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C.C.
AUTHORITY

Wonder Woman

STAY BACK,
WONDER
WOMAN...

OR THE
KID
DIES!



Wonder Woman

I AM THE SPECTRE! ONCE I WALKED THE EARTH AS A MORTAL MAN, BUT A GANGSTER'S BULLET ENDED MY HUMAN LIFE, LEAVING ME A SOUL IN TORMENT...

I KNOW MUCH OF FATE-- AND MUCH OF HELL. I MUST TELL YOU NOW OF THE AMAZON CALLED WONDER WOMAN... AND HOW DESTINY CLAIMED HER ONE SUMMER'S EVE, AS IT MUST CLAIM US ALL...



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IT BEGINS HERE IN
THE COURT OF HIROHITO,
EMPEROR OF JAPAN...

MY SON, WE ARE PLEASED YOU HAVE SURVIVED YOUR
ORDEAL. IT IS A MIRACLE WHICH HONORS OUR
EMPIRE, A SIGN THAT YOU ARE SPECIALLY BLESSED!

THE
SCIENTISTS
ASSURE ME
YOU SHOULD
HAVE
DIED...

-THAT YOU HAVE NOT IS A
TRIBUTE TO YOUR SAMURAI
HERITAGE!

UNFORTUNATELY, MOST HONORABLE
EMPEROR, THIS WORTHY ONE HAS BEEN
STRICKEN WITH A STRANGE RADIATION
PLAQUE, AS A RESULT OF HIS
EXPERIENCE...

THIS
PLAQUE WILL
SOON END
HIS MOST
NOBLE
LIFE...

--BUT BEFORE IT
DOES, WE MAY BE ABLE
TO USE THE PLAQUE
FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL
NIPPON!

SAMURAI,
DEMONSTRATE.

AS YOU WISH,
MOST HONORABLE
WAR MINISTER.

BY MY ANCESTORS!
HE GESTURES AT THE IMPERIAL
FLOWER ARRANGEMENT--

-AND THE
PLANTS
DIE!
WAR
MINISTER,
IS THIS
MAGIC?

NOT
MAGIC, MY
EMPEROR
...BUT
SCIENCE
GONE
MAD!

INTENSE
RADIATION
HAS ALTERED
THE SAMURAI'S
NUCLEAR
METABOLISM.
AT HIS TOUCH,
ANY LIVING THING
WILL WITHER,
CRUMBLE, AND
PERISH!

AMAZING...BUT HOW MAY
THIS AID THE EMPIRE,
WAR MINISTER?

THE SAMURAI WILL USE HIS DEATH-
TOUCH AGAINST ONE VERY SPECIAL
VICTIM, NIPPON'S MOST DANGEROUS
ENEMY...

...WONDER
WOMAN!

VERY WELL, WAR MINISTER, YOU
UNDERSTAND SUCH
THINGS, NOT I.

SAMURAI, YOU
MUST OBEY THE
MINISTER. DO WHAT
HE TELLS YOU.

AS YOU
COMMAND,
EMPEROR--SO
SHALL IT BE
DONE!

"WHO IS THIS SHADOWY FIGURE, WONDER?
HAVE PATIENCE; ALL WILL BE REVEALED."

IT ALSO BEGINS HERE, AT THE MANHATTAN WALDORF-ASTORIA, WHERE A FUND-RAISING BALL IS IN PROGRESS, ATTENDED BY MAJOR STEVE TREVOR OF ALLIED INTELLIGENCE--

FIRST ANNUAL WAR BOND INVITATIONAL BALL

--AND HIS SPECIAL DATE FOR THE EVENING: WONDER WOMAN!

HRRMMPH! I THINK IT'S SHAMELESS THE WAY SHE GOES AROUND HALF-NAKED!

IT'S THE TIMES, HERMIONE. YOUNG WOMEN TODAY HAVE NO DIGNITY!



I THINK THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU, ANGEL.

LET THEM TALK, STEVE...



