



**FOR ONE  
NIGHT ONLY!**

**ETTA CANDY**  
**IS THE PRINCESS  
OF POWER!**  
*(Poor Etta!)*

# WONDER WOMAN

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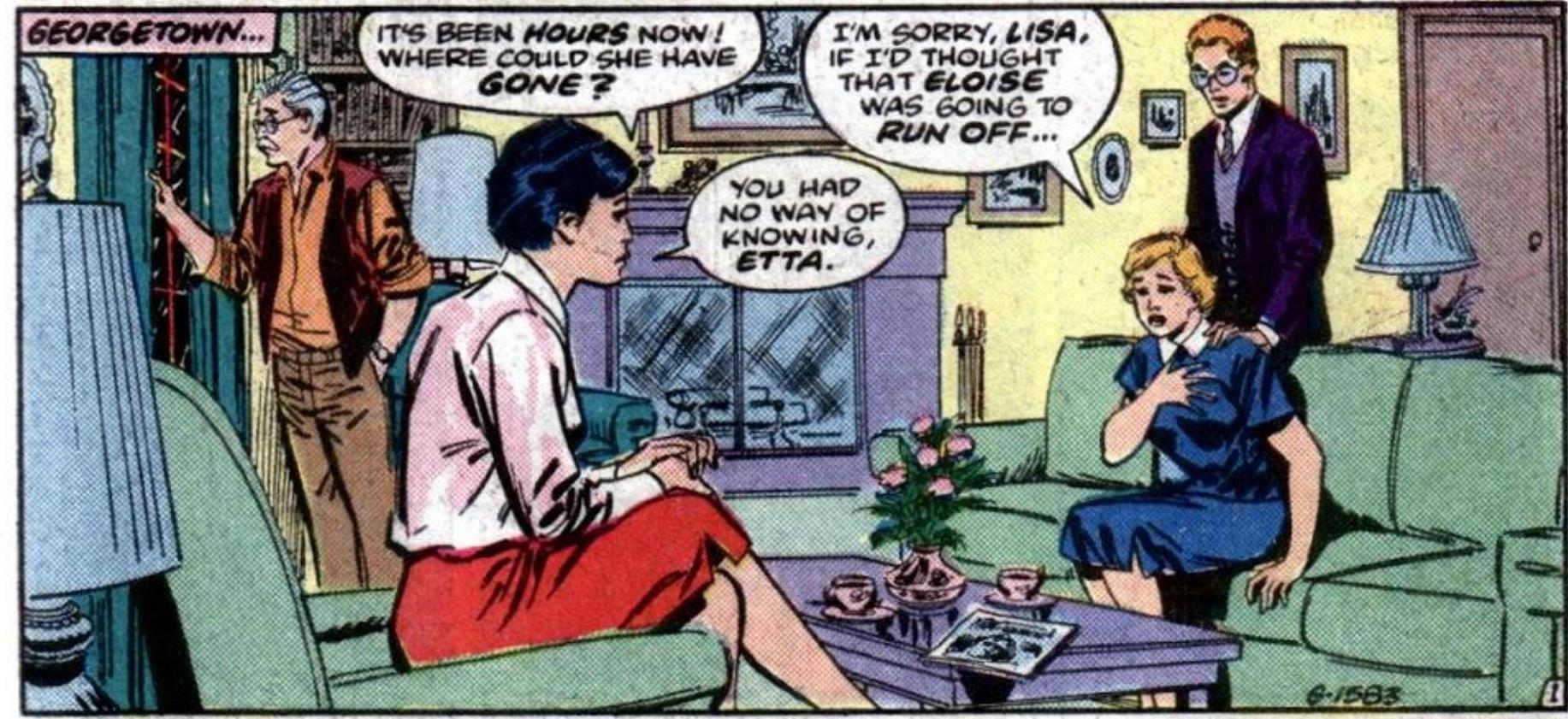
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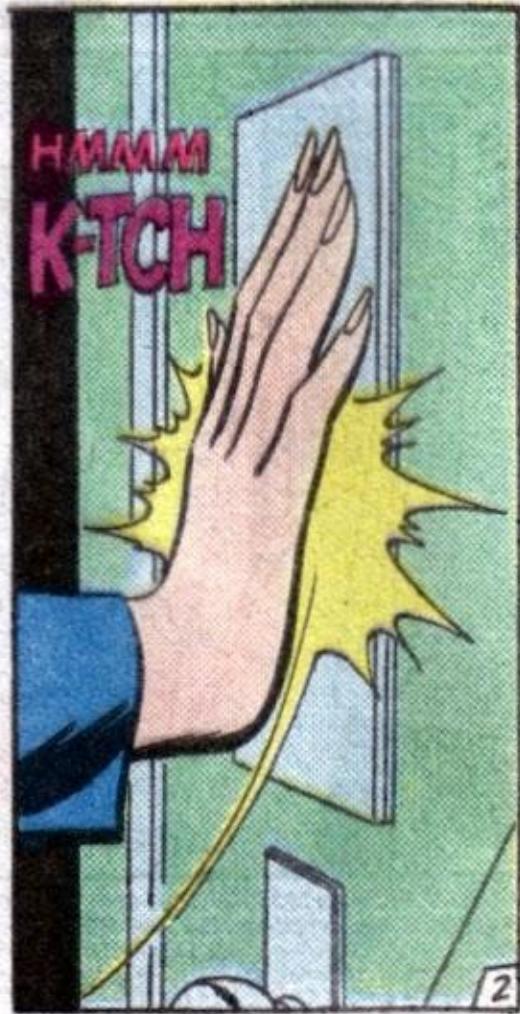
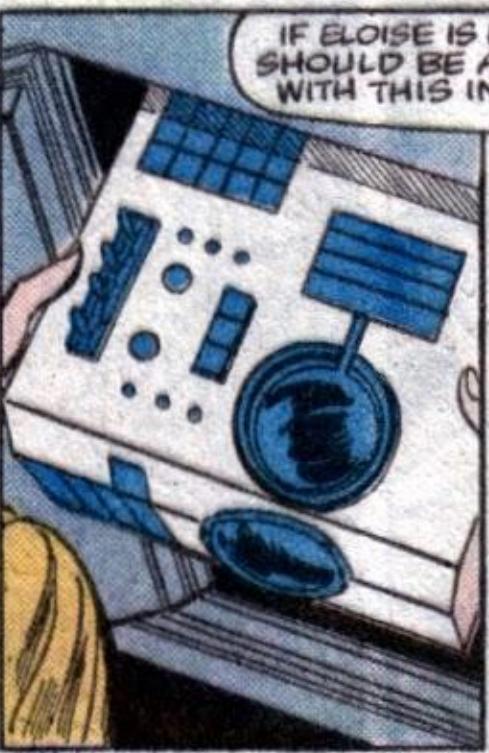
## **THE NEW**

