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Wonder Woman®

35
OCT '09

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LOPRESTI-09

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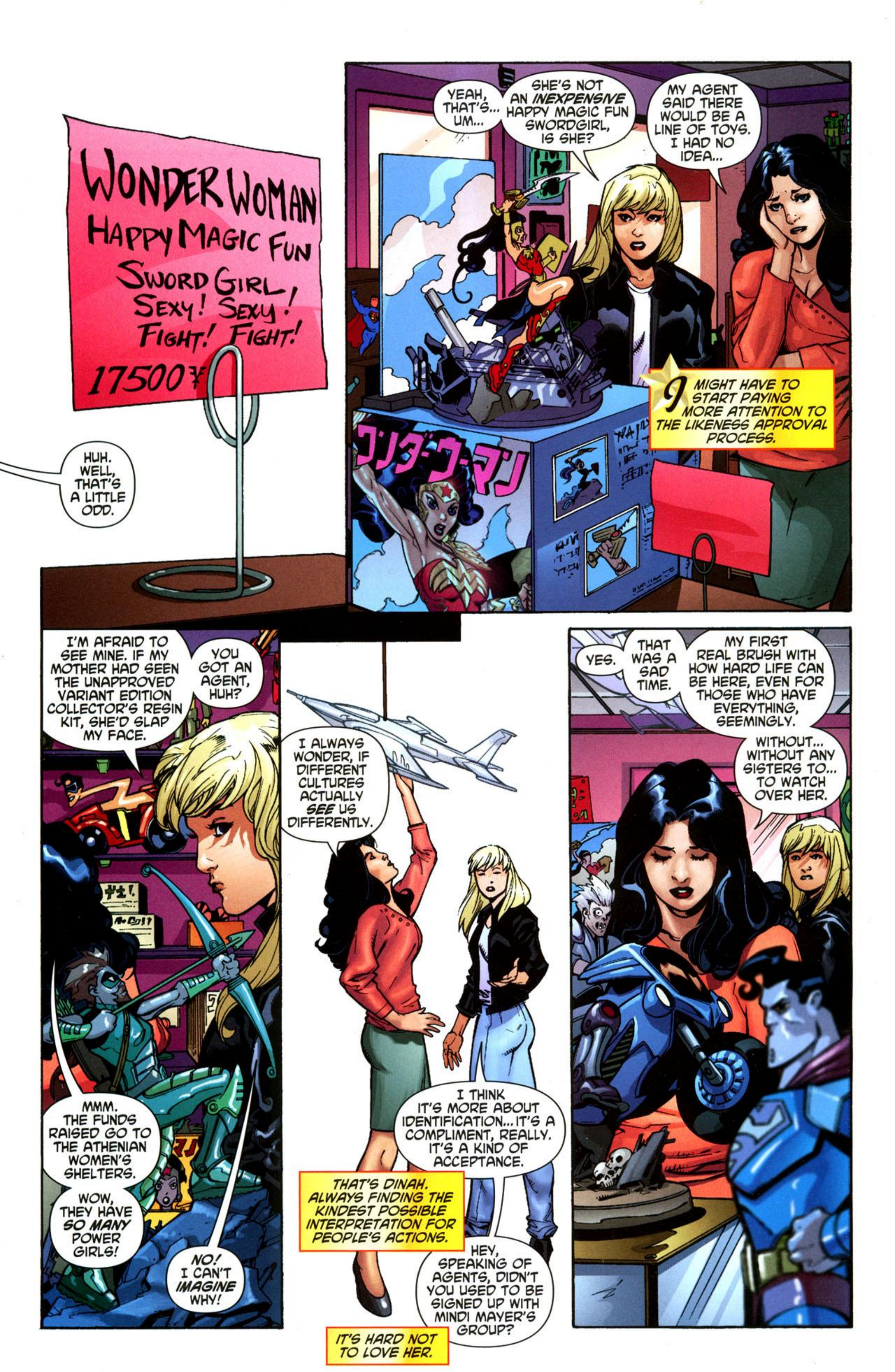
WONDER WOMAN
HAPPY MAGIC FUN
SWORD GIRL,
SEXY! SEXY!
FIGHT! FIGHT!
17500¥
HUH. WELL, THAT'S A LITTLE ODD.
YEAH, THAT'S... UM...
SHE'S NOT AN *INEXPENSIVE* HAPPY MAGIC FUN SWORDGIRL, IS SHE?
MY AGENT SAID THERE WOULD BE A LINE OF TOYS. I HAD NO IDEA...
I MIGHT HAVE TO START PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO THE LIKENESS APPROVAL PROCESS.
I'M AFRAID TO SEE MINE. IF MY MOTHER HAD SEEN THE UNAPPROVED VARIANT EDITION COLLECTOR'S RESIN KIT, SHE'D SLAP MY FACE.
YOU GOT AN AGENT, HUH?
MMM. THE FUNDS RAISED GO TO THE ATHENIAN WOMEN'S SHELTERS.
WOW, THEY HAVE *SO MANY* POWER GIRLS!
NO! I CAN'T *IMAGINE* WHY!
I ALWAYS WONDER, IF DIFFERENT CULTURES ACTUALLY *SEE* US DIFFERENTLY.
I THINK IT'S MORE ABOUT IDENTIFICATION... IT'S A COMPLIMENT, REALLY. IT'S A KIND OF ACCEPTANCE.
THAT'S DINAH. ALWAYS FINDING THE KINDEST POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION FOR PEOPLE'S ACTIONS.
HEY, SPEAKING OF AGENTS, DIDN'T YOU USED TO BE SIGNED UP WITH MINDI MAYER'S GROUP?
IT'S HARD NOT TO LOVE HER.
YES.
THAT WAS A SAD TIME.
MY FIRST REAL BRUSH WITH HOW HARD LIFE CAN BE HERE, EVEN FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EVERYTHING, SEEMINGLY.
WITHOUT... WITHOUT ANY SISTERS TO... TO WATCH OVER HER.

