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WOMAN

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# WONDER WOMAN

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SANDWICH!



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DIRECT SALES

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"The Fragility of the Human Race is exceeded only by its Infinite optimism concerning its Ultimate Survival." AUGUSTA WINTHROP, NOVELIST AND SPY

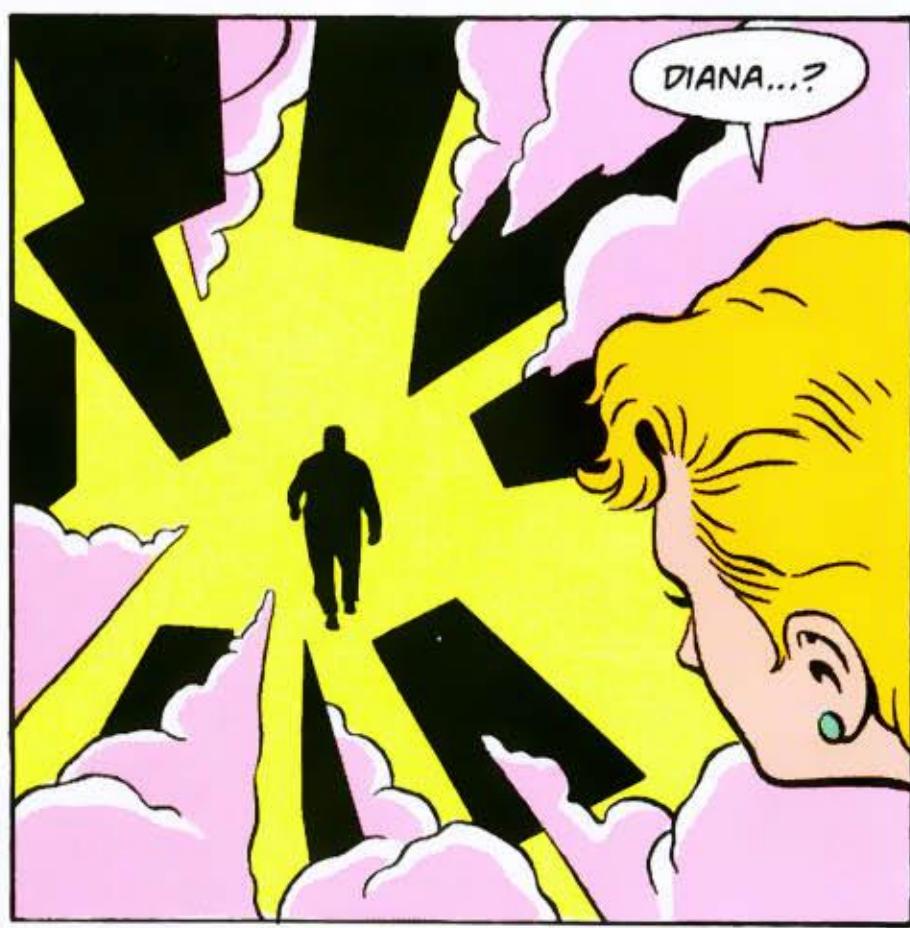
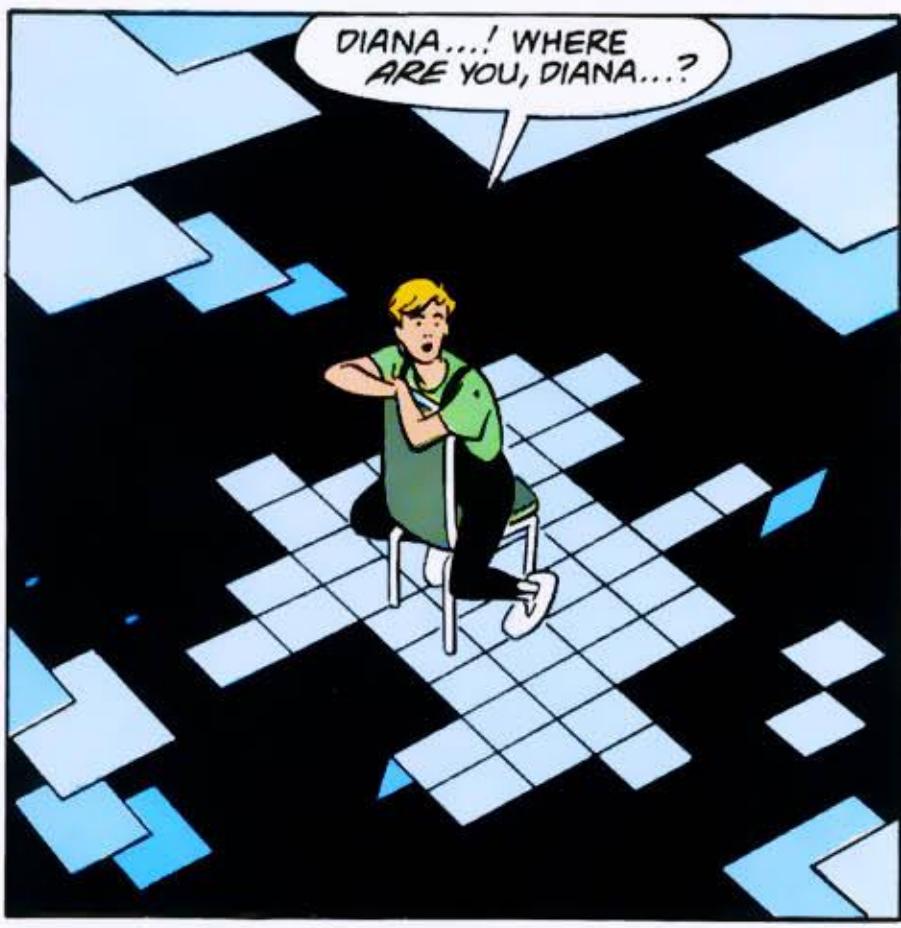
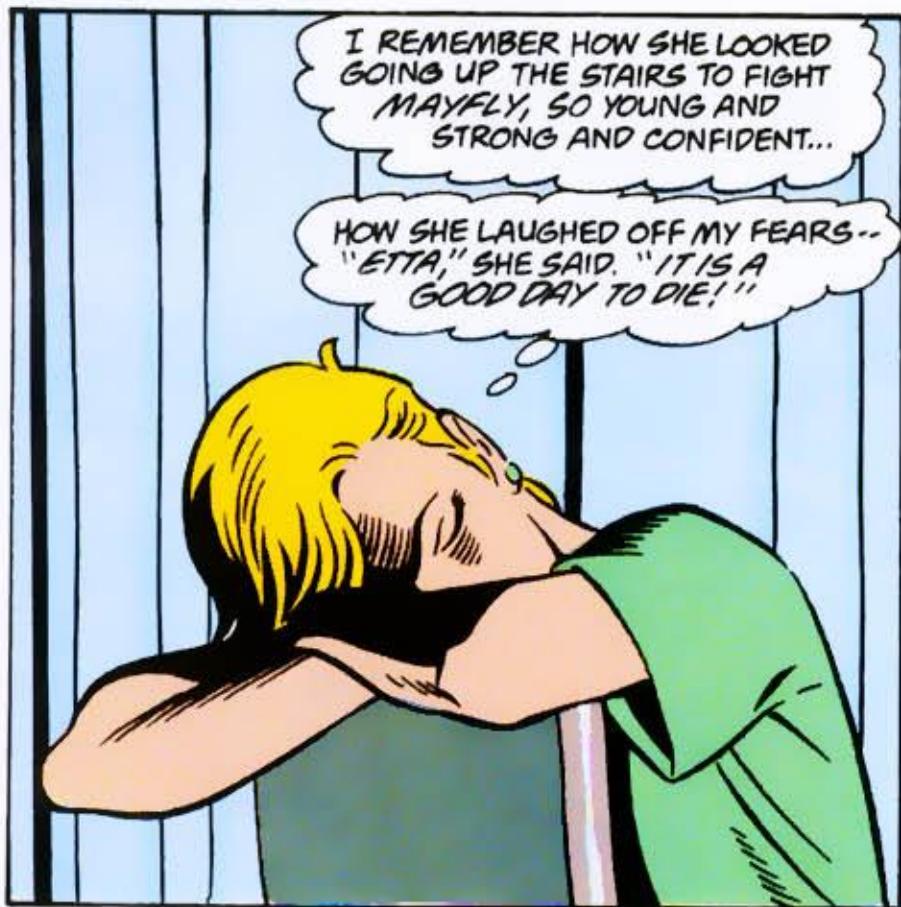
FROM THE JOURNAL OF DONNA MILTON--  
"IT'S BEEN A WEEK. THE WONDER WOMAN IS STILL ALIVE. ETTA CANDY VISITS HER EVERY DAY. GOD, I WISH SHE'D GET IT OVER WITH AND DIE. PUT US ALL OUT OF OUR MISERY..."

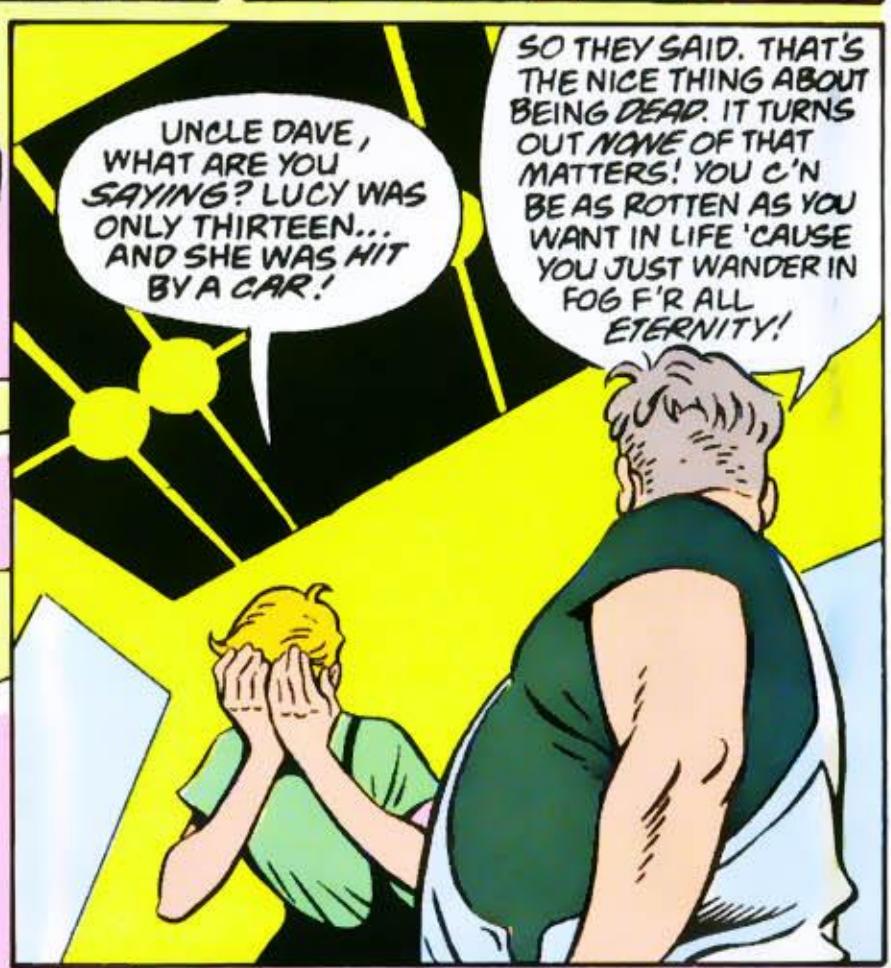
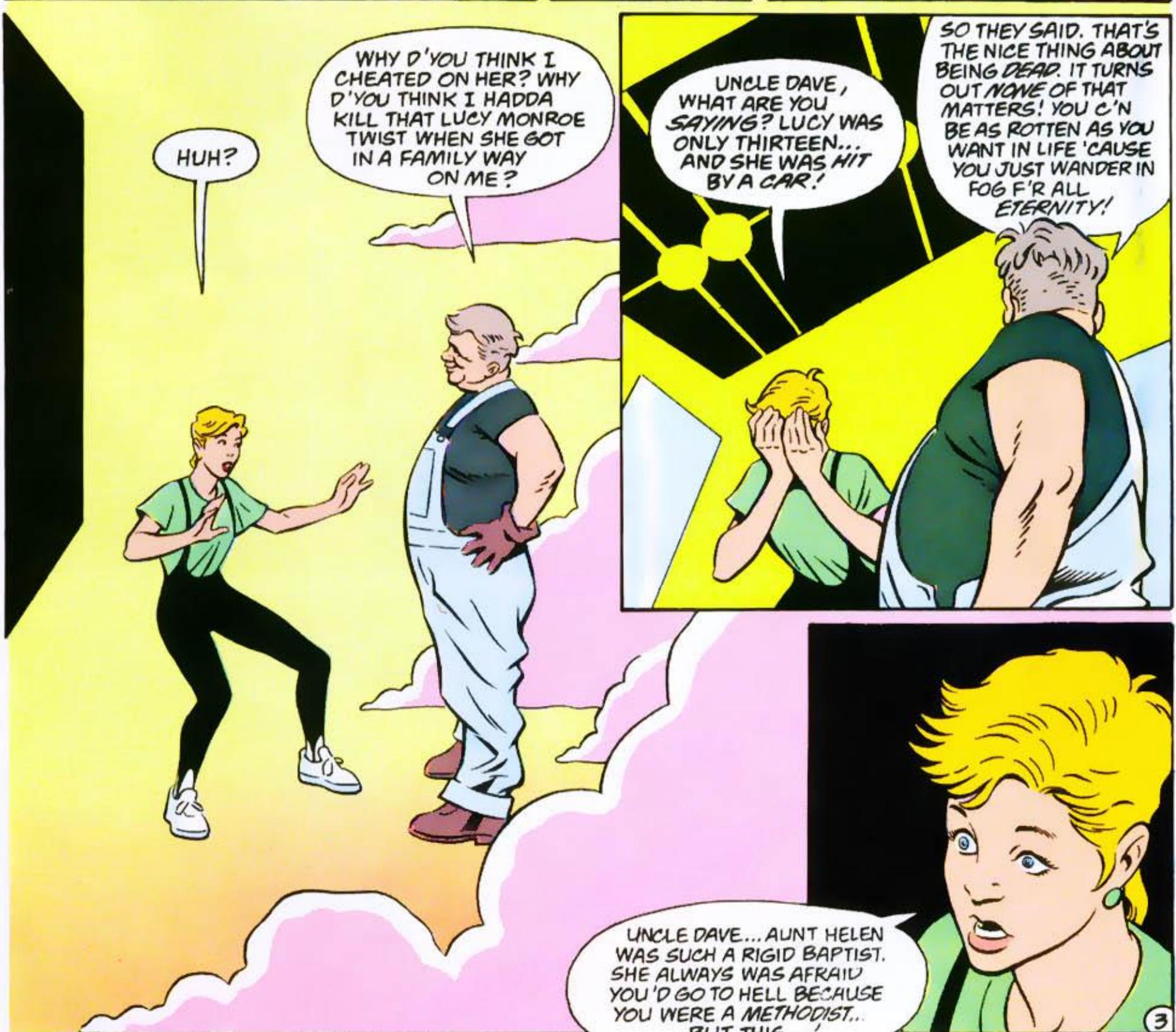
IT'S NEVER A GOOD DAY TO DYE

