



# Into the depths of HELL! WONDER WOMAN®

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BY  
JOHN  
BYRNE

AN OTHERWISE PEACEFUL DAY IN GATEWAY CITY.

WHAT IS HAPPENING, PROFESSOR SANDSMARK? YOU MUST DESCRIBE THE SCENE TO ME EXACTLY AS YOU SEE IT!

A DAY WHEN THE LIVES OF A HANDFUL OF UNLUCKY MORTALS ARE BEING TORN TO SHREDS...

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF STALEMATE, MR. SINGH. CASSIE, DIANA AND THAT ARTEMIS PERSON ARE DOWN THE BLOCK A WAYS, AND JASON...

...THAT THING JASON TURNED INTO...

THAT "THING" IS ETRIGAN, A DEMON CONJURED FORTH BY NO LESS THAN MERLIN HIMSELF, PROFESSOR.

ETRIGAN HAS STOOD AS A BARRIER AGAINST THE EVILS OF THIS WORLD FOR CENTURIES.

CENTURIES..?? THEN...THOSE "FAMILY PORTRAITS" JASON HAS ON HIS WALLS... ALL HIS ANCESTORS WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM...



WAIT! I SENSE SOMETHING. ANOTHER PRESENCE...

YOU SENSE ME, MORTAL. BUT, DESPITE YOUR GREAT PSYCHIC ABILITIES, YOU ARE OF NO INTEREST TO ME.

ONLY THE FEMALE...

WHO..?

WHO I AM IS OF LITTLE CONCERN TO YOU, HELENA SANDSMARK.

WORRY MORE ABOUT WHAT I HAVE PLANNED FOR YOU!



HUMANS HAVE SOUGHT FOR CENTURIES TO FIND A SUITABLE NAME FOR THIS PLACE.

THEY HAVE CALLED IT HADES, THE ABYSS, THE INFERNO, THE UNDERWORLD.

# ALL MY SINS REMEMBERED

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR OWN EASE OF REFERENCE WE WILL CALL IT BY ITS MOST FAMILIAR NAME--HELL.

HELENA!  
CASSIE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WE'RE FINE. BUT WHERE THE HECK ARE WE?

AND WE WILL ASK YOUR SYMPATHY AND PERHAPS YOUR PRAYERS FOR THESE FOUR HAPLESS MORTALS NOW CAGED ABOVE A SEA OF MOLTEN ROCK STRETCHING BEYOND THE RANGE OF THEIR VISION.

AND... WHO WAS THAT MAN??

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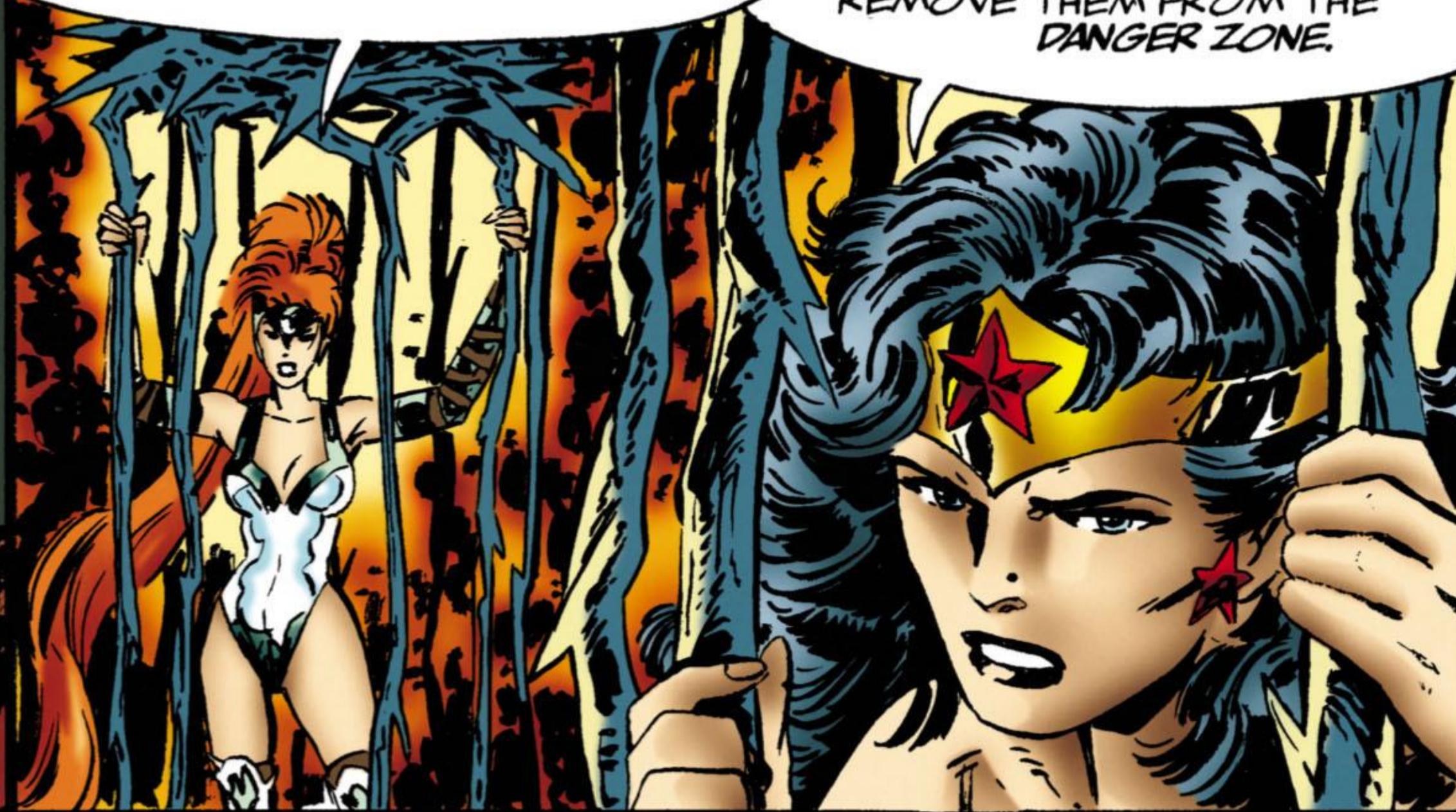
THE DEMON  
CREATED BY  
JACK KIRBY

I CAUGHT ONLY A GLIMPSE OF HIM BEFORE I WAS FELLED BY ETRIGAN'S HELLFIRE, BUT I WOULD GUESS HE IS THE ONE CALLED NERON. AND IF THAT IS THE CASE, WE MAY HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME AHEAD OF US...

YOU HAVE A TALENT FOR UNDERSTATEMENT, ARTEMIS. BUT OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, IN ANY CASE, IS TO FREE HELENA AND CASSIE AND REMOVE THEM FROM THE DANGER ZONE.

IF WE ARE WHERE I THINK WE ARE, LITTLE SISTER, I WONDER WHERE YOU THINK WE MIGHT FIND A PLACE WHICH WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS?

NO-WHERE, WITCH.



YOU ARE IN MY KINGDOM NOW, AND HERE SAFETY AND DANGER ARE SUBJECT WHOLLY AND SOLELY TO MY WILL!

NERON! I HAVE FACED YOU BEFORE, AND SEEN YOU DEFEATED...\*

IF YOU PERSIST IN YOUR PRESENT COURSE OF ACTION, YOU WILL MEET SUCH UNDOING AGAIN!



