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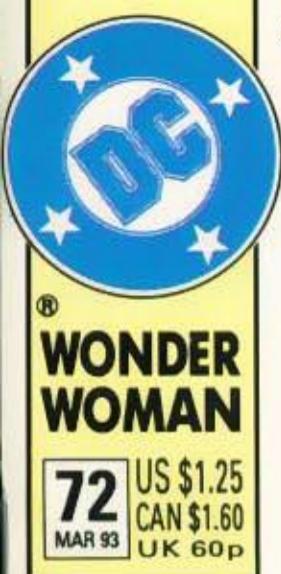
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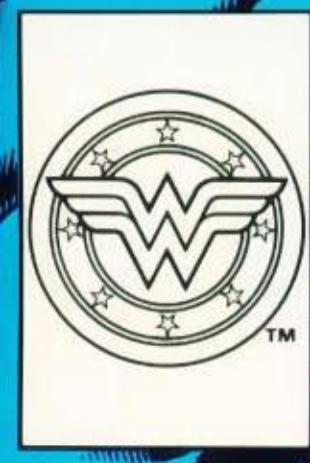
WONDER WOMAN



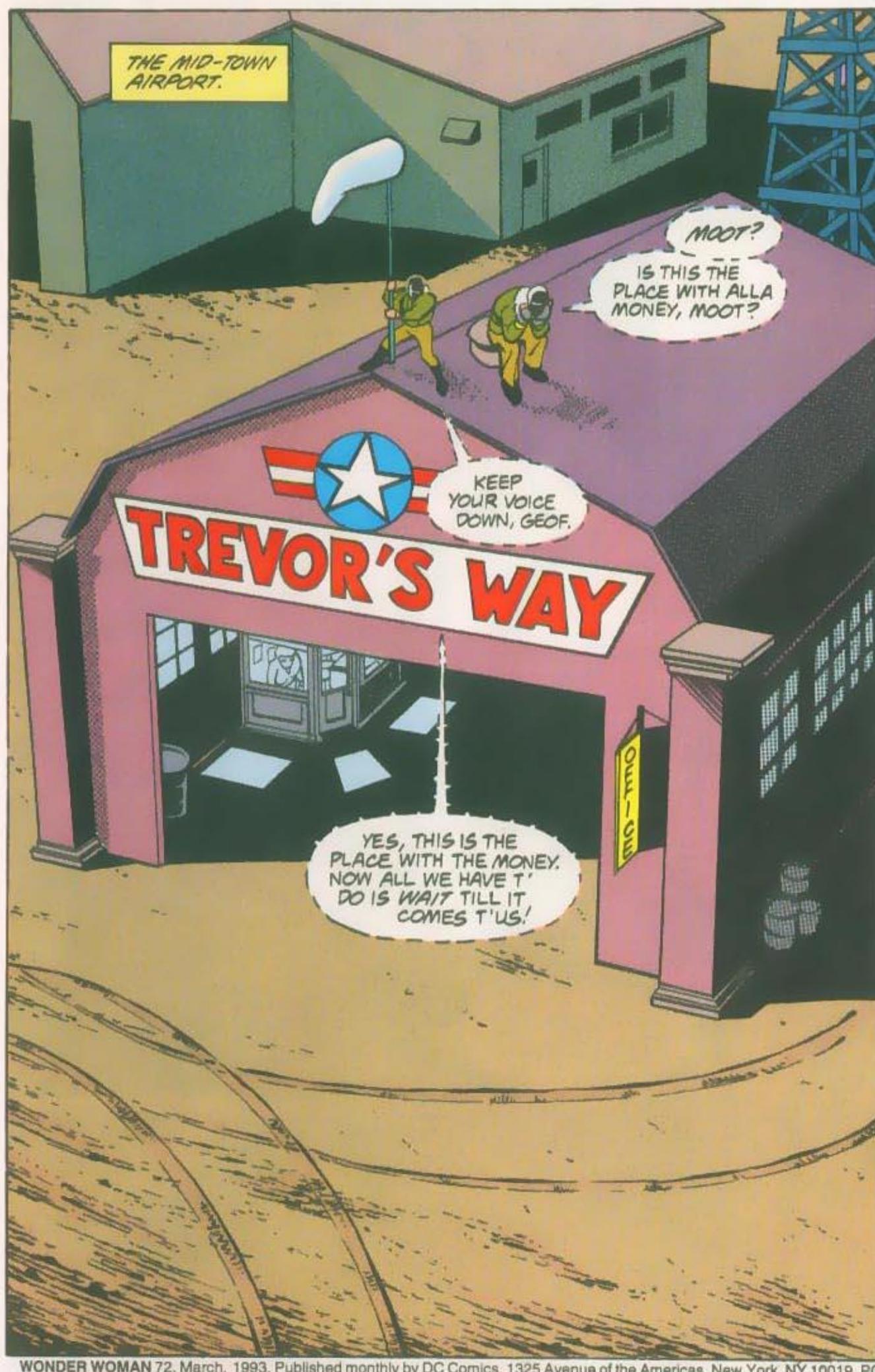
BILL LOEBS
LEE MODER
ANDÉ PARKS



BOLLAND



The Song of Creation



I SING CREATION'S SONGS, WHEN TIME WAS NATURE'S FRIEND, WHEN MUD BECAME FLESH AND WATER WAS BLOOD AND THE STARS WERE THE EYES OF A GOD. --

