



ENTER: DEVASTATION!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
A
AUTHORITY

WONDER WOMAN®

143 | APR 99

LUKE
PAQUETTE
MCLEOD



THE LAST PEACE I
REMEMBER, I'M UP
ON MY QUIET PLACE,
MY TOWER.

THE HEART OF
AMERICA. THE
DARK, SLOW PART,
WHERE THE BLOOD
POOLS.

DOWN IN SOUTH CAROLINA, WE
HAVE A SLOW WAY OF TALKING,
AND A POETIC WAY OF PRYING
THINGS OUT OF THE THICKER
SHADOWS.

I SWEAR I'D LIKE
FAULKNER IF HIS
PAGES WEREN'T
SUCH A PAIN TO
READ. PARAGRAPHS
ARE TOO LONG.

DON'T TELL MY FRIENDS...
ABOUT ME READING
FAULKNER, I MEAN.
THEY'D SHUT ME DOWN
SO FAST.

OF COURSE, THEY
DON'T REALLY CARE,
BECAUSE SOON ALL
MY FRIENDS WILL BE
DEAD.

THE NATIONAL
GUARD WILL
BE POURING OVER
THE STATE LINE,
AND THE COUNTRY
WILL BE IN DEF
CON 4 OR 5 OR
WHATEVER.

THAT LAST MOMENT
OF PEACE IS RIGHT
BEFORE I LOOK DOWN
AND SEE HER.

I'M THERE WHEN
SHE WALKS INTO
THE WORLD.

DEVASTATION Part 1: TRAGEDY

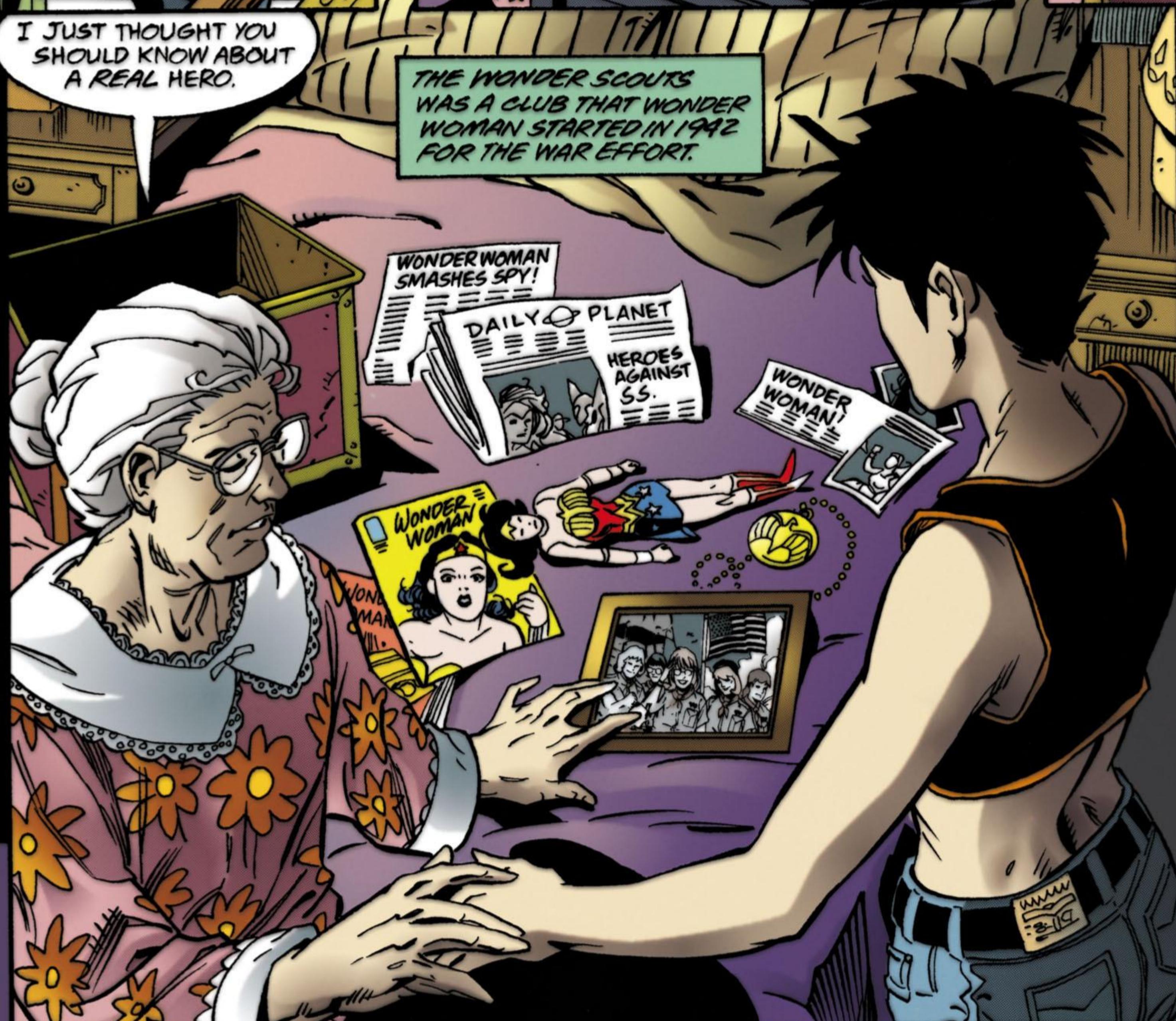
SHOW ME A HERO
AND I WILL WRITE YOU
A TRAGEDY.

