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WHAT YOU DO NOT YET KNOW, CONTINUED...

"In all our centuries of isolation, she'd never needed a personal guard."

SO THE EVIL RUMOR IS TRUE, YOUR MAJESTY?

...

"EVIL," CAPTAIN?

"And yet, she had honored the four of us. Unlovely, impolite, unused to grace and diplomacy, she placed us above all others.

"To guard her, for reasons unknown."

THIS EVENT, THIS GREAT CONFLUENCE...

...IT SHALL BE OUR *SALVATION.*

"We loved her beyond vision and memory.

"But she meant to betray us all."

YOUR MAJESTY, I LACK THE... I DON'T CARRY THE WORDS TO...

YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE.

DO NOT DO THIS.

"She meant to make a CHILD. A DAUGHTER.

"When the rest of us were BARREN for ETERNITY."

LOYAL, FIERCE ALKYONE.

WHAT LOVE YOU HAVE KEPT HIDDEN.

"It would be an INFECTION. A PLAGUE.

"Joy would turn to ENVY and ENVY to HATRED."

RISE, LOYAL ONE. BE HAPPY FOR ME.

BE HAPPY FOR US *ALL.*

"I knew because... because..."
FAREWELL, ALKYONE. IF I FAIL THIS EVENING...
...PHILLIPUS BECOMES QUEEN. MAY YOU PROTECT HER AS YOU HAVE ME.

GOODBYE, YOUR MAJESTY.
"I knew, simply because...

"...because I'd felt it in my own heart.
"Love and loyalty mixed with hate and avarice, just as I felt when I saw poor, doomed, addled GENNES with the DOLL she believed was REAL.
"My disease will spread.

"It will destroy us all."
IT CAN'T BE ALLOWED.

"It can't be allowed."

SHE MEANS TO DO IT.
SHE'LL ABANDON US. SHE'LL CARE ONLY FOR THE BABE.
YES.
THE PARCEL OF THE GODS WILL CRACK OUR ISLAND IN HALF.

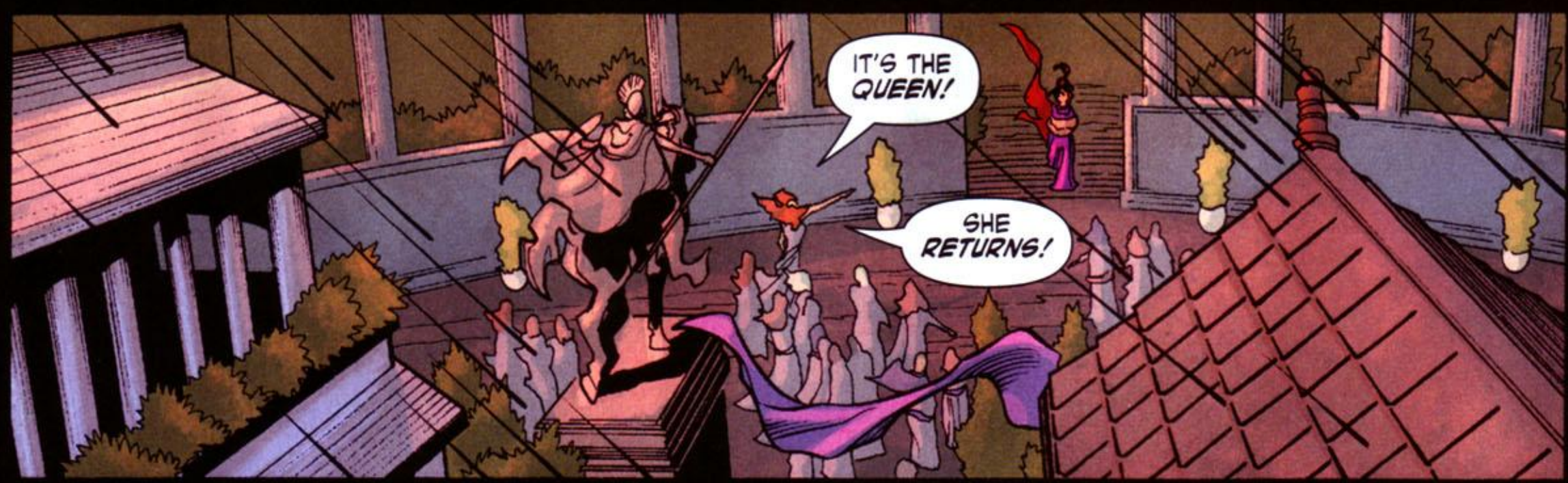
WHAT... WHAT CAN WE DO?
WE CAN'T HARM THE QUEEN. THE VOW.
"ALL OF US, EVERY ONE, WILL DIE BEFORE AN ENEMY TOUCHES A LOCK OF THE QUEEN'S HAIR. THAT IS OUR SACRED TRUST."
NO.

WE CAN'T HARM THE QUEEN.

"And then there was silence, and understanding.
"And a wealth of unexpected tears.

"And we shivered in the dark for Hippolyta's return.
"And that of the demon she planned to conjure."

"It became passably evident that even the GODS were afraid of what our queen did on our beach that night.
"A Hunter's moon, and Zeus' product, at once, in the heavens. Unheard of."
WE HEAR YOU, NIGHT SKY.
AND WE OBEY.
"We know the punishment if we fail.
"But only we four love the Amazon way enough...
"...only we four are STRONG enough.
"To do what MUST be done."
MIRACLE. OH, MIRACLE.
WONDER.


