

STAR WARS™

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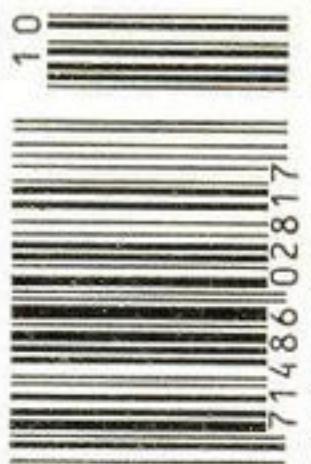
THE GREATEST SPACE-FANTASY FILM OF ALL!



STAR WARS

AT LAST!

THE BATTLE WITH
DARTH VADER!
TO THE DEATH!!



Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

STAR WARS

THE GREATEST
SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

ROY THOMAS * HOWARD CHAYKIN & STEVE LEIALOHA * TOM ORZECHOWSKI * ARCHIE GOODWIN
SCRIPTER / EDITOR ILLUSTRATORS IN TANDEM LETTERER CONSULTING EDITOR

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

IN BATTLE WITH

DARTH VADER

ZIK

ZRAP

ZIK

ZIK

GRUNK!

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

FIZZ

Solo--
THEY'RE
GETTING
CLOSER!

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

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

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

TELL ME
SOMETHING
I DON'T
KNOW, KID!

NOW I
KNOW WHY
THEY CALL
THIS PLACE
DEATH STAR!

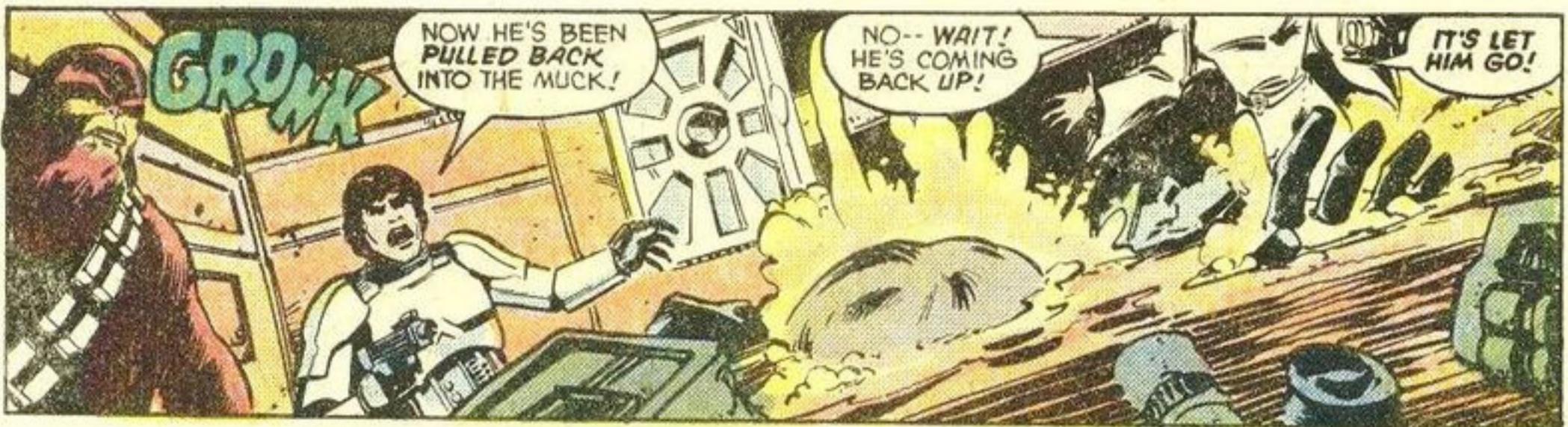
MEANWHILE, BEN KENOBI IS SEEKING A
WAY TO DEACTIVATE THE TRACTOR BEAM
WHICH HOLDS THEIR SPACESHIP HELPLESS.

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

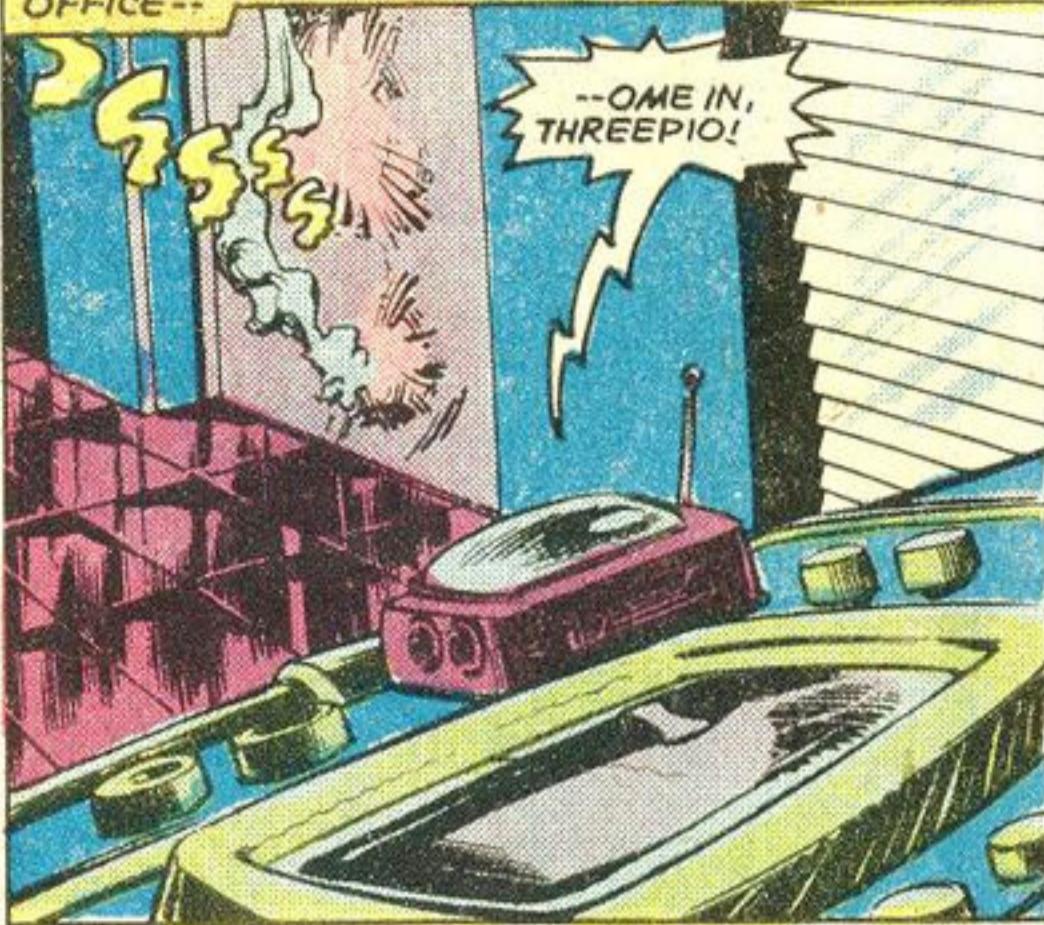
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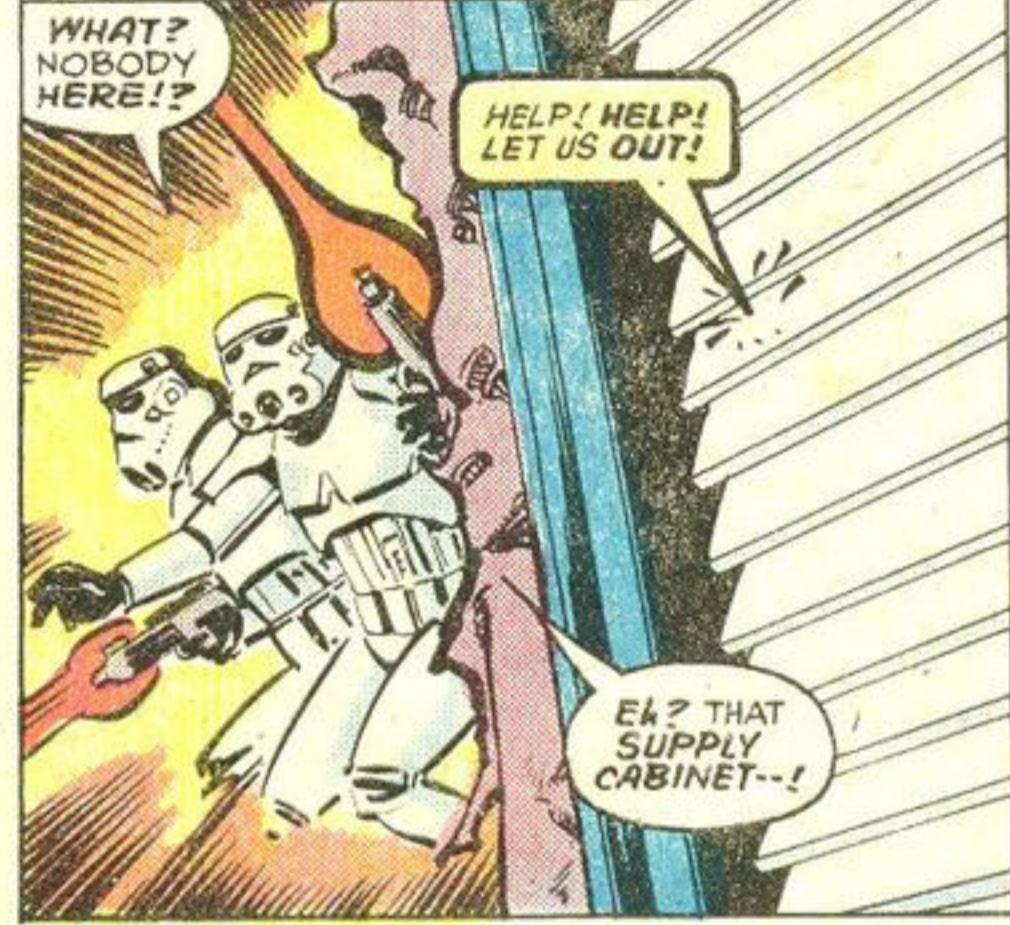




