



WONDER WOMAN



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321
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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
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AUTHORITY

A GOD GOES MAD!
NOW ONLY WONDER WOMAN
CAN SAVE DR. CYBER!



BLONDE
GODDESS
SCAN

FROM THE TRANQUIL SHORES OF PARADISE ISLAND CAME DIANA, 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...

WONDER WOMAN



DOCTOR CYBER'S REVENGE!

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RICK
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(caption)
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CYBER STILL BLAMES ME FOR THE ACCIDENT THAT DESTROYED HER FACE-- AND SHE'S SPARING NO EFFORT TO PAY ME BACK!



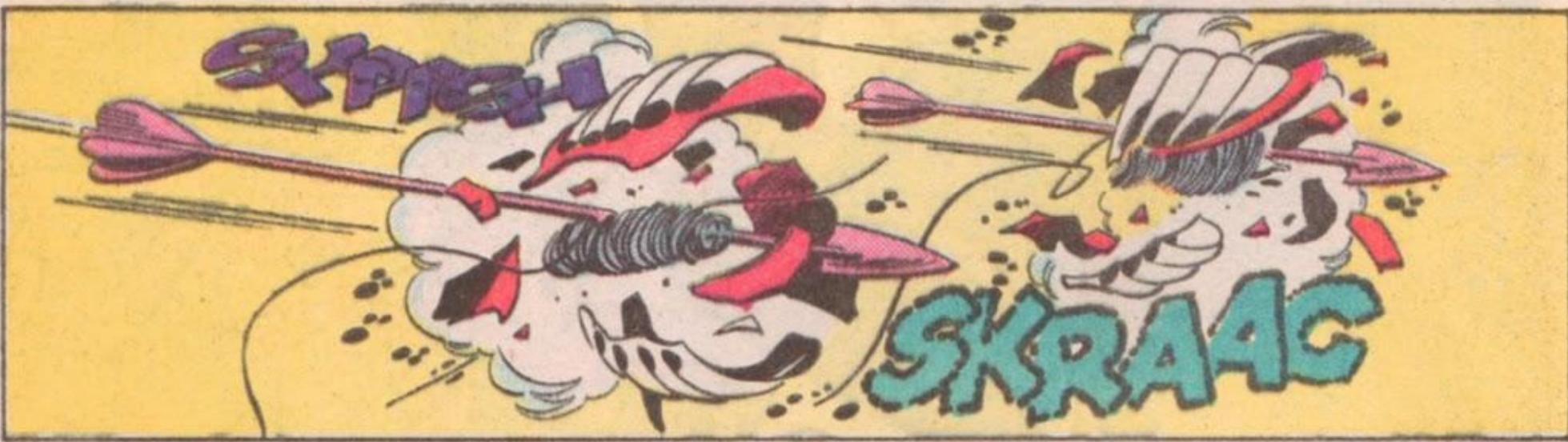
--SO THAT MY ALTER EGO WOULD BE BRANDED A TRAITOR FOR STEALING TOP SECRET MILITARY CODES!



THIS IS JUST THE END I'D PICTURED FOR YOU-- STRUGGLING, WEAKENING... HELPLESS!



NO CHANCE... OF THAT... MURDERER...



WAIT! THOSE WIRES ARE STILL TOO HOT FOR YOUR BARE HANDS!

ON THE CONTRARY, THEY MAKE BUT THE SMALLEST FLAME
BESIDE THE FIERY PASSIONS...

-- OF EROS,
GOD OF LOVE!

SHAZAM

TH-THANK YOU FOR
FREEING ME...EROS!



...ONCE WE'VE FINISHED UP WITH
MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN'S!

WE'RE STILL A
LONG WAY FROM
THE FINISH.
I ASSURE YOU!
YOUR MUSCLE-BOUND
ACCOMPlice MAY
HAVE TAKEN ME
BY SURPRISE--

-- BUT I
HAVE MY OWN
DEPENDABLE
ALLIES!

DESTROY
THEM!



HUNHH--WHERE--?

NOW I
REMEMBER!

WHOMP

GOOD GOING,
ANGEL!

STEVE!
LOOKS LIKE
YOU'VE GOT
DOCTOR CYBER
ON THE RUN!

WHAT!? CYBER, YOU SAY?

BUT--BUT I DON'T EVEN
KNOW YOU!

EROS! DON'T!

IT IS NO WONDER, THEN,
THAT YOU HAVE HIDDEN YOUR
FACE! THUS DID YOU THINK
TO ESCAPE MY VENGEANCE!

WONDER WOMAN
CAN'T CONTROL
HIM!

AND WHILE SHE
MIGHT HESITATE TO
KILL ME OUTRIGHT...
...HE'LL ONLY BE
SATISFIED WITH BLOOD!