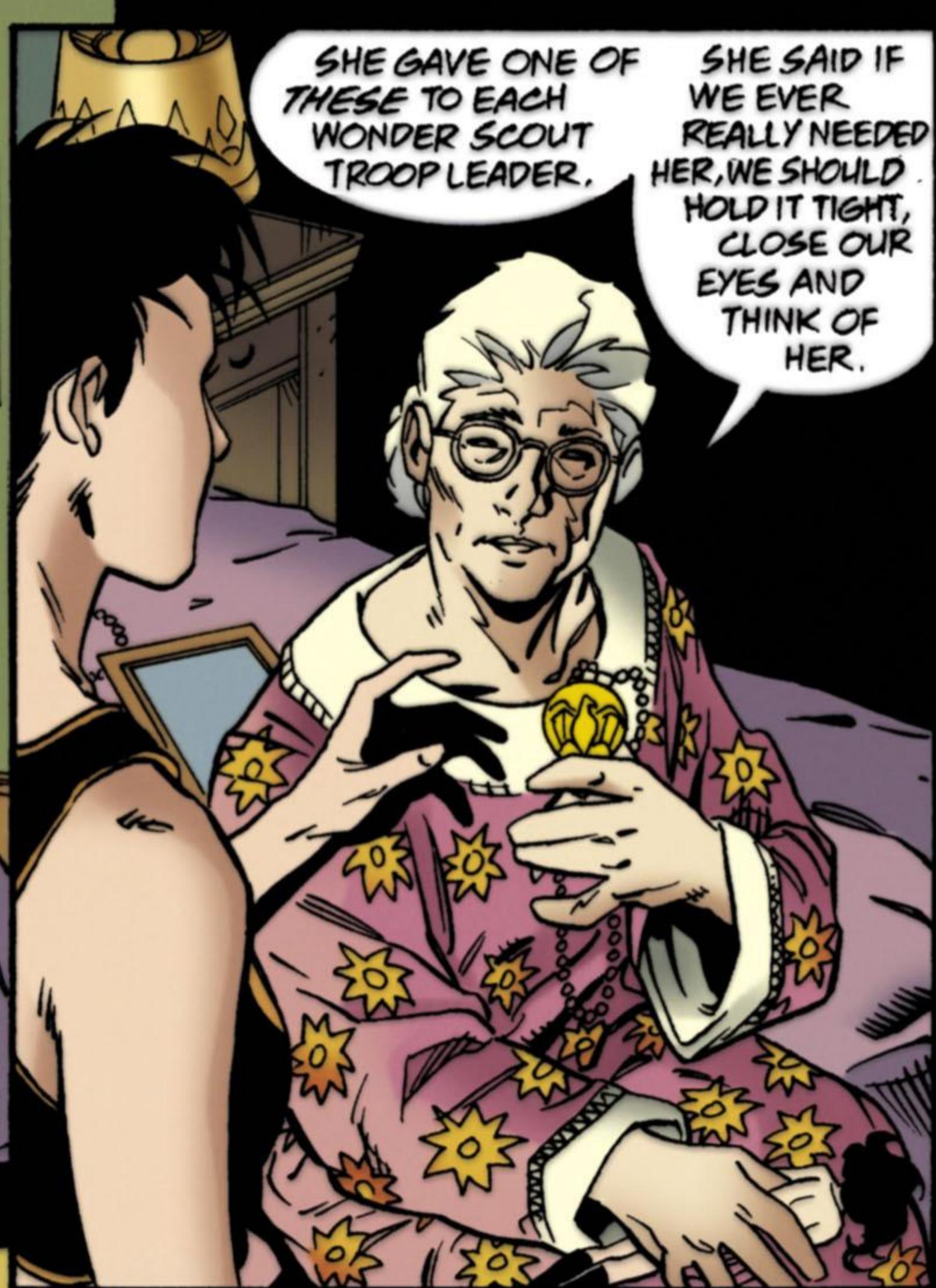