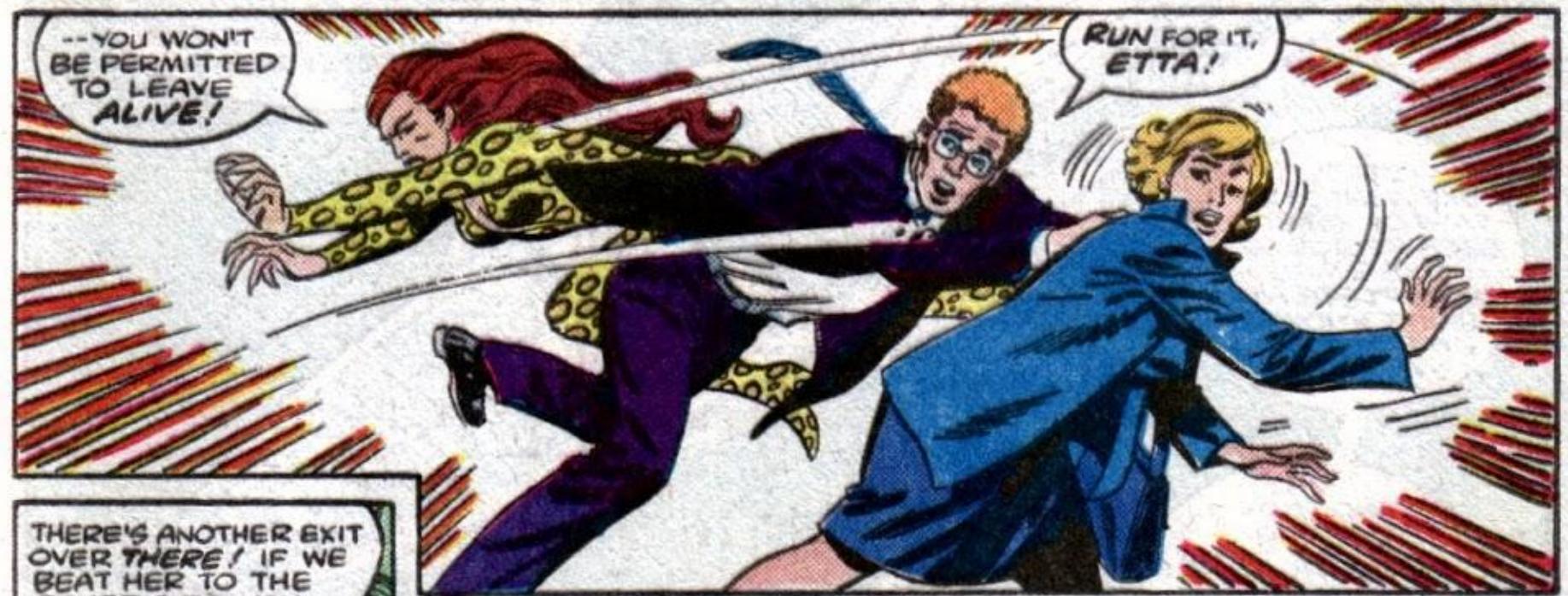


**THERE'S NO  
STOPPING  
US NOW.**



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**S**HE WAS BORN A PRINCESS -- DAUGHTER OF HIPPOLYTA, QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS -- BUT SHE LEFT THE TRANQUIL GROVES OF PARADISE ISLAND TO BATTLE EVIL IN A WORLD SHE NEVER MADE! SHE IS BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE ... WISE AS ATHENA ... STRONGER THAN HERCULES... SWIFTER THAN MERCURY! SHE IS...

# WONDER WOMAN



## NIGHT OF MANY WONDERS

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, ANGEL, BUT I FEEL TERRIFIC! NOW THAT I SHARE THE MEMORIES OF THE FIRST STEVE TREVOR-- \*

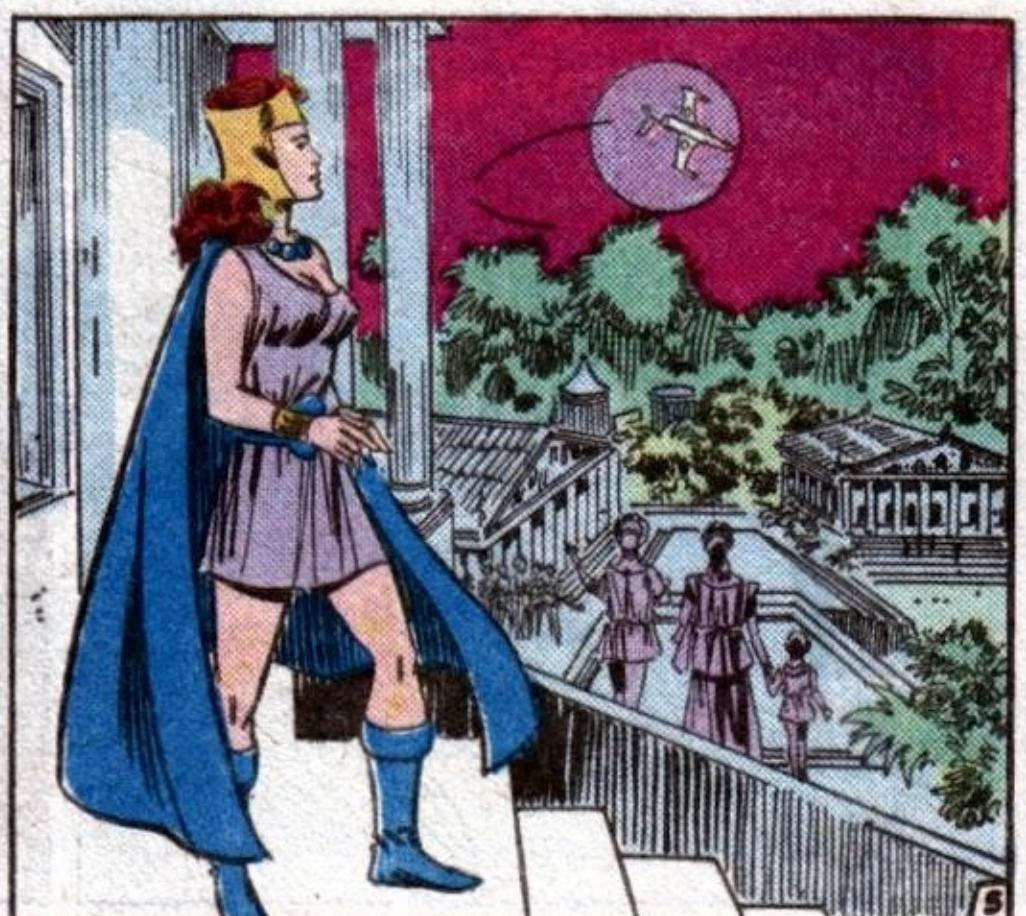
--I FEEL LIKE A MISSING PART OF ME HAS BEEN RESTORED... LIKE I WAS INCOMPLETE AND DIDN'T KNOW IT-- AND NOW I'M WHOLE!

AND IT'S GREAT TO DISCOVER THAT YOU AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FROM THE START!

DAN MISHKIN -- WRITER, DON MECK -- ARTIST, PHIL FELIX -- LETTERER, NAMSI KUOLAHAN -- COLORIST, ALAN GOLD -- EDITOR.

\*SEE LAST ISSUE FOR THE DRAMATIC DETAILS -- ALAN.





"LET'S JUST HEAD BACK TO WASHINGTON!"

YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT SHE-- THAT THIS-- IS WONDER WOMAN?!

SORRY I LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG, ETTA! I GUESS I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOUR SECRET!

BUT THIS IS CRAZY! I'M NOT WONDER WOMAN! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO BE!

YOUR PROTESTS ARE ALMOST CONVINCING, AMAZON!

YOU MUST THINK THAT BY REFUSING TO ABANDON YOUR DISGUISE, YOU'LL FOOL ME YET!

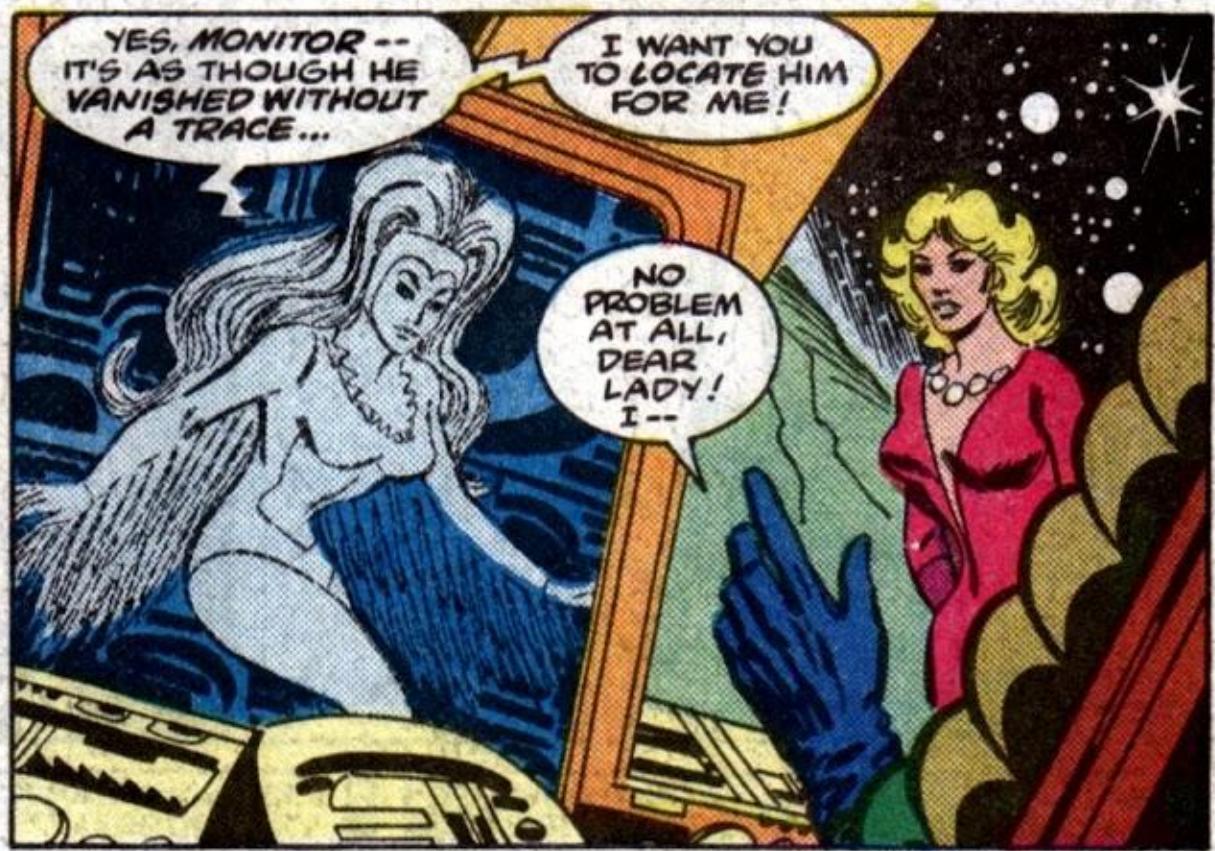
H-HEY!