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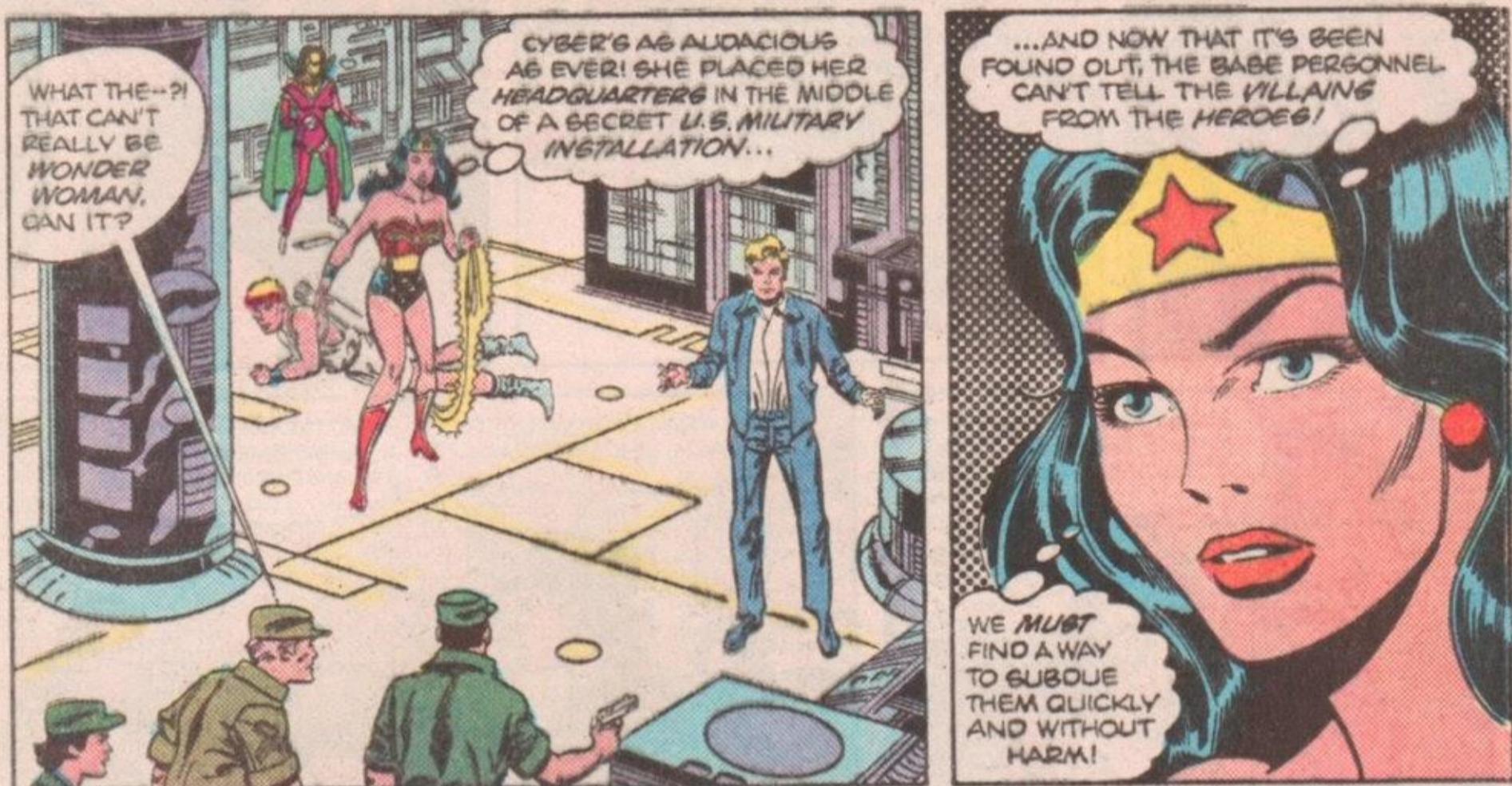
FIND YOUR WAY TO THE NEWTONS® TREASURE CHEST!!



YOU FOUND IT!!

DISCOVER FRUIT CHEWY NEWTONS COOKIES.



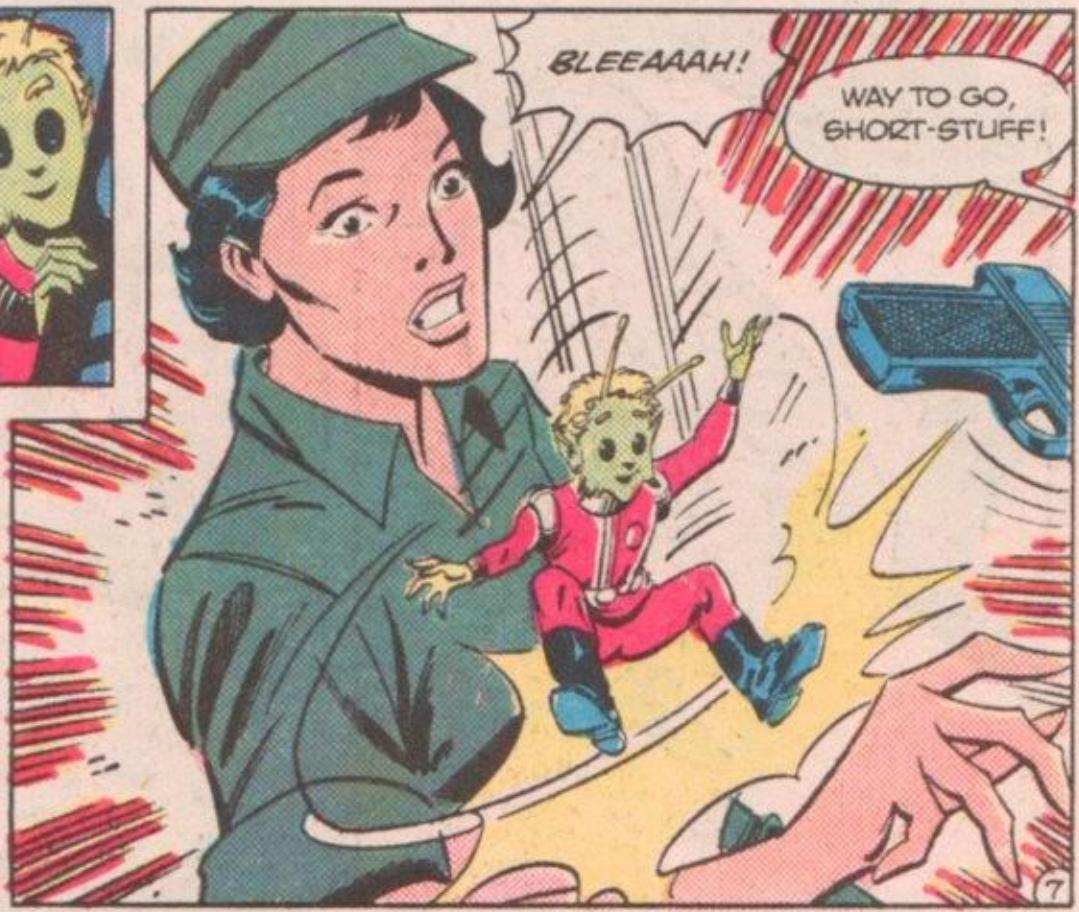


THE AMAZON'S CONCERN FOR THOSE SOLDIERS HAS GOT HER FULLY OCCUPIED!

