



**THE MISSION... IS OVER!**

# WONDER WOMAN

225  
MAR 06

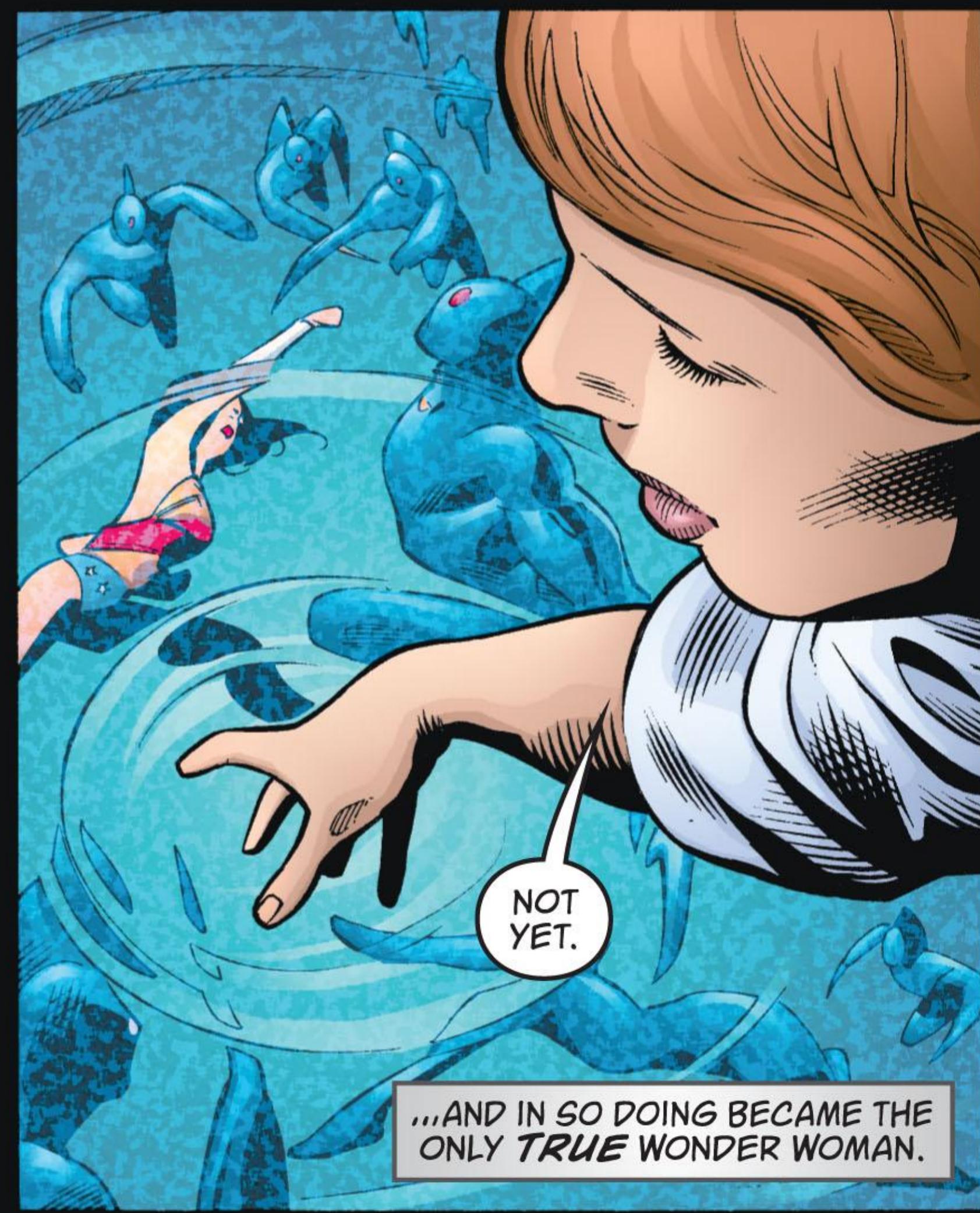
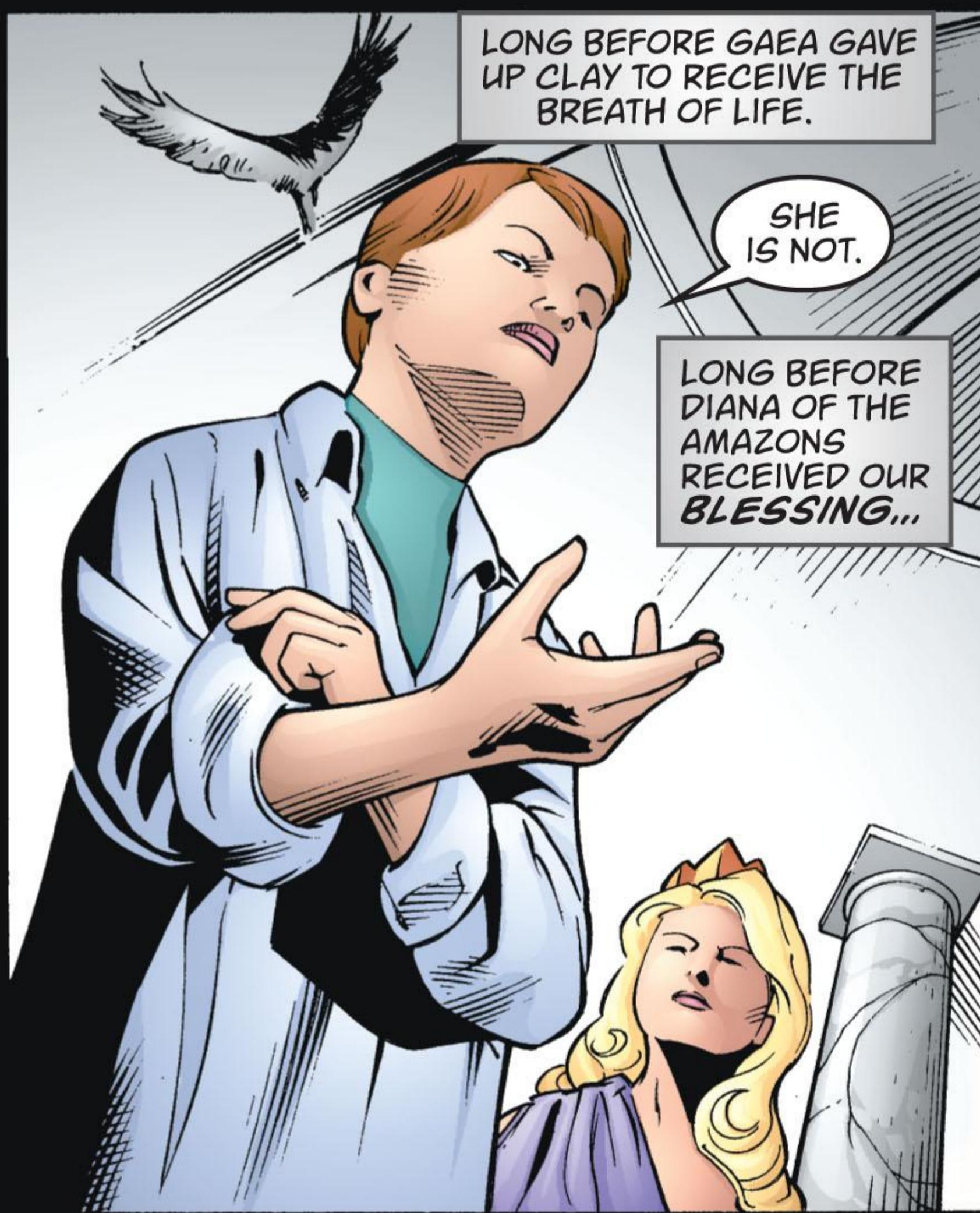
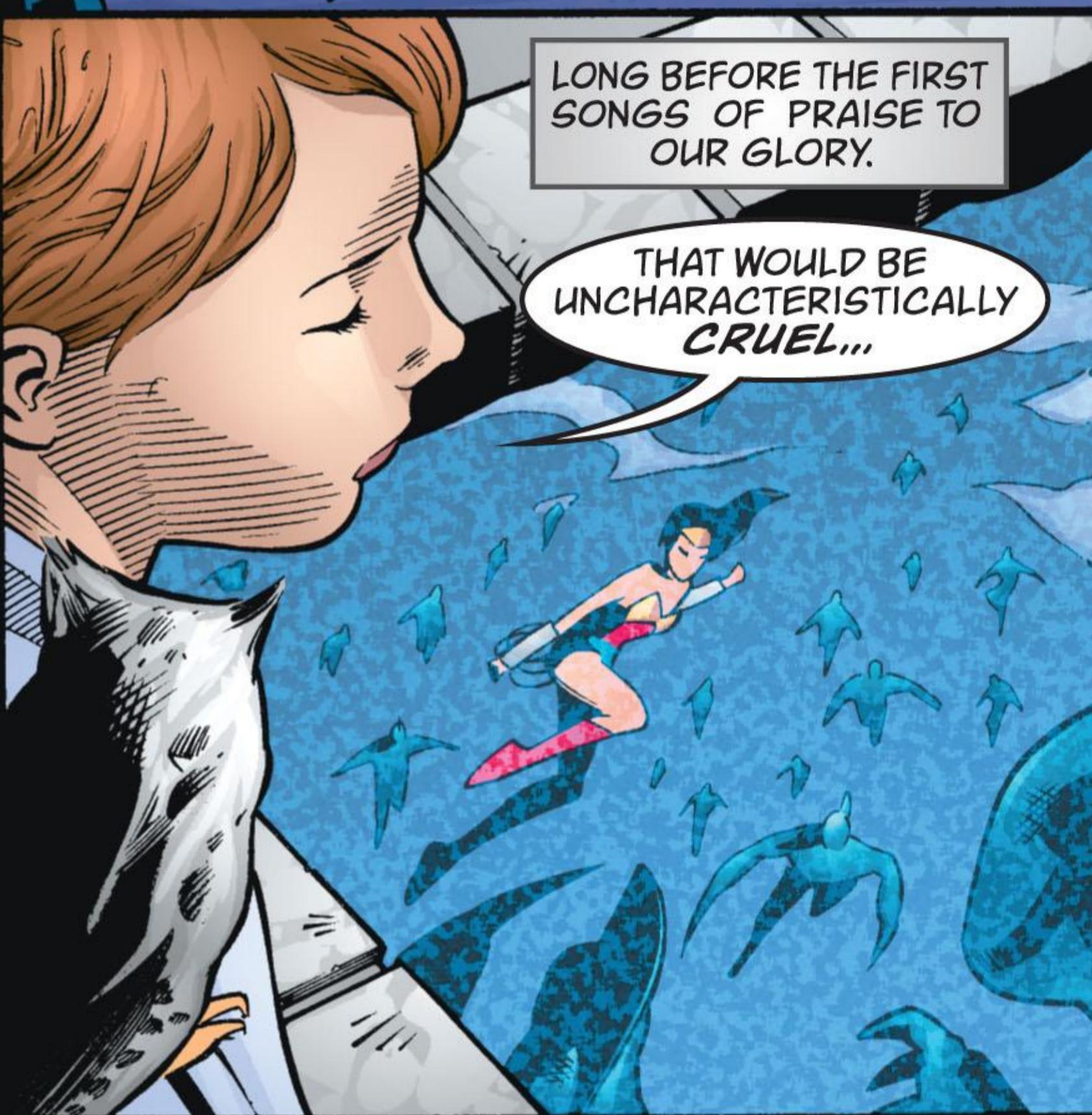
APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
A  
AUTHORITY

RUCKA  
RICHARDS  
SNYDER



THE ENDING WAS WRITTEN LONG BEFORE THE FIRST CHAPTER WAS KNOWN.

YOU JUST GOING TO LEAVE HER THERE?



YES, THE ENDING WAS  
WRITTEN LONG AGO.

BUT THIS IS NOT  
THE ENDING...

--DRIVE  
YOU BACK INTO THE  
DEPTHES!

...ONLY AN  
ENDING...

# NOTHING FINISHED, ONLY ABANDONED

**GREG  
RUCKA**  
writer

**TODD  
KLEIN**  
letters

**CLIFF  
RICHARDS**  
penciller

**IVAN  
COHEN**  
editor

**RAY  
SNYDER**  
inker

Wonder Woman created by  
William Moulton Marston

**TANYA &  
RICHARD  
HORIE**  
colors

...ONE OF MANY.

