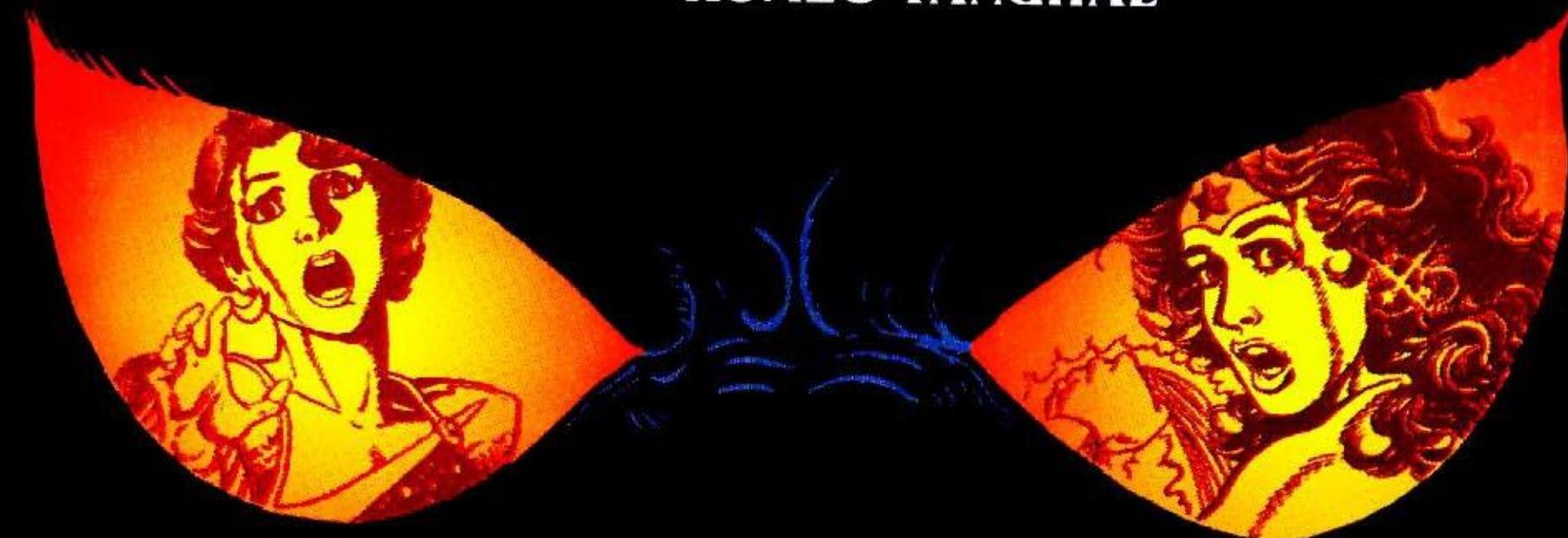




WONDER WOMAN

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BY GEORGE PÉREZ,
JILL THOMPSON &
ROMEO TANGHAL



WELL, WELL, NOT
EXACTLY WHAT YOU
WERE EXPECTING,
IS IT, DIANA?

YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT THAT FINALLY MEETING
DONNA TROY ON THIS ACCURSED LITTLE GREEK
ISLAND WOULD SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF YOUR
COMMON DREAMS...

... THAT YOU WOULD FINALLY FIND
PEACE AND REFUGE FROM YOUR
PLAGUED REVERIES, THAT VEXATIOUS
VOICE IN YOUR HEAD.

WELL, PRINCESS, THINK
AGAIN.

THIS IS WHERE THE NIGHT-
MARE REALLY BEGINS!

FANG and CLAW

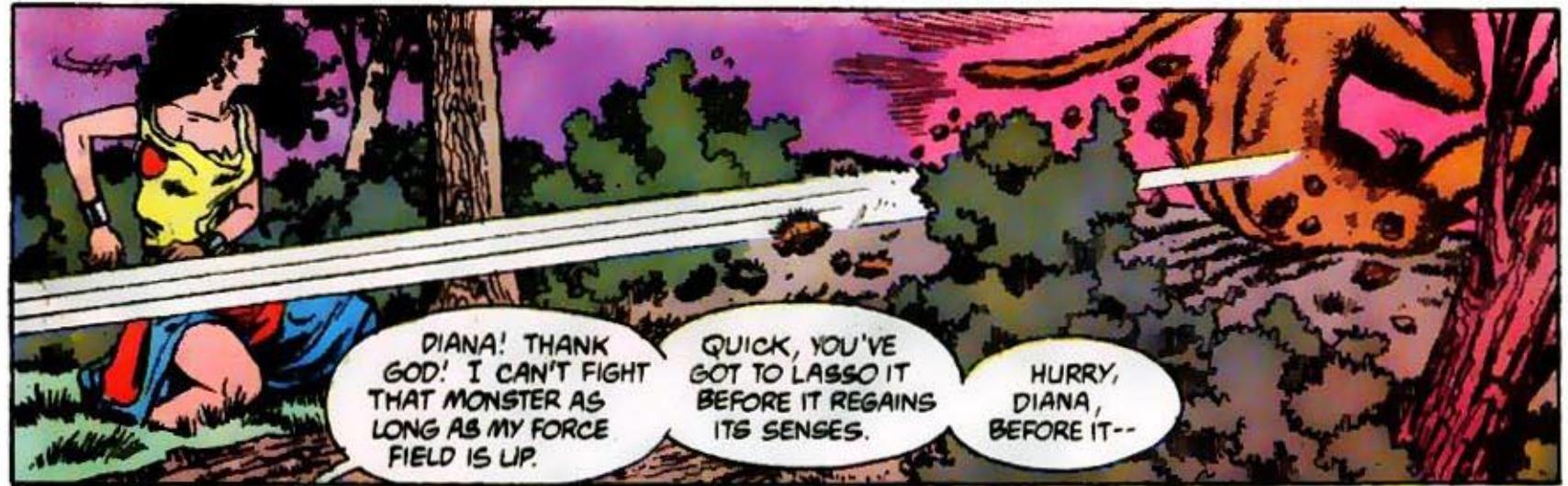
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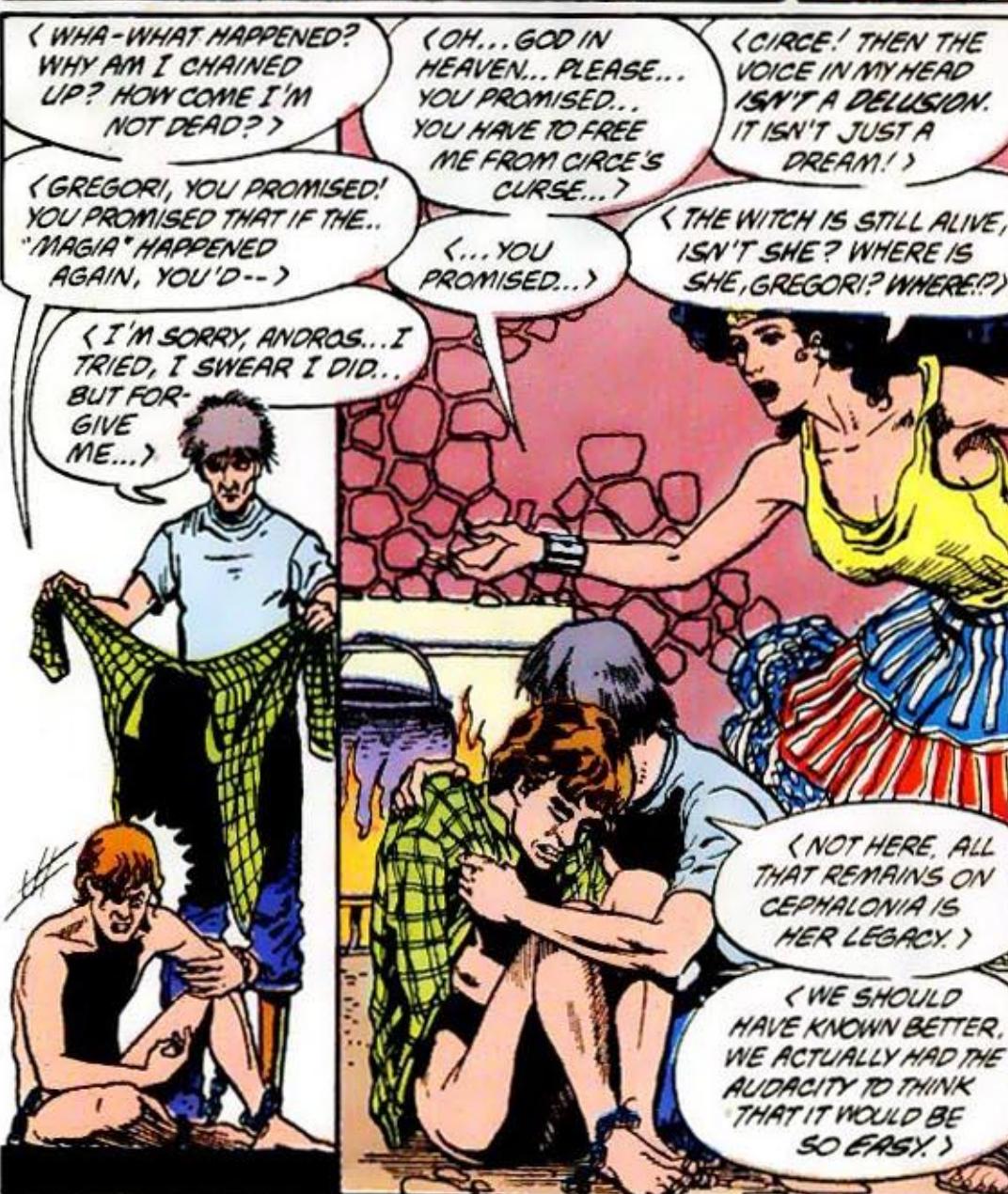
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A HIDEAWAY RETREAT OF GREGORI DAVALOS.



