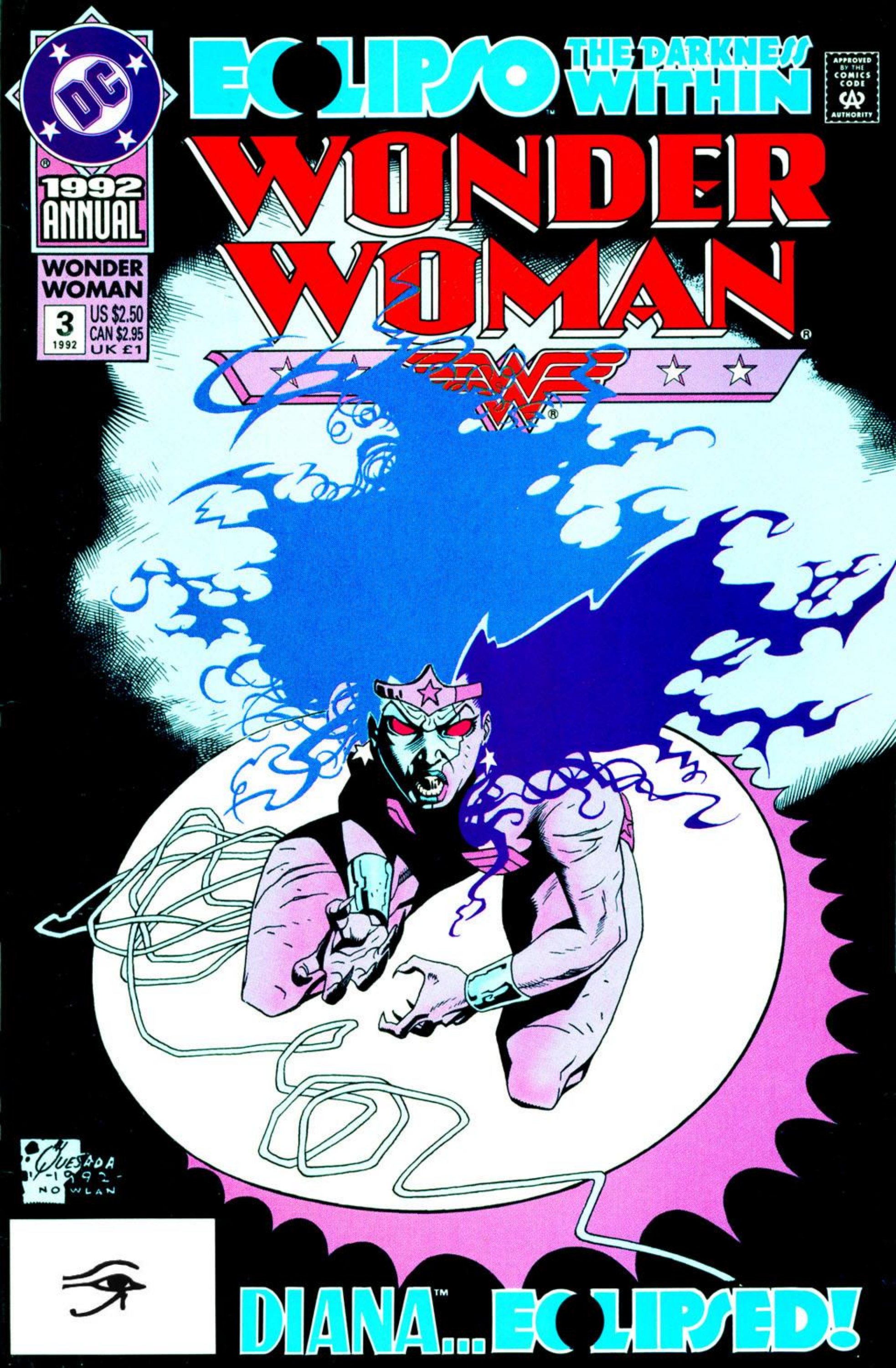
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WONDER WOMAN
QUESADA -1992- NO WLAN
DIANA... ECLIPSED!

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SHADOWS AND ECLIPSES

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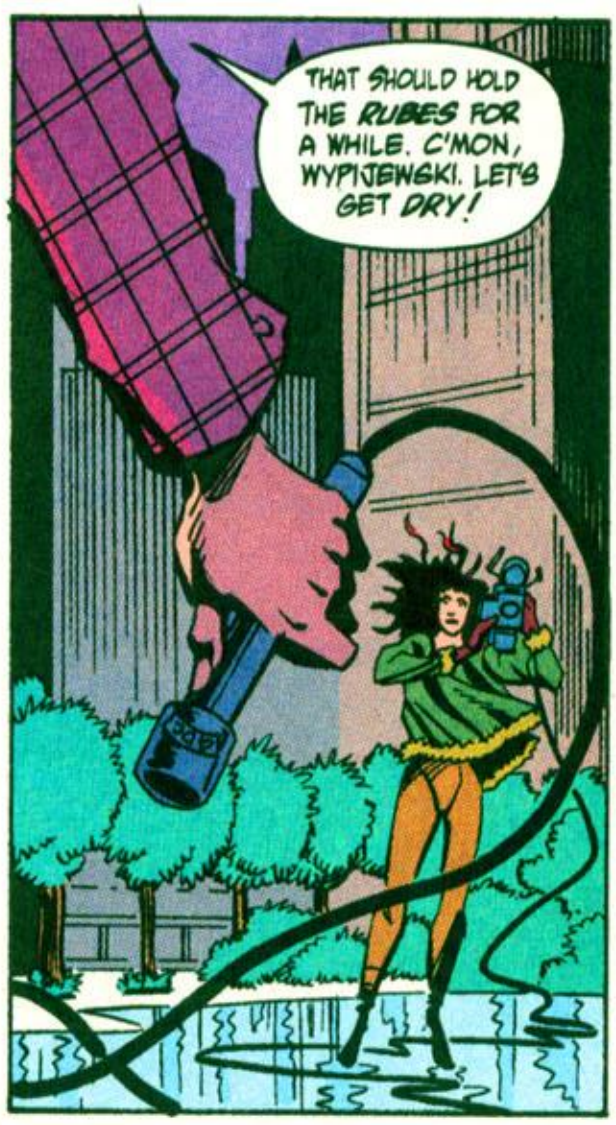
WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

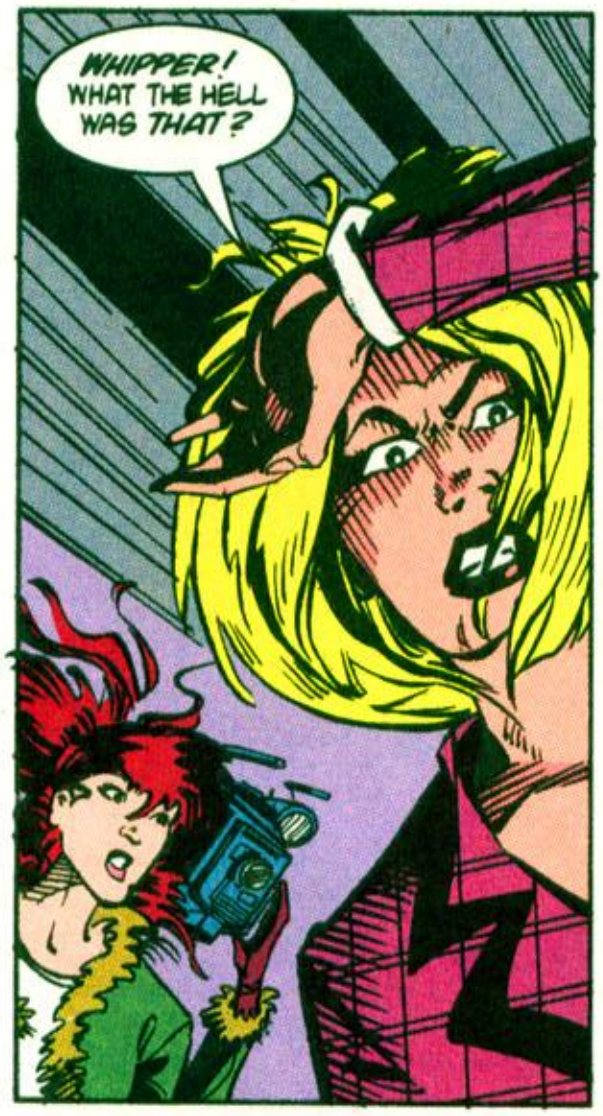
"IMAGINE WHAT SHE WOULD HAVE TO DO...
"FIGHTING UPWARD AGAINST THE BLAST...
"USING THE SLICK, COLD BRICK AND GLASS EXTERIOR AS A LADDER...
"BECAUSE SHE CAN'T FLY.

"RIGGED AT THE TOP OF THE BUILDING WHERE THIS HOSTAGE DRAMA IS PLAYING ITSELF OUT, IS A MACHINE WHICH NEGATES THE FRICTION BETWEEN AIR MOLECULES.
"WITH NO FRICTION, AN AIRPLANE WOULD FALL OUT OF THE SKY, AND ANY METAHUMAN WHO DEPENDS ON AIR LIFT IS GROUNDED!
"THE RESULT IS A DRASTIC LOW-PRESSURE AREA, CAUSING THIS MASSIVE WATER SPOUT!"

WONDER WOMAN VANISHED INTO THE MAELSTROM OVER AN HOUR AGO. THE POLICE ARE HELPLESS.
AND IT WOULD APPEAR THE HOSTAGES ARE DOOMED. THIS IS CASSIE ARNOLD, WTBN EYEWITNESS NEWS.


THAT SHOULD HOLD THE RUBES FOR A WHILE. C'MON, WYPIJEWSKI. LET'S GET DRY!

FRRLRRSSHH


WHIPPER! WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

EXCUSE ME, LADIES...

I MEANT NO OFFENSE...

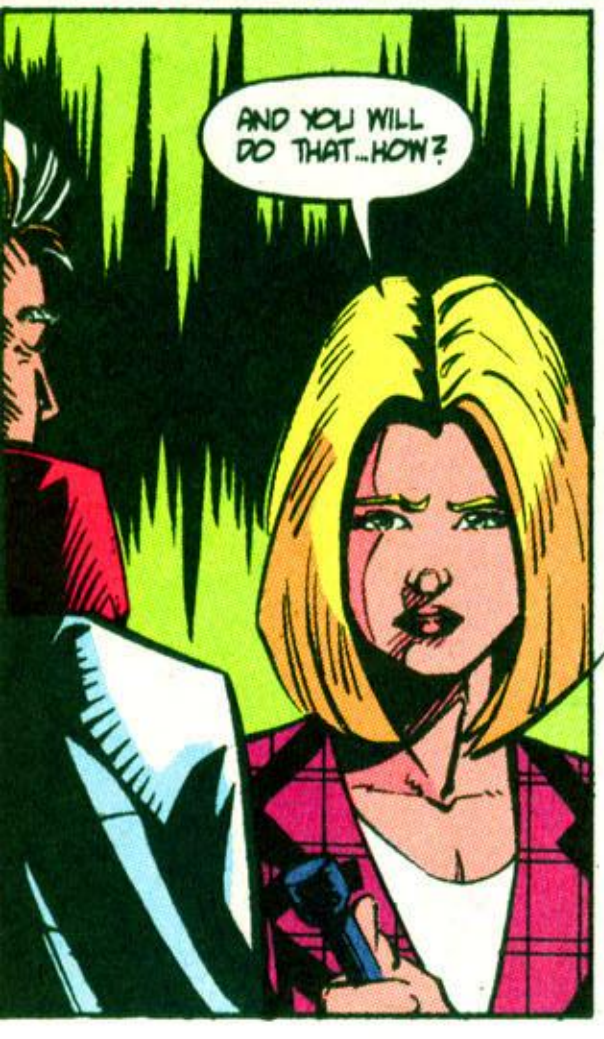
MY NAME IS ASQUITH RANDOLPH...
MEN CALL ME THE WHITE MAGICIAN!
JEEZ.

WEREN'T YOU KNOWN IN THE 1940'S AS...?
...MR. MAGIK. YES.
I RETIRED HERE TO BOSTON, BUT IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY, EVERY CITIZEN MUST DO HIS PART!
HAVE YOU FOUGHT THIS "ALTERED STRAIN" GROUP BEFORE?

NO, THEY WERE FORMED AFTER THE INVASION...CARRIERS OF THE METAGENE WHO MANIFEST NO POWERS!
THEY SEE THEMSELVES AS NATURAL LEADERS, AND WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO FIND A WAY TO TURN ON ALL METAGENES!
WHIPPER, TURN ON THE PICTURE MACHINE, I WANT TO CATCH THIS!

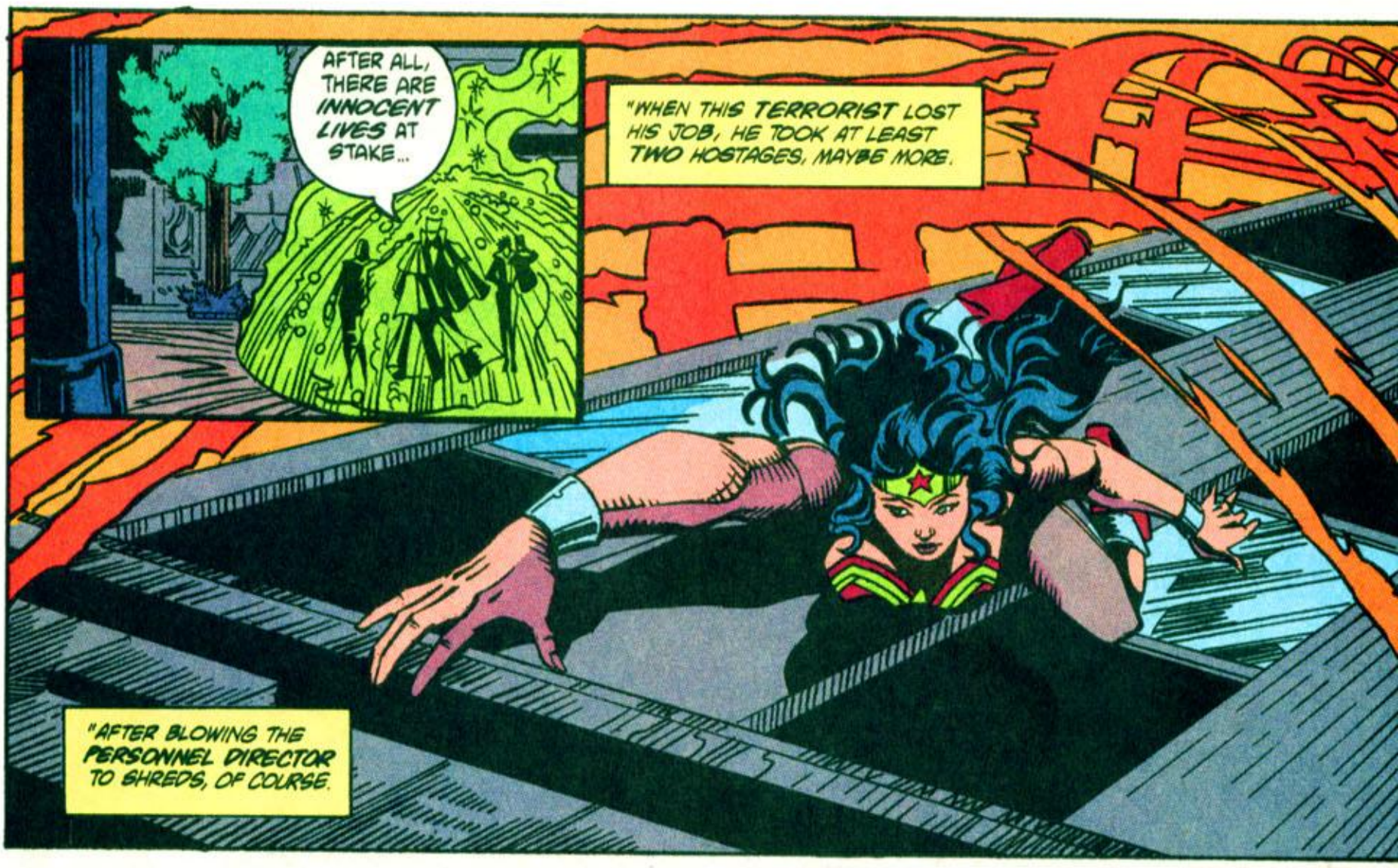
AND HOW DO YOU INTEND TO STOP THIS MAN?

LIKE ALL TERRORISTS, HE USES FEAR TO EXPRESS HIS PARASITIC DESIRES! IT'S TIME HE TASTED FEAR HIMSELF!


AND YOU WILL DO THAT...HOW?

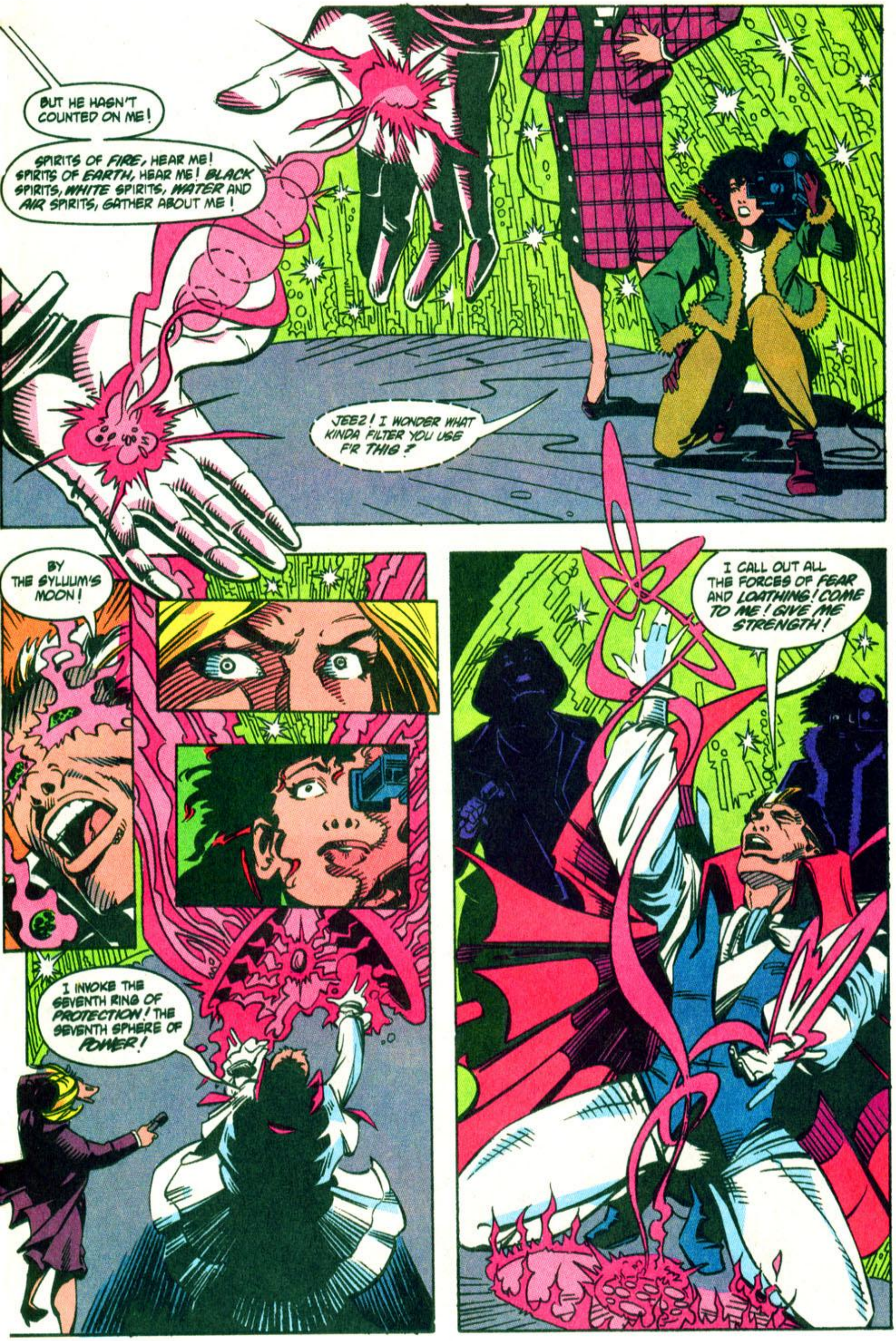
THROUGH MY ARTS. I CAN TAP INTO THE MYSTIC ENERGIES THAT FLOW THROUGH ALL THINGS!

I WILL REACH INTO HIS SOUL, RIP WHAT HE FEARS MOST FROM THE DEPTHS OF HIS BOWELS, AND CHOKE HIM WITH IT!

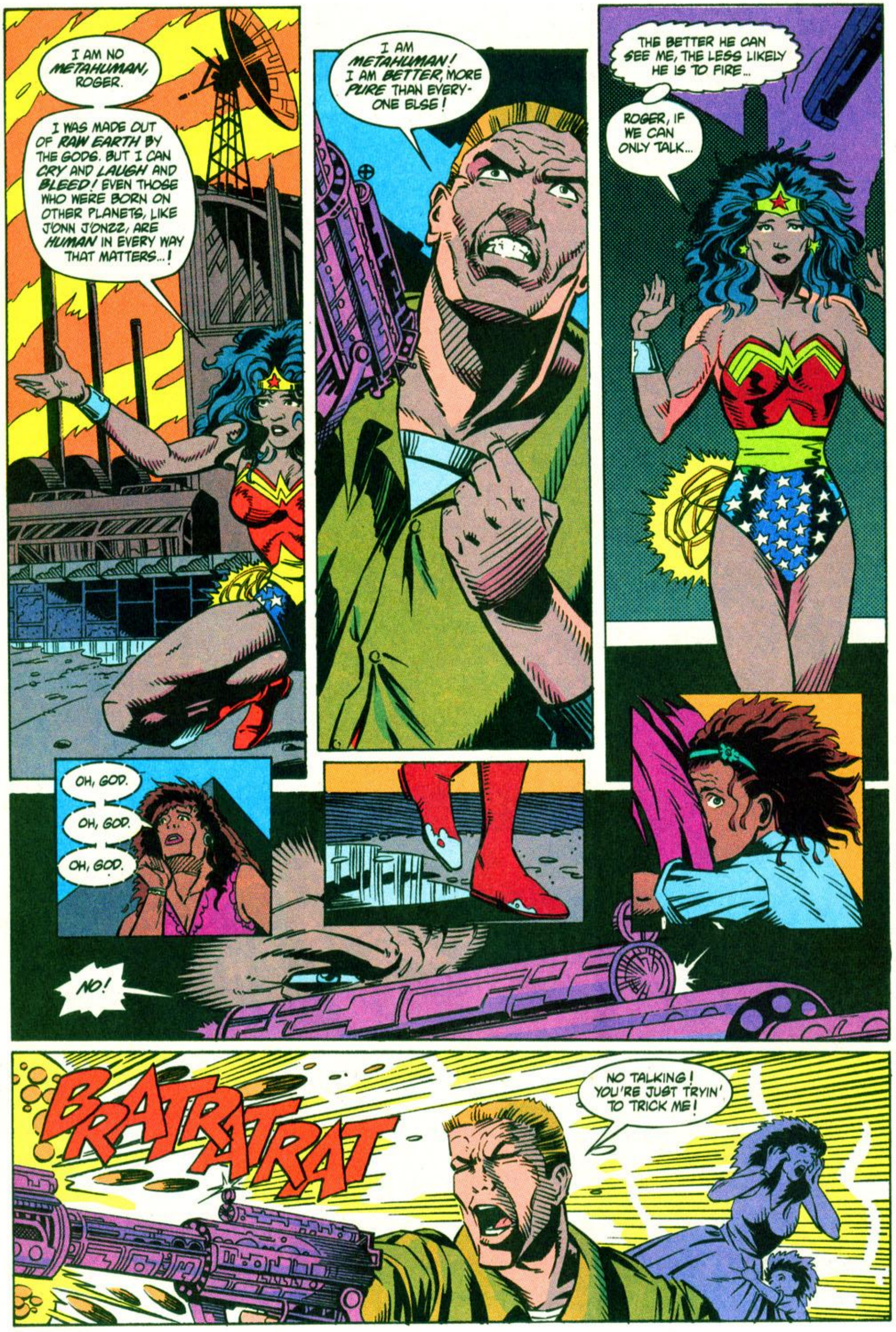

AFTER ALL, THERE ARE INNOCENT LIVES AT STAKE...
"WHEN THIS TERRORIST LOST HIS JOB, HE TOOK AT LEAST TWO HOSTAGES, MAYBE MORE.
"AFTER BLOWING THE PERSONNEL DIRECTOR TO SHREDS, OF COURSE.

