

Wonder Woman™

SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH
THE DEATH-DEALING
DEMON!

And The **HUNTRESS**™

VS. THE **Joker**™

THIS
TIME HE'S
MINE!

50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 281
JULY

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AA
AUTHORITY



GRANTED THE WISDOM OF ATHENA, THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES, THE SPEED OF MERCURY AND THE BEAUTY OF APHRODITE BY THE GODS, PRINCESS DIANA OF PARADISE ISLAND RENOUNCED HER IMMORTALITY AND ENTERED MAN'S WORLD AS THE MOST LEGENDARY AMAZON...

Wonder Woman

IN A PLACE THAT IS NOT A PLACE, WHERE THE EDDIES OF TIME HAVE POOLED AND TURNED BACK UPON THEMSELVES, TWO BEINGS SUDDENLY APPEAR, ONE LAUGHING, THE OTHER BEWILDERED.

ETRIGAN, BY ALL THE GODS OF OLYMPUS -- WHERE ARE WE?

WE ARE NOWHERE, WONDER WOMAN.

AND YET, IN A SENSE, WE ARE EVERYWHERE!

"The Castle Outside Time!"

GERRY CONWAY
WRITER

* JOSE DELBO & DAVE HUNT
ARTISTS

BEN ODA - LETTERER
JERRY SERPE - COLORIST

* LEN WEIN
EDITOR

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ETRIGAN, WHEN I SUMMONED YOU OUT OF YOUR MORTAL GUISE AS JASON BLOOD AND ASKED YOU TO HELP ME FIND MY FRIEND, ETTA CANDY--

--I NEVER IMAGINED THE SEARCH WOULD TAKE US TO A PLACE LIKE THIS!

SO I SEE.

THE LIFE-FORMS HERE ARE LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN ON EARTH!

THIS IS NOT A PLACE, AMAZON.

IT IS ONE OF THE NETHERWORLDS, WHERE MORTAL PHYSICAL LAWS CANNOT AND DO NOT APPLY!

AYE, WOMAN. HERE, EVEN THE VEGETATION IS HOSTILE.

CAST YOUR MAGIC LASSO AROUND THAT STUMP.

I DON'T LIKE TAKING ORDERS BLINDLY, ETRIGAN.

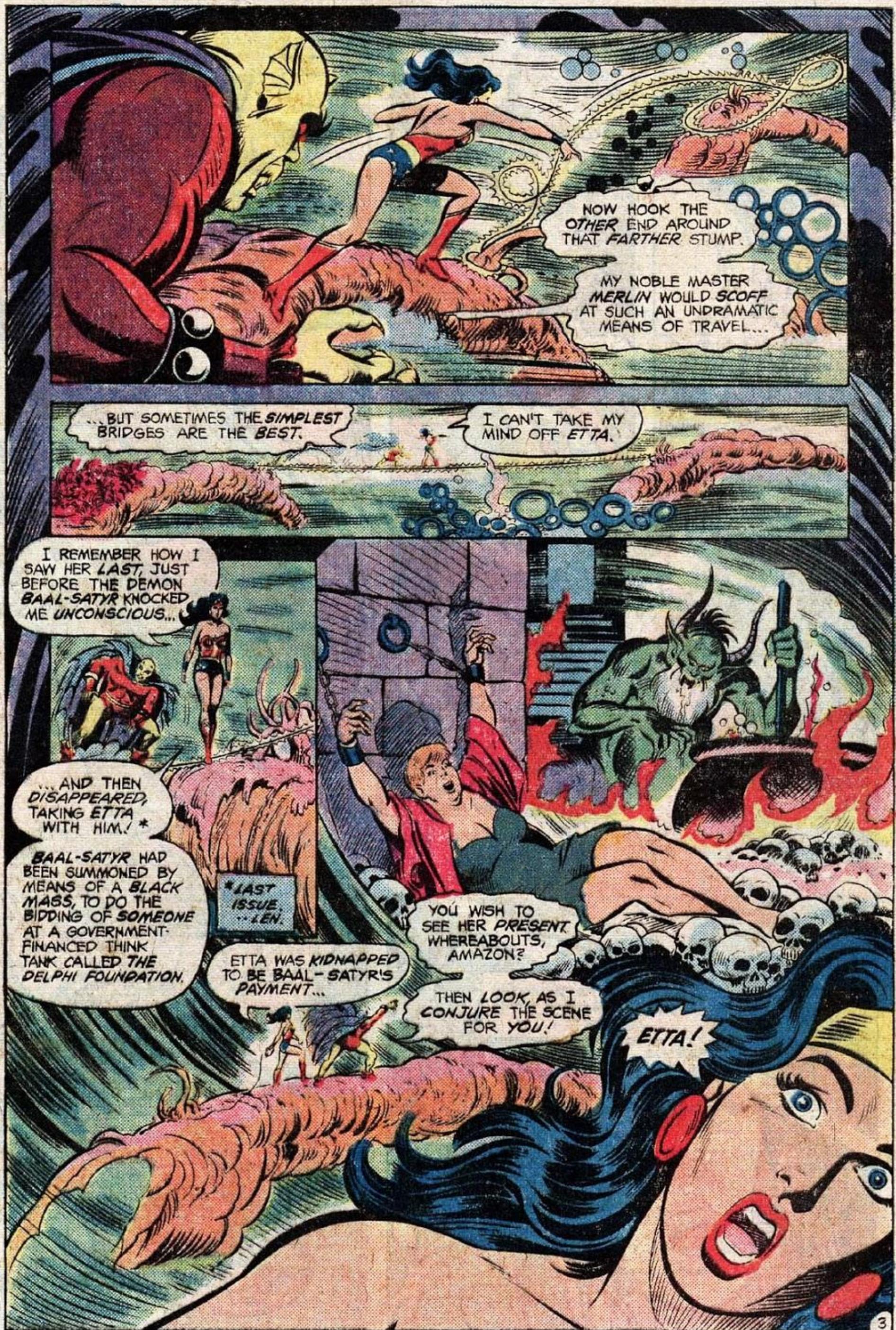
THEN FIND YOUR OWN WAY TO YOUR FRIEND.

EITHER DO AS I SAY OR STAY WHERE YOU ARE.

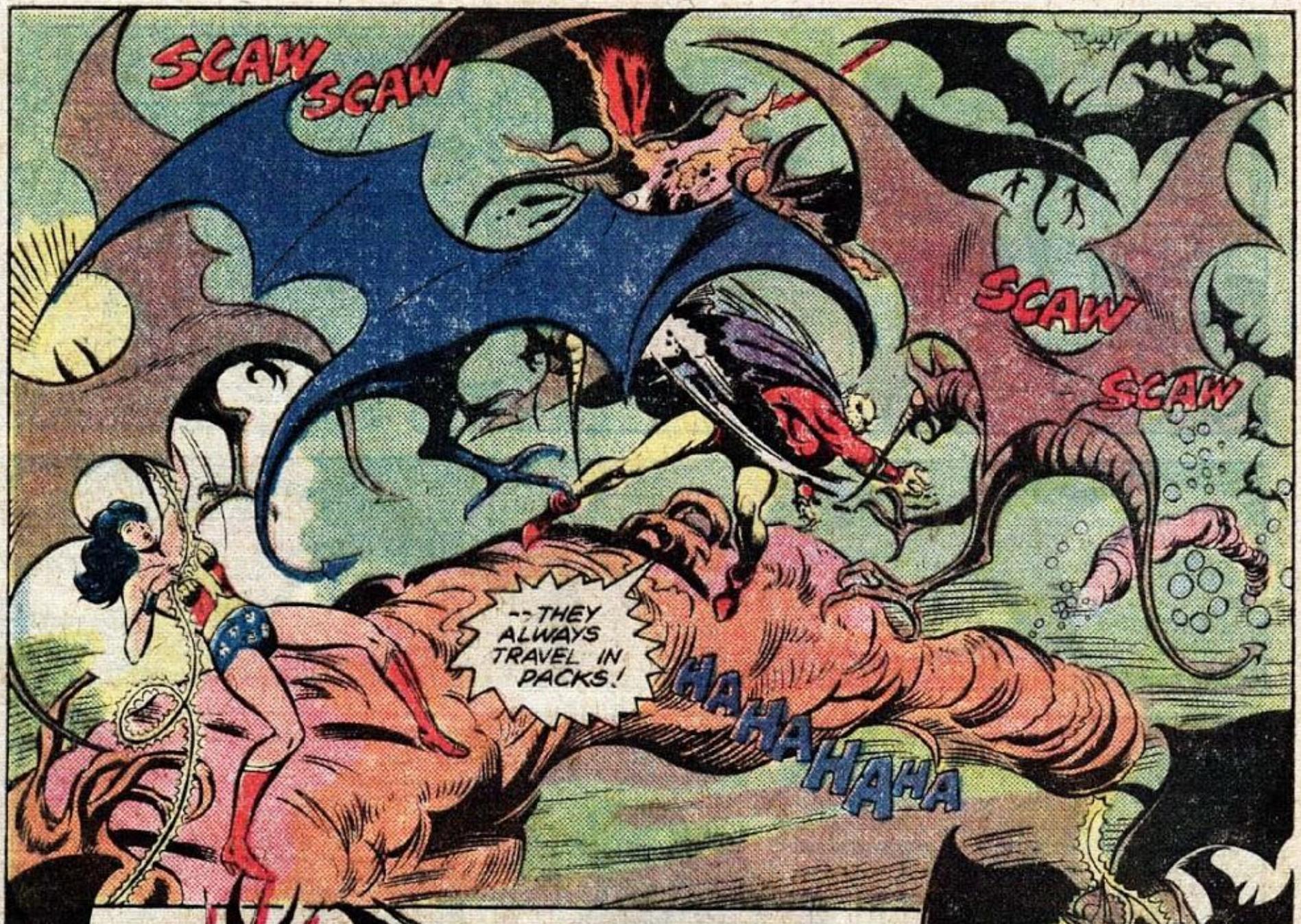
IT'S ALL THE SAME TO ME.

