



GUEST-STARRING: Deathstroke!

WONDER WOMAN®

SHE'S
BACK!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AA
AUTHORITY

THE STUNNING
RETURN OF
COMICS'
GREATEST
HEROINE!

...MISS
ME?



BOLLAND

THE THRILLING
CONCLUSION TO
WONDER WOMAN
SPECIAL #1!

LOEDS • THOMPSON • TANGHAL

WONDER WOMAN

Created By William Moulton Marston

IF THIS BRIDE IS
NOT STURDIER THAN
THE LAST ONE,
BARON...

OPERATION:
CHEETAH
PART TWO

STOP WORRYING,
DRAX. PRINCESS DIANA
HAS PROVEN HER
SUPERIORITY TO THE
CHEETAH MANY TIMES.

WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS, PLOT.
TOM PEYER, SCRIPT. JILL THOMPSON,
PENCILER. ROMEO TANGHAL, INKER.
NANSI HOOGLAHAN, COLORIST.
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER. DAN THORSLAND,
EDITOR

YOU SOUNDED JUST AS CONFIDENT ABOUT
THE CHEETAH BEFORE SHE REVERTED TO
HER PITIFUL HUMAN STATE.

SHUT UP,
WOMAN-- OR I
WILL GIVE YOU
MORE.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

YOU ARE CHARGING ME A GREAT
DEAL OF POWER IN RETURN FOR
THIS LOVELY SHELL.

SURELY YOU WILL
NOT MIND IF I INSPECT
THE MERCHANDISE?



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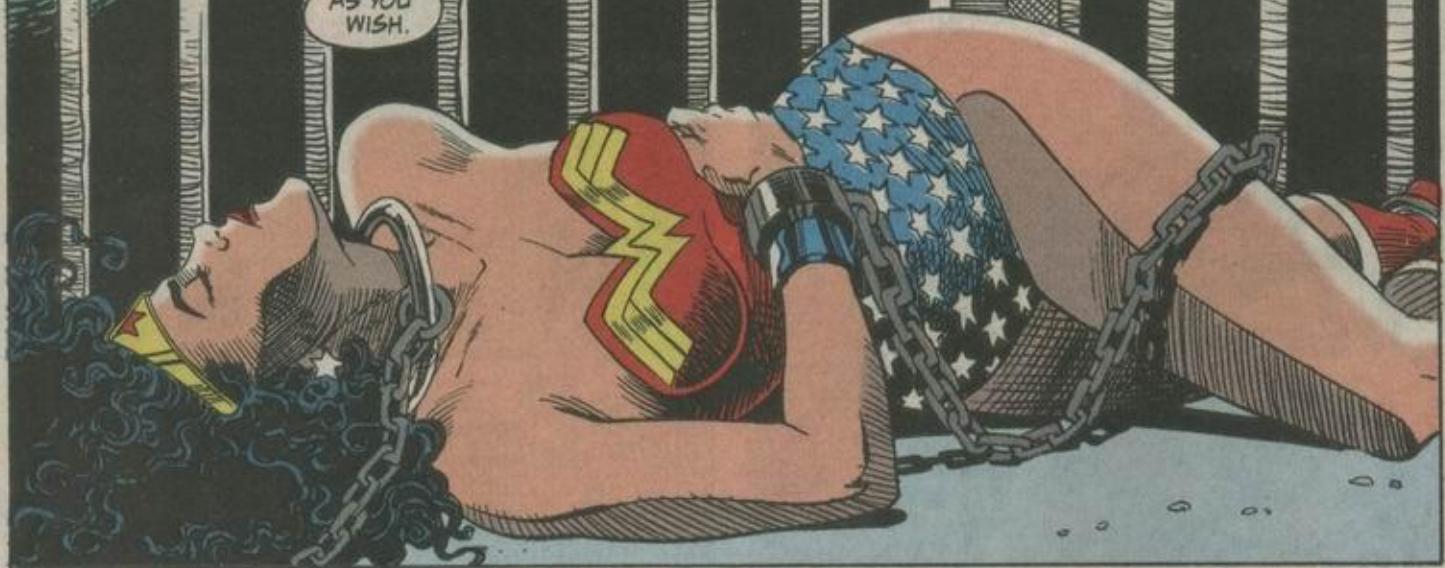
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HER PUPILS, BARON...
I SAW THAT ONE IS LARGER
THAN THE OTHER, INDICATING...

