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AUTHORITY

# WONDER WOMAN

BY  
**JOHN  
BYRNE**



# LIFELINES

PART ONE

THERE  
IS MY  
DESTINATION.

THE GATEWAY  
CITY MUSEUM  
OF CULTURAL  
ANTIQUITIES.

I NEED NOW  
ONLY TO DON  
MORE SUITABLE  
ATTIRE...

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WONDER WOMAN  
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THE DEMON  
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"...AND I WILL BE JUST IN TIME FOR MY JOB INTERVIEW."

GOOD MORNING. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR SANDSMARK.

I AM WONDER WOMAN.

OF COURSE YOU ARE, HONEY. NOW WHY DON'T YOU RUN ALONG AND TAKE YOUR MEDICATION.

I'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO... OH!!

REALLY. I AM WONDER WOMAN, AND I DO HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH HELENA SANDSMARK.

AND SO.

PROFESSOR  
SANDSMARK.  
WONDER WOMAN  
IS HERE TO  
SEE YOU!

...OUT TILL  
MIDNIGHT? FORGET  
IT, CASSANDRA!  
UNTIL YOU SHOW ME  
YOU CAN BE MORE  
RESPONSIBLE...

BUT THAT'S  
WHAT YOU  
ALWAYS SAY!

AND IT'S NOT  
FAIR! I GET GOOD  
GRADES! I DON'T  
HANG OUT AT THE  
MALL ALL THE  
TIME...

ONLY  
BECAUSE I  
DON'T LET  
YOU.

IT'S ONLY BEEN A WEEK SINCE  
YOU WERE GROUNDED FOR  
BREAKING CURFEW...

BUT THAT WASN'T MY FAULT! I  
TOLD YOU, IT WAS MICHELLE  
WHO DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE THE  
PARTY WHEN WE WERE  
SUPPOSED TO!

BUT, DON'T YOU  
SEE, CASSIE? IT'S  
NEVER YOUR FAULT!  
WHENEVER YOU BREAK  
THE RULES, YOU ALWAYS  
HAVE SOMEONE ELSE  
TO BLAME.

