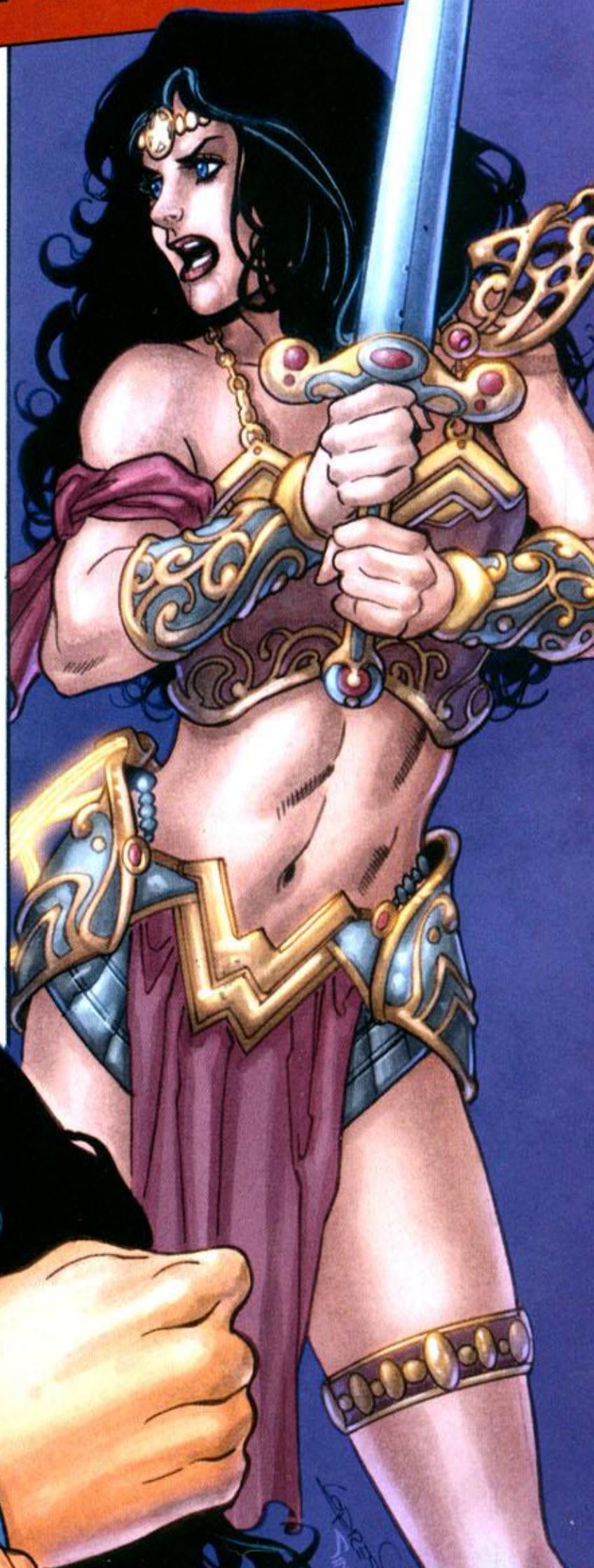




20  
JUL '08

# Wonder Woman®



**ENDS  
OF THE  
EARTH**

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GAIL  
SIMONE  
AARON  
LOPRESTI  
MATT  
RYAN

**I**'M TOLD THE WEATHER IS LIKE THIS MOST OF THE YEAR.

I MISS THE TROPICS, TRUTH BE TOLD.

THE JEALOUS COLD WANTS TO CLAIM THE BREATH FROM MY LUNGS. I CAN NO LONGER FEEL MY LEGS OR ARMS. I'M HERE ON THE WHIM OF A MADMAN.

AND THERE IS MORE...

...I AM BEING HUNTED.



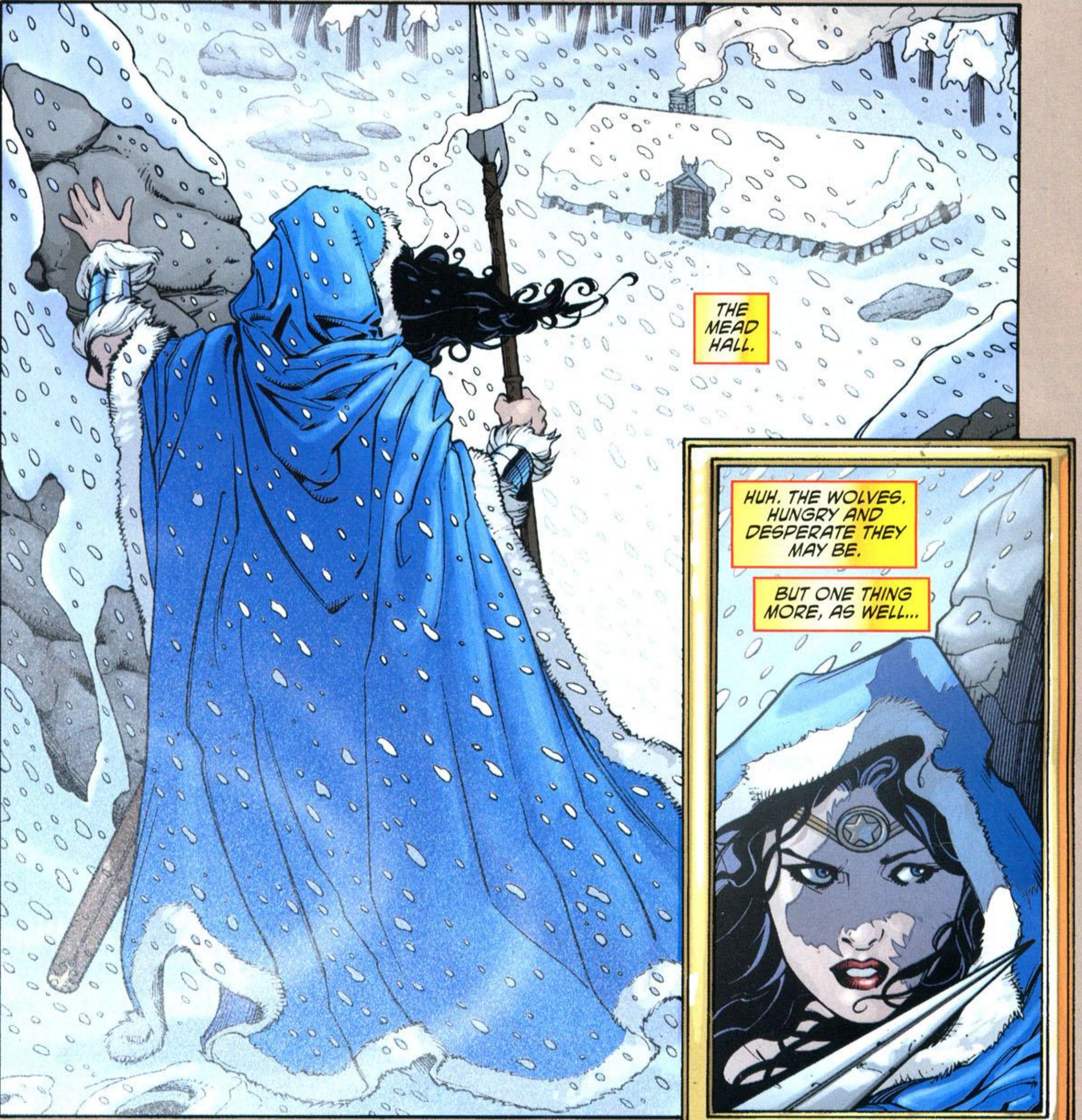
I'M NEAR. I CAN SMELL THE WOODFIRE.

BUT THE BEASTS ARE STARVING. AND DESPERATE.



THEY'RE SUMMONING THEIR COURAGE.

AND I HAVEN'T MY POWERS HERE.



THE MEAD HALL.

HUH. THE WOLVES. HUNGRY AND DESPERATE THEY MAY BE.

BUT ONE THING MORE, AS WELL...



