



WONDER WOMAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
CARTOON
AUTHORITY

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BOLLAND

THROUGH THE
LOOKING
GLASS...



ROUGHED

Given life by the unjustly slain and empowered by the Gods, she is the defender of the downtrodden, the vindicator of the victimized... She is...

WONDER WOMAN

WHEN I FEEL THE BREEZE
RUSTLING THROUGH MY HAIR, AND
KNOW THAT THE VERY WIND HOLDS
ME ALOFT, I FEEL AS IF I HAVE
LEFT ALL MY CONCERNS
BELLOW ME.



TO BE AN ENVOY OF GODS
AND AMAZONS IN THE
Patriarchal world below
IS OFTEN FRUSTRATING
AND DANGEROUS...

Fever Dream

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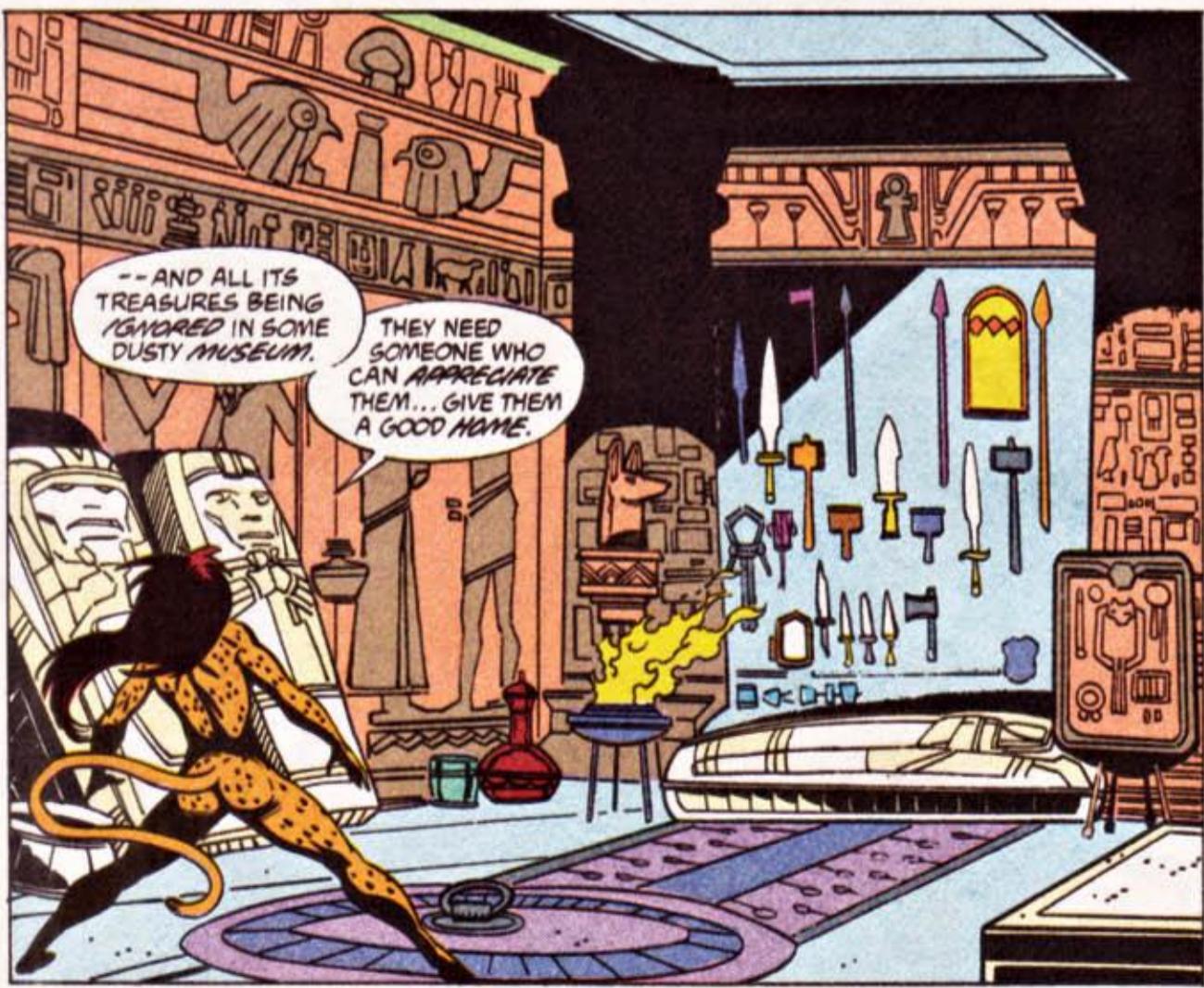
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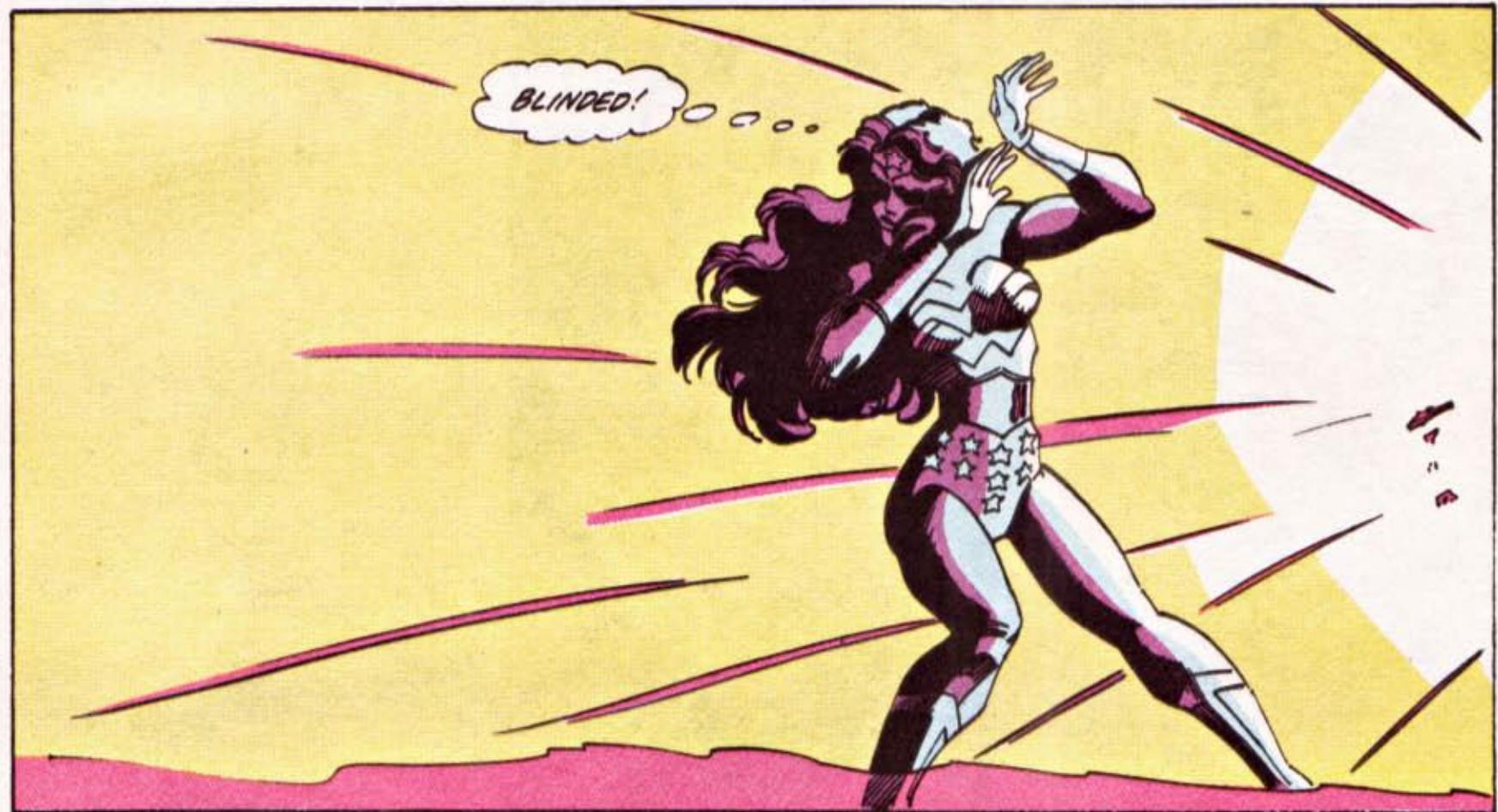
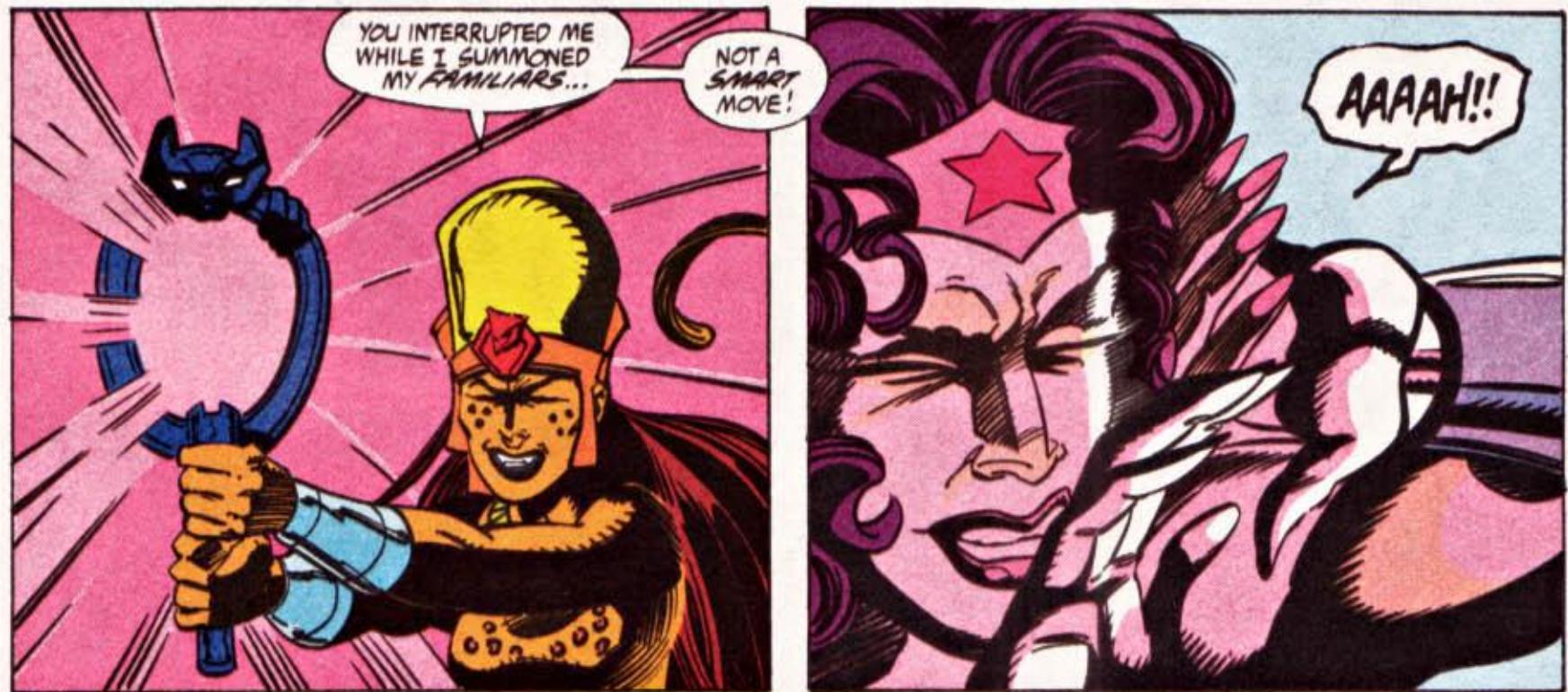




