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CODE
A
UTHORITY

Wonder Woman



BY
JOHN
BYRNE

SHADOWS OF THE PAST



JOHN BYRNE
STORY, PENCILS,
INKS AND LETTERING

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MOUNT OLYMPUS, HOME OF THE GODS OF ANCIENT GREECE...

...WHERE A SPECIAL ASSEMBLAGE OF DIVINITIES IS IN SESSION.

NOT DARKSEID AS SUCH, DIANA.

RATHER, DARKSEID WHEN HE WAS BUT A LESSER MEMBER OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF APOKOLIPS.

A PETTY SCHEMER KNOWN AS UXAS.

"UXAS"? I DID NOT KNOW DARKSEID HAD EVER BEEN OTHER THAN... DARKSEID!

IT WAS THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, DIANA, WHEN THE GREAT CIVILIZATIONS OF GREECE AND ROME WERE BARELY MORE THAN CLUSTERS OF MUD HUTS.

DURING THAT TIME WE GODS FIRST MANIFESTED OURSELVES TO THE MORTALS OF THE WORLD.

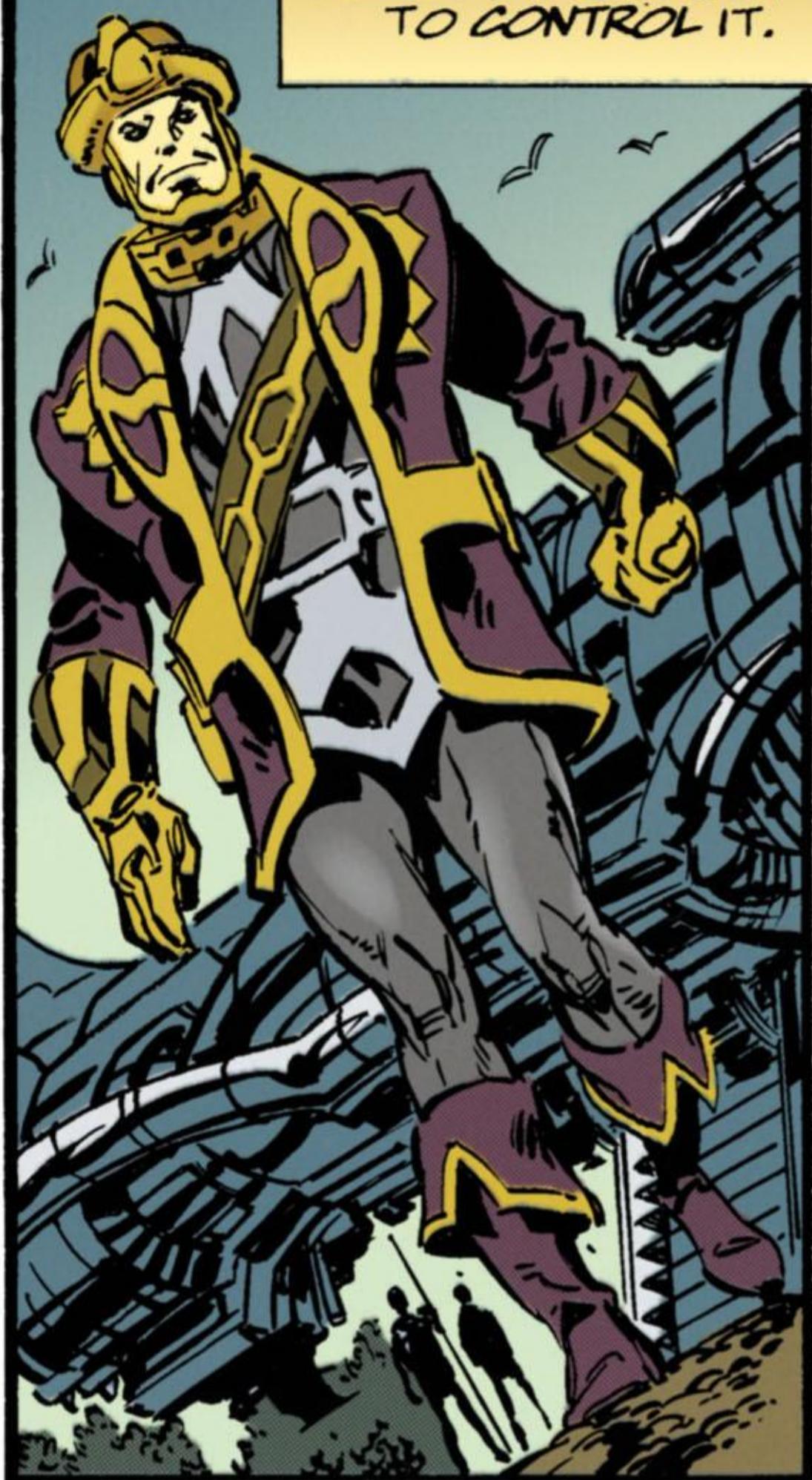
"WE HAD WAITED CENTURIES FOR HUMANKIND TO REACH A LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING THAT SUITED US."

"OUR POWER COULD BE GREATLY INCREASED BY THE DEVOTION AND WORSHIP OF MORTALS."

"WE INSTRUCTED THEM IN THE PROPER FORMS, GUIDED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CULTURE."

"ONE DAY, UNBEKNOWNST TO US, THERE ARRIVED ON EARTH A BEING SET APART FROM MORTAL KIND EVEN AS WERE WE."

"DRAWN BY OUR POWER, HE SOUGHT TO CONTROL IT."



"REALIZING WE WERE TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO EASILY MANIPULATE..."

"... THERE CAME TO HIS MIND A SCHEME THAT TOOK HIM ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN..."



"HE PRESENTED HIMSELF TO THOSE NEOPHYTE ROMANS AS A TRAVELING HOLY MAN..."

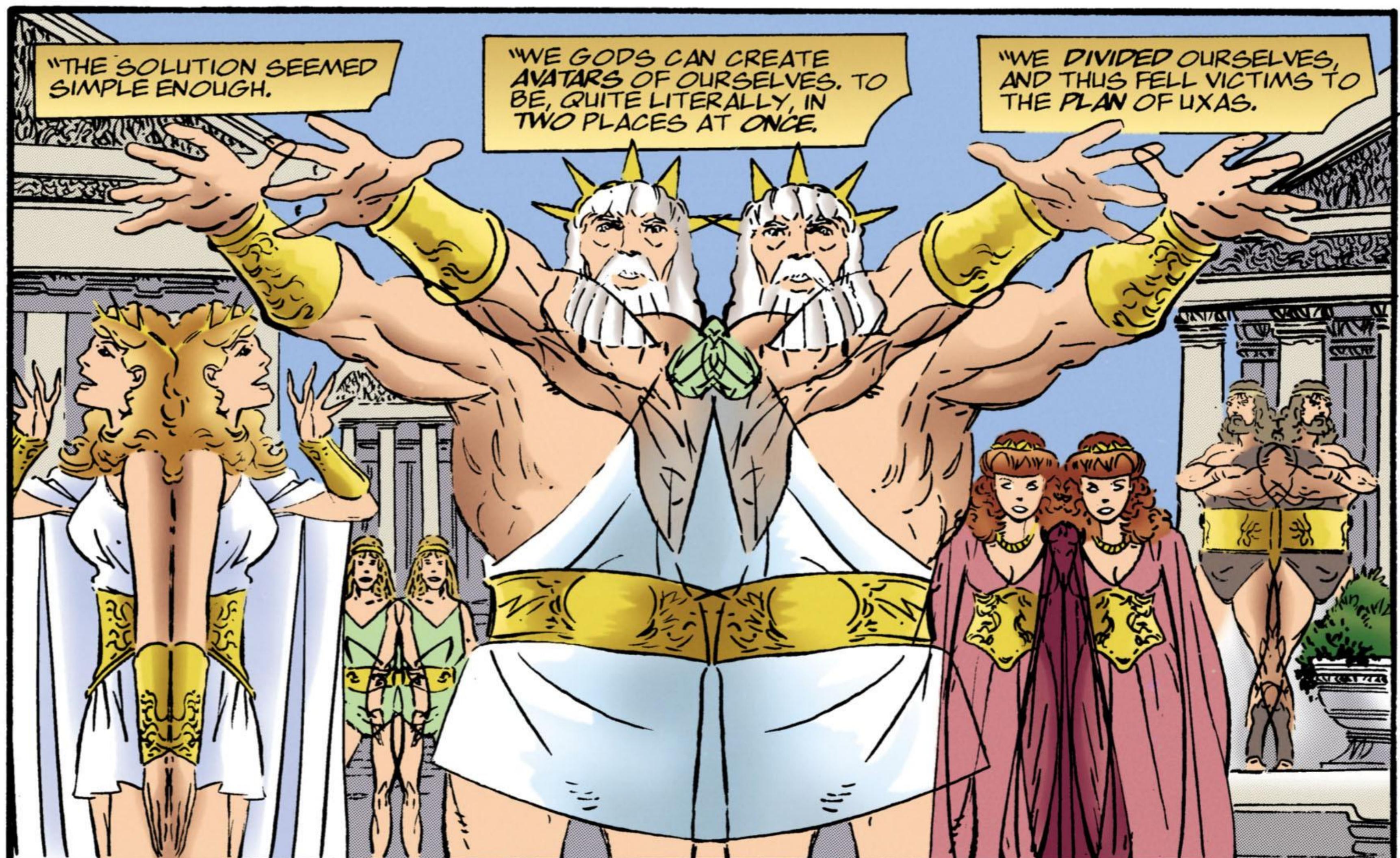
"...AND, USING DIFFERENT NAMES, BEGAN TELLING GREAT TALES OF OUR EXISTENCE AND ADVENTURES."



THAT IS MOST ODD. WHY WOULD THIS... UXAS DO SUCH A THING? AND WHY USE DIFFERENT NAMES FOR YOU GODS?

HE INTUITED WHAT WE HAD ONLY BEGIN TO LEARN, DIANA. MORTALS CONTROL THE GODS EVERY BIT AS MUCH AS WE CONTROL THEM!





"AS THE GREEKS AND ROMANS WORSHIPPED OUR DIVIDED SELVES, SO DID OUR AVATARS GROW APART."

"IN TIME THE GODS OF EACH OLYMPUS BECAME SEPARATE ENTITIES."



BUT... I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND. WHAT WAS THE MOTIVE FOR LUXAS CAUSING THIS TO HAPPEN?



