



THE REVENGE OF ARES!

WONDER WOMAN

WONDER
WOMAN

82 \$1.50 US
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LOEBS
ATKINSON
PARKS



DIRECT SALES

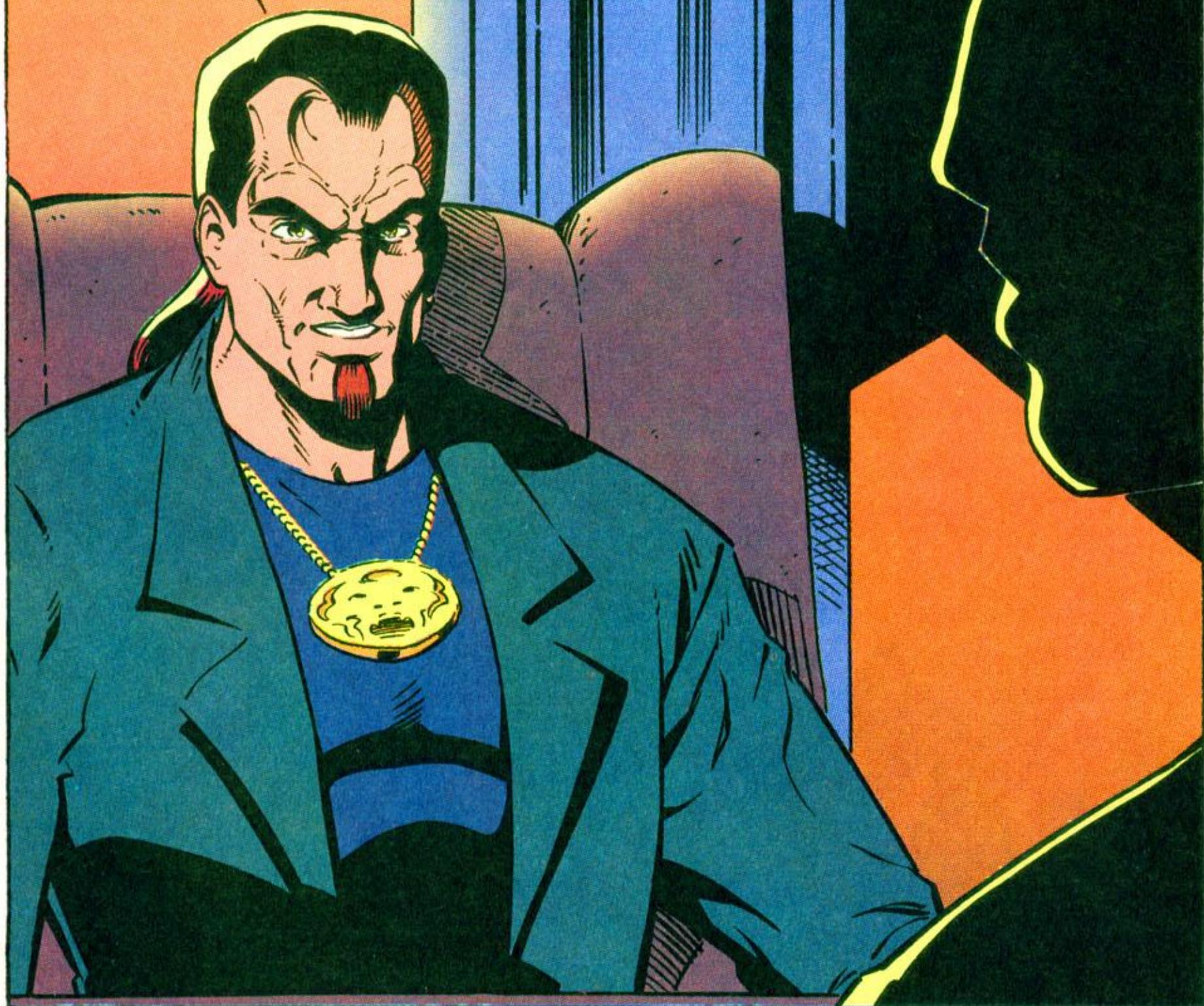


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EACH PERSON HAS MANY GODS
WITHIN THEM. AND THE GOD THEY
CHOOSE IS THE GOD THEY BECOME.
-INDIA MULLER-KENT
Immortality in Daily Life

Ares Rising: *The PATH to WAR*

LET ME
TELL YOU A
STORY.



BILL MESSNER-LOEBS • SHAWN ATKINSON • ANDE PARKS • TRISH MULVIHILL • JOHN COSTANZA • RUBEN DIAZ • BRIAN AUGUSTYN
writer guest penciller inker colorist letterer assistant guy legend in his own mind

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THERE ONCE WAS
A LITTLE BOY...



WHATCHA DOON,
ARI-BOY? PLAYING
WAR ALL BY
YOURSELF?

THAT'S THE
ONLY WAY
HE C'N
WIN!

THERE'S THAT WIMPPOID
BUCHANAN ZERO!

HE WASN'T VERY STRONG
AND HE WASN'T VERY
QUICK ON HIS FEET...

WHY DONCHA SHOOT ME,
ARI PUKE-ANAN?
MEBBE YOU C'N SHOOT ME
'FORE I SHOOT YOU. YOU
COULD TRY! THEN
AT LEAST YOU
WOULDN'T
DIE A
COWARD!

...SO NONE OF THE
OTHER CHILDREN
LIKED HIM. BUT
WORST OF ALL...

BUT WORST
OF ALL...

HE WASN'T
VERY DECISIVE.

SQUIT
SQUIT
SQUIT

TOO LATE!
YOU LOSE!!
HAHA

AHHHHHHH!
LEMON JUICE!

FROM INCIDENTS LIKE
THIS OUR YOUNG HERO
TOOK SEVERAL LESSONS...

ONE WAS THAT
FIGHTING YOUR
OWN BATTLES IS
A MUG'S GAME...

C'MON! GET UP! GET
UP, Y'BIG CRYBABY
SO'S I C'N SQUIRT
YOU AGAIN!

AND THE OTHER
THAT WOMEN
EXIST ONLY
TO BE
HATED.

NOT THAT HE DIDN'T
HAVE REASONS TO
HATE EVERYONE.

YOU'RE A STUPID
LITTLE MAN, BUCHANAN.
YOU SHOULD BE GRATE-
FUL FOR WHAT THE
ORGANIZATION
GIVES YOU.

I DIDN'T
TAKE ANY...
AUUFFFT!

BOOM!

I'M NOT SUPPOSED
TO KILL YOU... THIS
TIME. BE SATISFIED
WITH YOUR LITTLE
FENCING SCAM.
DON'T SKIM. I
LIKE KILLING
TOADS LIKE YOU.



YOU DRUNK OR WHAT,
BUCHANAN? 'CAUSE I
GOT PLACES TO BE IF
YOU DON'T WANT
T' TALK.

THEY... BEAT
ON ME, LIEUTENANT.
I'M HURT.

IT WAS THAT PSYCHO
MOOT AND HER... PARTNER.
I THINK THEY THINK I
BEEN TALKIN' TO... COFF...
YOU. YOU GOTTA PROTECT ME.

THEY PROBABLY THINK YOU'VE BEEN
STEALIN' FROM THEM, AND THEY'RE
RIGHT. NOW IF YOU WANT
PROTECTION, YOU GOTTA
GIVE ME SOMETHING.

YOU KNOW I ALWAYS
TREAT MY SNITCHES
RIGHT.

YES... NO... I
CAN'T. THEY'LL
KILL ME. YOU'RE
A COP, JEFFRIES.
YOU...

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M A COP.
THAT MEANS I PROTECT THE GOOD
PEOPLE. YOU TOOK A WRONG
TURN SOMEWHERE. THAT MEANS
YOU GOTTA BUY YOUR PROTECTION.

OTHERWISE,
YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER
DEAD WUSS IN AN
ALLEY.

THE SAD THING WAS, THE COP WAS
RIGHT. HE COULDN'T CONNECT.
HE COULDN'T MAKE THINGS WORK
FOR HIM.

HE WAS NOTHING.

EVERWHERE
THERE WERE
OTHERS,
BIGGER, FASTER,
STRONGER THAN
HE WAS...

THEY COULD HELP
HIM... LIFT HIM OUT
OF THIS HELL...

BUT HE WAS TOO
SMALL FOR THEM
TO EVEN NOTICE
HIM.

THERE WAS SOMETHING
BROKEN INSIDE HIM...
SOMETHING BLEEDING...

HE WOULD DIE IN THIS ALLEY.
HIS WHOLE LIFE MATTERED
FOR NOTHING.