\*IN THE NOW-CLASSIC UNDERWORLD UNLEASHED - P.K.

OH, I THINK NOT, AMAZON. IF NOTHING ELSE, I LEARN FROM PAST MISTAKES.

FOR INSTANCE--I INVITE YOU TO BREAK YOUR CAGE AND FLY TO YOUR FRIENDS. I ASSURE YOU THE METAL IS NOTHING YOUR AMAZON STRENGTH COULD NOT EASILY BEND.

AS YOU WISH, NERON. THE SOONER WE GET THIS OVER WITH, THE...

THE PRINCESS HAS DISCOVERED THAT HER GODS-GIVEN POWERS NO LONGER SERVE HER HERE, ARTEMIS.

SHE HAS DISCOVERED THAT SHE IS COMPLETELY AT MY MERCY THIS TIME, AS IS FITTING...

DIANA! WHAT'S WRONG?

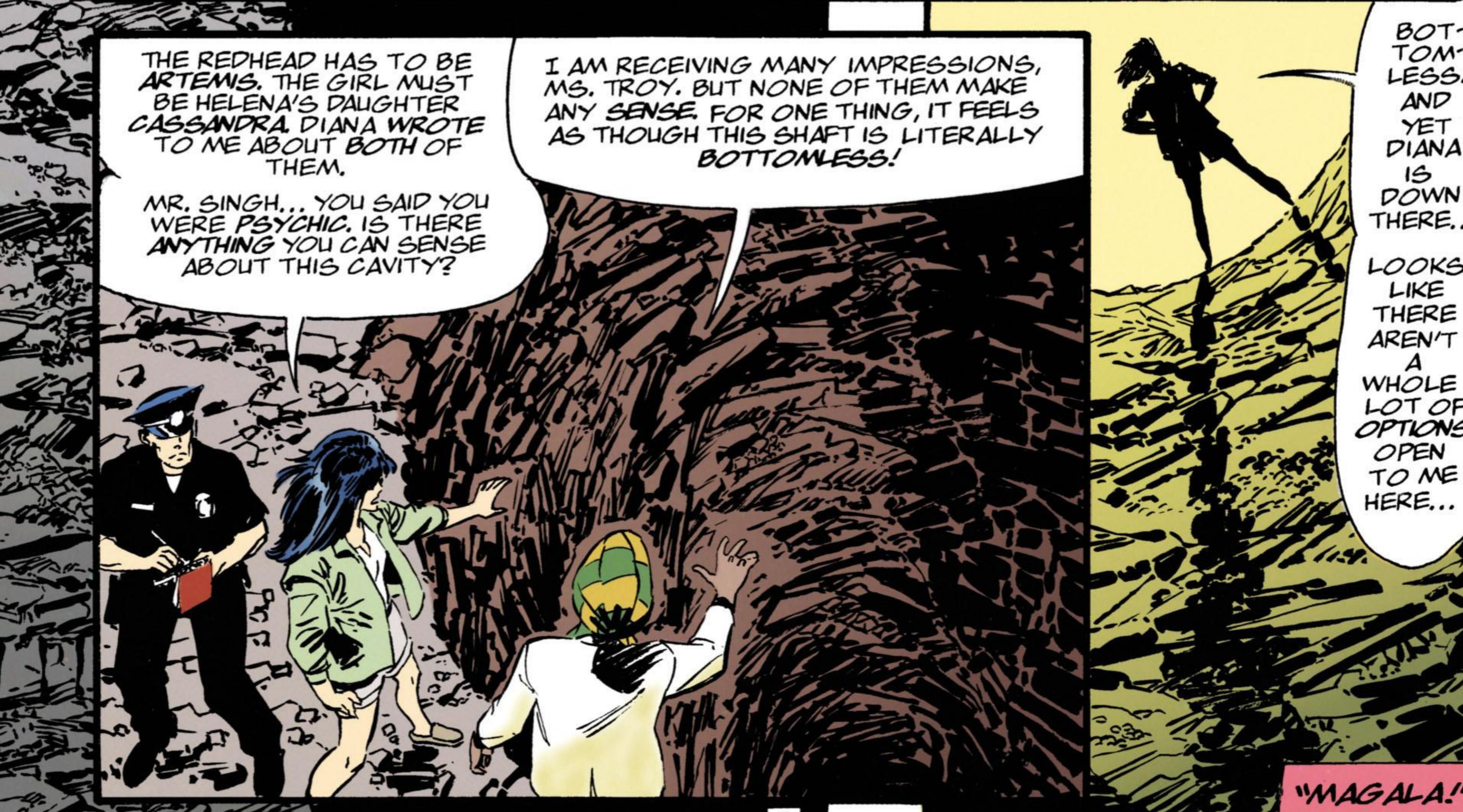
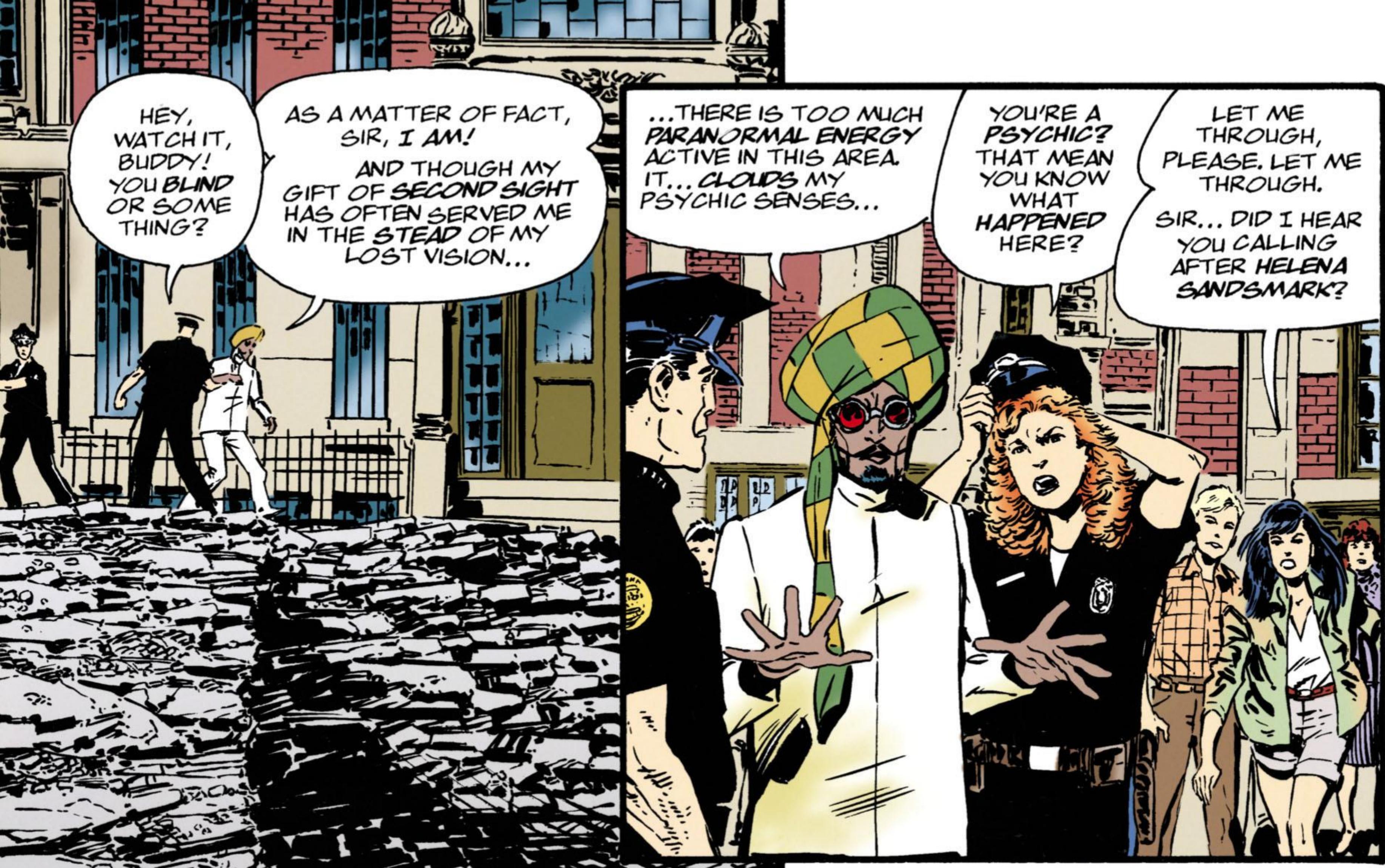
"...SINCE SHE IS TO BE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE FINAL PHASE OF MY CORRUPTION OF THE DEMON ETRIGAN!"

