

**MARVEL**

036

STAR WARS  
**DOCTOR APHRA**

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CONTENT  
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SPURRIER • SANTOS • BOLSON  
WONG • O'HALLORAN

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# UNSPEAKABLE REBEL SUPERWEAPON

Part V

**Rogue archaeologist Doctor Aphra is known across the galaxy as a brilliant scientist as well as a thief and obtainer of ancient valuable artifacts—which has earned her the ire of both the Rebellion and Empire.**

**After Imperial Minister Pitina Voor placed a bounty on her and her sidekick, Vulaada, Aphra offered the ancient Jedi weapon called the FARKILLER to the Empire in exchange for her protection, ruining the rebels' plans to use the rifle to assassinate the Emperor and end the war.**

**Now guests in Voor's headquarters, Aphra and Vulaada have been shocked to discover that Voor has been planning to overthrow the Emperor herself....**

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"I WAS BORN PITINA MAR-MAS VOOR, 25 YEARS BEFORE THE RISE OF PALPATINE, TO A LIFE DEVOID OF PRIVILEGE.



"WELL, *COMPARATIVELY* DEVOID. I WAS BARELY EVEN A MIDDLE-RANKING PRINCESS.

"MY FAMILY MARRIED ME OFF TO A BLOVIATING SENATOR ON MY EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY.

"HE WAS USELESS AT ANYTHING EXCEPT SAYING 'YES,' SO THE EMPIRE'S RISE WAS QUITE THE MAKING OF HIM.

"HE GOT AN ADVISOR'S OFFICE FOR HIS LOYALTY, AND THERE HE WOULD'VE STAYED: ORDERING GENOCIDES BETWEEN NAPS.

"HE WAS JUST A MAN, AFTER ALL, AND HAD NO ROOM IN HIS MIND FOR ANYTHING BUT CONQUEST.



"BUT I COULD SEE IT. EVERY WORLD WE TOOK COST THOUSANDS OF TROOPERS AND BILLIONS OF CREDITS.

"THE EMPIRE WAS BEING MURDERED BY ITS OWN EXPANSION.

"WHAT ELSE COULD I DO? I SPREAD THE RUMOR THAT LORD VADER SUSPECTED MY HUSBAND OF SEDITION AND MADE SURE HE HEARD ABOUT IT.

"WE FOUND HIM HANGING BY HIS OWN CUMMERBUND THE NEXT MORNING.

"THAT WAS MY FIRST FORAY INTO THE ART OF PERSUASION. A PERFECT TRIUMPH, I FELT, AND I HADN'T EVEN LIFTED A FINGER.



"...BESIDES TWEAKING HIS *SUCCESSION* DOCUMENTS, THAT IS.

"(I BELIEVE HIS MAJESTY *KNEW* WHAT I'D DONE. IF SO, HE SEEMED TO *APPROVE*.)

"WITHIN A YEAR I HAD ESTABLISHED THE *COALITION FOR PROGRESS* AND COINED THE *THREE GUIDING TENETS OF IMPERIAL OUTREACH*:



"NEXT WE SHOW THEM HOW *PERFECT* THEIR WORLDS COULD BE IN THE EMPEROR'S EMBRACE, SUCH *ORDER*, SUCH *CALM*!