BUT YOU WILL DROP THAT POSE--

--ONLY TO FIND THAT YOU ARE HELPLESS IN THE CLAWS OF THE CHEE-

FSSSH!

LET'S MOVE OUT, ETTA--RUN! RUN AS THOUGH YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!



AND IN THE GEORGETOWN HOME  
OF LISA ABERNATHY...

ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU  
CAN DO, BRAD? THE POLICE AND  
THE MILITARY ARE ARGUING  
ABOUT WHO SHOULD SEARCH  
FOR HER--

--AND  
NEITHER  
OF THEM IS  
ACTUALLY  
DOING IT!

I CAN MAKE SOME CALLS AND  
CLEAR UP THE RED TAPE -- BUT  
PEOPLE ARE GOING TO WONDER  
WHAT MY INTEREST IS!

OUR  
RELATIONSHIP  
MIGHT END UP  
ALL OVER THE  
GOSSIP  
COLUMNS!

AND YOU  
DON'T WANT TO  
MESS UP YOUR  
RE-ELECTION BID,  
IS THAT IT?

IT'S NOT MY CAREER  
I'M WORRIED ABOUT,  
LISA! WHAT WILL YOUR  
VIEWERS THINK--WHAT  
WILL YOUR BOSSES  
THINK--

--ABOUT A  
CAPITOL HILL  
REPORTER  
WHO'S GOT A  
ROMANCE GOING  
WITH A  
SENATOR?

IT DOESN'T  
MATTER, BRAD...!

NOTHING  
MATTERS EXCEPT  
FINDING MY  
LITTLE GIRL!

AND WHERE EXACTLY  
IS ELOISE ABERNATHY?

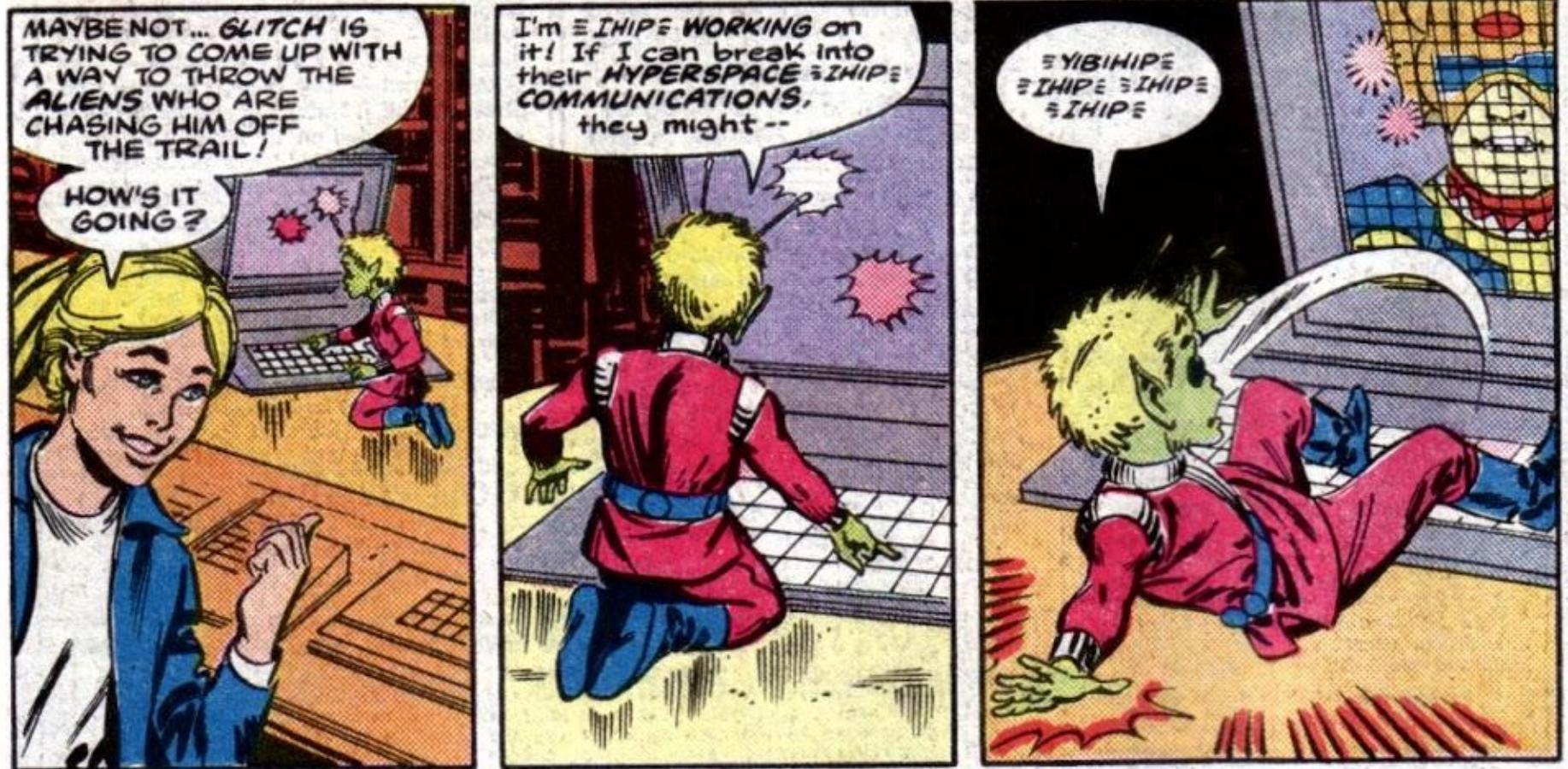
I WISH WE  
DIDN'T HAVE  
TO KEEP IT  
SO DARK  
IN HERE!

DON'T  
WORRY,  
WEEZE--  
I'LL  
TAKE  
CARE OF  
YOU!

KEEP YOUR HANDS  
TO YOURSELF,  
KEVIN!

DON'T  
START  
FIGHTING  
AGAIN,  
YOU GUYS!  
ANYWAY,  
ELOISE, IF  
IT WASN'T  
FOR KEVIN  
GETTING US  
INTO HIS  
DAD'S  
STORE ...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.



ELSEWHERE, ANOTHER BATTLE IS JOINED --  
A BATTLE AGAINST AN IMPLACABLE ENEMY  
IN THE KILLER SKIES!

VRROOOM!  
CLIMBING TO  
THIRTY THOUSAND  
FEET!

AND THOUGH SOME HAVE CALLED DR. PSYCHO A  
VILLAIN... HE IS IN FACT A HERO...

AGHH!  
I'M HIT!  
I'M GOING  
DOWN!

HAVING  
FUN,  
DOC?

...IN THE BATTLEGROUND  
OF HIS OWN MIND!

WHAT--  
OH, IT'S  
YOU!

I AM  
A  
DREAMER,  
CHEETAH!  
I ALWAYS  
HAVE  
BEEN!

