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DC
WOMAN

ALL NEW STORIES
BEST IN COMICS

NOW ONLY
20c

DIANA PRINCE

WONDER WOMAN

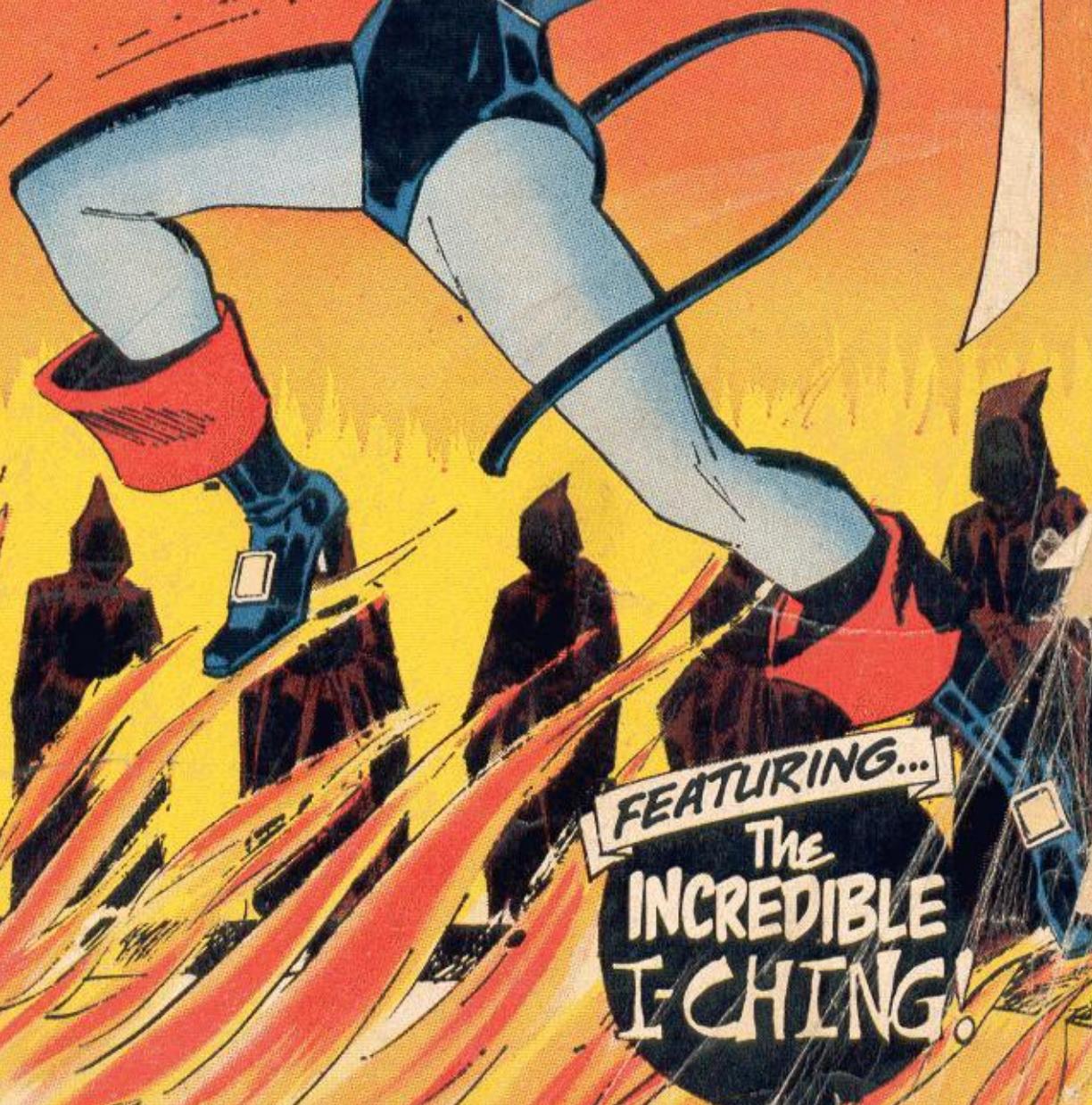
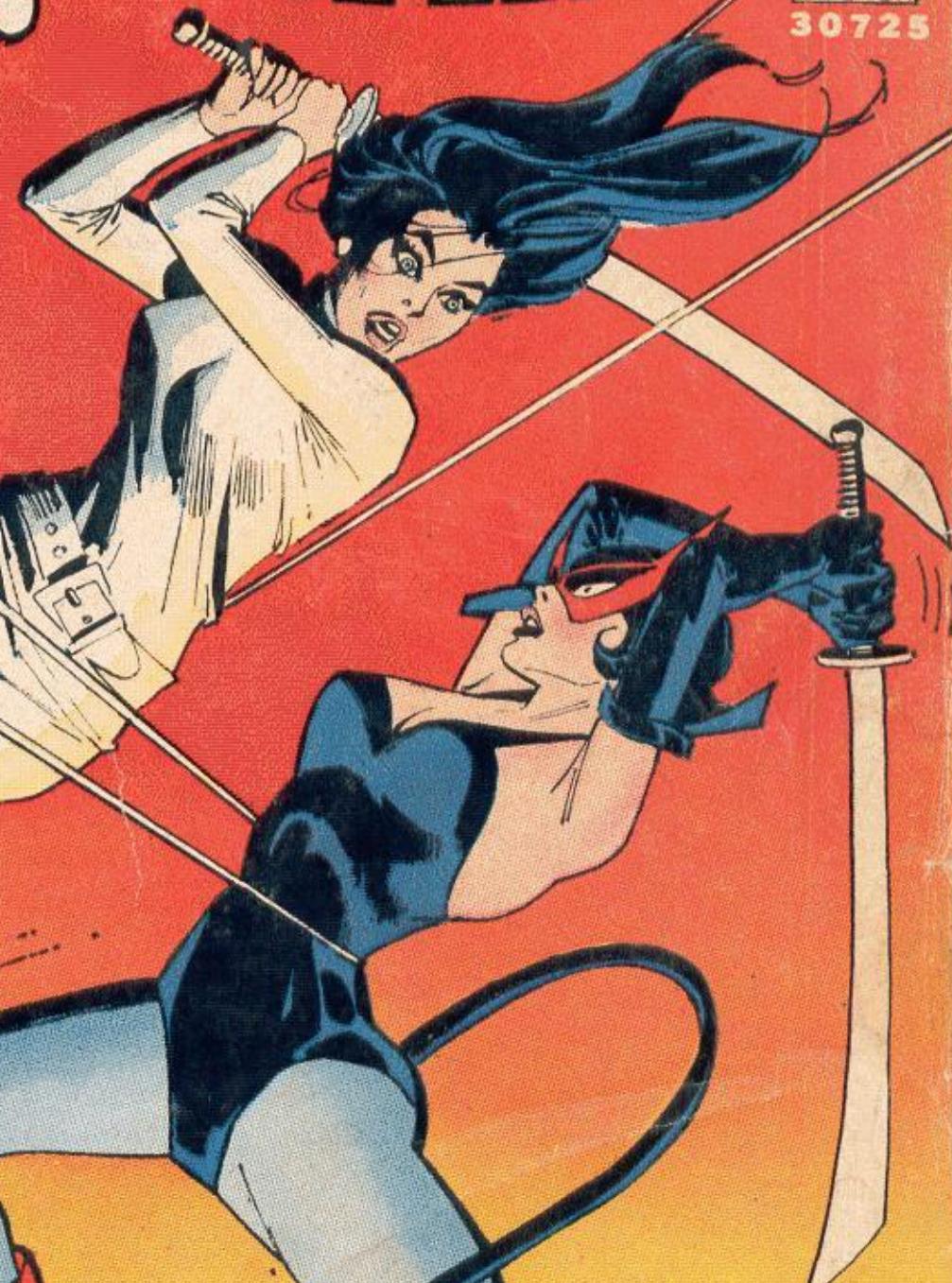
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NO. 20
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WHY ARE DIANA AND THE
CATWOMAN LOCKED IN A
DEATH-DUEL?

AND
WHAT
IS...

"The
FIST of
FLAME?"



FEATURING...
THE
INCREDIBLE
I-CHING!

NIN

G

OFTEN, A DAY DESTINED TO END BADLY HAS A GLORIOUS BEGINNING! THUS IT IS THIS FINE SPRING MORNING, AS DIANA PRINCE AND I-CHING STROLL THROUGH THE CITY...



