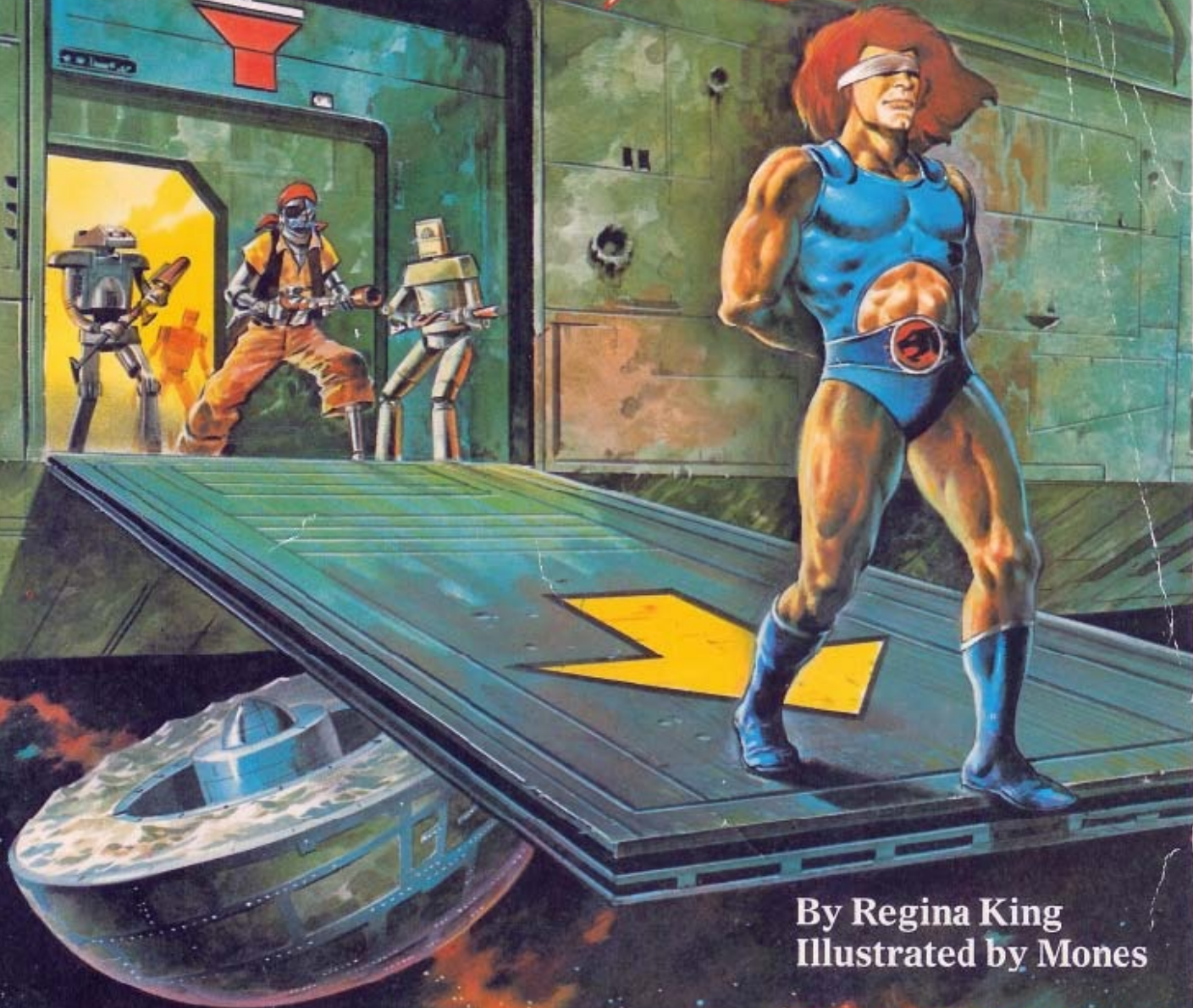


LION-O WALKS THE PLANK

A **THUNDERCATS** Adventure



By Regina King
Illustrated by Mones

www.thundercatsfans.org

LION-O WALKS THE PLANK

A  **ThunderCats**™ Adventure

By Regina King

Adapted from the teleplay by William Overgard

Illustrated by Mones

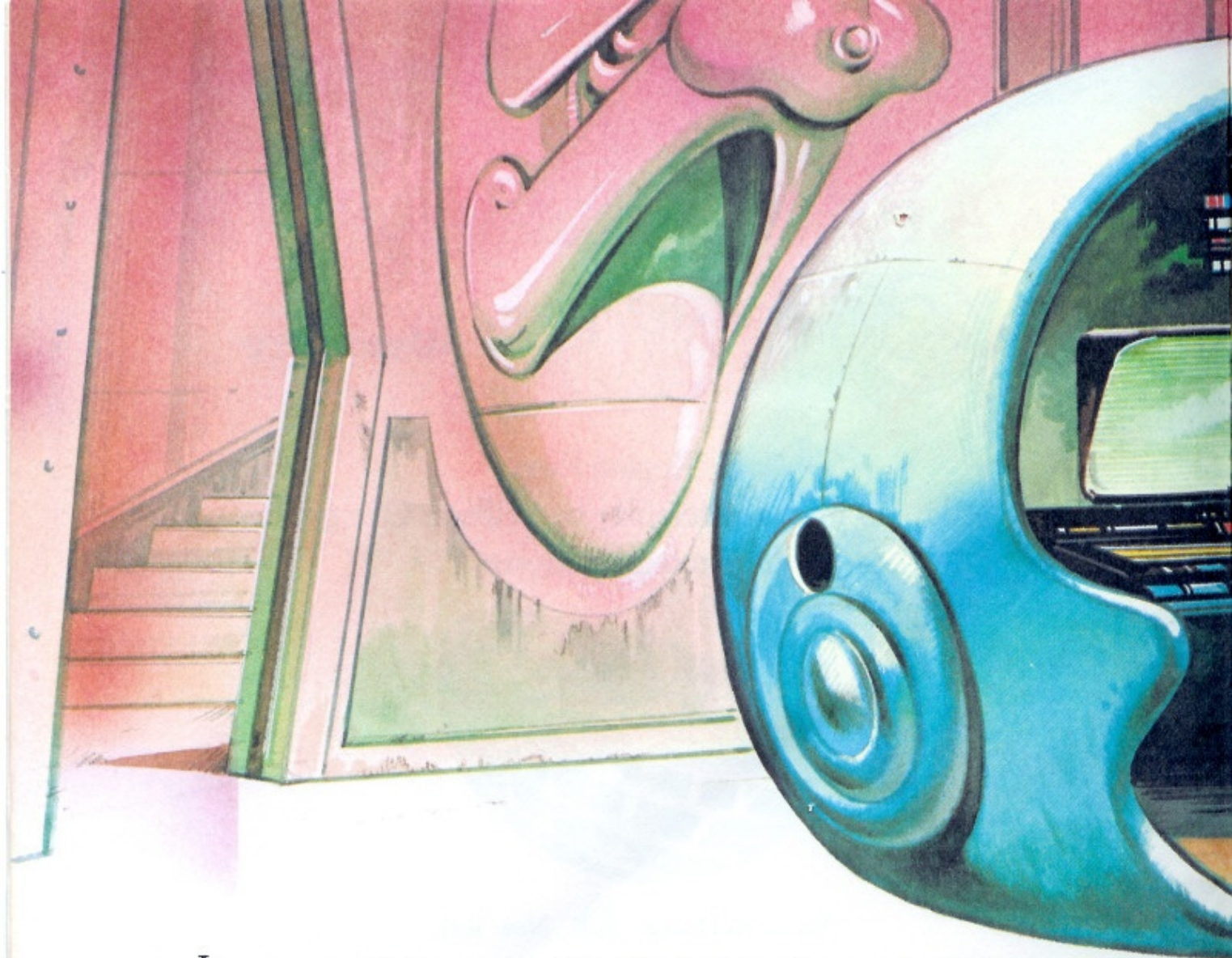


Random House  New York

Copyright © 1986 by Telepictures Corporation, Leisure Concepts, Inc., and Ted Wolf. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. Published in the United States by Random House, Inc., New York, and simultaneously in Canada by Random House of Canada Limited, Toronto.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data: King, Regina. Lion-O walks the plank. On t.p. the registered trademark symbol "TM" is superscript following Thundercats in the title. SUMMARY: Attempting to aid a space police officer in foiling an escape from a prison planet, Lion-O the Thundercat is taken prisoner by a robot pirate. [1. Robots—Fiction. 2. Science fiction.] I. Overgard, William. II. Title. ZZ7.K5887Li 1986 [E] 86-616 ISBN: 0-394-88306-3
Manufactured in the United States of America 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

THUNDERCATS and THUNDERCATS characters are trademarks of Telepictures Corporation.