"WE THINK HE HAS THE ASSISTANT MARKETING DIRECTOR AND HER LITTLE GIRL UP THERE, ALONG WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED POUNDS OF HIGH-TECH WEAPONRY.
"HE'S MINED THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING AND WITH HIS ANTI-FRICTION GENERATOR SET-UP, HE CAN'T BE SURPRISED FROM ABOVE.
"HE'S THOUGHT OF EVERY-THING.

"I'M SURE HE THINKS HE'S UNREACHABLE."


BUT HE HASN'T COUNTED ON ME!
SPIRITS OF FIRE, HEAR ME! SPIRITS OF EARTH, HEAR ME! BLACK SPIRITS, WHITE SPIRITS, WATER AND AIR SPIRITS, GATHER ABOUT ME!
JEEZ! I WONDER WHAT KINDA FILTER YOU USE FIR THIS?
BY THE SYLLUM'S MOON!
I INVOKE THE SEVENTH RING OF PROTECTION! THE SEVENTH SPHERE OF POWER!
I CALL OUT ALL THE FORCES OF FEAR AND LOATHING! COME TO ME! GIVE ME STRENGTH!

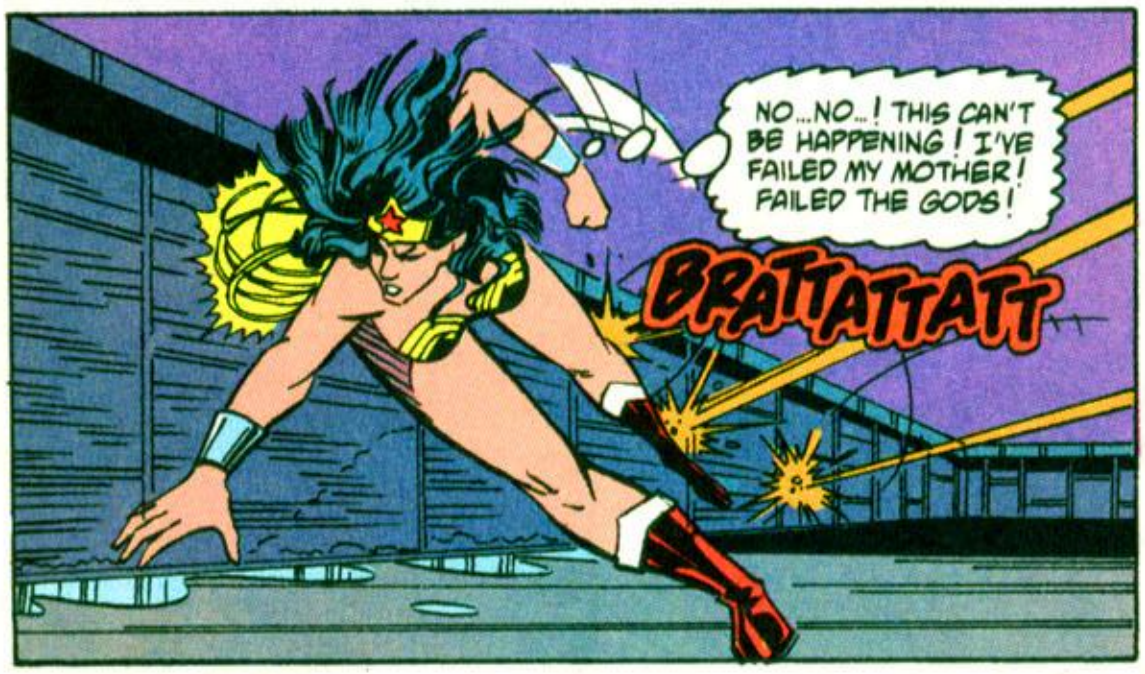
"DESTROY MY ENEMY!"
WHO'S THAT? HOW DID YOU GET UP HERE?
MAMA?
HUSH, SWEETIE...
I AM DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA. I'VE COME TO HELP YOU, ROGER OAKLEY.
NO!! YOU'RE A DAMN TRAITOR! A LIAR! YOU SERVE HUMANS, NOT METAHUMANS!
WE ARE THE FUTURE OF EARTH! WE CARRY THE POWER GENE!
BUT HUMANS ARE ALLOWED TO DEBASE US... HUMILIATE US!
ROGER, YOU HAVE TO STOP THIS!
THE PATH YOU ARE ON LEADS ONLY TO DEATH!


I AM NO METAHUMAN, ROGER.
I WAS MADE OUT OF RAW EARTH BY THE GODS. BUT I CAN CRY AND LAUGH AND BLEED! EVEN THOSE WHO WERE BORN ON OTHER PLANETS, LIKE J'ONN J'ONZZ, ARE HUMAN IN EVERY WAY THAT MATTERS...!
I AM METAHUMAN! I AM BETTER, MORE PURE THAN EVERY-ONE ELSE!
THE BETTER HE CAN SEE ME, THE LESS LIKELY HE IS TO FIRE...
ROGER, IF WE CAN ONLY TALK...
OH, GOD.
OH, GOD.
OH, GOD.
NO!
BRATATRAT
NO TALKING! YOU'RE JUST TRYIN' TO TRICK ME!

BRATRAT RAT
PTANG!
UGGHH
MY WRIST FEELS BROKEN! THAT RIFLE MUST FIRE SOME KIND OF ROCKET SHELL!
YOU...YOU STOPPED THAT BULLET...!
AND I WILL KEEP DEFLECTING THEM, ROGER!
I WILL NOT LET YOU KILL ANYMORE.
YOU CAN'T STOP ME!
EVEN IF I DIE, THE METAHUMAN CAUSE WILL GAIN STRENGTH FROM MY BLOOD!
THE ONLY REAL STRENGTH COMES FROM KINDNESS AND MERCY! YOU KNOW THAT, ROGER.

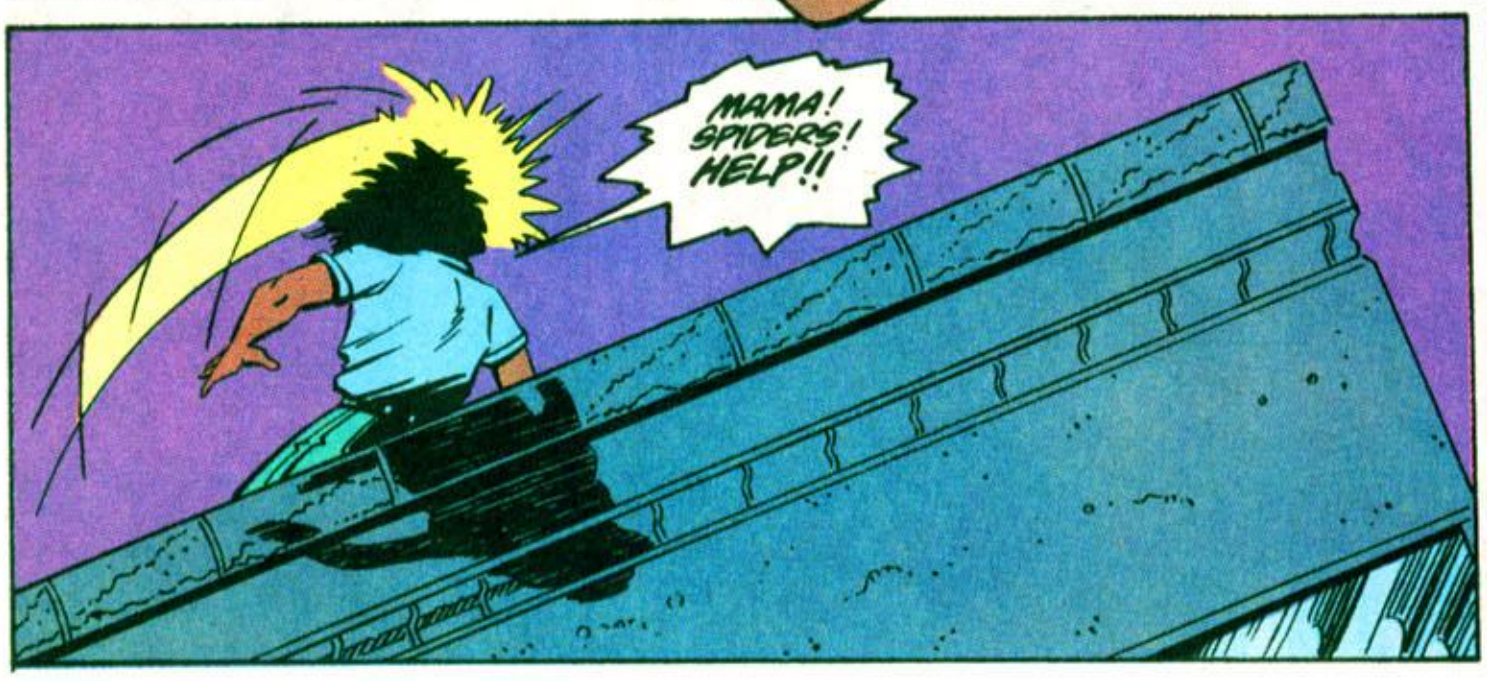
BUT METAHUMANS ARE BETTER. STRONGER. FASTER. WE DESERVE...
NOTHING. I COULD BREAK YOUR SPINE OVER MY KNEE, BUT WOULD THAT MAKE ME RIGHT? NO.
"AT LAST THE SPELL IS SET! I FEEL THE POWER CUT THROUGH MY VEINS LIKE FIRE!"
"NOW LOOSE THE WEB OF FEAR! MY ENEMY WILL SEE ABOUT HIM WHATEVER HE FEARS MOST!"
I...I DON'T KNOW. I WANTED TO BE SPECIAL...TO CLEANSE THE WORLD. NOW, I'M JUST TIRED...
IT IS OVER, ROGER. PUT DOWN THE GUN.
THE SPELL BEGINS NOW!
AAAAAH!
THEY'RE ALL OVER ME!! THEY'RE LAUGHING AT ME!

THEY'RE EVERYWHERE! EVERYTHING'S DIRTY! GOTTA PURGE!
ROGER, NO!


NO...NO...! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! I'VE FAILED MY MOTHER! FAILED THE GODS!
BRATTATTATT

I AM UNWORTHY! VILE! IGNOBLE!

WORMS!
SNAKES!
CRAWLING OVER ME!
IN MY MOUTH! UP MY NOSE!
GET RID OF THEM!
MAMA?

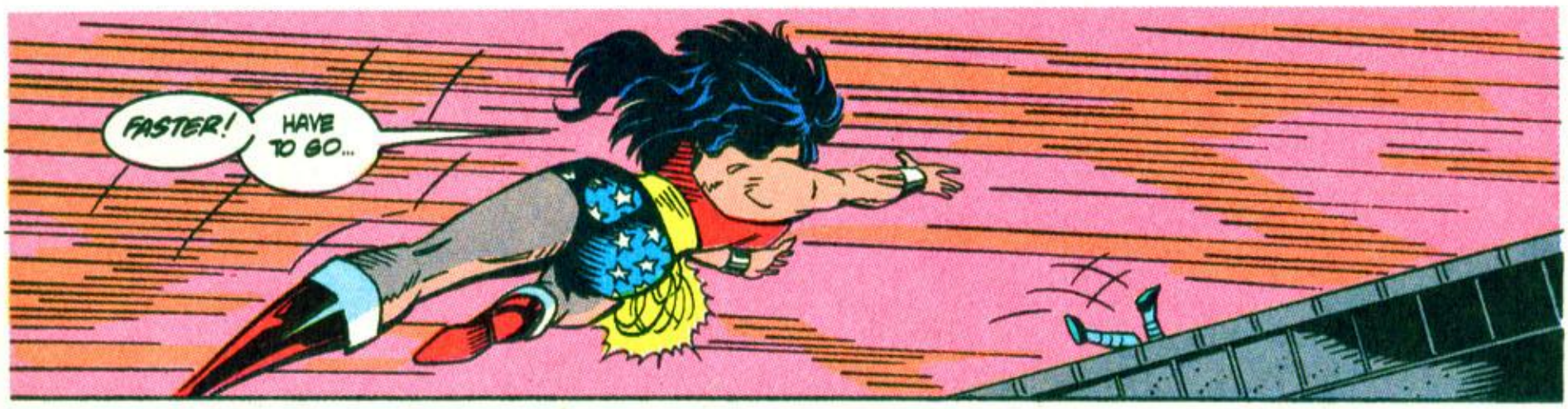

MAMA! SPIDERS! HELP!!

GAEA!

NOW DO THE GUILTY QUAKE IN FEAR!
NOW STRIKE THE WICKED WITH TERROR!

ASQUITH RANDOLPH IS TRANSFIXED! ALMOST AS IF... ALMOST...
BOSS, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
SHUT UP. NOTHING'S WRONG.
I JUST FELT THIS COLD TERROR... ...AS IF SOMEONE WERE WATCHING ME!

"IT WAS JUST A LITTLE SCARE. PROBABLY NOT IMPORTANT."
SPIDERS...


FASTER!
HAVE TO GO...

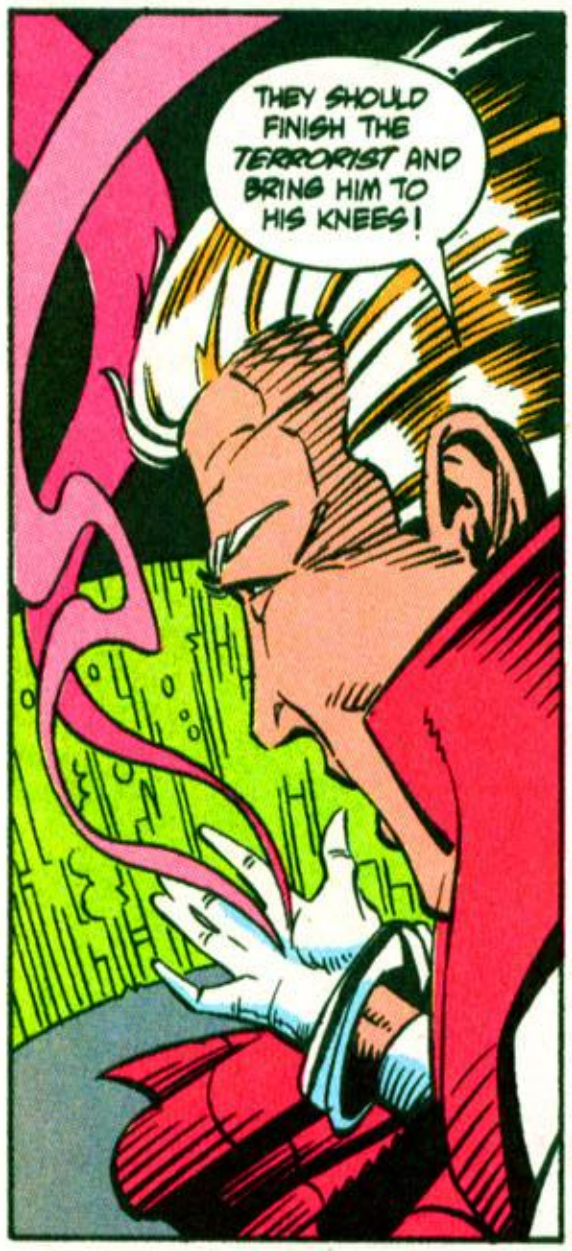
FASTER...!

UHHHH

SKKAATTATT

"THE FLYING SERPENTS ARE THE CROWNING TOUCH!"

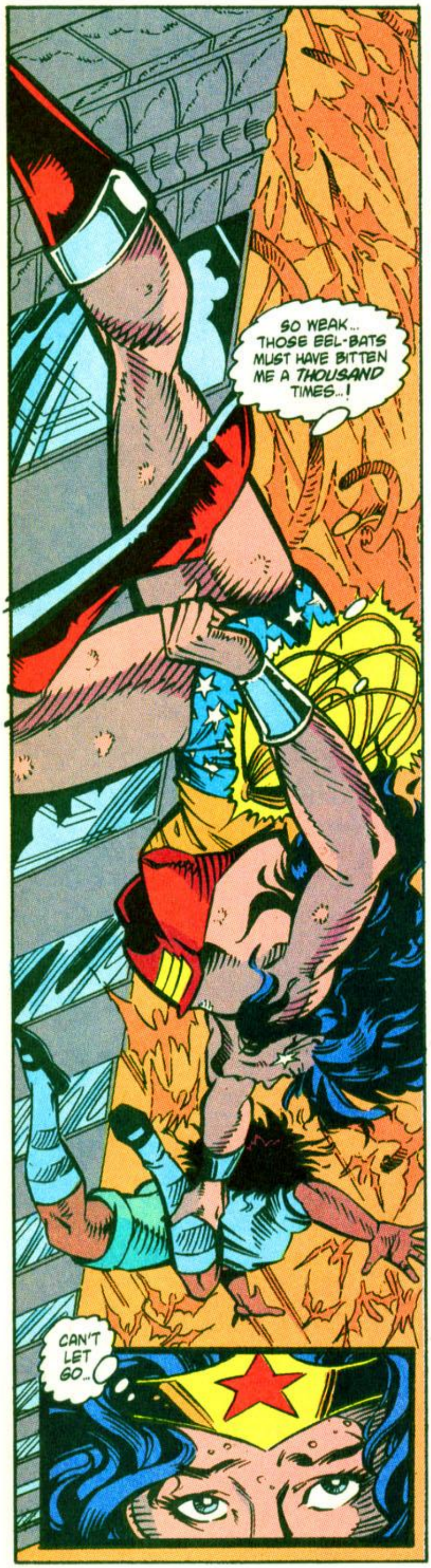
HOW DO YOU MEAN, DR. RANDOLPH?
EVERYONE FEARS THEM, AND THEIR BITES WILL DISTRACT!

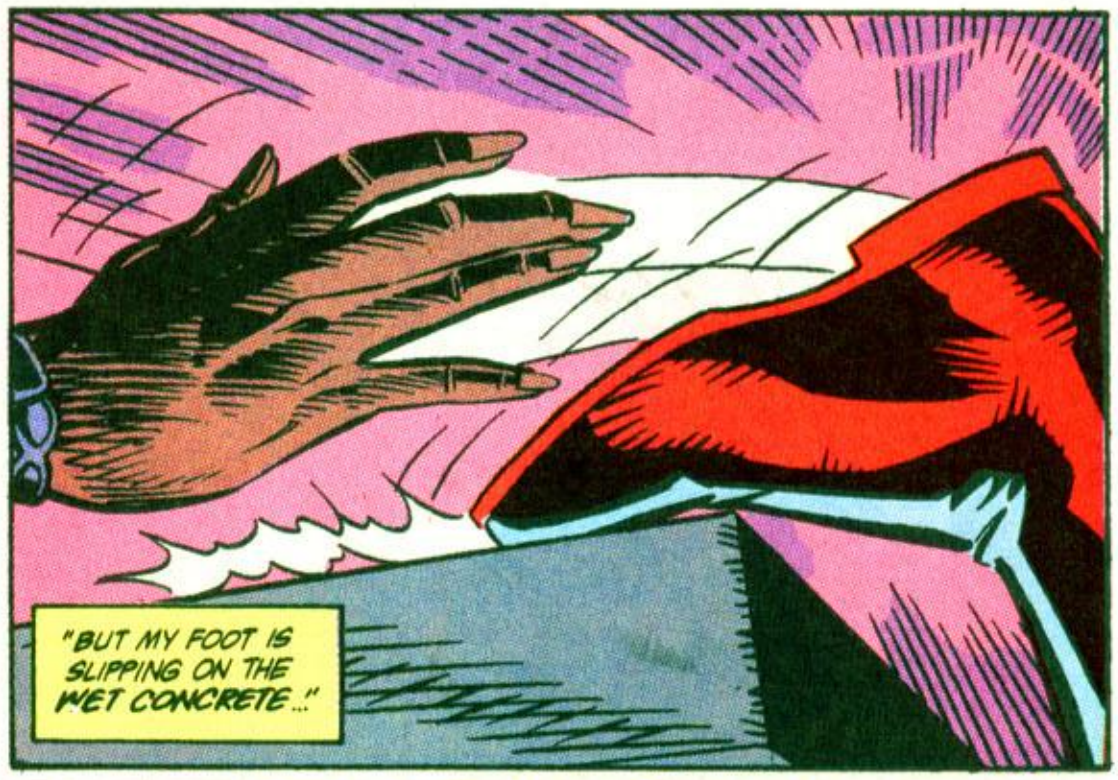

THEY SHOULD FINISH THE TERRORIST AND BRING HIM TO HIS KNEES!

WE CAN RESCUE THE HOSTAGES AT LEISURE!

WAIT! THERE'S SOMEONE HANGING FROM THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING...

IT LOOKS LIKE A KID...


SO WEAK... THOSE EEL-BATS MUST HAVE BITTEN ME A THOUSAND TIMES...!
CAN'T LET GO...

