



HEPHAESTUS -- THE GOD OF FIRE -- IS BACK...
AND NO POWER ON EARTH CAN STOP HIM!

30c
NO. 227
JAN.
30725

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
CARTOON
AUTHORITY

Wonder Woman

THE
THEATER'S ON
FIRE, AND EVERY-
ONE IN IT WILL
DIE!

-- INCLUDING
YOU,
WONDER
WOMAN!



ERNIE CHVIA
COLLECTOR

01
0
098930725
7098930725

WHAT'S SO UNUSUAL ABOUT THIS PICTURE?!

THIS IS LOWER NEW YORK BAY: THROUGH IT PASSES THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY, TREATING TOURISTS TO A VIEW OF THE FAMOUS STATUE OF LIBERTY!

IT IS HERE THAT WE FIND--

Wonder Woman

--ENGAGED IN A BATTLE WITH A GLOWING, GOLDEN ROBOT! NOW THAT'S A LITTLE UNUSUAL... BUT THE NEW YORKERS WHO SEE IT DON'T EVEN BLINK! THEY'RE USED TO THINGS LIKE THIS!

SO WHAT IS SO UNUSUAL ABOUT THIS SCENE? WELL... MANHATTAN MAY BE NOTORIOUS FOR ITS SWELTERING INDIAN SUMMERS--BUT IT IS NOT AT ALL NORMAL THAT...

...THE WATER'S ON FIRE!

5-2433

"MY WORLD... IN ASHES!"

STORY: MARTIN PASKO • ART: JOSE DELBO & VINCE COLLETTA • EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

WONDER WOMAN, Vol. 35, No. 227, Dec.-Jan., 1976/1977. Published bi-monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and additional mailing offices. Copyright © 1976 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A. misterjoe, scanner.

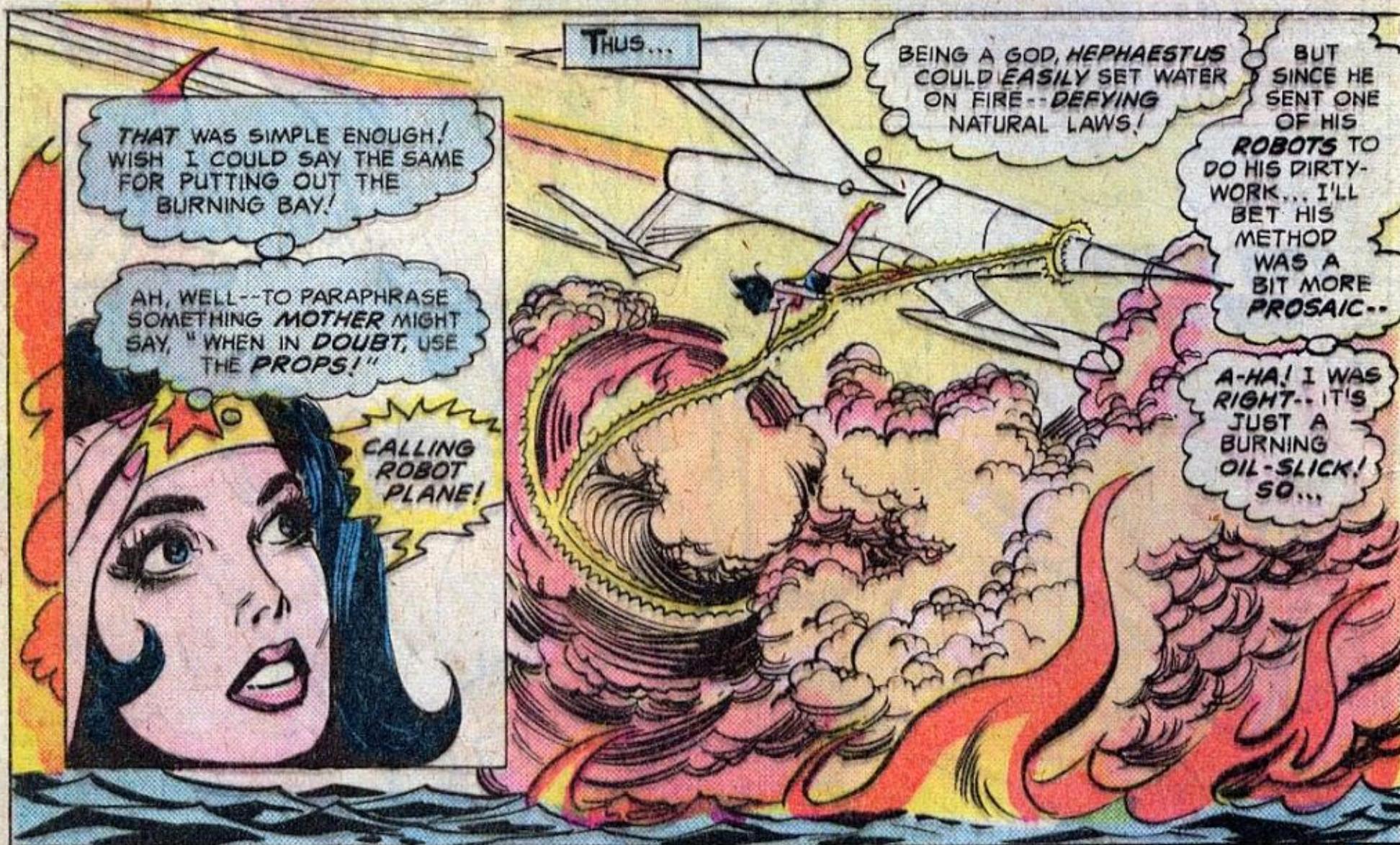
This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: National Periodical Publications, Inc., 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735. Rate \$3 in U.S.A. (\$4 elsewhere). Subscription is for consecutive issues totalling \$3.00 of their cover prices.

Jenette Kahn, Publisher
Julius Schwartz, Editor
E. Nelson Bridwell, Associate Editor
Jack Adler, Production Manager
Vince Colletta, Art Director

Sol Harrison, President

Advertising Representative,
Sanford Schwartz & Co., Inc.
355 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 391-1400



...LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO LOOK BACKWARD
SEVERAL HOURS--TO A SCENE BETWEEN
DIANA PRINCE AND STEVE HOWARD...

I'LL PICK UP
THE TICKETS
JULIE'S RESERVED
FOR US, AND--

OKAY, ANGEL--BUT
DON'T BE LONG, HUH?

I DUNNO IF
IT'S SUCH A
GOOD IDEA
GETTING
INVOLVED
WITH THIS
JULIE
GABRIEL--

AND
WHAT'S
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?

JUST THAT...
WELL, FROM
WHAT I'VE
READ,
SHE'S A
VERY
MIXED-UP
LADY--MAYBE
A LITTLE...
CRAZY.

OH, THAT'S
JUST A
LOT OF MEDIA
TRASH, STEVE!
SHE'S GOT
HER PROBLEMS...

...BUT SHE'S
REALLY A
DYNAMITE
PERSON!

NOW GO--
I'LL MEET
YOU AT
"ELAINE'S"
FOR
LUNCH--
12 SHARP!

WITH THAT, DIANA
DISAPPEARED INSIDE
AND SCURRIED UP THREE
RICKETY FLIGHTS...

...TO ENTER A DRAFTY, DUSTY
REHEARSAL-HALL RIPE WITH THE
SMELLS OF STALE COFFEE, STALER
CIGARETTE SMOKE, AND VERY
FRESH LINIMENT...

JULIE-- I SIMPLY WILL
NOT TAKE OUT THAT
TIME-STEP!

AND I'M
TELLIN' YOU,
BUSTER, THAT
I'M A SINGER--
NOT A HOOFER!

MY PIPES ARE
JUST DANDY--
BUT MY FEET
DON'T KNOW A
"SUSIE-Q" FROM A
"SLAP-BALL-
CHANGE"!

JULIE
at CARNEGIE
HALL

HIYA, PRINCE--
HERE FOR THE
TICKETS?