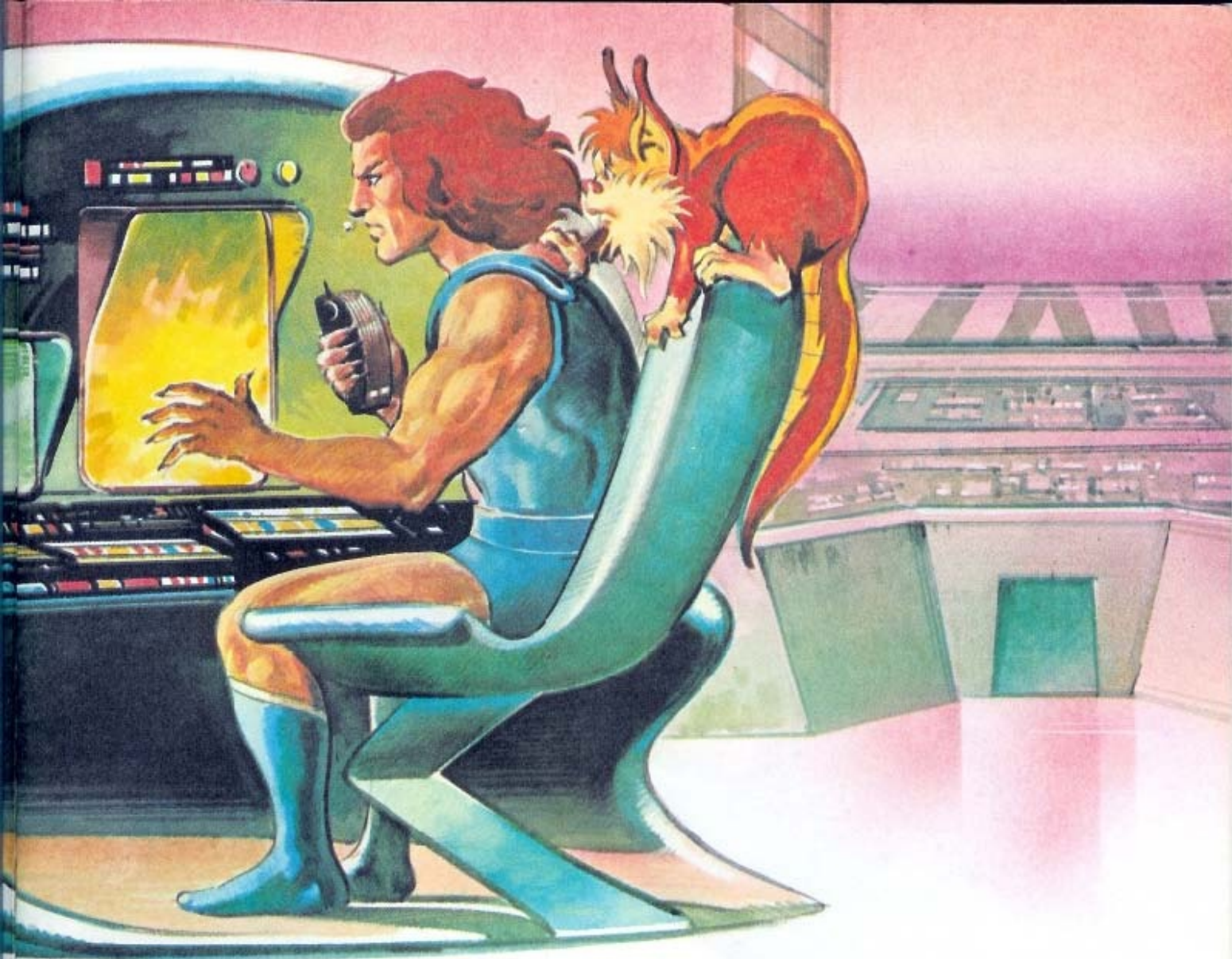


It was a peaceful afternoon on Third Earth. Lion-O, young Lord of the Thundercats, sat in the communications room with Snarf, watching the security monitor.

"It's pretty quiet out there," said Snarf.

"Let's try the police band," Lion-O said. He turned a dial.

"The police band. Humph! Why ask for trouble when—"



"Mayday! Mayday!" a voice cried through the transmitter. "This is the Prison Planet. Does anyone read me?"

"What did I tell you!" Snarf yelled.

"Shhh!" said Lion-O. "That sounded like our friend Mandora, the police officer." He grabbed the microphone. "Lion-O here!"

“Lion-O! This is Evil Chaser Mandora. I’m trapped in a jailbreak! Captain Cracker has escaped, and he plans to release all the prisoners and use them to take over the galaxy. You’ve got to—”

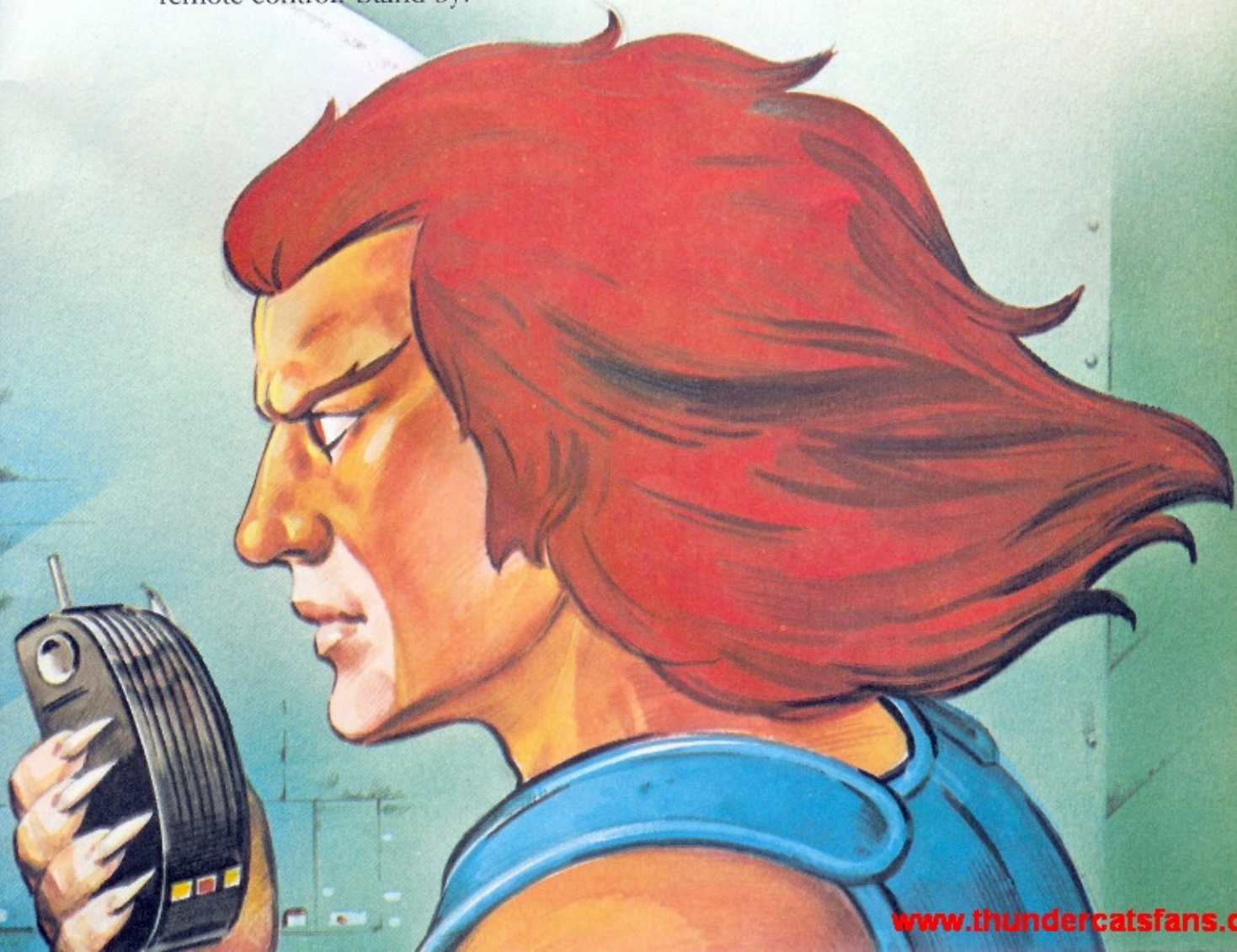
“Wait a minute!” Lion-O interrupted. “Who’s Captain Cracker?”