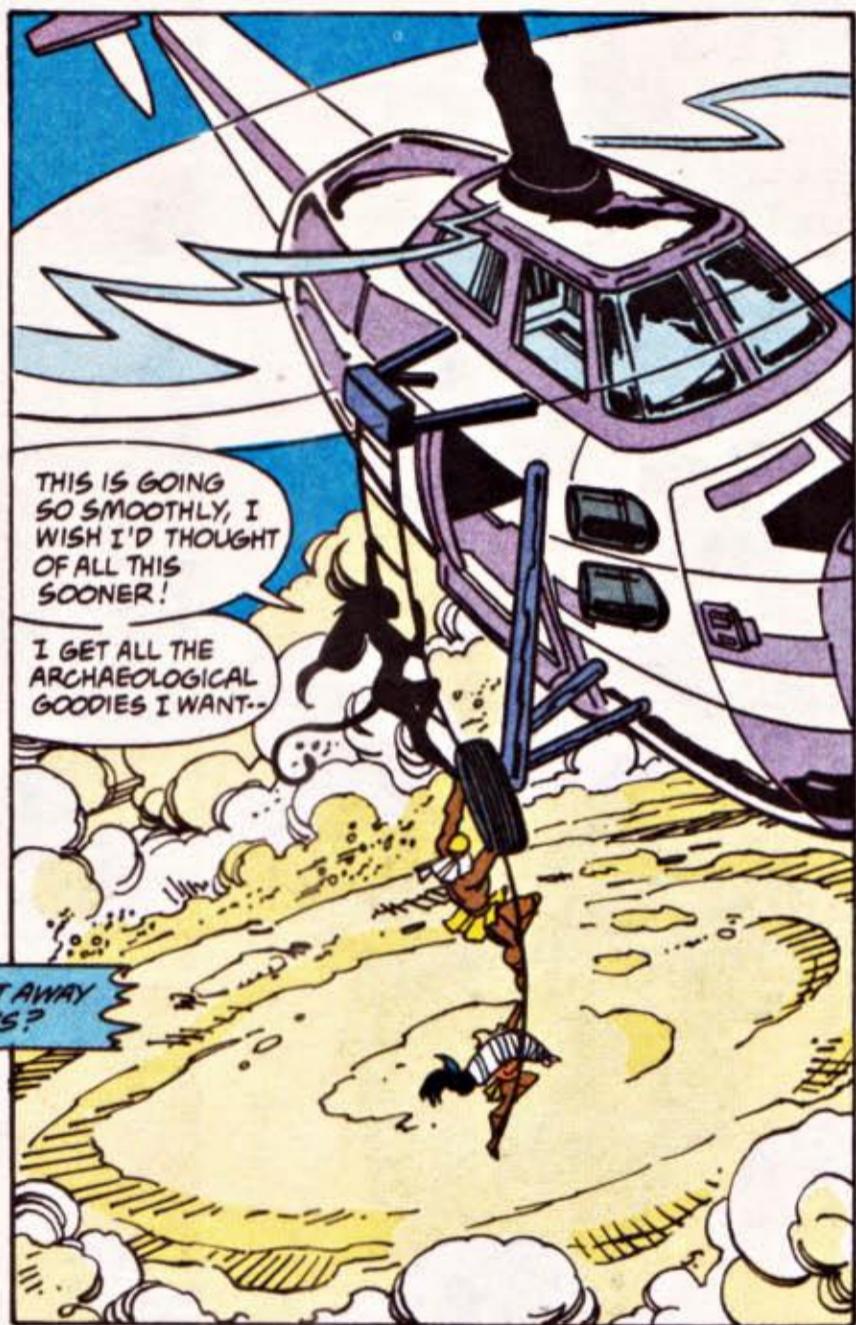
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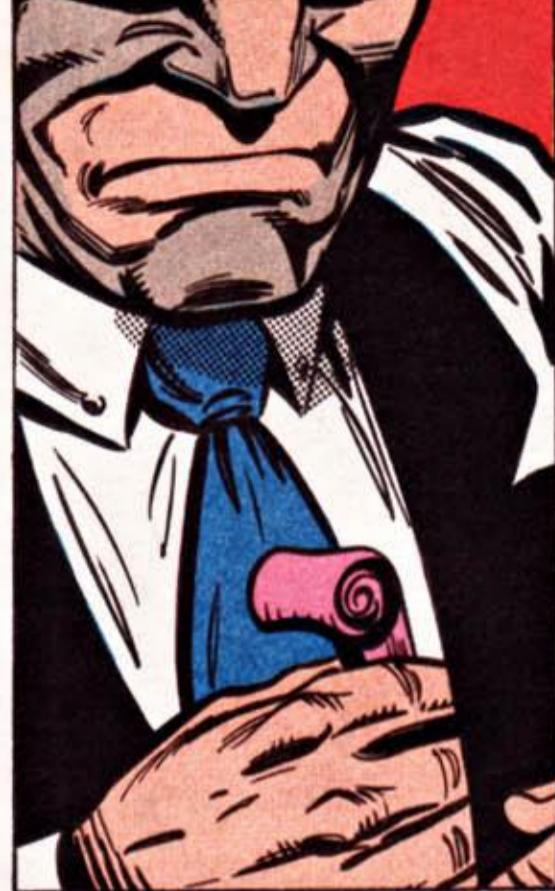


