

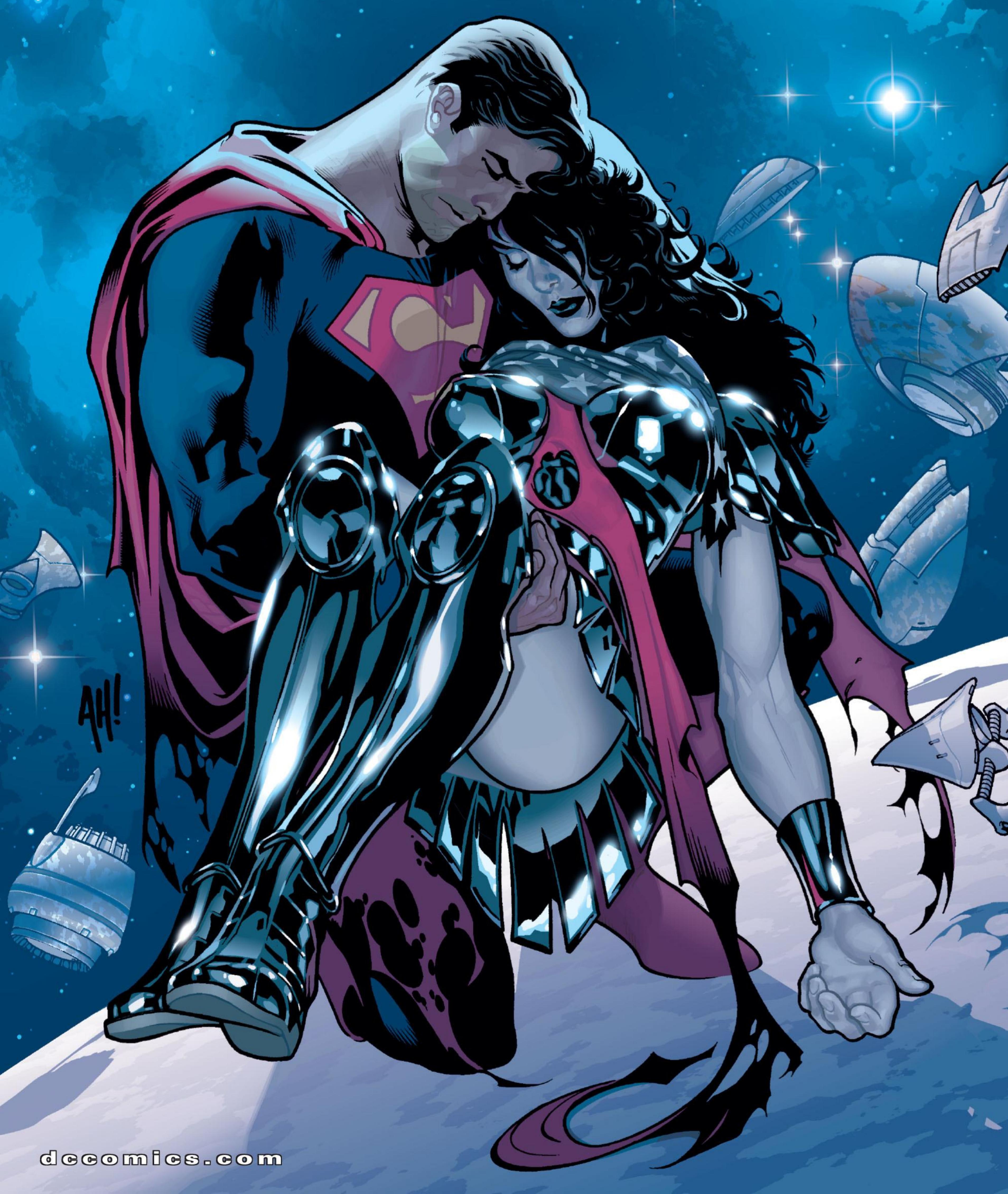
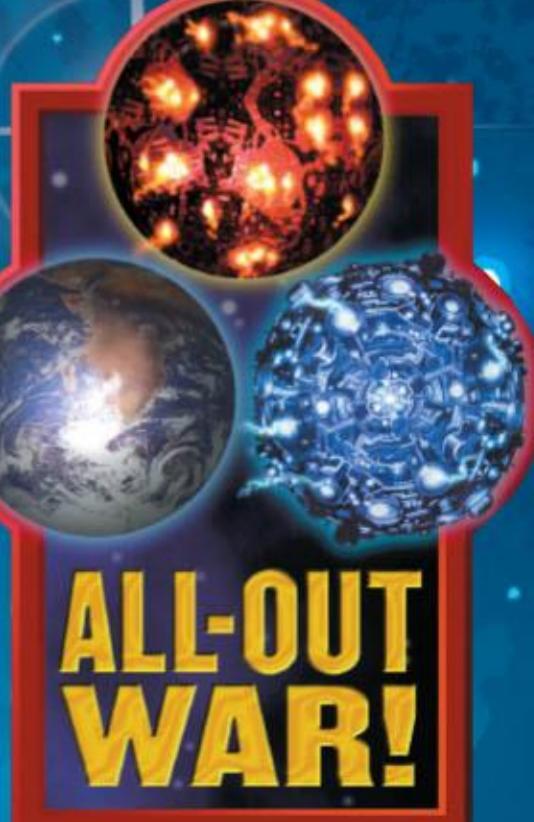


