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WAR OF THE GODS 24

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WONDER WOMAN

TO AVENGE AN AMAZON

by GEORGE PÉREZ, JILL THOMPSON & RICK BRYANT

JWG

TM

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WORLD NEWS

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GEORGE PEREZ, JILL THOMPSON, RICK BRYANT,
JOHN COSTANZA, NANSI HOOLAHAN,
TOM PEYER & KAREN BERGER-ARCHITECTS
WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

TO AVENGE AN AMAZON

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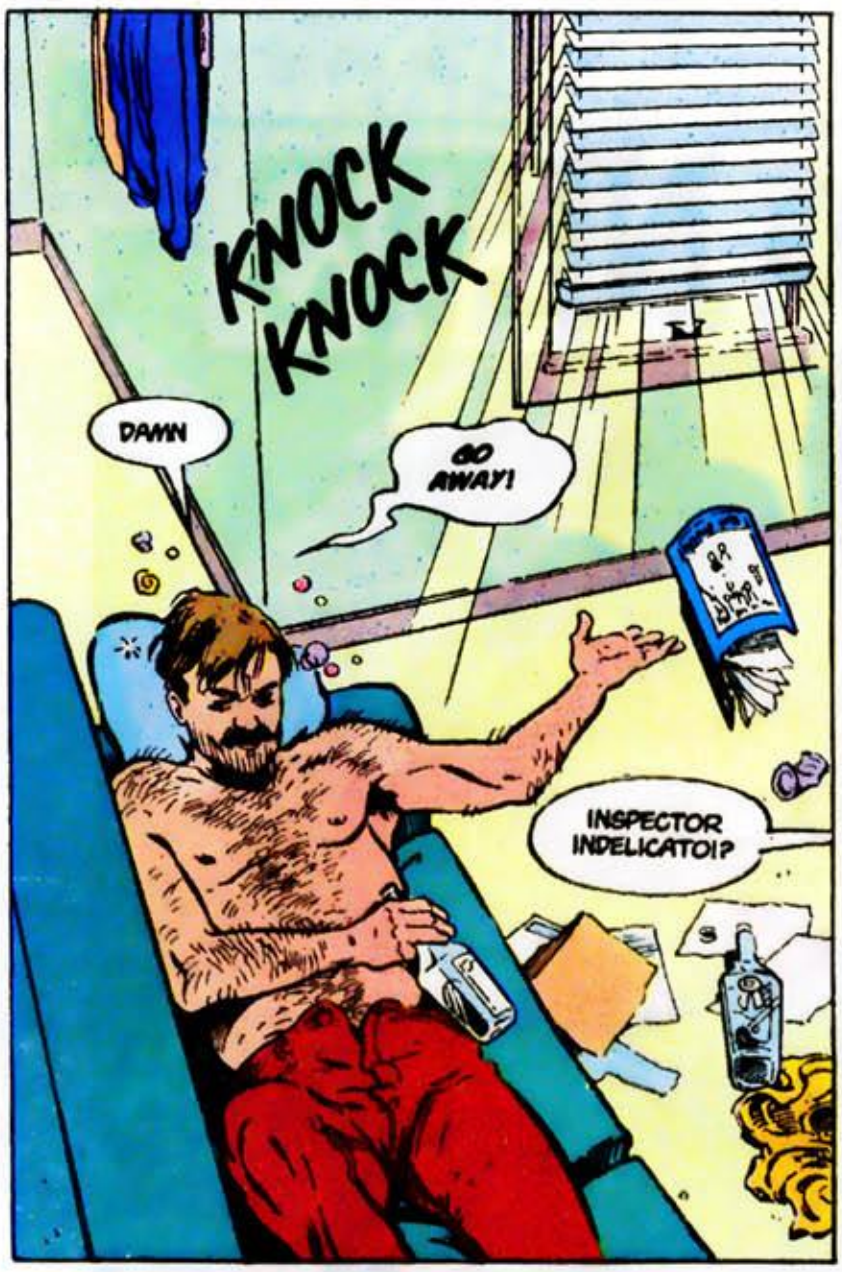
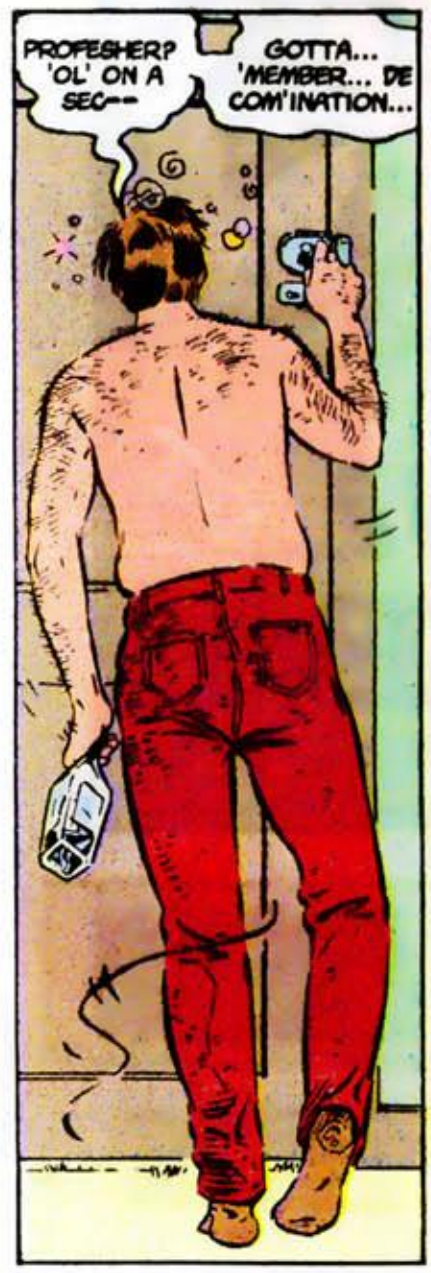

KNOCK KNOCK
DAMN
GO AWAY!
INSPECTOR INDELICATO!?

INSHPECTOR INDE'ICATO'S DEAD! YOU CAN JUS' SLIP DE FLO'ERS UN'ER DE DOOR!
HA'N'T YOU 'ULTURES PICKED MY BONES ENUFF--FF?

PLEASE, INSPECTOR. I'M NOT A REPORTER. IT'S JULIA KAPATELIS. REMEMBER ME?
KNOK KNOK
I WAS A FRIEND OF DIANA'S.


PROFESHER? 'OL' ON A SEC--
GOTTA... 'MEMBER... DE COM'INATION...

INSPECTOR... I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTRUSION. I DIDN'T MEAN TO IMPOSE ON YOUR PRIVATE GRIEF.
IT'S JUST THAT I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR MY DAUGHTER VANESSA.
I-I TRIED TO PHONE--
I DIDH- CONNECTED IT... GAY ME A HEADACHE. IT'S INNA TOILET...

YOU POOR MAN. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
>COUGHK LISTEN... PROFESSOR. I'M GLAD THAT I COULD HELP YOUR DAUGHTER. AT LEAST I DIDN'T BOTCH UP EVERYTHING.
PLEASE, INSPECTOR, YOU CAN'T CONTINUE ADMONISHING YOURSELF--
BUT I SHOULDA CALLED 'ER. I SHOULDA TOLD DIANA ABOUT DE CHEETAH. MAYBE IT MIGHTA HELPED... MIGHTA SAVED 'ER...

"...STUPID, I KNOW IT. IT WASN'T LIKE SHE WAS MY PARTNER OR ANYTHING-- NOT LIKE SHANDS -- NOT LIKE A REAL COP... STUPID...

"...AND, FOR SOME STRANGE-- STUPID-- REASON, I FIGGERED I HAD A PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST THIS CHEETAH WITCH.

"STUPID."

OKAY, DR. MINERVA. WE'LL PLAY THIS ANY WAY YOU LIKE. ALL I CARE ABOUT IS THE GIRL. I JUST WANT TO SEE HER.

SHUT UP! I CALL THE SHOTS AROUND HERE. I HAVE NO TIME FOR GAMES.

I'M RISKING MY LIFE BY STAYING IN ONE PLACE FOR SO LONG.

" 'IT STARTED WHEN I SAW A SMALL BIRD PERCHED ON MY CELL WINDOW. AT FIRST IT LOOKED LIKE THE PRINCESS' MESSENGER PIGEON, TIMO ONE.

" 'HE SPOKE TO ME IN GREEK AND CALLED HIMSELF MIKOS--

" 'BUT THEN IT BEGAN TO CHANGE. IT GREW LARGER. FIRST INTO A HAWK-- THEN TO SOME STRANGE HYBRID OF BIRD AND HUMAN-- AND FINALLY INTO A MAN.

" '--AND HE'D COME TO SET ME FREE.

'I WAS SURE IT WAS SOME DRUG-INDUCED PSYCHOSIS-- YOU GET A LOT OF THAT IN ARKHAM ASYLUM--

" '-- PROBABLY JUST SOME ORDERLY TRYING TO FORCE FEED ME MY MEDICATION AGAIN. I FOUGHT HIM, JUIST AS I ALWAYS DID--

" '-- BUT HE WAS SO STRONG.

" ' HE SHOVED THIS-- POTION-- DOWN MY THROAT--

" '-- AND EVERYTHING WENT BLOOD RED.