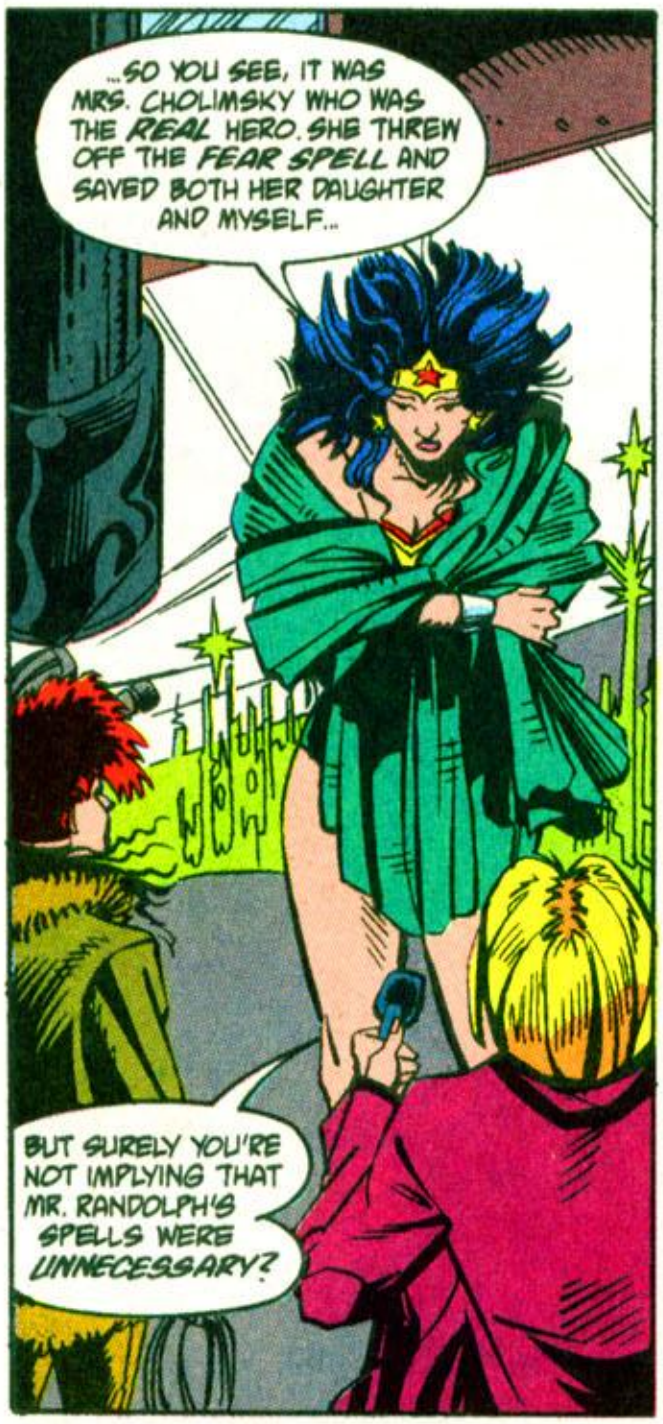

"BUT MY FOOT IS SLIPPING ON THE WET CONCRETE..."

I'VE GOT YOU.
BRACE YOURSELF. I'LL TRY TO SWING MY LEG OVER. I HAVE TO FIND ROBERT AND...

HE'S DEAD.

IT MUST'VE HAPPENED WHEN THE FEAR FIRST HIT.

HE MUST'VE HAD SO MUCH MORE TO BE AFRAID OF.


...SO YOU SEE, IT WAS MRS. CHOLIMSKY WHO WAS THE REAL HERO. SHE THREW OFF THE FEAR SPELL AND SAVED BOTH HER DAUGHTER AND MYSELF...
BUT SURELY YOU'RE NOT IMPLYING THAT MR. RANDOLPH'S SPELLS WERE UNNECESSARY?

ACTUALLY, YES. ROGER OAKLEY HAD ALREADY SUR...
LET'S SEE WHAT ASQUITH RANDOLPH HAS TO SAY ABOUT THAT!
WE'RE OPEN

I NEVER ARGUE WITH A LADY.

I WASN'T INSULTING HIM! SHE NEVER LET ME FINISH!
I FEAR WE ARE ALL MERE CLAY TO THE MEDIA! SUPPOSE YOU LET ME MAKE IT UP TO YOU...

...OVER DINNER, HMMM?

WELL, AND AFTER ALL, WHY NOT? HE WAS TRYING TO BE NICE, AND HIS HOUSE WAS... LEGENDARY.

ODDLY ENOUGH, FOR A SPRAWLING RELIC, IT SMELLED OF NEWNESS... OF PLASTICS AND CLEANED CARPETS AND FRESH PLASTER. THE HOUSE MIGHT BE HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD, BUT IT HAD BEEN RECENTLY REDONE.

I TOLD YOU, I WAS *NOT* THE ONE WHO...

TO MY NEWEST GUEST, AND THE *HEROINE* OF THE HOUR!

YOU WERE THE ONE IN THE COSTUME! YOU WERE THE ONE *EXPECTED* TO BE *HEROIC*, WHO *APPEARED* TO BE *HEROIC*! AND APPEARANCES ARE *EVERYTHING*!

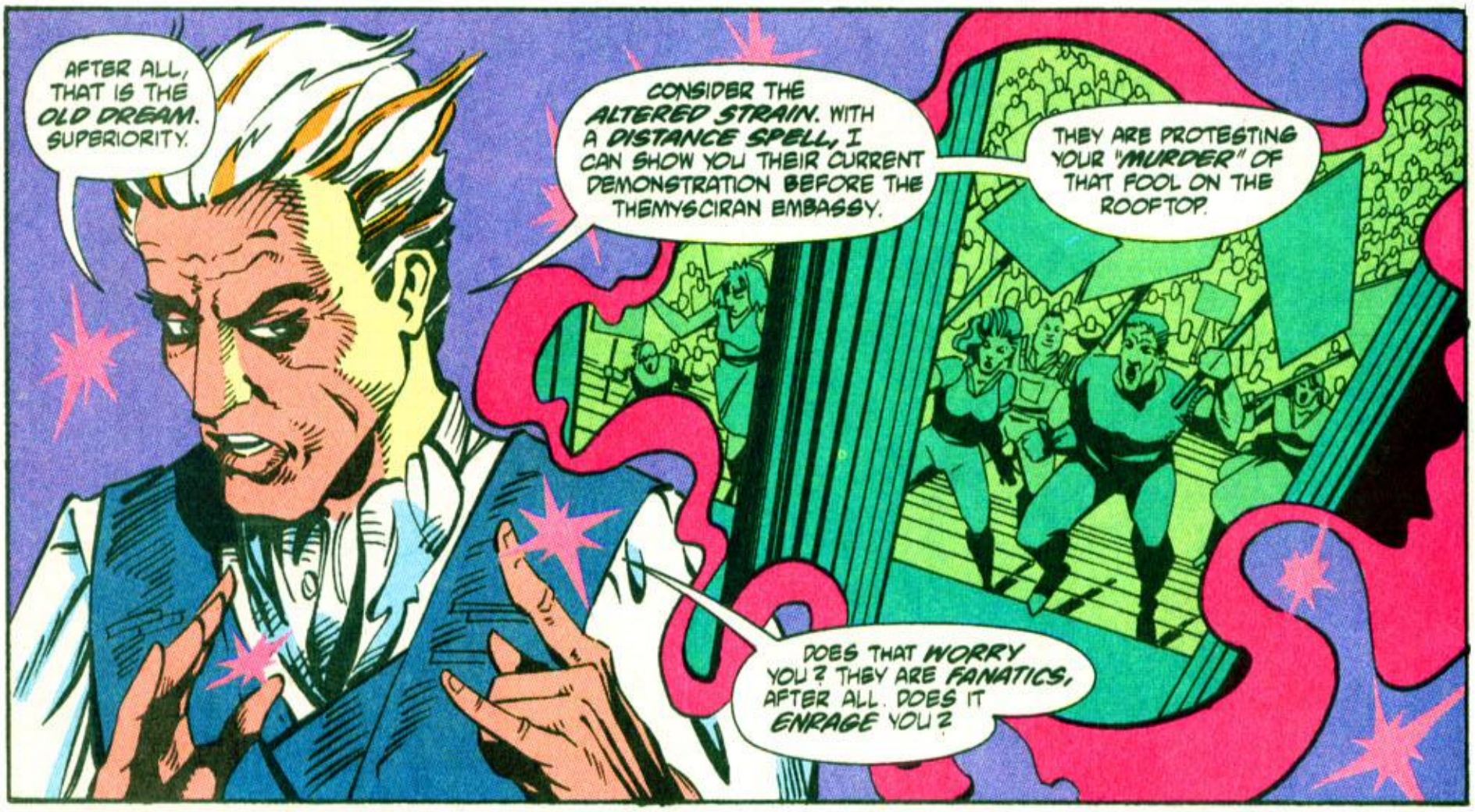
HOW POETIC. I PREFER TO HAVE OTHERS DO MY KILLING FOR ME.

PRINCESS...THERE ON YOUR WRIST...IS THAT A BRUISE?
HE HAD A WAY OF ASKING EVEN A SIMPLE QUESTION THAT PUT YOU ON THE DEFENSIVE, AS THOUGH HE HAD UNCOVERED A HIDDEN WEAKNESS.
YES. I TURNED ONE OF THE RIFLE BULLETS ASIDE. IT WAS VERY PAINFUL.

PAINFUL? I THOUGHT YOUR BRACELETS WERE UNBREAKABLE. OR IS THAT ANOTHER MYTH?

THEY ARE UNBREAKABLE...BUT THE FLESH UNDER-NEATH CAN STILL BE INJURED.
THE TRICK IS TO SEE THE PAIN AS YOUR FRIEND...! SHE TEACHES YOU AND KEEPS YOU SHARP.

AN INTERESTING NOTION. I'VE NOTICED THAT ONLY A NATURAL LEADER WELCOMES DISCOMFORT AS GROWTH EXPERIENCE.
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THAT YOU ARE ONE OF A SMALL PER-CENTAGE OF THE EARTH'S POPULACE WITH THE GIFTS TO BE...
...TRULY SUPERIOR?


AFTER ALL, THAT IS THE OLD DREAM. SUPERIORITY.
CONSIDER THE ALTERED STRAIN. WITH A DISTANCE SPELL, I CAN SHOW YOU THEIR CURRENT DEMONSTRATION BEFORE THE THEMYSCIRAN EMBASSY.
THEY ARE PROTESTING YOUR "MURDER" OF THAT FOOL ON THE ROOFTOP.
DOES THAT WORRY YOU? THEY ARE FANATICS, AFTER ALL. DOES IT ENRAGE YOU?

NO, THEY ARE DELUDED.
SUPERIORITY IS THE OLD FOOLISHNESS.
ONLY WEAK, FRIGHTENED PEOPLE SEEK WORTH IN THEIR GENES INSTEAD OF THEIR CHARACTERS.

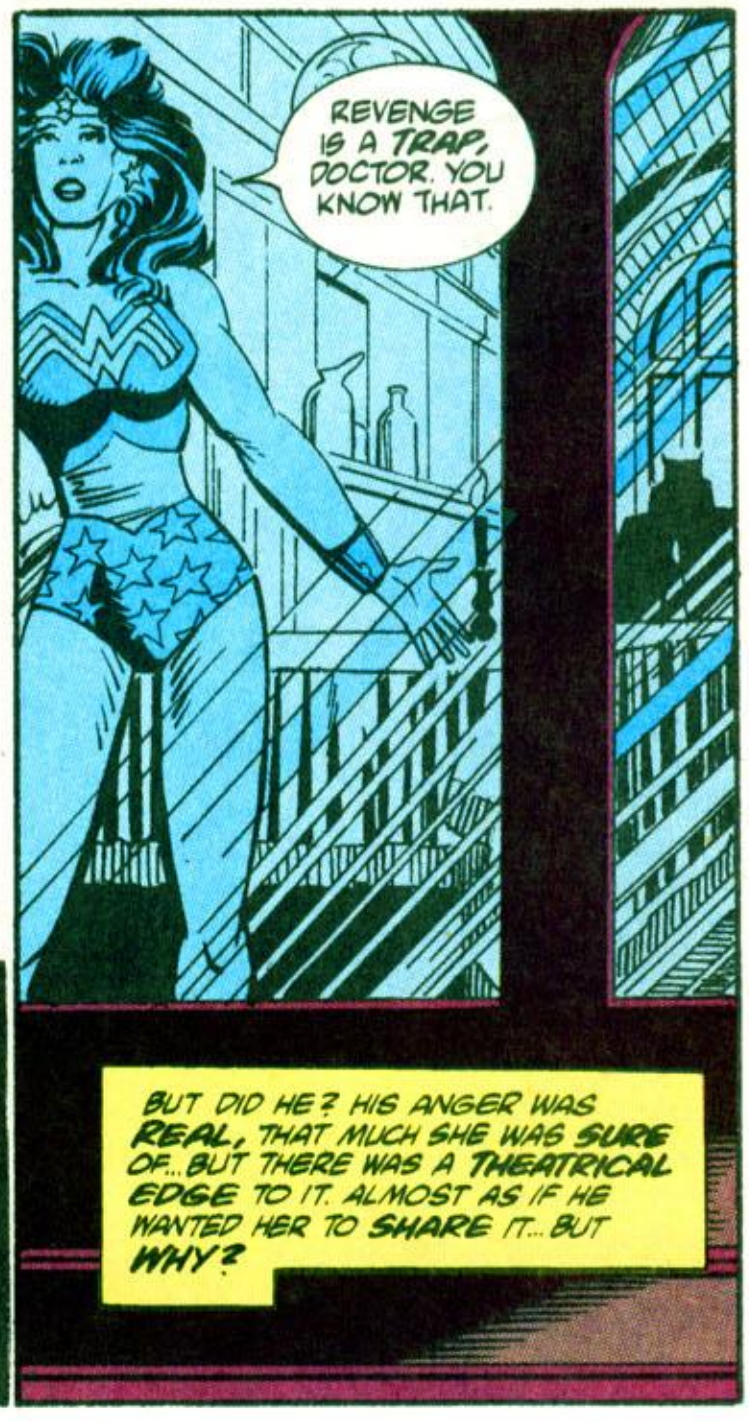
THEN DOES THE FACT THAT THEY GET SO MUCH ATTENTION ENRAGE YOU?

I DON'T THINK ABOUT THEM AT ALL.

WELL, I DO!
THE RANDOLPHS FOUNDED THIS COUNTRY! THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS A RANDOLPH!

AND NOW THESE CREATURES WITH NO BREEDING DARE TO POSTURE AS THE LEADERS OF THE FUTURE!
BUT NO ONE TAKES THEIR CLAIMS SERIOUSLY.

FOR THE PRESENT. BUT WE LIVE IN DECADENT TIMES, PRINCESS.
THE MOB RULES.
A TV-DRUGGED ELECTORATE ALLOWS WEAKLINGS AND DEMAGOGUES TO RULE, WHILE VISIGOTHS PILLAGE IN THE STREETS!
THERE IS A NEED FOR AN AVENGING SPIRIT TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT!


REVENGE IS A TRAP, DOCTOR. YOU KNOW THAT.
BUT DID HE? HIS ANGER WAS REAL, THAT MUCH SHE WAS SURE OF... BUT THERE WAS A THEATRICAL EDGE TO IT. ALMOST AS IF HE WANTED HER TO SHARE IT... BUT WHY?

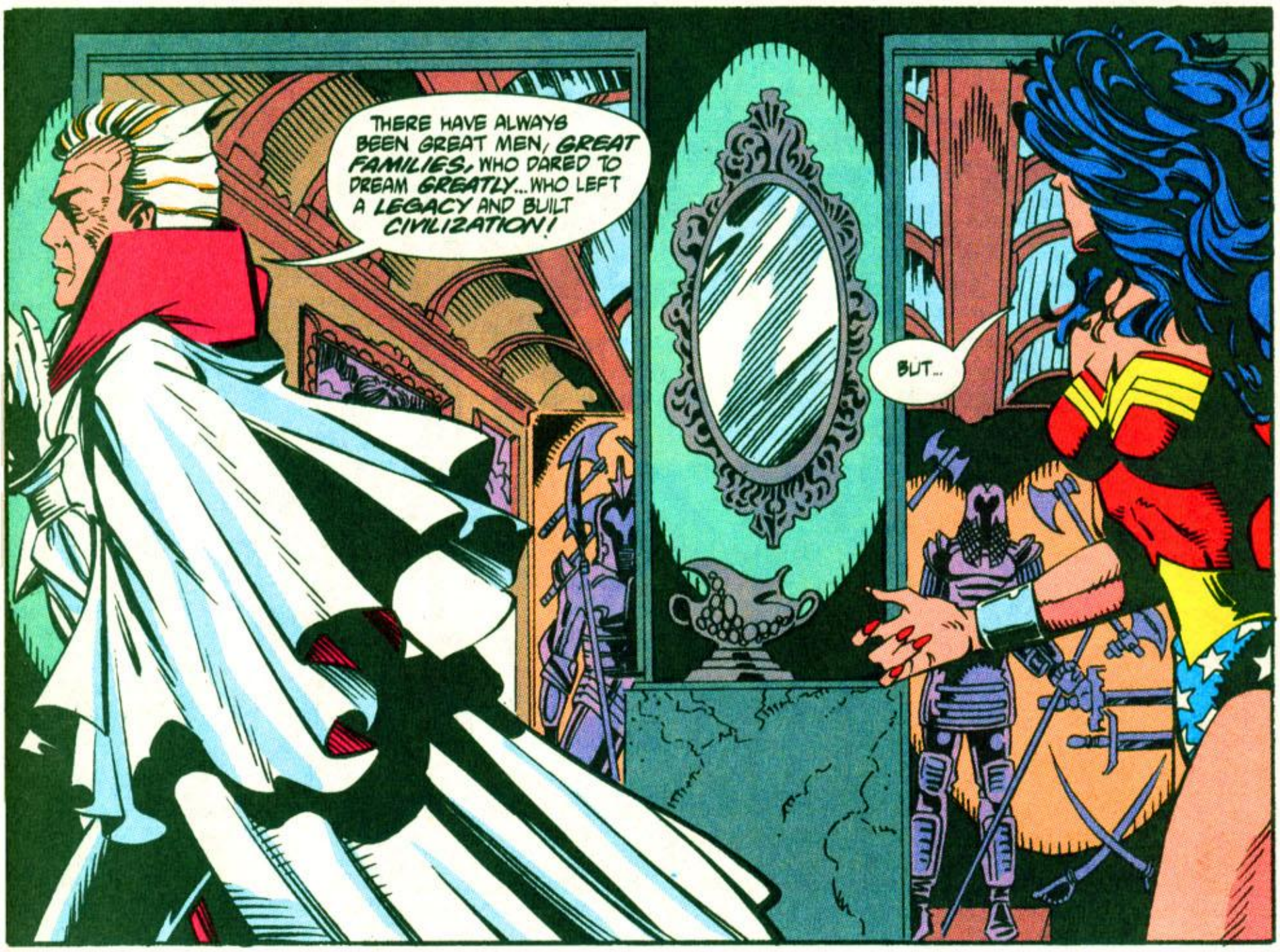
THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL HOME, DOCTOR RANDOLPH.

THANK YOU.
IT'S MY ONLY REAL PLEASURE THESE DAYS. WHEN IT WAS BUILT, THERE WAS PRIDE IN ONE'S WORK AND A SENSE OF CRAFTSMANSHIP.
I THINK YOU ARE TOO HARD ON MODERN LIFE. I KNOW MANY PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THEIR WORK.
DO THEY? THE WORSE FOR THEM, THEN.

AS HE SPOKE THE BITTER WORDS, ASQUITH RANDOLPH CHUCKLED, EVEN THOUGH HE'D SAID NOTHING FUNNY. AND DIANA FOUND HERSELF STARING AT THE PATTERNS THE MOONLIGHT MADE ON THE WALL.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF CARING, UNLESS YOU LIVE IN GRACE AND ELEGANCE...?
AMID THE EASE AND SILENCE THAT ONLY THE FINEST SOULS CAN PRODUCE OR APPRECIATE?

NOT EVERYONE CAN AFFORD TO.
AFTER ALL, WEREN'T HOMES LIKE THIS BUILT WITH CHEAP IMMIGRANT LABOR... OR BY SLAVES?
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER? THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THEY WERE BUILT!


THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GREAT MEN, GREAT FAMILIES, WHO DARED TO DREAM GREATLY... WHO LEFT A LEGACY AND BUILT CIVILIZATION!
BUT...

LOOK AT THIS LIBRARY...ASSEMBLED BOOK BY BOOK SINCE BEFORE COLONIAL TIMES! I DOUBT YOU'LL SEE ITS LIKE!
GAEA! SO MANY BOOKS! NOT EVEN THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY HAS SO MANY!
BROWSE IF YOU LIKE. MY TASTES, YOU'LL FIND, ARE ECLECTIC... AND ECCENTRIC.

THOSE BOOKS ARE IN GREEK... THE CLASSIC GREEK WE WROTE ON THEMYSCIRA.

THESE ARE THE PLAYS OF EURIPIDES, BUT..

THESE ARE ALL HIS PLAYS, EVEN THE ONES LOST WHEN THE LIBRARY AT ALEXANDRIA BURNED!

YES, WELL, SOME THINGS ARE DIFFICULT TO UNDER-STAND, AREN'T THEY?

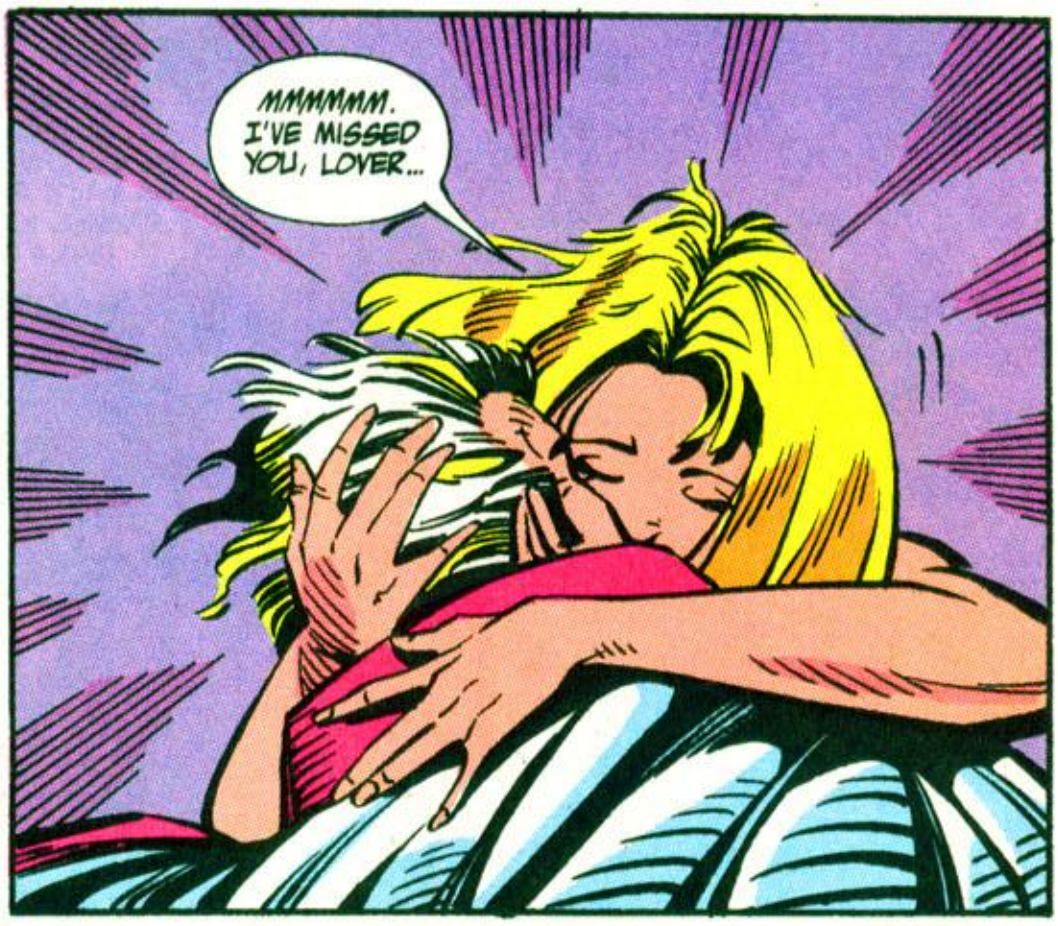
WHY HAD HE DONE THAT? IT WAS ALMOST AS THOUGH HE WAS TRYING TO PROVOKE HER...
MY APOLOGIES. THAT BOOK WAS THERE BY MISTAKE. IT'S MUCH TOO DELICATE TO BE TOUCHED, SAVE BY MAGIC!
I UNDERSTAND. I WAS JUST...

