

MARVEL
1
ANNUAL

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...



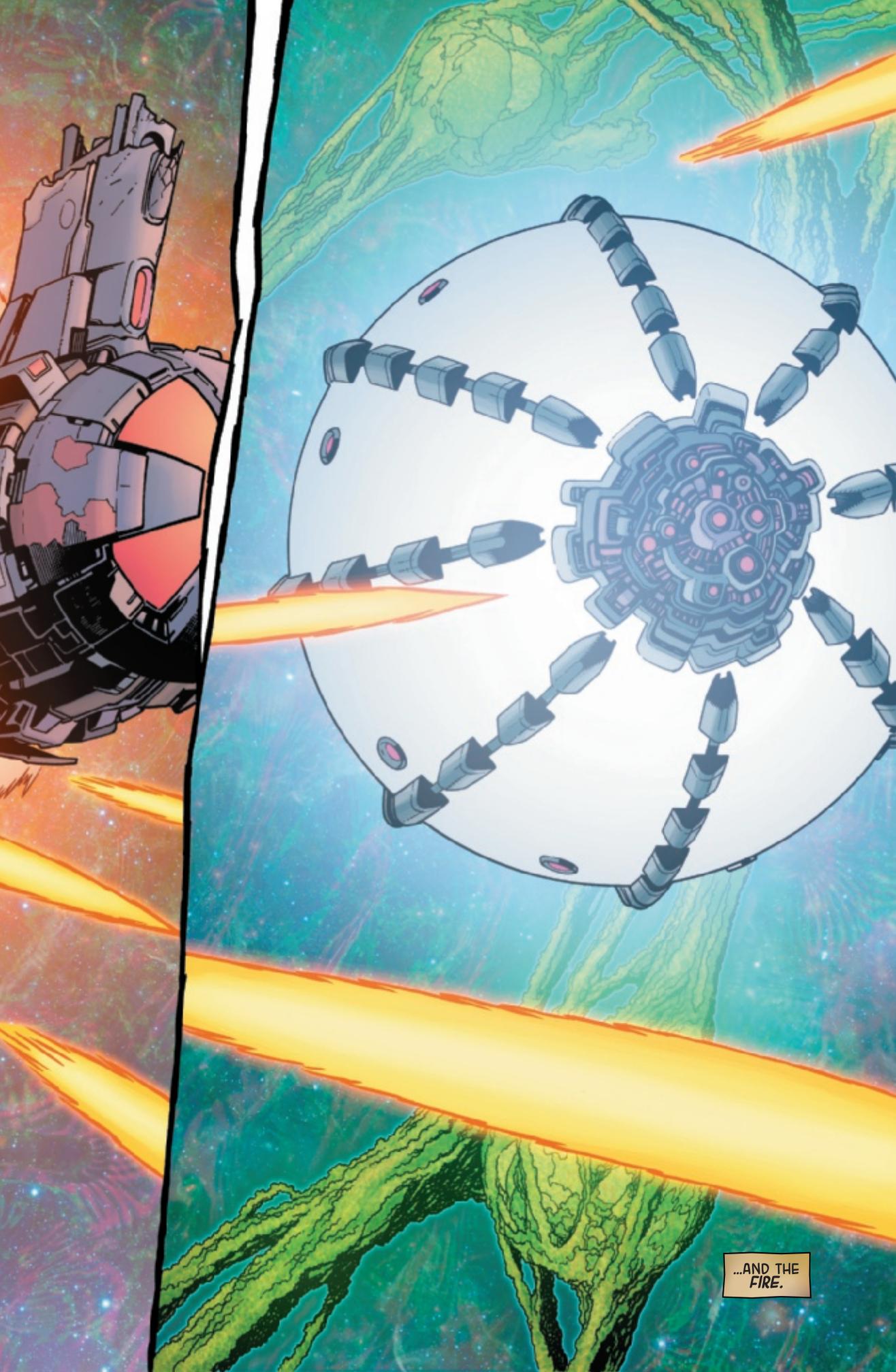
...TO OUR
STORY'S FINAL
VERSE.

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.