



Wonder Woman

**WHO...
OR WHAT...
IS THE DEADLY
RED
DRAGON!**

**50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 283
SEPT.**

A rectangular logo with a double-lined border. The word "APPROVED" is at the top, "BY THE" is in the middle, "COMICS" is on the left side of a central emblem, and "CODE" is on the right. Below the emblem, which is a stylized letter "A" inside a shield-like shape, the words "AUTHORITY" are written.



THE FINAL BATTLE BETWEEN
THE HUNTRESS
AND THE *JOKER!*

AND THIS
TIME THEY'RE
NOT
ALONE!

**NO! IT
CAN'T BE HIM!
HE'S DEAD!**

IS HE...OR ISN'T HE? READ...
SPECTER OF THE BAT!





WONDER WOMAN, (USPS 690-040), Vol. 40, No. 283, September, 1981. 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 © 1981 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.

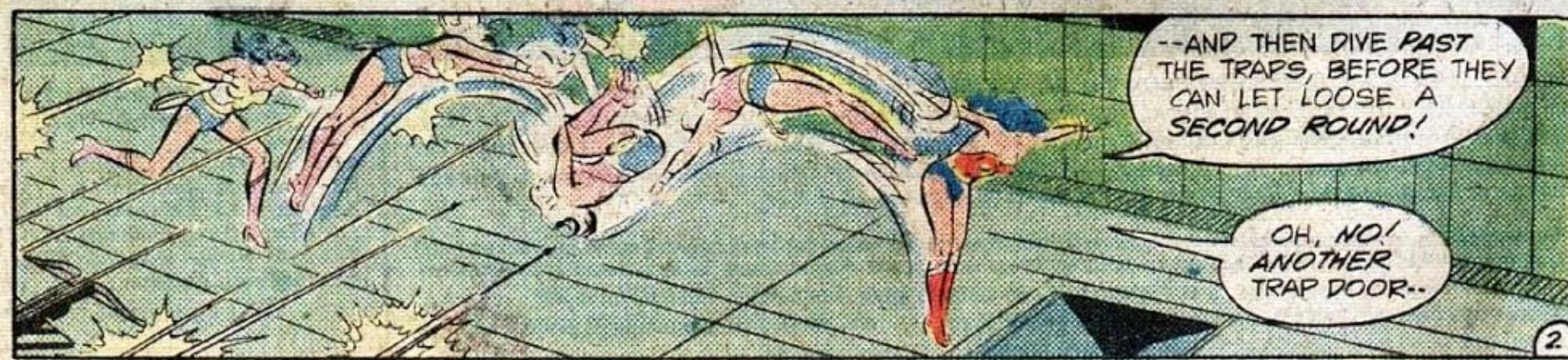
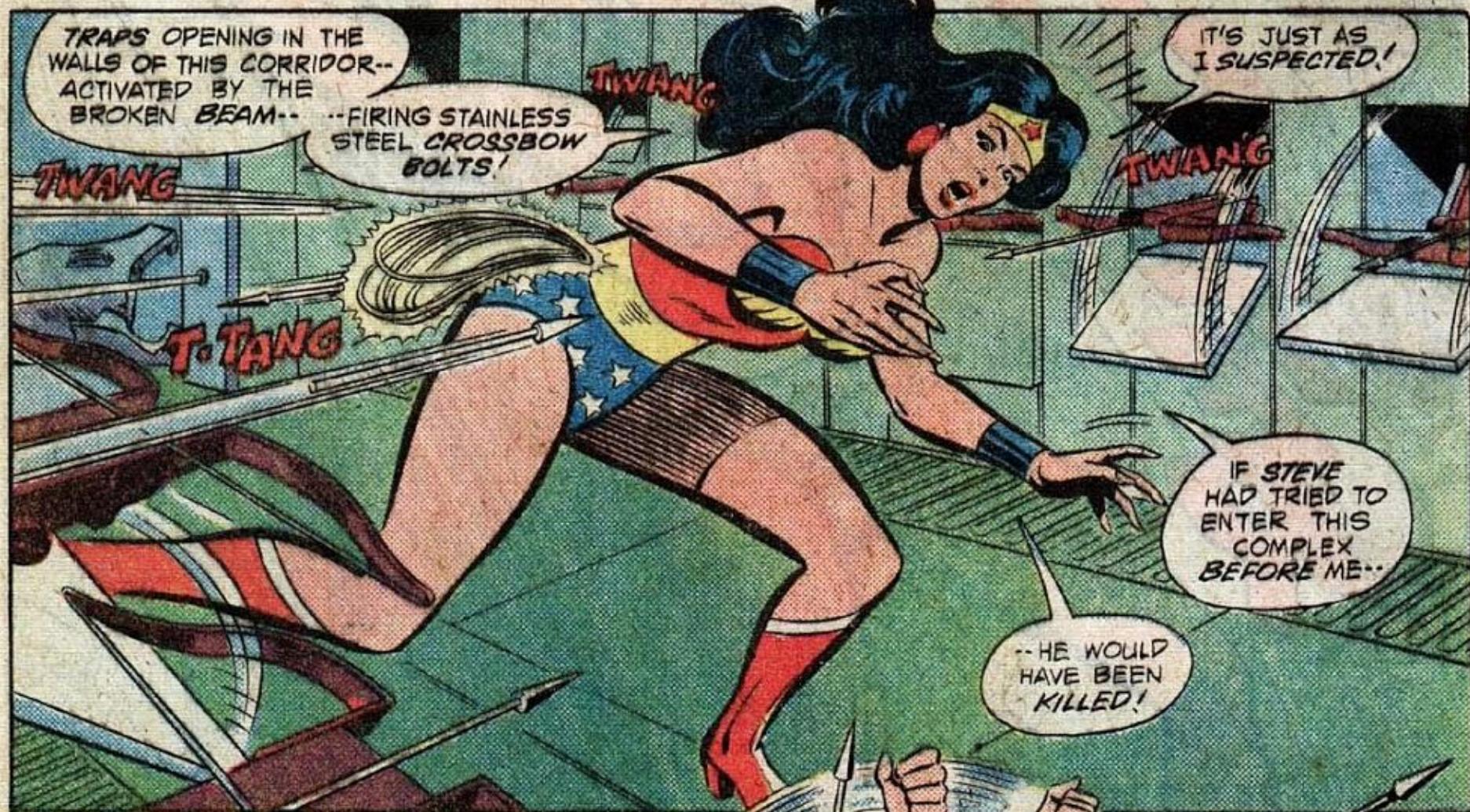
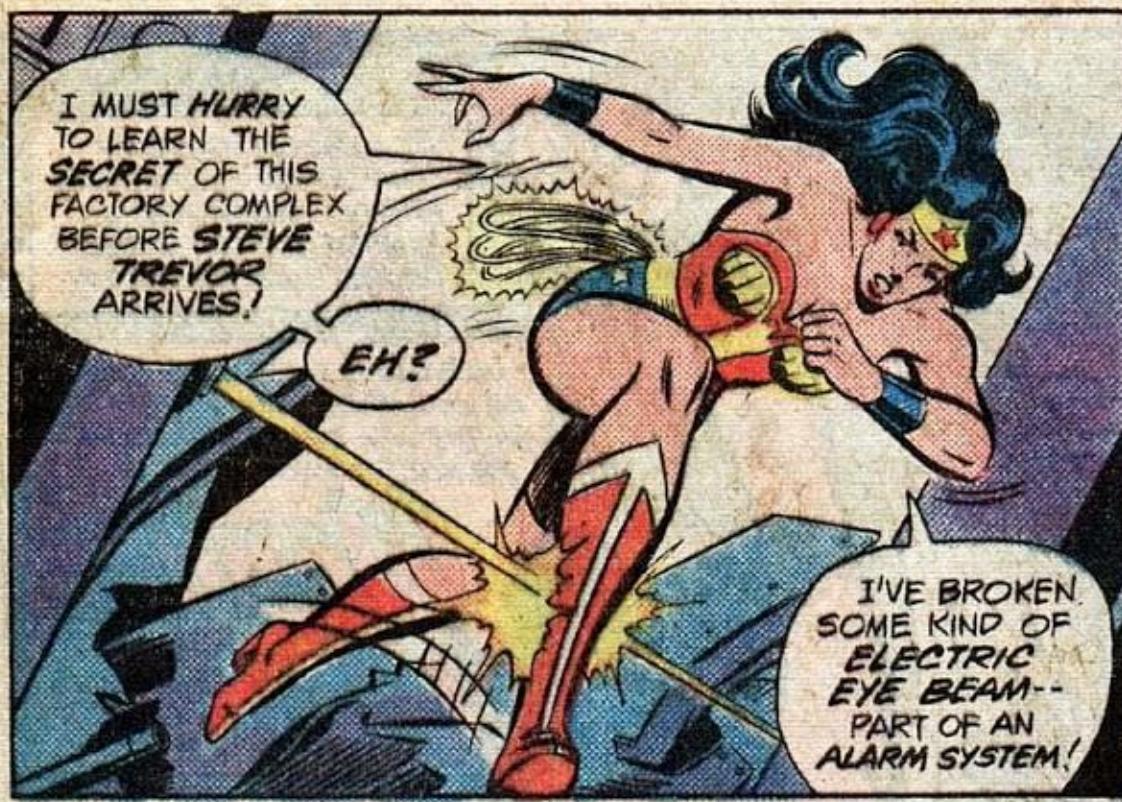
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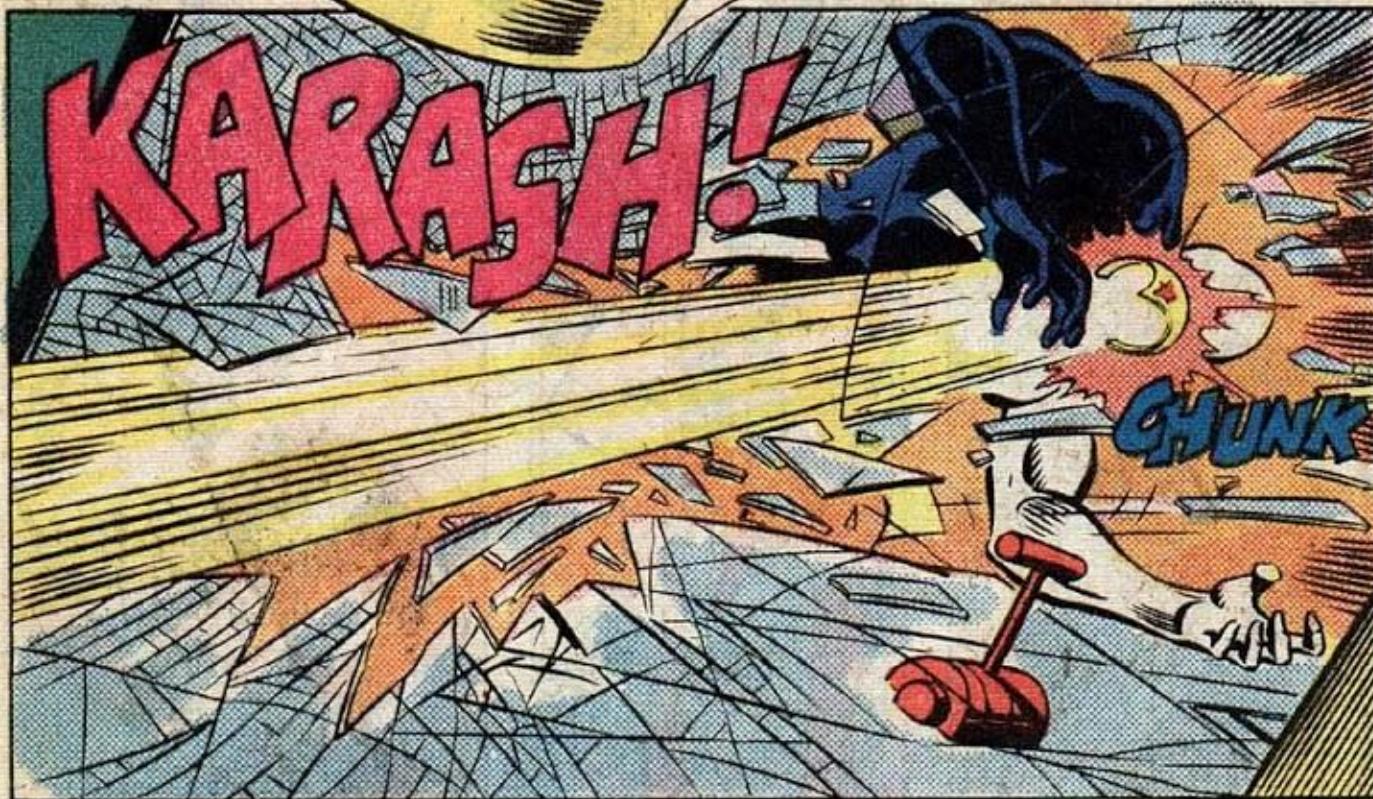
SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 14 Vandeventer Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. Annual subscription rate \$6.00. Outside U.S.A. \$7.00
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DC COMICS INC., 14 Vandeventer Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050

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CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

A HUSH FALLS OVER THIS ISOLATED COMPOUND, HERE ON A CLIFF OF THE PACIFIC PALISADES, FIFTEEN MILES NORTH OF LOS ANGELES.

