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WAR OF THE GODS

WONDER WOMAN

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ATLAS SHRUGGED!

PÉREZ • THOMPSON • TANGHAL

ATLAS SHRUGGED

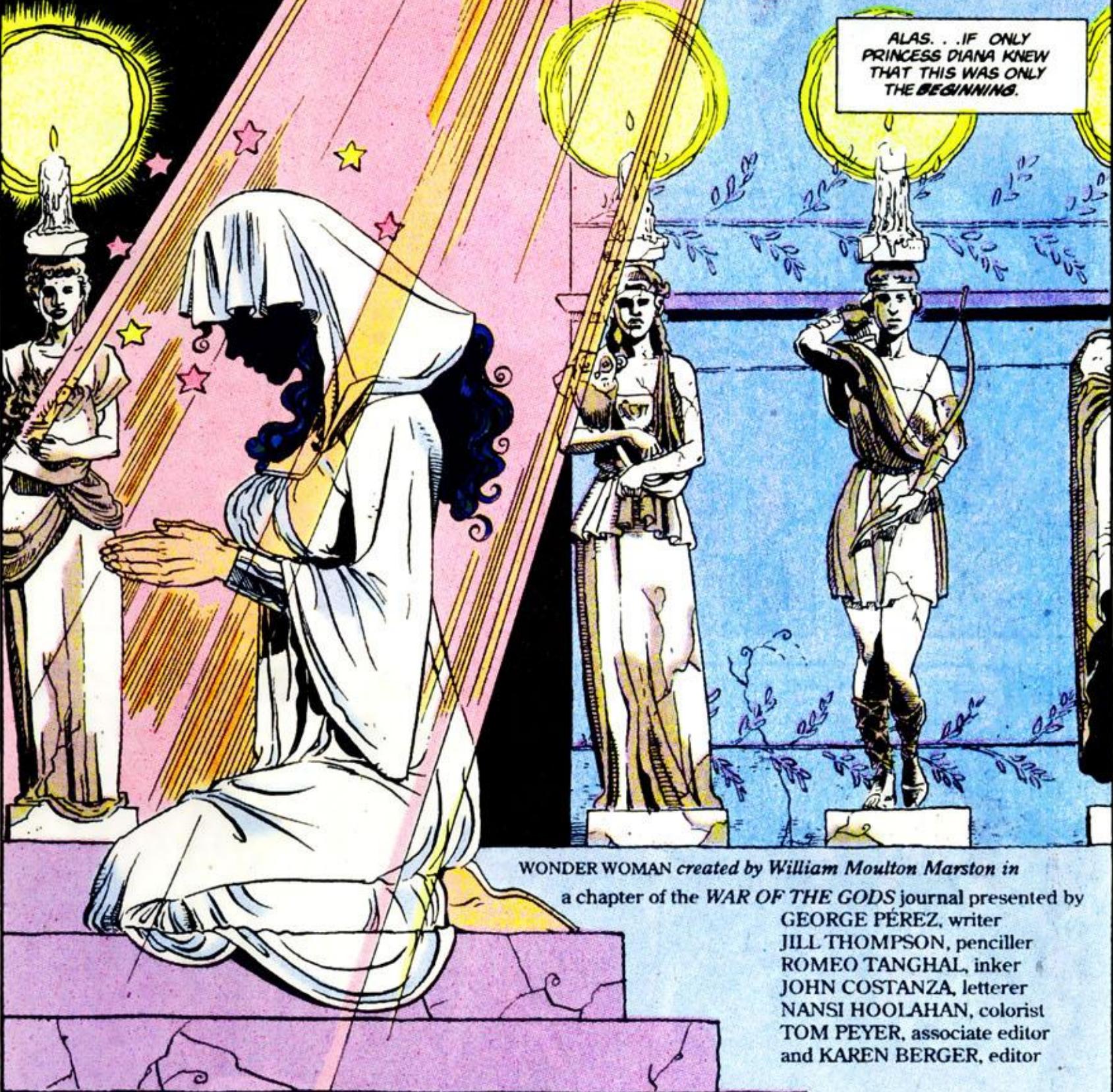
SOMETIMES THE ONLY THING LEFT FOR ONE TO DO IS PRAY.

SO IT IS NOW ON THIS DESPERATE DAY ON THE ISLAND OF THEMYSCIRA, HOME OF THE LEGENDARY AMAZONS, WHERE A BELEAGUERED, HUMBLED PRINCESS OF PARADISE BARES HER SOUL TO HER GODS...

...PRAYING FOR SOME SIGN, SOME EXPLANATION AS TO HOW AND WHY THOSE WHOM SHE HONORED AND SERVED SO DILIGENTLY COULD HAVE ALLOWED EVERYTHING, ALL HER HOPES, ALL HER DREAMS, TO END UP SO TERRIBLY WRONG.