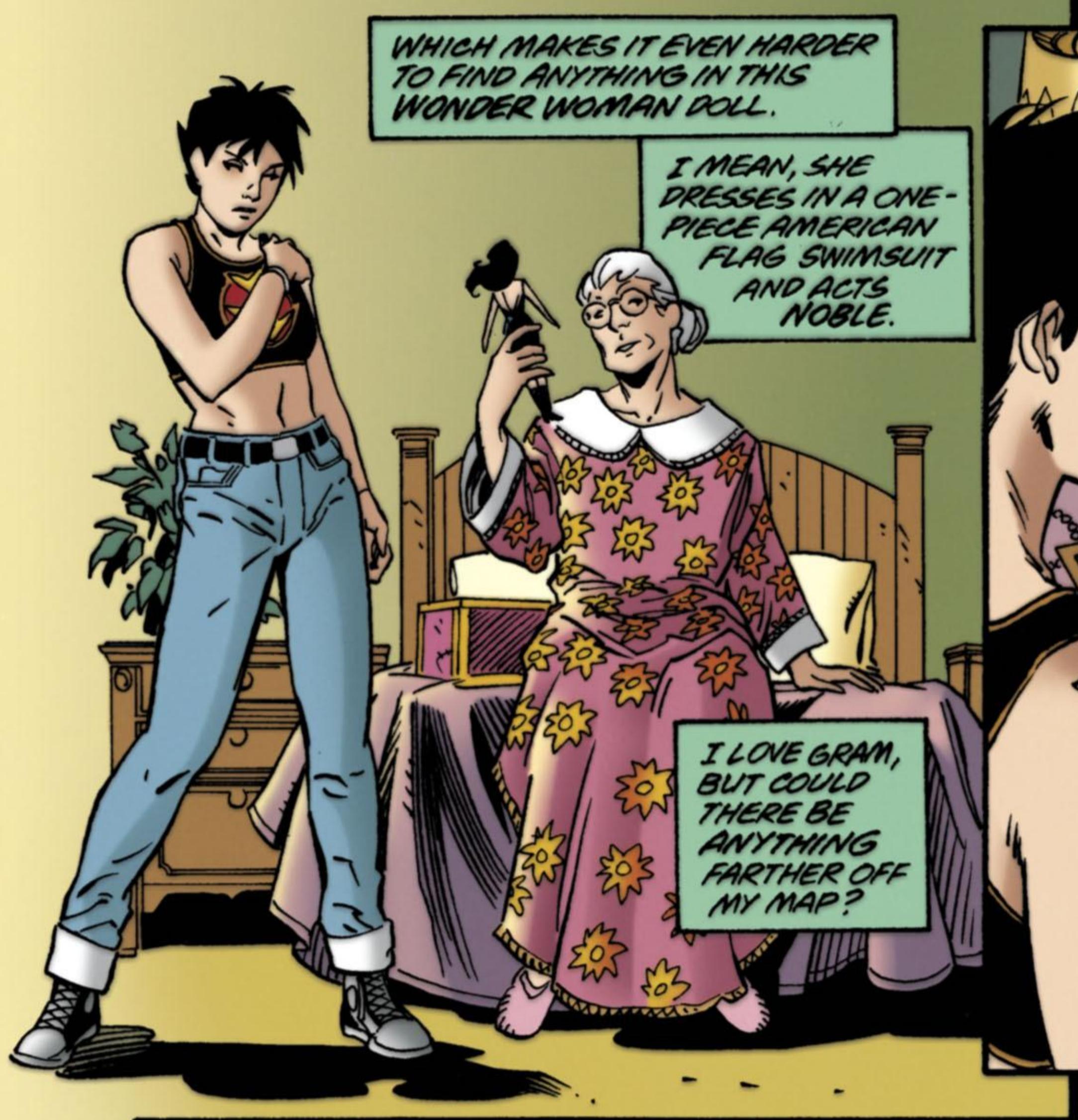
F. SCOTT
FITZGERALD
(1896-1940)

