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LOEBS
DEODATO
WONDER WOMAN
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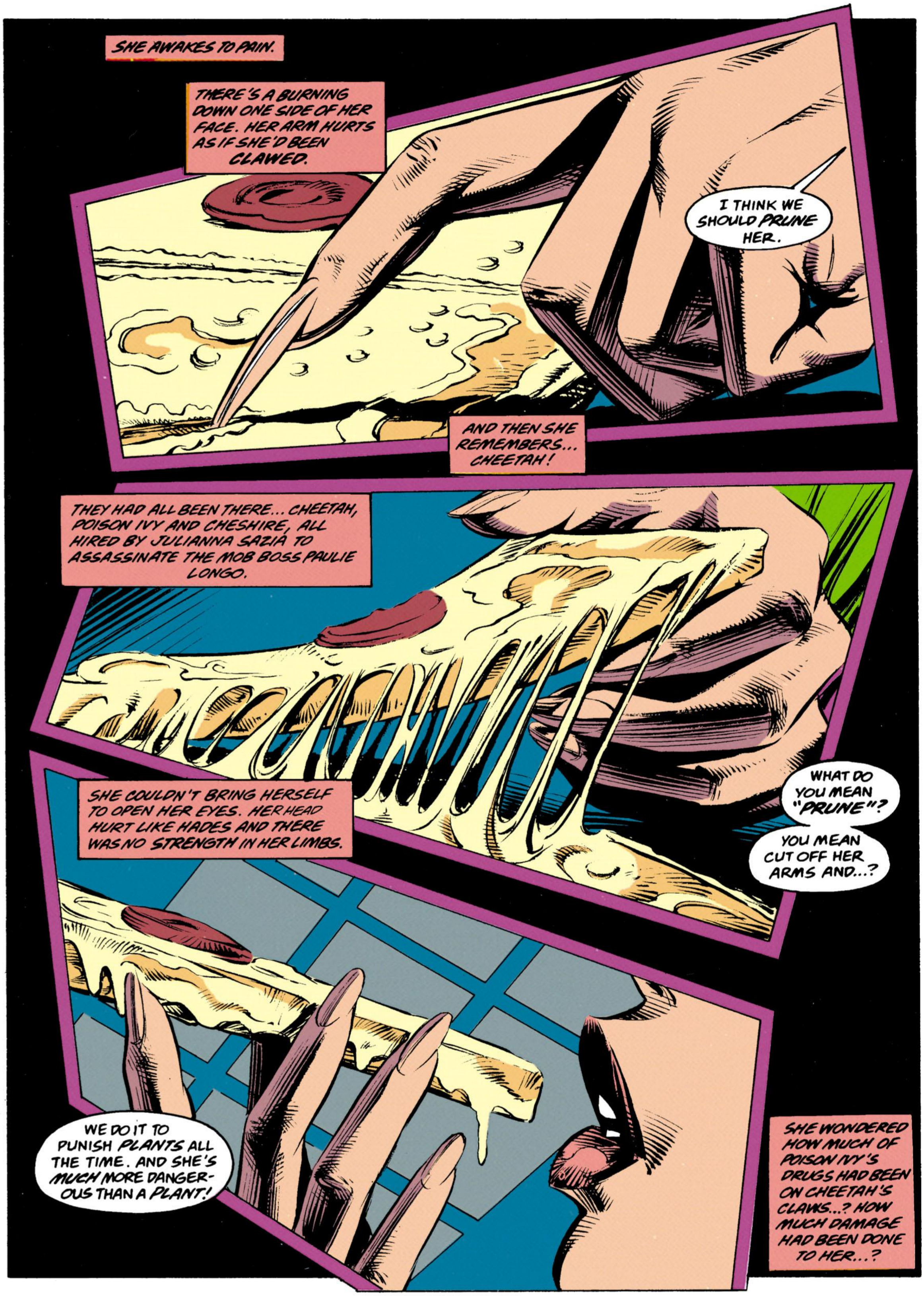
BOLLAND


SHE AWAKES TO PAIN.
THERE'S A BURNING DOWN ONE SIDE OF HER FACE. HER ARM HURTS AS IF SHE'D BEEN CLAWED.
I THINK WE SHOULD PRUNE HER.
AND THEN SHE REMEMBERS... CHEETAH!
THEY HAD ALL BEEN THERE... CHEETAH, POISON IVY AND CHESHIRE, ALL HIRED BY JULIANNA SAZIA TO ASSASSINATE THE MOB BOSS PAULIE LONGO.
SHE COULDN'T BRING HERSELF TO OPEN HER EYES. HER HEAD HURT LIKE HADES AND THERE WAS NO STRENGTH IN HER LIMBS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "PRUNE"?
YOU MEAN CUT OFF HER ARMS AND...?
WE DO IT TO PUNISH PLANTS ALL THE TIME. AND SHE'S MUCH MORE DANGEROUS THAN A PLANT!
SHE WONDERED HOW MUCH OF POISON IVY'S DRUGS HAD BEEN ON CHEETAH'S CLAWS...? HOW MUCH DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE TO HER...?

"When both luck and skill fail you, kick over the table."
Sylvia Crawford, THE GAMER'S RULES

POISON, CLAWS, AND DEATH!

