

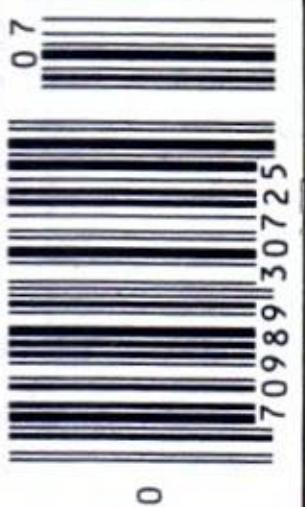


WONDER WOMAN

75¢
326
JULY 85

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY

CHAOS
REIGNS IN
TROPIDOR!
NO ONE GETS OUT
UNSCATHED!!



TROPIDOR:

FROM A SAFE DISTANCE,
THESE FORESTS LOOK
MUCH LIKE ANY OTHER
IN THESE LATITUDES...

THEY ECHO, HOWEVER...

...WITH GUNFIRE AND
SHOUTS AND WAILING!



GENE, THIS
TOWN'S GETTING
TOO HOT FOR
US!

YOU'RE PANICKING,
NICK. CAN'T DO THAT IF
YOU PLAN TO SURVIVE.

PANICKING?!
LOOK AROUND YOU,
GENE!

WE WOULDN'T BE THE
FIRST REPORTERS KILLED
ON ASSIGNMENT.

WHY THE HELL
ARE YOU DOWN HERE,
ANYWAY?

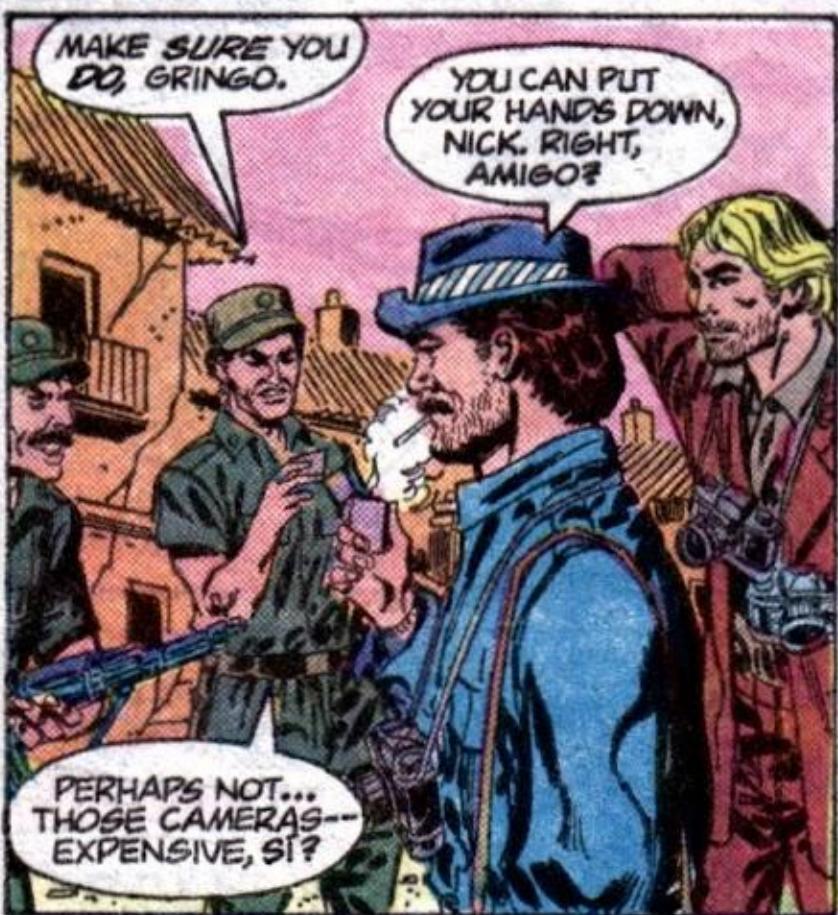
KID LIKE YOU SHOULD BE COVERING
THE NIGHT DESK, LOGGING IN
FOUR-ALARM FIRES AND BUSTED-UP
SOCIAL CLUBS.

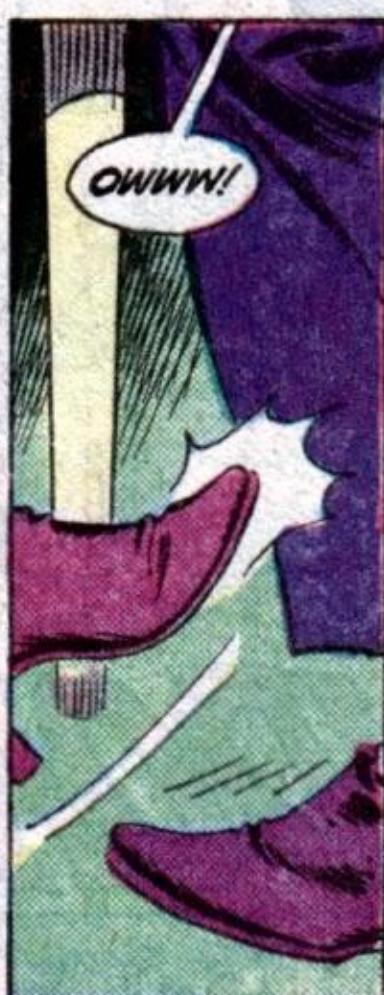
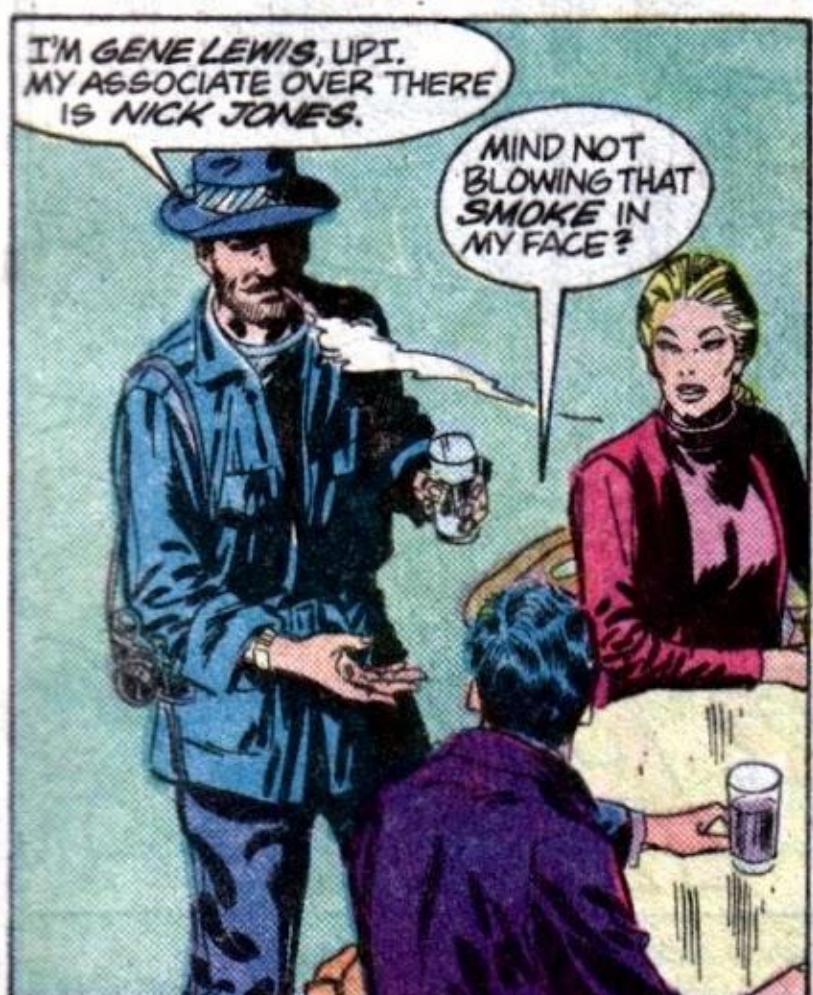
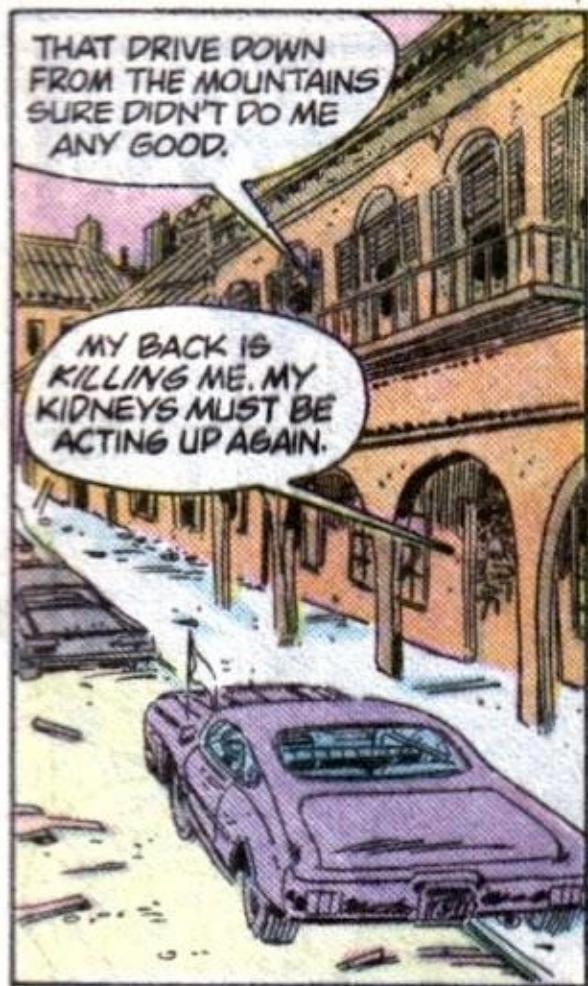
I'M A
REPORTER,
PAL, JUST LIKE
YOU!

