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# WONDER WOMAN®



**SOUL  
RAIN!**

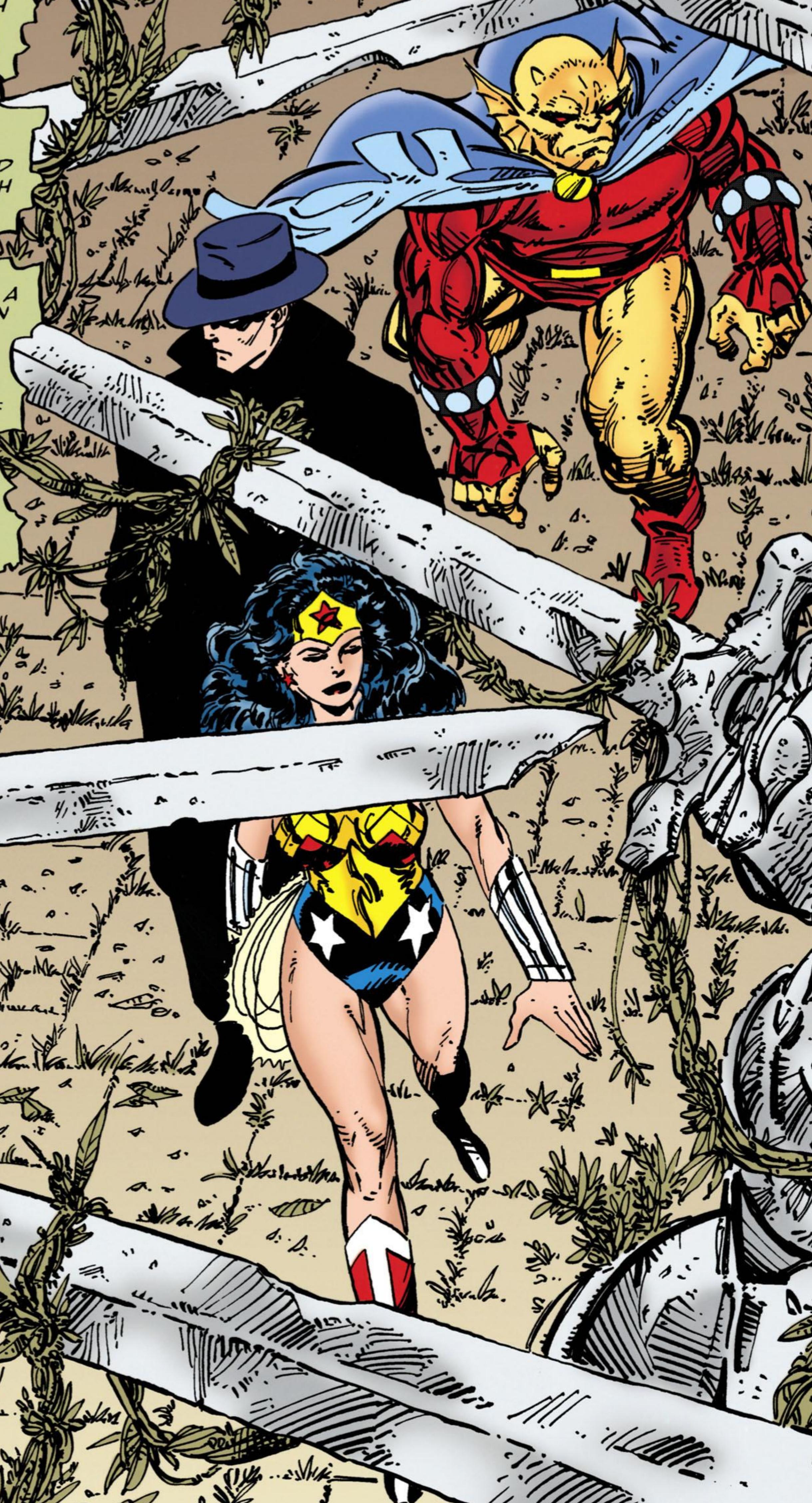
THE PLACE IS A SUBURB OF GATEWAY CITY, THE TIME A FEW SHORT MINUTES BEFORE THE STRIKING OF THE MIDNIGHT HOUR.

THE THREE WHO MOVE IN SOLEMN SILENCE THROUGH THIS STRANGE PLACE ARE CREATURES CALLED FROM MYTH AND LEGEND.

ETRIGAN, THE DEMON, CONJURED BY MERLIN IN THE LAST DAYS OF FABLED CAMELOT, NOW VERY MUCH A BEING OUT OF TIME AND PLACE.

THE PHANTOM STRANGER, A LIVING ENIGMA WRAPPED IN THE FORM OF MAN, POWERFUL BEYOND THE SCOPE OF MORTALS TO MEASURE, YET ALWAYS A SHADOW AT THE EDGE OF PERCEPTION.

AND FIRST, LEADING THE WAY AS BEFITS HER WARRIOR HERITAGE, DIANA, THE ERSTWHILE AMAZON PRINCESS KNOWN AS...



# WONDER WOMAN



# LIFELINES

PART FOUR

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WONDER WOMAN  
CREATED BY  
WILLIAM MOULTON  
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THE DEMON  
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JACK KIRBY



BUT NONE  
OF THE  
SKILL!

IF MORGANE  
LE FAY IS INDEED  
MANIPULATING  
THESE THINGS...

...SHE IS A  
POOR  
WARRIOR!

THAT  
SHE  
IS.

...BUT IT IS  
NOT LE FAY  
WHO CHALLENGES  
YOU TONIGHT,  
PRINCESS.

IT IS  
ARION,  
SORCERER OF  
ATLANTIS!

YOUR NAME AND  
POWER ARE KNOWN  
TO ME, OLD  
ONE.

BUT I  
THOUGHT YOU  
LONG SINCE  
DEAD!

TO BORROW  
FROM MY OLD  
FRIEND  
SAM CLEMENS...

...REPORTS  
OF MY DEATH  
WERE SOMEWHAT  
EXAGGERATED.

