GENESIS
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A WORLD WITHOUT WONDER WOMAN?®

DIANA, PRINCESS OF THEMYSCIRA, STRUCK DOWN

Princess Diana of Themyscira, in her heroic garb as Wonder Woman.

EXCLUSIVE TO THE PLANET

Story and Pictures by JOHN BYRNE

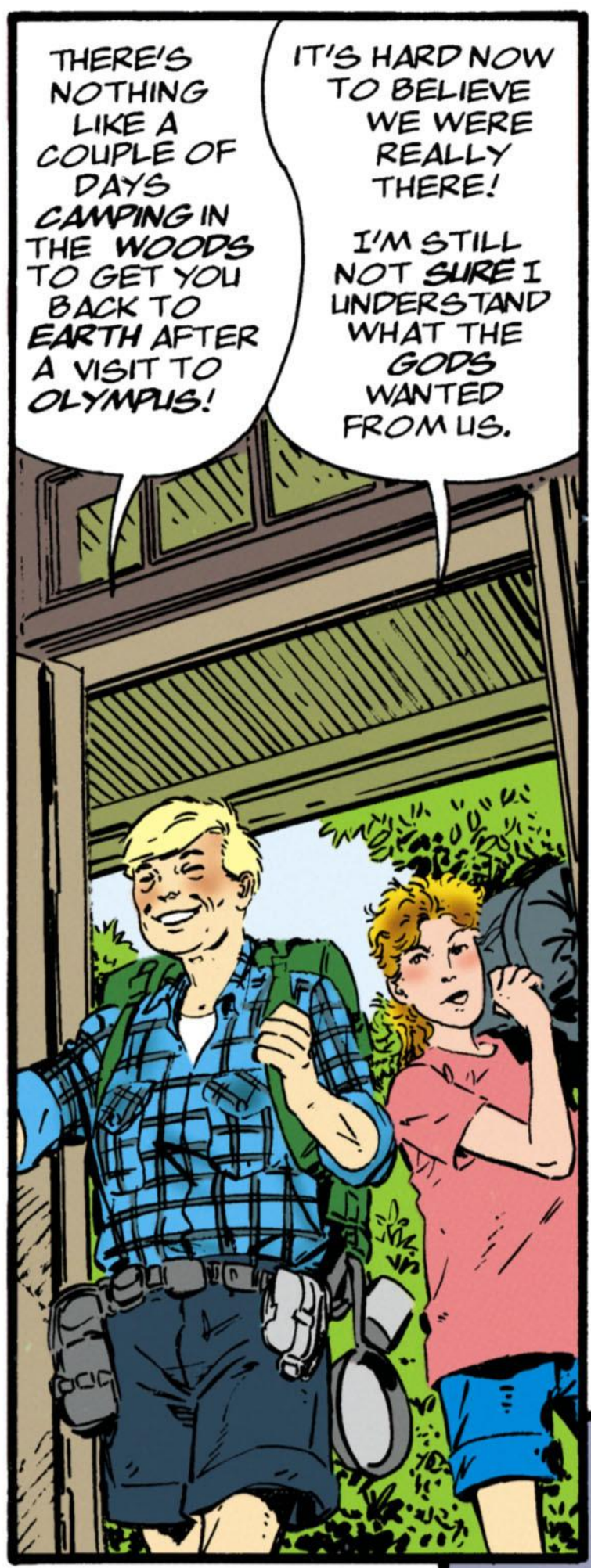
(Gateway City) While details are still sketchy, sources in the Gateway City police have confirmed that Princess Diana of Themyscira, the Amazon heroine known as Wonder Woman, was struck down yesterday in a battle with an unknown foe in downtown Gateway.

Wonder Woman was brought to the emergency room of Gateway Memorial Hospital by companions who had, reportedly, taken part in the battle that caused her injuries. According to a doctor at the hospital, Wonder Woman is not suffering from any apparent wounds, but her condition is nonetheless listed as critical.

"Frankly, we're at a loss to explain exactly what her condition is," said Dr. Warren Chin. "From what we've been able to ascertain from her companions, Wonder Woman was the victim of an attack by a... being called Neron who did no physical damage to her per se, but who struck at her very soul. This is, needless to say, unknown territory to the medical profession. Pending further tests, all we can do is sustain her physical form and hope for answers."

Members of the JLA are reportedly standing vigil by Wonder Woman's bedside.

(Story continues 2nd page following)


THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A COUPLE OF DAYS CAMPING IN THE WOODS TO GET YOU BACK TO EARTH AFTER A VISIT TO OLYMPUS!
IT'S HARD NOW TO BELIEVE WE WERE REALLY THERE!
I'M STILL NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND WHAT THE GODS WANTED FROM US.

THEY WANTED TO PROBE OUR MINDS, TO SEE HOW WE FELT ABOUT THEM, HONEY. EVEN GODS HAVE EGO PROBLEMS I GUESS.
WHY DON'T YOU GO CHECK MESSAGES ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE IN THE LIVING ROOM, WHILE I SORT THE MAIL AND GET US EACH A GLASS OF SUN-TEA.
WILL DO!

BILL... BILL... BILL... FLYER... BILL... AD... BILL... BILL... BILL...
I SHOULD HAVE CHECKED THE FINE PRINT ON VANESSA'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE. I DON'T RECALL IT SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT A TEENAGE DAUGHTER BEING SO EXPENSIVE TO MAINTAIN!

SOUNDS LIKE THERE WEREN'T TOO MANY MESSAGES--BUT THAT LAST ONE WAS QUITE LONG.
SOUNDED LIKE HELENA SANDSMARK. IT WAS GOOD TO SEE HER AGAIN, AFTER SO MANY YEARS. I...

NESSIE!
...M-MOMMY...
... DIANA..
"I'M AFRAID THE PROG-NOSIS IS NEGATIVE.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE HEROES GONE?

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, I'M FRANKLY ASTOUNDED SHE'S EVEN STILL ALIVE.

ANYONE ELSE WOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD BEFORE SHE WAS EVEN BROUGHT IN HERE.

AFTER THE ATTEMPTS BY HER SUPERHERO FRIENDS ALL FAILED TO REVIVE HER, I HAD HER PLACED IN THIS HYPERBARIC CHAMBER TO SEE IF THAT WOULD AT LEAST SLOW THE DEGENERATIVE PROCESSES.

BUT... THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HER PHYSICALLY, YOU SAID, DOCTOR CHIN?

NO, PROFESSOR KAPATELIS. IT IS WONDER WOMAN'S SOUL THAT HAS BEEN RAVAGED.

AND THAT IS MORE THE PROVINCE OF PRIESTS AND RABBIS THAN MEDICAL MEN LIKE MYSELF.

PRIESTS AND RABBIS WOULD NOT BE MUCH HELP TO DIANA, I'M AFRAID. HER GODS ARE OF A WHOLE OTHER KIND.

BUT... MOMMY, WE CAN'T HAVE SPENT ALMOST A DAY GETTING HERE FROM BOSTON...

...JUST TO WATCH DIANA DIE..?!?

SHE'S NOT GONNA DIE!!

IMPORTANT NOTE: THIS CHAPTER OF OUR TALE TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE FOURTH ISSUE OF GENESIS, NOW ON SALE - P.K.

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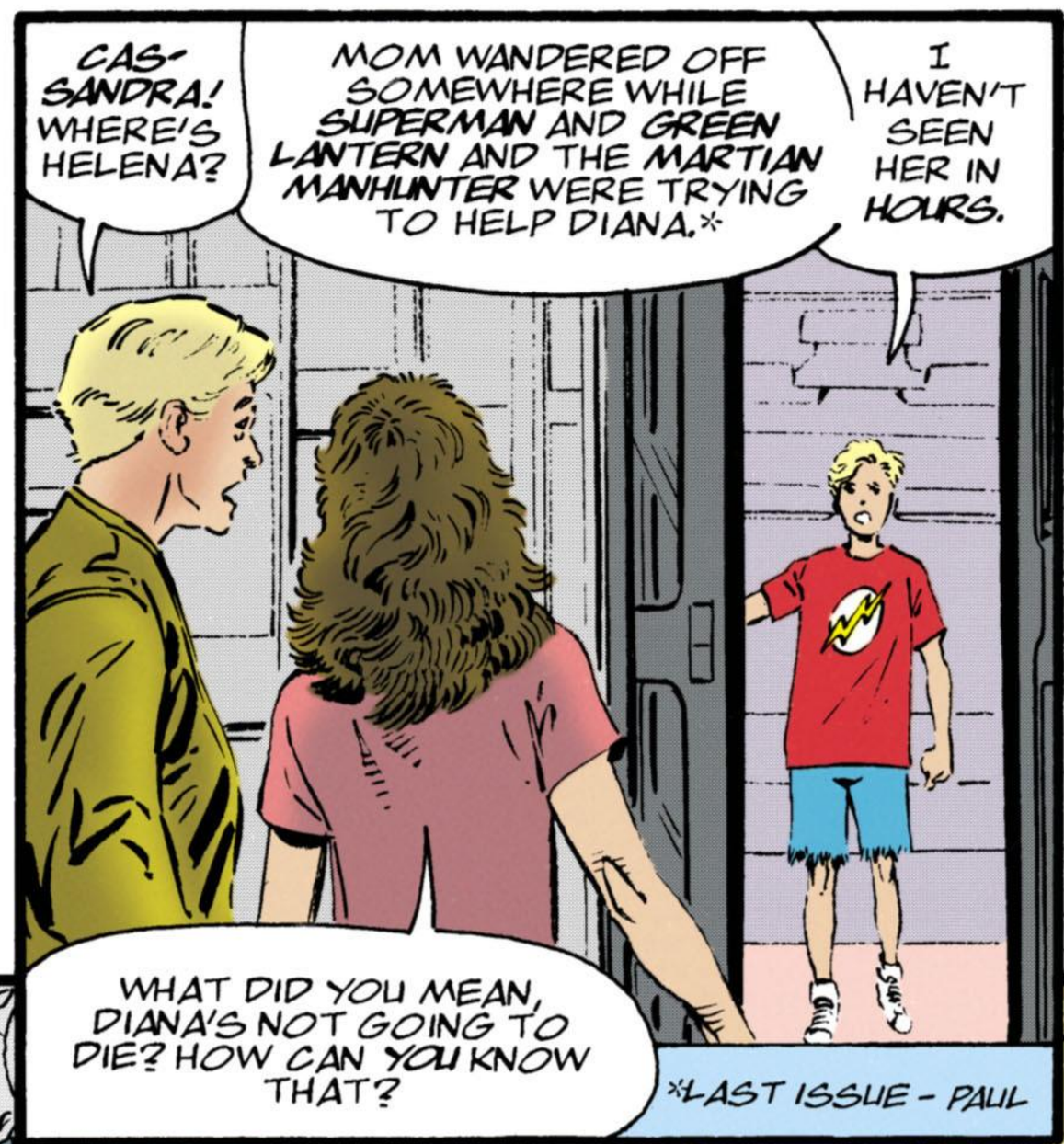
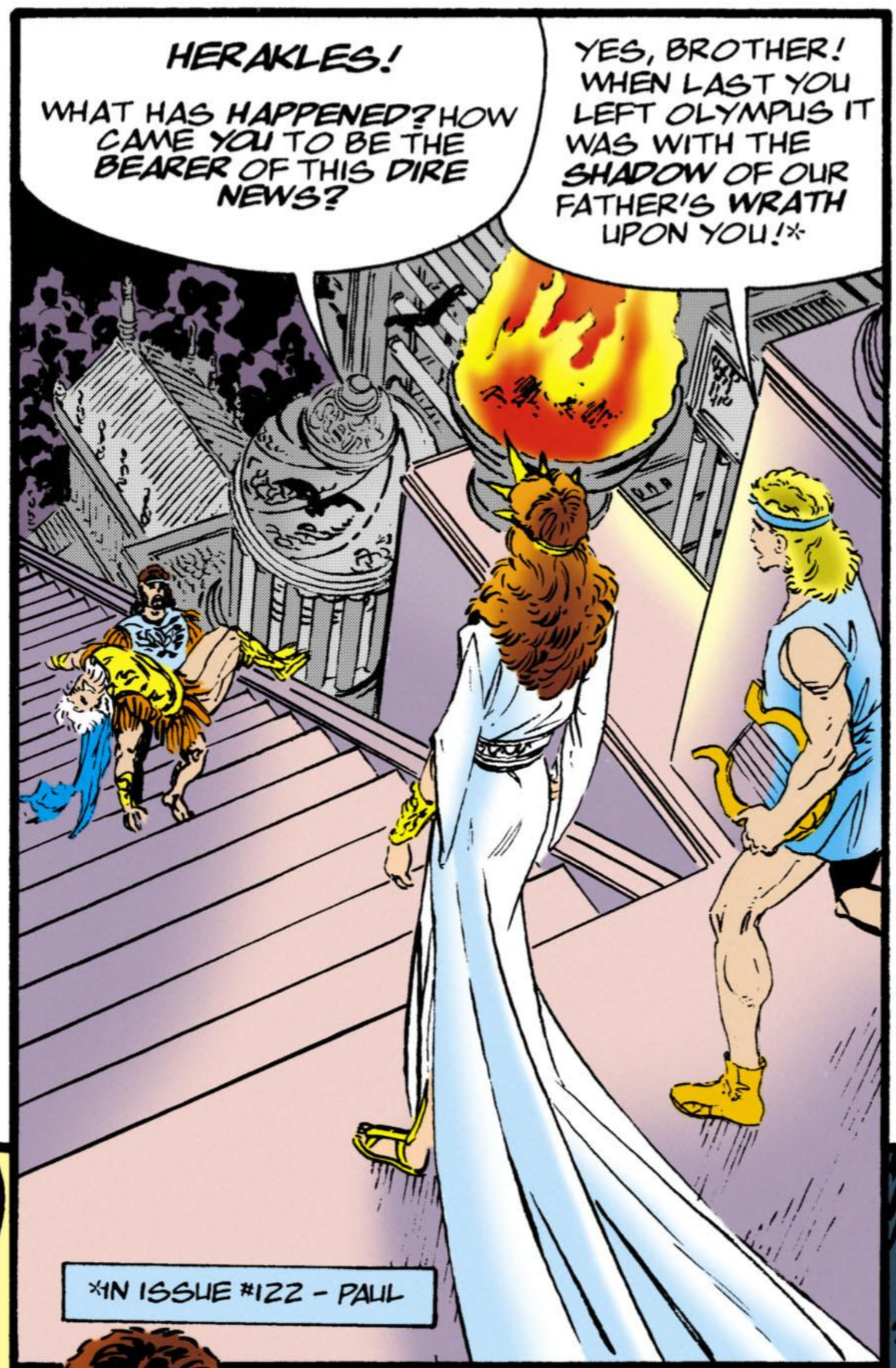
THE DEMON CREATED BY JACK KIRBY