MIKOS... HE'S CIRCE'S AIDE-DE-CAMP. THEN IT WAS SHE WHO UNLEASHED THE CHEETAH.

YEAH, MIKOS HAD KILLED TINY ONE SOME TIME AFTER YOU SAW THE BIRD IN TURKEY* HE'S BEEN SPYIN' CIRCE EVER SINCE.

BUT, THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE--

*WONDER WOMAN NO. 41 -- KAREN AND TOM

WAIT 'TIL I FINISH, PERFESH-- UHH-- PROFESSOR.

YEAH, ALL THE PAIN 'N' SUFFERIN' WAS OVER FOR DR. MINERVA-- ONLY NOW SHE WAS TRAPPED. OUTTA ONE CAGE, INTO ANOTHER.

"THAT NEW DRUG HAD BEEN TO THAT.

"CIRCE WANTED TO USE MINERVA'S KNOWLEDGE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND AMAZON HISTORY TO HELP WITH HER CRAZY SCHEMES.

"SHE EVEN MADE THE CHEETAH PART OF HER BESTIAMORPH ARMY-- -- ONE OF HER PET CATS, Y'MIGHT SAY-- AND TREATED HER LIKE IT.

"THIS WAS DEFINITELY NOT THE KINDA TREATMENT DOCTOR MINERVA WAS USED TO.

THE DRUG CIRCE CREATED WAS NOT LIKE THE ONE CHUMA CONCOCTED FROM THE VINE OF URZKARTAGA.

THIS POTION'S SIDE EFFECTS WERE MARKEDLY DIFFERENT.

IT TURNS MY OWN BLOODLUST AGAINST ME.

" 'WITHOUT MY REGULAR FIX, FRESH BLOOD, MY SOLE MEANS OF SUSTENANCE, IS PURGED FROM MY SYSTEM AS IF IN A BULIMIC SPASM.

" 'BEFORE, I RELISHED THE TASTE OF BLOOD. NOW IT WAS ONLY PALATABLE WHEN SEASONED BY THAT DAMNED DRUG.

" 'CIRCE HAD MADE ME HER SLAVE.

" 'AND BY GOD, SHE'LL PAY FOR THAT.' "

THEMISCIRA...

IN THE ONCE-MAGNIFICENT CAPITAL CITY, AMAZON WORK CREWS STRIVE MIGHTILY TO DIG OUT FROM THE CARNAGE BROUGHT ABOUT BY GOD AND MAN.

AMID THE RUCKUS OF POUNDING HAMMERS AND CRASHING MARBLE ARE THE MOURNFUL WAILS FOR THE DEAD-- AND DYING.

"<EPIONE, HOW FARES THE QUEEN?>

"<NOT WELL, HERACLES.>"

<I HAVE DONE ALL THAT I CAN, BUT I FEAR IT IS NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.>

<NEVER HAS THE ISLAND OF HEALING BEEN SO INUNDATED WITH PATIENTS. EVEN SOME OF MY BEST HEALERS ARE AMONG THE WOUNDED.>

<CURSE THAT CIRCE. SHE FREED ME FROM MY BONDAGE WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THIS ISLAND--

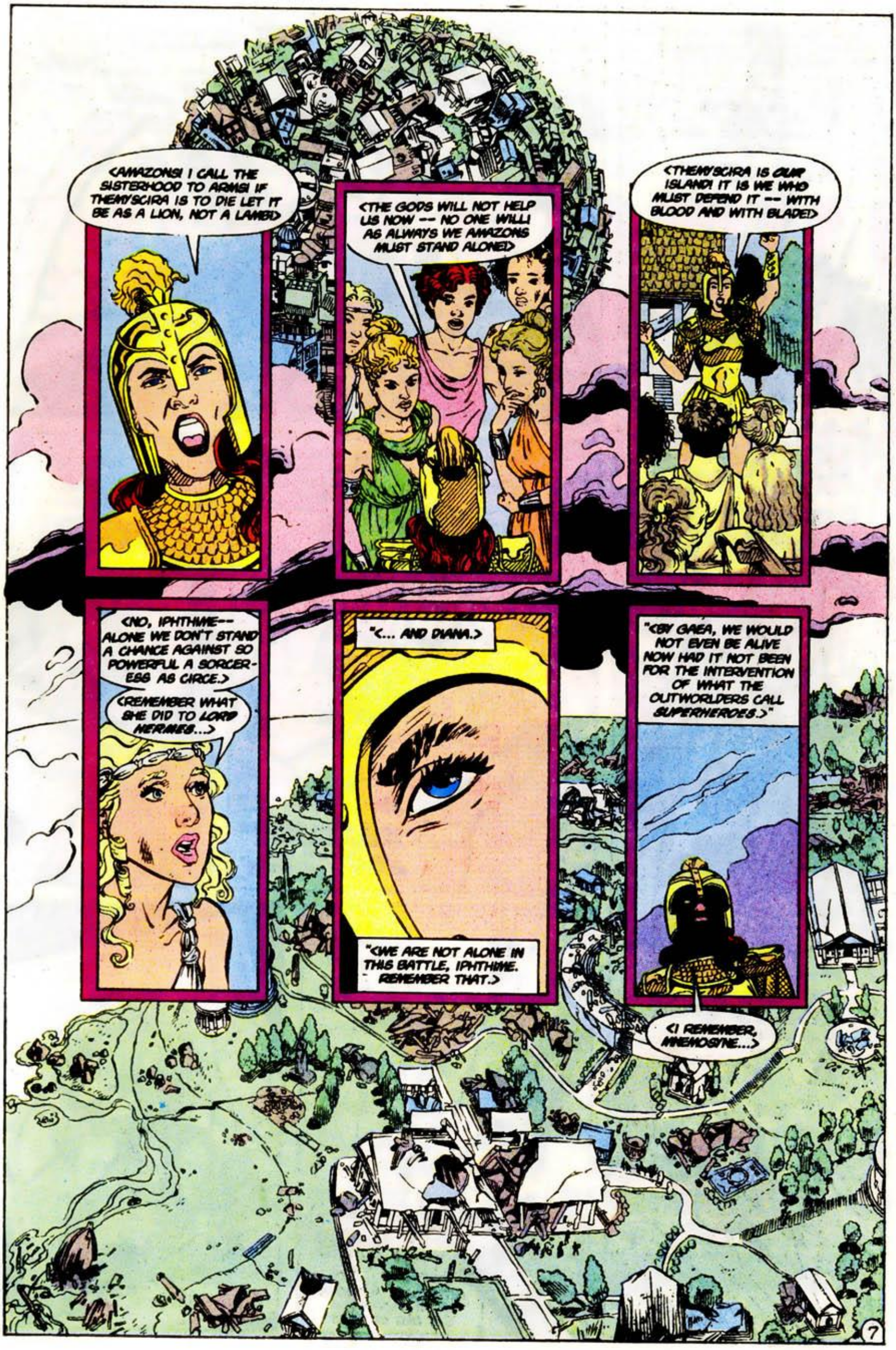
<-- ONLY SO THAT I MAY STAND BY IMPOTENTLY AS ALL I HOLD DEAR DIE AROUND ME.>

<PERHAPS IT IS FOR THE BEST.>

<I MEAN... EVEN IF HIPPOLYTE WERE TO RECOVER-- ONLY TO SEE HOW MISERABLY THE GODS FAILED HER -- ALL OF US.>

"<WHAT HAS SHE TO FACE, EXCEPT OUR IMPENDING DEMISE -- AND WORD THAT HER DAUGHTER IS DEAD?>

"<PERHAPS IT IS... FOR THE BEST.>"


<AMAZONS! I CALL THE SISTERHOOD TO ARMS! IF THEMYSCIRA IS TO DIE LET IT BE AS A LION, NOT A LAMB!>
<THE GODS WILL NOT HELP US NOW -- NO ONE WILL! AS ALWAYS WE AMAZONS MUST STAND ALONE!>
<THEMYSCIRA IS OUR ISLAND! IT IS WE WHO MUST DEFEND IT -- WITH BLOOD AND WITH BLADE!>
<NO, IPHTHIME-- ALONE WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST SO POWERFUL A SORCERESS AS CIRCE.>
<REMEMBER WHAT SHE DID TO LORD HERMES...>
"<... AND DIANA.>
"<WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS BATTLE, IPHTHIME. REMEMBER THAT.>
"<BY GAEA, WE WOULD NOT EVEN BE ALIVE NOW HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE INTERVENTION OF WHAT THE OUTWORLDERS CALL SUPERHEROES.>"
<I REMEMBER, MNEMOSYNE...>
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"<JUST AS I REMEMBER THAT IT WAS ALSO THE OUTWORLDERS WHO NEARLY DESTROYED US.>"

LION LEADER TO PRIDE. FAN OUT OVER TARGET AREA. DROP LOAD AT WILL.

IF THE HAWKPEOPLE AND STARMAN PERSIST, REGARD THEM AS ENEMY PLANES AND --

LION LEADER! THERE'S ANOTHER UFO COMING IN AT 10 O'CLOCK!

HUH? OH NO-- NOT HIM.

LION LEADER! DO YOU HEAR ME?

ABORT AND RETURN TO BASE! THIS IS ALL A DREADFUL MISTAKE!

CHECK WITH YOUR COMMAND CENTER! THIS MISSION IS SCRUBBED!

PLEASE! DON'T MAKE ME DO SOMETHING WE'LL ALL REGRET! THIS MISSION IS SCRUBBED!

