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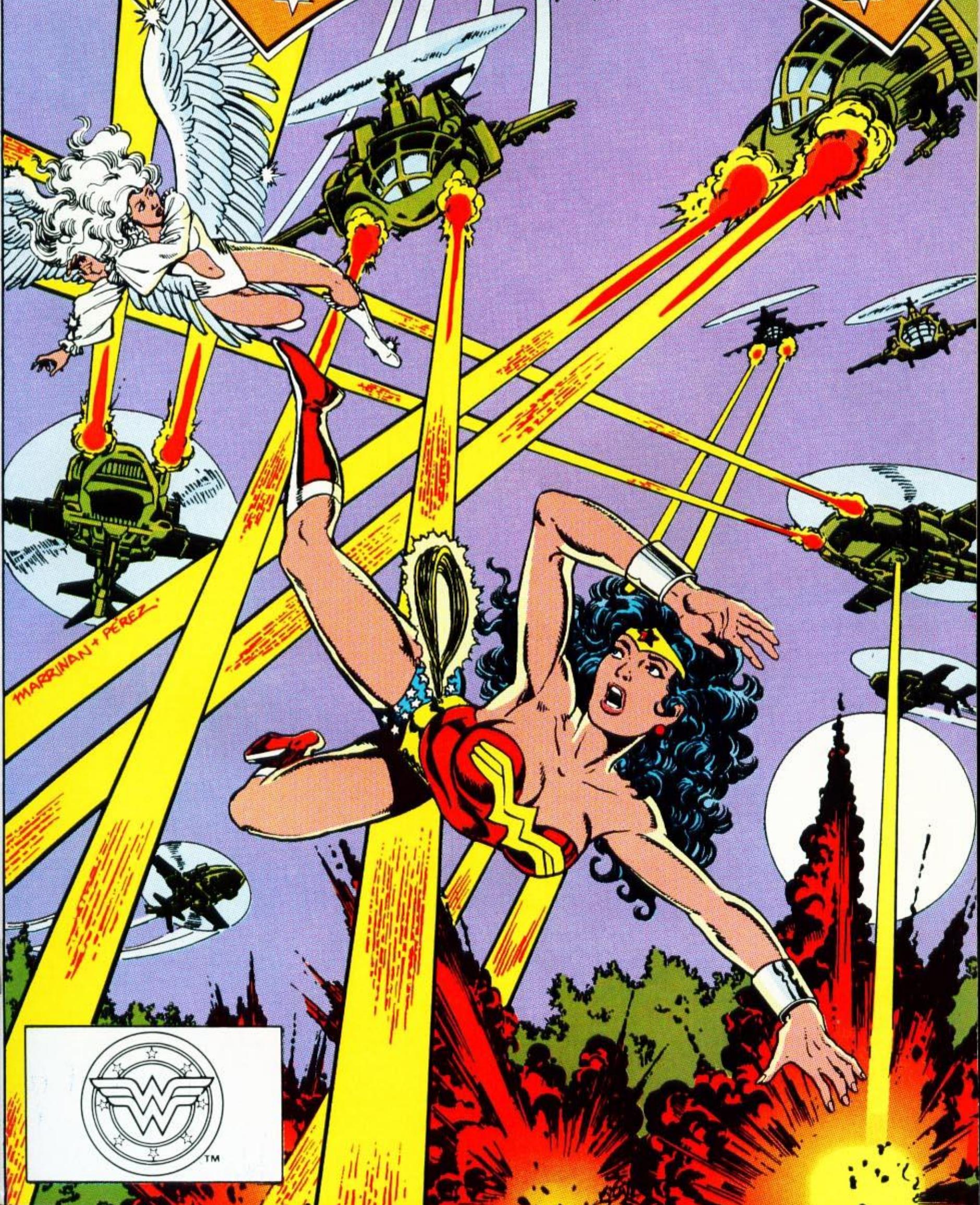
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WOMAN

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# WONDER WOMAN



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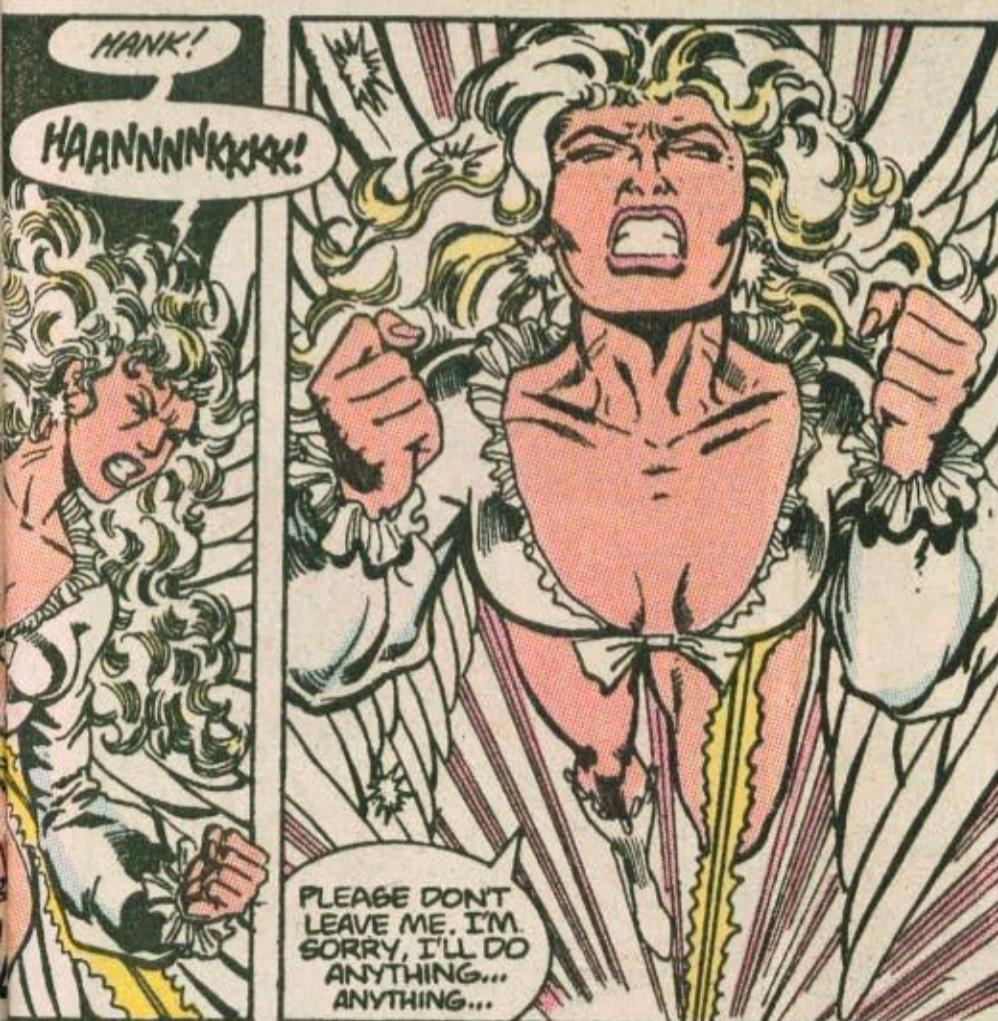
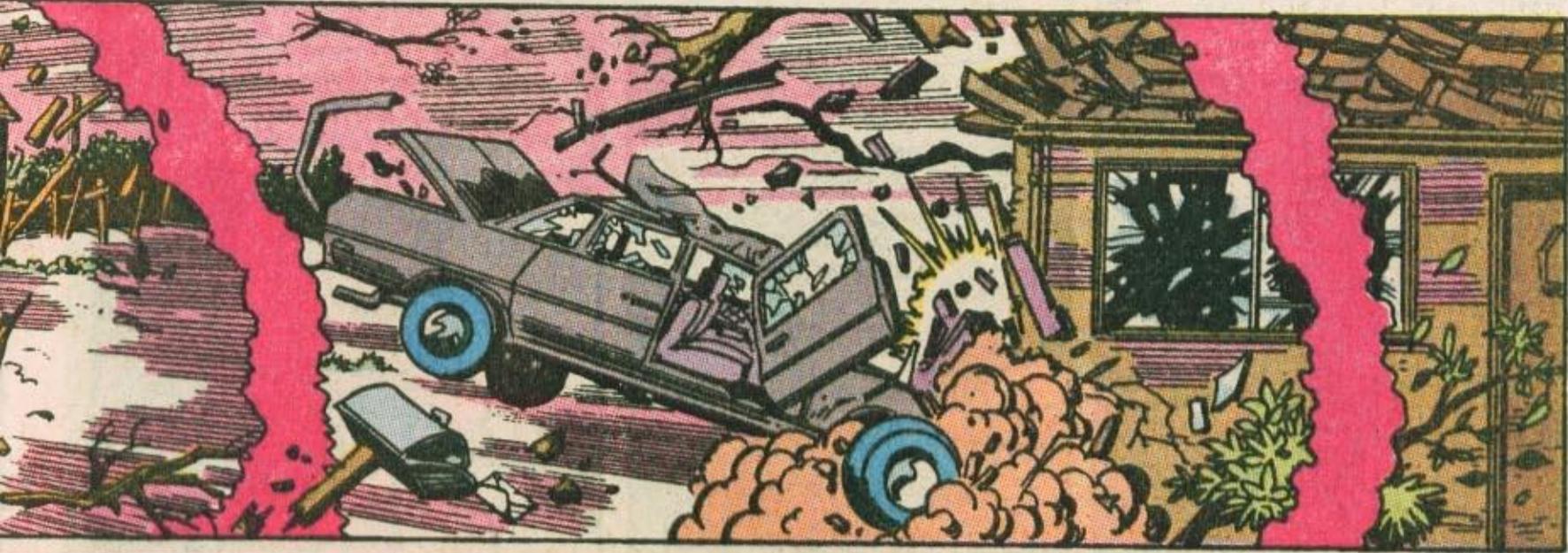