ANCIENT FOLK SONG

Please join

William Messner-Loebs

• writer •

Matt Hollingsworth

• colorist •

John Costanza

• letterer •

Ruben Diaz

• asst. editor •

Brian Augustyn

• editor •

in welcoming the new art team of

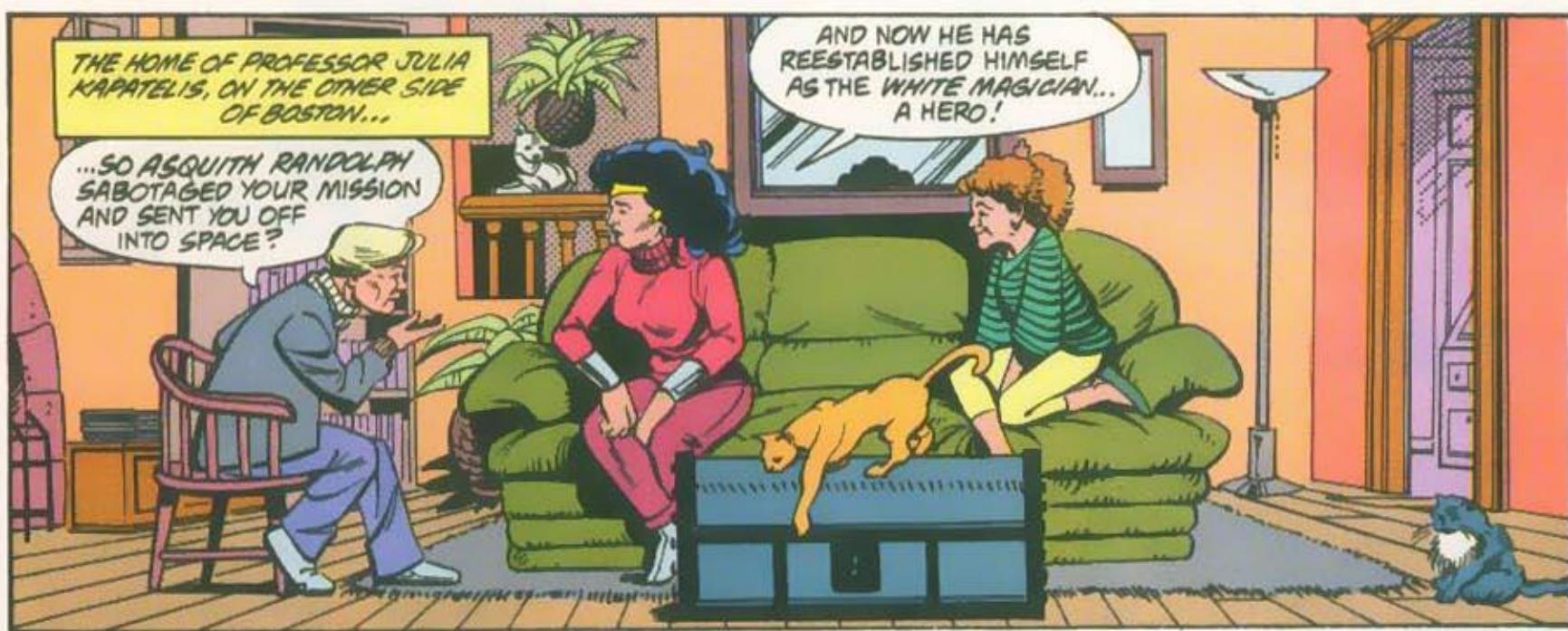
LEE MODER
and
ANDE PARKS

Wonder Woman
created by William
Moulton Marston

THE HOME OF PROFESSOR JULIA KAPATELIS, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF BOSTON...

...SO ASQUITH RANDOLPH SABOTAGED YOUR MISSION AND SENT YOU OFF INTO SPACE?

AND NOW HE HAS REESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS THE WHITE MAGICIAN... A HERO!



YEAH, HE'S ALWAYS CATCHING BANK ROBBERS AN' STUFF. THEY EVEN HAD A SPECIAL ABOUT HIM ON TV THE OTHER NIGHT.

AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHY HE'S DOING ALL THIS.

SO ARE YOU GONNA CONFRONT HIM... MAKE HIM TALK?

IT WOULD DO NO GOOD. I CAN ONLY WAIT AND WATCH AND HOPE THAT HE...

HOWDY, GROUP! ANYTHING INTERESTING... OOPS! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD COMPANY!

HELLO, QUINN. IT'S ALL RIGHT. THERE'S SOMEONE HERE I WANT YOU TO MEET.



YOU MUST BE DIANA. I'M QUINN THOMAS. JULIA TALKS ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME. EVER SINCE I MOVED IN HERE SHE'S BEEN...

MOVED IN? YOU'RE RENTING MY ROOM?



DIANA, SWEETIE... YOU
WERE GONE FOR SUCH
A LONG TIME... AND I...

LOOK, MAYBE I SHOULD
JUST LEAVE. IT'S A NICE ROOM
AND IT IS MID-TERM SO THE
PICKINGS ARE KINDA SLIM...
BUT...

NO, THE ROOM
IS YOURS. IT IS
TIME, I THINK,
FOR ME TO HAVE
MY OWN PLACE.

PLEASE, JULIA. OF
COURSE, YOU WOULD
RENT IT. I SHOULD
NOT HAVE SAID ANY-
THING.

AFTER ALL, WHEN YOU GROW UP,
YOU LEAVE YOUR MOTHER. IN MY
CASE, I WILL HAVE TO LEAVE
MY SECOND MOTHER, AS
WELL.

AW,
SWEETIE...

I TRAINED
TO GO INTO
PATRIARCH'S
WORLD TO FIGHT
FOR TRUTH AND
FIND JUSTICE.
I NEVER
THOUGHT I
WOULD FIND
FRIENDSHIP
AS WELL.

GO AHEAD AN'
TELL HER, DIANA!
I WANT TO HEAR
IT AGAIN!

