



IN 1971, N.A.S.A. WAS PREPARING THE PIONEER 10 SPACE PROBE FOR ITS MISSION TO JUPITER AND BEYOND.

IN THE EVENT THE PROBE EVER ENCOUNTERED EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE, THEY WANTED TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT ITS ORIGINS, AND WHO SENT IT.

THEY ASKED EARTH'S ARTISTS FOR IDEAS ON HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

ONE ARTIST FELT THAT HUMANITY'S SELF-IMAGE HAS ALWAYS SPOKEN MORE TRUTHFULLY ABOUT US THAN BARE REALITY--

-- THAT THE BEST WAY TO SHOW WHO WE ARE, TO SHOW OUR INNATE IDEALISM, SPIRIT AND DRIVE --

-- WAS THROUGH OUR DREAMS.

THROUGH THE EXUBERANT, SELF-CONFIDENT, POWERFUL IMAGES IN WHICH WE'VE CLOTHED OURSELVES SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL.

PIONEER 10 LAUNCHED ON MARCH 3, 1972.

THE PLAQUE IT BORE--

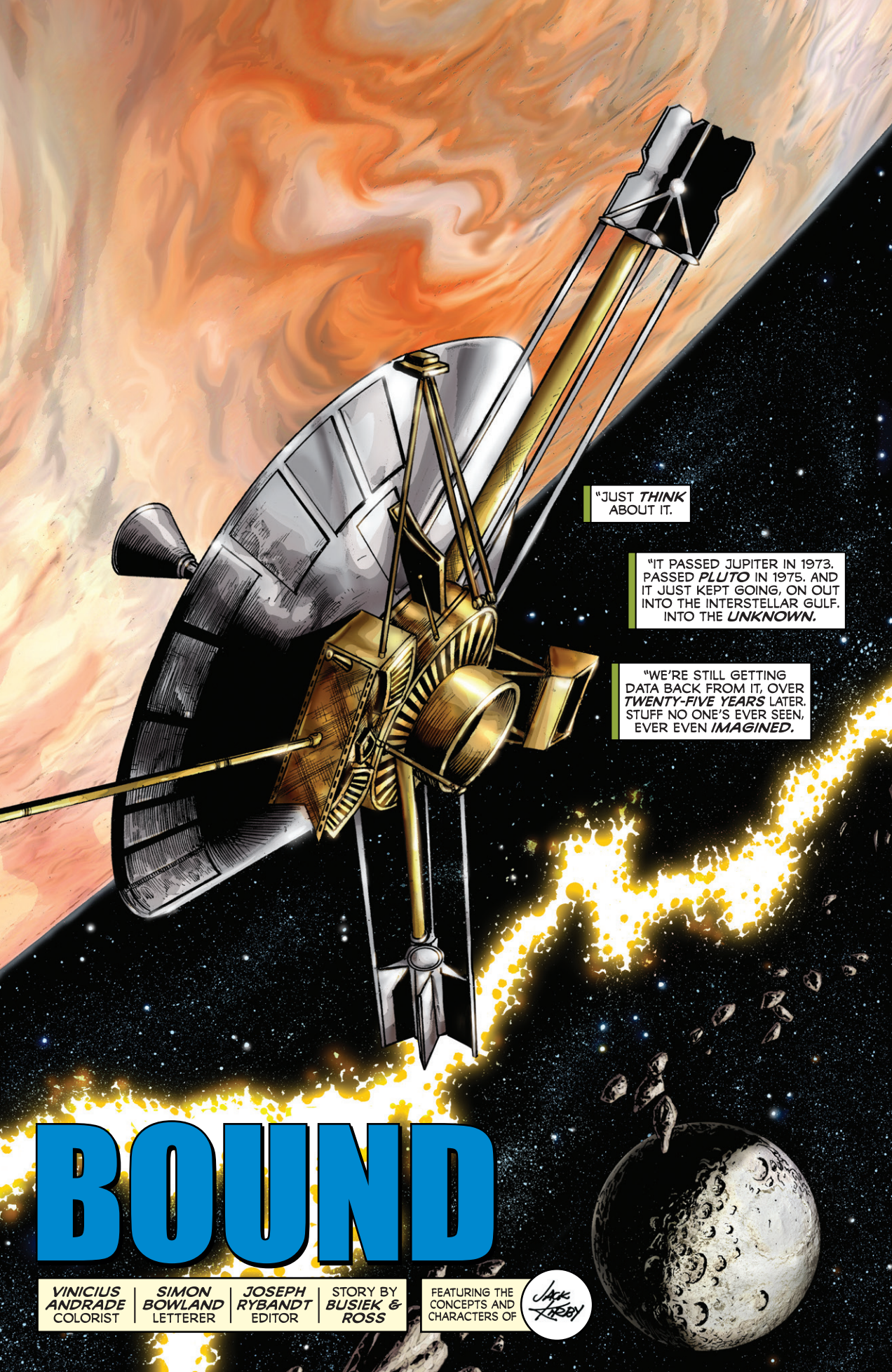
-- CARRIED
THAT VISION TO
THE STARS.