SHE SHIVERS. NOT IN COLD, BUT IN AWE.

L-LADY PALLAS?

A MOMENT TO COLLECT YOUR BREATH, DIANA, AND A SECOND THAT YOU MAY COLLECT YOUR THOUGHTS.

YOUR ORDEAL, I FEAR, IS NOT YET OVER.

AS EVER, SHE ACCORDS US RESPECT.

MORE, PERHAPS, THAN WE DESERVE.

BLESSED AS SHE IS WITH MY OWN WISDOM, SHE SURELY REALIZED LONG AGO...

MY BLESSED LADIES.

AS EVER, I AM YOUR SERVANT.

OH, GET UP, GIRL.

...WE GODS ARE SMALL BEINGS OF GREAT POWER, NOTHING MORE.

SHE'S ALWAYS SO DAMN PROPER.

IF ANY HERE IS DESERVING OF RESPECT, IT IS SHE.

WE ARE PETTY, AND  
WE ARE VAIN, AND WE  
ARE SELFISH.

WALK  
WITH ME, MY  
CHAMPION.

THERE IS  
MUCH TO DISCUSS, AND  
LITTLE TIME FOR THE  
DISCUSSION.

AS  
YOU WISH, MY  
LADY.

WE ARE AS WE WERE CREATED  
TO BE, THE BEST AND WORST  
REFLECTIONS OF THOSE WHO  
WORSHIP US.

ARE YOU  
INJURED,  
DIANA? SHALL  
I SUMMON THE  
HERALD TO  
ATTEND  
THEE?

I FEAR WHAT  
AILS YOUR SERVANT FALLS  
UNDER GRACIOUS APHRODITE'S  
DOMAIN RATHER THAN THAT OF  
FAIR HERMES, LADY  
PALLAS.

FOR EVERY WONDER IT IS WITHIN  
OUR DIVINITY TO GRANT, THERE IS A  
PETTINESS AS ITS COMPANION.

FOR ALL OF THE BEAUTY, LOVE AND  
GRACE THAT APHRODITE MAY GRANT...

THIS IS NOT  
THE FIRST BROKEN  
HEART YOU HAVE  
SUFFERED, MY  
BEAUTY.

NO...

...THERE IS  
JEALOUSY,  
LUST, AND  
HEART-  
BREAK  
AS ITS  
SHADOW.

...BUT I  
FEAR IT MAY BE  
THE LAST.

I FEEL ITS  
ACHE, PRECIOUS  
DAUGHTER.

BUT  
IT HAS NOT  
SHATTERED  
YET.

WE ARE REFLECTIONS OF THOSE WHO REMEMBER US IN THEIR THOUGHTS AND IN THEIR PRAYERS.

SOMEONE IS PLEASED TO SEE YOU.

BUT WE ARE OLD GODS, AND FEW REMEMBER US NOW.

HELLO, FRIEND.

IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

AND WITH THEMYSIRA'S RETREAT, FEWER STILL.

ATTEND ME, DIANA.

I HAVE WORDS FOR THEE.

SOON, VERY SOON, WE SHALL FOLLOW IN OUR CHILDREN'S PASSING.

AT THEIR REQUEST, WE HAVE HIDDEN YOUR SISTERS ONCE MORE FROM THIS WORLD.

THEMYSIRA SUFFERS NO MORE AT THE HANDS OF THE PATRIARCH, AND IN REGAINING THEIR SAFETY, PERHAPS YOUR SISTERS MAY RECOVER THEIR PEACE.

WE ARE OLD.

YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO REMAIN.

ABANDONED, REVILED, AND BETRAYED... YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO REMAIN.

BUT EVEN THE MOST ADDLED OF US CAN SENSE IT.

WHY?

OUR TIME IS ALMOST AT ITS END.

NEW GODS ARE COMING.

OH,  
MY LADY  
PALLAS...

AND THEY  
SHALL HAVE  
NO NEED OF  
THE LIKES  
OF US.

...SURELY  
YOU KNOW THAT  
ANSWER AS WELL  
AS I.

THEY SHALL CAST US  
DOWN AND DESTROY  
OUR VERY MEMORY.

AND IF I  
TOLD YOU THAT  
WE WERE SOON TO  
FOLLOW AFTER YOUR  
SISTERS, DIANA OF  
THEMYSCIRA?

THAT  
THE GODS AND  
GODDESSES YOU  
KNOW AND LOVE  
ARE TO MAKE THEIR OWN  
RETREAT?

THEY WILL  
ANNIHILATE  
US.

FOR GODS DO NOT SHARE  
THEIR POWER, NOR THEIR  
DOMINIONS.

IS THIS YOUR  
INTENTION?

YOU DARE  
TO RETURN MY  
QUESTION WITH  
ONE OF YOUR  
OWN?

MY LADY,  
PLEASE TELL ME! IS  
THIS TRULY YOUR  
INTENT?

AND STILL YOU  
MAKE DEMANDS  
OF ME?

I HAVE SEEN CHAMPIONS COME AND GO.

WHY DO YOU REMAIN?!

ANSWER ME!!

TIME AND AGAIN FELLED BY THEIR OWN WEAKNESSES...

...THEIR HUBRIS, THEIR IGNORANCE, THEIR BASE STUPIDITY...

...BUT NOT THIS ONE...

HOPE.

WHAT?

I STILL...  
...I  
STILL HAVE HOPE...

...DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA ENDURES.

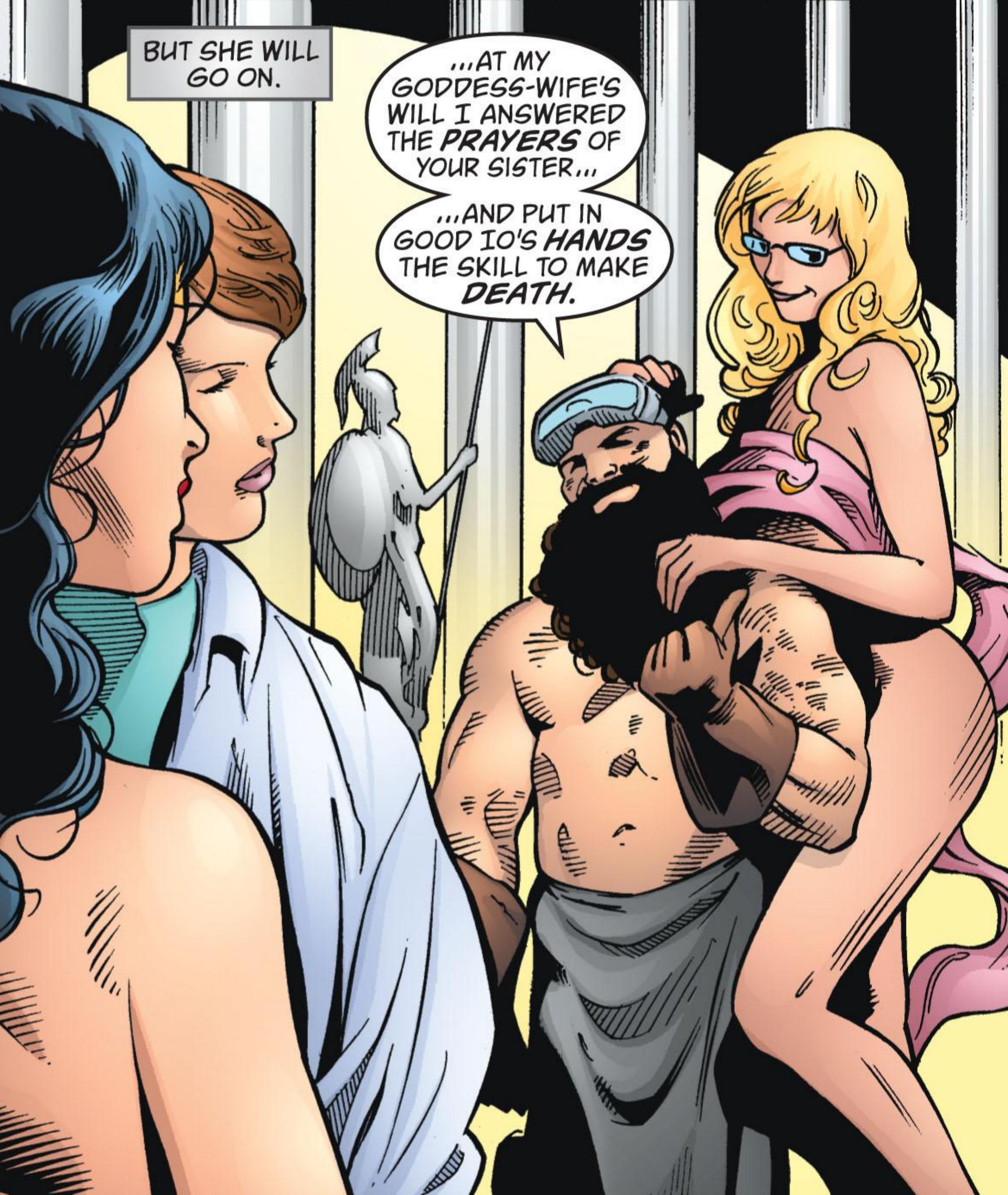
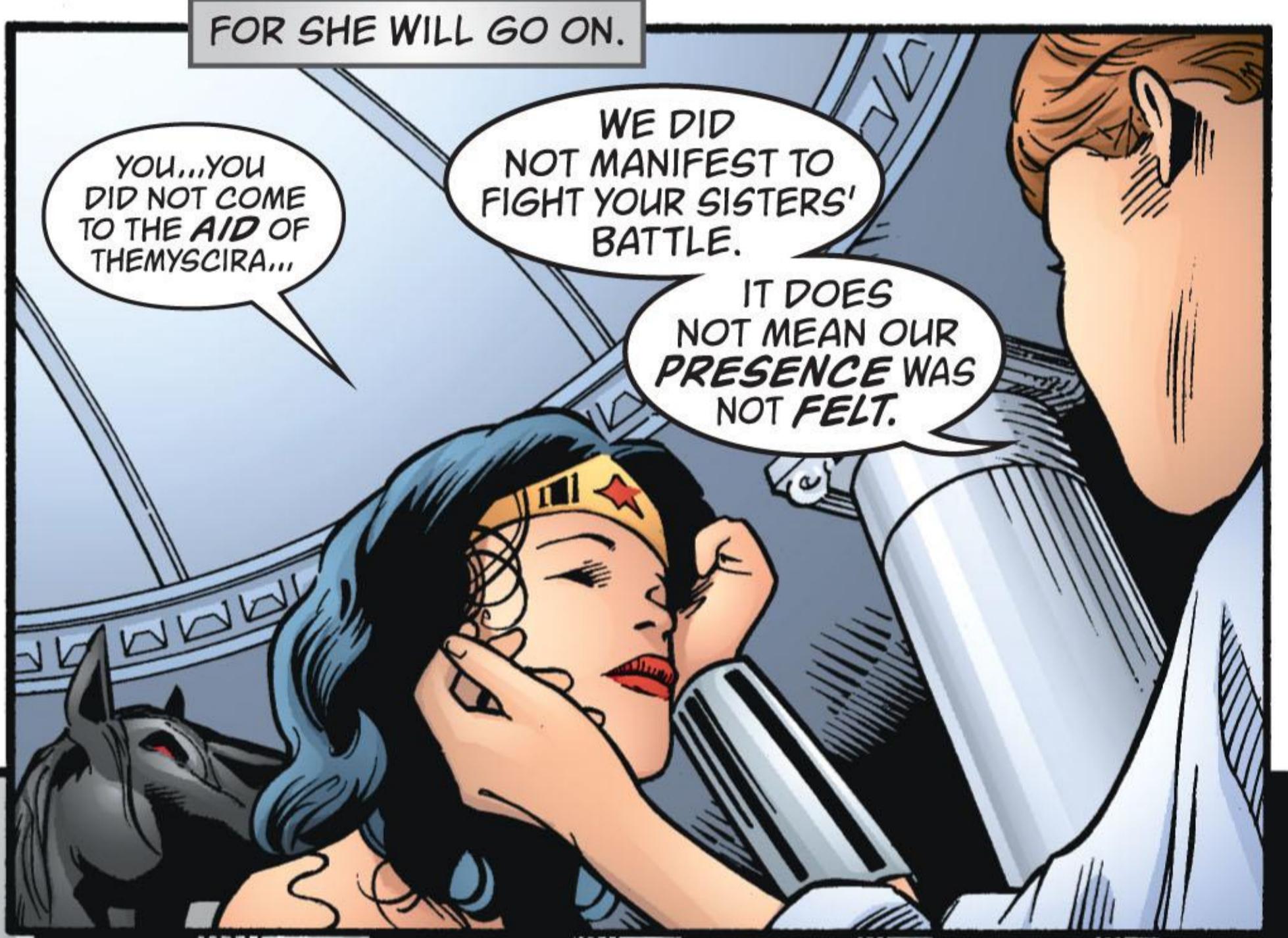
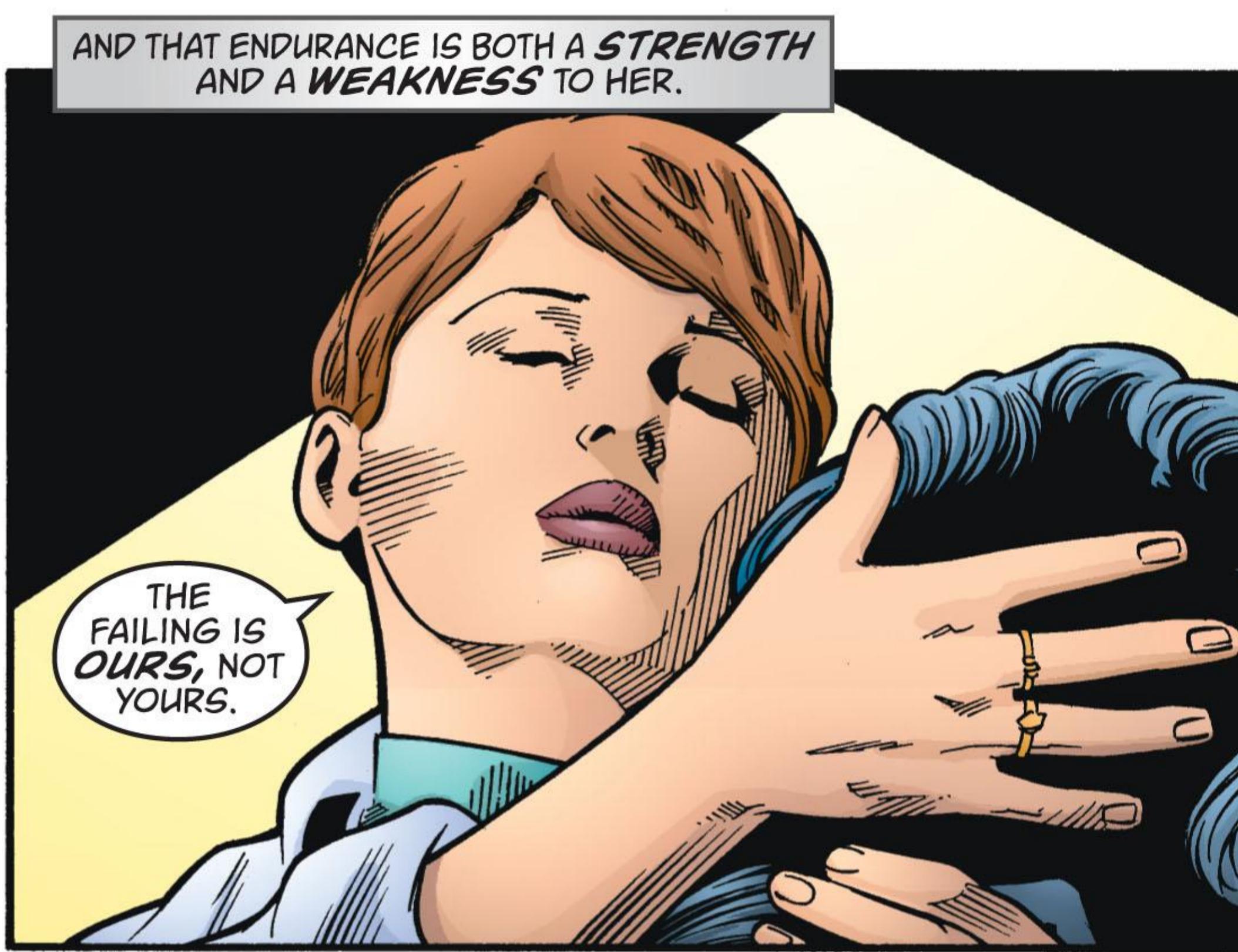
...O PALLAS,  
PLEASE TELL ME THAT MY HOPE IS NOT FALSE.