YES, AND NESSIE
AND I WILL MAKE
POPCORN WHILE
YOU GET STARTED.

MY MOTHER
SAID IT ALL
STARTED
WITH
TRAGEDY...

THAT'S RIGHT... YOU'RE AN
AMAZON, LIKE IN THE COMIC
BOOKS. WITH THE PURPLE
RAY, AND MENTAL
RADIO AND...

WELL, NOT
EXACTLY. IT'S A
LONG STORY...



THROUGHOUT THE MILLENNIA,
WOMEN DIED BEFORE THEIR TIME...

AND GAEA, THE
EARTH, GAVE THEIR
ESSENCES SANCTUARY WITHIN THE
CAVE OF SOULS.



MEANWHILE, THE GODS HAD
SWEEPED ALL THE DAEMONS
AND CURSED ONES FROM
THE EARTH, FORCING THEM
BACK INTO THE PIT, TARTARUS...



... AND SEALING
THEM BEHIND
THE GROUND.



ON THAT SPOT A
LARGE ISLAND
WAS FORMED, OUT
OF FIRE AND EARTH
AND WIND.

IT WAS THEN THAT THE THOUSANDS OF SOULS WERE RELEASED FROM GAEA'S CAVE...

AND CLOTHED IN FLESH AND GIVEN NEW LIFE.

APHRODITE CAST HER SEEING THEN, UPON THE EARTH...

...SO THAT SHE COULD TELL THESE WOMEN THAT THEY WOULD BE IMMORTAL AS LONG AS THEY STAYED UPON THE ISLAND, GUARDING IT...

...AND CREATE A CIVILIZATION BASED ON LOVE AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE GODS, RATHER THAN POWER AND CONQUEST.



AND THEN MY MOTHER STEPPED FORWARD.

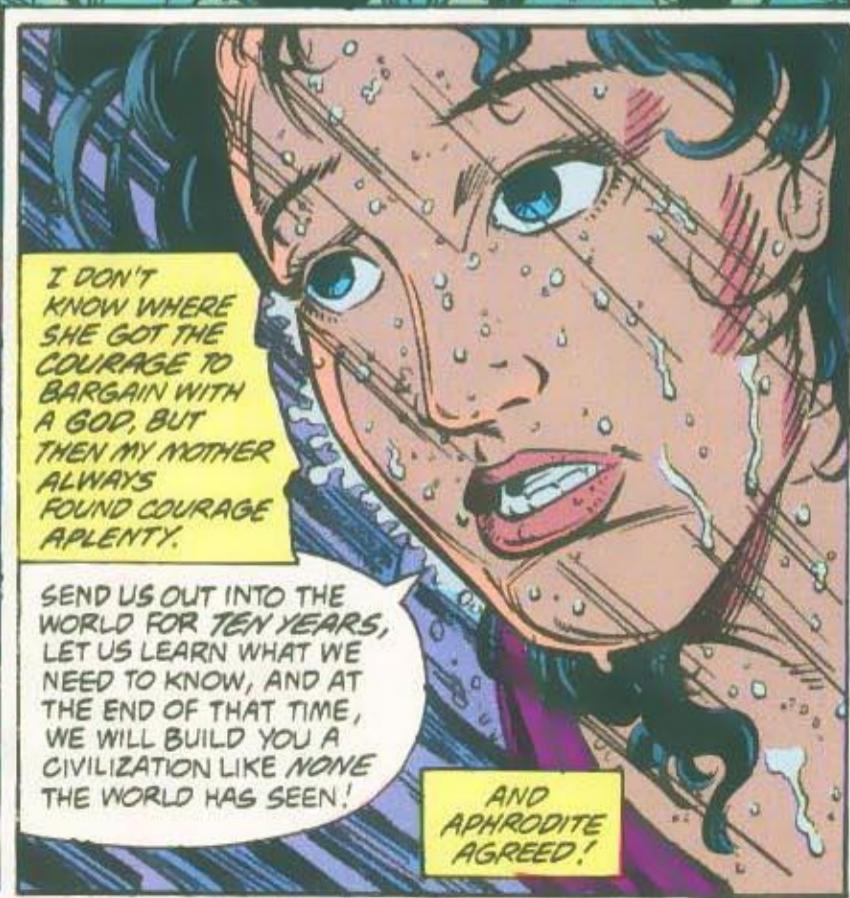


LADY APHRODITE, WE ARE IGNORANT OF THE WORLD. WE CANNOT BUILD A CIVILIZATION HERE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE GOT THE COURAGE TO BARGAIN WITH A GOD, BUT THEN MY MOTHER ALWAYS FOUND COURAGE APLENTY.

SEND US OUT INTO THE WORLD FOR TEN YEARS, LET US LEARN WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW, AND AT THE END OF THAT TIME, WE WILL BUILD YOU A CIVILIZATION LIKE NONE THE WORLD HAS SEEN!

AND APHRODITE AGREED!





AND APHRODITE
CREATED A
MIRACLE.



WEALTHY
CORINTH...



THEBES AND THE
COLONY CITY-STATES
LIKE CYRENE, THAT
DOTTED THE AFRICAN
COAST...