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WONDER WOMAN created by
WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON







NEXT DAY IN HOMEROOM IS WHERE IT ALL STARTS.

COACH LORING GIVES US HER NAME, AND IT'S ONE WORD: DIVA. AND I'M THINKING, DIVA? AND SHE SPELLS IT OUT: D-E-V-A.

AND EVERYBODY LOOKS AT EACH OTHER.

FRENCH
LES JUJUE
DONNENT
DES CARIÉS
JESUIS
TU ES
IL
VR

GE
PA
G

TODAY
FRENCH
JNALA
MATH

FOR THREE SECONDS I HATE HER, THEN I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE HER.

SHE IS SO COOL.

LORING STARTS YELLING AT FRANKLIN AGAIN, AND HE'S GOOFING ON HIM AS USUAL.

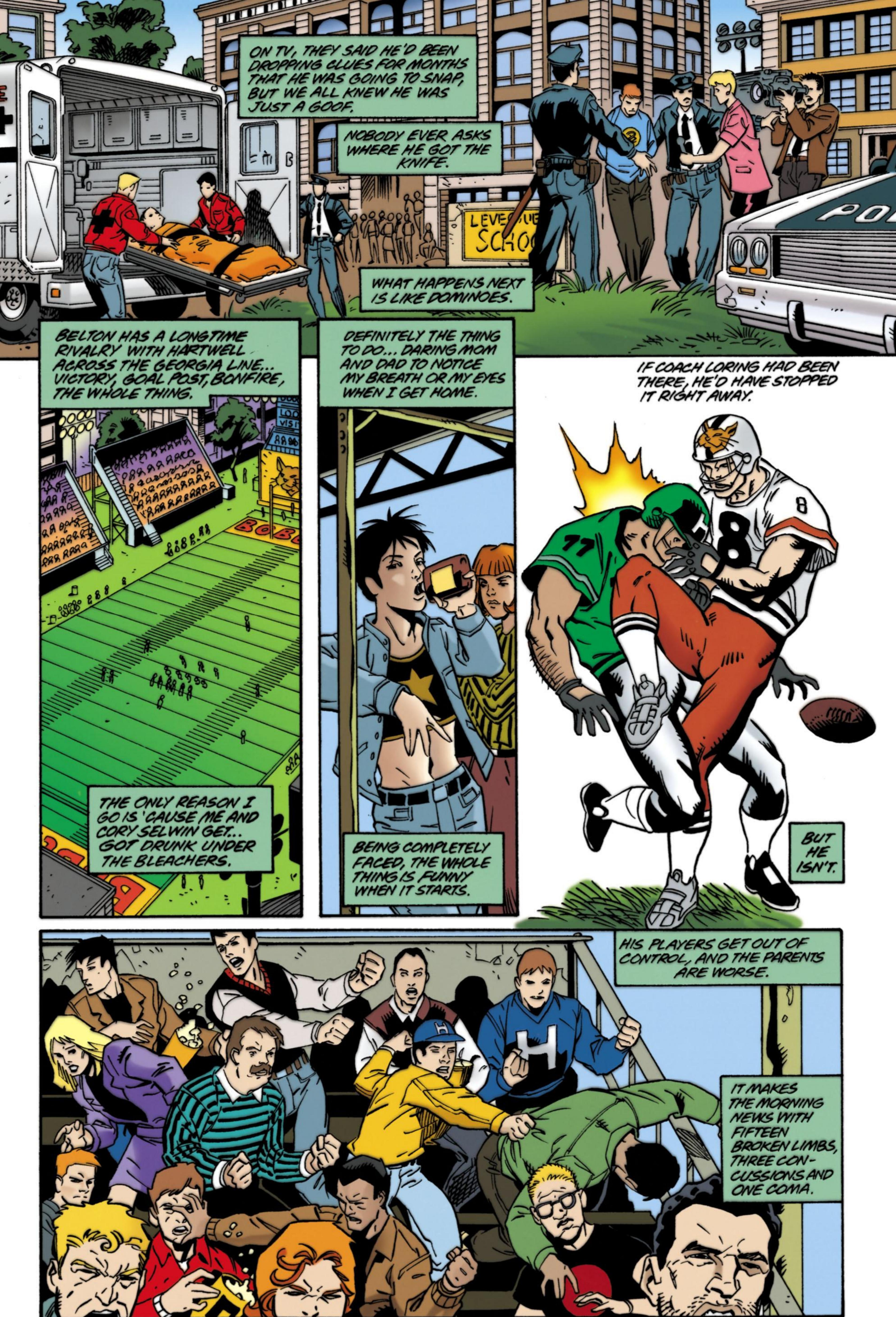
VERBE
ETRE

FRENCH
LES JUJUE
DONNENT
DES CARIÉS
JESUIS
TU ES
IL
VR

FRANKLIN COMPLETELY LOSES IT. HE TRIES TO SHOW OFF IN FRONT OF HER, BUT HIS SCREAMS GO HIGH AND FUNNY.

DEVA... SMOLDERS, LIKE THEY SAY.





CORY AND I ARE WEIRDED OUT BY THE VIOLENCE, BUT THEN I SEE DEVA BY THE GYM, SMILING HER SECRET SMILE.

AND SHE IS COMPLETELY COOL.

THINGS START TO MOVE FAST. THE MAYOR OF HARTWELL SHOWS UP AT AN EMERGENCY BELTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING. HE'S DRUNK AND ANGRY ABOUT THE GAME, AND TAKES A POKE AT OUR ESTEEMED MAYOR.