BUT, EVEN AS LUKE'S MUTED VOICE IS HEARD, COMING OVER THE ROBOT'S HAND COMLINK IN THE COMMAND OFFICE--



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



BLAST! IT'S JUST A PAIR OF DROIDS!

WHO
LOCKED
YOU IN
THERE?

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

THEY
JUST
LEFT!

IF YOU HURRY,
YOU MIGHT
CATCH THEM.

GOOD!

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

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

PERMISSION
GRANTED.

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

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

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

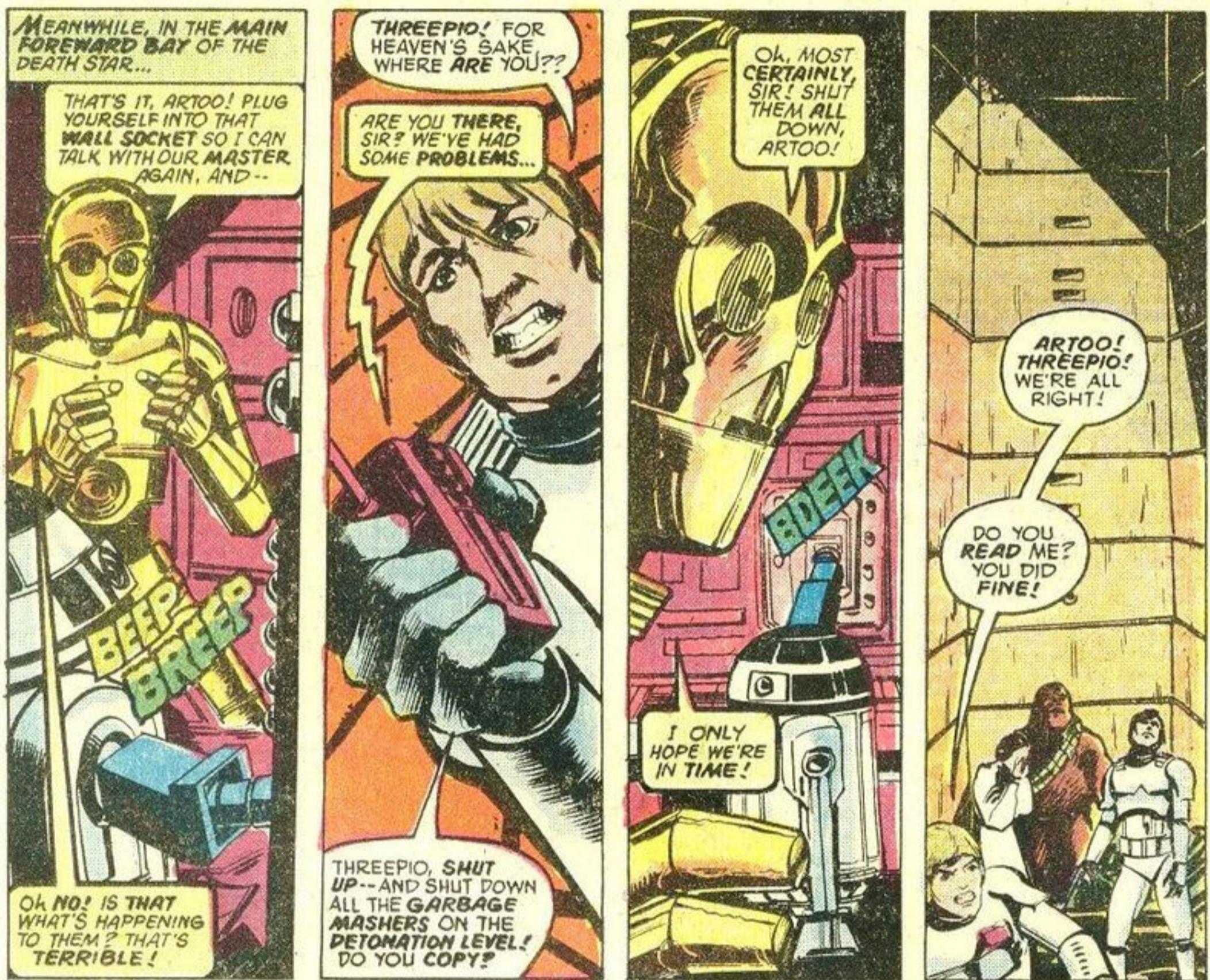
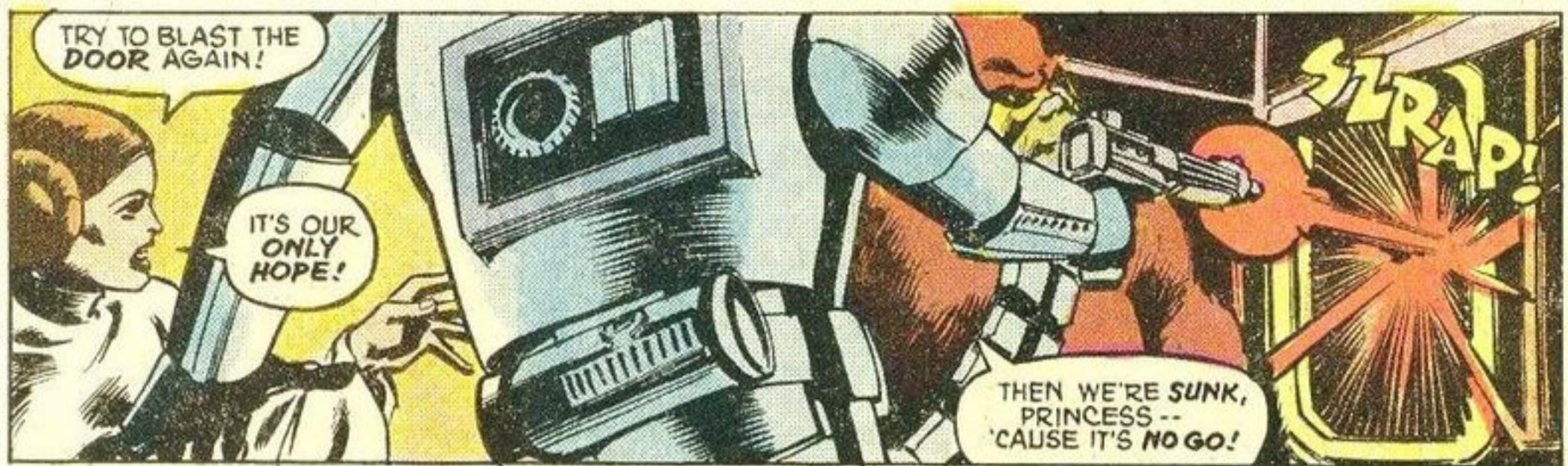
WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO
THREPIO?