LION LEADER-- I'M GETTING CONFIRMATION FROM BASE. WE'RE A WASH!

THANK GOD.

LET'S JUST GET SOME RECON PHOTOS AND GET OUT OF HERE!

THESE OUTWORLDERS WAR AMONG THEMSELVES SIMPLY TO DECIDE WHICH OF THEM SHALL HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF CONQUEST OVER US.
BUT, DON'T YOU SEE? THAT IS EXACTLY HOW THE OUTWORLDERS REGARD US!
THERE IS AN AMAZON FACTION OUT THERE THAT HAS CONVINCED IN THE WORLD BEYOND THAT WE SEEK WORLD DOMINATION.
ANOTHER AMAZON RACE?
IMPOSSIBLE.
IT'S A TRICK.
YES... A MAN'S TRICK!

HANSCOME A.F.B., BEDFORD, MASS.
COME IN, LT. CANDY.
I ASSUME YOU HEARD WHAT HAPPENED ON PARADISE ISLAND THE OTHER DAY?
YES, GEN. HILLARY.

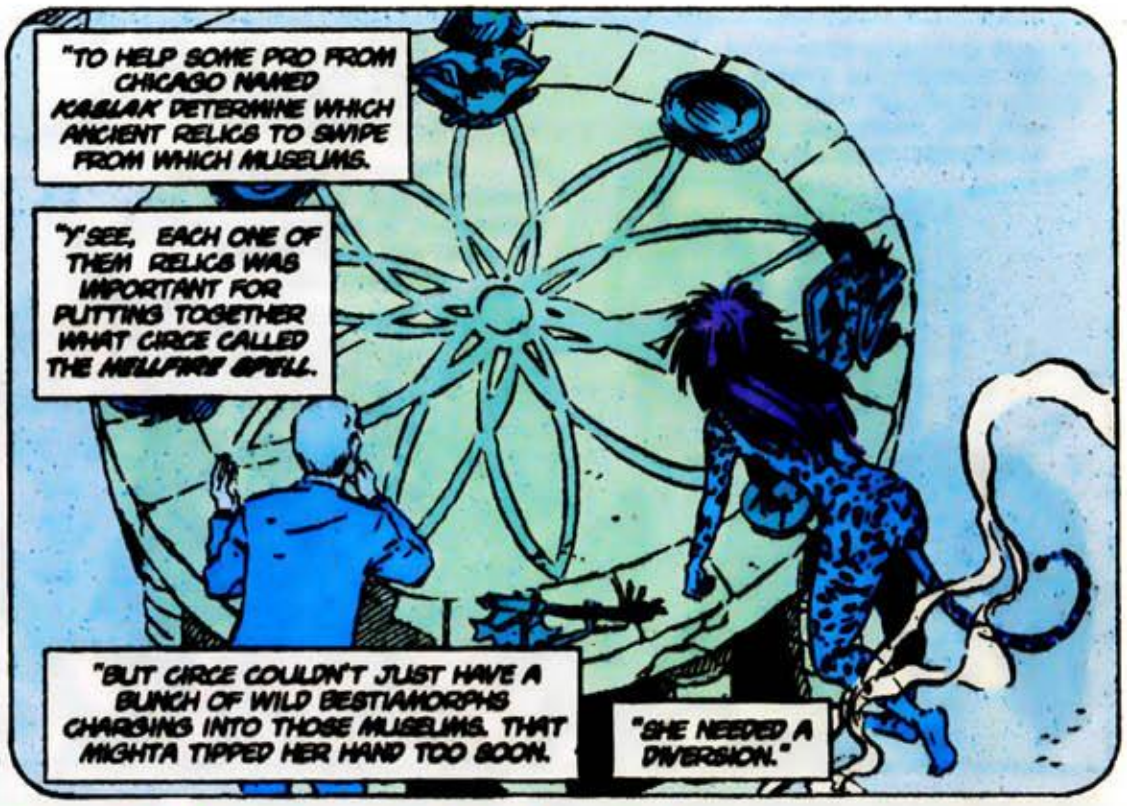
AMAZING HOW STARMAN AND THE THANAGARIANS FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT RAID, ISN'T IT?
HELL, EVEN I HAD NO IDEA THAT FOOL YEDZINIAK HAD TAKEN IT SO FAR.

PROBABLY BECAUSE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TOP SECRET. WHETHER I AGREED WITH IT OR NOT IS IRRELEVANT. IT WAS A MATTER OF GOVERNMENT SECURITY.
UNTIL, OF COURSE, WE SPRUNG A LEAK.

WE TRACED A DISTRESS SIGNAL BACK TO OUR OWN GOVERNMENT COMPUTERS RIGHT HERE.
THE PERP WAS AN EXPERT, AND THERE ARE ONLY THREE SUCH CLASSIFIED EXPERTS CURRENTLY ON THIS BASE.

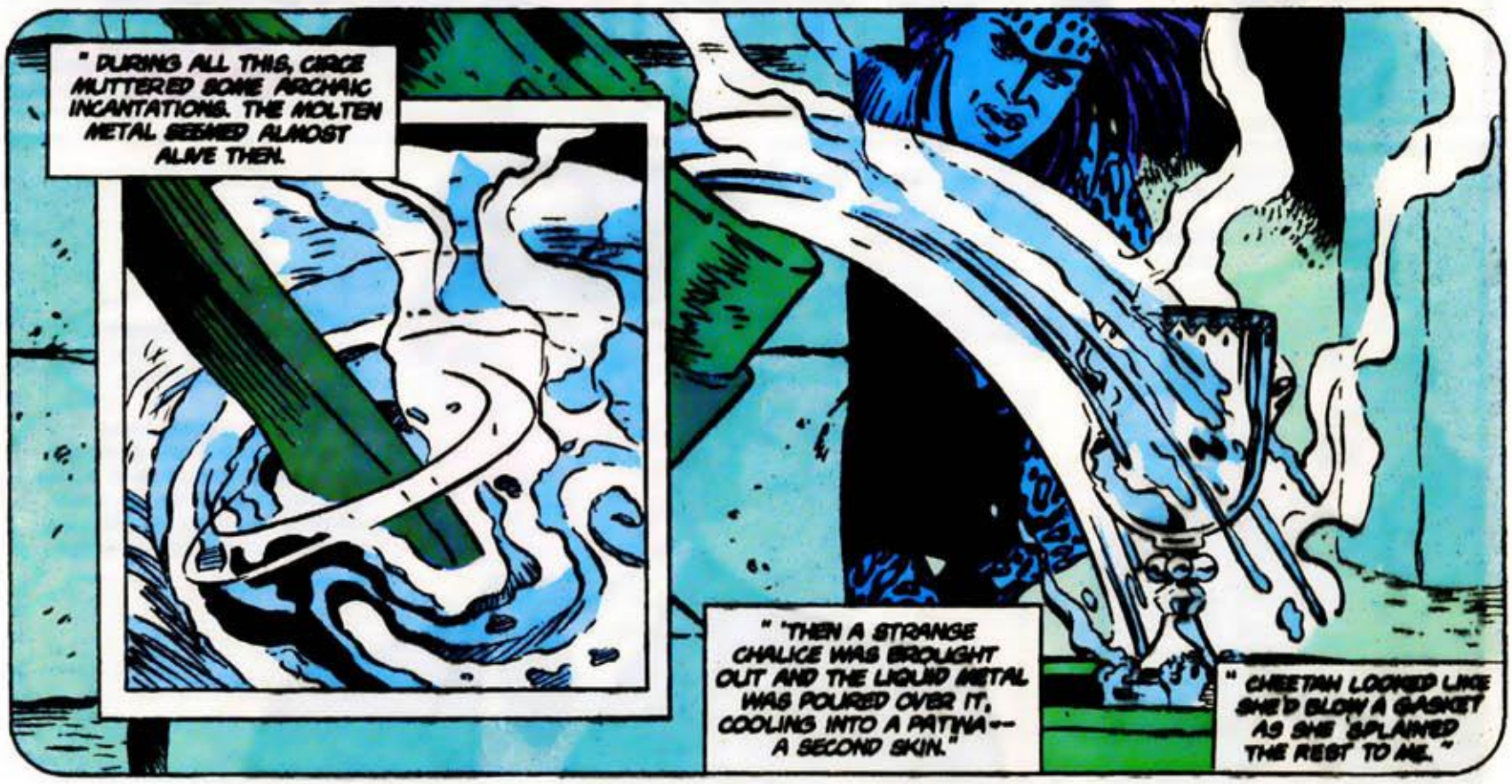
HILLARY, STOP THIS SONG AND DANCE. HELL, I ALREADY CONFESSED TO IT, DIDN'T I?
MP
NO, STEVE. IT'S NO USE.
GEN. HILLARY, I-I DO NOW FREELY CONFESS TO SENDING OUT THAT SIGNAL IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE IMPLICIT ORDERS OF MY COMMANDING OFFICERS...
I'M SORRY, SIR... I-I HAD NO CHOICE.
SO AM I, LIEUTENANT. BECAUSE NOW I HAVE NO CHOICE EITHER.
I HEREBY ORDER THAT LT. ETTA CANDY BE CHARGED WITH VIOLATION OF AFR 205-1 AND REMANDED TO MILITARY CUSTODY PENDING AN OFFICIAL MOTION FOR COURT-MARTIAL.