TO WEAKEN US, DIANA. HE KNEW IF WE WERE SPLIT INTO TWO PANTHEONS, EACH WOULD BE LESS POWERFUL THAN THE WHOLE!



BUT NOW, BECAUSE OF
THEIR ENCOUNTER WITH THE
SOURCE...*

...ZEUS AND JOVE HAVE
BEEN ONCE AGAIN FUSED
INTO A SINGLE DIVINITY!

THAT IS
SO,
DIANA.

AND IT IS THE.
INTENT OF THE
GODS TO
COMPLETE
THIS FUSION, THAT
EACH OF US MAY BE
MADE WHOLE AGAIN...

...THAT WE
MAY ONCE MORE
RULE THE
WORLD OF MEN!

*AS SEEN IN JACK KIRBY'S
FOURTH WORLD #8 - PAUL

NOW, HOLD ON
JUST A MINUTE...

THE HOME OF HELENA AND CASSANDRA SANDSMARK, IN GATEWAY CITY.

PRESNT,
JAY AND JOAN GARRICK,
THE LATTER WITH MANY
QUESTIONS...!

HOW COULD THE JUSTICE SOCIETY GO TO OCCUPIED EUROPE?

DIDN'T HITLER AND HIS GOONS HAVE MAGIC SPELLS AND WHATNOT PROTECTING THEM FROM SUPERHEROES?

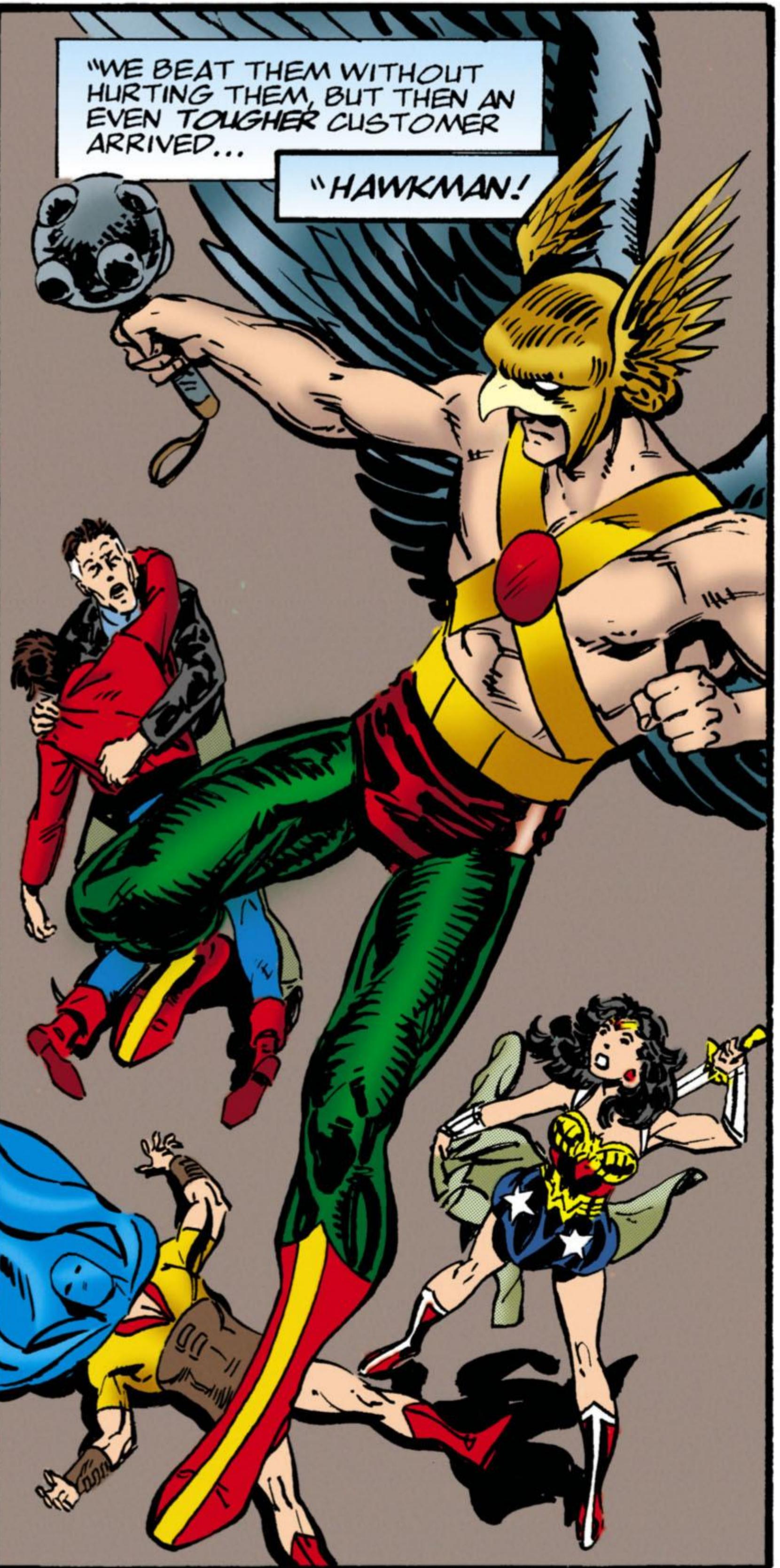
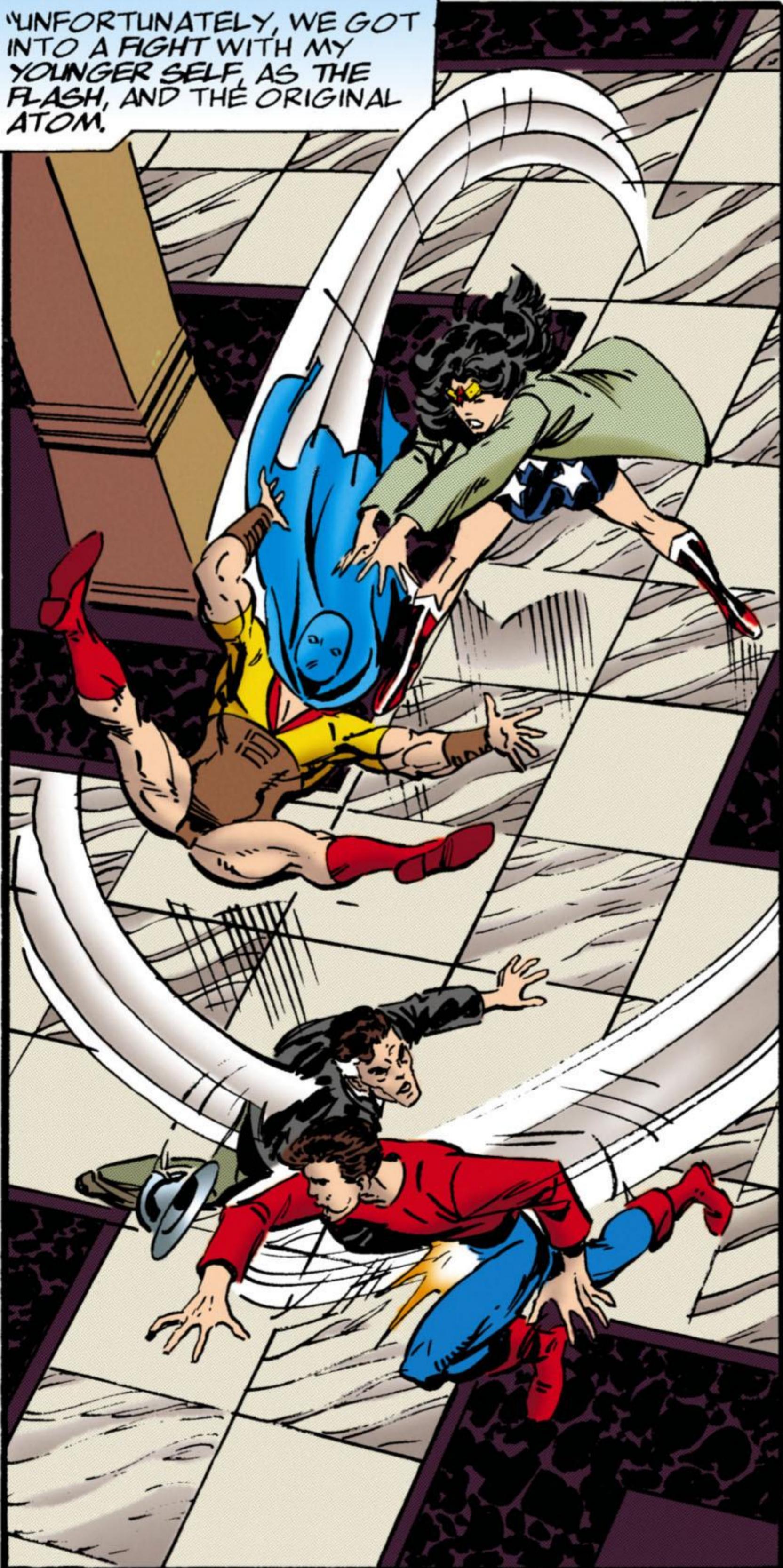
THAT WAS WHAT WE THOUGHT, TOO, JOAN. BUT REMEMBER, THINGS WERE DIFFERENT FROM HOW THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE.