"CATASTROPHE! CATASTROPHE!!

OLYMPUS IS DOOMED!

ZEUS HAS FALLEN!!

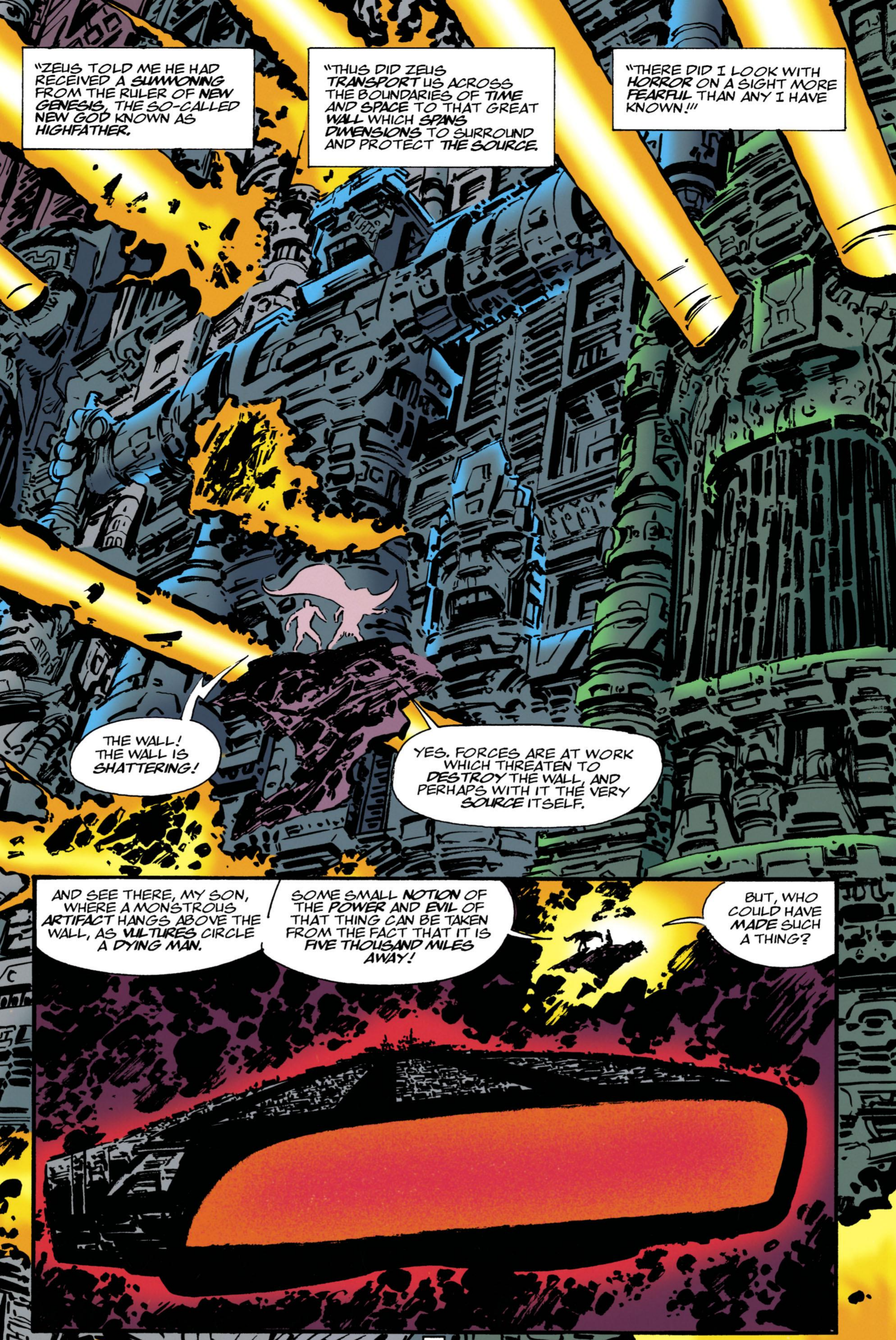


FORGIVE ME IF I SPEAK OF THINGS ALREADY KNOWN, ATHENA. IT IS NECESSARY TO THE PROPER UNFOLDING OF THE SAGA.

"I HAD LEFT OLYMPUS IN DISGRACE, AS APOLLO SAID. HAVING NO OTHER RECOURSE, I RETURNED TO THE IDENTITY I HAD ESTABLISHED FOR MYSELF AS THE MORTAL, HAROLD CAMPION. THEN..."

HERAKLES! ABANDON YOUR BROODING! THERE IS A MATTER AT HAND WHICH CALLS FOR YOUR GREAT STRENGTH AND COURAGE!

FATHER!


"ZEUS TOLD ME HE HAD RECEIVED A SUMMONING FROM THE RULER OF NEW GENESIS, THE SO-CALLED NEW GOD KNOWN AS HIGHFATHER.
"THUS DID ZEUS TRANSPORT US ACROSS THE BOUNDARIES OF TIME AND SPACE TO THAT GREAT WALL WHICH SPANS DIMENSIONS TO SURROUND AND PROTECT THE SOURCE.
"THERE DID I LOOK WITH HORROR ON A SIGHT MORE FEARFUL THAN ANY I HAVE KNOWN!"
THE WALL! THE WALL IS SHATTERING!
YES. FORCES ARE AT WORK WHICH THREATEN TO DESTROY THE WALL, AND PERHAPS WITH IT THE VERY SOURCE ITSELF.
AND SEE THERE, MY SON, WHERE A MONSTROUS ARTIFACT HANGS ABOVE THE WALL, AS VULTURES CIRCLE A DYING MAN.
SOME SMALL NOTION OF THE POWER AND EVIL OF THAT THING CAN BE TAKEN FROM THE FACT THAT IT IS FIVE THOUSAND MILES AWAY!
BUT, WHO COULD HAVE MADE SUCH A THING?

"AND SO I STOOD IN HELPLESS FRUSTRATION, WATCHING AS MY FATHER HURLED HIMSELF INTO THE HEART OF I KNEW NOT WHAT...*

"SO FOCUSED WAS MY ATTENTION ON HIS DEPARTURE, THAT I FAILED TO NOTICE THE ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER.

FEAR NOT, FATHER! HERAKLES STANDS READY TO RESPOND IN THE BLINKING OF AN EYE!

*ALL THE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU IN JACK KIRBY'S FOURTH WORLD #8, STILL ON SALE - KUPPS.

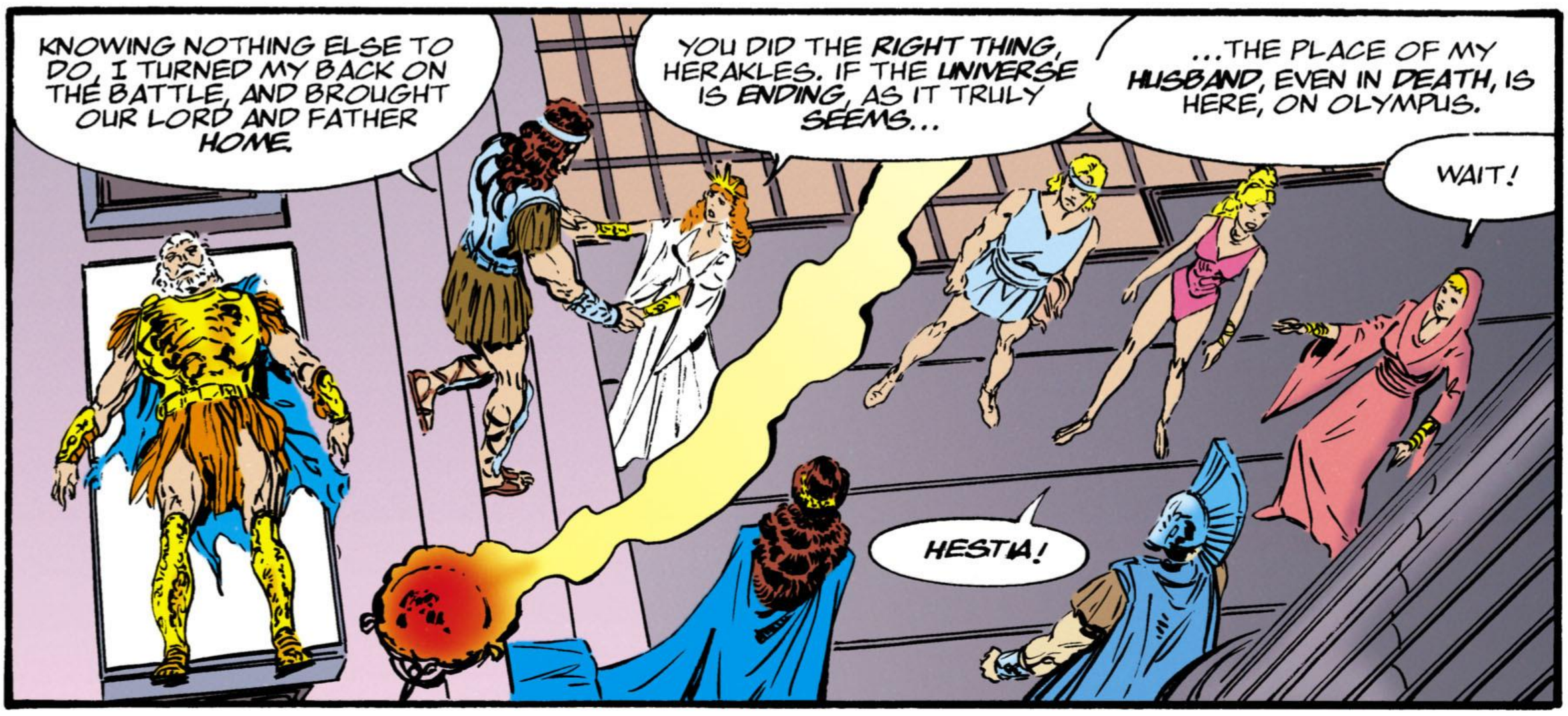
"AND WHEN I KNEW I WAS NO LONGER ALONE...