FOR I FEEL AS IF I HAVE FAILED...



MY MISSION...  
MY SISTERS...AND NOW EVEN MY GODS...

...I FEAR I HAVE FAILED YOU ALL...



SHE CANNOT HIDE THE BITTERNESS IN HER VOICE.

THEN ALL  
OF THIS WAS BY  
DESIGN.

THEMYSIRA'S  
RETREAT FROM THE  
WORLD WAS AT YOUR  
WILL.

YOU WOULD  
RATHER YOUR  
SISTERS HAD  
PERISHED?

NOR THE  
INJURY.

I WOULD  
RATHER ANOTHER  
SOLUTION, LORD  
ARES!

NONE  
OTHER WOULD  
HAVE ACHIEVED  
OUR ENDS.

WISDOM IS NOT A  
QUICK ACQUISITION.

AND  
THAT END, LADY  
PALLAS?

THEMYSIRA'S  
RETREAT? OR YOUR  
OWN?

ITS REALIZATIONS  
COME IN TIME.

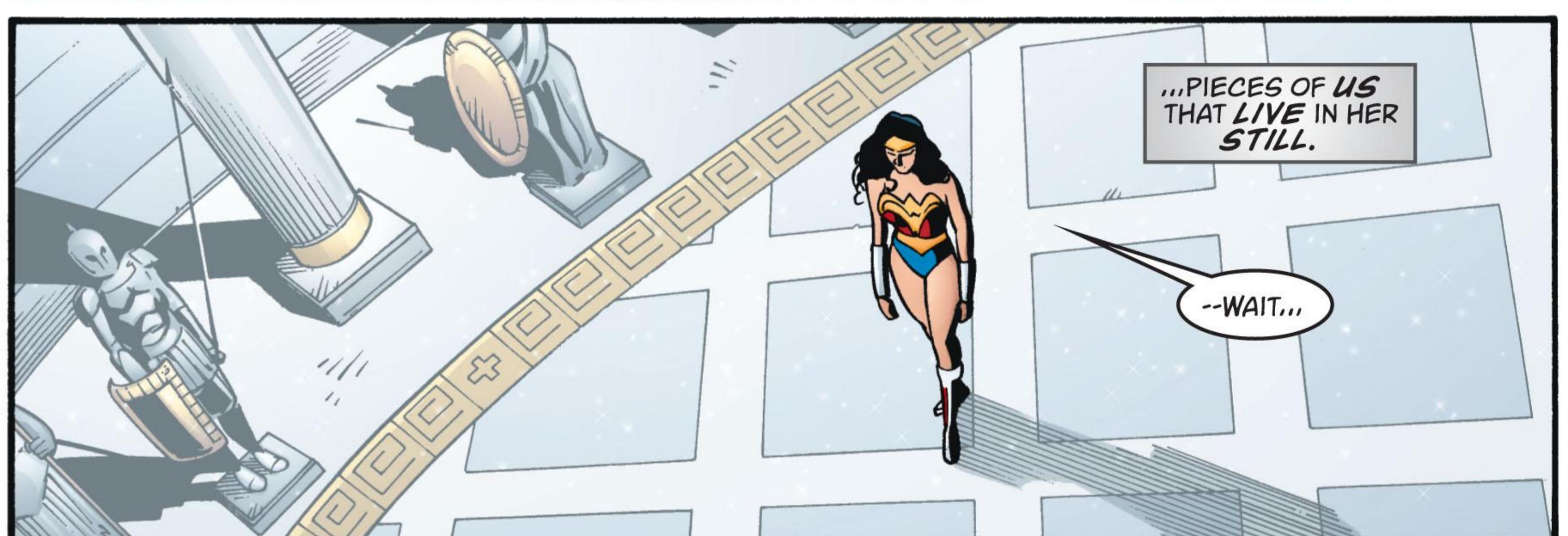
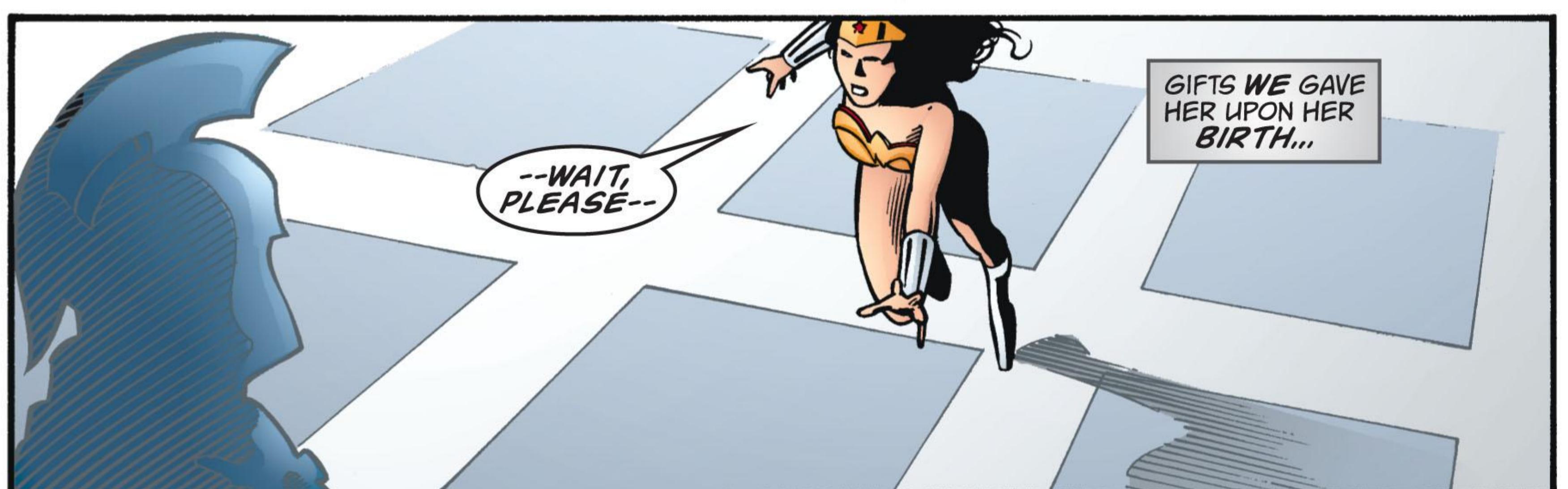
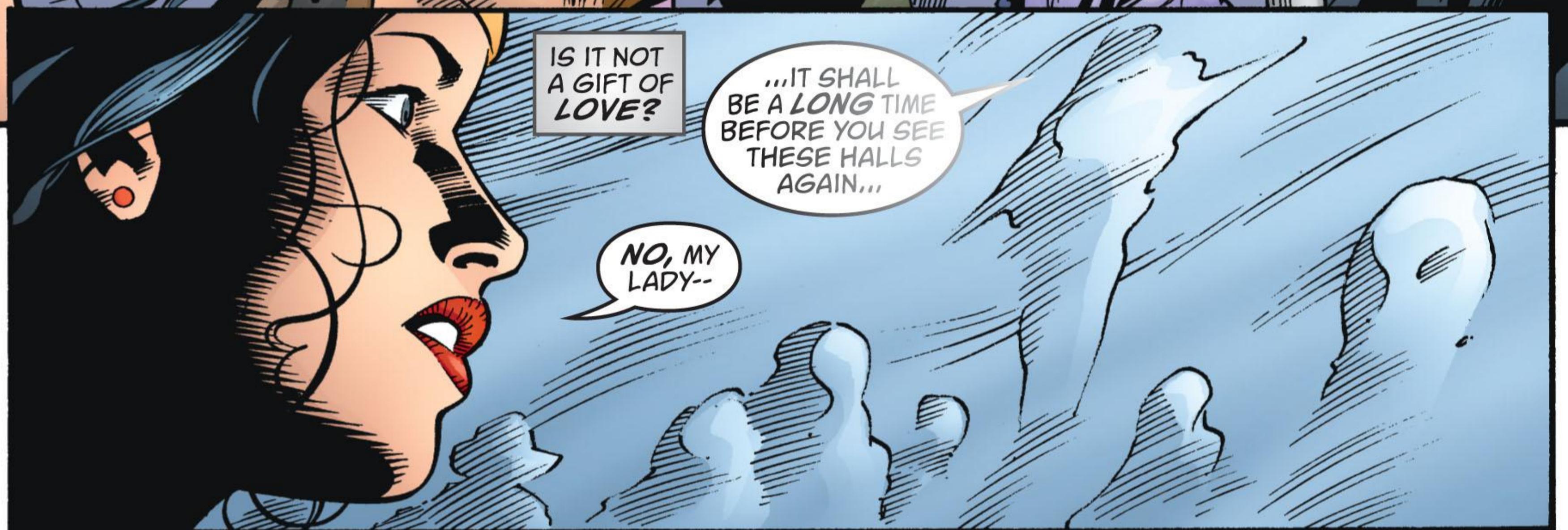
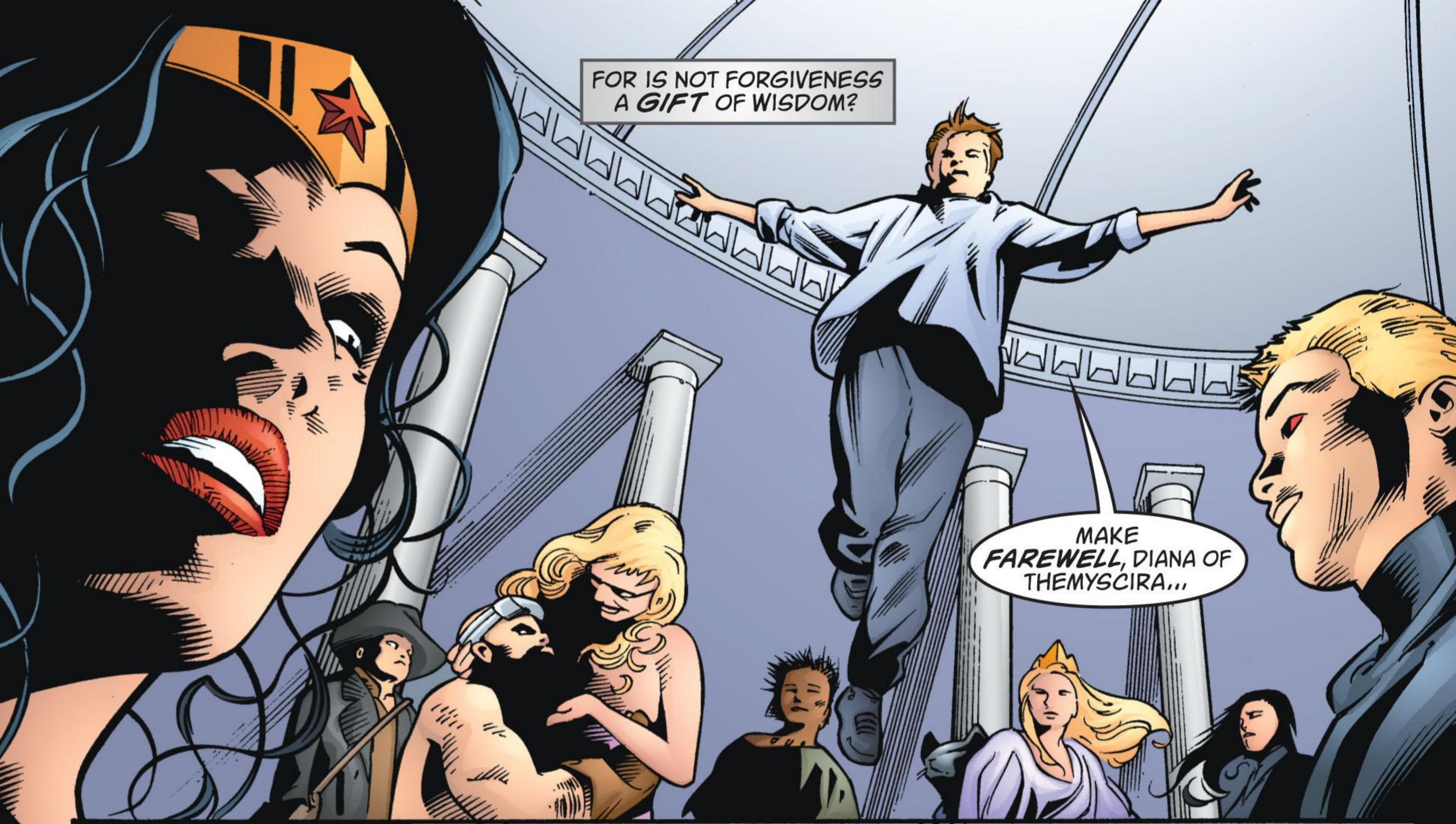
EVEN I  
CANNOT SEE  
ALL ENDS WITH  
CERTAINTY,  
DIANA.

