

DC

23
OCT '08

GAIL
SIMONE
AARON
LOPRESTI
MATT
RYAN

Wonder Woman®

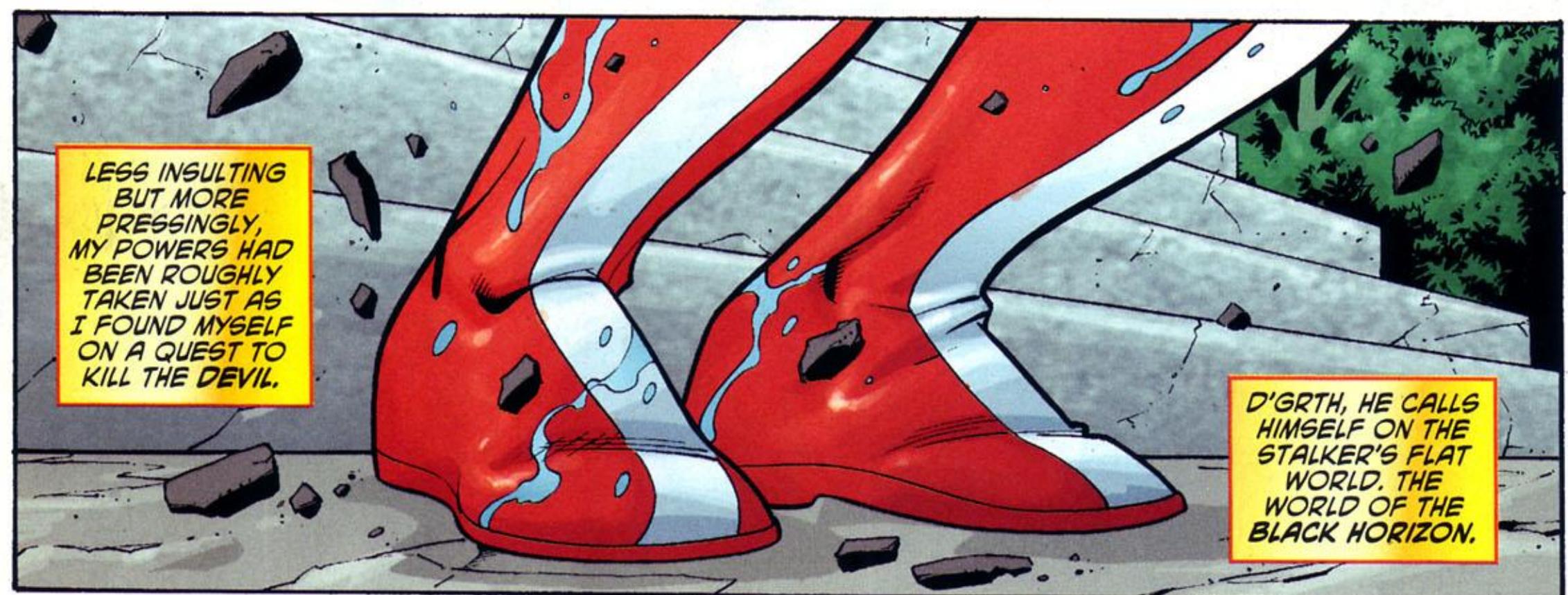
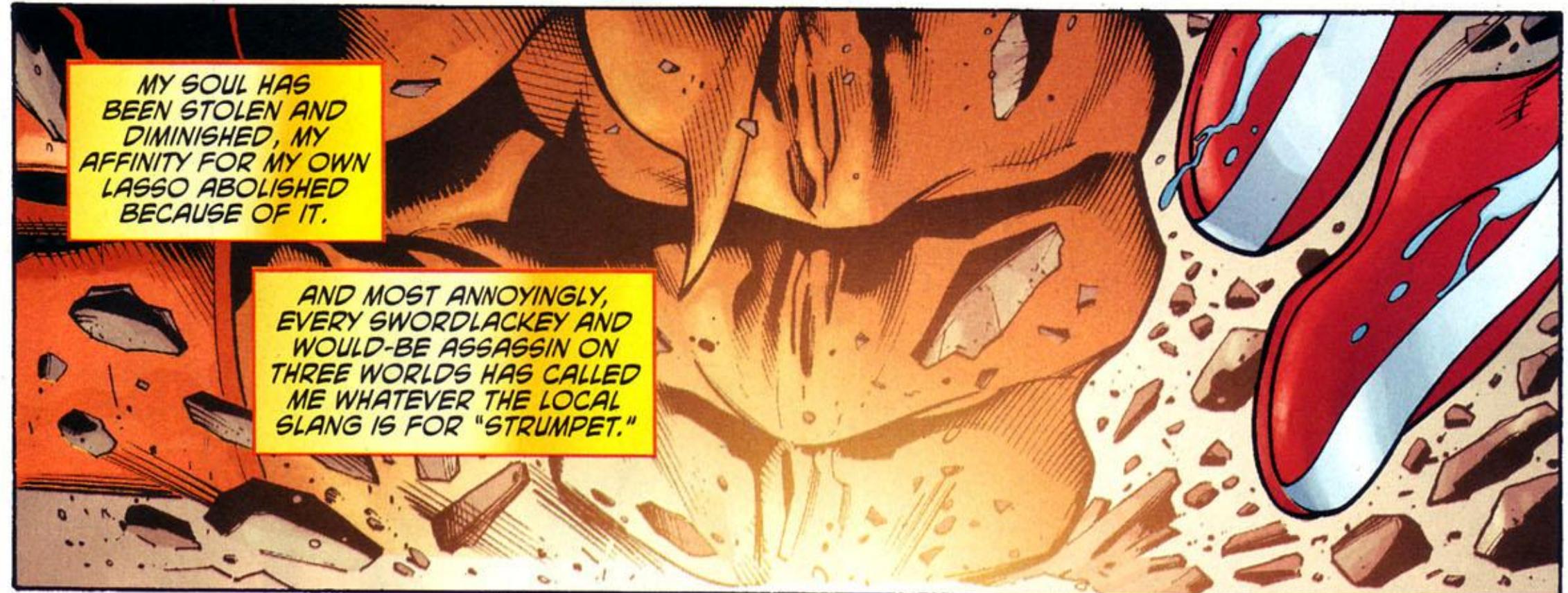
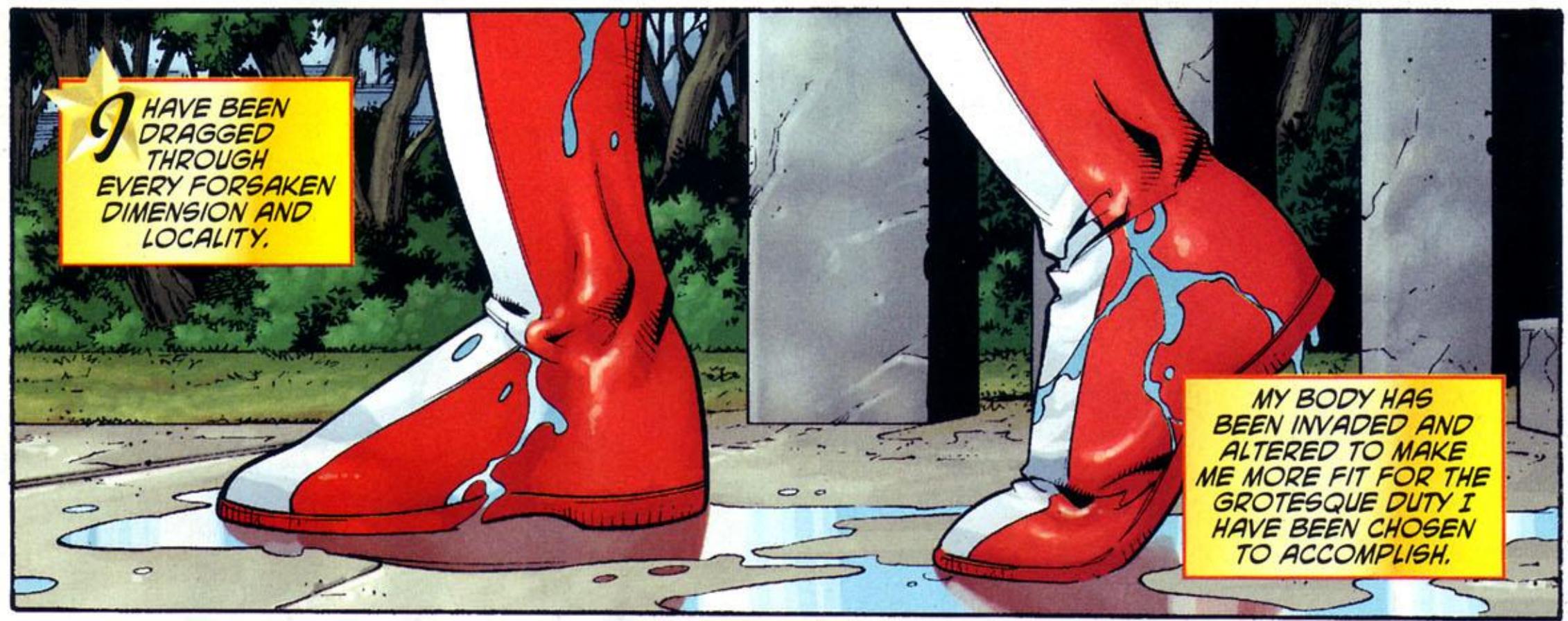