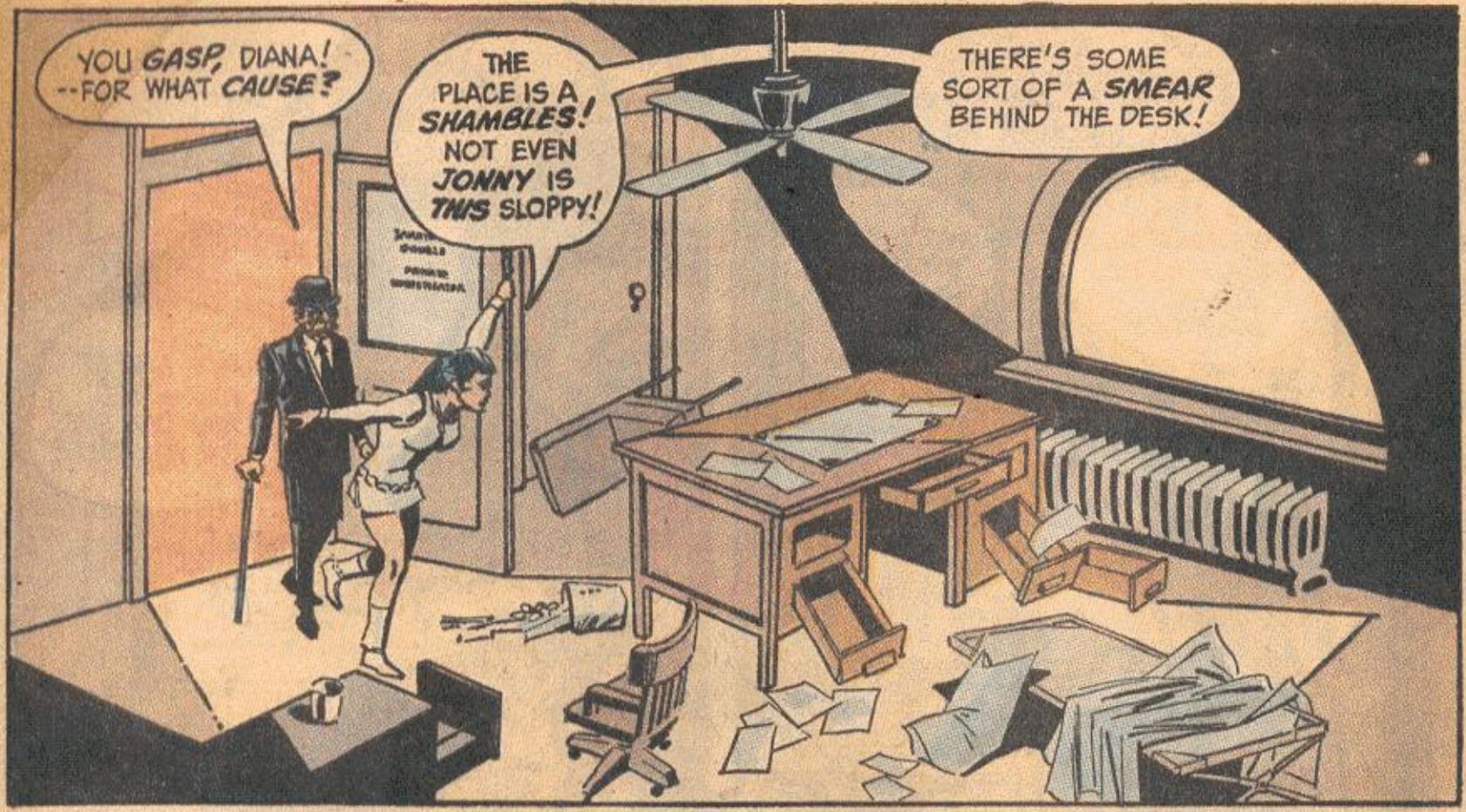
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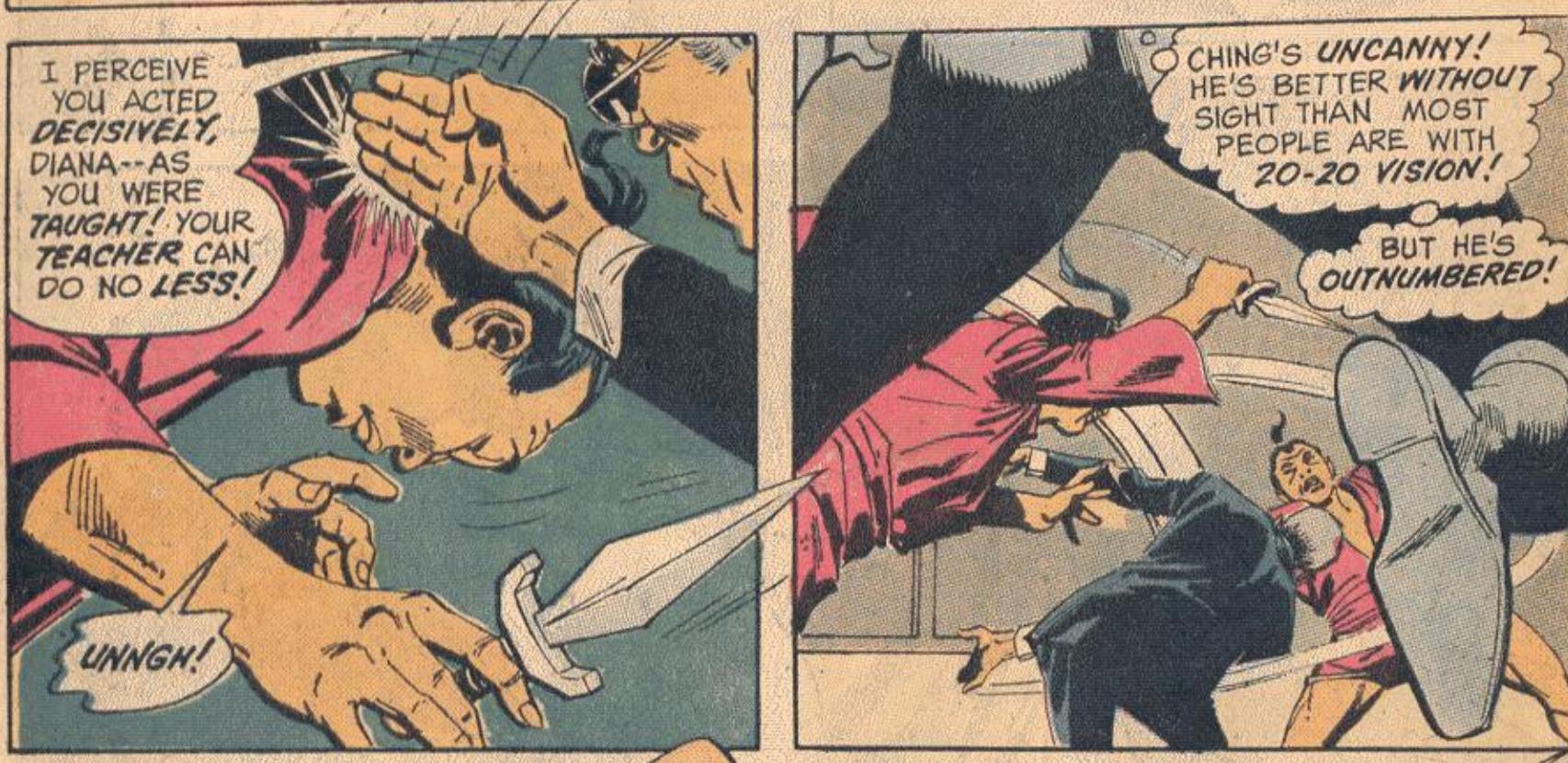
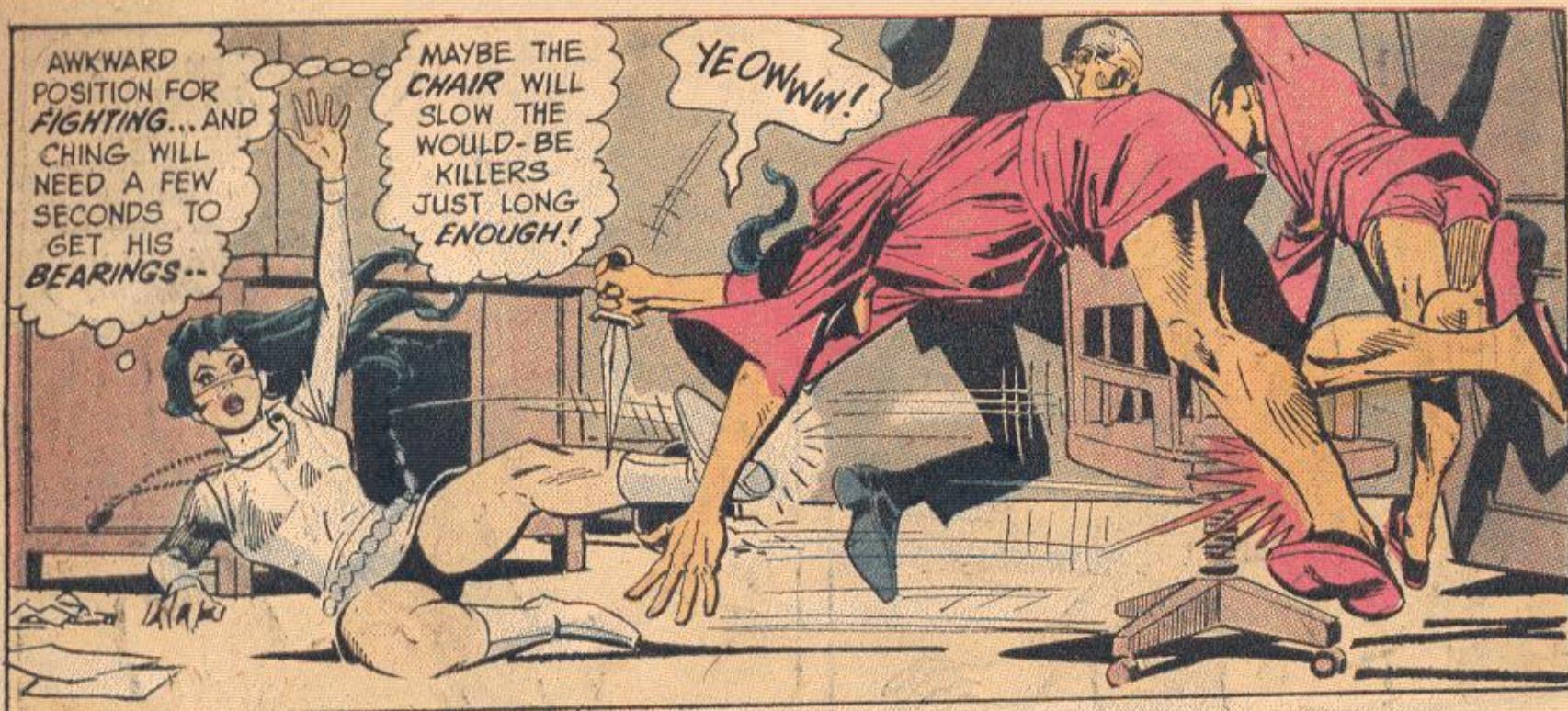
