



NO. 7
\$2.95 US
\$4.25 CAN
1998

WONDER WOMAN

48 PAGES!

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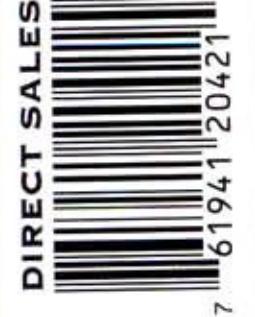
LUKE • BATTLE • McCARTHY • TANGHAL



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HER HANDS FLY
LIKE MAGIC.

SHE FEELS THE IMPACT
OF THE BULLETS ON HER
BRACELETS, QUICK TAPS
ON STEEL, AND HEARS
THEM GO SCREAMING
OFF INTO THE NIGHT.

ERIC LIKE
WRITER
ERIC BATTLE
PENCILLER

IT'S A SOUND SHE'S COME TO
ENJOY, A TALENT SHE REVELS
IN. IT'S NOT SO MUCH A MATTER
OF BEING FASTER THAN A
SPEEDING BULLET, BUT
BEING ABLE TO TELL EXACTLY
WHERE THEY'RE GOING TO AIM.

THEY USUALLY
AIM FOR THE
W.

THE DISTANCE
THAT THE DEAD
HAVE GONE DOES
NOT AT FIRST
APPEAR - THEIR
COMING BACK
SEEMS POSSIBLE
FOR MANY AN
ARDENT YEAR."

Emily Dickinson
(1830-86)

L.A. WILLIAMS
ASSIST. EDITOR
PAUL KUPFERBERG
EDITOR

HER HANDS FLY
LIKE MAGIC... BUT
THEN, SHE IS A
CHILD OF MAGIC.

RAY RE CARTHY
FROMED TANGHAL
INKER/TONES
JASON SCOTT JONES
COLORIST
ALBERT DEGUYMAN
LETTERER

THE DISTANCE GONE

SHE IS
BORN OF
WONDER.

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...THE FIRST LEER AS THEY SEE
HER BODY CHANGING TO PANIC
AS THEY REALIZE WHO THEY'VE
BEEN SHOOTING AT.

SHE LETS THEM SEE THE
COSTUME... THE BRIGHT
COLORS OF THEIR FLAG
A MOCKING REMINDER
OF THE LAW THEY'VE
BROKEN TONIGHT.
SHE'S USED TO IT.

BUT TONIGHT SHE'S TIRED OF
IT... ONE TOO MANY BULLETS...
ANOTHER LITTLE MAN EMPOWERED
BY A GUN... THE VERY THING SHE'S
TRIED SO LONG TO END IN THIS
VIOLENT WORLD OF MAN.

I WANT THE WHOLE
TRUTH! I WANT YOU TO
SEE EVERYTHING
ABOUT YOURSELF...

RIGHT DOWN
TO THE ROOTS OF
YOUR SHALLOW,
LITTLE SOUL!

IN ANGER AND
DISGUST SHE
DOES
SOMETHING
SHE HASN'T
DONE
BEFORE.

I DON'T JUST
WANT YOU IN JAIL
THIS TIME!

IN AN INSTANT, HE IS FORCE-FED HIS ENTIRE WORTHLESS LIFE, FROM START TO FINISH.

HE FAILS THE TEST.

NO!

NOOOOO!

BLAM

AND SUDDENLY, IN THE MIDST OF THE SMELL OF CORDITE AND BLOOD, THE WORLD GOES SILENT.

TIME SLOWS TO A STOP...THE DROPS OF BLOOD HANGING LIKE RUBIES IN THE STILL AIR.

A COLD WIND BLOWS FROM THE SUICIDE, CHILLING HER TO THE BONE.

WHO...?



LIFE...!

LIFE IS A GODS-GIVEN GIFT.
SHE KNOWS THIS MORE THAN
ANYONE... SHE WHO WAS
CREATED OF CLAY, LIFE
BREATHED INTO IT BY GODS
SHE KNOWS EXIST. IS THAT
WHAT IT TAKES TO
SURVIVE LIFE...?

WHO NEEDS FAITH
WHEN YOU'VE MET
YOUR CREATOR
FACE TO FACE?

SO PRECIOUS... WHY WOULD
ANYONE THROW IT AWAY?
SHE SUDDENLY KNOWS... IF
SHE COULD UNDERSTAND
SUICIDE, SHE MIGHT FIND
THE ROOT OF THE DEATH
AND DESTRUCTION AND
DESPAIR OF MAN.

THE DESPAIR THAT LEAD
YEARS AGO, TO THE SUICIDE
OF HER FRIEND MYNDI. SHE
HAD BEEN UNABLE TO
UNDERSTAND HER ACTIONS
THEN...

SHE'S GOING BACK TO
WHERE SHE FIRST MET
MYNDI MAYER, TO HER
FIRST HOME IN THE
WORLD OF MAN. SHE'S
GOING BACK TO
BOSTON...

TO FIND
UNDERSTANDING.

BOSTON... LET ME TELL YOU.
THIS PLACE HAS LOST SOMETHING.
IT JUST HASN'T BEEN THE SAME
SINCE SHE LEFT.

THERE USED TO BE A MAGIC
TO THE STREETS... YOU KNEW
ANY SECOND YOU MIGHT SEE
HER FLY OVER A BUILDING, OR
COME SHOOTING AROUND A
CORNER.

WHEN THAT'S GONE,
YOUR LIFE JUST...
EMPTIES OUT.

THE TIMES I WAS CLOSE
TO HER, ON THE MAYER
SUICIDE... THERE'S
SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS
WHEN YOU STAND CLOSE TO
A SUPER-POWERED PERSON.
THEY'RE LIVING LIFE MORE
THAN YOU ARE.

THERE'S ALMOST
A GLOW AROUND
THEM. AND YOU
GET TO BE A
PART OF IT
FOR A LITTLE
WHILE.

AND WHEN IT'S A
WOMAN... WELL,
YOU CAN TAKE
IT TWO WAYS,
EITHER BE
THREATENED,
OR GIVE
YOURSELF
OVER TO IT.

I GAVE MYSELF
OVER, IN A BIG WAY.
WHICH WAS WEIRD
FOR ME, AS I'D
PRETTY MUCH
GIVEN UP ON A
PERSONAL LIFE.

SHE'S GOT THESE
AMAZING IDEALS,
AND THERE I WAS
...COMPLETELY
CYNICAL FROM
SEEING THE WORST
SIDE OF HUMANITY
EVERY DAY.

UH... ED?

YOU STARING
AT THIS AGAIN?

THINK THIS MIGHT
HAVE SOMETHING TO DO
WITH WHY YOU HAVEN'T
HAD A DATE IN FIVE
YEARS?

HEY, FIND ME
SOMEBODY WHO
MEASURES UP AND
I'LL FALL LIKE A
TON OF BRICKS,
MY FRIEND.

WE'VE BEEN
TRACKING PUSHERS
FOR THIS NEW DRUG
CALLED "LETHE" ...
SOME KIND OF
GREEK NAME.

WE'RE NO CLOSER
TO THE SOURCE
THAN WE WERE
WHEN IT
APPEARED THREE
MONTHS AGO.

YOU GOT TO SEE
THIS DRUG TO
BELIEVE IT.

WELL GET
OFF YOUR TON
OF BRICKS
AND MOVE!
THERE'S OUR
GUY!

OH MAN
OH MAN
OH MAN!!!

HOLD IT
RIGHT THERE!
BOSTON
POLICE!

NO WAY MAN!
NO WAY AM I GOING
BACK INSIDE! I GOT
CLAUSTROPHOBIA,
MAN!

OKAY, DIRTBAG,
WHERE IS IT COMING
FROM? WHO'S YOUR
SOURCE?

WHAT... I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE...

DON'T GIVE
ME THAT! I'M
TALKING ABOUT
LETHE, MAN!
WHO'S THE
SUPPLIER!?
TALK!

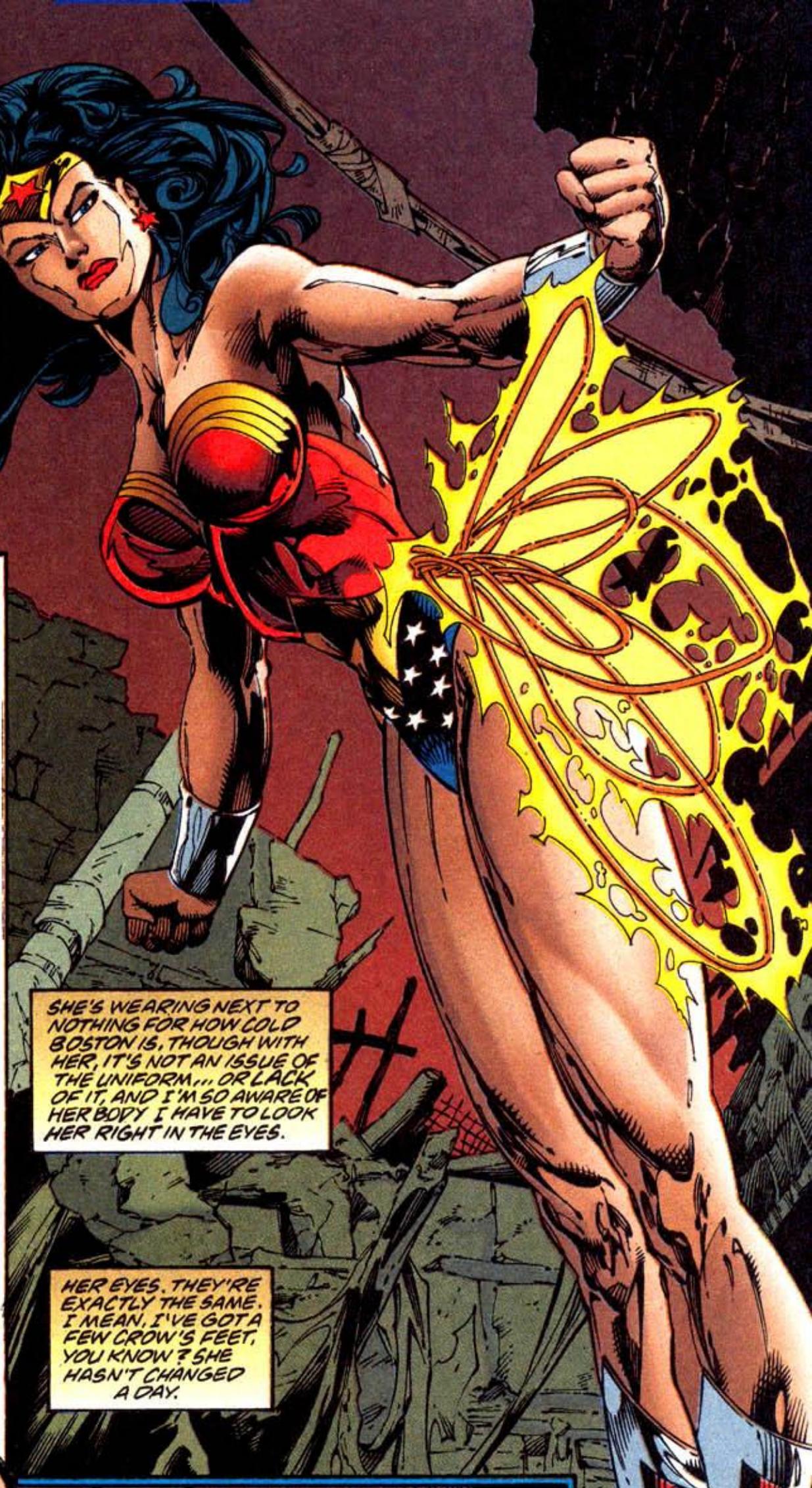




I'M LOOKING AT
ONE FINE REASON
RIGHT NOW.



