



WONDER WOMAN

75¢

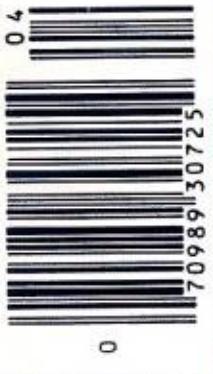
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APR. 85

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
CDA
AUTHORITY

YOU'VE SEEN HIM HERE FIRST!
THE NEW ATOMIC KNIGHT!

ONLY WONDER WOMAN DEFIES
HIS VERY FIRST MISSION!



**AGAIN THE FROZEN
EARTH IS SUNDERED!**

**THE TUNDRA HEAVES JUST
AS IT DID THREE QUARTERS
OF A CENTURY AGO!**

BUT NOW ITS
REPERCUSSIONS
WILL BE FELT--

--AROUND
THE WORLD...!

HOLD ON! HOLD ON,
I'M COMING!

GAM GAM GAM

IT'S SIX O'CLOCK IN
THE MORNING! WHAT'S-- MICHELLE--!?

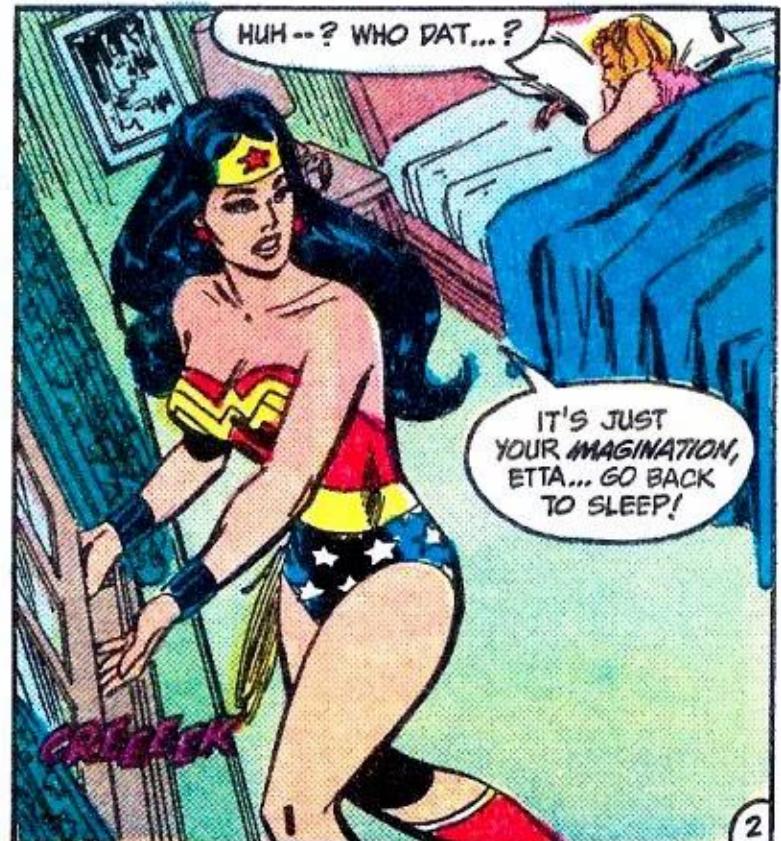
**MS. ABERNATHY,
IT WAS AWFUL!
ELOISE, MARK
EVERYBODY...!
THEY'RE GONE!**

I WAS WITH HER-- AND MARK AND KEVIN LAST NIGHT! WE WERE HIDING OUT IN KEVIN'S FATHER'S STORE... BUT THEY FOUND US!

ELOISE WAS
ONLY TRYING TO
PROTECT HIM!

**PROTECT WHOM?
WHO FOUND YOU?**

IT WAS THE
ALIENS! THEY
WERE AFTER
GLITCH!



FROM THE TRANQUIL SHORES OF PARADISE ISLAND
CAME DHANA, PRINCESS OF THE AMAZONS, TO
BATTLE EVIL IN THE WORLD OF MEN! STRONGER
THAN HERCULES AND SWIFTER THAN MERCURY...
WISE AS ATHENA AND BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE,
SHE CHAMPIONS JUSTICE AS...

STEVE SIGNALLED IN THE NIGHT
BY MENTAL RADIO THAT
HE WAS TAKING THE
ROBOT PLANE...

...LEAVING ME WITH
ONLY MY OWN POWER
TO FLY BY!

WONDER WOMAN



STILL, AEOLUS HAS
GRANTED STRONG WINDS
TO BEAR ME SWIFTLY TO
MY DESTINATION!

BUT NOT ALL THE GODS
AND SPIRITS LOOK WITH
FAVOR ON THE HEROES
OF THIS WORLD!

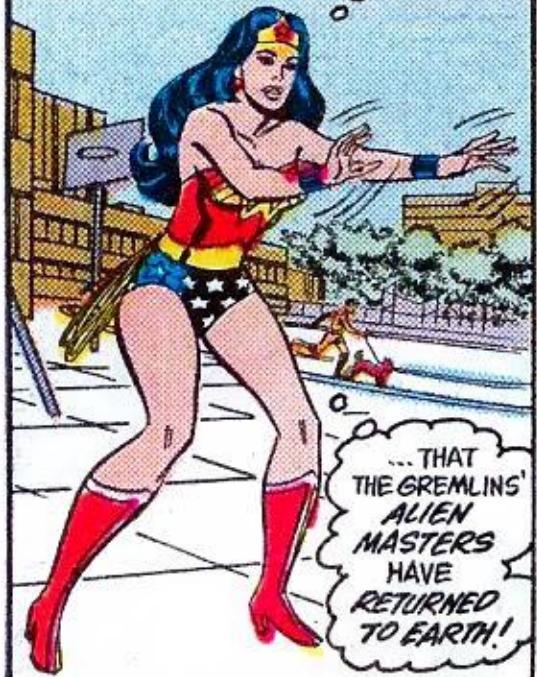
THE HEAVENS BEQUEATH ONLY
TORMENT TO SOME-- SUCH AS
THE MAN WHOSE FATE IT IS
TO SUFFER...

The Cassandra Complex!

Don Mischaia • Don Heck • Ben Oda • Nansi Hoolahan • Alan Gold
WRITER ARTIST LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR

SHORTLY...

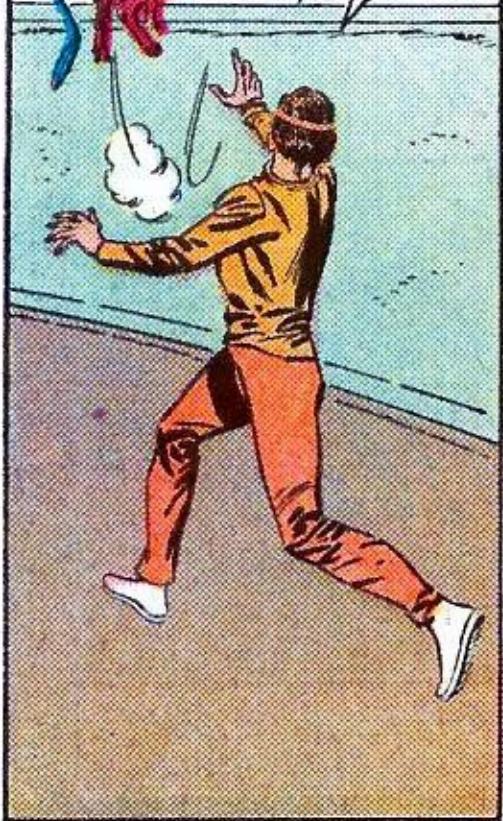
IF GLITCH IS STEVE'S GREMLIN FRIEND, THE STORY MICHELLE TOLD CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING...

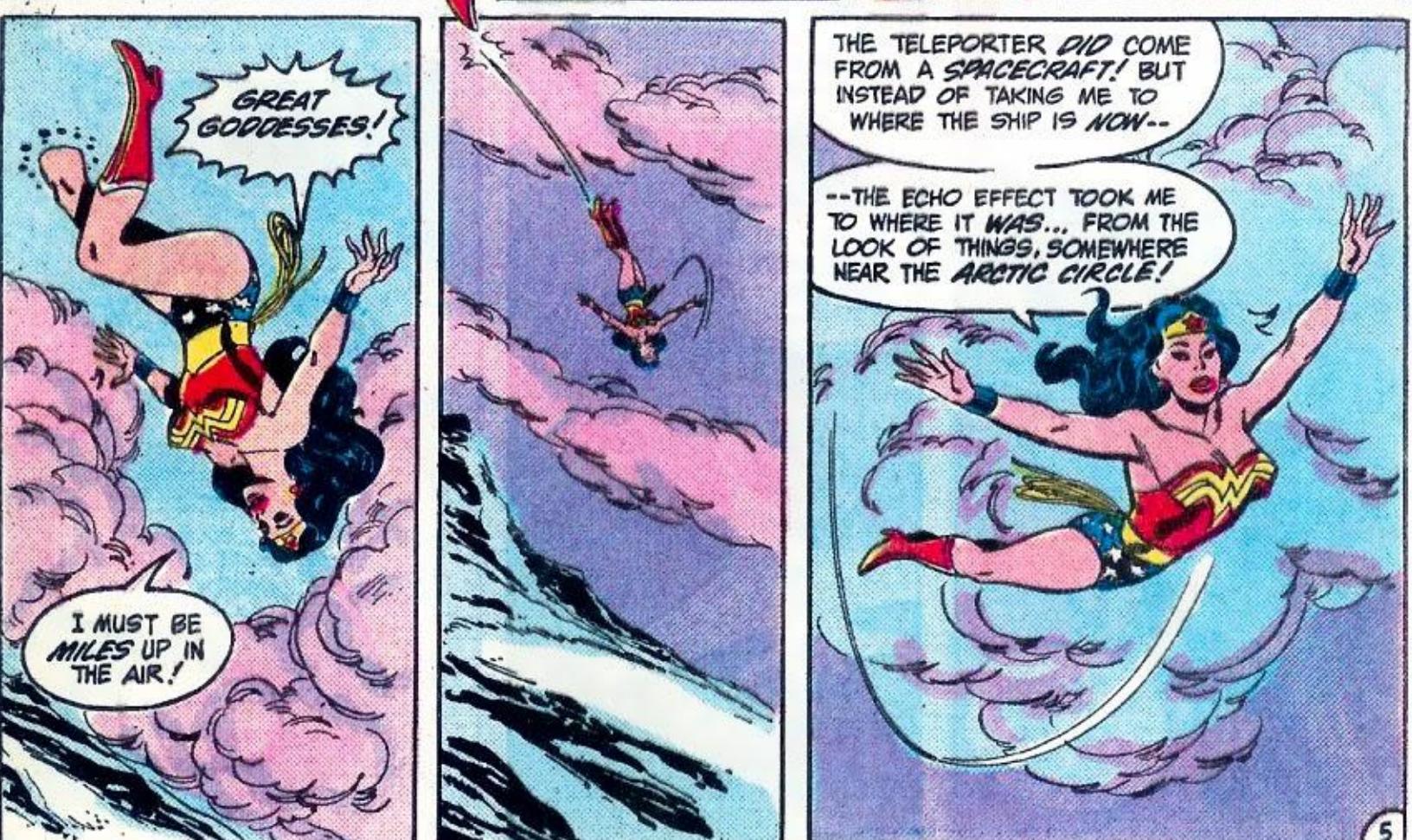


... THAT THE GREMLINS' ALIEN MASTERS HAVE RETURNED TO EARTH!