William Messner-Loebs ~ chief surgeon  
Steve Carr & Deryl Skelton ~ residents  
Aaron McClellan ~ head nurse  
Patricia Mulvihill ~ intern  
John Costanza ~ records clerk  
Ruben Diaz ~ candy stripper  
Brian Augustyn ~ "Ben Casey"

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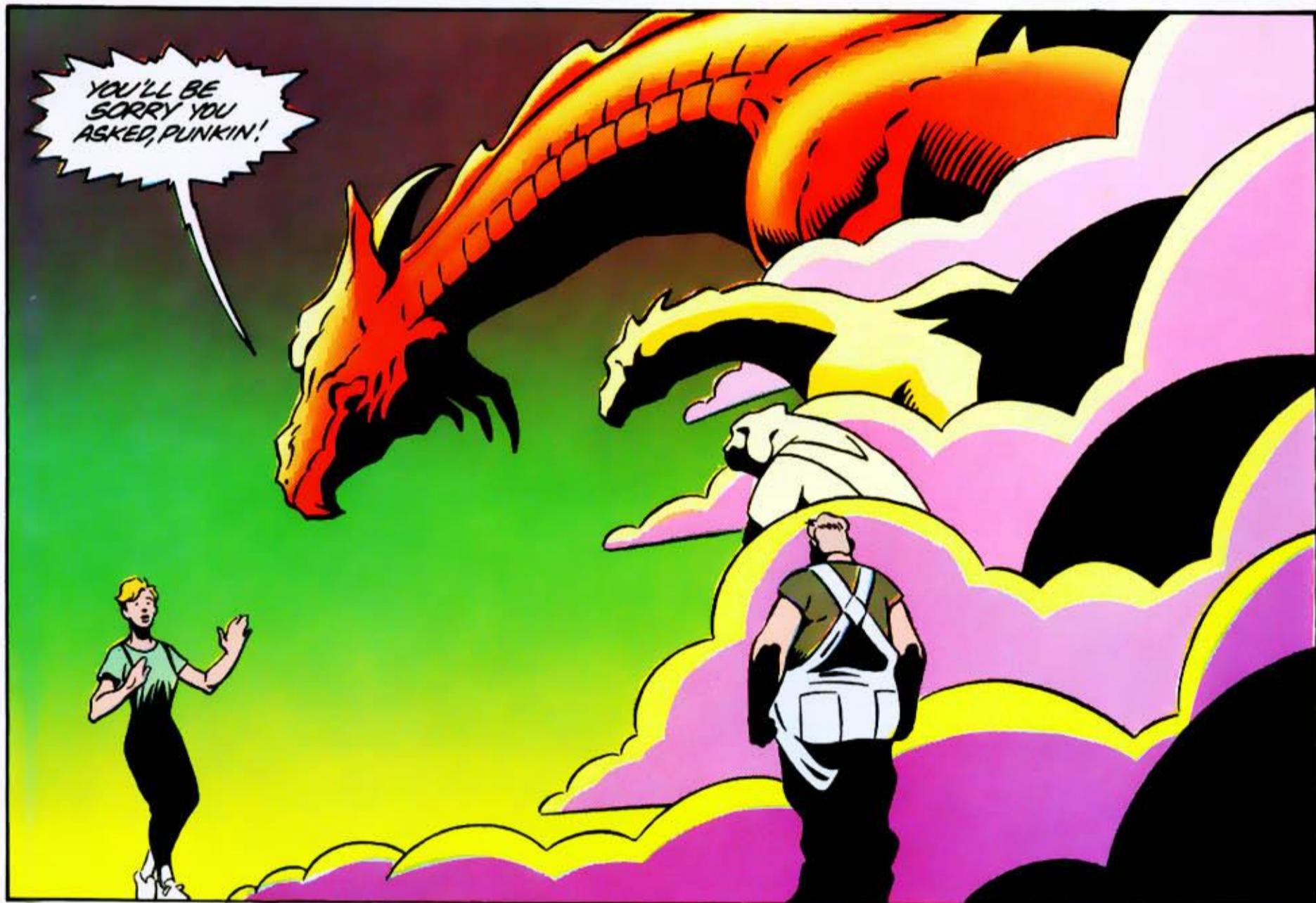
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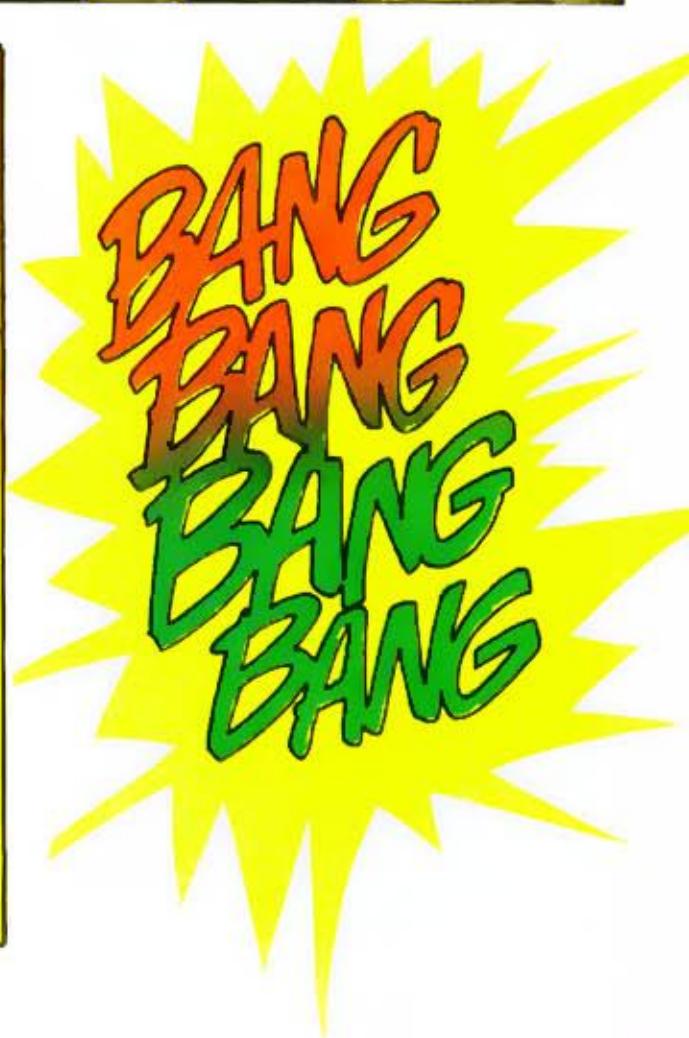
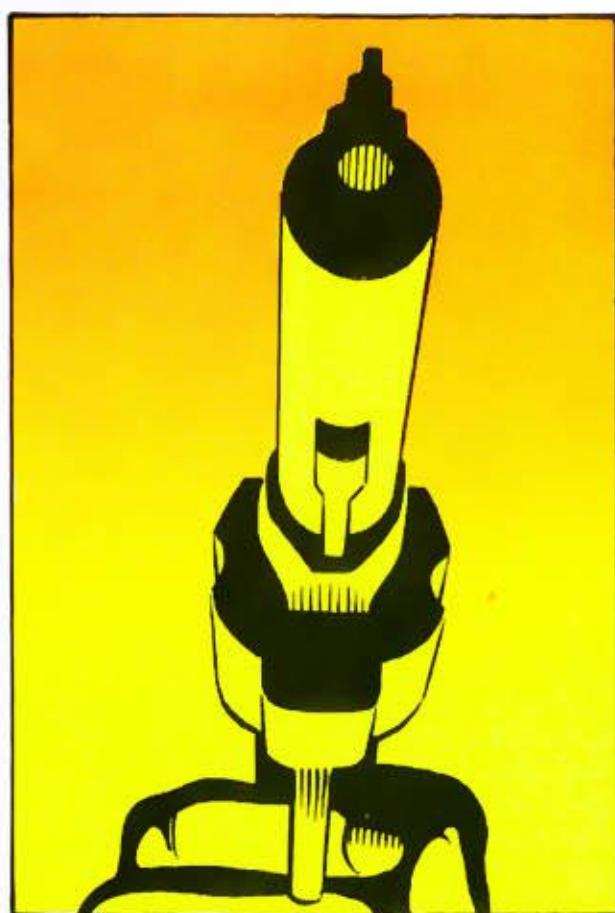
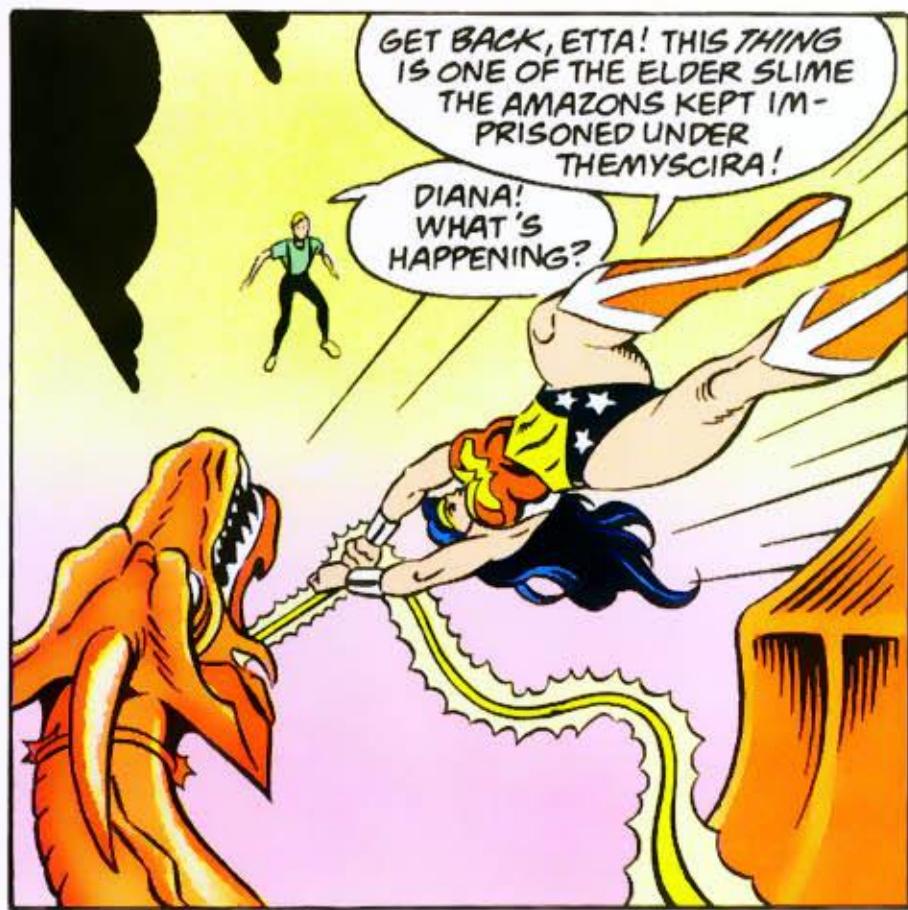