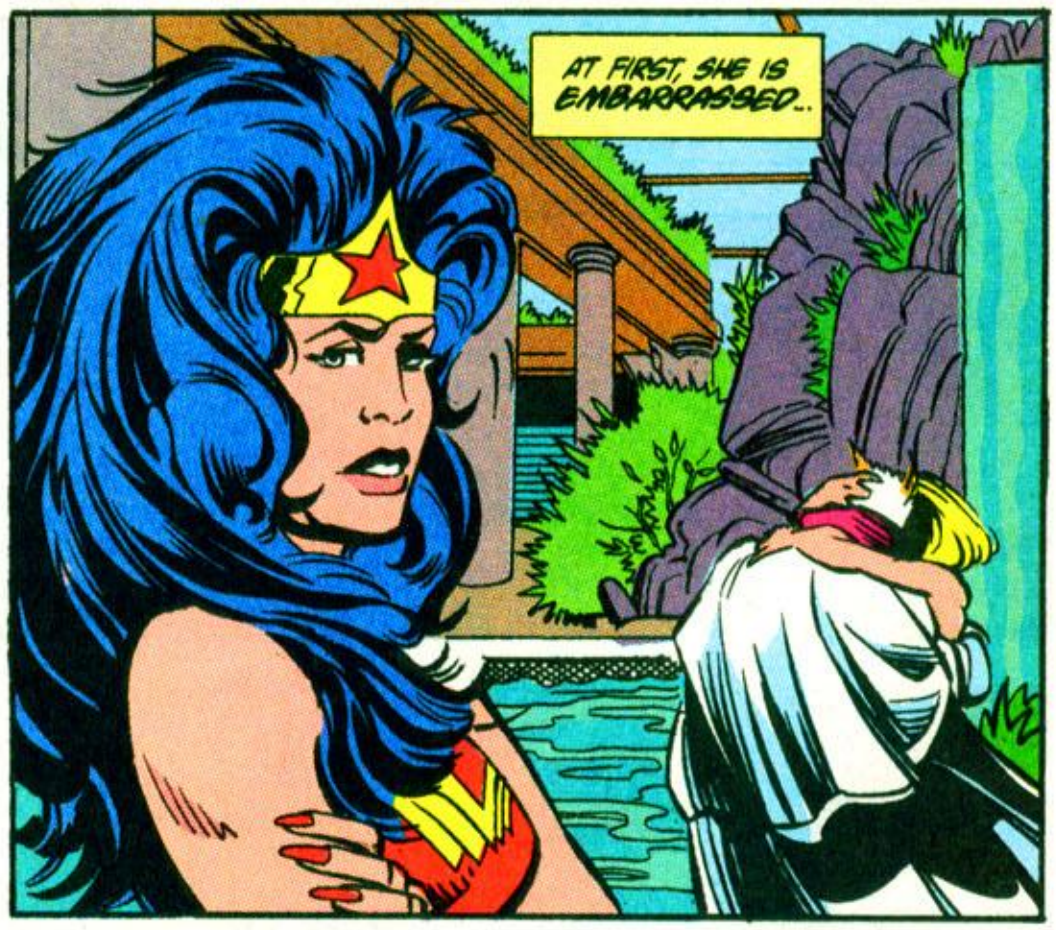
SUPPOSE I SHOW YOU MY GREENHOUSE? I GROW HERBS THERE, BOTH FOR MY EXPERIMENTS AND FOR MY KITCHEN.
A GREENHOUSE, TOO? THIS HOUSE MUST BE GIGANTIC!

THE GREEN HOUSE IS A SEPARATE WING, FIRST BUILT IN THE 1920'S. WE, THE FAMILY, DIDN'T WANT TO BE DEPENDENT ON OTHERS FOR OUR VEGETABLES.

WHAT A LOVELY SMELL. BUT DON'T YOU SHADE THE WINDOWS AT NIGHT?
NOT IN THIS SECTION. SOME THINGS GROW BEST BY MOONLIGHT.

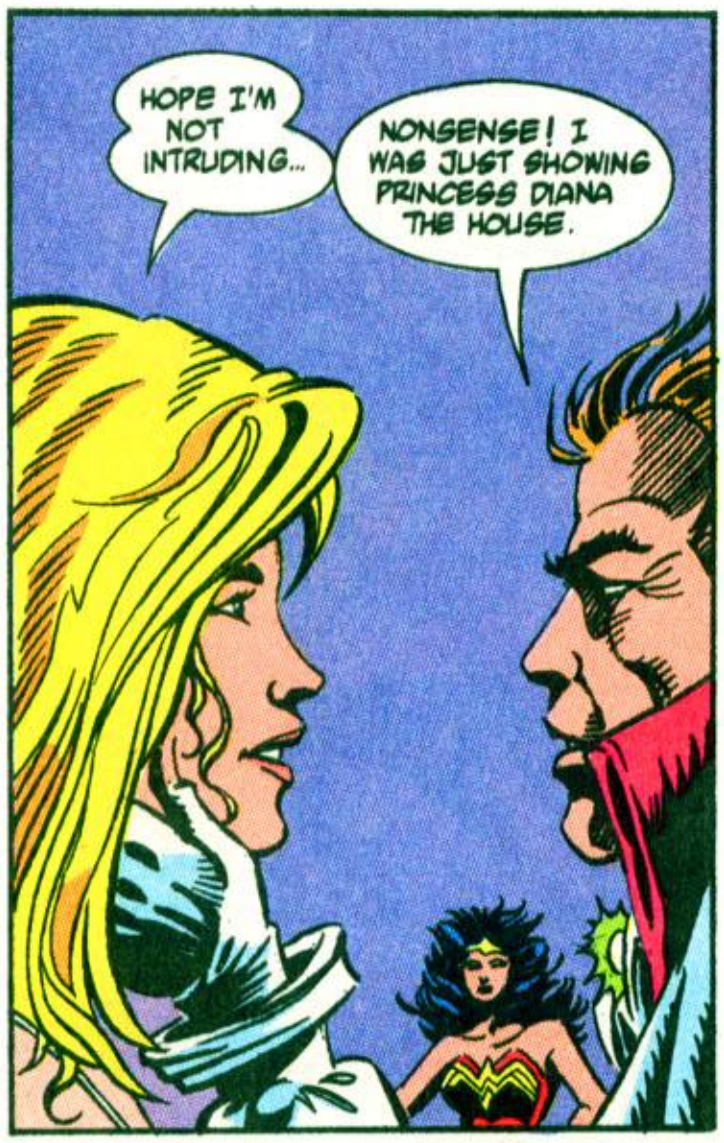
HULLO, ASQUITH.
CASSIE?- WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
I LET MYSELF IN WITH MY WIDDLE KEY!


MMMMMM. I'VE MISSED YOU, LOVER...


AT FIRST, SHE IS EMBARRASSED...

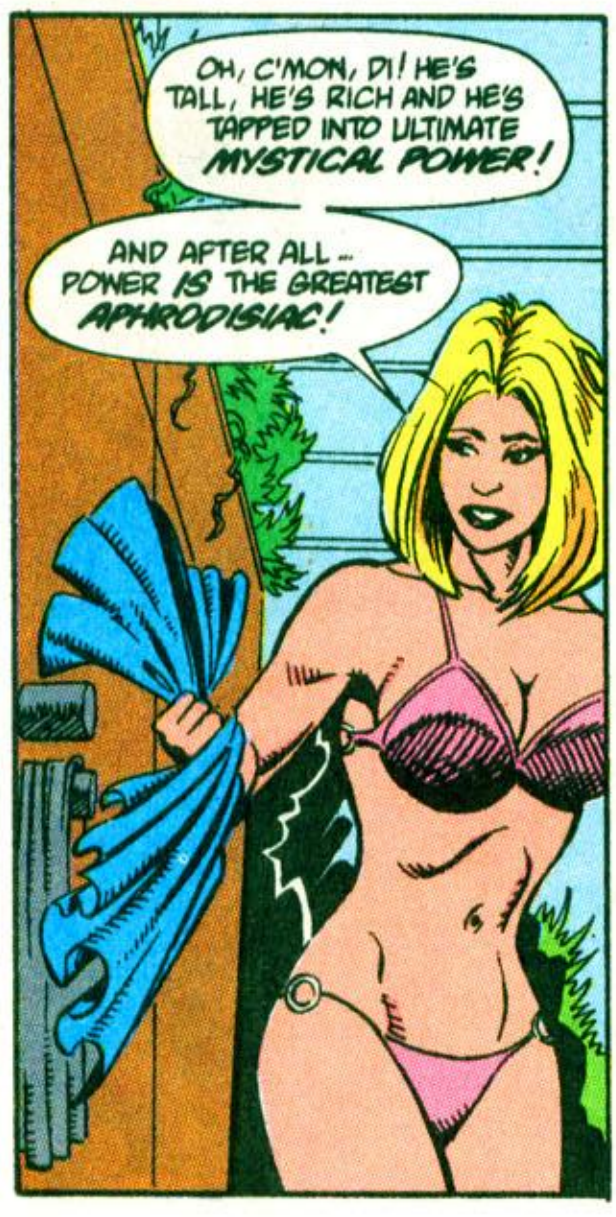
BUT THEN...

SHE REALIZES THAT IN A SENSE THEY ARE BOTH SHOWING OFF FOR HER...EACH IN THEIR OWN WAY DISPLAYING THEIR POWER AND CONNECTIONS.
AND SINCE IT IS A SHOW, IT WOULD BE IMPOLITE NOT TO WATCH.


HOPE I'M NOT INTRUDING...
NONSENSE! I WAS JUST SHOWING PRINCESS DIANA THE HOUSE.

WHICH REMINDS ME... I NEED TO CHECK ON SOMETHING. MEET ME BACK AT THE STUDY, WILL YOU, DIANA?
OF COURSE.

WELL, MS. ARNOLD... I HEARD THAT DR. RANDOLPH HAD EXCELLENT "ACCESS TO THE PRESS," BUT I HAD NO IDEA...
RANDOLPH AND I ARE USEFUL TO EACH OTHER. BUT OUR... FRIENDSHIP DOESN'T COMPROMISE ME AS A JOURNALIST.
OF COURSE NOT.


OH, C'MON, DI! HE'S TALL, HE'S RICH AND HE'S TAPPED INTO ULTIMATE MYSTICAL POWER!
AND AFTER ALL... POWER IS THE GREATEST APHRODISIAC!

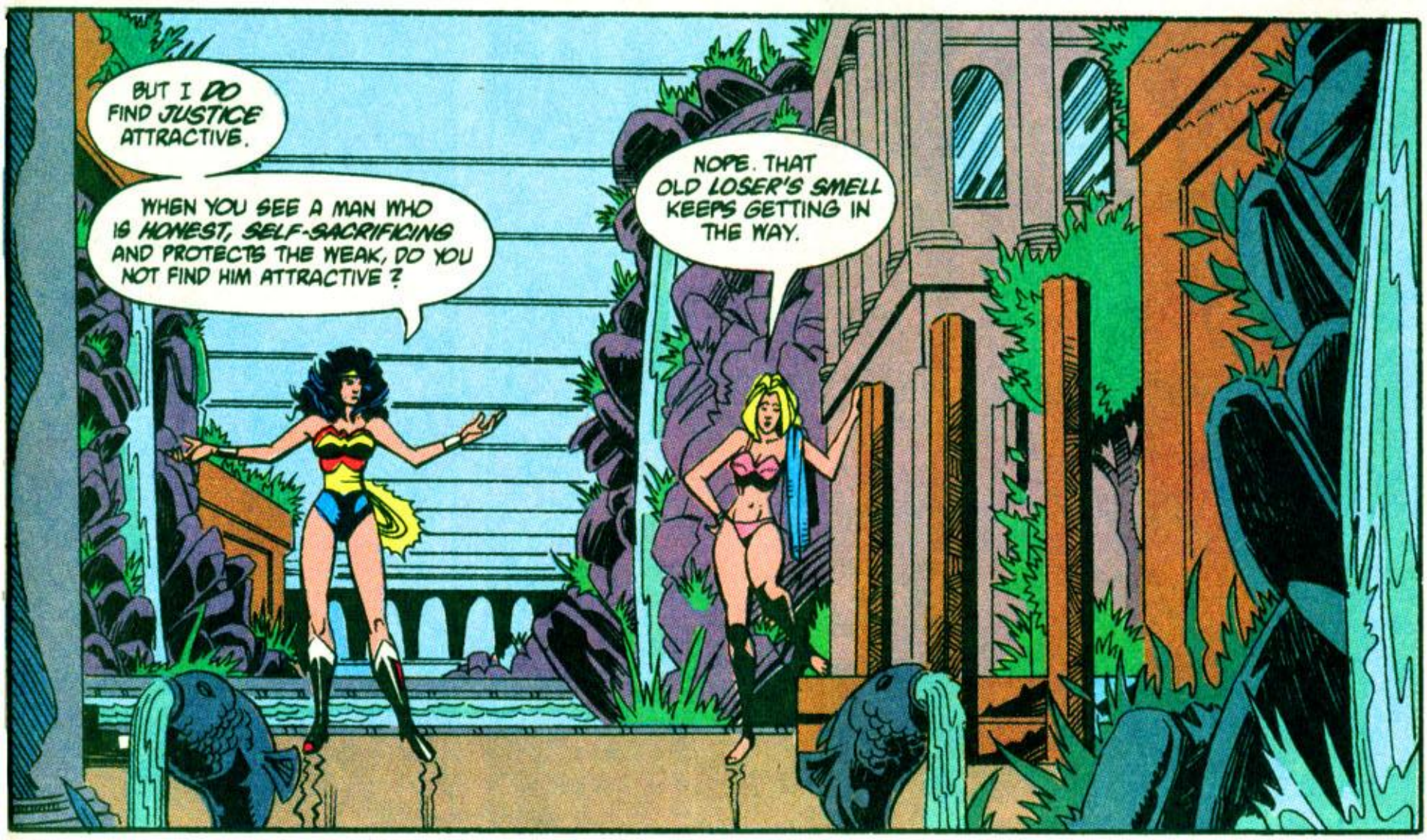
WHAT TURNS YOU ON, "PRINCESS"?

JUSTICE.

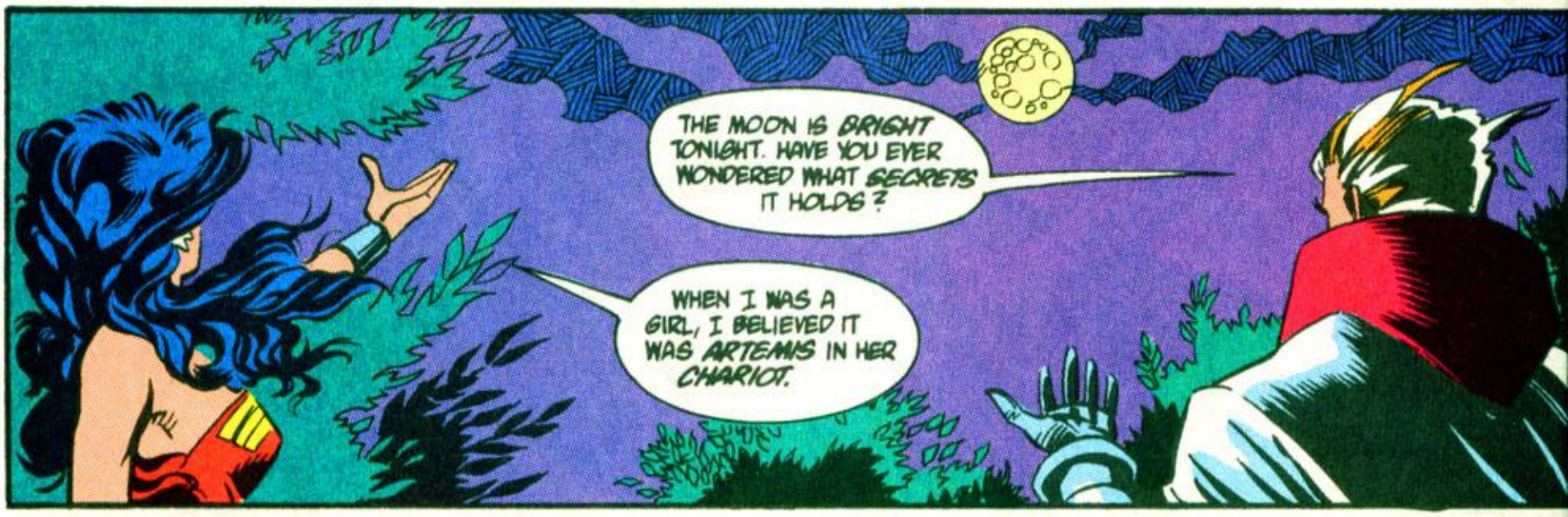
HOW POLITICALLY CORRECT OF YOU!
BROTHER. CAN'T YOU BE HUMAN FOR ONCE?

I AM BEING CANDID WITH YOU, CASSIE.

I'VE NO NEED OF WEALTH AND NO DESIRE FOR POWER.


BUT I DO FIND JUSTICE ATTRACTIVE.
WHEN YOU SEE A MAN WHO IS HONEST, SELF-SACRIFICING AND PROTECTS THE WEAK, DO YOU NOT FIND HIM ATTRACTIVE?
NOPE. THAT OLD LOSER'S SMELL KEEPS GETTING IN THE WAY.

GREETINGS, PRINCESS.
DID YOU AND CASSIE HAVE A NICE CHAT?
IT WAS AN INTERESTING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.


THE MOON IS BRIGHT TONIGHT. HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT SECRETS IT HOLDS?
WHEN I WAS A GIRL, I BELIEVED IT WAS ARTEMIS IN HER CHARIOT.

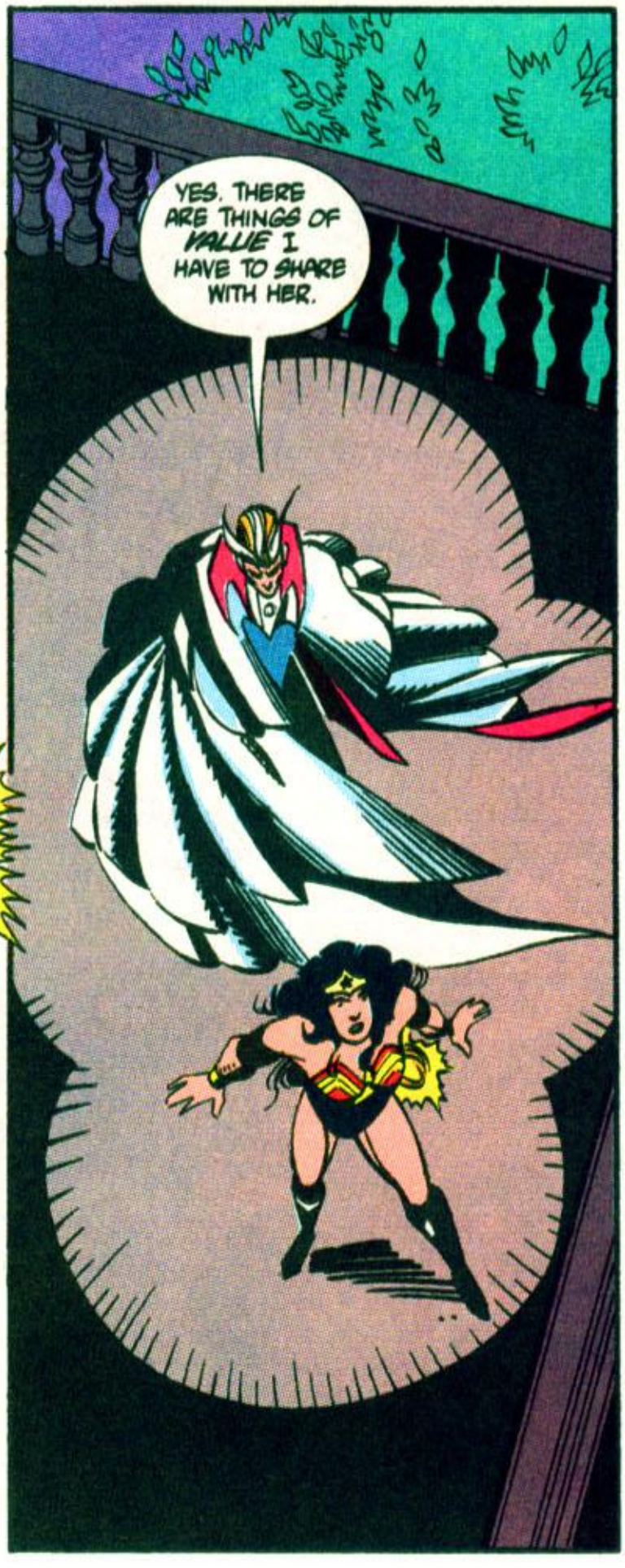
I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.

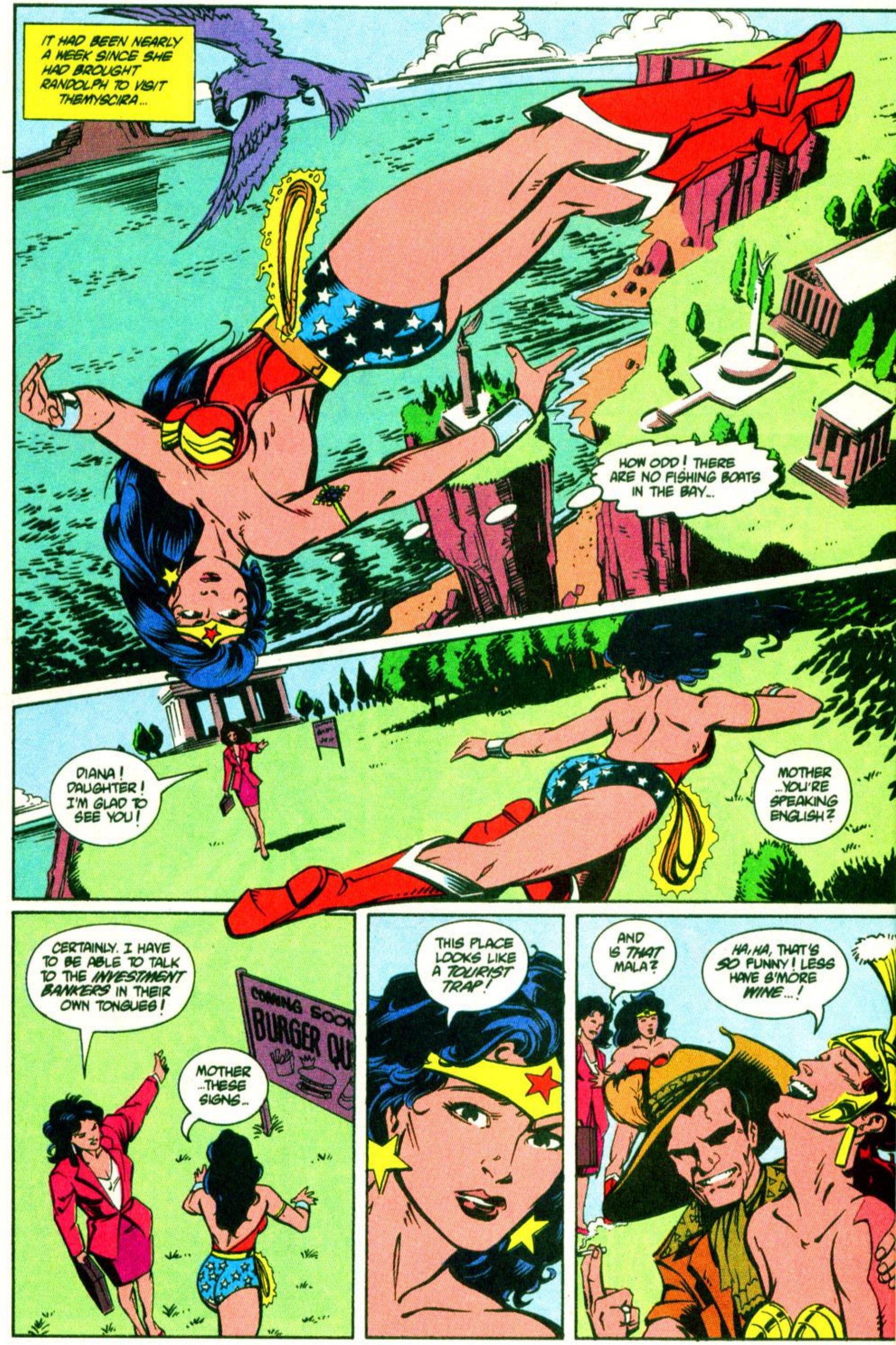
OH, NO. I COULD NOT TAKE ANYTHING SO EXPENSIVE.
BUT I INSIST.

