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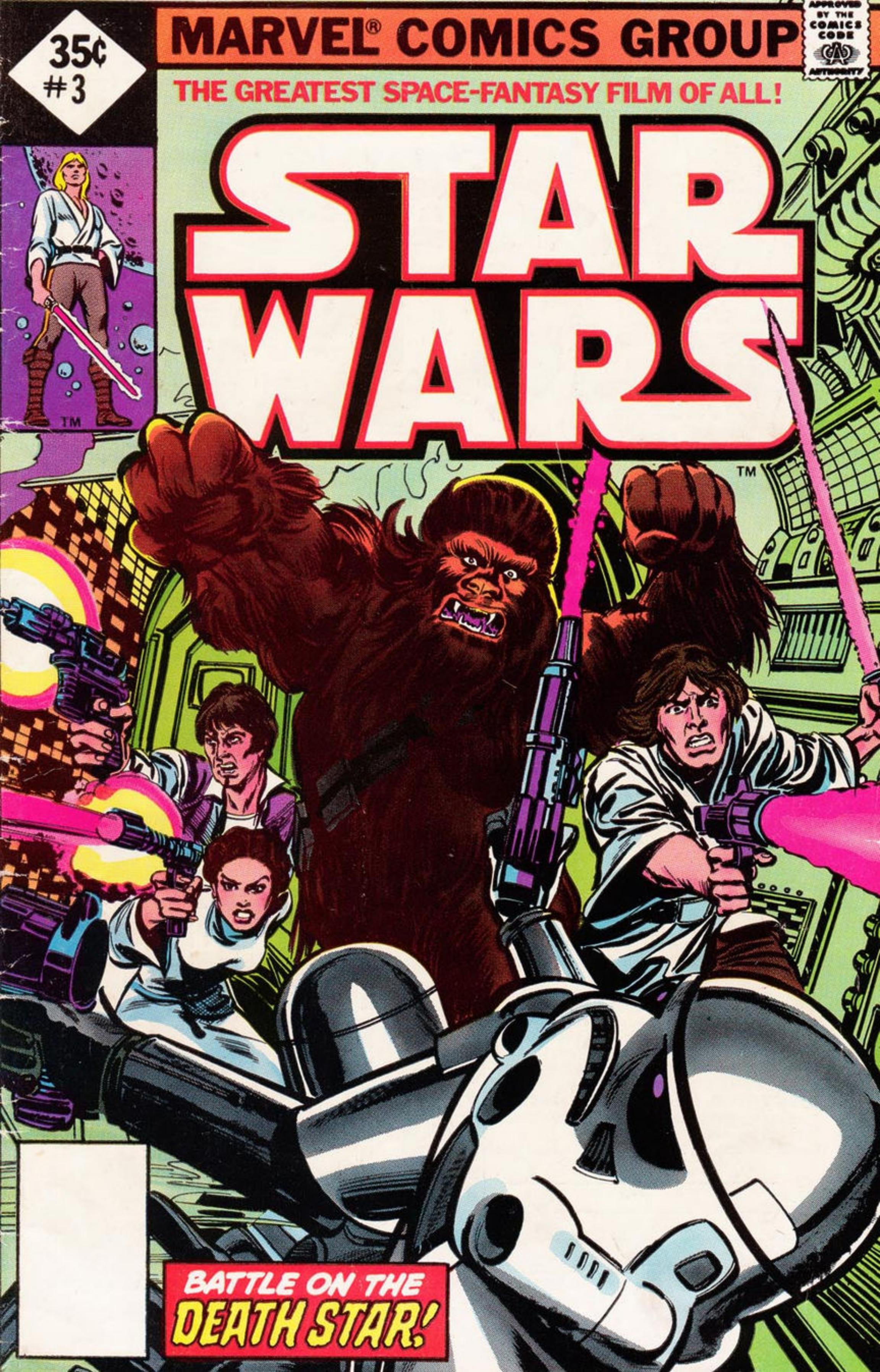
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THE GREATEST SPACE-FANTASY FILM OF ALL!

# STAR WARS

BATTLE ON THE  
**DEATH STAR!**



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

ROY THOMAS • HOWARD CHAYKIN & STEVE LEIALOHA • LEIA • ORZ  
SCRIPTER/EDITOR ARTISTS/ILLUSTRATORS COLORS • LETTERS

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

# DEATH STAR!

## THE STORY SO FAR:

A FREEDOM-LOVING REBEL ALLIANCE DARES DEFY THE FAR-FLUNG, CORRUPT GALACTIC EMPIRE-- BECAUSE THE LOCATION OF THEIR OWN SECRET BASE IS UNKNOWN TO ITS RUTHLESS FOEMEN.

BUT NOW, THE DEATH STAR-- POWERFUL ROAMING BATTLE-STATION OF THE EMPIRE-- IS POISED, READY TO DESTROY THE PLANET ALDERAAN, HOME OF THE CAPTIVE PRINCESS/SENATOR LEIA-- UNLESS SHE BETRAYS THAT LOCATION...!

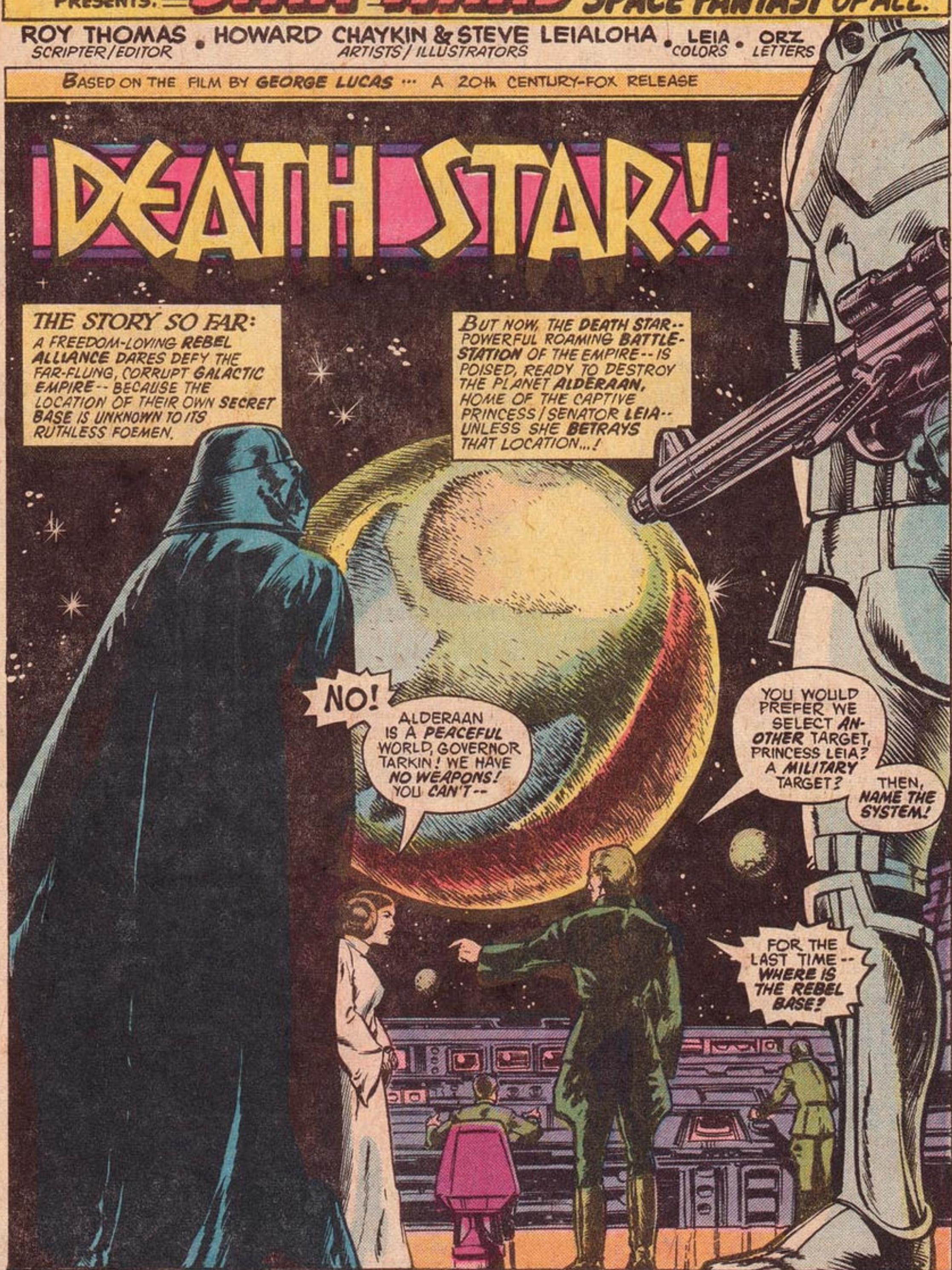
NO!

