

DC

WONDER
WOMAN

NO. 206

JULY

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Wonder Woman



R-216

UNDER MARS' BRAIN-WASHING--
WONDER WOMAN FINALLY
MEETS HER SISTER NUBIA--IN
A BATTLE TO THE DEATH!

IN THE STARTLING BOOK-LENGTH EPIC:

"**WAR OF THE
WONDER-WOMEN!**"

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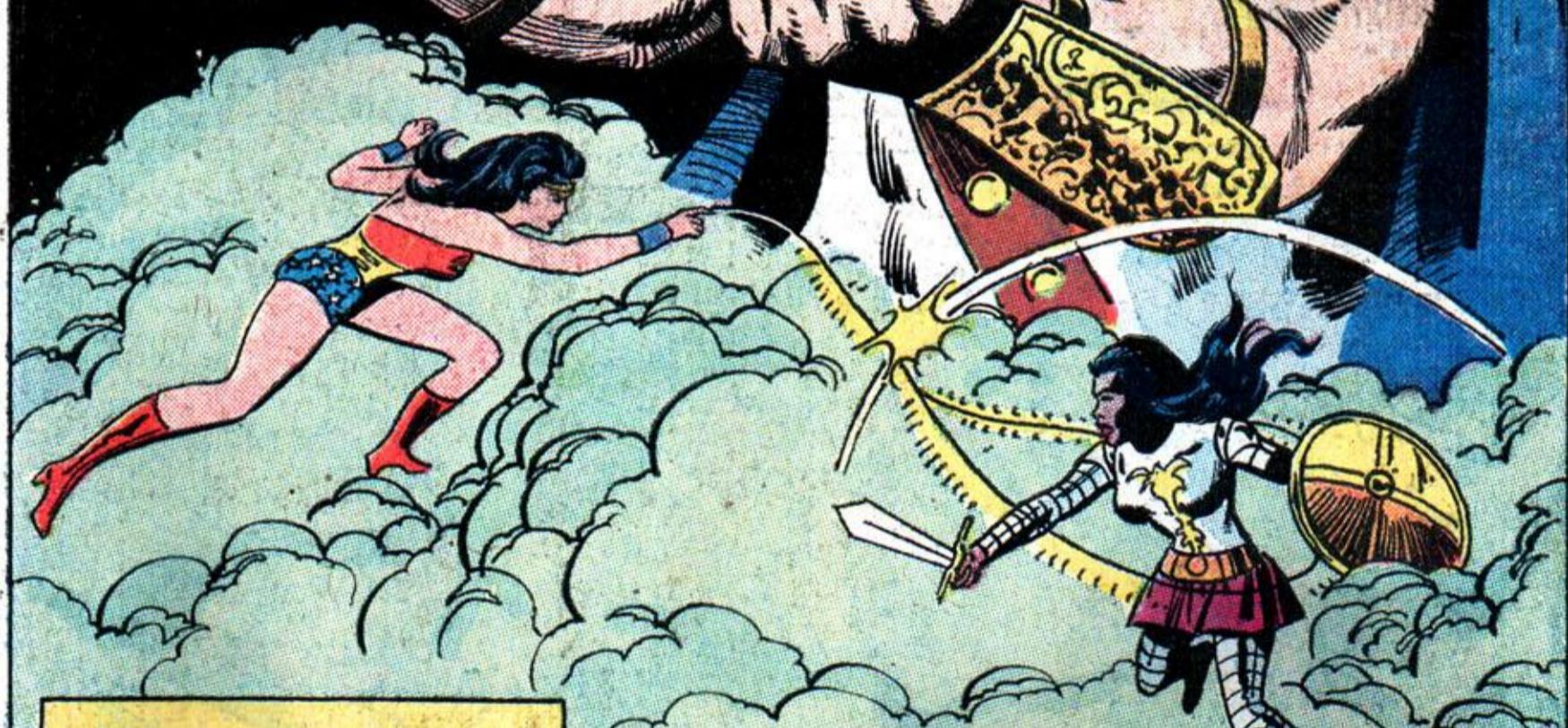
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WONDER WOMAN

FIGHT,
NUBIA!

DEFEAT
AND SLAY
WONDER
WOMAN--

AND THEN
NOTHING WILL
SAVE THE AMAZONS
OF PARADISE
ISLAND FROM
MY FURY!



WONDER WOMAN—BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE, WISE AS ATHENA, SWIFTER THAN MERCURY, AND STRONGER THAN HERCULES. SUCH WERE THE GODLY POWERS BESTOWED ON WONDER WOMAN WHEN SHE WAS BUT A BABE!

BUT MARS--THE FEARSOME GOD OF WAR--PLOTTED STARTLING EVIL AGAINST THE AMAZON MAID!

NOW WITNESS THE CATACLYSMIC CONSEQUENCES YEARS LATER--IN...

"WAR of the WONDER WOMEN!"

ART:
Heidi
Colletta

STORY:
GARY
BATES

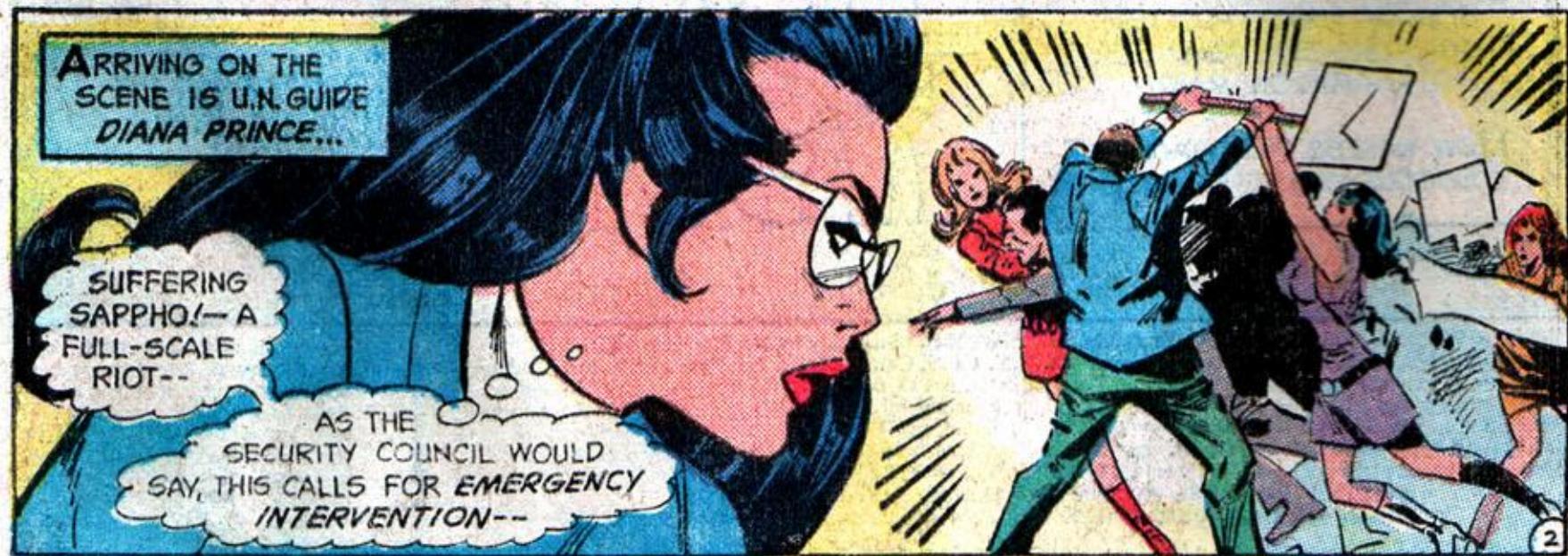
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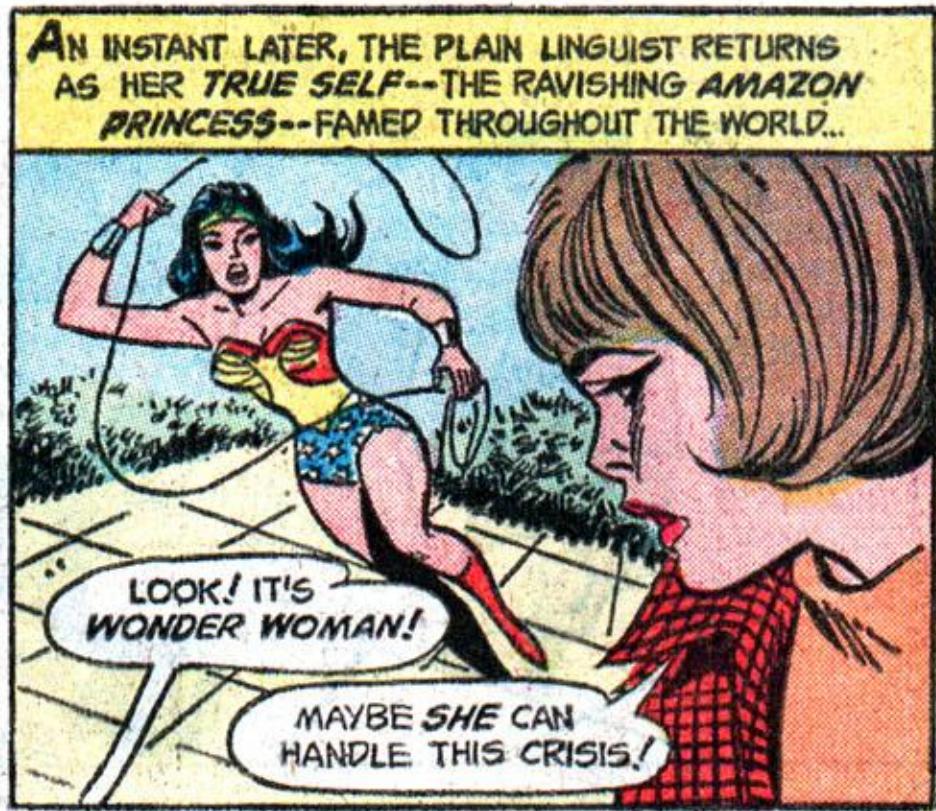
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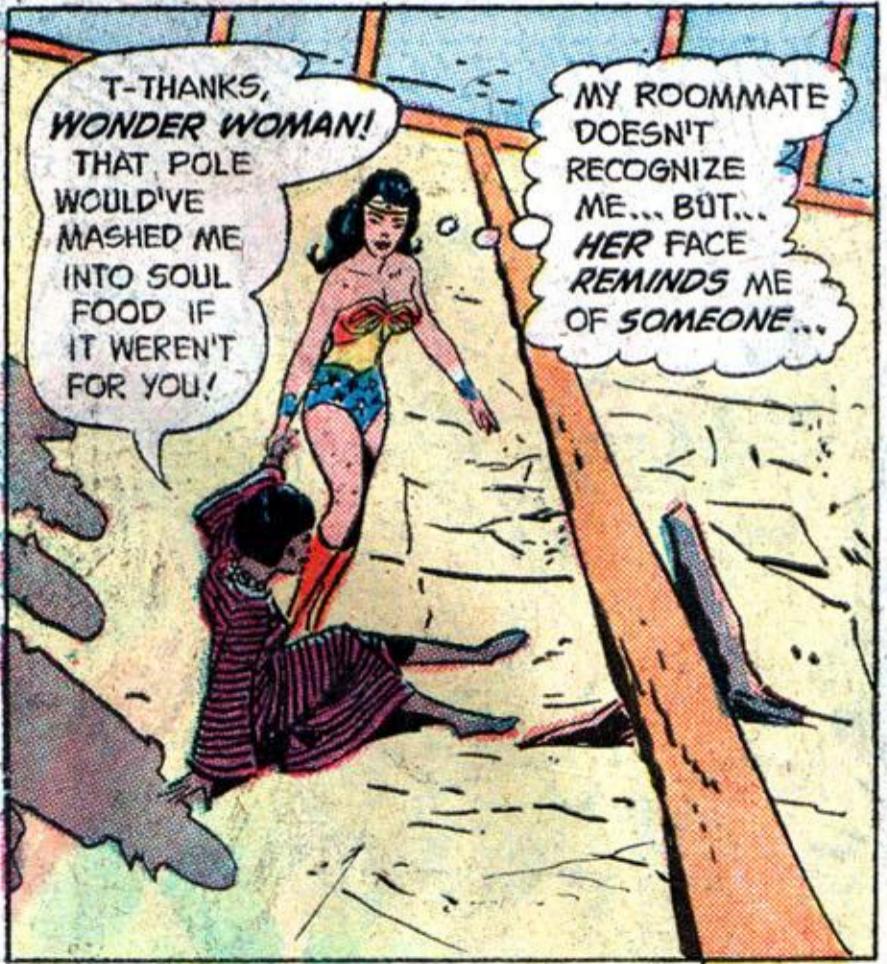
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04/14/05

