



another  
BLONDE GODDESS  
scan

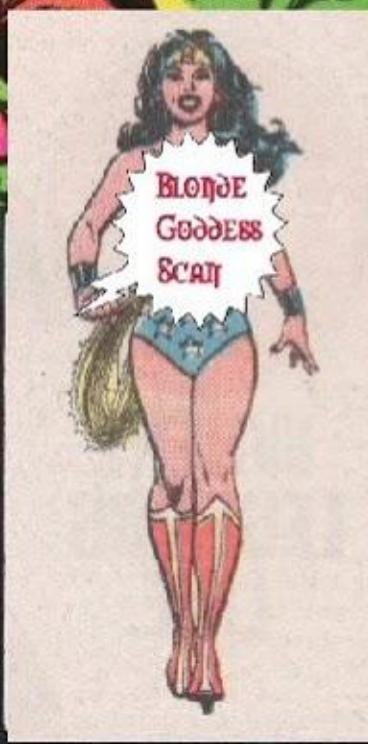


# WONDER WOMAN

STEVE and SOFIA...  
AT THE GATES OF  
**HADES!**



75¢  
317  
JULY 84  
APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
C.C.C.  
AUTHORITY



SHE 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



BEHOLD THE AWESOME MAJESTY OF NATURE! SMELL THE SWEET AROMAS OF EXOTIC FLORA... AND LISTEN TO THE THUNDERING CASCADE THAT ROARS THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY--

--DROWNING OUT ALL OTHER SOUNDS... BUT NOT ALL THOUGHTS!

THERE'S SUCH A SENSE OF PEACE ABOUT THIS PLACE, YET SOMETHING DISQUIETING AS WELL-- SOMETHING OMINOUS!

WHAT IN HERA'S NAME HAVE I STUMBED ACROSS?

# AMAZONS!

Dan  
Mishkin  
WRITER

Don  
Heck  
PENCILLER

Rick  
Magyar  
INKER

Ben  
Ods  
LETTERER

Nansi  
Hoolahan  
COLORIST

Alan  
Gold  
EDITOR

AFTER DEFEATING TEZCATLIPOMA--  
AND FREEING THE AMAZONS  
WHO WERE HIS SLAVES--\*

I PERSUADED  
THEM TO LET  
ME FOLLOW THEM  
BACK TO THEIR  
AMAZON RIVER  
HOME!

\*LAST ISSUE -- ALEX.

BUT THEY HAVEN'T  
EXPLAINED WHO THEY ARE  
OR WHY I'VE NEVER--

GREAT GODDESSES!  
THE ARCHITECTURE IS JUST  
LIKE PARADISE ISLAND'S!  
WHERE DID THESE WOMEN  
COME FROM?!

MOMA,  
SISTER!  
SHE IS THE ONE, ATALANTA!  
SHE ASKED US MANY QUESTIONS...  
WHICH WE THOUGHT IT YOUR  
PLACE TO ANSWER!

YOU WERE RIGHT TO THINK SO,  
MAIA -- FOR I HAVE QUERIES  
OF MY OWN TO POSE!

WHO ARE YOU, WOMAN?  
HOW DID YOU COME TO  
POSSESS THE POWERS  
OF ARTEMIS -- WHOM  
MEN CALLED WONDER  
WOMAN IN AGES PAST--

IF YOU KNOW OF ARTEMIS,  
THEN YOU MUST KNOW  
MY MOTHER  
ALSO!

I AM  
DIANA...

... DAUGHTER  
OF  
HIPPOLYTA!

-- AND TO  
WEAR HER TIARA  
AND GOLDEN  
ROPE AS WELL?

AND AS ANCIENT  
ENEMITIES ERUPT  
INTO VIOLENCE  
IN SOUTH  
AMERICA...

HIPPOLYTA--!?

SEIZE  
HER!

...A CONFLICT OF MORE RECENT VINTAGE  
THREATENS THE TRANQUIL SKIES OVER  
PARADISE ISLAND!

I DON'T KNOW HOW  
THEY DID IT, PAL O'  
MINE, BUT THEY FIGURED  
OUT IT WASN'T WONDER  
WOMAN AT THE STICK...

BUT IF THEY  
THINK THEY'RE  
GOING TO FORCE  
US DOWN... WELL,  
I SAY...



THEN--

IT'S ONLY ME, HIPPOLYTA--  
STEVE TREVOR! I'M  
RESPONDING TO A DISTRESS  
CALL FROM SOFIA  
CONSTANTINOS!

SEEMS SHE  
DOESN'T LIKE THE  
WAY YOU'RE  
RUNNING THINGS  
DOWN THERE...

CARE TO  
COMMENT?

TELL THE MORTAL NOTHING, MY  
QUEEN! IF HE PERSISTS, OUR  
CATAPULTS CAN RAIN  
DOWN FIRE UPON HIM!



ARE YOU STILL  
THERE, YOUR  
HIGHNESS?

LOOK, IT DOESN'T  
REALLY MATTER IF  
I GET AN ANSWER  
FROM YOU OR NOT...

... SOFIA'S LEARNED OF  
SECRETS YOU'VE BEEN  
HIDING AND SHE'S  
GOING TO TELL  
WONDER WOMAN...

I AM NO MURDERER,  
COLONEL, IF YOU MEAN  
TO IMPLY THAT...

... BUT NEITHER  
DO I OWE AN  
EXPLANATION TO  
A MORTAL!



DON'T START IN ON THAT  
"MORTAL" JAZZ, LADY!  
YOUR PROBLEM IS  
THAT I LOVE YOUR  
DAUGHTER AND SHE...

...SHE...

THAT'S WHAT  
THIS IS ALL ABOUT,  
ISN'T IT?

SOFIA SAID IT HAD TO  
DO WITH WONDER WOMAN'S  
PAST-- AND SOMETHING  
ABOUT ME BEING... DEAD?

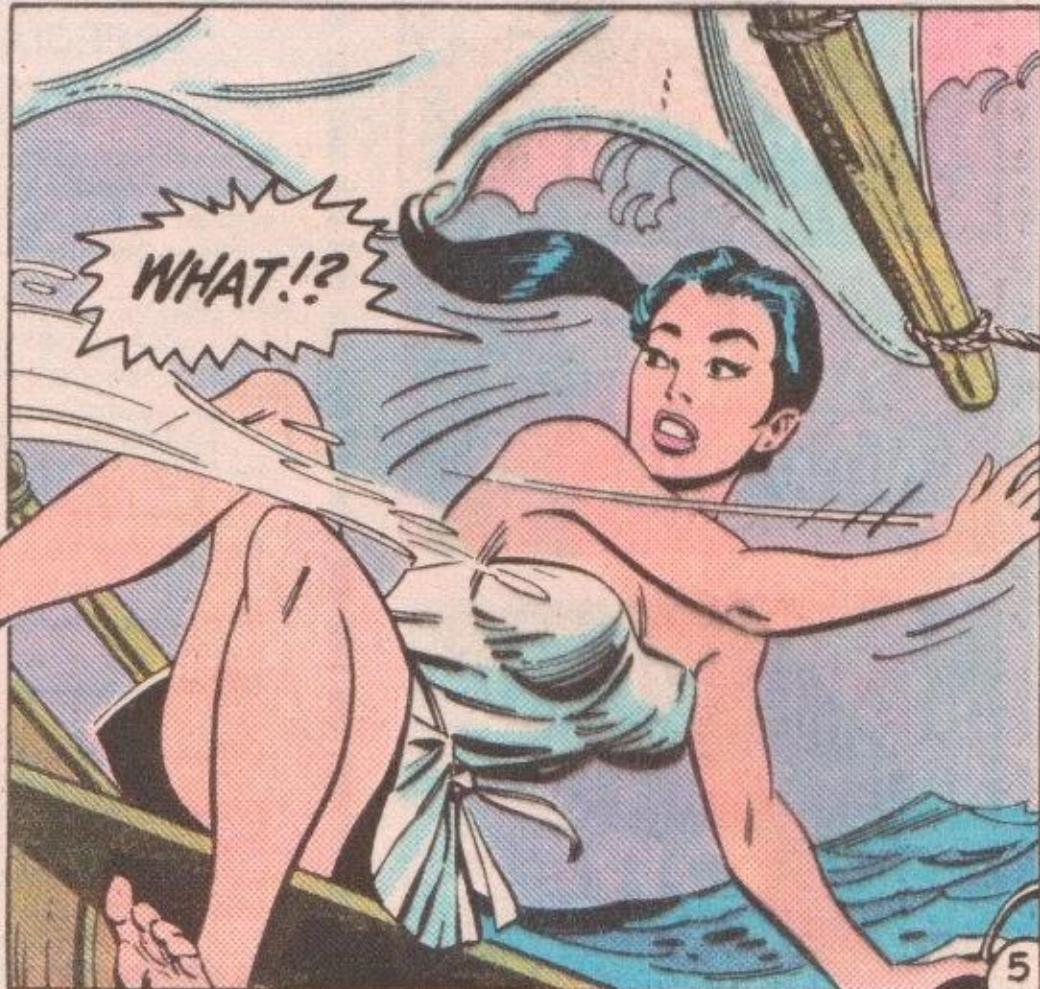
GREAT GUNS, WHAT  
SORT OF MONSTROUS  
GAMES HAVE YOU  
BEEN PLAYING?!

