



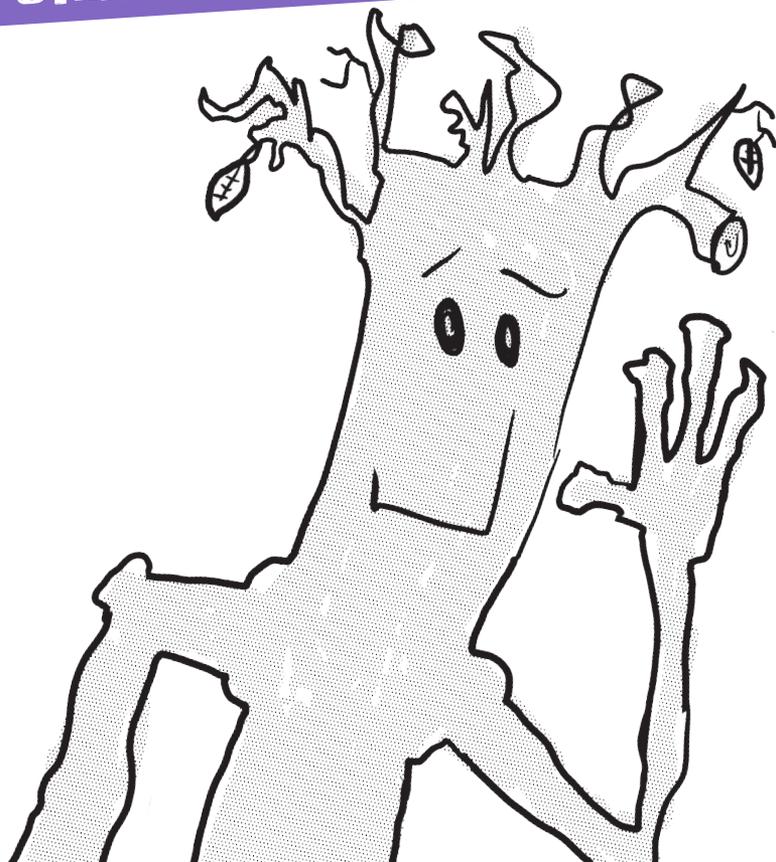
ROCKET
AND **GROOT**

by TOM ANGLEBERGER

Special Guest
JOHN ROCCO

AND GROOT

STRANDED ON PLANET STRIP MALL!



**This book is dedicated to Bill Mantlo
and Keith Giffen, the incredible Marvel
storytellers and cocreators of
Rocket Raccoon.**





SHIP



AFTER AN EPIC BATTLE
WITH A SWARM



OF **GIANT**



SPACE

PIRANHAS,

OUR HEROES, ROCKET AND GROOT,

HAVE BEEN **SHIPWRECKED** ON A SMALL,

MYSTERIOUS, RATHER ANNOYING UNCHARTED PLANET

WRECKED!



**THEY ARE BADLY INJURED FROM THE FIGHT—AND
THE CRASH LANDING THAT FOLLOWED.**

**THEY HAVE NO SHIP, NO GUNS, NO MONEY, NO
FOOD, AND NO WATER.**

ALL THEY HAVE IS EACH OTHER . . .

. . . AND A TAPE DISPENSER.*

* It's a really good tape dispenser: latest model, makes its own tape, HHHHD touch screen, artificially intelligent, purple with sparkles.

CAPTAIN'S LOG

1





INTRODUCTION



Captain's Log . . . This is Captain Rocket.
Groot and I have just been shipwrecked after a—

I AM GROOT.

Dude, I am trying to record my Captain's Log here!
Okay . . . Captain's Log. This is Captain Rocket.
We have been shipwrecked—

I AM GROOT.



What? What is it? What is so important that you have to keep interrupting my Captain's Log about the shipwreck?



I AM GROOT!



Oh . . . yeah . . . I forgot, the Captain's Log recorder was on the ship . . . which was wrecked. Well, that's just great! Now how am I supposed to record my Captain's Log? We don't even have a pencil! All we've got is . . . uh, this tape dispenser.

((•BING•)) HELLO, SMALL WOODLAND CREATURE! I AM READY TO TAPE THINGS FOR YOU! HOW MUCH TAPE DO YOU NEED?

Well, actually, now that you mention it, I could use some tape! How 'bout enough to wrap around my head twenty times like a big bandage! And then some more for my leg, some for my tail, and I guess I'll need a piece for my—

((•BING•)) I'M SORRY. MY TAPE IS NOT APPROVED FOR MEDICAL USE, UNLESS THIS IS AN EMERGENCY. IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE SAY "EMERGENCY."

EMERGENCY? Of course it's an **emergency!!!**
I've just been gnawed on by a swarm of killer space
piranhas!