DID YOU SEE IT? IT WAS LIKE THE PAVEMENT CURLED UP LIKE FINGERS AND JUST GRABBED THEM!

GRABBED THEM AND PULLED THEM DOWN!

THIS HOLE GOES DOWN FOR EVER!

PROFESSOR SANDSMARK! HELENA, WHERE ARE YOU?



THEMYSCIRA, LEGENDARY HOME  
OF THE AMAZONS, KNOWN IN  
THE WIDER WORLD AS  
PARADISE ISLAND.

MAGALA!

WHAT  
TROUBLES  
YOU, MY  
QUEEN?

MONTHS AGO  
I ASKED YOU  
TO WEAVE AN  
ENCHANTMENT  
ON MY  
DAUGHTER.  
WAS THAT  
ENCHANTMENT  
EVER  
REMOVED?

THE SPELL  
WHICH  
ENABLED  
ARTEMIS  
TO WIN THE  
RIGHT TO BE  
WONDER  
WOMAN?

THAT SMALL  
MAGIC  
SHOULD  
HAVE FADED WHEN  
ITS PURPOSE WAS  
ACCOMPLISHED.

I HAVE  
REASON  
TO  
BELIEVE  
IT DID  
NOT. IS  
THERE  
A WAY  
WE CAN  
BE  
CERTAIN?

NOT WITHOUT  
HAVING BOTH  
DIANA AND  
ARTEMIS  
PRESENT,  
MAJESTY.

BUT... ON THE  
MATTER OF  
PRINCESS DIANA,  
THERE IS SOME-  
THING ELSE WHICH  
MAY NEED TO BE  
ADDRESSED...

IT MUST WAIT FOR ANOTHER  
TIME, MAGALA.

PLEASE, DO WHAT YOU CAN  
TO DETERMINE IF THE  
ENCHANTMENT STILL LINKS  
DIANA AND ARTEMIS.

AND IF IT DOES, DO  
EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO  
REMOVE IT IMMEDIATELY!

YES,  
MAJESTY.

...BUT I FEAR THERE IS A  
GREATER PROBLEM WHICH  
MAY YET VEX YOUR ONLY  
DAUGHTER.

SOMETHING I HAD A HAND IN  
SO MANY YEARS AGO...

...THAT I HAD ALMOST  
FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT...

AND AS SHADOWS CLOUD  
THE HEAVY FEATURES OF  
THE WOMAN CALLED  
MAGALA...

...IN HELL...

LEARN YOU NOW WHAT HAS  
BEEN HIDDEN. SCALES  
FROM EYES ARE FALLEN  
HERE.

THOUGHT YOU ETRIGAN  
YOUR ALLY, NOW THIS HOPE  
IS TURNED TO FEAR!

I... DO  
NOT... FEAR  
YOU, DEMON.

I FEEL... FOR YOU  
NOTHING... BUT...  
CONTEMPT.

A WORD OF  
CAUTION,  
WONDER  
WOMAN.

...BUT  
BELIEVE ME,  
IT CAN.  
YOU MAY IMAGINE THAT IT  
WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR  
YOUR SITUATION TO BE  
MUCH WORSENED...

AT PRESENT ETRIGAN IS  
STILL RESTRAINED. IF I  
WERE TO RELEASE HIM HE  
WOULD TEAR YOUR SOUL  
INTO A THOUSAND  
PARTS--AND I RATHER  
IMAGINE THAT WOULD HURT.

SPARE ME WHAT PASSES  
FOR YOUR SENSE OF  
HUMOR, NERON.

YOU HAVE ME AS YOUR  
CAPTIVE, POWERLESS.

DO WITH ME WHAT YOU  
WILL, BUT RELEASE MY  
FRIENDS. THEY ARE OF NO  
CONCERN TO YOU.

NO CONCERN? WHY, SWEET PRINCESS, DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE I AM SO CALLOW THAT I DO NOT CONCERN MYSELF WITH THE VERY LEAST OF MY SUBJECTS?

CONSIDER THE ONE CALLED HELENA SANDSMARK.

OH!



DIANA! WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO... OH!

LOOK AT HER, DIANA! WHAT A RIOT OF CONTRADICTIONS SHE IS!

INTELLIGENT, YET SO OFTEN FOOLISH. STRONG, YET FULL OF FEAR.

AND HER CLOTHES!



SHE FEARS HER OWN SENSUALITY. SHE HIDES IN DOWDY DRESS A FORM TO QUICKEEN THE PULSE OF ANY MORTAL MALE!

NO!



THIS MORTAL MALE, FOR INSTANCE,

JASON BLOOD, FOR WHOM HELENA HAS LATELY CONCEIVED A CERTAIN... AFFECTION.



HELENA! WHAT IS HE DOING TO YOU? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

J- JASON ??

IT'S ME. SOMEHOW NERON HAS ACCOMPLISHED MY FONDEST DESIRE AND SEPARATED ME FROM ETRIGAN. I... HELENA..?

D-DON'T TOUCH ME!  
I--I'M SORRY, JASON, BUT HOW CAN I TRUST YOU? ALL THESE MONTHS... YOU'VE BEEN LYING TO ME...

HELENA--I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT PLEASE, YOU MUST TRY TO COMPREHEND.

MERLIN CONJURED ETRIGAN TO FIGHT THE FORCES OF MORGANE LE FAY AT THE FALL OF CAMELOT. WHEN THAT BATTLE ENDED HE ELECTED TO LEAVE ETRIGAN ON EARTH, AND PLACED HIM IN THE BODY OF AN INNOCENT PEASANT.

THAT PEASANT WAS ME, OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

I KNOW THAT, NOW. AND I KNOW ALL THE PAINTING OF "ANCESTORS" ON YOUR WALLS ARE REALLY PAINTINGS OF YOU.

THEN CAN YOU TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S BEEN LIKE FOR ME, HELENA? NEVER ABLE TO STAY IN ONE PLACE MORE THAN A FEW YEARS, NEVER ABLE TO MARRY, TO HAVE ANYTHING LIKE A NORMAL LIFE...