WONDER WOMAN

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LANNING







BUT NOW, HIPPOLYTA SHEDS EVEN THOSE TRAPPINGS, HER INSTINCTS CONSUMED BY HER ROLE AS THE MOTHER OF HER ONLY CHILD --

--AS SHE SEARCHES THE THRONGS OF THE SHREDDED AND THE DYING FOR HER DAUGHTER, DIANA-- A WOMAN WITH WHOM SHE SHARES THE NAME AND TITLE OF

WONDER WOMAN



WITH SO MANY TO SIFT THROUGH, SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.

HER NAME IS HIPPOLYTA, AND FOR OVER THREE THOUSAND YEARS, THIS WARRIOR WAS QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS OF PARADISE ISLAND.

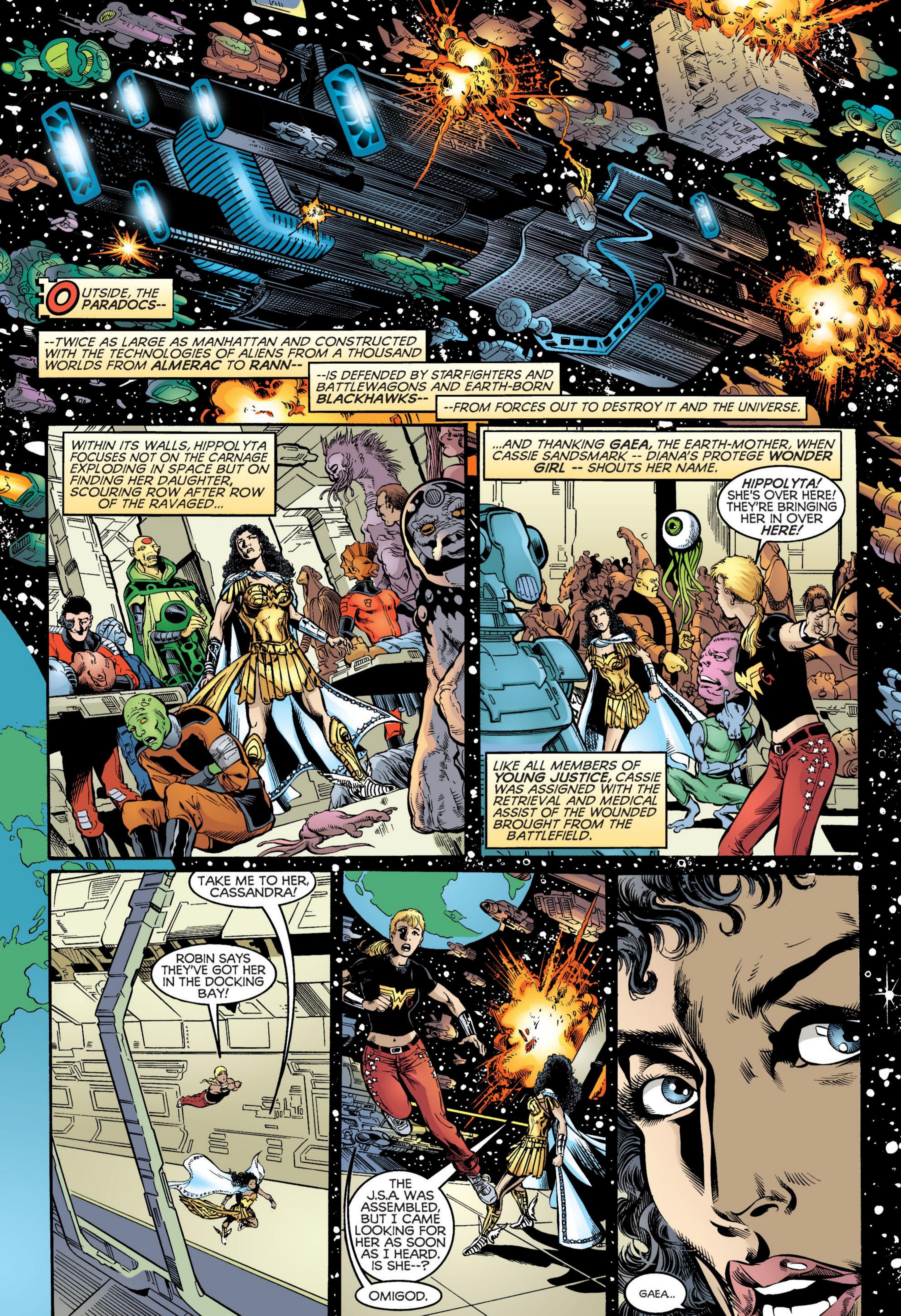
SHE RECENTLY FORSOOK HER ROYALTY TO CONTINUE HER ROLE AS A HEROINE ON THE OUTSIDE WORLD, TO GO FORTH AND TEACH AND PROTECT HUMANITY AS HER GODDESSES DECREED UPON HER CREATION.

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HER MOTHER'S DAUGHTER

Separations HEROIC AGE • Letters COMICRAFT
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WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON





