

MARVEL

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ANNUAL

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GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY



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PREVIOUSLY...

One year ago, Groot discovered the last survivor of his people, the *Flora colossi*, and was transformed into a legion of terraforming asteroids known as Grootfall. Only a few of the Guardians escaped with their lives, while the rest were killed as the Grootfall assimilated them and an entire sector--becoming Grootspace.

Or so the story goes...

Grootspace is actually the ancestral home of the *Flora colossi*...and the victims of Grootfall aren't dead, but in the process of being reborn! Groot has rejoined the Guardians to ensure that this process can be completed. But in order to do that, they must fend off an assault from Empress Victoria and her Spartoi armada, who has every intention of burning Groot from the galaxy, no matter the cost.

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

IN "GROOTRISE"

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THE SKIES TURNED
PURPLE, LIKE A
RISING BRUISE.




NIGHT COMES
TO ITS END. AND
WITH IT, OUR TIME.



BUT BEFORE
WE BREAK CAMP.



BEFORE
WE WALK INTO
OUR DAY.



LEAN YE
CLOSE AND
LISTEN WELL...



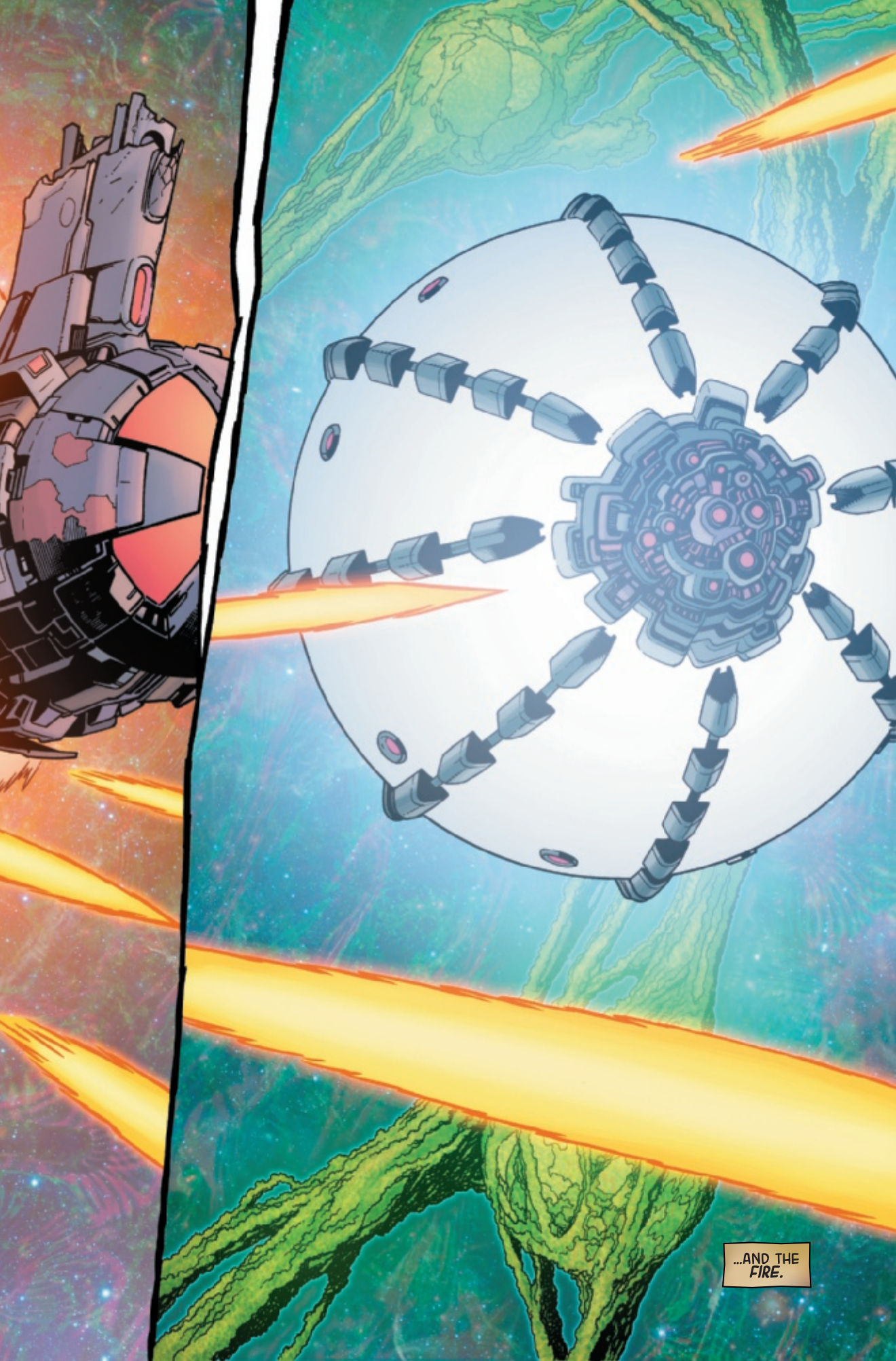
...TO OUR
STORY'S FINAL
VERSE.