MINERVA BIDED HER TIME. UNTIL SHE COULD FIND A CHINK IN CIRCE'S ARMOR, SHE JUST DID THE JOB THE WITCH HAD SALVAGED HER FOR.
WHICH WAS-- ?

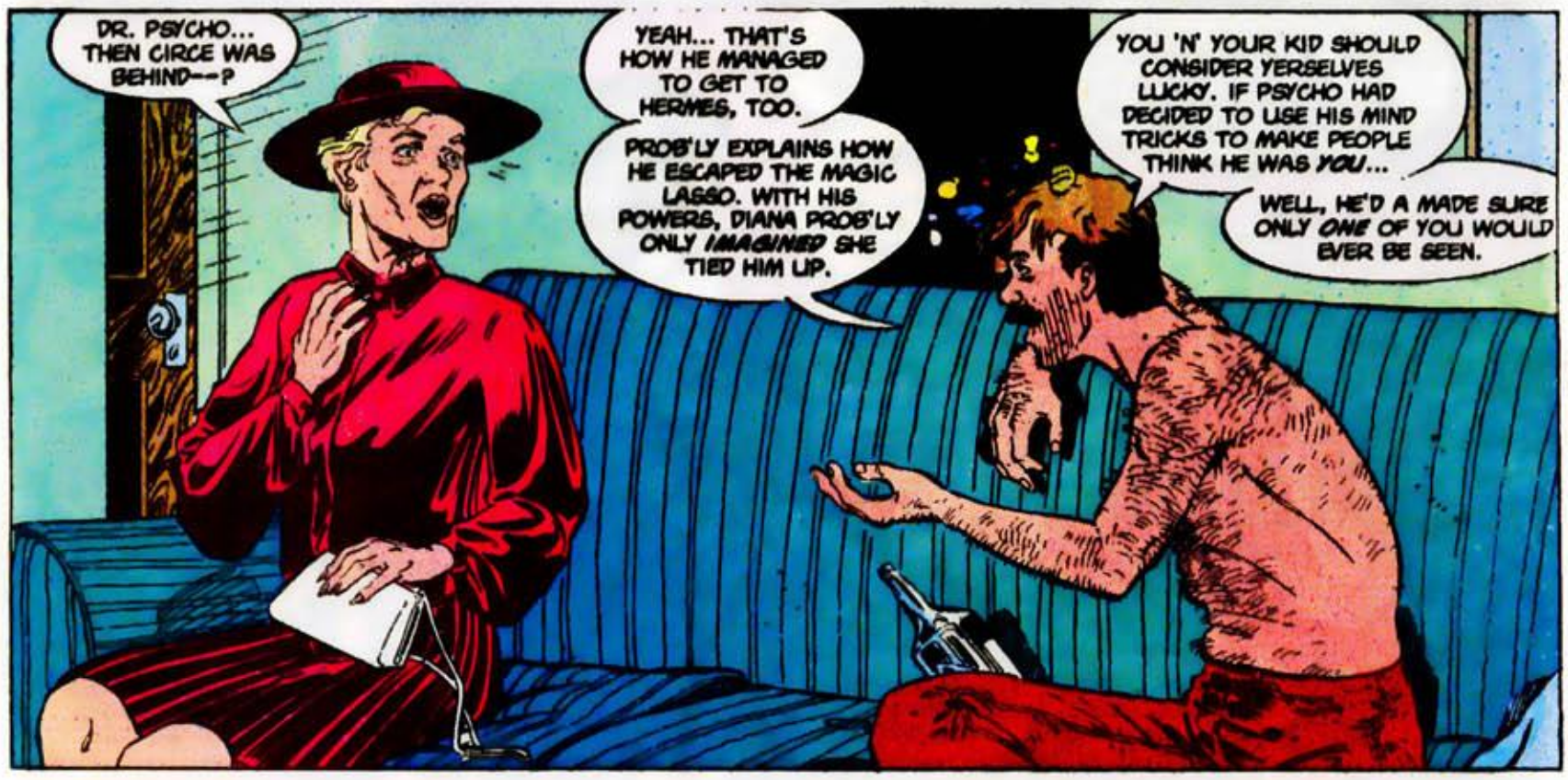

"TO HELP SOME PRO FROM CHICAGO NAMED KASLAK DETERMINE WHICH ANCIENT RELICS TO SWIPE FROM WHICH MUSEUMS.
"Y'SEE, EACH ONE OF THEM RELICS WAS IMPORTANT FOR PUTTING TOGETHER WHAT CIRCE CALLED THE HELLFIRE SPELL.
"BUT CIRCE COULDN'T JUST HAVE A BUNCH OF WILD BESTIAMORPHS CHARGING INTO THOSE MUSEUMS. THAT MIGHTA TIPPED HER HAND TOO SOON.
"SHE NEEDED A DIVERSION."

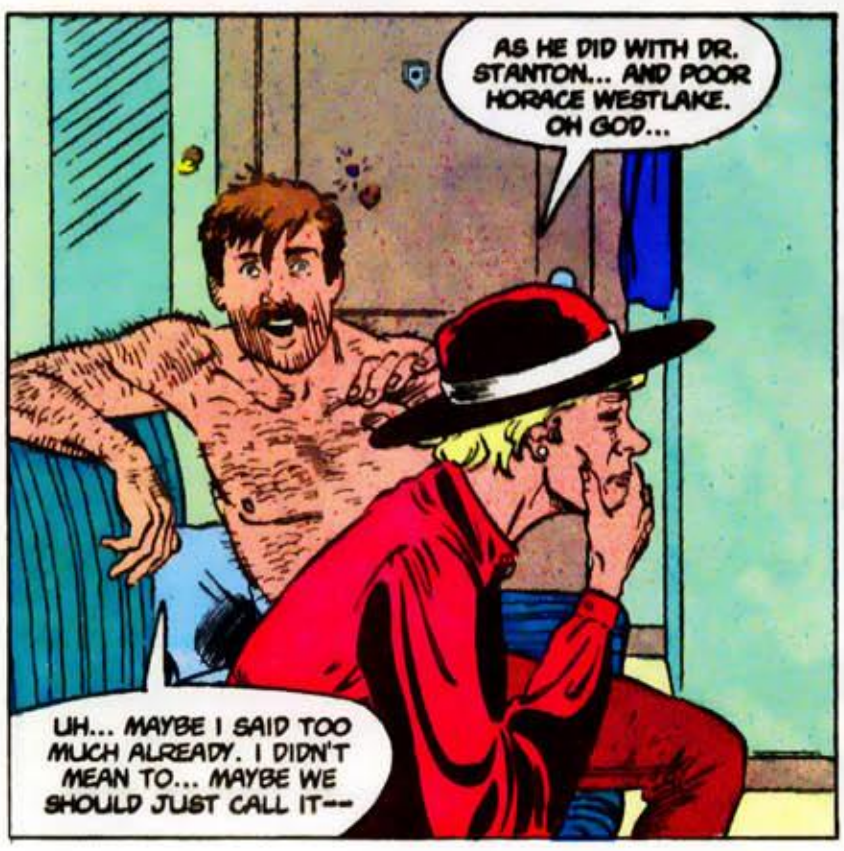
" THE WITCH MANAGED TO ENGAGE WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE AMAZONS OF BANA-MIGHDALL.
" IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR SERVICES, CIRCE PROMISED TO RESTORE THEM TO WHAT THEY BELIEVED WAS THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE OF POWER.
" 'BUT FOR THAT THEY NEEDED A QUEEN.

" CHEETAH TOLD ME SHE'D BROUGHT SOME SHARDS OF METAL THAT THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM FROM THE EGYPTIAN DESERT AND MELTED THEM DOWN PER CIRCE'S INSTRUCTIONS.