Part 2

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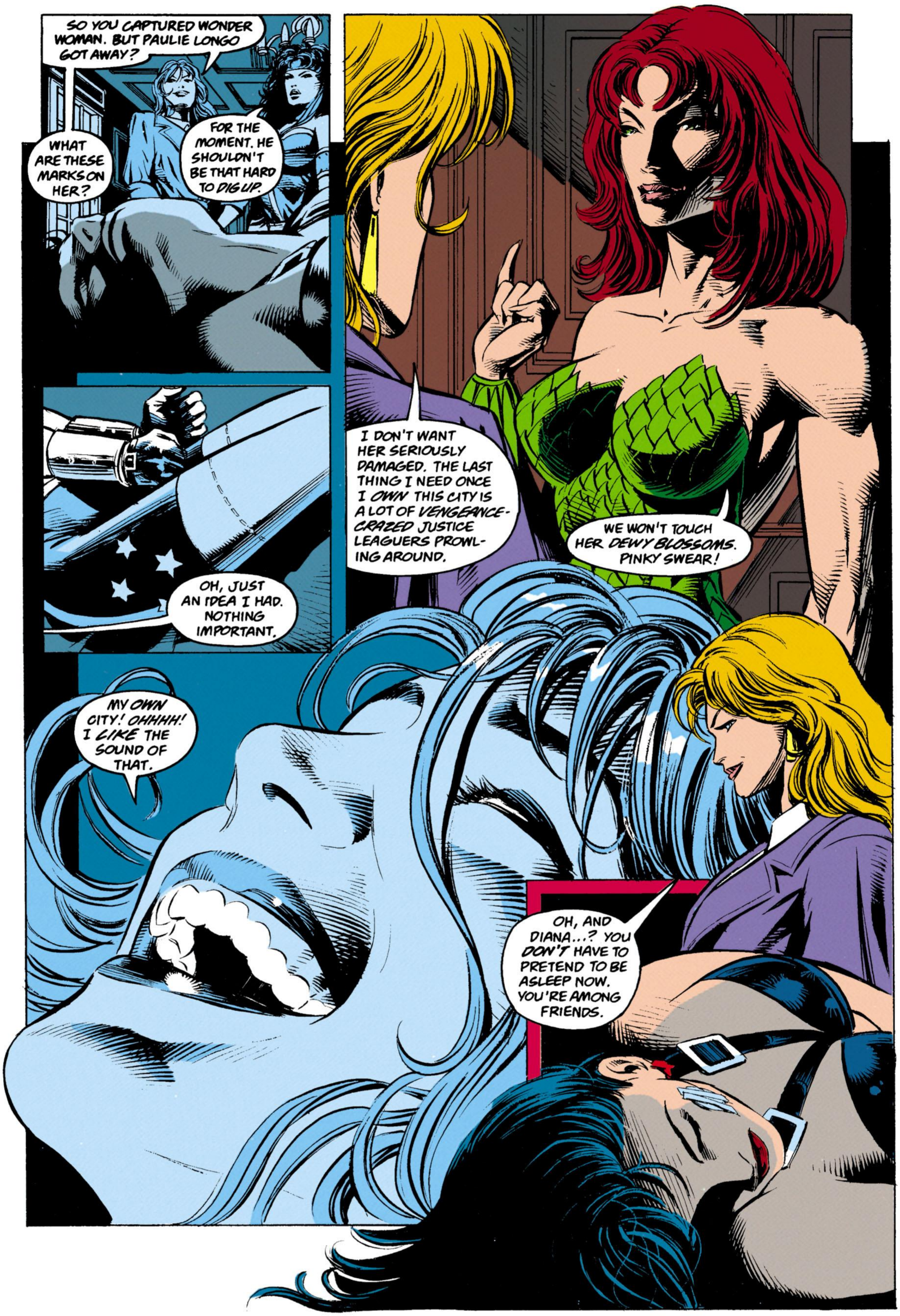
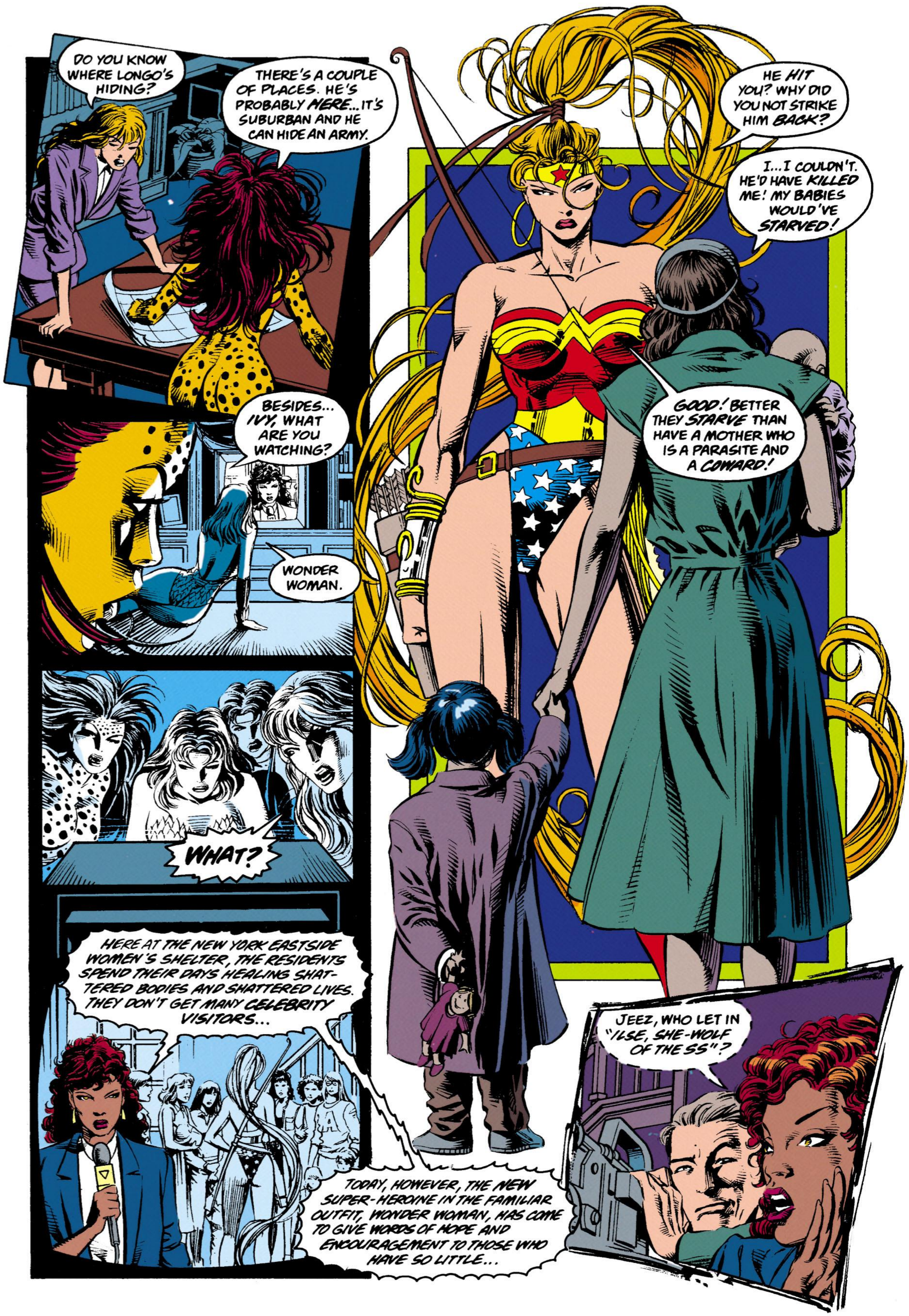