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WONDER WOMAN'S THOUGHTS SWIFTLY FLASH BACK TO PARADISE ISLAND AND...

NUBIA!

I CAN'T GET HER OUT OF MY MIND! IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW DAYS SINCE SHE AND I FOUGHT A DUEL...ALMOST TO THE DEATH-- BECAUSE SHE CHALLENGED ME-- MAINTAINING SHE WAS WONDER WOMAN!

BUT I STILL DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA JUST WHO SHE IS...OR WHERE SHE CAME FROM!

DIANA'S UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ARE HER OWN MOTHER'S TOO! FOR AT THAT MOMENT, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY ON PARADISE ISLAND...

WHO IS NUBIA?

SHE CLAIMS SHE IS THE TRUE WONDER WOMAN... SHE ALMOST KILLED MY DAUGHTER DIANA IN A SINGLE COMBAT--TO PROVE IT!

CAN NUBIA REALLY BE WHO I SUSPECT SHE IS?

QUEEN HIPPOLYTE-- MOTHER TO THE AMAZON PRINCESS AND RULER OF PARADISE ISLAND-- WHERE NO MAN CAN EVER DARE SET FOOT... IS SORELY TROUBLED!

ALL THESE YEARS I'VE KEPT THESE THREE MEMORY-TAPES HIDDEN FROM DIANA... BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BURDEN HER WITH THE SECRET TRAGEDY THAT FOLLOWED HER BIRTH!

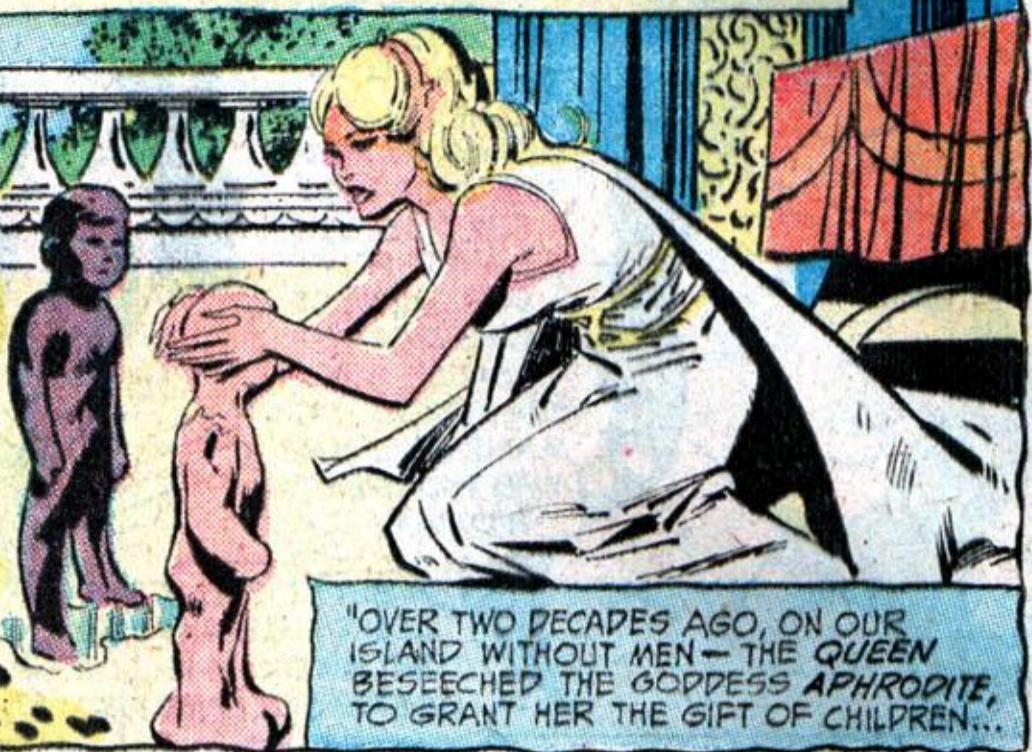
NOW I MUST REVIEW THESE TAPES FOR MYSELF-- AND SEE IF THEY WILL SHED LIGHT ON--NUBIA!

THE QUEEN PLACES A SPECIAL MENTO-SCANNING HELMET OVER HER HEAD AFTER INSERTING THE TAPES...

MEMORY TAPES 3-5...

THE CREATION OF QUEEN HIPPOLYTE'S DAUGHTER...

COME WITH US INTO QUEEN HIPPOLYTE'S MIND,
AS THE CONFIDENTIAL DATA IS BEAMED BEFORE
HER AND CONVERTED INTO MENTAL SCENES...



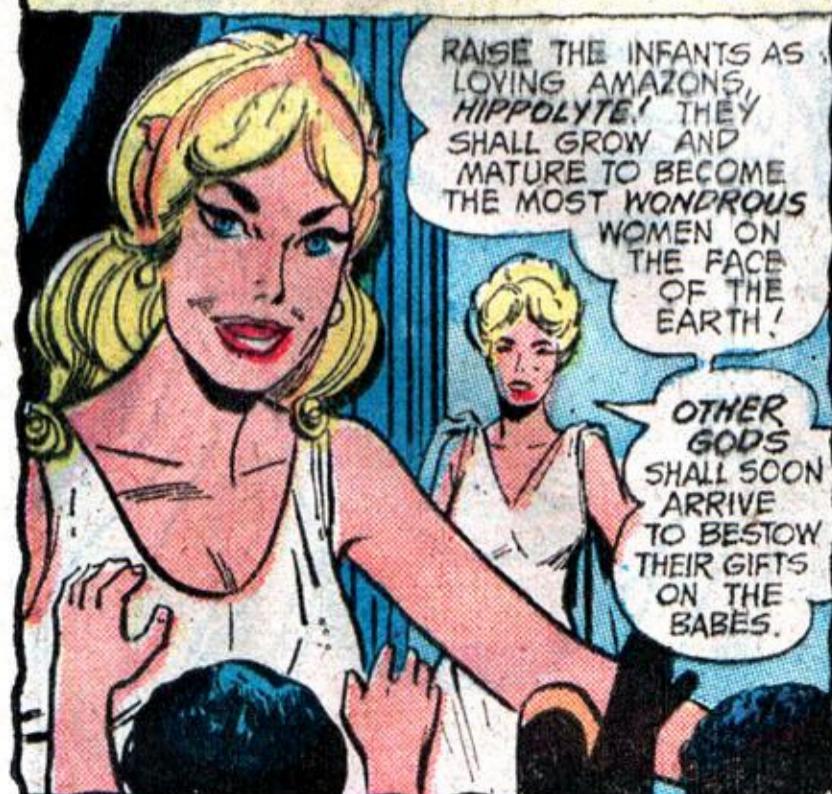
"HIPPOLYTE WAS INSTRUCTED TO FASHION TWO
FIGURES OF RAW CLAY... ONE DARK—ONE LIGHT..."



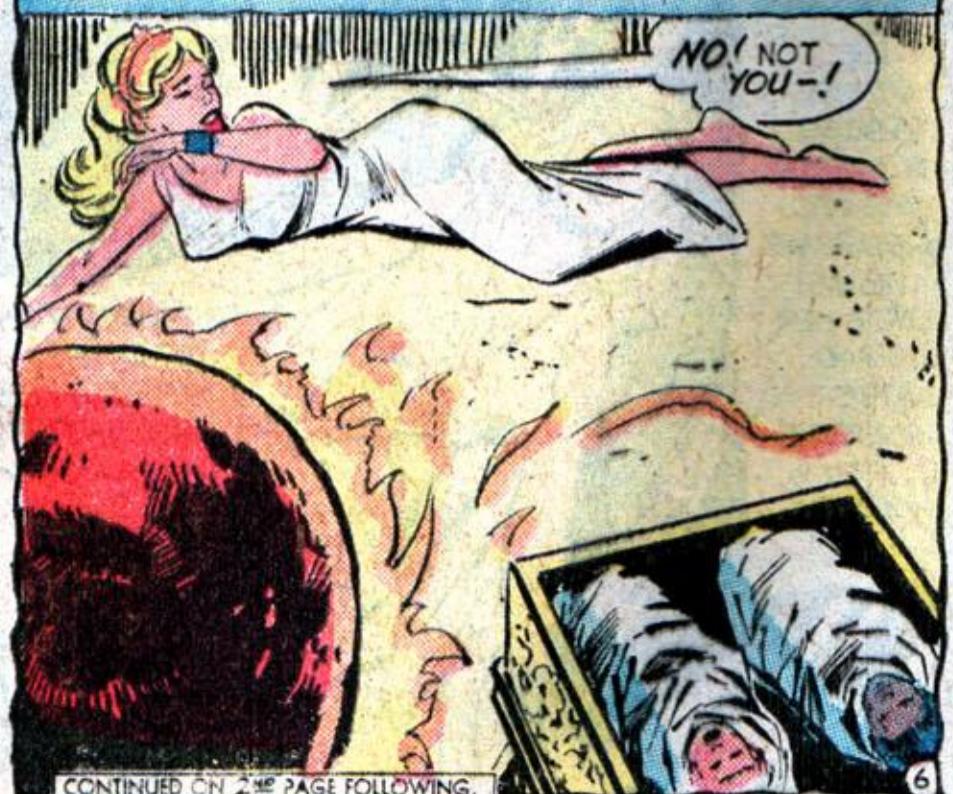
"APHRODITE, PATRON GODDESS OF THE AMAZONS, THEN
APPEARED AND WITH THE BREATH OF LOVE BESTOWED
THE CLAY FIGURES WITH THE MIRACLES OF LIFE AND
BEAUTY..."