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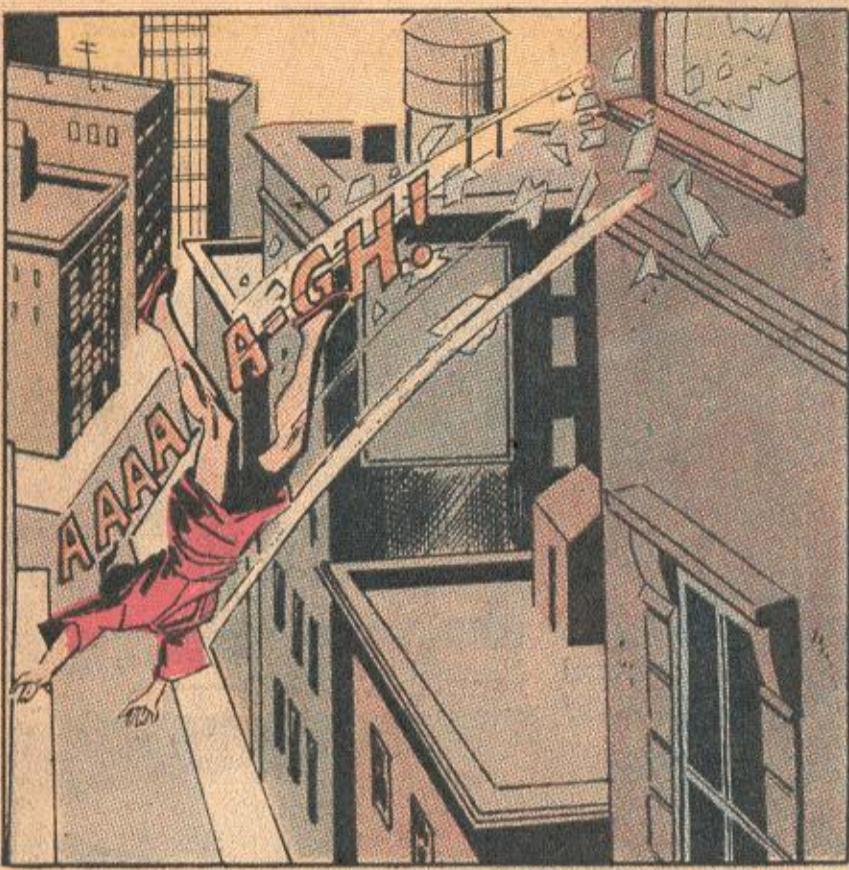
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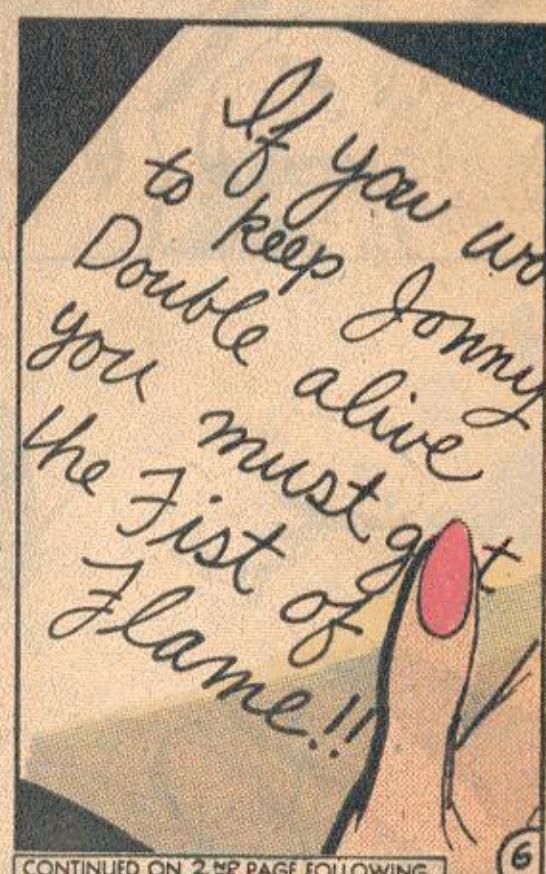
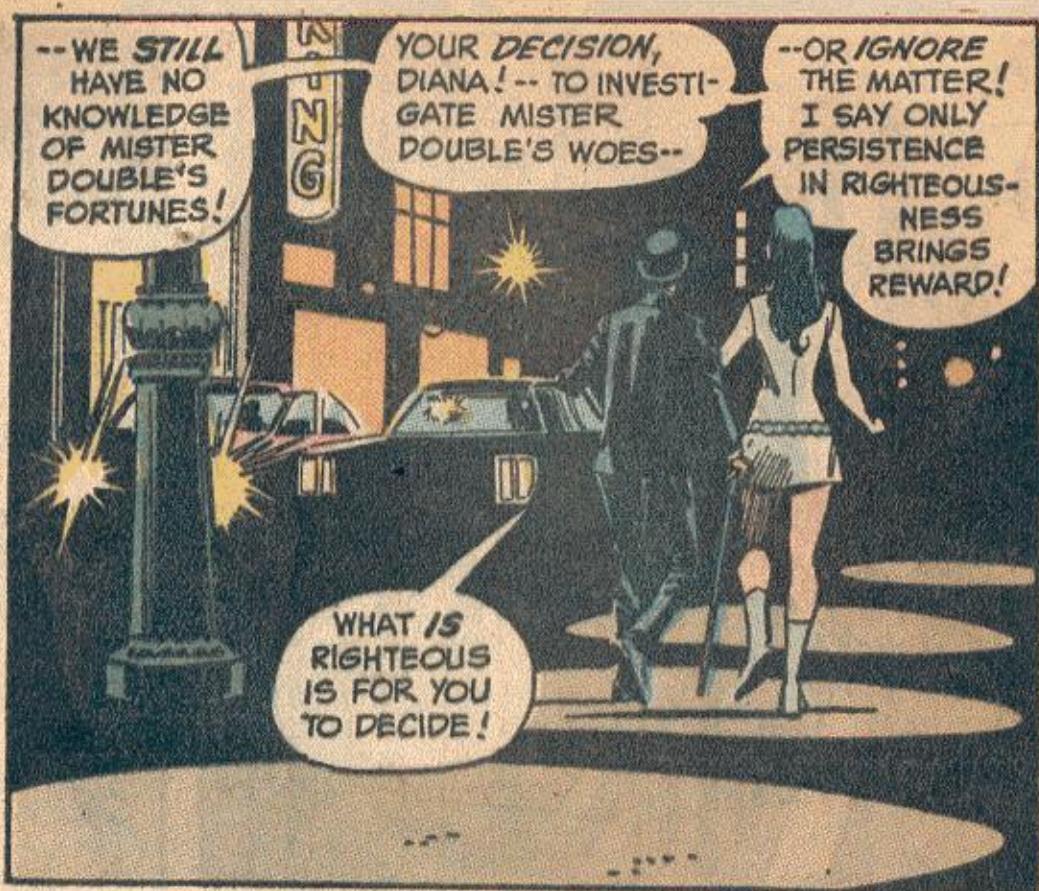