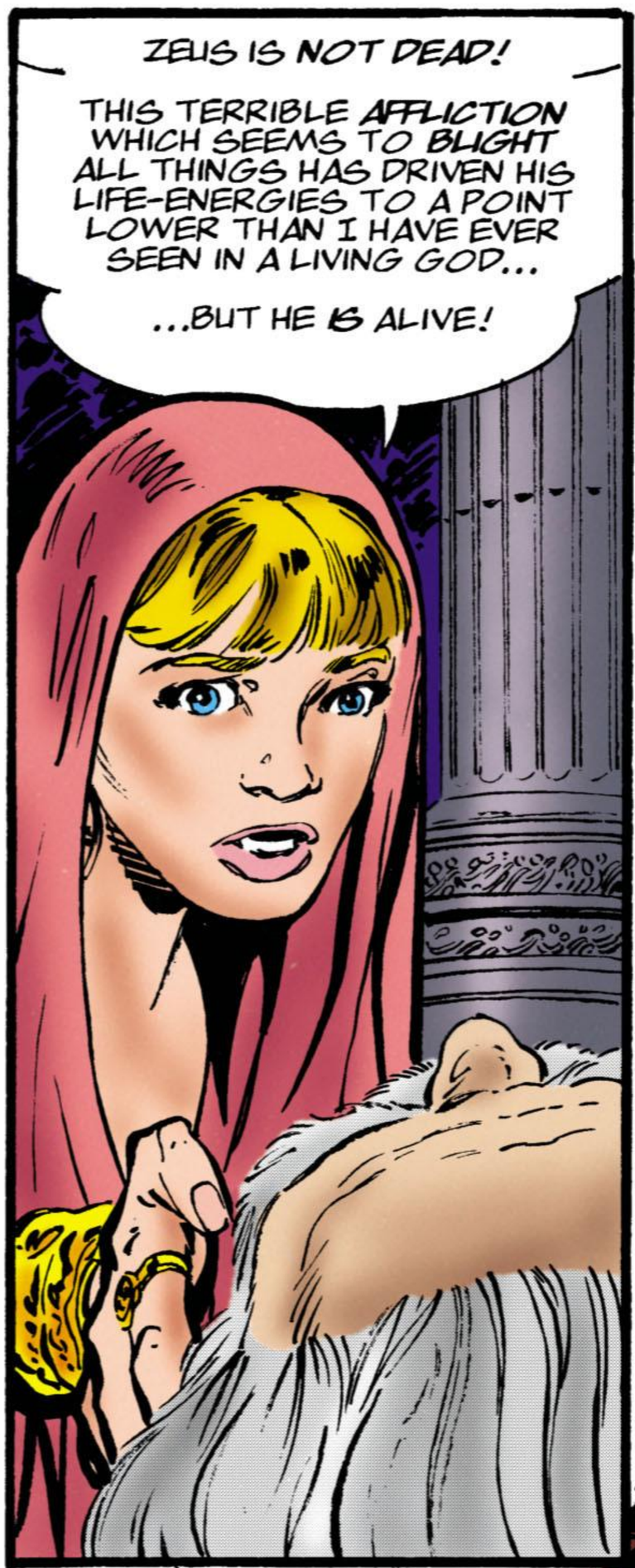
"...IT WAS TOO LATE!"

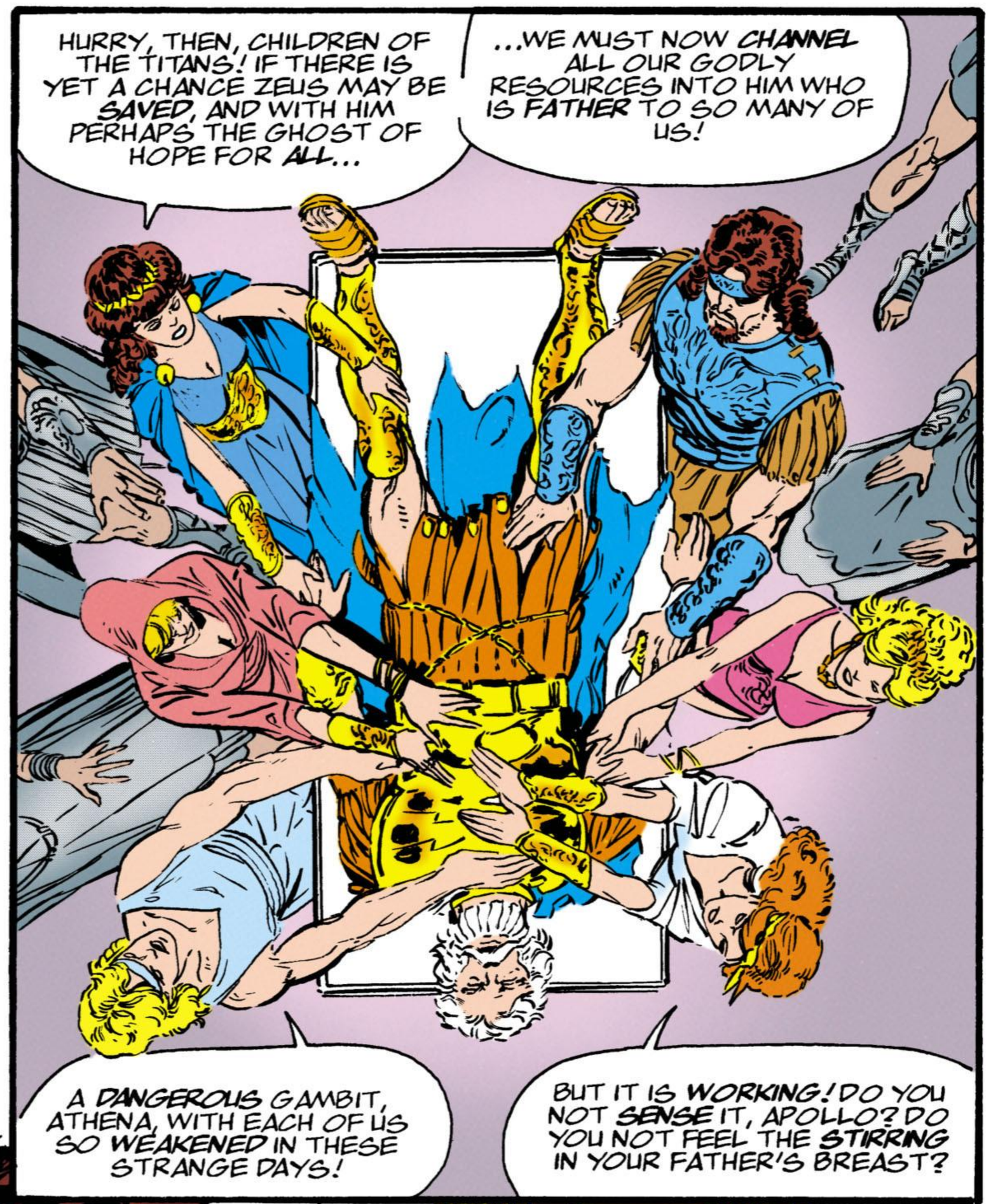
HOW SAD FOR YOU, BROTHER, THAT A BLINK IS ALL THAT ARES NEEDS TO STRIKE!

"MY FATHER DID NOT RESPOND.

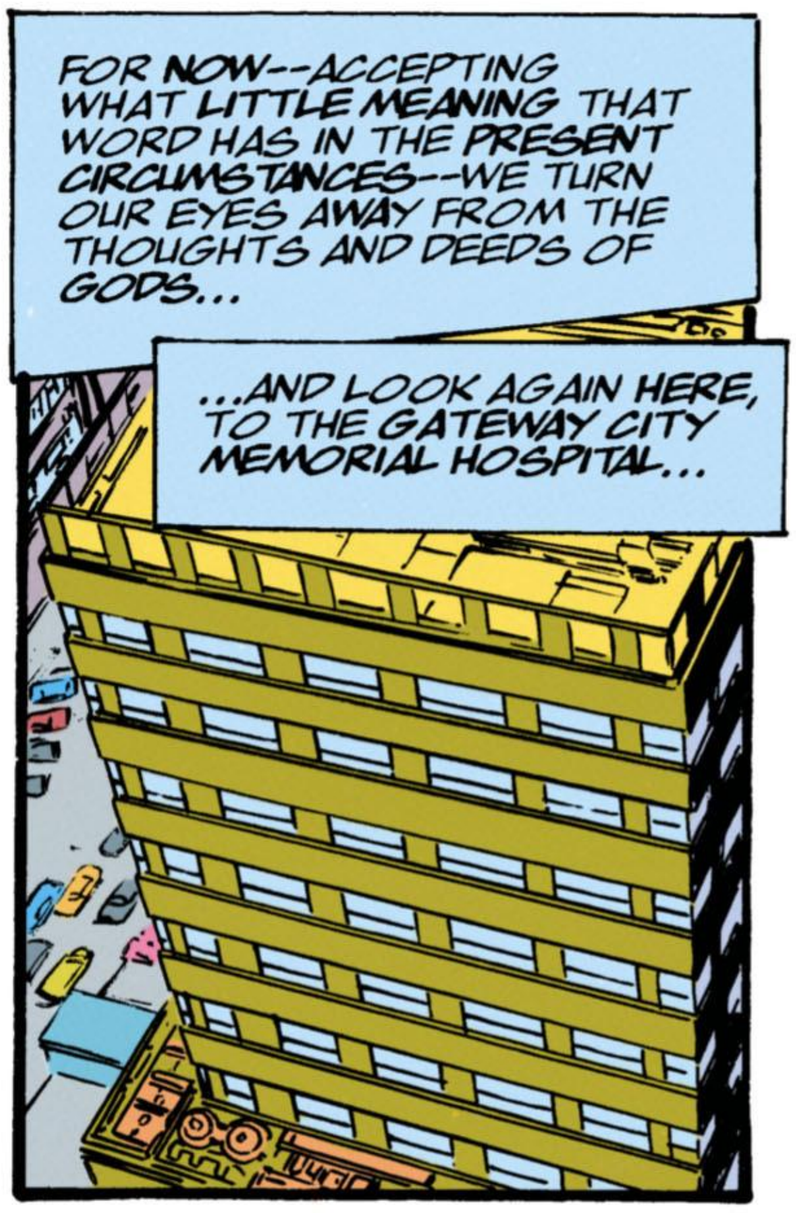
"HE FLOATED IN MY EMBRACE AS ONE LIFELESS, HIS ARMOR BROKEN, HIS BODY BRUISED.