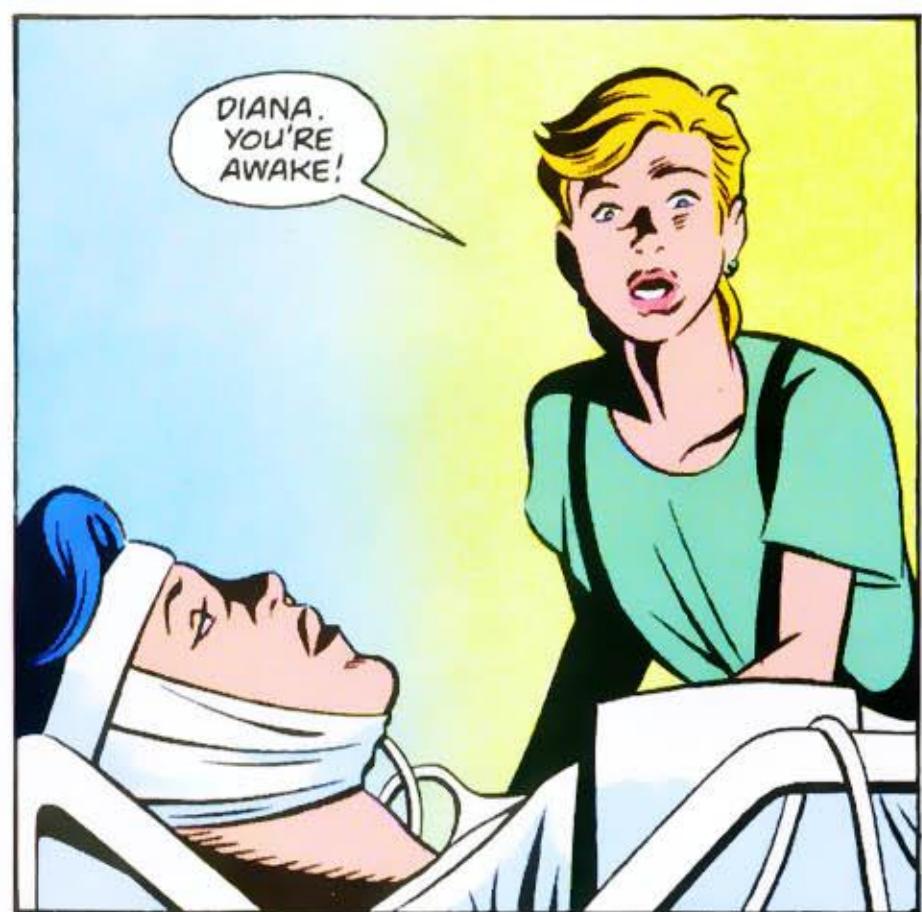


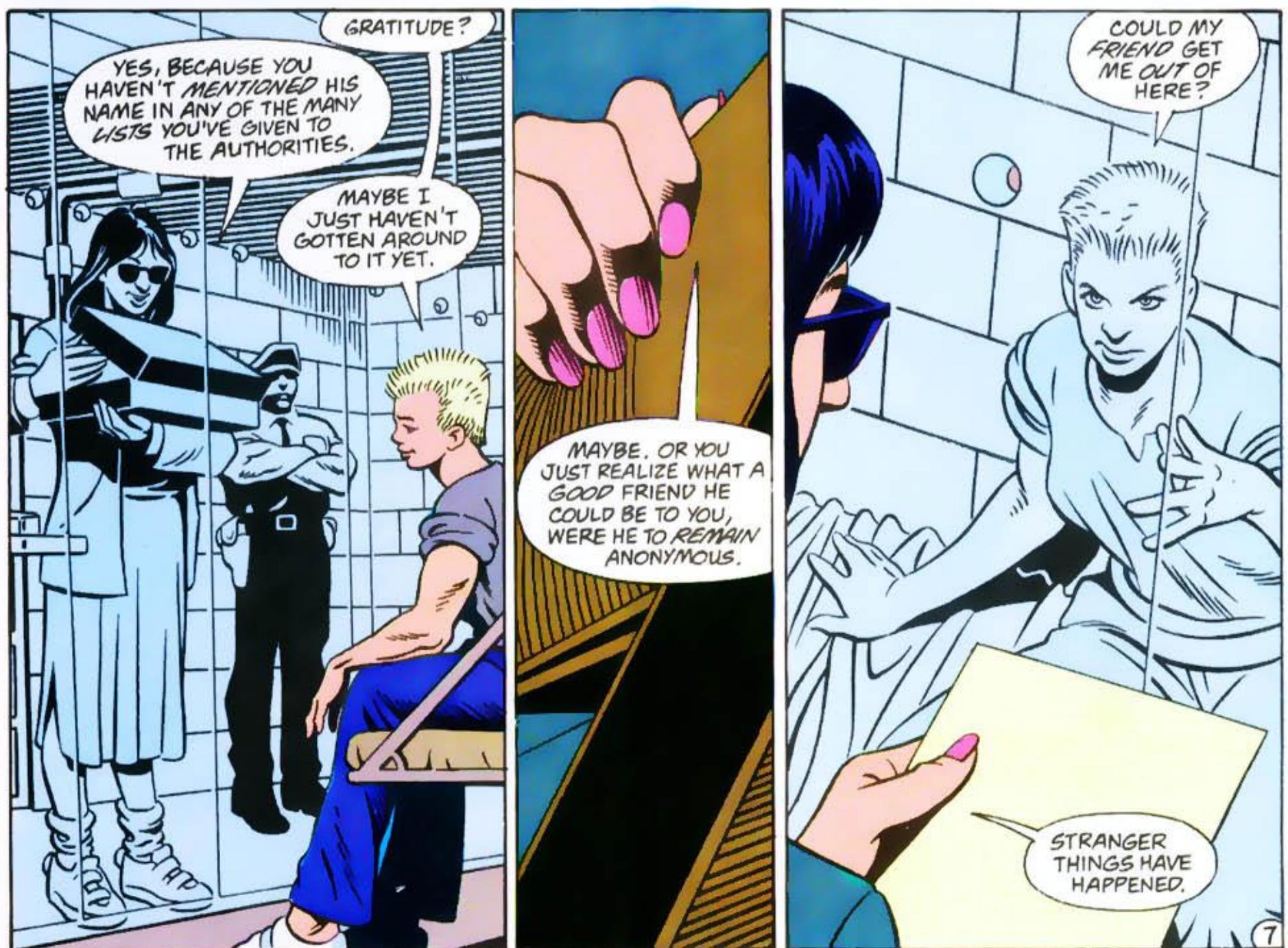
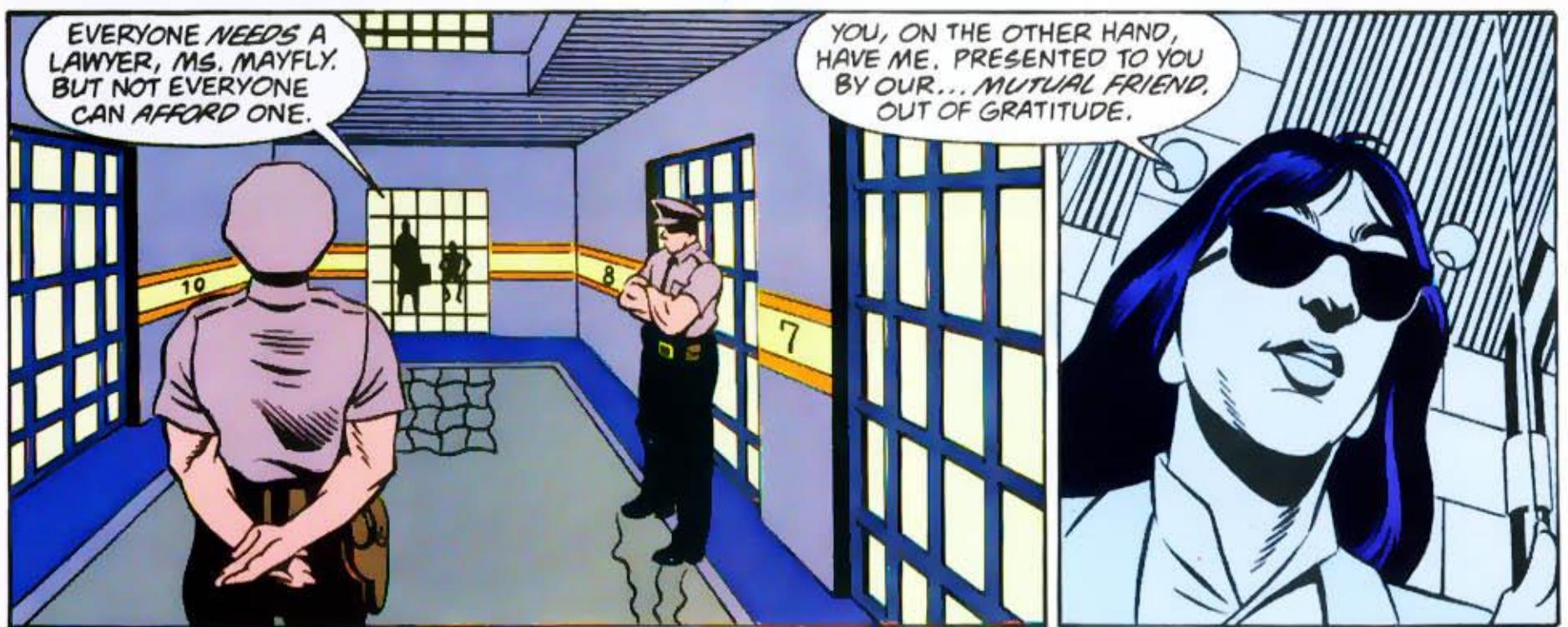
SO THEY SAID. THAT'S THE NICE THING ABOUT BEING DEAD. IT TURNS OUT NONE OF THAT MATTERS! YOU C'N BE AS ROTTEN AS YOU WANT IN LIFE 'CAUSE YOU JUST WANDER IN FOG F'R ALL ETERNITY!





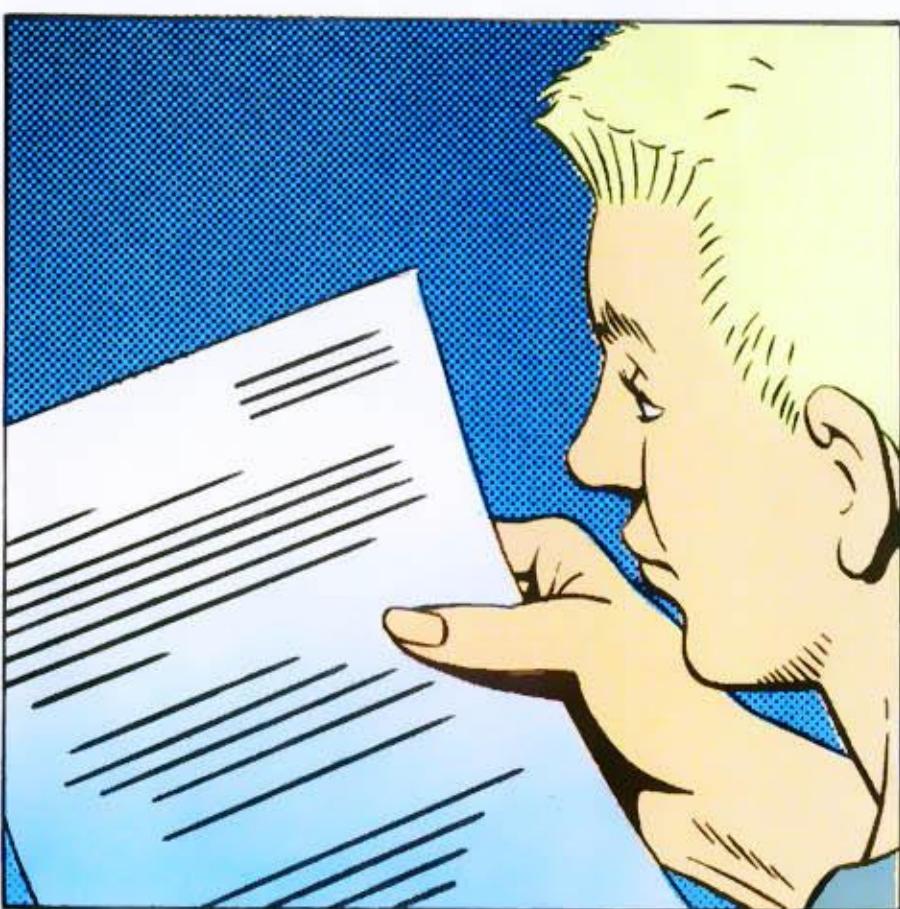


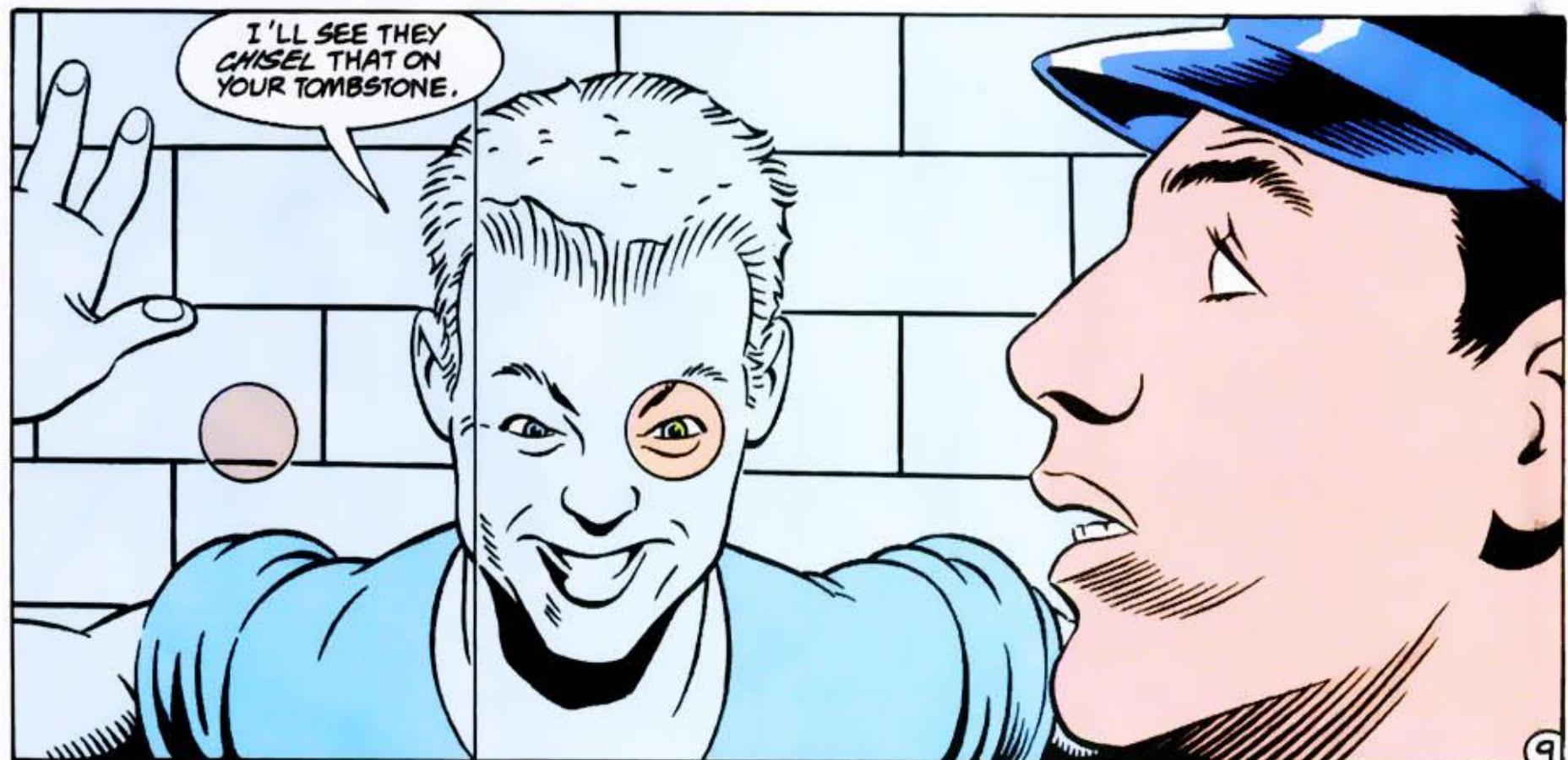
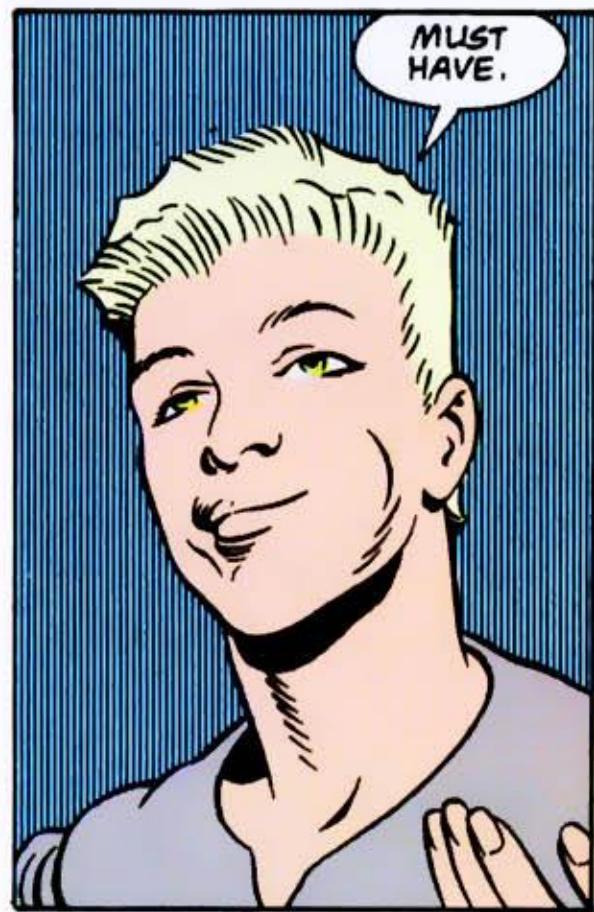