OF COURSE, ALL OF THE FOREGOING REFLECTIONS ON THE AESTHETICS OF MY OWN PERSONAL BRAND OF MIND POISON GO FAR TO EXPLAIN THE HOW...

...BUT NOT THE WHAT.

IF I WISH TO STRIKE BACK AT WONDER WOMAN, THE MOST EFFICACIOUS WAY TO DO THAT IS TO ATTACK HER FRIENDS.

LET VANESSA KAPATELIS BELIEVE THAT SHE IS WONDER WOMAN...

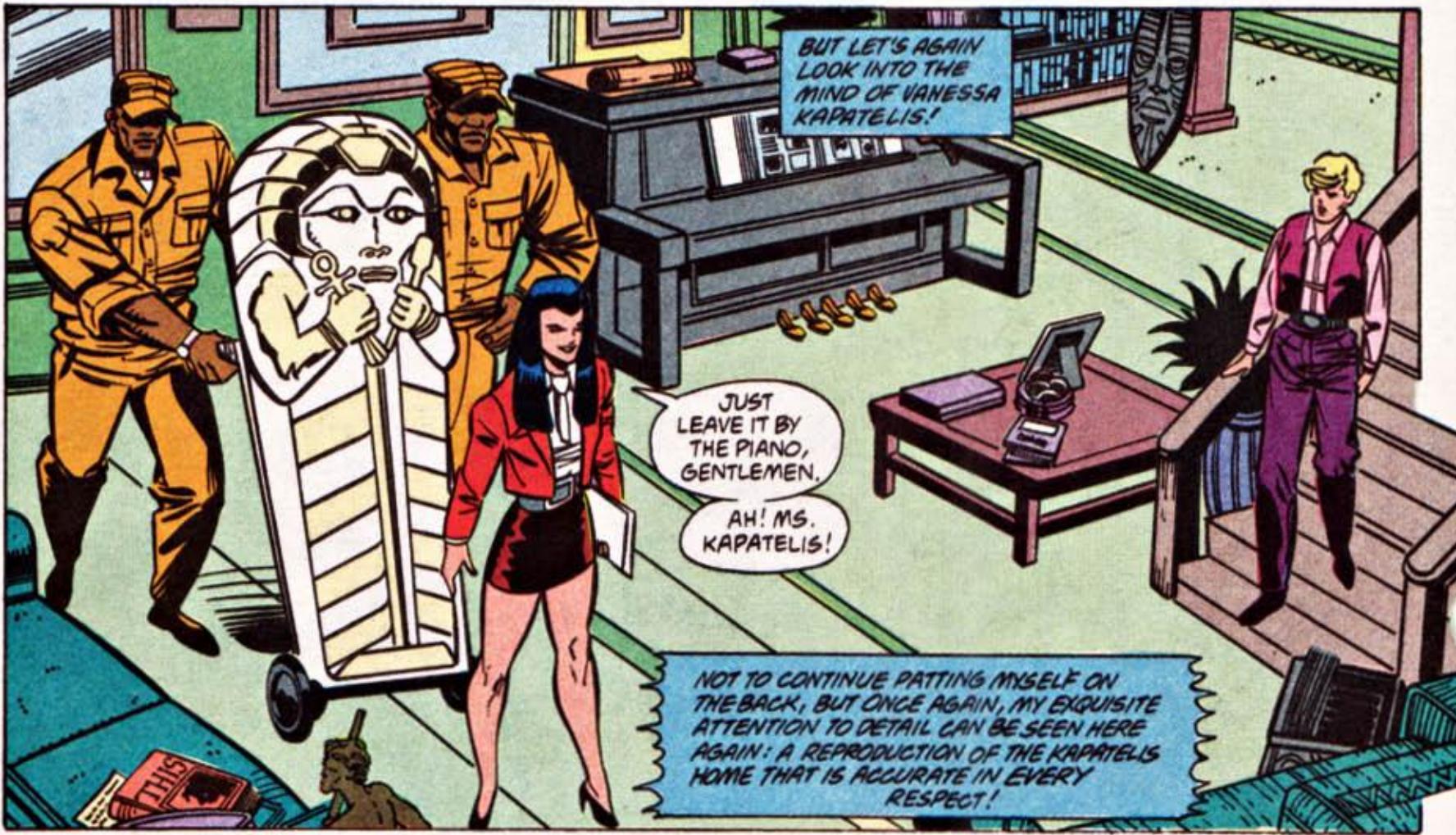