A LOW-PITCHED HUM FADES TO SILENCE AS AN ELECTRIFIED FENCE GOES DEAD--

-- AND ALL ACROSS THE COMPOUND, CIRCUITS CLICK AS A SCORE OF HIDDEN SECURITY DEVICES ABRUPTLY SHUT DOWN.

MOMENTS LATER, AS THOUGH IN RESPONSE TO AN UNSEEN SIGNAL, A CONVOY ROARS INTO VIEW--



--BEARING THE MARKINGS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT!

SLOAN! KETTERING!

--YOU AND THE REST OF OUR MEN FROM THE BUREAU MOVE IN FIRST!

THIS IS A CIVILIAN OPERATION--

--WITH ARMY AND AIR FORCE BACK-UP!

LET'S KEEP IT LEGAL!

YOU HEARD THE MAN.

AND REMEMBER--

TAKE UP SUPPORT POSITION AROUND THE PERIMETER!

--LET THE FEDS MAKE THE FIRST MOVE!



--WE'LL SEE HOW OUR FRIENDS FROM THE FBI ARE DOING!

COLONEL TREVOR, SIR--
THE MEN ARE ON STATION!

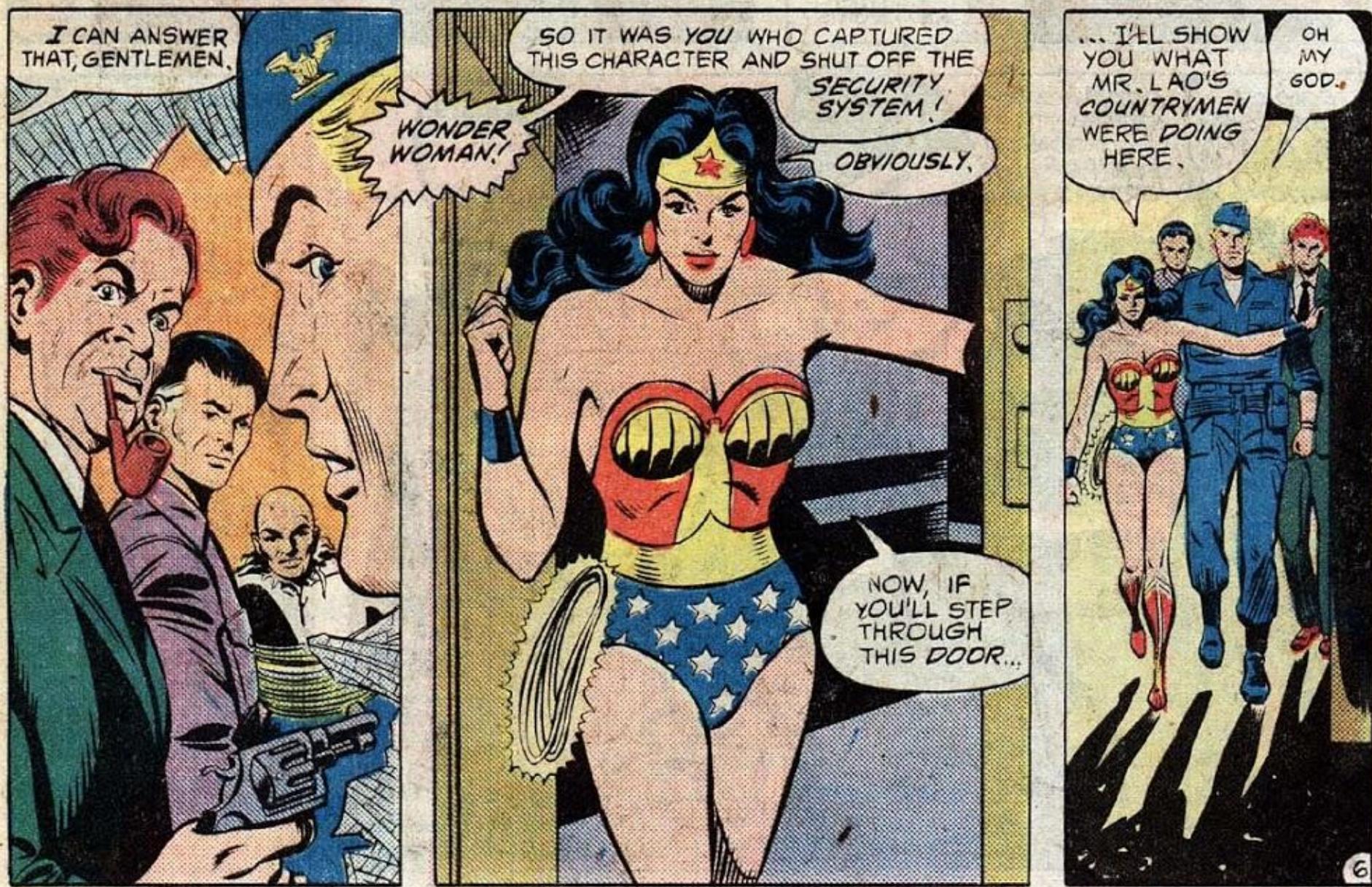
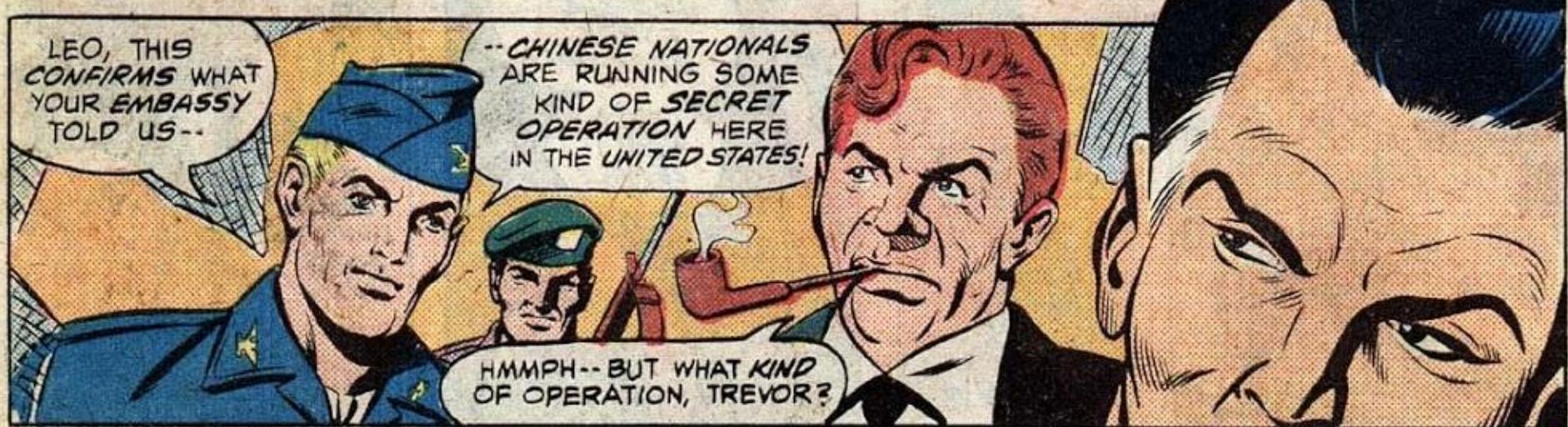
GOOD WORK,
SERGEANT.
WAIT FOR
FURTHER ORDERS.

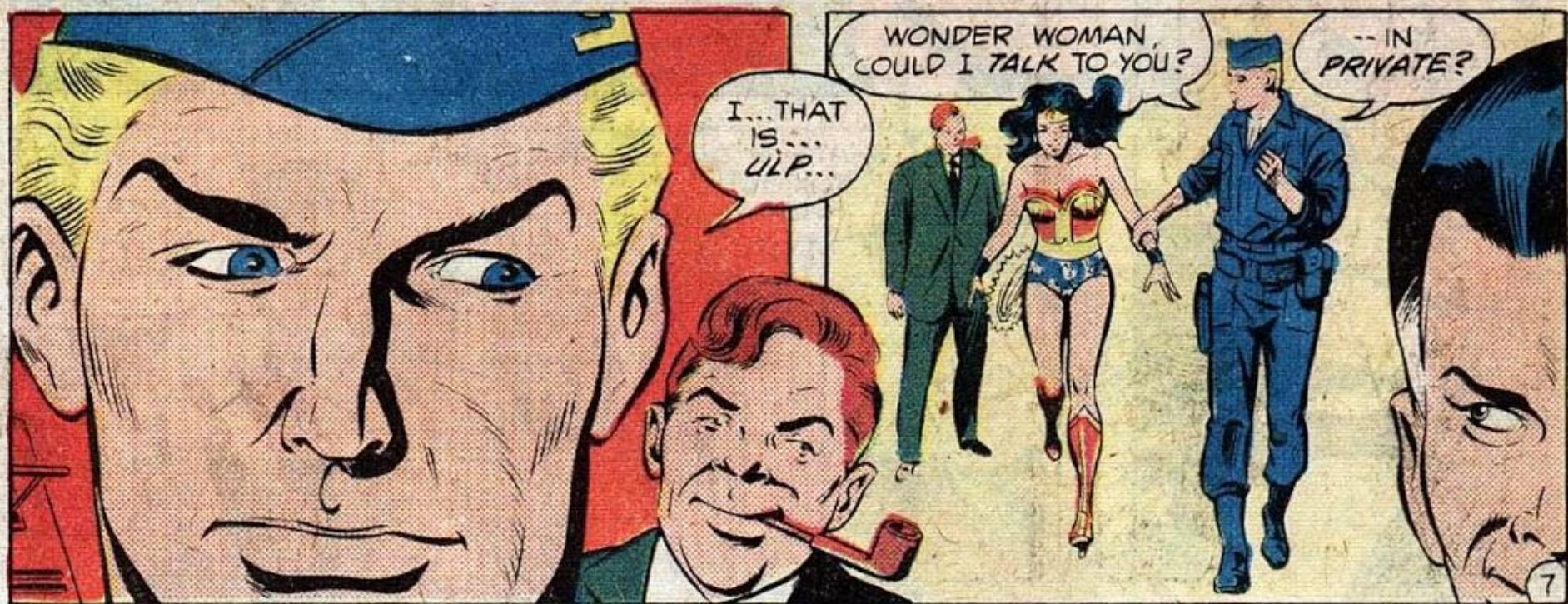
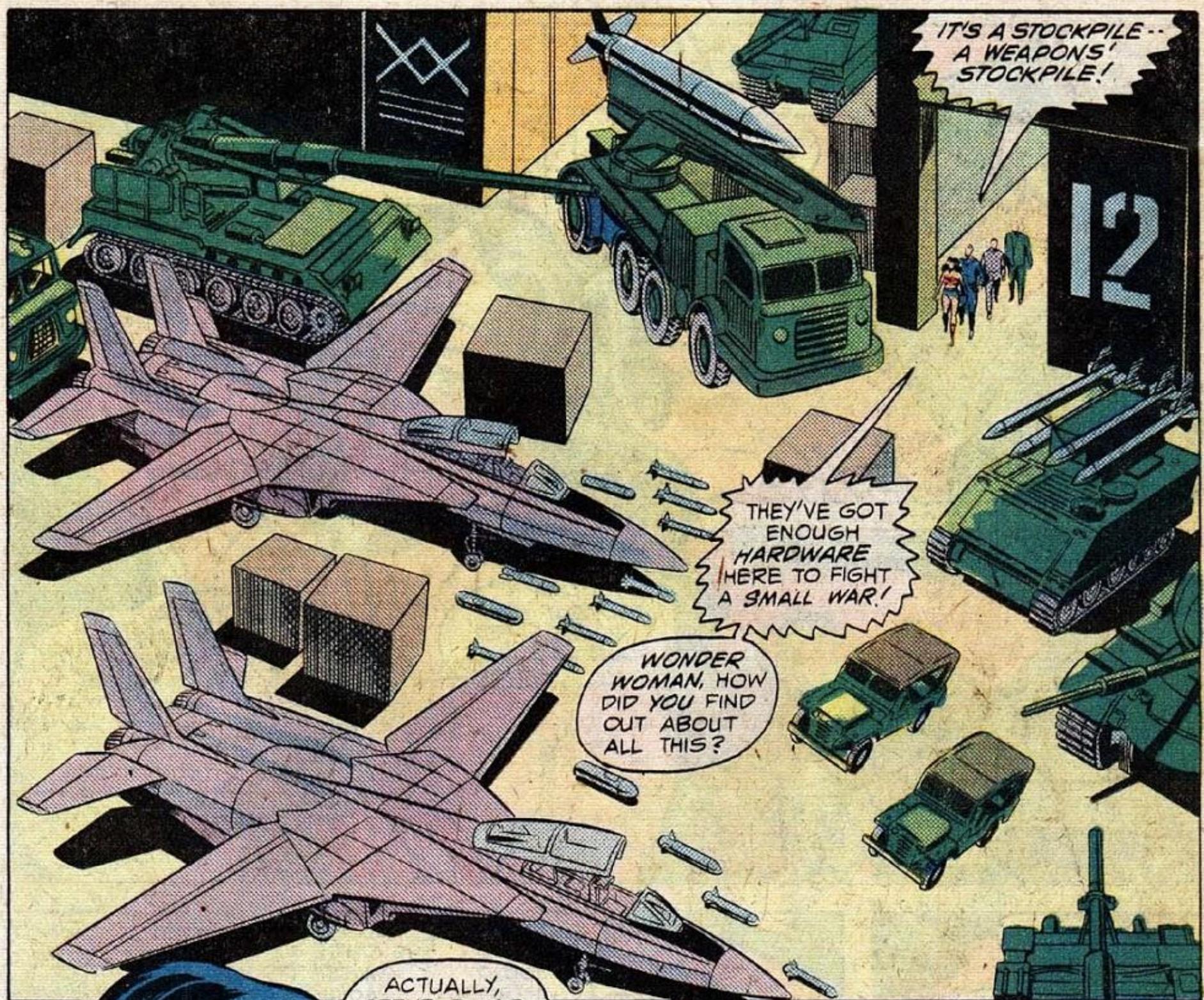
LAO CHEN,
IF YOU'LL
COME WITH ME--