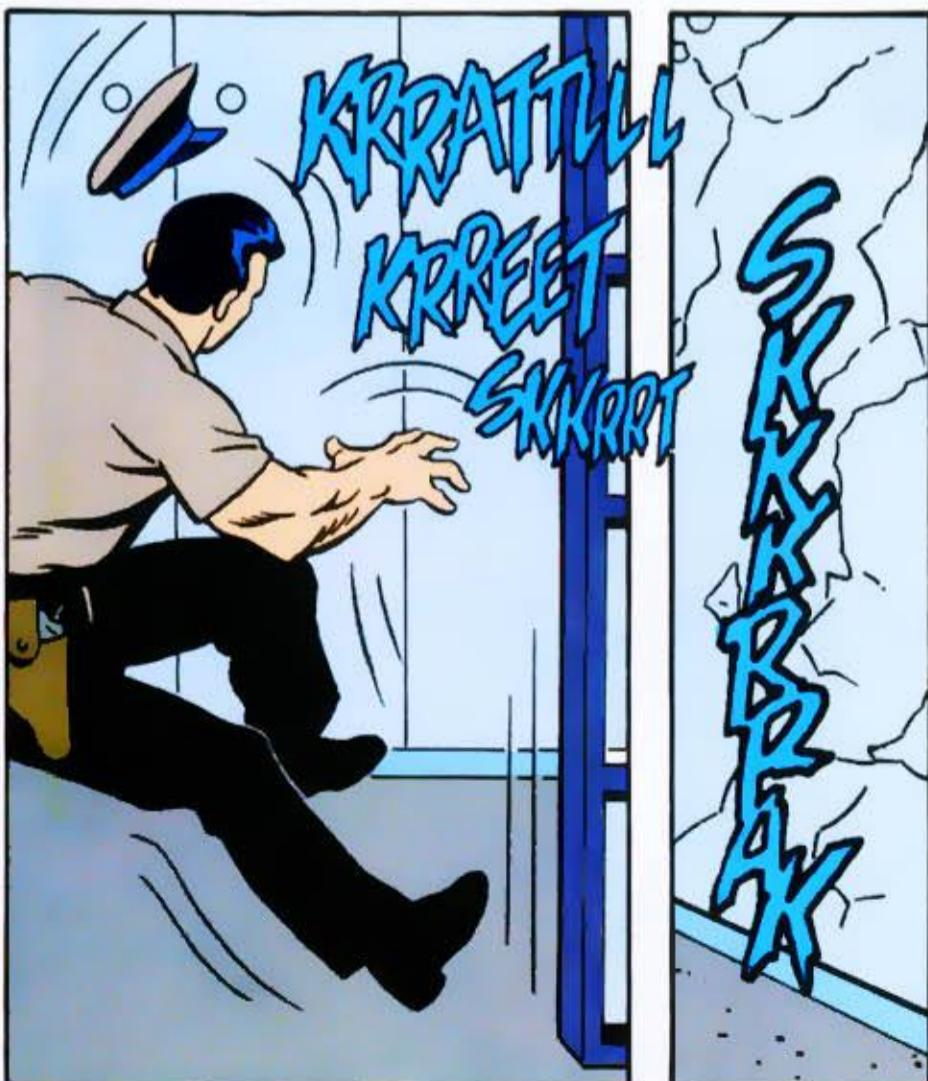


LET'S SEE... YOU'RE CHARGED WITH ALMOST A HUNDRED COUNTS OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER, THREE COUNTS OF ATTEMPTED, NUMEROUS COUNTS OF BATTERY AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY...

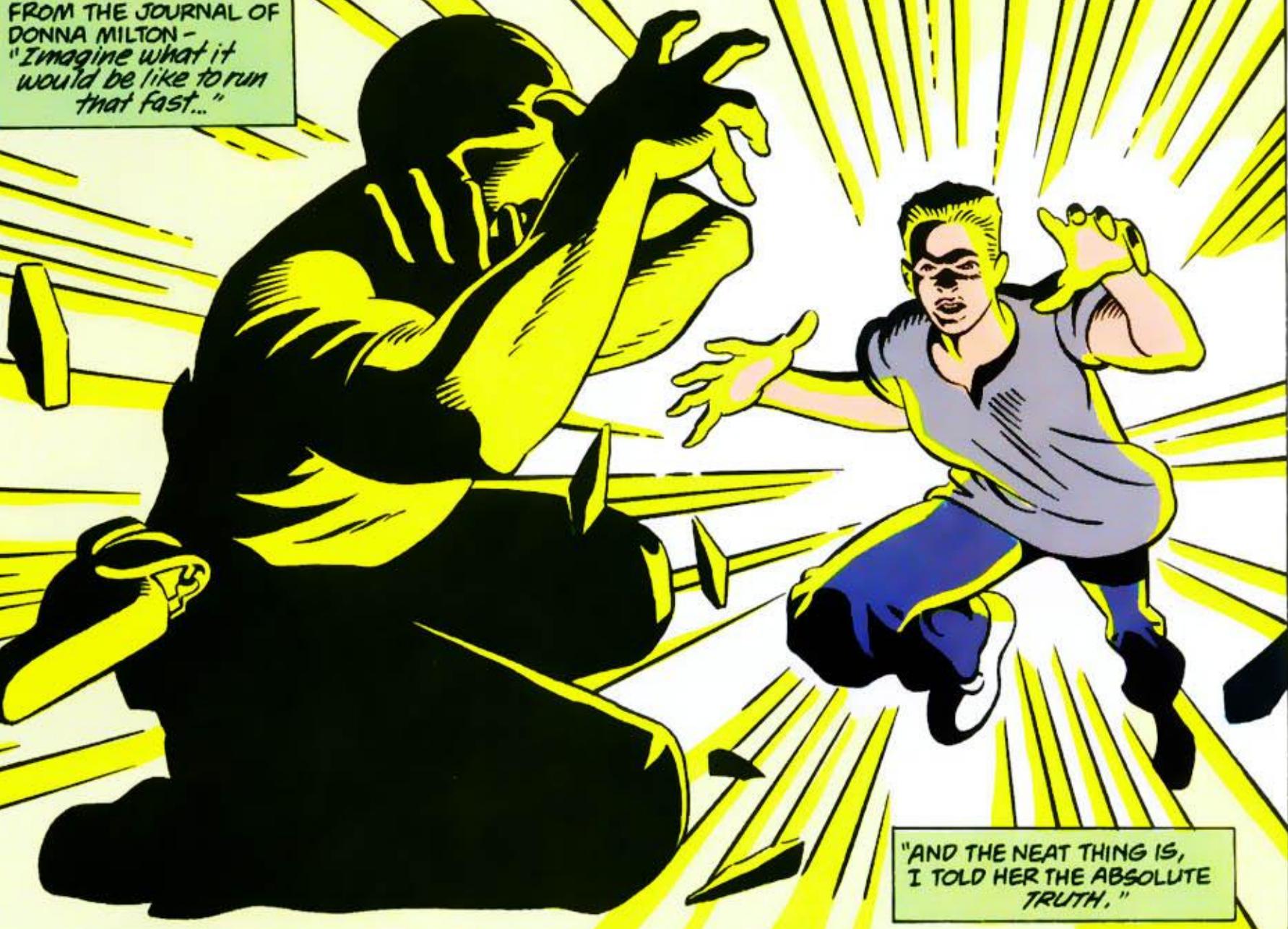
YOU'RE RICHER THAN GOD, HAVE EXTENSIVE PROPERTY HOLDINGS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, CAN RUN AT MACH 2 AND HAVE A LIBRARY OF ALIASES AND DISGUISES...







FROM THE JOURNAL OF  
DONNA MILTON -  
"Imagine what it  
would be like to run  
that fast..."



"SHE IS FASTER THAN FLASH."

"AT THIS MOMENT, SHE'S THE FASTEST  
THING ALIVE."

"DID I MENTION THE  
LACK OF CONTROL? NO."

"DID I TELL HER ABOUT  
THE CONVULSIONS?"

"DID I SAY THAT WITH  
THE SURGE OF ADRENALINE  
AND MASSIVE MUSCLE  
CONTRACTIONS SHE  
WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO  
STOP RUNNING? NO, I  
DID NOT."



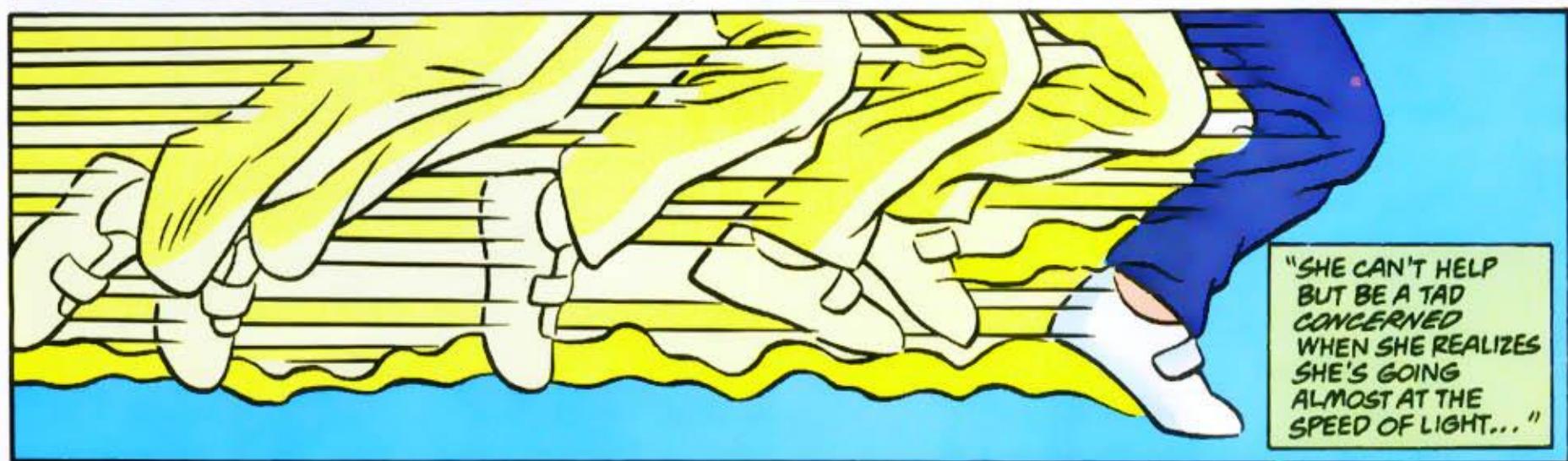
"WHOOPS, I GUESS  
I FORGOT."



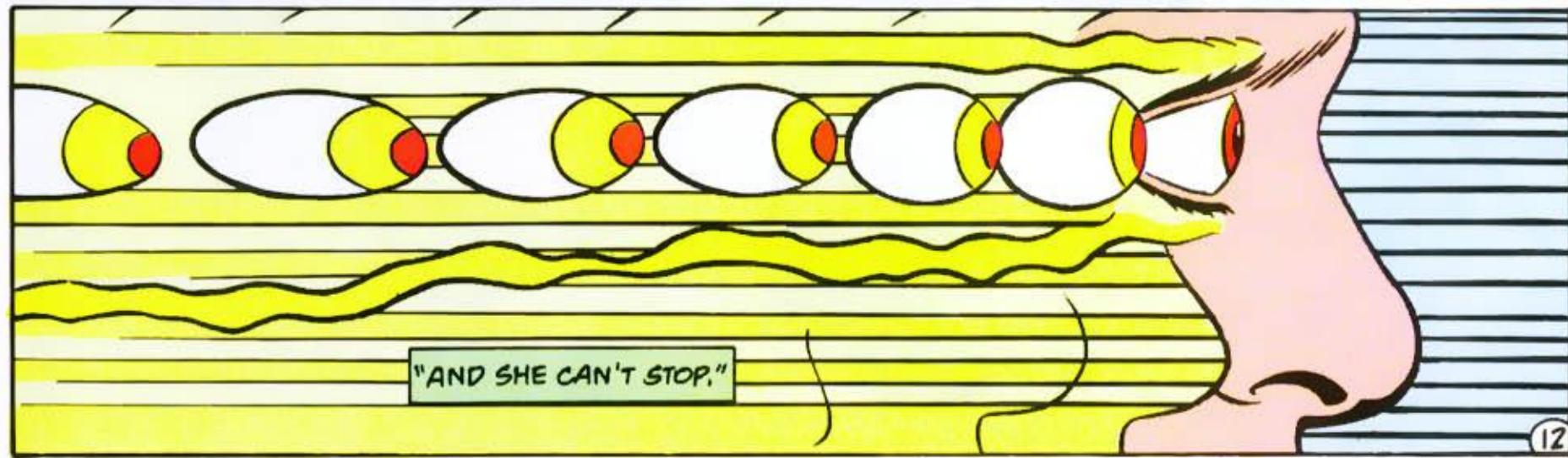
"THERE ARE ALL KINDS  
OF TRICKS SHE'LL TRY...  
ALL KINDS OF THOUGHTS  
SHE'LL THINK..."