DIANA, I'M...

THAT'S IT. WE'RE GOING TO THE GINZA FOR SOME RAMEN.

WHAT?

WE JUST HAD TEMPURA AN *HOUR* AGO.

YEAH, BUT THAT WAS AN *HOUR* AGO, AND *THIS*, MY FRIEND...

PART TWO BIRDS OF PARADISE CRADLE TO GRAVE

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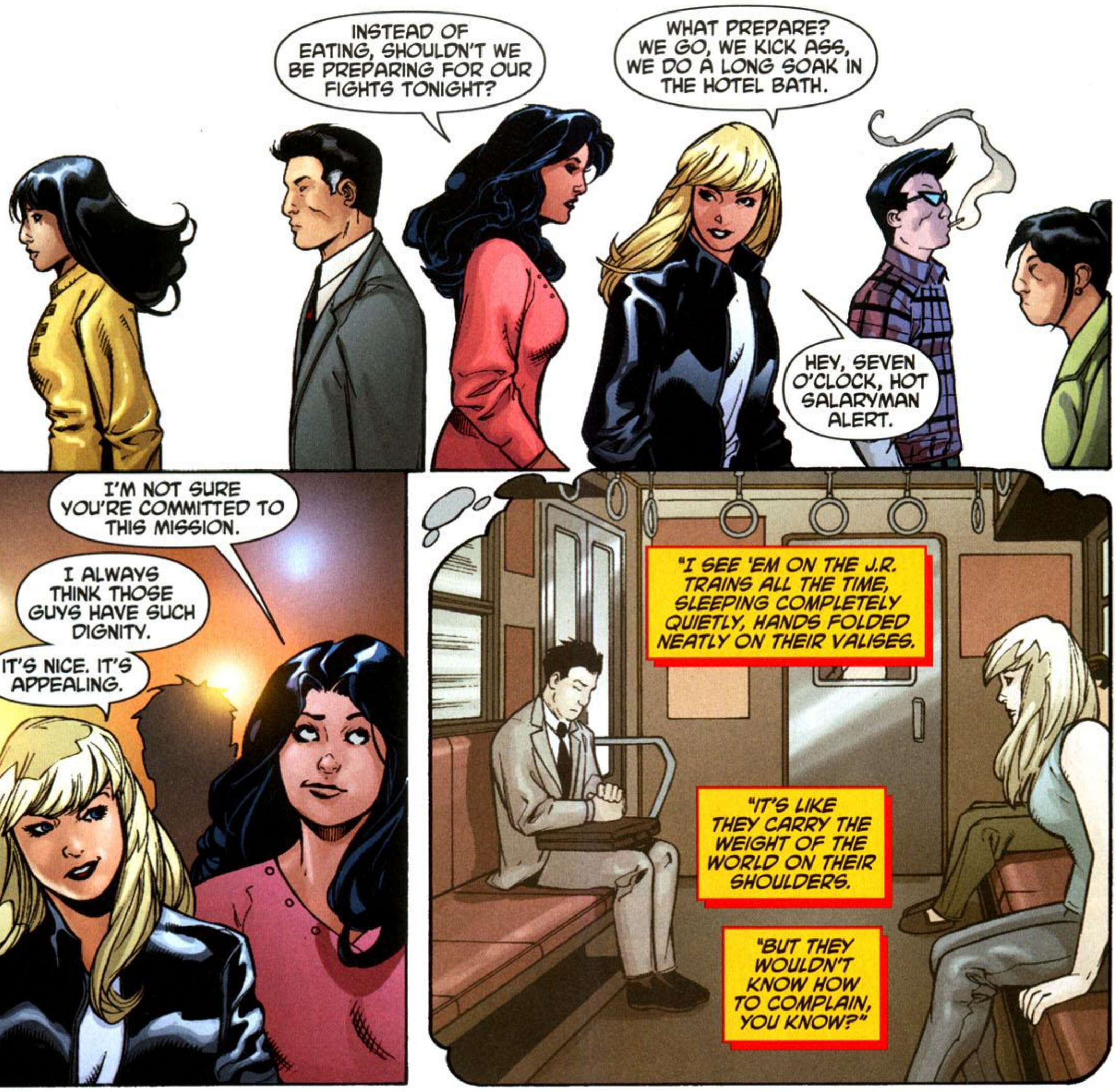
WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

...THIS IS *TOKYO.*


INSTEAD OF EATING, SHOULDN'T WE BE PREPARING FOR OUR FIGHTS TONIGHT?
WHAT PREPARE? WE GO, WE KICK ASS, WE DO A LONG SOAK IN THE HOTEL BATH.
HEY, SEVEN O'CLOCK, HOT SALARYMAN ALERT.
I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE COMMITTED TO THIS MISSION.
I ALWAYS THINK THOSE GUYS HAVE SUCH DIGNITY.
IT'S NICE. IT'S APPEALING.
"I SEE 'EM ON THE J.R. TRAINS ALL THE TIME, SLEEPING COMPLETELY QUIETLY, HANDS FOLDED NEATLY ON THEIR VALISES.
"IT'S LIKE THEY CARRY THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON THEIR SHOULDERS.
"BUT THEY WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO COMPLAIN, YOU KNOW?"

