



WONDER WOMAN



PEREZ • WEIN

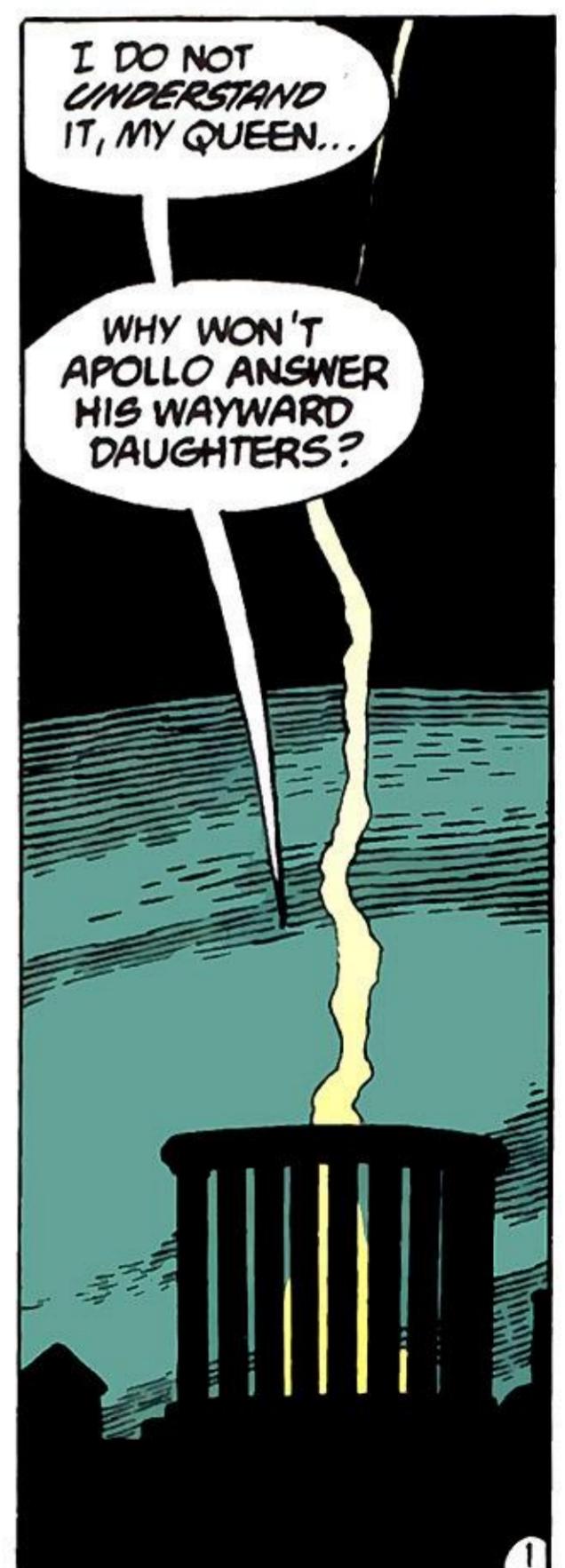
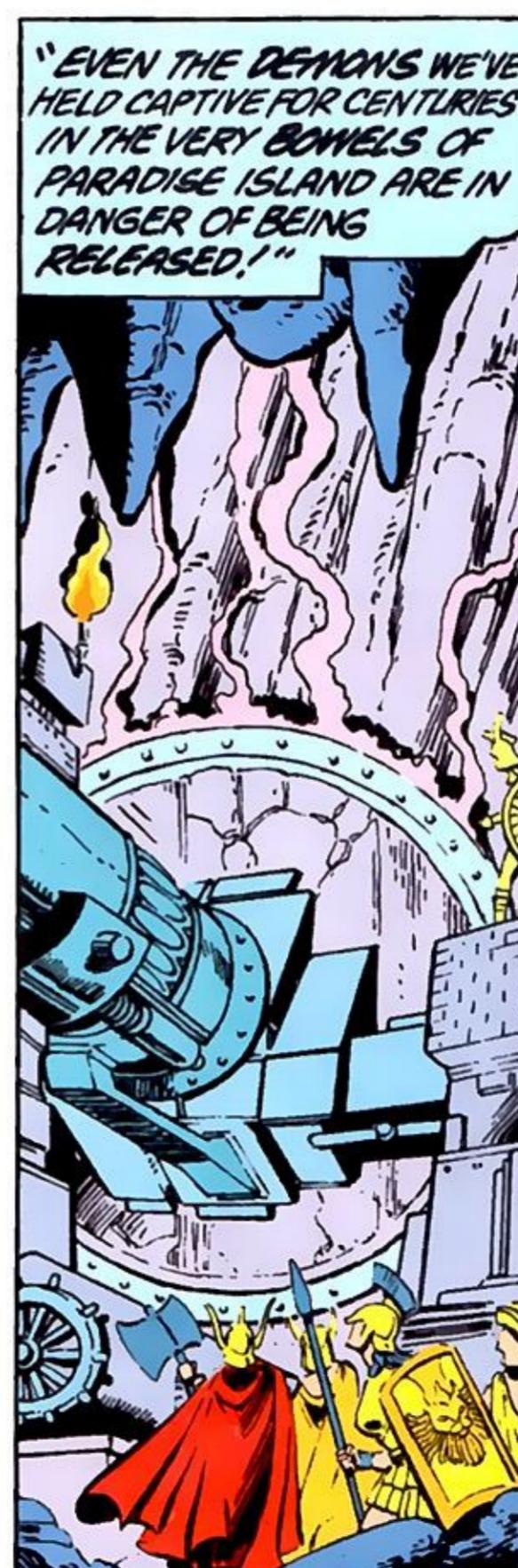
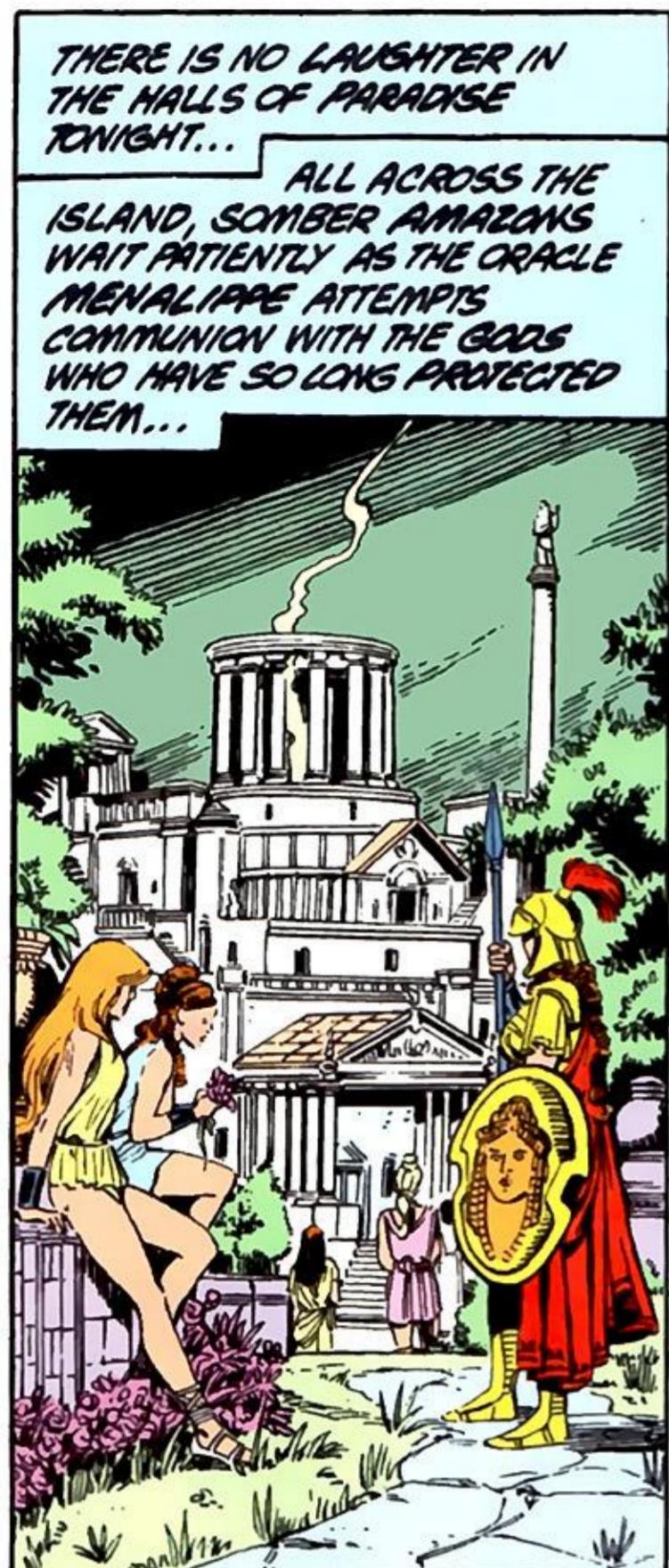
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JUNE 87

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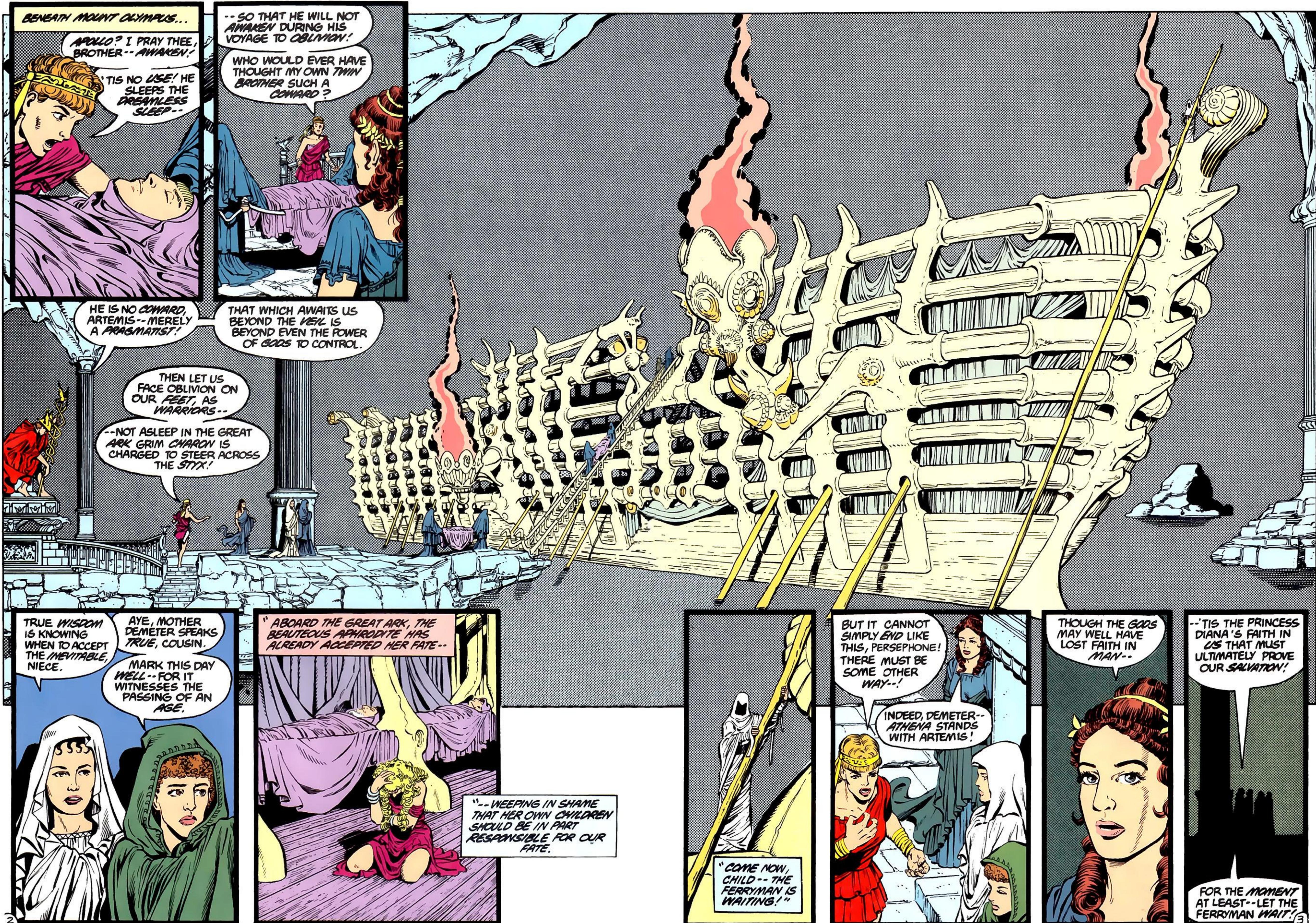
THE
HISTORY
OF THE
DC
UNIVERSE
*is must
reading*



1

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MAN'S WORLD:

... ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE TODAY, TENSIONS RAN HIGH...



... AS THE PROPOSED SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN EAST AND WEST COLLAPSED MERE HOURS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE WAS TO BEGIN...

... WHILE, IN THE MIDDLE EAST, NEW FIGHTING BROKE OUT JUST MOMENTS AFTER A TEMPORARY TRUCE WAS DECLARED...



... AND IN NICARAGUA, UNEXPECTED REBEL RAIDS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR HEAVY CASUALTIES...



INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM ALSO RAN RAMPANT TODAY, RESULTING IN NUMEROUS DEATHS AT FRENCH AND BELGIAN AIRPORTS...



WHILE IN LOCAL NEWS, ALLEGED MURDERER COLONEL STEPHEN TREVOR IS STILL AT LARGE--

--AMIDST RAMPANT RUMORS THAT TREVOR IS ACTUALLY A SOVIET SPY...



AT A PRESS CONFERENCE EARLIER TODAY GENERAL SAM TOLLIVER CLAIMED TO POSSESS EVIDENCE PROVING TREVOR'S GUILT--

--AND SWORE HE WOULD NOT REST UNTIL TREVOR'S APPREHENSION...