IN TIME,  
PERHAPS  
SHE WILL  
FORGIVE  
US.

IN TIME,  
PERHAPS  
SHE WILL  
FORGIVE  
HERSELF.

WOULD  
YOU PRESUME  
TO KNOW WHAT I  
CANNOT?

NO, LADY  
PALLAS.



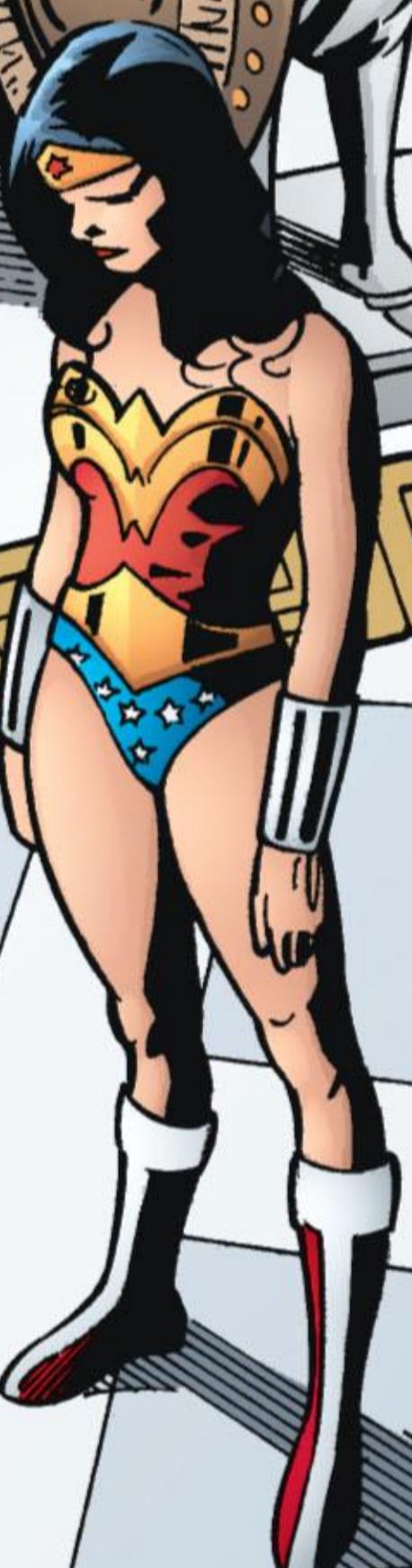
WHAT IS A CHAMPION WITHOUT A TEST?



AND WHAT TEST IS TRULY WORTHY OF A CHAMPION?



A FEAT OF STRENGTH? OF STAMINA? OF CUNNING AND WIT?



SURELY SHE HAS PASSED THESE TESTS TIME AND TIME AGAIN.

AND SHE HAS BLED AND SHE HAS KILLED AND SHE HAS TRIUMPHED AND SHE HAS LOST...

...BUT HAS SHE TRULY EVER BEEN DEFEATED?



FIND ME A WARRIOR WHO CLAIMS THE BATTLE IS WON FIRST ON THE FIELD AND ONLY SECOND IN THE HEART...

--MORE OUT OF BLÜDHAVEN AS THE STORY DEVELOPS...

THEMYSIRA HOUSE

...AND I'LL SHOW YOU A CORPSE.

...AND NOW TO HANK PELLADIO AT THE PENTAGON WITH AN UPDATE ON THE AMAZON SITUATION. HANK?

FAITH IS THE GREATEST STRENGTH ANY CHAMPION CAN HAVE.

THANKS, TOM. WE'VE JUST HAD A BRIEFING FROM A VISIBLY DISTRAUGHT DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, STEVE TREVOR...

IN THAT, THE CHAMPION AND THE GOD ARE MUCH ALIKE.

...WHO IS NOW CONFIRMING THAT THEMYSIRA--PARADISE ISLAND--HAS DISAPPEARED. I REPEAT, PARADISE ISLAND, AND THE AMAZONS, HAVE DISAPPEARED...

THEY'RE STILL TRYING TO CLEAN IT UP.

TURN IT OFF.

FOR WITHOUT FAITH, WE ARE NOTHING.

WE HAVE BATTERED HER FAITH.

...ELEMENTS  
OF THE JEFFERSON  
CARRIER GROUP THAT  
WITNESSED THE  
VANISHING CLAIM THE  
FUGITIVE WONDER  
WOMAN WAS SEEN IN  
THE SKIES OVER  
THE ISLAND...

FOR  
GOD'S SAKE,  
PETER--

NOT  
YET!

HER FAITH IN US, HER FAITH IN HER SISTERS...

...ENGAGED  
IN A BATTLE WITH  
THE OMACS...

IT'S OVER,  
DON'T YOU GET  
THAT?! IT'S  
OVER!!

NOT  
YET!

...AND HER  
FAITH IN  
HERSELF.

...OUT-  
NUMBERING  
HER SOME ONE  
THOUSAND TO  
ONE--

=KLK=

SHE'S  
RIGHT.

IT'S OVER,  
PETER.

IS IT NOW  
BROKEN?

SO SHE STANDS BEFORE THOSE WHO **BELIEVE** IN HER, THOSE WHO **FOLLOW** HER...

THEMYSCIRA HAS **RETURNED** TO THE SAFETY IT ONCE ENJOYED. MY HOME IS HIDDEN ONCE MORE.  
THERE IS NO NEED FOR ITS EMBASSY...

...AND SHE CONCEDES DEFEAT.

...NOR FOR ITS AMBASSADOR.

AND NONE OF THEM CAN QUITE **BELIEVE** IT.

WHAT...  
WHAT ARE  
YOU GOING  
TO DO?

EVEN WHEN SHE SAYS IT **PLAIN**.

I AM CLOSING THE EMBASSY, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

YOU CAN'T!

THE LOGIC IS **OVERWHELMING**. IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO IGNORE IT.

I AM A WOMAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY, RACHEL. THIS EMBASSY SERVES NO FURTHER PURPOSE.

YOU'RE WANTED AT THE HAGUE! THEY'VE ISSUED WARRANTS, THEY'RE GOING TO ARREST YOU!

WHICH IS WHY THE EMBASSY IS ENDING, AND WHY YOU MUST ALL LEAVE, AND QUICKLY...

SHE IS AN AMAZON, AND THERE IS MUCH OF HER MOTHER IN HER.

...AND I WILL NOT HAVE YOU CHARGED AS ACCESSORIES, OR FOR AIDING AND ABETTING A FUGITIVE.

STRIVING TO ACCEPT HER DEFEAT WITH GRACE AND DIGNITY.

GATHER YOUR THINGS QUICKLY, AS I FEAR THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME.

I HAVE DONE WHAT I CAN TO ENSURE THAT YOUR SALARIES AND BENEFITS ARE PAID THROUGH THE NEXT YEAR...

TRYING TO CARE FOR HER PEOPLE BEFORE CONCERN FOR HERSELF.

...AS I EXPECT THAT THE EMBASSY'S ASSETS WILL BE SEIZED.

AS ANY GOOD LEADER SHOULD.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THERE IS NO TIME TO DELAY--

SHE HAS, IT SEEMS, ACCEPTED HER DEFEAT...

WE STAND WITH YOU.