STORY BY DENNY O'NEIL
ART BY DICK GIORDANO

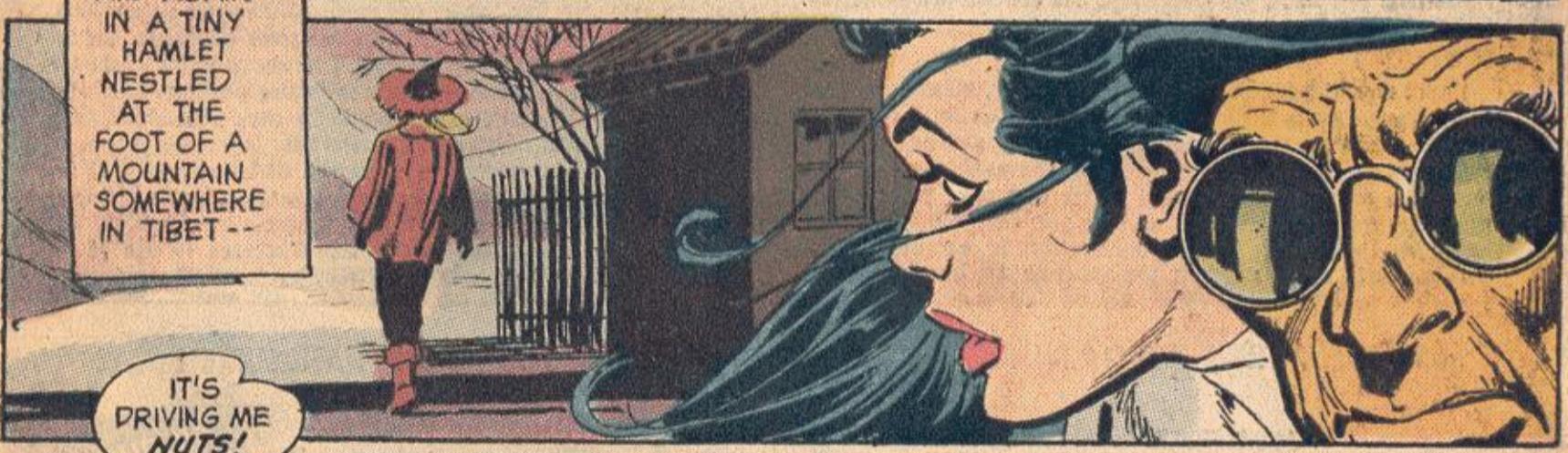


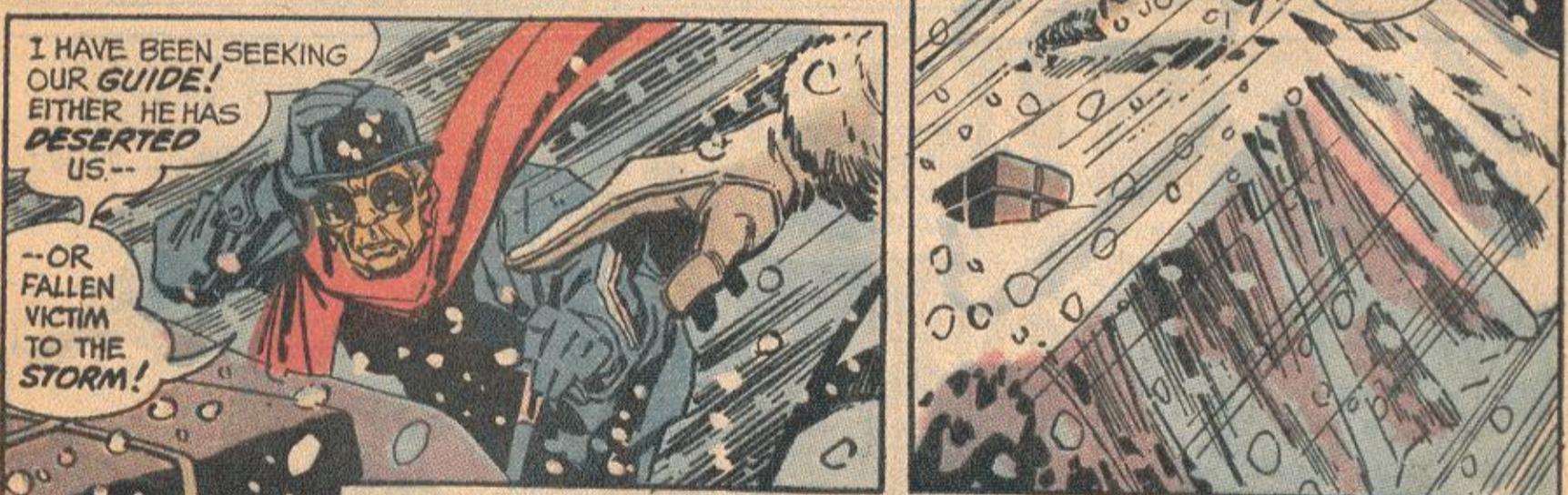


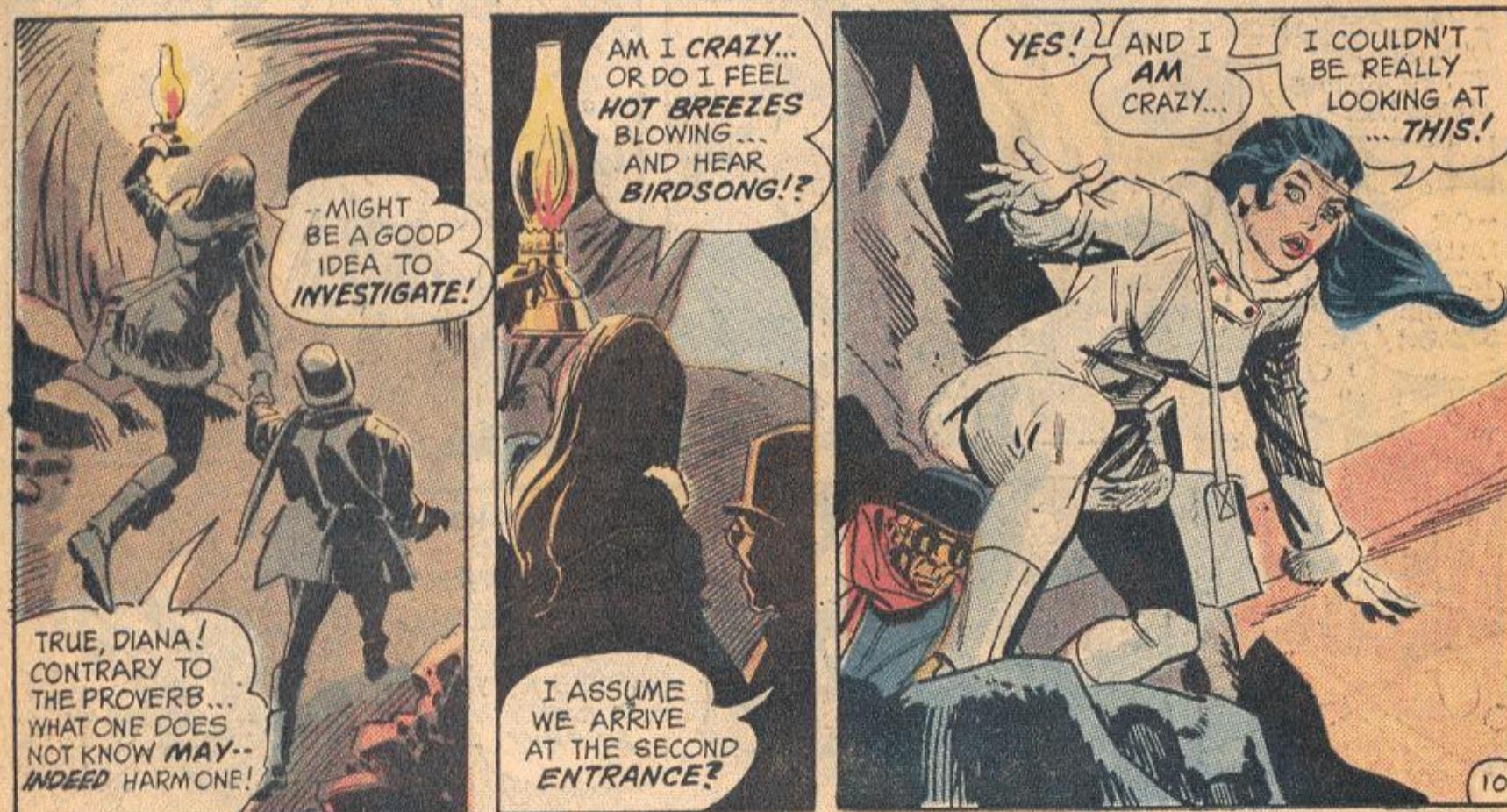
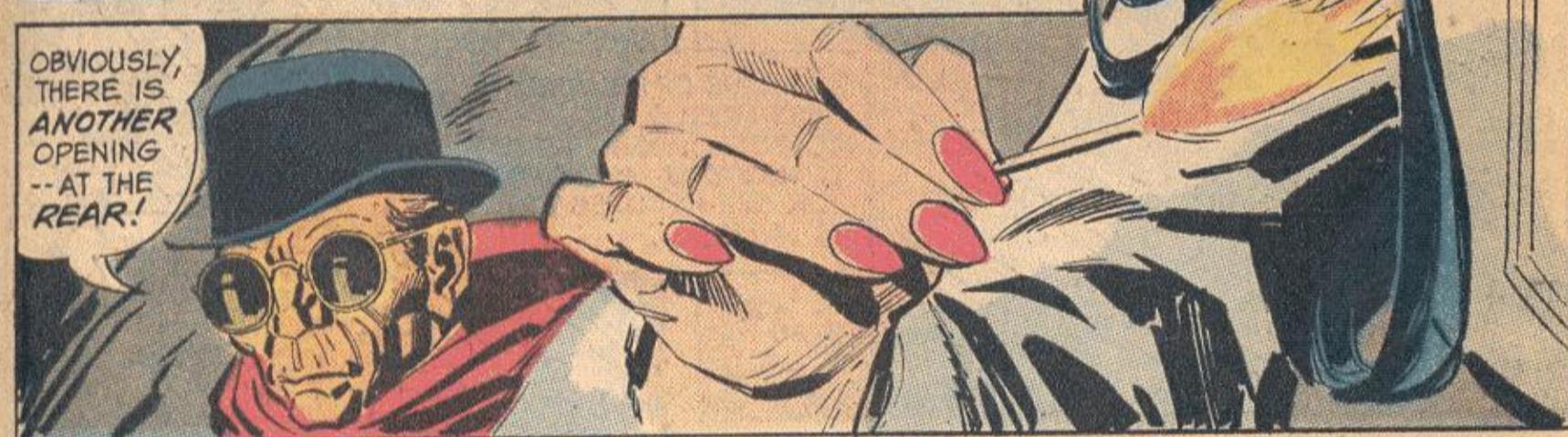