I'LL NEVER HAVE A BETTER CHANCE FOR A STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL!

HARK, MY LOVE! THE VILLAIN FADES LIKE A SPECTRE SLIPPING INTO HADES' SHADOWS!

SET ME FREE THAT I MIGHT PURSUE HER!





AND WHILE THE TINY ALIEN STANDS GUARD,
ANOTHER VIGIL GOES ON ELSEWHERE...

...IN THE
GEORGETOWN
HOME OF
DIANA PRINCE
AND
ETTA CANDY...

NO,
REALLY,
I'LL BE
OKAY...

I'M SURE THE TRUTH WILL COME OUT,
ETTA -- AND WE'LL PUT THIS WHOLE
BIZARRE INCIDENT BEHIND US!

I HOPE SO...
THANKS AGAIN
FOR COMING
UP.

OF COURSE, EVEN IF PRINCE IS
INNOCENT, SENATOR, IT'S STILL
A MAJOR BREACH OF SECURITY!

BUT I THINK WE OUGHT
TO CONCENTRATE ON THE
OTHER MATTER, SIR!

THERE'S NO QUESTION
THAT WONDER WOMAN IS
SOMEHOW CONNECTED
WITH DARNELL'S OFFICE!
AND IT'S MY BET
THAT SHE'S...

ALMOST
FINISHED,
HOWARD?

MUH--P

UM, UH -- GOTTA
GO NOW, MOM...
I'LL CALL YOU
NEXT WEEK!

TAKE CARE OF YOUR
LUMBAGO AND SAY "HI"
TO AUNT WILHELMINA.

'BYE.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO
SHOO YOUR MOTHER OFF
THE PHONE LIKE THAT,
HOWARD!

AND SENATOR COVINGTON
CAN WAIT FOR MY
THEORY TILL I'M
ABSOLUTELY SURE--

... WHO GOES
BY THE NAME OF
ETTA CANOY!

--THAT
WONDER
WOMAN IS
A MEMBER
OF THE
SPECIAL
INTELLIGENCE
BRANCH...

WE WERE
REALLY THROUGH
ANYWAY, ETTA.

AND IN
ANOTHER
RESIDENTIAL
SECTION
OF THE
NATION'S
CAPITAL...

THIS WHOLE BUSINESS WITH
AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE
IS GETTING STRANGER
BY THE HOUR!

OH, PLEASE,
LET'S NOT TALK
ABOUT IT! IT'S
AWKWARD ENOUGH
THAT YOU'RE
INVESTIGATING
PEOPLE WHO ARE
MY FRIENDS!

SO YOU'RE STILL
INSISTING THAT THIS
DIANA PRINCE IS
NOT GUILTY OF
ESPIONAGE?

I KNOW SHE'S NOT,
BRAD... BUT I TOLD YOU
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE
THIS CONVERSATION!

CAN'T WE
JUST DROP THE
SUBJECT?

YOU'RE
RIGHT, LISA--
I'M SORRY.

ALL OF
THAT HAS
NOTHING TO DO
WITH US!

AND IN THE
FORMERLY HIDDEN
LAIR OF
DOCTOR CYBER...

NO-- I WONT...!
I WILL NEVER...
REVEAL...

WHAT--WHAT
HAPPENED...?

It's okay, Sofia--
you're safe! **SHIPE!**
STEVE and **WONDER WOMAN** are chasing
CYBER--

-- and no one'll
be bothering us
till they **SHIPE**
come back!



GET AWAY FROM
THERE, YOU LITTLE
MENACE! THAT
EQUIPMENT
BELONGS TO THE
UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT!

I'm not **HURTING**
anything and--

There,
you see? I got one
on the first try! It's a
message to the **HOME-
WORLD** of the--

SHIPE SHIPE
SHIPE SHIPE JEEP
SHIPE SHIPE JEEP!

OH, NO!

WHAT
THE--?

THEY'RE
AFTER ME!

Aww **SHIPE**,
COOL YOUR JETS,
ace...

They're **COMING**!
They're coming
BACK!

WHILE DIRECTLY ABOVE...

CYBER'S GOT A GOOD HEAD START ON US! SHE PROBABLY HAD A SECRET PASSAGEWAY OUT OF THE BUNKER!

UN-Doubtedly SHE'S GOT AN ESCAPE VEHICLE HIDDEN IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AS WELL...

BUT WE'LL BE READY FOR ANY SIGN OF MOVEMENT WHEN SHE UNCOVERS IT!

I PROMISE SHE WILL NOT ESCAPE MY VENGEANCE!

AND WHEN THIS IS DONE, MY LOVE, WE WILL LEAVE ALL MORTAL STRIFE BEHIND!



THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH, EROS! YOU CAN QUIT CALLING ME YOUR LOVE RIGHT NOW!

I THINK THAT IF I'D EVER BEEN YOUR LOVE I WOULD REMEMBER IT!

UM, ANGEL...?

I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT YOU COULD BE MISTAKEN!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

IT'S JUST... THE REASON SOFIA LEFT PARADISE ISLAND--

--WAS TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR MEMORIES HAVE ALL BEEN TAMPERED WITH!



MY MEMORIES? BUT HOW? BY WHOM?

SOFIA SAYS IT WAS PARTLY AN ACCIDENT-- BUT THAT MOSTLY IT WAS HIPPOLYTA...

...YOUR MOTHER!