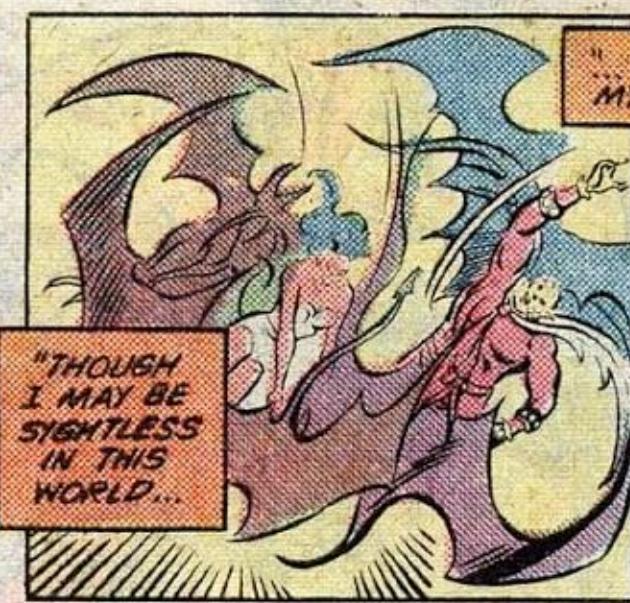
YOU KNOW I HAVE NO CHOICE, ETTA'S LIFE IS AT STAKE.

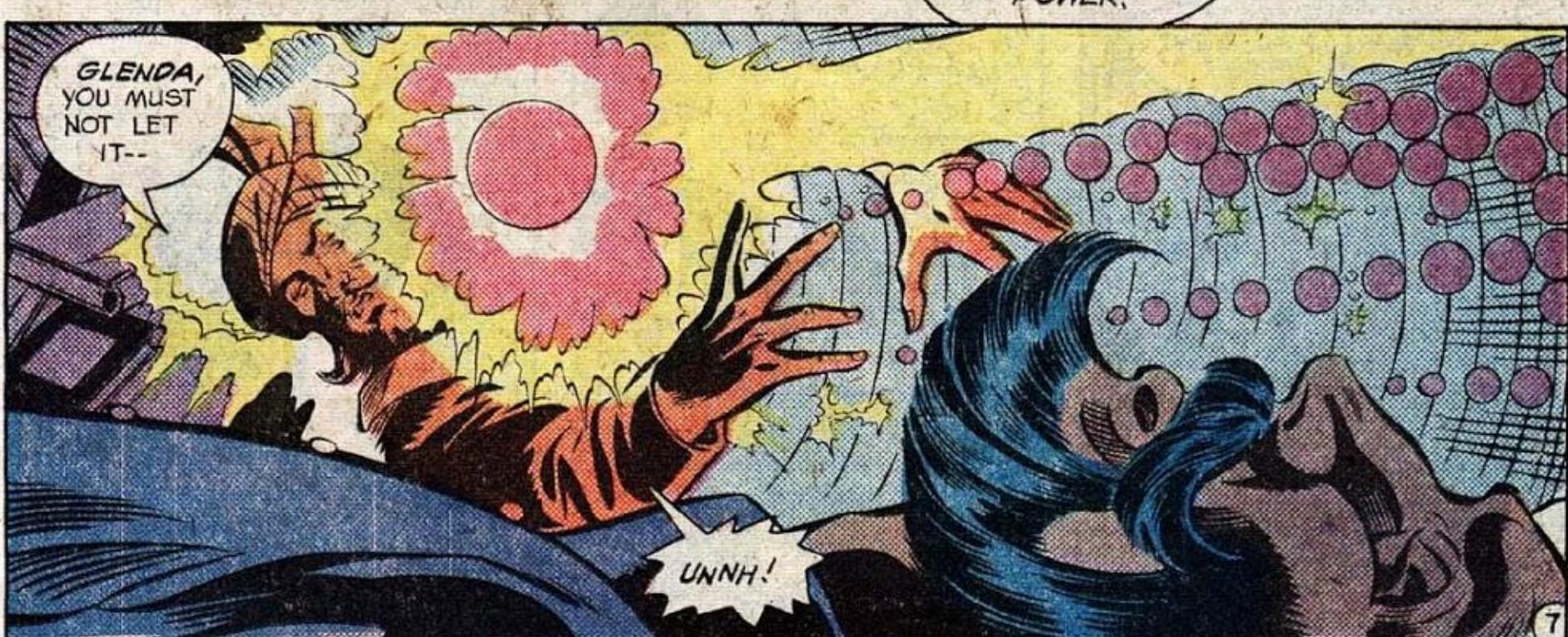
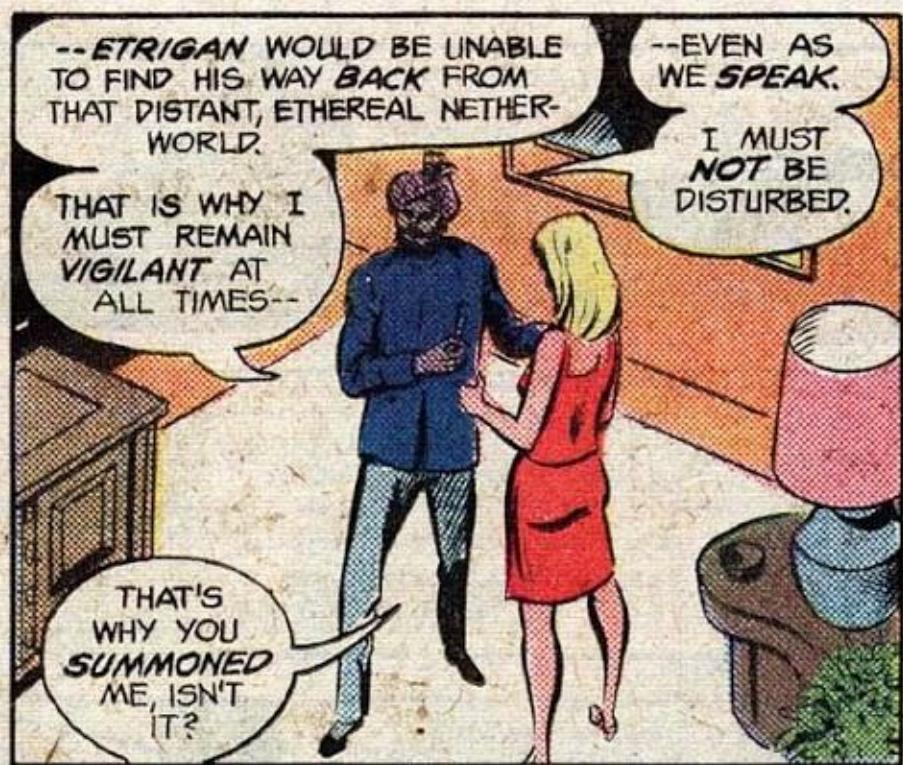
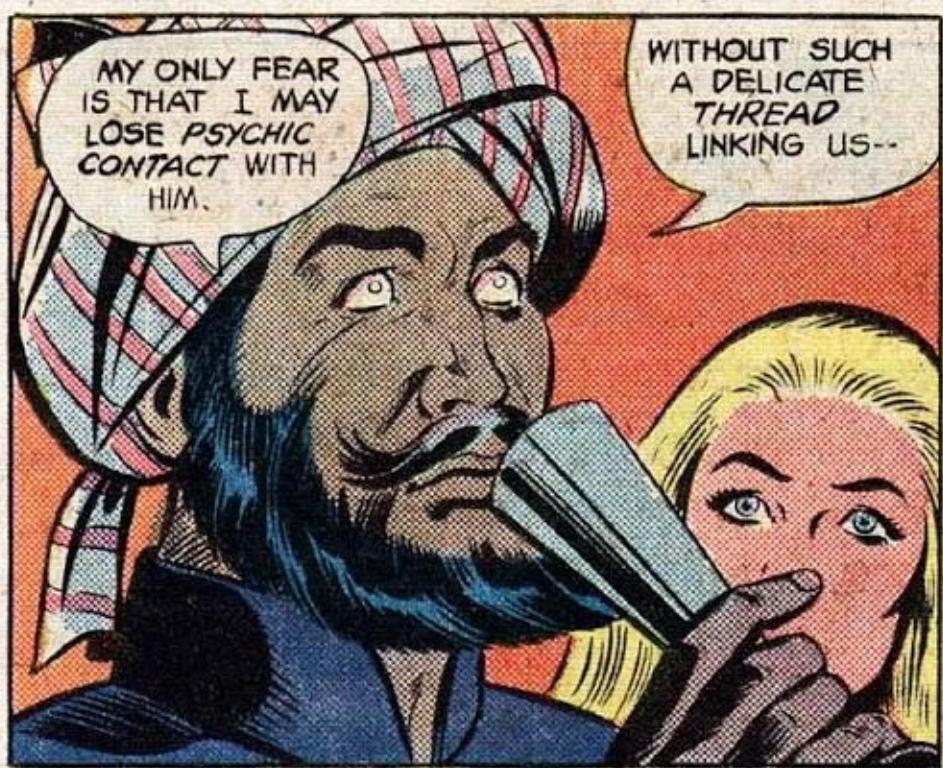
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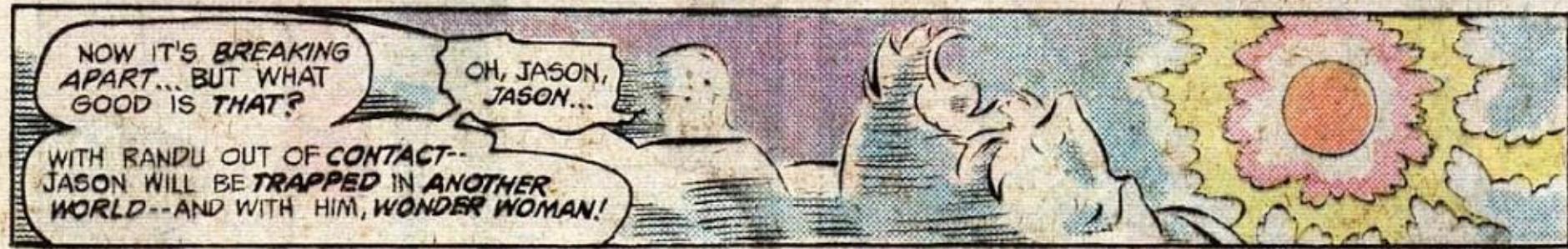