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

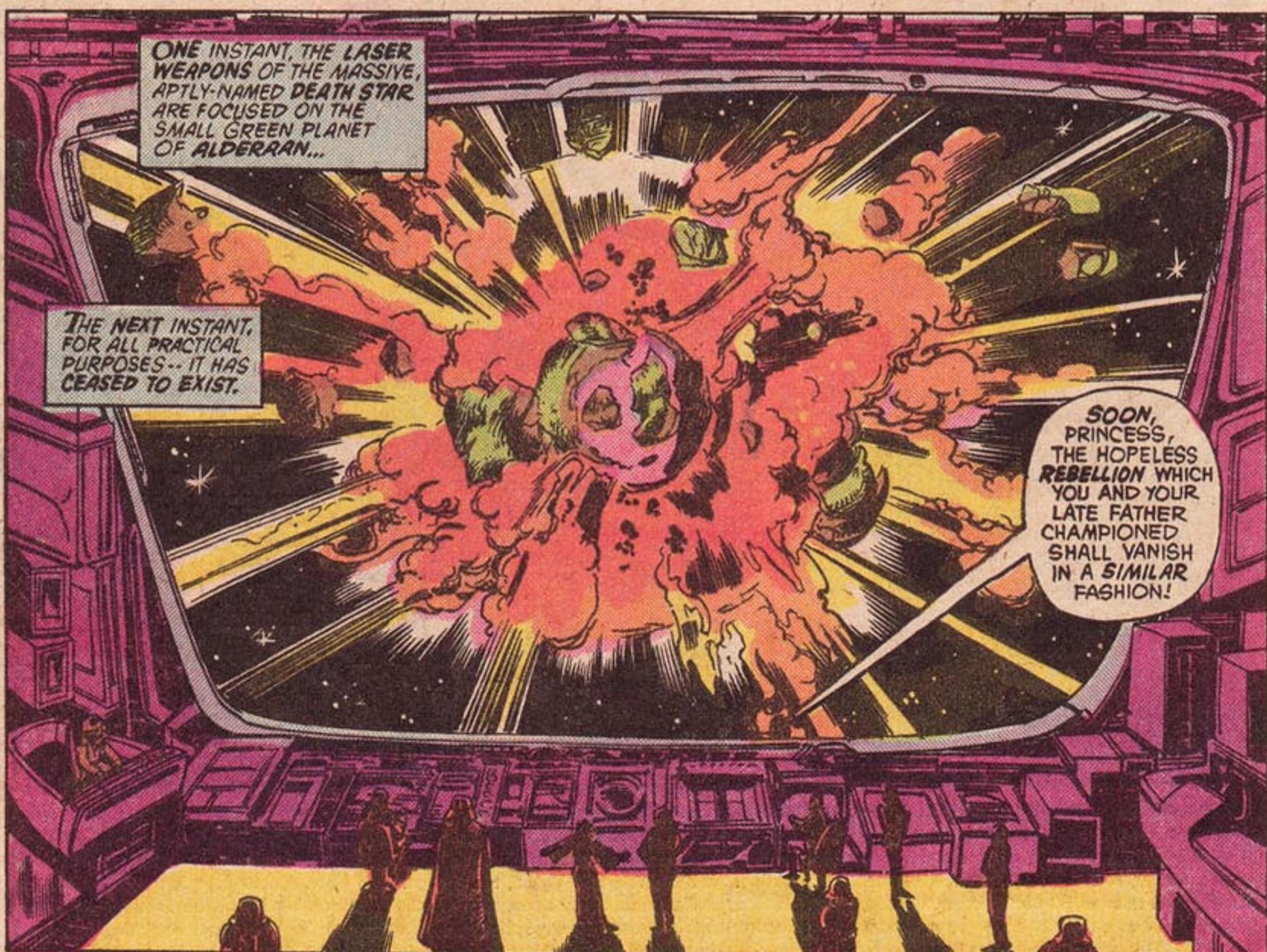
YOU WOULD PREFER WE SELECT ANOTHER TARGET, PRINCESS LEIA? A MILITARY TARGET?

THEN, NAME THE SYSTEM!

FOR THE LAST TIME -- WHERE IS THE REBEL BASE?



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AND, AT THAT SELF-SAME MOMENT,  
DEEP IN HYPERSPACE...

=UINHHH--!=

BEN KENOBI-- ARE  
YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHAT'S WRONG?  
YOU LOOK  
FAINT!

I FELT--A SUDDEN  
GREAT EBBING IN  
"THE FORCE," LUKE.

"THE FORCE"? YOU MEAN, THAT THING  
YOU TALKED ABOUT--THE ENERGY THAT'S  
GIVEN OUT BY ALL LIVING THINGS?

YES. IT WAS LIKE THE  
CRY OF A BILLION  
BEINGS--STOPPING  
ALL AT ONCE!

IT WAS THE  
FEELING OF...  
DEATH.

WELL, YOU CAN ALL STOP  
WORRYING ABOUT THOSE  
IMPERIAL STARSHIPS  
THAT WERE PURSUING  
US; I TOLD YOU  
WE'D LOSE 'EM. I--

DON'T  
EVER-  
BODY  
THANK ME  
AT ONCE!

ANYWAY, I  
CALCULATE  
OUR ARRIVAL  
ON ALDERAAN  
AT 0200.

HOW'S THE GAME  
COMING, THREEPPIO?

