THE NEW 52! #0
DC COMICS™
WONDER WOMAN®
NOV 2012
RATED T TEEN
BRIAN AZZARELLO
CLIFF CHIANG
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DC COMICS proudly presents BEFORE THE NEW 52!

INCONCEIVABLY CONCEIVED ON A MYSTERIOUS ISLAND VOID OF MEN THAT WOMEN CALL PARADISE, SHE IS KNOWN AS *PRINCESS DIANA*--DAUGHTER OF THE MIGHTY *QUEEN HIPPOLYTA*, RULER OF THE AMAZONS! BUT HER MOTHER HOLDS A SECRET--THAT DIANA'S FATHER IS *ZEUS*--THE KING OF THE GODS! NO ONE KNOWS THIS--NOT EVEN US, WHO CALL HER... WONDER WOMAN!

THE LAIR OF THE MINOTAUR!

THE MONTHLY MONSTER STRIKES AGAIN! RATHER THAN GIVE ***WONDER WOMAN'S MERRY MEN*** *THEIR MARCHING ORDERS, WE DUG UP A STORY FROM* ***WONDER WOMAN'S*** *PAST! MAY YOU ENJOY THIS MAGNIFICENT MISSIVE THAT ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN* ***"ALL-GIRL ADVENTURE TALES FOR MEN #41"***

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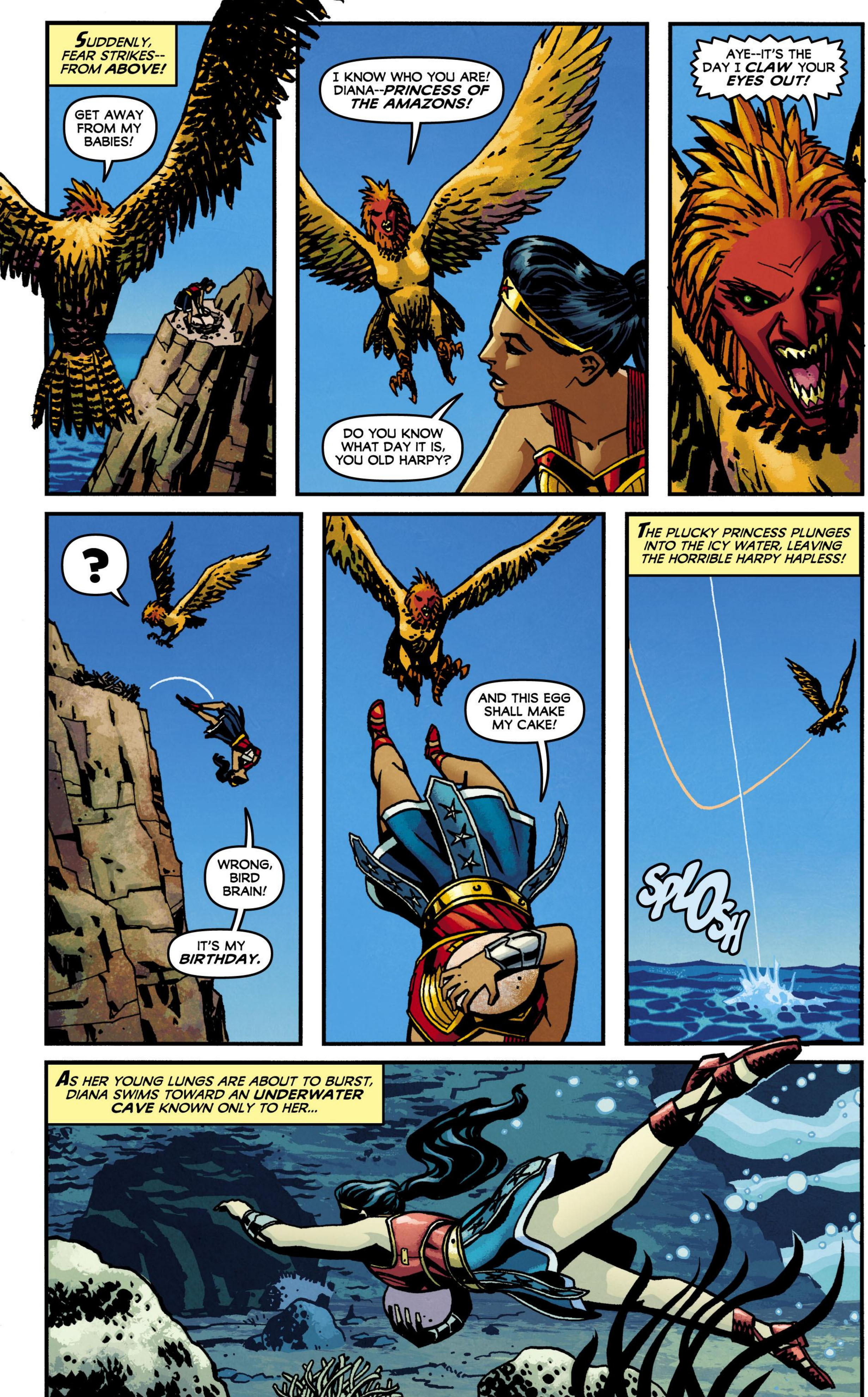

SUDDENLY, FEAR STRIKES--FROM ABOVE!
GET AWAY FROM MY BABIES!
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! DIANA--PRINCESS OF THE AMAZONS!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS, YOU OLD HARPY?
AYE--IT'S THE DAY I CLAW YOUR EYES OUT!
?
WRONG, BIRD BRAIN!
IT'S MY BIRTHDAY.
AND THIS EGG SHALL MAKE MY CAKE!
THE PLUCKY PRINCESS PLUNGES INTO THE ICY WATER, LEAVING THE HORRIBLE HARPY HAPLESS!
SPLOSH
AS HER YOUNG LUNGS ARE ABOUT TO BURST, DIANA SWIMS TOWARD AN UNDERWATER CAVE KNOWN ONLY TO HER...

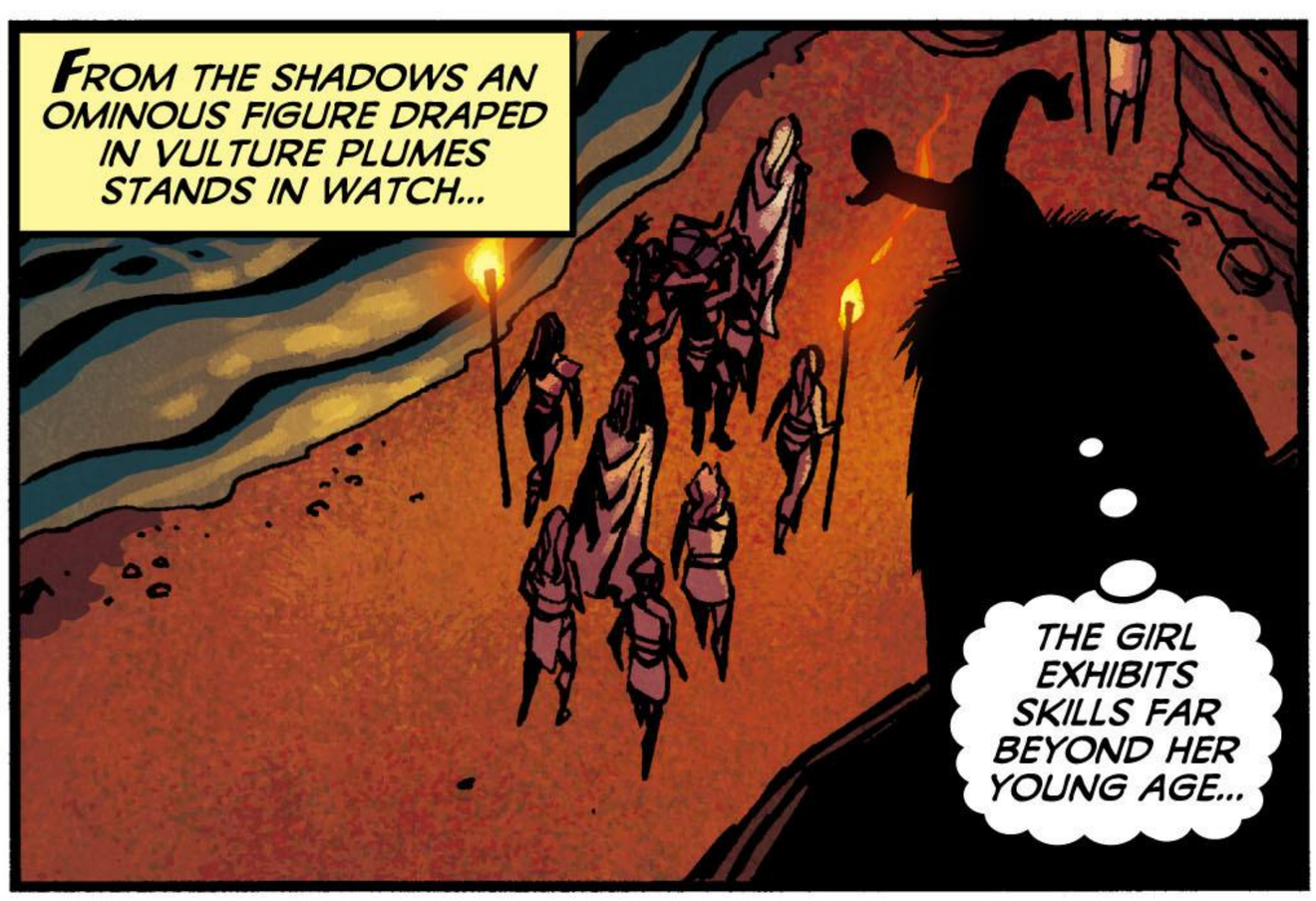
...AND THE AMAZONS! THE FIERCE TRIBE OF WARRIOR WOMEN WHO SHUN THE WORLD OF MAN!
DIANA, IT IS I, QUEEN HIPPOLYTA--YOUR MOTHER! WE HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR RETURN--AND THE PRIZE YOU MUST DELIVER!

QUEEN HIPPOLYTA'S TONE MASKS HER CONCERN...FOR SHE KNOWS THAT MANY YOUNG AMAZONS FAIL IN THEIR QUESTS...
TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY...