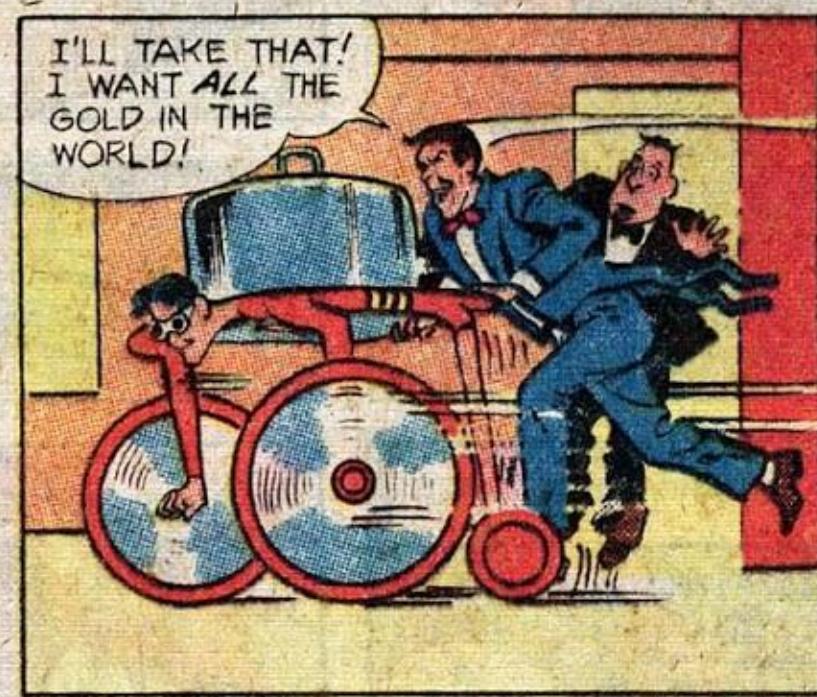
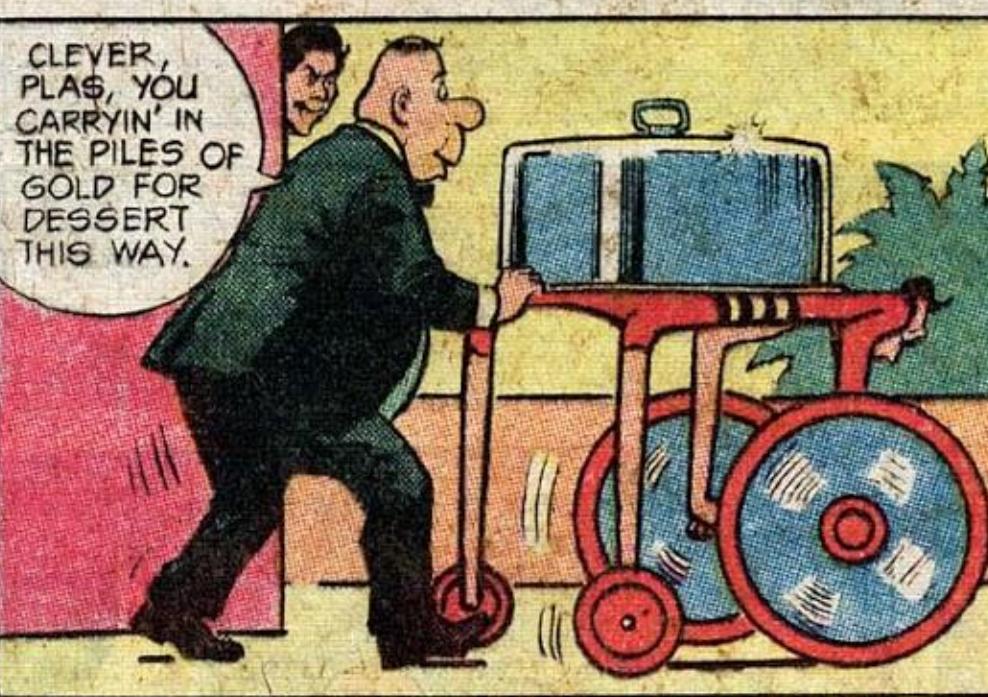


HALF A THOUSAND MILES FROM THE PENTHOUSE APARTMENT WHERE GLENDA MARK BENDS OVER THE MOTIONLESS FORM OF THE MYSTIC RANDU SINGH--



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YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT
IN EVERY BITE
OF
HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES



GIVING BAAL-SATYR
THE ETTA CANDY WOMAN
WAS ONLY IN PAYMENT
FOR HIS SERVICES.

I HAVEN'T
YET
RENDERED
MY BILL.

BUT I WILL,
MR. POUND.
REST ASSURED
OF THAT.

IN THE MEANTIME,
I HAVE ANOTHER
DEBT TO COLLECT.

ETRIGAN HAS CAUSED
SOME PROBLEMS FOR
TEEKL AND ME IN THE PAST.

AND WONDER WOMAN
HAS THREATENED MY
ARRANGEMENT WITH YOU.

I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT
NEITHER OF THEM EVER
BOthers ME AGAIN...

SOMEWHERE, OUTSIDE
TIME...

SCAW! SCAW!
IS THERE
NO END
TO THESE
CREATURES?

THERE
IS, AND
WE'VE
REACHED
IT...

SCRAW!

THE REPTAWSKS
HAVE NO STOMACH
FOR DEATH.

YOU SEE?
THEY FLEE--

--BUT THEY'LL
RETURN WHEN
THEY'VE REPLENISHED
THEIR PACK.

AND I'LL BE WAITING!

ETRIGAN,
DON'T
FORGET
WHY WE
CAME
HERE.

A
WOMAN'S
LIFE--

YES, YES,
IF THAT'S
ALL THAT
CONCERNs
YOU...

...WE MIGHT
AS WELL GO
ON.





I'VE BEEN THROUGH
SOME FOUL EXPERIENCES
IN MY TIME, ETRIGAN.

THAT
WAS ONE
OF THE
WORST.

GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS
BLOCK, WOMAN, AND SAVE YOUR
COMPLAINTS TILL WE REACH
SAFETY.

CREAK

I'LL SAY
THIS FOR YOU--
YOU'RE STRONG!

AHH... I SCENT
EVIL.

BAAL-SATYR
IS NEAR, AND
WITH HIM IS
YOUR
FRIEND.

ETTA--
IS SHE
ALL RIGHT?

SO IT
SEEMS.
FOR
THE
MOMENT.

THAT WAY, TOWARD
THE VERY HEART
OF THE CASTLE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT
THAT, ETRIGAN...

WHICH
WAY
DO WE
GO?

AS WE DRAW NEAR
HIM, EVEN YOUR DULLED
SENSES WILL DETECT
BAAL-SATYR'S
STENCH.

MEANWHILE, IN
WHAT WE JOKINGLY
REFER TO AS
"THE REAL
WORLD"...

DIANA, GET ME THE
FILE ON THAT WATER
RECLAMATION PROJECT
WE'RE HELPING THE ARMY
CORP OF ENGINEERS LINE UP...

...MY NOSE IS MORE
SENSITIVE THAN YOU
THINK.

HIS NAME IS COLONEL STEVE TREVOR AND HE IS
ONE OF THE PENTAGON'S BRIGHT YOUNG MEN. BUT
EVEN BRIGHT YOUNG MEN ARE SOMETIMES SLOW
ON THE UPTAKE...

DIANA?
CAPTAIN
PRINCE?

NO ANSWER...
FROM EITHER DIANA
OR LIEUTENANT
CANDY!

AND NO WONDER--
NEITHER OF THEM
IS HERE.

I NOTICED
THEY HADN'T
ARRIVED
WHEN I CAME
IN THIS
MORNING...



"TROUBLE" ISN'T THE WORD FOR IT, BUT STEVE TREVOR WON'T FIND THAT OUT FOR HIMSELF UNTIL NEXT ISSUE...

AT THIS SAME MOMENT, IN A GOTHAM CITY APARTMENT REDUCED TO A SHAMBLES BY A MYSTIC ENERGY-SPHERE...



...I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE LOST TOUCH WITH JASON AND WONDER WOMAN!

RANDU... WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SUDDENLY STIFFENED...!

PLEASE, DON'T SAY YOU...

I'M AFRAID IT'S TRUE, GLENDA.

THE PSYCHIC LINK WAS BROKEN.

THEN -- JASON AND WONDER WOMAN ARE DOOMED!



WE DON'T REST ON OUR LAURELS!



FOR OVER
FOUR DECADES,
WE'VE BEEN
BRINGING YOU
THE VERY BEST
IN COMICS'
EXCITEMENT--
AND, FRIEND,
THAT'S JUST THE
BEGINNING!

AND COMING
THIS SUMMER:
ALL-STAR SQUADRON
and
**AN EXCITING NEW
SWORD-AND-SORCERY
SERIES!**
DON'T MISS 'EM!



WHERE THE **ACTION** KEEPS ON COMING!

SAVE MONEY: SUBSCRIBE NOW!

NIGHT IN GOTHAM CITY.
THE BATMAN IS ON A CASE...

THE FACTS
ARE **CLEAR**,
COMMISSIONER GORDON.
THE **DEMAND** FOR DC
COMICS IS GREATER
THAN THE **SUPPLY**.



THE NEXT MORNING...

SO, YOU SEE, OUR NEW
SUBSCRIPTION PLAN WAS
CREATED TO TAKE THE **RISK**
OUT OF FINDING YOUR
FAVORITE COMICS EACH
MONTH!

HMM... NOW
THEY COME RIGHT TO
YOUR DOOR! LOOKS LIKE
THE CASE IS **SOLVED**,
CAROL!