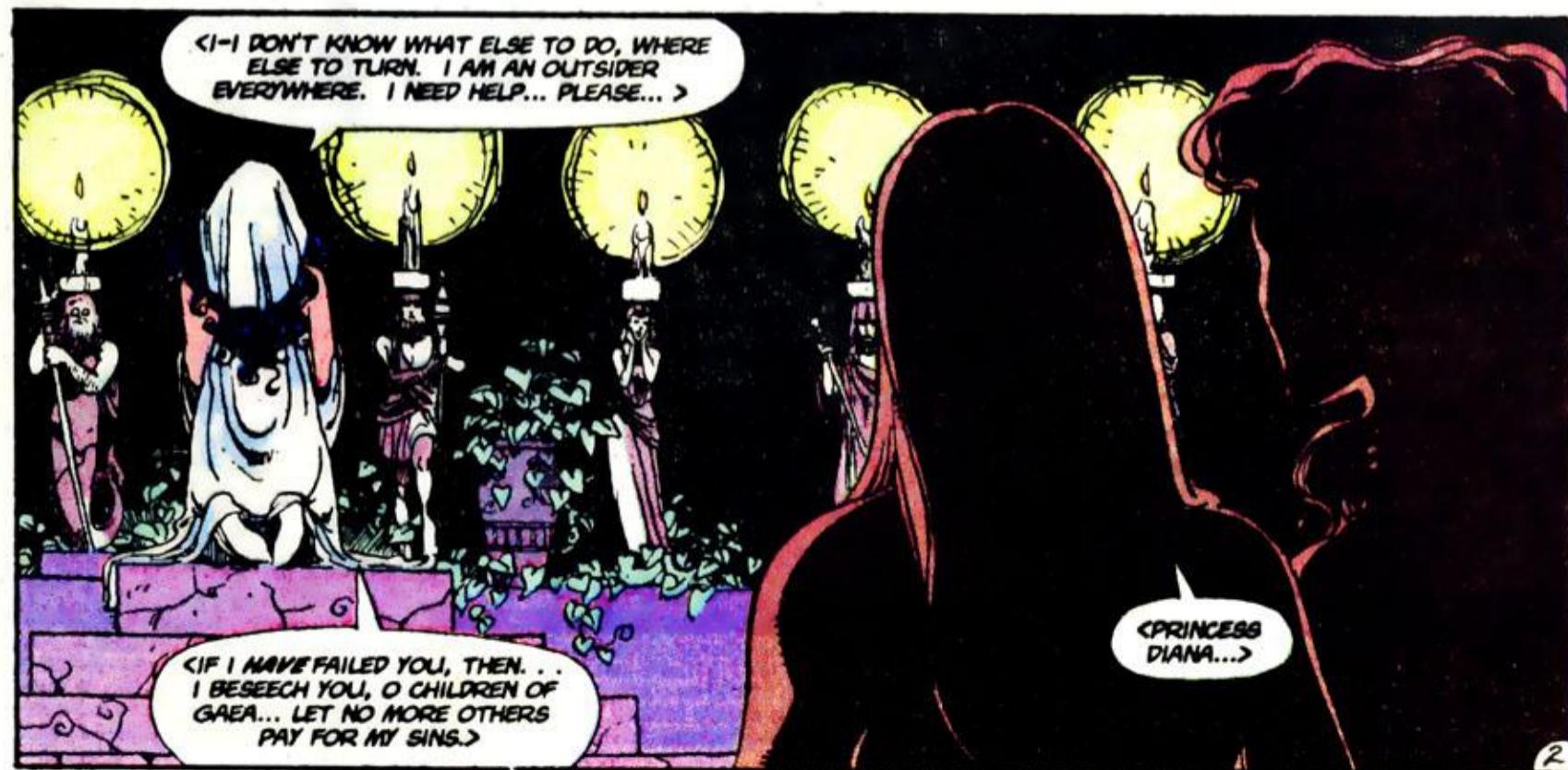
ALAS... IF ONLY PRINCESS DIANA KNEW THAT THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

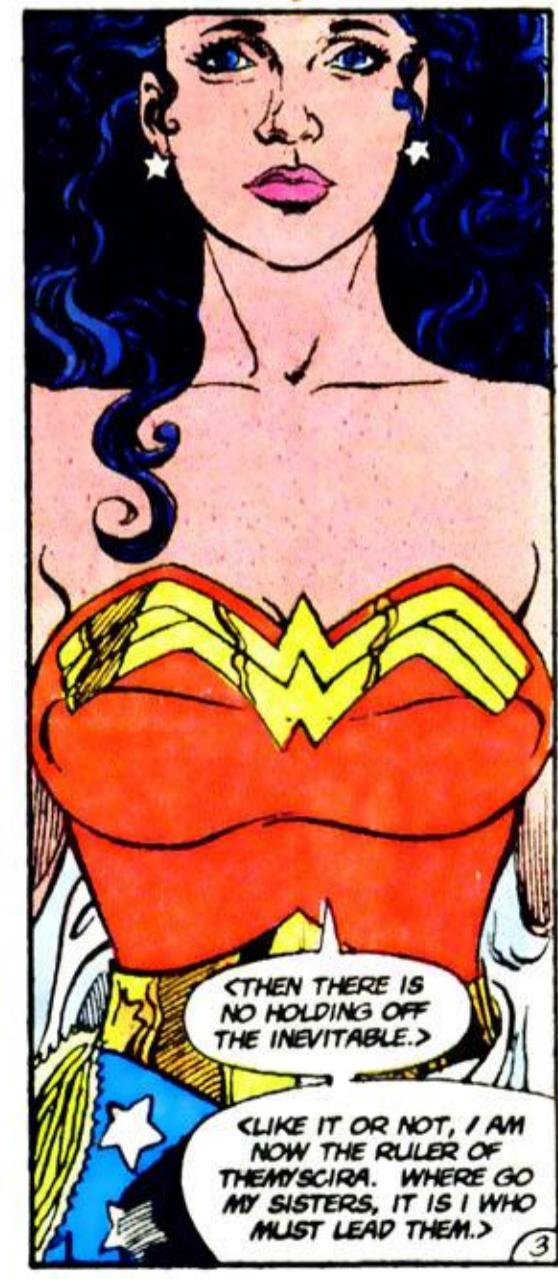
WONDER WOMAN created by William Moulton Marston in
a chapter of the *WAR OF THE GODS* journal presented by
GEORGE PÉREZ, writer
JILL THOMPSON, penciller
ROMEO TANGHAL, inker
JOHN COSTANZA, letterer
NANSI HOOLAHAN, colorist
TOM PEYER, associate editor
and KAREN BERGER, editor