AND THE  
ECTOPLASMIC  
EXTRACTOR  
YOU STOLE WILL  
ALLOW ME TO  
MAKE MY  
DREAMS INTO  
REALITY WITH-  
OUT MY NEEDING  
A HUMAN  
MEDIUM  
TO --

WHO  
IN THE  
WORLD  
ARE  
THEY?!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT  
HIM... BUT THAT'S  
WONDER WOMAN IN  
HER SECRET  
IDENTITY!

I BROUGHT  
HER HERE BECAUSE,  
ACCORDING TO THE  
MONITOR, THE AMAZON  
IS HELPLESS IF A  
MAN BINDS HER  
WRISTS!

SHE LOOKS HELPLESS  
NOW! ARE YOU CERTAIN  
THIS IS WONDER  
WOMAN?

I'M SURE  
OF IT! JUST DO  
ME A FAVOR,  
BUG EYES, AND  
TIE HER UP!



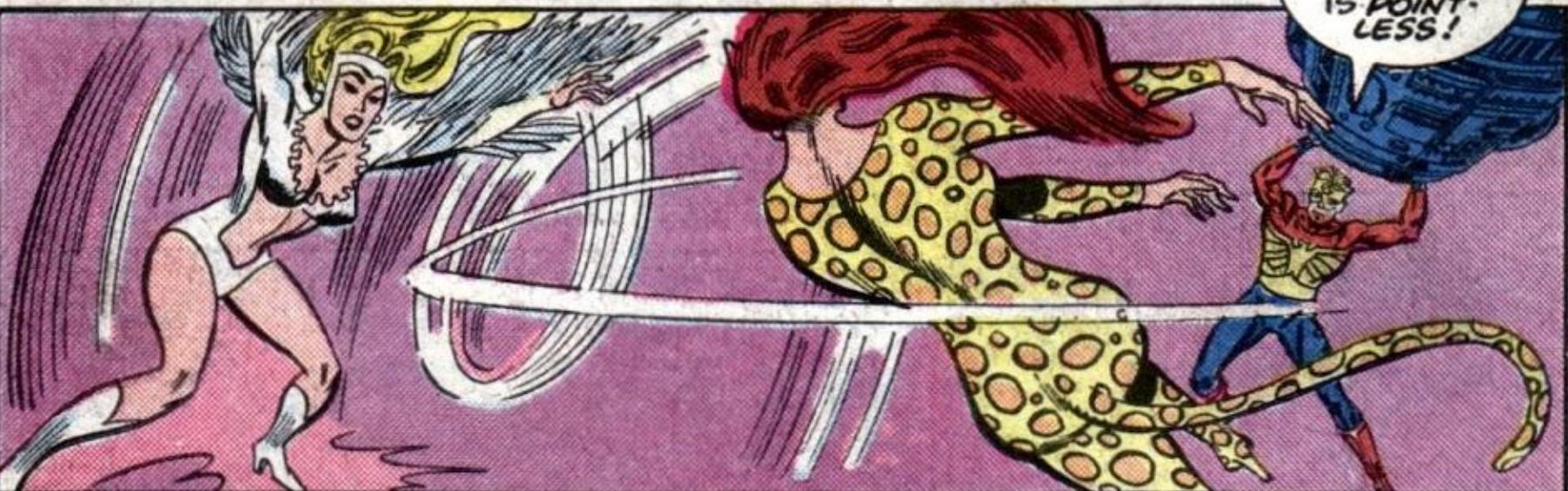


...AND BIRDS ARE ONLY  
PREY FOR CATS LIKE  
ME!

SLASSH

NO! MY  
BEAUTIFUL  
FEATHERS!

STOP IT!  
BOTH OF YOU!  
THIS FIGHTING  
IS POINT-  
LESS!



THE CHEETAH  
WAS ONLY HERE  
TO DO A JOB  
FOR ME,  
SILVER SWAN!

AND WHAT  
YOU TOOK AS AN  
EMBRACE WAS  
JUST AN  
ARGUMENT...

--ABOUT WHAT  
TO DO WITH THE  
MORTAL GUISE  
OF WONDER  
WOMAN!

THUD!

ETTA CANDY?!  
SHE'S WONDER  
WOMAN?

AND TO  
THINK THAT  
AS HELEN  
ALEXANDROS  
I LIVED  
UNDER THE  
SAME ROOF  
WITH HER!

SHE WAS  
HELEN?!  
I KNEW  
THERE WAS  
SOMETHING  
WEIRD  
ABOUT  
THAT GAL!

BUT NOW THAT YOU  
TELL ME, I CAN SEE  
THE PERVERSE LOGIC  
OF IT! IN A WAY  
IT MAKES PERFECT  
SENSE...

ETTA CANDY IS  
WONDER WOMAN!

I'M GLAD IT MAKES SENSE TO SOMEBODY! WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE?!

THERE IS ONE WHO KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THAT QUITE WELL ...

...BUT THE MONITOR KEEPS HIS OWN COUNSEL!

IS THAT LITTLE BUTTERBALL REALLY WONDER WOMAN?

I'VE SEEN UNLIKELY COMBINATIONS OF SUPER-HERO AND SECRET IDENTITY, LYLA!

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY A YES OR A NO!

IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE, MY DEAR...

BREEP BREEP

EXCUSE ME-- I HAVE ANOTHER CALL.

MONITOR--ANGLE MAN HERE! YOU GOT ME MY ANGLER BACK-- BUT I STILL CAN'T POWER IT UP!

WHAT GIVES!?

BUT THE SOLUTION TO YOUR PROBLEM CAN BE FOUND AT THE NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM!

MY APOLOGIES... WE'VE BEEN VERY BUSY.

HUH?! THAT'S WHERE DOCTOR PSYCHO, THE CHEETAH AND THE SILVER SWAN ARE!

YOU MUST THINK THIS IS FUNNY OR SOMETHING! YOU'RE PROBABLY GETTING A REAL KICK OUT OF THIS!

WHY, LYLA ... WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?

IF THERE IS LAUGHTER  
IN THE MONITOR'S HEART,  
HE DOES NOT REVEAL IT!



INSTEAD, HE SEEKS AS  
STOLID AS EVER... AS  
JOYLESS AS THE MAN  
WHOSE LIGHTS ARE  
BURNING AT THIS S.T.A.R.  
LABS RESEARCH CENTER...

...A TROUBLED, TORMENTED MAN  
NAMED GARDNER GRAYLE!

WHY MUST I BE  
THE ONLY ONE  
WHO SEES THESE  
VISIONS?

IF ONLY THEY'D  
GO AWAY! IF  
ONLY I COULD  
FORGET THEM!



THEN, AT LEAST, WHEN  
THE WORLD WAS REDUCED  
TO NUCLEAR RUBBLE--

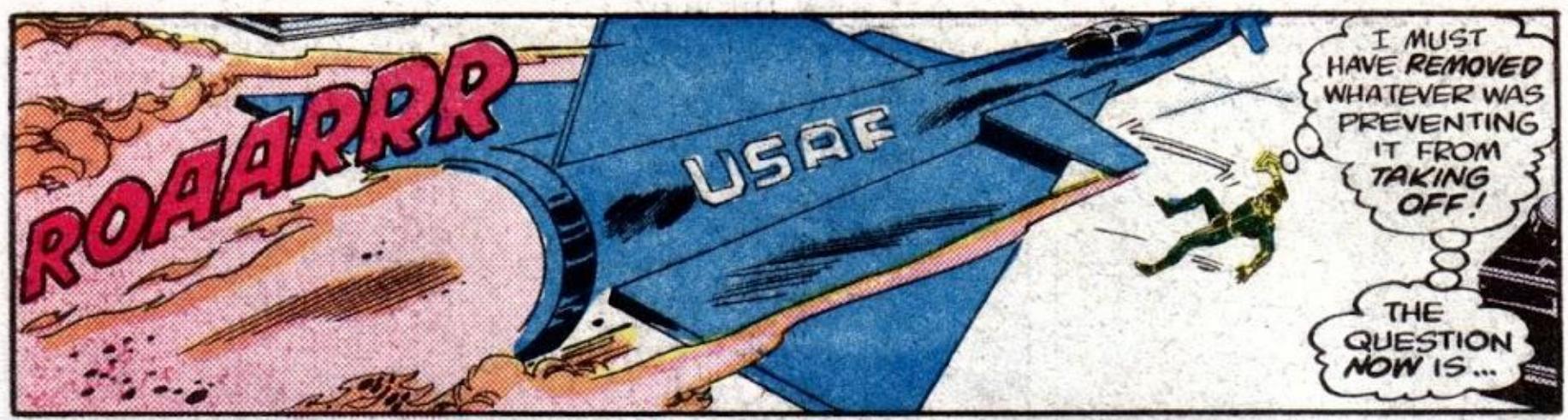
--I WOULD HAVE  
SHARED THE  
BLESSING OF  
IGNORANCE  
BEFOREHAND!