IF I'VE COME AT
A BAD TIME, I'LL--

NAAH...NO
SWEAT. I'M
JUST SINGIN'
THE "I'D-
LIKE-TO-
SHOOT-
THE-
CHOREO-
GRAPHER
BLUES",
THAT'S
ALL!

HERE YA
GO--TWO
ON THE
AISLE FOR
"JULIE AT
CARNEGIE
HALL"!

YOU'RE LUCKY
I COULD
PULL RANK--
MORTY AT THE
BOX-OFFICE
TELLS ME
THEY SOLD
OUT IN TWO
DAYS!

SEE YA
TONIGHT--
YOU AND
HALF THE
WORLD!

THAT'S RIGHT, THINKS
DIANA, AS THE SCENE
PLAYS ITSELF OUT IN
HER MEMORY...

...ME AND
HALF THE
WORLD...
BUT IT'S
ONLY ONE
PERSON IN
THAT "HALF"
I'M WORRIED
ABOUT --
HEPHAESTUS!

POOR STEVE! I NEVER DID MAKE MY LUNCH-DATE WITH HIM.

RIGHT AFTER I LEFT JULIE AT THAT LAST-MINUTE REHEARSAL...

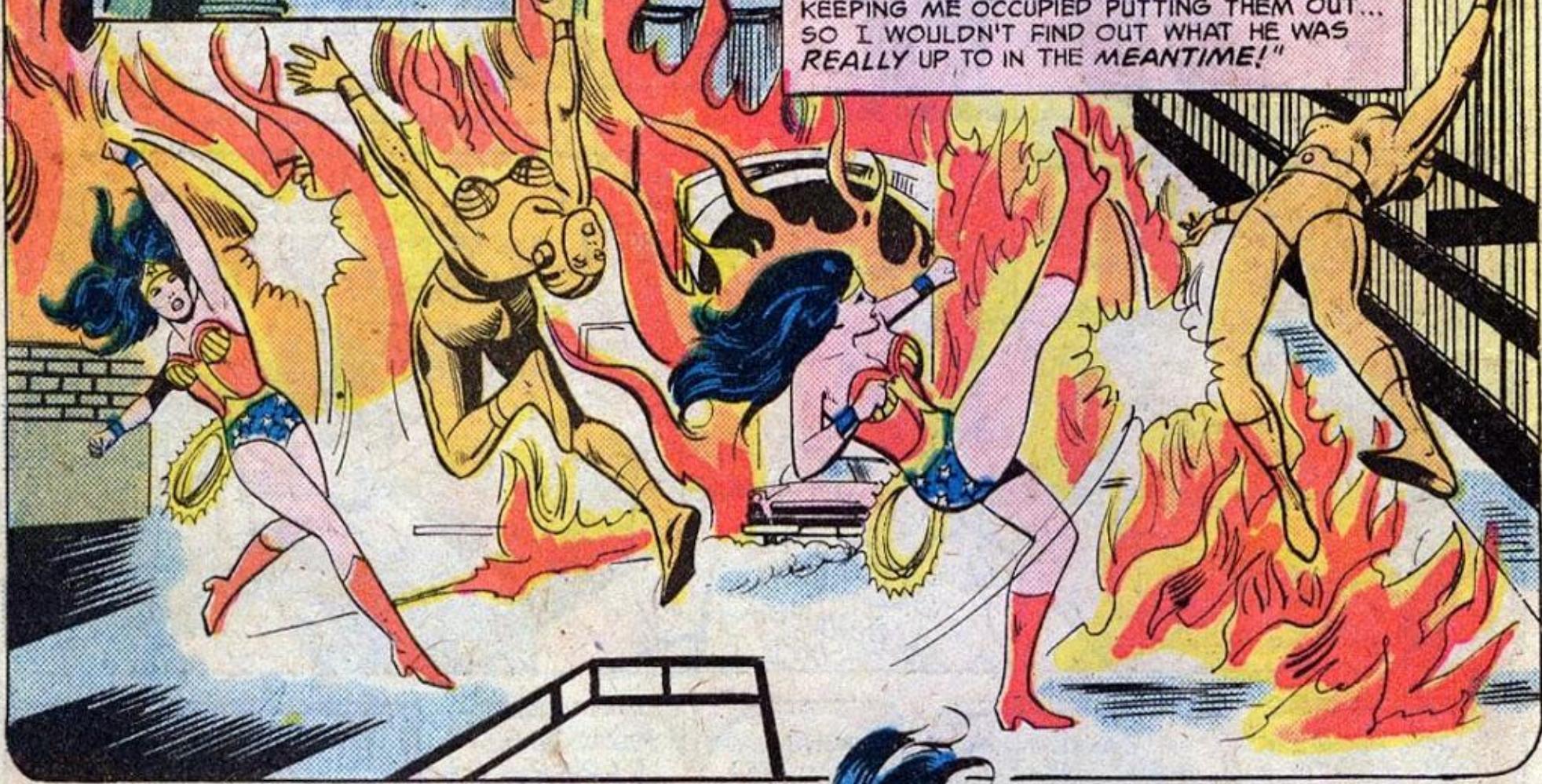
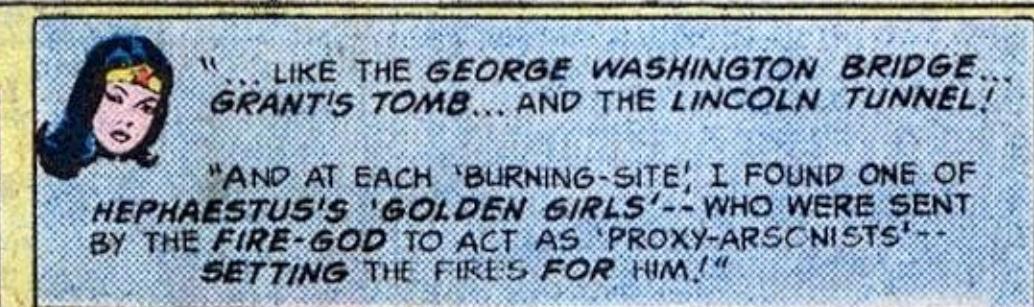
...I HEARD THE POLICE BULLETIN ABOUT THE OUTBREAKS OF WEIRDLY-COLORED FIRE IN THE MOST UNLIKELY PLACES!

"... LIKE THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE... GRANT'S TOMB... AND THE LINCOLN TUNNEL!"

"AND AT EACH 'BURNING-SITE' I FOUND ONE OF HEPHAESTUS'S 'GOLDEN GIRLS'-- WHO WERE SENT BY THE FIRE-GOD TO ACT AS 'PROXY-ARSONISTS'-- SETTING THE FIRES FOR HIM!"

"SINCE HE FASHIONED HIS MAGICAL FIRES SO THAT THEY WOULD BURN WITHOUT CONSUMING ANYTHING..."