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AND EVEN ON THE ISLAND OF HEALING JUST OFF THE THEMYSIRAN SHORE, PRAYERS OF HOPE HAVE BEEN SUPPLANTED BY WAILS OF FRUSTRATION.

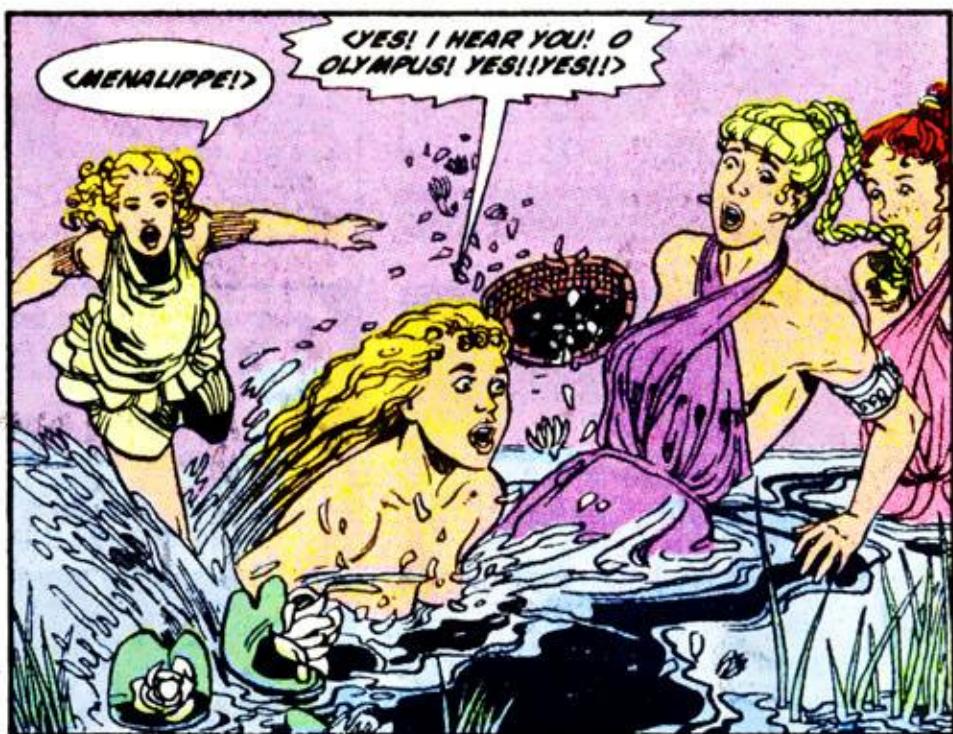
"BY THE GODS! IS THERE NO PROGRESS STILL?"

"I'M SORRY, PENELOPE, BUT WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN.
I'M AFRAID THAT MENALIPPE'S INJURIES GO FAR BEYOND THE PHYSICAL."
<IT IS HER SPIRIT ITSELF THAT IS WOUNDED, AND TO HEAL THAT WE NEED HER ASSISTANCE.>
<YOU ARE NOT IMPLYING THAT MENALIPPE--MY MENALIPPE--IS ACTUALLY WILLING HERSELF TO DIE?>

<WHAT KIND OF WORLD OUT THERE COULD SO SHATTER OUR ORACLE?>

<AND IF EVEN THE FAVORED OF APOLLO CAN BE SO BROKEN, WHAT CHANCE HAVE THE REST OF US?>

<IT TERRIFIES ME. IF WE CONTINUE CONSORTING WITH THOSE BARBARIANS BEYOND OUR SHORES, WE MAY BE DESTROYING OUR ENTIRE-->



HANSCOM A.F.B. IN BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS, A TINY FRAGMENT OF PATRIARCH'S WORLD.

GEN. HILLARY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I'VE BEEN CALLED BACK HERE SO ABRUPTLY. I DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO TELL MY FAMILY--

I KNOW, LT. CANDY, BUT THOSE WERE HOW THE ORDERS READ. JUST MAINTAIN YOUR MILITARY COMPOSURE DURING ALL THIS, AND HOPEFULLY WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS RELATIVELY INTACT.

SIR, I'VE ALWAYS --

I KNOW, ETTA-- IT'S JUST THAT THIS MAY GET A LOT ROUGHER FOR YOU THAN DESERT STORM COULD EVER HAVE BEEN.