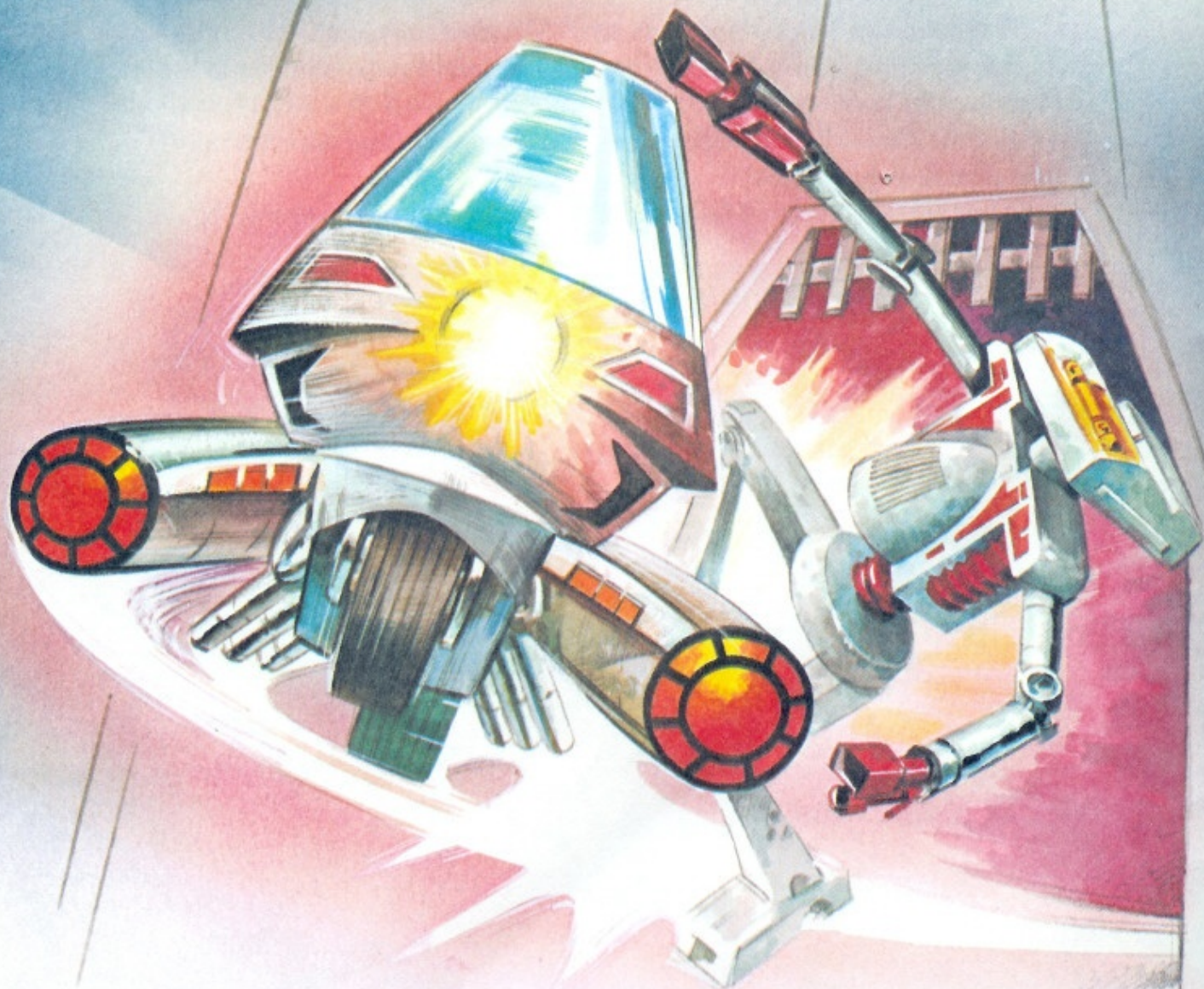


"A robot pirate I locked up years ago," Mandora answered. "His thugs have invaded the Prison Planet! Now he's free, and I'm handcuffed to the flagpole. Get here immediately!"

"But the Prison Planet is thousands of miles away...and we have no intergalactic vehicles here."

"Then listen up," said Mandora. "I'm sending you my space bike by remote control. Stand by!"





A moment later, near the prison gate, Mandora's space bike came to life. Its lights snapped on and its siren screamed. Then it roared through the gate, knocking down the robot guarding it. It rose into the air and disappeared.

Meanwhile, inside the central prison, Cracker's thugs began to break open the cell doors. One of the first prisoners they released was Quickpic, a pickpocket Mandora had arrested long ago with Lion-O's help. Quickpic darted through the cell door and ran outside.