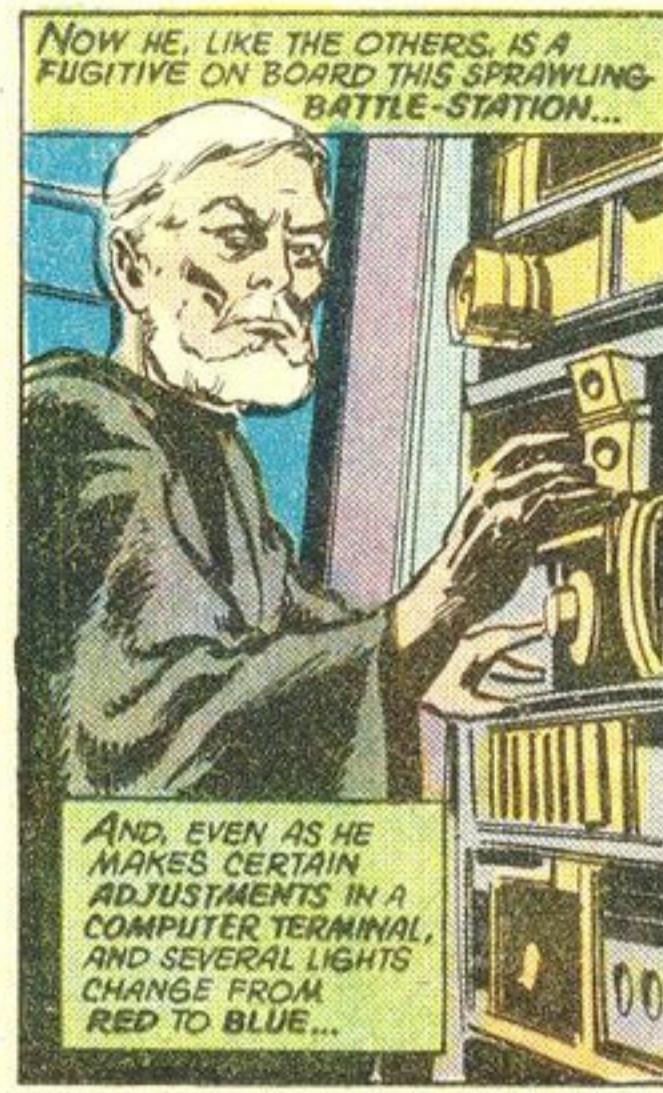
WHY ISN'T
HE SENDING
US ESCAPE
INSTRUCTIONS?

GRRK!

