



EXTRA! MORE
ALL-OUT ACTION WITH
The Huntress™

ALL NEW!
60¢

NO. 290
APRIL

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AO
AUTHORITY

THE
SENSATIONAL
NEW

WONDER WOMAN™



C-854



04
7098930725
BOUND BY HER OWN **MAGIC LASSO**, THE AMAZING
AMAZON IS **HELPLESS** BEFORE THE FURY OF
CAPT. WONDER AND THE SILVER SWAN!

GRANTED THE WISDOM OF ATHENA, THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES, THE SPEED OF MERCURY AND THE BEAUTY OF APHRODITE BY THE GODS, PRINCESS DIANA OF PARADISE ISLAND RENOUNCED HER IMMORTALITY AND ENTERED MAN'S WORLD AS THE MOST LEGENDARY AMAZON...

WONDER WOMAN®

THE LADY CALLS HERSELF THE SILVER SWAN... BUT JUST WHO THIS SINGER OF THE SIREN'S SONG IS AND WHERE SHE COMES FROM IS A MYSTERY TO WONDER WOMAN... AND AT THE MOMENT, THE AMAZING AMAZON FRANKLY COULDN'T CARE LESS.

BECAUSE WHAT WONDER WOMAN DOES KNOW IS THAT THE SILVER SWAN IS OUT FOR BLOOD--

--HERS AND STEVE TREVOR'S:

HOW VERY CONVENIENT HAVING YOU AND COLONEL TREVOR IN ONE PLACE...

SO THAT YOU MAY DIE TOGETHER!

J-8
0008

STEVE
MAY NOT
NEED HER
HELP ON THAT
SCORE... NOT
UNLESS I CAN
END THIS FAST
AND GET HIM
TO MY HOMELAND,
PARADISE ISLAND,
FOR IMMEDIATE
TREATMENT!

PANIC OVER PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE!

ROY THOMAS
PLOT

PAUL KUPPERBERG
SCRIPT

GENE COLAN
PENCILLER

ROMEO TANGHAL
INKER

BEN ODA
LETTERER

CARL GAFFORD
COLORIST

LEN WEIN
EDITOR

WONDER WOMAN, (USPS 690-040), Vol. 41, No. 290, April, 1982. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1982 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017, (212) 391-1400.

SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024. Annual subscription rate \$7.20. Outside U.S.A. \$8.20.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DC COMICS INC., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024.

Jenette Kahn, President and Publisher
Joe Orlando, Vice President, Editorial Director
Dick Giordano, Managing Editor
Len Wein, Editor
Mike W. Barr, Associate Editor
Karen Berger, Editorial Coordinator
Bob Rozakis, Production Manager
Paul Levitz, Manager of Business Affairs
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer



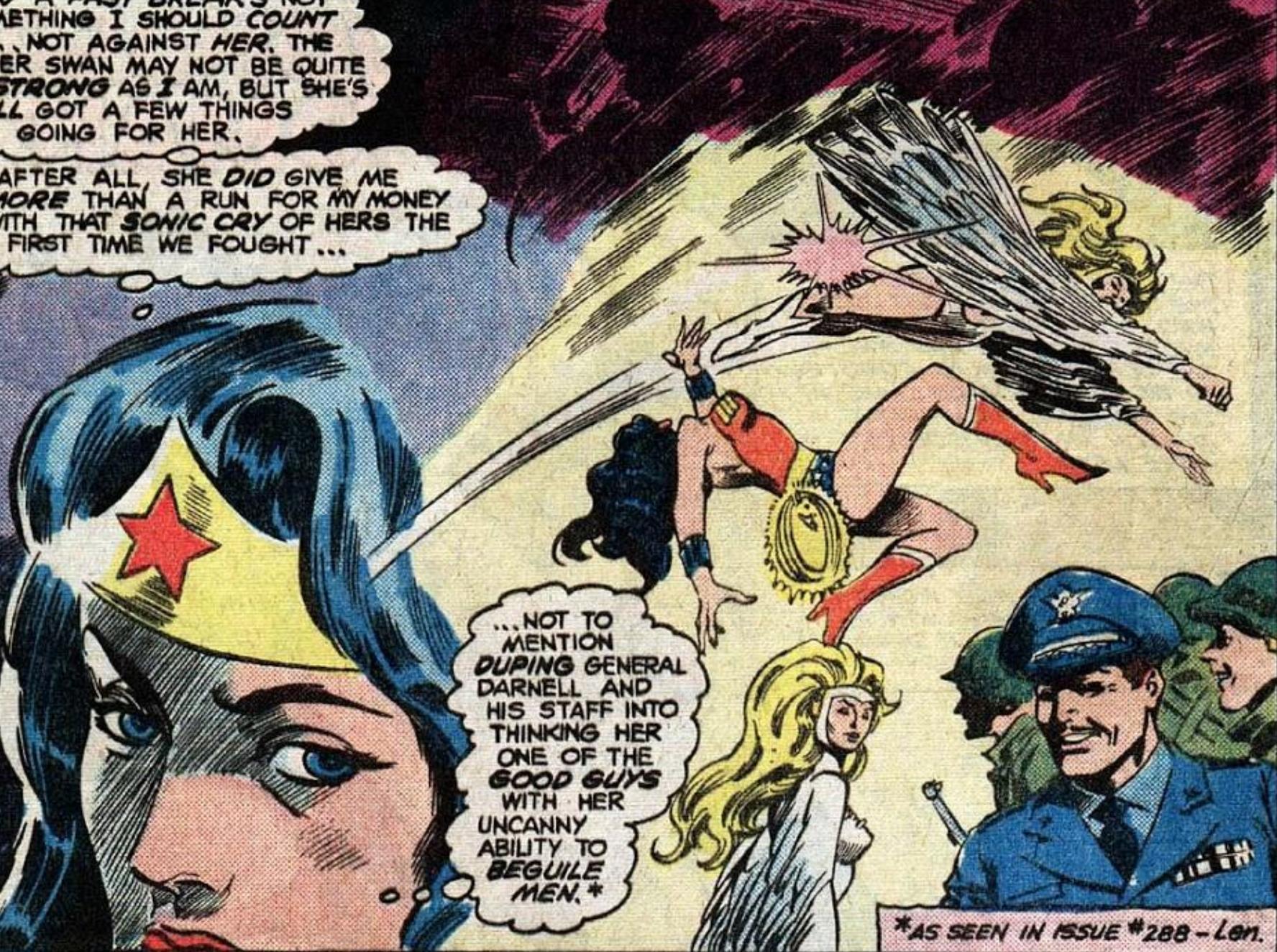
A Warner Communications Company

AND A FAST BREAK'S NOT SOMETHING I SHOULD COUNT ON.. NOT AGAINST HER. THE SILVER SWAN MAY NOT BE QUITE AS STRONG AS I AM, BUT SHE'S STILL GOT A FEW THINGS GOING FOR HER.

AFTER ALL, SHE DID GIVE ME MORE THAN A RUN FOR MY MONEY WITH THAT SONIC CRY OF HERS THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT ...

...NOT TO MENTION DUPING GENERAL DARNELL AND HIS STAFF INTO THINKING HER ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS WITH HER UNCANNY ABILITY TO BEGUILLE MEN.*

*AS SEEN IN ISSUE #288 - Len.



WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO FIGHT ABOUT, SWAN -- NOT UNLESS YOU WANT TO GIVE ME GOOD REASON BY TRYING TO CARRY OUT YOUR THREAT.

BUT I'M WARNING YOU, LADY... IF YOU DO, I'M MORE THAN READY TO TAKE YOU ON!

TALK AWAY, WONDER WOMAN... FOR ALL THE HELP IT'LL DO YOU! YOU AND YOUR PRETTY FLY-BOY ARE LIVING ON BORROWED TIME...

...AND I'VE JUST CALLED IN THE DEBT!

BUT WHAT OF THE OTHER PROTAGONIST OF THIS PIECE, THE HIDEOUS DR. PSYCHO...?

HE'S ONCE MORE AMONG THE CONSCIOUS. AND THOUGH HE IS TWISTED OF BODY AND MIND, HE'S STILL A MAN. AND LOATHES AS HE IS TO ADMIT IT...

S-SHE'S... BEAUTIFUL....

2
--HE IS AS SHUTTEN BY THE CHARM OF THE SILVER SWAN AS ANY MAN.



...SHE WILL
NOT FALL FAR.

GOT
IT!

A SECOND AGO I WAS
OPERATING UNDER A
SEVERE HANDICAP, BUT
THANKS TO MY
ROBOT PLANE--

--I'VE GOT SOMETHING SOLID
BENEATH MY FEET, AND A FAR
BETTER SHOT AT PUTTING A BIT OF
SALT ON THIS
CANARY'S TAIL!

HOLA! NO MATTER HOW
STRONG YOUR HATE FOR
ME, SWAN, EVEN YOU CAN'T
EVADE MY GOLDEN LASSO...
OR DEFY ITS MAGICAL
POWER!

SURRENDER, SILVER
SWAN!

I - I ... MUST
O-OBEY--

AND FIGHT THE SILVER
SWAN DOES... WITH
EVERY iota of HER
MENTAL MIGHT.

SHE'S ACTUALLY DOING
IT, FIGHTING MY LASSO'S
MAGIC--

FOR HER POWERS ARE THEMSELVES OF
MAGIC BORN... A MAGIC NEAR AS POTENT
AS THAT WHICH CREATED WONDER WOMAN.
AYE, THE SILVER SWAN GIVES IT HER BEST.