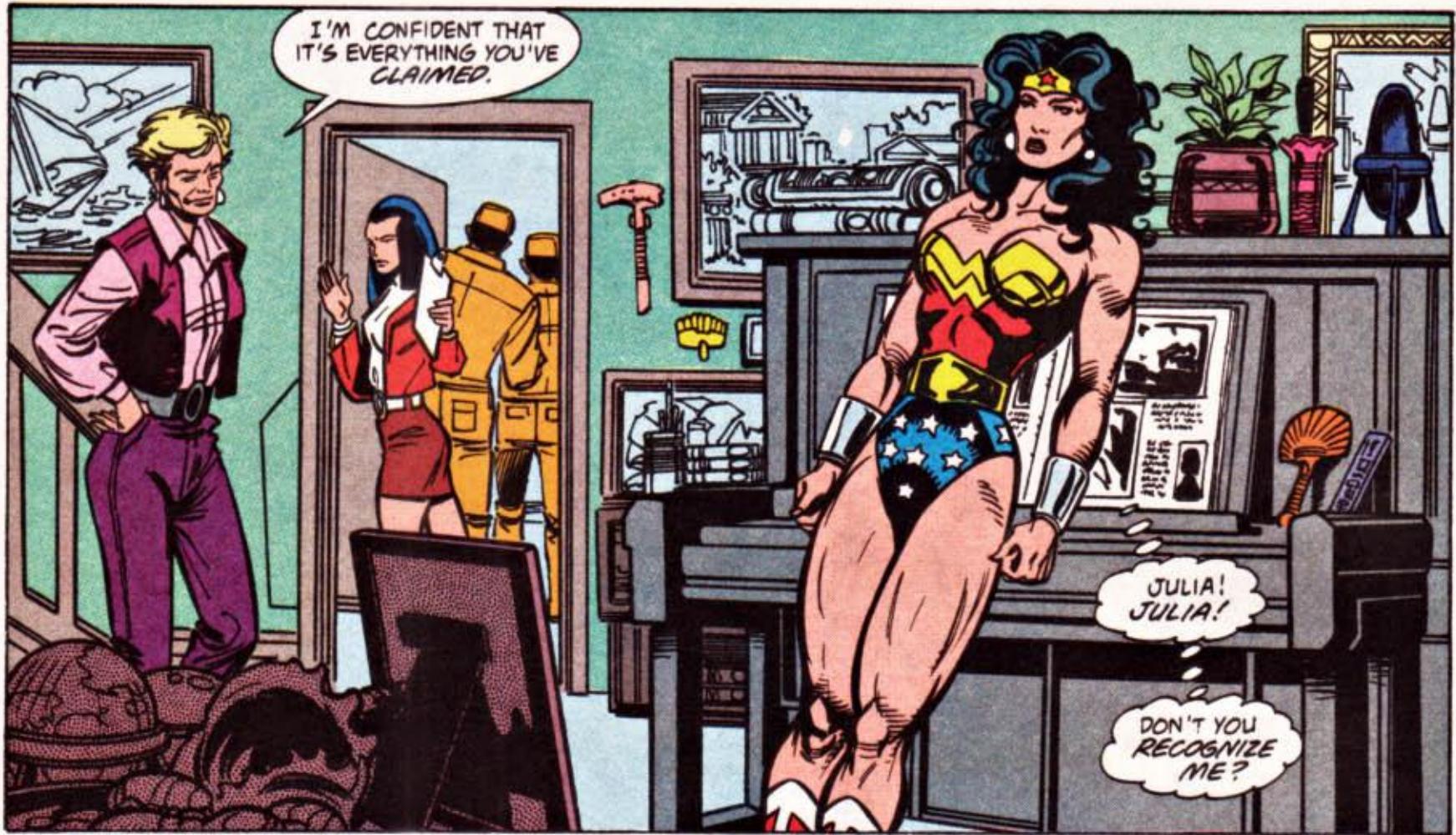
...TOY WITH HER, RUIN DREAMS AND IMAGES IN HER MIND TO THAT EFFECT, ALL IN VIVID DETAIL...

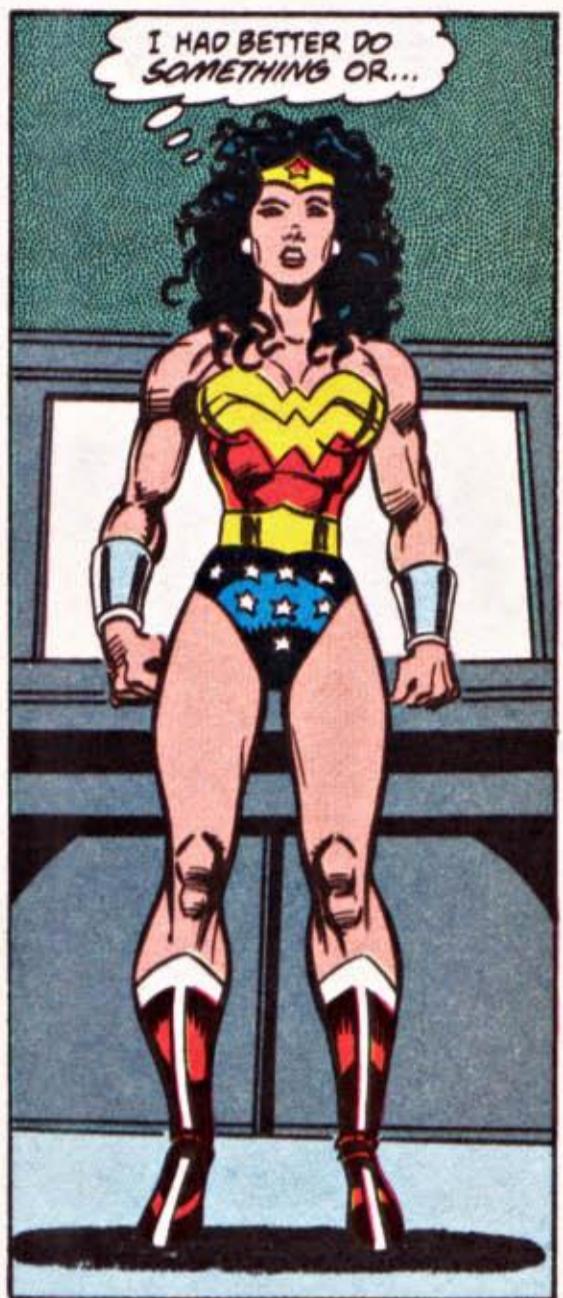
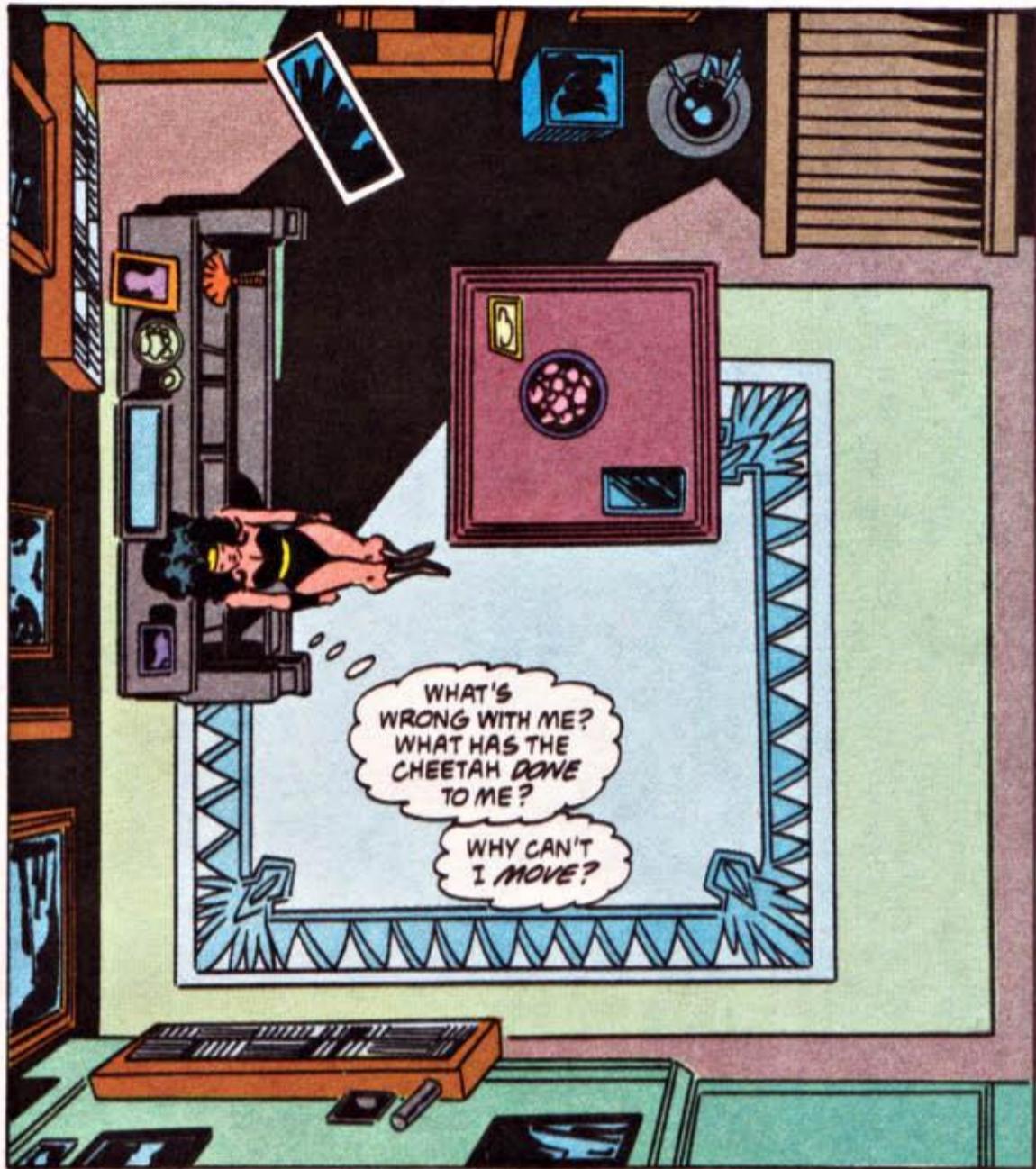
...AND I'LL OWN HER MIND... AND HAVE AN AGENT CLOSE TO THE REAL WONDER WOMAN THAT SHE'LL TRUST IMPLICITLY.