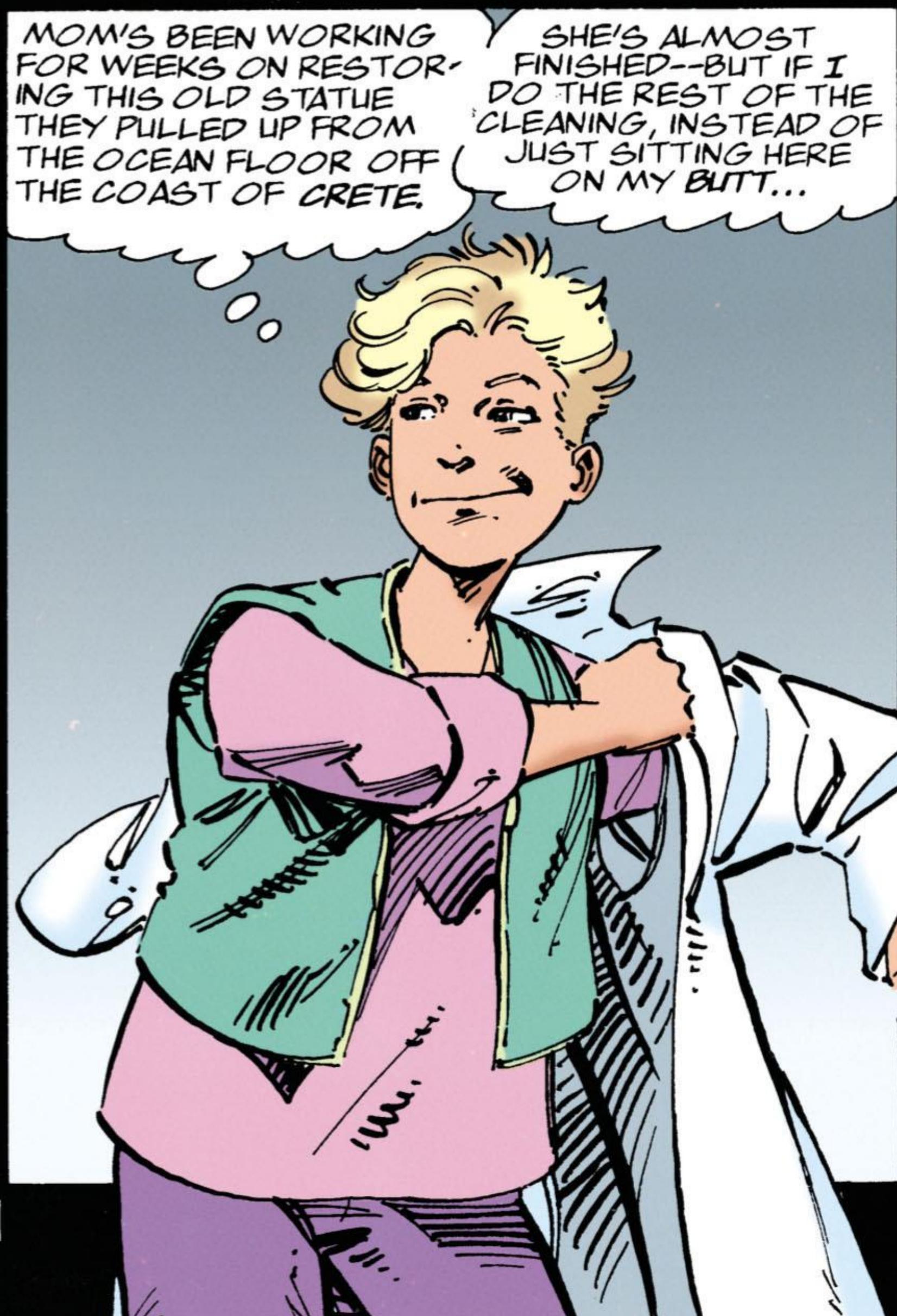
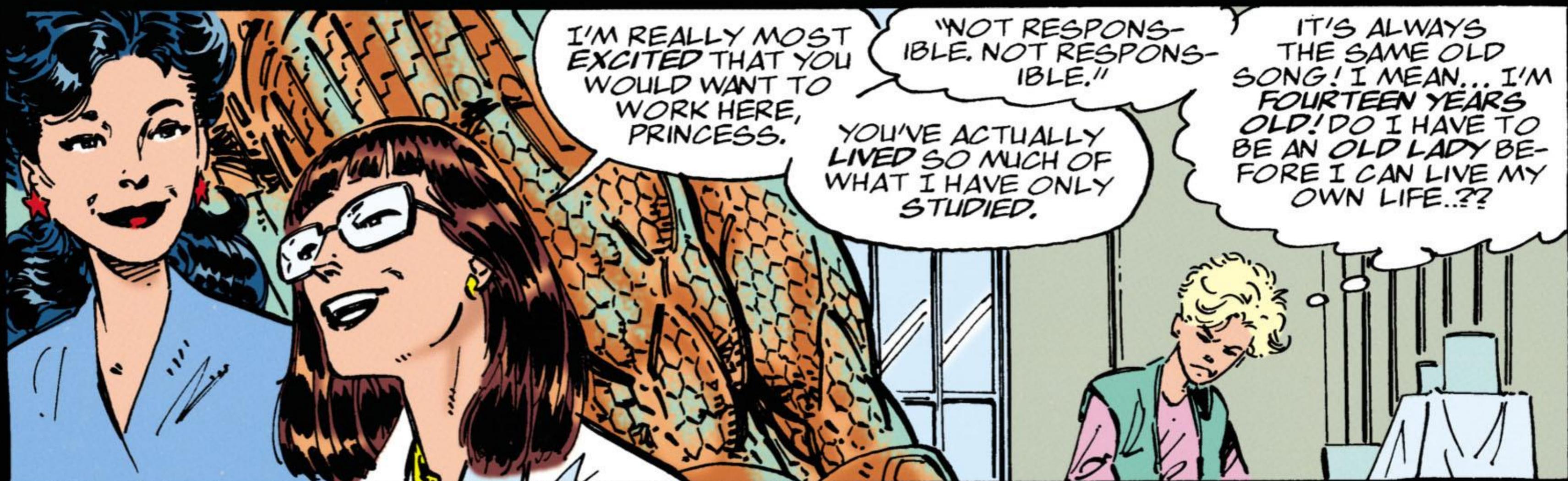
AND THAT'S  
JUST WHAT I  
MEAN ABOUT NOT  
BEING RESPON-  
SIBLE!

YOU  
ALWAYS SAY  
THAT, TOO!

ER...  
PROFESSOR...?  
WONDER  
WOMAN...?

OH, YES. I'M  
SORRY. BUT  
JULIA  
KAPATELIS  
TOLD ME YOU  
PREFER DIANA...?

YES. IF THIS  
IS A BAD TIME,  
PROFESSOR...



...I'LL BET THAT  
WILL SHOW MOM  
I CAN BE  
RESPONSIBLE.

HEY.  
WHAT'S  
THIS?

SOME KIND  
OF SWITCH. LIKE  
AN ON-OFF  
SWITCH.

KLIK  
KLIK  
KLIK

DOESN'T  
SEEM TO DO  
ANYTHING,  
THOUGH...

HOLY  
GEEZ!!

IT'S  
ALIVE!!

