



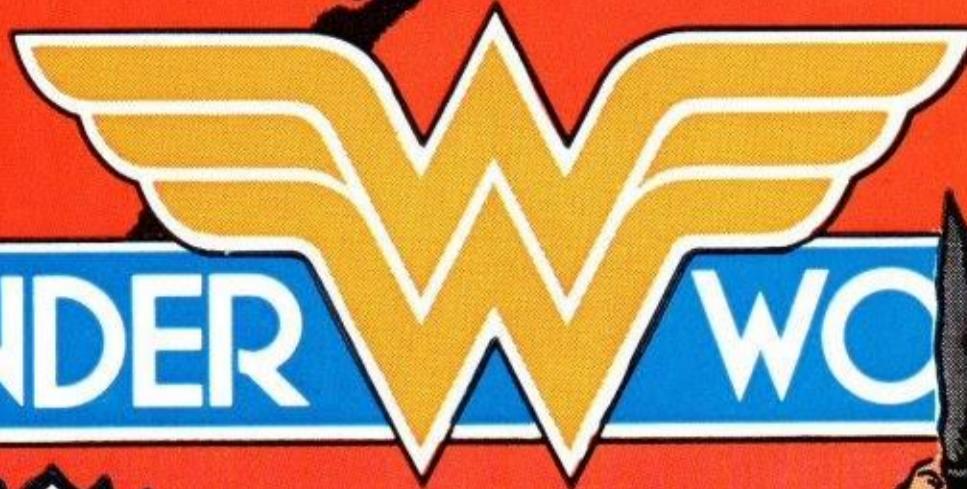
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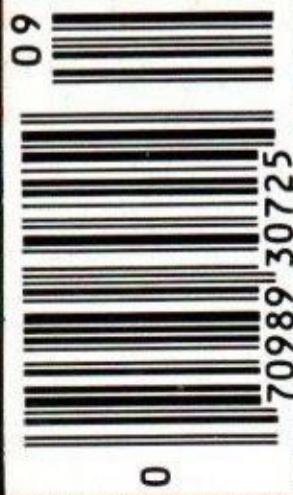
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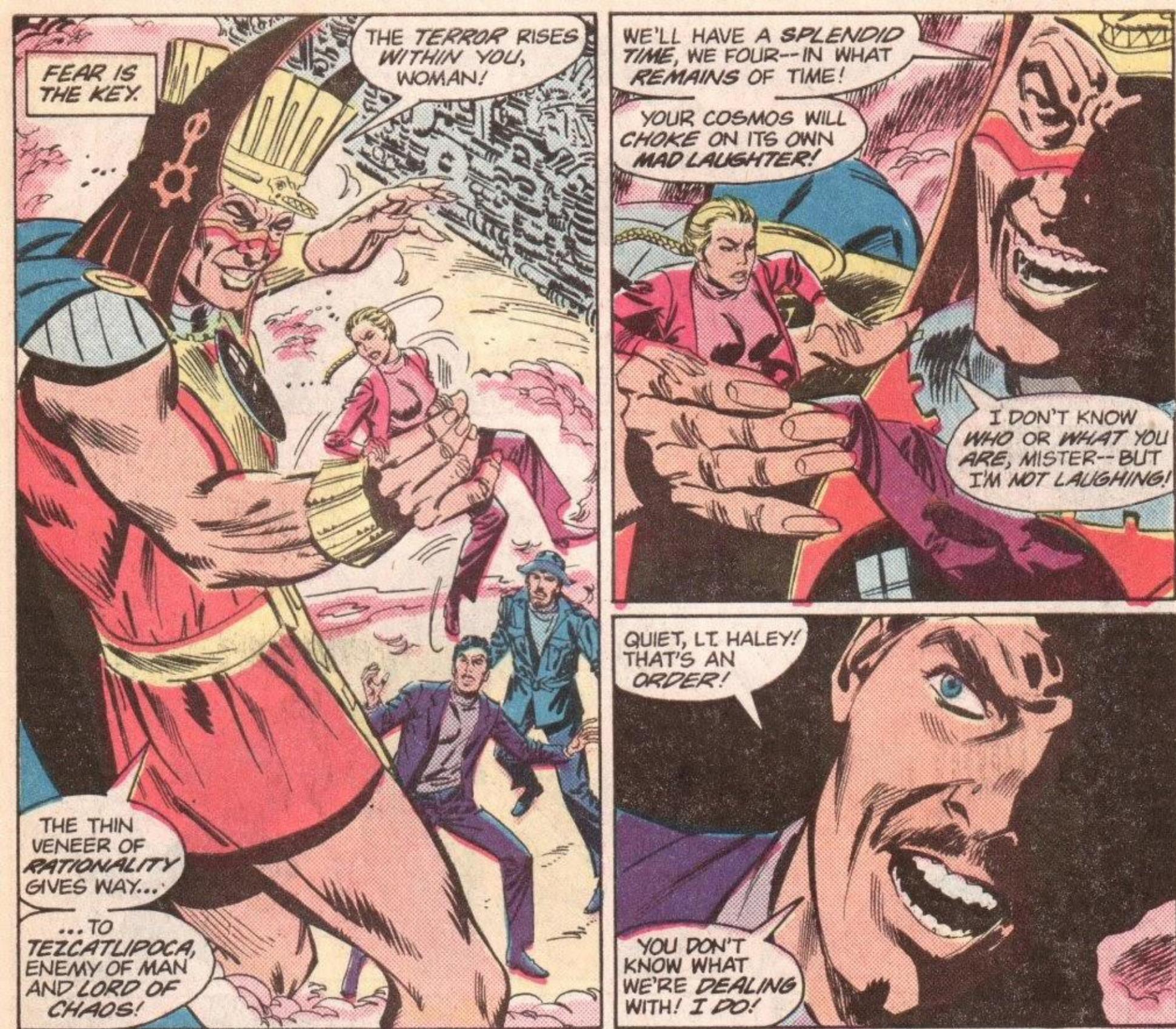
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The END OF EVERYTHING
BEGINS!





Q-1851

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HATRED IS
THE LOCK.

NO!

ARE YOU
CRAZY LEWIS? YOU
COULD HIT LAUREN!

WATCH IT,
SOLDIER-BOY!

YOU CAN
ORDER HER
AROUND, BUT
NOT GENE
LEWIS!

USE YOUR BRAINS, MAN!

JUST ANOTHER NERVELESS
WONDER WITH BIG BRASS
BUTTONS--LIKE I FIGURED
YOU FROM THE START!

WE'RE DEALING
WITH SOMETHING
SUPERNATURAL!
YOUR POPGUN WON'T
PUT A DENT IN
THAT THING!

OUTTA MY WAY,
SONNY--

--YOU COULD GET
A HAND BLOWN OFF,
GRABBING AHOLD
OF MY GUN!

FOR GOD'S SAKE, STOP IT!
CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!

WHERE'S YOUR COURAGE
NOW, LEWIS? TIRED OF
GIVING THE ORDERS?! MAY-
BE I SHOULD DO US ALL
A FAVOR AND--

HA HA!
SEE HOW THEY
DANCE FOR US,
LIEUTENANT!

KEITH!
GENE!

BRM!
BAM!

LONG AGO, THE ORACLES OF THEMISCYRA FORETOLD THE BIRTH OF A LEGEND... AN AMAZON MOLDED BY A QUEEN'S HAND, A LIFE BESTOWED BY LOVE AND BLESSED BY GODDESSES... A PRINCESS CALLED DIANA BY HER SISTERS, BUT KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD OF MEN AS...

WONDER WOMAN



MONTEZ' CAMP SHOULD BE BELOW ANY MINUTE NOW, IF--WHAT?!

THE PLANE... SHE'S BUCKING MY CONTROL!

LISTEN CAREFULLY--THE TUMBLERS FALL WHERE THEY WILL!

AIR-SPEED'S INCREASING, BUT INSTRUMENTS SHOW A LOSS OF POWER! DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

BUT CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW! EVEN MY PLANE'S INCAPABLE OF TAKING THIS MUCH STRESS! SHE'LL BREAK UP IF I CAN'T STOP IT SOMEHOW!

FOR FEAR'S INSERTED INTO HATRED--THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN ONTO DISCORD AND...