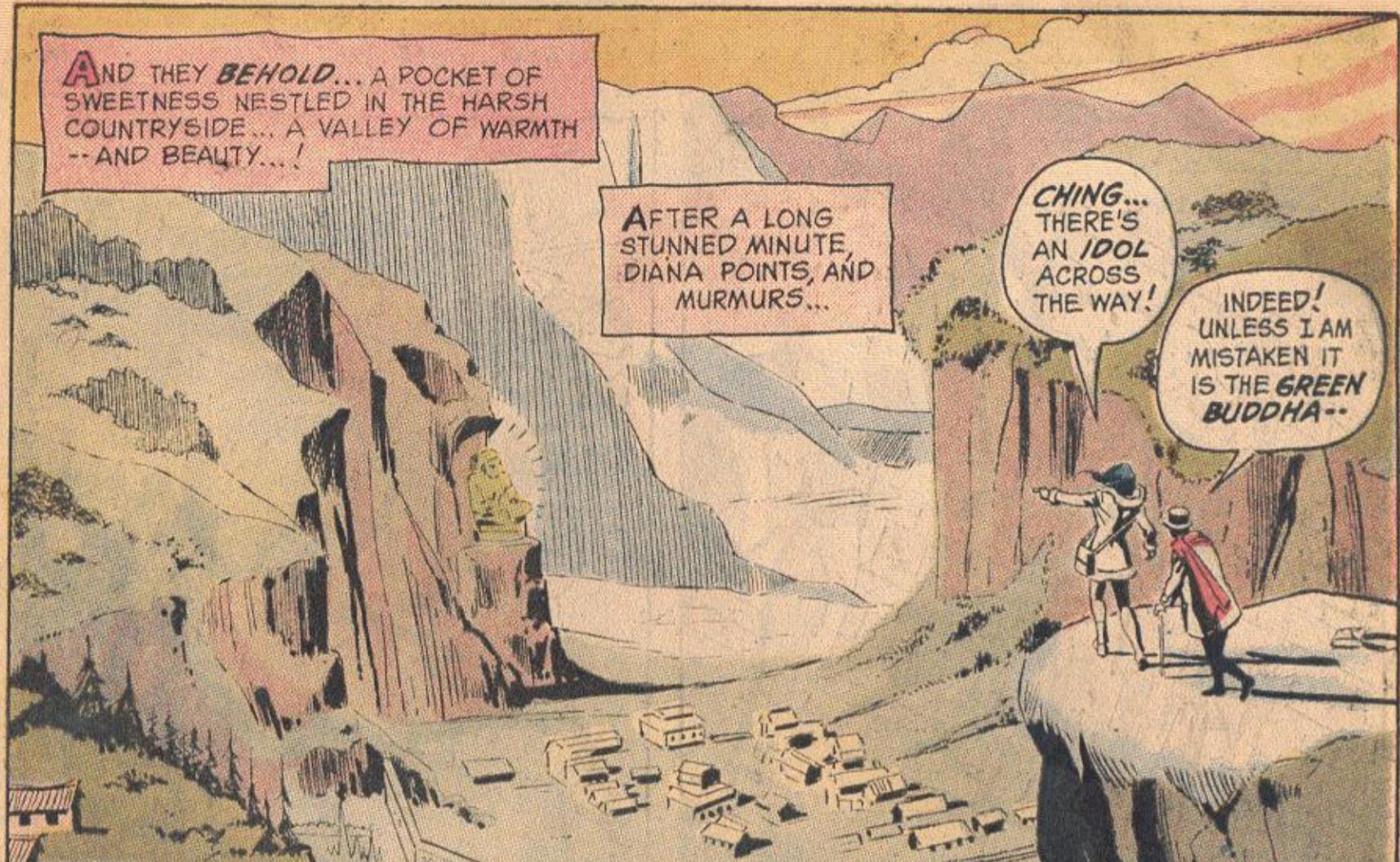












SHADOW-SILENT AND CAT-SWIFT, DIANA AND HER MENTOR SLIP TOWARD A GUARDED GATE --



--AND THE BLOWS THEY STRIKE ARE SUDDEN... NUMBING... UNERRINGLY AIMED... YET, IN A CURIOUS WAY... MERCIFUL!



--FOR SUCH IS THE SKILL OF DIANA AND THE INCREDIBLE I-CHING THAT THEY CAN DISABLE WITHOUT HURTING!



INSTANTLY THEY PASS THROUGH THE PORTAL AND...



YOU BROUGHT CLIMBING EQUIPMENT?

RIGHT HERE!
--CHING... I SEE NO NEED FOR YOU TO TREK TO THE CLIFF-TOP!

I CAN GO AS EASILY ALONE!
AND ALONE I WON'T PUT FURTHER STRAIN ON HIS HEART!



WITH UNERRING AIM, DIANA HURLS THE HEAVY STEEL GRAPPLING HOOK, AND...

IT LOOKS LIKE A PIECE OF CAKE, CHING--

--SEE YOU IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES!



HAVE ACARE!

THE AIR TINGLES WITH PERIL!

EVEN FROM HERE I CAN SEE THE GEM IS... UNEARTHLY!

HOW FOOLISH TO LEAVE IT INTENDED!

BUT THE FIST OF FLAME IS NOT INTENDED! FOR THERE IS THE SCUFFLE OF HEAVY FEET, AND HARSH BREATHING... AND AS DIANA GLANCES BACK--