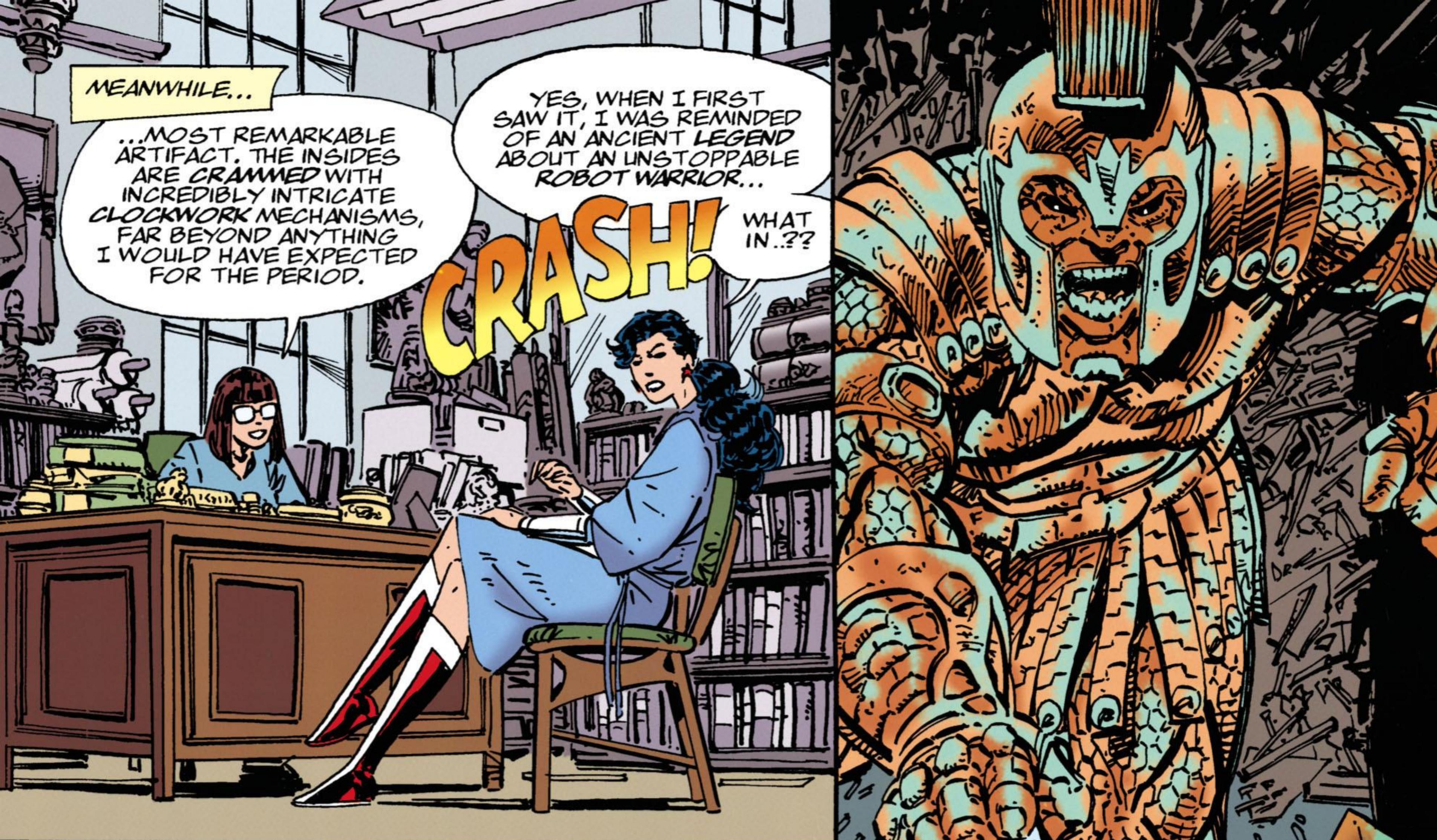
MEANWHILE...

...MOST REMARKABLE  
ARTIFACT. THE INSIDES  
ARE CRAMMED WITH  
INCREIBLY INTRICATE  
CLOCKWORK MECHANISMS,  
FAR BEYOND ANYTHING  
I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED  
FOR THE PERIOD.

YES, WHEN I FIRST  
SAW IT, I WAS REMINDED  
OF AN ANCIENT LEGEND  
ABOUT AN UNSTOPPABLE  
ROBOT WARRIOR...

CRASH!

WHAT IN...??



MOM!  
HE-E-ELP!!

