



WONDER WOMAN



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JOHN BYRNE

Garcia Lopez '97

WELCOME,
DIANA



ONLY MOMENTS AGO SHE WAS DEAD.

HER SOUL RAVAGED BY THE DEMON-KING NERON, HER BODY SUBJECTED TO ARCANE SCIENTIFIC PROCEDURES...

...PRINCESS DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA HAD AT LAST LET SLIP HER FRAIL AND FAILING MORTAL FORM...

...AND WOULD SURELY HAVE PASSED BEYOND THE KEN OF MORTALS FOREVER...

...HAD NOT THE ARDENT PRAYERS OF HER MOTHER, QUEEN HIPPOLYTA, REACHED OUT ACROSS INMEASURABLE DISTANCE...

...TO FIND THE EARS OF THE VERY GODS BY WHOSE ACTIONS THE AMAZONS OF PARADISE ISLAND WERE CREATED.

JOHN BYRNE
STORY, PENCILS,
INKS AND LETTERING

PATRICIA
MULVIHILL
COLORING

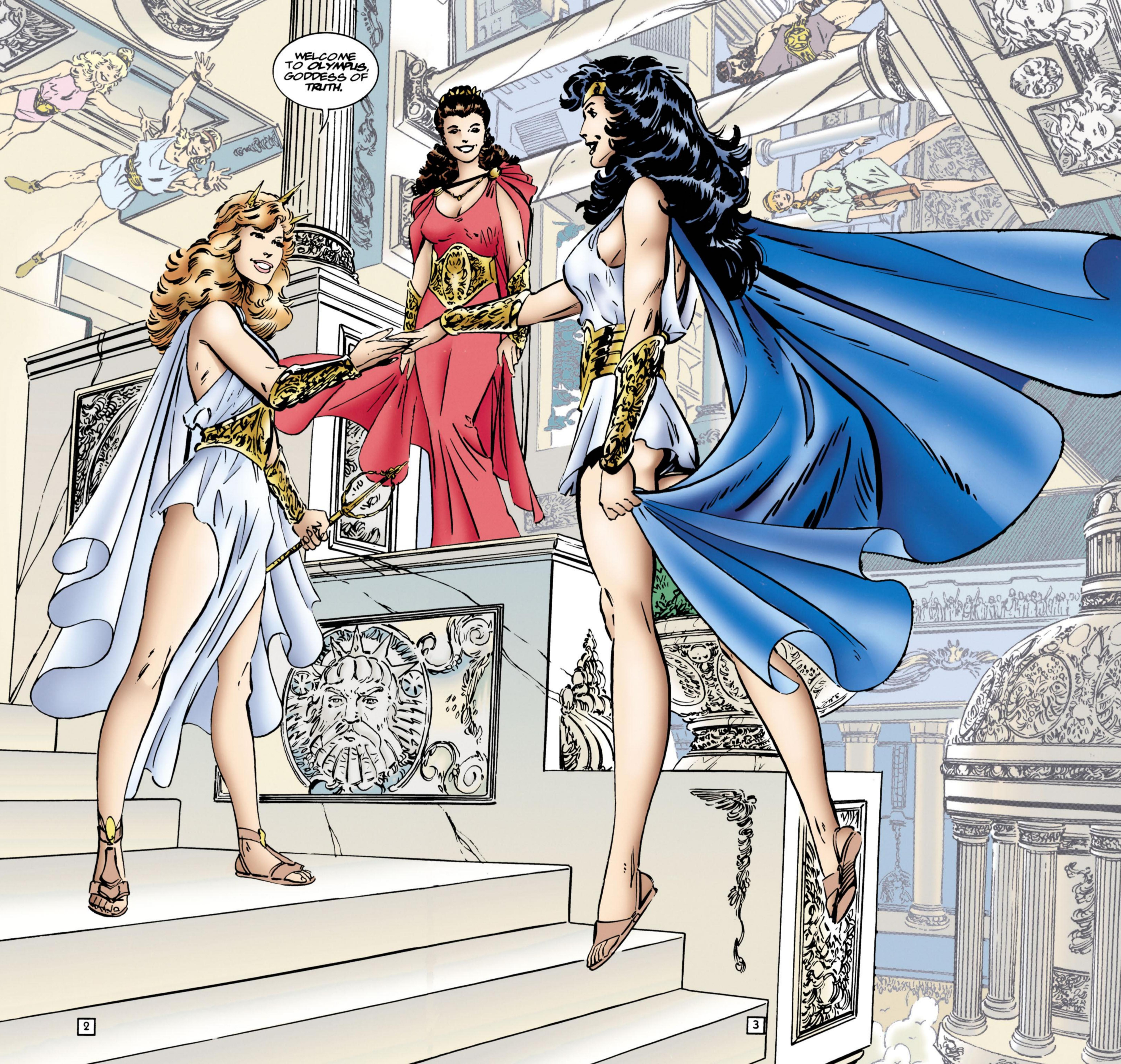
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WONDER WOMAN
CREATED BY
WILLIAM MOULTON
MARSTON

THE DEMON
CREATED BY
JACK KIRBY

WELCOME
TO OLYMPUS,
GODDESS OF
TRUTH.



WELCOME, DIANA.

YOU WILL NO DOUBT FEEL
SOME DEGREE OF
DISORIENTATION FOLLOWING
YOUR TRANSFIGURATION.

THIS WILL PASS IN TIME, AND
FOR NOW, NO GREATER
DEMANDS WILL BE MADE ON
YOU THAN THAT YOU REST
AND GROW ACCUSTOMED
TO YOUR NEW HOME.

DOES
ONE
EVER
GROW
ACCUSTOMED
TO THE
WONDERS OF
OLYMPUS,
ATHENA?

IN TIME, DIANA. AND TIME IS
SOMETHING OF WHICH YOU
NOW HAVE AN UNLIMITED
SUPPLY.

COME--WHILE HERA WAS ON
EARTH ENGINEERING YOUR
RESURRECTION, I HAVE HAD
QUARTERS PREPARED FOR
YOU NEARBY TO MY OWN.

I AM
HONOR-
ED.



IT IS NO MORE THAN YOU
HAVE EARNED, DIANA.

YOUR LIFE ON EARTH HAS BEEN SHORT, EVEN
AS MORTALS MEASURE THE PASSING DAYS...

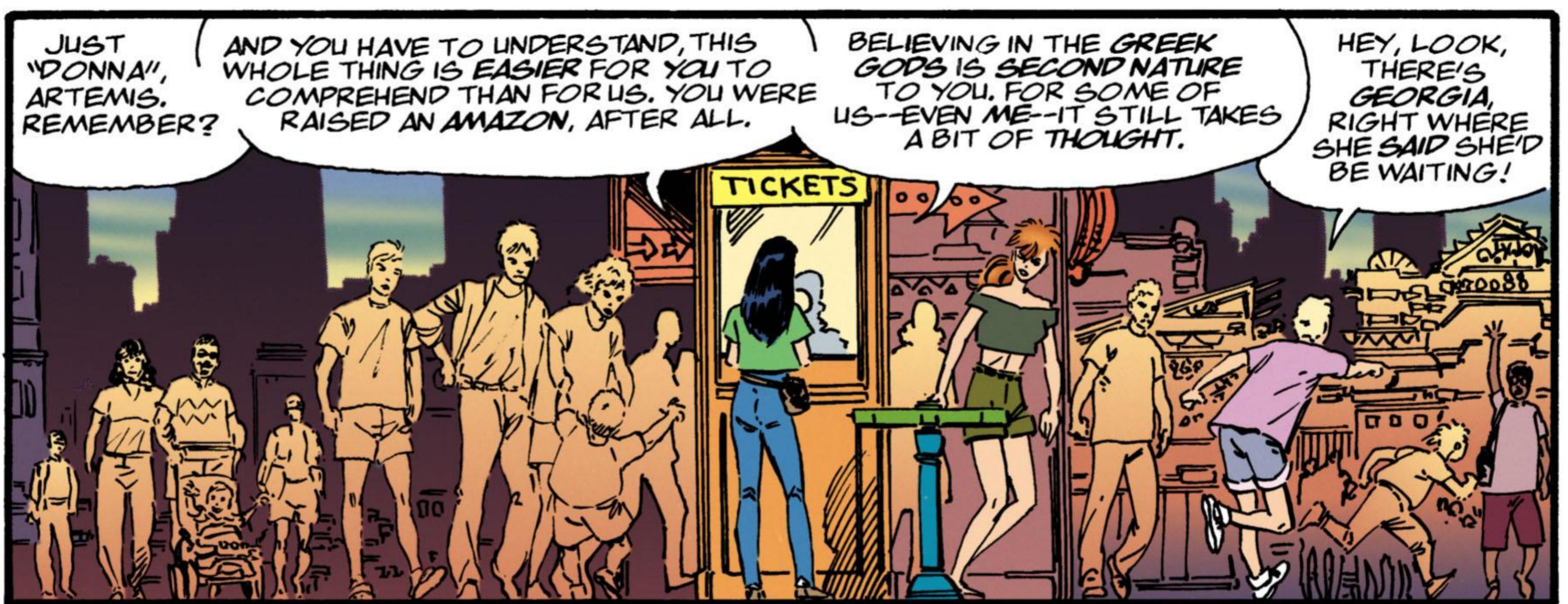
...BUT IT HAS BEEN FILLED
WITH BOLD DEEDS AND
WISE TEACHINGS.