OUR ESTEEMED MAYOR AND A BUNCH OF GOOD OLD BOYS PAY THE MAYOR OF HARTWELL A VISIT THAT NIGHT.

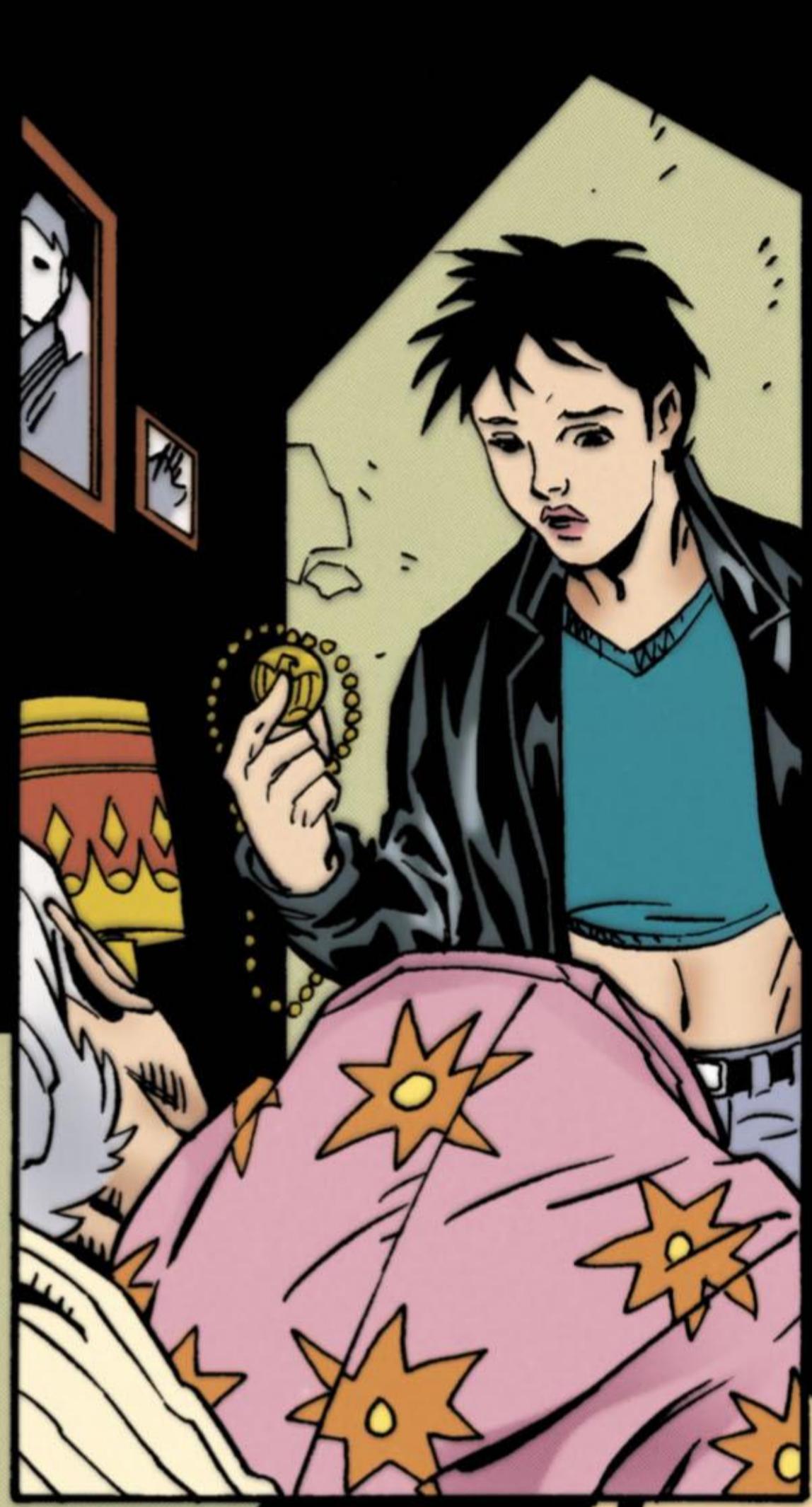
BLAM

IT SEEMS HIS HONOR HAS AN ACCIDENT CLEANING HIS SHOT-GUN.









I SEE A WORLD...
OF NOBILITY,
OF MORTALITY.
WHERE HONOR
IS BASED ON WHAT
YOU DO EVEN
THOUGH NO
ONE'S LOOKING.

IT'S A WORLD I LOST
WHEN I GREW UP AND
LEARNED THAT DADDIES
HIT MOMMIES, AND THEIR
DAUGHTERS GET DRUNK
UNDER THE BLEACHERS
TO KILL THE PAIN, AND THE
WORLD IS GRAY, AND
CYNICISM RULES.