**ENDS
OF THE
EARTH
FINALE**

DIRECT SALES



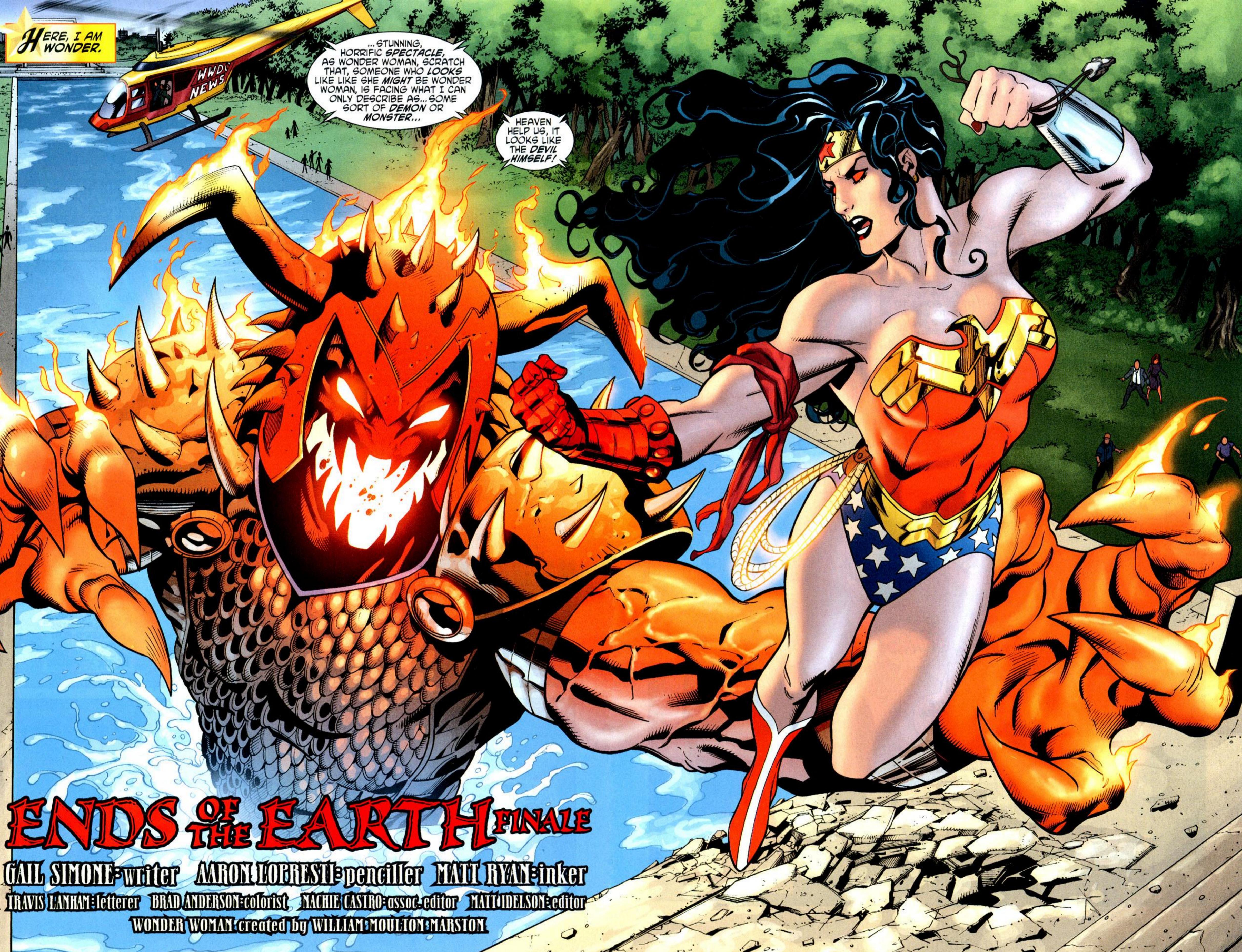
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HERE, I AM
WONDER.