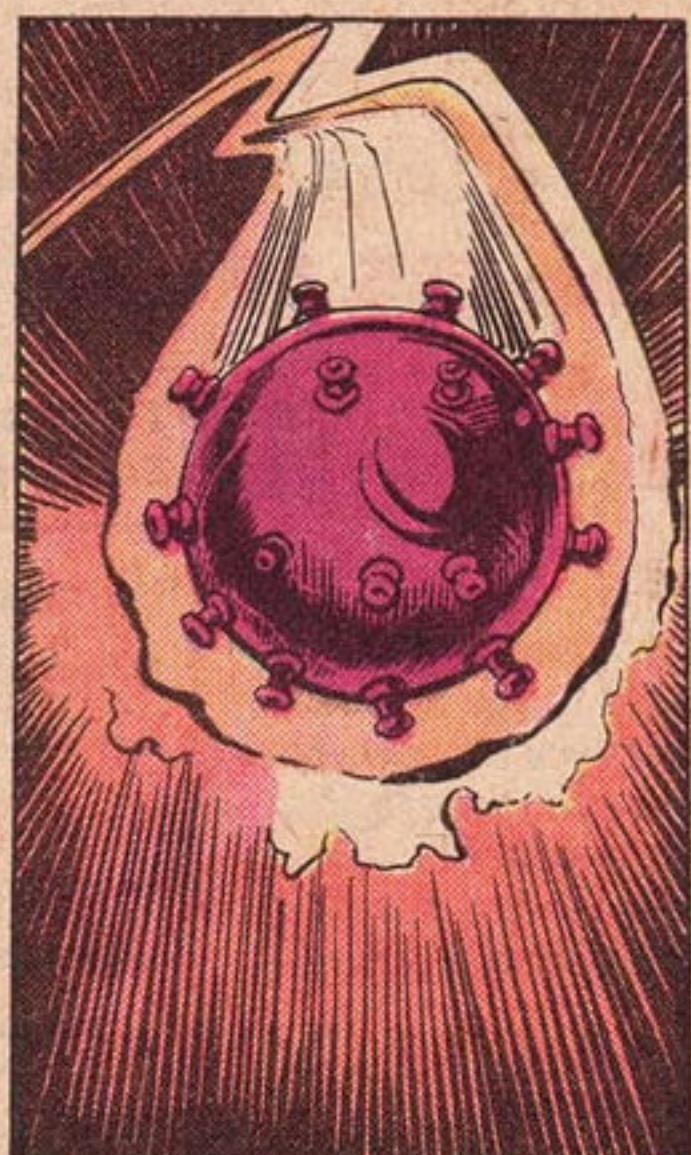
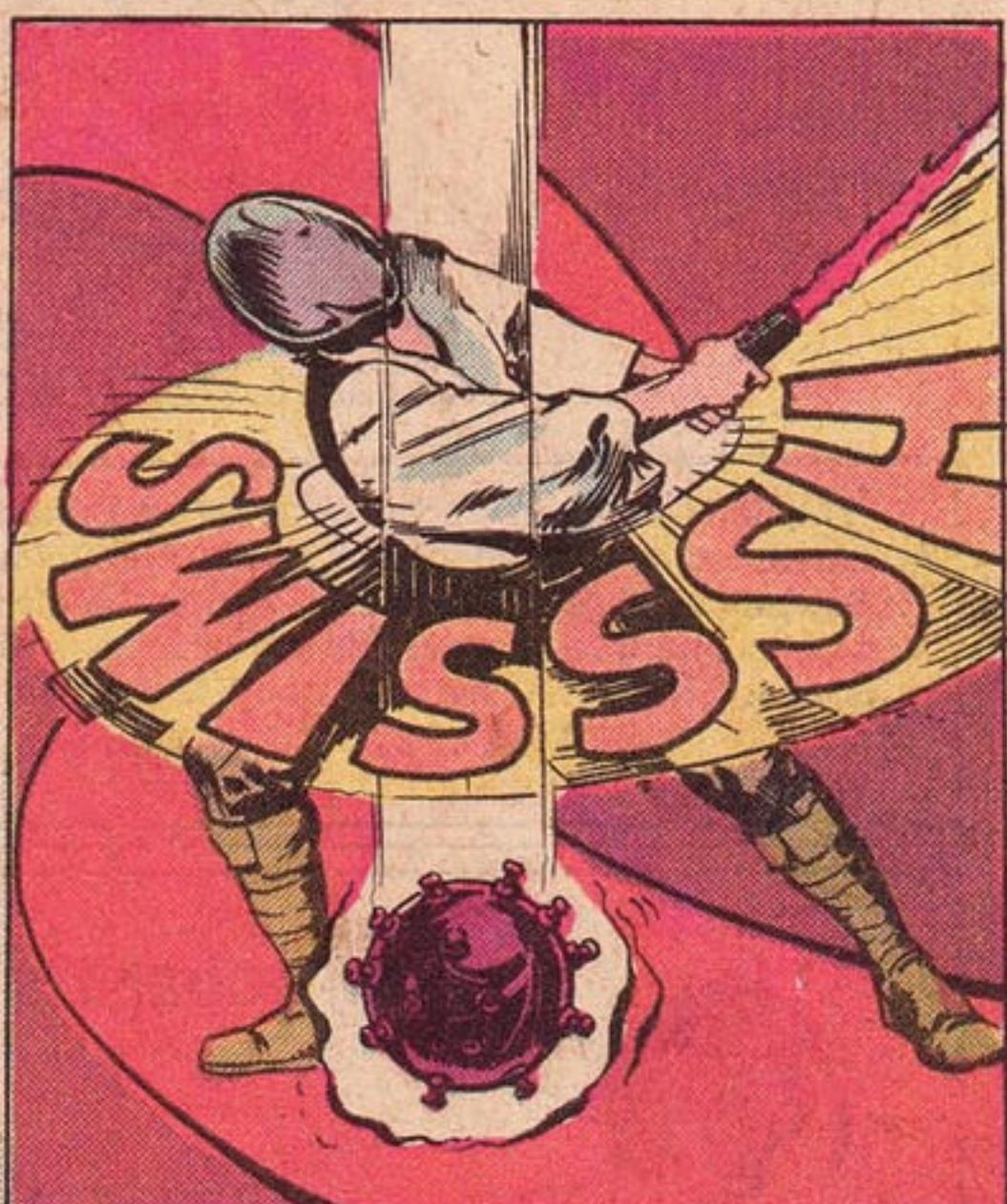
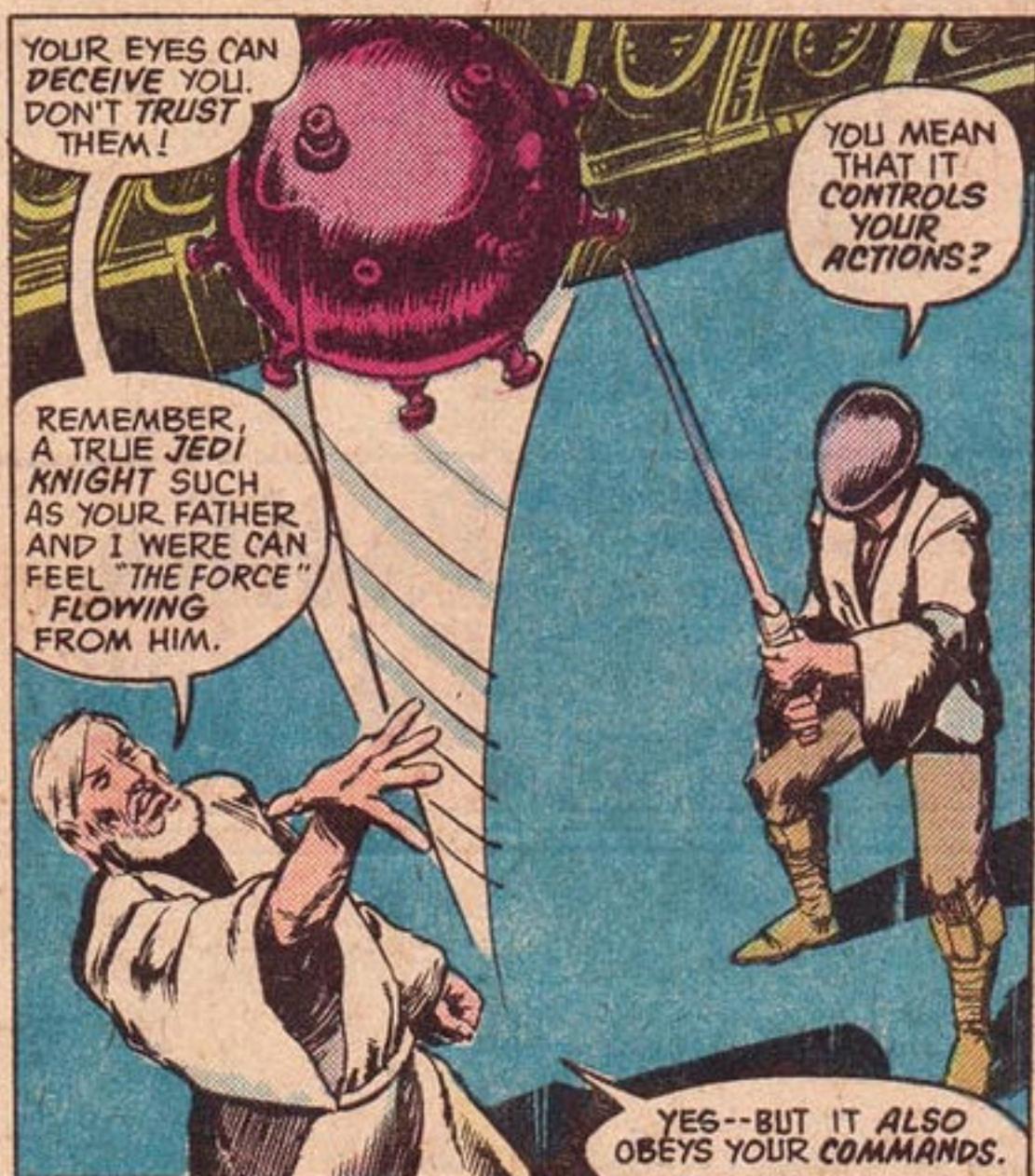
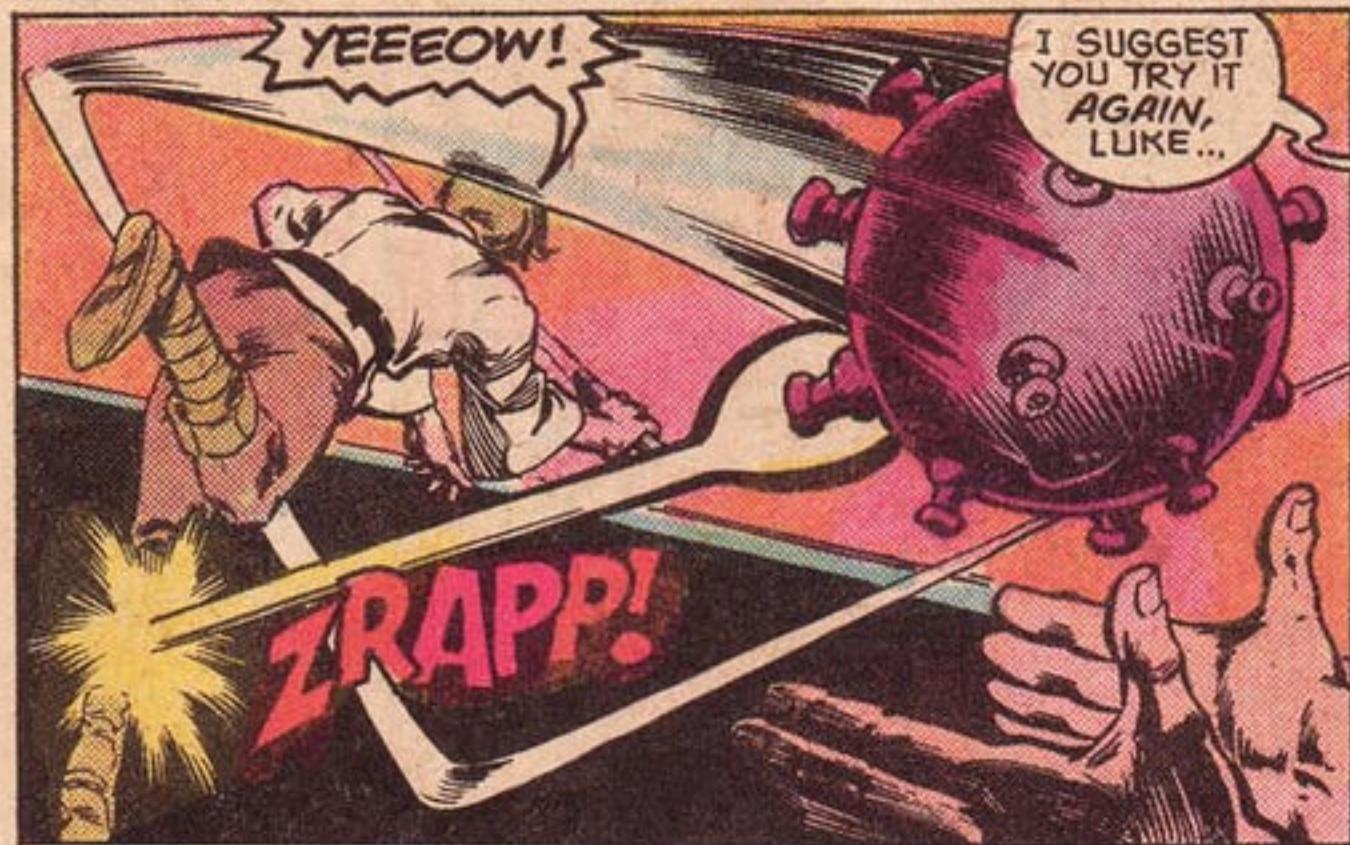
OH, ARTOO  
IS BEATING  
YOUR MAN  
CHEWBACCA  
HANDILY,  
MASTER  
SOLO.