OUR NEW
OFFER GIVES YOU
4 SUBSCRIPTIONS **FOR THE PRICE OF 3!**
YOU SAVE 38%!
AND, OF COURSE, THEY'RE MAILED
FLAT IN A PROTECTIVE WRAPPER!
JUST FILL OUT **THIS**
COUPON:

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| 10 <input type="checkbox"/> BATMAN | 30 <input type="checkbox"/> GHOSTS | 69 <input type="checkbox"/> WARLORD |
| 11 <input type="checkbox"/> BRAVE & BOLD | 31 <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSE OF MYSTERY | 77 <input type="checkbox"/> NEW ADV. OF SUPERBOY |
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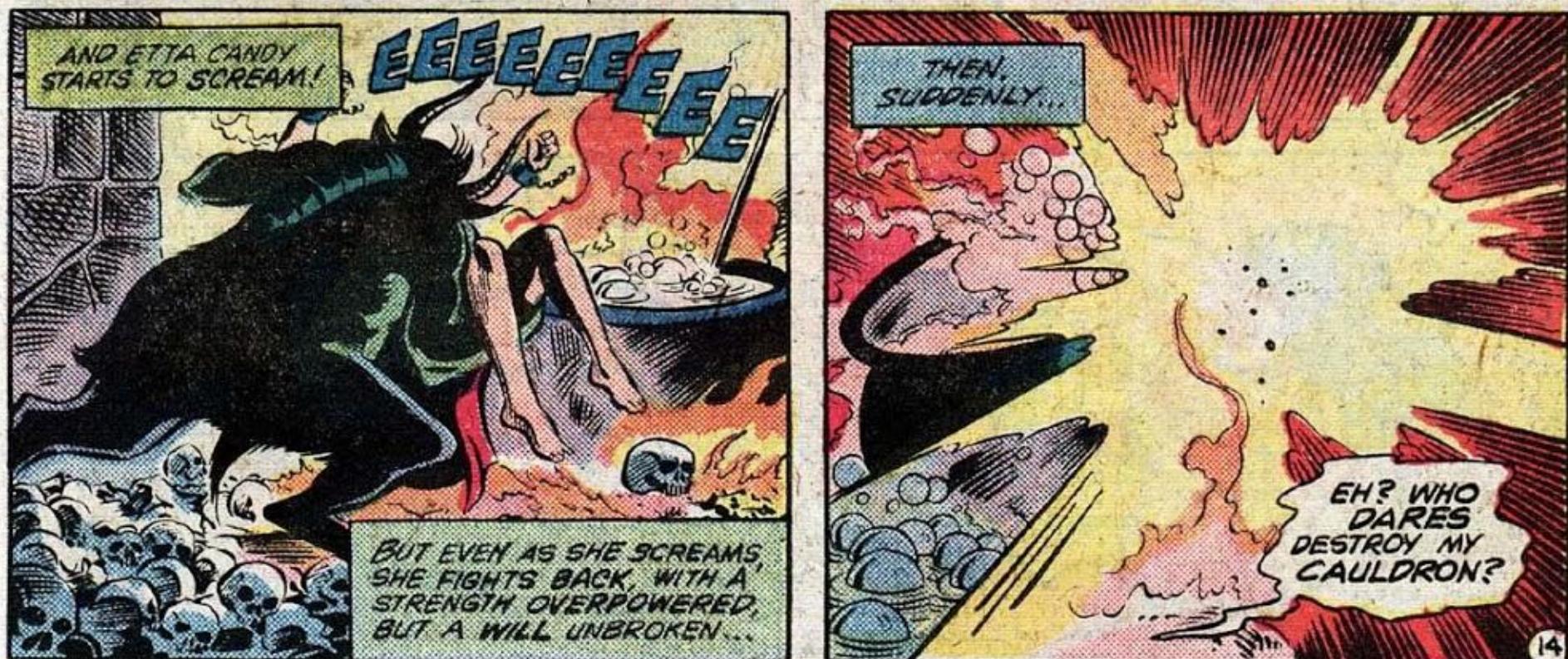