A SUDDEN THUNDERSTORM ROARS ACROSS THE FIRMAMENT, ITS THUNDERING LAUGHTER PROVIDING MOCKING AUDIENCE FOR THE PROCEEDINGS BELOW.

FATE'S TRAGIC COMEDY CONTINUES.

GEN. HILLARY.
LT. CANDY.
COME IN.

I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

CAN THE MOCK CIVILITY, GENERAL.
LT. CANDY HAS BEEN BROUGHT HERE AS PER YOUR REQUEST.

YOU WILL SEE IN JUST A MOMENT, LT. CANDY.

BEGGING YOUR PARDON,
GEN. YEDZINIAK, SIR, BUT
MAY I ASK WHAT THIS
INVESTIGATION IS ALL
ABOUT? WHAT HAS IT TO
DO WITH ME?

GUARD,
ESCORT THE PRISONER IN.

WHAT THE HELL--?

"STEVE!"

DAMMIT, YEDZINIAK,
WAS THAT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY?

HILLARY, YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD BE AWARE OF TREVOR'S HISTORY OF ESCAPING MILITARY CUSTODY, ESPECIALLY WHEN WONDER WOMAN IS INVOLVED!

I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES--
NOT WHEN THIS WHOLE WORLD'S ON THE BRINK OF WAR AGAIN--

--A WAR STARTED BY THOSE LYING, MURDERING AMAZONS!

MEANWHILE, ALONG A DARK, ISOLATED STRETCH OF ROAD SOMEWHERE IN NEW JERSEY...

"I TELL YA, AUSTIN, THIS IS DOWNRIGHT EERIE."

LOOK AT ALL THOSE STARS. NOT IT'S LIKE DRIVIN' INTO A CLOUD IN THE SKY. WHO'D EVER BELIEVE IT WAS ALMOST MOON?

SOME GODDAM TWILIGHT ZONE.

YEAH... OWENS, YA DON'T THINK THOSE... AMAZONS HAVE ANYTHIN' TO DO WITH THIS, DO YA?

"YOU KIDDIN', MAN? EVEN THOSE BABES LOOKED KINDA SPOOKED BY ALL THE WEIRDNESS GOIN' DOWN."

<I'VE BEEN TRYING TO ASSIMILATE ALL THE INSANE EVENTS THAT HAVE BEFALLEN US, TIMANDRA. PRAYING FOR GUIDANCE SO THAT I MIGHT MAKE SOME SENSE OF IT ALL. >

IF YA ASK ME, USING A WHOLE CONVOY OF ARMED SOLDIERS TO ESCORT THREE CHICKS IN CHAINS IS A REAL WASTE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY.

<A FRUSTRATINGLY FUTILE ENDEAVOR, I FEAR. >

<MNEMOSYNE, YOU'VE BEEN SO QUIET THROUGHOUT THIS JOURNEY. >

OH, I AIN'T SO SURE. I HEARD ALMOST A DOZEN MP'S GOT PRETTY BEAT UP WHEN THEY WERE PUTTIN' THE CUFFS ON 'EM.

THEY SAY THE ONE CALLED WONDER WOMAN TORE UP A WHOLE HOSPITAL WHEN THEY TRIED TO CUFF HER.

<THEY WOULDN'T EVEN LET ME TREAT MENALIPPE AFTER THOSE BARBARIANS WOUNDED HER. I SWEAR, MNEMOSYNE-- IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO HER-->