ALL THAT IS BLOWN AWAY
IN A STORM OF THE PURE
FEELING OF KNOWING THE
RIGHT THING TO DO.

THIS WORLD IS
GRAND AND
ANCIENT.

IT IS THE
WORLD OF
HEROES.

I CALL FOR HELP. OH
GOD, I CALL AS HARD AS
I CAN, TEARS STREAMING
DOWN MY FACE AS MY
CHILDHOOD RUSHES BACK
SO STRONG IT BRINGS ME
TO MY KNEES.

AND WITH A WHISPER
THAT GROWS TO SHAKE
THE EARTH...



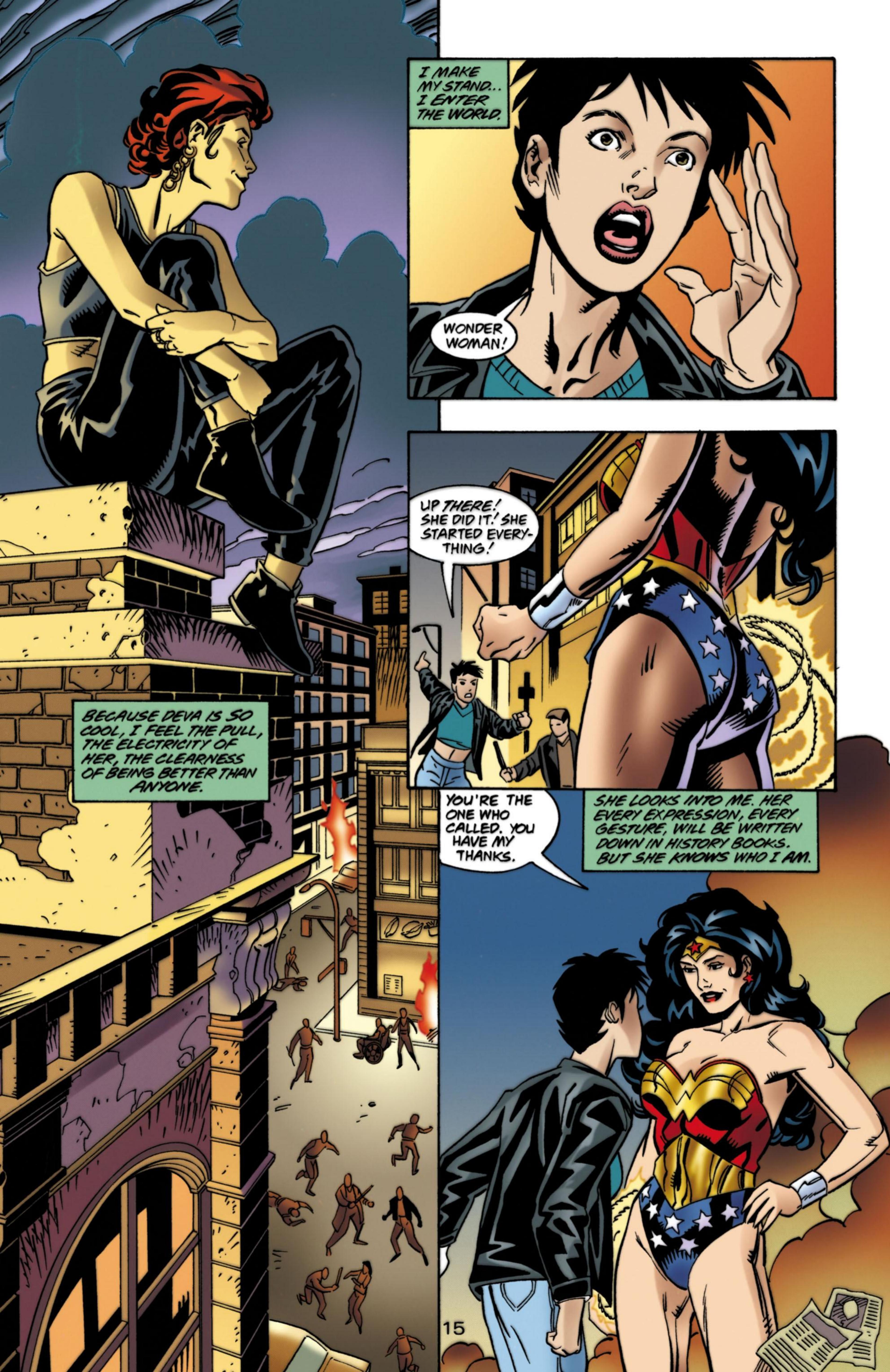


THE FIGURE FROM MY DREAMS DESCENDS TO SAVE US.

I GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE THE LOOK ON HER FACE... ONE WOMAN AGAINST A MOB. I DON'T CARE WHAT SHE'S WEARING. SHE BLOWS ME AWAY.

I'M ALSO SURE SHE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.





I MAKE
MY STAND...
I ENTER
THE WORLD.

WONDER
WOMAN!

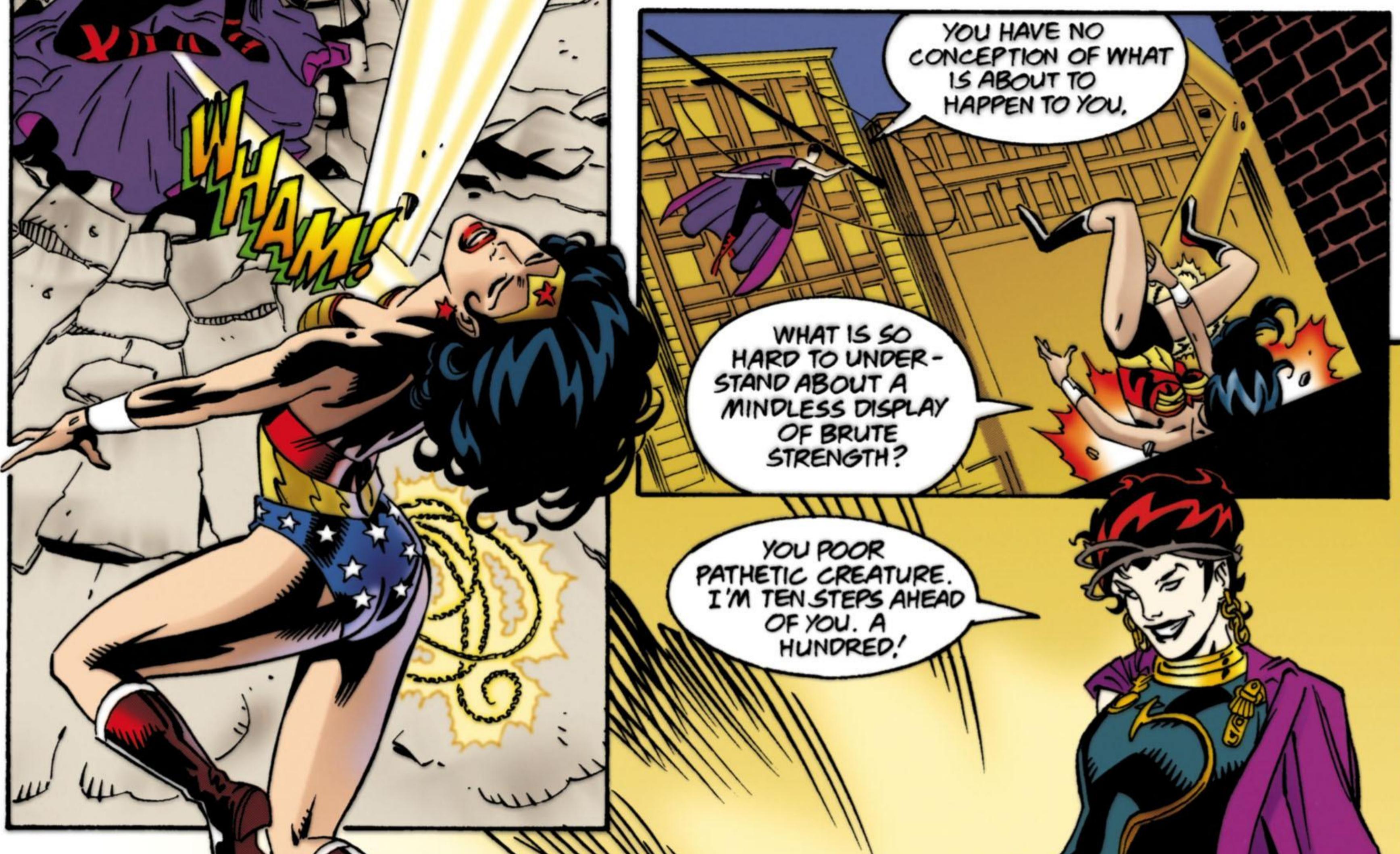
UP THERE!
SHE DID IT! SHE
STARTED EVERY-
THING!

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
CALLED. YOU
HAVE MY
THANKS.

SHE LOOKS INTO ME. HER
EVERY EXPRESSION, EVERY
GESTURE, WILL BE WRITTEN
DOWN IN HISTORY BOOKS.
BUT SHE KNOWS WHO I AM.

BECAUSE DEVA IS SO
COOL, I FEEL THE PULL,
THE ELECTRICITY OF
HER, THE CLEARNESS
OF BEING BETTER THAN
ANYONE.