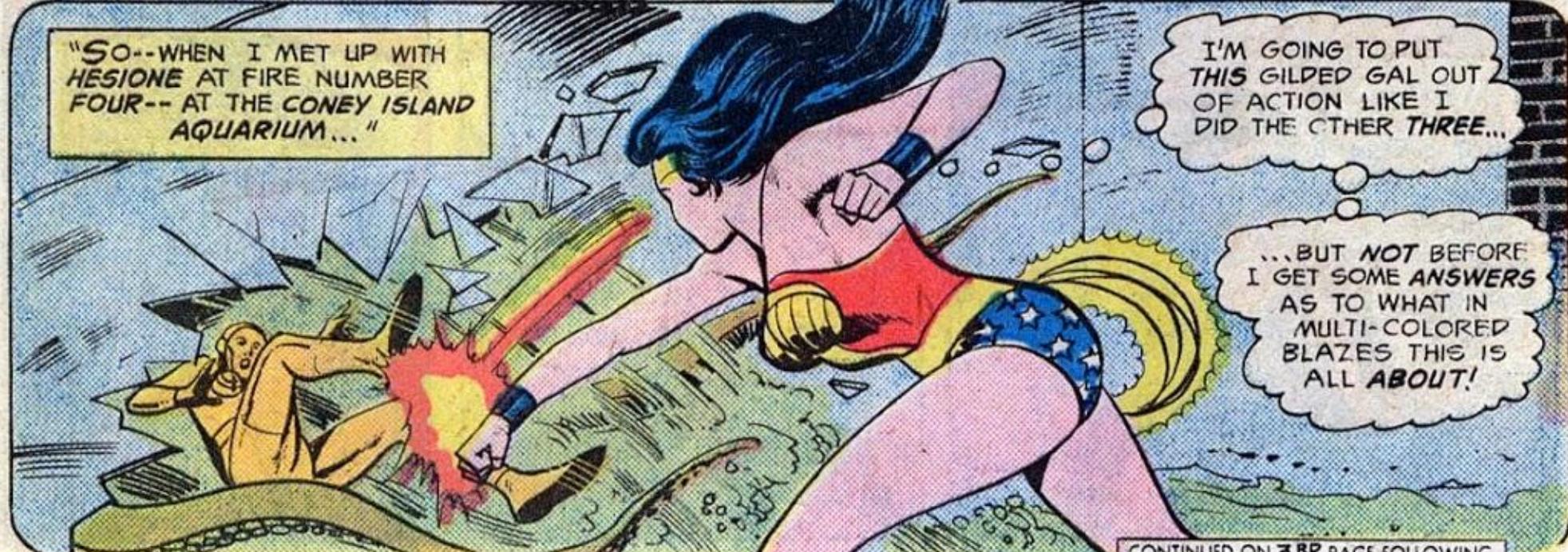
"...I ASSUMED HE SET THEM TO SEND ME ON A WILD GOOSE-CHASE THROUGH THE CITY-- KEEPING ME OCCUPIED PUTTING THEM OUT... SO I WOULDN'T FIND OUT WHAT HE WAS REALLY UP TO IN THE MEANTIME!"



"SO--WHEN I MET UP WITH HESIONE AT FIRE NUMBER FOUR-- AT THE CONEY ISLAND AQUARIUM..."

I'M GOING TO PUT THIS GILDED GAL OUT OF ACTION LIKE I DID THE OTHER THREE...

...BUT NOT BEFORE I GET SOME ANSWERS AS TO WHAT IN MULTI-COLORED BLAZES THIS IS ALL ABOUT!



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING



ADD THAT LAST REMARK
TO THE OTHER THINGS
HESIONE TOLD ME...

...AND ONE THING
BECOMES CERTAIN:
WITHOUT JULIE GABRIEL'S
CO-OPERATION...

... I CAN'T
HOPE
TO STOP
HEPHAESTUS!

AND SO--PRESENTLY, IN A LUXURY SUITE
AT THE SHERRY PLAZA HOTEL...

PLEASE LET ME
IN-- I'VE GOT
TO SEE JULIE!

GET YOUR
AUTOGRAPHS
AT THE STAGE-
DOOR TONIGHT!

NO--YOU
DON'T
UNDERSTAND--!

I'M DIANA PRINCE--
A FRIEND OF JULIE'S
FROM THE U.N.! SHE'S
GOT TO CANCEL HER
BENEFIT FOR UNICEF
TONIGHT AT CARNEGIE
HALL!

WHAT ARE
YOU--A
LITTLE
MESHUGGINAH
OR SOMETHING?

THIS SHOW
GOES UP
IN FOUR
HOURS!

PRINCE! DIDN'T
EXPECT TO SEE
YOU HERE! WHAT'S
GOING ON?

AH... JULIE
--CAN WE...
AH... TALK
PRIVATELY?

SURE--IN THE
NEXT ROOM! JUST
LET ME GRAB
A DRINK FIRST!

FOR TEN MINUTES DIANA TALKS
...THEN TWENTY... AND FINALLY,
AFTER HALF AN HOUR OF
INVENTING EVERY POSSIBLE
RATIONALIZATION FOR CANCELLING
THE PERFORMANCE...

SORRY, KID--
I'M JUST NOT
CONVINCED!

I WAS AFRAID
OF THAT! THIS
IS GOING TO
TAKE DRASTIC
MEASURES...

...AND
WHETHER TO
USE THEM IS
ONE OF THE
WEIGHTEST
DECISIONS
I'VE EVER
FACED!

BUT THE DECISION IS MADE: DIANA'S HAND MOVES TO HER HIP TO FIND--BY TOUCH--THE MAGIC
LASO THAT HANGS FROM A BELT-LOOP AT HER SIDE--INVISIBLE, THANKS TO A MAGICAL
VIBRATORY FIELD...

...INVISIBLE ONLY UNTIL THE
VIBRATIONS OF ITS WHIRLING
TRANSFORM DIANA'S STREET-
CLOTHES INTO THE COSTUME OF...

...WONDER
WOMAN!
Y-YOU'RE
WONDER
WOMAN?!

THAT'S RIGHT, JULIE--
AND IF THIS IS WHAT
IT TAKES TO GET YOU
TO LISTEN TO ME...

...SO
BE IT!



"YOU'VE GOT TO CANCEL TONIGHT... OR CARNEGIE HALL--AND THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO'LL BE THERE TONIGHT TO SEE YOU--WILL BE DESTROYED!"

"HEPHAESTUS -- THE OLYMPIAN GOD OF FIRE -- IS HERE IN MAN'S-WORLD SERVING ARES -- THE GOD OF WAR! HEPHAESTUS HAS INVENTED A DEVICE CALLED THE VISCERO-COMBUSTOR -- IT SETS HUMAN EMOTIONS ON FIRE!"

"ANY ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THIS DEVICE IS ACTIVATED BURSTS INTO FLAME IN THE PRESENCE OF STRONG EMOTION! HEPHAESTUS PLANS TO START A WAR--AND USE THE VISCERO-COMBUSTOR ON THE BATTLEFIELD--FOR ARES' AMUSEMENT!"

"MAN'S PRESENT WEAPONS--LIKE THE BOMB-- ARE TOO RISKY FOR ARES... BECAUSE THEY THREATEN TO ANNIHILATE EARTH ITSELF! AND THAT WOULD END THE VICARIOUS THRILL ARES GETS OUT OF STARTING WARS!"

"BUT THE PASSION-FLAME WILL DO THE SAME -- FOR WHEN THESE FLAMES FROM NOWHERE ERUPT ON A BATTLEFIELD, PANIC WILL SWEEP THE GLOBE LIKE A TIDAL-WAVE... THAT PANIC WILL FUEL THE PASSION-FLAME... AND EARTH WILL BE REDUCED TO A CINDER!"



HEPHAESTUS HAS DECIDED TO USE YOUR CHARISMA FOR THE ULTIMATE TEST OF THE DEVICE--AND HE MUST BE STOPPED!

THERE ARE SEVERAL COMBUSTORS HIDDEN IN THE THEATER... AND TONIGHT-- WHEN YOUR PERFORMANCE HAS ITS USUAL OVERWHELMING EFFECT ON YOUR AUDIENCE...

...THEIR EMOTION WILL ACTIVATE THE PASSION-FLAME-- AND THE THEATER WILL BURN TO THE GROUND!

IF YOU GO ON TONIGHT -- THOUSANDS-- INCLUDING YOURSELF-- WILL DIE!

NOW I AM CONVINCED! BUT THERE'S ONE PROBLEM...

JULIE GABRIEL
...THERE'S LESS THAN THREE AND A HALF HOURS TO SHOW-TIME! THE ONLY PLACE WE COULD ANNOUNCE CANCELLATION IS AT THE THEATER!

AND THE LAST TIME I DID THAT, ANGRY FANS STORMED MY DRESSING ROOM--WE ALMOST HAD A RIOT!

AND IF THAT DOESN'T SET OFF THE VISCERO-COMBUSTOR, NOTHING WILL!

YOU GOT IT!

GREAT HERA! WE'RE DAMNED IF WE DO, AND DAMNED IF WE DON'T!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT-- YOU HAVE TO GIVE A MEDIOCRE PERFORMANCE!

WHAAT--?!

