



WONDER WOMAN®

120 | APR 97

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EXTRA-SIZED
10TH ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE!

BYRNE
R. MORRISON
THOMPSON



TIME OUT OF MIND

TIME RUNS BACKWARD,
DROPS OF WATER LEAP
FROM GLISTENING
SANDS TO SPREAD A
SILVERY FILM
OVER THE COOLING
FLESH OF A
NEWBORN BABE.

THE CHILD'S BIRTH CRIES
FILL THE AIR
LIKE THE CHIRPINGS
OF SOME STRANGE,
ALIEN BIRD,
THE NATURAL
SEQUENCE OF THEIR
TONES REVERSED.

ALL AROUND
THE TINY INFANT
GREAT POWERS
SWIRL AND DANCE, AND
DRAW THEMSELVES AWAY
FROM THE NATIVITY.

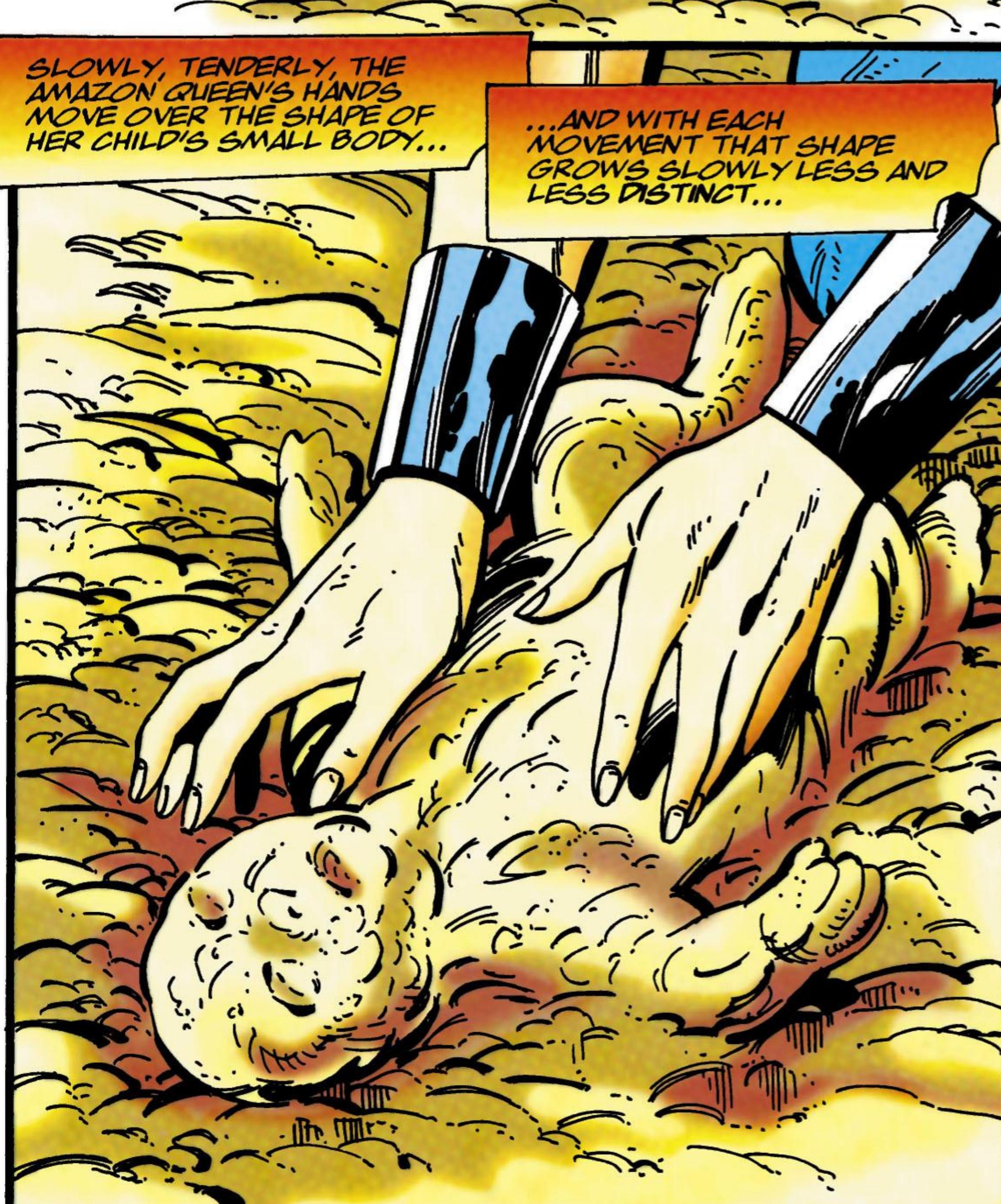
SHE IS DIANA,
DAUGHTER OF
HIPPOLYTA,
QUEEN OF THE
AMAZONS OF THEMYS-
CIRA, AND IN THIS
STRANGE, INVERTED
MOMENT, HER LIFE IS
ENDING EVEN
BEFORE IT HAS
PROPERLY BEGUN.





THE LOOK OF MINGLED PAIN AND TRIUMPH MELTS FROM HIPPOLYTA'S FEATURES AS SHE LOWERS THE BABY BACK TO THE GROUND FROM WHICH SHE SO RECENTLY WAS CLAIMED.

THE BABY'S CRIES STILLED, SILENCE RETURNS TO THIS ISOLATED STRETCH OF SHORE, AS ALL THE CONCENTRATION OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF SEEMS FOCUSED ON THESE TWO LONELY HUMAN FORMS,



SLOWLY, TENDERLY, THE AMAZON QUEEN'S HANDS MOVE OVER THE SHAPE OF HER CHILD'S SMALL BODY...

...AND WITH EACH MOVEMENT THAT SHAPE GROWS SLOWLY LESS AND LESS DISTINCT...

...UNTIL ALL THAT LIES ON THE GROUND BEFORE HIPPOLYTA IS A LUMP OF VIRGIN CLAY, FORMLESS, LIFELESS, STRIPPED IN THIS TRANSPOSED TIME OF EVEN THE POTENTIAL FOR LIFE.

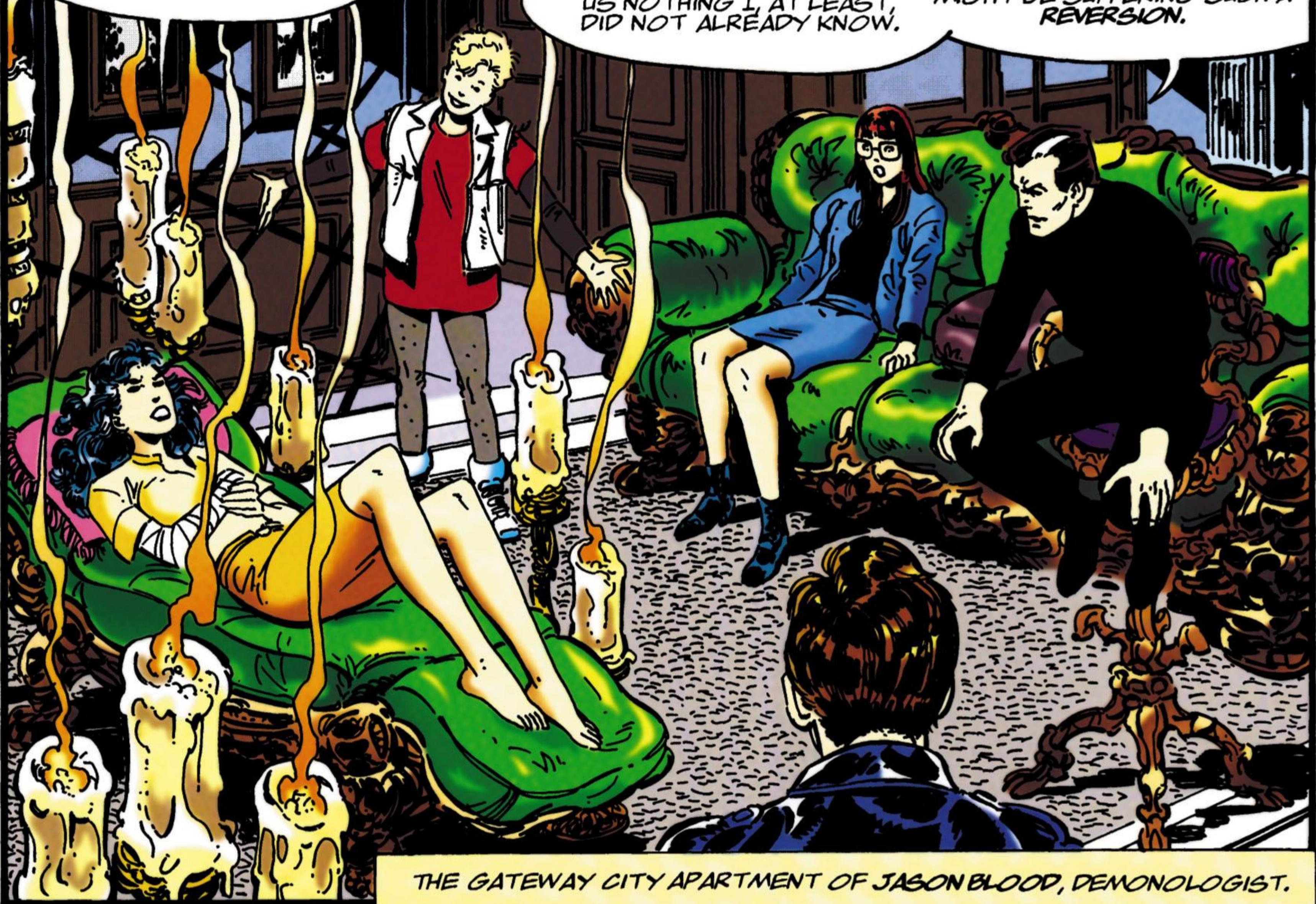
"YES, YES, THAT IS HOW IT BEGAN..."

...LONGING FOR A CHILD OF HER OWN, MY MOTHER SCULPTED ME FROM THE CLAY OF THEMYSKIRA, AND THE GODS THEMSELVES BREATHED LIFE AND POWER INTO THAT CLAY.

WOW! I NEVER KNEW THAT ABOUT YOU, DIANA! THAT IS SO COOL!

THAT IT MAY BE, CASSANDRA, BUT IT TELLS US NOTHING I, AT LEAST, DID NOT ALREADY KNOW.

THE RECENT SHATTERING OF DIANA'S RIGHT HAND IS DUE TO HER BODY REVERTING TO THE CLAY FROM WHICH IT WAS SHAPED. BUT THIS REVEALS NOTHING OF WHY SHE MIGHT BE SUFFERING SUCH A REVERSION.



THE GATEWAY CITY APARTMENT OF JASON BLOOD, DEMONOLOGIST.

WELL, FORGIVE ME FOR BEING AN OL' MORTAL STICK IN THE MUD, BUT THIS IS ALL WAY TOO CREEPY FOR ME!

YOU SAID DIANA WASN'T A GOLEM, BLOOD, BUT THIS SURE SOUNDS LIKE THE STORIES I WAS TOLD AS A KID! A WARRIOR OF LIVING CLAY...

I HAVE TO AGREE WITH MIKE, JASON. I'VE GOTTEN USED TO THE IDEA THAT DIANA IS LINKED TO THE LIVING GREEK GODS, AND THAT SHE'S GIFTED WITH ALL THESE ASTONISHING POWERS AND ABILITIES...

...BUT THIS! THIS IS TOO MUCH!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR DISCOMFORT, MY FRIENDS. I WAS A LITTLE DISTURBED MYSELF, WHEN MY MOTHER FIRST TOLD ME THE STORY OF MY GENESIS.

HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE TIME ENOUGH, LATER, I HOPE, TO DISCUSS SUCH THINGS. RIGHT NOW, THE PARALYSIS CAUSED BY THIS TRANSFORMATION HAS STIFFENED MY LIMBS AND MADE MY FLESH AS DRY AS DESERT SAND.

JASON... HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE IT CLAIMS MY LIFE?

I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING, DIANA. TELL ME, HAS ANYTHING LIKE THIS EVER HAPPENED TO YOU BEFORE?



YES.
TWICE,
THOUGH
THE
CIRCUM-
STANCES
IN EACH
CASE
WERE
VERY
DIFFER-
ENT
FROM
WHAT IS
HAPPEN-
ING
NOW.

THEN LET US NOW
REVIEW THOSE IN-
STANCES, AND SEE
IF THERE IS ANY-
THING THAT CAN
BE LEARNED.

AND I REMIND YOU,
DIANA, YOU WILL
NEED TO KEEP A
SHARP EYE FOR ANY
THING THAT MIGHT
SERVE AS A CLUE,
FOR THOUGH WE
FOUR WILL SHARE IN
THESE RECOVERED
MEMORIES...



“...I HAVE NO CONTROL OF
THE SPEED AT WHICH THEY
WILL PASS...”

DIANA
REMEMBERS.

REMEMBERS DARKNESS,
HELPLESSNESS, THE FETID
STENCH OF A STABLE
WHERE IT IS HUMAN MALES
WHO ARE THE CAPTIVE
LIVESTOCK.