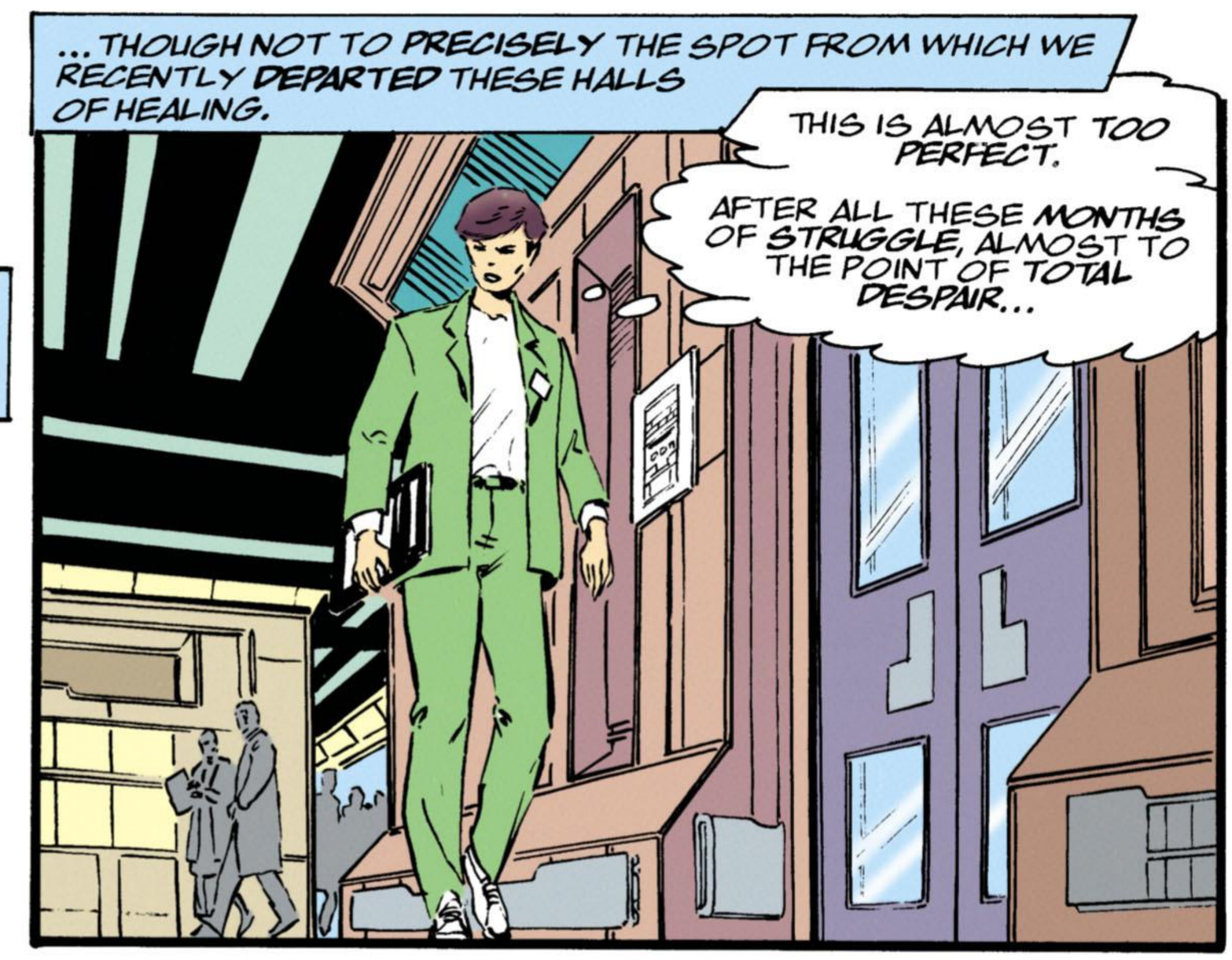

KNOWING NOTHING ELSE TO DO, I TURNED MY BACK ON THE BATTLE, AND BROUGHT OUR LORD AND FATHER HOME.
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, HERAKLES. IF THE UNIVERSE IS ENDING, AS IT TRULY SEEMS...
...THE PLACE OF MY HUSBAND, EVEN IN DEATH, IS HERE, ON OLYMPUS.
WAIT!
HESTIA!

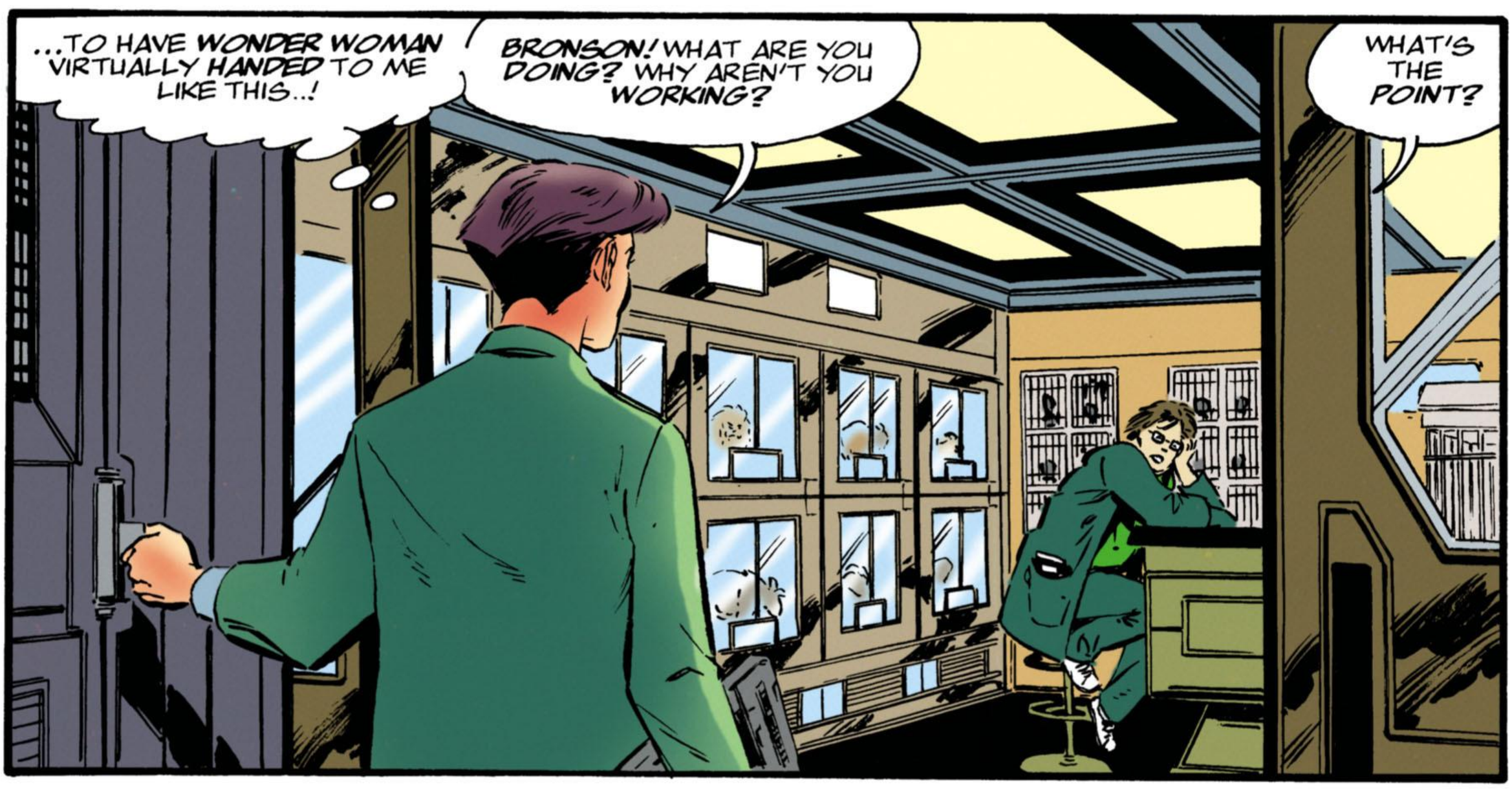

ZEUS IS NOT DEAD!
THIS TERRIBLE AFFLICTION WHICH SEEMS TO BLIGHT ALL THINGS HAS DRIVEN HIS LIFE-ENERGIES TO A POINT LOWER THAN I HAVE EVER SEEN IN A LIVING GOD...
...BUT HE IS ALIVE!

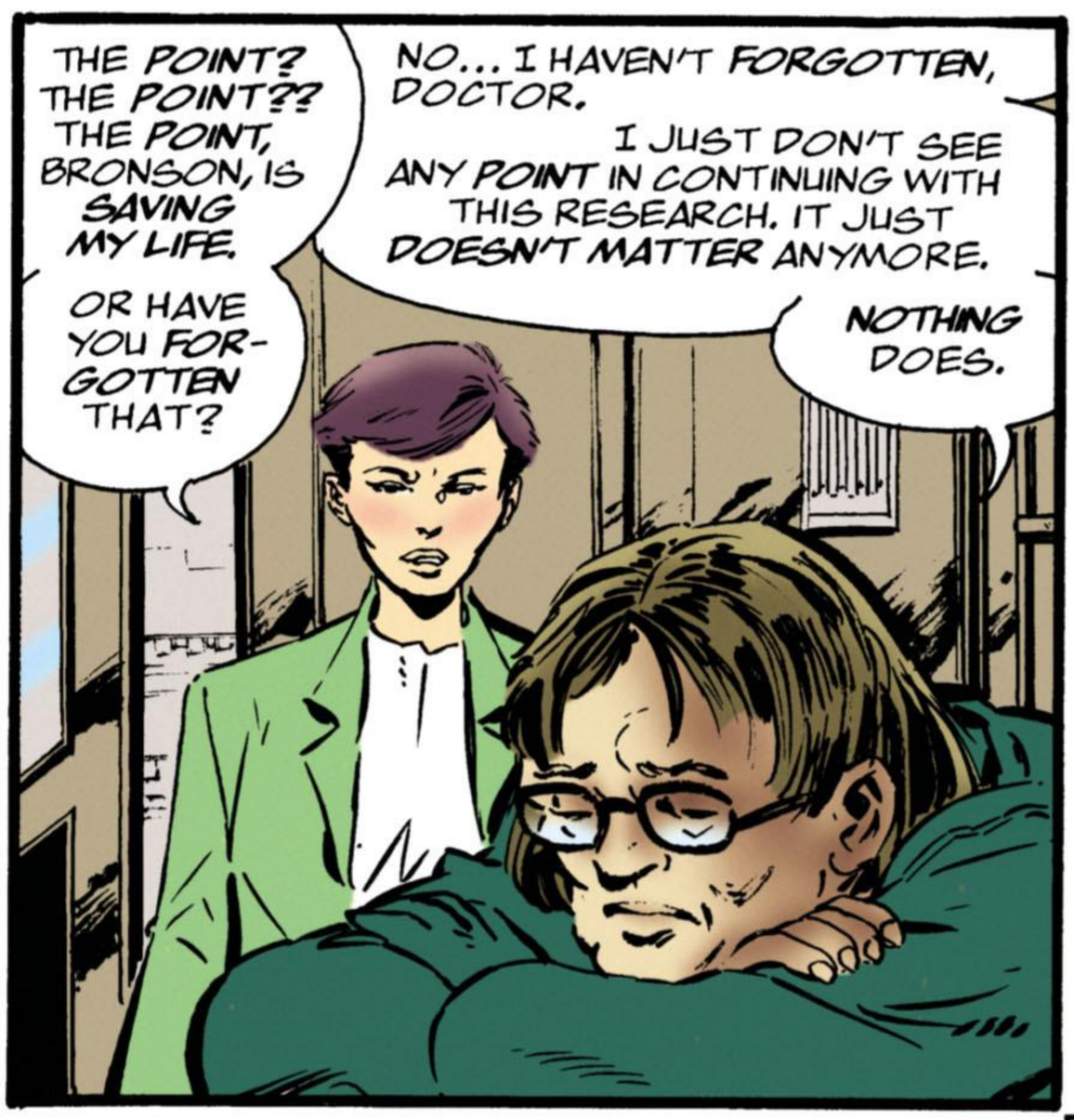

HURRY, THEN, CHILDREN OF THE TITANS! IF THERE IS YET A CHANCE ZEUS MAY BE SAVED, AND WITH HIM PERHAPS THE GHOST OF HOPE FOR ALL...
...WE MUST NOW CHANNEL ALL OUR GODLY RESOURCES INTO HIM WHO IS FATHER TO SO MANY OF US!
A DANGEROUS GAMBIT, ATHENA, WITH EACH OF US SO WEAKENED IN THESE STRANGE DAYS!
BUT IT IS WORKING! DO YOU NOT SENSE IT, APOLLO? DO YOU NOT FEEL THE STIRRING IN YOUR FATHER'S BREAST?

