



ANNUAL

WONDER WOMAN®

by GEORGE PÉREZ · ART ADAMS · ROSS ANDRU · BRIAN BOLLAND
JOHN BOLTON · JOSÉ LUIS GARCÍA-LÓPEZ · CURT SWAN

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OVER THE NEW ENGLAND SKY SHE SOARS, A JOYOUS SMILE ACCENTUATING A FACE AS BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE AND AZURE EYES SPARKLING WITH THE WISDOM OF ATHENA AND THE KEENNESS OF ARTEMIS.

ON HER HIP HANGS HESTIA'S MAGIC LASSO OF TRUTH, FORGED FROM GAEA'S GIRDLE. UPON HER FEET ARE THE WINGED SANDALS OF HERMES, WHICH ALLOW HER TRANSIT BETWEEN BOTH HER WORLDS: ONE WORLD SYMBOLIZED BY HER STAR-SPANGLED ARMOR, THE STANDARD OF WONDER WOMAN, HERO OF PATRIARCH'S WORLD.

THE OTHER BY HER GOLDEN TIARA AND SILVER BRACELETS, WHICH PROCLAIM TO ONE AND ALL THAT SHE IS PRINCESS DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA, ONE OF THE HOLY SISTERHOOD KNOWN THROUGHOUT HISTORY AND LEGEND AS...

AMAZONS

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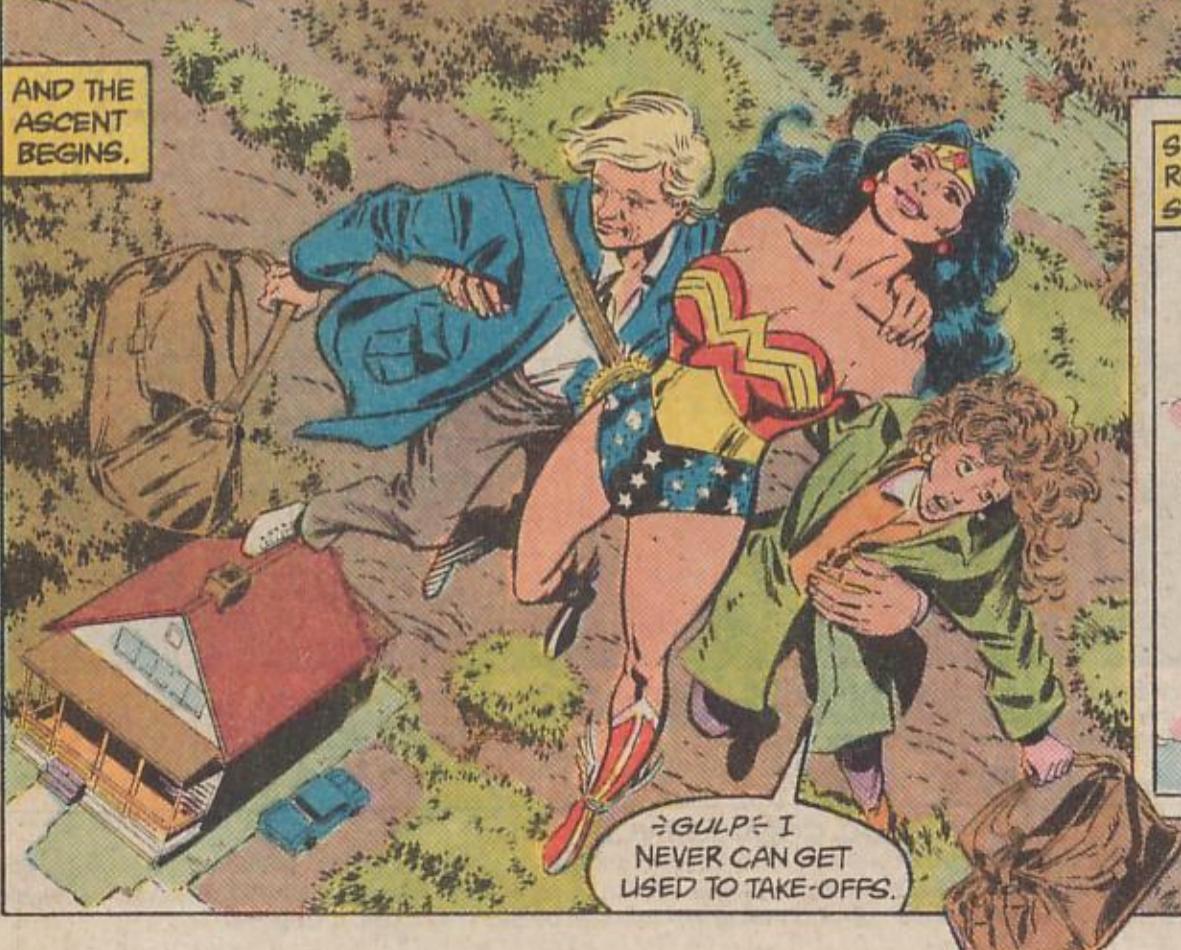
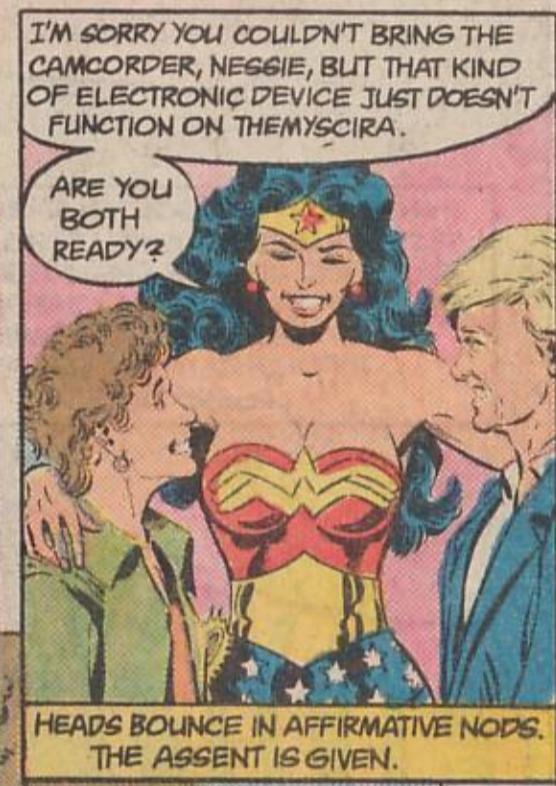
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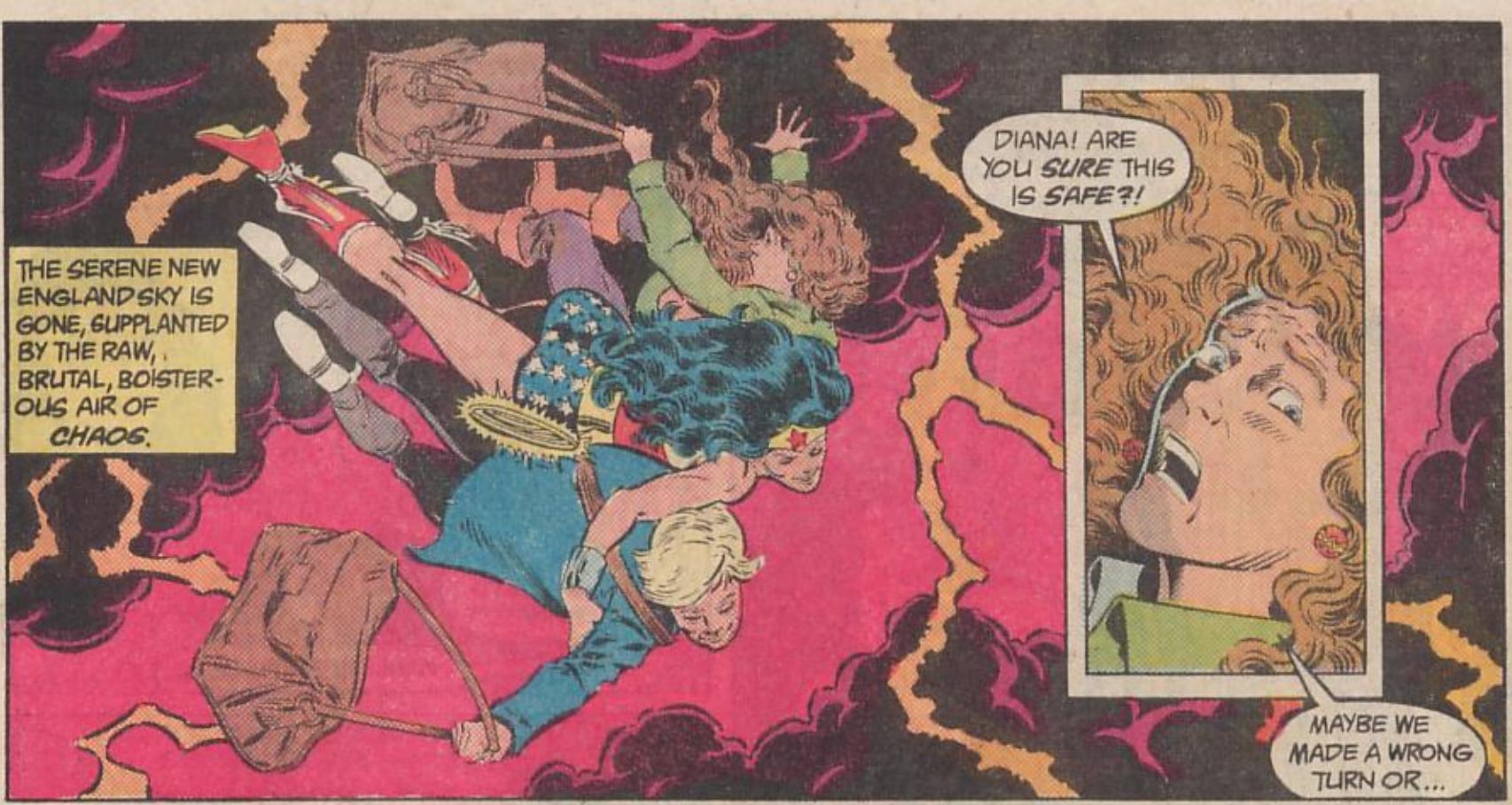
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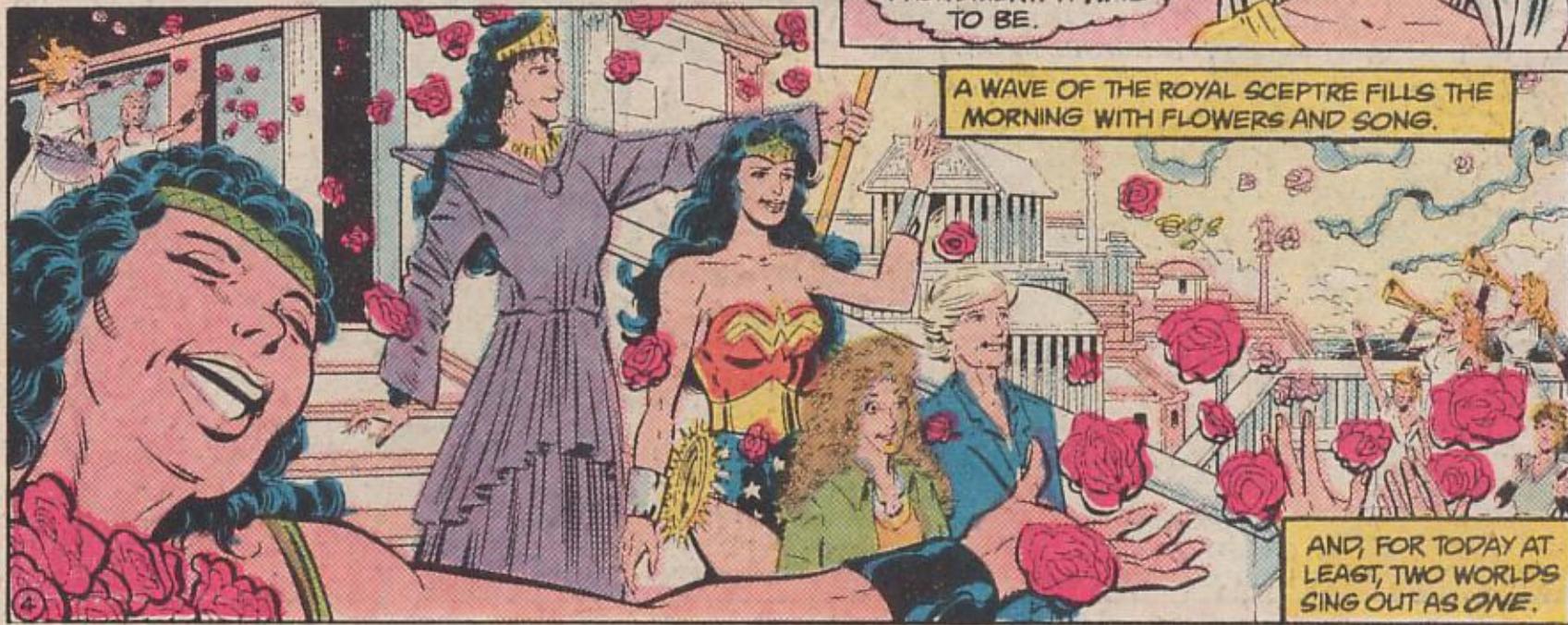
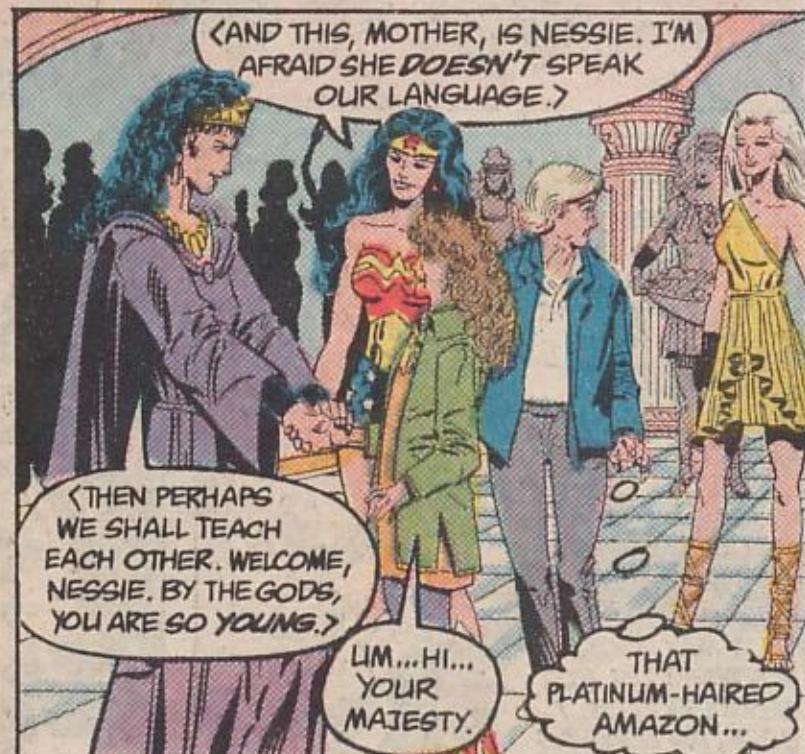
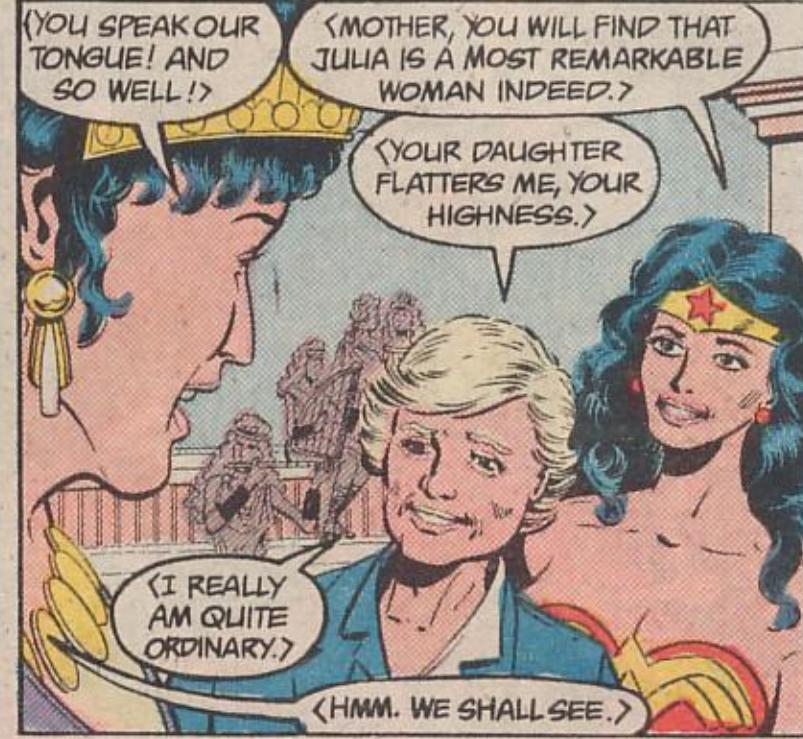
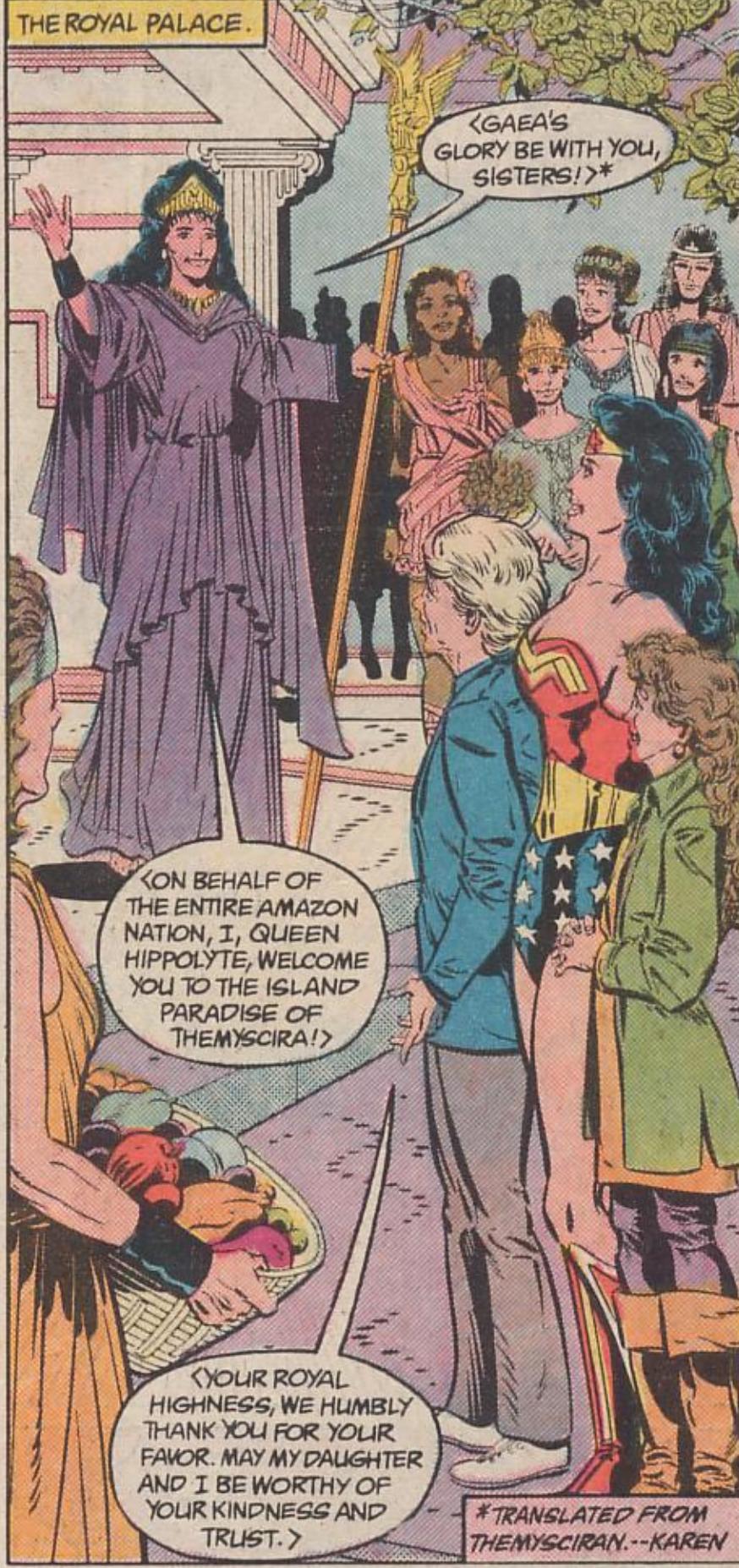
PROLOGUE