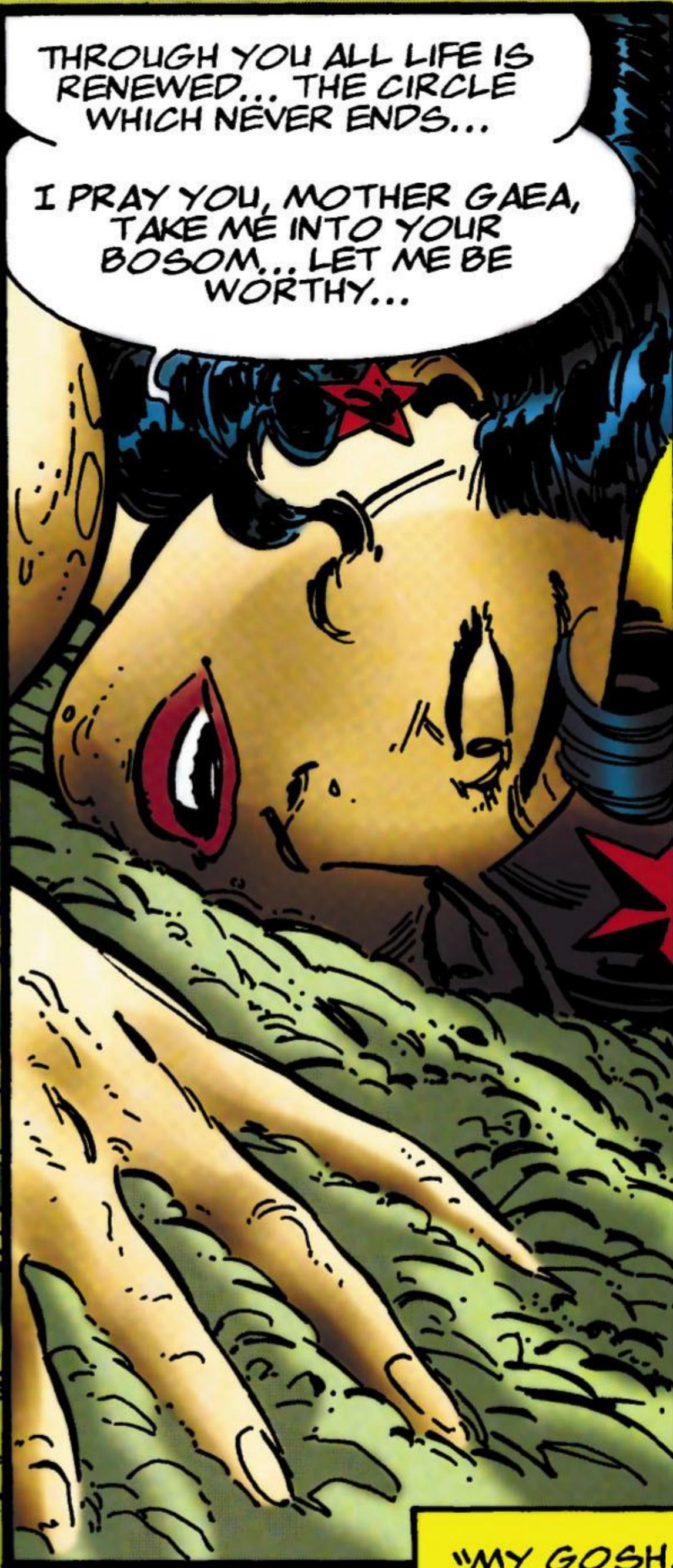
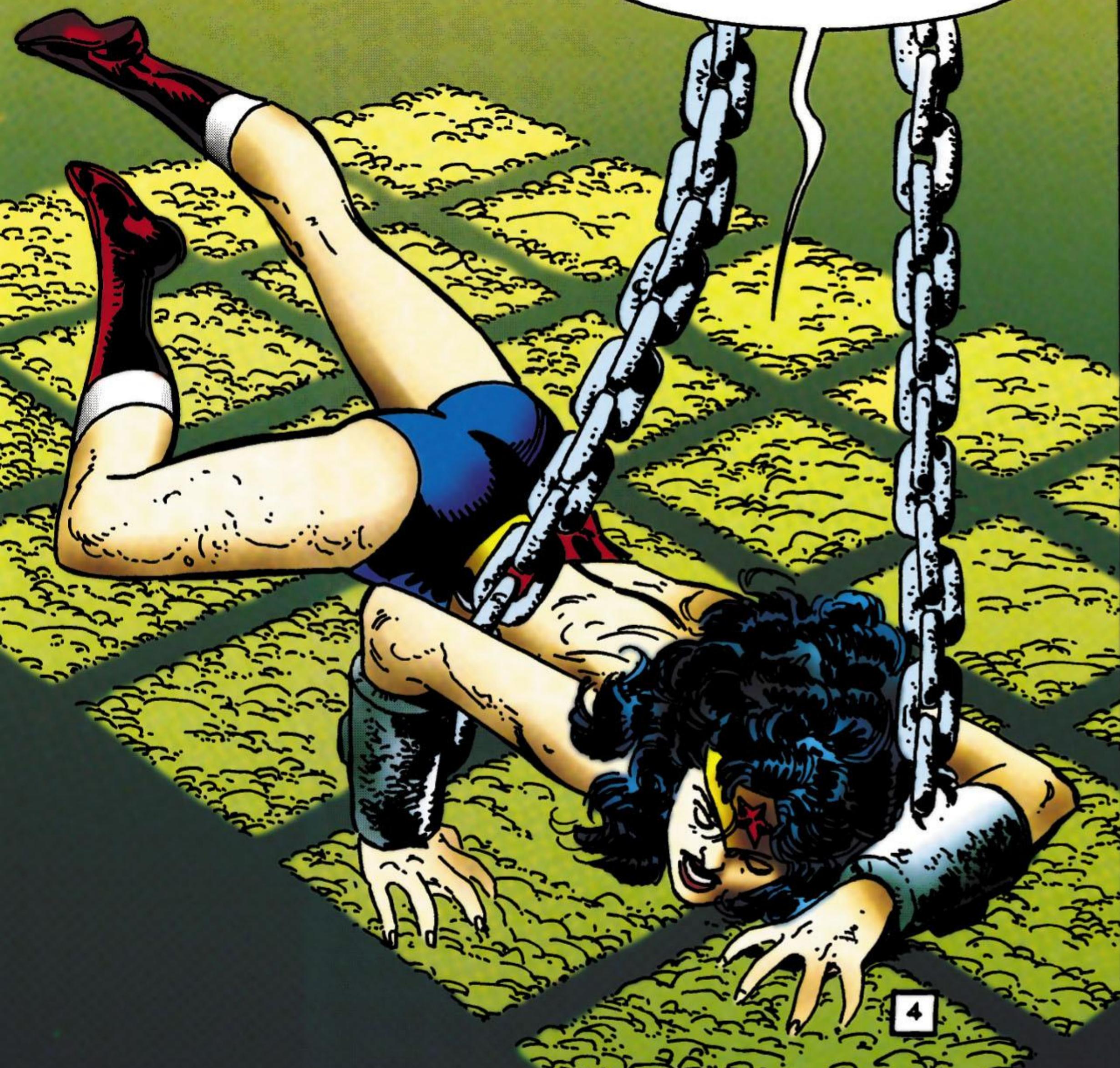


REMEMBERS HER PRAYER
TO THE EARTH MOTHER,
GAEA, AS THE VENOM OF A
COBRA'S BITE STRIPPED
AWAY HER POWER.

GAEA, I PRAY TO YOU...
GRANT ME YOUR
STRENGTH... YOU ARE THE
EARTH WHO SUCKLED ME...
WHO NURTURED AND BRED
ME...

THROUGH YOU ALL LIFE IS
RENEWED... THE CIRCLE
WHICH NEVER ENDS...

I PRAY YOU, MOTHER GAEA,
TAKE ME INTO YOUR
BOSOM... LET ME BE
WORTHY...



DIANA -- YOU... YOU PRAYED YOURSELF BACK INTO CLAY? YOU TURNED YOURSELF BACK INTO THE EARTH?

I DID. A SACRED, SECRET CEREMONY, MIKE. NOT TO BE CALLED UPON LIGHTLY. NOT TO BE REPEATED.

BUT... WHO WERE THOSE MEN? WHY WERE YOU THERE, A PRISONER?

"I WAS IN AFRICA, HELENA, PURSUING BARBARA MINERVA, WHO HAD STOLEN MY GOLDEN LASSO."

"THERE I ENCOUNTERED A RACE OF WARRIOR WOMEN DESCENDED FROM MY OWN, AMAZONS BORN OF THE LINE OF ANTIOPÉ, MY MOTHER'S SISTER!"

BUT, SINCE IT WAS BY YOUR OWN WILL THAT YOU REVERTED TO CLAY IN THAT INSTANCE, DIANA, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT IT WAS RELATED TO WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW.

LET US CONSIDER, THEN, THE OTHER INSTANCE OF WHICH YOU SPOKE...



"IT WAS DURING THE SO-CALLED WAR OF THE GODS."

"THE SORCERESS CIRCE, WHO HAD TRIED ONCE BEFORE TO CHANGE ME TO MY ORIGINAL FORM, INVADED THEMYSCIRA..."

"...AND THIS TIME SUCCEEDED!"

EVENTUALLY, I WAS RESTORED, OF COURSE, BUT THAT WAS A GRIM TIME. BEFORE SHE CAME TO PARADISE ISLAND, CIRCE HAD ACCOMPLISHED WHAT MOST WOULD DEEM IMPOSSIBLE...

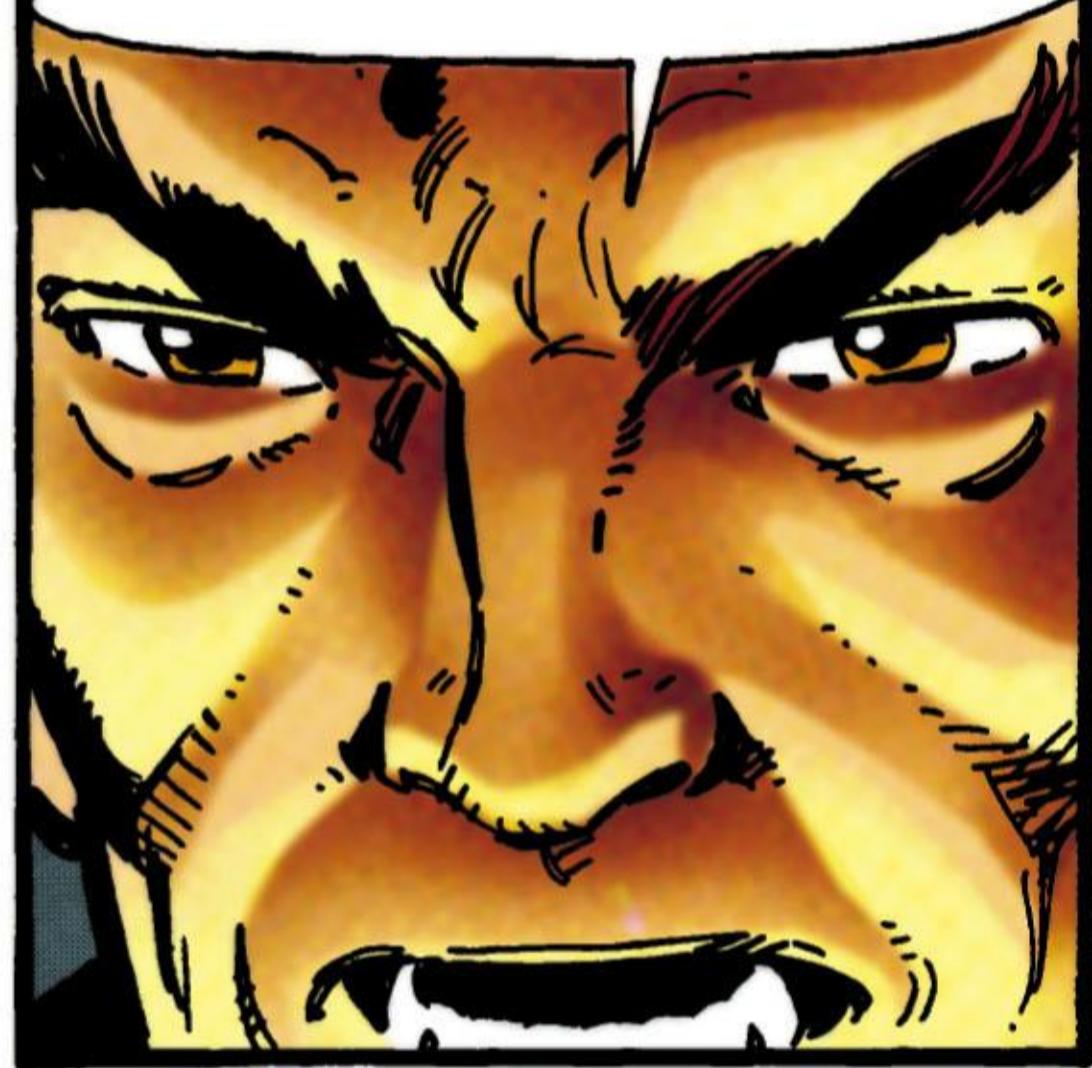
...THE MURDER OF A GOD!

YES, I WAS AWARE AT THE TIME OF THE DEATH OF HERMES, THE MESSENGER OF ZEUS. IT CAUSED A GREAT DISTURBANCE IN THE CONTINUUM.

COULD THIS BE SOME... LEFTOVER EFFECT FROM WHAT THIS CIRCE DAME DID, BLOOD?

TO DETERMINE THAT, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DELVE DEEPER. WE MUST ENTER DIANA'S MEMORIES, TO SIFT THROUGH THEM, STUDY THEM, IN THE HOPE THAT ONE OF US MIGHT CATCH WHAT SHE HERSELF HAS MISSED.

PRINCESS, ARE YOU PREPARED FOR SUCH AN INTIMATE INTRUSION? THERE WILL ULTIMATELY BE NO PART OF YOUR MOST HIDDEN THOUGHTS WHICH ARE NOT LAID BARE TO US.



TO LEARN WHAT MUST BE LEARNED, JASON, YES, I AM PREPARED TO DARE ALL!

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY NO ONE NOTICED BEFORE THAT THIS WAS HAPPENING TO YOU, DIANA! I MEAN... TURNING INTO CLAY ISN'T SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS EVERY DAY--EVEN TO A SUPERHERO!

BUT THERE WAS A CLUE, MOM! DIANA HURT HER HAND IN OUR BATTLE WITH THE FAKE DOOMSDAY...

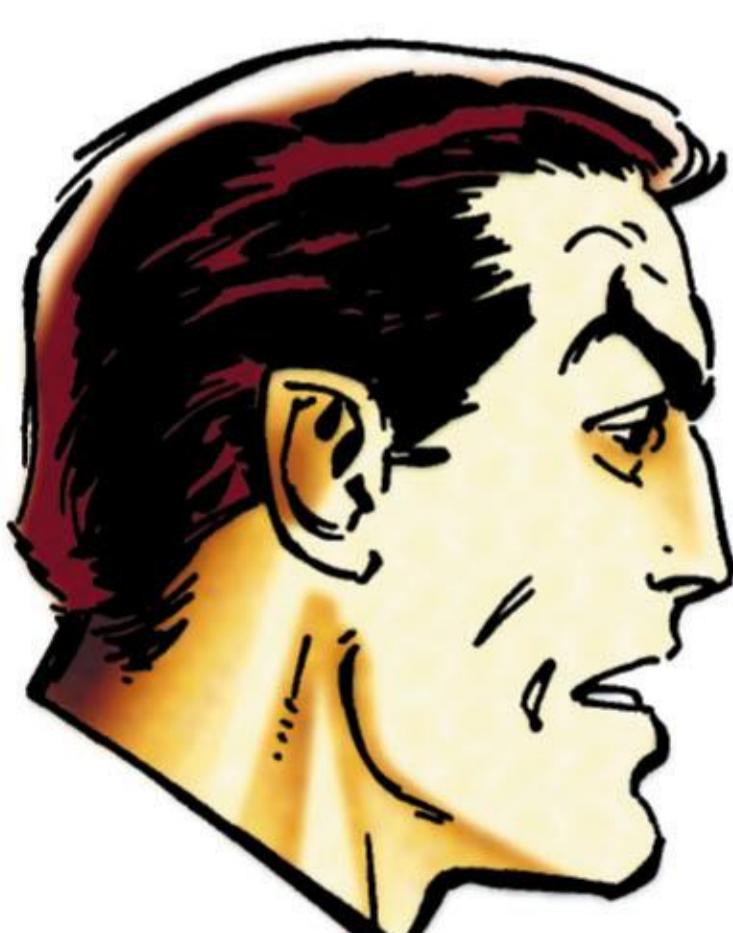
DON'T REMIND ME OF THAT NOW! I'VE GOT ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT, THINKING OF DIANA'S SITUATION, WITHOUT HAVING TO CONSIDER THAT MY DAUGHTER MIGHT HAVE PUT HERSELF INTO SIMILAR DANGER WITH HER OWN RECKLESS BEHAVIOR!

IF YOU MEAN YOU ARE FEARFUL THAT CASSANDRA MIGHT ALSO FIND HERSELF TURNING TO CLAY, I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANY DANGER OF THIS, HELENA. I AM CONVINCED THIS IS SOMETHING SPECIFIC TO DIANA'S SITUATION.



NOW, DIANA, LET US BEGIN A CLOSER ANALYSIS OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO YOUR INJURY. MY GUESS IS THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH HAS INFECTED YOU SINCE YOU LEFT PARADISE ISLAND.

WE WILL NOW BEGIN A PROCESS OF WORKING OUR WAY BACKWARDS THROUGH ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU SINCE YOU CAME TO "PATRIARCH'S WORLD."



AGREED... AND THE MOST RECENT EVENT, THEN, WOULD BE THE ENCOUNTER WITH CHEETAH...

IT WAS EVENTUALLY REVEALED THAT CHEETAH HAD COME TO GATEWAY CITY SEEKING MY HELP. SHE'D SOLD HER SOUL TO THE DEMON NERON...

...AND HER ANIMALISTIC SIDE WAS PROGRESSIVELY CONSUMING HER.



MAN, THIS IS SO WEIRD! I FEEL LIKE I'M RIGHT HERE, AGAIN, AT THE OLD ZOO WHERE THIS FIGHT TOOK PLACE.

BUT THERE I AM STILL TRUSSED UP IN THE CORNER!

LIKE SCROOGE AND THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS, WE ARE BUT PHANTOMS HERE, MIKE.

"THESE MEMORIES ARE REAL ONLY FOR DIANA."

HOW FORTUNATE IT IS, THEN, THAT THE BODY CANNOT REMEMBER PAIN.

IT WAS AT THIS MOMENT THAT I SUSTAINED MY INJURY!



BUT THAT WAS THE CULMINATION OF THE EFFECT, NOT THE BEGINNING.