DETECTIVE
INDELICATO? I
NEED YOUR
HELP.



SHE'S WEARING NEXT TO
NOTHING FOR HOW COLD
BOSTON IS, THOUGH WITH
HER, IT'S NOT AN ISSUE OF
THE UNIFORM... OR LACK
OF IT, AND I'M SO AWARE OF
HER BODY I HAVE TO LOOK
HER RIGHT IN THE EYES.

HER EYES. THEY'RE
EXACTLY THE SAME.
I MEAN, I'VE GOT A
FEW CROW'S FEET,
YOU KNOW? SHE
HASN'T CHANGED
A DAY.



WHAT...
WHAT CAN I
DO FOR
YOU?

I WANT TO
REOPEN THE
MYNDI MAYER
CASE.



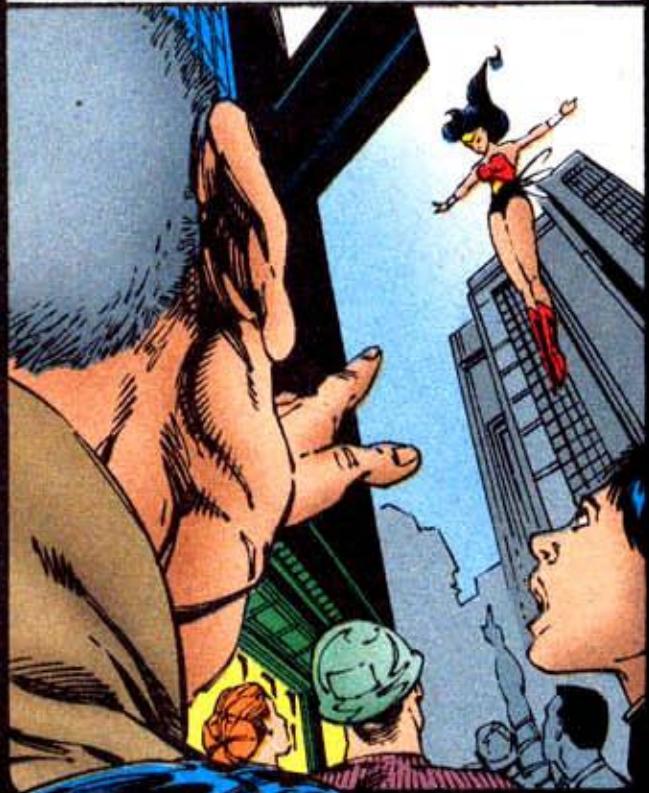
WELL, MAYBE
THE EYES HAVE
CHANGED...

"YOU REMEMBER MYNDIA AS AN OUTLINE ON A CARPET. I MET HER WHEN I FIRST CAME TO BOSTON."



"I WAS NEW TO THE WORLD OF MAN, AND SHE CONVINCED ME I NEEDED A PUBLICIST, SOMEONE TO HELP BRING 'WONDER WOMAN' TO THE WORLD."

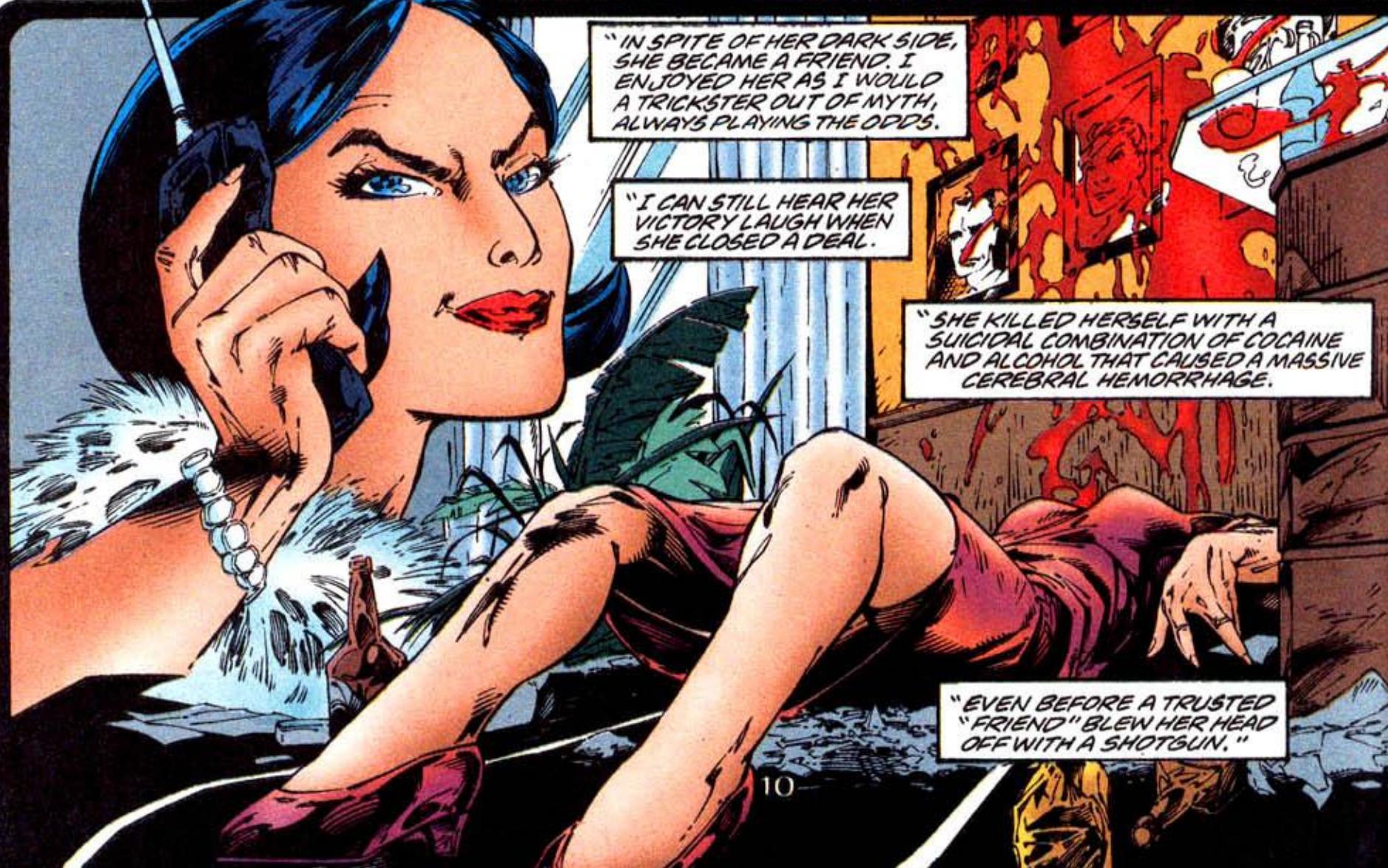
"SHE SET HERSELF FIRMLY BETWEEN ME AND THE PUBLIC, HANDLING EVERY PUBLICITY RELEASE. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF IT, BUT I WENT ALONG WITH IT, TRUSTING HER."



"IN SPITE OF HER DARK SIDE, SHE BECAME A FRIEND. I ENJOYED HER AS I WOULD A TRICKSTER OUT OF MYTH, ALWAYS PLAYING THE ODDS."

"I CAN STILL HEAR HER VICTORY LAUGH WHEN SHE CLOSED A DEAL."

"SHE KILLED HERSELF WITH A SUICIDAL COMBINATION OF COCAINE AND ALCOHOL THAT CAUSED A MASSIVE CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE."



"EVEN BEFORE A TRUSTED 'FRIEND' BLEW HER HEAD OFF WITH A SHOTGUN."

I PULL THE FILES AND SHE STANDS CLOSE AS WE GO OVER THEM... REAL CLOSE.



I SUDDENLY WANT TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL... HOW MY LIFE HAS BEEN GRAY SINCE SHE WALKED OUT OF IT, BUT HOW WOULD THAT SOUND? WEAK IS HOW IT WOULD SOUND.