THAT WAY, THE DAMAGE WILL BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM-- BUYING ME ENOUGH TIME TO FIND HEPHAESTUS AND STOP HIM!

NOW--LISTEN AND OBEY: THIS EVENING YOU WILL GIVE AN UNINSPIRED-- UN-EMOTIONAL--PERFORMANCE--

YOU HEARD ME! GIVE THE FANS THEIR MONEY'S-WORTH-- BUT DON'T GET THEM TOO EXCITED!

YES... UNEMOTIONAL... I AM COMPELLED... TO OBEY...



THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO SAY, AND SO, DIANA SLIPS QUIETLY FROM THE ROOM, FEELING NOT A LITTLE HELPLESS... AND-- IF ONLY FOR THE MOMENT-- VERY MUCH AFRAID HERSELF.



DIANA TENSES... HER FISTS CLENCH AT HER SIDES-- AS JULIE GABRIEL SEEMS TO GLIDE EFFORTLESSLY THROUGH SONG AFTER SONG...

BUT THE AMAZON PRINCESS SEES THE DULLNESS IN THE EYES... AND HEARS THE STRANGE DISTANT QUALITY IN THE SINGER'S VOICE...

AND WILL THAT "SUGGESTION" BE ENOUGH? FOR TONIGHT... THEY ARE HERE: THE GABRIEL CULT...

...A LEGION OF FANATICALLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS WHO HAVE SHARED "THEIR" JULIE'S EVERY TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY...

THEY'VE PURSUED HER THROUGH A LIMELIGHT LITTERED WITH EMPTY BOTTLES AND BROKEN PROMISES! TO THEM, SHE IS THE QUEEN OF SORROWS... THE HEIRESS OF PAIN!

WHENEVER SHE PERFORMS, IT IS THEIR PAIN-- THEIR SORROW SHE SHARES, AND NO MATTER HOW SHE PERFORMS... THEIR RESPONSE IS ALWAYS THE SAME...

...AND CANNOT BE CERTAIN IF SHE SEES THE EFFECTS OF TOO MUCH HARD LIVING-- OR THE POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION OF HER LASO!

THUS IS THE PASSION-FLAME UNLEASHED! IT GOES, FOR THE MOMENT, UNNOTICED... AS DOES HEPHAESTUS, SMIRKING BENEATH AN UNDETECTABLE DISGUISE...

EXCELLENT--WELL! THE GABRIEL WENCH'S VOICE HAS FILLED THESE MORTALS WITH EMOTION!

"AND AS ITS INTENSITY INCREASES, THE VISCERO-COMBUSTOR WILL FAN THE PASSION-FLAMES EVER HIGHER!"

AND THEN... THE CONCERT IS ABRUPTLY OVER...

CLAP CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP CLAP

I THOUGHT SHE'D SING "CONFETTI"!-- THAT SONG'S HER TRADEMARK!

YES-- SHE ALWAYS CLOSES WITH THAT SONG!

WE WANT "CONFETTI"! WE WANT "CONFETTI"!

BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT...

FIRE!

THE THEATER'S ON FIRE!

CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING.

THERE ARE STRICT LAWS AGAINST SHOUTING "FIRE" IN A CROWDED THEATER WHEN NO FIRE IS PRESENT! THE REASON FOR THOSE LAWS IS THAT WHAT RESULTS FROM SUCH A SHOUT IS... THIS:

A STAMPEDE!

TIME FOR WONDER WOMAN TO GET TO WORK!



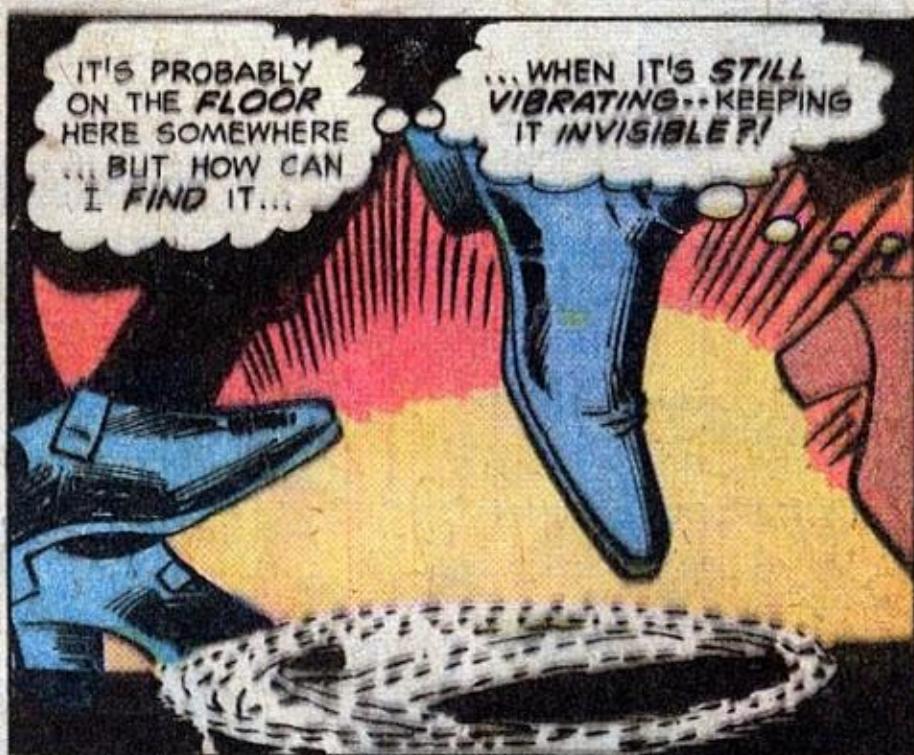
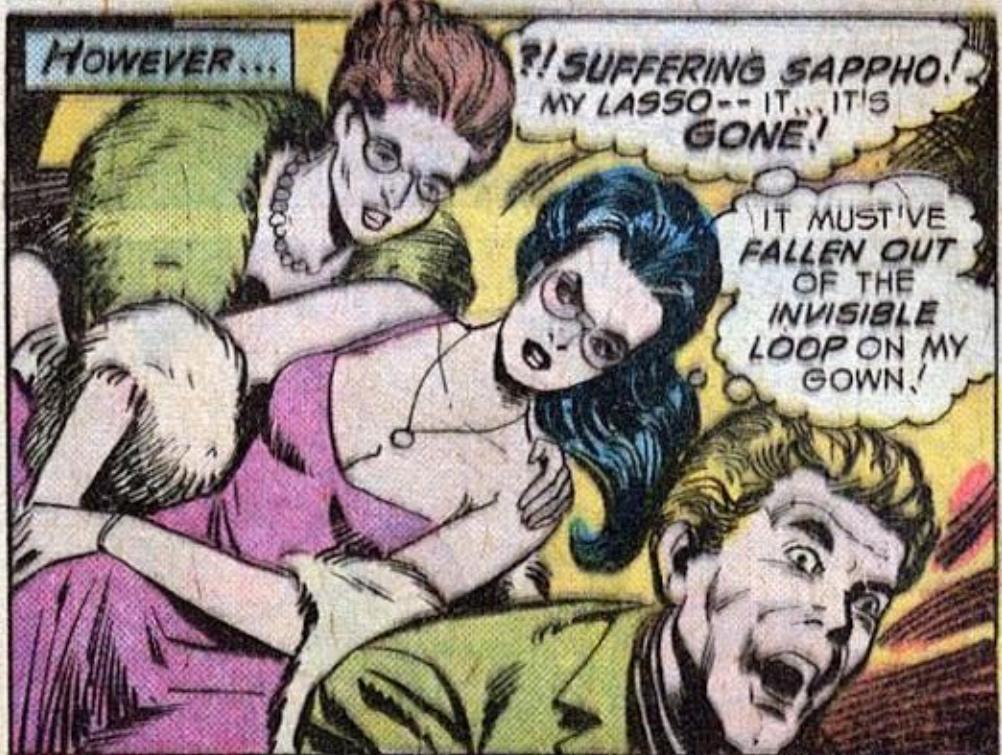
HOWEVER...