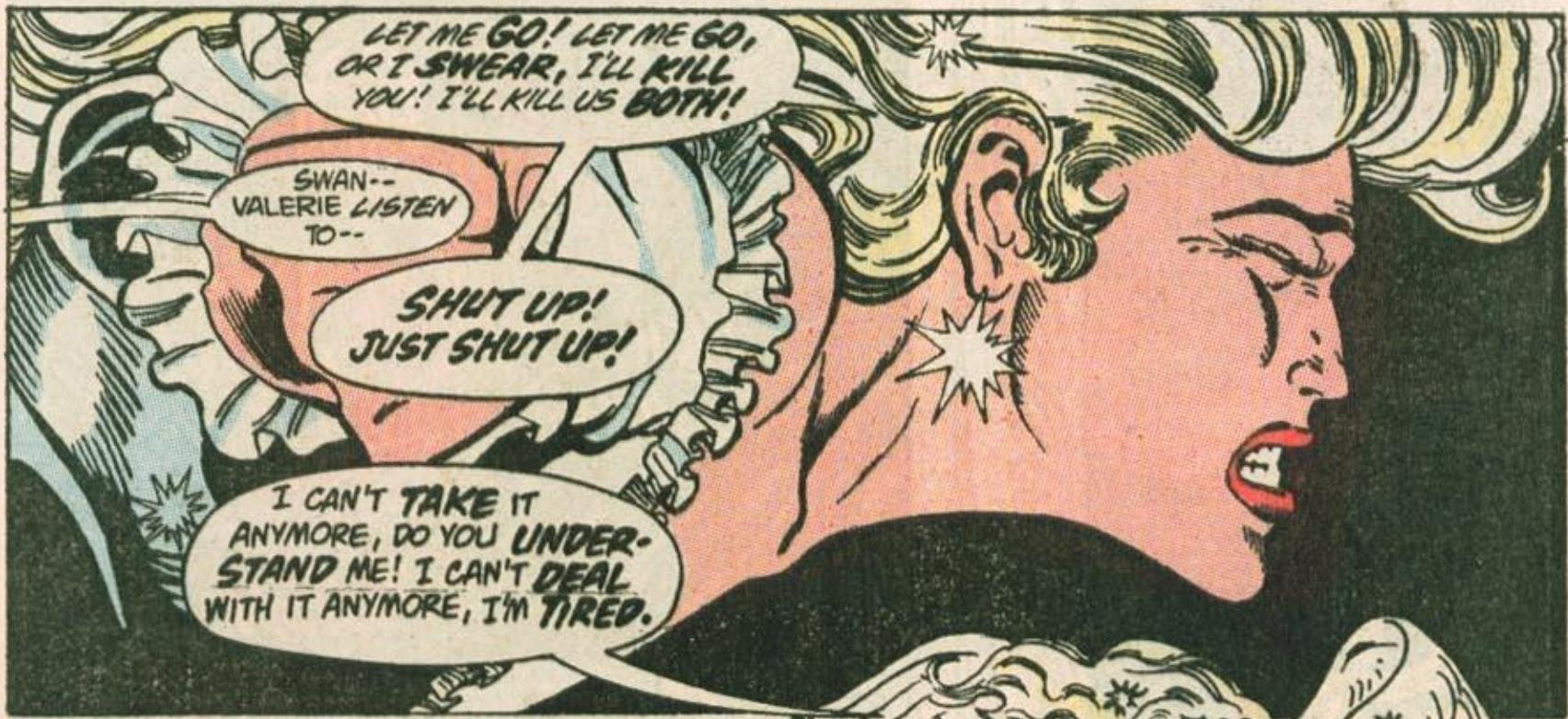
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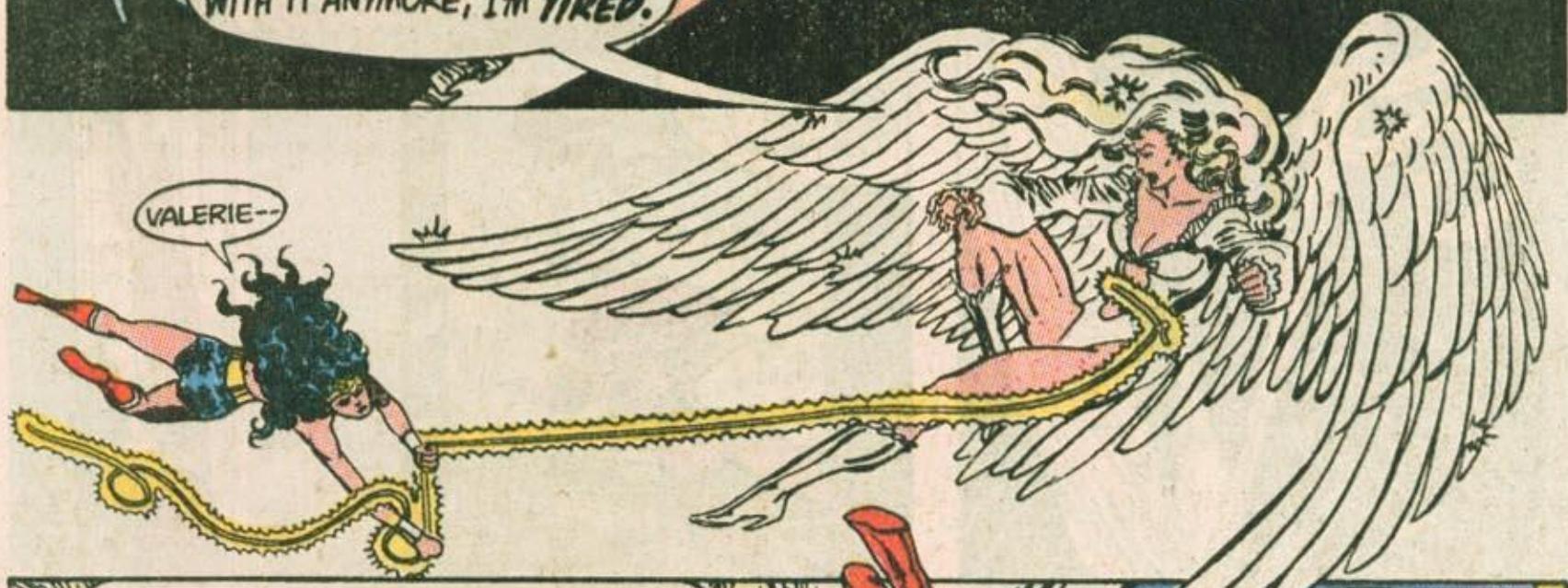








