Wonder Woman™

50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 282
AUG.

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NOT EVEN THE DEMON CAN SAVE THE AMAZON FROM THE FURY OF A MAN-BULL BERSERK!

MAYHEM MEANS THE MINOTAUR!

THE DIABOLICAL JOKER IS BACK--

--AND HE'S GOT THE HARD-HITTING HUNTRESS HANGING BY HER THUMBS!

BUCKLER & GIORDANO

0 70989 30725 08

WE DON'T REST ON OUR LAURELS!

FOR OVER FOUR DECADES, WE'VE BEEN BRINGING YOU THE VERY BEST IN COMICS' EXCITEMENT-- AND, FRIEND, THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING!

AND COMING THIS SUMMER: ALL-STAR SQUADRON and AN EXCITING NEW SWORD-AND-SORCERY SERIES! DON'T MISS 'EM!

THE NEW DC

WHERE THE ACTION KEEPS ON COMING!

TM and © DC COMICS INC. 1981

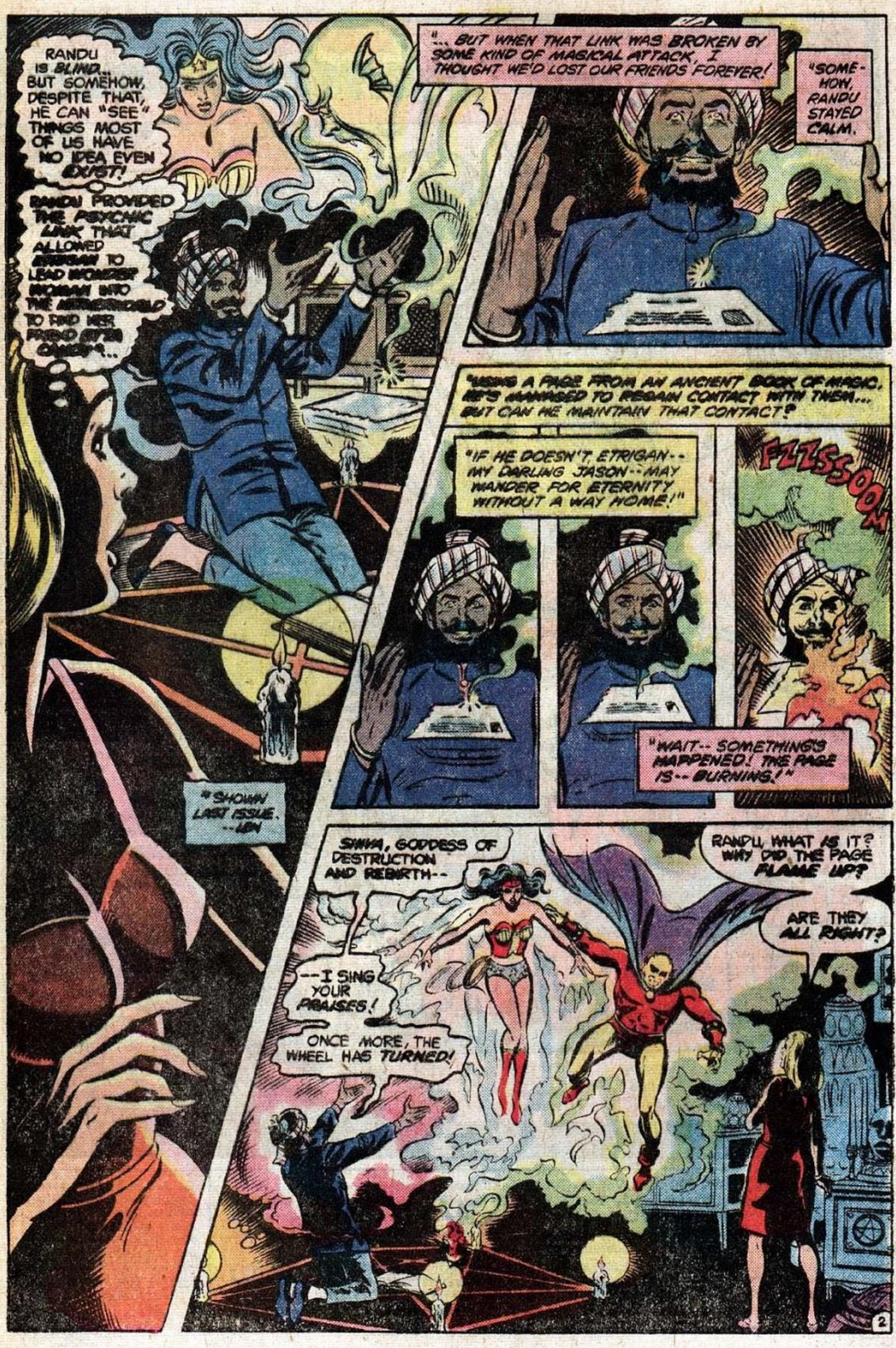
WONDER WOMAN, (USPS 690-040), Vol. 40, No. 282, August, 1981. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1981 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. (212) 391-1400

SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. DC COMICS INC., 14 Vanderventer Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. Annual subscription rate $6.00. Outside U.S.A. $7.00.

Jenette Kahn, President and Publisher
Joe Orlando, Vice Pres., Edit. Director
Len Wein, Editor
Mike W. Barr, Associate Editor
Karen Berger, Editorial Coordinator
Jack Adler, Vice President-Production
Paul Levitz, Mgr. of Business Affairs
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer


RANDU IS BLIND... BUT SOMEHOW, DESPITE THAT, HE CAN "SEE" THINGS MOST OF US HAVE NO IDEA EVEN EXIST!
RANDU PROVIDED THE PSYCHIC LINK THAT ALLOWED ETRIGAN TO LEAD WONDER WOMAN INTO THE NETHERWORLD TO FIND HER FRIEND ITRA CHASA...
"... BUT WHEN THAT LINK WAS BROKEN BY SOME KIND OF MAGICAL ATTACK, I THOUGHT WE'D LOST OUR FRIENDS FOREVER!
"SOME-HOW, RANDU STAYED CALM.
"USING A PAGE FROM AN ANCIENT BOOK OF MAGIC, HE'S MANAGED TO REGAIN CONTACT WITH THEM... BUT CAN HE MAINTAIN THAT CONTACT?
"IF HE DOESN'T, ETRIGAN-- MY DARLING JASON--MAY WANDER FOR ETERNITY WITHOUT A WAY HOME!"
FZZSSOOM
"WAIT-- SOMETHING'S HAPPENED! THE PAGE IS-- BURNING!"
"SHOWN LAST ISSUE. --ED
SIWA, GODDESS OF DESTRUCTION AND REBIRTH--
--I SING YOUR PRAISES!
ONCE MORE, THE WHEEL HAS TURNED!
RANDU, WHAT IS IT? WHY DID THE PAGE FLAME UP?
ARE THEY ALL RIGHT?

NO! THEY'RE FADING --SWIRLING AWAY IN SOME KIND OF WIND!

WE'VE LOST THEM, RANDU!

WONDER WOMAN AND MY JASON-- LOST!

ON THE CONTRARY... MY DEAR.

WE HAVE FOUND THEM... AND NOW... FOR A LITTLE TIME... WE MUST LOSE THEM AGAIN...

AHHHHHH

RANDU!

HE'S PASSED OUT!

BUT WHAT DID HE MEAN?

"FOR A LITTLE TIME... WE MUST LOSE THEM AGAIN?"

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'D NEVER UNDERSTOOD RANDU'S MYSTICISM--AND IT FRIGHTENS ME!

NOW HE'S COMING AROUND AGAIN...

DON'T GIVE ME SHOCKS LIKE THAT, RANDU.

JASON--?

HE SOON WILL BE WITH US, MY DEAR.

VERY SOON!

GEORGETOWN, OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, D.C., WHERE A CERTAIN WONDER WOMAN LIVES IN HER SECRET IDENTITY AS AIR FORCE CAPTAIN DIANA PRINCE...