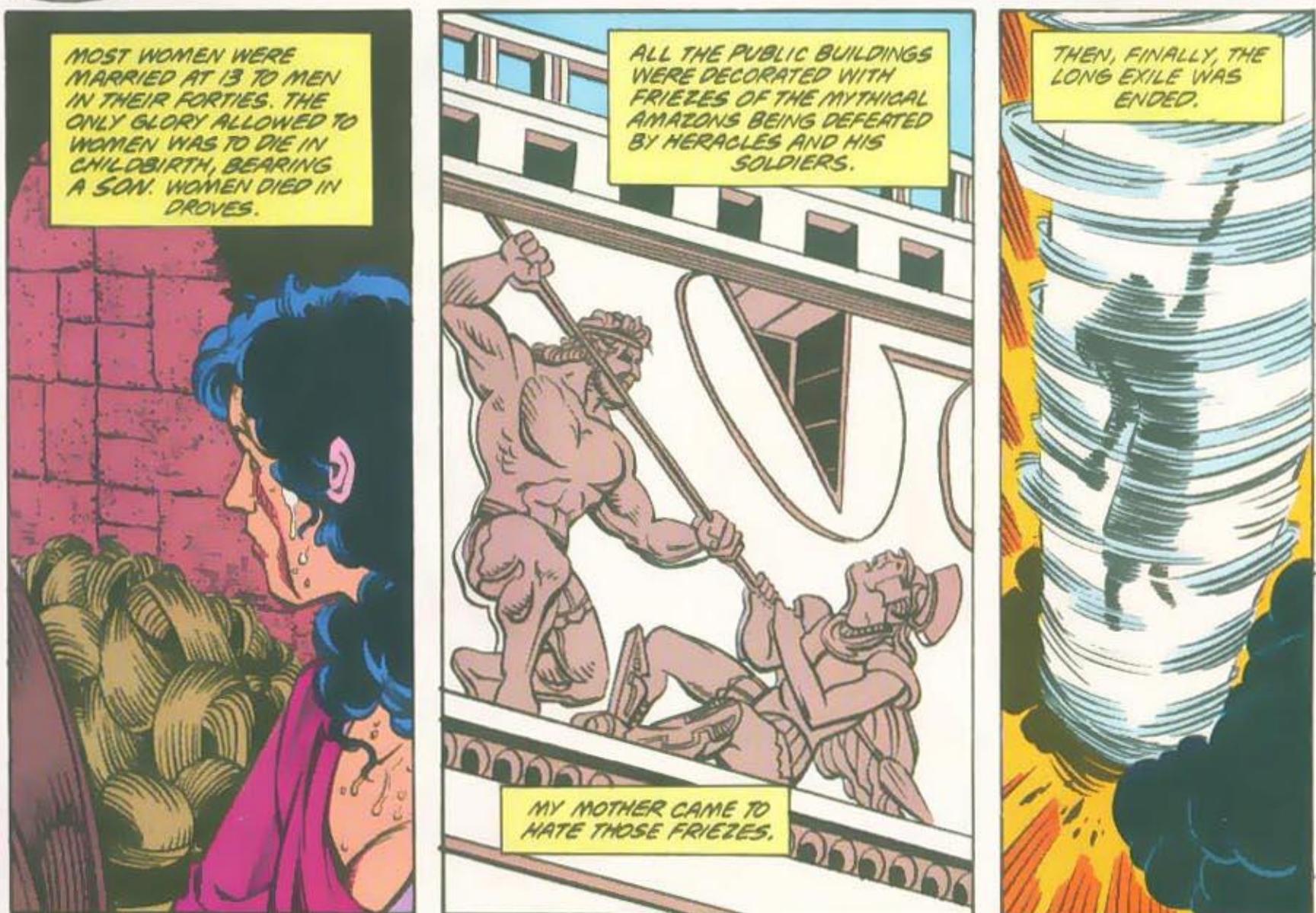
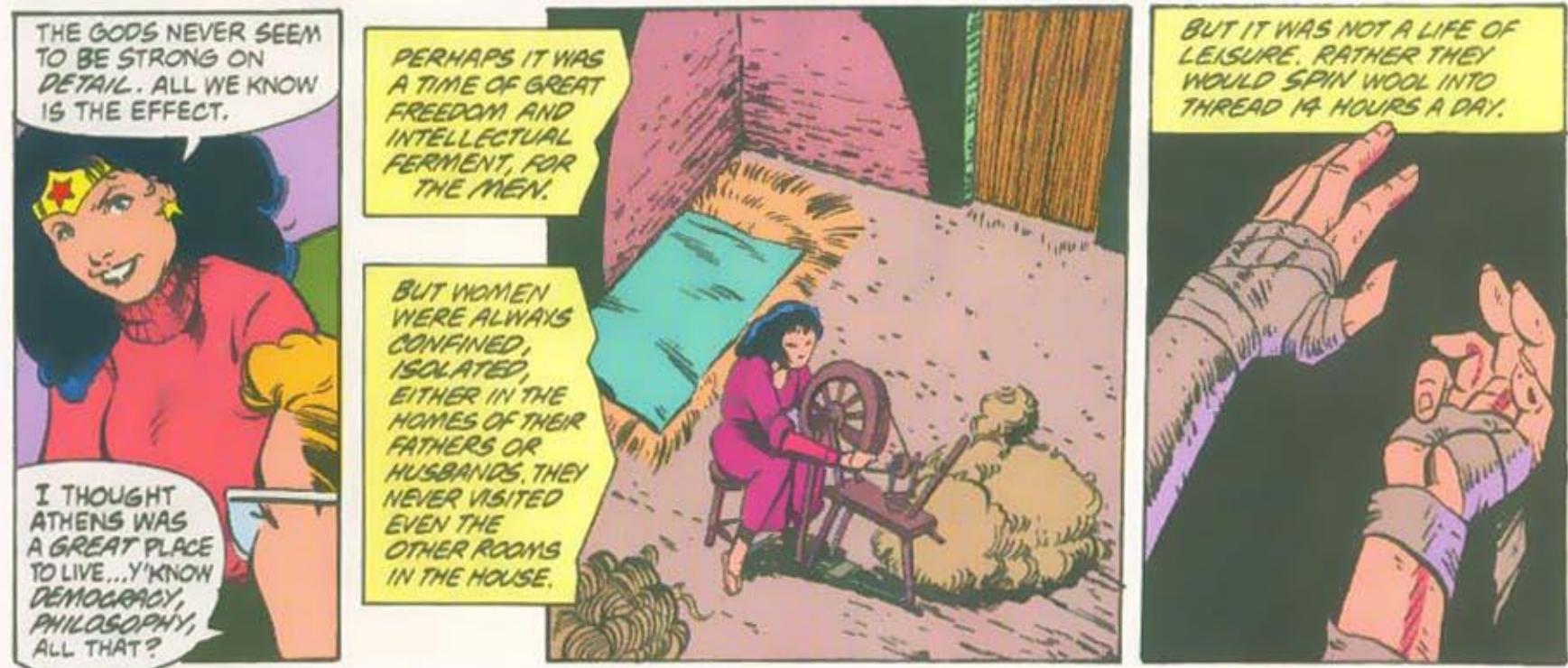
AND ATHENS,
WHERE MY MOTHER
CAME TO REST.