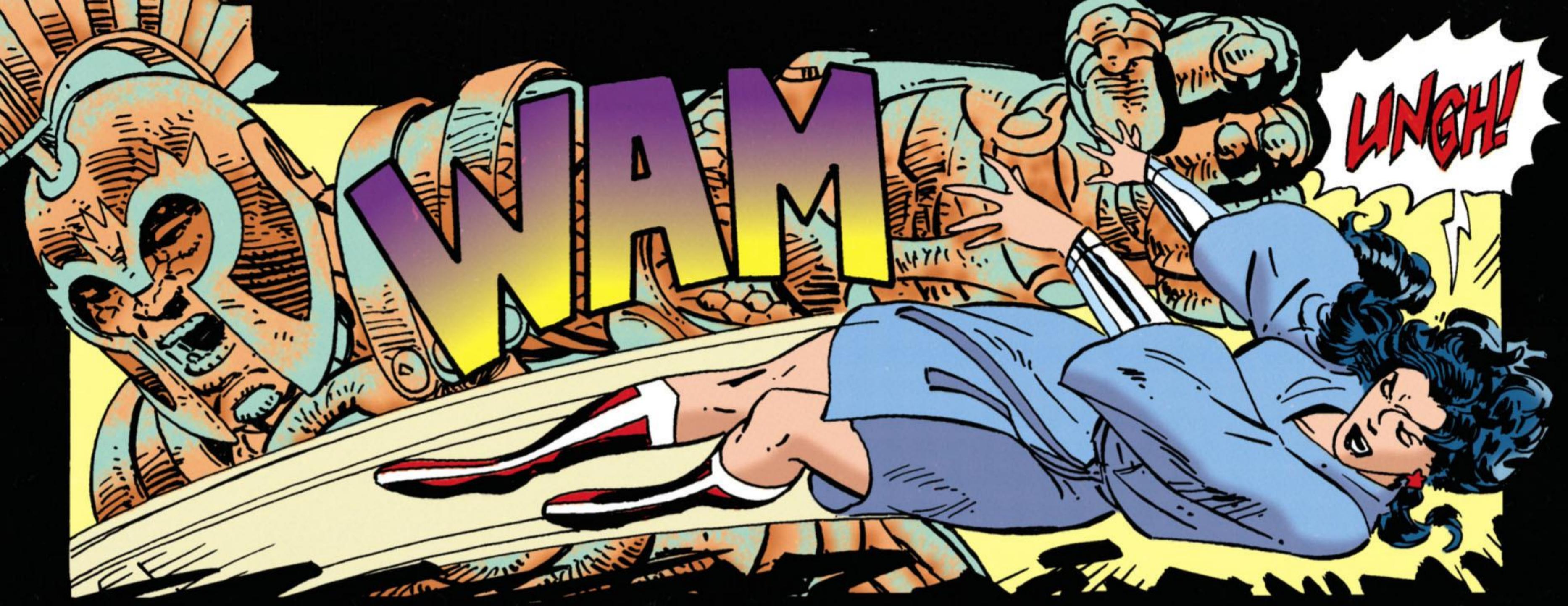
GOOD  
HEAVENS!!

IT IS THE  
WARRIOR OUT  
OF MYTH!!

STEPPING INTO ITS PATH,  
DIANA SPEAKS TO THE  
MONSTER IN THE LANGUAGE  
OF ANCIENT GREECE!

STOP! YOU  
SHALL NOT  
HARM THE  
CHILD!





ACCORDING TO THE LEGENDS, THAT THING IS A KIND OF TROJAN HORSE, GIVEN AS A GIFT, BUT BUILT TO ATTACK WHOEVER ACTIVATES IT!

AND THAT MEANS IT WILL NOT BE HALTED UNTIL IT HAS ELIMINATED CASSANDRA—UNLESS I STOP IT.

BLAST! IT WOULD SEEM I MUST TRY A MORE DIRECT APPROACH!

I MUST TAKE CARE  
NOT TO USE ALL MY  
GREAT STRENGTH.

WHATEVER ELSE  
THIS THING MAY  
BE, IT IS STILL A  
PRECIOUS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ARTIFACT!

OH NO!

THE ENERGY OF  
MY BLOW HAS SOME-  
HOW CAUSED IT  
TO DOUBLE IN  
SIZE!

I DARE NOT  
STRIKE IT  
AGAIN!

WONDER  
WOMAN CAN'T  
STOP THAT  
THING!

AND IT'S  
ALL MY  
FAULT!

HOW CAN  
I STOP  
IT??

"IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!!

HALF A WORLD AWAY THERE  
IS A KIND OF PEACE AT  
LAST.

PEACE THAT HAS BEEN A  
LONG TIME COMING...

...TO A MAN A SELECT FEW  
KNOW AS JASON BLOOD.

THIS IS  
THE  
ADDRESS.

ODD. I HAVE  
WALKED DOWN THIS  
NARROW STREET A  
DOZEN TIMES SINCE I  
CAME TO LONDON...

...YET I HAVE  
NEVER NOTICED  
THIS SHOP.

HELLO? IS  
ANYONE HERE?  
IT'S JASON BLOOD.  
I RECEIVED YOUR  
MESSAGE...

I'M SURE  
YOU DID, OLD  
FRIEND!

WARY!  
IT'S NOT  
POSSIBLE!

I SAW  
YOU DIE!!

YOU SAW ME  
ENGULFED BY  
MAGIC FIRE,  
BLOOD.

NOT QUITE  
THE SAME  
THING!

IT IS TRUE THAT  
I LET LUST FOR POWER  
GET THE BETTER OF  
MY COMMON SENSE

I TURNED  
AGAINST MY  
ALL-POWERFUL  
MISTRESS...