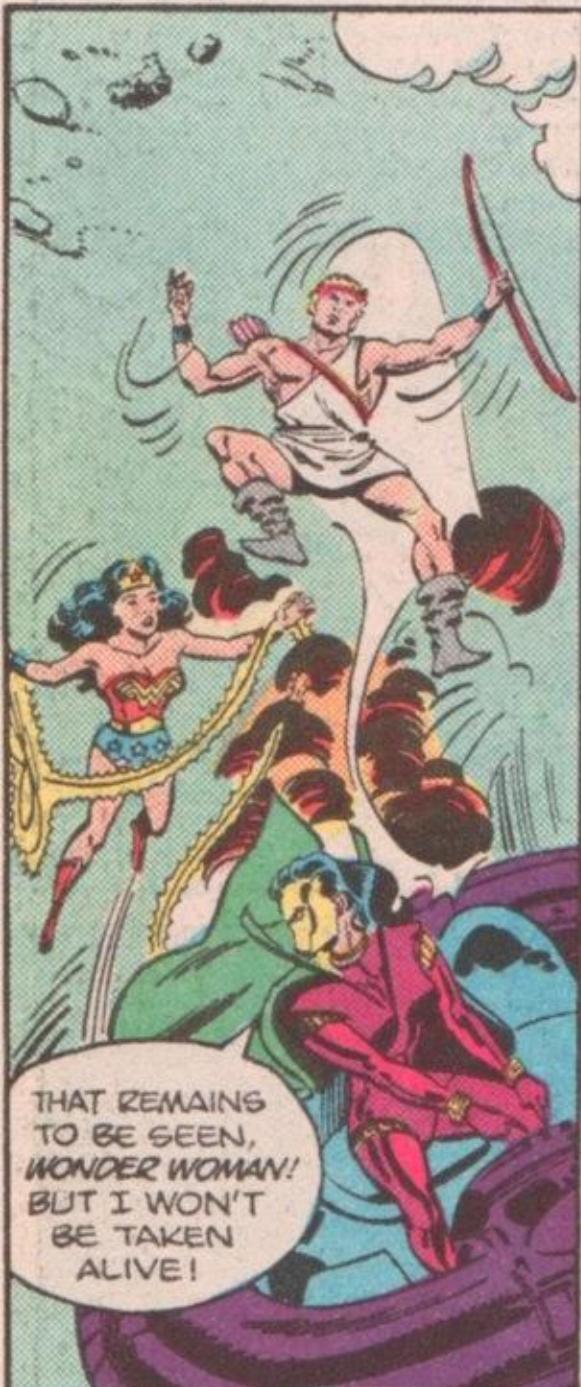




CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING







The Huntress

A-AND EVER
SINCE THEN ... I'VE
BEEN EXPERIENCING
THIS SERIES OF
BLACKOUTS!

DON'T
YOU WORRY,
HUNTRESS. YOU'LL
SOON BE ABLE TO
DEAL WITH
THEM ...

"THE FINAL BLACKOUT"

WRITER--JOEY CAVALIERI. PENCILS--ROD WHIGHAM.
INKER--RICK MAGYAR. LETTERER--PHIL FELIX.
COLORIST--NANSI HOOOLAHAN. EDITOR--ALAN GOLD.

G-1458

...FOR GOOD!

I DON'T KNOW WHY
I'M HERE TELLING YOU
MY TROUBLES...



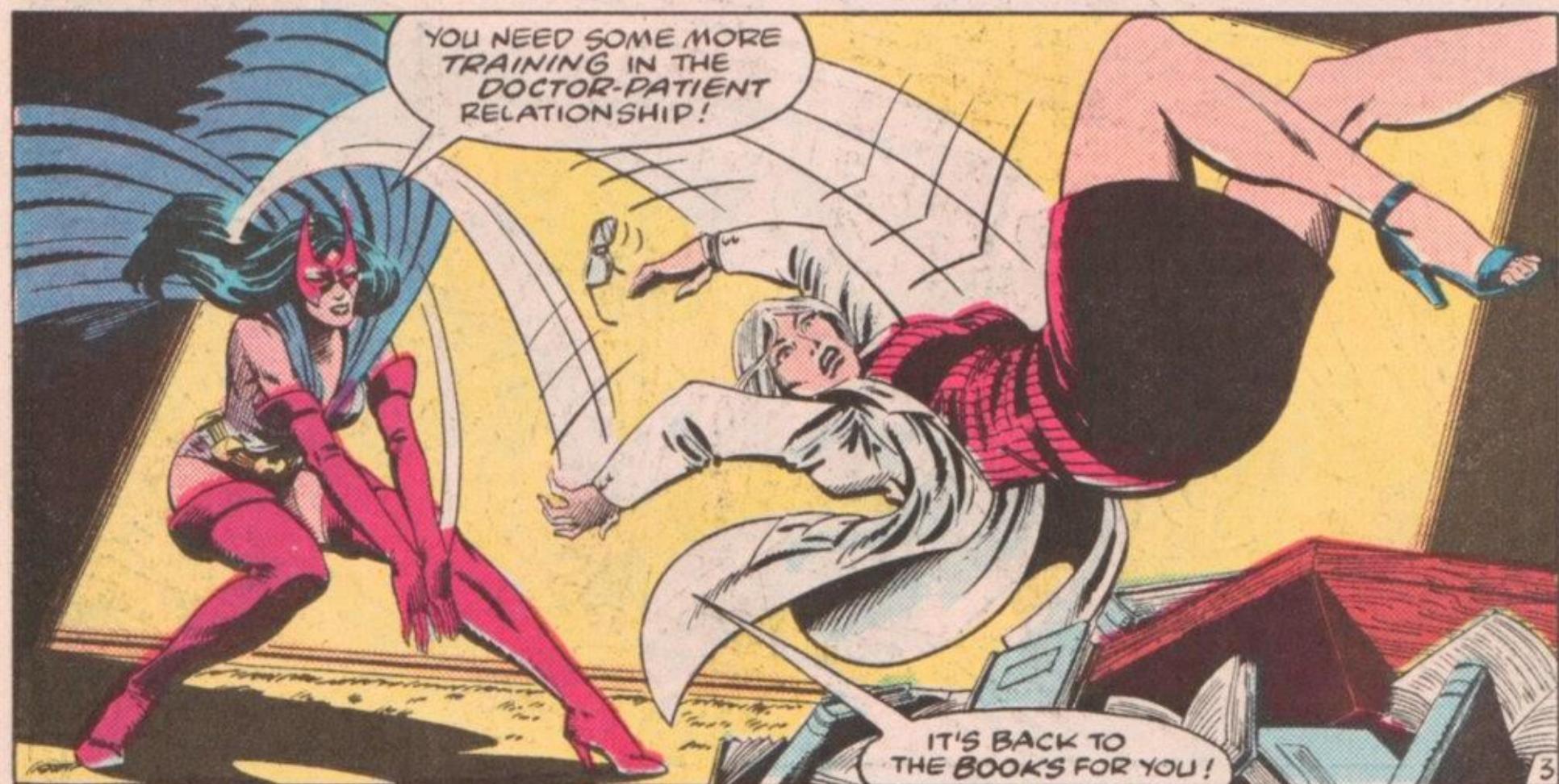
WAKK!