TREVOR... SOMETHING SCREWY HERE!

TAKE A LOOK--
THE DOOR'S BEEN BROKEN!

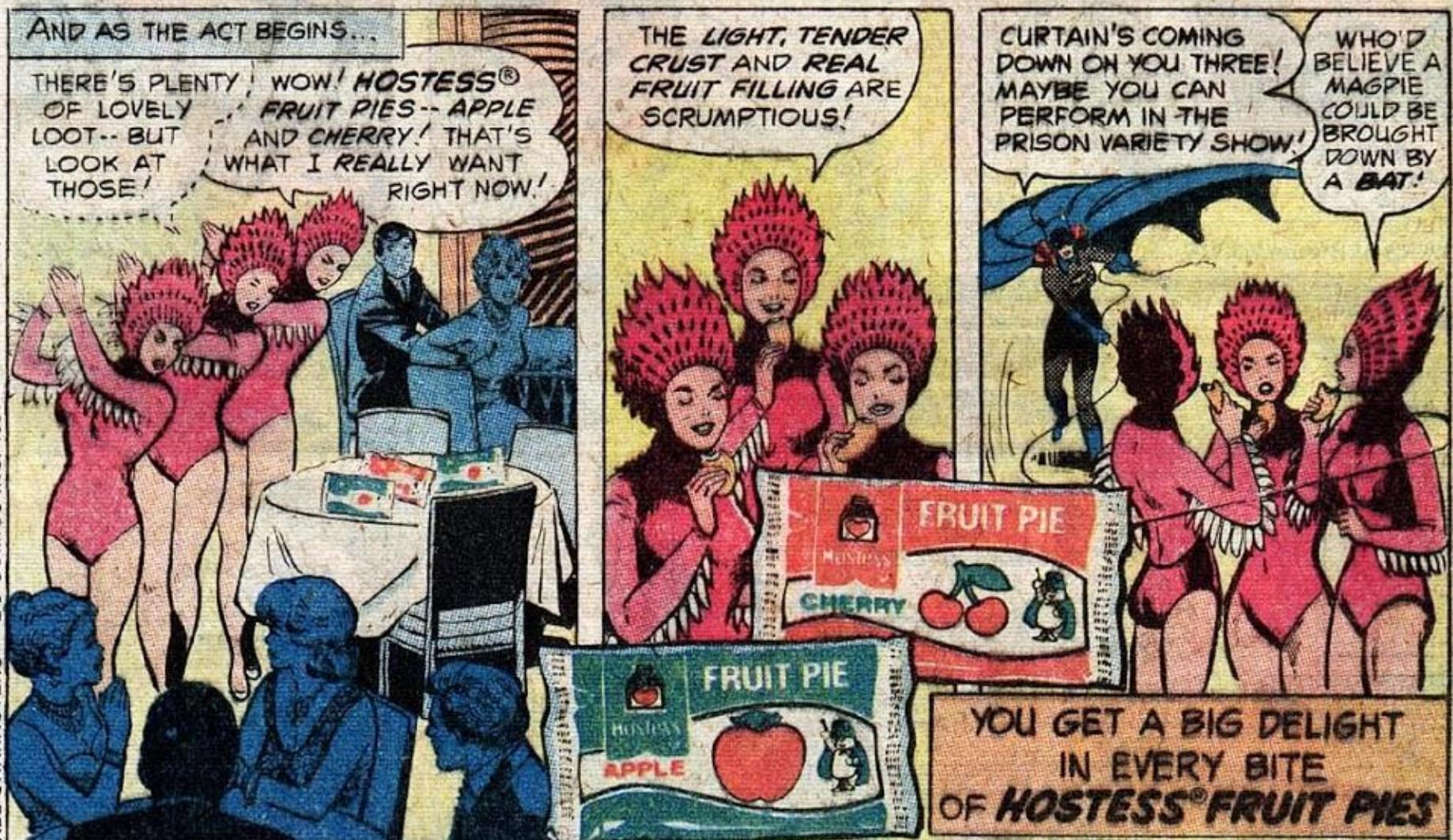
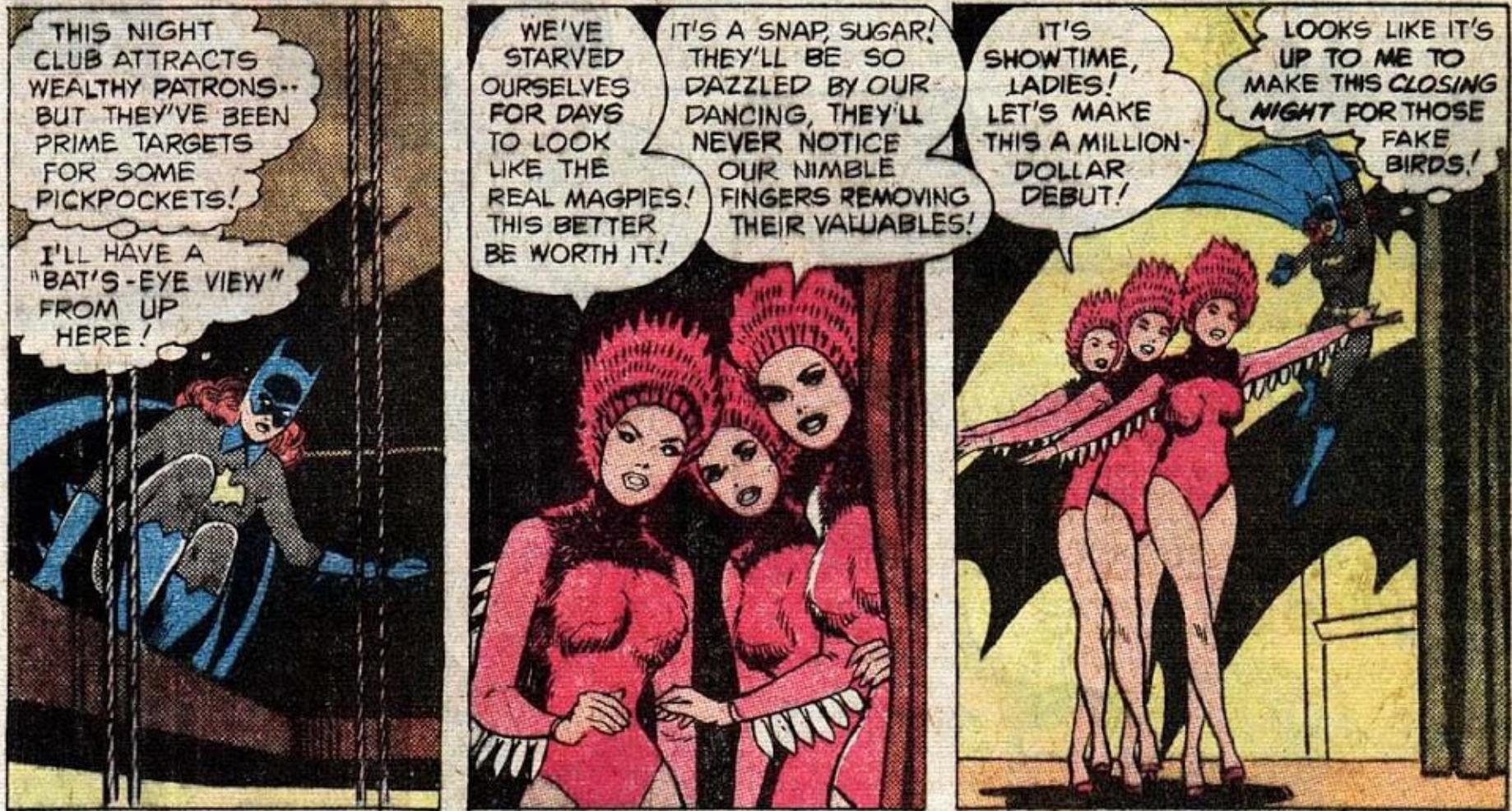








ADVERTISEMENT



I THOUGHT YOU
PEOPLE IN THE
**CHINESE SECURITY
SERVICE** KNEW WHO
WAS TRYING TO
SMUGGLE WEAPONS
OUT OF THE U.S.--
YOU MEAN, YOU
DON'T?

LET US
SIMPLY
SAY--

--WE HAVE OUR
SUSPICIONS.

C'MON, LAO. WE
SET UP A
**COMMAND
POST** OVER
HERE.

B

WE'VE GOT ALL THE TOOLS
YOU MAY NEED TO BREAK THE
LOCK ON
THAT BOX.

TREVOR, WHY DON'T YOU
CALL IN SOME TRANSPORT
CHOPPERS TO REMOVE THOSE
ARMS WHILE LAO GETS TO WORK?



GOOD IDEA,
FAIRBANKS.

CAPTAIN, CALL THE
PENTAGON ON
SECURE LINE
THREE AND--EH?

SURPRISED TO
SEE ME,
COLONEL?

AS
DIANA
PRINCE...
OR AS
WONDER
WOMAN!

I'VE GOT
WASHINGTON
FOR YOU,
ON LINE
THREE.

CAPTAIN
PRINCE...
DIANA... I
THOUGHT YOU
WERE IN WASHINGTON.

I'M YOUR
ADJUTANT,
COLONEL. WHERE
YOU GO, I GO.

THANK
YOU,
CAPTAIN.

STRANGE GIRL,
THAT DIANA
PRINCE. I
WONDER WHAT
GENERAL DARNELL
SEES IN HER? AH.
WELL, NONE OF MY
BUSINESS.

HOMEBASE,
THIS IS
RAIDER.