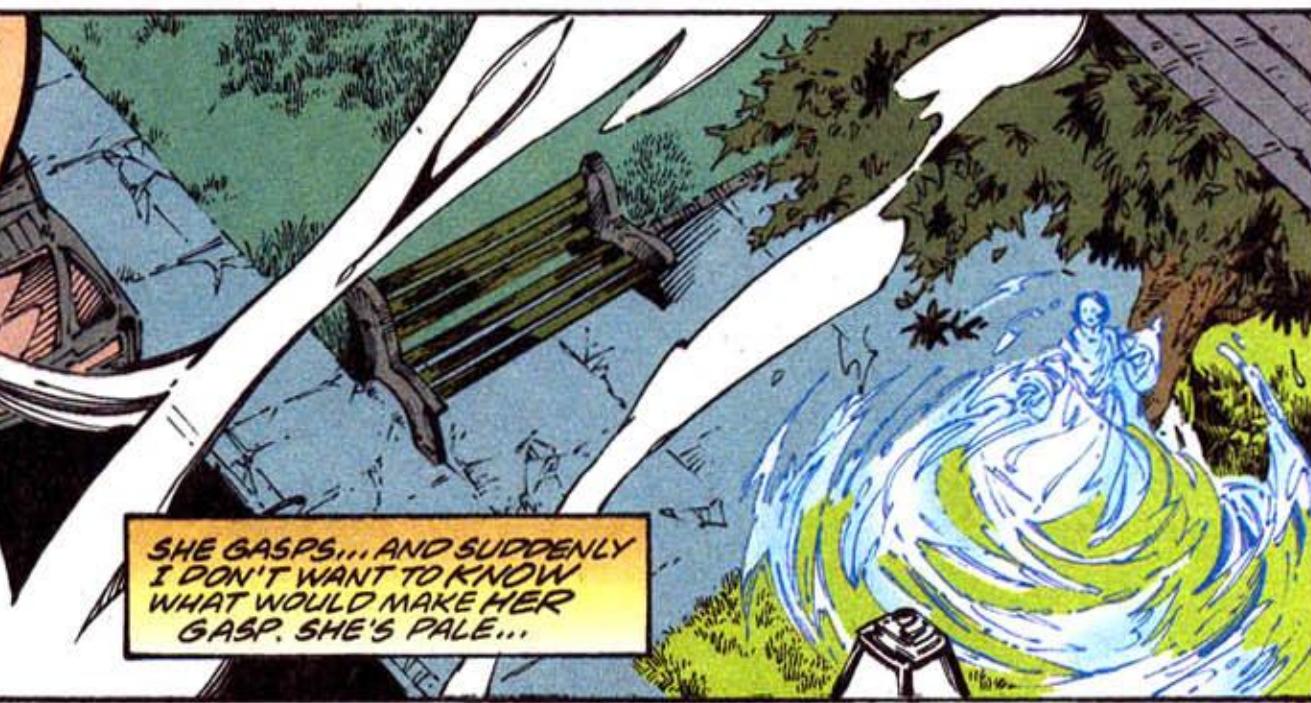
I DON'T SAY ANYTHING.

SORRY, I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

I'LL KNOW IT WHEN I SEE IT.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M BASING THIS ON, IT'S ... JUST...



SHE GASPS... AND SUDDENLY I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT WOULD MAKE HER GASP. SHE'S PALE...



...AS IF SHE'D BEEN A GHOST.



SITTING CLOSE TO HER,
THE WARMTH COMING
OFF HER, A SMELL LIKE...
I DON'T KNOW. FRESH
AIR? THE STUFF OF LIFE.

WOAH. MYNDI NOT ONLY HAD A
LITTLE SISTER, SHE'S BEEN
IN THE SYSTEM. BUSTED
SEVERAL TIMES FOR
POSSESSION, HOLDING.

BINGO!
HELLO MAYER
FAMILY...

CALL
ALBIE
(ABOUT POKER)

THAT'S IT!
THAT'S WHAT
SHE WANTS ME
TO DO! HER
SISTER MUST BE
IN TROUBLE,
AND SHE
WANTS ME TO
SAVE HER!

IT DOES SOMETHING
TO YOUR DIGNITY,
BEING PICKED UP
LIKE A KID. THE HUG
FEELS LIKE A VISE.
SHE COULD BREAK
ME IN TWO IF SHE
WANTED.

WE CHECK THE KID SISTER'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS. IT'S LIKE THE OLD DAYS. PEOPLE STOP WHAT THEY'RE DOING AND POINT UP AT THE FIGURE FLYING OVERHEAD.

WHEN YOU SEE A WOMAN WEARING THE AMERICAN FLAG, FLYING THROUGH THE AIR, YOUR FIRST THOUGHT IS, "GIMME A BREAK."

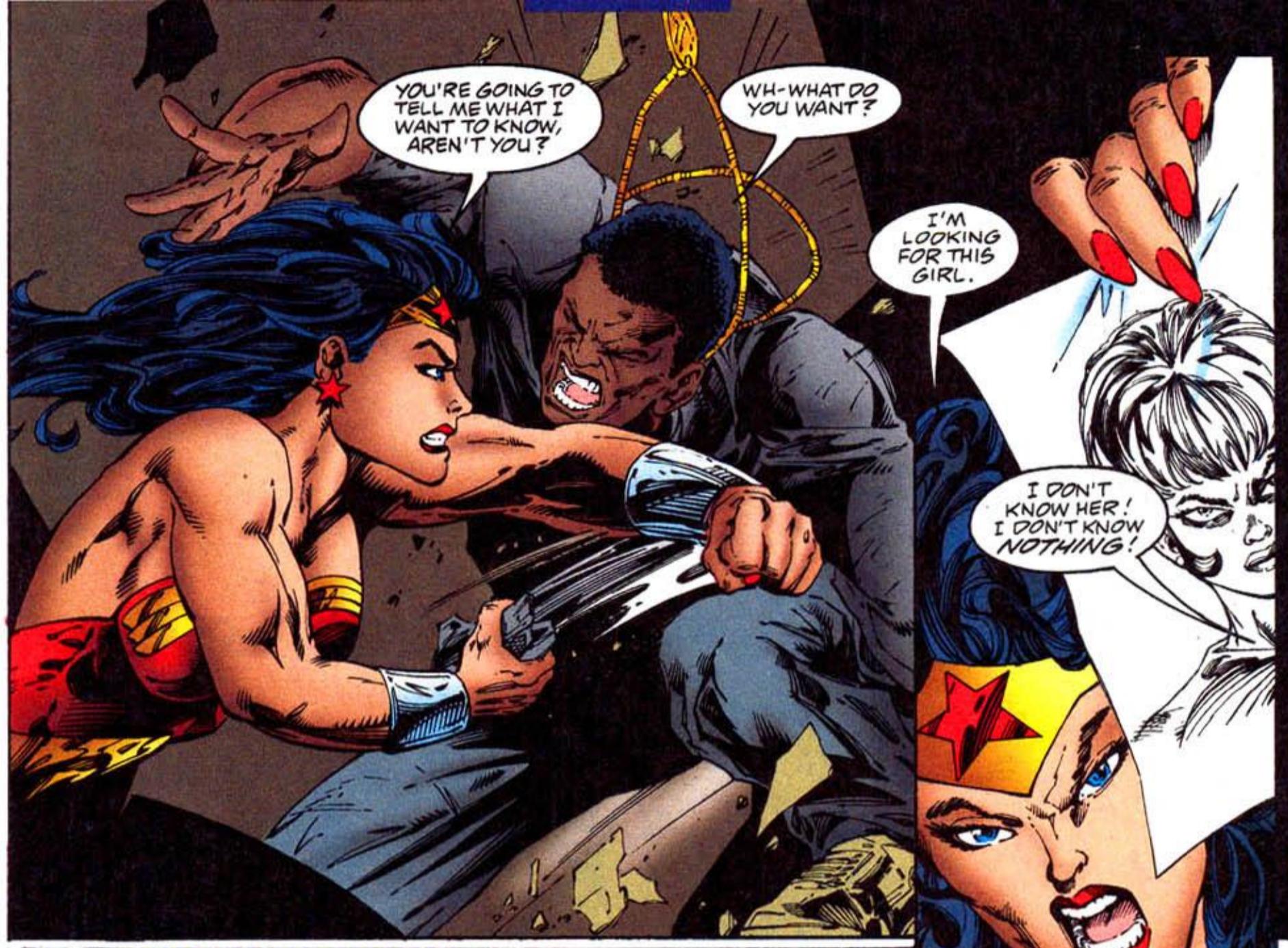
BUT SOMETHING LINGERS UNDERNEATH. SOME KIND OF REMINDER... OF PRIDE.

NO MATTER HER SURROUNDINGS, SHE WALKS THROUGH THEM, SHINING AND CLEAN.

SHE MAKES THE WORLD LOOK BAD BY COMPARISON. IT HITS ME. JUST BY BEING HERSELF, SHE MAKES THE WORLD CHANGE.

IT EITHER HAS TO COME UP TO HER STANDARDS...

...OR PAY THE PRICE.



I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY SEEN HER DO THIS. THERE'S SOMETHING EMBARRASSING, UNNATURAL ABOUT A MAN LETTING EVERYTHING OUT IN FRONT OF A WOMAN.

AND WHEN IT'S IN FRONT OF THIS WOMAN, WHO'S MORE THAN A WOMAN... IT'S A KILLER.

I'LL BE THE FIRST TO SAY IT... MEN HAVE A LOT OF DEFENSES. WHEN THEY'RE TAKEN AWAY, THERE'S A NAKEDNESS THAT ISN'T PRETTY.

YEAH, I SEEN HER. SHE'S IN THE BACK.

EVERYBODY
DOWN ON THE
FLOOR!
ASSUME THE
POSITION!



IT'S DARK. THE BODIES LIE SLUMPED
AGAINST THE WALLS LIKE SACKS OF
MEAT. IT SMELLS LIKE DEATH.

HOW DIANA PICKS HER OUT
I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT'S HER.

WHAT ARE YOU
DRESSED UP FOR?
YOU LOOK LIKE A
BIG PLASTIC
DOLL.

ARE YOU
MYNDI
MAYER'S
LITTLE
SISTER?

AND THEN THE LETME
FALLS OUT OF THE KID'S
HAND...

YOU GET A FEELING
WHEN A CASE BREAKS.
IT'S LIKE THE WEATHER
CHANGING.

JUST LOOK AT THE TWO OF
THEM. HOW CAN ONE RACE
TURN OUT SO DIFFERENT?
AND THEN I REMEMBER.
SHE'S NOT ONE OF US.
SHE'S BETTER.

OKAY, NO MORE GAMES! I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO. YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT THE LETHE. BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T--

HOLD ON, DETECTIVE. WENDY, I KNEW YOUR SISTER. IT MUST HAVE HIT YOU HARD WITH WHAT HAPPENED.

WHO, MYNDI? SHE LEFT ME BEHIND A LONG TIME AGO. WOULDN'T EVEN ADMIT I WAS HER SISTER.