...STUNNING,
HORRIFIC SPECTACLE,
AS WONDER WOMAN, SCRATCH
THAT, SOMEONE WHO LOOKS
LIKE LIKE SHE MIGHT BE WONDER
WOMAN, IS FACING WHAT I CAN
ONLY DESCRIBE AS... SOME
SORT OF DEMON OR
MONSTER...

HEAVEN
HELP US, IT
LOOKS LIKE
THE DEVIL
HIMSELF!



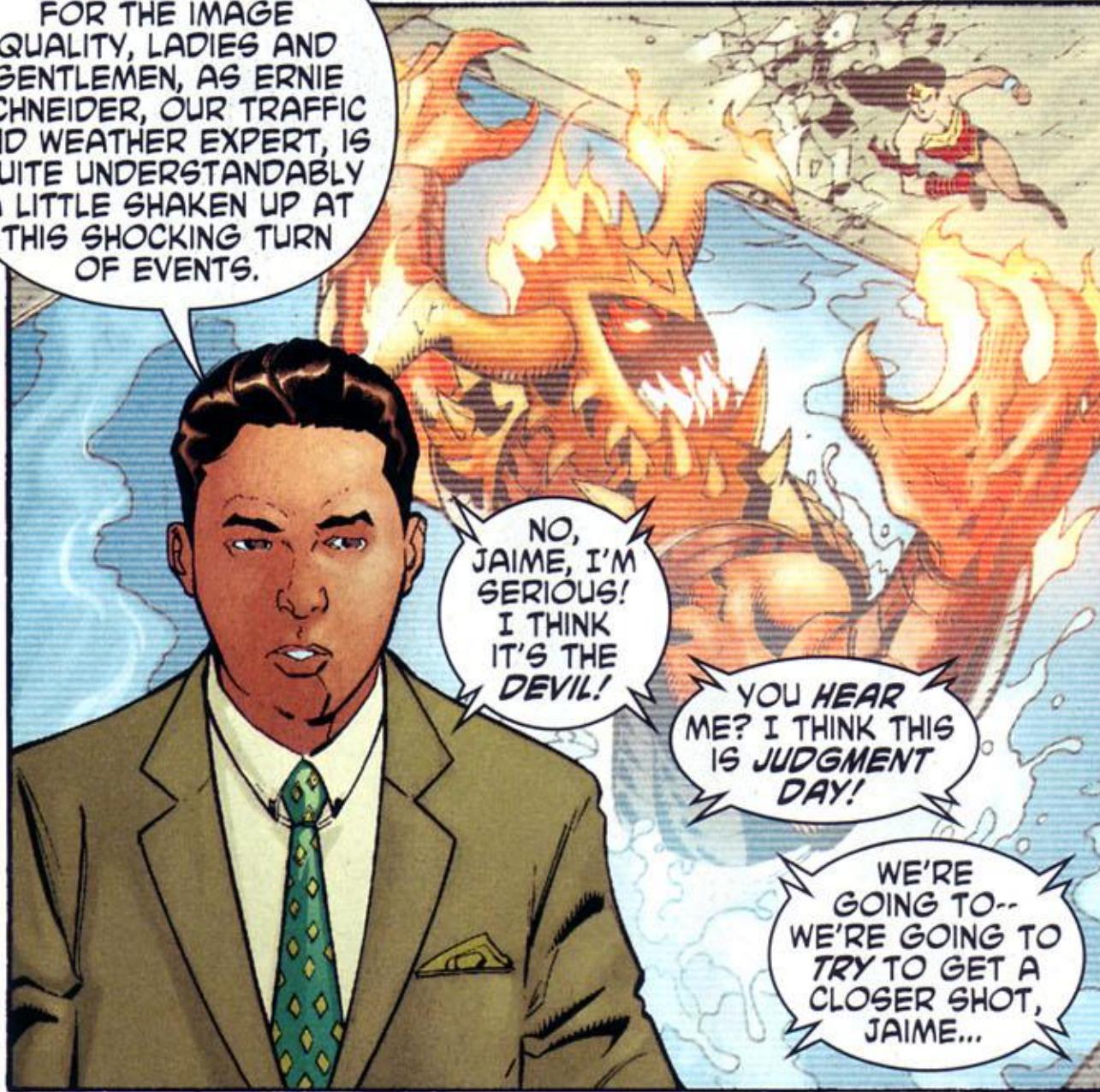
ENDS OF THE EARTH FINALE

GAIL SIMONE: writer AARON LOPRESTI: penciller MATT RYAN: inker

TRAVIS LANHAM: letterer BRAD ANDERSON: colorist NANCIE CASTRO: assoc. editor MATT DELSON: editor