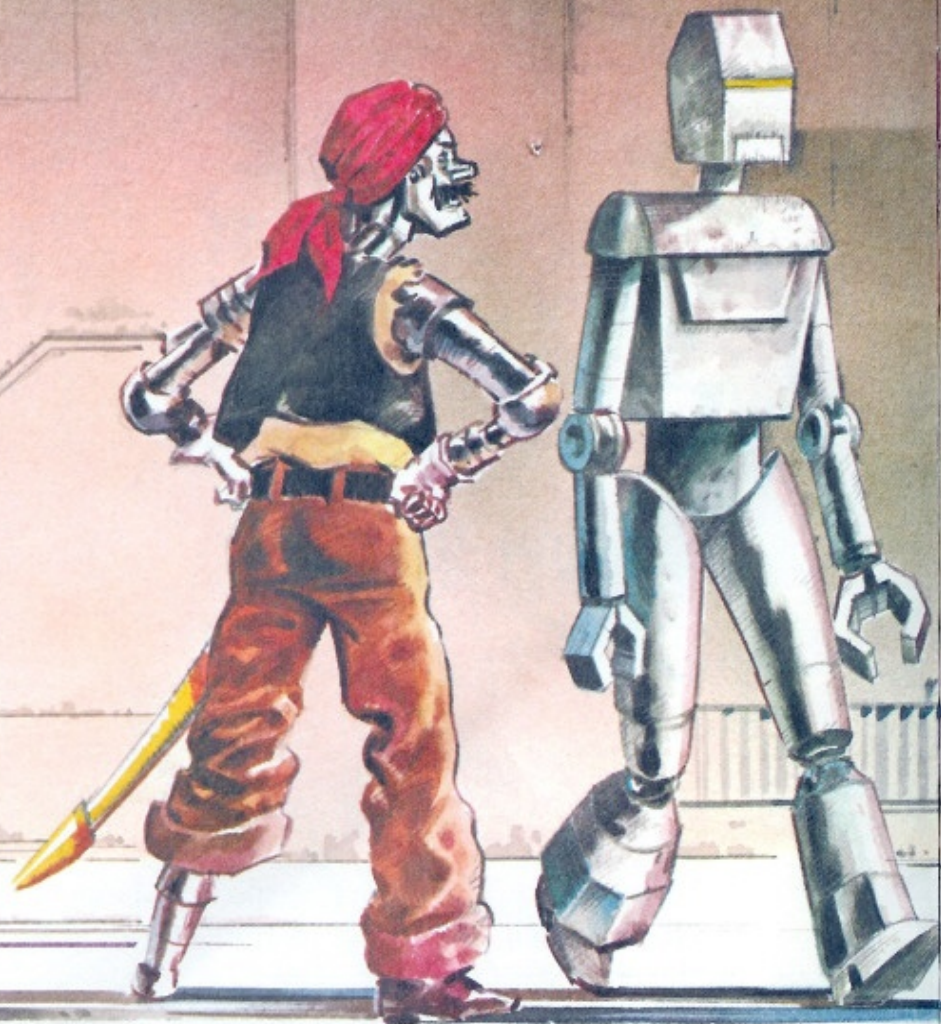




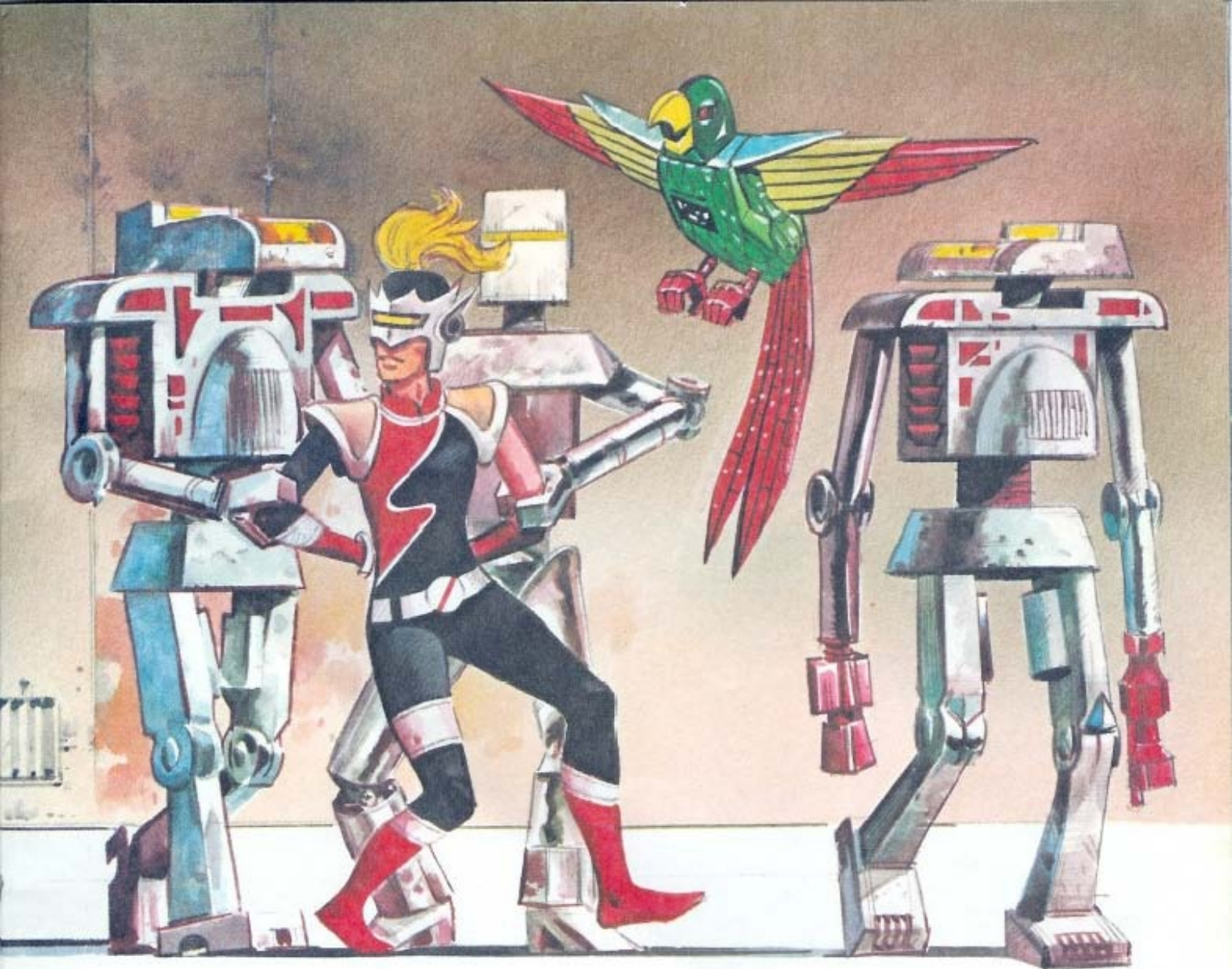
A few minutes later Quickpic spotted Mandora in the prison yard. "Well, well, well," he said as he strolled over to her. "Looks like the cuff is on the other wrist this time, eh?"

"It's your civic duty to assist an officer in distress," Mandora snapped. "I've got to capture Captain Cracker before he—"

"Did you say Captain Cracker?" Quickpic cried, looking around in alarm. "He's the one who's setting us free? He's been after me since I borrowed his favorite eyepatch from the prison metal shop last month—and never returned it. Oh, no! Here he comes!" Quickpic scooted up the flagpole just as Cracker arrived with his robots.



“Ahoy, me pretty!” Cracker said to Mandora. Mandora glared at him. He’d been in prison a long time, and each of his parts had been replaced with makeshift spares from different models. A steel patch covered one eye, and his droopy mustache—made of old filament wires—crackled and sparked as he spoke. He had an electronic cutlass in his sash, and his mechanical parrot fluttered overhead.



"You'll never get away with this," Mandora snarled at him as she struggled against the handcuffs.

"Now, now, me girl. Soon your troubles will be over."

The robots took the cuffs off Mandora and led her away.

"Boil her in oil!" the parrot squawked. "Boil her in oil!"



Back at the Cats' Lair, Mandora's bike finally arrived.
"I don't like you going off alone!" Snarf whined as Lion-O hopped
aboard.

"There's no time to wait," said Lion-O. "When Panthro and the others return from the Thundrillium fields, tell them what's happened. I'll contact you as soon as I can."

"Go with Jaga's luck!" Snarf called as Lion-O soared into the sky.





The first person Lion-O saw when he arrived at the Prison Planet was Quickpic.

"Lion-O!" Quickpic said. "What are you doing here?"

"I got a distress call from Mandora. Have you seen her?"

"I sure have," Quickpic answered. "Captain Cracker is probably boiling her in oil by now."

"What! Come on, we've got to find her!"



"Why don't you just use your sword to find them?" Quickpic asked.
"The Eye of Thundera can't be activated here," said Lion-O, "because of the magnetic field."

"You mean—gulp—we're on our own?" said Quickpic.
"I'm afraid so. Let's keep looking!"