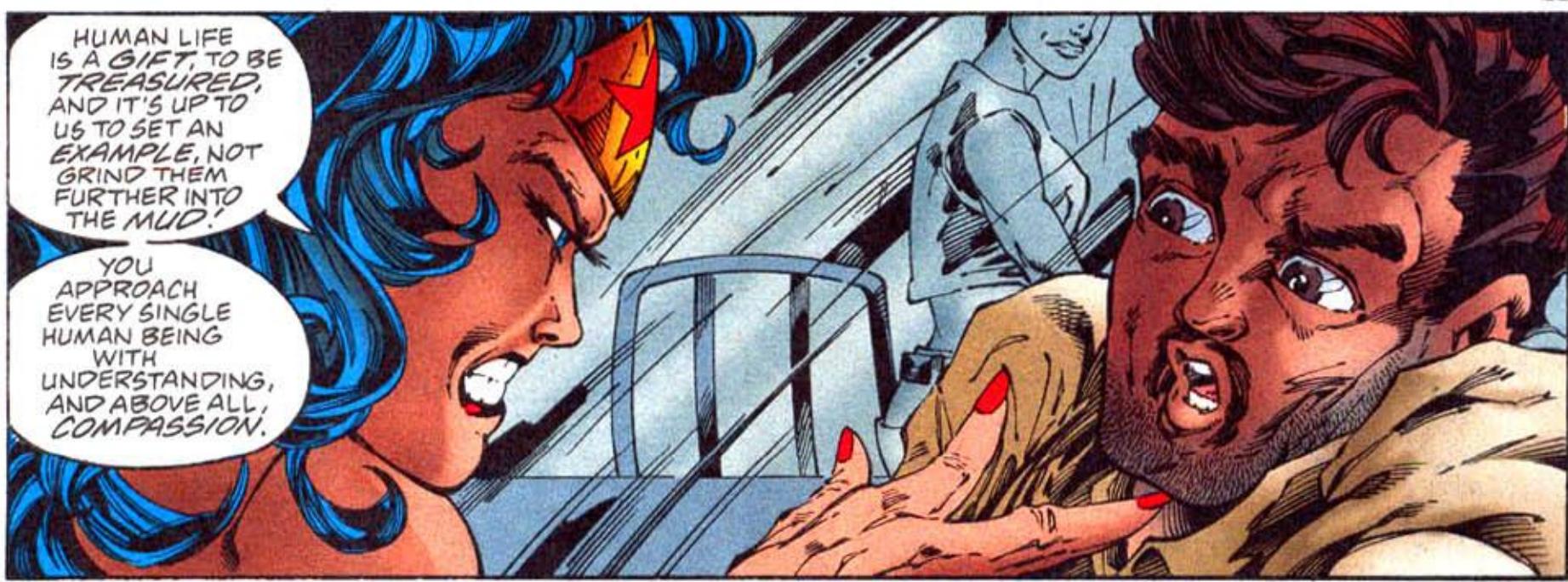
I TOOK LETHE
I DON'T REMEMBER

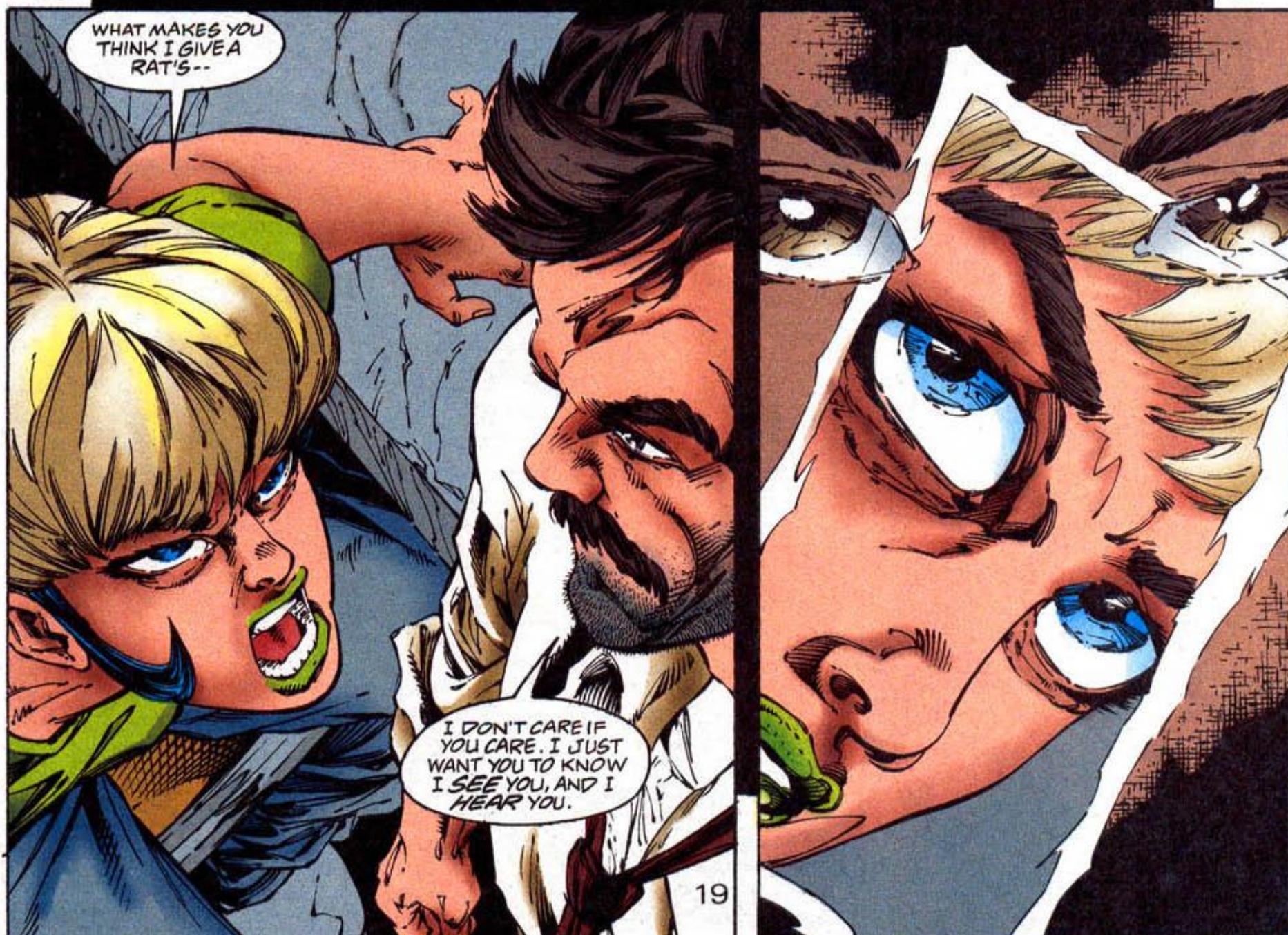
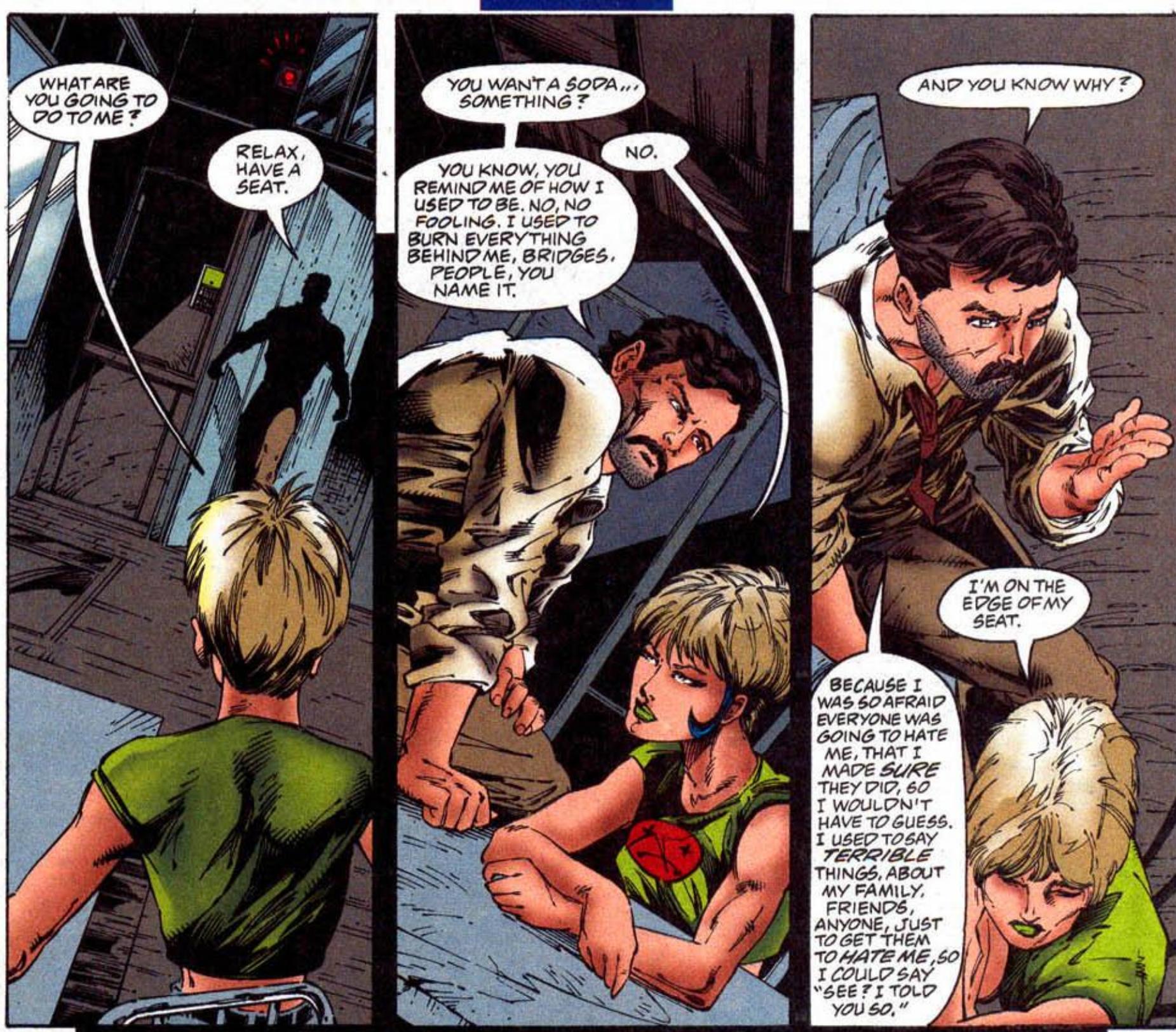
LIKE HELL-- IF YOU TOOK LETHE YOU'D HAVE NO MEMORY!