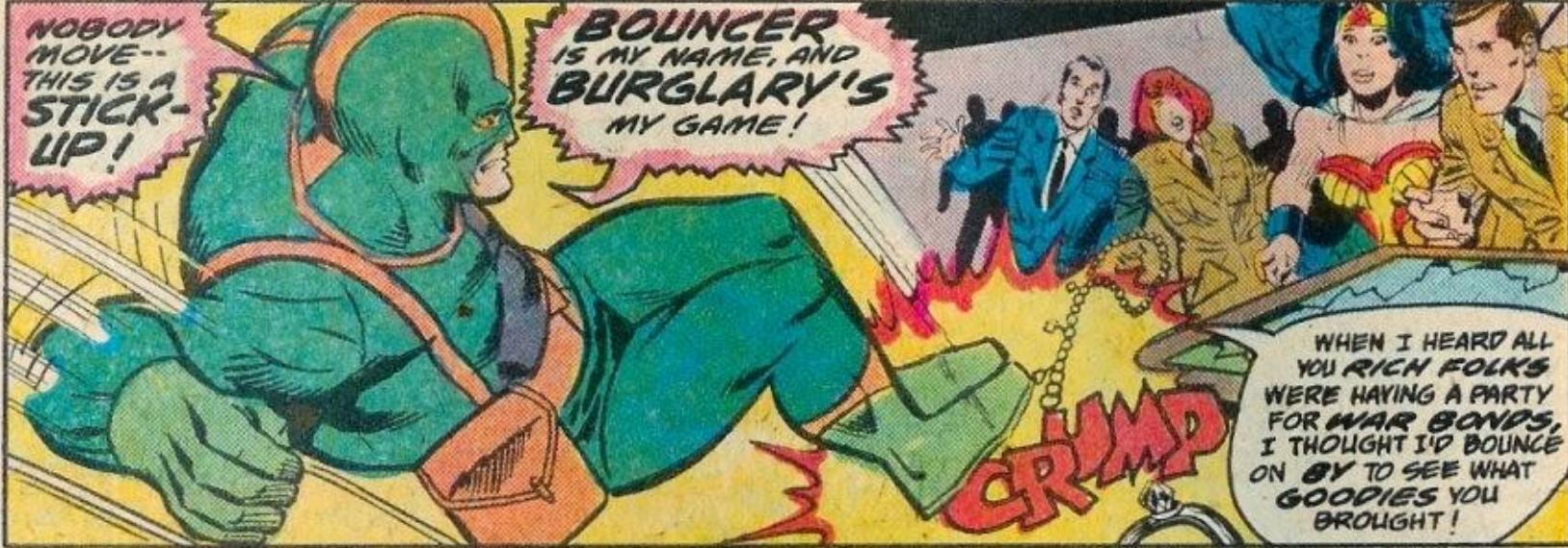
NOT WITH A MAN, STEVE, MALES AREN'T PERMITTED ON PARADISE ISLAND, REMEMBER?

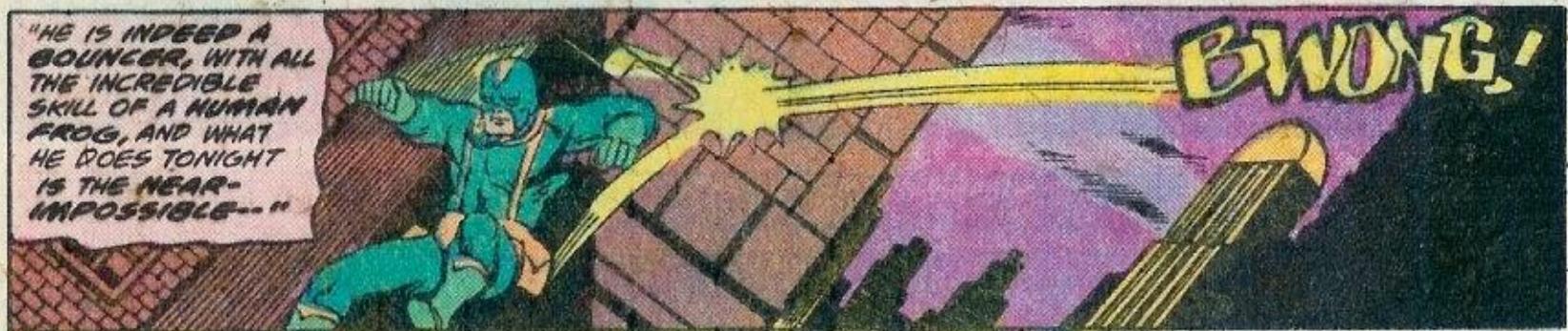
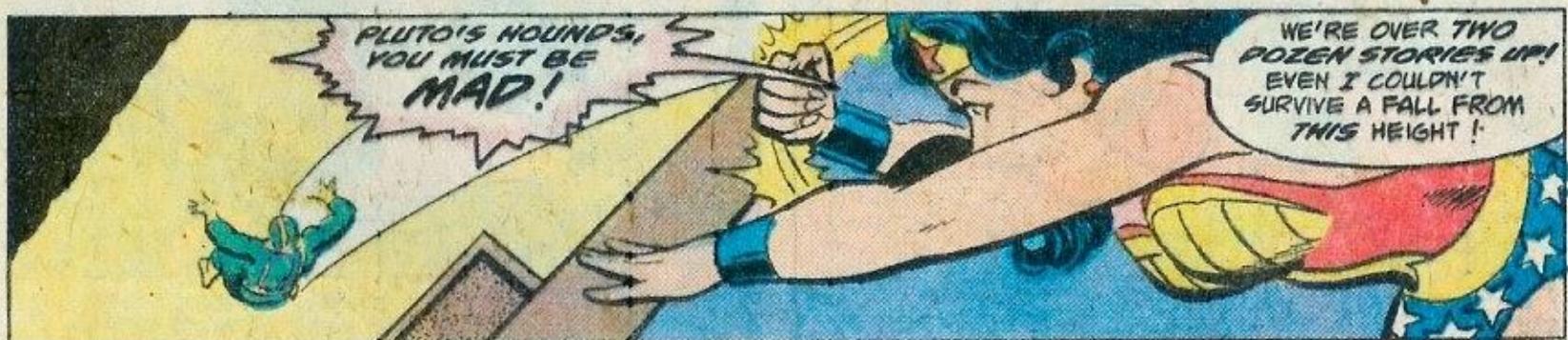
HOW CAN I, WONDER WOMAN? ALL THE TIME I WAS THERE, I WAS UNCONSCIOUS AND HALF-DEAD! *

AN ISLAND SOLELY INHABITED BY WOMEN --THAT'S WHAT I CALL PARADISE!