...A CONCUSSION,
YES.

WE HAD BETTER
HASTEN THE
NUPTIALS.

AS YOU
WISH.



DON'T WORRY, MY FRIEND; SHE'LL HOLD UP.
WONDER WOMAN IS FIRST-CLASS WARES,
AS BEFITTING YOUR HERITAGE.

PHILISTINE.

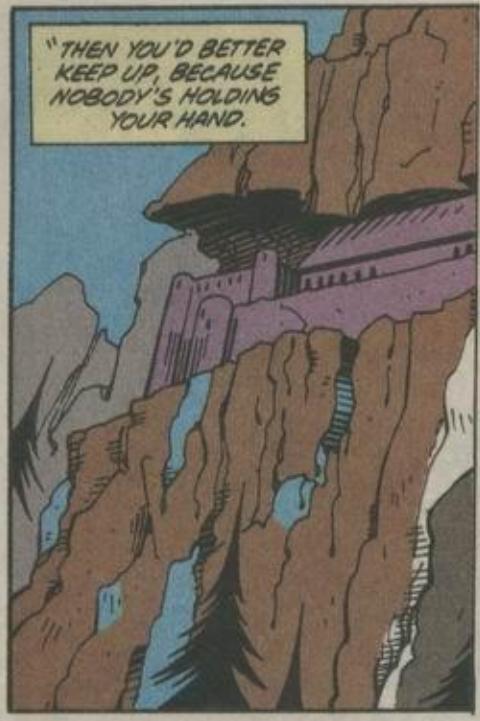
"THEY'RE
IN THERE
SOMEWHERE..."

...DIANA, THE BARON,
AND THE -DEVIL-KNOWS-
WHAT. ANYONE WHO DOESN'T
HAVE THE STOMACH BETTER
BACK OUT NOW...

...INDELICATO.

SHUT UP, DEATHSTROKE.
DIANA'S PAYING YOU FOR
BACK-UP AND I'M WATCHING
HER INVESTMENT.





"LET'S HOPE THE PRINCESS DOESN'T GET CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE!"

THEY'RE GONE!

THANK YOU, LORD PROTEUS...

YOUR GIFT OF ILLUSION * HAS BOUGHT ME THE PRIVACY I NEED!

* SEE THE WONDER WOMAN / DEATHSTROKE SPECIAL, STILL ON SALE! --DAN

BUT IT MAY NOT HAVE BOUGHT ME TIME! I'VE GOT TO ACT QUICKLY...

CRANK

CHING!

...IF I'M TO RESCUE MY SISTER...

...AND DISAPPOINT MY SUITOR...

WHAT? THESE BARS WON'T GIVE!

THEY'RE FORTIFIED BY A TERRIBLE MAGIC...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT... JUST PUSH...

PUSH...

HUUNHHH!



HOW OLD? NINETEEN? TWENTY?
MY SON'S AGE?



POLISHED BOOTS,
PRESSED CUFFS,
POSTURE LIKE A
FLAGPOLE'S.
THINKS HE'S A
SOLDIER.



THINKS IT'S
A GAME.



LEMON FURNITURE POLISH.
SICKLY SWEET SACHET.
NOT LIKE A WAR ZONE.



VOICES...



ONE SOUNDS LIKE A
GABOR SISTER, THE
OTHER LIKE CHROME
SCRAPING GRAVEL.



I AM FAMILIAR
WITH THE CEREMONY.

DO NOT FORGET,
I WROTE IT.

SO THE RUMORS ARE TRUE.