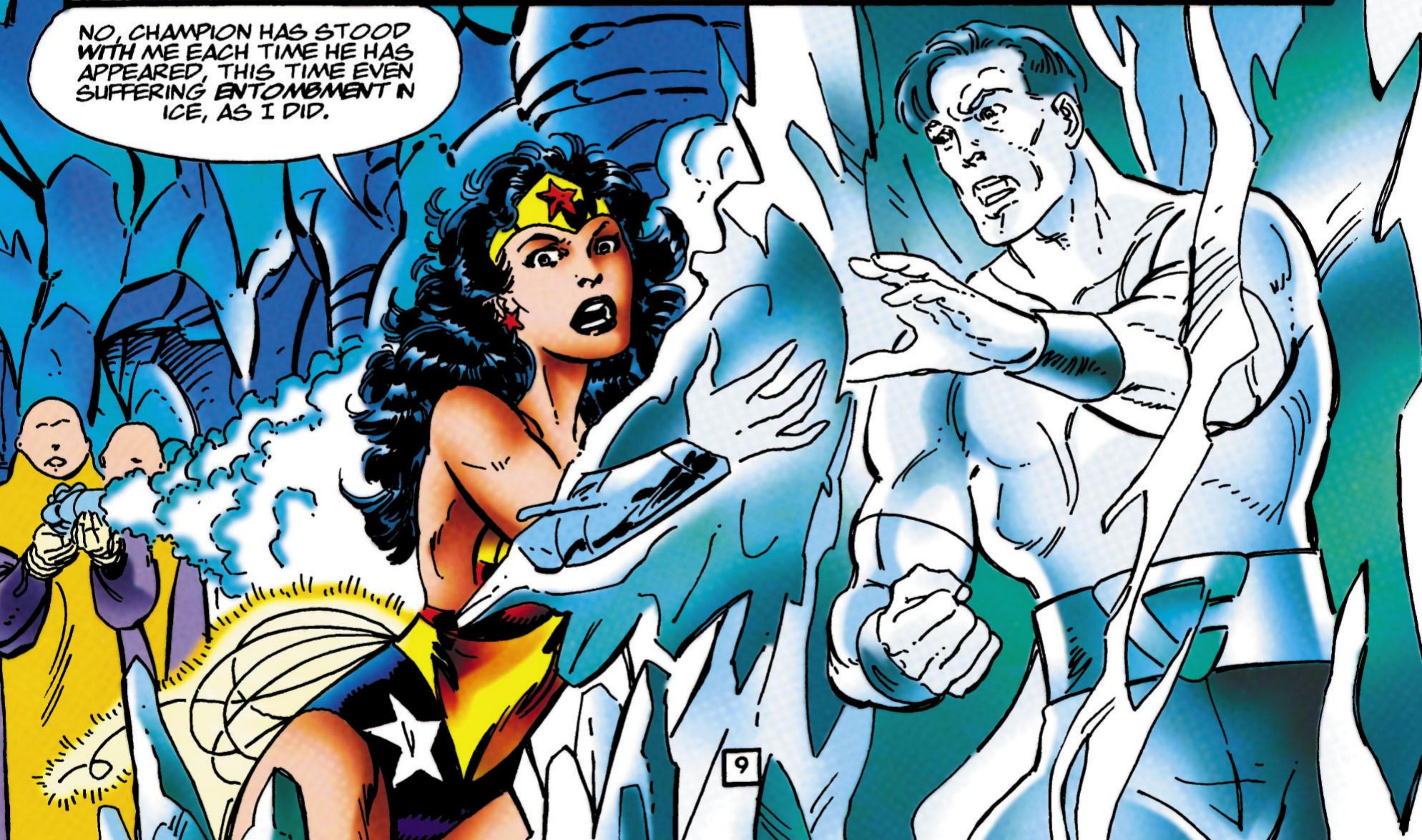
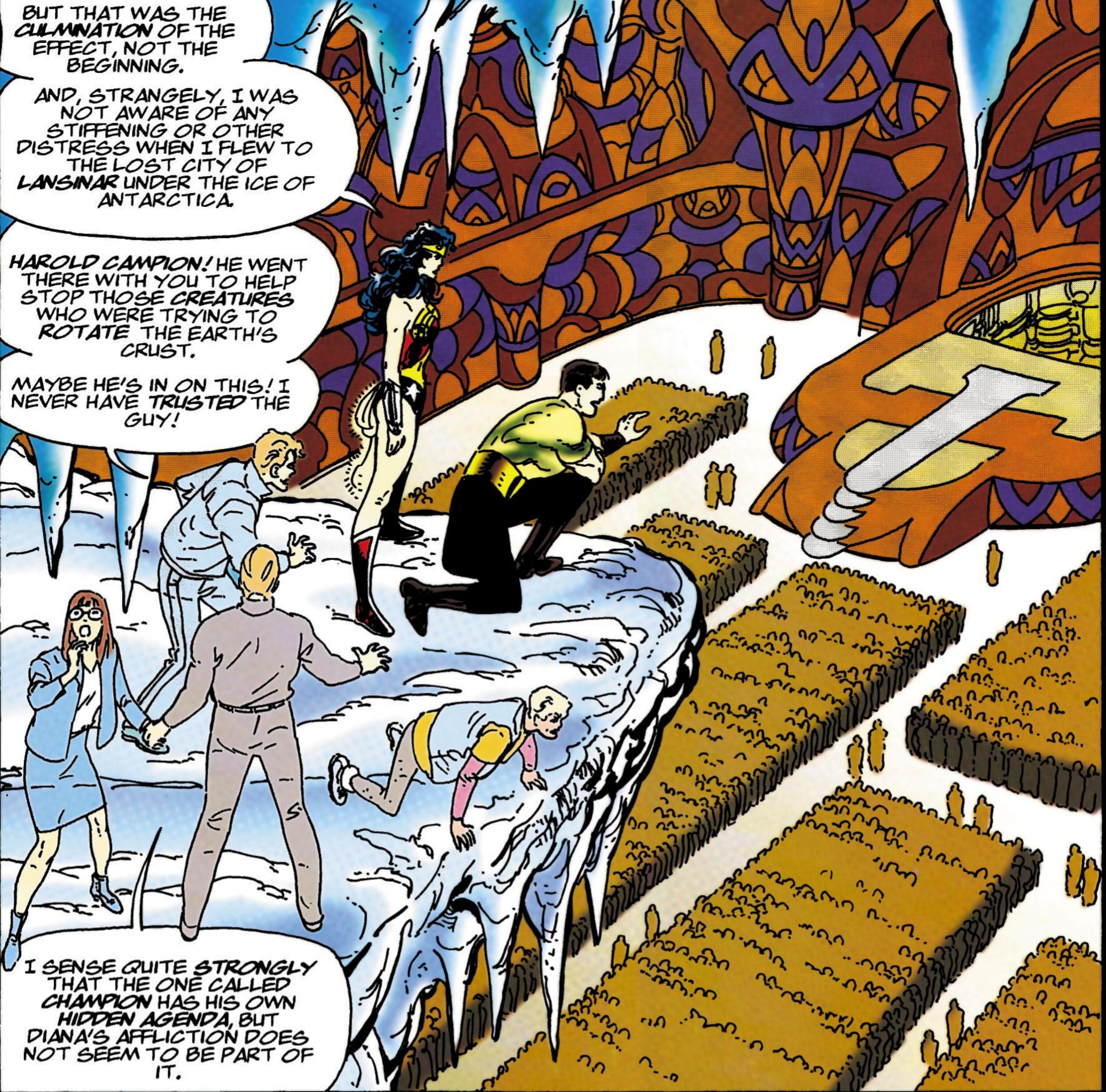
AND, STRANGELY, I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY STIFFENING OR OTHER DISTRESS WHEN I FLEW TO THE LOST CITY OF LANSINAR UNDER THE ICE OF ANTARCTICA.

HAROLD CAMPION! HE WENT THERE WITH YOU TO HELP STOP THOSE CREATURES WHO WERE TRYING TO ROTATE THE EARTH'S CRUST.

MAYBE HE'S IN ON THIS! I NEVER HAVE TRUSTED THE GUY!

I SENSE QUITE STRONGLY THAT THE ONE CALLED CHAMPION HAS HIS OWN HIDDEN AGENDA, BUT DIANA'S AFFLICTION DOES NOT SEEM TO BE PART OF IT.

NO, CHAMPION HAS STOOD WITH ME EACH TIME HE HAS APPEARED, THIS TIME EVEN SUFFERING ENTOMBMENT IN ICE, AS I DID.



IN ANY CASE THE FIRST AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM PRECEDED THIS ADVENTURE.

IS THAT WHAT I LOOK LIKE AS WONDER GIRL? I'M GONNA HAFTA WORK ON THAT OUTFIT!

SEE, HERE, WHEN YOU AND CASSANDRA BATTLED THE MENACE OF DECAY...

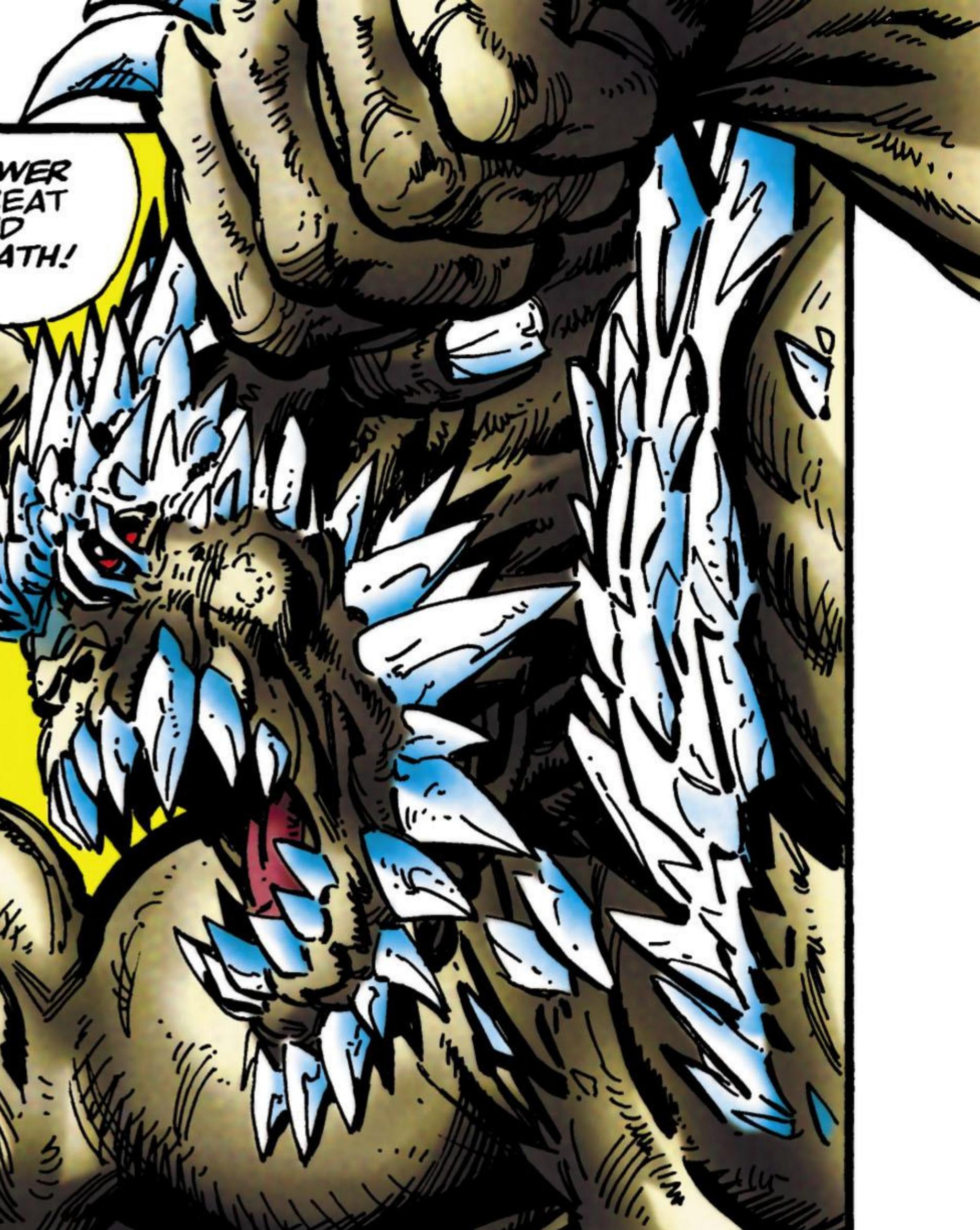
DIANA..! WHEN YOU HURLED YOURSELF THROUGH DECAY, WHAT DID YOU FEEL?

MUCH THE SAME AS I FELT WHEN I STRUCK THE IMITATION DOOMSDAY, JASON.

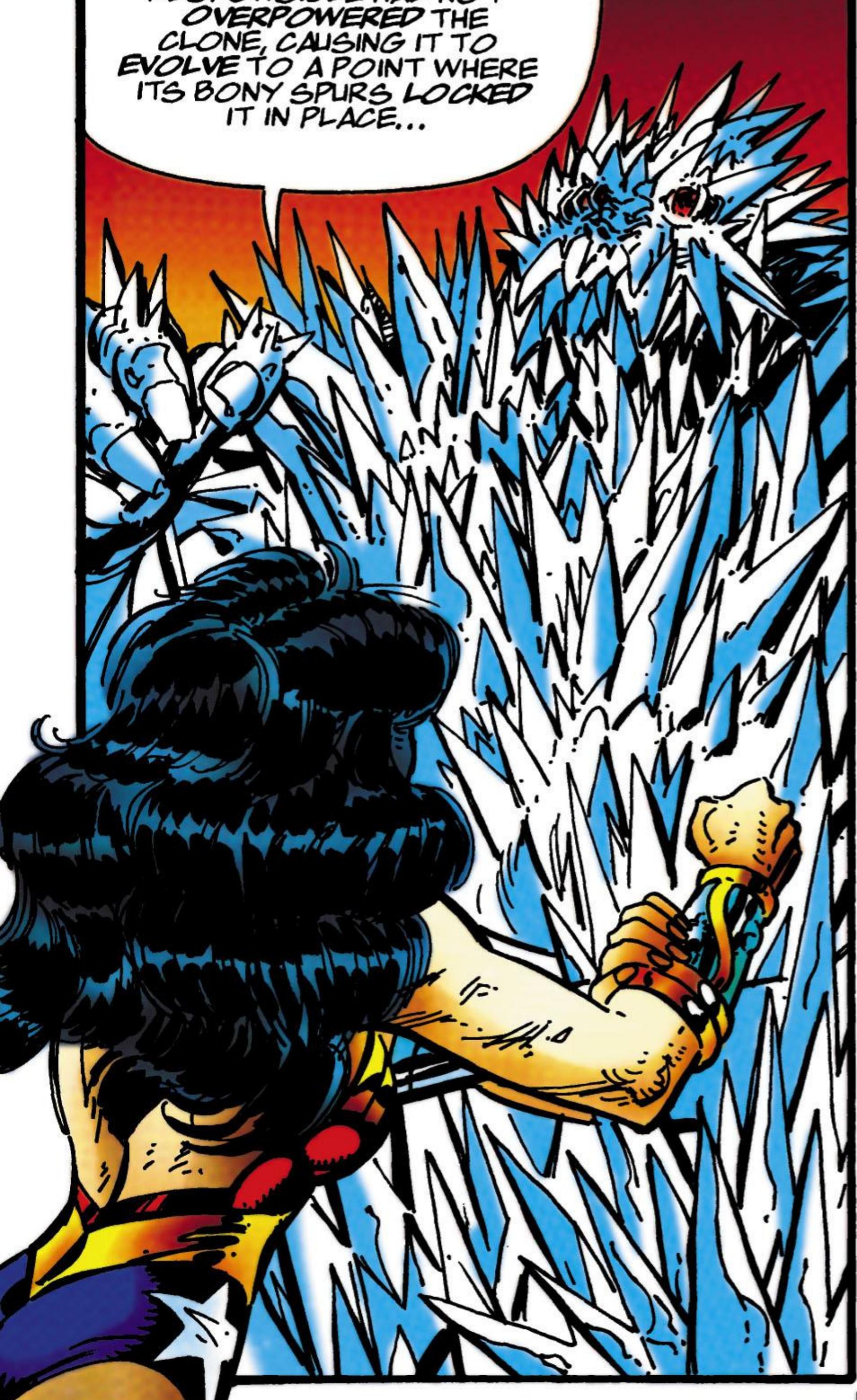
YET DECAY IS IN NO WAY OF THE SAME DEGREE OF INVULNERABILITY AS THE SUPERMAN-KILLER.

THEN MY POWERS WERE TAXED AS NEVER BEFORE, FOR THO' THIS PROVED TO BE A CLONE OF DOOMSDAY CREATED BY A VIRTUAL REANIMATION DEVICE...

...THE MONSTER'S POWER WAS EVERY BIT AS GREAT AS WHEN IT BATTLED SUPERMAN TO THE DEATH!



IF ONE OF THE ASSISTANTS OF THE SCIENTIST RESPONSIBLE HAD NOT OVERPOWERED THE CLONE, CAUSING IT TO EVOLVE TO A POINT WHERE ITS BONY SPURS LOCKED IT IN PLACE...



