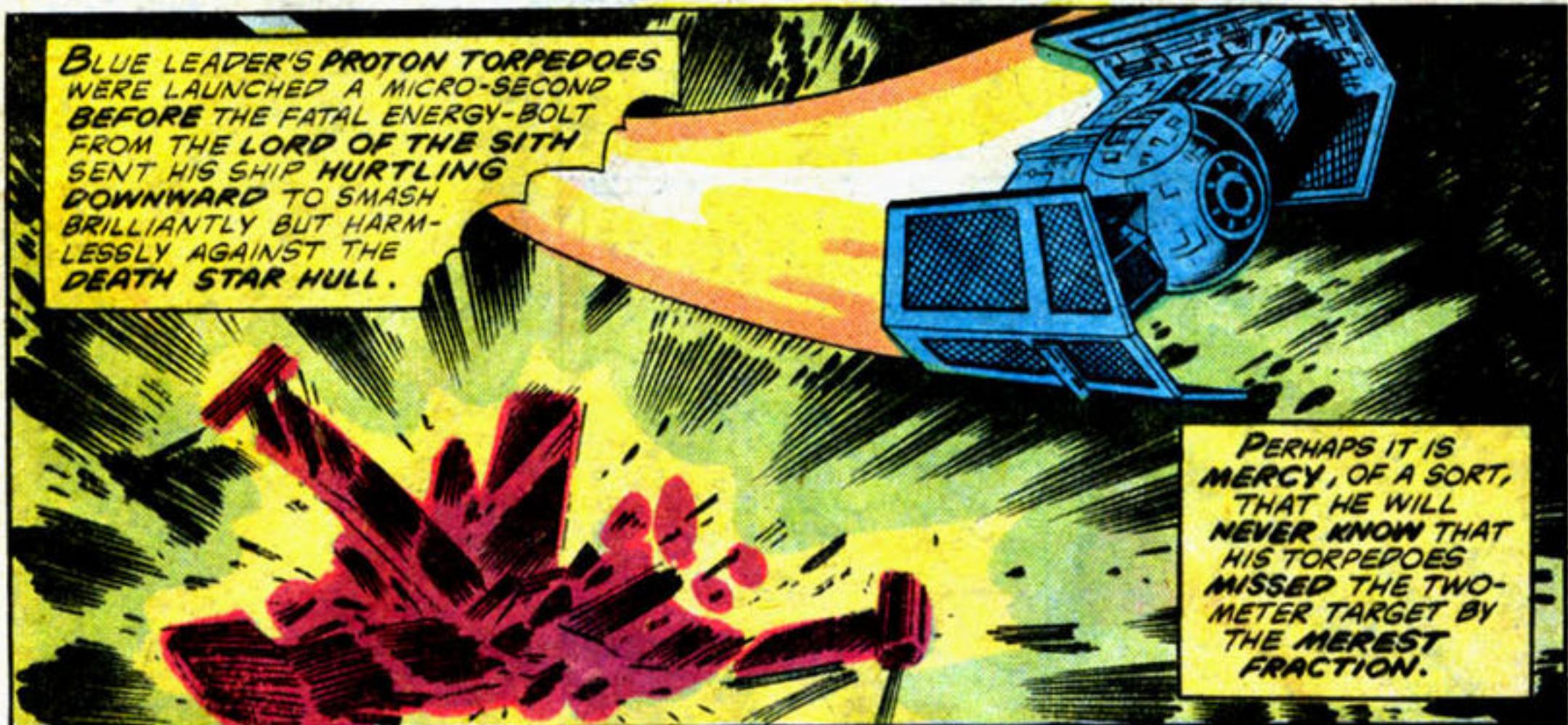
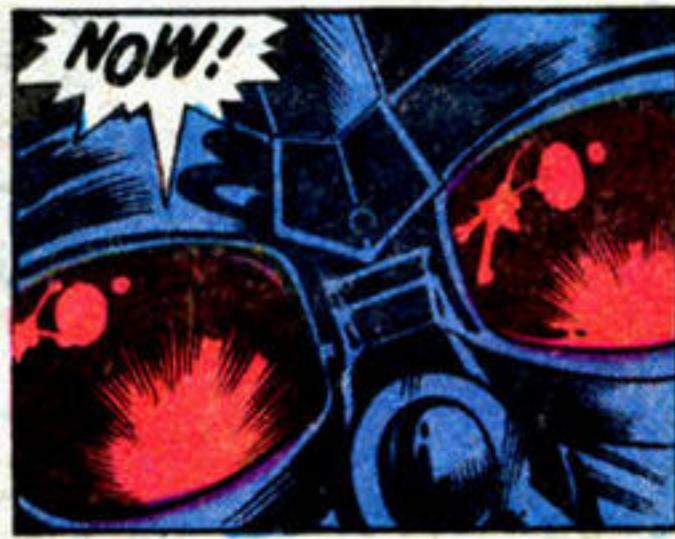
CHECK! KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR --

IMPERIAL FIGHTERS!

THERE THEY ARE-- COMING IN AT .35!

AND... WITHIN THAT SHIP...







WHILE, OVERHEAD, LUKE SKYWALKER HAS SUDDENLY DISCOVERED THAT ONE OF HIS KEY INSTRUMENTS IS MALFUNCTIONING...

BLAST! IF ARTOO CAN'T PUT ME BACK IN TOUCH WITH COMPUTER CENTRAL BACK ON YAVIN-4--

--I'LL HAVE TO AIM THE PROTON TORPEDOES MANUALLY, AND THAT'S NOT AS ACCURATE AS--

TRUST YOUR FEELINGS, LUKE--!

HUH? WHO--?