YET TRY AS SHE MIGHT — AS POWERFUL AS HER WILL MAY BE -- SHE IS NO WONDER WOMAN.

HOW LONG CAN YOU RESIST, SWAN? MY PLANE CAN FOLLOW WHEREVER YOU FLY AND I PLAN TO HANG ON TO THIS ROPE FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES TO GROUND YOU FOR GOOD!

THAT WOMAN... SHE'S INCREDIBLE! SHE'S FIGHTING THE AMAZON TO A STANDSTILL-- BUT SHE CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER-- NOT AGAINST WONDER WOMAN.

I'VE HATED WOMEN MY WHOLE LIFE, JUST AS THEY'VE HATED MY HEDEOUS COUNTENANCE. BUT I FEEL THE STRANGEST... COMPULSION... TO AID HER.

Y-YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY... BUT I-I SWEAR IT WILL... WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK FOR YOU!

FORTUNATELY I STILL CAN... BY CALLING ON THE ECTOPLASMIC POWERS I DRAW FROM THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND OF COLONEL STEVE TREVOR--

--TO CREATE FOR MYSELF HIS IDEALIZED VERSION OF HIMSELF AS THE MALE HOLDER OF WONDER WOMAN'S POWERS ...

CAPTAIN WONDER! *

*BY A PROCESS EXPLAINED LAST ISSUE. - Len

WITH A SINGLE, MIGHTY LEAP, CAPT. WONDER TAKES TO THE AIR, A MORE-THAN-HUMAN MISSILE OF DESTRUCTION AND VENGEANCE. (5)

I'LL DELIVER THE SILVER SWAN FROM WONDER WOMAN'S POWER, AND THEN THE WOMAN WILL BE MINE.
FOR WHAT FEMALE COULD RESIST ME IN THIS FORM... ONE OF SUCH BEAUTY AND POWER...?

...AND THE LAST PERSON THE PRINCESS DIANA EXPECTS TO SEE JOIN THE BATTLE!

SURPRISED, WONDER WOMAN? I SUPPOSE YOU THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN THE END OF CAPTAIN WONDER WHEN YOU SMASHED MY ECTOPLASMIC MACHINES, BUT YOU WON ONLY BECAUSE STEVE TREVOR HAD AWAKENED FROM HIS SLUMBER--

UH-OH--!

--DRIVING HIS IDEALIZED THOUGHTS OF YOU BACK TO THE UNREACHABLE SUBCONSCIOUS, BUT TREVOR SLEEPS AGAIN... A SLEEP THAT WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU!

UHHH...
S-STUNNED... CAN'T CONCENTRATE TO COMMAND MY PLANE TO SAVE ME THIS TIME--

...ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL! CAPTAIN WONDER IS LIKE NO MAN I'VE SEEN BEFORE. TRULY MAGNIFICENT!

AND SPEAKING OF THE FAMED GOLDEN LASSO, IT WOULD SEEM IT HAS GAINED A NEW MASTER OF LATE... ONE CAPTAIN WONDER. AS HE IS THE POWER OF WONDER WOMAN INCARNATE, HIS MASTERY OVER IT IS COMPLETE --

BEAUTIFUL...

AND WITH WONDER WOMAN HAVING RELEASED HER HOLD ON THE MAGIC LASSO, THE STRANGE COMPELCTION TO OBEY HER IS GONE!

-- HIS AIM AS UNERRING AS THAT OF THE AMAZON PRINCESS HERSELF.

--BUT HIS INTENTIONS
...AH, HIS INTENTIONS
ARE SOMETHING ELSE
ALTOGETHER...

HE'S
SAVED
HER--

--BUT WHY!?
ANOTHER SECOND AND SHE
WOULD'VE BEEN SPLATTERED ACROSS
THE COUNTRYSIDE LIKE AN OVERRIPE
MELON... AND I WOULD REMAIN THE
SILVER SWAN FOR ALL TIME!

MY WHOLE LIFE,
MEN HAVE DISAPPOINTED ME.
WHEN I WAS JUST PLAIN HELEN
ALEXANDROS, THEY SHUNNED ME
BECAUSE I AM... I WAS... THE UGLY
DUCKLING-- TOO HIDEOUS FOR THEM
TO EVEN CONSIDER LOVING ME!

THROUGH BALLET I
THOUGHT THINGS MIGHT BE
DIFFERENT... BUT AGAIN MY
UGLINESSE WAS CAUSE FOR
REJECTION. I HATE MEN FOR
WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO MY
LIFE, WHAT THEY WOULD
CONTINUE TO DO--

--HAD IT NOT BEEN
FOR THE GOD OF WAR,
MARS, WHO CAME TO ME,
OFFERING POWER AND
BEAUTY BEYOND MY
WILDEST DREAMS AND
IMAGININGS IN RETURN
FOR SIMPLE OBEDIENCE...

...AND THE DEATH
OF WONDER WOMAN!

I'LL NOT FAIL THE GOD OF WAR NOW...

WHY DO YOU HESITATE, MAN?
RELEASE THE LASSO SO THAT
WE CAN WATCH WONDER WOMAN'S
DEATH-PLUNGE... TOGETHER!

--BUT THAT IS
ALL IT TAKES FOR
THESE TWO TO
KNOW--

...NOT IF IT MEANS
THIS GRACEFUL SWAN
ONCE MORE BECOMING AN
UGLY AND UNLOVED GIRL. YET
THIS CAPTAIN WONDER IS SO
VERY HANDSOME... ALMOST
LIKE A GOD HIMSELF...

...ALMOST LIKE-- STEVE
TREVOR...? BUT HOW CAN
THAT BE--?

I-IT'S... AMAZING!
THIS WOMAN IS THE LOVELIEST
I'VE EVER SEEN-- EVEN MORE
SO THAN MY DEAR, LATE
WIFE MARVA... YET HER
I HAD TO HYPNOTIZE
TO GAIN HER LOVE--

--WHILE THE SWAN
COMES TO ME OF HER
OWN WILL... OFFERING
ME HER LOVE BECAUSE
SHE DESIRES IT. BUT
WOULD IT BE SO IF
I WEREN'T IN THIS
FORM...?

NO. BUT IF IT'S
CAPTAIN WONDER
SHE LOVES, THEN IT
IS CAPTAIN WONDER
I WILL REMAIN...
FOR ALL TIME!

THUS IT IS THAT
AN UNSPOKEN
BARGAIN IS
STRUCK... A
BARGAIN OF
TWO HEARTS --

--AT THE COST
OF TWO SOULS...

AND EVEN AS CAPTAIN WONDER AND THE SILVER
SWAN SEAL THEIR LOVE WITH GAZES AND WORDS
UNSPOKEN, ONE OF THOSE SOULS LIES ALONE
IN ASONY... IN TORMENT...

...ENSNARED IN A WORLD
HE CAN'T REMEMBER, MUCH
LESS COMPREHEND.

"YOU ARE COLONEL STEVE TREVOR," HIS
NIGHTMARES TELL HIM. "A PLOT OF THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE."
BUT WHICH UNITED STATES...?
WHICH AIR FORCE...?

THIS TOO HIS NIGHTMARE
WILL TELL ...

BUT, GOD HELP HIM, HE
CANNOT REMEMBER!

FOR THIS STEVE TREVOR IS
NOT OF OUR WORLD... BUT OF
AN EARTH SIMILAR TO OURS IN
A DIFFERENT DIMENSIONAL
PLANE. HE IS THE STEVE TREVOR
WHO TOOK OFF IN AN EXPERIMENTAL
DELTA-WING FIGHTER PLANE --

-- WHO TRAVELED
FASTER THAN
ANY MAN OF
HIS WORLD
EVER HAD IN
SUCH A CRAFT --

--TO A SINGULAR POINT
IN SPACE WHERE THE
DIMENSIONS MEET--

-- AND WHERE HE COULD
VIEW ALL HIS INFINITE SELVES
EXISTING AT ONCE --



-- A POINT WHERE EVERYTHING EXISTS...
AND NOTHING EVER TRULY IS!

AYE, HE IS STEVE TREVOR... AND IT
IS THAT WHICH IS NOW KILLING HIM,
SLOWLY TEARING HIM APART IN A
COSMIC TUG-OF-WAR BETWEEN
WHAT IS AND WHAT WAS!