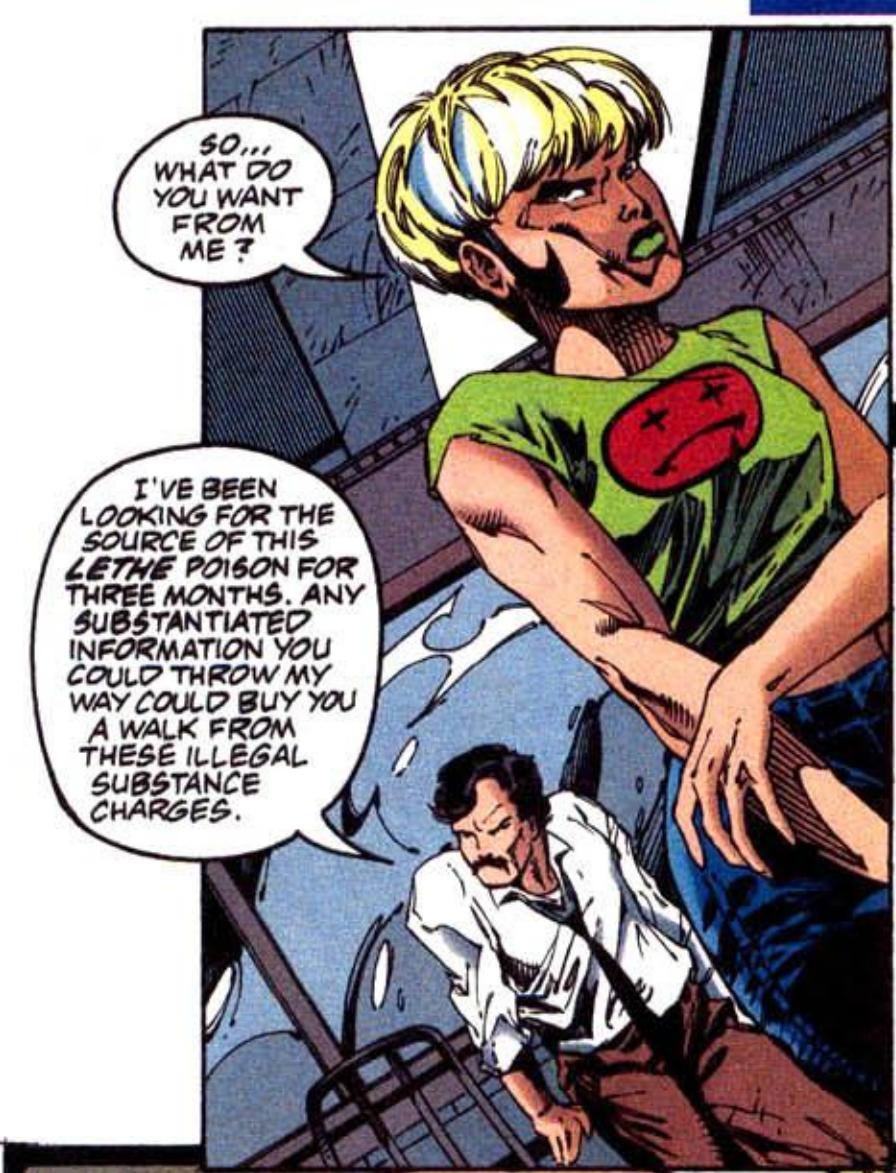
YOU SEE THAT? YOU SEE WHAT SHE IS? YOU EXPECT TO SAVE THIS GARBAGE?

I'M GLAD SHE KILLED HERSELF.

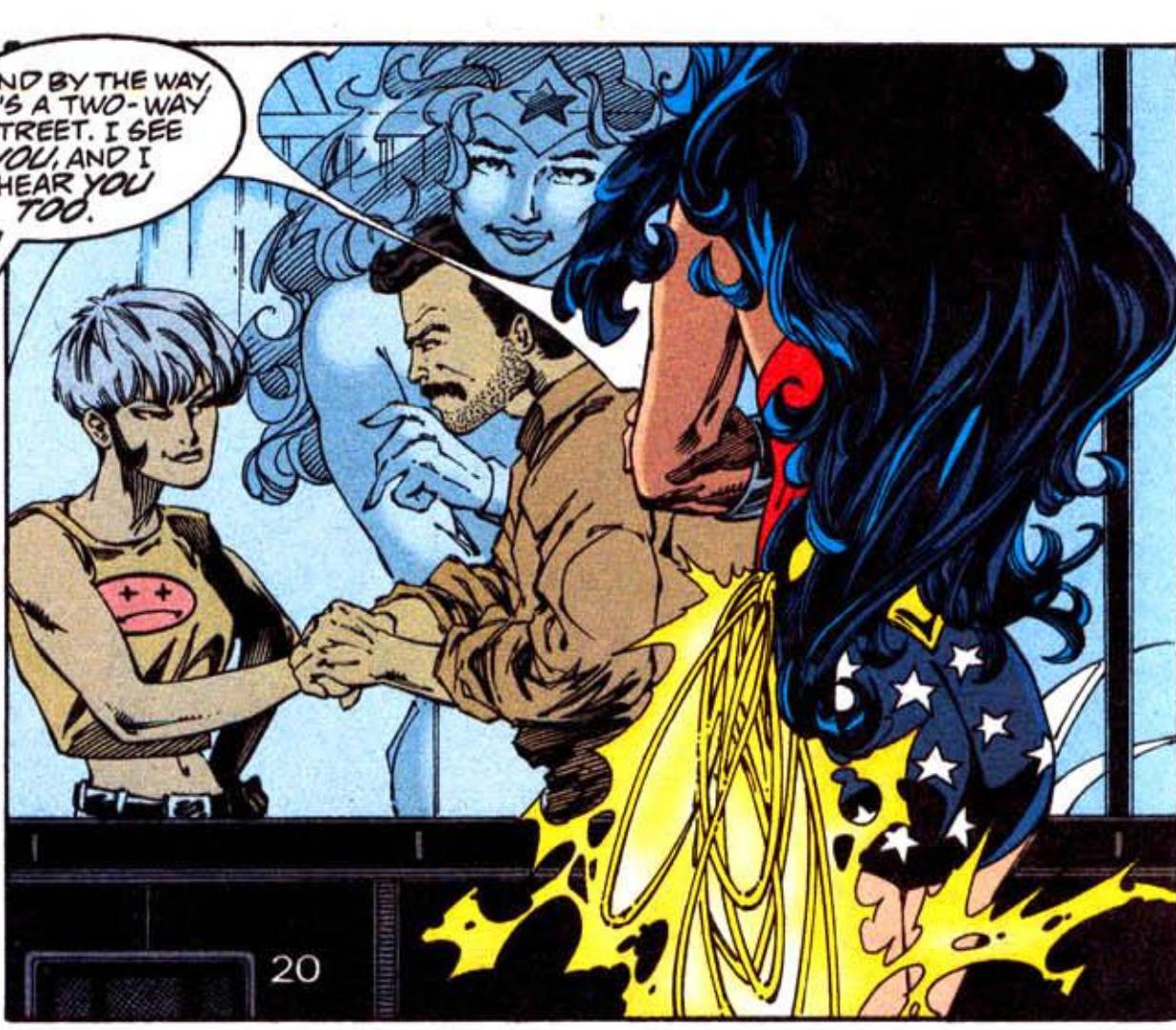
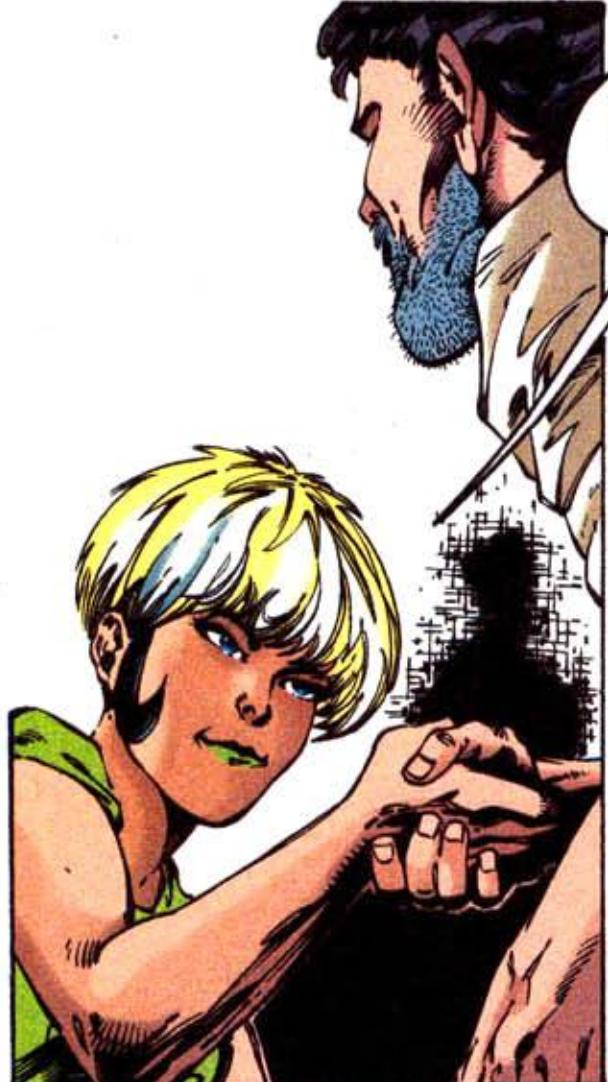
STEP IN HERE FOR A MOMENT, WOULD YOU PLEASE, DETECTIVE?







I'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR THE
SOURCE OF THIS
LETAL POISON FOR
THREE MONTHS. ANY
SUBSTANTIATED
INFORMATION YOU
COULD THROW MY
WAY COULD BUY YOU
A WALK FROM
THESE ILLEGAL
SUBSTANCE
CHARGES.



WENDY TELLS ME WHERE SHE GOT THE LETHE...SAYS IT'S HEAVILY GUARDED, BUT SHE CAN GET US IN BEFORE THEY FLUSH ALL THE EVIDENCE.

I SAY WE SHOULD GO IN WITH A SMALL ARMY. DIANA SAYS SHE CAN HANDLE IT HERSELF.

I SAY FINE.

I FEEL HER EYES ON ME.

THESE GUYS ARE MONSTERS.

BELIEVE ME, I'VE SEEN A LOT OF BAD GUYS.

NO, I MEAN THEY'RE REALLY MONSTERS.

I FEEL HER FINGERS. AT FIRST I THINK SHE'S TRYING SOMETHING. THEN I REALIZE SHE'S SCARED.

YOU THINK AFTER THIS YOU MIGHT WANT TO... YOU KNOW... GET A CUP OF COFFEE OR SOMETHING?

SO, DETECTIVE...