# ENDS OF THE EARTH

Part 1 of 4

## AN UNREASONING FROST

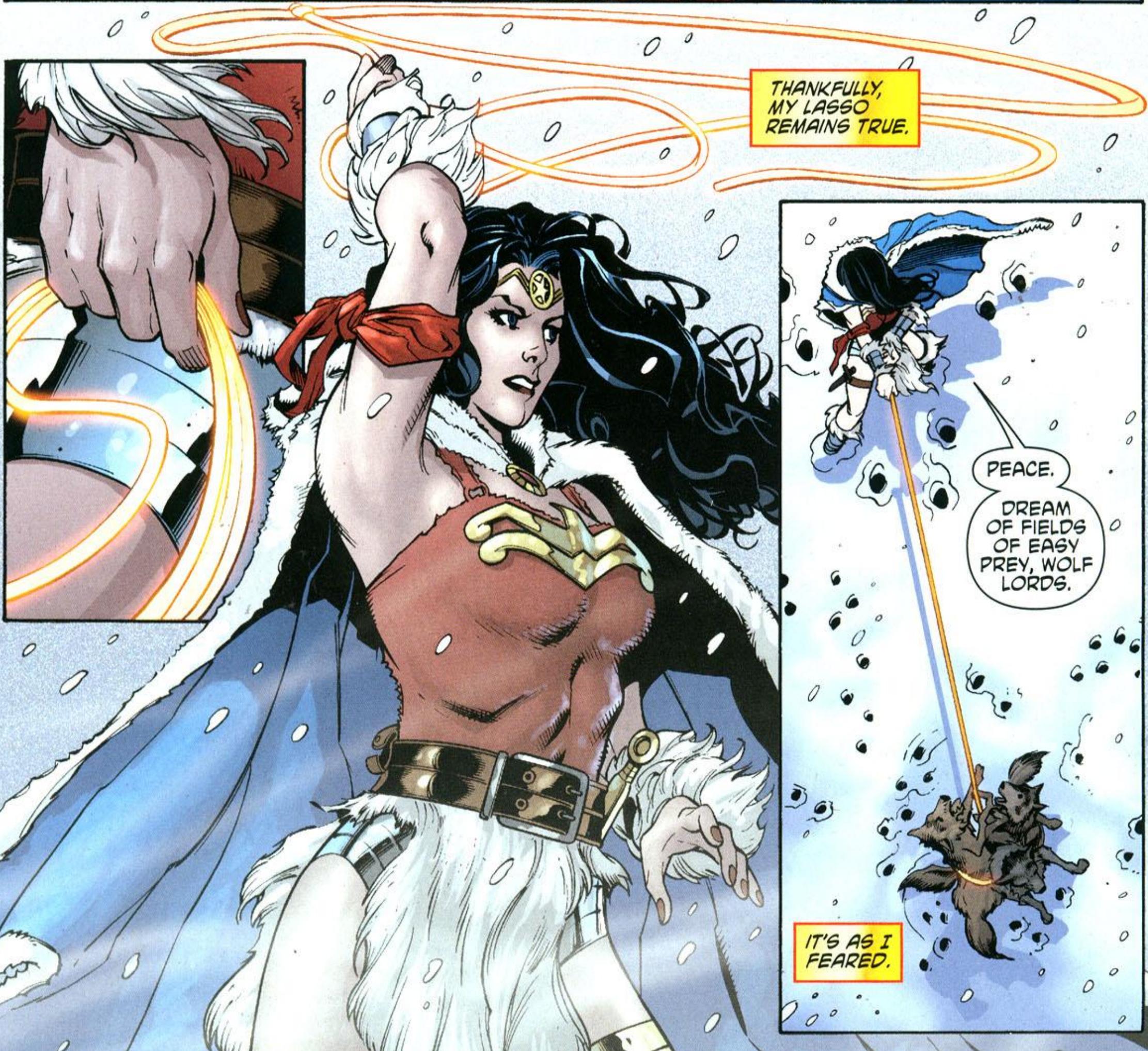
BRAD ANDERSON: colorist TRAVIS LANHAM: letterer  
MACHIE CASTRO: assoc. editor MATT IDELSON: editor  
WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

GAIL SIMONE: author  
AARON LOPRESTI: penciller  
MATT RYAN: inker

... THEY'RE CLEVER.







DISEASE.

THEY'VE LOST  
TOUCH WITH  
THEIR INSTINCTS.



THEY'RE  
DYING.

RAGE  
THIRST HATE  
PAIN SICKNESS  
HATE HUNGER  
THIRST PAIN  
PAIN PAIN  
PAIN

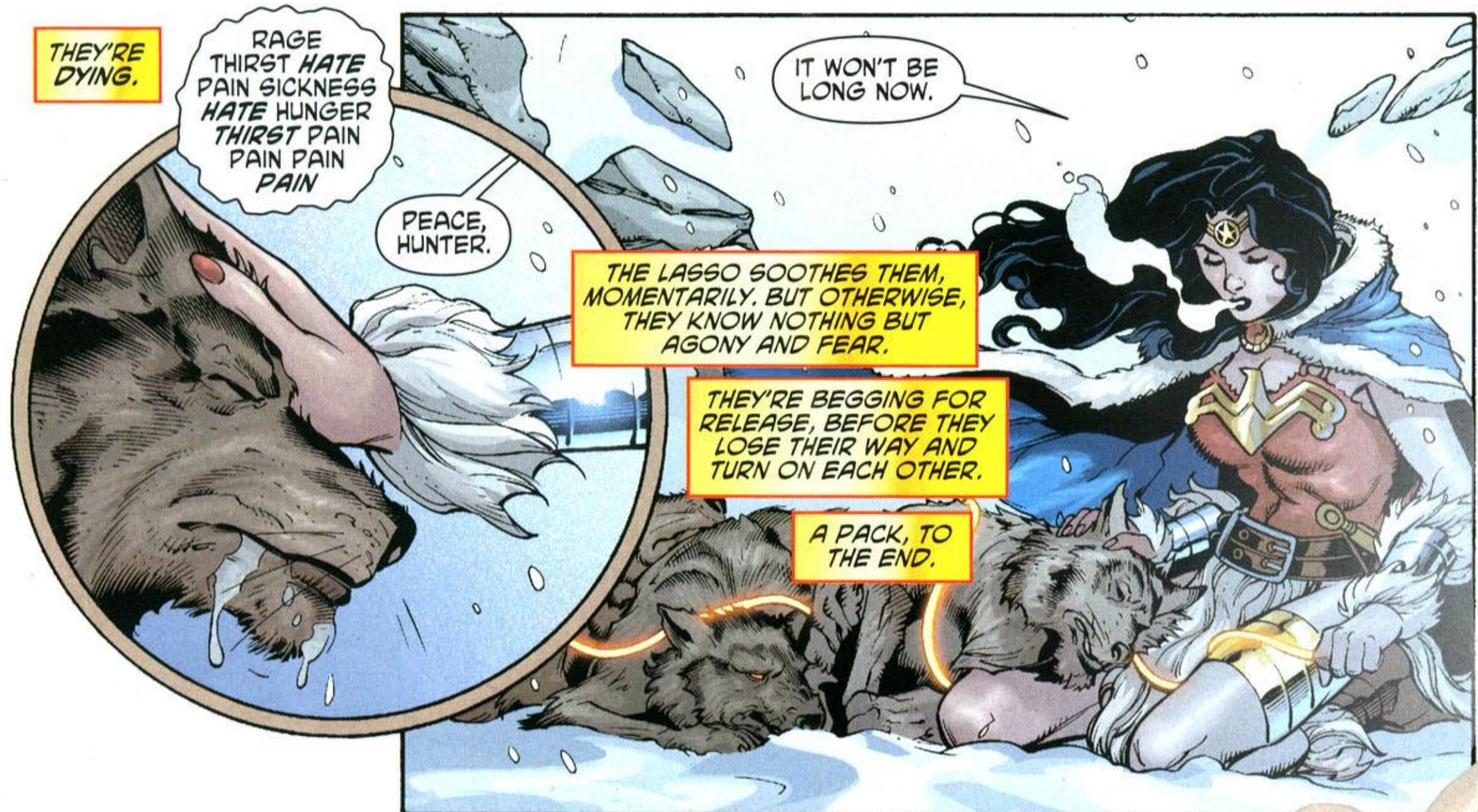
PEACE,  
HUNTER.

IT WON'T BE  
LONG NOW.

THE LASO SOOTHES THEM,  
MOMENTARILY, BUT OTHERWISE,  
THEY KNOW NOTHING BUT  
AGONY AND FEAR.

THEY'RE BEGGING FOR  
RELEASE, BEFORE THEY  
LOSE THEIR WAY AND  
TURN ON EACH OTHER.

A PACK, TO  
THE END.



I HEAR YOU,  
TRACKER. THE GIFT  
OF HEPHAESTUS  
HEARS YOU.

FORGIVE  
ME.

AND THEN  
THE DEED  
IS DONE.

MAY  
YOURS  
BE THE LAST  
INNOCENT  
BLOOD SHED  
TODAY.