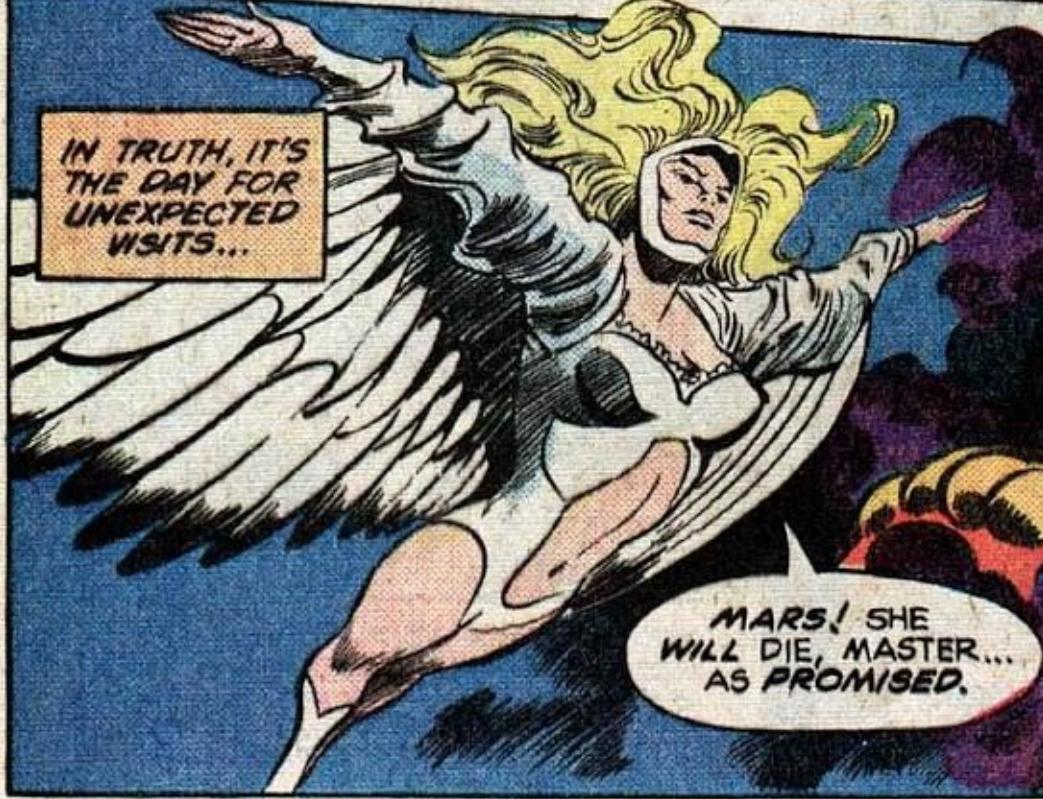
AND IN HIS DARKEST NIGHTMARES,
HE KNOWS THIS: THE HUMAN MIND
IS SUCH A FRAGILE THING THAT
IT WILL REJECT THAT WHICH IT
CAN'T BEAR TO ACCEPT --

-- BUT THE REALITY REMAINS,
EVER BURIED IN A PLACE WHERE
EVEN THE STRONGEST OF WILLS
CANNOT GRASP IT, FOR TO DO SO
WOULD MEAN THE SHATTERING
OF THAT DELICATE BALANCE...

YET OFTEN TIMES THE TRUTH THE
WORLD -- ANY WORLD --
PRESENTS IS INESCAPABLE
AND MUST COME OUT --

-- AND THIS IT DOES NOW!

"YOU BELONG NOT TO THIS EARTH,
STEVE TREVOR," HIS NIGHTMARES
SAY. "THAT WHICH YOU ARE FIGHTS
TO RETURN TO THE PLACE THAT IS
YOUR REALITY."



MARS! SHE WILL DIE, MASTER... AS PROMISED.

SHE... AND OTHERS, SILVER SWAN! I WISH YOU TO DESTROY IT ALL—THEIR PRESIDENT AND THIS PUNY MONUMENT TO THEIR PRETENTIONS OF POWER!

ALL? B-BUT WHY, LORD MARS--?

BECAUSE I DESIRE IT, WOMAN. JUST LET IT BE DONE. AND IF IT SHOULD NOT, YOU WILL LOSE BOTH THY POWER AND THY CAPTAIN WONDER.

SO IT SHALL BE, FOR...

CAPTAIN WONDER-- CAN YOU MAKE WONDER WOMAN SEND HER PLANE CRASHING INTO THE WHITE HOUSE?

I CAN MAKE HER DO ANYTHING, DEAR WOMAN. HER GOLDEN LASSO MAKES HER MOST AGREEABLE TO MY SLIGHTEST WHIM!

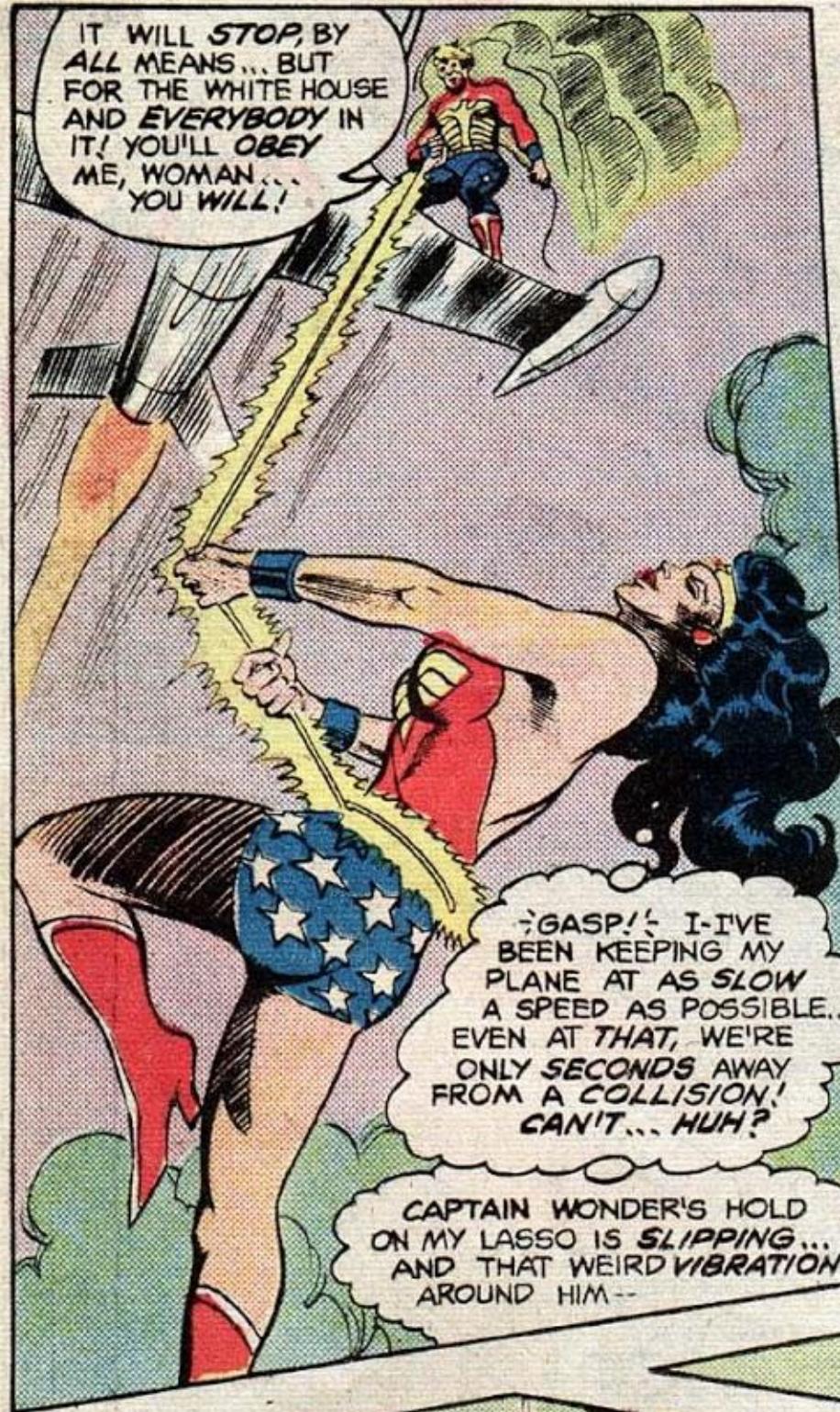
YOU HEARD HER, WOMAN! ORDER THIS CRAFT TO DESTROY THE WHITE HOUSE!

UNH... G-GO CLIMB A-A ROPE, P-PSYCHO! MAYBE YOU W-WERE ABLE TO FORCE ME TO BRING YOU TH-UH-- THIS FAR-- BUT IT STOPS H-HERE...

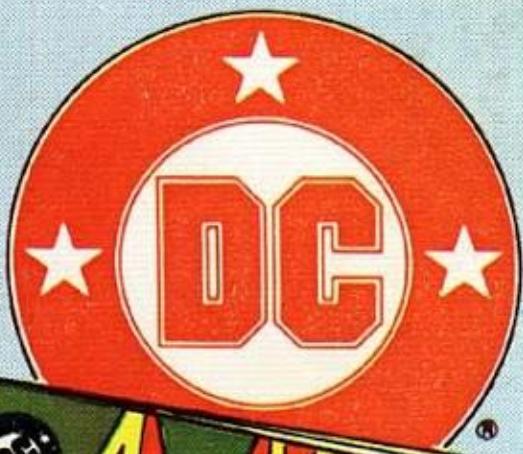
SIR... I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS!

GOODNESS... WHAT'S THAT TERRIBLE SCREECHING...!

I DON'T KNOW, DEAR... IT SOUNDS LIKE A SUPERSONIC JET --BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!