WHAT, YOU AND ME? ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU WERE JUST ABOUT TO WIPE OUT MOST OF YOUR CEREBRAL CORTEX WITH THIS LETHE CRAP, AND NOW YOU WANT TO START DATING?

YOU'D HAVE TO BE CLEAN FOR AT LEAST A YEAR, AND EVEN THEN...

SHE GETS REAL QUIET.

SHE SEES ME STARING. THE LOOK
IN MY EYES WHEN I WATCH DIANA.
AS I FEEL ONE MORE TIME THAT NO
WOMAN WILL EVER MEASURE UP.

RIGHT.
GOT IT.

IT'S UP HERE
ON THE LEFT.

THIS GREEK RESTAURANT
WENT OUT OF BUSINESS AT
THE END OF THE EIGHTIES,
WHEN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
WENT TO HELL. THE WORD
EERIE DOESN'T BEGIN
TO DESCRIBE IT.

SO HERE'S
THE DEAL--

WENDY, YOU
GET THEM TO OPEN
THE DOOR, AND I'LL
GET IN FAST ENOUGH
TO CATCH THEM WITH
THE EVIDENCE, ALL
RIGHT?

THAT'S...
PRETTY MUCH
WHAT I WAS
GOING TO
SAY.

JUST GET THEM TO
OPEN THE DOOR, THEN
STEP BACK.

KNOCK
KNOCK

YEAH?

SNICK

I... I WANT TO
TAKE THE PLUNGE.
I WANT TO SWIM
UPSTREAM... TO
LETHE.

IT COSTS.

I GOT IT. I GOT
WHATEVER IT TAKES.
I JUST WANT TO
FORGET.

OKAY,
COME ON IN.
IT'S IN THE
BACK.

SOMETHING IN MY
STOMACH TWISTS
AT HOW EASILY
SHE DOES IT.
SOMETHING
DISTASTEFUL
THAT HAS TO BE
DONE. A CHORE.

CRACK

MY ADRENALINE IS PUMPING LIKE AN EXPRESS TRAIN. SHE WALKS INTO THE DARKNESS WITH COMPLETE ASSURANCE. THIS IS WHERE MY LOVE COMES FROM... MOMENTS LIKE THIS THAT I CAN NEVER HOPE TO ACHIEVE.

SHE'S UNTOUCHABLE.

WITH THAT SHIPMENT OUR PROFITS TOP EVEN LAST MONTH'S. I NEVER WOULD HAVE PREDICTED IT.

WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED THE HUMAN RACE WOULD FIND COMPLETE AMNESIA SO APPEALING? AND WOULD PAY SO MUCH FOR IT?

THIS WAS AN ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT IDEA, WHOEVER YOUR BOSS IS--

HOLY....!

THE ROOM TWISTS... I'M SEEING SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T BE THERE.

GREETINGS, DAUGHTER OF THEMYSCIRA! OUR MISTRESS TOLD US TO EXPECT YOU!

GET BACK, DETECTIVE! THIS HAS JUST TAKEN A WHOLE NEW TURN!

CYCLOPES! SONS OF THE EARTH-MOTHER GAEA, I THOUGHT YOU CAST DOWN INTO TARTARUS, TO BECOME WEAPON MAKERS FOR ZEUS!

WHAM! WHAM!

SHE'S TREATING IT AS IF IT WERE AN EVERYDAY THING. THE PROBLEM IS, IT'S JUST WALKED OUT OF A HARRY HAUSEN FILM, AND IT'S BABBLING SOME GREEK MYTH CRAP IN AN ACCENT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND.

THEN I GET HIT BY A BRICK WALL, AND EVERYTHING GOES AWAY FOR A WHILE. THE LAST THING I HEAR IS THAT INSANE VOICE YELLING.

WE STOKED THE FORGES OF HEPHAESTUS IN THE VOLCANOES OF THE WORLD! WE WERE THE MASONS OF OLYMPUS!

MY BULLETS EVAPORATE OFF ITS SKIN.

COULDN'T YOU HAVE BUILT IT WITH THE GRAVITY ALL GOING ONE WAY?

WHERE'S YOUR BROTHER? I THOUGHT THERE WERE THREE OF YOU.

WHAM!

OUR BROTHER WAS
KILLED BY APOLLO WHEN
ZEUS SLEW HIS SON WITH
A THUNDERBOLT WE
FORGED!

NOW WE WORK FOR
A NEW EMPLOYER!

WHO ARE YOU
WORKING FOR? WHO IS
YOUR MISTRESS?

WHAM!

SPEAK! I
COMMAND IT! OR
THERE WILL ONLY
BE ONE CYCLOPS
BY THE END OF
THIS DAY!



SHE TAKES IT. AND MY HEART OPENS UP. THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER WOMAN WHO CAN MOVE LIKE THIS, DANCING IN SPACE...

THESE MONSTERS WHO LIVE FOREVER FEAR A FINAL DEATH EVEN MORE THAN MORTALS. QUICK, LET'S TRACK THEM TO THEIR LAIR!



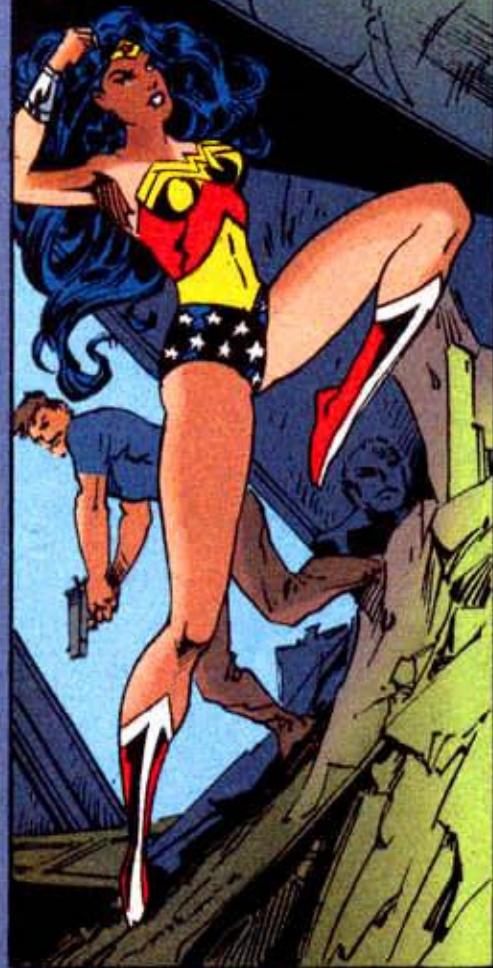
SHE COMES AFTER THEM LIKE VENGEANCE. THEY TEAR THE FLOOR OPEN IN THEIR FEAR.

KRASH!

A COLD WIND BLOWS FROM DOWN BELOW... WITH A FEELING LIKE DARK MAGIC. I'M ENTERING AN ANCIENT, ETERNAL WORLD WHERE I DON'T MATTER AT ALL...

WHERE MY COMPLETE LIFE, EVERYTHING I AM, WILL BE GONE IN THE TICK OF A SECOND.

I'M GETTING DEEP INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE. SHE WALKS INTO IT LIKE IT WAS NOTHING. SHE'S AT HOME HERE.

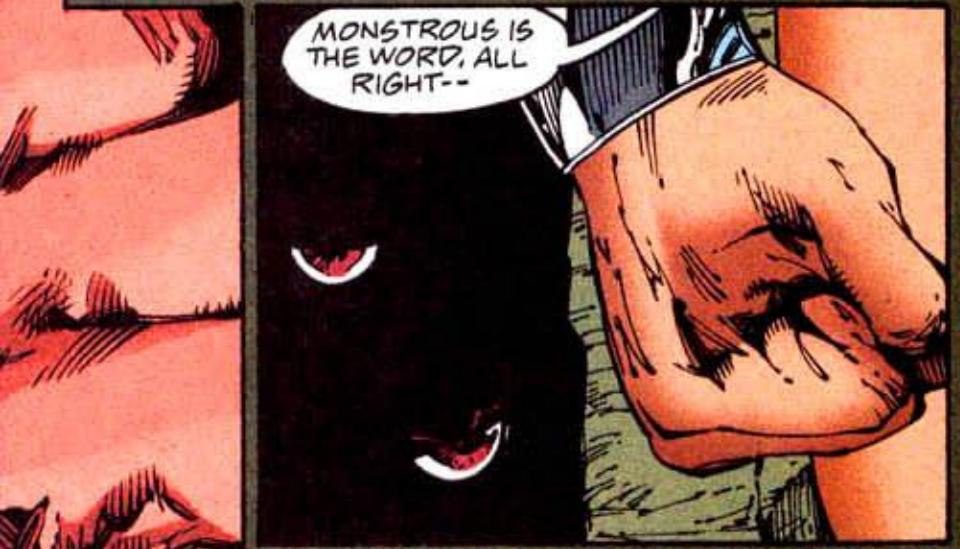
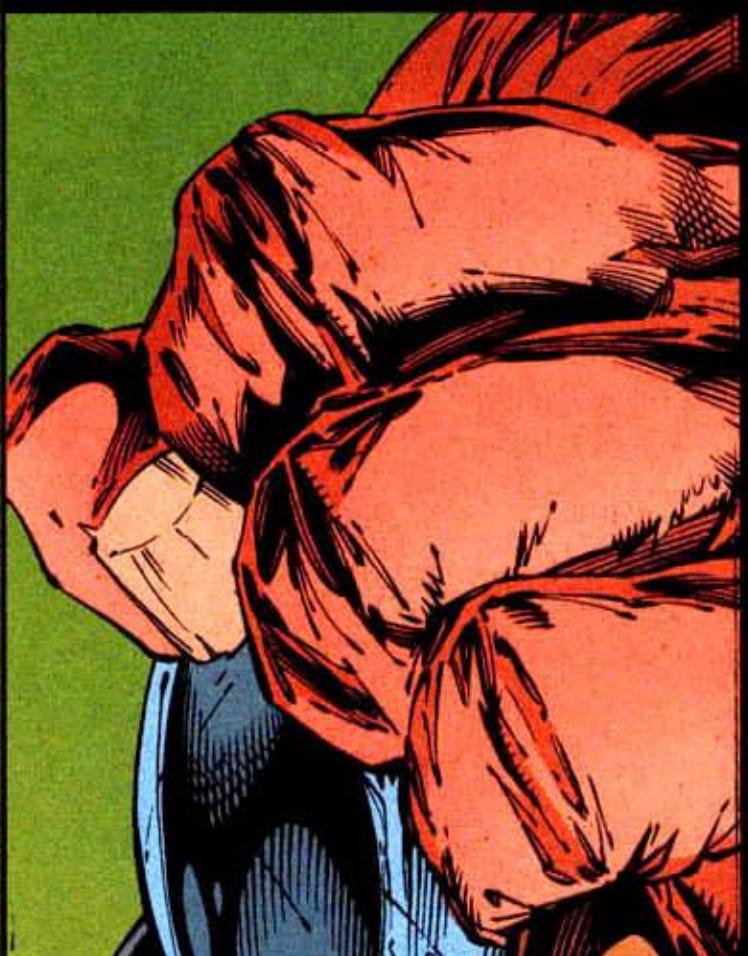


AND THEN THE BOTTOM DROPS OUT. WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN INTO HERE?