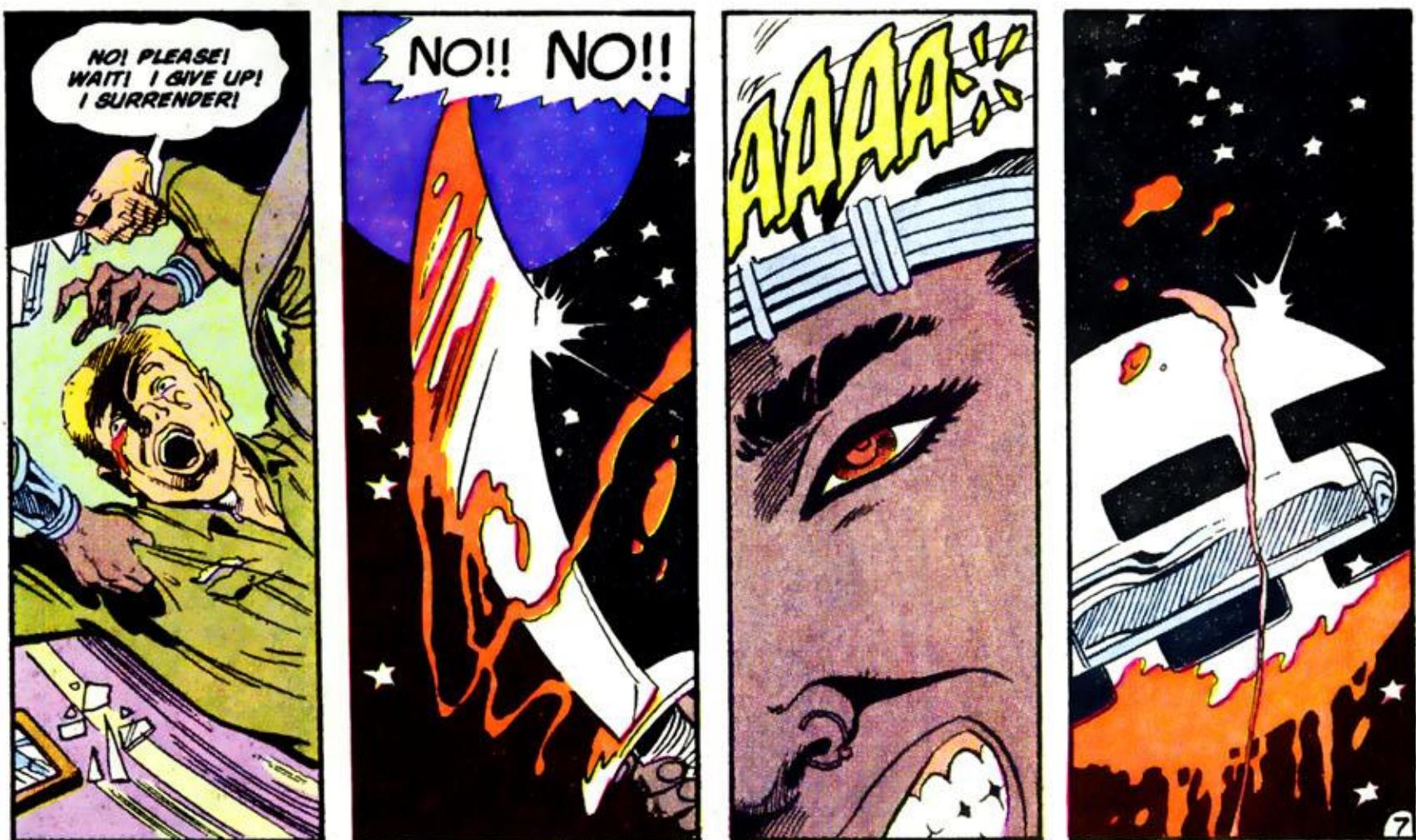
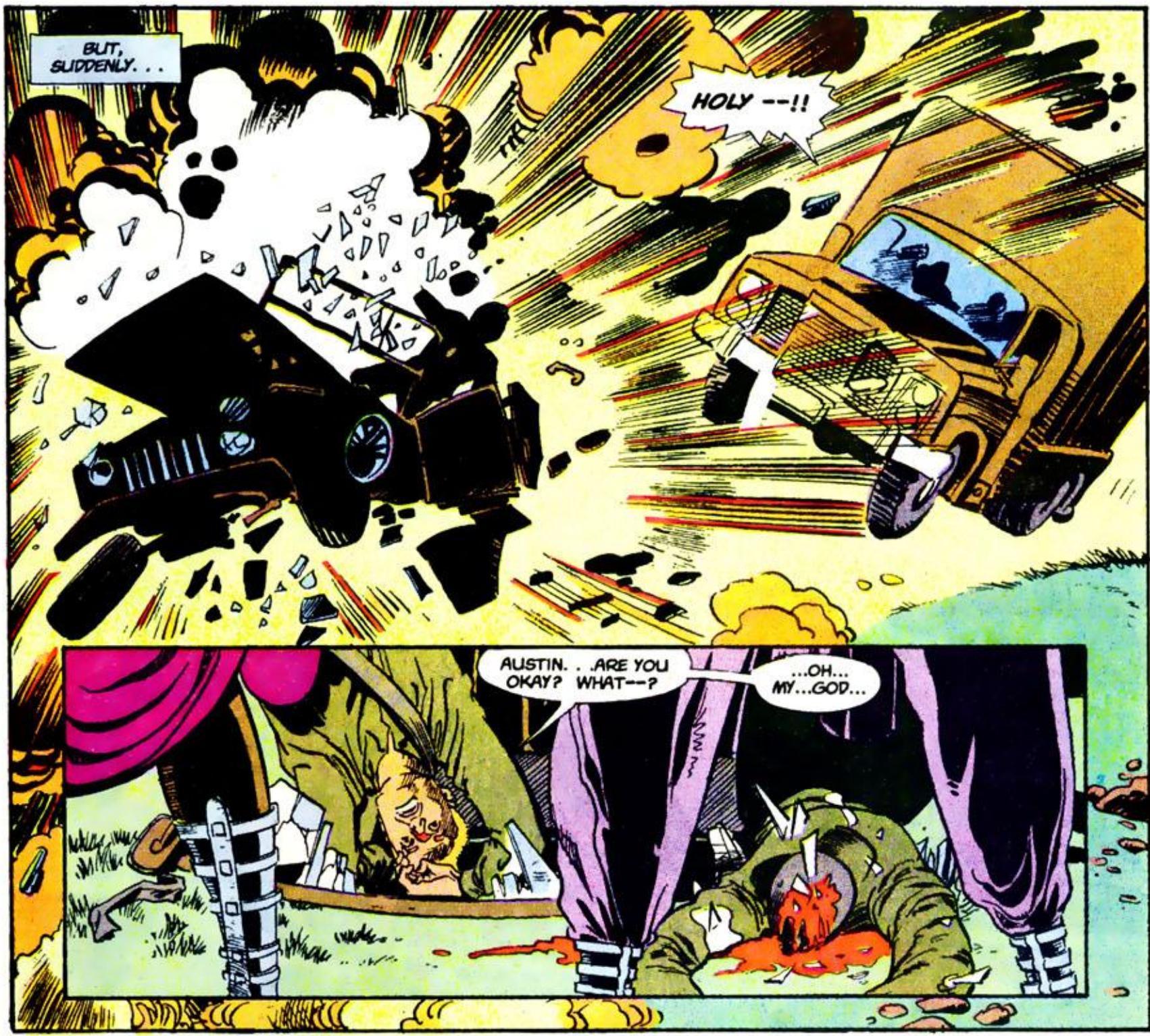
<CALM YOURSELF, EPIONE. WE MUST KEEP OUR HEADS CLEAR. WE MUST HAVE FAITH. >

