

STAR WARS

ADAPTED FROM THE GEORGE LUCAS FILM,

A 20th CENTURY-FOX RELEASE

It is a period of CIVIL WAR in the galaxy.

A brave alliance of UNDERGROUND FREE-DOM FIGHTERS has challenged the tyranny and oppression of the awesome GALACTIC EMPIRE.

To CRUSH the rebellion once and for all, the EMPIRE is constructing a sinister new BATTLE STATION. Powerful enough to destroy an entire planet, its COMPLETION will spell CERTAIN DOOM for the champions of freedom.

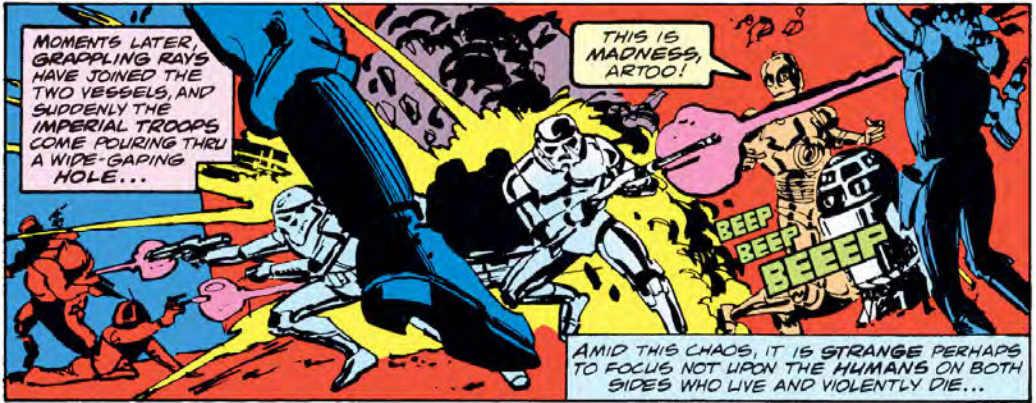
Striking from a fortress hidden among the billion stars of the galaxy, REBEL SPACESHIPS have won their first victory in a battle with the powerful IMPERIAL STARFLEET. The Empire fears that ANOTHER defeat could bring a THOUSAND MORE solar systems into the rebellion, and IMPERIAL CONTROL over the galaxy would be LOST FOREVER.

BUT, THAT IS THE NEAR FUTURE.

AT THIS MOMENT:

ABOVE THE YELLOW PLANET TATOOINE, A GIGANTIC IMPERIAL STARSHIP PURSUES A REBEL SPACECRAFT--ITS DEADLY LASER BOLTS DISINTEGRATE THE SMALLER SHIP'S MAIN SOLAR FIN WITH A SOULSEARING SHUDDER...!

MARIE SEVERIN,
COLORIST



MOMENTS LATER, GRAPPLING RAYS HAVE JOINED THE TWO VESSELS, AND SUDDENLY THE IMPERIAL TROOPS COME POURING THRU A WIDE-GAPING HOLE...

THIS IS MADNESS, ARTOO!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

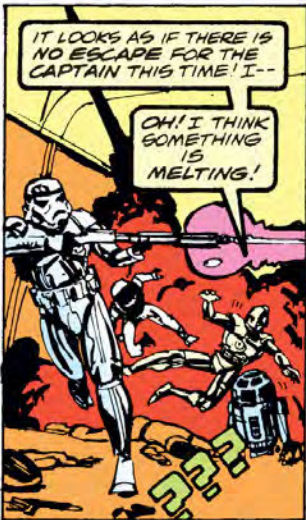
AMID THIS CHAOS, IT IS STRANGE PERHAPS TO FOCUS NOT UPON THE HUMANS ON BOTH SIDES WHO LIVE AND VIOLENTLY DIE...



... BUT UPON A PAIR OF ROBOTS, DESIGNATED C-3PO AND R2-D2.

MORE FAMILIARLY: SEE THREEPIO AND ARTOO DETOO.

YES, ARTOO-- I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT... WE SHOULD FLEE THIS WAY... DOWN THE CORRIDOR...!



IT LOOKS AS IF THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR THE CAPTAIN THIS TIME! I--

OH! I THINK SOMETHING IS MELTING!



THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRUST THE LOGIC OF A HALF-SIZED THERMO-CAPSULARY DEHOLLING ASSISTER...!

HEY-- WAIT UP! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHINE



BELOW, ON THE DEATH-WHITE WASTELAND WHICH IS THE PLANET TATOOINE:

A BRIGHT SPARKLE IN THE MORNING SKY CATCHES A WATCHFUL EYE.



LUKE SKYWALKER LOWERS HIS MACROBINOCULARS, STANDING TRANSFIXED FOR A MOMENT.



THEN, HE LEADS NIMBLY INTO THE NEARBY, RECENTLY-REPAIRED LANDSPEEDER...

... AND AIMS THE CRAFT TOWARD THE DISTANT TOWN OF ANCHORHEAD.

WHILE ON THE WOUNDED STAR-SHIP...

LORD VADER! THE SHIP'S INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM HAS BEEN WIRED CLEAN!

THEN THIS REBEL WILL TELL US WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW!

WHERE IS THE DATA YOU INTERCEPTED?

W--WE'RE ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION--!

LIAR! WHERE ARE THOSE INFORMATION TAPES?

THIS SHIP CARRIES THE CREST OF ALDERAAN! IS ANY OF THE ROYAL FAMILY ON BOARD?