ZEUS LIVES!
BUT... HIS FACE!
LOOK AT HIS FACE!!
SOMETHING WE SHALL ALL DO, APHRODITE... BUT AT A LATER TIME.


FOR NOW--ACCEPTING WHAT LITTLE MEANING THAT WORD HAS IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES--WE TURN OUR EYES AWAY FROM THE THOUGHTS AND DEEDS OF GODS...
...AND LOOK AGAIN HERE, TO THE GATEWAY CITY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL...


...THOUGH NOT TO PRECISELY THE SPOT FROM WHICH WE RECENTLY DEPARTED THESE HALLS OF HEALING.
THIS IS ALMOST TOO PERFECT.
AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS OF STRUGGLE, ALMOST TO THE POINT OF TOTAL DESPAIR...


...TO HAVE WONDER WOMAN VIRTUALLY HANDED TO ME LIKE THIS..!
BRONSON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY AREN'T YOU WORKING?
WHAT'S THE POINT?


THE POINT? THE POINT?? THE POINT, BRONSON, IS SAVING MY LIFE.
OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT?
NO... I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, DOCTOR.
I JUST DON'T SEE ANY POINT IN CONTINUING WITH THIS RESEARCH. IT JUST DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.
NOTHING DOES.

NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, BRONSON! FOR DAYS I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO EVERYONE IN THIS PAVILION--EVERYONE IN THIS HOSPITAL WHINING THAT THERE WAS NO POINT TO ANYTHING ANY MORE, AND I'M SICK OF IT. SICK TO DEATH!
I'M DYING, BRONSON. DYING OF A DISEASE MEDICAL SCIENCE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A NAME FOR. AND I'M DAMNED IF MY CONTRIBUTION TO MEDICAL HISTORY WILL BE GIVING MY NAME TO THE DISEASE THAT KILLED ME!

NOW, SNAP OUT OF IT, BRONSON.

GIVE ME THE DATA FROM THE TESTS YOU RAN WHILE I WAS UPSTAIRS WITH WONDER WOMAN.

EVERYTHING IS WORKING EXACTLY AS YOU PREDICTED, DOCTOR.

THE ENCEPHALOGIC EXCHANGE CIRCUITRY IS WORKING PERFECTLY.

YOU'RE CERTAIN? RATS AND MICE ARE ONE THING, BUT WHEN WE MOVE INTO THE HIGHER PRIMATES...

I'M SURE. RAT 15 RAN THE MAZE PERFECTLY, WITHOUT EVER HAVING BEEN EXPOSED TO IT.

THE ONLY WAY THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED WAS IF RAT 4'S MIND HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED INTO RAT 15'S BRAIN.

THEN GET GIGANTA HERE PREPPED. I WANT TO TRY THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN HER AND DOG 3 BEFORE WE LEAVE TONIGHT.

I...

I...

DOCTOR? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. WORRY ABOUT...

OH-HHH!!

DOCTOR!

DOCTOR ZEUL!!

NOW, WE MUST TURN OUR GAZE ONCE MORE...

...TO FIND OURSELVES BEYOND THE MEASURE OF TIME AND SPACE, AT THE HEART OF RAGING BATTLE, IN A PLACE WHERE EVEN GODS CAN DIE.

AND IF WE NARROW OUR FOCUS, TO TRY TO PICK FROM THIS SEETHING MASS OF WAR INDIVIDUALIZED MOMENTS...

...WE FIND THE WOMAN CALLED ARTEMIS HOLDING HER OWN AGAINST FORCES WHICH HAVE SWEPT ASIDE SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL WARRIORS THE UNIVERSE HAS TO OFFER.

NOT SURPRISING, REALLY, THAT ARTEMIS--BY SOME NOW CALLED REQUIEM--SHOULD FARE AS WELL AS SHE DOES HERE.

HERS IS A LIFE WHICH HAS BEEN DEDICATED IN ITS TOTALITY TO THE ARTS OF WAR.

SHE IS A SOLDIER, A FIGHTER, A TRUE WARRIOR OF THE AMAZON RACE.

WHICH IS TO SAY SHE IS ALSO A WOMAN...

WELL DONE, MY PRETTY!

I COULD NUMBER ON THE FINGERS OF ONE HAND THOSE WHO HAVE FARED SO WELL AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKSEID.

KANTO!

IN THE HEART OF BATTLE THERE CAN COME MOMENTS OF ALMOST PRETERNATURAL CALM.

ONE SUCH MOMENT SEEMS TO SURROUND THESE TWO, AS THEY FACE EACH OTHER NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME!

DOES IT SEEM SO LONG TO YOU, GODLING?

THE SAME. I AM FLATTERED TO BE REMEMBERED AFTER SO MANY YEARS!

A LIFETIME FOR ME, TO BE SURE, BUT NO MORE THAN THE BLINK OF AN EYE TO ONE WHOSE DAYS ADD UP TO CENTURIES.

PERHAPS IT IS THAT OUR PARTING WAS NOT AS I MIGHT HAVE WISHED IT, ARTEMIS.

I'M SURE YOU KNOW YOU TOUCHED MY ASSASSIN'S HEART AS NO ONE BEFORE OR SINCE.

I WAS A CHILD, KANTO. AND TO YOU NO MORE THAN A PLAYTHING.

AND I HAVE WAITED YEARS TO AVENGE MYSELF FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME!

A SUPERB MOVE, MY DEAR!

I HAD BARELY A FRACTION OF A SECOND'S WARNING FROM YOUR BODY LANGUAGE!

SPARE ME YOUR PATRONIZING, KANTO. YOU TAUGHT ME MUCH...

...BUT I HAVE LEARNED MORE THAN YOU CAN KNOW!

DOUBTFUL.

YOUR GREATEST FAILING WAS ALWAYS THE INABILITY TO MEASURE YOUR OWN WEAKNESSES AGAINST YOUR OPPONENT'S STRENGTHS.

AND KANTO DID NOT BECOME DARKSEID'S MASTER ASSASSIN WITHOUT KNOWING ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT THE KILLING ARTS!

UNH!!

KILL ME THEN, KANTO! IF I MUST DIE, AT LEAST LET IT BE AT THE HAND OF ONE WHO HAS NO BETTER!

OH, YOU WILL DIE, MY PRETTY. THAT IS THE LINE DRAWN BETWEEN YOU AND ME.

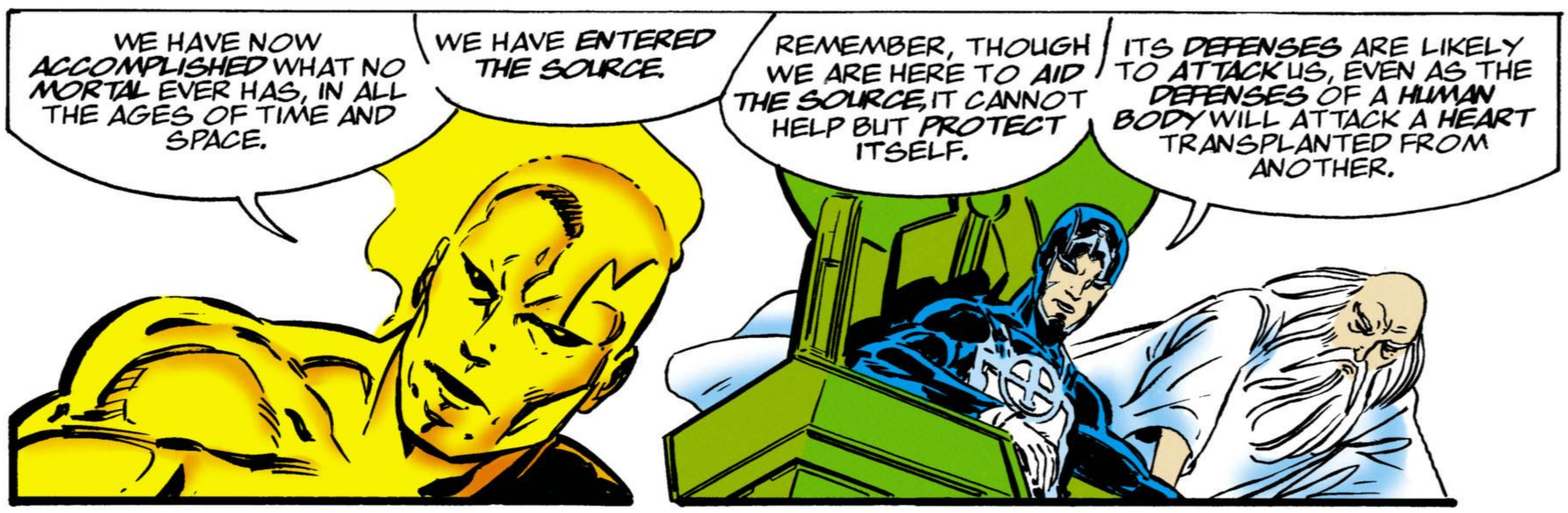
PLINK

YOU HAVE NEVER FULLY UNDERSTOOD ME, ARTEMIS. YOU DID NOT KNOW THE PAIN I FELT AT OUR PARTING...

...AND YOU SEEM STILL NOT TO KNOW THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SOLDIER AND AN ASSASSIN IS THE CHOICE OF MOMENT.

AND TODAY KANTO CHOOSES TO SPARE HIS FORMER PUPIL...

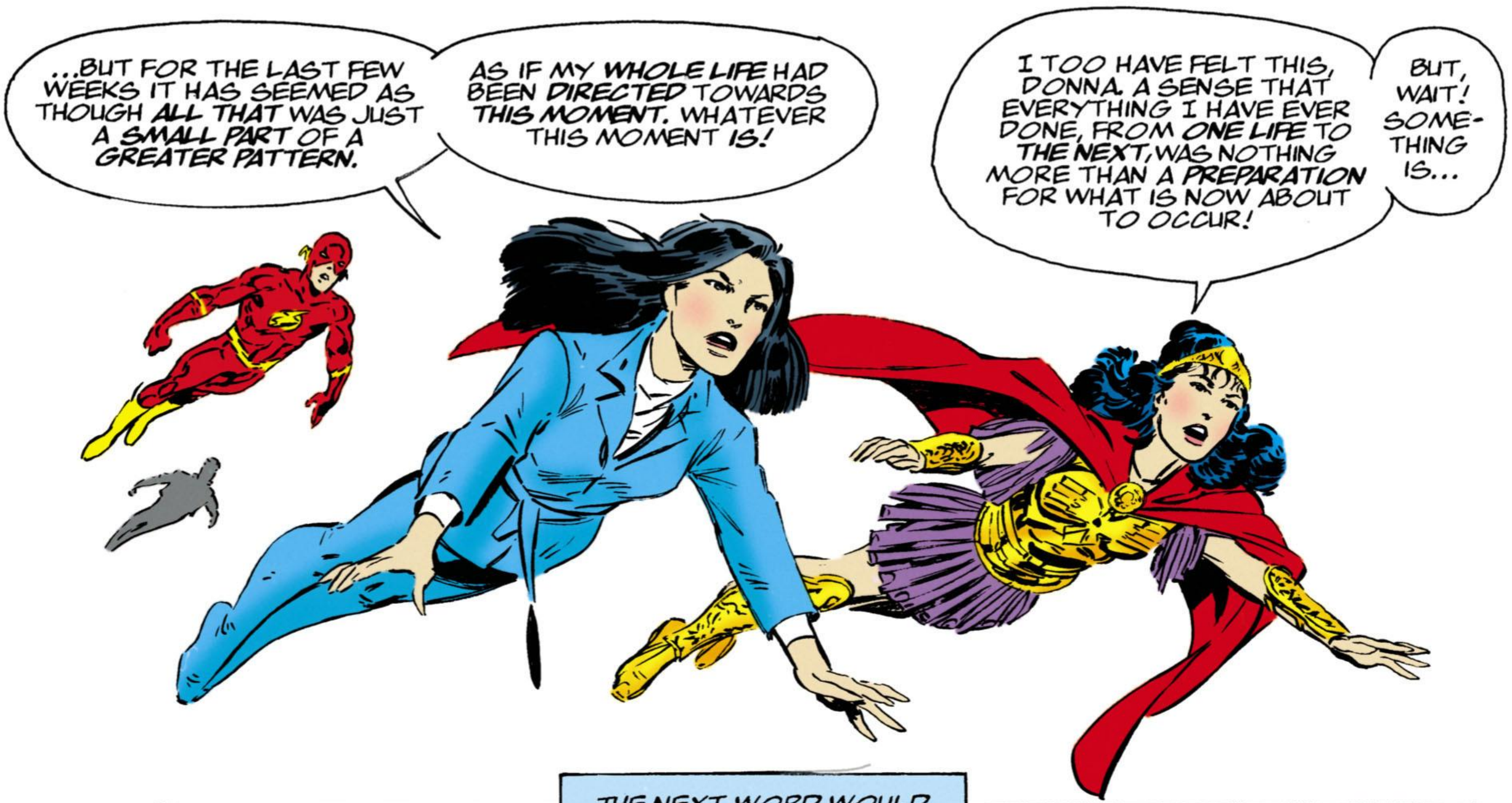
"...AND HIS FORMER LOVE."
NOW LOOK BEYOND THE GREAT WALL, TO FIND A HANDFUL OF BRAVE SOULS WHO ARE PREPARED TO GIVE ALL THAT OTHERS MIGHT BE SAVED.
BE READY NOW, MY FRIENDS!