RA-MEN
WHY DO I THINK YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE A POINT HERE?
OH, NO, ME? NEVER. NUH-UH.
OKAY, I'M TRYING TO MAKE A POINT HERE.
NOODLES WILL HELP. C'MON.

IT'S JUST THAT, SHEESH, DIANA, YOU'RE ALWAYS BEING THE EXAMPLE EVERYONE FOLLOWS. THE FEMALE META-COMMUNITY, THE AMAZONS, EVEN THE JLA.
EVEN THE BAD GUYS LOOK UP TO YOU.
THE POINT BEING?
THAT YOU COULD TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REASSESS WHAT YOU WANT TO BE, FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE.

I DON'T THINK I KNOW HOW TO DO THAT.

GIRL, I KNOW YOU DON'T.
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
THE SOCIETY STUFF, MEH, THAT'S PRIORITY B, IF I MAY SAY SO.
IT'S NICE.
TO HAVE A FRIEND LIKE DINAH, SOMEONE IN THE "SUPERHERO" COMMUNITY.

SOMEONE WHO HAS A GLIMMER OF UNDERSTANDING.
WHO WANTS NOTHING, WHO DEMANDS NOTHING.
SSHLLLURRP
WHO IS HAPPY JUST TO HELP.
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER GET USED TO THAT.

HEY, MY ETIQUETTE ISN'T THAT GREAT IN MY OWN COUNTRY. HERE, IT'S GOOD MANNERS!
SO, IT'S SETTLED. WE RESCUE THIS SARGE STEEL GUY, STICK DR. PSYCHO IN ENCLAVE M, AND THEN, MY FRIEND...
...THEN WE FIX YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

AND WHO CAN SAY?
MAYBE HERS IS THE WISEST COUNSEL OF ALL.
OKAY. WE FIX MY WHOLE LIFE. GOOD NOODLES, BY THE WAY.
BEST IN TOKYO, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT!
MOU HITOTSU, KUDASAI!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW.
THE NOODLES DID HELP. MAYBE IT IS TIME...

ROUND 2
...TO LET LOOSE AND DO SOMETHING THAT I ENJOY.
AND OF COURSE, BLACK CANARY ENJOYS HERSELF NO MATTER WHAT SHE'S DOING.
I'D WORRY ABOUT HER, IF SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE THE GIFT OF SURVIVAL.
I THINK I COULD USE A LITTLE BLACK CANARY EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, IF I'M BEING HONEST.
SHE DOES KNOW HER WAY AROUND THE IDEA OF FUN.

KA-POW. I MEAN, SERIOUSLY.
MAN, I LOVE TO WATCH YOU FIGHT!
I MAY HAVE HIT MY TOLERANCE LIMIT FOR THIS DISGUISE.
YOU KNOW WHY I LOVE TO WATCH YOU FIGHT?
IT'S BECAUSE SO MANY OF THE HEAVY HITTERS, THEY JUST USE THEIR STRENGTH. THAT'S ALL THEY NEED. THERE'S NO TECHNIQUE.
NO STYLE.
BUT YOU HIT EXACTLY WHERE YOU KNOW IT'LL DO THE MOST DAMAGE. IT'S...
...IT'S LIKE WATCHING A BALLET. WITH COMPOUND FRACTURES!
A MOMENT, PLEASE, SISTER.
FIVE MINUTES, LADIES.
THEN YOU GO DO YOUR TRAINED MONKEY ACT.
FIVE MINUTES.
EXCUSE ME, SIR. DO YOU...
...DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
HEY, HEY, WAIT, THIS ISN'T THE PLAN.
WHAT?
NO. FIVE MINUTES.
TED GRANT DRINKS...
MR. STEEL. AM I RIGHT? IS IT MR. STEEL I'M TALKING TO?
DON'T TOUCH ME! DON'T YOU TOUCH ME!

THE LASSO HAS BEEN UNPREDICTABLE LATELY. SOME OF GENOCIDE'S INFLUENCE YET REMAINS.
BUT AGAINST DR. PSYCHO, WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?
WAIT, HANG ON, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? DIDN'T YOU SAY...
PLEASE, CANARY.

I HAVE TO TRY.
NO. PLEASE. DON'T WANNA. NO.

DIRECTOR STEEL.
YOU WERE LOST.

GUHHRRR!!

STOP. DIANA, STOP IT!
YOU'RE KILLING HIM!

HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE!

I'LL MAKE YOU STOP, DIANA.
I'M SORRY. YOU GET THE CRY.
YOU WERE LOST.

"WE HAVE FOUND YOU."