WE'VE FOUND THE SOURCE OF THE LETHE.





STUPID THING IS... I FEEL
REALLY EMBARRASSED.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT
ME. Nnnnn, DO WHAT
YOU HAVE TO DO.

VERY WELL,
YOU HAVE ME,
MONSTER.
DO WHAT YOU
WILL.

NO!

heh... I'VE
ALWAYS WANTED MY
WAY WITH ONE OF THE
AMAZONS... heh heh...
AS WE LABORED AND
SWEATED, SPIT UPON
BY THE GODS, AND
YOUR RACE WAS
GIVEN THE RUN OF
THE UPPER
WORLD...

I'M
GOING TO
ENJOY
THIS.

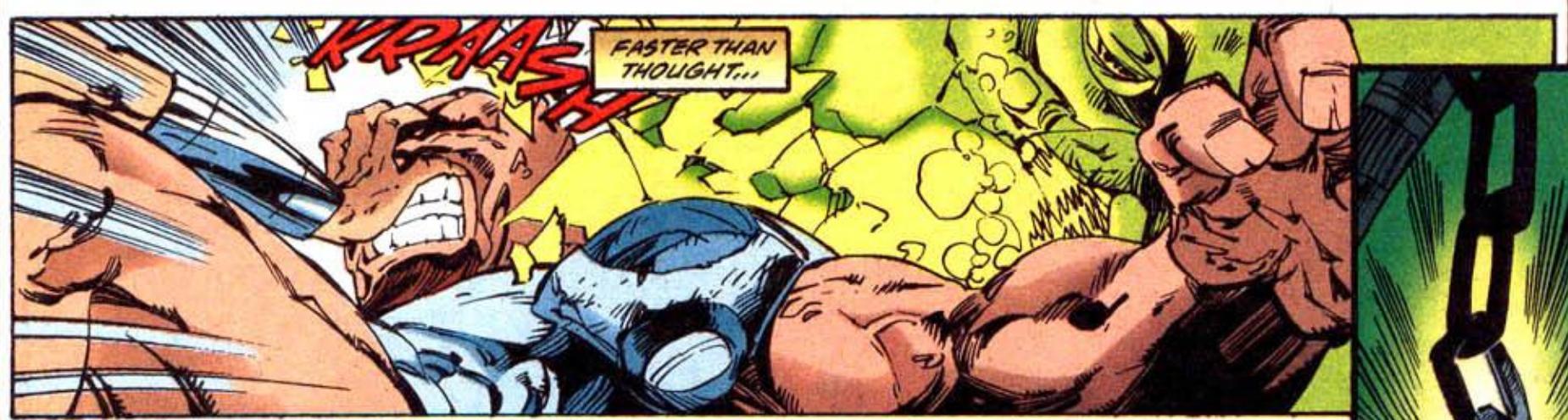
DON'T COUNT YOUR
PLEASURES TOO SOON,
MONSTER!

SHE MOVES FASTER
THAN A HEARTBEAT...



KRAASH

FASTER THAN
THOUGHT...



FASTER THAN
A DREAM...

WHAM



DIANA... YOU
SAVED MY LIFE. I
HAVE TO TELL YOU
SOMETHING... IF
YOU HAVEN'T
GUESSED IT
ALREADY.



I CAN'T HELP IT. IT ALL SPILLS OUT.

MY LIFE HASN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE I MET YOU. YOU'RE ALL I THINK ABOUT. NO OTHER WOMAN WILL EVER MEASURE UP. YOU'RE ALL I EVER WANTED...



ED...



YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME. YOU SEE WHAT I AM ON THE OUTSIDE... MY IDEALS.



LOOK AT MY HAND. THIS IS EARTH... WITH LIFE BREATHED INTO IT BY A GOD. WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ME? HALF THE TIME I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I AM, LET ALONE WHO I AM.

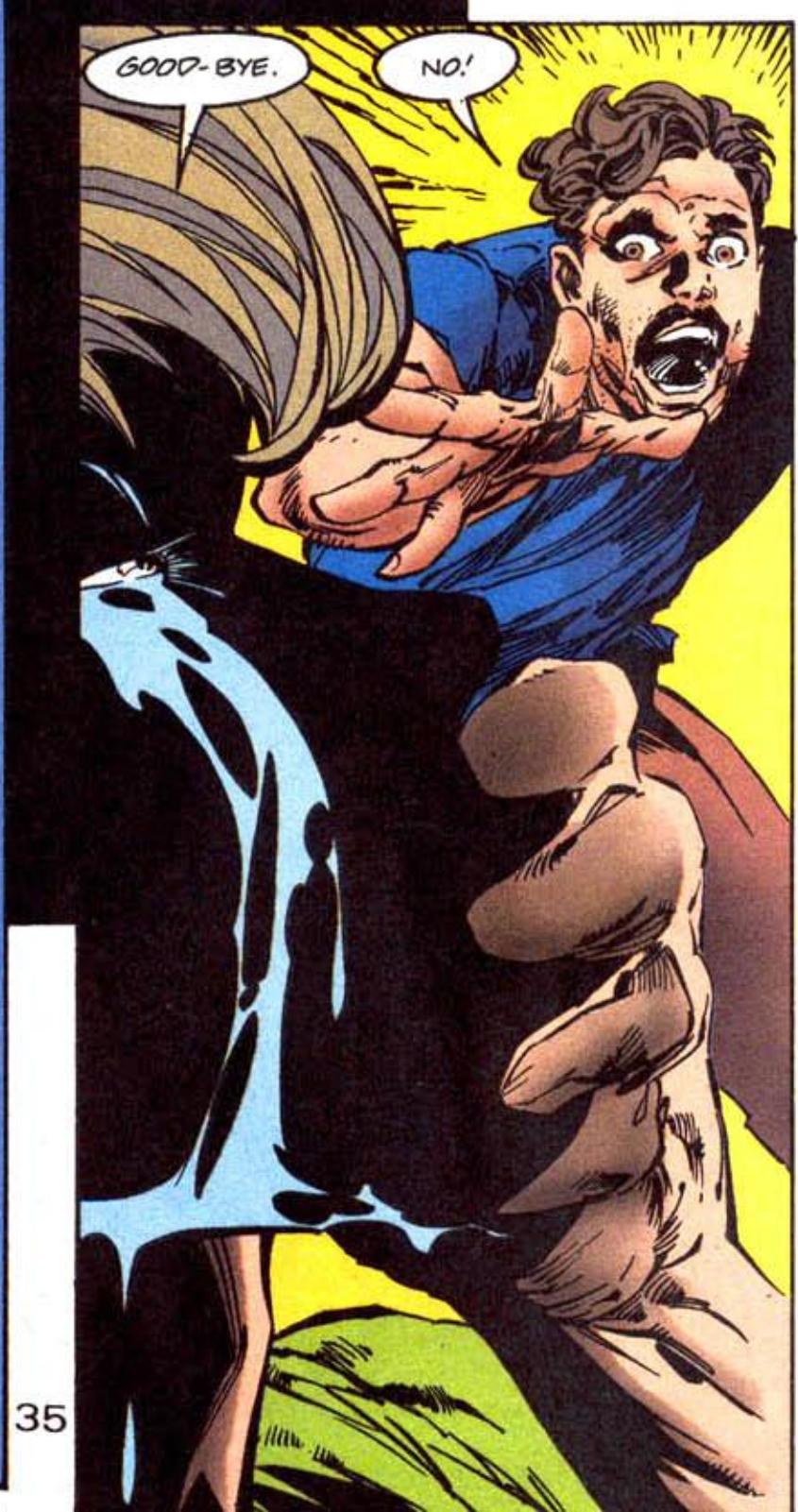
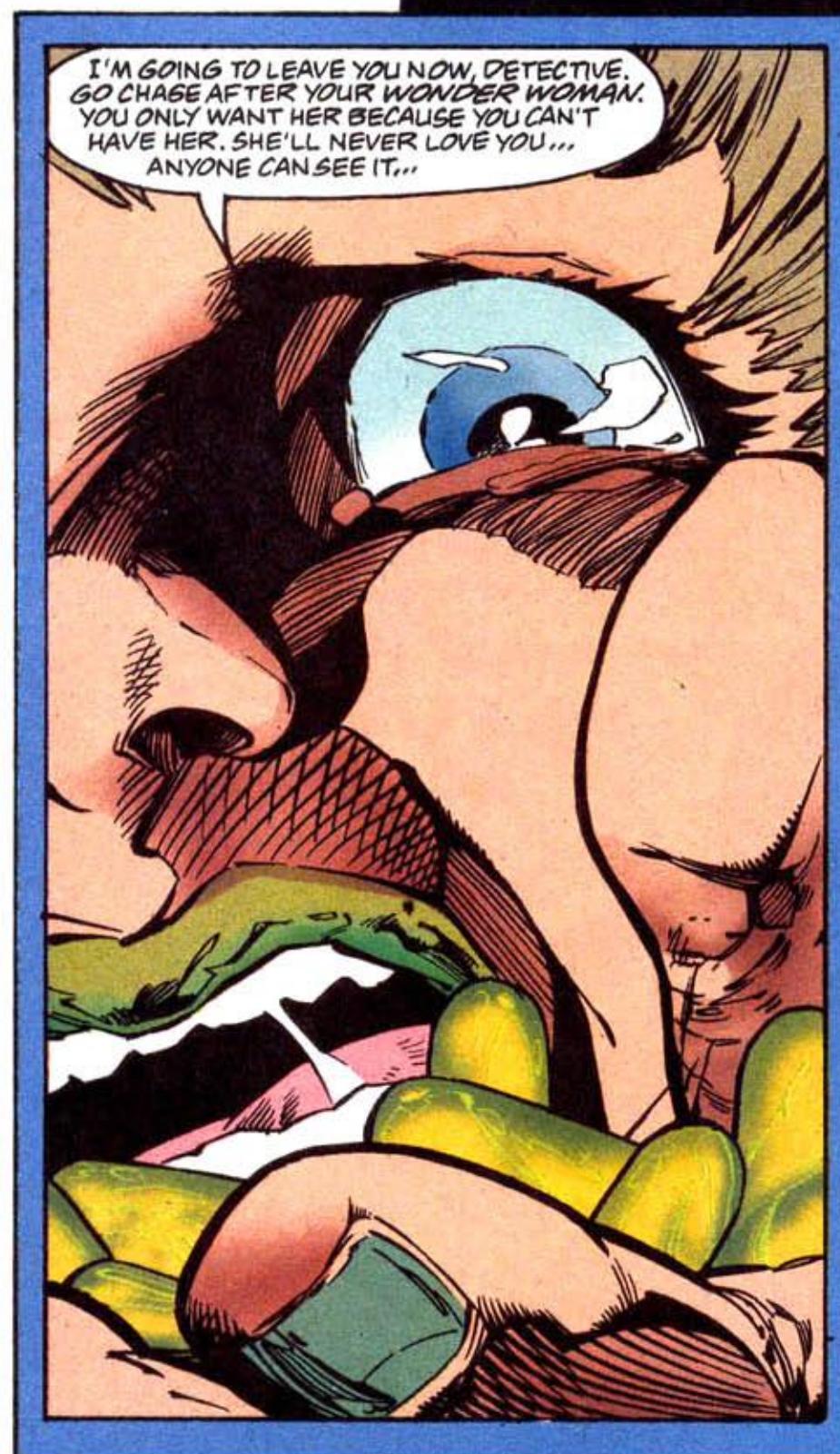
IF YOU GET DOWN TO IT, WE'RE ALL JUST CLAY WITH LIFE BREATHED INTO IT. WE'RE NO DIFFERENT, DIANA.