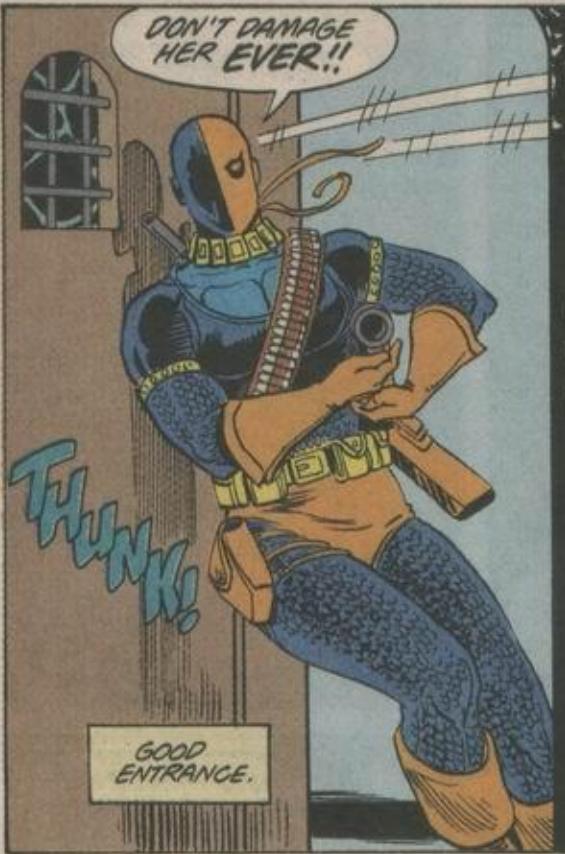
THE DEVIL LIVES IN
PAN BALGRAVIA.







DON'T DAMAGE
HER EVER!!



THE CREATURE
HESITATES.



I DON'T.





HER FLESH YIELDS
TO MY TOUCH! ARE
ALL WOMEN THUS?

WHERE
IS HER
POWER??

I GROPE... FOR
SUBSTANCE TO GRAB
ONTO... I SEARCH
FOR HER POWER...

BARREMARGOX...?

BARON!
EXPLAIN!

I... I
DON'T KNOW,
I...

MY MISTRESS RETREATS!
THE WOMAN DID SOME-
THING--BUT WHAT?

ANSWER ME,
MEAT, OR I WILL
PEEL YOUR SKULL
LIKE AN EGG!

...I...
DIDN'T...

DO...
ANYTHING!

BUT I DID!



KATHOOM

EXPLOSION? WHERE?

AMAZON...
BACK IN THE
FIGHT.

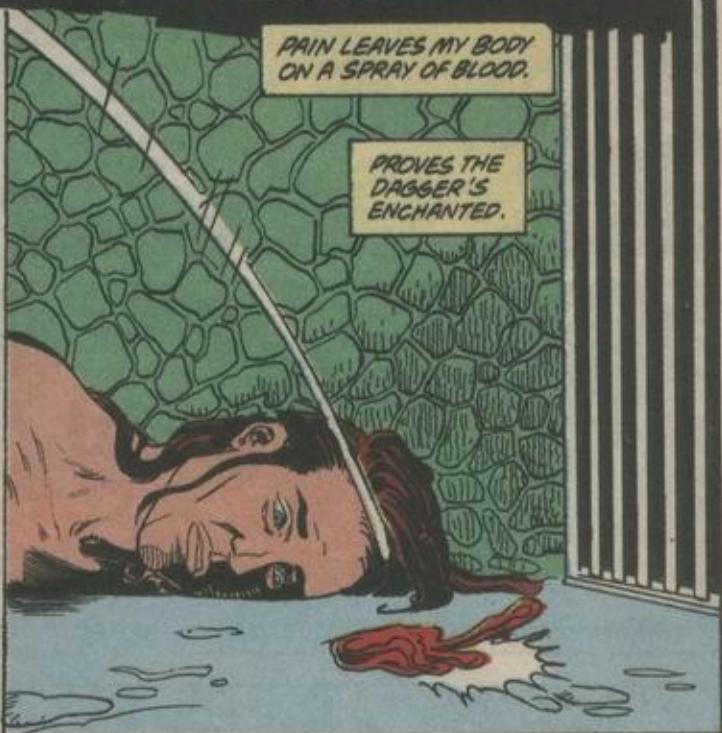
VON NASTRAED'S CASTLE.
I'M IN... PAN BALGRAVIA.