OUTWARD

KURT BUSIEK
WRITER

ALEX ROSS & JACKSON HERBERT
ARTISTS



"JUST **THINK**
ABOUT IT.

"IT PASSED JUPITER IN 1973.
PASSED *PLUTO* IN 1975. AND
IT JUST KEPT GOING, ON OUT
INTO THE INTERSTELLAR GULF.
INTO THE *UNKNOWN*.

"WE'RE STILL GETTING
DATA BACK FROM IT, OVER
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER.
STUFF NO ONE'S EVER SEEN,
EVER EVEN *IMAGINED*.

BOUND

VINICIUS
ANDRADE
COLORIST

SIMON
BOWLAND
LETTERER

JOSEPH
RYBANDT
EDITOR

STORY BY
BUSIEK &
ROSS

FEATURING THE
CONCEPTS AND
CHARACTERS OF





THE **LATEST** DATA--THEY SAY NO ONE CAN MAKE ANY **SENSE** OF IT.

THE PROBE'S APPROACHING SOME SORT OF **EXTRA-SOLAR ANOMALY**--



-- OUT WHERE WE DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS **ANYTHING!**

THE READINGS ARE BEYOND ITS SENSORS' **CAPACITY**. BUT WHATEVER IT IS, PIONEER'S HEADED RIGHT **FOR** IT...

WHAT'LL **HAPPEN** TO IT?

NO ONE KNOWS, BOBBI. WE MAY **NEVER** KNOW.



I BET **YOU'LL** FIGURE IT OUT, WHEN YOU'RE **ONE** OF THOSE GUYS, DOING SPACE STUFF!

YOU CAN FIGURE OUT **ANYTHING**. CAN'T HE, PAPI?



HNH! ANYTHING BUT WHAT'S RIGHT IN **FRONT** OF HIM, KID.

BUT HEY. IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR FOLKS ARE **WORKIN' LATE**, KIRBY.