IT'S THE QUEEN!
SHE RETURNS!

THE BURDEN SHE CARRIES... IT'S NOT MOVING!
IS IT... IS IT DEAD?
OH, NO. OUR DEAR QUEEN.

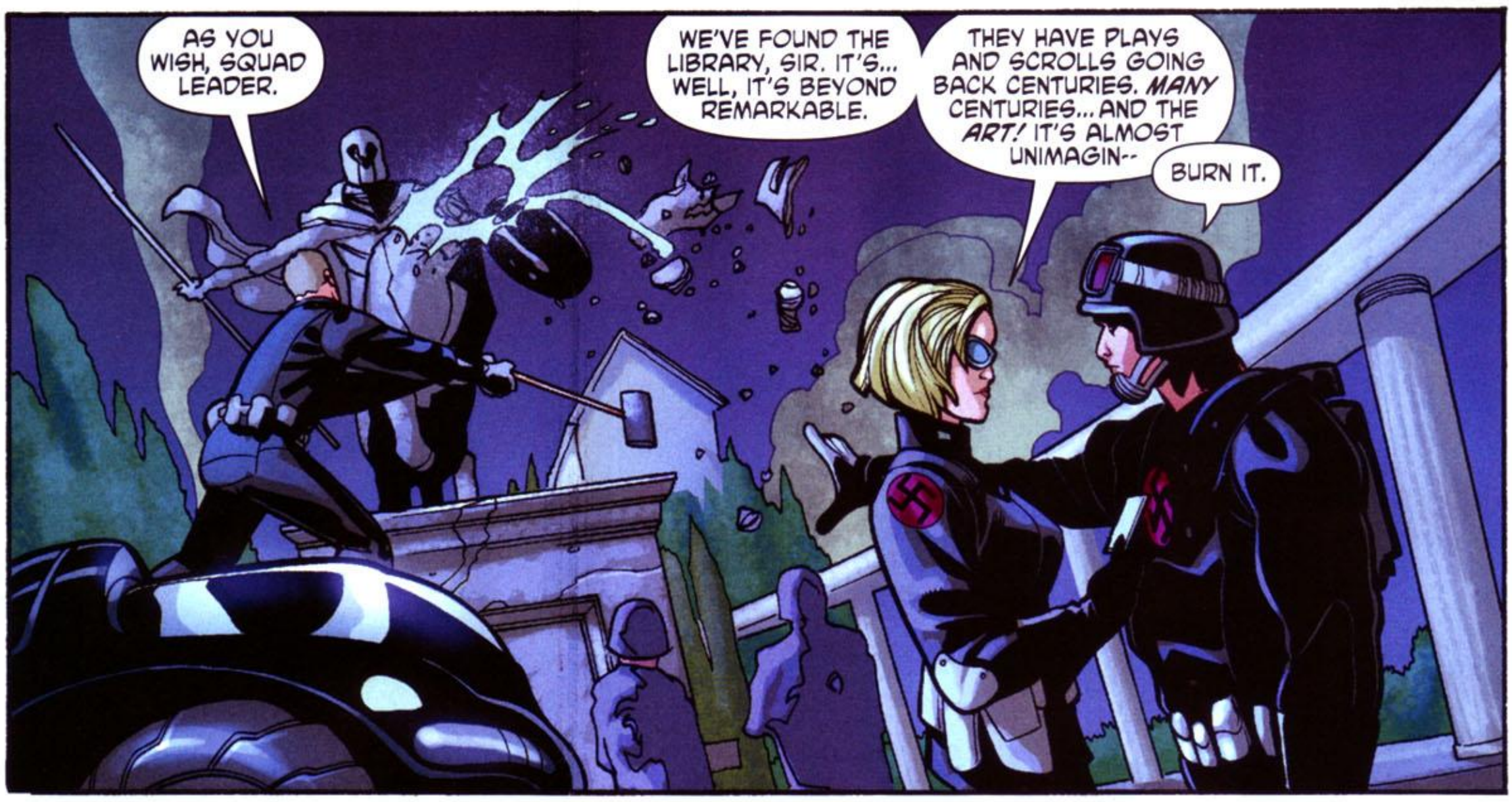
IT DOES NOT STIR.
THE GODS...
THEY HAVE ABANDONED US.

BELOVED SISTERS.

I GIVE YOU YOUR *PRINCESS.*

I GIVE YOU OUR *DAUGHTER!*

THE PRESENT DAY



CAN YOU NOT *SEE* I WAS ABOUT TO *KILL* SOMEONE?
SIR...
SHE... SHE WAS HIDING IN THE STREAM.

"SHE...
"WE COULDN'T STOP HER. WE COULDN'T EVEN *SLOW* HER *DOWN*, SIR!"

I KNOW WHAT THEY ALL THINK, THESE INVADERS.
NO. DON'T! DON'T... DON'T *KILL* ME!
HUSH.
YOU WEAR THE CLOTHES OF A SOLDIER. *BEHAVE* LIKE ONE.
THEY THINK I'M ONE WARRIOR. A WOMAN, NO LESS.

THEY THINK I'LL SURRENDER.
IT'S OBVIOUS THEY DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD "AMAZON."
THIS NIGHT, THIS NIGHT OF BLOOD AND PAIN...
...I WILL TEACH THEM.
TELL YOUR LEADER.