THE BEST PART IS, I DON'T HAVE TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR THEM AS THIS IS GOING ON.

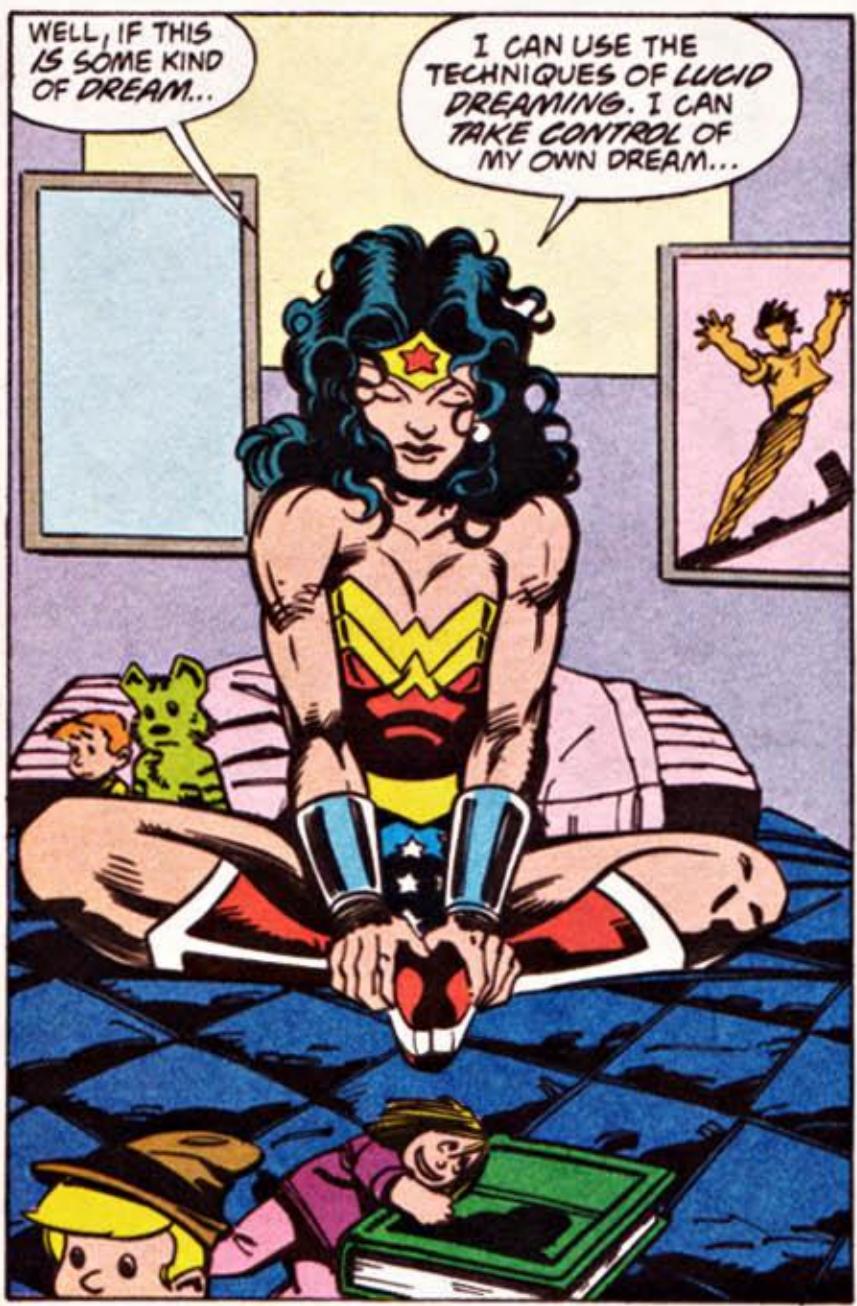
I SET ALL THIS UP MONTHS AGO. IT'S A DREAM TIME BOMB, ACTIVATED ALL OF ITS OWN ACCORD!