RUMBLE

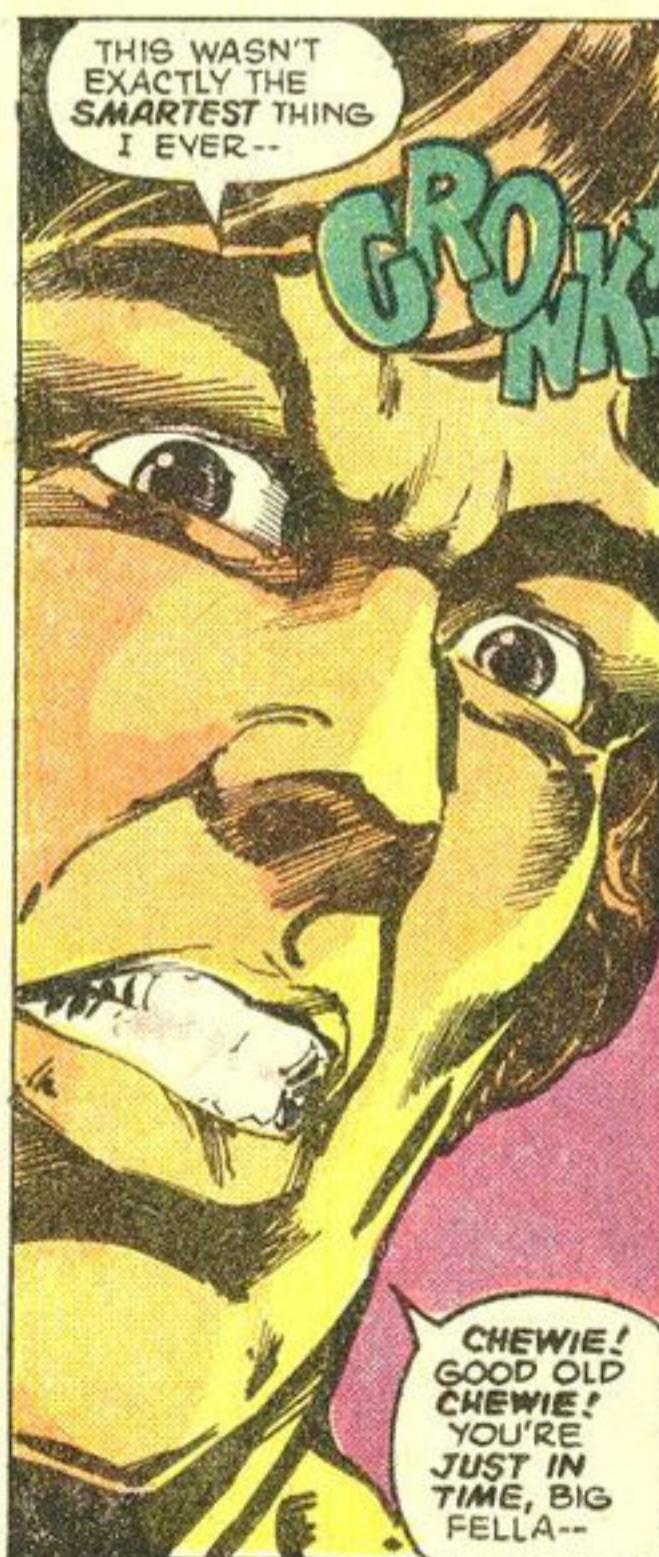
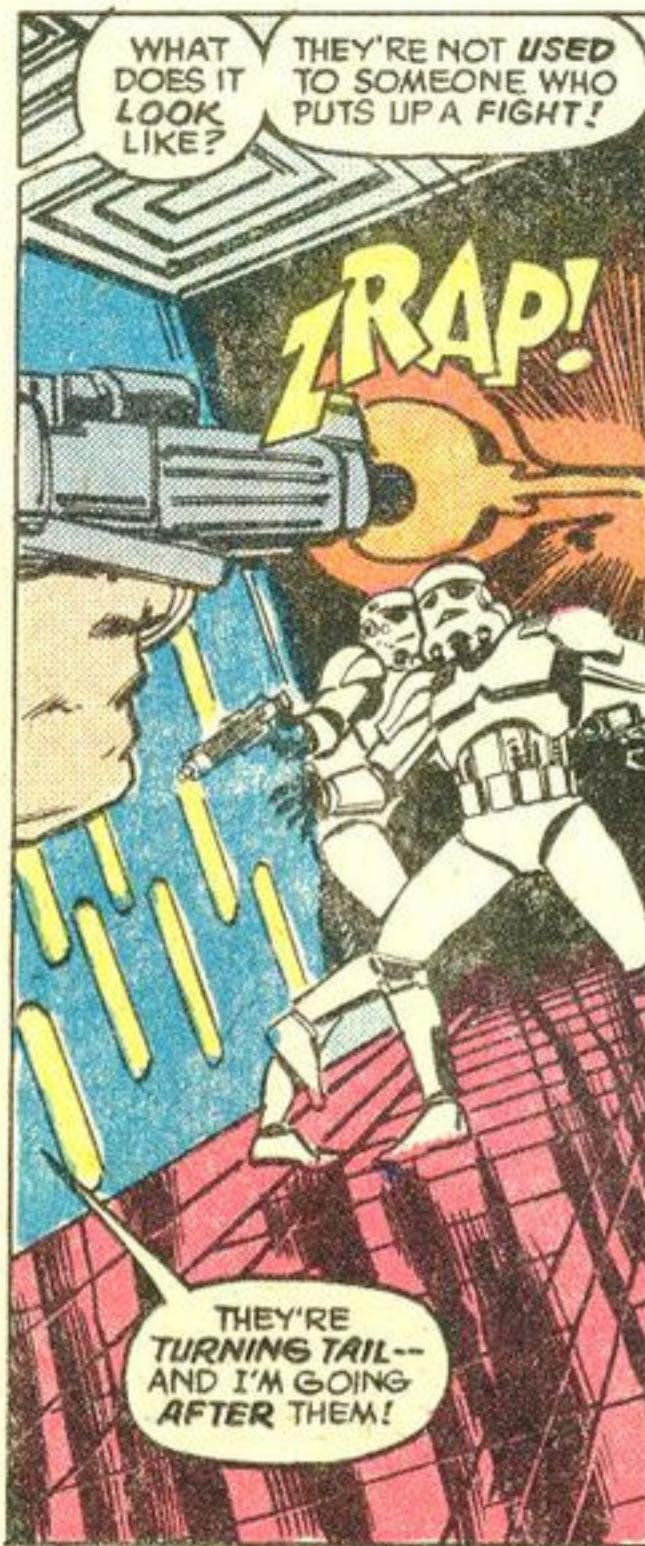
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE





MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE TRACTOR BEAM POWER-GENERATOR TRENCH...





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

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

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

-- UNLESS WE MADE
A WRONG TURN!

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

Ohh--!