"(MY DARLING, IT'S NO USE. WE'VE BEEN DIGGING FOR HOURS. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. MAYBE YOU WERE WRONG.)"

"(NO! THIS IS THE PLACE. I KNOW IT. IT'S EXACTLY AS THE TITANS DESCRIBED IT IN THE NEWSPAPERS.)

"(DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT THIS IS WHERE PRINCESS DIANA FOUGHT THOSE OTHERS LIKE US? I TELL YOU, ANNA, WE--)"

"(ANNA! POINT THE LANTERN THIS WAY. BY GOD, I THINK WE'VE FOUND IT!)

"(HA! I TOLD YOU THAT WITCH WASN'T INFALLIBLE.)

"(THEO, PLEASE, SHE MIGHT... WELL, WHY TEMPT FATE?)

"(DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER, MY LOVE. AFTER WE FINISH HERE, WE'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CIRCE AGAIN.)

"(SEE? HERE IT IS. BURIED DEEP BENEATH THE NEW YORK SEWER SYSTEM LIKE SOME ANCIENT TOMB.)

"(NO, THEO, I CAN'T LET YOU FACE THIS ALONE.)

"(NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR US TO BREAK THE SEAL. GO HOME, ANNA. YOU'VE DONE ALL YOU CAN.)

"(PLEASE, ANNA. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH CONTROL I WILL HAVE ONCE I'VE REVERTED. WITH EACH NEW CHANGE I FEEL MORE OF MY HUMANITY BEING CLAWED AWAY.)

"(I'VE SEEN THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES. YOU SEE IT TOO, DON'T YOU? YOU TRY TO HIDE YOUR FEAR... BUT I CAN TELL.)

"(WHETHER YOU SUCCEED OR FAIL, MY LOVE, YOU SHALL NOT DO IT WITHOUT ME.)

"(ALL RIGHT, MY DARLING. AS YOU WISH.)

"(BUT, WE WON'T FAIL.)

"(MY ONLY FEAR IS OF LOSING YOU, THEO. I FEAR THAT MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD.)

"(IT'S TIME WE END THIS NIGHTMARE ONCE AND FOR--
ALLLRRRAAGGGHHHH

DOOOOWWWRRR

DONNA, HOW ARE YOU DOING? I'M NOT FLYING TOO FAST, AM I?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M USED TO BEING PULLED ALONG BY KORY'S BACKWASH.

KORY-- SHE'S STARFIRE, RIGHT?

YEAH. PRINCESS KORIAND'R OF TAMARAN. TERRY SAYS I MUST HAVE A THING FOR ROYALTY.

DIANA, HOW CAN YOU BE SURE YOU'RE NOT BEING SET UP BY THIS THEOPHILOS VENTOURAS?

AFTER ALL, YOU SAID HE WAS THE ONE WHO LED CIRCE'S BESTIAMORPHS.

IT'S A CHANCE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE. DONNA, YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO TURN BACK.

UH-UH, PRINCESS. A TITAN NEVER RUNS FROM A BATTLE. I'VE GOT TO FACE MY FEARS JUST AS MUCH AS YOU DO.

BESIDES, I HAVE TO SEE WHICH ONE OF OUR "DREAM THEORIES" IS CORRECT.

NIGHTWING'S ALWAYS SAID "THE ONLY GOOD MYSTERY IS A SOLVED MYSTERY."

WELL, EITHER WAY, WE'LL FACE IT TOGETHER.

THEN, DIANA, WE CAN GET BACK TO MORE FRIENDLY MATTERS. MY HUSBAND TERRY IS DYING TO MEET YOU.

AND I PERSONALLY CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOUR FAMILY. AND PROF. KAPATELIS AND HER DAUGHTER-- VANESSA, RIGHT?

I ONLY PRAY THAT YOURS IS THE ACTUAL SOLUTION. THAT WE WERE JOINED PSYCHI-CALLY ONLY AT THIS TIME BECAUSE IT CLOSELY FOLLOWED YOUR "RE-AWAKENING" BY THE TITANS WHO SIRED MY GODS.

STILL, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEAR THAT THE DREAMS ARE PART OF SOME DELIBERATE PLOT BY CIRCE. THE SAME ONE THAT MAY BE ENDANGERING THEO NOW.

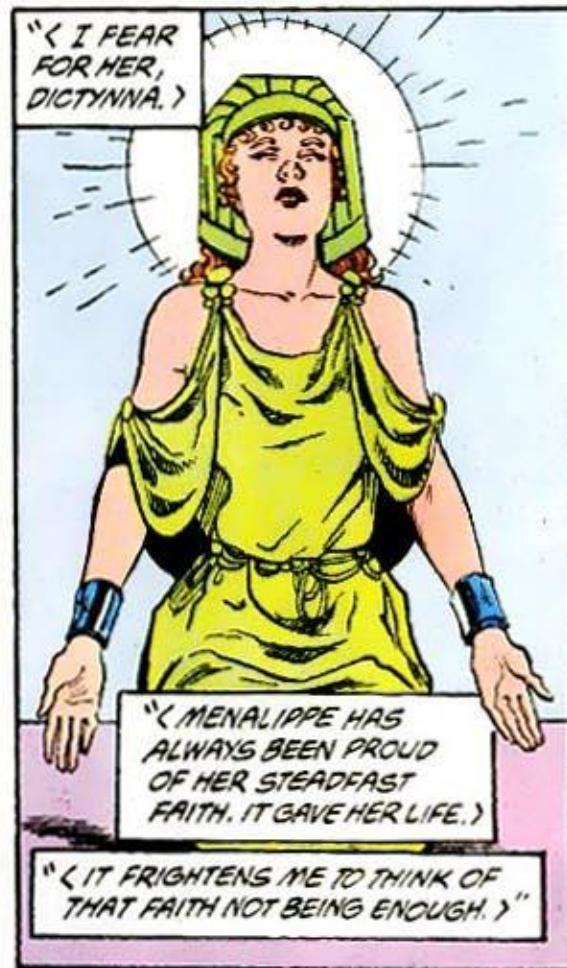
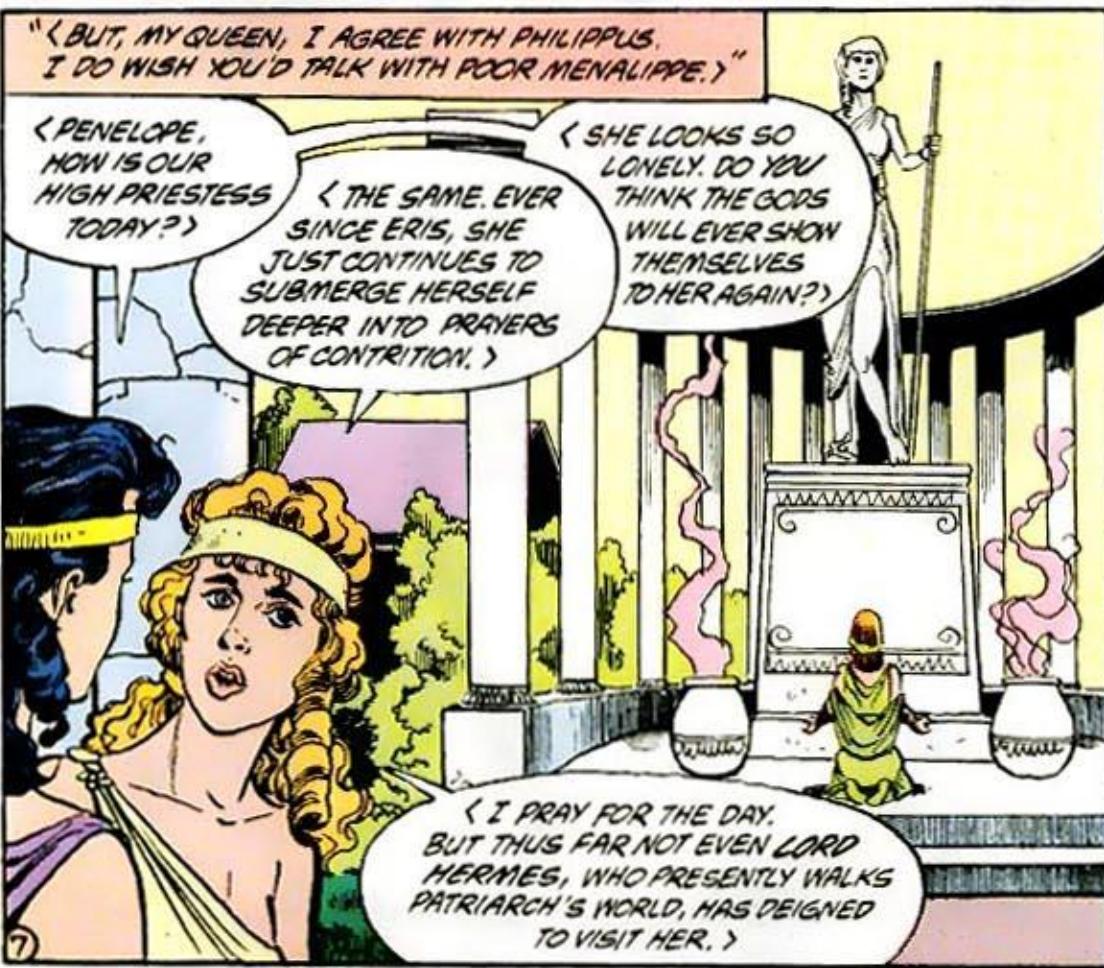
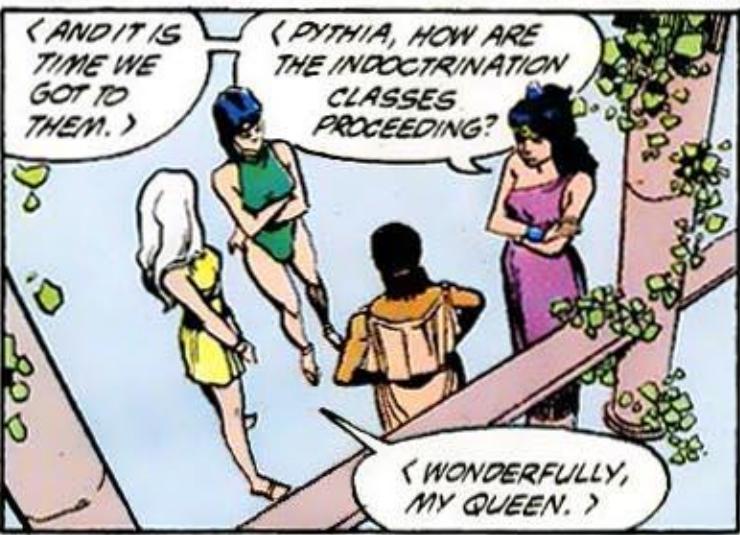
YES, NESSIE.