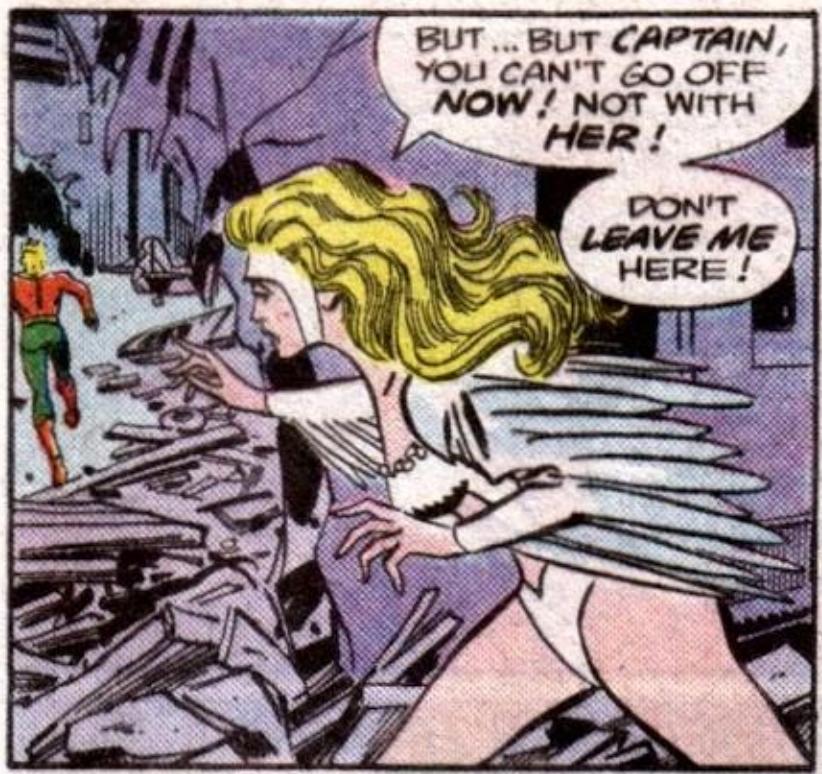




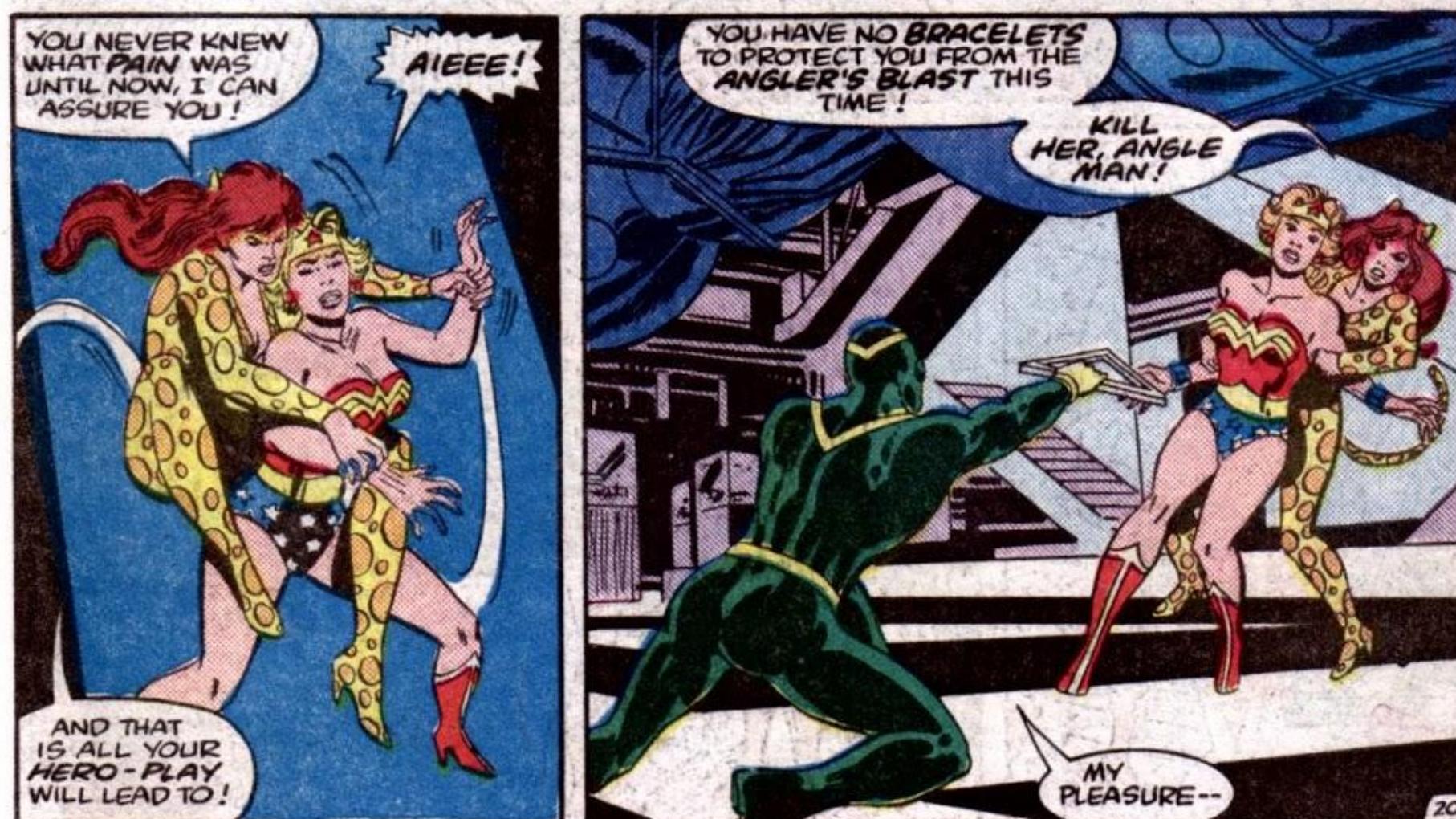
