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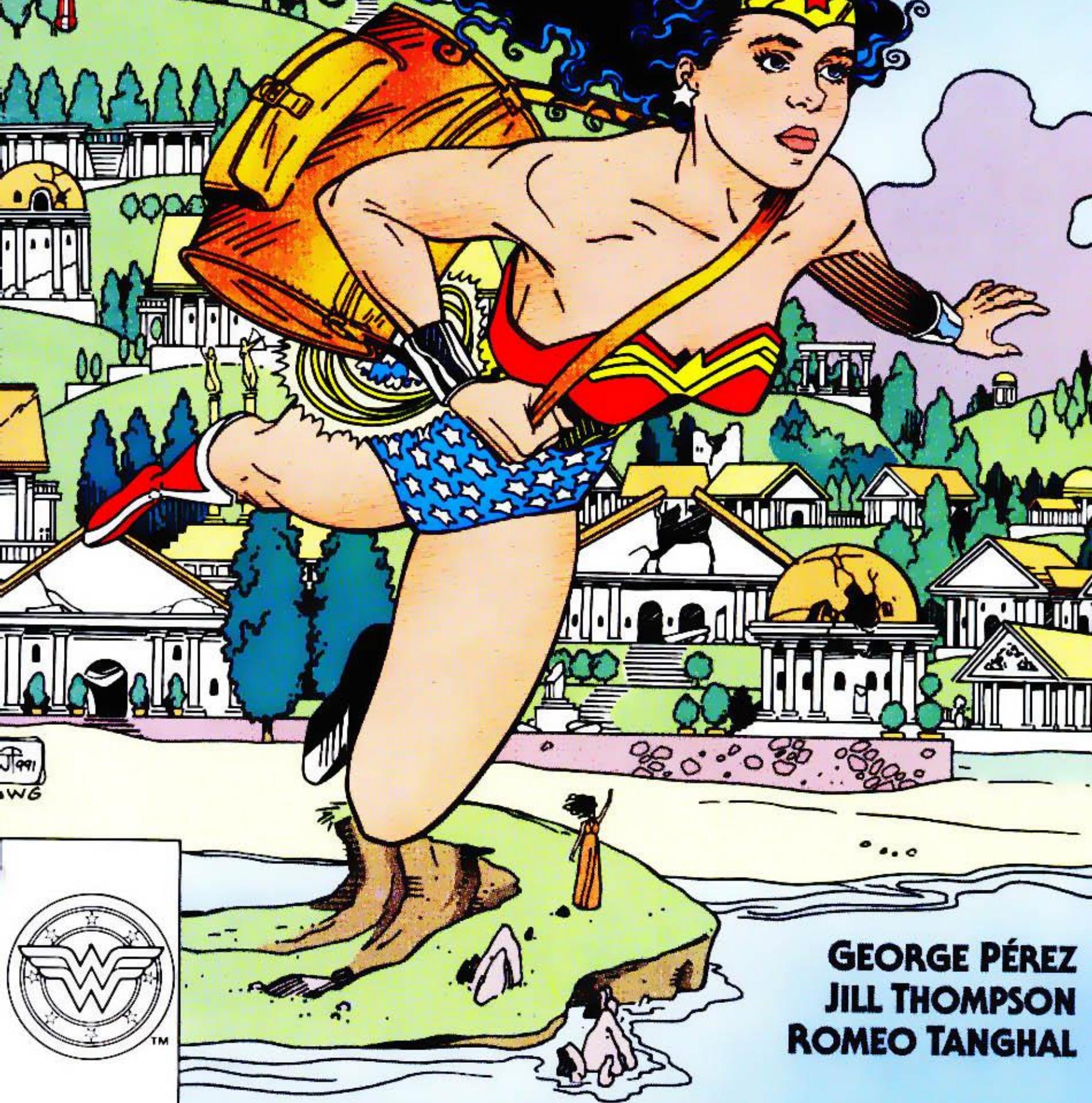


AN ERA ENDS FOR

# WONDER WOMAN

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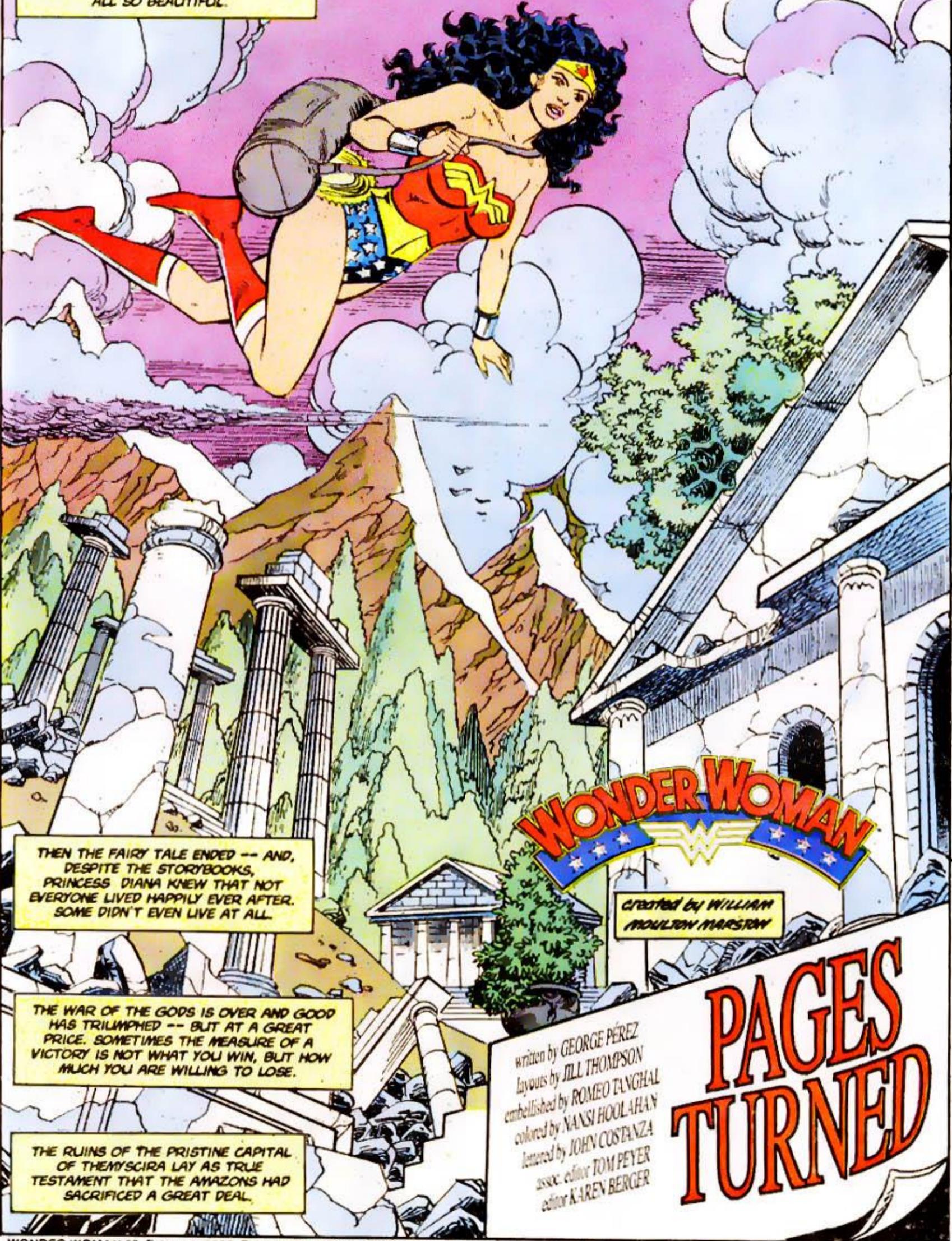
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GEORGE PÉREZ  
JILL THOMPSON  
ROMEO TANGHAL



ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS, DAUGHTER OF A BEAUTIFUL QUEEN WHO RULED OVER A BEAUTIFUL ISLAND FULL OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN. EVERYTHING WAS ALL SO BEAUTIFUL.



THEN THE FAIRY TALE ENDED -- AND, DESPITE THE STORYBOOKS, PRINCESS DIANA KNEW THAT NOT EVERYONE LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER. SOME DIDN'T EVEN LIVE AT ALL.

THE WAR OF THE GODS IS OVER AND GOOD HAS TRIUMPHED -- BUT AT A GREAT PRICE. SOMETIMES THE MEASURE OF A VICTORY IS NOT WHAT YOU WIN, BUT HOW MUCH YOU ARE WILLING TO LOSE.

THE RUINS OF THE PRISTINE CAPITAL OF THEMYSCIRA LAY AS TRUE TESTAMENT THAT THE AMAZONS HAD SACRIFICED A GREAT DEAL.