*AS TOLD IN SENSATION COMICS #1 AND, MORE RECENTLY, IN WONDER WOMAN #237. --LARRY







"BY NECESSITY, WONDER WOMAN'S DOWNWARD JOURNEY IS SOMEWHAT LESS RAPID, AND SO WHEN SHE ARRIVES AT THE STREET, SHE FINDS TO HER DISMAY!"

HE'S GONE--EITHER MINGLING IN THIS CROWD OR HIDING IN A NEARBY ALLEYWAY!

IT'S HER! IT'S REALLY, REALLY HER!

CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH, WONDER WOMAN? NOT FOR ME--
-IT'S FOR MY DAUGHTER!

"THIS IS INFURIATING! ONE MOMENT I'M AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE--AND THE NEXT, I'M THE CROWD'S FAVORITE!"

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ANGERS ME MORE--THE FICKLENESS OF MANKIND--

--OR THE FACT THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE KEEPING ME FROM TRACKING THE BOUNCER!

+SPECIFICALLY, DURING THE LAST FEW ISSUES.
--LARRY.

"RAISED ON AN ISLAND WHERE PERSONAL PRIVACY IS SACRED, WONDER WOMAN HAS NEVER ADJUSTED TO THE LESS-MANNERED MORES OF MAN'S WORLD..."

"AND THOUGH SHE TRIES TO CONTAIN THE PRESSURE BUILDING WITHIN HER, EVEN HER AMAZONIAN WILL CAN BREAK SOMETIMES--"

"...ONE SUCH TIME IS NOW!"

PLEASE!
WILL--YOU--GET--
AWAY!?

"THERE IS DESPERATION IN HER VOICE, AND IT IS THIS WHICH THE CROWD SENSES, AND SO THEY DRAW BACK, STARTLED AND MUTTERING..."

WE HAVE MISSED
OUR OPPORTUNITY, JIRO! THE AMAZON IS SURROUNDED BY TOO MANY PEOPLE HERE!

IF I AM TO KILL HER WITH THE RADIATION PLAGUE I CARRY, IT MUST BE WHEN SHE STANDS ALONE.

WE MUST NOT RISK WASTING ANY PART OF MY RADIATION ON ANOTHER CREATURE...FOR WE HAVE NO WAY OF JUDGING HOW MUCH ENERGY REMAINS.

THERE WILL BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES, AND THEY SHALL BE SOON.

WONDER WOMEN TO APPEAR AT CHARITY CARNIVAL TOMORROW

PATIENCE IS PERHAPS THE SAMURAI'S GREATEST WEAPON! EVEN AS THIS LEADEN ARMOR CONTAINS MY LEAKING RADIATION, SO MUST I CONTAIN MY EAGERNESS...

FOR THE TIME WILL COME WHEN I MAY CRUSH MY EMPEROR'S ENEMY, AND WHEN IT COMES--

--I WILL BE READY!

"UNAWARE OF HER BRUSH WITH DEATH, WONDER WOMAN RETURNS TO THE HOTEL ROOM OF VEGMAN DIANA PRINCE, AFTER FIRST BIDDING STEVE TREVOR A GRUCCIO FAREWELL...."

"HER ENCOUNTER WITH THE CROWD HAS LEFT HER UNACCOUNTABLY ANGRY, AND AS SHE SWITCHES FROM AMAZON WARRIOR TO HUMAN, SHE WONDERS AT THE REASON FOR HER ANGER..."

"...BEFORE HER BROODING THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED BY..."

THE PHONE? I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO TALK WITH ANYONE NOW!

I THINK I WAS MORE SHAKEN BY MY "TRIAL" THAN I THOUGHT AT THE TIME... IT'S AFFECTED MY WHOLE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORLD...

*LAST ISSUE, OUR TIME.--LARRY

AND THEN, THAT PATRONIZING CROWD, ACTING AS THOUGH THEY'D NEVER SUSPECTED ME OF TREASON--! IT WAS SO--HYPOCRITICAL--!

WHO IS IT?

D-DIANA...? DID I WAKE YOU?

ETTA? NO, YOU
DIDN'T WAKE ME
...I GUESS I'M JUST
IN A BAD MOOD...
IS ANYTHING
WRONG?

NOTHING WILL EVER
BE WRONG AGAIN, DIANA!
I HAD TO CALL YOU, TO TELL
YOU THE WONDERFUL
NEWS!

IT'S
PIERRE--

PIERRE? PIERRE MARCHAND, THE
FREE FRENCH ARMY OFFICER?

YOU KNOW
WE'VE BEEN
SEEING EACH OTHER,
DIANA! TH-THE MOST
MARVELOUS THING
JUST HAPPENED--

ETTA,
CALM DOWN!
YOU SOUND
HYSTERICAL!

I AM HYSTERICAL, DIANA--OR
ALMOST! PIERRE'S ASKED ME--HE
WANTS ME--AND I WANT TO--

DIANA, WE'RE
GOING TO BE
MARRIED!

WHAT?