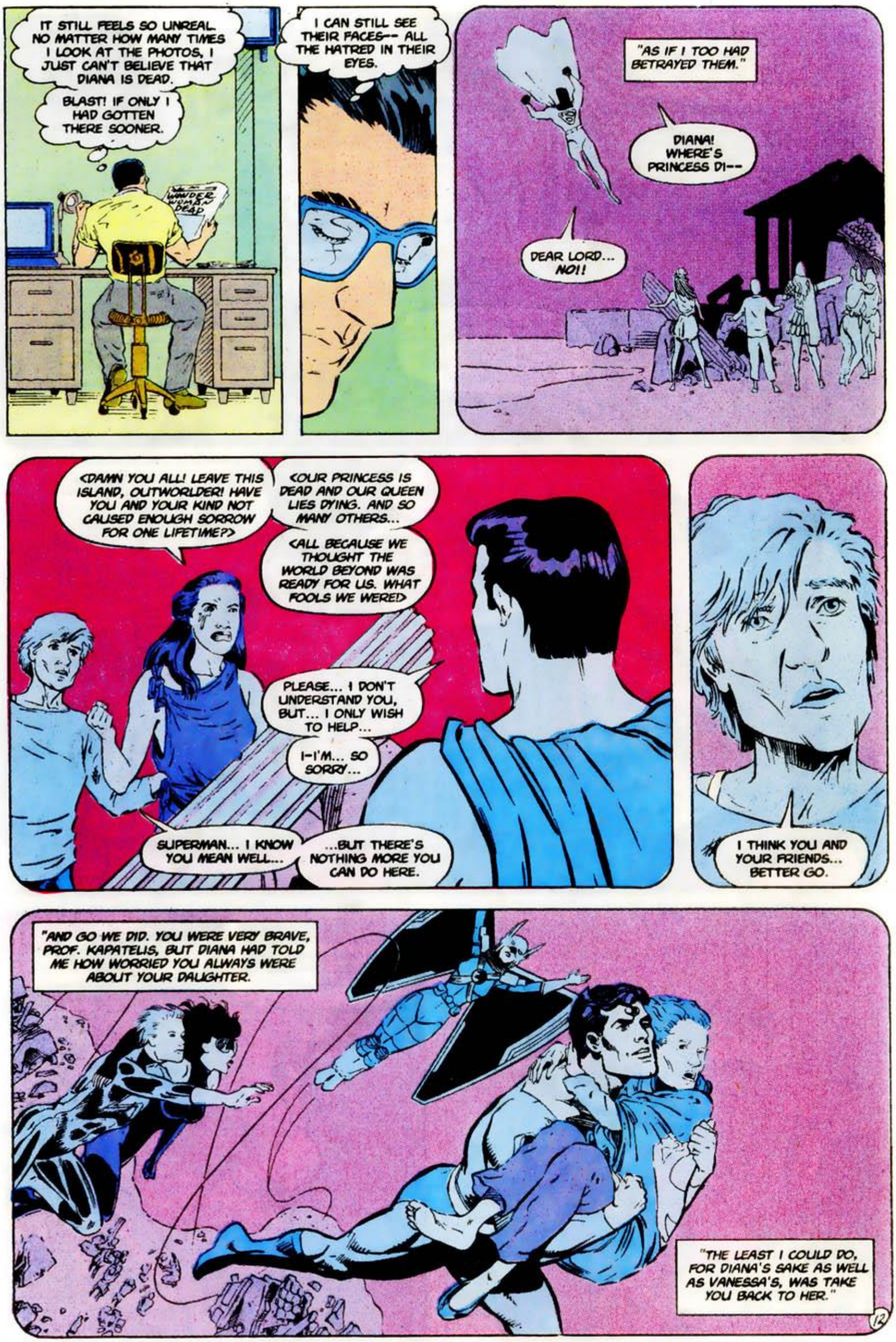

" DURING ALL THIS, CIRCE MUTTERED SOME ARCHAIC INCANTATIONS. THE MOLTEN METAL SEEMED ALMOST ALIVE THEN.
" 'THEN A STRANGE CHALICE WAS BROUGHT OUT AND THE LIQUID METAL WAS POURED OVER IT, COOLING INTO A PATINA-- A SECOND SKIN."
" CHEETAH LOOKED LIKE SHE'D BLOW A GASKET AS SHE 'SPLAINED THE REST TO ME. "

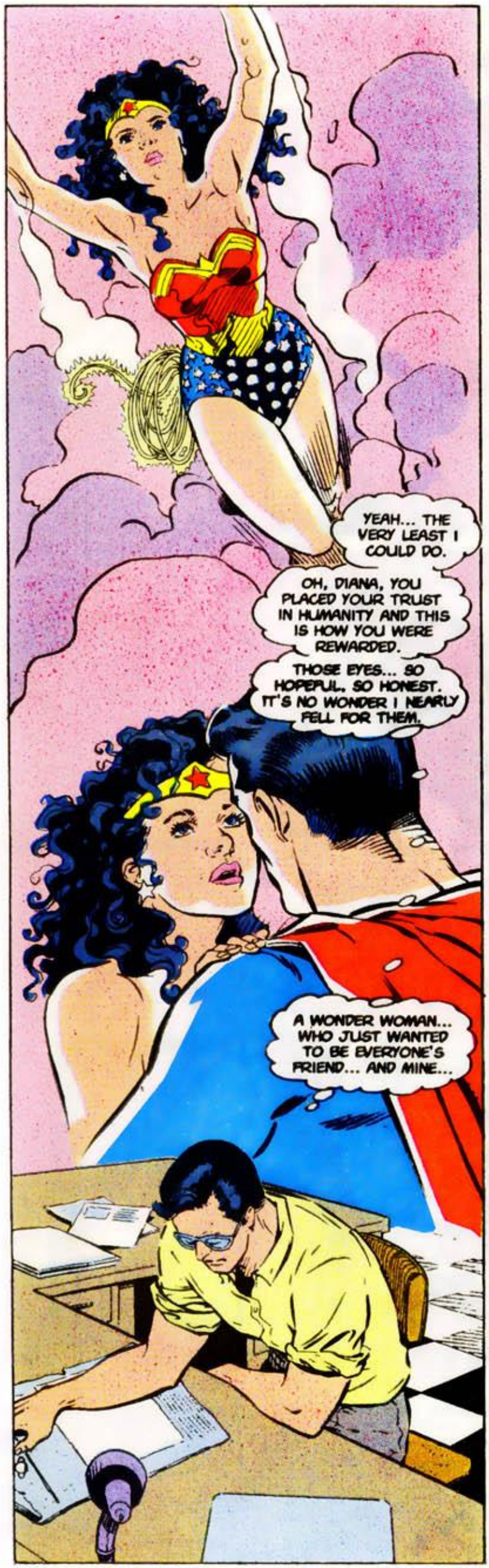
IT WASN'T UNTIL I SAW QUEEN HIPPOLYTE DRINKING FROM THAT SAME CUP AT THE UNITED NATIONS THAT I STARTED TO UNDERSTAND CIRCE'S PLAN.
IT WAS ALL PART OF A CONSPIRACY TO TURN THE WORLD AGAINST THE THEMYSCIRANS-- AND WONDER WOMAN.
"AND THAT'S ALSO WHY SHE HIRED THAT SIDE-SHOW FREAK CALLED DR. PSYCHO."


DR. PSYCHO... THEN CIRCE WAS BEHIND--?
YEAH... THAT'S HOW HE MANAGED TO GET TO HERMES, TOO.
PROB'LY EXPLAINS HOW HE ESCAPED THE MAGIC LASSO. WITH HIS POWERS, DIANA PROB'LY ONLY IMAGINED SHE TIED HIM UP.
YOU 'N' YOUR KID SHOULD CONSIDER YERSELVES LUCKY. IF PSYCHO HAD DECIDED TO USE HIS MIND TRICKS TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK HE WAS YOU...
WELL, HE'D A MADE SURE ONLY ONE OF YOU WOULD EVER BE SEEN.


AS HE DID WITH DR. STANTON... AND POOR HORACE WESTLAKE. OH GOD...
UH... MAYBE I SAID TOO MUCH ALREADY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO... MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST CALL IT--

NO. IF THE CHEETAH SAID THIS MIGHT HELP DIANA SAVE OUR WORLD THEN MAYBE WE CAN TAKE UP WHERE SHE LEFT OFF.
PLEASE CONTINUE, INSPECTOR. I OWE IT TO DIANA TO HEAR IT ALL.