A WORLD IN CHAOS!

MINDY NEWELL
WRITER

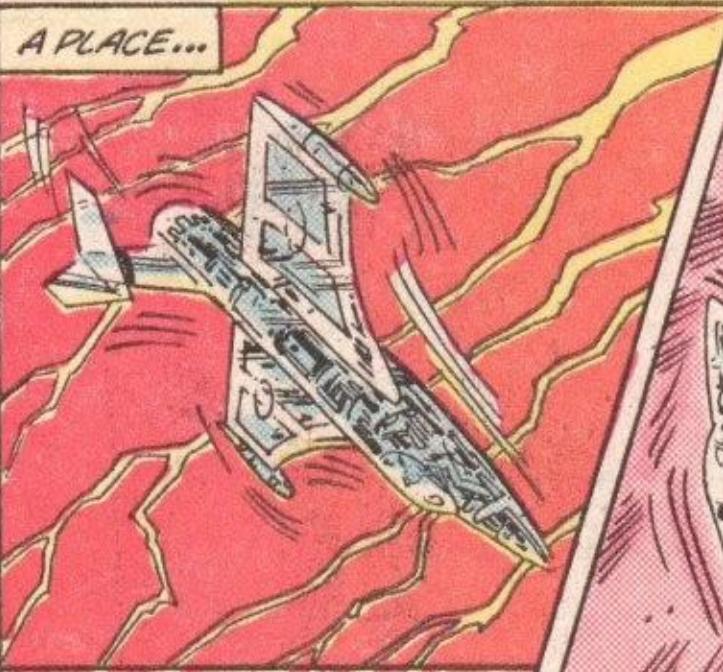
DON HECK
ARTIST

HELEN VESIK
LETTERER

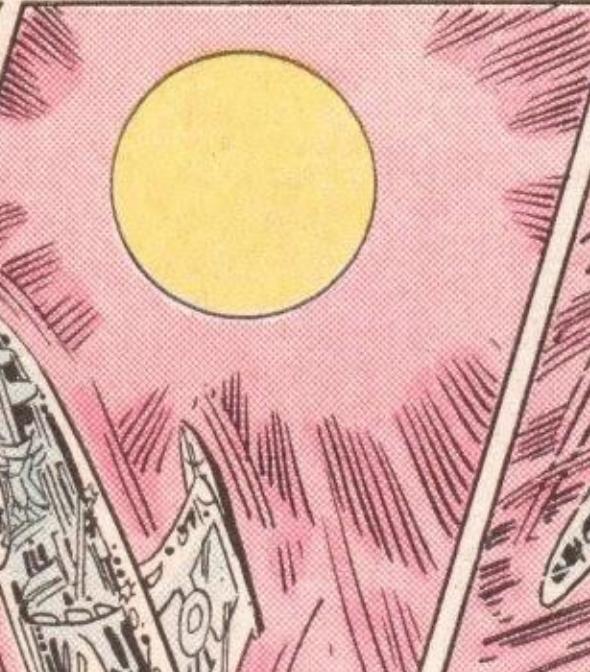
NANSI HOOLAHAN
COLORIST

ALAN GOLD
EDITOR

A PLACE...

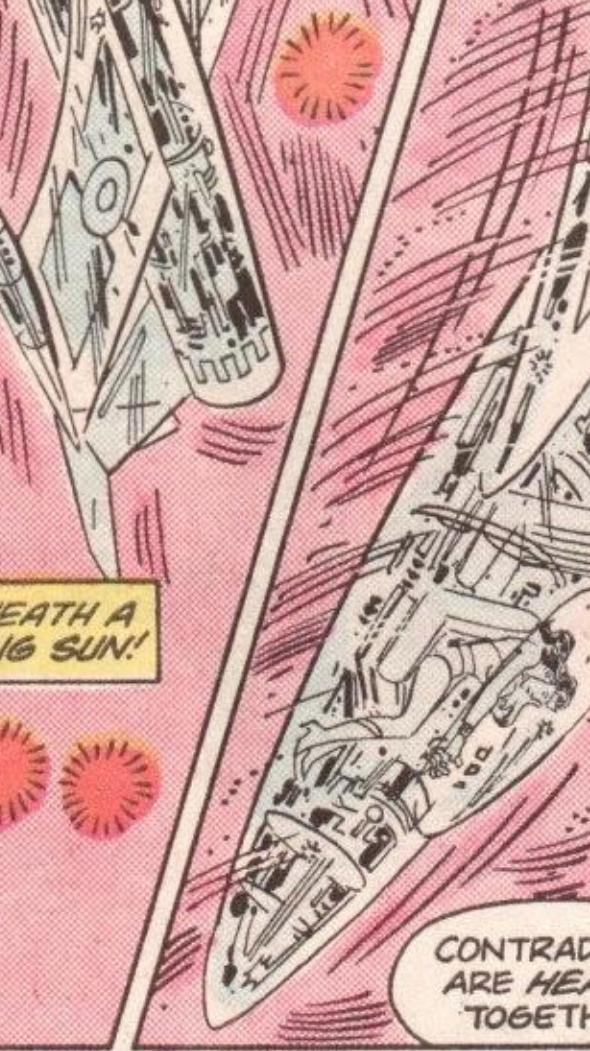


...WHERE THUNDERHEADS
GATHER IN A BLOODRED
SKY--AND LIGHTNING
SEETHES--



NEVER HAS SHE
PERMITTED
HERSELF TO FAIL--

--FEARLESSLY,
SHE HAS FACED
IMPOSSIBLE
ODDS--



--AND SEIZED
UNLIKELY VICTORY
THROUGH
DETERMINATION!



--BENEATH A
BLAZING SUN!

PALLAS ATHENA,
HELP ME TO
UNDERSTAND!

CONTRADICTIONS
ARE HEADED
TOGETHER!

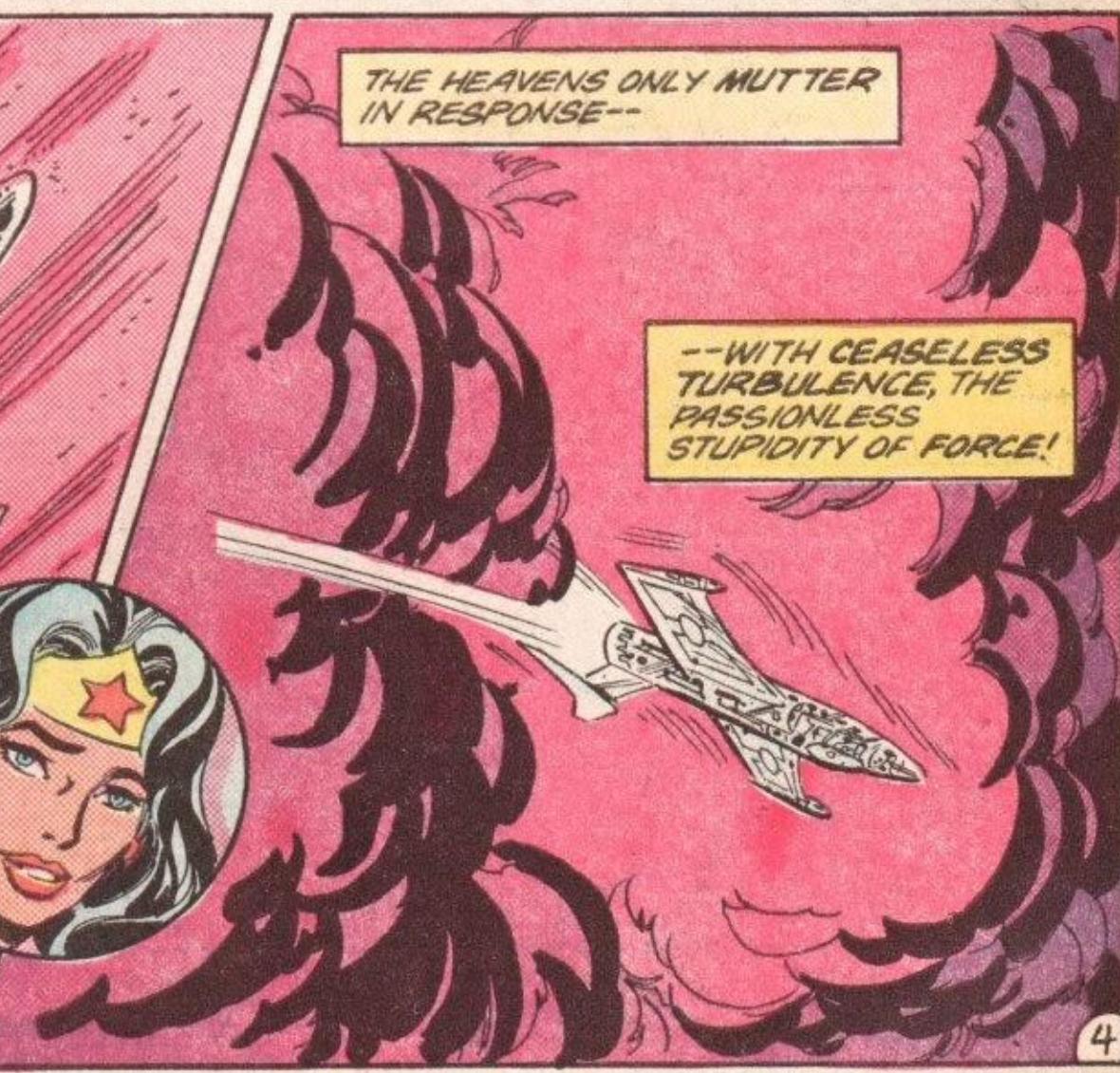
RAIN PELTS HER INVISIBLE
PLANE--A SANITY-
SHATTERING BARRAGE
TO ANY BUT THIS GRIM-
FACED PILOT--