FALLEN AS SUPERMAN DID!

WHICH BRINGS US BACKWARDS TO THE POINT AT WHICH I FOUND MYSELF INVOLVED IN YOUR LIFE, DIANA.

YOU BATTLED THE DEMON ETRIGAN, A FAMILIAR OF THE WIZARD MERLIN, AND ONE WHO I HAVE... STUDIED.*

*FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MIGHT HAVE COME IN LATE, JASON BLOOD IS THE DEMON ETRIGAN! - YE EDITOR.

...WHO PROVED TO BE ENSLAVED BY THE SORCERESS MORGANE LE FAY.

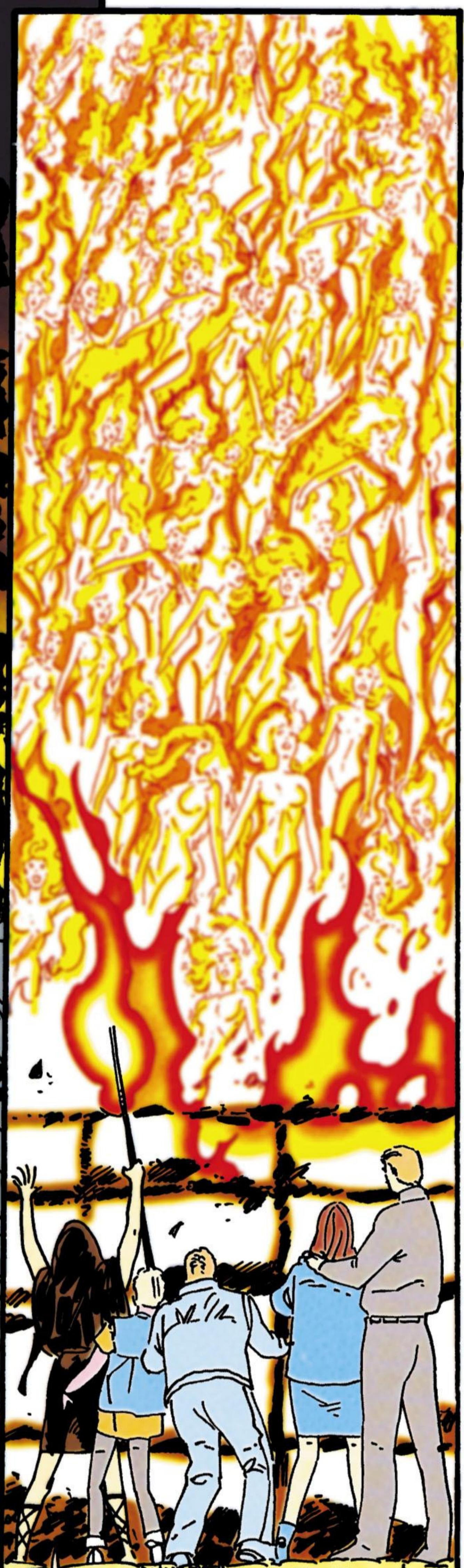
SHE TRIED TO DRAW FROM ME ALL THE SKILL OF MY AMAZON TRAINING, AS WE BATTLED ON A SHADOW PLANE OF HER CREATION.

BUT IT WAS HER TRUE SCHEME TO STEAL THE IMMORTALITY FROM MYSELF AND SEVERAL OTHERS.

SHE HAD NOT REALIZED THAT I HAD GIVEN UP AN ETERNAL LIFE WHEN I LEFT PARADISE ISLAND.

STRANGE THAT AMAZON IMMORTALITY--OR THE LACK OF IT-- SHOULD HAVE FIGURED SO PROMINENTLY IN MY RECENT LIFE.

BEFORE THE ENCOUNTER WITH LE FAY, I STOOD WITH MY SISTERS AGAINST THE EVIL GOD DARKSEID.



TWELVE HUNDRED, ALMOST HALF OUR NUMBER FELL, BEFORE DARKSEID ACKNOWLEDGED DEFEAT AND RETREATED.

I WAS THERE! THAT FUNERAL PYRE WAS LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN!

BUT... THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE, DIANA. ANOTHER DEATH WHICH AFFECTED YOU DEEPLY.

YES. A STRANGER, ONE OF THE AMAZONS
OF THE LINE OF ANTIOPÉ, HAD COME TO
THE MYSICRA TO CHALLENGE ME FOR THE
RIGHT TO BE WONDER WOMAN.

HER NAME
WAS
ARTEMIS...

SHE DIED IN BATTLE.
I WAS TO LEARN,
TO MY HORROR,
THAT MY MOTHER
HAD ARRANGED FOR ARTE-
MIS TO DEFEAT ME, TO TAKE
MY PLACE, BECAUSE SHE HAD
SENSED THAT WONDER WOMAN
WAS TO DIE SOON.

AND SO SHE CREATED A
SITUATION IN WHICH
ANOTHER WOULD DIE AS
WONDER WOMAN.

WE MUST PAUSE FOR A MOMENT, JASON. WHAT WE HAVE NOW REACHED WAS AND REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AND TRYING TIMES OF MY LIFE.

ARTEMIS WAS SACRIFICED BY MY MOTHER, SENT TO DIE IN MY PLACE--AND IN THE MATTER I WAS NOT CONSULTED. I WAS NOT GIVEN THE CHOICE TO FACE WHATEVER THE FATES HELD IN STORE FOR ME.

THIS IS ALL TOO IN-TENSE!

I'VE KNOWN DIANA ONLY A FEW MONTHS NOW, SINCE SHE CAME TO WORK FOR ME AT THE MUSEUM OF CULTURAL ANTIQUITIES.

I GAVE HER THE JOB BECAUSE OUR MUTUAL FRIEND, AND MY OLD TEACHER, JULIA KAPATELIS ASKED ME TO.

BUT JULIA NEVER SAID BEING FRIENDS WITH WONDER WOMAN WOULD BE SO... TRAUMATIC!



IN JUST A HANDFUL OF WEEKS I'VE SEEN ALMOST EVERYTHING I'VE WORKED SO HARD FOR TURNED TOPSY-TURVY...

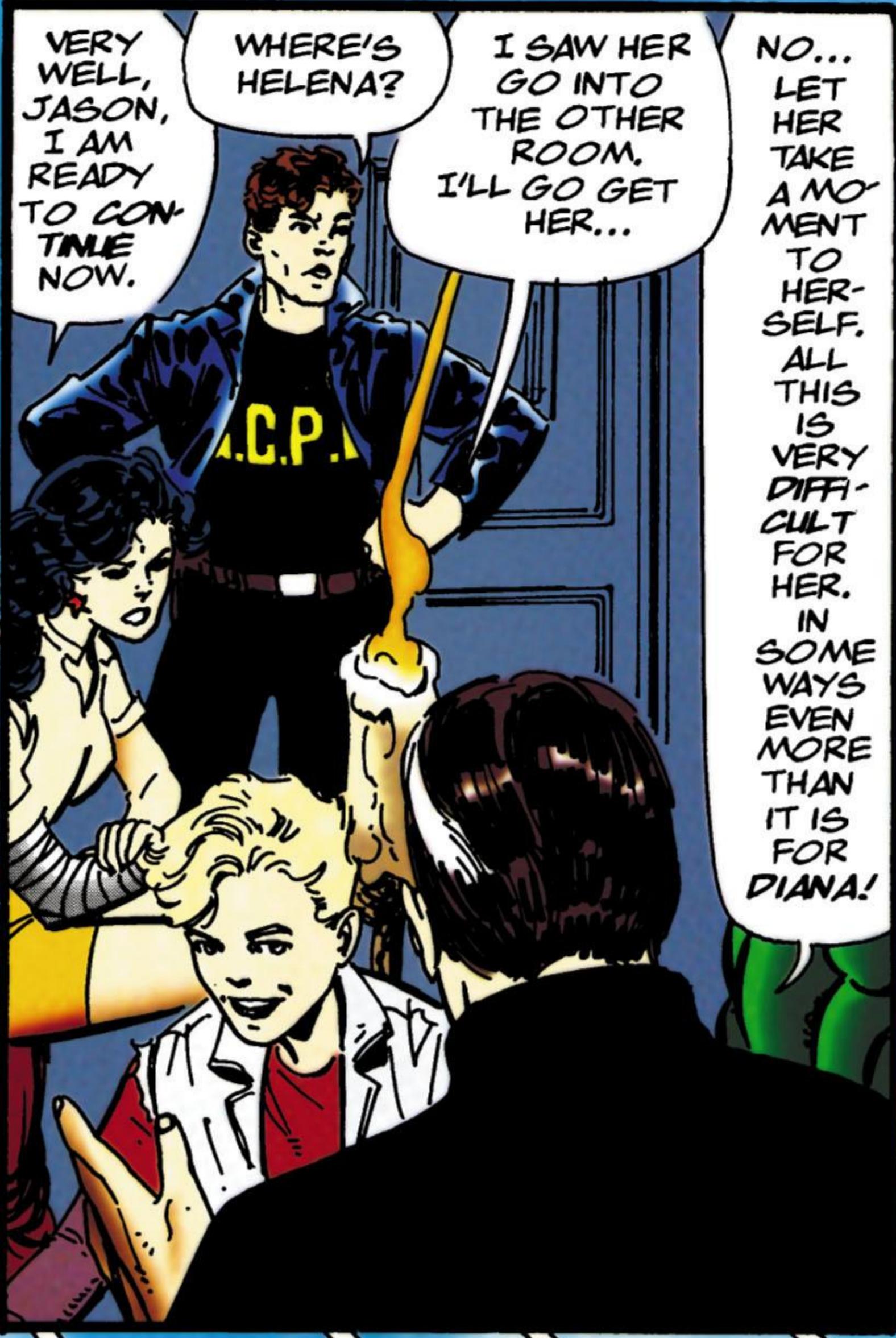
...INCLUDING MY OWN DAUGHTER ALMOST GETTING HERSELF KILLED PLAYING AT BEING A SUPERHERO!

HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE SITTING, TOOTS!

WH-WHAT..?!?

OH-H H H H H H H H...!!!





NO, MIKE. I HAVE MANY GODS-GRANTED ABILITIES WHICH MAKE ME NEARLY HIS EQUAL IN OTHER WAYS, BUT I LACK HIS IMPERVIOUS SKIN.

WITHOUT MY BRACELETS TO DEFLECT THE BULLETS, I CAN BE SHOT, AS I CAN BE... SUBDUED.

I HAD GONE INTO ORBIT TO RESCUE A STRANDED FEMALE COSMONAUT. WE BECAME LOST IN SPACE, AND WERE CAPTURED BY EXTRATERRESTRIALS.

EVENTUALLY I WAS ABLE TO LEAD A REVOLT AND FREE THE ENSLAVED RACES.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE, DIANA?

IT LOOKS LIKE A CASTING CALL FOR THE NEXT STAR WARS MOVIE!

YOU SAY THAT SO... CASUALLY, DIANA! LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL!

PERHAPS
BECAUSE,
IN THE
GREATER
SCHEME
OF MY
LIFE, IT
WAS NOT,
MIKE.

AFTER ALL, IT CAME
HARD ON THE HEELS
OF EVENTS WHICH
ALMOST SAW THE
DESTRUCTION OF
MY AMAZON
RACE.

I HAD
BROUGHT
A DELE-
GATION
TO THEMYS-
CIRA, IN-
CLUDING
FAMED
DAILY
PLANET RE-
PORTER
LOIS
LANE



"AT A BANQUET, TAINTED
FRUIT WAS EATEN, THE
APPLES OF DISCORD..."

"...WHICH LED TO A RIOT AS
EACH TURNED UPON THE
OTHER. ONLY LOIS AND I
WERE UNAFFECTED..."

...AND LEFT
TO DIS-
COVER
IT WAS THE
DAUGHTER
OF ARES
WHO WAS
BEHIND
IT ALL.



DIANA! YOU GOT TURNED
INTO A TREE..?!?

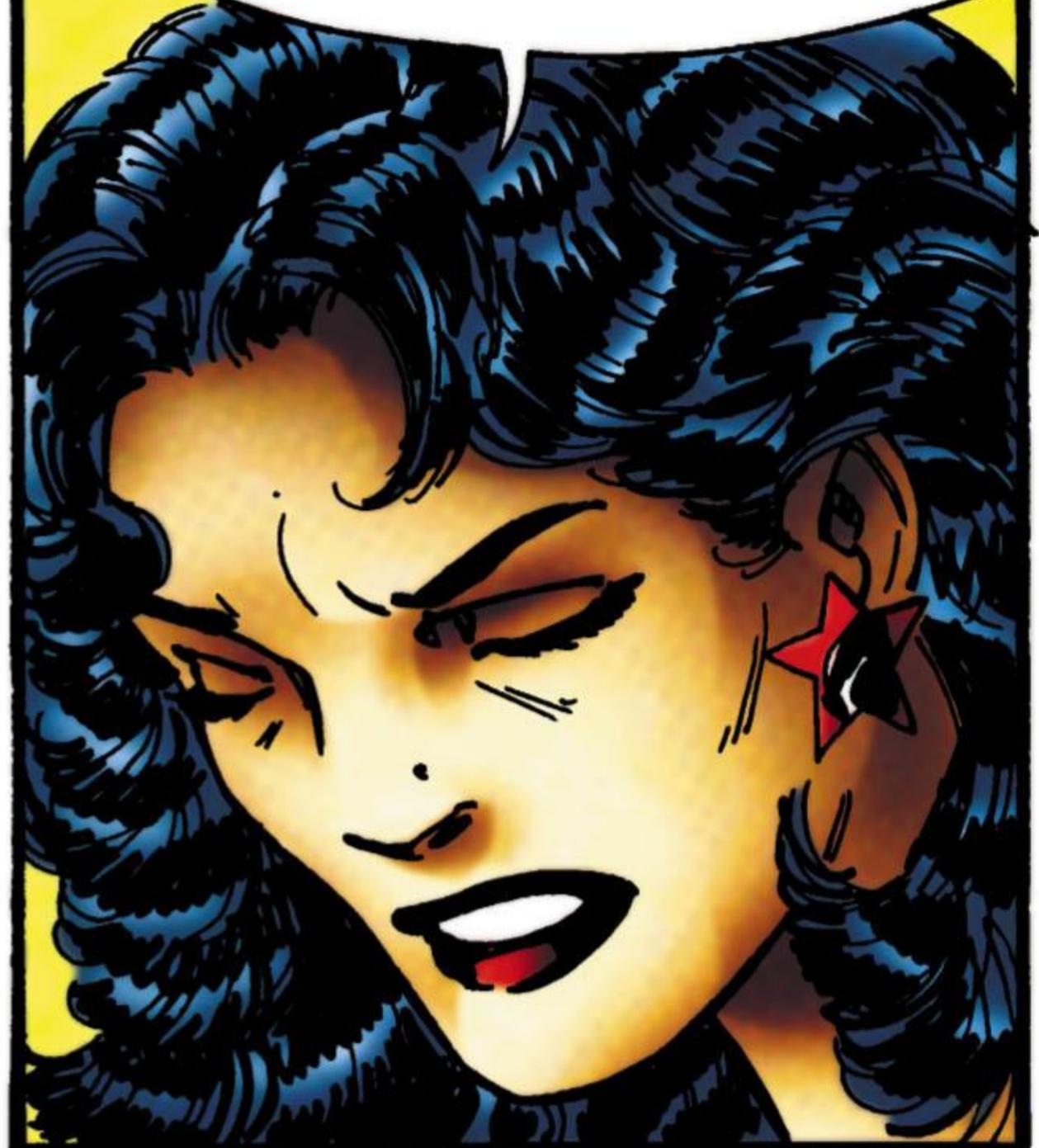
IT IS DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED, CASSIE. MANY OF THE THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO ME ARE... BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION.

YET, I SENSE THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENING AT NEARLY THE SAME TIME, DIANA.

SOMETHING THAT CAST A DEEP SHADOW OVER YOUR LIFE.

YES... THOUGH NOTHING SUPER NATURAL, OR "SUPERHEROIC" THIS TIME, JASON.

INSTEAD, SOMETHING VERY HUMAN, AND FOR THAT REASON, PERHAPS, ALL THE MORE TRAGIC.