-- THE AFTER-EFFECT OF THE ALIENS' TELEPORTATION BEAM!





BUT WITH ANY LUCK, THE ALIENS ARE STILL CLOSE BY AND--

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, ROBOT PLANE? YOU DON'T GENERATE HEAT FOR THEM TO TRACK--

-- AND YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE INVISIBLE TO THE EYE AND TO RADAR...

STEVE?!

... BUT THOSE MIGS ARE SURE ACTING LIKE THEY CAN SEE US!

IN A SENSE THEY CAN, STEVE! I BELIEVE THE RUSSIANS HAVE DEVELOPED A MEANS OF DETECTING AIRCRAFT--

-- BY OBSERVING THE AIRFLOW AROUND THEM!

YOU MEAN THEY'RE WATCHING OUR SLIPSTREAM? THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN HIDE THAT!

BUT UNFORTUNATELY NOT FASTER THAN THEIR MISSILES!

IT'S A GOOD THING WE'RE FASTER THAN THEY ARE!

THOSE ARE "SMART" MISSILES, STEVE...

WEEEE
EHREEEE

THEIR COURSES ARE GUIDED BY THE SAME COLLECTION SYSTEM THE PILOTS ARE USING!

SO NO MATTER WHAT SENSITIVE ACTION I TAKE...

THEY FOLLOW.

THEN UNLESS I'VE GOT
A GUARDIAN ANGEL
LOOKING OUT FOR
ME, WE'RE--

THE MISSILES--
THEY'VE VEERED
AWAY!

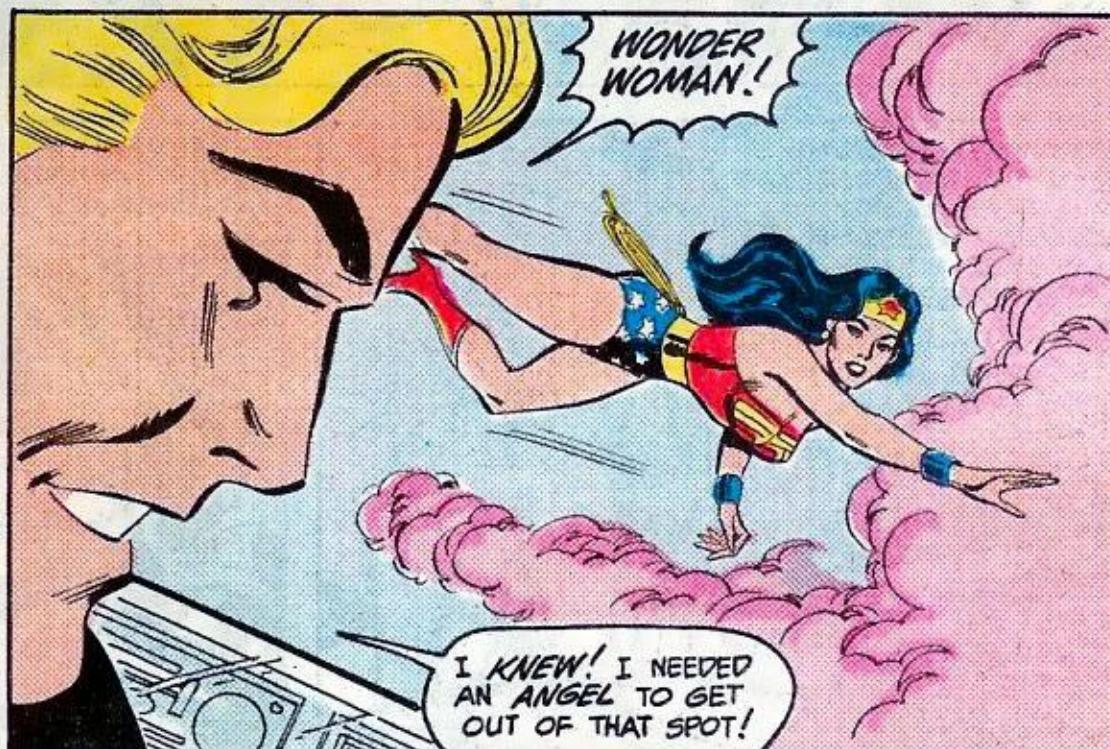
THEY'RE FOLLOWING
THE PATH OF THAT--
THAT GIANT SNOWBALL!
BUT WHERE--?



HUH?!?



FA-WHOOM!



AND SOON--

INVADING SOVIET
AIRSPACE, STEVE?
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY
WORTH THE RISK?

BUT THEN WE REALIZED IT WAS
LOCATED IN THE TUNGUSKA
REGION -- THE SAME PLACE AS
THE MYSTERIOUS BLAST
OF 1908!

THE U.S. AND THE USSR
BOTH BELIEVE THAT BLAST
WAS CAUSED BY THE CRASH
OF A NUCLEAR-POWERED
SPACECRAFT!

THERE WAS A
HUGE EXPLOSION
IN SIBERIA LAST
NIGHT... WE THOUGHT
IT MIGHT BE A
BOMB TEST--

--OR MAYBE ANOTHER
ACCIDENT AT A MAJOR
WEAPONS FACILITY!

AND YOU AND I KNOW
WHICH SPACECRAFT
THAT HAD TO BE!



THE GREMLINS!!!



WHILE THE AMAZING AMAZON
AND COLONEL STEVE TREVOR
SIFT THROUGH THE FACTS--

... THERE IS ANOTHER WHO HAS
ALREADY TURNED FACTS INTO
FORECAST...

... AND DETERMINED HIS
COURSE OF ACTION!

THIS BATTLE SUIT
I TOOK FROM
S.T.A.R. LABS*
IS TREMENDOUS!

*SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH -- A.I.B.N.

ITS JET PACK HAS TAKEN
ME OVER THE POLE IN THE
TIME IT TAKES TO DRIVE
AROUND THE WASHINGTON
BELTWAY!

... AND THAT'S LUCKY FOR
ME BECAUSE I'LL NEED
EVERY MOMENT.

IF MY PREDICTIONS ARE
ACCURATE, THE AMERICANS
WILL HAVE ALREADY
ENTERED RUSSIA IN
RESPONSE TO THE
ALIEN THREAT!

AND THAT'S ONLY
ONE OF MANY
POSSIBLE EVENTS
IN THIS SCENARIO--

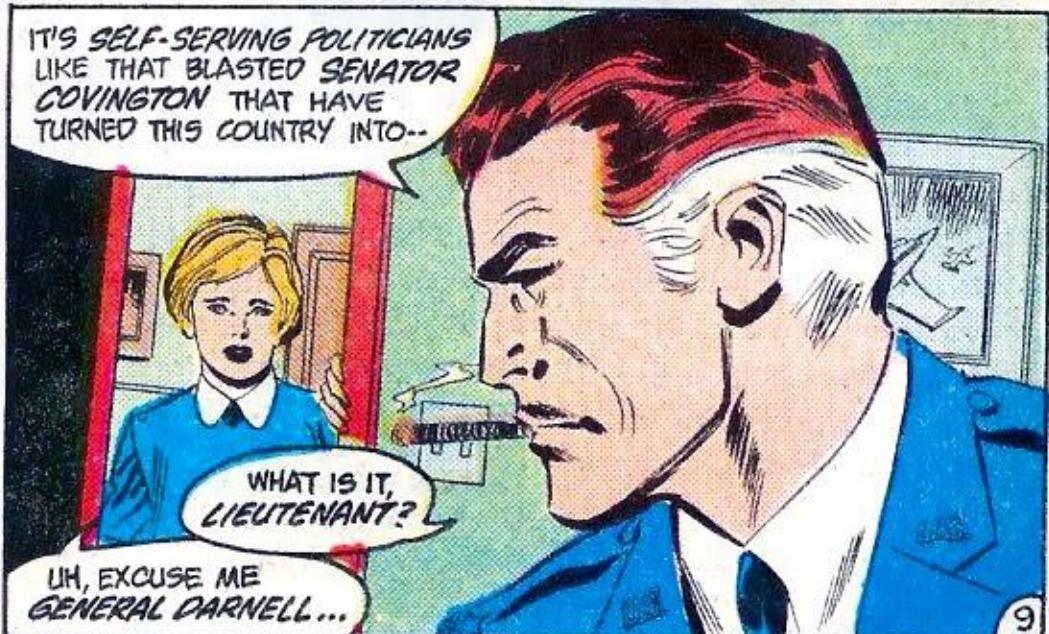
-- THAT COULD TRIGGER
NUCLEAR CATASTROPHE...
AND WORLD WAR THREE!

BUT ONLY YOU AND I BELIEVE
THAT, MORTAL -- AND SO SHALL
IT EVER BE!

WHA--?! YOU AGAIN!
CASSANDRA!

DON'T YOU SEE -- ? THAT'S WHY I'M DOING
THIS! IF NO ONE WILL ACCEPT THE
WORD OF GARNER GRAYLE...

... THEN ONLY THE ATOMIC
KNIGHT CAN SAVE THE
WORLD!



YOU ASKED ME TO TELL YOU
WHEN LIZA ABERNATHY
ARRIVED.

YES -- SHOW
HER IN.



LET ME GET STRAIGHT
TO THE POINT, GENERAL
DARNELL! I WAS FRANKLY
DISMAYED TO HEAR ABOUT
LISA'S DAUGHTER...

... TO LEARN THAT SHE
LEFT THIS OFFICE
FOR A DRINK OF
WATER AND THEN
VANISHED!



I WAS ABOUT TO TELL MS.
ABERNATHY THAT WE'VE PUT
EVERY AVAILABLE RESOURCE
TO WORK IN FINDING LITTLE ELOISE.

