



Wonder Woman

50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 276
FEB.

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY

NOW IT BEGINS!
THE SENSES-
SHATTERING
QUEST
FOR THE

KOBRA!



G-495

GRANTED THE WISDOM OF ATHENA, THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES, THE SPEED OF MERCURY AND THE BEAUTY OF APHRODITE BY THE GODS, PRINCESS DIANA OF PARADISE ISLAND RENOUNCED HER IMMORTALITY AND ENTERED MAN'S WORLD AS THE MOST LEGENDARY AMAZON...

Wonder Woman



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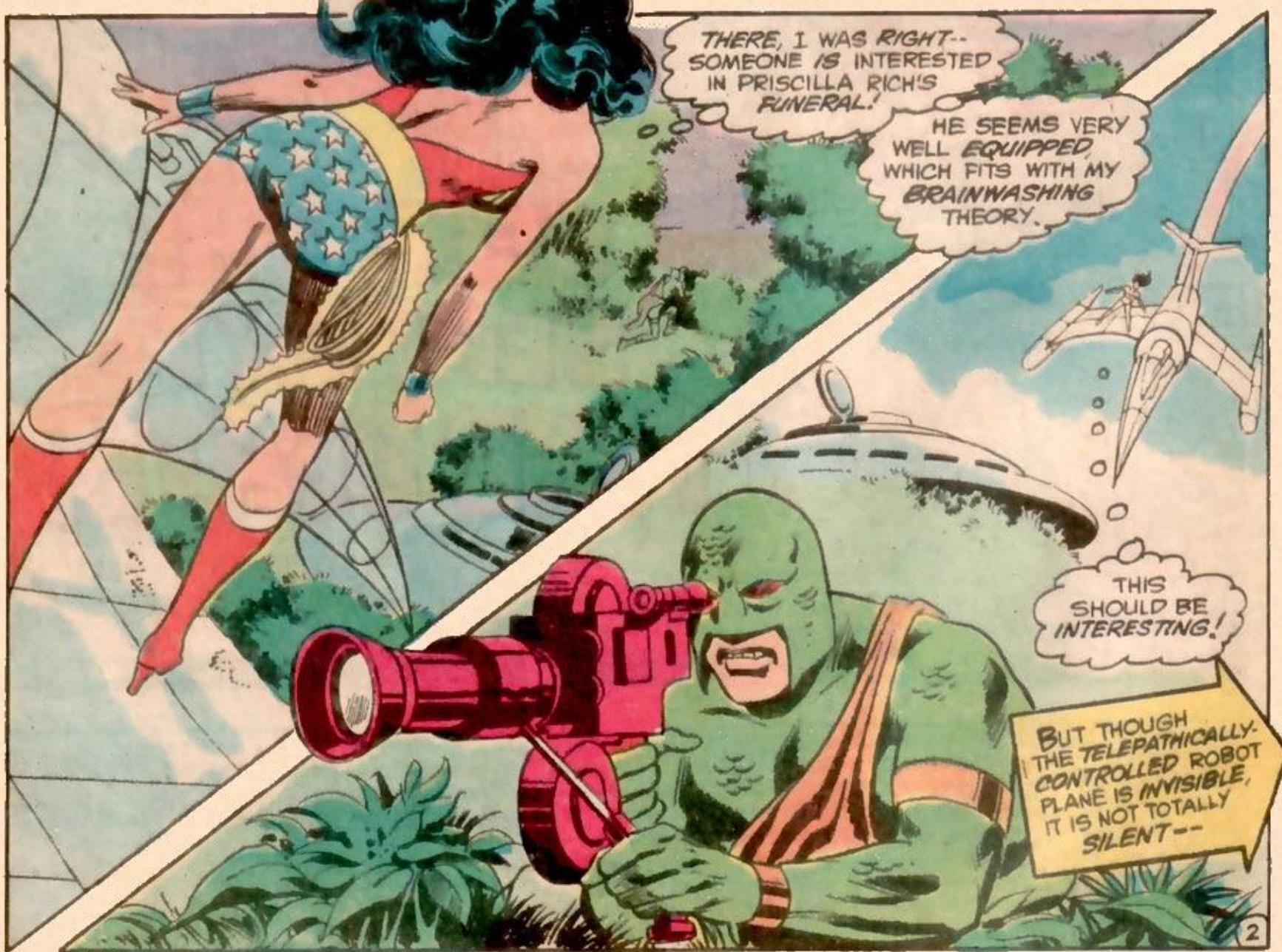
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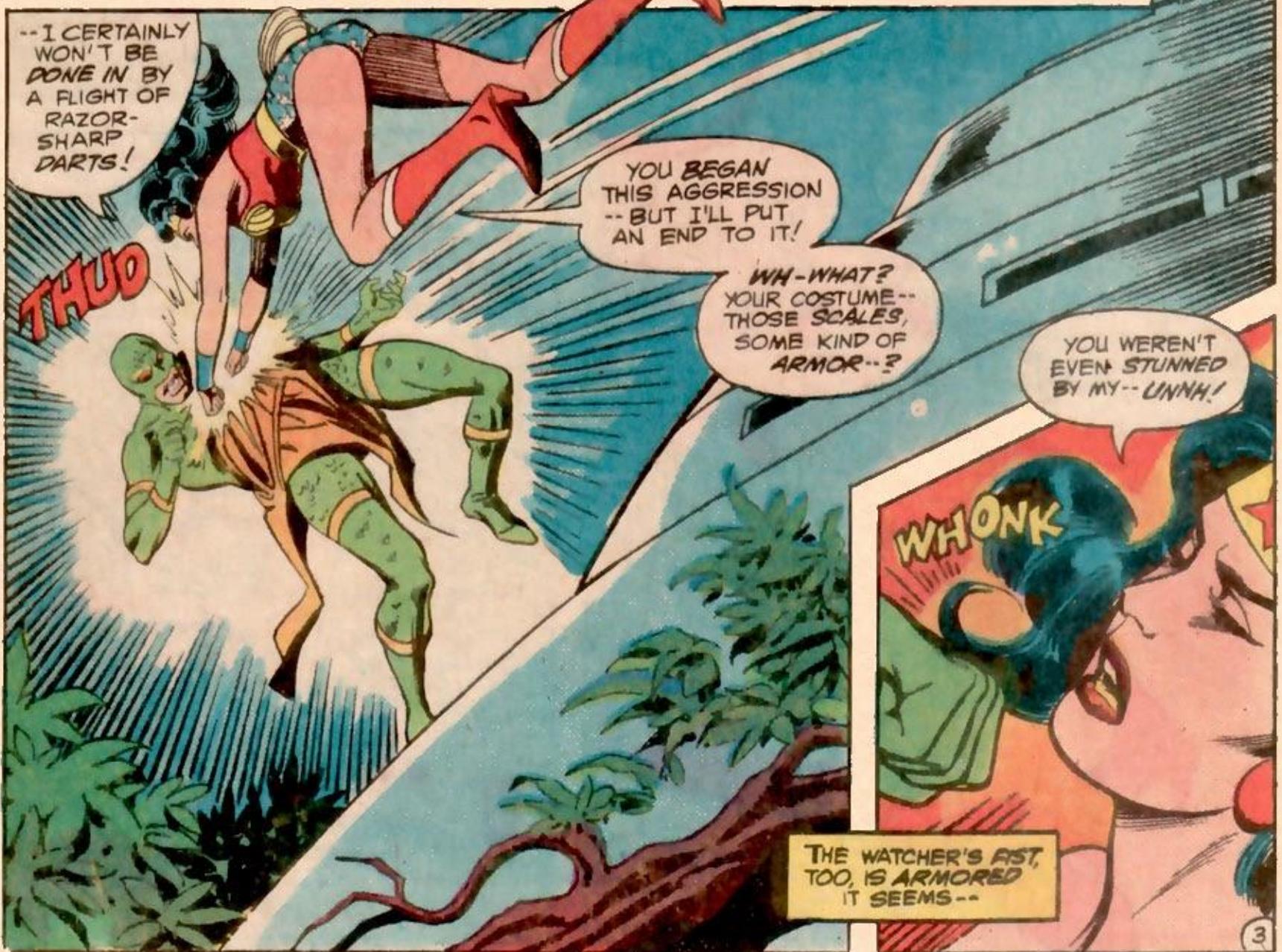