WE HAVE NOW ACCOMPLISHED WHAT NO MORTAL EVER HAS, IN ALL THE AGES OF TIME AND SPACE.
WE HAVE ENTERED THE SOURCE.
REMEMBER, THOUGH WE ARE HERE TO AID THE SOURCE, IT CANNOT HELP BUT PROTECT ITSELF.
ITS DEFENSES ARE LIKELY TO ATTACK US, EVEN AS THE DEFENSES OF A HUMAN BODY WILL ATTACK A HEART TRANSPLANTED FROM ANOTHER.

GREAT! TELL ME AGAIN HOW I GOT SUCKERED INTO THIS!
YOU VOLUNTEERED, DONNA TROY, AS DID WE ALL.

I KNOW, YOUR MAJESTY. I'M JUST... TALKING FOR TALK'S SAKE.
I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF THAT, LATELY. I FIND IT HELPS TO KEEP ME FROM THINKING.
YOUR COURAGE IS GREAT, DONNA. OF ALL AMONG US, YOU ARE BUT A MORTAL HUMAN, YOU LACK EVEN MY OWN MODEST ENHANCEMENTS TO PROTECT YOU FROM WHAT LIES AHEAD.

SEEMS LIKE THERE'S A THIN LINE BETWEEN COURAGE AND FOOLISHNESS, YOUR MAJESTY.
BUT SOMETHING COMPELLED ME TO COME ALONG. SOMETHING ALMOST SEEMED TO GUIDE MY HAND, TO PICK A SHORT STRAW AND GET MYSELF INTO THIS LITTLE PARTY...*
I'VE BEEN WONDER GIRL, I'VE BEEN TROIA, I'VE BEEN A DARK STAR...
*THESE CHAMPIONS WERE SELECTED FOR THE TASK AT HAND BY THE DRAWING OF LOTS, AS SEEN IN GENESIS #2 - PAUL.



THE NEXT WORD WOULD HAVE BEEN "HAPPENING"...

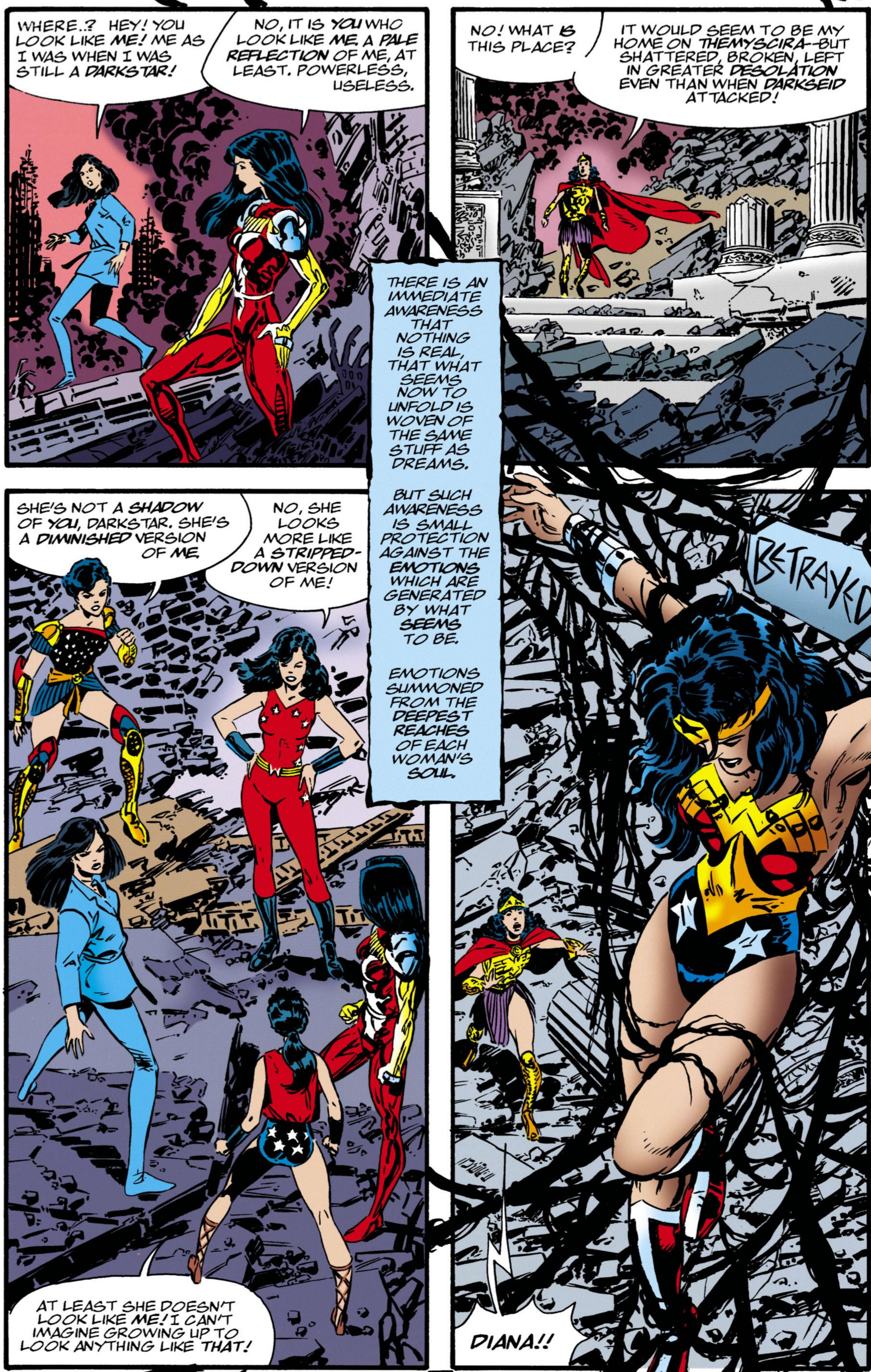
BUT BEFORE THE QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS CAN FORM THE WORD, REALITY SHIFTS...

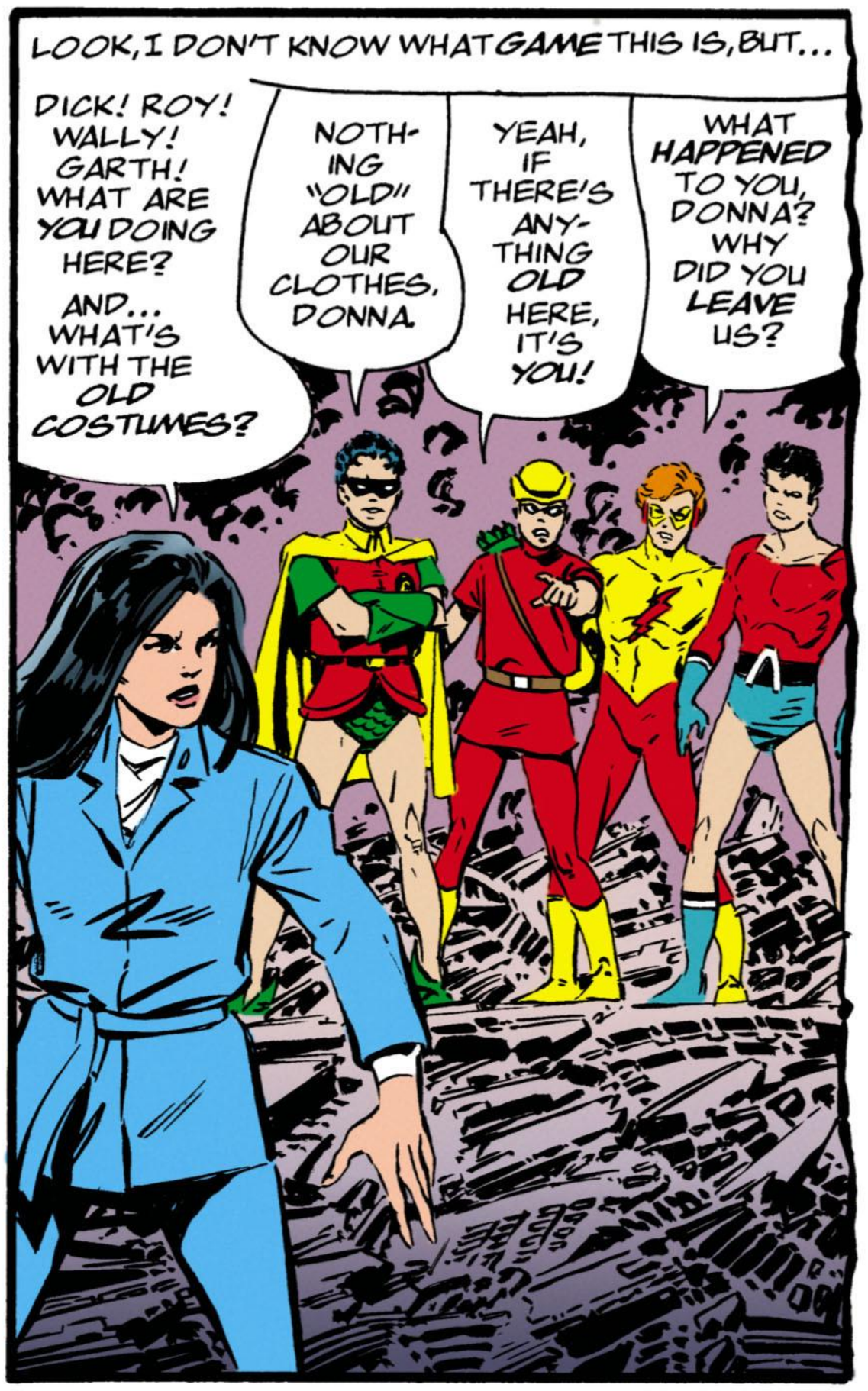
...AND THESE TWO WOMEN, JOINED IN WAYS THEY THEMSELVES HAVE NOT YET COME FULLY TO COMPREHEND...