OHH. IT IS SO COLD...

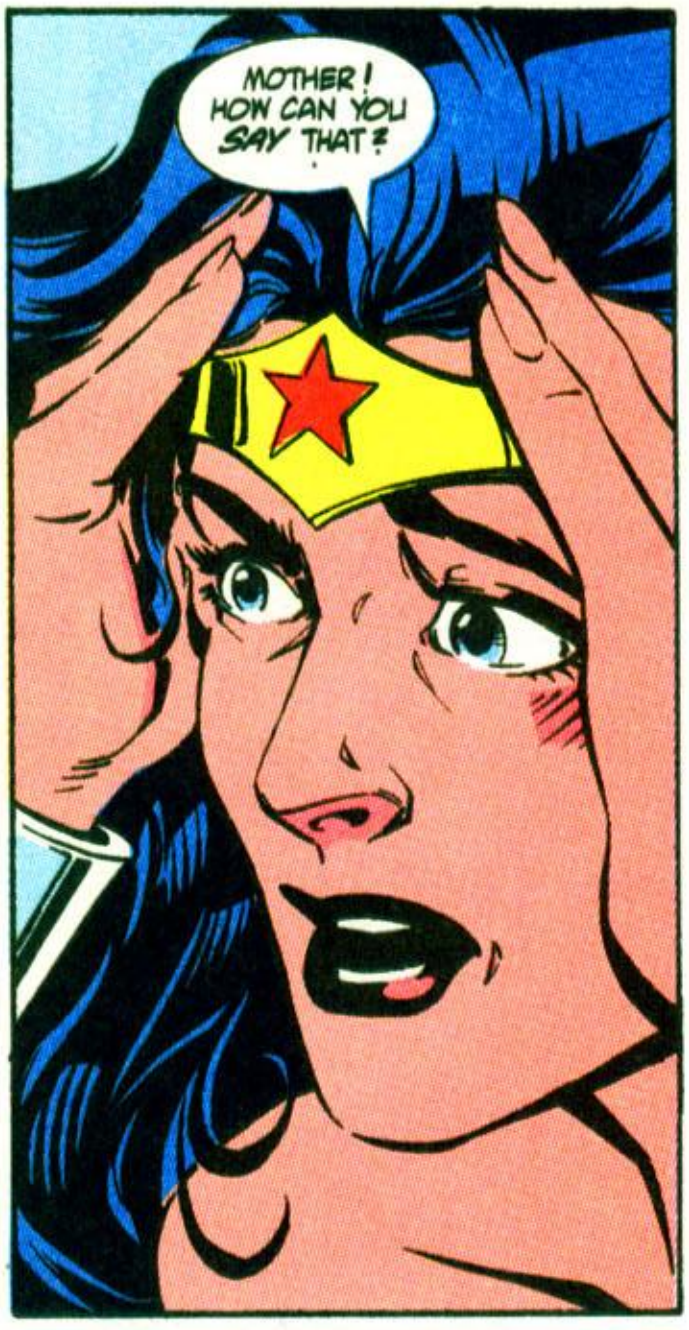
BUT IT IS BEAUTIFUL.
IT'S A SPECIAL GEM. THEY SAY IT GIVES ONE THE ABILITY TO SEE THE TRUTH.

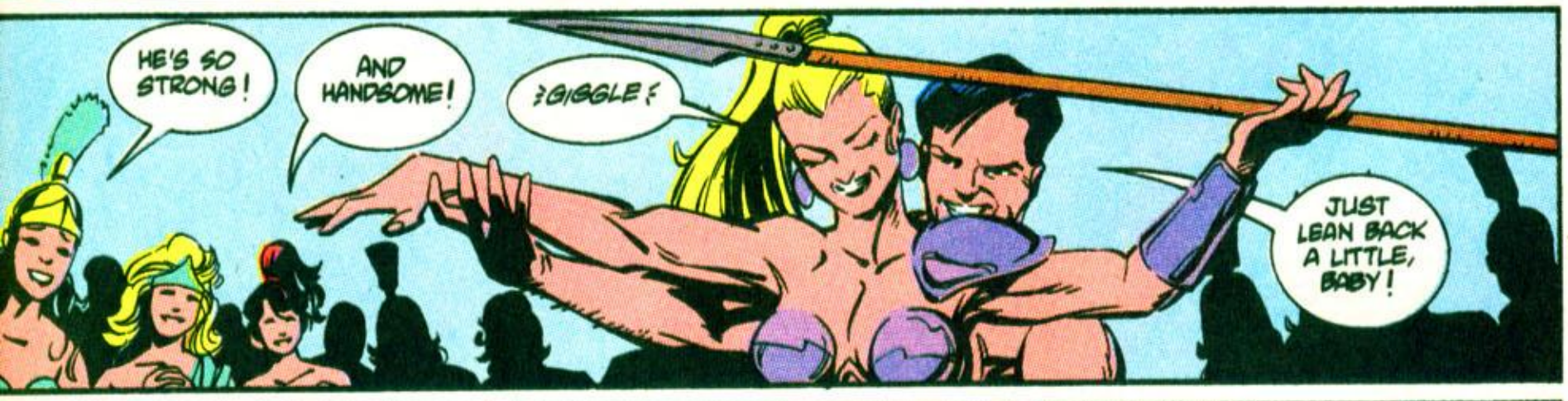
THE NEXT TIME YOU GO TO VISIT YOUR AMAZON ISLE, TAKE ME WITH YOU. I'D LIKE TO MEET YOUR MOTHER.
M-MEET HIPPOLYTE?


YES. THERE ARE THINGS OF VALUE I HAVE TO SHARE WITH HER.


IT HAD BEEN NEARLY A WEEK SINCE SHE HAD BROUGHT RANDOLPH TO VISIT THEMYSCIRA...
HOW ODD! THERE ARE NO FISHING BOATS IN THE BAY...
DIANA! DAUGHTER! I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU!
MOTHER ...YOU'RE SPEAKING ENGLISH?
CERTAINLY. I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO THE INVESTMENT BANKERS IN THEIR OWN TONGUES!
MOTHER ...THESE SIGNS...
COMING SOON
BURGER QU
THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE A TOURIST TRAP!
AND IS THAT MALA?
HA, HA, THAT'S SO FUNNY! LESS HAVE B'MORE WINE...!

MALA WAS HANGING ON THAT MAN...!
WE'VE ALL HAD TO ADJUST! NOW THAT WE ARE NO LONGER ISOLATED, WE HAVE TO GET LIQUID ASSETS FROM SOME-WHERE.
AND FRANKLY, DEAR, AS WOMEN, OUR GREATEST ASSET IS OUR ATTRACTIVENESS TO MEN.

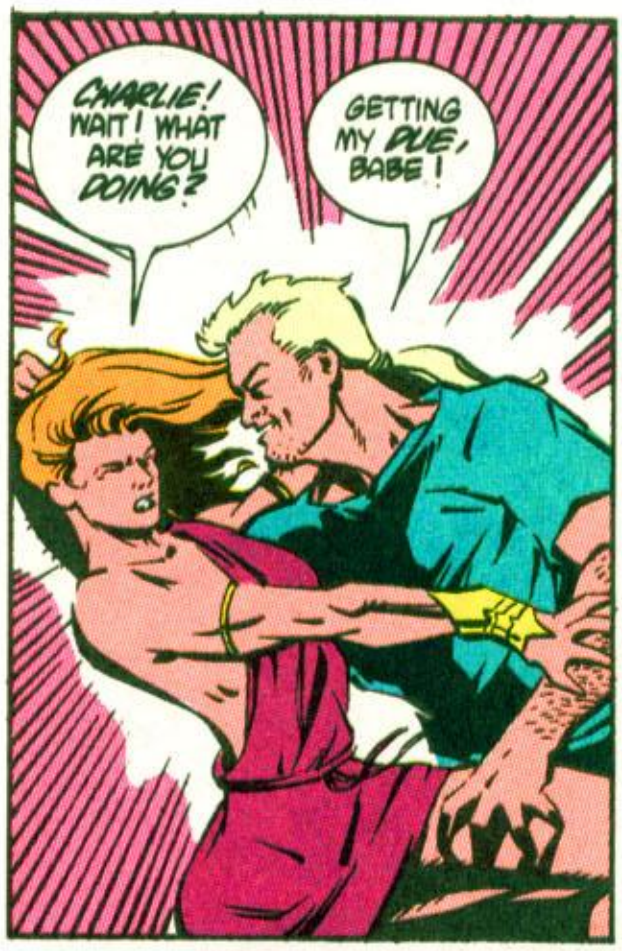

MOTHER! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?


HE'S SO STRONG!
AND HANDSOME!
GIGGLE
JUST LEAN BACK A LITTLE, BABY!

GOLLY, MISTER... I GUESS YOU'RE JUST TOO STRONG FOR POOR LITTLE ME!

I SLIPPED! CLUMSY ME!
THEY ARE JUST PRETENDING TO BE WEAK! TO...TO...

TO PLAY ON THE MALE EGO! SO WHAT?


CHARLIE! WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GETTING MY DUE, BABE!

NO, PLEASE... PLEASE... I'M NOT READY...

PUT HER DOWN!
HEY.

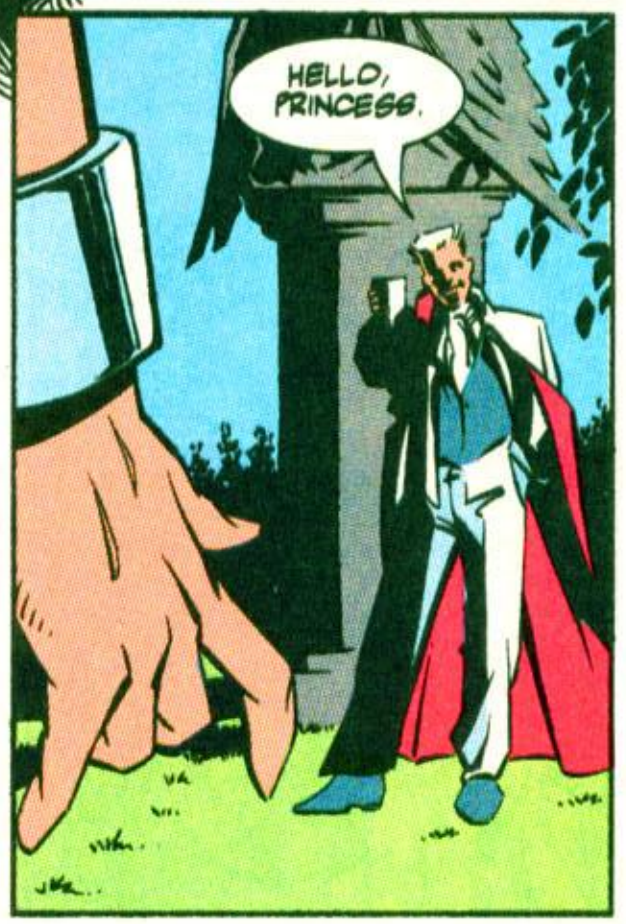
PRINCESS, PLEASE! HE'LL LEAVE ME! IT WAS MY FAULT! I SHOULDN'T HAVE TEASED HIM!

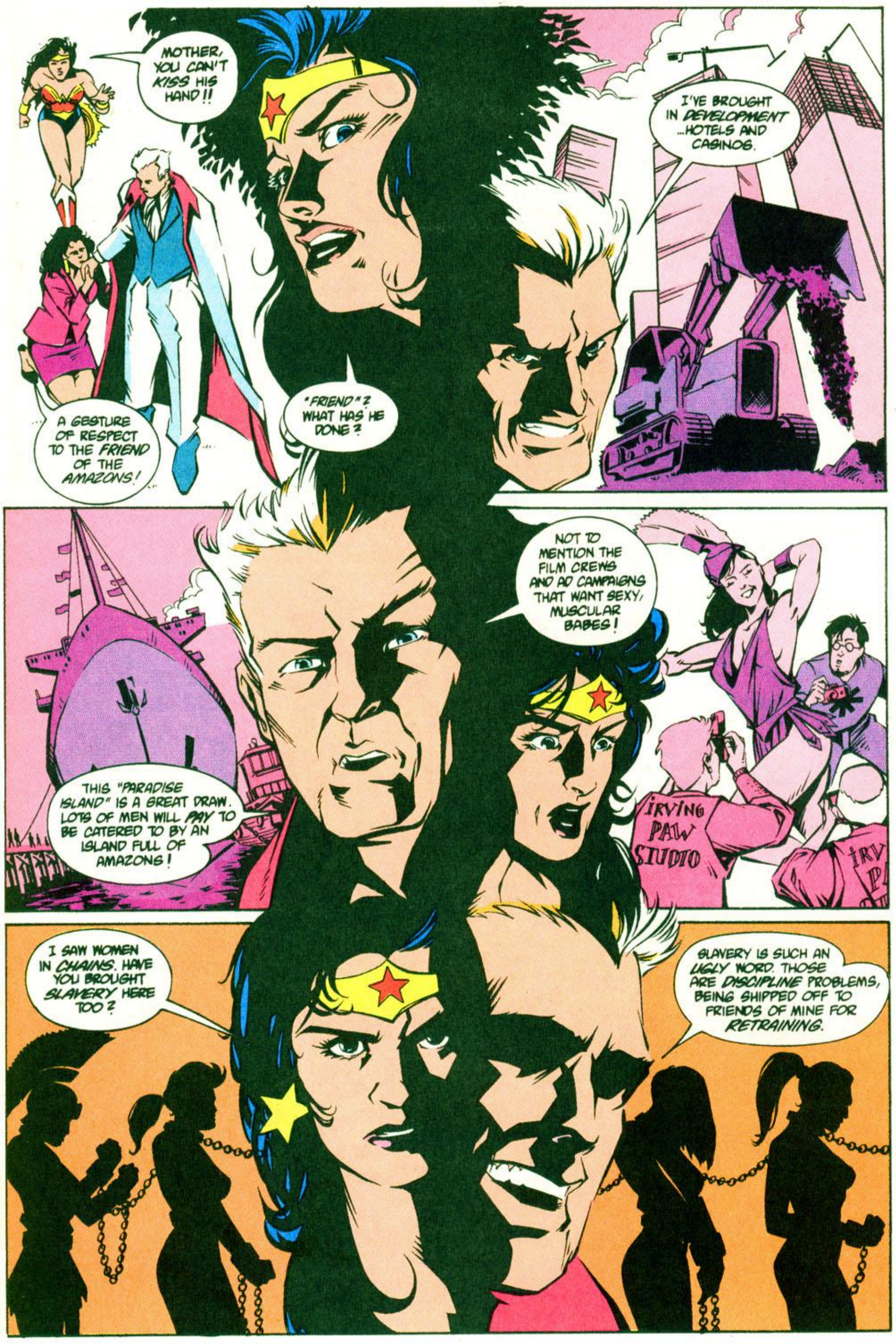
HE'S WORTH A BUNDLE. PUT HIM DOWN.

GLADLY.
WALLD

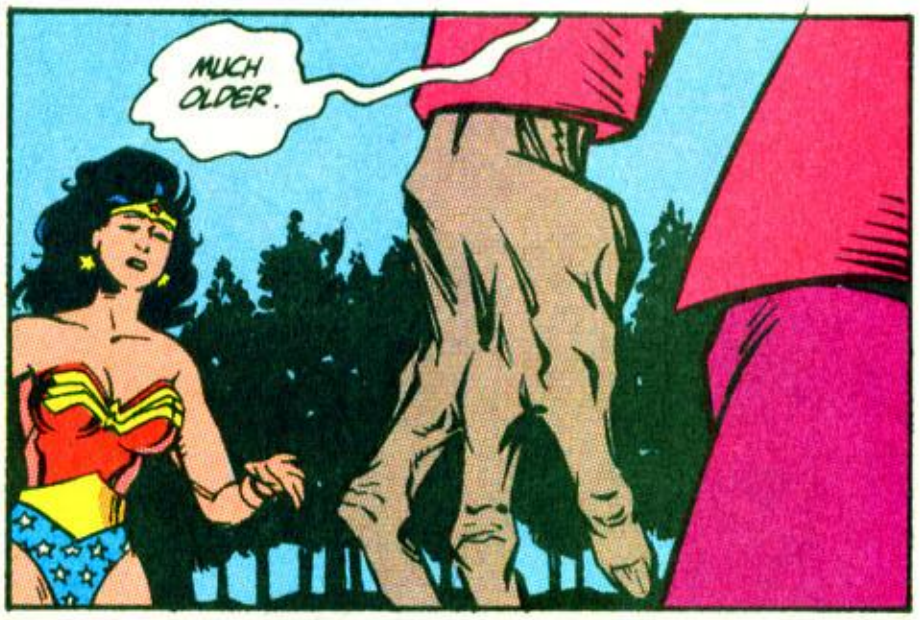
WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH ALL OF YOU? ARE YOU MAD?

SOME OF THE GIRLS ARE HAVING A HARD TIME ADAPTING TO MODERN WAYS!
WE'RE LUCKY YOUR FRIEND OFFERED TO ADVISE US.


HELLO, PRINCESS.

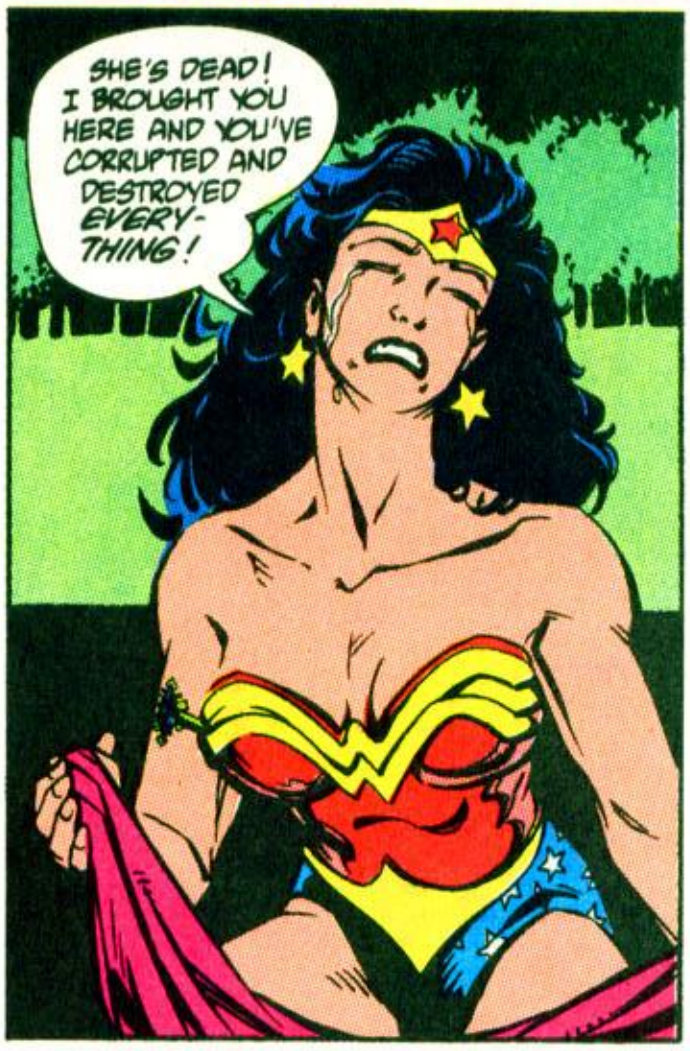

MOTHER, YOU CAN'T KISS HIS HAND!!
A GESTURE OF RESPECT TO THE FRIEND OF THE AMAZONS!
"FRIEND"? WHAT HAS HE DONE?
I'VE BROUGHT IN DEVELOPMENT ...HOTELS AND CASINOS.
THIS "PARADISE ISLAND" IS A GREAT DRAW. LOTS OF MEN WILL PAY TO BE CATERED TO BY AN ISLAND FULL OF AMAZONS!
NOT TO MENTION THE FILM CREWS AND AD CAMPAIGNS THAT WANT SEXY, MUSCULAR BABES!
IRVING PAW STUDIO
I SAW WOMEN IN CHAINS. HAVE YOU BROUGHT SLAVERY HERE TOO?
SLAVERY IS SUCH AN UGLY WORD. THOSE ARE DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS, BEING SHIPPED OFF TO FRIENDS OF MINE FOR RETRAINING.

MOTHER! MAKE UP! CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT HE'S DOING? WHY ARE YOU PERMITTING THIS?
I'M OLDER THAN YOU, DEAR. AND WISER.


MUCH OLDER.

YOU TOUCHED ME WITH YOUR JEWEL...

MAMA?


SHE'S DEAD! I BROUGHT YOU HERE AND YOU'VE CORRUPTED AND DESTROYED EVERY-THING!

I TOLD YOU THE JEWEL WOULD BRING OUT THE TRUTH.

AND THE TRUTH WAS SHE HAD LIVED TOO LONG! HAHAHA!

YOU'VE TURNED THE MOST LOVING CULTURE ON EARTH INTO A CHARNEL HOUSE!
WOMEN ARE WEAKLINGS AND ALWAYS WEEP WHEN MEN ARE FORCED TO DOMINATE THEM. YOU'LL THANK ME. MEN ARE FIRE. FIRE HARDENS MUD.
EVIL MAN!
SHUT UP.
THE PAIN, HUMILIATION AND LOSS FUSED WITHIN HER, BECOMING A RAGE THAT CHOKED HER AND SCREAMED IN HER EARS.
AND ASQUITH RANDOLPH WAS SMILING.

AND EVEN AS SHE GRABBED HIM AND FELT HIS FLESH GIVE BENEATH HER FINGERS...
SOME SMALL CORNER OF HER MIND WAS WHISPERING, "THIS IS WRONG. HE WANTS THIS."
"THE RAGE IS A TRAP..."
AND JUST AS SUDDENLY, SHE WAS BACK AT THE MANSION, UNDER THE MOONLIGHT...
AND SOMETHING WAS FEEDING OFF HER RAGE ...INCREASING IT.
AND IT WAS AS IF EVERY MOMENT OF ANGER IN THE UNIVERSE WAS RUNNING THROUGH HER IN ONE VAST CURRENT.