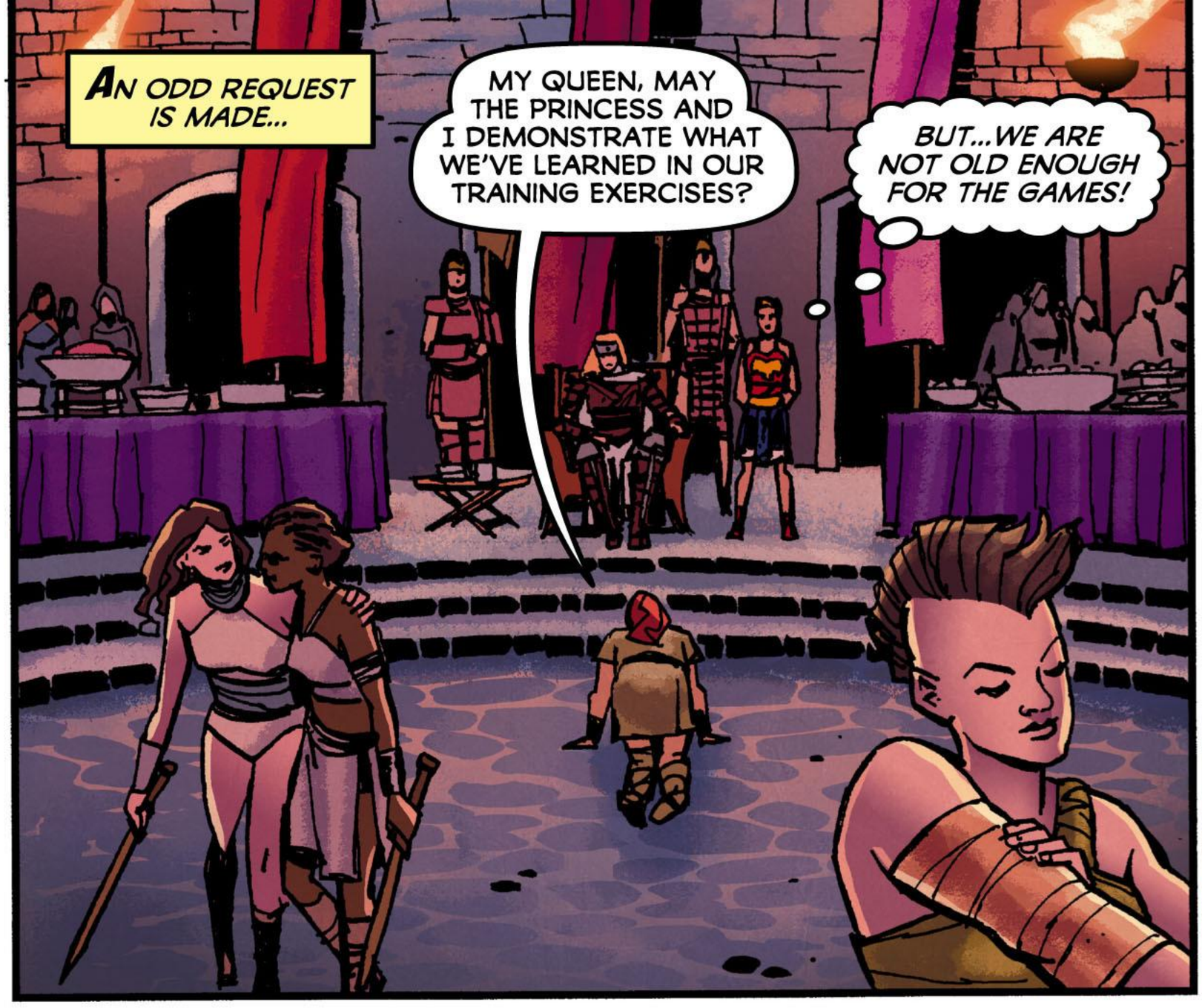
AS IS OUR CUSTOM, YOU NEED TO PRESENT ME WITH A SUITABLE PRESENT, OR THE PASSING OF YOUR YEAR WILL NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED.
MY QUEEN, FORGIVE ME. ALL I COULD FIND...

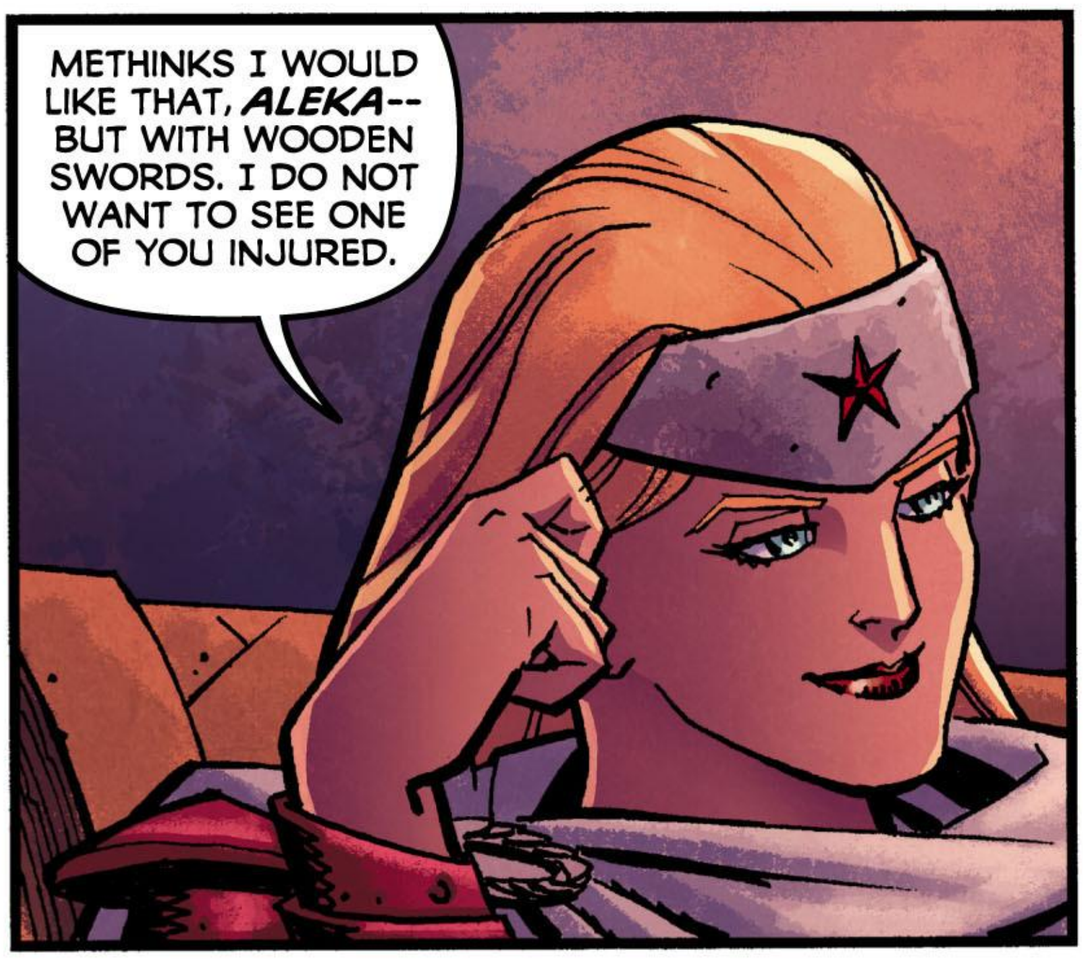
...IS A HARPY'S EGG!

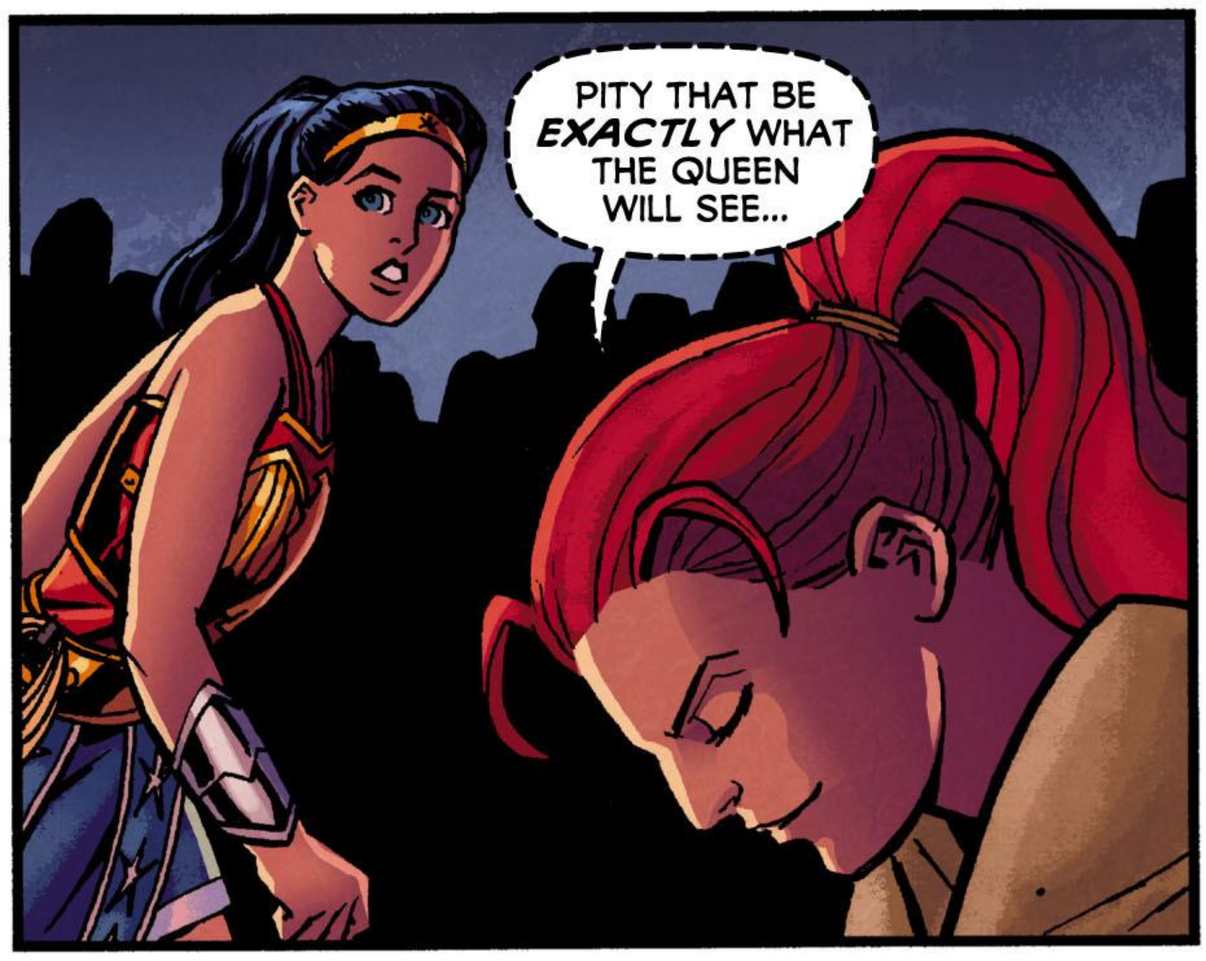
HOORAY FOR PRINCESS DIANA!