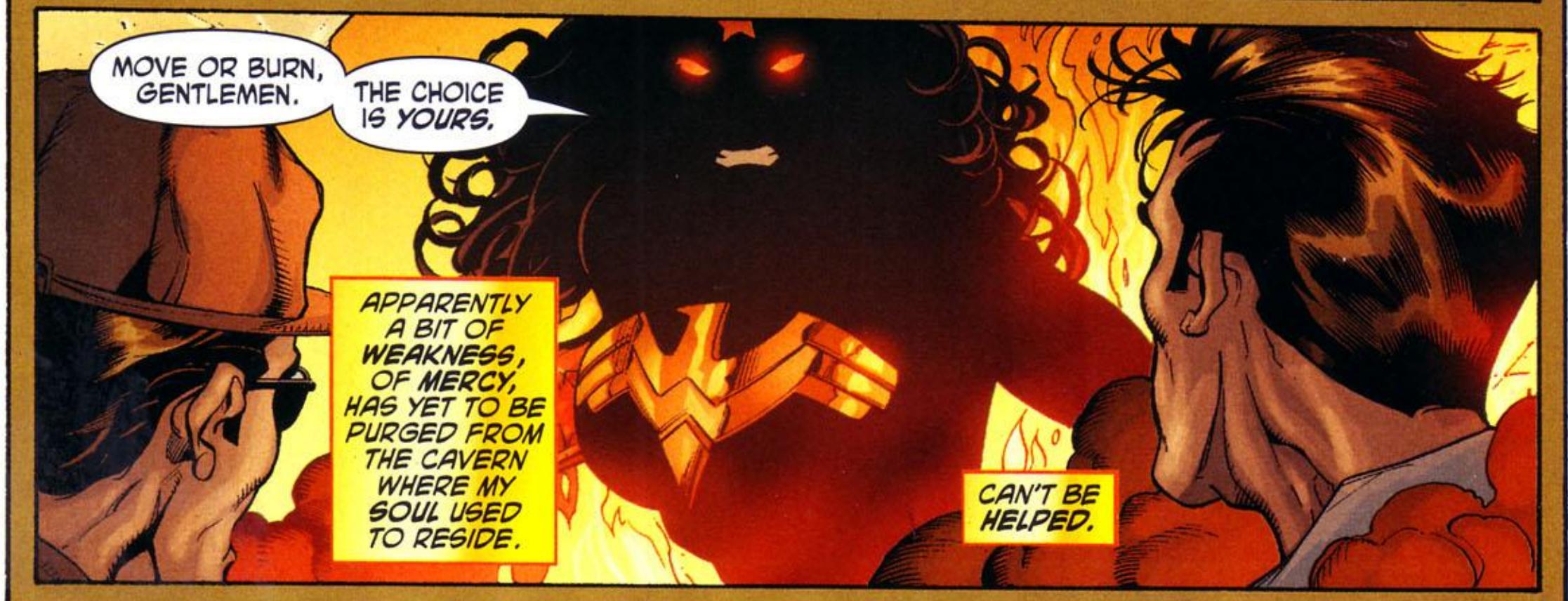
WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

WE
APOLOGIZE
FOR THE IMAGE
QUALITY, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN, AS ERNIE
SCHNEIDER, OUR TRAFFIC
AND WEATHER EXPERT, IS
QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY
A LITTLE SHAKEN UP AT
THIS SHOCKING TURN
OF EVENTS.









YOU FACE A
SIMILAR CHOICE,
AMAZON.

I OFFER YOU THE
Honor OF BEING MY VASSAL.
BY SERVING ME, YOU WILL ATTAIN
ALL THE JUICE AND JOY THIS WORLD
HAS TO OFFER. YOUR GODS WILL
AGAIN BE WORSHIPPED.

YOUR SISTERS
FOREVER FREE FROM
WANT, WORRY, OR
DISMAY.

MOVE TO ME,
PRINCESS...

OR
BECOME
CINDER.

WILL YOU LIVE,
WARRIOR?

A...A
MOMENT, LORD
D'GRTH.

...THE WILDLIFE.
THE WOLVES.

FROM BEOWULF'S
TIME. THE WOLVES.

WELL? WHAT
IS YOUR CHOICE,
PRINCESS?

WHEN I BEGAN
THIS STORY, LORD--I
MET A PACK OF RABID
WOLVES. EVERY MOMENT
THEY CONTINUED TO LIVE
ONLY INCREASED
THEIR PAIN.

AND, A PACK TO THE END,
THEY ASKED ME TO END
THEIR LIVES, SO THAT THEY
WOULDN'T ATTACK EACH
OTHER BEFORE DYING.

I ASK
YOU, AS ALL WHO
FACE A GOD MUST,
WHY SHOULD IT BE THAT
THEY, WHO LIVED ONLY
AS INSTINCT AND HONOR
COMMANDED, DIE COLD,
IN THE SNOW...

SO MUCH
POWER.

WHAT
I COULD
DO.

MY OWN LASO, THE
GIFT OF HEPHAESTUS,
CAN'T FIND ME IN THE
EMPTY SHELL I HAVE
BECOME. MY LIFE AS A
HERO, AS A SYMBOL,
MIGHT BE OVER.

AND WHAT I COULD
DO! FEED THE
HUNGRY, COMFORT
THE ORPHANED,
PROTECT THE...

...WHILE A
MURDERING
SON-OF-A-JACKAL
LIKE YOU LIVES
ON?

GAAAAAH!

FOR THE
MOMENT,
DEVIL.

JUST FOR THE
MOMENT.

O H,
HERA.

HIS FIRE--IT'S
UNNATURAL.

INDESCRIBABLE.

YOUR
REFUSAL
IS NOTED,
SPECK.

I SHALL
SET THIS
WORLD ASIDE
FOR SPECIAL
TORMENT
ON YOUR
BEHALF.

I'LL EAT
YOUR PEOPLE
LAST, GIRL.

Very well,
then.

IF IT'S
DEATH BY
FLAME, THEN
AT LEAST
LET THERE
BE TWO ON
THE PYRE,
TODAY.



THIS CREATURE HAS
FED OFF THE MISERY
OF OTHERS FOR
LONGER THAN THIS
WORLD HAS BEEN.
AND NOW IT HUNGRY
FOR EVEN MORE.

PERHAPS I
CAN AT LEAST
SPOIL ITS
APPETITE.

PERHAPS,
EVEN WITHOUT
MY SOUL...

...I CAN
CHOOSE
TO BE LIKE
THE WOLF.



THE HOME OF
DIANA PRINCE...

NEMESIS...
AGENT TRESSER...

CAN I ASK
HOW YOU PREFER TO
BE ADDRESSED?

I DON'T
KNOW, LADY.

AS YOU
LIKE.

YOU'RE
NOT HURT,
ARE YOU?

HOWSABOUT
YOU JUST CALL
ME MR. GUY-
WITH-A-
RIFLE?

LET ME
INTRODUCE
MYSELF. MY
NAME IS...

I KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE.

OKAY.
GOOD.

HE MEANT
THE PRINCESS
HARM. I KNOW
IT. I SENSED THE
SUSPICION!

HOLD,
PLEASE,
RHANDA.