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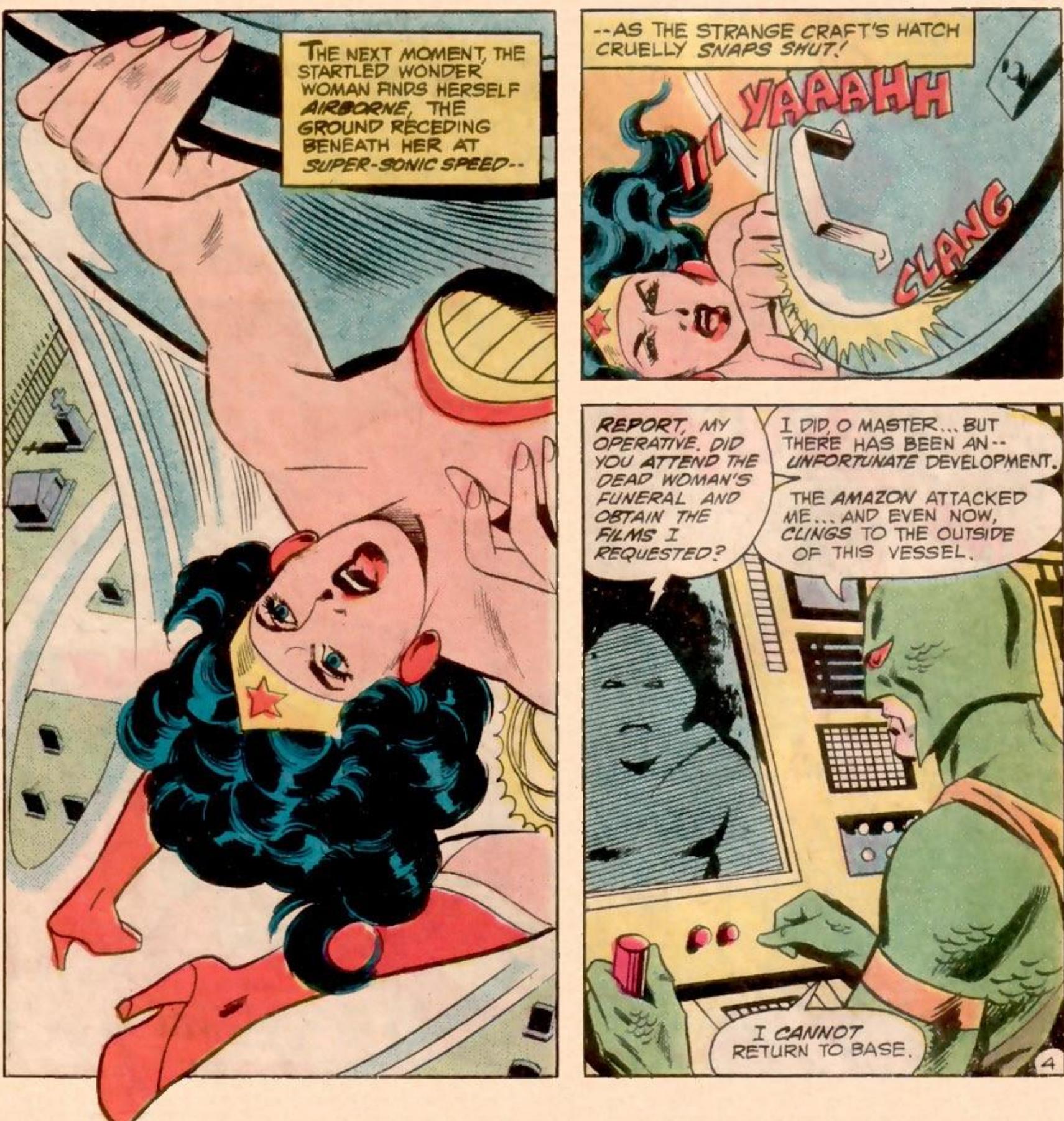
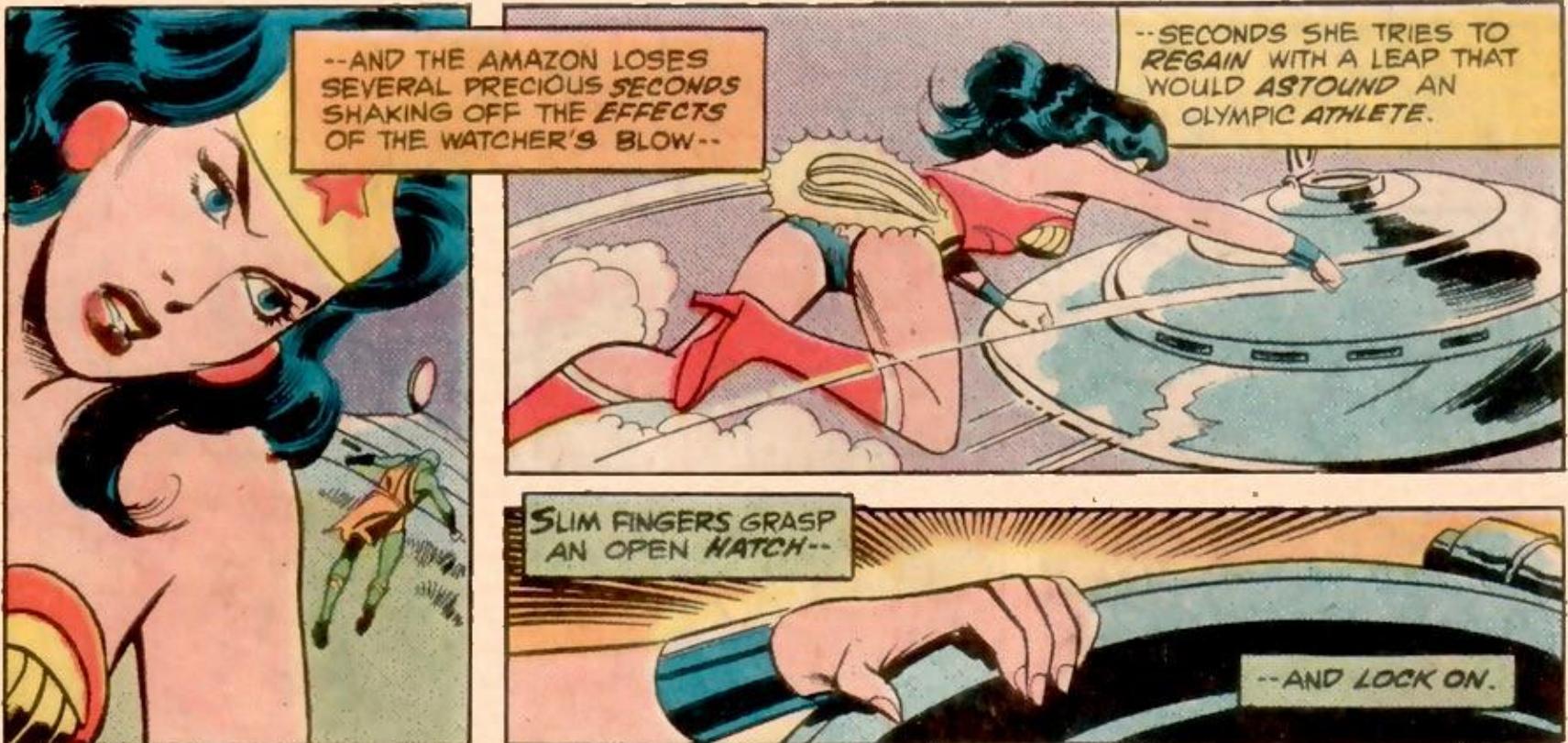
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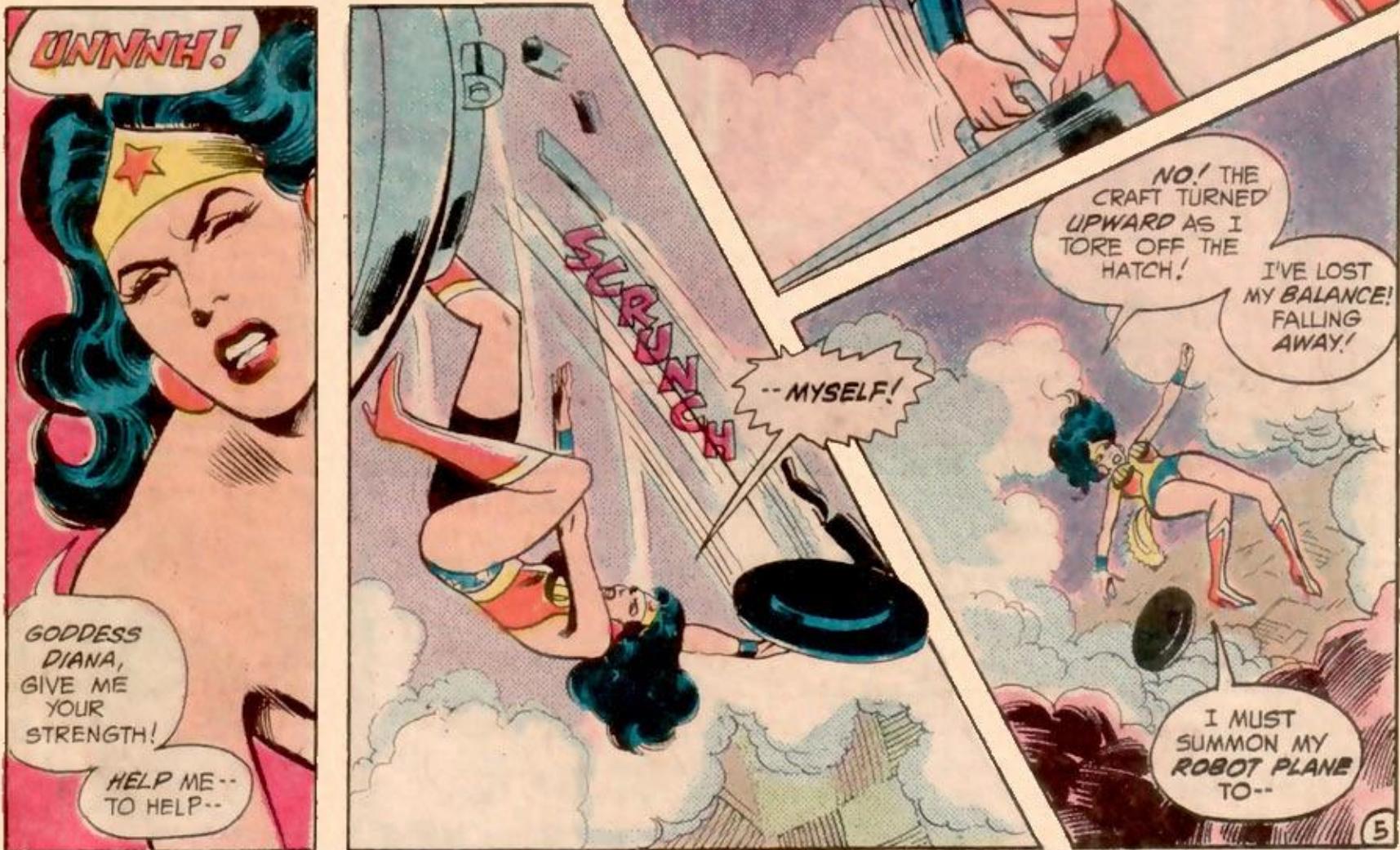
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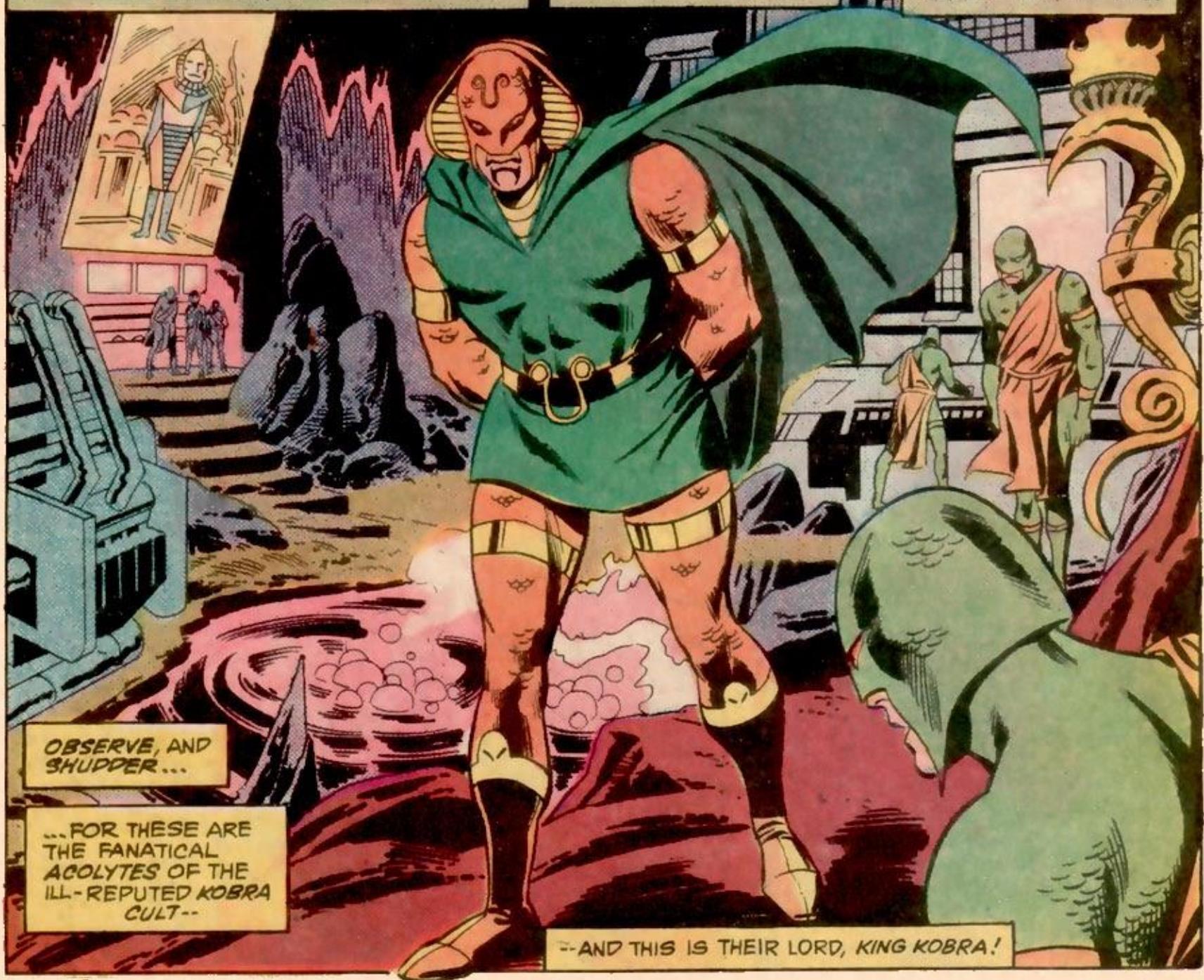