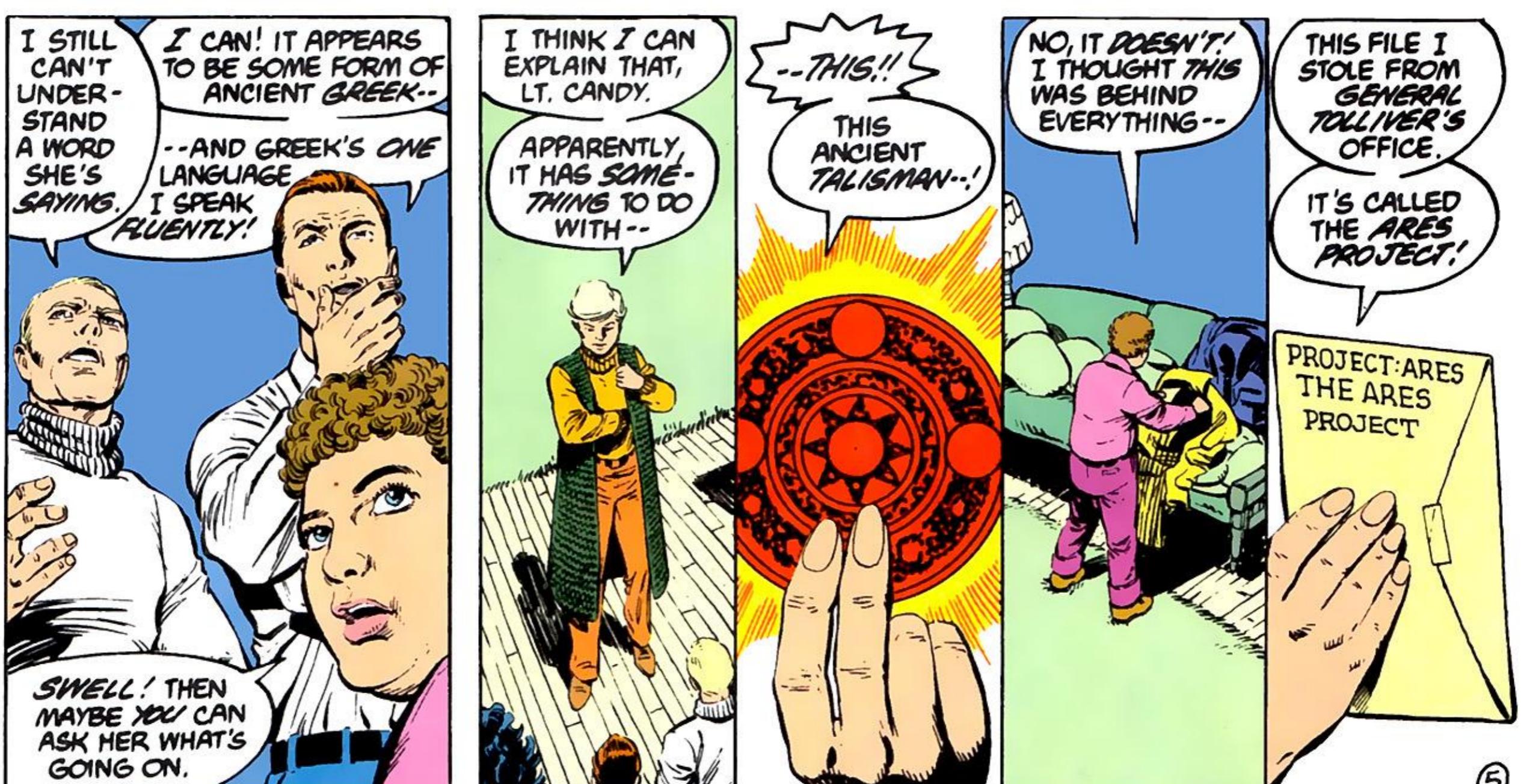
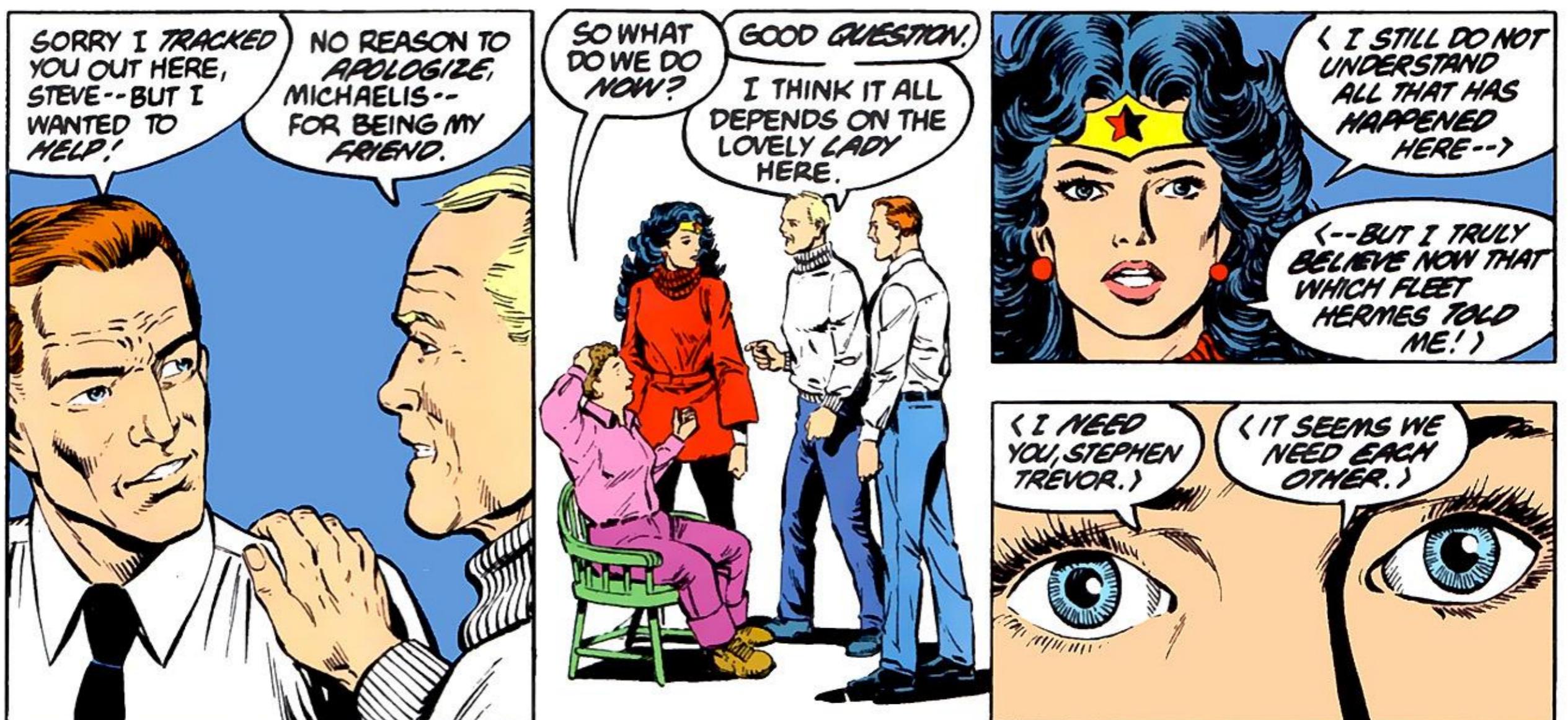
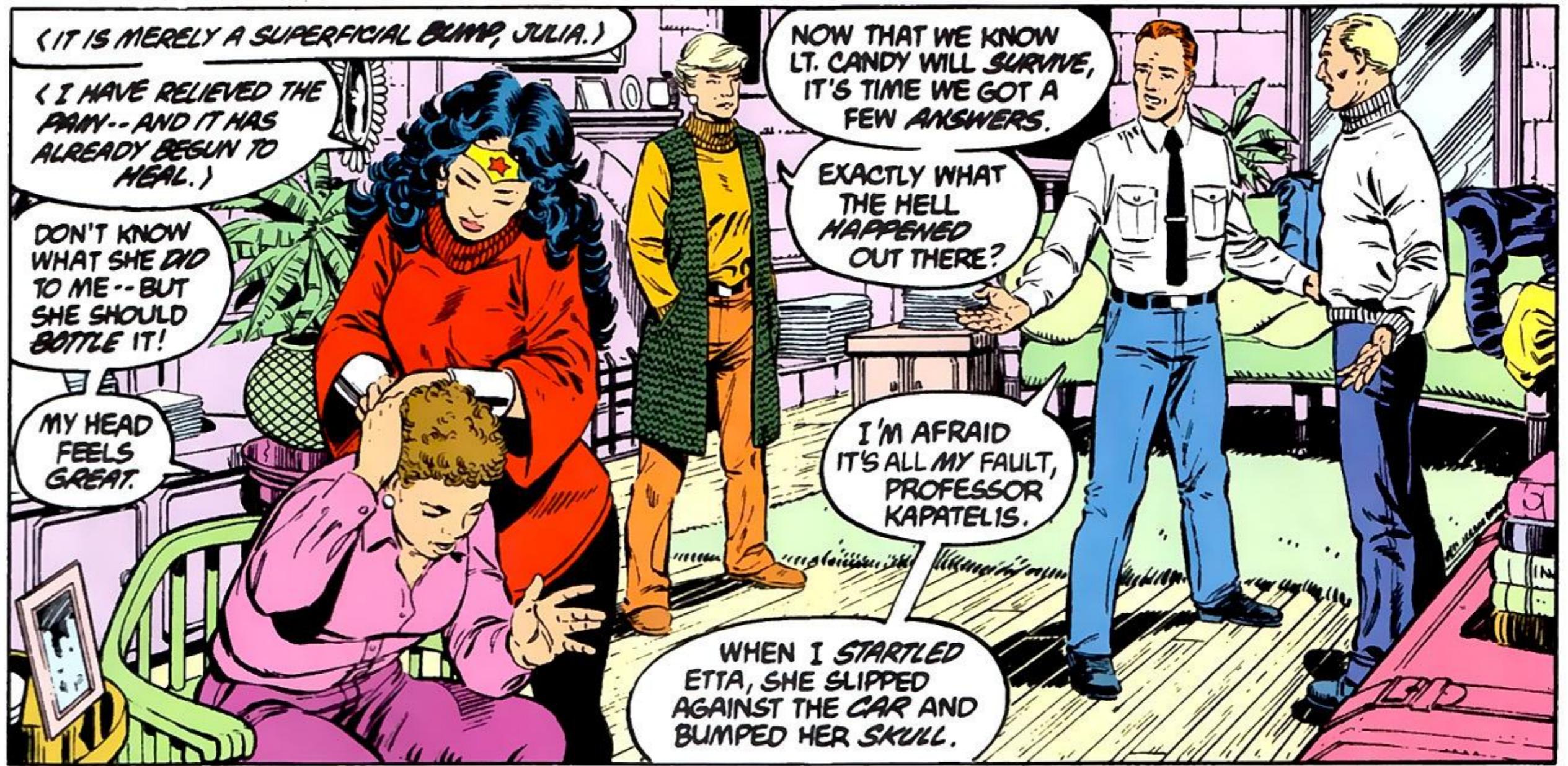
MEANWHILE, THE IDENTITY OF THE INCREDIBLE WONDER WOMAN WHO SAVED BOSTON FROM THE CREATURE CALLED DECAY REMAINS A MYSTERY...



A SIZABLE REWARD HAS BEEN OFFERED TO ANYONE WHO KNOWS HER CURRENT WHEREABOUTS..."

(IS SHE ALL RIGHT, DIANA?)

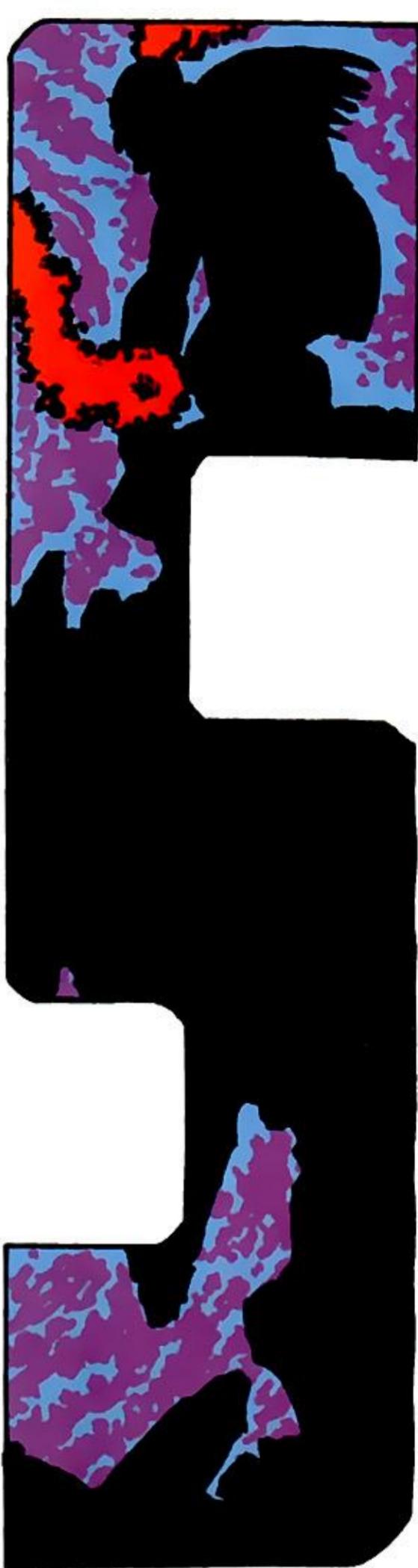
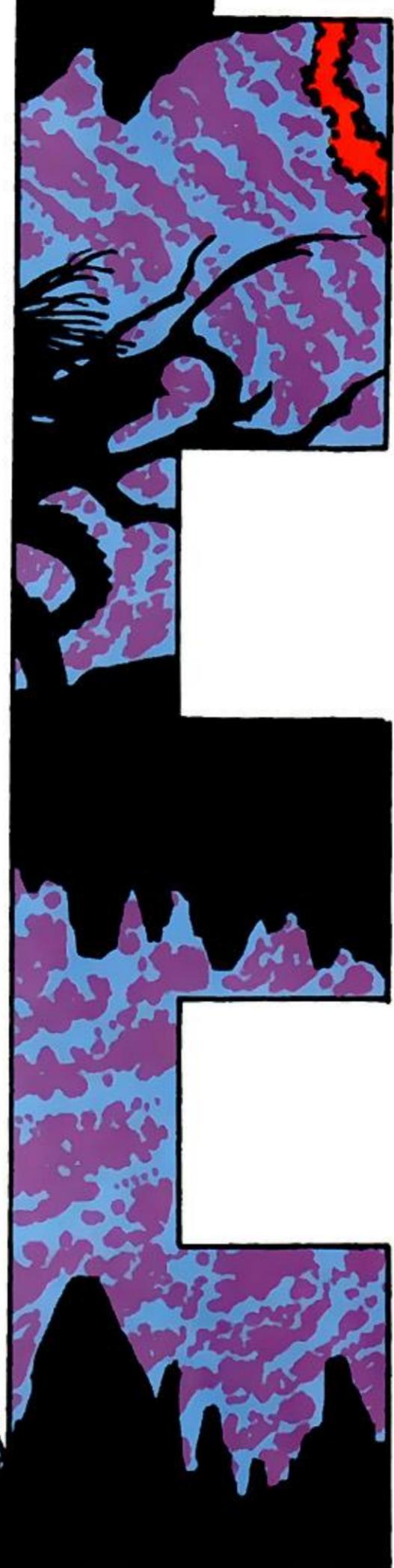
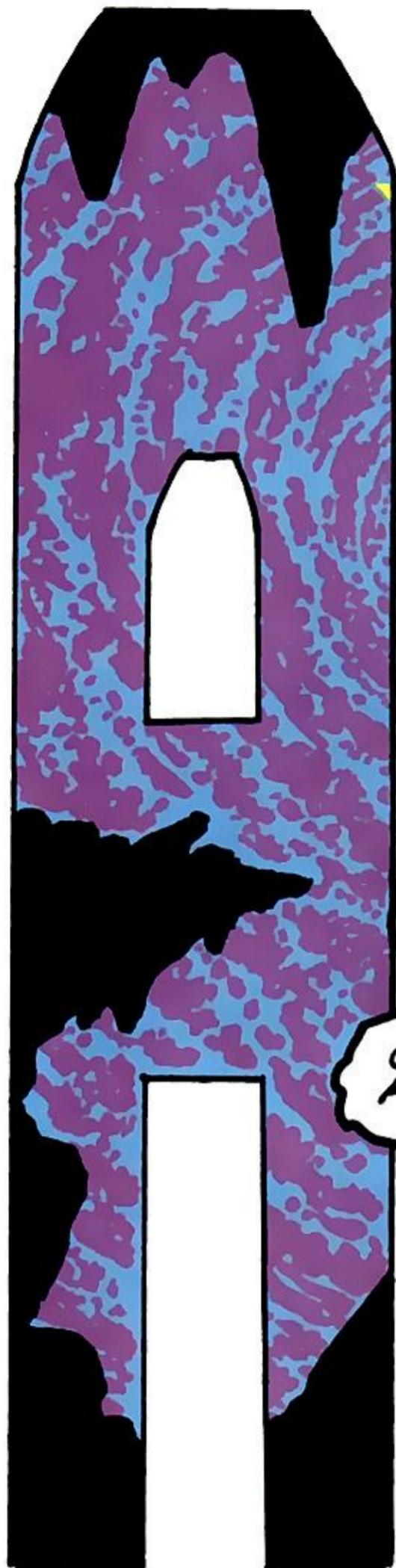




WONDER WOMAN

THE

created by
William
Moulton
Marston



GEORGE PÉREZ · LEN WEIN · BRUCE D. PATTERSON · JOHN COSTANZA · TATJANA WOOD · KAREN BERGER
PLOTTER / PENCILLER SCRIPTER INKER letterer colorist EDITOR



"EVEN NOW, ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE EARTH, THE GREAT MILITARY POWERS ARE MASSING THEIR FORCES..."