THE WOMEN WERE
SWEPT UP AND SENT
TO EVERY CORNER
OF CIVILIZATION...
ARID SPARTA...



FOR TEN WEARY YEARS, SHE
LIVED THE ISOLATED, CIRCUM-
SCRIBED LIFE OF AN ATENIAN
WOMAN.





MOTHER RETURNED TO FIND THE OTHERS, AND THEIR ISLAND, CHANGED. APHRODITE HAD BUILT, WITH MAGICKS, A TEMPLE AND A LIBRARY. THE REST THEY WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THEMSELVES.



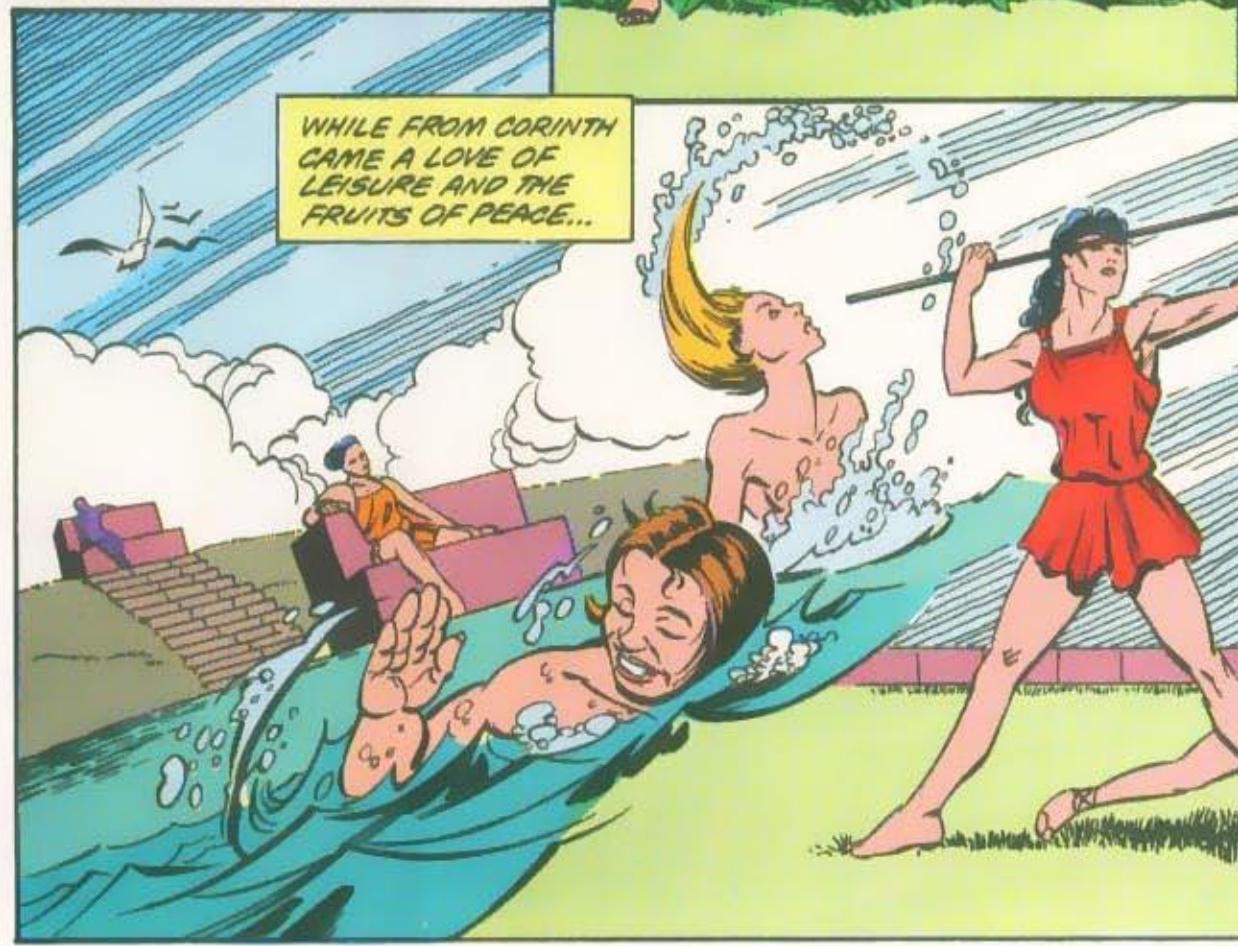
AND MOTHER HERSELF WAS CHANGED, NAMELESS, SHE RESOLVED TO CALL HERSELF HIPPOLYTE... QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS.