THEN PROVE
IT!! PICK UP
THAT CAMERA
AND DO YOUR
JOB!!

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FROM THE TRANQUIL SHORES OF PARADISE ISLAND CAME DIANA, PRINCESS OF THE AMAZONS, TO BATTLE EVIL IN THE WORLD OF MEN! STRONGER THAN HERCULES AND SWIFTER THAN MERCURY... WISE AS ATHENA AND BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE, SHE CHAMPIONS JUSTICE AS...

WONDER WOMAN

ANOTHER WORKDAY MORNING IN GEORGETOWN, AND TROPIDOR IS JUST ANOTHER FOLDER FILED UNDER "T" AT THE OFFICE.

DIANA PRINCE BELIEVES IT TO BE A FILE MARKED "CLOSED".

ETTA CANDY ONLY WISHES IT WERE.

ARRGH! THE SMELL IN HERE IS MAKING ME SICK!

ETTA! JUST IN TIME FOR MY WORLD-FAMOUS BURNT EGGS AND TOAST.

THEY GROW A LOT OF COFFEE IN BRAZIL

LOOK AT THAT STUFF! SOMEONE OUGHT TO GIVE IT A DECENT BURIAL AT ARLINGTON!

DOME A FAVOR, MAJOR—NEXT TIME YOU GET THE URGE TO COOK--
--DON'T!!

ETTA, WHY ARE YOU SO HOT UNDER THE COLLAR?