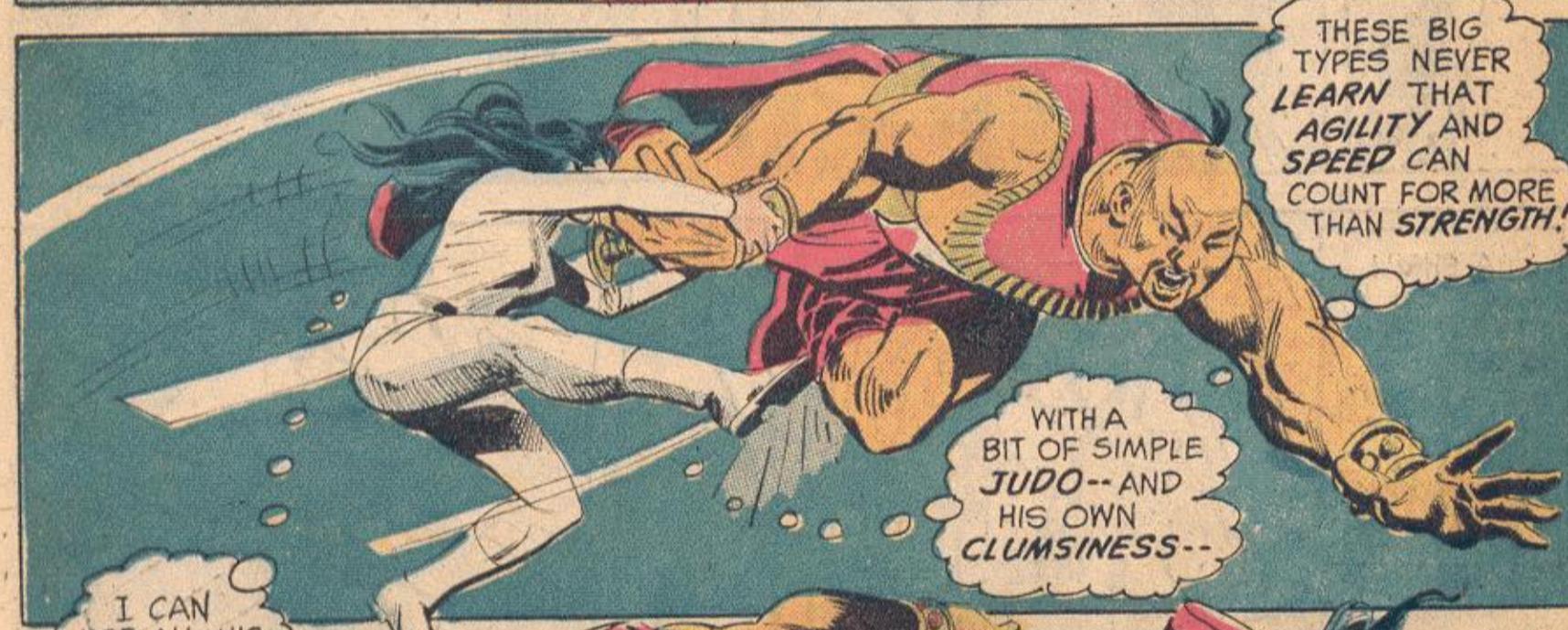


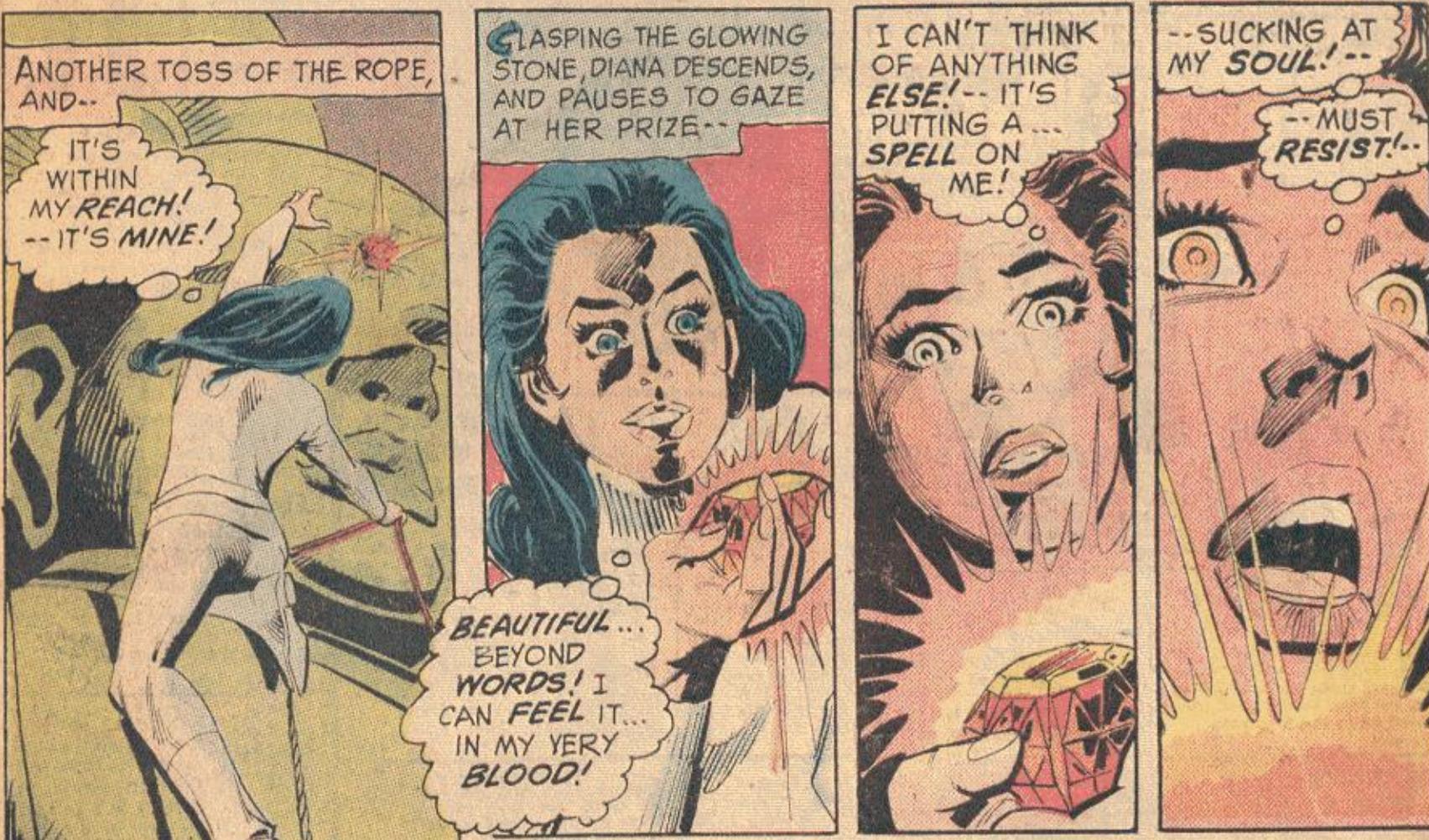
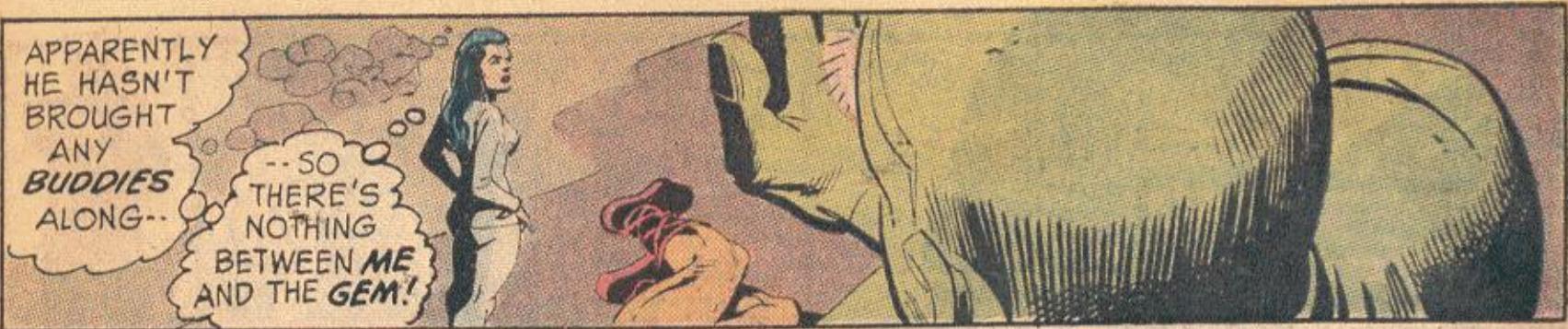
...A SHRILL CRY OF MURDER!--- ALREADY A GLISTENING BLADE HAS BEGUN ITS DEATH ARC--



I KNEW THIS WAS TOO EASY--







CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING.

IN THE FINAL,
FATEFUL MOMENT
BEFORE SHE IS
SWALLOWED BY
BLACKNESS,
DIANA CATCHES
SIGHT OF HER
ASSAILANT--

...AND RECOGNIZES
THE CATWOMAN!

HOW... PERFECTLY
PRECIOUS! THE
STORIES I'VE HEARD
WERE **TRUE!** IT'S
WORTH THE TROUBLE
OF THE JOURNEY!

--A FITTING OBJECT
FOR MY RETURN
TO CRIME--

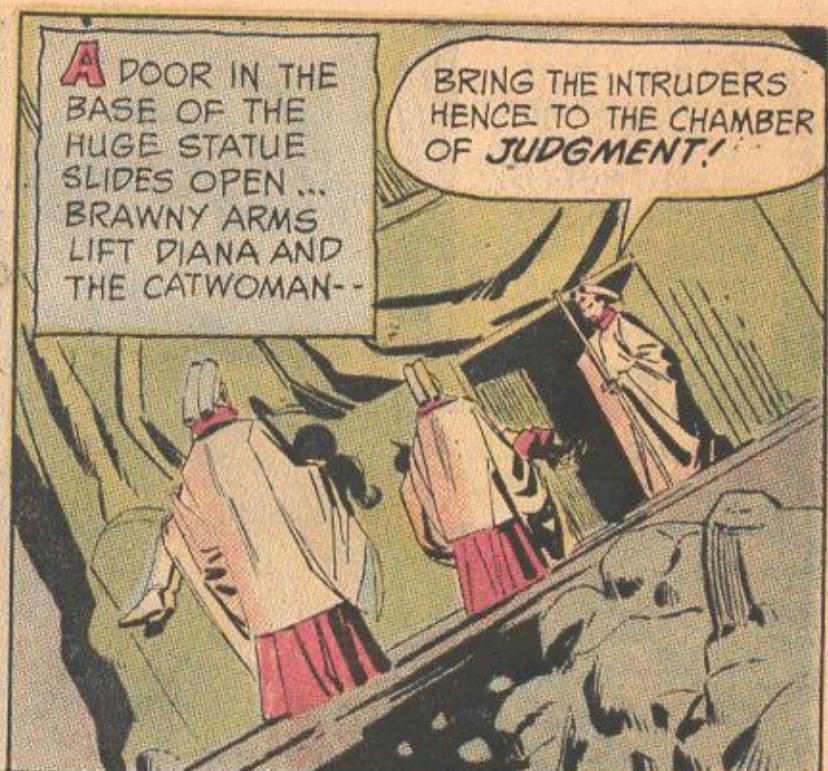
SHE
FEELS
IT,
THEN...
PULSING
HOTLY
THROUGH
HER
GLOVE...

...HER EYES GLAZE... HER
WILL SWEEPS AWAY...

... AND SHE IS CAUGHT...
TRAPPED ABSOLUTELY BY
THE RED-GLOWING GEM...