THIS IS THE  
PRECISE TIME  
AND LOCATION  
WHERE HE  
SHOULD BE  
ARRIVING.



I'VE COME  
SOME FAIR  
DISTANCE. MAY  
MY INFORMATION  
BE ON TARGET.



THE  
MEAD  
HALL.

A CIVILIZED RETREAT,  
WHERE EVEN OPPONING  
SOLDIERS COULD SHARE IN  
COMPANIONABLE FELLOWSHIP, IN  
RESPITE FROM WAR AND FAMINE.

<SO, AND THIS IS  
THE GOOD BIT, HE REACHES  
OUT AND HE BASHES THE  
MAN'S SKULL IN, RIGHT? AND  
WE'RE ALL LAUGHING, BECAUSE  
OF THE SOUND IT MAKES,  
A LITTLE POP SOUND, IF  
YOU WILL...>

<...AND  
AGAIN,  
WE'RE  
LAUGHING,  
WHEN THE  
FELLOW'S  
CAPTAIN  
COMES UP, AND  
SAYS, WHAT ARE  
YOU LOT WAITING  
FOR? LIKE WE'RE  
SUPPOSED  
TO FIGHT  
THIS THING,  
RIGHT?>

I BELIEVE HE'S  
MISREAD MY  
PROFESSION.

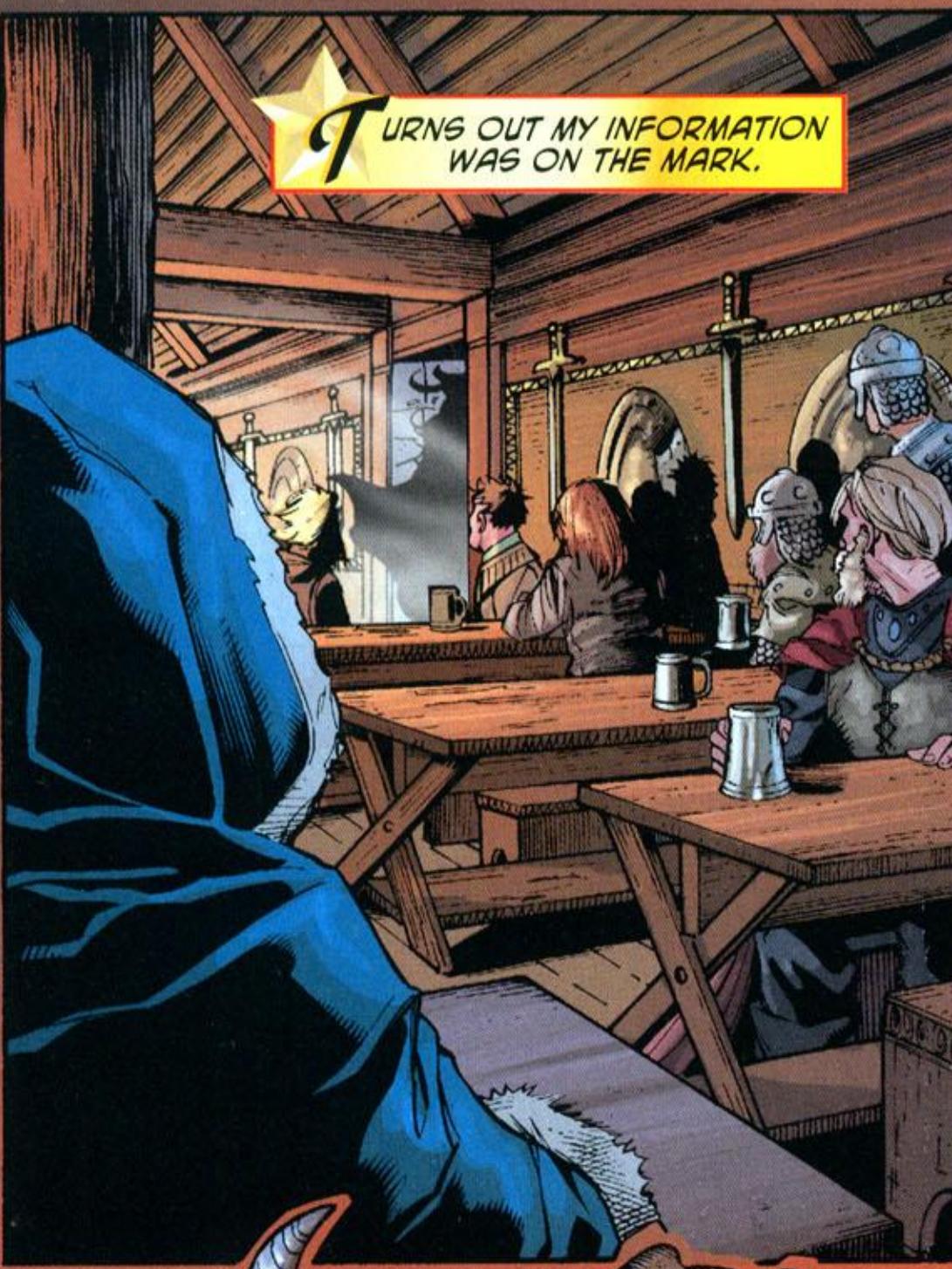
<AND I SAY,  
"WHY, GOOD  
CAPTAIN, WHY  
NOT GO AND TALK  
TO HIM YOURSELF,  
AS WE'RE JUST  
WAITIN' TO HEAR  
THAT QUEER  
LITTLE NOISE  
AGAIN!">

AND MY  
RESOLVE.

HAHAHA!  
HAHAHA!  
HAHAHA!  
HAHA!

AND NOW  
I WAIT.

THE INNKEEPER  
ORDERS ME TO  
LEAVE. SAYS HE  
DOESN'T WANT  
MY KIND HERE.