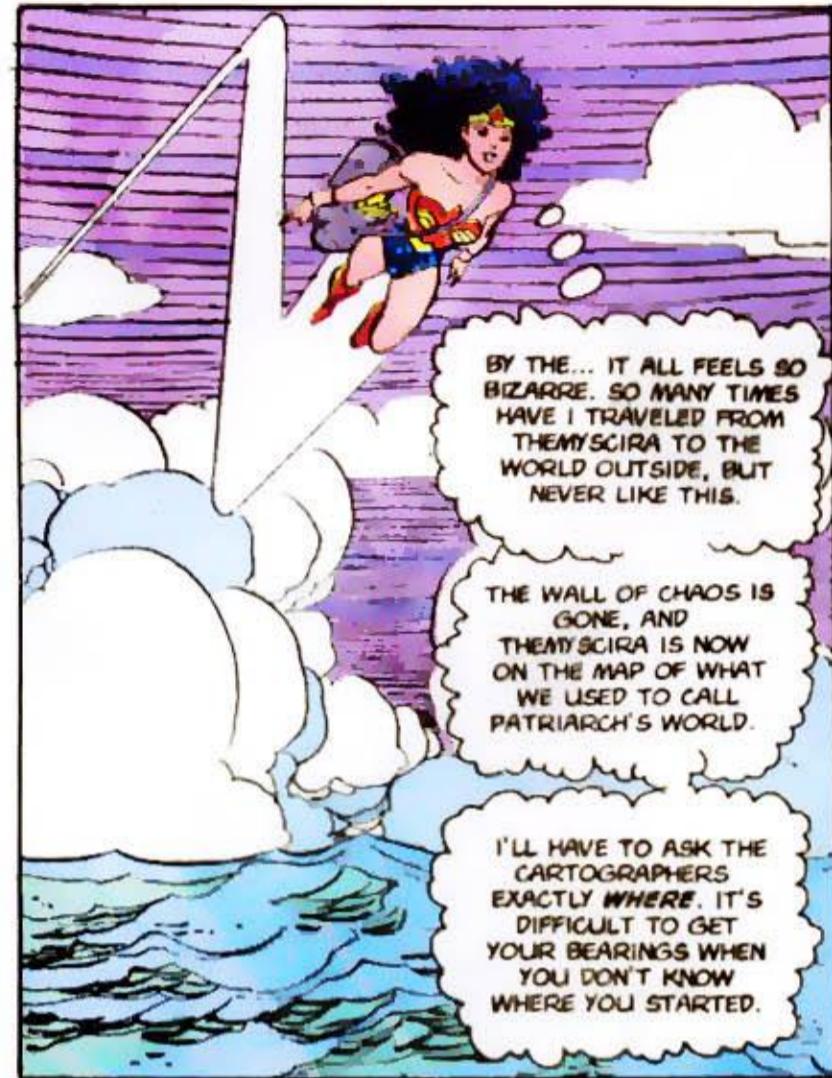
## WONDER WOMAN

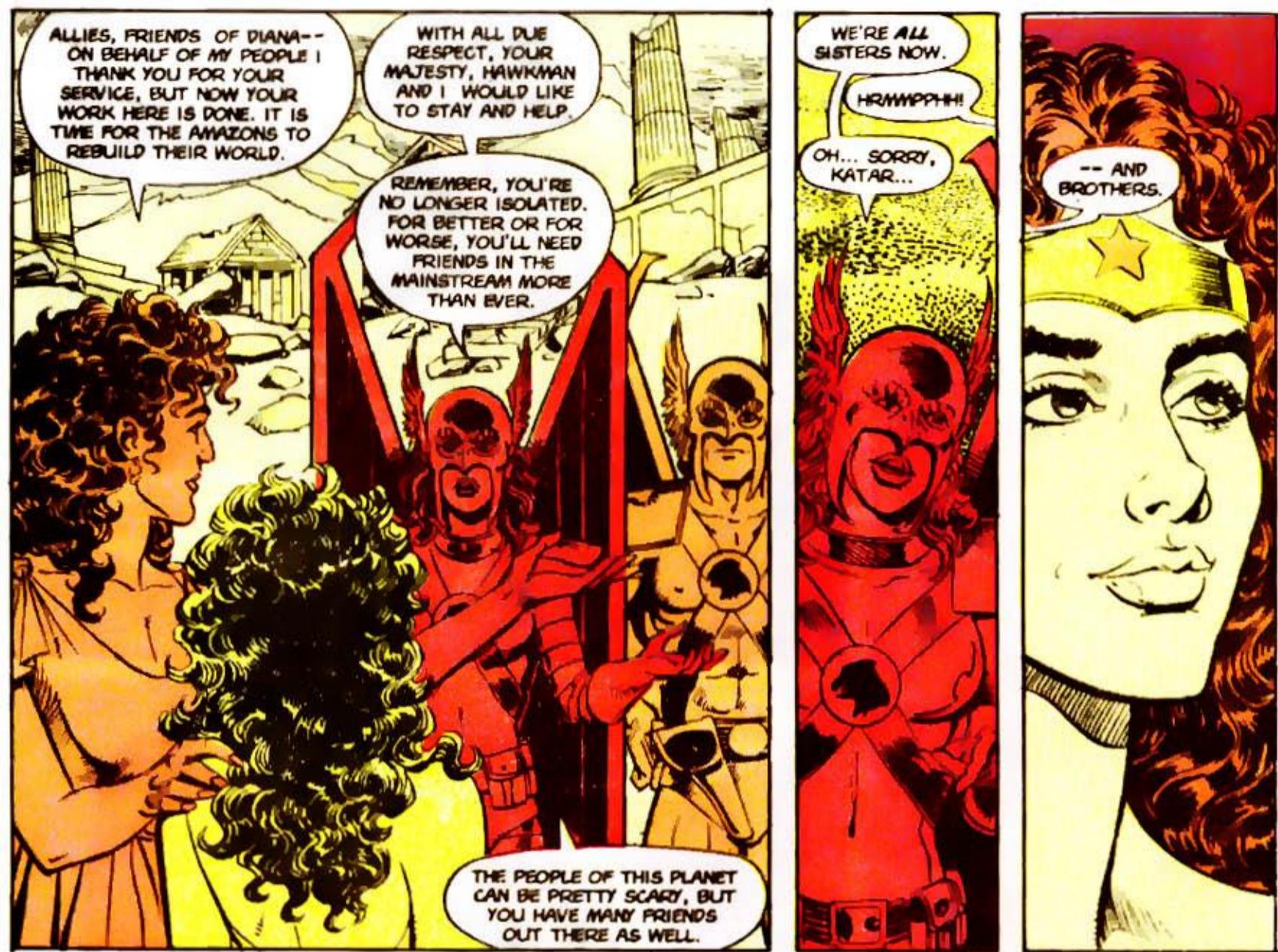
created by WILLIAM Moulton MARSHALL

written by GEORGE PÉREZ  
layouts by JILL THOMPSON  
embellished by ROMEO TANGHAL  
colored by NANSI HOOLAHAN  
lettered by JOHN COSTANZA  
assoc. editor TOM PEYER  
editor KAREN BERGER

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"COME THEMYSICRA'S RULER WHILE THE QUEEN RECOVERS YOU MUST PRESIDE OVER THE FUNERAL PYRE OF OUR FALLEN SISTERS."

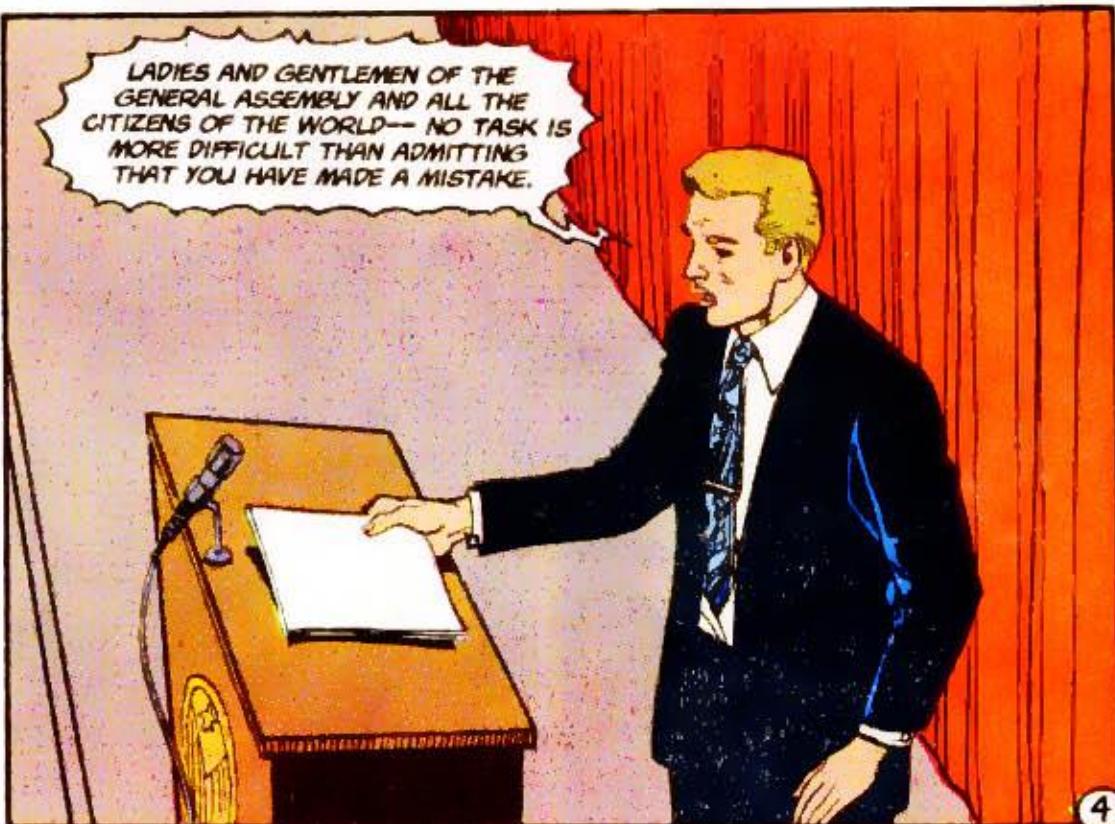
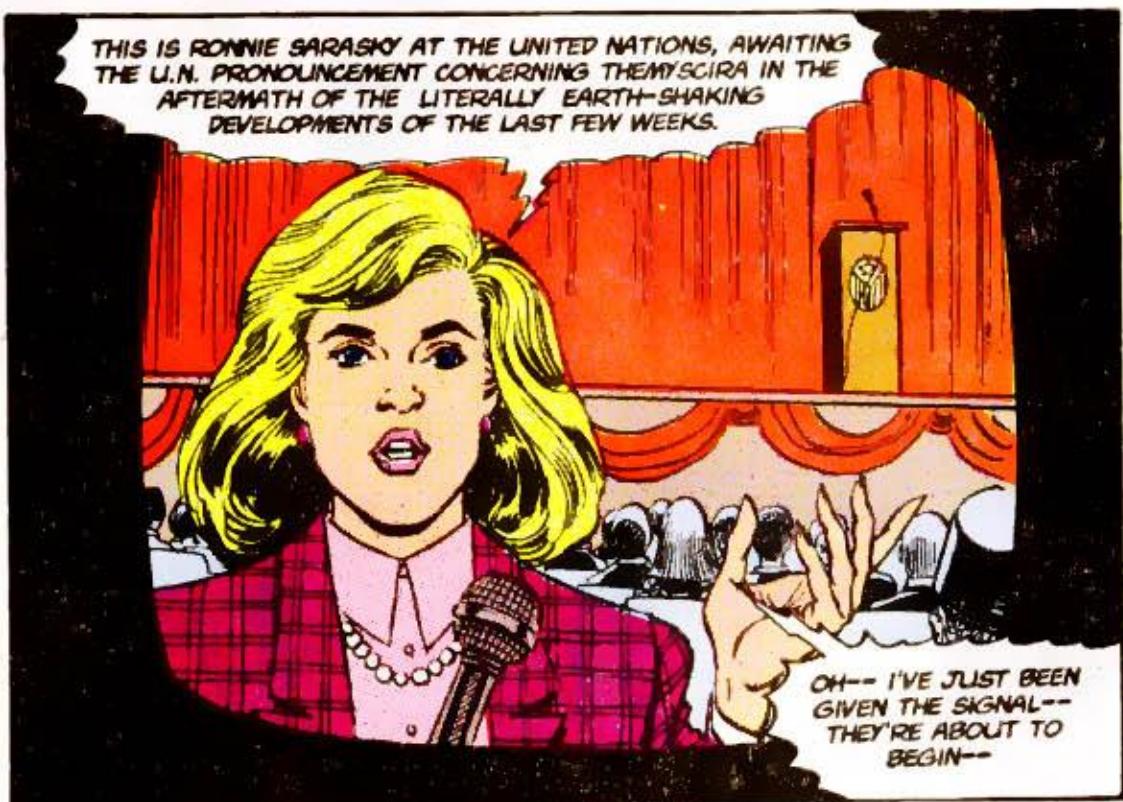
"AND... WITH THE HIGH ORACLE MENALIPPE... AMONG THEM... IT HAS FALLEN TO ME TO LEAD THE PRAYER..."

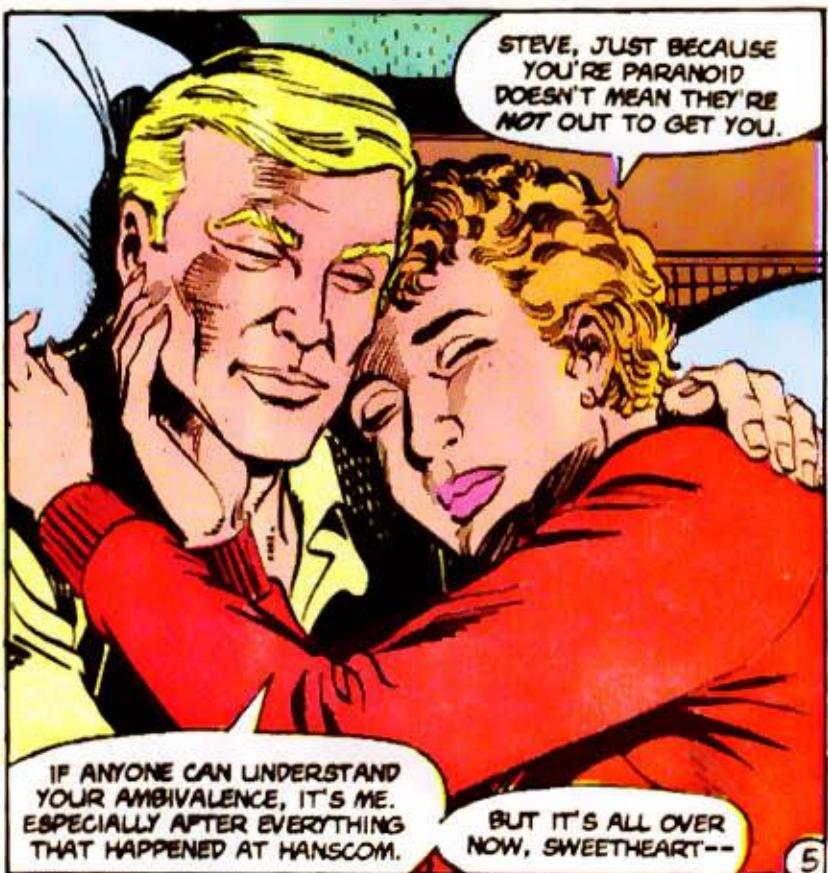
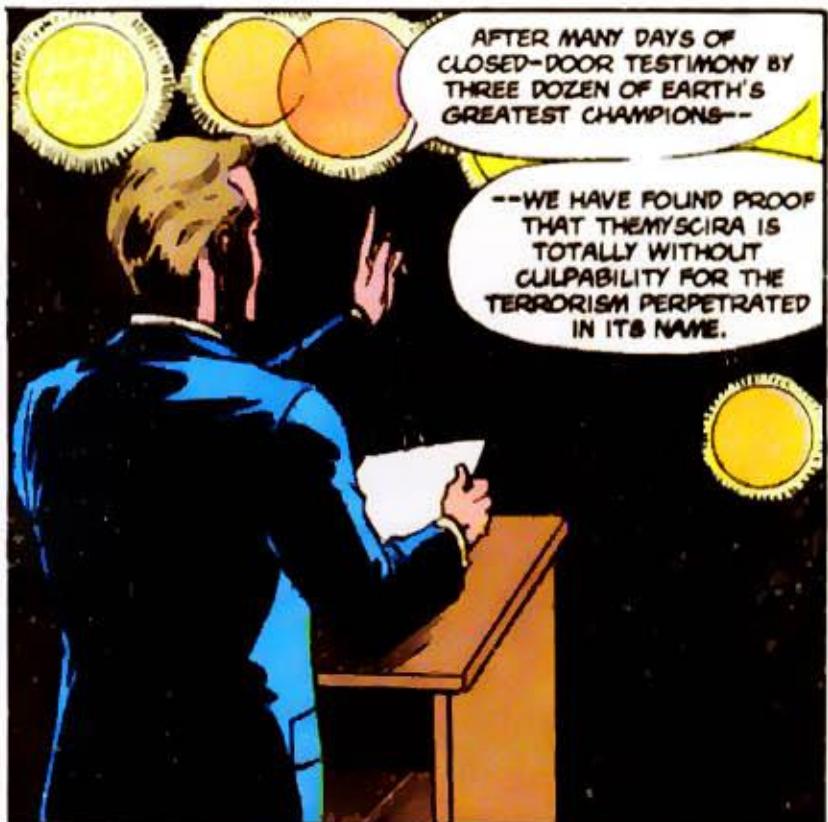