--IT LOOKS LIKE
YOU'VE GOT MORE
PROBLEMS--

--THAN
I'LL EVER
HAVE!

NOW YOU'VE GOT
AN EVEN WORSE
PROBLEM, DOCTOR!

I'M
AFTER
YOU!





NOT GUNNING FOR YOU,
BABE... BUT RUNNING
AFTER YA!

THANKS FOR SLOWING
DOWN A LITTLE...
SO I COULD
CATCH UP!

GARY
MINELLI.

NICE TO SEE
YOU REMEMBERED
THE NAME...

...AND DIDN'T FOLLOW IT
WITH A NASTY WORD!

GO AHEAD,
BABE, CALL ME
SOMETHING
FILTHY. THE
REST OF THE
DEPARTMENT
DOES.

HELL, THEY
THOUGHT NOTHING
OF BURYIN' MY
LIFE A FEW YEARS
EARLY... STICKIN'
ME ON A ONE-
MAN STAKE-OUT
... TAILIN'
YOU!

WHAT? YOU'VE
BEEN FOLLOWING ME?

KLAAKK

WHERE WAS HE
FOLLOWING ME?
HOW MUCH ABOUT
ME DOES HE
KNOW?

MY ICY
FINGERS UP
AND DOWN
YOUR
SPINE?

DOES HE FOLLOW
ME WHEN I'M
HELENA WAYNE?

HEY!
SMILE!
I'VE GOT
GOOD
NEWS!

YOU! YOU
WERE FOLLOWING
ME EVERYWHERE!
I FELT IT! I FELT--

OVER HILL AND
OVER DALE, BABY.
I'D'VE DONE IT FOR
FREE, JUST TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN!

HEY! YOU
DON'T LOOK
GLAD TO
SEE ME.

WORD AROUND
THE FORCE IS,
YOU'RE A PRIME
SUSPECT IN
THIS SPATE OF
CAT BURGLARIES
ALL AROUND
TOWN. THEY SORTA
FIT YOUR M.O.,
YOU KNOW?

NOW--
--DOESN'T
THAT AT LEAST
RATE A PECK
ON THE
CHEEK?

WELL, I
KNOW FOR SURE
THAT YOU'RE NOT
RESPONSIBLE!
I'M YOUR
AIRtight ALIBI!

HUNTRESS! I CAME AS SOON AS I COULD ROUND UP SECURITY!

ARE YOU OKAY?

SHE WAS DOIN' FINE TILL YOU GOT HERE, SONNY!

I'M ALL RIGHT, TOM. YOU SECURITY BOYS CAN ESCORT DR. MOORMAN... IN HANDCUFFS!

JUST IGNORE MINELLI.

IGNORE ME? AFTER ALL WE'VE MEANT TO EACH OTHER?

Y-YOU KNOW THE HUNTRESS?

KNOW HER? WHY, WE GO WAY BACK, DON'T WE, BABE?

I'D STAND WAY BACK, IF I WERE YOU, MINELLI.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MINELLI!

I LIKE HIM, BUT I CAN'T STAND THE WAY HE TREATED TOM! IT REALLY HURT TO SEE TOM'S FACE FALL LIKE THAT... HE'S REALLY SWEET.

I'VE BEEN TOO CARELESS LATELY... LETTING MINELLI DOG ME UP AND DOWN GOTHAM, WHO KNOWS HOW LONG!

ONE THING'S FOR SURE... NO ONE'S ON MY TAIL NOW!

DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOOD-BYE. HOPE SHE'S NOT MAD AT ME!

NO ONE'S BREATHING DOWN MY NECK... NO ONE'S WATCHING ME!

HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH...

WHAT
COULD SHE
POSSIBLY
HOPE TO
GAIN?



I'VE BEEN WATCHING
HER SINCE SHE BEGAN
HER CAREER.

SHE HAS NONE
OF THE MUCH-VAUNTED
SUPER-POWERS OF HER
CONTEMPORARIES. SHE
FACES TRIAL AFTER
TRIAL ... ALONE.

OTHERS EXTEND THEIR AID...
SHE REFUSES IT. SOME EXTEND
THEIR FRIENDSHIP... SHE GOES
OUT OF HER WAY TO PROVE
SHE DOESN'T NEED IT.

YOU'RE A WOMAN, LYLA.
MAYBE YOU UNDERSTAND
HER! WHAT DOES SHE
HOPE TO GAIN?

TRY HER
INDE-
PENDENCE,
MONITOR.
TRY HER
FREEDOM.

SPECIAL BULLETIN: THE STORY IS NOT QUITE OVER... BE IT WON'T BE TOLD AGAIN IN
THESE PAGES, READERS! WORD HAS IT THAT PEOPLE WANT A FULL-LENGTH
HUNTRESS COMIC EVERY MONTH... SO WE'RE WORKING ON IT -- NO FOOLING! KEEP
YOUR EYES OPEN FOR A MINI-SERIES, COMING SOON TO A COMIC RACK NEAR YOU!



Wonder Words

L-1730

This month I'm doing something I'd ordinarily frown on—and probably won't do often in the future: I'm devoting this whole column to one letter. The reason is simple: it's an extraordinarily thoughtful and interesting letter, and I don't have the first idea where to begin editing it down.

There's another feature of this letter column that makes it a stand-out. Dan Mishkin just happened to be in New York when Strick's letter arrived. (Generally, he gets to read letters in print when the comic comes out, like the rest of you.) Strick's comments moved him sufficiently to get him typing a long letter of his own. So I'm printing Dan's reply, too.

Therefore, continuity fans (and fans of good writing, too), settle down for the debate of the month...

Dear Dan and Alan:

You told us readers that if we thought you were not 100% on the beam, we should holler.