HE DOESN'T BELONG HERE. THIS LAND WILL NOT ACCOMMODATE HIM.
AND TELL HIM ONE MORE THING...

"TELL HIM MY DAUGHTER WILL COME FOR ME."
WHAT?
SHE TOLD ME TO TELL YOU EXACTLY THAT, LEADER.

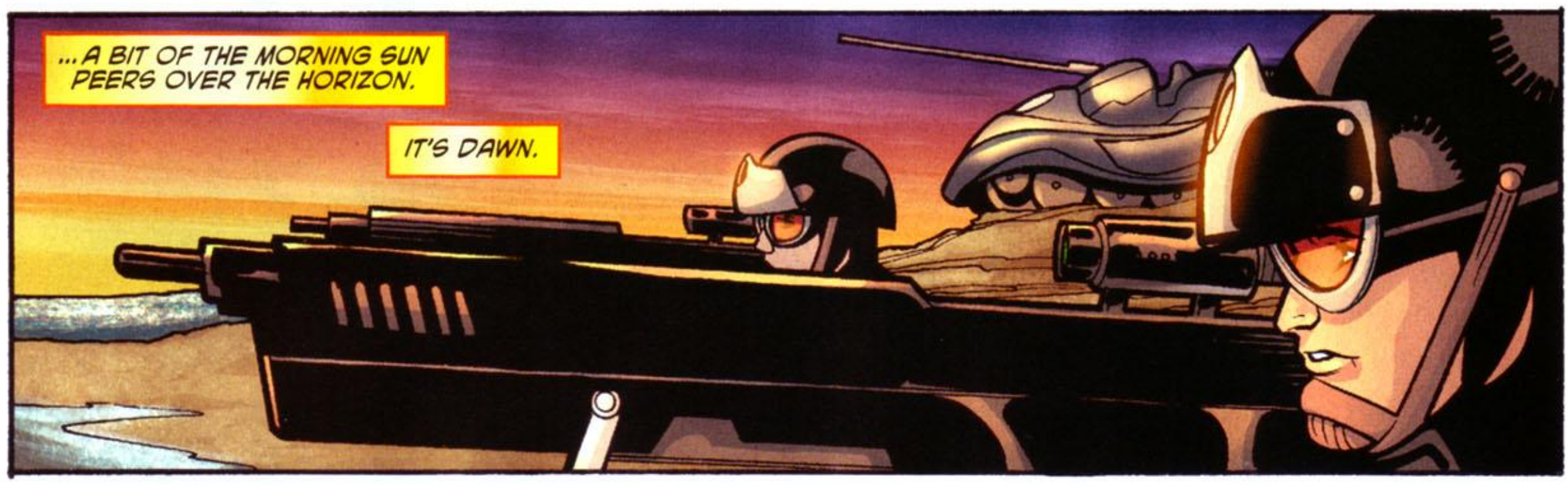
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. SHE AND HER FILTHY SISTERS ARE BANNED FROM THIS ISLAND. WE'VE BEEN ASSURED THAT--
SIR, WE'RE GETTING RADIO SILENCE FROM BLUE POINT, RED POINT, AND GREY POINT SQUADRONS.
AND... THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
THERE'S A SEACRAFT COMING ON THE NORTH SHORE.
IT APPEARS TO BE... UM...

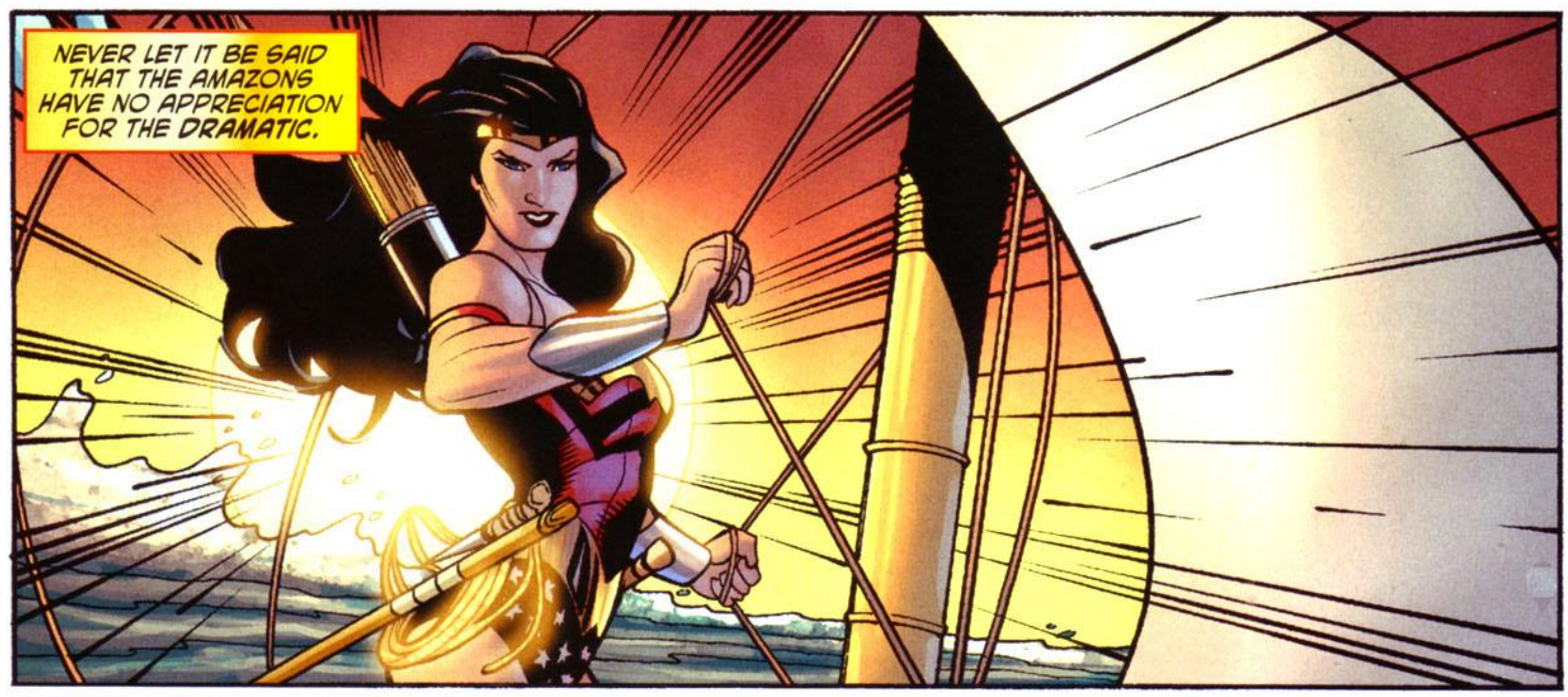
THEY SAID IT'S A WOMAN. IN A GIANT SEA SHELL.
GOD HELP US.
TWO OF THEM?