IF WONDER WOMAN COULD BUT DO WHAT WE CAN DO, AND FOLLOW THE COMMUNICATIONS BEAM THAT LINKED THE SCALEY-COSTUMED WATCHER TO HIS MASTER, SHE WOULD FIND AN ANSWER, OF SORTS...

THE LOCATION OF THIS SUBTERRANEAN CAVERN IS NOT IMPORTANT, AT THE MOMENT--

--OR, RATHER, NOT AS IMPORTANT AS THOSE WHO HAVE MADE IT THEIR HEADQUARTERS.



EXCELLENT. WE REACH THE CULMINATION OF OUR MONTHS AND YEARS OF SUBTERFUGE.

OUR EFFORTS HAVE RUINED ECONOMIES, OVERTHROWN GOVERNMENTS--

--PLUNGED THE WORLD INTO CHAOS!

NOW, WE ARE READY FOR THE MASTER STROKE THAT WILL BRING THE LEADERS OF ALL NATIONS TO THEIR KNEES!

WHEN WE ARE FINISHED, KOBRA SHALL RULE A WORLD.

GO, THEN, AND DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AS A WEAK WINTER SUN WASHES THE DRAB GRAY WALLS OF WASHINGTON, D.C., AND ITS SURROUNDING SUBURBS...

...DEEP IN THE TOP SECURITY SUB-BASEMENT OF THE PENTAGON--

--A PENSIVE CAPTAIN DIANA PRINCE SITS BEFORE A LIMITED-ACCESS COMPUTER TERMINAL, TRYING TO UNRAVEL A MYSTERY.

I'VE PUNCHED IN A DESCRIPTION OF THAT MAN I SAW WATCHING PRISCILLA RICH'S FUNERAL, BUT I CAN'T MAKE ANY SENSE OUT OF THE COMPUTER'S RESPONSE...

SECURITY ACCESS LEVEL ONE ONLY
SEE: KOBRA FILE DOD NO. 3L214
REFERENCE: CARLSBAD CAVERNS PROJECT
SUB. REFERENCE: DOD NO. 3L215
UNITED NATIONS CLEARANCE
VIS. TRACY

--HEY, WAKE UP, SLEEPING BEAUTY, I'VE BEEN TALKING TO YOU FOR TWO MINUTES.

ETTA! I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN.

IS THERE TROUBLE AT THE OFFICE?



THE FLASH™ MEETS THE BUREAUC-RAT

A MYSTERIOUS RED TAPE
GRINDS THE CITY TO A HALT.

ONCE A CITY TRAFFIC OFFICIAL,
BUREAUC-RAT PLOTS REVENGE ON A
CITY THAT CUT HIM OUT OF THE BUDGET.

MY "RED-TAPE" RAY
GUN WILL SLOW
THINGS DOWN SO
MUCH THEY'LL HAVE
TO LISTEN TO ME.
AND I'LL TAKE
OVER THE CITY!!!

NOW THE CITY IS
RUNNING AT MY SPEED,
THE ONLY ONE STANDING
IN MY WAY IS THE FLASH.

THE ONLY
WAY TO STOP
BUREAUC-RAT
IS TO THROW
OFF HIS TIMING.

HERE,
BUREAUC-RAT
YOU CAN'T
CATCH ME...
...SO CATCH
THESE!

REAL FRUIT FILLING! APPLE! AND
CHERRY! LIGHT, TENDER CRUST, TOO.
THESE HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES HAVE
GOOD TASTE ALL WRAPPED UP.

I KNEW I
COULD CATCH
YOU WITH
THE PROPER
DISTRACTION!

CAN'T TALK,
FLASH--I'M
ALL TIED
UP!

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

SOMETIMES IT HAPPENS THIS WAY: A PROBLEM, A PUZZLE, CLAIMS YOUR FULL ATTENTION, AND THE DAY SLIPS AWAY LIKE SAND THROUGH AN HOURGLASS...

AND STILL, DIANA PRINCE REMAINS AT HER DESK, A NETWORK OF NOTES AND DOODLES FORMING ON THE PAD BEFORE HER.

MORNING ENDS,
AFTERNOON DARKENS
TO EARLY EVENING.

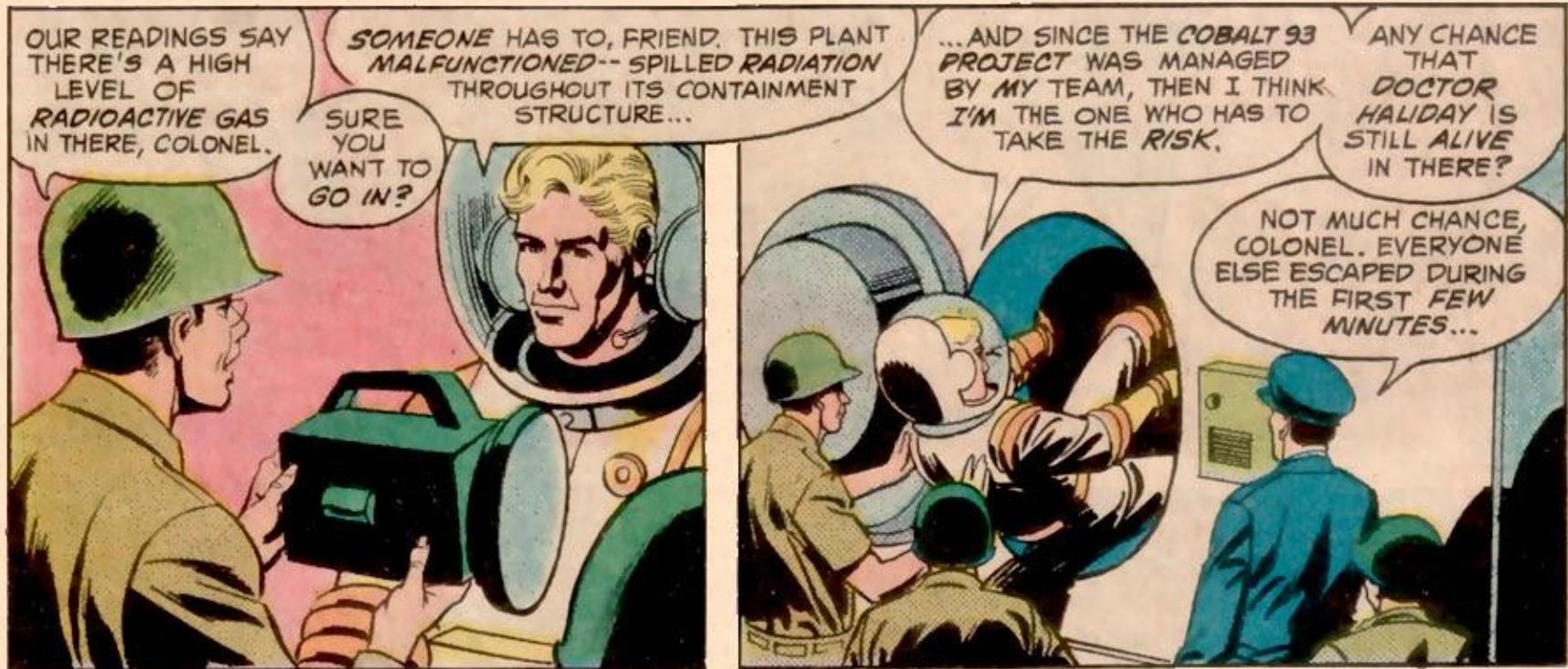
MOUNTPEAK POINT IS A SMALL, SEASHORE COMMUNITY ON THE VIRGINIA COAST.

SINCE THE LATE 1950S, IT'S BEEN THE SIGHT OF A GOVERNMENT RESEARCH PROJECT DEALING WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY.