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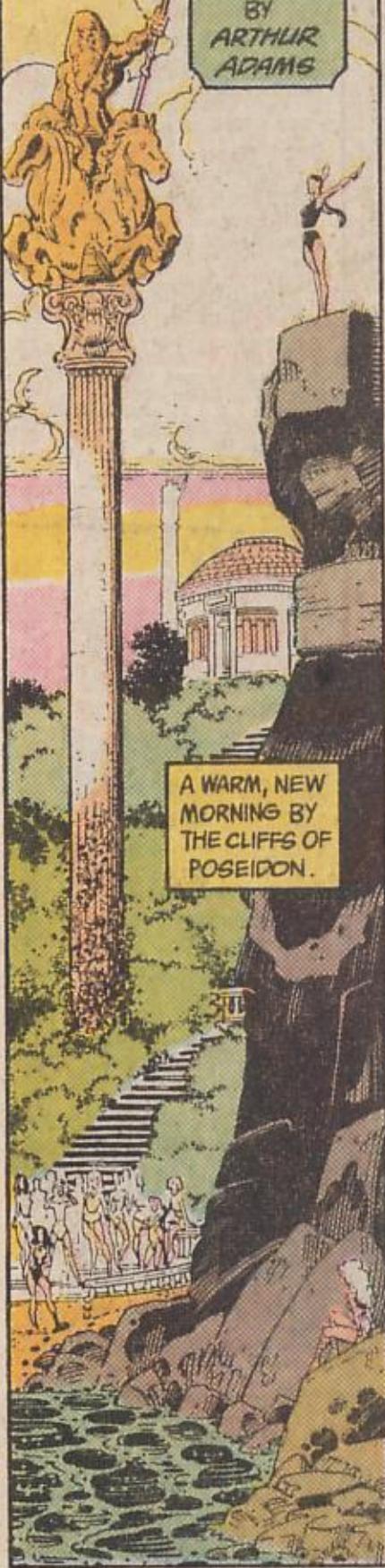
THE ROYAL PALACE.



CHAPTER 1:

THE DIVING BIRD

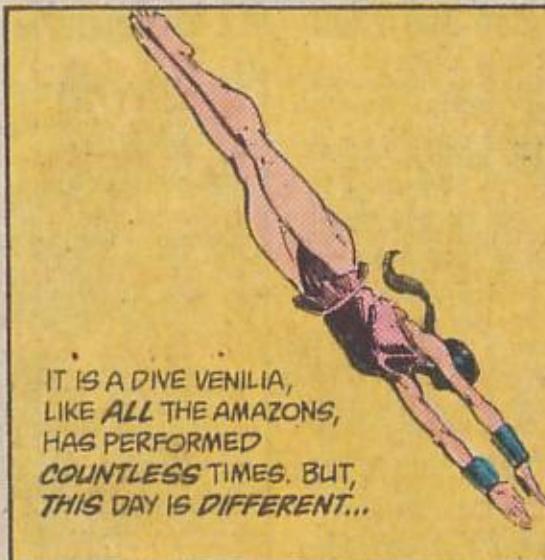
ILLUSTRATED
BY
ARTHUR
ADAMS



STEEL-MUSCLED LEGS PUSH OUT AND SHE GRACEFULLY PLUNGES TOWARD THE GLISTENING AQUAMARINE BELOW.

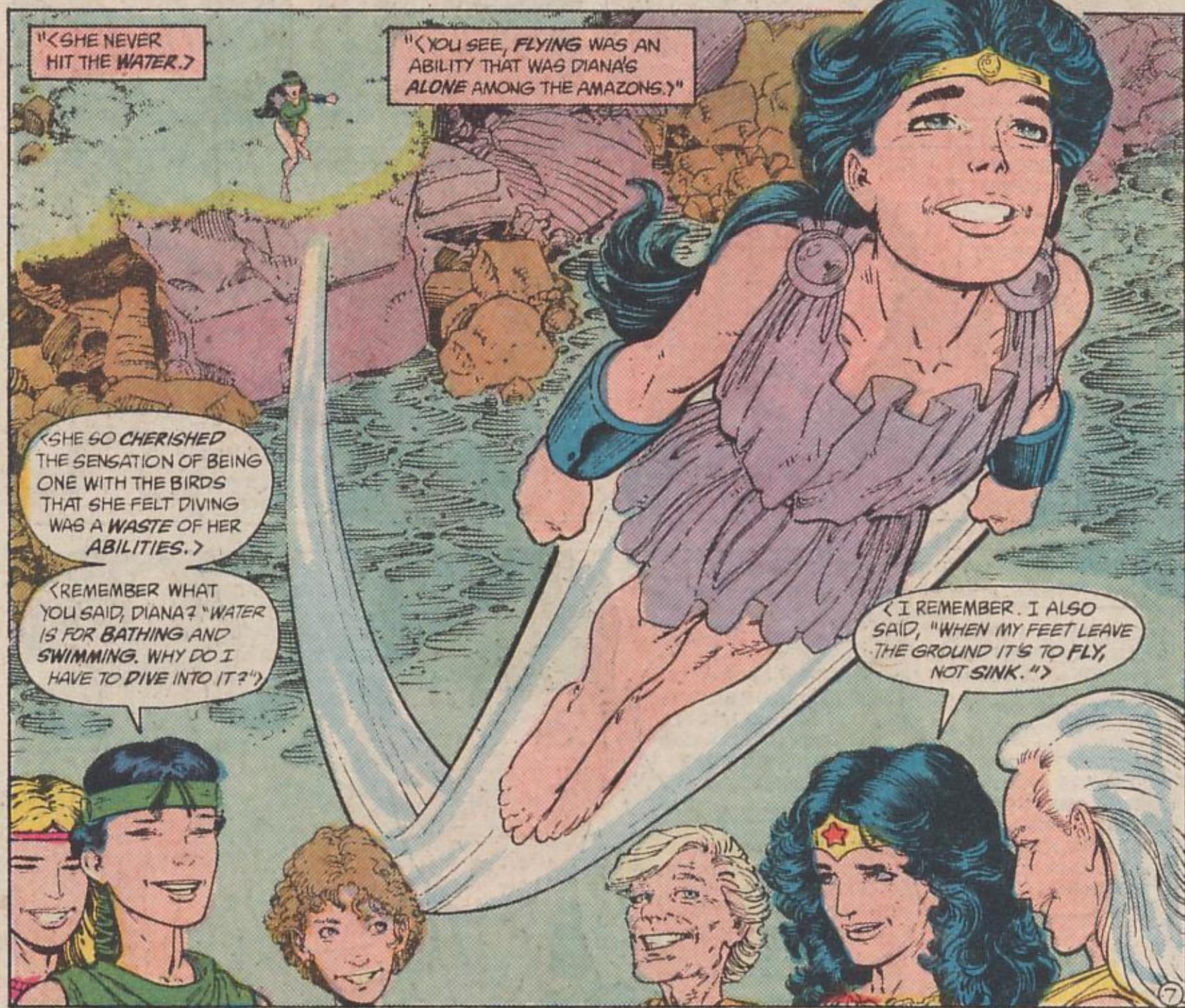
...AS NEW EYES WITNESS THE RITUAL FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE DIVE IS PERFECT AND THE SACRAMENT COMPLETED.



AS HER SISTERS WATCH INTENTLY, THE AMAZON VENILIA CHANTS A SACRED PRAYER TO THE SEA DEITIES, THE CEREMONIAL PRELUDE TO THE DIVE OF THE NEREIDS.





"YES, PRINCESS,
YOU WERE QUITE
THE PRECOCIOUS
ONE."

"AS LITTLE DIANA SOARED
HAPPILY THROUGH THE AIR,
SHE COULDN'T--OR WOULDN'T--
HEAR ME ADMONISHING HER."

"I WAS FACED WITH A GREAT
DILEMMA. SHE HAD TO BE
MADE AWARE OF THE RELIGIOUS
IMPORTANCE OF PERFORMING
THE DIVING RITUAL."

"OTHERWISE, I FEARED LORD
POSEIDON WOULD BE GREATLY
OFFENDED BY THE PRINCESS'
OBSTINANCE."

YET, HOW DOES ONE REASON WITH A CHILD?"

"THAT NIGHT, IN THE
TEMPLE OF ATHENA,
I PRAYED FOR GUIDANCE."

"THE GODDESS
OF WISDOM
ANSWERED MY
PRAYERS."

"REMEMBER WHAT
HAPPENED THE NEXT
MORNING, DIANA?"

"OH, YES, EUBOEA.
THAT I CAN NEVER
FORGET."



"AS I WATCHED,
EUBOEA MADE THE
CLUMSIEST DIVE I
HAD EVER SEEN."

"IN FACT, IT WAS
RIDICULOUS."



"I COULDN'T
HELP BUT LAUGH.
THIS WAS OUR
CHAMPION
DIVER?"



"I WAITED
FOR HER TO
RESURFACE."



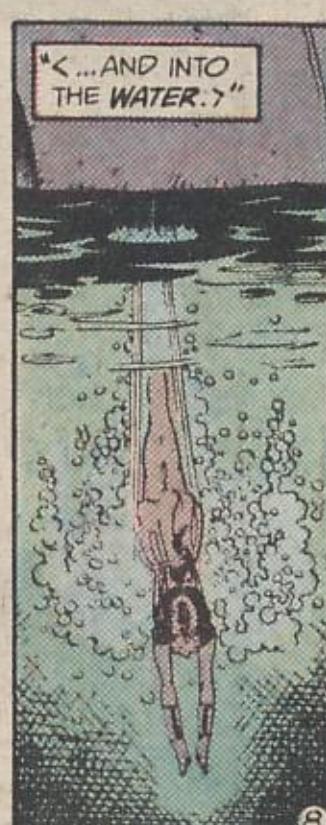
"EUBOEA?"

"...AND INTO
THE WATER."

"EUBOEA!"

"SHE DIDN'T COME UP.
I WAS TERRIFIED."

"WITHOUT HESITATION,
I DIVED OFF THE
SMALL CLIFF..."



"*I COULDN'T FIND HER. THE SEA WAS AS CLEAR AS GLASS, YET ELBOEA WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.*"



"*BUT SUDDENLY, A STRANGE EUPHORIA TOOK HOLD OF ME. STIRRING THROUGH THE SEA ITSELF WAS AN ALLURING, MAGICAL MELODY. A WONDROUS SONG WHICH FILLED MY VERY SOUL WITH STRENGTH AND JOY.*"



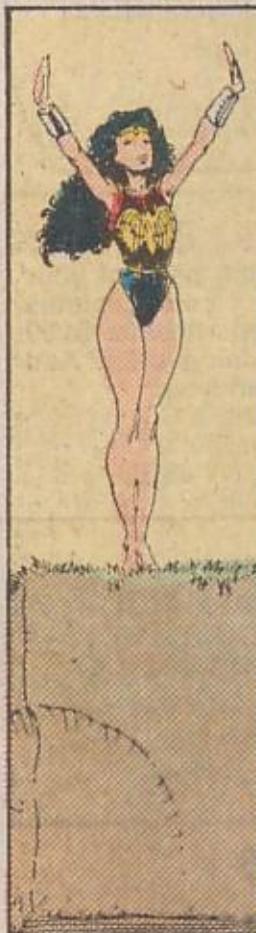
"*(I SWAM BACK UP TO THE SURFACE AND FOUND EUBOEA WAITING BY THE SHORE. I KNEW THAT SHE HAD TRICKED ME, BUT I DIDN'T CARE.)*"

(I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD WHY MY SISTERS SO HONORED THE SEA.)

(I NEVER TOOK HER FOR GRANTED AGAIN.)

(WHEN I WAS INJURED AFTER MY CONFRONTATION WITH ARES, IT WAS THE SEA WHO HEALED ME.)

(I OWE HER MY LIFE.)



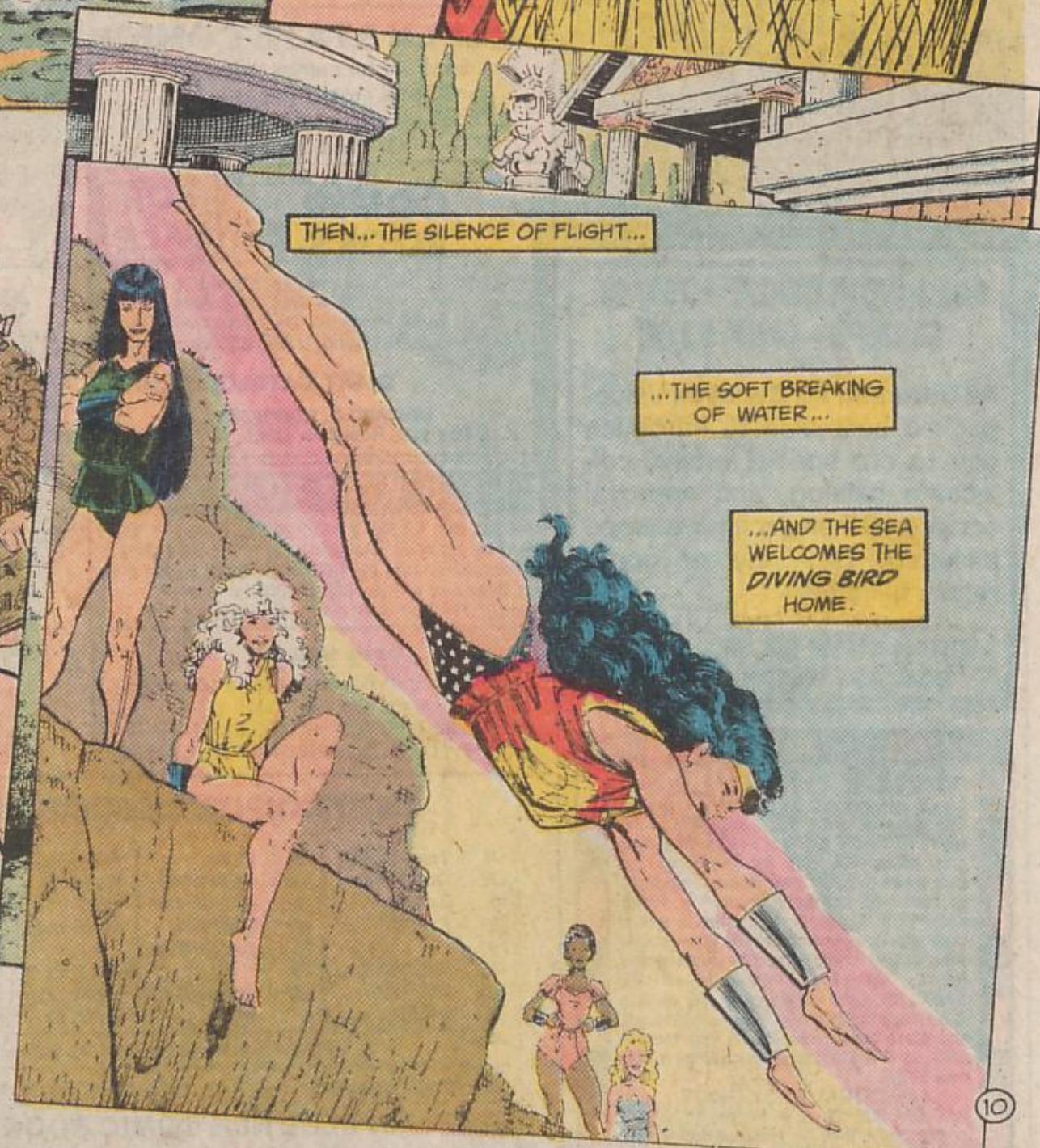
*CLICK!
CLICK!*

THEN...THE SILENCE OF FLIGHT...