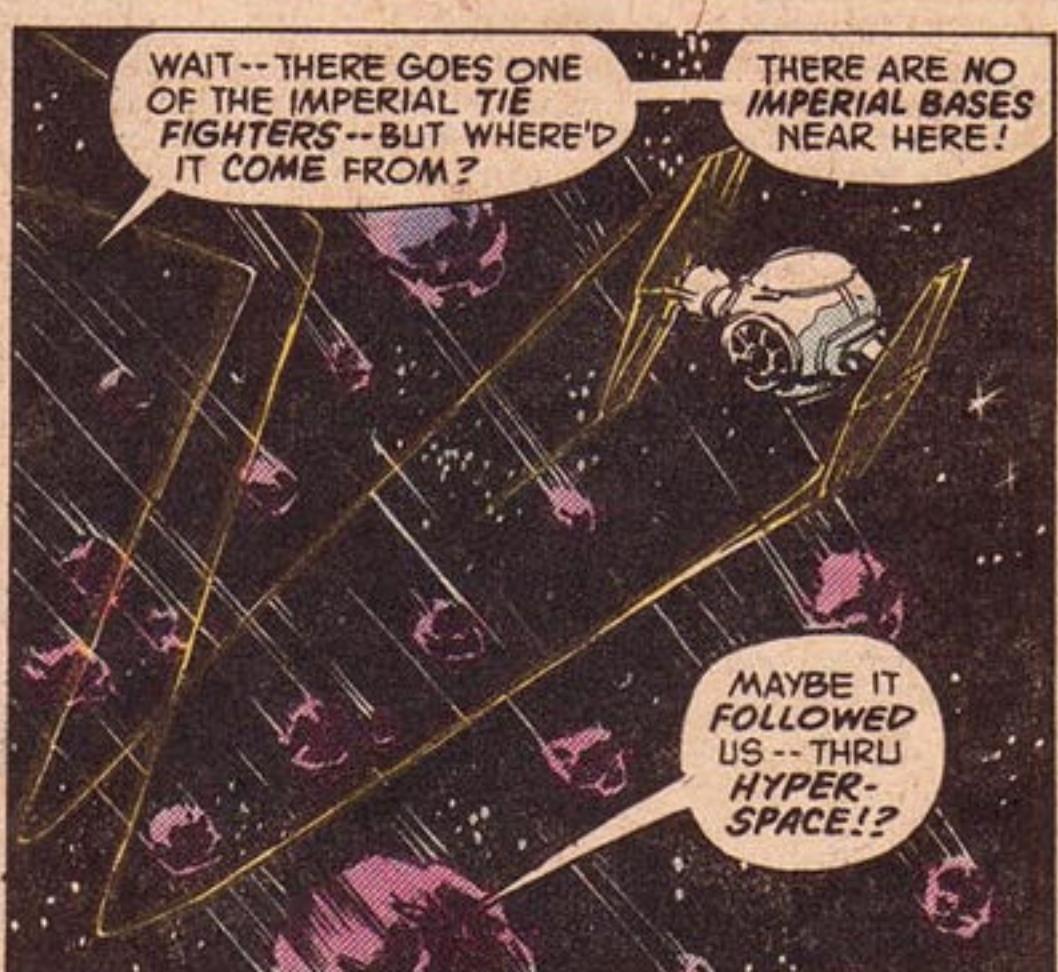
R2 UNITS EXCEL AT  
GAMES OF MATHEMATI-  
CAL SKILL, YOU KNOW;  
HE'S JUST MADE A  
MOVE THAT--