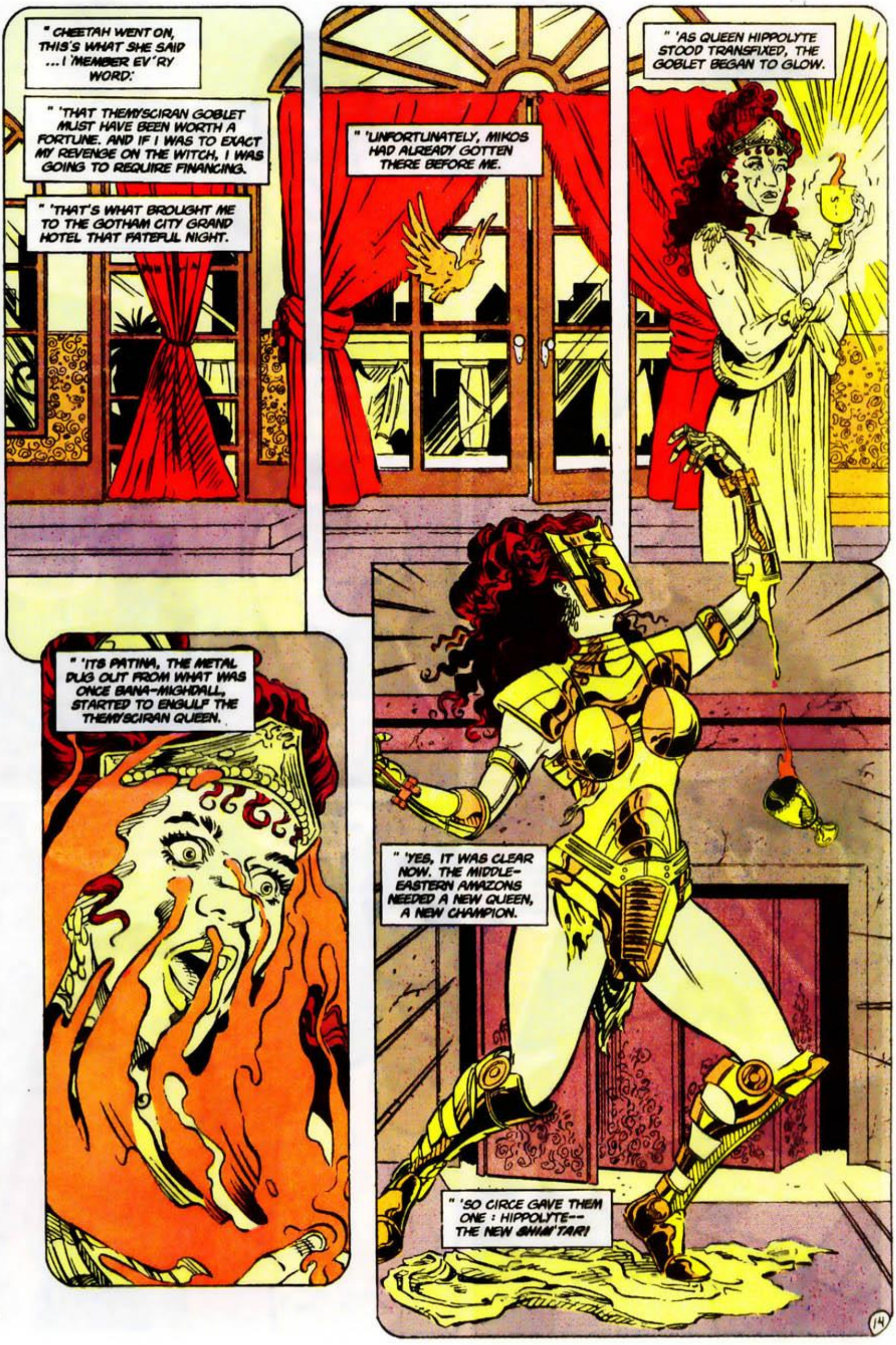

IT STILL FEELS SO UNREAL. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I LOOK AT THE PHOTOS, I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT DIANA IS DEAD.
BLAST! IF ONLY I HAD GOTTEN THERE SOONER.
WONDER WOMAN DEAD
I CAN STILL SEE THEIR FACES-- ALL THE HATRED IN THEIR EYES.
"AS IF I TOO HAD BETRAYED THEM."
DIANA! WHERE'S PRINCESS DI--
DEAR LORD... NO!!
<DAMN YOU ALL! LEAVE THIS ISLAND, OUTWORLDER! HAVE YOU AND YOUR KIND NOT CAUSED ENOUGH SORROW FOR ONE LIFETIME?>
<OUR PRINCESS IS DEAD AND OUR QUEEN LIES DYING. AND SO MANY OTHERS...
<ALL BECAUSE WE THOUGHT THE WORLD BEYOND WAS READY FOR US. WHAT FOOLS WE WERE>
PLEASE... I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, BUT... I ONLY WISH TO HELP...
I-I'M... SO SORRY...
SUPERMAN... I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL...
...BUT THERE'S NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO HERE.
I THINK YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS... BETTER GO.
"AND GO WE DID. YOU WERE VERY BRAVE, PROF. KAPATELIS, BUT DIANA HAD TOLD ME HOW WORRIED YOU ALWAYS WERE ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER.
"THE LEAST I COULD DO, FOR DIANA'S SAKE AS WELL AS VANESSA'S, WAS TAKE YOU BACK TO HER."


YEAH... THE VERY LEAST I COULD DO.
OH, DIANA, YOU PLACED YOUR TRUST IN HUMANITY AND THIS IS HOW YOU WERE REWARDED.
THOSE EYES... SO HOPEFUL, SO HONEST. IT'S NO WONDER I NEARLY FELL FOR THEM.
A WONDER WOMAN... WHO JUST WANTED TO BE EVERYONE'S FRIEND... AND MINE...

...BUT WHEN THE GOING GOT TOUGH... WHERE WAS YOUR GOOD FRIEND SUPERMAN WHEN YOU NEEDED HIM?
NOT EVEN A NEWS ITEM TO SUPPORT YOU. NOT EVEN A REBUTTAL TO THE CHARGES. NOT EVEN A PHONE CALL.
WELL, DIANA, I MAY HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE GAME LATE, BUT NOW THAT I'M IN, I'M GOING TO SEE IT THROUGH TO THE LAST INNING.

IT'S TIME THIS BELEAGUERED PLANET STARTED EARNING YOUR--
LOIS?
CLARK?
ARE YOU GOING AFTER CIRCE?

YEAH. WITH AS MUCH HELP AS I CAN GET.
CLARK... PROMISE ME YOU'LL BE CAREFUL. IF DIANA COULD DIE AT CIRCE'S HAND THEN...
DON'T SAY IT-- DON'T EVEN THINK IT.


" CHEETAH WENT ON, THIS'S WHAT SHE SAID ...I 'MEMBER EV'RY WORD:
" 'THAT THEMYSCIRAN GOBLET MUST HAVE BEEN WORTH A FORTUNE. AND IF I WAS TO EXACT MY REVENGE ON THE WITCH, I WAS GOING TO REQUIRE FINANCING.
" 'THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT ME TO THE GOTHAM CITY GRAND HOTEL THAT FATEFUL NIGHT.
" 'UNFORTUNATELY, MIKOS HAD ALREADY GOTTEN THERE BEFORE ME.
" 'AS QUEEN HIPPOLYTE STOOD TRANSFIXED, THE GOBLET BEGAN TO GLOW.
" 'ITS PATINA, THE METAL DUG OUT FROM WHAT WAS ONCE BANA-MIGHDALL, STARTED TO ENGULF THE THEMYSCIRAN QUEEN.
" 'YES, IT WAS CLEAR NOW. THE MIDDLE-EASTERN AMAZONS NEEDED A NEW QUEEN, A NEW CHAMPION.
" 'SO CIRCE GAVE THEM ONE : HIPPOLYTE-- THE NEW SHIM'TAR!
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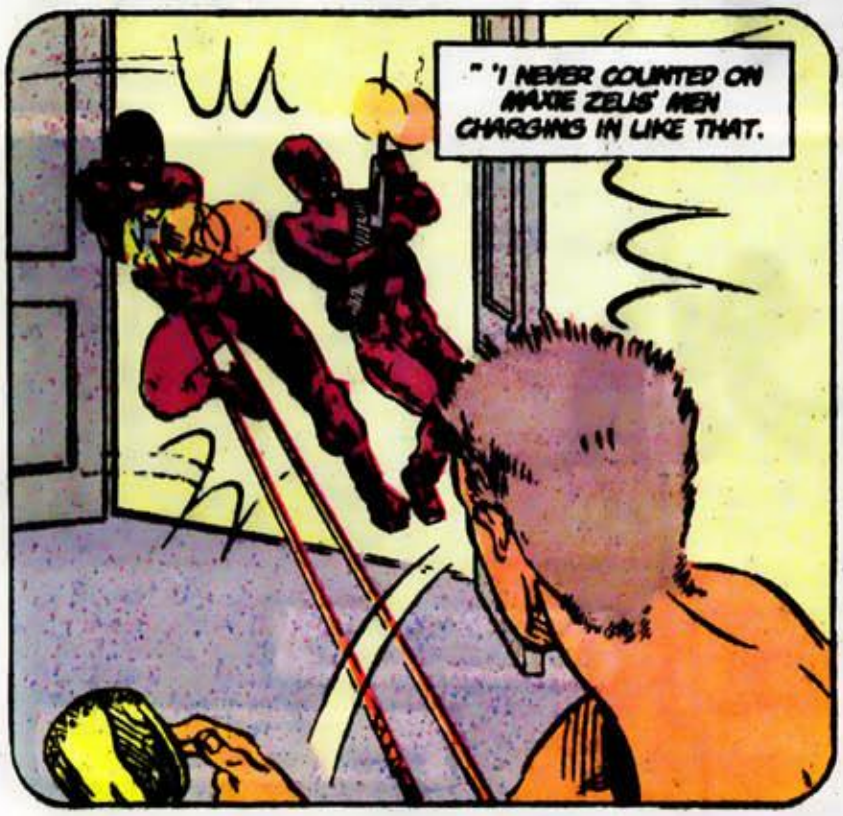
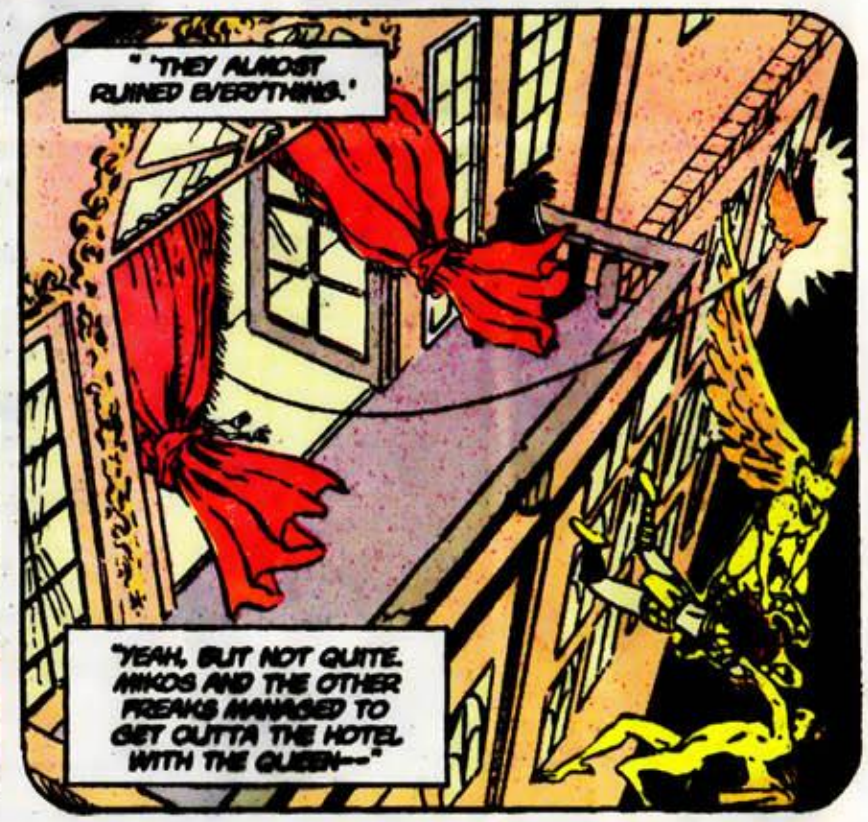
" 'THE AMAZON QUEEN LOOKED CONFUSED. MOST LIKELY THE CURSE STILL HADN'T TAKEN FULL EFFECT YET.