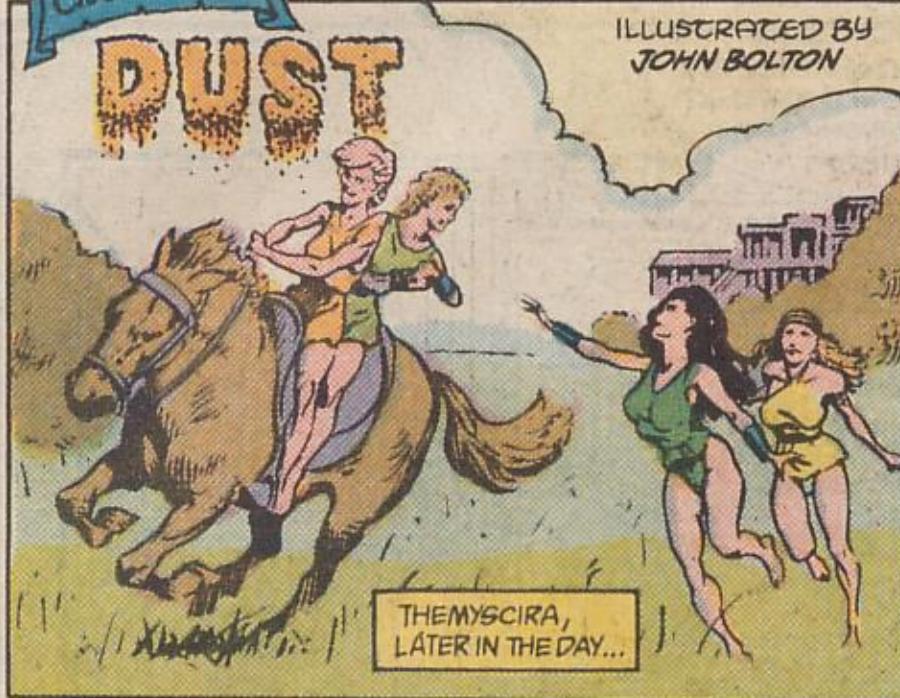
*...THE SOFT BREAKING
OF WATER...*

*...AND THE SEA
WELCOMES THE
DIVING BIRD
HOME.*

*ATOP THE HIGHEST
CLIFF, DIANA CHANTS
HER SACRED
PRAYER.*



DUST

ILLUSTRATED BY
JOHN BOLTON

THE ROYAL PALACE:

<MOTHER? WHY
DO YOU STARE OUT
SO? YOU SEEM SO
MELANCHOLY. ><DO I? YES,
I SUPPOSE I
DO. ><THERE'S NO NEED
FOR CONCERN, DEAR
DAUGHTER. NOTHING
IS WRONG. >

(IT'S JUST THAT THE SIGHT OF
OUR GUESTS JULIA AND VANESSA
RIDING TOGETHER ON HORSEBACK
BROUGHT BACK SUCH SOMBER
MEMORIES.)

<MEMORIES
OF ANTIPOE...>
<...AND OF A
LESSON WE
LEARNED TOO
LATE. >

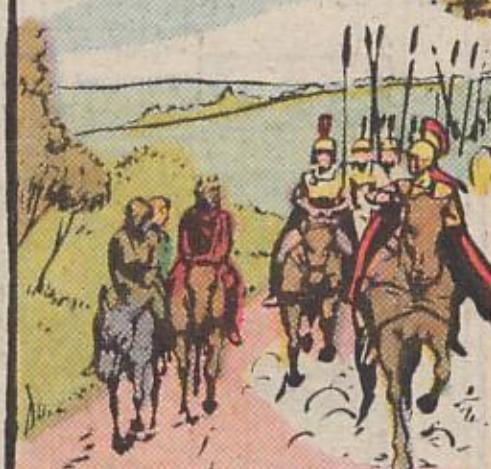


<I KNOW, DIANA. WE AMAZONS HAVE
HAD A VERY LONG HISTORY. THERE IS STILL
MUCH YOU HAVE NOT LEARNED. >

<PLEASE. SIT NEXT TO ME. I
WILL TELL YOU ABOUT A DAY LONG
PAST. BEFORE WE CAME TO THIS
ISLAND. THE DAY WHEN MY SISTER
AND I CAME ACROSS ANOTHER
MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ON
HORSEBACK. >



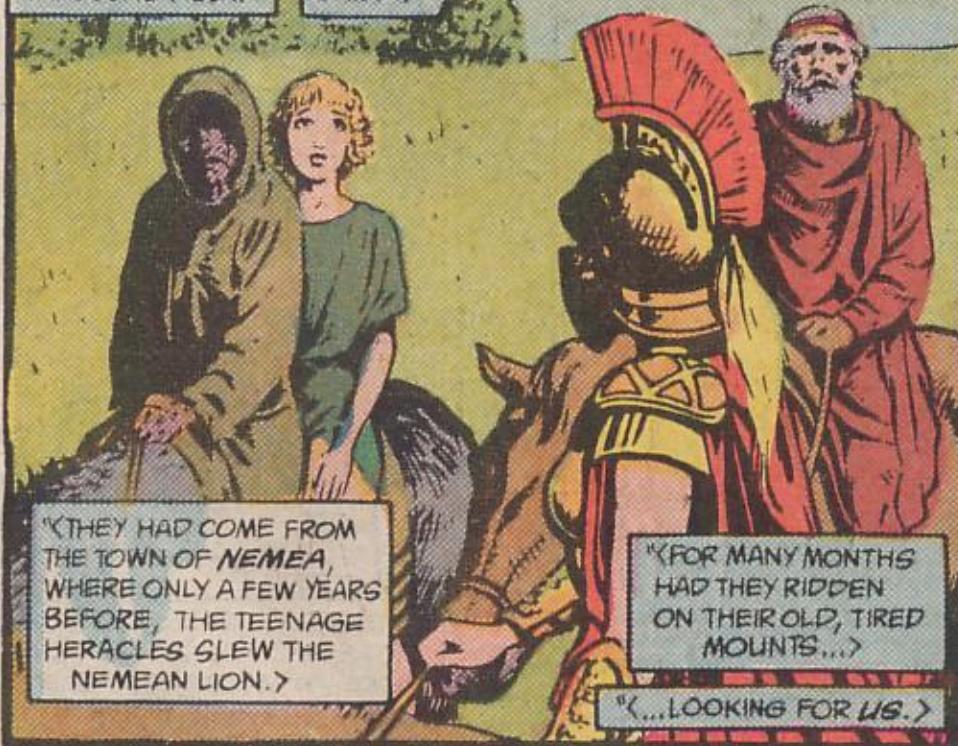
<WE WERE LEADING A SQUADRON
OF SOLDIERS BACK TO THE
CAPITAL CITY WHEN WE
MET THEM. >



<THEY WERE RIDING WITH AN
OLD MAN WHOSE LINED FACE
WAS A MAP OF EXPERIENCE
AND WHOSE DEEP EYES WERE
WELLS OF WISDOM. >

<THE DAUGHTER
LOOKED ABOUT
THIRTEEN. ABOUT
VANESSA'S AGE. >

<HER MOTHER, HER FACE PARTIALLY HIDDEN IN
THE SHADOWS OF HER HOOD, SEEMED DECADES
BEYOND THE YEARS OF BEARING SUCH A YOUNG
CHILD. >



<THE OLD WOMAN FINALLY RAISED HER FACE TO
THE PITILESS SUN. >

<I CAN STILL FEEL MY
NECK TIGHTEN AT THE
SIGHT. SHE WAS
SCARRED AND RAVAGED
BY SOME HIDEOUS
LEPROSY. AND HER
VOICE WAS DRY
AS DUST. >

<PLEASE, MERCIFUL
QUEENS, DO NOT TURN
US AWAY. YEARS AGO, I,
TOO, WAS BEAUTIFUL. >

<I AM HYPSIPYLE,
FORMER QUEEN OF LEMNOS.
THIS IS MY DAUGHTER,
PHTHIA. >



"KAYE, MOST ROYAL HIGHNESSES,
SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH. SHE
IS HYPsipyle."

"JUST AS I AM CALCHAS, A HUMBLE
SOOTHSAYER WHO ONCE TRAVELED
WITH THE MIGHTY JASON AS ONE
OF HIS ARGONAUTS."



"IT WAS ON ONE OF THESE
TRAVELS THAT WE CAME UPON
THE ISLE OF LEMNOS."



"LEMNOS WAS A MATRIARCHY, MUCH LIKE YOUR OWN THEMISCIRA,
EXCEPT THAT IT ESTABLISHED ITS GYNOCOCRATIC SOCIETY THROUGH
BLOODY REVOLUTION. ALL THE LEMNOS MEN WERE KILLED, SAVE
ONE. THE NEW QUEEN--HYPsipyle--COULD NOT KILL HER OWN
FATHER. SO KING THOAS WAS BANISHED TO A PRISON TOWER WHERE
HE EVENTUALLY WENT MAD. THE WOMEN OF LEMNOS RESOLVED TO
WAR NO MORE AND TO FORBID MEN FROM EVER DEFILING THEIR
SHORES AGAIN. AND SO THEY DID, FOR MANY YEARS."

"UNFORTUNATELY, THEY DIDN'T
RECKON WITH THE CHARMS OF
THE CAPTAIN OF THE ARGO."



"I KNEW HOW CHARIS-
MATIC AND PERSUASIVE
OUR CAPTAIN JASON
COULD BE. THE SAME
FIRE WHICH KINDLED
THE SPIRIT OF ADVEN-
TURE AMONG THOSE
WHO SAILED WITH HIM
SOON MELTED THE ICY
SHIELD OF THE
LEMNOSEIAN WOMEN."

"UNTIL IT ROARED
AS A BLAZING
PASSION."

"FROM THOSE FLAMES
WERE FORGED MANY
OFFSPRING, INCLUDING
TWINS FOR THE CAPTAIN
AND THE QUEEN. A
SON AND A DAUGHTER.
THAT DAUGHTER WAS
PHTHIA."



"HOWEVER, JASON WAS A
DRIVEN MAN AND HE WOULD
NOT ABANDON HIS QUEST.
WITHOUT EXPLANATION, HE
DISREGARDED HIS VOW OF
FIDELITY TO HYPsipyle AND
ORDERED US AWAY FROM LEMNOS."



"YES, CALCHAS. ABANDONING
THOSE WHO HAD LOVED YOU.
THOSE WHOM YOU BETRAYED."

"*I WAS BLAMED FOR THE SINS OF JASON. IN ONE NIGHT OF TERROR, THE WOMEN OF LEMNOS SLAUGHTERED ALL THE MALES ON THE ISLAND.*"



"*INCLUDING MY POOR MAD FATHER ...?*"

"*... AND MY SON.*"

"*AFTER BRANDING ME WITH A CURSE WHICH AGED AND ROTTED MY FLESH, MY FORMER SUBJECTS BANISHED ME AND MY DAUGHTER. WE EVENTUALLY SETTLED IN NEMEA WHERE WE SURVIVED... AS BEGGARS.*"



"*IT WAS THERE THAT THE NOW-REPENTANT CALCHAS FOUND US. HE TOLD US THAT WE MUST NOW RETURN TO LEMNOS. THAT THE GODS HAD DECREED THAT A GREAT TRUTH AWAITS US THERE.*"

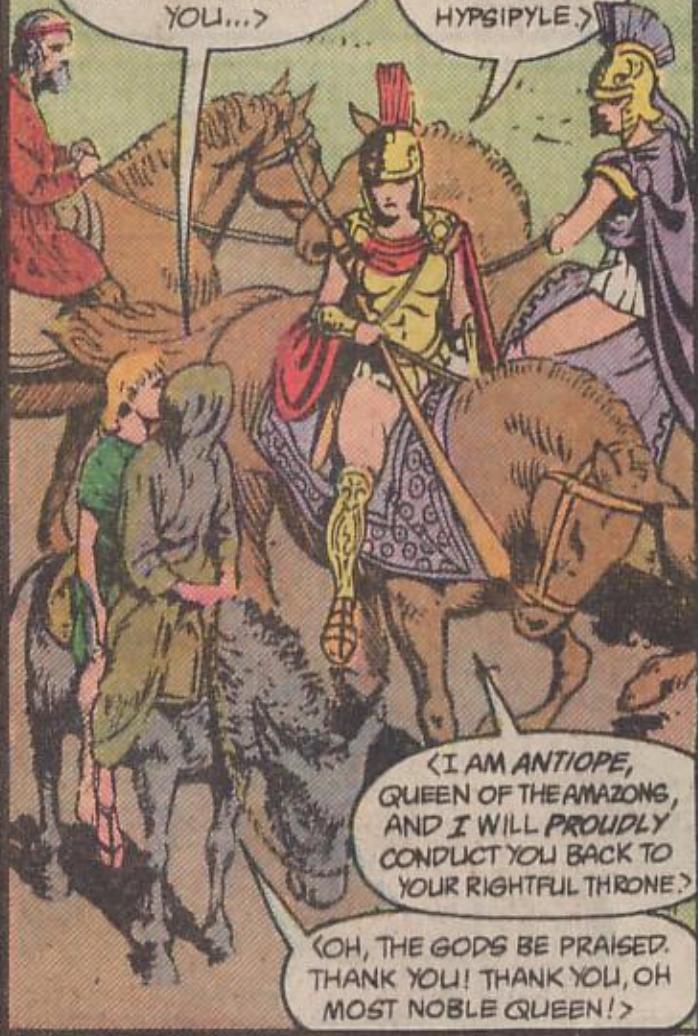


"*BUT, ACCORDING TO THE PROPHECY, I MUST BE ESCORTED BY A WARRIOR QUEEN. ONLY THUS CAN THE LESSON BE LEARNED.*"

"*SURELY, MY RETURN TO LEMNOS SIGNIFIES AN END TO MY CURSE. THE END OF THIS HORRIBLE, PAINFUL LEPROSY.*"

"*THAT IS WHY WE'VE JOURNEYED SO LONG AND FAR. TO BEG YOU...*"

"*YOU NEED NOT BEG US, QUEEN HYPsipyle.*"



"*I AM ANTOPE, QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS, AND I WILL PROUDLY CONDUCT YOU BACK TO YOUR RIGHTFUL THRONE.*"

"*OH, THE GODS BE PRAISED. THANK YOU! THANK YOU, OH MOST NOBLE QUEEN!*"

"*ANTIOPE, I HAVE A STRANGE SENSE OF FOREBODING ABOUT THIS.*"

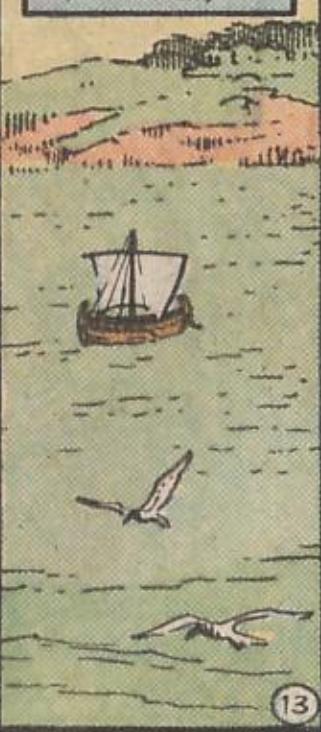
"*A SISTER NEEDS OUR HELP, HIPPOLYTE. WE CANNOT REFUSE.*"



"*MEN'S SICKNESSES HAVE ALL BUT DESTROYED THE LAND OF LEMNOS. AS USUAL, IT IS FOR US AMAZONS TO REMEDY THOSE AFFLICTIONS.*"

"*I STAYED BEHIND TO GOVERN THEMYSCIRA AS YOUR AUNT LED A CREW OF AMAZON SAILORS ON A LONG JOURNEY BACK TO THE HOME OF THE DYING HYPsipyle.*"

"*IT WOULD BE MONTHS BEFORE I LEARNED OF THE EVENTS OF THAT VOYAGE...*"



"...OF THAT ANXIOUS MORNING WHEN HYPsipyle LED THEM UP TO THE CITY OF HER YOUTH..."