...AND AS IS FITTING, THOSE SHE HAS LED THUS REFUSE IT.

AND IT IS BEAUTIFUL TO SEE,  
EVEN AS SHE TRIES TO DENY IT...

...EVEN AS SHE TRIES TO  
EXPLAIN IT TO THEM...

MY  
FRIENDS...YOU  
CANNOT.

THIS IS  
DIFFERENT.

WE WON'T  
ABANDON  
YOU!

SURE  
WE CAN.

I ALREADY  
FOLLOWED YOU INTO  
HELL ONCE. THIS IS  
NOTHING.

...SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT  
THEIR FAITH IN HER...

YOU ARE  
NOT ABANDONING  
ME, LESLIE.

WHAT  
I MUST DO  
NEXT, THE  
BATTLES I  
MUST NOW  
FIGHT--

-I MUST  
FIGHT THEM  
ALONE.

...IS GREATER EVEN THAN  
HER FAITH IN HERSELF.

I AM NOT  
THE MISSION, I  
NEVER HAVE BEEN.  
YOU ARE.

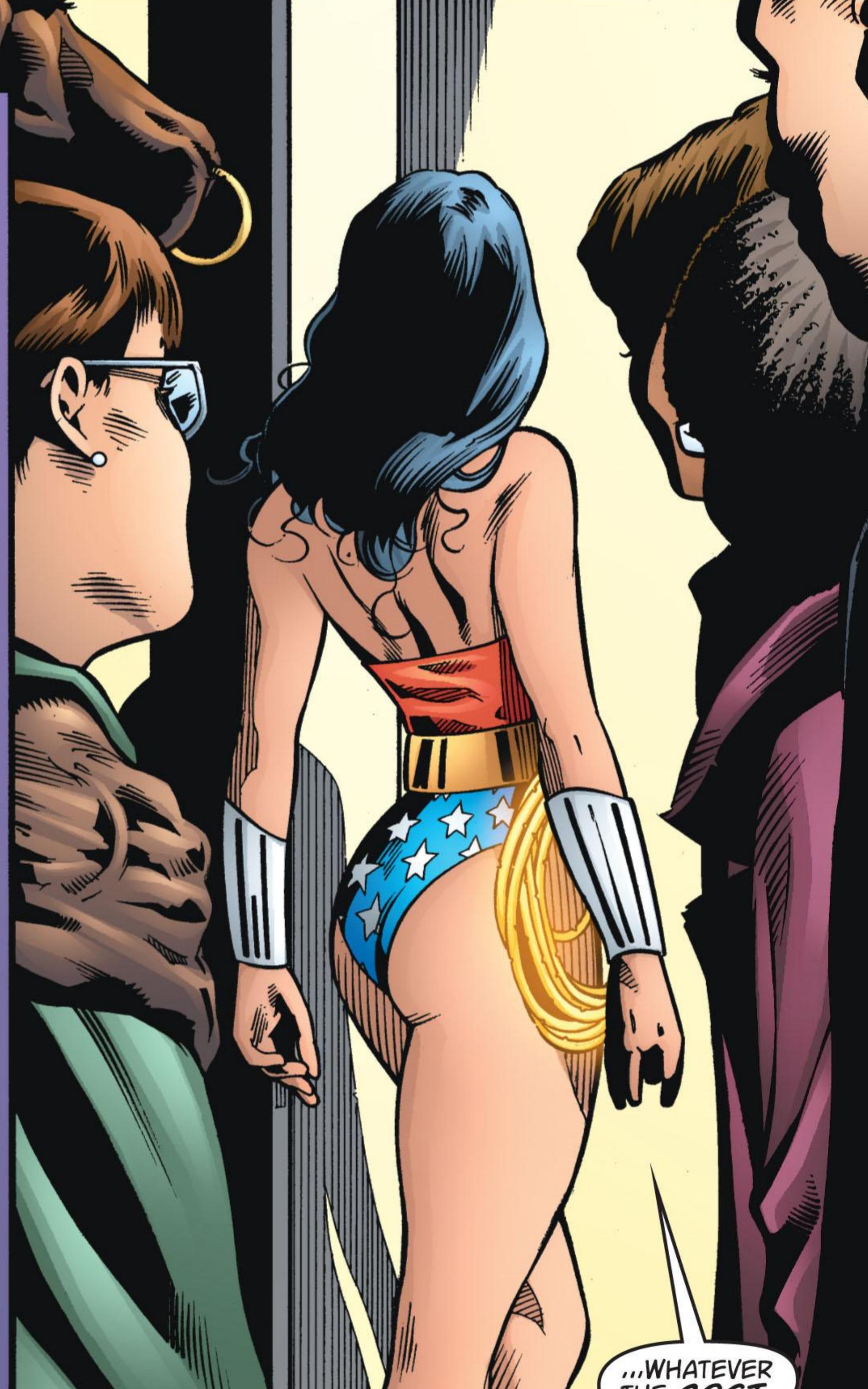
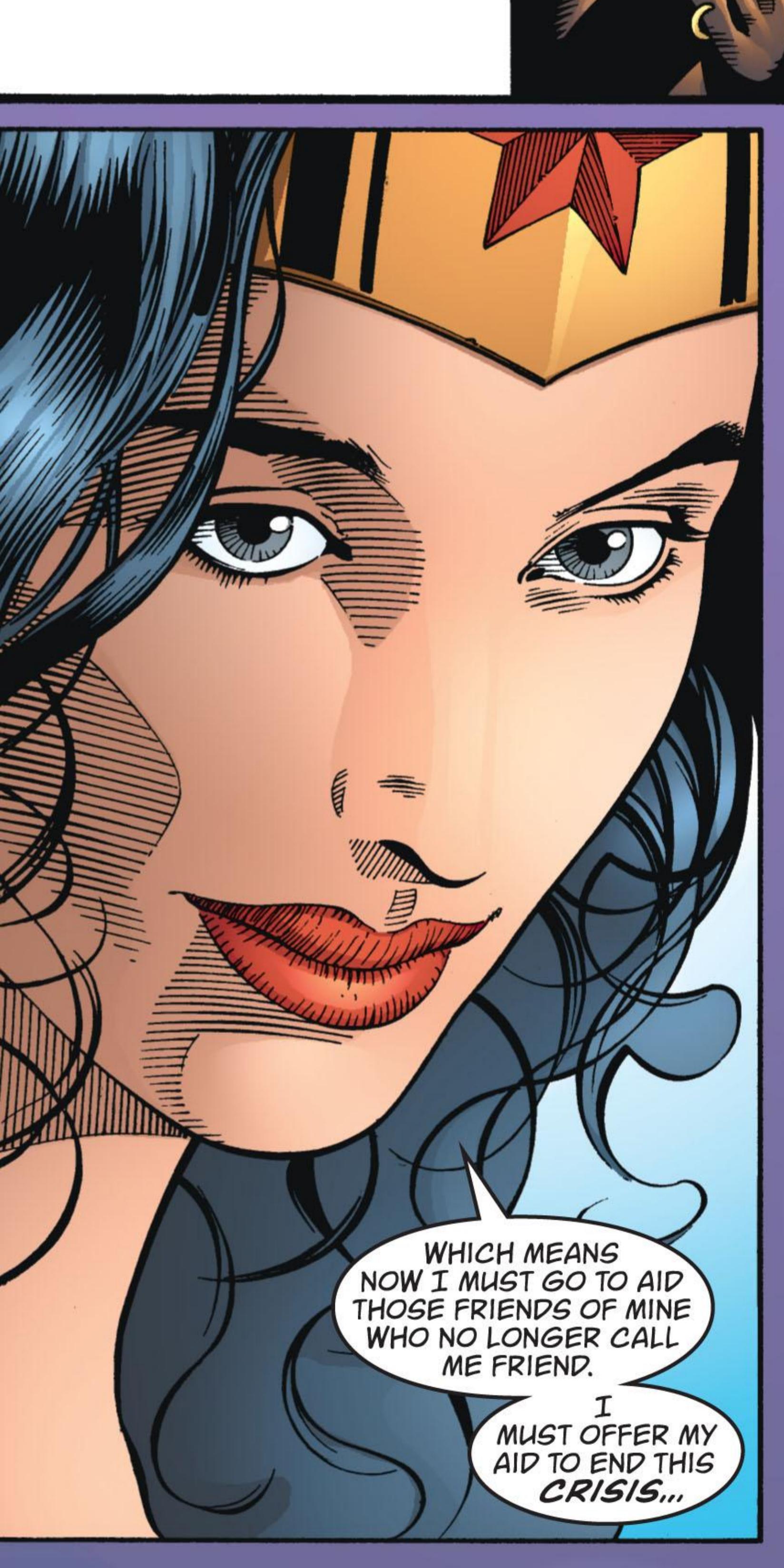
ALL  
OF YOU.