BEEP  
-BEEP

GUH-RUNK!  
GUH-RONK!







HE'S HEADING FOR THAT SMALL MOON... BUT WE'RE GAINING ON HIM!

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

YOU'RE CRAZY! IT'S WAY TOO BIG TO BE A...

HOLY--!

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

YOU'RE RIGHT THERE, THREEPPIO! FULL REVERSE, CHEWIE!

CHREE  
CHREE

LOCK IN THE AUXILIARY POWER!

WHY ARE WE STILL MOVING TOWARD IT?

WE'RE CAUGHT IN A TRACTOR BEAM! IT'S DRAGGING US IN!

YOU MEAN THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN--?

BUT--WOULD YOU LOOK AT IT, KID--?

I'M FULL POWER! IT'S NO USE. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SHUT DOWN!



14



AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, INSIDE THE HUGE STATION...

THE SCOUT SHIPS TO DANTOONIE HAVE FOUND THE REMAINS OF A REBEL BASE, GOVERNOR -- AND LORD VADER.

BUT, THEY ESTIMATE IT HAS BEEN DESERTED FOR SOME TIME.

I TOLD YOU SHE WOULD NEVER CONSCIOUSLY BETRAY THE REBELLION...

SHE LIED. SHE LIED TO US!

--UNLESS SHE THOUGHT SHE COULD DESTROY THIS STATION IN THE PROCESS!

TERMINATE HER-- IMMEDIATELY!

AND LOSE YOUR ONLY LINK TO THE REBEL BASE?

SHE CAN STILL BE OF VALUE TO US.

I'LL FIND THAT HIDDEN FORTRESS-- IF I HAVE TO DESTROY EVERY STAR SYSTEM IN THIS SECTOR!

NO DOUBT, GOVERNOR TARKIN...

...BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, I'VE RECEIVED A REPORT THAT WE HAVE CAPTURED THE SAME CORELLIAN FREIGHTER WHICH BLASTED ITS WAY OUT OF THE QUARANTINE ON MOS EISLEY.

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN TRYING TO RETURN THE STOLEN DATA TAPES TO THE PRINCESS.\*

WE MIGHT BE OF SOME HELP THERE...!

NO ONE ABOARD, LORD VADER!

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

NO DROIDS ON BOARD, EITHER.

KEEP CHECKING! I SENSE SOMETHING-- A PRESENCE, SUCH AS I HAVEN'T FELT SINCE--

\* SEE LAST ISSUE. --ROY.

HALTING IN MID-SENTENCE, DARTH VADER TURNS QUICKLY--AND EXITS.

AS, INSIDE THE CAPTIVE SHIP...

WHEW! NEVER THOUGHT I'D USE THESE COMPARTMENTS FOR SMUGGLING MYSELF!

THIS WON'T WORK, THOUGH--WE'LL NEVER GET PAST THAT TRACTOR BEAM!

YOU LEAVE THAT TO ME.

YOU'RE A DAMN FOOL!

WHO IS MORE FOOLISH-- THE FOOL, OR THE MAN WHO FOLLOWS HIM?

EVEN CRACK IMPERIAL TROOPERS -- THOSE CRUEL, MURDEROUS GUARDIANS OF A FAR-FLUNG GALACTIC EMPIRE -- CANNOT THOROUGHLY SEARCH A WHOLE FREIGHTER WITHOUT THE PROPER SCANNING EQUIPMENT.

BUT, WHEN A PAIR OF THE ARMORED SOLDIERS CARRY THE HUGE SENSORY APPARATUS ONTO THE CAPTURED CORELLIAN SHIP...

...THEY HAVE AN UNEXPECTED WELCOMING PARTY!

MOMENTS LATER, HIS VISI-SCREEN SHOWING NO GUARDS ON DUTY, A GANTRY OFFICER GETS WORRIED...

JUST THEN, ONE TROOPER REAPPEARS.

TAKE OVER HERE! OBVIOUSLY, WE'VE GOT ANOTHER BAD TRANSMITTER.

I'M GOING DOWN TO SEE--

SHH! HERE THEY COME!