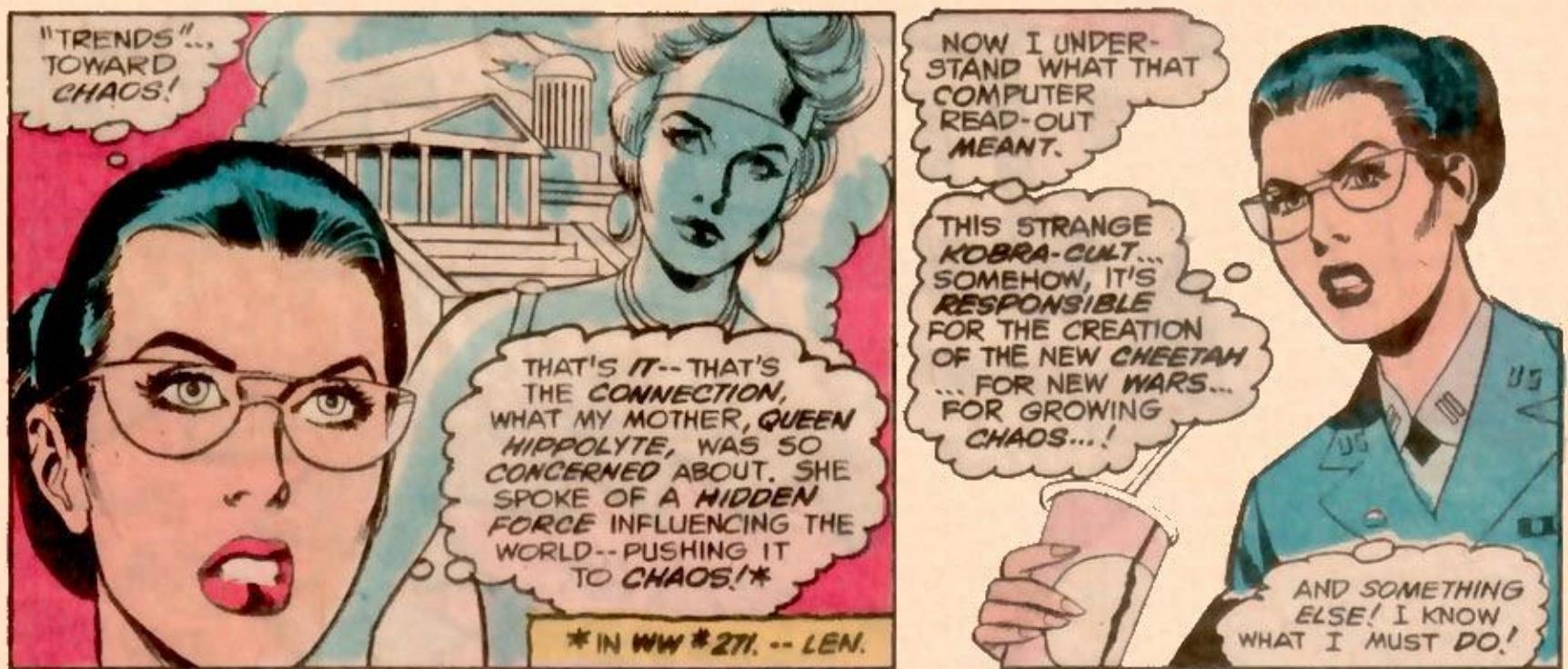
THERE, COLONEL TREVOR. THIS SUIT SHOULD PROTECT YOU FROM HARD RADIATION WHILE YOU'RE IN THE CONTAINMENT BUILDING.

EARLY THIS PAST MORNING, SOMETHING WENT WRONG AT MOUNTPEAK POINT.

STEVE TREVOR HAS COME HERE TO FIND OUT WHAT.







CONTINUED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING.

WHEN I DEFEATED THE CARTEL, I SUSPECTED THAT THERE WAS SOME OTHER ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING IT IN THE BACKGROUND.*

RIGHT AFTER THAT, I RETURNED TO PARADISE ISLAND AND NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO INVESTIGATE THE CARTEL'S ORIGIN.

NOW, MY INTUITION TELLS ME -- AND THE EVIDENCE INDICATES--

-- THAT THIS KOBRA CULT WAS BEHIND THE CARTEL FROM THE BEGINNING!

WHAT SORT OF MONSTROUS CULT IS THIS? WHY ARE THEY PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL CHAOS?

AND WHAT ARE THEY PLANNING TO DO NEXT?

I'LL FIND MY ANSWERS AT CARLSBAD CAVERNS!

*WW #268. --LEN.

DIANA?

FUNNY. ONE OF THE RESTAURANT WORKERS TOLD ME HE SAW A WOMAN IN AN AIR FORCE CAPTAIN UNIFORM COME BACK HERE... BUT IF IT WAS DIANA, THERE'S NO SIGN OF HER NOW.

NO PA
NO LO

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MY ROOMMATE, ANYWAY?

THE WAY SHE'S BEEN BEHAVING LATELY...

APPROXIMATELY TWENTY MINUTES LATER, AND HALF A CONTINENT WEST OF WASHINGTON, DC...

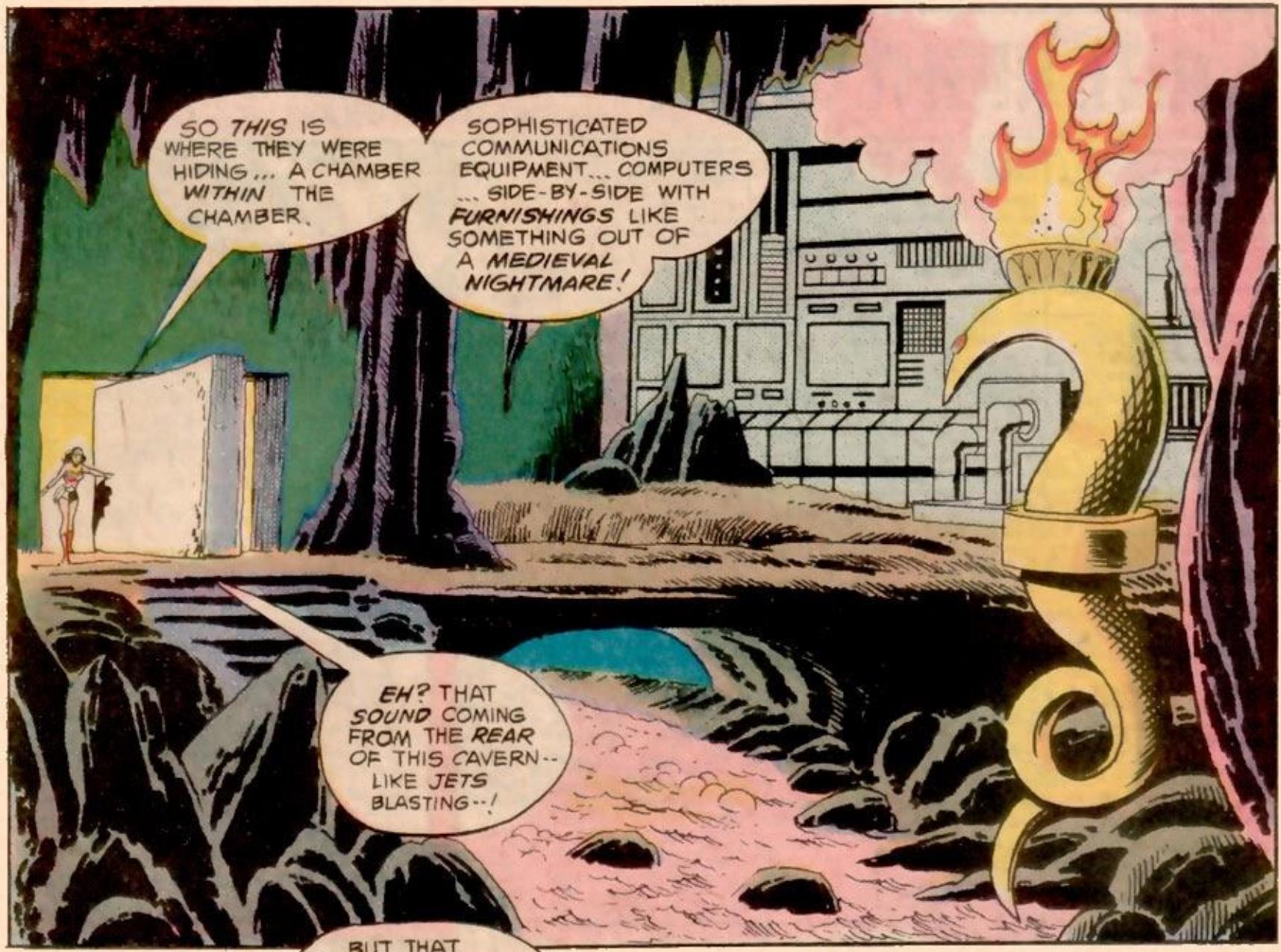
CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK.