NUMBERS. THEY CAN'T MATCH OUR NUMBERS IN OPEN COMBAT.
WE DRAW THEM OUT. DON'T LET THEM USE THE ISLAND AGAINST US.
BRING THEM DOWN WITH THE WEIGHT OF US. SEND EVERYTHING TO THE NORTH SHORE, TABITHA.
NOW!

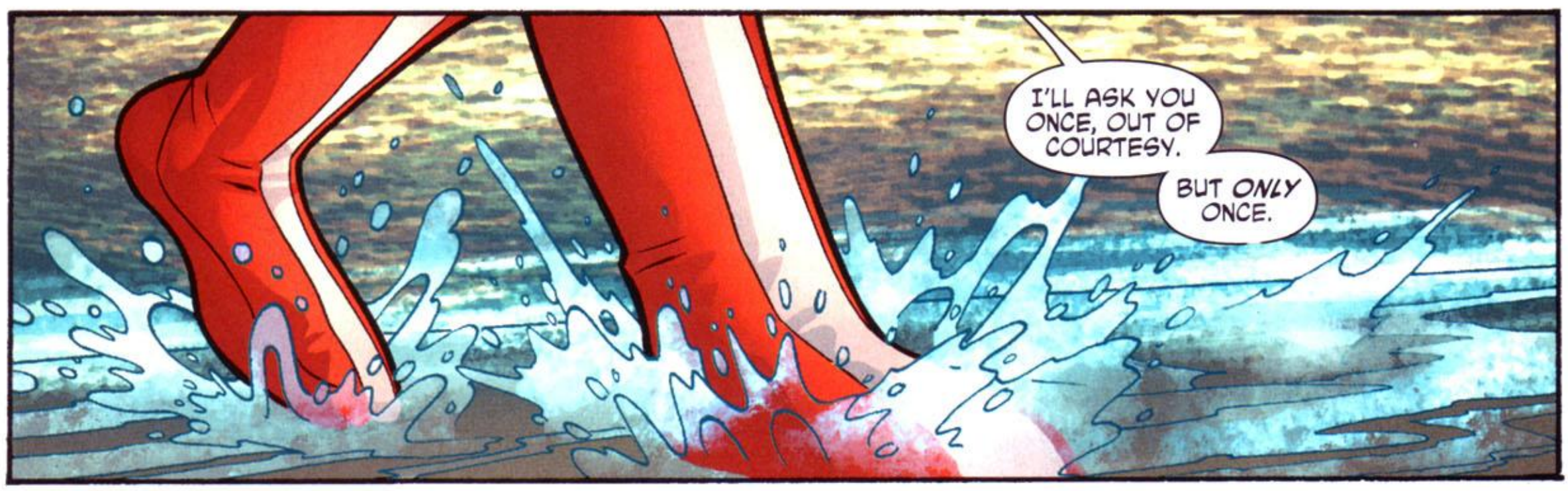
"WE WILL NEVER KNOW PEACE UNTIL THEIR BONES ROT ON THIS GOD-CURSED SAND!"

HOME.
I'M COMING HOME.
AND JUST AT THAT EXACT MOMENT...


...A BIT OF THE MORNING SUN PEERS OVER THE HORIZON.
IT'S DAWN.


NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT THE AMAZONS HAVE NO APPRECIATION FOR THE DRAMATIC.

YOU ARE INVADERS, UNWANTED OCCUPIERS OF MY HOMELAND.
OR THE ADVANTAGE OF SUNLIGHT IN YOUR ENEMY'S EYES.


I'LL ASK YOU ONCE, OUT OF COURTESY.
BUT ONLY ONCE.

SURRENDER.