WE HAVE
SECURED
OUR TARGET--

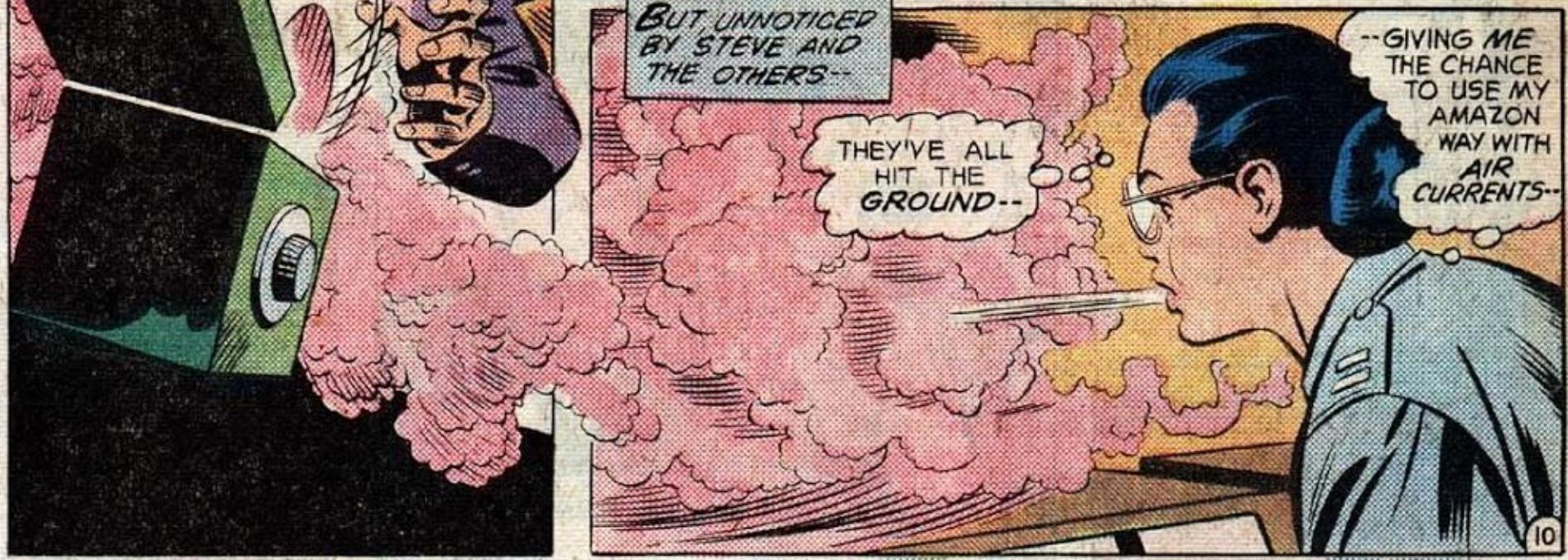
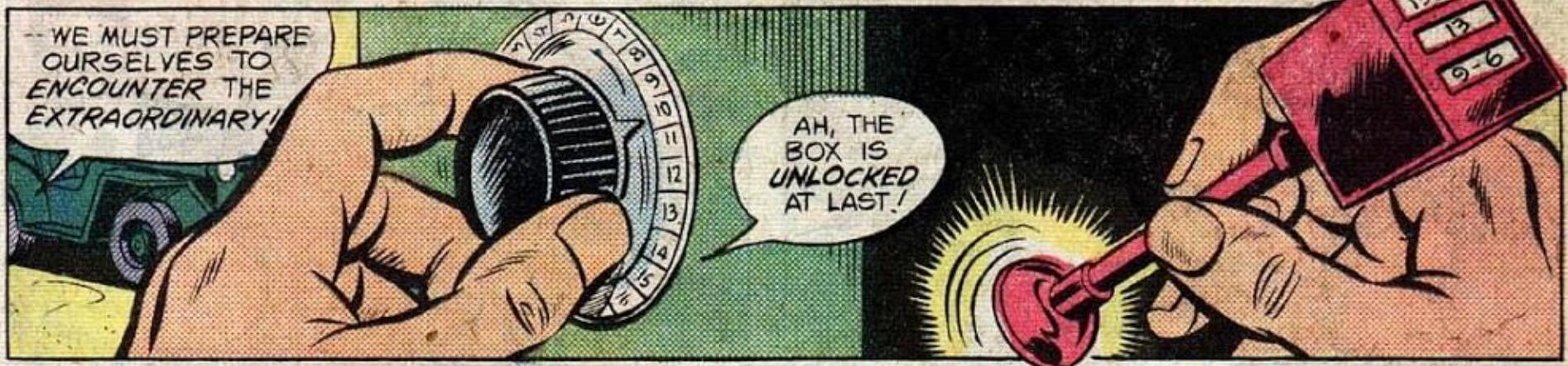
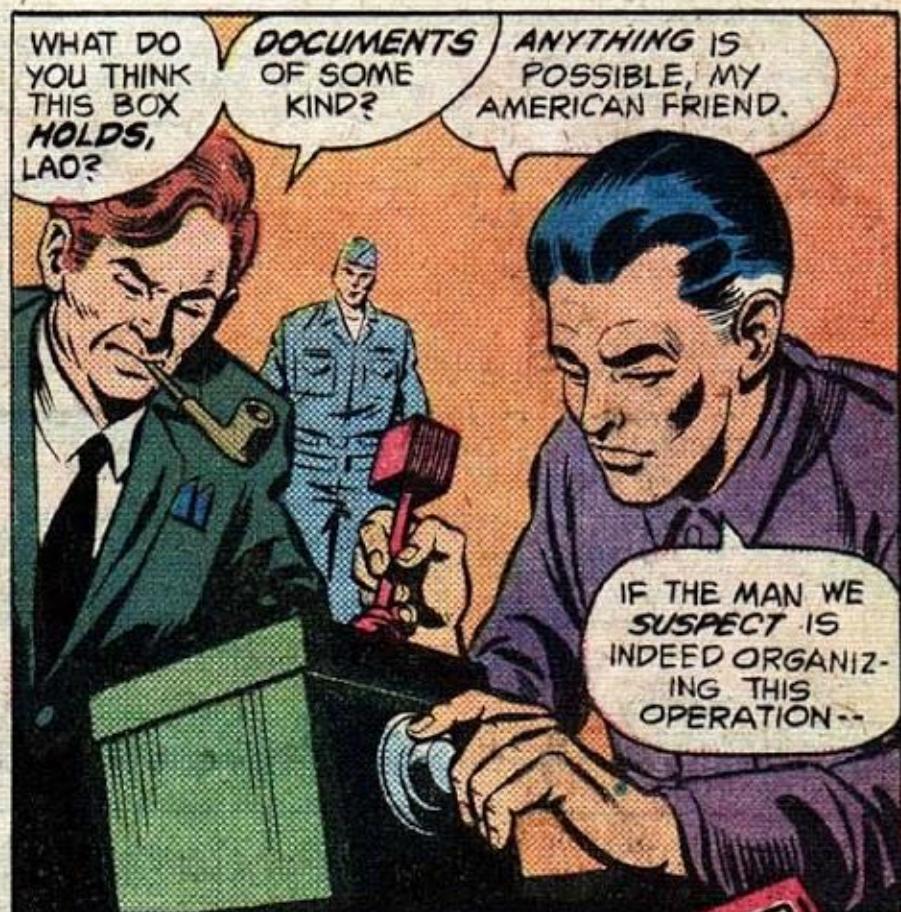
--AND WE
REQUEST
TRANSPORT
FOR SOME
HOT GOODIES.

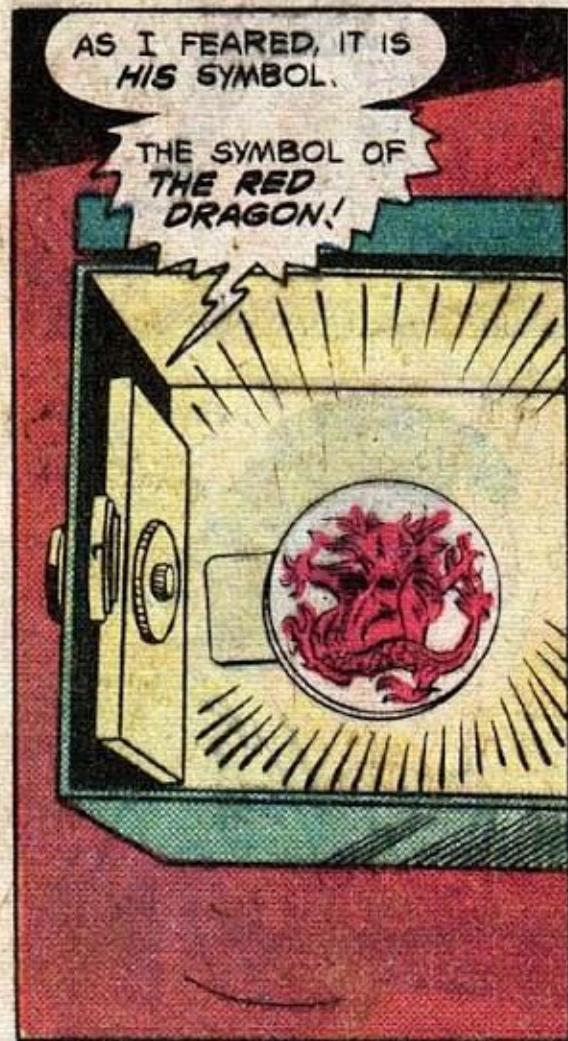
RECEIVED
AND
UNDERSTOOD,
RAIDER.

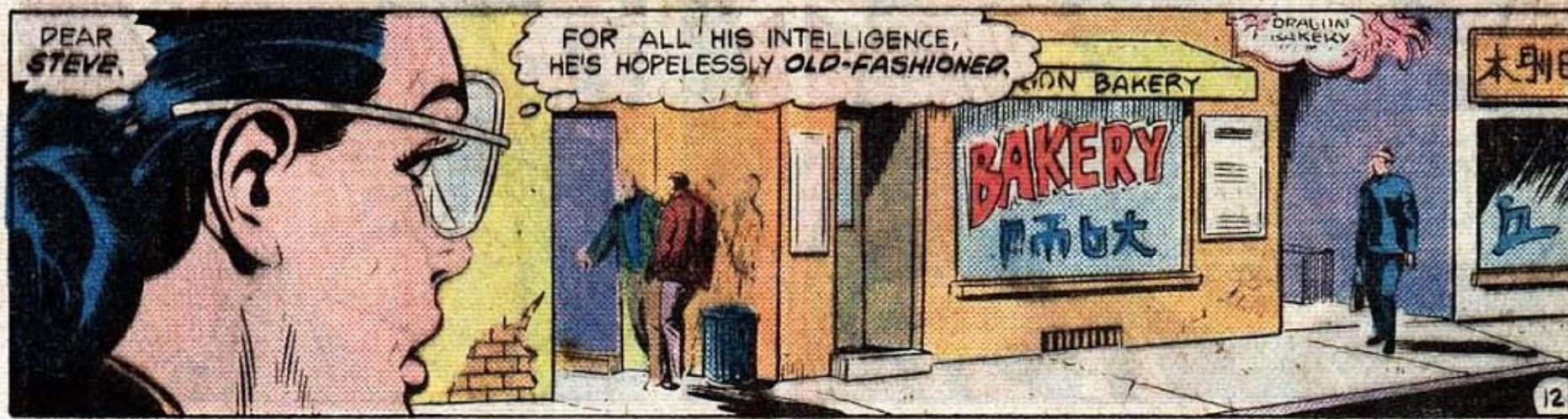
WE WILL
PASS ON
YOUR
MESSAGE
TO DISPATCH,
PRONTO.