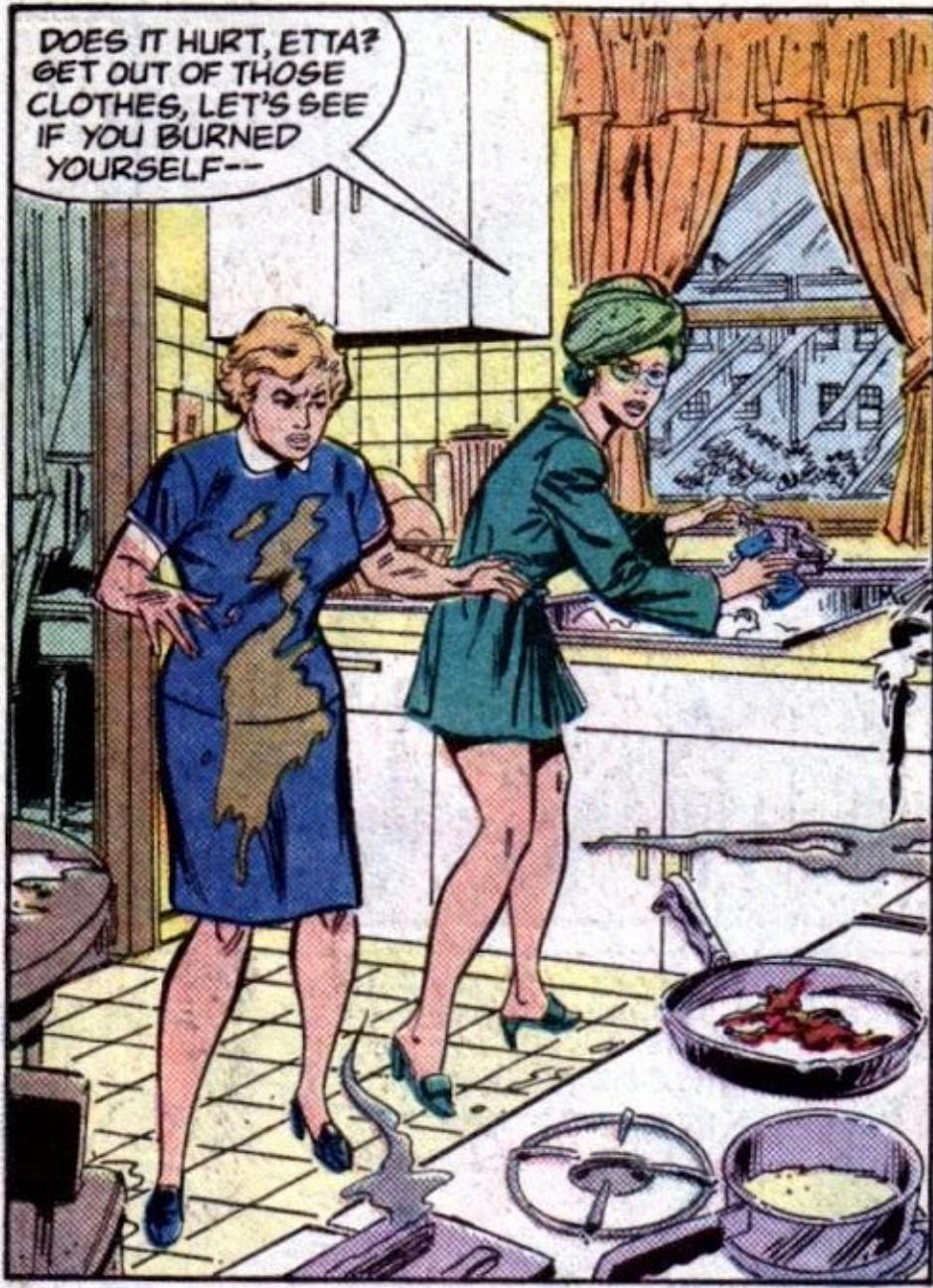


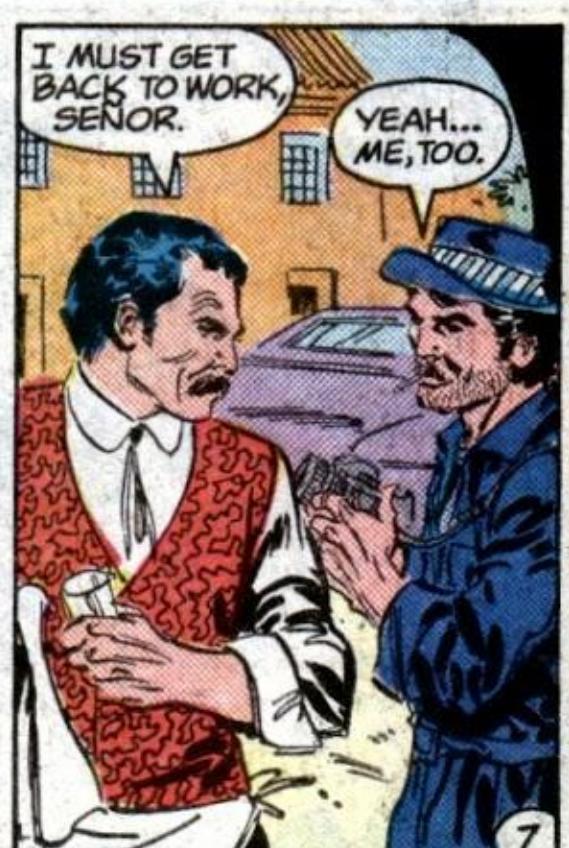
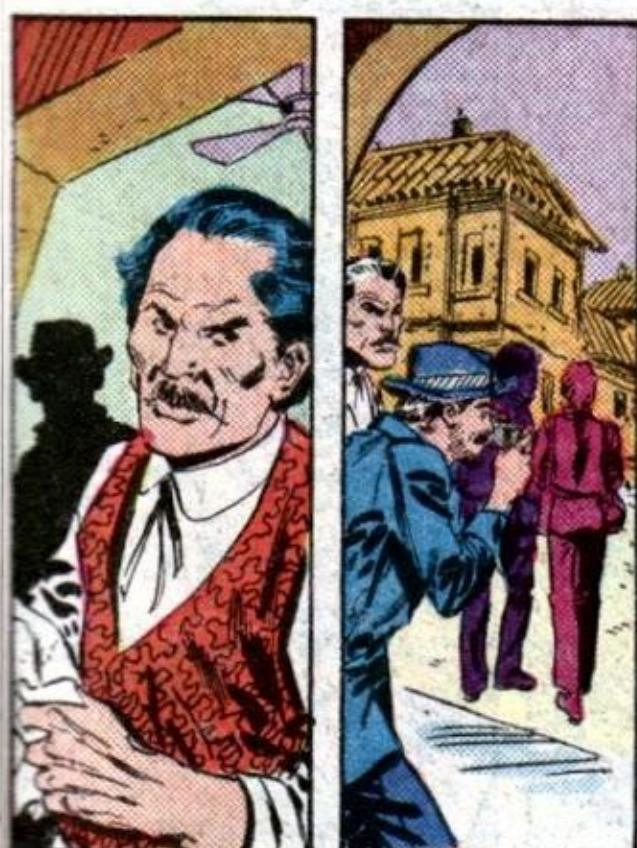
"TROPIDOR HEAT"

MINDY NEWELL . DON HECK . HELEN VESIK . NANGI HOOLAHAN . ALAN GOLD
WRITER ARTIST LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR

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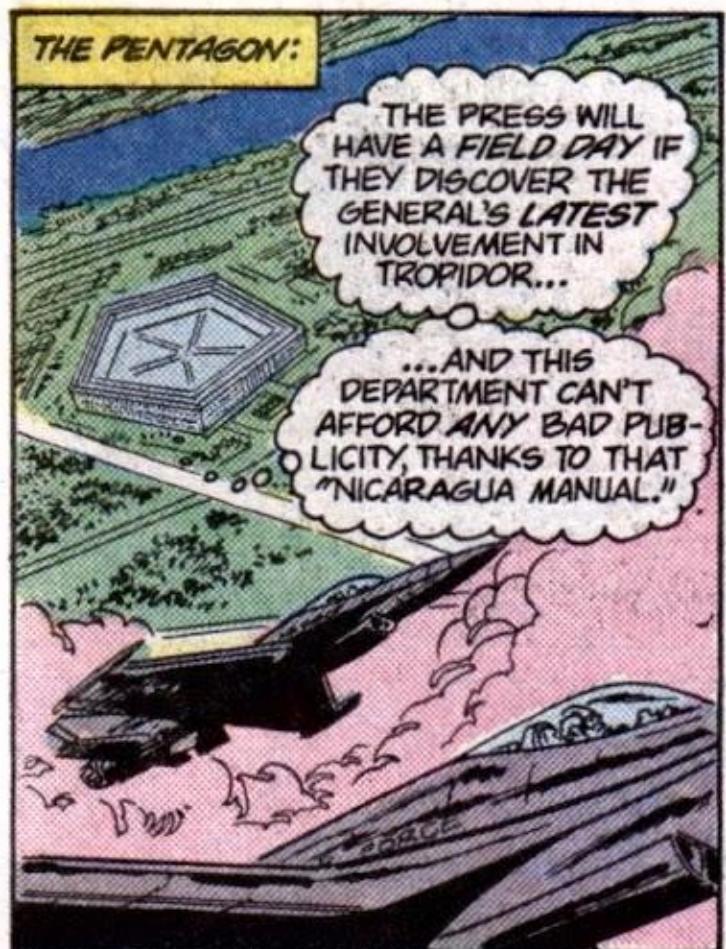