I READ ABOUT HER GIRL FRIEND. I'M SORRY.

HOW LONG BEFORE YOUR MOM COMES TO THE UN?

LESS THAN A MONTH.

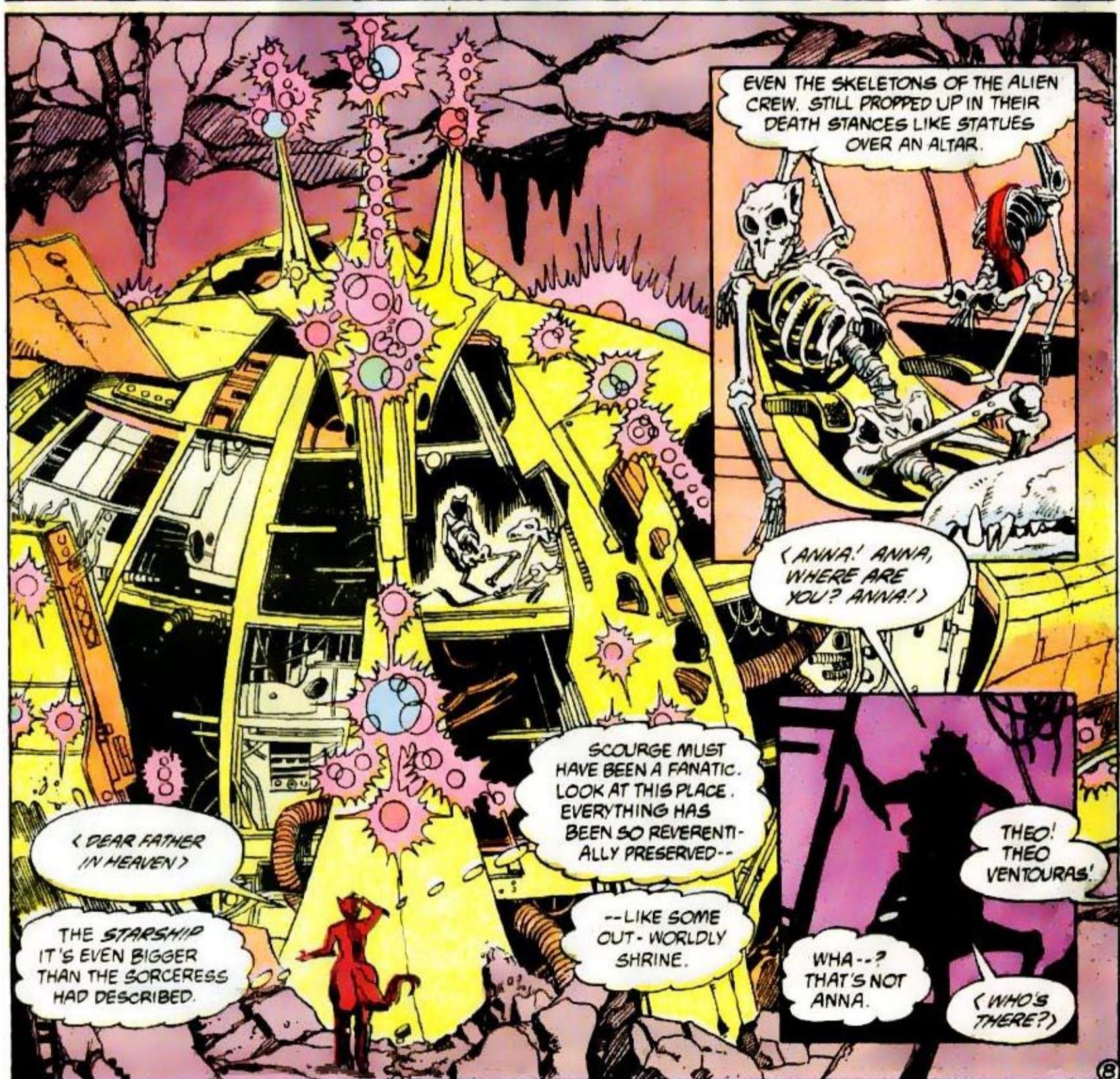
WHICH MAKES IT ALL THE MORE CRUCIAL FOR US TO END THIS THREAT-- NOW.

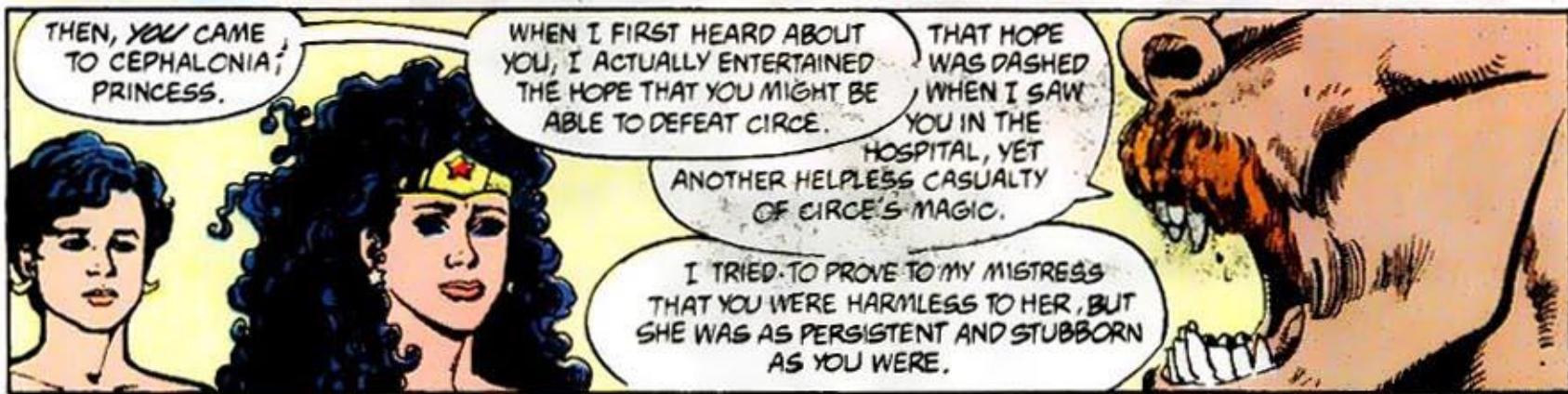




CANNA! NO!
DON'T GO IN
THERE BEFORE--

CANNA!







"THE NEXT THING I KNEW
I WAS IN MY HUMAN
FORM, WATCHING FROM
A BUSH ON AEAEA AS
THE REBELS PROCLAIMED
YOU THEIR SAVIOR."

"IF THEY ONLY KNEW."



"ANNA DEVARIS,
MY MATE..."

"I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT
THEM. THERE WAS ONLY ONE
PERSON I WAS WORRIED
ABOUT, AND I HAD LEFT HER AT
MY ESTATE IN VENTOURATA."

"...AND, UN-
BEKONWNST
TO THE WITCH,
MY LOVER."



"HE WAVED US OFF AS WE
MADE OUR WAY TO A
NEW LIFE."



"I HEARD THAT THEY WOULDN'T
BELIEVE YOU WHEN YOU TOLD
THEM THE TRUTH, PRINCESS--
THAT IT WAS HERMES WHO
DID IT."

"TYPICAL. SO
VERY TYPICAL."



"MEANWHILE, YOU AND
ANNA SETTLED HERE IN
NEW YORK."

"YES, MY NEW JOB WAS
A FAR CRY FROM MY
DAYS AS LORD OF THE
MANOR, BUT I WAS
CONTENT. I TRULY WAS."

"THE CHANGES
STOPPED. WE WERE
HUMAN AGAIN!"