AND YET... WHEN YOU CAME TO GATEWAY... YOU AND I...



I WON'T DENY THERE HAVE BEEN WOMEN IN MY LIFE, HELENA. HUNDREDS, IN A THOUSAND YEARS.

BUT I ALWAYS KNEW THERE WOULD HAVE TO COME A DAY WHEN I WOULD BE COMPELLED TO TURN MY BACK, TO WALK AWAY.

UNTIL I MET YOU.

JASON..?

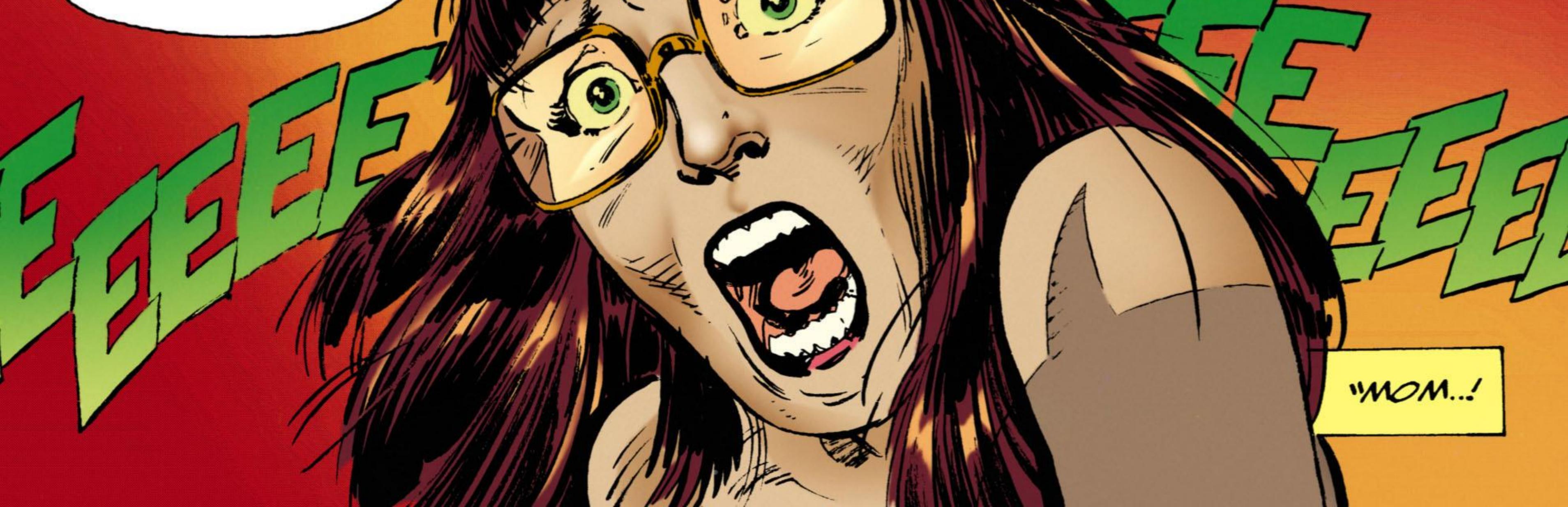
YOU WERE DIFFERENT FROM ANY WOMAN I HAD KNOWN BEFORE. YOUR BACKGROUND IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITIES. YOU COULD SPEAK OF THE TIMES IN WHICH I HAD LIVED AS IF YOU HAD BEEN THERE.

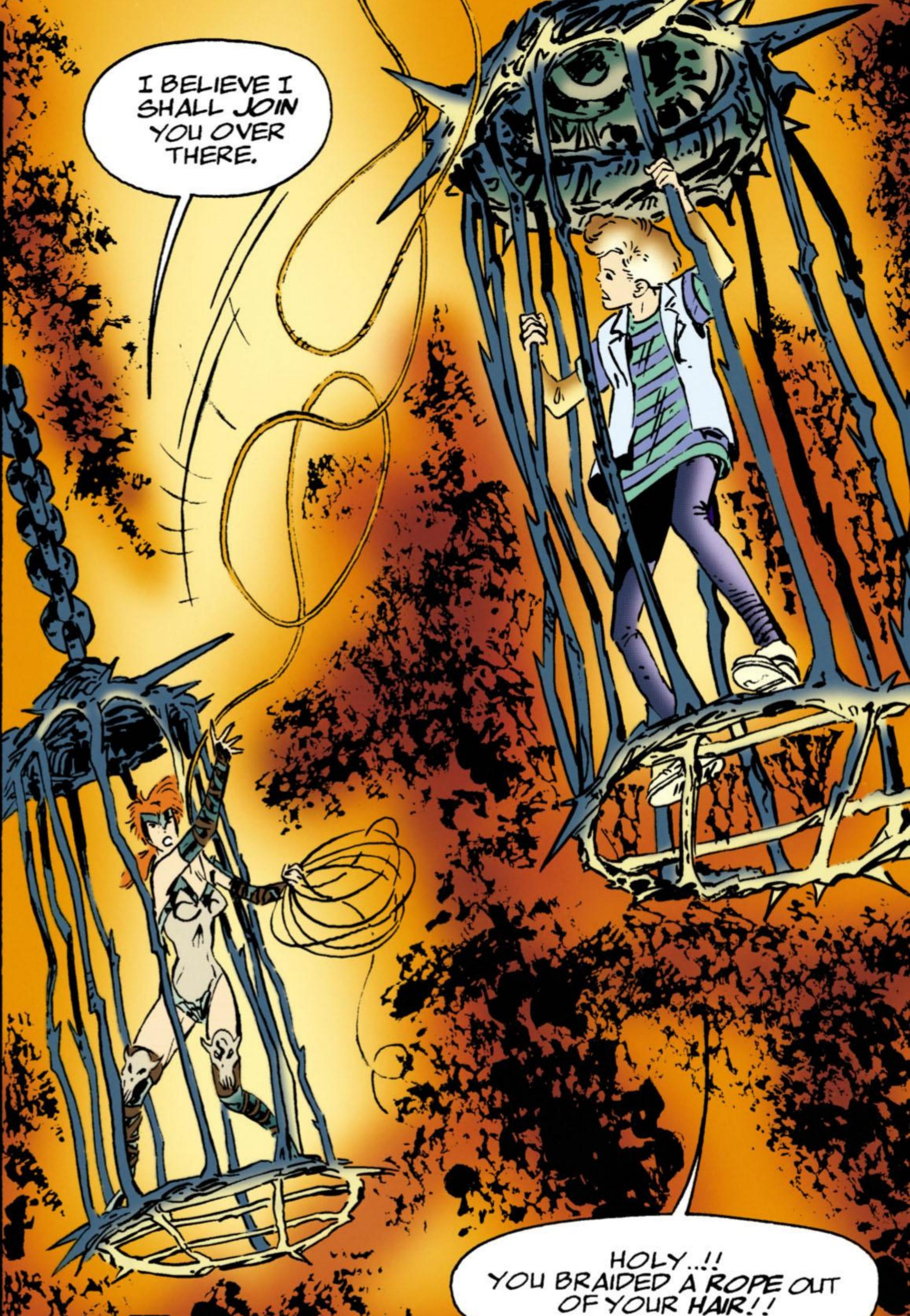
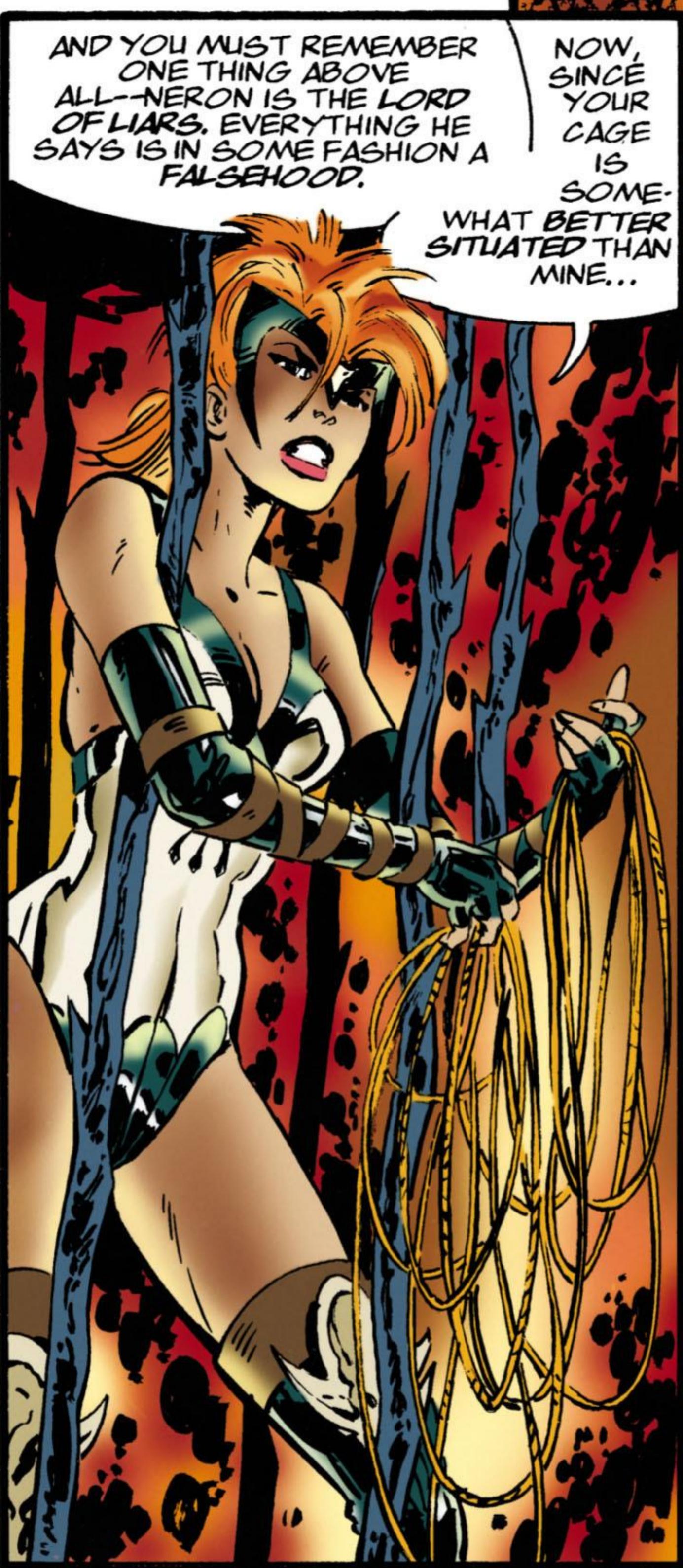
HOW TOUCHING. AND, OF COURSE ...