I WONDER WHAT I'LL DISCOVER HERE?

AN ANSWER TO ONE PUZZLE... OR CLUES TO ANOTHER?

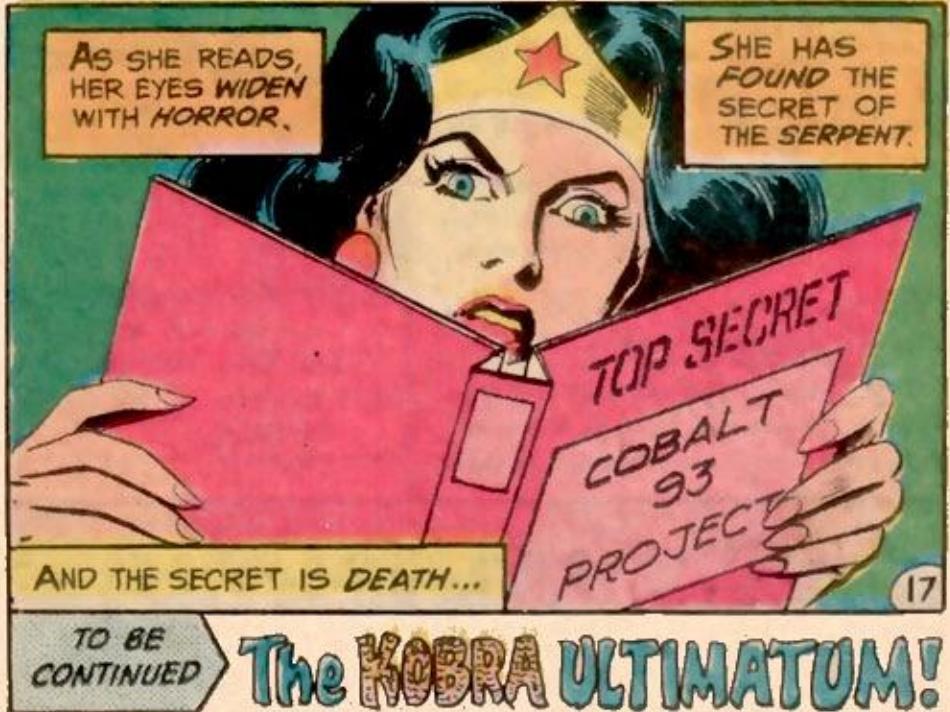
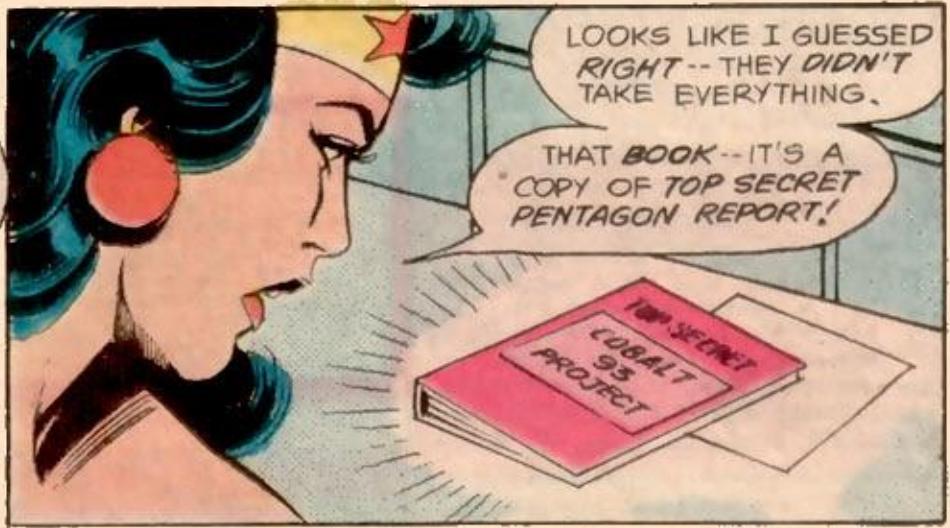






...BUT THAT MIGHT MEAN THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE EVERYTHING WITH THEM.

IF ONLY I'D ARRIVED A FEW MINUTES EARLIER, I MIGHT HAVE CAUGHT THEM ALL!



JOURNEY NOW TO AN UNFAMILIAR WORLD... NOT THE ONE WHERE THE HEROES OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE STAND PROUD--BUT EARTH-TWO, WHERE HELENA WAYNE CARRIES ON HER FATHER'S MISSION BY FIGHTING CRIME AS...

THE HUNTRESS

Guest-Starring
POWER
GIRL

SUSPEND A PARTICLE OF DUST IN MID-AIR, WATCH IT DRIFT GENTLY IN AN EVER-DOWNWARD SPIRAL... A PEACEFUL, NATURAL PROCESS RESULTING FROM GRAVITY.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARRY SIMS WISHES HE WAS A PARTICLE OF DUST RIGHT NOW, BECAUSE THEN HE WOULDN'T BE FALLING AT QUITE SUCH A CATASTROPHIC PACE!

YEEEOOW!

EASY, SIMS--
FOR A MAN WHO JUST
LEAPED OUT A WINDOW,
YOU'RE AWFUL LUCKY!

YOU HAVE
HIM, POWER GIRL?

NO SWEAT,
HUNTRESS.