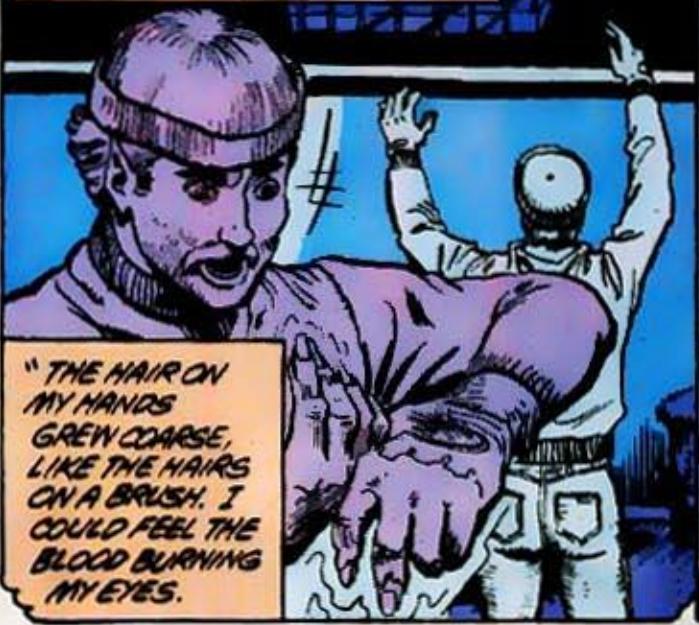
BUT THEN, ABOUT HALF A
YEAR AGO EVERYTHING
STARTED TO CHANGE.

THAT
ONLY
WORKS
WHEN
THE
SUBJECT
IS WILLING. WE'RE
JUST TRYING TO PROVE TO YOU
THAT THERE'S NOTHING YOU NEED
HIDE
FROM
US.

IT STARTED
LATE AT NIGHT,
DIDN'T IT?



"YES, DURING A NIGHT SHIFT."



"IT WAS HAPPENING AGAIN! AFTER ALL THOSE MONTHS, ALL THOSE WONDERFUL, PEACEFUL MONTHS--"



"I WAS A MONSTER ONCE MORE! ONE OF CIRCE'S CURSED CREATURES OF THE DARK!"



"I RACED BACK HOME IN THE SHADOWS, BACK TO ANNA. PRAYING THAT I WOULDN'T FIND WHAT I KNEW I WOULD FIND."



"MY ANNA. MY POOR HELPLESS ANNA."

CIRCE HAD PREVAILLED AGAINST A GOD. SHE WAS ACTUALLY ABLE TO REACH OUT AT US FROM A VOID DEEPER THAN THE GRAVE.

WE WERE DAMNED AGAIN.



"BUT THEN WE READ ABOUT YOU, TROIA, AND THE TITANS' BATTLES BEHIND THE STREETS OF NEW YORK."



YES, THEO, A NAME YOU'D SEEN ONCE BEFORE, IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE, WRITTEN IN BLOOD--



"THAT'S WHEN WE FOUND OUT ABOUT SCOURGE."

BLAST IT, HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS? WHO--?

YOU REMEMBERED READING ABOUT A CHARIOT OF THE GODS, MATCHING THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ONE SCOURGE UNEARTHED IN QURAC, IN CIRCE'S ARCHIVES.

FROM WHICH CIRCE HERSELF HAD DISCOVERED THE BASIC INGREDIENT FOR BESTIAMORPHISM CENTURIES EARLIER.

AND ONE THING MORE. SOMETHING THAT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE WHEN YOU COPIED IT, BUT NOW SEEMED PERFECTLY CLEAR.

THE ANTIDOTE--ITS SECRET TO BE FOUND IN THE HEART OF THE STAR CHARIOT. IT WAS IN YOUR NOTES.

SO YOU SENT YOUNG ANDROS DEVARIS TO VENTOURATA TO GET HOLD OF YOUR REMAINING RECORDS. TO BE SURE.

BUT GREGORI DAVALOS HAD ALREADY FOUND THE NOTES. HE DECIPHERED THEM. HE DISCOVERED THE TRUTH.

HE CONVINCED ANDROS TO WARN TROIA AND ME-- TO TELL US EVERYTHING-- SO THAT WE COULD HELP YOU.

THEY ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT. THANKS TO CIRCE.

THERE IS NO ANTIDOTE, NO CURE. THOSE PAPERS YOU COPIED CONTAINED NOTHING BUT LIES!

IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S ALL JUST AS IT WAS IN HER PARCHMENTS! THOSE PAPERS BROUGHT ME HERE!

CIRCE BROUGHT YOU HERE, THEO.

SHE BROUGHT US ALL HERE...

ANNA?

ANNA, WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR VOICE?

"ANNA!"

I-I'M SO SORRY, M-MY LOVE. I TRIED TO FIGHT IT. I SWEAR I DID.

BUT-- SHE'S T-TOO STRONG. EVEN NOW.

OH, THEOPHILOS, MY DEAR, MAGNIFICENT FOOL, YOU DIDN'T REALLY BELIEVE YOU WERE DECEIVING ME, DID YOU?

WHAT? OH NO--NO--

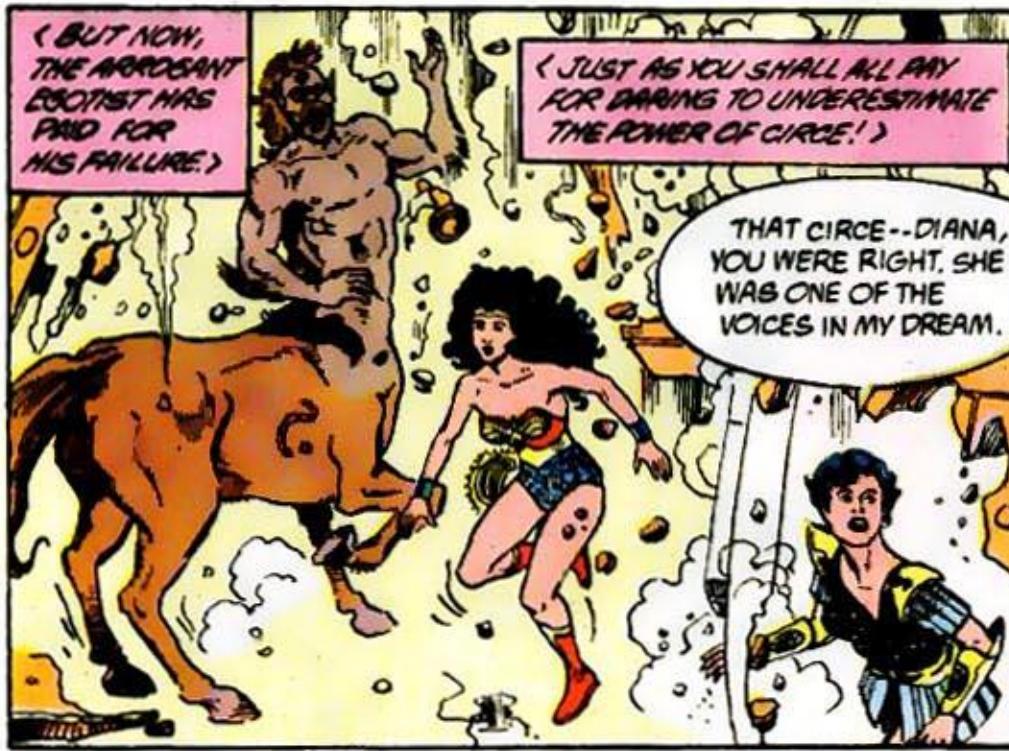
CIRCE!

I FIGURED IT WOULD ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SCOURSE SHOWED HIMSELF AND YOU'D TRACK HIM DOWN.

(HE NEVER WAS ONE OF MY MORE SUBTLE OPERATIVES.)

(THE DEMENTED FOOL NEVER EVEN REALIZED IT WAS I WHO COMPELLED HIM TO INJECT HIMSELF WITH THE BLOOD OF THE DEAD ALIENS.)

NO! THIS CAN'T BE. ONLY THE FAVORED OF CIRCE HAVE EVER BEEN ABLE TO TALK WHILE BEASTS. HOW CAN YOU--?



THE SORCERESS' PERVERSE
SENSE OF HUMOR IS AS
BLACK AS EVER.

THREATENING
US WITH THE VERY CREATURES
THEO HAD HOPED WOULD
BE HIS KEY TO SALVATION.

STAND
BACK...

THIS TIME I SHALL HAVE
NO COMPUNCTIONS ABOUT
USING HESTIA'S LASSO.

WOA!
YOU WEREN'T
KIDDING!