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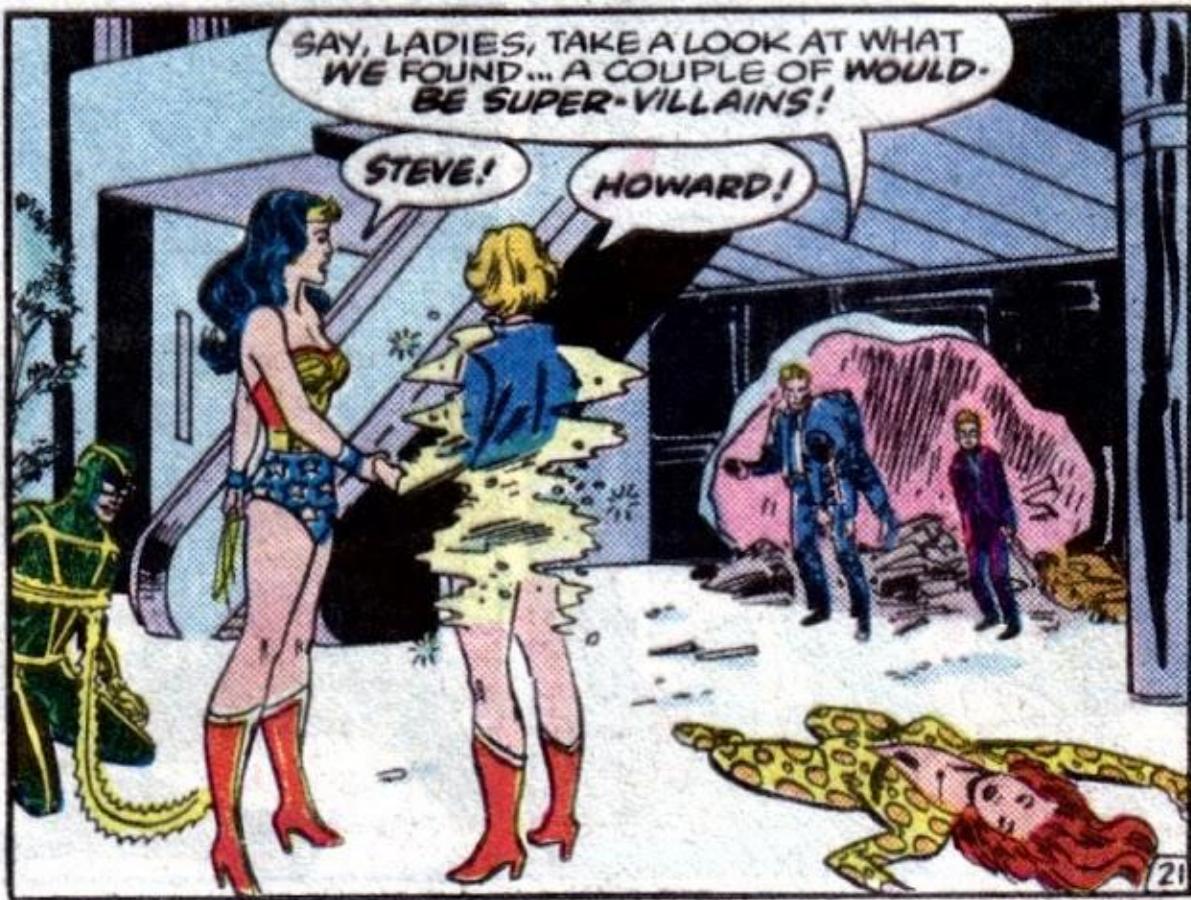
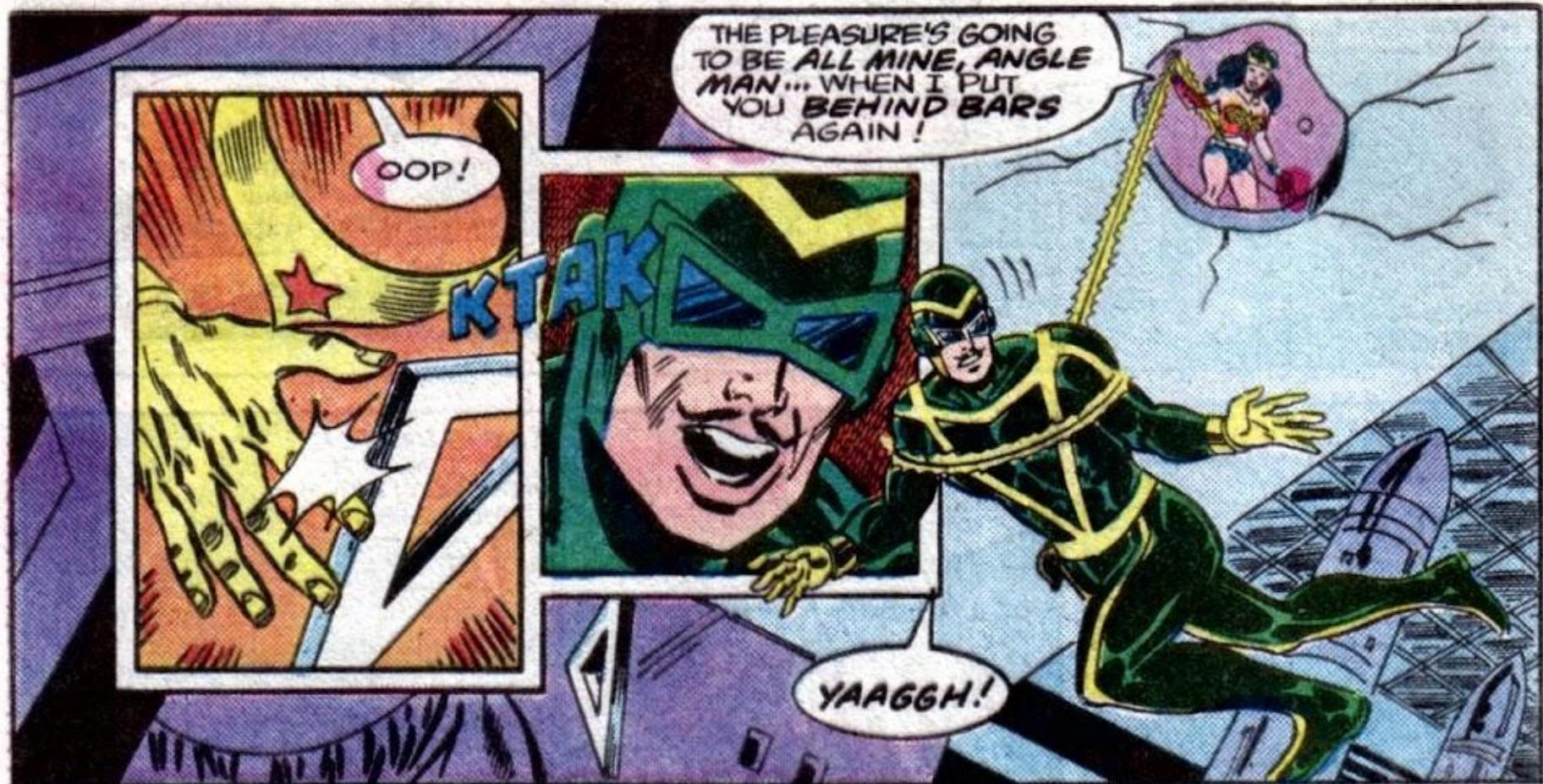