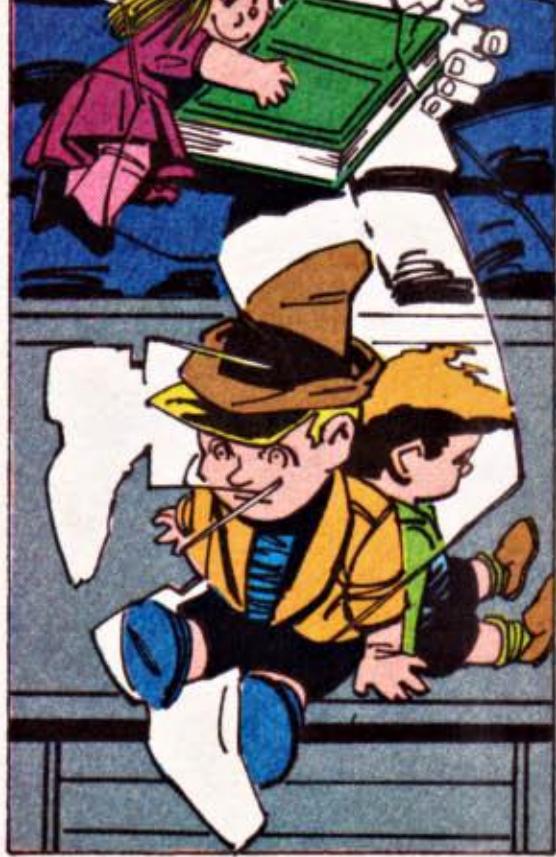
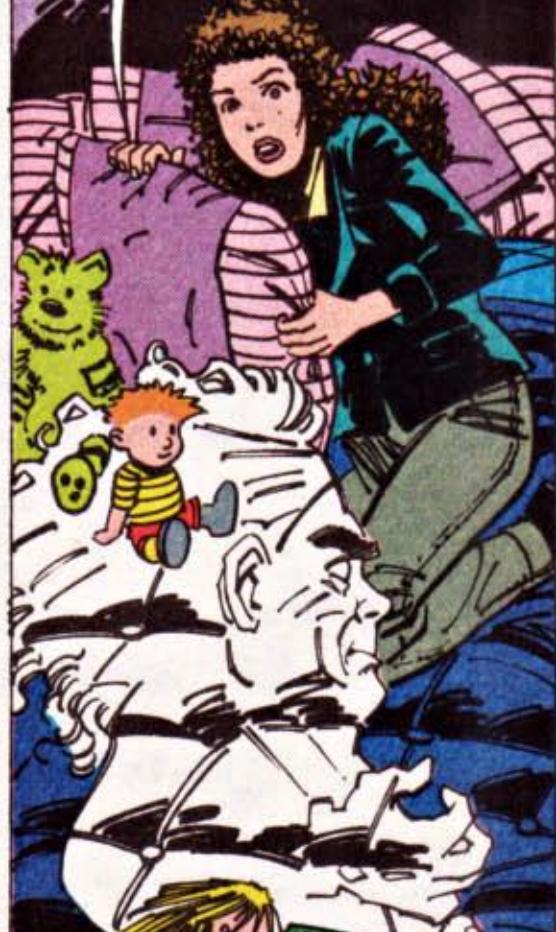
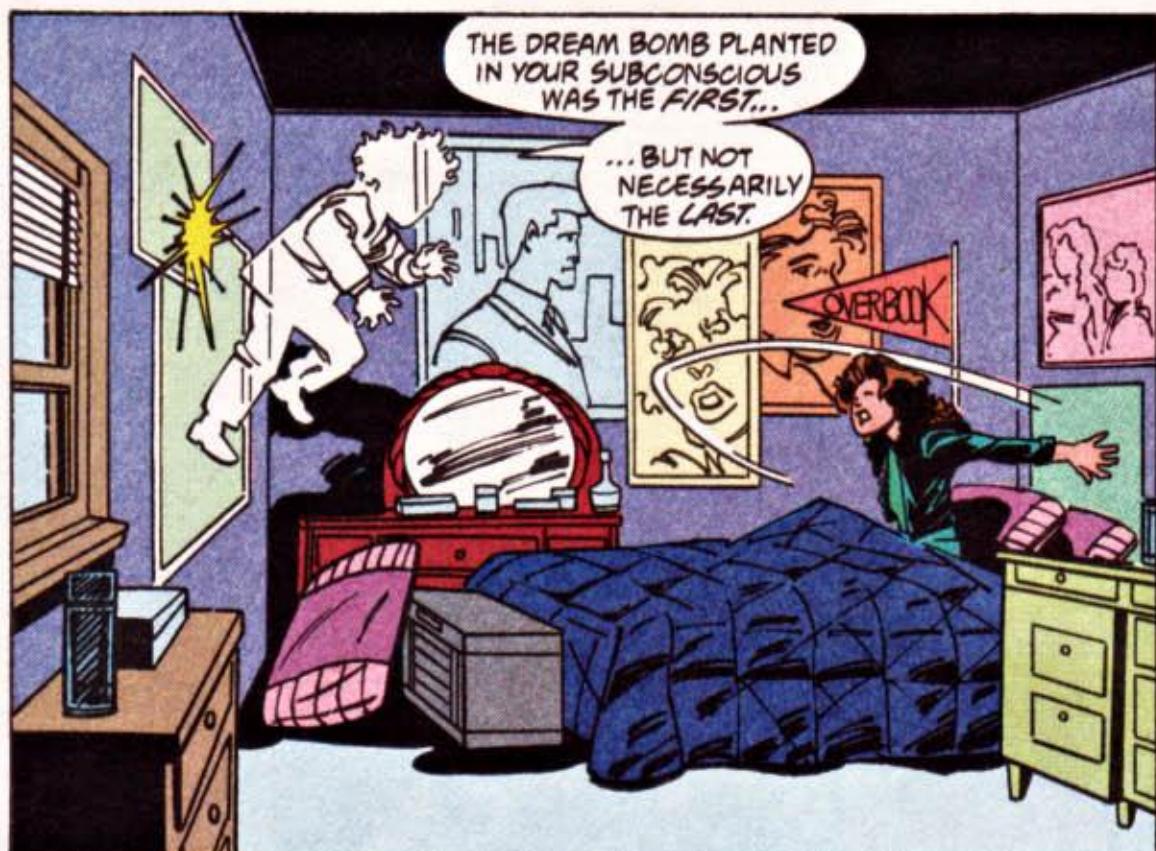