HIS  
FORE-  
HEAD!

STRANGER, HE  
BEARS THE SAME  
BRAND LE FAY  
PUT ON ETRIGAN!

YES. AND HE  
MIGHT WELL BE  
FREE OF ITS  
CONTROL BY THE  
POWER OF THE  
PHILOSOPHER'S  
STONE...



...BUT GETTING CLOSE ENOUGH TO USE THE POWER OF THE STONE MAY BE PROBLEMATICAL!

LEAVE THAT TO ME!

LIKE AN ARROW LOOSED AGAINST THE HEAVENS BY A SAVAGE, FEARFUL PRIMITIVE, THE SUPPLE FORM OF WONDER WOMAN PIERCES THE COLD NIGHT SKY.

THE GIFT OF HERMES CARRIES HER ALOFT FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW.

IMPRESSIVE, PRINCESS!

YOUR SPEED IS GREAT, BUT NOTHING IS FASTER THAN MAGIC!

PERHAPS  
NOT,  
SORCERER.

BUT YOU ARE  
WASTING TIME AND  
ENERGY ON SIMPLE  
PYROTECHNICS...

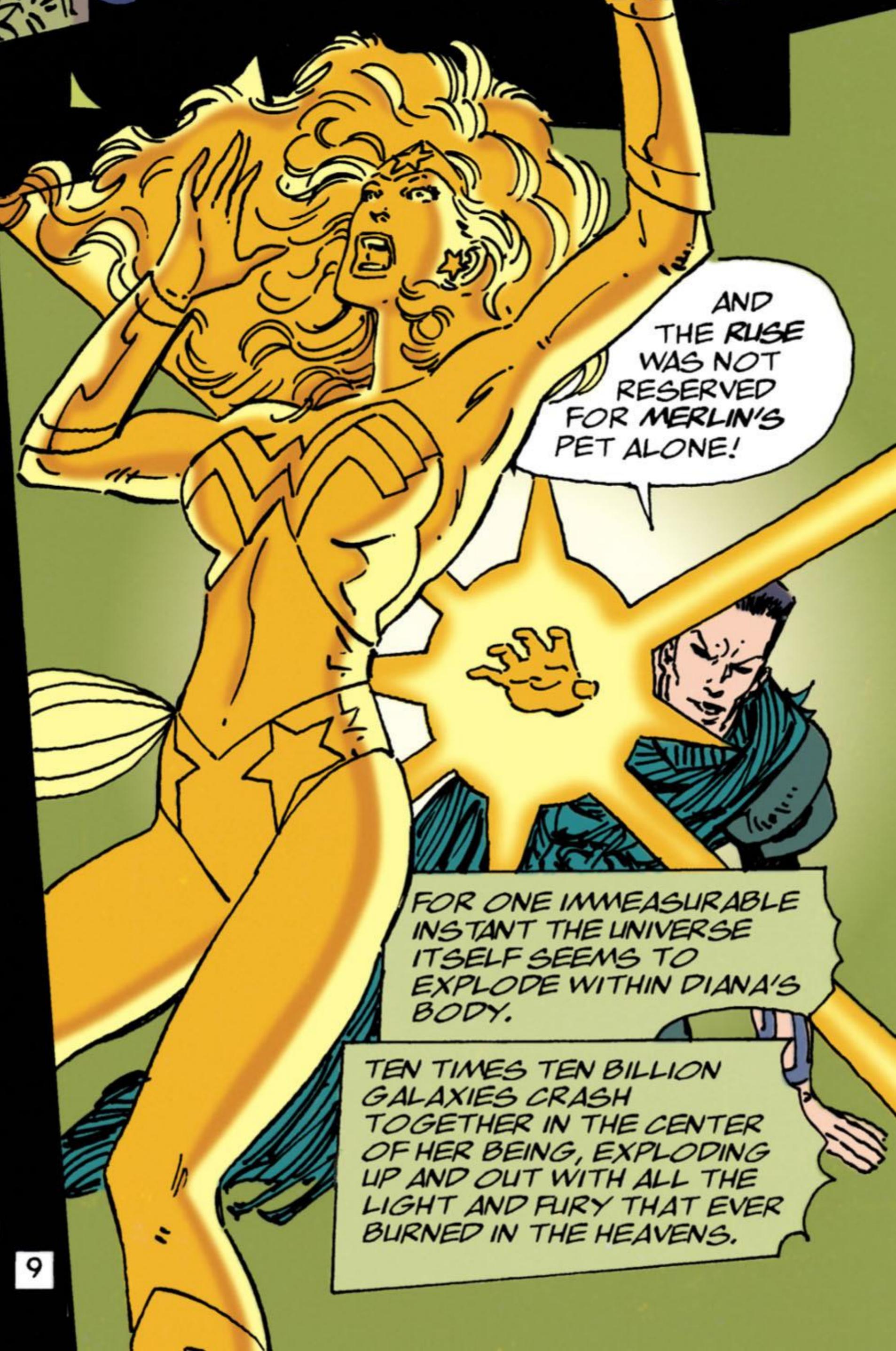
...AGAINST  
WHICH MY SPEED  
IS MORE THAN  
AMPLE.

ARE YOU  
QUITE  
SURE?

REALLY,  
WONDER  
WOMAN?

AH-GH!!





THEN THERE IS  
DARKNESS.

KRIS?

DAD?

KRIS! I'M  
HERE, SON. CON-  
CENTRATE ON MY  
VOICE

FOLLOW  
MY  
VOICE!

THIS IS INSANE,  
DR. LAZARUS! THIS  
EQUIPMENT WAS  
NEVER MEANT FOR THIS  
KIND OF PROGRAM!



DON'T TELL ME WHAT THIS  
SYSTEM CAN DO! I  
DESIGNED THE BLOODY  
THING! I BUILT IT! NO ONE  
KNOWS IT BETTER THAN  
ME!

BUT, DOCTOR, YOU  
DESIGNED THIS SYSTEM TO  
CREATE VIRTUAL CLONES  
FROM THE ELECTRON  
MATRIX IN ORDINARY VIDEO-  
TAPE IMAGES.

WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW IS  
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU CAN'T  
MANUFACTURE A WHOLE  
PERSONALITY OUT OF THE  
ELECTRON MATRIX.

THE NECESSARY  
DATA JUST ISN'T  
THERE!

DATA? I  
DON'T NEED  
DATA!

THIS IS MY  
SON WE'RE TALK-  
ING ABOUT!

DO YOU THINK I  
WOULD HAVE FORGOTTEN  
THE LEAST NUANCE OF HIS  
PERSONALITY IN THE SIX  
MONTHS SINCE HE DIED?

PLEASE, DOCTOR, YOU'VE BEEN  
SO DISTRAUGHT, ALMOST IN-  
SANE SINCE KRIS WAS  
KILLED.

I'M AFRAID YOU  
ARE JUST NOT  
THINKING RATIONALLY  
ABOUT THIS.

I MURDERED MY OWN SON!  
OH, YES, THE REVIEW BOARD  
SAID IT WAS AN ACCIDENT...

...BUT IT WAS MY INCOMPE-  
TENCE THAT CAUSED THE  
EXPLOSION. MY STUPIDITY  
THAT COST KRIS HIS LIFE.

RATIONAL??  
YOU WANT ME  
TO BE  
RATIONAL??

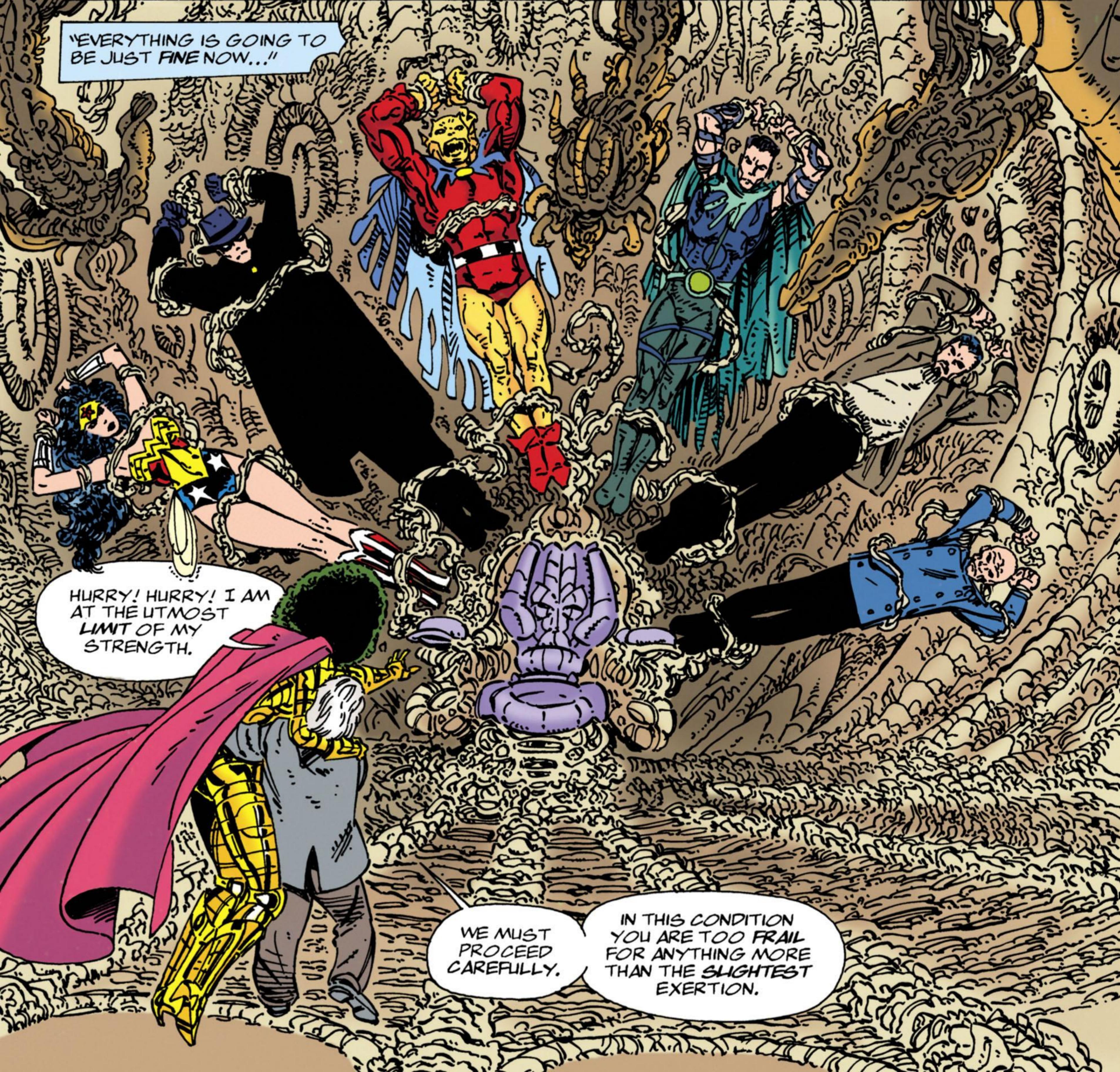
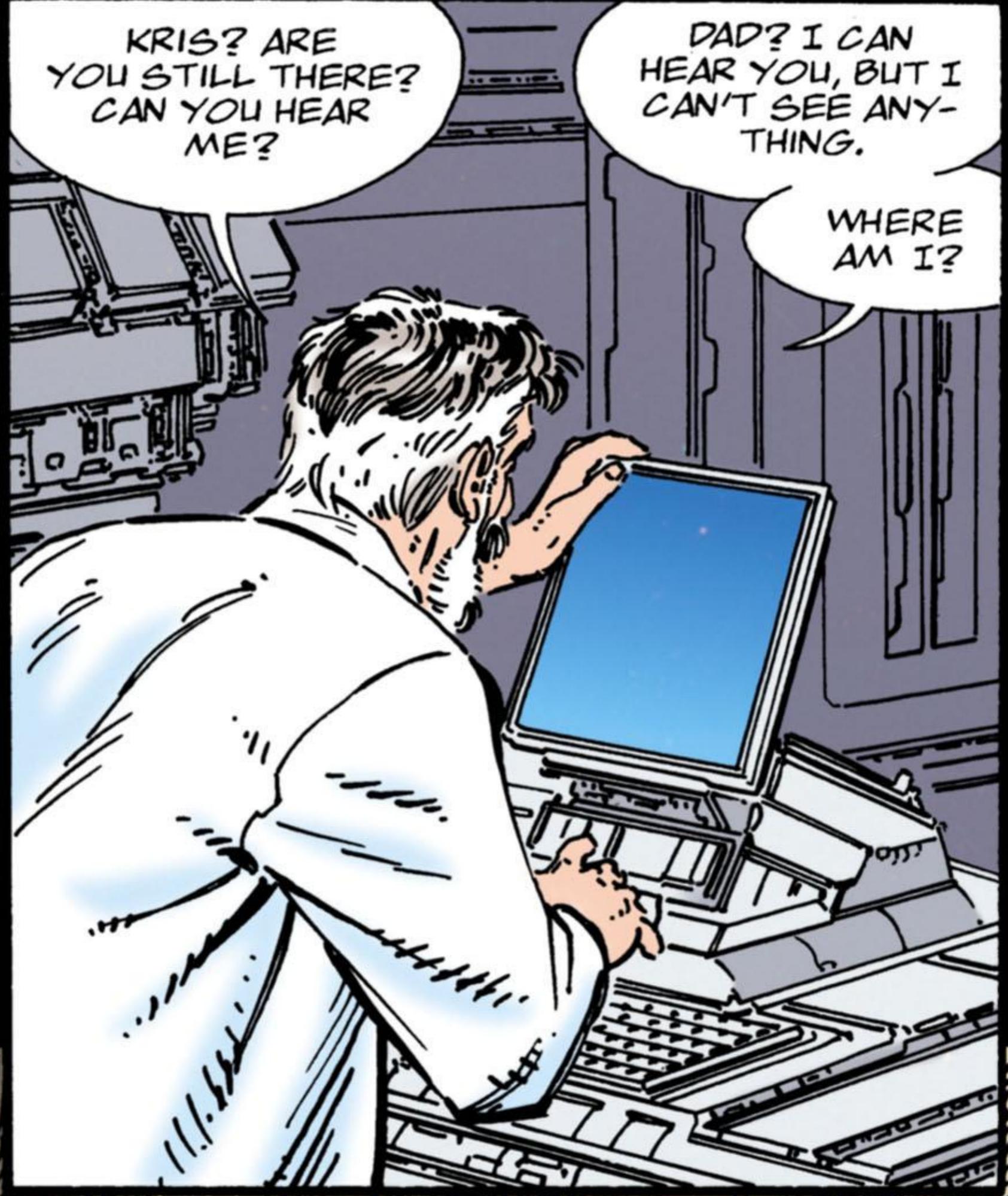
DOCTOR...  
PLEASE... YOU'RE  
HURTING ME!