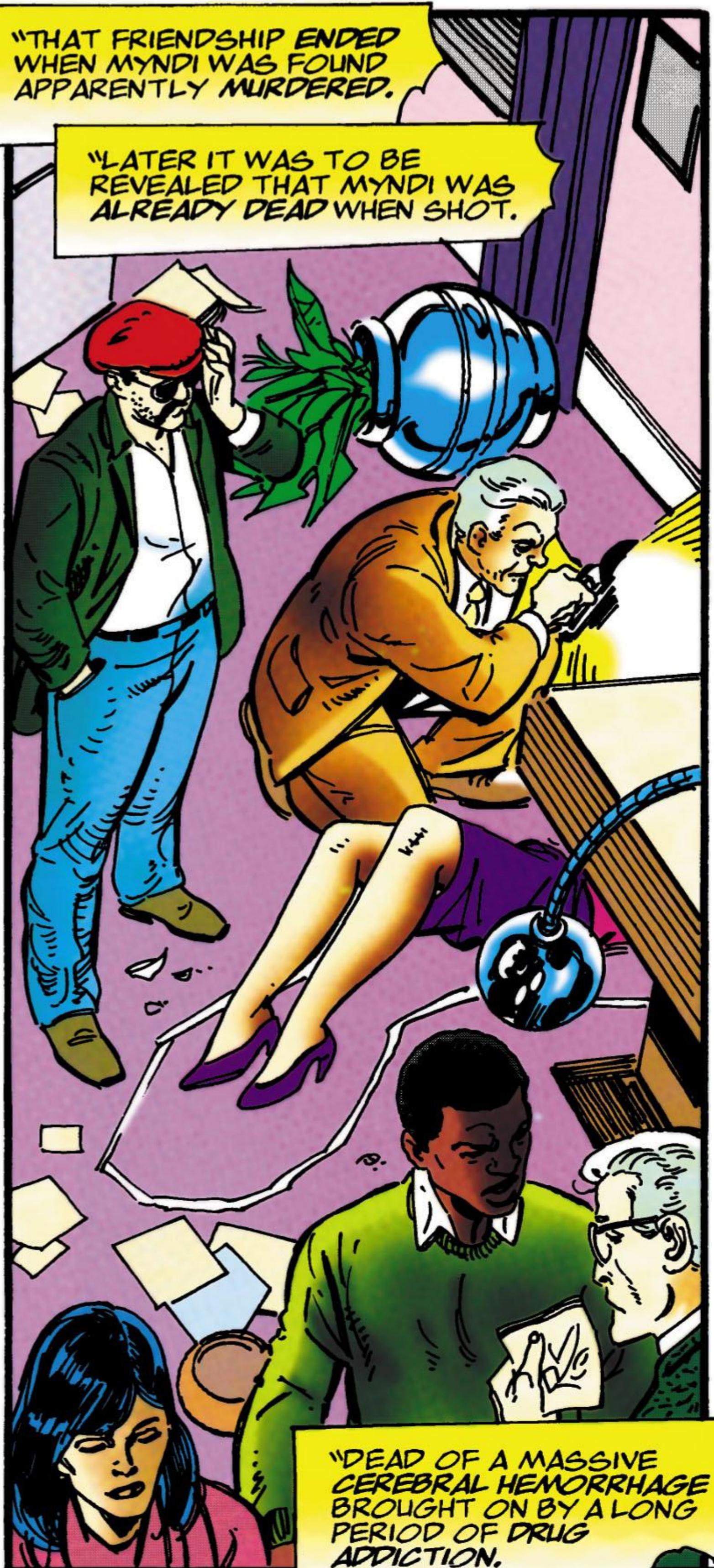
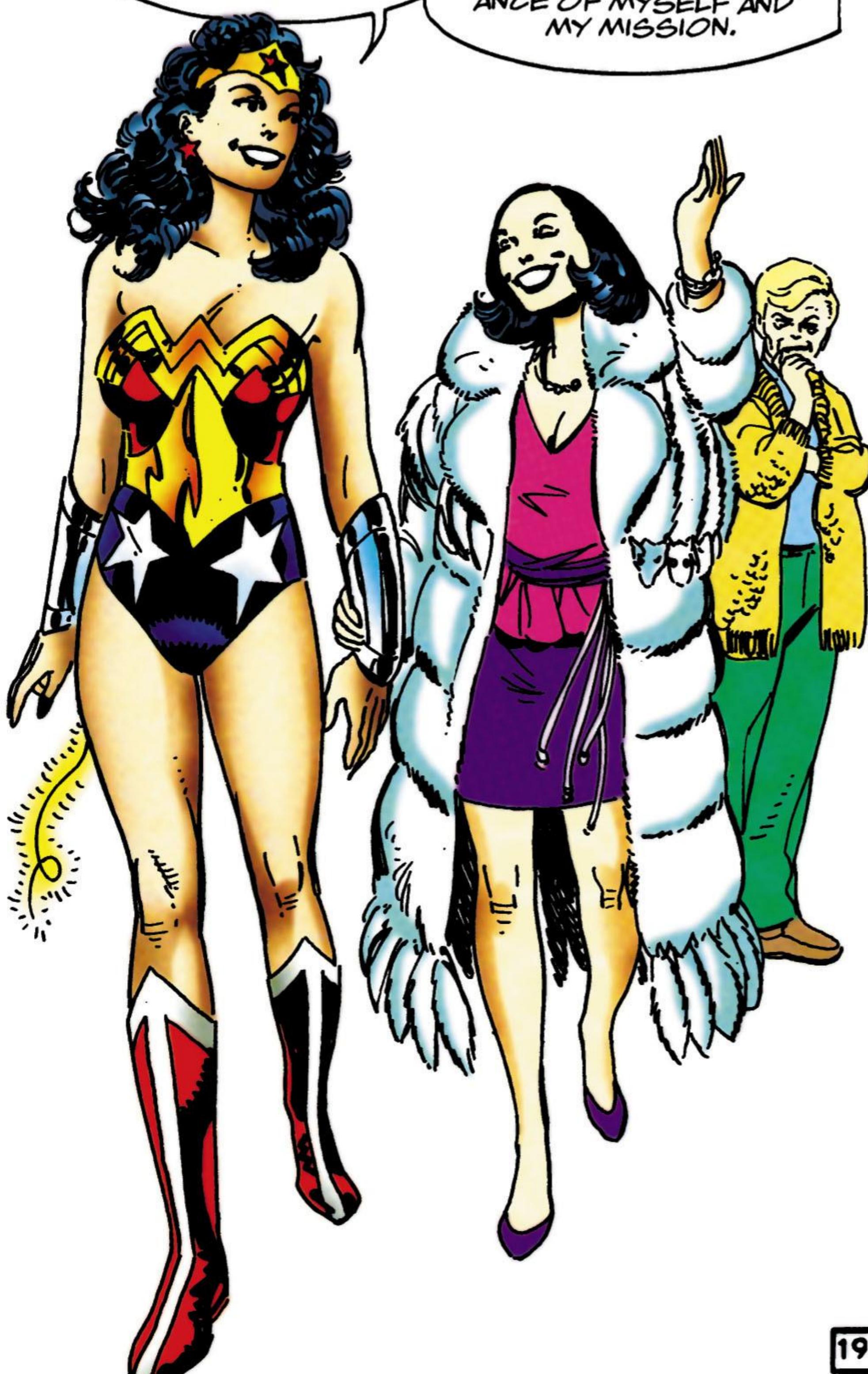


WHEN I FIRST CAME TO AMERICA I WAS BEFRIENDED BY A WOMAN NAMED MYNDI MAYER, THE SO-CALLED "STAR PUBLICIST."

IT WAS SHE WHO CONCEIVED MUCH OF THE PUBLICITY WHICH HELPED ACCELERATE THIS NATION'S UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MYSELF AND MY MISSION.

"THAT FRIENDSHIP ENDED WHEN MYNDI WAS FOUND APPARENTLY MURDERED.

"LATER IT WAS TO BE REVEALED THAT MYNDI WAS ALREADY DEAD WHEN SHOT.

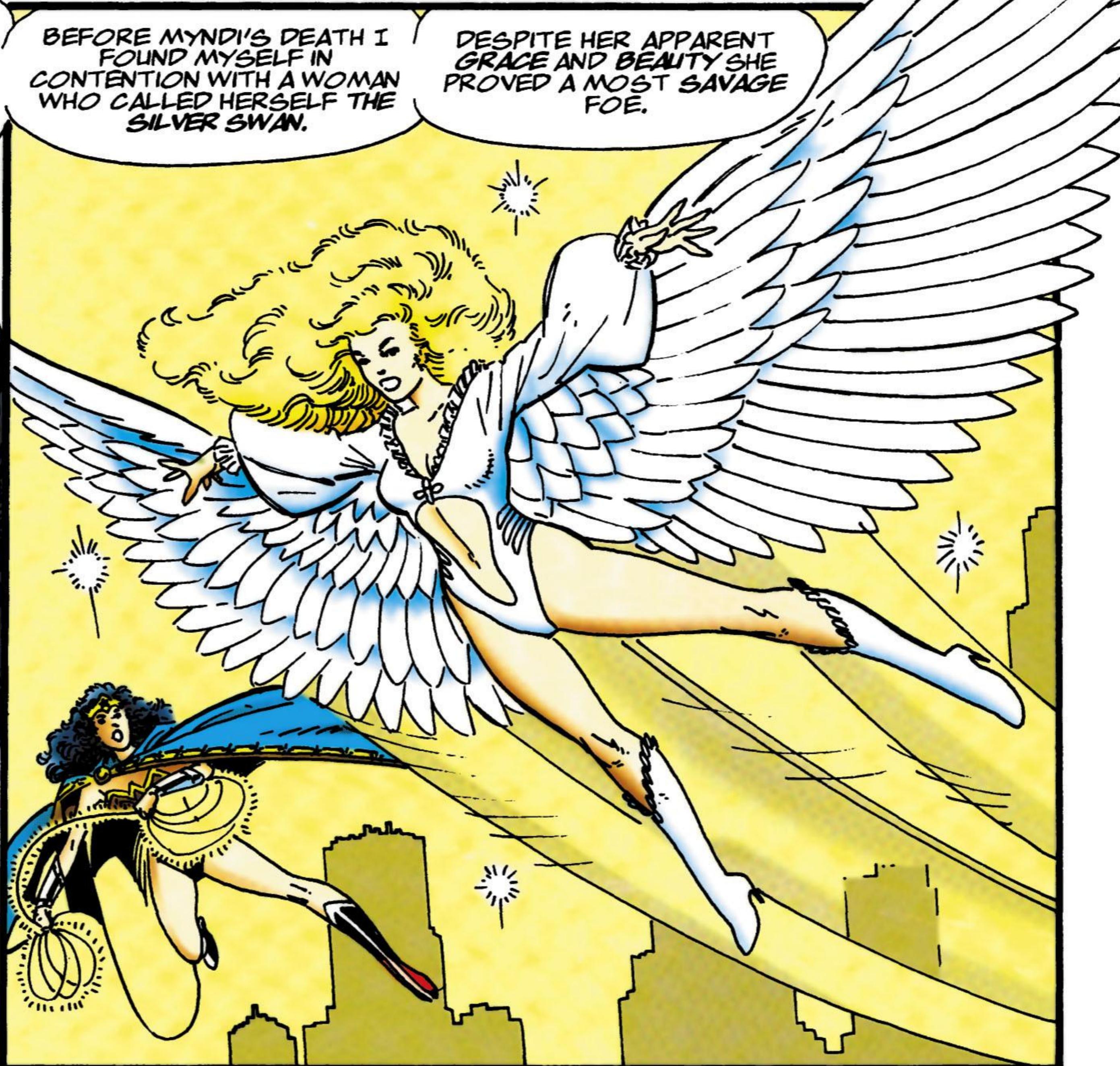
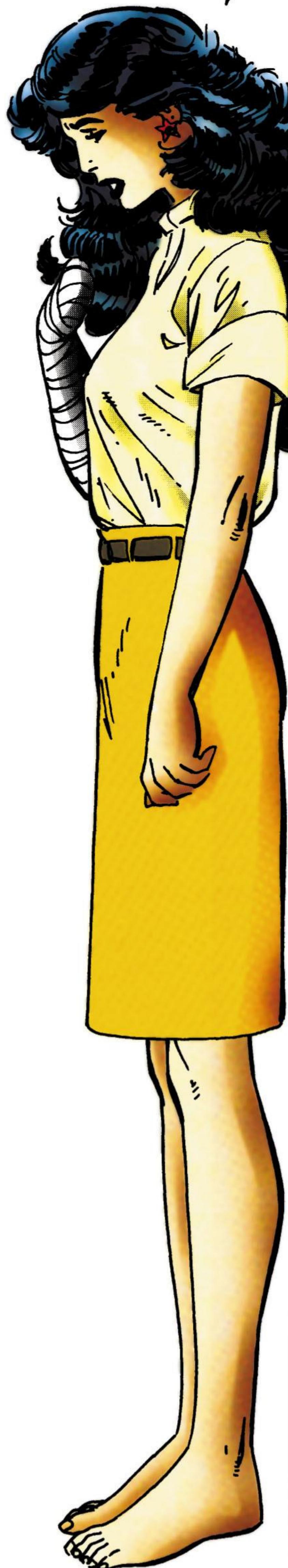


"DEAD OF A MASSIVE CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE BROUGHT ON BY A LONG PERIOD OF DRUG ADDICTION.

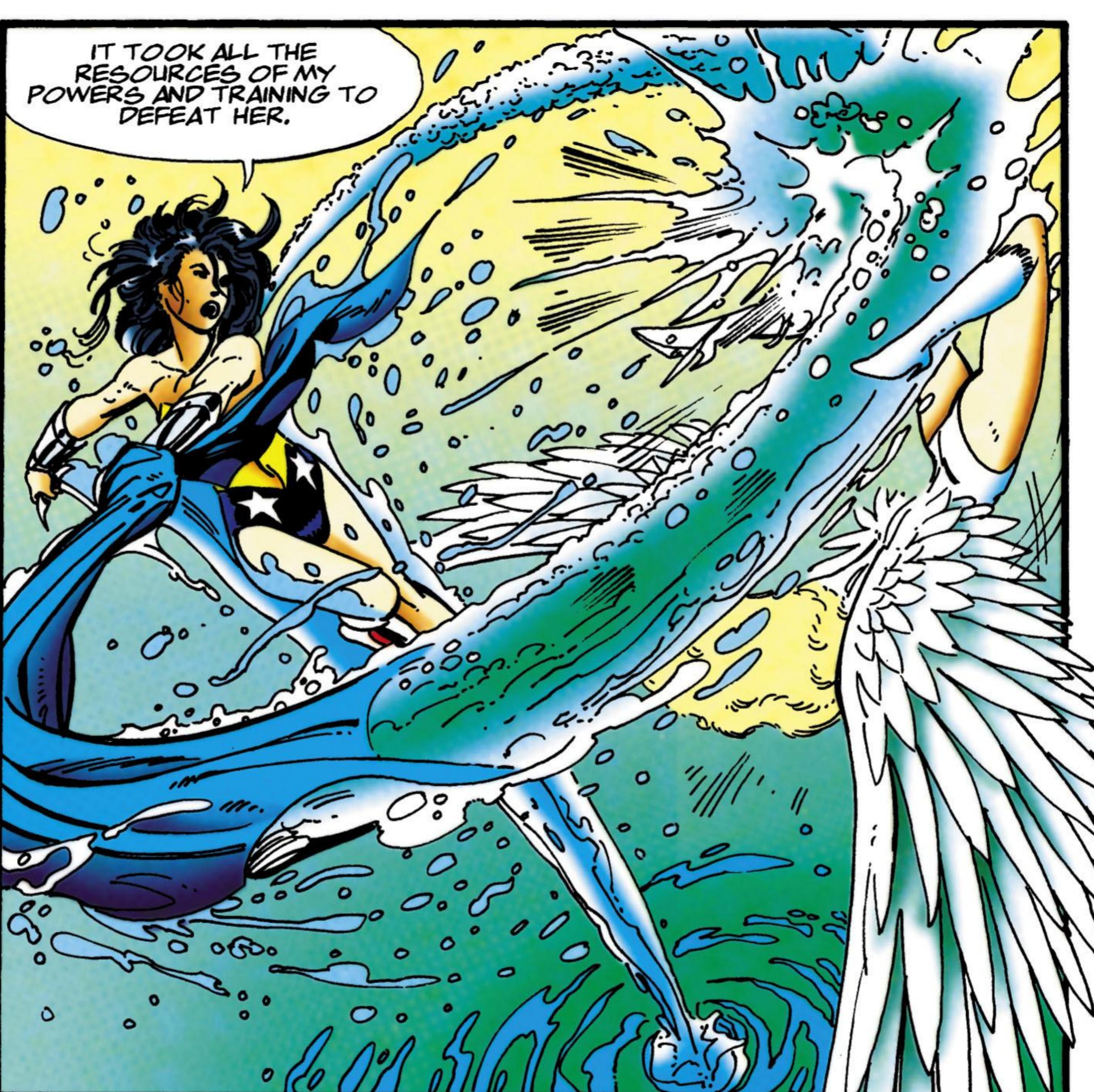
BUT, PLEASE, LET US NOT DWELL ON THIS. IT CANNOT BE CONNECTED TO MY CURRENT DISTRESS. LET US CONTINUE TO LOOK BACK.

