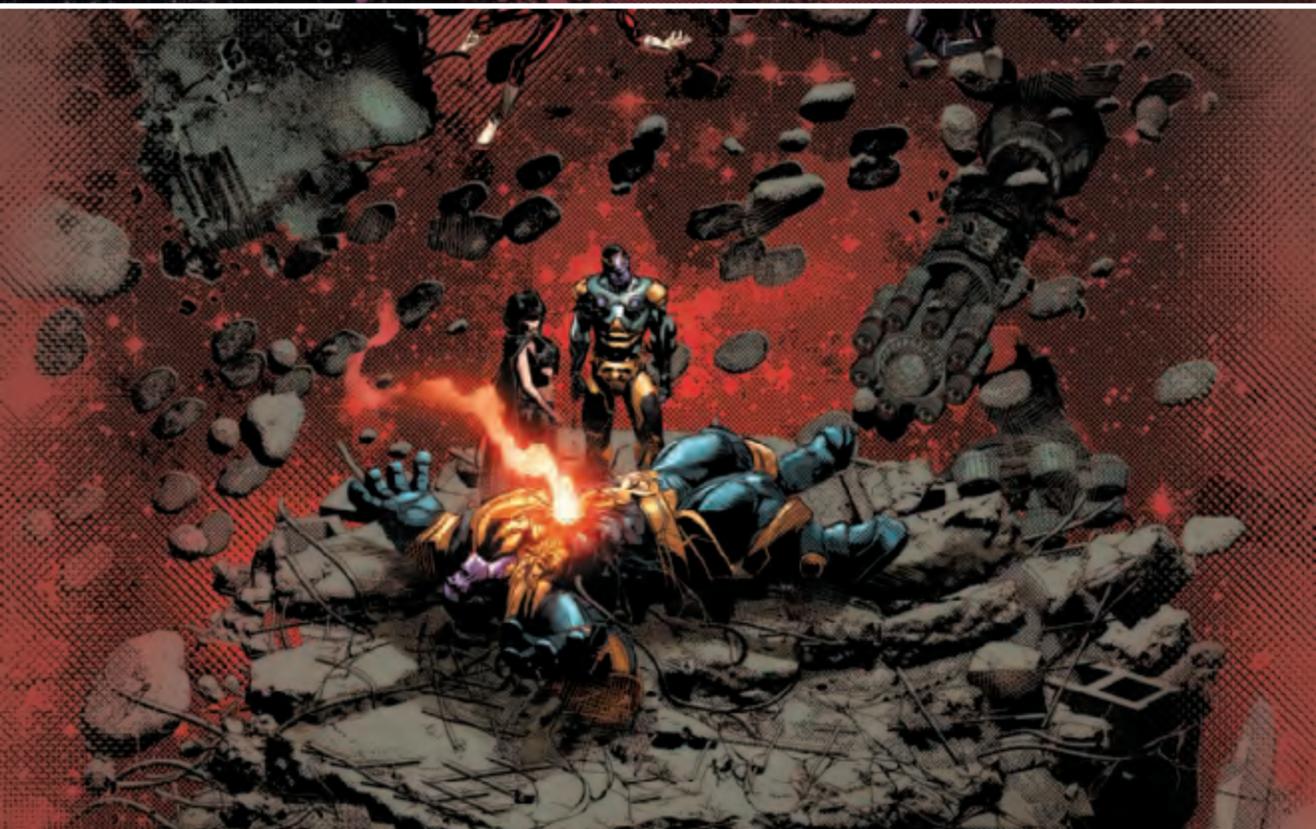


A total obsession with power drives him — to control the forces of the universe.
He is the Mad Titan. He is...

THANOS



Thanos has been imprisoned. Though the Shi'ar Imperial Guard claim this victory, it would have been impossible, if not for the fact that the Mad Titan... is dying. His weakened state and manic search for a cure have left him more vulnerable than ever, and the Shi'ar are not the only ones in the galaxy hoping to take advantage. Thanos' son Thane has formed an alliance with Starfox, Nebula, and Tryco Slatterus — people with no common cause, except to kill Thanos. But only Thane knows the true architect of their plans: Mistress Death.