I REMEMBER.
LATER.
...OUR RETURNING, REIGNING CHAMPIONS, THE ORPHAN SISTERS! THEY'RE LOVELY, THEY'RE LUSCIOUS, THEY'RE LETHAL!
ONLY ONE FIGHTER TONIGHT?
AND YET, I AM STRANGELY NOT COMFORTED BY THAT BIT OF MATH.
IT'S GONNA WORK, DIANA. WE TAKE THIS GUY OUT, AND FIND THE REAL PSYCHO AND BAM. IT'S SAKE AT SHINJUKU. I'M BUYIN'.
SORRY IF THIS HAS BEEN A LITTLE ROUGHER THAN ANTICIPATED. NORMALLY I FIGHT WRESTLERS OR KRAV MAGA GUYS, NOT SO MUCH ROBOTS AND FISH DUDES.
IT'S AN ARENA.
I HAVE SOME SMALL EXPERIENCE WITH THEM.
AND IN THIS CORNER, WE HAVE THE ENIGMA FROM THE ISLANDS, BRINGING THE PAIN-O FROM THE VOL-CANO...

FEUD!
...AND YOU'RE SURE THIS IS WONDER WOMAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T NEED JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERFERENCE IN THIS OPERATION.
OH, I THINK I CAN SAY WITH SOME AUTHORITY.
I'D RECOGNIZE THOSE THIGHS ANYWHERE.
THANKS AGAIN FOR PUTTING ME UP DURING MY LITTLE BACCHANALIA, ROULETTE, DEAR.
THE TOLERANCES THIS BODY HAS!
IT'S NOTHING.
DO YOU NEED ANY HELP WITH THE DISPOSAL?
NO, DEAR, BUT THANK YOU. RAN INTO A BIT OF POLYNESIAN LUCK IN THAT REGARD.
I THINK IT'S AMAZON CUTLETS FOR SUPPER TONIGHT!
THERE'S A CONDITION, STEEL. IF SHE LIVES, I WANT THE BLONDE.
I COULD USE THE FRESH MEAT HERE IN HONG KONG, AND THE EXPATS LOVE A BLONDE.
WHY OF COURSE, DEAR! ABSOLUTELY! IF SHE LIVES, SHE'S YOURS.
IF SHE LIVES, SHE'S YOURS.

LET'S ROCK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
RESPECTFULLY, PERHAPS I SHOULD GO IN FIRST, DINAH.
I WAS JUST THINKIN' THAT. AND HEY, NO WEIRD SURPRISES THIS TIME, ALL RIGHT?
I HAVE A WEAK HEART.
PREVIOUSLY, FIGHTING IVO'S ANDROID, AN ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE CAME FROM MY BRACELETS, SOMEHOW.

I HAD NO CONTROL OVER ITS POWER. NO IDEA OF ITS ORIGIN.
I'LL BE CAUTIOUS.
WOULDN'T WANT TO HURT HER.
MY APOLOGIES. I'LL TRY TO MAKE THIS QUICK.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE OUR RETURNING CHAMPION IS GOING TO BE THE INITIAL AGGRESSOR IN THIS BATTLE...

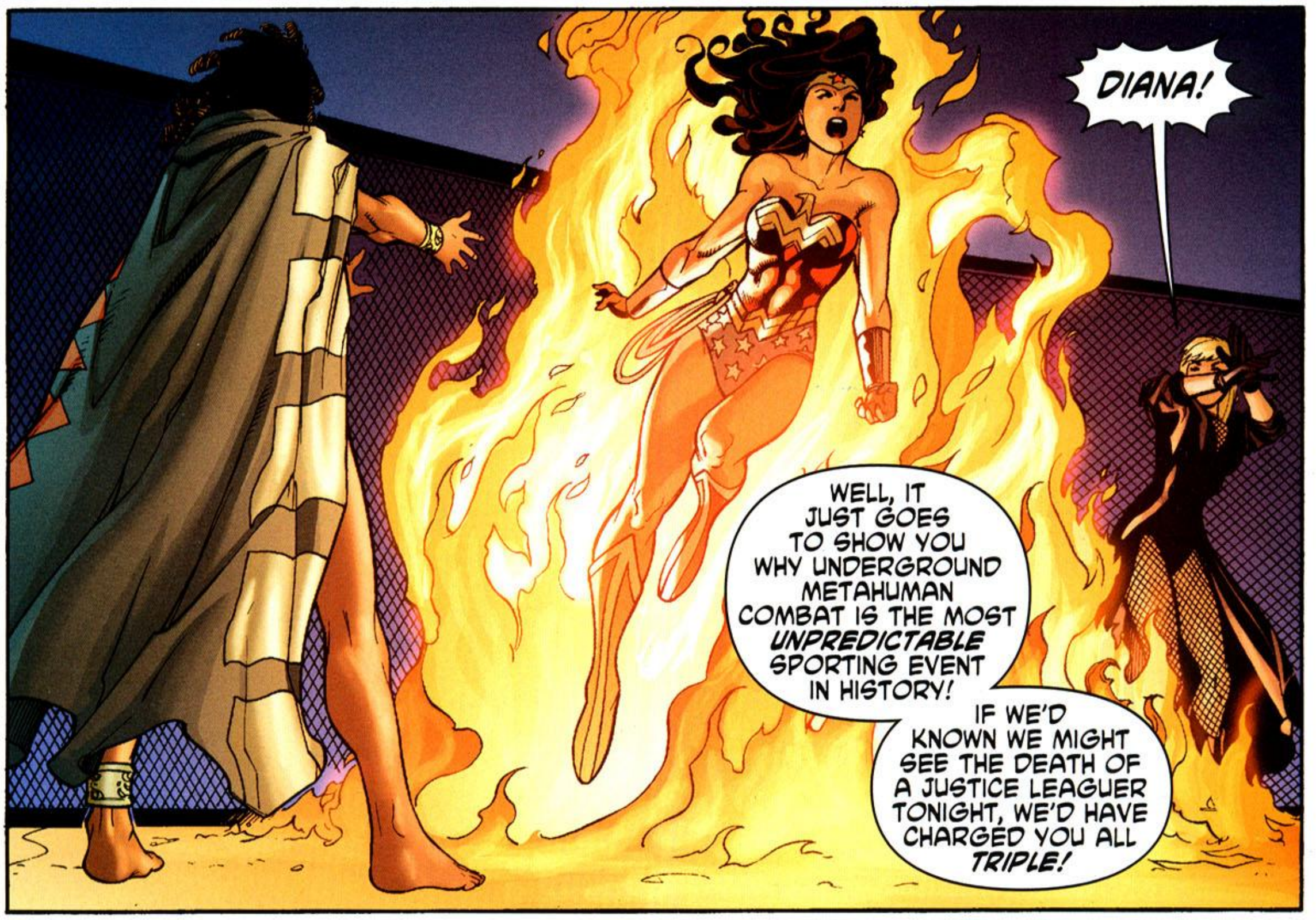
HOW GRACIOUS OF YOU.
I FRANKLY CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THE NEW CONTENDER MUST BE THINKING, SEEING OUR FIERCE CHAMP COMING AT HER, FIST FLYIN'!
AAUUHGGH!
THINKING OF OTHERS LIKE THAT.
OW! AND I CERTAINLY DIDN'T SEE THAT COMIN'! OUCH!