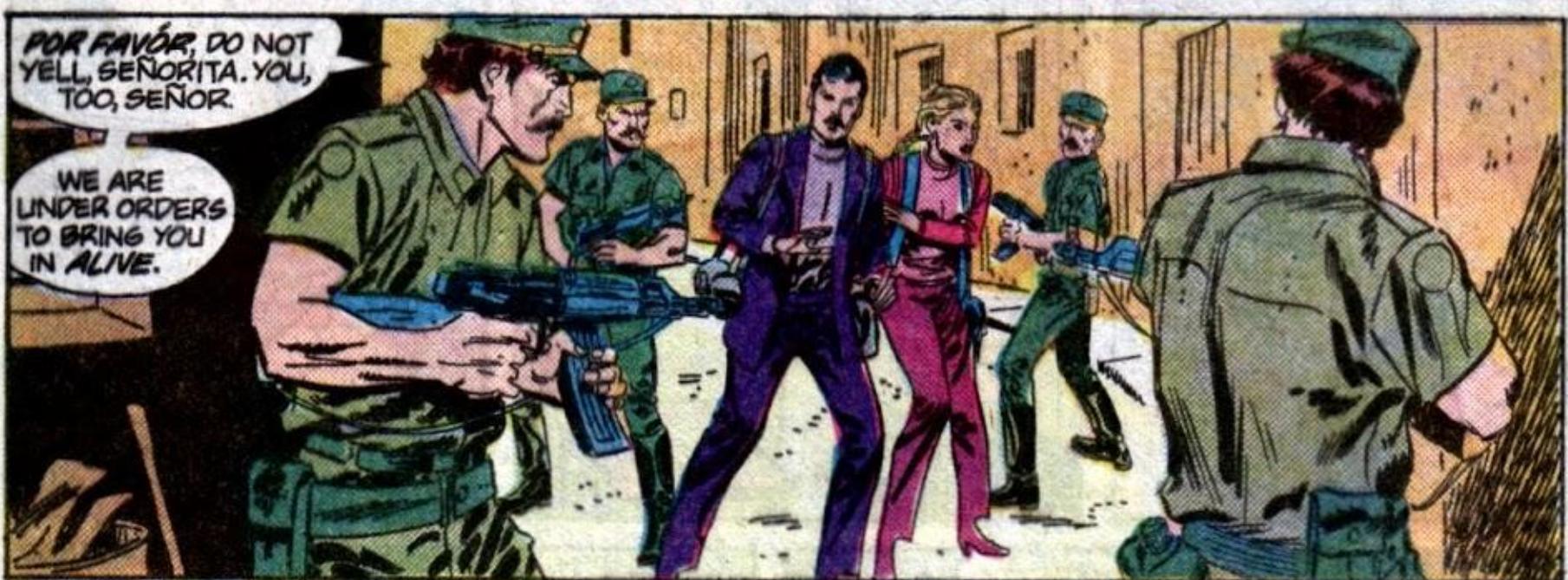


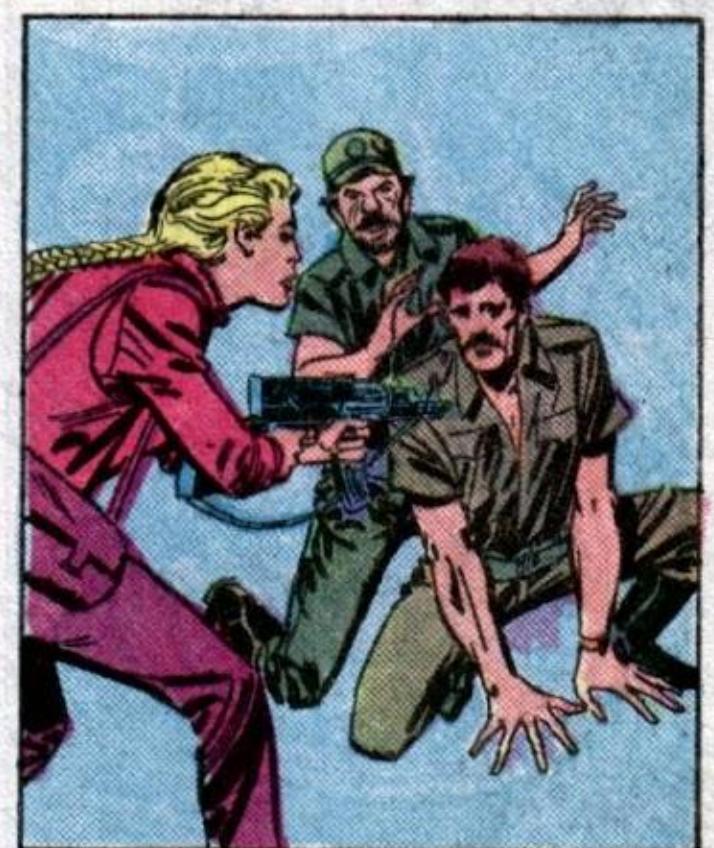
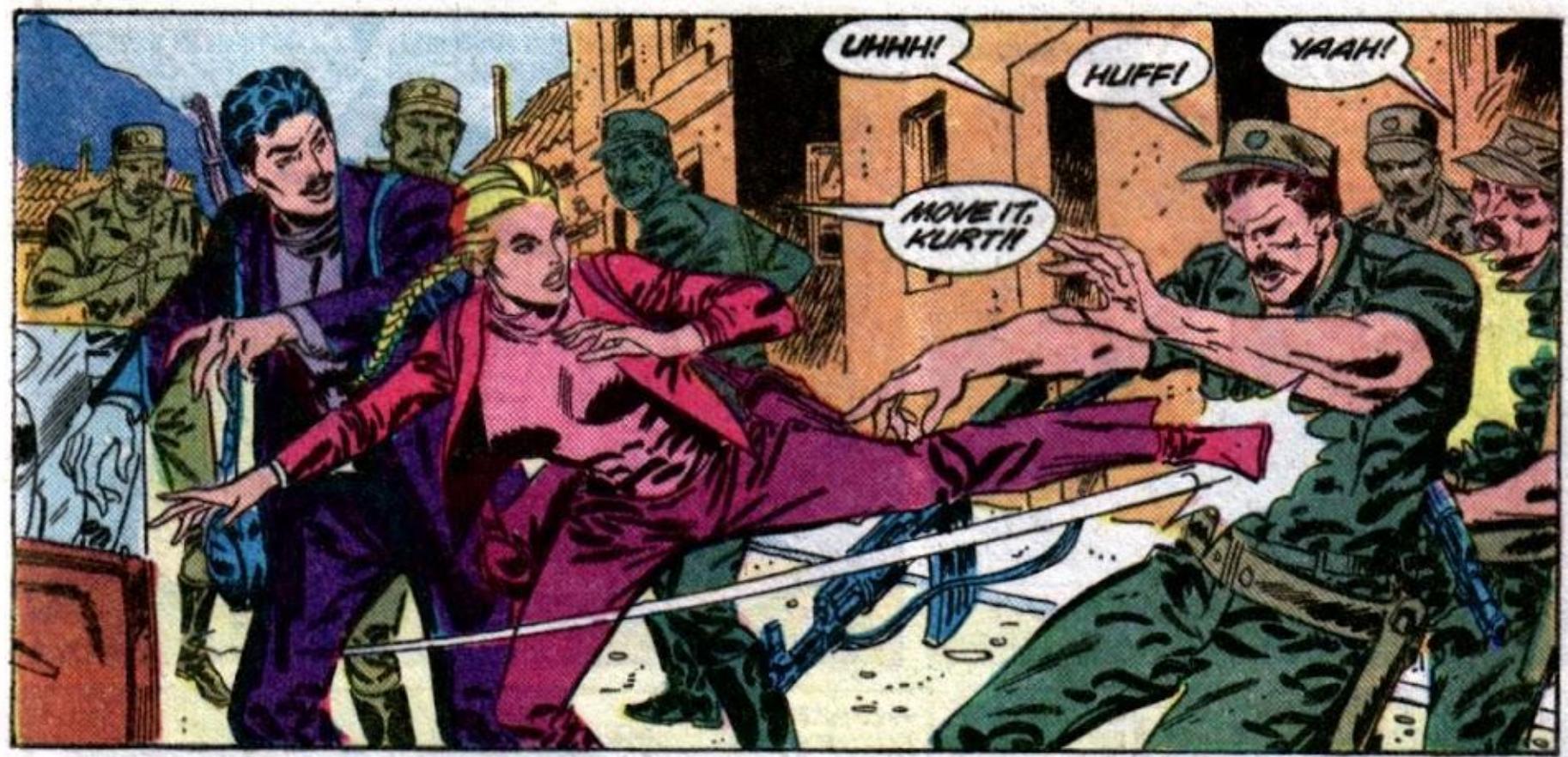