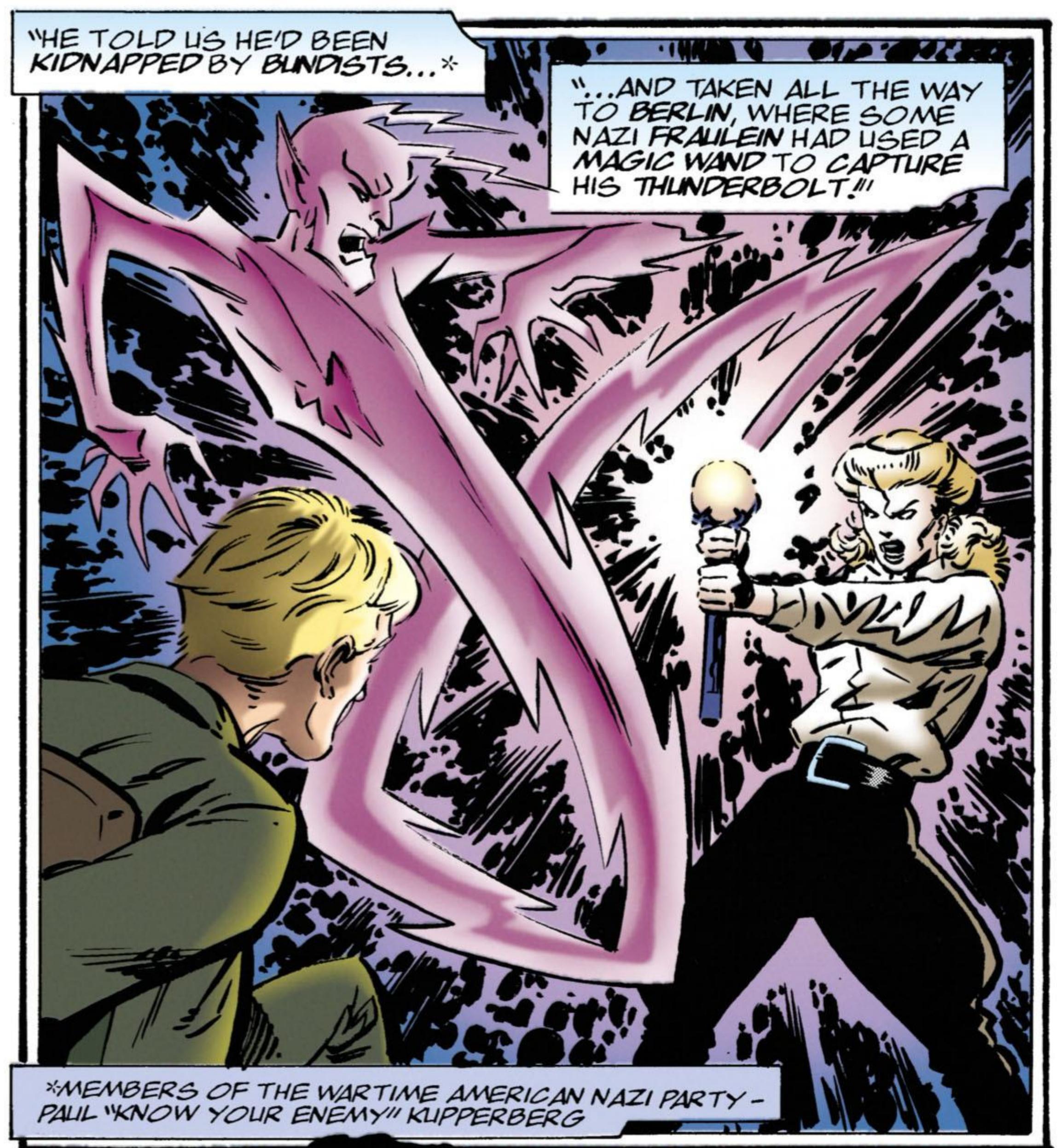
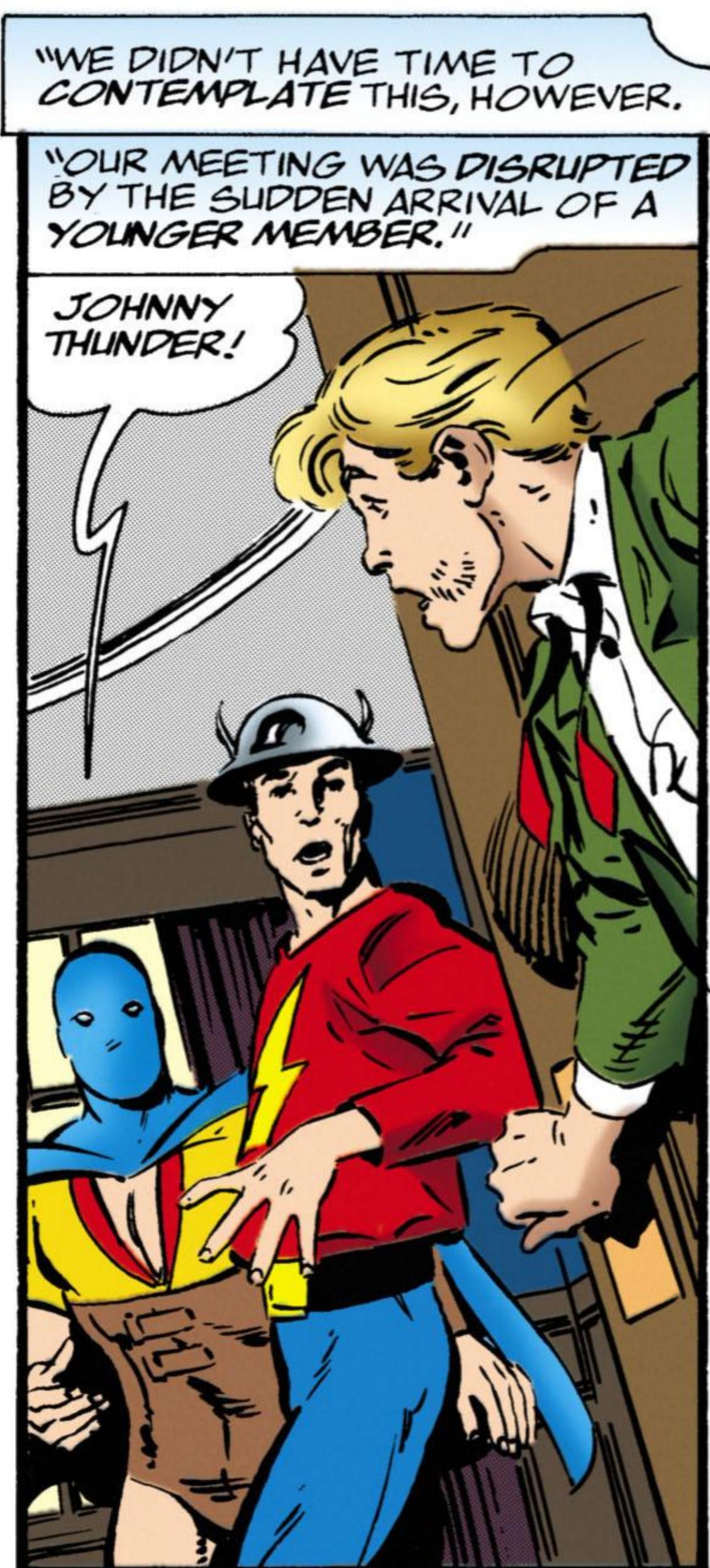
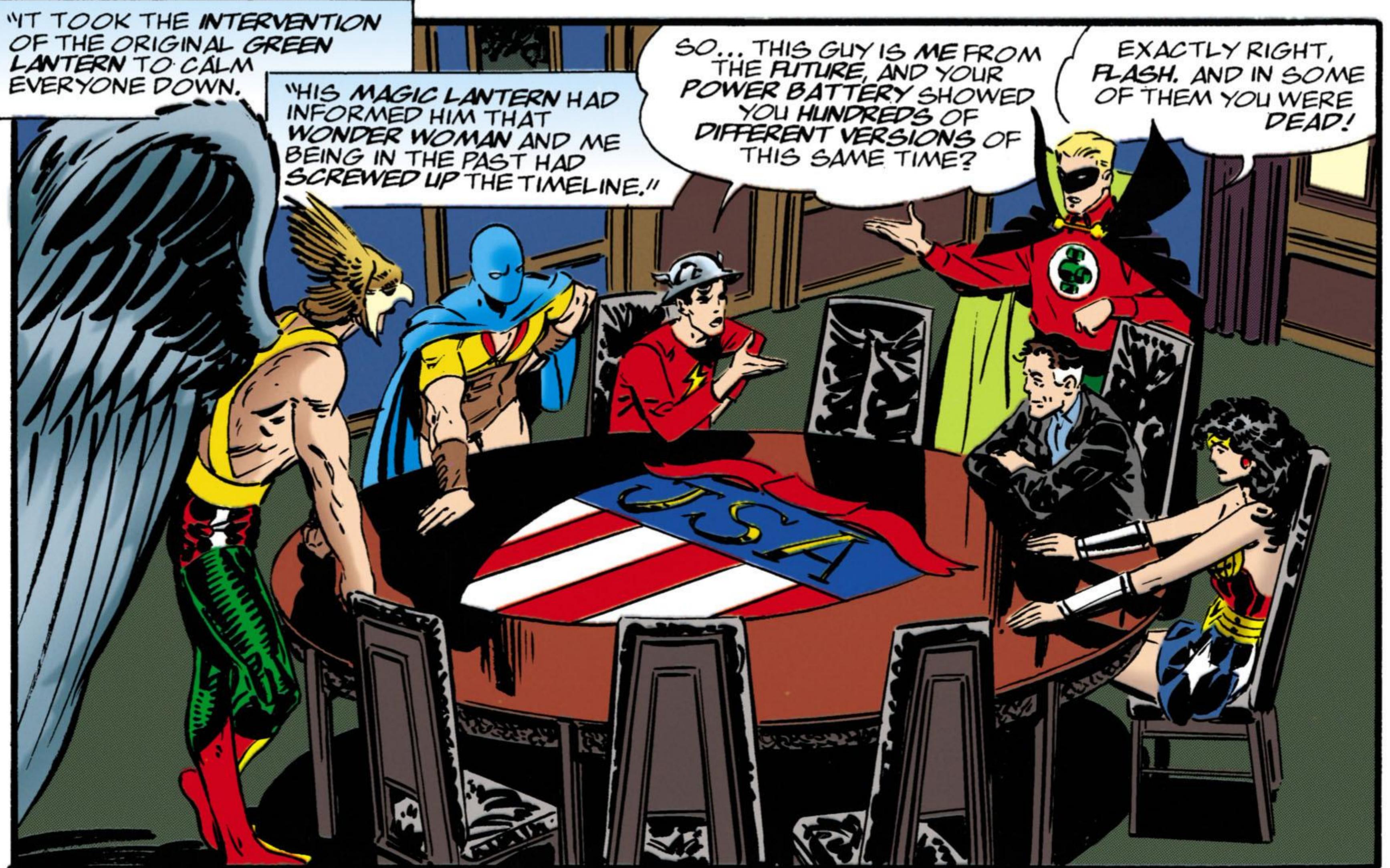
WONDER WOMAN AND I TRAVELED BACK TO 1942 USING THE ABILITY OF HER HOMELAND, THEMYSCIRA, TO BE IN ALL TIMES AT THE SAME TIME.

"I'D PERSUADED HER TO TAKE ME TO WASHINGTON, D.C., SO I COULD VISIT THE OLD JSA HEADQUARTERS AT THE SMITHSONIAN.