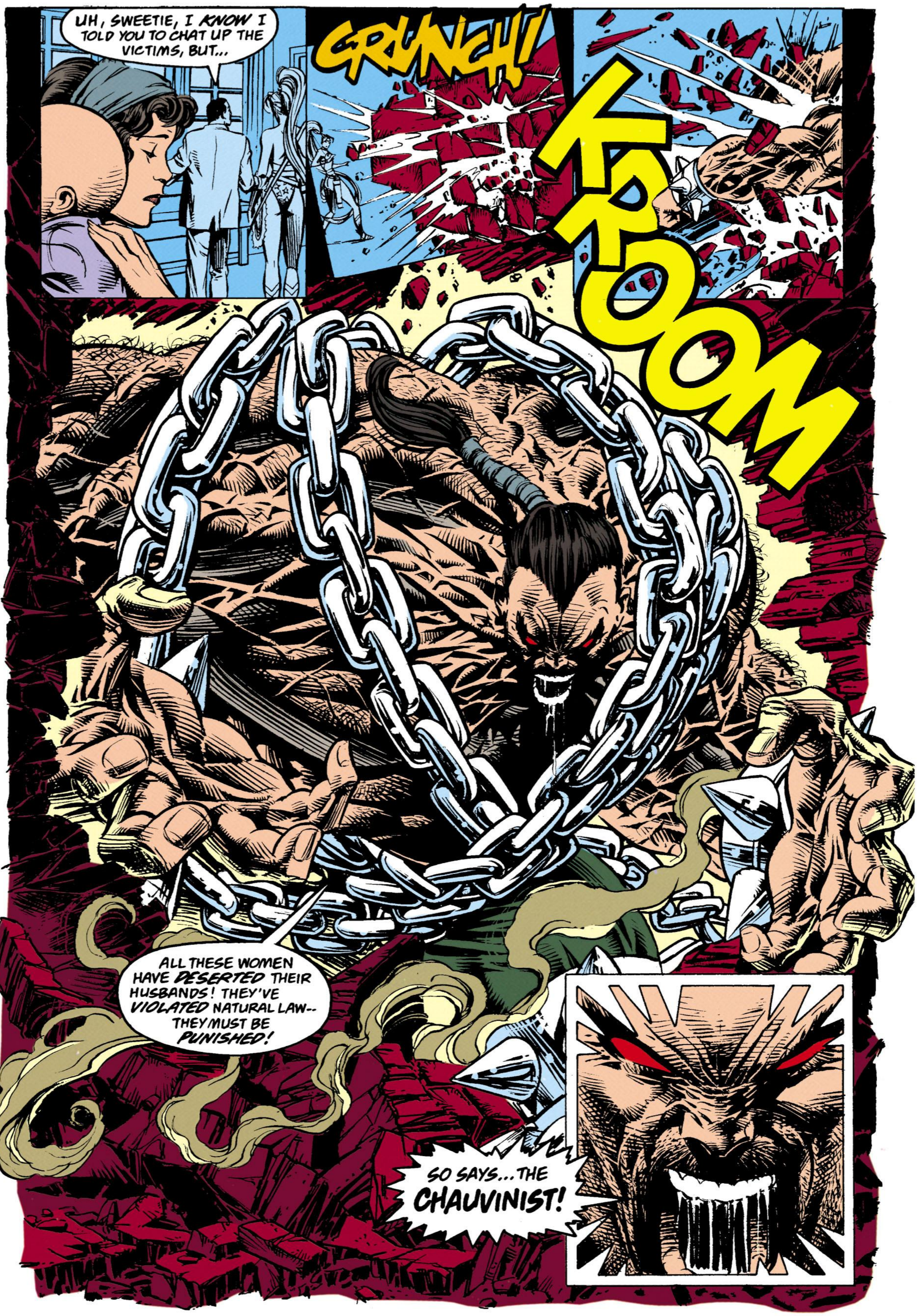
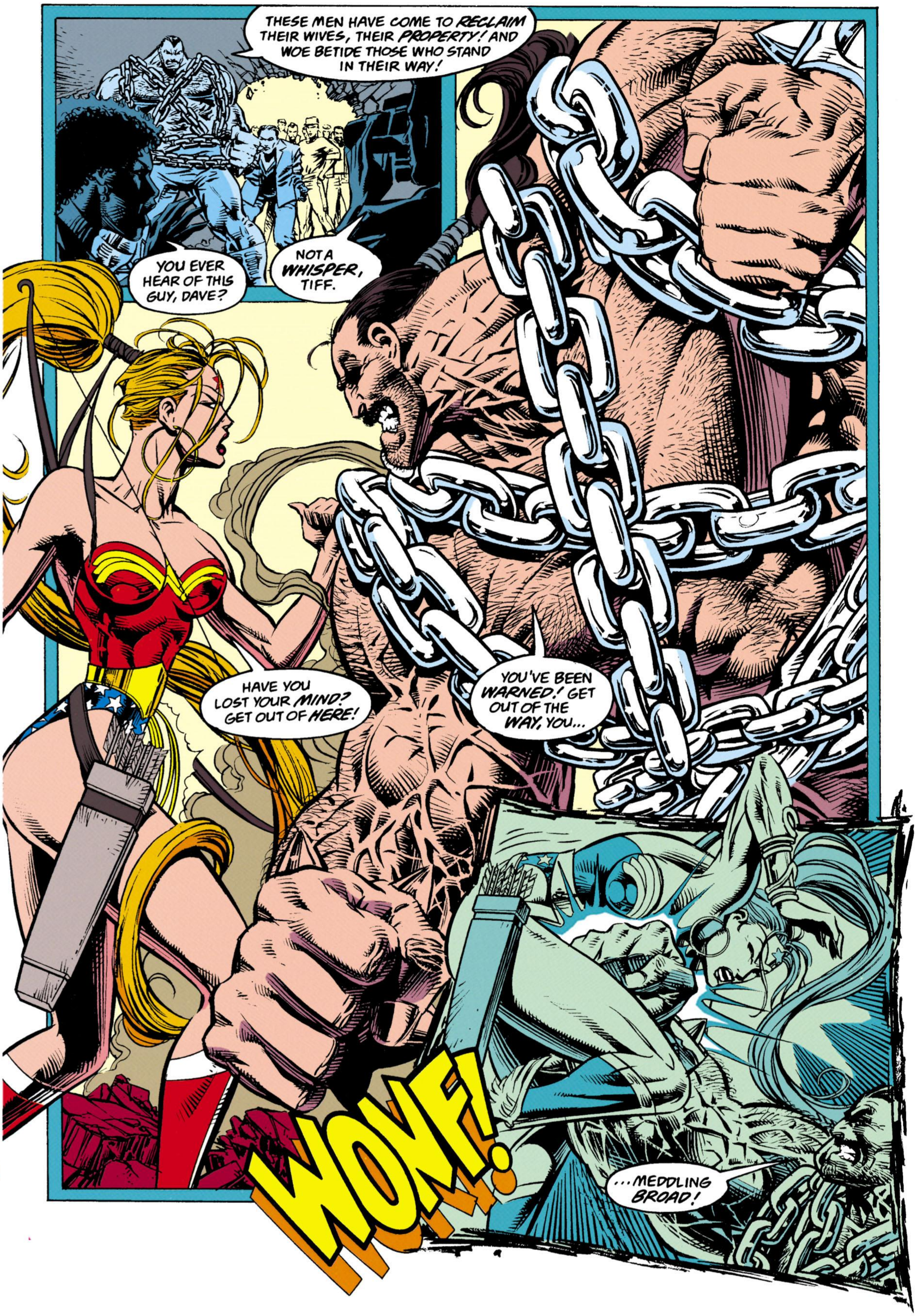
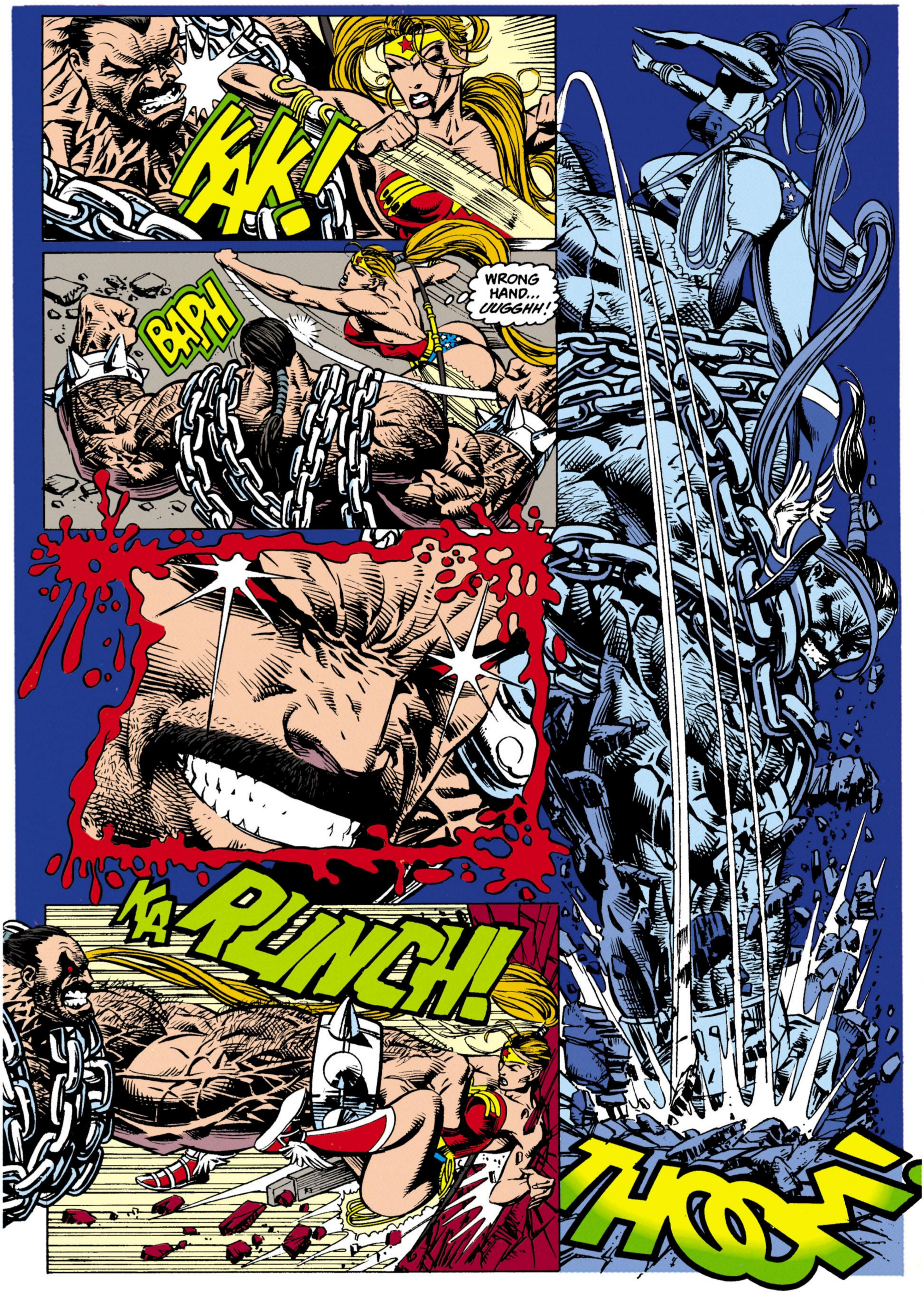