OH, WONDERFUL! WE'LL TALK
SOME MORE TOMORROW, DIANA--BUT
I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU
THAT RIGHT NOW--

-I'M THE
HAPPIEST
WAG IN THE
WORLD!

"THE CONVERSATION
CONTINUES FOR A MOMENT,
BUT THERE'S AN AIR OF
UNREALITY TO IT ALL, AND
WHEN DIANA SAYS GOODBYE,
IT'S WITH A FEELING OF
TENSE UNEASINESS..."

SOMETHING'S WRONG...

ISN'T IT
ROMANTIC?
SAY YOU'LL BE
THE MAID OF
HONOR, DIANA--
PLEASE? YOU'RE
MY BEST FRIEND
IN THE WHOLE
WORLD--!

OF-OF
COURSE,
ETTA.

ETTA CANDY IS A SWEET GIRL...
BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT
A SLICK WOLF LIKE PIERRE
MARCHAND WOULD FALL IN
LOVE WITH HER...AT LEAST,
SO QUICKLY...

I'M GOING TO CHECK
OUT THE LIEUTENANT
TOMORROW AT ALLIED
INTELLIGENCE, AND FOR
ETTA'S SAKE--

-I HOPE I LIKE
WHAT I FIND!



LATER, WHEN I LEARNED HOW TRULY STRONG MY BODY WAS, THAT I WAS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER MEN, MORE POWERFUL-- A MUTANT--

--I SWEARED I'D TAKE REVENGE ON THOSE WOMEN WHO'D TORMENTED ME!

SCRACK!

I HATE THEM! GOD, HOW I HATE THEM!

OUT I'LL HAVE MY CHANCE FOR VENGEANCE AGAIN AND AGAIN! AND NEXT TIME, I'LL EVEN PUNISH THAT WONDER WOMAN VIXEN FOR HER INTERFERENCE!

YES... SOONER THAN SHE CAN POSSIBLY IMAGINE!

"MORNING OF THE NEXT DAY, IN THE SNEEZY MEADOW OF NEW YORK'S FAMOUS CENTRAL PARK, WHERE THE MANHATTAN WOMEN'S SOCIETY HAS ARRANGED A SMALL CARNIVAL FOR WAR ORPHANS--"

--AND WHERE THE GUEST OF HONOR IS NONE OTHER THAN--

WONDER WOMAN!
WONDER WOMAN!

500 LBS

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE A MFT, ANGEL!

I ONLY WISH HORST AND PRINCE, COULD BE HERG, THE CHILDREN I RESCUED FROM A NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP...

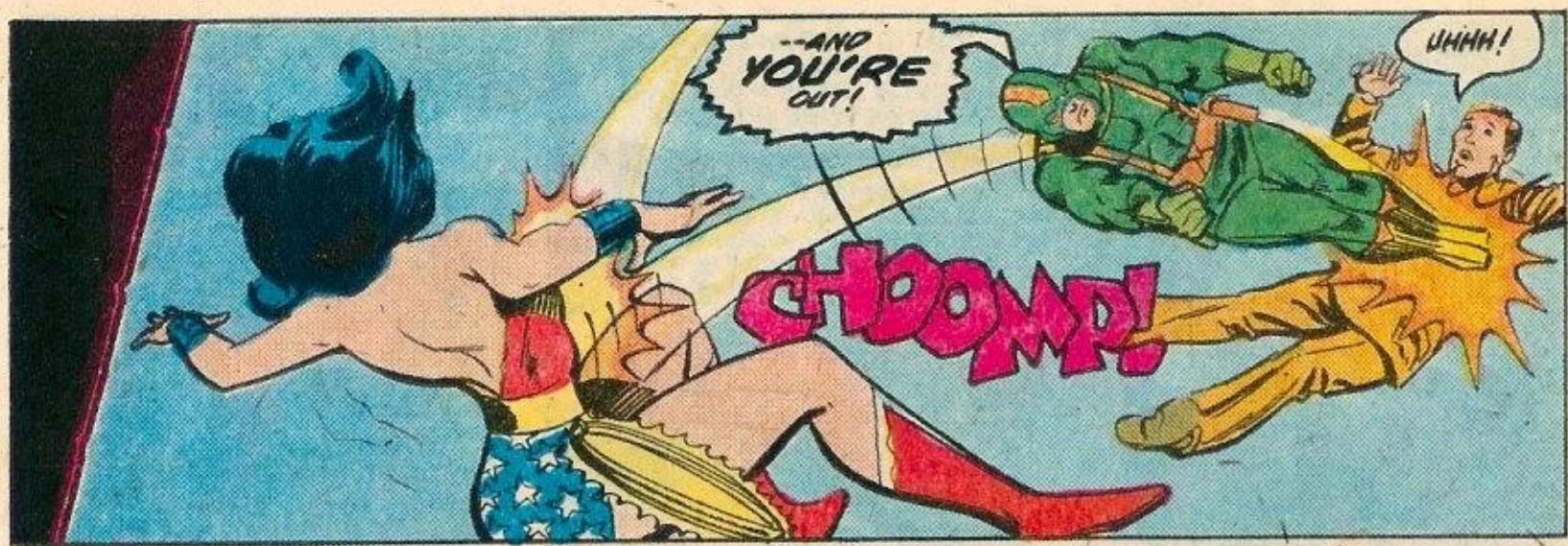
UNFORTUNATELY, THE MFTS HAS A PREJUDICE--

W.W. #234
--LARRY

10

CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING.