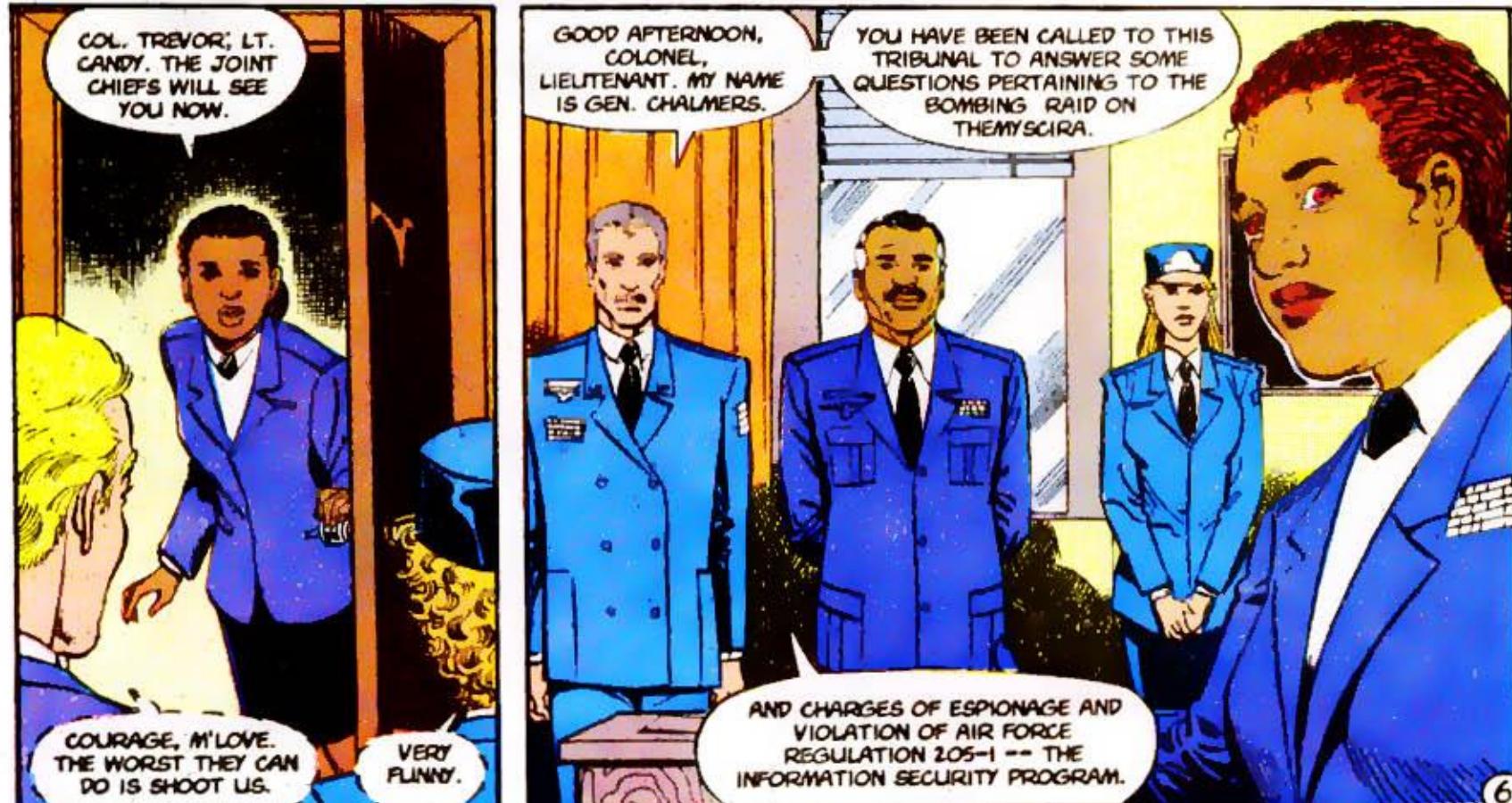
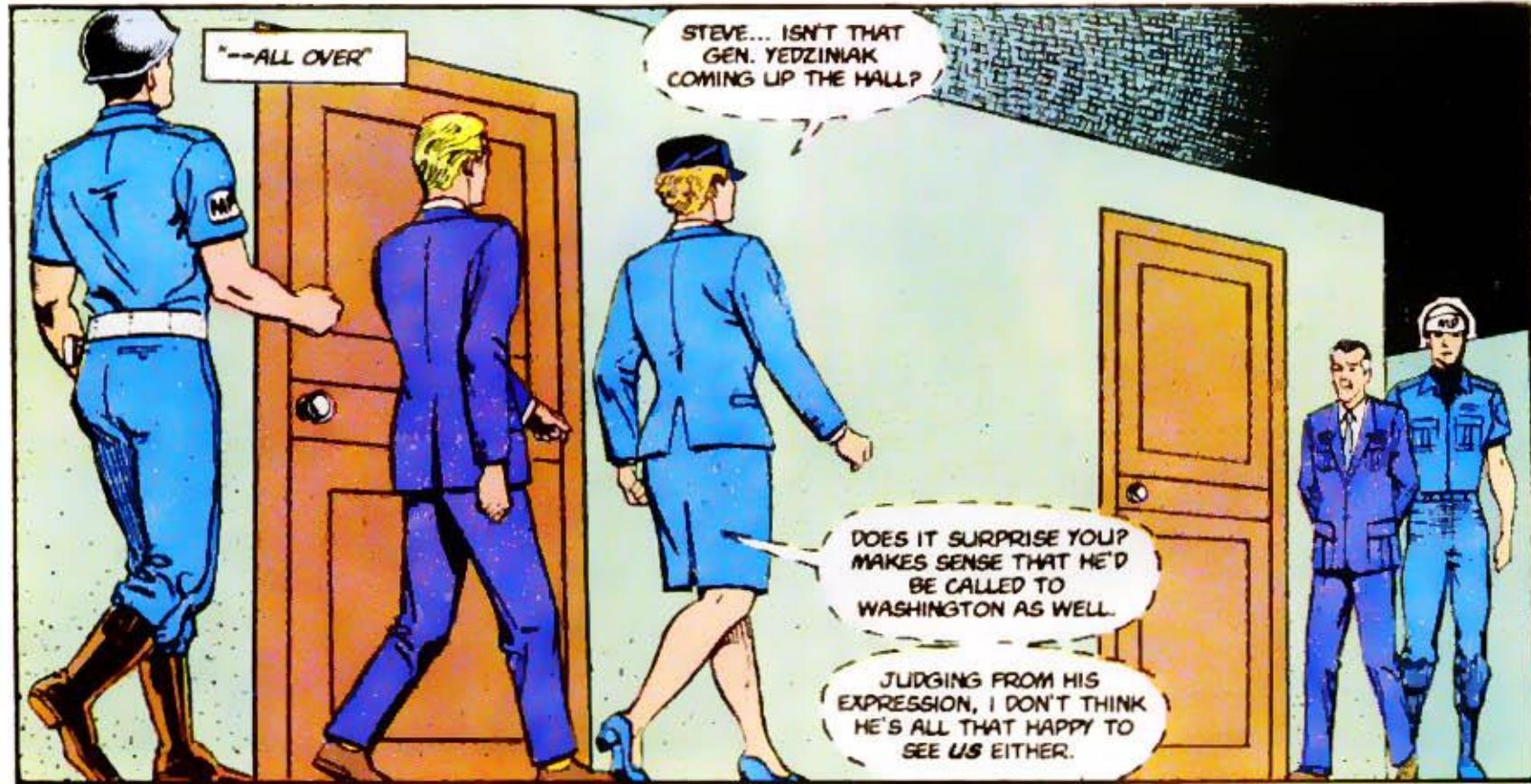
"POOR PENELOPE, I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW HER LIFE WILL BE WITHOUT MENALIPPE."