FROM THE SHADOWS AN OMINOUS FIGURE DRAPED IN VULTURE PLUMES STANDS IN WATCH...
THE GIRL EXHIBITS SKILLS FAR BEYOND HER YOUNG AGE...

PERHAPS SHE IS THE ONE...







THE COMBAT BEGINS!

GREAT HERA!

ALEKA IS COMING AT ME WITH ALL HER MIGHT!

ALEKA IS FIGHTING FOR REAL--MEANING I'D BETTER, TOO! I DO NOT WISH TO HURT HER THOUGH, SO PERHAPS IF I...

THWACK

YIELD?
NEVER! I AM A TRUE AMAZON WARRIOR!
NOT YET YOU'RE NOT!
WELL, YOU WILL NEVER BE...

CLAY!
THE MUD STINGS, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS ALEKA'S WORDS...

...WORDS THAT SEND THE PRINCESS INTO A RAGE!
TAKE IT BACK!
DAUGHTER, STOP! YOU'RE HURTING HER!
KOFF
YIELD!
KOFF

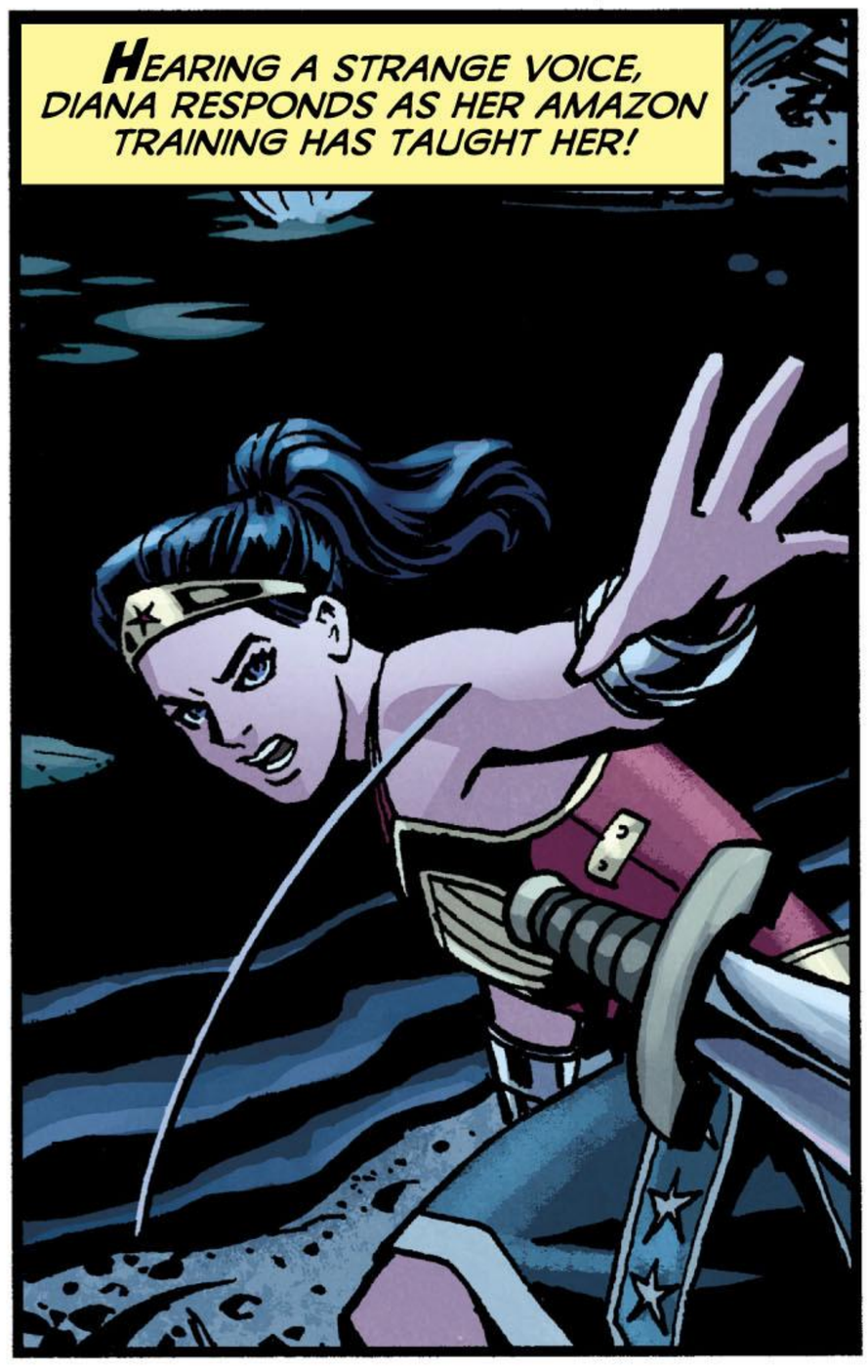
I--

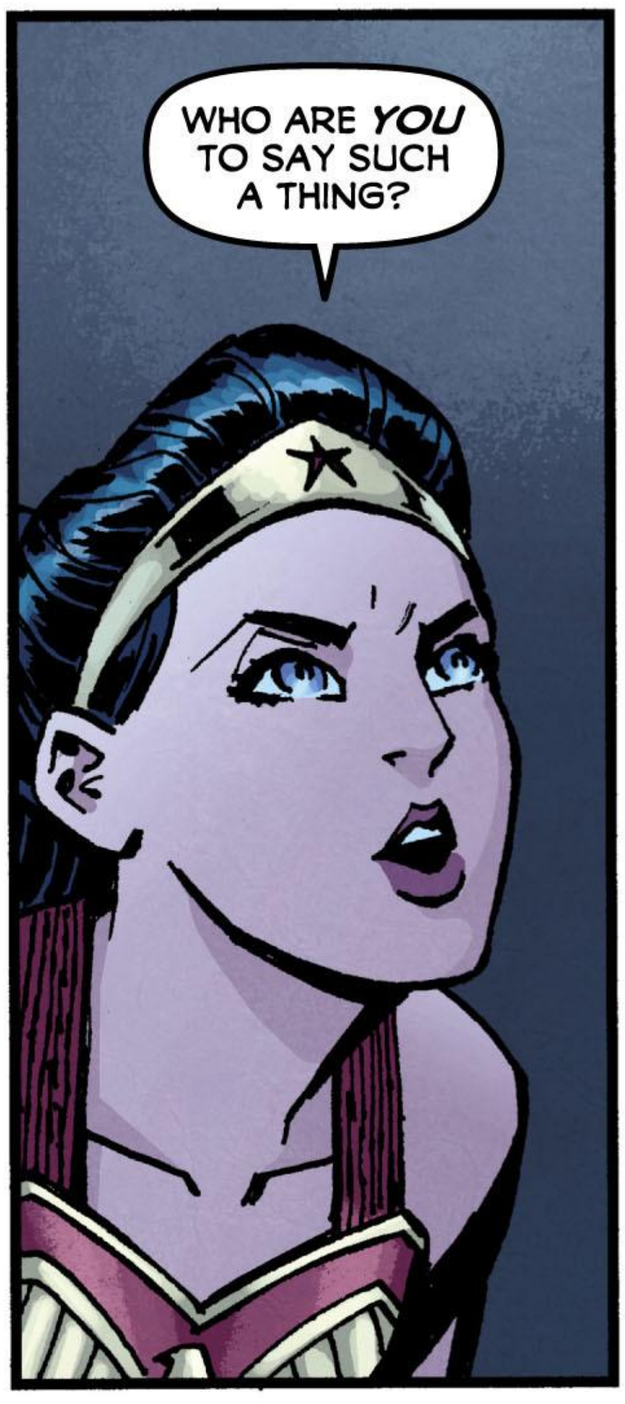
I'M SORRY!

DIANA RUNS INTO THE FOREST AS FAR AS HER LEGS WILL CARRY HER BEFORE FALLING ON THE BANKS OF A SILENT STREAM...

WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE SUCH A FATE? TO BE FORMED FROM CLAY-- TO NOT HAVE REAL PARENTS-- TO NEVER FIT IN!!*