*AS SEEN IN OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE - PAUL AGAIN

"UNFORTUNATELY, WE GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH MY YOUNGER SELF AS THE FLASH, AND THE ORIGINAL ATOM.





"I WANTED TO GET OUT OF THERE BEFORE OUR PRESENCE MADE THINGS WORSE, BUT WONDER WOMAN HAD OTHER IDEAS!!!"

NO, JAY, OUR ACTIONS HAVE UPSET THE NORMAL FLOW OF TIME, AND IF WE DO NOT HELP...

...THE AXIS POWERS MIGHT WIN THE WAR, EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW THEY DIDN'T!

"AND I'M GUESSING THAT MEANS WE'LL ALL BE TAKING A TRIP TO OCCUPIED EUROPE!!!

HOW ABOUT IT, LANTERN? ANY SIGN OF THE MYSTICAL BARRIERS HERR HITLER HAS SET UP AROUND HIS PLAYPEN?

NO, HAWKMAN. WHY DOES THAT MAKE ME MORE NERVOUS, I WONDER?



DO WE SUMMON THE REST OF THE JSA ?

NO! THE MORE PEOPLE WE INVOLVE, THE MORE DIVERGENT TIMELINES WE RISK CREATING.

HAWKMAN IS RIGHT! MY POWER RING CAN HOME ON THE UNIQUE ENERGIES OF THE THUNDERBOLT.



"WE'VE GOT COMPANY!"

MESSERSCHMIDTS!

TAK-A-TAK-A-TAKA

TAK-A-TAK-A

TAK-TAK-TAK

LUCKY YOU USED YOUR
POWER RING TO
TRANSPORT ME MOST OF
THE WAY HERE, LANTERN!

I'M SPOILING
FOR A FIGHT!

KRAK

KRAK

ME
TOO,
HAWK-
MAN!

BUT I'D BETTER RECHARGE
MY RING BEFORE I GET
INTO ANY DOGFIGHTS.

...AND I SHALL SHED MY
LIGHT INTO THE DARK PLACES,
FOR EVIL CANNOT STAND THE
LIGHT...

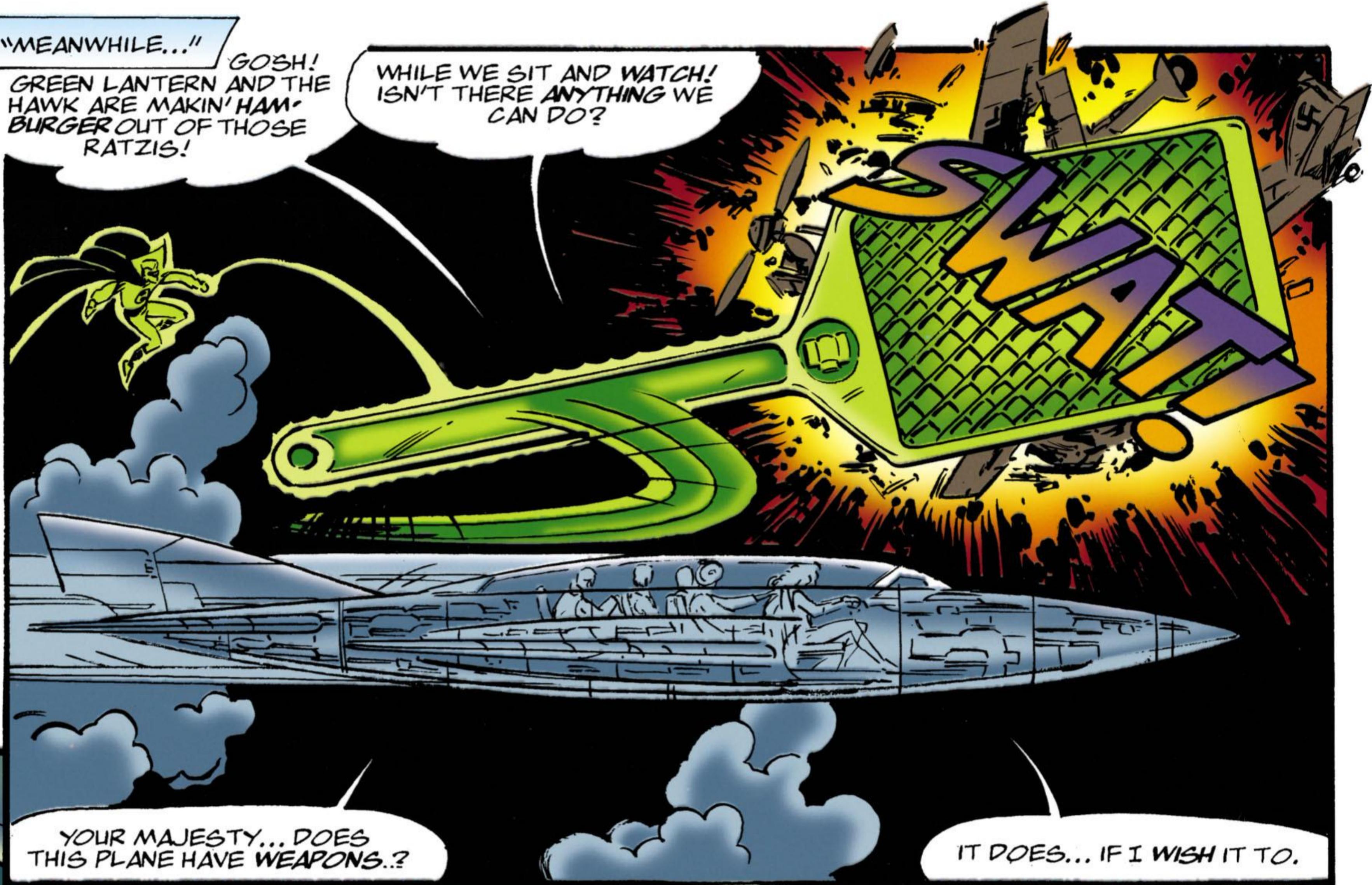
...THE LIGHT
OF THE GREEN
LANTERN!

"IT HAD BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE
I'D HEARD GREEN LANTERN RECITE
HIS ORIGINAL OATH. IT SENT
CHILLS UP MY SPINE!"

"MEANWHILE..."

GOSH!
GREEN LANTERN AND THE
HAWK ARE MAKIN' HAM-
BURGER OUT OF THOSE
RATZIS!

WHILE WE SIT AND WATCH!
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE
CAN DO?



YOUR MAJESTY... DOES
THIS PLANE HAVE WEAPONS..?

IT DOES... IF I WISH IT TO.

WE MADE SHORT WORK OF THOSE FIGHTERS. G.L. SCOOPED UP THE PILOTS AND LEFT THEM ON A MOUNTAIN TOP WHILE WE WENT ON OUR WAY.

SO FAR THIS ALL
SOUNDS... TOO
EASY, JAY!

YOU GOT
THAT RIGHT,
HONEY!

AND
I
DO!



"BUT WE FOUND OUT LATER THAT BARONESS PAULA VON GUNTHER WAS PREPARING A SURPRISE FOR US..."

AS I PROMISED, MEIN FUHRER, I HAVE CAPTURED THE BAHDNEIAN THUNDERBOLT...

...AND WITH THE AID OF SECRET LORE GLEANED FROM THIS ANCIENT TOME, I WILL HARNESS HIS POWER.

NEARLY INFINITE POWER YOU HAVE SAID, MY DEAR. AND HOW DO YOU MEAN TO MAKE THIS CREATURE SERVE THE FATHERLAND?*

*ALL TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN, NATCH - P.K.

IT IS MERELY A MATTER OF CREATING A LENS THROUGH WHICH THE ENERGIES CAN BE FOCUSED.

I MEAN TO BE THAT LENS!

"IT SEEMS LIKE THIS VON GUNTHER DAME WAS OBSESSED WITH ALL THINGS MYSTICAL, TOTALLY DEVOTED TO THE THIRD REICH..."

"...AND PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING TO GAIN THE POWERS SHE CRAVED!"

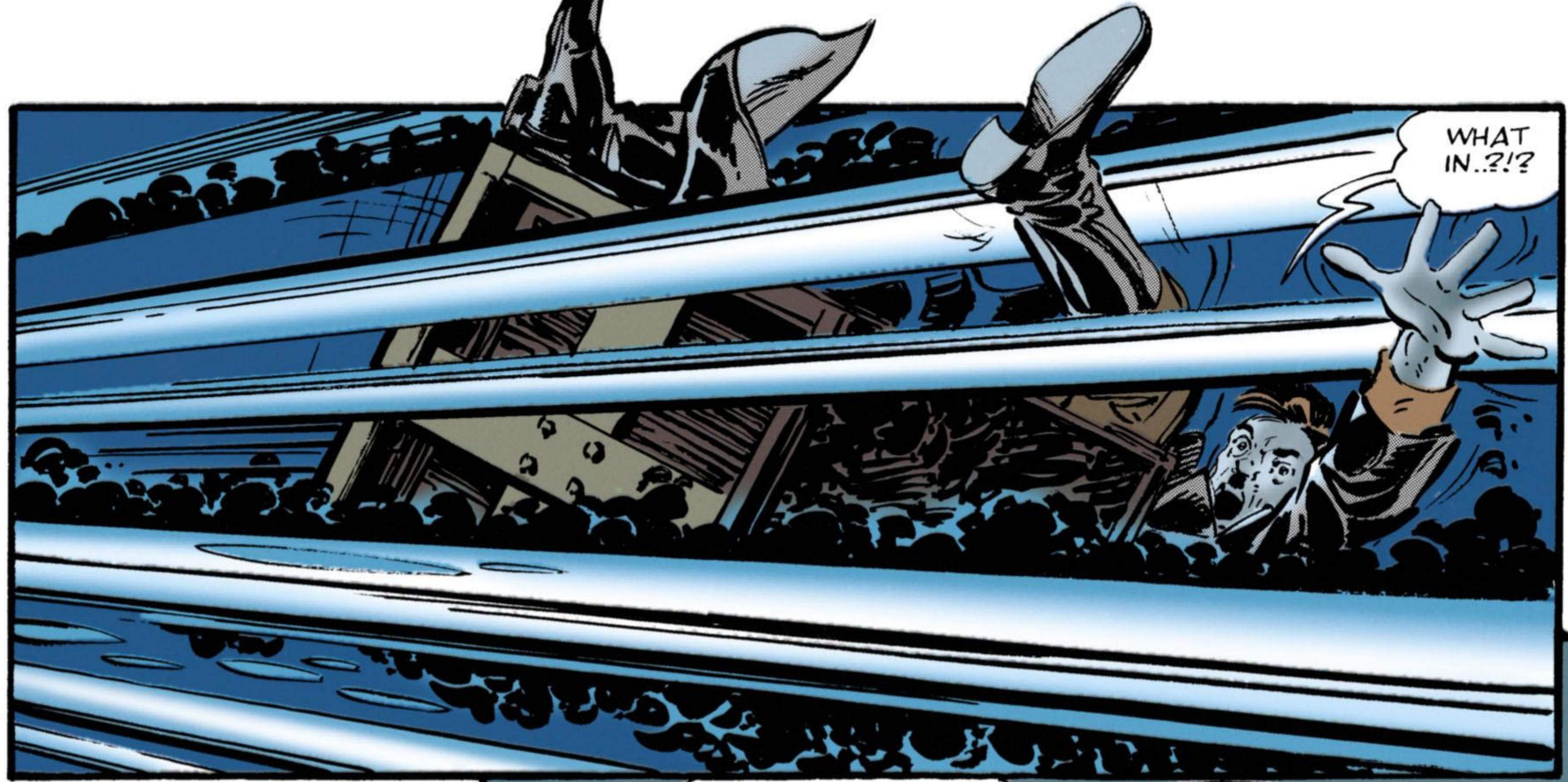
AGSHBAD RASHKAD, BRINZAD TROOL!
MARKIS DORPAN, KELPAK MOOL!