BEFORE MYNDI'S DEATH I FOUND MYSELF IN CONTENTION WITH A WOMAN WHO CALLED HERSELF THE SILVER SWAN.

DESPITE HER APPARENT GRACE AND BEAUTY SHE PROVED A MOST SAVAGE FOE.



IT TOOK ALL THE RESOURCES OF MY POWERS AND TRAINING TO DEFEAT HER.



PERHAPS SHE WOULD HAVE
BEEN LESS OF A
CHALLENGE HAD I NOT SO
RECENTLY BEEN TAXED BY
A BATTLE WITH THE MANY-
HEADED HYDRA...

THE DEMIGOD KNOWN AS
HERACLES.

...OR FOUND MYSELF
COMPELLED TO RESCUE
FROM IMPRISONMENT
BENEATH PARADISE ISLAND
ONE WHO HAD SO MANY
TIMES STOOD AS THE
MOST BITTER ENEMY OF
MY RACE.



HERACLES... I HAVE GIVEN
NO THOUGHT TO HIM IN
SOME TIME, YET NOW,
WHEN I SPEAK HIS NAME...

...THERE IS...
SOMETHING...

YOU THINK
HE MIGHT
HAVE A
HAND IN
THIS, DIANA?



TIME AND AGAIN ONE THEME REPEATS ITSELF, DIANA THE GODS OF OLYMPUS ARE EVERYWHERE ENTANGLED IN YOUR LIFE.

NOT MINE ALONE, JASON. ALL AMAZONS OWE THEIR VERY EXISTENCE TO THE GODS. IT IS A TALE TOLD MANY TIMES, IN ALL THE CENTURIES, AND NOT ALWAYS WITH THE EVENTS IN THE PROPER ORDER.

"SOME SAY IT BEGAN MORE THAN THIRTY THOUSAND YEARS AGO, WHEN AN OUTCAST HUNTER STAGGERED BACK TO HIS CAVE.



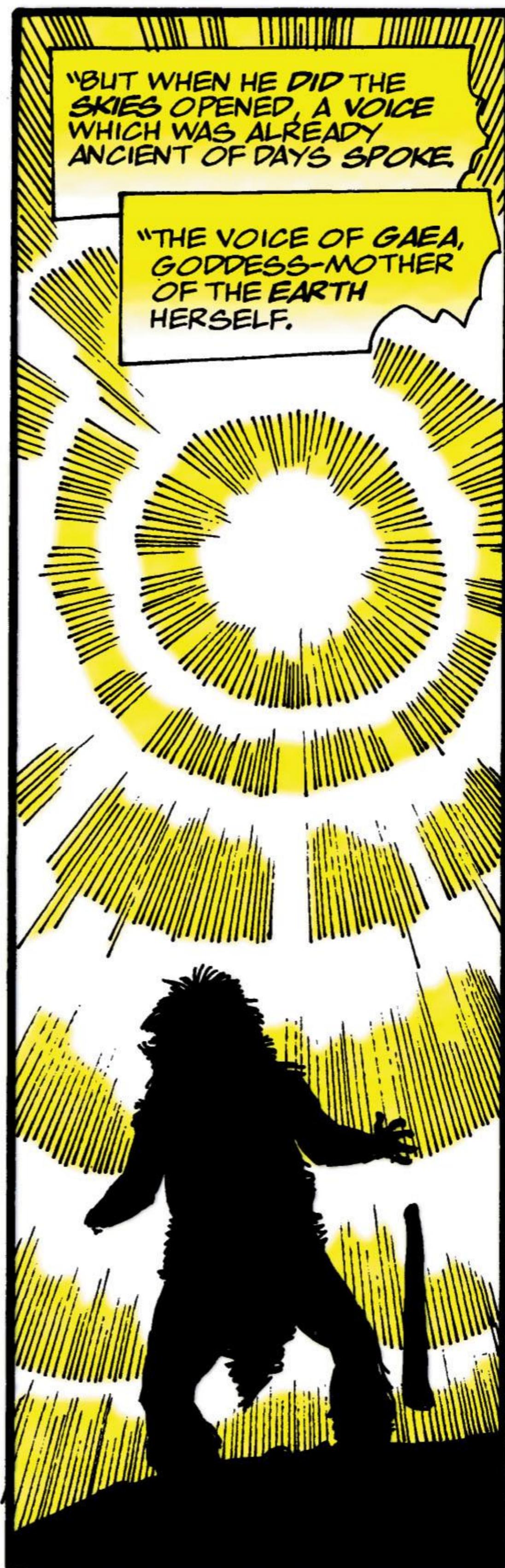
"BOILING OVER WITH RAGE AND FRUSTRATION, HE STRUCK OUT AT THE ONLY TARGET AVAILABLE -- HIS MATE.

"DID HE MEAN TO KILL HER? NO ONE CAN SAY.



"BUT WHEN HE DID THE SKIES OPENED, A VOICE WHICH WAS ALREADY ANCIENT OF DAYS SPOKE.

"THE VOICE OF GAEA, GODDESS-MOTHER OF THE EARTH HERSELF.



"AND THE ESSENCE OF THE MURDERED WOMAN, HER SOUL, TO USE THE MODERN TERM, WAS CALLED FORTH FROM HER BODY.



"CENTURIES LATER,
MANY SUCH SPIRITS HAD
BEEN CALLED. ACROSS THE
DARK WATERS OF THE RIVER
STYX, THEY GATHER IN THE
CAVERN OF SOULS..."

"...AND ONE DAY THERE
CAME TO THAT PLACE, FAR
FROM THEIR BRIGHT HOME
ATOP OLYMPUS, FIVE
GODDESSES."

"DEMETER,
GODDESS OF
THE EARTH..."

"APHRODITE,
GODDESS OF
LOVE AND
BEAUTY..."

"ATHENA,
GODDESS OF
WISDOM..."

"...THE FIRST
WHO BORE THE
NAME ARTEMIS,
GODDESS OF
THE HUNT..."

"...AND LASTLY
HESTIA, GOD-
DESS OF HOME
AND HEARTH."

THANKS
GEORGE!



"THEY GATHERED THERE
WITH A PURPOSE -- TO CALL
FORTH THOSE WAILING
SOULS..."

"...AND CAST THEM DOWN
INTO THE WATERS OF A
SILVER LAKE IN THE VERY
HEART OF THOSE LANDS
OVER WHICH THE
GODDESSES AND THEIR
BRETHREN HELD DOMINION."

"A LAND CALLED GREECE"

"THERE, IN A CEREMONY THAT WAS THE PRECURSOR OF MY OWN CREATION, THE STUFF OF THE EARTH ITSELF WAS SHAPED INTO NEW VESSELS FOR THOSE SOULS."



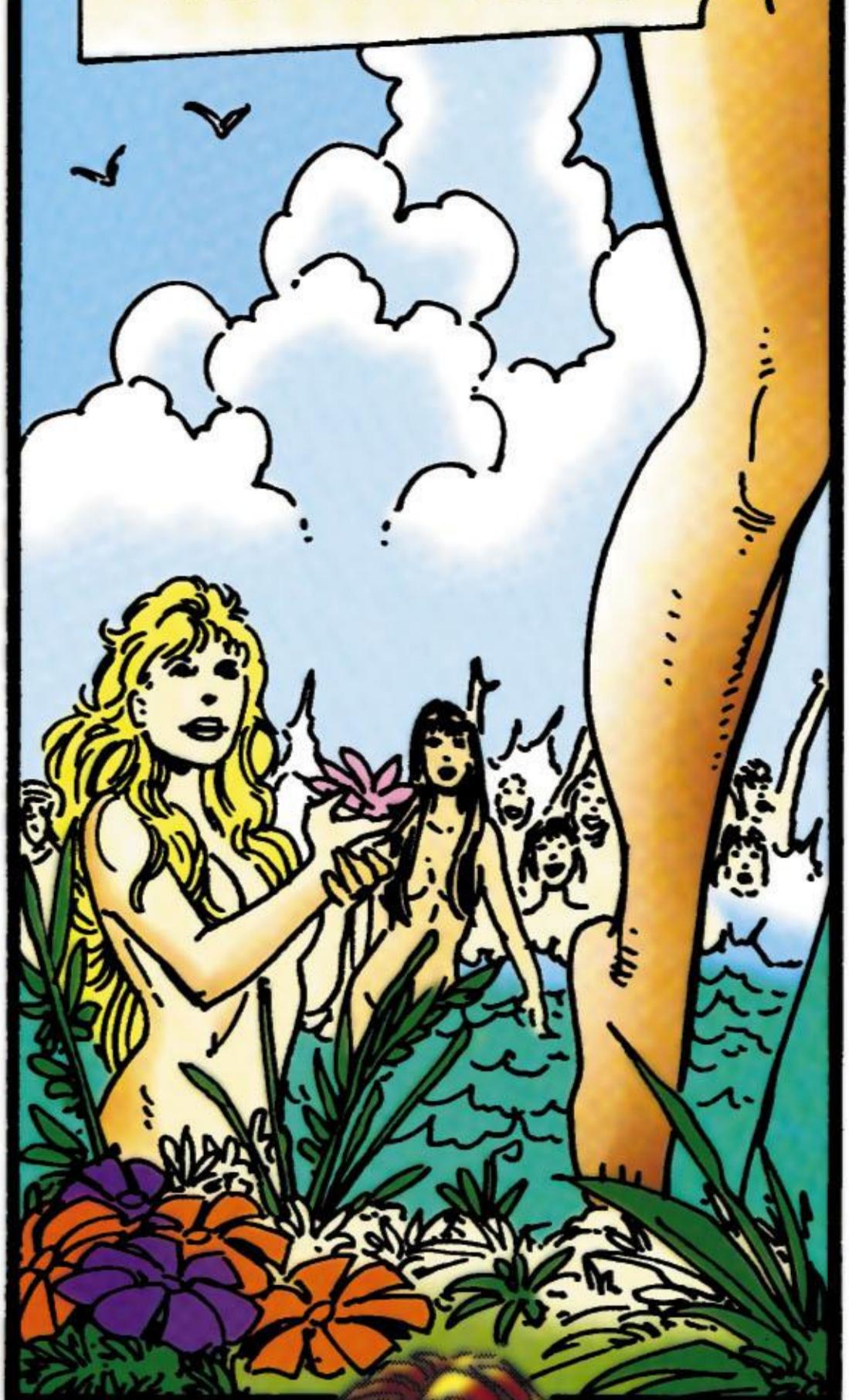
"FIRST TO RISE FROM THE WATERS WERE HIPPOLYTA, MY MOTHER, AND HER SISTER ANTIOME"

"HIPPOLYTA HAD BEEN A WARRIOR QUEEN IN HER PREVIOUS LIFE, AND SHE WAS CHOSEN TO RISE FIRST AS LEADER NOW AS BEFORE."



"THOUSANDS OF SOULS FOUND NEW FORM THAT DAY."

"WOMEN FROM EVERY RACE AND CALLING OF HUMANKIND, SHARING IN COMMON ONLY THAT THEY HAD MET AN UNTIMELY END WITHIN THE LANDS CHERISHED BY THESE GODDESSES."



"AND AS THEY GATHERED ON THE SHORE, THE GODDESSES SPOKE, TO TELL THEM OF THEIR NEW PURPOSE IN THE WORLD!"

"YOU ARE A CHOSEN RACE -- BORN TO LEAD HUMANITY IN THE WAY OF VIRTUE!"

"THROUGH YOU ALL MEN SHALL KNOW US BETTER, AND WORSHIP US ALWAYS!"



"NOW GO, MY DAUGHTERS! HENCEFORTH YOU SHALL FORM A SACRED SISTERHOOD!"

"HENCEFORTH YOU SHALL BE AMAZONS -- AND NONE MAY RESIST YOUR POWER!"



"IF ONLY IT HAD BEEN AS EASY AS ATHENA MADE IT SOUND!"

"THE WORLD WAS THEN A PLACE EVEN MORE SAVAGE THAN IT IS TODAY. A PLACE OF SUFFERING, OF WAR AND CONQUEST. WAR STALKED THOSE EARLY AMAZONS. WAR WITH MEN, WAR WITH GODS."

"AS A PENANCE THEY WERE FOREVER BANISHED FROM THE SHORES OF THEIR HOMELAND, SENT TO ETERNAL EXILE AS GUARDIANS OF A TERRIBLE EVIL IMPRISONED BENEATH AN ISLAND ON A DISTANT SEA."

"IN THE END, THE AMAZONS WERE DRIVEN TO THOSE SAVAGE WAYS THEMSELVES, AND IN SO DOING FAILED THE GODDESSES WHO CREATED THEM."

AND IT WAS FROM THE CLAY OF THAT ISLAND THAT YOU WERE SHAPED, DIANA? HMM... COULD IT BE, I WONDER, THAT THIS EVIL OF WHICH YOU SPOKE SOMEHOW TAINTED THAT CLAY?

CREATED IN IT AN INHERENT WEAKNESS WHICH IS ONLY NOW, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN, MANIFESTING ITSELF?

BUT WHY NOW? WHY NOT RIGHT FROM THE START, OR AS SOON AS DIANA LEFT PARADISE ISLAND, OR...

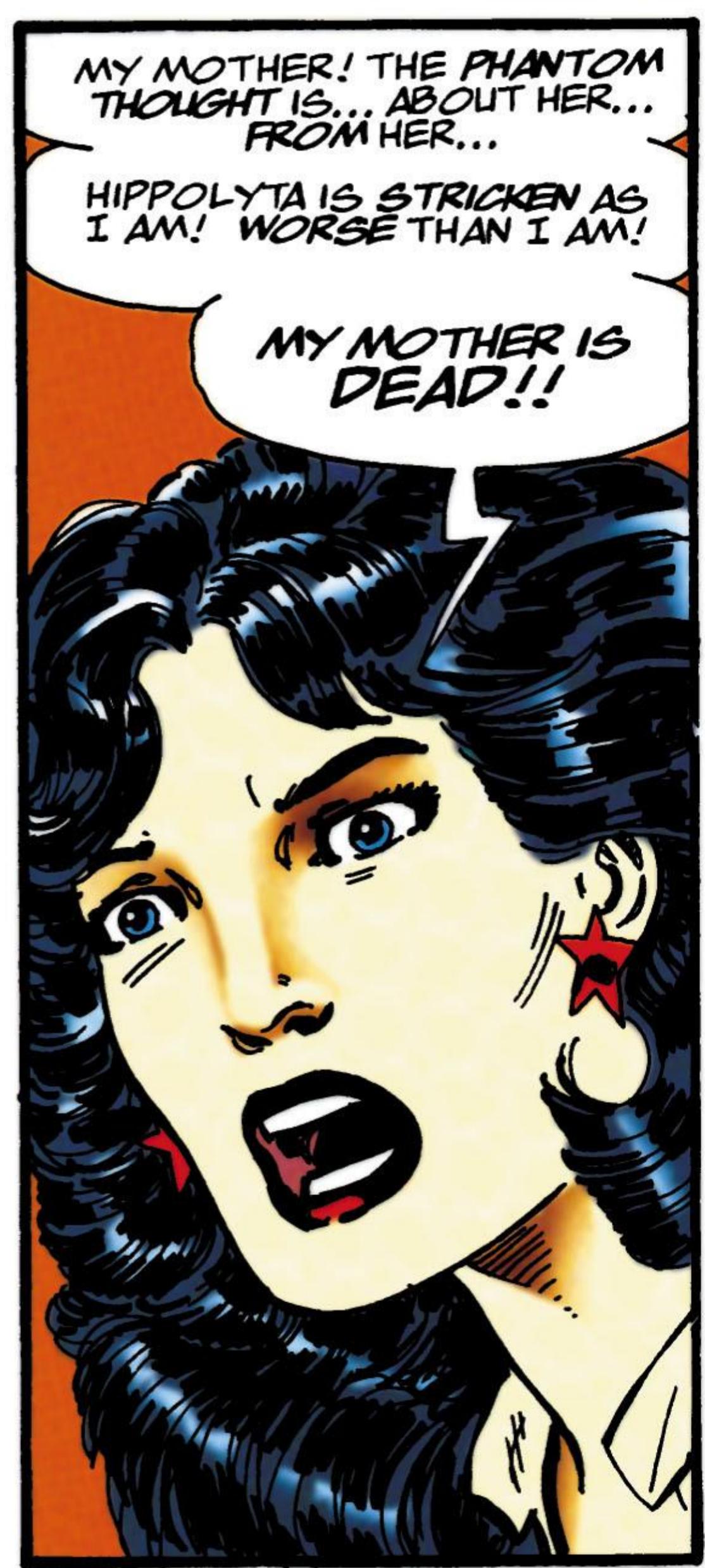
DIANA.?