"...ONLY TO BE BLOCKED BY AN AWESOME WINGED SENTINEL..."

"...A FOUL-SMELLING, SHRIEKING HARPY!"

"A RUSH OF FETID BREATH ESCAPED FROM THE Gaping Jaws OF THE PINIONED BEAST. ITS TEETH WERE JAGGED STALACTITES JUTTING FROM THE EDGES OF A DEEP BLACK CAVE. ITS TONGUE LASHED OUT SPASTICALLY IN RAVENOUS ANTICIPATION OF A FEAST OF HUMAN MEAT."

"HOWEVER, YOUR SISTERS SHOWED THAT THIS MEAT WAS TOO TOUGH EVEN FOR THE SHARP TEETH OF THE HARPY."

"ANTIOPE ORDERED THE ARCHERS TO LET FLY..."

"...AND ENDED THE MONSTER'S HUNGER PANGS ONCE AND FOR ALL."

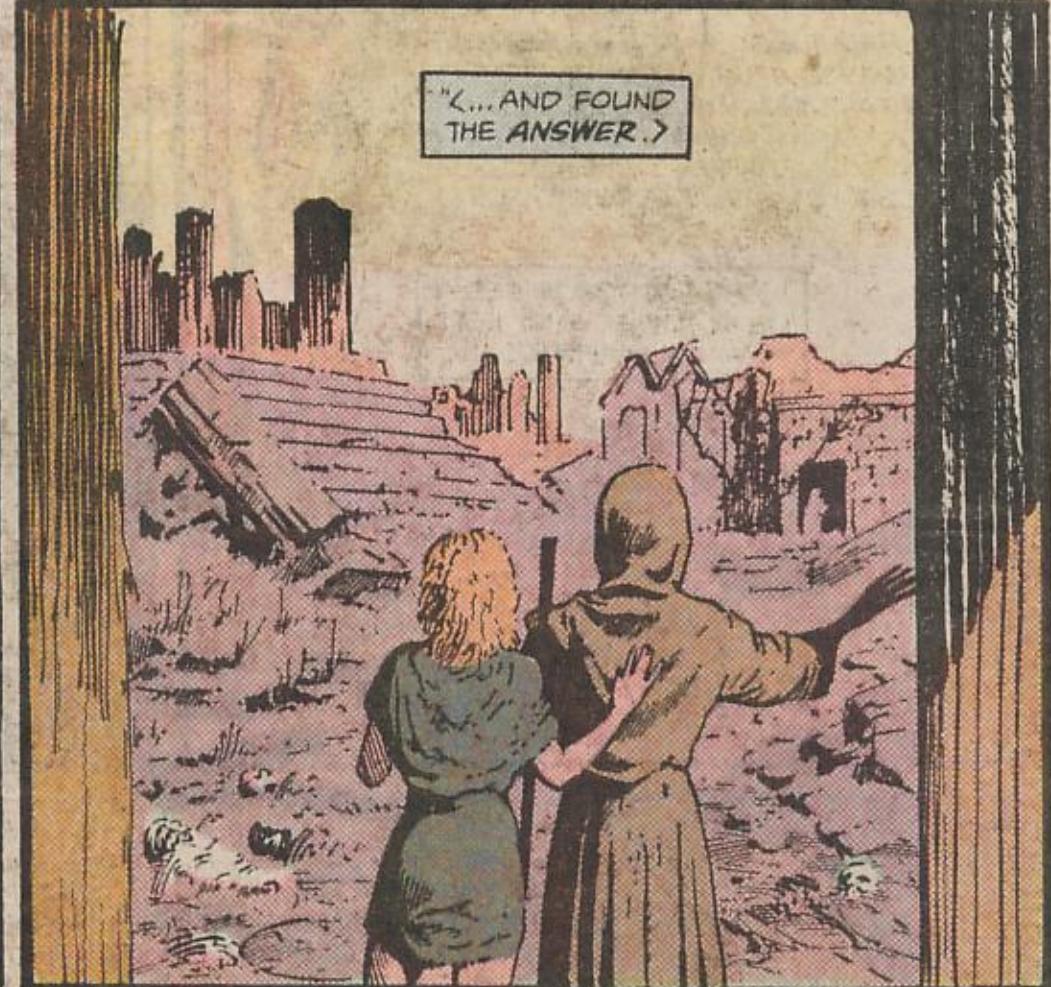
"AS THE CLIFFS SHOOK WITH THE CREATURE'S DEATH SCREAMS, ANTOPE PONDERED THE REASON FOR THE HARPY'S PRESENCE IN LEMNOS."

"AFTER ALL, HARPIES WERE SCAVENGERS. THEIR TERRITORY WAS USUALLY LIMITED TO PLACES WHERE THE DEAD HAD BEEN LEFT UNATTENDED."

"(AS THAT QUESTION RACED THROUGH ANTIOME'S MIND, PHTHIA HELPED HER DECREPIT MOTHER THROUGH THE CITY GATES...)



"(...AND FOUND THE ANSWER.)



"CALL DURING THAT LONG VOYAGE, HYPSIPYLE SPOKE OF THE BEAUTY OF LEMNOS. OF THE TALL, FULL CYPRESS TREES AND THE LUSH, FLOWERY GARDENS; OF WORKS OF ART BEYOND THE SENSES; OF PRECIOUS MELODIES THAT DANCED SWEETLY OFF COOL MARBLE WALLS. SHE SPOKE OF THE LEMNOS OF HER YOUTH, REFRESHING AS A SUMMER'S RAIN.)



"(A LEMNOS LONG DEAD.)

"(THERE WERE NO COOL MARBLE WALLS NOW. NO MUSIC OR FLOWERS. NO LIFE. JUST CRUMBLING RUINS HALF BURIED IN A BASIN OF DUST. POWDERY SKELETONS LAY IN MYRIAD INTERTWINING POSITIONS AS IF THEY HAD BEEN IN THE THROES OF BATTLE. THE WOMEN OF LEMNOS HAD KILLED EACH OTHER.)



"(HYPSIPYLE'S VOICE CRACKED WITH ANGUISH. 'WHY?' SHE SCREAMED. 'WHY HAVE THE GODS BROUGHT ME BACK TO WITNESS THIS?' HER FRAIL BODY TREMBLED AS THE IRON VISE OF GRIEF CLUTCHED HER HEART, SQUEEZING TIGHTLY, RELENTLESSLY...)



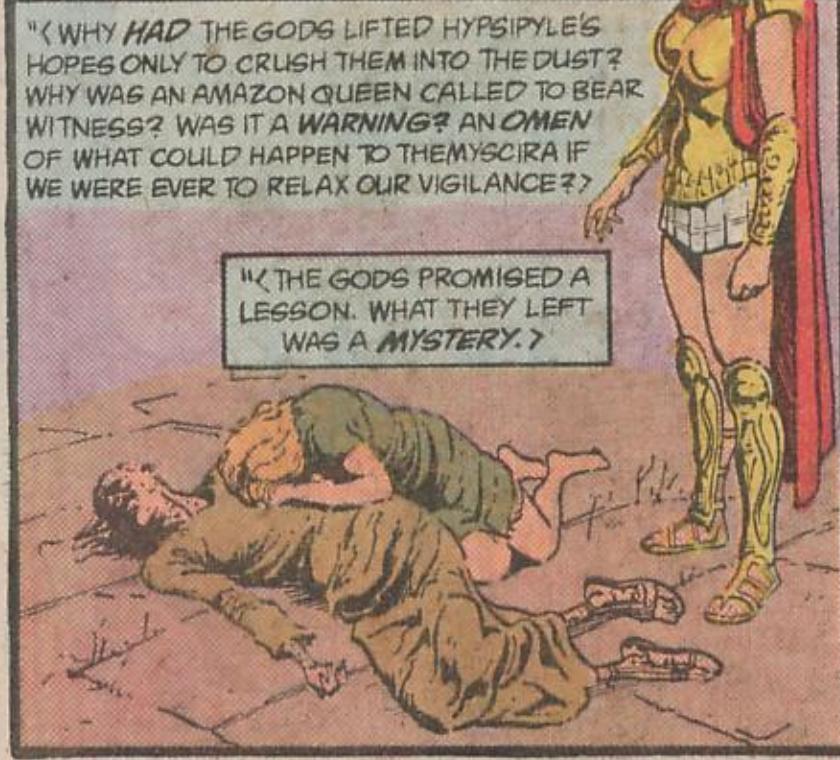
"(...UNTIL THE FRAIL PLUMP FINALLY EXPLODED.)



"WHY HAD THE GODS LIFTED HYPsipyle's hopes only to crush them into the dust? Why was an Amazon Queen called to bear witness? Was it a warning? An omen of what could happen to Themyscira if we were ever to relax our vigilance?"

"The gods promised a lesson. What they left was a mystery."

"That night, the Queen of Lemnos was sent on her journey to the afterlife. Phthia prayed for Charon to ferry Hypsipyle to the Elysian Fields, where her subjects would greet her as their beautiful queen once more."



"She prayed that her mother would finally be free of pain."

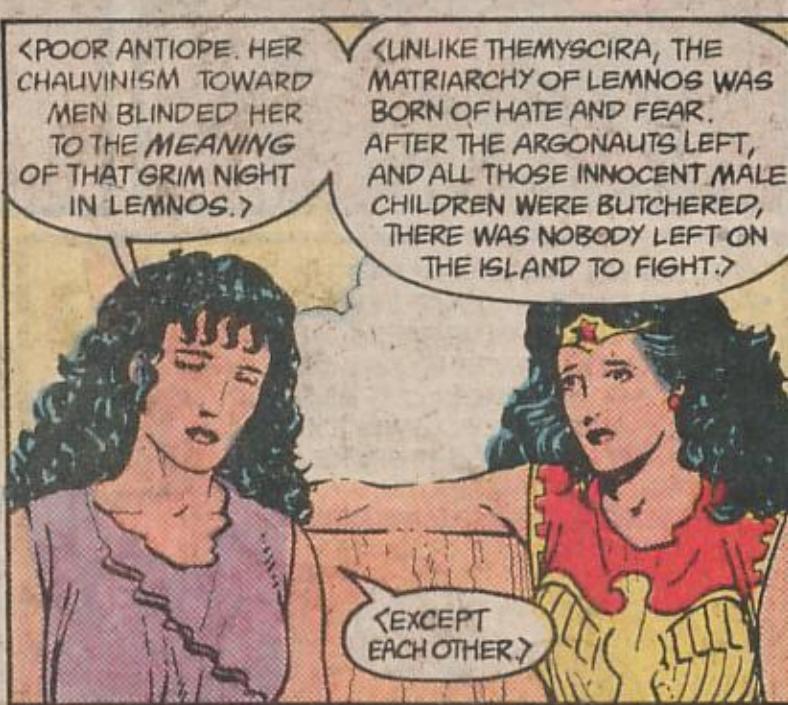
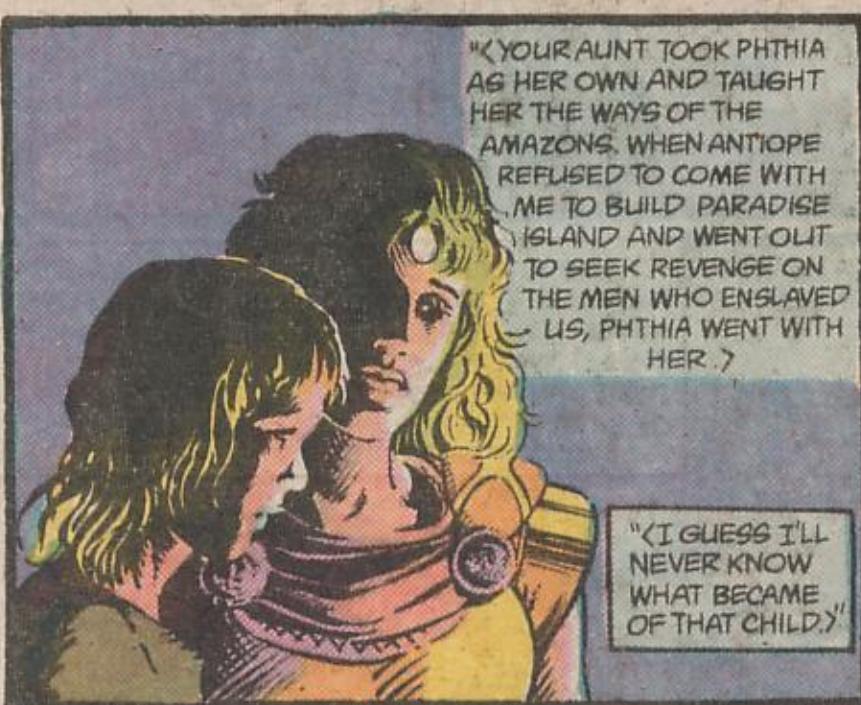
"Your aunt took Phthia as her own and taught her the ways of the Amazons. When Antiope refused to come with me to build Paradise Island and went out to seek revenge on the men who enslaved us, Phthia went with her."

"I guess I'll never know what became of that child."

"Poor Antiope. Her chauvinism toward men blinded her to the meaning of that grim night in Lemnos."

"Unlike Themyscira, the matriarchy of Lemnos was born of hate and fear. After the Argonauts left, and all those innocent male children were butchered, there was nobody left on the island to fight."

"Except each other."



"With violence and prejudice as cornerstones, any society, male or female, must eventually collapse onto itself."

"...and crumble into dust."

"In the end, despite all her ambivalence toward men, death came to her in the shape of a maddened woman."

"The lesson was learned too late."

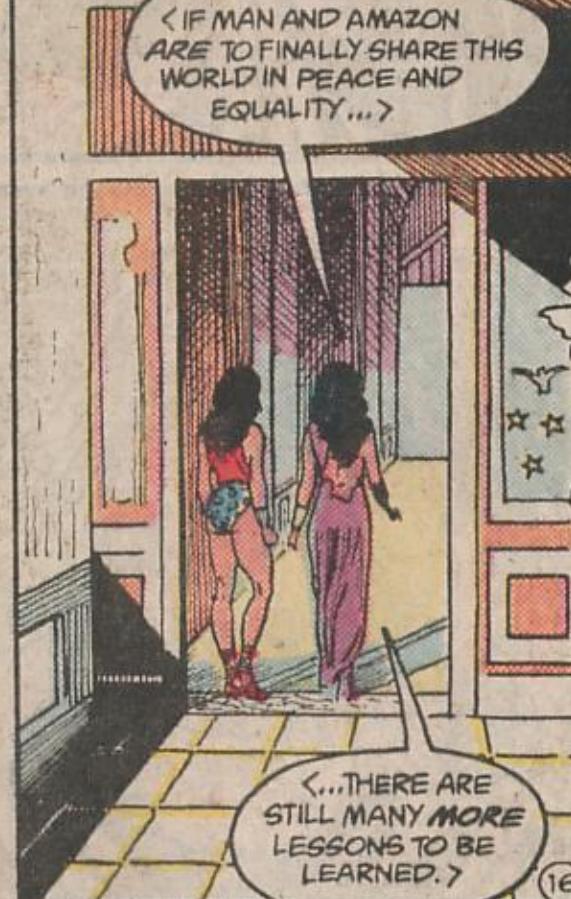


"Oh my poor, dear sister."



"But the past is irretrievable. Come. Let us now see to your friends."

"If man and Amazon are to finally share this world in peace and equality..."



"...there are still many more lessons to be learned."

THE FIRST STATUE

ILLUSTRATED BY
JOSÉ LUIS GARCÍA-LOPÉZ

THE AFTERNOON BREEZE WHISTLES GENTLY AGAINST THE SKIN OF THE PRINCESS OF PARADISE AS SHE SOARS OVER HER BELOVED THEMYSCIRA.

NEAR THE CENTER OF THE CAPITAL CITY RESTS THE SACRED AND SOMBER TEMPLE OF HADES, THE SHRINE HONORING THE AMAZON DEAD.

INTO ITS HALLOWED HALLS DIANA DESCENDS.

(PHILIPPIUS, I WAS TOLD YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?)

HI, DIANA!
BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!

(OF COURSE,
DEAR SISTER. I WILL GLADLY TRANSLATE.)

(HER NAME WAS EGERIA.)

(THEMYSCIRA'S FIRST CAPTAIN OF THE GUARDS.)

"OUR FIRST YEARS ON THE ISLAND WERE DEDICATED TO BUILDING THE CAPITAL CITY AND OUR HOMES."

"WHILE THE QUEEN AND CONSIVIA, THE CHIEF ARCHITECT, OVERSAW THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION..."

"...EGERIA, WITH ME AS HER LIEUTENANT, WAS CHARGED WITH THE FELLING OF THE TREES FOR LUMBER."