THAT WON'T BE GOOD
ENOUGH, GENERAL...
NOT NOW THAT WE
KNOW SHE WAS
STOLEN AWAY BY
SOME SORT OF ALIEN
MONSTER--



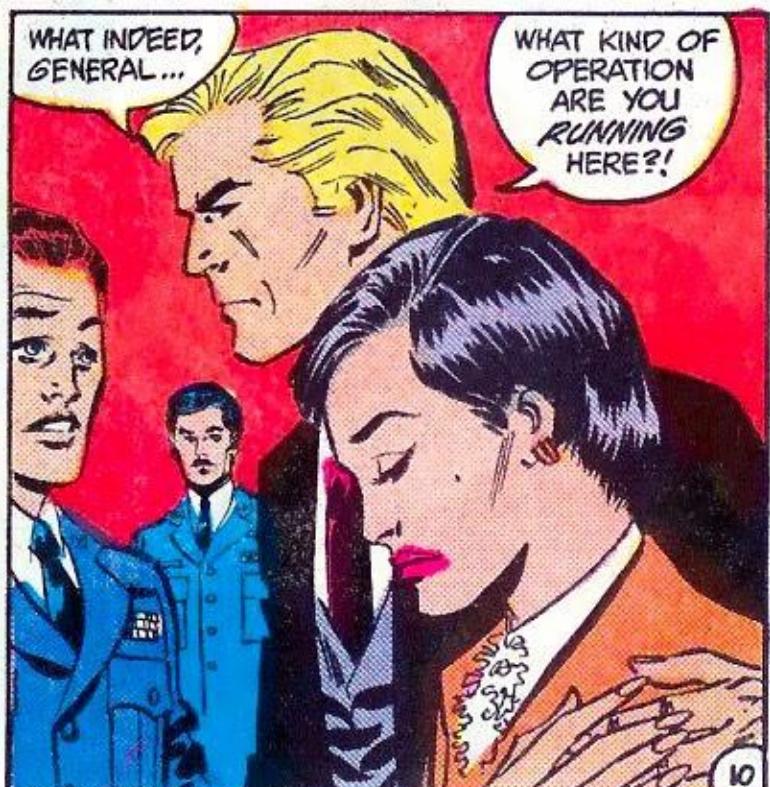
-- WHO'S UP TILL NOW BEEN
THE COMPANION OF YOUR
COLONEL TREVOR!

WHAT?!



WHAT INDEED,
GENERAL...

WHAT KIND OF
OPERATION
ARE YOU
RUNNING
HERE?!



WHILE...

I HADN'T MADE THE CONNECTION THAT THE SHIP THE GREMLINS STOLE FROM THEIR ALIEN MASTERS CAUSED THE TUNGUSKA DISASTER!

PROBABLY WHEN THEY JETTISONED THE NUCLEAR FUEL!

AND NOW THAT THE ALIENS HAVE RETURNED, THEY --

BUT WAIT... WHAT CAUSED YESTERDAY'S EXPLOSION?

THAT'S WHAT THE RUSSIANS ARE WONDERING, TOO! THEY'RE COMPLETELY IN THE DARK... AND SCARED!

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, STEVE?

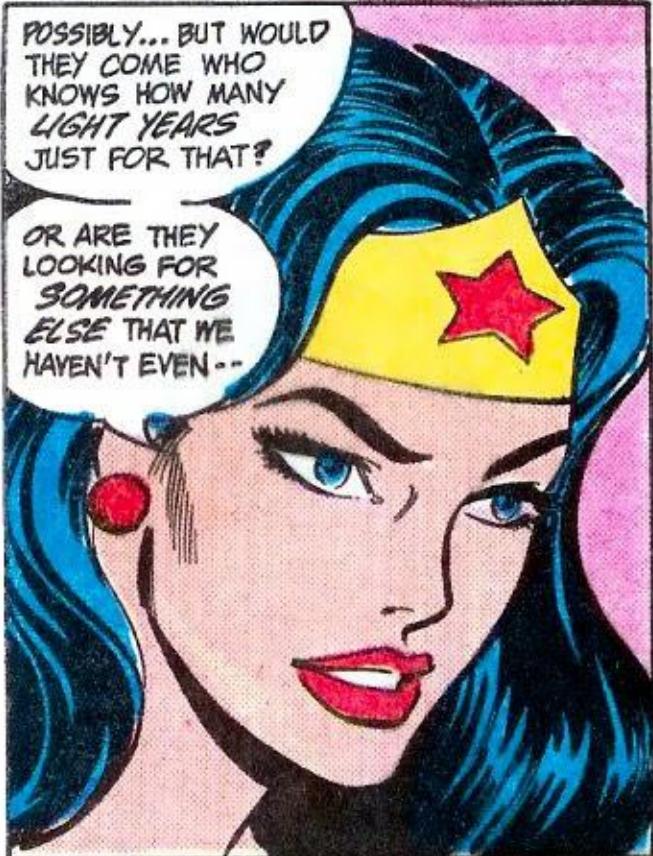
THROUGH YOUR MENTAL RADIO... MY LITTLE BUDDY RIGGED IT TO MONITOR ALL TYPES OF BROADCASTS!

AND SINCE IT WORKS TELEPATHICALLY, I DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO KNOW RUSSIAN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY WERE SAYING!



POSSIBLY... BUT WOULD THEY COME WHO KNOWS HOW MANY LIGHT YEARS JUST FOR THAT?

OR ARE THEY LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE THAT WE HAVEN'T EVEN --



YOU FOOLS! YOU
DON'T REALIZE
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING!

...AND I REFUSE TO LIVE
THROUGH THAT AGAIN!

THERE'S NO WAY FOR
YOU TO BREAK OUT OF
THE STASIS FIELD, BUT
I WILL LET YOU
LEAVE IT IF YOU'LL
HEAD BACK TO
THE STATES!

YOUR INTERFERENCE
WILL ONLY BRING ABOUT
MAN'S WORST NUCLEAR
NIGHTMARE...

IT'S WORKING! THE
BATTLE SUIT'S SOLAR
POWER CELLS WERE
DESIGNED TO OPERATE
EVEN UNDER THE REDUCED
LIGHT CONDITIONS OF
NUCLEAR WINTER...

AND IN THIS
SITUATION,
ITS POWER IS
ALMOST
LIMITLESS!

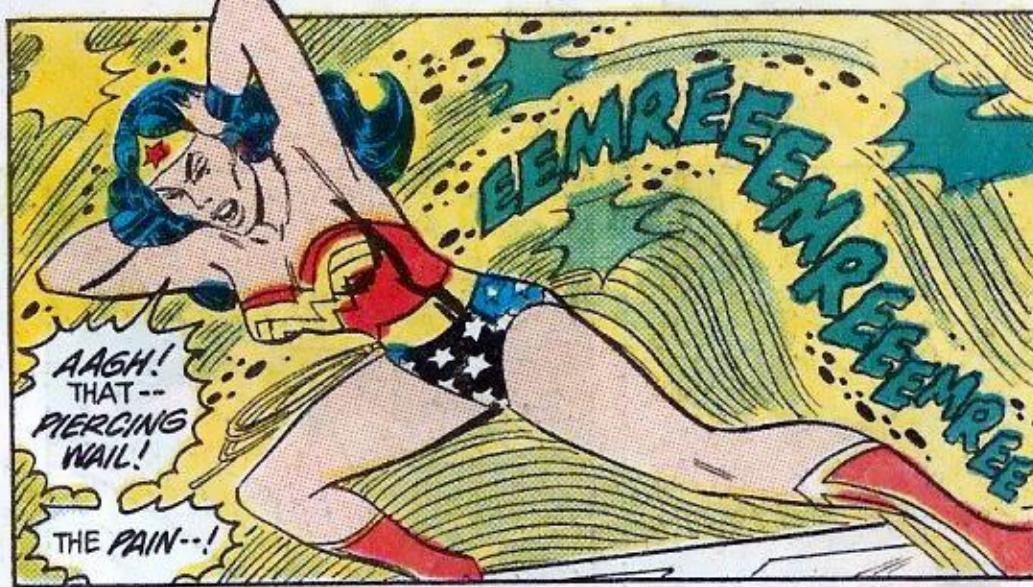
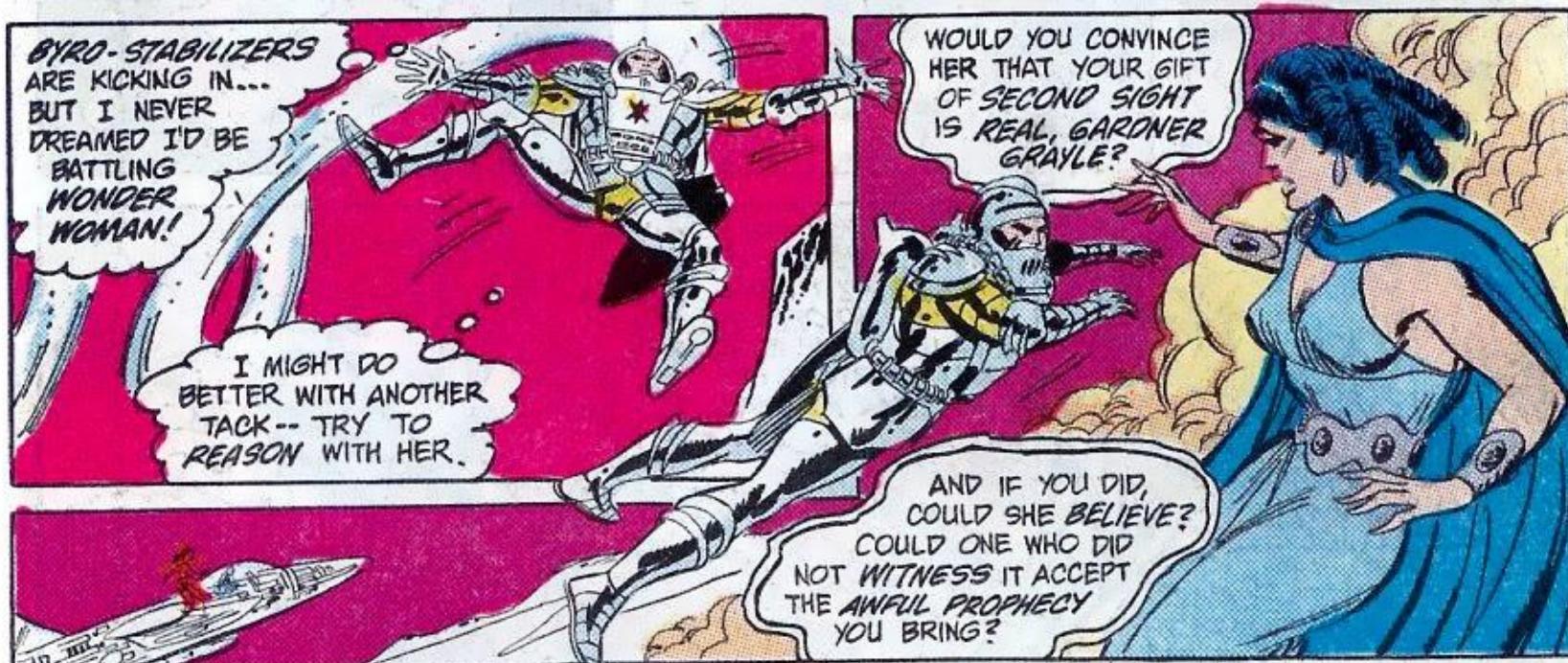
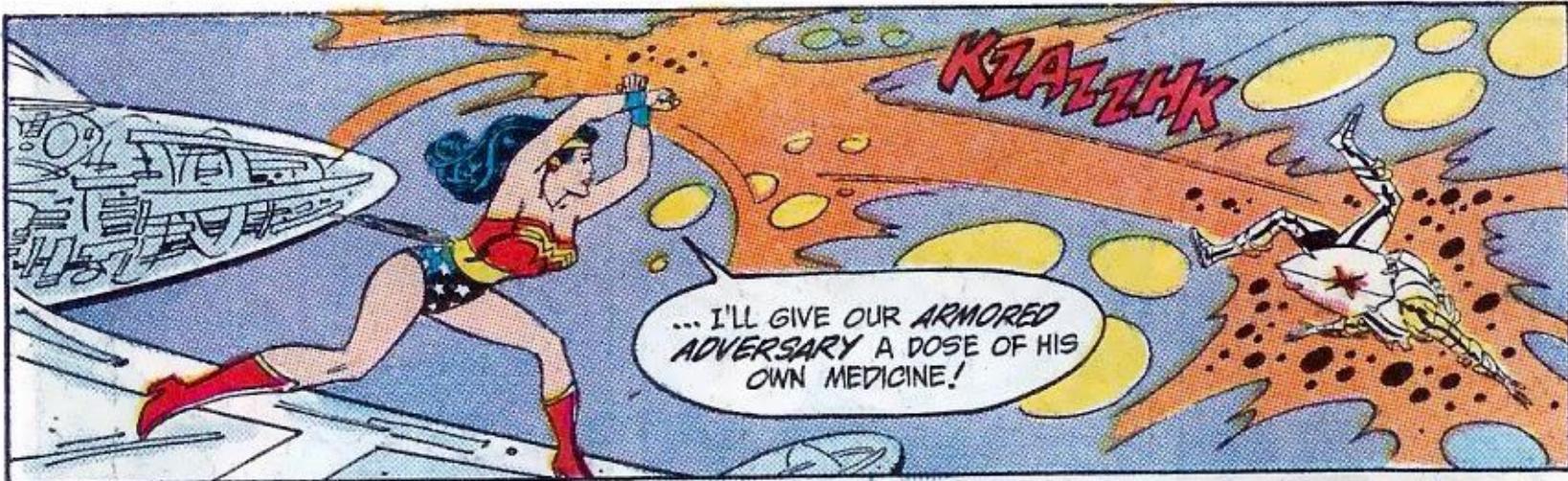
HAVE YOU GOT ANY
IDEA WHO THAT
LOONYBIRD IS,
ANGEL?