I'M... SORRY,  
MARGARET.

LOOK... IF YOU DON'T FEEL  
COMFORTABLE ASSISTING  
ME IN THIS, PERHAPS YOU  
SHOULD GO. I CAN HANDLE  
THE REST OF THE  
PROGRAMMING ALONE.

BUT FOR GOD'S  
SAKE BE CAREFUL!  
WE REALLY DON'T  
FULLY UNDERSTAND THE  
FORCES THAT ARE  
AT WORK HERE.

I THINK YOU  
MAY BE RIGHT,  
DOCTOR.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN TO DO, SORCERESS?

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS MACHINE OF YOURS?

LIFE, PRINCESS DIANA.

THE RESTORATION OF MY IMMORTALITY.

CONSIDER WHO EACH OF YOU ARE, WONDER WOMAN. YOURSELF, AN IMMORTAL AMAZON.

THE MYSTERIOUS PHANTOM STRANGER, WHOSE LIFE ESSENCE IS THREADED DOWN THROUGH UNCOUNTED YEARS.

THE DEMON ETRIGAN, ALIVE WHO KNOWS HOW LONG, BUT AT THE VERY LEAST SINCE THE FALL OF CAMELOT.

ARION, WHO HAS WALKED THIS WORLD SINCE ATLANTIS SANK SEVEN HUNDRED CENTURIES AGO.