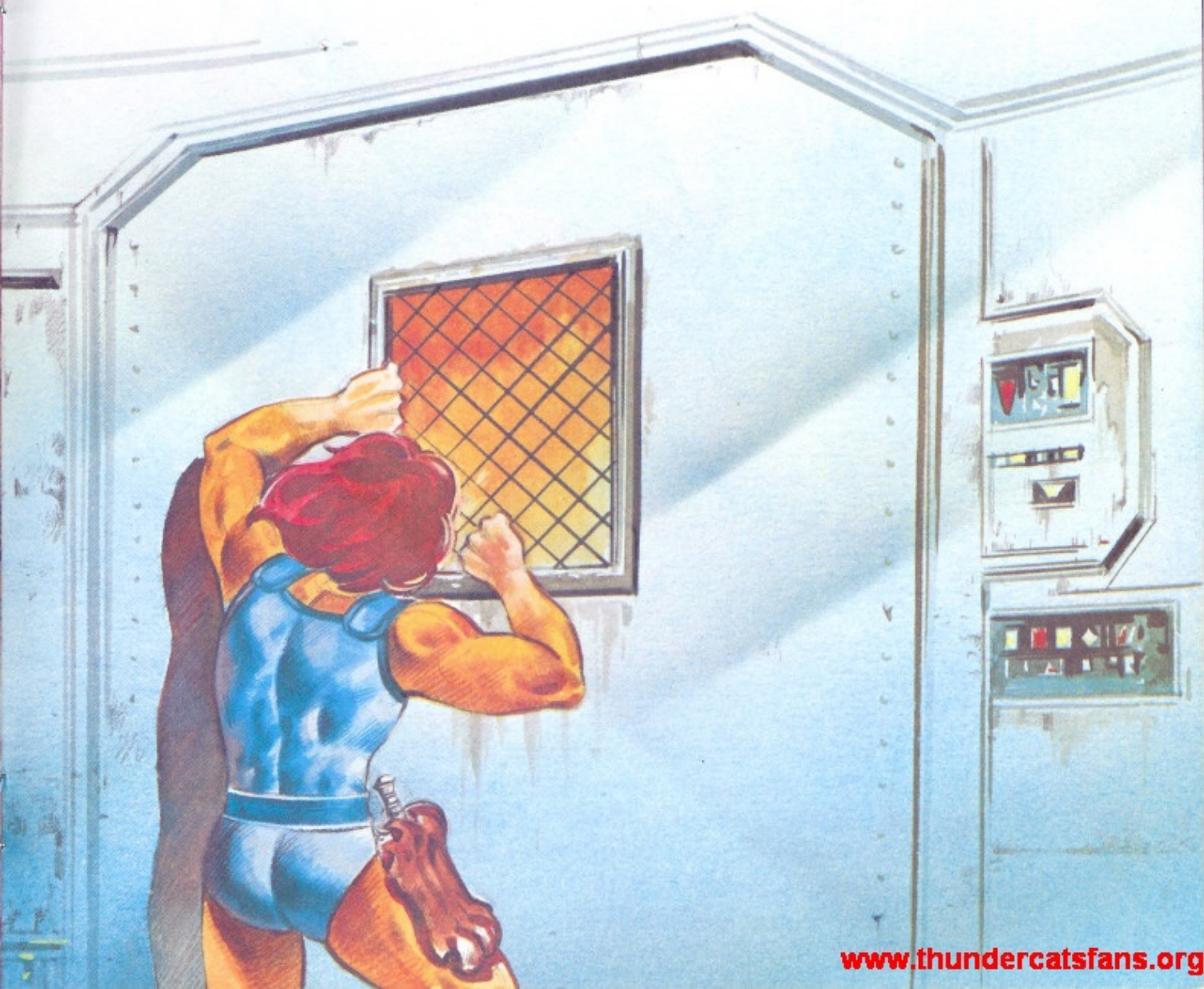
A few minutes later Lion-O and Quickpic found the engine room and stood before a massive wall of control panels. Quickpic pointed to a nearby door. "The dining room is right next door," he said. "From there we'd have access to the whole prison."

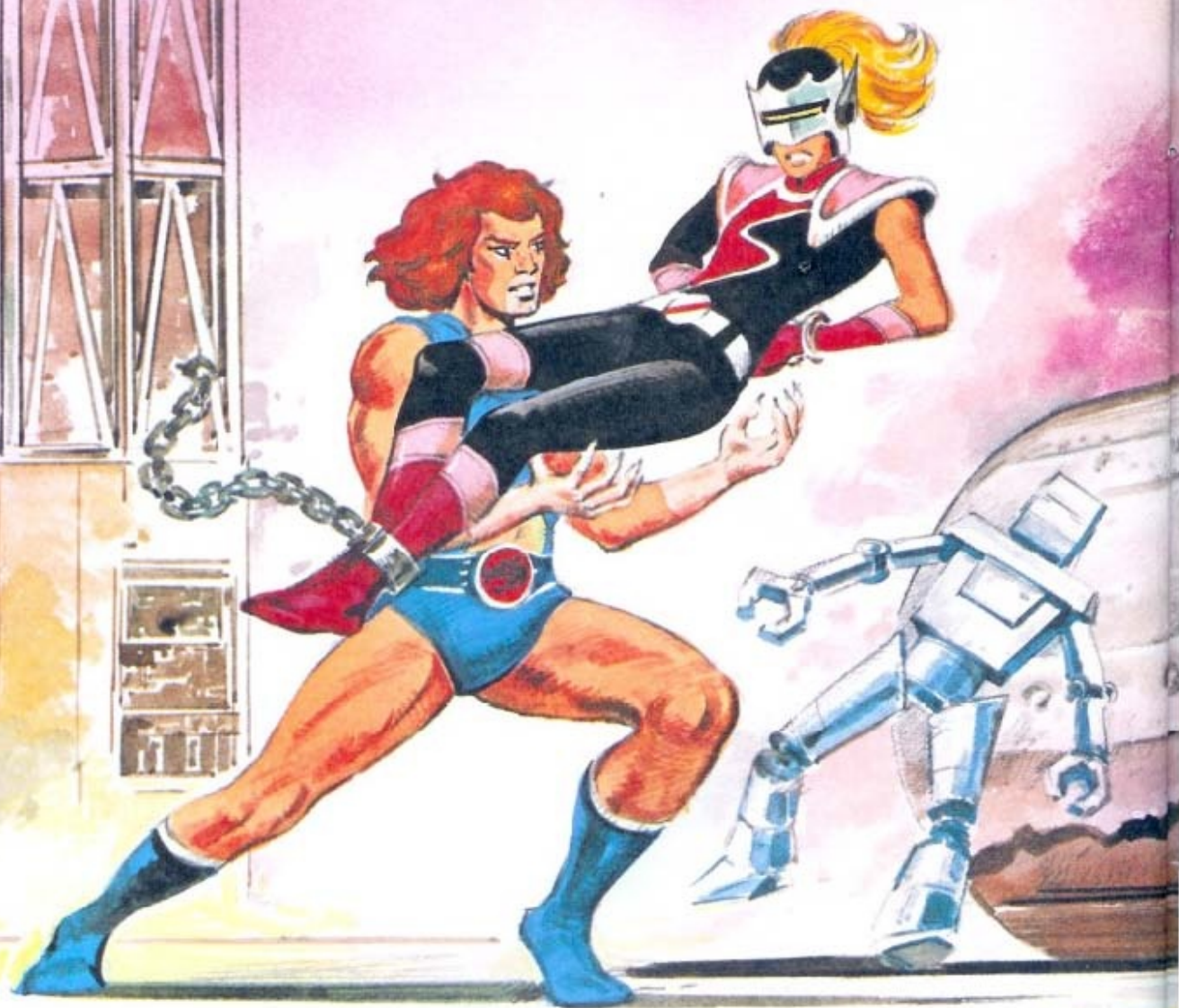
"How do we get in?" asked Lion-O.

"Let's try one of these buttons..." said Quickpic.