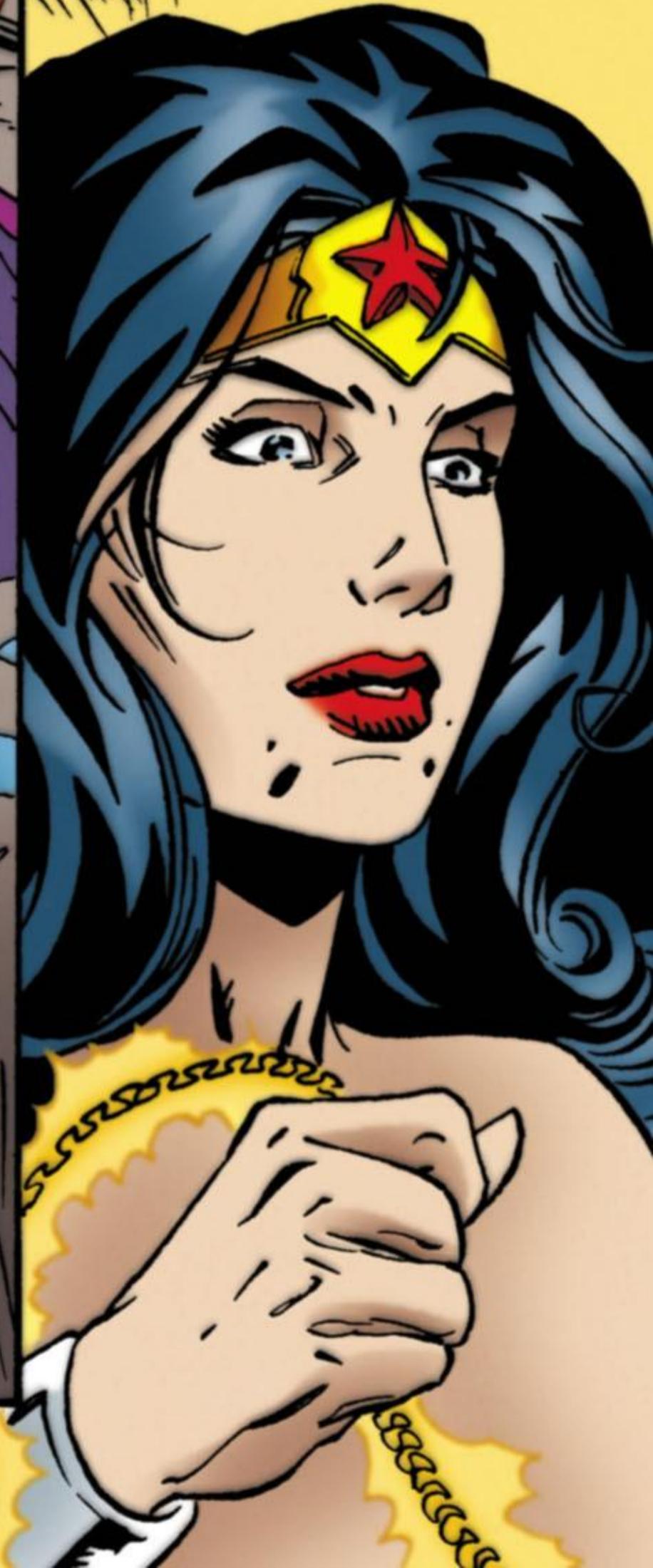








GREAT
HERA...
YOU'RE
A...





I CARRY SOMETHING WITH ME NOW. SOMETHING TO LIVE BY. SOMETHING I DIDN'T HAVE BEFORE.

BELTON CITY
2M

IT HAS EXISTED FOREVER. THIS TIME IT COMES IN THE SHAPE OF A WOMAN IN A BRIGHT UNIFORM.

I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS NOW. IT'S ENOUGH TO GET ME THROUGH...

... ALMOST.

NOT SO FAST, LITTLE TRAITOR. YOU POINTED ME OUT TO MY ENEMY, BETRAYED ME. AFTER ALL I DID TO SET YOU FREE FROM YOUR FAMILY.

NOW IT'S ALL CLEAR...

...I SEE THE REAL BETRAYAL. HOW THE FALSE HERO LEFT US TO OUR FATE, FLYING AWAY TO HER TEMPLE IN THE SKY, NOT CARING FOR MERE MORTALS.

HOW OUR GRACIOUS SAVIOR TOOK US INTO HER HOLY SPIRIT, AND CARED FOR US, AND GAVE US SUCCOR.

WE'RE FROM THE HEART OF AMERICA. SHE SENDS US OUT INTO DARK ARTERIES OF THE NATION, TO SPREAD THE WORD.

I FINALLY KNOW HER TRUE NAME.

IT'S DEVASTATION.