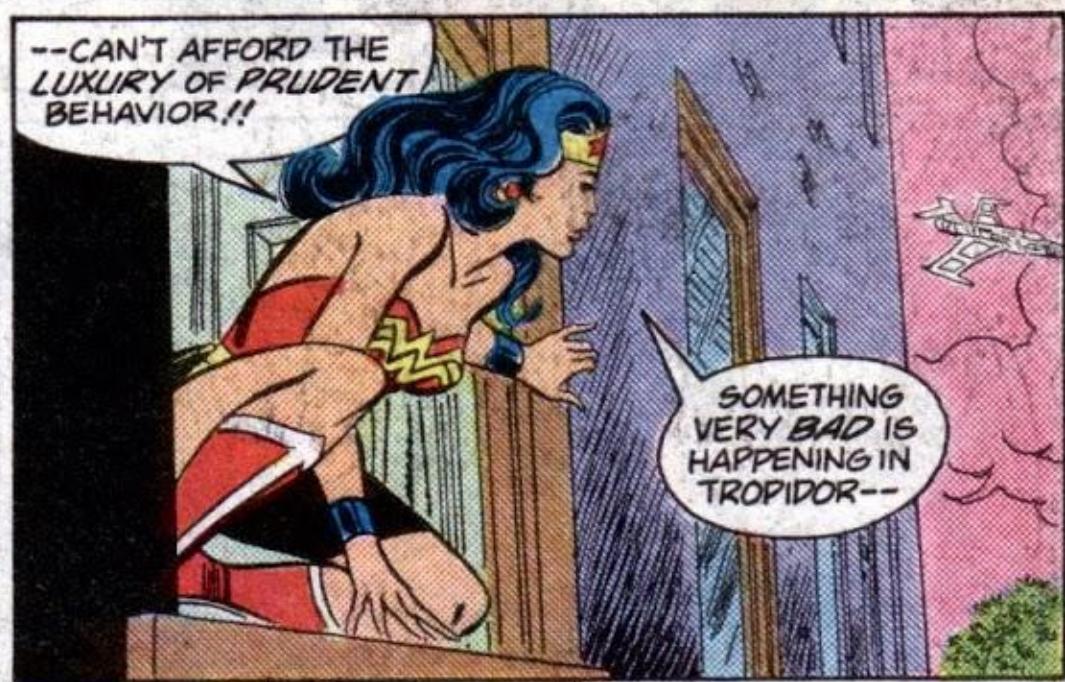
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DARNELL IS ON TO US, BRAD...



SOMETIMES--AT NIGHT--THESE
STRUCTURES STILL WAIL WITH THE
DEATH-SCREAMS OF THOUSANDS.

THEY WERE THE "HOUSES OF STEPS,"
WHERE AZTEC PRIESTS SACRIFICED
THEIR HUMAN OFFERINGS TO THE GODS.

FOUR AT A TIME, MAN
AFTER WOMAN, WOMAN
AFTER MAN, WITHOUT
SURCEASE--THEIR
HEARTS WERE RIPPED
STILL BEATING, OUT OF
HEAVING CHESTS! THEIR
CARCASSES WERE THROWN
INTO THE HOLY FLAME.

RULERS JOINED THE MASSES!
MILLIONS SHARED IN THE
BLOODTHIRSTY RITES! IT WAS
A TIME OF FESTIVAL AND
PROCESSIONS, AND ALL
SHARED THE SACRED CAKES
OF AMARANTH IN A CLAMOR
OF DRUMS AND FLUTES.

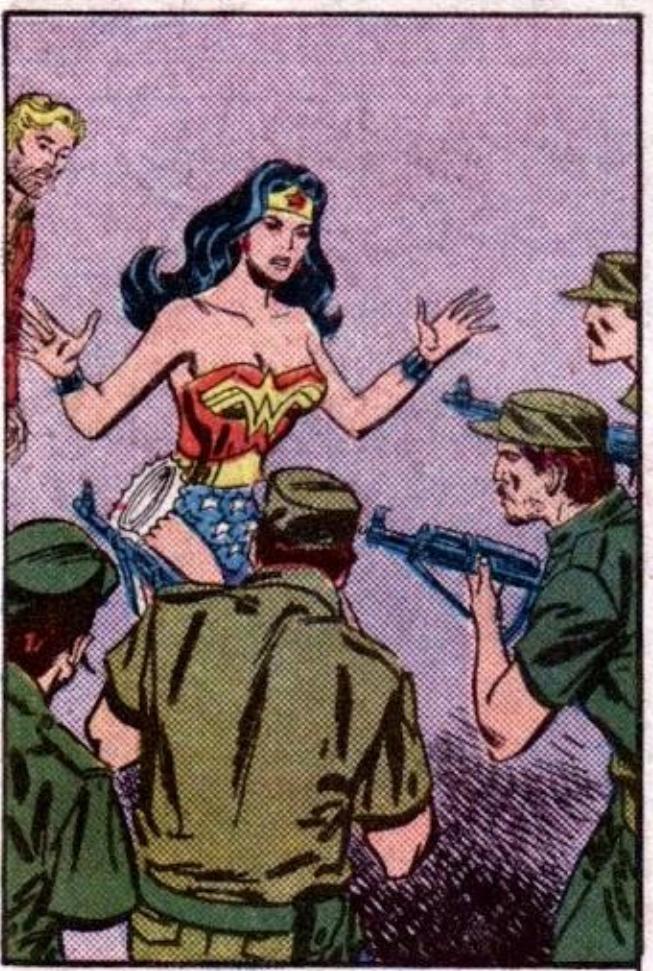
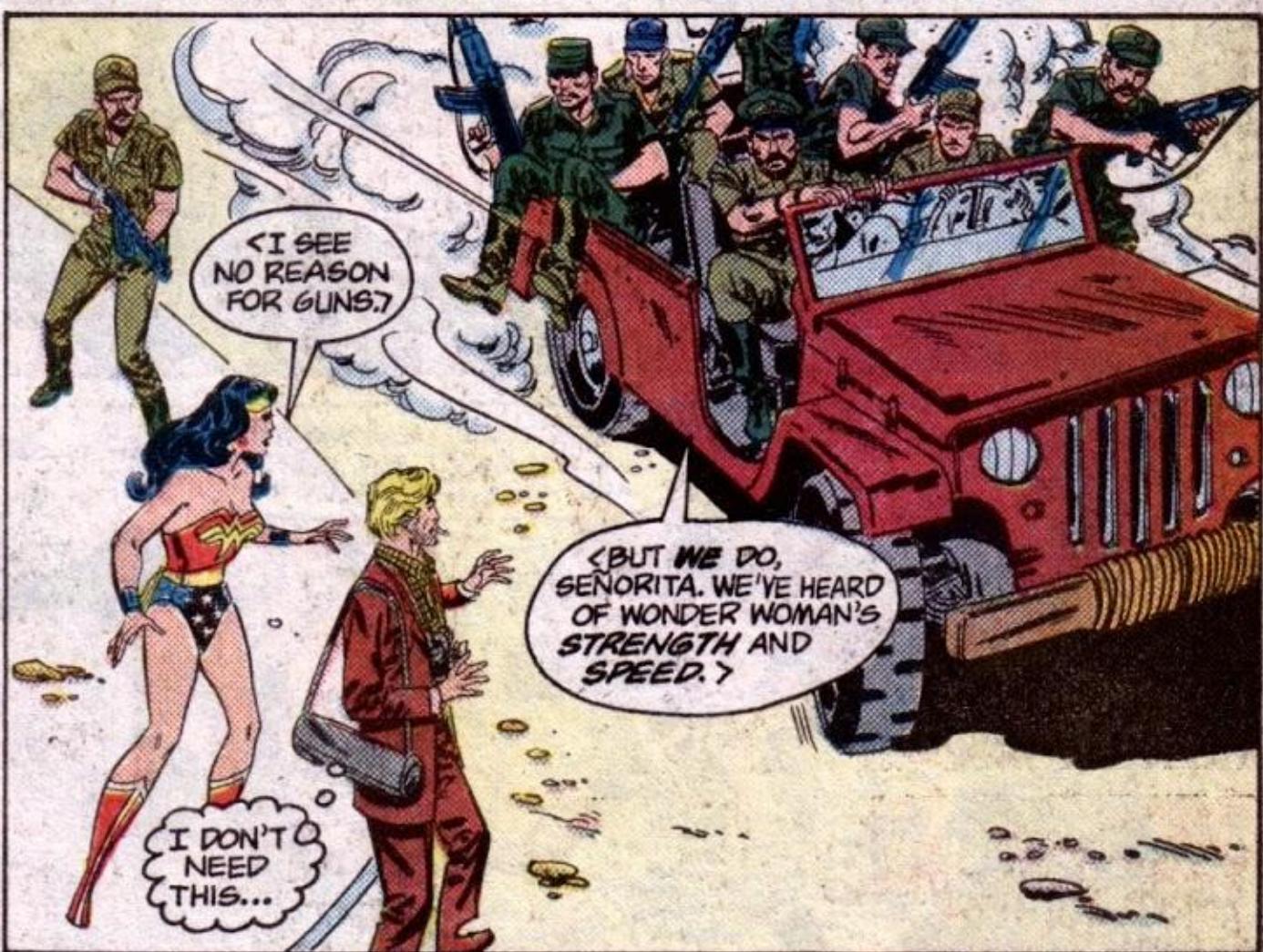
THIS SCENE WAS REPEATED
A THOUSAND TIMES IN
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS... AND
THE STEPS RAN RED WITH
BLOOD.