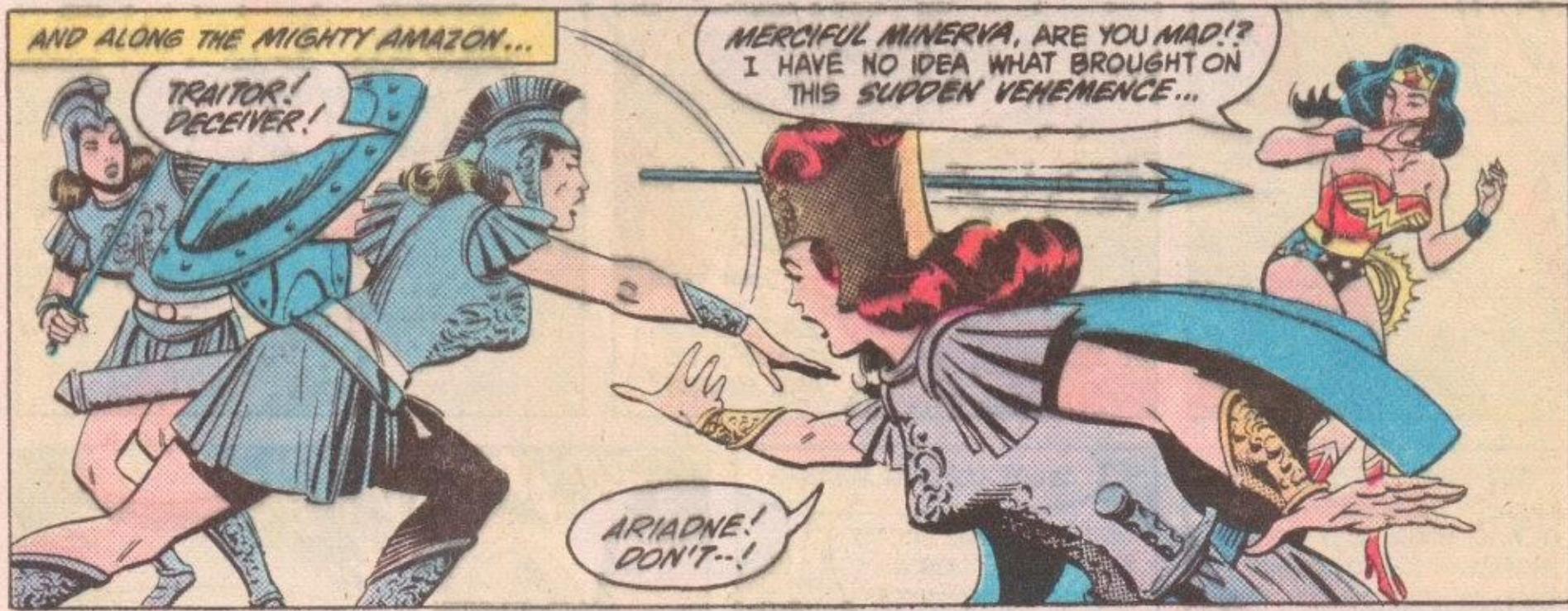
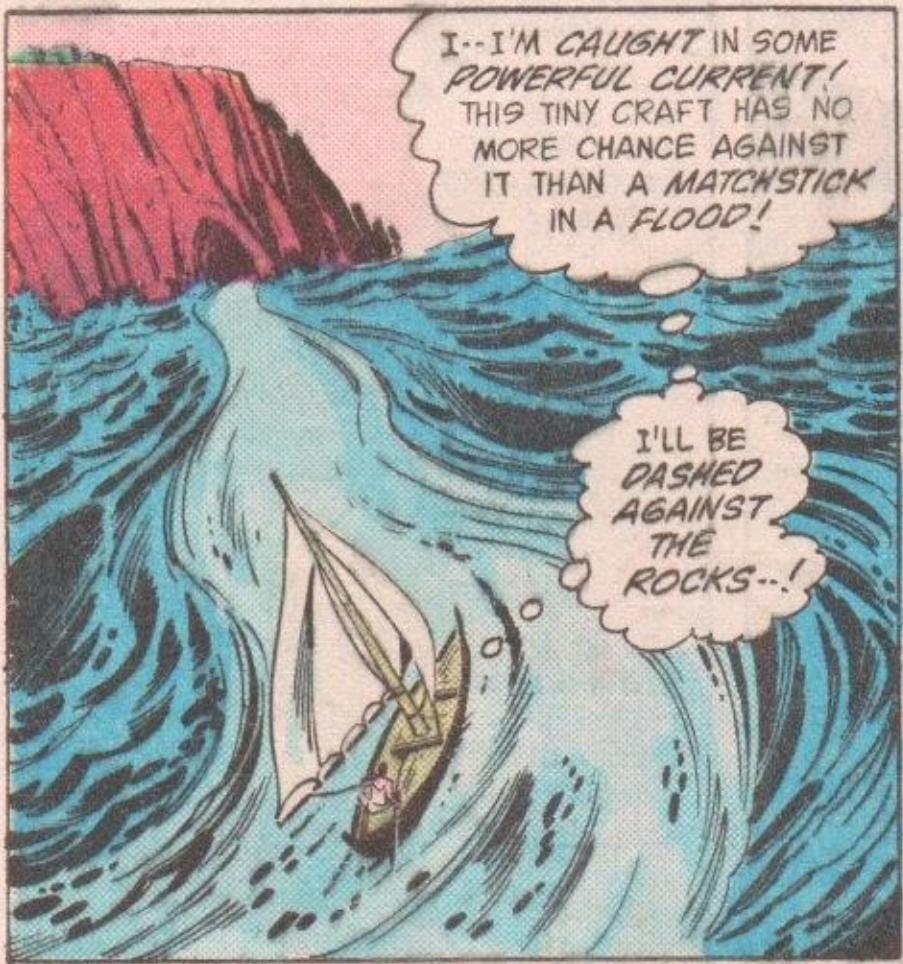
COLONEL... STEVE...  
IT IS NOT WHAT YOU  
THINK! MY REASONS  
... MY MOTIVES...



I THOUGHT THAT I WAS  
LUCKY AT FIRST-- TO FIND  
THIS BOAT AND ESCAPE  
FROM THE AMAZONS...

BUT I FEAR THAT IF  
WONDER WOMAN DID  
NOT RECEIVE MY  
MESSAGE, I WILL  
NOT LIVE TO TELL  
MY--







IT WAS HIPPOLYTA'S CHANCE TO PROVE THAT SHE COULD OVERCOME HER WOUNDED PRIDE -- AND LEARN TO LOVE AGAIN!

NOT IN THE WAY YOU MEAN, ATALANTA... I HAVE NO FATHER.