NOW YOU
CAN SLEEP
FOR A
WHILE.

AND IF THAT SLEEP SHOULD
LAST A CENTURY, TO US
HERE ON OLYMPUS IT WILL
SEEM NO MORE THAN AN
HOUR!





WELL,
THERE'S THIS
TO START
WITH.



THIS DEMONSTRATION SEEMS PEACEFUL ENOUGH.
WHY SHOULD IT BE OF ANY CONCERN TO US?

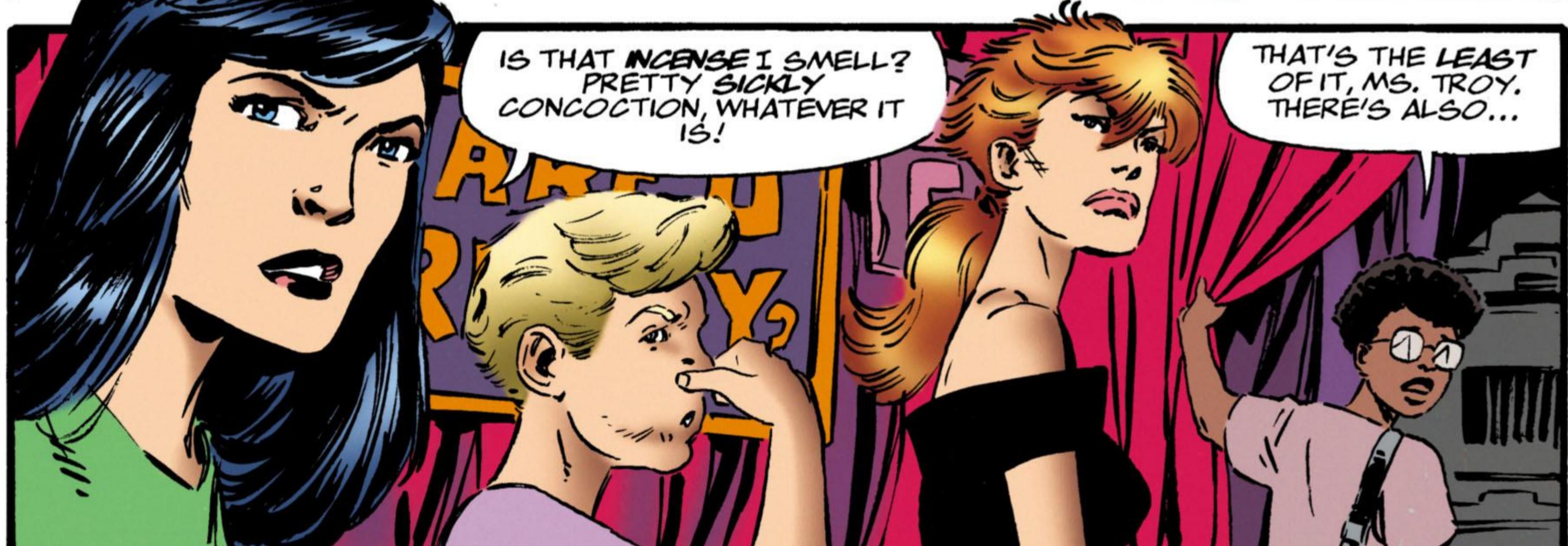
FOLLOW ME...

THERE'S NO CHARGE
TO SEE WHAT ALL THE FUSS
IS ABOUT.



IS THAT INCENSE I SMELL?
PRETTY SICKLY
CONCOCTION, WHATEVER IT
IS!

THAT'S THE LEAST
OF IT, MS. TROY.
THERE'S ALSO...



EGG GANG





I APPRECIATE THAT, CASSIE, BUT WHAT I MEANT WAS WHAT WOULD MAKE HER EVEN LOOK FOR SUCH A THING?

I WAS HERE WHEN THE ASIAN PEOPLE FIRST STARTED PROTESTING, MS. TROY. I NOTICED THAT SOME OF THEM DIDN'T SEEM BOthered BY THIS "EGG FU" THING AFTER THEY'D BEEN IN AND SEEN IT.

"I DECIDED TO SEE FOR MYSELF WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT, SO I WENT THROUGH THE LINE, TOO.



"NOTHING HAPPENED TO ME ON THE FIRST PASS, BUT I DID NOTICE SOME PEOPLE LEAVING THE LINE.

"I DECIDED TO FOLLOW..."



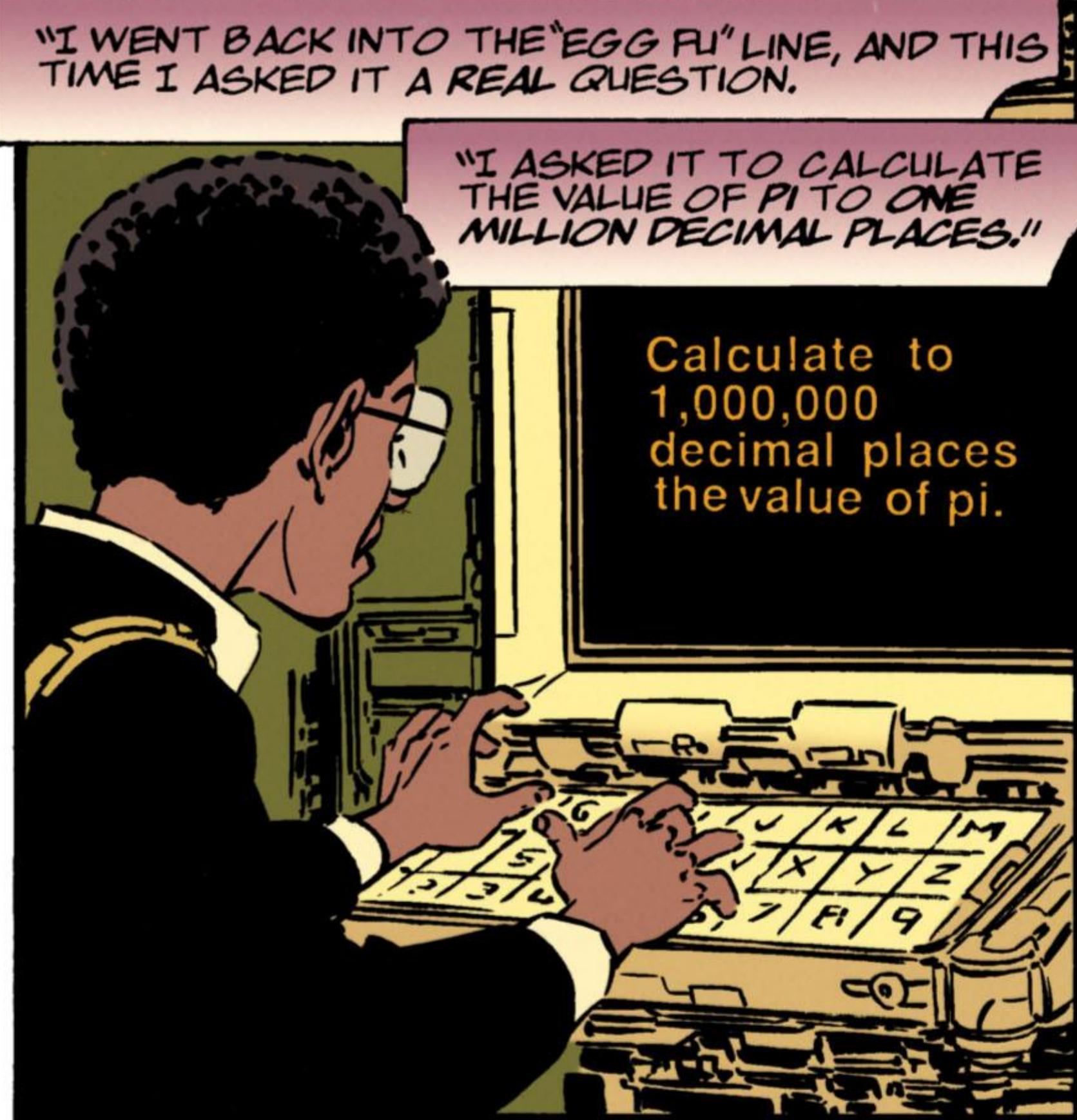
"...AND I SAW THEY WERE BEING HERDED INTO A CLOSED OFF AREA BEHIND THE TENT.