*(I KNOW HE  
CAME THIS WAY.  
WHERE IS HE?  
WHERE IS THE  
DEMON?)*

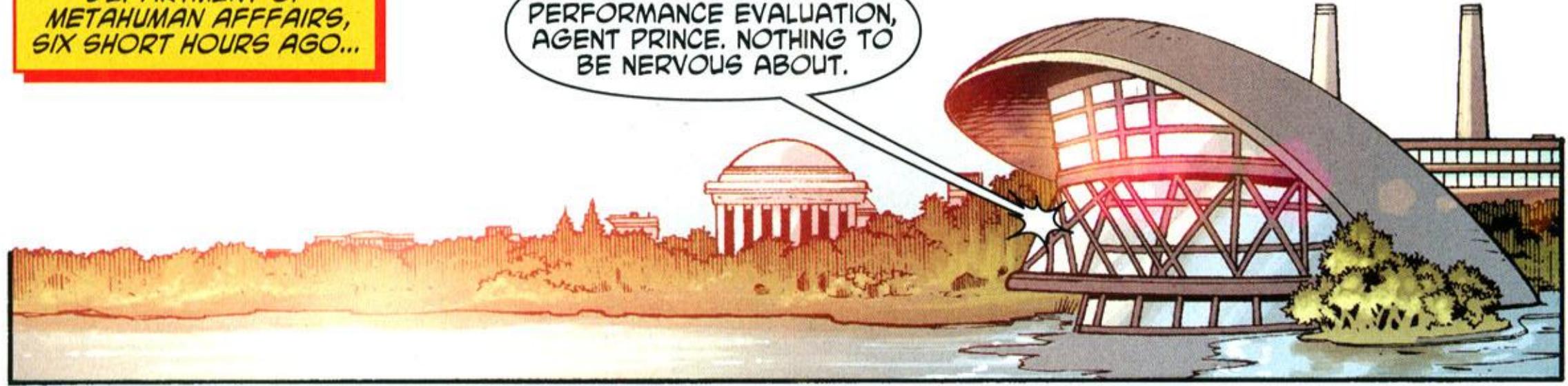
*HE'S HERE. IT'S  
REALLY HIM.*

**BEOWULF.**

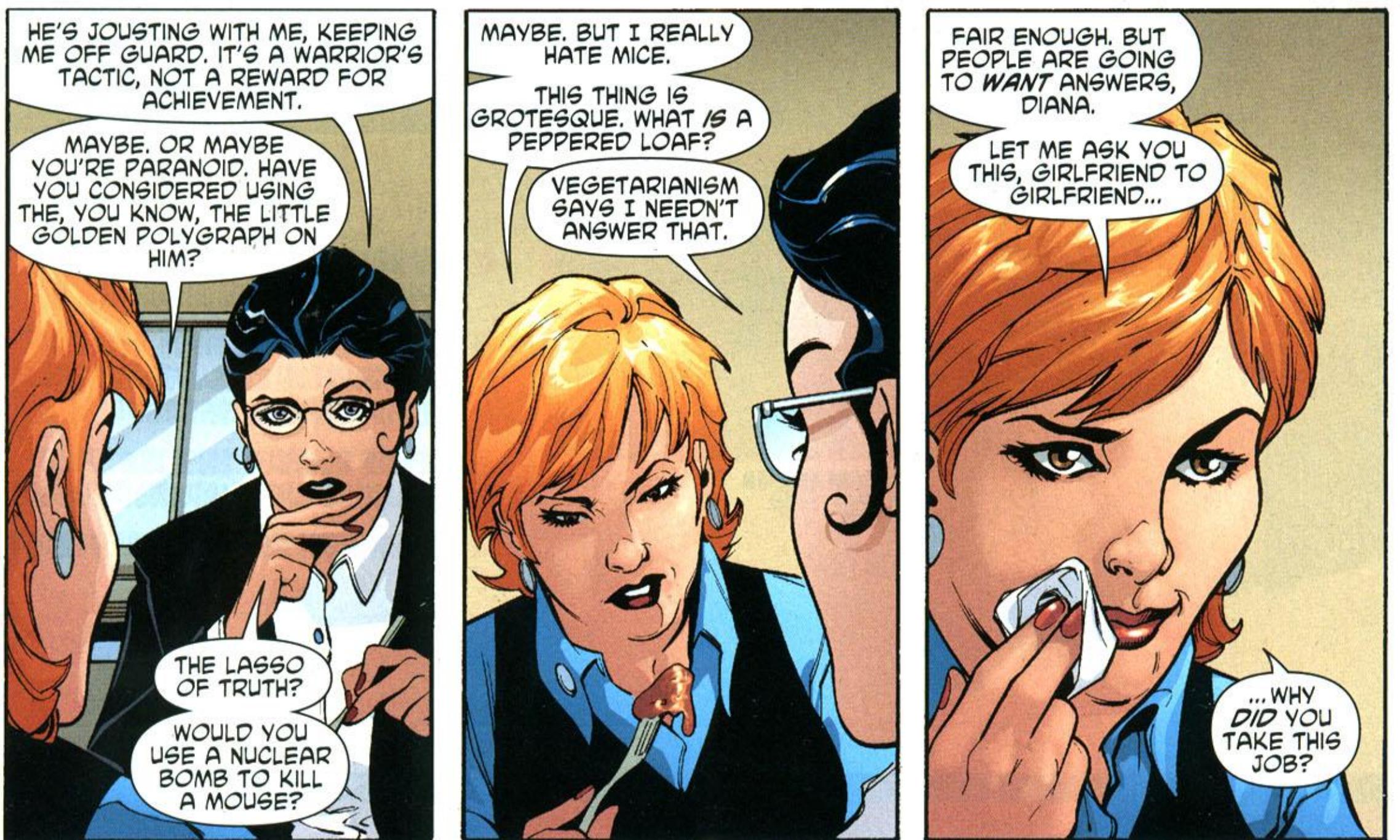


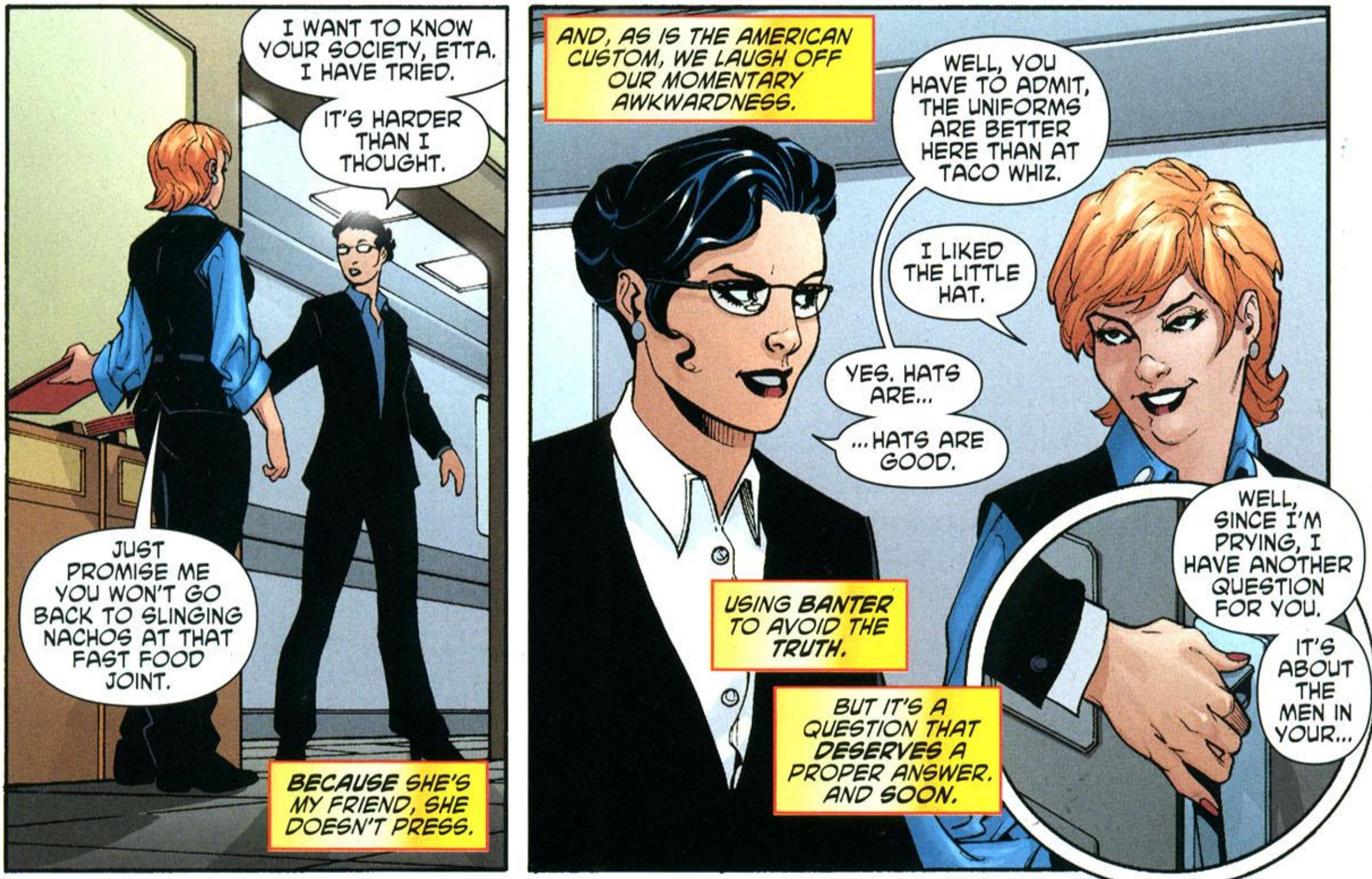
DEPARTMENT OF  
METAHUMAN AFFAIRS,  
SIX SHORT HOURS AGO...

JUST A ROUTINE  
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION,  
AGENT PRINCE. NOTHING TO  
BE NERVOUS ABOUT.









**A**N INTRUDER? HERE?  
IN MY OFFICE?

THAT'S THE  
GUY I TOLD YOU  
ABOUT, FROM YOUR  
APARTMENT!

HANDS UP,  
SCUZZBALL!

SOME DAY,  
ETTA. I VOW.

I REALLY  
MUST TEACH  
YOU HOW TO  
ADDRESS  
AN ENEMY  
PROPERLY.

HEY!

HOW COULD HE GET  
PAST THE BEST SECURITY  
SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY?  
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...

...HOW DID I NOT SENSE  
HIS PRESENCE?

I COULD  
KILL YOU FOR  
THAT, YOU  
KNOW.

I MOST  
CERTAINLY  
COULD.