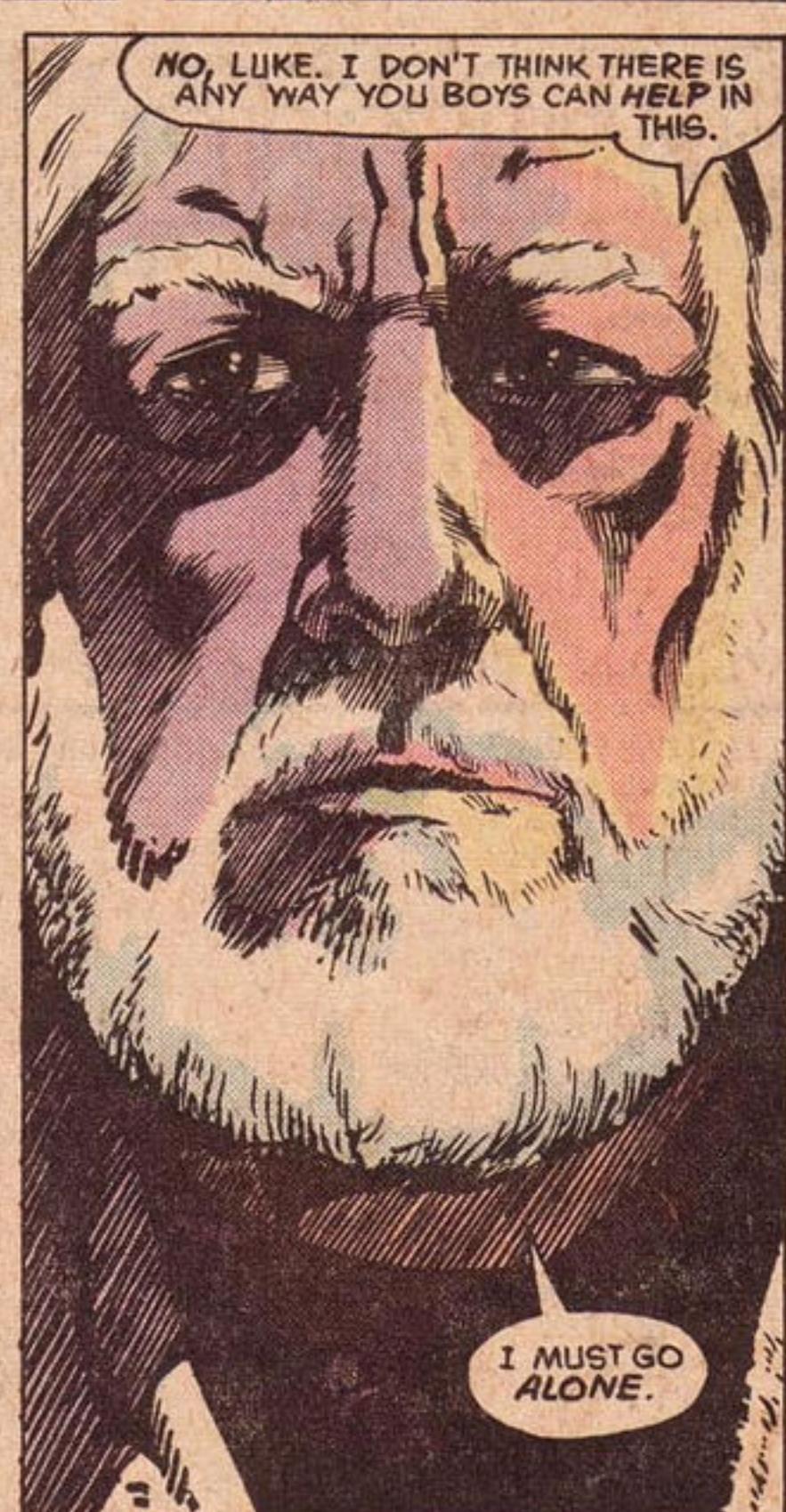
TX-421, DO YOU COPY?

THE MEANING OF HIS HAND SIGNAL IS CLEAR:

--WHAT I CAN-- YY!!!

THLAP!

NRRLK!



WHATEVER YOU SAY! I'VE ALREADY DONE MORE THAN I BARGAINED FOR ON THIS TRIP!

BEN-- I WANT TO GO WITH YOU!

BUT, I THINK PUTTING THAT TRACTOR BEAM OUT OF COMMISSION IS GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN YOUR MAGIC, OLD MAN.

YOUR DESTINY LIES ALONG A DIFFERENT PATH: DELIVER THE DROIDS TO THE REBEL FORCES.

TRUST YOUR FEELINGS, LUKE.

"THE FORCE" IS WITH YOU!



NOW, CHEWBACCA,  
I'M GOING TO PUT  
THESE ELECTRIC  
HANDCUFFS  
ON YOU, AND--

I MEAN, OR HAN IS GOING  
TO PUT THEM ON YOU!

DON'T  
WORRY,  
CHEWIE--

HARRRRGN!

I THINK I  
KNOW  
WHAT HE  
HAS IN  
MIND.

CHRK!

THREEPPIO  
AND ARTOO  
WILL STAY  
HERE--

IT'S OUR  
ONLY CHANCE,  
SOLO, AND YOU  
KNOW IT!

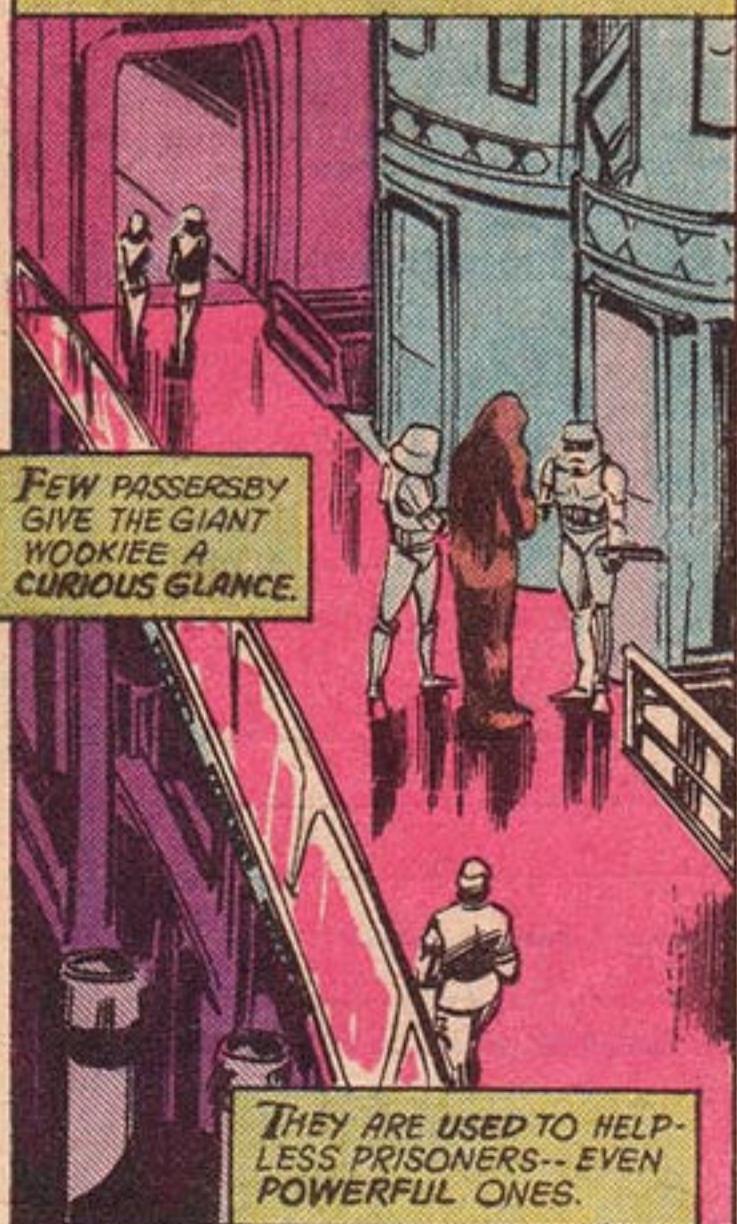
--TO KEEP  
CHECKING THAT  
MONITOR  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION.

Uh, PARDON  
ME, LUKE, SIR--  
WHAT SHOULD  
ARTOO AND I  
DO IF WE'RE  
DISCOVERED?

HOPE THEY  
DON'T HAVE  
BLASTERS.

THAT ISN'T VERY  
REASSURING, SIR.

MOMENTS LATER, LUKE AND SOLO TRY  
TO LOOK INCONSPICUOUS IN THEIR  
CAPTURED ARMOR, AS THEY WAIT FOR  
THE VACUUM ELEVATOR TO ARRIVE.



WE'RE ENTERING  
THE SECURITY  
AREA, KID.

THIS  
ISN'T  
GOING TO  
WORK.

WHY  
DIDN'T  
YOU  
SAY SO  
BEFORE?

I THINK  
I DID!



PRISONER  
TRANSFER  
FROM BLOCK  
TX-138.

I WASN'T  
NOTIFIED...

WAIT THERE!  
I'LL HAVE TO  
CLEAR IT.

I'LL PUNCH  
IN, AND MAKE  
CERTAIN THAT  
BLOCK TX-138  
IS UNOCCUPIED.

ONLY THREE  
OTHER  
TROOPERS IN  
THIS AREA,  
KID.