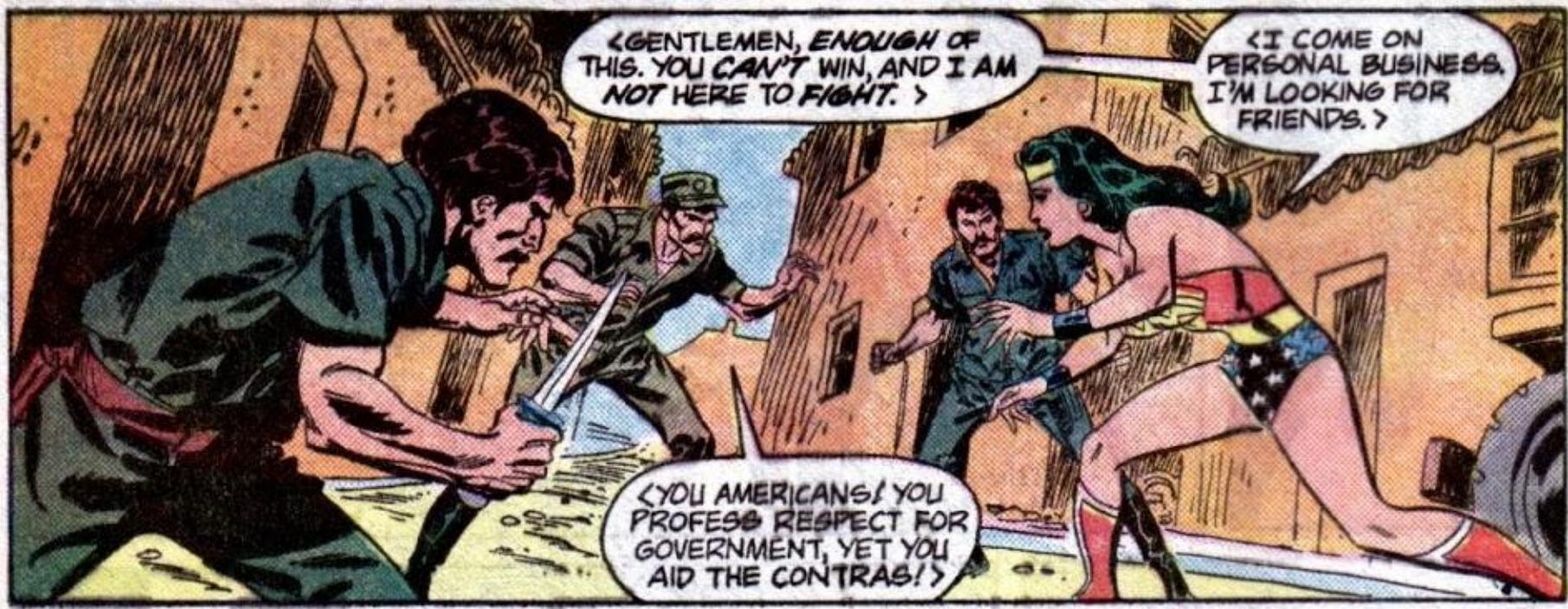
VERY SOON NOW, THE
BLOOD WILL RUN AGAIN.

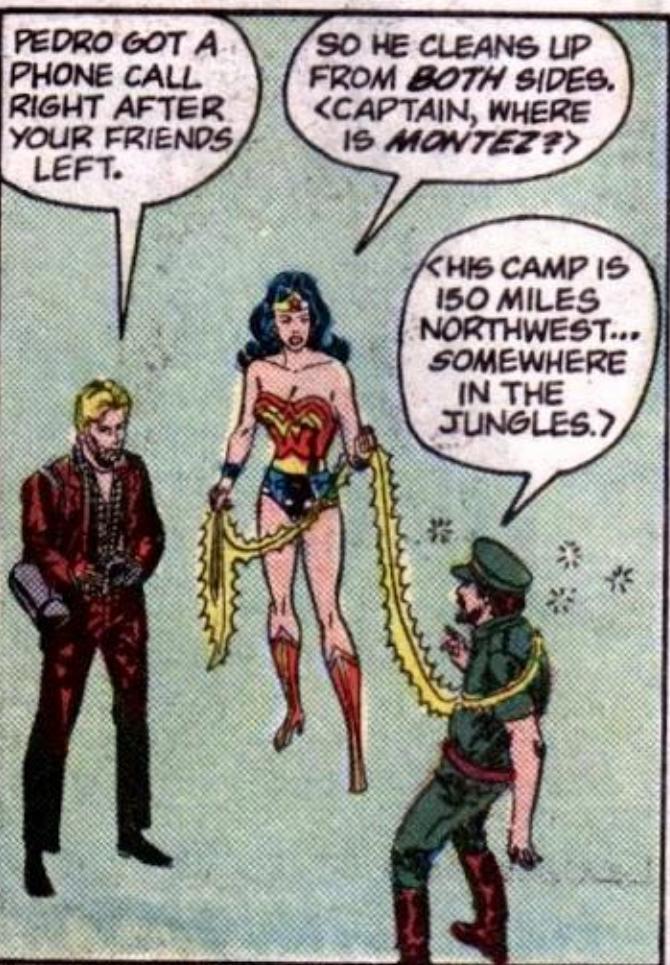
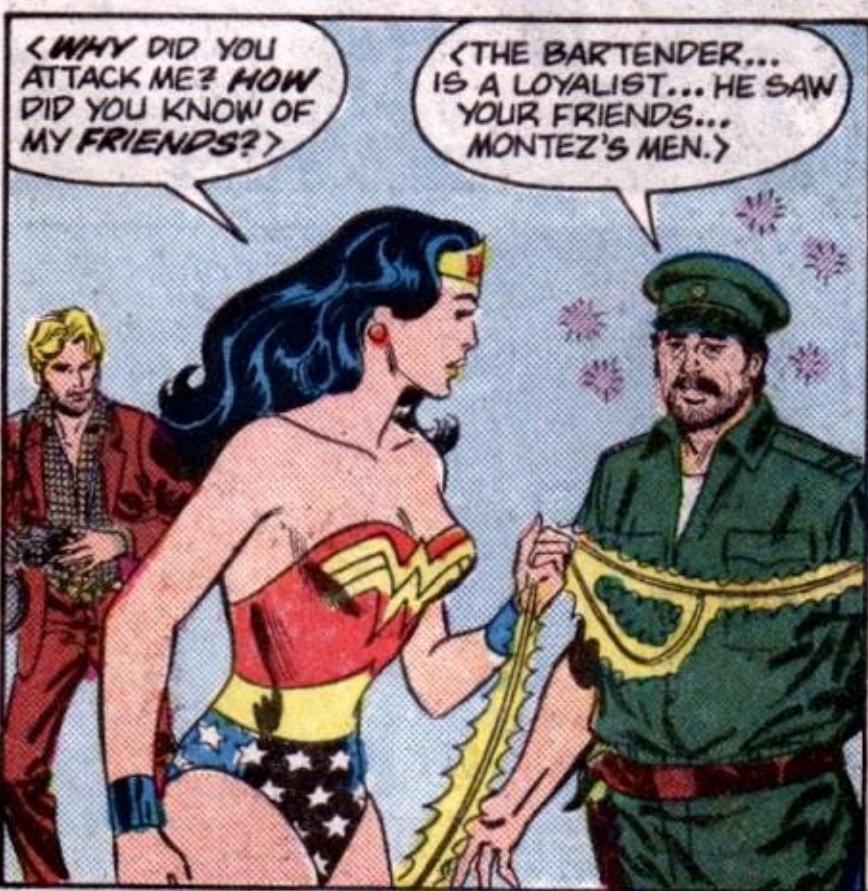