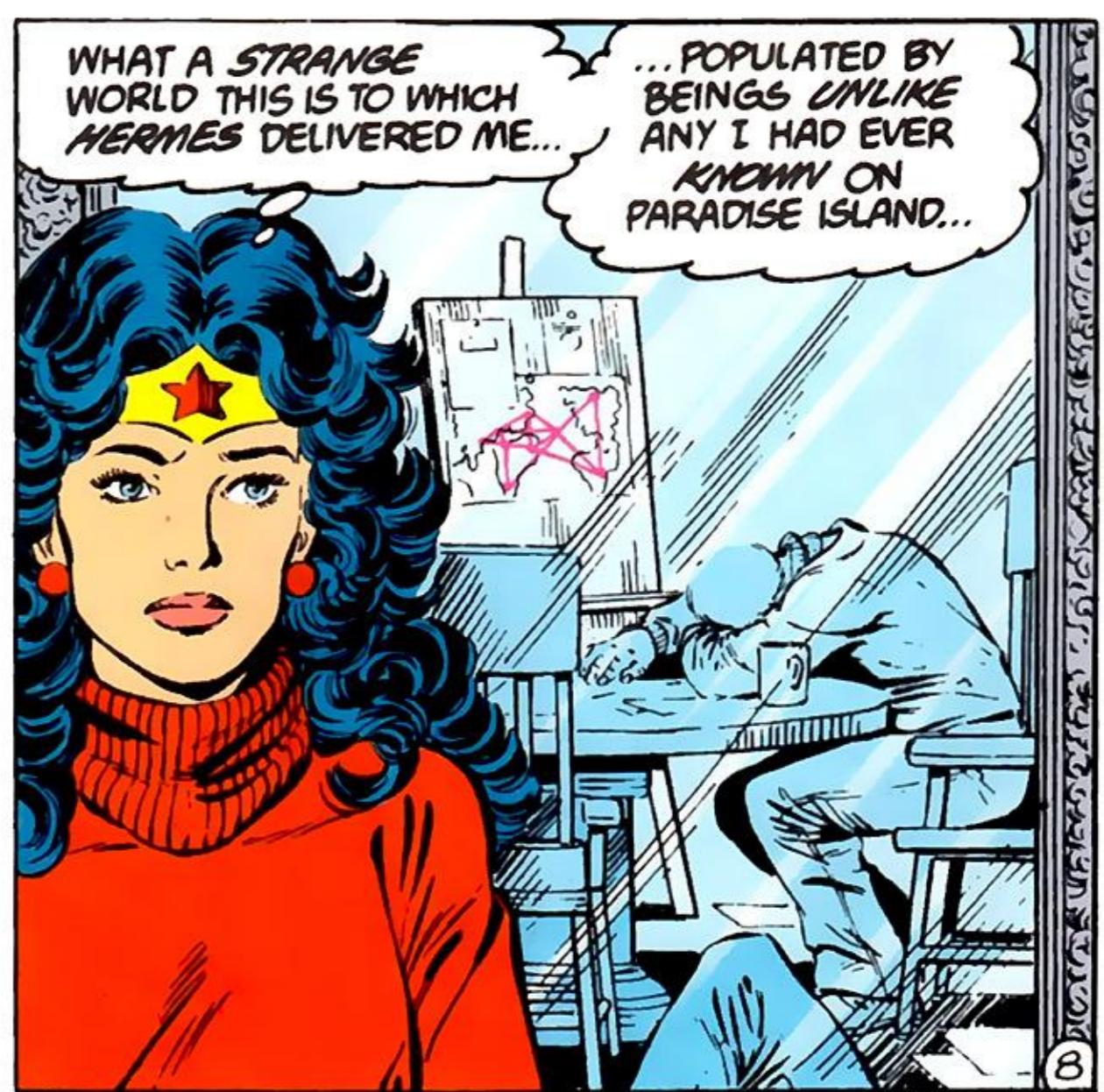
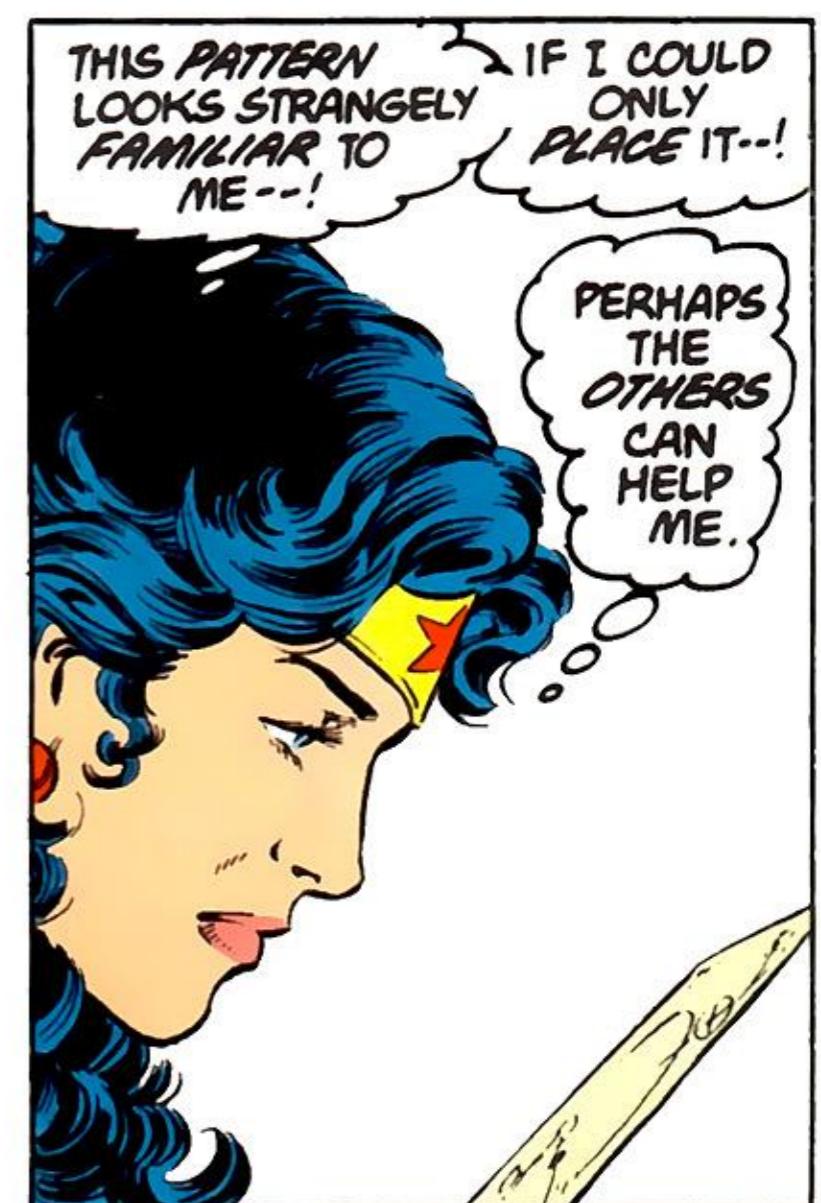
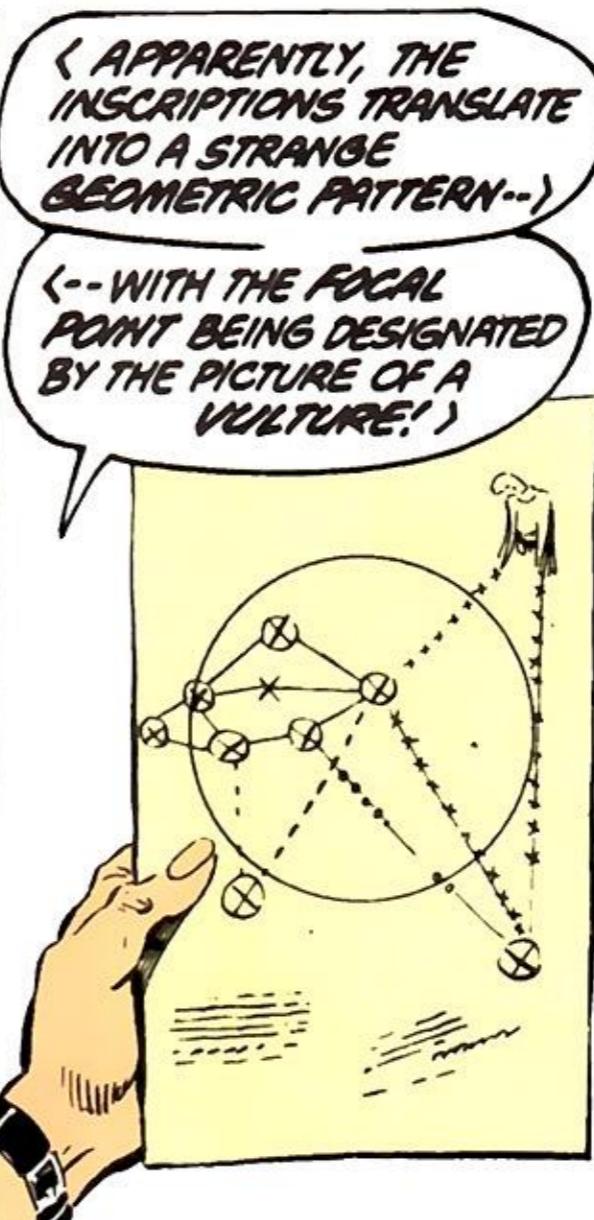