((((•BING•))) YES, I AM AWARE OF THAT. YOU WERE USING
ME TO HIT THE SPACE PIRANHAS ON
THE HEAD.

Right, so—

((((•BING•))) THAT WAS ALSO AN UNAPPROVED USE.

Look, would ya just give me some tape?

((((•BING•))) HOW MUCH TAPE DO YOU NEED?

I already told you! Enough to wrap around my head
like a bandage!

(((•BING•)))

I'M SORRY. MY TAPE IS NOT APPROVED FOR MEDICAL USE—

How about getting shoved in a garbage disposal? Is that an approved use, you lousy piece of—

I AM GROOT.

Okay, Groot. You think YOU can get some tape out of this thing? Go right ahead!

I AM GROOT.



(((•BING•)))

HELLO, GIANT TREE MAN! I AM READY TO TAPE THINGS FOR YOU! HOW MUCH TAPE DO YOU NEED?

I AM GROOT.

((•BING•)) CERTAINLY!

sound of 5.5 feet of tape dispensing

Thanks, Groot! Would you mind wrapping me up?

**sound of a large tree man wrapping a
small woodland creature's head with 5.5 feet
of tape**

Watch the whiskers!

I AM GROOT...

Ah, thanks, buddy. . . . That feels better.

I AM GROOT...

Uh, no. I am not doing that.

I AM GROOT.



C'mon! Don't make me do it!

I AM GROOT.

Okay, okay . . . Uh, Tape Dispenser, Groot wants me to thank you for saving our lives by wrapping us in a big ball of tape just before we crash-landed on this strange uncharted planet.

(((•BING•))) YOU ARE WELCOME, SMALL WOODLAND CREATURE.

Would you stop calling me that! **My name is Rocket!**

(((•BING•))) HELLO, ROCKET. YOU MAY CALL ME VERONICA™.

Veronica?



(((•BING•))) ACTUALLY, IT'S **VERONICA™** . . .
A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF TIMELY
INC., THE GALAXY'S MOST TRUSTED
SOURCE FOR HIGH-QUALITY OFFICE
PRODUCTS AND—

Good grief. Look, *Veronica*, any chance you got a pencil so I can write down my Captain's Log?

(((•BING•))) I DO NOT HAVE A PENCIL, HOWEVER I AM
ABLE TO RECORD YOUR CAPTAIN'S LOG.

You can record what I'm saying?

(((•BING•))) YES. IN FACT, I HAVE RECORDED EVERYTHING
THAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE I LEFT THE
FACTORY IN FOUR-DIMENSIONAL HOLOGRAPHIC
SURROUND HHHHD VIDEO.

Whoa, so you've got holograms of the piranha attack? I definitely want to put that in my Captain's Log! **It'll go viral!**

((((•BING•))) UNFORTUNATELY, MY HOLOGRAM PROCESSOR WAS DAMAGED WHEN YOU USED ME TO BEAT THE PIRANHAS OVER THE HEAD.

Er . . . sorry about that. . . How about some just regular videos?

((((•BING•))) UNFORTUNATELY, MY VIDEO PROCESSOR WAS DAMAGED WHEN YOU—

Again, real sorry, but how about some photos?

((((•BING•))) UNFORTUNATELY, MY CAMERA WAS—

Yeah, yeah, wah, wah, real sad. Listen, does anything still work?

((((•BING•))) I DO HAVE A DOODLE APP.

Doodle?

(((•BING•))) CORRECT. YOU CAN USE MY TOUCH SCREEN TO DRAW PICTURES.

Really? Let me try!



I AM GROOT...

Hold on a minute, Groot. . . . I'll draw you next!

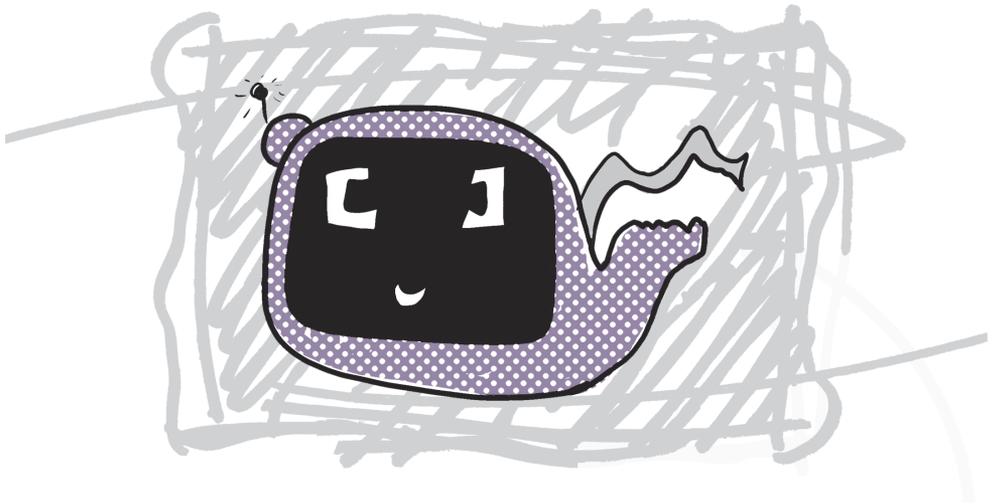


Not bad, huh, Groot?

