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Wonder Woman®

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I RETURNED TO THE PLACE I USED TO CALL HOME TO SAVE MY MOTHER, BECAUSE OF HIM. ARES.
EVEN FROM THE GRAVE HE TAUNTS AND BOASTS AND POISONS. I CAME HERE TO STOP HIS DESTRUCTION OF THEMYSCIRA, POSSIBLY TOO LATE.
INSTEAD I HAVE BEEN STRIPPED, SHAMED AND IMPRISONED. NIGHT FALLS ON THE PRINCESS OF THEMYSCIRA.
I SEEM TO HAVE LOST EVERYTHING I EVER CHERISHED.
MY ISLAND, MY WEAPONS, MY FAMILY, MY POTENTIAL MATE...
WARKILLER 3 OF 4
AFTER THE FIRE
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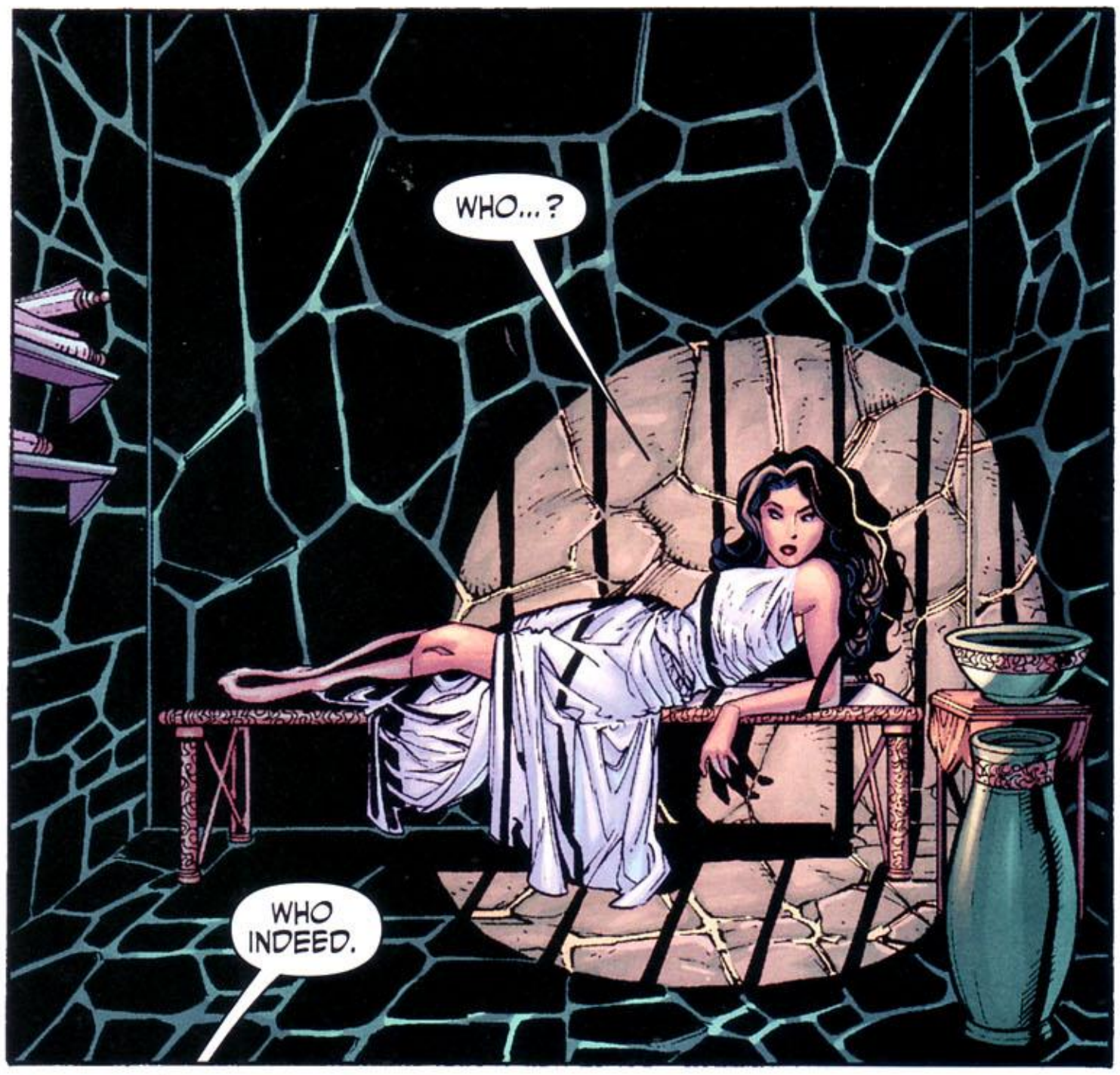
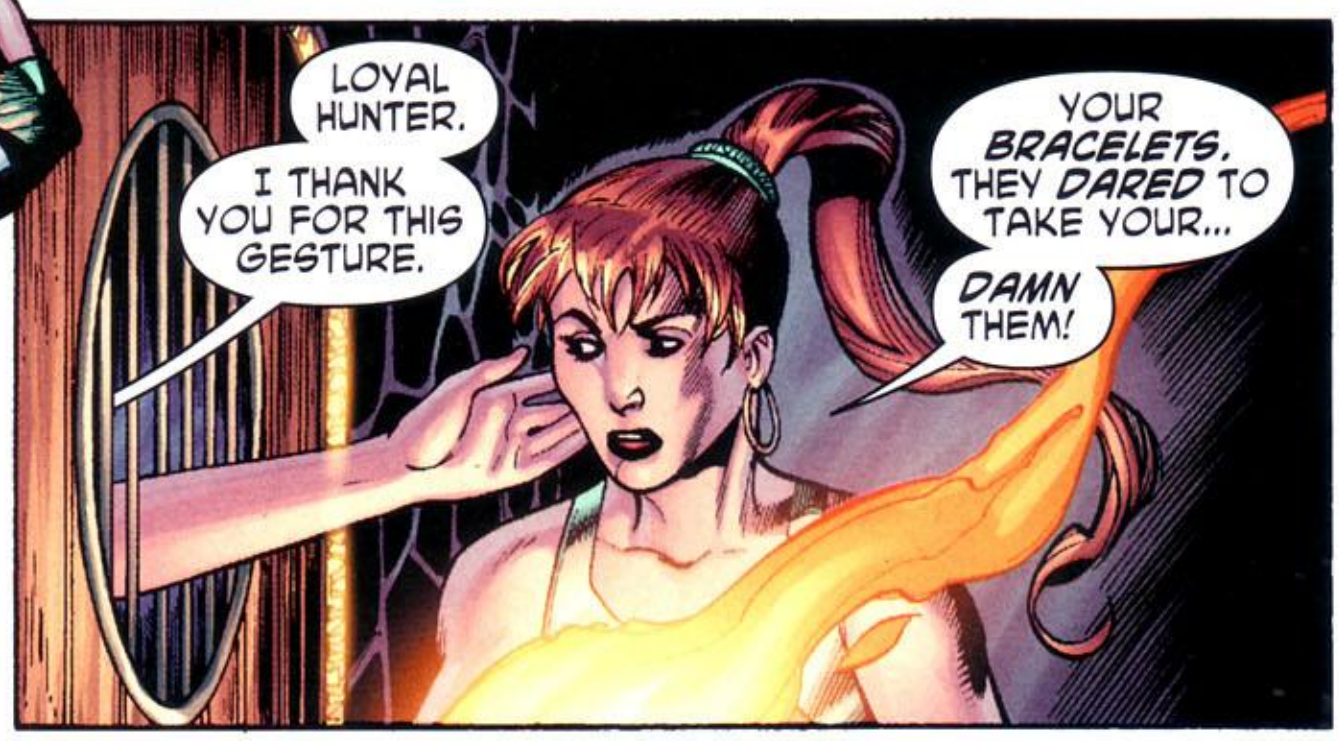
WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

MY SISTERS?
DIANA.
I'VE COME FOR YOU.