AH--I SEE! FORSAKING MEN, SHE SOUGHT OUT GODLY HELP... ATHENA'S, NO DOUBT!

I THOUGHT SHE NEVER WOULD -- BUT YOUR PRESENCE SUGGESTS THAT SHE DID OPEN HER HEART AGAIN AT LAST!

DO NOT MISTAKE MY MEANING, DIANA! THE LOVE OF A MOTHER FOR HER DAUGHTER IS POWERFUL LOVE INDEED...

AND WHAT OF YOU, DAUGHTER OF HIPPOLYTA...

...HAVE YOU NEVER LOVED A MAN?

INDEED, SHE HAS! AND EVEN NOW THAT MAN IS READY TO FACE UNKNOWN DANGER BECAUSE OF THAT LOVE...

YEAH, THIS IS THE CAVE SOFIA DISAPPEARED INTO! I THINK I SEE A LEDGE IN THERE THAT'LL SUPPORT US!

...BUT IT IS NOT THE ONLY LOVE THAT WOMEN WERE MADE FOR!

LET'S GO!

:Gulp:  
You bet,  
Steve!  
;IHIP:

THEN...

THIS PLACE SEEMS TO GO ON FOREVER! I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE ANYMORE!

FUNNY... YOU'D THINK IT WOULD HAVE GOTTEN PITCH DARK IN HERE, BUT--

HOLY HANNAH!

GET A LOAD OF THIS GUY! SOME KIND OF GREEK SOMETHING OR OTHER... WHO KNOWS HOW LONG HE'S BEEN HERE!

I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF HE'S ALIVE OR DEAD!

Wha...?!

BUMP

Let's hope ~~ZIP~~ his system's down... 'cause there's more where he came from!

RIGHT-- DEAD'S GOT MY VOTE TOO!

Ooh, this is just like that movie we watched at your house last night-- "Abbott and Costello Meet the..."

SHHH! PUT A LID ON IT, LITTLE BUDDY! I THINK WE JUST FOUND SOFIA...

... AND SOMEONE ELSE, I'M AFRAID!

-- THE FERRYMAN WHO BEARS THE SOULS OF THE DEAD TO THE UNDERWORLD...

THE ANCIENT TALES OF GODS AND HEROES TELL OF CHARON--

...TO THE VERY GATES OF HADES AND THEIR VIGILANT GUARD, CALLED CERBERUS--

--WHO WILL LET ANY SPIRIT ENTER THE DOMAIN OF THE DEAD--

--BUT ALLOWS NONE EVER TO LEAVE!



AND IN THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA SUBURBS OF OUR NATION'S CAPITAL...



...IN THE HOME OF GENERAL PHILIP DARNELL...

HOW DARE THEY TWIST THE TRUTH LIKE THAT! THEY CHOSE ONE HOT-TEMPERED OUTBURST FROM AN ENTIRE AFTERNOON OF TESTIMONY!

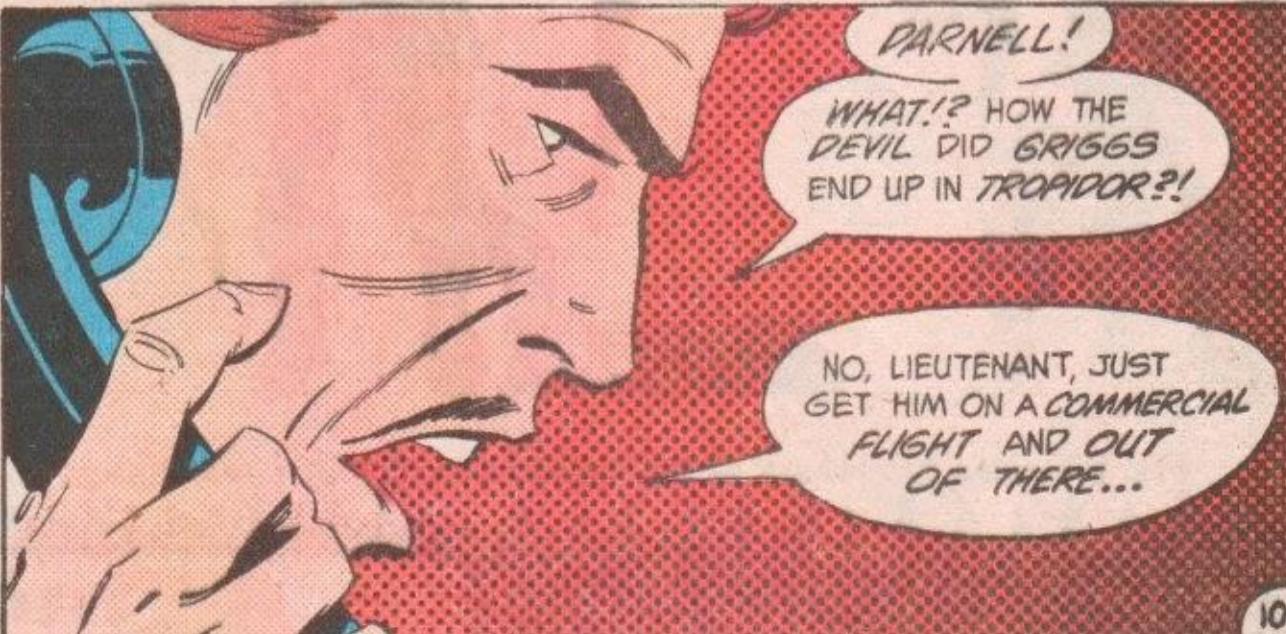
...AND ALTHOUGH THE GENERAL LATER CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN MISINTERPRETED...



DARNELL!

WHAT!?! HOW THE DEVIL DID GRIGGS END UP IN TROPIDOR?!!

NO, LIEUTENANT, JUST GET HIM ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT AND OUT OF THERE...



...BEFORE THAT ENTIRE SITUATION BLOWS UP IN OUR FACES!

YES, SIR, I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT RIGHT AWAY!



I, UH, WON'T BE BOTHERING YOU AGAIN, SIR!

BOY, HOWARD, THAT SENATOR YOU WORK FOR SURE HAS GOT MY BOSS BENT OUT OF SHAPE!

OH, WELL, JUST LET ME MAKE A COUPLE MORE CALLS AND I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER OF DINNER!



TERRIFIC!

AND SOON...

NO, REALLY -- WHEN YOU FIRST CAME UP TO ME BACK AT THE PENTAGON, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME KIND OF WEIRDO!

YOU DID?

I JUST HAD THE FUNNIEST FEELING THAT I WAS BEING FOLLOWED!



ME, TOO... HERE, LET ME GET THAT.

Y'KNOW, ETTA, I WAS THINKING MAYBE... UM, I MEAN SOMETIME...

WHAT IS IT, HOWARD?



I WAS SO SPOOKED, I ALMOST SWUNG MY HANDBAG AT YOU!

BUT I'M GLAD I DIDN'T... I'M REALLY CHOMPING ON A WONDERFUL TIME!



WELL, I... I THOUGHT WE MIGHT DO THIS AGAIN?

AND WHEN WE DO... I CAN FINALLY PUT MY PLAN INTO OPERATION!



ON THAT MYSTERIOUS NOTE --

-- WE RETURN TO A STEAMY JUNGLE SPOT WELL HIDDEN FROM CIVILIZATION'S PRYING EYES, WHERE...

THE PICTURE THAT YOU PAINT IS OF A STRANGER, ATALANTA...



...HIPPOLYTA WAS NEVER SO UNJUST AS YOU PORTRAY HER! I LEARNED OF JUSTICE -- OF COURAGE AND OF KINDNESS -- AT HER KNEE!

CALL HER STUBBORN, THEN... SO RIGHTEOUS SHE WILL HEAR NO DISSENT!

YOUR MOTHER MAY BE A FINE TEACHER, DIANA, BUT SHE REFUSES TO BE TAUGHT!

WHAT LESSON MIGHT YOU BOTH HAVE LEARNED IF SHE HAD TOLD OUR TALE TO YOU?