YES WE ARE...

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING PEACE TO THE WORLD OF MAN, ED. YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR BEING AT PEACE WITH YOURSELF.







NO, NO, NO!

MYNDI...
I'VE FAILED
YOU.

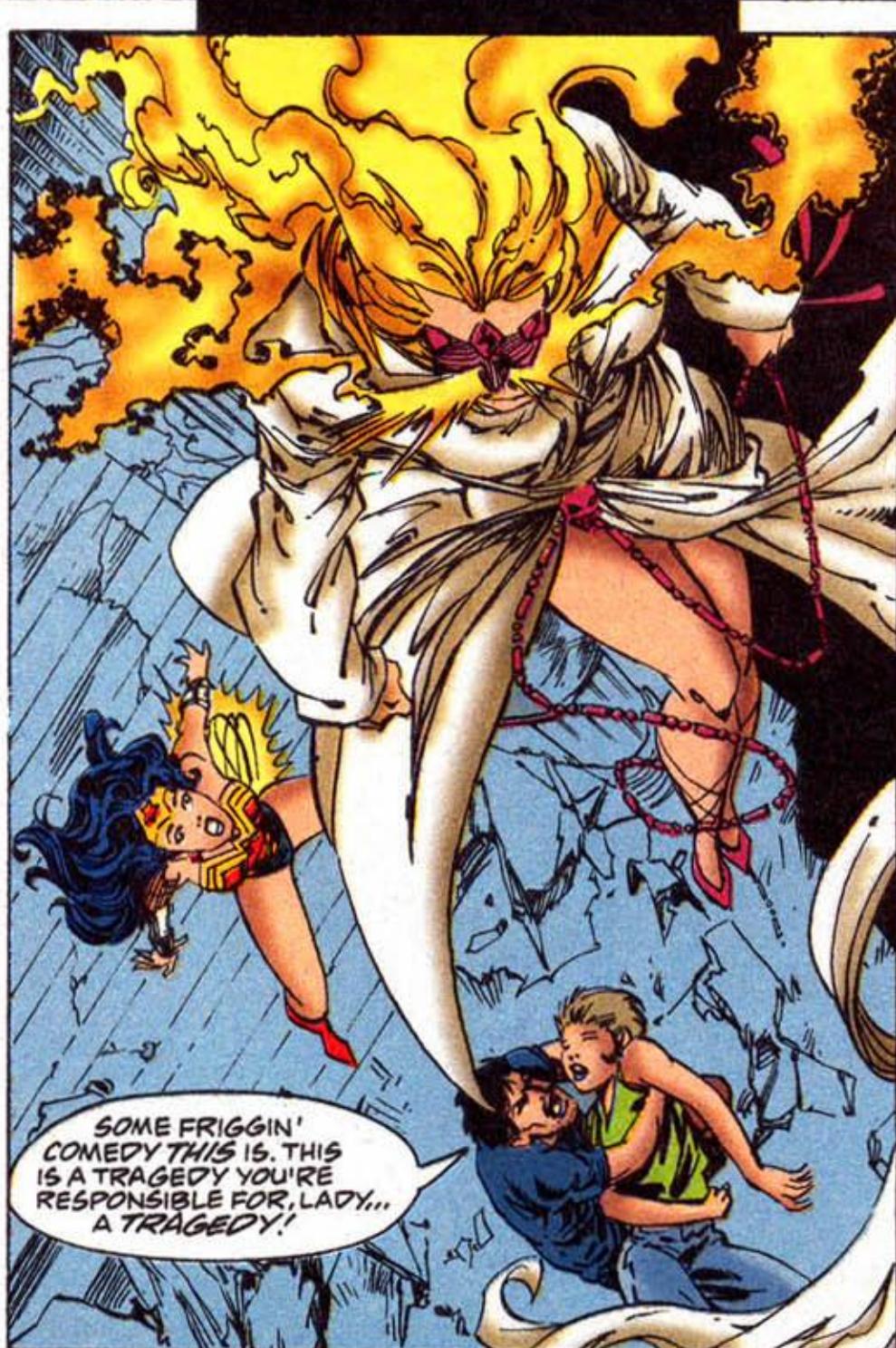
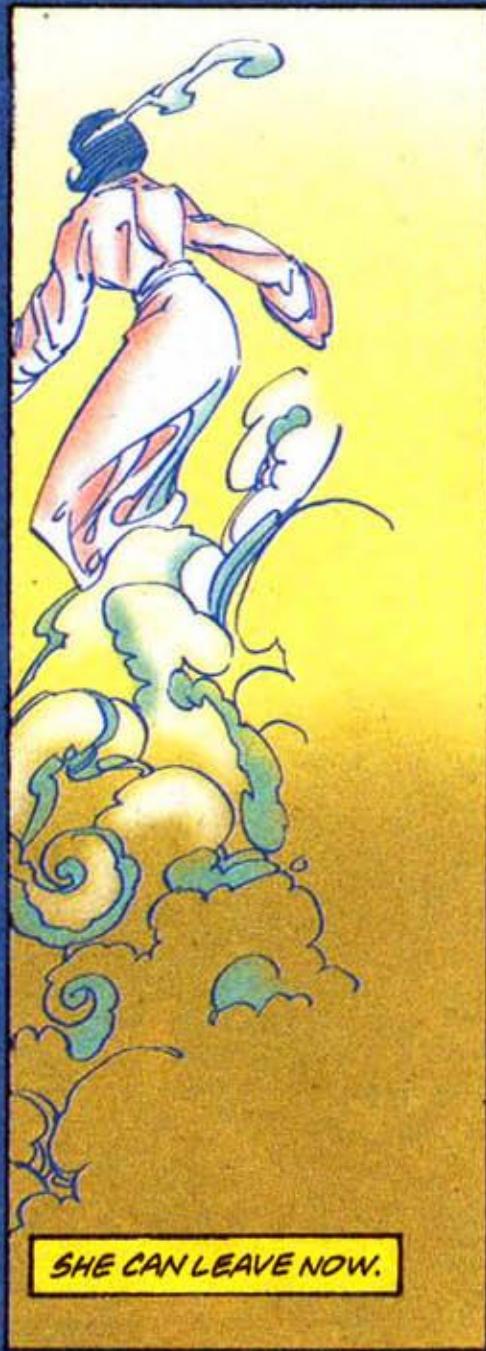


I'M SO SORRY... THIS IS THE ONE
THING YOU NEEDED... TO PUT YOUR
LIFE TO REST... AND I'VE FAILED
YOU. I'VE...

I'LL FIND A WAY. I'LL HELP YOU
GET BACK TO WHO YOU WERE. WE'LL
WORK TOGETHER. I... I LIKED WHO
YOU WERE... REMINDED ME OF
MYSELF.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WIPE
YOURSELF OFF THE MAP. YOU WERE
RIGHT ABOUT ME—I SEE THAT NOW...
PLEASE COME BACK.

SOMETHING IN HER FACE SAYS IT'S OKAY. THAT WENDY WILL BE LOVED. THAT THERE WILL BE SOMEBODY THERE FOR HER NOW. SOMEBODY TO WATCH OVER HER. SHE'S BEEN SAVED.



SO THAT'S HOW WE CLEANED THE LETHE OFF THE STREETS OF BOSTON. AND THAT'S HOW DIANA LEFT FOR GATEWAY CITY, AND FLEW OUT OF MY LIFE FOREVER.

BUT NOT BEFORE SHE TAUGHT ME SOMETHING I NEEDED TO KNOW... HOW TO GIVE AND KEEP ON GIVING.

WENDY'S MEMORY IS A LABYRINTH, AND EACH DAY WE TURN A CORNER, FIND SOMETHING NEW.

BEFORE SHE LEFT, DIANA GAVE ME A LAST SMILE... OF THANKS. LIKE MAYBE SHE LEARNED SOMETHING TOO.

SHE SAID... THE TRUTH IS A POWERFUL WEAPON. IT CAN PUSH A MAN TOWARDS DEATH. SUICIDE WILL ALWAYS BE A MYSTERY... AN OPTION THAT HAUNTS THE SOUL OF HUMANITY.

BUT MAYBE THERE ARE OTHER THINGS THAT ATONE FOR IT... SHOUT OUT THAT LIFE IS WORTH LIVING.

I HOPE DIANA FINDS WHAT SHE'S LOOKING FOR. ALL I KNOW IS I GOT WENDY IN MY ARMS NOW MOST NIGHTS.

AND THAT'S THE BEST REASON FOR LIVING I'LL EVER FIND.

END