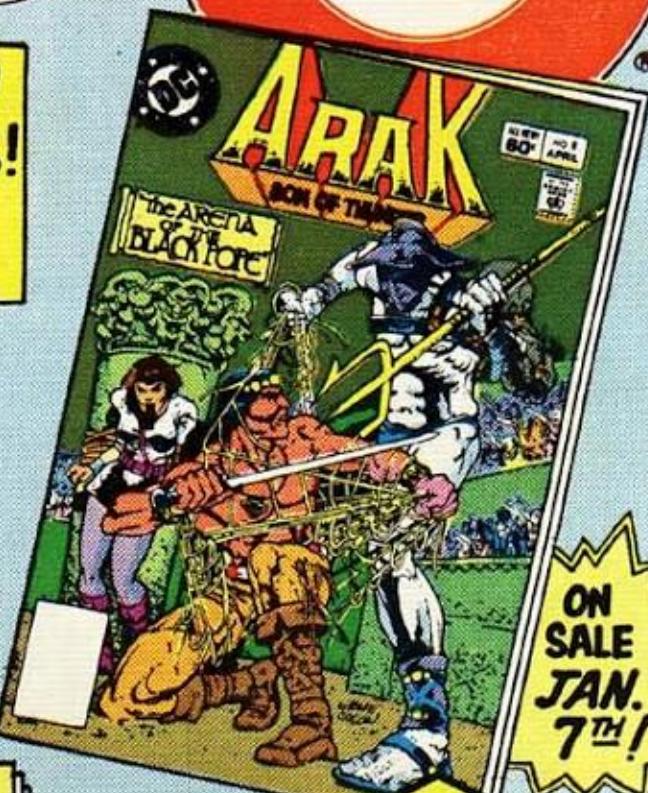
DAZZLING DOINGS FROM DYNAMIC



ON
SALE
JAN.
7TH!

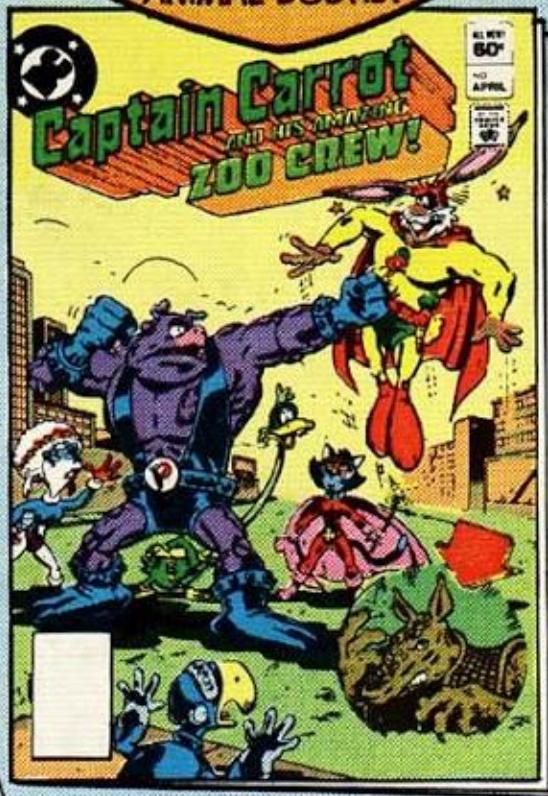
OUR BIGGEST DIGEST EVER!
148 THRILL-PACKED PAGES!
THE YEAR'S TOP TEN
STORIES!

THE BRAND-NEW
EXPLOITS OF
DC's NEWEST
SUPER-STARS!
THE FUNNY-ANIMAL
BOOK FOR PEOPLE
WHO HATE FUNNY-
ANIMAL BOOKS!



ON
SALE
JAN.
7TH!

MEET THE GREATEST
SUPER-HEROES
OF WORLD WAR II--
FEATURING THE
LEGENDARY
JUSTICE SOCIETY,
IN ALL-NEW
ACTION EVERY
MONTH!



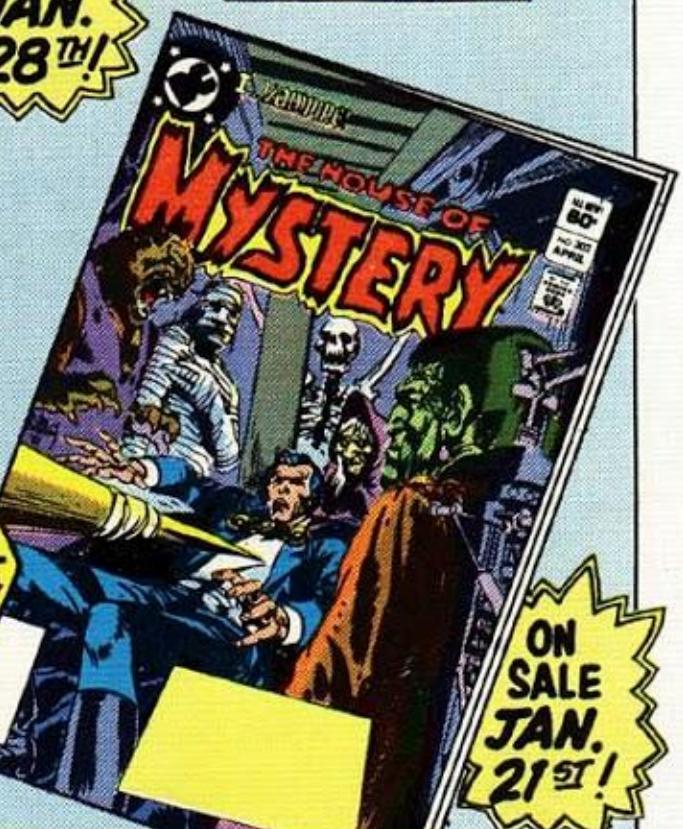
ON
SALE
JAN.
28TH!

PERIL
AND
EXCITEMENT
IN THE
FORGOTTEN
DAYS OF THE
DARK AGES!
THERE'S NEVER
BEEN ANYTHING
LIKE IT!



ON
SALE
JAN.
28TH!

NOW MONTHLY!
THE ADVENTURES OF
ANDREW BENNETT--
"I...VAMPIRE"
A DIFFERENT
KIND OF HERO!



ON
SALE
JAN.
21ST!



WHERE THE ACTION KEEPS ON COMING!

CAPTAIN WONDER'S FINISHED. I'M SURE I SAW HIM CHANGE BACK TO DR. PSYCHO AFTER HE HIT THE GROUND. WHICH MEANS STEVE MUST'VE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS... THANK APHRODITE!

I SHOULDN'T CONGRATULATE MYSELF TOO SOON... THERE'S STILL THE LITTLE MATTER OF HALTING A PLANE TRAVELING ON A BULLSEYE TRAJECTORY AT MACH 3 SPEED!

EVEN WITH EVERY BIT OF MY CONCENTRATION, THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY!

BUT, OF COURSE, SHE WILL TRY--

-A MOST DANGEROUS BIRD OF PREY!

ROBOT PLANE... COME TO FULL STOP... IMMEDIATELY! UNNH!

SILVER SWAN! OOFFF!

STUPID, DIANA! BUT I CAN'T KICK MYSELF FOR IT NOW... NOR DO I HAVE TIME TO WASTE FIGHTING--!

--EVEN IF IT MEANS TURNING HER BACK ON ONE ENRAGED SILVER SWAN--



CURSE YOU, WONDER WOMAN! CAPTAIN WONDER HASN'T COME UP AGAIN! YOU'VE KILLED HIM-- AND FOR THAT, YOUR DEATH WILL BE A MOST PAINFUL ONE!

CAPTAIN WONDER'S NOT DEAD--
BUT YOU WON'T BE SEEING HIM
ANY MORE JUST THE SAME.



AS FOR YOU, SWAN...
YOUR ACT'S BEGINNING TO
WEAR A BIT THIN! YOU'VE
BEEN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE
SINCE YOU FIRST STUCK YOUR
BEAK INTO MY LIFE --



--AND QUITE
FRANKLY,
LADY--

UUNNNHHH



--I'VE HAD
ENOUGH!

AAH!!!!!!

THE SILVER SWAN
FLUTTERS EARTHWARD
LIKE A WOUNDED SPARROW..

THEY CAN BE FORGIVEN IF THEIR
ATTENTION IS DIRECTED-- FOR
THE MOMENT-- ELSEWHERE.