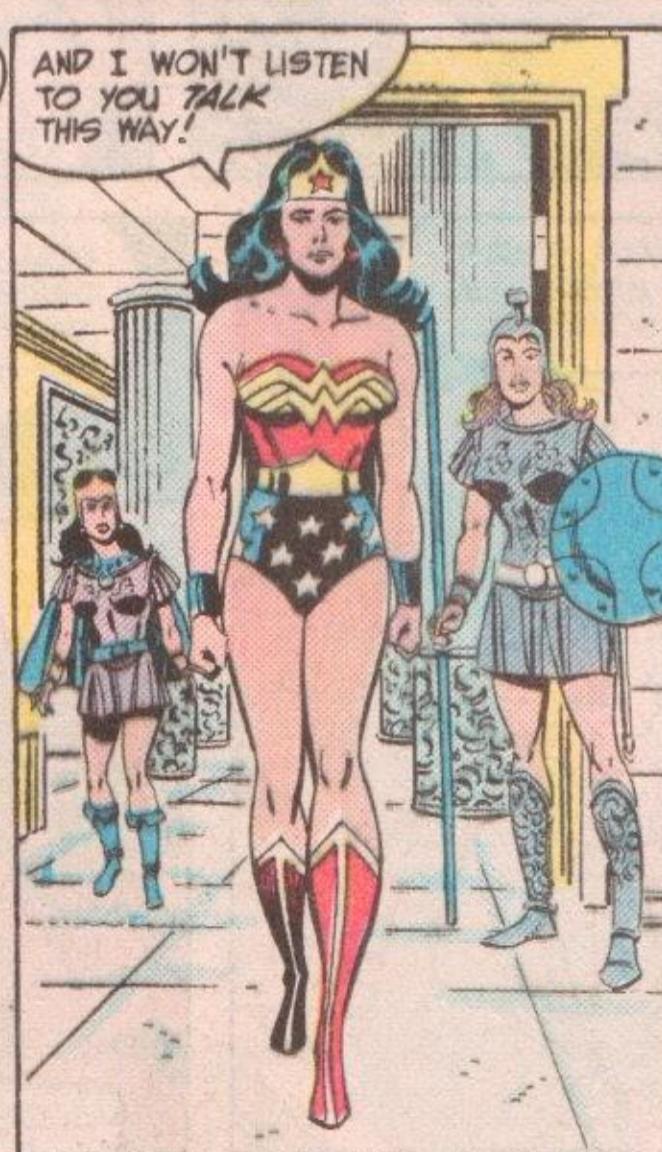
AND WHAT OTHER LESSONS OF THE PAST DOES SHE KEEP HIDDEN TO THIS DAY?

NO!... NO!  
YOU'RE LYING!

AND I WON'T LISTEN TO YOU TALK THIS WAY!

MY QUEEN?

LET HER GO,  
ARIADNE... I  
THINK MY WORDS  
HAVE STRUCK A  
TROUBLING  
CHORD IN  
YOUNG DIANA'S  
HEART.



AND AT THE GATES OF HADES...

IT'S NO USE!  
SHE'S IN SOME  
KIND OF  
TRANCE!

I'M GOING  
TO GO IN  
AFTER HER!

But I thought  
the big mutt  
won't let anybody  
out! ;IBIHIP:

THAT'S WHERE  
YOU COME IN,  
BUDDY!



ON THE WRONG SIDE OF BOWSER,  
I HATE TO TELL YOU!

AND WE'RE  
STUCK HERE  
UNLESS TREVOR'S  
LITTLE HELPER  
COMES THROUGH!

GET READY  
TO MOVE  
ON MY  
SIGNAL...





AND SINCE I'VE GOT A  
FUNNY FEELING THAT  
YOU WON'T WANT TO  
SHARE THE RIDE...

-- I'M PUNCHING YOUR  
TICKET RIGHT NOW!



I HAVE YOU, COLONEL  
... AND THE FERRYMAN  
HASN'T RESURFACED!

THEY'VE GIVEN  
UP THE CHASE!

GOOD! THEN  
LET'S GET OUT  
OF THIS CAVE...

... AND HOPE WE NEVER  
SEE THEIR SMILING  
FACES AGAIN!



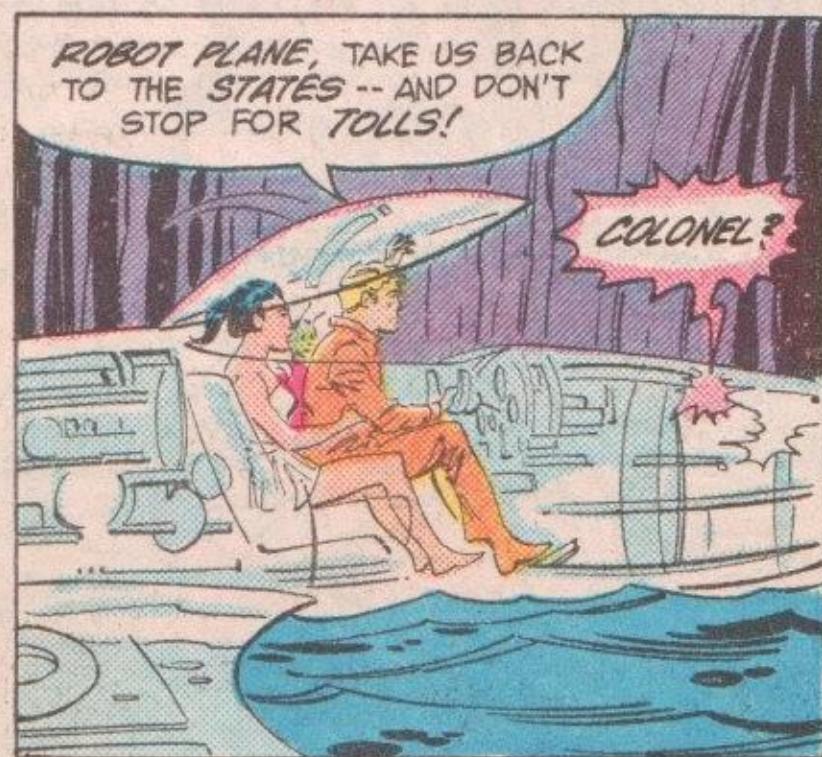
AND WHILE SOME FIGHT THE FLOW OF TURBID  
WATERS...

-- OTHERS WISH THE  
CATARACTS COULD WASH  
AWAY ALL STRIFE!

I THINK  
WHAT  
TROUBLES  
ME MOST...

... IS THAT I  
REALLY CAN  
BELIEVE THAT  
MOTHER MIGHT...





## NEXT: "PARADISE BURNING!"

A SPECIAL SIDETRIP INTO A GRIM TOMORROW BROUGHT TO YOU BY GUEST WRITER, KURT BUSIEK AND GUEST PENCILLER, IRV NOVICK, WITH A STYLISH ASSIST FROM INKER RICK MAGYAR! THEN RETURN TO THE PRESENT AS WONDER WOMAN AND STEVE ARE REUNITED, SECRETS ARE REVEALED-- AND THE MYSTERY OF EROS GROWS!

THE WEB OF THE CITY PULLS TIGHTER WITH EACH PASSING DAY, AS THE LIVES SURROUNDING HER THREATEN TO ENSNARE THE HUNTRESS... KNOWN TO HER FRIENDS AS...

HELENA  
HELENA WAYNE!

MY GOODNESS, MYRA!  
MYRA LIEBE! I HAVEN'T  
SEEN YOU SINCE  
COLLEGE! WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING  
HERE?

IT'S A BUSINESS TRIP. I'M WITH THE GOTHAM MUSEUM OF ART, THEIR ORIENTAL ANTIQUITIES DEPARTMENT. WE'VE BEEN NEGOTIATING FOR A VERY SPECIAL OBJECT, AND I'M OFF TO L.A. TO CLOSE THE DEAL.

NO, I JUST WANTED TO GET AWAY... BUT I WANTED THINGS TO HAPPEN SLOWLY AND LEISURELY FOR A CHANGE, YOU?