"THUS THE QUEEN BECAME THE PROUD
MOTHER OF TWO DAUGHTERS..."



"BUT—AFTER APHRODITE DEPARTED... A FIREBALL
HURTLED INTO THE PALACE..."



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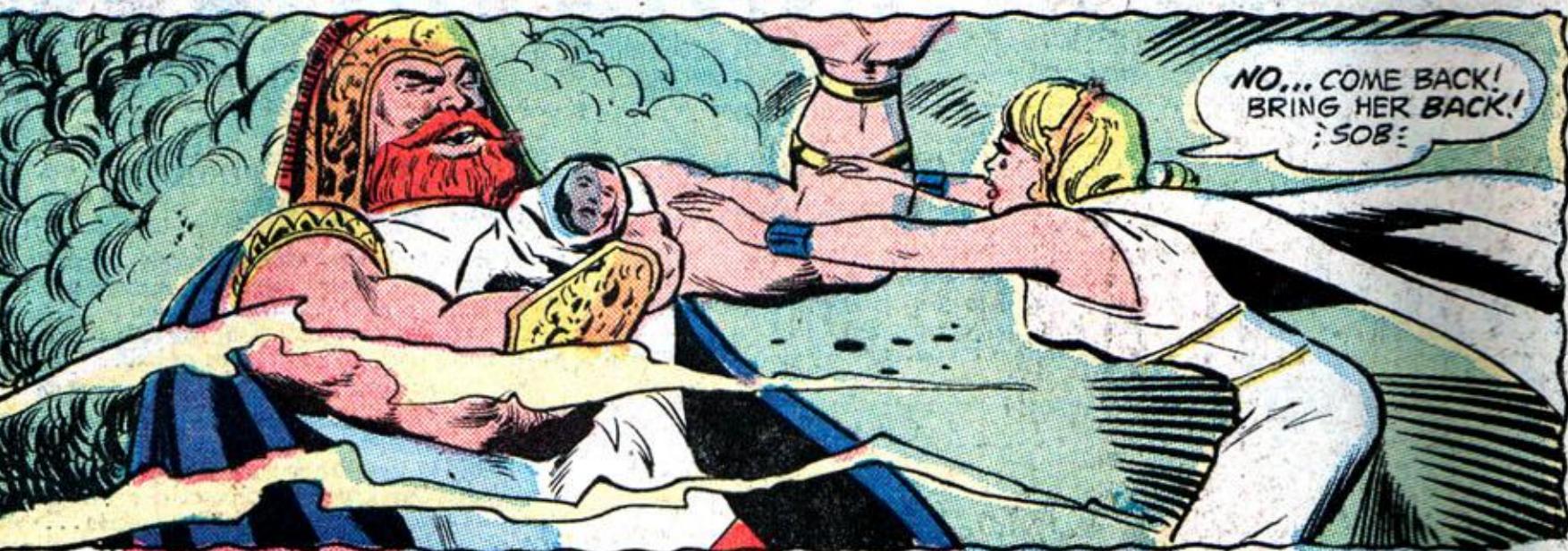
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"MARS--THE DREADED GOD OF WAR--
LOOMED BEFORE THE DAZED MOTHER
AS SHE WATCHED ONE OF HER BABES
BEING SNATCHED FROM HER CRADLE..."

MARS - PUT
HER BACK!
YOU CAN'T
TAKE ONE
OF MY
CHILDREN!

I HAVE
OTHER PLANS,
HIPPOLYTE!

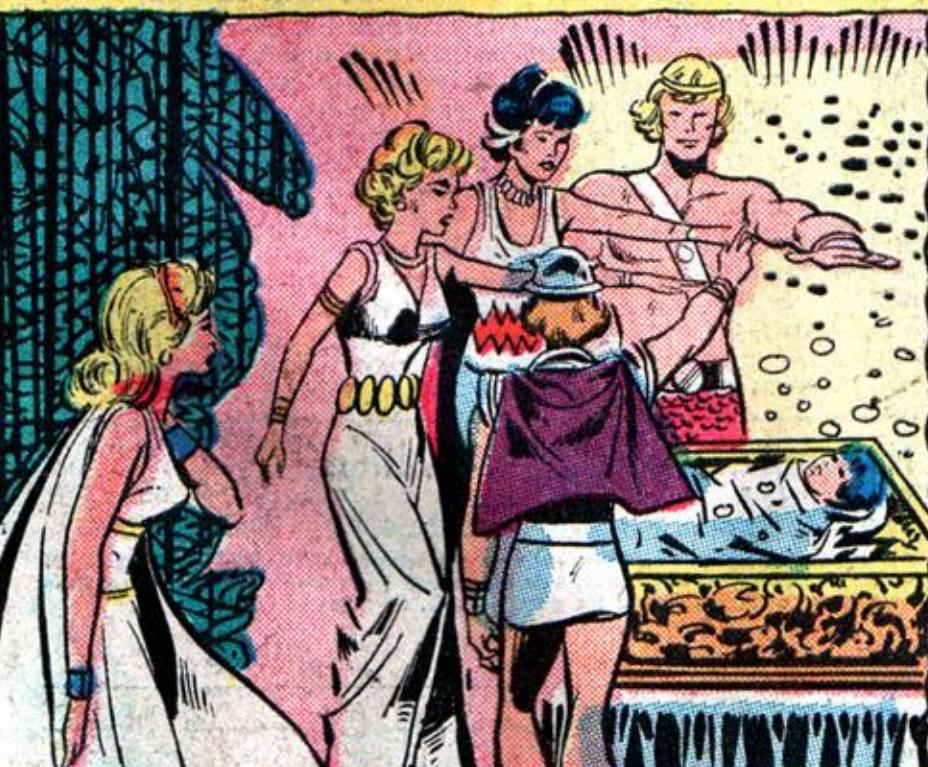


"AND WHEN APHRODITE, ATHENA, HERCULES, AND MERCURY FINALLY APPEARED, TO BESTOW THE REMAINING BABE--DIANA-- WITH THEIR BEAUTY, WISDOM, STRENGTH, AND SWIFTNESS..."

END OF
MEMORY
CHANNELS
3-5!

NOT EVEN APHRODITE
COULD DISCOVER WHERE
MARS HAD HIDDEN
MY OTHER BABY IN
HIS SAVAGE DOMAIN -
ALL THESE YEARS!

IS IT
POSSIBLE
THAT--



"...THE GLORIOUS EVENT WAS TAINTED WITH GRIEF FOR HIPPOLYTE... AS SHE PINED FOR HER MISSING DAUGHTER ... WHO WAS NOT RECEIVING THE GODS' GIFTS THAT DAY!"

END PART ONE

MEANWHILE—MARS HIMSELF—IMMORTAL SCOURGE OF THE WORLD—CLOAKED IN TOGS AS CRIMSON AS THE BLOOD FROM A FRESH WOUND...

THE TIME FOR ATTACK IS NIGH!

HIPPOLYTE AND HER AMAZONS DO NOT DREAM HOW CLOSE THEIR DOOM IS...

OR WHO MY AGENT OF DESTRUCTION WILL BE!

FOR ALL HER LIFE I'VE TRAINED THE BABE I'VE STOLEN FROM HIPPOLYTE IN ALL FORMS OF COMBAT!

THE MOST GLORIOUS FEMALE WARRIOR OF ALL TIME! RULER OF THAT FLOATING ISLAND!

NUBIA—!

I HAVE TRAINED NUBIA TO BE MY INSTRUMENT OF VENGEANCE AGAINST THE AMAZONS—

WHOM I HATE BECAUSE THEIR WAYS OF LOVE--

WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY MY WAYS OF WAR—

UNLESS I ANNIHILATE THEM FIRST!

NUBIA WILL DO THIS FOR ME!

NUBIA'S DOMAIN
IS A DRIFTING
ISLAND — A
NATURAL ARSENAL
COMPLETELY AT
MARS' COMMAND...

AN ARSENAL WHICH FLOATS AMONG THE
SEVEN SEAS ON ANY COURSE THE OLYMPIAN
CZAR OF COMBAT CHOOSES TO STEER IT!

LATER — IN QUEEN
HIPPOLYTE'S ROYAL
CHAMBER...

I'VE MADE UP
MY MIND!

DIANA MUST VIEW
THESE TAPES FOR
HERSELF! THEN SHE
CAN DECIDE IF --

YOUR
HIGHNESS —
PARADISE
ISLAND IS
UNDER
ATTACK!!

AND RUSHING OUTSIDE...

SUFFERING
SAPPHO!

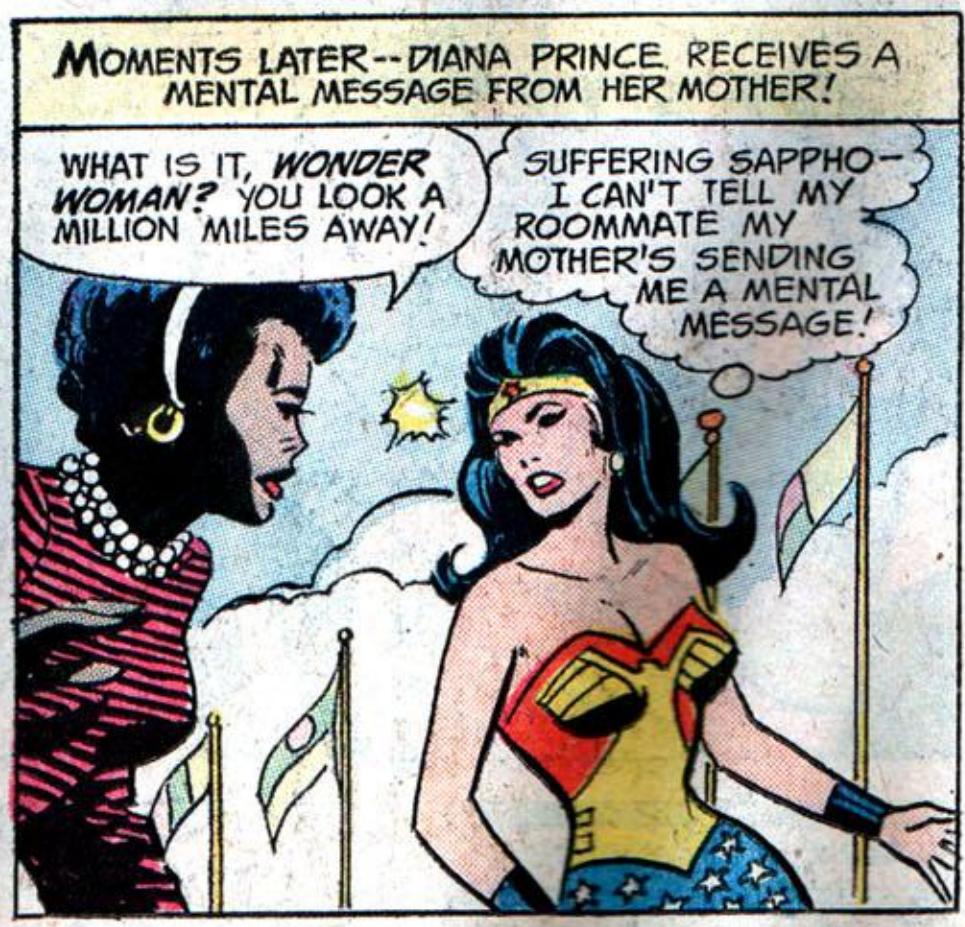
A DOWNPOUR
OF FIERY METEORS--
LIKE GIANT BLAZING
COALS!