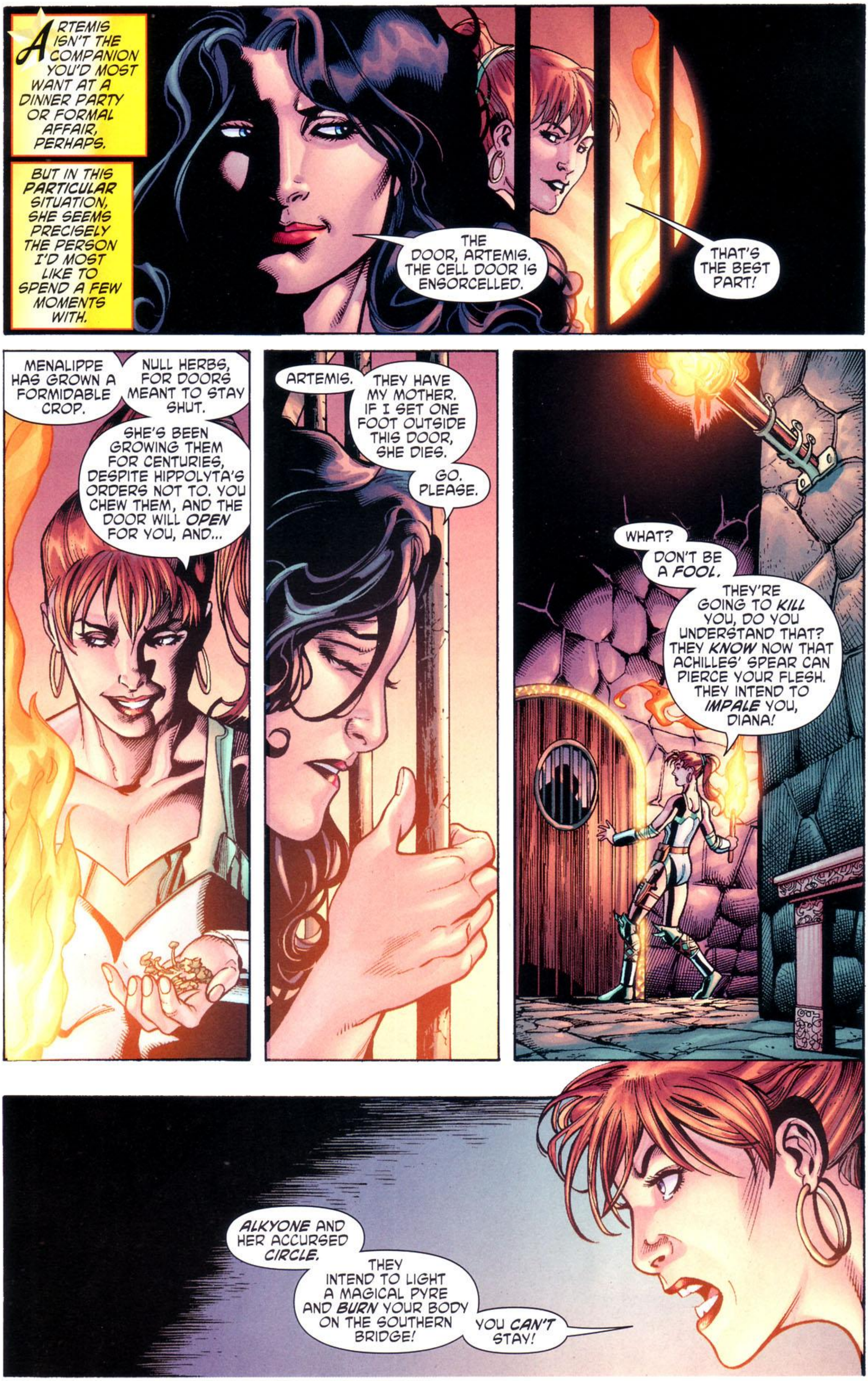

WHO...?
WHO INDEED.

WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS?
IT'S ARTEMIS, SILLY WOMAN.
YOU FREED ME FROM PRISON, NOW I'M FREEING YOU.

WASN'T THE CAVERN GUARDED?
MM. BY THREE GUARDS. MALE GUARDS, OF ALL THINGS.
IT'S ALMOST INSULTING.


LOYAL HUNTER.
I THANK YOU FOR THIS GESTURE.
YOUR BRACELETS. THEY DARED TO TAKE YOUR...
DAMN THEM!

YOU KNOW I HAVE LITTLE USE FOR PAGEANTRY, DIANA.
BUT I'LL BURY THEM NECK DEEP IN COMPOST FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE.


ARTEMIS ISN'T THE COMPANION YOU'D MOST WANT AT A DINNER PARTY OR FORMAL AFFAIR, PERHAPS.
BUT IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION, SHE SEEMS PRECISELY THE PERSON I'D MOST LIKE TO SPEND A FEW MOMENTS WITH.
THE DOOR, ARTEMIS. THE CELL DOOR IS ENSORCELLED.
THAT'S THE BEST PART!
MENALIPPE HAS GROWN A FORMIDABLE CROP.
NULL HERBS, FOR DOORS MEANT TO STAY SHUT.
SHE'S BEEN GROWING THEM FOR CENTURIES, DESPITE HIPPOLYTA'S ORDERS NOT TO. YOU CHEW THEM, AND THE DOOR WILL OPEN FOR YOU, AND...
ARTEMIS.
THEY HAVE MY MOTHER. IF I SET ONE FOOT OUTSIDE THIS DOOR, SHE DIES.
GO. PLEASE.
WHAT?
DON'T BE A FOOL.
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU, DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT? THEY KNOW NOW THAT ACHILLES' SPEAR CAN PIERCE YOUR FLESH. THEY INTEND TO IMPALE YOU, DIANA!
ALKYONE AND HER ACCURSED CIRCLE.
THEY INTEND TO LIGHT A MAGICAL PYRE AND BURN YOUR BODY ON THE SOUTHERN BRIDGE!
YOU CAN'T STAY!

ARTEMIS OF THE BANA-MIGHDALL.

IF EVER I WAS, EVEN FOR A MOMENT, YOUR PRINCESS...

...PLEASE FOLLOW MY COMMAND.

CAN YOU NOT EVEN...

BY THE *GODS*, WOMAN, CAN'T YOU EVEN LOOK IN MY *EYES?*

I WASH MY HANDS OF IT. BUT THEY WANT YOU TO EXPIRE IN AGONY AND HUMILIATION. DON'T GIVE THEM THAT PLEASURE.