"I WENT BACK INTO THE "EGG FU" LINE, AND THIS TIME I ASKED IT A REAL QUESTION.

"I ASKED IT TO CALCULATE THE VALUE OF PI TO ONE MILLION DECIMAL PLACES!"

Calculate to
1,000,000
decimal places
the value of pi.



ONE MILLION..?!?
BUT THAT WOULD TIE UP
THE MEMORY BANKS OF
EVEN THE BEST COMPUTER
FOR DAYS!

RIGHT, BUT
"EGG FU" DID
IT... IN THREE
SECONDS!

"BEHOLD MY SISTERS, THE
GARB OF A FALLEN WARRIOR!"

THEMYSCIRA, CALLED PARADISE ISLAND BY SOME, THE LEGENDARY HOME OF THE AMAZONS...

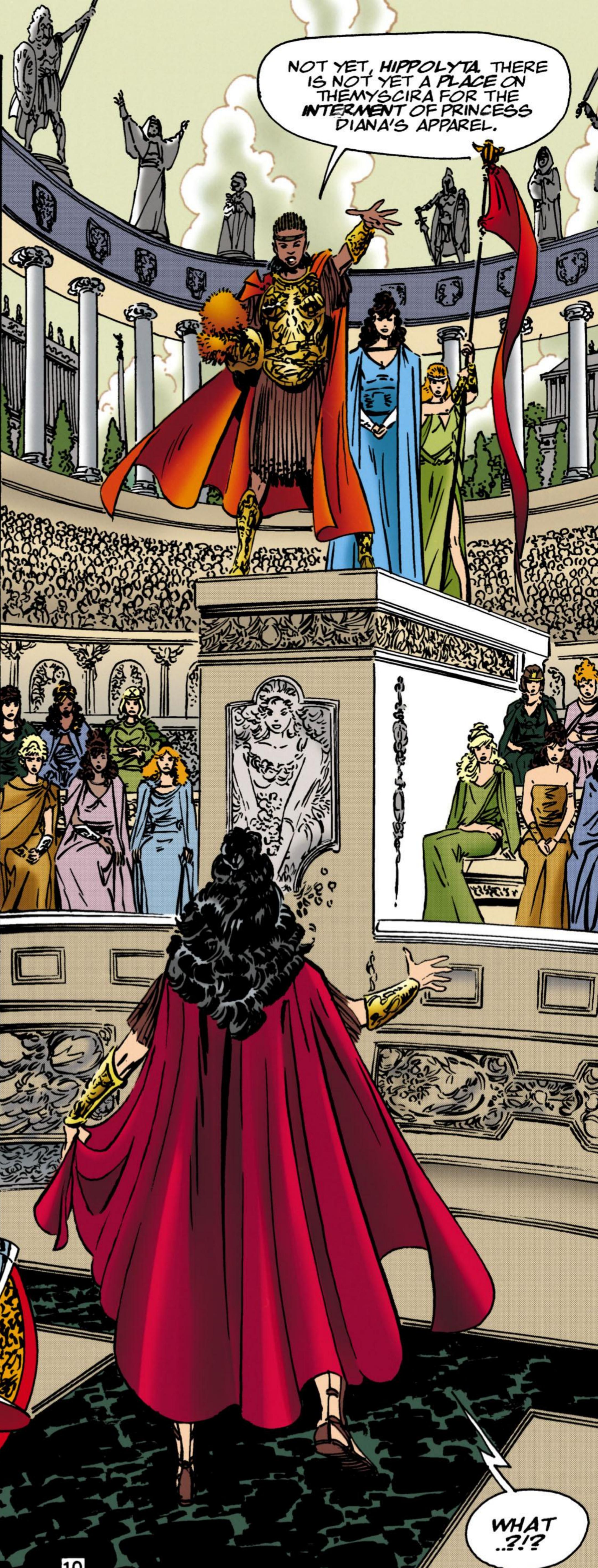
...WHERE A QUEEN HAS COME TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF HER CHILD.

IN THIS ARMOR DID PRINCESS DIANA LEAVE OUR ISLAND FOR THE UNKNOWN SHORES OF PATRIARCH'S WORLD.

THERE DID SHE STRIVE TO BRING A MESSAGE OF PEACE TO A POPULACE TORN BY WAR AND CORRUPTION.

NOW THAT BATTLE IS ENDED, AND I RETURN HER SYMBOLIC ARRAY THAT IT MAY BE ENTOMBED WITH THE CEREMONIES BEFITTING A CHAMPION.

NOT YET, HIPPOLYTA. THERE IS NOT YET A PLACE ON THEMYSCIRA FOR THE INTERMENT OF PRINCESS DIANA'S APPAREL.



PHILLIPUS! WHAT TREACHERY IS THIS, THAT YOU WOULD DENY MY DAUGHTER HER RIGHFUL PLACE AMONG THE HEROES OF OUR RACE?

WE DENY PRINCESS DIANA NOTHING, HIPPOLYTA.

OUR CONSIDERATION HERE IS ON THE MATTER OF THE PENANCE YOU MUST PAY.

"PENANCE"?

IT IS TRUE I HAVE EXCEEDED EVEN THE AUTHORITY OF A QUEEN IN RECENT MONTHS. IT IS TRUE I HAVE ACTED IN WAYS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNWISE AND ILL-CONSIDERED.

BUT ALL I DID, I DID TO PROTECT MY DAUGHTER--AND I HAVE NOW SEEN THAT DAUGHTER TORTURED AND KILLED.

IS THAT NOT PENANCE ENOUGH?

WERE DIANA TRULY DEAD, IT MIGHT BE, MY QUEEN.

BUT DIANA LIVES ON AS A GODDESS, MORE ALIVE NOW THAN ANY OF US HAVE ANY HOPE TO BE.

NO, HIPPOLYTA, IT IS NOT IN THE MATTER OF PRINCESS DIANA THAT WE FEEL THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE ADDRESSED.

IT IS IN THE MATTER OF WONDER WOMAN, AND HER UNFINISHED MISSION TO THE WORLD OF MEN.

"OH-HH-WEIRD!!"

KEystone City, at just that moment...

WHAT IS IT, HONEY?