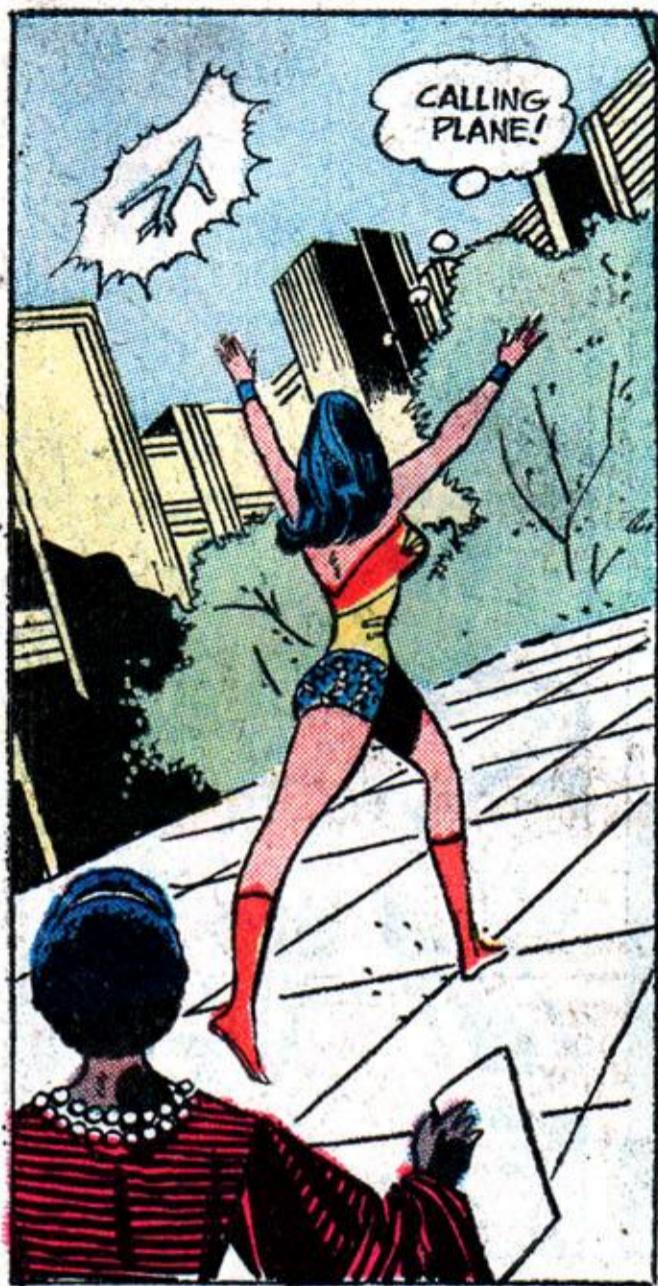
WHERE ARE
THEY COMING
FROM--?

WHROOOOSH

WHROOOOSH

SH

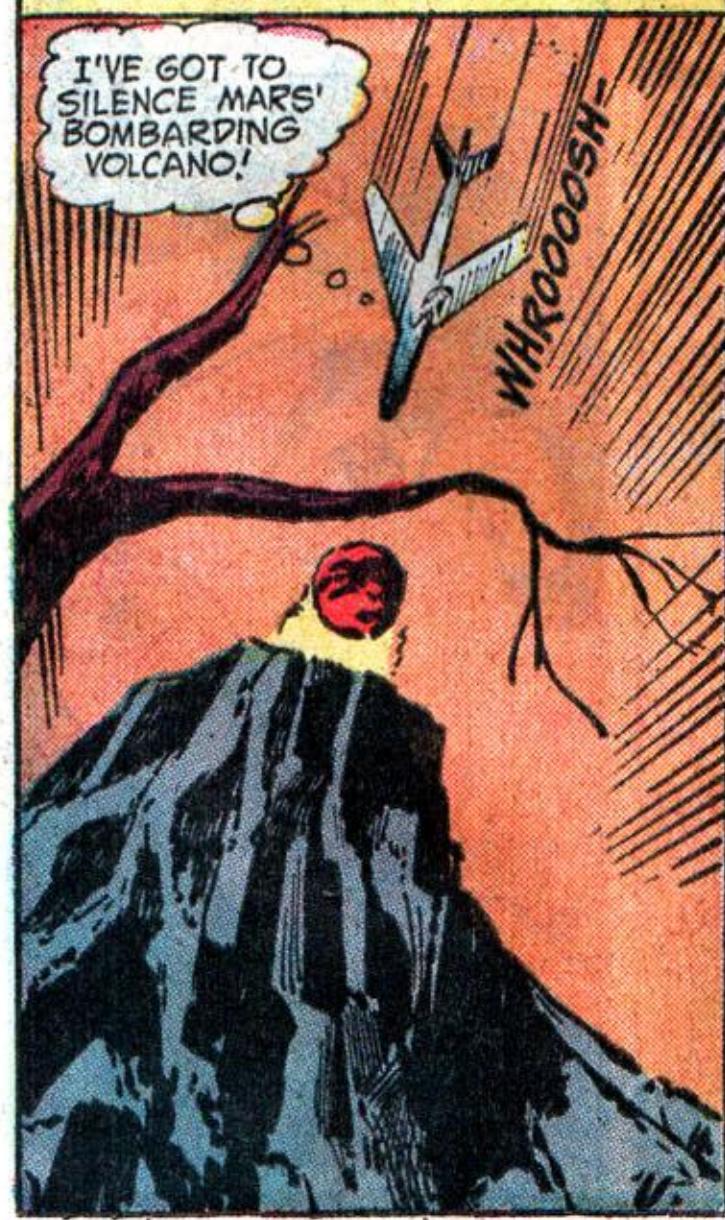


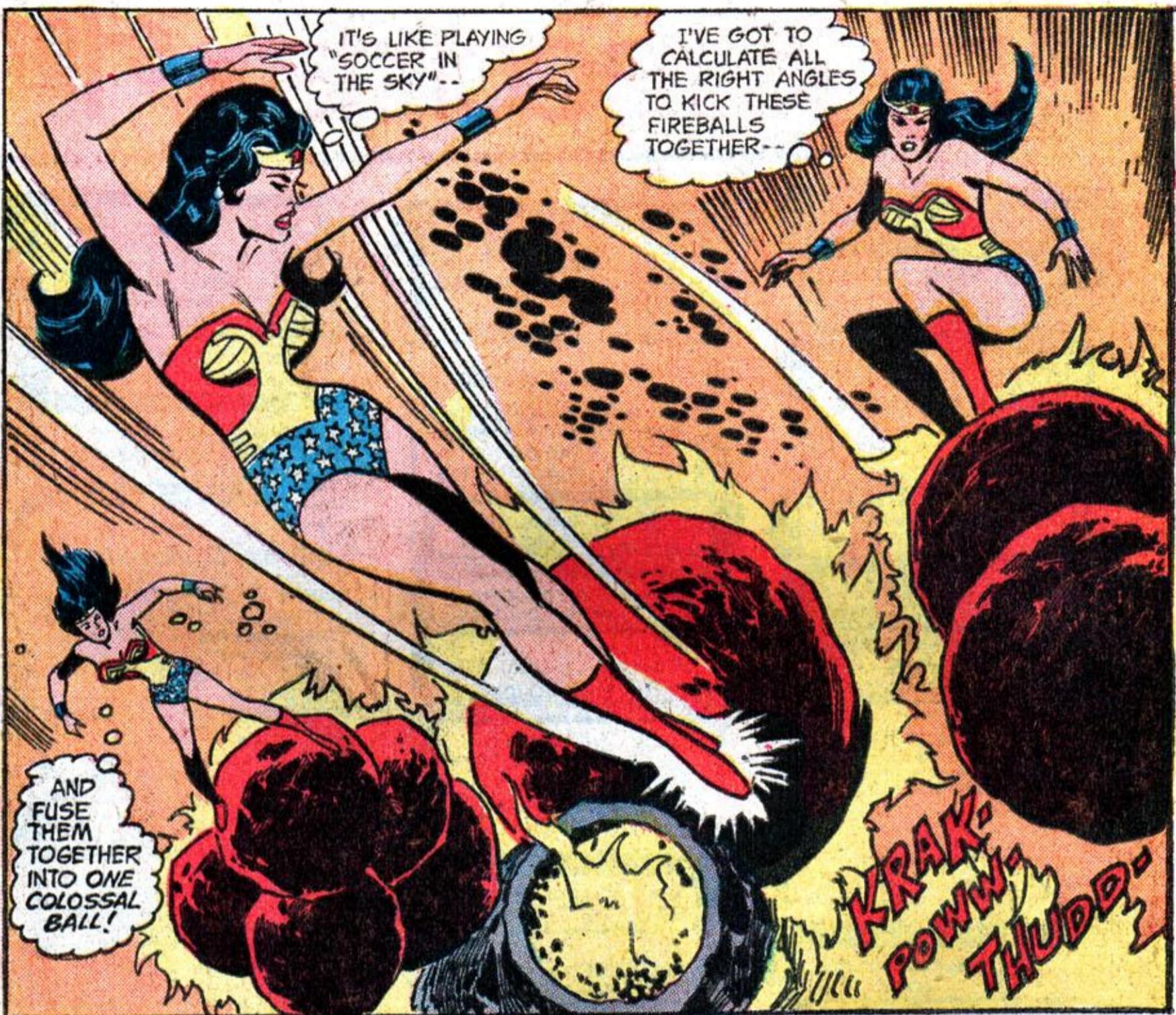


SOON, THE AMAZON PRINCESS WINGS OVER A BIZARRE SPECTACLE OF WAR, UNLIKE ANYTHING THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN BEFORE...



AT THAT MOMENT THE FEARLESS AMAZON DIRECTS HER OBEDIENT AIRCRAFT TOWARD THE GAPING MAW OF THE SPOUTING VOLCANO...





BUT - THE MOMENT THE AMAZON PRINCESS
TOUCHES GROUND...

SHADES
OF PLUTO!