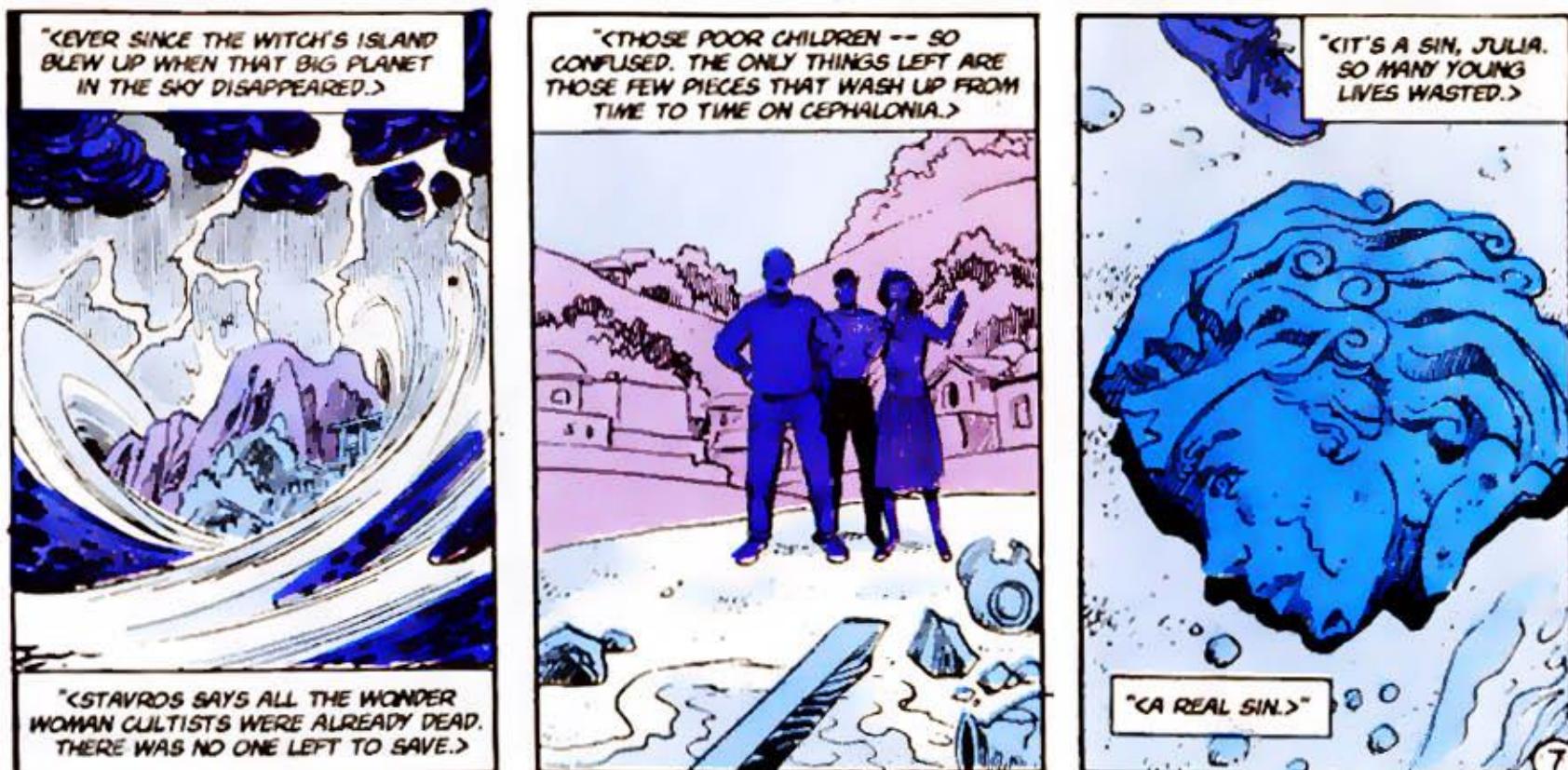
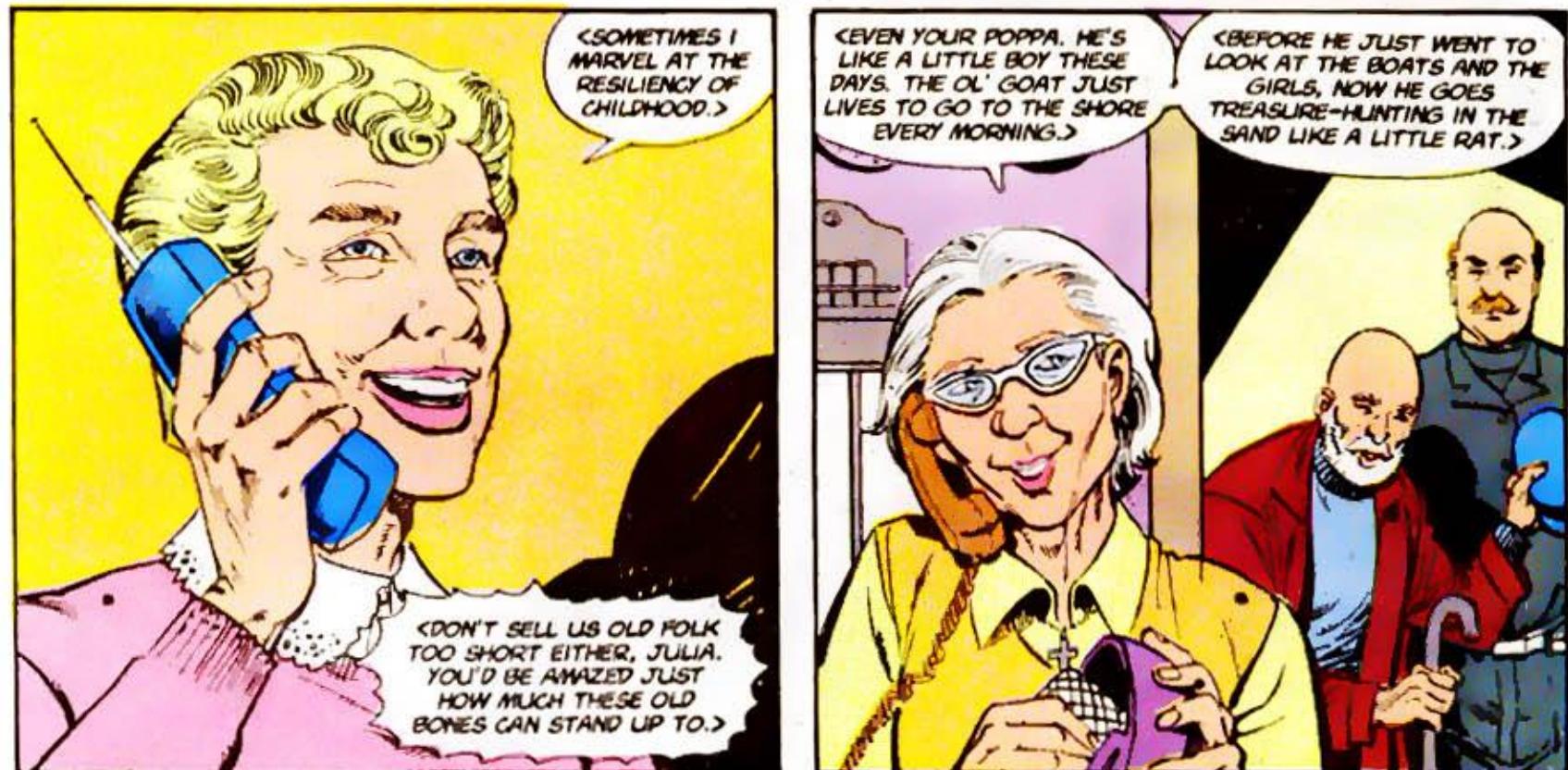
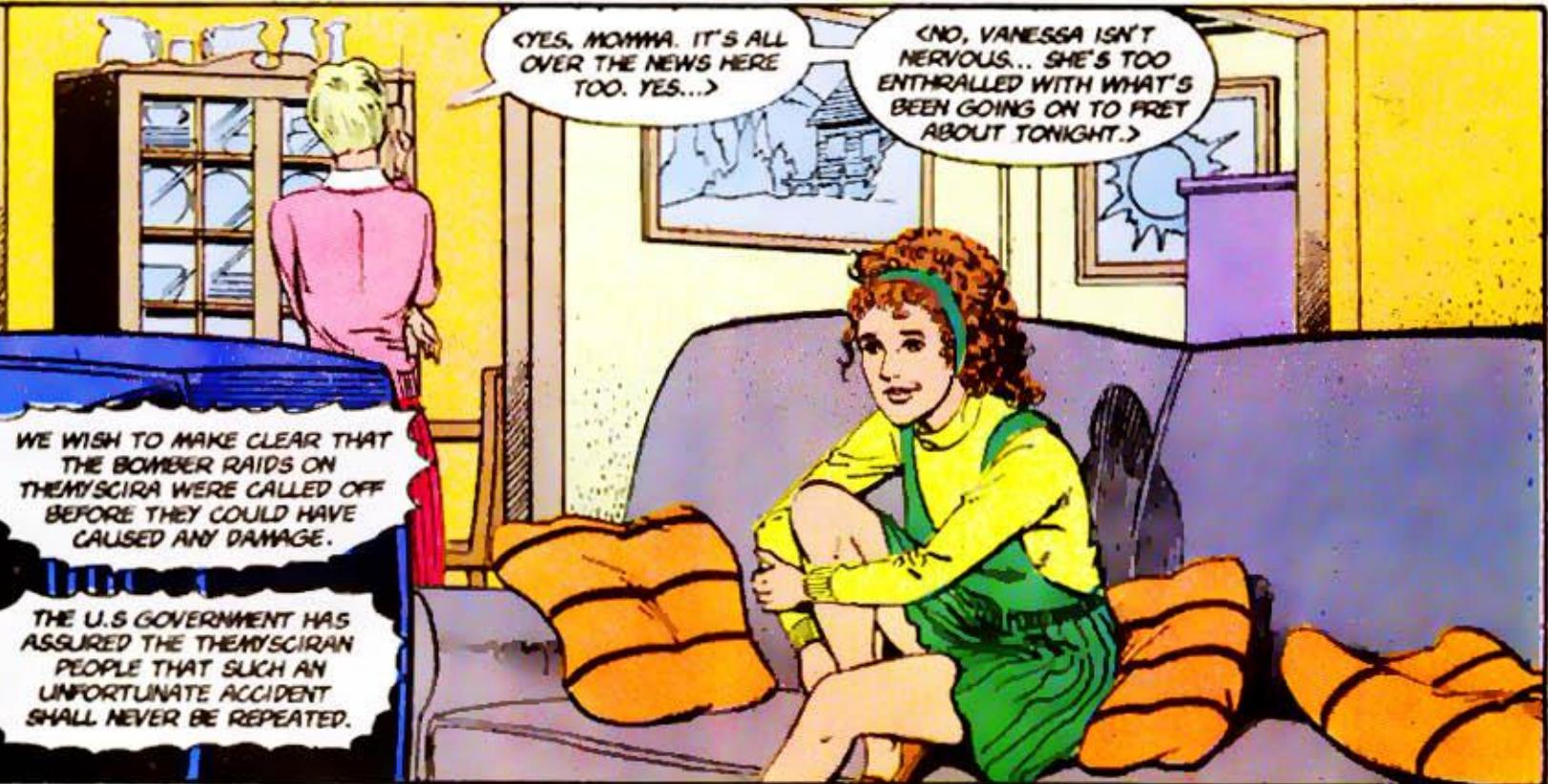


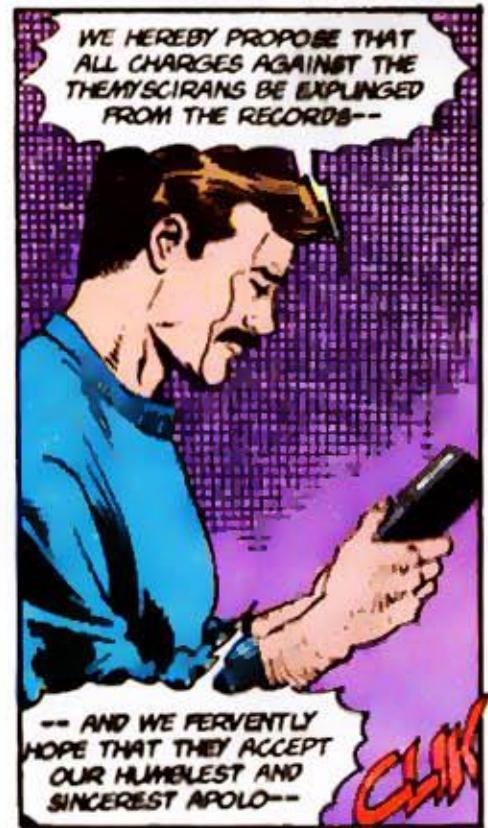
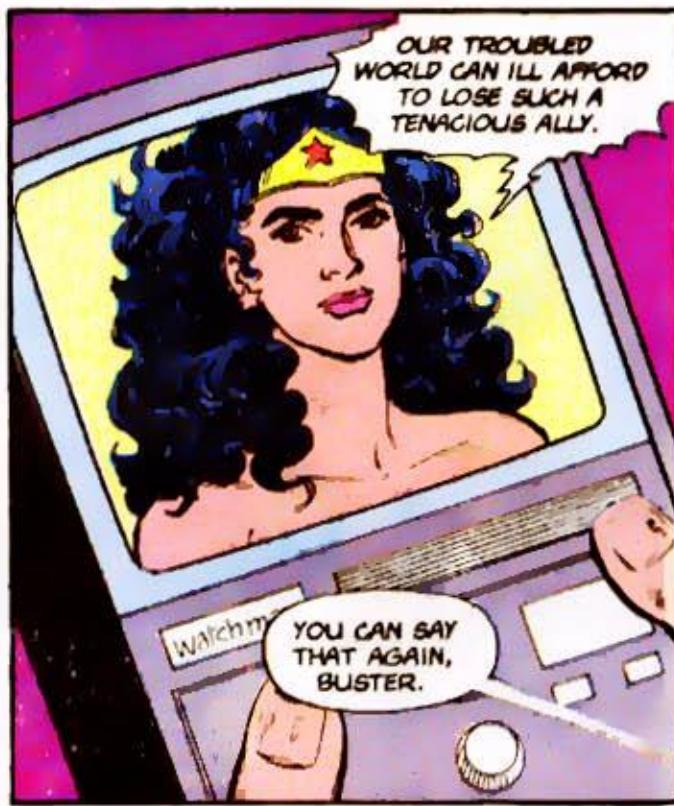
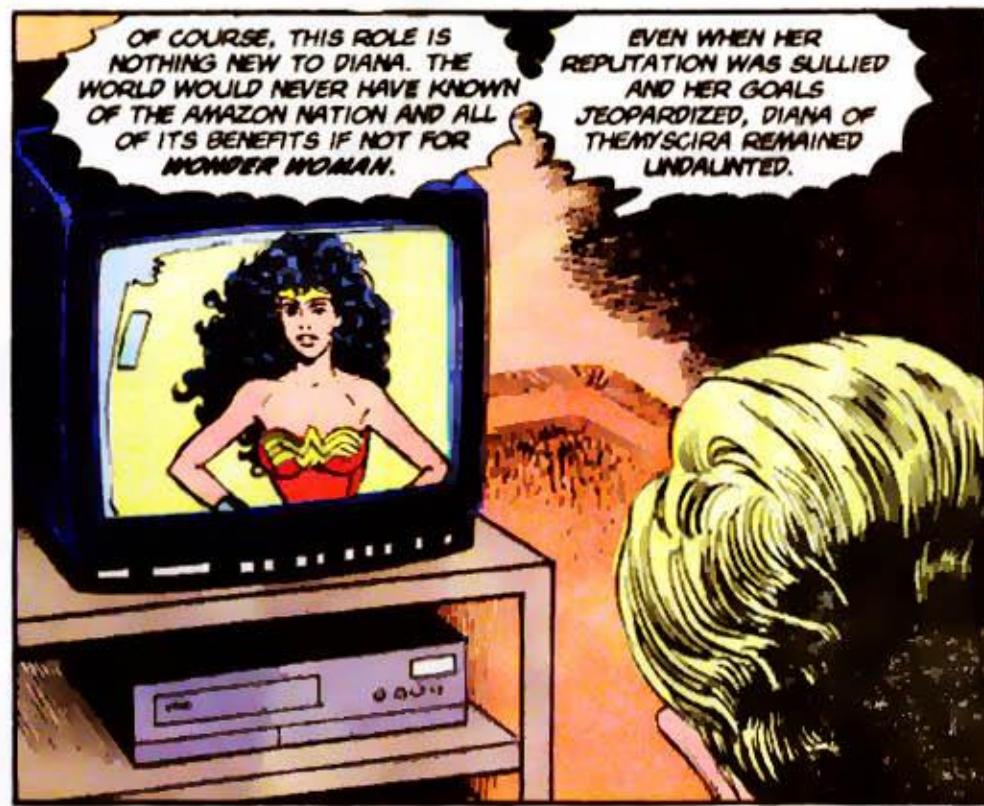
THIS IS RONNIE SARASKY AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AWAITING THE U.N. PRONOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THEMYSICRA IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LITERALLY EARTH-SHAKING DEVELOPMENTS OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