FROM ATHENS SHE TOOK HER LOVE OF DEMOCRACY AND FREE INQUIRY. THE AMAZONS ACCEPTED HER NAME FOR THEM... AND ELECTED HER THEIR FIRST QUEEN.



FROM THEBES CAME AN EASY TOLERANCE AND ENJOYMENT OF HARD WORK...



WHILE FROM CORINTH CAME A LOVE OF LEISURE AND THE FRUITS OF PEACE...



AND SPARTA CONTRIBUTED THE NOTION THAT FITNESS AND HEALTH SHOULD BE PURSUED BY ALL CITIZENS.

MEANWHILE,
THE DEMIGOD
HERACLES,
COMPLETING
HIS LABORS,
WAS GIVEN
STILL ANOTHER
BY EURYSTHEUS.

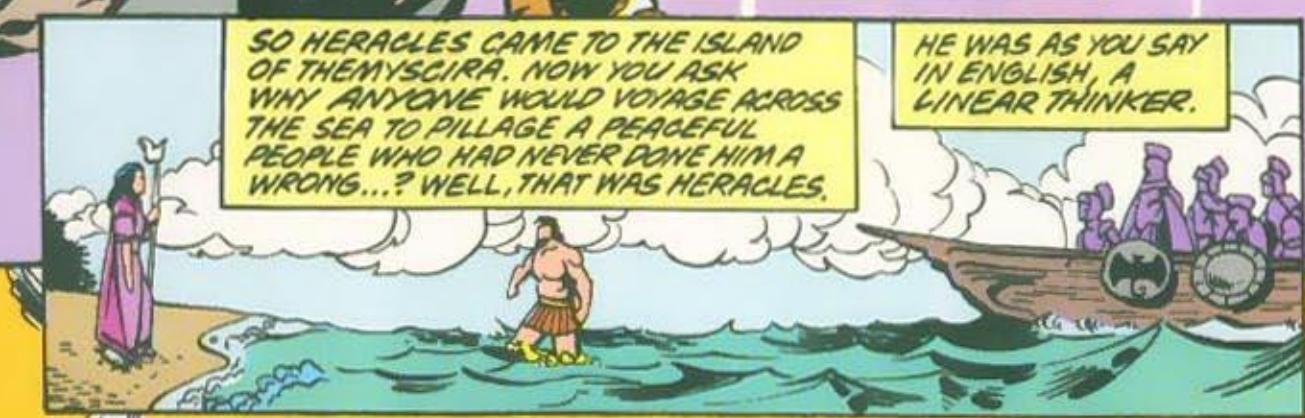
HE WAS TO CAPTURE
THE GIRDLE OF GAEA,
WHICH HIPPOLYTE
WOKE AS A SIGN
OF HER TRUST.



MY MOTHER
ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT
ARES, THE WAR GOD WHO
HATED APHRODITE, HAD
WHISPERED TO EURYSTHEUS.
FOR ARES ALSO KNEW THE
LEGENDS...

SO HERACLES CAME TO THE ISLAND
OF THEMYSCIRA. NOW YOU ASK
WHY ANYONE WOULD VOYAGE ACROSS
THE SEA TO PILLAGE A PEACEFUL
PEOPLE WHO HAD NEVER DONE HIM A
WRONG...? WELL, THAT WAS HERACLES.

HE WAS AS YOU SAY
IN ENGLISH, A
LINEAR THINKER.



ALL HE COULD THINK OF
WAS THE DEAL HE HAD
STRUCK WITH EURYSTHEUS.
AND, FRANKLY, MANY
MEN ARE STILL
THREATENED WHEN
STRONG WOMEN SUCCEED.

WHATEVER HIS MOTIVES,
HE GREETED MY MOTHER
WITH HONEYED WORDS.



HERACLES OFFERED MY MOTHER AN ALLIANCE. HIS MEN WOULD SETTLE ON THE ISLAND AND HELP TO GUARD IT. IN RETURN, THEY WOULD GET A PORTION OF THE ABUNDANT HUNTING AND FISHING.

AND WAS THERE AN ELEMENT OF PERSONAL ATTRACTION IN ALL THIS? MY MOTHER SWEARS NOT... YET HERACLES WAS ATTRACTIVE IN HIS WAY AND THE SON OF A GOD.

WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED, WHAT DID HAPPEN WAS A CELEBRATION THAT NIGHT TO SEAL THE AGREEMENT...



AND SHE SWORE A BITTER OATH.
"O, APHRODITE, HEAR ME. LET JUST ONE LINK OF THIS CHAIN GIVE WAY, AND I SWEAR THAT NEVER AGAIN SHALL A MAN SET FOOT ON YOUR ISLE AND WE SHALL DIE RATHER THAN BE BOUND AGAIN."



...A CELEBRATION WITH DRUGGED WINE.



AND HER PRAYER
WAS ANSWERED.



BUT THEY
DIDN'T
CHANGE THE
LEGEND.
THEY
NEVER DO.



IF I GO TO THE MAYER AGENCY OR TO THE BANK IN PERSON, THEY SHOULD KNOW HOW TO CONTACT MY MOTHER.

MY CAR'S A HEAP, BUT I'LL BE GLAD TO DRIVE YOU.

IT IS STRANGE THAT MOTHER DIDN'T TRY TO CONTACT MY FRIENDS...

WHAT HAPPENED TO HER, AFTER HERACLES' DEFEAT?



THE CENTURIES DRIFTED BY, LEAVING THEMYSCIRA AND THE AMAZONS UNTOUCHED, HIDDEN BENEATH A PERPETUAL BANK OF CLOUDS

BUT TIME EVENTUALLY WEAKENED THE SEAL THAT HELD THE DENIZENS OF TARTARUS UNDER-GROUND.