Lion-O peered through the door. "Wait a minute.... Great Jaga!
They've got Mandora hung over a pot of boiling oil! *Do something!*"





Frantically, Quickpic hit buttons and pulled levers. Suddenly there was a horrible screech, then a series of bumps like a huge engine shuddering to a stop. In the dining room, everything was thrown sideways. The vat of oil tipped over, and Cracker and the robots tumbled into the far wall.

"You've hit the orbit brake!" Lion-O shouted. "You're bringing the planet to a complete stop! We'll all be thrown off and spun into space!"

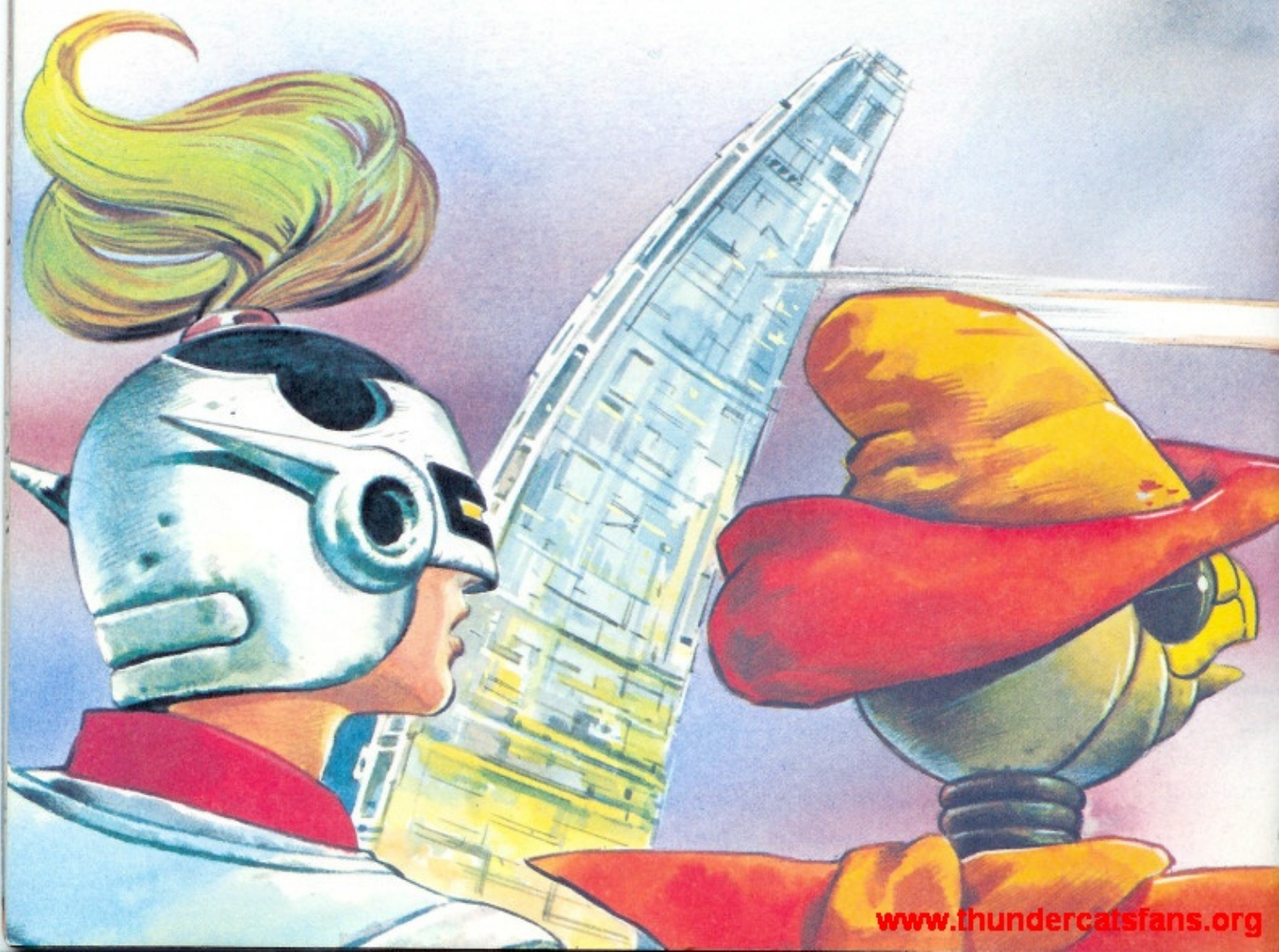


Quickpic hit more buttons, releasing the orbit brake—and also accidentally opening the door to the dining room. Lion-O leaped through the door and flung his sword at the crane. It flew through the air and cut the chain holding Mandora. Lion-O rushed over and caught her as the sword struck the floor and stuck, point down.

Lion-O carried Mandora to the engine room just as the robots were getting to their feet. "Take her!" Lion-O said, handing Mandora over to Quickpic. "I've got to get my sword!"

But before he could, the robots surrounded him and slammed the door in Quickpic's face. Lion-O, held tight by the robots, struggled in vain to reach his sword on the far side of the room.

"To the ship!" Cracker cried.

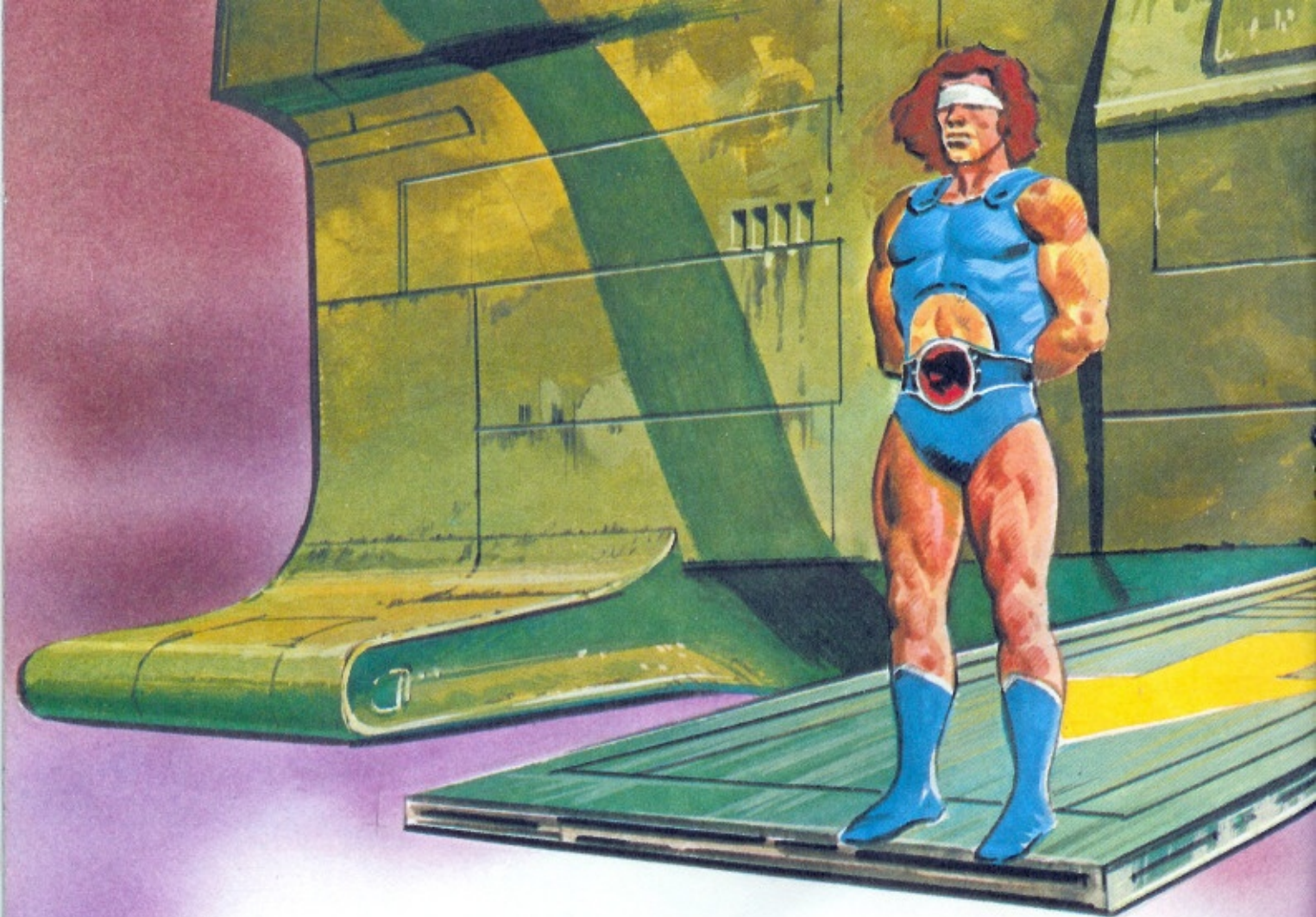




“Hurry!” said Mandora as Quickpic untied her. “If they get Lion-O aboard that ship, we may never see him again!”