IS THIS
TRUE, MR.
GUY-WITH-A-
RIFLE?

... MY BOSS, DIRECTOR
STEEL. HE...

HE SAYS THERE'S A
CONSPIRACY. HE SAYS THAT
WHEN YOUR DIRECT MILITARY
ATTACK DIDN'T WORK, YOU
STARTED PLACING SLEEPERS
IN HIGH GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES.

SAYD
PRINCE
AND CANDY
WERE BOTH
AMAZON
SPOOKS.

I SEE.
AND DO YOU
BELIEVE HIM,
AGENT
TRESSER?

DO YOU
KNOW
WHAT
THESE
ARE?

SURE
I DO. AND
MAYBE YOU
CAN DEFLECT
MY BULLETS,
BUT JUST THE
SAME...

NO, NEMESIS.
THAT'S NOT
THE FULL
TRUTH OF
THEIR
POWER.
THAT'S
JUST THE
FIREWORKS.
THEIR
MEANING
IS ANOTHER
THING
ENTIRELY.

YEAH.
I THINK IT'S
POSSIBLE. MAYBE
BEFORE THE ATTACKS
ON D.C. I WOULDN'T
HAVE BELIEVED
IT, BUT...

I
SEE.

ONE
MOMENT.

AGENT
THOMAS
TRESSER.

WITH THE BLOOD OF MY LIFE AND THAT OF MY SISTERS, I SWEAR TO YOU THAT I MEAN YOU NO HARM TO BODY OR SPIRIT. NOR WILL I ALLOW HARM TO COME TO YOU FROM ANY QUARTER, IF BY MEANS OF ANY MEASURE INCLUDING MY DEATH, I MAY PREVENT IT.







KRAAACK

9 ALWAYS WONDERED...

...WHO DO THE GODS CALL TO IN THEIR TIME OF DESPAIR?

...DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, JAMIE. THIS IS THE WOMAN THAT JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO SAVED OUR LIVES, AND SHE'S... SHE'S GOING TO BE...

GET OUT OF THERE! FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, SHE HAS TO GET OUT OF THERE! HE'LL BURN HER! HE'LL BURN HER!

YOU SCRATCHED ME.

NO LIVING THING HAS WOUNDED ME WITHOUT ETERNAL REGRET.

THEY GAVE ME THESE TOOLS TO DEFEAT YOU IN THIS WORLD. BUT AS IT TURNS OUT, ALL I NEEDED WAS WHAT I ALREADY HAD-- SOMETHING I HAVEN'T USED IN A WHILE.

AND AS RANKING DIPLOMAT OF THE ISLAND NATION OF THEMYSCIRA--



--I INVITE
YOU TO GO
STRAIGHT BACK
TO HELL,
DEMON!

SOME TIME
LATER...

WE...WE CAN
STILL MAKE A
BARGAIN.

THAT
TIME IS
PAST.

YOU WON'T
DO IT. YOU'RE NO
MURDERER.

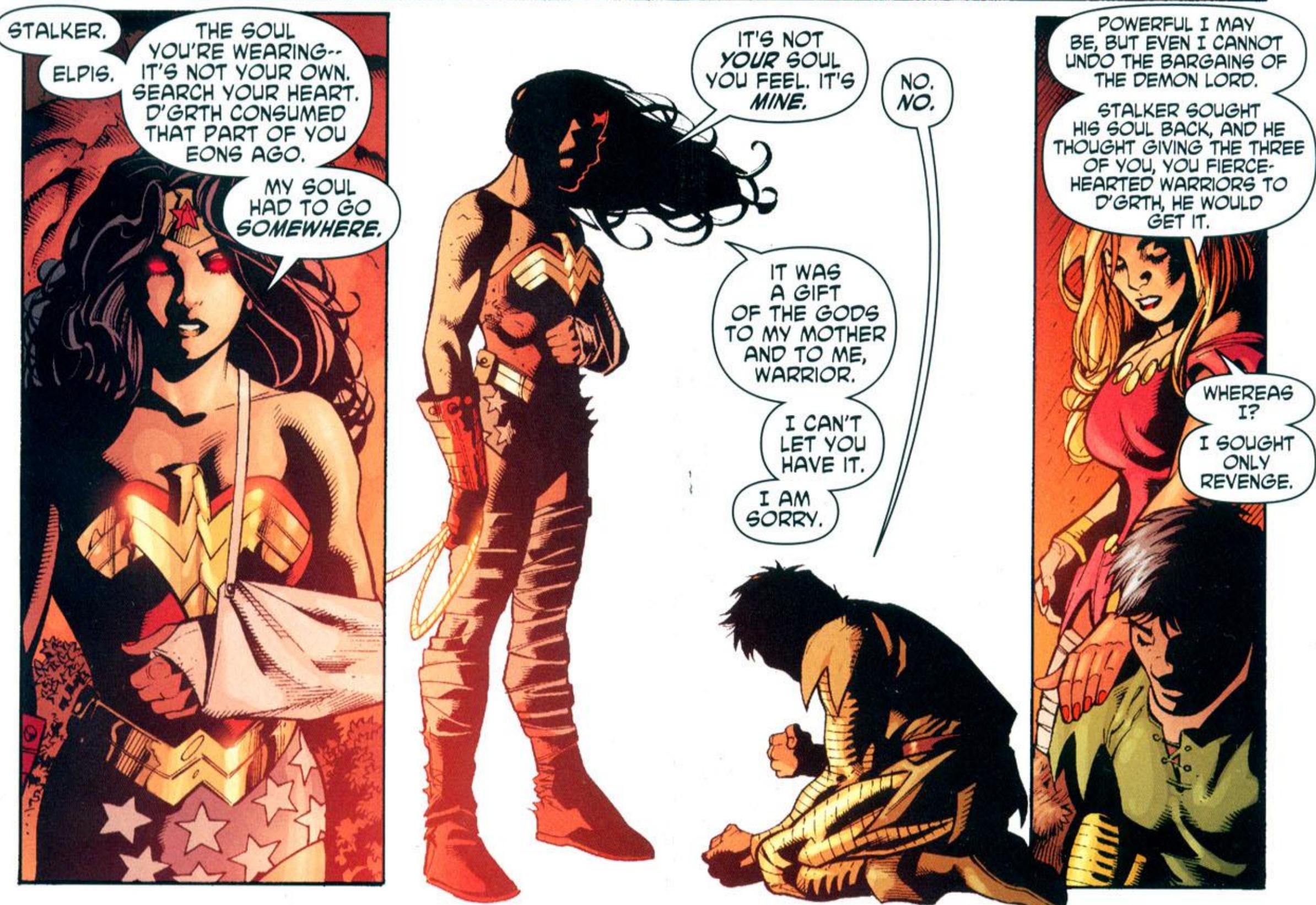
... BE
QUIET.