I CALLED DIANA HERE AT HER HOME, FROM THE PENTAGON.

I GOT NO ANSWER-- FROM EITHER DIANA OR HER ROOMMATE, ETTA CANDY!

AS THEIR SUPERIOR OFFICER, I SHOULD KNOW IF SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH--

--THEM?

?

COL. STEVE TREVOR HAS ALWAYS COUNTED HIMSELF AS ONE OF THE MOST PRACTICAL MEN, BUT OF LATE, SINCE HIS RESCUE FROM CERTAIN DEATH OFF THE SHORES OF PARADISE ISLAND...

...HE'S SOMETIMES WONDERED IF PRACTICALITY AND REALISM HAVE ANY MEANING IN A LIFE NOW FILLED WITH NEW AMAZEMENTS.

WONDER WOMAN? LIEUT. CANDY?

AS HE WATCHES THESE TWO WOMEN MATERIALIZE OUT OF SHIMMERING ENERGY, STEVE TREVOR DOUBTS HIS SANITY--

--FOR NEITHER THE FIRST NOR, HE KNOWS, THE LAST TIME!

STEVE... DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS!

PLEASE!

QUESTIONS? WHO COULD ASK QUESTIONS?

I COME HERE LOOKING FOR TWO MISSING AIR FORCE OFFICERS--

--AND I FIND ONE OF THEM APPEARING OUT OF NOWHERE IN THE ARMS OF THE WOMAN I LOVE!

HOW COULD I POSSIBLY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

IT'S NICE TO HEAR THAT SOME MORTALS KNOW WHEN THEY'VE REACHED THE LIMIT OF THEIR COMPREHENSION.

ETRIGAN!

OF COURSE.

YOU FOLLOWED ME HERE?

I GUIDED YOU INTO THE NETHERWORLD.

I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT ACCOMPANY YOU OUT AGAIN!

GET BACK, ANGEL...

THAT HORNED FREAK ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL HE EXPLAINS--

STEVE, PUT YOUR GUN DOWN! ETRIGAN'S A FRIEND... OF SORTS.

HE'S WHAT?

A FRIEND. HE HELPED ME RESCUE ETTA FROM THE CLUTCHES OF A DEMON NAMED BAAL-SATYR.*

WE OWE HIM OUR LIVES.

* LAST ISSUE. --L.

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

MAYBE... MAYBE I MADE A MISTAKE.
IF WONDER WOMAN VOUCHES FOR YOU, THAT'S ALL I NEED.
I'D LIKE TO OFFER YOU MY HAND.
YOUR HAND?

O, SELF-RIGHTEOUS MORTAL, WHAT WOULD I DO WITH YOUR HAND?
HA
I AM ETRIGAN THE DEMON...
HA HA
...WHO FOUGHT FOR MERLIN AT THE LAST BATTLE OF CAMELOT...
...WHO SLEPT A THOUSAND YEARS IN MORTAL FORM...
HA HA HA
...WHO HAS POWER THAT WOULD MAKE YOU WEEP IN TERROR...
HA HA
...WHAT WOULD SUCH AS I WANT WITH FRIENDSHIP?
MORTAL, YOU MAKE ME LAUGH!

LIKE THE CHESHIRE CAT OF LEWIS CARROLL, SOON ALL THAT IS LEFT OF THE LAUGHING DEMON IS HIS GHASTLY SMILE...
AND THEN IT TOO IS GONE, AND WITH IT, THE DEMON'S UNEARTHLY LAUGHTER.
HA HA HA HA
STEVE TREVOR DOESN'T MOVE FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

AT LAST, HE EXHALES A BREATH HELD UNKNOWNINGLY, SHAKES HIS HEAD, AND GLANCES OVER HIS SHOULDER...
STRANGE GROUP OF PEOPLE YOU HANG OUT WITH, WONDER WOMAN.
WONDER WOMAN?

SHE MUST HAVE GONE UPSTAIRS.
ETTA LOOKED TO BE IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE... BUT WHERE'S DIANA?

SOMEONE BETTER HAVE AN EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS--
IT'S HARD ENOUGH RUNNING THE PENTAGON'S SPECIAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT--
--OR I'M LIKELY TO LOSE WHAT'S LEFT OF MY TEMPER.
--WITHOUT WORRYING WHETHER MY ASSISTANTS ARE IN ONE PIECE!

STEVE--! I MEAN, COLONEL TREVOR!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION, CAPTAIN.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE PENTAGON.

I KNOW... AND I'M SORRY, BUT THERE'S BEEN SOME TROUBLE WITH ETTA...
SO I UNDERSTAND. WHERE IS SHE?
AND WHERE'S WONDER WOMAN?
WONDER WOMAN?

I SAW HER A FEW MINUTES AGO, OUTSIDE...
SHE WAS HERE--BUT SHE'S GONE.
ETTA WAS IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE WHEN WONDER WOMAN BROUGHT HER UP HERE--SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO HER.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE SHE'S BEEN.

SHOULDN'T YOU CALL A DOCTOR?
WONDER WOMAN EXAMINED HER.
ETTA'S ALL RIGHT, PHYSICALLY... AND MENTALLY--

--EXCEPT FOR HER AMNESIA.
ALL SHE NEEDS NOW IS SLEEP.
PRINCE, I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS.
I WANT A FULL REPORT FROM YOU ON YOUR WHEREABOUTS YESTERDAY AND TODAY!

HAVE IT ON MY DESK TOMORROW MORNING. UNDERSTOOD?
YES, SIR, COLONEL.
AT EASE, CAPTAIN.
YOU SOFT-HEADED TEDDY BEAR.
NOW WHY ON EARTH IS SHE SMILING?

MEANWHILE, SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES NORTH, IN GOTHAM CITY...
HAHA HAHAHA

BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE, AND HUMBLE IT IS, THERE'S NO PLACE QUITE LIKE HOME.
ETRIGAN!
RANDU, HE'S BACK!
HOME, HOME, HOME AT LAST!

GREETINGS. WE FEARED WE'D LOST YOU FOREVER WHEN OUR PSYCHIC LINK WAS BROKEN.
HOW GRATIFYING THAT YOU'VE RETURNED.
AYE, ETRIGAN HAS RETURNED, RANDU SINGH.
AND I FIND I LIKE MY EXISTENCE TOO WELL TO RESUME LIFE AS MERE JASON BLOOD!

ALWAYS YOU RESIST THE INEVITABLE, ETRIGAN.
AS A DEMON YOU DO NOT BELONG IN THIS WORLD.

I'LL SAY THE WORDS OF MERLIN'S SPELL, RANDU.
FOR JASON'S SAKE.

VANISH, VANISH, ETRIGAN--

RETURN AGAIN IN FORM OF MAN!
NO, NO! I WANT TO STAY!

PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME-- ARRRHHH

THANK YOU, GLENDA.
I HOPE ETRIGAN WASN'T TOO HARD ON YOU THIS TIME.

EACH TIME HE TAKES OVER, IT'S HARDER TO MAKE HIM LEAVE.
JASON, I'M TERRIFIED FOR YOU!
ETRIGAN IS MY TRUE SELF, GLENDA, LIKE HIM OR NOT.
STILL, THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO DISCUSS IT...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

ADVERTISEMENT

SUPERMAN VS. THE LAUGHING GAS BANDITS

EL ROPO CIGARS

HA, HA... DEM YOKELS WILL BE EASY PICKIN' ONCE DEY SNIFF DIS NITROUS OXIDE... UDERWISE KNOWN AS LAUGHIN' GAS.

YOU'RE TOO CLOSE TO DAT SIGN, DUMMY, IT'S GETTIN' TO YA.

HA, HA, YEAH, LAUGHIN' GAS, HA, HA.

AND SUPERMAN UP DERE CAN'T TOUCH US 'CAUSE DIS LAUGHIN' GAS IS SPIKED WITH KRYPTONITE! HA, HA, HA.