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TEN CENTURIES, I THOUGHT THERE WAS A CHANCE I MIGHT HAVE FOUND SOMEONE WHO COULD UNDERSTAND.



...HOW COMPLETELY A LIE...!





YES, SINCE NERON HAS  
CONFISCATED OR  
DESTROYED ALL MY  
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS...

...I AM COMPELLED TO  
IMPROVISE.

WOW!

NOW, FROM THIS  
VANTAGE, I CAN  
LOWER MYSELF  
TO THAT ABUT-  
MENT, AND...

THIS IS WAY  
COOL! WE CAN  
GO FIND DIANA  
AND MY MOM AND  
KICK THIS NERON  
GUY'S FLABBY  
BUTT!

I THINK NOT. IT IS NOT MY  
HABIT TO LEAD CHILDREN  
INTO BATTLE, AS  
DANGEROUS AS THIS CAGE  
MIGHT BE...

...IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY SAFER  
THAN WHERE I WILL BE  
HEADING. YOU WILL REMAIN  
HERE.

NO WAY! I CAN HELP  
YOU! I'VE GOT SUPER  
POWERS, TOO!

DO YOU? IF NERON REMOVED DIANA'S GODS-GIVEN POWERS, WHAT POSSIBLE LOGIC WOULD THERE BE TO LEAVING YOU WITH YOURS?

BESIDES, SINCE THIS ROPE IS THE ONLY WEAPON I HAVE, I NEED YOU TO STAY UP HERE TO UNHOOK IT ONCE I REACH FIRM GROUND.

BUT... BUT... THAT'S NOT FAIR!!

YOUR FIRST LESSON IN BEING A WARRIOR, THEN, CASSANDRA.

WAR IS NEVER "FAIR". NOW, UNHOOK MY LINE.

OKAY... BUT THIS REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY SUCKS!!

MEANWHILE...

WITHOUT  
ANY OF MY POWERS,  
THERE'S NOT GOING TO  
BE A WHOLE LOT I CAN  
DO TO HELP DIANA...

...BUT I HAVE TO  
FIND A WAY TO  
GET DOWN THERE.  
IF NOTHING ELSE,  
MAYBE THE TACTICS  
I LEARNED AS A  
DARKSTAR WILL...

IF YOU MEAN TO CLIMB DOWN THIS SHAFT, MS. TROY,  
I SERIOUSLY ADVISE AGAINST IT. THERE IS A POINT  
SOME THREE HUNDRED FEET DOWN AT WHICH CON-  
VENTIONAL REALITY SEEMS TO BEND.

I AM NOT AT ALL CERTAIN WHAT MIGHT  
BE THE EFFECT OF PASSING THROUGH  
THAT AREA...

HOLY  
COW!  
LOOK!!

QUEEN HIPPOLYTA!

STAND ASIDE, MORTALS!  
THIS IS A MATTER OF  
CONCERN TO AMAZONS  
ONLY!

MAJESTY—I AM DONNA TROY. A FRIEND OF DIANA'S. ANYTHING YOU MEAN TO DO HERE...

...IS AS MUCH MY CONCERN AS ANY AMAZON'S!

YOU ARE KNOWN TO ME, AND YOUR COURAGE IS WELCOME

NOW, QUICKLY, IF WE ARE TO SAVE DIANA, AND RECTIFY WHAT MAY PROVE A TERRIBLE WRONG...



"...WE MUST ACT BEFORE ANOTHER HOUR IS PASSED!!!

WHAT... WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?

NOTHING HAPPENED, THO' YOU SCREAMED. ALL YOU THOUGHT WAS REAL, YOU DREAMED!