I CAN'T TAKE IT  
ANYMORE, DO YOU UNDER-  
STAND ME! I CAN'T DEAL  
WITH IT ANYMORE, I'M TIRED.



LEAVE ME ALONNNNNNE!!

OHHGODOHGOOGODWHYWON'T  
THEYLEAVEMEALONEHUNGH-UGH...  
ITISN'TFAIRHUNGH-UGH-HUNGH-  
ISN'TFAIRGODSOTIREDSOTIREDHUNGH...

I KNOW  
YOU ARE,  
I KNOW.

SHE'S NOT  
LISTENING.





DID YOU HAVE TO BE SO  
ROUGH WITH HER?

SHE  
GAVE ME NO CHOICE.  
THE SWAN IS NOT  
SERIOUSLY HURT--

--BUT THEY BOTH REQUIRE TREATMENT.

NO-- PLEASE! NO  
DOCTORS, OKAY? NO  
POLICE--!

YOU  
FEAR THE  
POLICE?

NO. YES, I  
MEAN, WE--WE BROKE  
INTO YOUR FRIEND'S  
HOUSE, LOOKING  
FOR YOU!

SOL ALREADY ESCAPED  
FROM THE COPS, AND I  
JUST KNOW THEY'LL PROD AND  
POKE VAL LIKE SHE'S SOME  
KIND OF MONSTER!

BUT NONE OF THIS IS HER FAULT!  
IT'S THAT ARMBRISTER WHO'S THE  
REAL MONSTER! HE MADE HER  
WHAT SHE IS!

SOL AND I WERE TRYING TO GET VAL  
OUT OF HIS CLUTCHES! THAT'S WHY  
HE HAD CHOI SEND THOSE KILLERS  
AFTER US--

CHOI? OF  
TOI-CHOI  
INDUSTRIES?

THIS IS  
CONFUSING.  
THE SWAN DIDN'T  
APPEAR TO  
DESIRED YOUR  
HELP...

BUT I DID SENSE A GREAT  
PAIN IN HER SOUL THE  
MOMENT I SNARED HER  
IN MY LASSO!

YOU CONNECTED WITH VAL'S  
TRUE SELF-- HER GENTLE,  
LOVING SIDE! IT'S STRUGGLING  
TO BREAK OUT!

ARMBRISTER USES YOU TO  
MAKE VAL JEALOUS! HE HOLDS  
YOU UP AS SOME KIND OF PARA-  
GON THAT SHE CAN NEVER  
LIVE UP TO!

YOU CAN USE YOUR LASSO  
TO GET BACK INSIDE HER  
MIND AND BREAK THAT  
HOLD.

PLEASE -- GIVE HER  
BACK HER SELF-  
RESPECT!

I UNDERSTAND.  
HOW CAN I HELP?

I NEED TO UNDERSTAND THIS BETTER. THAT MAN... SOL... HE TRIED TO SHOOT THE SILVER SWAN.

WHY WOULD HE NOW WANT TO SAVE HER?

WAIT, IF YOU'LL LOOK AT THESE...