THE COLD! WHY IS IT SO COLD IN HERE?

IT'S WORKING!! IT'S WORKING!!



WHAT
IN...?!



YOU DARE
ADDRESS YOUR
FUHRER BY HIS
GIVEN NAME..?

WHO...
URK!

I DARE ANYTHING, LITTLE
MAN.
I AM THE HARINGER, THE
BRINGER OF DOOM, THE
HERALD OF DESTRUCTION.

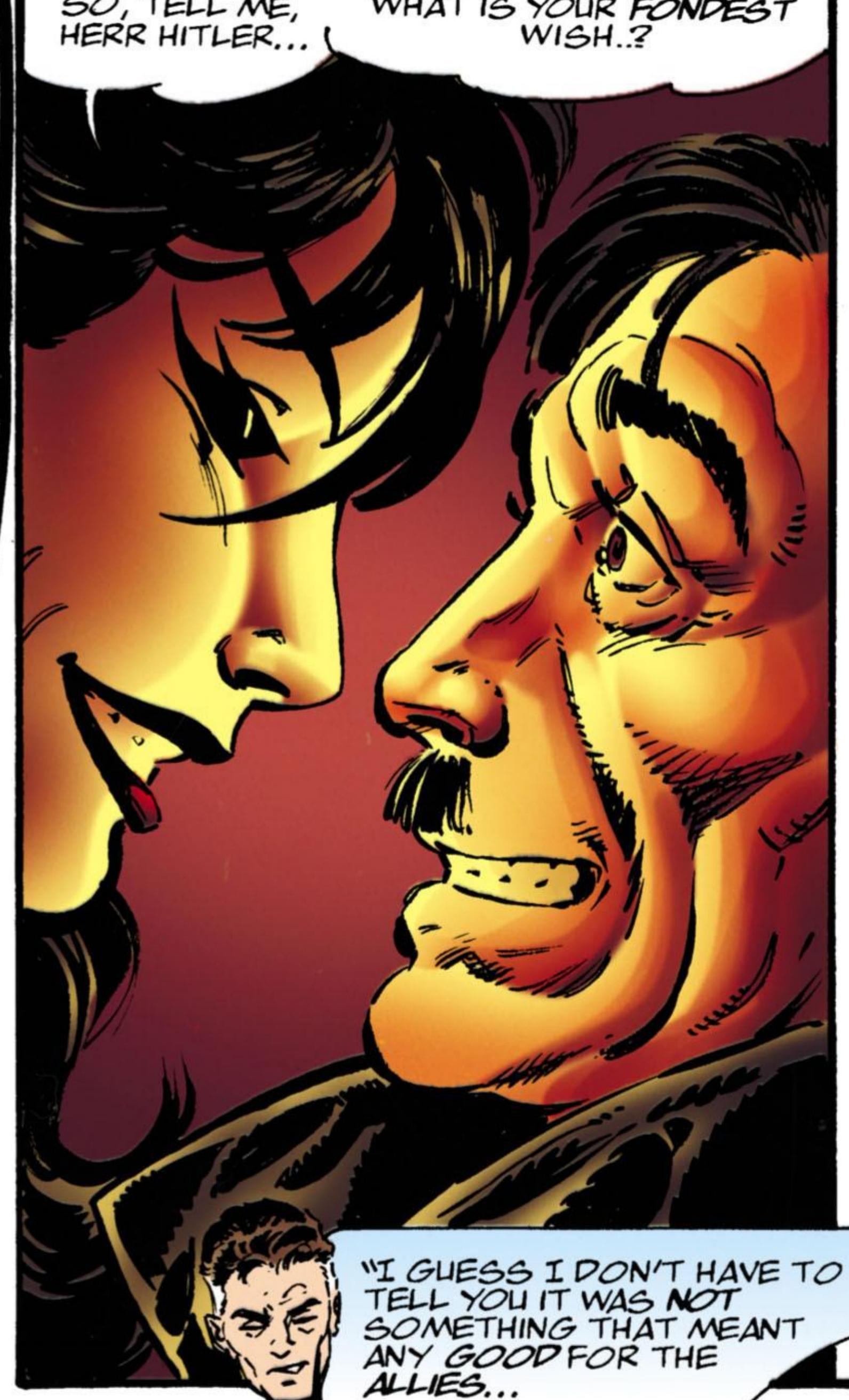
I AM THE DARK
ANGEL!

BUT, FORTUNATELY FOR YOU, I AM YOUR
DARK ANGEL. SHE WHO SUMMONED ME WAS
YOUR LOYAL SUBJECT, AND SO MUST I BE,
FOR SO LONG AS THIS FORM SURVIVES.



SO, TELL ME,
HERR HITLER...

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST
WISH..?



"I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO
TELL YOU IT WAS NOT
SOMETHING THAT MEANT
ANY GOOD FOR THE
ALLIES..."

"...OR THE JSA!!!

THIS IS THE
VILLAGE
WHERE WE
WERE
SUPPOSED
TO MEET.

DO ANY OF
YOU SEE A SIGN
OF OUR
CONTACTS?

I'D FORGOTTEN HOW FAST
I USED TO BE!

MY YOUNGER SELF
SEARCHED EVERY HOUSE IN
THAT VILLAGE IN A
FRACTION OF A SECOND!!!

DOESN'T SEEM
LIKE THERE'S ANYONE
AROUND, LANTERN. / HANG ON
A SECOND.

NO SIGN OF ANYONE IN ANY OF THE BUILDINGS, GANG.

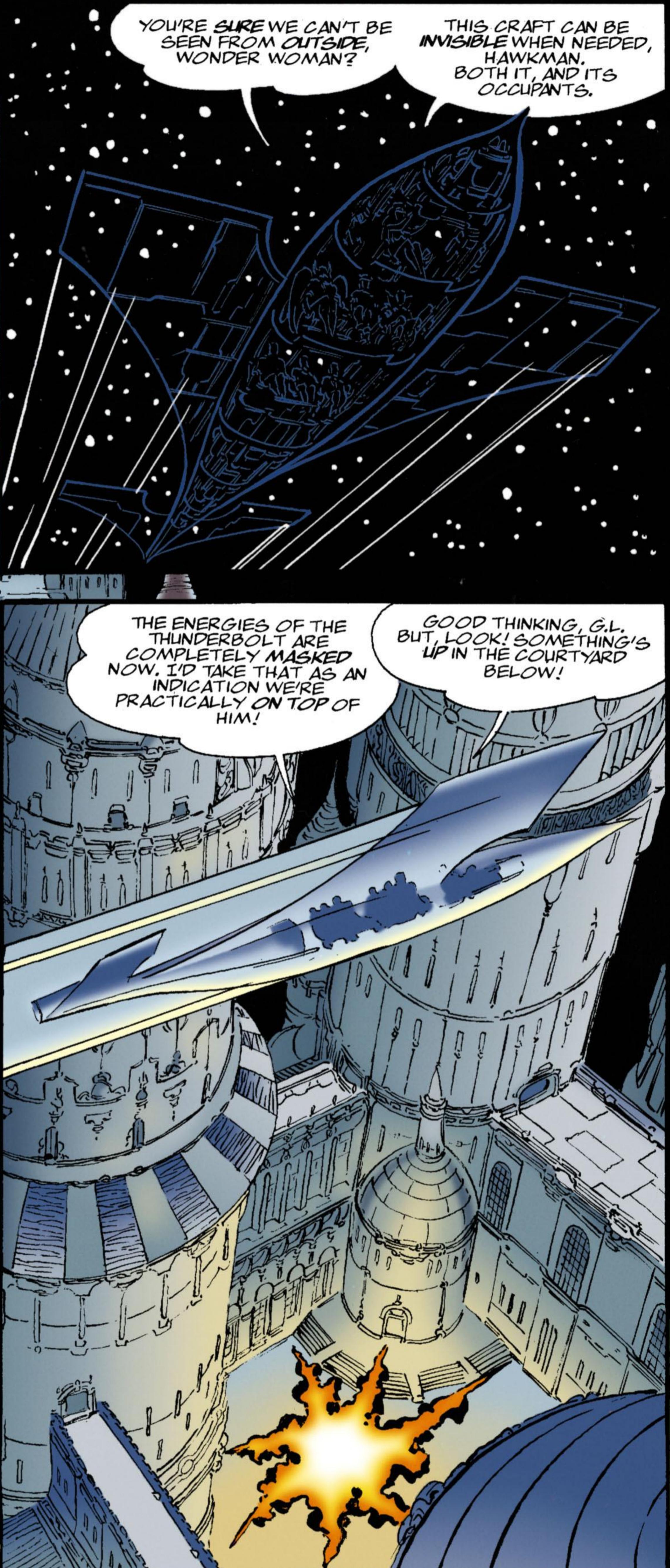
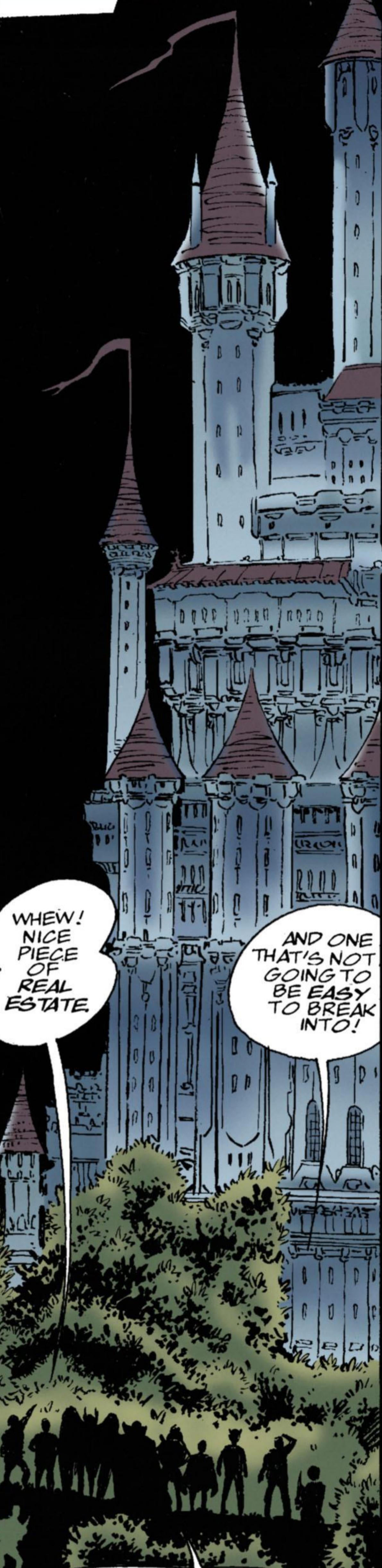
THAT'S CUZ WE AIN'T IN THE VILLAGE, HERO.