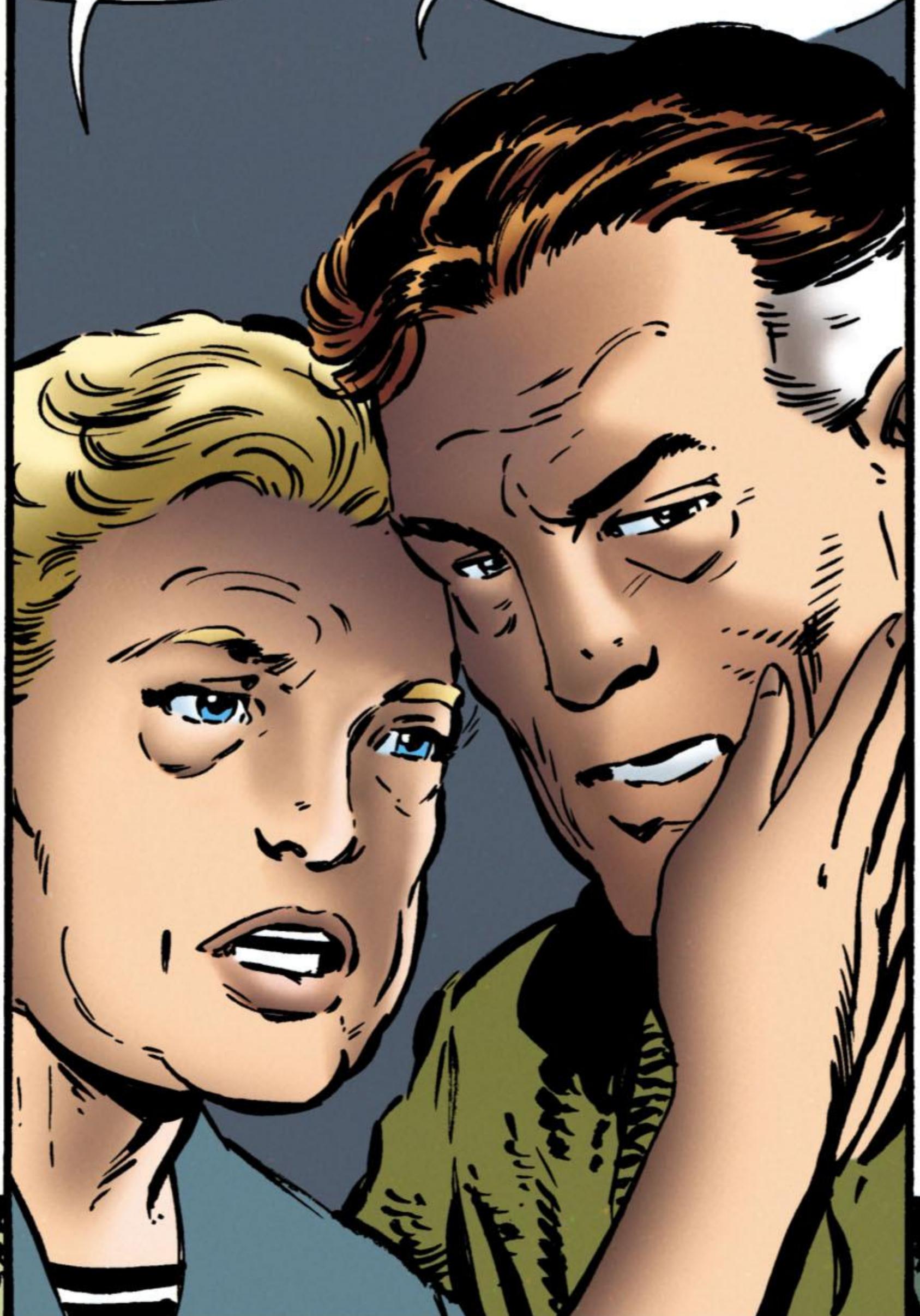


NOW, COME ON, HONEY! ALL THOSE YEARS OF RUNNING AROUND AS A SUPERHERO SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT YOU THERE'S VERY LITTLE IN THIS WORLD THAT'S REALLY "NOTHING."

WHAT DID IT FEEL LIKE?

WELL--I'D CALL IT DÉJÀ VU, BUT THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT...

NOT JUST A FEELING LIKE SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED BEFORE ALSO-- WELL, IT'S A HOARY OLD CLICHE THAT I NEVER CARED FOR MUCH...



NOT QUITE MEANWHILE...

MERLIN...??

MERLIN,
WHERE ARE
YOU??

ALL ALONG THE WESTERN COAST OF ENGLAND AND WALES ARE THE RUINS OF CASTLES THE LOCALS POINT TO WITH AWE AND REVERENCE.

MERLIN !!

"THAT'S THE RUINS OF CAMELOT," THEY SAY, THOUGH FEW BELIEVE THEM.

OH, WHERE HAS HE GOT OFF TO THIS TIME?

AS A STUDENT AND TEACHER OF CLASSICAL ANTIQUITIES, THIS WOMAN WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED TO KNOW THIS PARTICULAR PILE OF RUBBLE HAS A SPECIAL CLAIM TO THAT TITLE.

HER NAME IS HELENA SANDSMARK, AND FOR THE MOMENT SHE HAS OTHER THINGS ON HER MIND.

AND WHERE HAS HE TAKEN JASON?

IN HIS CONDITION HE SHOULD BE IN A DOCTOR'S CARE, NOT TRAIPSING ALL OVER KINGDOM COME!

MERLIN!
PLEASE,
SHOW
YOUR-
SELF!

TROUBLE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS WITH MERLIN!

FANGS ARE BARED AND TALONS CURLING.

CAME YOU SEEKING SOUL'S SALVATION, FIND YOU NOTHING BUT DAMNATION!

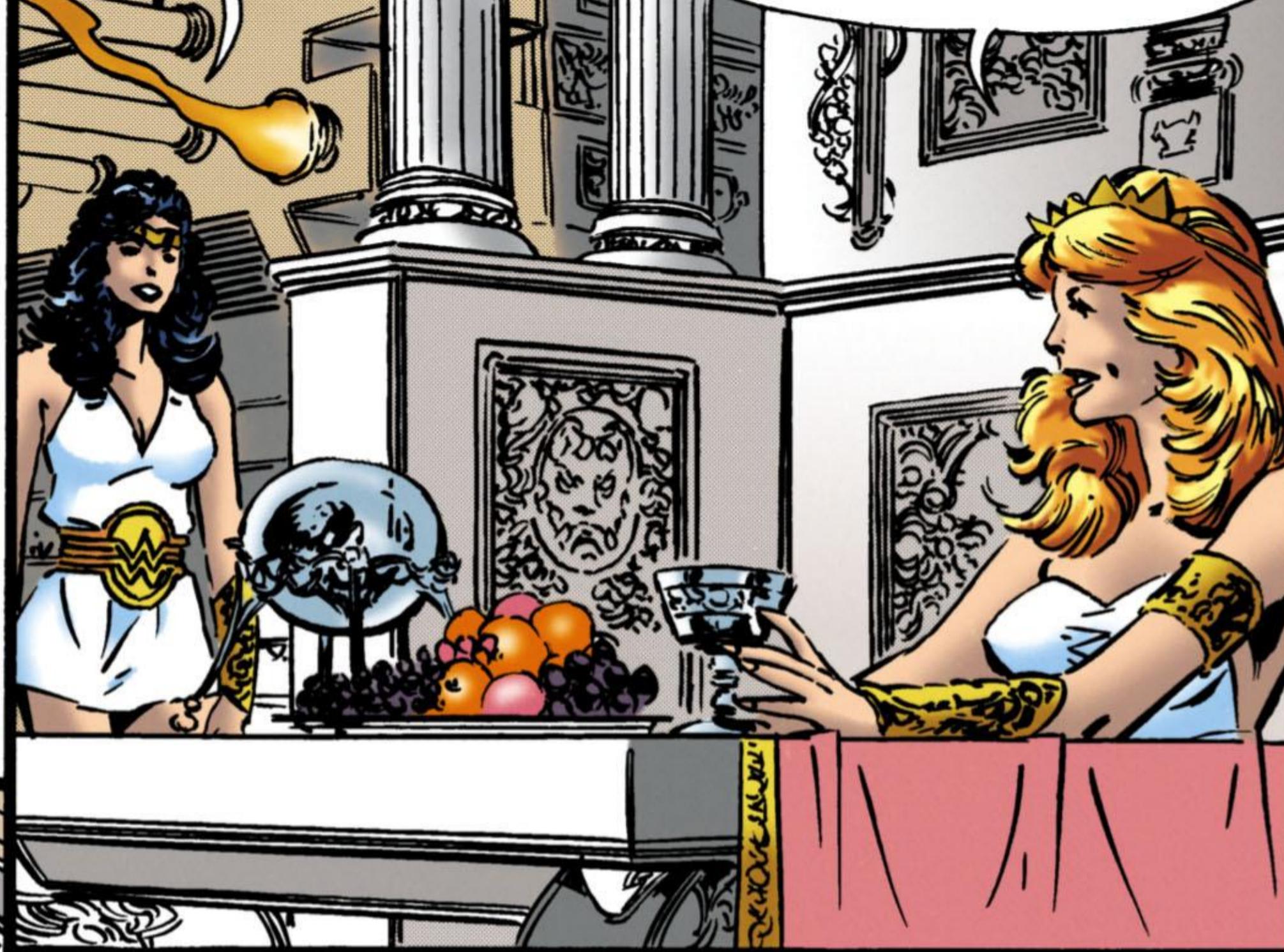
OH!! ETRIGAN!!