CONTINUED ON SEP PAGE FOLLOWING.

"MOMENTS LATER..."

RIVERSIDE PARK...IT'S
POSSIBLE HE LIVES SOMEWHERE
IN THE VICINITY...

--LAST I REMEMBER,
HE MENTIONED
RIVERSIDE
PARK, THEN--
THEN HE
STRUCK
ME!

...AND WITH MY
INVISIBLE
ROBOT PLANE,
I MIGHT BE ABLE
TO GET AN
EAGLE'S-EYE-
VIEW OF THE
AREA...

--AND THEN RETURNING
TO THE CLOUDS WITH A
PASSENGER, WHILE
A WATCHING FIGURE
SWARS WITH FRUSTRATION...

"RESPONDING TO THE AMAZON'S TELEPATHIC
COMMAND, THE AMAZING PLANE DIVES FROM ITS
HOLDING POSITION HIGH OVER MANHATTAN--"

AGAIN
I HAVE MISSED
MY OPPORTUNITY.
THIS TIME I
MUST NOT LOSE
TRACK OF THE
AMAZON.
I WILL
FOLLOW
HER--

--AND WHEN SHE
REACHES HER DESTINATION,
THEN SHALL I STRIKE!

"SHORTLY, AS THE ROBOT PLANE TEARS SILENTLY
THROUGH THE SKY ABOVE THE ISLAND'S WEST SIDE..."

THERE'S RIVERSIDE
PARK BELOW...

HAT!
GREAT HERRA!
I SEE SOMETHING
MOVING ON
THE ROOFS--

IT'S HIM!
HE HAS THE
GIRL!

ATHENA,
GIVE ME
WISDOM--





HE WILL SURELY SLAY
THE CHILD, UNLESS WONDER
WOMAN APPREHENDS
HIM.

I WILL ALLOW
HER THIS ONE FINAL
DEED, FOR I HAVE NO
WISH TO SLAUGHTER
CHILDREN...

...NOT
EVEN FOR MY
EMPEROR!

"UNAWARE OF THE WATCHER,
WONDER WOMAN MAKES A
DESPERATE EFFORT TO SNARE
THE BOUNCER--!"

--AN EFFORT
WHICH MAY BE
HER LAST--"

--AND WHICH UNFORTUNATELY
FAILS!!!

I WARNED
YOU, WONDER
WOMAN!

YOU'RE LIKE
ALL WOMEN! YOU
MOCK ME, DON'T
CARE ABOUT ME!
YOU THINK I'M A
FOOL!

YOUR LASSO
COULDN'T CATCH ME--
I MOVE TOO FAST--

--AND NOW I'LL SHOW
YOU THAT I MEAN
WHAT I SAY!

I'LL TEACH YOU
NOT TO MAKE
FUN OF ME!
YOU'LL NEVER
MAKE FUN OF
ME AGAIN!

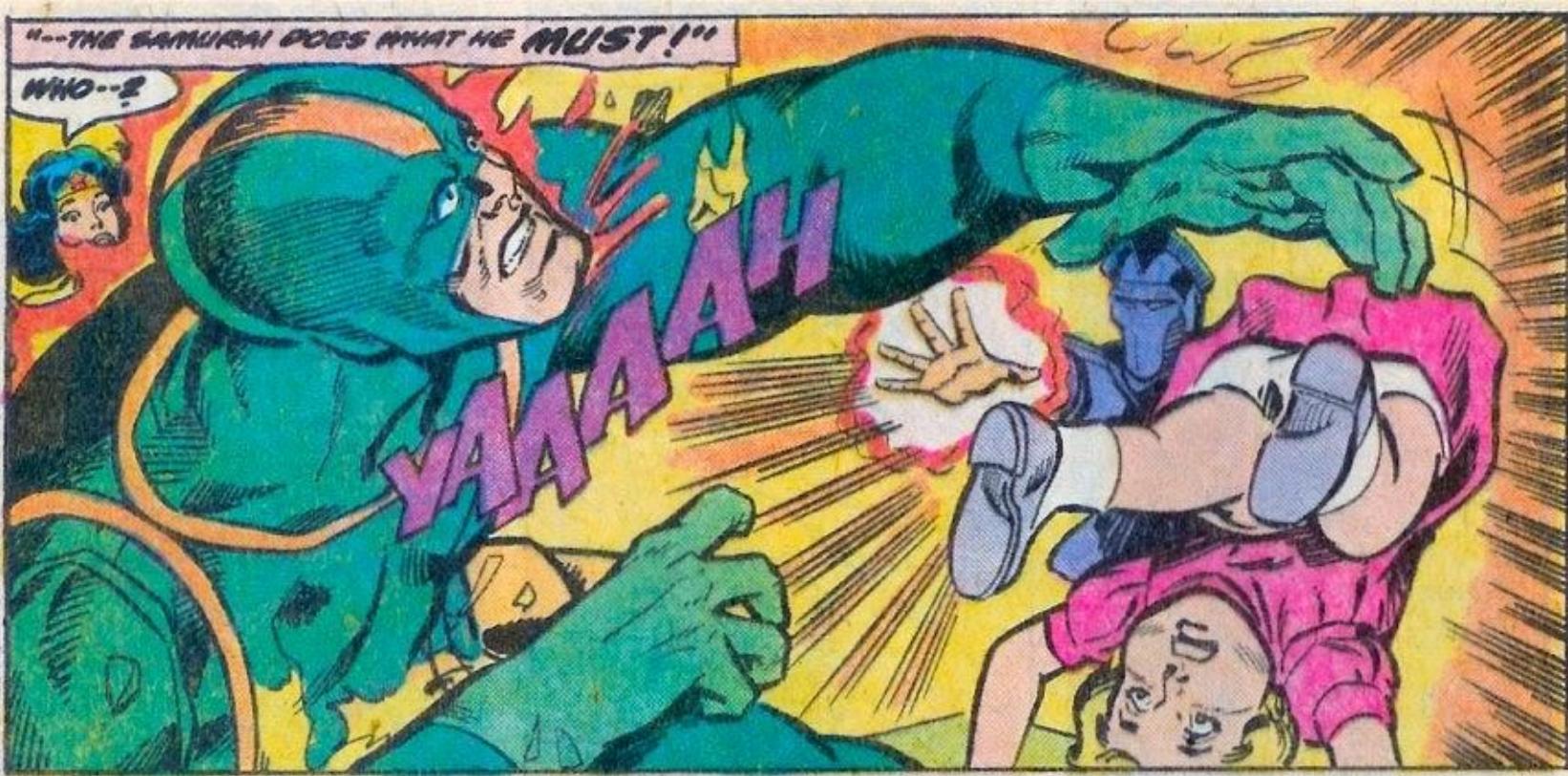
HE'S INSANE!
MERCIFUL MINERVA,
I HAVE TO STOP
HIM--