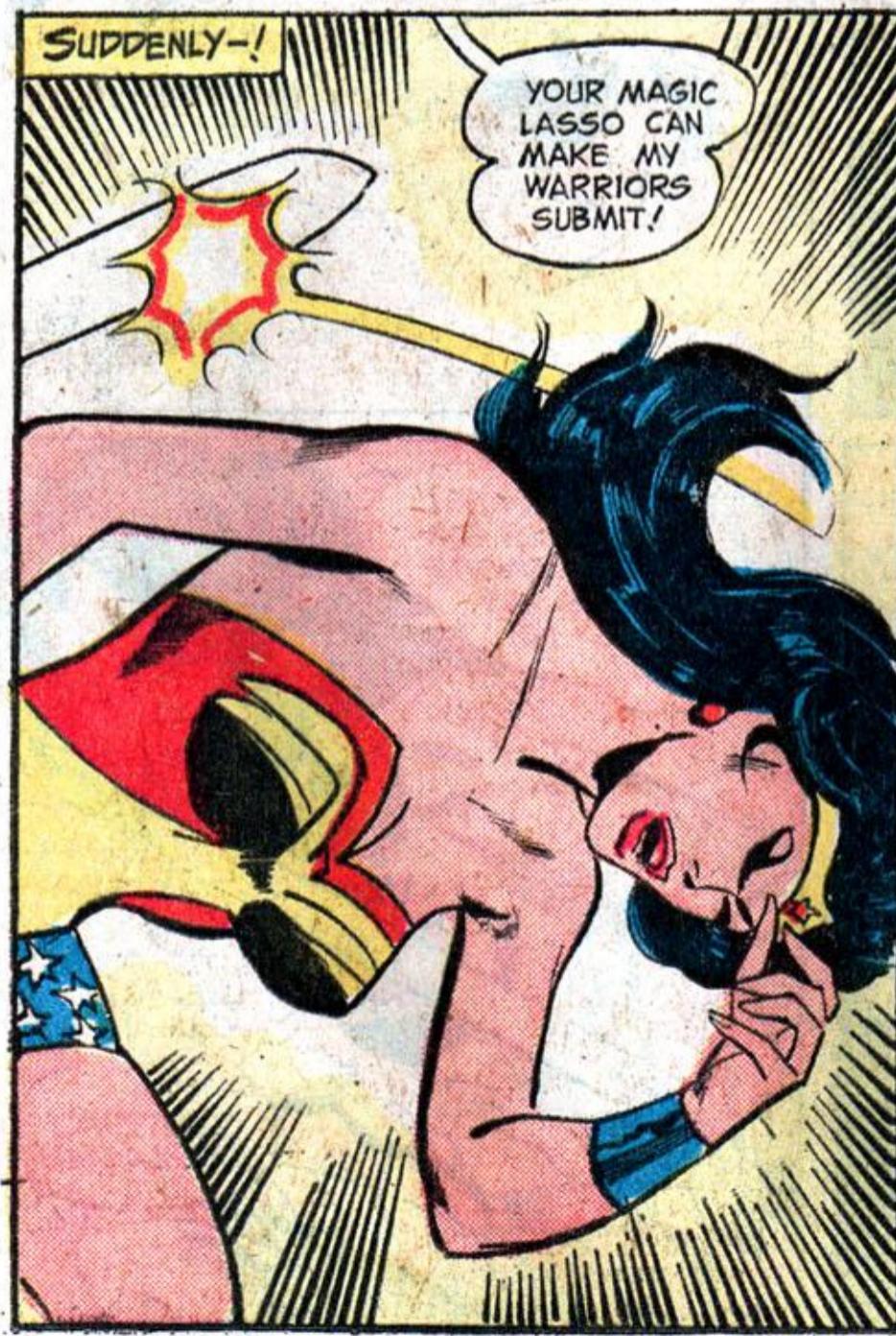
I WAS
TRICKED
BY A
MIRAGE!

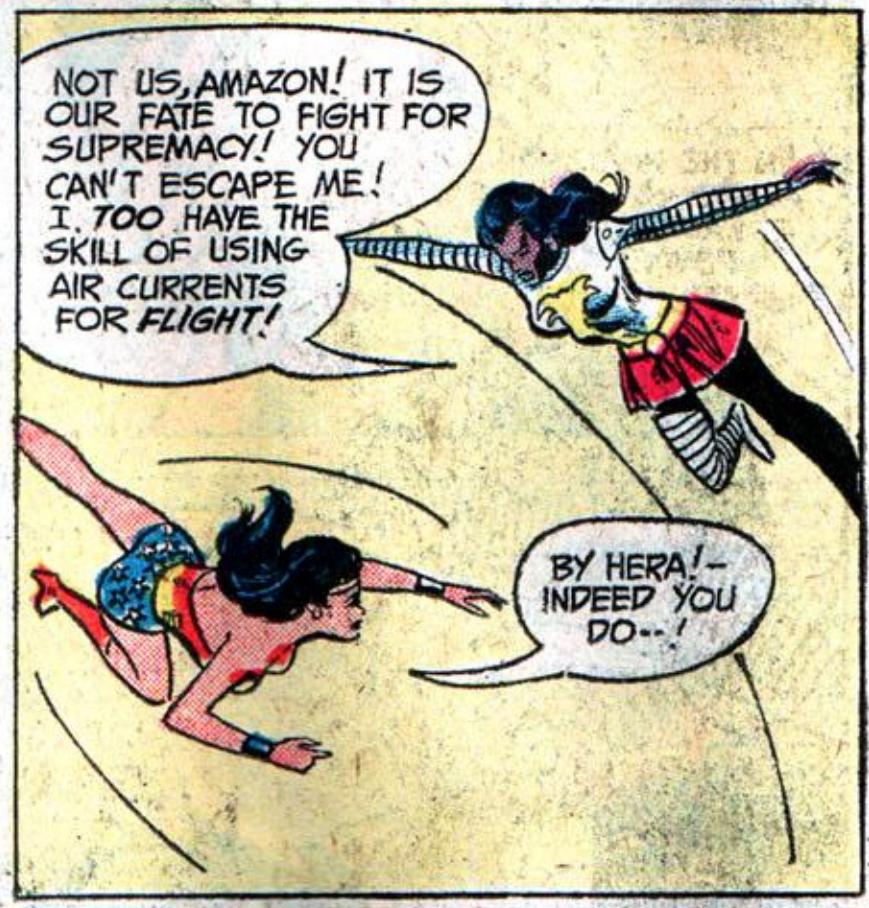


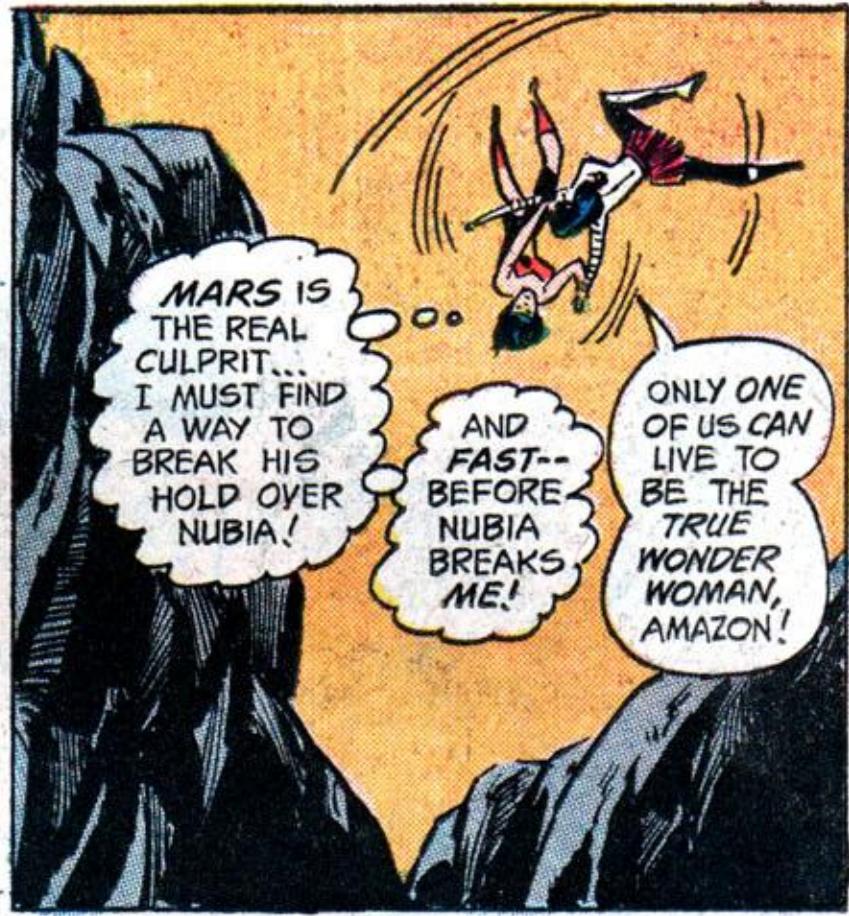
WHEN WILL YOU
MEN LEARN
VIOLENCE IS A
BOOMERANG TURNING
AGAINST YOU!

ALTHOUGH WONDER WOMAN IS SWAMPED BY
SAVAGE SPEARS -









"I REMEMBER MY MOTHER ESCORTING ME THROUGH THE TEMPLE OF GODS ON PARADISE ISLAND, TELLING ME OF THE IMMORTAL OLYMPIANS WHO BESTOWED THEIR POWERS UPON ME..."

YOU HAVE APHRODITE TO THANK FOR BEAUTY, ATHENA FOR WISDOM, MERCURY FOR SWIFTNESS, AND HERCULES FOR STRENGTH!

"BUT THEN WE CAME TO A FIERCE, BRUTAL FIGURE—"

MARS IS FRIGHTFUL, MOTHER!

WITH GOOD REASON, DIANA! FOR MARS IS THE DREAD GOD OF WAR--THE SCOURGE OF ALL MANKIND!

AND OUR IMPLACABLE ENEMY—BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN LOVE—NOT WAR!

WHAT A HORRIBLE RING—SHOWING MARS STABBING THE EARTH!

WONDER WOMAN'S THOUGHTS RETURN TO THE PRESENT AND--

NUBIA'S WEARING MARS' RING!

SOMETHING TELLS ME I MUST REMOVE IT FROM HER FINGER—!

WH—WHAT ARE YOU DOING—AMAZON!

HAVE YOU GONE MAD—AMAZON?

NOW THAT WE'RE UP HERE—ABOVE THE FILTERING EFFECT OF A CLOUD-COVER—

—THE RAYS OF SUNLIGHT ARE AT THEIR FULL INTENSITY!

A MUST FOR MY PLAN TO WORK!