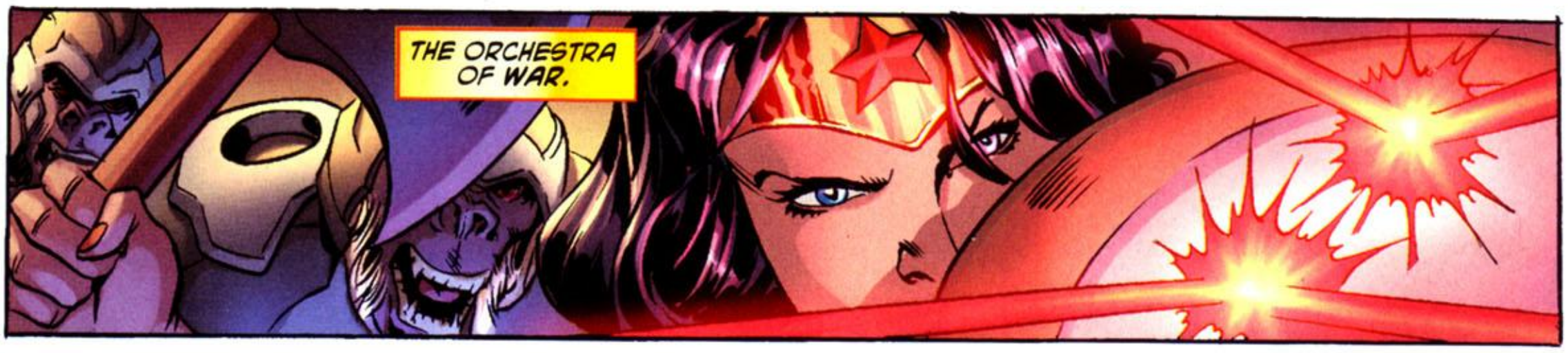
YOU...
YOU CAN'T *POSSIBLY* BE SERIOUS. WE ARE *ALL* AT YOUR STRENGTH LEVEL, AND WE ARE AN *ARMED MULTITUDE.*
WE COULD KILL YOU WHERE YOU *STAND,* "PRINCESS!"

QUITE POSSIBLY. THERE *ARE* A GOOD MANY MORE OF YOU.
OF COURSE...

...IT'S ONLY POSSIBLE THAT MY *FRIENDS* MIGHT *OBJECT.*
THE CIRCLE
PART THREE OF FOUR
THE WELLSPRING OF ALL VENGEANCE
gail simone-writer
terry dodson & ron randall-pencillers
rachel dodson & randall-inkers
alex sinclair-colorist
rob leigh-letterer
nachie castro-assoc. editor
matt idelson-editor
wonder woman created by william moulton marston

AND THEN THE TIME FOR WORDS WAS DONE.

A SPEECHLESS CACOPHONY.



To those above, from those below.
I ask that my enemy surrender, or failing that, that he fall in battle, without further bloodshed and grieving from his loved ones.
I ask that you protect my allies, whose only folly is valuing my life above their own.
Do them no harm, I ask, with everything my heart is or ever will be.
But grant us victory, this above all.
For any other ending means the death of all I hold dear.

You created this ground I tread upon.

Allow me the strength to stand on it, 'til my mission is done.

HOW...

HOW WOULD YOU SAY IT'S GOING, YOUR MAJESTY?

NOT... NOT QUITE WELL *ENOUGH*, GORILLA KNIGHT.

HUMMPH. YOU *ARE* OPTIMISTIC.

MAJESTY, *LOOK.*

A GOLDEN *EAGLE*, HOVERING ABOVE.

DOES HE WAIT FOR US TO DIE?

KRRAAAK

SHE, TOLIFHAR. I BELIEVE IT'S A SHE.

AND I THINK SHE WANTS US TO *LIVE.*

"WHAT OF THE HUNTING, HUNTER BOLD? BROTHER, THE WATCH WAS LONG AND COLD

WHAT OF THE QUARRY YE WENT TO KILL? BROTHER, HE CROPS IN THE JUNGLE STILL."

Hmm. KIPLING.

NOT MY FAVORITE. IT'S A RETREAT, THEN?

I'M COMING, MOTHER.

KLIKK

OH, DEAR.
BREAKING INTO MS. PRINCE'S APARTMENT, I SEE.
MOST UNBECOMING.

WHOA, NOW. NO NEED FOR THAT.
AFTER ALL...
...I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE, EITHER.

A STORM APPROACHES, ALKYONE. PERHAPS THE RAIN WILL FURTHER SHIELD HIPPOLYTA?

THIS ISN'T ORDINARY RAIN, CHARIS. THIS IS AN ILL PORTENT FOR OUR QUEEN.