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

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

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

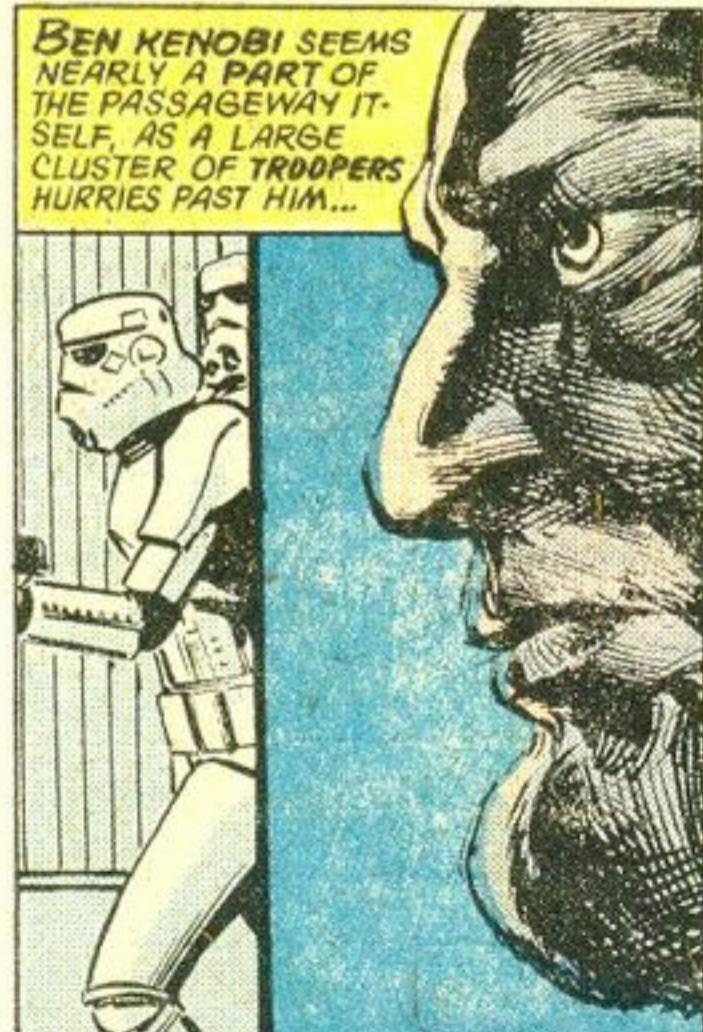
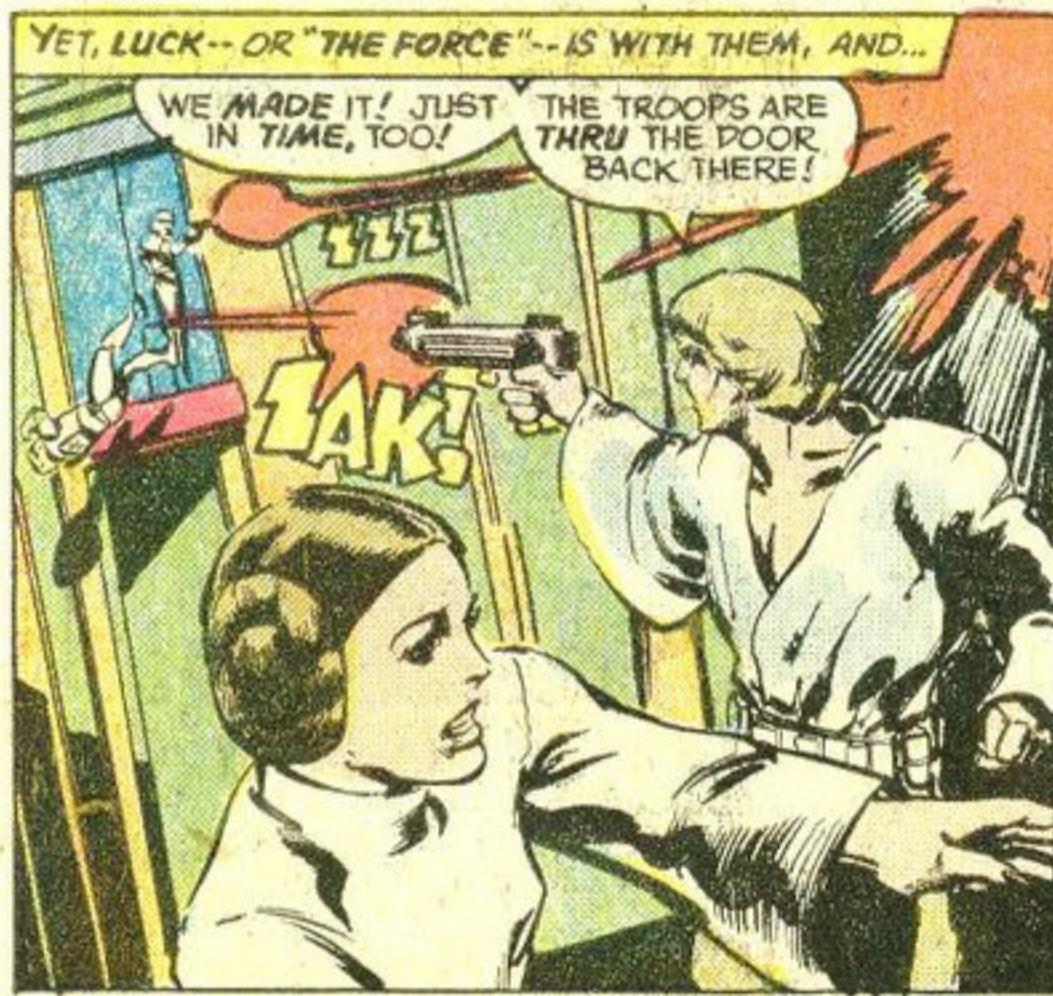
HEY! IT
CAUGHT
ON THOSE
PIPES!

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

WHA--?

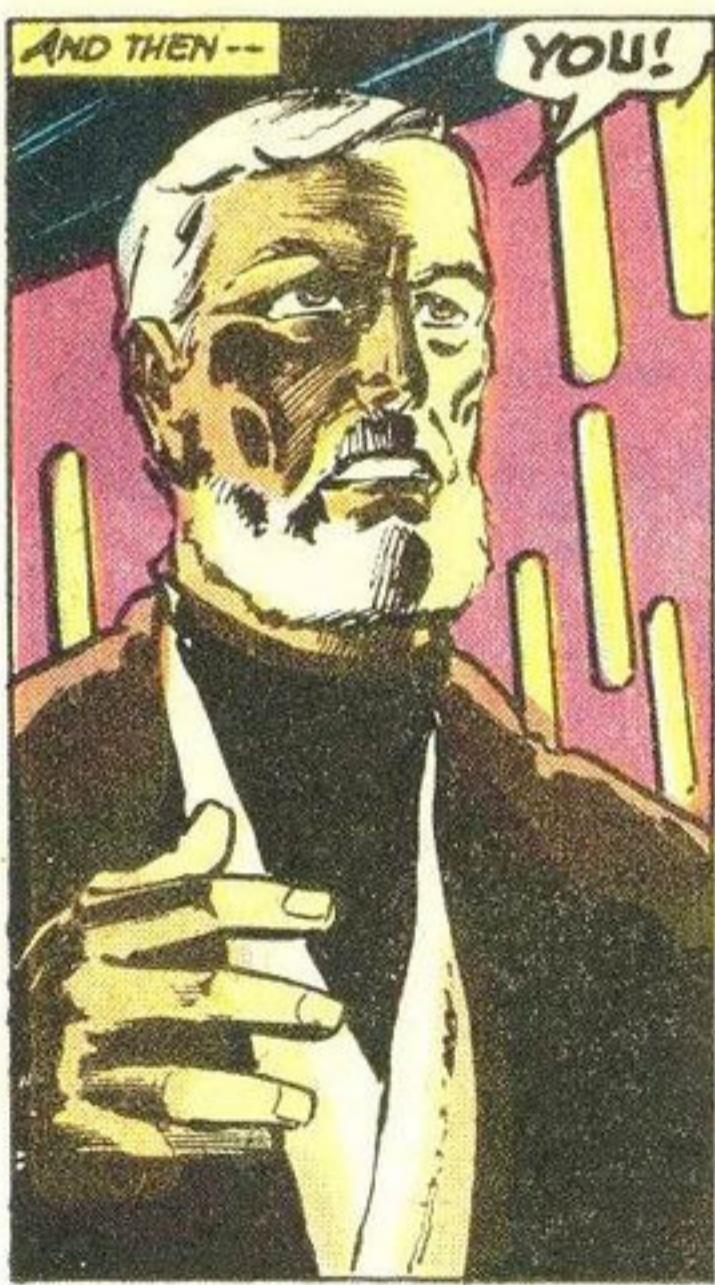
JUST
FOR
LUCK!