"YOU RECALL, I'M SURE.  
YOU HAD BEEN CAPTURED  
BY MORGANE LE FAY..."

WHAT...???

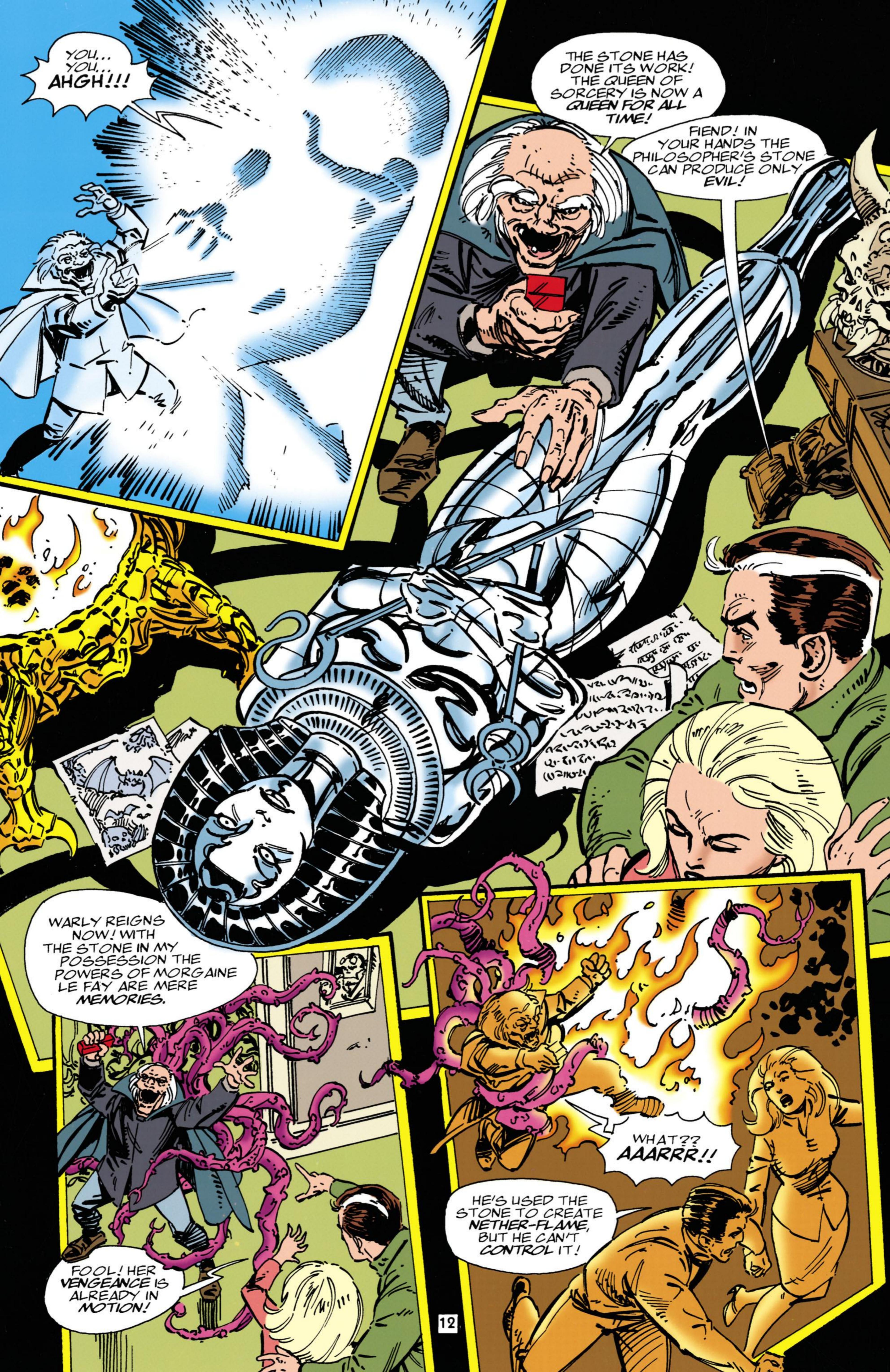
"AND A FOOLISH FEMALE  
SOUGHT TO USE YOUR  
GREATEST WEAPON TO  
FREE YOU!!!

I'LL TAKE THAT,  
MY DEAR! THE  
PHILOSOPHER'S STONE  
IS NOW IN PROPER  
HANDS!

GOOD WORK,  
WARLY! I SHALL  
REWARD YOU FOR  
THIS!

POWER... ALL  
THIS POWER! WITH  
THIS STONE I FEAR  
NOTHING!

IT IS I  
WHO COMMAND  
NOW!



"AND SO YOU FLED, JASON BLOOD. YOU RAN LIKE THE COWARD YOU ARE..."

"...LEAVING ME TO A HORRIBLE FATE..."

"... ALBEIT AT A TERRIBLE PRICE..."

WRETCH! INGRATE!