*DIANA DOESN'T KNOW THAT SHE DOES HAVE A MOTHER AND A FATHER--QUEEN HIPPOLYTA AND ZEUS, KING OF OLYMPUS! -MALIGNANT MATT



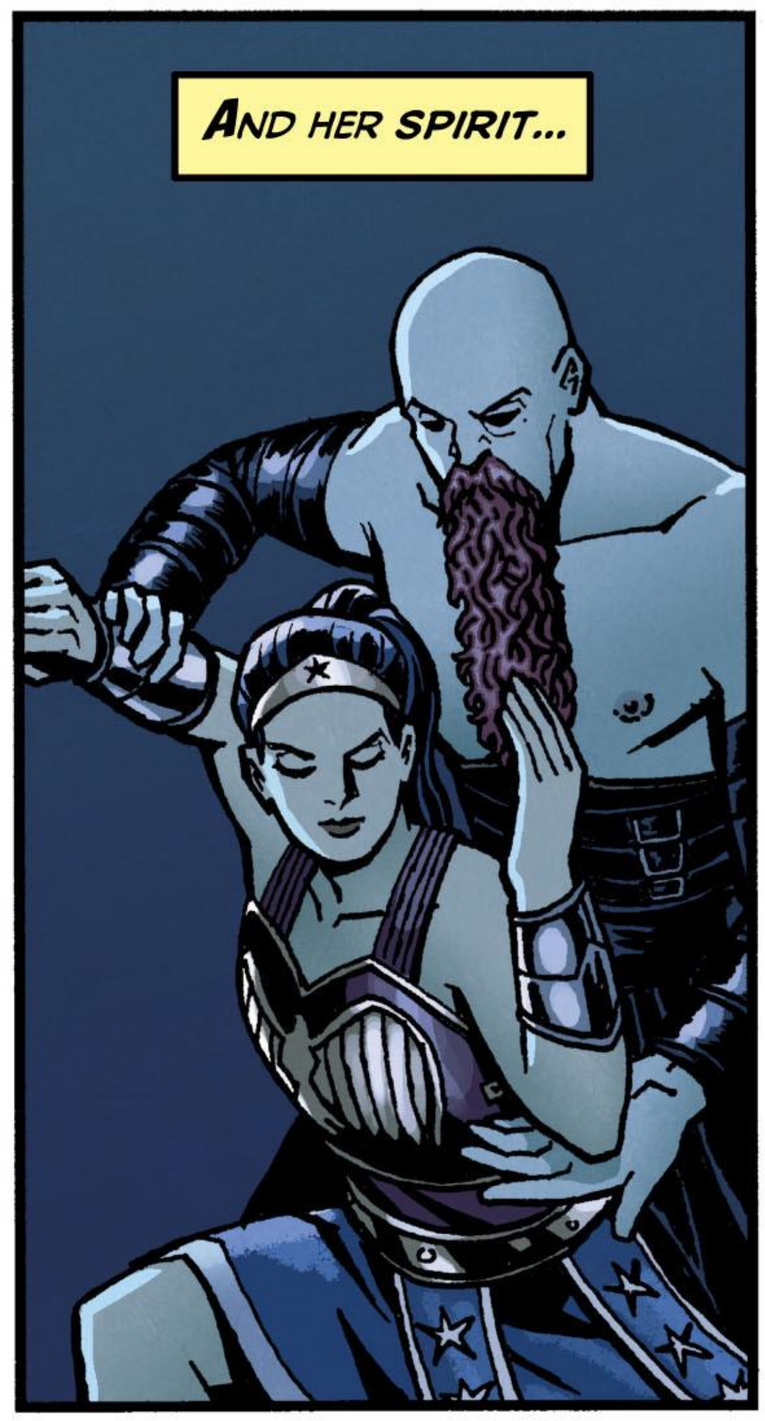


HA! HAST THOU SPENT ALL THY TIME IN THE ARENA AND NONE IN THE TEMPLE? TRULY THOU ART AFTER MINE OWN HEART!

LITTLE ONE, I BE AN OLYMPIAN. I BE THE SETTLER OF DISPUTE. I BE BLOOD! I BE GUTS! I BE IRON!

I BE WAR!

AND SO EVERY MONTH, DIANA MEETS THE OLYMPIAN UNDER THE FULL MOON. THERE HE TEACHES HER TO HARNESS HER BODY...


AND HER SPIRIT...

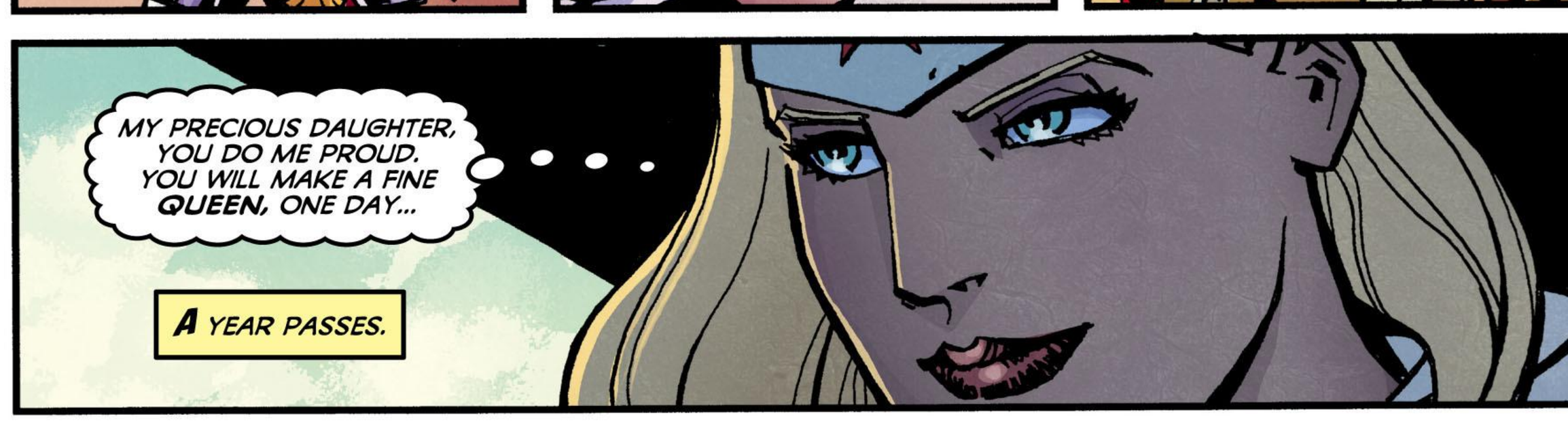
TO BE ONE WITH THE WAYS OF WAR!
SPLENDID, LITTLE ONE!

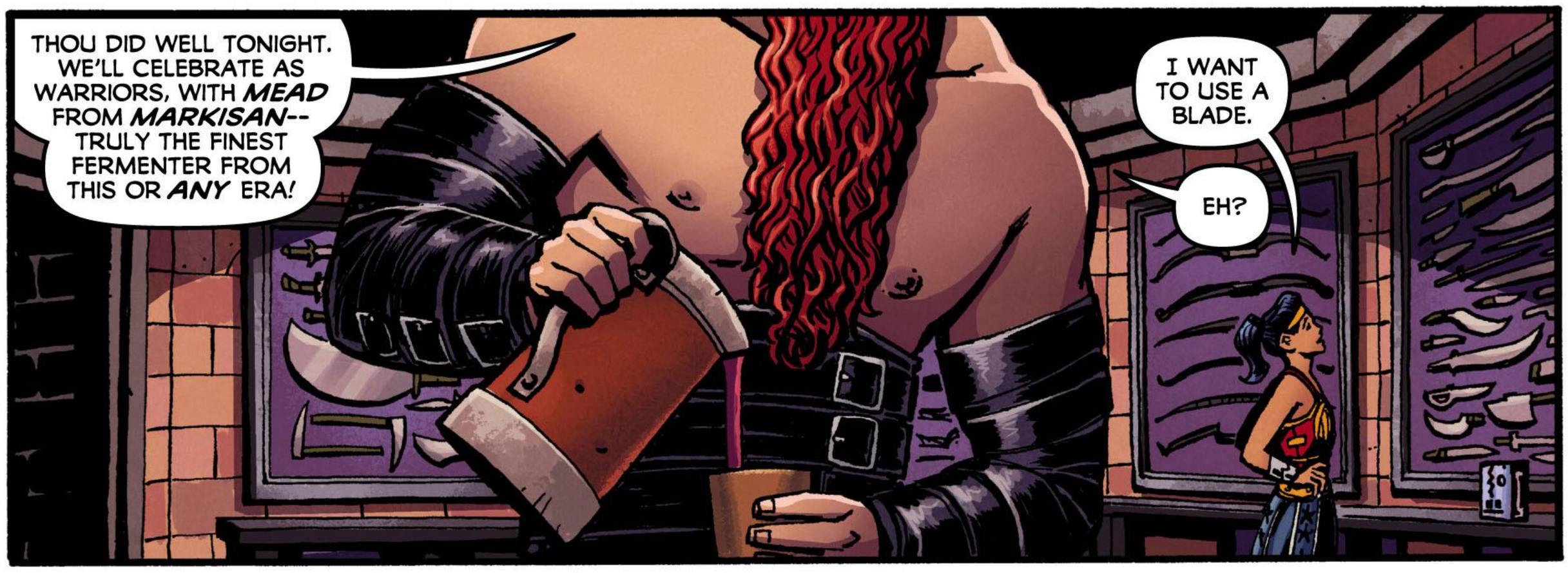
AND WAR IS PROUD, FOR DIANA'S SKILLS RIVAL THOSE OF BOTH BRAVE ULYSSES AND BRAWNY ACHILLES--COMBINED!
SHE BRINGS THE IMMORTAL SOMETHING AKIN TO JOY, AND FOR A BRIEF MOMENT HE ALLOWS HIMSELF TO DREAM OF REST, AND OF ONE DAY PASSING ON THE MANTLE.

ALL THE WHILE, DIANA NEVER NEGLECTS HER TRADITIONAL AMAZON STUDIES.

SHE PROVES HERSELF STRONGER AND FASTER THAN THE OTHER GIRLS HER AGE.

AS WELL AS SOME OF HER AMAZON TEACHERS!


MY PRECIOUS DAUGHTER, YOU DO ME PROUD. YOU WILL MAKE A FINE QUEEN, ONE DAY...
A YEAR PASSES.


THOU DID WELL TONIGHT. WE'LL CELEBRATE AS WARRIORS, WITH *MEAD* FROM *MARKISAN*-- TRULY THE FINEST FERMENTER FROM THIS OR *ANY* ERA!
I WANT TO USE A BLADE.
EH?

WOOD IS FOR *CHILDREN.*
LITTLE ONE...STEEL IS REAL. A BLADE IN ONE'S HAND IS TRUTH--AND LIKE IT, MUST BE USED AS SUCH.
IT MUST BE RELENTLESS, UNERRING, AND UNFORGIVING.
THOU KNOW *NOT* WHAT YOU *ASK.*

I *DO.* I WANT TO USE REAL BLADES.

SIGH SO BE IT. THIS IS THY CHOICE. THE NEXT MOON, WE *FIGHT...*

...TO THE *DEATH!*
WHAT!?
DO NOT PICK UP A SWORD AGAINST A MAN UNLESS YOU MEAN TO PUT HIM *DOWN* WITH IT. *THAT* IS THE *WARRIOR'S WAY.*
UNDERSTOOD?

I UNDERSTAND.

THE BATTLE IS JOINED! IT LASTS FOR HOURS!
LATER, THE AMAZONS WOULD SPEAK OF UNEXPLAINABLE LIGHTNING FLASHING FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP-- SO FIERCE IS THE CLASH OF REAL ON STEEL!

THIS IS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT! PERCHANCE AN OLD TRICK...
KLANG
BUT WILY WAR HAS OLD TRICKS OF HIS OWN!

CLEVER, GIRL...

BUT A CLEVER WARRIOR DISARMED...