"WITH EASY COMPANY
LEADING WE MADE OUR
WAY ON FOOT TO PAULA VON
GUNTHER'S ANCESTRAL
HOME!"

YOU'RE SURE WE CAN'T BE
SEEN FROM OUTSIDE,
WONDER WOMAN?

THIS CRAFT CAN BE
INVISIBLE WHEN NEEDED,
HAWKMAN.
BOTH IT, AND ITS
OCCUPANTS.



WE'RE HIT!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THEY COULDN'T SEE US!!

GOT YOU!

NO,
LAN-
TERN...

...I THINK
THEY'VE
GOT US!

A CAGE MADE OF WOOD!
THE ONE SUBSTANCE MY
RING CAN'T AFFECT!

WHERE
DID IT
COME
FROM...?!

IT
APPEARED
AT MY
BIDDING,
ATOM.

YOU HAVE BEEN ALLOWED
TO ENTER THE FATHERLAND
BECAUSE I WISHED IT.
NOW YOUR SLOW AND
PAINFUL DEATHS WILL BE
EXAMPLES TO ALL WHO
ARE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO
STAND AGAINST THE THIRD
REICH!

NEXT ISSUE JUST WHEN IT
LOOKS LIKE IT CAN'T GET
ANY WORSE... IT DOES!

BE HERE FOR
THE TALE
WE CALL...

MASQUERADE

IN
30
DAYS!

CONTINUING THE TALE OF TERROR, MYSTERY AND BETRAYAL WE CALL SIMPLY...

MEANWHILE

A PLACE BEYOND THE
MEASURE OR KEN OF
MORTAL MINDS...

LET HER GO,
DAMN YOU!

STOP IT! STOP IT!
YOU'RE KILL-
ING HER!

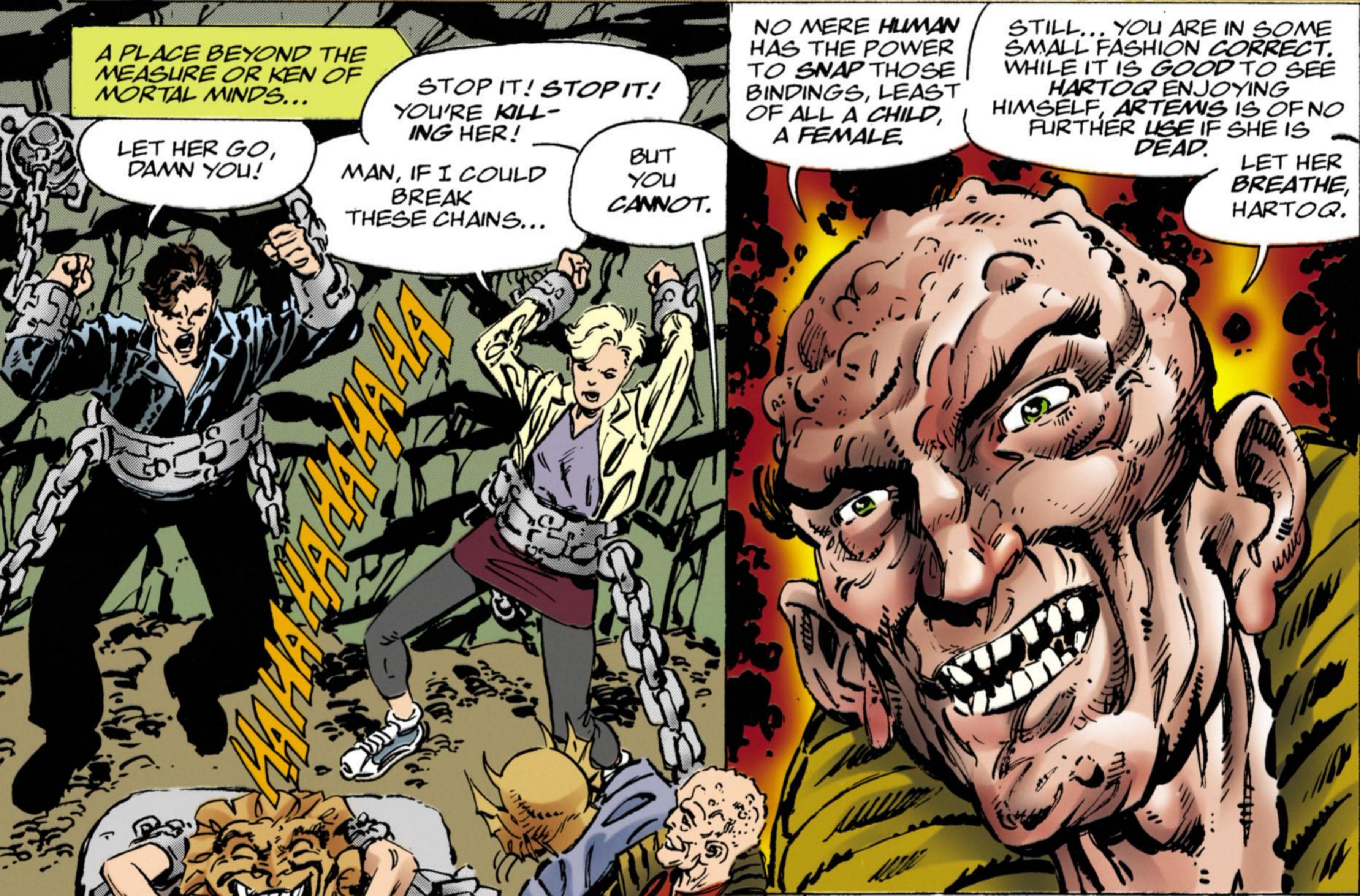
MAN, IF I COULD
BREAK
THESE CHAINS...