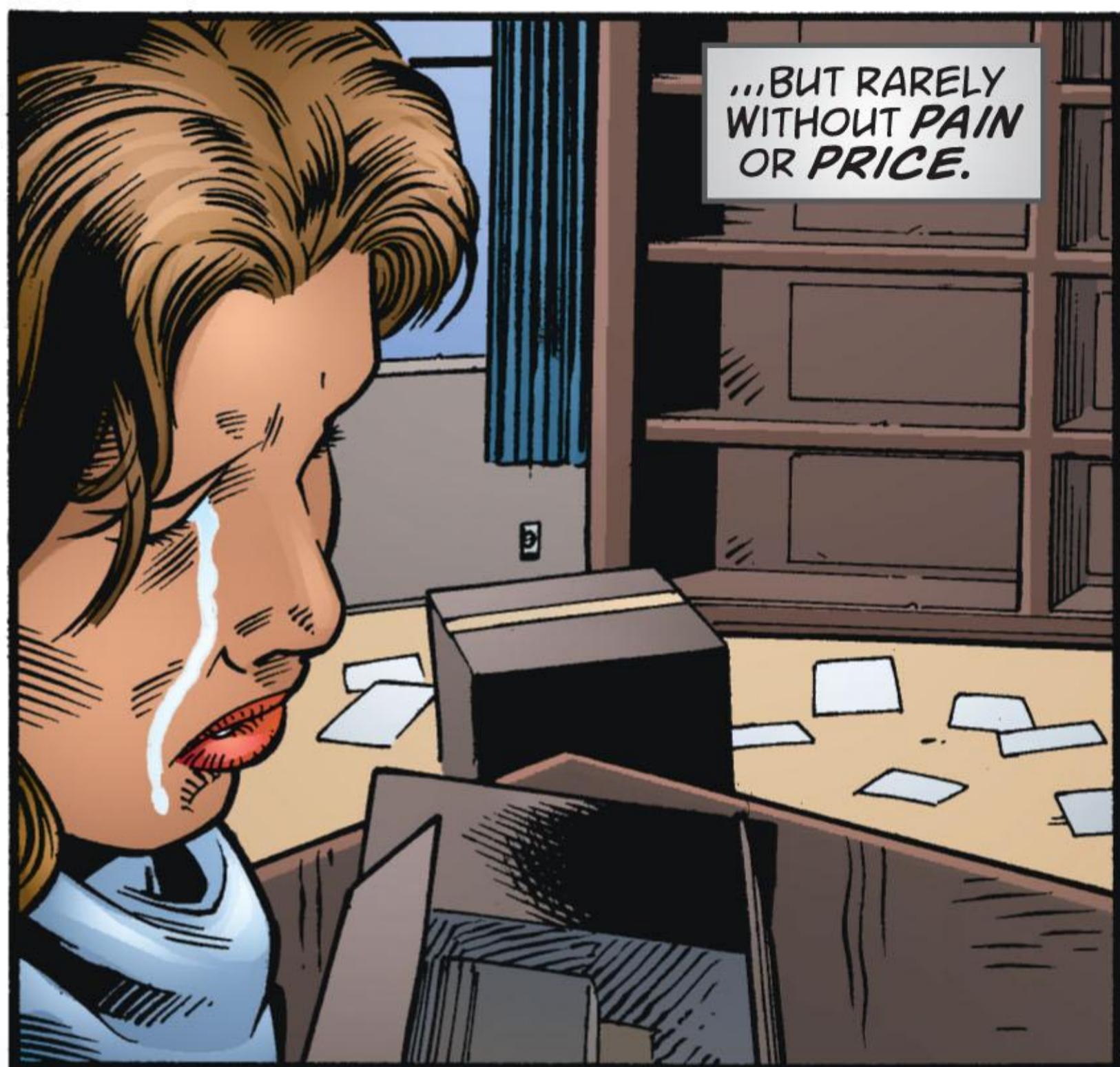
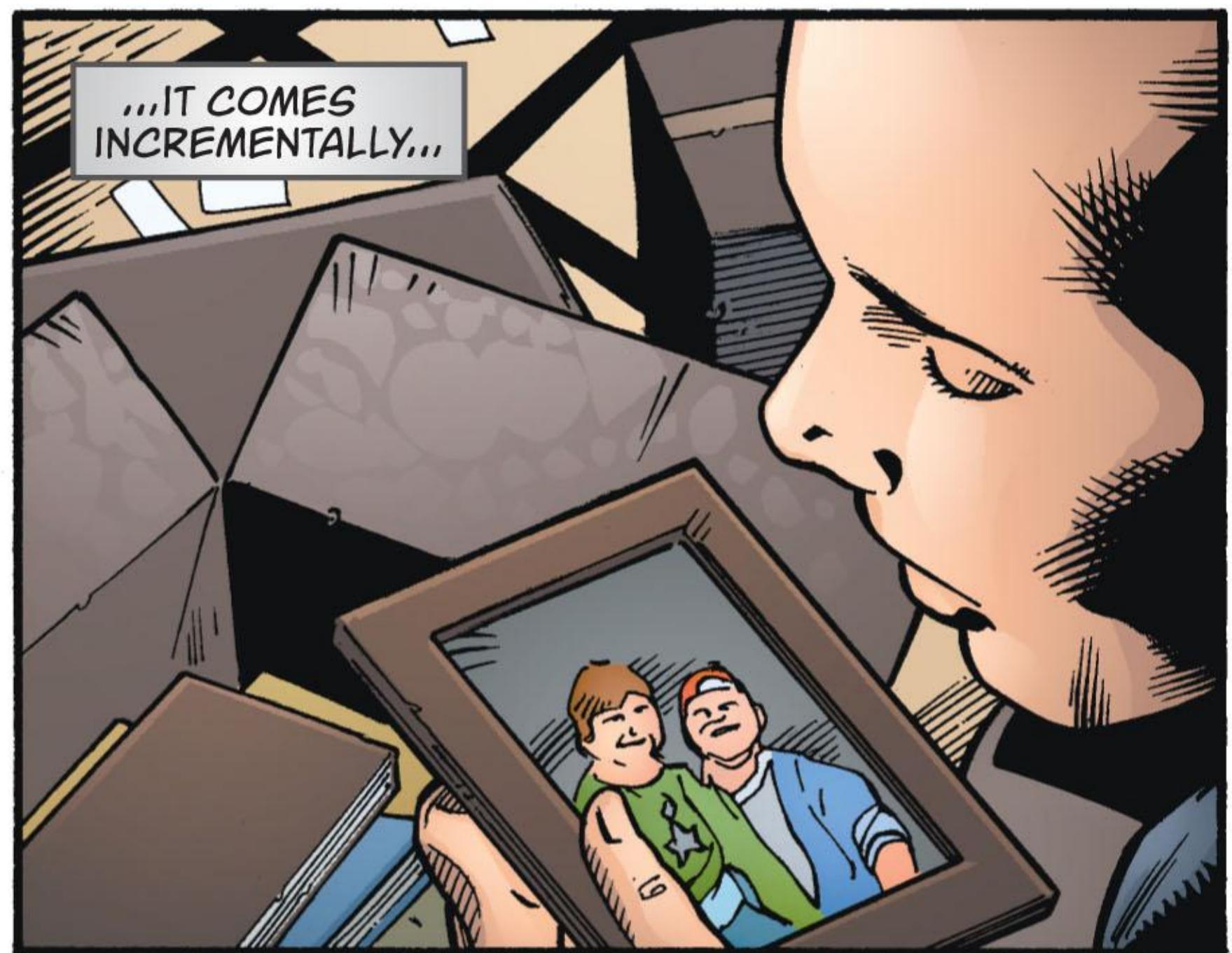
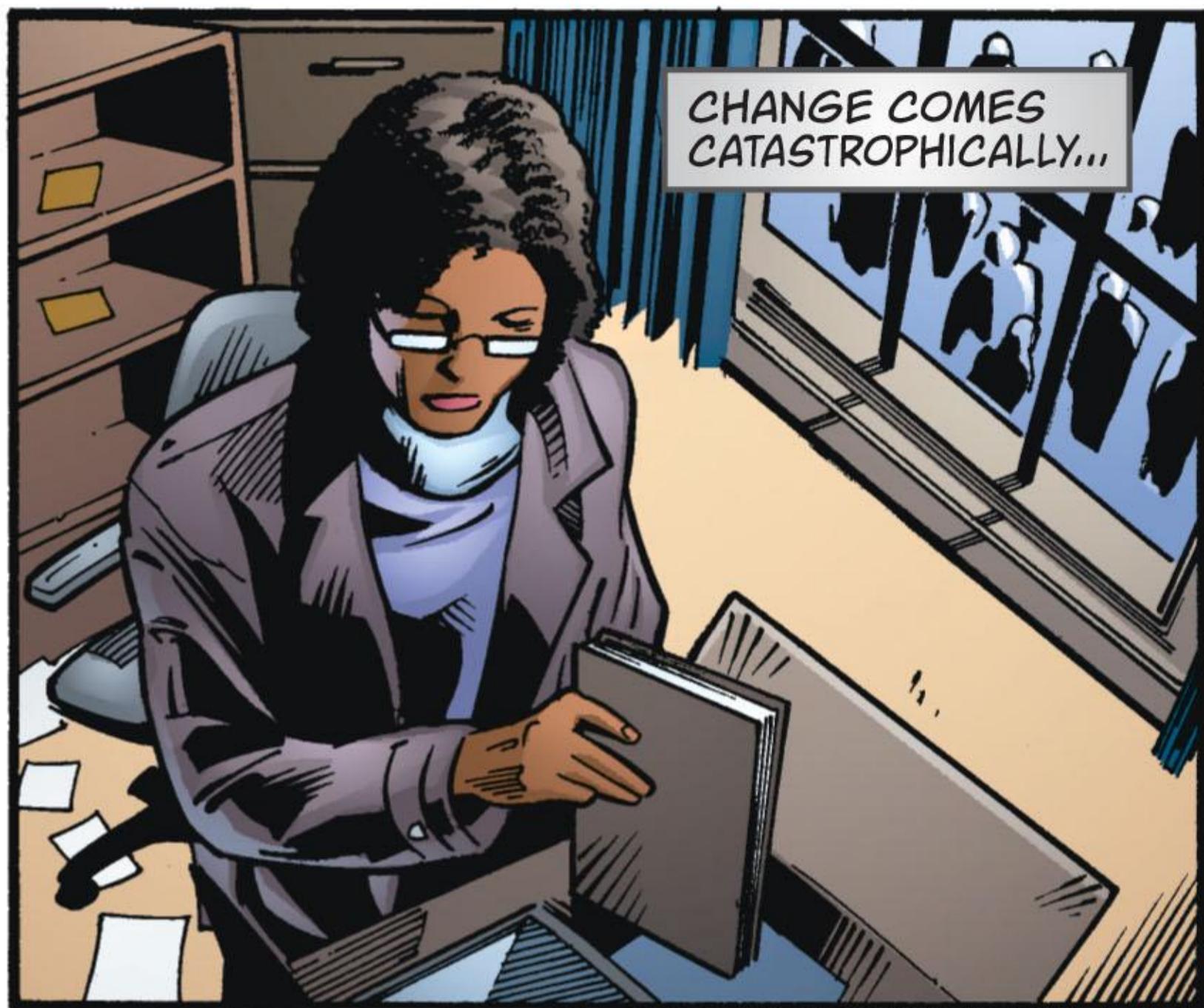
WHETHER  
I TRULY HAVE  
FAILED OR NOT,  
I CANNOT  
SAY.

BUT I  
KNOW THIS: THE  
MEASURE OF ITS  
SUCCESS--OF MY  
SUCCESS--IS IN  
WHAT YOU DO  
NEXT.

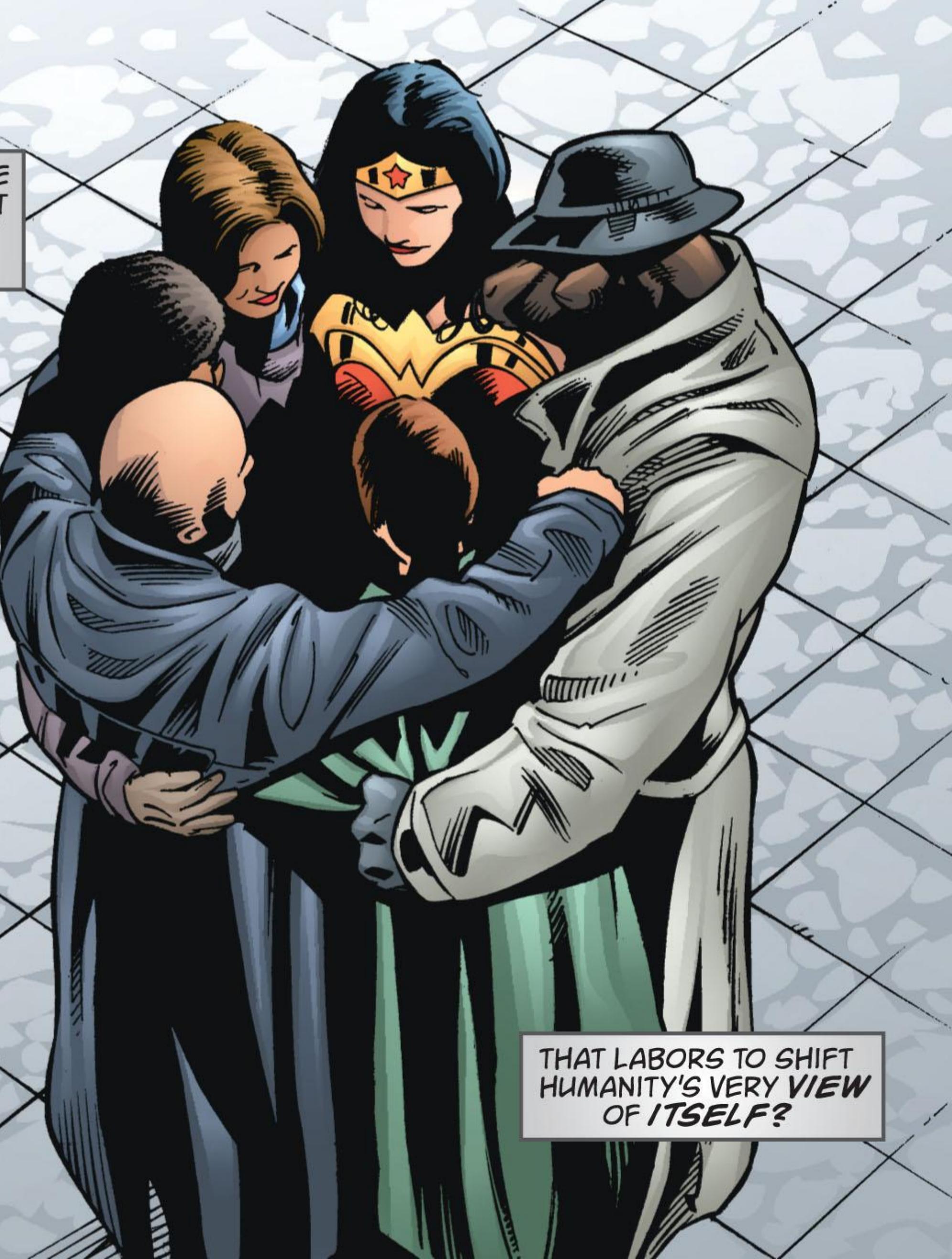
IN  
WHAT YOU DO  
NOW.