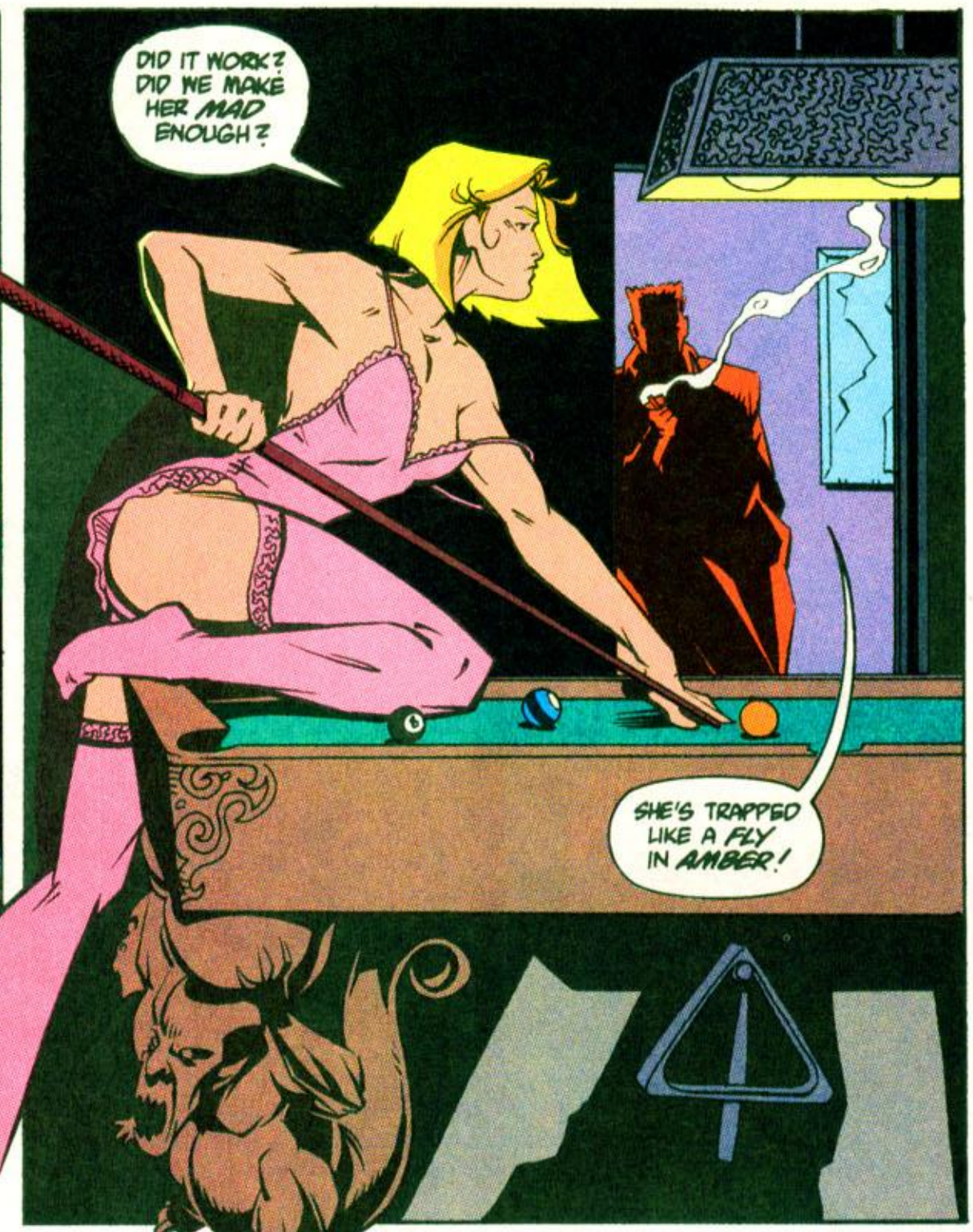
BLACKNESS BIND YE, FEAR AND ANGER CHAIN YE... WITH FETTERS OF PURE FIRE...
IT WAS ALL AN ILLUSION, PRINCESS...! HAVE YOU GUESSED THAT?

ECLIPSO CROUCHES ON THE MOON'S DARK SIDE LIKE A GREAT SPIDER, SOWING HIS BLACK GEMS, HOPING TO POSSESS THOSE WHO ARE FILLED WITH ANGER...

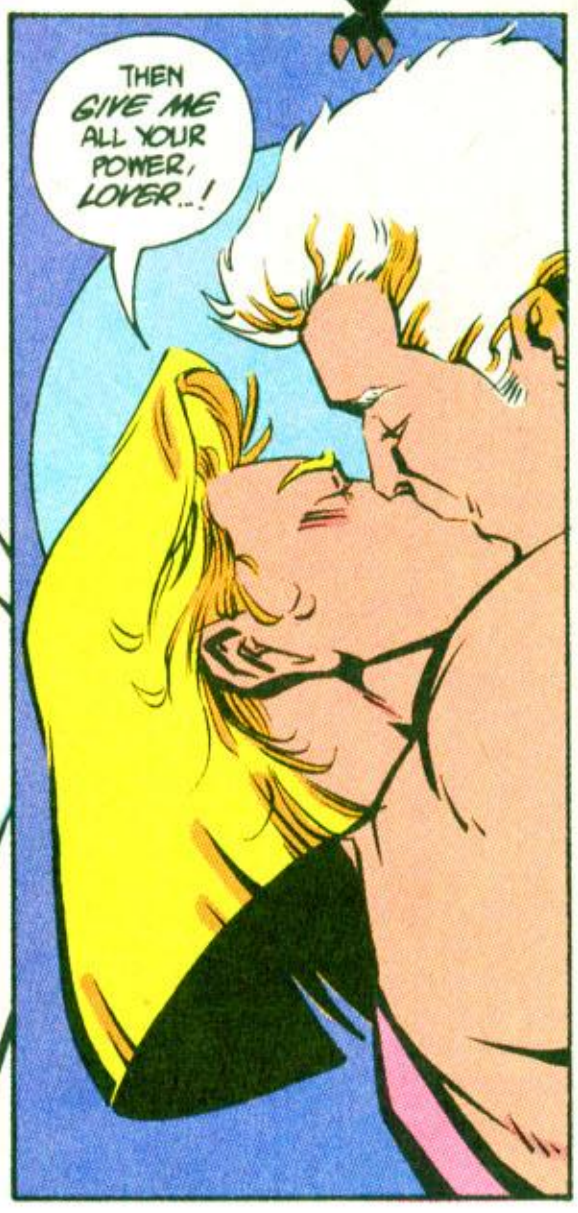
I KNEW IF I COULD TRICK YOU INTO BECOMING POSSESSED BY HIM, AND THEN MYSTICALLY BIND YOU...
I COULD USE YOU LIKE A BATTERY, FEEDING MY OWN FADING POWERS...!

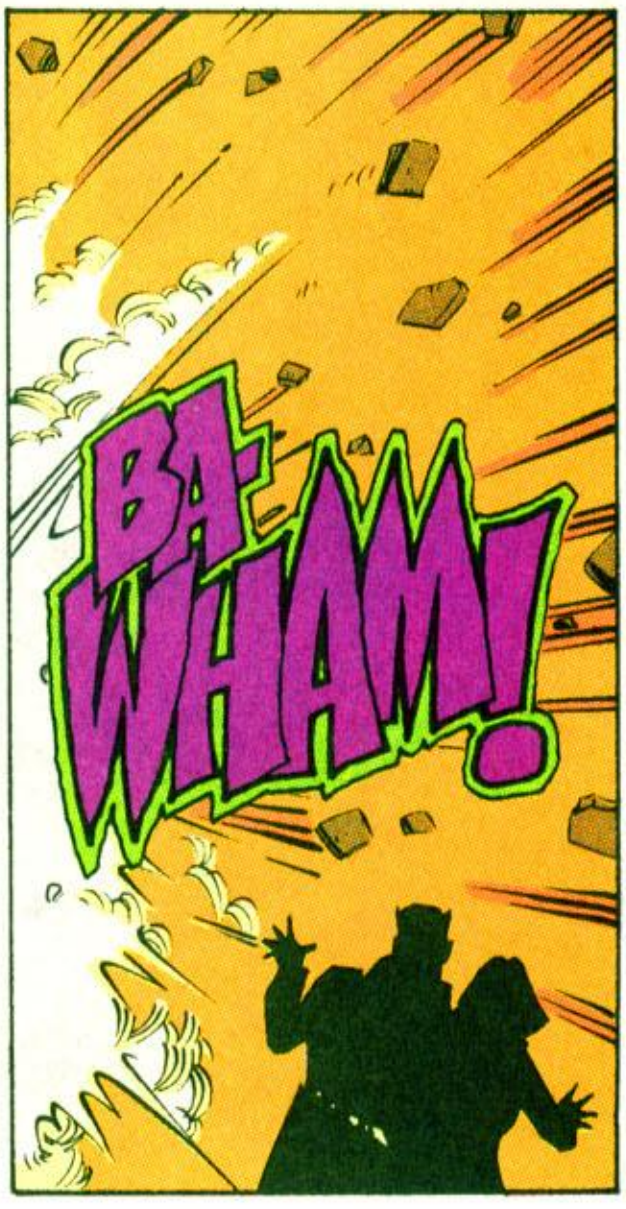
UNTIL I RULE THIS MUDBALL LIKE A GOD!

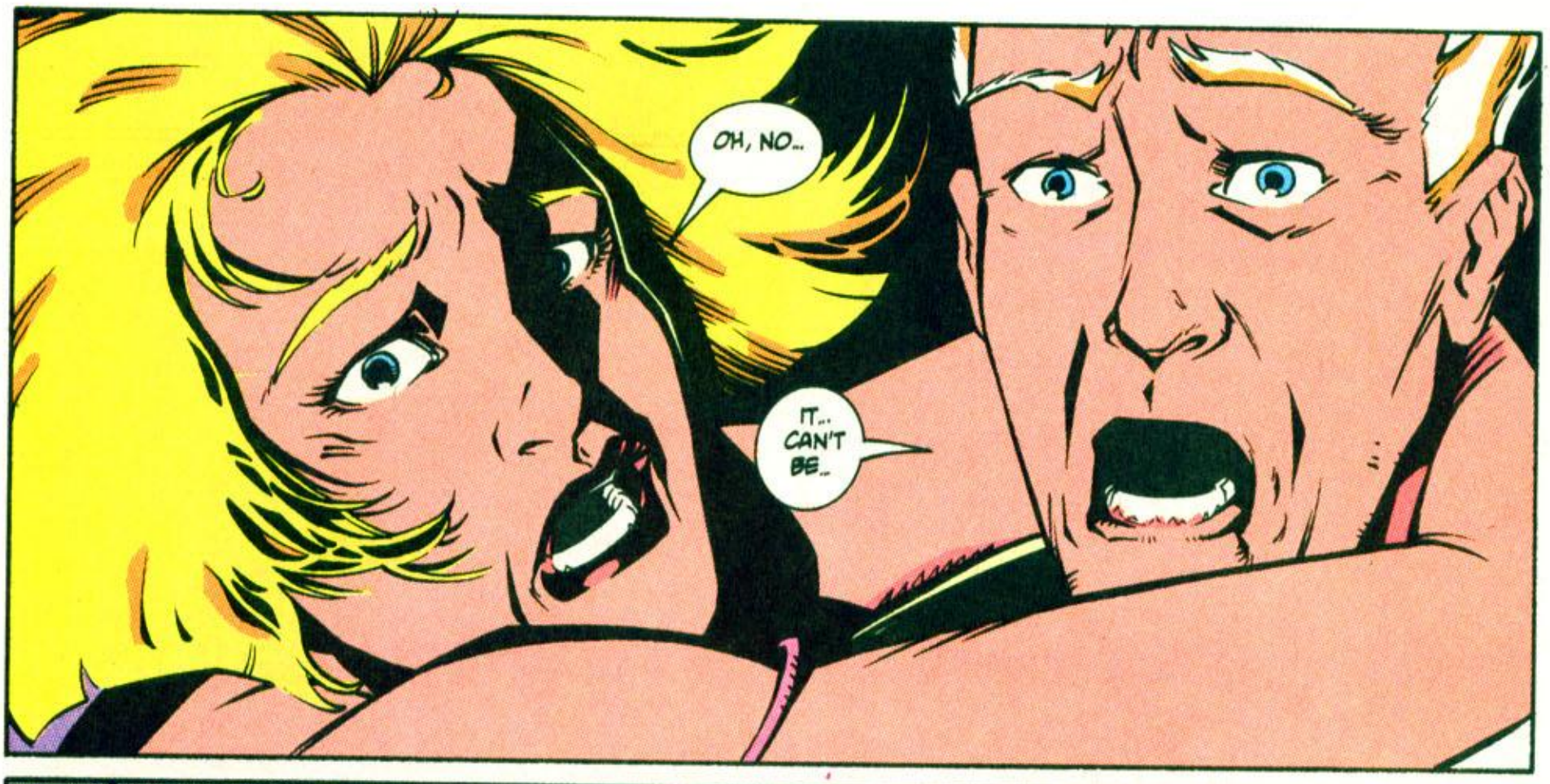
THE PROCESS SHOULD BURN YOU TO ASH IN ABOUT 48 HOURS. HAVE A GOOD LIFE.


DID IT WORK? DID WE MAKE HER MAD ENOUGH?
SHE'S TRAPPED LIKE A FLY IN AMBER!

AND ONCE THE POWER TRANSFER'S COMPLETE, AND YOU RELEASE HER...SHE WON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?
NOT A THING. AND I'll HAVE ENOUGH RAW POWER TO WIPE OUT CRIME AND WANT ON THIS PLANET FOREVER!


THEN GIVE ME ALL YOUR POWER, LOVER...!

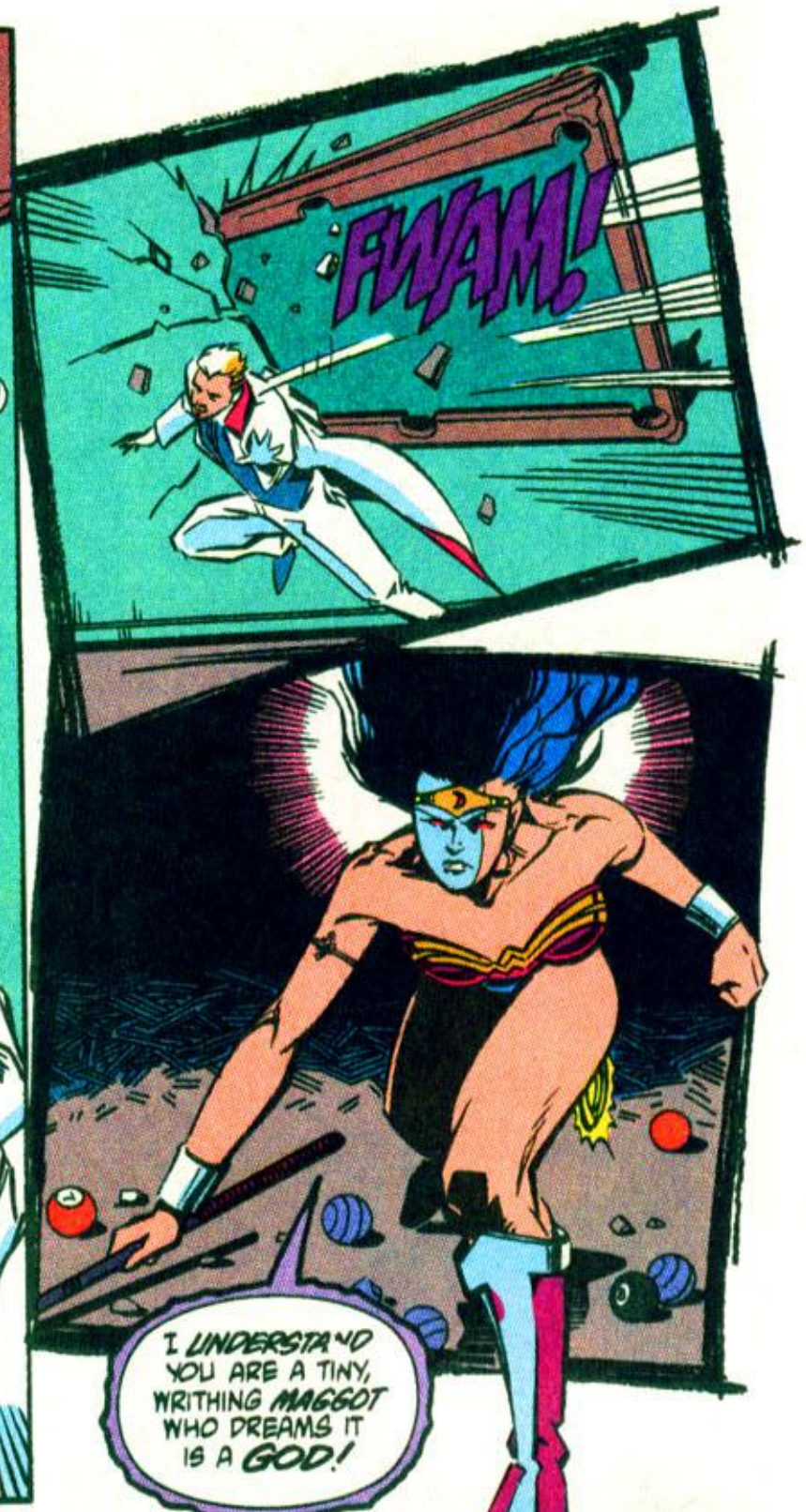

BA-WHAM!

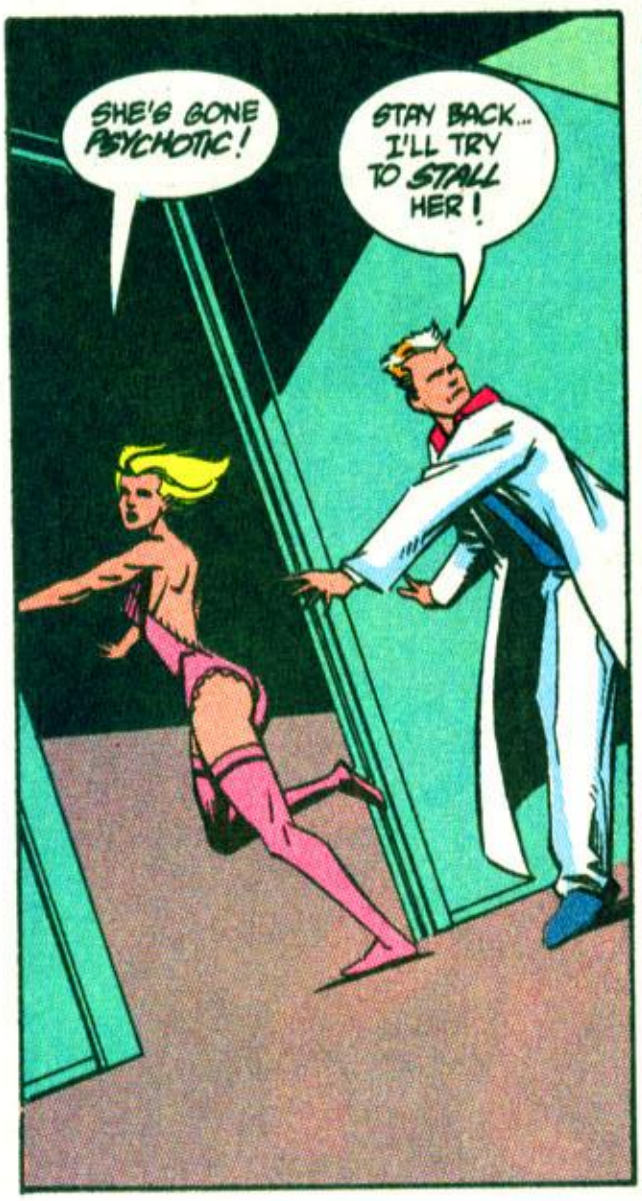


IMAGINE SEEING THE **WORST** THING YOU CAN IMAGINE, TEN FEET AWAY. AND THEN IMAGINE YOU JUST MADE IT **ANGRY**.

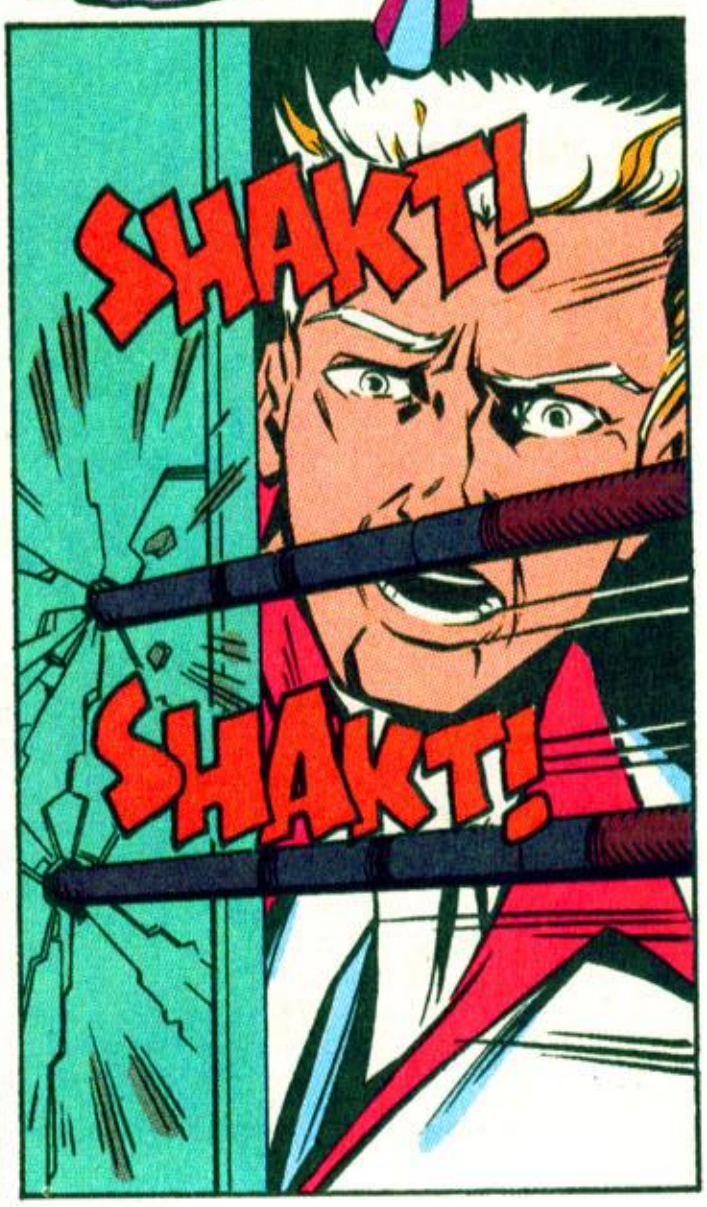
YOU WISH TO TRAP ME, MAGICIAN?

YOU THINK TO USE ME FOR YOUR PUNY AMBITION?
MY... GOD...
DIANA... WAIT... YOU MISUNDERSTAND...