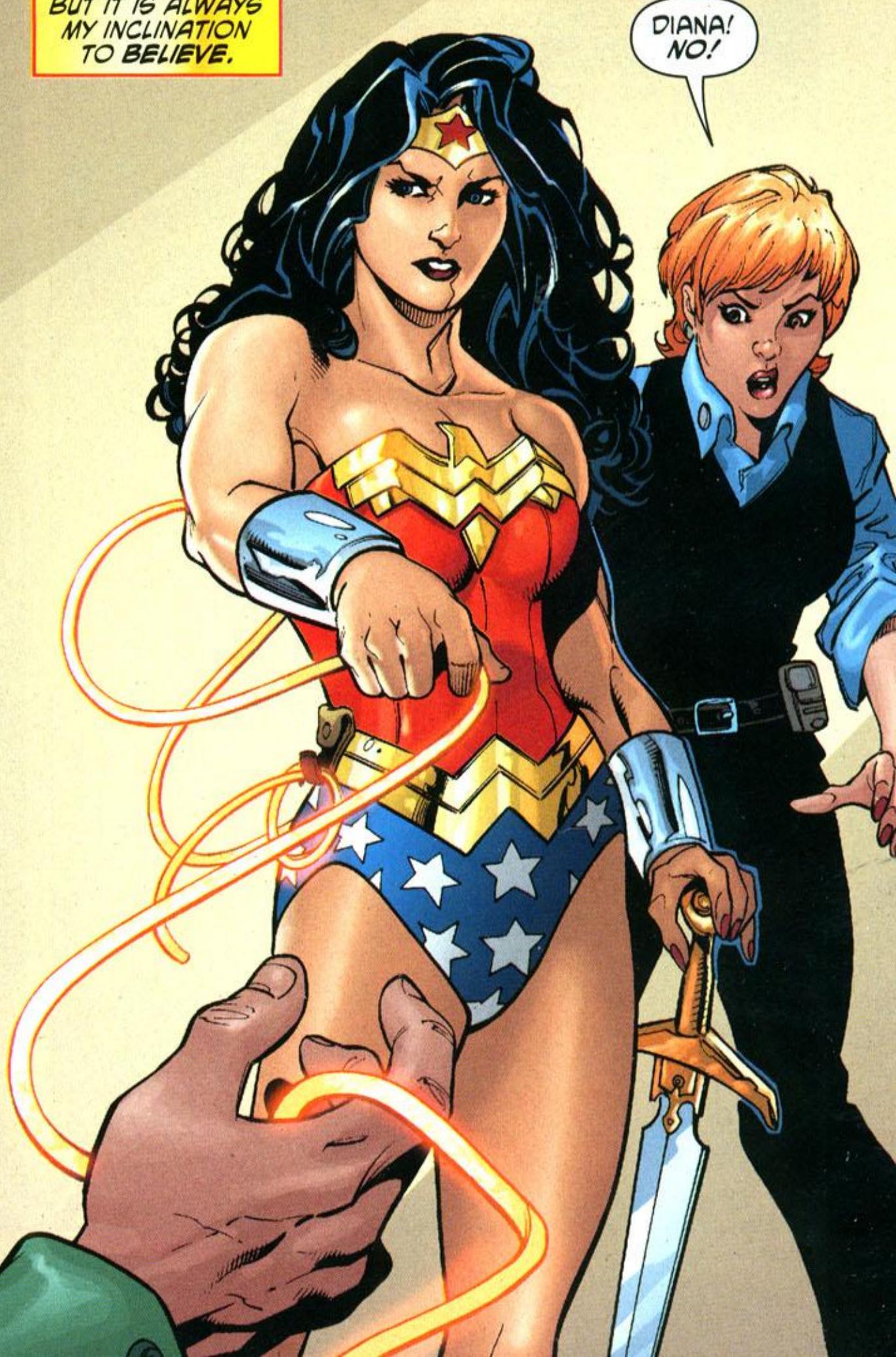
I  
THINK  
NOT.