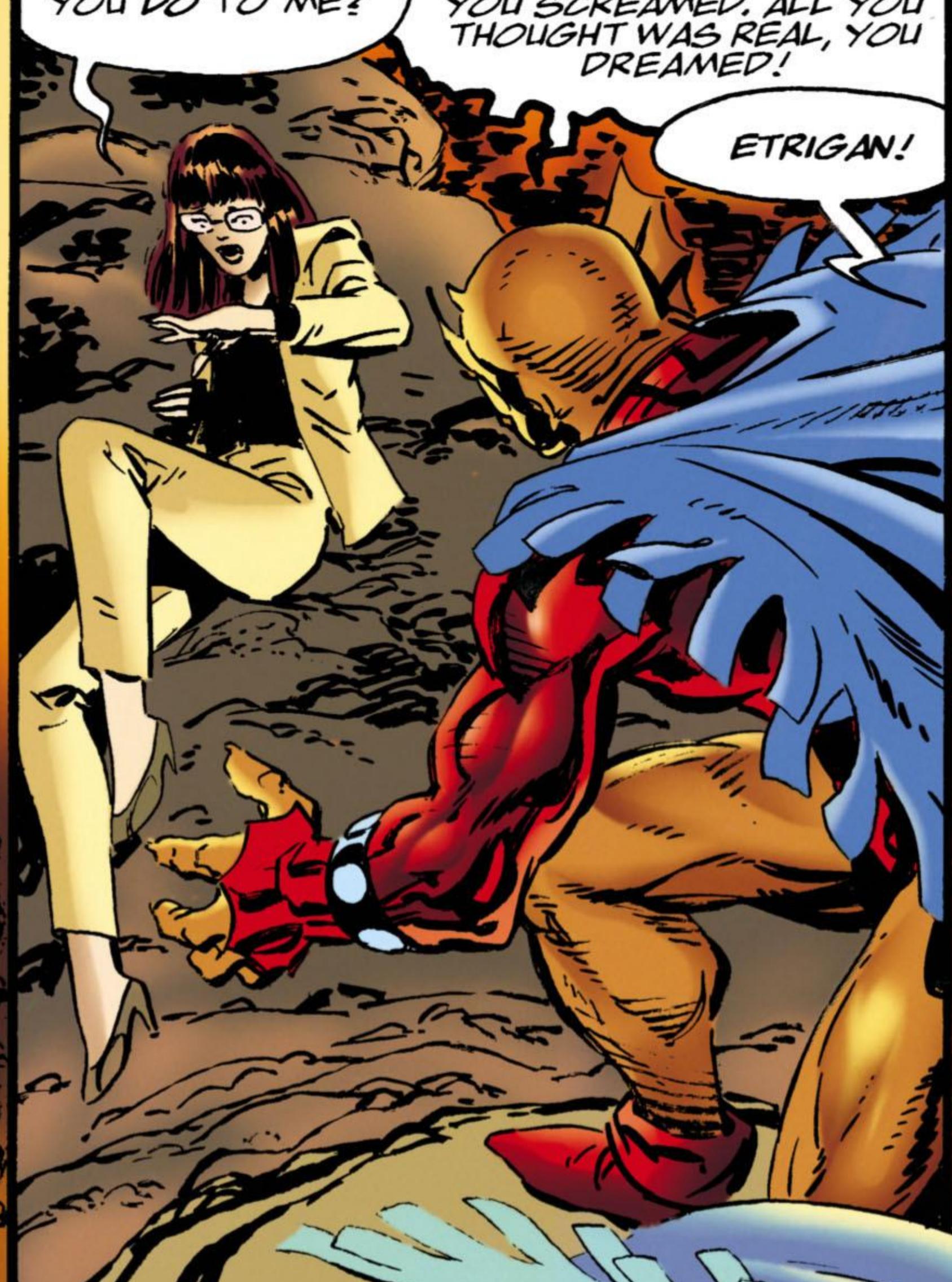
ETRIGAN!

CALL MY NAME AND RISK MY ANGER, THIS AT LEAST YOU KNOW IS TRUE.

IF YOU WISH FOR HER A RESPITE, TURN THE DEMON'S WRATH TO YOU.

IF THAT IS WHAT IT TAKES TO SAVE MY FRIEND, SO BE IT, DEMON.

BUT I CONFESS SURPRISE THAT ETRIGAN THE FIERCE SHOULD TAKE SUCH PLEASURE FROM THE TORTURE OF HELPLESS CAPTIVES.



ETRIGAN DERIVES SMALL PLEASURE FROM SUCH PASTIMES, THIS IS TRUE.

MADE HE WAS FOR WAR, NOT TORTURE; PAIN ALONE PAYS NOT HIS DUE.



THEN RELEASE ME, ETRIGAN.

SET ME FREE, AND EVEN THO' MY POWERS ARE DIMINISHED, I PROMISE YOU A BATTLE WORTH YOUR WINNING!

OH, DIANA, DIANA, DIANA!



SUCH A TRANSPARENT PLOY. SO UNWORTHY OF ALL I HAVE SEEN AND HEARD OF YOU.

IS THIS REALLY WONDER WOMAN, PLAYING CHILD'S GAMES TO TRICK A GRUNTING BEAST?

CALL NOT ETRIGAN SUCH TITLES, BEAST HE'S NOT AND NEVER HAS BEEN.

LET HIM FACE THE WOMAN FAIRLY, PRIZE IS SWEET FROM BATTLE WON CLEAN!

SIGH, YOUR RHYMING GROWS MORE TIRING BY THE MINUTE, ETRIGAN.

YOU MAKE ME REGRET THE DAY I WORKED THAT LITTLE CHANGE IN YOU.

I THINK YOU OVERSTATE YOURSELF, NERON. ETRIGAN SPOKE IN RHYME LONG BEFORE YOU APPEARED ON THE SCENE.



YOU MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING YOUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH ME WAS THE FIRST MANIFESTATION OF MY POWER, DIANA.

I AM MUCH OLDER THAN THAT. I AM AMONG THE FIRST WHO WALKED ABROAD IN THIS UNIVERSE, AND MY INFLUENCE HAS BEEN KNOWN SINCE HUMANITY'S FIRST FALL FROM GRACE.

TWO GREAT FORCES BATTLE FOR POSSESSION OF THE COSMOS, WONDER WOMAN. GOOD AND EVIL.

AND WHEREVER EVIL IS TO BE FOUND, ANYWHERE THROUGHOUT CREATION, THERE TOO YOU WILL FIND THE HAND OF NERON.