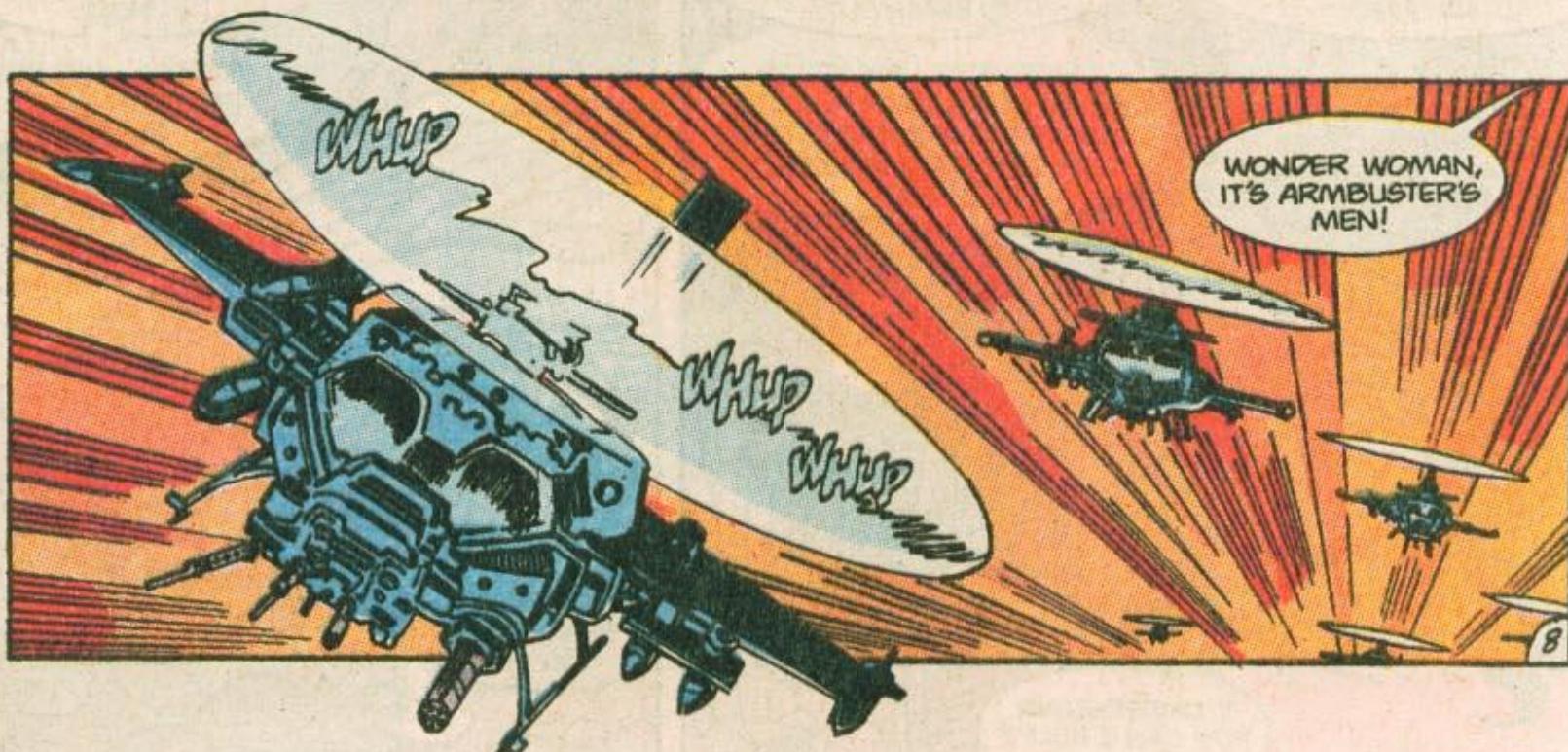
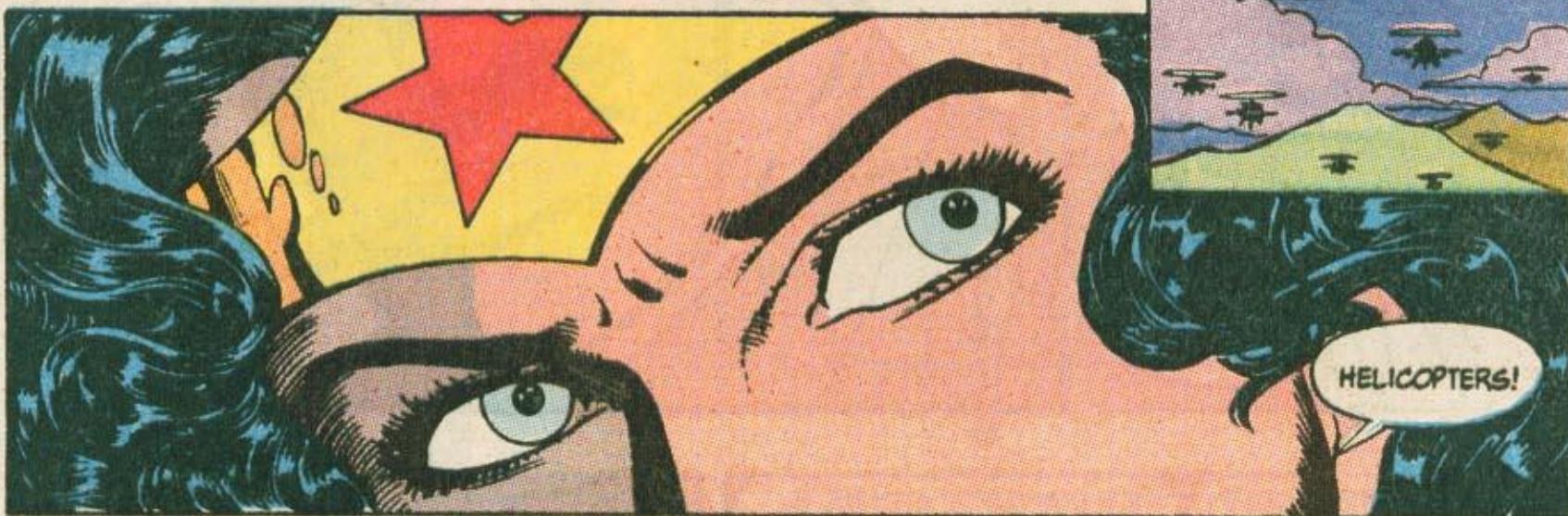
THEY'RE RECORDS SOL'S FATHER KEPT. ARMBRUSTER TOOK 'EM, WE TOOK 'EM BACK. THAT'S WHY HE WANTS US DEAD.

BUT WHY? WHO ARE YOU?

MAXINE STERENBUCH. THE ONLY REAL FRIEND VAL HAS IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD.

THAT'S HER REAL NAME. VALERIE BEAUVRY. PRETTY, ISN'T IT? I THINK IT'S FRENCH.

WHAT?



THIS IS COACH ONE. WE ARE OVER TARGET AREA AND HAVE THREE CHARLIES IN SIGHT. SONGBIRD IS DOWN. REPEAT. SONGBIRD IS DOWN AND TRUSSED.

IS SHE ALIVE?

ALL RIGHT. FINISH THE JOB.

KILL 'EM. AND BRING BACK THOSE RECORDS.

SIR, WHAT ABOUT THE SWAN?

IDIOT, I WANT HER SAVED.

AND IF WE CAN'T SIR.

THEN DESTROY HER, TOO LIEUTENANT, DESTROY EVERYTHING!

HARD TO TELL. BUT FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, SHE DIDN'T GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY CHARLIE?

ROGER. TWO CIVILIANS, MAN AND WOMAN, ONE AMAZON.

SIR, THE SWAN HAS BEEN A CAPABLE AND LOYA--

EVERYONE IS DISPENSABLE, LIEUTENANT. EVEN YOU.

HERE THEY COME!

YOUR FRIEND IS WAKING UP.



SHE'LL HELP US. I KNOW IT.

ATTENTION! THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY WARNING.

RELEASE THE SILVER SWAN AND SURRENDER THE BACKPACK. YOU ARE ADVISED TO LEAVE AT ONCE.

WHOSE MILITARY?

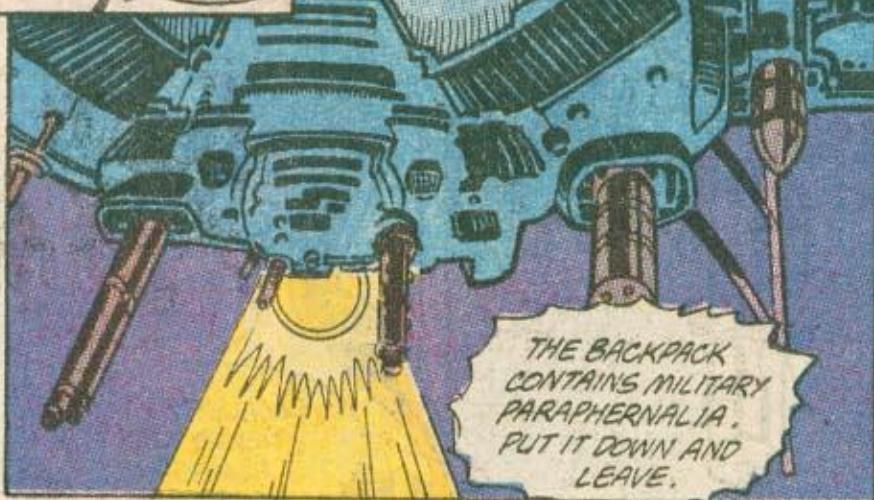
THE SILVER SWAN IS OF NO CONCERN TO YOU. SHE WILL BE CARED FOR.

BY WHOM?