I GUESS  
THIS IS  
WHERE WE  
MAKE OUR  
MOVE.

CHECK.



LOOK OUT!  
IT'S LOOSE!

AROOOOO

IT'LL RIP US  
APART!!

NEXT MOMENT, LUKE  
AND HAN ARE BLASTING  
AWAY: THEIR REACTION  
EXCELLENT, THEIR ENTHU-  
SIAISM UNDENIABLE, THEIR  
AIM EXECRABLE.

ZIK

GRRRR

ZIK

NOT A SINGLE  
SHOT COMES  
CLOSE TO  
THE RAGING  
WOOKIEE.

INSTEAD, THEY BLAST  
AUTOMATIC CAMERA--

ZIP

--ENERGY-  
RATE  
CONTROLS--

ZIK

--AND, SOME-  
WHERE ALONG  
THE LINE, TWO OF  
THE TROOPERS!

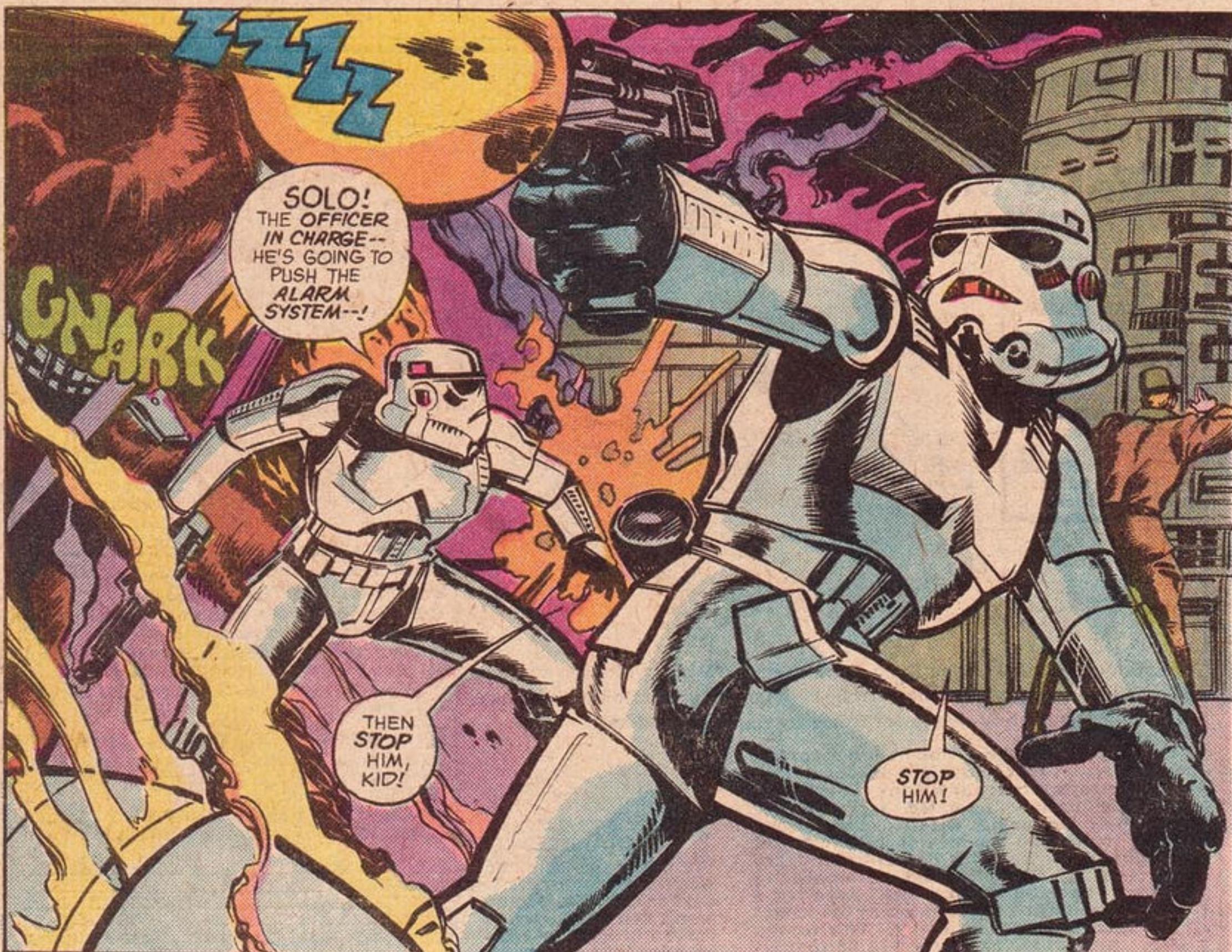
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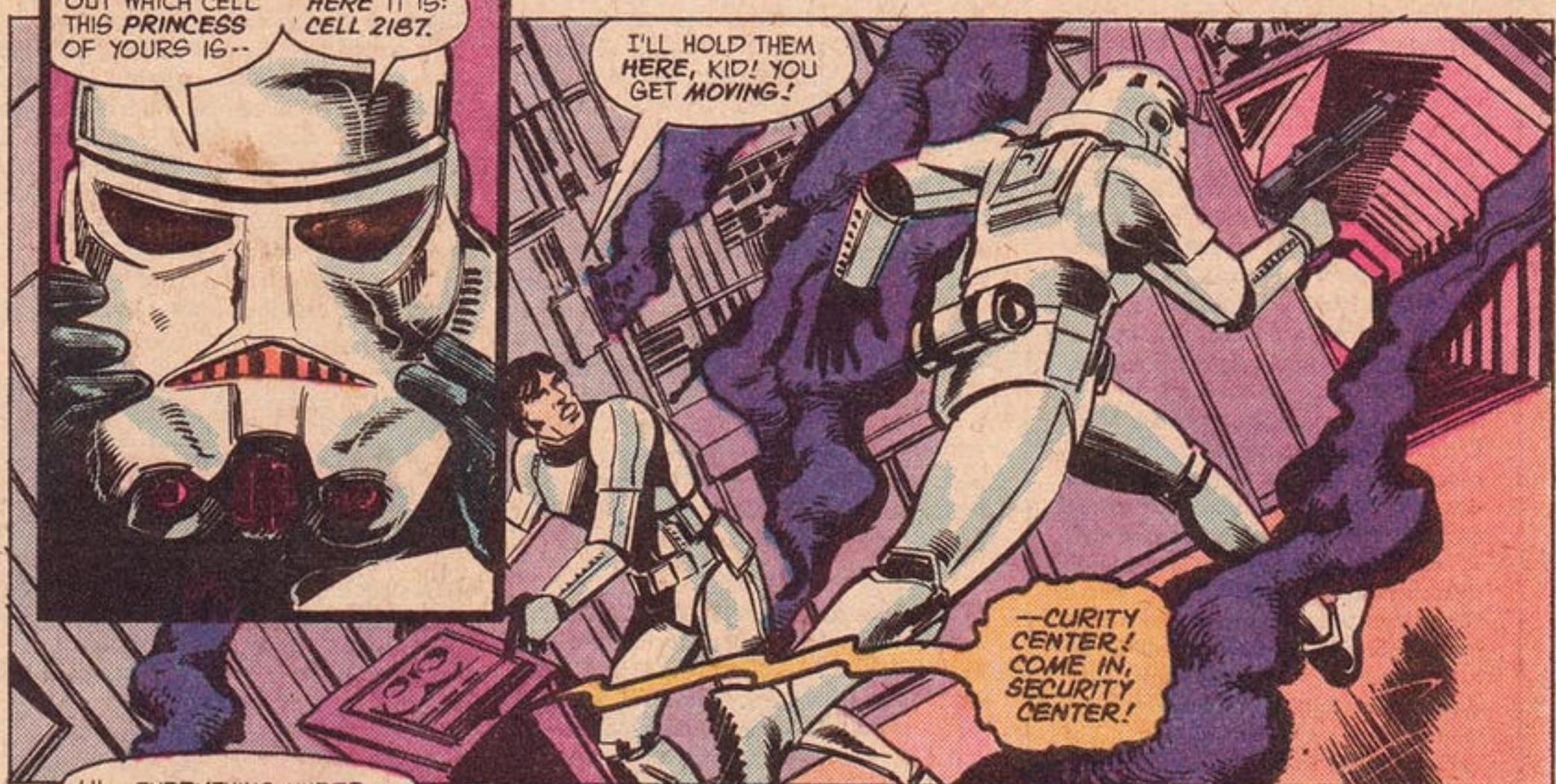
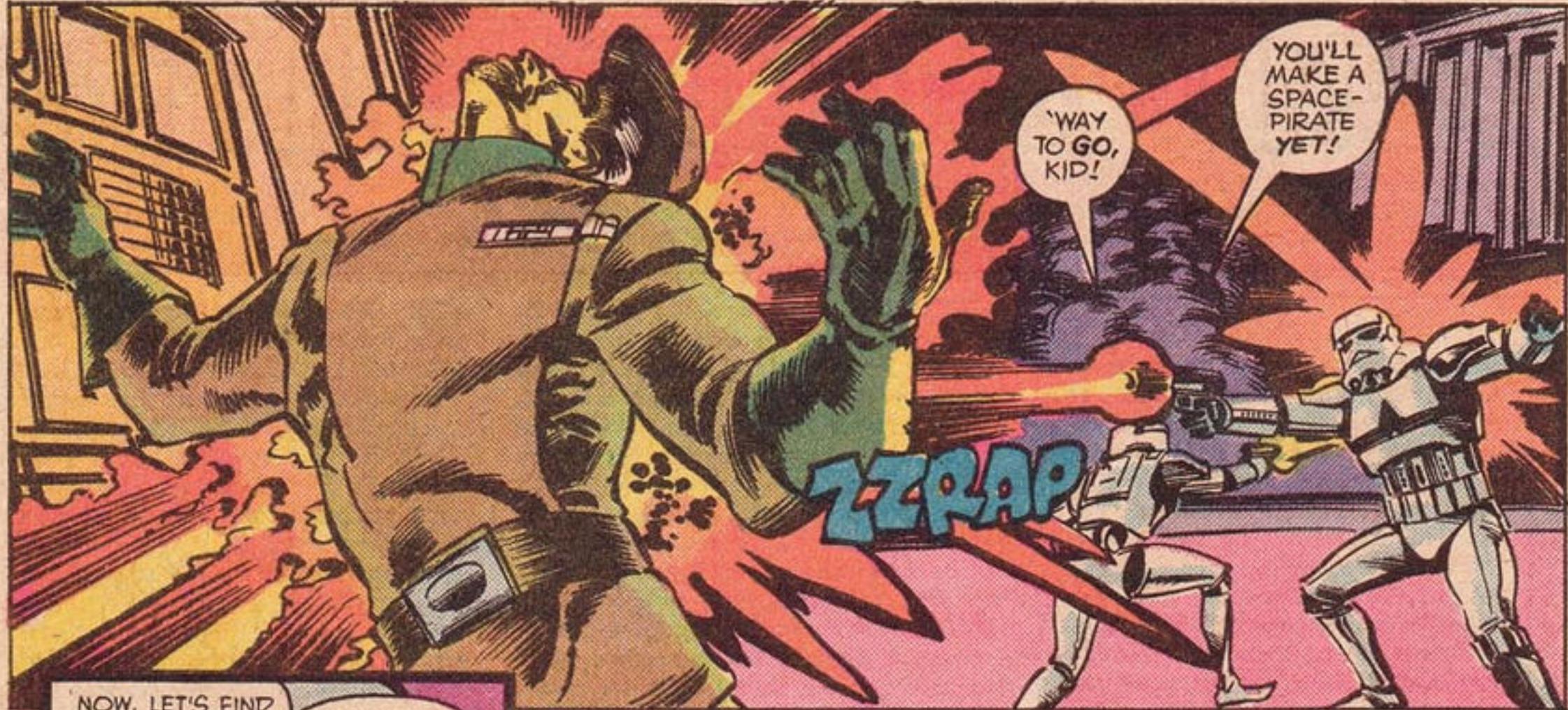
WITHIN SECONDS, A STAR SYSTEM'S WORTH OF VALUABLE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT IS RENDERED USELESS...