SO YOU CAPTURED WONDER WOMAN. BUT PAULIE LONGO GOT AWAY?
WHAT ARE THESE MARKS ON HER?
FOR THE MOMENT. HE SHOULDN'T BE THAT HARD TO DIG UP.
I DON'T WANT HER SERIOUSLY DAMAGED. THE LAST THING I NEED ONCE I OWN THIS CITY IS A LOT OF VENGEANCE-CRAZED JUSTICE LEAGUERS PROWLING AROUND.
WE WON'T TOUCH HER DEWY BLOSSOMS. PINKY SWEAR!
OH, JUST AN IDEA I HAD. NOTHING IMPORTANT.
MY OWN CITY! OHHHH! I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.
OH, AND DIANA...? YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE ASLEEP NOW. YOU'RE AMONG FRIENDS.


DO YOU KNOW WHERE LONGO'S HIDING?
THERE'S A COUPLE OF PLACES. HE'S PROBABLY HERE... IT'S SUBURBAN AND HE CAN HIDE AN ARMY.
HE HIT YOU? WHY DID YOU NOT STRIKE HIM BACK?
I... I COULDN'T. HE'D HAVE KILLED ME! MY BABIES WOULD'VE STARVED!
BESIDES... IVY, WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?
WONDER WOMAN.
GOOD! BETTER THEY STARVE THAN HAVE A MOTHER WHO IS A PARASITE AND A COWARD!
WHAT?
HERE AT THE NEW YORK EASTSIDE WOMEN'S SHELTER, THE RESIDENTS SPEND THEIR DAYS HEALING SHATTERED BODIES AND SHATTERED LIVES. THEY DON'T GET MANY CELEBRITY VISITORS...
TODAY, HOWEVER, THE NEW SUPER-HEROINE IN THE FAMILIAR OUTFIT, WONDER WOMAN, HAS COME TO GIVE WORDS OF HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE WHO HAVE SO LITTLE...
JEEZ, WHO LET IN "ILSE, SHE-WOLF OF THE SS"?

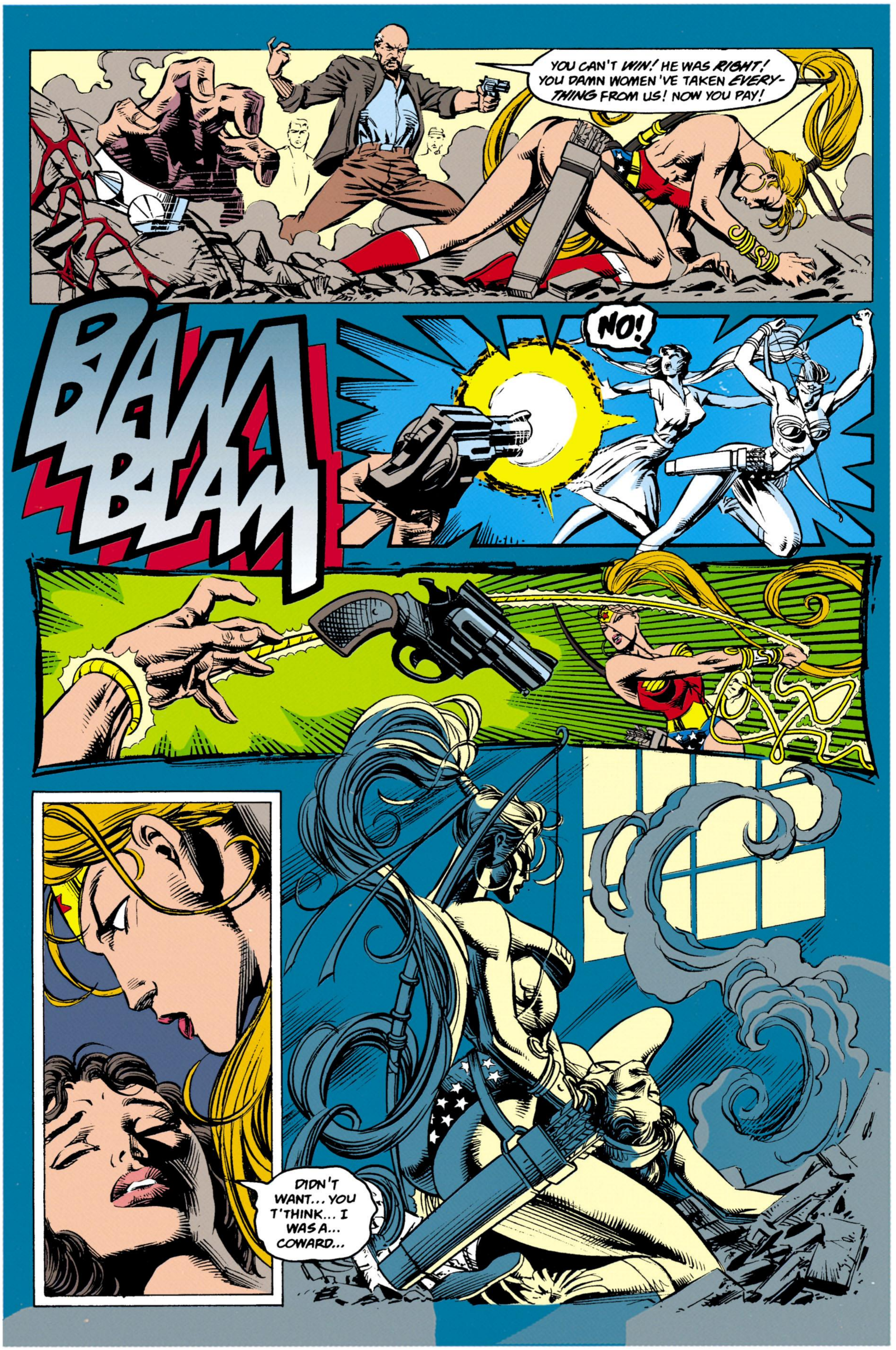

UH, SWEETIE, I KNOW I TOLD YOU TO CHAT UP THE VICTIMS, BUT...
GRUNCH!
KRO OM
ALL THESE WOMEN HAVE DESERTED THEIR HUSBANDS! THEY'VE VIOLATED NATURAL LAW-- THEY MUST BE PUNISHED!
SO SAYS... THE CHAUVINIST!