?! SUFFERING SAPPHO!
MY LASSO-- IT... IT'S GONE!

IT MUST'VE
FALLEN OUT
OF THE
INVISIBLE
LOOP ON MY
GOWN!

IT'S PROBABLY
ON THE FLOOR
HERE SOMEWHERE
... BUT HOW CAN
I FIND IT...

...WHEN IT'S STILL
VIBRATING-- KEEPING
IT INVISIBLE?!



I'LL HAVE TO
GROPE ALONG
THE FLOOR FOR
IT-- AND TO DO
THAT, I NEED
SOME ELBOW-
ROOM!

SO I'LL HAVE
TO LEAN ON A
FEW PEOPLE
TO GET IT--
STARTING WITH HER!

JUST AS I SUSPECTED
-- ONE OF HEPHAESTUS'S
GOLDEN
HANDMAIDENS!

SLAASSH



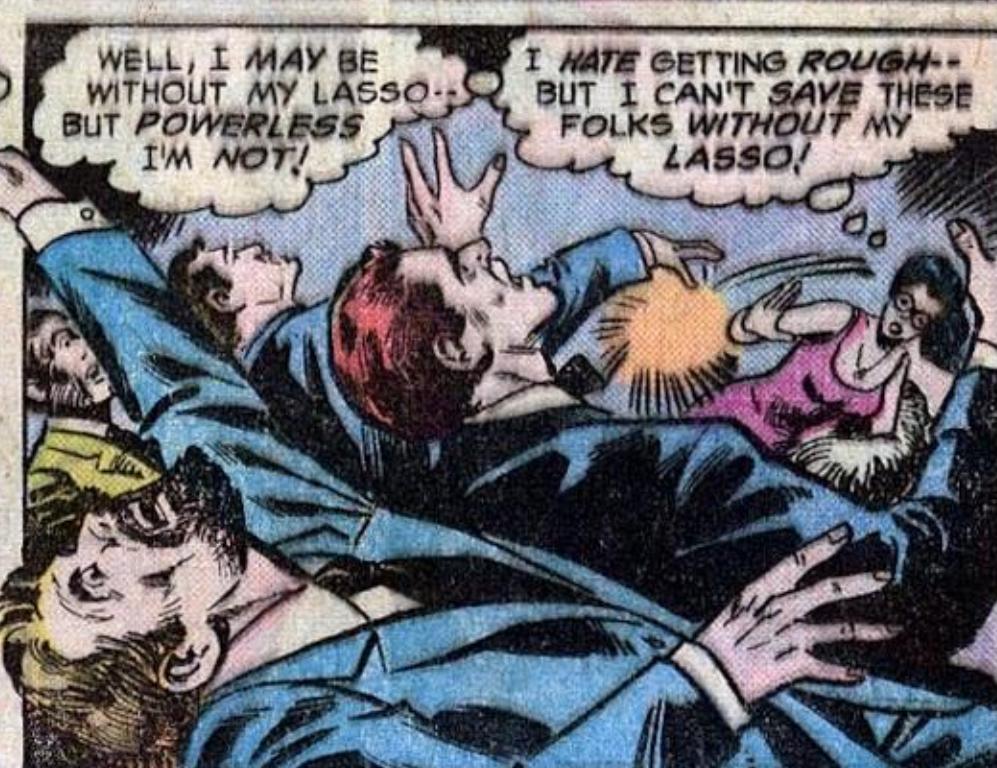
SHE MUST'VE
SLIPPED THE
LASSO OFF
ME IN THE
SHUFFLE!

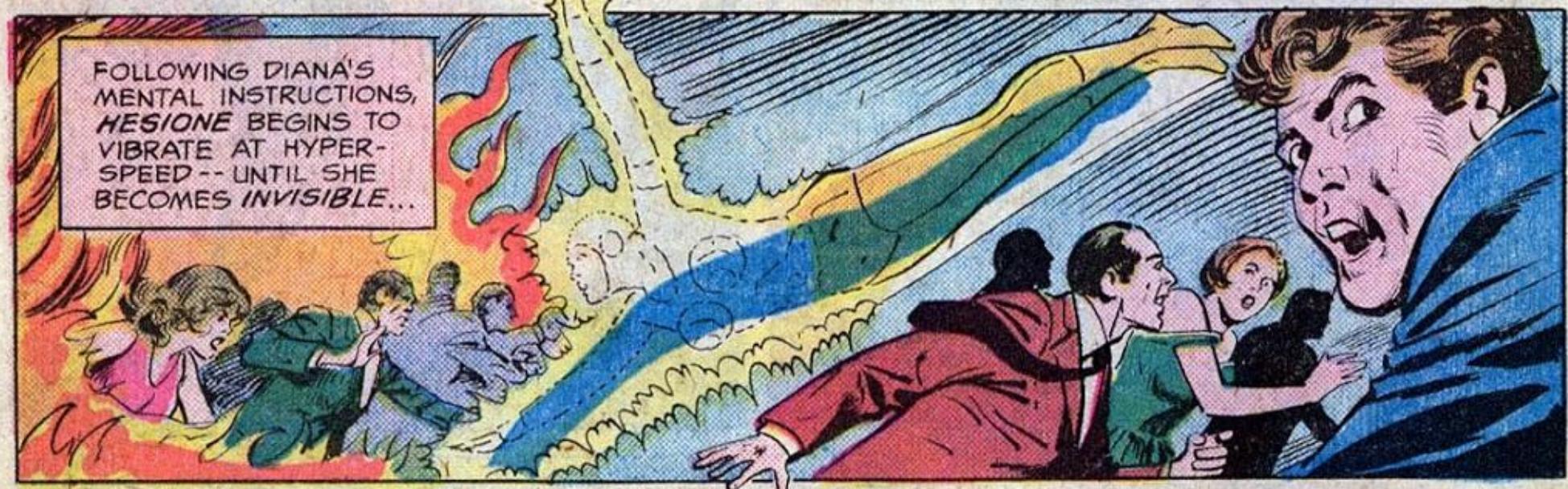
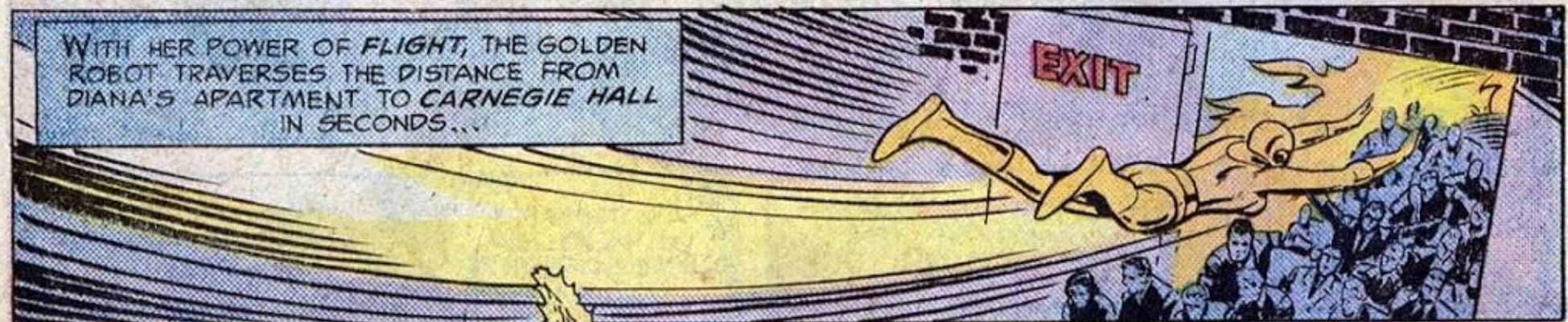
HEPHAESTUS HAS WATCHED
ME FROM OLYMPUS
-- HE KNOWS DIANA
PRINCE IS WONDER
WOMAN!

SO THIS IS
WHAT HE
MEANT
WHEN HE
SAID I'D BE
POWERLESS
TO USE MY
LASSO!