IT IS A YOUNG-OLD VOICE WHICH SOUNDS IN HIS EARS... A FAMILIAR VOICE...

...A VOICE AT ONCE CALM, CONFIDENT, CONTENTED... AND REASSURING.

A VOICE HE HAS LISTENED TO INTENTLY ON THE DESERT OF TATOOINE... AND ELSEWHERE.

BEN!
BEN
KENOBI
!!

THEN-- MAYBE HE WASN'T KILLED BY DARTH VADER'S LIGHTSABRE, AFTER ALL!

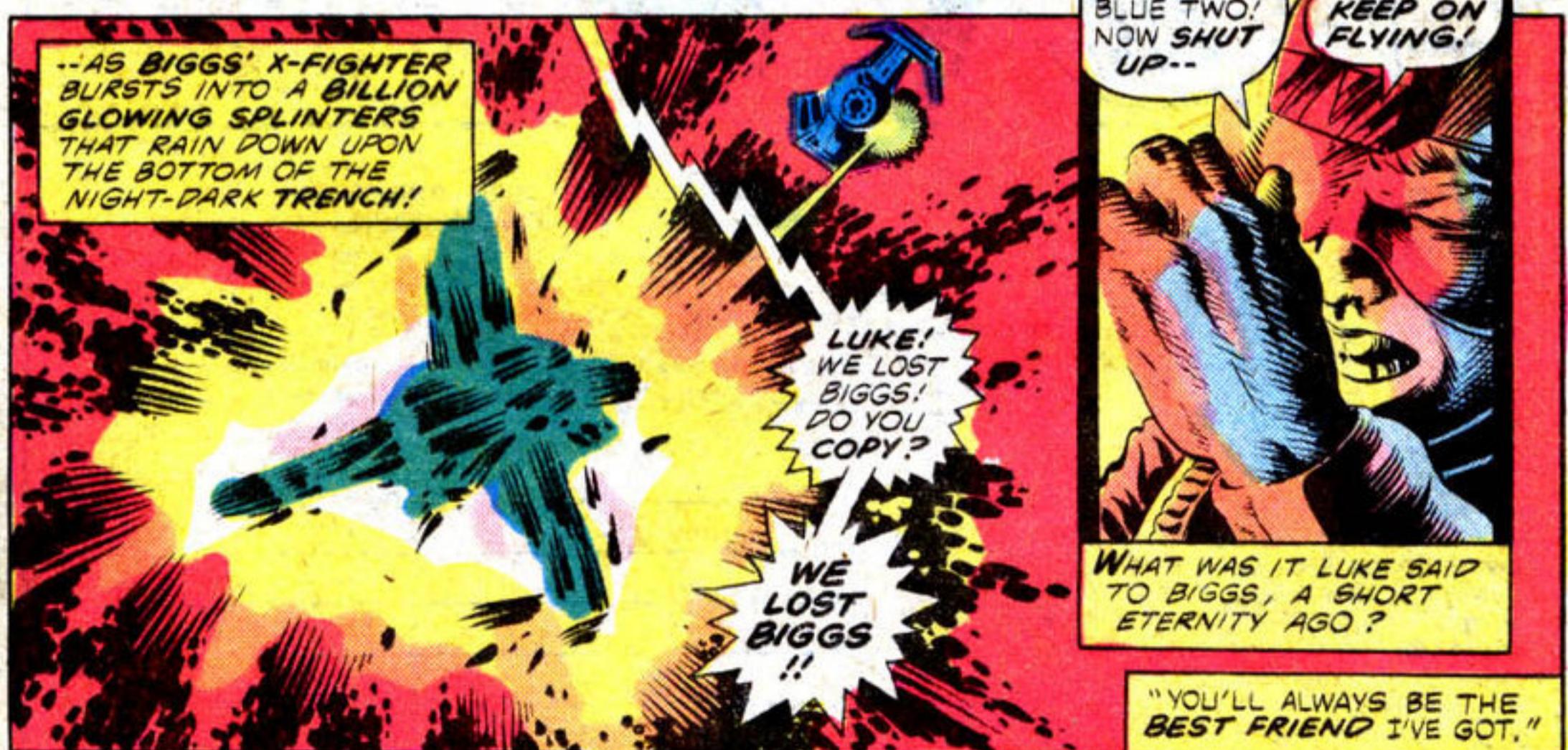
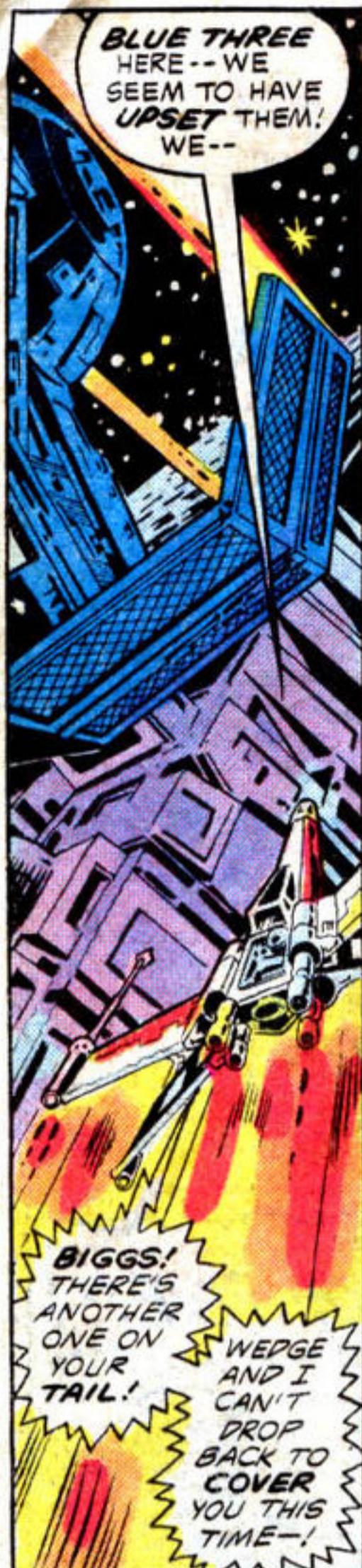
MAYBE HE MERGED, SOMEHOW, WITH "THE FORCE"-- AND HE'S HERE WITH ME IN SPIRIT-- RIGHT NOW!