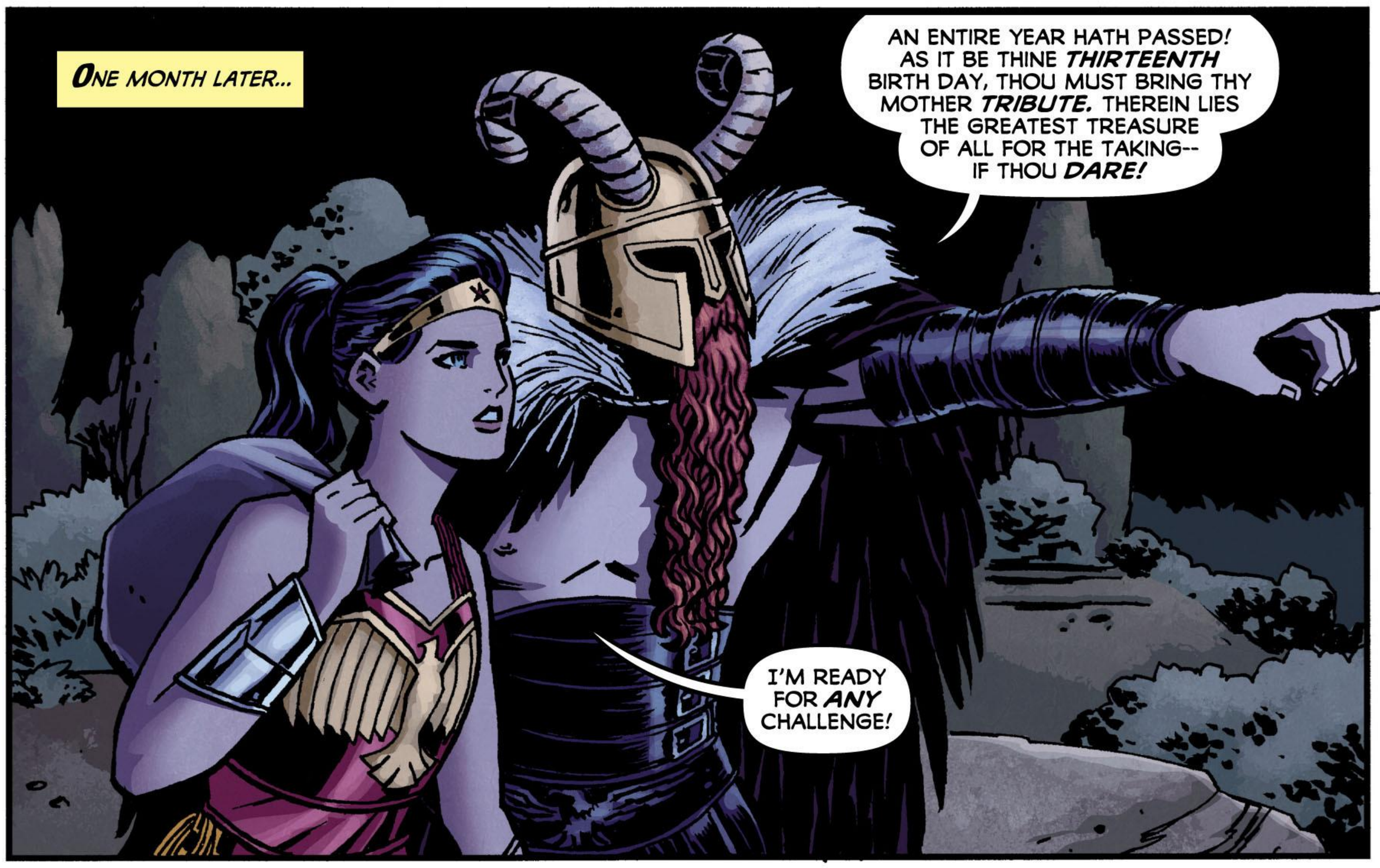
...KNOWS TO USE THEIR OPPONENT'S WEAPON AGAINST THEM!
I...

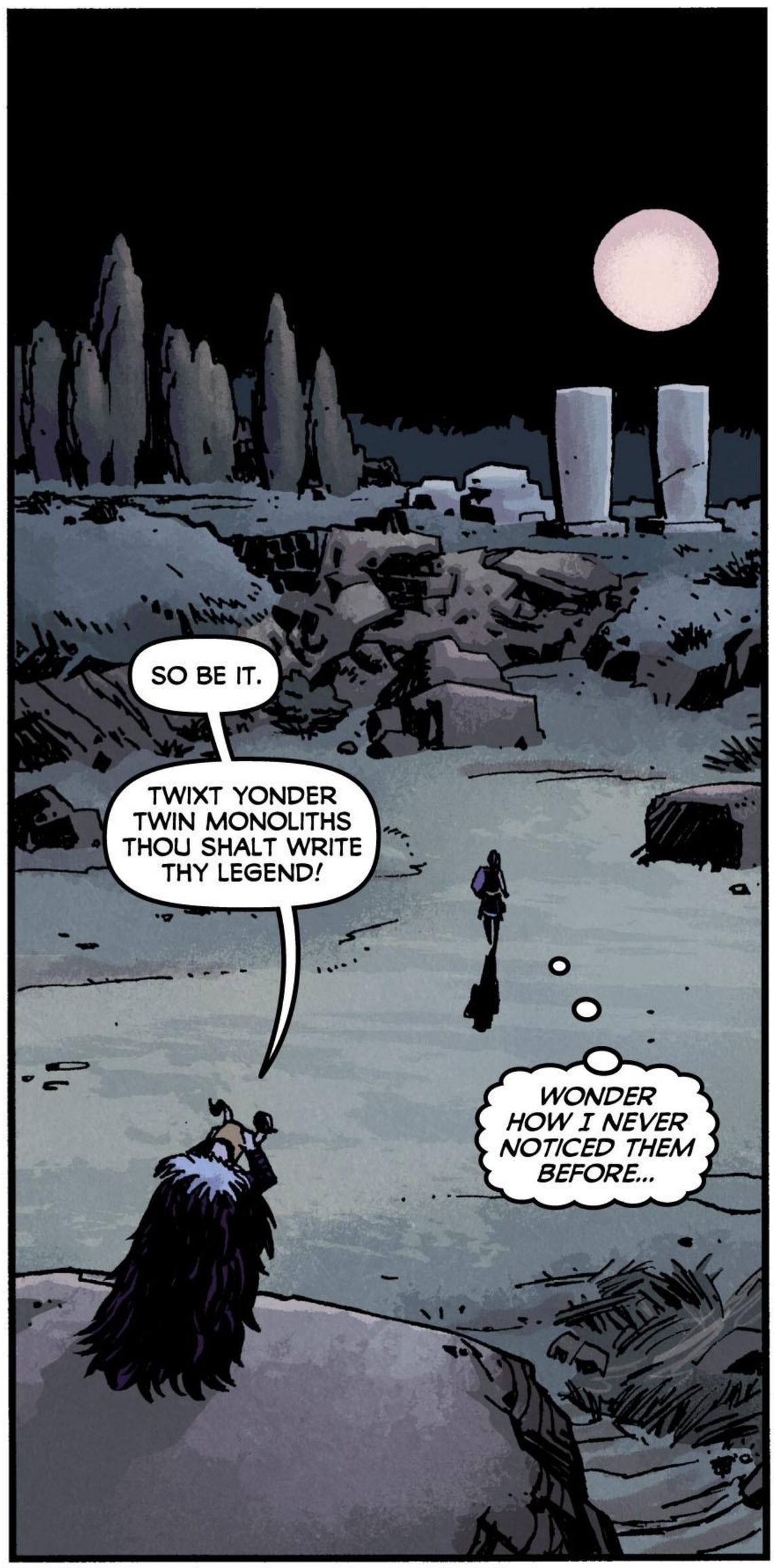
I'M READY TO DIE BY YOUR HANDS.
DIANA'S WORDS SHAKE WAR TO HIS CORE!

PRINCESS... WHILE A WARRIOR KNOWS THAT DEATH BE THE PRICE OF WAR, A WARRIOR NEVER ACCEPTS DEATH...

A WARRIOR FIGHTS TO THE DEATH...

...BUT NOT ON THIS NIGHT, LITTLE ONE.


ONE MONTH LATER...
AN ENTIRE YEAR HATH PASSED! AS IT BE THINE THIRTEENTH BIRTH DAY, THOU MUST BRING THY MOTHER TRIBUTE. THEREIN LIES THE GREATEST TREASURE OF ALL FOR THE TAKING-- IF THOU DARE!
I'M READY FOR ANY CHALLENGE!