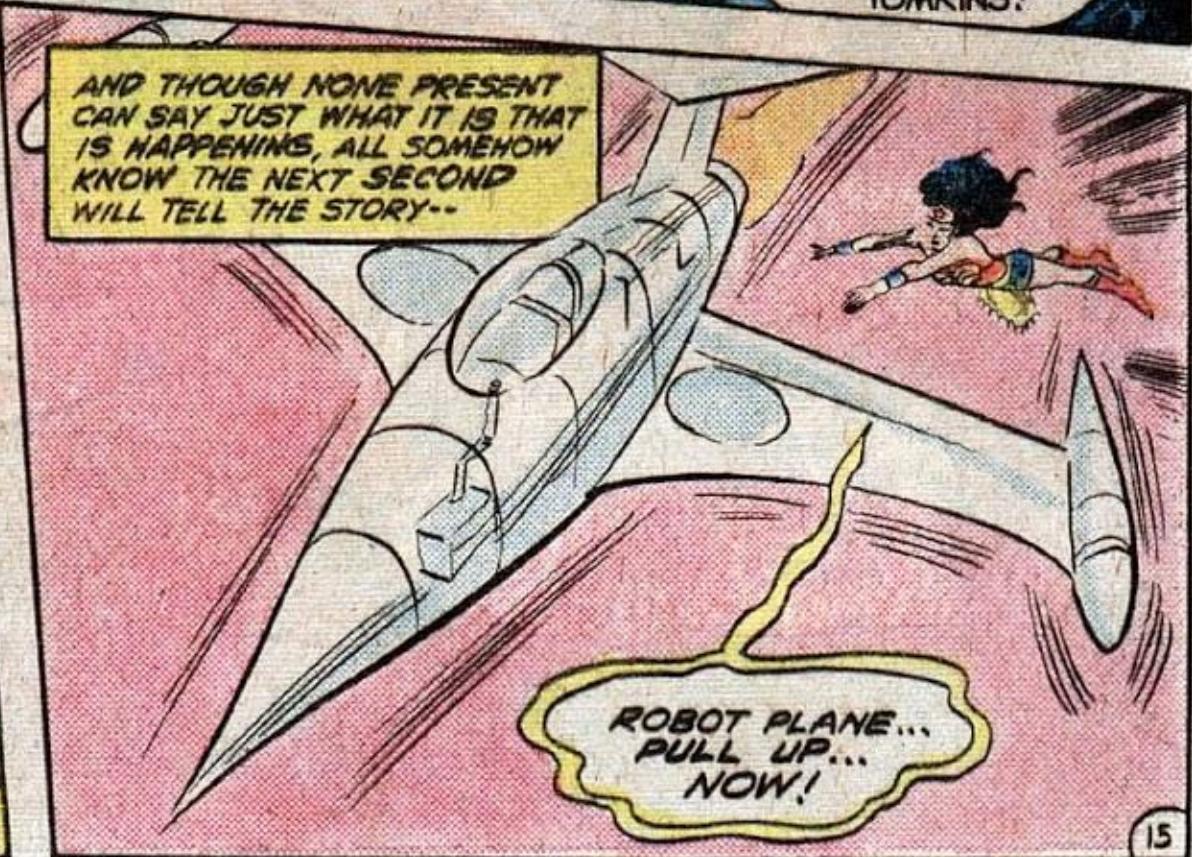
I STILL DON'T SEE
ANYTHING... BUT I
DON'T LIKE THE SOUND
OF THIS.

HIT THE DIRT,
MR. PRESIDENT!

NO ARGUMENT
FROM ME, AGENT
TOMKINS!



AND THE OTHERS...?



ROBOT PLANE...
PULL UP...
NOW!

IT DOES--MISSING THE HIGH-RANKING ASSEMBLAGE BY MERE FEET... A MERE THOUGHT AWAY FROM DISASTER OF NATIONAL MAGNITUDE--

W-WHATEVER IT WAS, SIR... IT'S MOVING AWAY!

--AND NOT A ONE AMONG THEM WILL EVER KNOW HOW VERY CLOSE THEY STOOD THIS DAY TO DEATH!

WELL, SO THAT'S THIS WONDER WOMAN I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT....

I CAN'T SAY AS I MUCH CARE FOR HER METHOD OF DROPPING BY TO SAY HELLO, THOUGH...

TOO CLOSE-- BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO ALARM THEM BY TELLING THEM WHAT ALMOST HAPPENED. BEST THE PRESIDENT JUST THINKS I BUZZED BY TO PAY MY RESPECTS!

BESIDES, I'D RATHER GET BACK TO SEE HOW STEVE'S DOING THAN SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY EXPLAINING ALL THIS. EH...? BELOW--

"...IT'S THE SILVER SWAN... AND THE GOD OF WAR, MARS...?"

WITH ALL THY POWER, STILL YOU GROVEL IN THE DIRT IN THE HUMILIATION OF DEFEAT!

IT'S NOT OVER YET, MASTER! I'M STILL ALIVE, GROVELING OR NOT... WONDER WOMAN WILL YET PAY.

AYE... PERHAPS SHE SHALL-- BUT NOT BY YOUR HAND, HELEN ALEXANDROS!

YOU HAVE FAILED ME GIRL. YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF UNWORTHY OF THE MIGHTY POWERS I BESTOWED ON THEE-- UNWORTHY OF BEING THE SILVER SWAN! THUS YOU SHALL BE THAT SWAN... NO MORE...

PFFFTTT

K-KEEP YOUR POWERS, MAD GOD! I MAY NO LONGER POSSESS MY BEAUTY-- BUT I STILL HAVE THE LOVE OF CAPTAIN WONDER!

RETHINK THOSE WORDS, HELEN ALEXANDROS... AS YOU SURELY WILL WHEN YOU HURRY TO WHERE THE MAN YOU THOUGHT TO BE YOURS LIES--



--AND ALL YOU FIND IS A MONSTROUS LITTLE DWARF OF A MAN, STANDING WITH A LOOK OF EXPECTATION AS GREAT AS YOUR OWN ON HIS HIDEOUS FACE.

AND YOU, DR. PSYCHO...

--YOU TOO WONDER... WHO IS THIS REPULSIVE DUCKLING WHO STANDS WHERE ONCE STOOD YOUR SWAN--?



YOUR EYES LOCK ACROSS THE CLEARING...



--BUT YOU SEE THIS TIME NOT THE SPARK OF LOVE... OH NO, NOT LOVE, AND AS ONE, YOU SHUDDER--



--A BEAUTY THAT'S FOREVER GONE.

HELEN ALEXANDROS-- DIANA PRINCE'S.. MY NEW ROOMMATE. IT ALL FITS, THOUGH.



AS FOR DR. PSYCHO, I'LL HUNT HIM UP LATER--



--ONCE I'VE MADE SURE STEVE IS ALL RIGHT!

AS FAST AS THOUGHT ITSELF, HER ROBOT PLANE RETURNS TO PSYCHO'S HIDDEN VIRGINIA HIDE-AWAY--



MAYBE IT IS OVER-RATED, ANGEL--BUT YOU'RE STILL BEAUTIFUL.. NO GETTING AROUND IT--

--THEY STILL COULD'VE HAD ONE ANOTHER, BUT THEY FINALLY SAW THE REAL PERSON IN EACH OTHER.. NOT THE MUCH CHERISHED PHYSICAL BEAUTY THEY LIED TO THEMSELVES ABOUT-- JUST THE UGLINESS IN THEIR HEARTS.

...OR THE FACT THAT IT WAS YOU WHO SAVED ME! I-I DREAMED I.. WASN'T OF THIS WORLD.. AND WAS TRYING TO GET BACK TO WHERE I BELONGED--

--UNTIL I REALIZED THAT I REALLY BELONGED.. WHEREVER YOU ARE, MY LOVELY ANGEL...!

NEED WE SAY MORE--?

END



SWAMP THING IS BACK!

BECAUSE YOU
DEMANDED IT--
THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF
COMICDOM'S MOST-HONORED
ADVENTURE SERIES!

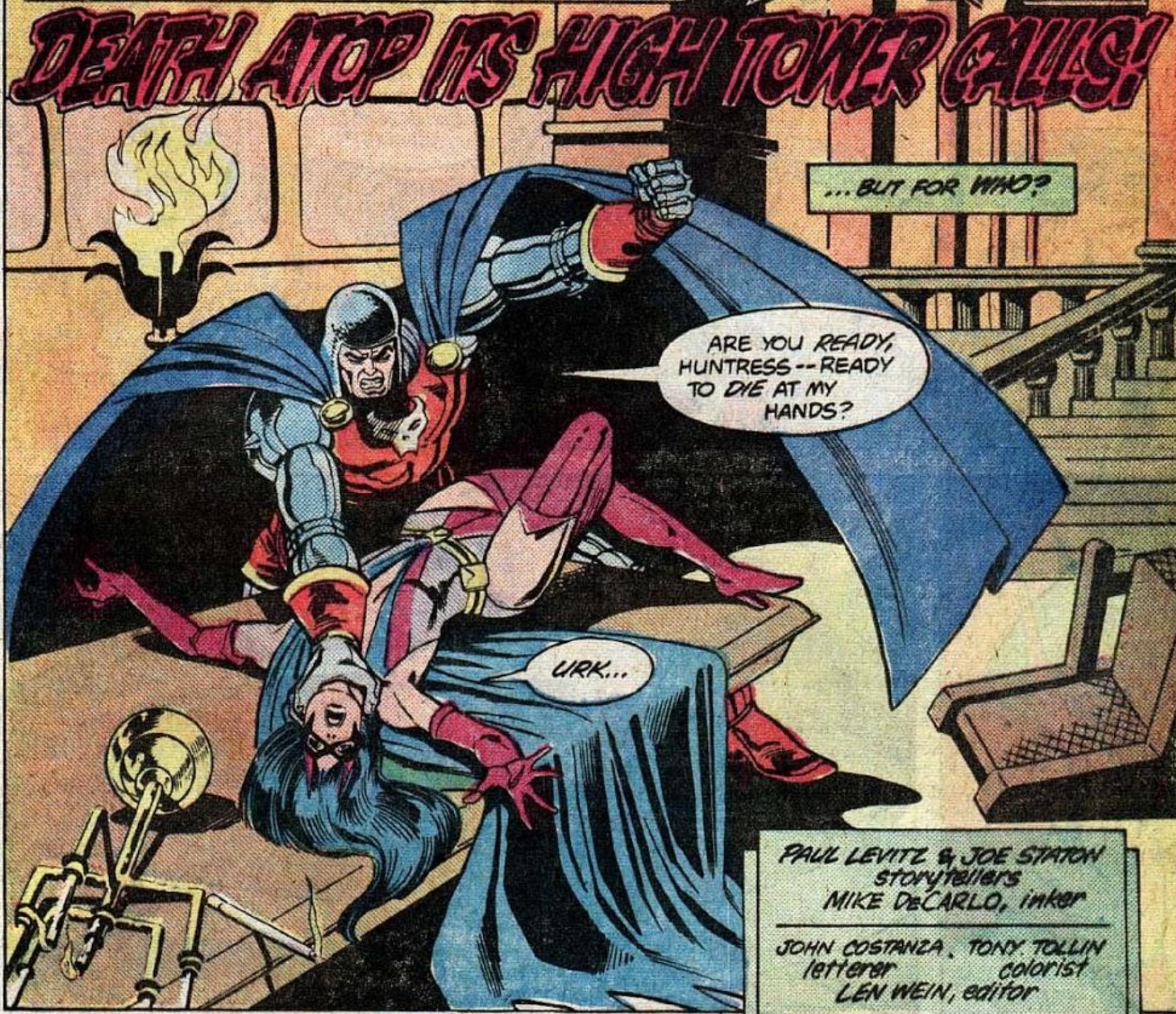
SOON TO BE A MAJOR MOTION
PICTURE FROM AVCO-EMBASSY!