GREAT HE... I MEAN...
THE AGONY. ARM IS USELESS NOW!
WHO IS THIS FIGHTER?
THAT'S WHAT YOU DO, YES?
PLACE OTHERS BEFORE YOU. SO I HAVE HEARD, SO THE LEGENDS ATTEST.

NO MORE GAMES.

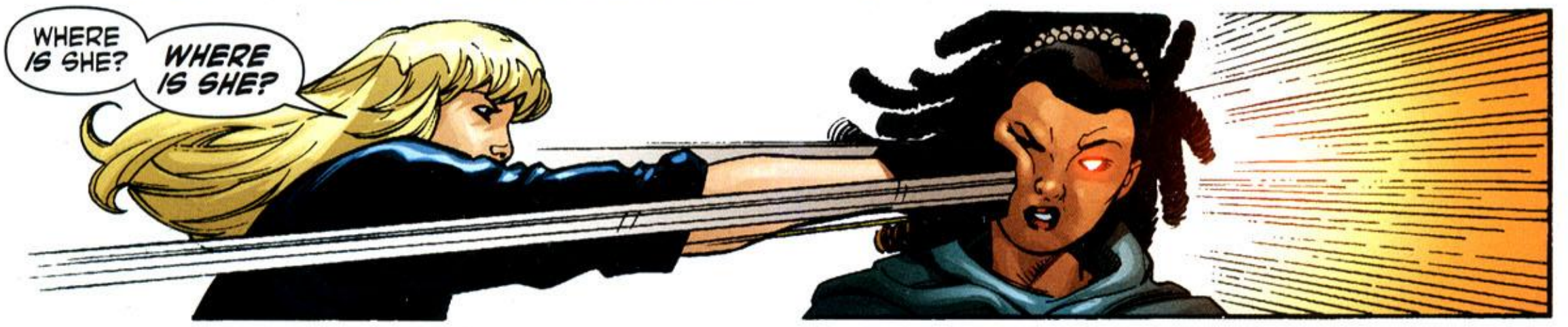
LADIES AND GENTS, LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT HAVE A *BARN*-BURNER GOIN' ON TONIGHT!