HOLA!

Was that loud enough?

Hey, it's not that bad; I give you a 50%, which is light-years ahead of anything anyone else has done in some time. Why? A number of reasons.

1. You say one thing in the lettercols—that WW does not deal with sexist situations, and does not deal with situations in a sexist way—and this is either refuted in a story or it goes against logic. For example, we have a teaser for next issue, which says that WW will be up against a horde of male aliens. Why all male? Seems to me like that's a sexist situation, even though for WW it is a traditional one. And that's one tradition that should be broken quickly.

How about this issue? It's all about a group of Amazons other than Hippolyta's. Again, a story reinforcing the theme of gender separation, which in most cases (as each gender is portrayed in the comic) leads to a "men are evil; women are good" moral. Unhealthy, to say the least. Distasteful, to my way of thinking.

And like it or not, Wonder Woman is sexist, just a tee-tiny bit. Although I'm sure that the original Amazons (those made out of clay by Aphrodite) remember their own days in Mortals' World alongside men and are not prejudiced against them (perhaps they're even nostalgically prejudiced for them), the adoptive and assimilated Amazons, a group which includes Wonder Woman, who have gathered on

Paradise since the settlement there, certainly think that theirs is the perfect environment, therefore men must live in an inferior one, therefore males are undesirable.

However, WW is a smart woman, an open-minded woman, and eighteen years of living in Mortals' World observing that men are not as bad, women not as good, as she was brought up to think would change her opinions on the matter. On rare occasions she might let the last traces of bigotry lead her astray, but if it were pointed out to her or if she had a chance to think about it, she would surely set things aright if possible.

And if you're thinking about having WW throw a few moralistic or pro-women's movement speeches around, please reconsider! My college creative writing prof always told us, "SDTI Show, don't tell!" Example has always made more of an impact than mere talk.

2. You say that Di's presence in the Army/Air Force has been because it's the best place to gather information about international developments that may disrupt the peace. Partially right. The other reason was because she wanted to be near Steve, even if he didn't know it was her he was near. It was rather an immature attitude to have, considering the gravity of her mission to Mortals' World, but when she joined the Army she was still quite young and quite infatuated. When she joined the Air Force she was still reeling from injuries which gave her complete amnesia, a condition that put her at the same emotional stage she was at when she first came to Mortals' World. Add to that additional tampering to her mind by Aphrodite, and you can see that she was in no condition to think clearly.

If you look at it, the situation of WW being in the Air Force may suggest something to expand the scope of the comic. I know most people have forgotten, but the Amazons have a mission on Earth: to protect the planet, to help mankind find maturity. In turn, Wonder Woman has a mission: to keep mankind from destroying itself. Remember? Ah, it's all coming back now.

Suppose we think of Wonder Woman not as an American, but a citizen of Paradise Island who just happens to have a fondness for America, the country most like her own.

But America also belongs in a world that is hell-bent on destroying itself. Humans have not yet found maturity, although some few have. Wouldn't the American military be a fantastic place to

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do a little spying, a little manipulating in order to maintain world peace? Wouldn't Sophia be a perfect Soviet plant to do the same thing, maintaining contact with Wonder Woman and the Amazons to coordinate their efforts and warn each other about impending crises?

To this end, I believe two developments might take place that would add interest to the series: a) Wonder Woman might evolve a Soviet identity firmly enmeshed in the Soviet military intelligence, her opposite number to Diana Prince, as a way to undertake this spying/manipulating mission and to communicate in person with Sophia.

b) Etta Candy, in the course of her work, might come upon a piece of military anti-Soviet information so hot that she would feel it her moral duty to leak it to the press so that American indignation would call off the entire operation. Perhaps it would be an American plan to goad the Soviets into a limited nuclear exchange that America thought it could win hands-down. Eventually the military would trace the press leak back to her, but being a morally upright woman she'd probably confess to it first and find herself being dumped out of the Air Force. Not a dishonorable discharge, for the American public would hold her in a favorable light for her brave actions, but she'd be kicked out just the same.

I'd like her to join up with Jupiter Labs. Remember the (first) New Teen Titans and how JupLabsInc formed them into a team in order to see how the youth of America could cope with Future Shock? I believe that Etta is still quite young, just a year or two older than Wonder Girl, and would fit in with the non-super youths that Mr. Jupiter is training right now. Such a group might even cross over every couple of years with the Teen Titans.

This would broaden the supporting character roles in the comic and open up the field for Diana Prince to be operating in a non-military venue. It would also do wonders (pardon) for Etta's character; perhaps she could become as bubbly and optimistic a woman as her Earth-2 counterpart, whom I've always liked and admired.

3. You get a 0% in devolving Hippolyte's character like you have. Everything you are doing with her goes contrary to the basic scenario of the series, anything that's been done before, and an integral piece of story plotting structure that either Wonder

Woman—Earth-1 or -2,—should contain it was a gross mistake back in WW #204 to have the queen tampering with Dee's memories. Even worse was it for Marty Pasko to bring the whole thing up again when he got on the book.

Hippolyte is the symbol of Paradise Island, the symbol of the inner being of Wonder Woman, and serves to balance the depiction of evil, greed, war, violence, etc., by being a woman of peace, kindness, fairness, the very embodiment of love itself.

And now we are saying that the queen is tampering with other people's minds—her own daughter's, for pete's sake!—and runs a country where people are afraid to speak the truth for fear that they'll be killed by some death squad!

NO NO NO NO NO!!!!!!

You totally missed the mark on this one!

What could have gotten into your minds to do this? Why could you not have explained the two earlier examples of Hippolyte's tampering with minds as being ordered by the gods, whose whims change for no known reason? The gods can be cruel or kind and still remain in character. But *Hippolyte cannot be cruel in any way*. Peace and love, remember? Or else why are we all here reading **WONDER WOMAN** in the first place?

Let's look at these new Amazons who are pointing their fingers at Hippolyte. They preach of love for men, and yet theirs is an Amazon society. They preach peace, yet they are armed for war. They have located in a portion of Mortals' World, yet they have cut themselves off from it.