"SO IT WAS WHEN IT HAPPENED ONE FATEFUL AFTERNOON IN THE FOREST OF DRYOPE."

"AS MY SISTERS AND I PREPARED TO HAUL A NEW LOAD OF FALLEN TIMBER TO THE CITY..."

"...I HEARD IT."

"AN EERIE, HAUNTING MELODY IN THE WIND. IT MESMERIZED ME."

"BECKONED ME."

"PHILIPPUS? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

"PHILIPPUS!"

"CAPTAIN,
SHE'S HEADING TOWARD DOOM'S DOORWAY!"

"GREAT GAEA!
THERE'S A BLACK SMOKE ESCAPING FROM IT."

"THE SEAL HAS BEEN BROKEN!"

"THE GODDESSES HAD TOLD US THAT THE ISLAND RESTED OVER A DUNGEON OF PROFANE DEMONS, THAT WE WERE TO GUARD ITS GATE. BUT, THE HUGE BOULDER COVERING THE CAVE WAS NOT ENOUGH."

"AS MY STEED WHIFFED THE ACRID FUMES, SHE BOLTED."

"MY TRANCE WAS FINALLY BROKEN BY THE IMPACT OF MY HITTING THE HARD, STONY GROUND."

"I CAN STILL HEAR THE SCREAMS OF MY POOR HORSE AELLA AS SHE WAS ENGULFED BY THE BLISTERING MIST."

"I CAN STILL SMELL HER FLESH BURNING."

"**MY AELLA WAS GONE, AND IN HER STEAD WAS A DARK, BLAZING MONSTROSITY FROM THE LOWEST REGIONS OF HELL!**"

"**ITS FLAILING BLACK HOOVES BEGAN TO TRAMPLE ME?**"

"**BY THE GODS!**"

"**THE ENERGY WHICH FEEDS THE BEAST IS COMING FROM THE CAVE! WE MUST RESEAL IT!**"

"**CALYCE! YOU AND OUR SISTERS! BRING THE LUMBER WAGON HERE!**"

"**WE'LL USE THE BEAMS TO BUTTRESS THE GREAT STONE!**"

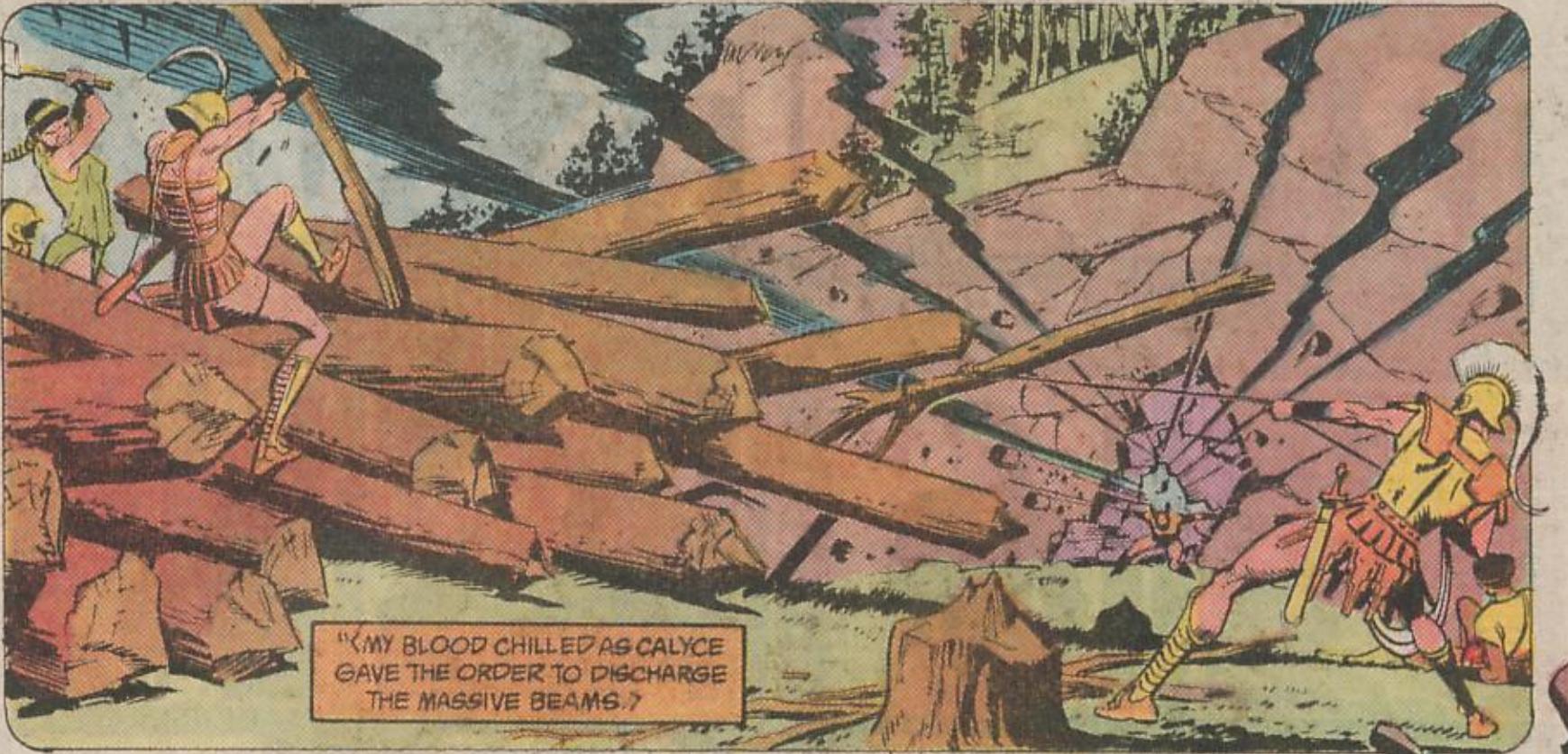
"**HURRY! I'LL DEAL WITH THIS HELLSPAWN!**"

"**WHILE MY SISTERS RACED TO THE WAGONS, BRAVE EGERIA STEPPED DEFIDENTLY BETWEEN ME AND THE CREATURE WITH THE BLAZING JET MANE.**"

"**YES, MONSTER FACE ME!**"

"**FACE AN OPPONENT WITH SHARP TEETH OF HER OWN...**"





"*(MY BLOOD CHILLED AS CALYCE GAVE THE ORDER TO DISCHARGE THE MASSIVE BEAMS.)*



"*(TONS OF ROLLING DESTRUCTION CAREENED DOWN TOWARD DOOM'S DOORWAY...AND EGERIA.)*

"*(THE ROAR OF CRASHING LUMBER FILLED THE AIR, YET STILL COULD WE HEAR OUR CAPTAIN'S VOICE, SHOUTING OUT A FINAL PRAYER.)*



"*(AND IT WAS OVER.)*

"*(EGERIA...)*



"*(...STRONG, BEAUTIFUL EGERIA...)*



"*(...HAD DONE HER DUTY.)*

"(FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, PARADISE WAS NEVER THE SAME. EGERIA'S VALIANT DEATH HAD REMINDED US ALL OF THE TERRIBLE RESPONSIBILITY THE GODDESSES HAD ENTRUSTED US WITH.)

"(NEVER AGAIN WOULD WE RELAX OUR VIGILANCE.)

"(EGERIA MUST NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN.)

"(AFTER AN ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT, I BECAME THE NEW CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD.)

"(AND MY FIRST DUTY WAS TO BUILD A PERMANENT SEAL FOR DOOM'S DOORWAY....)

"...TO PROTECT OURSELVES AND ALL THE WORLD FROM THE DENIZENS OF THIS ODIOUS PANDORA'S BOX."

"WE HONORED EGERIA WITH A WARRIOR'S FUNERAL SO THAT SHE COULD PROPERLY BE WELCOMED INTO THE ELYSIAN FIELDS...."

"...AND WITH A MEMORIAL STATUE IN THIS SACRED TEMPLE."

"ALAS, THROUGH THE AGES, WE'VE HAD TO ERECT OTHER SUCH STATUES. THE GUARDING OF THE GATE COST US MANY PRECIOUS SOULS."

"THIS LAST MEMORIAL HONORS DIANA TREVOR, THE ONLY OUTWORLDER TO BE SO GLORIFIED!"

OH WOW.
THAT'S STEVE'S
MOM, ISN'T IT?

YES. AND MY NAMESAKE.

DOOM'S DOORWAY IS GONE NOW. NO SISTER WILL EVER HAVE TO DIE IN ITS DEFENSE AGAIN.

YEAH, THANKS
TO YOU.

MAN,
THIS IS SO AWESOME.

BUT TO PHILIPPUS,
THEY ARE SO MUCH
MORE. THEY ARE
MEMORIES.
REMEMBRANCES
OF BELOVED
SISTERS WHO
STILL LIVE,
ETERNALLY, IN
HER HEART.

DIANA AND VANESSA
GAZE WONDROUSLY
AT THE MARBLE FACES
OF AMAZON HISTORY.

Into the World Go Forth

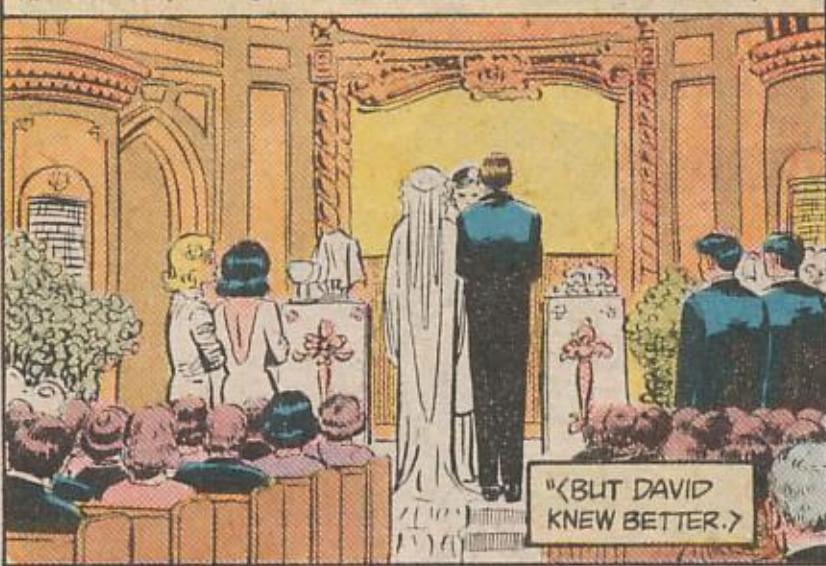
ILLUSTRATED BY CURT SWAN & BOB MCLEOD

THE LIBRARY IN THEMYSCIRA.

<MNEMOSYNE?
(YOU WISHED TO
SEE ME?)><ME? OH DEAR, I'M AFRAID YOU
MIGHT FIND IT ALL RELATIVELY DULL.
MY LIFE'S BEEN PRETTY ROUTINE...><UNTIL PRINCESS
DIANA CAME ALONG.><I BELIEVE YOU'RE BEING
TOO MODEST, SISTER. PLEASE,
TELL ME ABOUT YOUR LIFE ON
Patriarch's WORLD. WHAT
INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A
TEACHER AND SCIENTIST?><ALL RIGHT.
IF YOU REALLY
WANT TO HEAR IT...><YES, JULIA. YOU HAVE SPENT MANY
HOURS STUDYING AMAZON HISTORY AND
I FELT THAT, IN THE SPIRIT OF CULTURAL
EXCHANGE, I SHOULD LEARN SOMETHING
ABOUT YOU. ><CERTAINLY,
DEAR. I'LL TELL
YOU AS MUCH
ABOUT MY
WORLD AS...><NO, SISTER,
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I WISH TO LEARN ALL
ABOUT YOU. PERSONALLY. ><IN CEPHALONIA, WHERE I WAS BORN
AND RAISED, YOUNG GIRLS OF THAT TIME
WERE USUALLY DISCOURAGED FROM
PURSUING CAREERS OTHER THAN
MATERNAL AND DOMESTIC. ><YET
SOMETHING
INSIDE YOU
MOTIVATED
YOU TO GO
BEYOND
THAT? ><THAT'S ONE WAY
OF LOOKING AT
IT, I GUESS. ><ALL I KNEW
WAS THAT I HAD AN
INSATIABLE NEED
TO LEARN. ><I WAS FASCINATED WITH
HISTORY AND EARNED A
SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND
COLLEGE IN ATHENS. ><THAT'S WHERE I MET
DAVID KAPATELIS. ><DAVID WAS AN ARCHAEOLOGY MAJOR AND
POSITIVELY BRILLIANT. HIS LOVE FOR THE
SCIENCE WAS SO ADDICTIVE THAT WE SPENT
MANY LONG, GLORIOUS HOURS STUDYING
TOGETHER. ><I HAD FOUND NOT
ONLY A SECOND MAJOR,
BUT ALSO A DEAR FRIEND. >

<MY PARENTS WERE OVERJOYED WHEN WE FELL IN LOVE. >

"*I suppose they had hoped the marriage would end my wanderlust and settle me down to home and hearth.*"



"*The world beyond the Greek Isles was full of wondrous history and adventure...*"



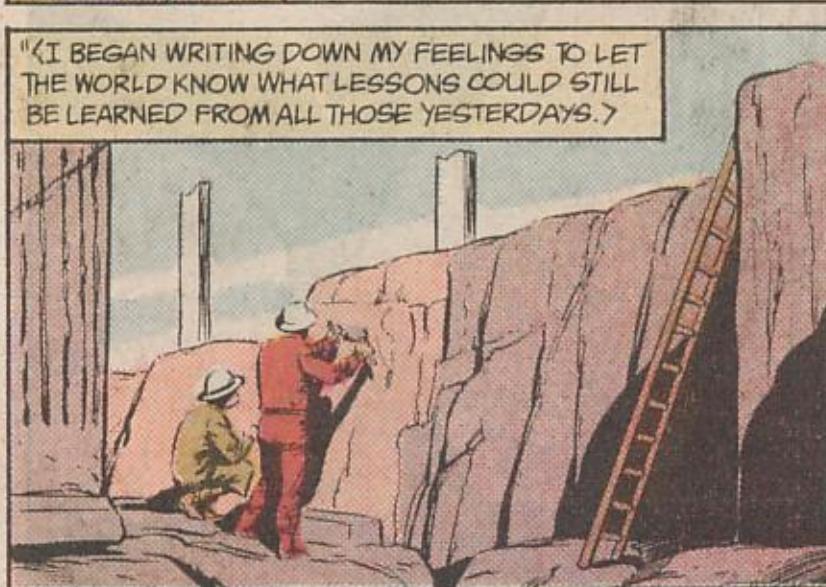
"*Past civilizations came alive through the epigraphs on ancient walls...*"



"*At those moments, I felt like time was entrusting itself to us. That the past would live on, through David and me.*"



"*I began writing down my feelings to let the world know what lessons could still be learned from all those yesterdays.*"



"*Yet, no time was more thrilling for David and me than that day in Scotland, fourteen years ago.*"



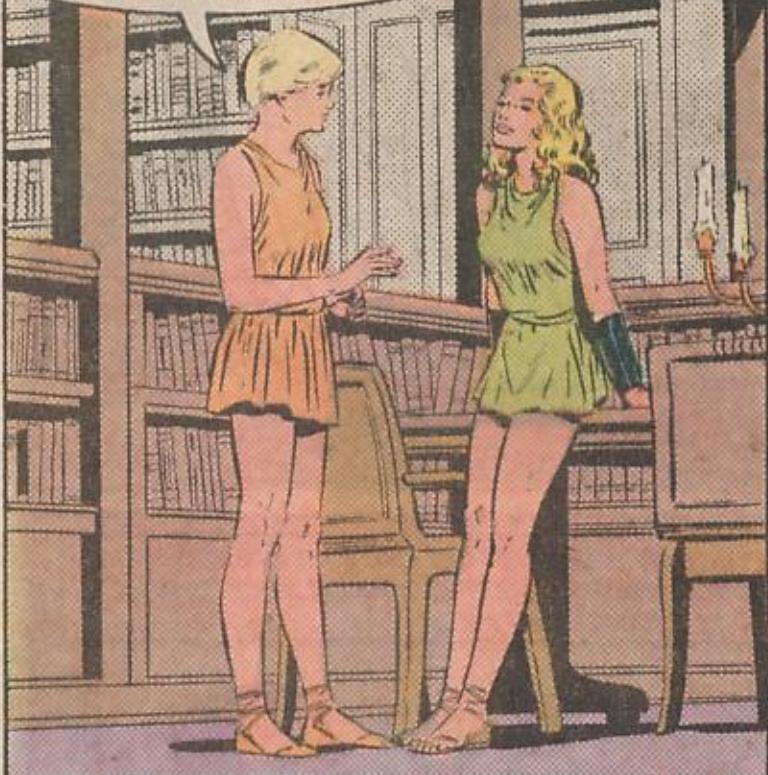
"*Six years later, while excavating in Egypt, David died.*"



"*I thought I couldn't go on without him. But I did. It would have been an insult to his memory if I hadn't. An insult to everything that I ever struggled for. The world had to be shown that Professor Julia Kapatelas could make it on her own. For David. For Vanessa. For my parents. But most of all, for me.*"

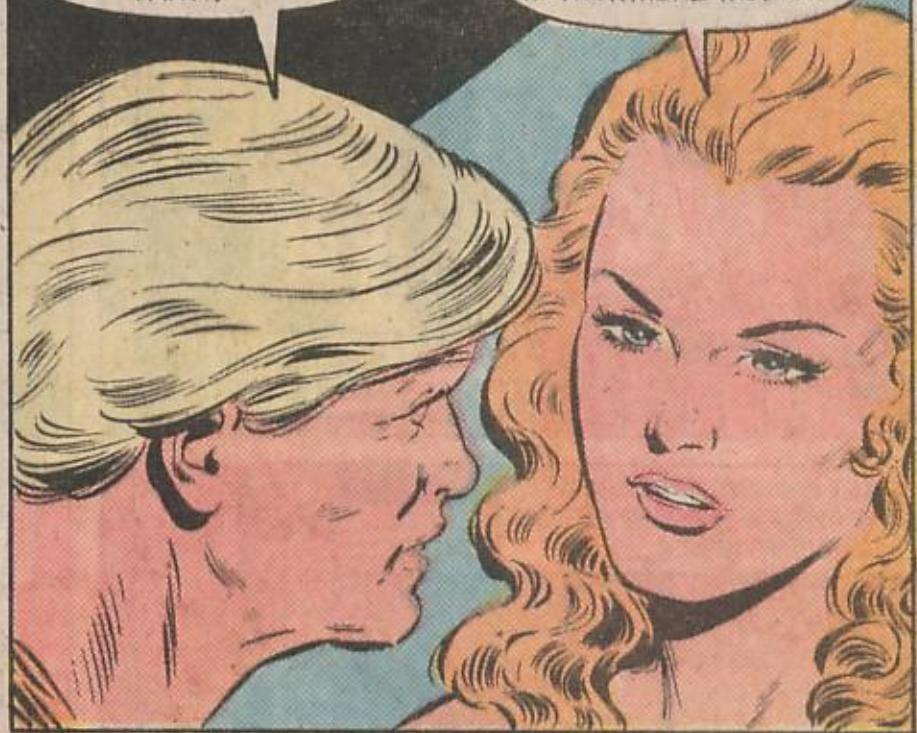


(I FINALLY SETTLED IN BOSTON WITH VANESSA WHEN I BECAME THE DEAN OF HISTORY AND GEOLOGY AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY.)