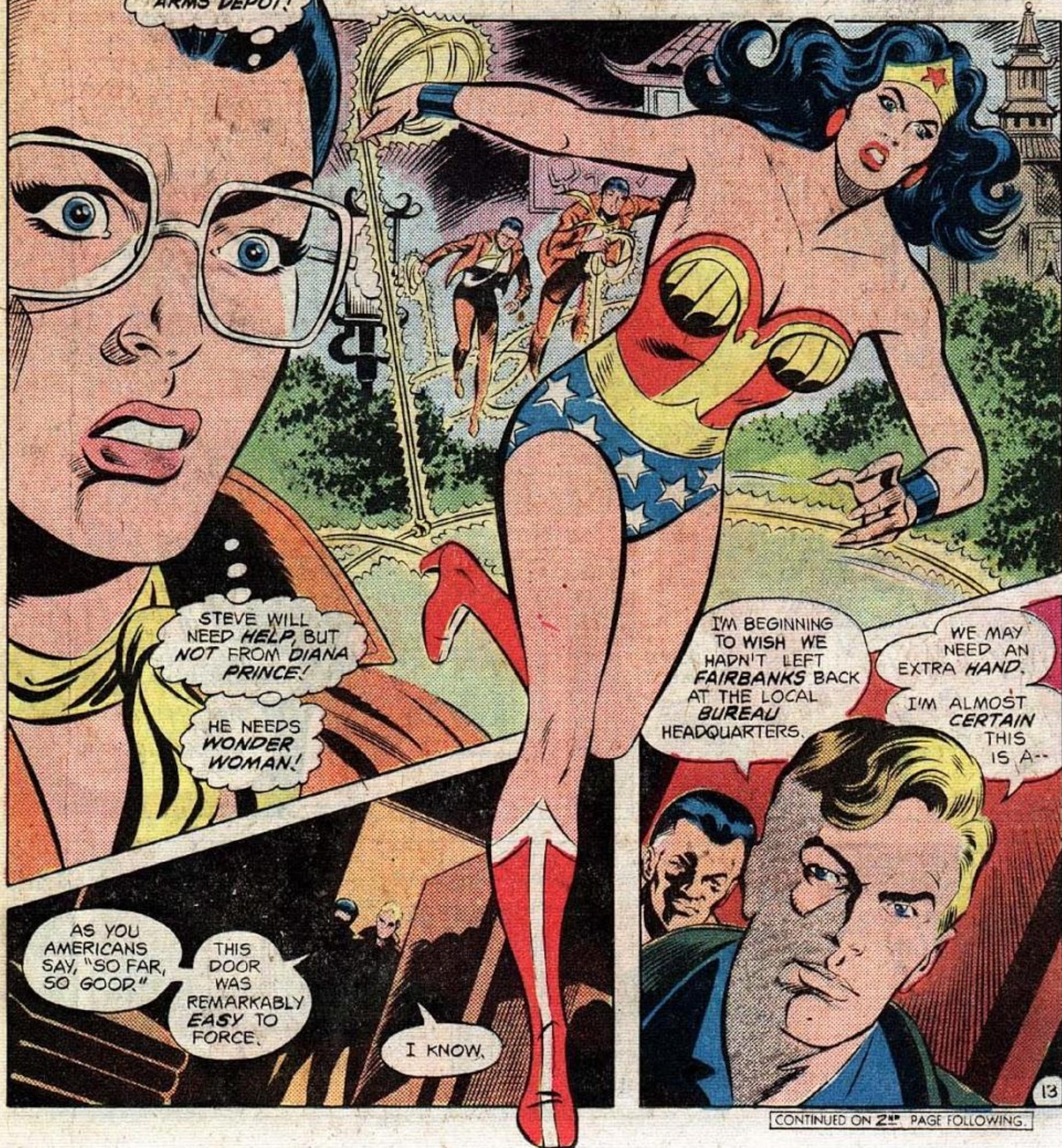
ETTA?
ETTA CANDY?
ER, THAT IS,
LIEUTENANT
CANDY...

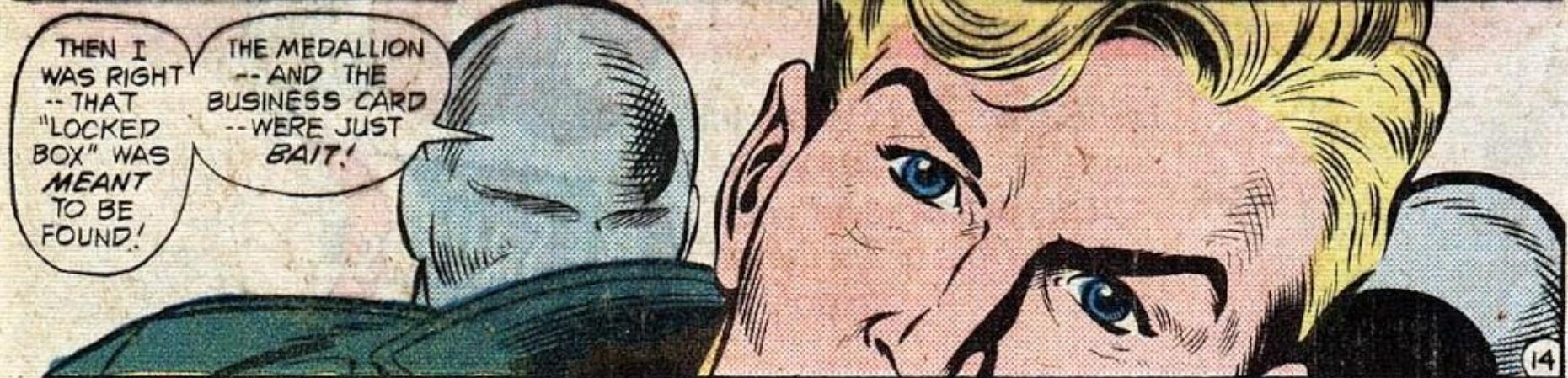
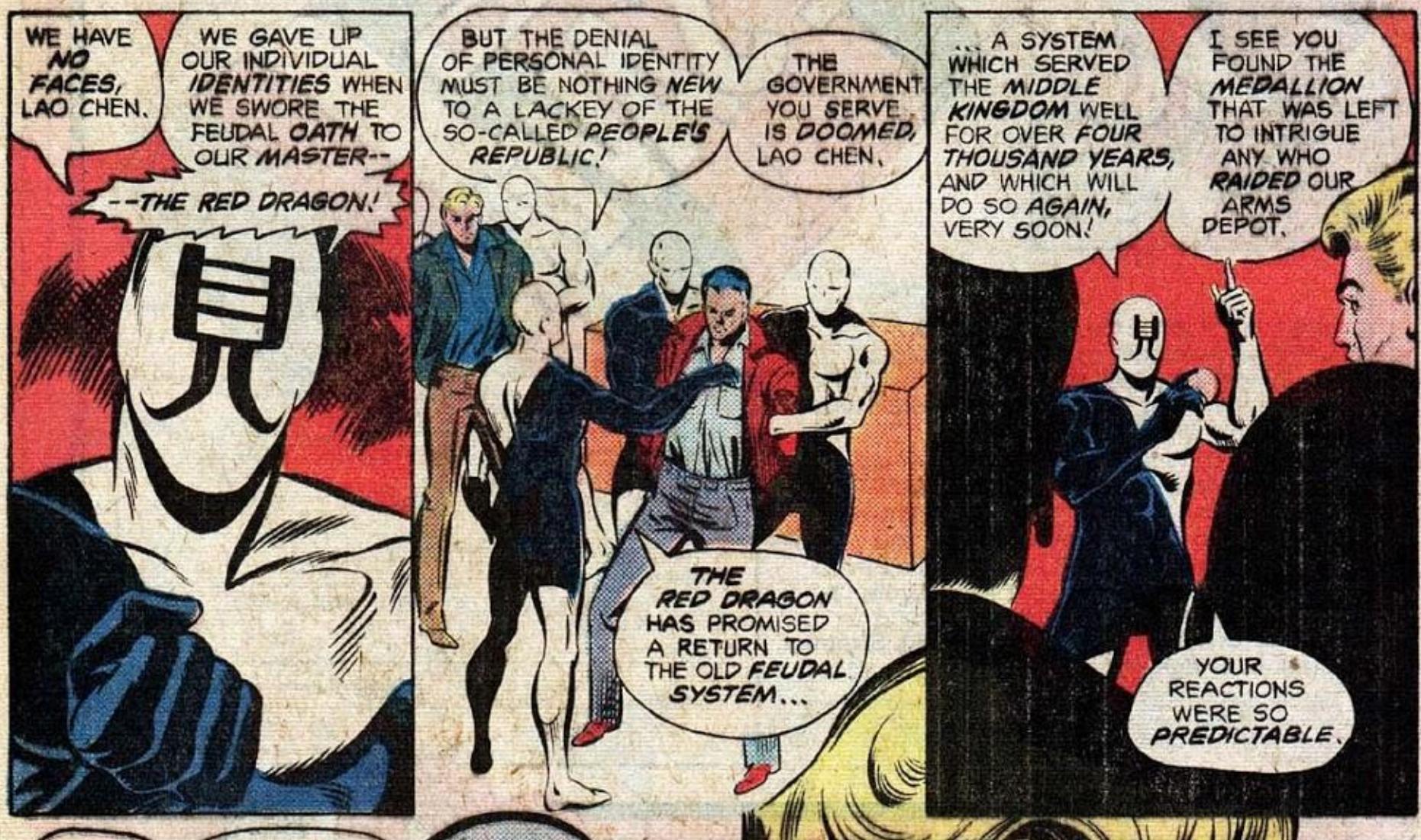