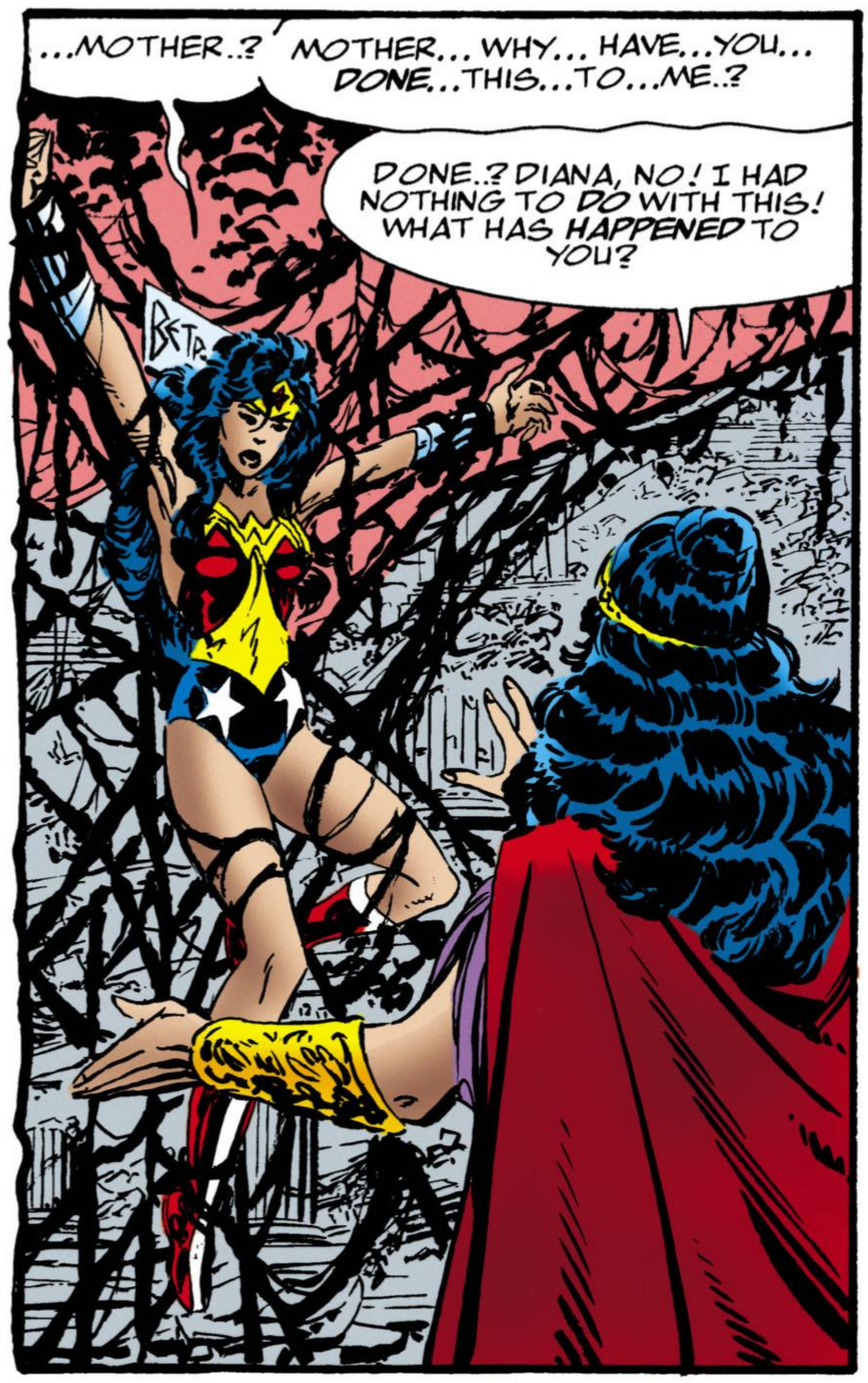
...FIND THEMSELVES ALONE AND APART...

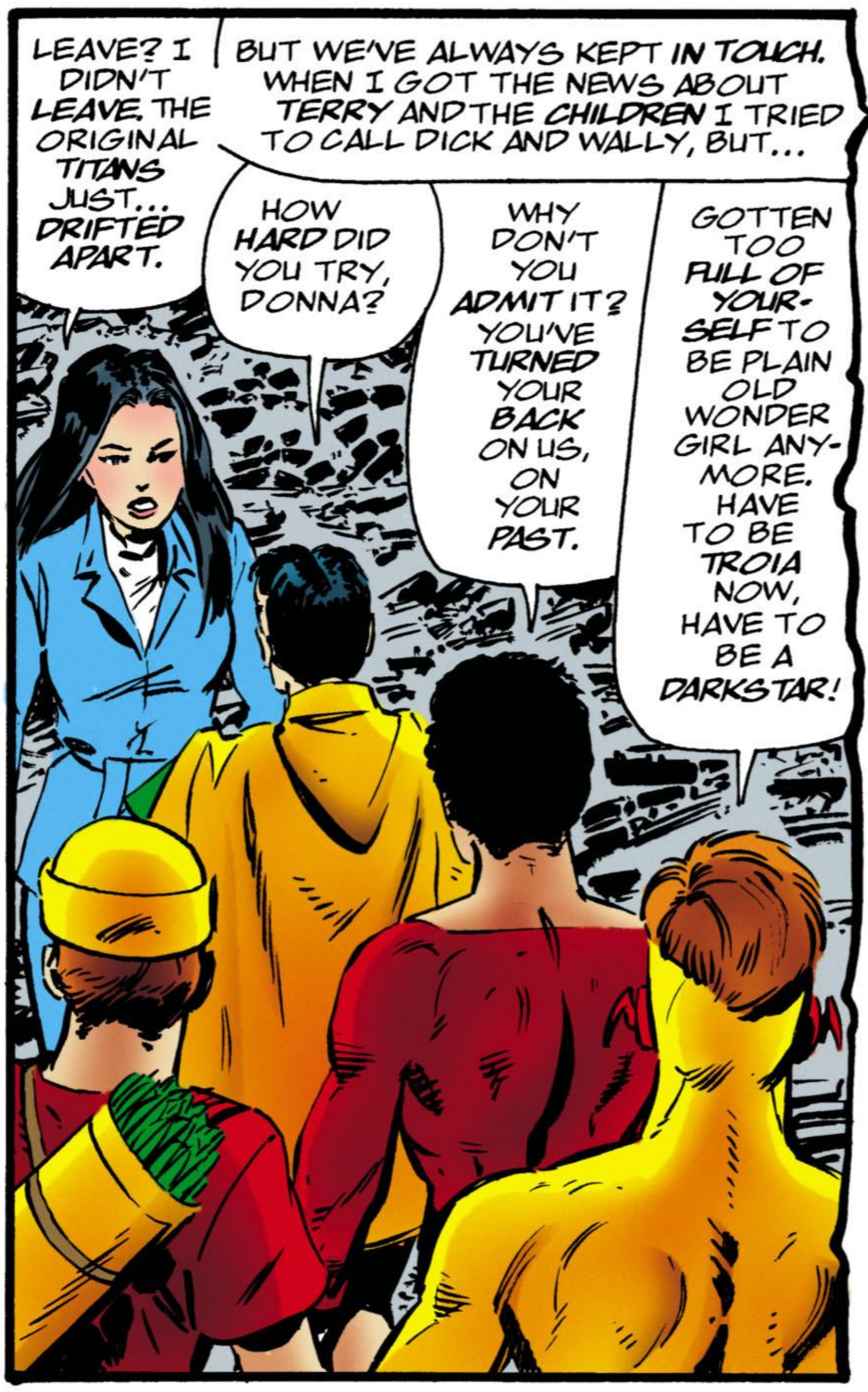
WHAT..?

GREAT HERA! WHERE AM I..??

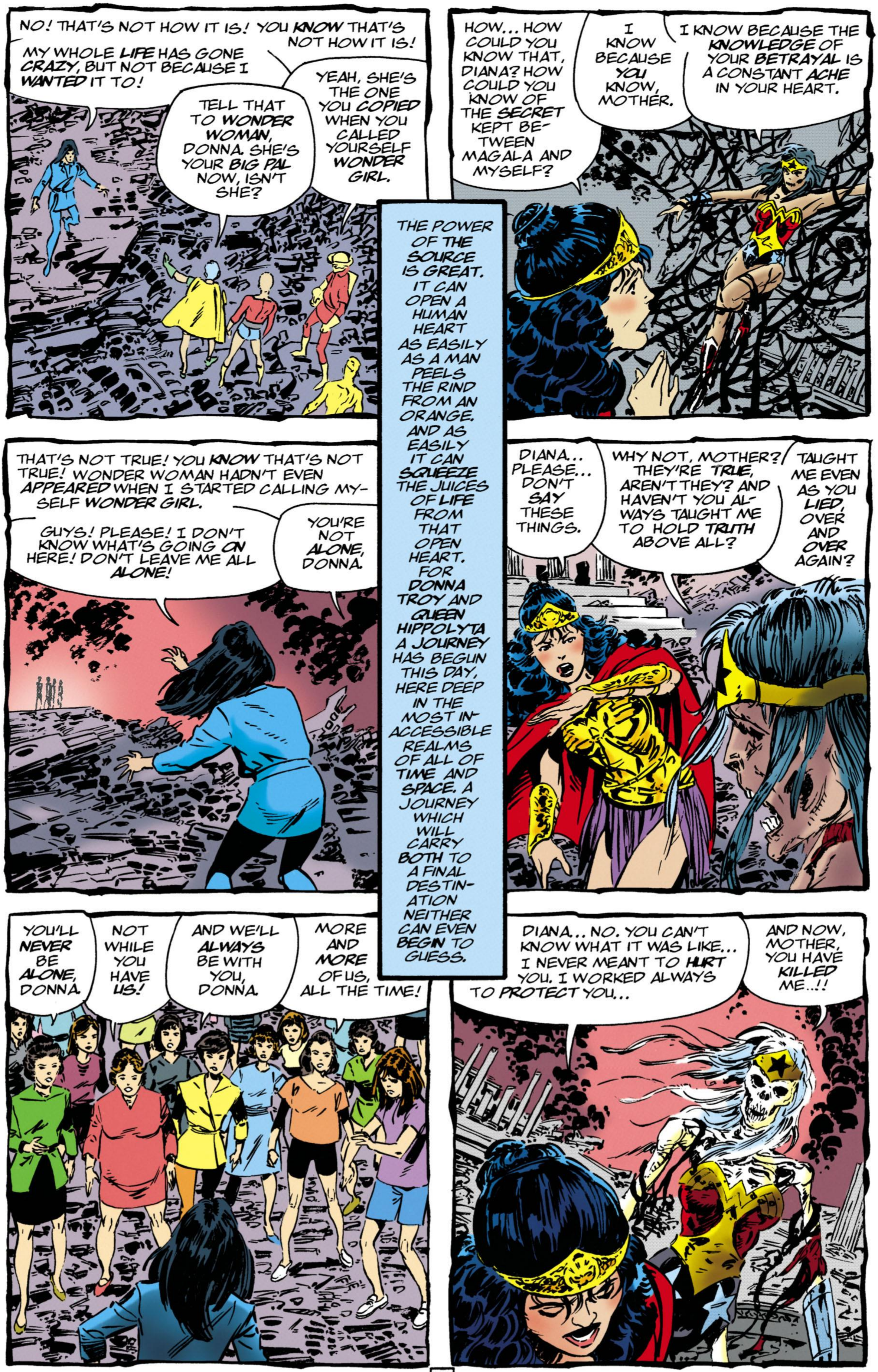

WHERE..? HEY! YOU LOOK LIKE ME! ME AS I WAS WHEN I WAS STILL A DARKSTAR!
NO, IT IS YOU WHO LOOK LIKE ME. A PALE REFLECTION OF ME, AT LEAST. POWERLESS, USELESS.
NO! WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
IT WOULD SEEM TO BE MY HOME ON THEMYSCIRA—BUT SHATTERED, BROKEN, LEFT IN GREATER DESOLATION EVEN THAN WHEN DARKSEID ATTACKED!
THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE AWARENESS THAT NOTHING IS REAL, THAT WHAT SEEMS NOW TO UNFOLD IS WOVEN OF THE SAME STUFF AS DREAMS.
BUT SUCH AWARENESS IS SMALL PROTECTION AGAINST THE EMOTIONS WHICH ARE GENERATED BY WHAT SEEMS TO BE.
EMOTIONS SUMMONED FROM THE DEEPEST REACHES OF EACH WOMAN'S SOUL.
SHE'S NOT A SHADOW OF YOU, DARKSTAR. SHE'S A DIMINISHED VERSION OF ME.
NO, SHE LOOKS MORE LIKE A STRIPPED-DOWN VERSION OF ME!
AT LEAST SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ME! I CAN'T IMAGINE GROWING UP TO LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
BETRAYED
DIANA!!