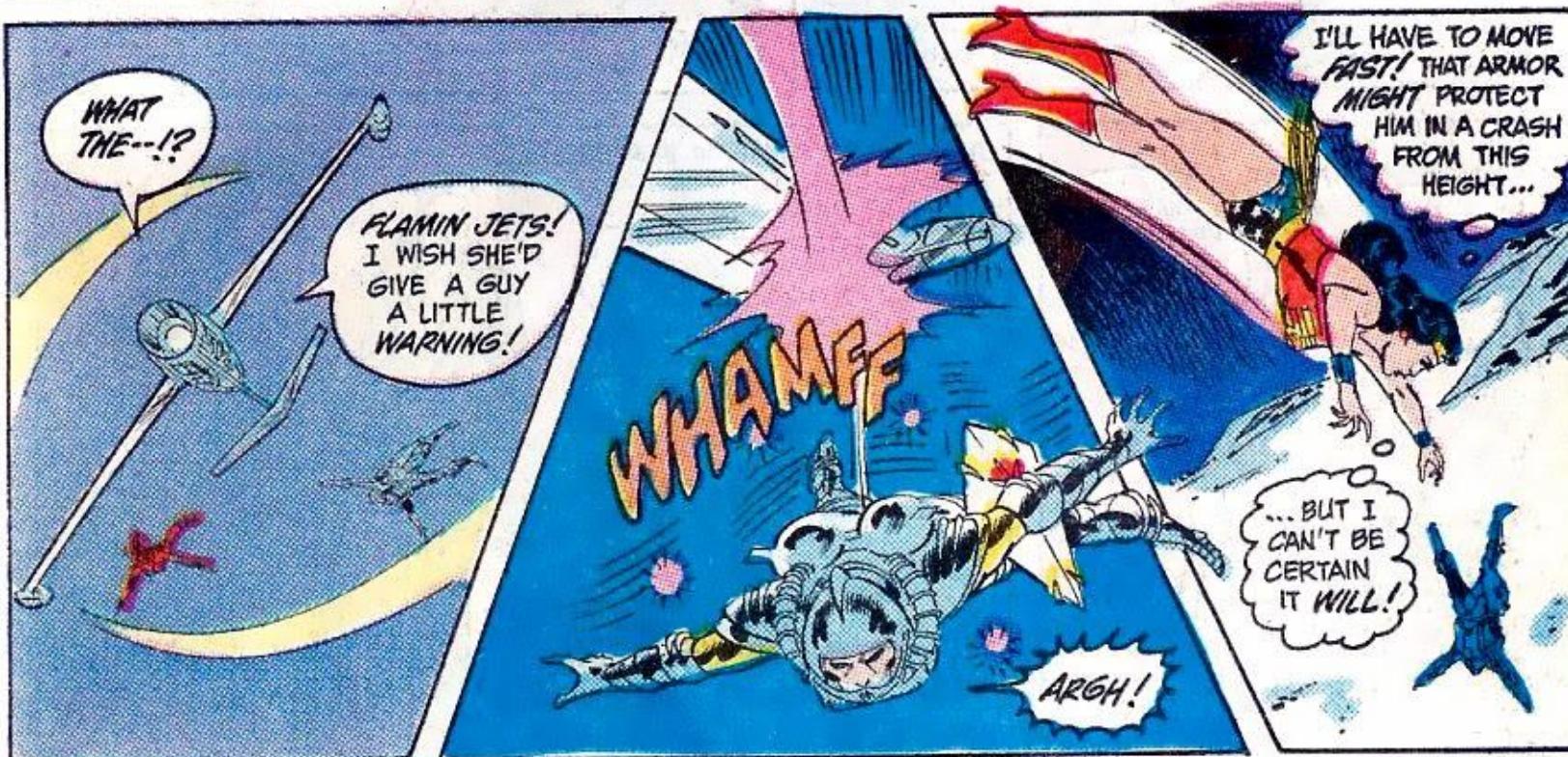
I'M NOT SURE WHAT THIS
"STASIS FIELD" CONSISTS
OF, BUT I MIGHT BE ABLE
TO DIRECT ITS ENERGIES
MYSELF --

NO--BUT I
INTEND TO FIND
OUT! TAKE
OVER THE
CONTROLS,
STEVE!

--BY USING
MY AMAZON
BRACELETS
AND MY BODY
AS A
MAKESHIFT
LIGHTNING
ROD!

AND IF I CAN
WITHSTAND THE
SURGE OF POWER
LONG ENOUGH...





I--I'M SORRY I HAD TO FIGHT YOU, WONDER WOMAN -- BUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT STOPPING YOU WERE TOO HORRIBLE!

IT COULD MEAN THE END OF THE WORLD!



YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T SIMPLY TAKE YOUR WORD ON THAT!



HA HA--OF COURSE.
IT'S JUST THAT SHE'S PUT HER FINGER ON THE PROBLEM... NO ONE WILL TAKE MY WORD!

I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF PROPHECY, BUT WITH IT CAME A CURSE...

...THAT MY PREDICTIONS WOULD NEVER BE BELIEVED!



JUST LIKE CASSANDRA IN ANCIENT TIMES... THAT WAS SHE YOU WERE TALKING TO?

YES -- SHE'S BEEN TAUNTING ME SINCE I GOT THE POWER!
MISERY LOVES COMPANY, I GUESS!



BUT HOW DID YOU COME BY YOUR ABILITIES?

THE SECOND SIGHT? IT WAS THE RESULT OF A COMPUTER SIMULATION EXPERIMENT I WAS A GUINEA PIG FOR... TEST TO SEE HOW

WELL SOLDIERS COULD FUNCTION AFTER AN ATOMIC HOLOCAUST!*



BUT THE WHOLE THING WENT AWRY! I WAS TRAPPED IN A STRANGE HEROIC FANTASY, LEADING A BAND OF ATOMIC KNIGHTS*...

... AND AFTER I WAS FREED, MY BRAIN'S LONG INTERACTION WITH THE COMPUTERS LEFT ME WITH PREDICTIVE CAPABILITIES!



*SEE DC COMICS PRESENTS #57 -- Alan.

*IN THE CLASSIC STRANGE ADVENTURES SERIES -- A.

HEY, I'D LOVE TO
HEAR THE REST OF THIS,
BUT I'M AFRAID I'VE GOT
A PREDICTION OF
MY OWN!

OUR GEESE
ARE ABOUT TO BE
COOKED!

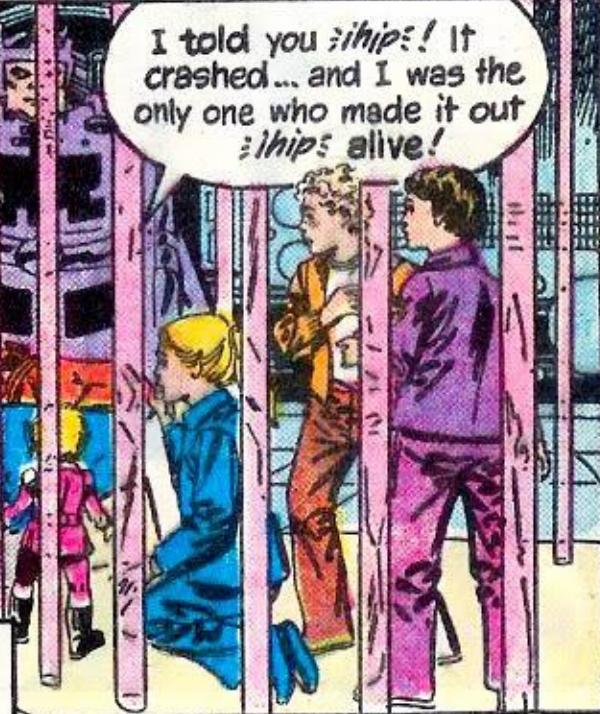


AND MORE THAN TWENTY
THOUSAND MILES STRAIGHT
UP ...