BUT WHY ARE YOU TAKING THE TRAIN, HELENA? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE AFRAID OF FLYING?

I WANTED A CHANCE TO MEET INTERESTING PEOPLE. YOU KNOW, YOU TAKE A PLANE AND YOU'RE STRAPPED TO YOUR SEAT. YOU DON'T GET TO KNOW ANYONE.

...THERE'S GOING TO BE A SMALL PARTY IN THIS CAR LATER TONIGHT, A GET-TOGETHER AMONG THE PASSENGERS.

TRY TO BE THERE  
...PROMISE?

...SURE...

HARDLY SOUNDS OMINOUS, DOES IT?  
YET, THIS INVITATION WILL PUT...

G-1172

# The Huntress™ "ON THE TRAIL OF THE NIGHTINGALE"

JOEY CAVALIERI  
writer

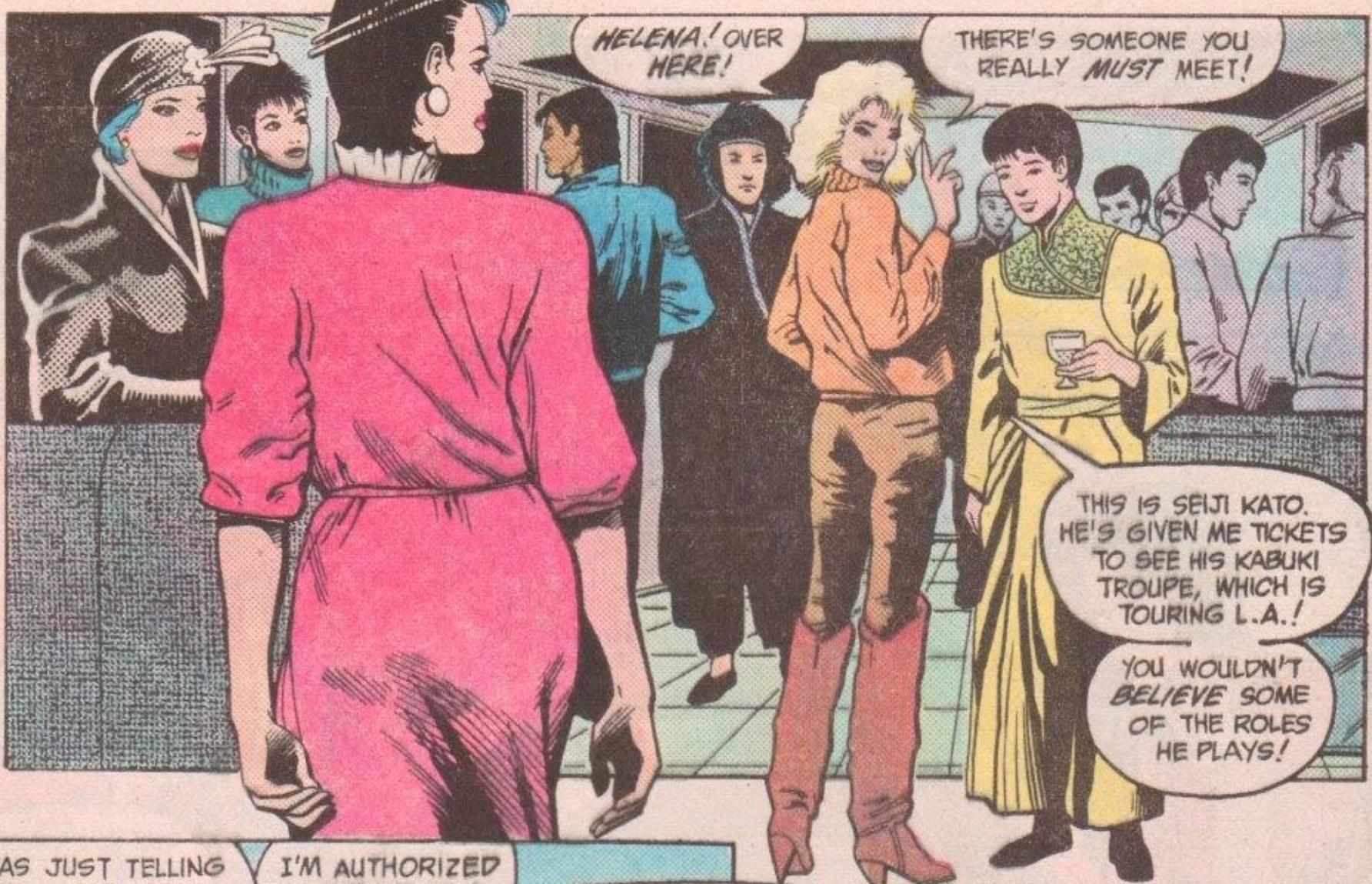
MARK BEACHUM  
penciller

GARY MARTIN  
inker

BEN ODA  
NANSI HOOOLAHAN

letterer  
colorist

ALAN GOLD  
editor



I WAS JUST TELLING SEIJI ABOUT THAT PIECE OF JAPANESE ART I'M BUYING FOR THE MUSEUM.

I'M AUTHORIZED TO BID UP TO A MILLION IF I HAVE TO!

I HAD NO IDEA I'D COME ABOARD WITH SUCH HIGH ROLLERS!

A MILLION?

A PLEASURE, MS. WAYNE.

OH, UM, HI! I'M TRACY HEATHER... THAT'S MY STAGE NAME, ACTUALLY. SORRY I SEEM SO BREATHLESS... I HAD TO BOARD IN SUCH A RUSH! I'M GOING TO L.A. TO BREAK IN TO ACTING.

YOU CERTAINLY DRESS WELL FOR SOMEONE IN A "RUSH"!

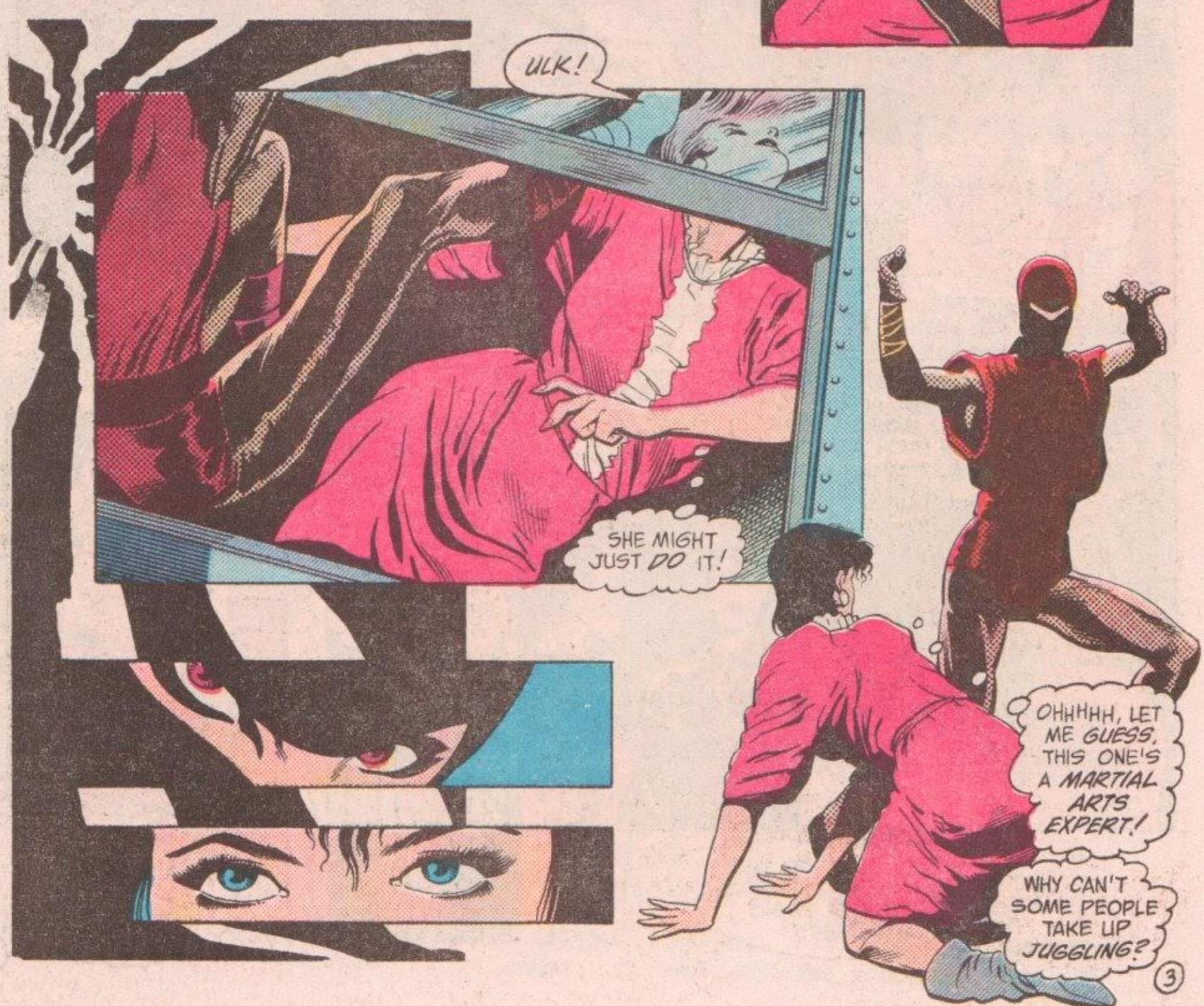
MUCH LATER...