EXPLOSION MEANS... THE
RESISTANCE MADE IT
THIS FAR.

GOOD MEN, BUT... THEY'LL
NEED ME.

PAIN LEAVES MY BODY
ON A SPRAY OF BLOOD.

PROVES THE
DAGGER'S
ENCHANTED.



DRAX! SUBDU
THE AMAZON
WHILE I SEE
TO MY--

--TO MY--



LOOK AT HIM WLT. HE MAD ME
A SECOND AGO.

NOW I'VE GOT
THE BARON...

...AND
I'VE GOT
THE
BLADE.



NOW HEAR THIS, DRAX: WOMEN ARE NOT "MEAT," NOR "MERCHANDISE..."

NOR "MAGGOTS!"

WE ARE NOT TO BE "TAKEN," BARTERED OR SOLD.

UNTIL YOU LEARN OTHERWISE, YOU SHOULD TURN AROUND AND GO BACK TO HELL!



REPULSIVE WOMAN.



NOW IT IS YOUR TURN TO LISTEN TO ME.

I DO NOT INHABIT YOUR PALE, FRIGID SPHERE BECAUSE I ENJOY IT. THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE ON EARTH, AND I DO IT.



MY MISTRESS WOULD MAKE LIFE HERE BEARABLE. IF YOU SUCCEED IN BARRING HER ENTRY--

--I WILL SETTLE FOR YOU.



BWAHAAA

A large, textured red tentacle monster dominates the upper half of the frame, its mouth wide open. A smaller red tentacle is visible on the right side. In the lower half, Wonder Woman is shown in mid-air, performing a powerful kick towards the monster's face. She has a determined expression and her mouth is open as if shouting. Her costume includes a red top, blue shorts with white stars, and a yellow belt with a star. A speech bubble from her contains the text "YEAH... RIGHT...!".

YEAH...
RIGHT...!



GRACIOUS LIVING HAS LEFT
THE BARON PATHETICALLY
OUT OF SHAPE.



MY WOUND
HAS DONE
THE SAME
FOR ME.



WE WHEEZE
THROUGH THE
TUNNELS AND
UP THE STAIRS
LIKE TWO FAT
SMOKERS.







WHAT IS THAT STRANGE
MEAT SMELL...?

...FRESH-KILLED
AND ROTTEN, ALL
AT ONCE!

STAY BACK,
WOMAN... IT ISN'T
YOU I WANT...

BACK!
I SAY!

STOP HER, DRAX!
IF SHE CROSSES
OVER, I LOSE THE
GATEWAY!

C

BARBARA!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

GET AWAY FROM
THERE! THAT'S A
DOORWAY TO ANOTHER
DIMENSION!

I KNOW
WHERE IT
GOES.

I HAVE SPENT A
LIFETIME SEEKING
ADVENTURE, DIANA...

AND THIS WILL
BE THE GREATEST
ADVENTURE OF
ALL!

BARBARA!

THERE IS A DARK FLASH, A SCALDING CHILL, A GUTTURAL SCREECH...

SOUND AND LIGHT AND SUBSTANCE CRASH AGAINST THEMSELVES AS TWO WORLDS END THEIR RESTLESS CO-EXISTENCE.

THE BRIDGE TO BEYOND IS FALLING DOWN.

...BUT IT'S A COLD, EMPTY HUSK WHICH DROPS TO THE FLOOR.

THE AMAZON WHISPERS AN ANGRY PRAYER FOR THE CHEETAH'S SOUL...

...INTERRUPTING IT TO SCOLD HER FALLEN SISTER. "YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT. I COULD HAVE SAVED US."

"I COULD HAVE SAVED US."