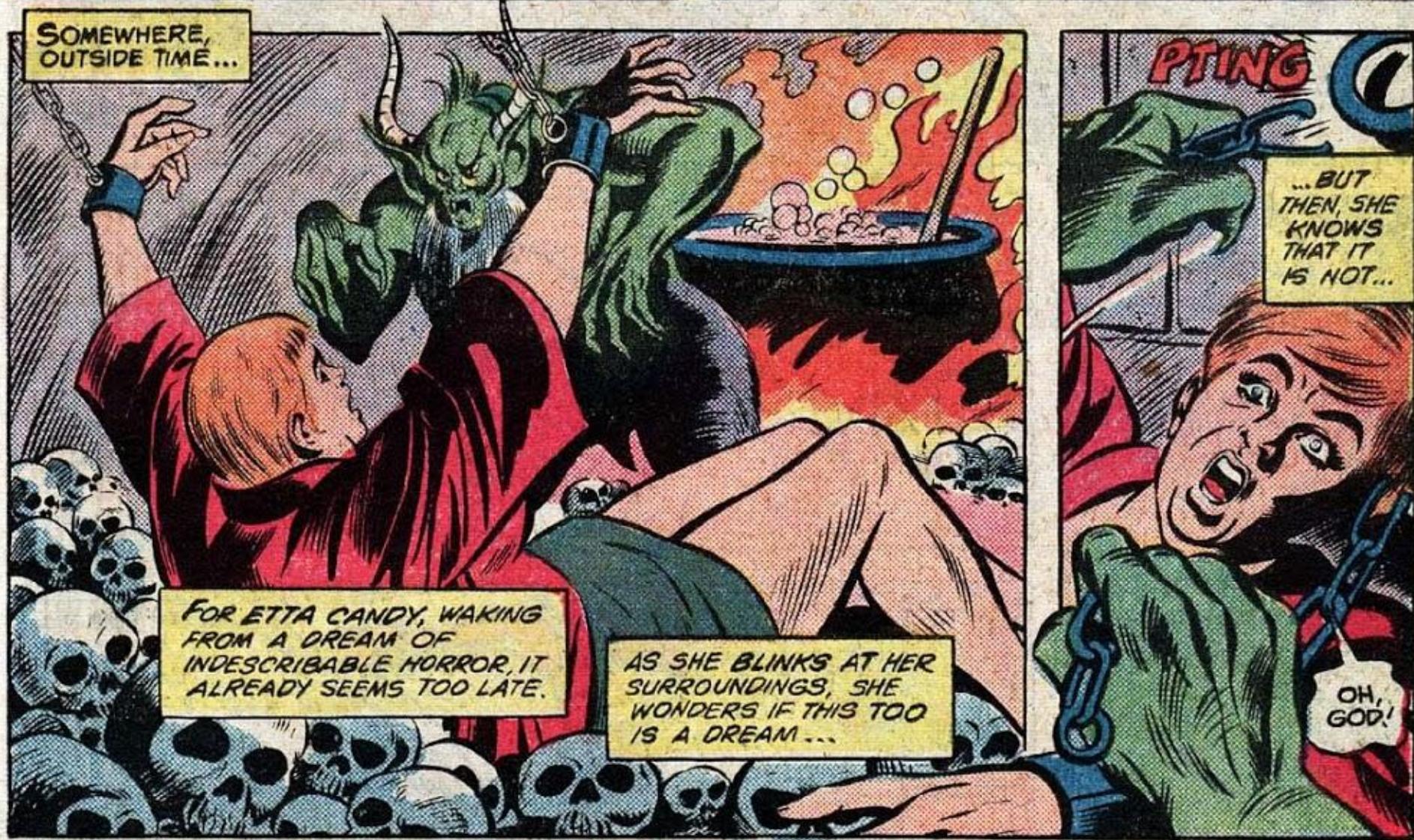
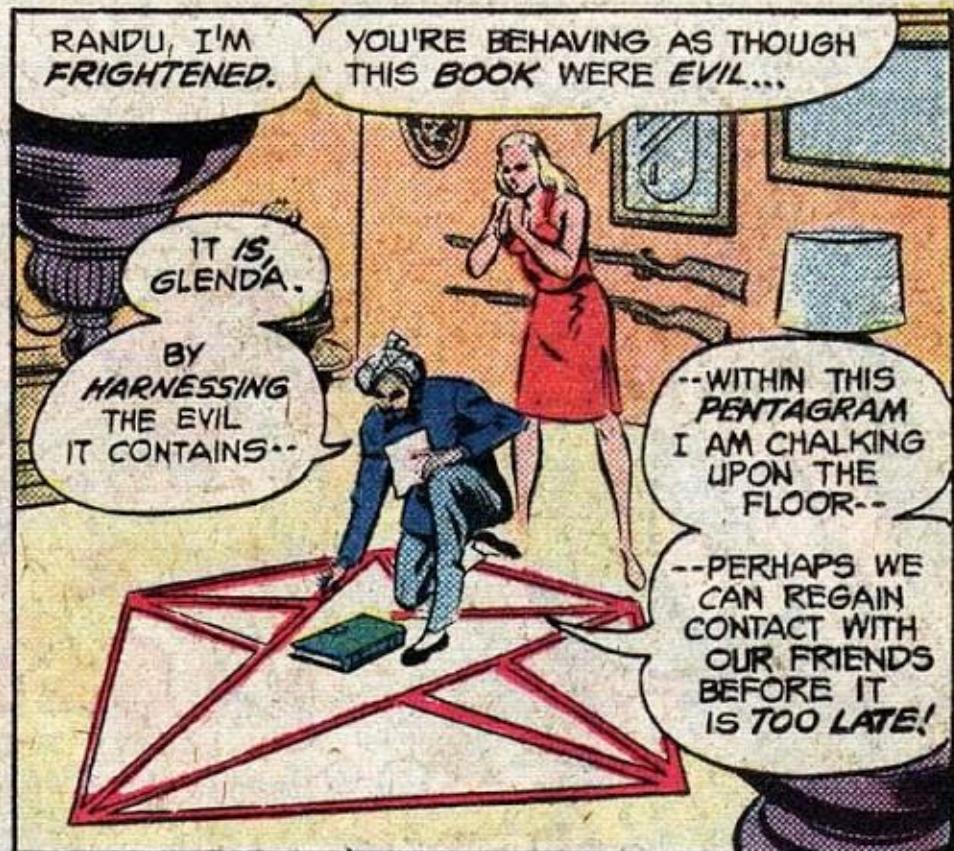
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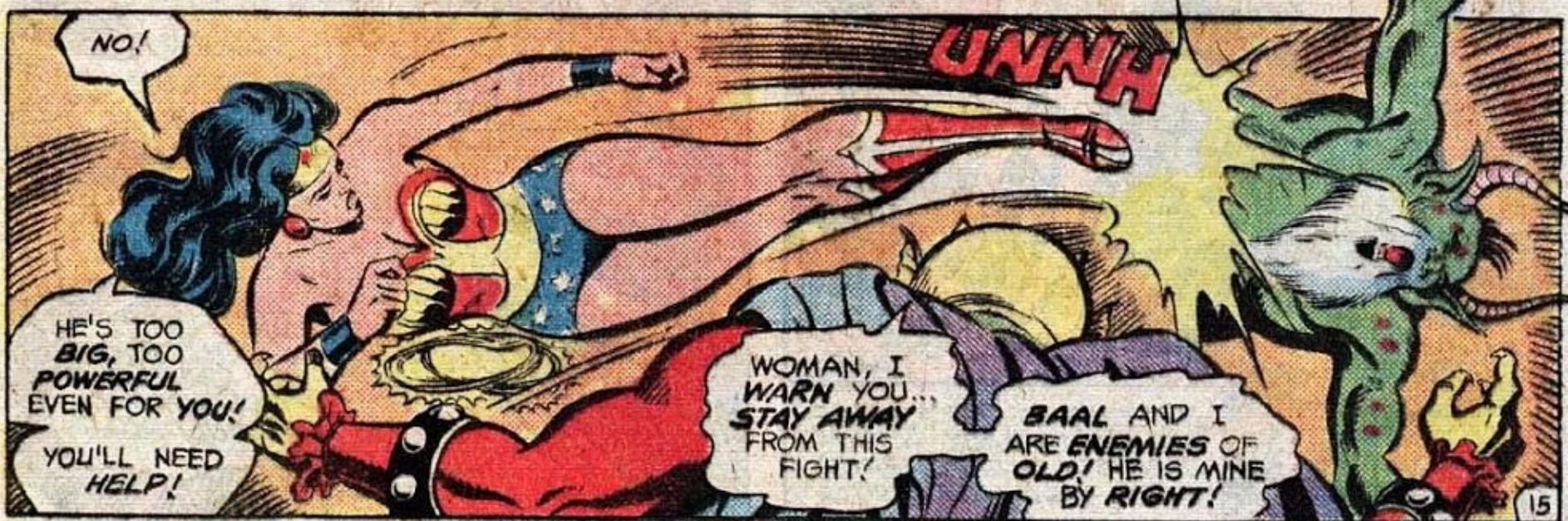
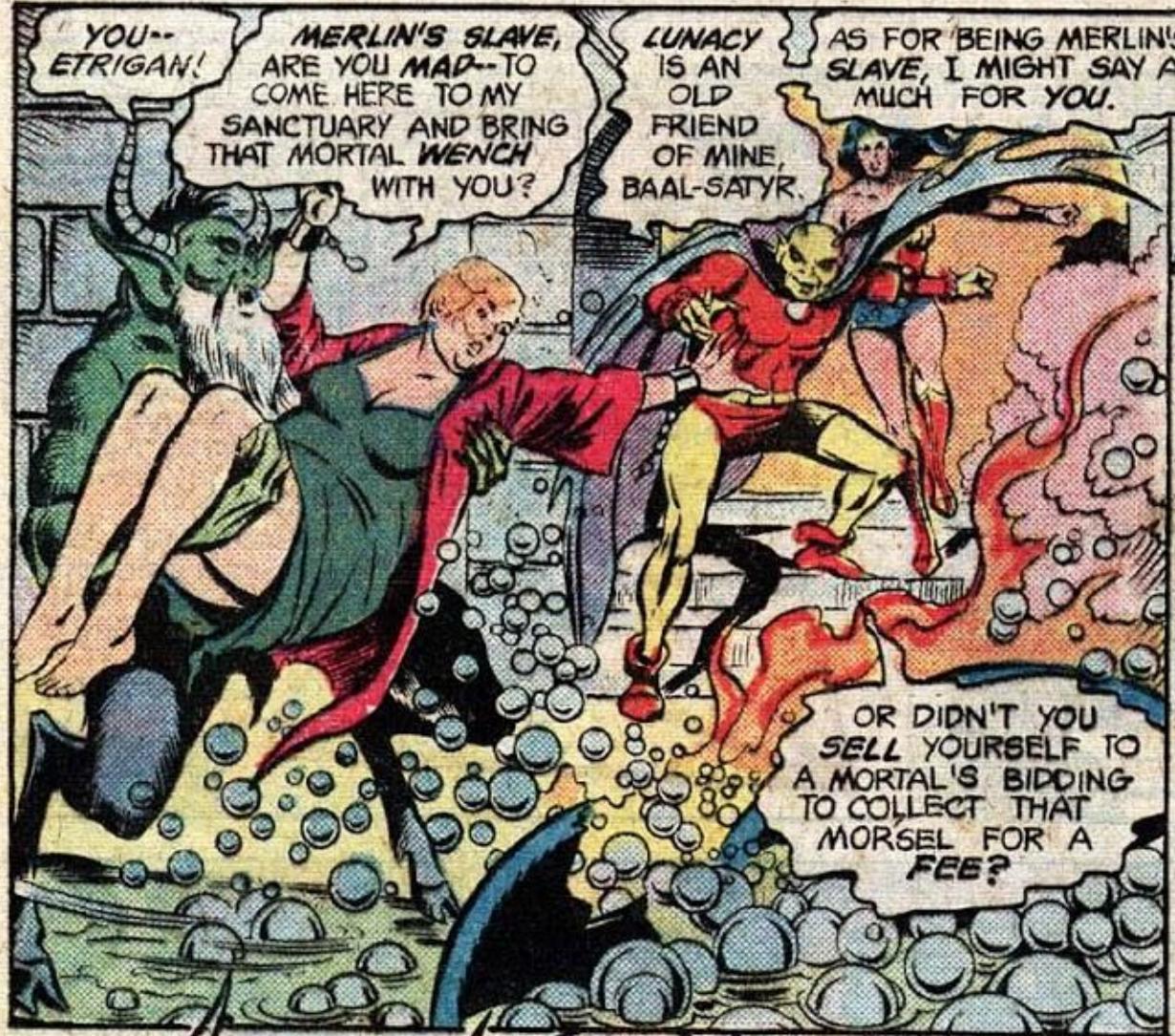
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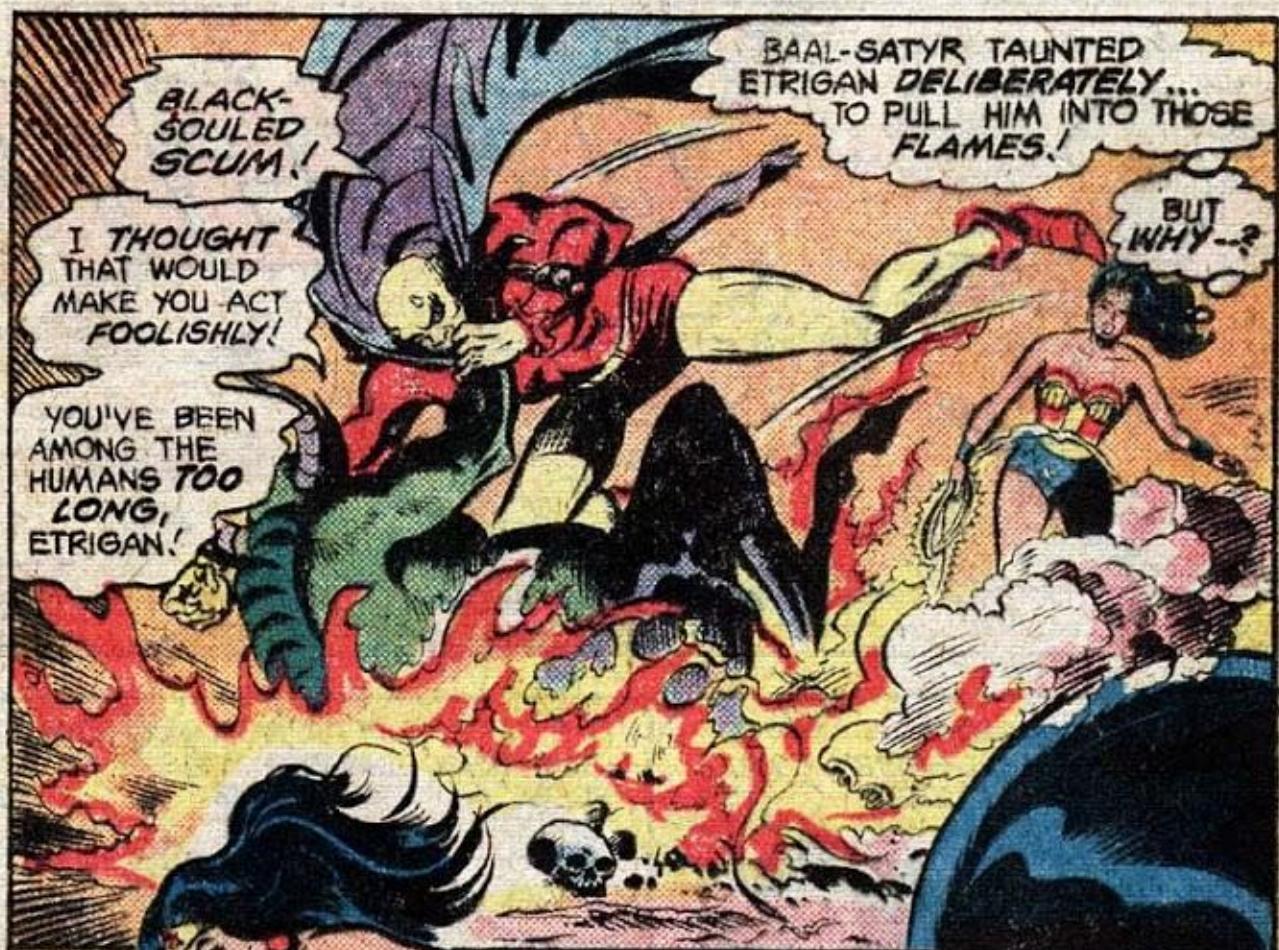
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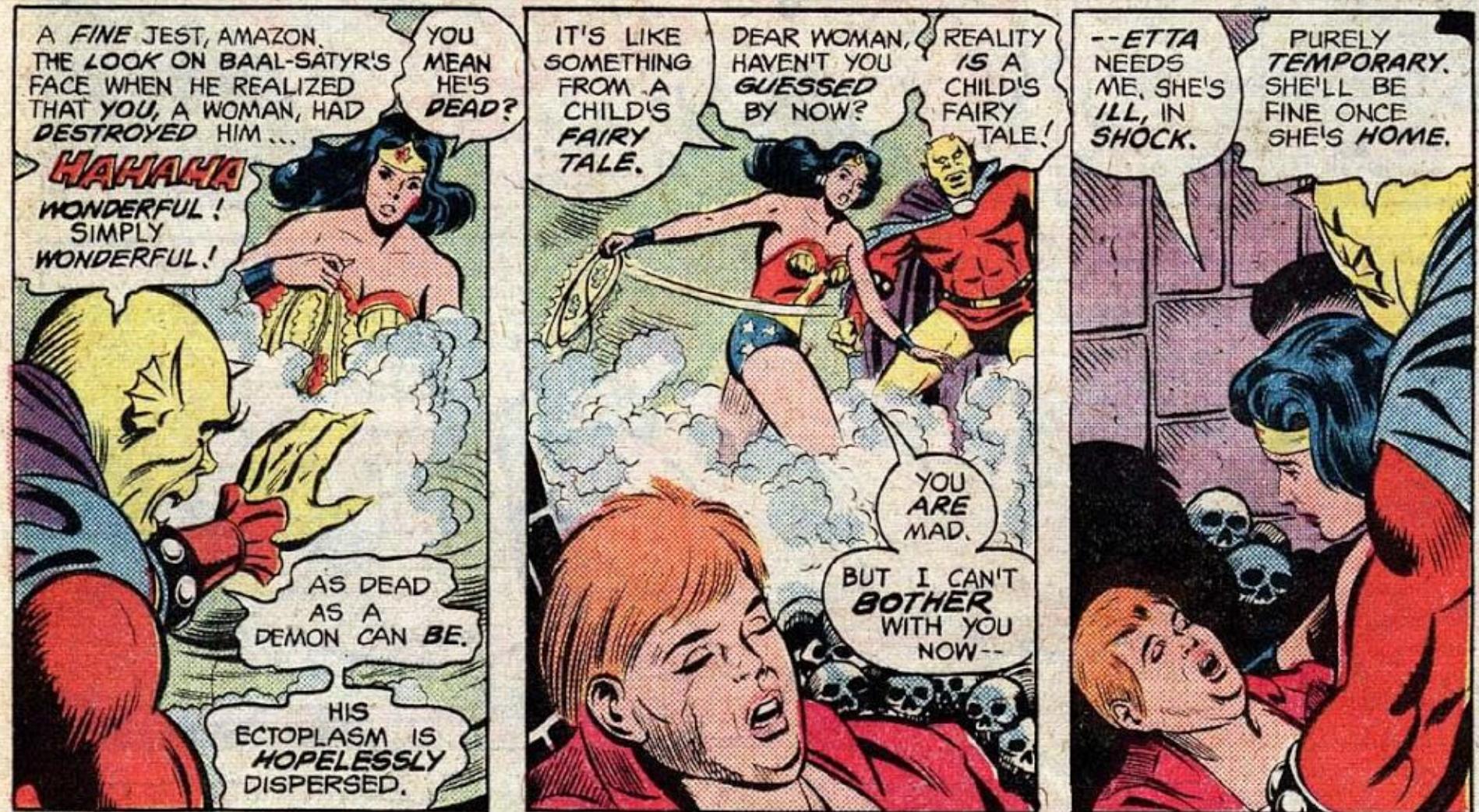
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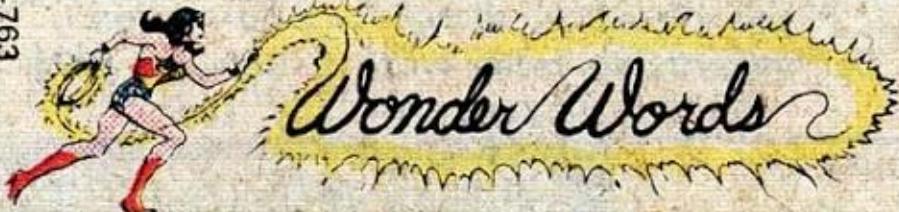
ALLOW 8 TO 10 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY OF FIRST ISSUE