IF ONLY HE KNEW
HOW TO BE ONE
OF THE POWERFUL
ONES...

POWER?

DO YOU
WANT POWER,
HUMAN?

WHO... WHO
ARE YOU? I
CAN'T SEE...

WHO...?

I CAN GIVE YOU
POWER! POWER IS
NEVER THE PROBLEM!
ONE NEEDS ONLY THE
WILL TO SEIZE
POWER!

CHOOSE
POWER,
HUMAN! TAKE
MY HAND!

AND ODDLY, FOR ONCE IN
HIS LIFE, ARI BUCHANAN
DECIDED ON SOMETHING...

HE CHOSE!

OR PERHAPS, FINALLY,
SOMETHING CHOSE HIM.

BEHOLD YOUR DESTINY,
HUMAN! FOR I AM
**ARES, GOD OF
WAR!**



A...A
GOD?

YES, BUT A CAPTIVE ONE.
ALL-FATHER ZEUS ORDAINS
THAT WE BEINGS MUST LEAVE
THIS SPHERE. AND EVEN I
MUST NOT DISOBEY.

BUT I
CANNOT
LEAVE
YET!

THIS WORLD WITH
ITS TURBULENCE AND
INEQUITIES IS THE
PERFECT BREEDING
GROUND FOR WAR.

AND THAT
IS WHERE YOU
GET YOUR JOY,
HUMAN.

I WILL JOIN WITH YOU!
YOU WILL CONTINUE MY
WORK ON EARTH, AND
SHARE IN MY POWER!

J-JOIN WITH YOU?
BUT... WILL THERE BE
A-ANY OF ME LEFT...
MR. G-GOD, SIR?

ENOUGH TO APPRECIATE THE
SENSATION OF BEING... AMPLIFIED.
I WILL SCOOP OUT MOST OF YOU LIKE
A BAKED POTATO... TO BE FILLED
LATER WITH CHILI AND CHEESE.

AND I WILL BE
THE CHEESE!

IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT
THAT BUCHANAN REALIZED
THAT ARES HAD A SENSE
OF HUMOR.

IT WAS NOT AN IDEA
HE ENJOYED.

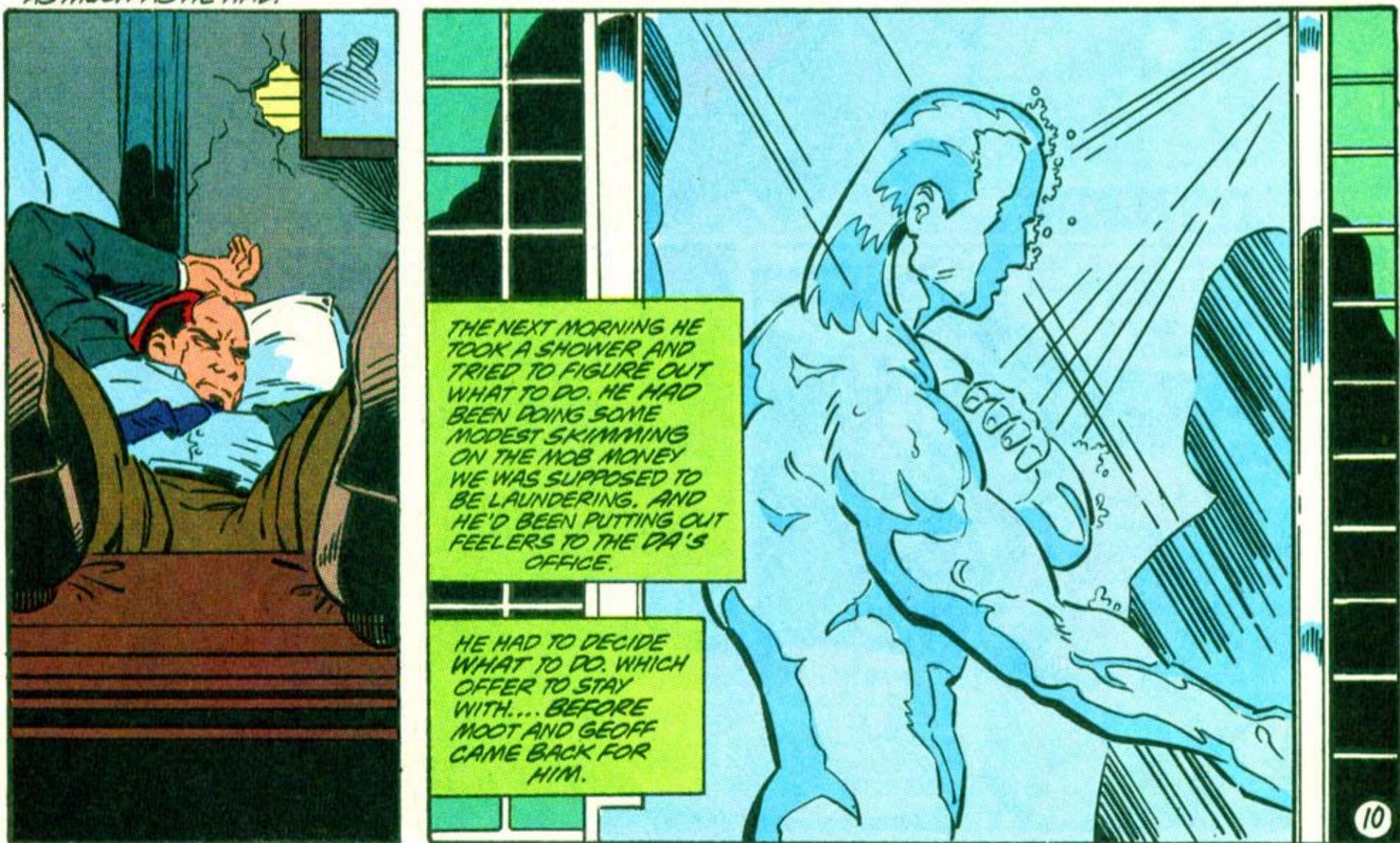
BUT, WH-WHAT WILL IT FEEL
LIKE WHEN YOU DO IT? WILL IT
HURT? WILL I HAVE MY
OLD MEMORIES?
WHAT ABOUT...?