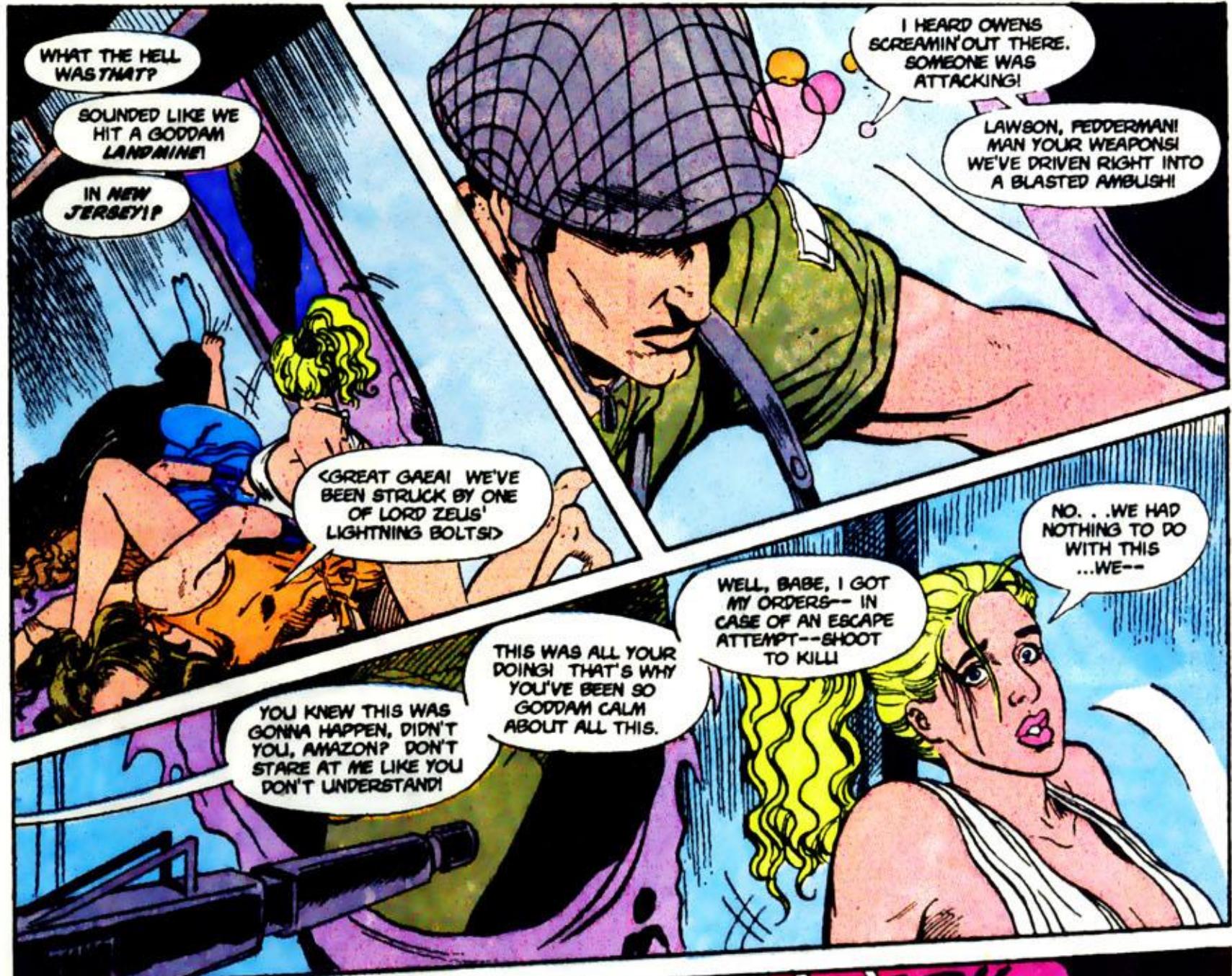
I ALWAYS KNEW THEIR PEACE ACT WAS BOGUS. LISTEN TO 'EM -- MAKIN' LIKE THEY DON'T EVEN SPEAK AMERICAN--