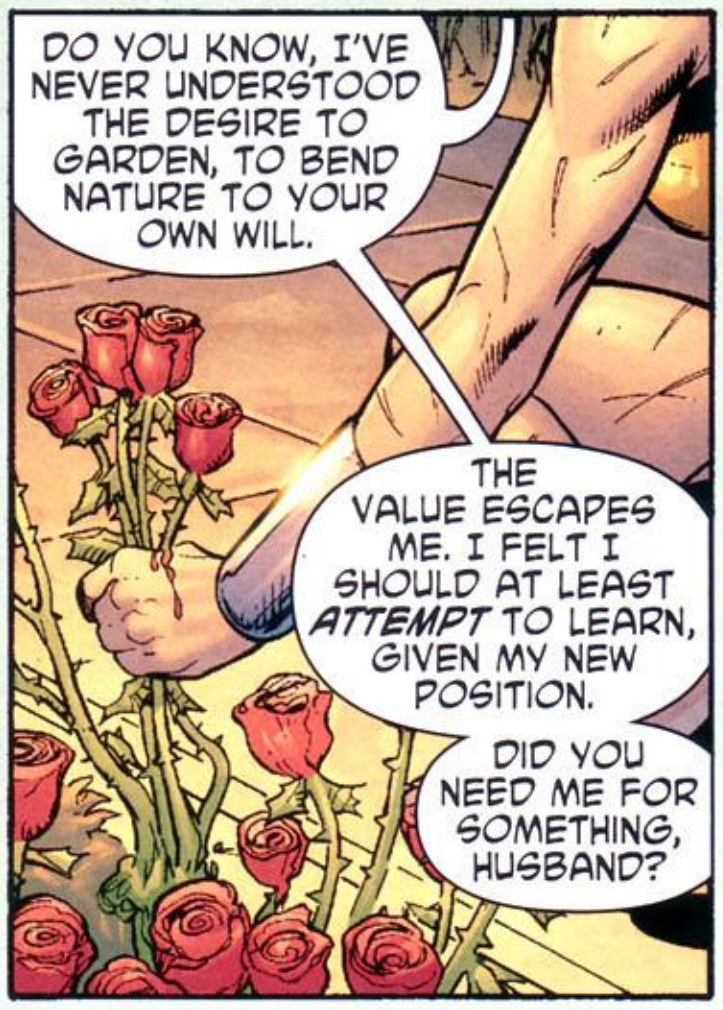
HERE. IF YOU CAN'T *LIVE* AS AN AMAZON, AS *YOU YOURSELF* TOLD ME TO DO JUST *DAYS* AGO...

AT LEAST *DIE* LIKE ONE.

WELL.

NOT THE BEST COMPANION AT ALL, REALLY.

ALKYONE.
ALKYONE.
MMM?



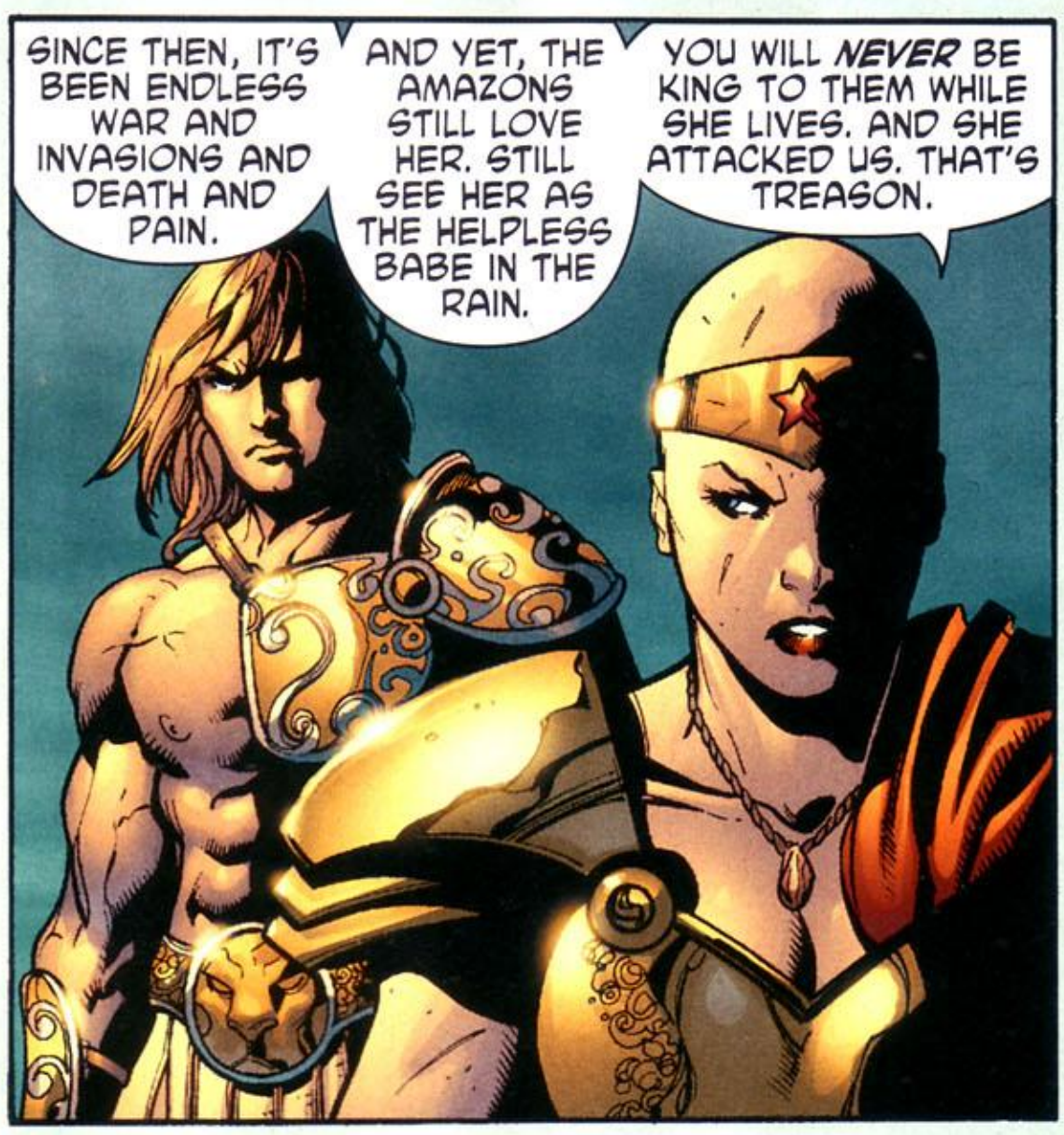
TROUBLED, HUSBAND?
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE LOYAL TO YOUR GODS.

DON'T YOU QUESTION MY FAITH, WOMAN.
I WILL DIE WITH PRAISE FOR THE GODS ON MY LIPS!
AND YET.
ZEUS GIVES YOU THE CLEAR MANDATE, AND YOU SELFISHLY SHIRK YOUR DUTY IN THE FACE OF ALL HE HAS GIVEN YOU.

HE GAVE NO ORDER TO KILL THE PRINCESS.

SHE WAS A PRINCESS IN TITLE ONLY. SHE NEVER CARED FOR THIS ISLAND.
SHE COULDN'T WAIT TO ABANDON HER PEOPLE. SHE DALLIES WITH MEN. WITH MEN!
AND NOW, SHE HAS GIVEN UP EVEN THAT ANEMIC POSITION AND HAS RENOUNCED HER CLAIM HERE.

YOU WERE NOT HERE. YOU CAN'T KNOW.
WHAT THIS PLACE WAS LIKE BEFORE SHE, BEFORE THE DRAGON, WAS BORN.
"PARADISE ISLAND," WE CALLED IT. AND IT WAS.


SINCE THEN, IT'S BEEN ENDLESS WAR AND INVASIONS AND DEATH AND PAIN.
AND YET, THE AMAZONS STILL LOVE HER. STILL SEE HER AS THE HELPLESS BABE IN THE RAIN.
YOU WILL NEVER BE KING TO THEM WHILE SHE LIVES. AND SHE ATTACKED US. THAT'S TREASON.

WHAT...
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?

EXECUTE HER.
IT IS A TRAGEDY, HUSBAND, BUT IT MUST BE DONE.
AND THERE'S MORE.

SHE HAS LOYALISTS. I'VE MADE A LIST. FANATICS SHE HAS CONSPIRED WITH AGAINST YOU.
THEY MUST BE JAILED BEFORE THE CEREMONY OF HER DISPATCH.
THEY WILL SEND YOUR MEN BACK TO HELL, OTHERWISE.

"AND HER REMAINING GORILLA ALLIES, THAT SHE LEFT HERE AS SPIES."