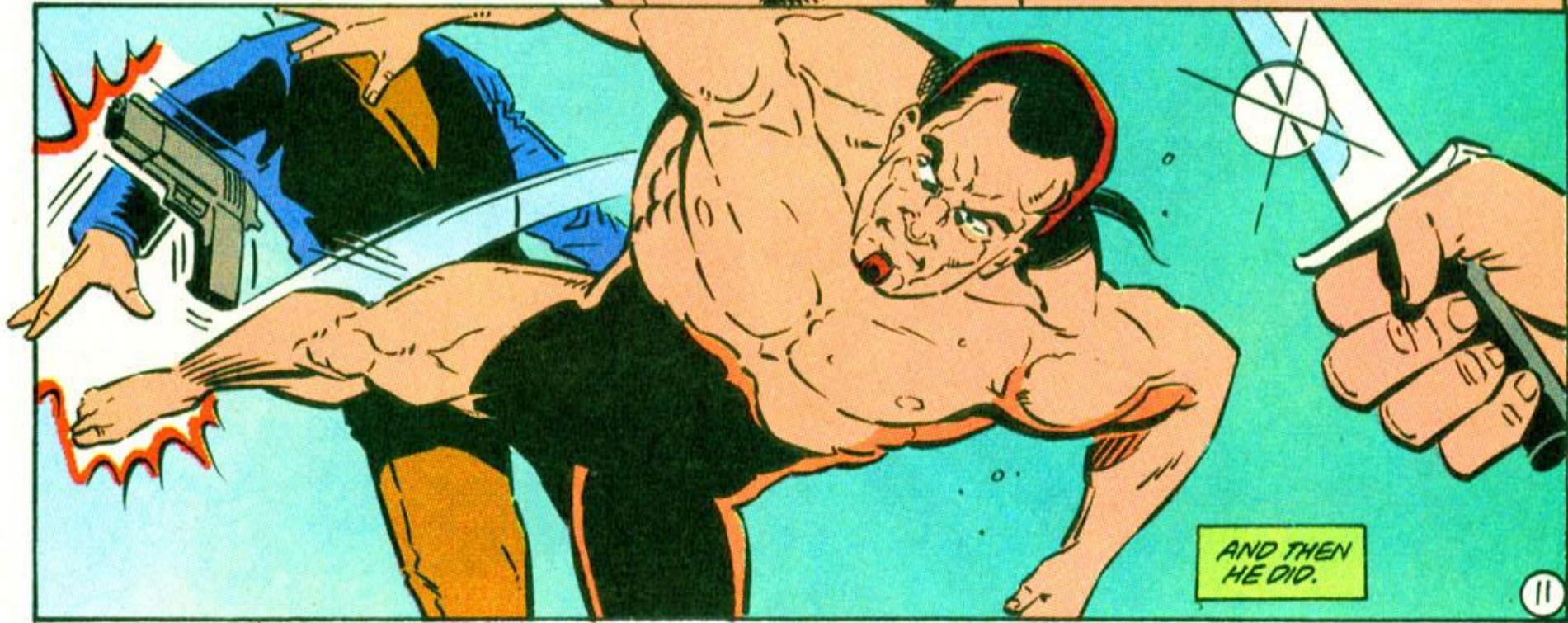
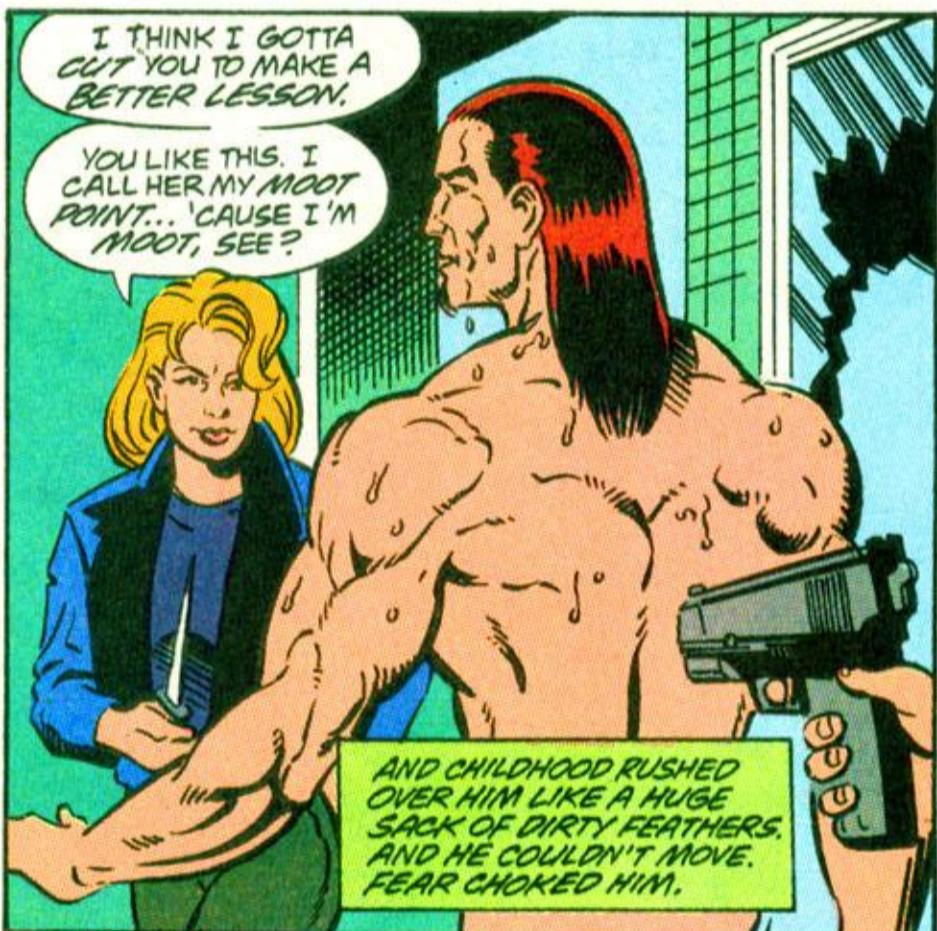
WHEN I DO IT? WHAT
DO YOU THINK, HUMAN,
THAT I AM SOME WANDERING
MOUNTEBANK, WITH HOLLOW
COURAGE AND A PIG'S BLADDER
ILLED WITH BLOOD?

IT IS
DONE.

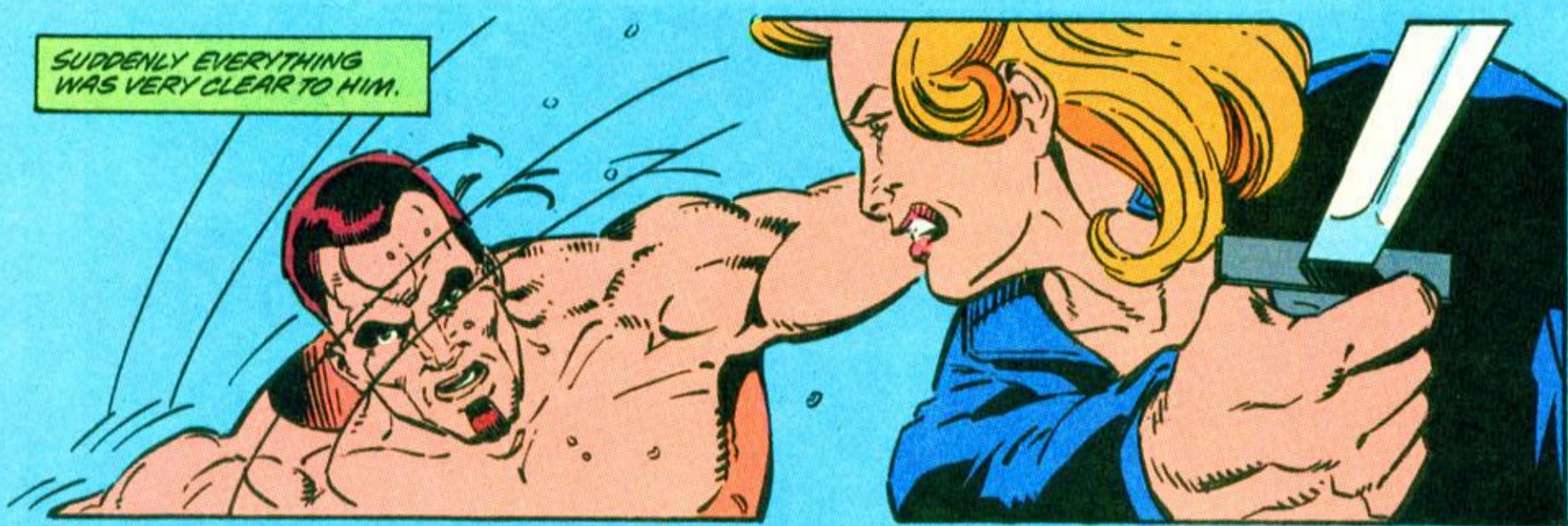


HE MANAGED TO GET UP AND STAGGER INSIDE, WHERE HE PROMPTLY FELL ASLEEP. SOMEHOW, HE DIDN'T HURT NEARLY AS MUCH AS HE HAD.