THE HEAVENS ONLY MUTTER
IN RESPONSE--

--WITH CEASELESS
TURBULENCE, THE
PASSIONLESS
STUPIDITY OF FORCE!

GODDESS--
IS THIS THE END OF
DAYS FORE-DREADED
BY US ALL?



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

FOR THE
BRIEDEST OF
MOMENTS
THERE MAY
BE A
RESPITE...



MOTHER
OF ZEUS!

IS THAT THE
ANSWER??

AN OPENING--AS
THOUGH THE SKY ITSELF
WERE RENT...

...AND FORCES BOILING
WITHIN SUCK EVERYTHING
INTO ITS CENTER!

AIYEEE!



MADRE
DE DIOS!!

HOW DO I
FIGHT THAT THING??
HOW CAN I HELP
THOSE PEOPLE--

WHOOOSSSHH!

--WHEN I CAN'T EVEN
HELP MYSELF!?



...THEN IT STARTS AGAIN,
AND YOUR OWN SCREAMS
MIX WITH THE WAILING
OF THE FURIES.

BUT THE CHAOS CONTINUES TO SPREAD...

OHMIGOD, GRIGGS, LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT--

LAUREN??

A PITY... SHE DIED TOO SOON.

I HAD SUCH PLANS FOR HER.

HAVE I BEEN ASLEEP SO LONG THAT MEN HAVE FORGOTTEN MY TEMPER?! ARRRGGHH!

LEWIS, WHAT'S HE DOING?! I CAN'T SEE!

ME NEITHER, CHUM!

TRY TO GRAB HOLD OF SOMETHING! HE'S DRAGGING ME TOWARDS HIM!

I WAS HOLDING ON TO SOMETHIN', MAJOR...

...ONLY NOW YOU'RE TAKING ME WITH YOU!

REMEMBER, IF YOU CAN, THIS MOMENT...

I ESPECIALLY ENJOY THE PATHOS OF A HOPELESS SOUL!

HENCEFORTH, YOU WILL KNOW THE CURSE OF ENDLESS CYCLES--LIFE WITHOUT START, WITHOUT END! YOUR SOULS WILL YEARN FOR REST.

...FOR ONE LAST TIME--THE MADNESS JUST BEGINS...

HE'S GONE! BUT TO WHERE...?

...AND WHY??

MEANWHILE, IN A WORLD SEEMINGLY FREE OF TURMOIL...

I DON'T KNOW... EVERYTHING USED TO BE SO CLEAR TO ME.

BUT NOW WITH TROPIDOR ADDED TO THE LIST OF HEADACHES... SIGH



WHERE DOES INSUBORDINATION START, AND--



DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME CALLING YOU? I MUST HAVE SHOUTED SIX OR SEVEN TIMES.

OH--SORRY, HOWARD, I WAS THINKING...



THIS WAS VERY SWEET OF YOU, HOWARD, BUT I'M REALLY NOT THAT HUNGRY.

C'MON! WHERE'S THAT GIRL WITH THE HEALTHY APPETITE?

YOU EAT.
I'LL JUST HAVE
SOME SODA.

LOOK!
EXTRA CHEESE
AND PEPPERONI,
JUST FOR
YOU.

ETTA...HAVE I DONE SOMETHING TO ANNOY YOU?

IF IT'S BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE WONDER WOMAN--*

DON'T BE SILLY, HOWARD...

...I WAS REALLY KIND OF FLATTERED.

THEN WHAT IS IT? LET ME HELP!

WOULD IT BE FAIR TO INVOLVE DIANA IN THIS?

I'D BE GOING BEHIND GENERAL DARNELL'S BACK... SOMETHING I'VE NEVER DONE BEFORE...

YOUR PIZZA, HOWARD.
IT'S GETTING COLD.

...SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T EVEN THINK OF DOING.

THANKS FOR THE LIFT. A JUNIOR SENATOR ISN'T USED TO TRAVELING IN SUCH STYLE.

IT WAS MY PLEASURE. BESIDES, SENATOR...

...SOON YOU'LL BE TRAVELING EVERYWHERE IN THE STYLE YOU MERIT!



C'MON, HOWARD, YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT COVINGTON'S GOT A HANKERING TO PIN SOMETHING ON THE GENERAL.

SO? LET'S NOT FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE, OKAY?

I BETTER GET BACK--

--THE SENATOR WASN'T EXPECTED, AND THERE'S BOUND TO BE FIREWORKS IF HE GETS IN TO SEE DARNELL.

ETTA, WILL YOU RELAX? THE GENERAL CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF...

...AND YOU COULD USE SOME SUN. YOU'RE AWFULLY PALE.

THANKS A LOT... WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.

SURE I AM. JUST SIT BACK AND CATCH SOME RAYS.

KEEP HER BUSY, HE SAID... DAMN, WHY DO I FEEL SO GUILTY?

ELSEWHERE...

DON'T KNOW
HOW LONG
I'VE BEEN
HERE...

UNHH! G-FORCES TREMENDOUS! DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE I CAN TAKE!

WAIT! THE DARKNESS SEEMS TO BE-- BREAKING UP...

...OR HOW MUCH MORE STRESS THIS PLANE CAN TAKE...

...I'M DRIFTING...

I'M OUT!
GODDESSES BE PRAISED!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? WHATEVER THAT STORM WAS, IT THREW ME RIGHT OVER MONTEZ'S PYRAMID HIDEAWAY!

...BETTER NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS... TAKE A FLY-BY FOR A CLOSER LOOK...

NO SIGN OF ANY OF THOSE OTHER POOR SOULS. I'D BETTER CHECK MY COORDINATES AND THEN--

WAIT!
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE. THAT COMPLEX SHOULD BE IN RUINS...

...PLANE'S RESPONDING WELL... DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY STRUCTURAL DAMAGE AT LEAST...

...NOT THAT THAT WOULD MATTER IN THE LEAST--IF MY DEEPEST FEARS PROVE TRUE!

BLESS THE SUN,
GIVER OF LIGHT AND
LIFE!