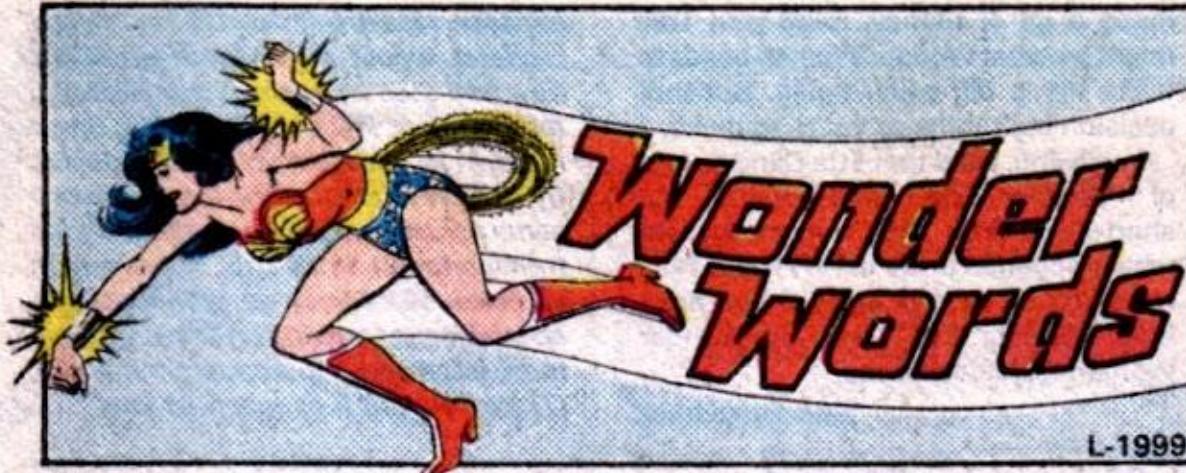




MEANWHILE:



NEXT ISSUE: INSANITY REIGNS AS AN EARTH UNDERGOES ITS GREATEST CRISIS! BE HERE WHEN WONDER WOMAN FIGHTS TO PROTECT "A WORLD IN CHAOS"!



L-1999

Dear Wonder-people,

Today I received my first issue in my new subscription to **WONDER WOMAN**—#322. At last it has all been cleared up about how Steve was brought back three times! And it is quite a good explanation, too. The questions from Freeman R. Corey have got me wondering—but about other things... Recently, in my drama classes, we read the plays "Hippolytus" (by Euripides) and "Phaedra" (by Racine). As a long-time fan of **WONDER WOMAN**, these plays interested me greatly, as we discovered something "new" about Hippolyta's past. She was married to Theseus (as in "and the Minotaur") and they had a son, Hippolytus. Also, check out Mary Renault's books in the *Bull from the Sea* series. How come this has never been referred to in any of the **WONDER WOMAN** comics—that I've read, anyhow!—especially those ones dealing with mythical characters?

As for an upward trend in the sales figures for this magazine, perhaps you could have a series of the Earth-2 Wonder Woman, between the JSA in the 70's and the time she married Steve Trevor and had Lyta, and on Lyta's upbringing. She's had a more stable life than Earth-1's Diana, so perhaps other readers would enjoy it better. I would. We know very little about Lyta's childhood. (Completely off the track here, but did Clark and Lois on Earth-2 ever have kids? Aha! a team-up between Lyta and Clark/Lois, Jr!) [Sorry, Jenny. No Clark or Lois, Jr.] Anyhow, this would tie in **WONDER WOMAN**'s sales with the popular **INFINITY, INC.** Think about it.

Meanwhile, on to comments and questions on and related to #322: Is Paula here the same as Paula Von Gunther, the German spy who was reformed by the Amazons in WW2? Is the Eros who appeared in DCCP #32 (where he made Superman fall in love with Diana) the same Eros who is reformed here? Is Hippolyta's hair long or short? Up until we see her in battle dress (p. 14) her hair is short (and not in a bun), and then it's longish, and if you compare it with the way George Perez draws it (e.g., **NEW TEEN TITANS** #50), it's very long! Whatever happened to continuity in comics? (Sounds like a title from a story!)

I like the idea of Diana not returning to Paradise for a while—maybe we'll see more of Ms. Prince? Especially now that Steve has all "his" memories back.

Well, think about what I've said, while I wish you good luck in the coming years ahead... Meanwhile, I'll be waiting

eagerly (to see my letter in print and) for the next issue of **WONDER WOMAN** in the mail box.

Jenny Blank
Mt. Lawley, Perth
Western Australia

To be honest, Jenny, creative-editorial teams on **WONDER WOMAN** have occasionally played fast and loose with traditional myths. The Hippolyte from Greek literature resembles our Hippolyta, but the queens are not identical by any means. I don't think the creators in days of yore expected anything approaching thoughtful scholarship to be applied to the stories they were cheerfully cooking up. I could be wrong, of course (I wasn't there, after all)... Anyway, Mindy has lots of ideas about Hippolyta and her son, but I can't reveal any of them yet—it's a year too early. I will tease you by saying that that storyline (just about to begin brewing) should eventually turn out to be as controversial as the recent one involving Diana's recovering her memories.

To answer your questions: (1) Yes, the Paulas are the same, but, no, the Earth-1 Paula was never a German spy. The Earths are similar, but not the same; for example, the Earth-1 Superman and the Earth-3 Ultraman are similar but hardly the same bloke. (2) Yes, the Eroses are one and the same. (3) Medium length, I think. George's interpretation is a bit more flamboyant than the usual one.

Dear Alan,

The sixty days between WW 322 and 323 went by faster than I thought they would. Perhaps this is partly due to the fact that classes started again in the fall. Whatever.

Anyway, regarding issue 323: Don't you think that this would have worked much better if you were to stretch it out over a few issues? I mean, look at this: We've got Dr. Psycho, The Cheetah, The Silver Swan, and Angle Man. These guys are all supposed to be "major-league villains." These guys combined would be a big threat to Wonder Woman, let alone to a "wimpola" (as Strick would say) like Etta. (Etta taking out Cheetah with two punches? I don't buy it!)

Dan, the section near the end was wonderful. I wish we could see more of Di Prince. I hope something more develops between Di and Keith Griggs.

Di really should let her hair down more often. She should be a little more

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enthusiastic about life. Right now Di is so bland. Everything about Di reads "military." I don't like that. I don't even think Diana Prince is WW's real personality. It seems to me that she's just using Di as a mask to hide behind. It's almost like she's two different people. Let's see more of the Wonder Woman in her shine through.