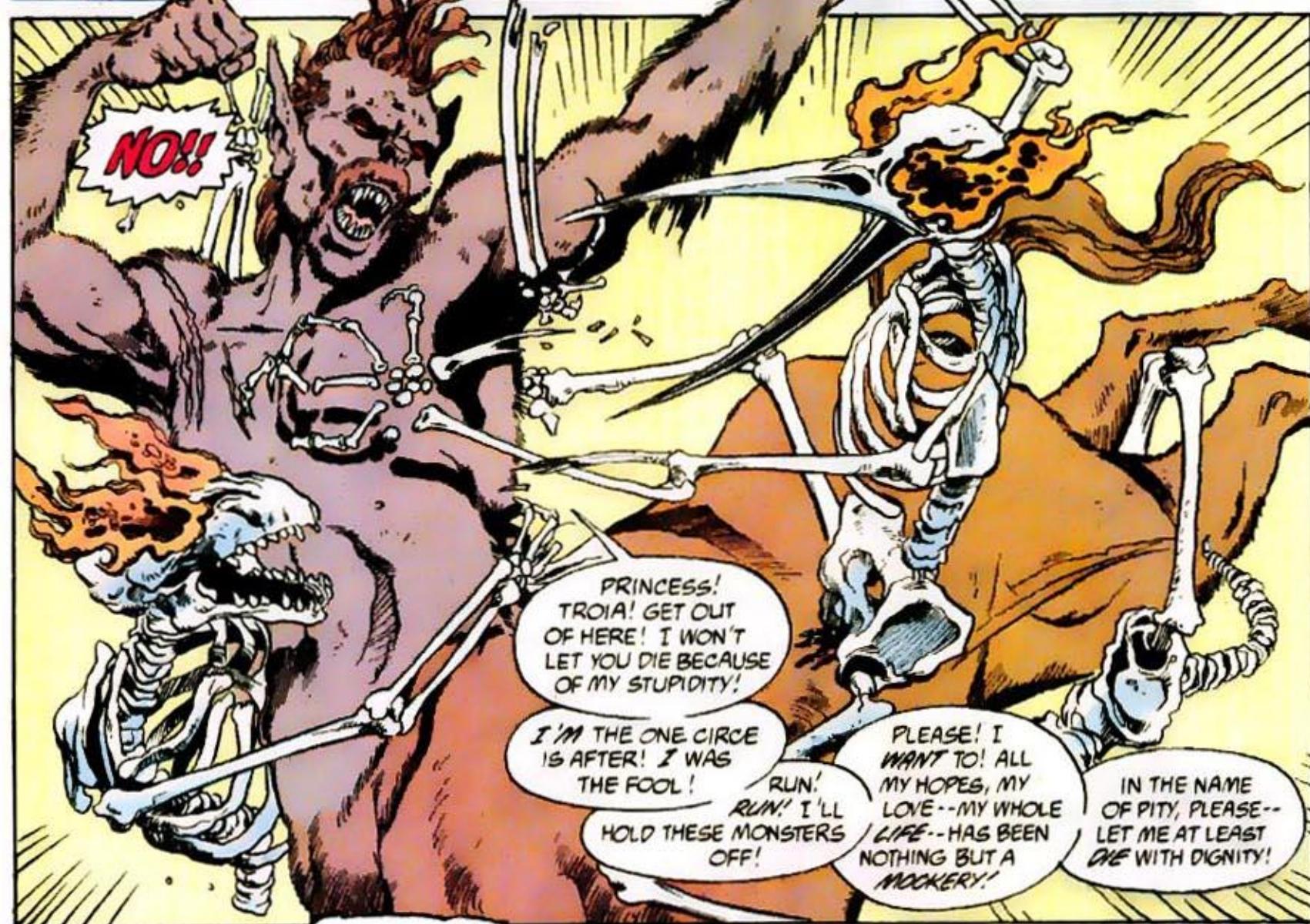
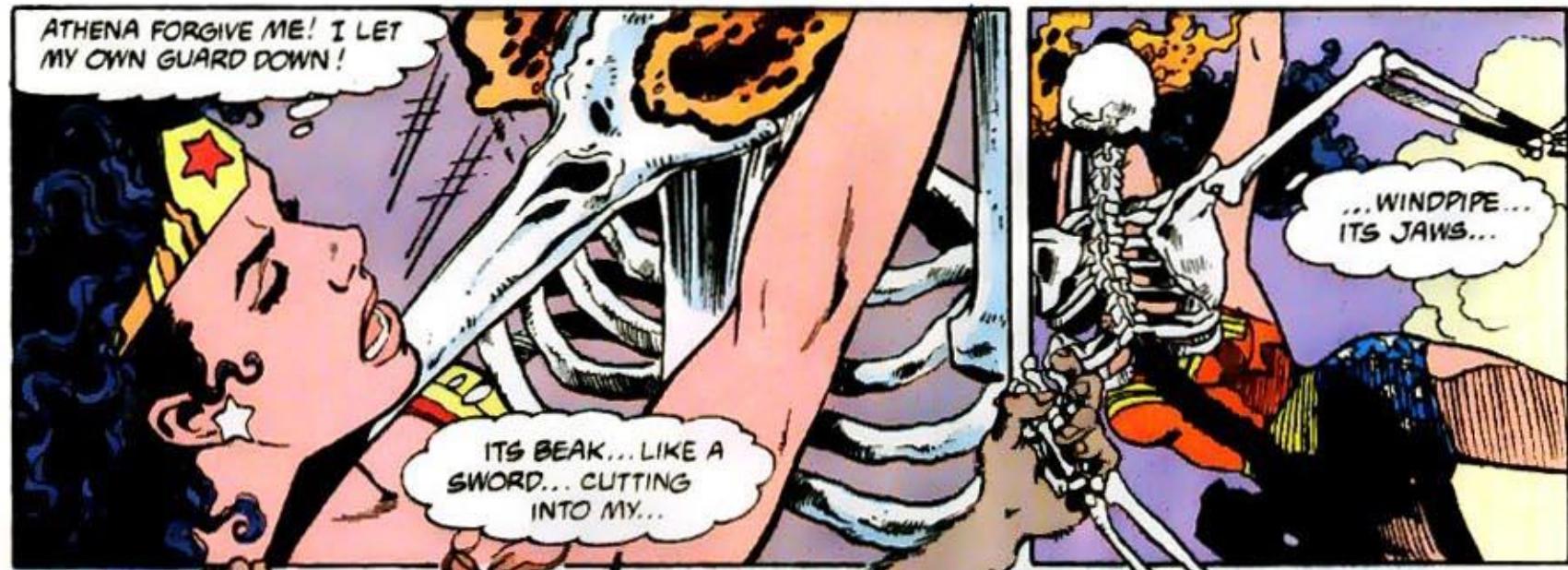
"UH-OH.