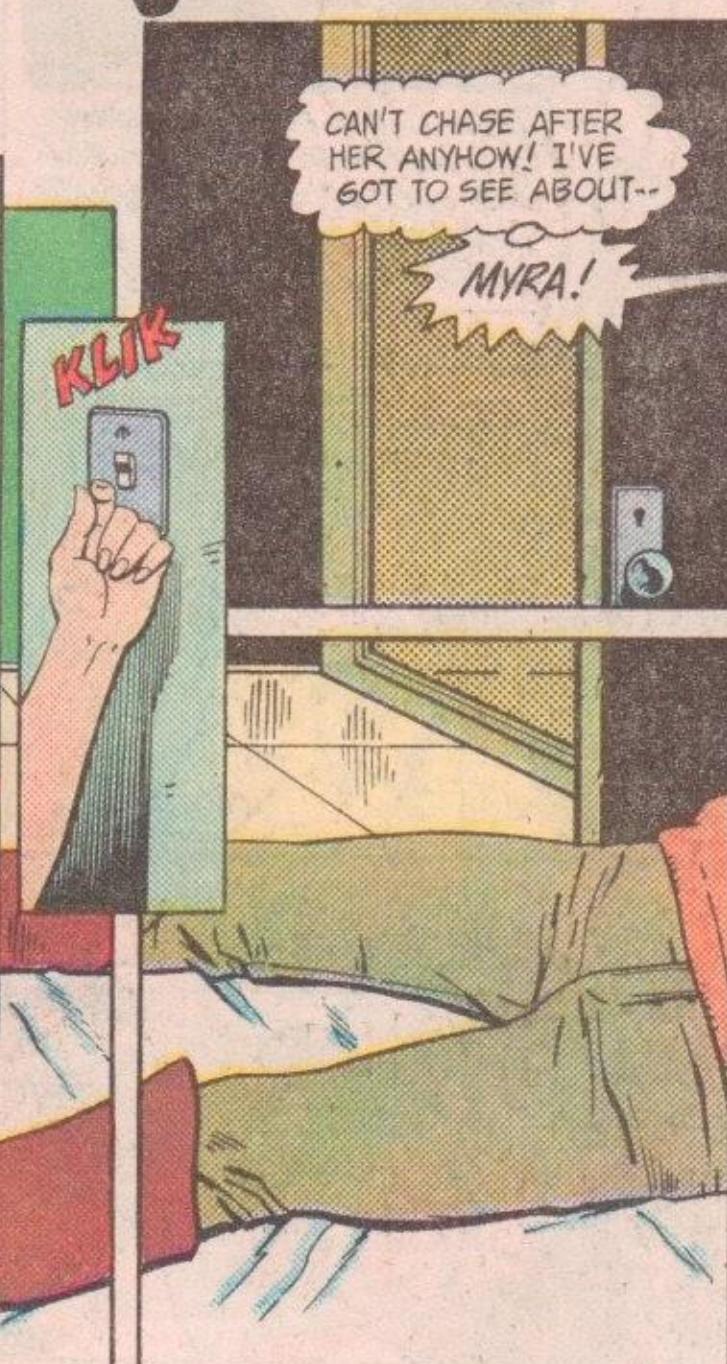
WELL, MYRA WANTS TO MEET INTERESTING PEOPLE... SHE CERTAINLY GOT HER--

WELL, NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ONE'S NEVER WITHOUT ONE'S BASIC BLACK DRESS!

E  
E  
E  
E  
E

THAT VOICE!  
THAT'S MYRA!





HER KILLER MUST  
HAVE DROPPED THIS!  
HER DIARY?  
COULD MYRA HAVE LOST  
HER LIFE... OVER THIS?

# Diary 1984

"1 July. Very excited--Mr. Burnley says the Museum is on to something at last--wants me to oversee the whole operation!"



AN EXCLUSIVE SECTION OF L.A....

MR. SERAPHIN? MY NAME IS HELENA WAYNE... I'M AN ASSOCIATE OF MYRA LIEBE.

MS. LIEBE -- HAS SHE BEEN DETAINED?

MS. LIEBE WAS MURDERED EN ROUTE TO LOS ANGELES.

YES, YES. I WAS EXPECTING MS. LIEBE, BUT YOU'RE CERTAINLY WELCOME, CERTAINLY WELCOME -- COME IN, COME IN.

I'M... SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW. I... DIDN'T KNOW...

OF COURSE. I'M HERE IN HER STEAD. MAY I SEE THE SAMURAI HEAD, PLEASE?

WELL, I... I DON'T HAVE THE ACTUAL HEAD ON THE PREMISES, OF COURSE.

HERE, HOWEVER, ARE PHOTOS OF THE PIECE. YOU CAN INSPECT THESE AS YOU SEE FIT.

HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MYRA?

... AND I MUST SEE IT WITHIN THE WEEK -- OR NO DEAL!

WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR? I HAVEN'T THE YAGUST.

YOU UNDERSTAND, I HAVE TO EXAMINE THE WORK ITSELF...

GOOD EVENING, MR. SERAPHIN!

PHOTOS!

WHY DON'T I JUST  
SEND A MILLION IN  
UNMARKED BILLS TO  
A POST OFFICE  
BOX? WHO IS HE  
TRYING TO KID?

WHAM!

MS. WAYNE.

IF SO, I MUST  
DEVEST YOU OF  
THEM NOW!

I HOPE YOU HARBOR  
NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT  
POSSESSING THE  
SAMURAI'S HEAD!

I'M CALLED...THE  
NINGTENGALE!

AND THAT VALUABLE  
RELIC IS RIGHTFULLY...

...MINE!

WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT  
OF MISSING NEXT ISSUE?



# Wonder Words

L-1642

Dear Sirs:

About a year ago, when Ernie Colón still edited this book, I wrote a taunting letter about the treatment of Wonder Woman. This wasn't very nice or very helpful. So here are my suggestions on the improvement of this comic.

The biggest problem with the book is the treatment of Wonder Woman herself. For years, she has been a "product," a popular character for you to try to cash in on. The writers and artists, as a result, just slap together passable stories without putting any real effort into it. No one has really cared about the character enough to sit down and try to figure out what makes Wonder Woman tick. This is a pity, since she is potentially a unique and fascinating character. She is a humanitarian and a pacifist. This is not to say that other DC heroes are bloodthirsty war mongers, but it does make her intrinsically different from most. She doesn't stalk the streets looking for human vermin to crush like Batman. She shouldn't be a good samaritan who just blunders across dangerous menaces like she is now. She shouldn't be a masked hero who punches out bad guys and claps them off to jail. Her main concern should be with helping people. She should be transporting food to the needy, doing benefit performances for charities, etc. In hero-vs.-villain battles, her mind should not be on beating the bad guy to show how tough she is and teach him a lesson, but on protecting others and getting the bad guy somewhere where he can't hurt himself or anyone else.