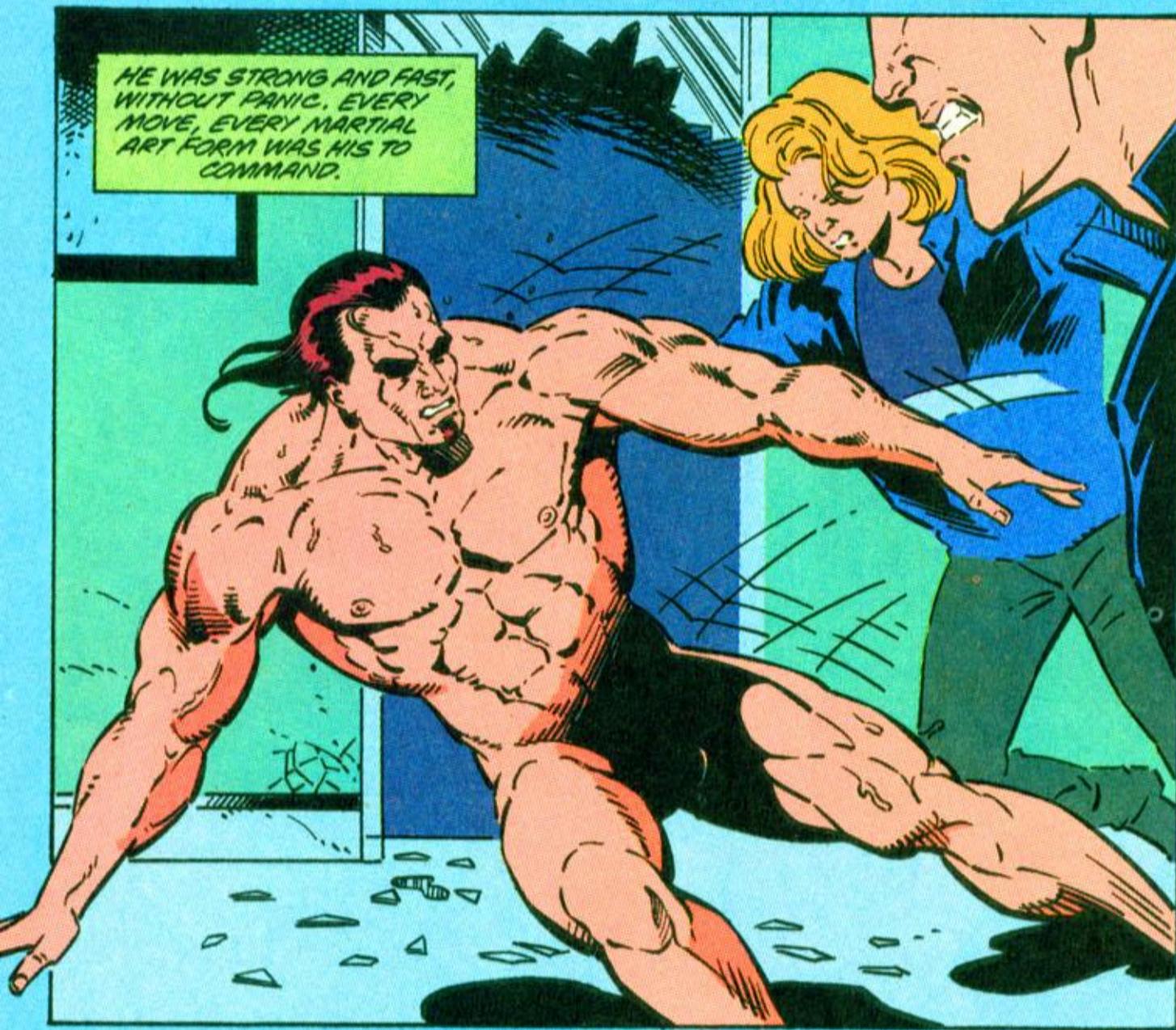




SUDDENLY EVERYTHING
WAS VERY CLEAR TO HIM.



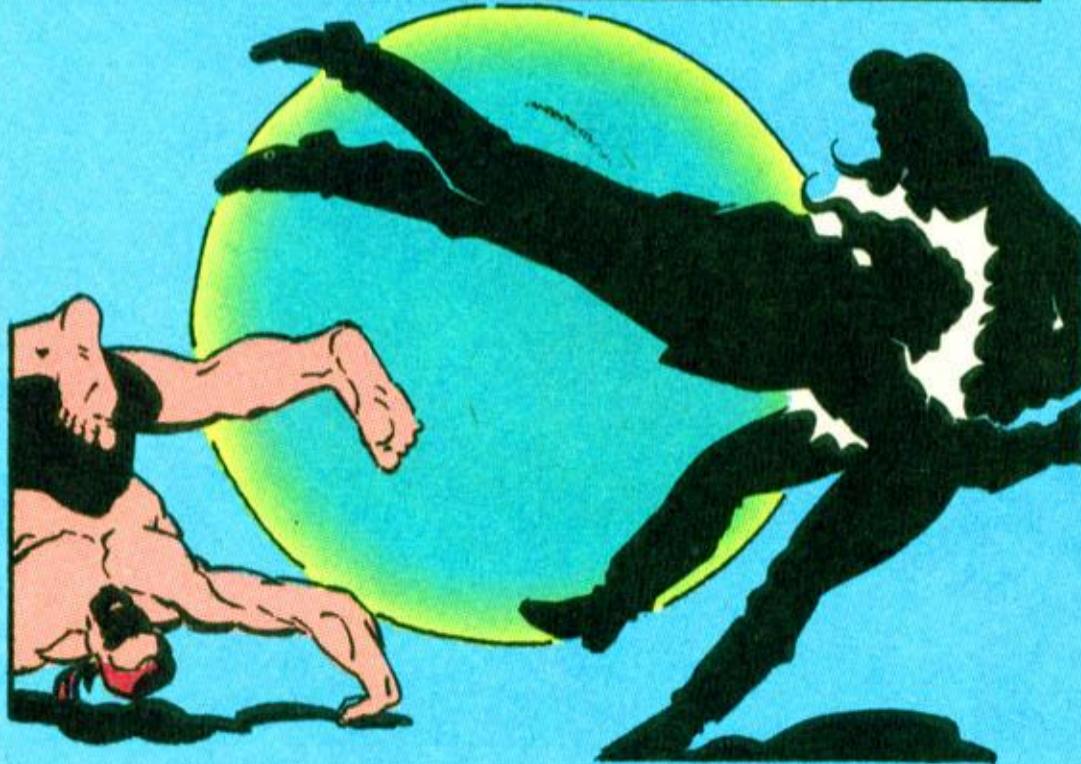
HE WAS STRONG AND FAST,
WITHOUT PANIC. EVERY
MOVE, EVERY MARTIAL ART
FORM WAS HIS TO
COMMAND.



HE KNEW ALL THE MILI-
TARY WISDOM OF THE
AGES... THE STRATEGY
AND TACTICS OF EACH
BATTLE FROM THE
BEGINNING OF TIME.



HE FOUGHT WITH CONTROLLED FURY AND
A GROWING LUST FOR VICTORY. NOTHING
COULD STAND BEFORE HIM NOW!



AND VICTORY WAS SO SWEET!

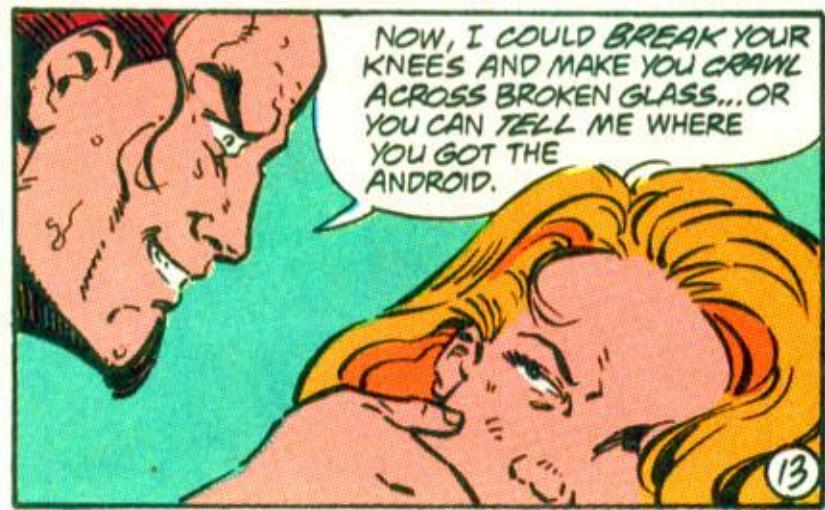
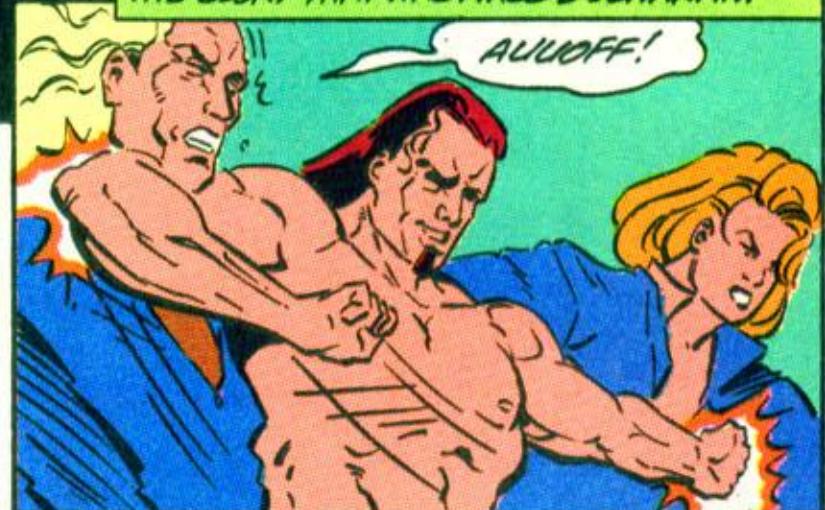
Pretty good.
He's an android,
right? Where'd you
get him, little girl?