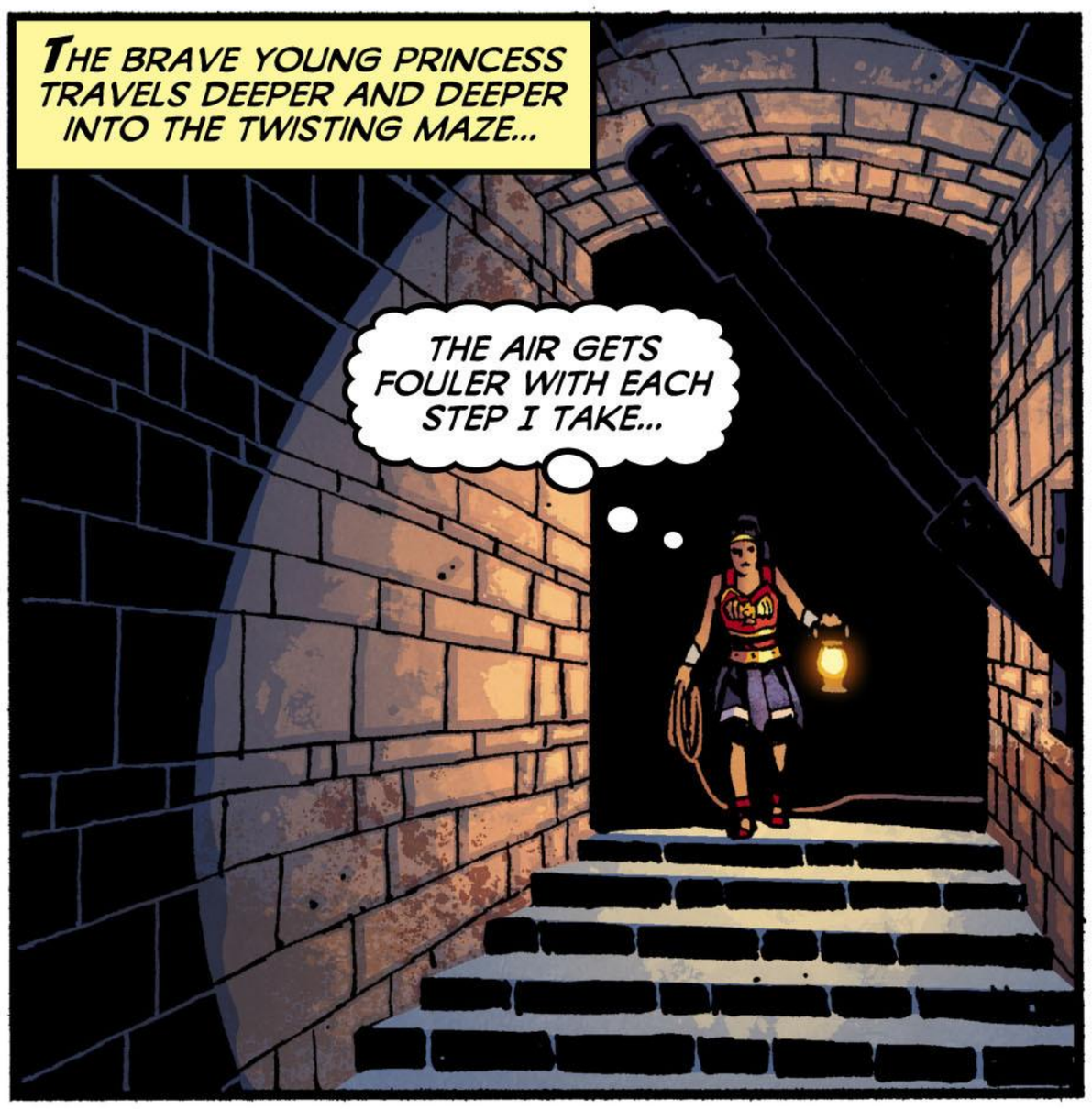

SO BE IT.
TWIXT YONDER TWIN MONOLITHS THOU SHALT WRITE THY LEGEND!
WONDER HOW I NEVER NOTICED THEM BEFORE...

DIANA FINDS A SMALL OPENING IN THE ROCKS...

I WILL MAKE YOU PROUD, WAR.

I HAVE NO DOUBT OF THAT, LITTLE ONE.

AS THEY GROW ACCUSTOM TO THE DANK DARKNESS, DIANA'S EYES ANSWER HER QUESTION! HER HAIR STANDS ON END-- THIS IS A PLACE OF GREAT DANGER!


THE BRAVE YOUNG PRINCESS TRAVELS DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE TWISTING MAZE...
THE AIR GETS FOULER WITH EACH STEP I TAKE...

NOTHING BUT DUST AND COBWEBS. WAR SAID I'D FIND TREASURE HERE...

WHAT COULD HE HAVE MEANT?

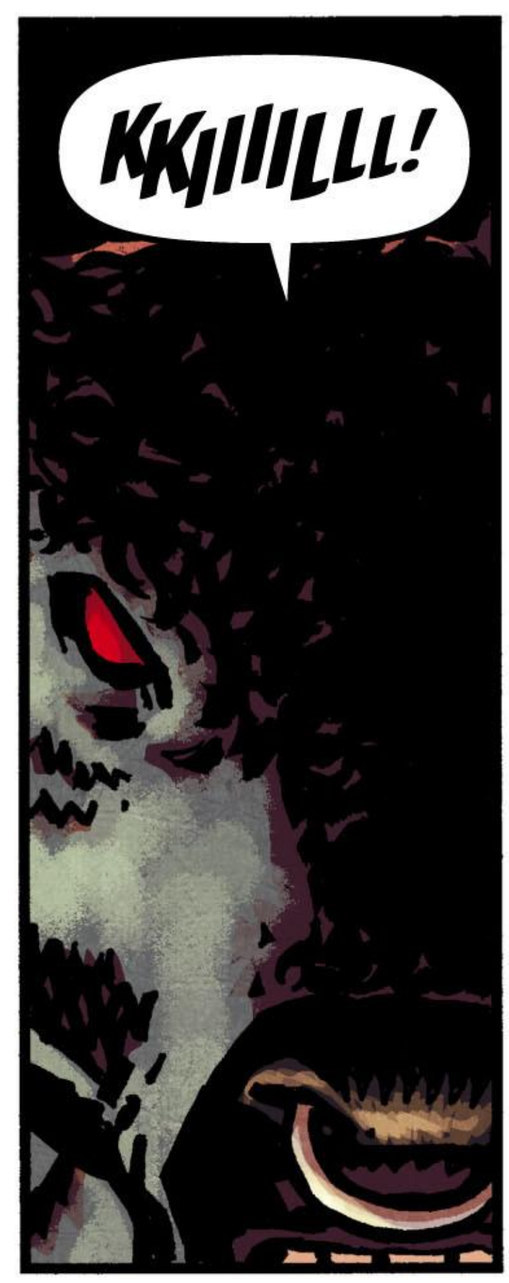
GLOP

WHEN DIANA TURNS, THE BLOOD IN HER VEINS GOES ICIER THAN THE SEA SHE PLUNGED INTO A YEAR AGO!

RRRRGGGRR
GREAT HERA!
THE MINOTAUR!

YES!--THE MINOTAUR--THE MOST FEARSOME BEAST KNOWN TO MAN, WOMAN, OR GOD!

WAR MUST HAVE TRANSPORTED US TO CRETE! THAT EXPLAINS WHY I'D NEVER SEEN THE MONOLITHS BEFORE!



IN ITS BLIND RAGE, THE RAVENOUS MINOTAUR DOESN'T NOTICE WHAT IT'S STEPPED INTO-- DIANA'S MAGIC LASSO!

GOT YOU!

CRASH

IT'S NO USE! I'M JUST MAKING HIM ANGRIER!

WAIT! THAT'S IT!

A CLEVER WARRIOR...
...USES HER OPPONENT'S WEAPON...

RRRAAOOOW
...AGAINST THEM!

AS THE MINOTAUR **CHARGES,** DIANA LEAPS AWAY--CAUSING THE BERSERK BRUTE TO HURL HEAD-FIRST INTO THE HARD **STONE WALL** SHE'D BACKED UP AGAINST!

SMAAA

I DID IT! I VANQUISHED THE MIGHTY MINOTAUR!

YOU HATH, AND WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS THE ADMIRATION I FEEL...

METHINKS THEY WILL FAIL THY *MOTHER* AS WELL, WHEN YOU PRESENT HER WITH THE *FINEST* TREASURE IMAGINABLE.
WHAT TREASURE, WAR?
WHY, THE ONE AT THY FEET...

THINE ENEMY'S *HEAD,* OF COURSE.

NOW *STRIKE.*

DIANA RAISES HER BLADE OVER HER FALLEN ENEMY'S NECK, READY TO DEAL THE ***DEATH BLOW!***

BUT THEN, THE MINOTAUR'S EYE FLICKERS ***OPEN.*** *IT STRUGGLES, ANGER REPLACED BY HELPLESSNESS...*

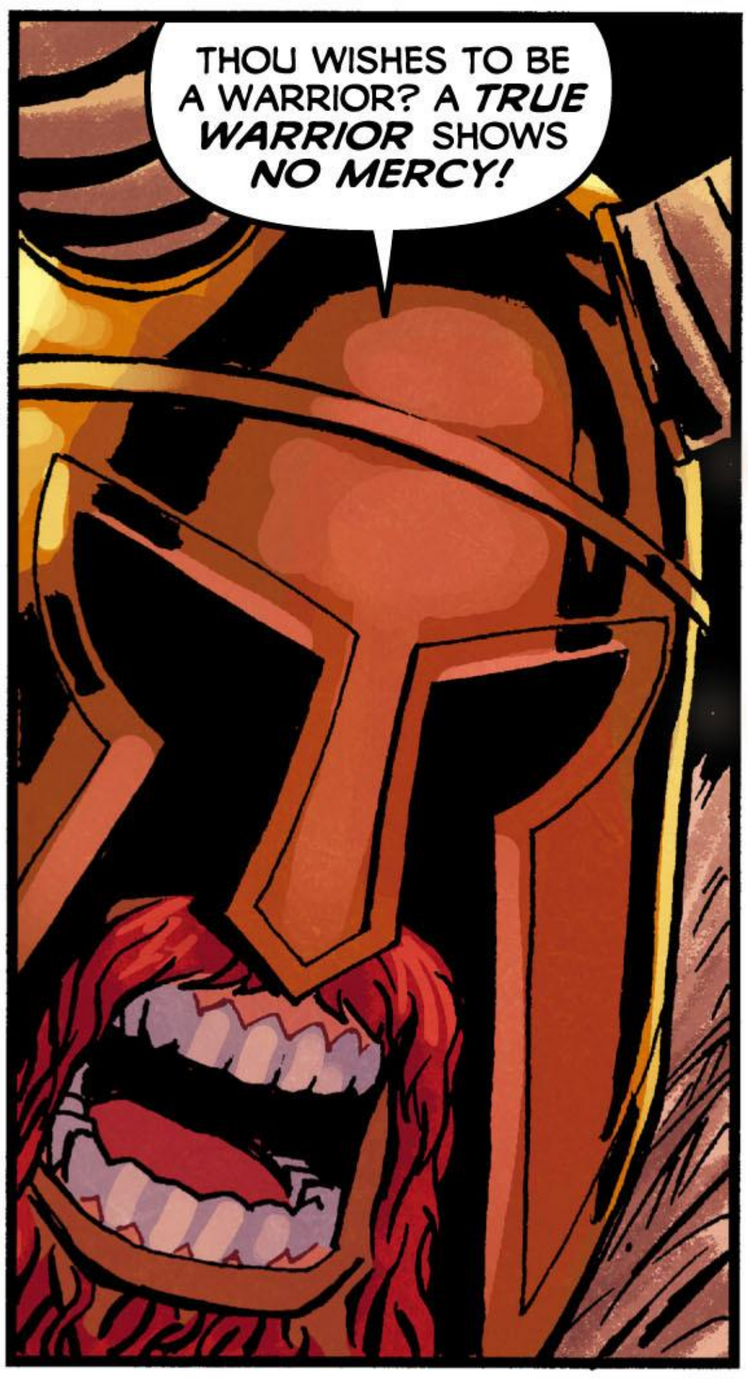
IN THE GLASSY ORB, SHE RECOGNIZES...