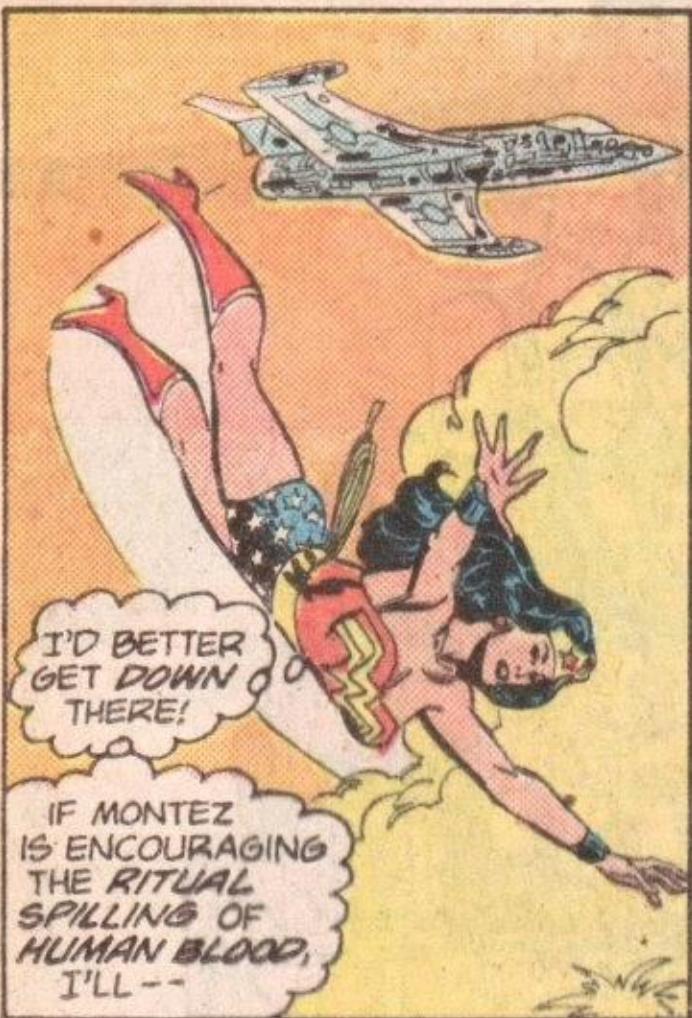
I DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS!

I KNEW MONTEZ WAS OBSESSED
WITH THE AZTEC CIVILIZATION...

...AND HAD DEALINGS
WITH THOSE DESCENDED
FROM THE CULTURE...

...BUT THAT'S A FULL-
BLOWN SACRIFICIAL
CEREMONY GOING ON
DOWN THERE!

BLESS THE
DARK THAT
GIVES THE
GOLDEN
SUN!



...AS IF THEY DON'T
UNDERSTAND ME... MAYBE
THEY'RE JUST AFRAID--
BEING CAUGHT RED-
HANDED AND ALL!

I AM NOT HERE TO
JUDGE YOUR RELIGIOUS
BELIEFS.

I MERELY
WANT TO SEE
COLONEL
MONTEZ.

DO NOT TRY TO
MAKE TROUBLE,
WOMAN.

NOTHING.

IF YOU ARE A
WOMAN--NOT SOME
EVIL SPIRIT!

CHURRY--THIS WAY! OUR
LORD WILL KNOW HOW TO
DEAL WITH YOU!

THAT'S
NOT
SPANISH!

WHAT KIND
OF DEAL HAS
MONTEZ STRUCK
WITH THESE
PEOPLE?

EVERYONE
IS IN ANCIENT
DRESS... AND
THEY LOOK AT
ME SO
STRANGELY.

WOMEN AND
CHILDREN... I
WASN'T AWARE
THERE WERE SO
MANY AZTECS
LEFT IN THIS
CENTURY.

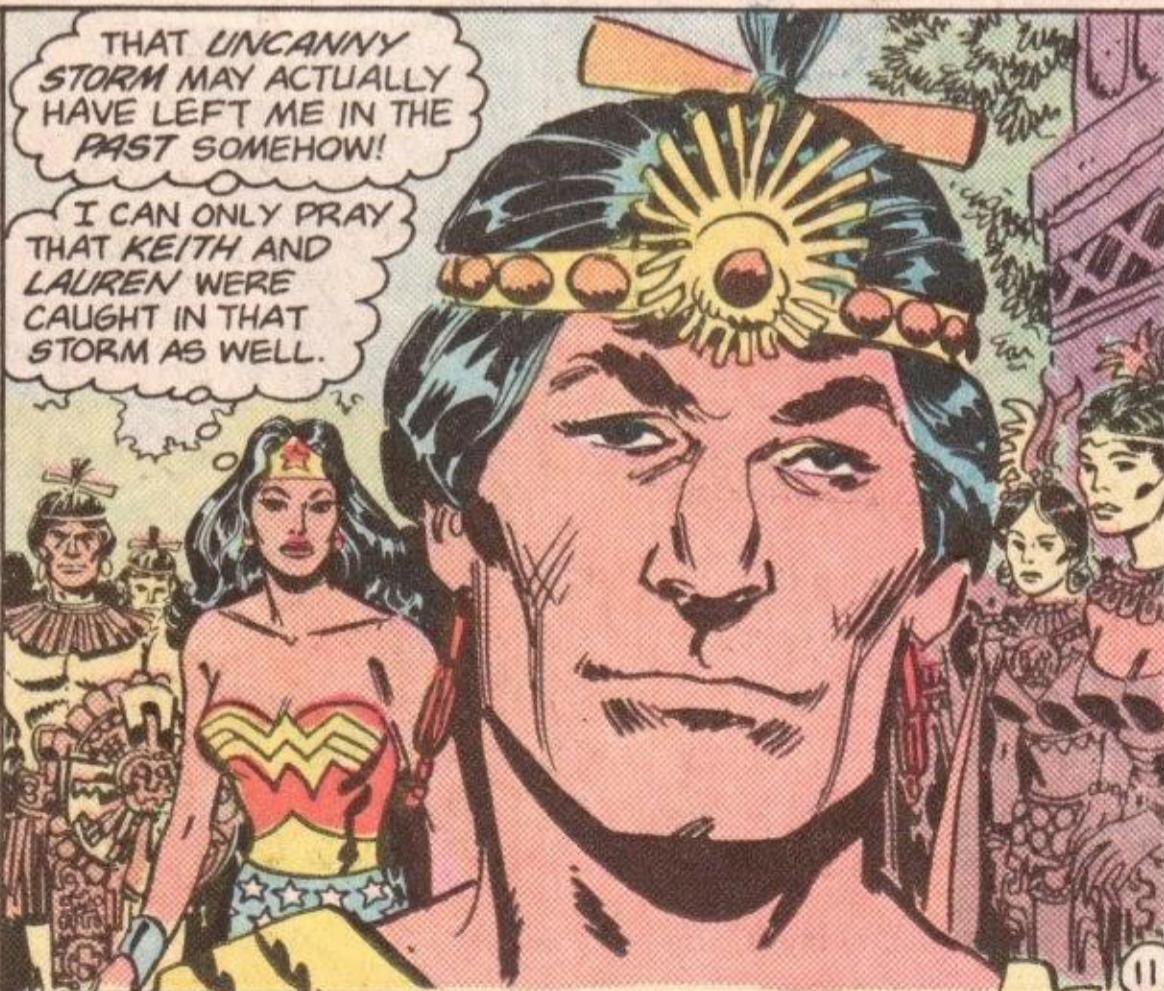
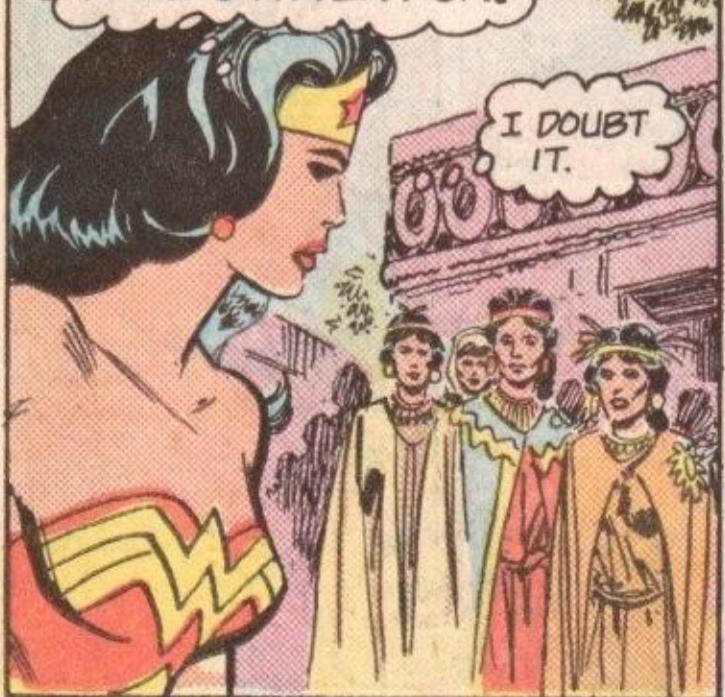
BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG. THERE
ARE ABSOLUTELY NO HINTS OF
MODERN TECHNOLOGY HERE.