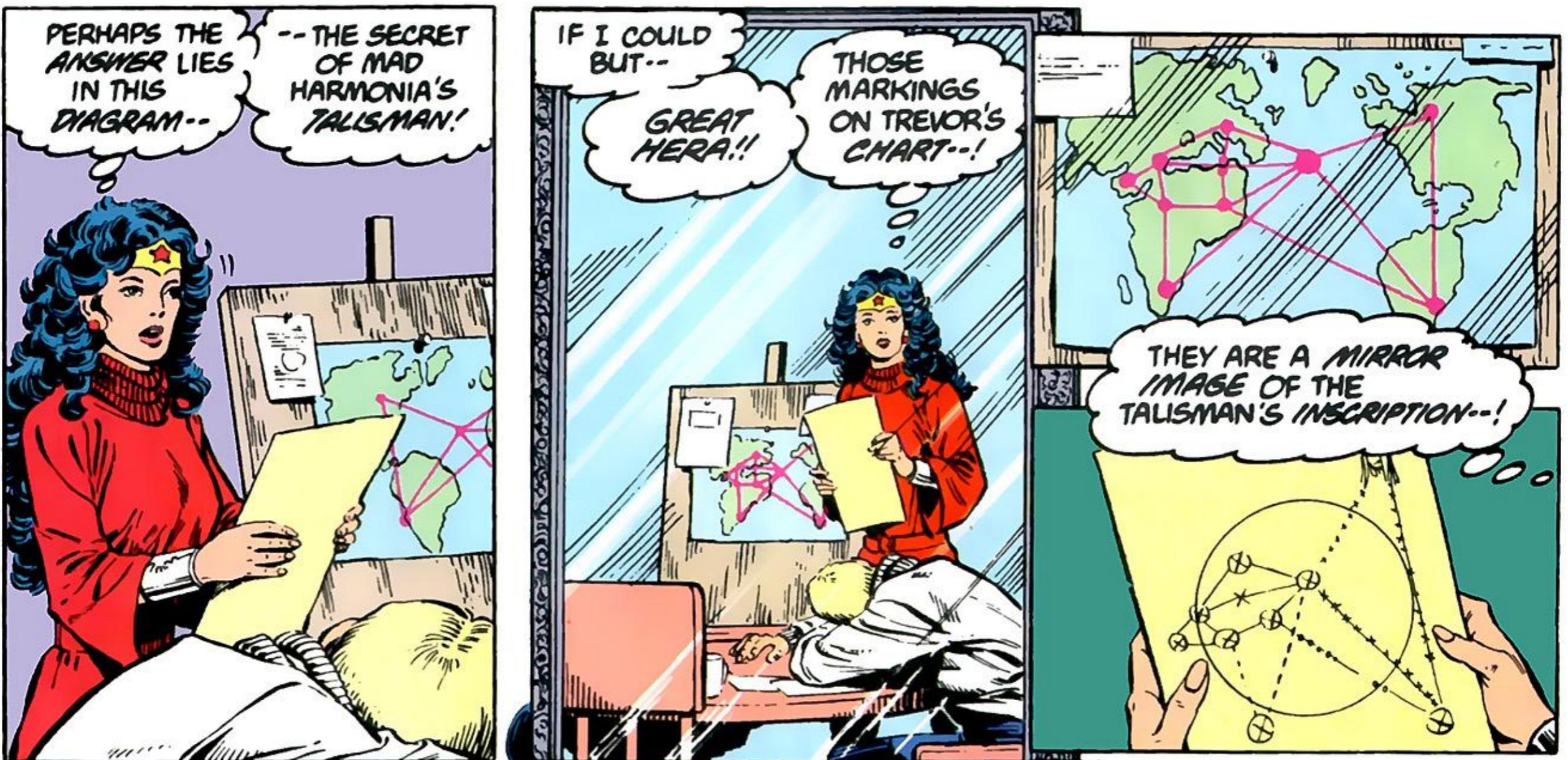
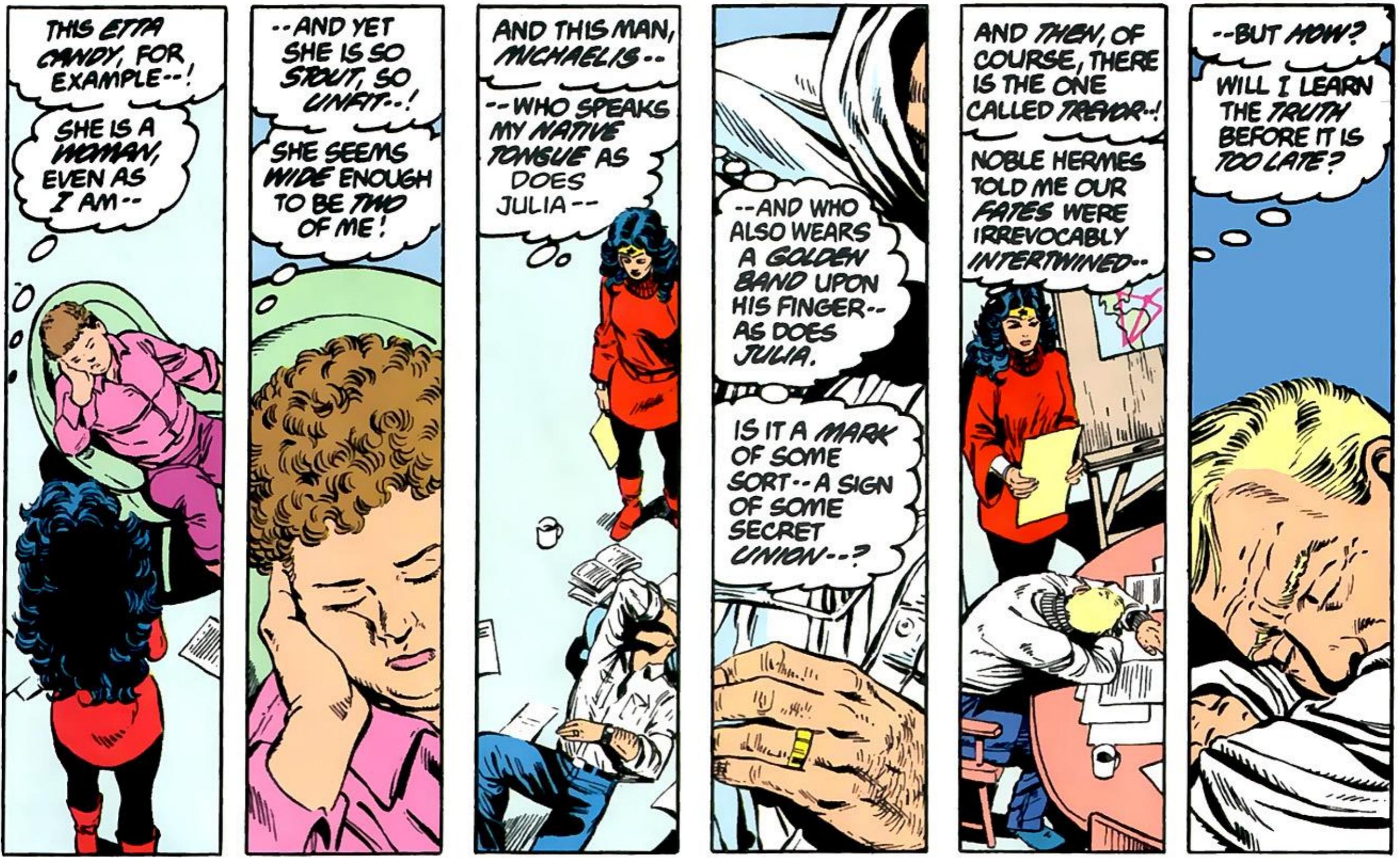
"GENERALS WHO HAVE LONG WORSHIPPED OUR FATHER NOW LEAD THEIR TROOPS INTO COMBAT FOR REASONS THEY DO NOT FULLY COMPREHEND..."



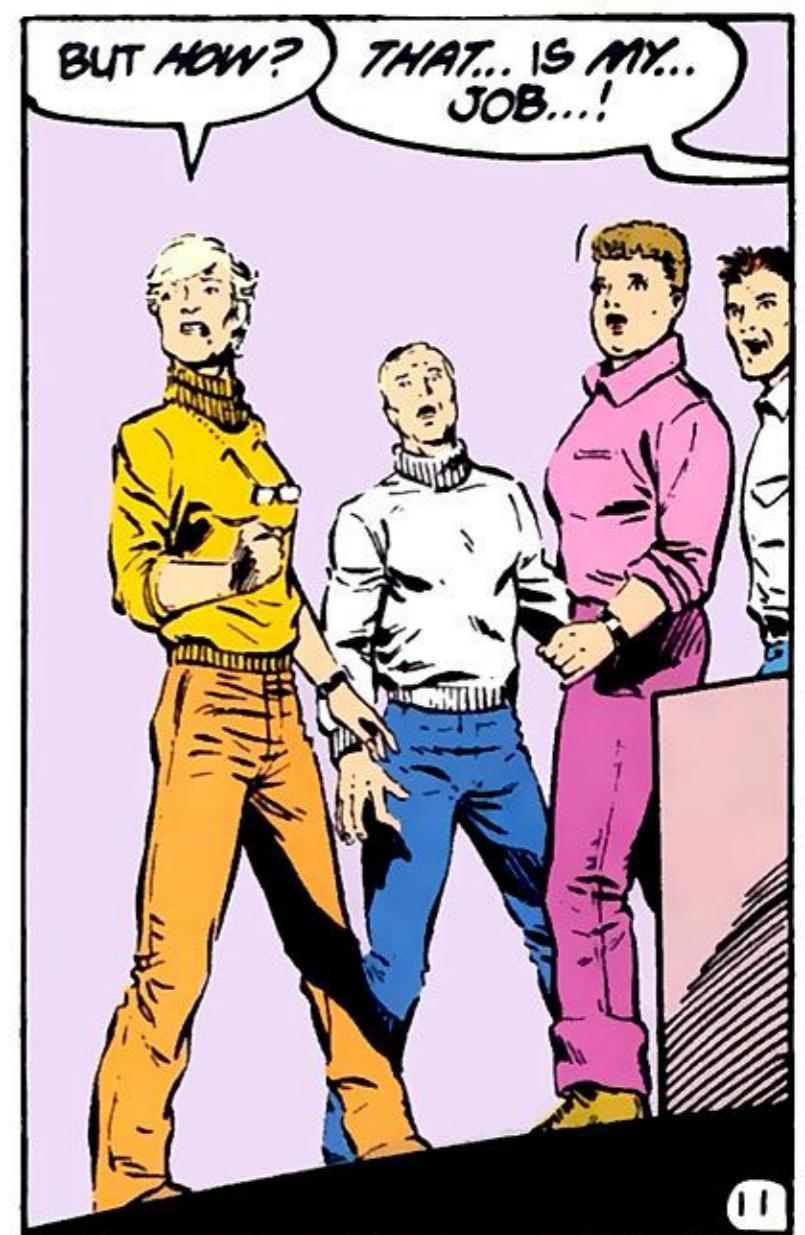
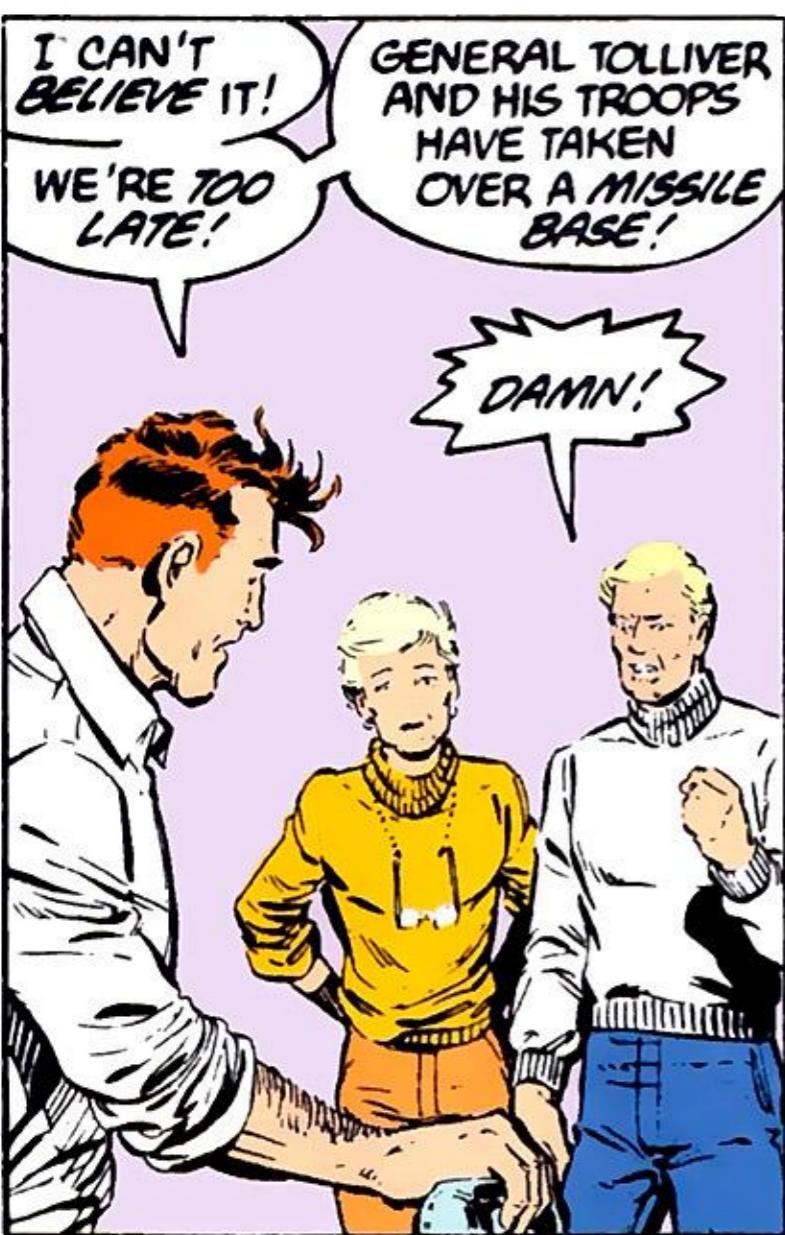
"...AND YET ARE WILLING TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH TO OBEY!"













ARE THESE BEINGS TYPICAL EXAMPLES
OF THE RACE MY MOTHER SO FEARED?

FOR CREATURES SO
FRAIL, THERE IS STILL
A STRANGE NOBILITY
ABOUT THEM.

IS IT MERELY THEIR INSTINCT
FOR SURVIVAL THAT DRIVES
THEM--OR SOMETHING
MORE PROFOUND?

WHATEVER THE TRUTH,
MY MISSION IS CLEAR--
-- AND THE TWO IMAGES
OF THE TALISMAN MUST
BE JOINED!

READY WHENEVER
YOU ARE, DIANA!

THEN LET
IT BE DONE!

ARE YOU SURE
ABOUT THIS,
SIR?

I MEAN,
PUTTING SUCH
BLIND FAITH IN
SOMEONE WE
HARDLY KNOW--!

I CAN'T
EXPLAIN IT,
ETTA. MAYBE
IT'S BECAUSE
SHE SAVED MY
LIFE--

-- OR MAYBE IT'S
SOMETHING MORE!

AS CORNY AS
THIS MAY
SOUND...
... SHE REMINDS
ME OF MY
MOTHER.

THEN THE
TALISMAN
TOUCHES THE
SILVERED
GLASS...

-- AND, FOR FIVE FRAGILE
SOULS, THE UNIVERSE
ABRUPTLY TURNS INSIDE
OUT!

FOR AN EONS-LONG INSTANT, THEY CAN
FEEL THE SEARING HEAT OF HELLFIRE
AND A GRIEVE BEYOND THAT OF ANY GRAVE...

-- AND THEN THE PRINCESS
DIANA AND HER FOUR
MISMATCHED COMPANIONS
ARE SIMPLY--

-- ELSEWHERE:

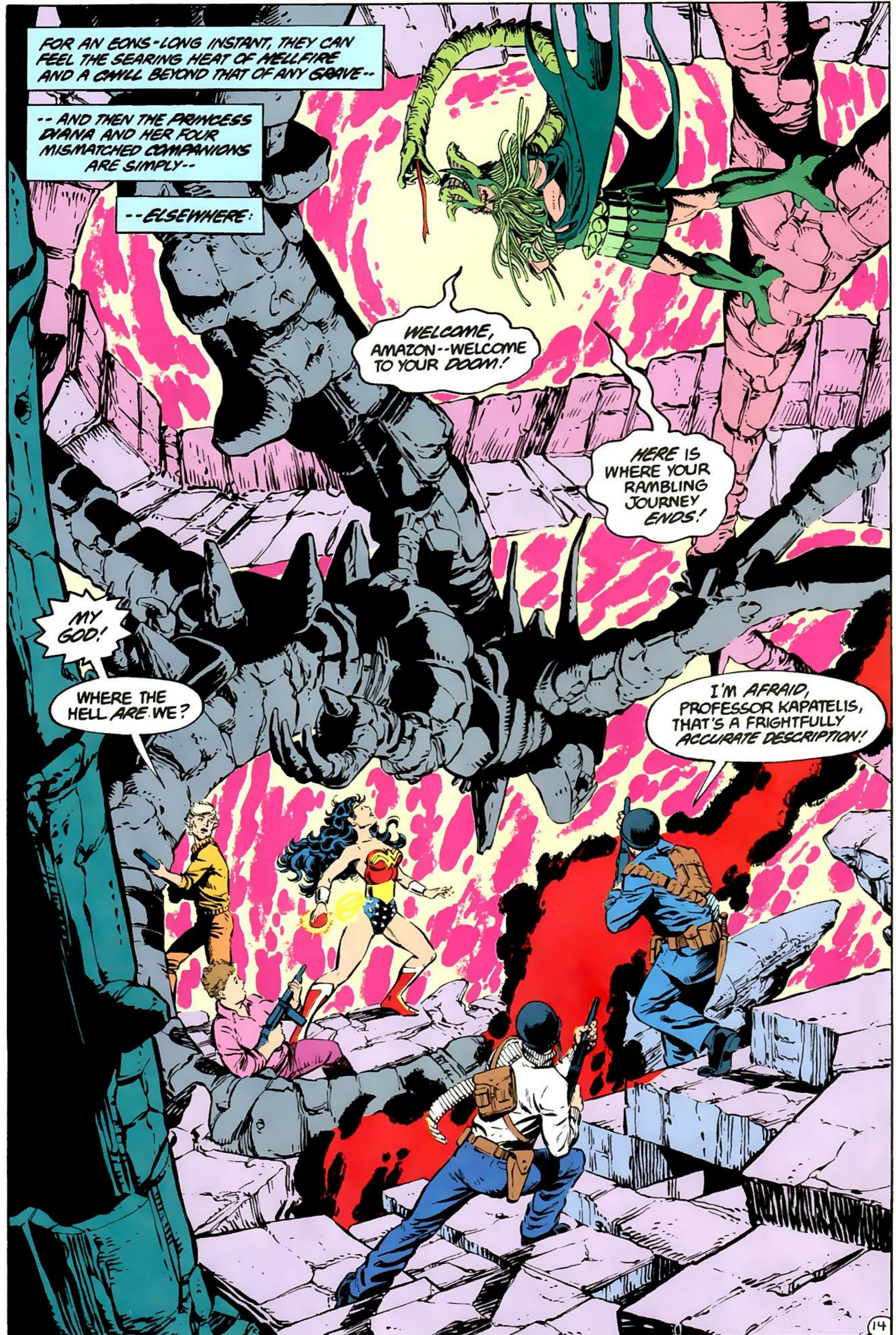
WELCOME,
AMAZON--WELCOME
TO YOUR DOOM!