THESE MEN HAVE COME TO RECLAIM THEIR WIVES, THEIR PROPERTY! AND WOE BETIDE THOSE WHO STAND IN THEIR WAY!
YOU EVER HEAR OF THIS GUY, DAVE?
NOT A WHISPER, TIFF.
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? GET OUT OF HERE!
YOU'VE BEEN WARNED! GET OUT OF THE WAY, YOU...
WOW!
...MEDDLING BROAD!

UNDERESTIMATED ...HIS SPEED. HURT ME...THE GAUNTLET OF ATLAS IS SUPPOSED TO INCREASE MY STRENGTH BY TEN. IF IT DOES...
THUD!
CHUNK!
ZAP!


KAK!
WRONG HAND... UUGGHH!
BAPH
KA-PUNCH!
THOOF!

WAAK
KR'AM
CRACK
BAHHHHH!!

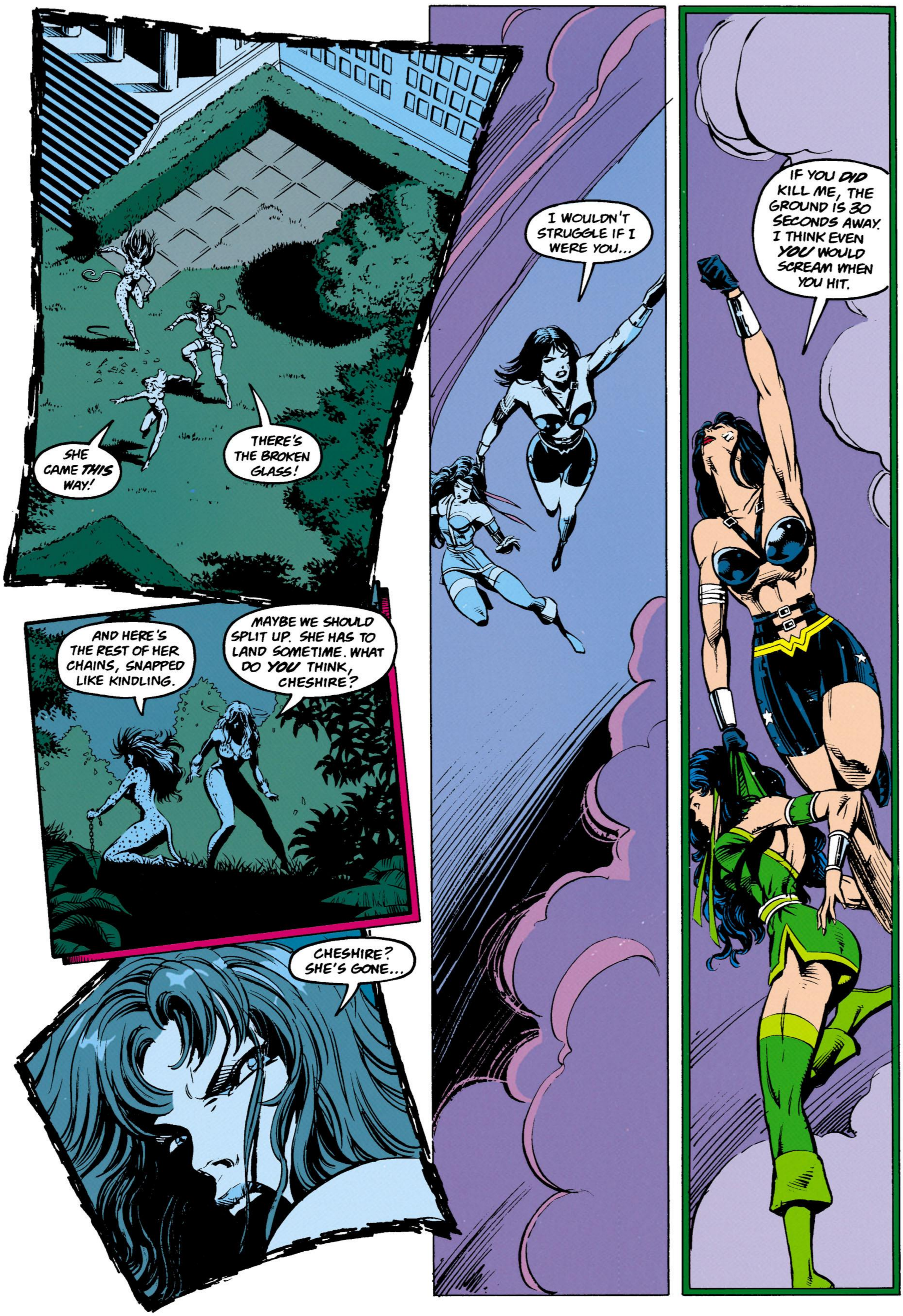

YOU CAN'T WIN! HE WAS RIGHT! YOU DAMN WOMEN 'VE TAKEN EVERY-THING FROM US! NOW YOU PAY!
BAAA BAAA
NO!
DIDN'T WANT... YOU T'THINK... I WAS A... COWARD...