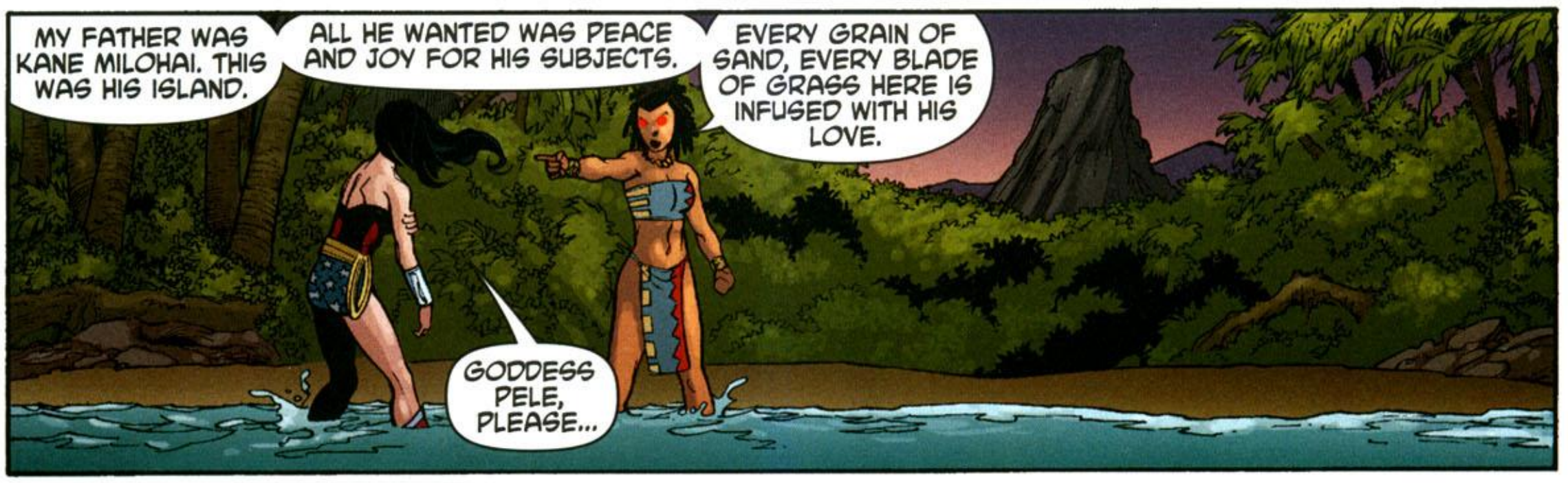
DO YOU NOW?
WELL, THAT SOLVES EVERYTHING, DOESN'T IT?


DIANA!
WELL, IT JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU WHY UNDERGROUND METAHUMAN COMBAT IS THE MOST UNPREDICTABLE SPORTING EVENT IN HISTORY!
IF WE'D KNOWN WE MIGHT SEE THE DEATH OF A JUSTICE LEAGUER TONIGHT, WE'D HAVE CHARGED YOU ALL TRIPLE!

DIANA!
OH, MAN. DIANA! WHERE'D YOU GO?

WHAT'D YOU DO TO HER, YOU DAMN WITCH?
WHERE'D YOU TAKE HER?


WHERE IS SHE?
WHERE IS SHE?


MY FATHER WAS KANE MILOHAI. THIS WAS HIS ISLAND.
ALL HE WANTED WAS PEACE AND JOY FOR HIS SUBJECTS.
EVERY GRAIN OF SAND, EVERY BLADE OF GRASS HERE IS INFUSED WITH HIS LOVE.
GODDESS PELE, PLEASE...

AND BECAUSE HE DID YOU A GREAT KINDNESS...
...YOUR PATRON GOD RIPPED HIS LIVING HEART OUT!
WHAT CAN I SAY, HOW DO I DEFEND MYSELF TO THIS GRIEVING DAUGHTER?
IT'S ALL TRUE.
IT'S ALL TRUE.

YOU CALL YOURSELF A WARRIOR, PAMPERED, CODDLED PRINCESS OF WEAKLINGS?
LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT A WARRIOR DOES.
LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT WAR CAN DO!
ZERO. SHE'S DEFENSELESS. WONDER WOMAN IS DEFENSELESS.
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS?
GOT IT, BOSS.

MESSAGE TO ALL COMBATANTS.

ALL RULES OF ENGAGEMENT ARE SUSPENDED! IT'S A FREE-FOR-ALL!

AND IT JUST KEEPS GETTING DEEPER.

I GOTTA SERIOUSLY THINK ABOUT BECOMING A FLORIST AGAIN.

YOU NEVER THOUGHT ONCE ABOUT MY FATHER!
AND YOU MOURN, YOU SHOW YOUR GRIEF, BY FIGHTING IN COSTUMES FOR PENNIES AND APPLAUSE!
YOU SHAME EVERYTHING THAT HE WAS!
I HAVE FOUGHT EVERY KIND OF CREATURE, CONSTRUCT AND ALIEN IMAGINABLE.
BUT OF THEM ALL, A DAUGHTER'S TEARS MIGHT BE THE MOST IMPOSSIBLE, THE MOST HORRIFYING.
PELE.
GODDESS.
I DIDN'T KNOW. I HAVE RENOUNCED ZEUS FOREVER FOR HIS CRIME.
LIAR!
YOU SET MY FATHER ALONE AGAINST THE WRATH OF YOUR ENTIRE PANTHEON!
SHE'S RIGHT. I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT. I SHOULD HAVE...
I AM SO SORRY, KANE.
MURDERER.
HYPOCRITICAL PREACHER!
BUT I CAN'T LET HER KILL ME FOR MY MISTAKE.
AND THAT MEANS I FIGHT THE GOD OF VIOLENCE HERSELF.
STAND DOWN, MISTRESS.
I WILL FIGHT BACK.

COME ON. COME ON!
BRING YOUR A-STUFF!
BECAUSE THAT WOMAN IS MY FRIEND.