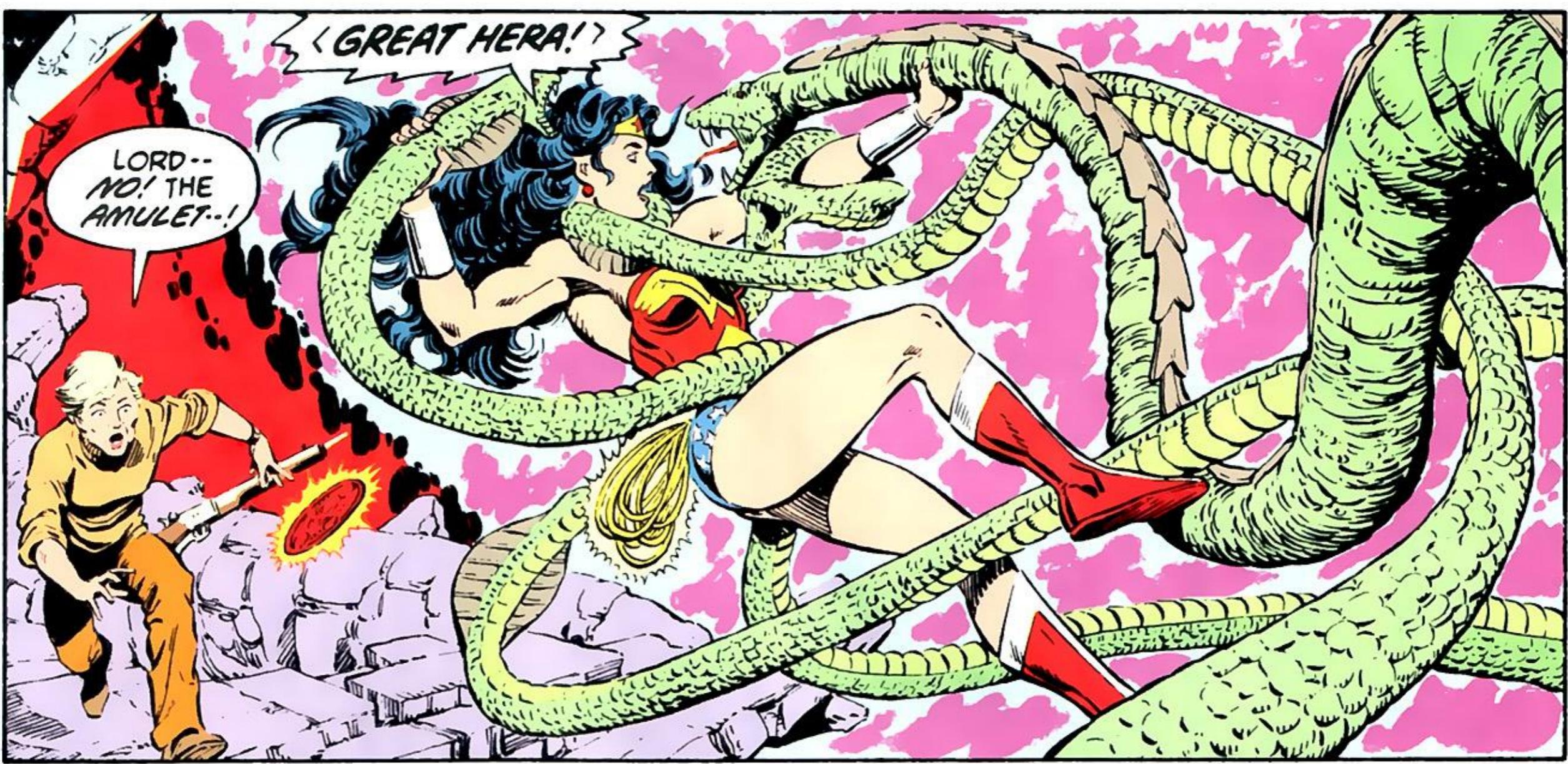
HERE IS
WHERE YOUR
RAMBLING
JOURNEY
ENDS!

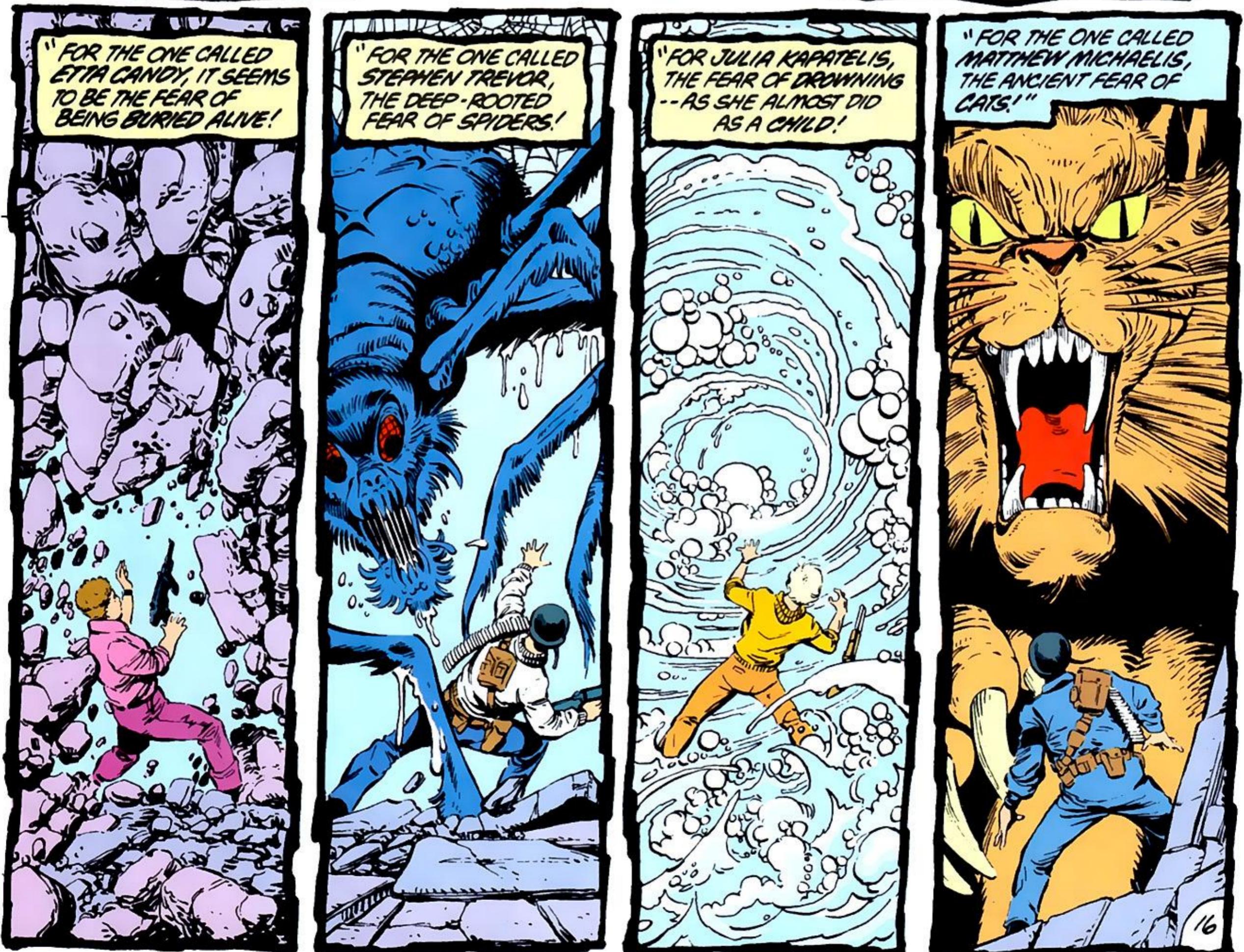
MY
GOD!

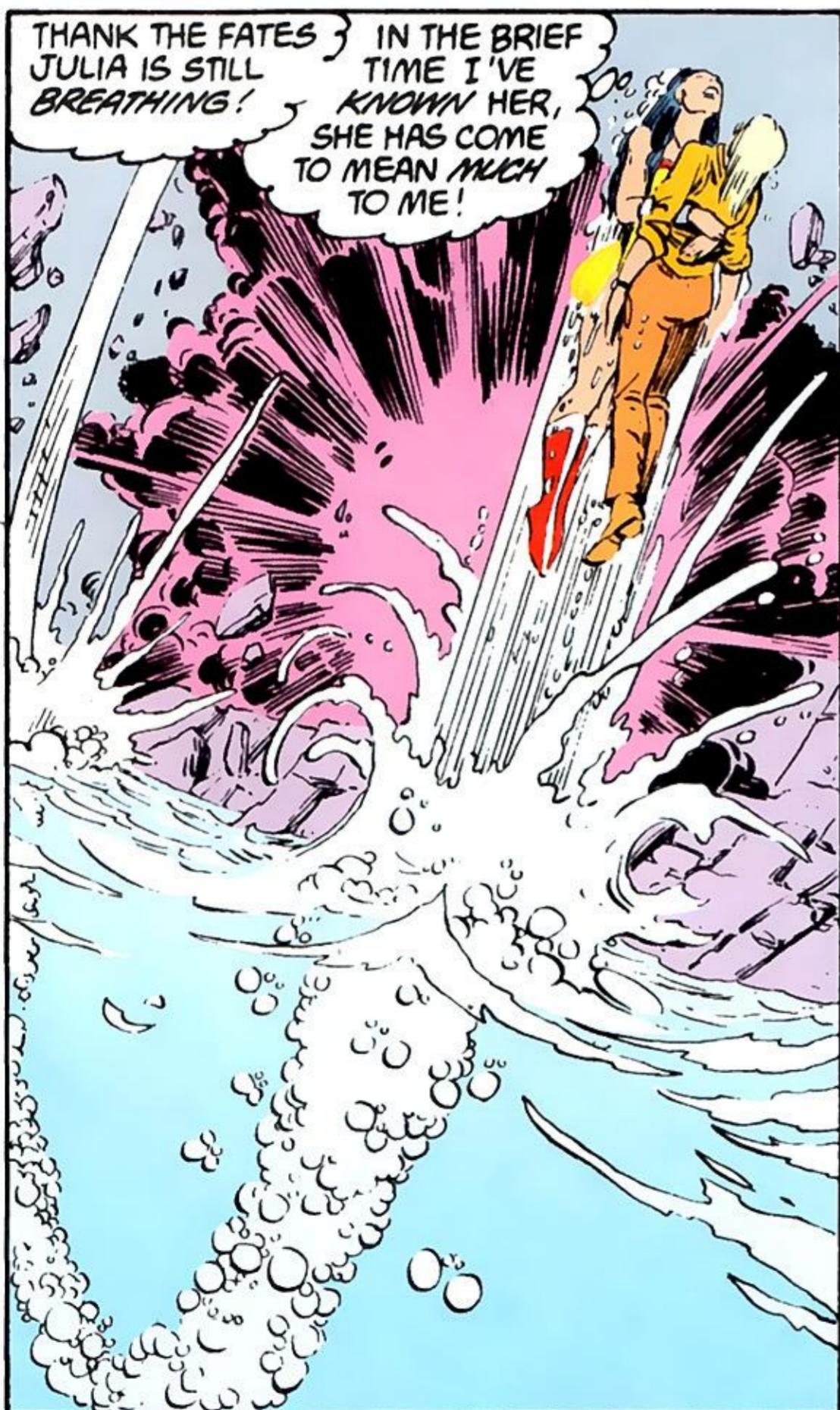
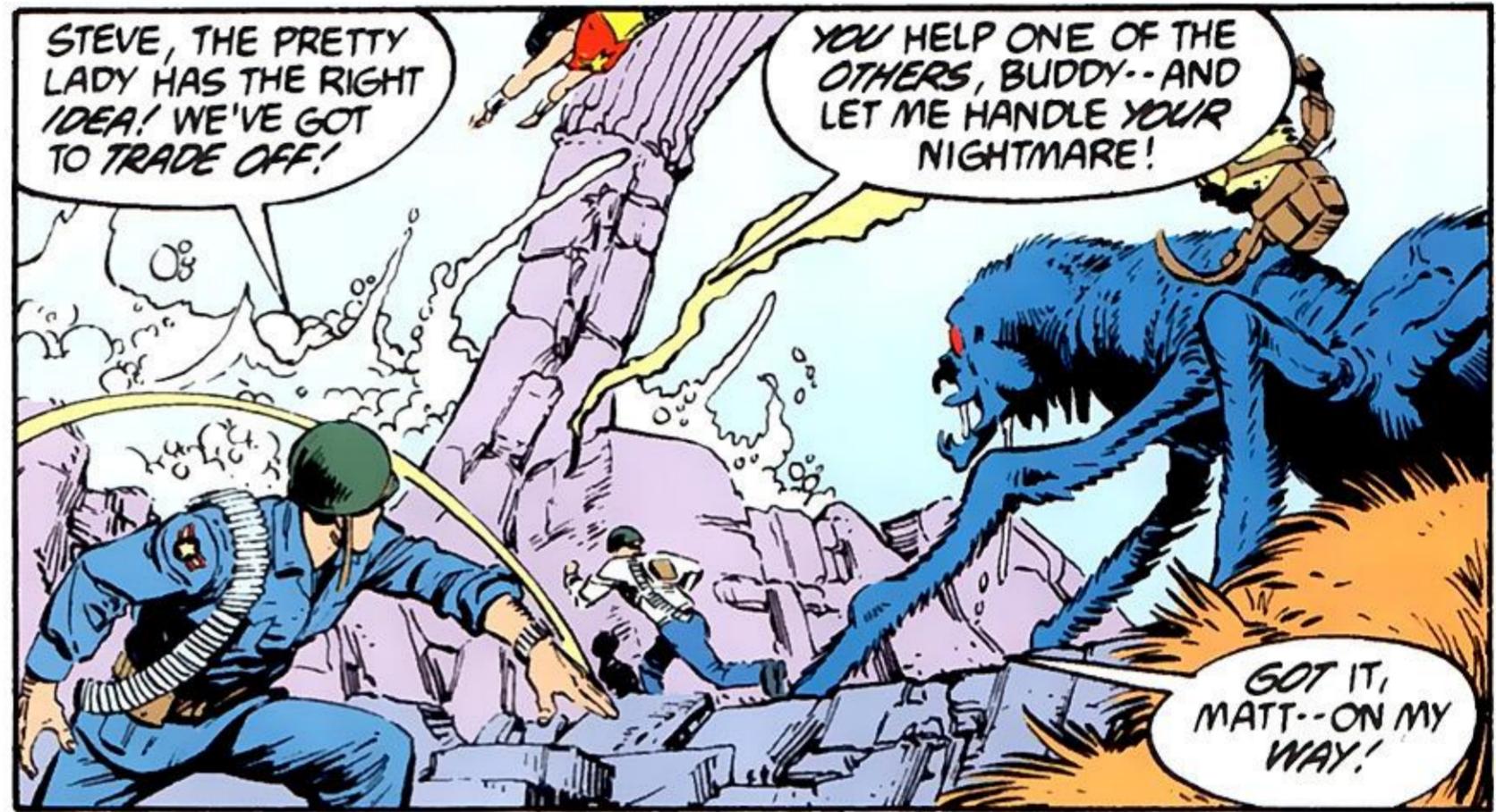
WHERE THE
HELL ARE WE?