COULD AN ENTIRE CULTURE
REMAIN SO INSULATED IN A
COUNTRY THAT HAS THE
WORLD'S ATTENTION?

I DOUBT
IT.

THAT UNCANNY
STORM MAY ACTUALLY
HAVE LEFT ME IN THE
PAST SOMEHOW!

I CAN ONLY PRAY
THAT KEITH AND
LAUREN WERE
CAUGHT IN THAT
STORM AS WELL.



THE TEMPLE SHOWS NO
SIGN OF WEAR THROUGH
THE CENTURIES...
IT'S CLEAN, WELL-
CARED FOR...

...AND APPARENTLY IN
CONSTANT USE. BUT IF
THESE PEOPLE THINK
THEY'RE ABOUT TO
SACRIFICE ME,
THEY'VE--

WAIT

SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING
UP THERE!

<GOD OF THE FIRST
UNIVERSE, WE TREMBLE
BEFORE YOUR GLORY!>

<THE
ANNOINTED
ONES AWAIT
YOU...>

<... THEIR
HEARTS FILLED
WITH JOY...>

LAUREN!
YOU'RE
ALIVE!

WHAT THE
HELL IS GOING
ON?

<...EAGER TO
GIVE WAY TO
YOUR JOY AND
GLORY!>

<ACCEPT THEIR
LIFE-WATERS
AND BLESS THEIR
SPIRITS!>

PRIEST, YOUR CHOICE
IS PLEASING!

ARE YOU PLEASED AS
WELL, MY LAMBS?

GREAT HERA!...
TEZCATLIPOCÀ!!!
NOW I UNDERSTAND!

SPUNKY!
I LIKE
THAT!

DROP DEAD.

HE'S BEHIND ALL
THIS... AND PLANNING
TO HAVE KEITH AND
LAUREN KILLED!!

THE PENTAGON:

NO WORD FROM
GRIGGS AND HALEY
YET... TOO EARLY
TO WORRY,
THOUGH.

ONCE WE'VE PULLED OFF THIS
MISSION, THOSE NAMBY-
PAMBIES ON THE HILL WON'T BE
SO QUICK TO BELLYACHE ABOUT
"ILLEGAL INTERVENTION."

MY OWN
CONTACT ASSURED
ME MONTEZ WAS
ON THE LEVEL.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO
THIS COUNTRY...

...WHEN
A MAN
HAS TO
RESORT
TO --

SAY! WHO TOLD YOU
COULD JUST WALK IN
HERE LIKE--

MUSTN'T BLAME LT. CANDY,
GENERAL. SHE WASN'T AT
HER DESK TO STOP ME.

I CAME HERE TO GIVE YOU
FAIR WARNING, GENERAL!

SAVE IT,
DARNELL.

COVINGTON!
I TOLD
ETTA, NO...

GET OUT
OF HERE,
COVINGTON--
NOW--BEFORE
I CALL FOR
THE A.P.'S.

GO AHEAD.
IT WOULD
MAKE AN
INTERESTING
HEADLINE
IN TONIGHT'S
NEWS.

I'M ON TO YOUR LITTLE GAMES
CONCERNING TROPIDOR...

...AND TO WONDER
WOMAN'S INVOLVEMENT
WITH THIS DEPARTMENT.

THIS WON'T DO WONDERS
FOR THE LADY'S REPUTA-
TION, I'M AFRAID.

DON'T
WORRY...
...SHE'S NOT THE
ONLY THING I HAVE
AGAINST YOU.

YOU'RE BARKING
UP THE WRONG
TREE, SENATOR.

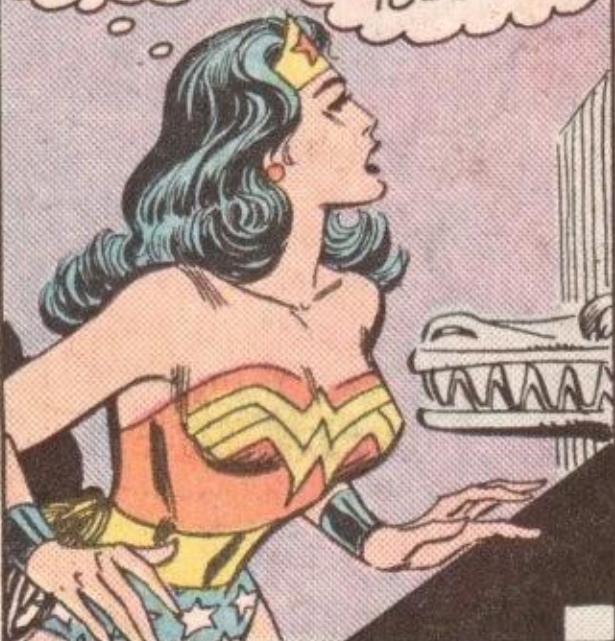
I'M OPENING A
CONGRESSIONAL
INVESTIGATION, GENERAL...





"---THE NEW BEGINS IN CHAOS!"

MONTEZ MUST'VE
BEEN DABBING
IN AZTEC
MAGIC...
...SOMEHOW
MADE IT
POSSIBLE FOR
TEZCATLIPONCA
TO--



MADMAN!! IF YOU
DARE TO HARM
THAT MAN...

A PITY! YOU'RE OUT OF
PLACE HERE, GREEK!

HA! HA! NO TRICKS,
MAJOR, I'M AFRAID! YOUR
ESSENCE WILL FEED MINE--
AND YOUR FRIENDS'
WILL FOLLOW!



I CAN STOP THIS,
TEZCATLIPONCA...

...AND
I WILL!!



GOD IN HEAVEN!!



YOU SEE, AMAZON?

THE CYCLE,
COMPLETED...



"...BEGINS AGAIN
IN CHAOS!"

MONTEZ WAS DABBING
IN AZTEC MAGIC. SOMEHOW,
HE MUST HAVE BROUGHT
TEZCATLIPOMA BACK!

STRANGE...
SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS...
FAMILIAR --
NO!!!

YOUR BLOOD WILL BE
SANCTIFIED IN HIS NAME.
BE HONORED. >

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT,
MORTAL!

NO, THANKS...
YOU CAN STOP
THE HYPNOSIS,
MONTEZ.

<BLESS THIS
KNIFE. >

MADMAN! IF YOU
HARM THAT MAN,
YOU'LL FACE MY
FURY!

POOR WOMAN -- YOU'RE
IRRELEVANT HERE!

EVEN AS I SPEAK,
THE WORDS ARE ALREADY
IN MY MEMORY!

YOU CANNOT
INTERFERE!!

NO!! I
REFUSE
TO ACCEPT
THIS AS
REAL! --
SOME-
BODY...

...HELP
MEEEEEE!!

I'M GOING TO BE TOO
LATE! I KNOW IT...

...GREAT GAEA,
I KNOW IT!!

KEEEI--TH!!

YOU SEE, AMAZON?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

NO!!

THIS UNIVERSE
IS MINE TO PLAY WITH
AS I WILL!!

PARADISE ISLAND:

IT'S QUIET
TONIGHT,
HIERA.

YES. ALMOST
TOO QUIET.
THE ISLAND
SEEMS
DESERTED.

"BUT THE TORCHES ON
SCIENCE ISLAND
BURN BRIGHT."

"PERHAPS PAULA IS
WORKING TO RESTORE
THE PURPLE RAY."

WE MUST HAVE ORDER!
PLEASE, SISTERS!

WE MUST
ACKNOWLEDGE
THE TRUTH--THOUGH
IT MAY GRIEVE
US SORELY!

HIPPOLYTA HAS
LOST THE POWER TO
COMMAND HERSELF
AND--

YOU SPEAK
TREASON,
ANTIOPE!