"ALREADY"?

I FEEL AS THOUGH I HAVE SLEPT FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.

ER... I DID NOT, DID I?

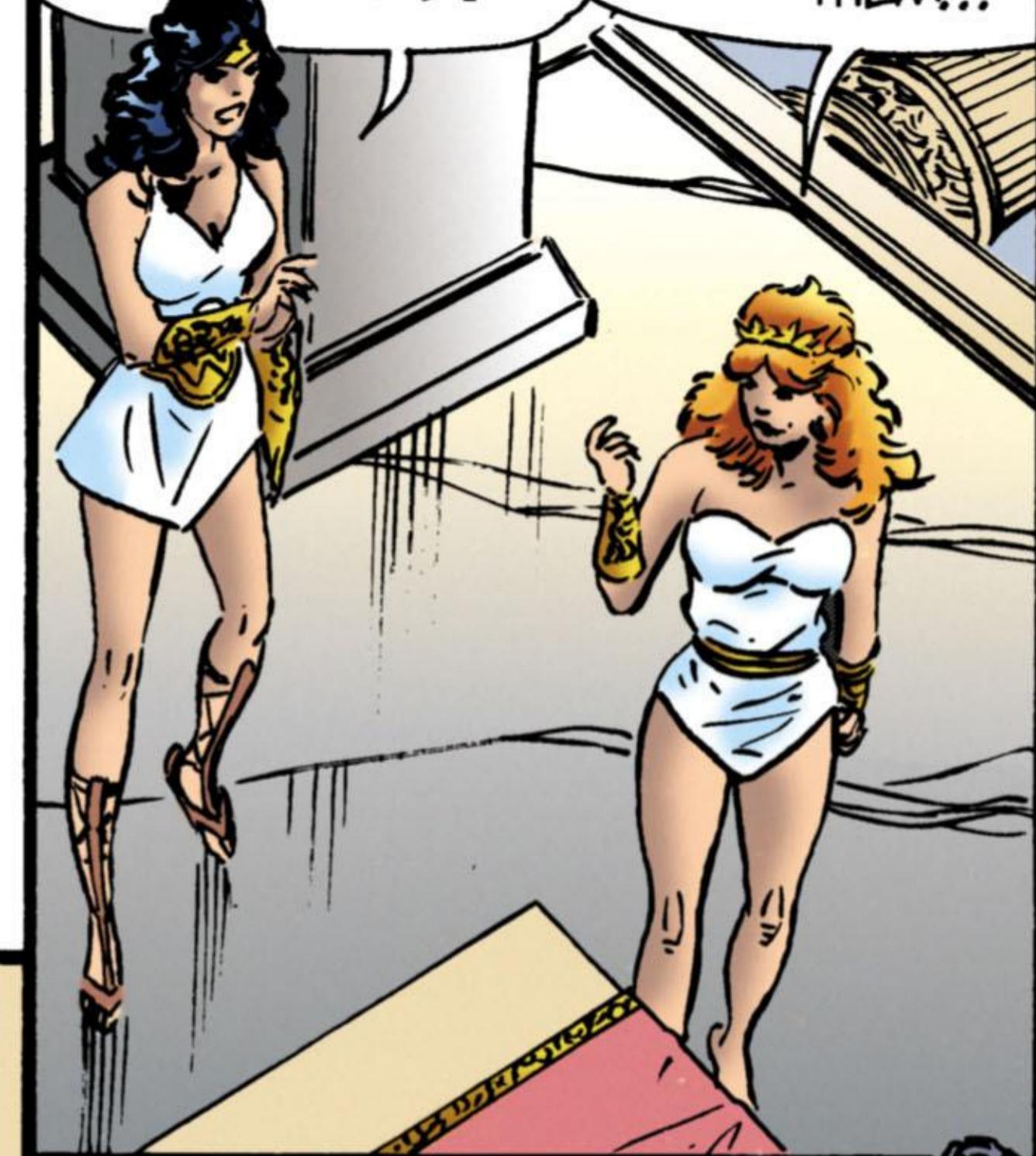
NO, NO, MY CHILD. THREE DAYS, AS MORTALS MEASURE IT.



THREE DAYS! BUT...

MY FRIENDS ON EARTH... WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM IN THAT TIME?

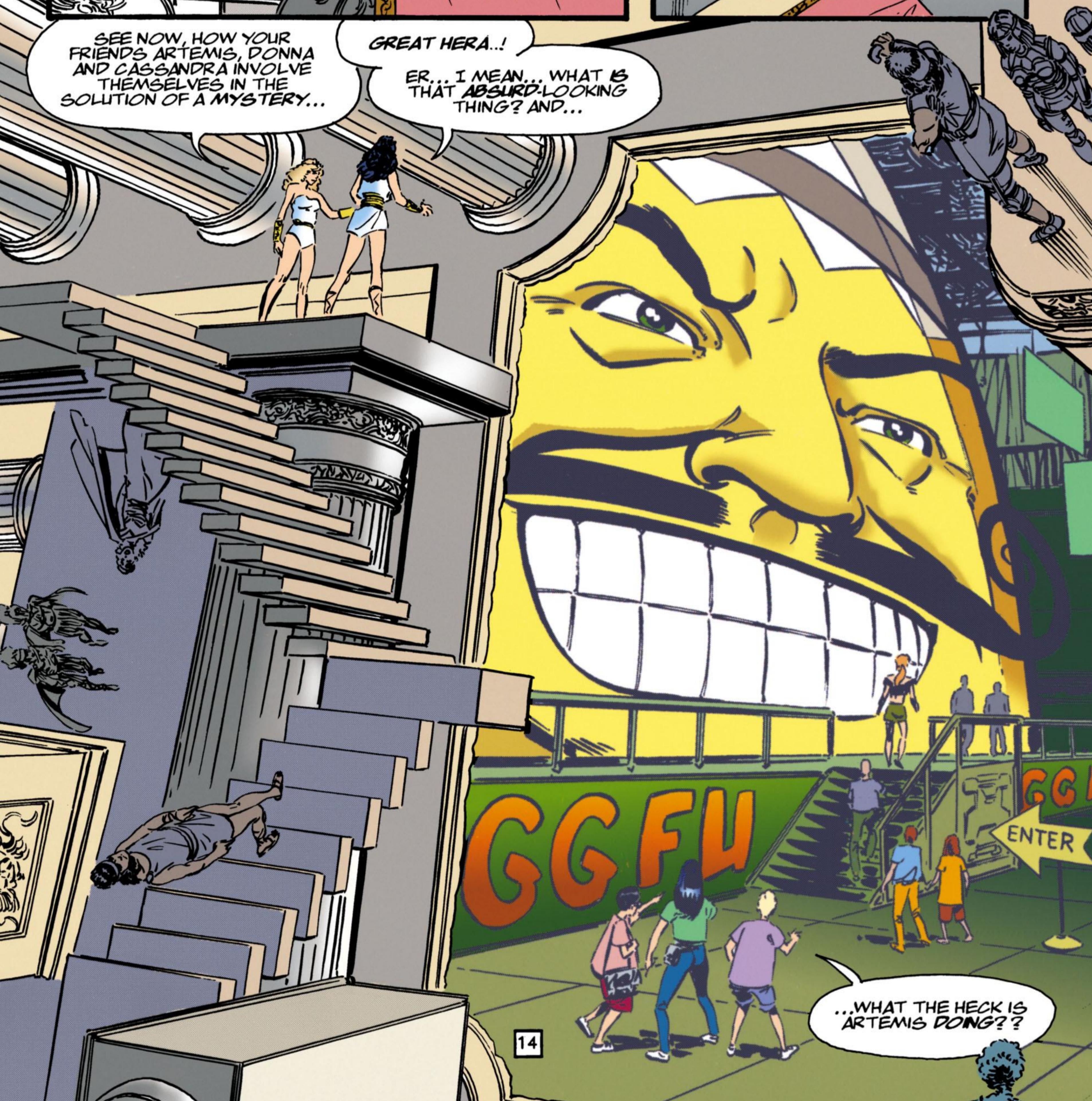
LITTLE OF CONSEQUENCE, DIANA. HERE, IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY LOOK IN ON THEM...