AN ALL-NEW
EPIC WRITTEN BY
MARTIN PASKO!
ILLUSTRATED BY TOM YEATES!
EDITED BY LEN WEIN!

THE FIRST ISSUE
SHAMBLES YOUR WAY FEB. 11TH!
JOIN US FROM THE BEGINNING!
WE PROMISE YOU WON'T REGRET IT!

HER NAME IS HELENA WAYNE AND SHE'S CARRYING ON A FAMILY TRADITION. HERE, ON A WORLD SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN, SHE SAW THE BATMAN DIE... AND FIGHTS ON AS HIS DAUGHTER...

THE HUNTRESS



SORRY--I THOUGHT IT WAS TRADITIONAL TO THROW DOWN THE GAUNTLET TO A KNIGHT!

OR ARE YOU ONLY A NIGHTMARE?

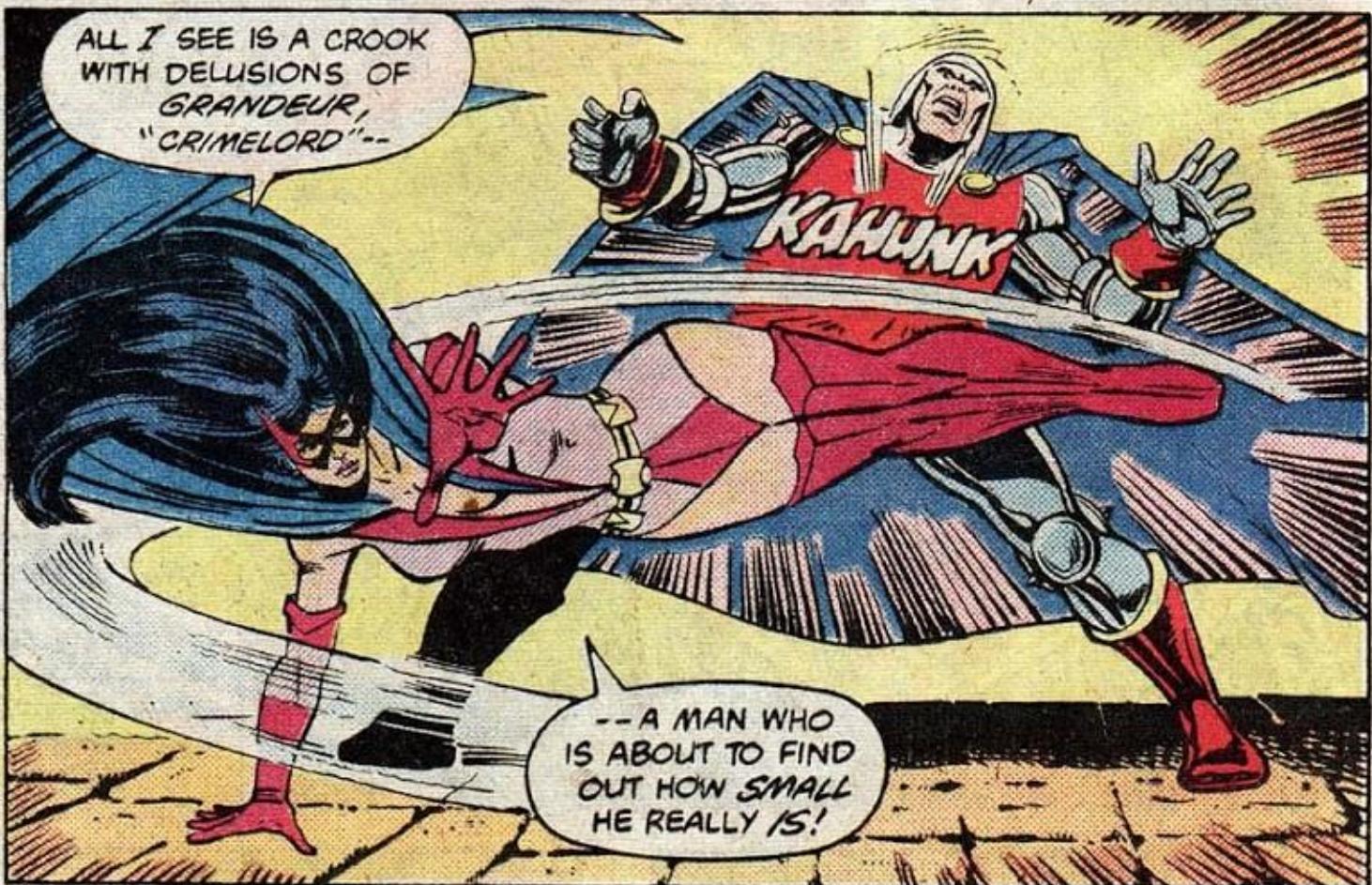
AMUSING...BUT A FUTILE GESTURE, WOMAN. YOU CANNOT SAVE YOURSELF. YOU KNOW THAT.

IF YOU LEAVE, I HAVE ONLY TO TRACK YOU DOWN AGAIN WHEN YOU CHANGE TO HELENA WAYNE.

OR WOULD YOU SURRENDER THE ONLY CHANCE YOU HAVE FOR A FEW MOMENTS OF NORMAL LIVING?



DON'T YOU SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL IT ALL IS?



NO, MY DEAR, I THINK YOU FAIL TO SEE THE KEY TO THE WHOLE EVENING'S MEANING.

DON'T TRY TO HIDE YOUR GRIMACE--I KNOW YOU FOUND IT LYING ON THE DUNGEON FLOOR!*

THAT'S WHY YOU REALLY CAN'T LEAVE--AND WHY YOU WOULD LOSE EVEN IF YOU SOMEHOW DEFEATED ME.



*LAST ISH -- LEN.



NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, THERE'LL BE A DEATH TO YOUR DISHONOR TONIGHT!

MEANWHILE, IN THE GOTHAM CITY OFFICES OF CRANSTON, GRAYSON AND WAYNE...

STILL NO WORD FROM HELENA? IT'S PAST MIDNIGHT!

NO, I'M AFRAID NOT. AND EVEN THOUGH I'VE MANAGED TO GET USED TO HER QUIRKS, THIS HAS ME A BIT WORRIED.

SHE WAS DUE IN COURT THIS AFTERNOON AND I BARELY MANAGED TO TALK THE JUDGE INTO A POSTPONEMENT.

VERY DISTURBING.

IT'S WORSE THAN THAT, ARTHUR. I CHECKED HELENA'S APARTMENT, AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF HER...

...AND THE POLICE HAVEN'T HEARD WORD ONE EITHER.

WHAT DO YOU DO NEXT, MISTER CRANSTON?

I CAN'T IMAGINE, CHARLES.

HADN'T WE BETTER SIMPLY GET SOME SLEEP AND HOPE EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT?

CERTAINLY.

WHAT IS IT, ARTHUR? IS IT HELENA WORRYING YOU?

I SUPPOSE, MS. WAYNE DID SEEM TO BE A CAPABLE WOMAN ON THE EVIDENCE.

MORE THAN YOU KNOW, CHARLES. SHE'LL BE FINE.

FRANCIE, WOULD YOU STAY?

I'LL BE IN THE LIBRARY FOR A WHILE IF YOU NEED ME, MISTER CRANSTON.

NO, FRANCIE. I LEARNED NOT TO WORRY ABOUT HER LONG AGO.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT US... MY DEAR.

AND...

HUNTRESS

I WONDER IF IT HAS EVERYTHING I NEED...

HMM... I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A FAIRLY COMPLETE FILE ON THE HUNTRESS IN THE CLIPPINGS. GOOD.

PITCH-BLACK NIGHT SWELLS TO ITS HEIGHT AS THE EARLY HOURS OF MORNING APPROACH...

...AND A GRIM CASTLE CREAKS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE DAWN...

...A DAWN ITS INHABITANTS MAY NOT LIVE TO SEE!

CRASH

YEOW!

YOU'RE THE LOWEST FORM OF LIFE, CRIMELORD! DOESN'T YOUR OWN WORD EVEN MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

YOU DIDN'T NEED TO LIE TO ME!

AH, BUT I DIDN'T LIE, HUNTRESS!



I HAVE TOLD NO ONE OF YOUR SECRET LIFE AS HELENA WAYNE...