THEN MAYBE THERE'S A CHANCE FOR US, AT THAT-- EVEN AGAINST DARTH VADER AND THE DEATH STAR!

WEDGE-- BIGGS-- WE'RE GOING IN-- FULL THROTTLE!

IT'LL BE JUST LIKE BEGGARS' CANYON BACK HOME!





NOW, WITH RED GROUP BEATEN OFF AND BLUE GROUP ALL BUT ANNIHILATED BY ENEMY FIRE, ONLY LUKE AND WEDGE REMAIN...

CLOSE IT UP, WEDGE! YOU CAN'T DO ANY MORE GOOD BACK THERE.

CHECK! BUT--I'VE PICKED UP ONE...AND WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S A DEVIL OF A FLYER!

AND, HOT ON WEDGE'S ROCKETING HEELS COMES ... DARTH VADER!

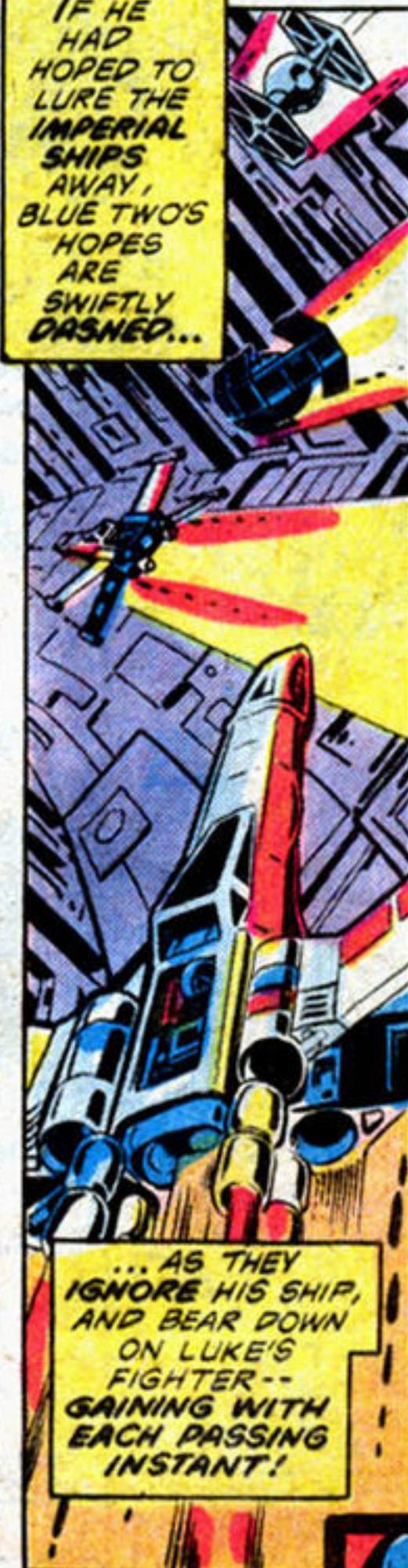
HIS JEDI-BORN INSTINCTS TELL HIM THAT THE GREAT BATTLE-STATION HE SERVES IS ONLY SECONDS AWAY FROM BEING ABLE TO DESTROY THE REBEL FORTRESS ON YAVIN-4...

IF HE HAD HOPED TO LURE THE IMPERIAL SHIPS AWAY, BLUE TWO'S HOPES ARE SWIFTLY DASHED...

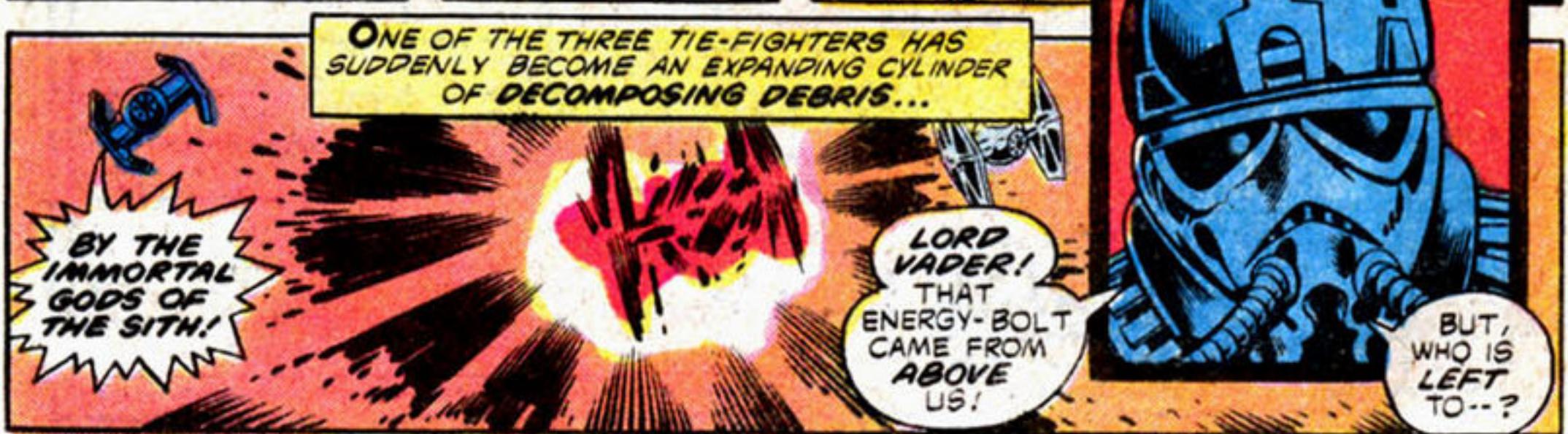
HE WILL BE IN RANGE IN ANOTHER SECOND!