BURIED DEEP BEHIND HER CHARRED SKIN AND SEALED EYES, DIANA'S MIND STRUGGLES TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS CLAWING AT HER SENSES:

"WHERE AM I? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY BODY?"

HER MEMORIES TWIST AND SLIDE...

"HERA HELP ME! THE CHEETAH?! A NEW CHEETAH..."

"...AND VANESSA... SHE'D BEEN TRANSFORMED... BOTH OF THEM WORKING WITH..."

"...CIRCE!"

SOON, OTHER MEMORIES CASCADE OVER THE OTHERS AS HER SKIN BUBBLES AND PEELS...

TOPEKA, KANSAS-- DESTROYED BY SOMETHING FROM SPACE... SUPERMAN, BATTLING GENERAL ZOD ABOVE BERLIN--

AND THEN, THE J.L.A. SUMMONS. THE EARTH, THE UNIVERSE-- WAS BEING ATTACKED BY A FORCE BEYOND NATURE AND REASON...

...IMPERIEX-- DESTROYER OF GALAXIES! IMPERIEX, WHO HAD COME TO ERADICATE THE UNIVERSE AND REIGNITE IT-- TO CREATE IT ANEW AND CRAFT IT IN ITS VISION OF PERFECTION.

HER EYES TWITCH AND SWELL AS DIANA REMEMBERS THE IMPERIEX PROBES-- SENT TO HOLLOW THE EARTH, TO TRANSFORM THE PLANET'S MASS INTO QUANTA-- ENERGY IMPERIEX WOULD ABSORB AND RESHAPE. ONE SUCH PROBE INCINERATED TOPEKA...