(BEING A WOMAN IN A MAN'S WORLD MADE THE PROCESS A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT, BUT I FEEL THAT I'VE MANAGED TO SUCCEED FOR THE MOST PART.)

*(TRULY. AUTHOR, SCIENTIST, EXPLORER, TEACHER. MOTHER.)
(THE GODS COULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN DIANA'S MENTOR MORE WISELY.)*



(YES, JULIA, AND I COULD NOT BE ANY PROUDER.)

(EHH? YOU'RE PYTHIA, THE AMAZON I WAS STARING AT WHEN WE ARRIVED YESTERDAY.)

(AS IF... WE'D MET BEFORE SOMEHOW.)

(THEN, YOU FELT IT, TOO?)

(TAKE PYTHIA'S HANDS IN YOURS, DEAR JULIA, AND ALL SHALL BE MADE CLEAR TO YOU.)

(WITHIN THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF YOUR MIND LIE SEQUESTERED MEMORIES. MEMORIES WHICH SHALL NOW BE FREED FROM THEIR SUBCONSCIOUS HAVEN.)

(YES! YES, I SEE IT. I FEEL IT!)



*(OPEN YOUR MIND, JULIA.)
(LET THE PAST BECOME ONE WITH THE PRESENT...)*

(...AND REMEMBER.)

(SEE, MNEMOSYNE, I WAS RIGHT. IT MUST BE SHE!)

(WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?)



"(I'M WITH MY PARENTS AND MY BROTHER ON PAPA'S BOAT!)"

"<I-IT'S 1937. IT'S JUNE. W-WE'RE CAUGHT IN A STORM ON THE IONIAN SEA!>

"<MAMA SAID NOT TO GO OUT TODAY. I-I CAN'T STOP CRYING.>

"<THE BOAT'S LURCHING, I'M FALLING! PAPA! MAMA!>

<JULIA!
JULIA-A-A!!>

"<MAMA, I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
THE STORM! THE WAVES! OH,
GOD, I'M DROWNING!>

"<THE SEA IS SUCKING ME IN...>

"<...INTO A WATERY SILENCE, LIKE A WOMB.>

"<S-SOMEONE'S COMING TOWARD ME, SINGING A SWEET LULLABY.>

"<NO NEED TO CRY ANYMORE.>

"<I'M SAFE.>

"WHERE AM I NOW? GOOD LORD!"

<THE TIME HAS COME. WHO SENDS THIS CHILD FORTH?>

"<PYTHIA!>"

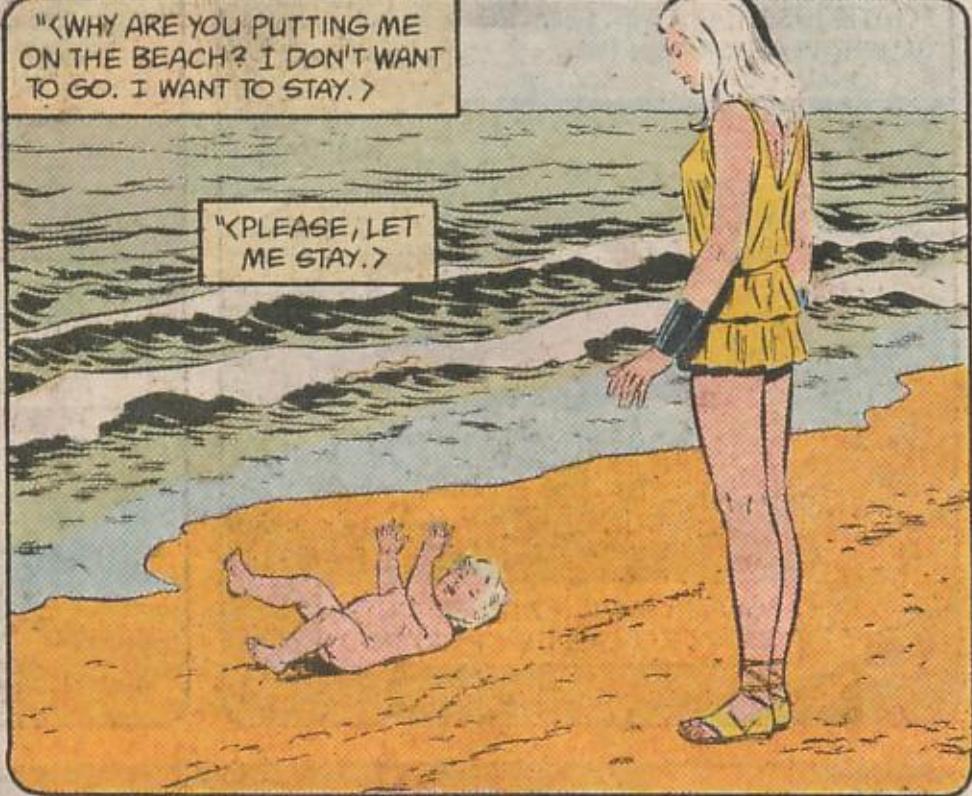
<SWEET LITTLE AMAZON,
WITH THIS KISS I SPARK THE LIGHT OF INSPIRATION WITHIN YOU. LET IT GLOW BRIGHTLY.>

<INTO THE WORLD GO FORTH AND UPON ALL HUMANITY SHINE.>

I DO, MY QUEEN,
MOST HAPPILY.

"AS THE GODS DID BRING YOU TO US, SO
MUST WE NOW RETURN YOU. YOU WILL NOT
REMEMBER ME, LITTLE AMAZON, BUT I, AND
THE GLORY OF GAEA SHALL BE WITH YOU
ALWAYS.">

"WHY ARE YOU PUTTING ME
ON THE BEACH? I DON'T WANT
TO GO. I WANT TO STAY."



"THE SURF, SO WARM AND
STRONG. PULLING ME IN."

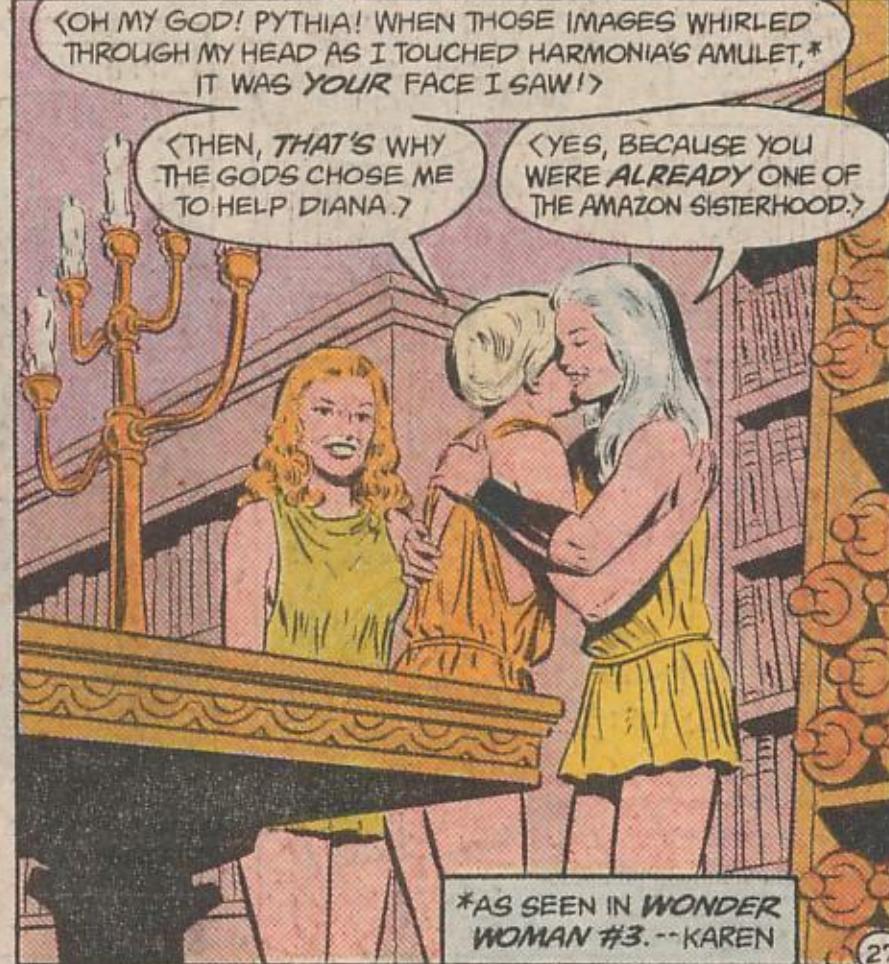
"WRAPPING ME IN ITS ARMS."

"I HAVE TO
GO BACK."



"I RESURFACED IN THE SPOT
WHERE I HAD DISAPPEARED
BENEATH THE WAVES. ACCORD-
ING TO MAMA AND PAPA, I HAD
ONLY BEEN GONE FOR SECONDS."

"OH MY GOD! PYTHIA! WHEN THOSE IMAGES WHIRLED
THROUGH MY HEAD AS I TOUCHED HARMONIA'S AMULET,*
IT WAS YOUR FACE I SAW!"



*AS SEEN IN WONDER
WOMAN #3. -- KAREN

(THROUGHOUT THE AGES SINCE OUR SETTLING THIS ISLAND, THE GODS HAVE CHARGED US WITH AN HONORED DUTY.)

(A DUTY SIGNALLED BY THE ROAR OF ZEUS' TEMPER.)

(IN THE EVENT OF SOME SEA DISASTER MANIFESTED BY THE OLYMPIAN LORD'S RAGE, THE SEA DEITY THETIS WOULD RESCUE AN INFANT DOOMED TO DROWN OTHERWISE.)

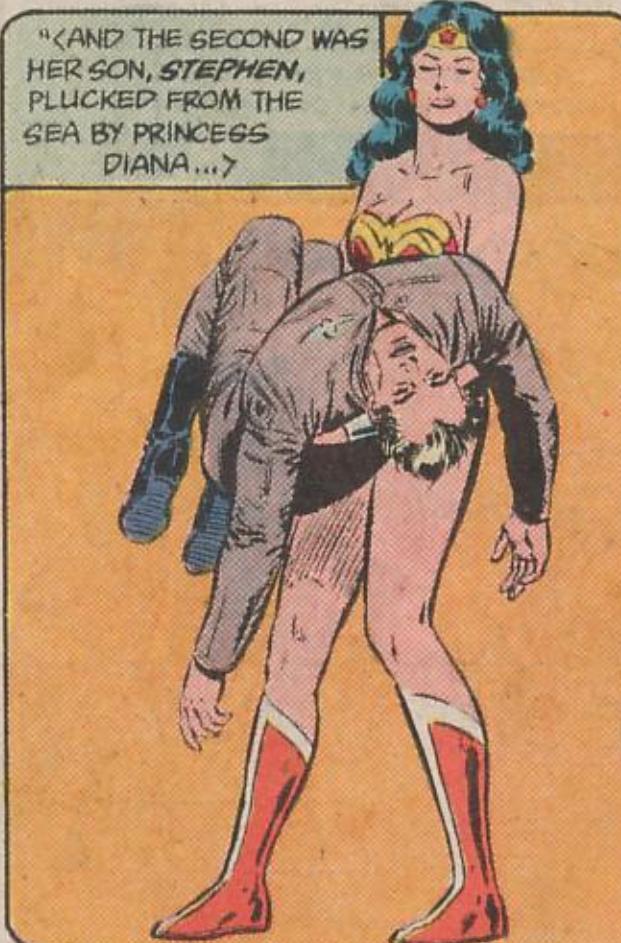


(ONCE SENT BACK, THE SUBLIMINAL AMAZON TEACHINGS OF PEACE AND EQUALITY WOULD HOPEFULLY BE SPREAD BY THEM, OR THEIR DESCENDANTS, THROUGHOUT PATRIARCH'S WORLD.)

(IN ESSENCE, THE WORLD OUTSIDE HAS SEEN THE INSPIRED LIGHT OF MANY AMAZONS, FEMALE AND MALE.)

(YOU, JULIA, WERE THE LAST OF THE HUNDREDS OF BABIES TO BE RESCUED.)

(AND THE ONLY ONE EVER TO RETURN.)



CHAPTER 5

Flight of the Icarus

ILLUSTRATED BY
ROSS ANDRU &
GEORGE PÉREZ

THE MYSCIRA AT
NIGHT, LUSTROUSLY
GLEAMING WITH
THE GLOW OF
ARTEMIS' SILVER
MOON.

ON THIS COOL FINAL EVENING OF
THE KAPETELISES' VISIT, THE SMILING
FACES OF AMAZON SISTERS BATHE
IN THE WARMTH OF AN OPEN FIRE.



THESE HAVE BEEN DAYS OF
GREAT SHARING. TWO WORLDS,
IN MANY WAYS SO DIFFERENT...



...YET WITH A COMMON BOND...

...A BOND WHICH PORTENDS GREAT
PROMISE WITH EACH COMING DAWN.

(DIANA, THESE DAYS HAVE BEEN SO WONDERFUL
AND ENLIGHTENING THAT I NEVER ASKED WHY
THE MAN STEPHEN TREVOR DID NOT COME AS WELL.)

(I SO LOOKED
FORWARD TO MEETING
THE SON OF THE DIANA
WHOSE NAME YOU
BEAR.)

(MOTHER, HE WOULD HAVE
COME IF HE COULD, BUT HIS NEW
DUTIES COMMAND SO MUCH OF
HIS TIME.)

(SINCE LEAVING
THE MILITARY, STEVE
IS NOW A SAFETY
INSPECTOR AND
ENGINEERING ADVISOR
SPECIALIZING IN
MILITARY AIRCRAFT.)

(DAUGHTER, AREN'T
THESE THE SAME KIND
OF CRAFT THAT STEPHEN
TREVOR HIMSELF FLEW
WHEN MAD ARES
NEARLY HAD HIM
DESTROY OUR ISLAND?)

(YES, MOTHER. STEVE
STILL DEEPLY REGRETS THAT,
EVEN THOUGH I'VE TOLD
HIM THAT HE WAS NOT
TO BLAME.)



CHE WAS JUST SO GRATEFUL FOR THE MYSTIC PROTECTIVE SHIELD WHICH MADE HIS PLANE'S CONTROLS GO BERSEK AND THUS SAVED OUR HOME. >

<IN FACT, IT WAS THE MEMORIES OF THAT DAY THAT GAVE ME A SENSE OF WHAT THE OUTWORLDERS CALL DÉJÀ VU WHEN STEVE WAS CALLED IN TO INVESTIGATE RECENT CRASHES OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN THE AMERICAN STATE OF TEXAS. >

<STEVE HAD COME TO CONSOLE ME ABOUT THE DEATH OF MYNDI MAYER, WHEN HIS LOVER ETTA TOLD HIM ABOUT THE CRASHES. YOU SEE, ETTA'S WITH THE AERIAL BRANCH OF THEIR MILITARY AND WANTED TO GIVE STEVE AN ASSIGNMENT WHICH WOULD HELP ESTABLISH HIS REPUTATION. >

<I SUPPOSE THEY THOUGHT THAT I NEEDED A 'CHANGE OF SCENERY' SO THEY ASKED ME TO ACCOMPANY THEM. >

HELLO THERE, FOLKS! WELCOME TO PALMER AIRCRAFT. MR. TREVOR, I PRESUME?