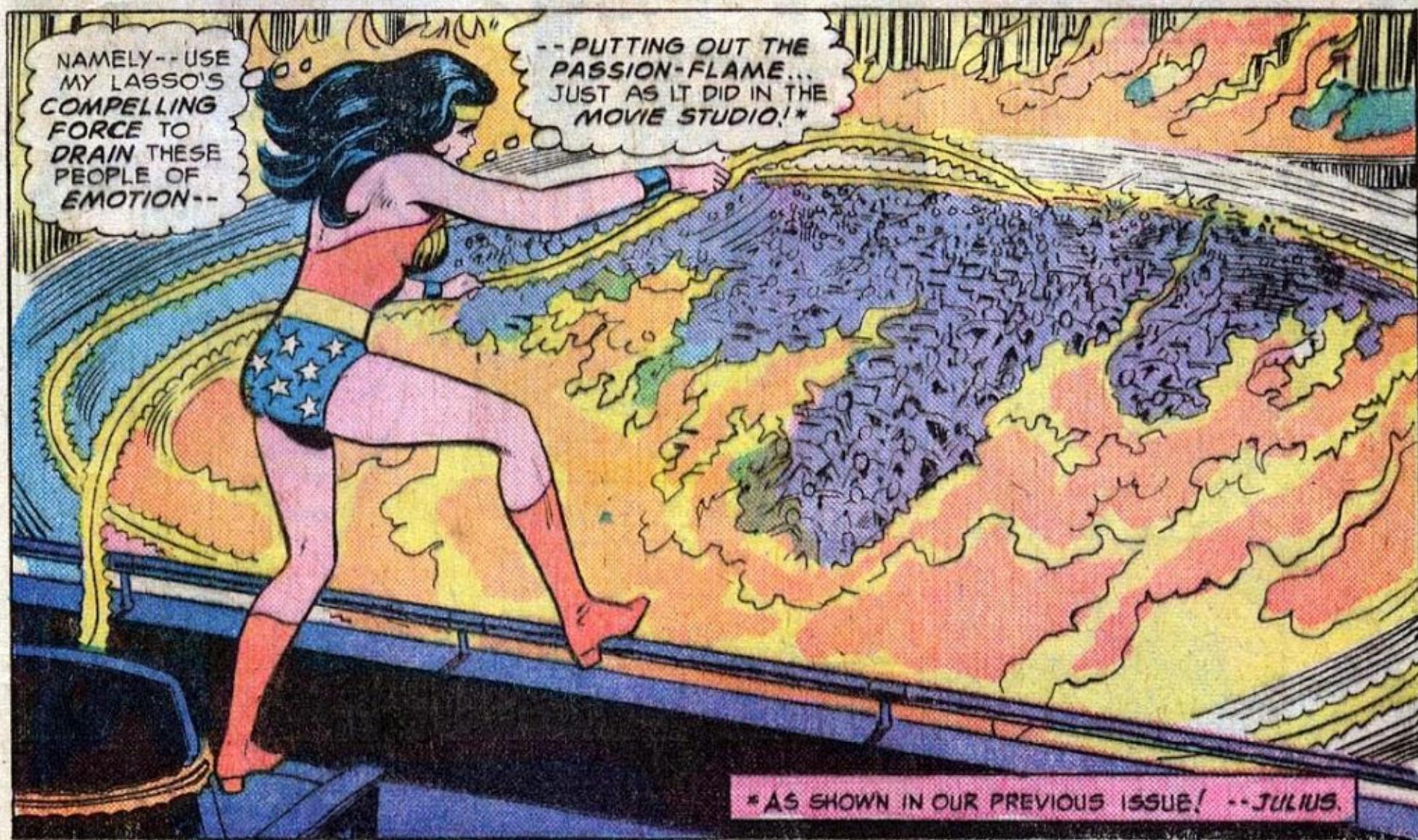
WELL, I MAY BE
WITHOUT MY LASSO--
BUT POWERLESS
I'M NOT!

I HATE GETTING ROUGH--
BUT I CAN'T SAVE THESE
FOLKS WITHOUT MY
LASSO!





CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING



BUT BEFORE WONDER WOMAN CAN ISSUE THE COMPELLING COMMAND, THERE IS A DEAFENING SOUND BEHIND HER--AND THE BALCONY BENEATH HER FEET SHUDDERS...

HEPHAESTUS?!
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D SHOW YOURSELF!

NO! NO!! YOU WILL NOT THWART MY PLANS!

BAA- DAMM

NOW I WON'T NEED MY LASSO TO HELP PUT OUT THE FIRE--

--I'LL MAKE YOU DO IT FOR ME!

NEVER--NEVER!
ARES IS MY ONLY MASTER, AMAZON--YOU SHALL NOT DEFY HIM!

SUDDENLY, A LONE, TENTATIVE VOICE IS HEARD SINGING-- STRUGGLING TO BE HEARD ABOVE THE CRACKLE OF FLAME.

THE VOICE IS JULIE GABRIEL'S!

SNOW USED TO FALL ON THE ROOF, I RECALL, AND IT MADE A WHITE TENT OF EACH GABLE.

SNOW USED TO FALL, BUT IT FELL IN A BALL MADE OF GLASS ON MY GRANDMOTHER'S TABLE.

SNOW USED TO FALL WHEN THE WORLD WAS A BALL,

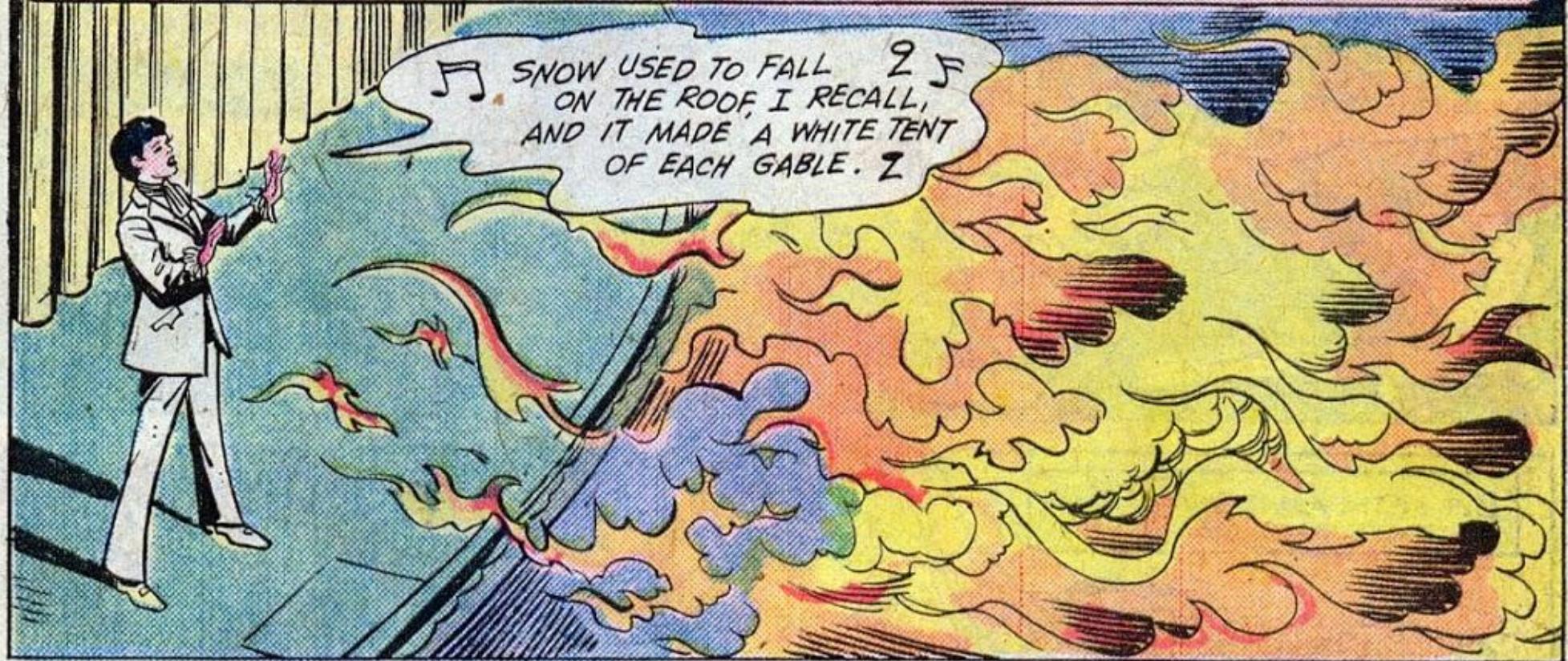
BUT IT BROKE AND THE SNOW WAS CONFETTI...