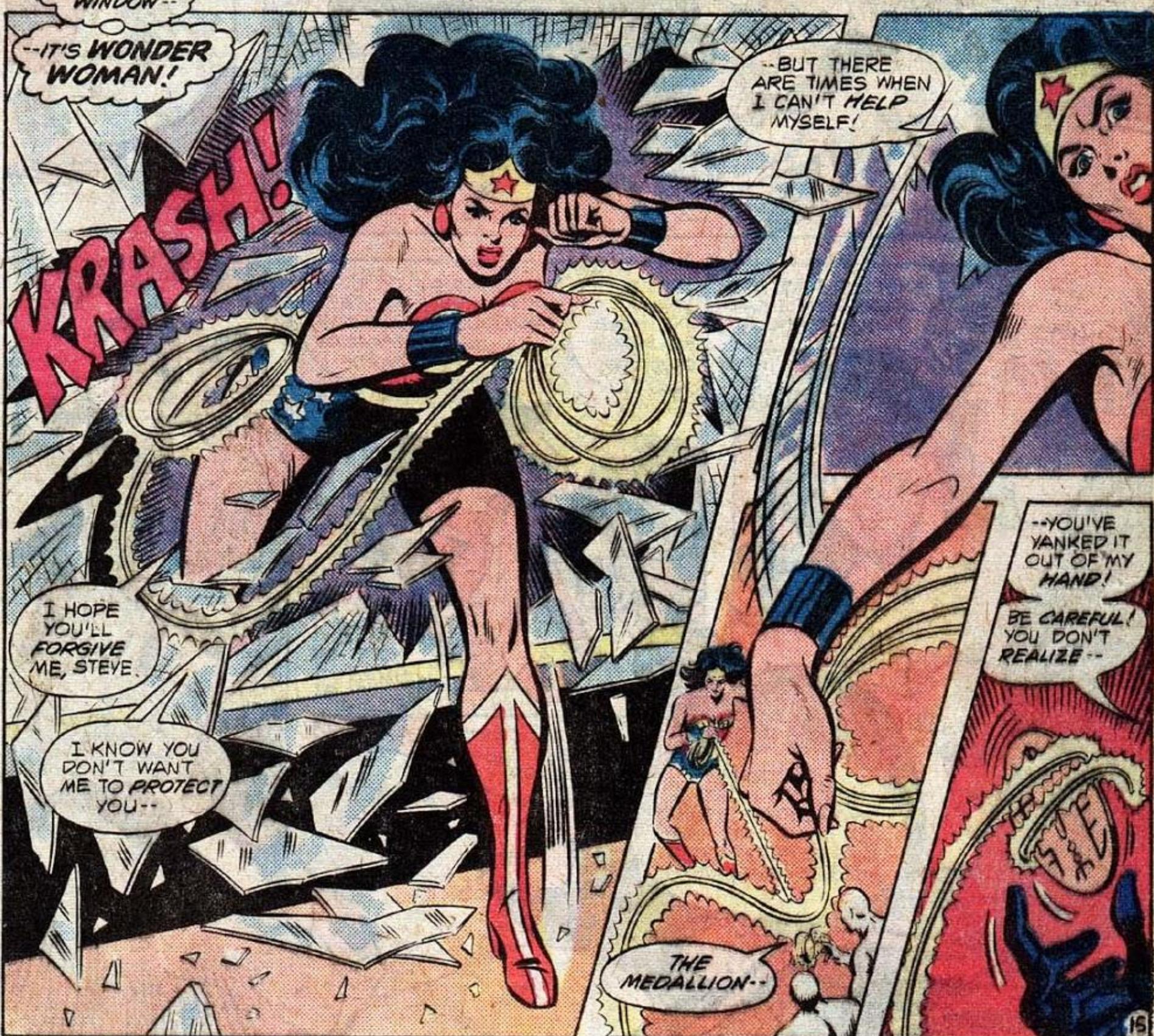


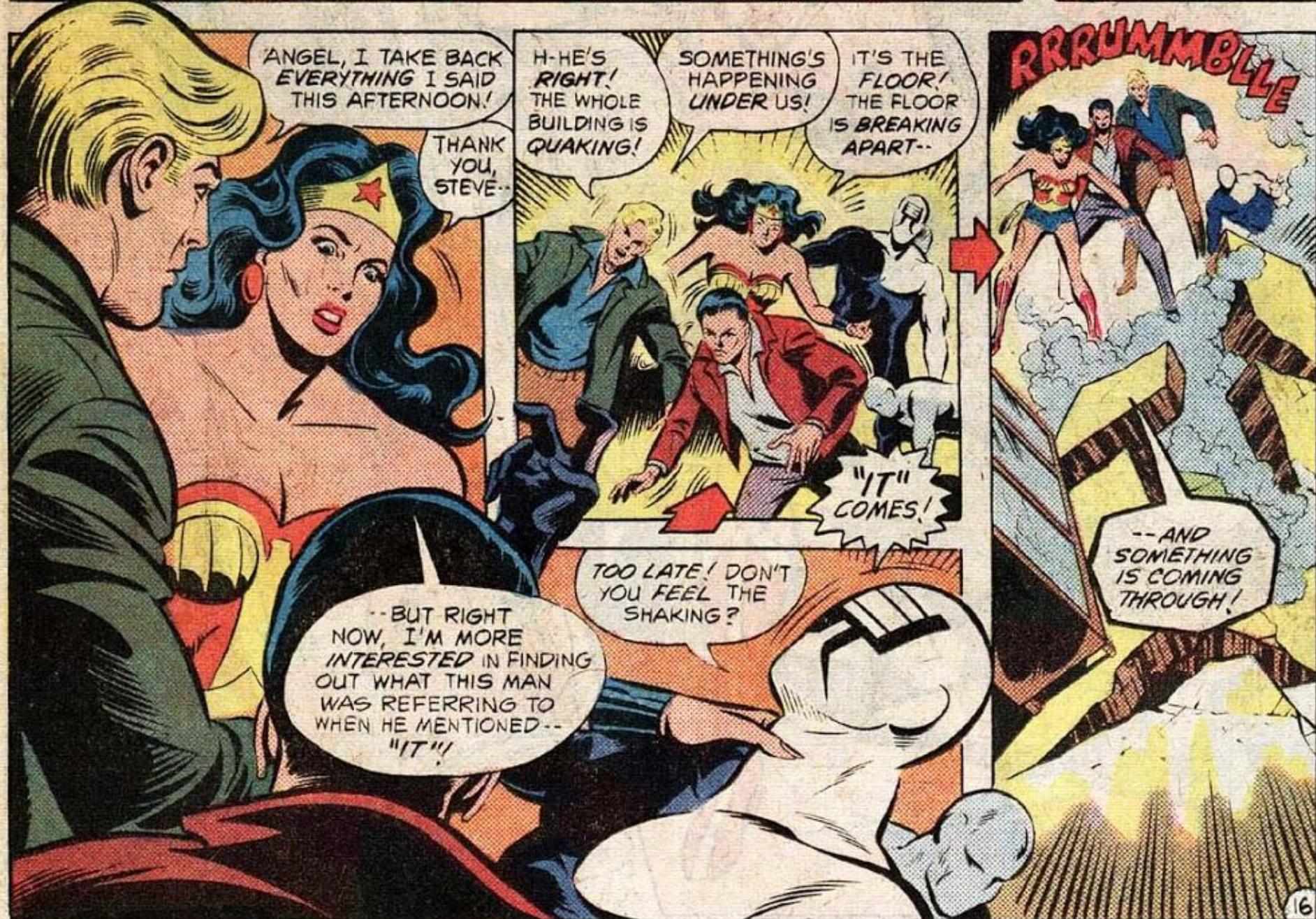
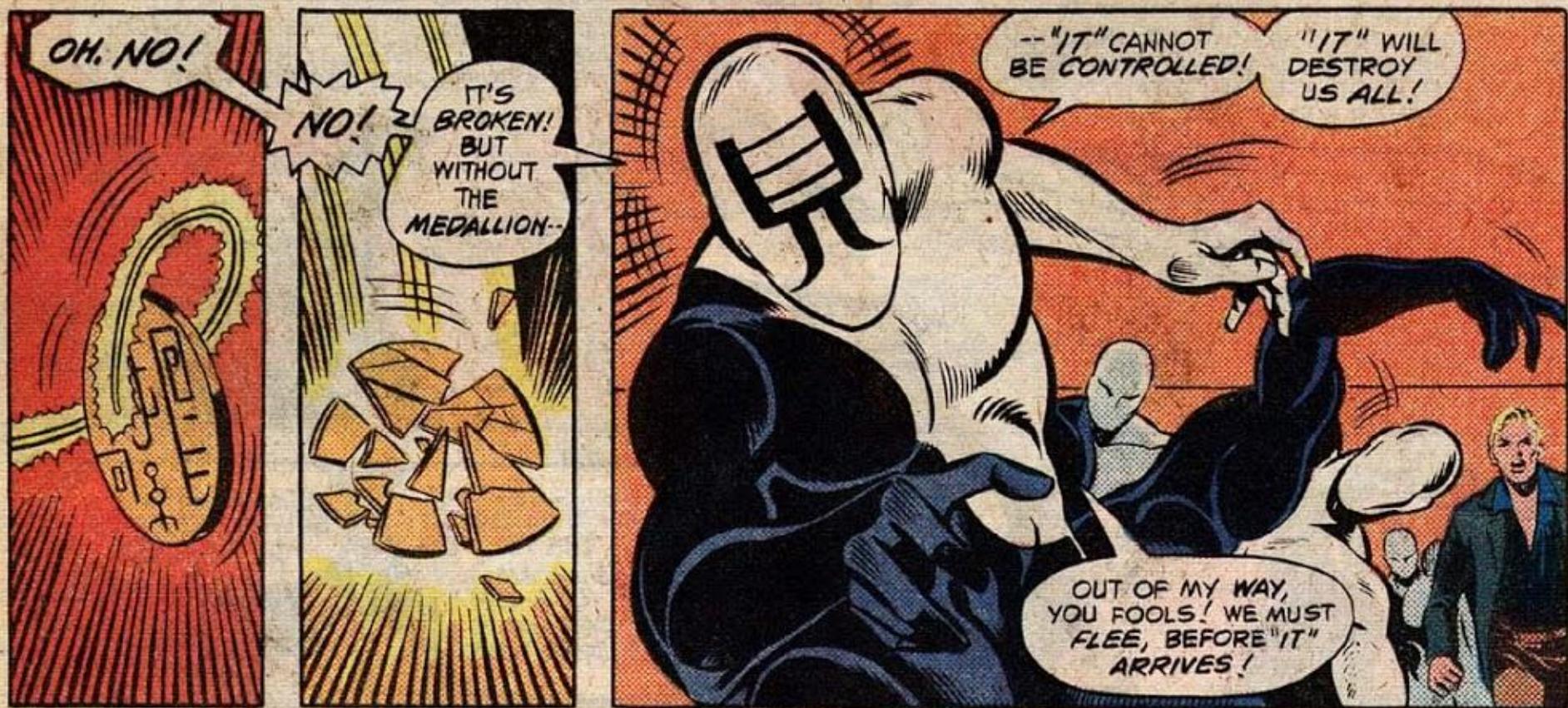














HE'S THE DEADLIEST LUNATIC EVER TO STALK MADLY THROUGH THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY, AND THIS IS ONE OF HIS HAPPIEST MOMENTS. YOU SEE, HE'S JUST REALIZED THAT HE STILL HAS THE CHANCE TO KILL HIS ARCH-ENEMY. HE'S...

THE JOKER



HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA

I KNEW
HE COULDN'T
BE DEAD--
I JUST
KNEW IT!

BATMAN BACKS GOTHAM GAZETTE

NOW, THE MUSICAL QUESTION IS:
WHICH ONE WILL HAVE THE...

...LAST LAUGH!

PAUL LEVITZ & JOE STATON
STORYTELLERS

STEVE MITCHELL
EMBELLISHER

SHE'S HELENA WAYNE, AND SHE'S CARRYING ON A FAMILY TRADITION. HERE ON A WORLD SUBTLY DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN, SHE SAW THE BATMAN DIE... AND FIGHTS ON AS HIS DAUGHTER SHOULD, BATTLING CRIME AS...

The Huntress

OR DID BATMAN
DIE AT ALL?

HMMMM...