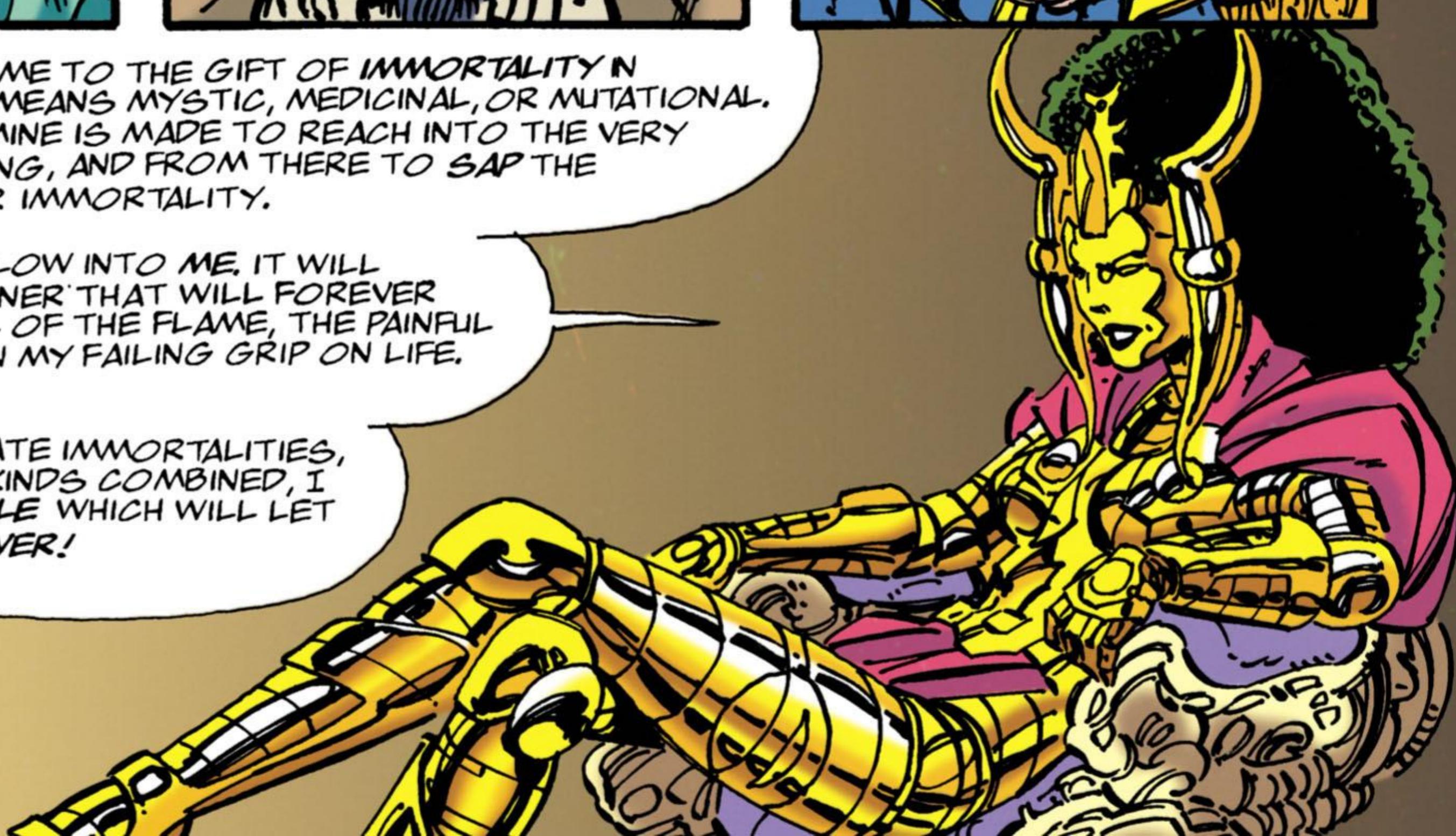
VANDAL SAVAGE, A MAN WHO HAS COUNTED FIFTY THOUSAND YEARS IN THE NUMBERING OF HIS DAYS.

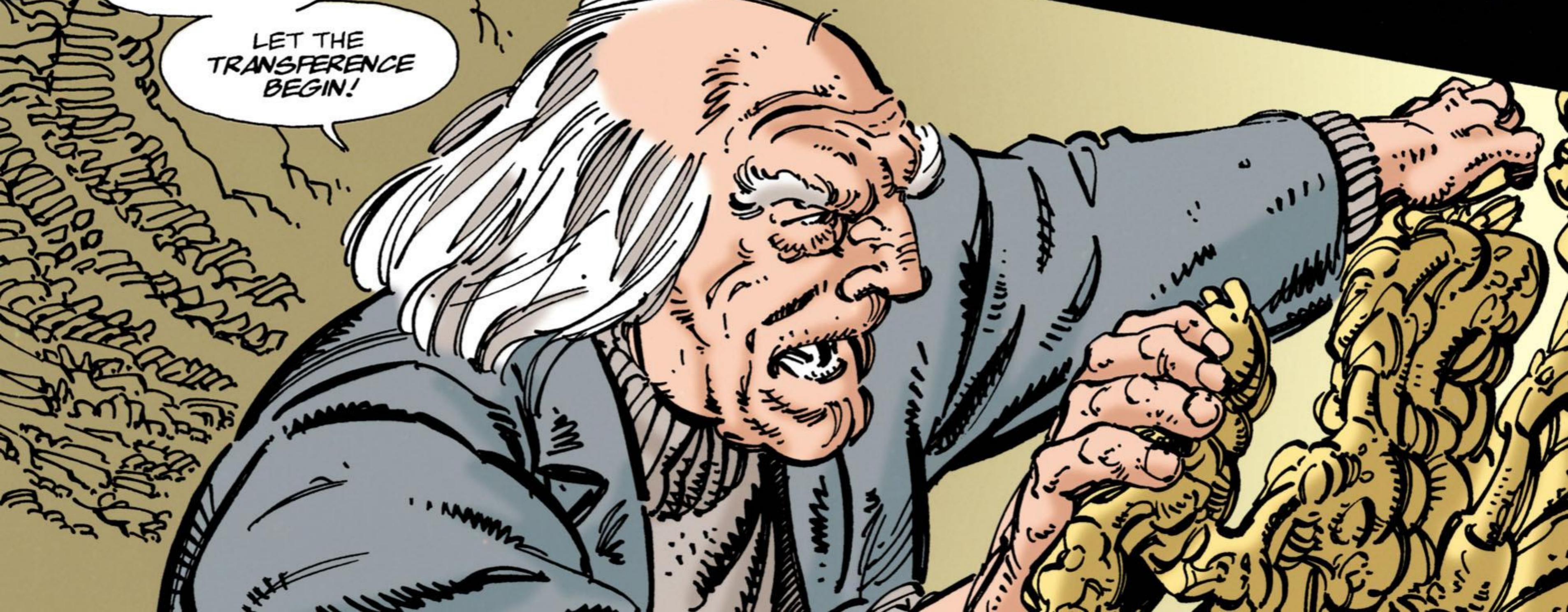
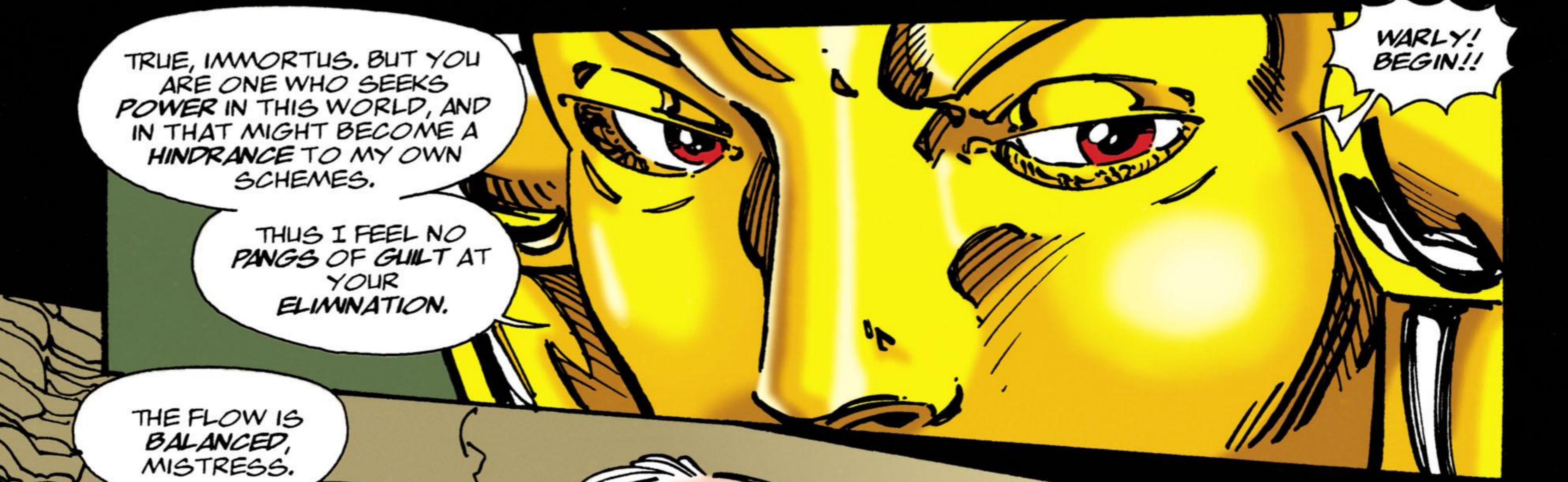
AND FINALLY GENERAL IMMORTUS, FABLED ENEMY OF THE DOOM PATROL, AND SO OLD HE MAY NO LONGER KNOW HIMSELF THE SPAN OF HIS YEARS.