OF THE
FIGHT...

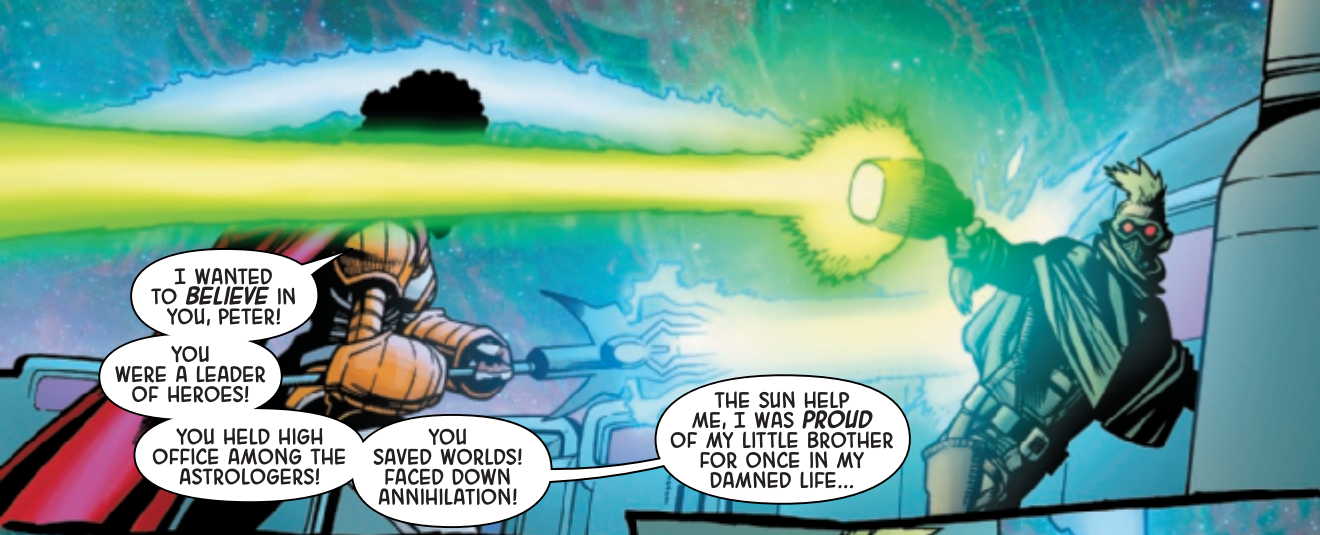


...THE
FAMILY...





...AND THE
FIRE.



I WANTED
TO *BELIEVE* IN
YOU, PETER!

YOU
WERE A LEADER
OF HEROES!

YOU HELD HIGH
OFFICE AMONG THE
ASTROLOGERS!

YOU
SAVED WORLDS!
FACED DOWN
ANNIHILATION!

THE SUN HELP
ME, I WAS *PROUD*
OF MY LITTLE BROTHER
FOR ONCE IN MY
DAMNED LIFE...



...AND
THEN YOU
RAN AWAY!



NOT
AWAY. *AFTER.*



YES, YOU
FLED *AFTER*
A BEING THAT
CONSUMES WORLDS.
NOT TO CLEAN UP
YOUR MESS, BUT
TO *JOIN* HIM.



AND NOW
YOU WANT MY
THRONE?

YOU'RE
NO KING,
"STAR-LORD."



YOU'RE
JUST A
HERALD.



DRAX!

THIS
WASN'T THE
PLAN--YOU GOTTA
GET OUT OF
HERE **NOW!**

WHEN THIS
SHIP IGNITES, IT'S
GOING TO EXPLODE
INTO AN **ACTUAL SUN!**
ANYTHING CLOSE TO
IT IS GOING TO BE
SPACE ASH!

BUT IT IS NOT
YOUR TIME IN THE
SUNSHINE, BRAVE
RACCOON.

NO, NO,
NO, THIS THING
IS **COMPLETELY
UNSTABLE**. YA DON'T
JUST PUSH A "GO"
BUTTON ANYMORE, THE
SPARTOI MADE
SURE OF THAT!

WITHOUT
THIS SUN, GROOT
CAN'T FLOWER.
WITHOUT FLOWERING,
OUR FRIENDS ARE
GONE FOREVER.

THE POWER
NEEDS TO BE
GUIDED.

GOOD.

I AM AN
EXCELLENT
GUIDE.

DRAX, NO!
DON'T YOU GET
IT? **THIS IS A
ONE-WAY
TRIP!**

YES.
JUST LIKE
EVERYTHING
ELSE.