CLAW. SHE
RETURNS
THE HELM-
PRINCESS
RETURNS!

WAIT.
I OFFER
YOU ALL
KINGSHIPS.
WORLDS OF
CONQUEST.
WHATEVER
YOU
WANT.

ALL YOU
DREAM AND
MORE.

HUSH.





TAKE IT BACK, THEN.

TAKE IT BACK, DAMN YOU.

SHE SAID I WOULD REGRET MEETING THE STALKER 'TIL THE END OF MY DAYS.

THIS IS THE WORST THING I'VE EVER HAD TO DO TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING. MURDER WOULD BE A MISDEMEANOR IN COMPARISON. TORTURE WOULD BE A LOVING EMBRACE.

THE PROPHECY WAS RIGHT.



STALKER LEFT AS I REWRAPPED THE POET LORD'S BANDAGE.

THE ORACLE WENT WITH HIM, AND ALONG WITH HER, THE "GIFTS" SHE GAVE ME TO DEFEAT D'GRTH.

PERHAPS THEY CAN SAVE EACH OTHER. I WISH THAT WITH ALL MY HEART.

I FORGAVE HIM HIS BETRAYAL. NO ONE SHOULD JUDGE HIM THAT HASN'T FELT A DAY OF HIS BLEAK LIFE.

YOU'LL LIVE, BEOWULF. IT'S GRIEVOUS, BUT YOU'LL LIVE.

I KNOW I WILL. I HAVE A DESTINY, YOU SAID.

I WANT YOU TO HAVE SOMETHING.

I CAN'T TAKE THIS, BEOWULF...

YOU CAN AND YOU WILL. I DON'T MEET EQUALS VERY OFTEN.

IT IS... AGREEABLE.

WITH THE POWER OF THE LODESTONE AND MY GIFT FROM KANE, I CAN SEND THEM HOME, AND YET SOMEHOW, WITH THE FIRE CRACKLING, I AM LOATH TO DO SO.

I WON'T SAY SUCH SWEET WORDS, PRINCESS. IT IS NOT MY WAY.

WELL, IT'S GOING TO BE A DEMOTION AND SUSPENSION AT LEAST, IF I'M LUCKY.

BEOWULF IS RIGHT. IT IS AGREEABLE.

THEY COULD ALMOST BE AMAZONS.

BUT HAVE EITHER OF YOU NOTICED THAT GRENDEL SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED?

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DOING THE RIGHT THING AREN'T IMPORTANT. IT'S THE DEED THAT MATTERS.

HERE, I'VE MADE YOU TEA, HERO.

OH, WELL, THAT SOLVES EVERYTHING.

RHANDA'S GROOMING YOU, TOM. I BELIEVE IT'S HIS WAY OF SHOWING ACCEPTANCE.

WHAT THE HELL?

OKAY. THIS HAS OFFICIALLY GOTTEN WEIRD.