I'M P.J. PALMER, MANAGER OF THIS HERE PLANT AND...

...WONDER WOMAN?



PUT YOUR EYES BACK IN YOUR HEAD, MR. PALMER. THE PRINCESS IS WITH US.

I'M LT. CANDY, U.S. AIR FORCE. WHERE'S THE WRECKAGE?

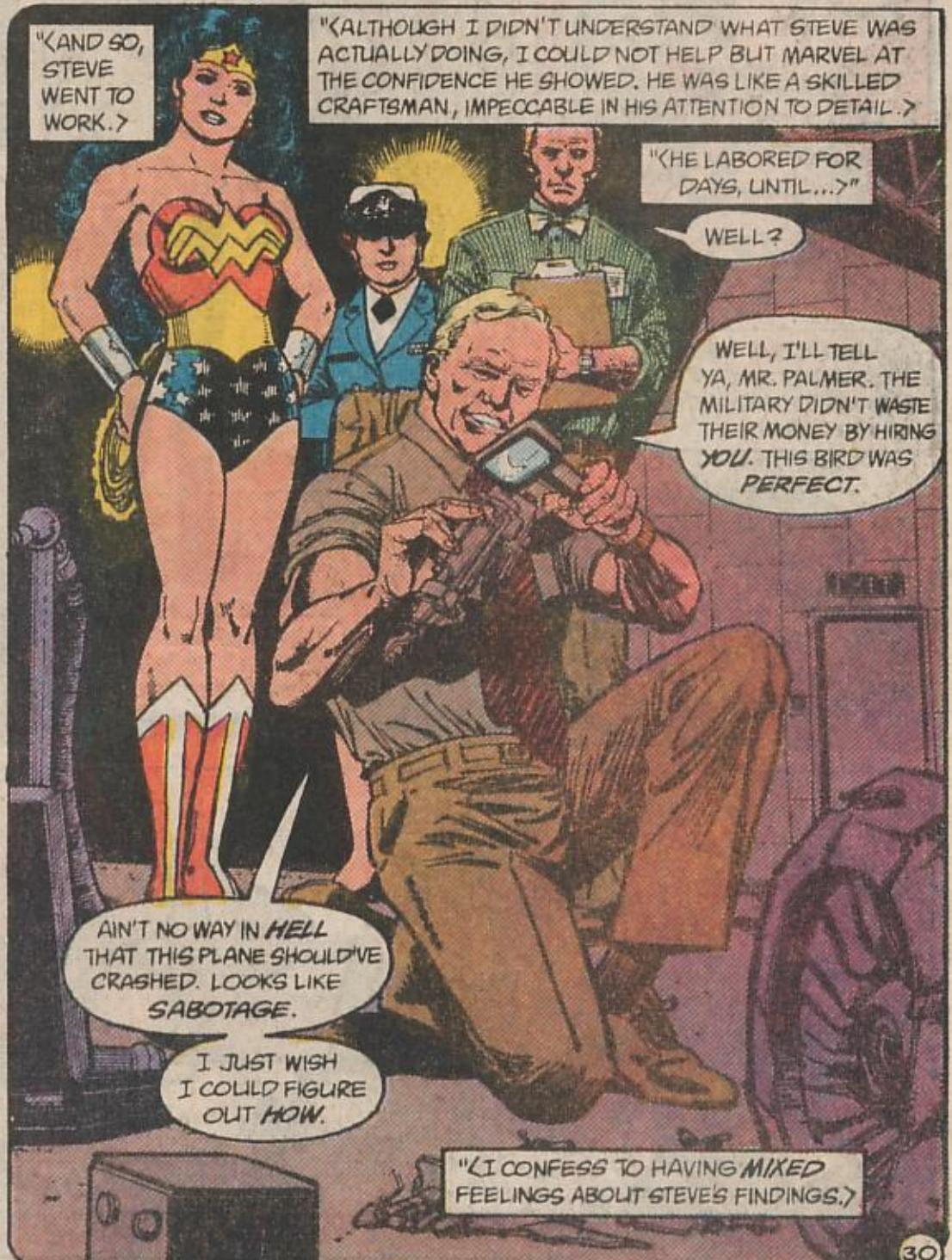


UH, HERE, LIEUTENANT. BUT I TELL YA THERE'S NO WAY THESE PLANES COULD HAVE HAD ANY STRUCTURAL DEFECTS. I WENT OVER THESE BABIES MYSELF.

WELL, SIR, THAT'S WHY MR. TREVOR IS HERE.

MA'AM, I LOST TWO GOOD PILOTS. I INTEND TO HELP ANY WAY I CAN.

IF YOUR FIRM HOPES TO CONTINUE DEALING WITH THE AIR FORCE, I SUGGEST YOU COOPERATE.



<ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT STEVE WAS ACTUALLY DOING, I COULD NOT HELP BUT MARVEL AT THE CONFIDENCE HE SHOWED. HE WAS LIKE A SKILLED CRAFTSMAN, IMPECCABLE IN HIS ATTENTION TO DETAIL. >

"HE LABORED FOR DAYS, UNTIL... >"

WELL?

WELL, I'LL TELL YA, MR. PALMER. THE MILITARY DIDN'T WASTE THEIR MONEY BY HIRING YOU. THIS BIRD WAS PERFECT.

AINT NO WAY IN HELL THAT THIS PLANE SHOULD'VE CRASHED. LOOKS LIKE SABOTAGE.

I JUST WISH I COULD FIGURE OUT HOW.

<I CONFESS TO HAVING MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT STEVE'S FINDINGS. >

"YET, WHILE I HATED THOSE FLYING CHARIOTS OF DESTRUCTION, I COULDN'T CONDONE SUCH VIOLENT MEANS OF DESTROYING THEM."

"AFTER STEVE SUBMITTED HIS REPORT, MR. PALMER WANTED TO TEST OUT A NEW AIRCRAFT, BUT HIS PILOTS WERE RELUCTANT..."

"...WITH ONE MAN, GORDON HALL, BEING THE LOUDEST PROTESTOR."

SORRY, MR. P. NO BONUS IN THE WORLD IS GONNA GET MY BUTT INTO THE ICARUS!



"I RECALLED MNEMOSYNE TEACHING ME ABOUT ICARUS, THE SON OF DAEDALUS WHO DEFIED THE GODS BY SOARING UP TO THE HEAVENS ON WAXEN WINGS."



"UNTIL APOLLO'S SUN MELTED THE WINGS AND ICARUS PLUMMETED TO HIS DEATH."

"WITH THAT MEMORY FRESH IN MY MIND, I SHUDDERED AS STEVE SUDDENLY SPOKE..."

DON'T WORRY, MR. PALMER.
I'LL FLY THE BIRD.

NO!
MR.
PALMER, THIS
MAN IS TOO
OLD TO PILOT A
MILITARY
VEHICLE!

LIEUTENANT, IF
THIS PLANE DOESN'T
GO UP, I'LL LOSE BOTH
MY MILITARY CONTRACT
AND THIS PLANT.
UNLESS YOU HAVE A
BETTER SUGGESTION...?

"THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO. STEVE WAS DETERMINED."

"THAT NIGHT, STEVE ASKED TO SEE ME. I HAD HOPED TO DISSUADE HIM BUT..."

TRUST ME, DIANA.
I KNOW WHAT I'M
DOING. THE SCENE
IN THE HANGAR WAS
ALL AN ACT.

ETTA AND I HAVE
A THEORY AS TO HOW
THE PLANES WERE
SABOTAGED, BUT WE'RE
GONNA NEED YOUR HELP
TO PROVE IT.

"NEXT MORNING..."

STEVE, PLEASE
BE CAREFUL. I'M
STILL NOT CRAZY
ABOUT THIS IDEA.

DON'T WORRY,
HONEY. JUST LISTEN
IN AT THE TOWER
AS WE PLANNED.

THEN, WHEN I
GET BACK, I'LL SHOW
YOU WHO'S "TOO OLD".



VOO-OSHHAH



"AS ETTA ARRIVED AT THE CONTROL TOWER, SHE LISTENED AS MR. PALMER KEPT CONTACT WITH STEVE AND THE PLANE. >"

TOWER TO TREVOR.
YOU'RE LOOKIN' GOOD
OUT THERE. ANY TROUBLE
WITH THE BIRD YET?
OVER.

ROGER, TREVOR.
WE'VE GOT YOU
ON OUR SCOPES.
CLIMBING TO
22,000.

STILL
LOOKIN' GOOD.
OVER.

YEAH, BUT
NOT FOR LONG,
OLD MAN.

AWRIGHT, CORBIN.
LET'S MELT THE
ICARUS' WINGS.

WITH PLEASURE,
MR. HALL.

OUR FOREIGN BUDDIES
ARE GONNA PAY US PLENTY
FOR THIS CRASH.

THAT'S A NEGATIVE,
TOWER. THE BIRD'S HANDLING
SMOOTH AS SILK. I'M TAKING
HER UP ANOTHER TWO
THOUSAND. OVER.

UH-OH.
TREVOR TO TOWER.
THE BIRD'S STARTING
TO KICK. THE CONTROLS
AREN'T RESPONDING.
OVER.

TREVOR TO
TOWER. COME
IN. OVER.

TREVOR TO
TOWER! COME
IN!! OVER!!

IKARUS!!
YOIARTHRA!

HUH? WHAT'S
HE SAYING...?

WONDER
WOMAN!

DAMN! I'M
GETTIN' OUTTA
HERE!

"IT TOOK
GORDON
HALL SOME
TIME TO
TRaverse
THE LENGTH
OF THE
HANGAR. >"

"LONG ENOUGH
FOR ETTA TO BE
READY FOR HIM." >

UNNGHH!

"MEANWHILE, THE MYSTIC
FIRE OF HESTIA'S LASO
WAS BURNING DOWN THE
WALLS OF DECEIT
FROM HALL'S
ACCOMPlice. >"

YOU MUST TELL
ME! WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE TO STEVE'S
PLANE?

W-WE'RE TRANSMITTING
A DISRUPT SEQUENCE
TO OVERRIDE THE ICARUS'
COMPUTER CONTROL SYSTEMS.
TH-THEY WON'T RESPOND
TO PILOT COMMAND.

WHAT
ABOUT MANUAL
CONTROLS?

USELESS. THEY ONLY WORK
WHEN THE COMPUTER'S
DEACTIVATED. AND THAT CAN
NOW ONLY BE DONE FROM
THIS TERMINAL.

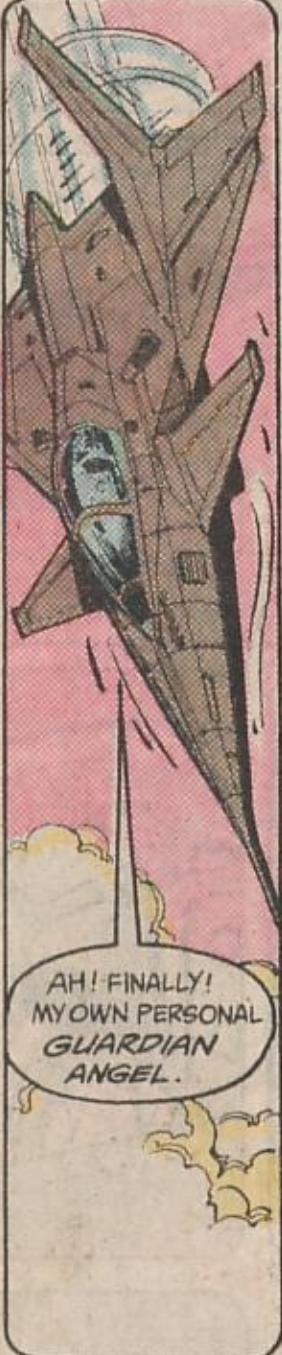
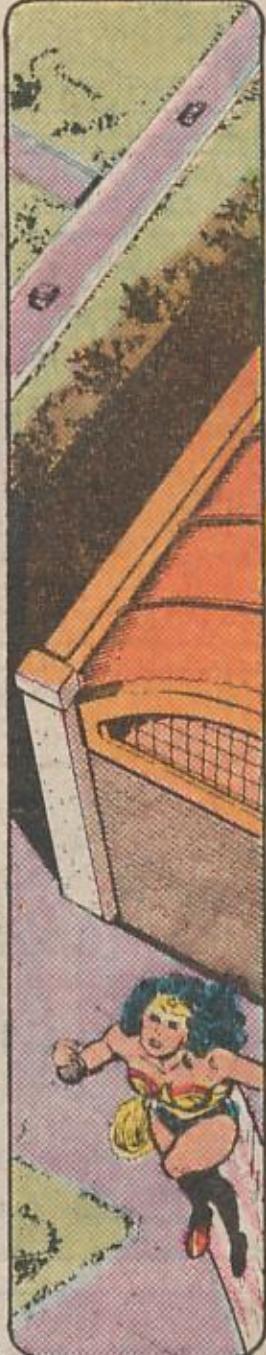
W-WE DON'T HAVE
THAT ACCESS CODE.

ETTA? DIANA?
ARE YOU THERE?

THE CANOPY RELEASE IS INOPERATIVE. I CAN'T EJECT.

ETTA, HONEY, I THINK I'M IN **BIG** TROUBLE. OVER.

DIANA, YOU HAVE TO GET TO THAT PLANE. I'LL FIND THE BACK DOOR TO THIS SYSTEM.

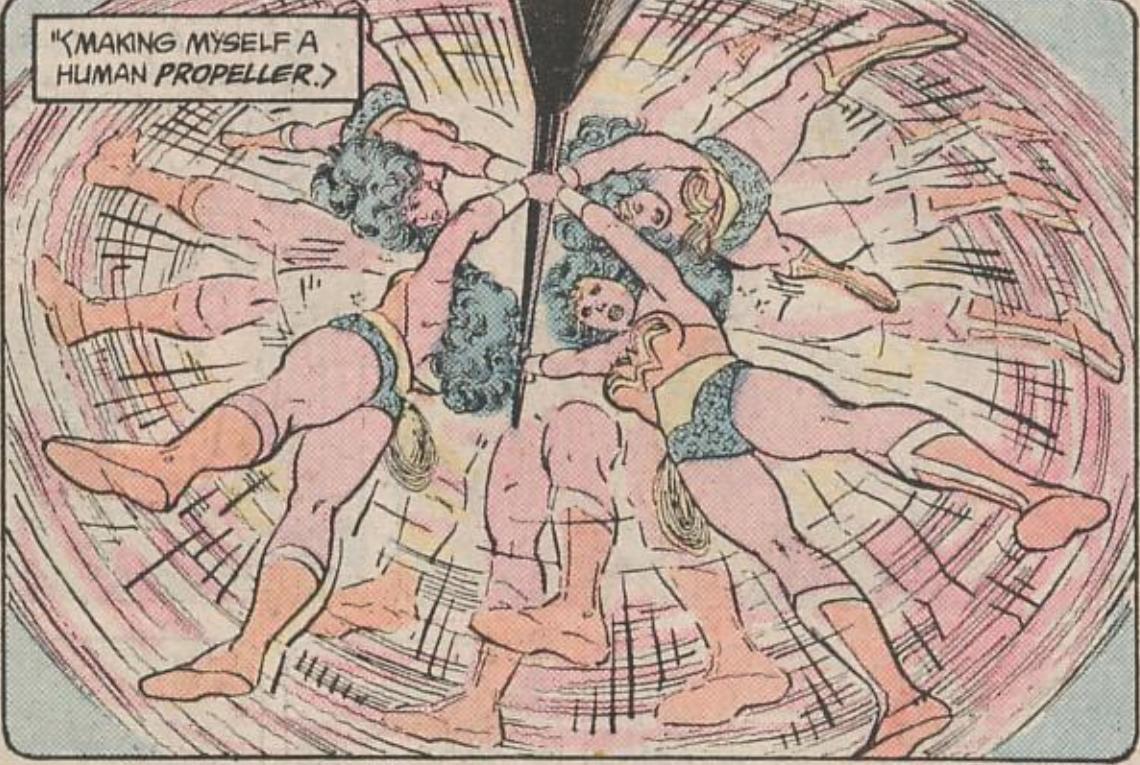


"STEVE HAD PREPARED A CONTINGENCY PLAN IN THE EVENT HE COULD NOT REGAIN CONTROL OF THE AIRCRAFT."

"GRASPING THE METAL BEAK OF THE FALLING BIRD..."



"*(MAKING MYSELF A HUMAN PROPELLER.)*



"*(...I BEGAN SPINNING FASTER, AND FASTER.)*



"*(THEN, I HEARD ETTA'S VOICE.)*

"*(...UNTIL I FINALLY MANAGED TO HALT THE PLANE'S FALL AND LEVEL IT.)*

ETTA TO STEVE!
ETTA TO STEVE!

I DID IT! I'VE BROKEN INTO THE SYSTEM! THE COMPUTER'S DOWN!

SHE'S ALL YOURS, BABY. OVER.

SWEETHEART,
I COULD KISS YOU.

(YOU SEE, I WAS ABLE TO KEEP THE JET FROM CRASHING UNTIL STEVE COULD REGAIN CONTROL.)
(HE WANTED TO PROVE THAT THE AIRCRAFT'S BASIC DESIGN WAS SOUND. THAT PALMER AIRCRAFT WAS NOT AT FAULT.)