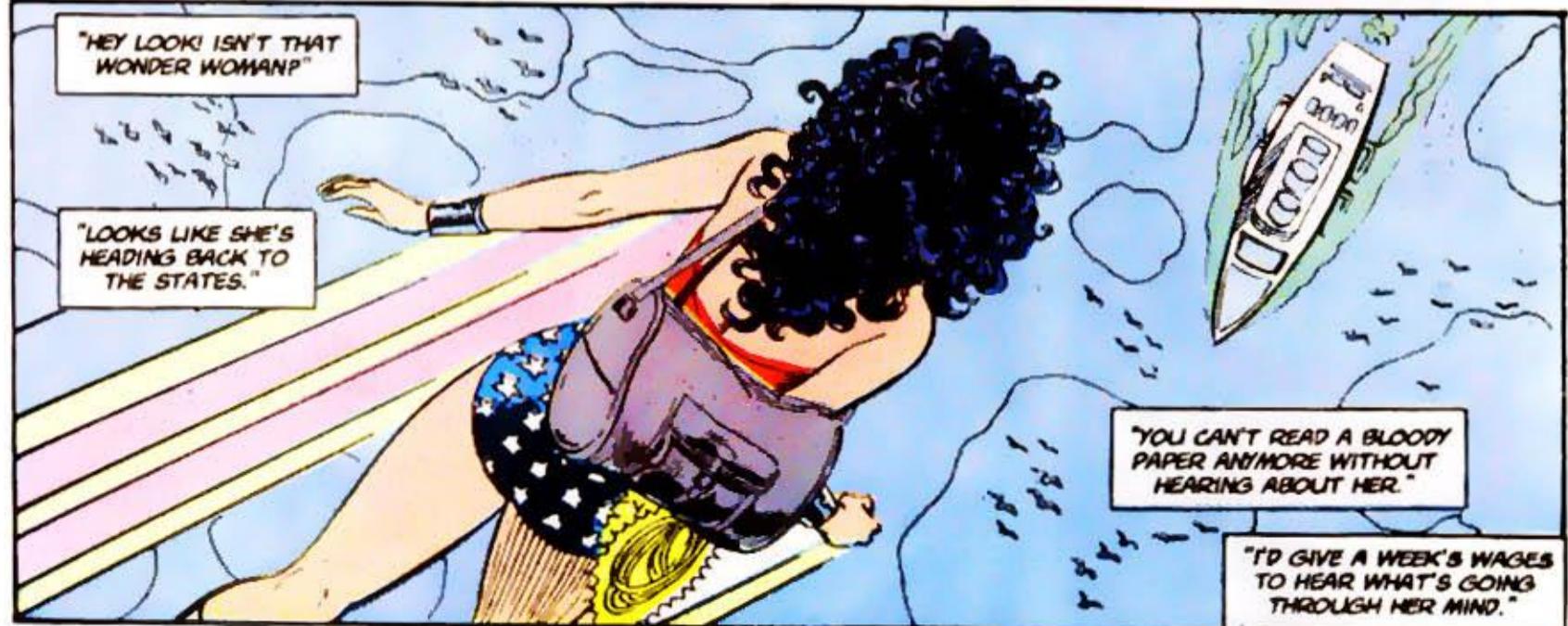
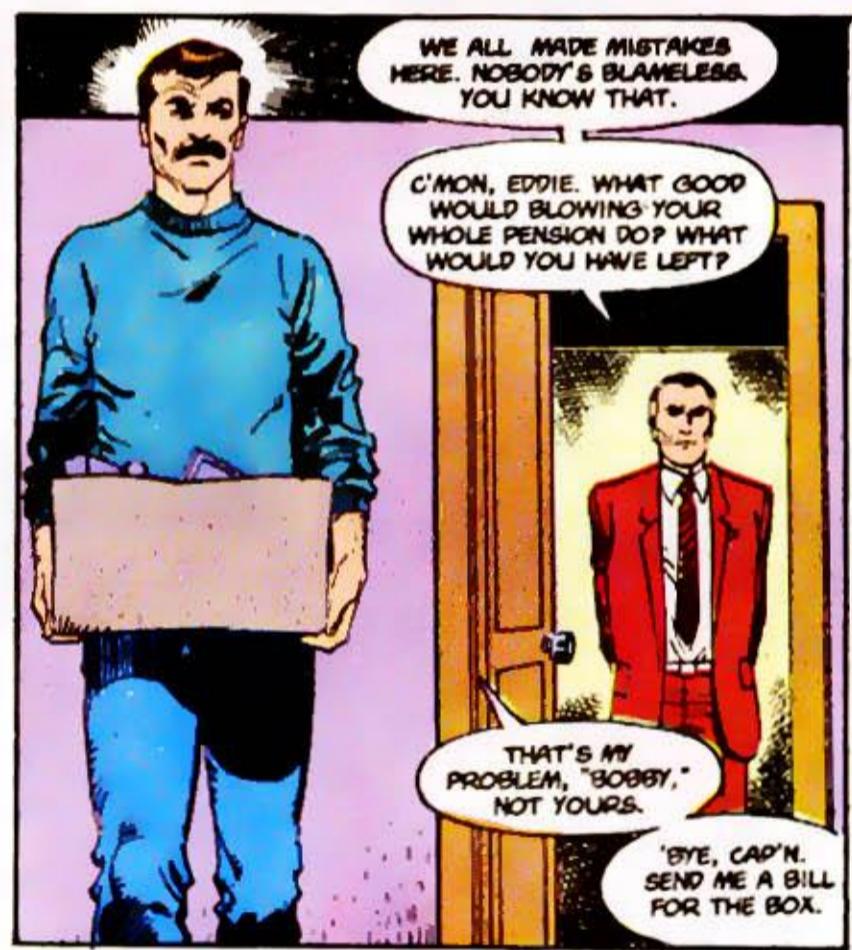
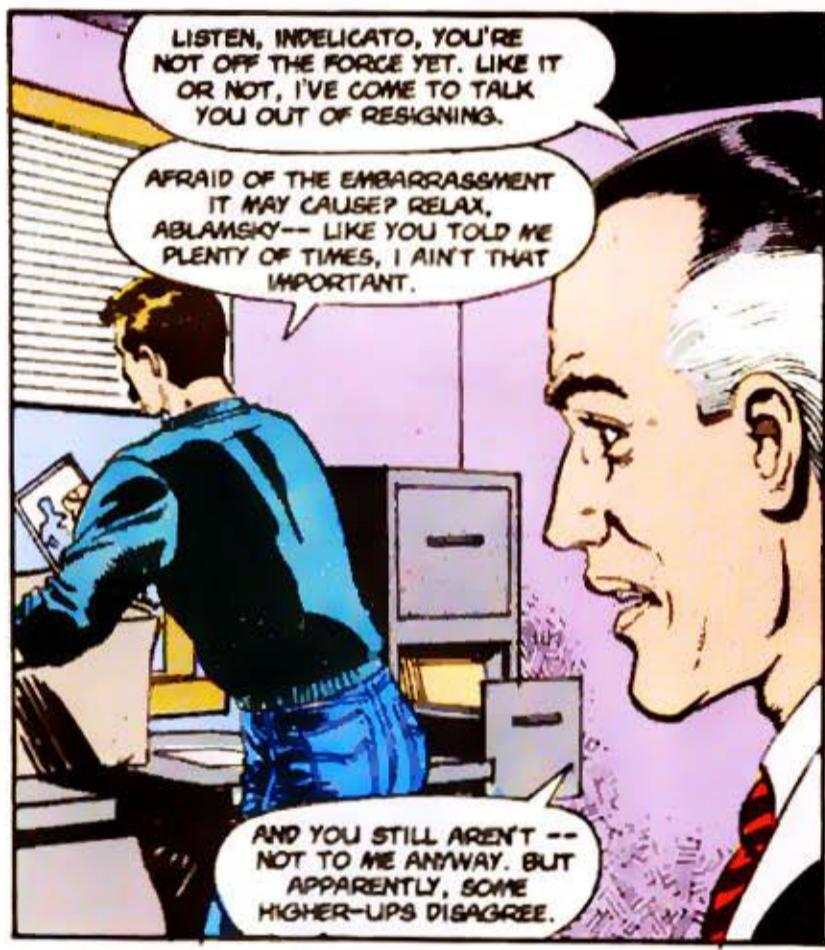
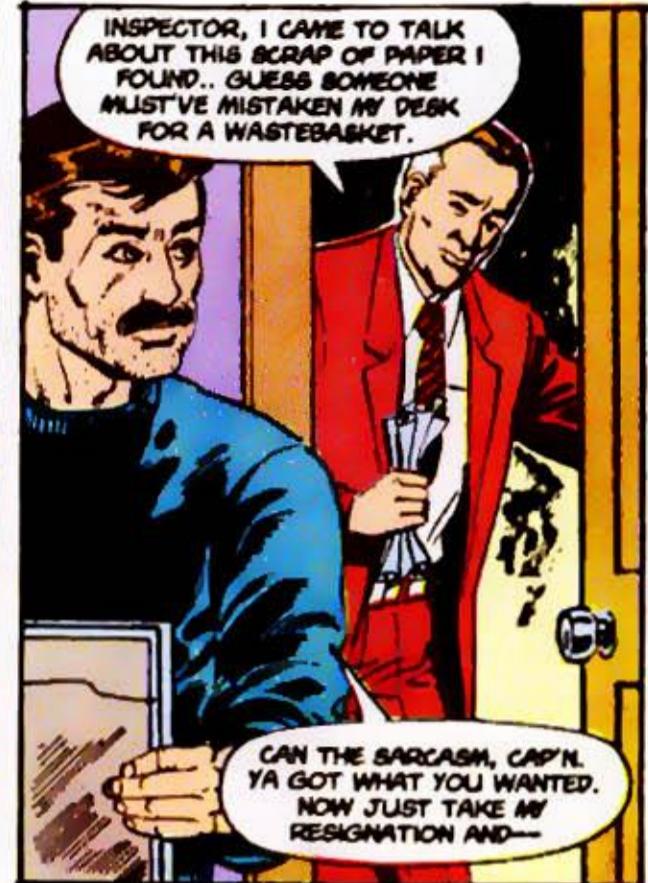