--BUT
THERE'S NO
WAY TO REACH
HIM IN TIME!

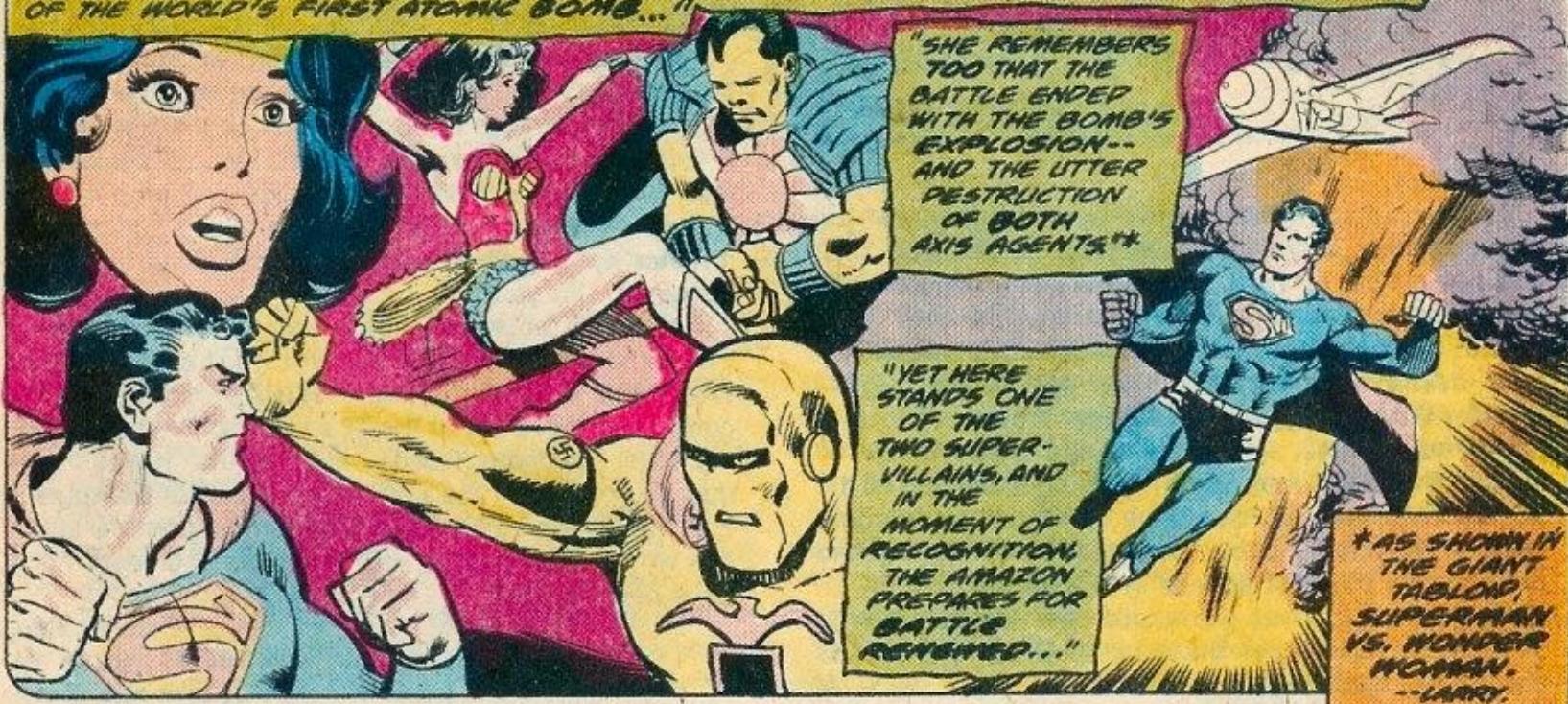
"UNDERSTANDING THE MAN, WE KNOW WHAT PRESSURES HAVE DRIVEN
HIS CRAZED MIND TO THIS CRIME, YET KNOWING THIS MAKES US
NO LONGER INCAPABLE TO STOP HIM..."