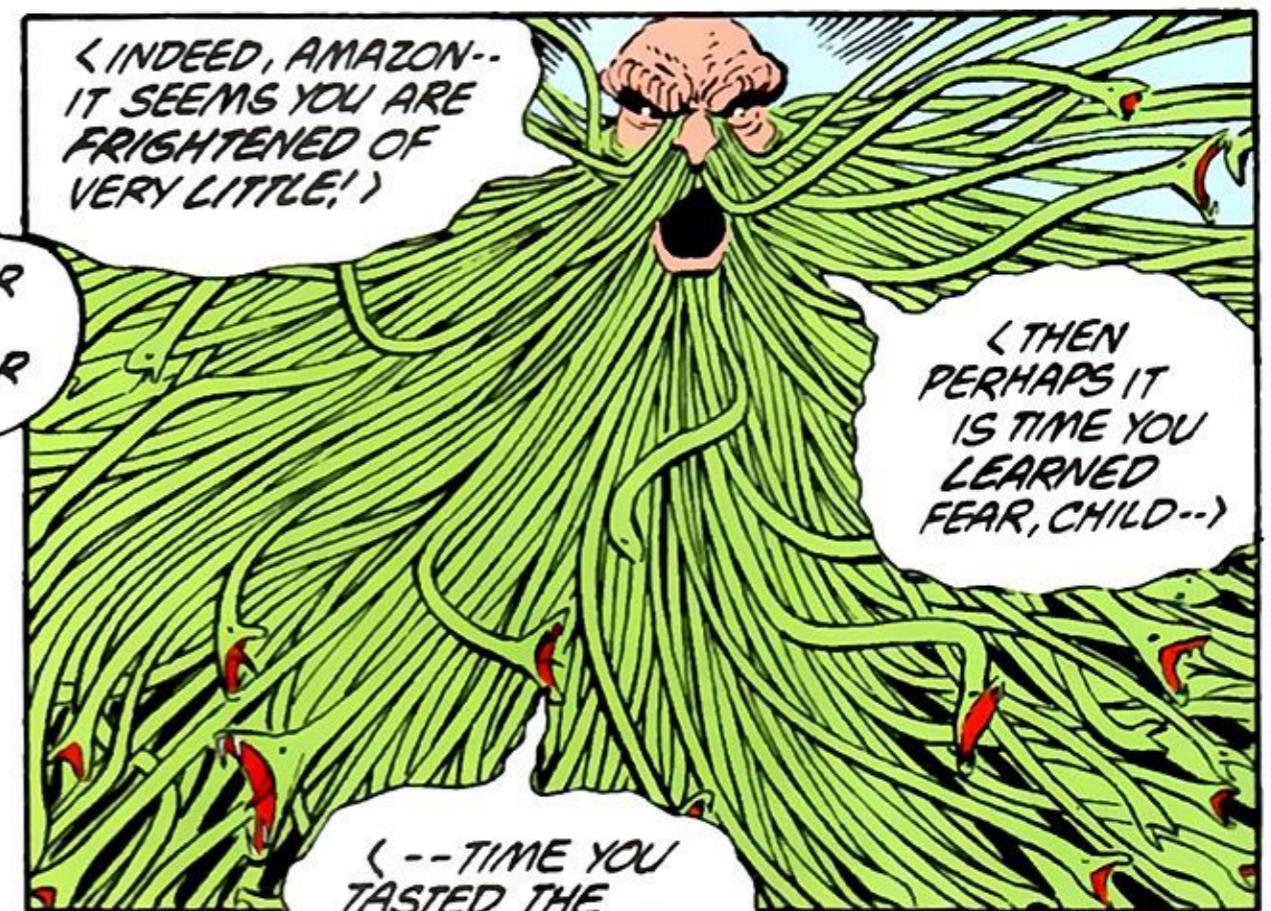
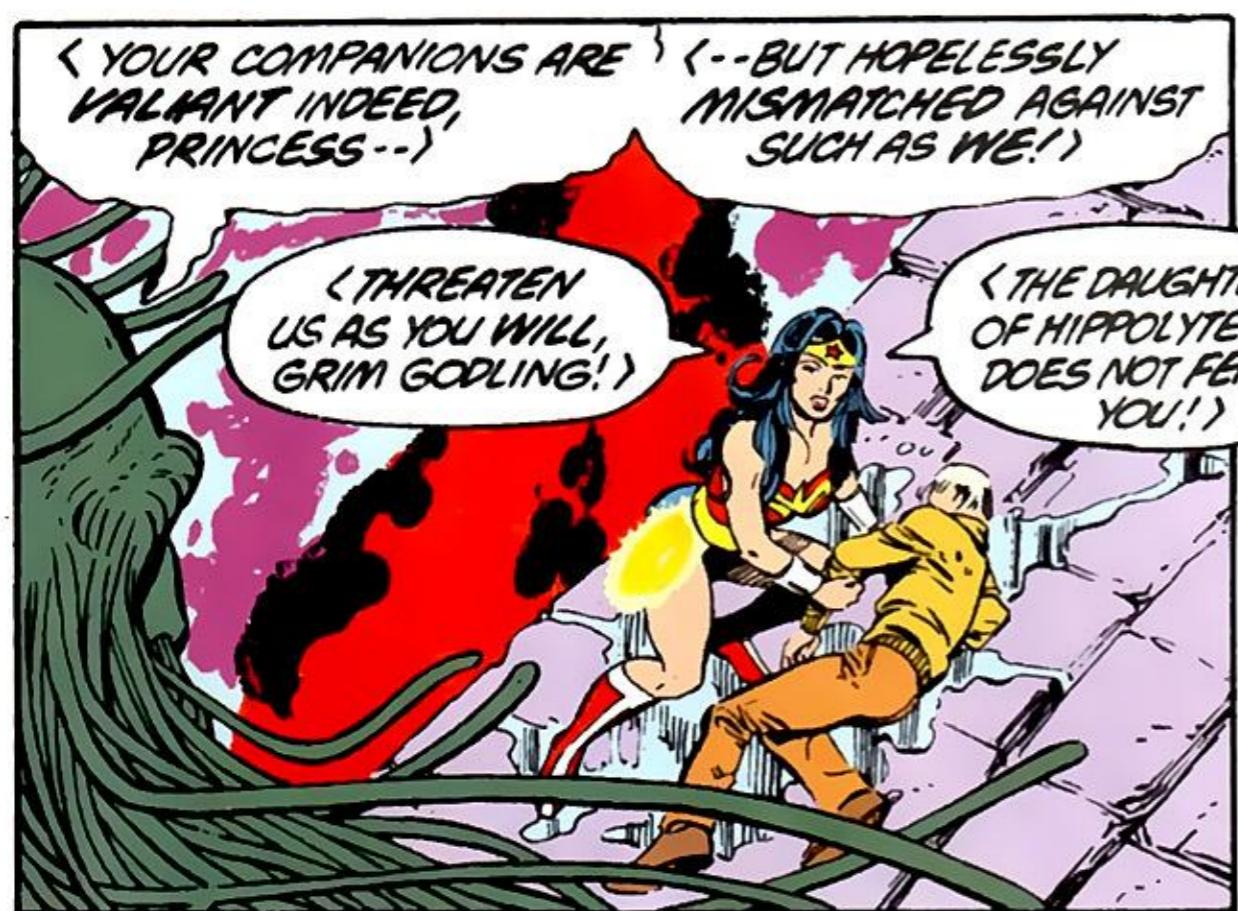
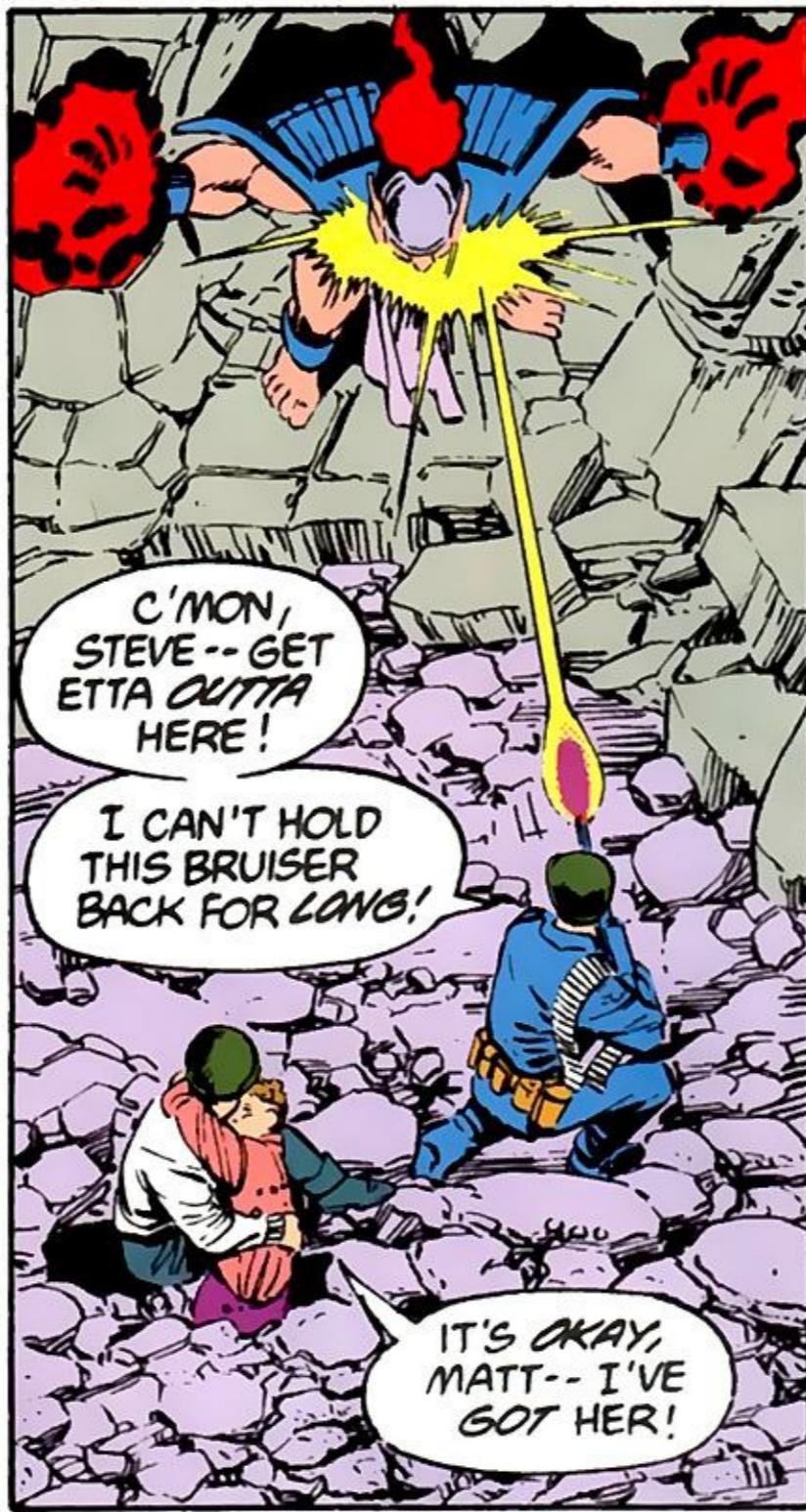
I'M AFRAID,
PROFESSOR KAPATELIS,
THAT'S A FRIGHTFULLY
ACCURATE DESCRIPTION!