HE'LL JUST HAVE TO FOIL SOME OTHER CRIME, FOR NOW.

DERE HE GOES NOW! LET'S GET DOWN DERE, ROB EVERYONE AND SPLIT... BEFORE HE GETS BACK.

YEAH, LET'S GO GET OUR JUST DESSERTS!

SPEAKIN' OF DESSERTS, HERE'S A *HOSTESS* SALESMAN FALLIN' ALL OVER HIMSELF AND SPILLIN' *HOSTESS*® *FRUIT PIES* EVERYWHERE.

SO DON'T JUST STAND THERE LOOKIN' STUPID ...LET'S RELIEVE HIM OF HIS DELICIOUS BURDEN.

HA, HA.

YEAH, DELICIOUS, HA, HA.

BOY, I LOVE DESE *HOSTESS FRUIT PIES*.

DAT'S 'CAUSE OF THE LIGHT TENDER CRUST, YUMM!

MAYBE IT'S 'CAUSE OF THE *REAL FRUIT FILLING* IN *APPLE* AND *CHERRY*. DIDJA' EVER THINK OF THAT?

DIDJA' EVER THINK I'D CATCH YOU THREE SO EASILY?

WHA??? SUPERMAN IN DISGUISE... IT AIN'T FAIR.

ENJOY THOSE *HOSTESS FRUIT PIES*, BOYS. WHERE YOU'RE GOING YOU MAY NOT GET ANY MORE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

FRUIT APPLE

FRUIT PIE CHERRY

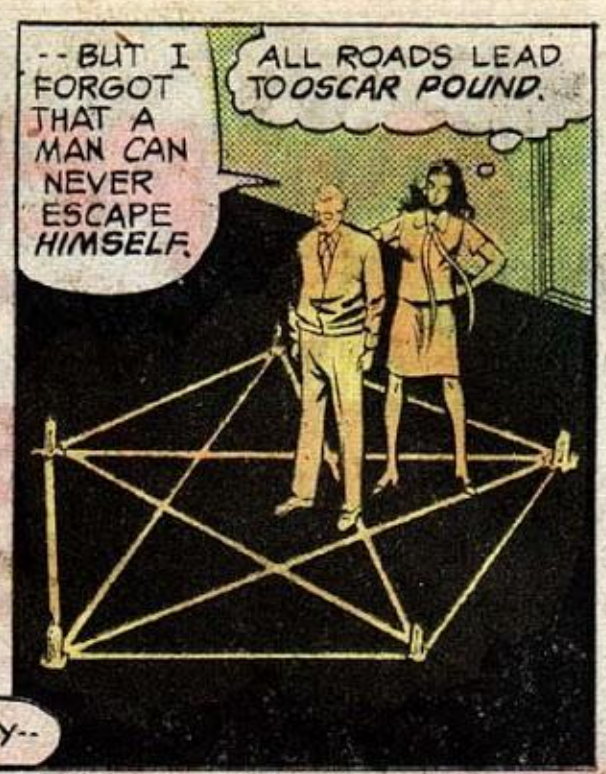
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF *HOSTESS*® *FRUIT PIES*

ALL CHARACTERS © DC COMICS INC. 1981

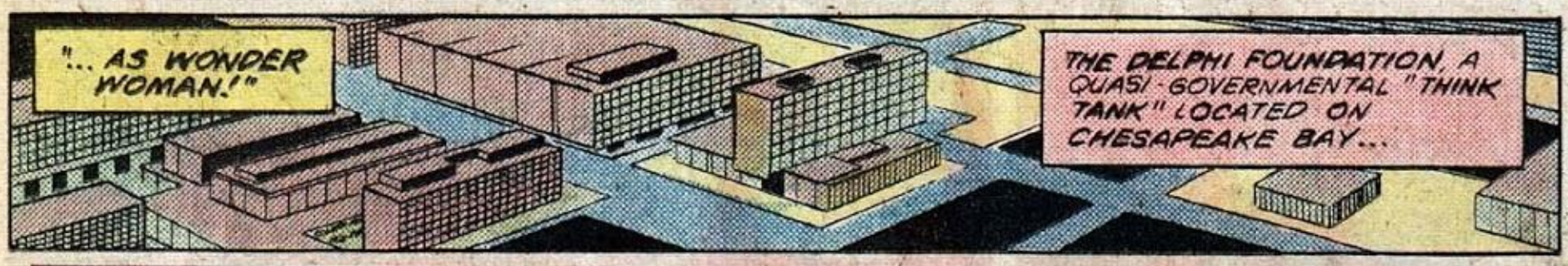
®HOSTESS IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF CONTINENTAL BAKING COMPANY
© 1981 CONTINENTAL BAKING COMPANY

POUND ONCE SUPPLIED ME WITH HIGHLY SECRET CLASSIFIED MILITARY DOCUMENTS.
I LEAKED THEM TO THE PRESS FOR MY OWN POLITICAL GAIN.
POUND BLACKMAILED YOU?
I LET MYSELF BE BLACKMAILED.

WE'RE EACH RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN DISASTERS, MS. PRINCE.
I TRIED TO ESCAPE MY RESPONSIBILITY--


--BUT I FORGOT THAT A MAN CAN NEVER ESCAPE HIMSELF.
ALL ROADS LEAD TO OSCAR POUND.

IT'S TIME I PAID MR. POUND ANOTHER VISIT--


"... AS WONDER WOMAN!"
THE DELPHI FOUNDATION, A QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL "THINK TANK" LOCATED ON CHESAPEAKE BAY...

FOR THE THIRD TIME IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, WONDER WOMAN RETURNS TO THE DELPHI COMPOUND, DRIFTING SILENTLY OVERHEAD IN HER TELEPATHICALLY-CONTROLLED ROBOT PLANE...
THE FIRST TIME I CAME HERE--LOOKING FOR ETTA--
--POUND'S PEOPLE GREETED ME WITH WEAPONS DRAWN!

THIS TIME I DON'T INTEND TO GIVE THEM THAT OPPORTUNITY.
ROBOT PLANE, HOVER OVERHEAD, UNSEEN...

...WHILE YOUR MISTRESS ATTENDS TO BUSINESS.

AS I RECALL, POUND'S OFFICES ARE HERE, IN THE MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE TOWER!
EVEN CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR, OSCAR POUND IS A DANGEROUS MAN.
I CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES WHEN I APPROACH--EH?

SOMEONE'S WATCHING ME FROM THOSE BUSHES!
WHOEVER'S THERE--SHOW YOURSELF.

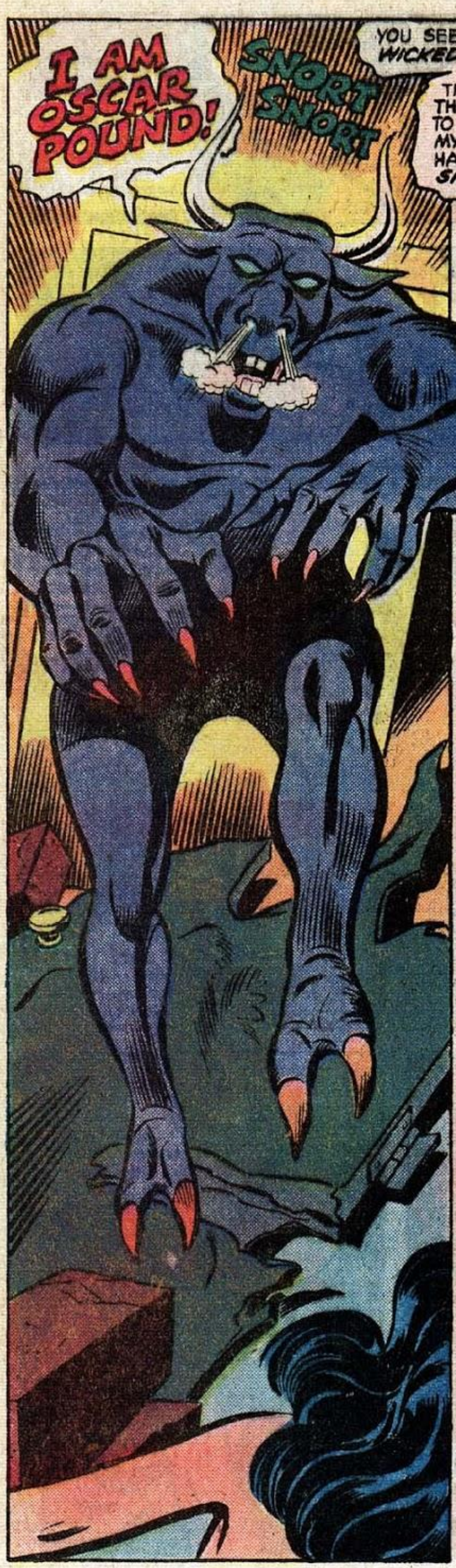
LEAVES RUSTLE, SHADOWS PART, AND A FIGURE STEPS INTO THE SOFT MOONLIGHT...
WONDER WOMAN--THANK GOD!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ONE OF HIS PEOPLE!
GO SLOW.
WHO ARE YOU?

THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT. I CAME HERE WITH A MUTUAL FRIEND...
...JASON BLOOD!
JASON--HERE?
HE SAID HE HAD A "DEBT" TO PAY...

...TO SOMEONE HE EXPECTED TO FIND HERE AT DELPHI!
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM, WONDER WOMAN. HE WENT INSIDE ALMOST TWENTY MINUTES AGO!
STAY HERE!
I'LL FIND HIM--AND THE MAN I'M LOOKING FOR--

--DELPHI'S DIRECTOR, OSCAR POUND!
THEY SHOULD BE IN--UNNH!
THOOM!
GREAT HERA!

THE DOOR BLEW OUTWARD! SOMEONE--SOMETHING--COMING THROUGH!
LOOKING FOR ME, AMAZON? ALLOW ME TO REINTRODUCE MYSELF--


I AM OSCAR POUND!
SNORT SNORT

YOU SEE BEFORE YOU A WICKED JOKE, AMAZON!
THE DEMONIC SPELL THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO RETURN THE USE OF MY CRIPPLED LEGS-- HAD AN AMUSING SIDE EFFECT!

I CAN WALK-- BUT AS YOU SEE--

-- I AM NO LONGER A MAN!
THE WITCH-BOY, KLARION, WHO ADVISED ME TO TRY A MYSTICAL CURE FOR MY PARAPLEGIA--

--WAS SIMPLY TOYING WITH ME, USING ME AS BAIT!
HIS REAL PLAN WAS TO DRAW THE DEMON ETRIGAN HERE INTO HIS CLUTCHES--

-- IN ORDER TO DESTROY HIM!
THIS HE IS DOING, EVEN AS I DESTROY YOU!
JASON'S IN DANGER-- I HAVE TO GO TO HIM!

UNNOTICED BY THE TWO COMBATANTS, GLENDA SLIPS THROUGH THE SHATTERED DOORWAY INTO THE DARKENED ADMINISTRATIVE TOWER...

IF ALL THIS IS *TRUE*, POUND-- THEN WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING *ME*?

I HAVE NO *QUARREL* WITH YOU, AMAZON.

KLARION HAS PROMISED TO RETURN MY HUMANITY, BUT FOR A *PRICE*!

AAAAHH

THAT PRICE IS YOUR LIFE!

PINNED BETWEEN THE MAN-MONSTER'S HORNS, SHE HAS BARELY TIME TO BRACE HERSELF AS SHE IS CARRIED UPWARD AND BACK--

SNORT SNORT

-- TO CRASH AGAINST STONE WITH AN IMPACT THAT MIGHT HAVE SHATTERED A LESSER WOMAN'S SPINE!

CHROOM!

ONLY DIMLY IS SHE AWARE THAT THE MAN-MONSTER TOO IS PINIONED, HIS HORNS EMBEDDED DEEP IN STONE...

AND THEN--

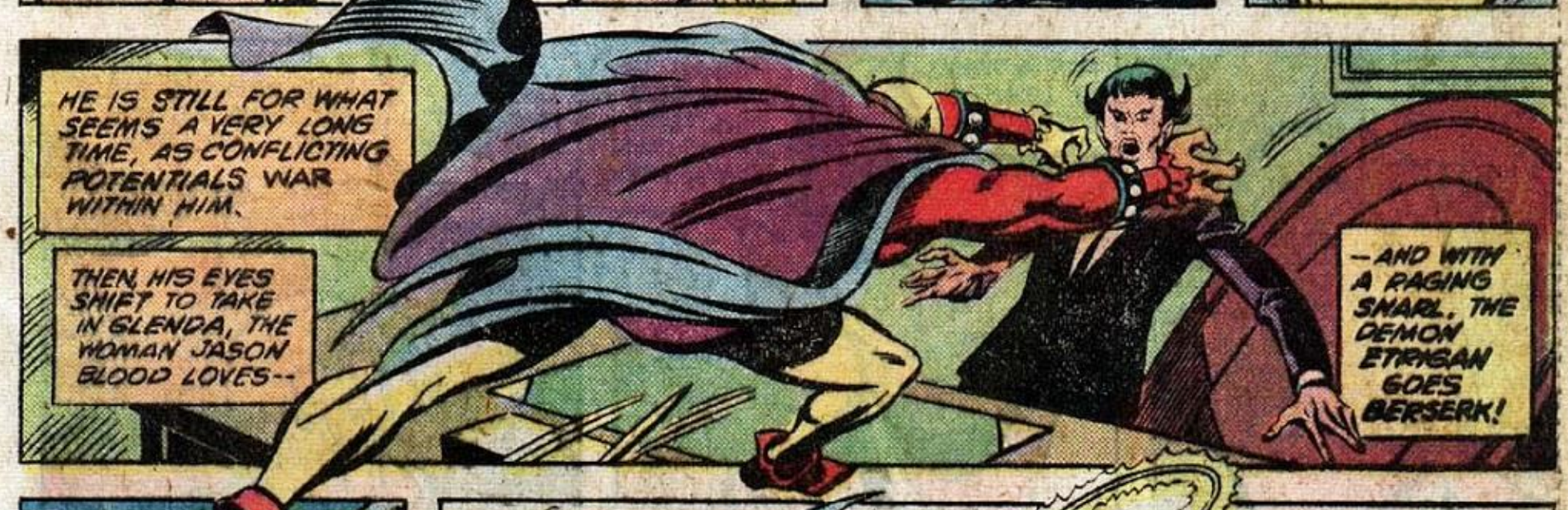
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

BUT THE SURPRISE IS NOT ENTIRELY ONE-SIDED...
ETRIGAN! MERCIFUL MINERVA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'RE STRANGLING GLENDA!
DO YOU ALWAYS ANSWER YOUR OWN RHETORICAL QUESTIONS, AMAZON?
NEVER MIND. IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT ETRIGAN IS UNDER MY CONTROL.
WE HAVE REACHED THE CLIMAX OF MY PLOT.
TEEKL, MY SWEET--
--DAMAGE HER.
MMREE DWH
THAT MUST BE KLARION, THE WITCH-BOY OSCAR POUND DESCRIBED!
AND THIS CAT-- IS SOME KIND OF MAGICAL "FAMILIAR"!
TURNING INTO-- A WERE-CAT?
WERE-CAT OR HOUSECAT--
--I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PULL YOUR CLAWS!
OUT OF MY WAY!
THAT WAS VERY BAD OF YOU, WONDER WOMAN!
YOU HURT TEEKL!

ANY CAT THAT CAN'T SURVIVE A THREE-STORY FALL ISN'T WORTHY OF THE NAME, KLARION.
NOT YET, AMAZON! THE "GAME" MUST BE PLAYED TO ITS END!
SHALL WE STOP PLAYING GAMES? FREE ETRIGAN AND GLENDA--NOW!