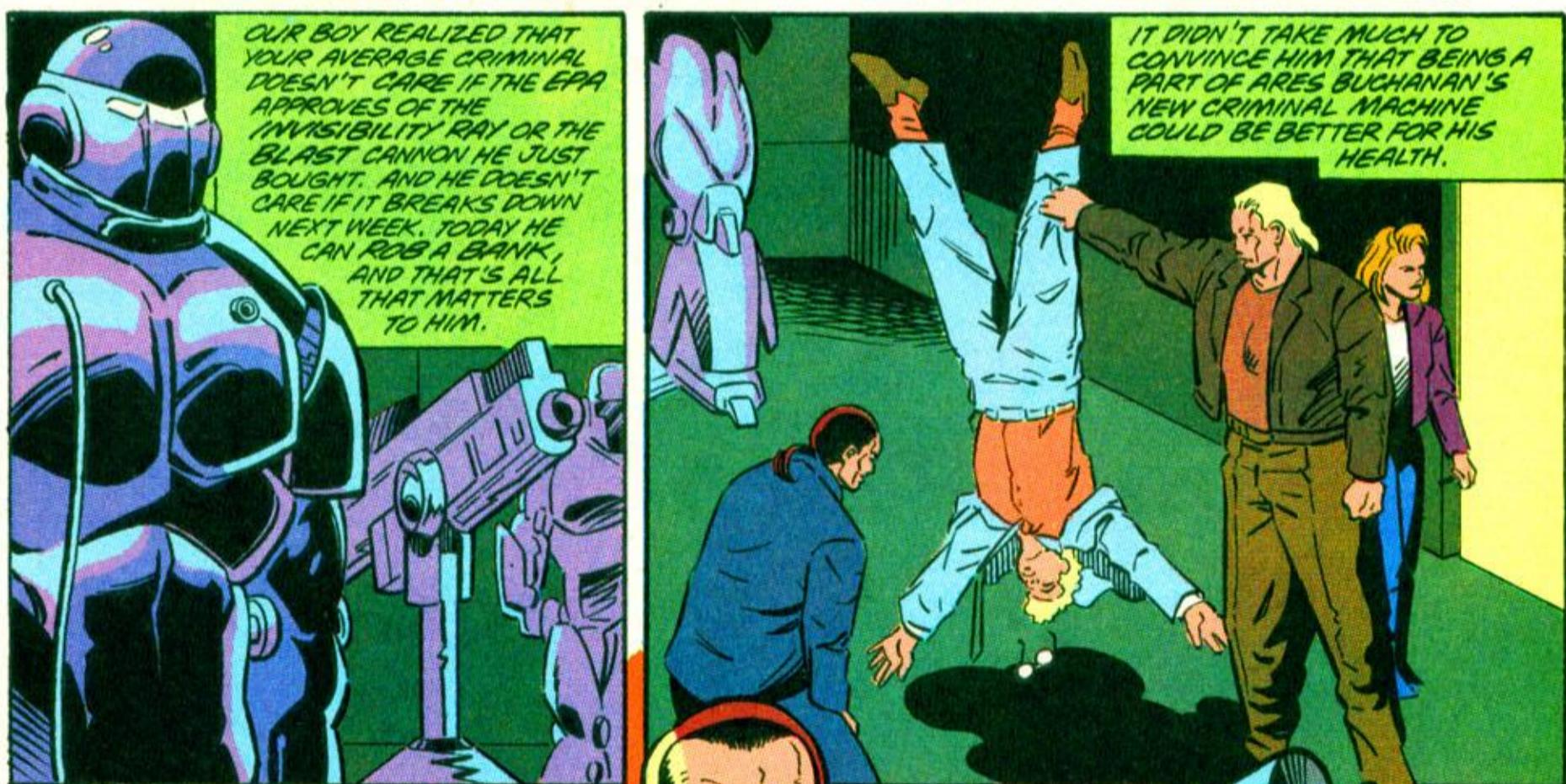
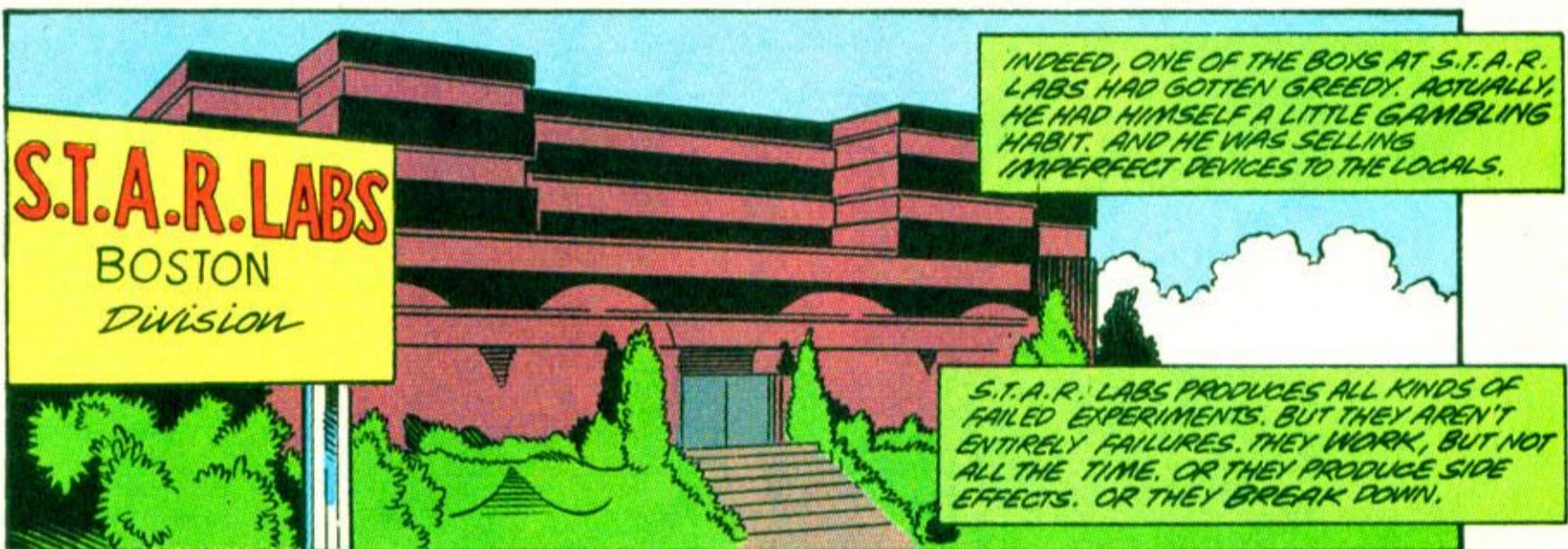
Like I'm
gonna tell
you, loser!

HE WAS STRONG, GLORIOUSLY STRONG!
THE ANDROID HAD THE STRENGTH OF FIVE
MEN AND YET HE WAS NOTHING AGAINST
THE GLORY THAT WAS ARES BUCHANAN.

LEAVE HIM
ALONE, YOU...

AUOOF!