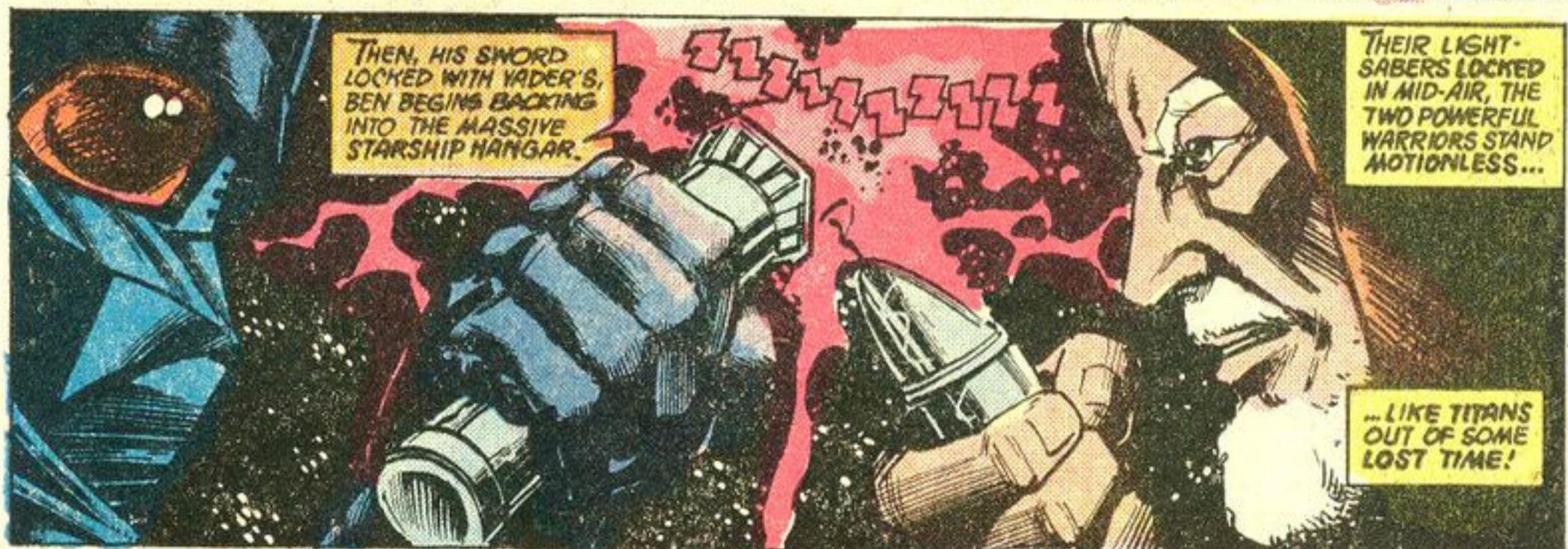
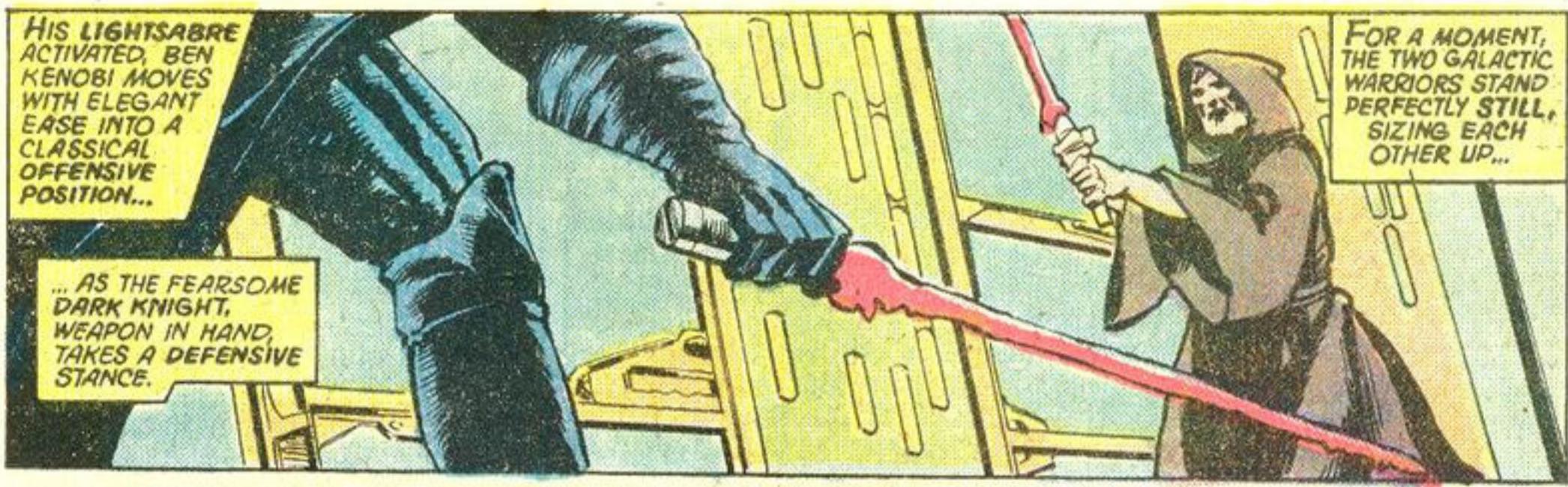
WE'RE
GOING
TO
NEED
IT!





WITH EAGER TREAD, HE HURRIES TOWARD IT, SURE HE HAS FREED IT FROM THE POWERFUL TRACTOR BEAM THAT HELD IT...





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

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

LUKE! PRINCESS! WHAT KEPT YOU?

WE RAN INTO SOME OLD FRIENDS.

IS THE MILLENNIUM FALCON ALL RIGHT?

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

LOOK!

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

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

--STILL LOCKED IN THEIR DEADLY LIGHTSABRE DUEL!