BUT THERE IS ONE
WHO CAN STOP
THE BOUNCER--!"

--AND BECAUSE HE IS,
ABOVE ALL THINGS, A
MAN OF HONOR--!"



"INSTANTLY, WONDER WOMAN REMEMBERS: HOW, ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO, SHE AND SUPERMAN BATTLED SUMO AND THE NAZI AGENT BARON GLITTERRIES FOR POSSESSION OF THE WORLD'S FIRST ATOMIC BOMB..."





Dear Editor,

Although many readers have been pointing out the contradictions between the **Wonder Woman** of 1942 and her revival of 1976, I have not been disturbed by any of these minor mistakes. That is up to now.

With the November issue of **WONDER WOMAN** you have destroyed a very important part of the original **Wonder Woman** legend. The **Wonder Woman** of Earth-2 appeared in 1942, and in 1943 she would meet the **Justice Society of America**. This would mean that all the adventures that you have been writing since bringing back WWII should occur during 1943 since you had members of the JSA appear in four books.

Okay, then if these adventures are taking place in 1943, then how come the original Diana Prince has shown up again? In the September, 1942 issue of **SENSATION COMICS** we are told Diana Prince married Dan White and had a baby. In this story she remembers selling her identity to **Wonder Woman** and was not shocked to find someone impersonating her. Why then are we now told that in 1943 Diana Prince is not only not married, but she does not even remember selling her ID?

The only logical explanation is to assume that the story that was published in 1942 was just told ahead of time. We could say that the adventure should have occurred in 1944. If we use this premise then we must also assume that **Wonder Woman** will meet Diana once more before she gets married. It would be at this meeting that WW would allow Diana to keep her memory of who **Wonder Woman** is. I hope you will find this explanation satisfying and will consider using it.

Philip M. Botwinick
83-05 98th St.
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Consider it used, Phil! Since we don't really believe that Gerry Conway's story was in any way contradictory (as proved by your logical explanation), we're not going to quibble over a minor point that occurred over 33 years ago! For further on the subject of **WONDER WOMAN'S** continuity, please refer to Marty Pasko's article "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about **Wonder Woman**"/"Would Probably Make You Terribly Confused") that appears in the 15th issue of **THE AMAZING WORLD OF DC COMICS** (still available from us for \$1.50).

Also, since we're returning to 1978, we doubt if any such "problems" will arise again!

* * * *

Dear Jose D., Gerry & Vinnie,

Hiya, hiya, hiya. Just thought I'd drop a heavy note (clank) with no strings attached.

Ish 237 was a spectacular story with all the excitement, glory and adventure packed into 17 pages as there could possibly be! And whatyacallhim, Humble-Man Kung, doesn't strike me as being a nice person (He

strikes me right across the face!!! Snicker, snicker, snicker!) I can't wait to see how she defeats him, if she does, that is.

Diana Prince meets Diana Prince was a special attraction, but what I'd like to know is why **Wonder Woman** erased the real Di Prince's memory of the Not-Real Di Prince being **Wonder Woman**. Who would believe the Real Di if she said that there was another Di who is really **Wonder Woman** and was using the real Di's identity as an alter-ego? (I didn't understand a word of that letter sentence. Did you?)

I sincerely hope you don't have the chutzpah (that means nerve, for those of you who don't watch **Wonder Woman** for a hobby) to make **WONDER WOMAN** a TV comic and move her to the 70's like the TV show is doing. Like, I've heard it said about the 40's: "It was a time that you could tell the good guys from the bad guys." P.S. Please (and please five more times) print my letter. I've written five already and as far as I've read, none have been printed!

Tommy Roe,
704 Patterson Rd.
Savannah, Tenn.

Come off it, Tom! Some people write HUNDREDS of letters and NEVER see them in print. You'll have to do better than this to get on one of OUR letters pages. We'd never print a letter like this one!

By the way, as you've no doubt noticed, WW will return to the 70's, but not "like the TV show" and not in a TV comic. We have nerve, but not chutzpah!

* * * *

Dear DC,

It's quite obvious you don't know your mythology. **Wonder Woman** is a fine character except for her exclamations, such as "Great Aphrodite", "Merciful Minerva," etc.

Minerva, Juno, Jupiter, Mercury and so forth are all Roman mythical deities while the Amazons were Greek. Their patron goddess was Artemis, not Diana. (Diana is a Roman Goddess).

Also, **Wonder Woman** talks about Aphrodite. In mythology, the Amazons despised Aphrodite, who was the goddess of love. The Amazons shunned the society of men, resulting in hatred of the goddess. (**Wonder Woman** is breaking their laws in loving Steve Trevor.)