DC COMICS, INC. 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Len:

Ta-dah! Can you believe it? I have finally read *WONDER WOMAN* #'s 271-276! The wait was well worth it. The whole return to Paradise Island was my kind of story and the only bone I have to pick is that Steve Trevor is back again. (And I wouldn't be dismayed if I could be guaranteed that he'll be handled as a good supporting character this time.)

The bout with *Angle Man* and his Angler was interesting. #'s 274 and 275 had some of the most appealing cover art I've seen in a long time. And I was glad to see the *Cheetah/Kobra* story. It was both superb and tragic. I just hope Debbi, that poor victim of circumstance, is still alive and well...somewhere. (Perhaps she'll wash up on the shores of Paradise Island, having been saved by her ferocity and will for survival.)

Etta Candy is a perfectly delightful character, as much so as the new *Cheetah* was diabolical.

Let's see some more of the Gerry Conway razzle-dazzle that we saw in the super-specials and spectaculairs of yesteryear. You've only just whetted our appetites, I hope.

KEVIN PETERSON
305 Condon
Manister, MI 49660

It is Len's feeling that this magazine has really started hitting its stride, starting with the Wonder Woman/Kobra battle and leading right into the current Demon plotline. But don't wait six months to read another issue, Kevin. Let us hear from you more often.—TPS

Dear Editor:

Just finished *WW* #276 and I'm happy to know a little more about your plans for *Wonder Woman* and *Steve Trevor*. If, as you state in the letter column, Gerry Conway plans to develop the relationship on a more mature basis than before, I'll be patient with you. I really believe that *WW* is moving upward. In time, you'll be rock-solid if you continue working at it. While many readers are annoyed by the arrival of a new Trevor, you'll just have to show them how vital and interesting a character he can be. He will not be the male *Lois Lane*. He will not be the junior partner. He'll be a dynamic and strong personality.

The *Kobra* series has been moving along smoothly, but there are still gaps. To my complete surprise, #276 did not elaborate on the fate of the new *Cheetah*, Debbi Domaine. #275 hinted at her possible tragic death but left us hanging. This issue does not state whether *Wonder Woman* recovered her body or not. I would prefer to believe she is missing alive. After all, why kill off two *Cheetahs* in such quick succession?

The short sequence of Diana and Etta sharing lunch was kind of nice. "Girl talk" may not seem important, but scenes like this help define Diana's personality. They set up Diana so that she has to relate and react to her friends. I'd like to see more of this.

As I've said before, I like *The Huntress* and her pal from Krypton, but I think *Wonder Woman* would benefit greatly if you did 25-page stories at least part of the time.

MICHAEL BURKHALTER
3994 La Jolla Village Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Two readers in a row think the Cheetah could not be dead, hmmm? Maybe they know something we don't, Len? As for giving WW the full-length treatment, Mike...read our next letter first.—TPS

Sirs:

Re: *POWER GIRL AND THE HUNTRESS* #276.

That's right, *WONDER WOMAN* #276 has the wrong character in the lead story. I mean, let's face it, Len, the *Huntress* story is superior to the *Wonder Woman* story in every respect.

It's too bad that *Power Girl* must dance around in relative obscurity because she is the best thing to come along in DC Comics since the *Superman/Lois Lane* romance. Her guest appearance in these pages is well appreciated.

Speaking of *The Huntress*, Helena Wayne never looked better under the capable pencils of artist Joe Staton. And Adrienne Roy's coloring rounds out the masterpiece nicely. Even though I'm disappointed that *Power Girl* won't be back next issue, Helena's secret identity dilemma has me awaiting sequels with apprehensive delight.

KEVIN W. FISCHER
1711 Black Oak Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910

One of the ideas Len has been considering is giving Power Girl a solo shot in these pages, but he's afraid Huntress fans will object. (Why not let us know what you think, folks?) In any case, the popularity of the Huntress in these pages all but eliminates the chance of a 25-page Wonder Woman series. (But maybe a WW/Huntress team-up...?)—TPS

Dear Editor:

WONDER WOMAN #276, more than any other issue, brought back the Golden Age *WW*. Here she is battling a top secret organization designed to conquer the world and playing Diana the detective. Yet the story was still very modern. The enemy is in the guise as a cult and uses space-age weaponry. Likewise, it was great to see *Steve Trevor* doing investigating on his own, having no contact with the Amazon whatsoever. In fact, the only fault I could find in "Seek the Serpent...Find Death" was that I have to wait a month for the next chapter.

NEIL AHLQUIST

1315 Madison Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Dear Len:

Does Steve Mitchell pencil the *Huntress* strip as well as ink it? If so, he gets double kudos for some of the most vigorous, hard-edged and sensual artwork in the DC line. Don't ever take him off this series. (Have you considered giving him a raise?)

RAND LEE

East Wind Community
Tecumseh, MO 65760

All right, Rand, how much did Steve pay you to write this letter? Seriously, though, half of your kudos belong to Joe Staton, who pencils the Huntress tales. As for a raise for Steve, just running this letter should be enough to keep him happy. Right, Steve? Steve...? Down, boy! Nice Stevie...!—Ted P. Skinner

LEN'S LINE-UP

ON SALE APRIL 9th:

THE FLASH #299—*The Shade* and *Rainbow Raider* join forces in "A Stab in the Black" by Cary Bates, Carmine Infantino and Bob Smith. Plus: *Firestorm* in "The Robbery" by Gerry Conway, Denis Cowan and Dennis Jensen.

JUSTICE LEAGUE #192—It's the *JLA* versus *Tornado Tyrant* in "The Secret of Genesis" by Conway, George Perez and John Beatty.

NEW TEEN TITANS #9—An old *Green Lantern* enemy has the *TTs* hanging "Like Puppets on a String" in a Marv Wolfman/George Perez/Romeo Tanghal tale.

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS #3—At last... "Victory!" by Mike W. Barr, Len Wein, Joe Staton and Frank McLaughlin.

WEIRD WAR TALES #101—"My Buddy, the Robot" is by Robert Kanigher and Pepe Moreno Casar; "Dry Run" is by George Kashdan and Dan Taberna; "Twice a Traitor" is by Dan Mishkin, Gary Cohn, and Angel Trinidad Jr.; and "Push-Button Hero" is by Kashdan and Vicatan.

ON SALE APRIL 23rd:

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #277—Gerry Conway, Roy Thomas, Jimmy Janes and Frank Chiaramonte join forces to "Behold: Reflectol!"