DARTH VADER, DARK LORD OF THE SITH, TIGHTENS HIS FINGERS ON THE REBEL OFFICER'S THROAT.

BUT, HE STILL RECEIVES NO ANSWER...

... UNLESS IT BE THE AWFUL, UNQUESTIONABLE FINALITY OF A SINGLE GRUESOME SNAPPING SOUND.

THE FOOL IS DEAD!

START TEARING THIS SHIP APART, PIECE BY PIECE, UNTIL YOU HAVE THOSE TAPES!

AND FIND THE PASSENGERS OF THIS VESSEL!

I WANT THEM--ALIVE!!

Y-YES, LORD VADER...!

THE IMPERIAL TROOPS FALL ALL OVER EACH OTHER IN THEIR HASTE TO LEAVE--AS MUCH TO ESCAPE THEIR MASTER'S PRESENCE AS TO CARRY OUT HIS ORDERS.

WHILE, NOT FAR DISTANT...

ARTOO! SO THIS IS WHERE YOU VANISHED TO!

THE UNKNOWN GIRL WHO KNEELS BY THE SMALLER ROBOT IS PROBABLY BEAUTIFUL BY HUMAN STANDARDS...

BUT, THREEPIO, BEING A ROBOT HIMSELF, TAKES SCANT NOTICE OF HER...

AND, THE NEXT MOMENT, SHE IS GONE, AS IF SHE WERE A PART OF THE THICKENING HAZE...

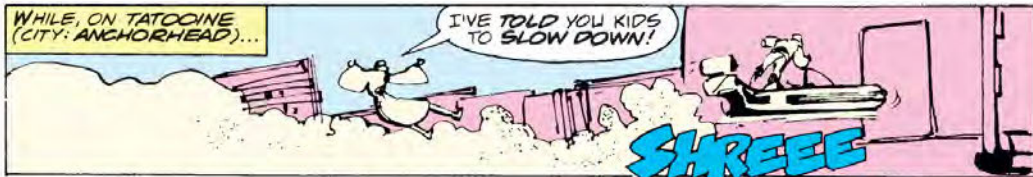
WE'LL BE SENT TO THE SPICE MINES OF KESSEL, OR EVEN--

WELL, ARTOO? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

REEE
REEE

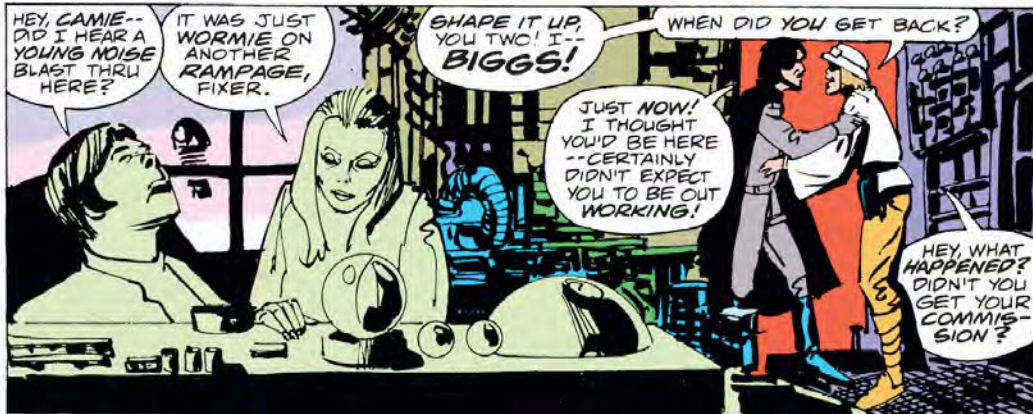




WHILE, ON TATOOINE (CITY: ANCHORHEAD)...

I'VE TOLD YOU KIDS TO SLOW DOWN!

SHREEE



HEY, CAMIE-- DID I HEAR A YOUNG NOISE BLAST THRU HERE?

IT WAS JUST WORMIE ON ANOTHER RAMPAGE, FIXER.

SHAPE IT UP, YOU TWO! I-- BIGGS!

WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?

JUST NOW! I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HERE -- CERTAINLY DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE OUT WORKING!

HEY, WHAT HAPPENED? DIDN'T YOU GET YOUR COMMISSION?



WHY, UH-- OF COURSE I GOT IT! SIGNED ABOARD THE RAND ECLIPTIC LAST WEEK.

FIRST MATE BIGGS DARKLIGHTER AT YOUR SERVICE!

I JUST CAME BACK TO SAY GOODBYE TO ALL YOU UNFORTUNATE LANDLOCKED SIMPLETONS.



WAIT! I ALMOST FORGOT--

THERE'S A BATTLE GOING ON-- RIGHT HERE IN OUR SYSTEM!

COME AND LOOK!

NOT AGAIN! FORGET IT, BIGGS-- HE'S ALWAYS--

NO, I MEAN IT. COME ON.



UP THERE! CAN YOU SEE--?

THAT'S NO BATTLE, HOT-SHOT. THEY'RE JUST SITTING THERE.

PROBABLY A FREIGHTER-TANKER REFUELING.

BUT, THERE WAS A LOT OF FIRING EARLIER...!



I KEEP TELLING YOU, WORMIE-- THE REBEL-LION'S A LONG WAY FROM HERE; I DOUBT IF THE EMPIRE WOULD EVEN FIGHT TO KEEP THIS SYSTEM.

BELIEVE ME, LUKE-- THIS PLANET IS A BIG HUNK OF NOTHING!