It has been a long-standing belief that a book with a pacifist would be boring. This simply isn't true. A pacifist is not always a passive conscientious observer a la Raven. Wonder Woman could still beat up people, but only after making sure there's no other way to deal with the problem and with the least amount of violence possible. Right now, she punches too much. She should use her lasso for most problems and fall back on her strength when it is absolutely unavoidable. She should hardly ever have to hit people with that lasso's mind control power and the judo and karate learned from I Ching.

A recent lettercol printed a letter accusing Wonder Woman of anti-male propaganda. This probably isn't true, but Diana was brought up on Paradise Island, where anti-male propaganda was ingrained into her personality. She was taught from birth that men were untrustworthy war mongers. She has

been in Man's World long enough to know that this obviously isn't true, but she should still be a little suspicious and uncomfortable around males. It isn't conscious prejudice, she's just a closet female chauvinist.

Needless to say, Diana Prince's job in the Army is ludicrous. She should become a nurse or a policewoman, someone whose job is to help people. Perhaps she could leave the Army as a protest to the current government's policies or because someone discovered Diana Prince's past.

Please break up Wonder Woman and Steve Trevor. Don't kill him off again, but end their current relationship. Their love for each other would never last in real life. Steve is the first man Diana ever saw, and he was and is young and good-looking. Obviously, Diana has a school-girl infatuation with him. And Steve? Diana is gorgeous and she saved his life. He feels a cross between gratefulness and lust. If this isn't true, then show us why Diana likes Steve. We've only seen so far that Steve embodies every facet of the human male that the Amazons despise.

Don't ignore this book's past. It has been done far too many times before, with the result being that every year we get a brand-new heroine. It gets tiring after a while. Connect the present with the past.

Lastly, Wonder Woman is currently a nothing character. In the 1960's, Batman was a nothing character. A little character study and loving attention made him a fan favorite. It could work for Princess Diana, too.

Michael Pickens  
Utica, OH

*Well, Michael, if by "pacifist" you mean that Wonder Woman has a sincere desire for worldwide peace, you get no argument from me. However, if you find her pacifistic stand inconsistent with her position in the Pentagon, then I think you want Diana to be something different from what she has been since this series' creation. She works in the intelligence-gathering community to be on top of international developments that could disrupt the peace.*

*Dan and Don and I are doing our best to make Wonder Woman anything but a "nothing" character. If you think we're not succeeding—or if you think we're on the right track, but not 100 percent on beam—holler!*

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Dear Editor,

I read in WONDER WOMAN #314 in your "Wonder Words" section that a Paraic Kenny would like to hear from other WW fans. Would you please pass my name on to Paraic, or vice versa, as writing to pen-pals is one of my hobbies.

One question: I am a very, very new fan and would like to know the difference between the Earth-1 WW and Earth-2 WW. Also, I have a few issues from 1978 (#247, 248, 249, etc.) and I would like to know whatever happened to the "Tales of the Amazons." I really enjoyed reading about Amazonian history. Thanks a lot.

Lisa Campas  
Foster City, CA

Paraic gave as his address "Stonemore, Co. Roscommon, Ireland." Lisa. I hope that's enough to get your letter to him. Good luck!

The Earth-1 Wonder Woman is the one you're reading about in this very magazine. She appears to be in her mid-twenties (she's no longer immortal since she left Paradise Island; she is actually hundreds of years old, however, since she didn't leave the island till she met Steve Trevor). Her adventures began around the late 1950's in Earth-Prime time. The Earth-2 Wonder Woman fought the Axis powers in World War II. She appears to be in her fifties (she's been away from Paradise Island longer than her Earth-1 counterpart). She and Steve Trevor are married and they have a daughter, Hippolyta, called Lyta for short, who is also known as Fury and appears every month in INFINITY, INC. The Directory of the DC Universe is being prepared right this very minute (Bob Greenberger, Associate Editor on the project, is hard at work right now, not ten feet from my desk); all your questions about the Multiverse will be answered soon, I promise. So keep posted for news.

"Tales of the Amazons" ran for only three issues, as a back-up in a larger-size WONDER WOMAN comic. Nowadays, we run the Huntress' very popular stories as our back-up feature. In the future—who knows? Maybe we can even have a special "Tales of the Amazons" issue as a main story in a future issue. Anybody interested?

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Mr. Gold:

I am curious about the origin of Wonder Woman's headband/crown, as I am interested in an early nineteenth-

century Prussian queen that wore a similar headdress. I think the connection must be a classical Greek crown which my Prussian queen wore because of the neoclassical craze in her time and which Wonder Woman wears because of her Amazon origin. I was wondering, however, if the Prussian queen might have been the inspiration for Wonder Woman's attire.

Is William Moulton Marston the creator of Wonder Woman? (I have only read issue 313.) When was WONDER WOMAN first published? May I write the creator to ask about the origin of her headband, or is someone else able to help me?

I would appreciate a personal response if possible, but I will check future Wonder Words columns if this is your usual means of reply.

Thank you for your help.

Louise Tharaud Brasher  
Durham, NC

*There are actually two contradictory "origins" for Wonder Woman's tiara, Louise. In WONDER WOMAN #65, Princess Diana won it by braving many obstacles. It rested on a petrified tree on Xor Isle, 300 miles southeast of Paradise Island. Diana had to swim all the way. On the island, she had to fight a giant dinosaur that was guarding the prize. In WONDER WOMAN #95, on the other hand, after defeating the invasion by the Phenegs of the planet Alpha Dega, Diana received the tiara as a reward from a grateful old scientist. I don't know whether the tiara (or circlet, as it was often called back on Earth-2) was modeled after a specific Prussian headband. Sorry. William Marston, the noted psychologist, was indeed the creator of Wonder Woman; he wrote the series under the pen name "Charles Moulton."*

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi, guys!

Just wanted to drop you a line commenting on WONDER WOMAN #314. The whole Circe deal was fantastical! All the Greek mythology story lines are the best you could ever come up with. It gives some insight into W.W.'s background, and is basically magnifique!

I know you probably hate this part of the letters you get, but it has got to be said. The dreaded improvements! Well, you get somewhat of a reprieve from me. I only have 3, count 'em, 3, suggestions for you.

1) Have a Hippolyta/Wonder Woman/Wonder Girl team-up. To warrant this, you would need a menace so big, so powerful, so awe-inspiring, as to explain the use of these three Amazing Amazons together, right? Well, look no further. You're probably thinking, "Well, here's another kid that thinks he knows everything about everything." Well, if that's what you're thinking, fine. All I know for sure is what I like. Have a three-on-three battle, with say Paradise Island, Robin, and Superman

hanging in the balance. Well, who will the baddies be? Ares, Hercules, and Hermes. These three despise the Amazons enough that it would be believable. Ares vs. Hippolyta, Hercules vs. Diana, and Hermes vs. Donna. Sounds pretty awesome, doesn't it?

### 2) GET RID OF STEVE TREVOR!!!!!!

This spineless jellyfish is only ruining an otherwise first-rate magazine. This creep having to be rescued every few issues is for the birds. Besides, even though he thinks he loves W.W., his career always has, and always will come first.

3) With Steve Trevor gone, Di will need a new love interest, right? Well...how about Superman? The past 10 or 15 issues of JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA there has been an obvious attraction between these two, so why not play it up? Have him become a regular (at least 10 out of 12) in W.W., and he and Wonder Woman could fight crime, side by side, as man and wife. She is immortal, and Zeus has the power to grant immortality (more great mythology), so why couldn't Superman become immortal, and he and W.W. could go on forever. If you're wondering about Lois, match her up with Steve. They seem compatible enough.

The Sofia story line is good, very good, but don't drag out her revelation any longer, PLEEEEEEZE!?