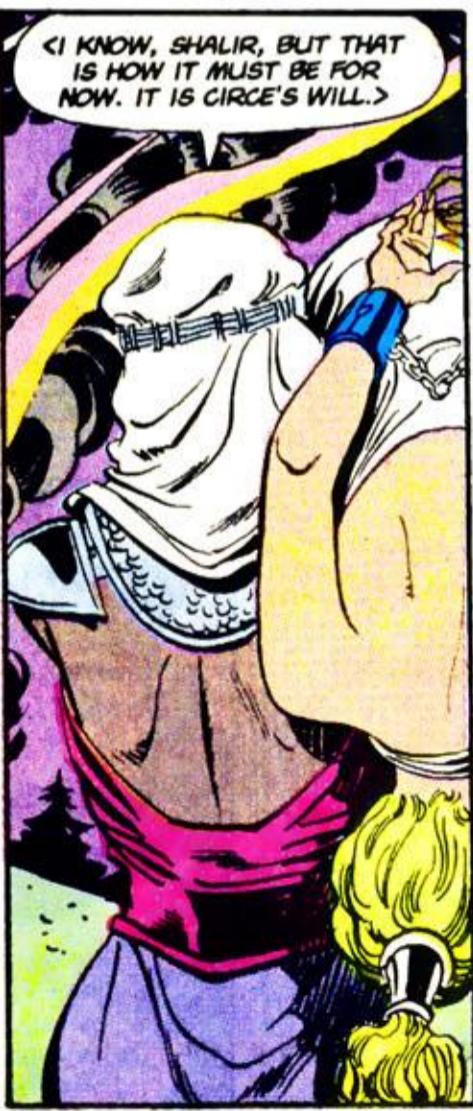
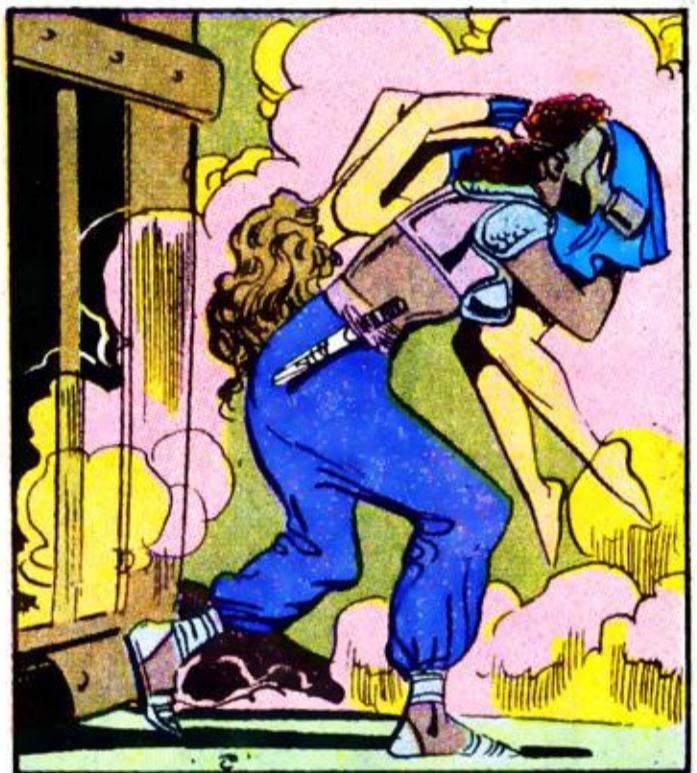
WELL, THEY AIN'T FOOLING ANYONE ANYMORE. THEY'LL TELL US WHERE THEIR MURDERIN' QUEEN IS--

--OR ELSE THEY'LL JOIN THEIR GIRLFRIEND-- WHATSERNAME-- HELLENE IN THE MORGUE.









WHILE BACK ON THEMYSCIRA,
THE AMAZONS GATHERED
STARE IN AWE AND
BEWILDERMENT.

JUST MOMENTS AGO, IN THE
MIDST OF DEBATING WAR,
THEIR PRINCESS DIANA HAD
BEEN CALLED AWAY BY THE
GODS THEMSELVES--*

--LEAVING IN HER STEAD
NO LESS A BEING THAN
THE SON OF LORD JESUS
HIMSELF.

<HERCULES! WHY DID YOU NOT GO
TO NEW OLYMPUS WITH LORD
HERMES AND DIANA?>

<BECAUSE, FAIR MENALIPPE, OUR
GODS FELT I'D BE OF BETTER USE
DOWN HERE. A TRADE-OFF, IF YOU
WILL. ONE CHAMPION FOR
ANOTHER.>

<THEN, OLYMPUS BE
PRAISED, I WAS RIGHT--
THE GODS HAVE COME TO
AID US IN OUR DARKEST
HOUR.>

* see
**WAR OF THE
GODS #1**

KWELL, WHAT I WISH TO
KNOW IS WHY OUR GODS
WAITED SO LONG?