A FRIEND IN NEED

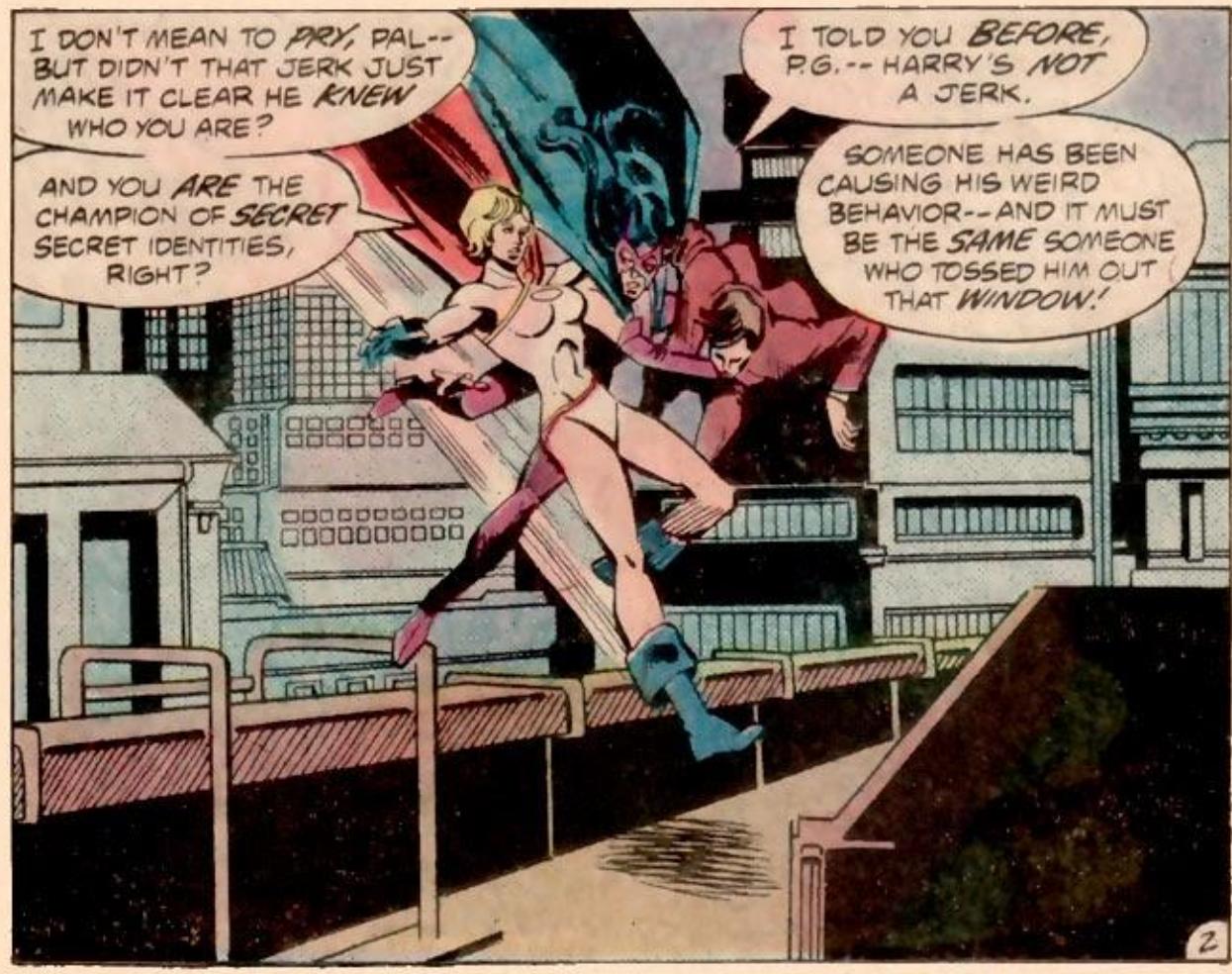
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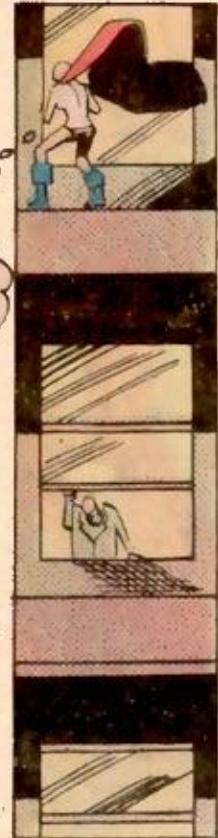
STEVE MITCHELL • Inker

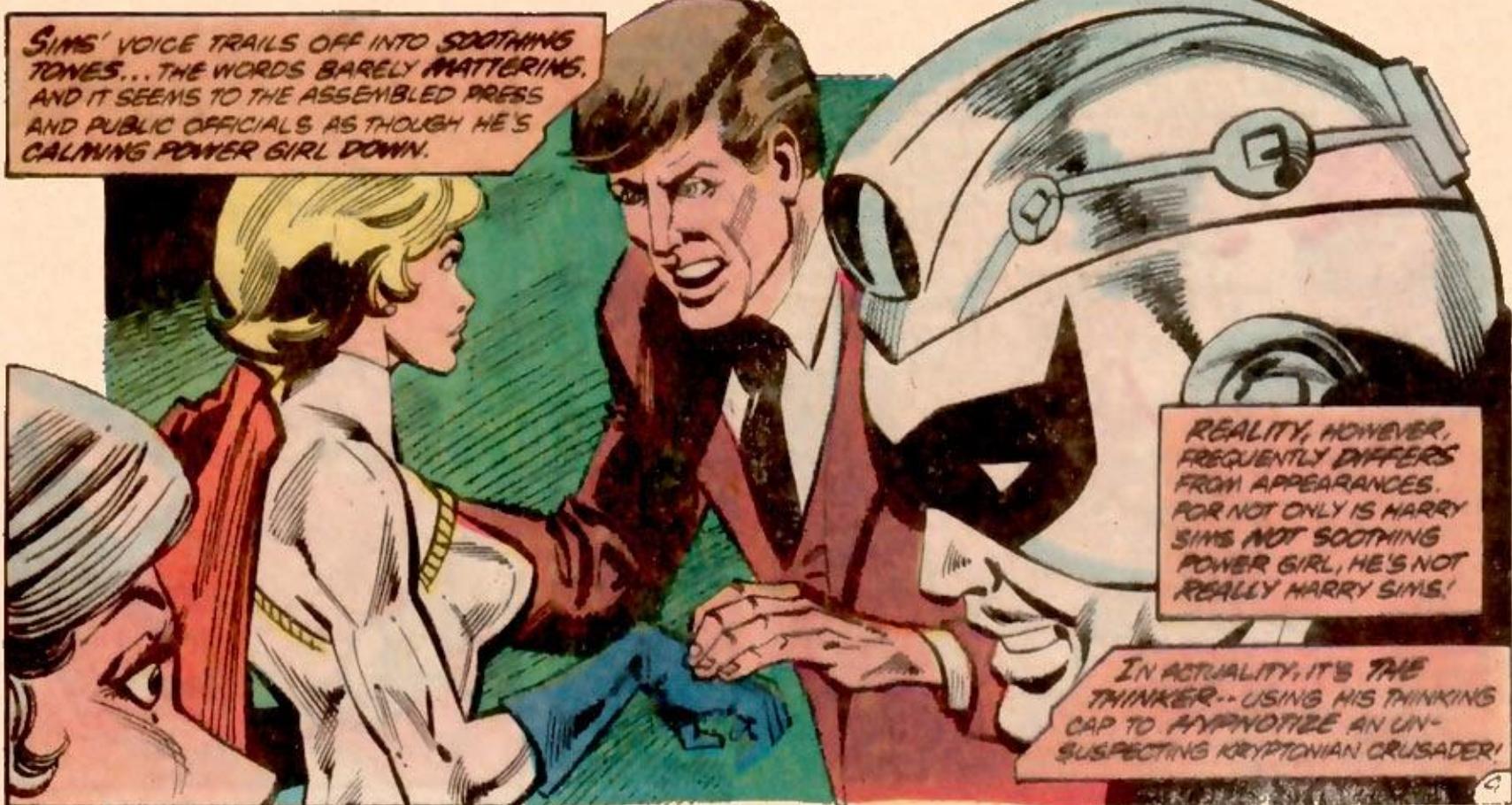
ADRIENNE
Colorist

COSTANZA
Letterer

LEN WEIN
Editor







WHILE AT THE LAW OFFICES OF CRANSTON, GRAYSON AND WAYNE, PEACE AND QUIET REIGNS...

...UNLESS THE GENTLE SOUND OF TEARS COUNTS AS A DISTURBANCE!

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE.

I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT.

HE'S WRECKING MY LIFE.

I'M GOING TO BREAK DOWN TOTALLY IF I DON'T GET SOME HELP SOMEWHERE... SOMEHOW!

BUT NO ONE HERE WOULD BOTHER TO HELP... UNLESS... MAYBE...

MAYBE MS. WAYNE WILL LISTEN, JUST BETWEEN US.

WAYNE

TAP TAP

I HATE TO TELL ANYONE HERE, BUT SHE UNDERSTANDS WHAT IT IS TO BE A WOMAN WORKING YOUR WAY ALONE IN THE --

--WORLD. OH NO.

SLAM

SHE DIDN'T HEAR ME KNOCK! AND AFTER INTERRUPTING HER WHILE SHE'S WITH A MAN-- LIKE THAT--

--OH LORD, SHE'LL NEVER LISTEN TO ME NOW!