While I'm taking up your time, and using this 20¢ stamp, I have one more request. Don't ever get rid of Diana's little gremlin friend/mechanic! Just give him a name, though. O.K.?

Thanks!

Diana Roller  
Stockton, CA

*Thanks for the suggestions, Diana. Before I could even think about a team-up of Wonder Woman and either Wonder Girl or Superman, I'd have to get down to cases with Marv Wolfman, editor of THE NEW TEEN TITANS, and Julie Schwartz, editor of all the Superman books. Both those men have story continuity lines and ideas of their own stretching into the not-so-near future, so I don't think you'll be seeing those mighty team-ups for a while. Never give up hope, though.*

*Have you noticed that Steve isn't simply kept around for getting rescued every couple of panels lately? For one thing, he's in charge of the invisible plane now, and he's gotten out of a pickle on his own with Sofia's aid. I think he adds a lot to the series; he just has to be given a chance to develop naturally.*

*The Sofia story line is nearing its conclusion. Be with us in issue 319 when it takes one last, startling turn.*

*Get rid of the gremlin? We're just getting started with him! Why, there's a whole subplot we have planned for him in a couple of months... As for the naming of that little guy: it's up to you, O readers!*

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Dear Alan:

Instead of discussing the lead story from WONDER WOMAN #314, I want to talk about the Huntress back-up.

A while ago, I mentioned that the art team of Tim Burgard and Gary Martin was the best art team since Joe Staton and Steve Mitchell left the series. Well...not anymore. They're now second best. What did it was the art team of Mark Beachum and Gary Martin. (Gary Martin? Where have I seen that name before?) Mark's penciling is perfect for the strip. The heavy use of shaded areas and moody sequences (i.e., page 7). This—along with the improving writing of Joey Cavalieri—is making this series one of my favorites once again. Thank you.

Kevin T. Brown  
Norridge, IL

*And thank you, Kevin. Gary has done some inking here and there for DC, and his name has been showing up on NEW TALENT SHOWCASE lately. I think he'll be a very popular feller in a short while. He'll be inking Paris Cullins' outstanding pencils in BLUE DEVIL #2. Mark Beachum, by the way, for those of you who somehow missed a single issue of WONDER WOMAN in the past year, did a guest penciling shot in issue #310, a story about Artemis, the first Wonder Woman. His decorative layouts and very attractive female characters stirred quite a lot of mail-writing. The rest is history in the making.*

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*NEXT ISSUE: Don Heck and Dan Mishkin take a well-earned breather and Irv Novick and Kurt Busiek get a chance to shine. And shine they do, in a story about Paradise Island in the very far future, when the Amazons have been enslaved to thoroughly despicable aliens of the male gender. The Huntress, meanwhile, keeps on the trail of the Nightingale—and it's a devious trail, too, leading to deceit and murder. See you then!*

—Alan



# MEANWHILE...

## HELP!

I'm writing a *Meanwhile...* column that will attempt to introduce all you new kids on the block to our readers and give them some idea of who you are, where you come from, and what you do. To do this the info must come from you. So...

1-Who are you? (A soviet spy; a zucchini lover; a box-seat holder at the Met, etc.)

2-What do you do? (Your job; your un-job)

3-Where do you come from? (Professional experience; hometown; relative education)

4-Comments: (I wish I were a bricklayer... etc.)

Give me the facts... and a touch of humor. Our readers relate badly to stuffed shirts.

**From the Desk of Janice Race,  
Associate Editor/Editor**

I could lie and say I'm a Russian princess, but I promised to give you the facts, so here goes.

I grew up in the Bronx, in the shadow of Yankee Stadium, which probably accounts for my being an avid fan of the Bronx Bombers. My favorite cookies are Fig Newtons, and I love my looney bird, Lester. (Hey, nobody's perfect!)

Before coming to DC, I earned my keep as a textbook editor for a publishing company that has since headed for the Sunshine State. Prior to that, I was a copy editor on medical and legal books.

Here, at DC, I am the New York contact for most of the books written and edited by Roy Thomas and Gerry Conway. I also lend a helping hand on **TALES OF THE NEW TEEN TITANS**. In addition to those tasks, I edit **BLACKHAWK**, **WORLD'S FINEST**, and an upcoming maxi-series that is as yet untitled. (Phew, for a person who never read a super-hero comic book in her life before coming to DC, I sure am busy!)

I will admit that I've considered wallpaper hanging as a life's work, and it is still in the back of my mind. In the meantime, the people at DC are so terrific, I think I'll stick around for a while.

Glad to hear that, Janice. Now I can stop shackling you to your desk. Besides, I like people who can get the job done without raising the dust and who smile a lot.

Janice forgot to mention that she gets some off-premises training from her husband, Gary, who knows a bit about comics and who remarked to me at DC's smashing Christmas party, "This is the best job we ever had!"

DG

## Nicola Cuti's Biography (Sung to the tune of "Climb Every Mountain")

When people ask me: "Nick, what do you do for a living?" I tell them I am an artist/writer, because if I tell them I am an associate editor, then I have to explain what an associate editor does and I hate to explain things. Of course, there are drawbacks to admitting one is an artist—people immediately ask you to draw something. I am not a sketcher. I admit, freely, that I work exclusively from photographs, which is why I am a magazine illustrator and not a comic book illustrator. If I were a proctologist, I'm certain no one would ask me to demonstrate my craft in the middle of a cocktail party, but it was my brother who went into the medical profession, not me.

My experience in the field comes from various editorial positions at Charlton Comics and Warren Publications and I have been writing stories for comics since 1969—everything from POPEYE to E-MAN, including war, romance, horror, and science fiction. As a writer I guess I'm a jack-of-all-trades, master of none.

For those of you who have wondered about my name—it is masculine, as am I, and my ethnic background is Brooklynesque. I was born in Gravesend.

My fondest wish is to continue to work in comics and free-lance as a writer/artist. If I had to choose a second profession it would be to work for the Mystic Seaport Aquarium as a feeder in their shark tank.

Somehow I get the feeling that you may have gotten some training at DC that prepares you for your chosen "second profession." Some of the duties

of an associate editor bear a striking resemblance to feeding sharks.

A few years back, I convinced Joe Orlando to hire Nick, who was, and is, an old friend. When an opening came in my department, I managed to steal Nick back and gave him semi-honest work. Right, Nick?

DG

## Brenda Pope, Good Person

My name is Brenda Pope (no relation). I'm one of the new additions to the DC editorial crew. I'm the proofreader. I make sure all the words are spelled right. I check the back of Superman's cape for the "S" symbol. I make sure the women are well-clothed, the men don't fight too much, and the kids don't use foul language. It's a dirty job, but somebody's gotta do it.

Once, I was a free-lance copy editor. I worked for Harlequin Romance, Warner Books, and Dell Publishing. I had it all. But I left it behind for DC. What a place. At first, I wasn't quite sure about it. I mean, comic books? Is that any way to earn a living? Back home in England, we NEVER read comics. Later, when my family moved to South Africa, the only comics I ever managed to sneak a peek at were rumpled old copies of RICHIE RICH. I wasn't prepared for this. But I learned. Quickly.

I have E. Nelson Bridwell to thank for teaching me the proofreading ropes. And now, six months later, I'm into it. Or, judging from the pile of unproofread original art stacked on top of my "IN" box, make that under it.

Brenda proofreads all our comics (average: around forty a month) all the covers, all the letter pages, and this column. As a matter of fact, if she's on the job, she just corrected "proofreads" above to one word. My original copy had it as two words.

DG

The rest of the folk to whom my memo was addressed will get their moment in the spotlight in the *Meanwhile Column*. Look for it in the next few weeks... no, no, Brenda, don't change that! I meant week not month. That's right... from now on, I plan to do four (count 'em, four) *Meanwhile's* a month with the help of others on occasion and often including a new "spotlight on..." feature.

(Why do I do these things? I have trouble writing one of these a month! Now four? It's not as though I get paid extra or anything... either I'm a glutton for punishment or I really like writing.) Anyway, I'll try... God knows, I'll try.

Thank you and Good Afternoon.

DICK