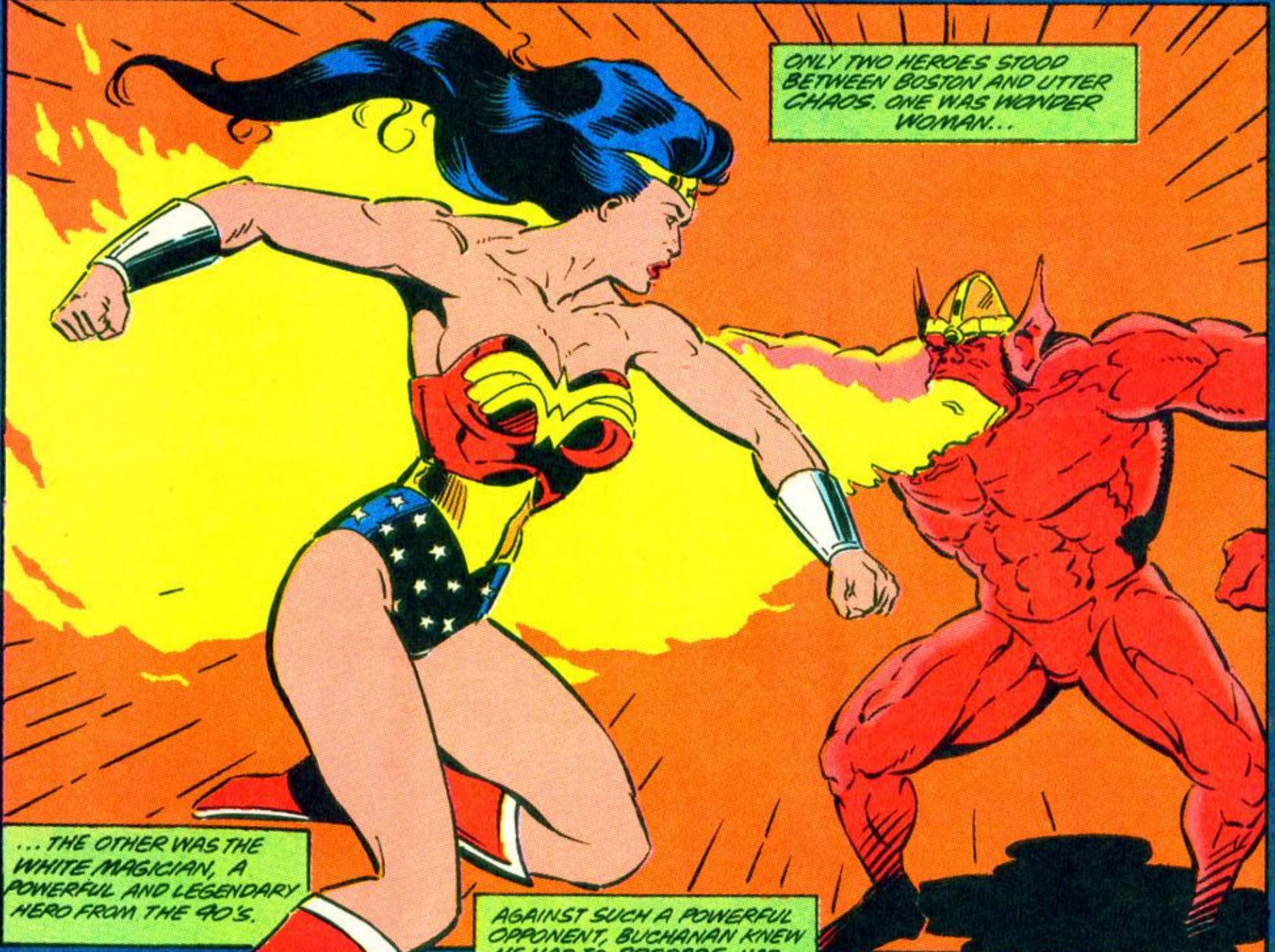




IN A SERIES OF LIGHTNING RAIDS,
ARES DRIED UP THE FLOW OF ILLEGAL
WEAPONS INTO THE CITY, EXCEPT FOR
HIS OWN.

SOON, EVEN THE VARIOUS
MOB FACTIONS WERE
FORCED TO COME TO HIM
FOR GUNS.

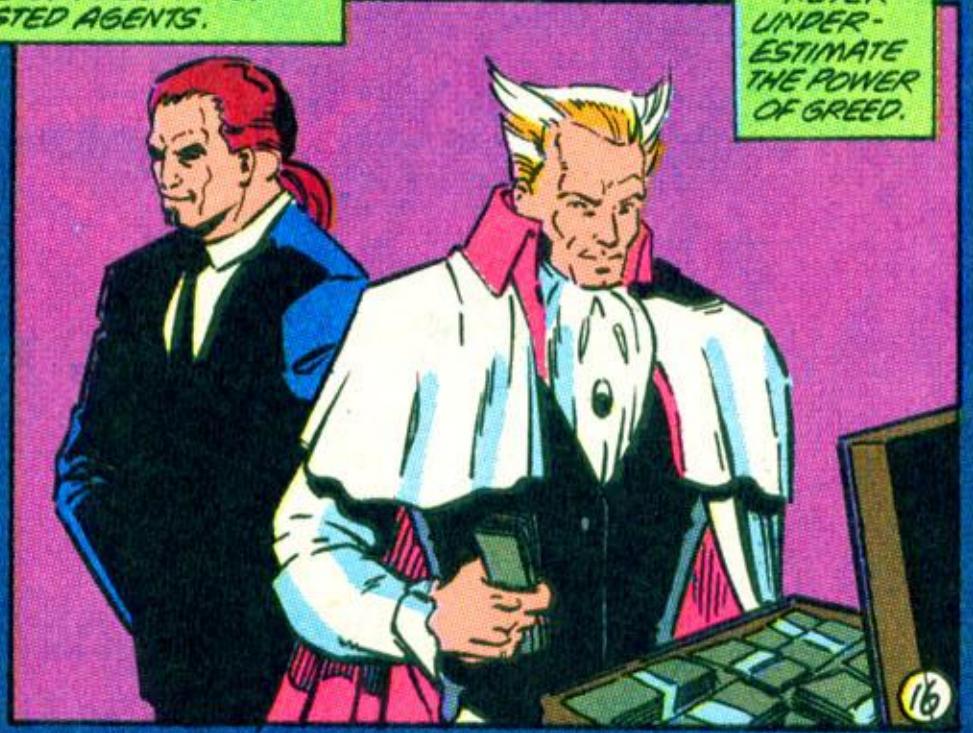
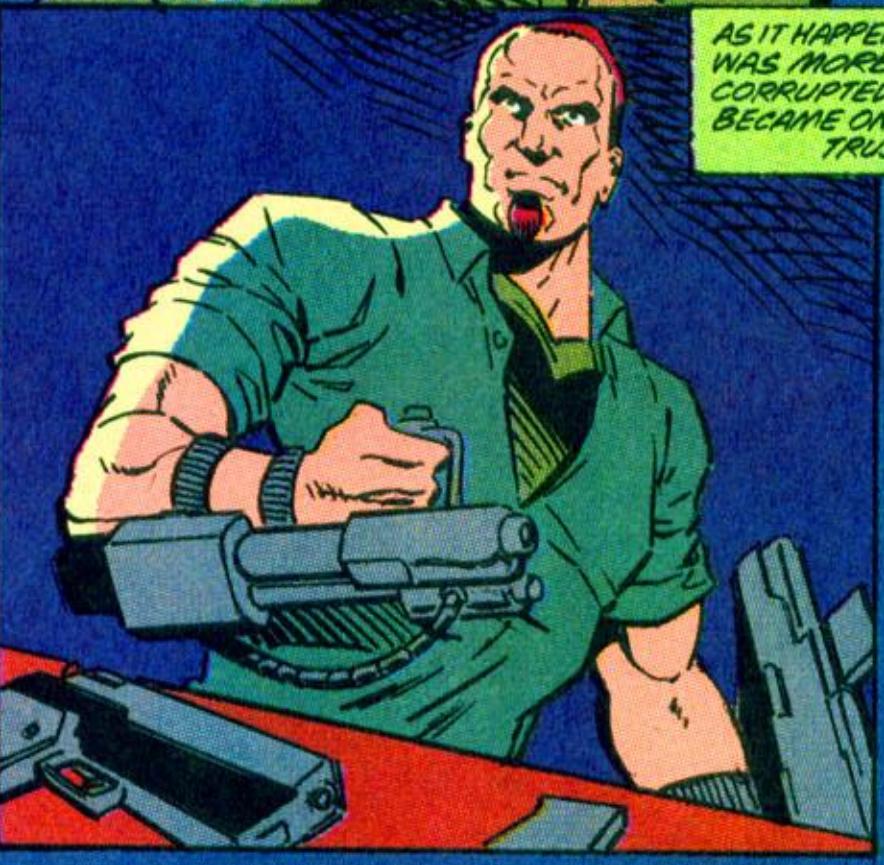




ONLY TWO HEROES STOOD
BETWEEN BOSTON AND UTTER
CHAOS. ONE WAS WONDER
WOMAN...

...THE OTHER WAS THE
WHITE MAGICIAN, A
POWERFUL AND LEGENDARY
HERO FROM THE 90'S.

AGAINST SUCH A POWERFUL
OPPONENT, BUCHANAN KNEW
HE HAD TO PREPARE, HAD
TO BE READY WITH AN OVER-
WHELMING DISPLAY OF POWER...



WONDER WOMAN WAS
A DIFFERENT STORY.

HE USED THE WHITE MAGICIAN
TO MAROON HER IN SPACE.

SHE FOUGHT
HER WAY BACK.

WORSE THAN THAT,
SHE WAS ACTUALLY
DAMPENING DOWN THE
BLOODLUST IN THE CITY,
MAKING A DIFFERENCE.
HE COULDN'T HAVE THAT!

WORSE, SHE HAD A REAL TALENT FOR TURNING
ENEMIES INTO ALLIES. IT WAS NO WONDER THE
WARGOD ARES HAD FOUND HER HIS MOST
DANGEROUS OPPONENT.

BUCHANAN HIRED THE MOST DANGEROUS ASSASSIN ON EARTH, THE UNSTABLE MAYFLY, TO KILL HER. BUT AS WE ALL KNOW, THIS WAS ALSO A MISTAKE.

THE AMAZON SURVIVED. HE WAS FORCED TO ELIMINATE THE ASSASSIN, BUT NOT BEFORE SHE HAD LEFT A CLUE AS TO HIS IDENTITY. "THE WONDER WOMAN" WAS ON HIS TRAIL. AND SHE WOULD, IN THE MONTHS TO COME, CLOSE IN ON HIM LIKE SOME GREAT BEAST OF PREY.