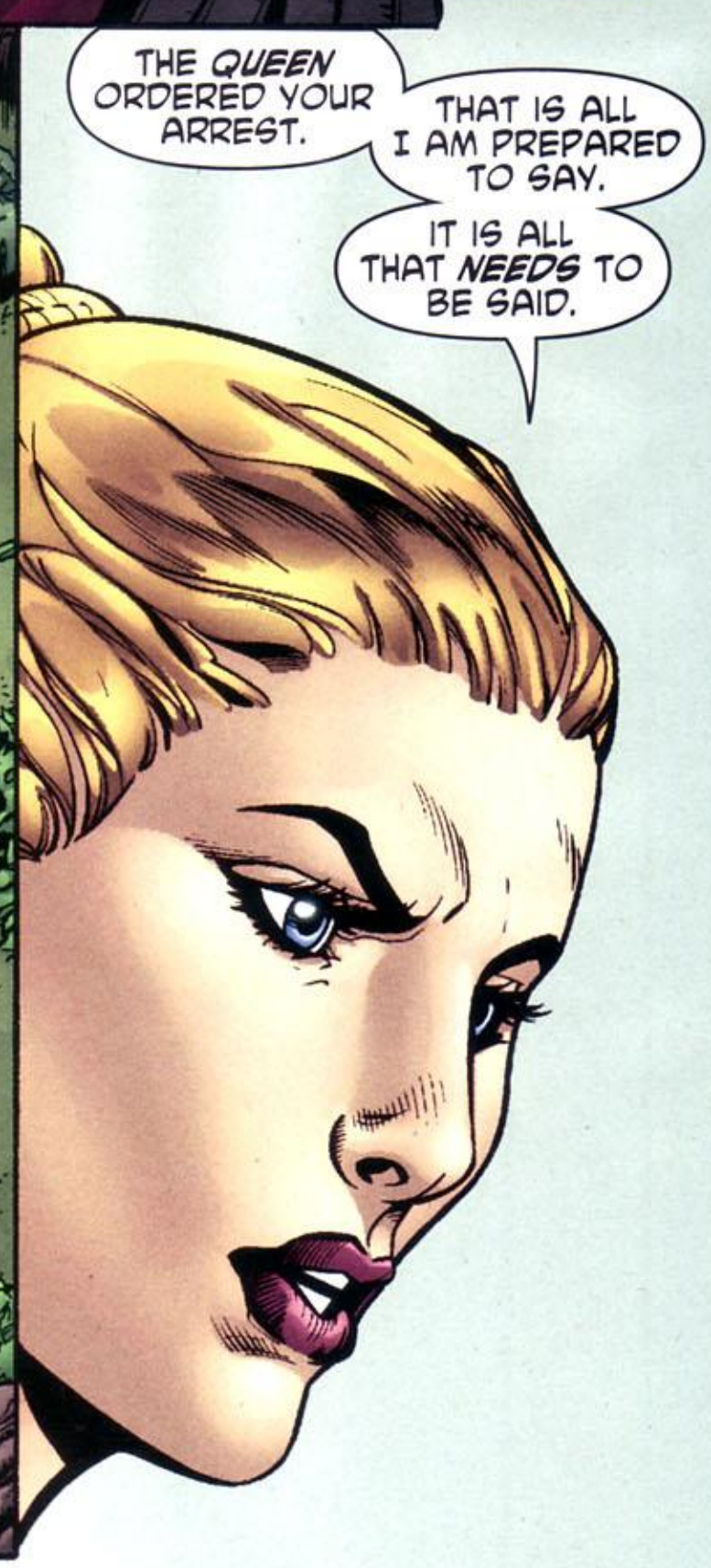
WE'LL EXECUTE THEM.
AND HANG THEIR SKINS NEAR THE CENTRAL FOUNTAIN AS A MESSAGE TO OTHERS.
I'VE ALREADY GIVEN THE ORDER.

THANK YOU, PHINEA.
NOW, ENOUGH UNPLEASANTRIES.
I'VE MADE YOU A WEDDING GIFT.

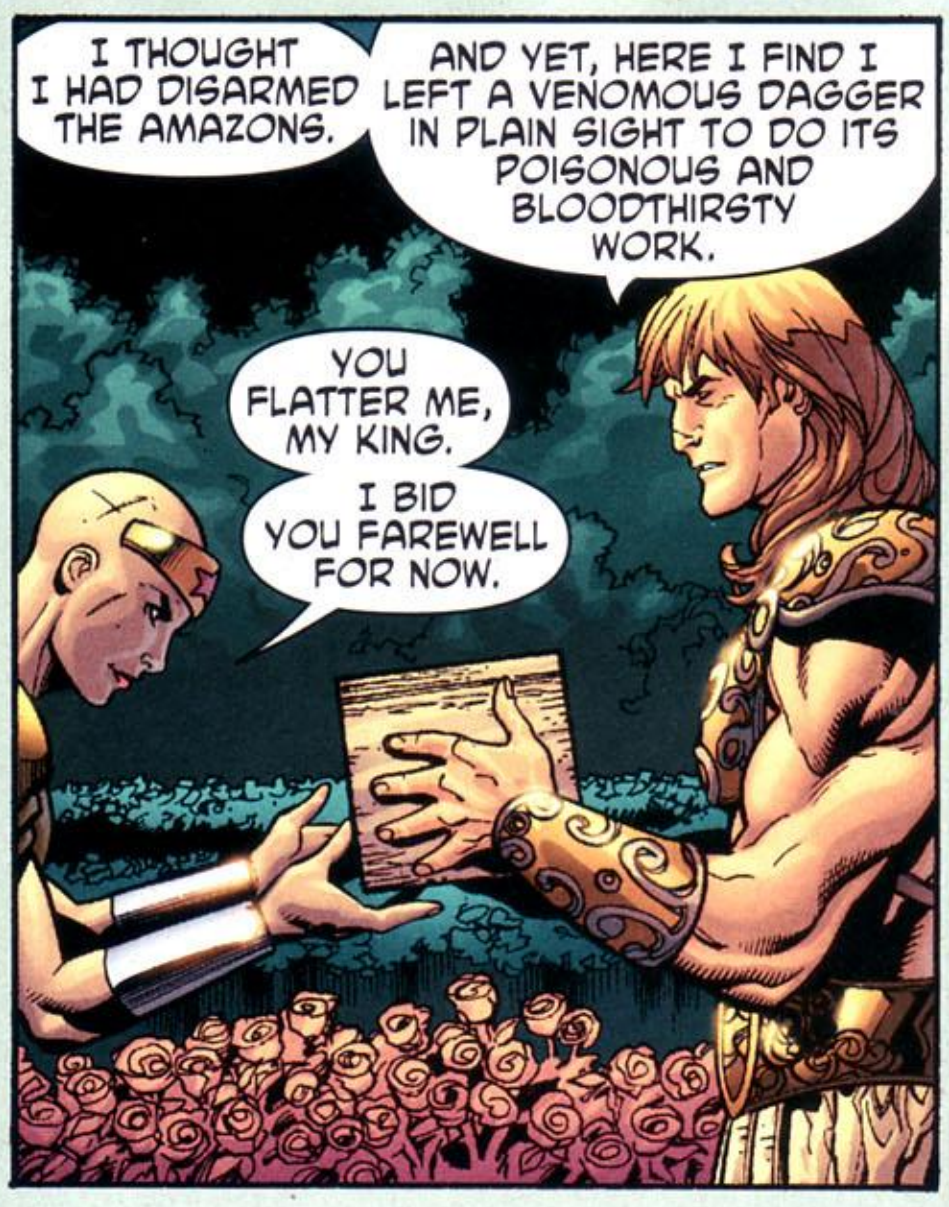
"THIS IS A DAY FOR JOY, ACHILLES."