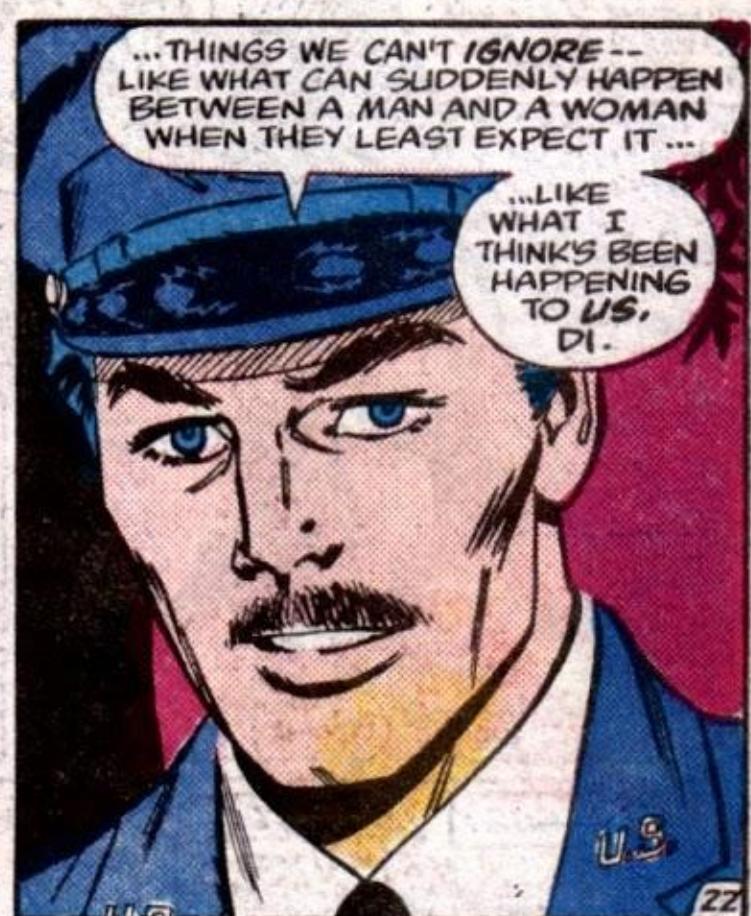
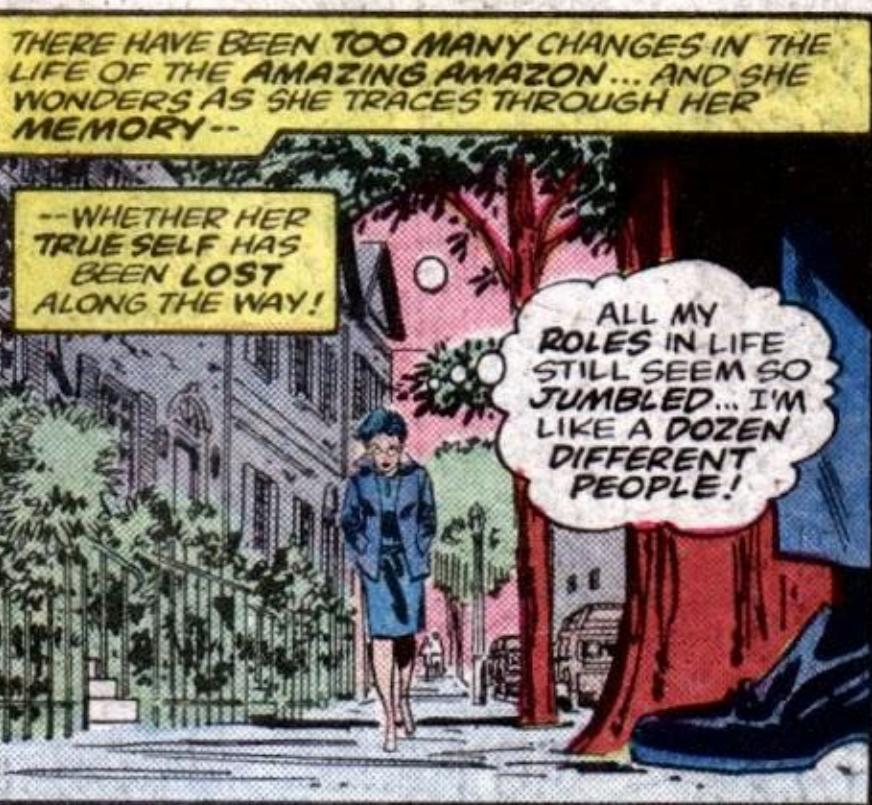
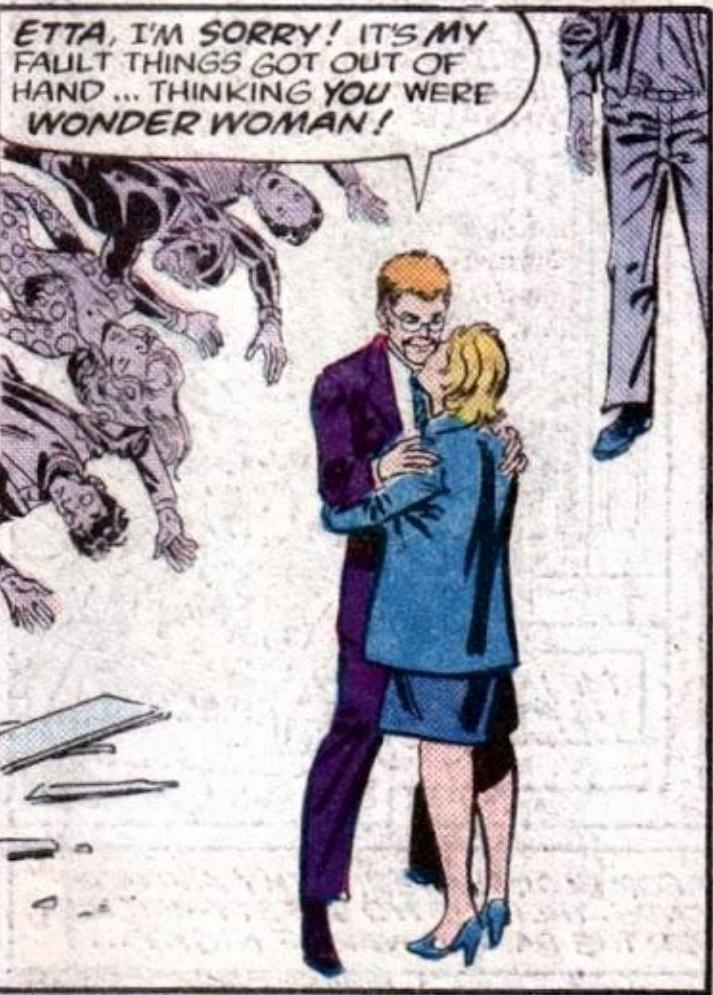














NEXT ISSUE: ALIENS, RUSSIANS... AND THE **ATOMIC KNIGHT!**



# Wonder Words

L-1802

Quite awhile back now, when I was just getting the hang of this funnybook-editing racket, I mentioned to Dan Mishkin that it might be fun someday to put together a "Big Villain" issue of **WONDER WOMAN**—a double or triple threat for our Princess of Power, with each foe a grade-A nuisance in his or her own right. Dan, who has plans of his own for the storylines of this comic, said something like, "Sure, Alan, sure—anything you say," and adroitly switched the subject. During many another conversation I complimented Dan on his treatment of Etta Candy and hinted that we might do worse than to devote the better part of an issue to Di's irrepressible roommate. At such times, Dan would feign interest, of course, and then announce that Grace, his irrepressible daughter, wanted a snack or had a skit on "Sesame Street" to show him and he had to cut the phonecall short without a moment's delay.

Imagine my surprise, therefore, when Dan declared one day that he had thought up just the story I wanted: a "Big Etta-and-the-Villains" issue. It all came together in his mind, he said, when he was looking for a noteworthy situation to bring the Monitor to these pages. The Monitor, as everybody knows, is a mysterious figure who's been snooping on the whole DC Universe from a gold-colored satellite—he's been spying for quite some time now, though in the beginning he concentrated on the New Teen Titans. I don't think his presence has been omitted from any DC comic lately (excepting maybe *SUGAR 'N SPIKE*). You'll find out soon enough what he's up to, in the imminent *CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS* maxi-series—the first issue will be on sale next month.

Anyway, like all DC writers, Dan had to work a Monitor story into the regular continuity of his book. I think Dan can take a bow for putting together the very best Monitor story to appear prior to the *CRISIS* maxi-series. If you agree, drop me a line. (If you disagree, please start writing right away. I love controversy! If you have something else entirely on your mind, you have an excellent reason to write—so why are you waiting?)

Dear Wonder Folks,

I am writing to thank you for the much-improved treatment you are giving the Amazing Amazon. This book has suffered for far, far too long. And there's really no excuse for it.

There is no reason why Wonder

Woman, who is a major DC character, has never been given the attention and care of the other "biggies" like Superman and Batman. Why hasn't a "big-name" artist like Neal Adams ever done this book? Or a writer like Englehart? Not to condemn the excellent work currently being done in **WONDER WOMAN**. It's simply that all too often we in fandom have heard that this is a marginal title, often kept from cancellation solely because of the need for merchandising rights. Is this to be the fate of Princess Diana? Kept alive only by a perverse need for her picture on Underoos?

Actually, the fault seems to lie in the fact that every single writer on this book ever has been afraid of giving the Amazon a strong characterization. Think about it.

You are Princess Diana. You are raised on a remote island away from all civilization. Also, you are the daughter of the Queen, number two among all the Amazons. In all fields of the arts, sciences, languages, athletics, and forms of combat you have been fully trained. And you are the best, excelling every other person on the island. You also have the distinction of being blessed by all the patron gods and goddesses of the Amazons. Aphrodite herself has given you the gift of everlasting beauty, rivaling that of the goddess herself. You can probably even cook!

So what happens when you encounter man's civilization? Would you (as DC's Wonder Woman did) try your best to be as timid and mousy as you could (not to mention unattractive!), or would you act with all the regal bearing that is your birthright? Granted, the Amazons were conditioned to be passive, to treat others with kindness and respect. And that's the key word—respect.

The correct personality for Princess Di to have is one of quiet, passive dignity. She is not pompous and arrogant, yet neither is she weak-willed and timid. She should be warm, tender, caring, yet passionate, dynamic, and fully capable of dealing with any situation which occurs. In her Diana Prince identity, she should be more outgoing and definitely more attractive. She should be a leader, or head of some type of military office or command. With her qualifications, she should be in charge of something, in a position to give orders, not to take them. Is there some type of unwritten comic book law that says a hero or heroine can't be the boss?