FOR THE FINAL
TIME L:FH'
GIFTBYF#D...

...WHAT DID YOU :HRRRH: DO WITH
THE STOLEN
STAR-
CRUISER?

I told you :hip!: It
crashed... and I was the
only one who made it out
:hip: alive!



THEN WHERE IS THE
WRECKAGE THAT WE
HAVE JOURNEYED
:HARRH: SO FAR
TO FIND!?

Gee, I dunno...
Yeowtch!

I was in suspended animation
:hip: until the ice floated
south and melted!

But what I wanna know
:hip: is how come there
aren't any other gremlins...



See, I spent a
few decades
frozen in a
block of ice!



I read it
in a comic
book! Just
play along--
they'll believe
:hip: anything!

--I mean,
L:fh'gsft
gyyf#ds
on board
this ship!



YOUR FELLOW WORKER CREATURES :HRRRE:
REBELLED AGAINST
US! THEY LEFT
FOR A WORLD
THAT WE HAVE
NOT YET
LOCATED!

They :ihip:
did?! That's--

That's, um--terrible!

And after all the
nice things you
Ytfirflirks did for
us, too :ihip!?

So you came all this way without
any of my guys to keep
the ship running okay--

Just for one
crashed
cruiser?

NO! WE CAME
BACK FOR THE
DEVICE THAT
STARCRUISER
CONTAINED...

...THE PHLOGISTON
BOMB!

The
phlogiston
bomb?!
:ibihipe
:ihip!?

THAT'S WHAT HE
SAID, GLITCH!
NOW IF YOU
DON'T MIND...

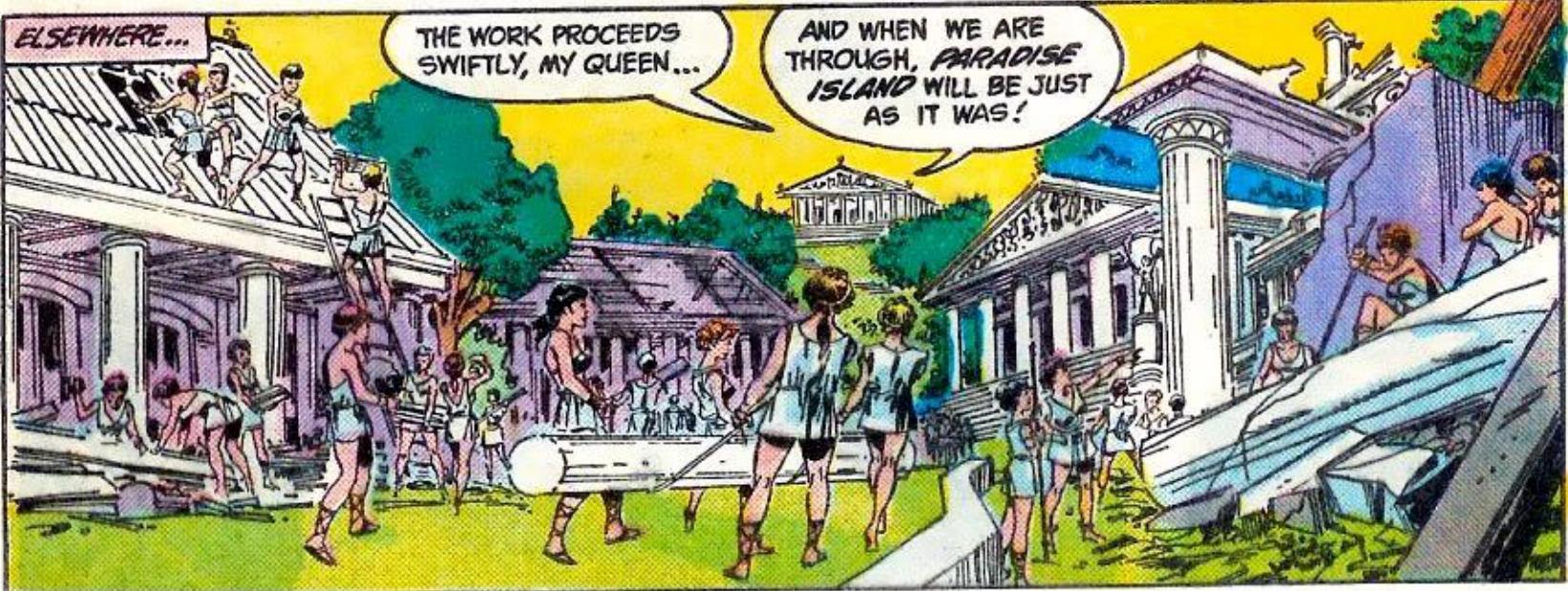
Right :ihip!?
Sorry.

Listen, Mr.
Commander,
sir...

It seems
to me, your
problem
here :ihip:
is qualified
technical
support...

...which :ihip:
my friends and
I would be just
delighted
to offer!

HUH?!



AND IN SIBERIA, WHOSE SEEMINGLY ETERNAL
STILLNESS HAS BEEN SHATTERED ONCE AGAIN...

«STOP! WE DON'T WISH
TO FIGHT YOU! WE
COME IN PEACE!»

«BAH! YOU MAY
SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE
FLAWLESSLY, WOMAN...»



«...BUT YOU COME DRESSED IN
THE FLAG OF THE IMPERIALIST
AMERICANS...»

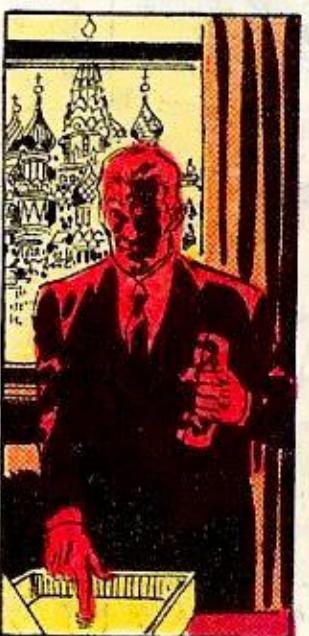
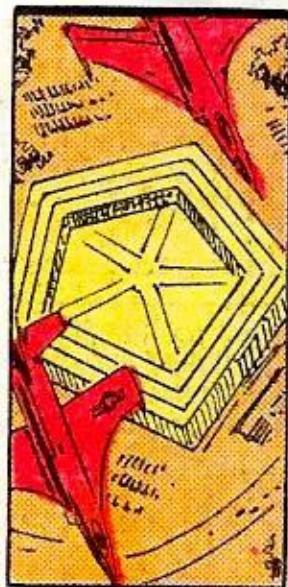
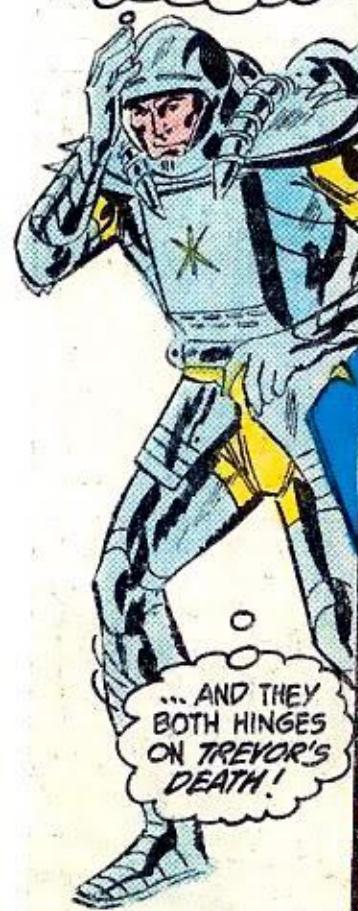
«IT DOESN'T
MEAN...»

«...WITH AN AMERICAN
OFFICER AT YOUR SIDE!»

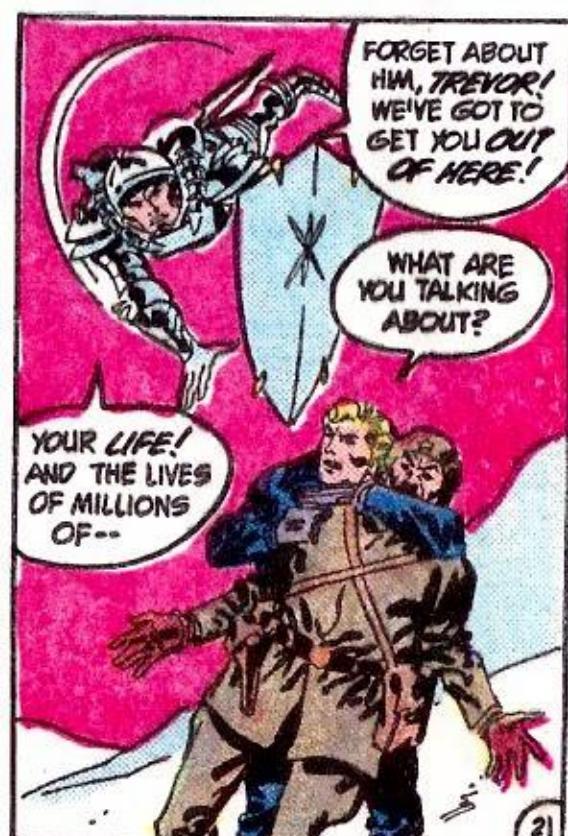
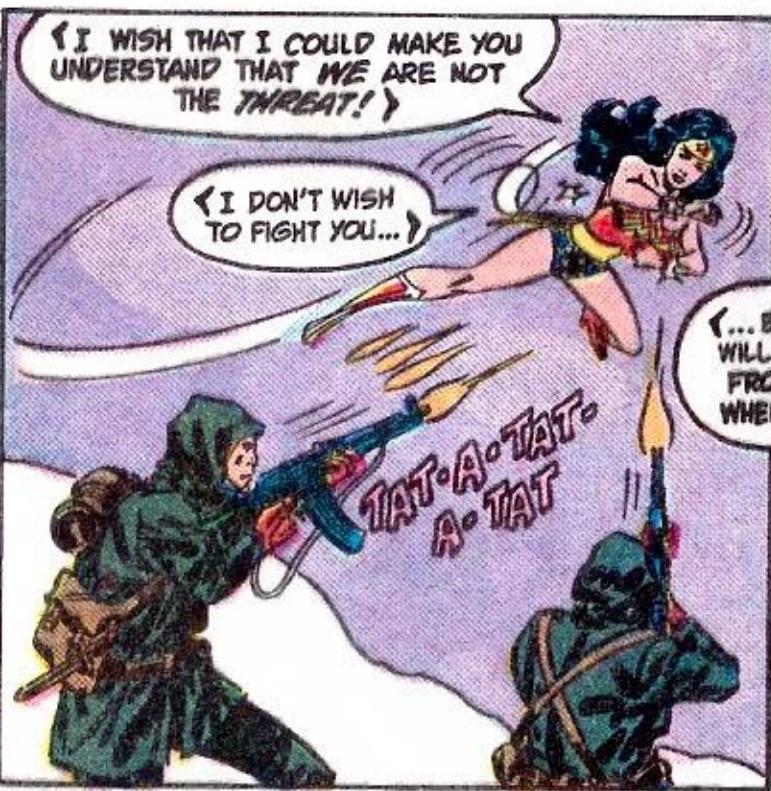
«AND I PRESUME YOUR
OTHER COMRADE DOES
NOT WEAR ARMOR
SIMPLY TO WARD
OFF THE COLD!»