...YET I HAVE STILL ENSURED MY FINAL VICTORY!

NO MATTER WHAT TONIGHT'S DENOUEMENT, TOMORROW MIDNIGHT BRINGS DEATH--



--IF NOT TO YOU, TO ONE WHO HAS BEEN CLOSE TO YOU ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE! THAT WAS THE MESSAGE OF THE KEY.

AND THAT DISTRACTION SHALL PROVE YOUR DOOM!



A UNIQUE
EXPERIENCE!

PREHISTORIC
MYTH AND MAGIC
LIVE AGAIN--
IN A STUNNING
NEW SERIES!

ARIAN
LORD OF ATLANTIS™

NOW EVERY MONTH IN THE PAGES OF...

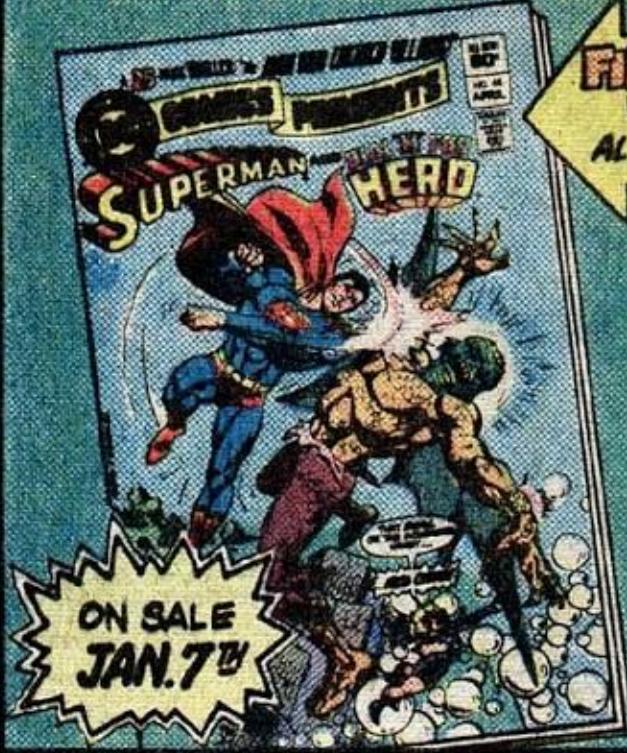
THE WARLORD

A 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECTACULAR!

THE AMAZING AMAZON-- SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH
A GALLERY OF DC'S GREATEST HEROINES--
FOR A SUPER-SIZED 3-ISSUE NOVEL !



THIS MONTH--DIAL TWICE FOR THRILLS AND ADVENTURE!



FIRST: THE MAN OF STEEL TEAMS UP
WITH THE SIMPLY-SENSATIONAL
ALL-NEW HEROES YOU CREATE !

THEN: THE HERO-DIALERS
BURST ONTO THE SCENE IN
EVERY ISSUE OF SUPERBOY!

**DIAL 'H' FOR
HERO**™

THE MOST EXCITING
CONCEPT IN COMICS TODAY!



THE KEY... IT WAS LABELLED ONLY "NEW STRATFORD REPERTORY THEATRE"... A SIMPLE LABEL FOR A SIMPLE MESSAGE.

SHE HAS NO DOUBT OF WHICH LIFE IS IN DANGER.

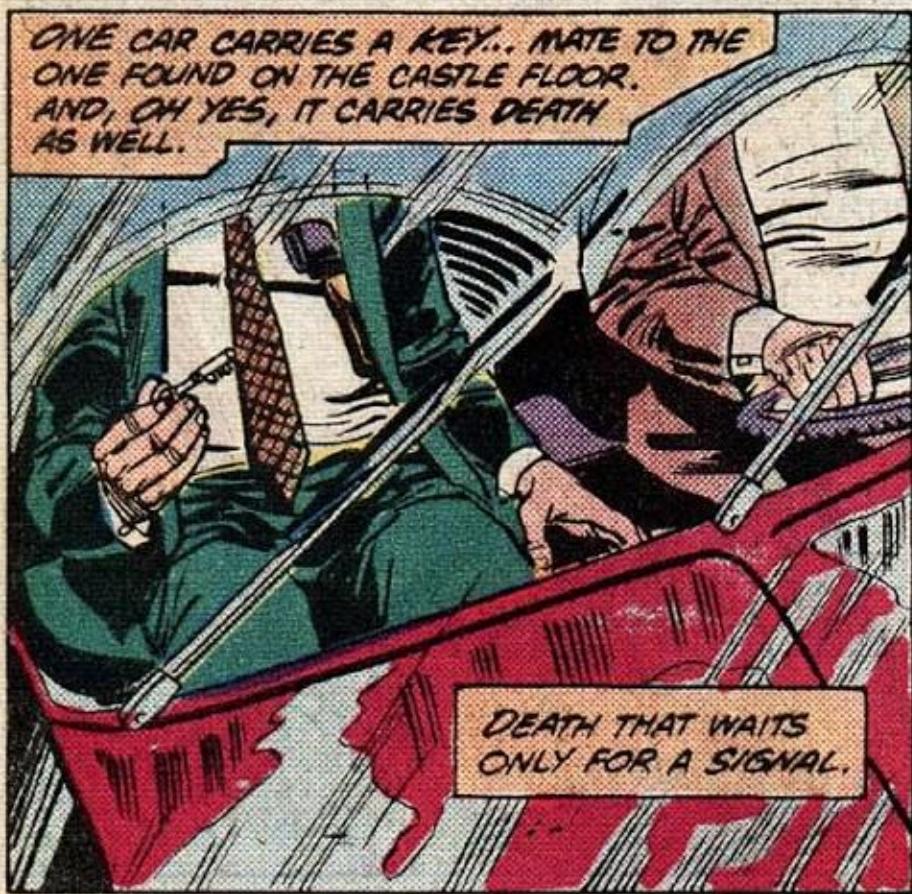
THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHEN.



SUMMER STOCK BRINGS VISIONS OF COUNTRY ROADS, AND STEAMY NIGHTS... BUT WINTER'S STORM RAGE OVER THEIR COMPANIES EVEN WHEN HOUSE LIGHTS ARE DARK.

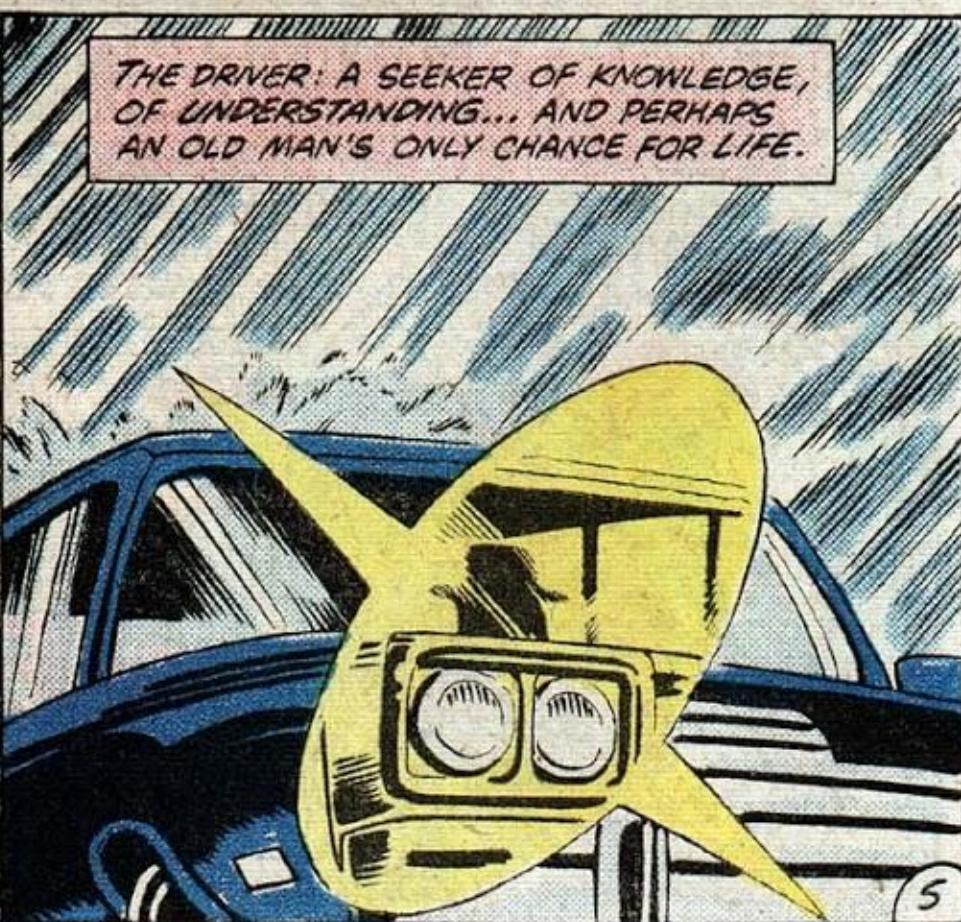


ONE CAR CARRIES A KEY.. MATE TO THE ONE FOUND ON THE CASTLE FLOOR. AND, OH YES, IT CARRIES DEATH AS WELL.