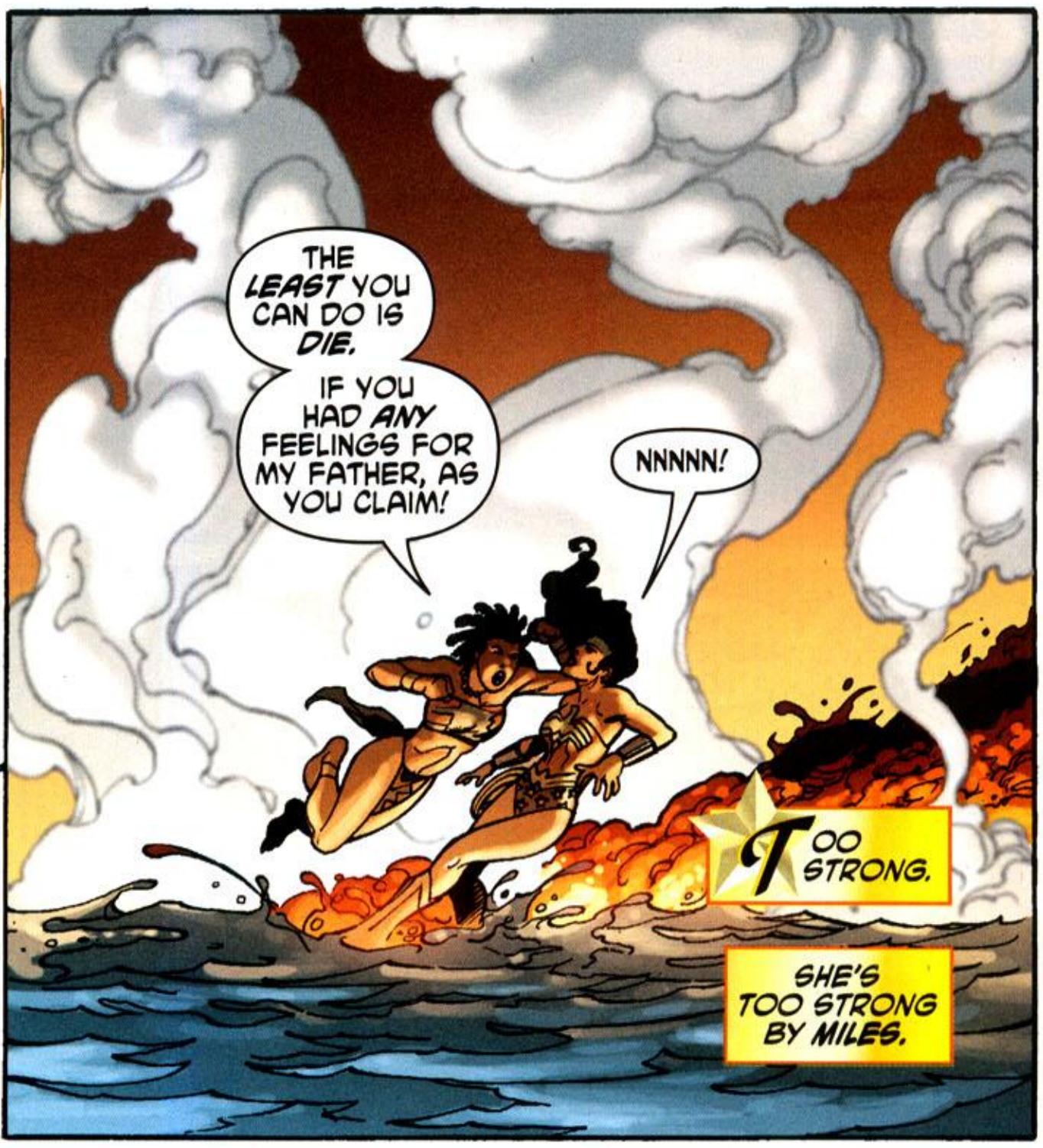
AND.
NOT.
ONE...

...OF YOU DRIBBLING IDIOTS IS GONNA LAY A HAND ON HER.