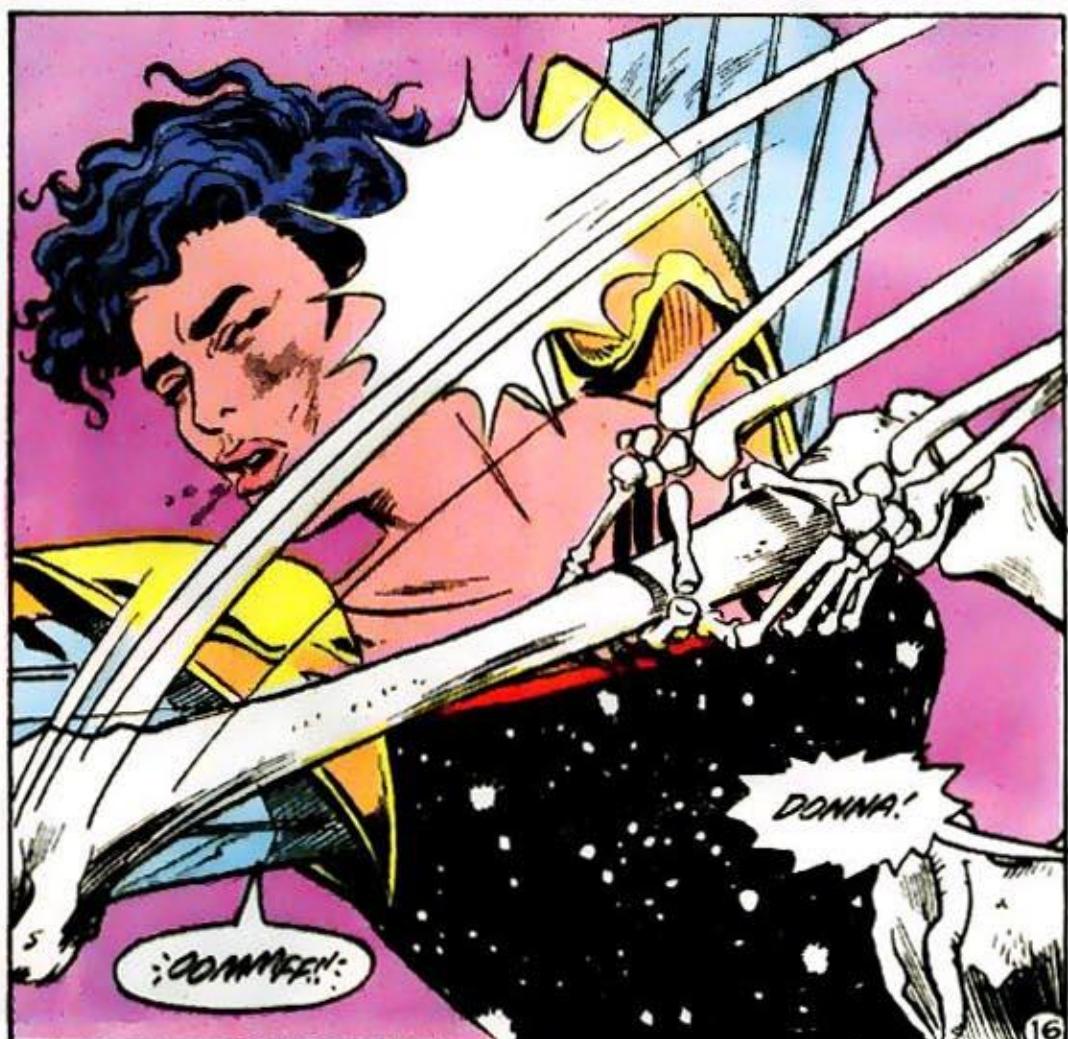
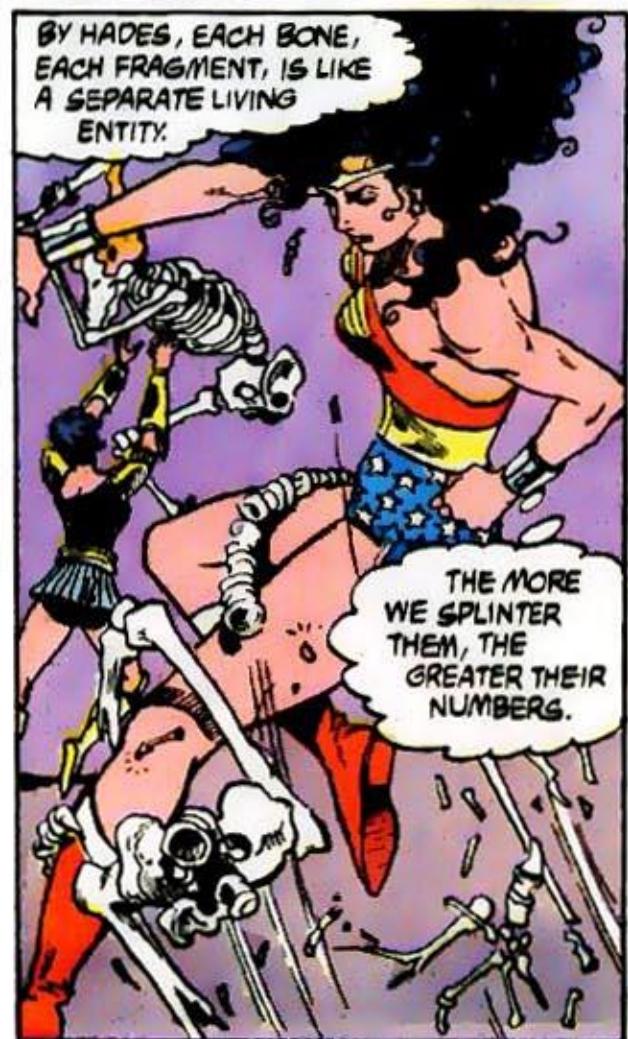
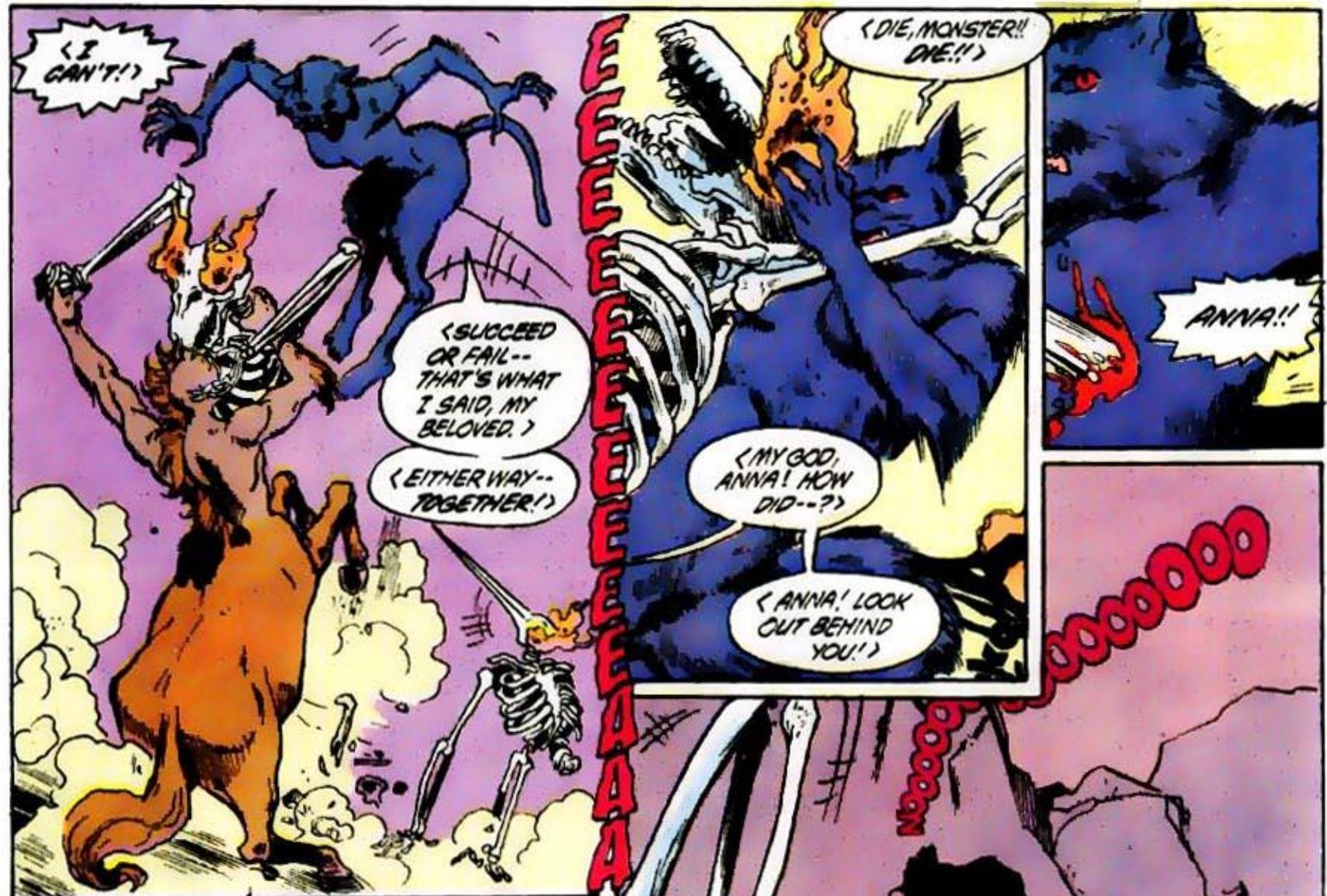
"SOMEHOW I HAD A
FEELING IT WOULDN'T
BE THAT EASY."

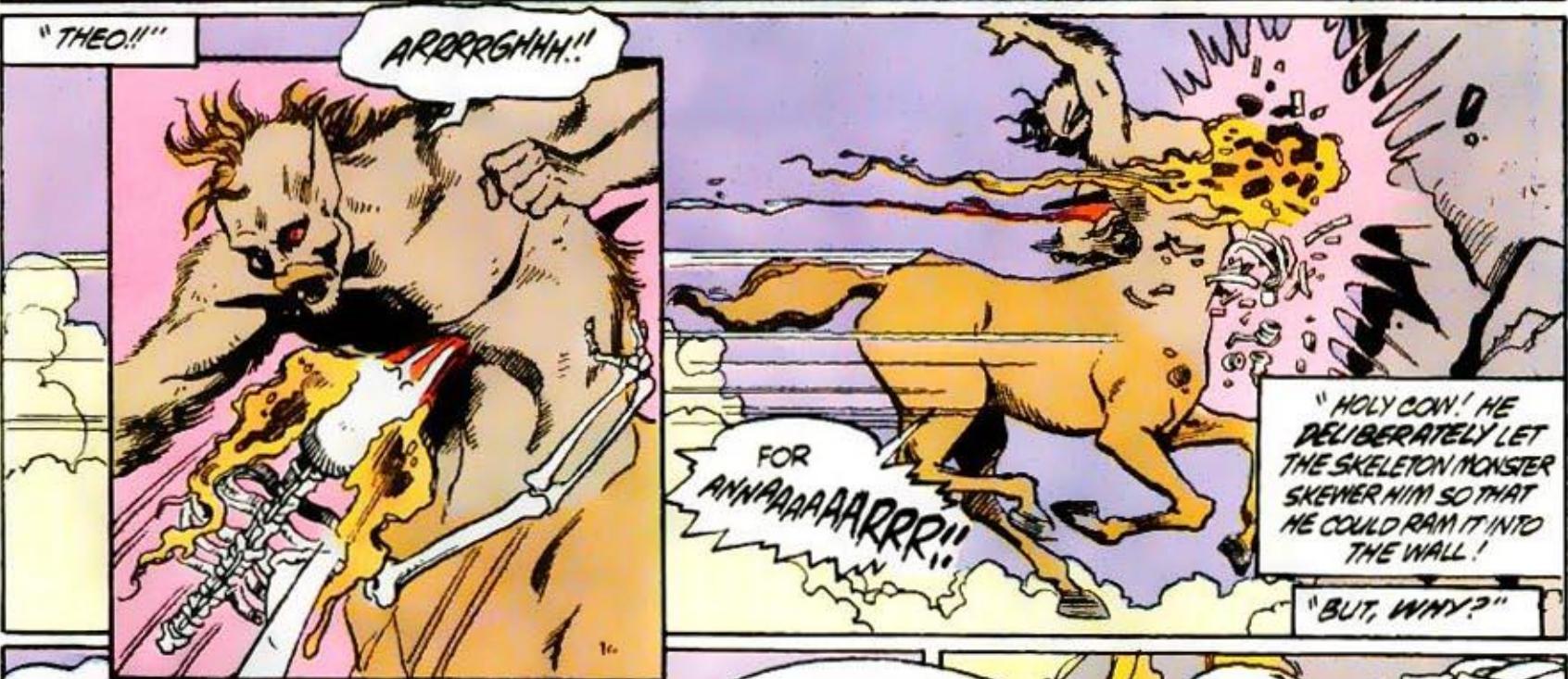
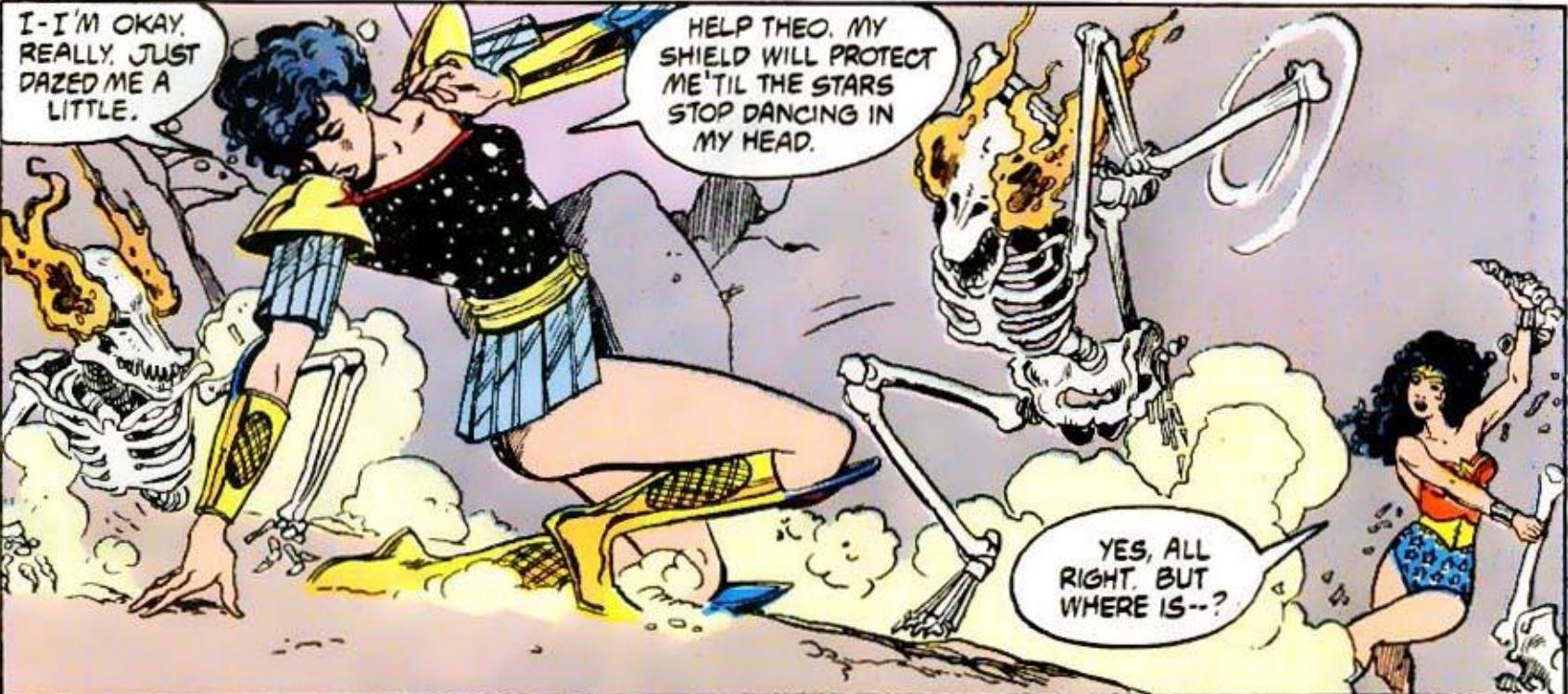
BESIDES, I'M
NOT LETTING YOU
BATTLE THESE
THINGS ALONE!