ETRIGAN, KILL WONDER WOMAN!
YES, KILL HER... BLEED HER DRY!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU WILL, ETRIGAN.
LOOK AT ME. WHO AM I?

YOU ARE WONDER WOMAN!
MY PREY!
MY-- FRIEND?


HE IS STILL FOR WHAT SEEMS A VERY LONG TIME, AS CONFLICTING POTENTIALS WAR WITHIN HIM.
THEN, HIS EYES SHIFT TO TAKE IN GLENDA, THE WOMAN JASON BLOOD LOVES--
--AND WITH A RAGING SNARL, THE DEMON ETRIGAN GOES BERSERK!

YOU WANTED A DEATH, KLARION-- HAHAHA-- YOU SHALL HAVE ONE:
HA HA
HA HA
YOUR OWN!

HAHAHA
ETRIGAN, THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU MUSTN'T KILL HIM!
YOU'VE REDEEMED YOURSELF--

--DON'T THROW IT AWAY ON A CREATURE AS WORTHLESS AS HIM!
DON'T BE AFRAID, AMAZON. LOOK... AND LEARN.
I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO LOOK... TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

"GREAT HERA... KLARION IS GONE! NOTHING'S LEFT BUT A CHARRED SPOT ON THE OFFICE FLOOR!"

NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU CAN'T KILL SUCH AS HE OR I!
YOU CAN ONLY VANQUISH US FOR A LITTLE WHILE! LISTEN...
"VANQUISH...

"...VANISH, ETRIGAN!

"RETURN AGAIN IN FORM OF MAN!"

H-HE TRIED TO KILL ME! HE HAD HIS HANDS AROUND MY THROAT...
...AND HE WAS LAUGHING!
OH GOD, OH GOD!

GLENDA... IT'S OVER.

FOR A TIME, AT LEAST, IT'S OVER.
ETRIGAN IS BANISHED-- THIS TIME BY HIS OWN FREE WILL.
JASON, IS IT YOU?
I'VE COME BACK TO YOU, GLENDA...

...YOUR LOVE BROUGHT ME BACK.
APHRODITE, MAY YOU ALWAYS SMILE ON THEM AS YOU HAVE THIS DAY!

OUTSIDE, IN THE DISTANCE, THEY CAN HEAR GUARDS CALLING TO ONE ANOTHER BELATEDLY ATTRACTED BY THE SOUNDS OF VIO ENCE--
IT'S HARD TO REALIZE THAT ONLY A FEW MINUTES HAVE PASSED SINCE WONDER WOMAN ARRIVED...

...AND IN THAT TIME, SO MUCH HAS CHANGED...
THIS IS WHERE TEEKL MUST HAVE FALLEN.
LOOKS LIKE SHE FOLLOWED HER MASTER!

THAT ISN'T ALL KLARION TOOK WITH HIM, WONDER WOMAN.
LOOK--ISN'T THAT OSCAR POUND?
GREAT HERA, YES!

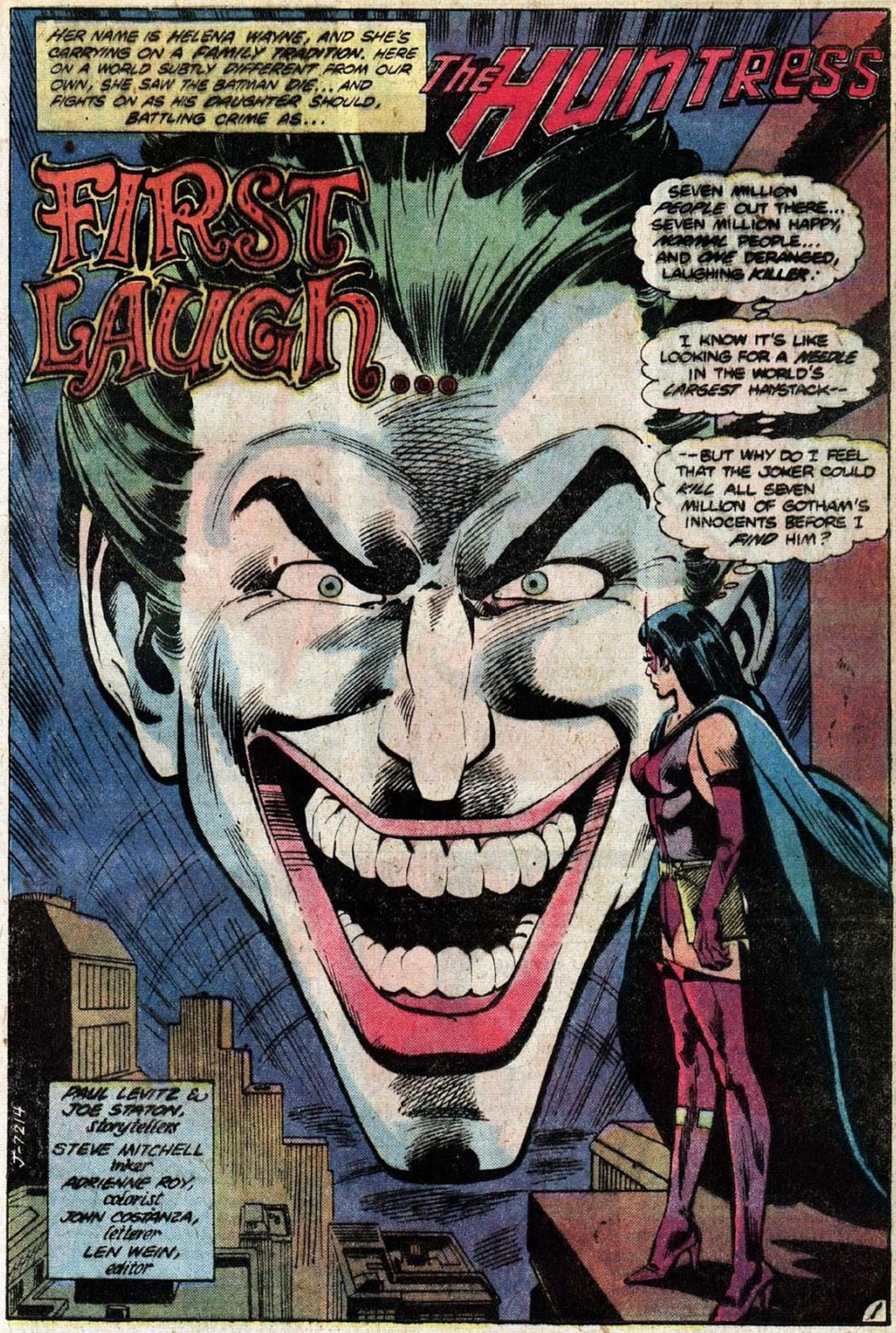
HE... TRICKED ME. ALL OF HIS PROMISES ... WORTHLESS!
I SHOULD THINK YOU'D BE HAPPY.
DAMN HIM! DAMN HIS EYES!
YOU'RE NO LONGER A MONSTER.

DO YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT THAT?
WHAT USE IS IT TO BE HALF A MAN?
I'M A CRIPPLE AGAIN! I CAN'T WALK!

IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING... NOTHING.
WHEN KLARION DISAPPEARED, HE WIPED OUT THE EFFECTS OF ALL HIS SPELLS.

SO EVERYTHING OSCAR POUND DID -- ALL THE MORTAL COMPROMISES HE MADE WITH HIS ETERNAL SOUL--
-IN THE END BOUGHT HIM NOTHING BUT A BRIEF NIGHTMARE!
I THINK YOU'RE WRONG, WONDER WOMAN.

I THINK OSCAR POUND'S NIGHTMARE IS ONLY JUST BEGINNING...
NOTHING... ALL FOR NOTHING ... NOTHING...
NOTHING.
NEXT ISSUE:
WHO IS-- THE RED DRAGON?
BE HERE NEXT MONTH -- AND FIND OUT!