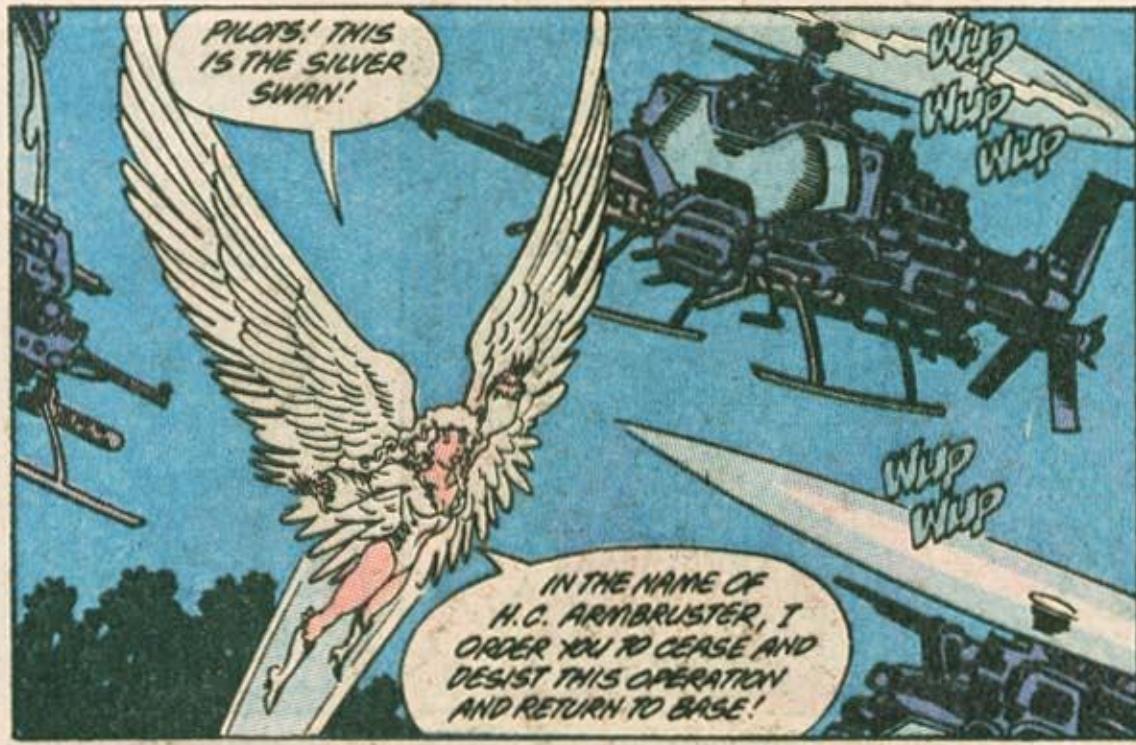


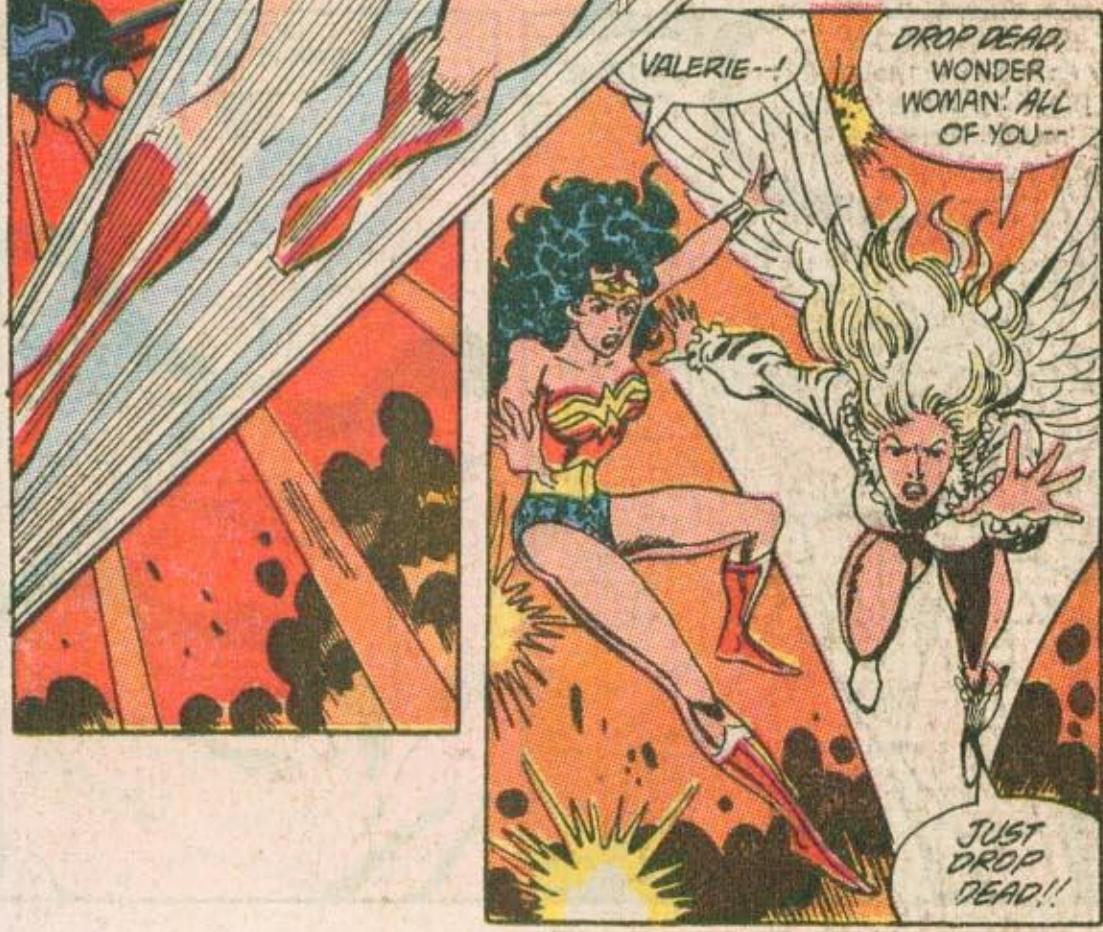
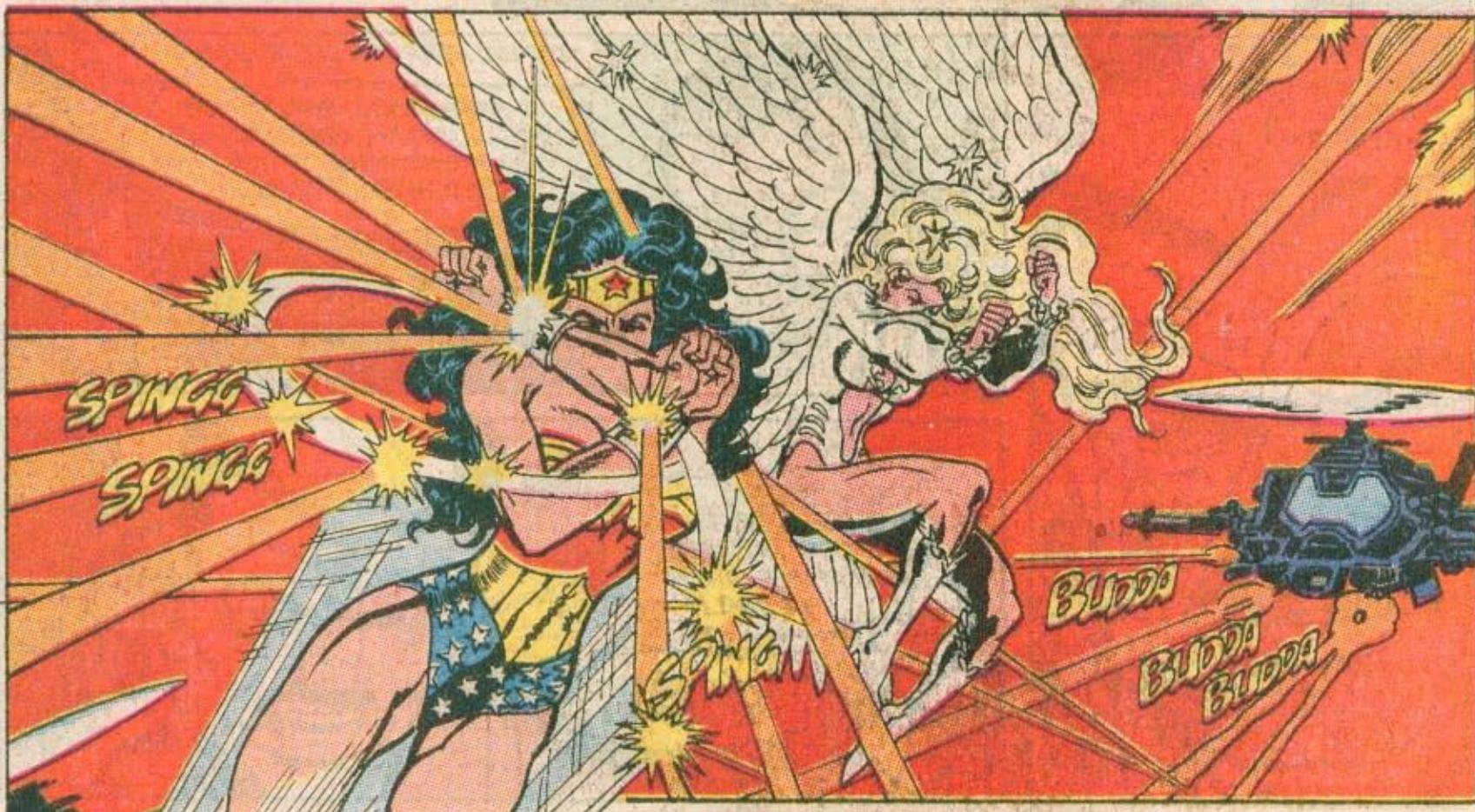
IDENTIFY YOURSELF FIRST!