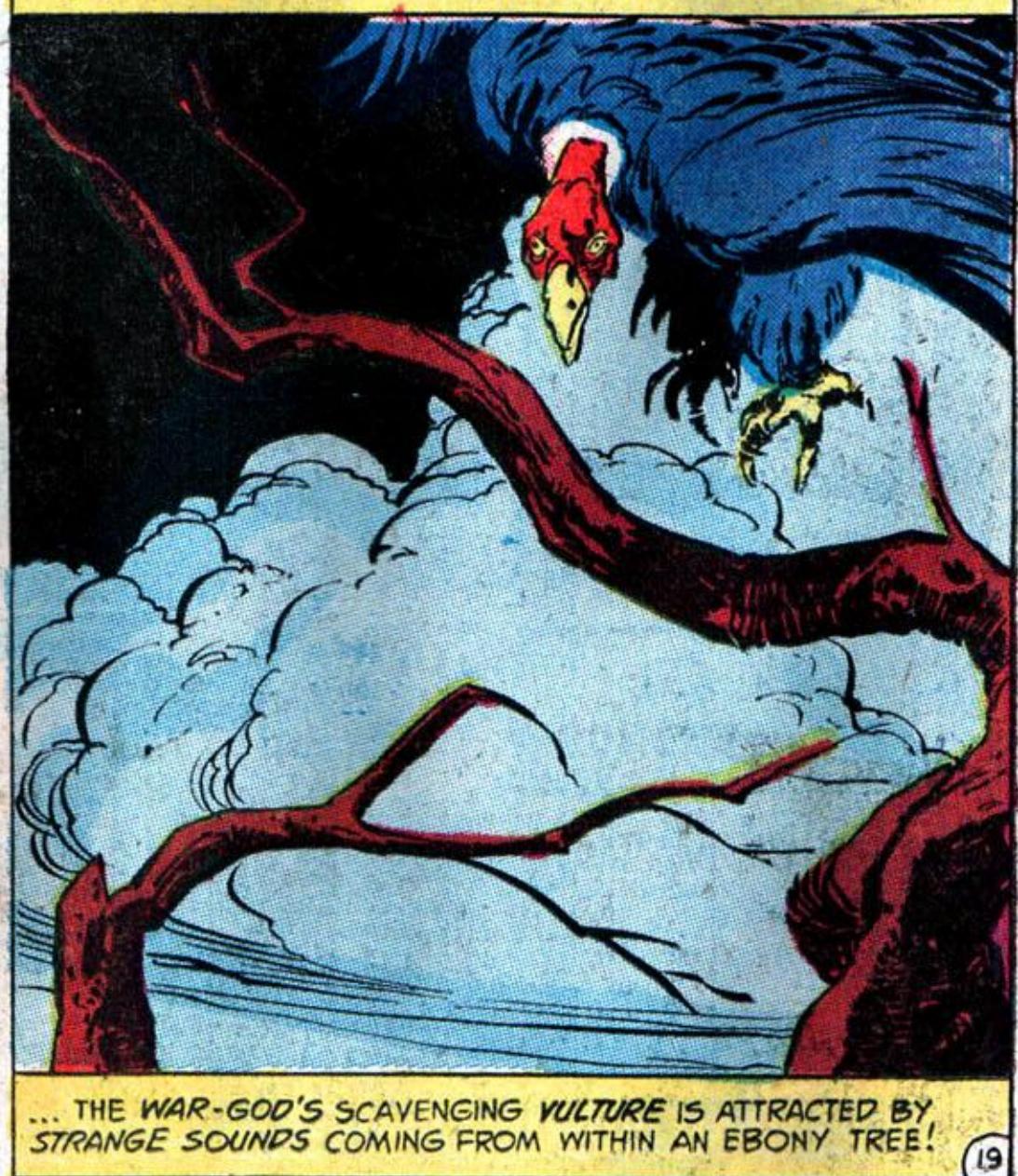
DEFTLY, WONDER WOMAN RAISES HER ARM TO THE BLINDING SUN -- SO THE SOLAR RAYS GLINT OFF HER GLEAMING BRACELET...

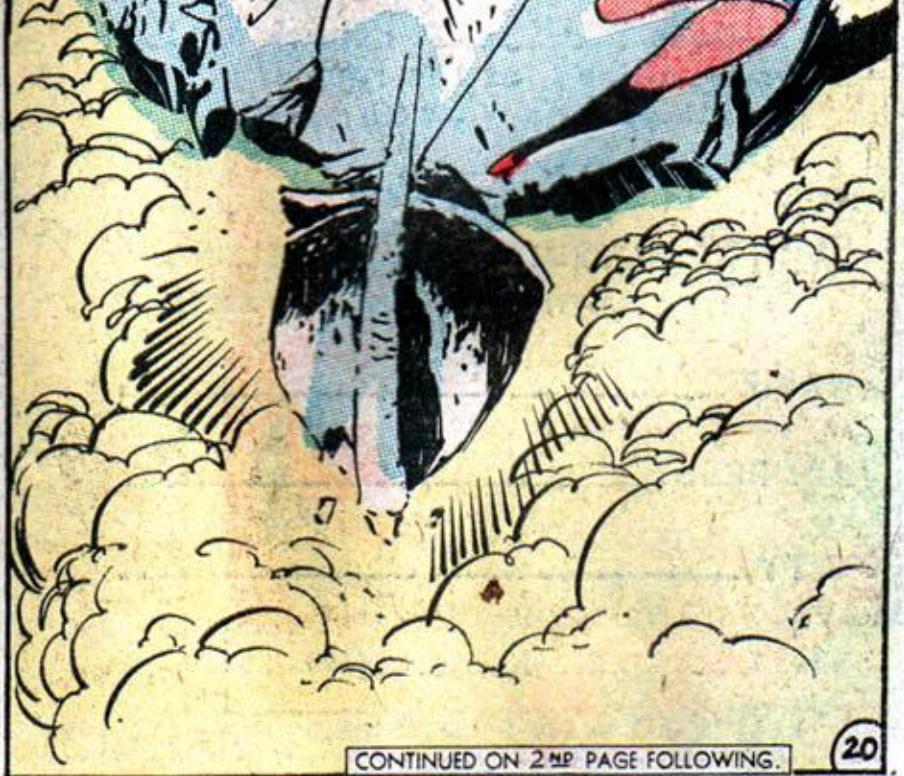
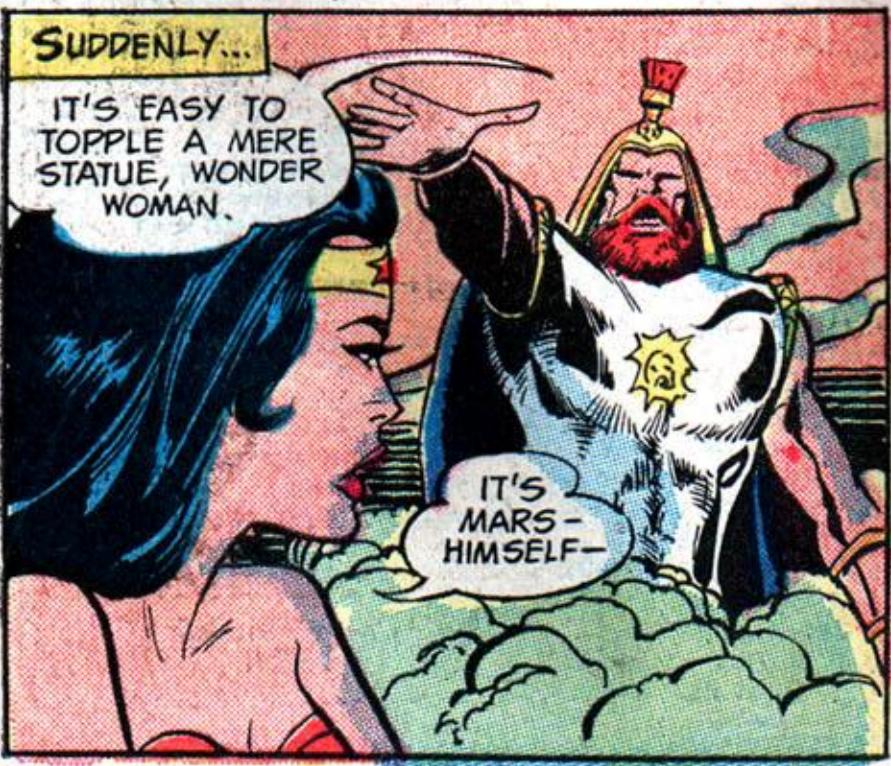
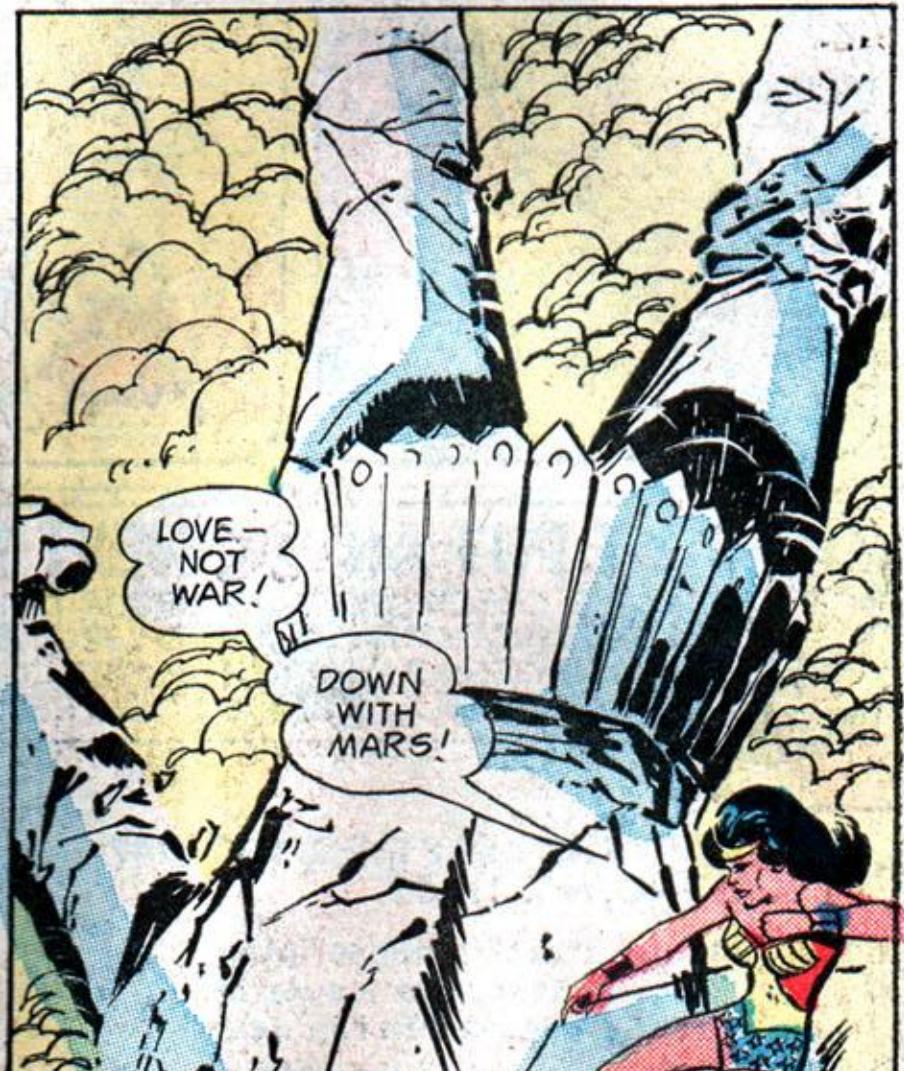
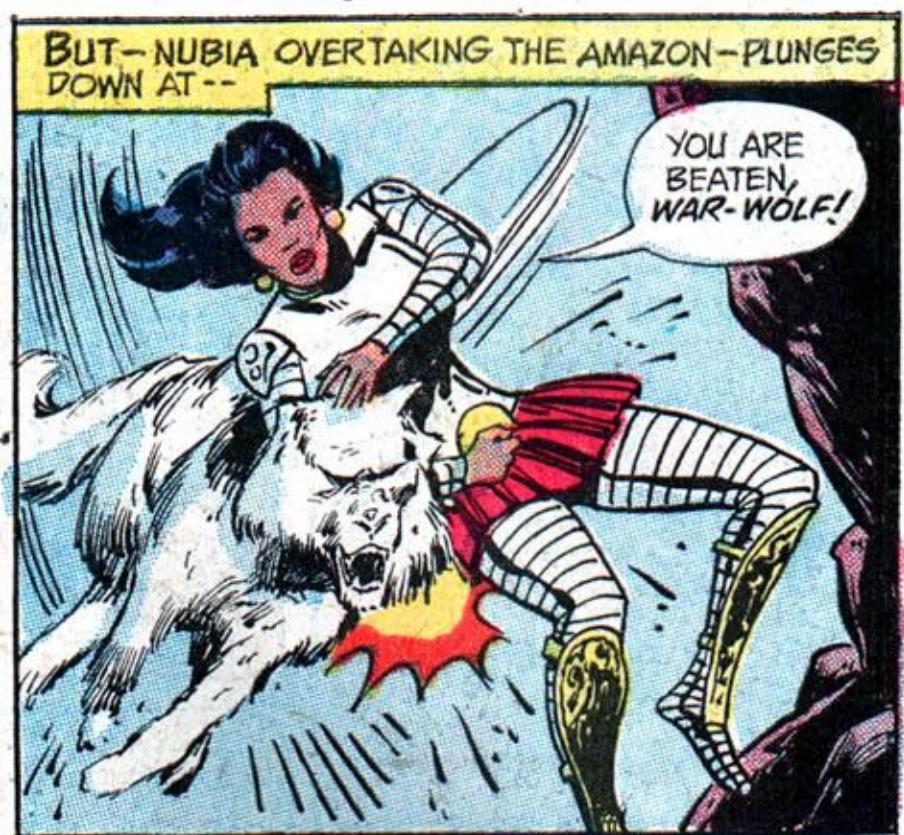