HER NAME IS HELENA WAYNE, AND SHE'S CARRYING ON A FAMILY TRADITION. HERE ON A WORLD SUBTLY DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN, SHE SAW THE BATMAN DIE... AND FIGHTS ON AS HIS DAUGHTER SHOULD, BATTLING CRIME AS...
The HUNTRESS
FIRST LAUGH...
SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE OUT THERE... SEVEN MILLION HAPPY, NORMAL PEOPLE... AND ONE DERANGED, LAUGHING KILLER.
I KNOW IT'S LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST HAYSTACK--
--BUT WHY DO I FEEL THAT THE JOKER COULD KILL ALL SEVEN MILLION OF GOTHAM'S INNOCENTS BEFORE I FIND HIM?
PAUL LEVITZ & JOE STATON, storytellers
STEVE MITCHELL inker
ADRIENNE ROY, colorist
JOHN COSTANZA, letterer
LEN WEIN, editor
J-7814

THERE'S NO PATTERN, NO CLUES...
ONLY HARRY LYING COMATOSE IN A HOSPITAL BED, COMMISSIONER O'HARA FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE...
...AND ONE VERY SCARED CITY.

NOT TO MENTION A LADY CRIMEFIGHTER WHO FEELS INEFFECTIVE ENOUGH TO CONSIDER LOOKING FOR A NEW LINE OF WORK!
YEESH!

WELL, MAYBE IF I CAN'T FIND THE JOKER I CAN TAKE THE STING OUT OF HIS VENOM!

THE LIGHTS FLASH WILDLY, THE MUSIC SCREAMS, AND THE VERY AIR SEEMS THICK NOT SIMPLY WITH SMOKE BUT WITH EXPECTATIONS...
...IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO CLOSING TIME AT EVE'S APPLE, GOTHAM'S SWINGINGIEST SINGLES' BAR...
I TOLD YOU, CHARLIE, I DON'T WANNA GET INTO THAT STUFF. IT'S TOO HEAVY FOR ME.
BUT, BABY--

--HOW CAN YOU BE SURE UNLESS YOU GIVE IT A TR--
TAP TAP TAP
THE LADY'S RIGHT NOT TO TRY YOUR GARBAGE, CHARLIE... AND YOU KNOW IT.

WHAT THE BLAZES MAKES THIS ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS, YOU LOUD-MOUTHED B--

OH NO.
H... HELLO, HUNTRESS.

HELLO, CHARLIE. I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU LAST TIME I BUSTED YOU THAT IF THE JUDGE WAS SOFT ENOUGH TO LET YOU OUT, YOU'D BETTER STAY CLEAN...
... OR I'D PUT YOU RIGHT BACK BEHIND BARS AGAIN.
B-BUT I-I DIDN'T MEAN--

COME OFF IT, CHARLIE. EVERY OUNCE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS IN GOTHAM TRIES TO CRAWL ITS WAY INTO YOUR SLIMY POCKETS.
THE WORST PART IS, I THINK YOU LIKE THAT FILTH!

URK.
WELL, CHARLIE, HERE'S A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PAY BACK SOCIETY.

JUST TELL ME IF ANY DI-METHYL-SILICATE HAS CHANGED HANDS LATELY.
YOU KNOW IT, CHARLIE--THAT'S THE POISON THE JOKER MAKES HIS SMILE VENOM FROM.
NO--NO, I TOLD YOU, HUNTRESS--I'M OUT OF THE EXOTIC DRUG RACKET.

SURE, SURE YOU ARE, CHARLIE.
TELL ME ANOTHER ONE SOMETIME.
HEY, YOU CAN'T ROUGH ME UP LIKE THIS, HUNTRESS--IT AIN'T LEGAL!
CHARLIE--BE QUIET.

AHEM--LOOKS LIKE THE GUY WHO RAN OUT INTO THE STREET SCREAMING ABOUT SOMETHING GOING DOWN HERE WAS RIGHT, FRED.

YEP, SURE DOES, SANDY.

AND I SEE AN OLD FRIEND OF OURS HERE, TOO.

BACK IN THE PILL BUSINESS, CHARLIE?

AWWWW...

A FEW HOURS LATER, AS DAWN BREAKS OVER GOTHAM...

ALL THE PUSHERS WHO HANDLE EXOTIC DRUGS DIDN'T BLINK AT THE SOUND OF THE JOKER'S NAME!

WHICH MEANS THAT WHITE-FACED LUNATIC IS WORKING OFF AN OLD SUPPLY HE SQUIRRELED AWAY SOMEWHERE--

--OR THERE'S A PIPELINE I CAN'T FIND.

EITHER WAY IT MEANS IT'S TIME FOR THE HUNTRESS TO CALL IT A NIGHT--

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

"--AND HELENA WAYNE TO GO TO WORK."

CAN WE SEE YOU, MS. WAYNE?

OF COURSE, TYLER... COME ON IN.

TYLER, CHARLIE AND I WERE *THINKING*, HELENA--THIS IS A *PUBLIC INTEREST* LAW FIRM, RIGHT?

WELL, WHY DON'T WE APPROACH THE PUBLIC *DIRECTLY*--TAKE OUT *ADS*--AND TRY AND GATHER SOME DATA ON *PRODUCT SAFETY*?

GET THEM TO COME TO US INSTEAD OF GOING TO *THEM*.

HMMM... *INTERESTING* IDEA, FRANCES, BUT I SEE SOME *PROBLEMS*.

OFFHAND I'D SAY IT WOULD BE A PRETTY *BIASED* SAMPLING, STATISTICALLY SPEAKING, BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO HAD TROUBLE WITH A PRODUCT WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO *COMPLAIN*.

TRUE, BUT CAN WE TRY AND THINK IT THROUGH *SOME MORE*?

SURE...

BUT *NOT* RIGHT NOW, OKAY? I'VE GOT AN IDEA OF MY *OWN* I WANT TO WORK ON.

GREAT--WHAT CAN WE DO TO *HELP*?

NOTHING--THIS IS A *PERSONAL* PROBLEM I'M WORKING ON, TEAM.

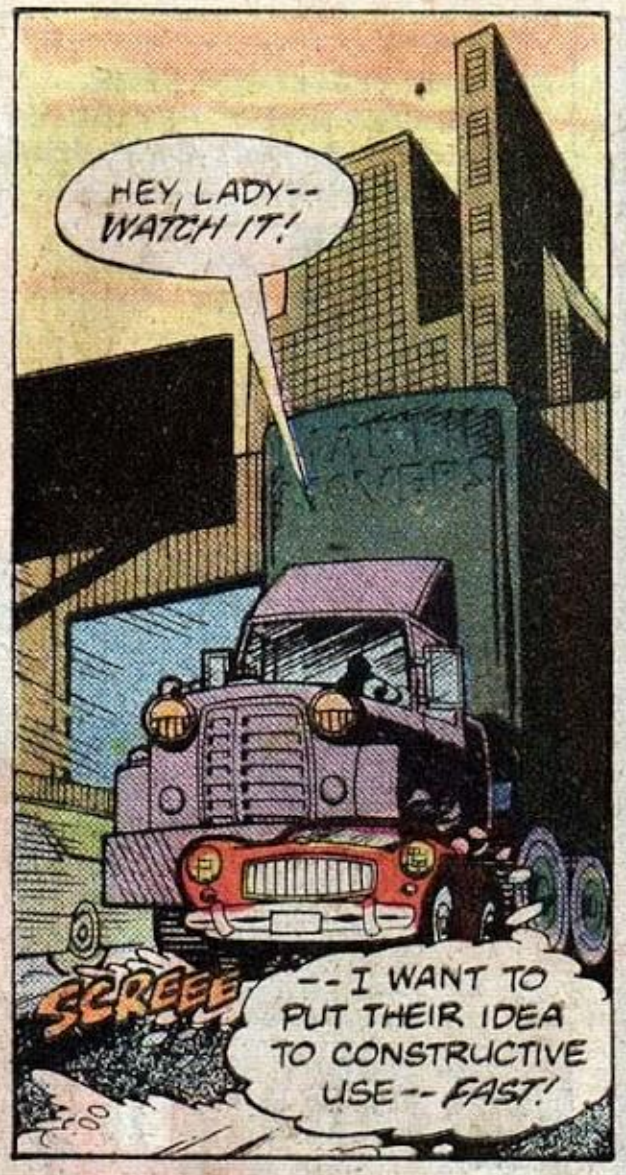
YOU KNOW, SOME DAYS I THINK WE'RE WORKING FOR AN AWFULLY CRAZY LADY!