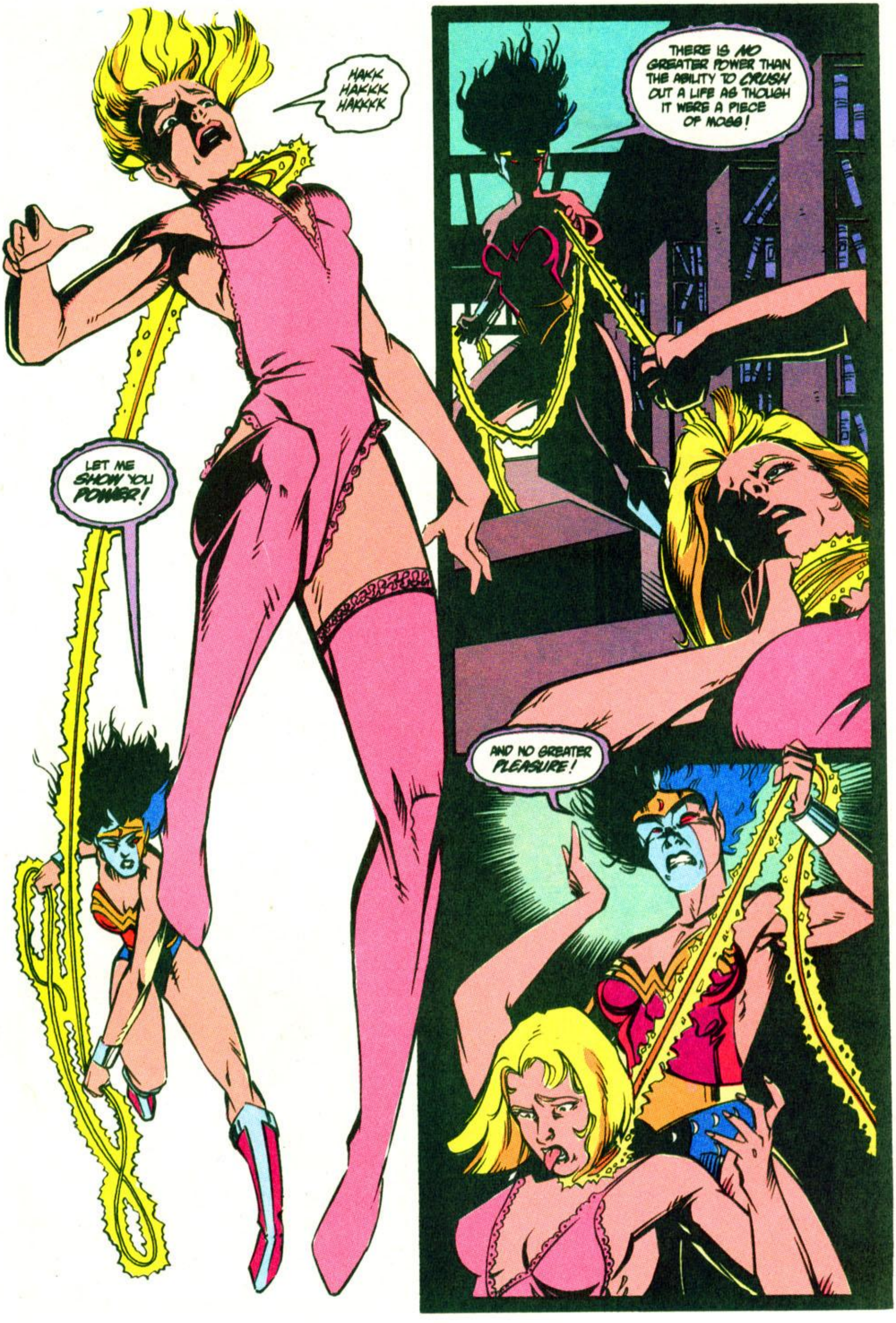

FWAM!
I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE A TINY, WRITHING MAGGOT WHO DREAMS IT IS A GOD!

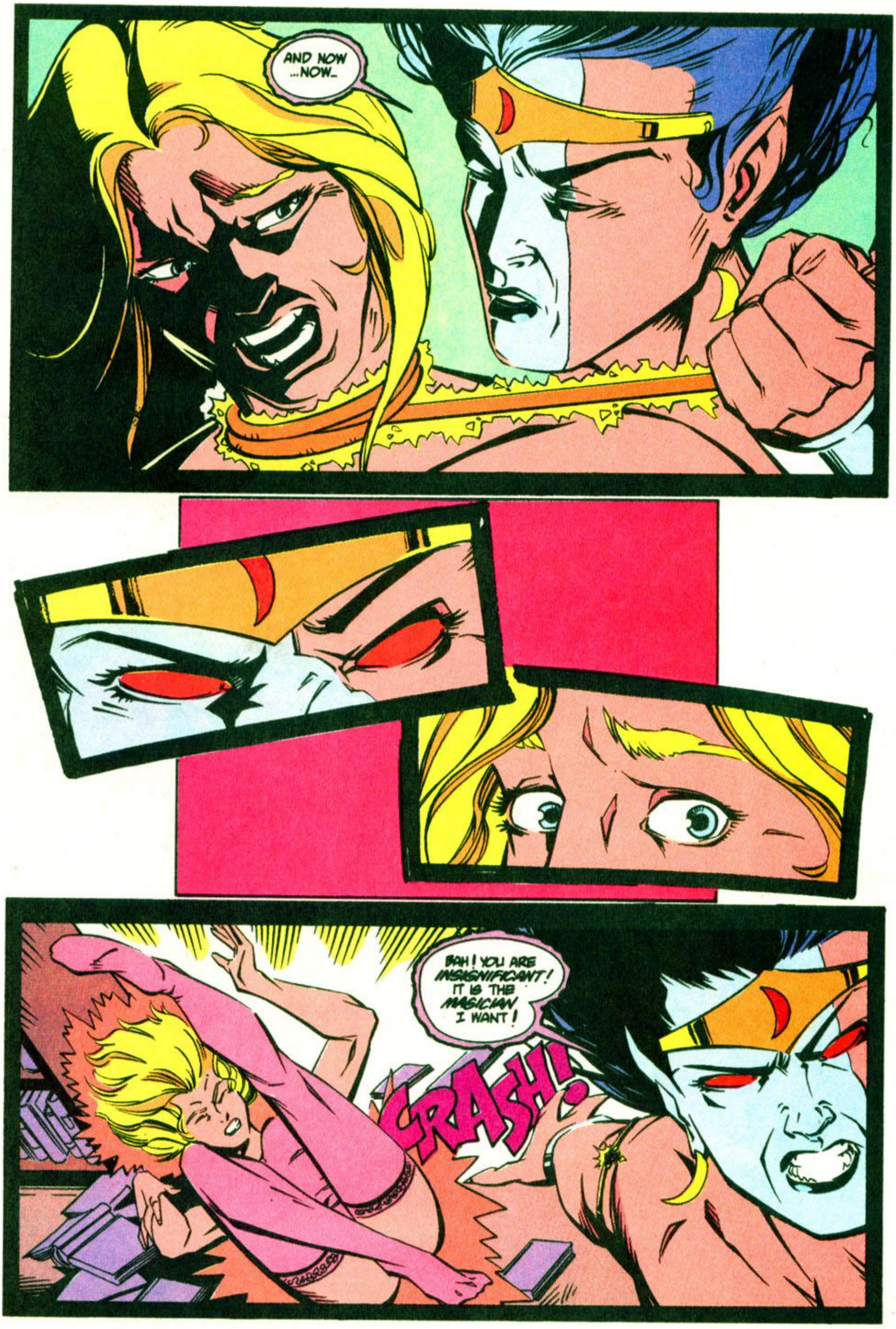

SHE'S GONE PSYCHOTIC!
STAY BACK... I'LL TRY TO STALL HER!

PRINCESS... THINK. VIOLENCE ISN'T YOUR WAY... IF YOU'LL JUST LISTEN...

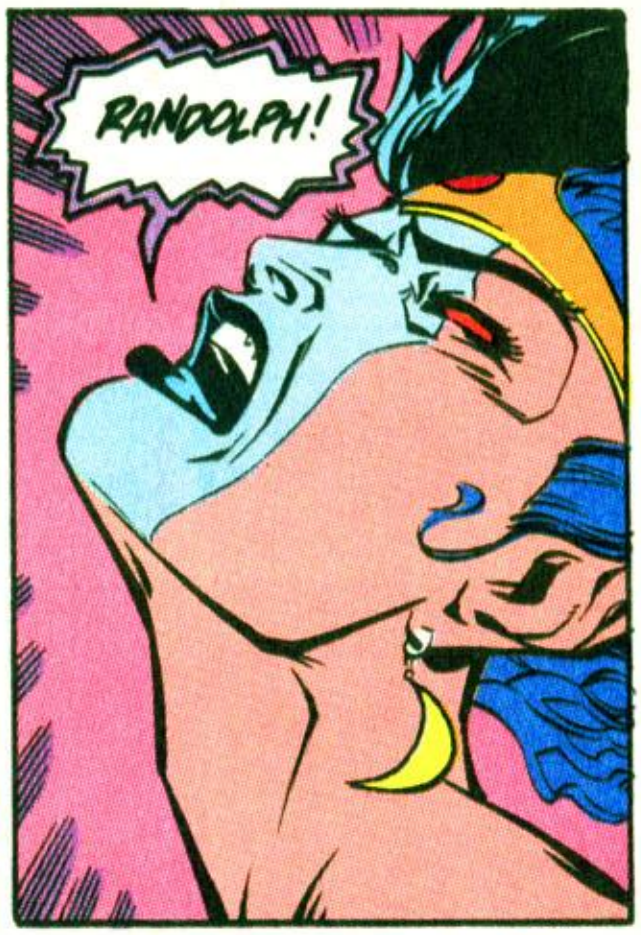

SHAKT!
SHAKT!

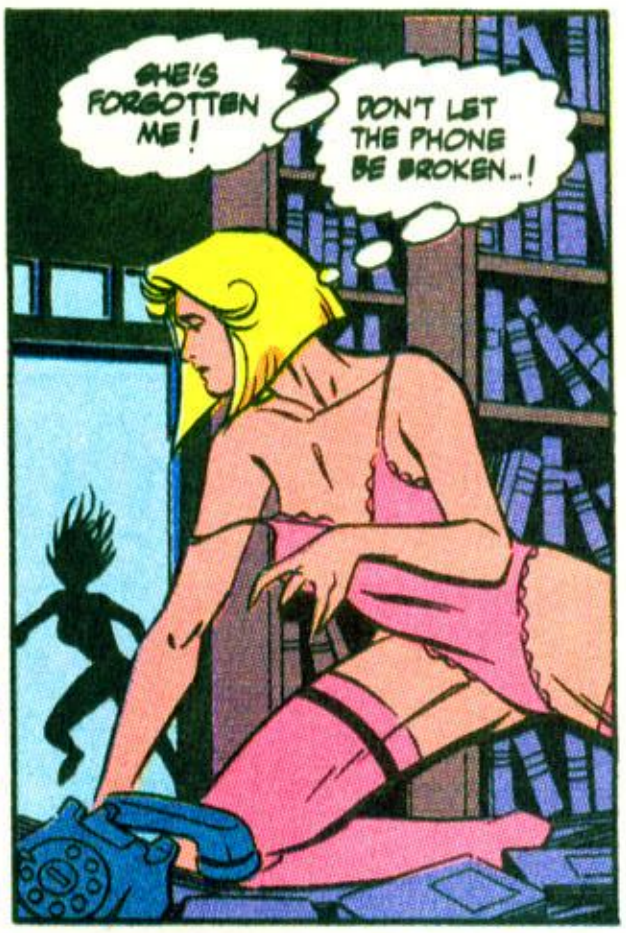
RUN! I'VE GOT TO GET ENOUGH TIME TO CAST A SPELL!
YOU WILL HOLD YOUR HEARTS SMOKING IN YOUR HANDS...
...BEFORE YOU DIE!
ASQUITH! TURN HER INTO A NEWT OR SOMETHING!
NO TIME! N... AHHHHHHH!
GRTPK
ASQUITH!!
YOU!
I HEAR YOU'RE THE LITTLE GIRL WHO LIKES POWER!


HAKK HAKKK HAKKKK
LET ME SHOW YOU POWER!
THERE IS NO GREATER POWER THAN THE ABILITY TO CRUSH OUT A LIFE AS THOUGH IT WERE A PIECE OF MOSS!
AND NO GREATER PLEASURE!


AND NOW ...NOW...
BAH! YOU ARE INSIGNIFICANT! IT IS THE MAGICIAN I WANT!
CRASH!

GONE! FLED! NO!


RANDOLPH!


SHE'S FORGOTTEN ME!
DON'T LET THE PHONE BE BROKEN..!

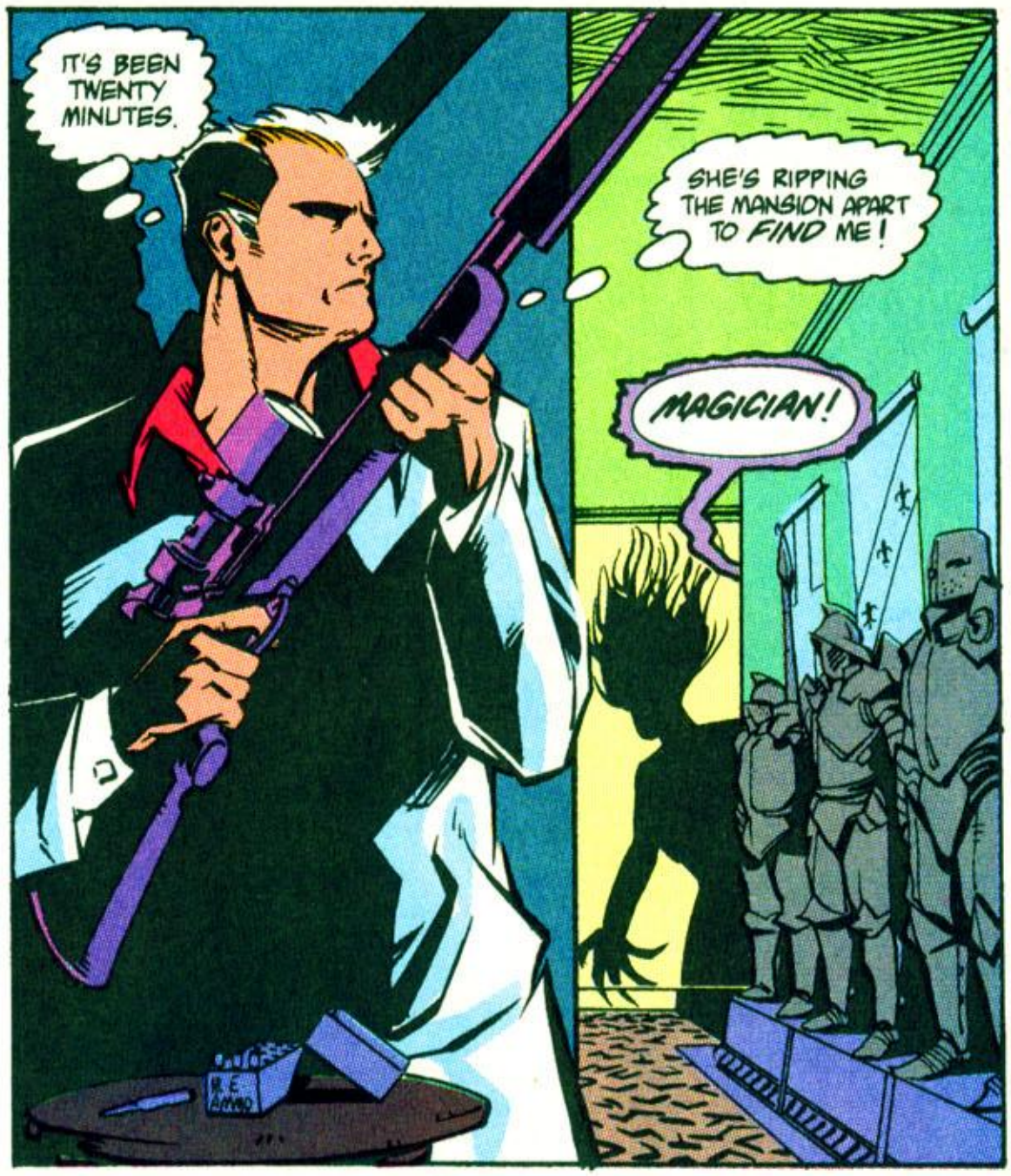
WHIZZER? IT'S ME!
LISTEN, GRAB YOUR CAMERA AND GET OVER HERE. I'M ON TOP OF THE STORY OF THE YEAR AND...

CASSIE. CASSIE ARNOLD! WHO THE HELL ELSE WOULD IT BE? ARE YOU DRUNK OR SOMETHING?

CASSIE...? 'S THREE 'CLOCK INNA M'RNIN'... TH'R'S A STORY...?

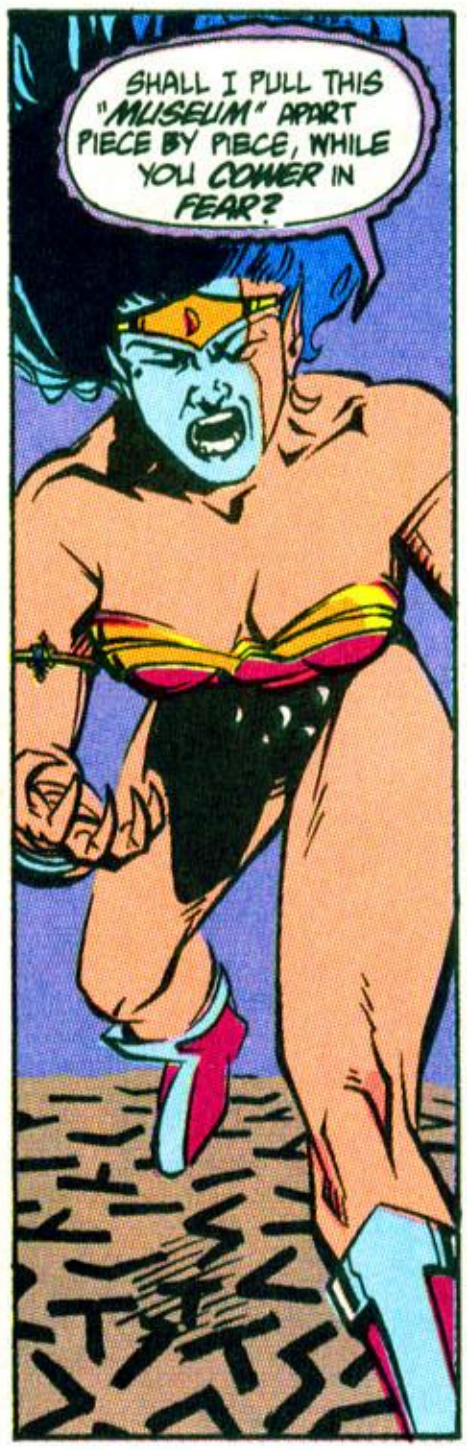
YES, THERE'S A STORY! MAKE UP! I'M AT THE RANDOLPH MANSION AND THE WORLD'S COMING TO AN END! AND I'VE GOT AN EXCLUSIVE!

BUT I CAN'T BROADCAST IT WITH TWO TIN CANS AND A STRING!
GET OVER HERE!!


IT'S BEEN TWENTY MINUTES.
SHE'S RIPPING THE MANSION APART TO FIND ME!
MAGICIAN!

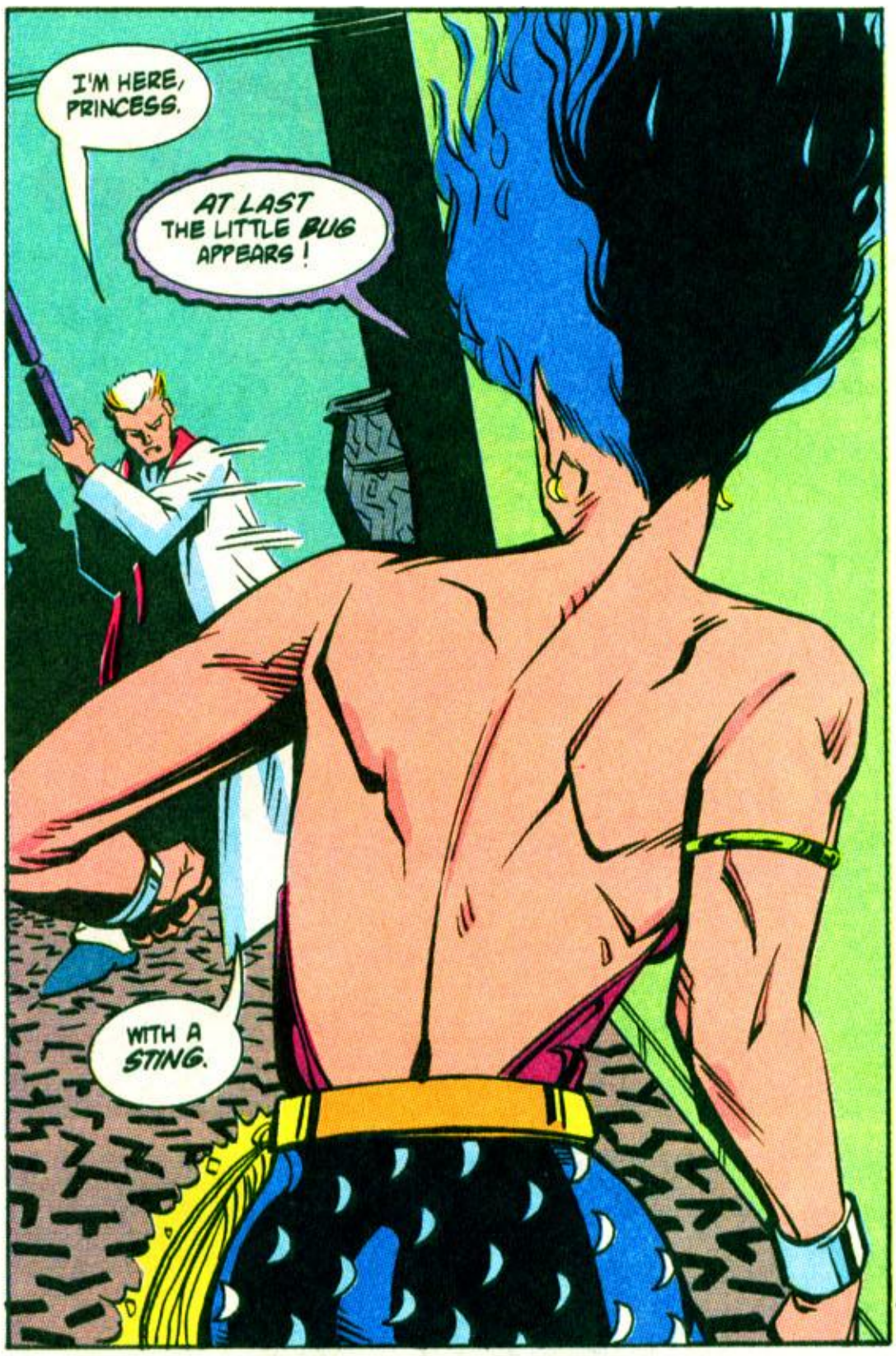
SKLANNG!

DO YOU LOVE THESE PRETTY THINGS, MAGICIAN?


SHALL I PULL THIS "MUSEUM" APART PIECE BY PIECE, WHILE YOU COWER IN FEAR?

SHOW YOURSELF, MAGICIAN!