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

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

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

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

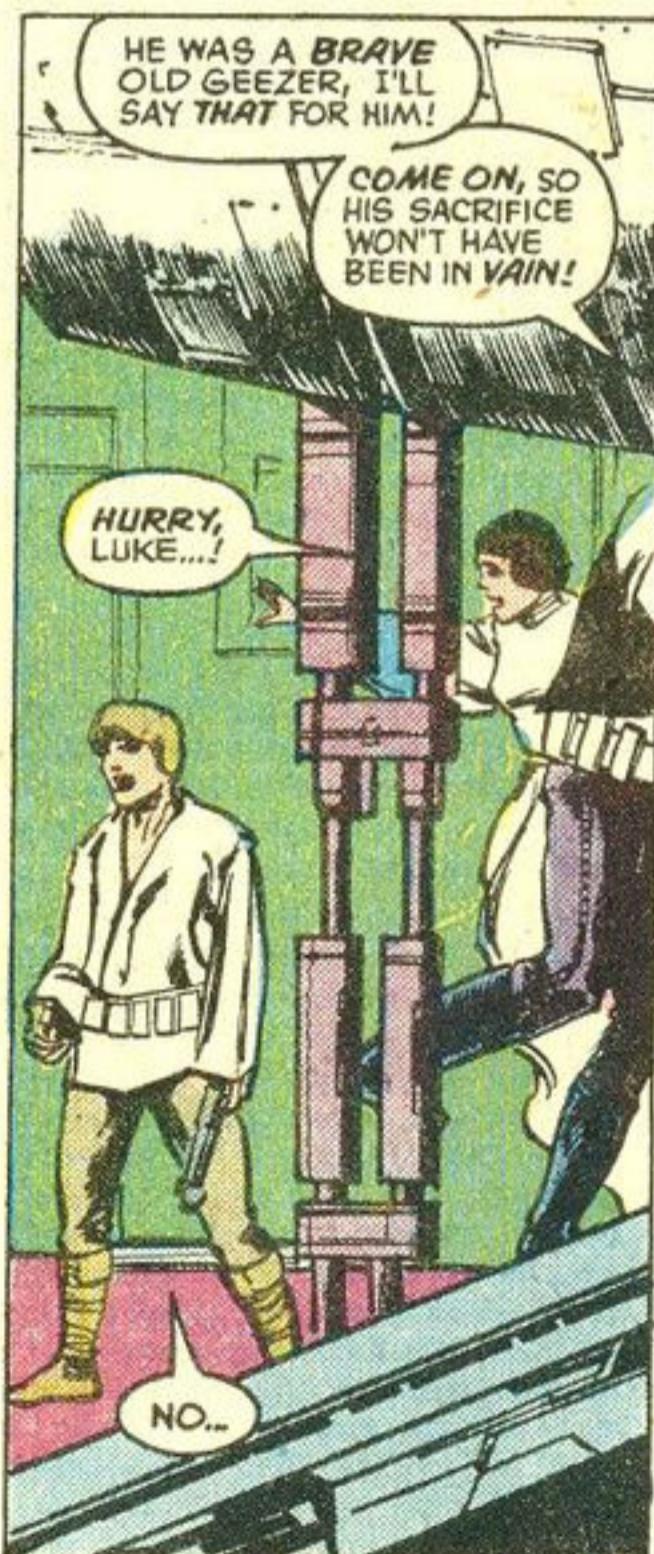
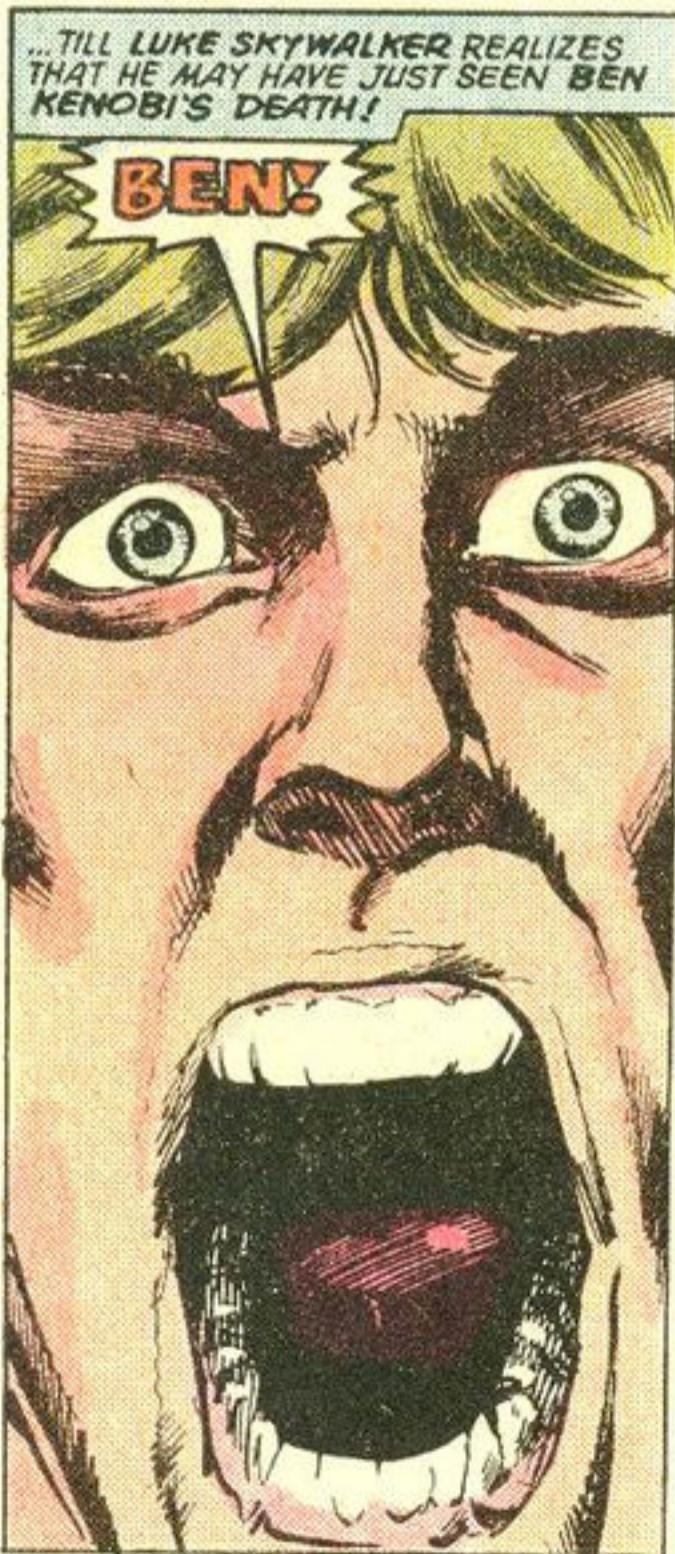
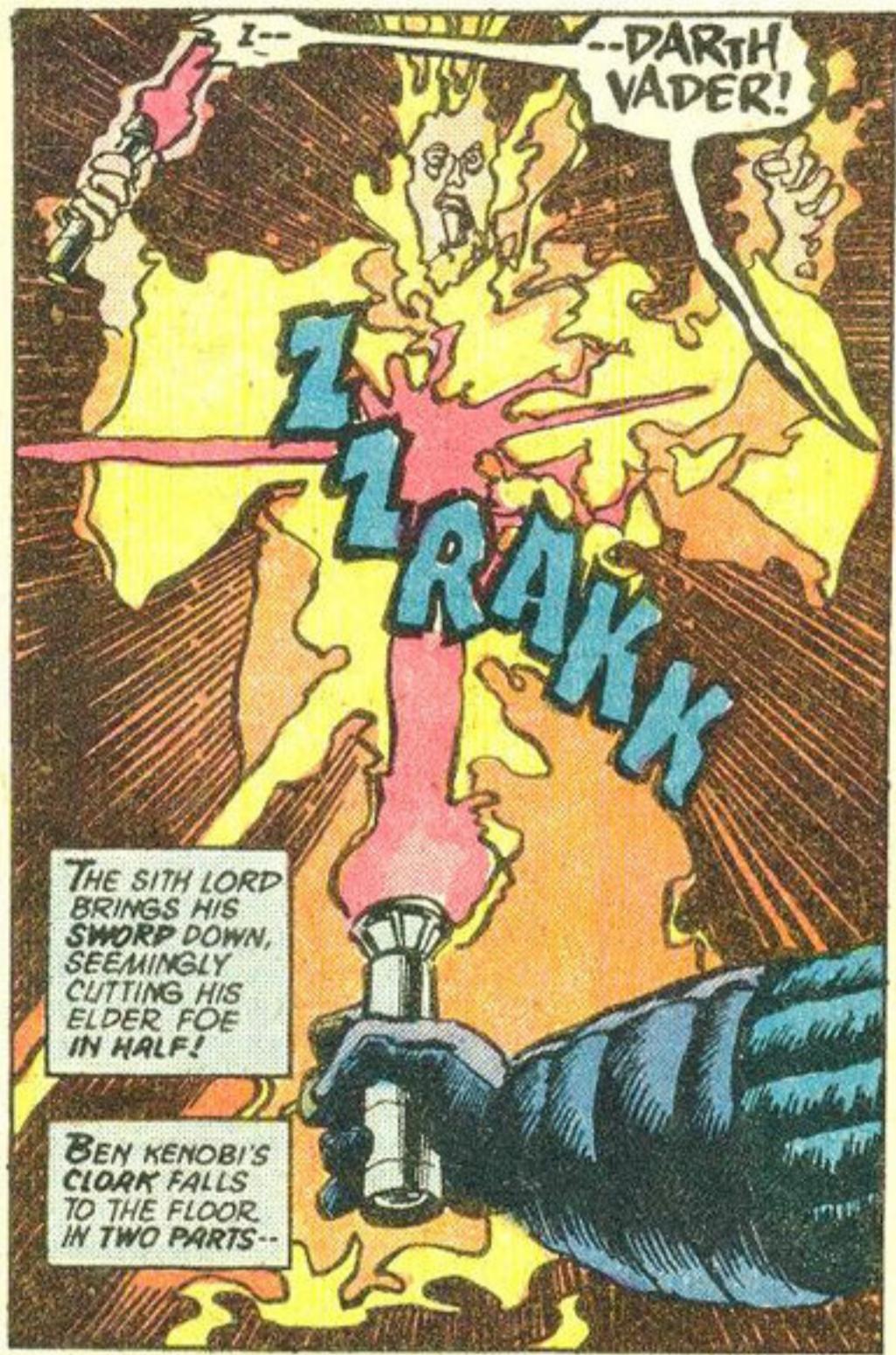
AS HE SPEAKS, BEN KENOBI SEES TROOPERS CHARGING TOWARD HIM... AND REALIZES HE IS TRAPPED!