IF YOU'LL *EXCUSE* ME...

FIVE MINUTES LATER...

SCREEEECH!

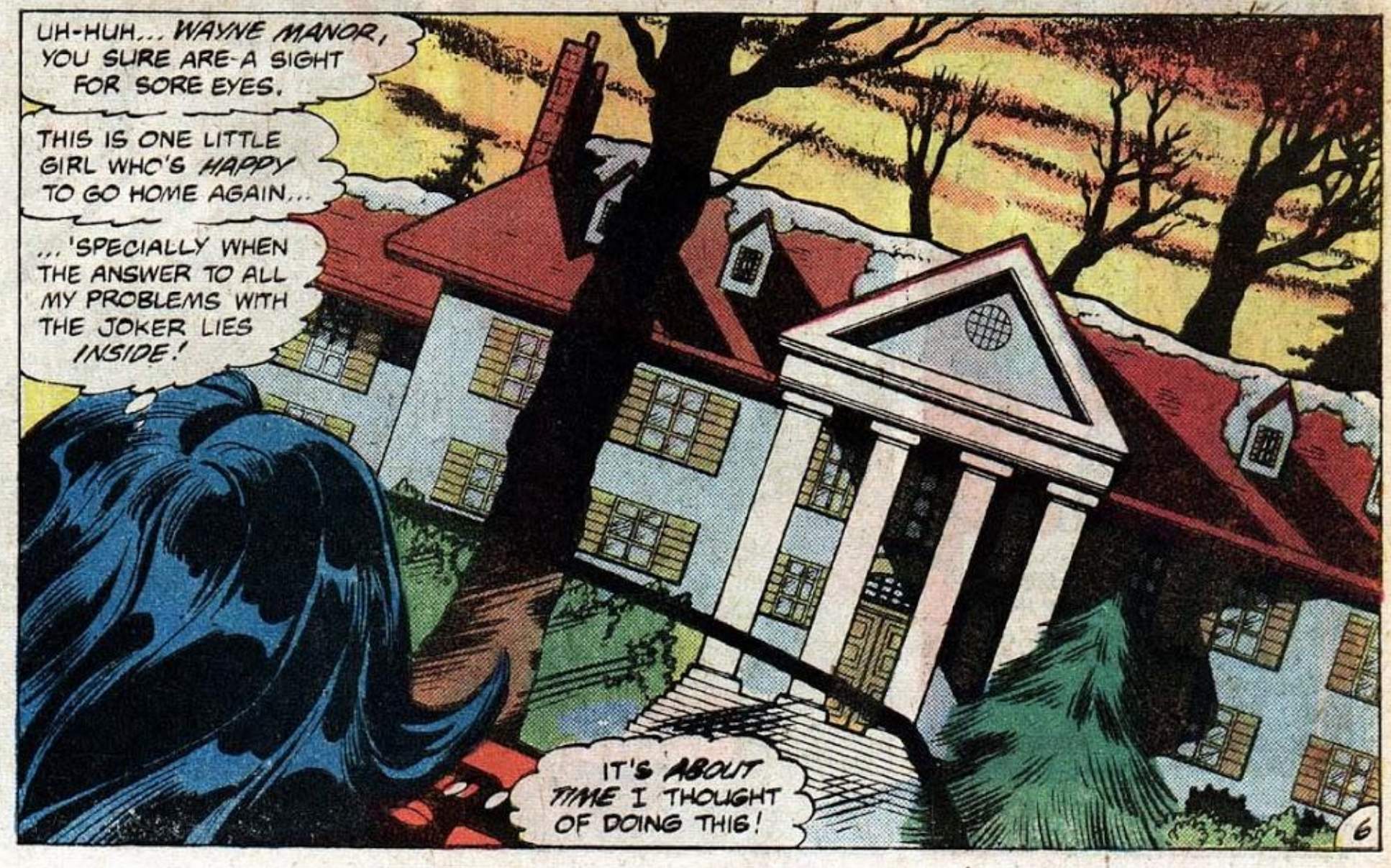
NOW ALL THREE OF THE FIRM'S NEW ASSOCIATES THINK I'VE GONE *NUTS*. BUT WHAT THE *HEY*--


HEY, LADY-- WATCH IT!
SCREEE
--I WANT TO PUT THEIR IDEA TO CONSTRUCTIVE USE--FAST!

NEARLY SIDESWIPED THAT TRUCK! I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL.
THESE ROADS ARE WHERE I LEARNED HOW TO DRIVE YEARS AGO--I SHOULD BE ABLE TO STEER THEM BLINDFOLDED--
--BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO TRY IT THAT WAY!

WOW... IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN BACK HERE.
EVERY TREE BRINGS TO MIND A MEMORY.
HMPH-- I WONDER IF THAT OLD OAK STILL HAS MY INITIALS CARVED IN IT!

THE GATE STILL SWINGS WIDE FOR THE ELECTRONIC KEY-- AND SLAMS SHUT FAST. THAT'S GOOD.
LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE IS IN GOOD REPAIR.


UH-HUH... WAYNE MANOR, YOU SURE ARE-A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES.
THIS IS ONE LITTLE GIRL WHO'S HAPPY TO GO HOME AGAIN...
...'SPECIALLY WHEN THE ANSWER TO ALL MY PROBLEMS WITH THE JOKER LIES INSIDE!
IT'S ABOUT TIME I THOUGHT OF DOING THIS!

THE OLD KEY RATTLES NOISILY IN THE DOOR, SQUEAKING IN TUNE WITH THE LOCK CYLINDERS AND THE BRASS HINGES... A SYMPHONY OF DISUSE.
THEY CALL OUT TO HELENA WAYNE, CHIDING HER..."HOW COULD YOU GO AWAY AND LEAVE US SO ALONE?"

THE LIGHT THAT POURS THROUGH THE DOOR INTO THE STATELY MANSE IS THE FIRST TO TOUCH ITS DUSTY HALLS IN MANY MONTHS.
THE LIGHTS WENT OUT AFTER BRUCE WAYNE DIED, AND HELENA HAS NOT COME BACK TO REKINDLE THEM.
NOT UNTIL TODAY.

PERHAPS IT WAS THE MEMORIES SHE COULD NOT BEAR... THE PLACES WHERE HER FATHER HAD LAUGHED THAT RARE, DEEP LAUGH OF HIS...
THE FIREPLACE HER MOTHER SAT WATCHING FOR SO MANY EVENINGS, PURRING GENTLY, CONTENTEDLY...
THE MEMORIES OF THE PARENTS HELENA WATCHED GO TO THEIR IMMORTAL REWARDS, NOT SO VERY LONG AGO.

CREAK
STILL, IT IS ALL HERE WAITING FOR HER. THE CLOCK SWINGS AWAY FROM THE WALL AT A TOUCH, AS THOUGH ITS MECHANISM HAD JUST BEEN OILED THE DAY BEFORE.
WHAT HER FATHER BUILT, HE BUILT TO LAST.

THE LONELY FOOTSTEPS ECHO DOWN THE STONE STAIRWAY. SHE WALKS THROUGH THE DARKNESS WITHOUT BREAKING STRIDE, SECURE IN HER FOOTING.
SHE HAS COME HOME.

HELENA WAYNE HAS COME BACK TO HER FATHER'S HOUSE.