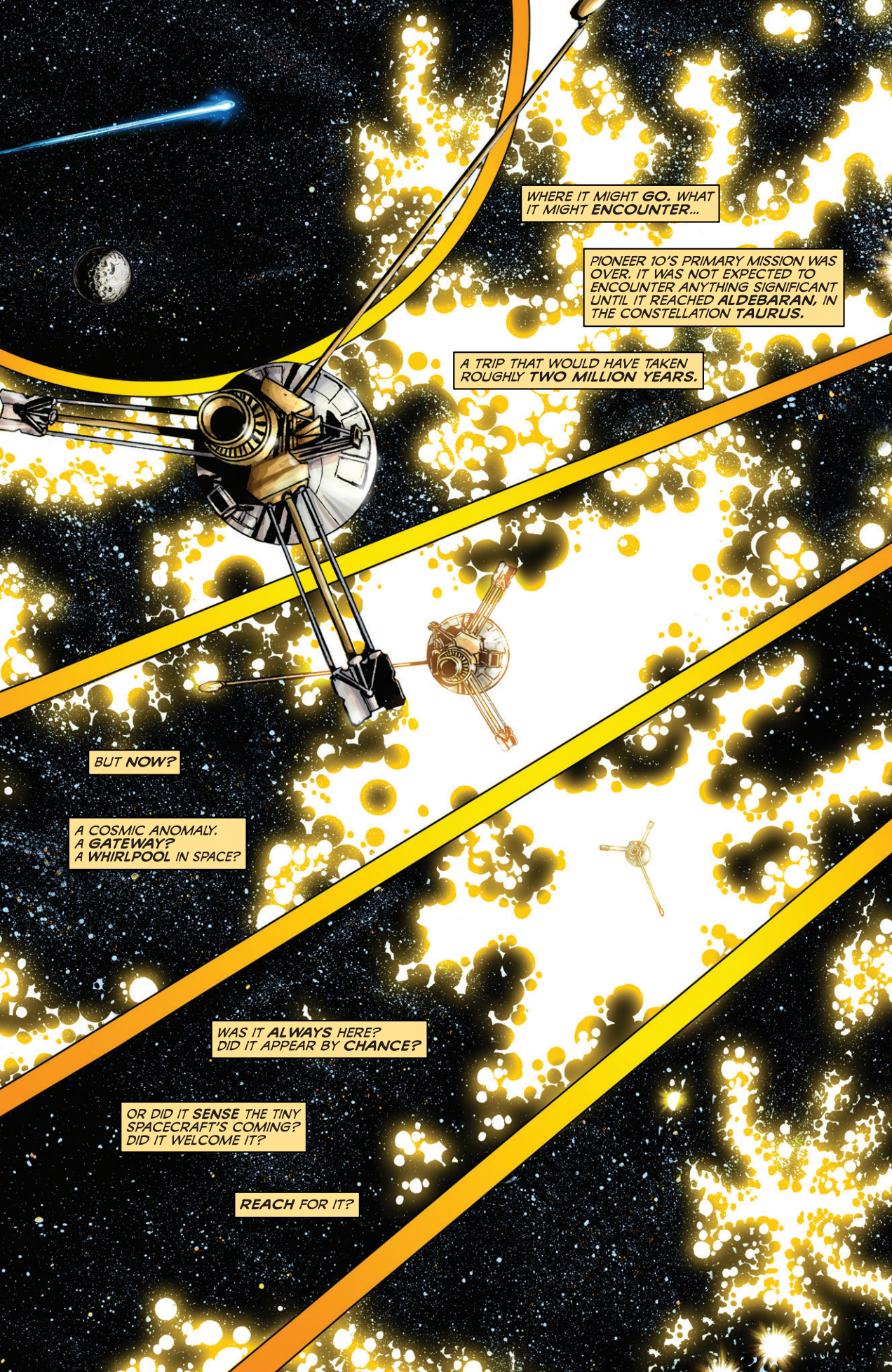
YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME AN' BOBBI FOR DINNER AGAIN.



PIZZA OKAY BY YOU?

HM? **SURE**, SGT. CORTEZ. ANYTHING'S FINE.

JUST -- JUST **THINK** ABOUT IT -- WHERE IT'LL GO, WHAT IT'LL **SEE** --



WHERE IT MIGHT GO. WHAT IT MIGHT ENCOUNTER...

PIONEER 10'S PRIMARY MISSION WAS OVER. IT WAS NOT EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT UNTIL IT REACHED ALDEBARAN, IN THE CONSTELLATION TAURUS.

A TRIP THAT WOULD HAVE TAKEN ROUGHLY TWO MILLION YEARS.

BUT NOW?

A COSMIC ANOMALY.
A GATEWAY?
A WHIRLPOOL IN SPACE?

WAS IT ALWAYS HERE?
DID IT APPEAR BY CHANCE?

OR DID IT SENSE THE TINY SPACECRAFT'S COMING?
DID IT WELCOME IT?

REACH FOR IT?