SKREEE

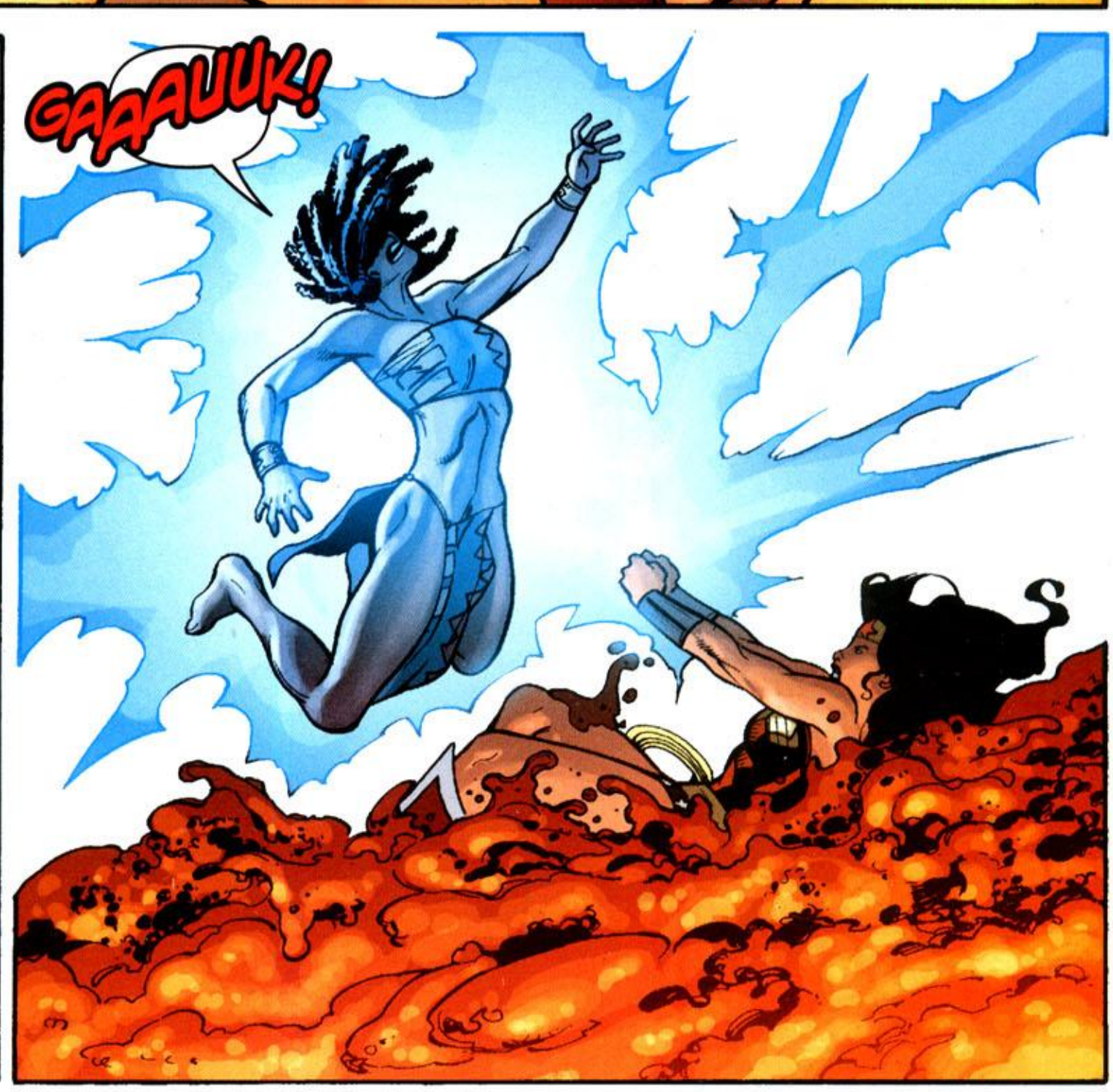
HAVE I MADE MYSELF CLEAR?
UNNNNNNN-- DEFEATED!
WELL, THIS IS A STUNNING UPSET! NO ONE CAN SAY THEY DIDN'T GET THEIR MONEY'S WORTH HERE, NOW, CAN THEY? OPINIONS, DR. PSYCHO?

OPINIONS?
I HAVE PLENTY, MISTER ZERO.


THE *LEAST* YOU CAN DO IS *DIE.*
IF YOU HAD *ANY* FEELINGS FOR MY FATHER, AS YOU CLAIM!
NNNNN!
TOO STRONG.
SHE'S TOO STRONG BY *MILES.*

I'M SORRY, MOTHER.
I WISH I COULD TELL YOU.

BURN.
MY GRIEF MAKES THE WORLD DARK, BUT YOUR DEATH WILL BRING THE LIGHT AGAIN.


GAAAUUK!

THE LIGHTNING. I RECOGNIZE IT. IT BELONGS TO ZEUS.

BUT HOW IN HERA'S NAME IS IT RESPONDING TO ME?

PELE, MISTRESS OF THE VOLCANO.

I LOVED YOUR FATHER. AND YOU'RE RIGHT. IT WAS MY COMING TO HIM THAT CAUSED HIS DEATH. AND I HAVE NOT YET PAID MY RESPECTS.

I AM SORRY. MY VOW TO HIM...

...NOW PASSES TO *YOU.*

WHAT *AMENDS* WOULD YOU HAVE ME MAKE?

THERE ARE TEARS, FROM THE FORMER PRINCESS AND THE NOW ORPHANED GODDESS. AND A TERRIBLE PROMISE IS MADE.

BUT WHAT I HAVE TO DO TONIGHT WILL REQUIRE A DIFFERENT KIND OF COURAGE ENTIRELY.
AND FRIENDSHIPS WITH BLONDE MARTIAL ARTISTS NOTWITHSTANDING, I HAVE TO RIDE THIS PART OF THE WHIRLWIND ALONE.
TOM. HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING LONG?
NO, PRINCESS.
WELL, KINDA.

I'LL BE HONEST, DIANA. YOU'VE LOOKED BETTER.
YOU OKAY?
I'M TENDER ALL OVER, ACTUALLY.
I NEED SOME TIME TO HEAL.

YEAH. I COULD MAKE BOTH THOSE STATEMENTS MYSELF, I GUESS.
SINGED HAIR, TOO. YOU GET IN A FIGHT WITH A FLAMETHROWER?
MMM. SHALL WE...
SHALL WE TALK IT OVER OVER A LONG HOT SHOWER, TOM?

THE OFFER OF THE CENTURY.
THE GODDESSS AND THE SHMOE. AND DOES THE SHMOE EVER SHOW A LICK OF SENSE AND TAKE THE OFFER?
HE DOES NOT.
TOM, LISTEN, I NEED TO EXPLAIN. I NEED TO APOLOGIZE.

ME FIRST, PRINCESS.
I NEED YOU TO TAKE THIS BACK, PLEASE.
I'M SORRY.

WHATEVER THIS WAS BETWEEN US... WHATEVER IT WAS GOING TO BE...
WHATEVER IT *COULD* HAVE BEEN...
IT'S OVER.
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