Now, our Amazons have reasonable excuses: they were exiled on their island with a curse to keep out men; thus they live without men and arm themselves to fight off any encroachment of men. Plus, they are entrusted with the defense of Earth, so they must keep up their military might even though they would rather remain peaceful. Because they are exiled, they cannot have any contact with the outside world.

Which society would you trust?

Frankly, I think it was a mistake to come up with Artemis, the first Wonder Woman (who dared to name herself after a goddess! Such hubris! Really, Dan, these names plucked from mythology which have nothing to do with the characters themselves are quite annoying). The title of Amazon champion, aka "Wonder Woman," was made in times of dire danger to mankind. Back in the ancient days there were no dangers of mankind to itself. There was no reason for a Wonder Woman, which required extremely powerful spells for breaching the mystic barriers around Paradise in order for an Amazon to get out. Unless (a) this Wonder Woman was around before the Amazons really isolated themselves from men (by moving to Paradise), or (b) her career took place during the natural disasters of 776, 747, 717, or 702, and 687 B.C., during which her abilities (not powers!) would have helped. (Can you tell that I'm a neo-catastrophist?) (Go,

Velikovsky!) Frankly, I don't believe the Amazons had developed their training back then.

Okay, I'll accept her if she did that. And I'll accept these new Amazons who can't glide on air currents if we say that they are Medusa and her Amazonians (I hope you remember my WW history from two months ago), the ones who appeared in GREEN LANTERN #82. These Amazonians would still be too new to Mortals' World (coming from another dimension, where they had been exiled without their menfolk) to have integrated with Terran society. They are the warlike side of the Amazons, for they could never settle down enough to learn ways of peace. There're possibilities there, but frankly, I believe it was another mistake to let them out of that dimension without an epic written about it.

Down to really specifics:

(1) Wonder Woman is not hundreds of years old. You have mistaken her for the WW of Earth-2. Marty Pasko had a story state that she was not yet born in 1943, so I put her birth in 1944. I would like to have her at an uncomfortable age for us mortals. We can conceive of an immortal who is hundreds of years old, but someone who is, say, seventy years old is more within our conventional span of thinking. We are hit with the idea of eternal youth more this way. Which brings me to

(2) WW has not lost her immortality upon entering Mortals' World. Again, that is the Wonder Woman of Earth-2! I really am shocked that y'all can't keep the Earth-1 version straight!

Amazons get their abilities (not powers) from Amazon Training, which also must involve training on how to rid their bodies of poisons, and counteract other aging factors, probably by reinforcing the growing factors of their bodies through MENTAL DISCIPLINE. While WW was unpowered Diana Prince—obviously that was the first of the severe mental tampering she was subjected to—she forgot how to de-age herself and became quite mortal. But as soon as she regained her knowledge of Amazon training, she corrected her body's condition and is now quite ageless, thank you. As are Juno (Wonder Girl) and Minerva (Nubia) for that matter.

(3) There is no way that WW can remember her de-powered Diana Prince karate moves. Her memories of that time have been totally destroyed. She cannot even remember Lu Shu-Shang (I Ching), except as an encyclopedic memory ("I became a friend and pupil to an aged Oriental man nicknamed I Ching.") that she absorbed in the Memory Chair.

(4) I've always been proud of Wonder Woman because in an age when everyone had stupid sidekicks like Bat-Mite, Quisp, Krypto, et al., Wonder Woman had Wonder Tot, who was not only cute but intelligent as well, and could hold her own in a fight—although if that fight went past her naptime she usually conked out afterwards.

But now WW has a stupid sidekick.

That horrible, dimpled gremlin pervades the book like the aftertaste of saccharine. Just like one does not need to utilize evilness in order to establish character (as you seem to have done in Hippolyte's case), so does one not have to invent a sickeningly sweet imp to invest the series with humor.

Please get rid of the gremlin—quick! But before he gets the boot, see that he gets his due: maiming, hanging, strangulation, stabbing... should I go on? He really reeks, guys. *Get rid of him!*

(5) I could go on, but I have to do a portrait this afternoon. One last thing: how about printing the entire address of your correspondents? I've noticed that many if not all DC comics are leaving out street addresses. Sure, I've gotten my share of drooling letters from prisoners, GIs, and prepubescent males, but one can always ignore them. There's sometimes a jewel of a friend to be found out there among the letterhacks. You could add a line in the address box on the letterbox pages that correspondents who do not want their addresses given should state so in their letters. And if you absolutely must print an address in only two lines, a complete address will rarely go over that if you type it in paragraph form. Bold face and flush right will set the lines off from the rest of the letter.

I'm dying to write to a few of your fans, and I'm sure Louise Tharaud Brasher, who lives right down the road in Durham, might be able to get some more information from me if I only knew where exactly she was in order to contact her.

By the way, (6) speaking of origins: Why isn't Shelley Mayer ever credited with the creation of Wonder Woman? Is it just because William Marston is a much more intellectual name to flash? Well, Shelley is quite a genius himself! And from a couple of stories I've heard, he was just as instrumental, if not more so, than Dr. Marston about getting Wonder Woman created. How about a "created by William Moulton and Sheldon Mayer" or even a "created by William Moulton with Sheldon Mayer" line on title pages?

In conclusion, I'd like to say that everyone's enthusiasm for Wonder Woman is showing. You all seem to have such good intentions for WW. It's just that you're taking a 90° turn somewhere along the creation path and going awry.

Future letters will try to be more constructive. I suppose I shall create quite a nuisance of myself in the coming months, but please bear with me. I see you coming so close to what I consider Wonder Woman should be, but then from out of left field comes something that makes me want to scream because it messes up that vision so much——I

Hola!

Carol A. (Strick) Strickland
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P.S.: Dan: BLUE DEVIL? For shame! You really didn't want to sell any copies in

Chapel Hill or Raleigh, did you? And you an ex-Southern-Part-of-Heaven-er, too!