BETRAYED!

WE ARE BETRAYED!

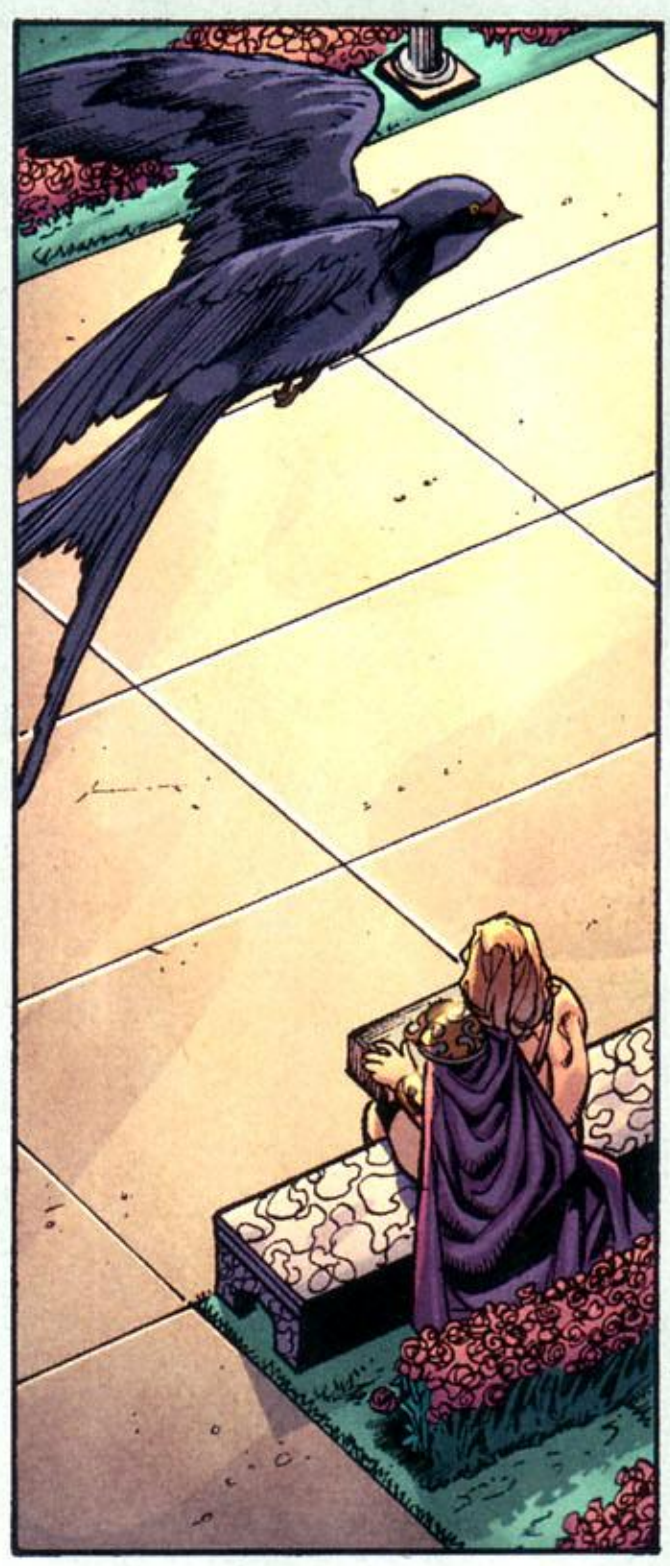


I'M AFRAID I'M NOT MUCH OF A SEAMSTRESS.
BUT I *WAS* THE ISLAND'S ARMORY MISTRESS.
FOR YOU, MY HUSBAND. MAY YOU WEAR IT WELL.


I THOUGHT I HAD DISARMED THE AMAZONS.
AND YET, HERE I FIND I LEFT A VENOMOUS DAGGER IN PLAIN SIGHT TO DO ITS POISONOUS AND BLOODTHIRSTY WORK.
YOU FLATTER ME, MY KING.
I BID YOU FAREWELL FOR NOW.

I HAVE A PRIVATE CELEBRATION IN MIND.
MY LORD, A WORD, IF I MAY...
PERHAPS NOT THIS MOMENT, JASON.
BUT, SIR, THE *EXECUTION*...

--IS WRONG AND EVIL. I *KNOW*.
LEAVE ME TO MY THOUGHTS, ARGONAUT.



LEAVE ME TO MY THOUGHTS, PHINEA.

BUT I THOUGHT YOU WANTED...

I NEEDED TO SALT A WOUND, HANDSOME ONE. I AM SATED.

WATCH YOUR STEP, SISTER.

YOU'RE NEARER THE EDGE THAN YOU KNOW.

WHO...?

HIPPOLYTA?

NO.

TROY.

YOUR SWORD? REALLY?

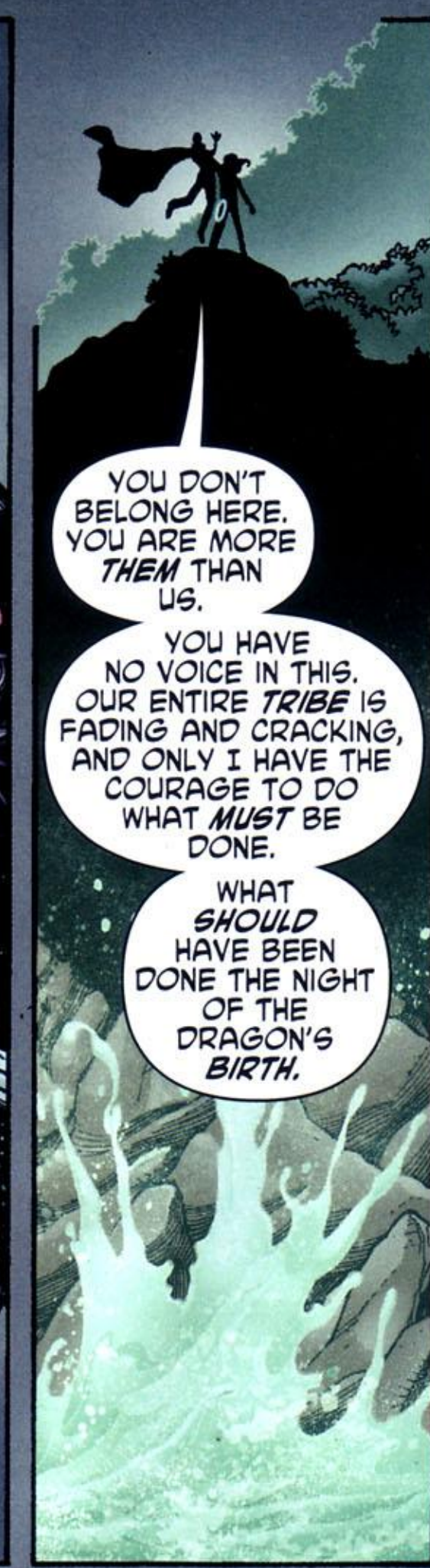
I WOULDN'T, "QUEEN" ALKYONE.

UNLESS YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE UNHAPPIEST AND MOST PAINFULLY HUMILIATING MOMENT OF YOUR MISERABLE, CONNIVING, TRAITOROUS LIFE.

SISTER.