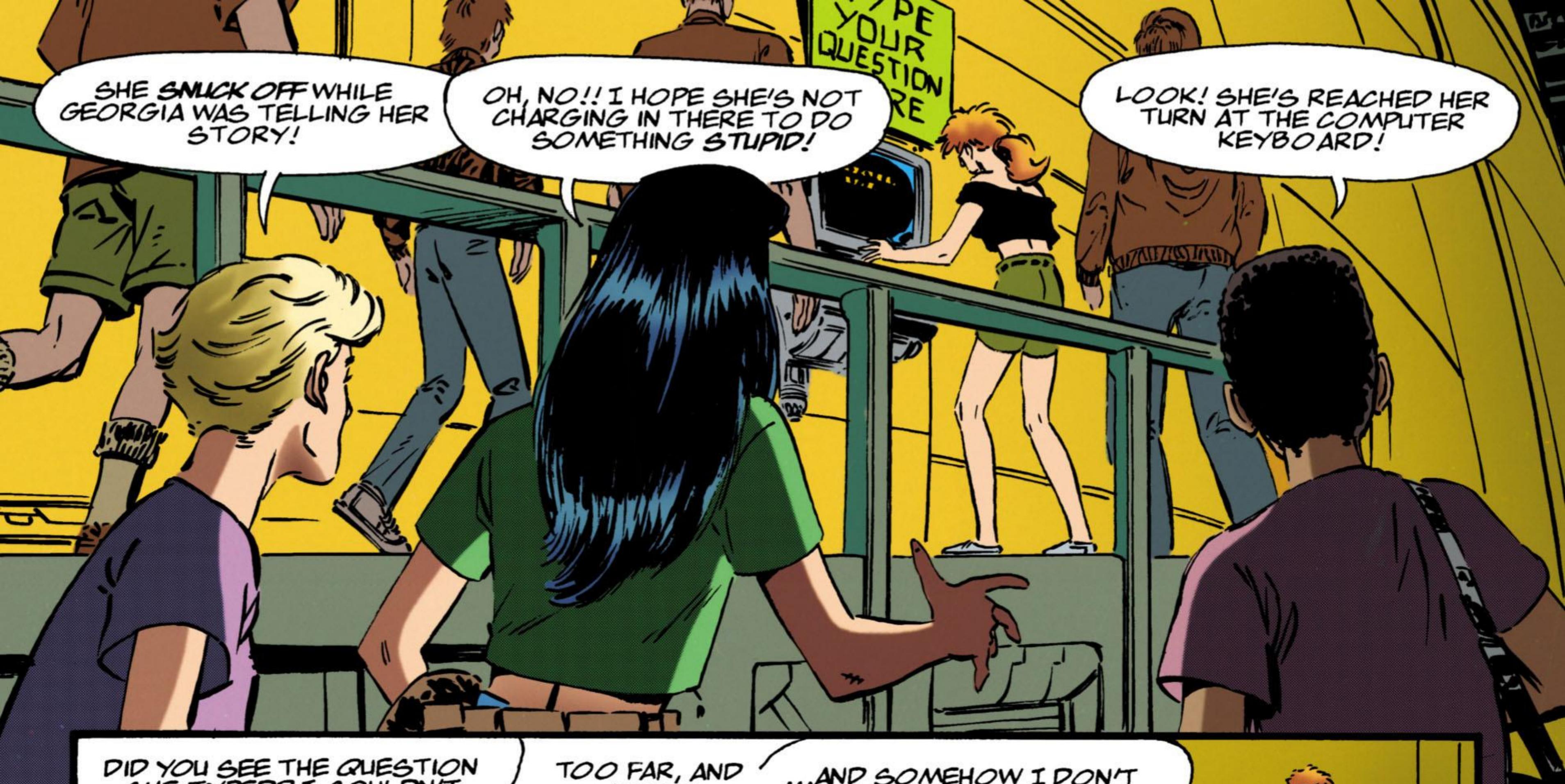


SEE NOW, HOW YOUR FRIENDS ARTEMIS, DONNA AND CASSANDRA INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THE SOLUTION OF A MYSTERY...

GREAT HERA...

ER... I MEAN... WHAT IS THAT ABSURD-LOOKING THING? AND...







NO, DIANA. I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS, BUT NOW YOU ARE ONE OF US, THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS YOU MUST LEARN

NOT THE LEAST IS THAT WE GODS DO NOT--MUST NOT--INTERFERE IN THE DAILY LIVES OF MORTALS. ONLY ON THE MOST RARE OCCASION IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR US TO TAKE A HAND.

BUT... WHY?

AS WONDER WOMAN I WOULD ALWAYS DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO AID OTHERS...

THE "RULES" HAVE CHANGED NOW, DIANA.

WE GODS HAVE THE POWER TO ALTER HUMAN LIVES AT ALL LEVELS, FROM ONE MOMENT TO THE NEXT.

BUT IF WE USED THAT POWER, DAILY, FOR EVERYONE, HOW SOON WOULD HUMANITY LOSE ITS ABILITY TO THINK AND ACT FOR ITSELF?

ATHENA... SURELY IN AN EXTREME CASE LIKE THIS...?



I SEE NO "EXTREME CASE", DIANA. I SEE ONE MORTAL IN POSSIBLE DANGER, AS THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF MORTALS IN GREATER AND LESSER DANGER ALL OVER THE WORLD.

SEE, WHERE A CHILD IS THREATENED BY FLAME, WHERE A MAN IS STALKED BY A WILD BEAST, WHERE SOLDIERS ARE TRAPPED AT THE CENTER OF SAVAGE CONFLICT.

WHO OF THEM SHOULD WE ALSO ACT TO SAVE?



ALL OF THEM!!

NO, DIANA. THE ANSWER IS NONE OF THEM. NOT UNLESS THEY CALL TO US, THROUGH THEIR PRAYERS.

THAT IS THE INSTRUMENT BY WHICH WE CHOOSE WHERE WE WILL ACT, DIANA.

WHEN A MORTAL OPENS HIS HEART TO US, WHEN SHE CALLS TO US SPECIFICALLY FOR HELP, THEN WE CAN DECIDE WHAT ACTION TO TAKE.

YOU MEAN... I CANNOT HELP MY FRIENDS UNLESS-- UNLESS THEY PRAY TO ME?



PRECISELY, DIANA, AND PERHAPS AN EVEN HARDER LESSON LIES IN THIS, FOR THOUGH WE GODS HEAR THE PRAYERS OF ALL WHO CRY OUT TO US...

...SOMETIMES IT MUST BE OUR CHOICE TO LEAVE THOSE PRAYERS UNANSWERED.



ONE OF THE TRICKS I LEARNED AS A DARKSTAR WAS A WAY TO SHIELD MY MIND AGAINST TELEPATHIC SEARCH-ES.

MAYBE--MAYBE-- IF I DO THAT, I CAN WALTZ PAST THAT SCANNER.

YOU? BUT... DONNA, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY POWERS NOW! I STILL SAY IT'S BETTER FOR ME TO TRY...

YOU WOULD, CASS. BUT MS. TROY IS RIGHT. YOU HAVE THE POWERS, BUT SHE HAS THE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

OKAY--SO YOU HOLD BACK AS AN ABSOLUTELY LAST-DITCH RESERVE, CASSIE. AND WISH ME LUCK!

WHOA! EGGY MUST BE PICKING JUST THE PRIME BABES TO-DAY!

YOU KNOW IT CAN'T DO THAT. JUST EVERY ELEVENTH ONE, SO NO ONE WILL NOTICE.