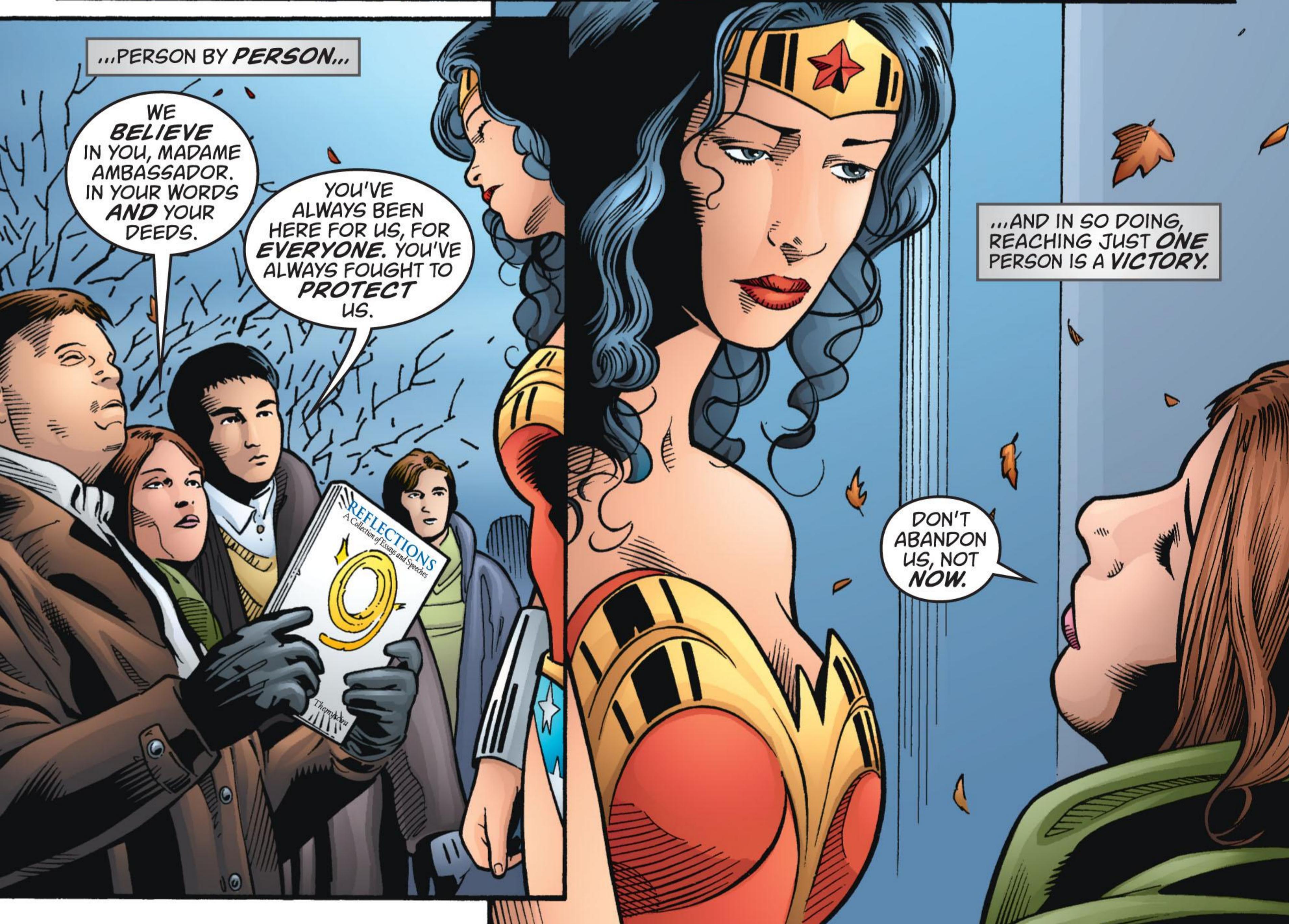
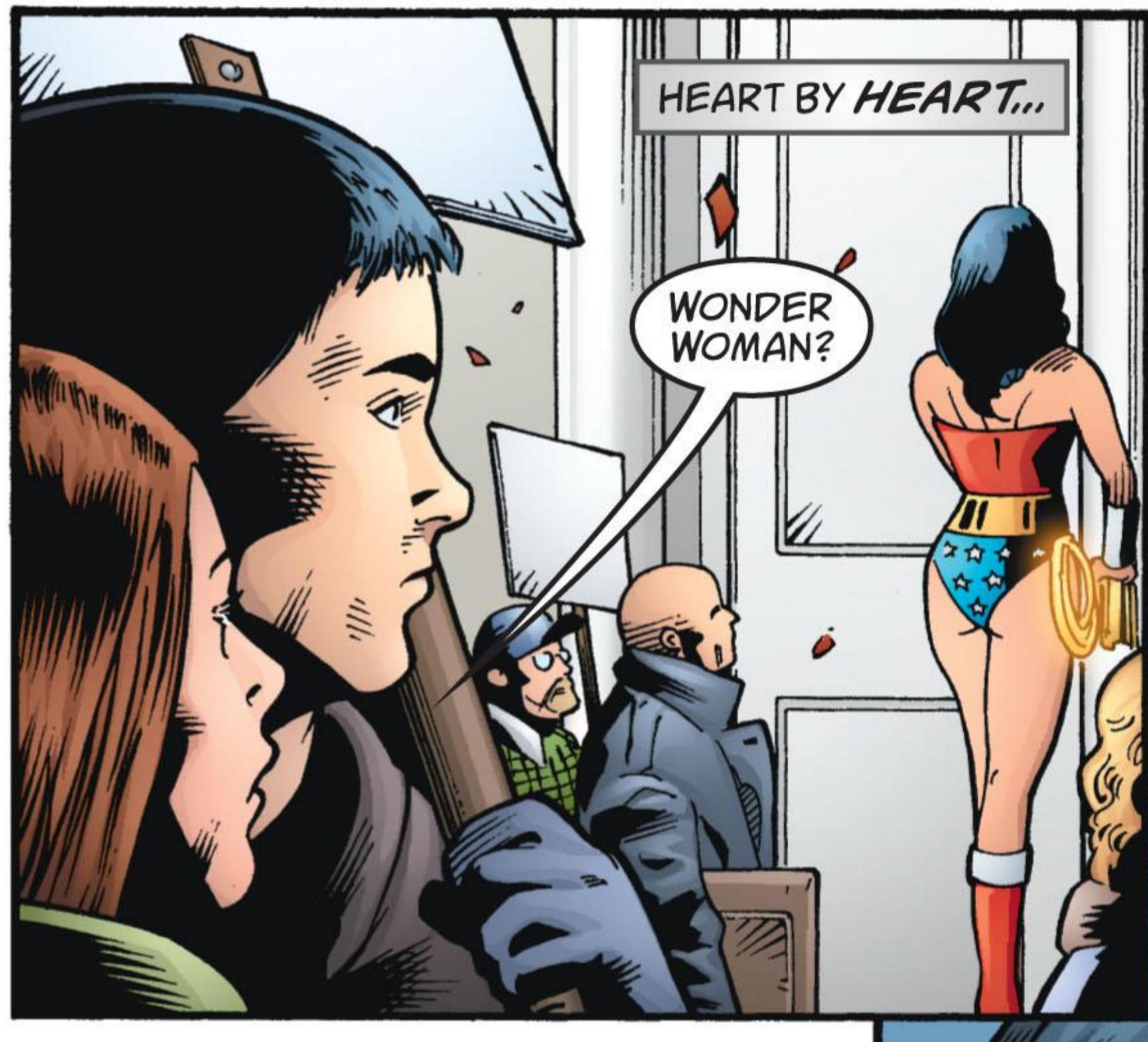




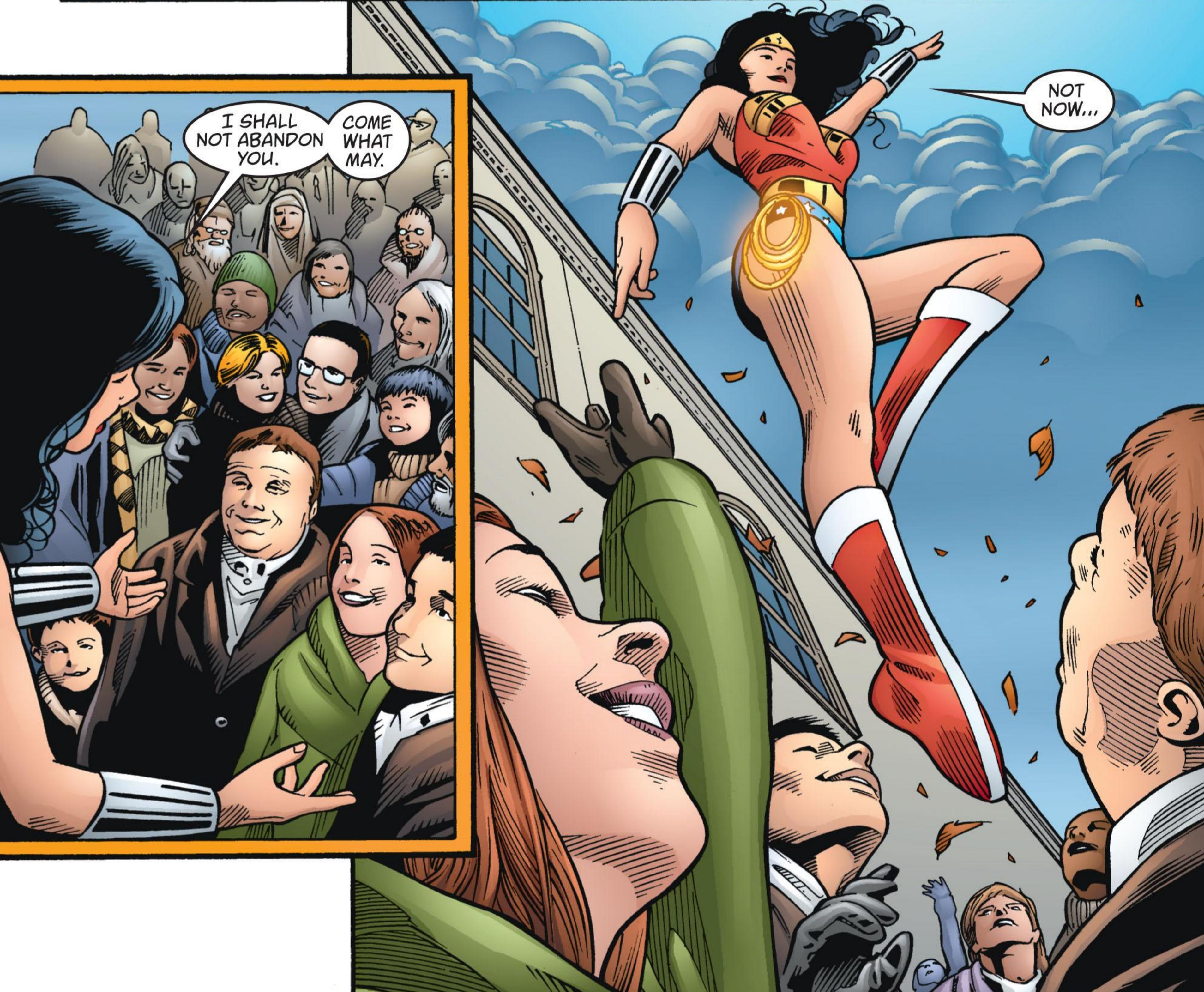
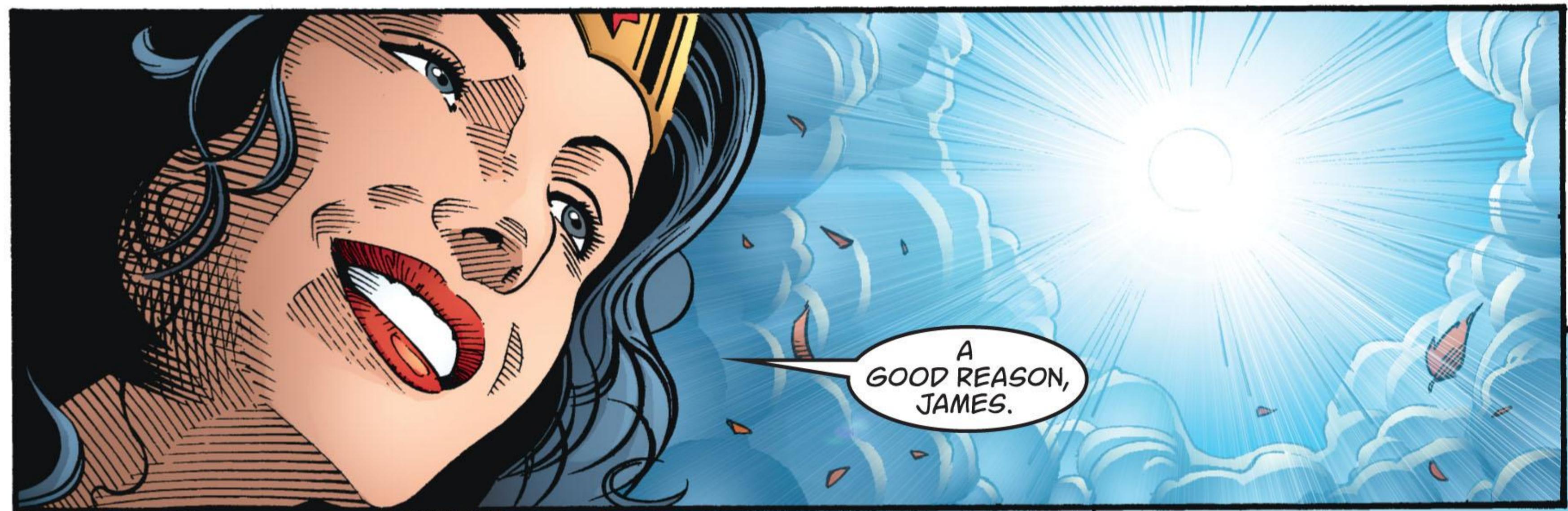


HOW DO YOU MEASURE THE  
SUCCESS OF A MISSION THAT  
SEEKS TO CHANGE THE CAST  
OF HUMANITY'S HEART?