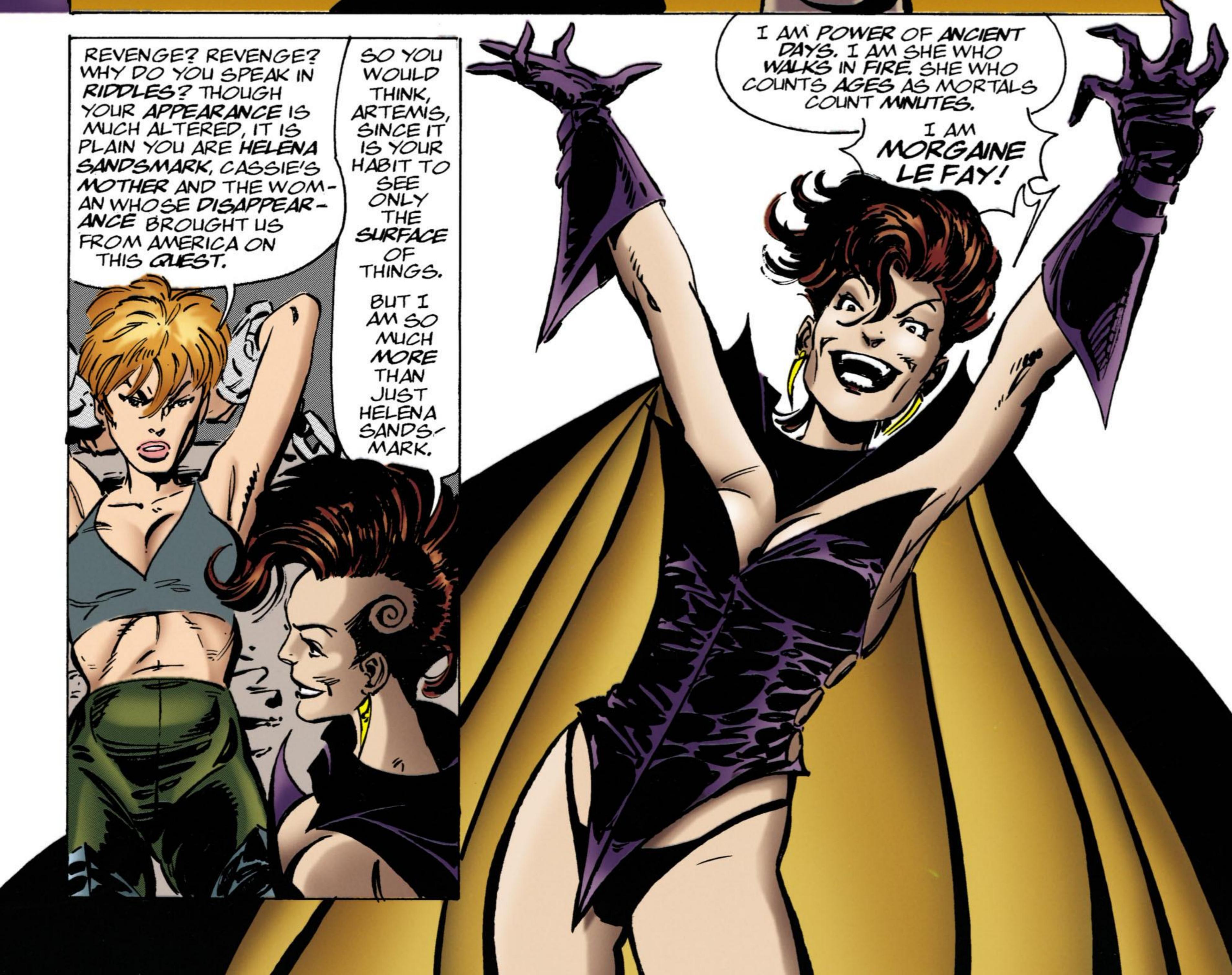
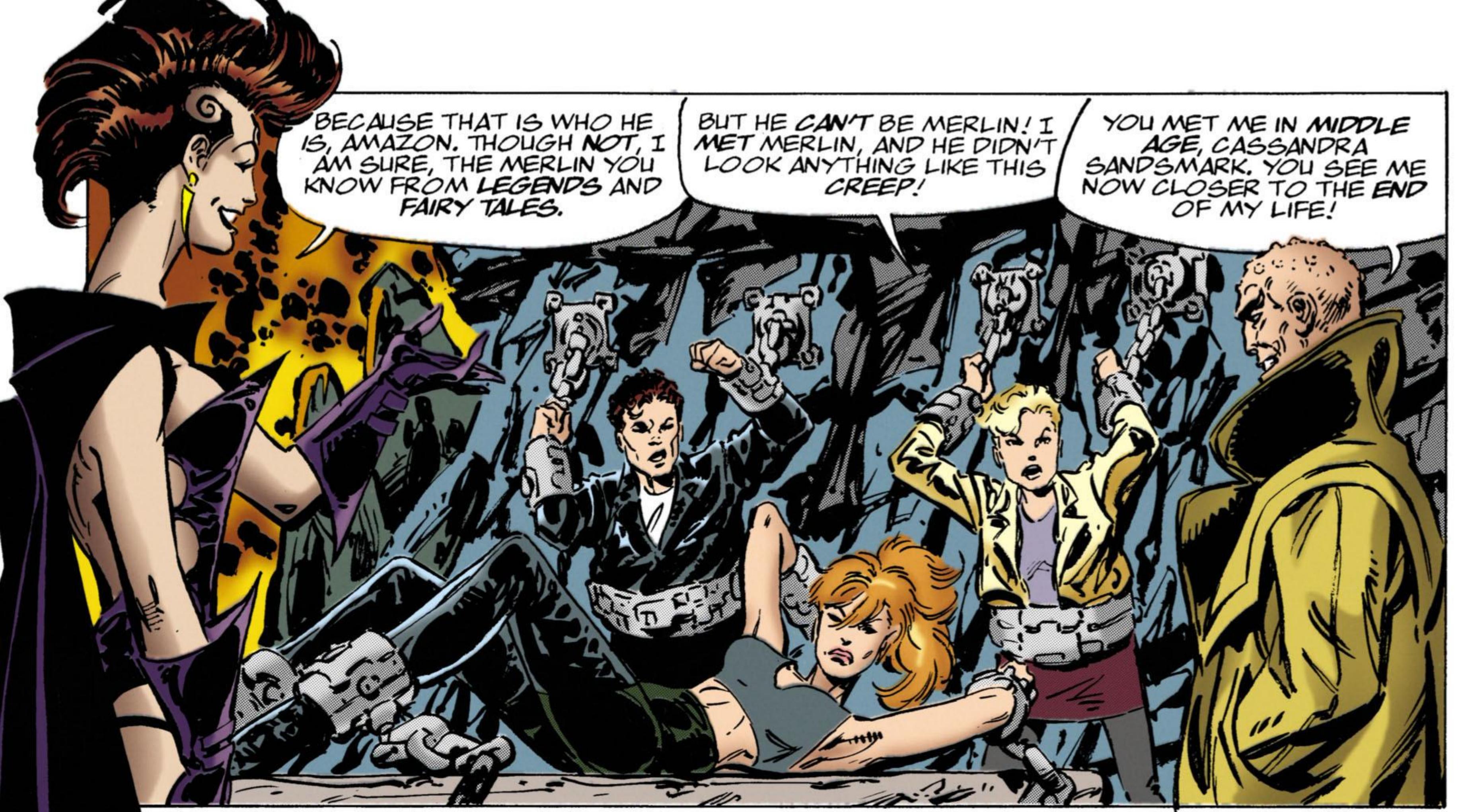
BUT
YOU
CANNOT.

NO MERE HUMAN
HAS THE POWER
TO SNAP THOSE
BINDINGS, LEAST
OF ALL A CHILD,
A FEMALE.

STILL... YOU ARE IN SOME
SMALL FASHION CORRECT.
WHILE IT IS GOOD TO SEE
HARTOQ ENJOYING
HIMSELF, ARTEMIS IS OF NO
FURTHER USE IF SHE IS
DEAD.

LET HER
BREATHE,
HARTOQ.





MORGANE LE FAY?
BUT DIANA SAID SHE
WAS DEAD...!?

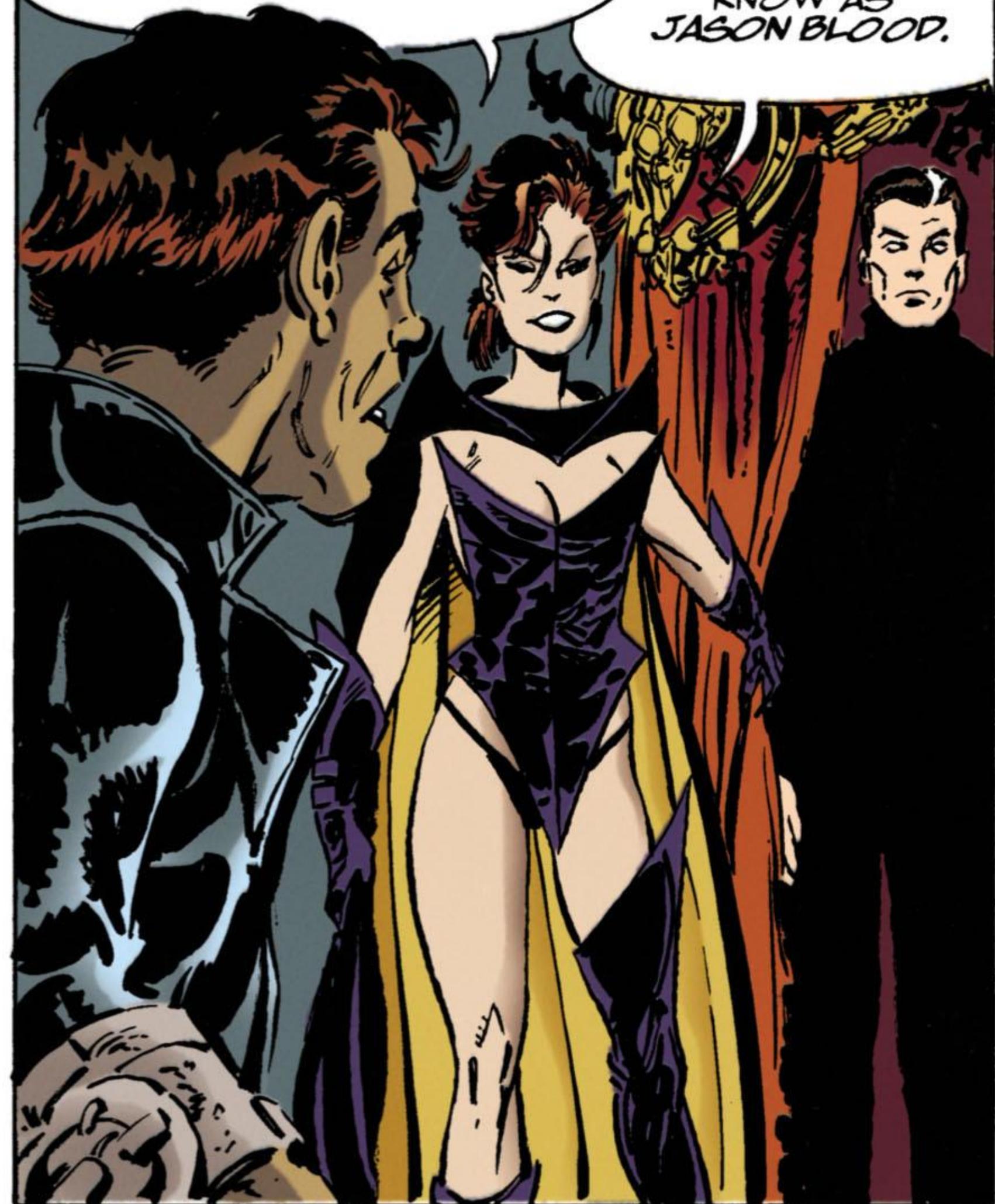
YEAH! SHE CRUMPLED INTO
DUST AFTER SHE TRIED TO
STEAL DIANA'S
IMMORTALITY FOR
HERSELF!



OKAY... AS LONG AS YOU'RE IN THE MOOD TO TELL STORIES, HOW ABOUT EXPLAINING WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE?

YOU'VE GOT SOME ISSUES WITH MERLIN'S PET DEMON, THERE, BUT HOW DOES THAT INVOLVE US...?