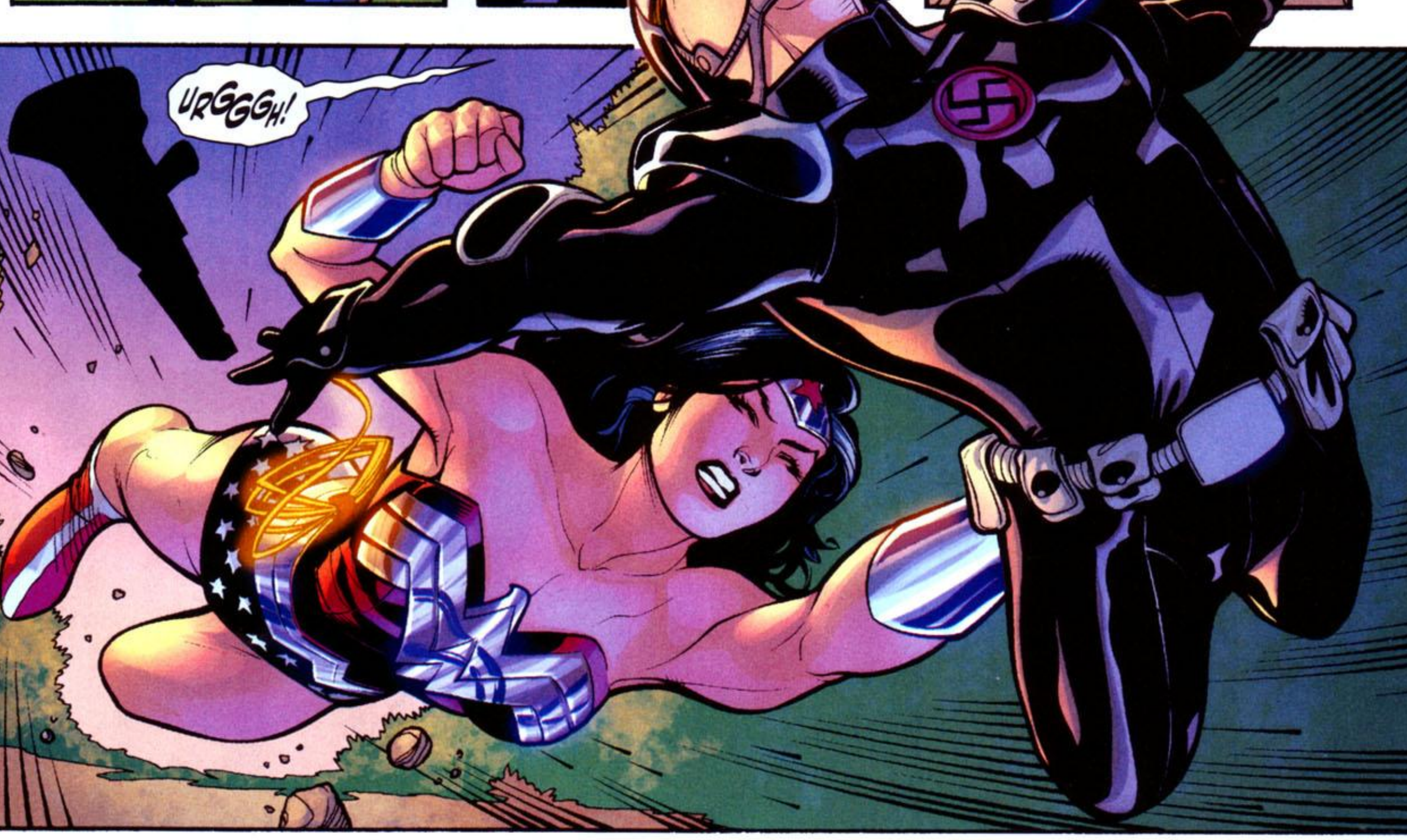
"WE WERE... *uh,* WE WERE MAKING OURSELVES UNOBTRUSIVE, AND SHE FLEW RIGHT OVER. I SHOT HER! WE *ALL* SHOT HER!

"*AND* THE DAMN FAIRYTALE HORSE SHE RODE *IN* ON, LEADER!"

HEY, GOOD NEWS, MAN. THEY GOT THAT CRAZY QUEEN LADY, AND WONDER WOMAN AND HER SPECIAL MONKEY PALS HAVE RETREATED!
Heh. JEEZ, I THOUGHT, FOR A MINUTE, THE WHOLE NEW FATHERLAND THING WAS GONNA BE OVER 'CAUSE A' TWO BROADS AND SOME ZOO ESCAPEES.
I DID WANNA SEE THAT WONDER CHICK, THOUGH. I'D KNOW HOW TO MAKE GOOD USE OF HER.

GRLK.
EXACTLY. I MEAN, I'D BE ALL, "OH GREAT PRINCESS HARDBODY, WON'T YOU PLEASE OH PLEASE TIE ME UP WITH YOUR GOLDEN BONDAGE ROPE," AND SHE'D BE ALL...

YELLOW POINT ONE?
UM.
CHUCK?


URGGGH!

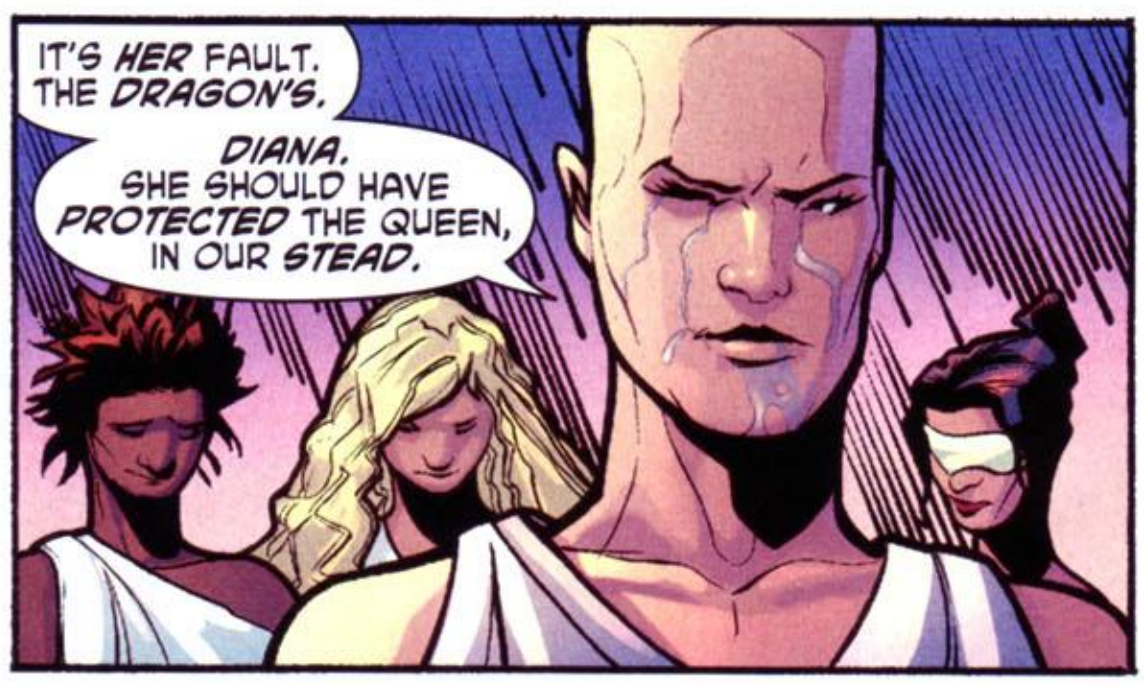
I'M HERE, WRETCH. I HAVE WHAT YOU WANTED.
I ASK YOU, MURDERER!
LOOK AT IT. SEE THE WHOLE TRUTH OF EVERYTHING YOU ARE.