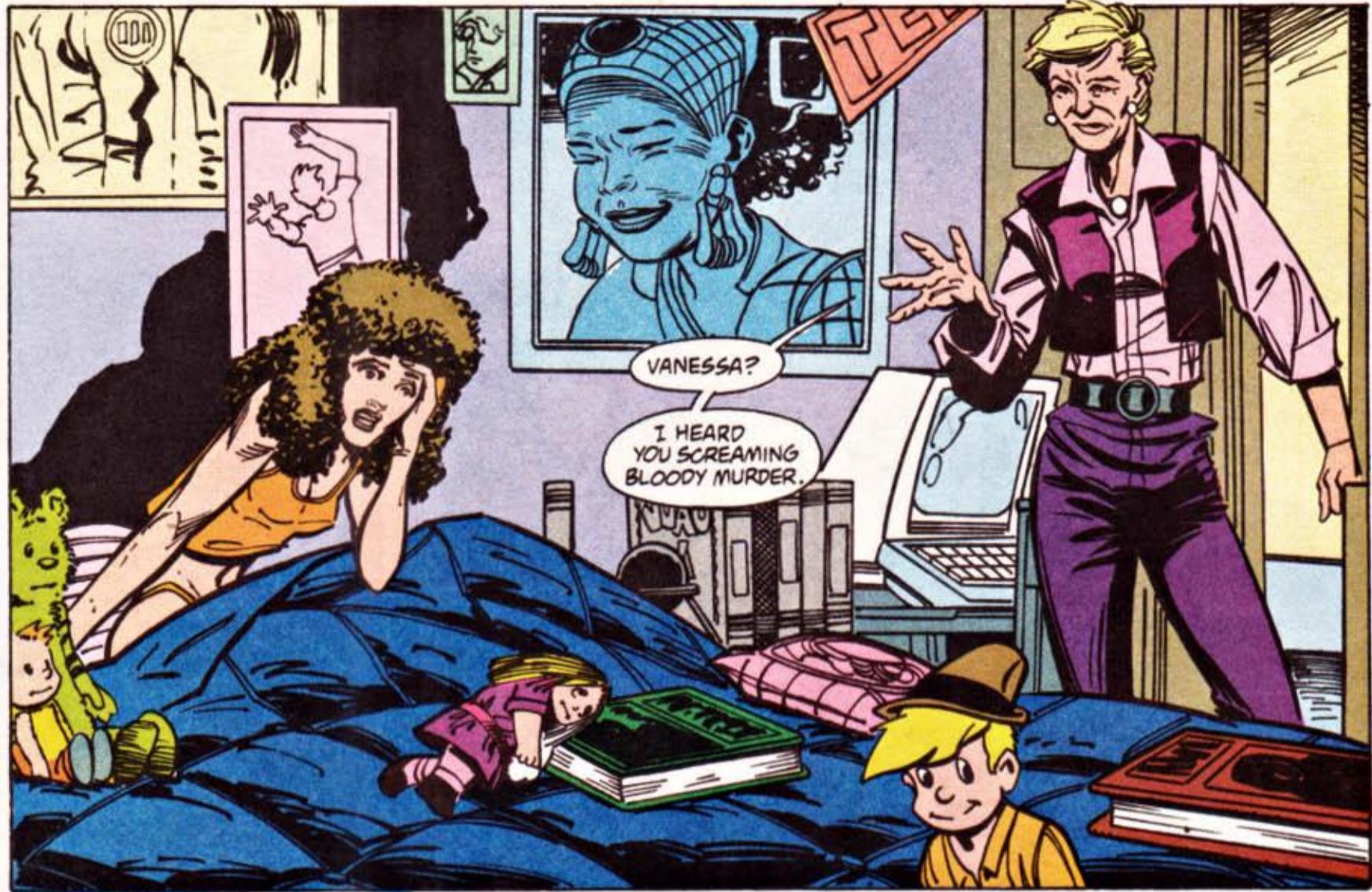




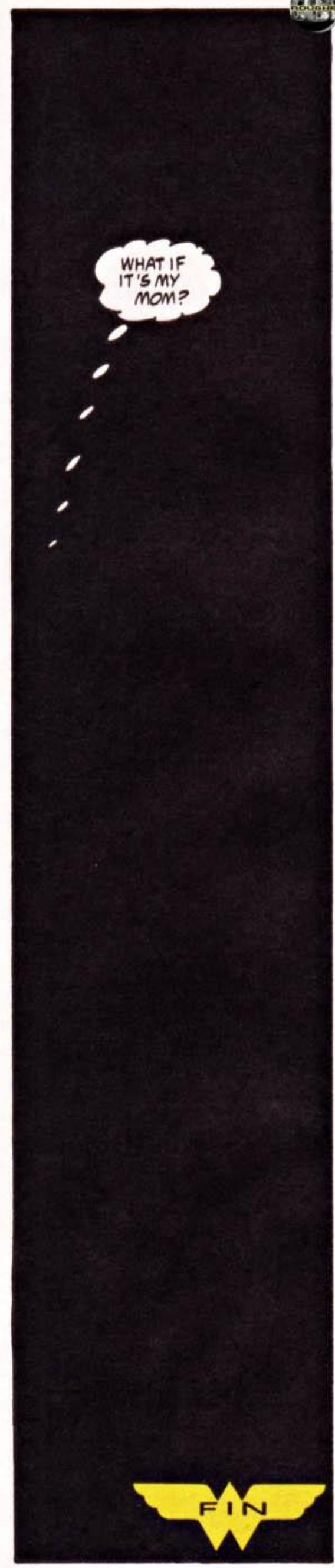












WONDER WOMAN

Well, the letters on the WONDER WOMAN SPECIAL are in, and the readers' verdict on Diana's "new" direction is...

Dear Editors,

I must say I am glad that the WONDER WOMAN SPECIAL has finally come out. I have been looking forward to the new incarnation of Diana since the last issue of the comic.

I was a bit wary of what would happen now that George Pérez is gone, but I knew that William Messner-Loebs writes good stuff. THE JAGUAR and DR. FATE have been a couple of my favorites lately, though I am sad to see DR. FATE get cancelled.

The special issue seems a good bridge between Pérez's more mythology-oriented Diana to the promised action-packed issues to come. It's interesting to see where she gets her secret identity. I guess she won't be needing an invisible plane, though. I liked the reference to Myndi; I hope this type of continuity is not lost in the future.

I also hope that Diana still interacts with Vanessa and her other old friends. She shouldn't lose that. Not many super-heroes around have friends like that. She should also go and see her mother occasionally. Keep those connections.

The switch to more action has the potential to be really fun. Sometimes all the gods and things can get tiresome. I hope that you can have the action of the SUPERMAN books, with a nice balance of people stories. I guess you've had your last earth-shattering story (WAR OF THE GODS) for a while, so the action should be more mundane. I can see Diana fighting crime, but in her own way.

One of the things I really liked about the previous 62 issues of WONDER WOMAN was the cover art by George Pérez. It will be a real loss no longer having him do covers, but I hear that Brian Bolland will be the regular cover artist. I saw a preview in CSN of one of the covers and it looked great!

Bob Clinton
Edina, MN

You like us, you really like us! And yes, Brian Bolland will be doing our covers, which just keep getting better and better! (By the way, the cancellation of DR. FATE is just the beginning for that book. Hint, hint!)

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

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Dear Editor,

I picked up a copy of WONDER WOMAN for the first time yesterday (WONDER WOMAN SPECIAL #1) and here's what I thought: the story was sort of dopey, and that character Deathstroke is lame. (Sheesh, who designed his ridiculous costume?) The art by Jill Thompson, however, was fabulous. Can I be her boyfriend?

Eric Searleman
Phoenix, AZ

OK, those that don't like our stories, love (or want to) our artists. We can deal with that.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Dear Dan,

I was able to get an advance look at the WONDER WOMAN SPECIAL, and the story reminded me of the old Diana Prince stories from the late '60s—lots of action and suspense, and very little superheroics. I miss those stories, so in that respect I enjoyed the SPECIAL very much.

While I expect Bill Messner-Loebs to approach Diana's character in his own manner, I'm worried that he's changing her too much, too soon. I agree that after five years Diana should be more self-confident, but I don't know where her terseness and sarcasm is coming from. For example, when she left home, she didn't say goodbye to Vanessa, and instead her parting shot is "Contact my mother so she can find my bones." I know it's not fair to say "George Pérez's Diana would never have done that," because this is no longer George Pérez's Diana; however, that line really bothered me. It was very foreboding and, at the same time, completely incidental.

If Wonder Woman must opt for a "Diane Prince" identity, I suppose I should be glad she isn't becoming the unassuming mouse the pre-Crisis Diana was. The creation of the identity and its history by Proteus was brilliant, and a nice reminder that the gods will still play a part in Diana's life.

At first I found her dismissal of Deathstroke's killing much too casual, but this changed after their argument over methods—a very entertaining sequence. Their battle in the woods was one of the most involving fight scenes I've ever read. Having Diana end it all with one mighty punch was a great touch!

Bill's handling of Deathstroke, Ed, and the Kapetelis family was excellent. The Cheetah has always been my favorite foe for Diana, and Von Nastraed presents an interesting and powerful challenge.

Jill Thompson, as always, was outstanding. She has a wonderful talent for conveying emotions through facial expressions—looking at Diana's eyes on page 30, I could almost feel Wilson's punch. Will Jay Geldhof's complementary inking also be seen in the regular series?

I'm looking forward to seeing more of the new team's work and watching Wonder Woman take a more active role in the DC Universe. More than anything else, however, I'd like WONDER WOMAN to remain as distinct a book from the standard super-hero selection as it has been since the series began.

Here's to 50 more years! Keep up the good work, and best of luck to the new WONDER WOMAN crew.

Jacques Viau
St. Lambert, Quebec
Canada

Thanks, Jacques. I hope you are enjoying the current guest art team of Paris Cullins and Robert Campanella. Jill will be back with issue #71, although no regular inker has yet been assigned.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Dear Bill, Jill, (Cool! Rhyming names!) et alii:

Re: WONDER WOMAN SPECIAL #1

WONDERFUL! Not only did you make Diana a likeable person, but you've also given her a great sense of humor! (e.g., her flaky Diane Prince persona—I love it!) Bill and Jill, I hope you two will stay together for a long time. Your combined talents mesh perfectly, and I wish nothing but the best of luck in the future ahead.