NEVER! THE TRAITORS
ARE THOSE WHO WOULD
DESTROY OUR WAY OF LIFE!

THIS QUEEN OF OURS
HAS SHAMELESSLY
LIED TO HER OWN
DAUGHTER, COMMANDING
US TO BACK HER
FALSE STORIES!

THUS WE HAVE LOST
OUR PRINCESS! IN
RIGHTEOUS ANGER, SHE
HAS TURNED HER BACK ON
HER FAITHLESS SISTERS!

WE NEED A RULER
WHO REGARDS
OUR WAY OF LIFE AS
SACRED! I SPEAK
OF PAULA!

SO, AFTER 3,000 YEARS,
CASSANDRA'S VISION
COMES TRUE...

... "THE GOLDEN
GIRDLE FALLS FROM
THE HORSE-WOMAN'S
HANDS!"

I MUST DROP
THIS MORTAL GUISE
AND REPORT THIS TO
MY BRETHREN ON
OLYMPUS...

...FOR JUST AS I MUST
Grieve when my daughter
descends to Hades, and
the earth freezes
with my sorrow...

SOPHIA GUIDES OUR
QUEEN! AN OUTSIDER--
A CRIMINAL IN HER OWN
WORLD, WHO LIVED BY
TERRORISM AND
DECEIT!

NO, NOT
PAULA!

YOU, ANTIOPE!
WE NEED YOU!

...SO
HIPPOLYTA
MOURNS
FOR
DIANA...

... AND PARADISE
DIES!"

IT BEGINS
AGAIN IN
CHAOS...

HOW
AMUSING
AND
POIGNANT
THE RUSH
TO FAILURE--
AGAIN AND
AGAIN! HAHAHA!

BY THE FATES...
I UNDERSTAND
NOW!!

...AND KEITH WILL DIE...
OVER AND OVER...

...UNLESS I CAN
DESTROY IT!

CAN'T GO ALONG
WITH IT... HAVE TO FIGHT
THE URGE TO CONTINUE...
SOMEHOW!

ARTEMIS,
HEAR ME!
IN THE
NAME OF THE
AMAZONS
WHO HONOR
YOU...

HUSH, GIRL! THE HUSSIES
OF OLYMPUS HAVE NO
AUTHORITY HERE!

...GRANT ME THE
STRENGTH OF WILL TO
STOP THIS THING!

"I WON'T
INTERFERE!
I WON'T!"

QUICKLY, AMAZON--
QUICKLY! TREMBLE,
WHEN YOU CEASE
TO MAKE ME
LAUGH!

LORD OF
CHAOS--
NO!!

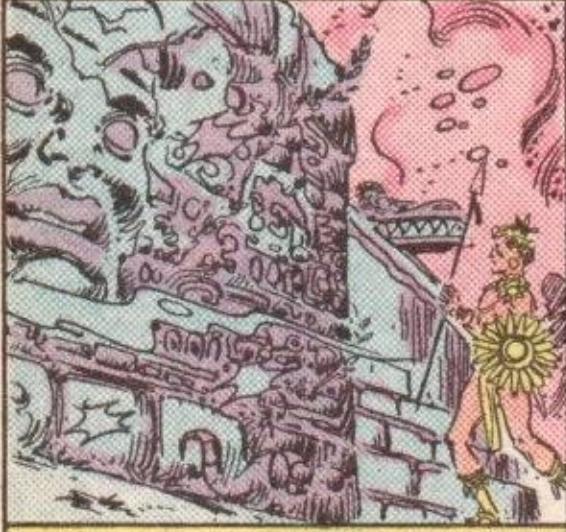
NOOOOO!!
ONE MORE GO-
ROUND. I WILL
BE MASTER
HERE!

FOOL! IF YOU DEFY ME,
CHAOS WILL BE LOOSED
THROUGHOUT YOUR
WORLD!!

IT IS YOU WHO
WILL TREMBLE--
ALL TOO SOON FOR YOU!

IT'S WORKING!
HE'S LOSING
CONTROL...

"THIS TIME SEEMS TO BE
RUNNING IN REVERSE!"



"THE PYRAMIDS START TO
AGE--FASTER AND FASTER..."



"...AND AZTECS HELPLESSLY
RETURN TO THE DUST OF TIME!"



WHIRLWINDS
UNWEAVE ME--
SEE HOW I'M
TURNED TO
WIND--!
--TO EVER-SHIFTING
WIND THAT LAUGHTER
STRUGGLES TO RIDE!

LAUGH ALONG WITH ME,
FROWARD INSECTS! LAUGH
AT OUR UNDOING!



KEITH!
LAUREN!...



...GRAB YOUR FRIEND AND LET'S
GET OUT OF HERE! NOW!!

THIS WHOLE AREA
IS ABOUT TO
IMplode UPON
ITSELF!!

WONDER WOMAN? WHAT
ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT'S GOING ON?



NO TIME TO EXPLAIN!
COME ON! HURRY!
THEY'RE ALL
CONFUSED... BUT
THINGS ARE SPEEDING
UP... THEIR CLOTHES
ARE RETURNING
TO NORMAL...

"...I HOPE IT'S NOT
TOO LATE!"



WHERE ARE YOU RUNNING
TO, CHILDREN? THERE IS NO
PLACE TO HIDE FROM
THE WIND!

SURRENDER AND
JOIN ME--WE SHALL PLAY
IN CHAOS FOREVER!!

HEY, I KNOW THIS A CLICHÉ...
BUT WHERE THE HELL
AM I?

OH... MY HEAD... HOW
DID I GET THIS
BULLET WOUND?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
ANY OF THIS--

--OH,
MY
GOD!

I RECOGNIZE THAT
CHARACTER!

CAN I HAVE
FAILED? CAN REASON
SURVIVE IN THIS
MAELSTROM?

NEVER! SUBMIT
TO YOUR DEATHS!
THOSE WHO DISOBEY
ME WILL NEVER
REVEL IN CON-
FUSION!

LT. HALEY, CAN YOU
MAKE IT?

GUESS SO... KIND
OF DIZZY... BUT
I'LL BE--

NEVER MIND.

MOVE
IT,
YOU
TWO!

HEY, LADY, I'M NO
AMAZON! LAST TIME
I SPUN LIKE THIS,
I WAS IN HIGH
SCHOOL.

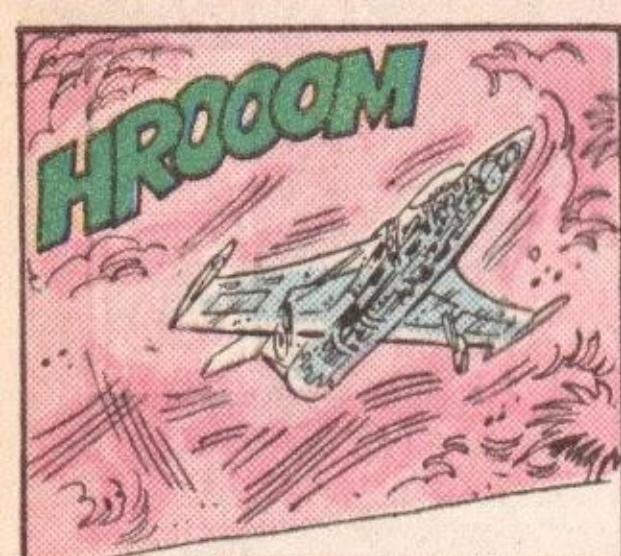
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR
BREATH! IN A MOMENT
THERE WILL BE NOTHING
LEFT TO ARGUE
ABOUT!

CLIMB IN... WE'LL MAKE
ROOM--SOMEHOW!

WE'LL NEVER GET
OFF THE GROUND WITH
THE EXTRA WEIGHT!!

WE HAVE NO
ALTERNATIVE, KEITH!

NONE
AT ALL!



AGAIN, THERE IS THE MIND-SPLITTING, GUT-WRENCHING, SPINNING MADNESS!

AGAIN, SHE FIGHTS TO CONTROL HER PLANE, TO HOLD DOWN THE SCREAM!

AND THEN...

WE'RE OUT!!!

LET ME OFF THIS ROLLER COASTER!