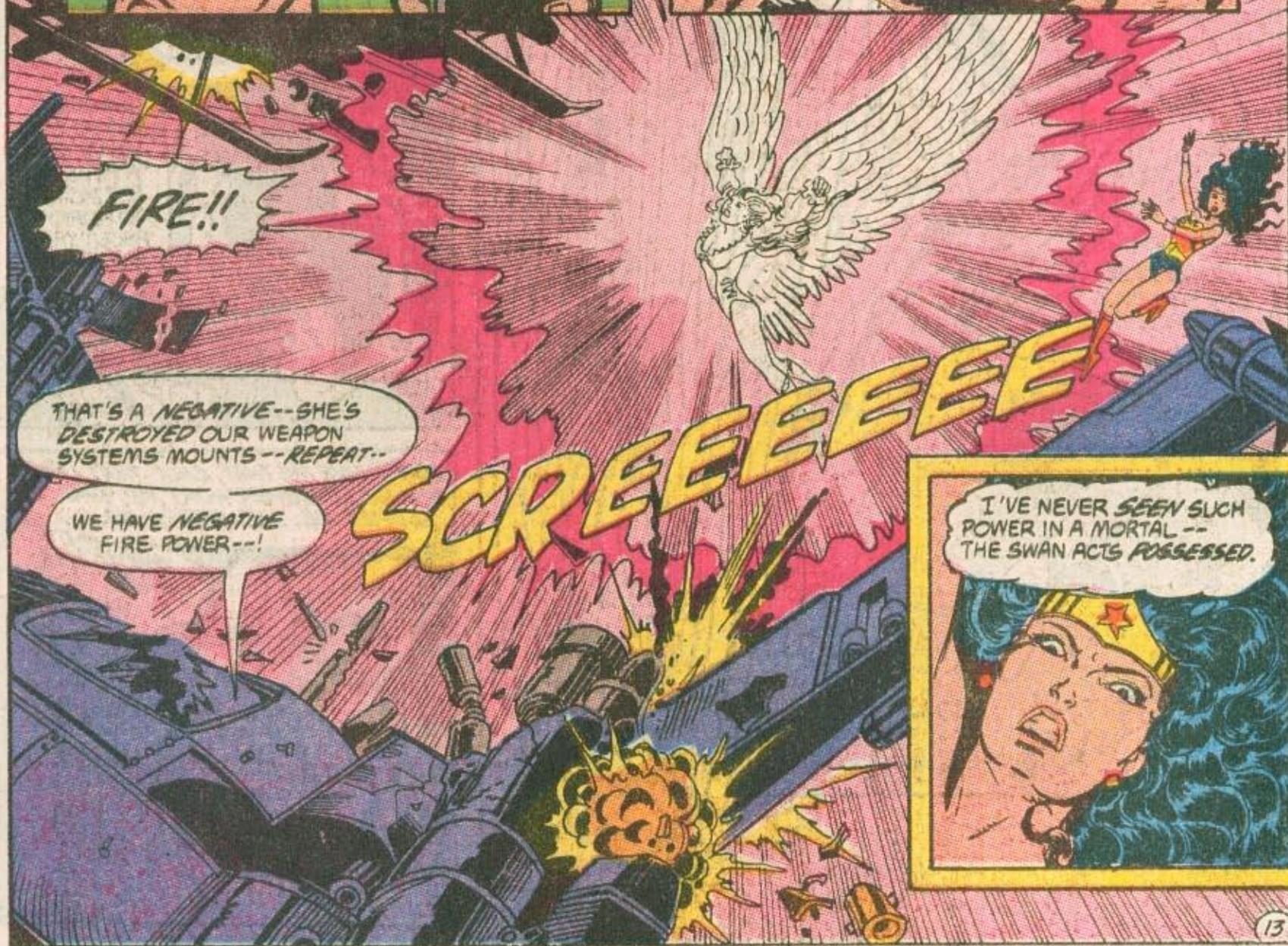
THE BACKPACK CONTAINS MILITARY PARAPHERNALIA. PUT IT DOWN AND LEAVE.













ON THE OTHER SIDE OF CHAOS...

THE ISLE OF  
HEALING...

(HOW IS HE,  
EPIONE?)

RESTING, ISMURE. THE OUTWORLDER  
WILL FEEL NO PAIN LET  
US BEGIN.

(WHO IS HE, MY QUEEN?  
WHAT IS HE TO DIANA?)

(DIANA SAID ONLY THAT SHE HAD GIVEN HER WORD AS AN AMAZON TO A WOMAN CALLED MAXIME, THAT THIS MAN WOULD FIND RECOVERY AND RENEWAL AMONG US.)

(DO YOU MEAN, DOES HE LIVE IN  
MY DAUGHTER'S HEART? I DON'T  
KNOW, EUBOEA. I DON'T EVEN KNOW  
HIS NAME.)

(BUT THESE ARE BULLET  
WOUNDS, MY LADY.  
WHAT DO WE KNOW OF  
BULLETS, EXCEPT FROM  
WHAT WE LEARNED FROM  
THE BLESSED DIANA  
TREVOR.)

(I PRAY, MY QUEEN, THIS DOES NOT  
GRAVELY AFFECT DIANA'S MISSION  
TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.)

(THEY WOULD LOSE  
THEIR TRUST IN HER.)

(THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS USED  
TO DEALING WITH SUCH  
TRAVESTIES TO THE HUMAN  
FORM. WHY DID DIANA NOT  
BRING HIM TO ONE OF THEIR  
OWN HEALING CENTERS?)

(UNLESS SHE COULDN'T.)

(BUT WE  
CANNOT, EUBOEA.)

BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS...

HERE'S SOME FRESH TOWELS, AND I CHANGED THE SHEETS ON THE SOFA-BED.

THANK YOU, ETTA.

THANKS. I MEAN, LOOK, WE'VE GOT TO TALK.

I LIKE YOU, DIANA. REALLY YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON. YOU HAVE A GOOD HEART. AND YOU SAVED MY LIFE. I'M NOT FORGETTING THAT, EITHER.