EACH OF YOU HAS COME TO THE GIFT OF IMMORTALITY IN A DIFFERENT WAY, BY MEANS MYSTIC, MEDICINAL, OR MUTATIONAL. BUT THIS MACHINE OF MINE IS MADE TO REACH INTO THE VERY CENTER OF YOUR BEING, AND FROM THERE TO SAP THE ESSENCE OF YOUR IMMORTALITY.

THAT ESSENCE WILL FLOW INTO ME. IT WILL REPLENISH ME IN A MANNER THAT WILL FOREVER FREE ME OF THE RITUAL OF THE FLAME, THE PAINFUL STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN MY FAILING GRIP ON LIFE.

FROM YOUR DISPARATE IMMORTALITIES, ALL THE DIFFERENT KINDS COMBINED, I SHALL CRAFT A WHOLE WHICH WILL LET ME LIVE FOREVER!

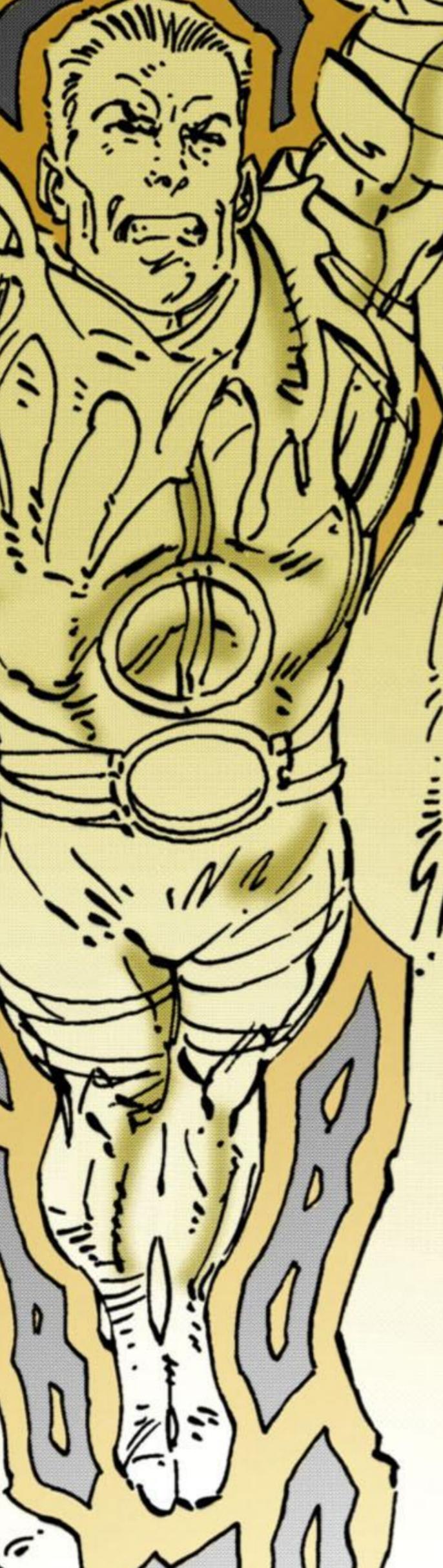




THE SOUND BEGINS  
SOMEWHERE FAR BEYOND  
THE DISTANT EDGES OF  
PERCEPTION.

A SHRIEK, A CRY, THE BIRTH  
WAIL OF AN INFANT BANSHEE,  
THE SCRATCHING OF  
SPECTRAL FINGERNAILS ON  
A COSMIC BLACKBOARD.

SLOWLY, O SO VERY  
SLOWLY IT BUILDS IN  
INTENSITY, GROWING LIKE A  
THING ALIVE, DRILLING INTO  
THE FLESH, THE BONE, THE  
MARROW.