NO! NO!
IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?
GET IT AWAY FROM ME! FOR THE LOVE OF GOD!

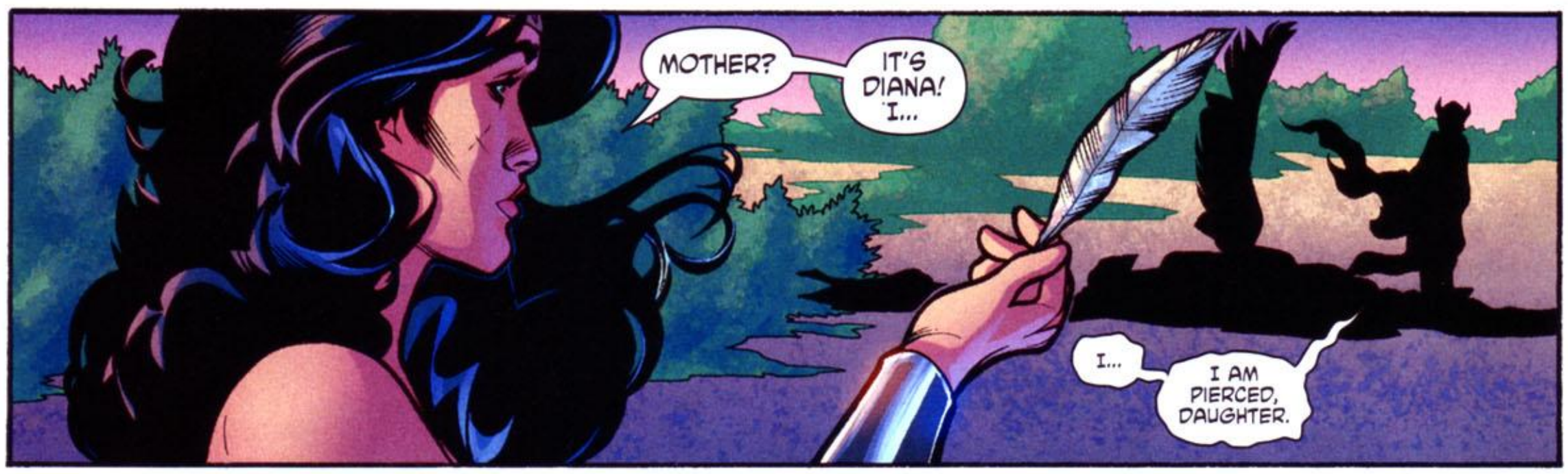
BEFORE I FORGET ABOUT MERCY. ABOUT HONOR.
WHERE.
IS.
MY.
MOTHER?!?