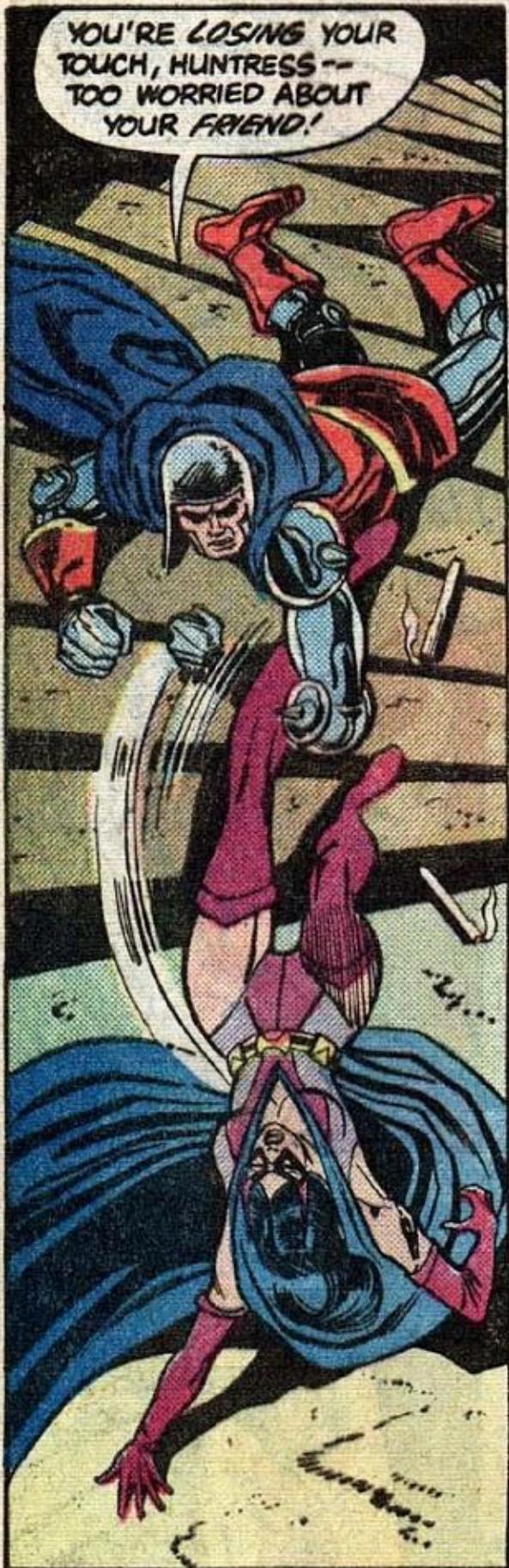


A MIDNIGHT MESSAGE... OR IT WILL ALL BE OVER. THEY'VE BEEN ASSURED THAT THEIR TARGET IS OLD, HELPLESS... A FRAIL SHADOW OF A MAN.

BUT EVEN AS THEY TURN TOWARDS THE SINGLE BECKONING LIGHT OF THE OLD THEATRE, A SECOND CAR'S HEADLIGHTS SHINE IN THEIR MIRROR.







DECIDED TO JOIN
ME UP HERE,
HUNTRESS?

GOOD. IT'S A
FITTING PLACE
TO DIE.

THERE'S NO
ANSWER. HER
TEETH ARE
GRITTED, HER
FACE A MASQUE
OF PAIN...

...AND THE RAIN
SEEMS TO HAVE
SO FAR TO FALL
BEFORE IT REACHES
THE GROUND...

ALL I WANT
TO HEAR IS
YOUR DEATH-
CRY, ANYWAY!

YOU'RE
SO LIMP--
SO WEAK--
LIKE A
RAG DOLL.

WELL,
THEN...

FALL!

DOES IT
HURT TO
GRAB HOLD?
LET ME
HELP.

I DON'T KNOW
WHY YOU'RE
SUDDENLY SO
QUIET, HUNTRESS,
BUT NO MATTER.

HIS OWN WEIGHT
DRAGGED HIM OVER...
THE SAME ARMOR
THAT LET HIM
BATTER ME HALF-
UNCONSCIOUS.

HE DIES, AND I
LIVE... BUT I
WONDER IF IT MAKES
ANY DIFFERENCE.

MY SECRET'S SAFE BUT
IN MY CONDITION, I HAVEN'T
A PRAYER OF GETTING TO
NEW STRATFORD IN TIME. MAYBE
I WAS BETTER OFF DEAD?

NO...
NEVER
THAT. BUT
HOW IN
HEAVEN'S NAME
CAN I SAVE A LIFE
MORE DEAR TO ME
THAN MY OWN NOW?

TO BE CONTINUED--IN WONDER WOMAN #294! (AFTER OUR
SENSATIONAL THREE-PART MINI-MASTERWORK!)



Wonder Words

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

1981

Dear DC,

The hint at a Huntress-Robin romance offered in issue #285 is intriguing indeed. Paul Levitz seems to have a real flair for this dynamic super-heroine. The *Huntress* feature is the best heroine series being published at DC at the present time. The characterization is brilliant, the dialogue realistic, the plots reasonable and interesting, and the presentation adult.

The highlight of this issue's *Wonder Woman* tale was the appearance of a credible foe, the Red Dragon. I also enjoyed the displays of WW's Mercurial speed and Herculean strength. The inconsistency of WW's power has long been one of the book's major faults. Wonder Woman needs worthy foes to really challenge her and allow her to strut her stuff. She needs to cut loose and fight physically like the Amazon warrior she is. She does *not* need Steve Trevor. Everything done with him seems to stagnate. The best thing to do would be to let her play the field and enjoy herself.

I'm pleased about the artistic changes. Wonder Woman is credited with the beauty of Aphrodite, but seldom does she appear beautiful or sexy within the pages of her own comic.

Wallace Lee Hopkins
Box 428
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

We agree that Wonder Woman was due for a few changes, and hopefully, Wallace, you're now enjoying the fruits of our labors. Roy Thomas plans to update and strengthen the Steve Trevor character, as the issue you are holding should prove. At the same time, Gene Colan and Romeo Tanghal are doing their best to give an extraordinarily vivid and special new look to Wonder Woman's art!—TOF

Dear Len,

AT LAST, it's being handled maturely! What am I talking about? Why, the last page of "Dragon Hunt" in WW #285. The romance between Diana and Steve is finally progressing realistically, with both presenting honest emotions concerning "who protects who". And I was glad to see Steve help Wonder Woman, and being glad he was—or as he puts it: "This pays you back for all the times you saved my neck...Angel."

As for the Huntress, I usually don't go for Earth-2 characters, but the daughter of my favorite Earth-1 villainess has certainly changed my opinion. One great story is followed by another and "The Man in the Murder Ward" was no exception. Two requests on both characters: More flashbacks of Catwoman in Huntress and please return the new Cheetah to the pages of *Wonder Woman*. If she remains as evil as in recent JLA appearances, I eagerly await a return bout with the Amazing Amazon. This comic is great, keep it up!

Fred Grandinetti
96 Edenfield Ave.
Watertown, MA 02172

Well, Fred, to see more adventures of Catwoman, you have only to turn to the back of Batman. Catwoman becomes the latest back-up feature there, as of #345. As for the new Cheetah, we'll pass your suggestion along to Roy and Len.—TOF

Dear Editor,

Poor Helenal While the topper of WW #285 was seeing Wonder Woman and Steve finally opening up to each other, the men in the Huntress' life have absolutely no faith in her whatsoever—even after she was victorious over villains like the Joker, the Thinker, Lionmane, and Solomon Grundy.

Both stories were so intense and climaxed so beautifully, it's hard to believe the changes from last issue to this. Wonder Woman disarms a missile (which was even more exciting than her battle with the robot-dragon), saves China, infiltrates the Red Dragon's lair, and helps Steve by letting him help her defeat the villain.

After this, I really hate to see Gerry, Jose, and Dave leave, but I also can't wait to see their parting presentation. I might as well be as honest as everyone else in this issue and ask: How about a new book teaming Wonder Woman, guest-stars, and the trio that made this mag what it is today? AW, C'MON!!

Neil Ahlquist
1315 Madison St. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Actually, Neil, there are many special plans in the works for Wonder Woman this year. You might say it'll be a WONDER-ful year. You'll be hearing more as details become available. Meanwhile, watch these pages!—TOF

Dear Len:

Both "Dragon Hunt" and "The Man in the Murder Ward" in WW #285 were great! The cover by Andru and Giordano and the interior art by Delbo/Hunt and Staton/Smith were terrific! Diana and Steve's relationship has finally progressed to a mature, more realistic level of understanding. They work well together, functioning as a team.

The Huntress tale was a real change-of-pace. How ironic that Helena's personal lifestyle has started to pattern itself after her father's! Harry Sims, like Marla Madison, cannot handle the dangerous lifestyle. The Huntress and Robin work smoothly together, like two finely meshed parts of the same machine. Which is not so strange, when you consider that the single most important influence in their lives was the same person: Bruce Wayne/Batman. They share a common background, a similar lifestyle, and indeed, even the basic moral concepts which drive them everyday. A romance between them could be the realization of the ultimate fantasy. As Robin himself said, they understand each other in a way that the average person cannot. Why they do what they do. Why they have to. Poor Harry Sims! But maybe not "Poor Helena", eh?

Starla Ryan
New York, New York

Only time will tell what's in store for Robin and Helena. And Diana and Steve. Half the fun is in the anticipation—the other half is in knowing we at DC have put together a creative team that can deliver whatever your imagination can conjure up!—Tamsyn O'Flynn