LOOK AT THE SKY...

...THE COLOR...

LIKE BLOOD.

MAYBE WE DIDN'T MAKE IT. MAYBE WE'RE STILL IN TEZCATLIDOCÀ'S GRID--IMAGINING ALL THIS.

NO... THERE'S NICK'S CAR... RIGHT WHERE I LEFT IT WHEN THOSE GOONS PICKED ME UP.*

SOMETHING IS VERY WRONG, THOUGH! LOOK AT THE INSTRUMENT PANEL... IT'S GOING CRAZY!

MAYBE IT WAS AFFECTED BY THAT TIME WARP?

THAT IS ONE POSSIBILITY OF MANY.

MAY HERMES SHOW YOU THE WAY TO SAFETY, IF ANY REMAINS!

DON'T WORRY. WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

SURE. AFTER BEING HUMAN SACRIFICES, WHAT'S A LITTLE WARFARE?



SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S TALKING ABOUT DOOMSDAY.

LET'S GET A MOVE ON--THIS DAY'S NOT OVER YET!

THIS SENSE OF DREAD NEARLY OVERWELMS ME!

CAN ALL THE HEROES OF OUR WORLD STAND AGAINST WHAT AWAITS US?

TO BE CONTINUED IN *CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS!*
NEXT ISSUE: "THE INVESTIGATION" THREATENS TO WRECK THE CAREER OF GENERAL DARNELL!



Wonder Words

L-2057

Just a quick note for all you Mishkin-watchers out there. As predicted, Karen and Dan and Li'l Grace have a nice, new buddy to keep them on their toes. Her name is Alice, and her favorite comics are BLUE DEVIL, AMETHYST, and WONDER WOMAN.

Dear Mr. Gold:

However good the book may be, I can find a few faults. One is the lack of good guest-stars. It's been a while since Diana teamed up with some heroes and heroines. I request (like K. Barfield of issue #324) that the Amazing Amazon get involved with the Black Orchid. It's been a long time since we've seen Orchid in action. I'd also like to see Batman, Batgirl, Superman, and Supergirl. Oh, and don't forget Zatanna. Please!!!

Another minor problem is the art. Don't get me wrong! Don Heck will always be my favorite artist. But lately he, like Gene Colan before him, let himself go pencil happy. He's gotten a little too confident with drawing WW, but don't let him slide away from this book. Just give him a few issues rest. In his place, I vote you put Eduardo Barreto. His WW covers (#322 and #323) were stupendous! His work is excellent and if you drop Mr. Heck for some reason, Mr. Barreto would be a wonderful addition to the staff.

I hope this letter will give you some ideas on how to save my favorite comic book from the terrifying thought of cancellation. Please keep up the good work and thanks for letting me express my views.

Holal!!!

Greg Armentrout
Afton, VA

Hi, Alan,

I've got a few questions about WONDER WOMAN #324. Okay—on page 2 at the bottom, why does Wonder Woman lie to Etta? On pages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, and 21, her lasso is not glowing. Why? On pages 2 and 22 it is. Sometimes you don't show it at all. Please, explain! How did the Atomic Knight get his costume? Did he just walk into S.T.A.R. Labs and take it or steal it? I think he's real cool. I hope he stays in Wonder Woman's book for a while. The Amazons have super-powers, right? How come on page 18 at the top it takes four of them to carry the pole? I hope Sofia doesn't gain the Queen's love and then betray her! In CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS does Wonder Woman

get killed? I heard she does. I hope not. How come Mr. Heck doesn't do Wonder Woman's covers, too? Keep up the good job. I'll buy her forever!

Mr. Wonder
Transformation Island

You sure are an inquisitive little cuss, Mr. Wonder! Try these answers on for size. (1) Wonder Woman doesn't actually lie to Etta on p. 2. She just helps Etta stay asleep to keep her from getting mixed up in what promises to be a risky adventure. (2) The glow effects were left off the lasso because we goofed. (3) Sometimes you can't see the lasso because of the way Diana is turned. It's always there, however—usually on her right side, sometimes on her left. (4) Yes, the Atomic Knight "liberated" his suit without permission from S.T.A.R. Labs. He thought his theft was justified because he perceived an international emergency. He'll have some repenting to do one of these days, if he indeed survived the explosion in WW #325. (5) To the best of my knowledge, of all the Amazons only Diana and Donna have super-powers. The other Amazons are in superb physical condition, no more. (6) I can't reveal what's in store for the Amazing Amazon in CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS. The big events are coming up real soon, as you read this; there'll be a big shocker in August. (7) To tell you the truth, I just never asked Don to do a WONDER WOMAN cover. Maybe he will do one one of these issues—just to prove I'm paying attention!

Dear Alan:

WONDER WOMAN #324 definitely was one of your better issues of late. Also, I like the new Atomic Knight, but I think that he wasn't used to his full potential. I just feel that since this was his first appearance, he should have been spotlighted just a little more, and that we should have seen him use the armor's powers more than they were.

All in all, I must admit that I think that these last two issues of Dan Mishkin's are going to be his best. Also, I would be a fool if I didn't mention I am looking forward to seeing Mindy Newell take over this book. Though she hasn't written a lot of stories, what I have read I've liked. So I have a lot of hope that WW will once again be a book that will be quite enjoyable to everyone, including yours truly.

Kevin T. Brown
Norridge, IL

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Dear Alan,

WONDER WOMAN #324 was a very good issue. Paris and Romeo did a superb job with the cover. They captured the true beauty of Diana and the power that the Atomic Knight possesses. Again, a superb cover. The story itself was very close-knit and well-constructed. Gardner Grayle, the Atomic Knight, gave Wonder Woman a pretty good fight for a newcomer (well, sort of new). As a matter of fact, I think he would have won if WW didn't command the robot plane to sideswipe him. Then WW, the Knight, and Steve Trevor meet up with Soviet soldiers and Dan shows us a very realistic setting when soldiers from opposing countries meet. They don't trust each other. I especially liked what Steve told Diana on page 22, panel 3: "The whole world's not like Paradise Island! I'm a soldier ... he's my enemy." I'm glad that Steve said this because most of the time he doesn't act like a soldier in my opinion.

Now on to other things. In the past I bought WONDER WOMAN from time to time, then I saw WONDER WOMAN #320 and said, "Well, I haven't bought an issue since #309." So I paid 75¢ and went home to find out what the Amazing Amazon has been up to. I liked the issue enough to start buying the book regularly. I noticed that Rick Magyar was the inker and said, "Well, he's not bad." Then Rick left after #322 and #323 had Don Heck inking his own stuff. I was kind of disappointed. Don is one of the finest pencillers in the business, but I never thought much of his inking.

Take chances with the book and characters. After all, with poor sales, you've got nothing to lose. Now here are my ideas for changes. Hopefully, Dan and Mindy Newell agree with me on these changes. If Don Heck is going to stay on the book, then I recommend another inker such as Rick Magyar, Romeo Tanghal (Don and Romeo did some spectacular work on JUSTICE LEAGUE a few years back), Mike DeCarlo, or Frank McLaughlin. Also, I suggest you line up a large variety of artists to do covers. My suggestions are Marshall Rogers, George Pérez, Rich Buckler, Frank Miller, Ed Barreto, Paris Cullins, José Luis García López, Dick Giordano, Dan Jurgens, Neal Adams, and Stan Woch. Next, make changes with Diana and her supporting cast. Have Etta and Howard go off and live together or get married. Next have General Darnell and Keith Griggs leave the book. Have Keith be reassigned to Europe or something. Next, have Diana

Prince's enlistment period end. Then she decides to not reenlist but to go to work for some computer agency in New York City. This way she could team up with other NYC heroes and not travel hundreds of miles to do so. Keep Steve Trevor around. Transfer him to NYC at some military base. Introduce new and more interesting supporting characters. Introduce new villains. Team Wonder Woman up with other heroes and heroines more often. Also, have more continuity.