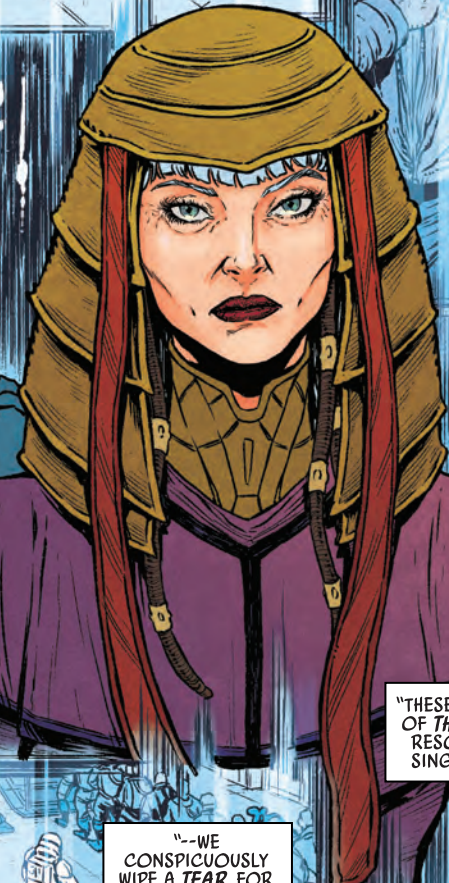
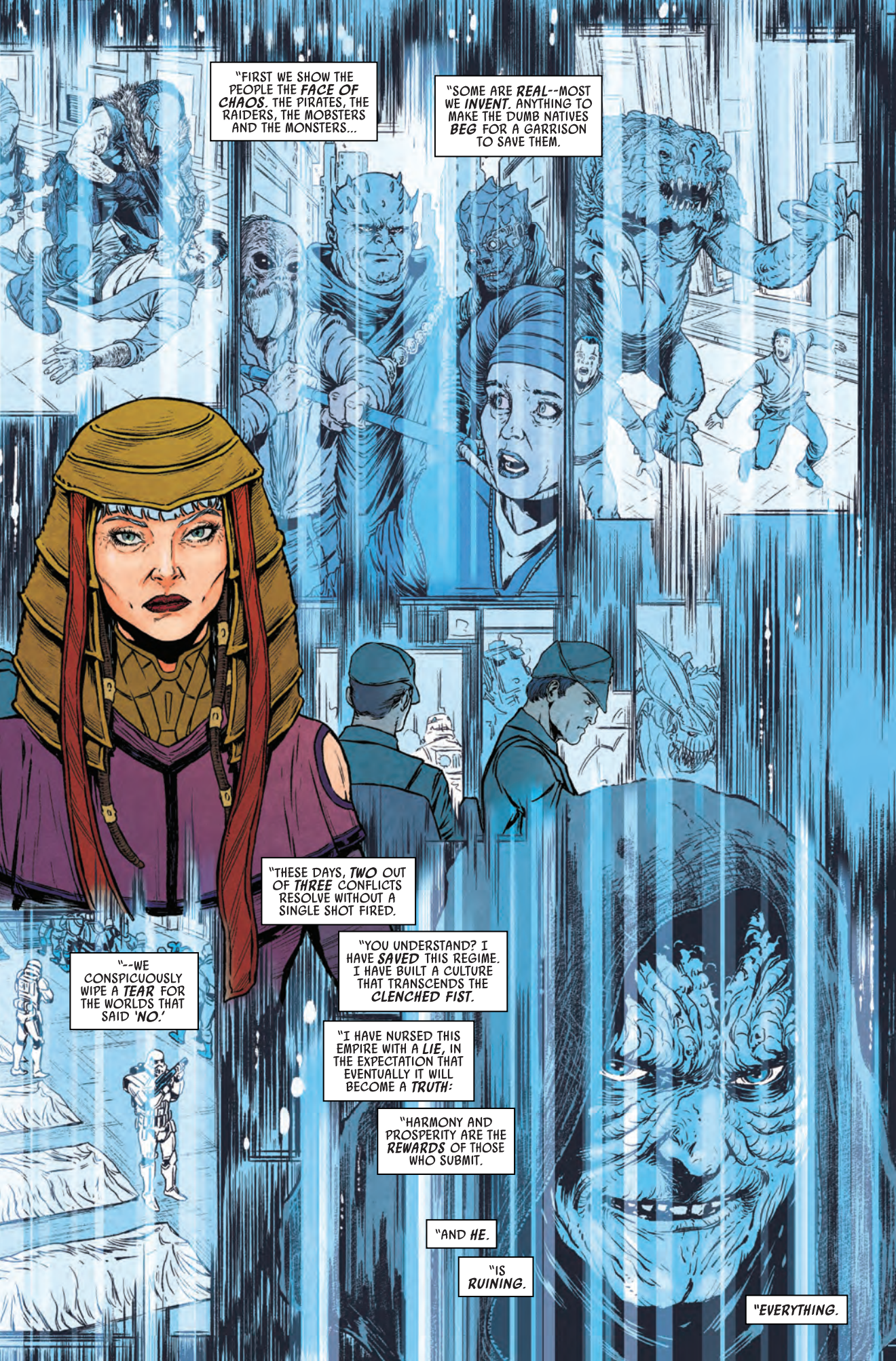
"(I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU: WE'VE BECOME *EXTREMELY GIFTED* AT MAKING *FALSE SMILES* LOOK *NATURAL*.)

"AND LASTLY? OH-- JUST A *CASUAL* AFTERTHOUGHT!--



"FIRST WE SHOW THE PEOPLE THE FACE OF CHAOS. THE PIRATES, THE RAIDERS, THE MOBSTERS AND THE MONSTERS..."

"SOME ARE REAL--MOST WE INVENT. ANYTHING TO MAKE THE DUMB NATIVES BEG FOR A GARRISON TO SAVE THEM."



"THESE DAYS, TWO OUT OF THREE CONFLICTS RESOLVE WITHOUT A SINGLE SHOT FIRED."

"YOU UNDERSTAND? I HAVE SAVED THIS REGIME. I HAVE BUILT A CULTURE THAT TRANSCENDS THE CLENCHED FIST."

"I HAVE NURSED THIS EMPIRE WITH A LIE, IN THE EXPECTATION THAT EVENTUALLY IT WILL BECOME A TRUTH:"

"HARMONY AND PROSPERITY ARE THE REWARDS OF THOSE WHO SUBMIT."


"AND HE."

"IS RUINING."

"EVERYTHING."

"--WE CONSPICUOUSLY WIPE A TEAR FOR THE WORLDS THAT SAID 'NO.'"





"POGROMS. GENOCIDES. PURGES. SUPERWEAPONS. THE ONLY HARMONY HE UNDERSTANDS IS TERROR."

"HE FEELS NO NEED TO PROMOTE THE MYTH OF PROSPERITY BECAUSE HE HAS NO INTEREST IN IT COMING TRUE."

"HE WON'T APPEAR IN PUBLIC. WON'T SMILE FOR THE CAMERA. IF HE TRIED KISSING A BABY I'D WORRY FOR ITS LIFE."

"YOU UNDERSTAND MY DILEMMA? NOBODY EVER VOLUNTEERED TO EMBRACE A SAVIOR WHOSE ONLY JOY IS WATCHING HIS PET CYBORG SNAP THROATS."

"NO...I'M AFRAID--WHEN YOU GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT--OUR BELOVED EMPEROR SIMPLY *ISN'T* ADEQUATELY...  
HMM... WHAT'S THE WORD...?"



LOVABLE?

AH-- THAT'S IT. THANK YOU, APHRA.

HE'S GOT TO GO.

SNAP