STILL, HIS TONE IS DEFIANT...

HEED MY WORDS!

NOT THIS TIME!

I AM THE MASTER NOW!





THEN, EVEN AS HE SLUMPS INTO A SEAT, HAN SOLO PULLS BACK ON THE CONTROLS--

--AND THE SHIP BEGINS TO MOVE!



--OR THIS IS GOING TO BE A VERY SHORT RIDE!



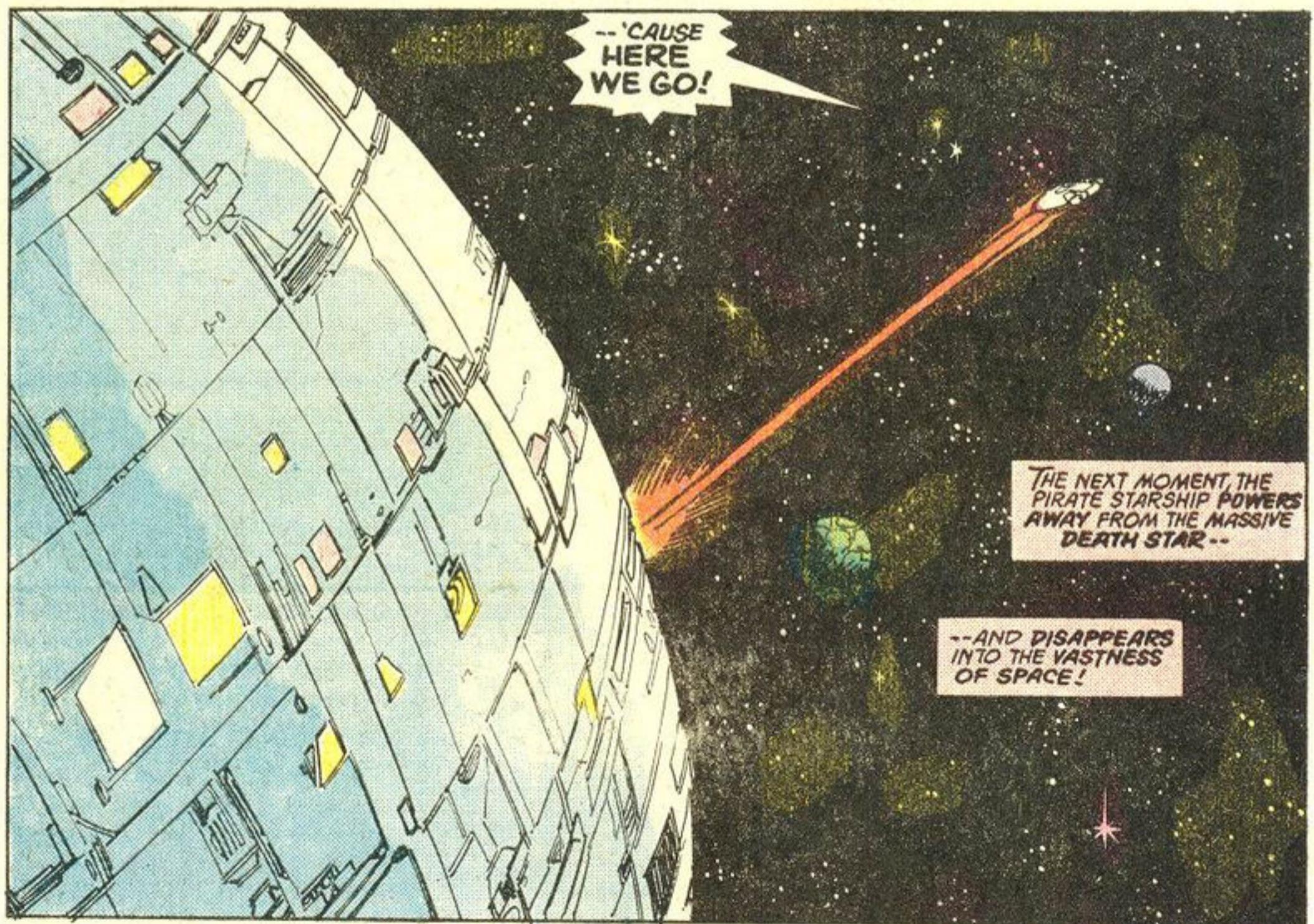
...HEARD BY ALL, THAT IS, SAVE LUKE SKYWALKER!

HE CAN'T BE GONE!

HE JUST... CAN'T!



--'CAUSE HERE WE GO!



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