YES. TYPICAL.
ANOTHER SPOILED CHILD, USING HER POWERS WHEN HER WILL IS FOUND *WANTING.*

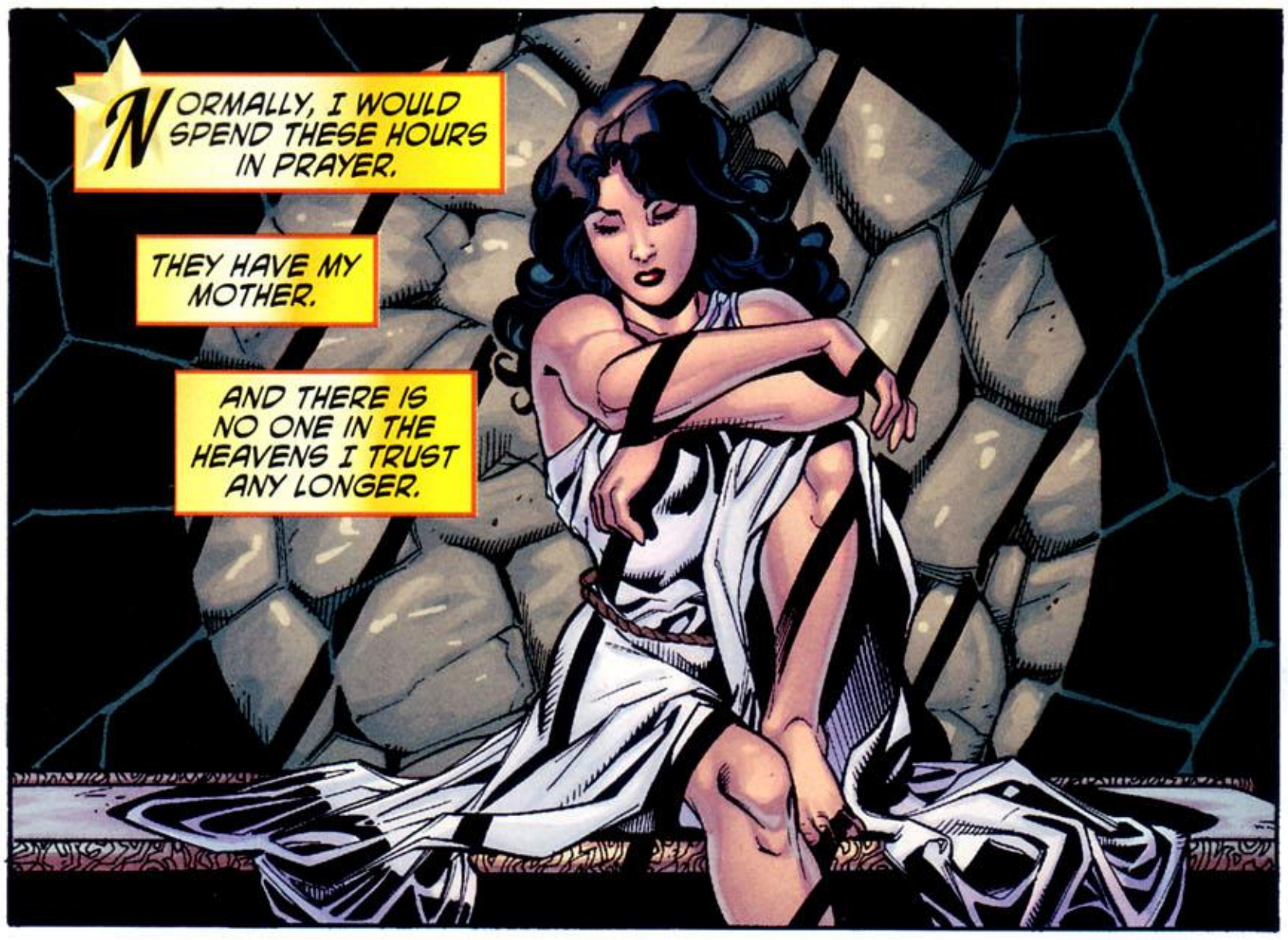
MY WILL?
I WOULDN'T *TEST* IT, ALKYONE.
THIS EXECUTION WILL *NOT* TAKE PLACE.
KK...
KILL ME THEN.


YOU DON'T BELONG HERE. YOU ARE MORE *THEM* THAN US.
YOU HAVE NO VOICE IN THIS. OUR ENTIRE *TRIBE* IS FADING AND CRACKING, AND ONLY I HAVE THE COURAGE TO DO WHAT *MUST* BE DONE.
WHAT *SHOULD* HAVE BEEN DONE THE NIGHT OF THE DRAGON'S *BIRTH.*

I *WILL* SAVE OUR PEOPLE.
KILL ME. IT IS THE *ONLY* WAY YOU WILL STOP ME.
I HAVE *TAKEN* HIPPOLYTA AND YOU *WON'T* FIND HER.

WE'LL *SEE.*
"MY QUEEN."
PHINEA.
GATHER MY CIRCLE.

BUT... WON'T TROY STOP YOU?
STOP ME?
WE COULDN'T MAKE THIS WORK WITHOUT HER.
BUT IT *DOES* MEAN THAT THE EXECUTION MUST BE MOVED UP.
AND TELL *EVERYONE.*


NORMALLY, I WOULD SPEND THESE HOURS IN PRAYER.
THEY HAVE MY MOTHER.
AND THERE IS NO ONE IN THE HEAVENS I TRUST ANY LONGER.

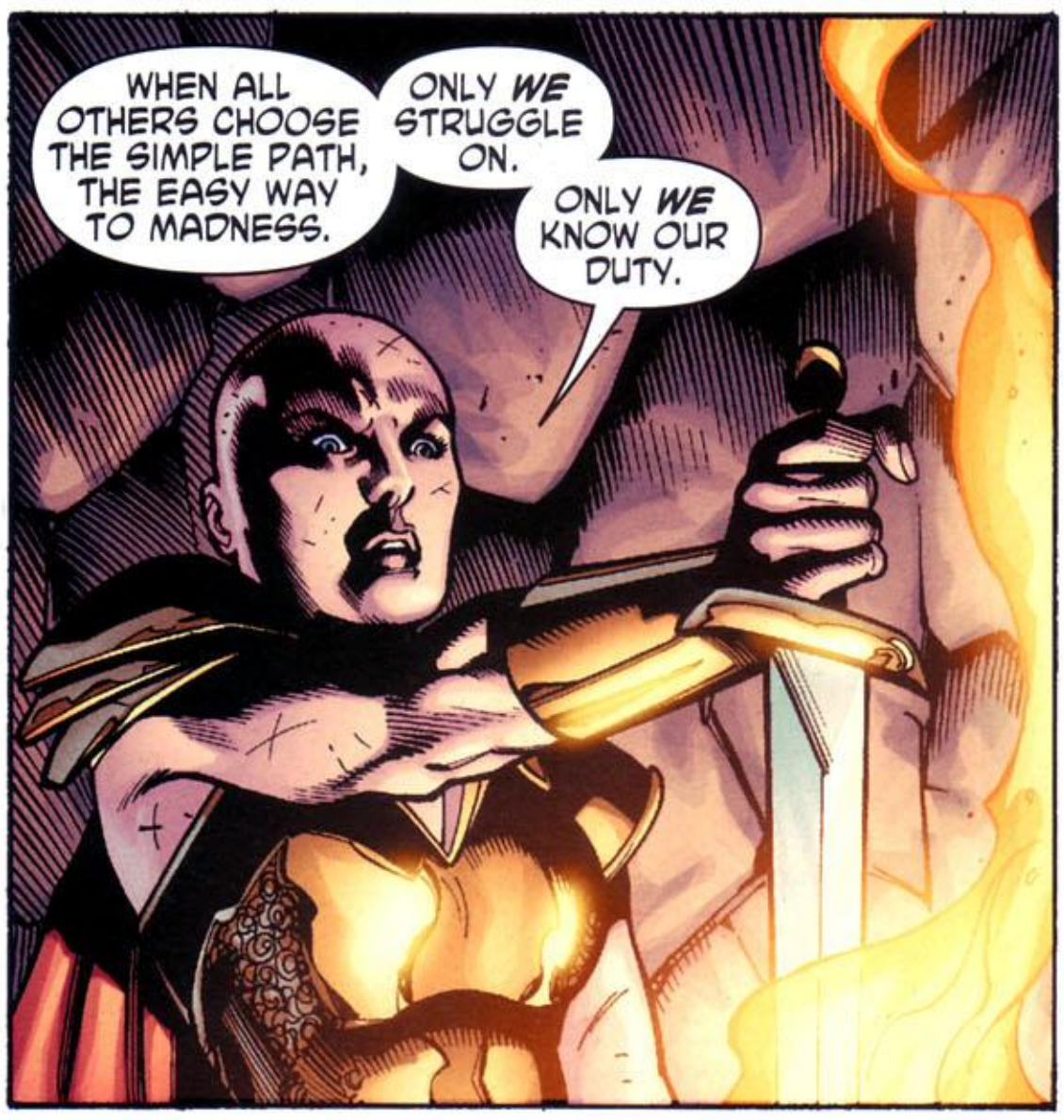
THE EXECUTION HAS BEEN MOVED FORWARD, JASON.
BUT THE AMAZONS WILL RIOT.
WHAT CHOICE HAVE WE? TAKE ARMS. GUARD ACHILLES.
AND PRAY FOR OUR DAMAGED SOULS.