"AFTER ALL, SHE IS A HEMOPHILIAC--  
THE SLIGHTEST BRUISE COULD BE FATAL."



"SHE CAN'T HELP  
BUT BE A TAD  
CONCERNED  
WHEN SHE REALIZES  
SHE'S GOING  
ALMOST AT THE  
SPEED OF LIGHT..."



"AND SHE CAN'T STOP."

"EVENTUALLY SHE'LL REACH  
MORTAL TERROR, BLIND  
PANIC, DESPAIR..."

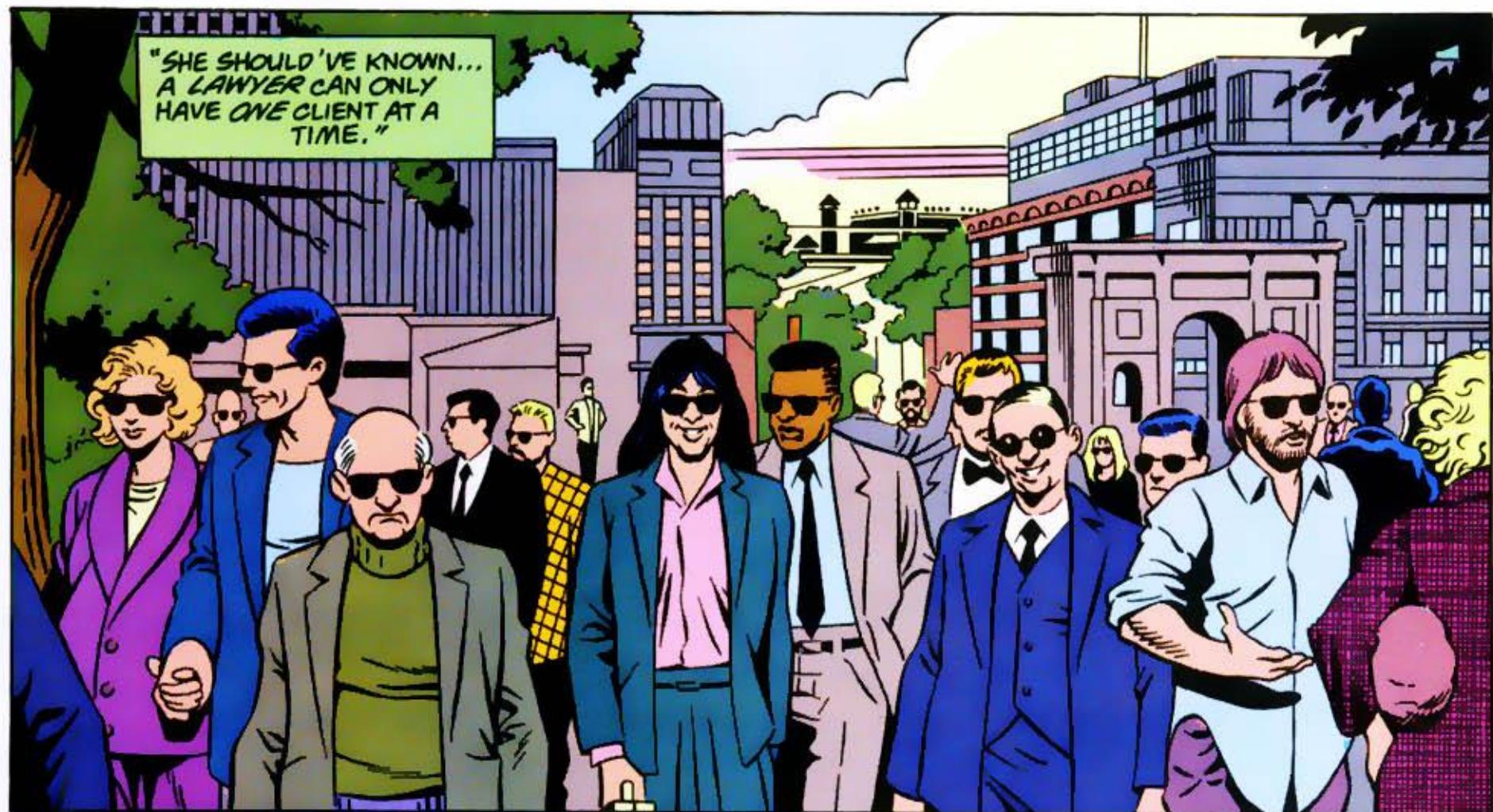
"AND SHE'LL  
MISCALCULATE,  
STUMBLE..."

"AND AT THOSE SPEEDS,  
WHEN SHE FALLS..."

"...SHE'LL FALL HARD."

CCCCCCC

"SHE SHOULD'VE KNOWN...  
A LAWYER CAN ONLY  
HAVE ONE CLIENT AT A  
TIME."



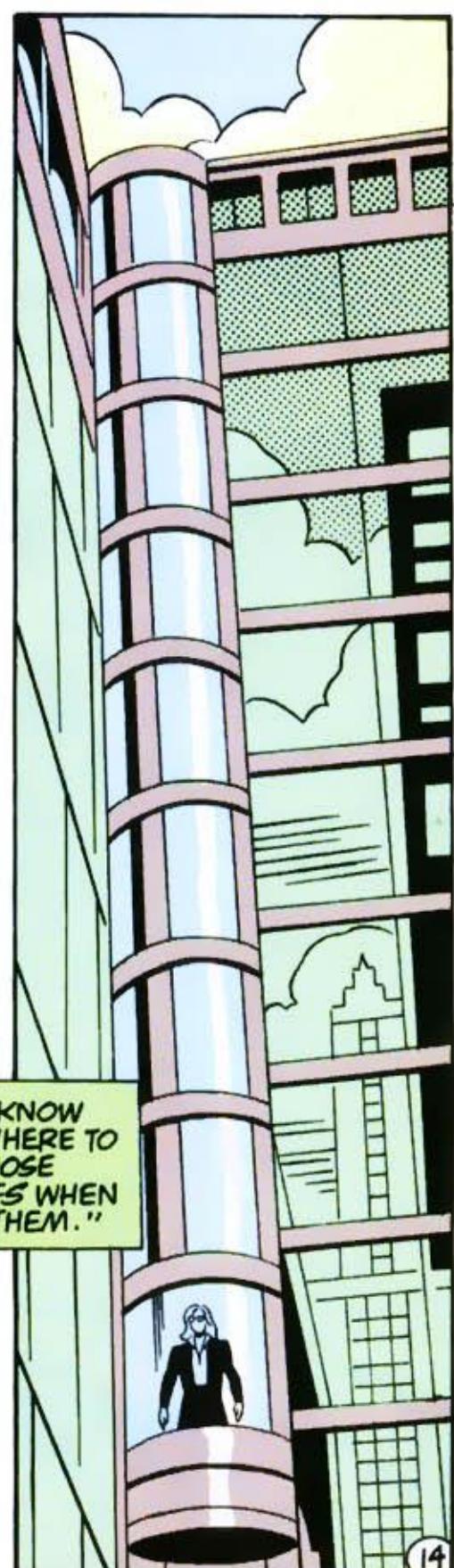
"AND MY CLIENT IS  
THE MOST TERRIBLE,  
MOST WONDERFUL  
MAN IN THE WORLD."



"THERE'S NOTHING  
HE CAN'T DO AND  
NO ONE HE CAN'T  
TOUCH."



"HE'S THE ONLY ONE  
I'VE EVER MET WHO'S  
WORTHY OF ME...  
WHO MIGHT BE MY  
SUPERIOR."

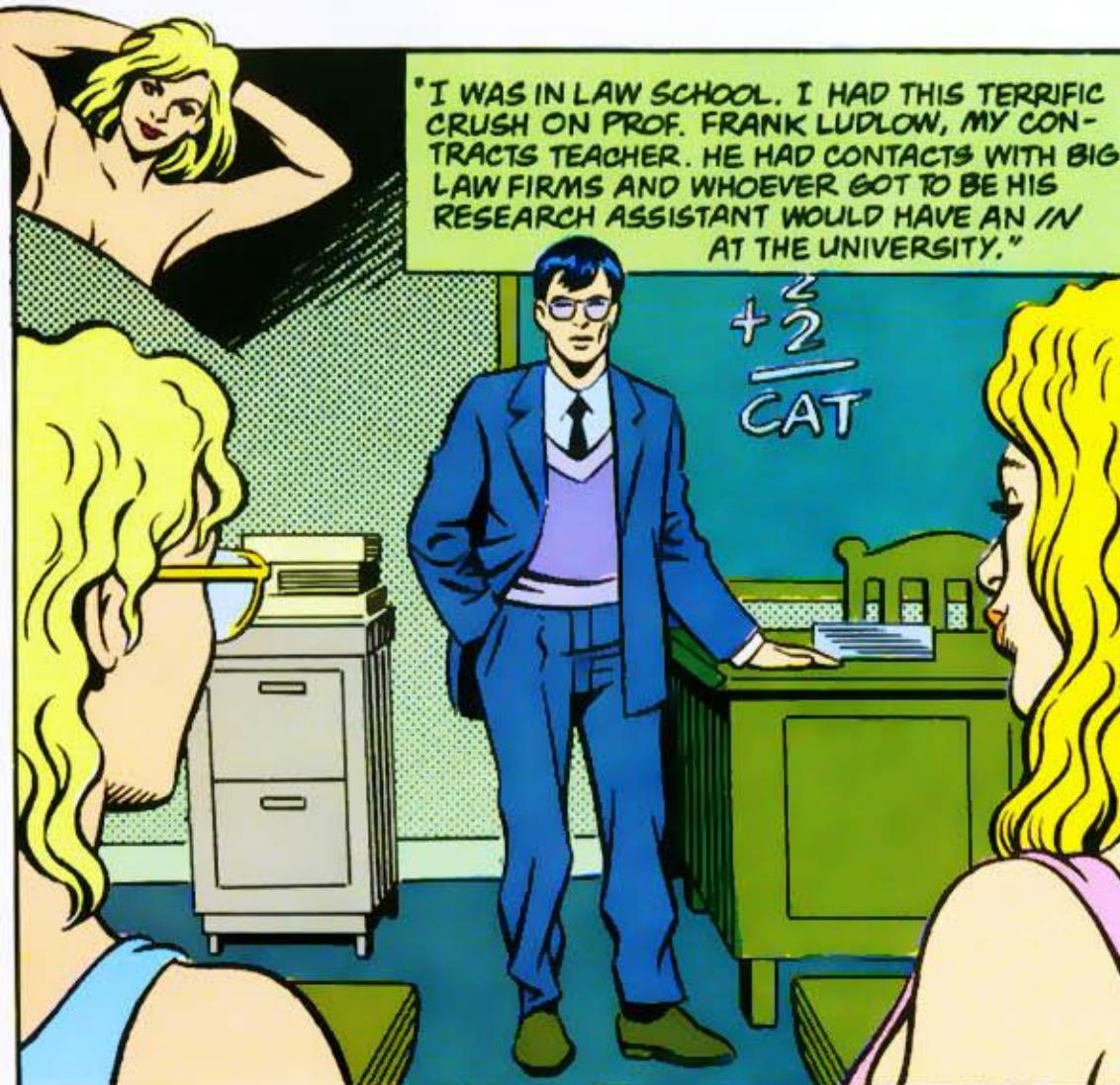
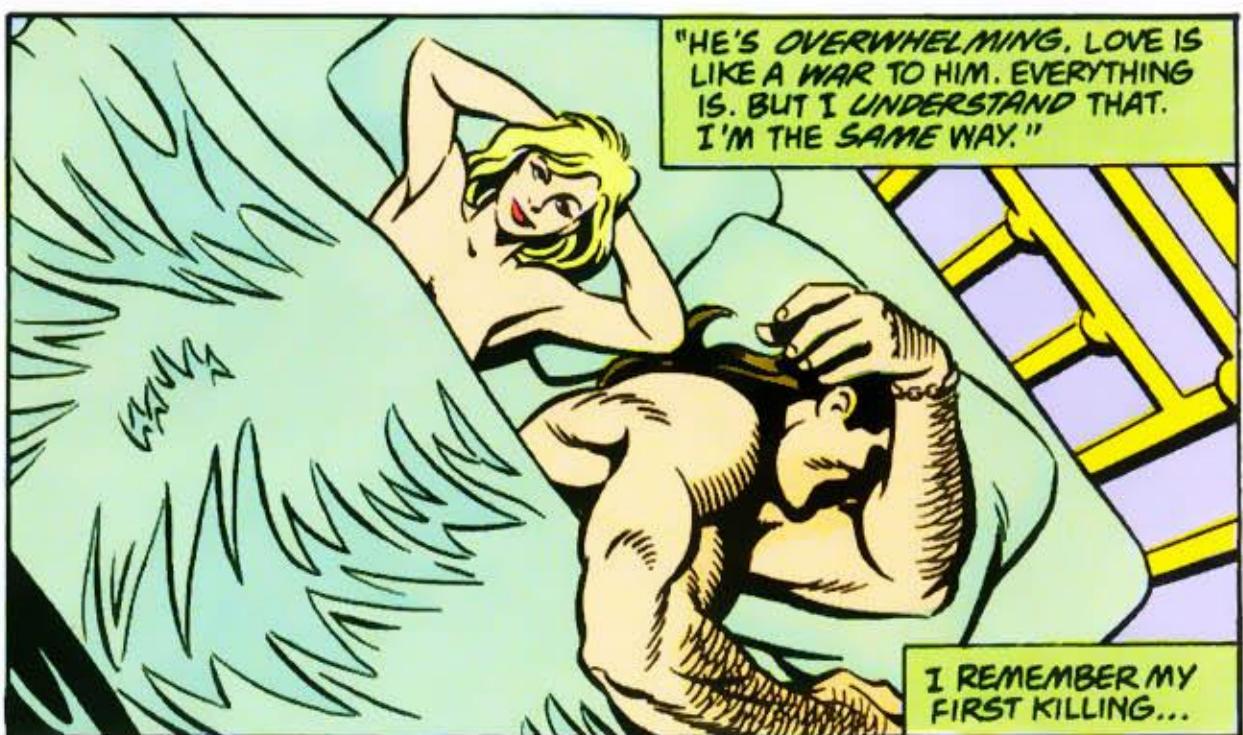
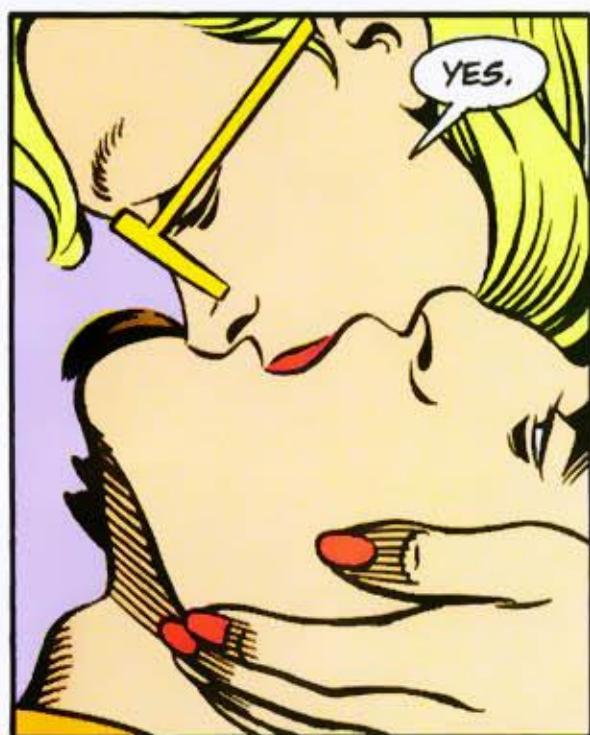