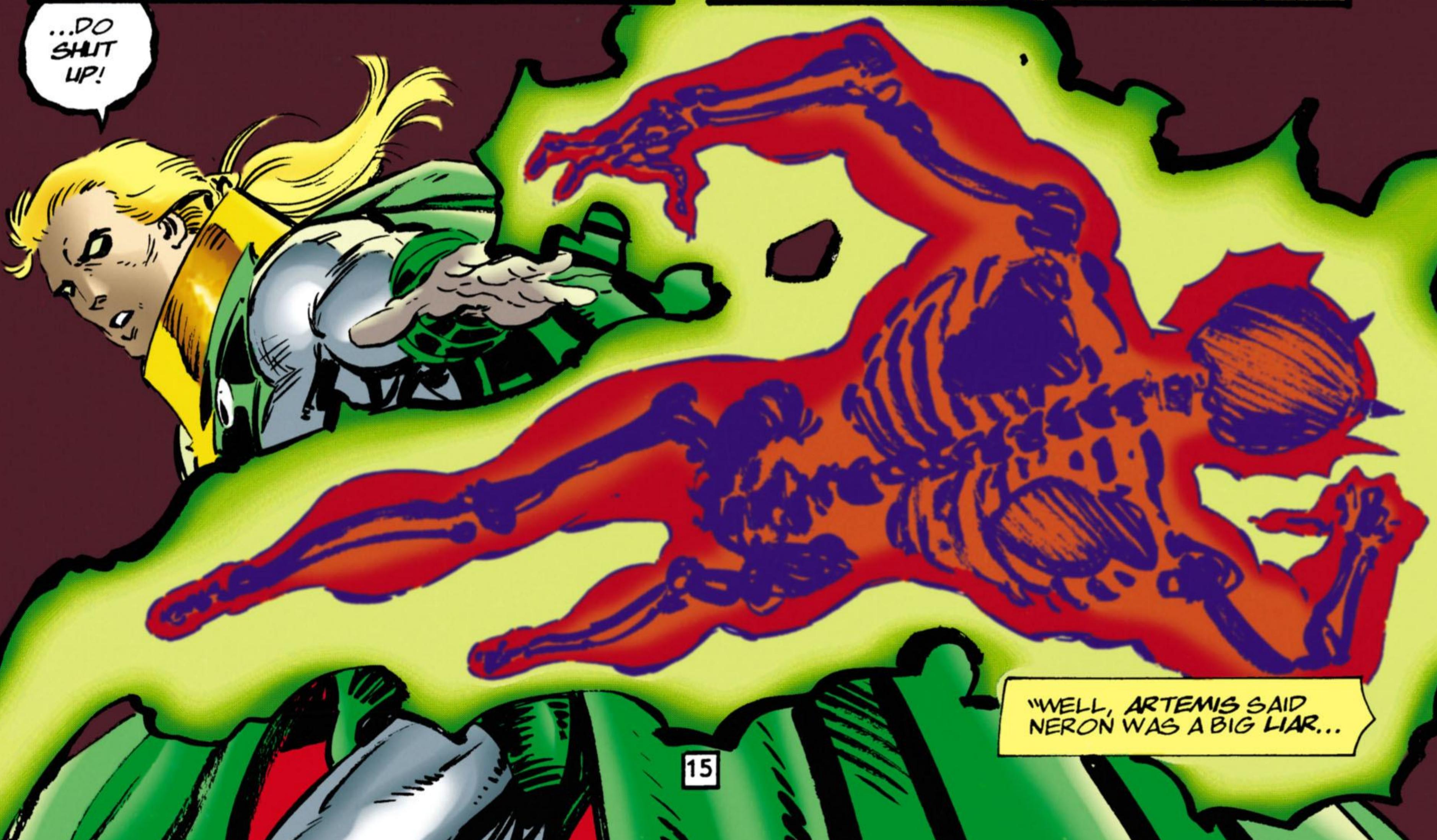
FINISHED ARE WE NOW WITH SPEECHES! WORD FOR DEEDS NO MORE TO TRADE!

ETRIGAN DESIRES FAIR BATTLE, ANSWER NOW DEMANDS I'VE MADE!

OH, ETRIGAN...



...DO SHUT UP!



"WELL, ARTEMIS SAID NERON WAS A BIG LIAR..."

...BUT  
SURELY  
HE  
DOESN'T  
THINK I  
STILL  
BELIEVE  
IN  
SANTA  
CLAUS!

I AM NOT THE  
ANCIENT SANT TO  
WHOM YOU REFER,  
YOUNG ONE, THO'  
I SUPPOSE TO  
THE UNTRAINED  
EYE THERE IS  
SOME SMALL  
PHYSICAL  
RESEMBLANCE.

I AM THE SORCERER  
ROYAL TO THE COURT OF  
KING ARTHUR. I AM  
MERLIN.

OH,  
THAT'S A  
RELIEF!  
MERLIN  
IS SO  
MUCH  
MORE  
BELIEV-  
ABLE  
THAN  
SANTA!

I SENSE DOUBT IN  
YOUR TONE. THERE  
WAS A TIME WHEN  
I COULD HAVE  
WORKED WONDERS  
WITH A WAVE OF MY  
HAND, TO PROVE  
MY CLAIM.

BUT THAT  
TIME HAS  
PASSED.  
YOU MUST  
ACCEPT  
ME AT MY  
WORD IF  
WE ARE TO  
SAVE YOUR  
FRIENDS,  
AND MY DEMON.

NOW  
FLY  
TO  
ME  
....

FLY..? OH,  
I GET IT!  
I'M  
SUPPOSED  
TO STEP  
THROUGH  
THESE  
BARS AND  
DROP INTO  
THAT LAVA  
AND BOIL  
TO DEATH.

WHATEVER  
MIGHT HAPPEN,  
YOU WOULD NOT  
DIE,  
CASSANDRA.  
BUT TRUST ME,  
YOU WILL NOT  
FALL. NERON  
HAS NO MORE  
TAKEN YOUR  
POWERS THAN  
HE DID THOSE  
OF WONDER  
WOMAN...

"HOW'S THAT AGAIN..?

...YOU CAST A SPELL ON  
DIANA?

NOT I, DONNA TROY,  
MAGALA, WHO LIVES APART  
FROM THE REST OF US ON  
THE MYSCIRA, AND USES HER  
SOLITUDE TO STUDY THE  
MYSTIC ARTS.

WHEN I HAD MY  
PREMONITION THAT  
WONDER WOMAN WOULD  
DIE, I SET IN MOTION A  
SCHEME THAT WOULD LEAD  
TO ANOTHER WOMAN  
ASSUMING THAT ROLE IN  
DIANA'S PLACE.

GEEZ! THAT'S PRETTY COLD-BLOODED, EVEN FOR AN AMAZON!

AND ARTEMIS DID DIE, DIDN'T SHE? SHE TOOK OVER FROM DIANA AND WAS KILLED.

SUBSEQUENTLY TO BE RESURRECTED, AND I HAVE PAID IN MORE WAYS THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE FOR MY CRIME.

IN FACT, IT SEEMS MY PUNISHMENT CONTINUES UNABATED. THE EVIDENCE CLEARLY POINTS TO THE SPELL I HAD MAGALA PUT ON DIANA STILL BEING IN PLACE.

A SPELL THAT CAUSED A BIG CHUNK OF DIANA'S POWER AND SKILL TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO ARTEMIS WHENEVER SHE WAS AROUND!

YES, THERE WAS NO WAY IN WHICH ARTEMIS COULD HAVE WON THE CONTEST FOR THE RIGHT TO BE WONDER WOMAN, HAD DIANA BEEN FUNCTIONING AT HER FULL CAPACITY.

IT SEEMED TOO DANGEROUS TO COMPLETELY STRIP DIANA OF HER POWERS--AS WELL AS BEING SOMETHING SHE WOULD HAVE NOTICED--SO I SEIZED UPON THIS PLAN AS...

MAJESTY! DO YOU FEEL IT? SOMETHING IS...



THE ROCK! IT MELTED AWAY LIKE STEAM!

NO! THIS MUST BE THE REALITY WARP SINGH MENTIONED! TRY TO IGNORE IT!

AND BRACE FOR WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT!

"WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM..?!?"

HE HAS LONGED TO BE FREE OF HIS DEMONIC OTHER SELF, HELENA. I HAVE GRANTED HIS WISH.