I AM —



Hold that thought a second. As long as I'm on a roll, I may as well draw Veronica, too.



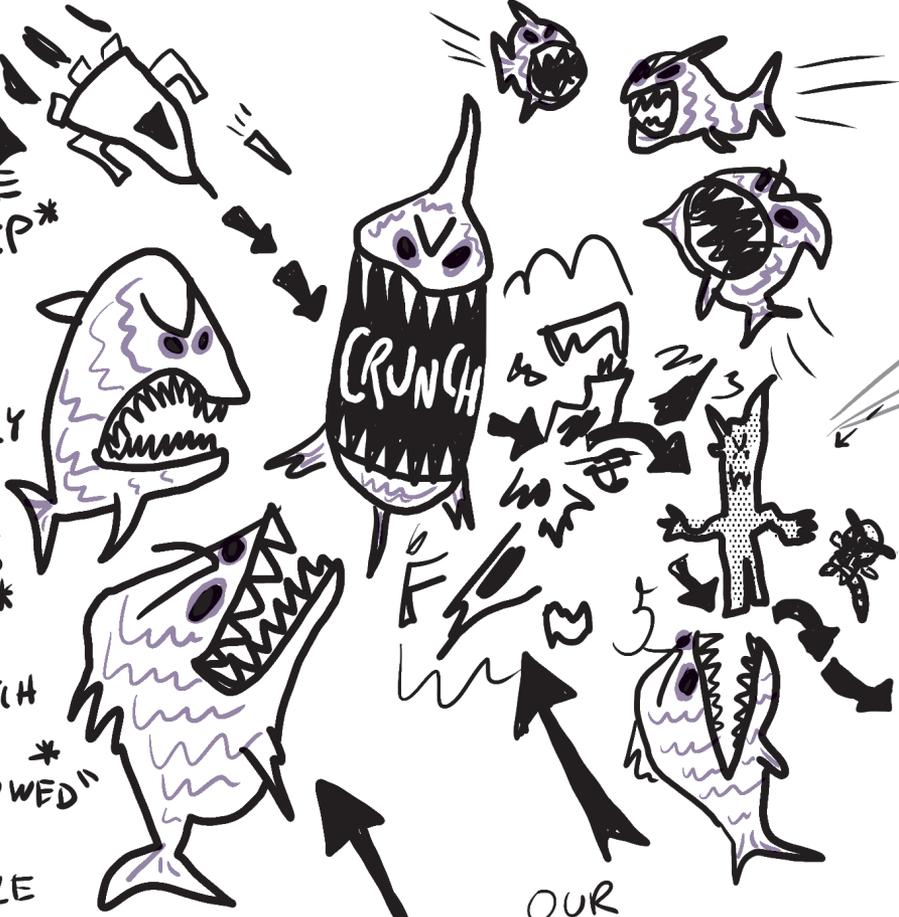
I ... AM ... GROOT ...

I know, I know. We're desperate to find food, water, shelter, and weapons on this strange uncharted planet. Blah, blah, blah. Just gimme a minute to draw up the space-battle scene. . . .

I AM GROOT.

Can you hold on a minute, buddy? I didn't get the piranhas' eyes quite right. . . .

US
IN
A
SPACE
SHIP*



* A
REALLY
LAME
SPACE
SHIP*

* WHICH
WE
"BORROWED"

* STOLE

MALTHUSIAN
SPACE
PIRANHAS

OUR
BUSTED
UP
SPACE SHIP*

* A REALLY
LAME SPACE SHIP!



I AM GROOT.

Oh, yeah . . . you need to find water to heal up before you disintegrate into a pile of splinters. Sorry, pal, it slipped my mind.

I AM GROOT.

I said I was sorry! Don't get huffy!

I AM GROOT.



Okay then, let's do this! Tape Dispenser, make sure you're still recording, because things are about to get nuts! **They don't know it yet,**

but this planet now belongs to Rocket and Groot!



**((•BING•)) AND VERONICA™
THE TAPE
DISPENSER!!!!**

Uh, yeah, right . . . you, too, I guess.