GENERAL IMMORTUS IS THE  
FIRST TO SHOW A SIGN OF  
AGONY, HIS SHRIVELED  
FACE CONTORTING, DRY  
LIPS CURLING BACK FROM  
TEETH THE COLOR OF OLD  
IVORY.

THE PHANTOM STRANGER  
AND THE DEMON SEEM FOR  
A LONG TIME UNPERTURBED,  
BUT AS THE PAIN BEGINS TO  
OVERWHELM HER, DIANA  
NOTICES ARION AND  
SAVAGE ARE BEGINNING TO  
WRITHING IN THEIR  
RESTRAINTS.

SUDDENLY IT CHANGES, THE SCENE, THE PAIN, THE VERY SENSE OF TIME AND PLACE.

WHERE..?

DIANA STANDS AT THE CENTER OF AN INFINITE PLANE, AND ALL THE UNIVERSE SEEMS TO CROWD TOGETHER TO FILL THE SKY ABOVE HER.

A VERY SPECIAL PLACE, PRINCESS.

A LITTLE SOMETHING I PREPARED JUST FOR YOU, AMAZON.

THERE IS MORE TO YOUR NATURE THAN THE IMMORTALITY I SEEK. YOU ARE TRAINED ALSO AS A WARRIOR.

HERE I SHALL TAKE FROM YOU THOSE MARTIAL TALENTS WHICH HAVE LARGELY ELUDED ME.



NOW, DEFEND  
YOURSELF, WONDER  
WOMAN! DEFEND YOUR-  
SELF, OR LIVE OUT ALL  
ETERNITY TRAPPED UPON  
THIS NETHER PLANE.

YOU HAVE MUCH  
RAW POWER ON  
YOUR SIDE,  
LE FAY...

...BUT YOU  
ARE RIGHT,  
YOUR SKILL IN THIS  
IS ALMOST  
NONEXISTENT!

IS IT?

BUT NOT  
FOR LONG,  
PRINCESS.

NO, NOT FOR  
VERY LONG AT  
ALL!

A WORTHY  
BLOW, LE FAY.  
BUT STILL FAR FROM  
AN AMAZON.

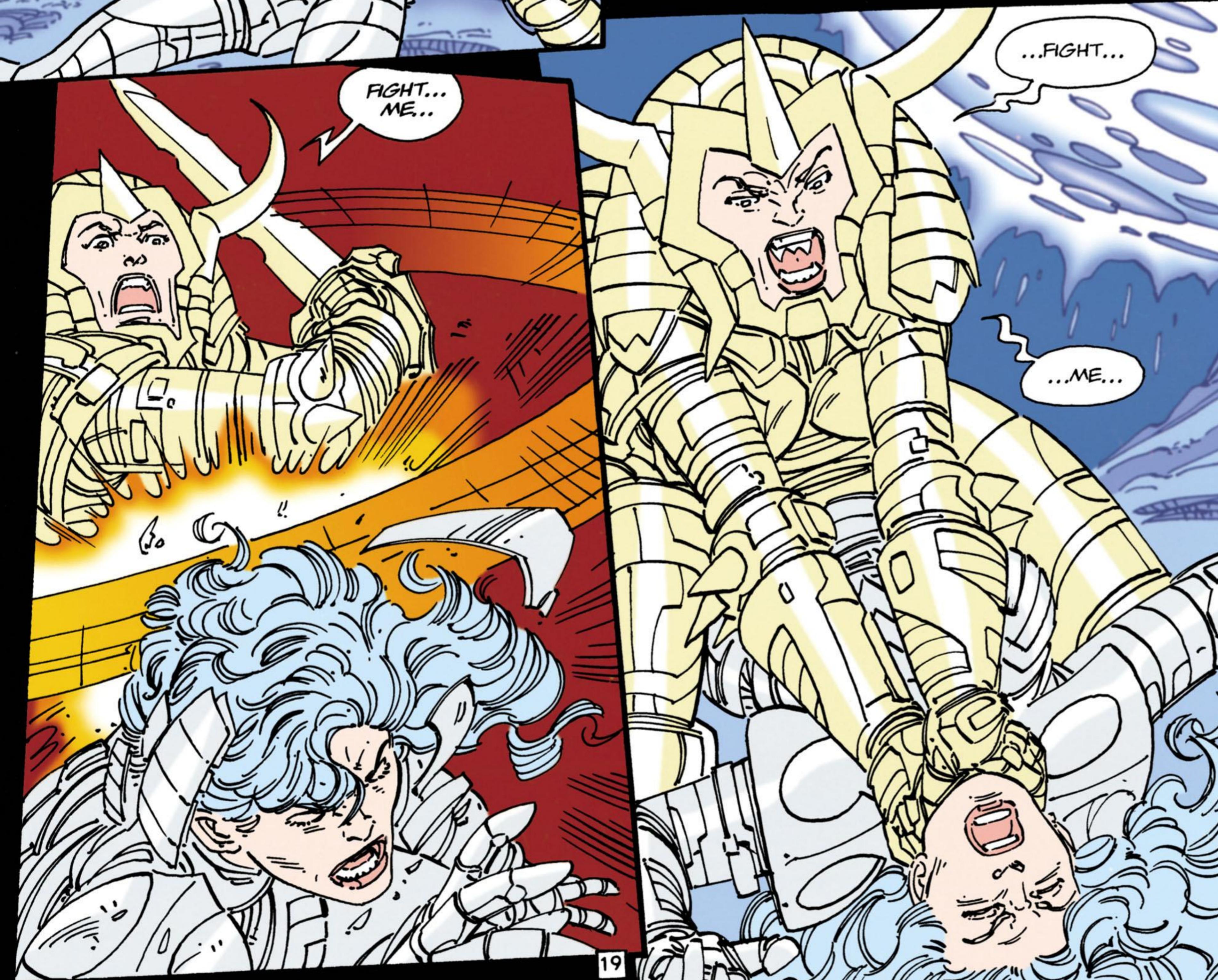
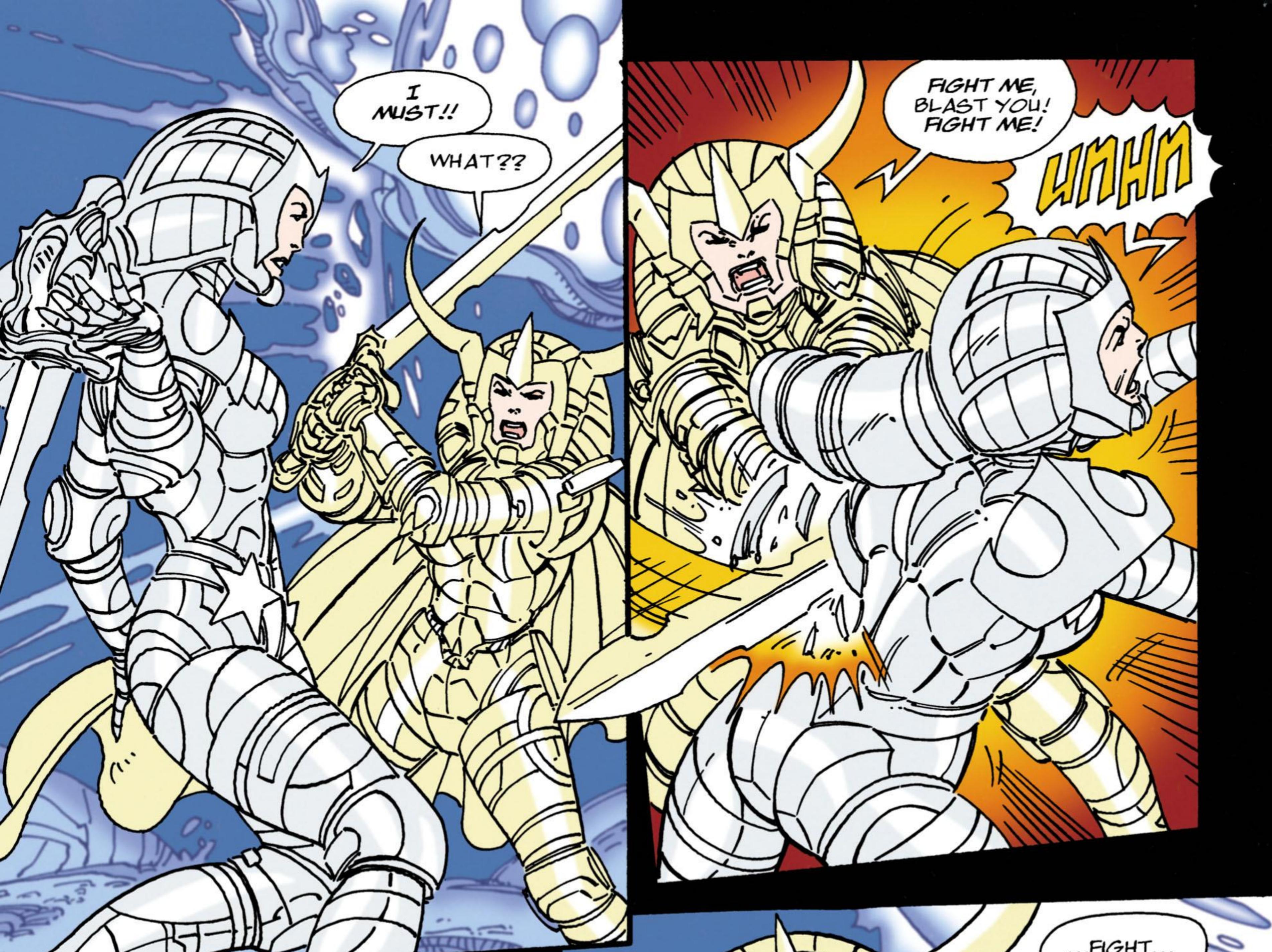
FAR, BUT  
EVER  
CLOSER.