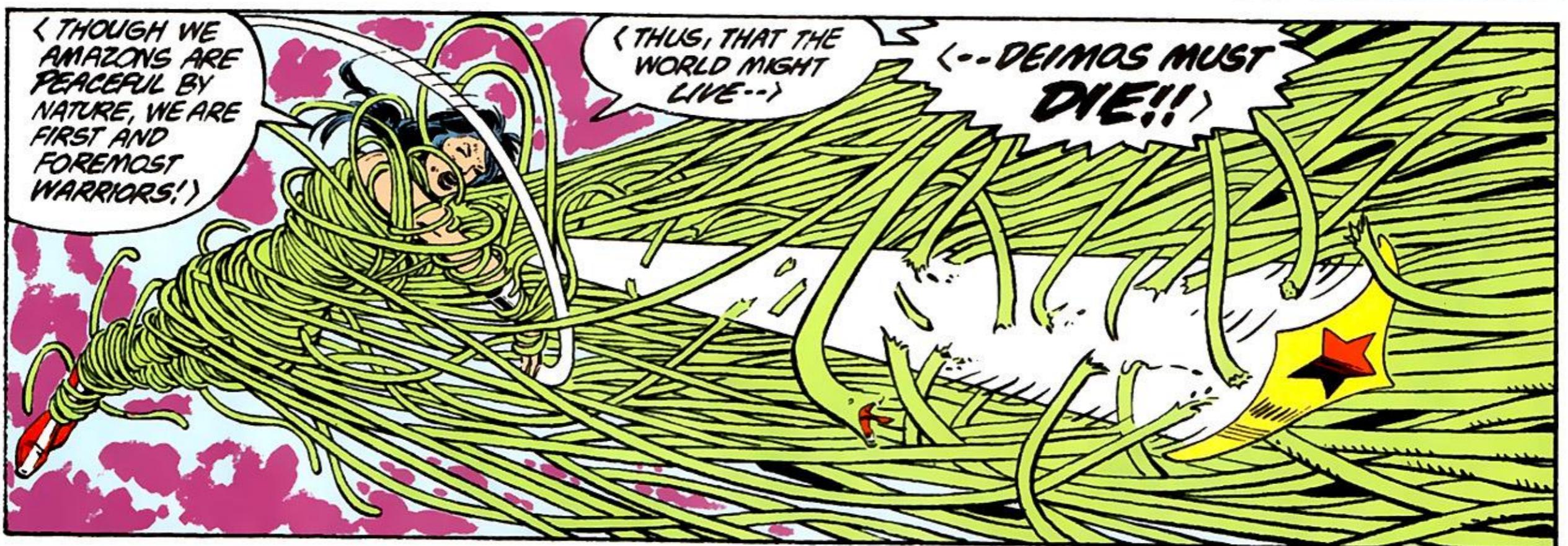
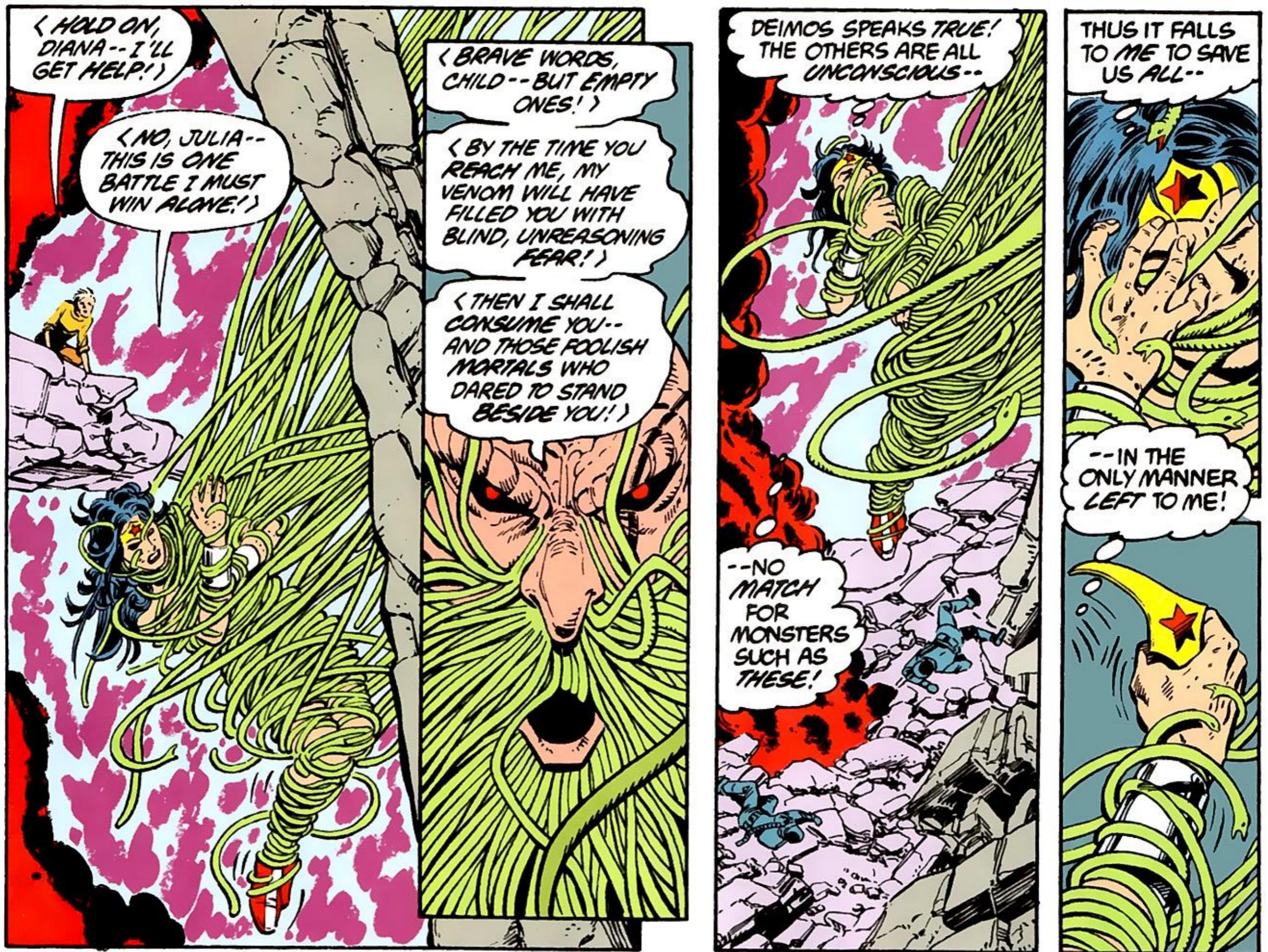