PERHAPS IT IS AN
HOUR... PERHAPS A
MERE MINUTE...
BEFORE A SAFFRON-
ROBED FIGURE
APPEARS--

--AND STRIKES
A BRUTAL BLOW
THE CATWOMAN
CANNOT EVEN
FEEL!





I HOPE YOU
DON'T TAKE THIS
PERSONALLY,
MISS! I WOULD
PREFER TO LET
YOU LIVE --

-- BUT I'VE GROWN
TERRIBLY FOND OF
MY OWN LIFE OVER
THE YEARS!

WHY
DO YOU
RESIST?

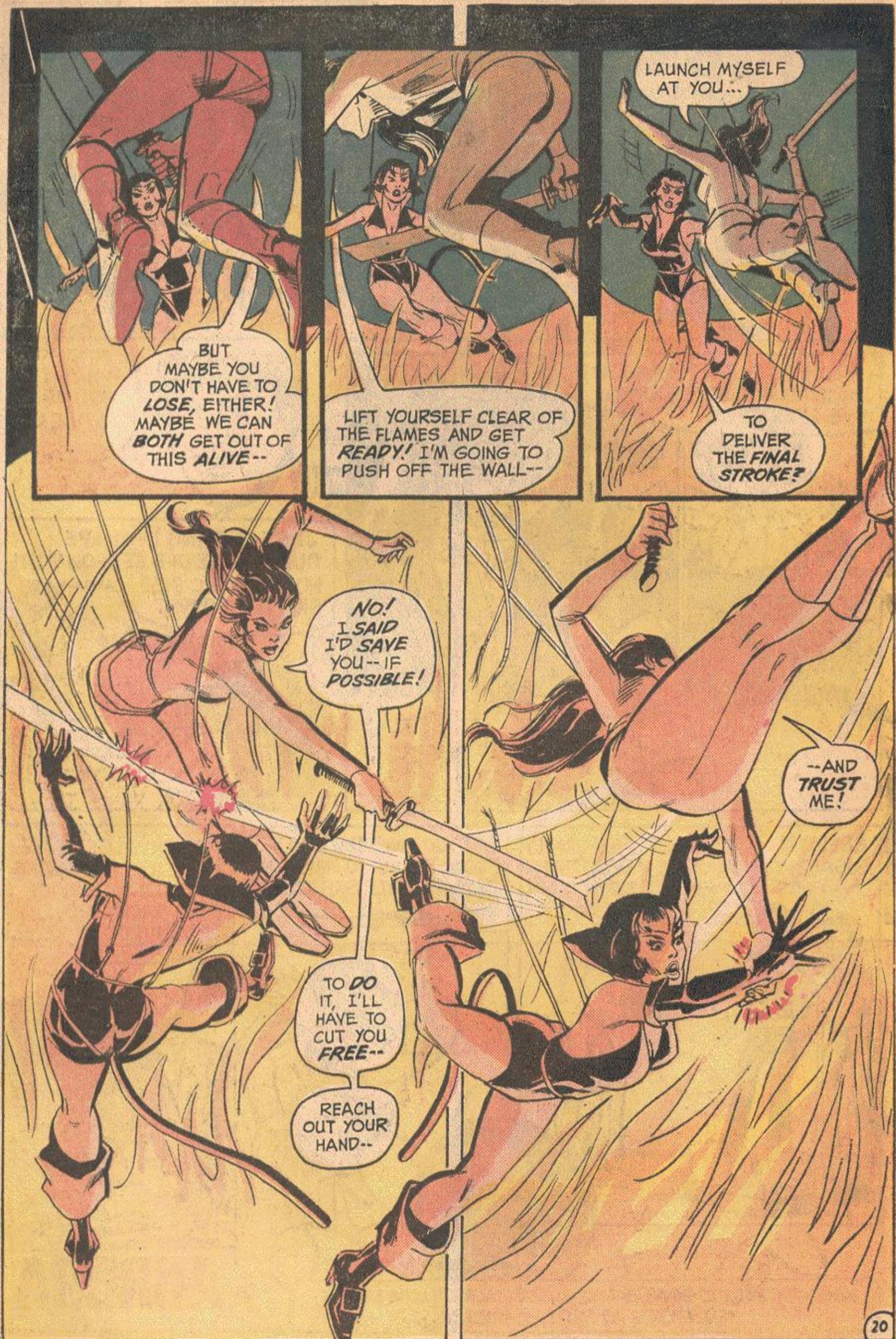
WHY
DON'T YOU
RELAX--

-- AND
PERMIT IT
TO HAPPEN?
A FEW MOMENTS'
PAIN... AND
YOUR
SUFFERINGS
WILL BE
FINISHED!

YOU'RE
AWFULLY
GENEROUS!
PARDON ME
IF I REFUSE
YOUR KIND
OFFER,
THOUGH!!



[CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.]



INSTANTLY, THE COUNTER-WEIGHTS PULL DIANA AND THE CATWOMAN TO SAFETY... TEMPORARY SAFETY!

MAY I... THANK YOU?

FORGET IT! WE'VE NO TIME FOR GRATITUDE--

--WE MAY BE OUT OF THE FIRE... BUT WE'RE STILL SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FRYING PAN!

THE NATIVES DO SEEM RESTLESS!

THEY RESENT OUR NOT BEING BARBECUED!-- IN FACT, THEY RESENT OUR EXISTENCE!

THEY'RE CONFUSED... ALMOST DRUGGED!

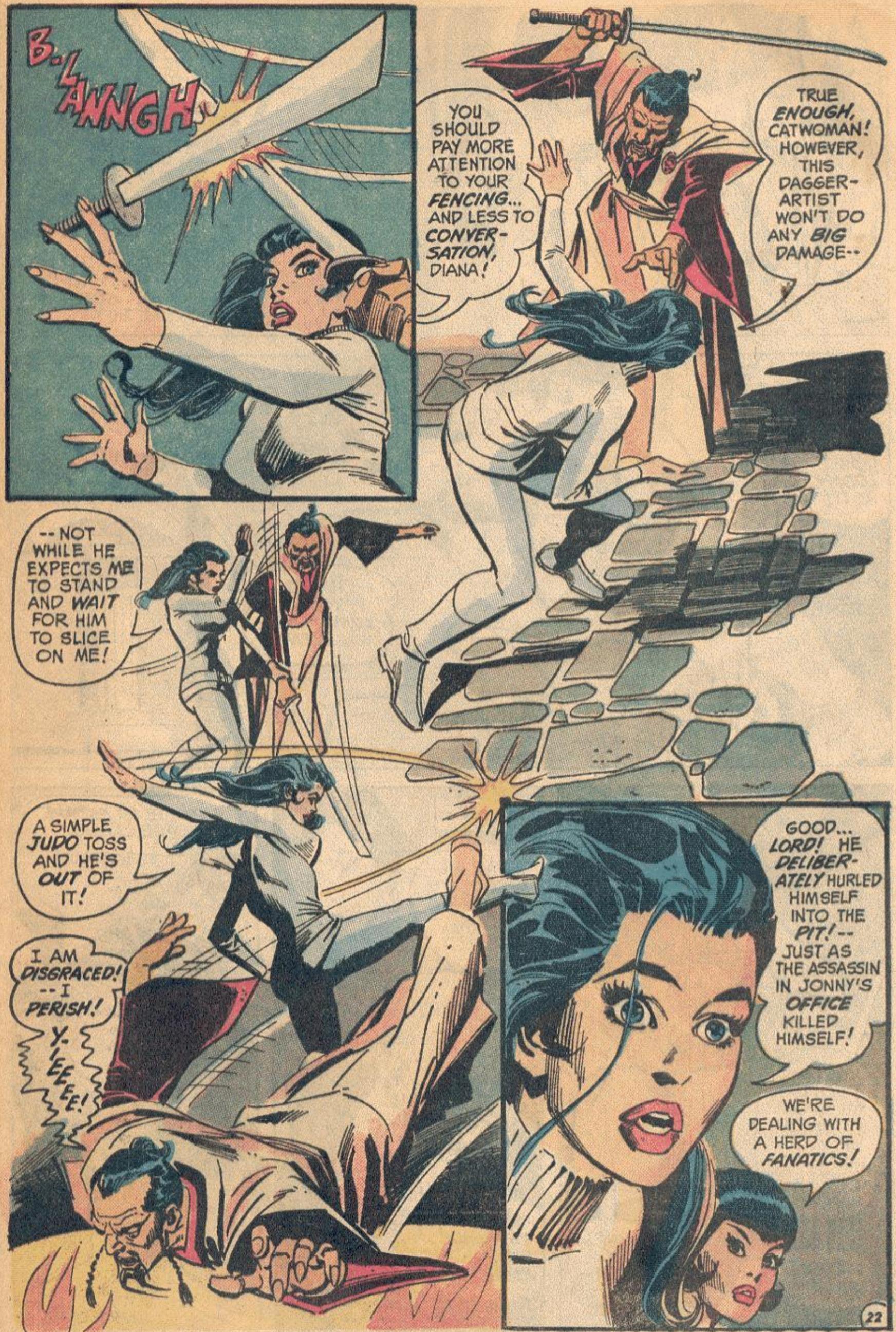
CHING MENTIONED LEGENDS CONNECTED WITH THE GEM...