...AND NO MERE PAIR OF UPSTARTS MUST BE ALLOWED TO STOP THE IMPERIAL JUGGERNAUT.



ONE OF THE THREE TIE-FIGHTERS HAS SUDDENLY BECOME AN EXPANDING CYLINDER OF DECOMPOSING DEBRIS...



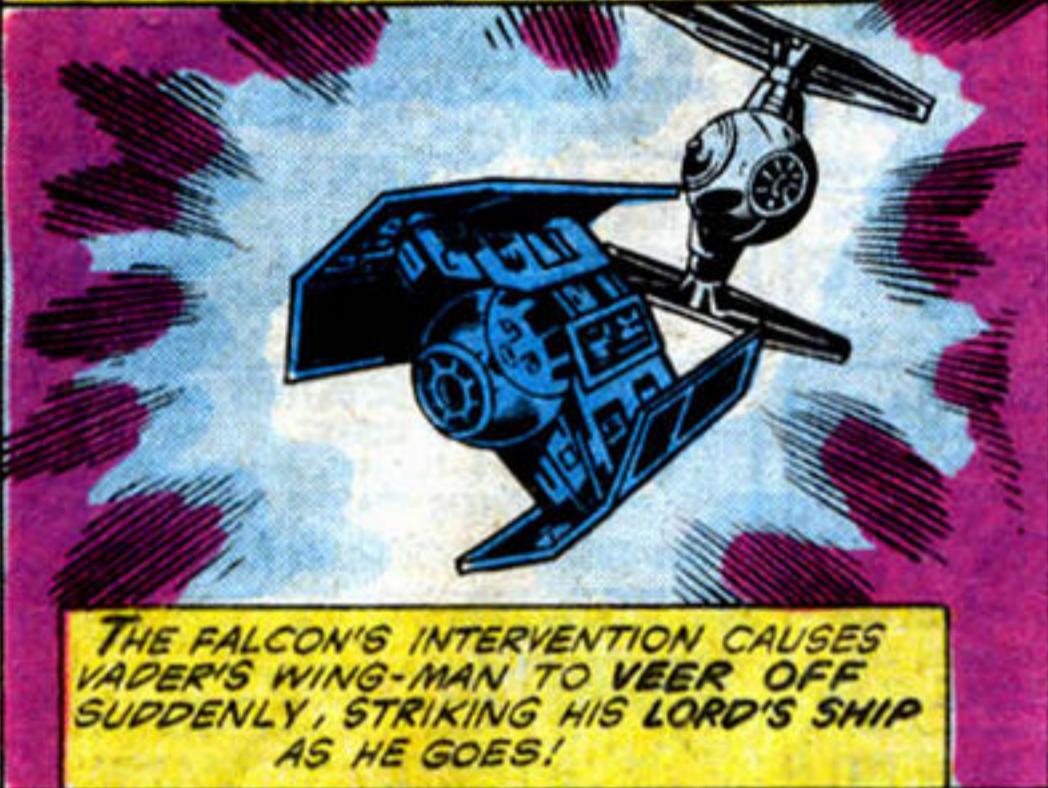
BUT, WHO IS LEFT TO--?

THEN, FROM OUT OF YAVIN'S SUN, OR SO IT SEEMS, COMES A NEW THREAT, FOR WHICH THE PURSUING TIE-FIGHTERS ARE NOT PREPARED:

A SPACE-FREIGHTER THAT DOES NOT MOVE LIKE A FREIGHTER, SOMEHOW-- BUT FASTER--SURER.