...AND THEN SHE THINKS OF THE VILE GOD DARKSEID AND HIS WRETCHED APOKOLIPS, APPEARING ABOVE METROPOLIS, AS ALIENS FROM A THOUSAND WORLDS JOINED FORCES WITH THE ARMIES OF EARTH.

REFUGEES OF IMPERIEX'S WORLD-DESTROYING PROBES, THE OFF-WORLDERS CAME WITH THEIR ARK AND LEGIONS OF MILITARY CRAFT. THEY WERE MOBILIZED WITH THE J.L.A. TO STOP THE PROBES...

AND DIANA REMEMBERS THE CARNAGE THOSE PROBES CAUSED... SHE REMEMBERS J'ONN J'ONZZ, GREEN LANTERN, FLASH AND--

"I WAS GOING TO DESTROY IT BEFORE IT COULD DESTROY ANYTHING ELSE. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT IT WOULD RELEASE SO MUCH ENERGY."

"I DIDN'T KNOW..."

<HER CONVULSING CONTINUES. PERHAPS WE SHOULD INCREASE HER SEDATIVES AND BEGIN DISSECTION...>

-Ugh-

STAND BACK! SHE'S NOT IN CONTROL OF HER BODY.

SHE COULD KILL YOU!

DIANA, IT'S YOUR MOTHER.

REMEMBER THE SKILLS I GAVE YOU.
MOVE YOUR BODY THROUGH YOUR PAIN. FOCUS YOUR SPIRIT BEYOND THE PHYSICAL.

FOCUS. GAIN CONTROL.

Shhhh, THAT'S MY GIRL.

Shhhh...

CASSIE, QUICKLY--
IN MY PACK...
... THERE ARE
THREE POUCHES.
GET THEM!

JUST SMOTHER HER SKIN IN THE SALVES. THEY'LL HELP SOOTHE AND HEAL THE BURNS.

QUICKLY!
BEFORE HER SKIN ERODES!

h

OURS LATER, AFTER SHE HEARS THAT THE J.S.A. WAS SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR MISSION-- THEY WERE ABLE TO DESTROY IMPERIEX'S COMMAND SHIP-- HIPPOLYTA RETURNS TO TENDING THOSE WOUNDED IN THE FIRST PROBE ASSAULT...

FROM WHAT I CAN MAKE OUT, THIS ALIEN COMPUTER SAYS YOUR BODY IS REGENERATING AT AN ACCELERATED RATE, DIANA.

YOU'RE HEALING.
EPIONE
WOULD GO MAD HERE, I THINK. SHE'S NEVER TRUSTED MACHINES AS HEALERS--

--DESPITE SEEING ALL OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDICAL INVENTIONS IN PATRIARCH'S WORLD.

"THEY WOULDN'T NEED SUCH MACHINES IF THEY TREATED THEIR BODIES AS THEY SHOULD," SHE'D SAY. I WONDER HOW SHE'D FEEL IF SHE KNEW WE WERE USING SUCH DEVICES NOW, IN CONJUNCTION WITH HER REMEDIES...?

I MISS YOU, DIANA.
I KNOW WE HAVEN'T BEEN TERRIBLY CLOSE IN RECENT MONTHS. I KNOW YOU DON'T AGREE WITH THE CHANGES I'VE MADE IN OUR LIVES, IN MY LIFE...

BUT I HOPE ONE DAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY I LEFT THE THRONE BEHIND ME. I HOPE ONE DAY YOU'LL ACCEPT ME AS A PEER, AND NOT A NUISANCE.

I THINK OUR GODDESSES WOULD FIND IT A GLORIOUS THING IF WE COULD SOMEHOW FIND A WAY TO WORK TOGETHER TO SPREAD THEIR IDEALS.

I KNOW I WOULD.

WHATEVER HAPPENS, DIANA...

...I WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR MOTHER.

AND I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.

DON'T COME CLOSER. STAY AWAY FROM MY DAUGHTER.

(PLEASE-- I MEAN YOU NO HARM.)