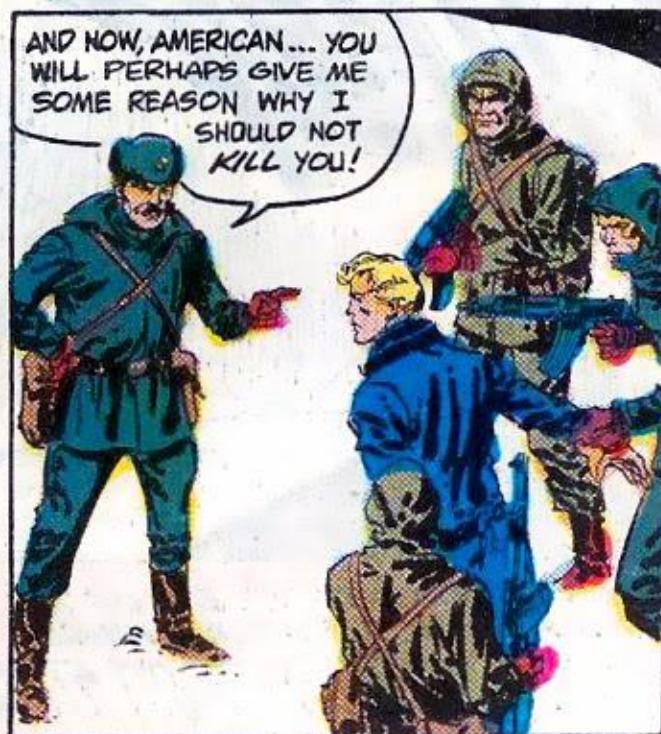
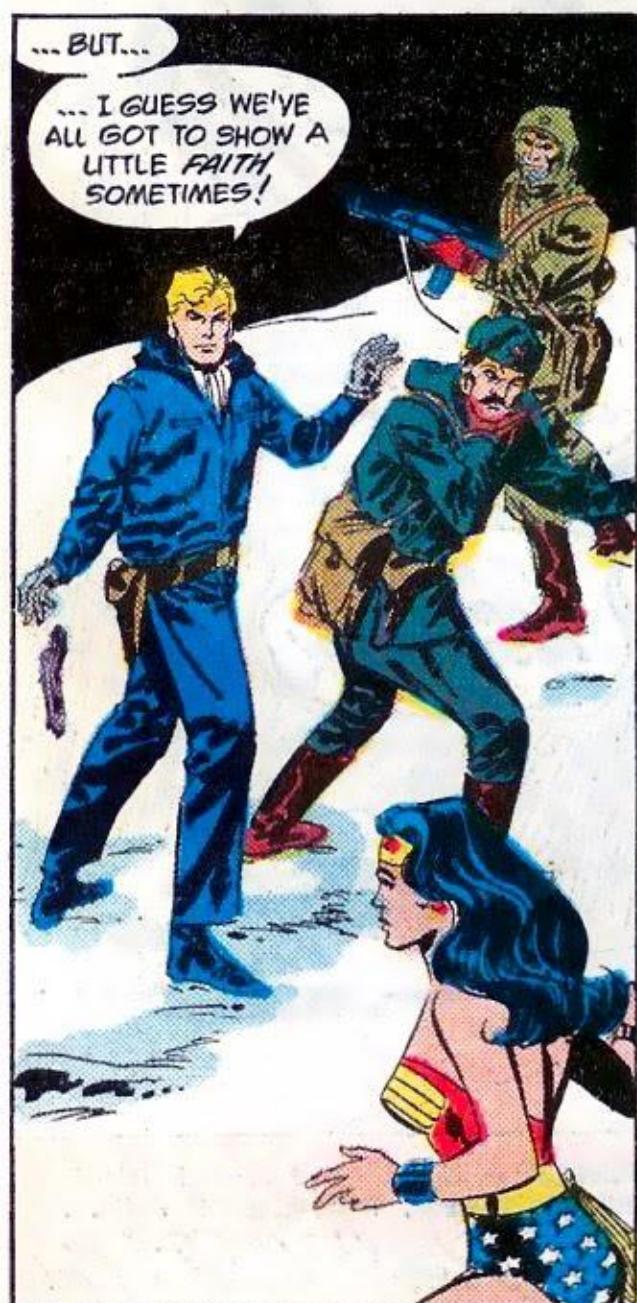
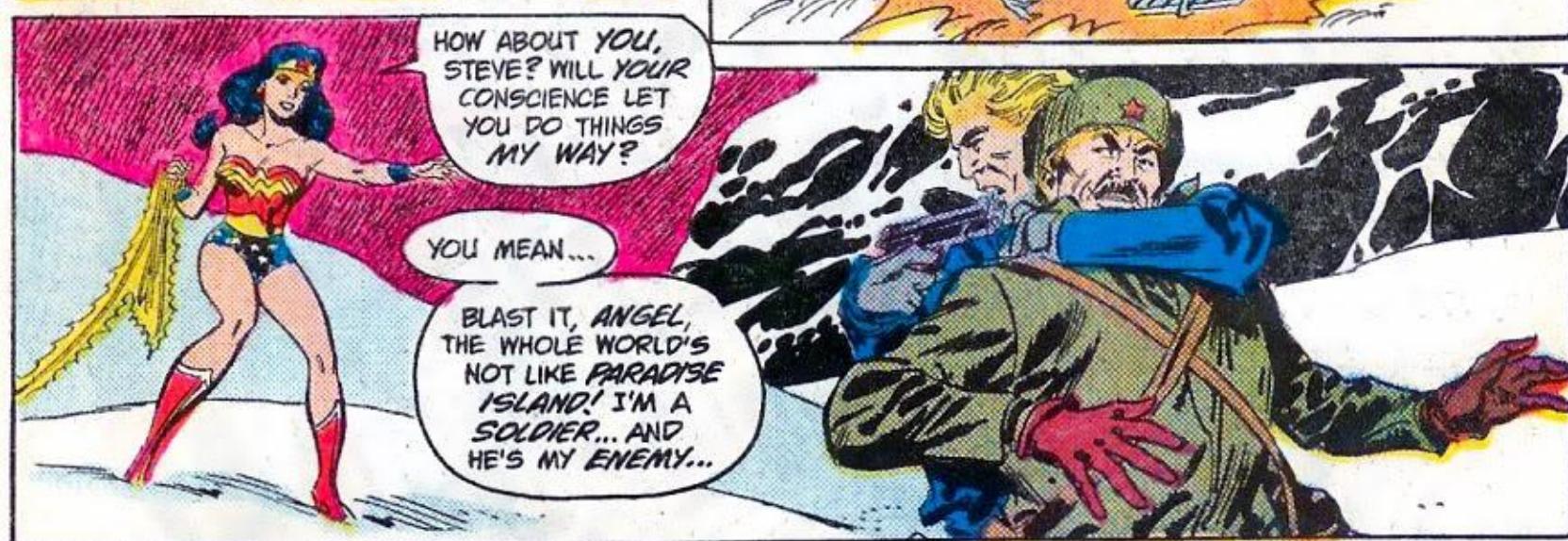
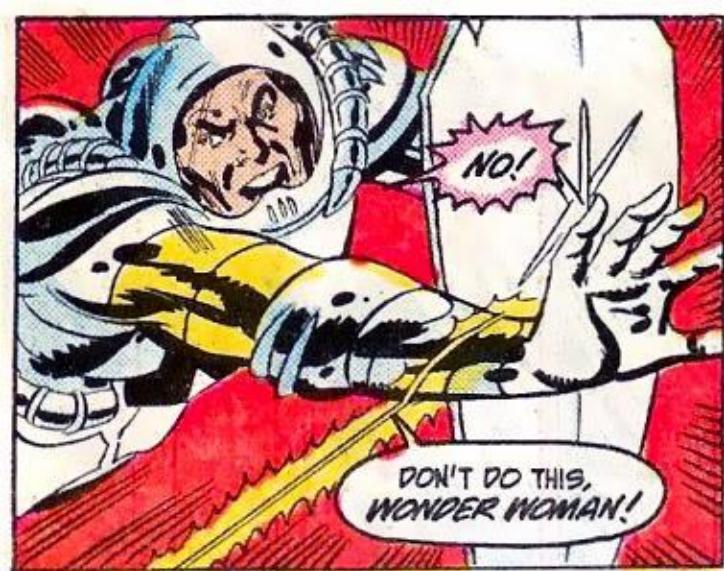
THE
PROBABILITIES
ARE STARTING
TO SHIFT...

THERE ARE STILL
MANY POSSIBLE
FUTURES, BUT THE
TWO THAT SHAPE
UP AS MOST LIKELY
DON'T LOOK GOOD...