BUT YOU MAKE ME FEEL WEIRD. UNCOMFORTABLE. I DON'T KNOW. UNHAPPY.



I MEAN FOR EVERYTHING OPENING YOUR HOME TO STRANGERS. TO ME.



STEPHEN IS A GOOD FRIEND, ETTA, THAT'S ALL. YOU KNOW THAT. AND YOU ALSO KNOW HOW MUCH HE LOVES YOU.

LOVE IS NOT THE QUESTION, DIANA, IT'S TIME, AND PRIORITIES, AND COMMITMENT. KNOWING WHEN THE OTHER COMES FIRST.



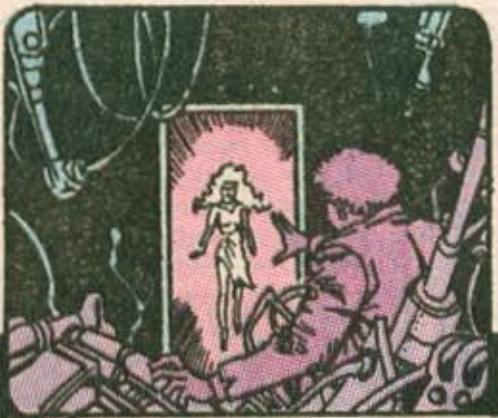
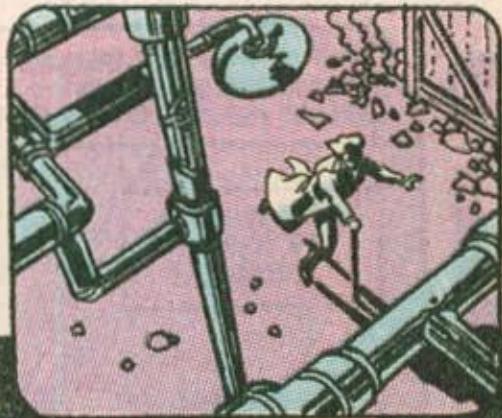
-- THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

I DIDN'T REALIZE. WE'LL LEAVE RIGHT AWAY.

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. THE COMPUTER'S KEYED UP AND THE VCR IS SET TO PLAY.

ALL RIGHT, BUT WE NEED TO TALK.



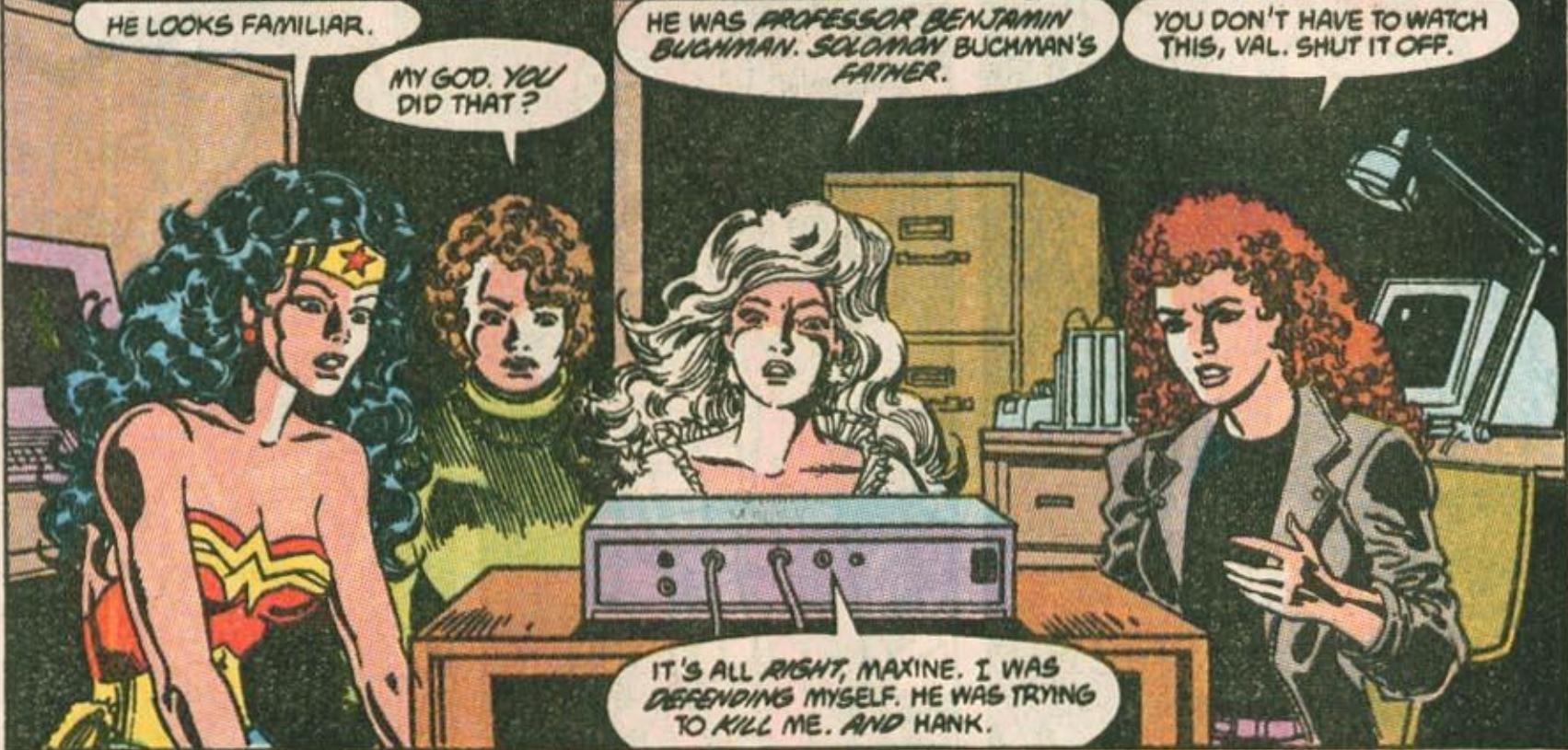


HE LOOKS FAMILIAR.

MY GOD. YOU DID THAT?

HE WAS PROFESSOR BENJAMIN BUCHMAN. SOLOMON BUCHMAN'S FATHER.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WATCH THIS, VAL. SHUT IT OFF.



YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, DO YOU? HANK WAS RIGHT!

"I WAS LONELY. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY. EVERYBODY'S LONELY, SOMETIMES. BUT THIS WAS DIFFERENT. YOU KNOW THAT BOOK, THE SCARLET LETTER? THAT'S WHAT IT WAS LIKE FOR ME. I WAS HESTER PRYNNE. ONLY INSTEAD OF AN "A" UPON MY CHEST I HAD A "U"! FOR UGLY. UNWANTED. UNLOVED."



VALERIE, GIVE US A CHANCE, START AT THE BEGINNING. HOW DID YOU MEET HENRY ARMBRUSTER?

HE FOUND ME.



"U" FOR UNTIL HANK. HE DIDN'T CARE WHAT I LOOKED LIKE. HE DIDN'T CARE WHAT SOCIETY SAID ABOUT WHAT WOMEN ARE SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE. LIKE YOU.

HE LOVED ME. NOT SOME STUPID ICON OF IMPOSSIBILITY.