PRINCESS!

THE DEMON HITS THE WALL WITH A WET SLAP...

LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

"POOR BARBARA. I CAME HERE TO RESCUE HER. I GUESS I REALLY THREW IT, DIDN'T I?"

"THAT'S BLEW IT, AND... NO, YOU DIDN'T. THE CHEETAH MADE HER OWN CHOICE..."

"...PROBABLY THE FIRST DECENT ONE SHE'S EVER MADE."

AND, BESIDES, WE HELPED SAVE A WHOLE COUNTRY. DEATHSTROKE AND THE REBELS REALLY CLEANED HOUSE AFTER THE BARON DISAPPEARED.

THAT'S SOME CONSOLATION, RIGHT?

OF COURSE IT IS. AND IF BARBARA IS STILL... ALIVE DOWN THERE, I MAY FIND A WAY TO REPAY HER YET.

WELL, YOU CAN COUNT ME OUT OF THAT LITTLE EXPEDI --

SHH! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE RIOTING OUT THERE!

NO, INSPECTOR... THEY'RE CELEBRATING THE END OF THE BARON'S REGIME!

THEN GOOD FOR THEM, PRINCESS...

...BUT LET'S HOPE HISTORY DOESN'T REPEAT ITSELF, HUH?

THE WORLD

Wonder Woman returns to America empty-handed... or does she?

With the recent return of Wonder Woman to the United States after a partially successful mission to Pan Balgravia, questions arise as to Diana of Themyscira's role in modern society, and if she is succeeding at her "mission" in "man's world."

About two years ago, out of what appeared to be total destruction, arose a new phenomenon. This, of course, was the day Wonder Woman arrived in Boston, saving that city from the threat of the being that called itself Decay. The advent of another super-hero in this country brings many questions to mind. Do we need yet another super-hero, fighting against crime, waging war against war? What special powers can she bring to the fight? Certainly, the fact that she is a woman, in a world teeming with superhuman male do-gooders, must have some special significance for us. But, will she merely become another female icon, a silent symbol that others can raise up and point to in support of their personal cause? Or, is the appearance of this Wonder Woman a sign of a real change in our troubled times?

For the past two years, Wonder Woman has been highly visible and active, yet she has done her most important work in virtual silence. Her actions have been interpreted by us through translators before she learned English, through television announcers, narrators, and comments made by individuals like you and me. One reason for her silence may have been due to the language barrier. Another, to shyness, the natural reaction of a sensitive person suddenly thrust into a new environment. Until now Wonder Woman may not have had the confidence or sufficient understanding of her surroundings to be able to express herself in an open and direct way. Not unlike the average modern woman, she may have been sizing things up before she risked saying what she really thinks. I suggest that we are ready and interested in getting to know the real Wonder Woman and her alter ego, Princess Diana, both the woman of action and the motivation behind it. And I take the liberty of asking for all of us: Will we finally get to hear from Wonder Woman herself? Will she be able to tell us in her own words, what her presence in our world means? But, more important, will we listen?

Some of us are well aware of Wonder Woman's existence, having followed her story from the time of her arrival in Boston to the present. Others have a more vague knowl-

edge of her presence—possibly the recollection of a swiftly passing blur of red, white and blue streaking through the sky. Undeniably, the sight of the muscular super-heroine dressed in a star-spangled leotard, gold headband and heavy silver bracelets, the Lasso of Truth hanging at her side, standing with her feet apart and planted firmly beneath her, has become a commonplace occurrence. And those isolated few who have never even heard of either Wonder Woman or Diana surely must have felt something in the air: the presence of a new and positive energy brought by a kindred spirit that has come from a faraway land and a distant past, a past that now, it seems, is very much alive.

"Out of my past?" many of you are asking yourselves, while others are thinking, how can Wonder Woman be related to me? And, how can I identify with an oversized Amazon straight out of Greek mythology?

What do we really know about this marvelous being and why should we care? I think that as we take a closer look at Wonder Woman's life we will find a deep connection with our own.