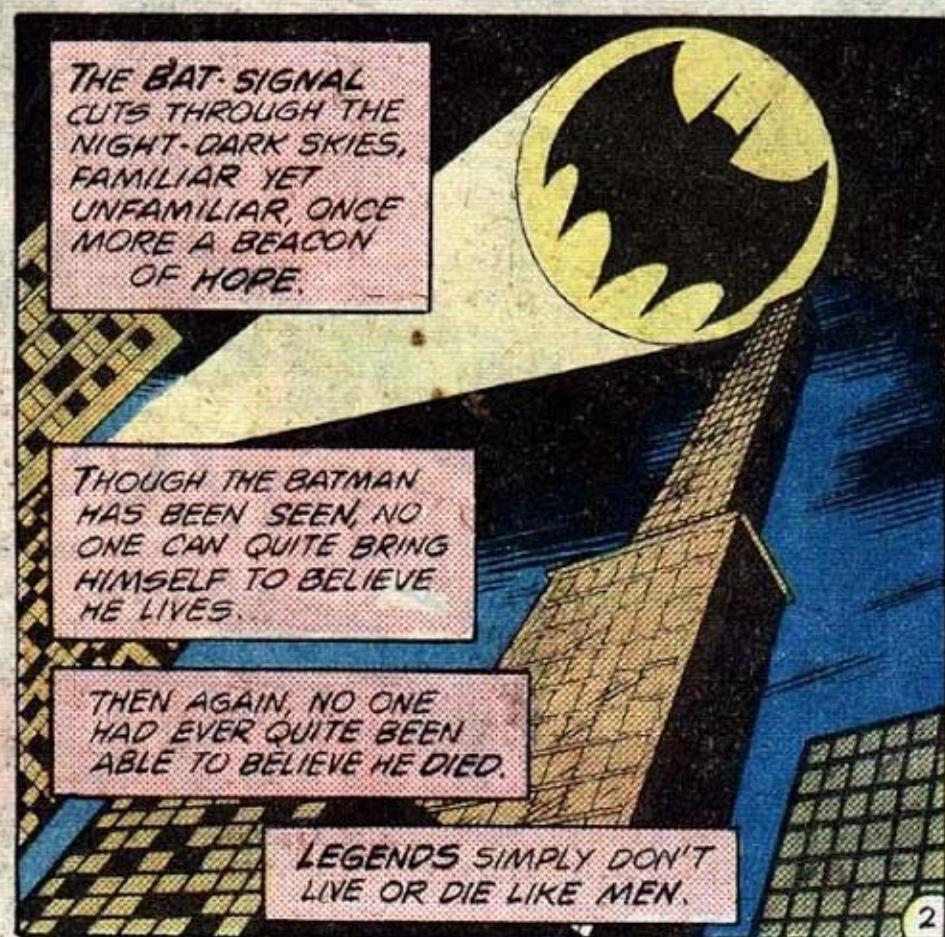
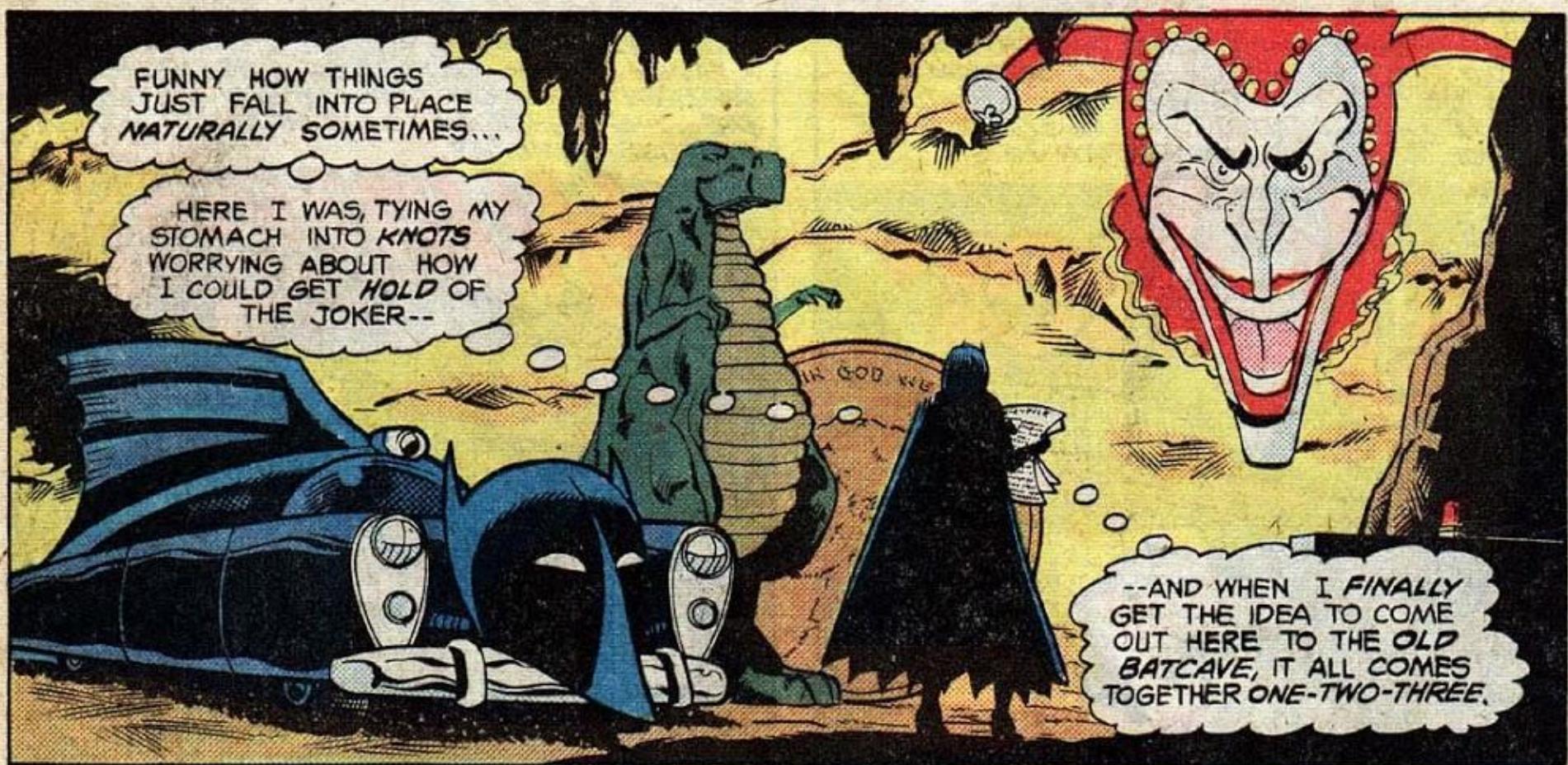
WELL, IF
NOTHING ELSE,
THIS SURE AS HECK
WILL BRING THE
JOKER CRAWLING
OUT OF THE
WOODWORK!

by Andrew Wilson

ADRIENNE ROY
COLORIST

BEN ODA
LETTERER

LEN WEIN
EDITOR



LAW FIRMS, ON THE OTHER HAND, DO.

DEAD. FLAT OUT "GET THE COFFIN NAILED UP AND THE EARTH TURNED" DEAD.

THAT, MY ASSOCIATES, IS EXACTLY WHAT CRANSTON, GRAYSON AND WAYNE WILL BE IF THIS LIBEL SUIT SUCCEEDS.

AND AS THE AFORE-MENTIONED CRANSTON, I TAKE THAT QUITE PERSONALLY-- NOT TO MENTION MY REACTION TO THE DISBARMENT PROCEEDING BEING AIMED AT ME.

FOR REFERENCE, THE BOOKIE AT THE GOTHAM BAR ASSOCIATION IS TAKING FIVE-TO-ONE ODDS-- AGAINST US.

THIS IS ALL BASED ON THE ALLEGATION THAT WE RELEASED FALSE CONSUMER INTEREST DATA, MISTER CRANSTON?

EXACTLY, TYLER.

AND IF ANY OF THE THREE OF YOU WANT OUT OF THE FIRM, TELL ME-- BEFORE THE BLOOD STARTS FLOWING.

BUT DON'T ANSWER ME NOW.

THINK ABOUT IT.

MEANWHILE, I'LL TRY TO FIND HELENA, AND TELL HER.

THEN WE CAN HAVE A NICE LONG TALK...

...AND IF WE GET SMART, MAYBE WE'LL END IT WITH A SUICIDE PACT.

EASY, ARTHUR.

HUH?

RELAX, ARTHUR-- I'LL STAND BY YOU-- YOU KNOW THAT. AND SO WILL HELENA!

BEFORE WE ESTABLISH THE IDENTITY OF THAT SOFT-SPOKEN YET CONFIDENT SHADY FIGURE, RAISE YOUR EYES AND SEE WHAT ARTHUR CRANSTON SEES AS HE LOOKS OUT INTO THE NIGHT:

THE BAT-SIGNAL.

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, IN THE YEARS GONE BY, IT HAD BURNED BRIGHT FROM ATOP POLICE HEADQUARTERS, SUMMONING ITS NAMESAKE...

BUT TONIGHT THE MAN AT ITS CONTROLS IS DEFINITELY NOT A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE POLICEMAN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION...

HEE HEE HEE

THIS'LL DO IT! THIS HAS TO DO IT. HA HA HA!

IN ANOTHER MINUTE--MAYBE TWO--I'LL HAVE HIM! HEE HEE!

JOKER, FORGET IT. YOU'RE NOT GETTING THE BATMAN.

YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANYTHING--

--EXCEPT A TICKET BACK TO JAIL!

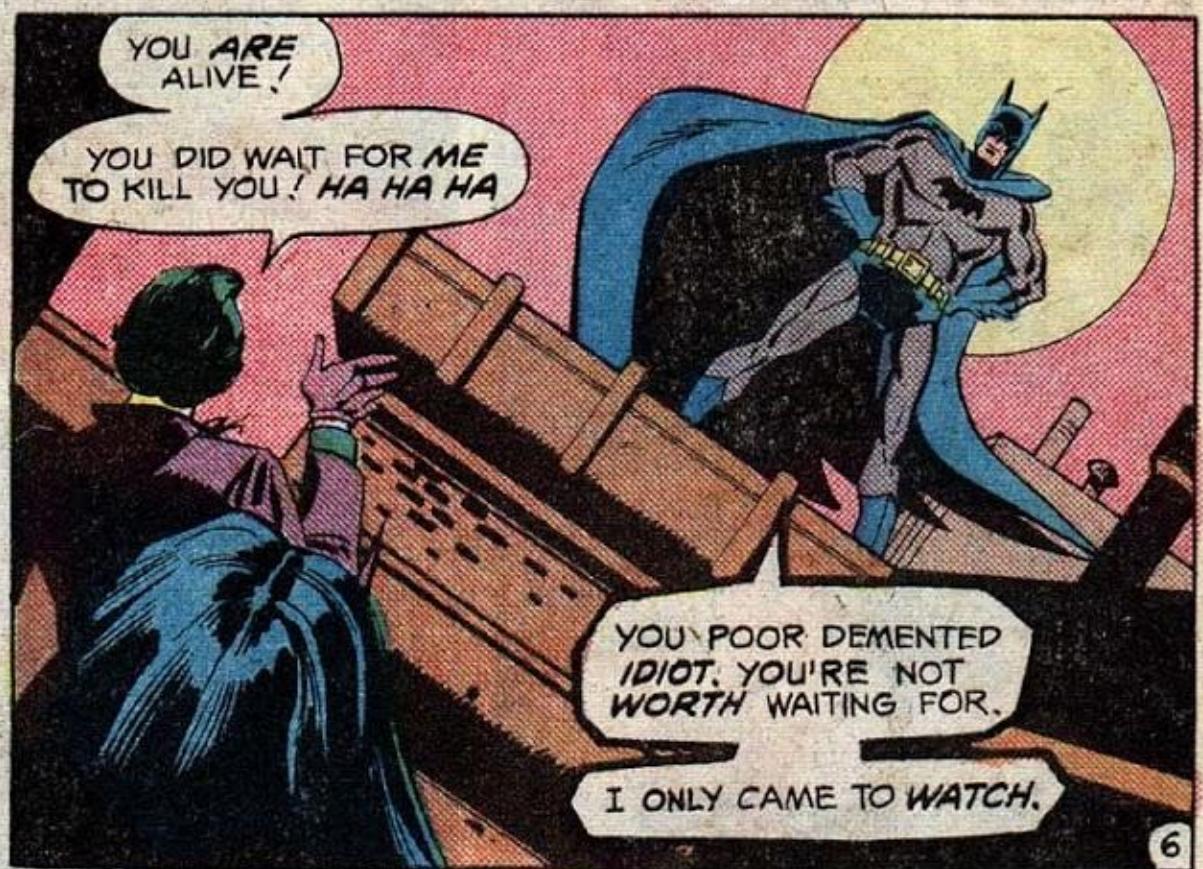
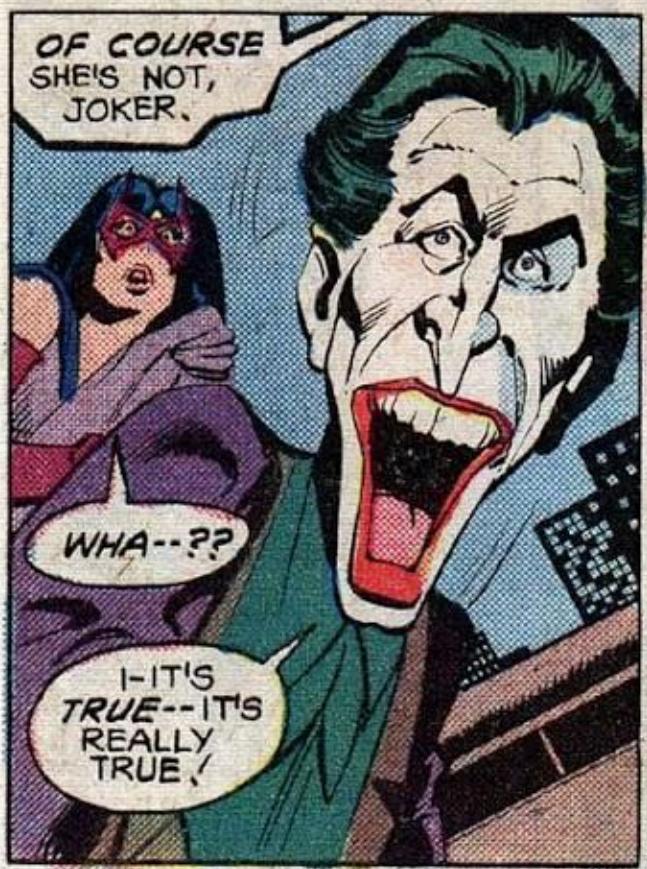
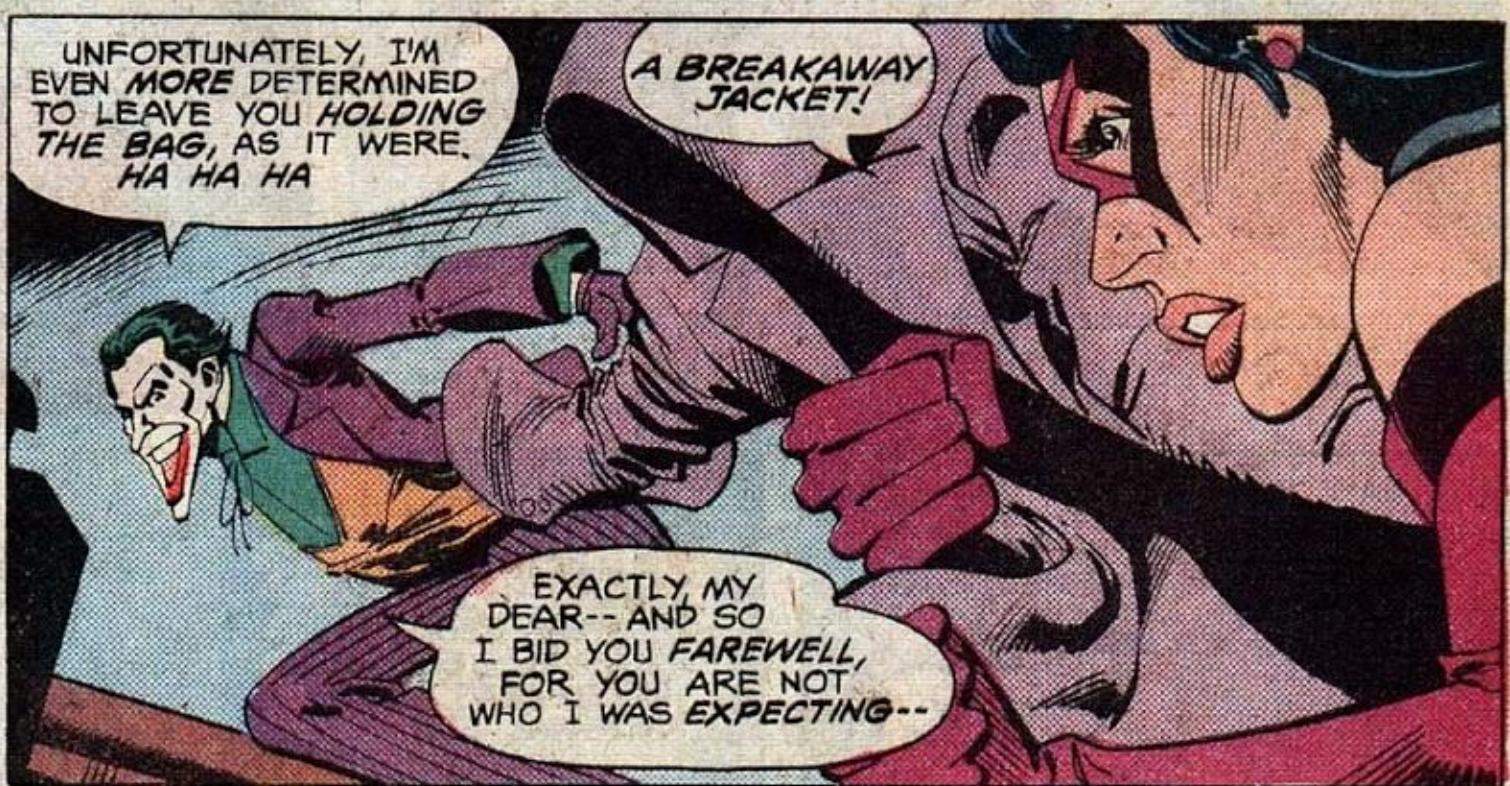
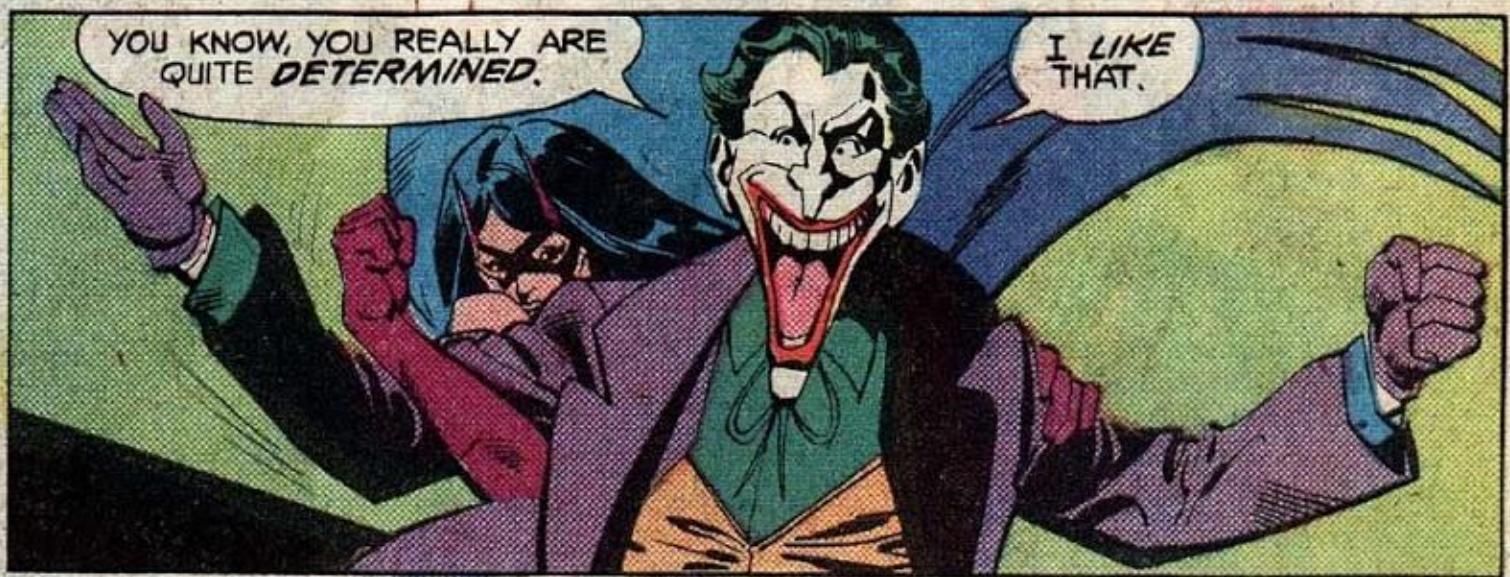
HMMMPH!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, YOUNG LADY, BUT YOU'RE VERY AMUSING! HA HA HA!