NOW, STAND  
FAST AND  
FIGHT, DIANA.

GIVE ME  
YOUR  
SKILLS!

SHE SPEAKS  
LITERALLY WHEN SHE  
SAYS SHE MEANS TO  
TAKE MY SKILLS. EACH  
MOVE I MAKE AGAINST  
HER ADDS TO HER  
FIGHTING ARSENAL!

BUT...DARE I  
ATTEMPT THE  
ONE THING THAT  
MUST SURELY  
STOP HER?



...FIGHT...

MISTRESS!  
NO! YOU ARE  
LOOSENING HER  
BONDS!

TOO LATE,  
WARLY!

WHAT...  
WHAT HAPPENED?  
I MANAGED THE  
TRANSFERENCE  
TO PERFECTION.

I THINK  
I KNOW.

THIS IS WHY YOU  
INTERRUPTED ME,  
ISN'T IT, STRANGER?  
I GAVE UP MY  
IMMORTALITY WHEN I  
LEFT THEMYSCIRA.

YES, LEAVING NOTHING FOR  
LE FAY TO SABOTAGE YOU.  
WHEN I REALIZED HER  
SCHEME, I UNDERSTOOD AT  
ONCE THAT SHE HAD SOWN  
THE SEEDS OF HER OWN  
DESTRUCTION.

CLEVER,  
STRANGER, CLEVER.

YOU CAN FREE  
YOURSELF OF  
THE MYSTIC BONDS?  
WHY DID YOU NOT DO  
SO BEFORE?

YOU HAVE SHED YOUR  
IMMORTALITY, PRINCESS,  
AND IN SO DOING YOU HAVE  
SPARED YOURSELF THE  
GREATEST BANE OF AN  
INFINITE EXISTENCE --

(BOREDOM.)

IT IS TRUE I COULD  
HAVE FREED MYSELF  
AT ANY TIME, BUT I WAS  
PREPARED TO WAIT A  
WHILE TO SEE IF WHAT  
TRANSPRIRED MIGHT BE  
AT LEAST INTERESTING.

BY THE WAY,  
GENERAL  
IMMORTUS SEEMS  
TO HAVE SLIPPED  
AWAY.