Wonder Woman comes from a noble lineage and a long tradition of strong and nurturing women. She is the daughter of Hippolyte, Queen of the Amazon warrior tribe, who can trace her roots directly to the Olympian goddesses. It was Gaea, the earth goddess, who intercepted Hippolyte's soul along with thousands of other spirits from women who had died before their time, and housed them in the Cavern of Souls. Then Artemis, the goddess of motherhood, led the other goddesses to this hidden place where Hippolyte, the first soul originally taken by Gaea, was once again given life. The Amazon women eventually were forced to settle on the island of Themyscira, the only home they would know for thousands of years. It was a lonely Hippolyte, with her own hands, who then formed out of clay the body into which the soul of her daughter would be placed. The Olympian goddesses gave the child special powers that she would be prepared to one day do battle with the mad war god, Ares, and

other evil forces. The child was named Diana. She left Themyscira—voluntarily—20 years later.

Leaving Themyscira, a remote and hidden place inhabited only by her sister Amazons, and the only known paradise to date, has not been easy for Wonder Woman. Not only have her special abilities—superhuman strength and speed, the ability to fly, and her knowledge of ancient Greek methods of hand-to-hand combat—been in constant demand; she has also made a tremendous effort to adapt to a new culture, learn a new language, and span a really big generation gap. The way she has been able to do this and still maintain her special Amazonian identity and values should be an inspiration to all of us.

Reaction to the phenomenal presence of Wonder Woman is varied. Much of it has been typical: comments by men about her physical appearance, a feeling of jealousy or inadequacy on the part of women who feel the need to compare themselves to her, and concern by some members of the clergy that a person a step away from being a goddess threatens our modern monotheistic institutions. These are the usual reactions that many women who enter the public arena have had to face, and we must remember that the past two years have been a totally new experience for Wonder Woman. Perhaps being overly influenced by Hermes and some of the other gods, and not showing enough confidence in herself, is what steered her wrong. Allowing the vain though well-meaning Hermes to stand up for her at her mother's first visit to our country, showed poor judgment. Wonder Woman must remember that Hermes is just a messenger, sent to deliver other gods' messages. Wonder Woman has her own message and must learn to present it in her own way. For many she has come across as shy and nervous yet aggressive. But most of us see her sincerity and strong sense of purpose shine through. We trust her and look to her outstanding qualities of strength and pride in being a woman for support in our daily lives—the same kind of support Wonder Woman has come to rely on from her mother, Hippolyte, and the women of Themyscira. With our support, I am sure that in the future Wonder Woman will be able to express these ideals more concretely as she learns to deal with the problematic nature of modern society.

And what are those ideals? What can we learn from Wonder Woman? That, of course, remains to be seen. I, for one, am looking forward to the refreshing change that a superheroine will bring to the crimefighting scene. In a world chock-full of forefathers and male super-heroes, we have consistently forgotten women's contributions. Wonder Woman is

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not only our future but our history. She is our newfound friend and one of our foremothers who has returned to connect us with our roots and a past many of us may have lost track of or doubted. Ignoring the important human values of peace, love and caring has always led us to violence, war and destruction. I hope that Wonder Woman, with the help of her Lasso of Truth, will remind us not to forget. By emerging from an unknown place after a guarded, innocent childhood and revealing herself, Wonder Woman can be the guide in whose footsteps we follow.

We must not forget that Diana was sent here as an ambassador from Themyscira, an official figure whose responsibility is to participate in the sharing of cultures and to foster understanding between peoples. She considers this her main function and goal. Peace will always be at the top of her agenda. But, Wonder Woman is a realist. Even though she can fly, true to her heritage, endowed with the power of earth and sky, she is also down to earth. She knows that the time is still to come when everyone will embrace these principles. In the true spirit of motherly wisdom, she must try to think like others to learn how they can be taught to understand. Diana is also well aware that her opponents might not be willing or able to come to a peaceful agreement. In these cases Wonder Woman is a trained warrior. She knows how to protect herself and others. In true Amazon tradition, her main weapons, speed and the Lasso of Truth, are defensive. Any offensive action is a last resort, and, as she has learned from the experience of years in isolation, patience has its own power. Two years is but a moment to the child of an immortal mother, and while the Amazonian values will take a long time to spread, Wonder Woman will be fighting battles alongside her fellow super-heroes as her more pacifistic self strives for—and advocates—tolerance and understanding. Let us all hope that, along with Wonder Woman, we will all be striving for that delicate balance.