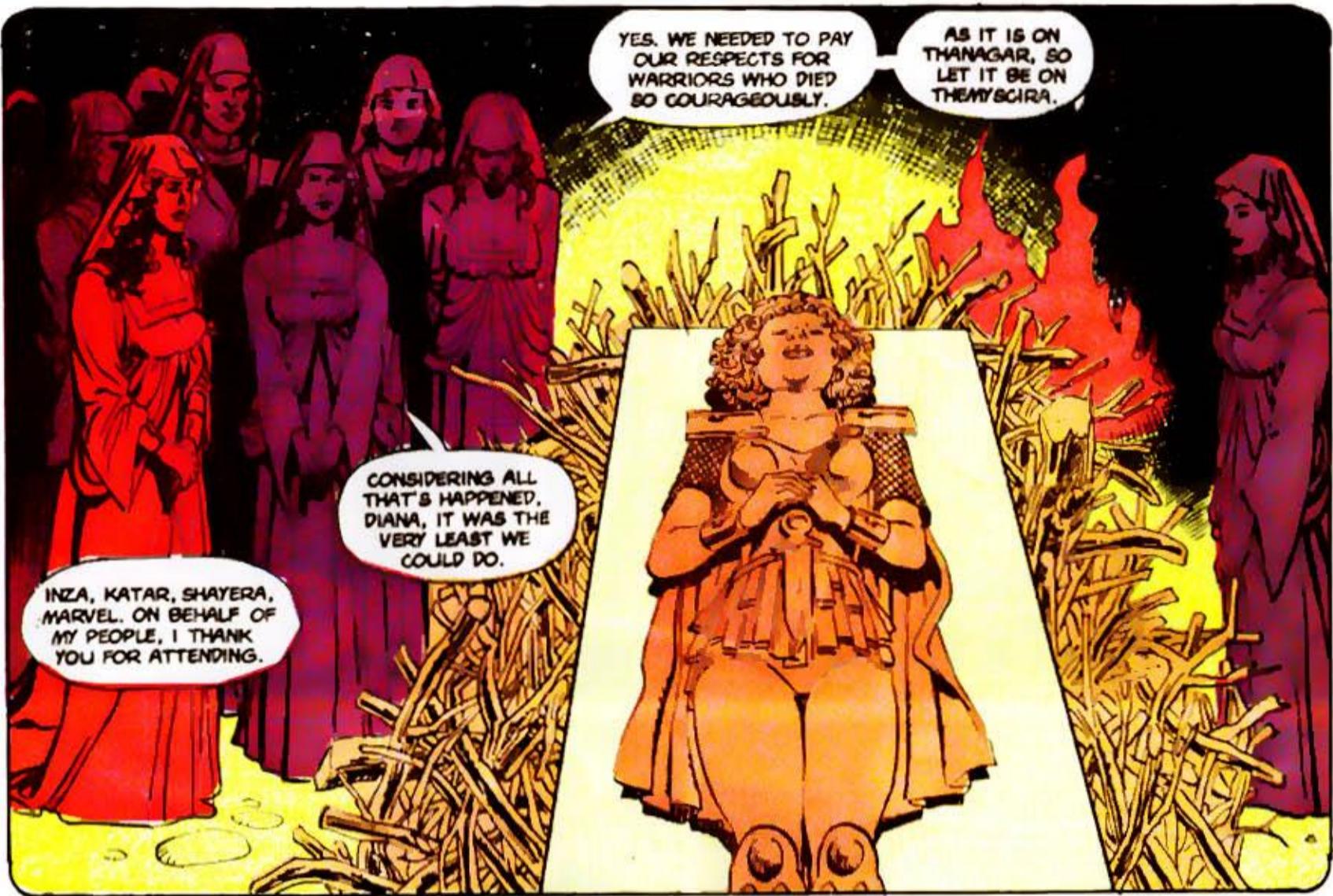


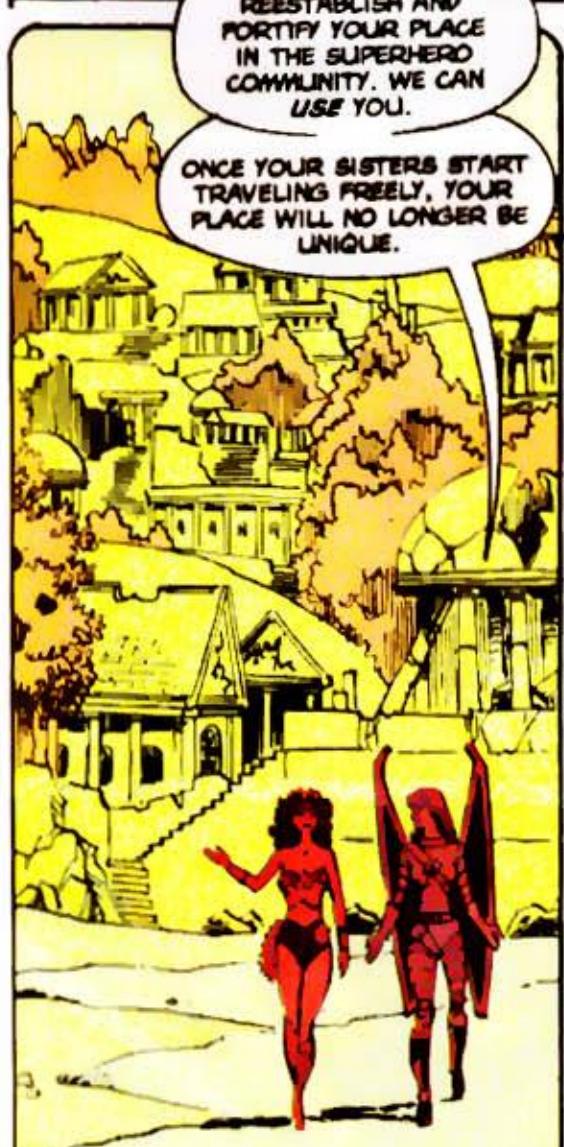












I WAS BORN ON THIS BEACH --  
AND REBORN. IT IS HERE WE  
BURIED LORD HERMES.

I USED TO RELISH HIS  
MELLIFLUOUS VOICE  
AND ACHED WHEN HE  
WITHHELD IT.

NOW THE SONG IS  
SILENCED FOREVER. IT'S  
ONLY BEEN A FEW DAYS  
-- BUT, DEAR GODS,  
HOW I MISS HIM.

DIANA...

I'M SORRY. I  
COULDN'T HELP  
OVERHEARING.

I JUST WANTED TO  
SAY THAT EVEN  
THOUGH HERMES IS  
GONE... WELL...

IF YOU EVER NEED A BIG  
RED SHOULDER TO LEAN  
ON, JUST CALL ON ME.

THANK YOU,  
CAPTAIN. AND  
YOU, SHAYERA.

WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO  
FEEL ALONE IN  
PATRIARCH'S WORLD. SO  
MANY HAVE WELCOMED  
ME INTO THEIR LIVES.

I ONLY WISH IT DIDN'T  
TAKE THE NEAR  
DESTRUCTION OF OUR  
UNIVERSE FOR ME TO  
FULLY APPRECIATE IT.

THIS WAR DID A  
LOT TO OPEN ALL  
OUR EYES.

I THANK YOU BOTH FOR  
ALL YOUR KINDNESS.  
NOW I'D LIKE TO BE ALONE  
FOR A WHILE.

I HAVE SO MUCH TO  
THINK ABOUT -- AND  
SO MUCH I MUST TELL  
MY MOTHER.

"THE GLORY OF  
GAEA BE WITH YOU."

"DITTO, DIANA."

I HAVE HERE A SWORN AFFIDAVIT, SIGNED BY YOU, LT. CANDY, THAT STATES YOU DELIBERATELY USED SECURITY GOVERNMENT CHANNELS TO WARN THE THEMYSIRANS OF AN IMPENDING AIR ATTACK BY AMERICAN FIGHTERS. IS THAT TRUE, LIEUTENANT?

NOT QUITE, SIR. THE THEMYSIRANS HAVE NO RECEIVING DEVICE. THE COMPUTER MESSAGE WAS NOT INTENDED FOR THEM.

I STAND CORRECTED, LIEUTENANT.



'WHOEVER IT WAS YOU MEANT TO CONTACT, THE FACT IS THAT CIVILIAN CRIMEFIGHTERS MANAGED TO RECEIVE YOUR SIGNAL IN ORDER TO PREVENT SAID BOMBING RAID. IS THAT RIGHT, LIEUTENANT?'

'YES, SIR.'

'WERE YOU GIVEN EXPLICIT ORDERS TO DELIVER SUCH A TRANSMISSION.'

'NO, SIR.'

'INCORRECT, LIEUTENANT. ACCORDING TO MY REPORTS, IT WAS EXACTLY UPON SUCH ORDERS THAT THE COMPUTER MESSAGE WAS TRANSMITTED.'

'SIR.'

GEN. YEDZINIAK HAS JUST CONFIRMED THAT HE HIMSELF GAVE YOU THAT ORDER UPON REALIZING THAT AN ACCIDENTAL ATTACK ORDER WAS SENT TO THE FLIGHT CREW OF LION COMPANY.

IN THE EVENT THAT A PUBLIC HEARING MAY PROVE DELICATE AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST, WE HEREBY RULE THAT NO VIOLATION OF APR 205-I HAS OCCURRED.

1ST LT. ETTA CANDY, YOU ARE HEREBY RETURNED TO DUTY WITH FULL RANK AND PRIVILEGES RESTORED. ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.



PLEASE, STEVE. IT  
DOESN'T MATTER WHY  
YEDZINIAK SIGNED THAT  
PHONEY AFFIDAVIT. WHAT  
MATTERS IS THAT WE'VE  
BOTH BEEN EXONERATED.

DAMMIT, ETTA. DON'T YOU EVER  
GET TIRED OF JUST PLAYING BY  
THEIR RULES? ESPECIALLY  
WHEN THEY MAKE UP SO MANY  
NEW ONES ALONG THE WAY?

YOU KNOW THAT THEY MUST'VE  
THREATENED YEDZINIAK WITH  
SOMETHING. MAYBE HE ACTED  
WITHOUT ORDERS. MAYBE HE  
KNEW IT WAS EITHER THEIR  
WAY OR THE HIGHWAY.

OR MAYBE THEY'VE GOT  
SOMETHING PLANNED FOR  
THEMYSIRA. SOMETHING  
THAT REQUIRES WE  
STRENGTHEN OUR POLITICAL  
TIES WITH THE AMAZONS.

MAKES NO SENSE,  
REALLY. THE COUNTRY  
HAS NO STRATEGIC  
VALUE. NO MODERN  
WEAPONRY...

STEVE, PLEASE, STOP IT.  
THE AIR FORCE IS MY HOME.  
I CAN'T GO AGAINST IT.  
PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME  
CHOOSE--

I WON'T, ETTA. IT'S  
JUST THAT I GUESS I'M  
JUST TOO OLD TO BE  
PLAYING THIS GAME.

I'M RESIGNING  
FROM THE FORCE,  
ETTA, THIS TIME  
FOR GOOD.

I ONLY RE-LIPPED  
BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID OF  
WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO  
YOU WHEN THE GULF WAR  
ERUPTED. I REALIZE NOW  
HOW WRONG THAT WAS.

AS YOUR HUSBAND, AND A  
FORMER OFFICER, I HAVE TO  
RESPECT THE FACT THAT YOUR  
JOB WILL ALWAYS REQUIRE  
SOME LEVEL OF RIS--

STEVE -- DID  
YOU SAY...  
"HUSBAND"?

YES, ETTA. IF  
YOU'LL HAVE  
ME.

I LOVE YOU, ETTA  
CANDY. I HAVE FOR A  
LONG TIME.

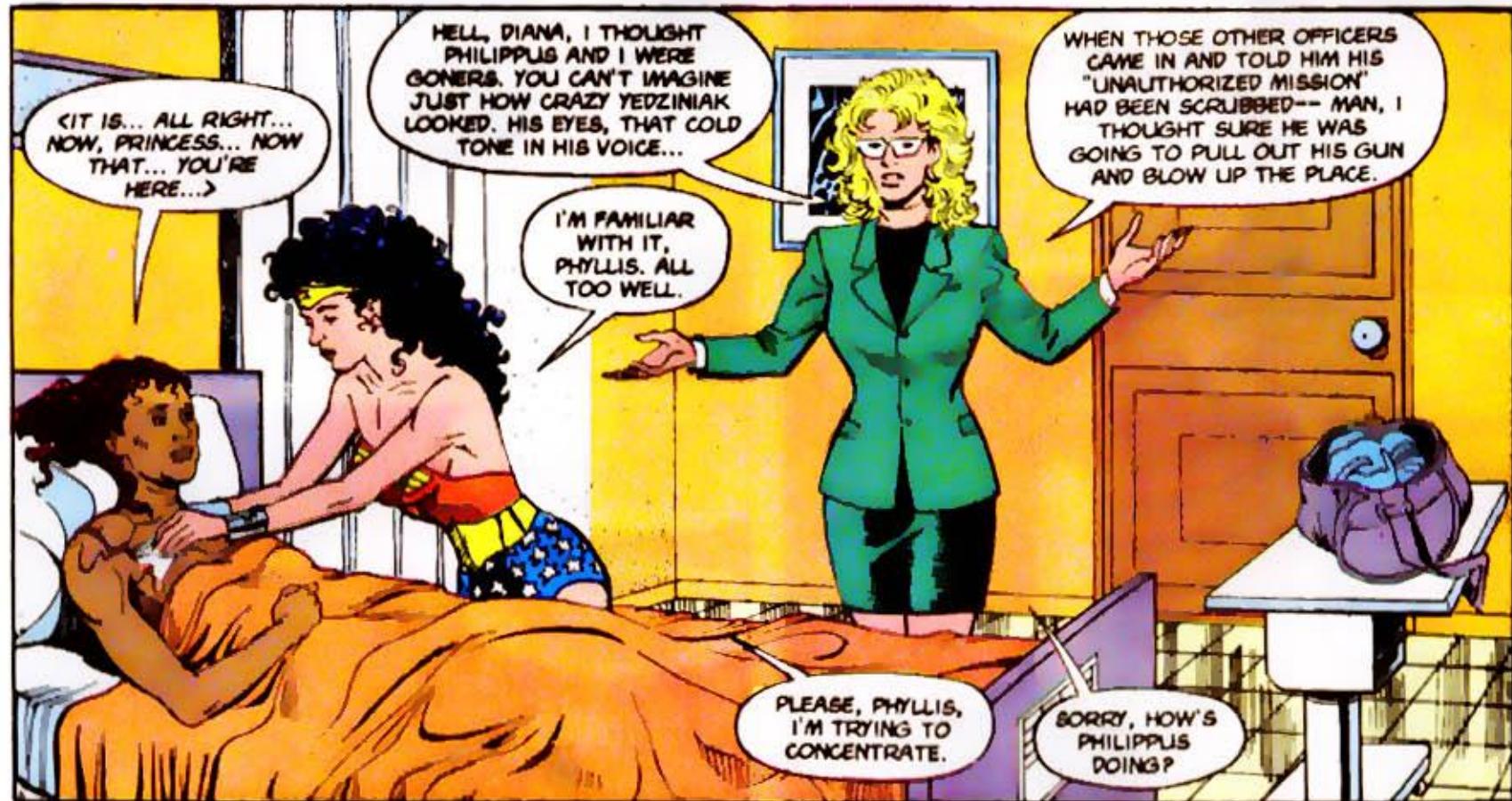
I CAN'T IMAGINE MY  
LIFE WITHOUT YOU.  
MARRY ME, ETTA--  
TODAY, NOW.