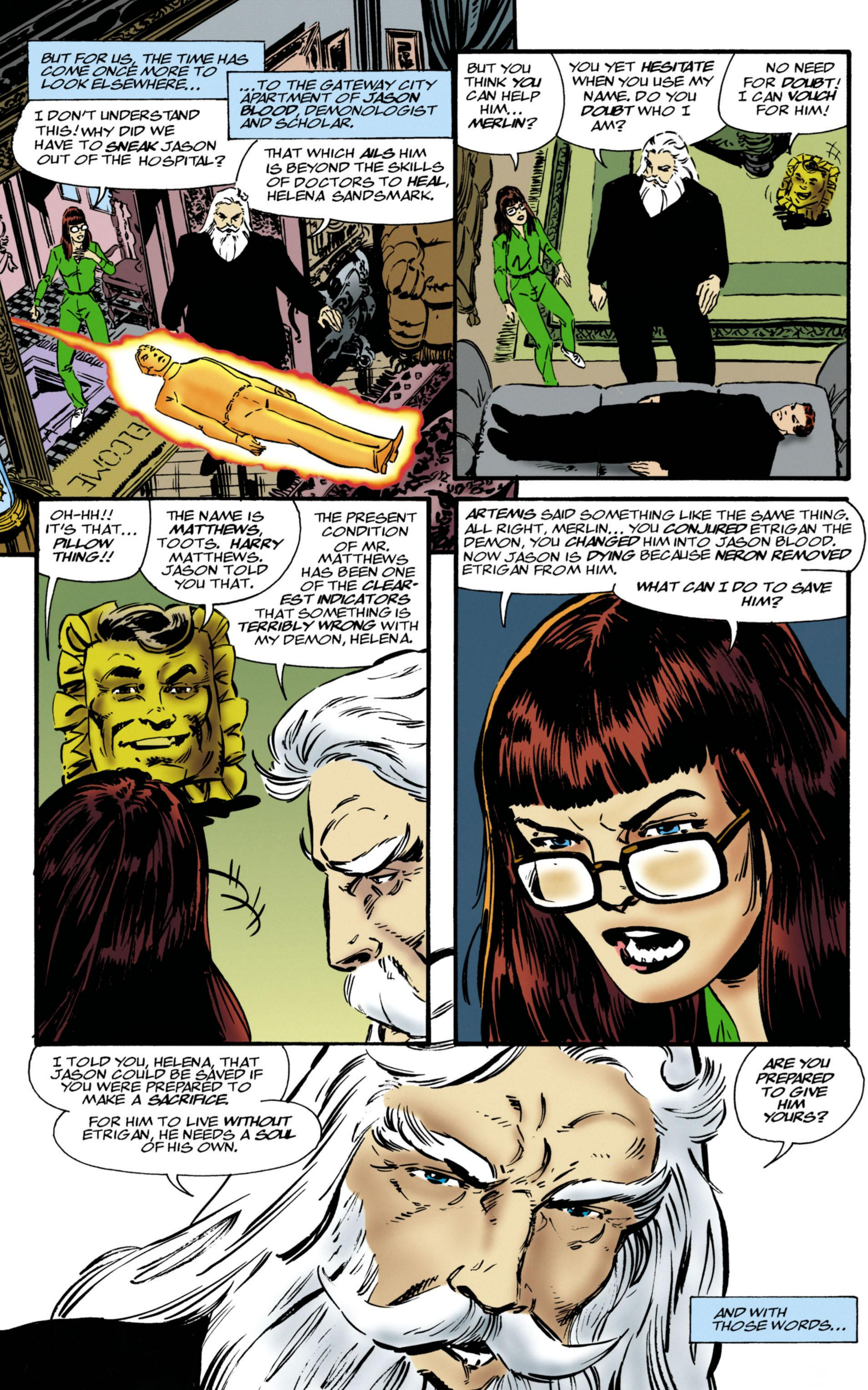

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT GAME THIS IS, BUT...
DICK! ROY! WALLY! GARTH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? AND... WHAT'S WITH THE OLD COSTUMES?
NOTHING "OLD" ABOUT OUR CLOTHES, DONNA.
YEAH, IF THERE'S ANYTHING OLD HERE, IT'S YOU!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, DONNA? WHY DID YOU LEAVE US?


...MOTHER..?
MOTHER... WHY... HAVE... YOU... DONE... THIS... TO... ME..?
DONE..? DIANA, NO! I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?


LEAVE? I DIDN'T LEAVE. THE ORIGINAL TITANS JUST... DRIFTED APART.
BUT WE'VE ALWAYS KEPT IN TOUCH. WHEN I GOT THE NEWS ABOUT TERRY AND THE CHILDREN I TRIED TO CALL DICK AND WALLY, BUT...
HOW HARD DID YOU TRY, DONNA?
WHY DON'T YOU ADMIT IT? YOU'VE TURNED YOUR BACK ON US, ON YOUR PAST.
GOTTEN TOO FULL OF YOURSELF TO BE PLAIN OLD WONDER GIRL ANYMORE. HAVE TO BE TROIA NOW, HAVE TO BE A DARKSTAR!

NOTHING? YOU BETRAYED ME, MOTHER. YOU CONSPIRED TO MAKE ARTEMIS WONDER WOMAN. YOU HAD MAGALA WEAVE SPELLS THAT ROBBED ME OF MY POWERS. AND NOW, BECAUSE OF YOU, I AM DYING, MOTHER.
..NO..!


NO! THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS! YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS!
MY WHOLE LIFE HAS GONE CRAZY, BUT NOT BECAUSE I WANTED IT TO!
TELL THAT TO WONDER WOMAN, DONNA. SHE'S YOUR BIG PAL NOW, ISN'T SHE?
YEAH, SHE'S THE ONE YOU COPIED WHEN YOU CALLED YOURSELF WONDER GIRL.
THE POWER OF THE SOURCE IS GREAT. IT CAN OPEN A HUMAN HEART AS EASILY AS A MAN PEELS THE RIND FROM AN ORANGE. AND AS EASILY IT CAN SQUEEZE THE JUICES OF LIFE FROM THAT OPEN HEART. FOR DONNA TROY AND QUEEN HIPPOLYTA A JOURNEY HAS BEGUN THIS DAY, HERE DEEP IN THE MOST INACCESSIBLE REALMS OF ALL OF TIME AND SPACE. A JOURNEY WHICH WILL CARRY BOTH TO A FINAL DESTINATION NEITHER CAN EVEN BEGIN TO GUESS.
HOW... HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT, DIANA? HOW COULD YOU KNOW OF THE SECRET KEPT BETWEEN MAGALA AND MYSELF?
I KNOW BECAUSE YOU KNOW, MOTHER.
I KNOW BECAUSE THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR BETRAYAL IS A CONSTANT ACHE IN YOUR HEART.
THAT'S NOT TRUE! YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE! WONDER WOMAN HADN'T EVEN APPEARED WHEN I STARTED CALLING MYSELF WONDER GIRL.
GUYS! PLEASE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE! DON'T LEAVE ME ALL ALONE!
YOU'RE NOT ALONE, DONNA.
DIANA... PLEASE... DON'T SAY THESE THINGS.
WHY NOT, MOTHER? THEY'RE TRUE, AREN'T THEY? AND HAVEN'T YOU ALWAYS TAUGHT ME TO HOLD TRUTH ABOVE ALL?
TAUGHT ME EVEN AS YOU LIED, OVER AND OVER AGAIN?
YOU'LL NEVER BE ALONE, DONNA.
NOT WHILE YOU HAVE US!
AND WE'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU, DONNA.
MORE AND MORE OF US, ALL THE TIME!
DIANA... NO. YOU CAN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS LIKE... I NEVER MEANT TO HURT YOU. I WORKED ALWAYS TO PROTECT YOU...
AND NOW, MOTHER, YOU HAVE KILLED ME...!!


BUT FOR US, THE TIME HAS COME ONCE MORE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE...
...TO THE GATEWAY CITY APARTMENT OF JASON BLOOD, DEMONOLOGIST AND SCHOLAR.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS! WHY DID WE HAVE TO SNEAK JASON OUT OF THE HOSPITAL?
THAT WHICH AILS HIM IS BEYOND THE SKILLS OF DOCTORS TO HEAL, HELENA SANDSMARK.
BUT YOU THINK YOU CAN HELP HIM... MERLIN?
YOU YET HESITATE WHEN YOU USE MY NAME. DO YOU DOUBT WHO I AM?
NO NEED FOR DOUBT! I CAN VOUCH FOR HIM!
OH-HH!! IT'S THAT... PILLOW THING!!
THE NAME IS MATTHEWS, TOOTS. HARRY MATTHEWS. JASON TOLD YOU THAT.
THE PRESENT CONDITION OF MR. MATTHEWS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE CLEAREST INDICATORS THAT SOMETHING IS TERRIBLY WRONG WITH MY DEMON, HELENA.
ARTEMIS SAID SOMETHING LIKE THE SAME THING. ALL RIGHT, MERLIN... YOU CONJURED ETRIGAN THE DEMON, YOU CHANGED HIM INTO JASON BLOOD. NOW JASON IS DYING BECAUSE NERON REMOVED ETRIGAN FROM HIM.
WHAT CAN I DO TO SAVE HIM?
I TOLD YOU, HELENA, THAT JASON COULD BE SAVED IF YOU WERE PREPARED TO MAKE A SACRIFICE.
FOR HIM TO LIVE WITHOUT ETRIGAN, HE NEEDS A SOUL OF HIS OWN.
ARE YOU PREPARED TO GIVE HIM YOURS?
AND WITH THOSE WORDS...

...WE LOOK AWAY ONE LAST TIME...
...TO AN AMERICAN NATIONAL AIRLINES FLIGHT OSTENSIBLY BOUND FOR GATEWAY.
EXCUSE ME... YOU ARE COLONEL STEVE TREVOR, AREN'T YOU?
YES, I AM. IS THERE SOME PROBLEM MISS? I'VE NOTICED WE'VE BEEN FLYING IN CIRCLES FOR THE LAST HALF HOUR OR SO...
...ER... I WONDER IF YOU COULD COME UP TO THE COCKPIT, COLONEL?
"THERE'S SOMETHING YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP US WITH."
GOOD LORD! THE WHOLE FLIGHT CREW IS DEAD! WHAT HAPPENED?
A SUICIDE PACT, COLONEL. THEY WERE ALL TALKING ABOUT IT WHEN THEY CAME ON BOARD. I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST KIDDING AROUND.
SUICIDE PACT?
WHY??
THE CAPTAIN SAID IT WAS BECAUSE EVERYTHING SEEMED SO POINTLESS.
WE THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST POKING FUN AT US, 'CAUSE THE CABIN CREW HAD BEEN TALKING THE SAME WAY YESTERDAY...
BUT THE THING IS, COLONEL, I KNEW ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO TURN ON THE AUTOPILOT, BUT SOMEONE HAS TO LAND THIS PLANE IN A HURRY.
"WE HAVE LESS THAN SIXTEEN MINUTES OF FUEL LEFT..."
NEXT: OUR TALE CONTINUES IN GENESIS #4, THEN RETURNS TO THESE PAGES FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT IN WONDER WOMAN'S LIFE.
WE MEAN IT!