WAVE AFTER WAVE OF THE FILTHY DEMONS SPILLED FROM UNDERGROUND. THE AMAZONS WERE HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED.

AND THEN... A MIRACLE.



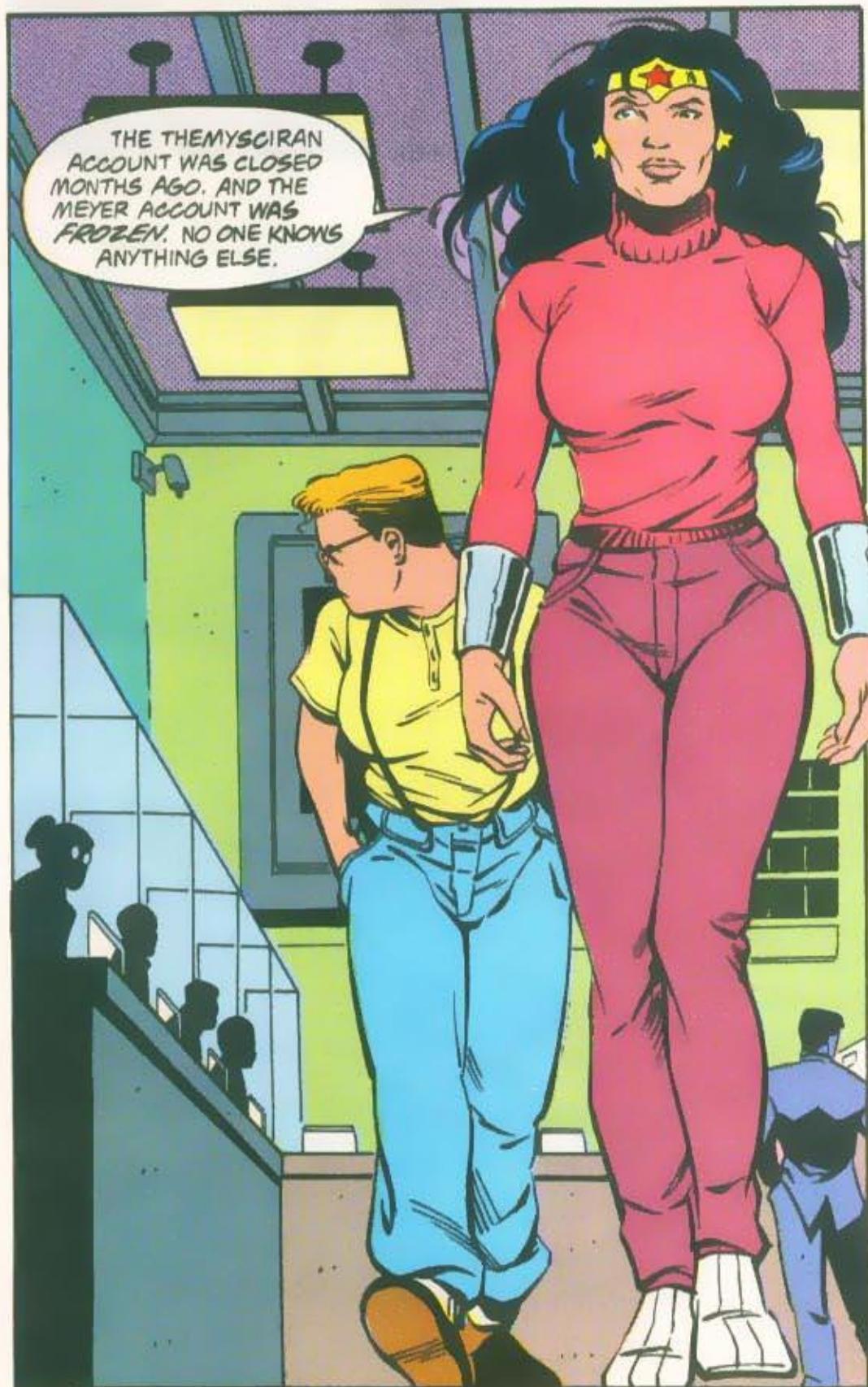
SHE WAS AN AVIATRIX NAMED DIANA TREVOR, WHO WAS FLYING SUPPLIES TO THE LOYALISTS IN SPAIN. THAT SHE ENDED HERE SMACKED OF APHRODITE'S MAGIC.

HER TWENTIETH-CENTURY WEAPONS HELPED THE AMAZONS TO STAND AGAINST THE HORDES OF TARTARUS...

WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE NO END.

IN THE END, A SOLDIER REALIZED THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO END THE BATTLE...

SHE WAS A TRUE HERO.



BECAUSE OF THE VICTORY OVER TARTARUS, MY MOTHER WAS OFFERED A BOON. SHE WAS GIVEN THE LIFE OF THE CHILD DIANA WAS CARRYING WHEN SHE DIED.



UNDER THE GODS' DIRECTION, SHE BUILT A FIGURE OUT OF CLAY AND THEN WITH A PRAYER...