YOUR DAUGHTER-- SHE FREED ME FROM SLAVERY. SHE RETURNED MY SIGHT AND GAVE ME A NAME.>*

(JULIA, DIANA CALLED ME JULIA.)

I'M SORRY-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

*(...GOTRANSLA
ABROK, YOG-MOR
YOG-AMAGED...)*

SHE CLAIMED HER INTEGRITY-- HER NOBILITY-- WERE TRAITS SHE LEARNED FROM YOU. SHE ENDED YEARS OF SLAVERY AND GENOCIDE IN THE SANGTEE EMPIRE, SHE SAID, BECAUSE SHE WAS INSPIRED BY YOUR EXAMPLE.

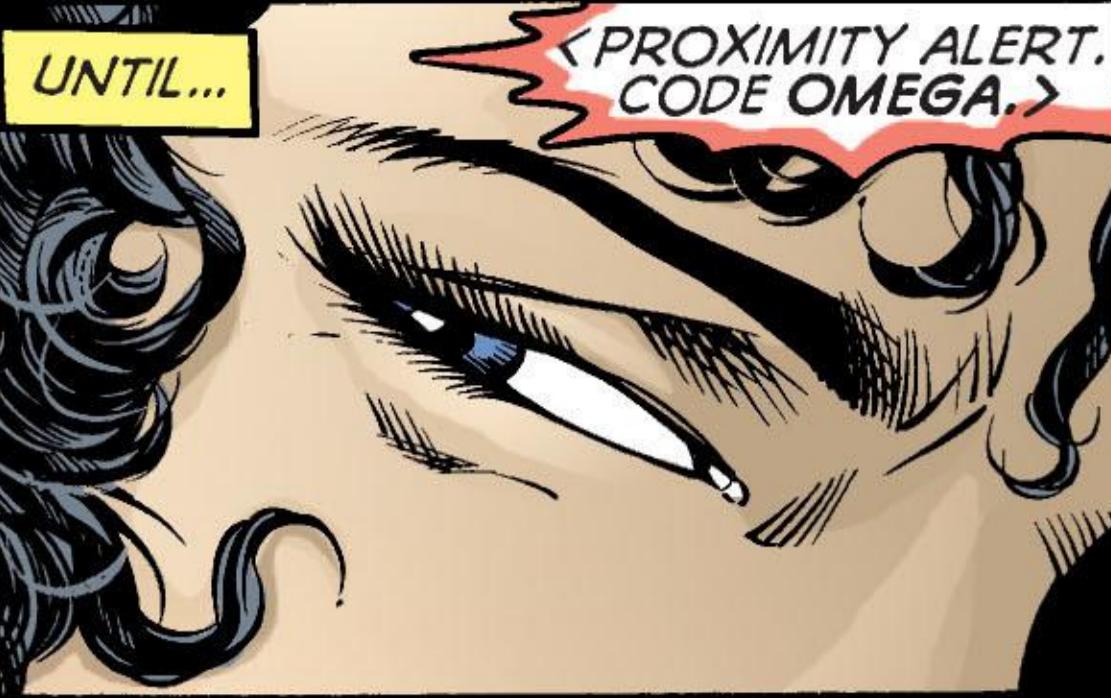
(I JUST CAME TO SAY THANK YOU. AND TO TELL YOU YOUR DAUGHTER IS A LEGEND ACROSS HALF THIS GALAXY...)

"...BECAUSE OF YOU."

 TRANSLATED FROM A DAXAMITE/ENGLISH HYBRID.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTRUDE, BUT YOUR DAUGHTER SPOKE OF YOU OFTEN.

AND HOURS PASS, AND THE EARTH SPINS ON ITS AXIS, AND FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, IT FEELS LIKE PEACE...



SENSORS COUNT TWO OF THEM MOVING AT
SUBLIGHT SPEED-- THEY'RE HEADED RIGHT
FOR US.



"THEY WANT
THE PARADOCS!"

"X'HAL HELP US--
THEY'RE TEARING
THE ARK APART"