I hope this will be changed in the future.

Christine J. Kool
12 Tody Dr.
Succasunna, N.J. 07876

What? And change the entire **WONDER WOMAN** legend and ask for further indignity from Philip Botwinick? Actually, Chris, it's often been said that comics are today's mythology. If such is true, you must realize that historical mythology is just a foundation we're building upon. And since most ancient myths were passed down by word of mouth, isn't it possible that WE are right and that THEY were wrong because of something being lost in the translations? See this year's **WONDER WOMAN SPECTACULAR** and you'll learn the actual relationship of all the gods of all cultures!





Publishorial

A Word About the Fight of the Century

Now that we've gone the distance, I can tell you the truth about **SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI**. Not the whole truth, of course, but enough of it to whet your appetite without pulling any punches.

First, the simple truth. The book—after fifteen grueling, tension-packed months—is a knockout.

All you comic fans have been awaiting this tabloid for over a year. But **SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI** now has the non-comic book world clamoring for seats. Ever since the *New York Village Voice* splashed news of the match-up across its front page, nationwide coverage of the book has reached that pitch of childish excitement which only adults can generate.

If somehow you missed the hoopla, let me fill you in.

SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI should be appearing on your newsstand just in time for the New Year. It is without a doubt the most extraordinary over-sized comic book ever produced. Better than **SUPERMAN VS. SPIDER-MAN**? You can't even compare the two. Just start with the Superman-Ali cover and you'll see why.

The cover wraps around the book so that unfolded it's a poster-size image. As you'd predict, Superman and Ali are slugging it out in the ring. Cheering them on is an impassioned throng. But not your run-of-the-mill spectators. They're the people you'd imagine would actually turn up at a fight like this: Frank Sinatra, Sonny and Cher, Lucille Ball, Pele, Kurt Vonnegut, Johnny Carson, and even President Carter with Rosalynn at his side.

Who else? Well, naturally, fight promoter Don King, and Ali's manager, Herbert Muhammad and his trainer Bundini Brown.

In Superman's corner? The whole raft of DC superstars in their civilian identities. Plus the entire DC staff, a fleet of artists and writers, and the heads of Galaxy Communications (in their civilian identities as the heads of Warner Communications).

We had to get permission from every one of those people whose visage appears on the book. Neal Adams (who has executed not only the cover but also each interior page with a lavishness of detail unsurpassed in any comic book) spent weeks drawing individual portraits. When we finally finished with this piece of insanity, there were over one hundred and fifty real people at ringside. We've thoughtfully provided an identifying key so that you, too, can go a little crazy and match the faces with the names.

Credit goes to Julie Schwartz for starting us in the first place. For his efforts on the book, Julie has won this decade's Job award for extreme forebearance beyond the capacity of mortal editors. It was nearly two years ago that Julie made his fatal mistake. The champ was in town and **SUPERMAN VS. SPIDER-MAN** was on the newsstand.

"Ha-ha," said Julie, brilliantly merging the two events. "**SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI**. Now that's a good one."

And with those words he sealed his doom. Jest became joust. Our man against theirs. Where

was Don King? We had a fight to arrange!

Don was charming but alarming, he hustled, we haggled, he was outrageous, we were courageous; when he demanded 700 percent we held firm and walked out.

Lawyers, phone calls, meetings, meetings, phone calls, phone calls. Two months later we had a deal—with Don. We still had to make a deal with Ali's manager, Herbert Muhammad. Herbert's terms were simple. Total approval of everything.

"It's the only way," he said to me. We were sitting at his kitchen table in Chicago. I wanted his total approval of the story and Neal's first drawings.

The phone over Herbert's head rang. He tilted back his chair to answer it, cited a foreign country, and named a multi-million dollar figure.

"Wait a minute," he said into the receiver and turned to me.

"Do you have a pen? I never can find one when I need one," he apologized.

I took out a pen and told Herbert to keep it. From then on, we were working together.

"Now for the plot," said Herbert, hanging up the phone. Why don't you read it to me?"

So I started to read it and ended up telling it.

"It's good, it's good," Herbert beamed. "It sounds more exciting than the movie script we're considering."

He looked at the three drawings of Ali with infinite care. Minutes passed. Finally, he said:

"They're good, too, but tell the artist to fatten Ali's calves when he does the book. Ali's legs are stronger than that."

Once I returned from Chicago, Neal began laying out pages based on the synopsis that Denny O'Neill and Julie had cooked up. When the first double-page spread came in, we were blown out. No alien spaceships, no intergalactic battle, simply a street in Harlem. But what a street! So packed with the overflow of humanity and visual vignettes that you can study the scene for an hour and still find something new.

On the other hand, the story centers not just on a climactic fight between Earth's two supermen but also on an equally climactic bid for interplanetary control. **SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI** does have alien spaceships, intergalactic battles and pyrotechnical treats.

It also has Dick Giordano's superlative inks, Terry Austin's mind-boggling backgrounds, Neal's own fine writing, and Herbert Muhammad's total approval every step of the way.

Who wins? All of us. It's been a long, hard fight to put out this incredible book. But we feel like champions. When you see how stupendous the tabloid is, you'll be glad you fought for your copy.

Have a happy, healthy New Year—