WHY, IN FACT, YOU ALMOST BLOW ME--

NOPE, NO BLOW GUNS, JOKER, NO TOYS.











Dear Editor,

Hey. *Wonder Woman* was at her most wonderful and the conclusion of the *Kobra*-quest was better than I expected. But Steve Trevor—WOWWWWWWW! I just barely get a letter out asking to see him in action and that's just what you do in #278. The explosive last five pages of the story assured me he's the hero your books always claimed he is. His quiet, confident, determined look on page 13 was enough to show his compatibility with our favorite Amazon.

Likewise, it was good to see Helena and Harry just as confused over their relationship as I am. *Lionmane* makes an ideal foe for *The Huntress*, by the way.

Next Letter: More approval of the way the magazine is going! More requests! More hopes of getting a letter published!

NEIL AHLQUIST
1315 Madison Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

You've made it into print this time, Neil! Now you can keep writing and see if you can start a streak!—TPS

Dear Len:

The final chapter of the *Kobra* storyline was a very neat piece of super-heroic literature. The action was intense, the characterization fine and best of all, everyone's favorite Amazon was depicted as she should be. This is *Wonder Woman* at her absolute best.

Early on in "The Serpent and the Amazon", we see the fighting *Wonder Woman*. Trapped in a cobra pit, besieged by deadly venom darts, she jumps out with ease—and with a snappy comeback as well. "Surprised, *Kobra*?" Diana taunts. "I've leaped further distances than this on Paradise Island!"

Next we see the detective *Wonder Woman*, a side rarely seen, as she searches for clues to aid her in the quest for *Kobra*. She discovers a hidden door and the pyramid altar that tips her off later in the story. Diana can be as good a detective as *Batman*, so why not give her more opportunities?

Then, Diana Prince, the woman in *Wonder Woman*, takes precedence. She notices how much differently Steve acts when she's WW and brushes off ardent admirer General Darnell. Steve next tells her that if she sees *Wonder Woman*, "Tell her I love her!" Every super-hero's problem—how do you compete with yourself?

Lastly, during the climax, we get the all-around *Wonder Woman*—able to handle any crisis, fight a group of henchmen and even let the others perform some heroics: Steve disarmed the cobalt missile all by his lonesome.

Gerry Conway's conclusion was indeed an entertaining one. I am more than convinced that *Wonder Woman*'s new direction is going places...and fast! And I'll be going fast to my newsstand to pick up next month's issue!

MARK LAGASSE
R.D. #1, Box 116
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

We're more than happy to hear how many of you are enjoying our "new direction" for WW and hope that you'll continue to enjoy our work as we take *Wonder Woman* to even greater heights!—TPS

Dear Editor:

Just a few short words about *WONDER WOMAN* #278.

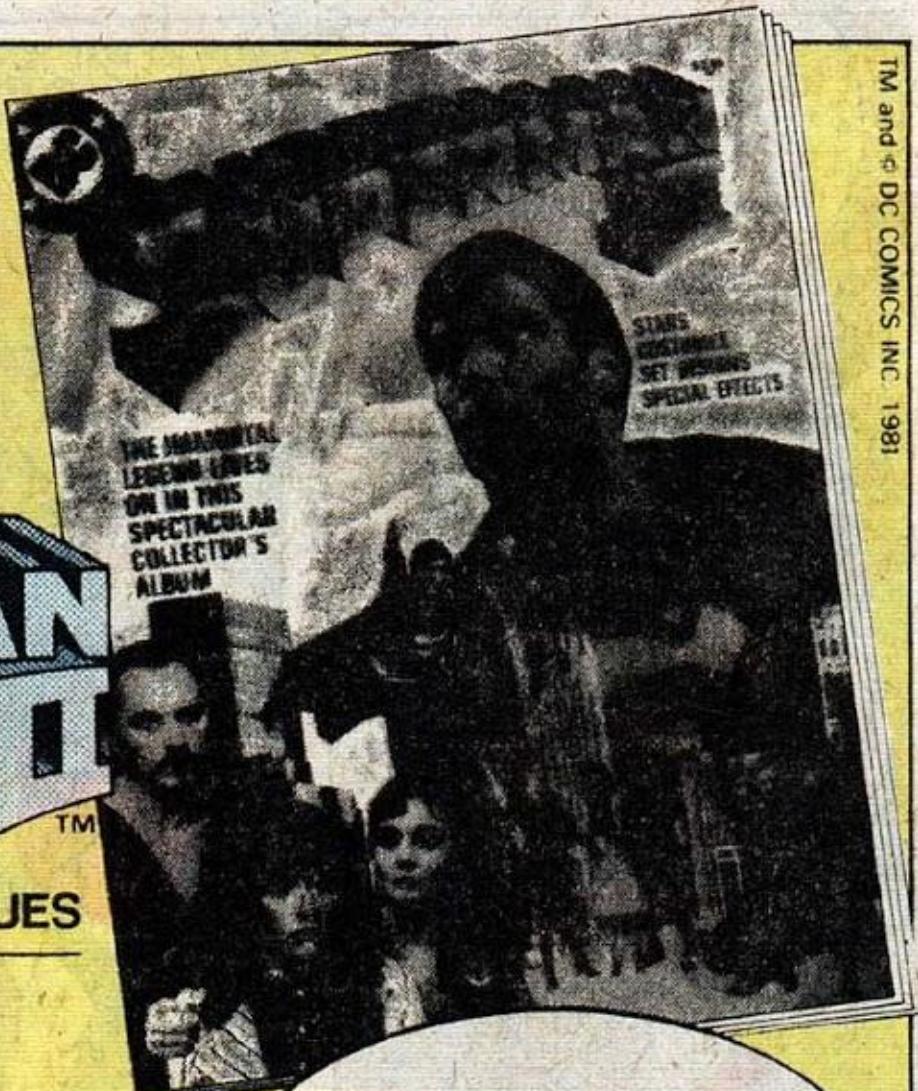
First, "The Lion Roars at Midnight" and there is only one word to describe it: GREAT! Paul Levitz writes some intense dialogue, has a fascinating plotline and good dilemmas. The relationship between Harry and Helena seems to be handled in a mature way. And *Lionmane* is a more-than-adequate opponent for *Huntress*. And lest I forget, I'm as thrilled with Joe Staton's work now as I was when I first saw it.

TONY LAKER
611 Western Avenue
Batesville, IN 47006

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THE FIRST PART--
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN
THE BEST PART!**

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