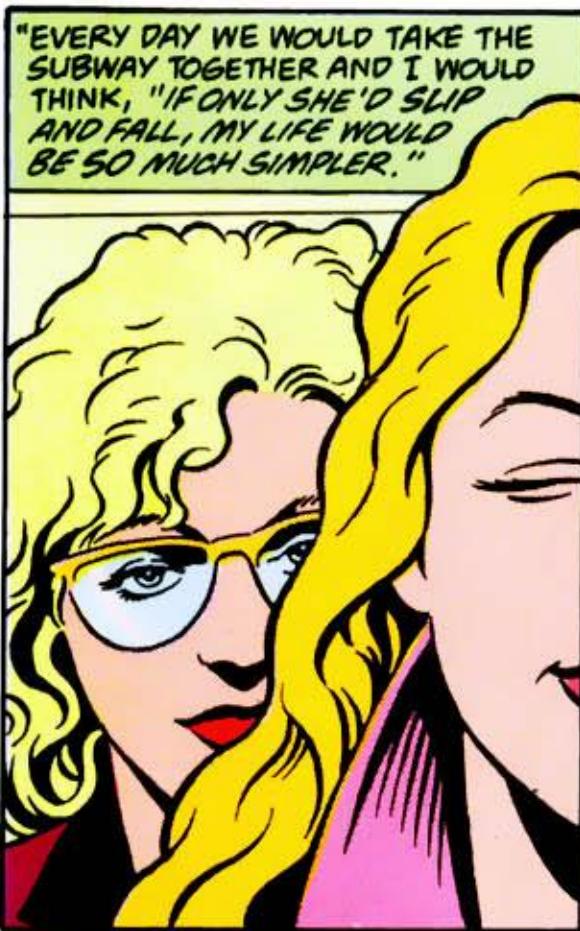
"IT MAKES ME FEEL WARM  
AND TINGLY INSIDE WHEN I  
KNOW I'VE PLEASED HIM..."

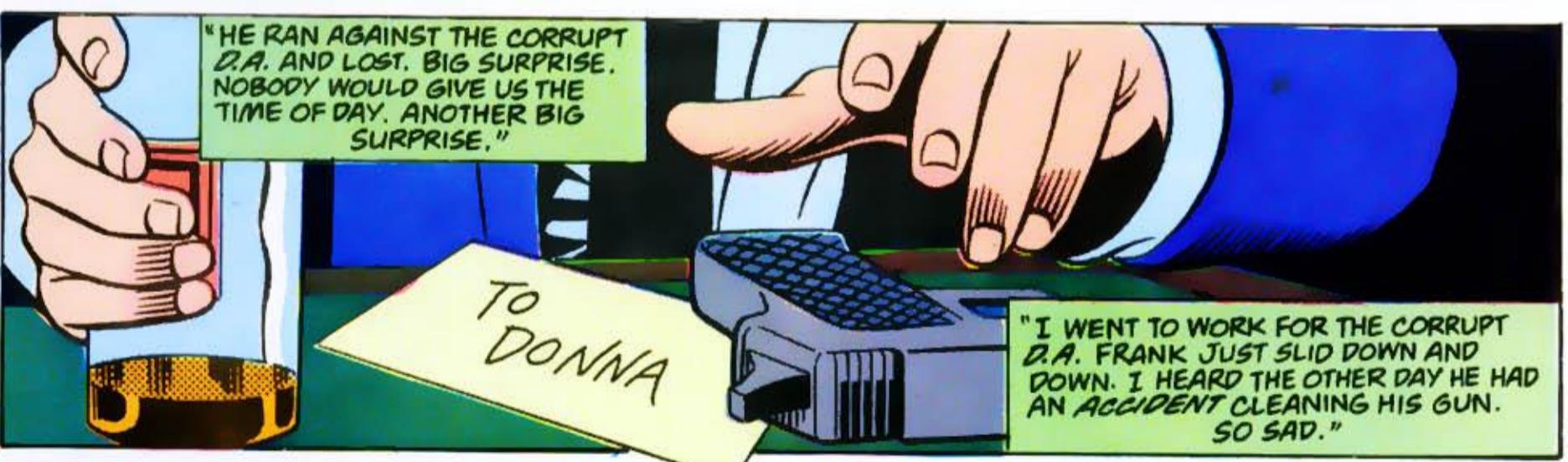
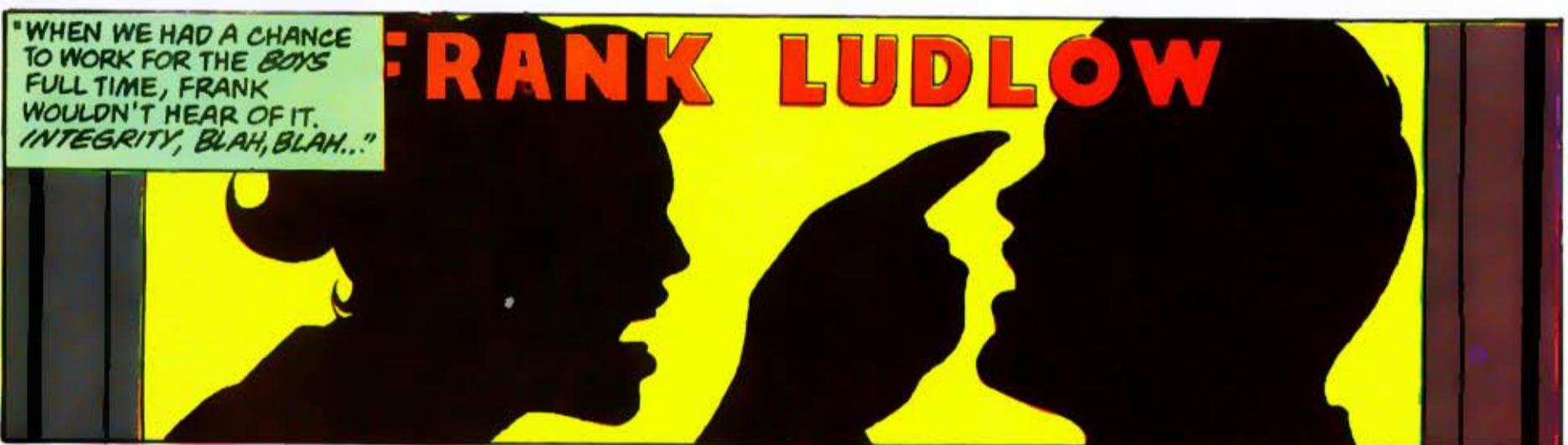
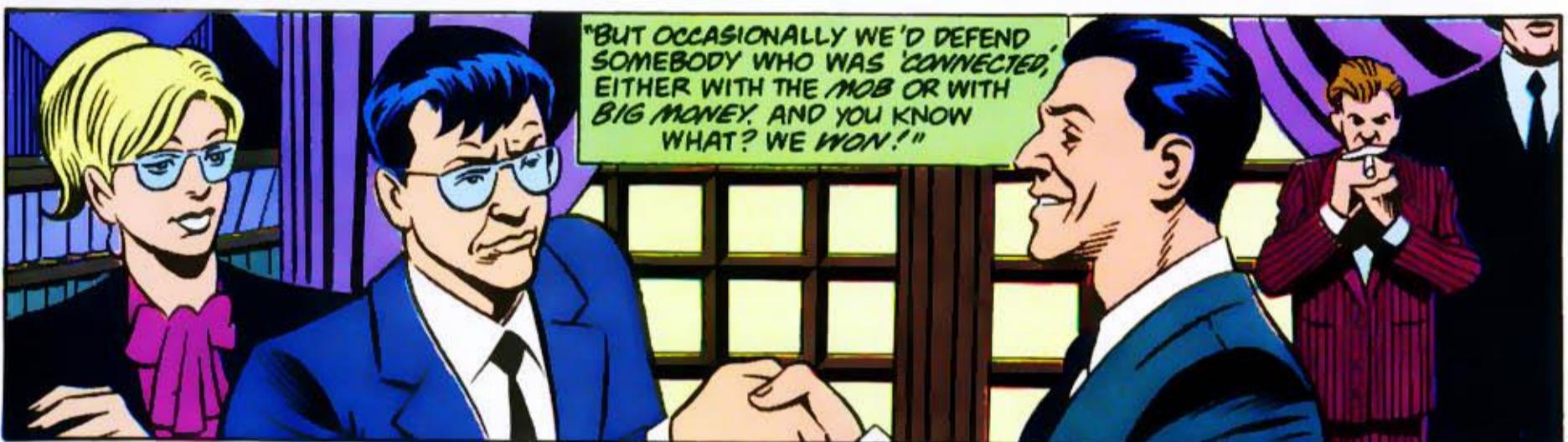


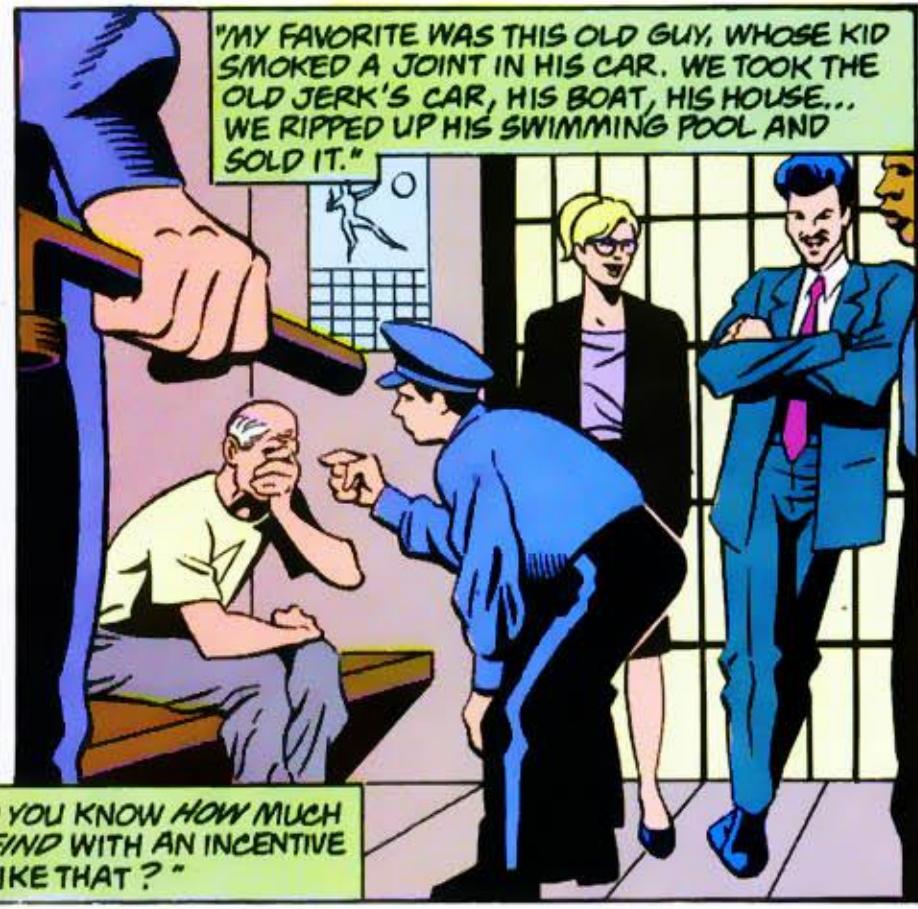
"I'VE KNOWN FROM THE BEGINNING  
I'D HAVE TO BE ON MY GAME  
THE REST OF MY LIFE TO KEEP  
HIM INTERESTED..."

"AND I KNOW  
JUST WHERE TO  
TAKE THOSE  
TINGLES WHEN  
I GET THEM..."