THE NEXT EVENING, IN WHAT MAY BE CHARITABLY DESCRIBED AS ONE OF GOTHAM'S LESS-POSH NIGHTSPOTS...
ANOTHER ROUND, MANNY... THE BIG GUY'S THIRSTY, AND I WANNA MAKE SURE HE GETS EVERYTHING HE WANTS...
...EVERYTHING.

UGGG... ANIMALS. ANIMALS, THAT'S ALL THEY ARE! AND THE DARE CALL ME MAD!
HEE HEE HEE...WHAT INSANITY IT ALL IS!

LEADING OFF THE HEADLINES HERE AT WCNN IS A STRANGE REPORT FROM GOTHAM CITY!
ALTHOUGH LONG BELIEVED DEAD AND BURIED, THE BATMAN HAS BEEN SEEN SWINGING ABOUT THE CITY FOR THE PAST FEW HOURS!
AS WE GET MORE WORD ON THIS APPARENT RESURRECT--
HA HA HA!

I KNEW IT! HEE HEE HEE... I KNEW HE COULDN'T BE DEAD!
HA HA HA!

HE CAN'T BE DEAD-- HEE HEE HEE-- NOT UNTIL I KILL HIM! HA HA HA!
I KNEW IT!
GASP!
EEK!
THE JOKER!

THE JOKER WILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH YET!
THE JOKER THINKS IT'S BATMAN. YOU THINK IT'S THE HUNTRESS DRESSED AS BATMAN. HE THINK YOU'RE BOTH WRONG.
BE HERE NEXT MONTH FOR... "LAST LAUGH"

Dear Editor:

WONDER WOMAN #277 was off to a good start, establishing that although *Kobra* may be insane, he's not any sort of pathetic dreamer; he has the power to fix us good! The message of the story rang out loud and clear: The Persian Gulf crisis can leave us high and dry if we don't start depending on our own country's resources.

When a story reflects life as we know it, I admire the writer. It gives him a chance to express himself on the matter, but also gets his opinions widely spread.

I feel mighty sorry for *Kobra*, though. He's aroused the anger of an Amazon. I could feel her revulsed rage at the utter depravity of *Kobra* using her to get rid of unwanted henchmen. And though the event had a plausible scientific explanation, it had all the effect of something much more macabre. The force driving *Kobra* to work such things is pure evil. I hope this is played up.

The best scene in the magazine was that of Diana and Etta. It was quite moving and I'm glad you're not afraid to show emotions. The only thing it might have needed was a bit more setting-up; don't rush such confrontations in the future.

KEVIN F. PETERSON
305 Condon Road
Manister, MI 49660

Just what is in store for the Diana/Etta relationship after Ms. Candy's current trauma is still in Gerry Conway's fertile brain. But we'll caution him to set you up better—okay, Kevin?—TPS

* * * * *

Dear Wonder Workers:

Ironic, isn't it? *Kobra* has done for *Wonder Woman* what at least five editors couldn't: given her a sense of continuity and a formidable foe (himself). "The Kobra Ultimatum" in #277 was another great example of this.

Gerry Conway has crafted a suspenseful epic. *Kobra* is insanity realized in a super-villain, perfectly fitting the description of the fine line between insanity and genius. At times he acts like a raving lunatic, but as with the theft of the Cobalt 93, he's also quite intelligent.

Some of the other nice points of the issue: Steve Trevor and Etta Candy, who are both becoming important to Diana and *Wonder Woman* after forty years and three incarnations. Pages 8-10 were touching. *WW*'s concern for the poor people in America was also nicely shown, but how about having her do something about it in the future?

CHUCK SMALL
2457 Bow Court
South Bend, IN 46628

Hear that, Gerry? "This looks like a job for Wonder Woman!"—TPS

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Anger and shock. That's what "The Kobra Ultimatum" instilled within me. What I mean is, Gerry's story had its full effect; I hate *Kobra* more and more each time I see him and this time clinched it.

Thank goodness for storyline relief in the scenes with Etta Candy. Now that Diana's made up with her, I hope we'll get to see more of the mysterious person living below them.

It was also great to see *Wonder Woman* moving from expressing concern for Etta, then turning to her concern for the world upon arriving in India. This is the Amazon we all know and love and I'd like to see Steve Trevor following that example, instead of just reporting disasters in a sterile conference room.

Thanks for bringing Dave Hunt back as inker. He perfectly complements Jose Delbo's art.

And speaking of art, how could one not enjoy that of Joe Staton and Steve Mitchell on "Secrets, Secrets Everywhere"? I'd like a poster-size copy of those snowflakes drifting past that crystal gaze on page 1. You can be sure my face will be wearing the same expression while I await the next issue of *WONDER WOMAN*.

One more thing: You always credit the creators of *Superman* and *Batman* in their books. Why don't you do the same in *WONDER WOMAN*? Charles Moulton was a great man and deserves no less than Siegel, Shuster and Kane!

NEIL AHLQUIST
1315 Madison Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

A good question, Neil, and unless we can find a justifiable answer, we'll do our best to see that William Moulton Marston (WW's creator's real name) gets the credit he deserves in future issues!—TPS

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

WONDER WOMAN #277 was one of the best issues I've read. The art was good, as always, and the story was captivating. I really enjoy it when a storyline runs for three or four issues and this works particularly well with *Wonder Woman*. Please keep it up!

I also like the relationship you've set up between Diana and Etta. I feel that *Wonder Woman* should share her identity with someone and that someone should be Ms. Candy. This would prove a great asset to both *WW* and Diana Prince and it would make Etta a much more important character.

One more suggestion: How about some female guest stars? *Catwoman*, who's been working on the side of the law recently, comes to mind. *Black Canary*, *Zatanna* or *Hawkgirl* would also be nice!

ROBERT URQUHART
Naval Hospital, Box 12
Patuxent River, MD 20670

Let's poll our readers on the Etta/identity question, Bob! What do the rest of you think about Diana's roomie knowing her dual identity? Let us know!—Ted P. Skimmer

LEN'S LINE-UP

ON SALE MAY 7th:

THE FLASH #300—A 48-page celebration, "1981—A Flash Odyssey" by Cary Bates, Carmine Infantino and Bob Smith, featuring the origins of the entire cast and the whole Rogues' Gallery.

JUSTICE LEAGUE #193—The true origin of *Red Tornado* in "Secret of Genesis" by Gerry Conway, George Perez and John Beatty. Plus: An extra 16-page preview of *THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON* by Roy Thomas, Rich Buckler and Jerry Ordway.

THE NEW TEEN TITANS #10—It's *Titans* versus the Terminator in "Promethium: Unbound" by Marv Wolfman, George Perez and Romeo Tanghal!

WEIRD WAR TALES #102—More battle shockers to scare you right out of your foxhole by some of the top writers and artists in comics!

ON SALE MAY 21st:

ADVENTURE COMICS #484—More new heroes and villains created by our readers in *DIAL "H" FOR HERO* by Marv Wolfman, Don Heck, Carmine Infantino and Dennis Jensen.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER #254—The Faceless Warrior meets Lady Jade in "The Lotus or the Tiger" by Bob Haney, Dick Ayers and Gerry Talaoc; *Captain Fear* sails into new adventure with David Michelinie and Walt Simonson; and *Dateline: Frontline* reports on "The Battle of Bataan!" with Cary Burkett and Ric Estrada.

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #270—NOW MONTHLY! *Superman* and *Batman* join forces against Metallo in a Conway/Rich Buckler/Frank McLaughlin collaboration; *Green Arrow* meets Count Vertigo in "A World Gone Mad" by Bob Haney and Trevor VonEeden; *Hawkman* and *Hawkgirl* battle the Shadow Thief in "You and Me Against Our World" by Bob Rozakis, Alex Saviuk and Rodin Rodriguez; *Red Tornado* faces the Robotkiller in a story by Conway and Jose Delbo; and "My Son the Monster" is the *Shazam!* installment by E. Nelson Bridwell, Don Newton and Larry Mahlstedt.