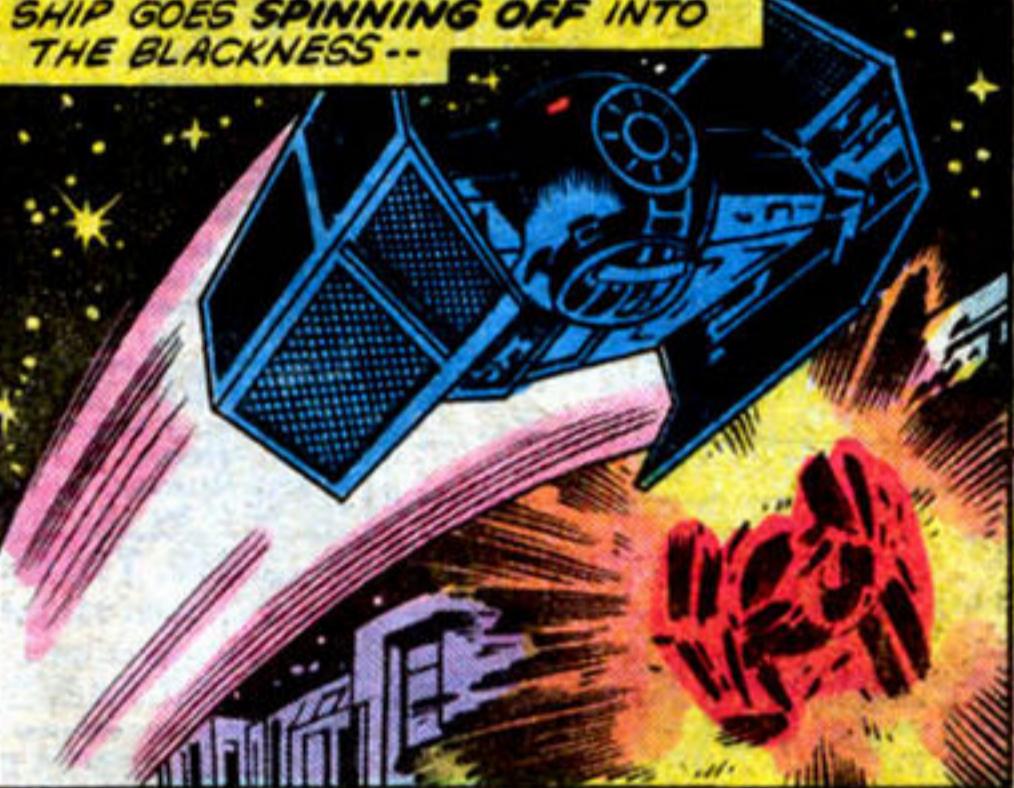


--AND ITS CAPTAIN, HAN SOLO, IS ONE OF THE BEST PILOTS IN THE GALAXY!



THE FALCON'S INTERVENTION CAUSES VADER'S WING-MAN TO VEER OFF SUDDENLY, STRIKING HIS LORD'S SHIP AS HE GOES!

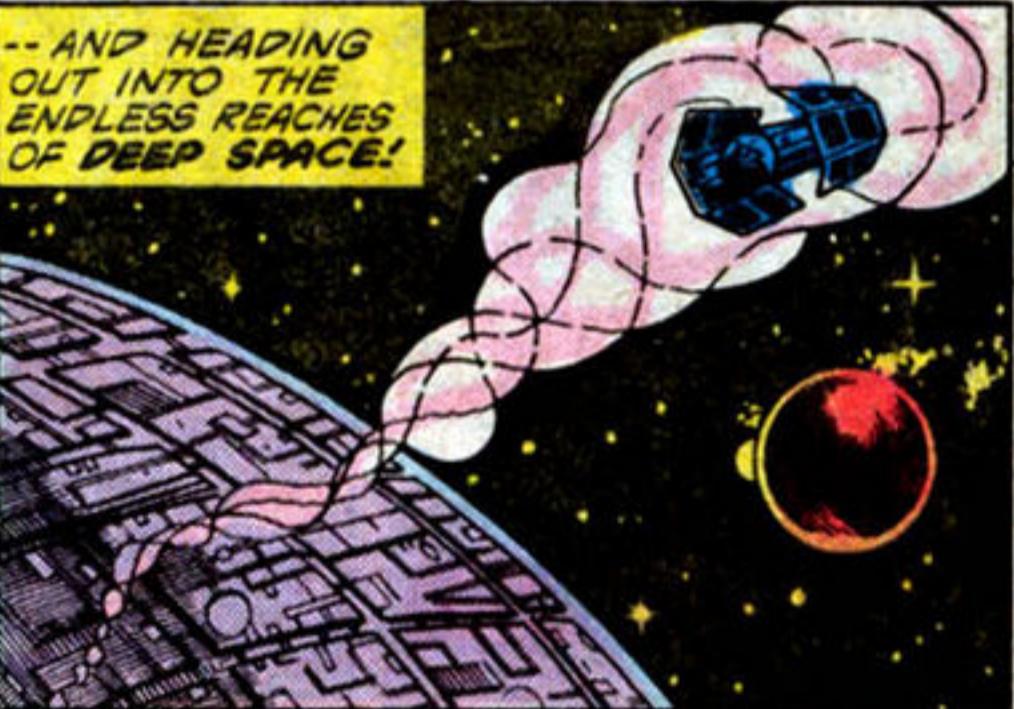
THEN, AS THE WING-CRAFT IS OBLITERATED AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE TRENCH, THE REMAINING SHIP GOES SPINNING OFF INTO THE BLACKNESS --