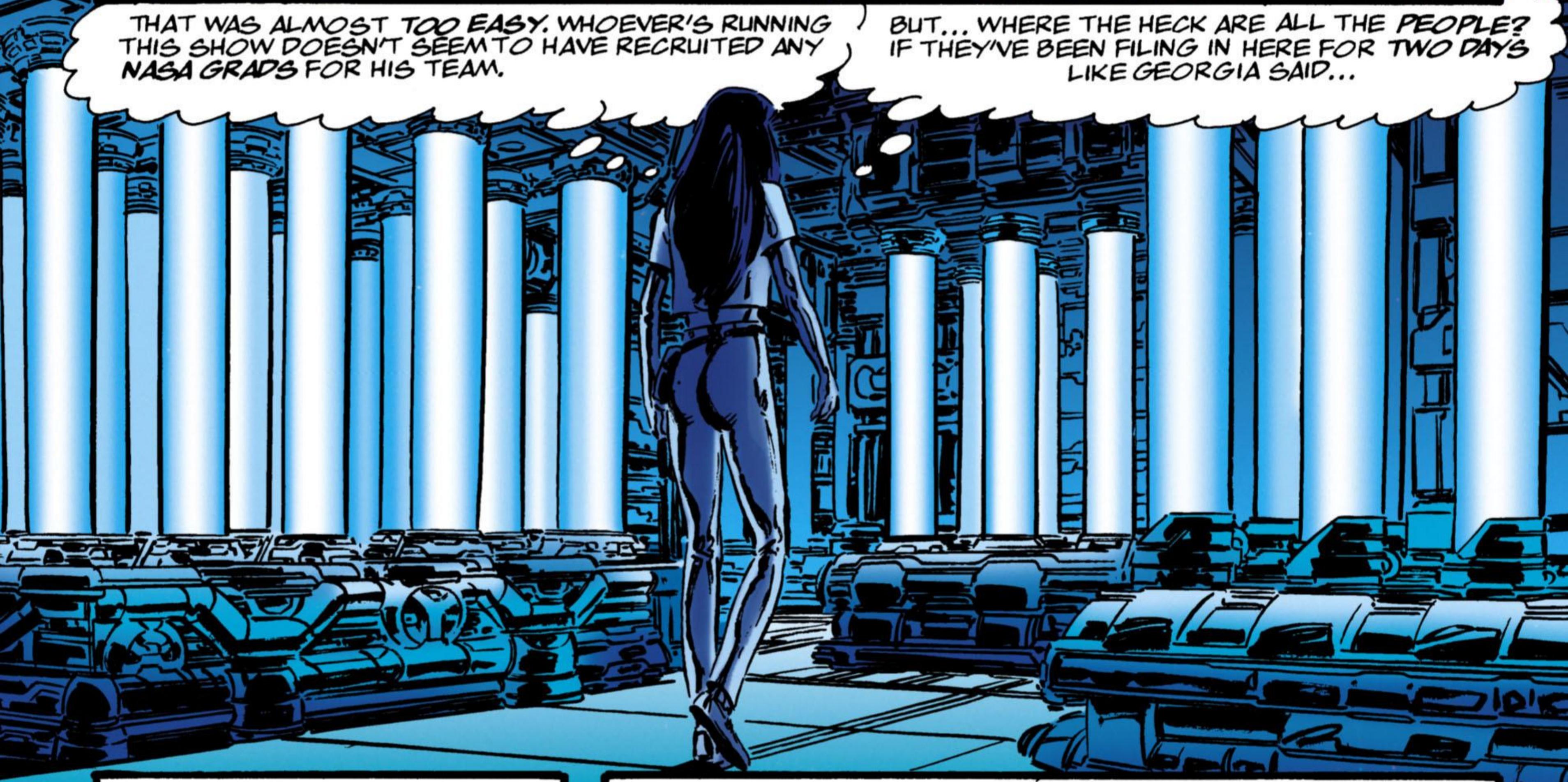
SHE READS CLEAN. NOT THE NORMAL READING--BUT SHE'S SURE NOT DOING ANY THINKING FOR HERSELF.

WELL, I'M GONNA KEEP AN EYE ON THIS ONE! MAYBE BIG D WILL LET ME FIND SOME... SPECIAL DUTY FOR HER...



THAT WAS ALMOST TOO EASY. WHOEVER'S RUNNING THIS SHOW DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE RECRUITED ANY NASA GRADS FOR HIS TEAM.

BUT... WHERE THE HECK ARE ALL THE PEOPLE? IF THEY'VE BEEN FILING IN HERE FOR TWO DAYS LIKE GEORGIA SAID...



HEY, WHAT'S WITH YOU?
EGGY SHOULD HAVE TOLD
YOU TO GET ONTO THE
DISSEMBLER...

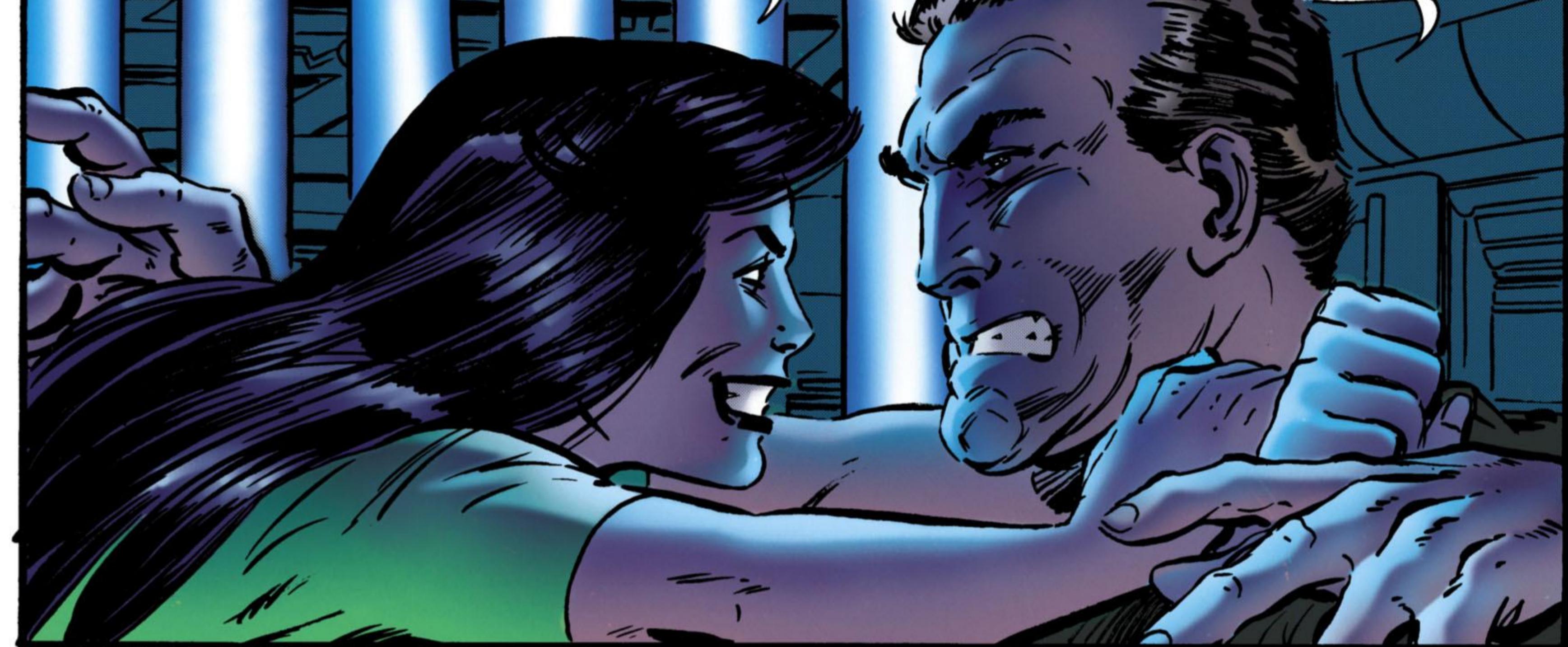
SORRY, PAL. YOUR
SCRAMBLED EGG HASN'T
ACTUALLY TOLD ME
ANYTHING.

BUT NOW THAT WE'RE OUT
OF SIGHT OF YOUR LITTLE
BUDDY, YOU CAN TELL ME A
WHOLE BUNCH OF STUFF!



AND YOU CAN START BY TELLING ME WHERE A BUNCH OF OBVIOUS LOSERS LIKE YOU GOT YOUR HANDS ON THIS KIND OF HI-TECH EQUIPMENT.

BITE ME, WITCH! THERE'S NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO THAT CAN MAKE ME TELL YOU ANYTHING.