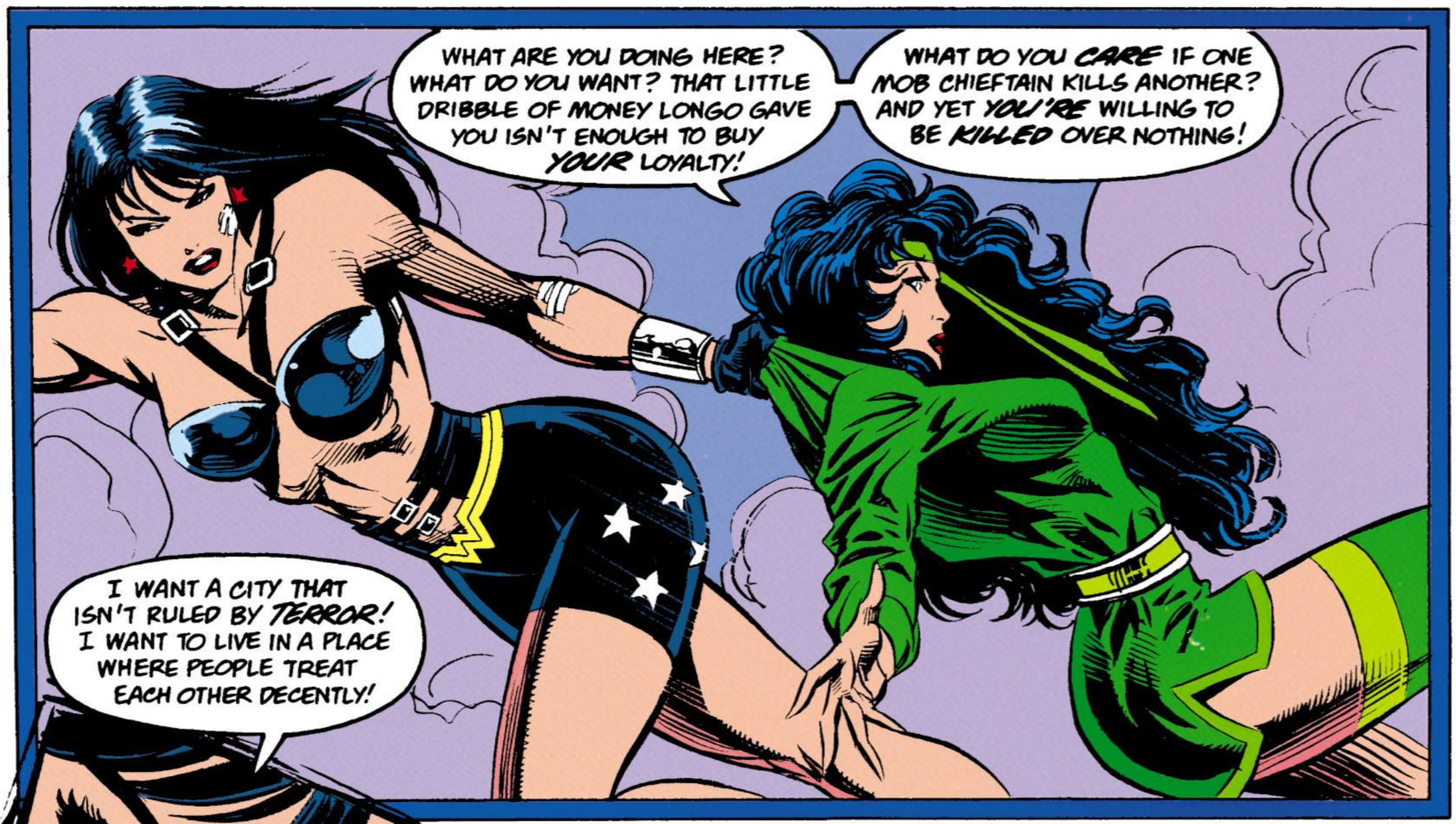
DAMMIT, MAGICIAN!
THEY'RE TRYIN' T'KILL ME! ALL OF 'EM! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGHT MAGIC AND SUPER-VILLAINS?
I GOTTA HAVE HELP!
YOU PROMISED T'HELP ME!
AND I ALWAYS KEEP MY WORD... IT MAKES ME SUCH AN INTERESTING VILLAIN.

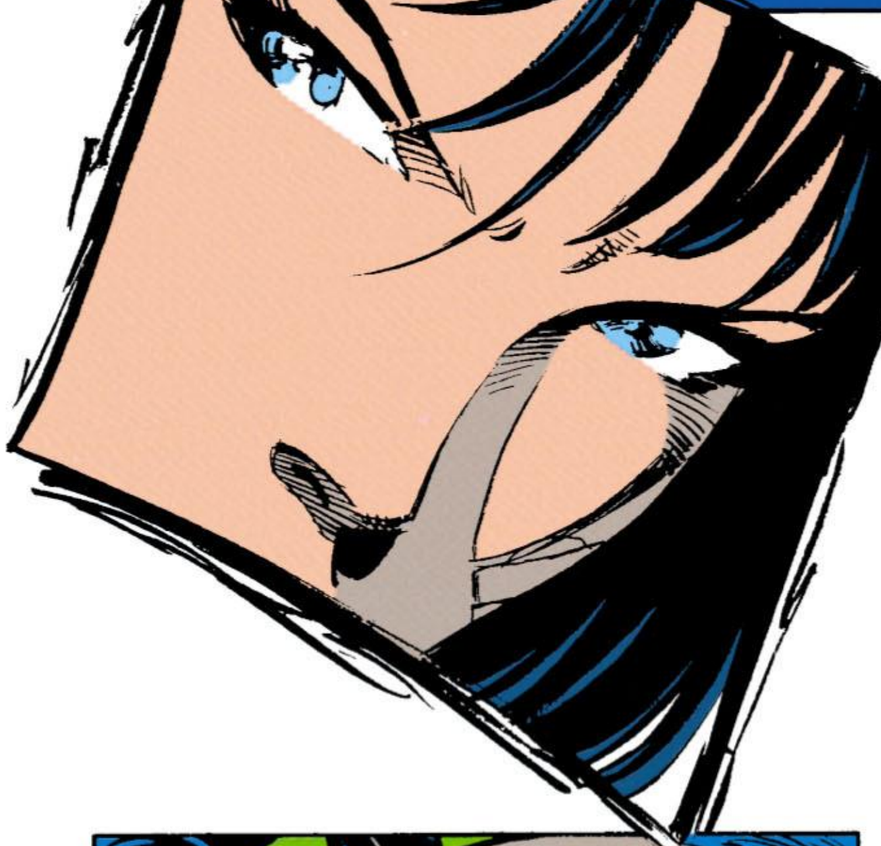
POISON IVY WAS SMILING. ALWAYS A BAD SIGN.
FOUR DANGEROUS WOMEN IN THE ROOM. AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF WEAPONS. SHE FELT TOO WRETCHED TO BE SURE SHE COULD COULD MAKE A CLEAN BREAK FOR IT.
CAREFUL. EVEN WEAKENED, SHE'S DANGEROUS!
AH. THE SLEEPER WAKES.
UHHHH.
SHE MUST HAVE THE CONSTITUTION OF A HORSE.
I PUT ENOUGH POISON ON CHEETAH'S CLAWS TO KNOCK HER OUT A DOZEN TIMES.
DON'T WORRY. I HAD ONE OF MY MEN WELD HER BRACELETS TOGETHER.
IT'S WELL KNOWN THAT IF A MALE BINDS AN AMAZON, SHE LOSES HER POWERS.
HOW CHARMINGLY MEDIEVAL!
LET'S DON'T WANDER, PRINCESS. YOU COULD GET...
TH-WHOMP!
HER HEAD WAS CLEARING AND THEY WERE RELAXED. SHE MIGHT NOT GET ANOTHER CHANCE...

GET HER! DON'T LET HER ESCAPE!
DON'T WORRY! SHE'S NOT...
THUGK
SKKWWAEEARRR
PTANG!
CH-KLAK!
DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ.

JUST LET ME TOUCH YOU, SWEETHEART.
ORDINARILY. I'D DO THIS WITH A KISS, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO GET EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED!
SWISSS
CHUB
KRAPS
CRASH