GREEN LANTERN #142—It's *GL* and the *Omega Men* in world-shaking battle by Marv Wolfman and Joe Staton! Plus: *Adam Strange* in "Crystal Peril" by Laurie Sutton and Rodin Rodriguez.

EVERY PRISONER WHO WAS PART OF THE GULL'S ISLAND JAILBREAK HAS BEEN RECAPTURED... EXCEPT ONE.

WHY, OF ALL THE POSSIBLE PRISONERS, DID IT HAVE TO BE THAT ONE...

... AND OUT OF A WHOLE CITY FULL OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS, WHY DID HE PICK ON HARRY SIMS!?



THE DOCTORS FEEL IT'S LIKELY THAT DISTRICT ATTORNEY SIMS WILL RECOVER--

--IT'S JUST THAT THEY CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES, MISS.

I'M NOT LOOKING FOR PROMISES.

I CALL MYSELF THE HUNTRESS, NURSE, AND I INTEND TO LIVE UP TO MY NAME.

P-PLEASE DON'T OPEN THAT WINDOW...

SORRY...



ON THE OTHER HAND,
IF YOU WAIT LONG
ENOUGH, IT ALWAYS
DOES.

...AT LEAST
SO FAR.

AND A LONG SHADOW OF
A BAT FALLS LIGHTLY OVER
THE SNOWBOUND CITY THEN
DISAPPEARS...

AHEM. AS YOU
KNOW, THESE ARE
THE OFFICES OF
CRANSTON, GRAYSON
AND WAYNE... A
FIRM WE'RE PROUD
TO SAY IS THE
LEADING PUBLIC
INTEREST LAW
FIRM IN GOTHAM.

NAME'S
ARTHUR
CRANSTON,
SENIOR
PARTNER,
SECOND
GENERATION
OF MY FAMILY
IN THE FIRM.

--INTRODUCE
YOURSELVES.

TYLER J.
VAN DYNE, HARVARD
LAW--PRODUCT SAFETY'S
MY SPECIALTY.

FRANCES DEVITO,
COLUMBIA--I
PREFER TO
FOCUS ON
CONSUMER
FRAUD CASES.

BULLOCK, CHARLES
BULLOCK,
BROOKLYN LAW.

TOGETHER,
WE'LL KEEP
IT THAT WAY.

YOU'RE
ALL NEW--
DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
EACH
OTHER--

I'VE COME ON
TO HANDLE
LITIGATION.

IF WE'RE TO BE A
SMOOTHLY-WORKING
TEAM, YOU'LL NEED
TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
EACH OTHER... IT'S
VITALLY IMPORTANT
TO YOUR COLLEAGUES...

FOR EXAMPLE,
YOU'LL BE WORKING
WITH A LAWYER
WHO IS BRILLIANT
AND ALMOST
ALWAYS LATE--

AH, GOOD DAY,
HELENA.

SORRY,
ARTHUR.

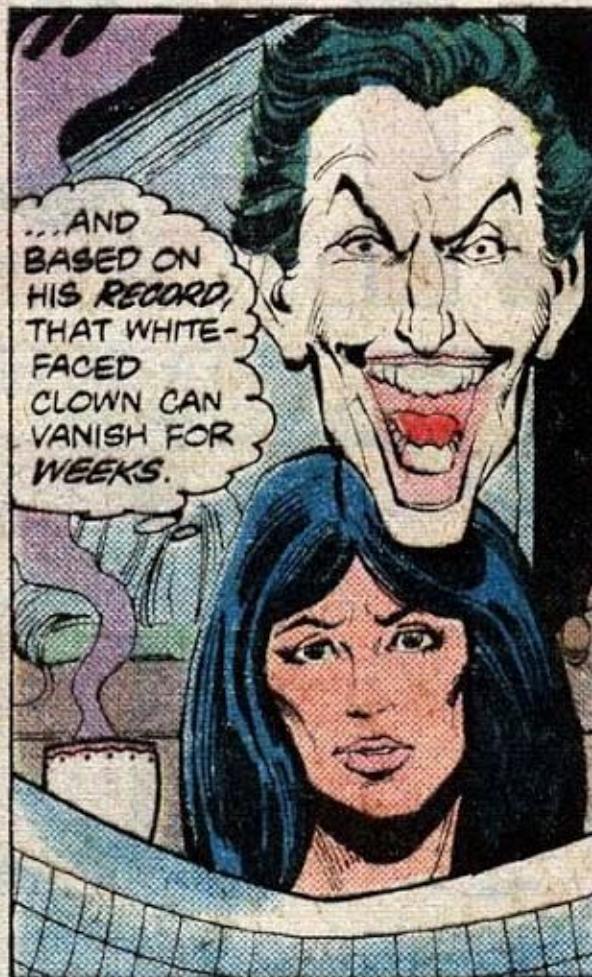
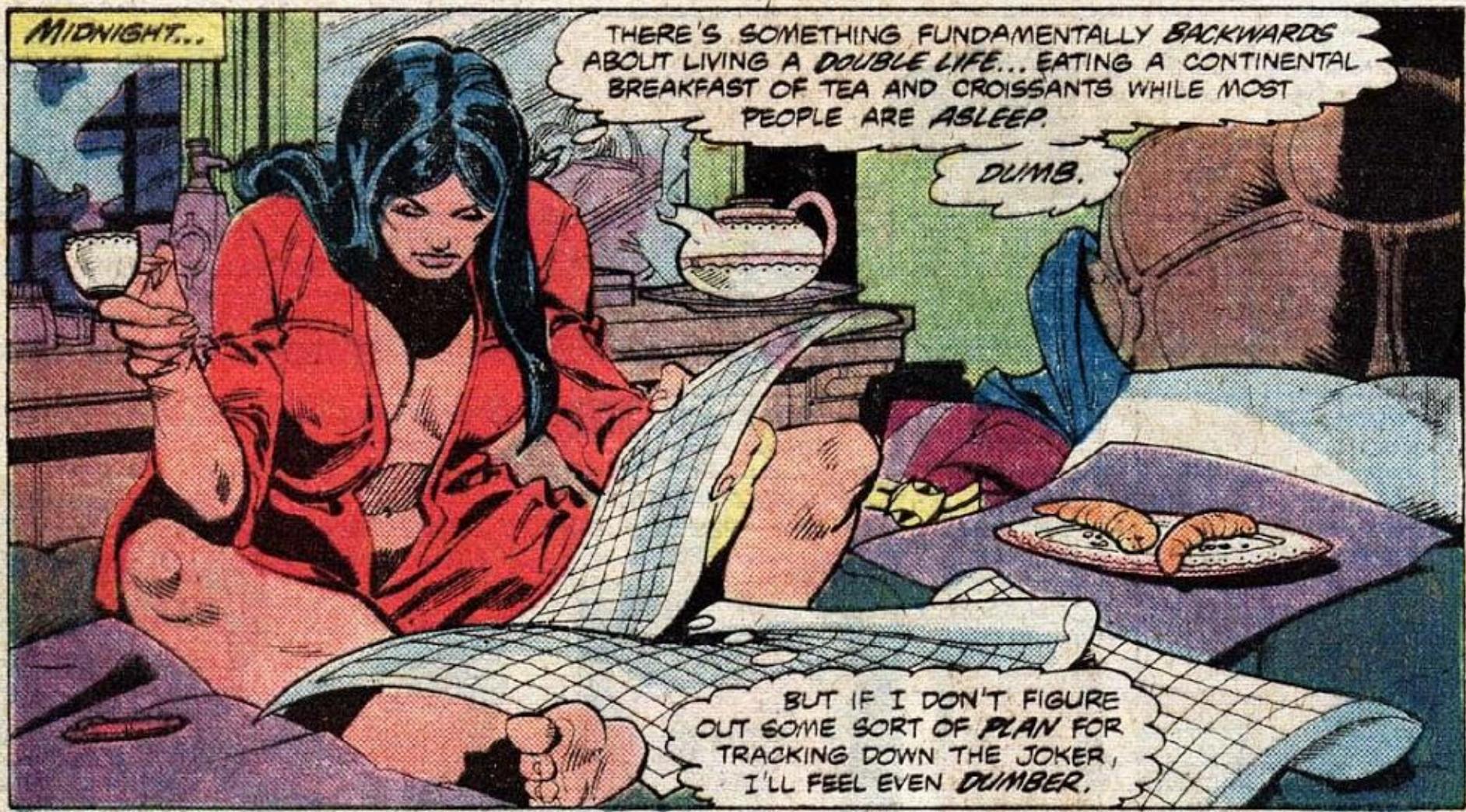
NO TROUBLE.

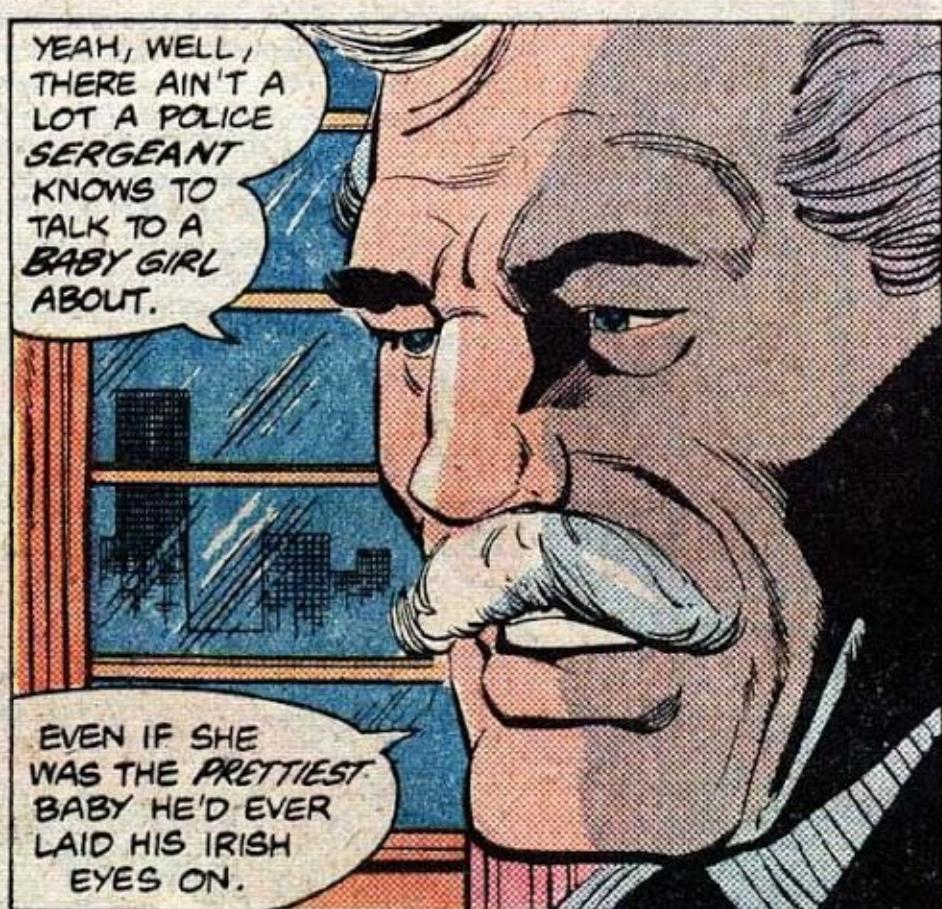
YOU'VE MERELY
CONFIRMED MY
STATEMENTS.