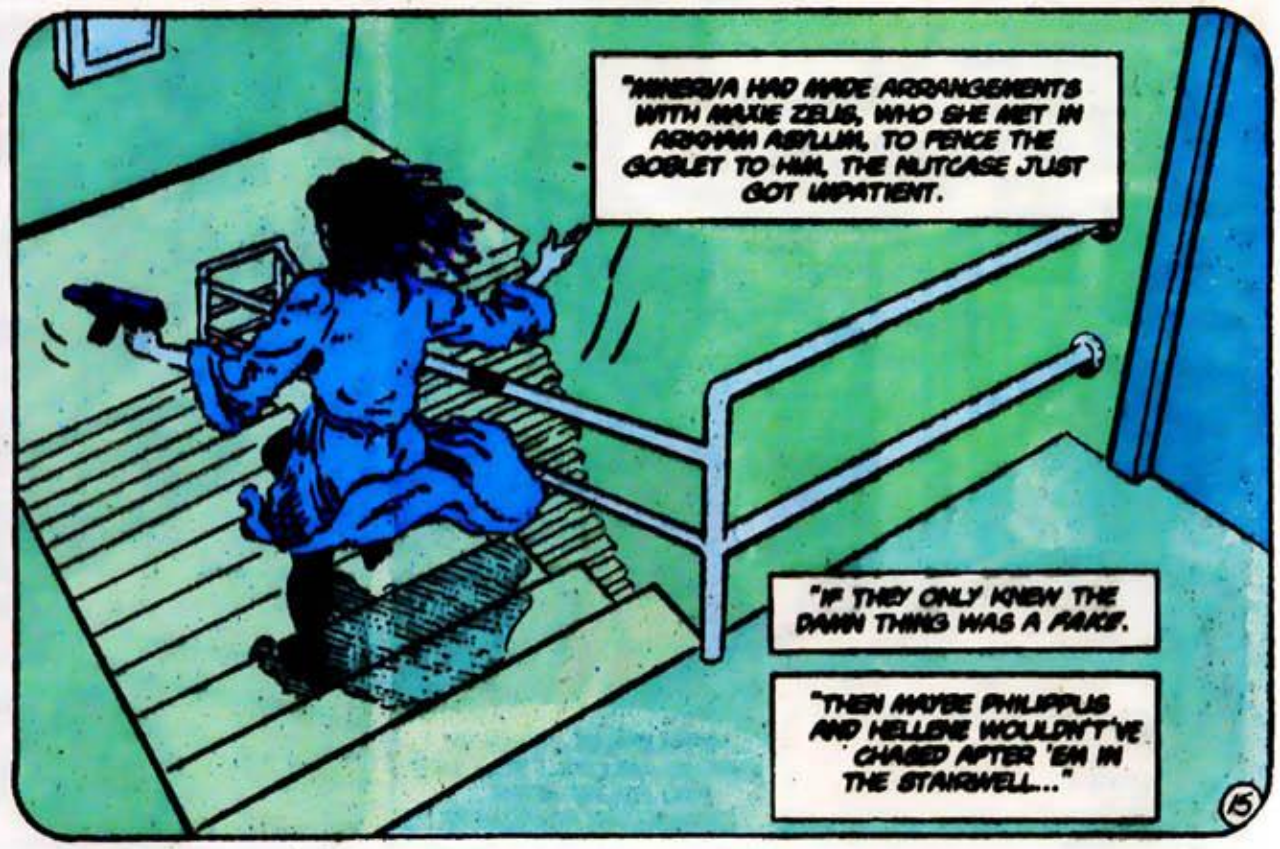
" 'A SORT OF PINIONED POLICE ESCORT CAME TO USHER HER TO HER NEW OFFICE—

" 'AS MIKOS WENT TO RETRIEVE THE THEMYSCIRAN GOBLET, I KNEW I WOULD HAVE TO STRIKE QUICKLY.

" 'THAT'S WHEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENED.







<SISTER! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?>

<INSOLENT WRETCH! THIS WILL TEACH YOU NEVER TO STRIKE AN AMAZON.>

<SISTER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? QUICK, THE THEIF IS ESCAPING. PICK UP THE GOBLET AND WE-->

<WAIT... I DON'T KNOW YOU. YOU'RE NOT..>

"<HEAD... REELING... DON'T UNDERSTAND...>"
"WHAT THE HELL IS SHE BLABBERING ABOUT NOW?"

IF YOU'LL JUST SHUT UP FOR A MINUTE, GEN. YEDZINIAK, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HEAR HER.
THOSE DRUGS YOU'RE PUMPING INTO HER HAVEN'T HELPED HER WEAKENED CONDITION ANY.
<PHILIPPUS... THIS IS PHYLLIS HALLER... YOU SAID YOU FOUND SOME... UNFAMILIAR AMAZON?>

"<YES... SHE TOOK... GOBLET...>
"<THEN... BIG CAT... WOMAN...>

"CHELLENE... NO... STAY BACK...>

"<BLOOD... BLOOD EVERYWHERE...>

"CHELLENE...>

RUD

<DEAR GODS... HELLENE...>

" 'I HEARD SOMEONE COMING FROM DOWNSTAIRS. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IT HAD TO BE AN AMAZON. I TOOK THE GOBLET AND RAN.'

" 'I MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR KILLING THAT AMAZON. SHE WAS IN MY WAY. RIGHT NOW CIRCE IS A GREATER THREAT THAN I CAN EVER BE.'

IT SEEMS THAT CIRCE THOUGHT IT RATHER APPROPRIATE TO HAVE HIPPOLYTE'S DISAPPEARANCE COINCIDE WITH THE ATTACK ON THE GOTHAM GRAND — TO PLACE A CONNECTION IN EVERYONE'S MIND.

CIRCE'S PLAN STARTED WITH THE GOBLET'S CURSE — PERHAPS BY THWARTING IT, A DOMINO EFFECT MIGHT OCCUR.

TELL PRINCESS DIANA HER MOTHER IS IN EGYPT. TELL HER THAT SHE MAY VERY WELL BE THE KEY--
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT'S WRONG?
THEY'VE FOUND ME. I CAN HEAR THEM.
WHO? I DON'T HEAR--

SHUT UP! THEY'RE COMING FOR ME! CAN'T LET THEM GET ME!
OUT OF MY WAY, DAMN YOU. I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
GRAAARRRRRR!!! OUT OF MY WAY!!

"AT FIRST, MY COP'S INSTINCTS TOLD ME I SHOULD CHASE AFTER HER, BUT THEN I REMEMBERED ABOUT NESSIE.
"AND I HEARD... THEM.
"IT WAS EXACTLY LIKE DIANA DESCRIBED THEM. ALL THE SOUNDS OF HELL CALLIN' OUT AT ONCE.
"I REMEMBER THINKIN' 'WHAT A GREAT CHAPTER THIS'LL MAKE FOR MY BOOK: BURNIN' RED EYES GLOWED THROUGH THE WINDOWS, DARTIN' ABOUT FRANTICALLY.

" 'THEN THE EYES BROKE THROUGH THE GLASS-- SURROUNDED BY DARK FANNING FEATHERS, BRISTLIN' FUR AND JAGGED TEETH.'

"I'D PROMISED THE CHEETAH THAT I WOULD COME UNARMED...

"I DIDN'T SAY NOTHIN' 'BOUT MY LEGS.

"I WHIPPED MY PIECE OUTTA MY ANKLE HOLSTER SO FAST I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO AIM--

BLAM!

"--BUT SOMETIMES YA JUST GET LUCKY.

"HOWEVER, BEFORE I COULD FIRE ANOTHER SHOT, THEY WERE ALL OVER ME. MAYBE I COULD GET OUT ONE MORE SHOT, BUT--

"THEN, EVERYTHING REALLY WENT NUTS.

"THE CRITTERS STARTED JUMPIN' AND SCREAMIN' AS IF SOMEONE HAD PUT 'EM ON A HOT GREASED SKILLET.