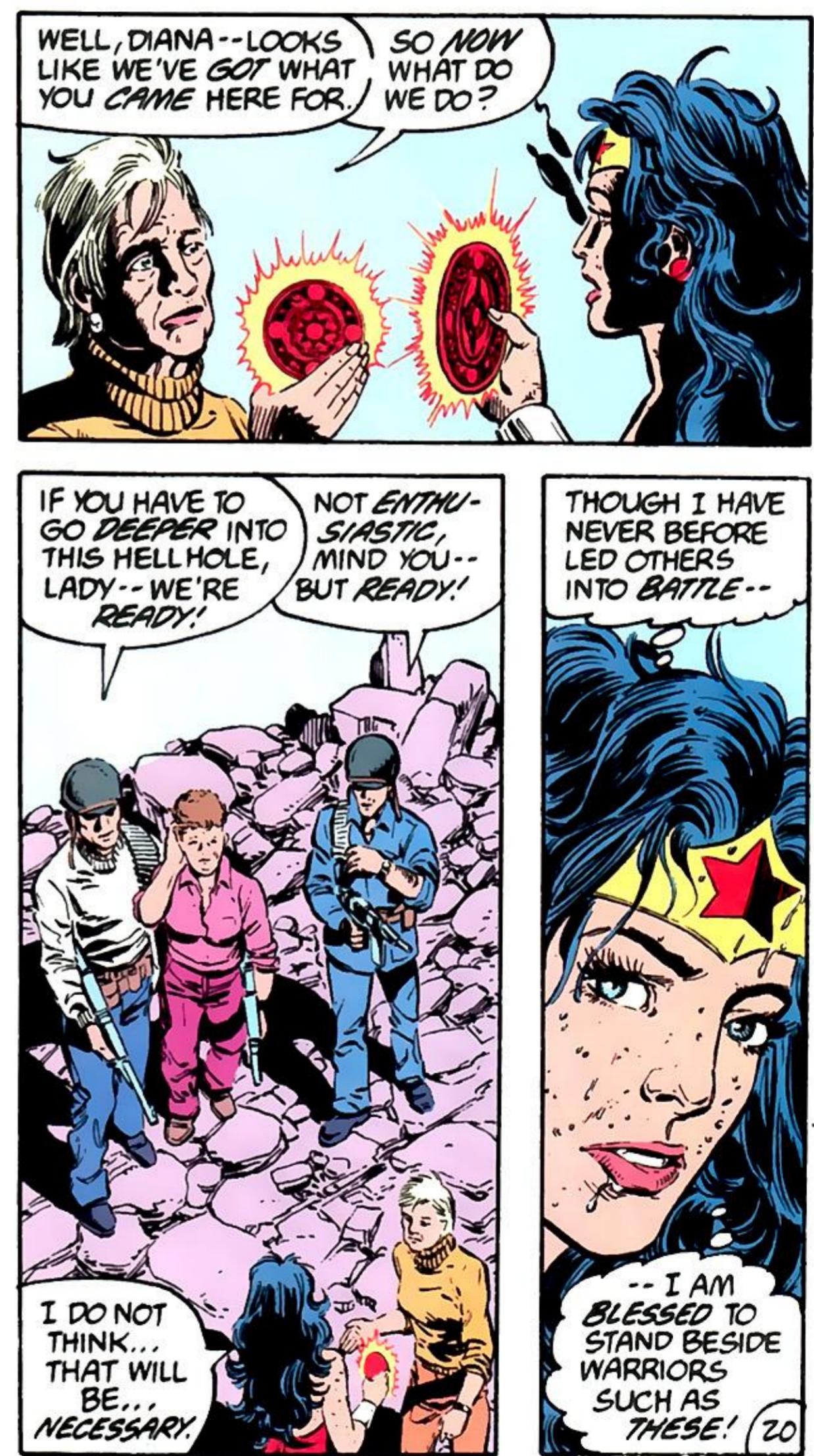


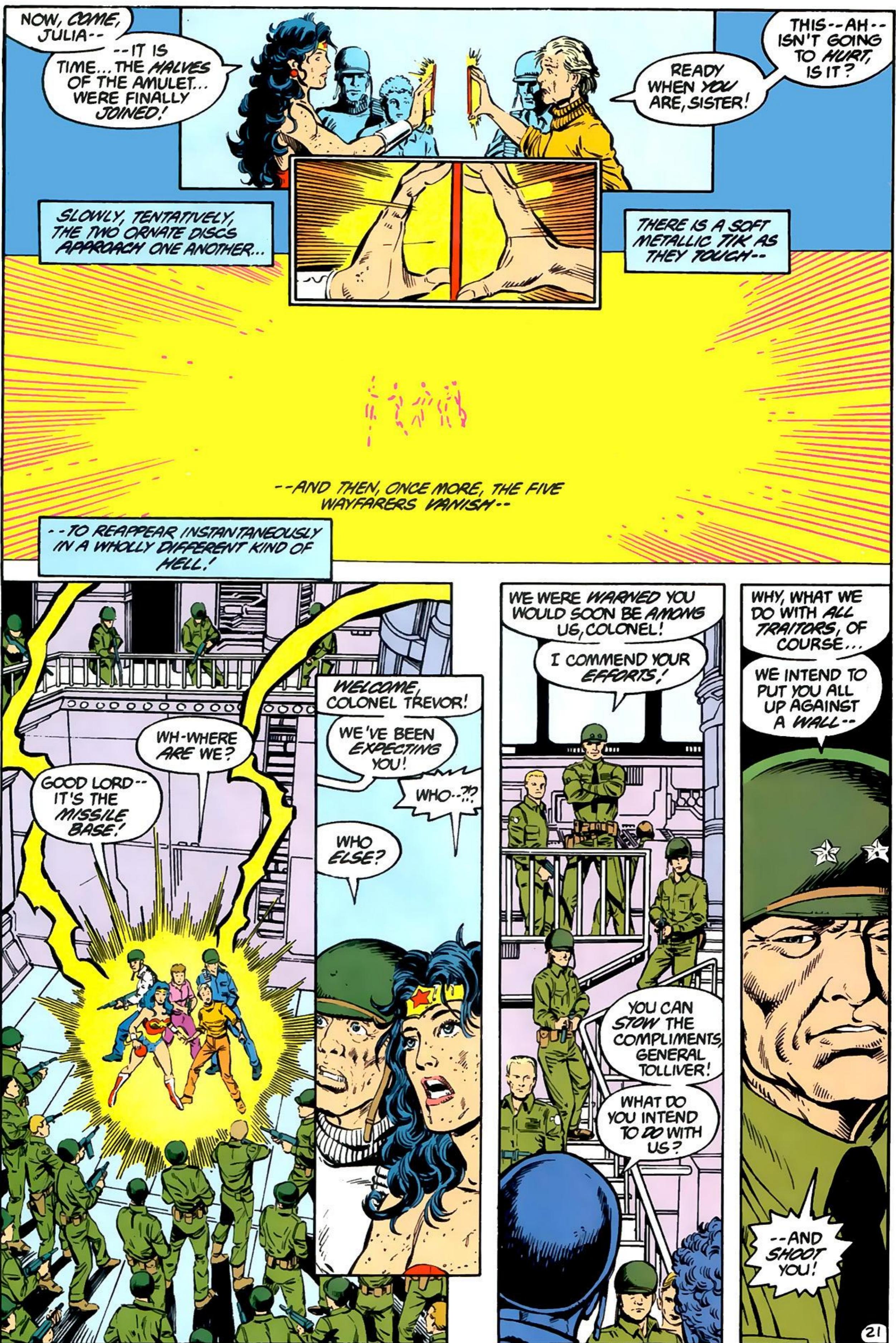


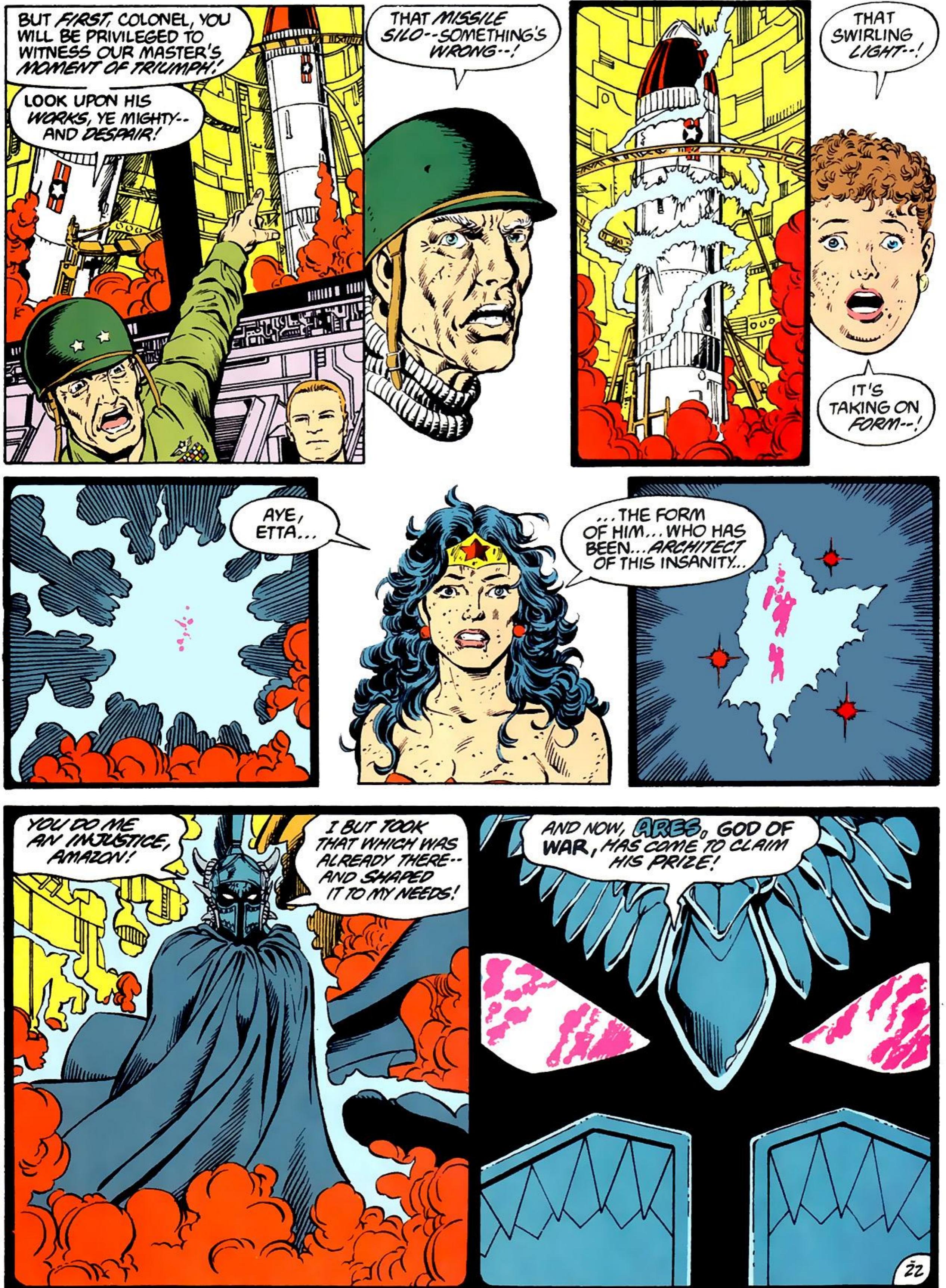






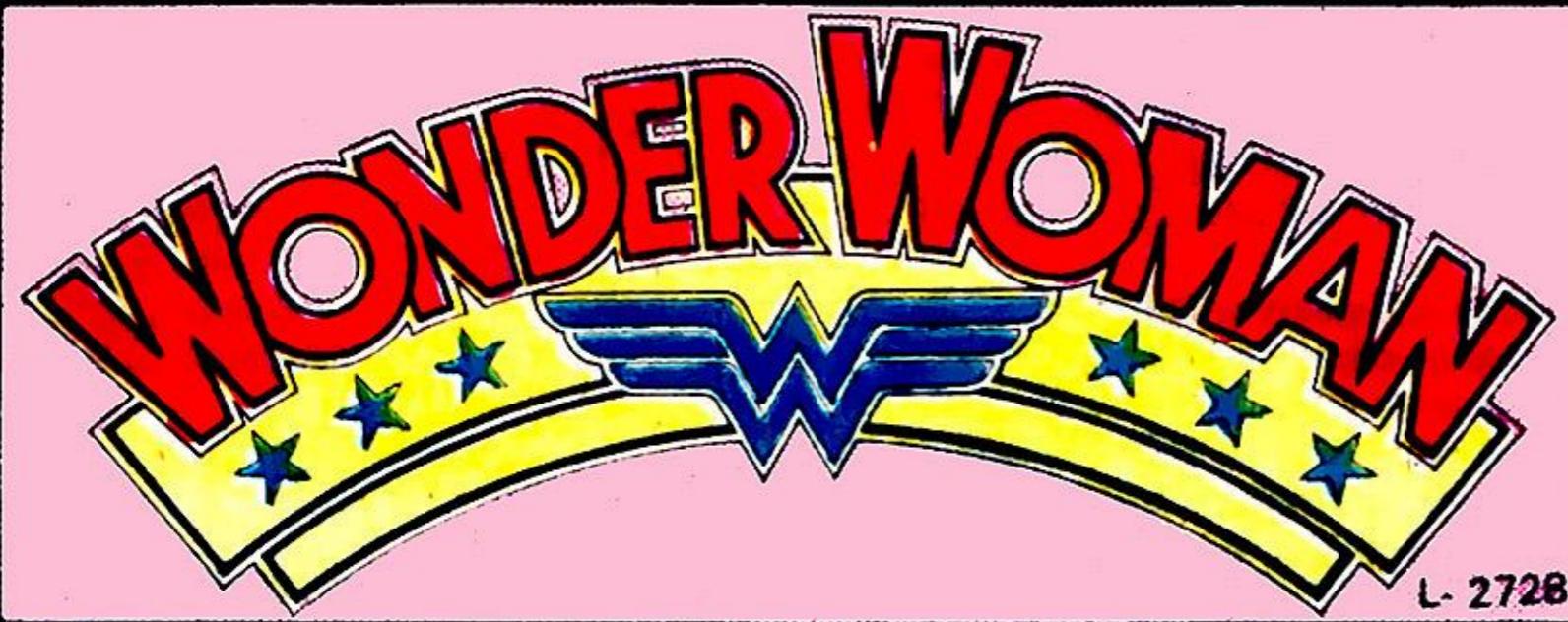






NEXT ISSUE: **POWERPLAY!**

YOU WILL JOIN US, WON'T YOU?



L- 2728

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Dear Karen,

I like it, I like it; more, in fact, than the new SUPERMAN. That's right, I mean the new WONDER WOMAN. Having just read the first two issues, I am unsteady in my grasp of Amazons lore (not having read an issue of WONDER WOMAN since the four-issue Roy Thomas/Gene Colan mini-series, and not for 10 years prior to that!) but have become quickly entranced. Greg Potter's readjustment of Princess Diana's aims and means are exciting and well-justified, ably augmenting and updating what was always an innately original character. The air has been cleared, so to speak: gone is the robot plane and eagle breastplate and present is the double W, the power of flight, a Paradise Island (with a secret!) that can harbor men (finally!), a reason for Diana's bracelets, a Steve Trevor worthy of respect (rather than a sex object) and renewed interest in all those wondrous doings demonstrated by those very beings that set all this in motion: the gods and goddesses of the Greek pantheon.

I need not elaborate on my deep admiration for George Pérez, so I will instead thank John Costanza and Tatjana Wood for adding WW to their already brimming schedules. Thanks, guys! Bruce Patterson's inks are highly complimentary, so kudos to him, as well. I have been collecting comics around 20 years (I'm 28), and let me tell you, it's really great to be able to again buy those books that started you collecting in the first place, i.e., SUPERMAN, BATMAN, WONDER WOMAN. For a while, Marvel became innovative and outsold DC, which had become formulaic. Now, in the 1980's, the situation, happily, has reversed, making DC far and away the most exciting and innovative comics company again. It's especially gratifying to see the title with the female lead of such high quality, nudging towards the strata forged by SWAMP THING and WATCHMEN (take a bow, Mr. Potter).

Yours truly,
Steven Feldman
80 Forest Street
Providence, RI 02906

Dear Karen,

If anyone thought that WONDER WOMAN was a fluke, then they should read WONDER WOMAN #2. The blend of mythology and modern-day plots are superb, and George's artwork is nothing short of brilliant. I hope that when the first story is completed over the next few

issues you decide to issue them as a graphic novel in the "Dark Knight" format, to do justice to the breathtaking work George is doing. I hope that if he returns to the Titans he doesn't forsake Wonder Woman.

I like the way you have introduced the "old" cast members in their new incarnations, especially Steve Trevor. Hopefully, there won't be a love triangle between Wonder Woman, Steve and Diana. I'm sure he's going to have his hands full explaining how General Kohler died, while Diana will certainly have her work cut out with Phobos, Deimos and Ares. By the way, don't be tempted to reintroduce any of Wonder Woman's old foes. They are better off forgotten. I would, however, like her to meet some other heroes, particularly Superman, and would also like you to introduce some "earthbound" supervillains in the near future.

I'm also enjoying the Paradise Island scenes and hope we will get the occasional glimpse of the Amazons once Wonder Woman is established in "man's world." There are obviously some interesting plot lines to be resolved here.

Thanks again for another excellent issue, and please pass on to George my admiration not only for his work on this title, but also that other little book he produced recently ... The History of the DC Universe.

Speak to you soon.

Norman Ore
3 Dennett Close
Warrington, Cheshire
ENGLAND WA1 4EF

We'll be getting more than an occasional glimpse of the Amazons and Paradise Island, Norman. Wonder Woman will be dividing her time up about equally between her birthplace and "man's world." And, let's not forget that the ever-powerful and omnipresent Olympian Gods will continue to play a strong role in the series, as they watch over Diana and her sisters.

Dear Karen,

The new WONDER WOMAN is many times better than the old. Greg and George, with, from what I've read, a healthy input from yourself, have successfully reintroduced her into the new DC Universe as a strong and interesting woman, with a lot more background and motivation, and ties into the mythologies of old, than was ever the case. She had lost her relevance, but now has put it back, firmly established

as an Amazon new to the world of men, and with no preconceptions about that world. The idea of all the Amazons being reincarnations is a firm background for the group, and the machinations of the gods, both on camera and behind the scenes, sets the series in its rightful place. There's obviously a lot of mystery in the book, many hints of troubled pasts, but at the same time, things like the origins of the new lasso, and the way Steve Trevor has been reintroduced, are already establishing the Amazon's new place in the universe. He looks like he's much stronger than before, too, and is already caught up in the war with Ares. I read that he's going to be aware that Wonder Woman and Diana Prince are one and the same, which is a thankful finish to that sort of ridiculous love triangle.

George's art was, of course, fantastic. While his name on the credits panel obviously cannot hurt sales, he's by no means resting on his laurels, but it is obvious that he's putting in as much energy into this book as he did to make the Titans such a success.

George's art is backed up by excellent writing. Greg Potter is one of the up-and-coming writers in the business, and his plot and dialogue are equally important elements in making the book fulfill its potential. But, I believe that Len Wein's taking over the writing—why? Not that Len isn't an excellent writer, but it seems a pity to break up the partnership. Len's surname doesn't even begin with a "P"!

Well, I'm hooked on this new series, and I'm looking forward to the next issue with optimistic anticipation. Until then, take care.

Malcolm Bourne
87 Greenfield Gardens
Cricklewood
London, England

P.S. Having just read your editorial page, I fully agree with your perception of Wonder Woman as a positive and strong role model for girls/women. It also, hopefully, will take some of the chauvinism out of male readers brought up on macho men and (outside of Chris Claremont) weak women.

Why did Greg Potter leave, Malcolm? Well, besides proposing and writing the first two issues of the new WONDER WOMAN, Greg is also the creative director of a Connecticut-based advertising agency. Greg chose to further his career in the aforementioned area, and very reluctantly had to relinquish the scripting after helping to launch our

series. Greg played an extremely significant role in developing the character and establishing the tone of the book. We thank him profusely for his contributions, dedication and patience, and wish him the best of luck and success in his future endeavors. In the meantime, a long-overdue welcome is in store for Len Wein, who joined us two issues ago, as Princess Diana's new scripter. Len's writing credits are abundant, and we're really happy to have him as part of our team, even though he has no "P's" in his name!

Gentlebeings,

WONDER WOMAN is, thus far, a winner. WW has never looked better or, praise Athena, read better. Excising the science-fictional elements (i.e., the Purple Ray, the Robot Plane) of the old version in favor of a reliance on the rich foundation of Greek Mythology is an excellent way to go with this character.

Heck, you've even introduced a Steve Trevor infinitely more likeable and interesting in one appearance than any of his previous incarnations ever were in hundreds of past stories (I hope, however, that he remains a supporting character and not the co-equal partner that some of the other Trevors were... Diana will, of course, need help getting acclimated to "Man's World" but after that, it's good to remember that few men this side of Superman could be useful to the Princess as a fighting partner).

The only drawback to my mind is some of the dialogue ... namely that of the Gods and some of the Amazons. Their words are a tad overblown and much too full of awkward exposition and rote self-introductions.

Otherwise, if the coming issues meet the heady expectations set by the first two, I think WONDER WOMAN has, at very long last, become the showcase book that it always should have been.

May the Muses bless and keep your pens, pencils, and word processors.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Willis

10919 Whitehall Circle
San Diego, CA 92126-2034

Glad you like our version of Steve Trevor, Michael. The response to his appearance as a slightly older man hasn't been greeted with overwhelming support, but we hope that as the series progresses, and the importance of his role is delineated, it'll be clear why we chose to add a few more lines to his face.

In my editorial in WONDER WOMAN #2, I asked for suggestions for types of comics that could bridge the gap between male and female readers. Here are a few of the responses:

Friends,

Unlike Karen Berger, I have been reading and loving comics since about 1961. I never knew any other girls who read comics, so I shared with my friends the pleasures of books, Barbie dolls, TV

and games ... but not BATMAN or ADVENTURE COMICS or SERGEANT FURY. I disproved all predictions that I would outgrow comics. I thrived on them.

Always, I was aware how much it was a male-oriented medium. If I ever forgot, there were the stories to remind me. Some were stories with no women in them—planets where 99% of the population appeared to be male, except, usually, for one barely dressed princess. Worse still, were the countless girlfriends of heroes, the buxom-and-dumb set, who hung around heroes to be scared and/or kidnapped, or to be jealous of each other. This didn't leave many role models in comics for me, but I knew enough not to look for any. I admired the male heroes, laughed at the idiot women, and simply enjoyed the medium.

Things are better today, but not as much better as I would wish. What we really need is better stories, and higher quality of thinking to go into them. The very best writers are also the least sexist, whatever market they think they are writing for.

Most of the changes I would like to see to make comics more appealing to women are fairly obvious ones. I would like to see more non-super-hero comics, fewer fight-action scenes, more heroes who are women. More comics like MAZING MAN, NATHANIEL DUSK, NIGHT FORCE, CAMELOT 3000, SECRET ORIGINS or the LOIS LANE 2-part series, to name some DC examples. Show us more women with courage and brains. More group interaction. Even, yes, more romance ... more love.

What I do not want to see are comics where the preoccupation is with boys, clothes, material success, and acquisition. There were lots of those stories around when I was young, where too many characters were spiteful and jealous, and the action was as shallow as they were. That disgusted me then, as now. I want to see real values and real conflicts, in situations that mean something. From this viewpoint, ANGEL LOVE was a good comic; MISTY a bad one.

DC has many good but seldom featured female super-heroes. Sadly, CRISIS culled a lot of them—disproportionately many, I thought. We lost Supergirl (whom I longed to see in a well-written, strong series), but we still have Power Girl, Starfire, Black Canary ... we should have more. It is very encouraging to see women writing and drawing comics. Female characters in their stories are not ignored and negligible. Encourage these creative women. Publish them. Appreciate their perspectives and their talents.

As for Wonder Woman herself, in all my years of reading comics, she above all has consistently bored me and irritated me. I thought the character and the concept were so inherently uninteresting that no one could write a Wonder Woman story that would catch my interest, let alone write one that I would actually enjoy.

Now Potter and Pérez have proved me wrong.

Good work.

Elizabeth Holden

2385 Carling Ave., Apt. 111
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA K2B 7G9

Dear Karen,

First of all, I'd like to congratulate you on a job well done. Of course, with the work DC has been doing lately, I'm not surprised.

But, I think I have a solution to the gender problem. Well, maybe not.

Comics lack female titles, that's a problem, but not totally a female problem. Comics also lack Black titles, Oriental titles, Hispanic titles, Indian titles, etc. As you can tell, it's not only a gender gap but a gap between all ethnic groups.

The problem is—hopefully you won't be too offended—the writing. When a female character comes along, you don't feel as if you're facing a woman or a human being. When a French person comes along, you don't appear to be facing a Frenchman. The only way you know that—that person is French is because the author throws in a little "mon ami" or "n'est-ce pas" when that character speaks. This is the same for Spanish and German characters.

I think that if you truly want to clear all the gaps existing in comics—and in all facets of literature—you should take the time to find writers or, if not that, talk to people who understand what it is to be Black or Hispanic or French.

If you took the time to do this and sincerely write from these people's standpoint, you could have better comics.

I know this sounds drastic and time-consuming, but, if you care about the comic book industry (as I do), you would take this time to further develop your characters so that they are more believable and real.

Bill Campbell
713 Reamer Dr.
Carnegie, PA 15106

NEXT: Diana meets Ares, God of War, in the ultimate battle—as the fate of gods and man hang in the balance! See you then—Karen

P.S. There's still time to partake in naming this letter column contest! Submit all entries to:

WONDER WOMAN CONTEST
DC COMICS

666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

Put those thinking caps on, and who knows, maybe you'll be the winner! Bye!



MINUTEMEN

KANG HAS NEVER SERVED ANY BUT **HIMSELF**. WHY SHOULD I **ACCEPT** SUCH AN OFFER, ESPECIALLY FROM AN UNKNOWN?

BUT WE ARE **NOT** UNKNOWN, GREAT KANG. YOU KNOW US WELL. AND WE KNOW YOU.