...NOT EVER.

SHE ENDURES.

FROM THE WRITER OF  
BIRDS OF PREY & SECRET SIX

# GAIL SIMONE

**"A full-throttle action extravaganza."**

— KURT BUSIEK  
writer of ASTRO CITY

**"Gail Simone understands Wonder Woman like few other writers, and she makes you fall in love with her."**

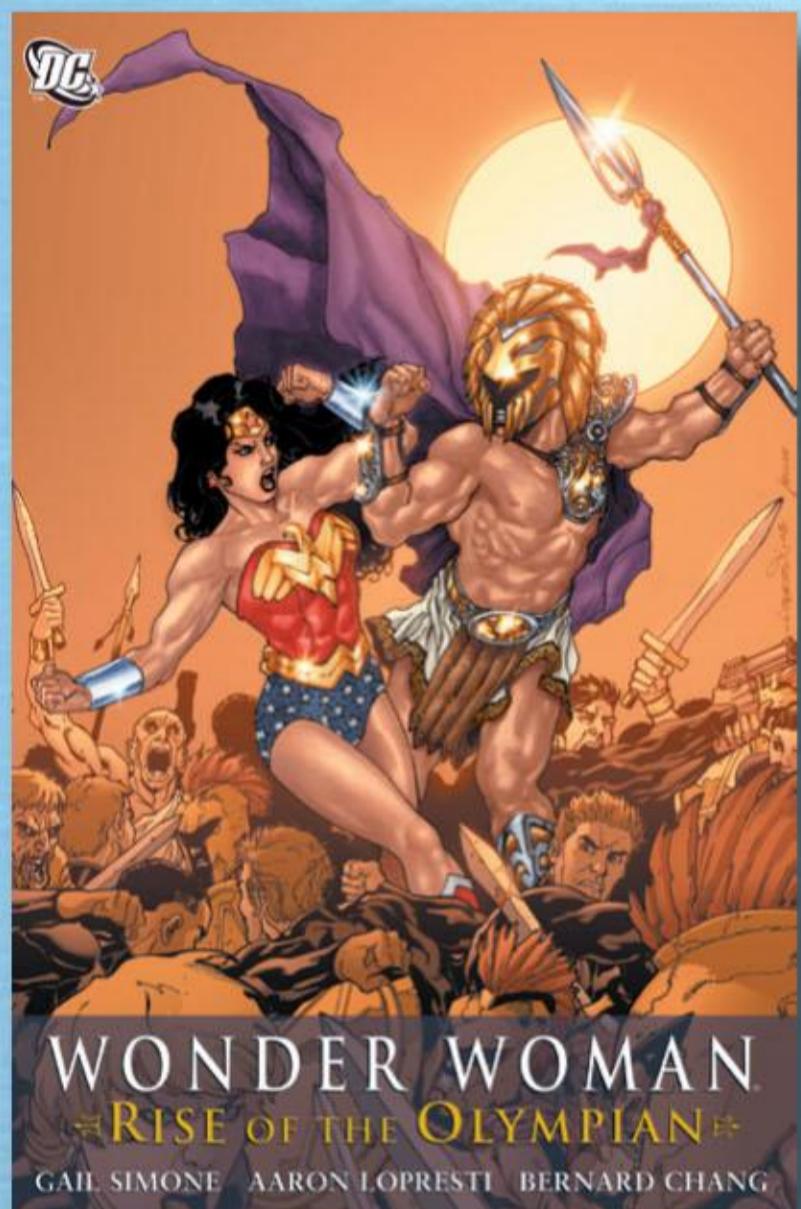
— MARK WAID  
author of KINGDOM COME

**"The most fascinating Wonder Woman stories to come along in decades."**

— ETHAN VAN SCIVER  
artist of GREEN LANTERN: REBIRTH

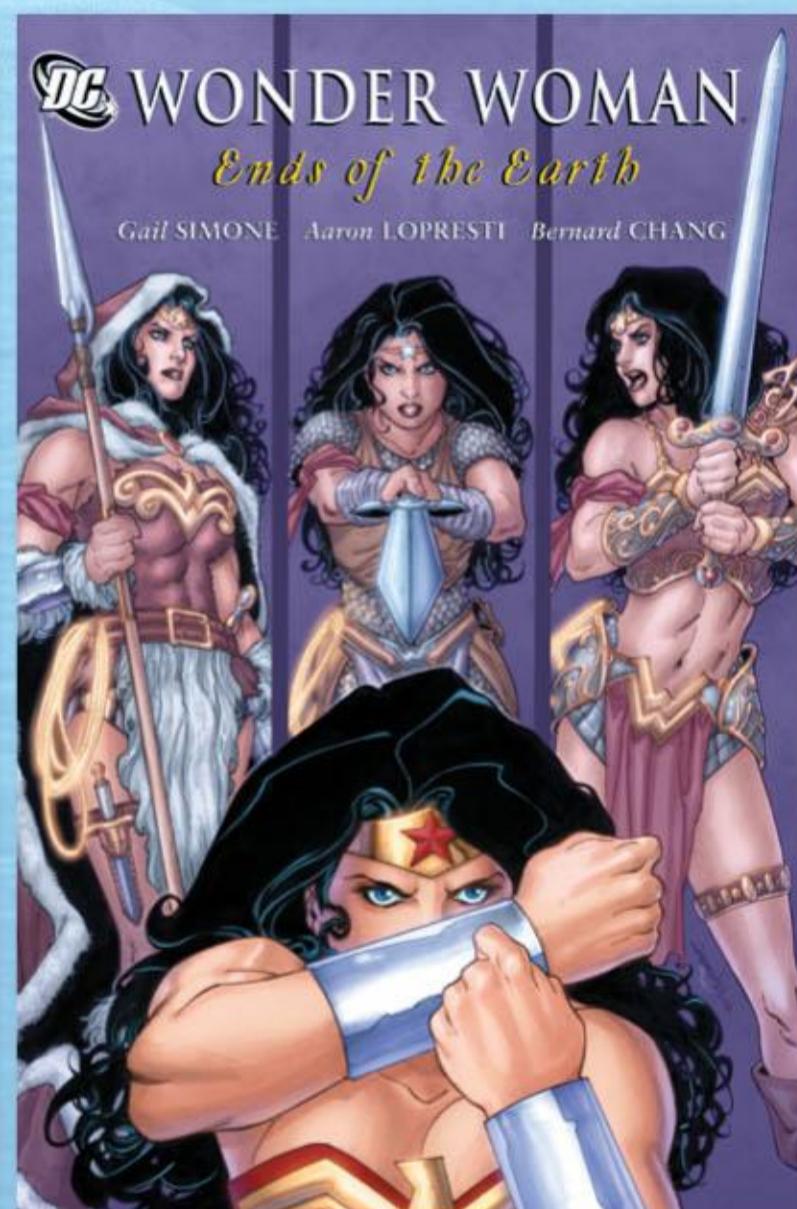


WONDER WOMAN:  
RISE OF THE OLYMPIAN



with  
**AARON LOPRESTI**  
& **BERNARD CHANG**

WONDER WOMAN:  
ENDS OF THE EARTH



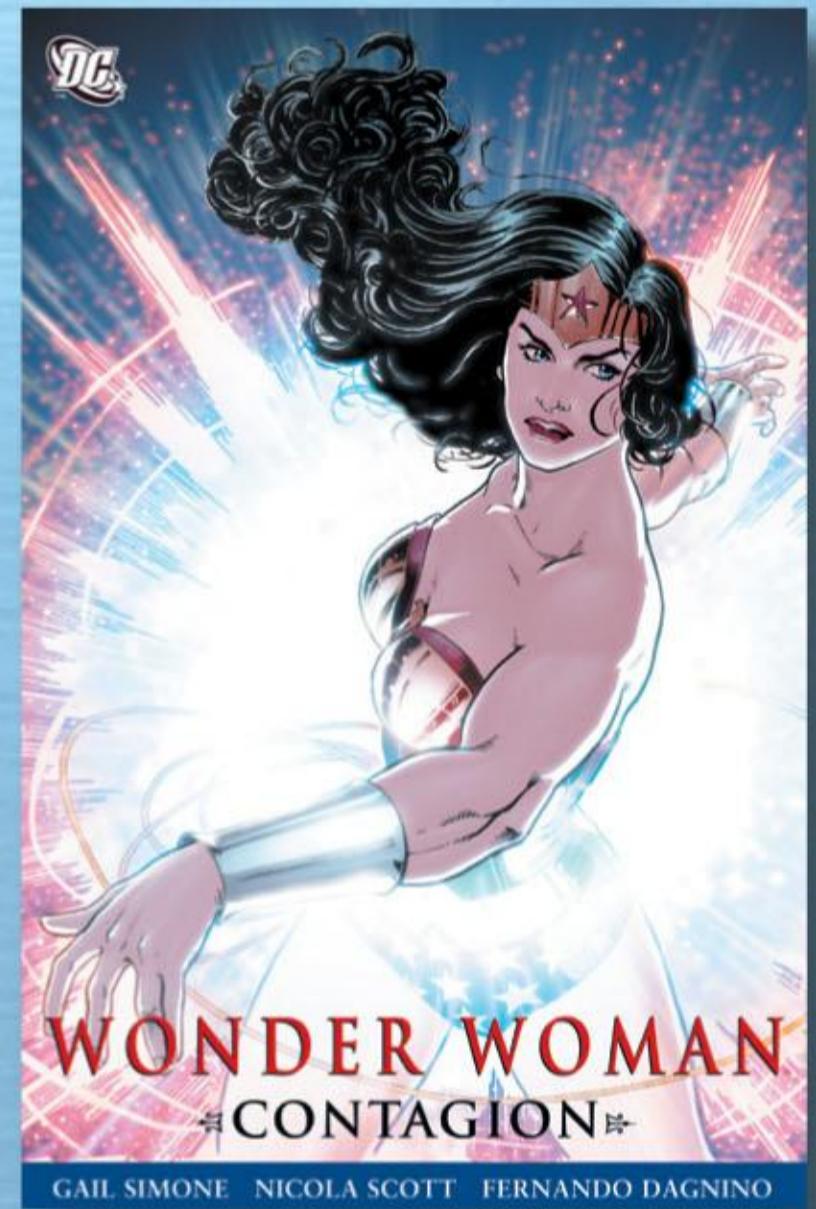
with  
**AARON LOPRESTI**  
& **BERNARD CHANG**

WONDER WOMAN:  
WARKILLER



with  
**AARON LOPRESTI**  
& **BERNARD CHANG**

WONDER WOMAN:  
CONTAGION



with  
**NICOLA SCOTT**  
& **FERNANDO DAGNINO**

Use the **BUY IN PRINT** feature to find a comics shop near you.  
Check back here every week for **NEW DIGITAL RELEASES!**