Don, I don't care if you're a "big-name artist" or not. I think your work outshines almost anybody in the business. It's right up there with Chaykin's, Truman's, or the late Don Newton's.

That's about it this time around. If I've got time (and if I've got anything to say), I'll be back next issue.

Michael Krupp
Prescott, MI

You might be right, Michael—perhaps WW #323 was a bit too hectic and crowded. Blame me. I made Dan keep the story down to a single issue. I wanted to give everyone a break, you see, after all those long, complicated story lines.

Dear Writers of the Rogues' Gallery Reunion,

"Night of Many Wonders" was just that! I certainly agree with you, Alan, that it was the best Monitor story all year, and I also agree that it did wonders for Etta (in more ways than one)! In fact, I'd even go so far as to say it was the best single-issue story to come from this magazine yet! I was always disappointed that Wonder Woman never got a story featured in DC's YEAR'S BEST digest, but now I really think we have a candidate!

Your spotlight on Etta showed us she's smart, she's perky, she's fun, and she's definitely not a frump—she's rather cute. Howard complements her very well—they make quite a team. Do them a favor and have them get married someday.

Of course, the biggest reason I enjoyed this story was for the return of Wonder Woman's top four foes! Dan Mishkin interwove events via the Monitor so naturally, and Don Heck captured the swift-flowing current of chaos that followed so perfectly, it felt like watching an action-packed movie! Personalities clashed, powers were wielded, weapons exploded, and just in the nick of time Wonder Woman arrives like the cavalry! I loved it! I also thought Eduardo Barreto's beautifully colored cover was an eye-catching attraction!

In the future, I'd like to see Wonder Woman battle the villains Stan Tychinski mentioned this issue, as well as Maxie Zeus and his New Olympians, the Enchantress, and Queen Bee!

Neil Ahlquist
Columbia Heights, MN

Dear Alan,

What an amusing and funny issue. Let's do it again, shall we?

Delmo (The Saint) Walters, Jr.
Bronx, NY

Dear Guys,

WONDER WOMAN #323 was really worth the wait! I just loved this story with Etta fighting just as good as, if not better than, WW against Captain Wonder, Silver Swan, the Angle Man, and the Cheetah (all formidable foes). Another thing I liked about this issue was ... muscle! We actually had a Wonder Woman who showed some development (muscular, that is). I for one would love to see Etta as Wonder Woman again. Please?

Chris S. Kent
New York, NY

Dear Wonder Folks,

I have been a follower of WONDER WOMAN for a long time now. If I wasn't following her in the comic books, I was watching her on television. She is the best female super-hero that has ever been created. I feel that she is a symbol of the American spirit and a very good choice to wear the red, white, and blue that she does so well.

I enjoyed WONDER WOMAN #323 for the most part, except for her declining role in it. Although I feel that Etta Candy did deserve to have an issue showcasing herself, especially as the "Princess of Power," it was short, seeing this is now a bimonthly issue. The front cover states: "For One Night Only! Etta Candy Is the Princess of Power." That was one night? It seemed to have lasted for maybe five minutes.

Now, I am against the bimonthly issue idea, but I will have to go along with whatever you decide. I just feel that more people would buy the issues if it was marketed more. For starters, if the TV series *Wonder Woman* starring Lynda Carter was put on syndicated television, like Channels 5, 9, or 11 in the New York area, the curiosity of people would be aroused more, especially when a lot of syndicated shows do better in the ratings in the afternoons than they did at night. I am sure that a lot of teenagers would watch *Wonder Woman* at four o'clock in the afternoon than they would at eight o'clock at night. So would adults, especially mothers who would be getting ready to cook supper. It is just a thought in my mind that maybe you could use.

Also, Superman went from comic books to television to the big screen and

made a lot of money, mind you! This might be what Wonder Woman needs to make her a big seller again. But that decision isn't mine or yours to make.

In closing, I feel that Etta Candy's role of "Wonder Etta" was exciting but short-lived. You didn't even explain what happened to her in WW #323, but I hope you do in WW #324. I also hope that "Wonder Etta" will aid Wonder Woman in future issues.

Ron Greschner

Dear Don, Dan, Phil, Nansi, and Alan,

WONDER WOMAN #323 shows that the creative forces on WW are at work trying to bring her to new heights of excellence in story and art. The way in which Etta is now portrayed, she looked really beautiful as "Wonder Etta." This was due to her inner beauty shining through. Etta is portrayed now as slightly plump but not excessively overweight, and a bit plain. But inside she is a truly beautiful person. I'm curious as to just what Gardner Grayle is going to do. The new relationship between Princess Diana and Steve Trevor is very good. One thing you should remember though is that the first Steve Trevor's memories are now those of this Steve Trevor and the first Steve Trevor knew/knows Diana Prince is Wonder Woman! Monitor says on page 1 there is only one other like him. True, and that one is Mantis [?—Alan] of the New Gods, since the Monitor is Metron of the New Gods.

George A. Williams
Augie, LA

Sorry, George, as you'll learn shortly, the "one other" is a figure you cannot have expected.

Dear Editor:

1. I know this will sound silly, but what does Major Diana Prince do? Make coffee, clean the office, do the filing? I hope not. I've only seen Major Prince sent out into action once, in #313. Please define Major Prince's duties in more detail. She can be a security consultant, a courier—anything—as long as it is something definite.

2. Wonder Woman has more brain than muscle behind her eyebrows. Let's see her in cloak-and-dagger situations where she can use her intellect.

3. Why doesn't Wonder Woman fight street crime? (That cameo with Ambush Bug doesn't count.) Perhaps she can team up with Speedy for a drug abuse issue.

4. Get rid of the gremlin.

5. Get Steve Trevor his own plane.

6. Let Steve get out of hairy situations all by himself. After all, he was made a Colonel for some reason. Also, let's see him narrate another story as in issues #311 and #312. I really enjoyed those issues.

7. Get back on a monthly status as soon as possible.

Phyllis Weaver
Las Vegas, NV

I'll tell you, Phyllis, your first question was one of the first I asked when I started editing the book. Nobody was really clear then, and we haven't had time to get it straight yet. But Mindy will make a worthy effort in the next few issues. As for your other questions and suggestions: (2) You will be seeing her in such situations. That's a promise. (3) I don't think there's any real reason she devotes herself to larger-than-life problems. Just worked out that way, I

suppose. I leave this open to your fellow readers: would street-level situations now and then be appreciated? (4) Done, for awhile at least. (5) Steve has flown his own jet occasionally. He was able to fly in WW's jet after the gremlin made some adjustments in it, but generally his transportation is in U.S. Government vehicles. (6) Mindy is working up a special issue focusing on Steve. I'll have more information in a couple of months. (7) Hey! I want it as much as you!

Thanks, too, to Stephen Baer (whew! that's some lineup you have for our 45th anniversary issue, Stephen!) As you'll discover by the end of our big maxi-series, CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS, though, at least some of your heroines won't be available, Sharan Porper (don't worry, "Pen-Pest," Steve Trevor stays alive this time), Christine Warloski (it looks like we're doing a Huntress Special rather than a mini-series now, Christine. I know this has been dragging on for a long time, but I should have news for you next month about the solo appearance of Helena Wayne), Pete Rios, Delecey (Deely) Gorman (I wish I had room to respond to all your questions, Deely—maybe some other time), Doug Laramy, Bret Wesner and C. Ward White. As always, if I omitted anybody, it was oversight.

NEXT ISSUE: Tezcatlipoca is back—and bigger and crazier than ever. Chaos reigns in Central America, as the DC Crisis begins the unweaving of Earth 1, and Wonder Woman is helpless to save her friends from a brutal death. See you in sixty days.

—Alan