BUT THEY WILL! STEVE TREVOR
WILL DIE... AND THEN THERE'LL
BE NO STOPPING THE EVENTS
THAT I'VE PREDICT --



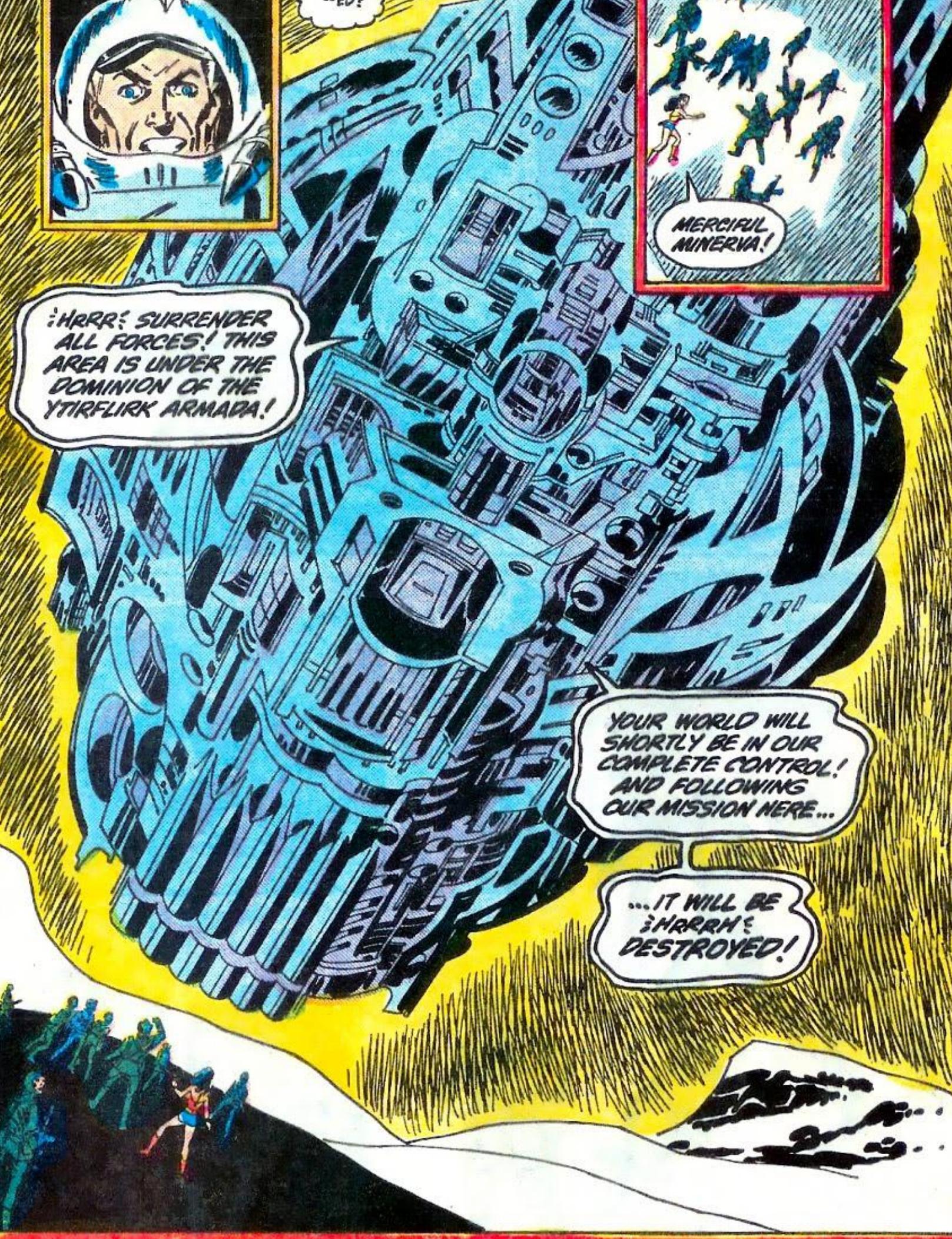
--ED?



:HRRR: SURRENDER
ALL FORCES! THIS
AREA IS UNDER THE
DOMINION OF THE
YTIRFLIK ARMADA!

YOUR WORLD WILL
SHORTLY BE IN OUR
COMPLETE CONTROL!
AND FOLLOWING
OUR MISSION HERE...

...IT WILL BE
SHRRRE
DESTROYED!



NEXT: A VERY STRONG LIKELIHOOD OF THE END OF THE WORLD -- IN AN ADVENTURE THAT
INCLUDES THE AMAZING AMAZON, THE ATOMIC KNIGHT, THE MISSIONS, THE ALIENS AND...

"THE GREMLIN FROM THE KREMLIN!"



Wonder Words

L-1884

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Dear Mr. Gold,

First, let me say that I think that Dan Mishkin's writing on this book has been quite good. He has developed the supporting characters such as Etta, Steve, and Lisa Abernathy to a much greater degree than any of the other recent writers. I now feel that Diana Prince has a life outside of the military. This is an important aspect that had almost always been lacking. But I must agree with Carol Strickland that Dan misses the boat somewhat when it comes to interpreting Wonder Woman's personality. There should be more internal conflict and outrage due to the fact that WW is a stranger to man's world. Certainly she has been here long enough to have become acclimated, but she is still an outsider. Moreover, WW has not really stressed the Amazonian ideal of love much since Dan took over the writing. Remember that Diana's mission in Man's world is not only to protect it (Man's world) from itself, but also to serve as an emissary, maybe even a missionary, for the Amazonian culture and beliefs. These days there often appears to be no real distinction between WW's thought processes and mannerisms and those of any citizen of Man's world, and that ought not to be the case as far as I am concerned. Wonder Woman has always represented love and compassion; that is why her direct antithesis and most effective villain has always been Mars, the hateful god of war. What must also be considered is the fact that Diana's decision to come to Man's world cost her dearly. It was love for Steve Trevor that spurred that decision, but it must surely be her compassion for those she has seen suffering that has kept her in the outside world. Otherwise, she surely would have high-tailed it back to Paradise Island as soon as the first flames of passion began to burn a little less brightly. Unfortunately, her compassion and feeling of love, the very ideal for which WW stands, seem to have been greatly neglected, as Dan has concentrated on the secondary characters. One final note on the current story: I'm afraid that I've come to agree with Carol Strickland that the gremlin is just a little too cute for words. Hopefully a fitting end can be thought up for the little creature so that this minor aberration in the Wonder Woman mythos can be quickly forgotten.

Well, I've gone on much longer than I'd planned, but maybe it's because I really don't want to deal with this next subject. I feel that a great deal of the

problem with WW, and more specifically fandom's perception thereof, is Don Heck's art. Personally, I think Mr. Heck is a terrific artist; his stories from WW 204-206 remain among my favorite WONDER WOMAN stories. And I'd even go so far as to say that Mr. Heck's art has improved greatly lately, and that the addition of Rick Magyar as inker has brought added subtlety to Mr. Heck's art. But I'm afraid that I'm in a very small minority when it comes to these feelings. Unfortunately, Mr. Heck is not viewed as being an artist of much merit, and certainly not one who is collectible. Therefore, a large number of fans are staying away from any book Mr. Heck draws, and in this case, that means WONDER WOMAN. I could be wrong (I hope I'm wrong), but this is most certainly the impression I have. Whatever the results and decision, please don't leave Mr. Heck without a regular assignment. I enjoy his work too much to not get to see it on a regular basis, and I'm sure that the proper vehicle must exist for his talents, one that would give him the fan acceptance that he deserves.

I hope something I've said has been of use. At the moment, I feel terrible. It seems I've done a real hatchet job. Please take these comments in the spirit they were made, that is as constructive (hopefully) criticism.

Stuart Rockafellow
Farmington, MI

Don't worry, Stuart, I thank you for your mostly very constructive comments. A lot of well-meaning fans have noted that Don Heck is doing great work on WONDER WOMAN, maybe better than anything he's done elsewhere in a long while, and then they advise me to get another artist for this comic, in the interest of fan acceptance. Well, your heart's in the right place, Stuart, but I say no dice to that. If we're doing commendable work on this comic, sooner or later, word will get around and people will suspend their prejudices long enough to give our book a gender—that's my belief. Disappointing sales for WW aren't Don Heck's fault—any more than they were attributable to the appeal of Gene Colan or Jose Delbo or any of the other artists who have drawn this series. The book has earned itself a bad rep because of much lackluster fabulation over the years. That bad rep is what we're up against, I think.

I promise you no drastic, immediate about-faces in WONDER WOMAN. They never helped this comic in the past and

they've created a stew of contradictions and confusion. Changes will be evolutionary as long as I'm the two-fisted, pig-headed, big-mouth honcho on this here book!

Dear Alan,

It was with sad heart that I read in your letter column in WW #321 of plans to reduce DC's #1 heroine's magazine to the status of a bimonthly. I understand that sales are not high, but no wonder. Look how many turnovers in the creative team responsible for WW have taken place in the last ten years. Doesn't anyone want to commit himself to the creative task at hand? Is money the only thing involved these days to inspire creative genius? We're talking about Wonder Woman! We're talking legend! Super-heroine number one! Pridel Challenge!

Yes, WONDER WOMAN is a difficult strip to write. But this move to bimonthly status is only a prelude to dumping the magazine altogether. If she needs guest stars to keep her going, add them. Wonder Woman *needs* her own full-length monthly magazine. Your staff had been moving in the right directions of late, but sharing the mag with the Huntress (a great feature!) has only slowed the necessary development of plots and characters (I like your new supporting cast, but let's not forget some of the older ones).

Build up the Wonder Woman/Hawkwoman friendship started many issues ago. They don't have to always share adventures, but meet up for a chat or something. Same with Dinah Lance or Zatanna. These are heroines she's worked with closely over the years, and she should enjoy their companionship (especially considering recent changes in the JLA). Maybe WW could run across Mera, or Kobra, or get involved in the Black Orchid mystery. There are just too many interesting story lines for our Princess to excuse a bimonthly mag. Please, somebody, rescue WW!

K. Barfield
Alpharetta, GA

There will certainly be plenty of guest stars in future issues—to encourage browsers to give the comic a chance, of course, but more to explore the storylines suggested, for example, by the friendships you've noted among DC's female characters.

Dear Dan and Alan:

I can't believe it! Pinch me if I'm dreaming! You people are actually making **WONDER WOMAN** the book that I always knew it could be! It is now interesting and the plot moves so fast that my head spins every time I read it. Now to tell you why it is interesting. Well, let me see...

1. I love what you're doing with Sofia! After she tells Wonder Woman about her forgotten memories, let her move in with Etta and Diana. This should prove for some realistic drama and predicaments about Sofia's trouble with sharing Wonder Woman's secret identity.

2. I love the idea of having a romantic quadrangle between Wonder Woman and Steve Trevor and Diana Prince and Keith Griggs. You could also make matters worse for all of them if you had General Darnell take a stand and bring a spark to his old feelings for Diana.

3. I adore the Gremlins! Please keep him! He brings a sense of humor and the touch of fantasy that WW so sorely needs right now.

4. It's time that Etta has a whole storyline for herself. Please!!! After Howard Huckleberry gets this stupid infatuation about Etta being Wonder Woman, let him really and truly fall in love with her, but have Etta have her doubts about him.

5. I just can't believe that Eros is the first Steve Trevor! With this bombshell and the news that Queen Hippolyta has tampered with her mind, I don't blame WW if she goes insane.

Tim Dingman

Dear Joey, Rod, Rick, Alan, et al.,

WONDER WOMAN #321 was the last issue of **WONDER WOMAN** that featured the Huntress. **WONDER WOMAN** #322 is the last issue I will buy of the magazine. Why? Well, originally, I bought **WONDER WOMAN** because I liked Wonder Woman, and I still do. Then the Huntress starred in the comic's back-up feature. If I had any doubts about buying WW, this cured them, since the Huntress is my favorite super-heroine. Now she's being kicked out of the magazine that she helped jet-rocket to success so as to give WW more room. Well, nowadays, WW is battling more gods (to me, there always was and will always be one God, not ten dozen gods who can be harmed by a mere mortal, like Eros was by Cyber) than super-villains. Also, the supporting cast is the worst conceived in the history of comics. Sure, Steve Trevor and Etta Candy are all right, but the rest aren't worth even mentioning, so I won't. Thus, I have come to the conclusion that if the Huntress goes, I go. But, because of the past of Diana and Steve finally being cleared up, and because of Eros' last remark that he was the real Steve Trevor, I'll stick around for one more issue (issue #322). After that, I'm afraid I'll have to say my final adios to you guys, which I don't want to do, since Dan Mishkin's writing skills could make Wonder Woman into a true Wonder

Woman, instead of a female Superman who battles mythological gods.