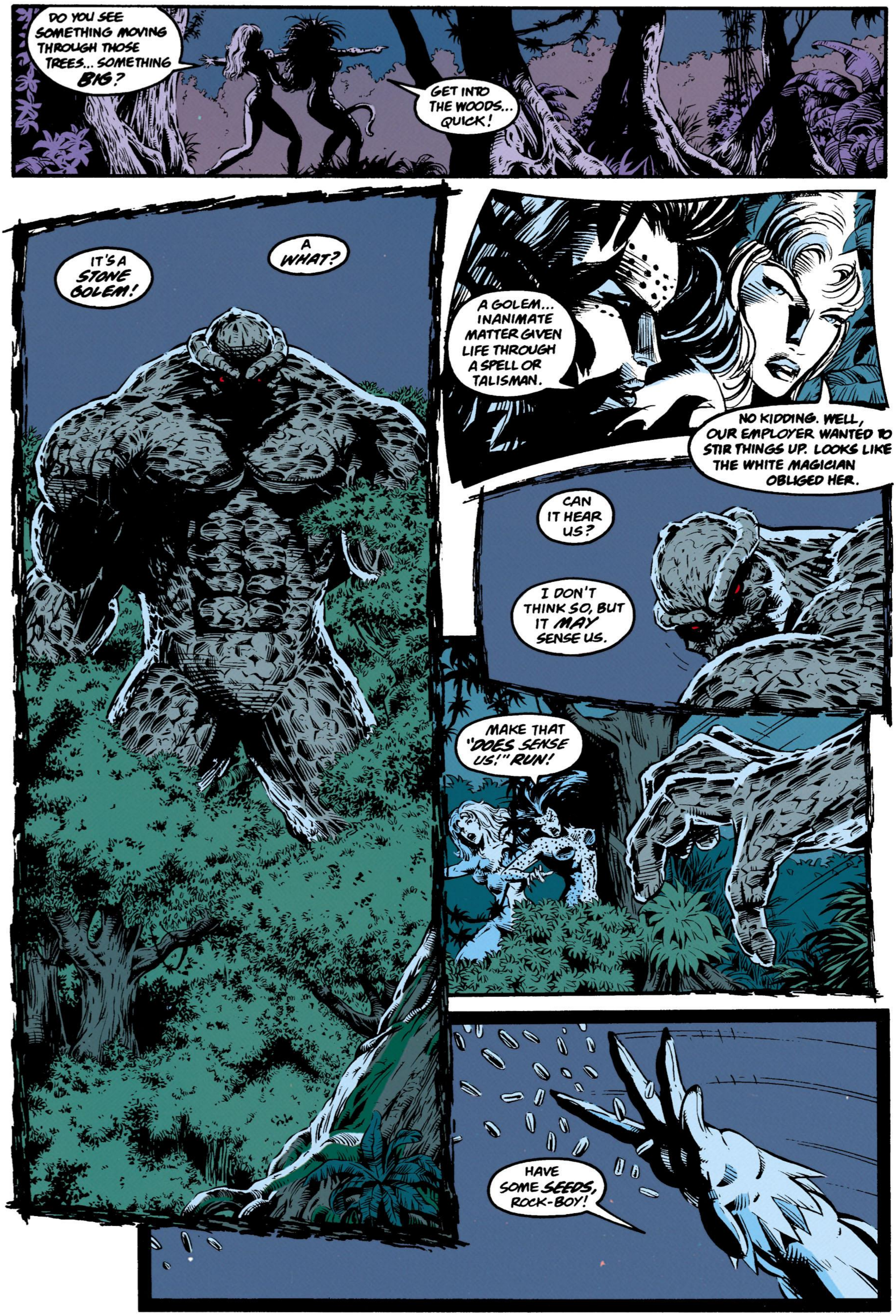

SHE CAME THIS WAY!
THERE'S THE BROKEN GLASS!
AND HERE'S THE REST OF HER CHAINS, SNAPPED LIKE KINDLING.
MAYBE WE SHOULD SPLIT UP. SHE HAS TO LAND SOMETIME. WHAT DO YOU THINK, CHESHIRE?
CHESHIRE? SHE'S GONE...
I WOULDN'T STRUGGLE IF I WERE YOU...
IF YOU DID KILL ME, THE GROUND IS 30 SECONDS AWAY. I THINK EVEN YOU WOULD SCREAM WHEN YOU HIT.

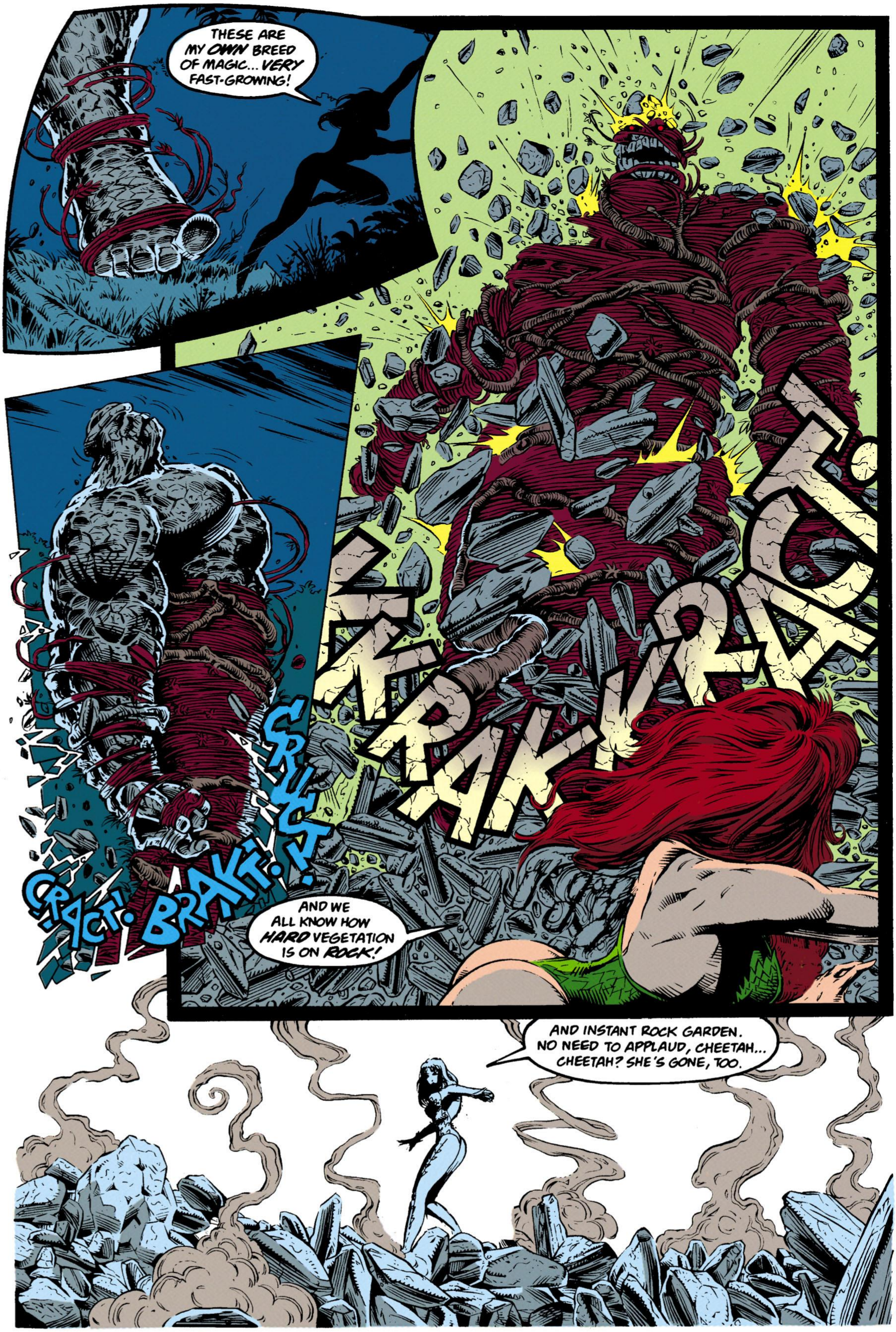

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT? THAT LITTLE DRIBBLE OF MONEY LONGO GAVE YOU ISN'T ENOUGH TO BUY YOUR LOYALTY!
WHAT DO YOU CARE IF ONE MOB CHIEFTAIN KILLS ANOTHER? AND YET YOU'RE WILLING TO BE KILLED OVER NOTHING!


I WANT A CITY THAT ISN'T RULED BY TERROR! I WANT TO LIVE IN A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE TREAT EACH OTHER DECENTLY!