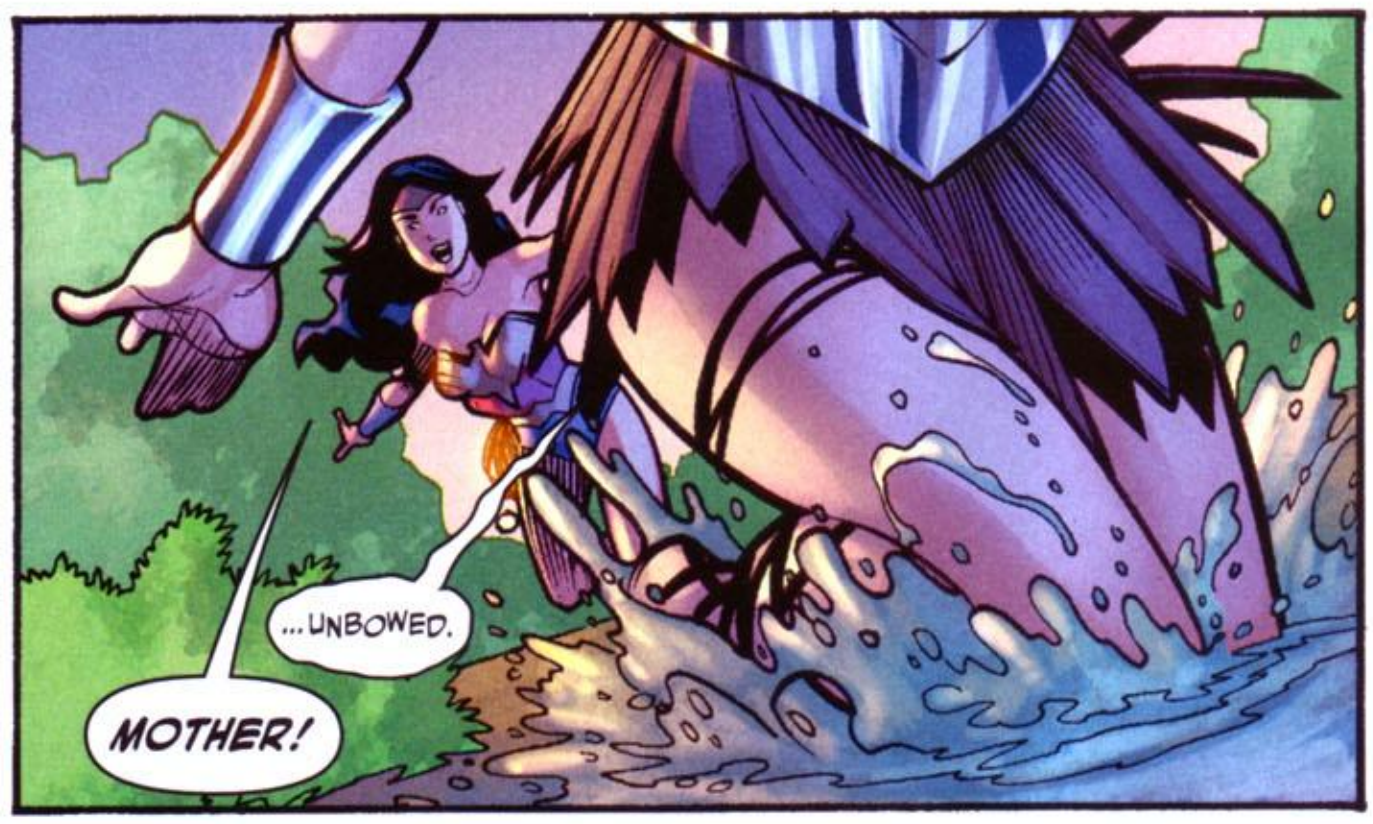
Uik.
NO HONOR, THESE "SOLDIERS."
WAIT!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO... STOP! PLEASE.

SILENCE.
THAT DOGS LIKE THESE...
...OUR QUEEN.
KRRAK


IT'S HER FAULT. THE DRAGON'S.
DIANA. SHE SHOULD HAVE PROTECTED THE QUEEN, IN OUR STEAD.

NO.
MY MOTHER'S MOUNT!
"FIND OUR WEAPONS. DO YOUR DUTY.
"KILL THE ABERRATION."


MOTHER?
IT'S DIANA! I...
I...
I AM PIERCED, DAUGHTER.



MY QUEEN.

MY QUEEN.

NEXT:
UPON PAIN OF DEATH

Well, here we are, week three of my walk down the halls of DC Editorial (either the halls are real long, or I am an incredibly slow walker).

Anyway, next up, the office of Senior Editor **Joey Cavalieri**. It's always fun to enter here if only because you never know what to expect. Always fussing behind mounds of scripts and art boards, Joey is either on the phone or concentrating on the latest script, and sometimes it's a little hard to get his attention. Uh oh… the new BRAVE AND BOLD script just came in, so this might take a while. I could keep busy reviewing his cover wall (Love these covers! THE WAR THAT TIME FORGOT is a real who's who of the top talents in the business, and you can never get enough Joker and Luthor in SALVATION RUN), but it might be best if I keep moving and try back later.

Associate Editors **Tom Palmer** and **Jeanine Schaefer** share the office across the hall. (Executive Editor's note and geek moment: Tried to arrange for Tom to share an office with **Stephanie Buscema** just so their last names would be on the same wall plaque; didn't work out). Jeanine, or J9 as she likes to be called, is on the phone with writer **Chuck Dixon**, working out the plans for a special issue of ROBIN where Batman makes a long overdue doctor's appointment. Tom is also on the phone, a one-stop-shopping editorial conference call with **Jimmy Palmiotti** and **Justin Gray**, talking through the last issue of UNCLE SAM, latest issues of JONAH HEX (more **Jordi Bernet**) and final plans for the delayed TERRA miniseries (coming in '08, promise!). From the sound of things, everything seems to be moving very nicely, no need to interrupt; also nice to see people working and not spending three weeks walking down the hall.

In the next office is the latest addition to our editorial staff, Senior Story Editor **Ian Sattler**. Ian took over the office of former editor and current Nightwing writer (and he has the socks to prove it) **Peter Tomasi**. Ian's job is to make sense for you and us of the weaving lines of continuity in the many DC comics. For some people this may seem like rocket science, but he's trying to make sure it's easy reading and easy to understand for everyone who enjoys our books. Must be keeping him pretty busy since he hasn't found time to even hang a picture in the six months he's been here.

This looks like another good place to take a break. See you next week.

DD

DC NATION

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at dccomics.com

Next in...

WONDER WOMAN #17

Wonder Woman must take on the Circle, but to do that, she must somehow return to Paradise Island!

THE HOT LIST THIS WEEK

COUNTDOWN #14

COUNTDOWN TO MYSTERY #5

WONDER WOMAN #16

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