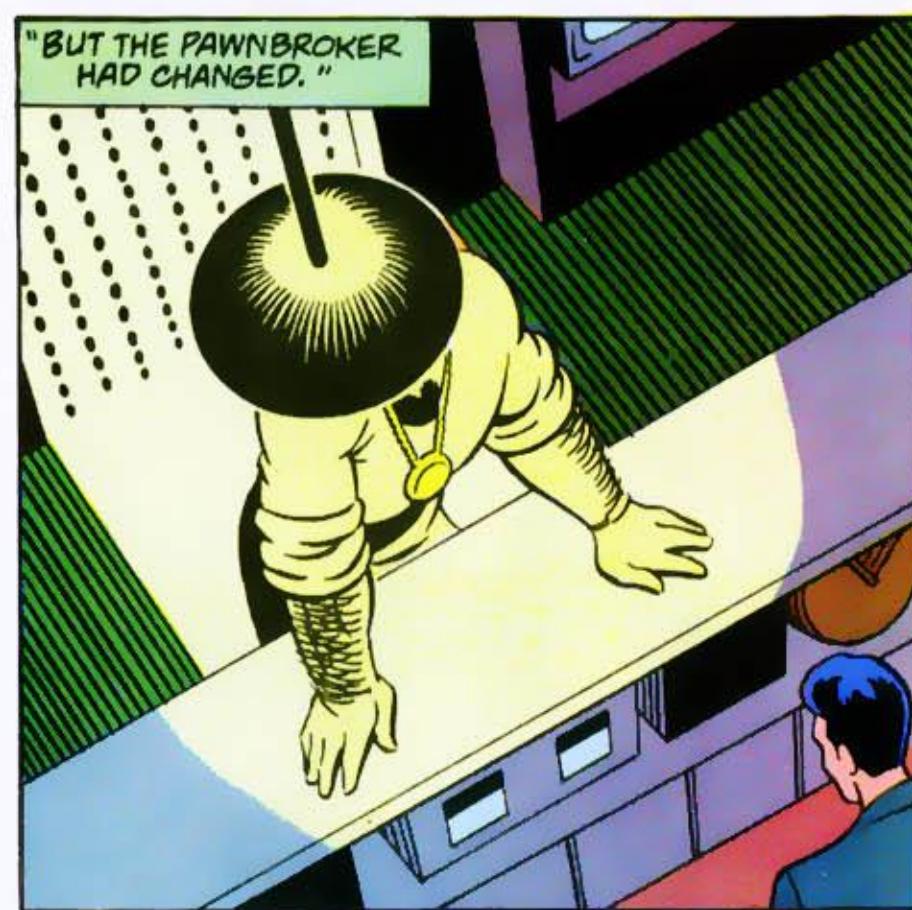
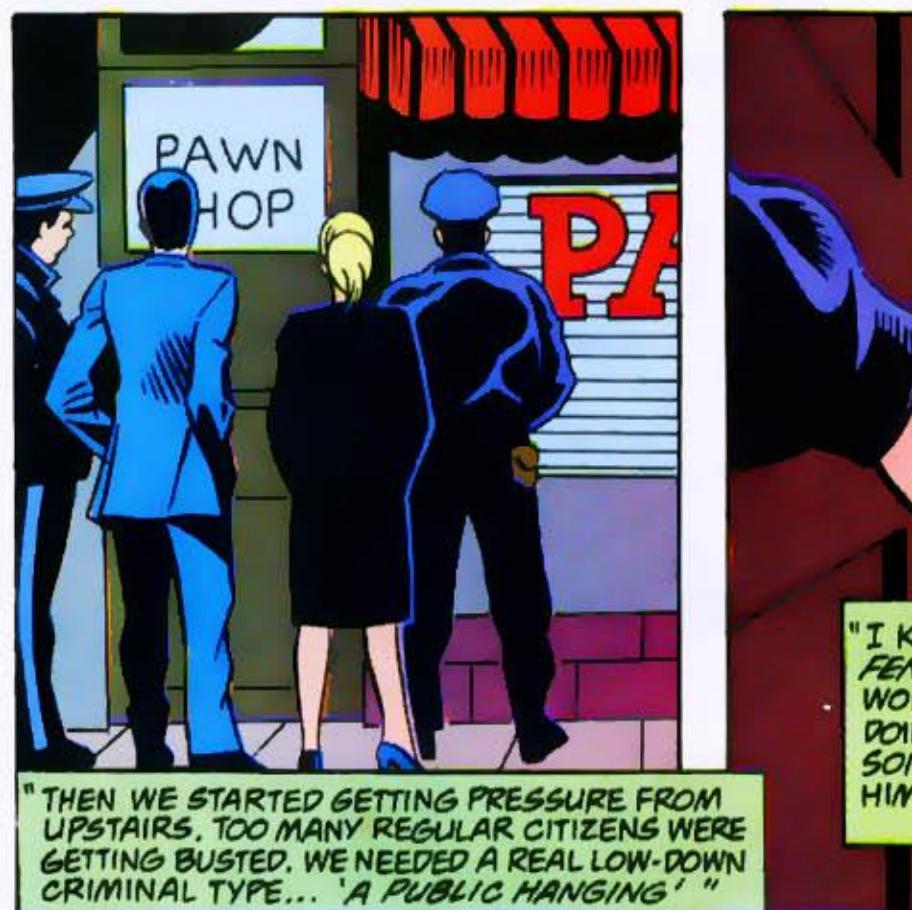








"WELL, MY GOD, DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH CRIME YOU CAN FIND WITH AN INCENTIVE LIKE THAT?"



MY NAME IS DAVE SHELDEN, AND YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR VIOLATION OF THE ILLEGAL FIREARMS ACT. CONSIDER YOUR RIGHTS READ. SERGEANT EGAN, SEARCH THIS DUMP.

MAYBE YOU GENTLEMEN SHOULD LOOK AT THIS FIRST.

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS... SOMETHING IN HIS ZONE, BUT I HID MY EYES, AND..."

"SOMETHING HAPPENED."

WHO... HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

YOU DODGED THE MIND-GRAPPLE. VERY GOOD.

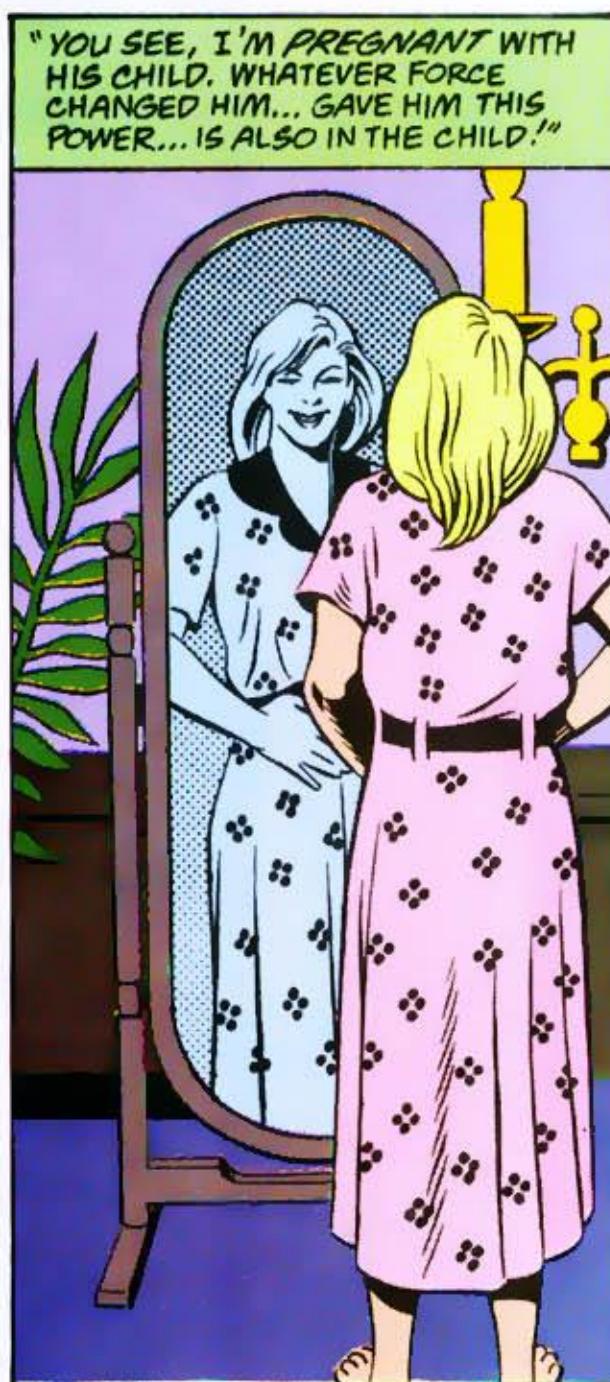
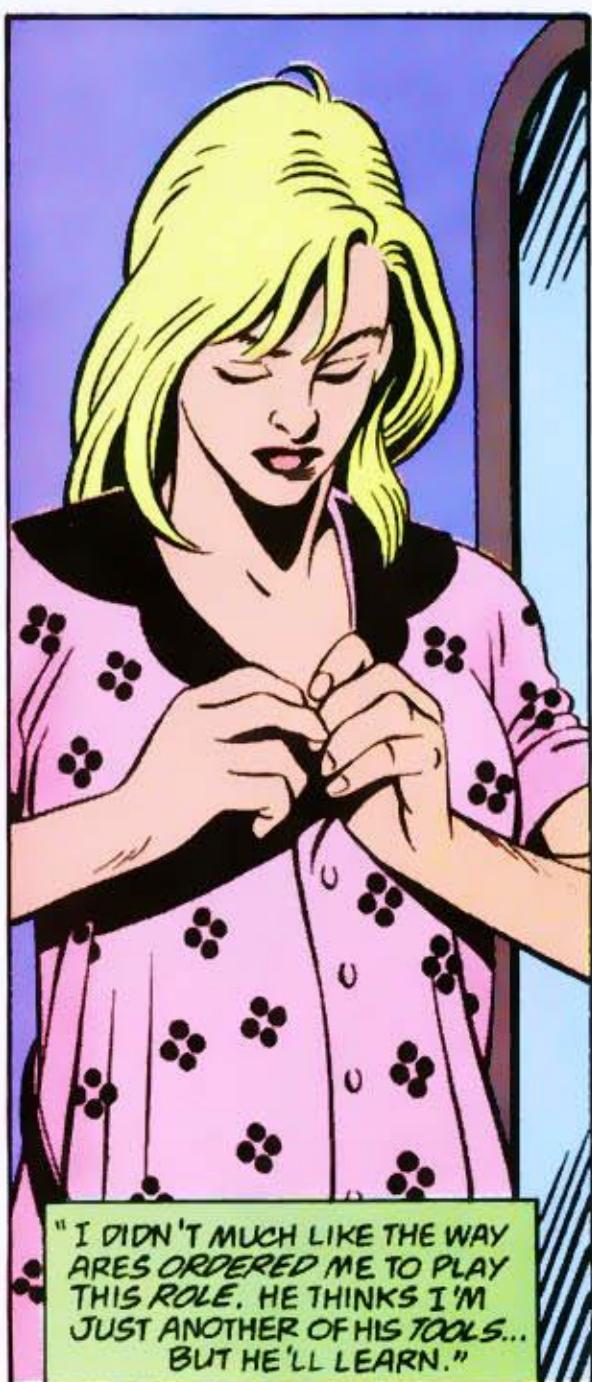
IT'S A LITTLE OF THAT OLD S.T.A.R. LABS MAGIC I CONVINCED ONE OF THEIR PEONS TO SELL ME.

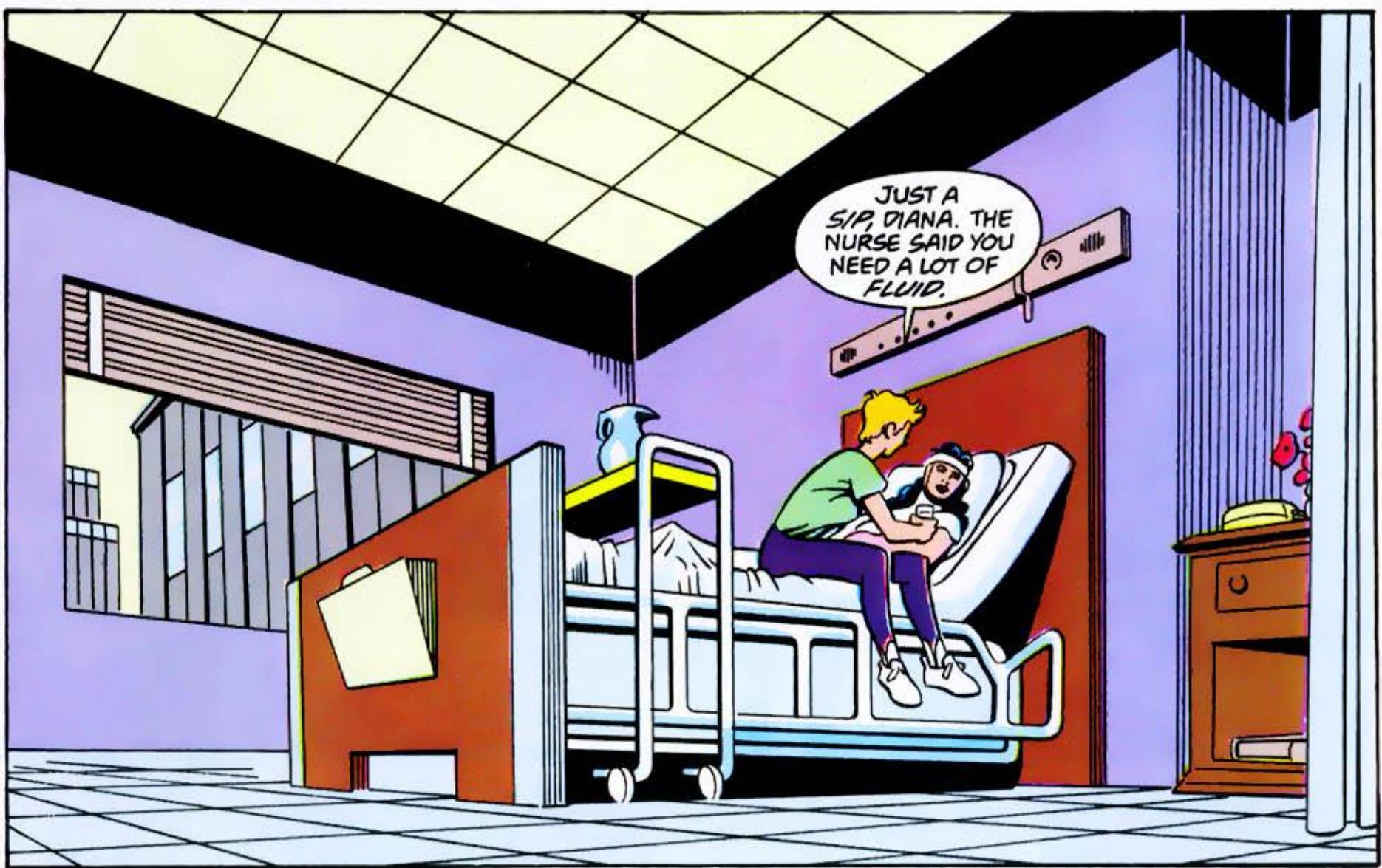


UNLESS YOU PLAN TO WRESTLE ME TO THE GROUND AND POUND ME INTO SUBMISSION.