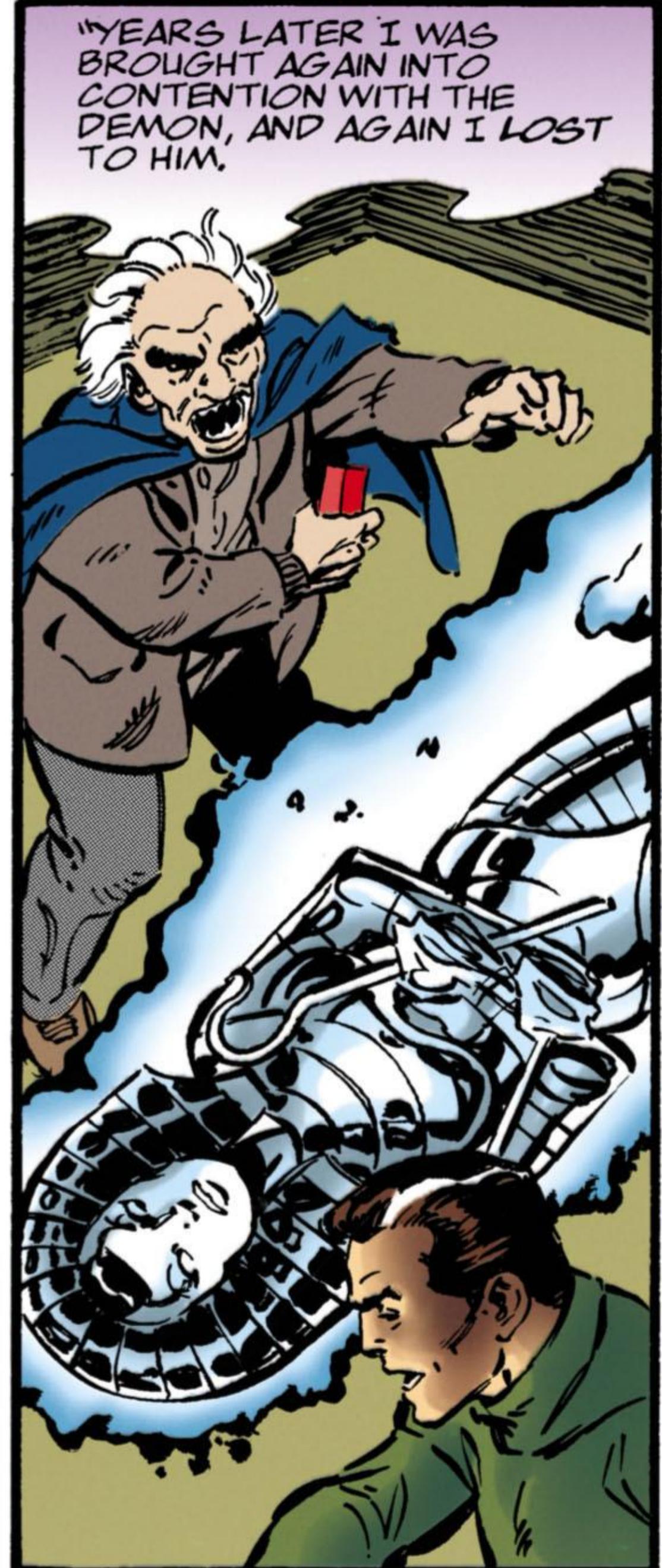
IN THIS MANNER, MICHAEL SCHORR-- ETRIGAN THE DEMON IS MERELY ONE FACET OF THE BEING YOU KNOW AS JASON BLOOD.

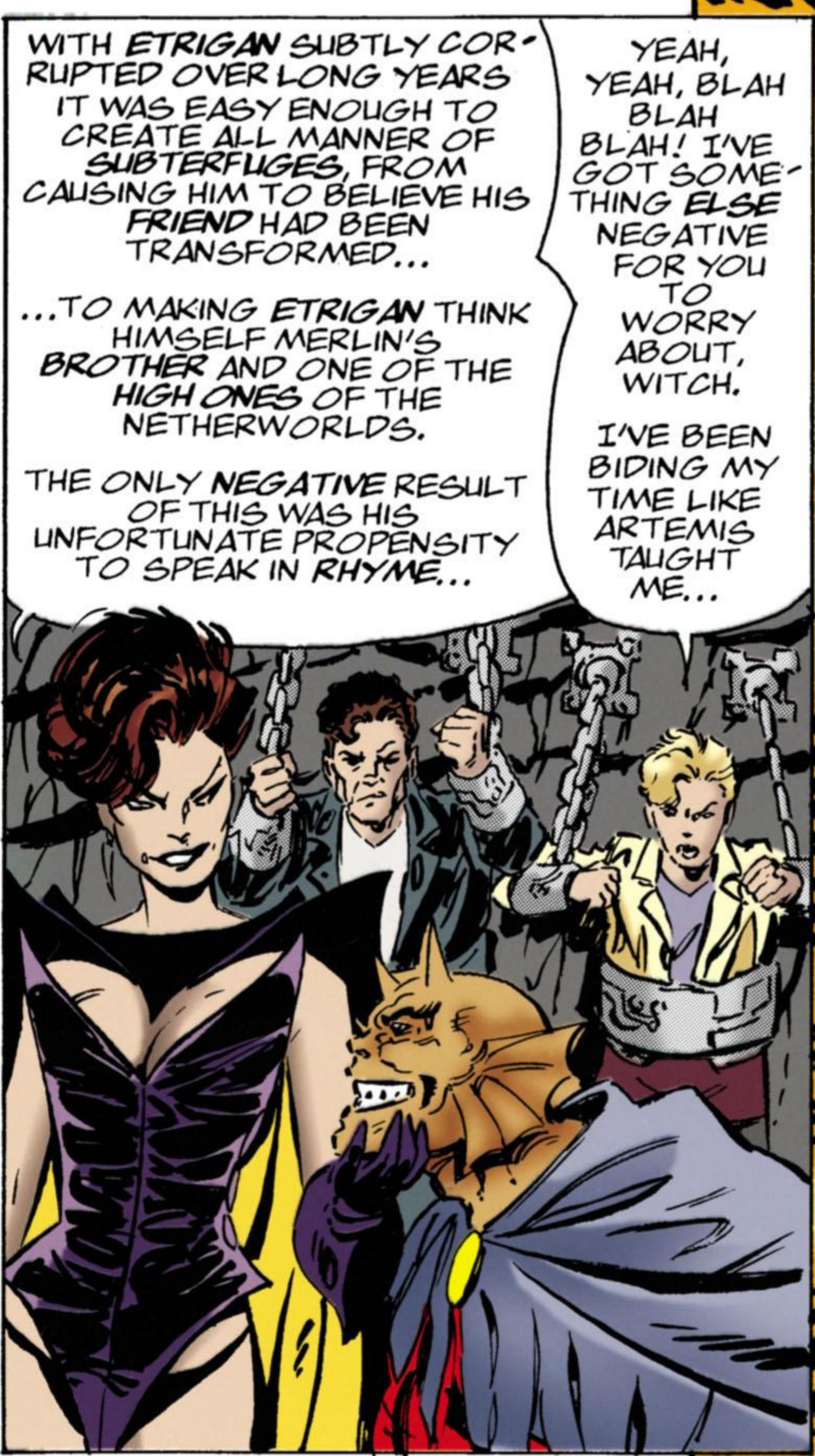
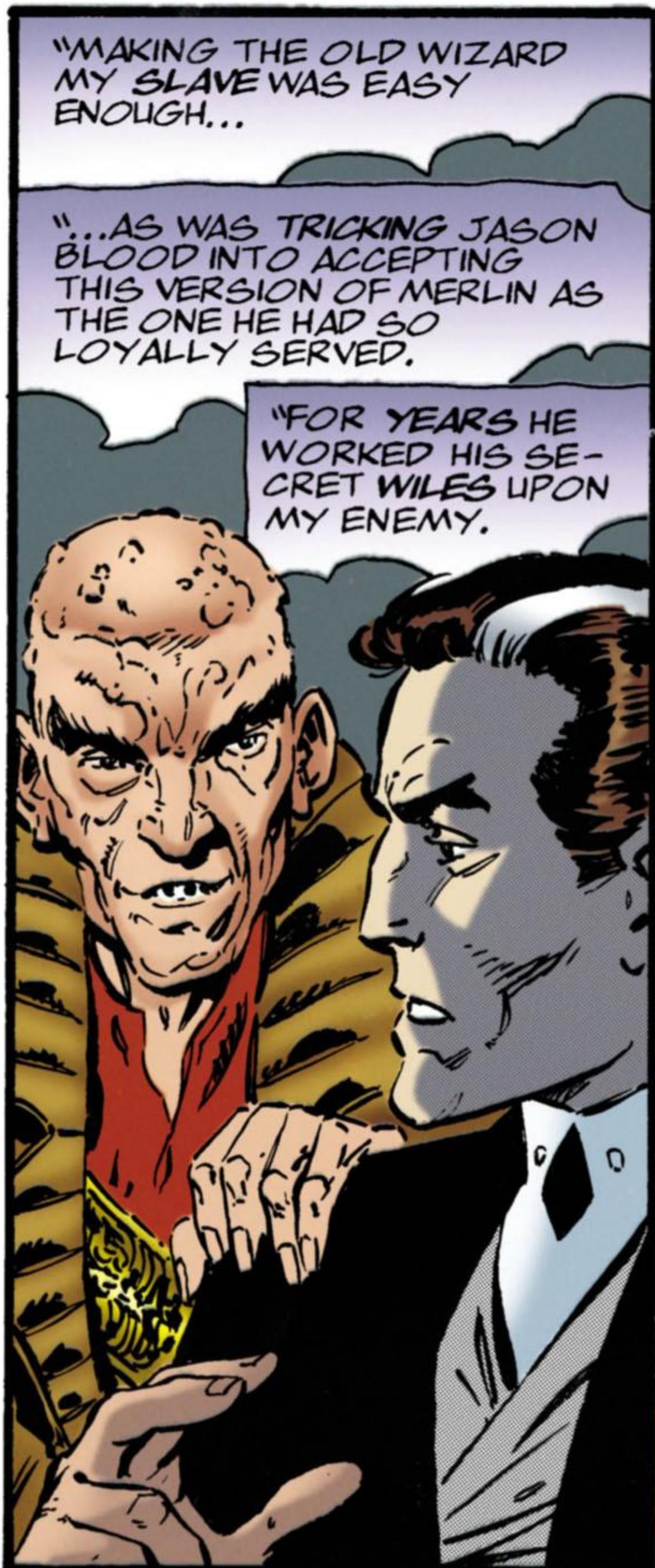


"AT THE FALL OF CAMELOT MERLIN CONJURED A DEMON TO BATTLE MY OWN SUPERNATURAL FORCES.

"AFTER THE BATTLE, MERLIN ELECTED TO KEEP THE DEMON ON EARTH, AND TRANSFORMED HIM INTO JASON BLOOD.

"YEARS LATER I WAS BROUGHT AGAIN INTO CONTENTION WITH THE DEMON, AND AGAIN I LOST TO HIM.





NEXT: THE TRUE FATE OF HARRY MATTHEWS, THE FIGHT FOR HELENA'S SOUL, AND A COUPLE OF OTHER SURPRISES, JUST FOR FUN!

BE HERE IN 30!