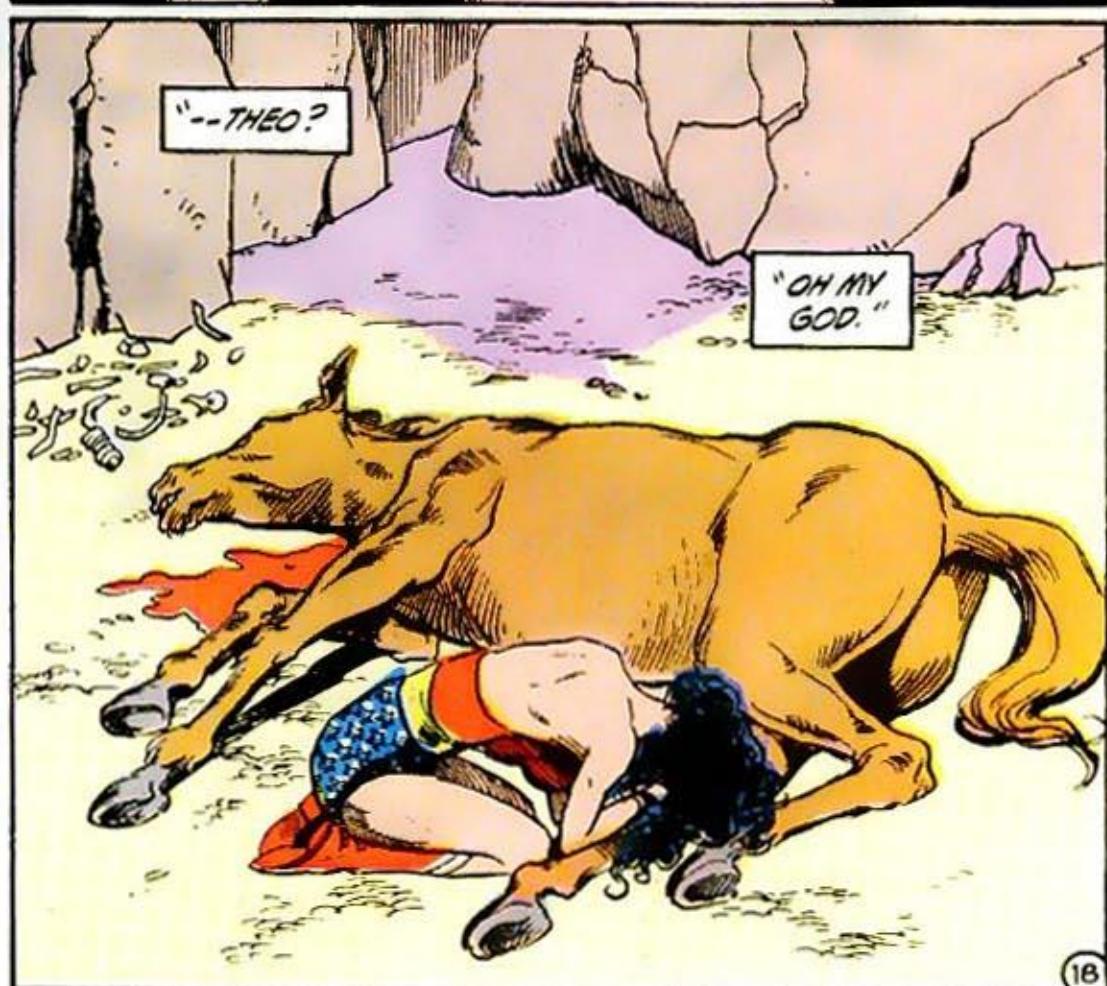
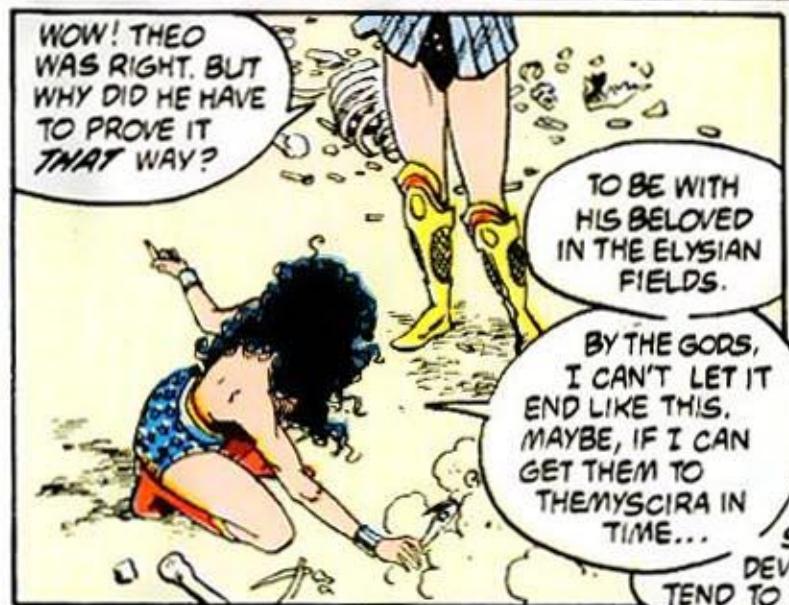
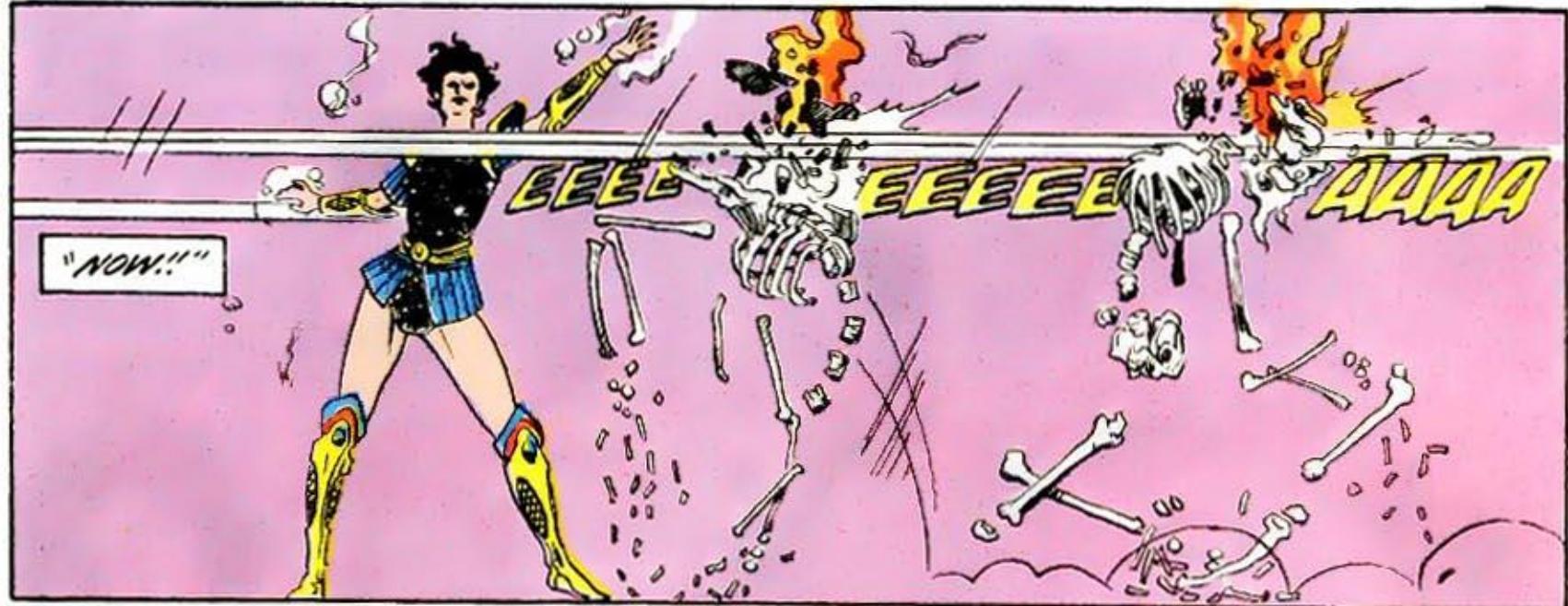
"DONNA!
THROW UP
YOUR FORCE
FIELD OVER
YOU AND THEO!"