PRINCESS'S ORDERS OR NO...
...WILL WE, AS THE *TRUE* TRIBE OF AMAZONS, ALLOW *MEN* TO EXECUTE *DIANA?*

IT'S TIME.
I UNDERSTAND.

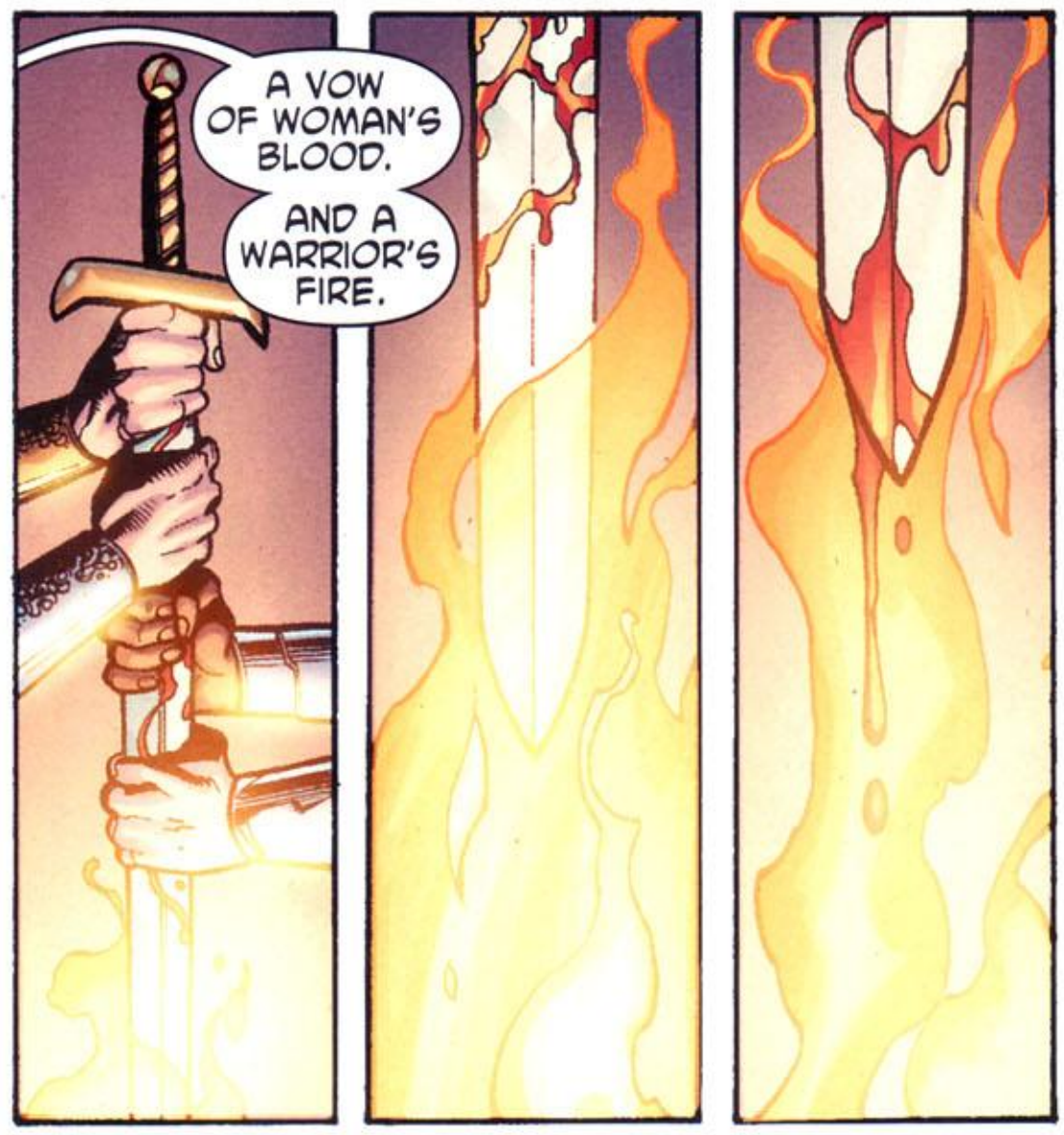
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SILENCE.
WILL THE FOUR OF US EVER LOSE FAITH, EVEN IN DEATH?
WILL WE BREAK OUR SACRED VOW?

NEVER.
NEVER.
NEVER.
NO. NEVER.


WHEN ALL OTHERS CHOOSE THE SIMPLE PATH, THE EASY WAY TO MADNESS.
ONLY WE STRUGGLE ON.
ONLY WE KNOW OUR DUTY.

WE WILL BE HATED.
BUT WITH THE PRINCESS DEAD, THEMYSCIRA WILL BE REBORN.

THE TRUE GOLEM, GENOCIDE.
ARES PUT ITS SPIRIT IN THIS WHITTLE BABY.
AND HE TRUSTED ITS CARE TO ME.


A VOW OF WOMAN'S BLOOD.
AND A WARRIOR'S FIRE.

HAHAHAHAAA!

AND THE HATRED OF THE GOD OF WAR!

SPIRIT OF DEATH, ENTER OUR SOULS!

FWOOM

UHN.

R...

RISE, SISTERS.

IT IS DONE.

PREPARE THE PRISONER FOR HER EXECUTION.

YOU ARE NOT ONE OF US.

YOU HAVE *ALWAYS* FOLLOWED THE *RULES.* DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT AFTER THIS DAY, IF YOU *LIVE,* YOU MAY *NEVER* BE WELCOME ON THIS ISLAND AGAIN?

ARE *YOU,* OF ALL PEOPLE, *PREPARED* FOR THAT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO *DO?*

WE CAN'T TRUST THE OTHER AMAZONS. SOME WILL CHOOSE THE GODS OVER DIANA'S LIFE. THEY'VE BEEN TRAINED FOR NO OTHER WAY.

THEY HAVE HIPPOLYTA AS A HOSTAGE, SO THE PRINCESS WILL GO WILLINGLY TO HER DEATH.

FIND THE TRUE *QUEEN,* TROY.

"FIND HIPPOLYTA OR YOUR SISTER DIES!"

MOVE.