AT THIS POINT, THE REMAINING TROOPER--TRAINED MORE FOR ACTION THAN RATIONAL ANALYSIS--SUDDENLY REALIZES THE TWO NEWCOMERS ARE DANGEROUS...

BUT, IT'S TOO LATE--

--AS HAN SOLO QUICKLY DEMONSTRATES--!





ALREADY, YOUNG LUKE HAS REACHED THE MIDDLE OF THE LONG CORRIDOR BEYOND--AND COME TO THE CELL DESIGNATED 2187.

HIS COMMANDERED LASER PISTOL MAKES REASONABLY FAST WORK OF IT.

BUT, HE STOPS--  
TONGUE-TIED--  
WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...

WHAT?  
OH--THE  
UNIFORM!

I'VE  
COME TO  
RESCUE  
YOU.

Y-YOU'RE--  
EVEN MORE  
BEAUTIFUL--  
THAN I--

AREN'T  
YOU A  
LITTLE  
SHORT  
FOR A  
STORM-  
TROOPER?

I'M LUKE  
SKYWALKER!

YOU'RE  
WHO?

I'VE  
COME TO  
RESCUE  
YOU!

BEN KENOBI  
IS WITH ME--  
AND WE'VE  
GOT YOUR  
DROIDS!

BEN KENOBI?

WHERE  
IS HE?

OBI-WAN!!

MEANWHILE, IN THE OUTER SECURITY CHAMBER, A SERIES OF EAR-SHATTERING EXPLOSIONS TEAR A GAPPING HOLE IN THE METAL WALL--A HOLE THROUGH WHICH IMPERIAL TROOPERS NOW BEGIN TO EMERGE...

BACK, CHEWIE! WE'VE GOT TO RETREAT!

CRNK!



YOU FOUND HER, eh?

WELL, WE CAN'T GO BACK THAT WAY!

NO, WE CERTAINLY CAN'T

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE MANAGED TO CUT OFF OUR ONLY ESCAPE ROUTE!

Huh? BEGGING YOUR FORGIVENESS, YOUR HIGHNESS--BUT MAYBE YOU'D PREFER IT BACK IN YOUR CELL?

I'D LOVE TO OBLIGE YOU, BUT RIGHT NOW--

--HERE COMES TROUBLE!

ALL RIGHT, CHEWIE--STARTING BLASTING!

IF WE DIE HERE--LET'S TAKE A BUNCH OF 'EM WITH US!

THREEPIO! THREEPIO! WE'VE BEEN CUT OFF! ARE THERE ANY OTHER WAYS OUT??

THREEPIO! WHERE ARE YOU?

BUT, LUKE SKYWALKER'S ONLY ANSWER IS THE BLAST OF THE TROOPERS' LASERS COMING CLOSER--CLOSER--!

NEXT ISSUE: BEN KENOBI VS. DARTH VADER--TO THE DEATH!