"...FORGETTING I HAD THE MEANS TO SAVE MYSELF..."

I RAISED YOU HIGH, AND THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME???

NO... TIME... FOR SPEECHES... LE FAY!

SAVE ME, OR PERISH YOURSELF IN THE CONSUMING POWER OF THE FLAME!

AND SO SHE DID. SHE SAVED HERSELF AND ME...

...AND I ACCEPTED THE PUNISHMENT MY ACTIONS HAD BROUGHT DOWN UPON ME.

MY WHOLE BODY IS A LIVING PESTILENCE, JASON BLOOD. I AM CONSUMED BY AGONY EACH MINUTE OF THE DAY.

YOUR IMMORTALITY SHALL BE A KEY TO THE ETERNAL LIFE OF MY MISTRESS!

BUT THIS IS AS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE FATE AWAITING YOU!

NOOOO

JASON BLOOD'S SCREAM  
DIES QUICKLY ON THE HEAVY  
LONDON  
AIR...

...AS, SOME SIX THOU-  
SAND MILES AWAY...

IF THERE WAS  
ONLY SOME WAY  
TO IMMOBILIZE THE  
THING!

THAT WAS  
SAID TO BE THE  
ONLY WAY TO  
HALT ITS  
RAMPAGE!

CASSIE IS  
RUNNING TOWARD  
THE WATERFRONT.  
MANY OF THOSE  
BUILDINGS ARE  
DERELICT.

HOLD ON!  
I HAVE AN IDEA,  
BUT I MUST GET  
YOU OUT OF THE  
WAY BEFORE I  
ACT UPON IT!

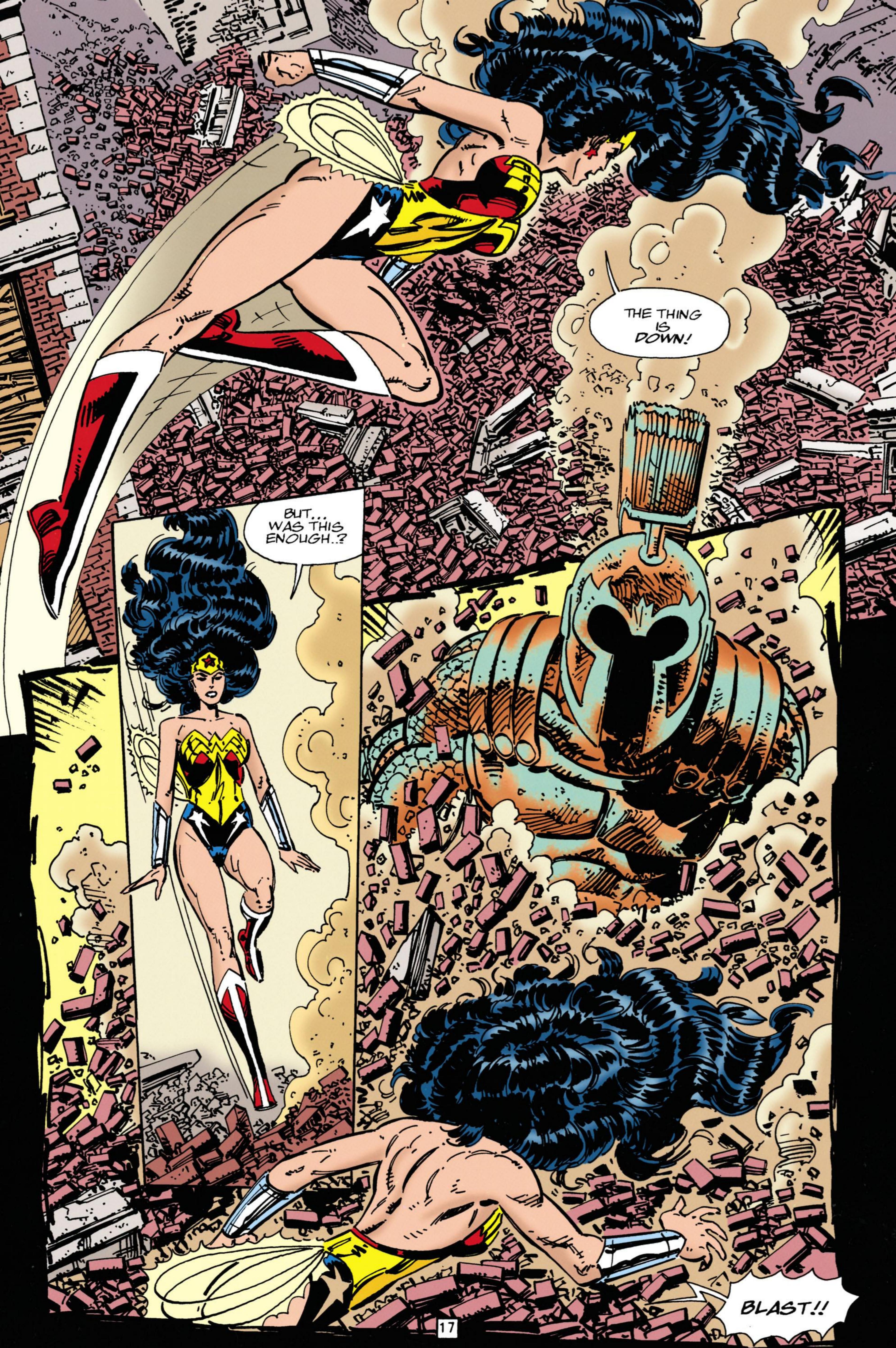
NOW, STAY HIDDEN!