ABOARD IT, DARTH VADER FINDS HIMSELF WHIRLING AROUND, HIS INSTRUMENTS SHATTERED, HIS VESSEL WILDLY OUT OF CONTROL--

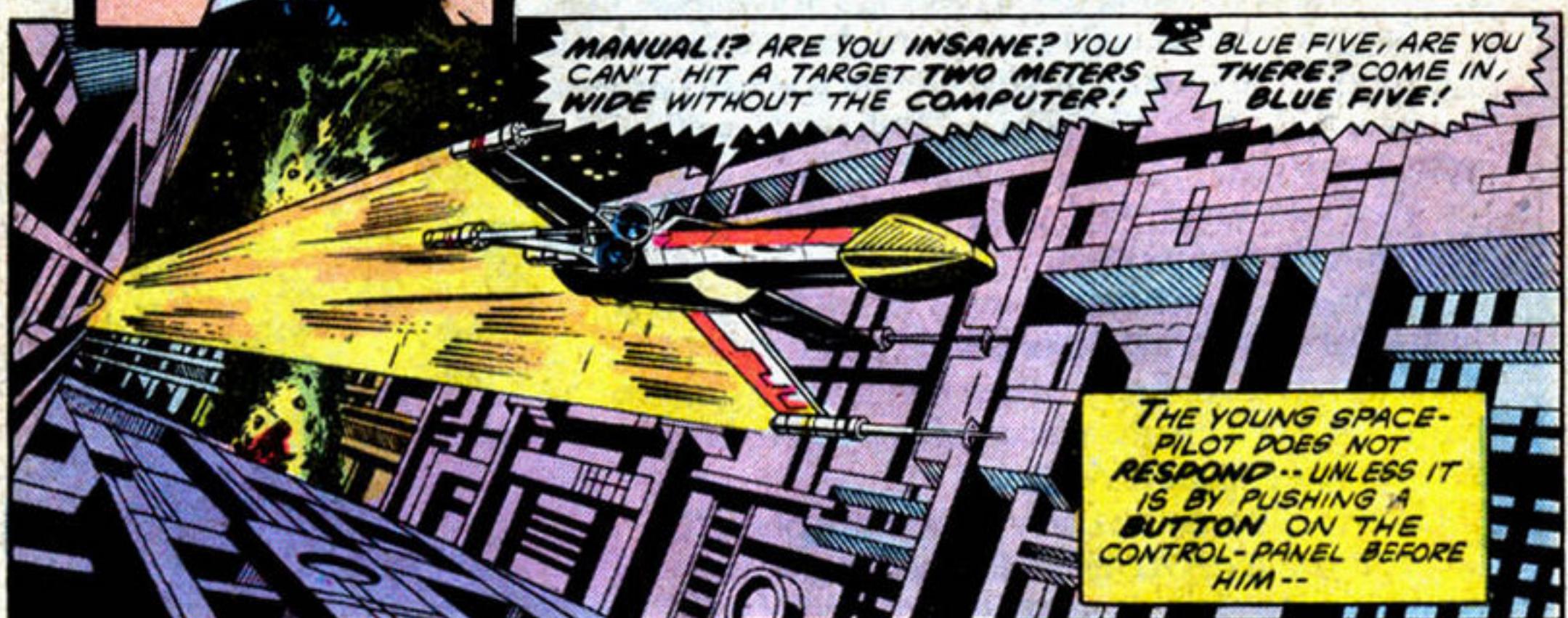


-- AND HEADING OUT INTO THE ENDLESS REACHES OF DEEP SPACE!

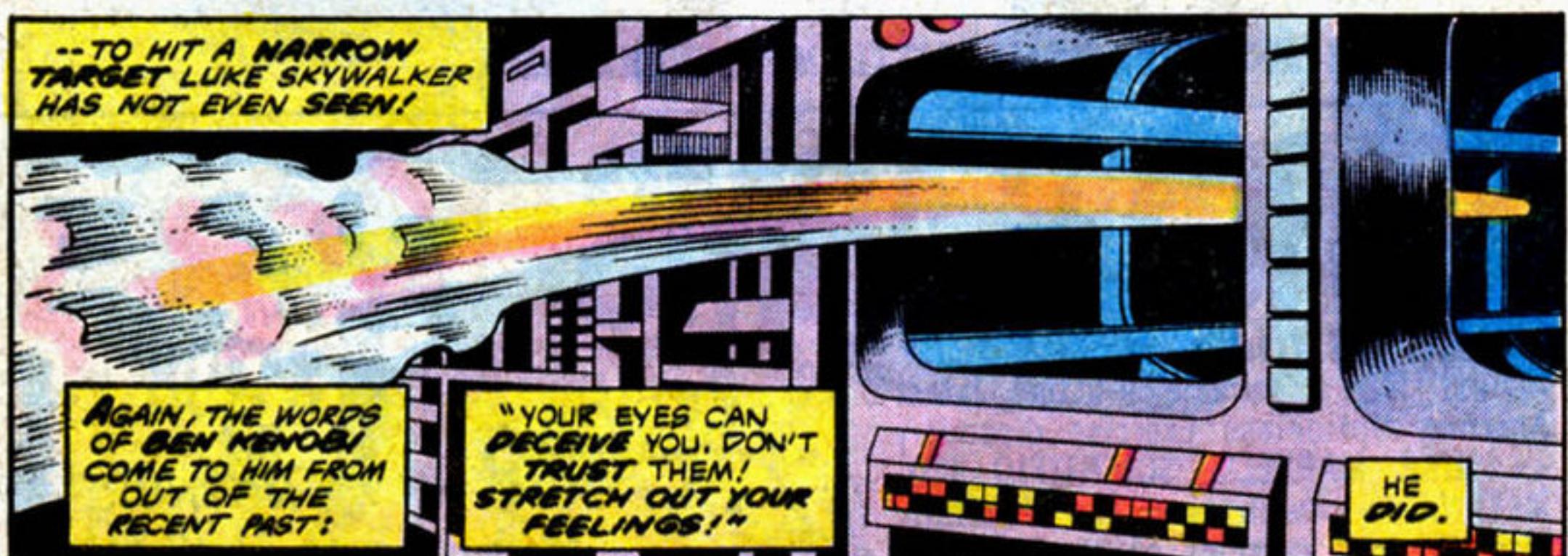


THEN, OVER HIS HEAD-PHONES, LUKE SKY-WALKER HEARS STILL ANOTHER FAMILIAR, WELCOME VOICE:





THE YOUNG SPACE-PILOT DOES NOT RESPOND -- UNLESS IT IS BY PUSHING A BUTTON ON THE CONTROL-PANEL BEFORE HIM --



THEN,
WITHOUT
WARNING--
THE
ETERNAL
NIGHT
OF
SPACE
BECOMES,
FOR
A FEW
SECONDS,
THE
BRIGHTNESS
OF
DAY!

NO ONE
DARES LOOK
DIRECTLY
AT THE
EXPLODING
BATTLE-
STATION--

--NOT EVEN
MULTIPLE
SHIELDS SET
ON HIGH
COULD DIM
THAT
AWESOME
GLARE
SUFFICIENTLY
TO PREVENT
PERMANENT
BLINDNESS.

THE
UNIVERSE
SEEMS
ILLED
FOR AN
INSTANT
WITH
TRILLIONS
OF
MICROSCOPIC
METAL
FRAGMENTS,
PROPELLED
PAST THE
RETREATING
SHIPS BY
THE
LIBERATED
ENERGY
OF A
SMALL
ARTIFICIAL
SUN.