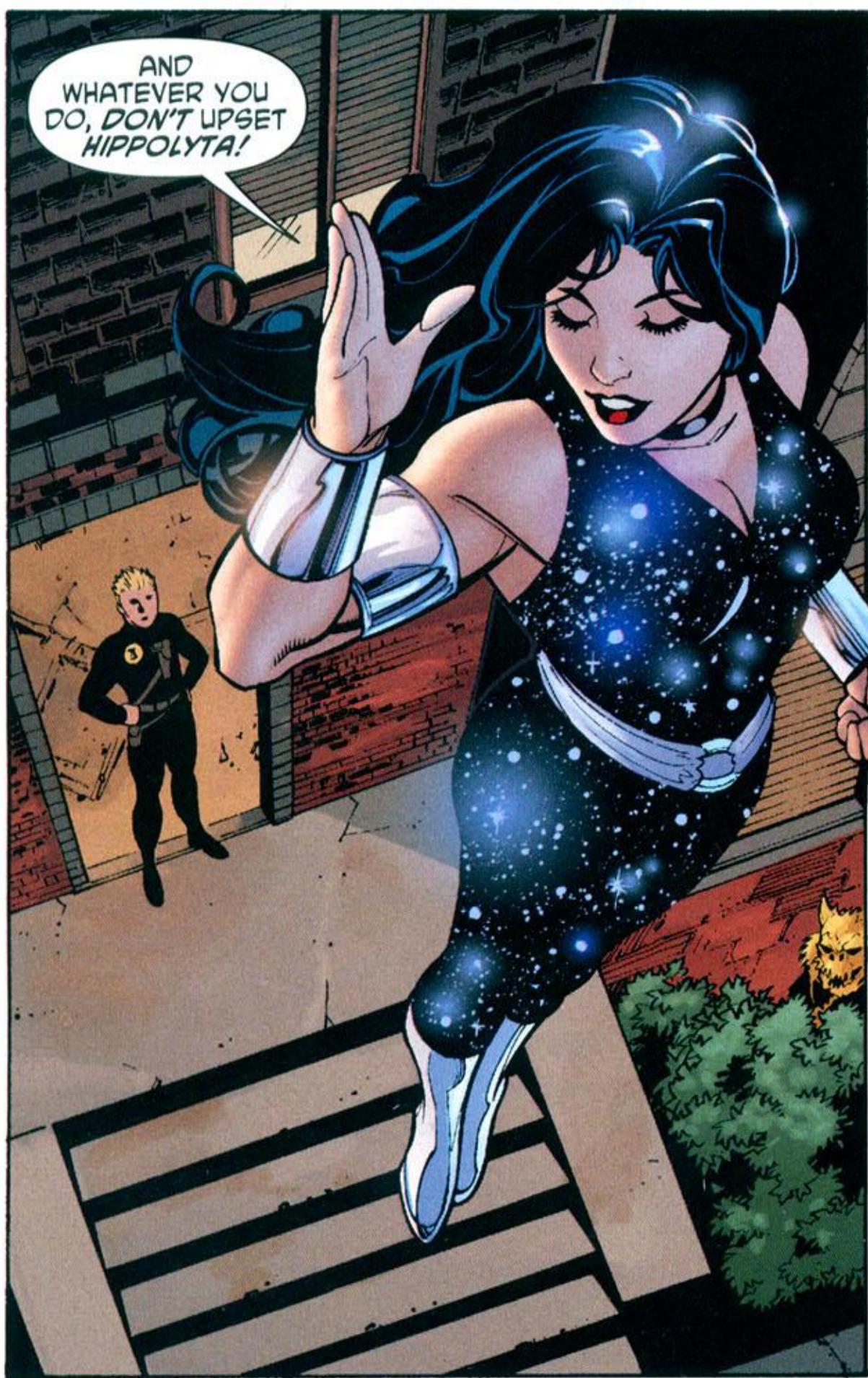


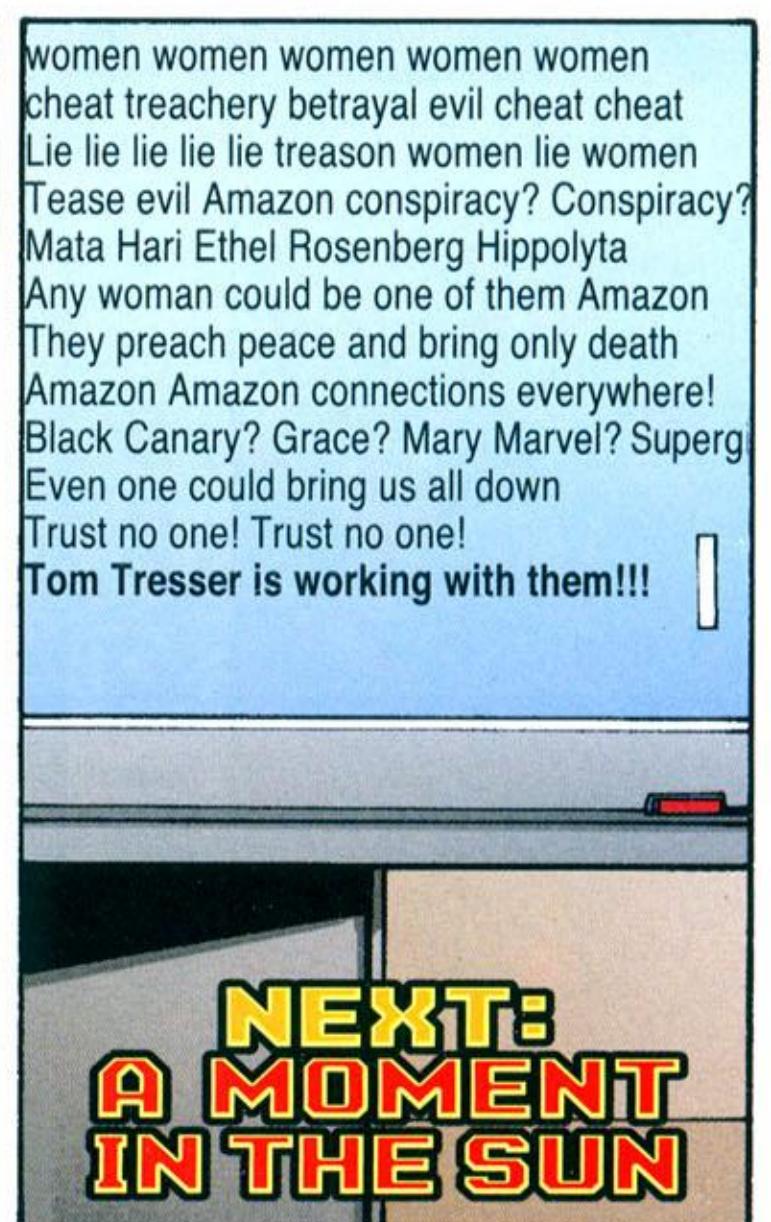
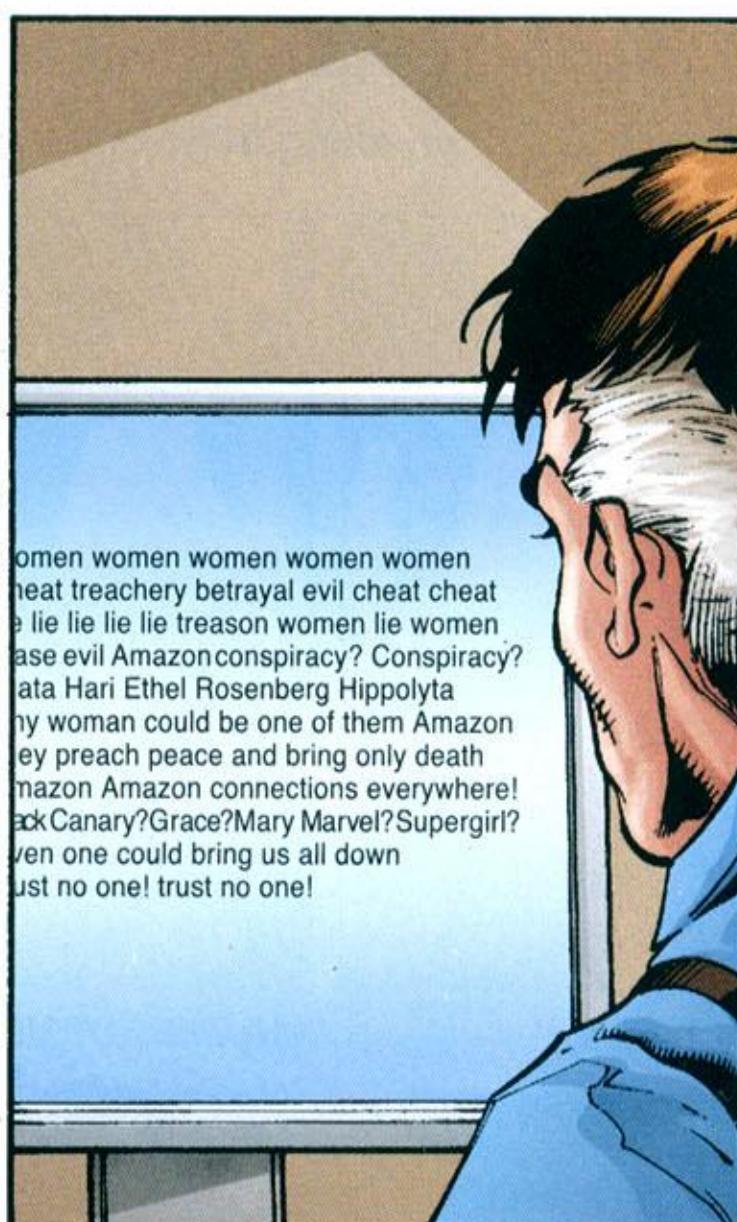
I'M NOT
AMAZON, MS. TROY.
I HAVEN'T MADE A
PRETTY SPEECH SINCE
HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE.
AND I *LOST* THAT
ONE.