BUT,
DONNA,
YOU--









ANNA SAID THAT THEO DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS SACRIFICING.

DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY ANNA ALLOWED CIRCE TO TAKE HER OVER? WHY COULDN'T SHE JUST TELL THEO THE TRUTH?

I DON'T KNOW. PERHAPS SHE FEARED HIS KNOWING. I HAVE TO BE THANKFUL TO CIRCE, A WOMAN HE HATED, FOR GRANTING HIM THE ONE THING HE CHERISHED ABOVE ALL ELSE.

TO BE ABLE TO LOVE AS A MAN.

I'M ONLY SURPRISED CIRCE DIDN'T TELL HIM HERSELF BEFORE SHE SENTENCED HIM TO DEATH.

ONE LAST CRUEL JOKE.

IT OFTEN AMAZES ME HOW CALLOUSLY THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD REGARD THE OTHER CREATURES WHO SHARE THIS PLANET.

IN MY CULTURE, WE BELIEVE THAT NO MATTER WHAT ITS SHAPE, A SOUL IS STILL A SOUL.

IT IS ONLY HUMANITY'S IGNORANCE AND ARROGANCE THAT CONVINCES HER THAT HERS IS SUPERIOR.

THEOPHILOS PROVED HOW WRONG HUMANITY IS.

"REST WELL, THEOPHILOS AND ANNA. MAY THE BOSOM OF GAEA BRING YOU IN DEATH THE PEACE DENIED YOU IN LIFE."

I'M SORRY, DONNA. I GUESS THIS WASN'T EXACTLY WHAT EITHER OF US HAD IMAGINED OUR FIRST MEETING WOULD BE LIKE.

HEY, I'M A TITAN.
I'VE BEEN THROUGH
WORSE.

SERIOUSLY THOUGH,
WHAT ABOUT CIRCE? WE
NEVER REALLY DID FIND
OUT WHY WE HAD THOSE
DREAMS. CAN'T YOUR
GOD FRIEND HERMES
TRACK HER DOWN?

AND ANDROS DEVARIS?
DO YOU BELIEVE MR. DAVALOS
CAN REALLY TAKE CARE
OF HIM?

HE'S TRIED BEFORE.
UNFORTUNATELY,
EVEN HE CANNOT
LOCATE HER NOW.

I DON'T KNOW. IT
WAS ANDROS' OWN WISH,
BUT-- I REALLY DON'T
KNOW.

SO--WHAT
HAPPENS
NOW?

LIFE
PROGRESSES.
AS IT HAS
TO.

I STILL HAVE TO
GET BACK TO THEM-
YSCIRA TO FINALIZE
THE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR MY MOTHER'S
VISIT HERE.

THEN I HAVE TO
CONTACT LORD HERMES,
THEN ASSIST IN THE
GUEST ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR THE
OFFICIAL RECEPTION.

BY THE GODS, THERE'S
SO MUCH TO DO.

I'LL SAY.
IT SOUNDS LIKE
MY WEDDING.

THEN, BACK TO
BOSTON. I STILL
HAVE TO TALK
TO NESSIE.

THE POOR CHILD.
SHE WAS SO HURT,
SO ANGRY WHEN WE
LAST SPOKE.

YES, I UNDER-
STAND. THEN I GUESS
WE'D JUST BETTER
SAY GOODBYE HERE.

I HAVE TO
GO INTO
TITANS TOWER
ANYWAY TO CALL
TERRY IN
TURKEY. LET
HIM KNOW
I'M OKAY.

OH, DONNA, THERE'S
STILL SO MUCH I
WANTED TO--

HEY, WE'LL GET
TOGETHER AGAIN. AND
UNDER MORE PLEASANT
CIRCUMSTANCES, I
PROMISE.

WE HAVE A
WHOLE LIFETIME
AHEAD OF US.

DAYS LATER, ON BEACON HILL.

WELL, WELL, WELCOME, STRANGER. I HAD A FEELING YOU'D BE DROPPING IN TODAY.

HELLO, JULIA. I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN AWAY SO LONG. I'M ALWAYS FORGETTING HOW QUICKLY TIME PASSES ON PATRIARCH'S WORLD.

SOMETIMES, SWEETIE. ALTHOUGH IT OCCASIONALLY CRAWLS AT A SNAIL'S PACE AS WELL--EVERYTIME YOU'RE AWAY.

HOW'S NESSIE? DO YOU THINK SHE'LL TALK TO ME?

--FIRST, THERE ARE A COUPLE OF FRIENDS OF YOURS HERE WHO MAY WISH TO SPEAK TO YOU FIRST."

MAYBE IN A LITTLE BIT--

DONNA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WELL, I TOLD YOU WE'D GET TOGETHER AGAIN.

OKAY, SO IT ENDED UP BEING A LITTLE SOONER THAN YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT.

DONNA, YOU KNOW HOW HAPPY I AM TO SEE YOU. YOU DON'T NEED A SPECIAL REASON.

IT'S JUST THAT I'M SO--FLABBERGASTED.

IS THIS TERRY?

YEP, THE MAN OF MY LIFE. CUTE, ISN'T HE?

PRINCESS, IT'S A THRILL TO MEET YOU. DONNA HASN'T STOPPED TALKING ABOUT YOU FOR MONTHS.

NEXT TO HER, YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN I'VE EVER MET.

ISN'T HE SWEET? HE SAID THAT TO KORY, TOO.

THANK YOU, TERRY. BUT, PLEASE, CALL ME DIANA.

DONNA AND TERRY BROUGHT ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER WITH THEM. SHE'S UPSTAIRS WITH VANESSA.

OH?

YES, MY "STEPISTER," CINDY. SHE'S NESSIE'S AGE.

WE THOUGHT, MAYBE, IF NESSIE JUST KNEW SHE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE...

I'M OKAY... REALLY... I JUST LOSE IT SOMETIMES, Y'KNOW? LIKE WHEN I FREAKED OUT AT DIANA."



I DON'T MIND, NESSIE. IT'S ACTUALLY KINDA NICE TALKING WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN UNDERSTAND THE FEAR--

-- THAT SOMEDAY, YOUR SISTER MIGHT NOT COME BACK-- THAT YOU MIGHT NEVER SEE HER FACE, OR HEAR HER VOICE-- EVER AGAIN.



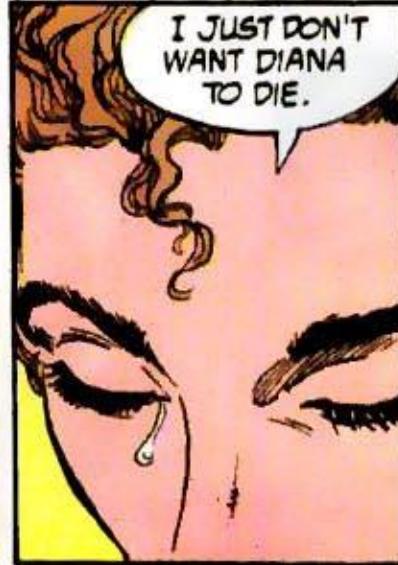
I DIDN'T THINK I COULD, UNTIL DONNA HERSELF ONCE ASKED ME STRAIGHT OUT:

"WOULD I HAVE BEEN HAPPIER IF SHE WEREN'T MY SISTER? IF SHE WAS NEVER EVER A PART OF MY LIFE?"

NO, I SAID... I WOULDN'T.

SO I PRAY EVERY NIGHT THAT SHE'LL BE OKAY-- AND CHEER WHEN SHE IS, AND CRY AND PRAY REAL HARD WHEN SHE ISN'T.

I JUST DON'T WANT DIANA TO DIE.



I USED TO GET THE SAME WAY ABOUT DONNA-- EVERY TIME I HEARD SHE WAS OUT ON SOME TITANS MISSION.

MY FAMILY, TOO-- EVEN THOUGH THEY TRIED HIDING IT, JUST LIKE YOUR MOM. AND IT'S GOTTA BE TOUGH FOR TERRY.

YEAH, SOMETIMES IT DOES.
BUT I GUESS THAT'S WHAT BEING A SISTER IS ALL ABOUT.

END