SNOW DIDN'T FIT SO IT RAINED QUITE A BIT WHEN THE SPRING CAME AND FOUND ME UNREADY.

HALTINGLY, SHE SINGS THE SONG SHE DARED NOT SING EARLIER-- HER TRADEMARK... "CONFETTI!"

IT ALL COMES RUSHING BACK TO HER AS SHE SINGS--THE LITTLE TORTURES OF HER LIFE... THE NIGHTMARES THAT DO NOT LEAVE HER...AND THE HAPPY MEMORIES THAT DO...

AND AS THE **EMOTION** BEHIND THE SONG BECOMES MORE INTENSE, THE FLAMES CONSUMING THE CONCERT-HALL QUIVER...THEY DANCE... AND THEN, AS ONE, THEY LEAP TOWARD JULIE...



FOR DESPITE THE AMAZON'S POSTHYPNOTIC SPELL, THE MEMORIES CONJURED BY THE MOURNFUL LYRIC HAVE FILLED JULIE GABRIEL WITH A PROFOUND LONGING...AN OVERWHELMING SADNESS...



... AND THE PASSION-FLAME, AS IF SENSING THAT SORROW'S PRESENCE, REACHES FOR HER! THE FIRE BURNS EVER BRIGHTER--BECOMING, FOR ONE DYING MOMENT, AS INCANDESCENT AS THE STAR HERSELF-- AS IT ENFOLDS THE SINGER IN ITS FATAL EMBRACE!



"...LONG ENOUGH TO DRAG THE REMAINING AUDIENCE TO SAFETY OUTSIDE THE HALL..."

STEVE'S PRETTY GOOD AT PLAYING DUMB ABOUT KNOWING MY SECRET IDENTITY!

WONDER WOMAN!
THANK HEAVEN
YOU'RE HERE--!

BUT I KNOW HE REALLY MEANS,
"THANK HEAVEN
YOU FOUND YOUR LASSO, DIANA!"

BUT AS THE AMAZING AMAZON RACES BACK INSIDE...

HMM--THE FLAMES HAVE DIED OUT ALL OF A--

KLANG

? THE ROBOT WHO WAS DISGUISED AS THAT MATRON! I THOUGHT I'D DE-ACTIVATED IT--

--BUT OBVIOUSLY I ONLY CAUSED A TEMPORARY SHORT-CIRCUIT!

THIS FRAGMENT OF MY DISMEMBERED "PLAYMATE" WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT--

BUT THIS ONE'S GOING TO BE PERMANENT!

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO FOOL AROUND--IT'S TIME TO TAKE OUT HEPHAESTUS!

KLANG

KDASHH

--AND IRONIC-- WEAPON!

SWIFTLY, WONDER WOMAN REMOVES HER TIARA, AND...

FIRST, A SET OF MAKESHIFT HANDCUFFS...

THWAK

CONCLUDED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

AND THEN...

THERE! THE FINISHING TOUCH!

THAT'LL HOLD YOU TILL I CAN SUMMON APHRODITE! SHE'LL KNOW HOW TO IMPRISON YOU--

--WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE FROM THE PUNISHMENT ARES WOULD ORDER FOR YOUR FAILURE!

WOE UNTO ME THIS DAY--FOR I HAVE BEEN MOST IGNOMINIOUSLY DEFEATED!

THANK YOU, "MY LORD," FOR GIVING ME EMOTION -- SO THAT I MAY SAVOR THIS MOMENT!

NOW TO SEE TO JULIE--

?! GREAT HERA! WHAT'S THIS--?

IT WAS JULIE, WONDER WOMAN...

THAT'S ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HER NOW...

NO! NO! HOW CAN THIS BE--?

SHE SACRIFICED HERSELF--TO SAVE THE AUDIENCE... AND ALLOW YOU TO OVERCOME HEPHAESTUS!

Y-YOU MEAN--THAT SINGING I HEARD--?! I-I THOUGHT I WAS JUST IMAGINING IT--!

NO, IT WAS JULIE-- SINGING THE MOST PAINFUL SONG SHE KNEW--TO STIR UP HER OWN EMOTIONS-- AND DRAW THE PASSION FLAME TO HER!

MAYBE SHE WAS JUST A BEAUTIFUL VOICE TO HER FANS...

...OR A STAR WHOSE SCANDALOUS LIFE GAVE THEM SOME KIND OF VICARIOUS THRILL...

BUT SHE WAS SO MUCH MORE-- TO HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH MORE.

OH, JULIE, YOU WERE WRONG--

--SINGING WASN'T ALL YOU KNEW! YOU KNEW COURAGE... AND SELFLESSNESS!

YOU WEREN'T JUST A MUSIC BOX... BECAUSE YOU UNDERSTOOD -- BETTER THAN MOST OF US...

...WHAT HUMANITY IS ALL ABOUT!



S-2456

Wonder Words

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

Last issue, you'll recall, we promised you an explanation of why Diana Prince no longer works for the United Nations Crisis Bureau. We never promised, however, that it would be in the story!

To be honest, the senses-shattering showdown between Hephaestus and the Amazon Bombshell that appears in this issue took every extra square inch of story-space we could give it. So, our hard-pressed scripter was constrained to delete the scene he had written to provide the promised details. Your hard-pressed letter-col-writer, on the other hand, was constrained to fulfill past editorial promises. So . . . here we are.

At any rate, it seems that an employee of Morgan Tracy's—a man known only as Keech—was promoted in one of those politically-motivated shake-ups to the position of Tracy's immediate superior. Being of a rather chauvinistic turn of mind, Keech decreed that a Crisis Bureau job was "too dangerous" for a "mere woman", and arranged to have Di transferred to the Special Services Department, where we found her last issue.

So far, no direct confrontation with the as-yet-unseen Keech has taken place, but you can count on seeing a fascinating showdown between the adventurous career-girl and her professional antagonist in the near future. And we promise it will be in a story, not on the letters page!

* * * *

Dear Bob,

Well, well, well! With Marty Pasko taking a temporary vacation from **Wonder Woman**, I certainly didn't expect to see anything as good as "Maximus, Emperor of Hollow Mountain" in WW #225. I was expecting the usual Maggin fare . . . light, offbeat material. Instead, "Maximus" was a solid little story, setting the tone for the next several issues with new sub-plots involving Steve "Howard", a new spy organization, and even a new villain who is after WW because of her popularity!

I like Diana and Steve! Wow, I guess the romance that was so rancid between **Wonder Woman** and Major Trevor works beautifully between just-plain Diana and just-plain Steve. I don't mind having Steve around—in fact, he kind of adds to the book. **Wonder Woman** used to run around talking to herself. Now, at least there's someone on the receiving end. Sure, Steve's personality has changed, but though he's no longer obnoxious or egotistical, he's still the same man—a mover, a doer, a man who thinks on his feet.

Maximus was extremely well-handled right from his

initial appearance when he "bought" a lunch date. I suppose the point was to show how **Maximus** has to substitute for his lack of personality by impressing his company with "miracles" that can only be accomplished by those who are economically "fit"! But the point was a bit lost in all the delightful goings-on whipped up by **Maximus** through his "leg-man" **Flavius**. At any rate, I'm anxious to see **Maximus** again, as there has never been an antagonist quite like him before.

Bob Rodi, Oak Brook, Ill.
(Plans call for a return of **Maximus** sometime in the future, but just how he'll figure in **Marty** (I'm back again!) Pasko's plans for **Wonder Woman** is something only **Marty** and Max know . . . and they're not telling!—BR)

* * * *

Dear Editor:

What to do about Steve Trevor/Howard? To tell you the absolute truth, I thought it was a big mistake to bring him back from the dead. Can't stand the man at all. He's like **Lois Lane** used to be in **Superman**, always hanging around the hero and getting in the way.