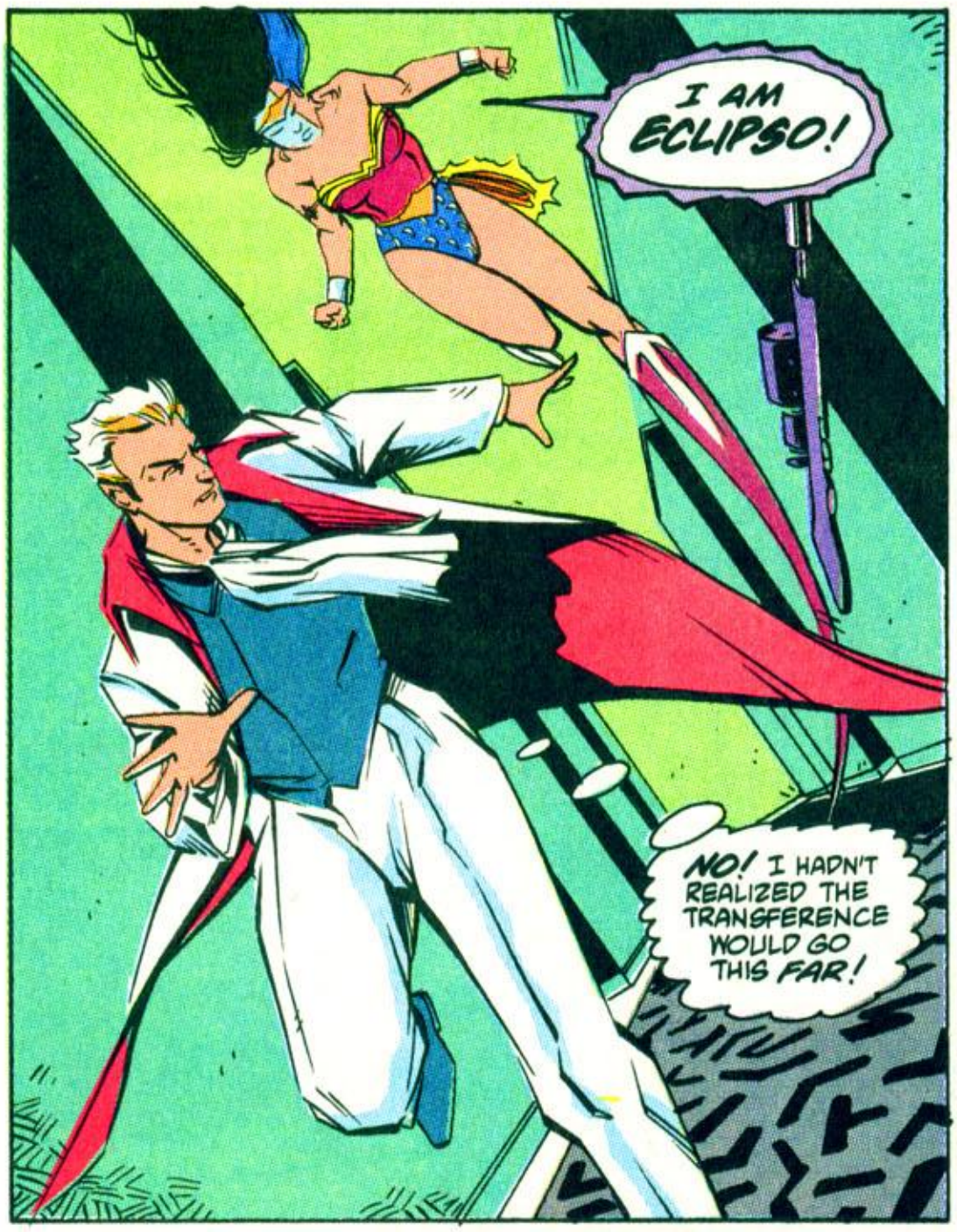
NOW.


I'M HERE, PRINCESS.
AT LAST THE LITTLE BUG APPEARS!
WITH A STING.

I CONJURED THIS RIFLE TO HUNT DINOSAURS AND METAHUMANS AND OTHER THINGS THAT WON'T STAY DEAD!
I ONCE KILLED A DAXAMITE WITH IT.

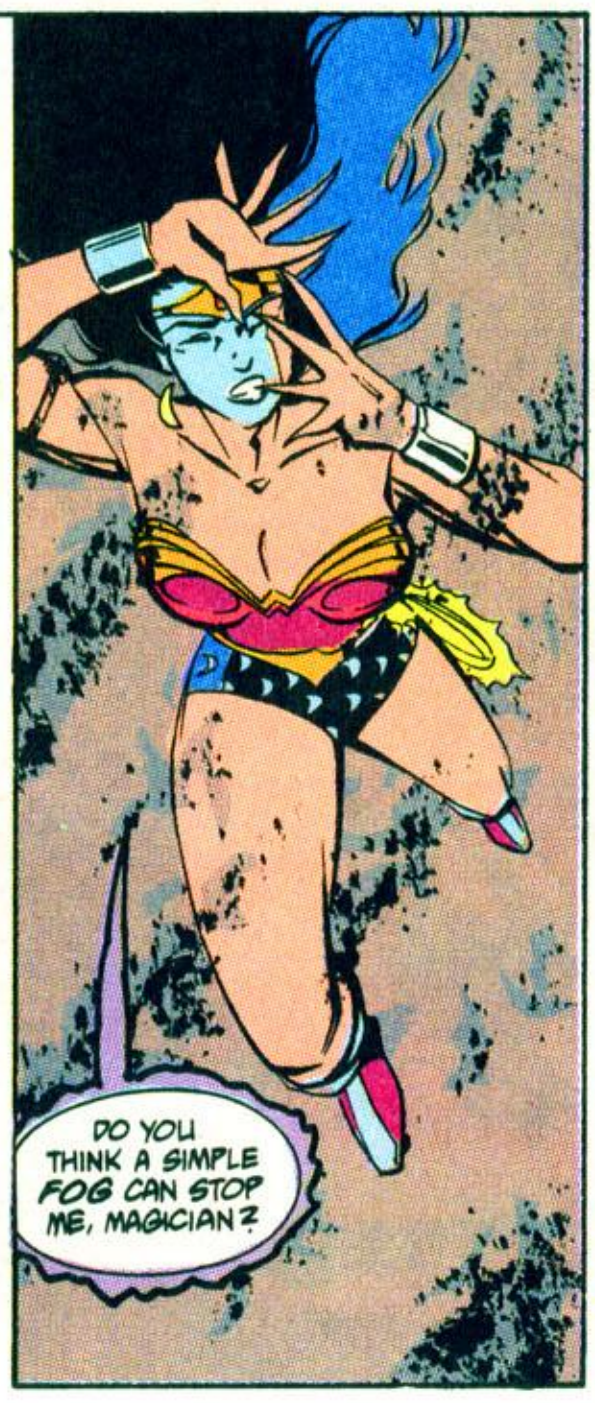
DEFLECT THIS WITH YOUR MAGIC BRACELETS, PRINCESS!!
BTAM BTAM BTAM

YOU CONFUSE ME WITH THE FLESH I WEAR, MAGICIAN...


I AM ECLIPSO!
NO! I HADN'T REALIZED THE TRANSFERENCE WOULD GO THIS FAR!

I HAVE TO CONCENTRATE...!
LET THE MISTS OF TIME BE LOOSED...

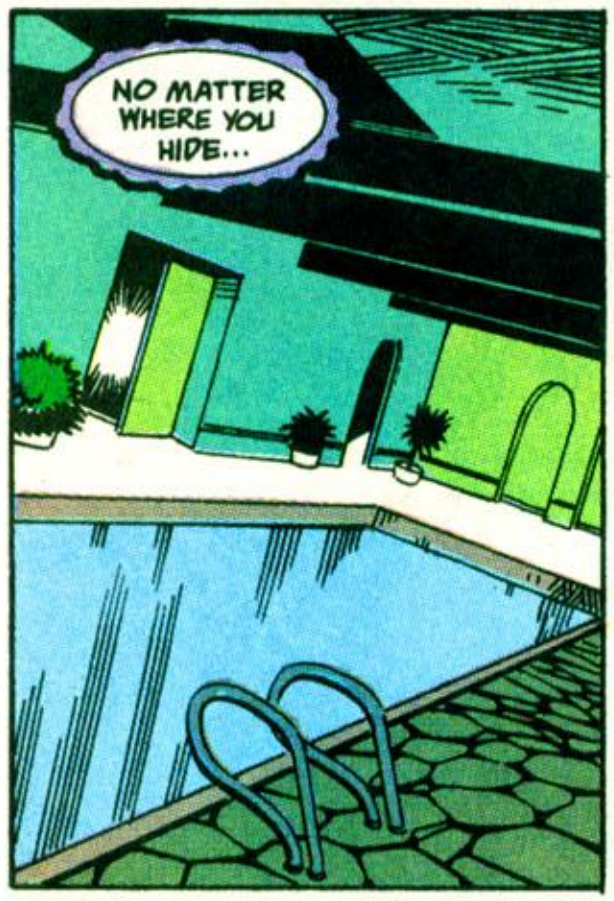
AND ALL HEAVEN'S LIGHT OBSCURED, LET THE SHAPE OF THINGS BE LOST AND MINE ENEMIES' SIGHT BE BLURRED!


DO YOU THINK A SIMPLE FOG CAN STOP ME, MAGICIAN?

MY SIGHT IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN THAT!

SOME SORT OF FORCE BEAM, SHOOTING FROM HER EYE! GOT TO GET AWAY!

YOU CANNOT HIDE FROM ME, YOU PATHETIC LITTLE MAN!


NO MATTER WHERE YOU HIDE...

...ECLIPSO IS SURE TO FIND YOU!!

CAN'T... HUFF HUFF... DODGE IT IN TIME...

BOOM
MISSED ME...
DON'T KNOW HOW...
ECLIPSO'S MORE POWERFUL THAN I DREAMED...

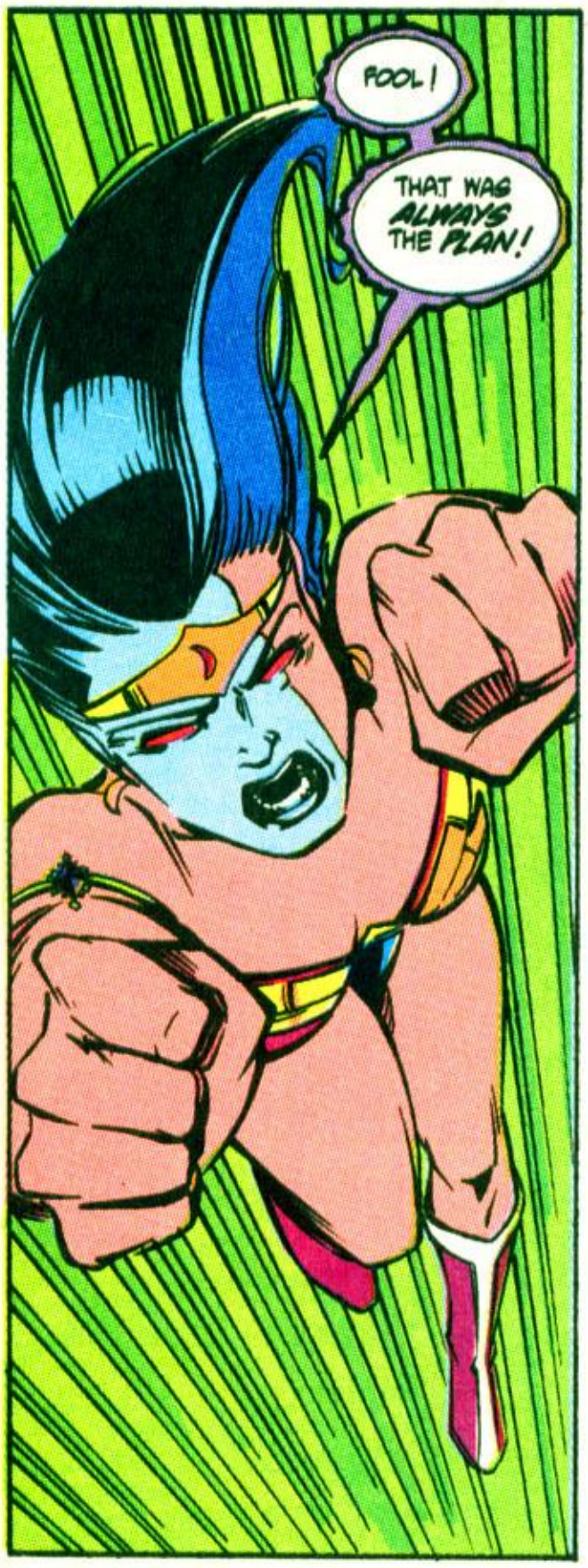
WHIZZER! FINALLY. C'MON, WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE *ACTION* AND...

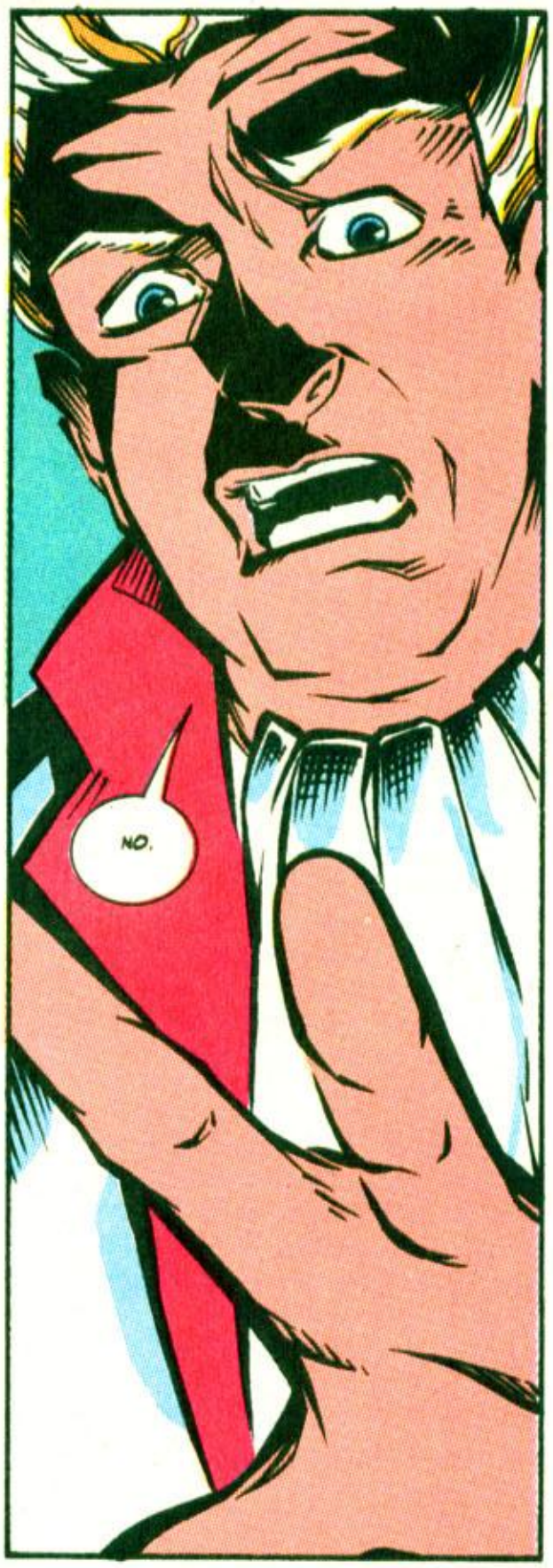
I LIKE THE *WORKING TOGS*, BOSS.

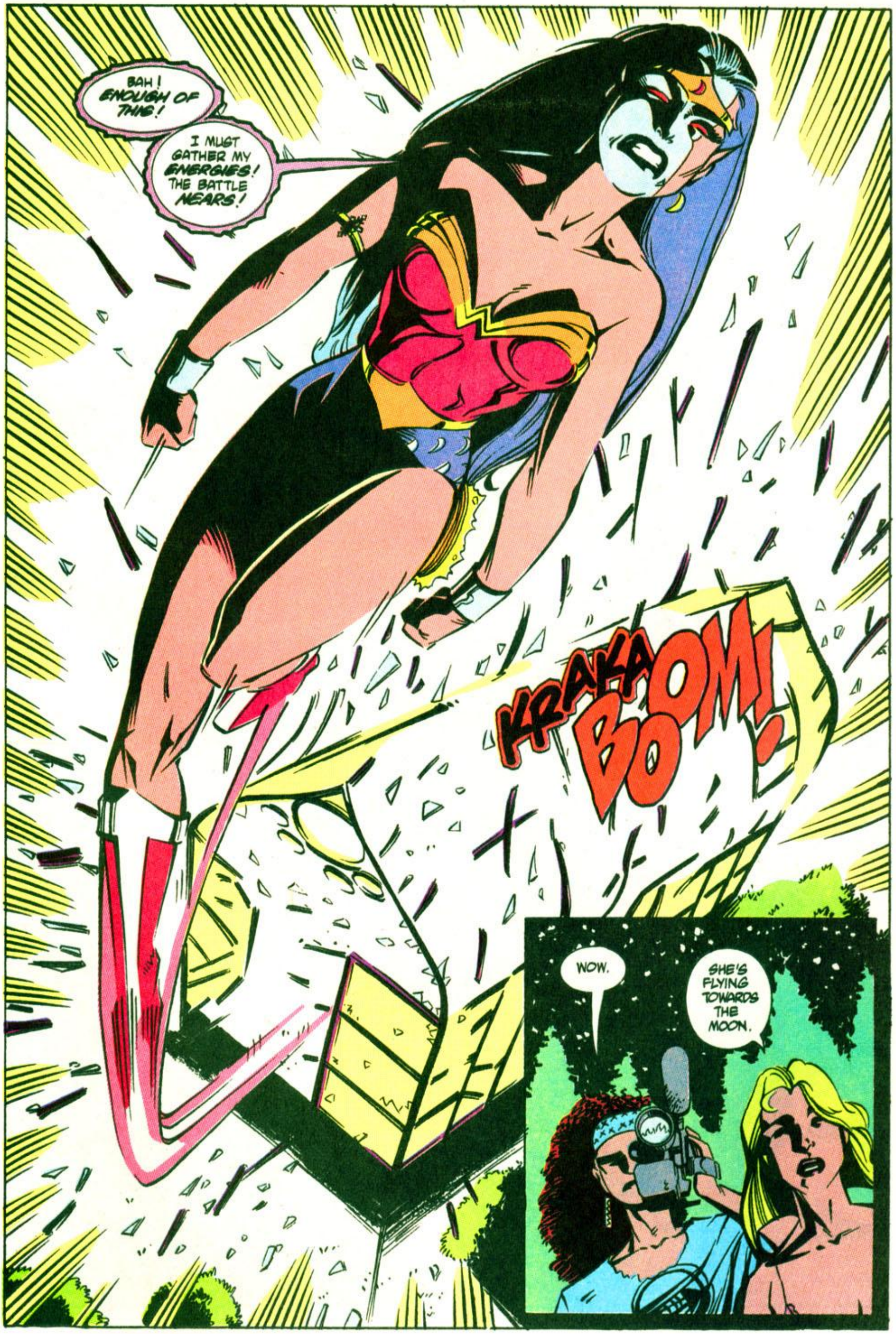
SHUT UP, WHIZZER.

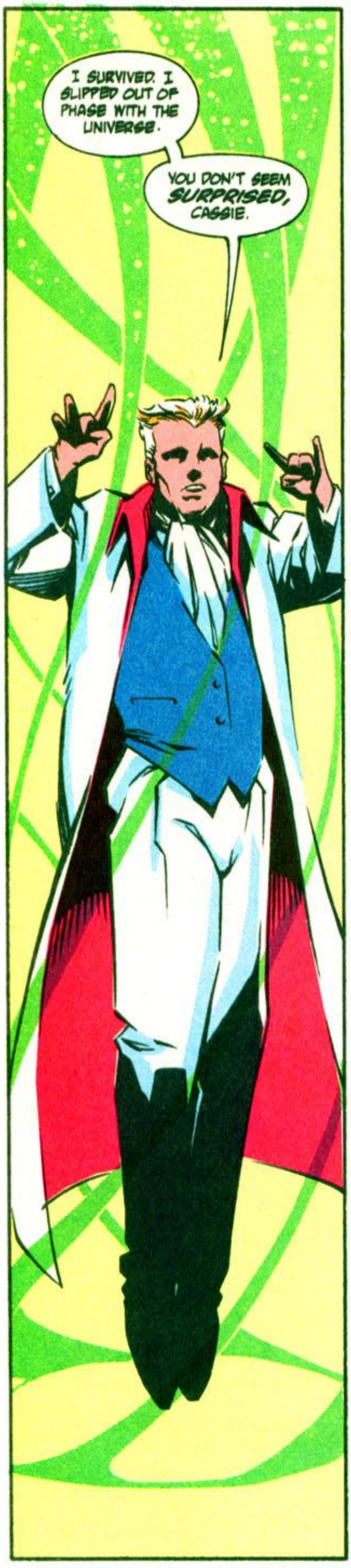
IS THIS WHERE I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO ASK *HOW* WE ALWAYS GET *ACCESS* TO THE BEST STORIES?

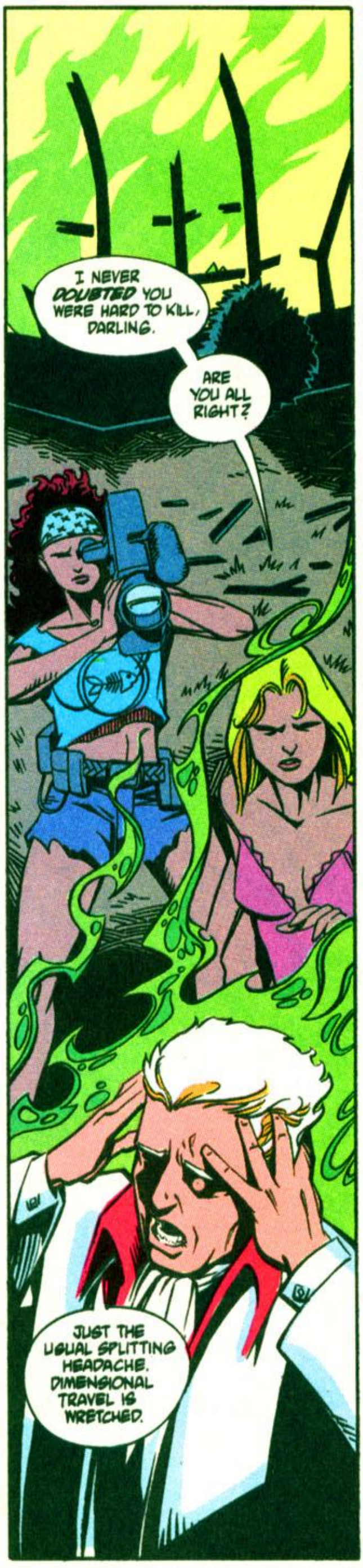
SHUT UP, WHIZZER.






BAH! ENOUGH OF THIS!
I MUST GATHER MY ENERGIES! THE BATTLE NEARS!
KRAKA BOOM!
WOW.
SHE'S FLYING TOWARDS THE MOON.


I SURVIVED. I SLIPPED OUT OF PHASE WITH THE UNIVERSE.
YOU DON'T SEEM SURPRISED, CASSIE.


I NEVER DOUBTED YOU WERE HARD TO KILL, DARLING.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
JUST THE USUAL SPLITTING HEADACHE. DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL IS WRETCHED.

YOU KNOW, SHE HAD ME. SHE HAD ME...AND SHE LET ME GO.
SO?
IT WAS ALMOST AS IF THE REAL DIANA IS STILL IN THERE...TRYING, SOMEHOW, TO CHANGE THAT DEMON... MAKE HIM LESS DEADLY.
IT'S MORE THAN I WOULD'VE DONE FOR HER. MAKES YOU THINK. Y'KNOW?
TO FIND OUT WHAT THE FATES--AND ECLIPSO--HAVE IN STORE FOR DIANA, DON'T MISS ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL #4, ON SALE IN ONE WEEK! BE THERE--OR BE ECLIPSED!