OKAY, PRINCESS, LET'ER GO.
I'VE GOT HERON MANUAL NOW.

I'LL SHOW THEM WHAT AN "OLD MAN" CAN DO.



"*(SO, STEVE BROUGHT THE PLANE THEY'D PREMATURELY CALLED THE ICARUS TO A PERFECT, SAFE LANDING.)*



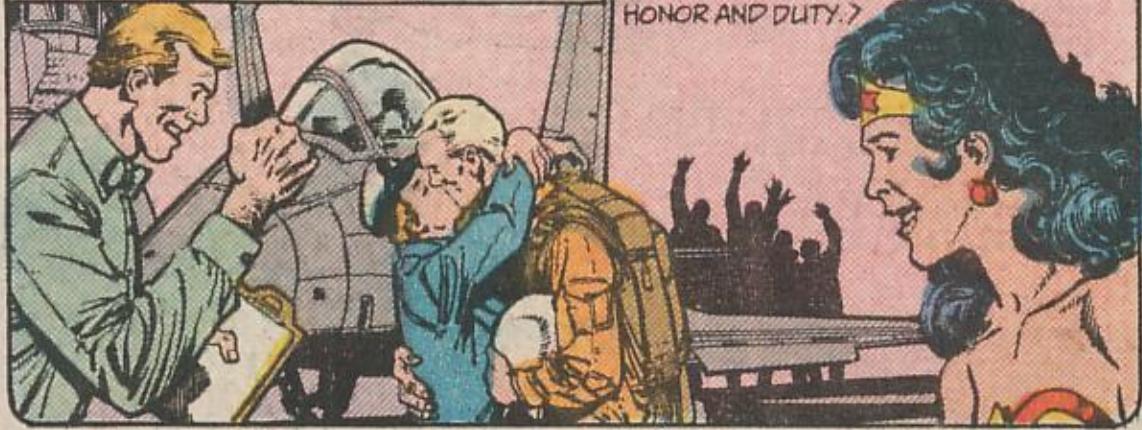
<STEVE SUSPECTED SABOTAGE FROM WITHIN THE COMPLEX, AND THAT THE SABOTEURS WOULD HAVE TO MONITOR THE RADIO COMMUNICATION EVEN AFTER THE CONTROLS WERE DISRUPTED TO CONFIRM THEIR SUCCESS. >

<I MERELY KEPT MY EARS ALERT FOR STEVE'S SIGNAL. >

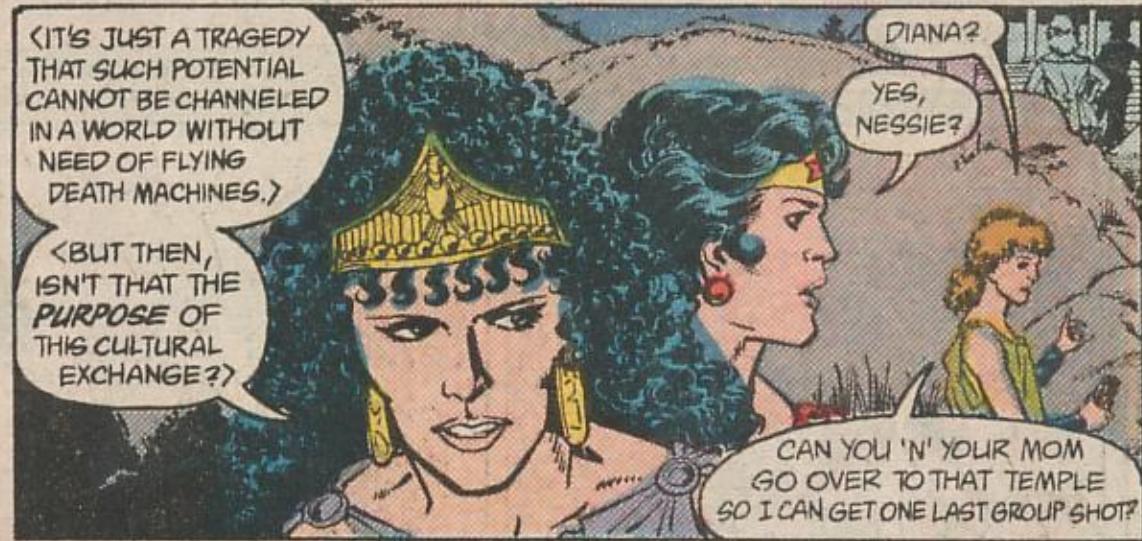


<THE THEMYSIRAN WORDS: THIS IS ICARUS! HELP ME! >

<THE STAFF OF PALMER AIRCRAFT HAILED STEVE AS A HERO, AND ETTA COLLECTED ON THE KISS HE PROMISED. >



<THEY ARE BOTH SUCH BRAVE, NOBLE PEOPLE, MOTHER, WITH A GREAT SENSE OF HONOR AND DUTY. >



<IT'S JUST A TRAGEDY THAT SUCH POTENTIAL CANNOT BE CHANNELLED IN A WORLD WITHOUT NEED OF FLYING DEATH MACHINES. >

<BUT THEN, ISN'T THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS CULTURAL EXCHANGE? >

DIANA?

YES, NESSIE?

CAN YOU 'N' YOUR MOM GO OVER TO THAT TEMPLE SO I CAN GET ONE LAST GROUP SHOT?



AS YOUNG VANESSA GAZES THROUGH THE LENS OF HER SMALL CAMERA, HER SKIN TINGLES AS SHE STUDIES THE BEAUTIFUL, MOON-LIT FACES OF HISTORY AND HOPE.

EVEN HER MOTHER JULIA. A FACE THAT HAS BEEN SO FAMILIAR NOW SEEMS SO WONDROUSLY NEW. SO MUCH LIKE A PART OF THIS GLORIOUS PARADISE ISLAND.

VANESSA COCKS HER HEAD FORWARD AND LITTERS THE THEMYSIRAN WORD SHE HAS LEARNED TO USE OFTEN ON THIS MOST UNIQUE WEEKEND.

SMILE!

EPilogue

ILLUSTRATED BY
BRIAN BOLLAND &
MARK FARMER

DAWN: APOLLO'S OVERTURE TO
THE SYMPHONY OF A NEW DAY.
AND, SADLY, THE TUNE WHICH
MARKS THE END OF THE
KAPATELISES' VISIT.

TWO WORLDS, LONG SEPARATED AND NOW
REUNITED, MUST PART COMPANY ONCE MORE...

...THIS TIME NOT
WITH "GOODBYE"...

AS PRINCESS
DIANA CARRIES
MOTHER AND
CHILD BACK TO
THE WORLD
OF MAN...

AMAZON EYES,
SQUINTING THROUGH
PANES OF TEARS,
GLIMMER WITH HOPE
AND INSPIRATION.

...BUT WITH "TILL
NEXT WE MEET."

AND THEY HEAR
APOLLO'S MUSIC
IN THE AIR.

THE DAWN...

...OF A
NEW
AGE.

"PRIVATE
LIVES"

TESTAMENT

STORY & ART BY GEORGE PÉREZ
LETTERING BY TODD KLEIN
COLORING BY CARL GAFFORD
ASST. EDITING BY ART YOUNG
EDITING BY KAREN BERGER



Hello, darlings. Well, it looks like I didn't make it to fifty after all. Knowing me, I probably died during one hell of a party with some gorgeous hunk of man-flesh.

There are certainly worse ways to go.

Stanley Feldman is taking care of my business dealings separately. This tape is strictly between me and you...

My precious family, and closest, dearest friends.

KLLK

As all you sweethearts know, I'm a sucker for theatrics. I wouldn't be the Star of Publicists if I weren't, would I? Well, sit back and relax, darlings. The curtain's going up.

We're going to take a trip down **Memory Lane**, courtesy of the Mayer Film Archives. Ah! Here's our family portrait, the only one taken of all of us the year Momma died.

Poor Momma. She worked so hard to please Poppa, until it killed her. Believe it or not, folks, she was only twenty-seven in this photo. I swore that wasn't going to happen to me.



But you, Lili, my sweet, self-sacrificing little sister, you were Poppa's perfect little daughter. Cooking, cleaning, ironing. And you were always quick to remind Poppa of how lazy and self-centered I was. A sorry excuse for a Jewish daughter.



Yes, Lili, I admit I was jealous of Poppa's affection for you, but I couldn't pay the price you were paying. Besides, you didn't fool me. You wanted out as badly as I did. That's why you married Irwin so young. To escape. Ha! Some escape! Five obnoxious brats and a boorish husband.



My escape was in books, and movies... and yes, boys. Being an early bloomer had its advantages. Of course, baby sister always made sure Poppa got all the sordid details.



Lili, you did me a great favor. Getting kicked out was the best thing that ever happened to me.

So, little sister, in a way you're responsible for starting me up that ladder of success. My independence, business, all those young leading men. All because of you.



And Myndi Mayer knows how to express her gratitude.



THE FIRST TIME WAS THE DAY WE MET AS ROOMMATES IN COLLEGE. MYNDI ALWAYS BELIEVED IN STRONG FIRST IMPRESSIONS.



HER FATHER COULDN'T JUST BE A TAILOR. OH NO. SHE HAD TO MAKE HIM...

AN INTERNATIONAL FASHION CONSULTANT. HE'S CLOTHED SOME OF THE GREATEST CROWNED HEADS IN EUROPE.



HE MADE ME THIS DRESS FOR MY EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK IT'S GORGEOUS. I THOUGHT SO THE FIRST TIME I SAW IT.

IN THE WINDOW AT SAKS FIFTH AVENUE.



OH.

You always could see through me, Chrissie. I'll always be grateful for the day you divorced that turkey and came to work for me.



You were more to me than a secretary. You were my conscience.

You kept me honest. Most of the time, anyway. I can't think of a better person to inherit the controlling shares of Mayer Publicists.



Give yourself a raise, Ms. Fenton. You've earned it.

Congratulations, Chrissie.

I'm sorry we'll never get to blow out those eighty candles, Kev. I hope you forgive me. Even though I haven't shown it lately, I love you, baby...with all my heart.



No inheritance could ever express that enough.



eh?
I SAID "CONGRATULATIONS", CHRIS-

OH. KEVIN.
I THOUGHT
YOU'D BE WITH
LILI.

NAH. LILI
AND I DON'T
TALK MUCH
ANYMORE.

PRINCESS, WE MET IN PASSING
AT MYN'S FUNERAL.

I'M KEVIN
MAYER.

My adorable baby brother. You and I shared a lot of laughs. And a lot of tears. We also shared the need to be different. Thanks, Kev. Thanks for being there when nobody else wanted to be. Thanks for loving me for who I am.



BUT, DAMN IT, KEVIN,
SHE SHOULD HAVE
LEFT YOU SOMETHING.



NAH, SHE
KNEW HOW I
FELT ABOUT THAT.

MYN, I WANT YOU TO BE AROUND TO BLOW OUT THE CANDLES ON MY EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY CAKE. IF NOT, I DON'T WANT ANYTHING ELSE FROM YOU. NOT EVEN IN YOUR WILL. OKAY?



OH, ALL RIGHT, KEV.
BUT ONLY 'CAUSE YOU'LL
NEED MY HELP TO BLOW
THEM OUT THEN.

IF ONLY I
COULD'A HELPED
HER. IF ONLY
SHE'D LISTEN...

OH GOD. I'M
GONNA MISS
HER SO MUCH.

I KNOW,
KEVIN. I KNOW.

KEVIN, I FEEL SO AWKWARD.
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE
THIS.



AFTER ALL, I
BARELY KNEW
HER.

AND IT'S SO
PERSONAL.

Princess Diana, out of all my clients, I've never known one whose respect I value more than yours. I hope that my contribution to the Wonder Woman Foundation can help in earning that respect and that it will convince you to honor this last request:



To take this gaudy urn which, when you get it, should be filled with my ashes...



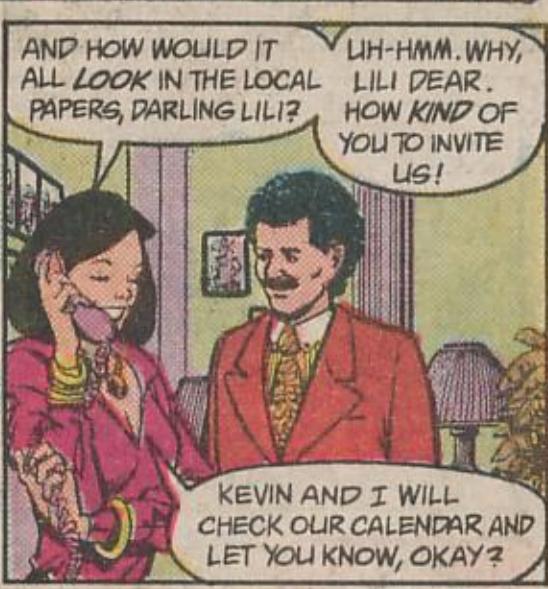
...and scatter them into the waters around Paradise Island.



BLUT, WHY?



I guess I was just a rebel. Different. And Poppa couldn't handle that. Just like he couldn't handle you being different, Kev.

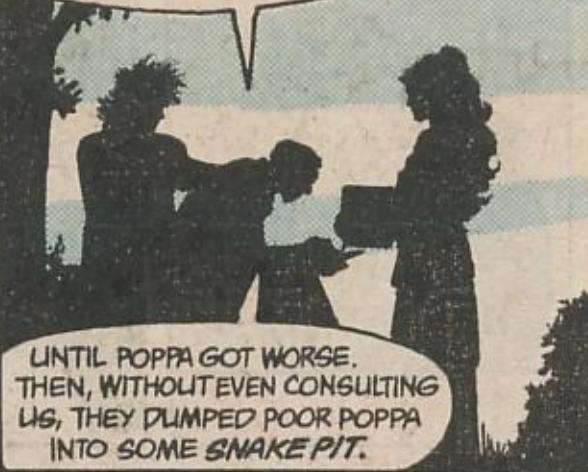


THEN WE LEARNED POPPA HAD ALZHEIMER'S. DAMN. WE THOUGHT HE WAS JUST GETTIN' OLD, THAT'S ALL. ANYWAY, MYN AND I WANTED TO GO BACK TO CHICAGO TO HELP...



...BUT POPPA ONLY
WANTED HIS DARLING LILI.

SO, DESPITE IRWIN'S COMPLAINTS,
LIL TOOK POPPA INTO HER HOME
AND PLAYED THE MARTYR. I THINK
SHE DID IT JUST TO SPITE
MYN AND ME.



UNTIL POPPA GOT WORSE.
THEN, WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING
US, THEY DUMPED POOR POPPA
INTO SOME SNAKE PIT.

IRWIN'S BEING TRANSFERRED TO L.A.
A BIG PROMOTION. HE CAN'T HAVE SOME
SENILE OLD MAN HOLDING HIM BACK.



I'VE TAKEN
CARE OF POPPA
FOR OVER TWENTY
YEARS. I'VE DONE
MY TIME!

NOW IT WAS MYN'S TURN. SHE PUT POPPA
IN THE BEST CLINIC MONEY COULD BUY.
AND AT FIRST, SHE VISITED HIM
EVERY WEEK.



I GUESS SHE
FELT THAT WAS THE
ONLY WAY SHE
COULD GET POPPA'S
LOVE...

BY
BUYING
IT.

IT'S NOT A SNAKE PIT!
IT'S THE BEST HOME
WE COULD AFFORD!



THEN YOU PAY
FOR SOME PLACE
THAT WILL!

BUT HE DIDN'T
EVEN KNOW SHE
WAS THERE.



LILI... IS
THAT YOU?...
MY DARLING
LILI...

LATER, MYN STOPPED VISITING
AND BURIED HERSELF DEEPER
IN HER WORK. SHE STARTED
DRINKING MORE HEAVILY.
AND THEN CAME THE
COCAINE.

SHE CHANGED SO MUCH.
ALL HER SELF-CONFIDENCE
WAS NOW COMING FROM
THAT DAMN WHITE POWDER.



TO HER IT
WAS A LOVE
THAT MONEY
COULD
BUY.

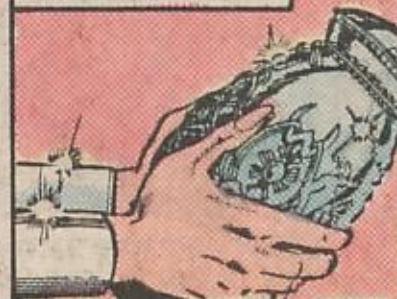
UNTIL IT
KILLED HER.

KEVIN, YOU MISUNDERSTOOD
MY QUESTION.

BUT YOU ANSWERED
IT NEVERTHELESS.



"I WAS WONDERING
WHY MYNDI FELT
SHE HAD TO PAY ME
TO HONOR HER
FINAL WISH."



Diana, in this
make-believe,
laminated
business of
mine, finding true
innocence is
rare, true
honesty even
rarer, and true
love nearly
impossible.

Yet, you've known it all your life. All the happiness
I've ever clawed and fought for, you were simply
born into. On that wonderful Paradise Island. What I
wouldn't give to know that kind of feeling.



To be part of
a world of
innocence,
honesty and
unequivocal
love.



To be truly
happy.



God, what I
wouldn't give
for that.