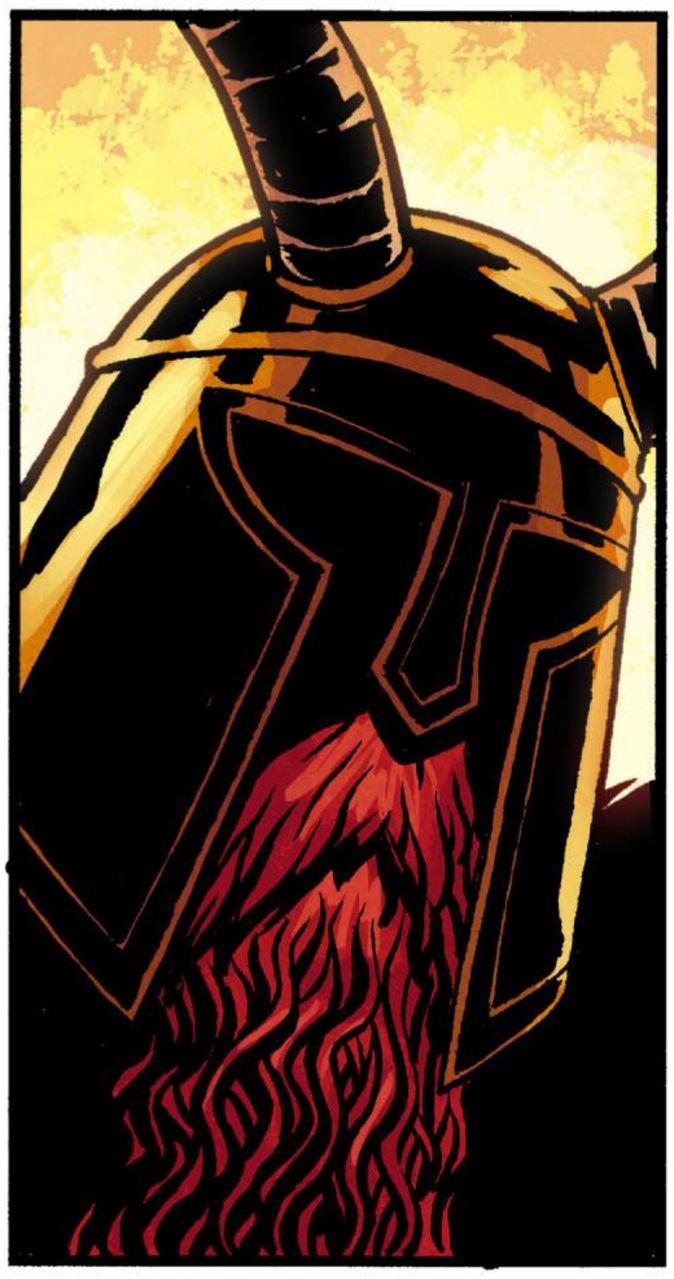
I CANNOT.

WHAT?!

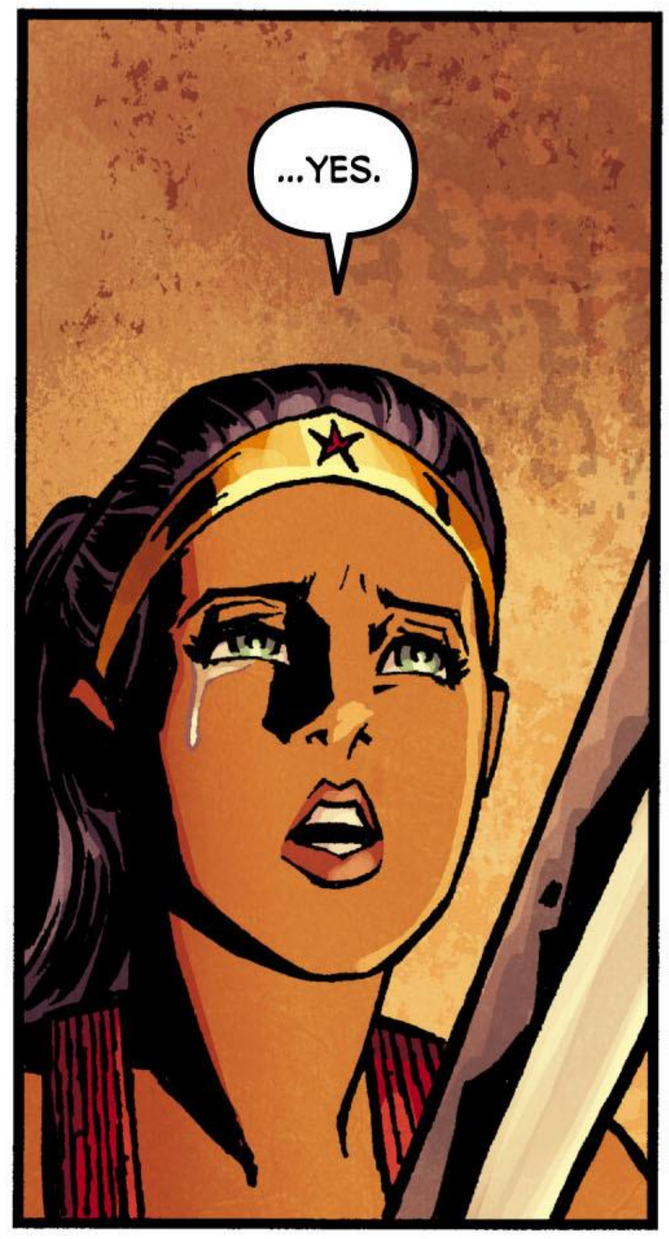
DO *NOT* FAIL THIS TASK, WARRIOR! THINE ENEMIES MUST BE *ELIMINATED,* LEST THEY RETURN FOR THINE *OWN* HEAD!

REVENGE IS *NOT* AN OPTION TO LEAVE A FOE!





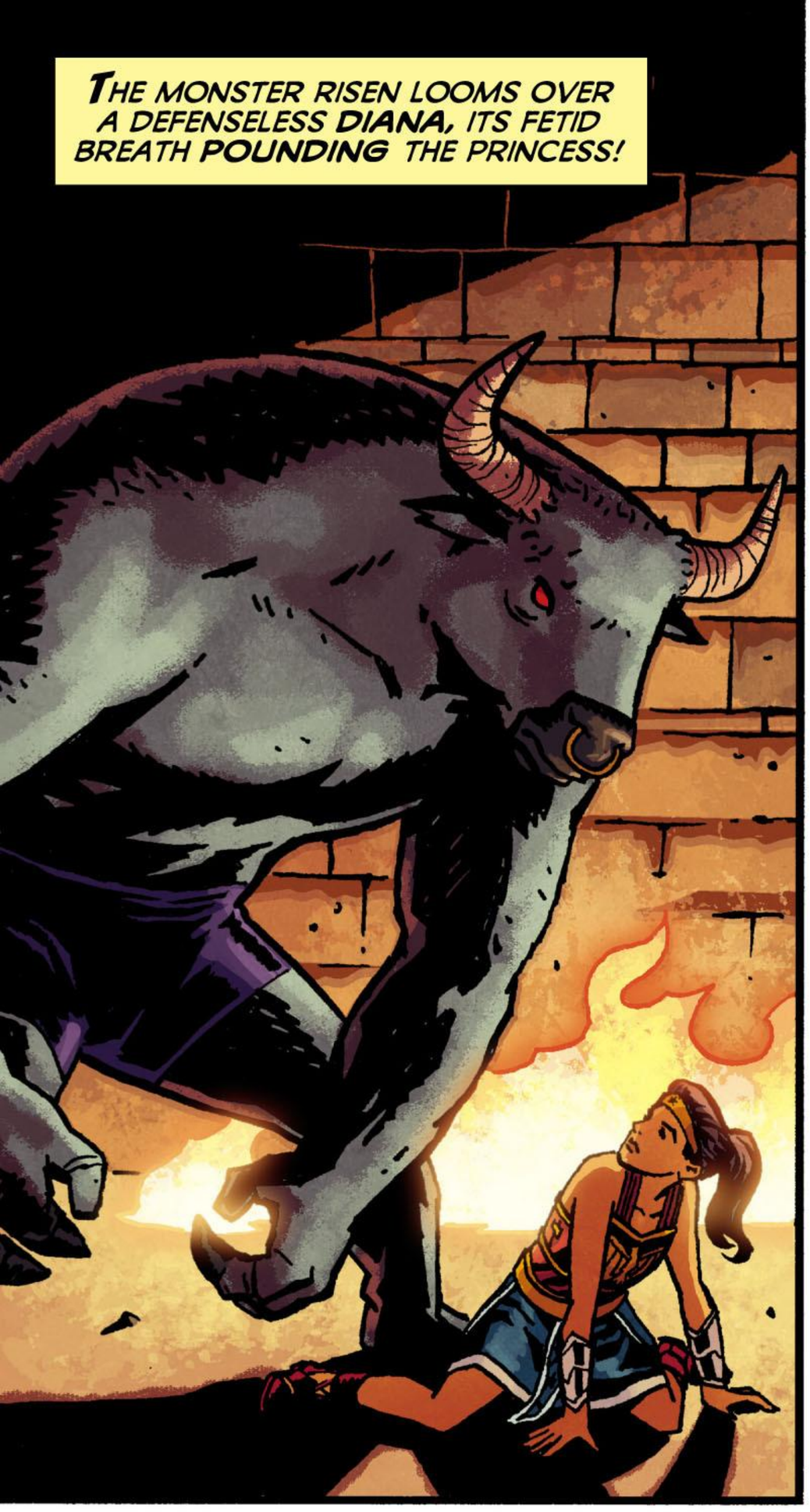
LITTLE ONE, DOST THOU *REMEMBER* WHAT IT MEANS TO *RAISE* A SWORD AGAINST A *MAN?*