Dear Strick:

Where to begin? How about with the tired but true observation that we all try to do our best in difficult circumstances? One of the biggest difficulties facing the writer of a book like *WONDER WOMAN* is all the inconsistencies that are bound to creep in over the years (and, frankly, more so in *WONDER WOMAN* than some other titles of long standing). I think one must look to the spirit and not always the letter of past continuity and in some instances even ignore the past in favor of a better story today. There's evidence in your letter that you've done some picking and choosing of your own about what's right and wrong in the Amazing Amazon's history—and I'll take that as a tacit admission that 100% faithfulness to the past just isn't possible. But that doesn't make your criticisms or concerns less valid, so here are some specific responses:

You're right that there is some sexism in the basic concept of Wonder Woman and the female separatist society of Paradise Island, and it is partly to explore this issue that we've brought in a splinter group of Amazons to compare and contrast with Hippolyta and company. You're right again about WW's mission in Man's World, to save it from itself. Your ideas about how to expand on that give me the feeling that I'd quite enjoy this book if you were writing it. That's not the case, though, and Alan and Don and I have other things planned which I hope will be as entertaining (and about Etta, by the way, I hope you've been finding her character improved in recent months; now that Howard's suspicions have been revealed—to you readers anyway—you can guess that Etta's in for some interesting times).

Regarding our recent handling of Queen Hippolyta, I think you misinterpreted things a bit. It was Steve and Sofia who expressed concern that the Queen might resort to violent tactics, a contention she hotly denied and which I, as the author, would never subscribe to. But—and this gets back to the issue of picking and choosing from the past—Hippolyta did tamper with Diana's memories in issue 204, Marty Pasko did bring it up again twenty some odd issues later, and Gerry Conway stirred the whole thing up some more with the Mists of Nepenthe a while later, so how am I to take your assertion that the current handling of the Queen goes contrary to "anything that's been done before"? All the creators involved, I can guarantee you, felt that they were straightening out the problems of an inconsistent past; but taken as a whole, we're left with a pattern of confusion and, as Jeff Peckham pointed out in this space in issue 318, a main character who knows precious little about her own past. That's a bad condition for Wonder Woman to be in and, rightly or wrongly, like it or not, Hippolyta is responsible

(unless you think I ought to write an episode in which Kanigher, Pasko, and Conway are hauled before Aphrodite for her judgment). If we want to keep showing the Queen as a woman of peace, kindness, fairness, and love (and I certainly do), she'll have to own up to behavior that was not evil but mistaken, that was understandable but not excusable, and that cannot be ignored at this late date.

On to other business: Sorry you're opposed to my using semifamiliar names from mythology for new characters; but while you're right about Artemis's hubris, recall that our very own Wonder Woman bears the Latin name of the same goddess. About Wonder Woman's age, Alan and I disagree, but I'm not sure I'm ready to accept your version either. Is WW mortal or immortal on Earth-1? The way I read it, that's another issue of pick and choose, choose and pick. WW can't remember her karate moves? As a piano player, I'm familiar with what we call "finger memory," and I suspect that with even no memory of my name or past, I still might be able to sit down and play a Beatles tune or two; the body can remember what the mind does not. Finally, concerning your feelings about the gremlin, our letters tell us you're in the minority (luckily for me), and for the foreseeable future, he's staying. But I'll agree with you on one point: Wonder Woman should not have a stupid sidekick, to which I'll add that I don't think our little friend is—uh—stupid, and anyway, he's Steve's sidekick, not WW's.

And about Carol's postscript, all you yankees out there, I'm being taken to task for co-creating a character called *BLUE DEVIL* (on sale where you bought this comic book—plug, plug), which also happens to be the name of the teams of Duke University in Durham, NC. Since I used to live in nearby Chapel Hill (home of the UNC Tar Heels) and have family in Raleigh (home of the NCSU Wolfpack), my personal loyalty is being impugned. But as a matter of fact, I went to college at Michigan State University—so don't be surprised if the Spartans show up in one of my stories and trounce Wonder Woman, the Blue Devil, and anybody else who gets in their way.

A last word: There's no need to apologize for a heartfelt, well-reasoned (and typed) letter, which was in fact far more constructive in its criticism than you give yourself credit for. There'd be no complaints from me if all our letters were like yours (well, an occasional "Nobody has ever written *WONDER WOMAN* as brilliantly as you do and I can't find a single thing wrong with it except to say that I can't get enough!" would be all right too). So anybody else with an axe to grind is welcome to sharpen up and start (letter) hacking away.

And now back to our regularly scheduled editor.

Hola!

—Dan Mishkin

NEXT ISSUE: WW #322 is going to be a special issue for a lot of reasons. First, it features the first full-length Wonder Woman story in a long, long time. Second, a lot of subplots are going to be tied up in that issue. Diana finally learns all about her past. And it isn't exactly a happy day when she does. Then Eros squares off with Steve Trevor. And the gremlin, whose name will certainly be announced in next issue's letter column, begins a strange and dangerous journey of his own. Finally, it's the last monthly issue of *WONDER WOMAN* for awhile, at least. Yes, not all news can be good news, fans. You'll have to wait 60 days between WW #322 and 323, and 60 more days for WW #324, and so on. (Urgh.) If you're not delighted about this, do your part to help make *WONDER WOMAN* a hugely successful, popular title. Then it'll come out twelve times a year again and it'll have an Annual—and who knows what else! Pass the word along, if you think that *WONDER WOMAN* has been getting better every issue. Tell your friends. Tell the guy who sells you comics. Write to me, expressing your seething outrage at the state of affairs—or, if you think it's for the best that *WONDER WOMAN* has gone bi-monthly, please, let me know.

As for the Huntress... There won't be any more back-up features in *WONDER WOMAN* for a while, of course, so that means Helena Wayne is off in limbo. But (sit down! calm down now!) it's not for long. Joey Cavalieri and Ed Barreto are working right now on a four-issue mini-series for Ms. Wayne. It picks up where this issue leaves off. And then you're in for a lot of surprises. I can't say more right now, but I'll have news soon. (Nobody ever accused me of shyness.)

So...

That's enough hot air from yrs. truly for now. Hope you've started the countdown already, because the next thirty days might just pass even faster than usual, now that you know what's coming! See you.

—Alan





A

Blonde Goddess

SCAM.