Sean Wasson
Orono, ME

I'd just like to comment on Don's inking of his own pencils, Sean. Don was getting a little behind schedule just around the time we were planning to eliminate the back-up feature and run a 23-page WONDER WOMAN story, so Rick (who, like a lot of other inkers, has often expressed a desire to ink Don's pencils) pitched in for a limited number of issues. (Here comes another bald-faced plug, so put your thinking caps on, friends!) Rick's work can currently be seen every month in VIGILANTE (pencils by Tod Smith) and BLUE DEVIL (pencils by Alan Kupperberg).

In the meantime, I think Don is an excellent inker and even if Romeo Tanghal or Mike DeCarlo or Frank McLaughlin were not too busy inking TEEN TITANS and CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS or THE FLASH, I would only ask them in an emergency to do what I personally think Don does very well by himself.

Dear Editor,

If not for that tantalizing promo in WHO'S WHO #1, drawn by the great Murphy Anderson and featuring the new Atomic Knight, I never would have known what was in store for Gardner Grayle in the pages of WONDER WOMAN #324.

I don't know who's going to replace Dan Mishkin, but I have several ideas that I would like you to consider. First and foremost, I think it would be grand having Wonder Woman in a love triangle with Steve Trevor and Air Force Captain Adam (better known as Captain Atom).

Secondly, Wonder Woman should frequently team with DC's top female stars—like Supergirl and the Black Canary. Guest stars are always a plus in any action-oriented comic book. Who knows? Sometime she could investigate the origin of Dolphin or uncover the secret of the Black Orchid. I've always considered Wonder Woman to be a female version of Marvel's Thor, so why don't you give her the same elaborate treatment?

Finally, should a back-up feature be considered, why don't you give the new Atomic Knight the nod. What's Murphy Anderson doing?

Jeffrey Lowndes
Scranton, PA

Dear Editor,

To start off, I must say that the subject matter of #324 has me intrigued: the Siberian explosion of the early part of this century, the new Atomic Knight, the confrontation with Soviet soldiers, and the fate of Glitch. These are intriguing elements to choose to mix into one story line, but how well did that mixture succeed?

There have been many and varied explanations for the Siberian explosion, some plausible, others much less so. In a science-fictional context, yours is the standard one: an alien spacecraft. But tying it into Glitch is a very interesting turn. For all their power, the alien masters now look very formidable...and foreboding. The confrontation with the Soviet forces is only natural, given the situation. I will be very interested to see how you handle them. It would be easy to portray them all as cardboard martinetts, but I think that in view of the weirdness of the situation, even they might be willing to make allowances and work with their superpower opponents.

The Atomic Knight's appearance was quite a surprise. I thought that, conceptually speaking, he was dead and buried by that notable DC COMICS PRESENTS issue of several months ago. However, your interpretation has promise. So far, he is a good portrayal of someone who has been fundamentally changed by a wrenching life-experience. Now he is a sort of antinuclear prophet and he reminds me of those rare people who show great fervor and commitment, but who cause people to wonder if that fervor is the mark of the truly insightful and determined or of the slightly unbalanced and misguided.

"T.M. Maple"
Weston, Ontario
Canada

Dear Alan:

I thought I'd throw in my two-cents worth on the Don Heck controversy. Frankly, I just don't understand what the problem is. Several other Silver Age artists have, like Don, developed distinctive styles over the years: Carmine Infantino, Gil Kane, Gene Colan. The same applies even to many of today's newer artists: Keith Giffen, Bill Sienkiewicz, Frank Miller. None of these styles is necessarily good or bad; they are all merely different. All of these artists, however, are well received by the fans. So why do so many people seem to hate Don Heck? Personally, I like his style better than that of several of the people mentioned above.

With that covered, I also have a few comments on issue #324, in particular. It was entertaining, but it seemed rather rushed. The story wasn't given enough time to develop naturally. (I suppose that's an unavoidable side effect of the bimonthly schedule, though.) Still, the new Atomic Knight deserved a less hasty introduction. There was, for example, no explanation given for why his predictions are not believed.

Still, that's only a minor complaint.

Overall, I liked the issue. I hadn't realized until now how long it had been since I'd seen an old-fashioned, back-to-basics "alien invasion" story, and I'm looking forward to the rest of it. I'm sorry to see Dan go—he really revived this book, in my opinion—but I have confidence in Mindy Newell's talent. If only the book she's inheriting were still monthly!

Chris Miller
Columbus, OH

Dear Editor,

I read some of your comics in South Africa. I think they are great. I actually am writing to find out if there is an American citizen willing to write to me. The only thing I want from this person is to be a young lady of about 18 years. I am eighteen years of age and I have light hair. I have brown eyes and I am about five-foot tall. My home language is Afrikaans, so excuse the spelling mistakes, please! [There were none!] Alan] I love music and my favorite group is Wham. I read a lot of English books and I am planning to play squash one of these fine days. I try to play guitar as well.

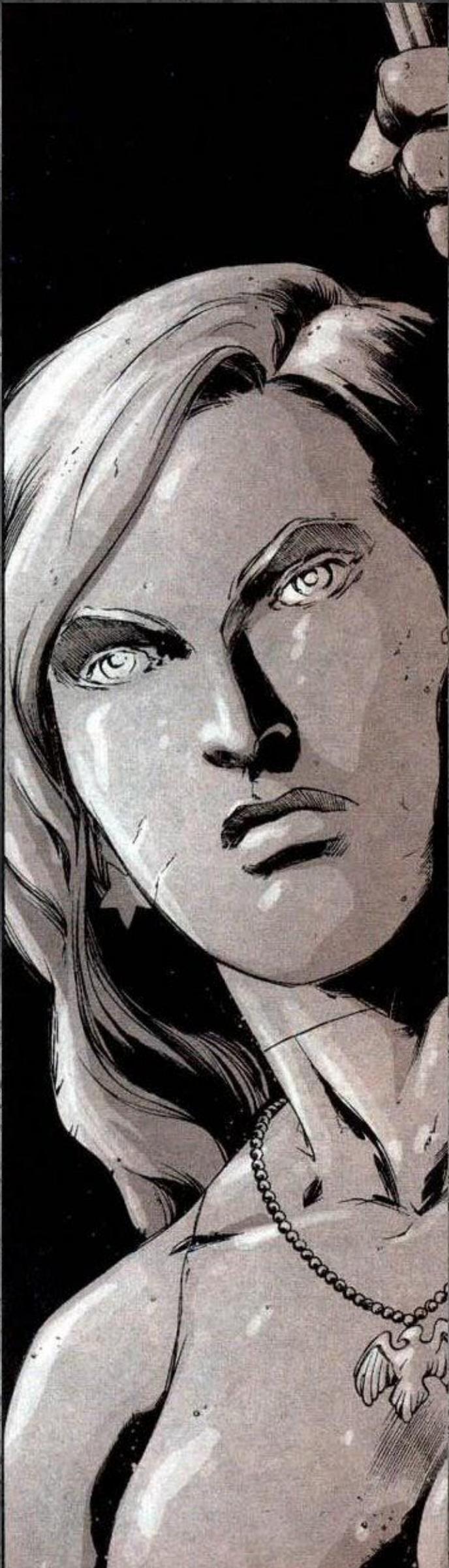
If there is someone that may be interested, please write back. I would be pleased to write to an American, just for the fun!

Carol Steffers
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Thanks, too, to Robert Jones (you've named ten of the top artists working in the comics business, Robert; none of them is illustrating WONDER WOMAN because everyone of them is busy with other projects and because Don Heck is doing just fine, thank you, as the regular artist). Bruce Williamson (please don't think you've wasted your time in writing to me, Bruce; I personally agree with some of what you've written, but some changes just can't be made—that's how life is), Joe Paul Smith, Holly Cruse, Ruben Gonzalez (thanks for your very long, thought-filled letter, Ruben; it's too long for inclusion in this column without major surgery, but I've passed it along to writer Mindy Newell), Gary Hellen, Stephen Scott Beau Smith, Penney J. O'Donnell, Jeff Mitchell, Thomas B. Hunter, Robert Rundle, Gregg Sterne, and Frank Reilly.

NEXT ISSUE: Trust me, an important story line starts getting very hot in WONDER WOMAN #328. Senator Covington's investigation is getting under way—and Major Prince is doing some quick investigating of her own. Meanwhile, that mysterious, screen-watching female figure makes her sinister presence just a bit more evident. Be with us in sixty days!

—Alan



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