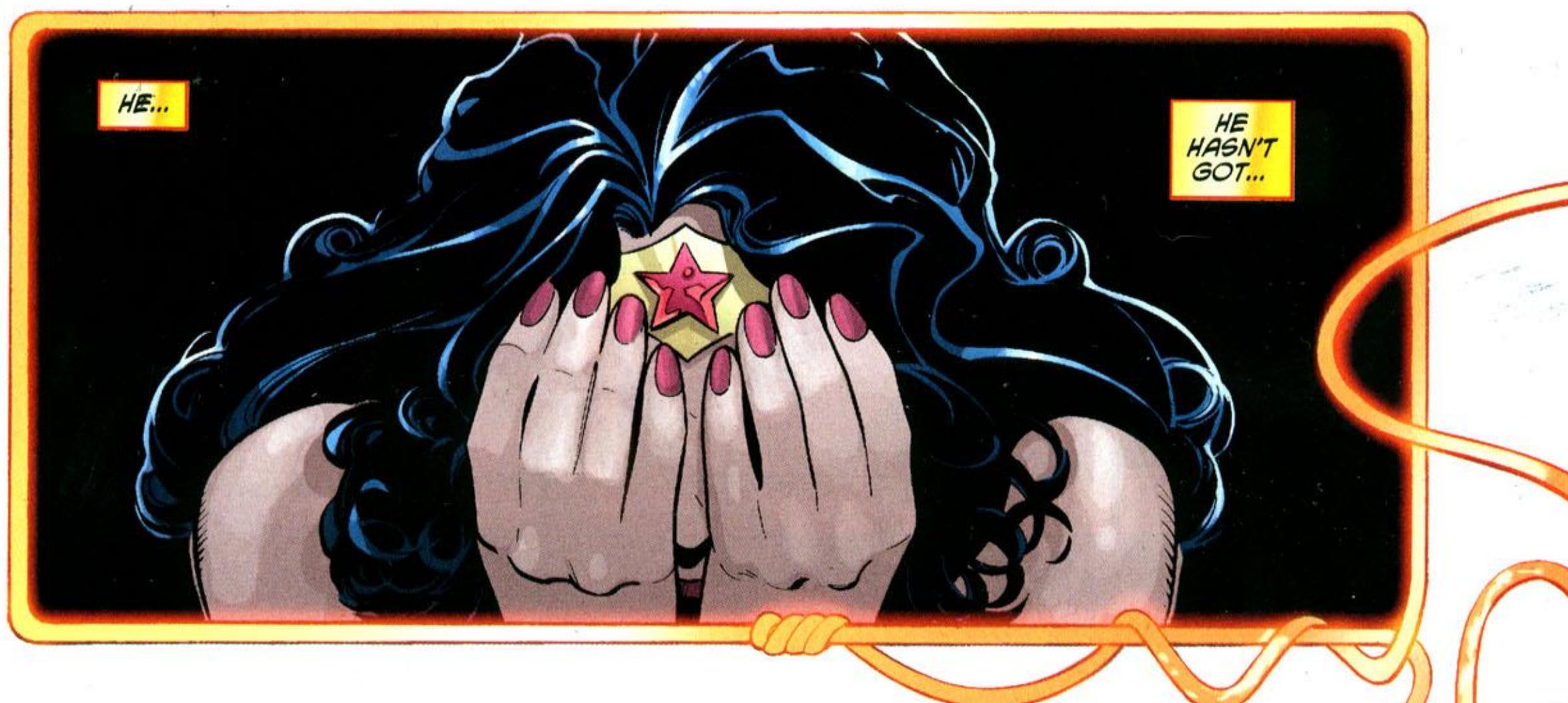


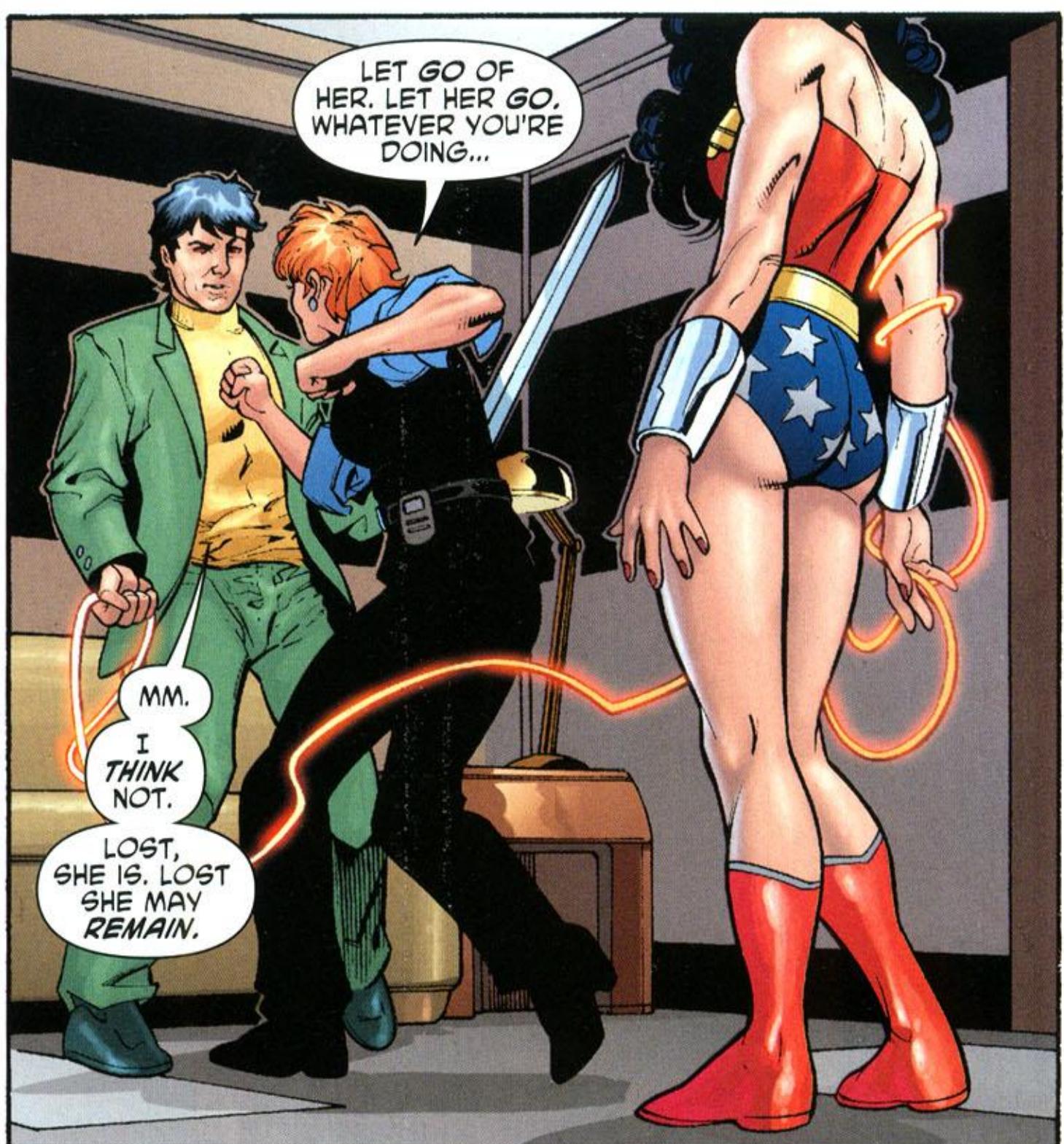
HE KNOWS WHO I AM.

BUT IT IS ALWAYS MY INCLINATION TO BELIEVE.

DIANA! NO!







UNTOLD AGES HE HAS LIVED.  
WITH NO LOVE.  
NO JOY.

'TIL HE'S FORGOTTEN THE VALUE OF SUCH THINGS.

NO BEING HAS SUFFERED SO, NOT IN HISTORY.

POOR, PITIFUL, WRETCHED PRESENCE!

IT IS TOO MUCH. INDESCRIBABLE.

I... I FEEL IT. A WHISPER OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HIM.

LIKE MY HEART BLEEDS OUT ALL REASON TO LIVE.

THE HORIZON... THE BLACK HORIZON.

DIANA!

ENDLESS.

ENDLESS.

DIANA.  
DIAANNNAAA!

I'M HERE.  
I'M HERE.

THE ICE.  
THE DEEP FROST.  
DO YOU FEEL IT, ETTA?

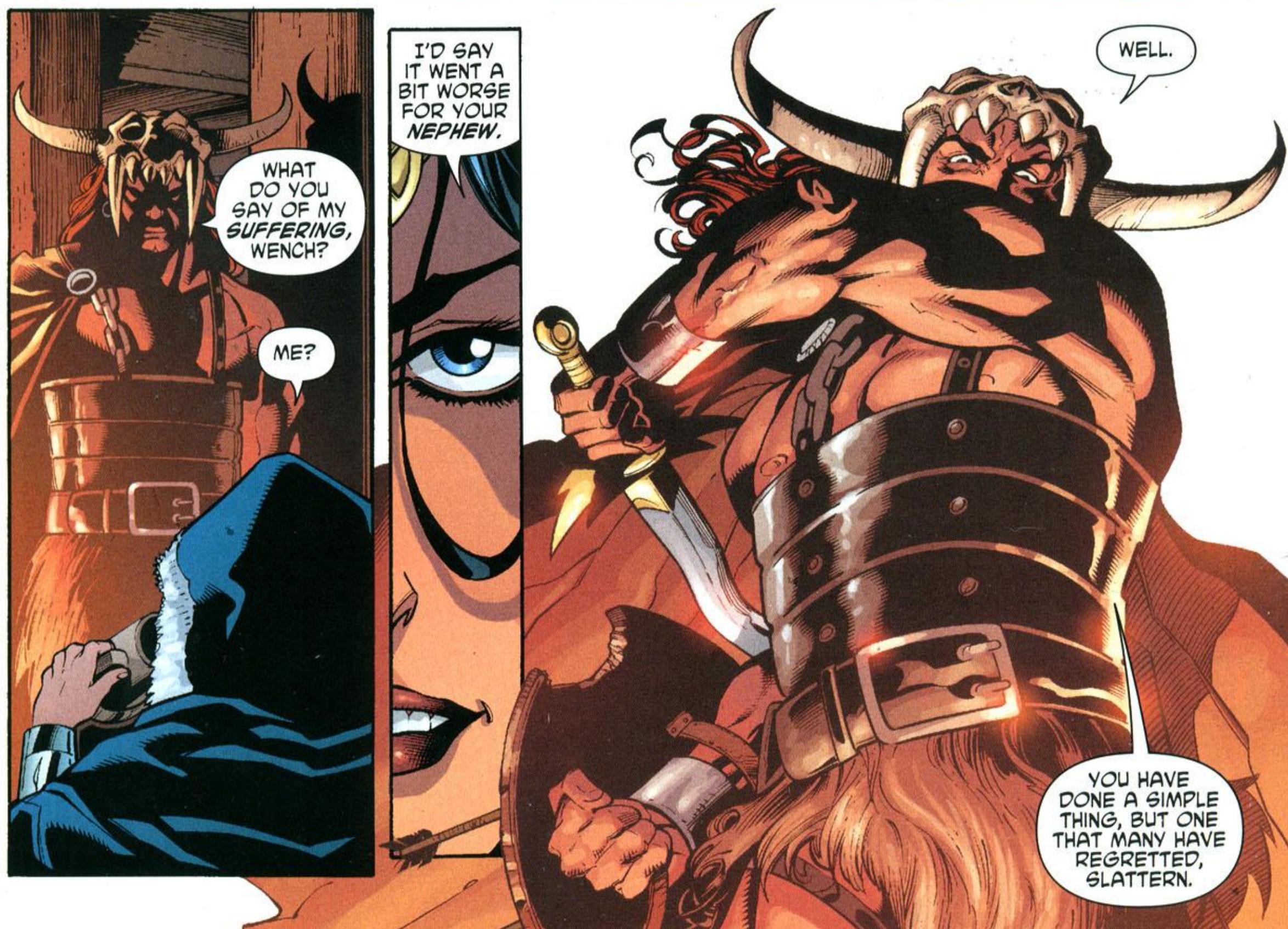
DO YOU FEEL THE BITTER COLD?

DIANA!