...
I GIVE MY
APPROVAL.

GOODBYE,
DEAR ONE. FOR
MY SISTER'S SAKE,
I HOLD YOU IN MY
HEART.

BE BRAVE
FOR THE TRIALS
AHEAD.







When I first sat down with incredibly talented **Joe Straczynski** and discussed the various projects he could do here at DC, the conversation weaved its way through so many of our characters that it only made sense to offer him a book where he could work with every one of them. That book was **BRAVE AND BOLD**, and not surprisingly, he quickly accepted. After all, this was a chance for him to write every character we talked about. We were all set to go – first up, Batman and Spectre; the script was written and ready to be illustrated. But then, something changed.

During my conversations with Joe about BRAVE AND BOLD we talked about the early days of the series, before Batman was the constant co-star. We talked about how we saw some real odd team-ups (Metamorpho and Metal Men) but also, and more interestingly, how the series was a showcase for new and returning characters (particularly the Earth-2 characters at that time). That part of our conversation always stuck in my mind; to be honest, I never wanted this to be just another team-up book. So I started to make some calls. It was time to try something a little different.

In the '90s DC Comics licensed the rights to the Archie super-hero characters and introduced a new line of comics branded Impact! While that line met with varying

degrees of success, there is no denying that the characters -The Fly, Shield, Black Hood, Jaguar, The Web, and their team, Mighty Crusaders - had plenty of life in them, and comic book fans wanted to see them back in action. So after numerous calls, multiple meetings, several lunches and a couple of presentations, a deal came together, and DC reacquired these rights, this time with a slightly different twist. This time we are going back to basics, and rather than working in their own world, they get to join the party. No separate line, they will all be part of the DC Universe.

How cool is that? And on top of everything, when I pitched it to Joe, he was as excited as I am!

I can't think of a better fit for the DC Universe or a better person to handle the reintroduction and reimaging of these characters. The DCU just got a little bigger and a little better, but why stop there....

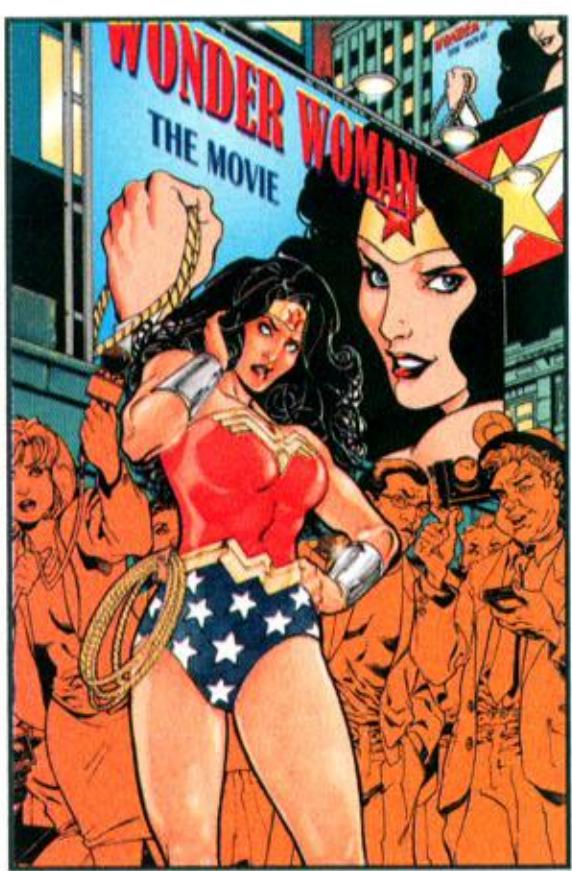
More next week.

To be continued

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DC NATION

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at dccomics.com

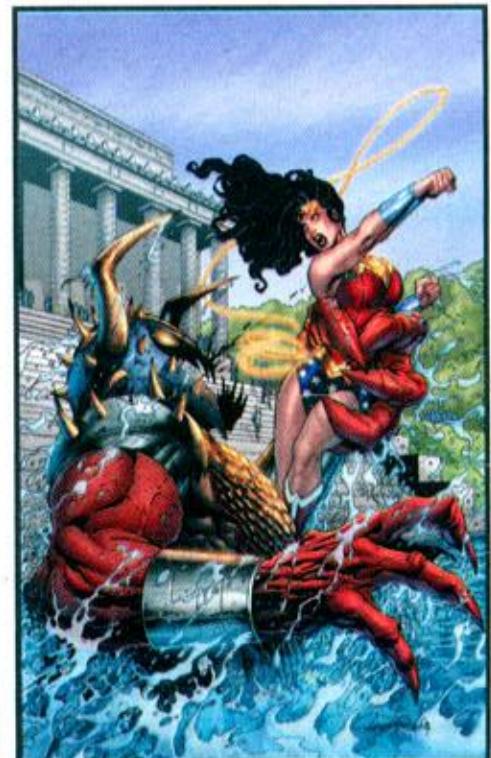


THE HOT LIST THIS WEEK

ACTION COMICS #868



A dark, atmospheric illustration of Doctor Doom. He is shown from the chest up, wearing his signature black hooded cloak with a triangular emblem on the forehead. His face is pale and features a wide, malevolent grin. Behind him, several skeletal faces are visible, some with glowing white eyes, set against a background of jagged, rocky terrain under a dark sky.



WONDER WOMAN #23

Next in...

WONDER WOMAN #24

WONDER WOMAN #24
Wonder Woman stars in: WONDER WOMAN:
THE MOVIE! Kinda. But our special guest star will
shock her to her core!

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AVALON-  DCP

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