MAYBE LATER. RIGHT NOW, I THINK YOU NEED A GOOD LAWYER. YOU CAN RUN THIS CITY... WITH A LITTLE GOOD ADVICE.









# WONDER WOMAN

## DC COMICS

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Dear Brian and Ruben,

I read with great interest your comments concerning the fans' lack of support of Wonder Woman in WW #76. I hate to say it, but you hit the nail right on the head—WONDER WOMAN is a low seller because it isn't being rendered by the likes of George Pérez, Jim Lee or John Byrne. Unless there is a big name writer and/or artist associated with a book, it seems that most readers won't give a book a chance. And that's a shame. Quality books such as SUCIDE SQUAD have bitten the dust because of this attitude.

It could also be that Wonder Woman doesn't have adamantium claws that rip through flesh like butter, or that she doesn't go around shooting first and asking questions later. There is an alarming trend that has developed over the last few years—the more violent and nasty the hero, the better the book sells. Just look at Marvel's Punisher. He has no less than four monthly titles in addition to numerous graphic novels, specials and crossovers. I feel that characters such as Wolverine and the Punisher glorify excessive violence, and I'm sure they've contributed greatly to the upswing in violence we face today in the real world. I for one won't support these characters.

Possibly we are still in an age where the majority of readers won't support a comic headlining a female. Witness the SUPERGIRL, HUNTRESS, JAGUAR or AMETHYST books. None of these titles lasted even two years. I fear for BLACK CANARY, an excellent book which I understand is on shaky ground already. I look forward to the new CATWOMAN series and wish you much success with it.

I can't say that I miss Pérez's writing. He did an admirable job in reinterpreting the character. The book certainly never looked better before or since his artistic stint, but I am enjoying Bill Loeb's tenure just as much if not more. Although Lee Moder had yet to blow me away, I have no doubt that he will eventually become a fan favorite. Currently some of his panels look rushed, others too cartoony, and then there are others that are truly breathtaking. Whether the inconsistency lies with him or with inker Ande Parks I'm not sure, but I am sure that one day Lee will be an exceptional artist.

WONDER WOMAN's sales problems could be a combination of all of the above. I feel that Wonder Woman deserves an annual every year, ARCHIVES editions representing early tales from her old series and the SENSA-TION and COMIC CAVALCADE materials, a GREATEST WONDER WOMAN STORIES EVER TOLD volume (whatever happened to this series? I was looking forward to the GREATEST '60s volumes), at

least one more ongoing title (SENSATION COMICS?), biweekly runs through the summer, movies, TV series, Prestige Format specials, posters, toys, etc. But none of this is likely to happen if people don't give this book a chance. I'd like to walk into a comics shop and see more than five copies of WW on the shelf when a new issue hits the stands, as well as all of the projects listed above. So, people, pass the word around. Give WONDER WOMAN a try. The worst thing that might happen is you might enjoy it.

Kevin Sorensen  
Winnipeg, CANADA

We agree, of course, Kev, but you're preaching to the converted *here*, pal. Next time you walk into the comics shop to find those lonely five copies, why not try recommending WONDER WOMAN to four other people in the store, or four of your close friends. Word-of-mouth advertising can be the most effective kind, coming as it does from the truly tuned-in—the enthusiast who wants to share his passion with the world. If all of you who write such thoughtful letters could turn on just a few others, who can then do the same and so on, we'll blow the Punishers of the world right out of the water. It could happen.

And, while I grant you your point about ultraviolent comics "heroes," I see them as reflecting the questionable tastes of a violent society, rather than creating that violence. I don't find anything attractive in these killer characters, but a whole bunch of otherwise pleasant folks eat the stuff up. Go figure.



Dear Creative Team,

It's time once again for my monthly review of (hopefully) everyone's favorite comic, WONDER WOMAN. Without further ado, let's begin.

Issue #77 seems to put Diana back on track. With the plot twists and ongoing characterization, I know that Bill Loeb's had finally gotten the hang of writing this title. As I've written before, he seemed uneven for his first few issues. I guess it just took him a little time to settle in. "Worst Moments" starts out very well, with Diana trying to undo the spell that "killed" her mother. I really was pleased to see that Themyscira is not being forgotten and that something is being done to eventually bring it and its inhabitants back. It would be a shame not to see how the Amazons fit into a society it has not been in real contact with for centuries. Having Diana venture into the realm of myth to accomplish this is a stroke of genius. It ties very nicely into her mythological past and gives her continuity. (I also like Bill's use of quotations from which

the titles come. Are they real quotations?) The other nice thing about the plot this time around is the tying up of the loose ends that have been dangling in front of us for the past several issues. It all seemed disjointed at first, but now everything is fitting together. Diana is "as wise as Athena," so it was great seeing her put that wisdom to use with a little detective work.

The appearance of the Justice League was welcome, if a bit odd (they didn't really contribute to the story). It was great to see Ed Indelicato, as always. Hoppy only had a cameo! So far, she's my favorite of the new supporting cast. I'd like to see more. The only complaint I have on the cast is that almost nothing has been revealed of them in the past several issues that they've been in (except for Hoppy). Please get to work on this; I'm sure there's a story in one of them (please make it Hoppy).

ARES Buchanan??! What else are you going to pull out of your hat? Is he in league with the White Magician? Is he Ares come back to Earth? I'm sure the Wonder Woman grapevine will be buzzing for months on this one. Terrific surprise there.

The art as usual was fantastic. I really think you did good by allowing the talented Lee Moder and Ande Parks to grace these pages. It is the only place I can find Diana drawn right. If she appears in any other comic, she has blue bracelets, pre-Crisis tiara, pre-Crisis belt, etc. At least she's properly attired in her own magazine. (Don't you have editor safeguards on these things? God forbid that Batman would look that different in someone else's book!)

Finally, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO NAME THIS LETTER COLUMN??? I'm still plugging my entry, "Amazon Chronicles," but it doesn't have to be that one. I'd just like to see a title there.

Thanks for listening and I'll see you next month.

Greg Armentrout  
Afton, VA

Bill's quotations are, I believe, wholly his creations; however, Bill is more widely read than anyone this side of Gerry Jones and may have reference works the rest of us have never heard of.

Ares Buchanan's story will become clearer as the story progresses, and his origin is coming up in issue #83. Keep reading.

I dunno why the wondrous one's inconsistent appearances happen, but I'm not so sure if you're right about Batman. Ever notice how many different utility belts he wears just in his own line of titles? Take it from me, busy editors sometimes miss things.

Watch for many stories coming from the supporting cast; that's one of the things Bill excels at.

Dear Sirs,

WONDER WOMAN #76 entitled "Knowledge" was an excellent story indeed, but I would like to lodge a complaint. You see, the story shows Circe destroying the Amazons of Themyscira, but how could she? WAR OF THE GODS #4 page 36 shows Circe dying. This all leaves me a little confused. Would you please elaborate on the matter?

Sincerely,  
Mytrice J. Williams  
Melrose, NM

I think a lot of people who read WAR OF THE GODS were left a little confused...but that's not really your point, is it?

The disappearance of Themyscira and the Amazons is a mystery wrapped in a conundrum (the better to practice safe comics, don't you know). Circe's true fate and her part in all of this is but one more puzzling layer. Keep reading; all will become clear.



Dear Bill, Lee, Ruben and Brian,

AAAAARGH, how could you? I was hoping Hippolyte and the others were still alive underneath that rock. I have never been so sad and disappointed in my life. Now Diana is the last of her kind. I guess this is proof that human beings can't live forever, not even the immortal women of Paradise Isle (sob!).

I think you ought to give Diana a break. At least have her boss at Taco Whiz promote her to Assistant Manager or Manager. It should be obvious to her or him that she is overqualified for the job. Speaking of Taco Whiz, I've been meaning to comment about her job for a long time but I've been studying for final exams and preparing for my upcoming graduation. You really surprised me. I mean, I thought the cover of WONDER WOMAN #73 was a joke. I suppose this is an attempt on your part to bring a little realism into the world of comics.

Harsh as this may sound, I'm kinda glad you placed Diana in this situation because I can identify with her a little bit more. Here we are in our twenties (I'm assuming Diana is in her twenties; correct me if I'm wrong), I'm fresh out of school, she's fresh out of outer space, both struggling to make ends meet and happy about the fact that we are financially independent.

I love the way Diana is taking her job so seriously! You'd think some of her positive attitude would rub off on Hoppy. Of course Hoppy thinks of her job at the Taco Whiz as just a job; Diana, on the other hand, thinks of her job as a social service. To quote Diana: "Isn't it inspiring, Hoppy? Because our food is cheap, all these people... retirees, students, laid-off workers and homeless people... who cannot afford restaurants, come here. It is a vast melting pot!"

For many years I have worked at my parents' motel as a maid. You wouldn't believe how filthy some of these customers were! As you can tell, I resented the job. At times I wondered what made my parents buy this so-called haven in the first place. Believe it or not, after reading issues #75 and #76 I began to think about the positive aspects of our motel business instead: (1) it's affordable; (2) it's quieter; (3) we have a beautiful L-shaped garden for everyone to see; and (4) the chances of having your car stolen from our lot are smaller than at

the big chain hotel down the street. (Now, there's an advertising slogan!) Thank you, Bill, for helping me see my family's business in a new light.

Before I depart I just have two comments to make. The Wonder Woman Elseworlds story is not about Diana. It's more like a Superman tale from what I read in some trade magazine. Finally, I heard Wonder Woman was returning to Saturday morning television. The last time Wonder Woman appeared on television was in a 1988 Superman cartoon. I thought the characterization and plotline were absolutely awful. It portrayed Diana and the rest of the Amazons as weaklings who had to depend on Supes to bail them out. I realize that on television you can't incorporate all the mythological elements that make Diana unique among the super-hero world because Hollywood producers fear the show may not earn any high ratings. I just hope the television writers of this series are fans of the Modern Age Wonder Woman comic book and have created storylines along these same lines. I wish everyone lots and lots of good luck.

Now that I've got that off my chest, I want to leave on a positive note: Thank you, everyone, for making this my favorite comic book! I look forward to issue #77 and beyond.

Sincerely,  
Arpana Patel

P.S. When are you going to name the lettercol? It's been months! How about "Service with a Smile" or "Words of Wisdom" or "Words of Wonder"? The latter two were earlier suggestions of mine.

*Thanks for sharing your insights, Arpana, and good luck to you and your folks. No job is beneath you, once you find where your unique contribution can be made. That's something Diana, in her wisdom, instinctively understands; the rest of us have to learn it. Thank goodness Diana's around to help us, eh?*



Dear Brian,

Moder's final page of WONDER WOMAN #77 was eerie to me because I am sure I have seen such a villain before, but I can't remember where.

Just when I considered the Greek myths gone with Paradise Island, Bill proved me wrong and showed that Diana is not giving up on her mother. It would be out of character for her not to try.

Even though Ed appears to have aged more than a year during the past year, I wholeheartedly approved of the character from the beginning and I'm glad to see him taking a part in Diana's life again.

The persons who have complained the strongest about Diana's work at Taco Whiz have probably never worked in such a service enterprise, for anyone who has worked a stint in fast food gains an appreciation for the work and those who continue to fulfill the role.

Peace.  
Melissa Page  
Nortonville, KY



Dear Brian,

PROMISE ME YOU'LL CHAIN LEE MODER TO HIS DESK AND NEVER, EVER LET HIM UP AGAIN—EXCEPT TO WATCH STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

(hey, I'm not a sadist!). Seriously, he's the best new artist I've seen since Adam Hughes started working on *The Maze Agency* way back when. He's a real asset to this book, together with Ande Parks. Just look at page 4! Whatever you do, make sure he never hears that evil, vile, dirty, disgusting word that is the bane of editors everywhere...Image.

"Ares Buchanan"? "God of War"? What are you nasty people planning?! Buchanan looks like one hell of a bad guy, the nemesis that Diana needs, DC's equivalent of Marvel's Kingpin; but there is no way he can be the actual Ares from Diana's past. Why would he give up his godhood to be a "simple" crime-lord? And what use has he got for Sazia—who is so sleazy and full of charm that he should stick around as long as Lee? Zeus damn it, you've got me hooked!

I'm in total agreement with what Nancy Champion—who is quickly becoming Diana's Uncle Elvis—said about Diana in the still nameless letter column in issue #76. Diana has become wonderfully streetwise with a terrific sense of humor. Congratulations, Bill, for as good as Pérez was, he would never have let Diana deal with both Sazia and the computer genius as expertly as she did here. Well done! The maturity Diana is showing here makes her the perfect leader for the League...now if only Dan Vado would treat her half as well.

Camille Sly, Camille Spry, hmm... methinks me smells a mystery and it smells like a good one. Keep Hoppy and Micah around but please, please bring Vanessa back permanently! Do you want to see a sixteen-year-old cry?

As far as guest stars are concerned, I like the way Dr. Fate turned up in #76, the League appeared in #77, and the Flash will be here in #78! Keep up the good work. Future guest stars should include the Team Titans (with or without Troia, whom they live with), Vixen and, most important, Barbara Gordon.

See you next issue for the welcome return of Etta Candy. 'Bye!

Gary Halpin  
Shannon, County Clare  
IRELAND

*I'm not sure that Lee is likely to speak the dreaded I word any time soon; his work is a tad too distinctive and original, and he doesn't use nearly enough pointless line work. Of course, before we trash that struggling young company too much, let's remember that our own Bill Loeb is also an Image writer—with Sam Kieth on The Maxx—so it can't all be a vast, cross-hatched wasteland.*

*As Dan Vado's editor on JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA, I can promise that Diana will be handled right and well. Give him a chance.*



**NEXT ISSUE:** Although injured, Diana agrees to help Hoppy collect her back child support, even though it means taking on some of Boston's worst mobsters in the process—and brings her even more to the attention of Ares Buchanan. And what's the deal with Donna anyway? See you soon with all the answers and Lee and Ande's return!

—Brian Augustyn  
the minor god of the blue pencil