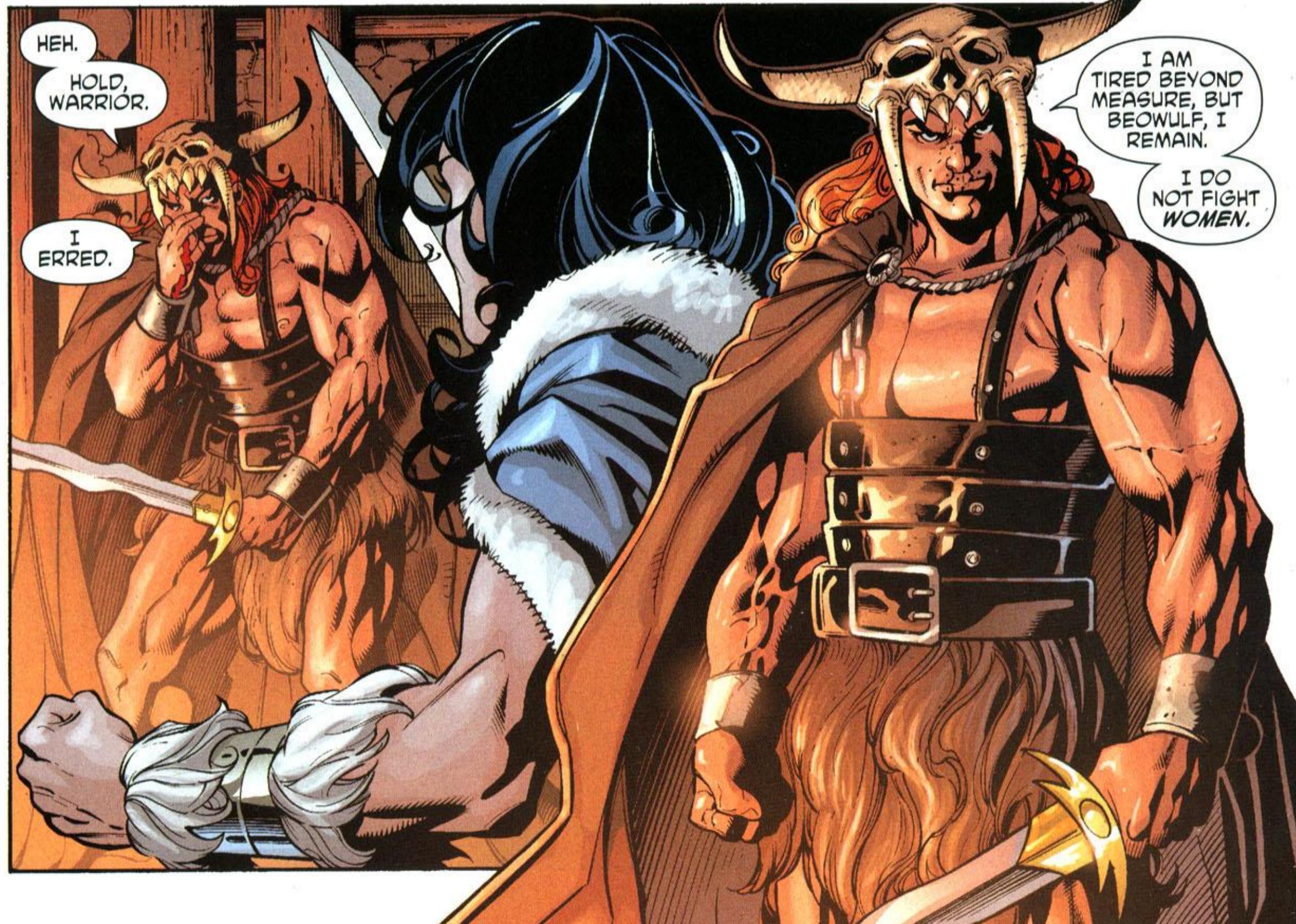


"I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE WARM AGAIN, ETTA."

FOR FIVE DAYS, I CHASED THE DEMON ON FOOT.







I SEE,  
LORD.

DO YOU  
EVER, BY  
CHANCE, FIGHT  
BESIDE  
WOMEN?

THE  
PEASANTS,  
BEOWULF.

AYE?

THEY ARE  
WORSHIPPERS  
OF GRENDEL. I  
HEARD THEM TELL  
TALES OF HIS  
PRAISE AS I  
ENTERED THIS  
PLACE.

AYE.

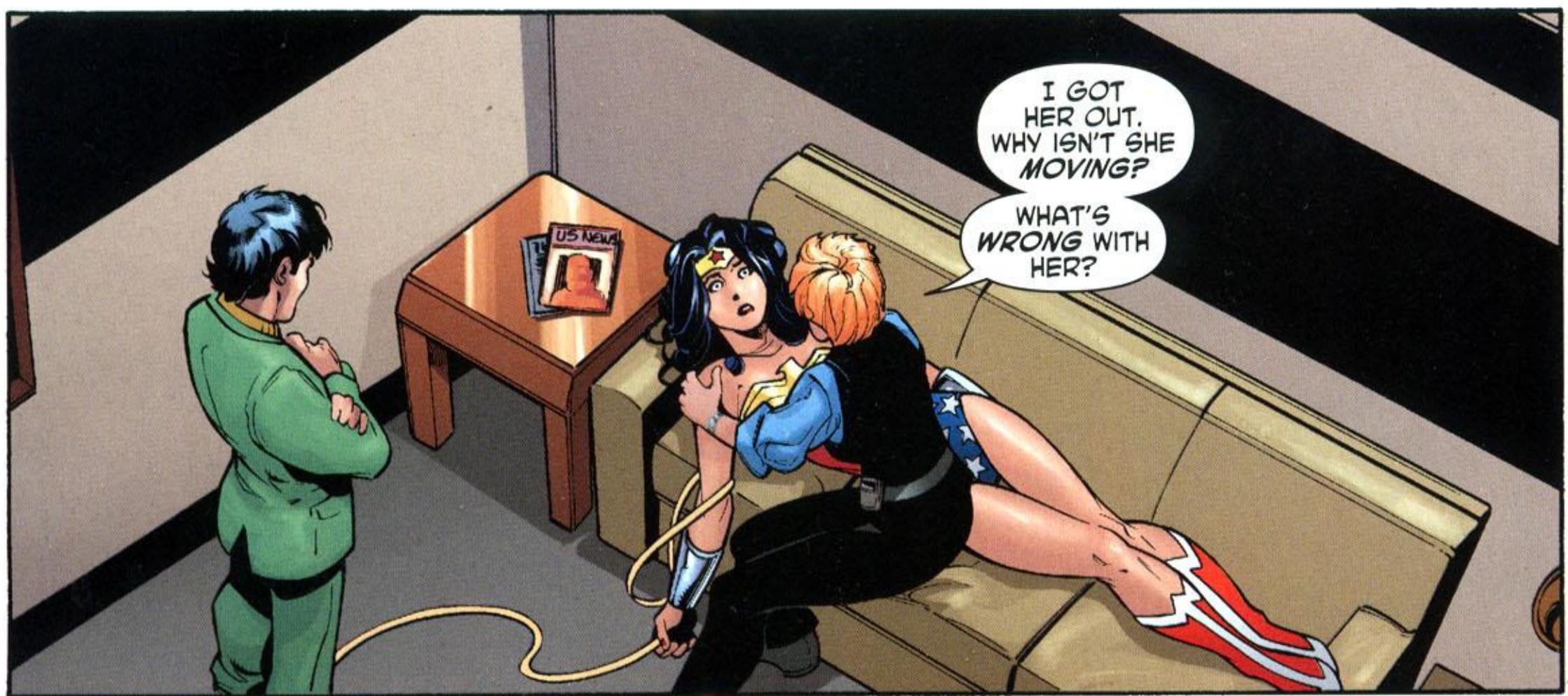
I'M SORRY  
ABOUT YOUR  
NEPHEW.

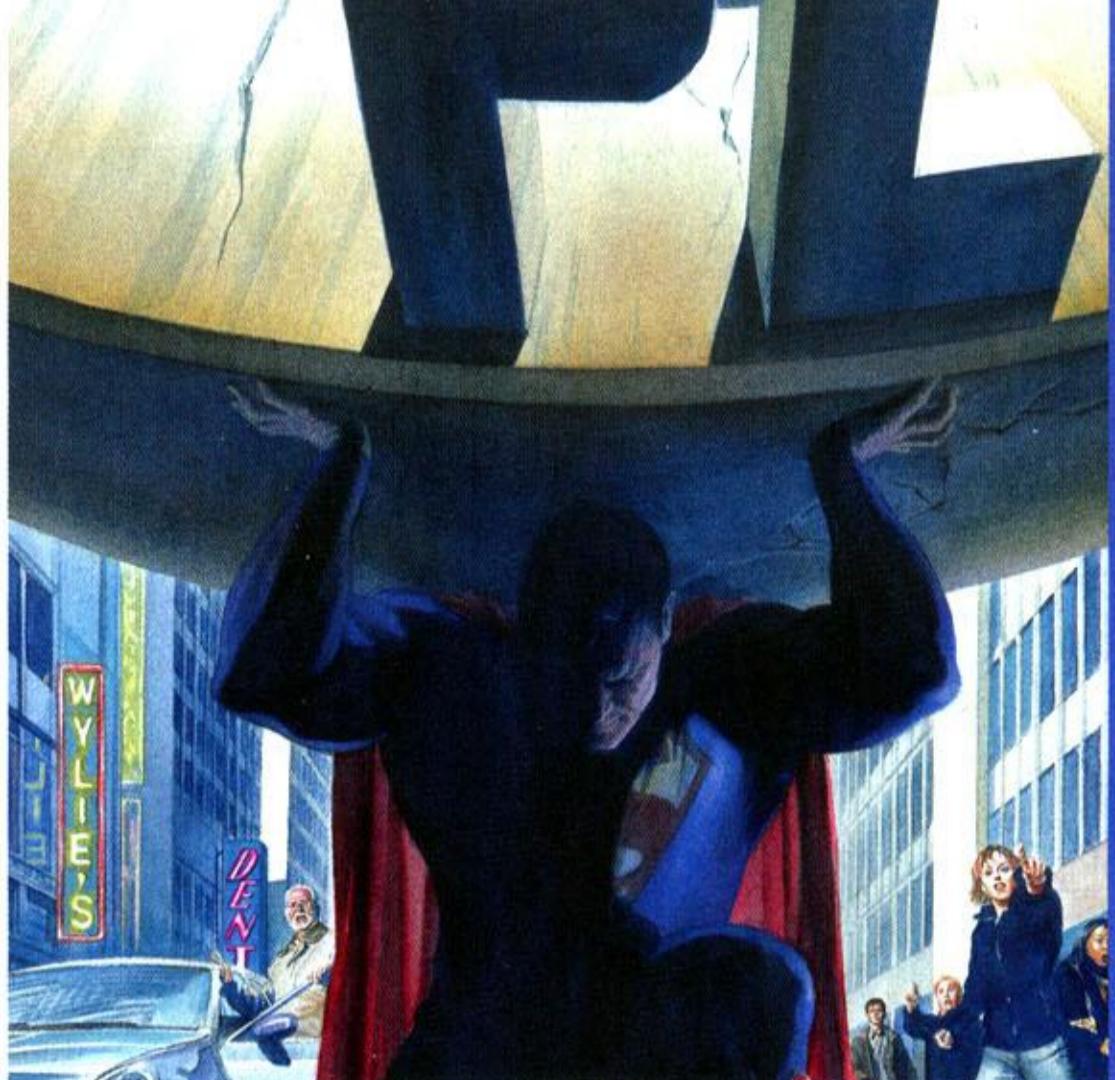
TRUTH BE  
TOLD?