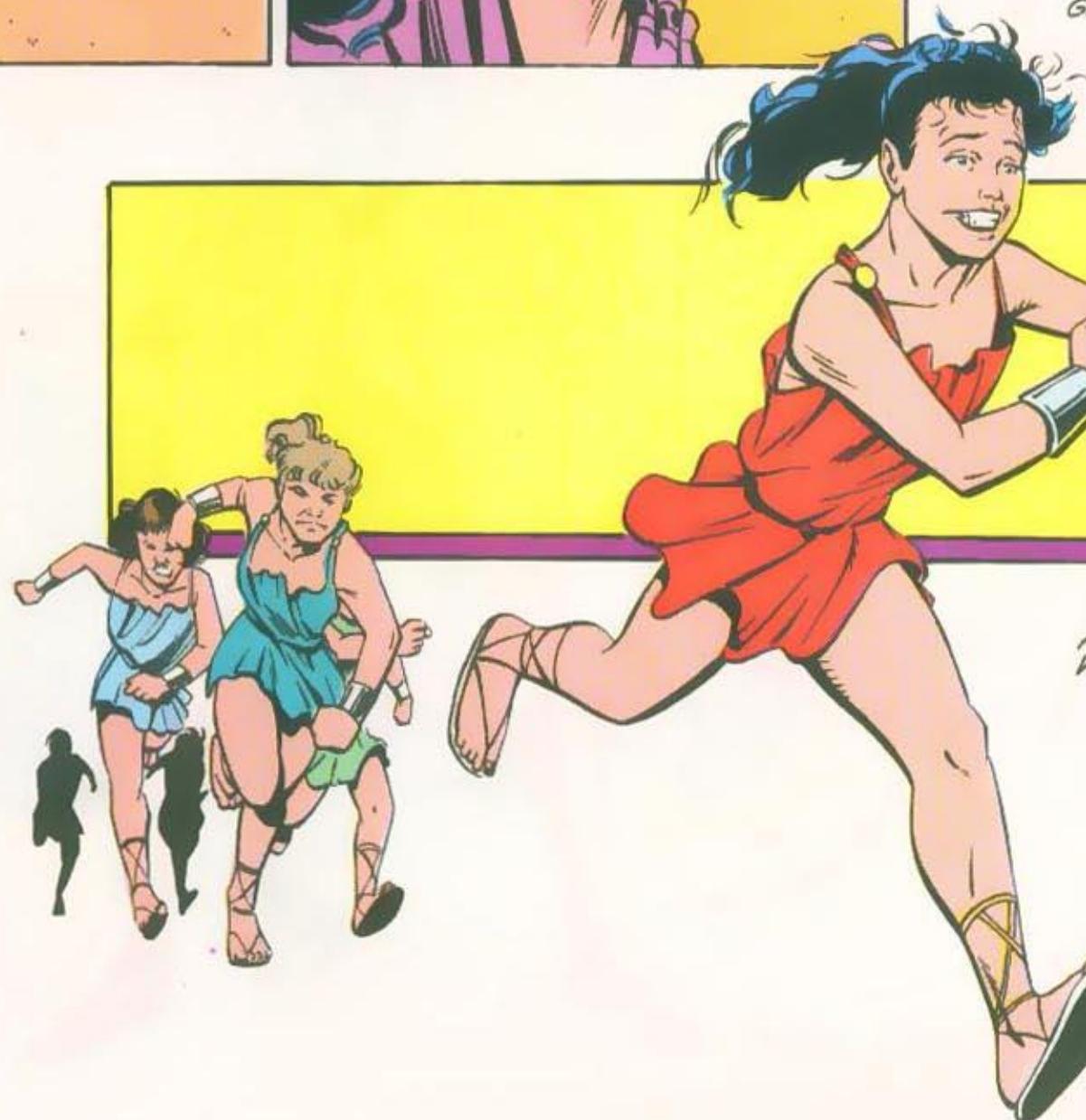
...BROUGHT IT TO LIFE!



AND APHRODITE'S VOICE SOUNDED IN HER EARS, PROMISING THAT, AS COMPENSATION FOR THE TREACHERY OF HERACLES, THIS CHILD WOULD MATCH HIS STRENGTH AND MORE...



...THAT EACH OF THE OTHER GODS WOULD ALSO GIFT HER WITH ABILITIES.



AND THAT CHILD WAS, OF COURSE, ME!

THE YEARS
PASSED... AND
ANOTHER
MIRACLE
HAPPENED.

I RESCUED THE PILOT... AND
ONCE MORE A MAN WALKED
ON THE SOIL OF THEMYSCIRA.

OMENS FORE-
TOLD THAT THE
AMAZONS HAD
TO SEND A
REPRESEN-
TATIVE INTO
PATRIARCH'S
WORLD, TO
TEACH BY
EXAMPLE AND
THWART THE
SCHEMES OF
ARES.

SHE ARRANGED A CONTEST,
THE WINNER TO LEAVE THE
ISLAND FOREVER. AND
SHE SENT ME AWAY.

HE WAS COL. STEVE
TREVOR, THE SON
OF THE WOMAN
WHO HAD SAVED
THE AMAZON WORLD.

I THINK,
EVEN THEN,
MY MOTHER
KNEW WHO
THAT MUST
BE.

I COMPETED IN A MASK AND WON.



AND I LEFT
TO GO INTO
PATRIARCH'S
WORLD,
WEARING
BATTLE
ARMOR
BASED ON
THE FLAG
DIANA
TREVOR
HAD LOVED.



WHEEW!
THAT'S SOME
STORY!

HOLD ON,
THOUGH. YOU
MEAN YOUR OWN
MOTHER DIDN'T
RECOGNIZE YOU,
EVEN IN A
MASK?

I THINK WE'RE
ALMOST THERE.

I SEE 'IM,
MOOT! I
SEE 'IM!!

THEN
RIP AN' TEAR,
GEOF, BABY!

I THINK SHE
DID. SHE JUST
REALIZED SHE
COULD NOT STRUGGLE
AGAINST THE FATES
ANYMORE.

TURN
HERE...

LET'S
MAKE SOME
MONEY!

OMIGOD!













IT'S GONE! WHERE
IS MY HOME? WHERE
IS THEMYSIRA?



NEXT ISSUE: LOSSES