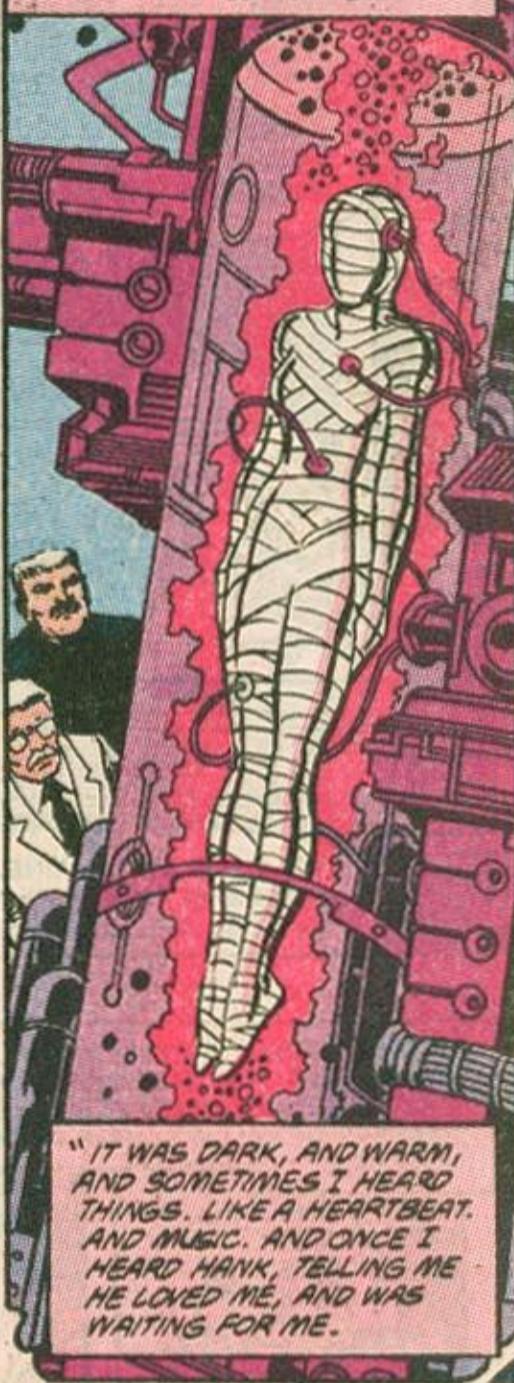


BUT HANK IS RICH. IMPORTANT A WORLD-CLASS BUSINESSMAN WITH FIRST-CLASS CLIENTS. HE SAID IT DIDN'T MATTER, BUT I KNOW HOW THE WORLD IS. JUDGING EVERYONE BY LOOKS. FIRST IMPRESSIONS. I KNEW HE'D LOSE MONEY BECAUSE OF ME. I KNEW IT.



"HANK SAID, IF IT WAS THAT IMPORTANT TO ME, OKAY, HE'D HELP. HE FOUND BEN BUCHMAN FOR ME. GAVE HIM MONEY. BUILT HIM A FANCY HIGH-TECH LAB. ALL JUST TO MAKE ME HAPPY. AND YOU THINK HE DOESN'T LOVE ME."

"ANYWAY, YOU KNOW THAT MOVIE, ALTERED STATES? WITH MOLLY DOODD AND THAT BLONDE GUY FROM BROADCAST NEWS? THERE WAS THIS TANK IN THE MOVIE, AND THE BLONDE GUY WENT IN IT, AND HE CHANGED. WELL, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ME."



"IT WAS DARK, AND WARM, AND SOMETIMES I HEARD THINGS. LIKE A HEARTBEAT. AND MUSIC. AND ONCE I HEARD HANK, TELLING ME HE LOVED ME, AND WAS WAITING FOR ME."



"VAL? WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?"



"ME. I'M WHAT'S WRONG. HE LOVES ME. HE WAITED FOR ME."

"AND I'VE JUST STABBED HIM IN THE BACK."

"BUT HE TRIED TO KILL YOU! THAT'S NOT LOVE, THAT'S WARPED, THAT'S ANYTHING BUT LOVE!"



"WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MEN?"

"I KNOW ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT MEN WHO LOVE DON'T HURT THE WOMEN THEY LOVE."

"THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG! HANK PROTECTED ME. HE STOPPED BUCHMAN FROM KILLING ME!"

"I WASN'T TOO KEEN ON GOING BACK IN THAT TANK AGAIN, BUT HANK ASSURED ME IT WAS ALL RIGHT."

"I DIDN'T WANT TO LET HIM DOWN. AND I'M GLAD I DIDN'T. I HAD THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DREAMS. ABOUT ME. AND HANK."

"AND THEN, I THINK, I HEARD HANK, AND BUCHMAN, YELLING, SCREAMING. HANK WAS IN TROUBLE, I COULD TELL BY THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE. DESPERATE, PANICKY. NOT LIKE HANK AT ALL."

"I HAD A SENSE OF FLOATING IN MID-AIR--"

"THEN THERE WAS A FLASH OF LIGHT--"

"BUCHMAN WANTED TO EXPERIMENT ON ME. HANK WAS WARY, BUT BUCHMAN CONVINCED HIM THAT THE EXPERIMENTS WERE JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT I WAS OKAY."

"AND THEN I SAW HANK, DOWN ON THE FLOOR, AND BUCHMAN, HOLDING THIS HUGE MONKEY WRENCH OR C-CLAMP IN HIS HAND, AND HE WAS HURTING HANK--"

"HE WAS KILLING HANK--!"

"AND I HAD TO STOP HIM-- AND I FELT THIS SURGE  
IN MY GUT-- IT KEPT BUILDING AND BUILDING--  
PUSHING AGAINST MY TEETH-- I HAD TO LET IT OUT  
OF ME-- "

"IT DESTROYED EVERYTHING. INCLUDING  
BUCHMAN. I DON'T KNOW HOW HANK SURVIVED.  
MAYBE SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW, I KNEW HE  
LOVED ME AND I WAS ABLE TO PROTECT HIM."



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DEAD?

CAN'T YOU USE YOUR  
LASSO TO MAKE VAL  
SEE THE WHOLE TRUTH  
ABOUT THAT CREEP,  
WONDER WOMAN? I  
READ ABOUT HOW YOU  
STOPPED LORD ARES  
THAT WAY.

LORD ARES KNEW THE TRUTH BEFORE  
HESTIA'S FIRES BURNED AWAY HIS  
INSANITY, MAXINE. HE KNEW THE  
FINAL WAR WOULD MEAN HIS FINAL  
DESTRUCTION.

BUT VALERIE'S EMOTIONS  
AND MIND ARE INCREDIBLY  
FRAGILE RIGHT NOW. I'M  
AFRAID THE TRUTH WOULD BE  
EVEN MORE SELF-DESTRUCTIVE  
THAN THE COCOON OF LIES.  
SHE'S BUILT UP ABOUT  
HERSELF.

EXCUSE ME, BUT THERE'S  
SOMETHING ODD HERE I  
THINK YOU OUGHT TO SEE.

I WAS RUNNING PRINT-  
OUTS OF THE SILVER  
SWAN'S LABS. YOU KNOW.  
ELECTROLYTES. CBC. MRI'S  
AND CAT SCANS. BUCHMAN  
DID A THOROUGH JOB. IT'S  
ALL HERE. EVERYTHING.



THE ONE ON THE LEFT IS DATED  
LAST MAY. THIS ONE'S DATED  
THREE MONTHS AGO, JAN.

THEY'RE DIFFERENT. IS  
THAT UNUSUAL? THERE  
IS A TWO YEAR DIFFER-  
ENCE.

IN OTHER WORDS, LADIES, THE  
LAB IS SHOWING TWO DIFFERENT  
SILVER SWANS.

WHUP  
WHUP