—Anne Molinas



LOCAL NEWS

Artist/Writer of Wonder Woman Comic Book Steps Down

DC Comics, publisher of the *Wonder Woman* comic book, issued a press release today, detailing the recent changes in creative talent:

Up until six years ago, Wonder Woman was like a distant cousin. You knew she was there, she'd always been there, but you didn't really care much about her. George Perez changed all that. He took on the uphill challenge of updating and redefining one of DC's oldest and least popular characters, and turned her into a member of the immediate family—into a character that mattered.

Powerhouse talent that George was in 1986, he was best known as an artist who excelled in delineating highly realized characters, intricately detailed drawing, and exciting storytelling. Though co-plottor of THE NEW TEEN TITANS and CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS, one didn't fully realize George's accomplished plotting and story skills until he went solo, as series plotter, and eventually full scripter on *WONDER WOMAN*.

Gleaning the best from creator William Moulton Marston's origin, George added depth to Wonder Woman's origin and mythological background. He created a fundamental matriarchy and balanced society on Themyscira, humanized the Greek gods and goddesses without diminishing their grandeur and power, and created sensitive familial relationships between the Princess Diana, her mother, Queen Hippolyte, and the Amazon community.

Equally important, George sent Diana on a mission. As Themyscira's ambassador to Patriarch's world, she spread the message of the Amazonian ideals across the world—the message of peace, equality, humanity, and trust. George also established a second home and surrogate family in Professor Julia Kapatelis and her daughter, Vanessa. And he even managed to make credible characters out of air force officers Steve Trevor and Etta Candy.

Social issues rarely dealt with in super-hero books were commonplace in George's *Wonder Woman* series. Among them were racism, feminism, religion, drugs, and teen suicide. Yet, at the core of the series were the adventures and experiences of the young Diana coming of age, adjusting to her new role and a new world, battling those who tried to thwart her, while striving to balance it all with a formidable task at hand.

Out of all the revitalizations that the superhero genre has undergone in the past seven or eight years, few have had the creative vision,

the scope and stamina of the *Wonder Woman* series. The driving force and spirit behind the series, George stretched himself creatively, and asked the readers to stretch themselves, too.

As George's editor and friend, I admired his sheer capacity for ideas, his utterly realistic characters, his unerring story sense, and his uncompromising dedication to his work—a passion rivaled by few in the comics industry. George's *Wonder Woman* series was one full of heart, humanity and integrity, much like the man behind it.

Take many bows, George. You've done Diana proud.

Karen Berger
Group Editor and former editor of
Wonder Woman

SPORTS

Thorsland Wins FIM World Championship

In a stunning upset, Team Funnybook rider Dan Thorsland beat the odds and won his sixth Grand Prix race this season, clinching the world championship in the Formula One motorcycle class for 1992. Riding his Norsk 500, nicknamed the "Viking Terror," the American rider's unorthodox racing style caught the attention of fans throughout the world, and was described as "completely mad" by many critics. When questioned about his technique, Thorsland quipped: "Hanging off the back of the bike down the front straights and screaming like a maniac may seem crazy, but you can't argue with results!"

Stunned competitors could only watch as Thorsland charged to victory at the Australian GP, clinching the title with an insurmountable point lead. Even more stunning was Thorsland's post-race statement that he would be retiring from racing to become, of all things, a comic book editor. "I've done all I can possibly do as a professional racer; I might as well see what I can do in a field that involves my other great love!" If Thorsland edits with the same fury as he races, one can only imagine what the results will be.

—Miles Dorfman