"PLEASE, ETTA. LIFE  
IS SO SHORT."

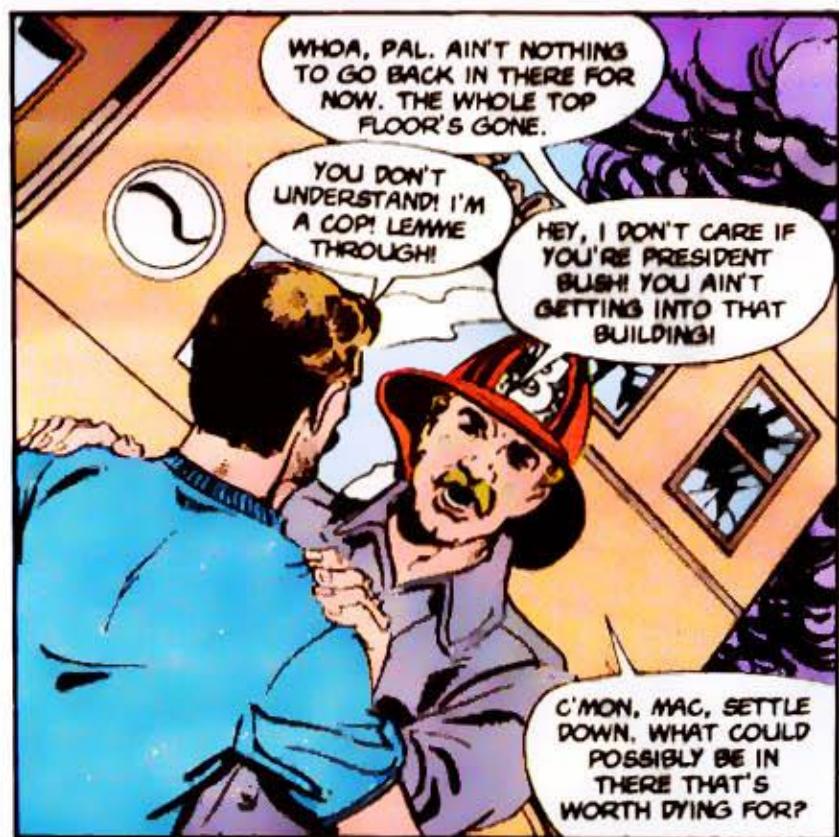
AN ARMY TRANSPORT PLANE  
PREPARES TO TAKE THE BODY OF  
AMAZON DELEGATE MELLENE  
BACK TO HER ISLAND HOME.

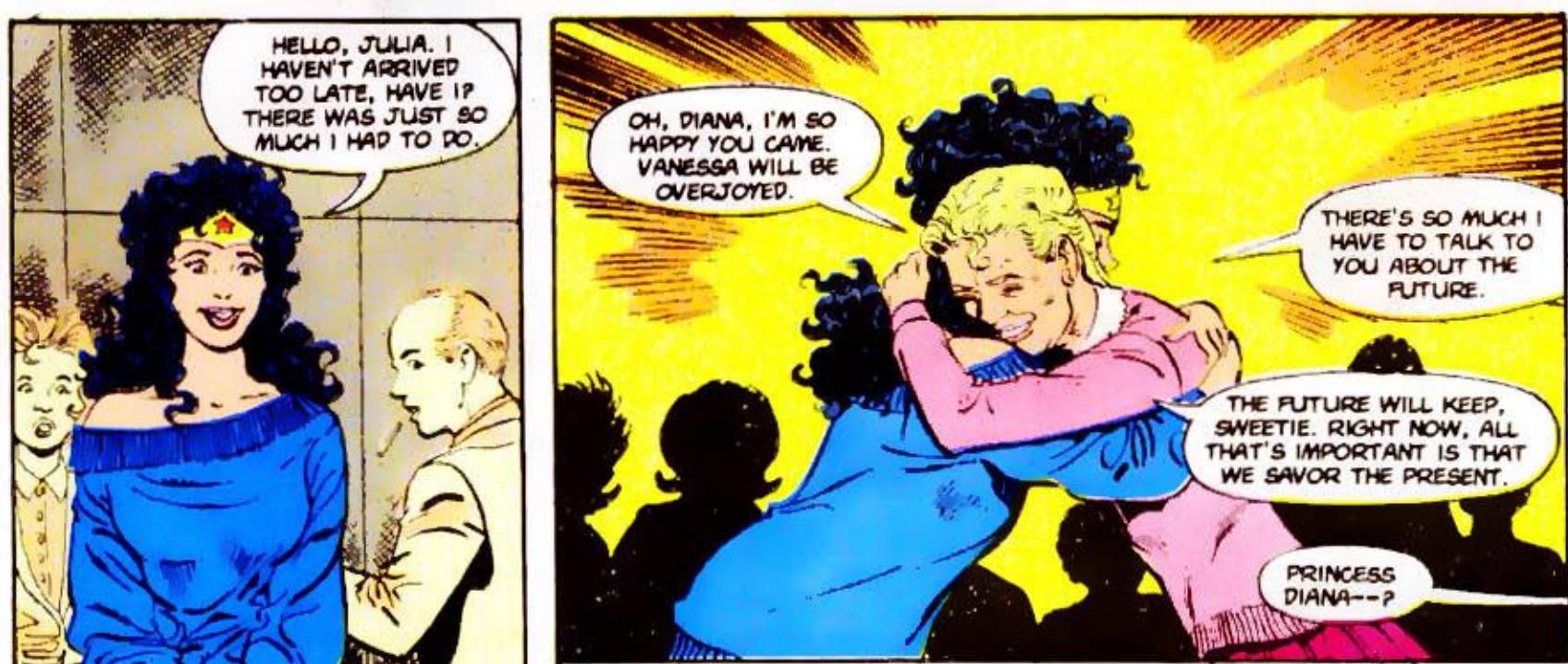
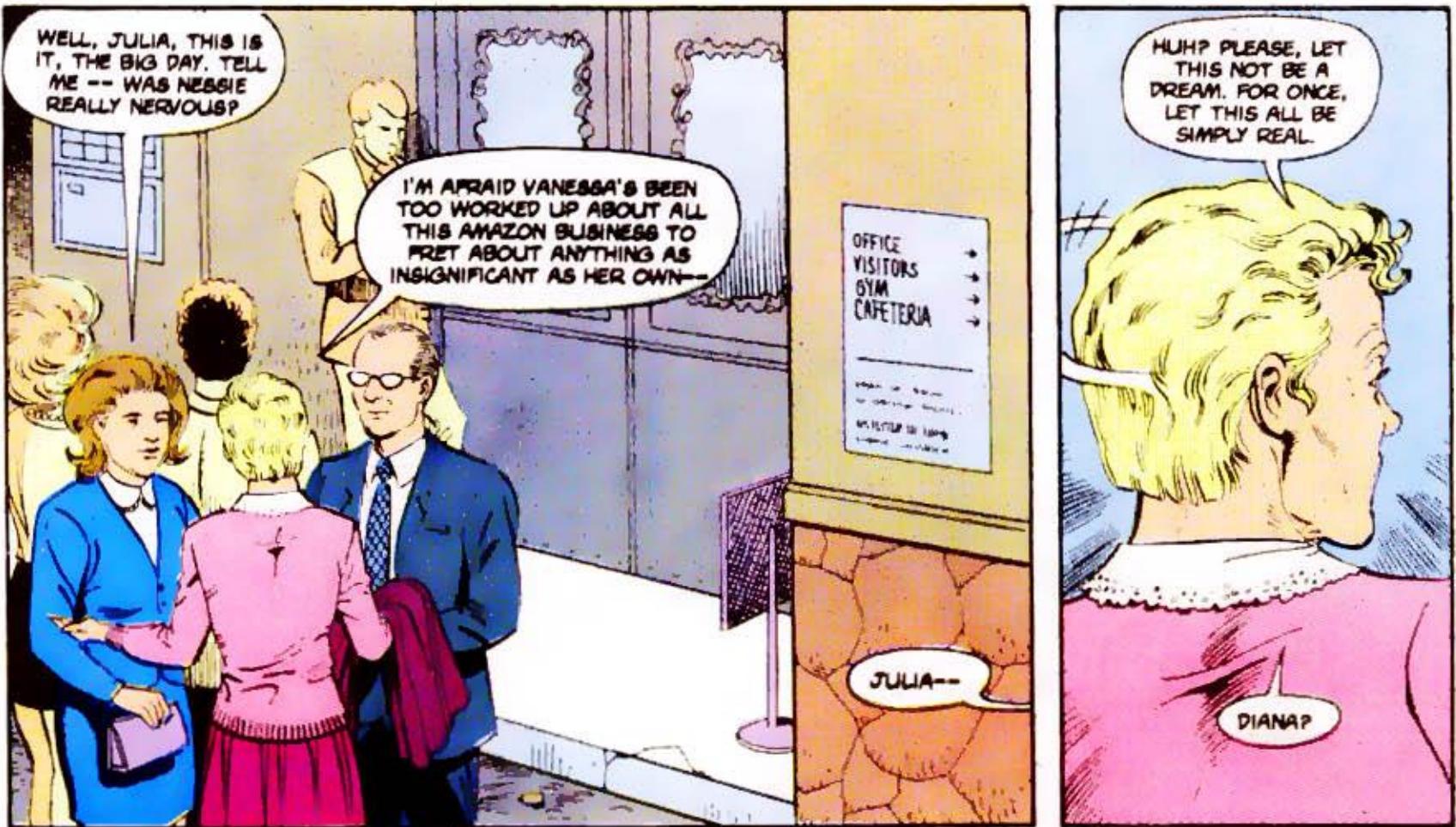
PERHAPS SOME CONSOLATION CAN BE  
TAKEN IN THE NEWS THAT THE AMAZON  
MILITARY COMMANDER PHILIPPIUS,  
PRESUMED DEAD, HAS BEEN REPORTED  
ALIVE AND UNDER THE CARE OF  
GOVERNMENT PHYSICIANS.

"BY THE GODS,  
PHILIPPUS... WHAT HAVE  
THEY DONE TO YOU?"









"BEHOLD — IT BEGINS ALREADY."

"EVEN AS WE COMMIT THE ASHES OF OUR FALLEN INTO POSEIDON'S SEA, THE SILENCE IS DESECRATED BY ONE OF THOSE FLYING CRAFTS."

"BY THE GODS, MY QUEEN, WILL WE EVER KNOW TRUE PEACE AGAIN? WILL LIFE IN THEMYSCIRA EVER BE NORMAL AGAIN?"



"YOU ASK QUESTIONS BEST ANSWERED BY AN ORACLE, IPHTHUME. THE ROLE OF A QUEEN IS SIMPLY TO BE PREPARED FOR WHATEVER COMES."

"PARDON MY BOLDNESS, MY QUEEN, BUT HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO THAT?"

"BY KEEPING AN OPEN MIND, IPHTHUME. WE CANNOT ALLOW PRIDE TO BLIND US TO THE KNOWLEDGE THAT AWAITS US OUT THERE. DIANA HAS SHOWN ME THAT."

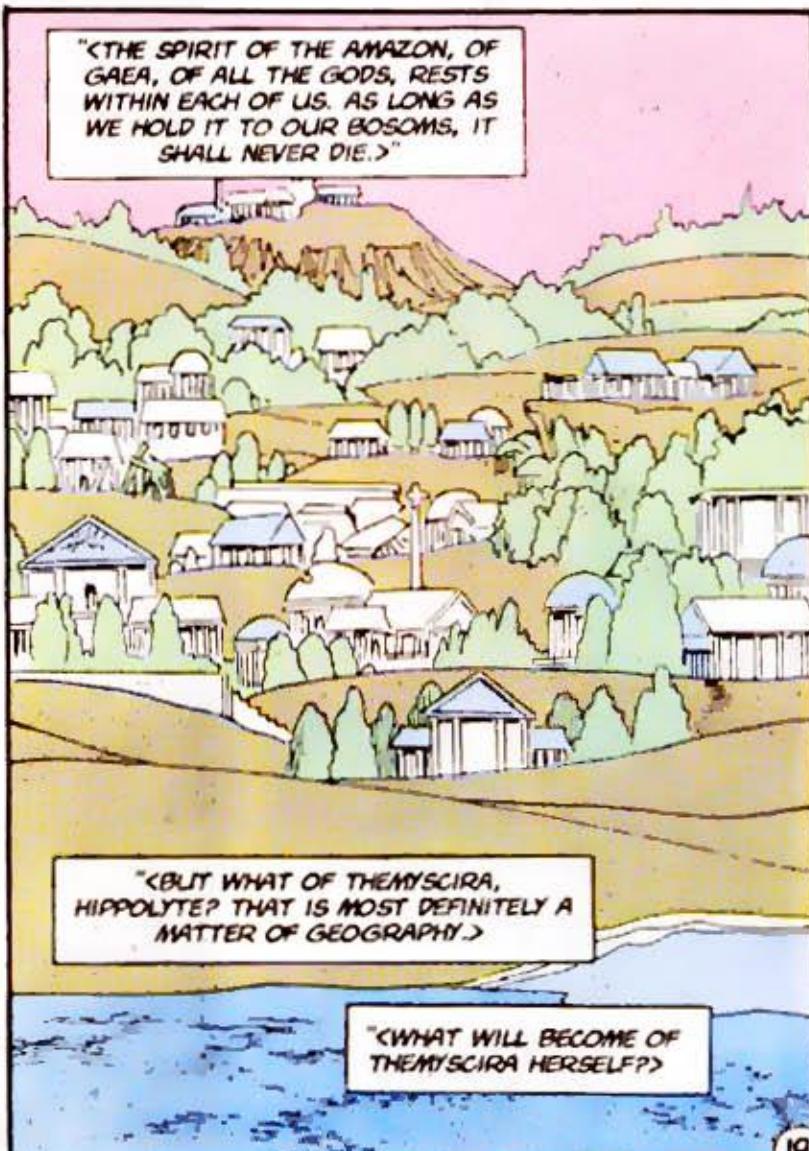
"SOME OF OUR SISTERS HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN JOURNEYING TO THE NEW WORLD."