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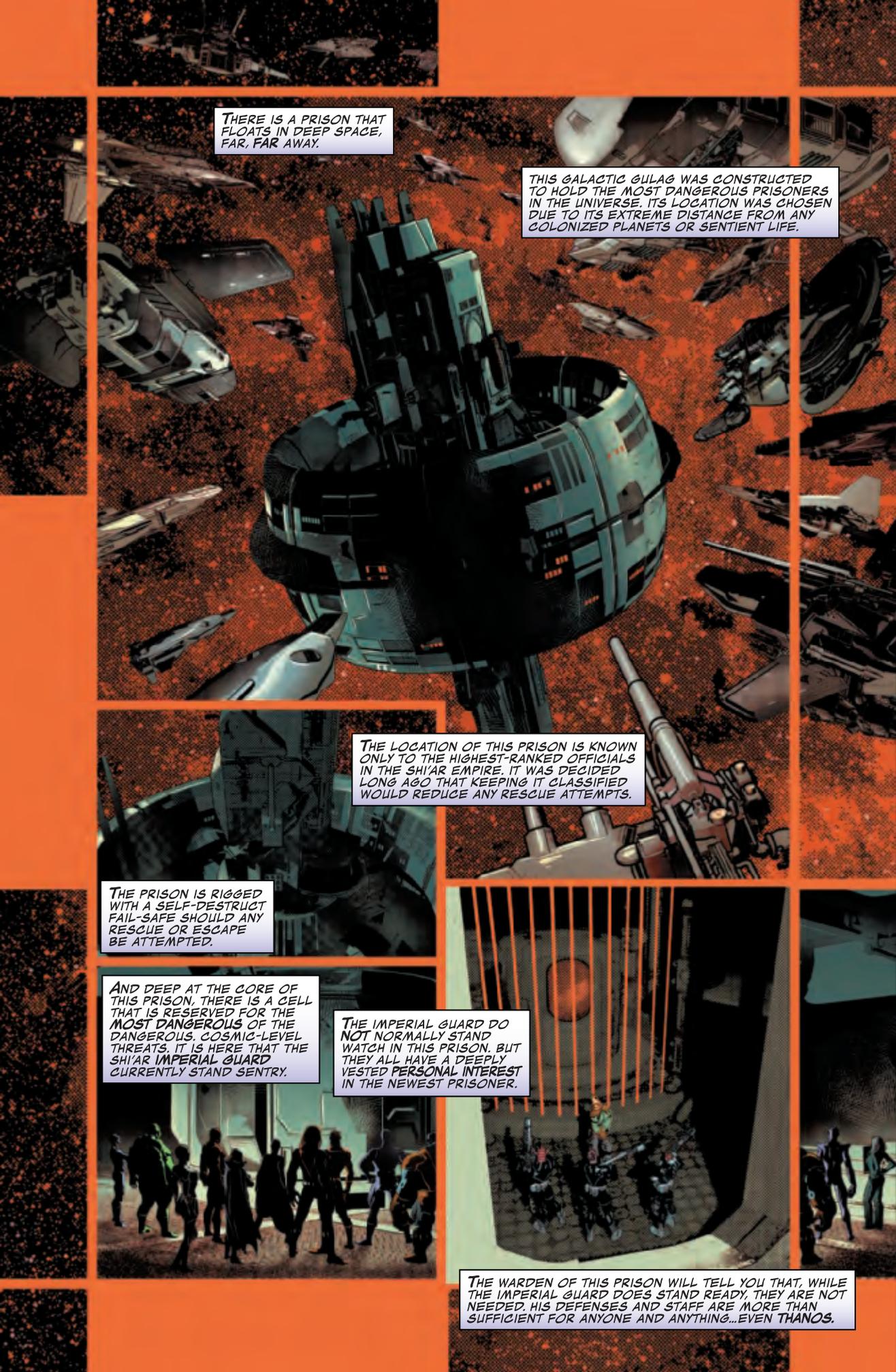
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THERE IS A PRISON THAT FLOATS IN DEEP SPACE, FAR, FAR AWAY.

THIS GALACTIC GULAG WAS CONSTRUCTED TO HOLD THE MOST DANGEROUS PRISONERS IN THE UNIVERSE. ITS LOCATION WAS CHOSEN DUE TO ITS EXTREME DISTANCE FROM ANY COLONIZED PLANETS OR SENTIENT LIFE.

THE LOCATION OF THIS PRISON IS KNOWN ONLY TO THE HIGHEST-RANKED OFFICIALS IN THE SHI'AR EMPIRE. IT WAS DECIDED LONG AGO THAT KEEPING IT CLASSIFIED WOULD REDUCE ANY RESCUE ATTEMPTS.

THE PRISON IS RIGGED WITH A SELF-DESTRUCT FAIL-SAFE SHOULD ANY RESCUE OR ESCAPE BE ATTEMPTED.

AND DEEP AT THE CORE OF THIS PRISON, THERE IS A CELL THAT IS RESERVED FOR THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE DANGEROUS. COSMIC-LEVEL THREATS. IT IS HERE THAT THE SHI'AR IMPERIAL GUARD CURRENTLY STAND SENTRY.

THE IMPERIAL GUARD DO NOT NORMALLY STAND WATCH IN THIS PRISON. BUT THEY ALL HAVE A DEEPLY VESTED PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE NEWEST PRISONER.

THE WARDEN OF THIS PRISON WILL TELL YOU THAT, WHILE THE IMPERIAL GUARD DOES STAND READY, THEY ARE NOT NEEDED. HIS DEFENSES AND STAFF ARE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT FOR ANYONE AND ANYTHING...EVEN THANOS.



THE WARDEN WILL ALSO TELL YOU THAT IT IS HIS JOB NOT ONLY TO CONTAIN THESE PRISONERS, BUT TO ENSURE THEY NEVER POSE A THREAT TO ANYONE, EVER AGAIN...

...TO ENSURE THAT THE FIGHT IS GONE FROM THEM WHEN AND IF THEY EVER LEAVE THIS PLACE.



IN SHORT, IT IS HIS JOB TO BREAK THEM.

WARDEN DAAK, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS FOR YOUR TROPHY ROOM.



HEH. THE HELM OF THANOS. MOST EXCELLENT. THANK YOU, OFFICER GLYK.



CONTACT THE SHI'AR COMMAND. TELL THEM THAT WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE PRISONER AND THAT THEY CAN NOW STAND DOWN. TELL THEM TO CALL THE IMPERIAL GUARD BACK. WE HAVE THE PRISONER FULLY UNDER CONTROL.

ARE YOU CERTAIN, WARDEN? I MEAN, THIS IS TH--

I AM SURE! SEND THE COMMUNICATION NOW.



OF COURSE, SIR. RIGHT AWAY.

I DON'T THINK OUR NEW PRISONER WILL BE CAUSING US MUCH TROUBLE...

"...I DOUBT IF HE
IS EVEN GOING TO
MAKE IT THROUGH
THE NIGHT."