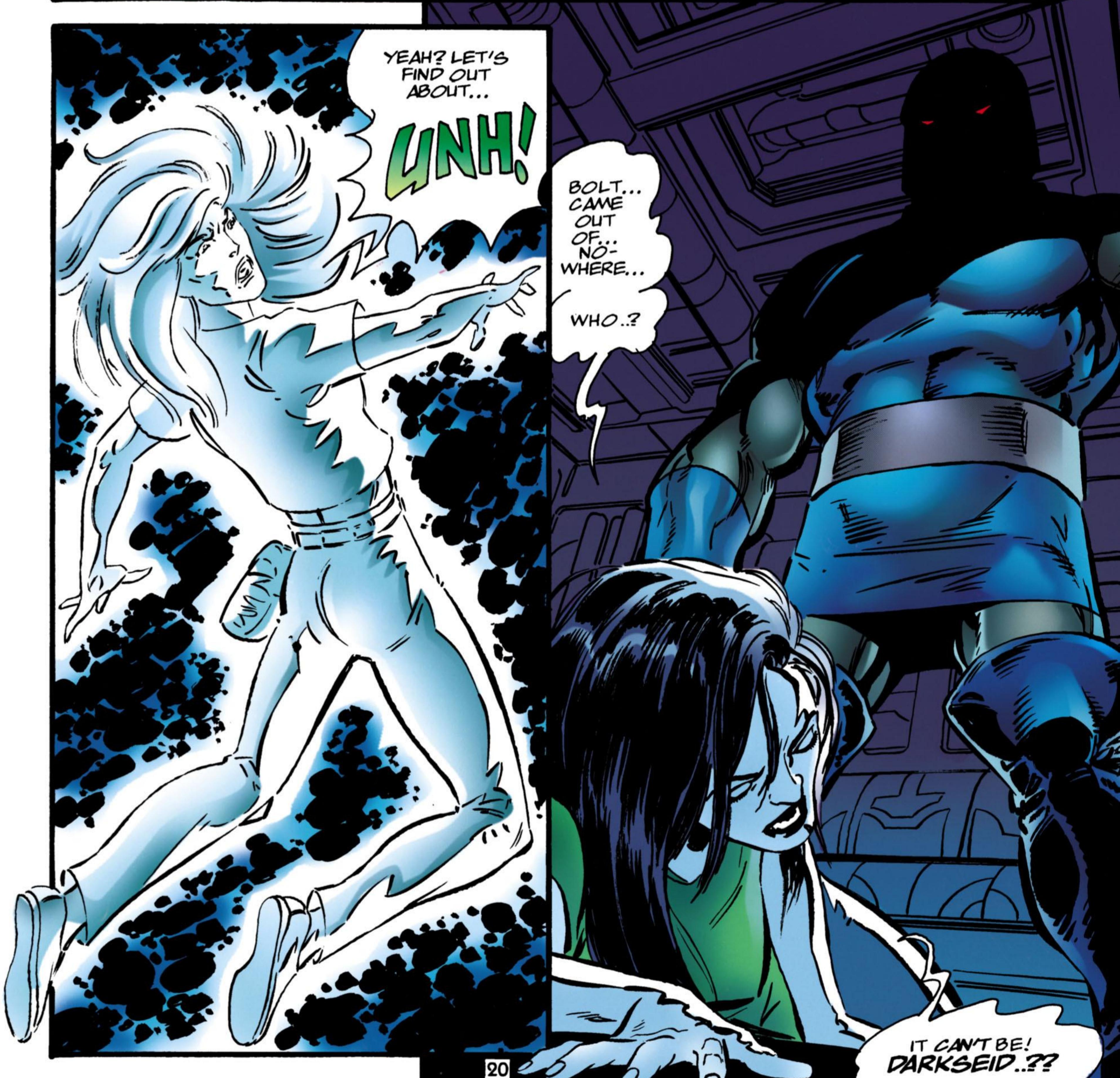


YEAH? LET'S FIND OUT ABOUT...

UNH!

BOLT... CAME OUT OF... NO- WHERE...
WHO..?

IT CAN'T BE!
DARKSEID..??

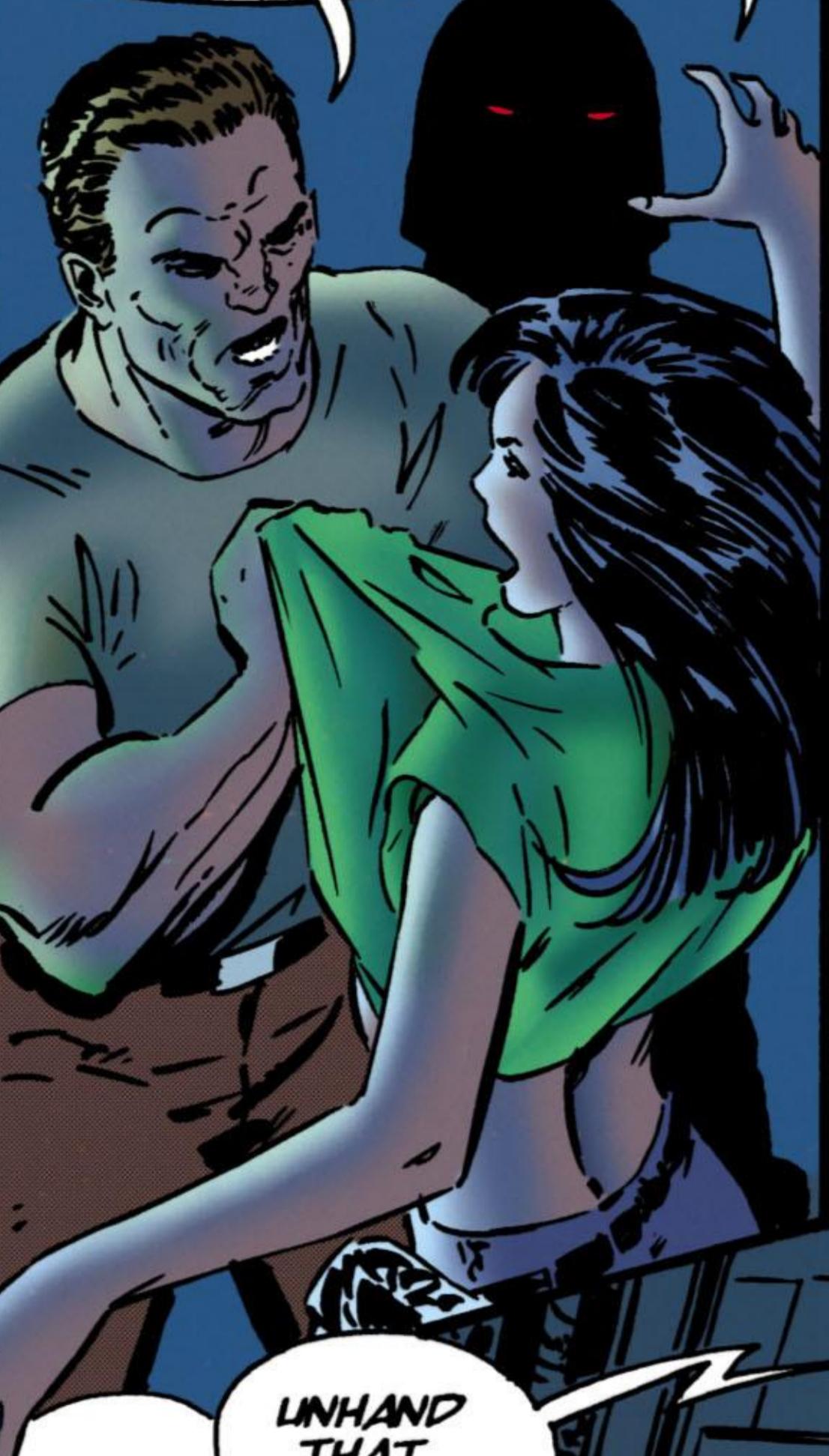


FUNNY HOW THINGS
GET ALL TURNED
AROUND SO QUICK,
HUH, CHICKIE? IT'S
YOUR TURN TO START
TALKIN'. WHO ARE
YOU? ARE YOU WITH
THAT WONDER
WOMAN DAME?

TO
QUOTE
A
RECENT
SAGE...
BITE
ME, JERK.

DON'T GET SMART. YOU'RE IN SO FAR OVER
YOUR HEAD, YOU CAN'T EVEN START GUESSING
HOW BAD IT IS! NOW, START TALKIN' OR...

KREEEE
EKK.



WHAT TH'..?!?

LINHAND
THAT
WOMAN!



STAND BACK, OR ANSWER
TO...

**WONDER
WOMAN**



...DIANA...?!

NEXT: AN UNEXPECTED TURN,
A BRIEF HISTORY LESSON,
AND A BOLD NEW BEGINNING
ALL IN THE TALE WE CALL

**A HARVEST
OF SOULS!**

...30 DAYS
FROM NOW!