"COTHERS HAVE EVEN CONTEMPLATED RELOCATION, THOUGH IT MAY MEAN FORFEITURE OF THEIR IMMORTALITY."

"BUT, THAT WOULD ONLY DEPLETIE THE AMAZON RANKS. WHAT THEY ARE CONTEMPLATING IS CULTURE GENOCIDE."

"YOU HAVE LESS FAITH IN AMAZON INTEGRITY THAN I DO, IPHTHUME. OUR CULTURE IS NOT A MATTER OF GEOGRAPHY."

"THE SPIRIT OF THE AMAZON, OF GAEA, OF ALL THE GODS, RESTS WITHIN EACH OF US. AS LONG AS WE HOLD IT TO OUR BOSOMS, IT SHALL NEVER DIE."

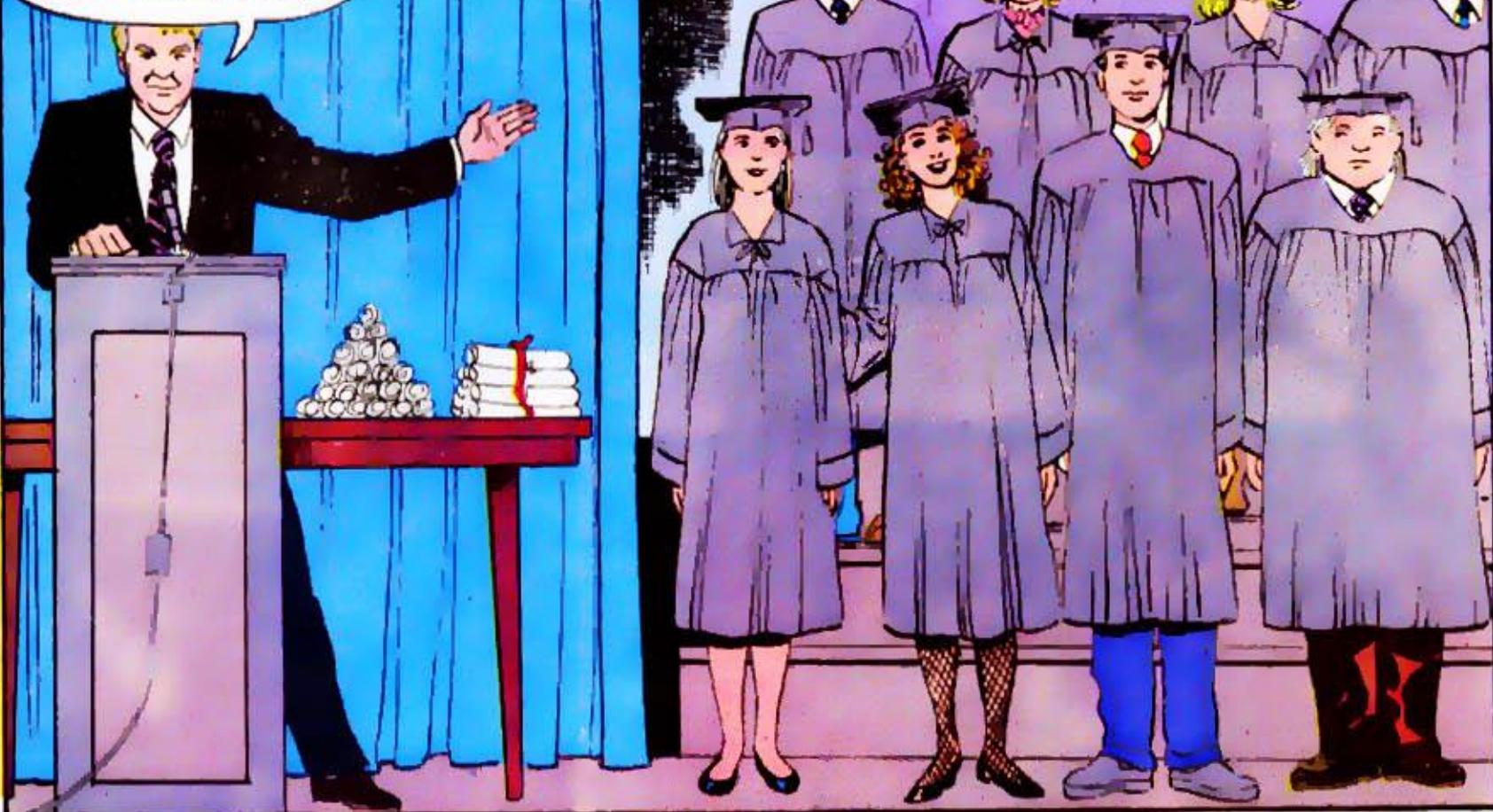


"BUT WHAT OF THEMYSCIRA, HIPPOLYTE? THAT IS MOST DEFINITELY A MATTER OF GEOGRAPHY."

"WHAT WILL BECOME OF THEMYSCIRA HERSELF?"

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THIS IS THE DAY WE AT THE ADAMS SCHOOL SEE THE FULFILLMENT OF OUR EDUCATIONAL GOALS EXEMPLIFIED IN THESE ANXIOUS, GORGEOUS YOUNG FACES.

WHEN WE SEND FORTH A NEW GENERATION EAGER AND PREPARED TO SHAPE OUR WORLD INTO A BETTER PLACE.

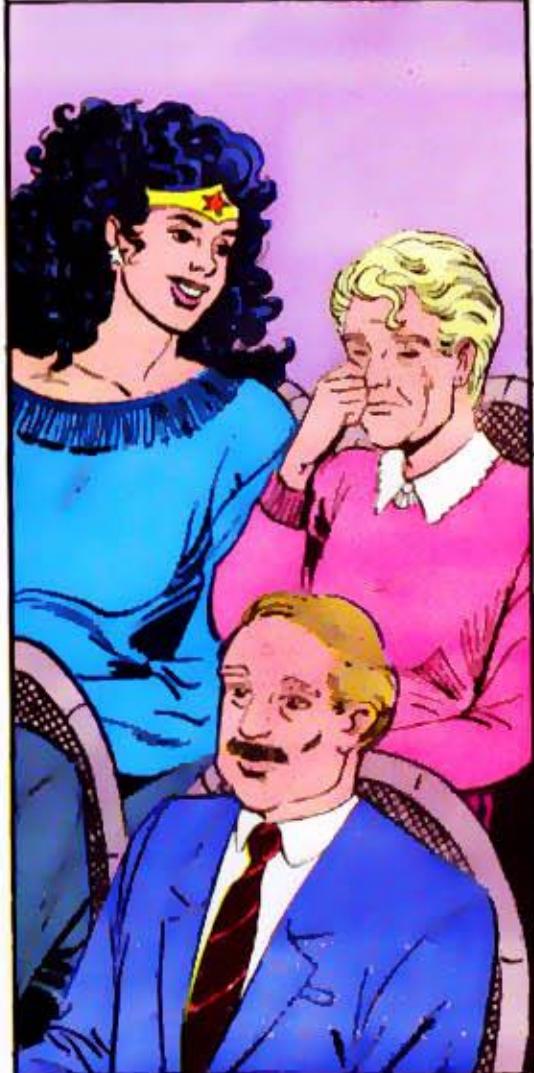


"AS THEY WEND THEIR WAY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND BEYOND, WE KNOW THAT OUR SPIRIT WILL BE WITH THEM, AND THAT THEY WILL MAKE US ALL VERY, VERY PROUD.

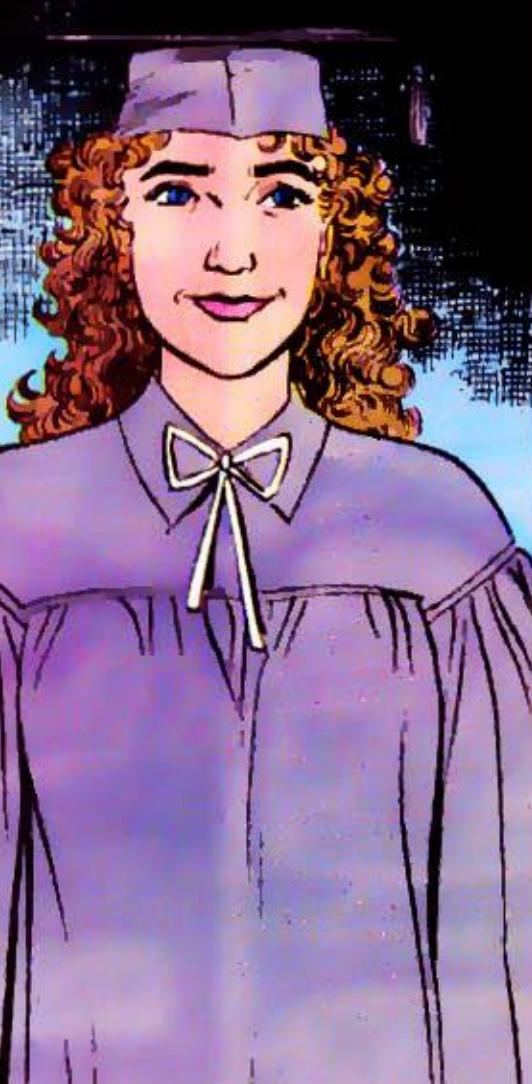
"AND TO THE RIGHT ARE TOMORROWS WAITING TO BE WRITTEN. EVERY PAGE TURNED IS A NEW WORLD CONQUERED, A NEW FUTURE EXPLORED. A NEW PAGE WAITING.

"HORACE WESTLAKE, AGE 55, WHOSE LOVE FOR TEACHING WAS ONLY EXCEEDED BY HIS DEDICATION TO HIS STUDENTS AND THIS SCHOOL.

"AND LUCY ELIZABETH SPEARS, AGE 14. I HAVE NO WORDS THAT CAN EXPRESS JUST HOW MUCH OF A LOSS THAT BEAUTIFUL GIRL WAS. HOW UNFAIR LIFE CAN BE SOMETIMES.



"YOUTH IS LIKE AN OPEN, HALF-WRITTEN DIARY. THE PAGES TO THE LEFT FILLED WITH MEMORIES, THE BLANK PAGE BEFORE US THE ANXIOUS CONFIDANT TO WHICH WE ENTRUST OUR PRESENT.



"BUT BEFORE TURNING ONE MORE PAGE FORWARD LET US PAUSE TO HONOR TWO BEAUTIFUL SOULS WHOSE BOOKS WERE CLOSED ALL TOO SOON.



"BUT, SO LOVING WAS LUCY, FRIENDLY AND GIVING, THAT I DOUBT SHE WILL EVER REALLY DIE-- NOT AS LONG AS SHE LIVES ON... IN OUR MEMORIES.



"SO NOW, WE PREPARE  
TO TURN TO ANOTHER  
BLANK PAGE."

"A FUTURE STANDING BEFORE  
US LIKE A FRESHLY-FALLEN  
SNOW, AWAITING THAT FIRST  
MARK, THAT FIRST FORWARD  
FOOTSTEP."



"A NEW JOURNEY TO BE  
STARTED. A NEW PROMISE  
TO BE FULFILLED."

"GO FORTH UNTO THIS WAITING  
WORLD WITH PEN IN HAND, ALL  
YOU YOUNG SCRIBES. THE OPEN  
BOOK AWAITS."

"FOR YOUTH IS YOUR GREATEST  
WEAPON. YOUR GREATEST TOOL."



# EPILOGUE