NOT TO PUT TOO FINE A POINT ON IT, I HAVE... KNOCKED THE HELL OUT OF HIM!

JASON! JASON, CAN YOU HEAR ME? IS IT REALLY YOU?

HELENA... WHERE... FEEL... SO... WEAK...

WELL, OF COURSE YOU FEEL WEAK, JASON BLOOD. ETRIGAN WAS YOUR LIFE. WITHOUT HIM, YOU WILL DIE SOON.

NO! OH, PLEASE! DON'T LET HIM DIE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS, BUT I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE LIKE JASON ALL MY LIFE!



DON'T YOU MEAN SINCE DAD DIED, MOM?

HEY, NERON, PICK A COMFY PLACE TO FALL AFTER I KICK YOUR BUTT!!

CASSIE!!

COME ON, DIANA! YOUR POWERS STILL WORK! NERON WAS LYING, AS ALWAYS!

YOU JUST FEEL WEAKER 'CAUSE SOMETHING ABOUT ARTEMIS DRAINS OFF HALF YOUR POWER!

WHAT??



IT'S TRUE! I CAN STILL FLY. BUT I COULD NOT BREAK THE BARS ON MY CAGE...

WELL, I MIGHT HAVE SLIGHTLY UNDERRATED THEIR STRENGTH, DIANA.  
SENSING THE SPELL LINKING YOU AND ARTEMIS, I COULD HARDLY RESIST EXPLOITING IT, COULD I?

JUST AS I CANNOT RESIST DOING THIS...



DIANA!!

DIANA... PAIN... SUCH AS I HAVE NEVER FELT BEFORE.  
AS THOUGH... MY VERY SOUL HAD TURNED TO BROKEN GLASS.



A MINOR EXAMPLE OF MY POWER, DIANA. SOMETHING YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS CAN NOW LOOK FORWARD TO EXPERIENCING EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF ETERNITY.

THINK AGAIN, NERON!

THE AMAZONS OF THEMYSCIRA HAVE FACED WORSE THAN YOU IN OUR LONG LIVES, MONSTER.

WE WERE CREATED TO BATTLE JUST SUCH EVIL AS YOU UNLEASH!

LIKE DAUGHTER, LIKE MOTHER! HOW HEART-WARMING.

WHAT A PITY YOU ARE NOW IN MY REALM, AND FORCED TO DEAL WITH A REALITY WHICH OPERATES BY MY RULES.

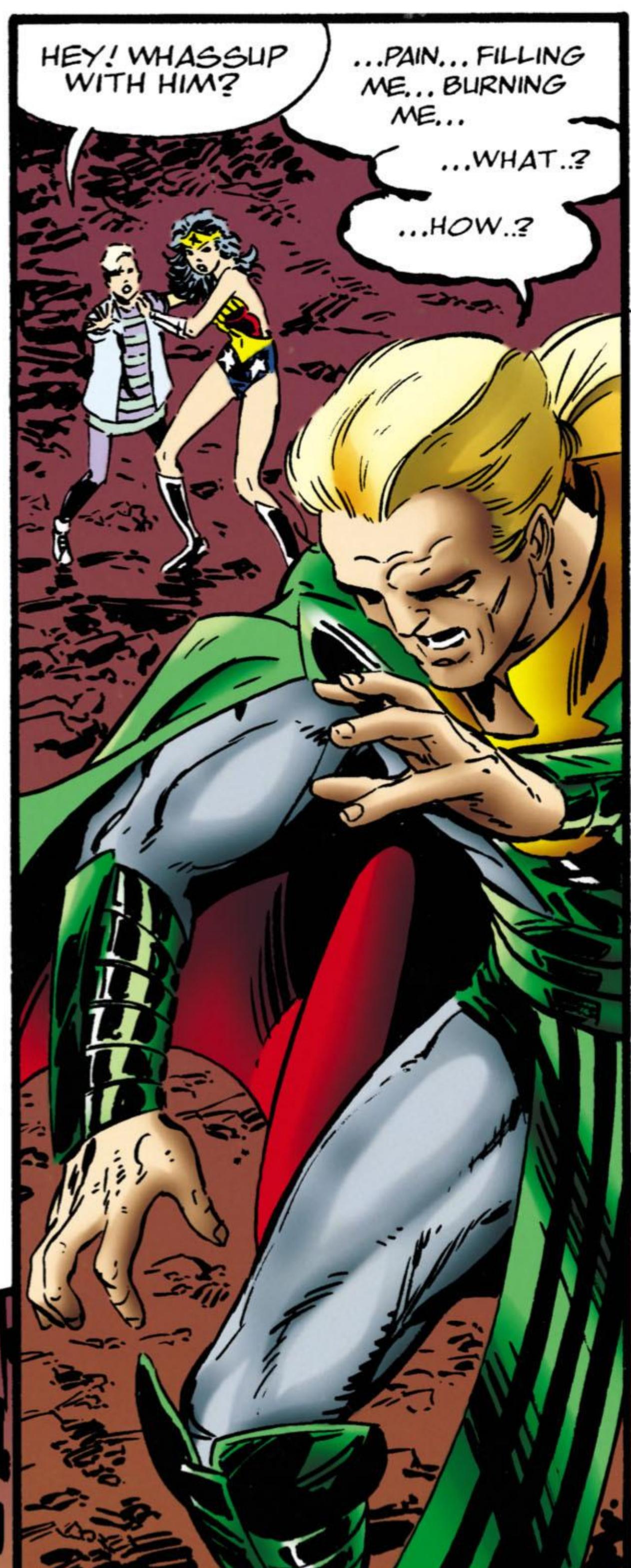
I THINK SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU AND YOUR... YOUR...

HEY! WHASSUP WITH HIM?

...PAIN... FILLING ME... BURNING ME...

...WHAT..?

...HOW..?



SOMEONE... IN THE HEART OF THIS RABBLE...

YEOW! THAT BLAST SEEMED ALMOST LIKE IT WAS HOMING ON ME!



SURRENDER,  
NERON! YOUR  
SCHEME IS  
UNDONE!

I THINK NOT  
... LITTLE AMAZON.  
YOU ARE THE  
LEAST OF MY  
WORRIES, WITHOUT  
POWER, WITHOUT  
WEAPONS.

IT'S TRUE YOU WERE MOST  
THOROUGH IN STRIPPING ME  
OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT  
BE A WEAPON, NERON, EVEN  
TO REMOVING THE SPIKES  
FROM MY LEGGINGS.

BUT YOU SEEM  
TO HAVE OVER-  
LOOKED AS  
MERE ORNAMENT  
THE DEVIL SKULLS  
ON MY THIGHS.

SKULLS CRAFTED FROM THE PUREST SILVER...

YOU HAVE... WOUNDED ME...  
ARTEMIS. SOMETHING NO  
ONE HAS DONE IN MANY A  
LONG YEAR.

BUT YOU HAVE NOT  
STRIPPED ME OF MY  
POWER.

THUS CAN I STILL SNATCH  
FROM THIS A TASTE OF  
VICTORY...!

DO NOT CALL TO YOUR  
FRIEND, HELENA  
SANDSMARK. SHE CAN NO  
LONGER HEAR YOU.

WONDER  
WOMAN IS  
DEAD!!

DIANA!!

NEXT ISSUE: A GATHERING  
OF HEROES, A TIME OF  
PRAYER AND MOURNING.  
JOIN US FOR...  
**DEATHWATCH**