I'VE HEARD THEM... SOME SAY IT HAS UNHOLY-MAGICAL --TRAITS!

YOU THINK LIVING WITH THE STONE HAS SOMEHOW... NUMBED THESE PEOPLE?

JUDGING FROM WHAT IT DID TO ME WHEN I LOOKED INTO IT, I'D GUESS YES!

NUMBED OR NOT... THEY HAVE US BADLY OUTNUMBERED!







NEXT ISSUE:

THESE SWORD-SLINGING ADVENTURERS FOLLOW DIANA, CATWOMAN and I-CHING INTO THE STRANGEST QUEST YET--! IN THE EERIE LAND of **NEHWON!**



WONDER WOMAN'S WRITE-IN

Z-111

Address all mail to
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909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022

Up front, I've got to say thanks. The mail response to WW #199—our first effort as editor—has far exceeded our expectations. And we didn't have exactly paltry expectations. Every mail delivery brings ten or twelve new letters; literally hundreds of you have taken time to wish us well. "Grateful" doesn't say it, troops, but it's as close as English comes to expressing the emotion we feel.

I wish I could publish all the correspondence, or even all the names of you good folk who wrote—or, heck, I'd settle for being able to print the letters below in their entirety. No is possible, though. We've had to hack and rearrange—edit—more than we care to. Our apologies for the havoc we've wrought on your prose.

Enough of this babble! To the mail!

Dear Editor:

Congratulations, Mr. Denny O'Neil! Your first venture into editing comix mags was a success.

You handled Diana very nicely. The characterizations and dialogue were typically O'Neil great.

And don't let anyone hassle you about your characterization of the "religious nuts." They could have been only slightly exaggerated. Living in the so-called "Bible Belt" I know such religious hate-nuts exist.

Sincerely,
David Hendricks

Bigotry is not a geographical thing, Dave. Right here, in the heart of sophisticated New York, I've met creeps every bit as vicious as the ones we portrayed in the story.

Dear Denny,

Question: was this Jonny Double the same one that was in Showcase a couple of years back?

Sincerely,
Robert Doron
Arlington, Mass.

Dead on, Robert. Jonny was created by Len Wein and Marv Wolfman, with assists by scripter Joe Gill, artists Jack Sparling and Neal Adams, and our own Dick Giordano, for "DC Showcase" #78. You can catch some of the current Double doings in "Adventure Comics."

Dear Denny,

After more than two years, you have returned to your creation. Hopefully, you will give Diana the success you gave Green Lantern and Superman. Much of her potential has not been achieved yet.

I would like to suggest you try to tie up the strings which Mike Sekowsky left loose. (For example, what ever happened to Ching's daughter, Lu Shan?) Also, involve Diana in "relevance" stories and cut the num-

ber of continued adventures and boy friends. And, for Deity's sake, try to get her back in the Justice League, if only for one issue.

Thank you,
Jesus Monteagudo.

Di returns to the JLA in issue #100, Jesus. Which, by the way, will be one dandy of a mag. Writer Len Wein says the story will feature 32—count 'em, 32—superheroes.

Dear Editor,

When I got off work I was pooped out. But there was a lot of stuff I had to do. Go to the bank. Stop at the supermarket. Get gas. Check for new comics. Pick up a couple of hamburgers.

Hamburgers digesting, I flip through the hastily bought comics and pull out Wonder Woman. I notice the style of the cover and the signature. Jeff Jones, doing a D.C. comic book cover? Then I look at the cover itself and am instantly transfixed . . .

. . . "My God, what a cover!" . . .

. . . Fifteen minutes later, I make it to this typewriter. The comic is still unopened.

Alan Chasin
Los Angeles, Calif.

Alan's reaction to Jeff's superb rendering is . . . typical.

Dear Editor:

Unemployed, I have taken to reading the letter page. The editorial did it. "Pity her, envy her." Ugh and ick. Your male chauvinism is showing. I could say something nastier but I won't; I believe in quiet, well-mannered commitment to the cause of liberation.

Temporarily yours,
Mrs. Elizabeth Bleau

Hey—I once wrote a novel in which "pity her (him)" was used as a running tag to all characters—male, female and invading alien. Took my cue from T.S. Eliot's lines: "I am moved by fancies which curl around these images and cling/The notion of some infinitely gentle, infinitely suffering thing." In other words, Mrs. B.—not guilty.

. . . And—already we're at the end of the page, almost. Barely room to lay a couple more items on you. To wit:

Next outing, we'll have a new heading for this department—I fervently hope. We'll also print the name of whoever wins the "rename the WW lettercol" contest described in WW #200.

I want your letters. Please—keep writing. Suggestions, gripes, ideas—anything.

Finally . . . you might do well to remember—
—that today is the first day of the rest of your life.

Peace,
Denny

DIRECT CURRENTS

12b

What weird beings haunt the lochs of Scotland? That's what the **TEEN TITANS** set out to discover in "Spawn of the Sinister Sea." It's their **August** issue, and puts them in a fantastically weird situation! Follow the world's greatest young heroes as they travel to the Highlands in one of the strangest adventures of their careers! It's #40 and it goes on the stands **May 4!**

Who will be the new lama, selected to rule over Tibetan exiles in India? Well, we know who's aiding in the search—and if **THE PHANTOM STRANGER** can't discover the rightful lama, we don't know who can! You can accompany him on this mission by getting your copy of his magazine for **August** (#20), when it goes on sale—**May 9!**

One goes on a mission—and vanishes! Have **The Losers** lost another member? You'll recall that **Capt. Storm** was the first to go . . . but is he really dead? There's just a hint in this issue that he might have survived . . . but Editor Joe Kubert refuses to tell me whether this hint will lead to anything—and if so, what! Oh, yes—two other stories in this issue: "The Comic Strip," a **U.S.S. Stevens** tale, and "Shotgun Fregman." It's the **August** / **OUR FIGHTING FORCES** (#138), on sale **May 9!**

What happens when **SUPERMAN** is deprived of the ability to use his super-strength—because every time he does, the force he throws backfires against him? The solution to his dilemma lies with a cat and a kid—specifically, "The Kid Who Stole Superman's Powers"—and, I might add, with the **Man of Steel's** full cooperation! If you want to know more, read the July **SUPERMAN** (#254), which comes out on **May 11!** Oh, yes—Neal Adams illoed a **Clark Kent** story—"The Baby Who Walked Through Walls!" In it, **Clark** solves a mystery without using his super-powers!

The time is the late 1930's—and **KORAK, SON OF TARZAN**, tackles a group of Nazis who are working on a new, super-light metal for use in airships! This clash between the **Ape-Man's** son and the minions of Hitler is sure to thrill you! Oh, yes—there's more adventure with **Carson of Venus** this issue, too! More fantastic doings with Edgar Rice Burroughs' interplanetary hero! Don't miss this **August** issue (#47), on sale **May 11!**

At last—the full story of **Scott Free's** last days on **Apokolips**, before he came to Earth and became **MISTER MIRACLE**! Learn of "Himon"—the mystery man who invented the **Boom Tube** and the first **Mother Box**—and who taught Scott his amazing escape tricks! Discover how Scott first met **Big Barda**! And how she helped him escape! This is only part of the excitement awaiting you in the **August** issue (#9), which hits the newsstands **May 11!** It's the big one—so be sure to get it!

ALL DC MAGAZINES NOW ONLY 20¢!!

Rather than explain our new price policy personally, I've asked all our editors to tell you in their own way why there is a price reduction for this magazine.

Take over, Fellow Editors.

Carmine Infantino, Publisher.

In the past, we've always been honest and we will continue to keep faith with our readers.

Last June, we were forced to raise the price of our magazines—there was simply no way we could retain the 15¢ price and also retain the quality you've come to expect from us in the thirty-plus years we've been entertaining you. Printing, engraving, shipping—everything, up to and including staples—was costing us more.

But we didn't want to charge more and not give more. A dilemma. We solved it by adding 16 extra pages to each of our comics. Sure, the material in them wasn't new—but those were and are, good stories—the best we could cull from our library. Well, the economic situation has changed again. (In fact, lately it's been changing faster than a chameleon on a patchwork quilt.) While we are forced to cut back, it means we can eliminate the reprint material—and reduce our price by a nickel. We will still be providing more for your money than any company in the field. How? All our magazines will soon contain additional pages of fresh excitement in story and art! No other publisher is offering you that deal. None is likely to. We offer greater quantity, as well as greater quality. We think that makes DC comics the best entertainment buy available now, as in the past. Honestly,

Julius "Batman" Schwartz
Joe "Jimmy Olsen" Orlando
Dorothy "Lois Lane" Woolfolk

Murray "Superboy" Boltinoff
Denny "Wonder Woman" O'Neil
Sol "Production" Harrison

Joe "Tarzan" Kubert
Jack "King" Kirby
E. Nelson "The Fan" Bridwell

P.S. Note to subscribers: All subscriptions will be extended so that the additional issues you receive will make up for the difference between the new 20¢ price and the rate you paid, which was based on the 25¢ magazines.