Ana Patel
Address not available

You know, that Diane Prince persona has struck a chord with you all. Either you love it or...

Dear Dan and Wonder-folks:

ARRRGHHH! Diane Prince? Yuk! Please let's not go back to the old secret identity stuff. I know Bill wants to take Wonder Woman in a different direction, but please don't go back onto old ground.

I found Diana's acceptance, even as little of it as there was, of Deathstroke's attitude and methods to be completely out of character here. This is not the Wonder Woman we have known for the last five years, and to me she is absolutely out of character here in this "special."

The art was very good, and I liked that, but the direction the story took? No, thanks. I hope that this is just an aberration. Until next time...

Carl Pietrantonio
Laredo, TX

Let me get this straight, you didn't care for the SPECIAL? Well, you have to remember Diana has died and come back, and that's bound to change a person's perspective somewhat. Besides, after five years you have to expect some character growth, otherwise Bill would just be, as you put it, "going back onto old ground."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Dear Mr. Thorsland,

Something that raised my eyebrow and caused alarms to go off was the identity Diana used (and not too effectively by the looks of it). Please let this Diane Prince be a tribute to the "old" Wonder Woman, and to the memory of Myndi Mayer, and NOT a permanent secret identity; her role as princess and envoy of Themyscira is too complex and interesting enough on its own.

There was one other point that disturbed me: the art. I don't know why it was so pronounced this issue, but Jill Thompson's drawings of Diana left a lot to be desired. The extremely bushy eyebrows, the pug nose and the baby-fat cheeks have got to go! Give Diana back her Greco-Roman looks. (So that this doesn't seem completely negative, I must say I thoroughly enjoyed the center "panel" on page 34!)

I would like to end this letter with a suggestion. I realize the whole point of this new direction is to incorporate Wonder Woman more fully into the DC Universe, but please realize that this universe of yours includes the Sandman. Although darker in tone, Morpheus, Death, Despair, Destiny and the others would fit right into this book's mythology. Remember, a character called Morpheus has already been at home in these pages; I assume there is only one god with this name.

Robert J. Tolleson
Pompano Beach, FL

Robert, never assume because...well, you must know the old "Odd Couple" joke. Regardless, Sandman and company are part of our Mature line of books, whose subject matter just wouldn't be appropriate to this and the other DC Universe titles, which are intended for general readers. Right now, the only crossover with the SANDMAN series that we have is Jill Thompson, who is pencilling a couple of issues beginning with #40. It's some of her best stuff. Now, about that Diane Prince identity crisis—Bill and Dan came up with that as a "tweak" at the old continuity, among other things. It was meant as a one-shot deal. In the future, Diana will have enough problems keeping her Wonder Woman identity intact (he said as the foreboding music echoed in the readers' minds... raising some eyebrows).

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Dear WONDER WOMAN creators,

I have no problem with a new direction for this comic, but why this new character? What? You say that this is the same Diana? Did I miss a story between #62 and the special? Lines like, "No, so...find my bones." and "I'll hold this batch," do not seem to ring true for the Princess.

The biggest travesty, however, was the contrived fight scene. "Wilson may be faster than she?"!?! Has Diana gained Myndi's drug habit on top of everything else? Actually, that would explain why the battle took so long (26 panels)! When the gods left they must have taken "the speed of Hermes" and "the strength of the Earth" with them. Apparently ol' Hestia has bailed out as well, leaving her lasso almost powerless. Deathstroke has never shrugged off Wonder Girl's lasso that easily!

If these terrible inconsistencies are to be explained, I apologize in advance. Perhaps some of that dastardly magic is backing Slade as well.

Greg A. Caza
Bolton, Ontario
Canada

Apology accepted, Greg. According to the Deathstroke entry in WHO'S WHO IN THE DC UNIVERSE, as written by Marv Wolfman, Slade Wilson has four times the strength and speed of a normal human, with reflexes that are virtually instantaneous. This, along with years of combat skill, make Deathstroke one tough adversary. Look at the trouble he gave the Man of Steel in SUPERMAN #68. And Diana wasn't trying to bind Slade with her lasso, just make him face himself and his actions. To Diana's surprise (which was why she lost her grip) Terminator is very aware and comfortable with what he is. Sorry if this wasn't clear.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Dear Wonder Warriors,

I was unexpectedly shocked to see Deathstroke with Diana in this SPECIAL! This has to be the most unlikely team-up in the history of comics! Their opposing philosophies and the conflicts that came out of their scenes together are what made "Operation: Cheetah" so exciting and so much fun. In fact, it was great to see Diana kick the you-know-what outta Slade Wilson. Just because Diana is peace-loving doesn't mean she has to take any guff from anyone, especially Slade Wilson! The guy deserved it!

I also enjoyed seeing Diana adopt a secret identity, even temporarily, since it made me wax a bit nostalgic for the old Wonder Woman of decades past. I'm not saying I'd like Diana to return to those days, but it was fun to remember them and harken back to the times when Ms. Prince dominated the cover title dressed in white. While I think Wonder Woman could've come up with the idea on her own, the scenes where she consulted Proteus for inspiration were mystical and eerie. Like a true heir to the Greek theatre, Diana proved herself quite an actress,

drawing on her memories of Myndi Mayer to provide her with a character to play.

Diana's reactions to the news of the Cheetah's capture was very natural for her. I wouldn't expect her to respond in any other way than to want to rescue Barbara Minerva! In fact, it was fascinating to read the contrast between her reaction and those of Indelicato, Vanessa, and Julia. I also enjoyed the supporting role that the Inspector played in this story. As for the Daemonstro, whoever he really is, he has proven to be a scary villain. The scenes with Cheetah in captivity were grueling to experience.

I'm very happy that Jill Thompson is staying with the art chores on this title, since she's fantastic! My favorite scene was, of course, the battle in the snow. Jill pencils a tough-looking Deathstroke as well as she draws a voluptuous Wonder Woman. Jay Geldhof's inks complemented her pencils very nicely, giving her a sharp edge. I also really like the new logo. It symbolizes the power and beauty of Wonder Woman perfectly.

A warm welcome to William Messner-Loebs as the new writer for this series! If WONDER WOMAN SPECIAL #1 is any indication, we lucky readers are in for a thrilling time with everyone's favorite Amazon!

Neil Ahlquist
Minneapolis, MN

Diana's acting abilities will be put to the test as Bill casts her in a very demanding role over the course of the next few issues. It's the kind of part that calls for a Sigourney Weaver/Linda Hamilton type.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

OTHER WONDER WOMAN APPEARANCES THIS MONTH: Wonder Woman starts to take an active role in the DC Universe beginning with JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA ANNUAL #6. This is part of the ECLIPSO: THE DARKNESS WITHIN epic running through this summer's annuals, in which the heroes have their baser selves unleashed. Will Diana join the dark side?!? Find out when the Amazon Princess goes against Superman's former foe Maxima!

If that League duty isn't enough for you, check out JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #41, where Wonder Woman lends a hand in battling mythological creatures from Earth's past intent on reclaiming the planet!

NEXT ISSUE: WARNING! WARNING! Diana is thrust into a rescue mission that leaves her LOST IN SPACE!!! It's the beginning of the five-part "Exodus into Space" saga. When Bill Loebs said Wonder Woman was going to become part of the DC Universe, he wasn't kidding! And look for the far-out Brian Bolland cover! And before I go, just a reminder: name this lettercoll!

—Eddie Berganza
Boldly Going!