OH-HH! MY MIND! SOMETHING... SOMETHING JUST BRUSHED AGAINST MY MIND... AGAINST MY THOUGHTS...

MY MOTHER! THE PHANTOM THOUGHT IS... ABOUT HER... FROM HER...

HIPPOLYTA IS STRICKEN AS I AM! WORSE THAN I AM!

MY MOTHER IS DEAD!!



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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE OTHER MS. SANDMARK, JOANNA, FOR DOING OUR HOMEWORK FOR US!

Gateway To Boston









LONG AGO, WHEN THE GODS WERE TROUBLED, THEY WOULD DISGUISE THEMSELVES AND WALK AMONGST HUMANITY.

SO MANY FORGET I AM, AFTER ALL, HUMAN.



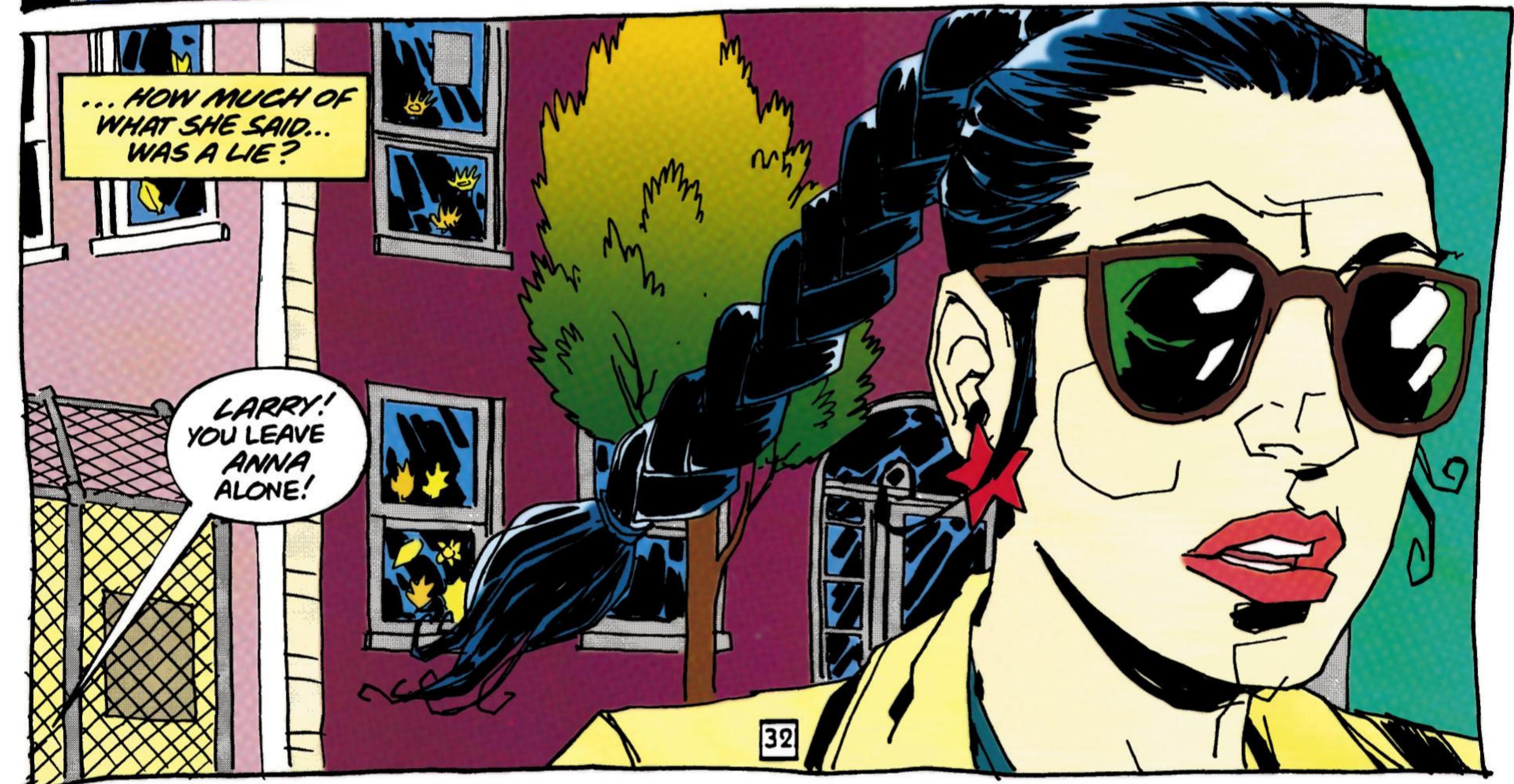
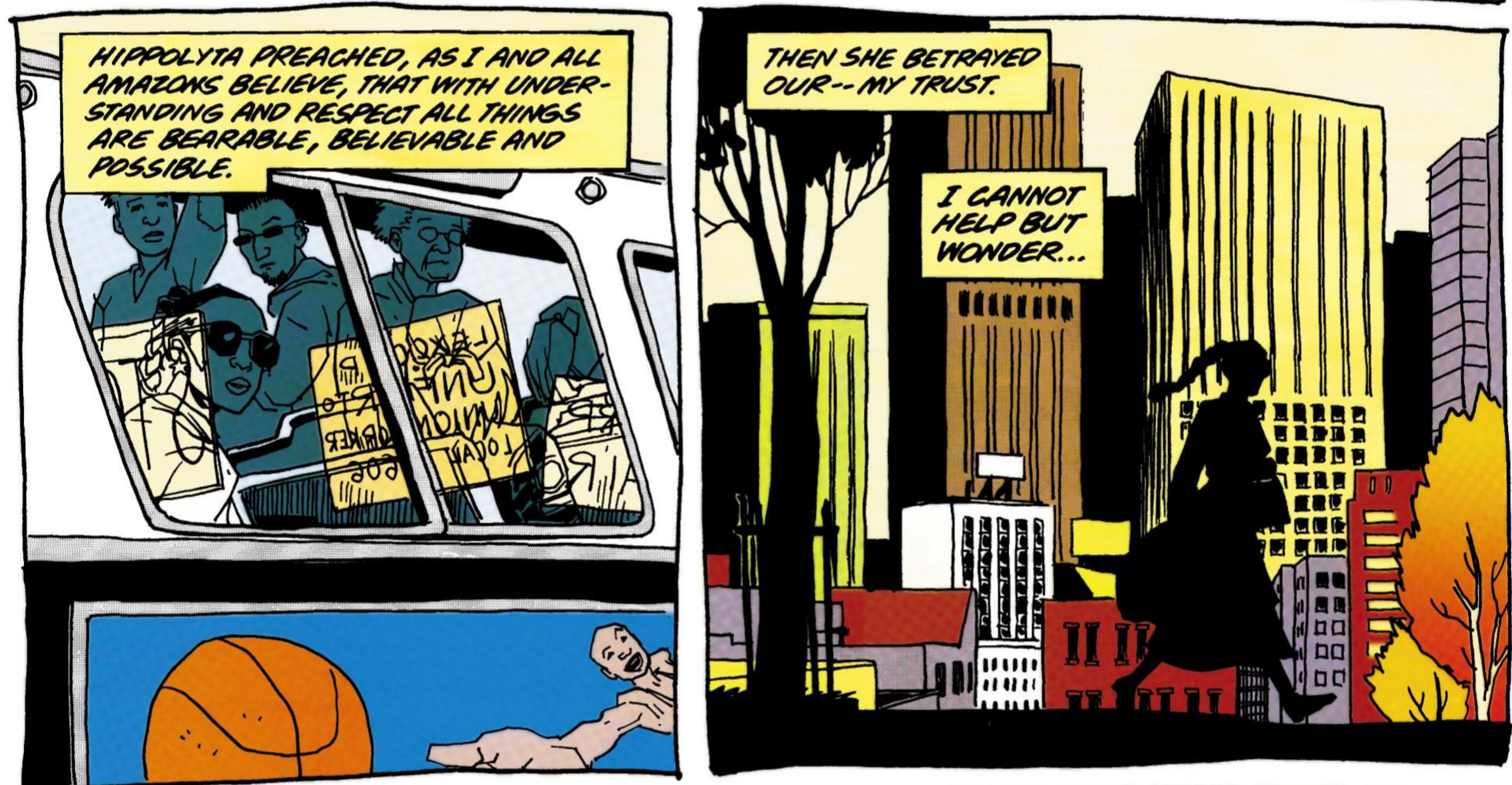
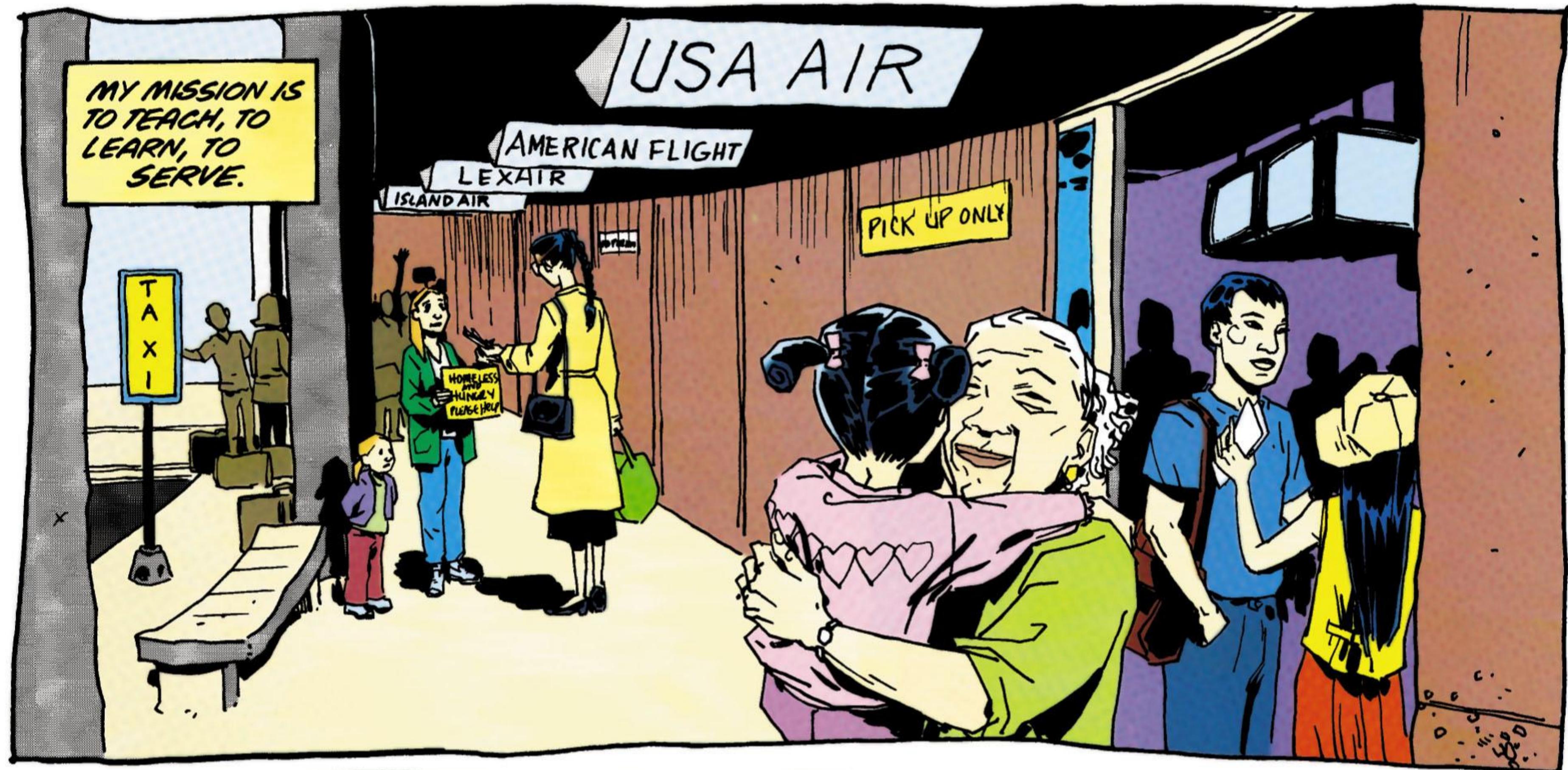
THE SUPER-HEROES OF THIS PLANET AND BEYOND... THEIR MISSION IS TO AVENGE, TO PROTECT, TO POLICE.

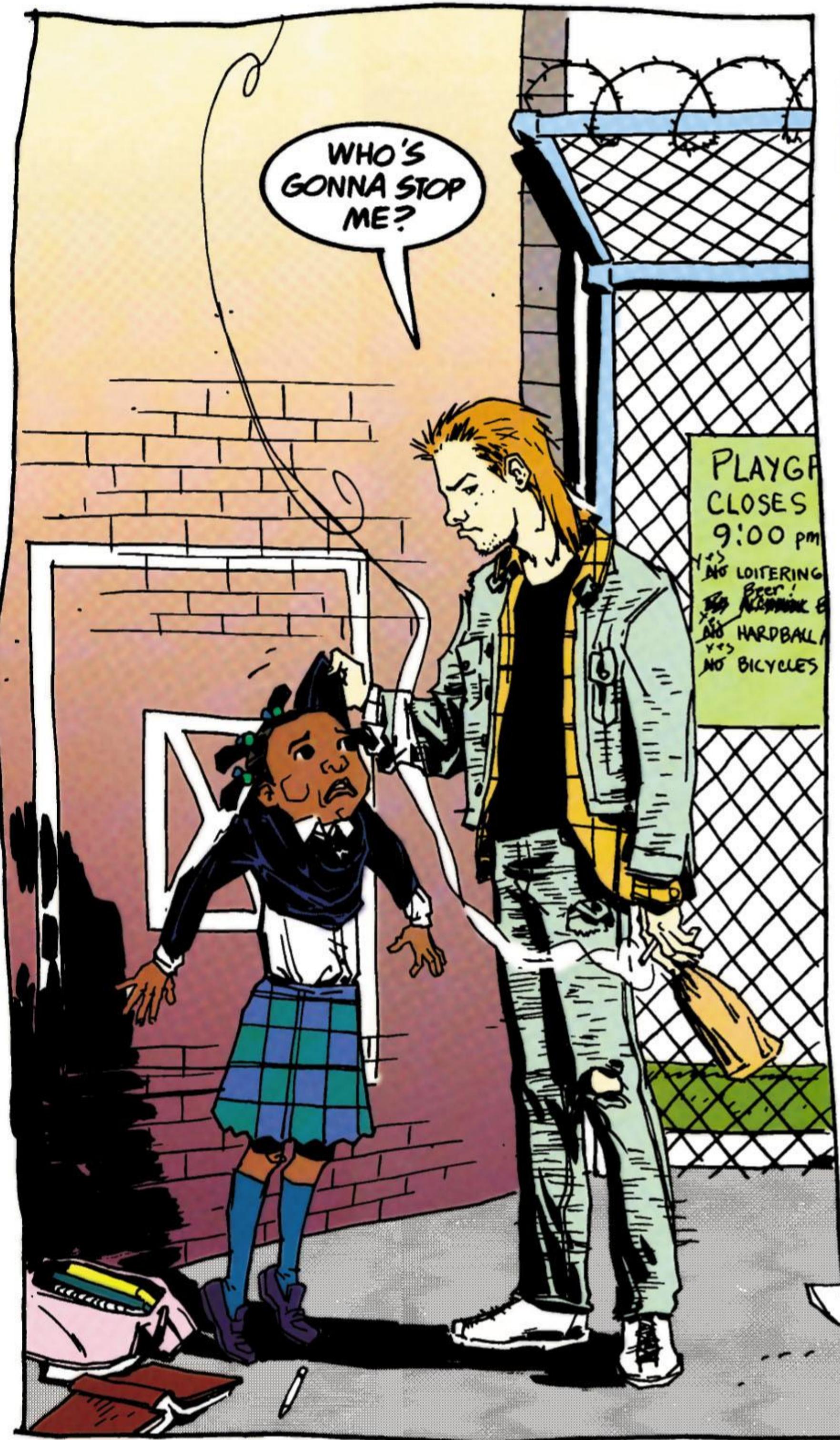
PLACE ALL BAGS IN CONVEYOR BELT.
DO NOT LEAVE GEAR UNATTENDED.
CONCEALED WEAPONS OF ANY KIND ARE PROHIBITED.