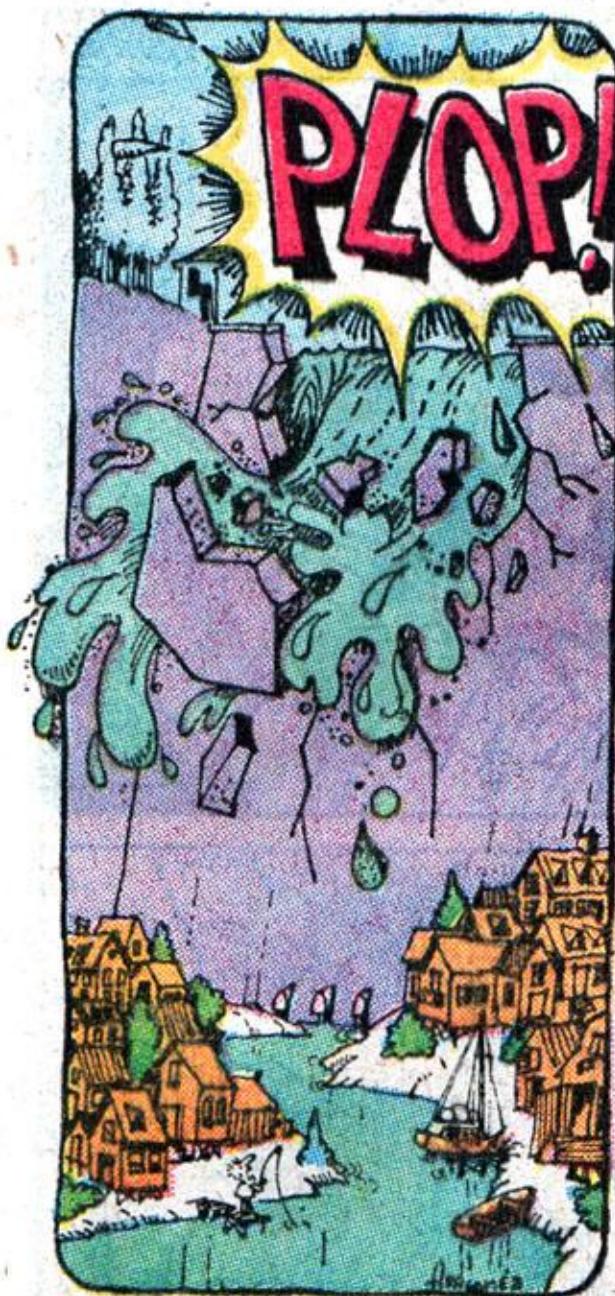
WILL WONDER WOMAN'S PLAN WORK?



MEANWHILE - ELSEWHERE ON MARS' SLAUGHTER ISLAND...







You say you know that **PLOP**
is coming... but you don't
know what **PLOP** is?
Is that what's troubling
you, boy?



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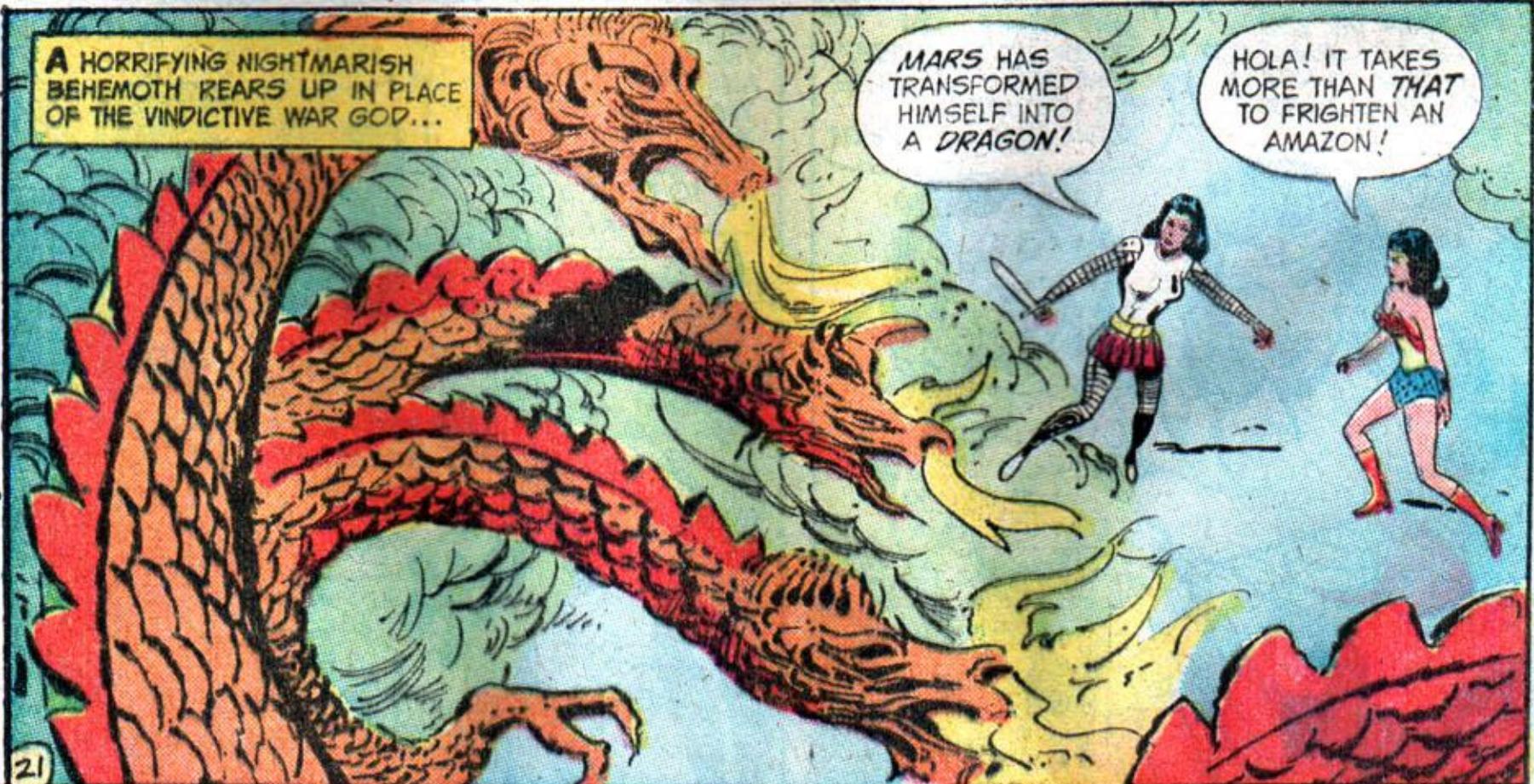
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TWO FEARLESS WOMEN STRIKE BACK AT THE MONSTROUS TRIPLE-HEADER UNCOILING AT THEM...

NEVER HAVE I ENCOUNTERED SUCH A FEARSOME BEAST!

MY LASSO... PASSING RIGHT THROUGH THE CREATURE! THIS CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING!

NUBIA--
STOP
FIGHTING!

INSTANTLY, THE DRAGON SHIMMERS INTO NOTHINGNESS-- AND AGAIN IT IS MARS WHO REMAINS...

YOU PUT ON A FRIGHTENING SHOW, WAR-GOD-- BUT WE CAN'T BE HURT BY A MIRAGE-MONSTER!

IT WAS JUST AN ILLUSION? AN ATTEMPT TO SCARE US AWAY!

EVER SINCE APHRODITE DEFEATED MARS IN HIS FIRST ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE AMAZONS LONG AGO--

--I THINK HE'S SUFFERED A FEAR OF WOMEN EVER SINCE!

I--MARS-- AFRAID OF WOMEN? NONSENSE!