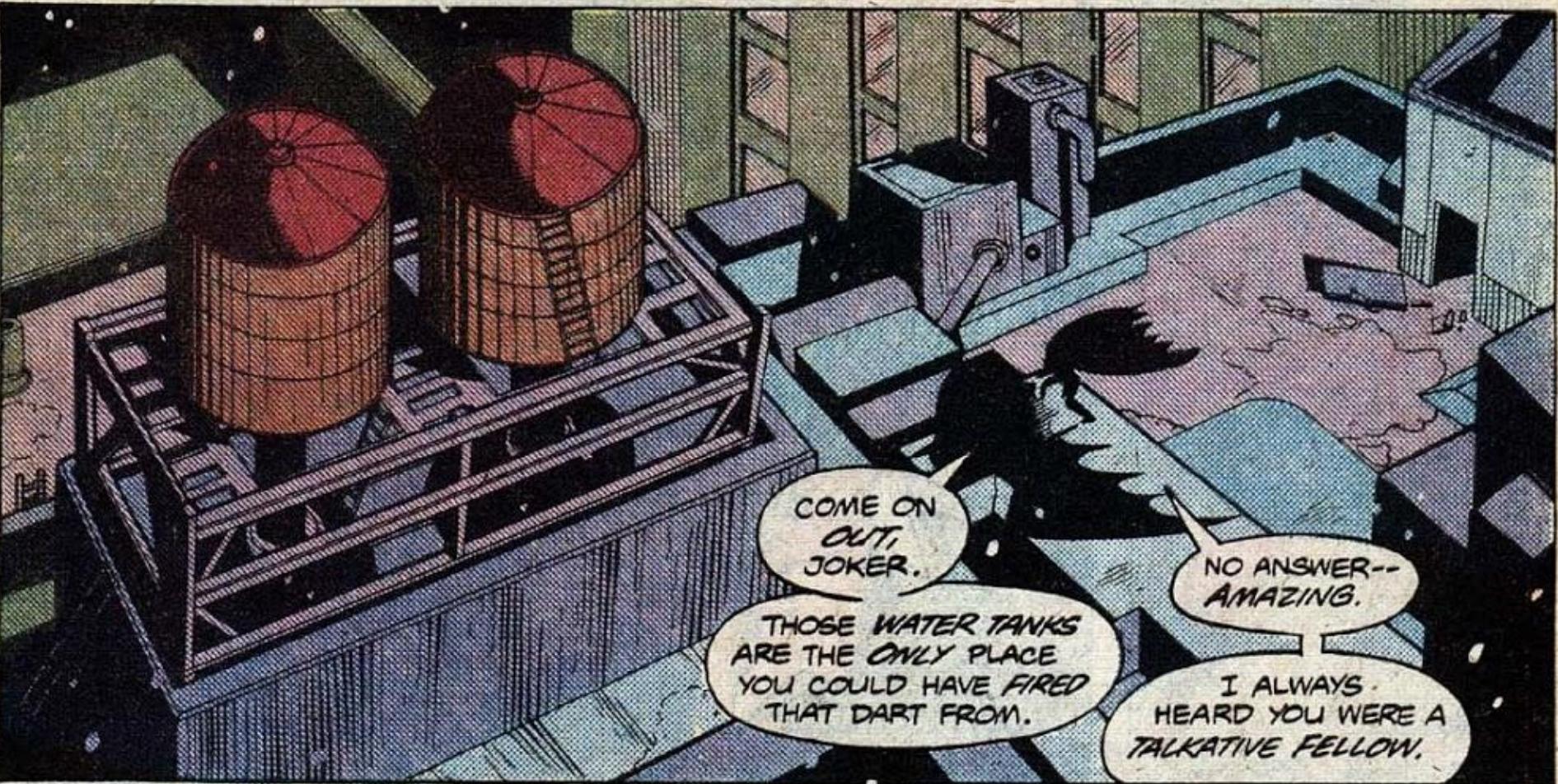
HMM... I'M NOT SURE
WHAT I'VE CONFIRMED,
COUNSELLOR, SO CAN WE
TABLE THE MOTION FOR
THE MOMENT?

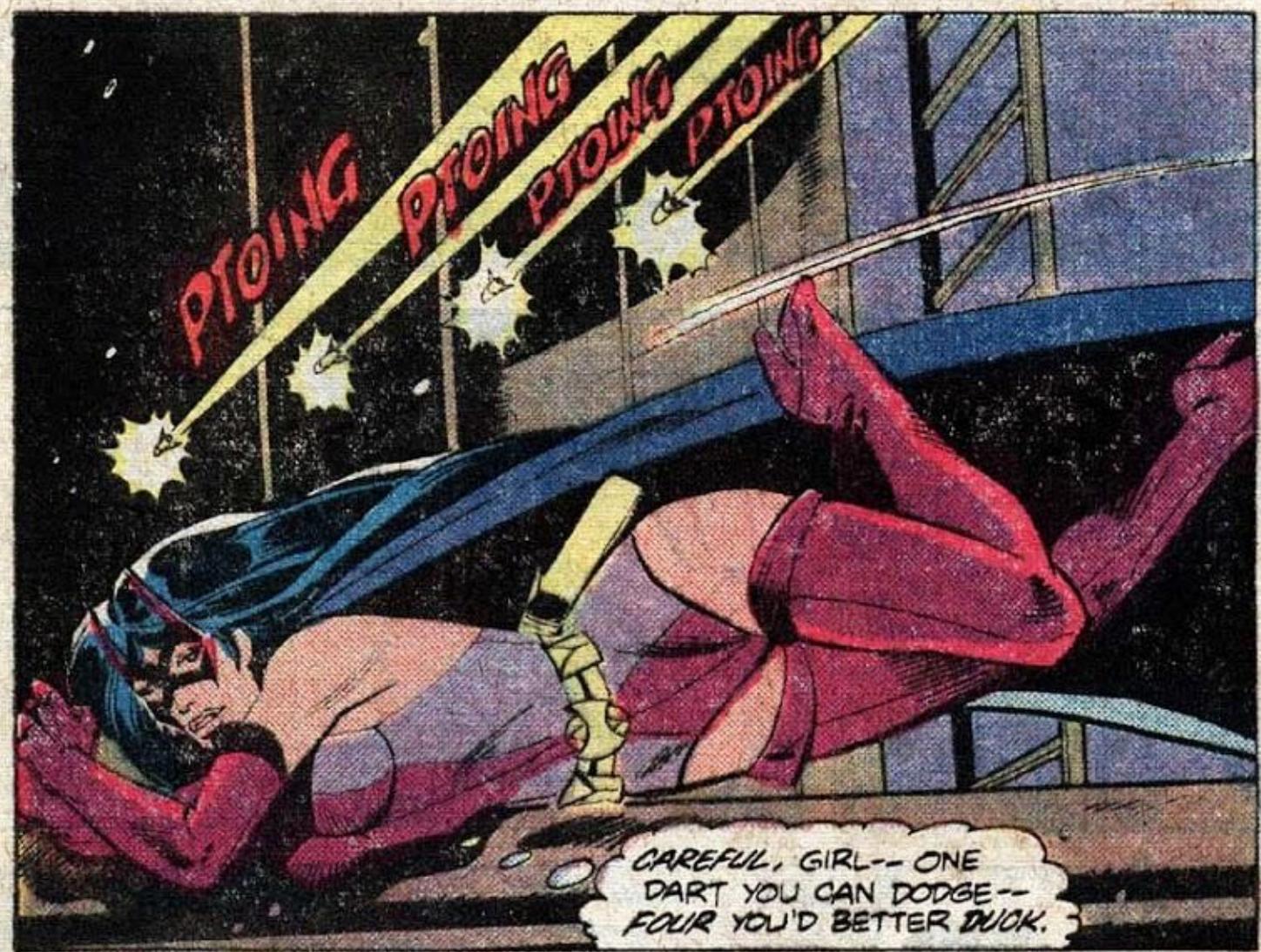
AS THE JUNIOR
PARTNER IN CRANSTON,
GRAYSON AND WAYNE, I'D
LIKE TO BE FORMALLY
INTRODUCED TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATES.

AND THEN
WE CAN GET
TO WORK!









HEH HEH HEH-- DIDN'T EXPECT IT, DID YOU? A GOOD PUNCH LINE ALWAYS IS SUCH A SURPRISE.

AND I AM SO GLAD YOU FELL FOR IT.

YOU'RE NEW AT THIS, DEARIE--OH, SO DELIGHTFULLY NEW-- AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

BUT WHEN YOU SEE YOUR FRIENDS AGAIN, YOU CAN TELL THEM YOU HAD THE RARE AND TRULY WONDERFUL PRIVILEGE OF ALMOST BEING KILLED... BY THE JOKER.

TA.

BY THE TIME I PULL MYSELF TOGETHER, THE JOKER WILL HAVE DISAPPEARED THROUGH ANY OF A DOZEN EXITS FROM THAT WAREHOUSE.

LET ME PULL THIS BLASTED DART OUT OF MY CAPE AND THEN I CAN CHECK THIS TRAIL FOR CLUES.

HMM... BUT FIRST, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I THINK I HAVE TO DO.



NEXT:
"FIRST LAUGH"

ON SALE MAY 7/8