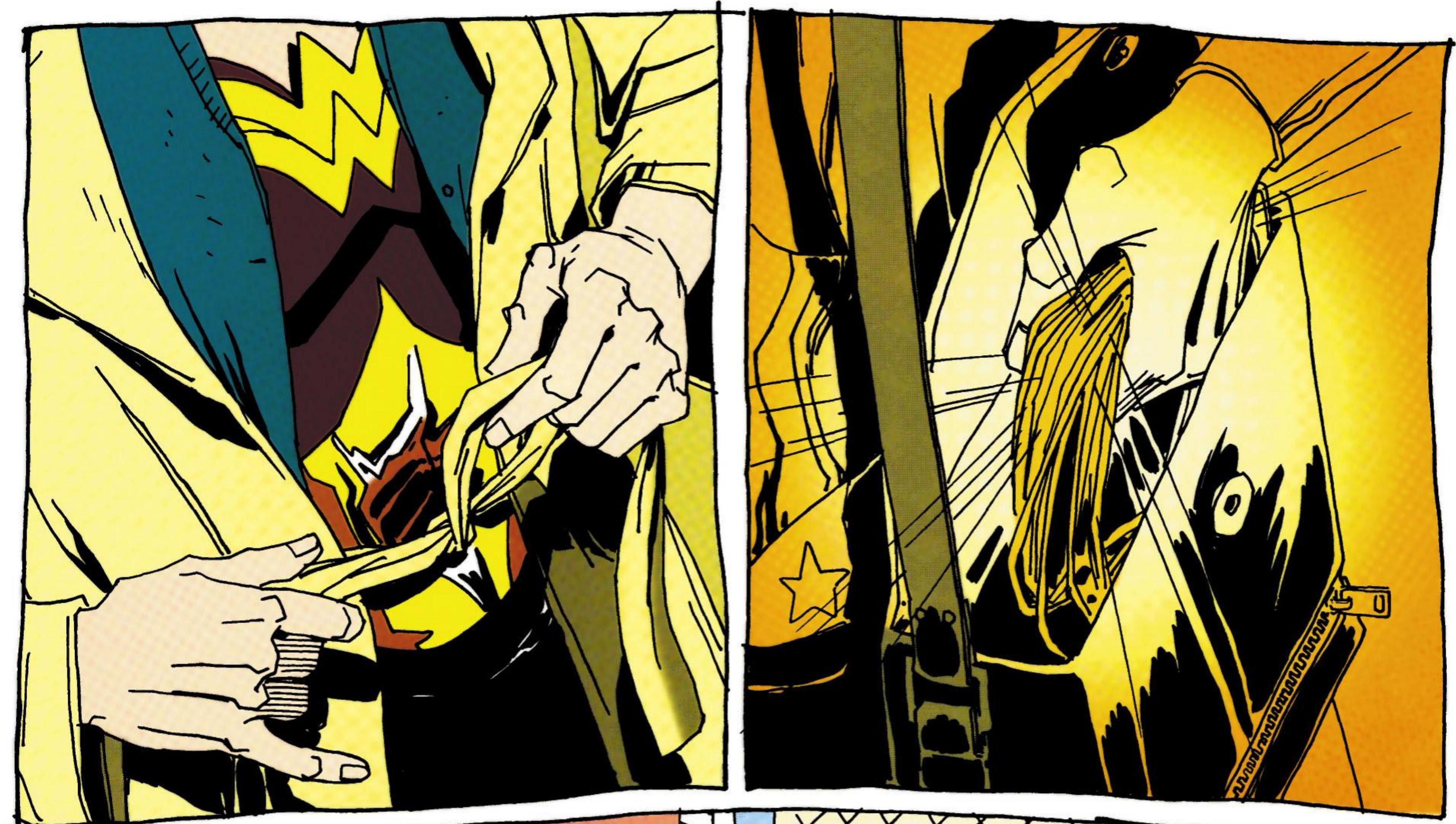
MINE IS DIFFERENT.

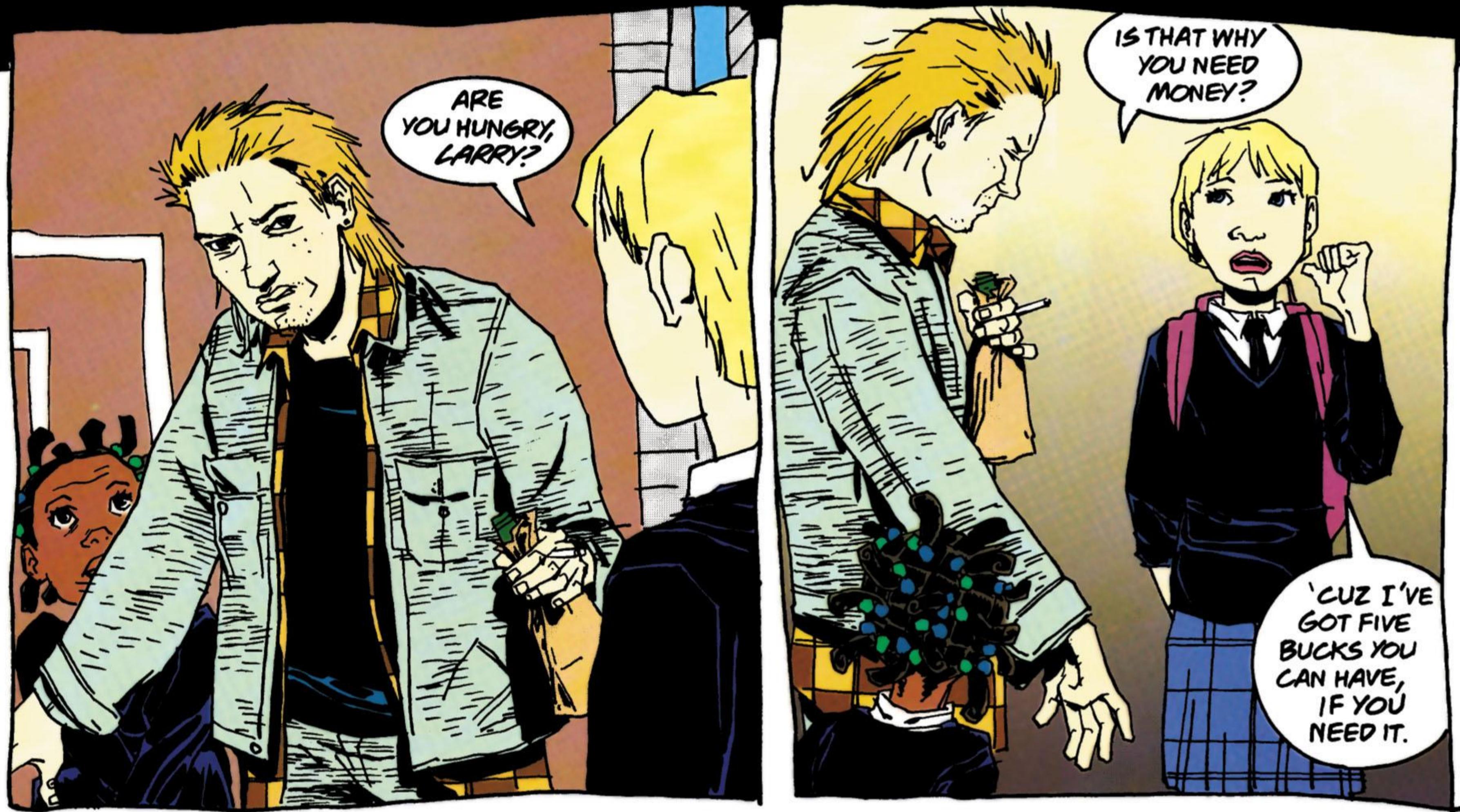
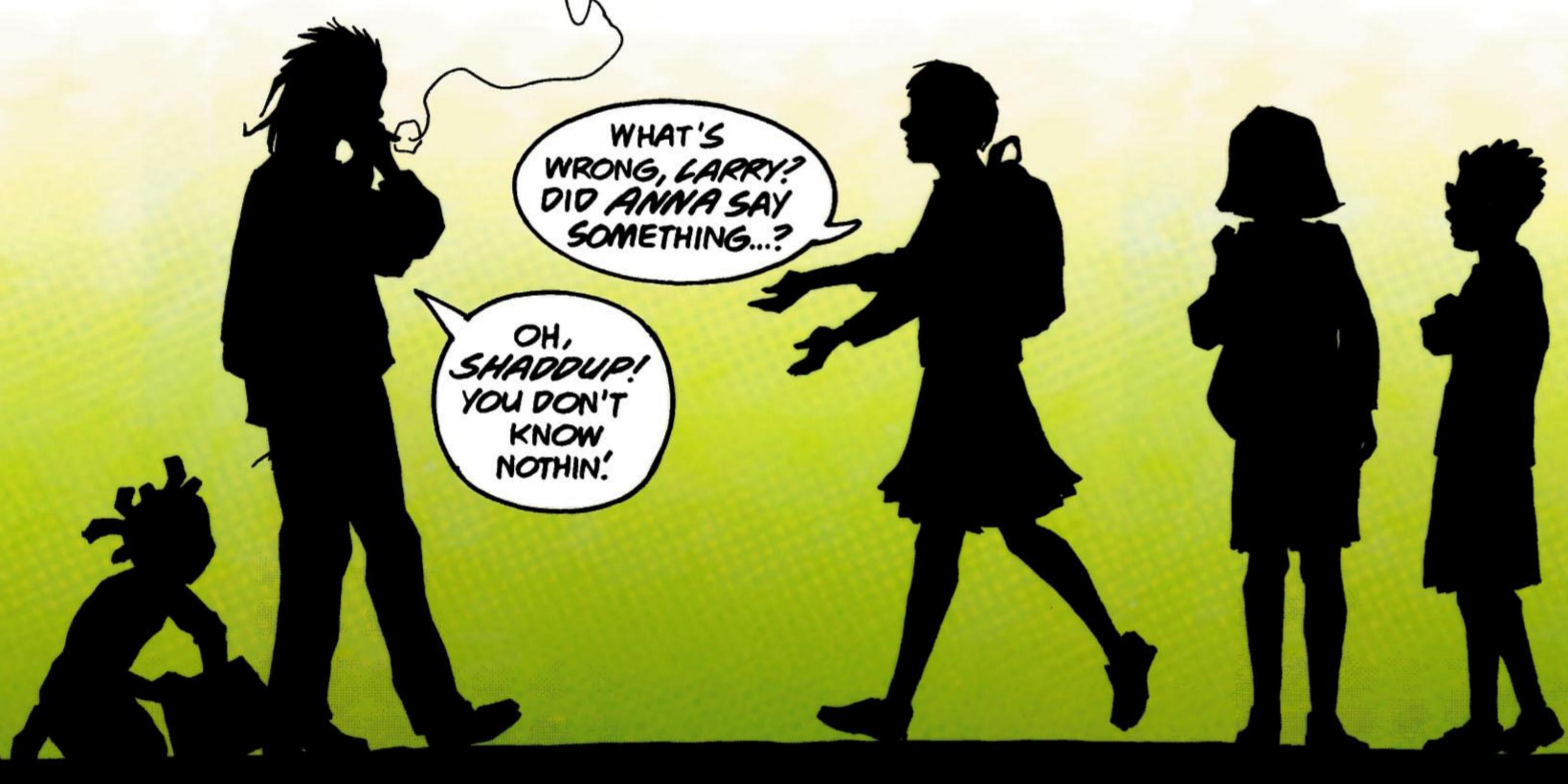
NO, HONEY. YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF.

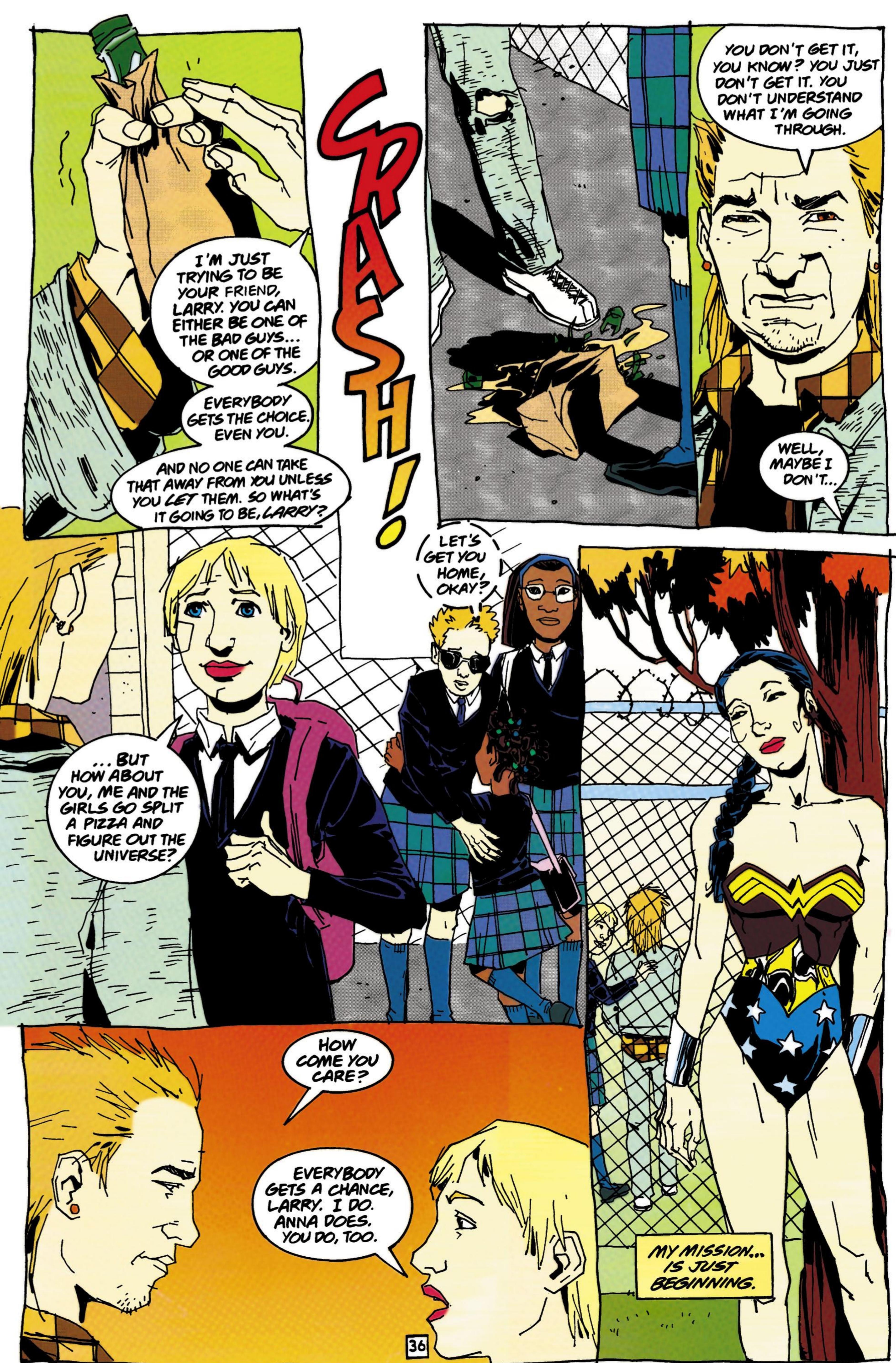














BOLLAND
AFTER THE GREAT
ROSS ANDRU

THE THRILLING RETURN
OF DC'S MOST
PREPOSTEROUS VILLAIN,
EGG FU!



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