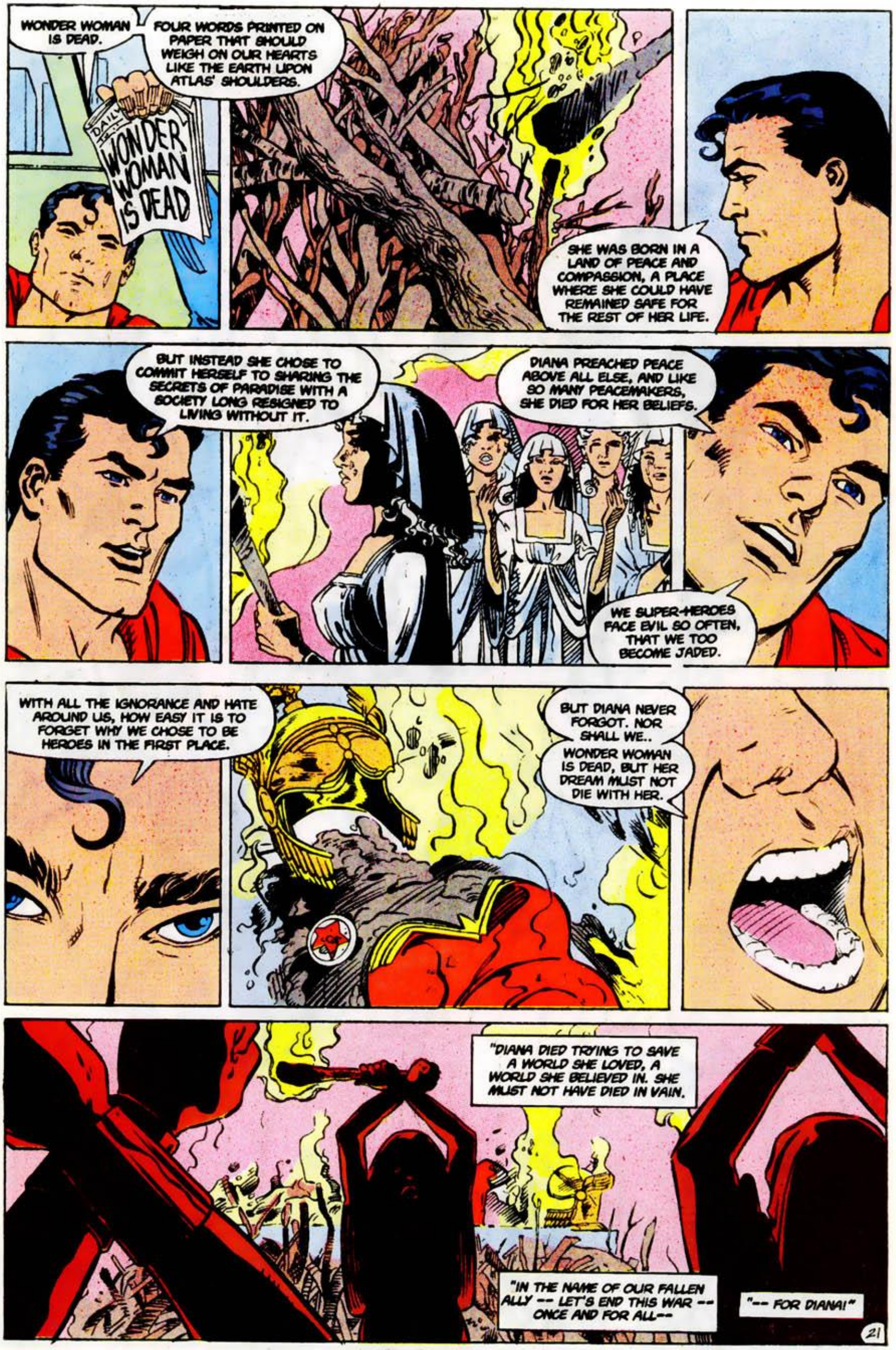
"THEY STARTED TO CHANGE.

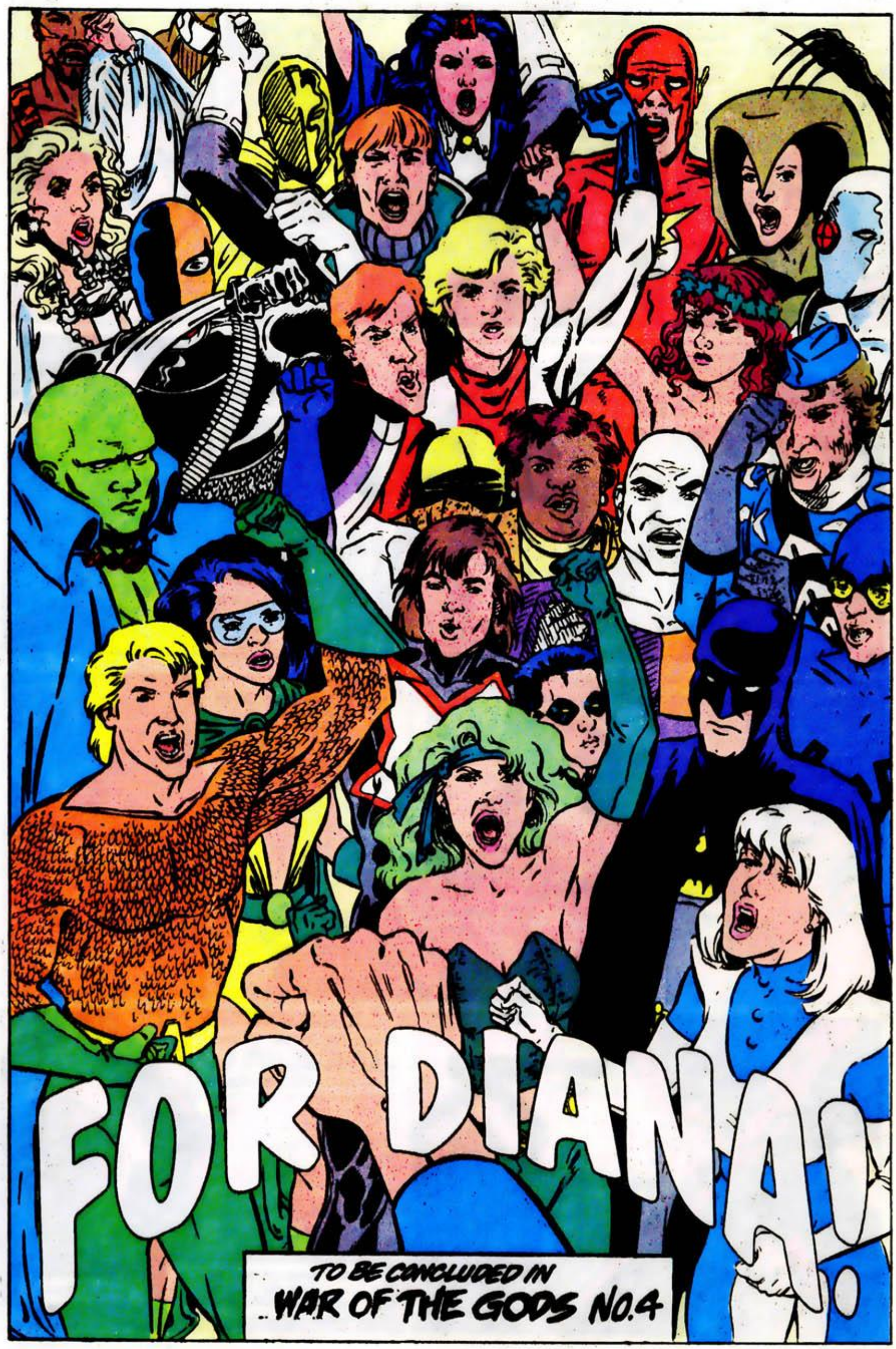
"I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK... IT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER.

"BUT WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER, THOSE MONSTERS HAD ALL TURNED BACK INTO ORDINARY ANIMALS.

"JUDGIN' BY THEIR EXPRESSIONS, I FIGURED THEY WERE AS SURPRISED AS I WAS.

"THEY ALL SCATTERED OUT OF THE OLD AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE LIKE SLAVES FREED BY LINCOLN.


WONDER WOMAN IS DEAD.
FOUR WORDS PRINTED ON PAPER THAT SHOULD WEIGH ON OUR HEARTS LIKE THE EARTH UPON ATLAS' SHOULDERS.
DAILY
WONDER WOMAN IS DEAD
SHE WAS BORN IN A LAND OF PEACE AND COMPASSION, A PLACE WHERE SHE COULD HAVE REMAINED SAFE FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.
BUT INSTEAD SHE CHOSE TO COMMIT HERSELF TO SHARING THE SECRETS OF PARADISE WITH A SOCIETY LONG RESIGNED TO LIVING WITHOUT IT.
DIANA PREACHED PEACE ABOVE ALL ELSE, AND LIKE SO MANY PEACEMAKERS, SHE DIED FOR HER BELIEFS.
WE SUPER-HEROES FACE EVIL SO OFTEN, THAT WE TOO BECOME JADED.
WITH ALL THE IGNORANCE AND HATE AROUND US, HOW EASY IT IS TO FORGET WHY WE CHOSE TO BE HEROES IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BUT DIANA NEVER FORGOT. NOR SHALL WE..
WONDER WOMAN IS DEAD, BUT HER DREAM MUST NOT DIE WITH HER.
"DIANA DIED TRYING TO SAVE A WORLD SHE LOVED, A WORLD SHE BELIEVED IN. SHE MUST NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN.
"IN THE NAME OF OUR FALLEN ALLY -- LET'S END THIS WAR -- ONCE AND FOR ALL--
"-- FOR DIANA!"


FOR DIANA!
TO BE CONCLUDED IN
WAR OF THE GODS NO.4