BUT...

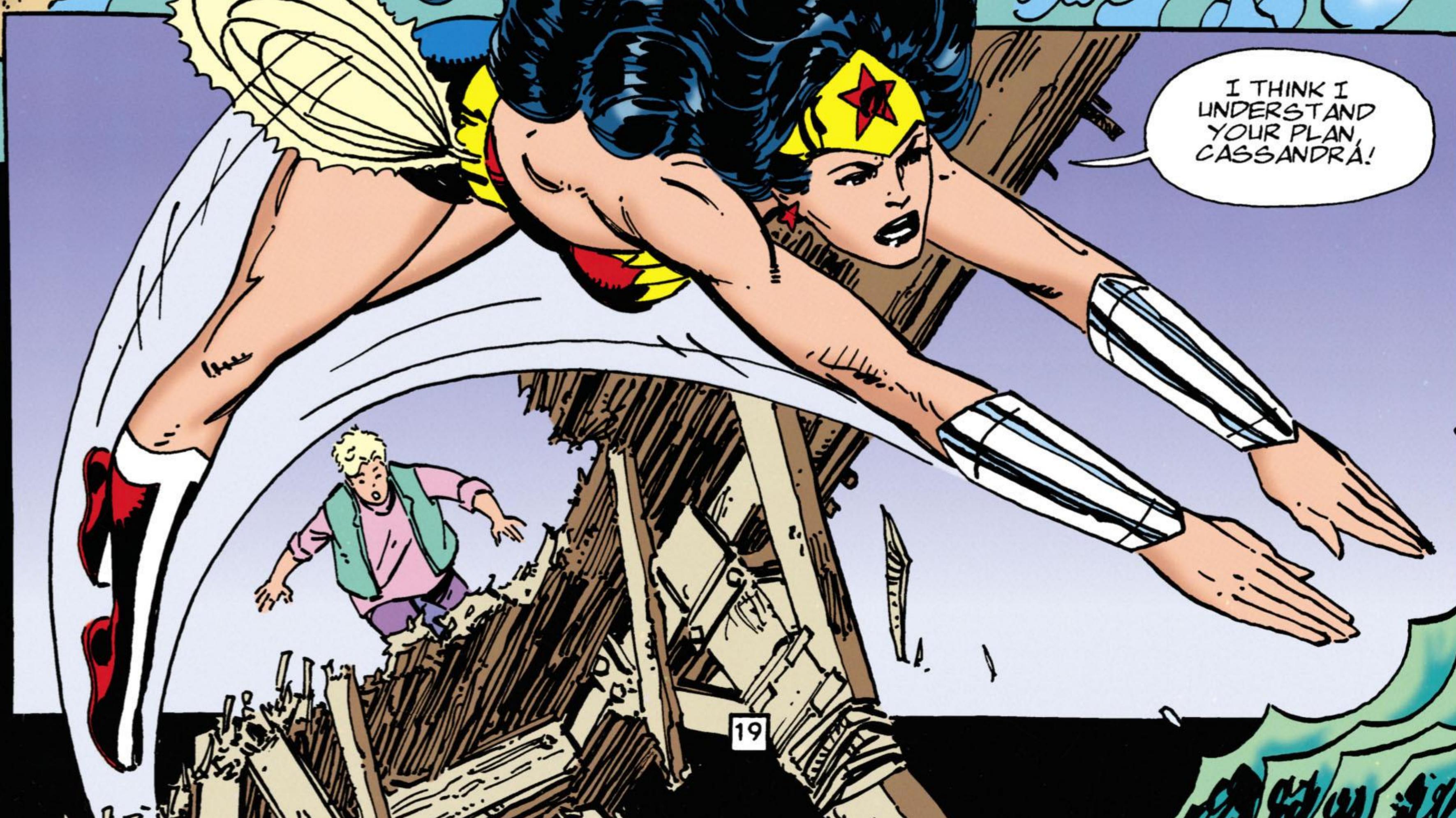
...BUT I THINK  
I KNOW HOW  
TO STOP  
THAT THING!

I MUST TIME  
THIS  
PERFECTLY!

NOW!!







"I MUST MAKE  
SURE IT IS  
SUCCESSFUL!!"



I WAS  
RIGHT!!