Steve is always there. In the early days of the strip, he usually got into trouble that **Wonder Woman** had to get him out of. Then, when WW's sexuality came into question, she seemed to need the help more than he did. Now what will happen?

Lois doesn't follow **Superman** like a second skin anymore. She was only irritating in those days when she did. Now people can see unirritating male/female relationships in such examples as **Green Arrow/Black Canary**, **Aquaman/Mera** and **Hawkman/Hawkgirl**. Those are teams . . . equal partners.

But **Wonder Woman** is a symbol of independent womanhood. She does not want or need a partner (unless it is a rare team-up with another hero.) Steve Trevor or Howard or whatever, however interesting his uncertain relationship to Diana is shaping up to be, should be kept on a very secondary level to **Wonder Woman**. If you want to turn him into Napoleon Solo or Nick Fury, fine. Just keep him in the back-ground.

CAROL STRICKLAND, Fayetteville, N.C.

(Again we dump the problem in the lap of WW-scripter Marty Pasko—and that should teach him to keep his explanations in the stories and out of our letter columns! As with **Maximus**, what the future holds for Steve will be seen in upcoming issues! Meantime, we'll fill our remaining space with the news that WW's old foe, The Cheetah, is coming back in our next issue, on sale the third week in November!—Bob Rozakis.)

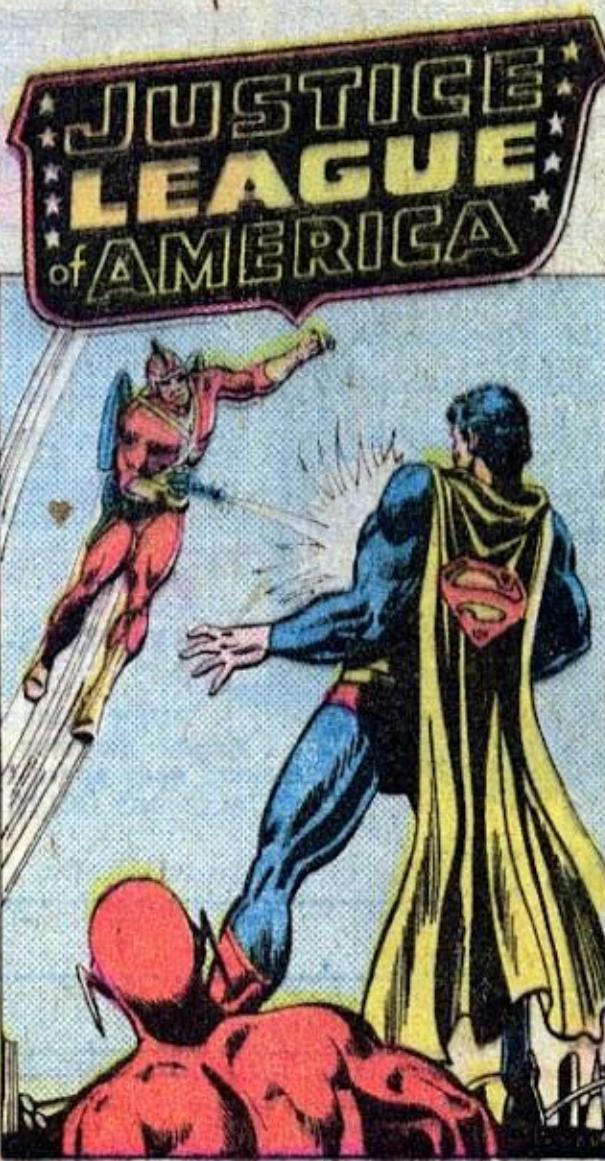
AT LAST! THE RETURN OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC--GREEN LANTERN!

JLA BATTLES ADAM STRANGE IN THE 73rd CENTURY!

**GREEN LANTERN OF THAT ERA
ALSO TAKES PART**

(Earth, 73rd Century)—It is a startled Justice League which is summoned to the aid of Alanna, wife of Adam Strange. Seems her husband, the champion of the planet Rann, has been disappearing via a new zeta beam and returning tattered and torn. But if that were not trouble enough, after his latest disappearance, Adam failed to return at all!

So it's off to the 73rd century for Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Flash and Aquaman as they pursue "Adam Strange—Puppet of Time" in JUSTICE LEAGUE #138. There they meet up with that time period's Green Lantern and are forced into battle against their old friend Adam—the very man they came to rescue! You won't want to miss this Cary Bates/Dick Dillin/Frank McLaughlin thriller when it goes on sale the week of October 4th!



DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4th
BLACKHAWK #250—The Black-hawks face a final showdown—and one of them will die, a victim of the "Wheel of Death" by Steve Skeates, Ric Estrada and George Evans.

FOUR STAR SPECTACULAR #6—Four fabulous features: "The War Between Superboy and Krypto"; "The Wonder Woman Album"; "Etta Candy and the Holiday Girls"; and "Blackhawks!"

GHOSTS #51—More true tales of the supernatural as you read about "The Ghost Who Would Not Die", "The Haunting Spirits of '76", and "The Blackmailed Phantom!"

KARATE KID #6—The showdown between Karate Kid and Commander Blud guest-starring the Legion of Super-Heroes in this Barry Jameson, Ric Estrada, Joe Staton martial arts masterpiece.

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:
ACTION COMICS #466/DETECTIVE COMICS #466 (Batman and Green Arrow in solo adventures)/**G.I. COMBAT #197/SUPER-TEAM FAMILY #8** (starring the Challengers of the Unknown)/**TARZAN #256/TEEN TITANS #45/WITCHING HOUR #67/WONDER WOMAN #227**

BIG SURPRISES IN OUR ARMY AT WAR #300

(World War II)—Editor Joe Kubert has some big surprises in store to celebrate the 300th issue of OUR ARMY AT WAR, but he and Sgt. Rock are keeping it a military secret! All we can say is that it'll be a battle blockbuster no fan of Easy Company will want to miss—and you better get down to your newsstand fast during the week of October 4th before all the copies of this sure classic disappear.

**TRIVIA QUIZ #22**

Last issue we asked you about DC characters who live in the future. This time around, can you name five DC Superstars who live in the past? Answers in next week's PLANET!

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: Kamandi, Hercules, the Legion of Super-Heroes, Tommy Tomorrow, Space Ranger, and the Atomic Knights all exist in various eras of the future!

FLASH MURDERS ABRA KADABRA
(Earth, 64th Century)—Seems The Flash is spending quite a bit of his time traveling through time lately and in his own magazine he finds himself mysteriously transported to the 64th century—home era of that villainous magician, Abra Kadabra!

As you may have guessed, the malevolent magic-maker is responsible for The Flash's "timely" trip, but his reason is one which will startle you. The title gives it away as Abra Kadabra orders, "Kill Me, Flash—Faster . . . Faster!" Cary Bates, Irv Novick and Frank McLaughlin have collaborated on this shocker which appears in THE FLASH #246, on sale the week of October 4th.

Also in the issue, Green Lantern appears in a showdown with Jason Woodrue, now half-man half-plant, in the Denny O'Neill/Dick Dillin/Terry Austin stunner—"Fury of the Floronic Man!"



LOLA BARNETT'S COMICSWORLD
Dateline DC . . . There'll be a big change coming to WONDER WOMAN in December when her magazine goes monthly! . . . Enemy Ace will be winging his way through the skies of World War I in an upcoming DC SPECIAL! . . . And Superboy will be soloing in DC SUPER STARS in a NEW story by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson! . . . Watch for double-size dynamite every month in JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA when it goes to GIANT size beginning in November—and it'll be ALL-NEW material! . . . And there are some really big plans in the works for SUPERMAN FAMILY, WORLD'S FINEST, HOUSE OF MYSTERY and G.I. COMBAT, but I'll tell you more when they've been finalized . . . Till then—LOLA.