P.G. DOESN'T
KNOW WHAT SHE'S
DOING, BUT SHE
CAN STILL BREAK
ME IN TWO--

--AND PROBABLY WILL,
IF I DON'T MOVE FAST!
BUT HOW?

WAITASEC--THAT'S IT!
THE THINKER'S HELMET
IS THE REAL PROBLEM!

SO LET ME TRY A JUDO
FLIP USING P.G.'S
STRENGTH AGAINST
HER--

AND AS A FOG
SUDDENLY CLEARS...

YEP. AND YOUR
APOLOGY IS
ACCEPTED,
IN ADVANCE.

WELL, CAN'T CHANGE THE
PAST AND ALL THAT--

HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE
CARE OF EXPLAINING
THIS TO THE PEOPLE
WHO ARE POUNDING
ON THE DOOR, P.G.?

I HAVE TO SEE A
MAN ABOUT AN
IDENTITY CRISIS...

...AND THAT'S
SOMETHING I HAVE
TO HANDLE ALONE!

SKRUNCH

--BUT I THINK
I MADE SURE
IT'LL NEVER
HAPPEN AGAIN!

NEXT ISSUE:
**"SECRETS,
SECRETS
EVERYWHERE!"**
ON SALE DEC. 11TH! 8



Wonder Words

DC COMICS, INC. 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Len,

While I'm not sure I agree with reader Phil Brierly's statement that 1980 is going to be a banner year for *Wonder Woman*, I have to say that #271 is definitely continuing the increase in quality shown in the last few issues of this magazine. It started off the right way with a dynamic cover by Andru and Giordano, one which had a mesmerizing effect that previous covers didn't.

The lead story, "Renewal on Paradise Island", was pleasant. It wasn't too overpowering, though it did prove to be a turning point in Princess Diana's life, and yet the flawless characterizations of Diana, Hippolyte and Aphrodite made it really stand out. The interludes were intriguing and made me wonder. If this suffering, war, and hatred is all the work of a "creator" as Hippolyte stated on page 11, could that creator be Mars? Or is this villain even more ruthless than the god of war?

The reluctance of Diana to play in the tournament was an understandable twist, but the tournament itself didn't do much for me. After all, it's only been 21 issues since the last tournament. But it was nice seeing Cleo and Artesia playing important roles again. I've said it before and I'll repeat myself now: *Wonder Woman* needs some friends on Paradise Island and these two Amazons seem like the ideal ones. Keep using them in future issues.

As for Steve Trevor...I've resigned myself to the idea that he'll be playing an important part in future issues. If Gerry can improve upon his characterization and if Steve doesn't become the only supporting character in the book, I'll be content.

The Huntress makes a fantastic back-up feature for *Wonder Woman*, possibly because she is so unlike WW—mysterious, independent, worldly-wise. "Into Darkness Once More" was a good tale. The plot was handled smoothly and the return of Solomon Grundy was effective. It's ironic, since *Wonder Woman* has been around for forty years and the Huntress only four, that Helena Wayne has the better supporting cast. I hope Paul Levitz puts them to good use in future issues. As for the art by Joe Staton and Steve Mitchell—very nice.

One last comment: I don't think the letter pages are the place for the spotlights of other upcoming mags. That's what the *Daily Planet* pages are for. Of course, if you had no other good letters on the issue

CHUCK SMALL
2457 Bow Court
South Bend, IN 46628

We had plenty of other letters, Chuck, just as we have this time around. But with the "exile" of the *Daily Planet* to only one magazine per month (*SUPERMAN FAMILY* alternating with *WORLD'S FINEST*), there was nowhere else to mention all the other books Len and company are working on. Besides, some of the space that "Len's Line-Up" takes up used to be filled with the larger-sized masthead for this page.

As far as the mysterious "creator", no, it isn't Mars. But our next correspondent has caught the snake by the tail!—TPS

Dear Len,

Could you do me a favor and lend me the Mists of Napalm or whatever you call them so I could forget *WONDER WOMAN* #271? Come on, you and I both know that some fill-in writer will forget the Mists and have someone remember that this is the third Steve Trevor/Howard/Trevor, and then all theoretical heck will break loose. I don't care if the Mists did make everyone on Earth-1 forget Steve, we—a couple of hundred thousand readers—won't, and that will make the whole old/new plot seem faked and forced and that will be a pity.

In case you've forgotten, Len, Steve Trevor was killed twice. Perhaps the editors before you felt (correctly) that Trevor is a menace to the health of *Wonder Woman*...and always will be.

Personally, I hope *Kobra* kills Trevor again. What's that? Where did I get *Kobra*? Okay, boys and girls, look at the two interludes and remember *Superman's* words in *SUPERMAN* #327: "You delight in creating disasters, which you then profit from!" The first disaster was to cover the Holy One's tracks (remember, *Kobra* likes to be called something similar to Holy) and the second gave the Holy One \$10 billion. That's a heck of a profit. Case closed. (By the way, even if I'm wrong, I hope whoever this villain is kills Trevor anyway!)

ROBERT L. HOFFMAN II

New Hyde Park, NY

You're in a class by yourself when it comes to figuring out the identities of mysterious villains, Bob—but your attitude about Steve Trevor puts you in a far-from-silent minority. Short snips from both sides of the Trevor issue follow!—TPS

Dear Editor:

WW #271 appears to have restored Steve Trevor to Diana's life once more. You once said that he would never return, I'm glad you changed your minds!

The fact that this is a new Trevor opens a multitude of possible story lines. Please don't blow it by settling into the old WW/Steve set-up of the past. This is a chance to make Steve something more than a male version of Lois Lane, someone always needing to be rescued. Perhaps he could develop a power of his own and be of value to *Wonder Woman* as some sort of junior partner or sidekick. You have laid the foundations in #271, now put your imaginations to work and make something of it!

FRED EXETER

Santa Ana, CA

....You have to be kidding! I thought we were rid of Steve Trevor permanently! Yet, here he is back again in #271. Will we never be done with him? As far as I'm concerned, there is no place in Diana's life for him any more. It's time she went on to new things, new men!

DONALD RILING JR.

2619 David Court Place
Fife, WA 98424

....Steve Trevor brought back? I can't really believe it after all that was said two years ago about him being a useless character. Still, I'm all for it. Steve can be a vital and interesting member of the series. I just hope you don't kill him off again in a few issues.

GREGG STAMEY JR.
21 Hampton Heights
Canton, NC 28716

Steve will be with us for the duration, Gregg, but we doubt he'll be gaining any super-powers as Fred suggests. Gerry plans to develop the Steve/Wonder Woman relationship on a more mature basis than before, avoiding hopefully the Superman/Lois syndrome as well as the Batman/Robin situation that would arise if Steve were to become WW's junior partner!

And that wraps up our *Wonder Words* this month, except for the thorn in Chuck Small's side, "Len's Line-Up", which follows immediately over most of these same pages!—Ted P. Skinner

LEN'S LINE-UP—FEB.

ON SALE NOVEMBER 13th

THE FLASH #284—Who is 'The Fiend That Time Forgot'? Cary Bates and Don Heck have the answer. Plus: Firestorm learns "The Typhoon is a Storm of the Soul" with Gerry Conway, Jim Starlin and Bob Wiacek.

JUSTICE LEAGUE #187—Zatanna gets a new costume when "Proteus Says: All Things Must Change!" by Gerry Conway, Don Heck and Frank McLaughlin.

WEIRD WAR TALES #96—J.M. DeMatteis and Noly Zamora are caught "Between Flesh and Fantasy"; George Kashdan and Ruben Yandoc go "Where Hatred Blooms"; Robert Kanigher and Vicatan tie a "Hangman's Knot"; and Kashdan and Tenny Henson set off "The Last Shot Fired".

TEEN TITANS #4—It's a slugfest between the *Teen Titans* and the *Justice League* by Marv Wolfman, George Perez and Romeo Tanghal.