THOSE OLD TIMBERS  
COULD NEVER HOLD  
THAT THING'S WEIGHT.  
IN THE MUD AT THE  
BOTTOM OF THE BAY IT  
WILL BE TRAPPED—JUST  
LIKE IT WAS ON THE SEA  
BED OFF ANCIENT  
CRETE!

THAT WAS QUICK  
THINKING,  
CASSANDRA!

WHICH WOULD NOT  
HAVE BEEN NECESSARY  
IF YOU HADN'T PLAYED  
WITH THAT SWITCH  
WITHOUT TELLING ME  
ABOUT IT FIRST!

O, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD,  
MOM! ARE YOU GONNA GET  
ON MY CASE OVER THIS  
NOW?

WELL, ISN'T IT  
JUST WHAT I WAS  
TALKING ABOUT? YOU  
SET OUT TO DO SOME-  
THING RESPONSIBLE, BUT  
INSTEAD...

HELENA...

YOU TELL HER,  
WONDER  
WOMAN! I DID  
THE RIGHT  
THING, HUH?

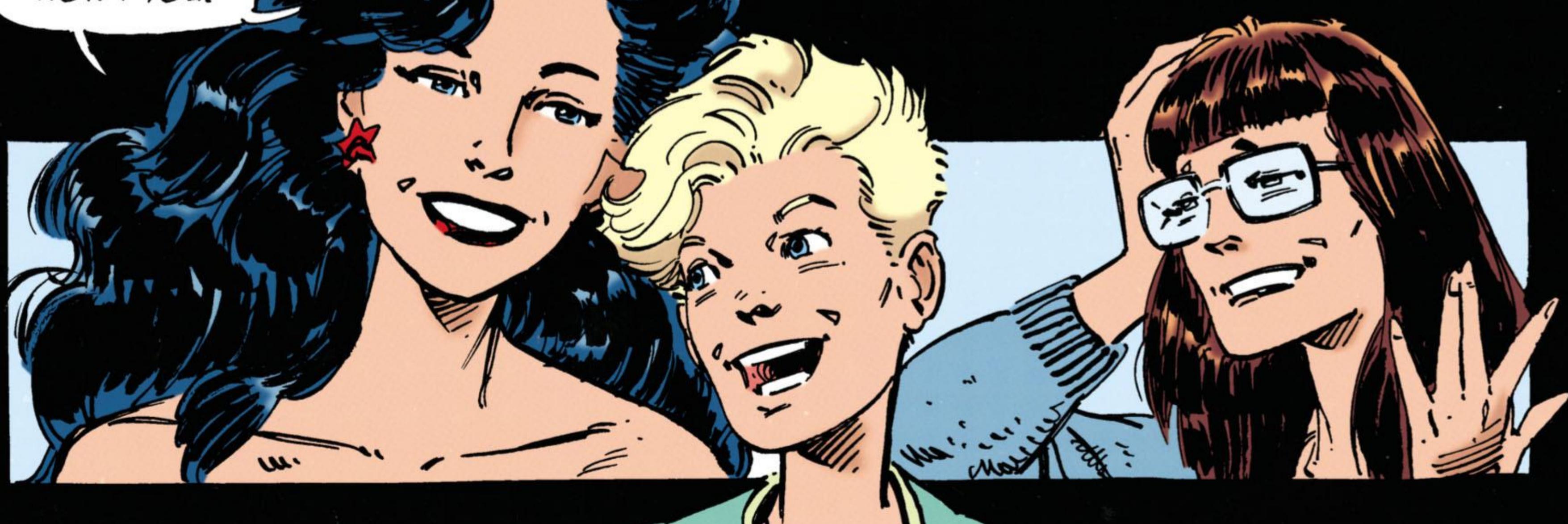
NO. YOU ACTED  
WISELY TO UNDO  
THE DAMAGE, BUT  
A WARRIOR IS TAUGHT  
TO AVOID AS MUCH AS  
TO CONFRONT.

SO, THE NEXT TIME  
YOU MEET UP WITH A  
THREE-THOUSAND-YEAR-  
OLD ROBOT MONSTER...

YOU GOT  
THAT  
RIGHT!

BUT... THIS ISN'T  
THE SORT OF THING  
I HAVE TO EXPECT  
HAVING YOU WORKING  
HERE, IS IT, DIANA?

...YOU'LL THINK  
TWICE BEFORE  
YOU TURN IT ON.  
WON'T YOU!



"I JUST DON'T THINK THE MUSEUM BUDGET COULD BEAR IT!!"

THEY  
WERE  
HERE.

BUT THEY HAVE  
MASKED THEIR  
PRESENCE WELL.  
THE TRAIL IS  
COLD.

BUT IT MATTERS  
NOT. THOUGH IT  
LEAD INTO THE  
DEEPEST BELLY OF  
HELL, I SHALL FOLLOW  
THEIR SPOOR.

THEY SHALL  
NOT ELUDE  
**THE PHANTOM  
STRANGER!**

**ENTER...  
THE DEMON**