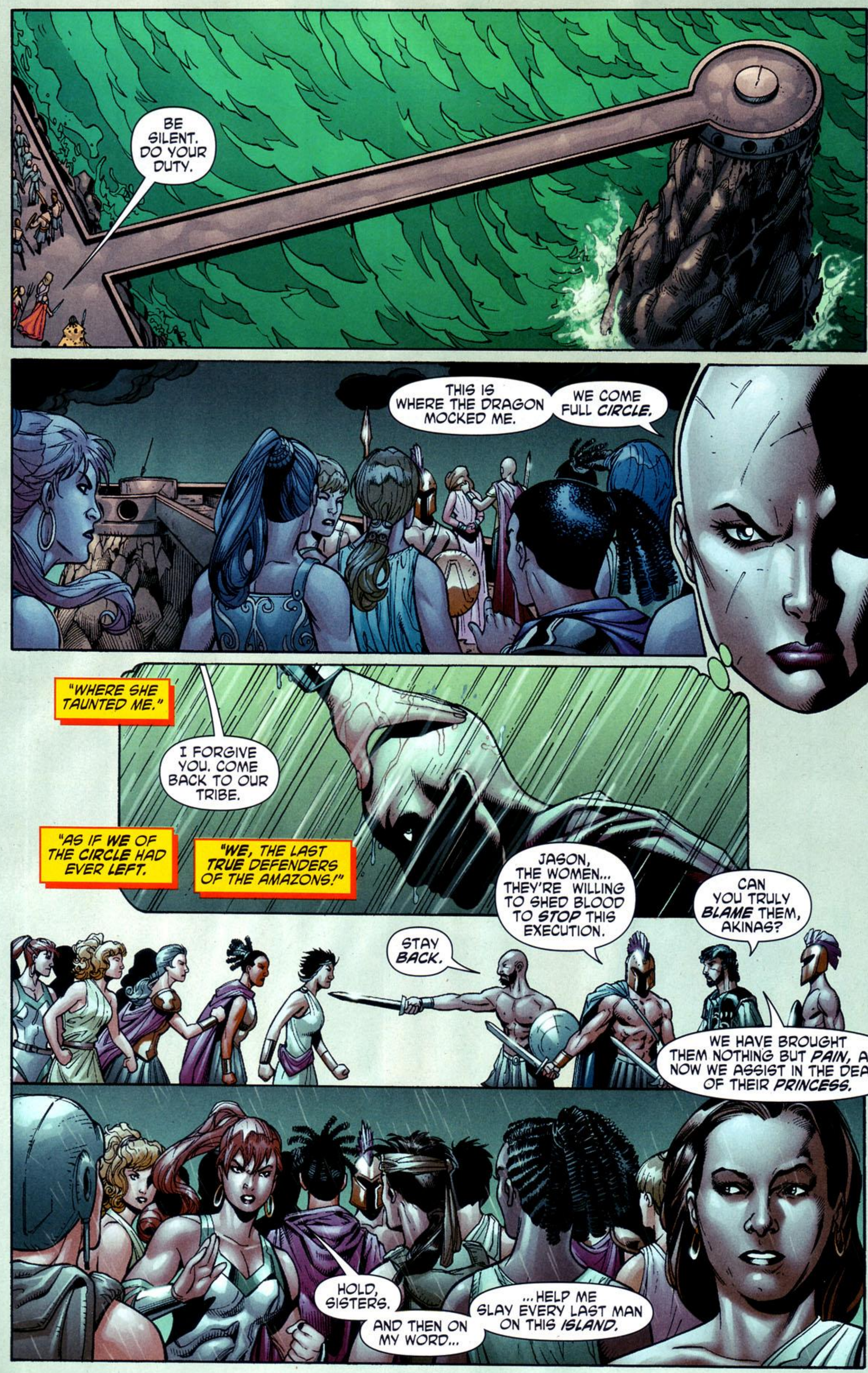
THE SOUTHERN *BRIDGE* AWAITS.

THIS IS...

THIS IS WRONG.

I CAN'T BE A PART OF THIS.

ΠΡΟΔΟΤΡΙ


BE SILENT. DO YOUR DUTY.
THIS IS WHERE THE DRAGON MOCKED ME.
WE COME FULL CIRCLE.
"WHERE SHE TAUNTED ME."
I FORGIVE YOU. COME BACK TO OUR TRIBE.
"AS IF WE OF THE CIRCLE HAD EVER LEFT.
"WE, THE LAST TRUE DEFENDERS OF THE AMAZONS!"
JASON, THE WOMEN... THEY'RE WILLING TO SHED BLOOD TO STOP THIS EXECUTION.
CAN YOU TRULY BLAME THEM, AKINAS?
STAY BACK.
WE HAVE BROUGHT THEM NOTHING BUT PAIN, AND NOW WE ASSIST IN THE DEATH OF THEIR PRINCESS.
HOLD, SISTERS.
AND THEN ON MY WORD...
...HELP ME SLAY EVERY LAST MAN ON THIS ISLAND.

SISTERS, YOUR QUEEN SPEAKS.
THIS IS INDEED A SAD NIGHT. BUT IT IS A NIGHT WHICH BRINGS HOPE. HOPE FOR A RETURN TO WHAT WE WERE.
BEFORE THE DRAGON WAS BORN!

SHE ABANDONED YOU. SHE RENOUNCED US ALL.
AND SHE HAS OFFENDED THE GODS!
THERE IS NO CHOICE LEFT TO US!
MISTRESS...?

SHE'S GOING TO DO IT.
TO WAR, SISTERS! FEED THEM ALL TO THE MEGALODONS!

DIANA. PLEASE.
IF I KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU, I KNOW ONE THING.
THAT YOU FORGIVE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FOOLISH AND COME TO REGRET THEIR FOOLISHNESS.

I NEED YOU TO USE THAT FORGIVENESS. ON BOTH OF US.
ALKYONE MUST BE STOPPED, PRINCESS.
I HAVE DONE MANY MISDEEDS. BUT I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF.
AND WE HAVE A WAR TO KILL.

THEY WILL KILL EACH OTHER.
YET SOME WILL SURVIVE.
THEY WILL DESPISE US FOR WHAT WE HAVE DONE. THEY WILL EXECUTE US.

YES.
AND HIPPOLYTA WILL AGAIN BE QUEEN.

MAKE IT TO THE BRIDGE! FIGHT TO THE BRIDGE!
FOR DIANA!

MISTRESS... WHAT IS HAPPENING?
I AM SORRY, PHINEA.

I LOVED YOU.

NO.

ENOUGH!
EVERY ARMY, EVERY SOLDIER...
...SUFFERS AT THE WHIM OF ZEALOTS LIKE YOU.
NO MORE.
YOU MURDERED THAT AMAZON!
YOU WANTED ALL THIS BLOODSHED!
YES!
IF ONE TRUE AMAZON SURVIVES, AND HIPPOLYTA IS AGAIN QUEEN, THEN THIS IS A DAY OF VICTORY!
CAN YOU NOT SEE THAT? ARE YOU SO POISONED BY PATRIARCH'S WORLD?

YOU FOOL.

I TRIED TO SPARE YOU. WE *ALL* TRIED TO SPARE YOU THE TRUTH.

HOW IN GAEA'S NAME DID SHE GET SO STRONG?

I CAN'T HELP ACHILLES.

NOT UNTIL...

...I PUT THE RABID DOG DOWN.

AH. HUHN.

YES. I TOOK POOR PHINEA IN YOUR STEAD.

BECAUSE I MADE A BARGAIN WITH THE DARK HEART OF THEMYSCIRA, DIANA.

AND *HE* WANTED YOU *ALIVE.*

MEET THE COTTUS, DIANA.
MEET THE MAKER OF YOUR *FLESH.*
MEET YOUR *TRUE* FATHER!
NEXT: DAWN BEFORE DARKNESS

To **Dan DiDio**
From: **Ian Sattler**

Hey Dan - Eddie & Adam just shot me this page **Nicola Scott** did for Blackest Night: Wonder Woman #1. I'm not sure what's more spectacular – all the dead heroes or Nicola's art. Can't wait to see the finished book.

DC NATION

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