They rushed outside, but they were too late. The pirate ship blasted into the sky.

“Let’s go,” said Mandora. “We’ll chase them on my space bike.”



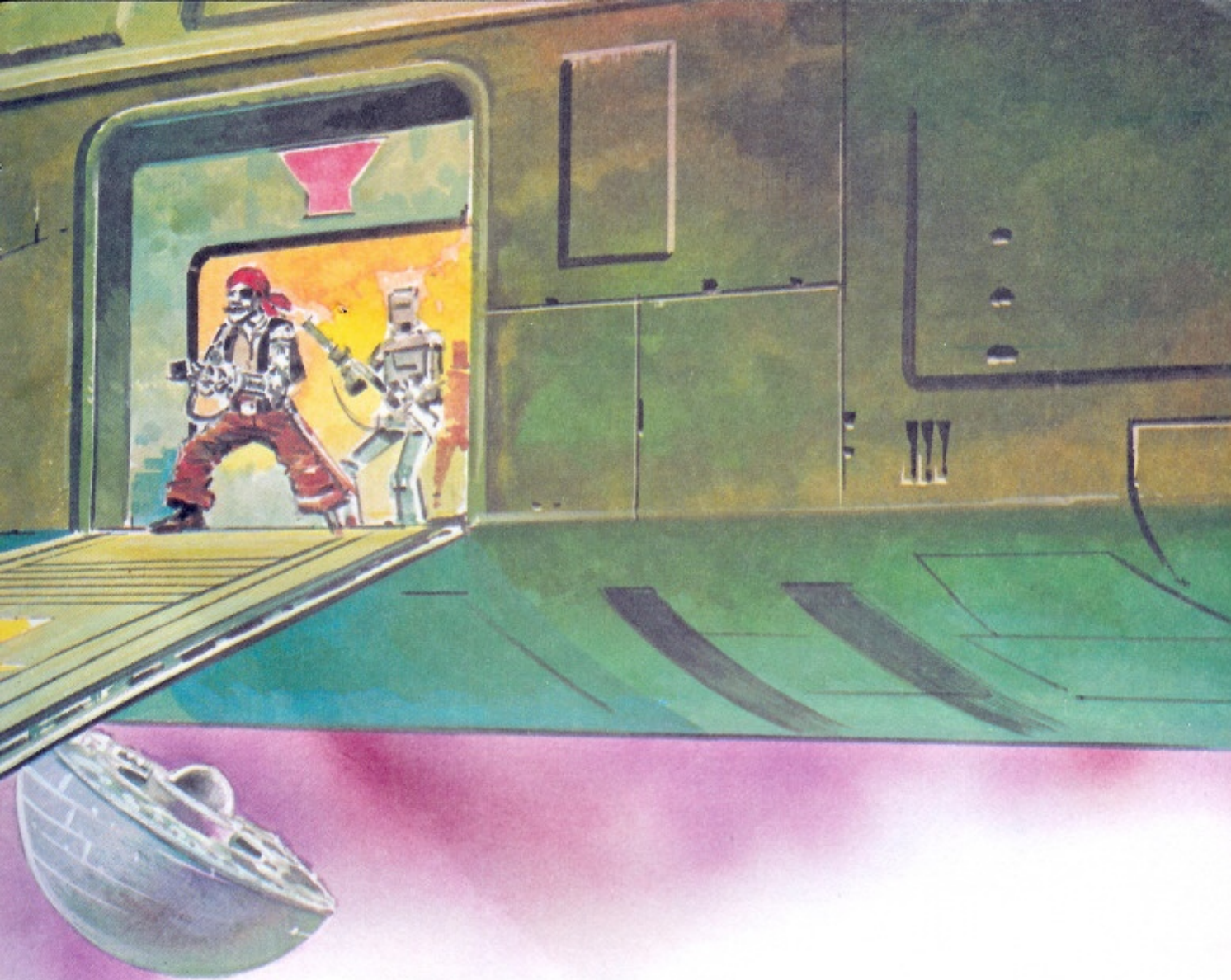
In the pirate ship, Cracker set the controls and turned to Lion-O. "First stop...Third Earth!"

"What!" Lion-O cried.

"That's right," Cracker said. "Tonight the skull and crossbones will be flying over your Cats' Lair. And I've got something special in mind for you, matey."

"Walk the plank! Walk the plank!" screeched the parrot.

"Ahh," said Cracker. "You spoiled my surprise."



Moments later Lion-O found himself at the end of an all too short plank outside the ship. Stretching all around him was nothing but black, empty space.

“Go on, me bucko!” Cracker yelled. “That next step is going to be a big one. Jump or we’ll blast ya!”



Lion-O stepped off the plank, wishing desperately that he hadn't left his sword behind on the Prison Planet. As he fell through space, he heard a familiar sound in the distance. It grew louder, and suddenly Mandora was under him on her space bike! He dropped into the seat between her and Quickpic.