HIS ONLY CHOICE WAS TO SET A SNARE...

HE HAD HIS OWN WONDER WOMAN, YOU SEE. ONE WHO WAS INFINITELY GUILEFUL, AND WHO COULD KISS OR KILL WITH EQUAL EASE.



HER NAME WAS DONNA MILTON. SHE WAS ASSISTANT DA WHEN THEY FIRST MET. SHE WAS FIERCE, AMBITIOUS AND RUTHLESS.



FIRM BUT FAIR? NOT OUR GIRL.

LISTEN TO ME, BUCHANAN. WE'VE GOT YOU ON RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS. WE CAN BUST YOU AND SQUEEZE YOU ANYTIME. BUT IF YOU WEAR A WIRE...



YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART. THE OFFER'S ONLY ON THE TABLE ANOTHER 5 SECONDS...4...3...2...



THE LITTLE SNOT ISN'T GONNA TALK. AND I'VE GOT A MEETING WITH THE MAYOR AT TWO...



OF COURSE, COMPARED WITH HER BOSS, SHE WAS MOTHER TERESA.

WHAT YOU'VE GOTTA UNDERSTAND, YOU LITTLE MAGGOT, IS THAT THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD... LEADERS, THE ONES WHO COUNT...



AND VERMIN LIKE YOU! I COULD KILL YOU RIGHT NOW AND NO ONE WOULD CARE! NO ONE!



WHEN THEY MET AGAIN,
THE WORLD HAD CHANGED.

HELLO.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU MEAN,
SUMMONING US
HERE THIS WAY,
BUCHANAN...

I DON'T DO BUSINESS
WITH CRIMINALS,
HOWEVER SUCCESSFUL...

ACTUALLY, YOU BOTH DO. THIS IS A
LIST OF PAYOFFS AND RIGGED TRIALS
GOING BACK YEARS. I JUST WANTED
TO INFORM YOU, THAT YOU BOTH
WORK FOR ME NOW.

SHUT UP,
JACK.
LET HIM
TALK.

I'VE DECIDED
IT'S MORE EFFEC-
TIVE TO PUT CITY
OFFICIALS ON A
REGULAR
SALARY.

YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO
ME! I'M IN CHARGE...
I'M THE LEADER...

SHUT UP, YOU BLUBBERING
FOOL. HE'S GOT US. HE'S
RUNNING THINGS FROM
HERE ON OUT.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE
GOD IN THIS CITY FOR
NOW, MR. BUCHANAN...
BUT EVEN GOD NEEDS
A LAWYER.

HE LIKED HER
STYLE.

SHE BECAME HIS... MY LAWYER AND SHORTLY AFTER THAT, COVER AND RIGHT HAND. FOR THIS WAS MY BIOGRAPHY YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO, OF COURSE.

IT WAS HER SUGGESTION THAT SHE WORK BEHIND ENEMY LINES... BECOMING WONDER WOMAN'S CONFIDANTE AND FRIEND.

TRADING ON HER WEAKNESS AND NAIVETE, BECOMING EVERYTHING TO HER... AND DESTROYING HER.



EVEN HER PREGNANCY BECAME A WAY OF DISARMING SUSPICION. IT BECAME NORMAL FOR HER TO GO EVERYWHERE WITH THE AMAZON, FOLLOWING WITH HER FROM CLUE TO CLUE...

SUBTLETY, CAREFULLY GUIDING HER HERE, TO THE FOCUS OF MY POWER...

WHERE SHE GUILELESSLY, STUPIDLY, FELL INTO MY TRAP... JUST LIKE A WOMAN...!





DIDN'T
SHE?



NEXT ISSUE:

WONDER WOMAN has been bound by a man! Helpless in the clutches of Ares Buchanan, WARMASTER.

Can she escape? Or is she doomed at his mercies?

.....

This issue, special thanks go to
**Aaron McClellan and Mike
Manley**
for inking assists.

WONDER WOMAN

Dear Brian,

I was in a local comics shop a couple of weeks ago and saw a young girl running around the stacks not quite sure what she wanted to buy. Her father was asking my friend and me about several titles and received our high recommendations for BATMAN and SUPERMAN. My attention shifted back to the little girl who had grabbed CATWOMAN and was gleefully paging through, telling her Daddy that she had to have it. I explained a little of the background of the CATWOMAN book and she beamed her appreciation.

She was remarkably personable for such a young girl, and I wanted to congratulate her folks for their obvious parenting skills. As we looked at the comics, I spied a stack of back issues of WONDER WOMAN and led her to them. After explaining that it was about a female super-hero, she began grabbing issues off the shelf. "Look, she's in space!" she screamed, apparently willing to buy the entire run. Not thinking Mom and Dad would look kindly on a stranger's influence if it meant spending a fortune, I set her up with the five latest issues. "I got WONDER WOMAN!" she screamed, dancing away, showing her Dad. Although the mature adult in me smiled indulgently, I recognized her emotion. It's how I feel every month when Brian Bolland's newest cover strikes my eye.

Having been concentrating on converting yet another fan to my favorite title, I hadn't been looking at the girl with the impartial eye of my friend. "You know who that is? That's Raven-Symone, from the *Cosby Show*." Ah, the joys of living in L.A. I guess she could have bought the stack.

Because screaming "I have WONDER WOMAN!" doesn't seem as appropriate at my age, I shall attempt to show my enthusiasm in this missive. Issue #79 was spectacular. I don't know a person in this country who has not spent time in a shopping mall. Yet against this ordinary, mundane location, the contrasting life-and-death drama gains a poignancy it could never have in the stereotypical superhero battle. It was wonderful to see Etta Candy playing an integral, courageous role. It's easy to forget that those with superpowers don't have exclusive rights to the word hero.

But in this particular book, it always comes down to Diana. Again, Mr. Loeb has given us the portrait of a woman whose gentleness, selflessness and honor coexist in harmony with the skills and training of a warrior. This duality is, perhaps, one of the most interesting facets of her personality. It gives us the depth of character that keeps this reader shouting,

"I have WONDER WOMAN!" Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joanna Sandmark
Studio City, CA

And thus ends another episode of "Comic Books of the Rich and Famous!"

Great story! Thanks, Joanna, for service above and beyond the call in spreading the word about WONDER WOMAN and comics in general. And, given the pressures inherent in the life of your average child megastar, I'm sure young Ms. Raven-Symone also appreciates the escapism—especially since she's starting work on her new show, Hangin' With Mr. Cooper. I don't think any of us realizes just how much effort goes into upstaging all those goofy adults week after week.

Hopefully Raven will have been so turned on by our book that she has become a devoted fan by now. So if you're out there, Raven-Symone, welcome to WONDER WOMAN and a lifetime of reading enjoyment. Now, why not see if you can get Uncle Cos to buy, oh say, several thousand copies of our book every month.



Dear Brian,

I brought my two-inch-high stack of comics home this week, sat down and read my WONDER WOMAN #79. Mentally staggered.

I read SWAMP THING. Read WW again. Went on to SPECTRE, FLASH, BATMAN #500, LEGIONNAIRES, WW for the third time. Now I can't stand it anymore; SUPERMAN and BLACK ORCHID, et al., will just have to wait.

YOU CAN'T LEAVE DIANA LYING IN A POOL OF BLOOD FOR THIRTY DAYS! More directly, you can't leave us fans writhing in anguish for four weeks.

Oh. I guess you can. You dirty rats.
This is great!

I've often wondered what would happen, now that Diana dresses more conventionally, should she meet a threat requiring a part of her costume she isn't wearing; in this case, her bracelets. Now I know. Compounded by Flash's helplessness, Etta's presence and the need to take Mayfly alive, this has culminated in serious injury for Diana.

The philosophy of "taking the spear"—Etta's prenuptial and earthy speculation aside—explains much of Diana's fighting techniques: she's often been shown to absorb substantial punishment before she retaliates. The Amazons apparently evolved a pretty fatalistic outlook—Diana's observations here ("It's a good way to die") and in previous storylines substantiates this grim doctrine.

DC COMICS

1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

JENETTE KAHN, President & Editor-in-Chief

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I guess there's no question of "sisterhood" with Mayfly, who appears to be totally amoral, though I wouldn't rule it out completely, since Diana's reached rapprochement with both Silver Swan and the Cheetah previously. I was happy to see Etta's strengths portrayed and surprised to see her bald assessment of Mayfly—"So long, bitch"—in a Code book. Seemed a totally accurate description to me, though.