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As Wonder Woman, however, those qualities should be magnified. Her Amazon powers have always been somewhat downplayed. If I understand correctly, she should have the strength of Hercules, making her on a par with, say, Power Girl. Also the speed of Mercury, which, while not as fast as the Flash, should rival Superman's super-speed. And with her intelligence, she should be able to outthink any foe she encounters.

Okay, now, as for villains to baffle our Princess. Bring back Inversion, Angle Man, and the Duke of Deception. Guest-star a few other heroes' foes, such as Captain Cold, Ra's Al Ghul (Di versus Talia), Killer Frost, and maybe an undersea battle with Black Manta, or an outer space epic with Terra Man. A little less of the gods/goddess/sorcerer/magic villains. Too much of a good thing, you know.

And please keep the Gremlin. He adds the much-needed comic relief, as does the talking robot plane. As for names for the little guy, why does everyone insist on giving him comic/humorous names? I suggest a simple, semiordinary name. Something like (1) Darby, (2) Ralph, or (3) Joe. Okay, so Darby isn't exactly ordinary, but I like it. Joe the Gremlin or Ralph the Gremlin is cute. Call me weird but...

Stan Tychinski  
Altoona, PA

You're right, of course, Weird Stan. From time to time, the creative people on **WONDER WOMAN** have delivered something less than 100 percent of their best effort. I personally think, however, that Dan is definitely a writer who's coming into his own (see also *BLUE DEVIL* and *AMETHYST*). And Don's art is gaining in power and continues to delight me month after month. In short, **WONDER WOMAN** has a first-string team nowadays (let's include Nansi Hoolahan, whose coloring has also been earning much well-deserved praise). The characterization of Diana has been getting stronger and richer every issue—but we can't contradict the well-known origin of Wonder Woman/Diana Prince, flawed though that origin might be. We can only build carefully on the ground that has been prepared.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Alan,

Can you envision a 38-year-old mother of three bouncing off the walls in

delight? That was my emotional reaction to winning the gremlin-naming contest!

I was a DC fan in the '50s but "outgrew" comics as I entered college. I stayed away until about seven years ago, when I discovered that comics were using *real* stories, with character and plot development! Since then, I've specialized in female super-heroes (I've long been developing my own imaginary heroine), which led me back to DC, Supergirl, and Wonder Woman. I've started collecting back-issues of *WONDER WOMAN*, as far as I continue to find good plots.

The sketch by Ed Barreto was a delightful surprise. I've admired original comic art without being willing to buy it. Now I have my own! I framed it, with your congratulatory note (in the upper left-hand corner). It's fascinating to compare the details in the sketch to the finished cover. Wonder Woman looks more surprised in the sketch, more angry on the cover. "Glitch" looks cuter in the sketch, but on the cover he looks more like Don Heck's version inside the comic. The best changes were in the dog, and putting the action near the door so that the flames frame WW's face.

About the script, I'm glad you revised it so that Howard isn't overweight. Clumsy and shy is enough. Two people don't have to both be overweight to be attracted to each other. They can both love food, but in different quantities. Of course, Howard may be just using Etta for whatever he's plotting, but there are possibilities for interesting developments.

I'm fascinated by the Sofia plotline, both because Sofia is the kind of character I would invent (an outsider trying to fit into Amazon society, yet not afraid to challenge the seeming weaknesses she finds in Paradise), but also because the resolution promises to reveal parts of Wonder Woman's past that I missed when I wasn't reading *WONDER WOMAN*. It seems that Sofia has discovered that, even in a Utopian society, one ideal (truthfulness) has to be sacrificed to preserve another (purity through separation). Also, I am looking for the issues that first brought Sofia to Paradise Island, so I am following her story both ways—backwards and forwards! When did she first appear in WW?

By all means, keep Steve Trevor in WW! He can develop an independent personality and still be Wonder Woman's masculine complement, just as Etta is her feminine complement. They are as essential to Wonder Woman's character as her Amazon origins. As for keeping Wonder Woman on a pedestal, I think it's Steve's way of acknowledging the essential difference between them. Maybe if he knew her secret identity, he would be tempted to entertain the idea of marriage, which he knows is impossible. I wouldn't like to see a repeat of the old scenario of WW and Steve sitting on a park bench while Steve begs her to marry him and she insists that her mission comes first!

I like the idea that in *WONDER WOMAN* and *SUPERGIRL* chastity is

still a virtue, along with courage and kindness. Today's girls and young women need these examples of personal integrity and independence.

I look forward to the departure of the Huntress to her own mini-series so WW can have her magazine all to herself. If a plotline falls short, back it up with a "Paradise Island" feature. But don't pad a storyline to fill out comic space. Better a short installment, complete with character and plot development, and ending with a resolution or exciting cliffhanger than cutting off in midchapter or padding the story with dull exposition!

Wonder Woman is still the best solo female super-hero in comicdom. Keep her that way!

Mary Lou Mayfield  
Union, NJ

P.S. My husband helped me remember the word "glitch."

*Your letter was certainly a pleasure to read, Mary Lou. I regret that I had to edit it down somewhat so that I could make space for as many letters as possible. Sofia was introduced in *WONDER WOMAN* #297-298. Thanks to your daughter, too, for her "last word." Hope to hear from you again.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Mr. Gold,

You're a cruel and heartless man, Gold; no sooner has Joey Cavalieri scripted one of the most fascinating and different Huntress tales in ages, and Beachum/Martin/Woch produced brooding, atmospheric artwork worthy of *DETECTIVE COMICS* (and, dare I say it, Neal Adams' *Batman*?), than you and Giordano stab poor Helena in the back and announce her impending exile from WW!

I've never liked these seven-page back-up pieces, nor, I'm sure, does Joey. The Nightingale story, in particular, should have been twice as long and suffered badly from the disruption of stopping every seven pages. It's a tribute to Joey that it was still a very good story. But bad as the seven-page format is, it's better than nothing. I frankly cannot understand how a character whose popularity you openly recognize in letter columns can be so abused by her editors. Levitz-Layton-Staton created her with a fast start in '77, leading to four whole issues of *BATMAN FAMILY* in '78, after which you killed her the first time. (and promised a mini-series to placate us, which never materialized; an intentional lie or just a broken promise?). Then you started these back-up farces in WW only to kill again (and again promise a mini-series, which I doubt). What more can we do to prove our loyalty to her than to follow Helena through all the purgatories you banish her to? Come on, people, give her a real book as you did for Supergirl, not just a mini-series. Test our support for real! (By the way, you should watch WW sales figures now for an index of Huntress fans; I only buy WW for the Huntress feature and will now stop, as will others.)

David MacGregor  
Rochester, NY

P.S. Sometimes my comic store doesn't get a mini-series or orders only a few; so what kind of a test is that? Try a full-scale series for a true test!

*Just for the record, David (hope you're still out there), both Dick and I resisted for as long as we could the decision to make *WONDER WOMAN* bimonthly, but economic realities prevailed.*

*Personally, I like the Huntress a lot. Joey has really been getting a handle on the character, and he's quite adept at cooking up a puzzle just chock-filled with clues. The artists working on the Huntress since I started editing the feature (Tim Burgard; Gary Martin, Dan Spiegle, Mark Beachum, Stan Woch, Rod Whigham, and Rick Magyar) have all been top-notch, in my opinion, too. Stan Woch is my choice for the most successful recent delineator of Helena's adventures; unfortunately for me, he left this feature before he had a chance to make a real mark on it. (Fortunately for him, he went over to penciling *WORLD'S FINEST*, and wait till you see what he's been up to in those pages!)*

*Anyway, no matter how you or I may feel about it, the Huntress will appear in a four-issue mini-series before she gets an unlimited series. Joey is plotting the mini-series right now (promise!), and Ed Barreto (who has been providing outstanding covers all over DC for many months) is champing at the bit to start penciling. So bug your comic store owner to order plenty of copies of the Huntress. Tell your friends about the mini-series. Watch DC comics for ads announcing the new series, read Dick's Meanwhile column, and watch this letter column for news.*

*In the meantime, please don't give up on *WONDER WOMAN*. You may discover that you were buying the book for Diana's stories, too, but you never knew it.*

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*NEXT ISSUE: Eloise and her friends learn that helping cute little aliens can be a very hazardous activity. And Wonder Woman confronts Gardner Grail, the new, for-real, suited-up Atomic Knight. See you in sixty days.*

—Alan