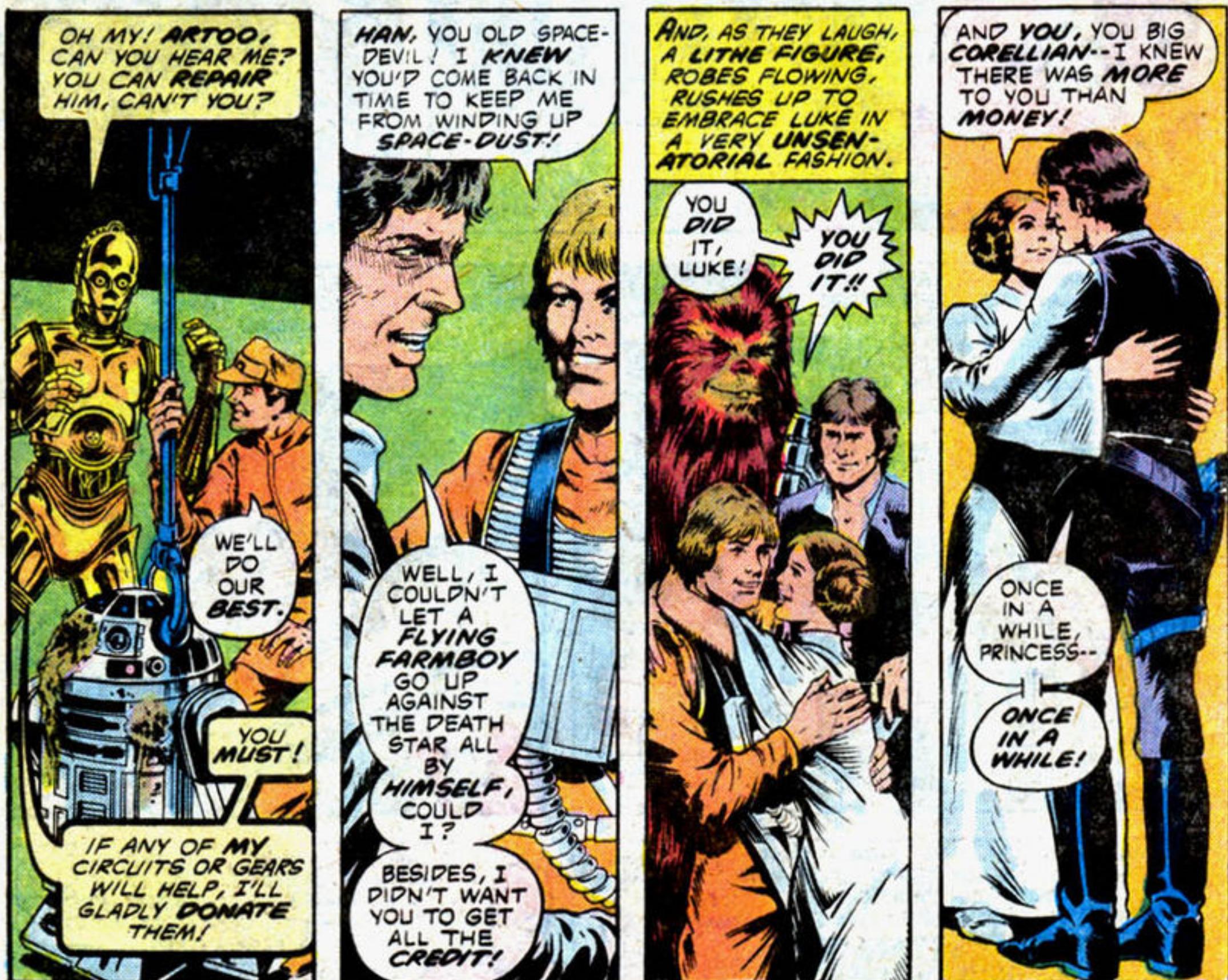
THE COLLAPSED RESIDUE
OF THE DEATH STAR WILL
CONTINUE TO CONSUME
ITSELF FOR SEVERAL DAYS--

--FORMING, FOR THAT BRIEF
SPAN OF TIME, THE MOST
IMPRESSIVE TOMBSTONE IN
THIS CORNER OF THE COSMOS.

FOLLOWING WEDGE AND HAN TO TOUCH DOWN IN THE HANGER ON YAVIN-4, LUKE SOON FINDS HIMSELF IN THE CENTER OF A CHEERFUL, GLEAMING THRONG THAT INCLUDES TECHNICIANS AND GENERALS ALIKE...

TECHNICOS! HURRY UP AND SEE TO MY R2 UNIT HERE!

HE TOOK SOME BAD HITS UP THERE!