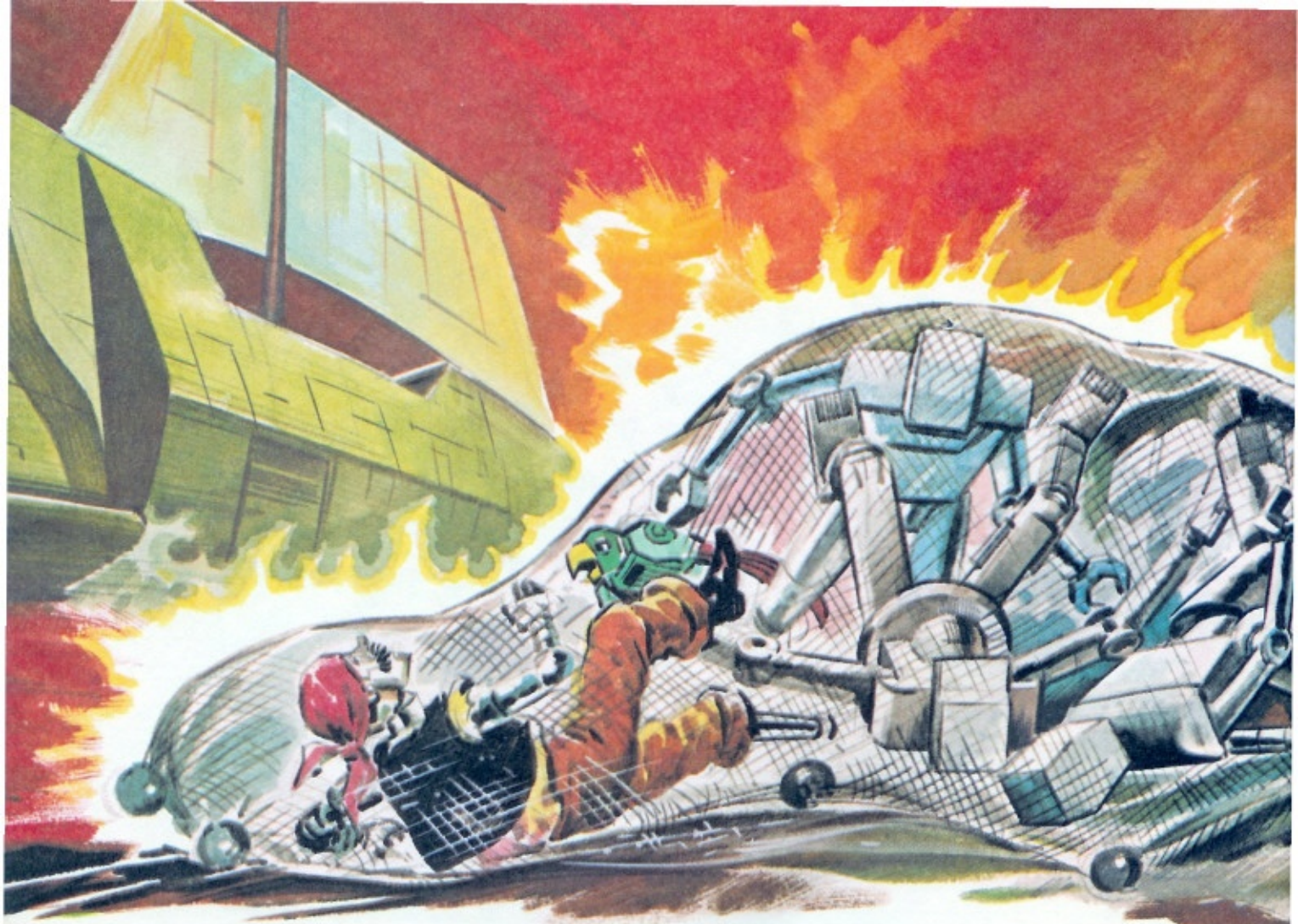
"You... you caught me!" Lion-O said, amazed.

"Of course," Mandora answered, confident as always.

"Cracker is attacking the Cats' Lair," Lion-O said as Quickpic untied him. "And I have no way of warning them!"

Quickpic pulled the Sword from under his cape. "Will this help?"

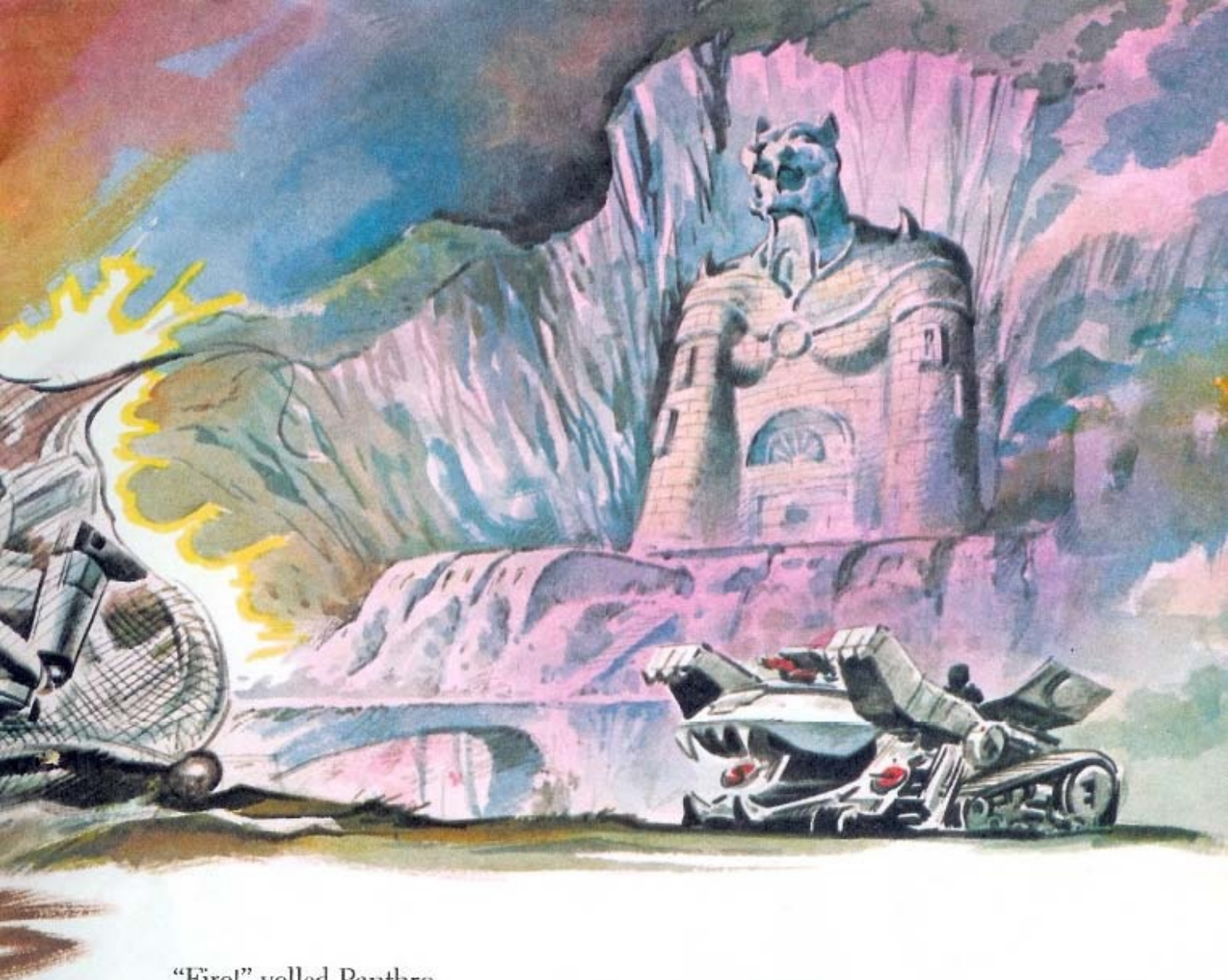
"They don't call you Quickpic for nothing!" said Lion-O. He raised the Sword and cried, "Thunder-Thunder-Thunder-Thundercats—Ho!"



The Thundercats heard Lion-O's cry, and soon the ThunderTank was stationed near the Cats' Lair, its gun barrel projecting. Through his binoculars, Panthro watched the pirate ship approach. "Hold your fire..." he said. "Steady..."

The ship landed with a gentle bump. The hatch opened and Cracker appeared, his cutlass raised. "Attack, mateys!" he yelled, and charged down the gangway with the robots.

"Show no mercy!" the parrot screeched.



“Fire!” yelled Panthro.

Smoke belched from the gun barrel, and a steel net whipped through the air. *Kaflopp!* The net fell over Cracker and the robots, and they landed in a jumbled heap.

“Help!” Cracker cried. “You’ve got your foot in my good eye!”

“All right, mates,” said Panthro with a smile. “We’ve made our catch—reel them in!”

Mandora herded Cracker and his robots back into the pirate ship.
“When you return to the Prison Planet, will Quickpic be pardoned?”

Lion-O asked.

“I may have him paroled in my custody as an assistant,” Mandora said.

“I have a hunch he’d pick up police work quickly.”

“Or anything else that isn’t nailed down!” Cracker muttered.

“And what about Cracker?” asked Lion-O.

“Walk the plank! Walk the plank!” the parrot squawked.

“Traitor!” cried Cracker.



SHIVER ME TIMBERS!

Lion-O, young Lord of the Thundercats, has been captured by the evil pirate Captain Cracker. On board Cracker's spaceship, he's being forced to take a long walk off a short plank—a million miles out in space!

© 1986 Telepix, LCI, T. Wolf

394-89021-3

Random House

\$1.95
www.thundercatsfans.org