As for the Huntress herself, I'm glad that she's finally getting her just deserts, namely her own mini-series. If anyone deserves it, it's her, since she has enough foes, an interesting supporting cast, and great potential. But, as for the contents of her last adventure in **Wonder Woman**, I would like to comment on some of them. First, it surprised me to see the return of a character not worth bringing back, since she was on top all the time, but it was still interesting. Still, what really impressed me were three things. One, the Huntress was constantly being followed by Gary Minelli. This isn't very interesting, but what is, is that Minelli could prove that the Huntress wasn't the one behind all those cat-burglar crimes happening across Gotham, and to know that, he must have followed her everywhere. Thus, he probably knows the Huntress' secret identity, and thus, some interesting plotlines could be created from this. Two, none of this, however, explained who the mysterious criminal who is committing the crimes is. My bet is either (1) Helena's uncle, the Catwoman, has started his crime career all over again, or (2) Helena has a brother and/or sister who follows after the Catwoman. Then, again, Lionmane has escaped jail again, and is committing the thefts, but I doubt it, since it's not his style. I hope this mystery is answered in the new mini-series. Three, the last page almost gave me a heart attack. The Huntress is of Earth-2, right? The Teen Titans and Green Lantern are of Earth-1, right? Then what are the Monitor and Lyla doing orbiting Earth-2? I mean, they originally worked on Earth-1, sending their agents after a number of super-heroes. I have a couple answers to this question. (1) There are Earth-2 versions of the Monitor and Lyla. (2) Their satellite vibrates between Earths 1 and 2. (3) They moved from Earth-1 to Earth-2. This, too, I hope will be answered in the mini-series. By the way, how about starting the mini-series at the most two or three months after issue #321, instead of a year from now like the JSA mini-series? Well, until next issue, adios.

Mark S. Mellor
Lakewood, CO

I hope you didn't make good on your threat to leave us, Mark! Let's assume you've stuck around to hear my words of wisdom. Actually, there's not much I can say in rebuttal to your comments on **WONDER WOMAN**. Because of her origin, from time to time she comes up against mythological gods — this is fantasy entertainment, fiction, right? Many readers like her myth-oriented tales best of all. Because she's a superheroine from villain-infested Earth-1, Diana also duels it out with the likes of Cheetah and Dr. Cyber much of the time. You want her to stick exclusively to straight super-heroine stuff, but even at the risk of losing your support, Mark, I have to repeat: no can do. Dan Mishkin

has done a lot, I think, to make this book's supporting cast engaging and to keep its exploits varied, but if this comic isn't your cup of tea right now, I'm not sure I can promise you'll love it in the future — it won't be much different (just stronger tea, maybe).

As for the Huntress mini-series, Joey Cavalieri is hard at work on it now, and by the time you read this letter column, I hope to have at least the first issue penciled by a Very Well-Known Artist (if he'll only say yes — see next issue's letter column for an update). If the mini-series is well-received, Dick Giordano promises that an unlimited monthly series will follow.

Finally, a word about the Monitor. He observes all the universes simultaneously — sees the multiverse in cross-section on a planetary level. For example, all at once he sees all the Earths, all the Thanagars, all the Euphorixes (and selects the Earth or Thanagar or Euphorix to be studied), but he never sees an Earth and a Thanagar at the same instant. So he can observe Earth-2 while being physically stationed above Earth-1 (and vice versa — he does get around). Clear as mud?

NEXT ISSUE: Let's not be subtle. **WONDER WOMAN** #325 is Dan Mishkin's last effort as the writer of this comic. (How's that for directness?) Dan's leaving this assignment for two reasons. First, he is soon to be the father of a brother or sister for Grace, who's managed to keep the big guy's hands full all by her lonesome these past few years, so he wants to cut back on his workload. Second, he's been working up a couple of new projects, at least two of which should be the sensation of whatever year in which they see print — and that takes up a lot of his already limited free time.

Anyway, Dan leaves **WONDER WOMAN** after much deliberation and back-and-forth mind-changing (he couldn't leave either **AMETHYST** or **BLUE DEVIL**, both of which he helped create and shape, of course). It wasn't an easy decision for him. Finding a replacement for Dan wasn't a matter to be taken lightly, either. I think you'll be very pleased with my choice. Her name is Mindy Newell. She's a relative newcomer to DC Comics (you've seen her work in **TALES OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**, I'm sure) but an accomplished wordsmith already, with a ten-gallon-hatful of ideas about and for this comic. She and Dan worked together on **WW** #325 and 326, to ensure a smooth transition. More on this next issue.

Speaking of which... Dan calls his swan song "The Gremlin from the Kremlin," and it brings to a rousing conclusion this Glitch continuity going back to **WW** #311. Eloise and her friends do their best to make things uncomfortable for some very unpossessing aliens — and in the meantime a couple of back-burner subplots start to get awfully hot. See you in eight weeks!

—Alan

MEANWHILE...

Have you seen the **SWAMP THING ANNUAL**? How about **SPANNER'S GALAXY, CONQUEROR OF THE BARREN EARTH, JONNI THUNDER, or ROBOTECH DEFENDERS?** Or a book that's near and dear to my heart, **SUPERMAN: THE SECRET YEARS?**

You have?

Notice something different about them? How more vibrant the color seems? Must be the paper, right? Wrong! It's the same 37-pound Mando paper we've been using. What you're seeing in these books is the work of the new printing press just recently "launched" by Spartan Printing Company: the Flexographic press.

What the folks at Sparta have done (and those of you who follow Dick's **Meanwhile** columns regularly will remember a mention of this a few months back) is offer flexography as an alternative to the "normal" letterpress printing and the much higher-price offset printing. As soon as they mentioned it to us at DC, we expressed an interest in being the first to utilize the press.

A few weeks ago they called and said they were ready. We offered up our mini-series (and added some specials a short time after) and a day later yours truly was winging my way west to watch **SPANNER'S GALAXY #1** run. There were glitches in the system and some copies had to be done on the letterpress to meet shipping deadlines, but I was so pleased with the look of the book that I came back with a glowing report.

As I write this, I'm sitting on a plane on my way back from watching the **SWAMP THING ANNUAL** run. The Sparta people have worked out almost all the problems and this book looks really great. "But we're not satisfied yet," says Dick Hartman, who runs the plant. "We've got more work to do to make it even better!" By the time you read this, they'll have run some more books. (And I'll probably have "commuted" back and forth a couple more times!)

Is it worth it? Flexographic printing will be a more expensive method than letterpress, but I've been told by the

folks at the dollars and cents end of the hall that we should be able to hold the 75¢ price on the 32-page books. So, yes, it's definitely worth it to you, the reader.

And it's worth it to me as Production Manager. Why else would I work a full day in the office, spend seven hours flying from New York to St. Louis and then driving 75 miles to Sparta, spend the next day at the printing plant, and then reverse the seven-hour trip to be home just in time (it feels like) to go back to the office again tomorrow? I sure don't do it because I like feeling like I've worked a full week in 2 days!



P.S. Hey, Dick: Couldn't we change our slogan from "Where legends live" to "Where production values count"? (How about "Where the Production Manager never goes off duty"?)



Thanks, Bob, I appreciate your taking time out of your hectic schedule to give our readers an update on **FLEXOGRAPHIC**, the new (and better!) printing process made available to us by **WORLD COLOR PRESS**. I mentioned the pending arrival of **FLEXOGRAPHIC** in this column several months back. Glad I didn't lie!

Bob Rozakis is DC's production manager (although at night and on weekends Bob can be found at home, slaving over a hot typewriter, most currently as the author of the hot new mini-series **SUPERMAN: THE SECRET YEARS**). As such he is one of many who toil behind the scenes quietly, professionally, and almost anonymously, working toward the goal I aspire to in a much earlier **MEANWHILE COLUMN** ... of making comics all that they can be. We strive to make improvements in the creativity of our comics, to make them more fun (read **BLUE DEVIL** lately?), better reading (**SWAMP THING!**), better drawn (**CAMELOT #12** is out as you read this. Try Pat Broderick's **DETECTIVE** stories if you're not near a comics shop ... or **WHO'S WHO!** issue #2 should be on sale now, I think...), and just plain more entertaining! But can our comics ever really be all that

they can be without better production values? I think not. Most of the good folks here at DC feel as I do: If we're to publish comics that have a broader appeal, some aimed at an older, more sophisticated reader, we must improve the look of our comics ... even (especially!) our lowest-priced comics. So we've taken a step in that direction with **FLEXOGRAPHIC**, thanks to our own Bob Rozakis and **WORLD COLOR PRESS**'s letterpress production manager, Bob Craig.

Before you rush off to tell me what you think, let me tell you what I know.

I know:

- 1) The colors look garish.
- 2) There are holes or blotches on some of the colors.
- 3) Many of the colors don't meet the lines they're supposed to go up to, or they go over those lines.

I know... Bugs!

Every new process or technology has bugs. **FLEXOGRAPHIC** is no exception. It needs to be debugged. We've already gone a long way in the debugging process, and by the time you read this, most of the registration problems will have been solved, along with the blotchy colors. The more difficult problem will be retraining our colorists to use more subtle colors and to reduce tonal values by 25%. In the past, a colorist called for 100% red when he or she wanted a color to look like 75% red. Now with

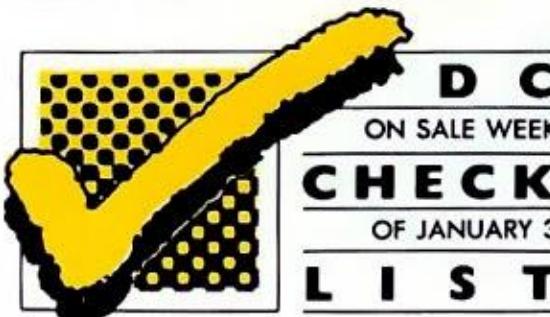
FLEXOGRAPHIC, what you ask for is what you get! Most of us have been using the old system for 30 years or so. It's going to take time to experiment and learn. And we're willing to put in the time, effort, and money to make this printing process more effective—even though at this point in time we're the only publisher doing so, and even though we know that when the system is debugged, other publishers will be able to walk in and take advantage of a superior printing process that we helped make possible by providing the books to print and the manpower to help make it work. We will—maybe by the time you read this—then we'll be another step closer to making comics all that they can be.

Thank You and Good Afternoon.



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