HA HAH HAH HAH HA

WHAT'S YOUR SECOND CHOICE?


DO YOU SEE SOMETHING MOVING THROUGH THOSE TREES... SOMETHING BIG?
GET INTO THE WOODS... QUICK!
IT'S A STONE GOLEM!
A WHAT?
A GOLEM... INANIMATE MATTER GIVEN LIFE THROUGH A SPELL OR TALISMAN.
NO KIDDING. WELL, OUR EMPLOYER WANTED TO STIR THINGS UP. LOOKS LIKE THE WHITE MAGICIAN OBLIGED HER.
CAN IT HEAR US?
I DON'T THINK SO, BUT IT MAY SENSE US.
MAKE THAT "DOES SENSE US!" RUN!
HAVE SOME SEEDS, ROCK-BOY!

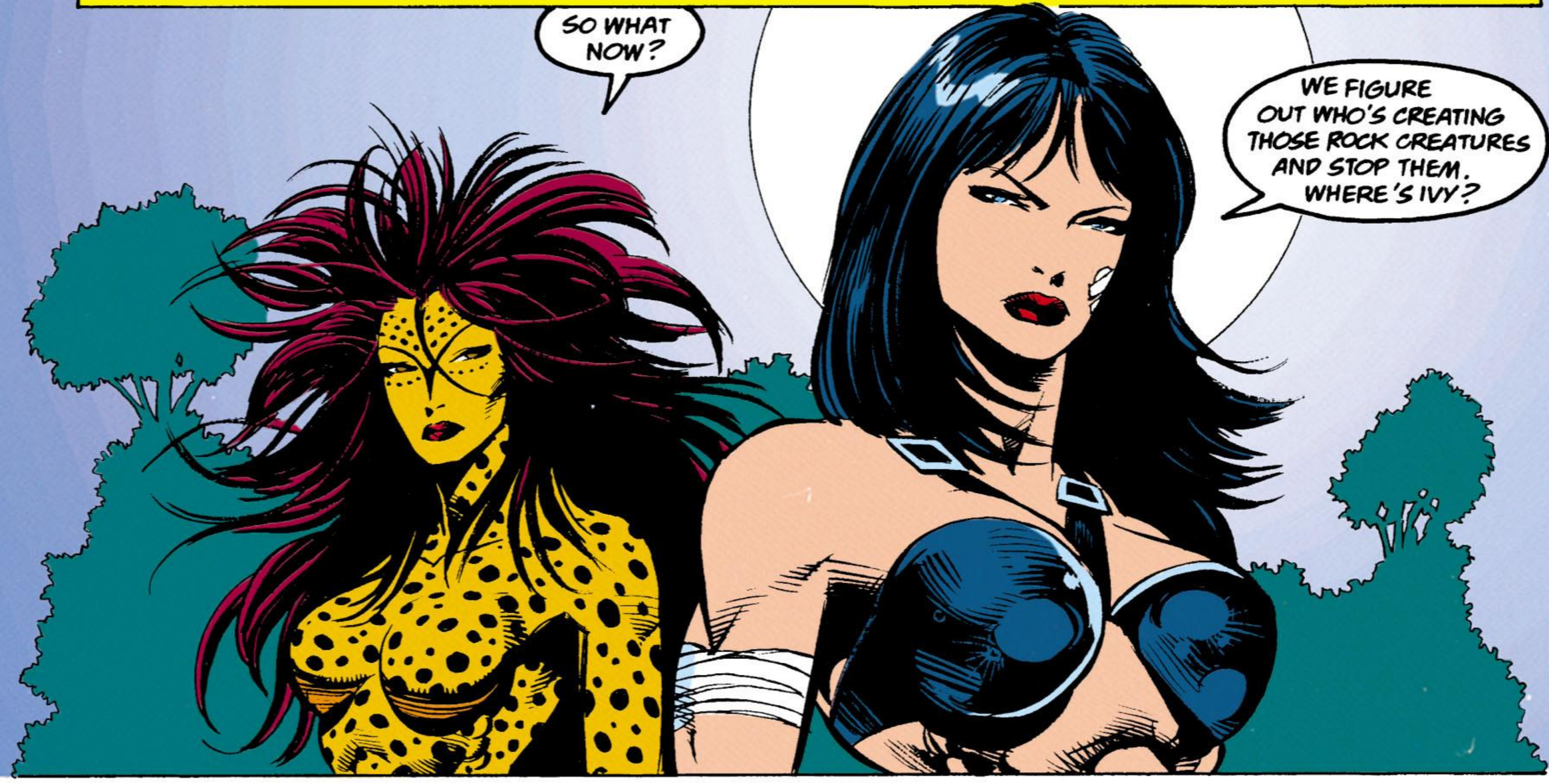

THESE ARE MY OWN BREED OF MAGIC... VERY FAST-GROWING!
CRACK!
CRUSH!
BRAKK!
AND WE ALL KNOW HOW HARD VEGETATION IS ON ROCK!
AND INSTANT ROCK GARDEN. NO NEED TO APPLAUD, CHEETAH... CHEETAH? SHE'S GONE, TOO.

BRUMP! THOOM! CRUNCH! THOOM! BRUM!
WELL. WE MISSED THEM, WHATEVER THEY ARE.
IT LOOKS LIKE PAULIE LONGO'S REVENGE.
THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE MANSION. SEEMS WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE FOR THE TIME BEING.
SO IT WOULD SEEM...
STRDAAK
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE THIS TRUSTING, YOU SHOULD KEEP ME ON PERMANENT RETAINER.
CHEETAH!?

I WONDERED WHY YOU DIDN'T KILL ME BACK IN THE CITY.
YOU SAVED MY LIFE IN MULDAVIA. I FIGURED I SHOULD RETURN THE FAVOR.

I RUBBED OFF THE POISON IVY GAVE ME. I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE SCRATCHES I GAVE YOU ARE JUST FOR SHOW. I DID THE BANDAGING MY-SELF.

THANK YOU, BARBARA.
ACTUALLY, I WAS HOPING TO KILL PAULIE LONGO WITHOUT KILLING YOU, AND THEN COLLECT THE MILLION DOLLAR REWARD.
I GUESS I'VE BLOWN THAT, HUH?


SO WHAT NOW?
WE FIGURE OUT WHO'S CREATING THOSE ROCK CREATURES AND STOP THEM. WHERE'S IVY?

"I DON'T KNOW, BUT SHE'S PROBABLY HEADED FOR THE NEAREST EXIT. I WOULD BE."
... SO I ASK MYSELF, SELF, DO I STAY HERE AND BRAVELY TRY TO FULFILL MY CONTRACT WHILE TWO MOBSTERS THROW ROCK MONSTERS AT EACH OTHER AND WONDER-BABE HUNTS ME DOWN LIKE A MAD DOG...
OR DO I TAKE MY ADVANCE AND RUN LIKE HELL?
WELL, DUH!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
OKAY, I GIVE. WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
WE'RE PAULIE LONGO'S PRESENT TO THE WIDOW SAZIA. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MOP UP WHATEVER THE ROCK BOYS LEAVE.
NOW, WHO ARE YOU, LADY?
M.I.
YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE... MMMMM
SHE'S KISSING HIM!
HEY, I WANT SOME OF THAT!
ME, TOO! I'M NEXT!
NO, ME!

SHANE, BRING THE CAR AROUND AT ONCE.
LEAVING SO SOON? BUT THE PARTY'S JUST BEGINNING!
HAHA AHA
BOY, ARE YOU IN TROUBLE NOW!
AHAHAHAHAHAHA