We know Diana will survive this trauma; otherwise Buchanan wouldn't bother sending his nasty little lawyer to infiltrate Diana's home, presumably to worm her way into the Princess's confidence later. Still, a head injury like Diana sustains here is a serious matter. Advance says that, soon, her powers will become erratic—as a result of this wound? What I gather from panel 2, p. 21 (those page numbers went away again, Brian) is that the cartridge passed primarily by or through (I can't tell if it's a glancing blow or if the bullet lodged) the temporal lobe of the cerebrum, which is important for hearing, memory, and a sense of self and time. It also connects to the primitive limbic system, seat of emotional awareness. The cerebrum also contains the corpus striatum, masses of nerve cells whose functions are believed to regulate certain aspects of motion and to coordinate patterns of primitive motor activity, according to my encyclopedia and *The Mind* by Dr. Richard M. Restak. There could also have been injury to the cerebellum, which regulates and coordinates muscular activity and, probably by concussion, to the medulla, parts of the brain stem and to the internal thalamus and hypothalamus. The other wounds, though painful, aren't life-threatening.

In short, the potential is great for Diana to be Really Messed Up from this, not only physically but emotionally. Brain cells don't normally regenerate, but new dendrites can grow, new synapses can form and, in certain cases, the unaffected hemisphere of the brain has demonstrated the ability to slowly relearn what the other hemisphere lost.

If this is indeed your scenario, it could be a long journey back for Diana, fraught with all kinds of delicious perils and ramifications.

On the other hand, since super-types are, by definition SUPER and, in Diana's case, magically animated too, I could be completely wrong in my assumptions, in which case...never mind.

Indelicato's hair is brown, by the way.

About the nebulous Ms. Fry: why is she so indifferent to Diana's precarious fate on TV? Her star boarder may be dead: she clicks off the set, dismissing

the violence with an ostrichlike denial. I'm not sure I like this woman.

An excellent archery shot by Diana. I occasionally shoot (I'm still happy to hit any part of the target). Considering that the arrow appeared to be a light practice shaft, and the extreme range, I'd consider her accuracy nothing short of truly miraculous. But then, she's Wonder Woman and I'm not.

So now I have to impatiently wait another thirty days to see what happens. If your criteria for judging an exciting story includes the "can't wait" factor, then this one's a major success.

Left hanging,
Nancy Champion
Manassas, VA

Of course, while you're hanging you could reread FLASH again. That's always time well spent. Still, I understand what you're saying, and I appreciate your anxiousness.

As you've seen by now, the head wound wasn't that serious—though it obviously was serious enough to mess with Diana's powers big-time. Outwardly, she'll be recovering just fine, but something weird is definitely going on with the Amazing Amazon's amazing abilities. Talk about leaving you hanging...imagine how Diana feels.

As for that arrow shot, all in a day's work for someone trained to "take the spear."



Dear Brian and Ruben,

I'm certainly not the eloquent letter writer that Nancy Champion and Jim Jackson seem to be, but I do like WONDER WOMAN. So, instead of rambling on aimlessly about why I like it, I'll concisely list my top ten reasons for reading this wonderful title.

10) Brian Bolland does great covers.

9) You don't have mindless slugfests or multipart crossovers with other titles.

8) This comic has a great supporting cast, rivaled only by the SUPERMAN family of titles.

7) The colors are always bright and, well, colorful.

6) The lettering is always nice, too.

5) WONDER WOMAN never seems to have guest stars for the purpose of raising sales. They always have a function in the story.

4) There are always creative new ideas like "the world's first hemophiliac, super-fast assassin for hire."

3) Diana is such a fascinating character. She has so many complex sides to her personality. It's a pleasure reading her adventures.

2) Moder and Parks are probably one of the best art teams in comics today. Since their premiere, they've improved almost infinitely in quality. Each issue they seem to get better and better.

1) The linchpin of this title: Bill Loeb. His writing is really, really great. Nobody can write a comic like he can. First DR. FATE, then THE JAGUAR, now this. Don't lose this guy, ever.

Of course, I should thank the editorial team, who are responsible for all of the above. Congratulations, guys, and keep up the good work.

Ben Herman
Scarsdale, NY

Well, you don't have to thank us—though we appreciate being remembered

—but if you do, that makes your list a top ELEVEN. Even cooler than you first thought, eh?

Tell the world, we do comics right, with our eleven secret ingredients—just like the Colonel!



Dear Brian,

THANK YOU for printing my letter. I am a high school teacher and coach and rarely get a chance to write letters to the comic books I love so much, although I certainly have been making a greater effort to do so these days. (perhaps as many as two letters per month to the 25 titles I read regularly). I get the impression that editors at DC show preference for their regular letterhacks, which is fine by me as loyalty has its place. Inasmuch as I now see the various typos and awkward constructions I utilized in that letter, I am especially grateful that you deigned to print my letter (and perhaps a tad embarrassed as well).

At any rate, my comments this time around are a bit less esoteric and certainly briefer. First of all, Mayfly is a keeper in my view. So however this strange malady of hers plays out, please do not have her die anytime soon in the discharge of her powers. Secondly, I feel that the subplot involving Etta's diet obsession (have we determined that it is indeed anorexia?) is right on time. America may well have a problem with fatness right now, but it certainly also has a problem with obsessive dieting and a general superficiality in society regarding standards for what is and what is not "beautiful." I hope to see this subplot play out over several issues.

Finally, I felt a twinge at the suggestion that Diana may have Ed over some evening. I remain opposed to such a development, although I am not opposed to romance in Diana's life. I just cannot stomach Indelicato, a character I have never liked. To be truthful, the character brings out only pity from me.

Again, thanks for listening.

Bryan Ott
Highwood, IL

I'm sure that Diana's invitation was meant only in friendship in that charming sort of guileless way Diana has. No need to worry that much about romance blooming between Diana and Ed, though love is an ephemeral thing, so...

As for our supposed preference for our regular letterhacks, all I can say is that that is not strictly true. Our preference is always for thoughtful letters from anyone who writes. The fact that certain correspondents work to meet that criterion is what makes them regulars, not arbitrary loyalty. They earn their chance every time. And everyone who writes to us has to start with their first letter, as you did in that issue. And now, with your second, you've joined the ranks.

Sorry about Mayfly.



Dear Brian,

You pulled it out! I have to admit, I was about to tell my supplier to drop WONDER WOMAN from my subscription list. First Themyscira and Diana's

entire nation/family got bumped off in a gratuitous episode that was made even doper by having it resolved with a meaningless "good cry" scene featuring Dr. Fate as the required shoulder. (Are we supposed to understand that this is a Sensitive Women's Comic because the heroine weeps and another heroine says "there, there"? I was really ashamed to be caught reading that one.) Then along comes Mayfly—in the middle of a little sermon about eating disorders which registered as another big signpost saying "THIS is about WOMEN'S ISSUES! Looky!" I groaned, "Oh God, another assassin out for Diana, for no well-expressed reason. Get me out of here."

But oddly enough, I like the development in issue #79, even though Mayfly keeps going through a ridiculous buildup when all she really needs to do is pull the trigger. Maybe it's the refreshing change of having the women rescue a dizzy guy who's come inadvertently running into the middle of a situation. Maybe it's Etta using her wits and human resources and saying "So long, bitch" as a delightful counterpoint to the slightly turgid dialogue that we've come to expect from Diana (who tends to get a little too "Meaningful" at times when most of us would just be yelling something unprintable). Or maybe it's just the delightful wackiness of having this entire mortal confrontation take place in a shopping mall.

It doesn't hurt, either, that this entire showdown is basically between the women characters, and that no one's being New Age Female (or having crying fits) this time around. I was getting a little tired of confrontations that played off Diana's Themysciran Female Way of fighting (with editorial comments) against someone else's Insufficiently Male opposition (or even assistance).

Hanging on to see how this all comes out.

Yours truly,
Kate Murray
Arlington, VA

P.S. I'm glad to see a little honest female lechery in here, too. Taking the spear, indeed. Thanks, Etta.

Indeed! But let's not make too big a deal about that definition. Okay?

By the way, it's your horse and you certainly get up on it whenever the mood strikes, but getting cranked at the book for dealing with what you've dubbed "Women's Issues"—I call it "Human Interest," instead. The fact that this book's lead human happens to be a woman means that our issues will skew in that direction. It seems only natural to me...the knee-jerk liberal.



★ NEXT ISSUE ★

Diana takes the battle to Ares' turf and may be lucky to walk away alive—especially if she continues to trust Donna Milton! Be here for "Ares Rising: The Human Maze" by Bill, Lee, Ande, John Trish, Ruben and me.

Till then, take care.

—Brian Augustyn
rebel without a clue.