I NEVER  
REALLY LIKED  
HIM.

IT CALLS TO  
ME, THE TASTE  
FOR WAR.

OH, MOTHER.  
WHAT HAVE  
I DONE?





So a few weeks ago, Senior Story Editor Ian Sattler and I jetted off to LA to meet with this year's power couple Geoff Johns and James Robinson (sometimes known as the ACTION COMICS and SUPERMAN writers). There, we had the incredibly cool job of hammering out the events of the Superman books from this fall through the end of 2010. Yes, we're *that* organized. Of course the real challenges were getting the job done in a mere 48 hours, and deciding what stories would have to be punted to even later in the timeline.

We hunkered down at the famed Warner Studios Ranch with the Johns-Robinsons and James's dog, Rex (best-behaved dog I've ever met). There, Ian and I mostly sat, mouths agape, as James and Geoff outlined their plans for their respective titles, stories that would take readers into space, the past, and of course, Metropolis. And then the magic *really* began.

When the events of SUPERMAN and ACTION started to cross over, the two of them became incredibly animated, conveying in incredible detail how Minor Event A in SUPES would impact Major Event B in ACTION—they were threading not just stories, but a true Superman *franchise*, a line where the books (along with SUPERGIRL and a special miniseries we've got cooking) would all be must-reads. We discussed just how Supergirl would fit into the picture (in no small way, thank you), where story threads would creep over into JLA and GREEN LANTERN, how the books would begin to connect more than they have the last couple of years... you get the idea. If the sky was the limit, then—nah, that's too cheesy, even for me.

I'd love to give you some meaty details on what villains to expect, who will betray whom, and how the Superman mythos is going to be shaken to its core again and again—but I can't! But believe me, the journey, each and every month, is going to be every bit as much fun as comics have ever been. Stories of epic scope, tales of deep humanity, victories and losses—there will certainly be something for everyone.

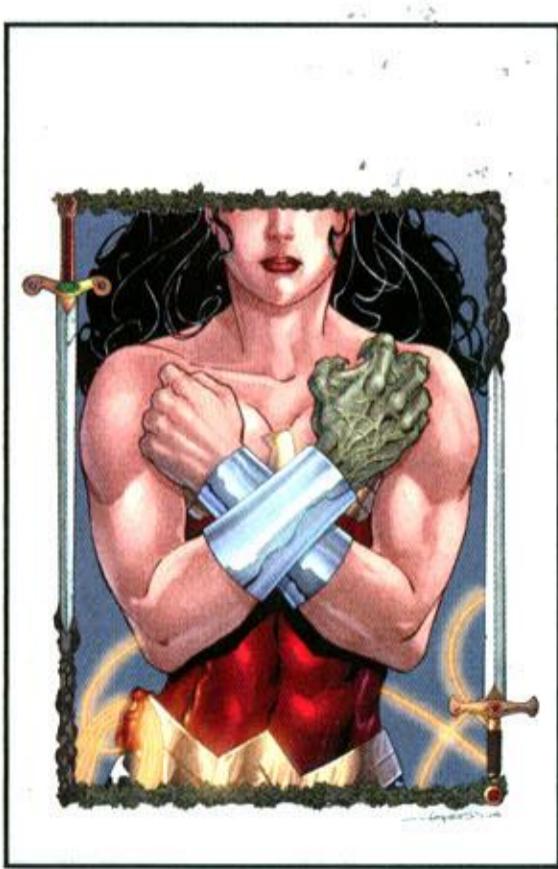
Now I know what you're thinking: "Why should we take this as anything more than empty hype?" Well, the proof will be in the pudding, of course, but I'll challenge you to pick up ACTION #866 and SUPERMAN #677, both in stores in June, and see if you're not convinced! I'll eat my "DiDio Must Die!" T-shirt if I'm wrong! (That's okay—I've got about twenty more at home.) In the meantime, feel free to write in and tell me what you think (yes, I've included my email address this time: matt.idelson@dccomics.com). I won't be able to respond to everyone, but I can promise you I'll read your comments very carefully. Enjoy the ride, folks. In many ways, I'm envious of the journey you're about to begin.

--Matt Idelson

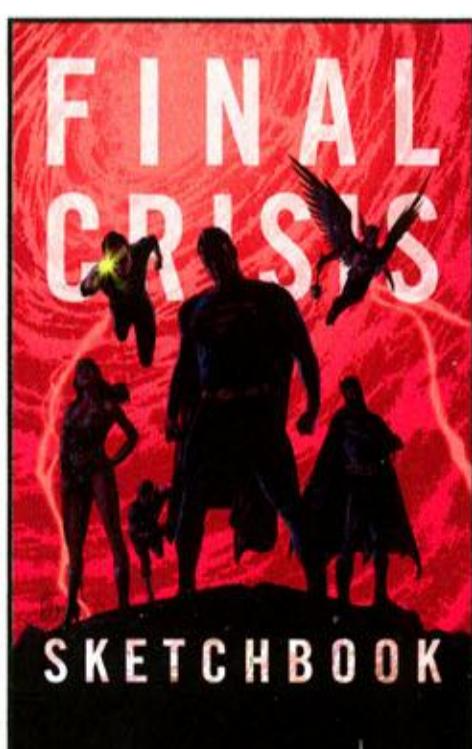
# DC NATION



For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at [dccomics.com](http://dccomics.com)



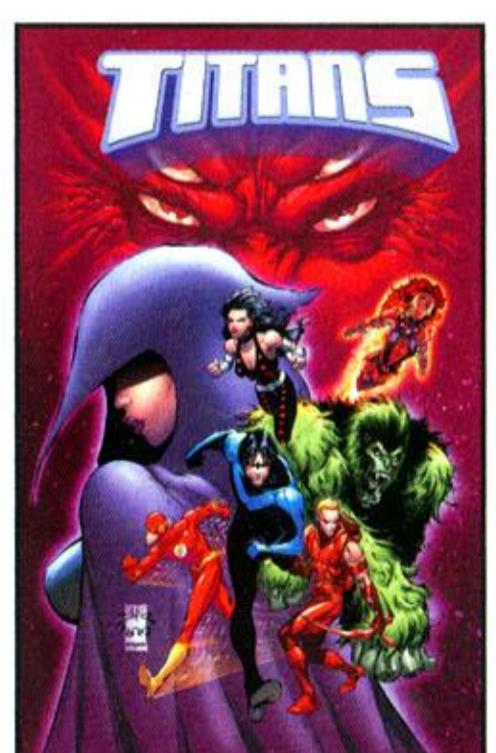
## THE HOT LIST THIS WEEK



FINAL CRISIS SKETCHBOOK #1



HUNTRESS: YEAR ONE #1



TITANS #2

Next in...

### WONDER WOMAN #21

Wonder Woman's quest continues! Swords, sorcery, gorillas, explosions, betrayal and some bad, bad people. Don't miss it.

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