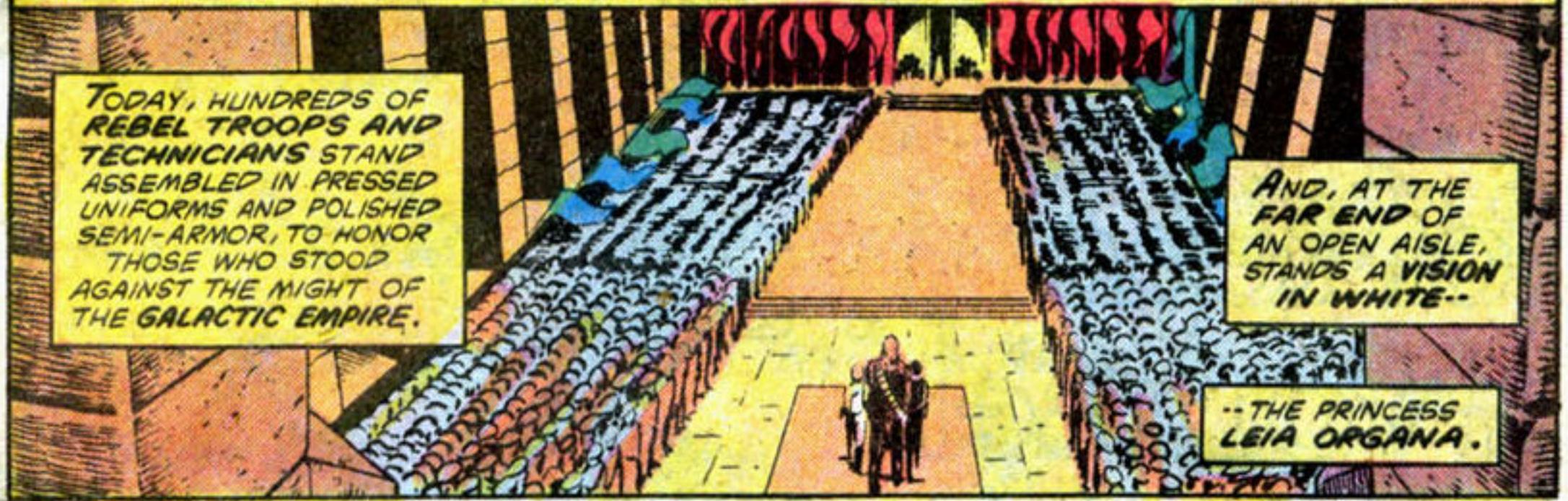
GAZING UPWARD TOWARD THE CEILING, LUKE SKYWALKER THINKS FOR A PASSING MOMENT HE HEARS SOMETHING OVERHEAD...

...SOMETHING FAINTLY LIKE A GRATIFIED SIGH.

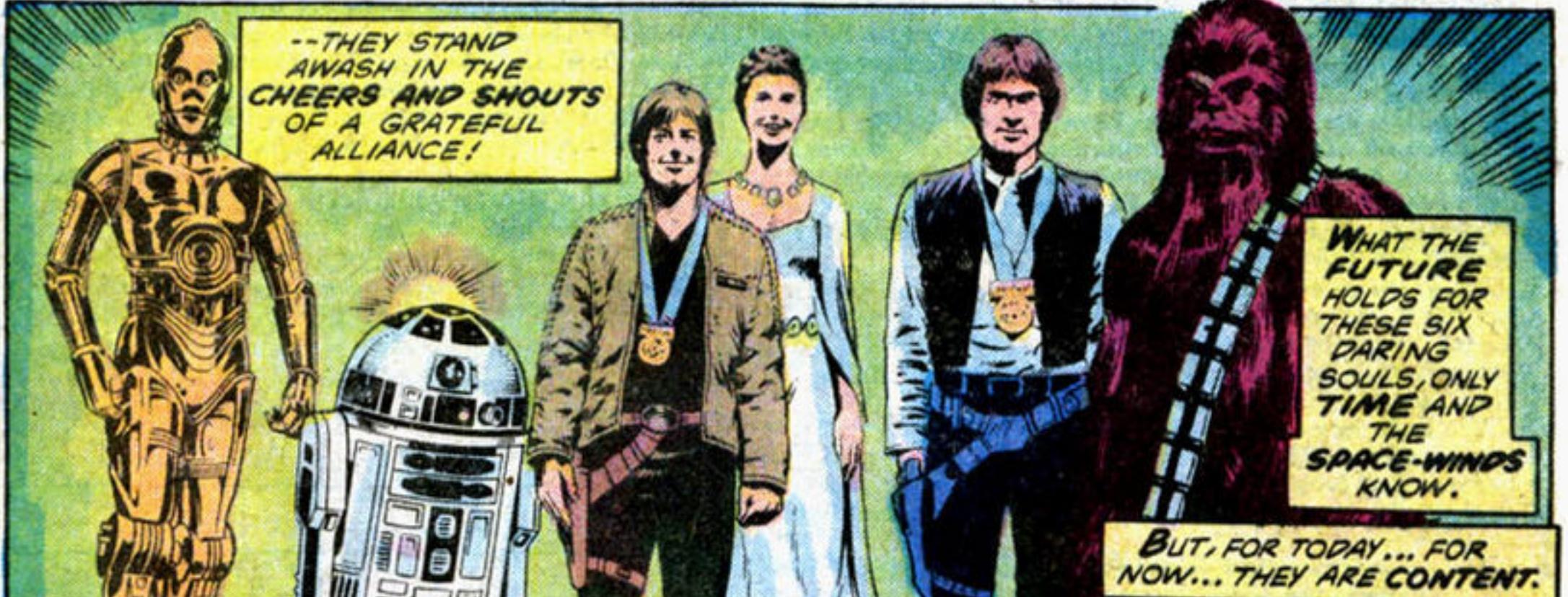
OF COURSE, IT IS PROBABLY ONLY THE INTRUDING HOT WIND OF A STEAMING JUNGLE WORLD...

BUT, LUKE PREFERENCES TO THINK OTHERWISE.

Epilogue: IN THE VAST AND ANCIENT CHAMBER, THE BANNERS OF MANY WORLDS FLUTTER... WORLDS WHICH HAVE LENT SUPPORT TO THE REBEL ALLIANCE DURING ITS MOST DIFFICULT DAYS.



THEN, JOINED BY A FULLY-REPAIRED ARTOO DETOO AND A BEAMING SEE THREEPPIO...



NEXT ISSUE: A NEW ADVENTURE OF THE STAR WARRIORS!