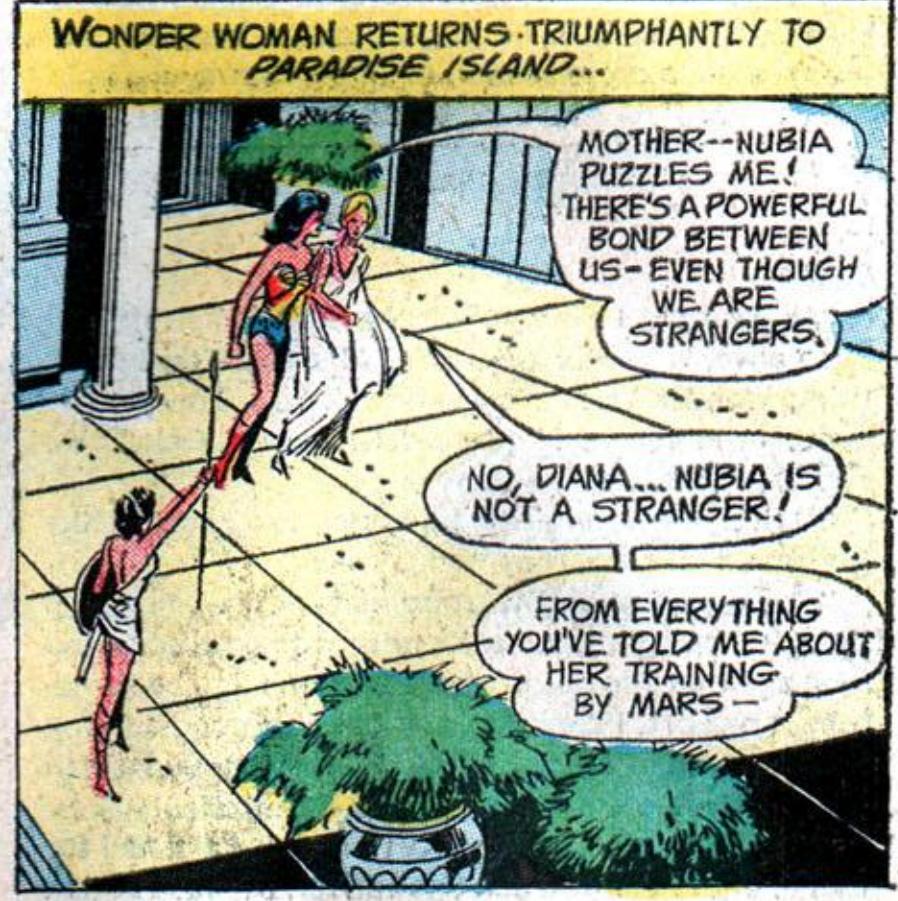
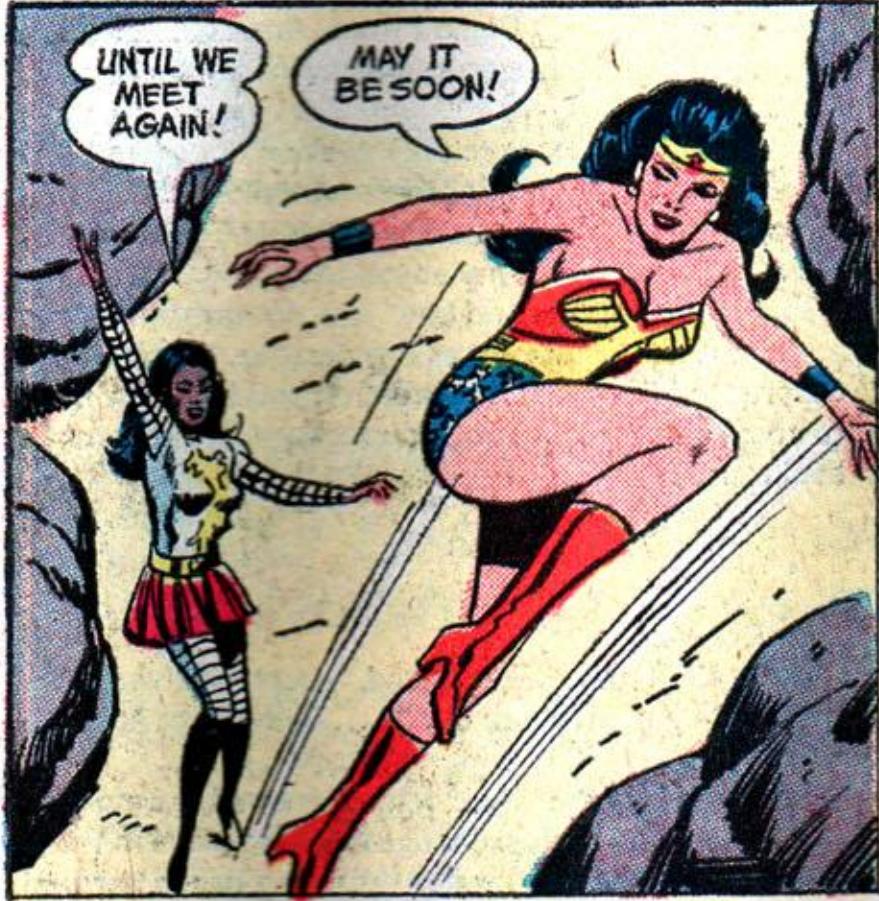
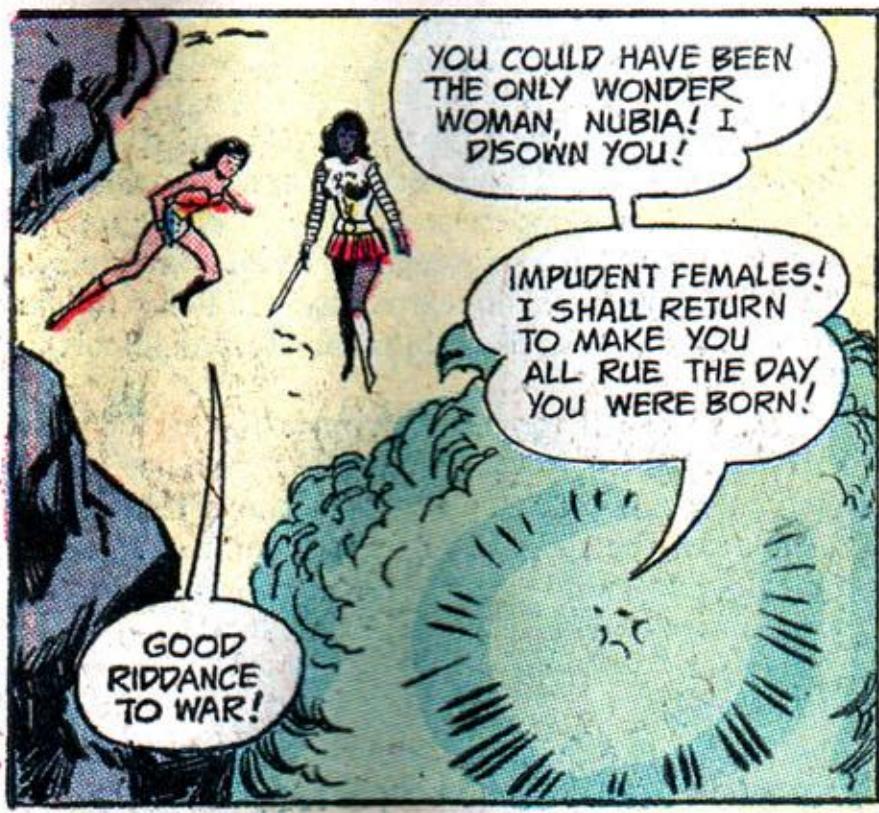
THEN WHY DID YOU BRAINWASH NUBIA AND SEND HER TO ATTACK ME AND MY AMAZON SISTERS?!

WHY DIDN'T YOU ATTACK US YOURSELF?!? WHY DON'T YOU DARE TO VENTURE OFF YOUR ARSENAL ISLAND?

PRINCESS DIANA AND THE AMAZONS AREN'T ALL EVIL! ALL THOSE YEARS YOU LIED TO ME... TRAINED ME FOR A COMBAT... GROOMED ME TO FIGHT YOUR WAR!

A WAR YOU COULDN'T FIGHT YOURSELF!

NUBIA--YOU ARE A FOOL! YOU HAVE BEEN BRAINWASHED BY THE AMAZON BRAND OF LOVE!



PRINCESSONS



WONDER WOMAN
c/o National Periodical
Publications
909 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

R-239

Changes always inspire comments. The original is bound to be missed by some, while the new version is welcomed by others. In WONDER WOMAN's case, the reactions to her return to Paradise Island and the Amazons are especially interesting. We have returned Diana to her rank of Princess; returned her to the heritage that makes her a true Wonder Woman! That is OUR opinion. And to be fair to you, our readers, we now present a cross-section of YOUR comments, both pro and con.

* * * *

CON—

"As wise old I Ching might have said, had he still been alive, WONDER WOMAN #204 stunk! You cannot bring Wonder Woman's past back . . . The past is dead, even for her!" (Dennis Summers; Oak Park, Mich.)

"D.C.'s most original character is dead!" (Mike Shoemaker; Bronx, New York).

". . . Get rid of the roommates . . . And drop Diana's homely disguise. Wonder Woman discovered long ago that she doesn't have to pretend to be something she isn't. I can't see any possible good coming from the resumption of the old Clark Kent/Superman cliche." (Lynne Cullen; Waterbury, Connecticut)

"I am not sure what changes you have planned for Diana, but I hope you don't go too far, because I think our beautiful heroine was just fine the way she was! . . . Aren't you overdoing it, having I Ching killed so suddenly and hurriedly? Diana appeared to get over it rather quickly." (Greg Herried; Monterey Park, California)

"Just when I get used to Diana Prince building her life over, you go and get her into her old rut of being a super-heroine. Now that both Steve and I Ching have been killed off, Wonder Woman has no one!" (Connie Moore; Minneapolis, Minn.)

PRO—

"I stopped reading WONDER WOMAN some years ago, disappointed to see her relinquish her bracelets to become just another female in a man's world. But now I rejoice to see her rise again; truly a Wonder Woman, complete within herself. The wanderer does, indeed return, and I, for one, welcome her back." (Ms. Bronwen Jones; Windsor, Nova Scotia, Can.)

"Thank goodness you finally gave Diana's powers back to her. There are many women around who are experts in karate and judo, but THEY don't have their own magazines . . . Looking back, I can't see how

WONDER WOMAN could have existed without a super-hero format!" (Jim Balko; Holden, Mass.)

"Having been human for a few years could be both an advantage and a hindrance to her career. She will be better able to understand and cope with humans. But she may also be susceptible to attempted plays upon her emotions. I am extremely glad to see her an Amazon again!" (Marilyn Littlejohn; Aurora, Illinois)

Well, so much for our random sampling of your opinions. We trust that somewhere herein lies YOUR opinion, too. If not . . . please let us hear from you.

And now, one additional letter of comment . . . due to lack of space, only excerpts were printed from the preceding letters. This last is printed intact.—

Dear Editor:

Bravissimo! At long last, you have a significant advance backward. I refer, of course, to the premiere issue of "The Original Wonder Woman." Here, once more, is the original Diana Prince, Amazon, replacing the more saucy swinger in masculine garb you have presented to us of late.

I enjoyed the nostalgic presentation of covers from past issues, particularly the one containing "I Married a Monster." Of the thousands of comic-book stories I have read, this one is my absolute favorite.

Although "The Second Life" was not outstanding as a story, it was satisfying as a milestone. You have recovered your fumble; the direction you take now is up to you; I shall be cheering you forward. (Or do I mean backward?)

—Dennis Goza
Swifton, Arkansas

Dear Dennis:

Of all the letters we received, yours hit the nail on the head by referring to our ". . . Significant Advance Backward!"

What most of the "Con" letters seemed to ignore, is the fact that no radical change is taking place in WONDER WOMAN. We are merely returning her to her first and foremost plane of reference . . . her Amazon heritage.

For a time, Wonder Woman had ceased to exist, and was replaced by Diana Prince; super-detective, karate-judo expert, world traveller and boutique-operator.

In her present, triple life (Wonder Woman-Diana Prince-Amazon Princess) she can still travel the world. Employed by the United Nations, Diana is sure to be in for some interesting experiences. She will probably travel even more extensively now.

As Wonder Woman, two important responsibilities and planes of reference have been restored to her. She is once again involved with her Amazon heritage, and a birthright that makes her a child of the ancient gods, in addition to a mortal woman. And with her heritage come her Amazon powers.

WONDER WOMAN is herself again, with her full capacities and complexities restored to her . . . and to us!

—Allan Asherman
Editorial Assistant

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