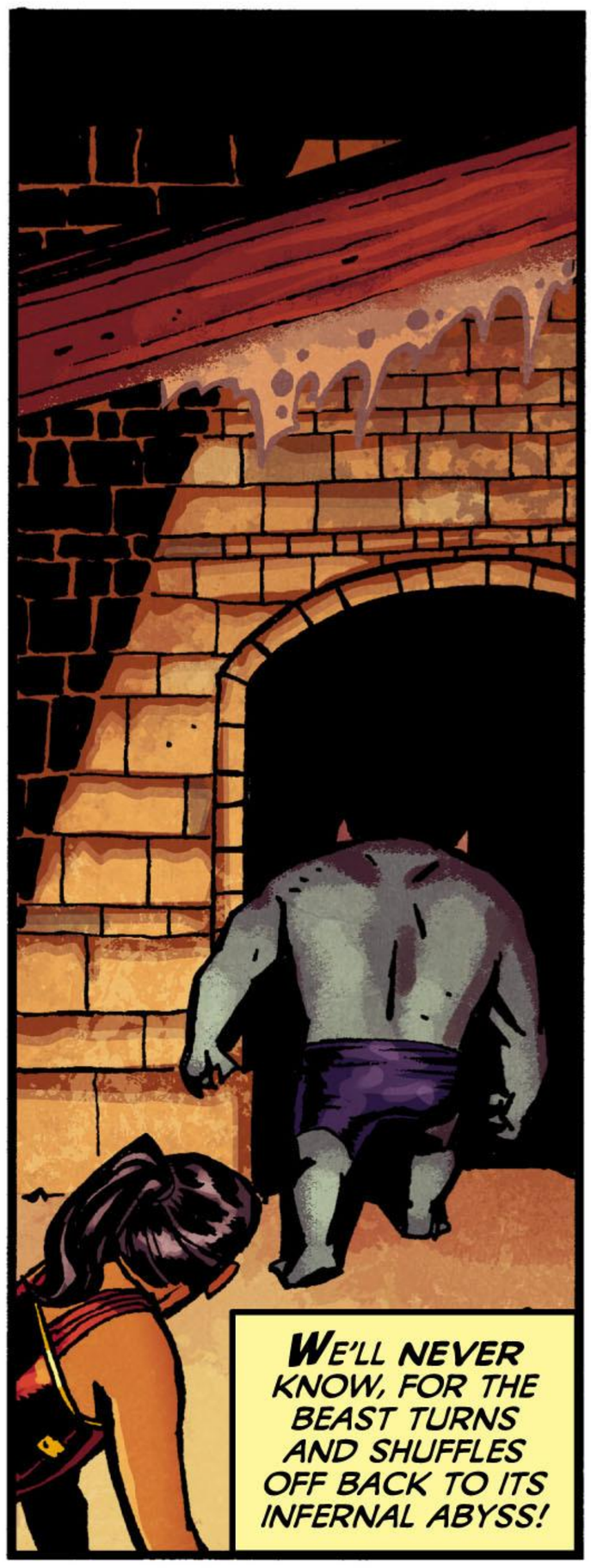

...YES.

AND WAR BELLOWS-- NOT WITH THE RAGE OF THE MINOTAUR, BUT HAUNTED, LIKE A WOUNDED ANIMAL!

SO BE IT!
THOU ART MY *GREATEST FAILURE,* DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA!
THE PATH THOU HAST CHOSEN, NOW THOU SHALL *WALK ALONE!*
FWOOOM

RRRRRR
!





--THEMYSCIRA?! THEN I'M NOT ON CRETE, WAR FOOLED ME!

...OR DID HE?

IT FEELS RIGHT, SPARING THE MINOTAUR...

OR AM I JUST FOOLING MYSELF?

CAN MY MERCY BE A TRIBUTE FOR MY MOTHER?

The End?

DC COMICS™

WONDER WOMAN®

No.0

WHO'S WHO IN THE NEW 52!

GODDESS AMONG MEN!

WONDER WOMAN

First Appearance:
Wonder Woman #1 (2011)

Base of Operations:
London

Powers:
Wonder Woman is one of the strongest heroes in the universe as well as being nearly invulnerable.

Other Appearances:
Action Comics #10, Batwoman #12, Justice League Dark #1

History:

Her mother, Queen Hippolyta, raised Princess Diana of the Amazons on Paradise Island. Although the exact sequence of events is still unverified, Diana chose to leave her people and travel to the world of men with USAF Pilot Steve Trevor, who had crash-landed on Paradise Island. Diana returned to the United States with Trevor and took the name Wonder Woman. It was during this period that she was introduced to, and joined, the Justice League. More recently, Wonder Woman learned some unsettling news about her birthright. Previously believing that she was a gift from the gods and made real from clay, Diana uncovered the truth that she is actually the offspring of her mother and Zeus. For Diana, this creates confusion about her true nature and raises the uncomfortable truth that if she is Zeus' daughter...who are her siblings? Further complicating things is Wonder Woman's relationship with Superman, which has become romantic in nature. Are mere mortals right to fear the effects of such a powerful union?

FROM THE WRITER OF
GREEN LANTERN *AND* JSA

GEOFF JOHNS

***"Bursting with world-quaking ambition. Energetic and urgent, this Crisis shouldn't be avoided.* GRADE: A-"**
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– BOOKLIST

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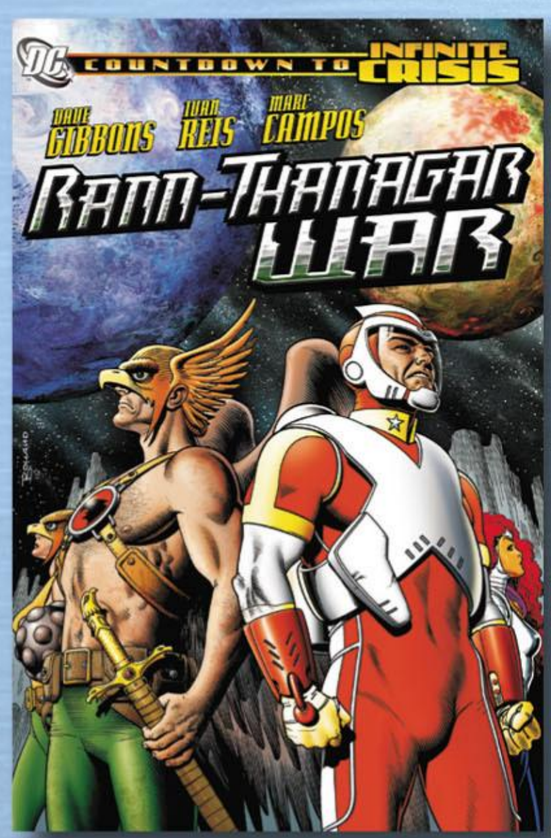
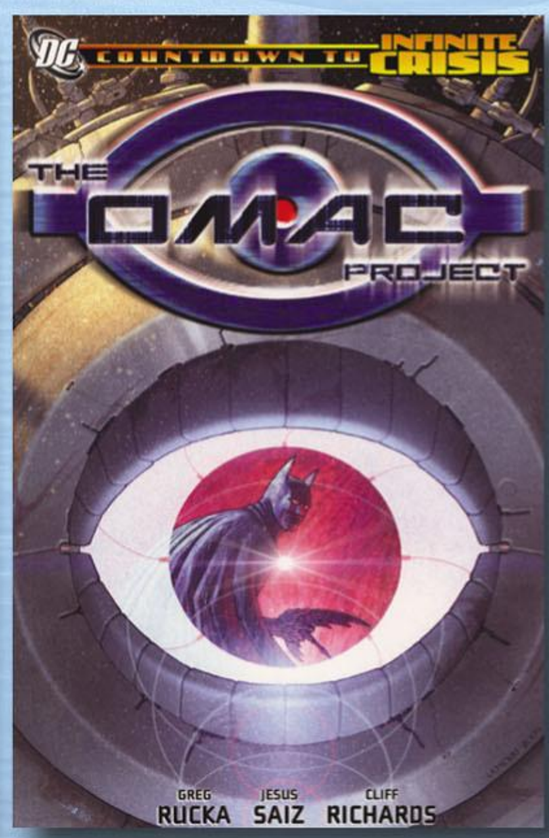
RANN - THANAGAR WAR



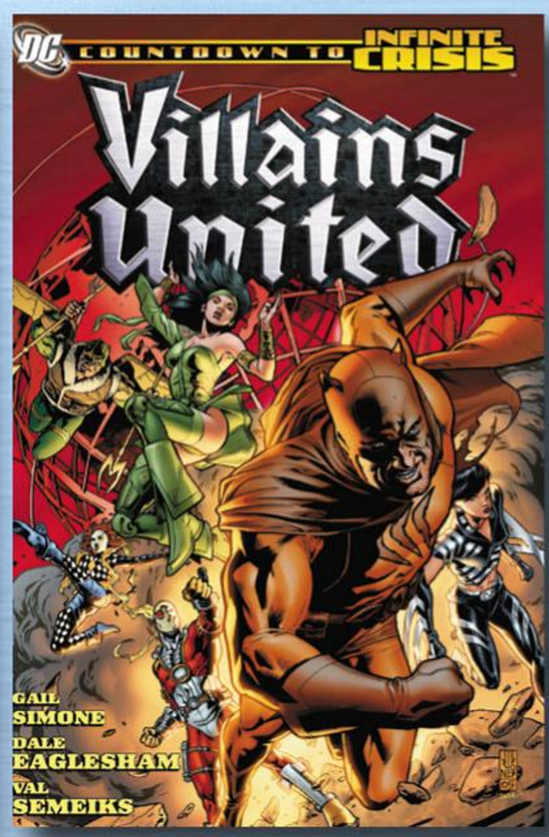
DAVE GIBBONS
IVAN REIS

THE OMAC PROJECT



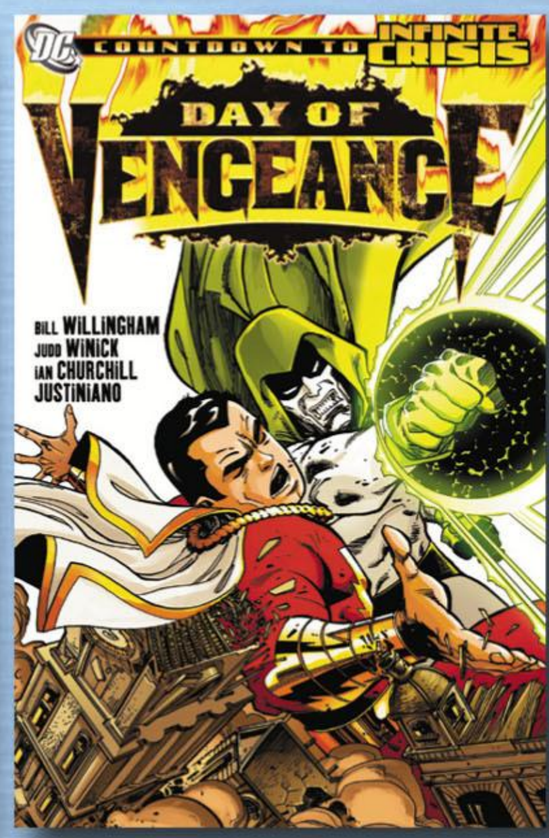
GREG RUCKA
JESUS SAIZ

VILLAINS UNITED



GAIL SIMONE
DALE EAGLESHAM

DAY OF VENGEANCE



BILL WILLINGHAM
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