<WAS AN AMAZON SACRIFICE
THE TRIBUTE NEEDED TO DEEM
US MORTHY OF OLYMPUS'
ATTENTION?>

CHUSH, IPHTHIME, IS IT NOT
ENOUGH THAT THEY HAVE
RETURNED? NOW PERHAPS
WE SHALL BE ABLE TO LEARN
OF THE FATES OF OUR
SISTERS, OF QUEEN
HIPPOLYTE-->

<--EVEN, I PRAY, THAT OF MY
SOUL-CHILD, JULIA-->

<HOLD, GIRL! YOUR
WORDS PUZZLE ME. ISN'T
HIPPOLYTE AMONG YOU?>

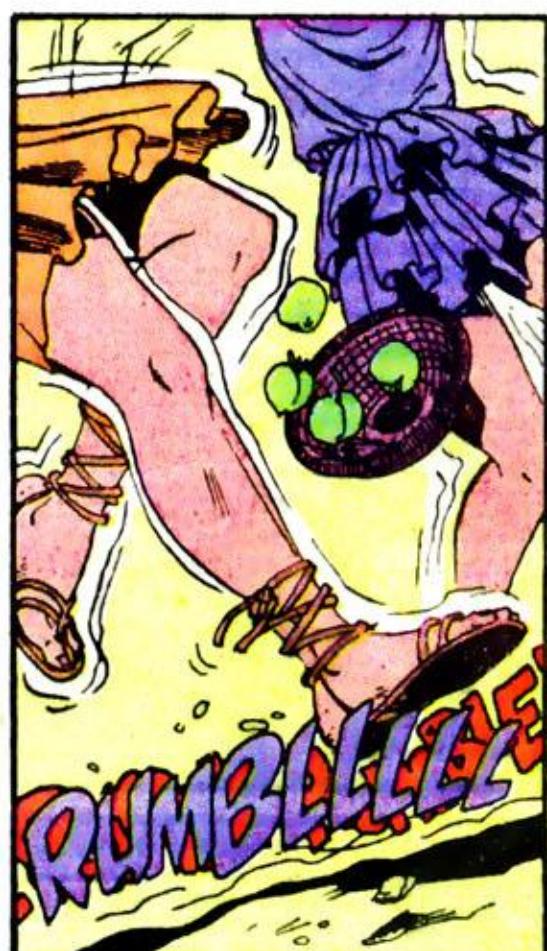
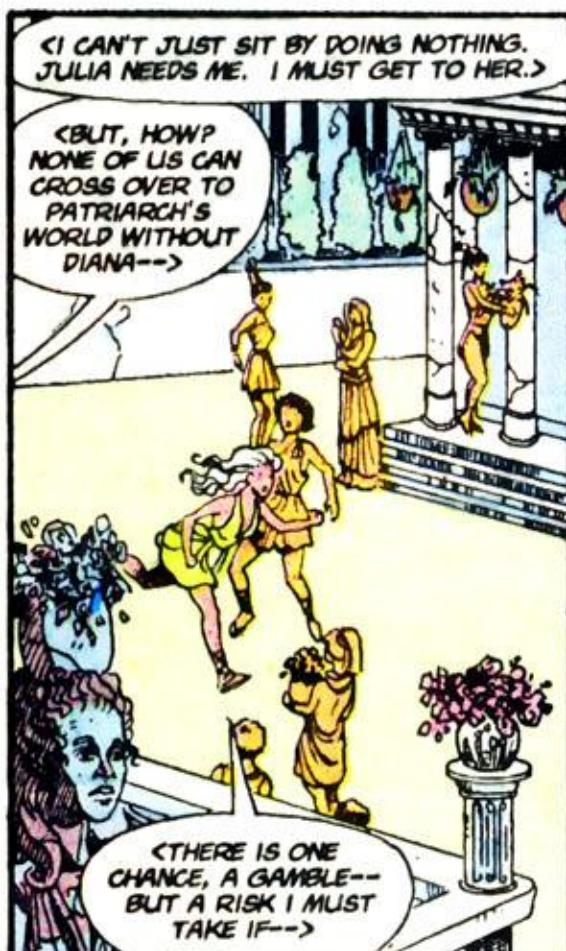
<WHAT IN THE NAME OF
ZEUS HAS TRANSPRIRED
HERE?>

MENALIPPE,
DID YOU HEAR
THAT? OUR
GODS, OUR ALL-KNOWING, ALL-
SEEING GODS, HAVE NO KNOW-
LEDGE OF WHAT'S BEEN HAPPEN-
ING TO US!>

<--OR IS THERE SOMETHING
MORE TO ALL THIS THAN THEY
ARE TELLING US?> TEARING
THEMYSCIRA APART!

<BY THE-- YOU
MEAN... YOU DON'T
KNOW?>

<NO... THAT IS...
IMPOSSIBLE...>



WITHIN SECONDS, THE SON OF ZEUS AND ALCMENA IS MOUNTED AND CHARGING OUT OF THE CAPITAL CITY TOWARD THE SOUTHERN SHORE.

BEHIND HIM FOLLOW SEVERAL AMAZONS, KEEPING THE PACE, BUT KNOWING THAT THEY CAN NEVER OVERTAKE HIM--

--FOR IT IS UPON AQUILLO'S EBON BACK THAT HERACLES RIDES, AND AQUILLO IS THE FASTEST STALLION IN ALL THE ISLAND--

--A STEED WORTHY OF HIS MISTRESS-- PRINCESS DIANA OF THEMYSIRA.

WHILE BACK IN THE ROYAL PALACE...

PYTHIA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN DIANA'S BED CHAMBER? WHY ARE YOU IN ARMOR?

(TO RESCUE A DAUGHTER, MYRRHA. AND IF I AM TO SUCCEED, I MUST PLACE MY FAITH IN THESE-- THE WINGED SANDALS OF HERMES.)

CARE YOU INSANE? ONLY DIANA CAN USE THOSE THINGS. PYTHIA, YOU CAN'T EVEN FLY!!

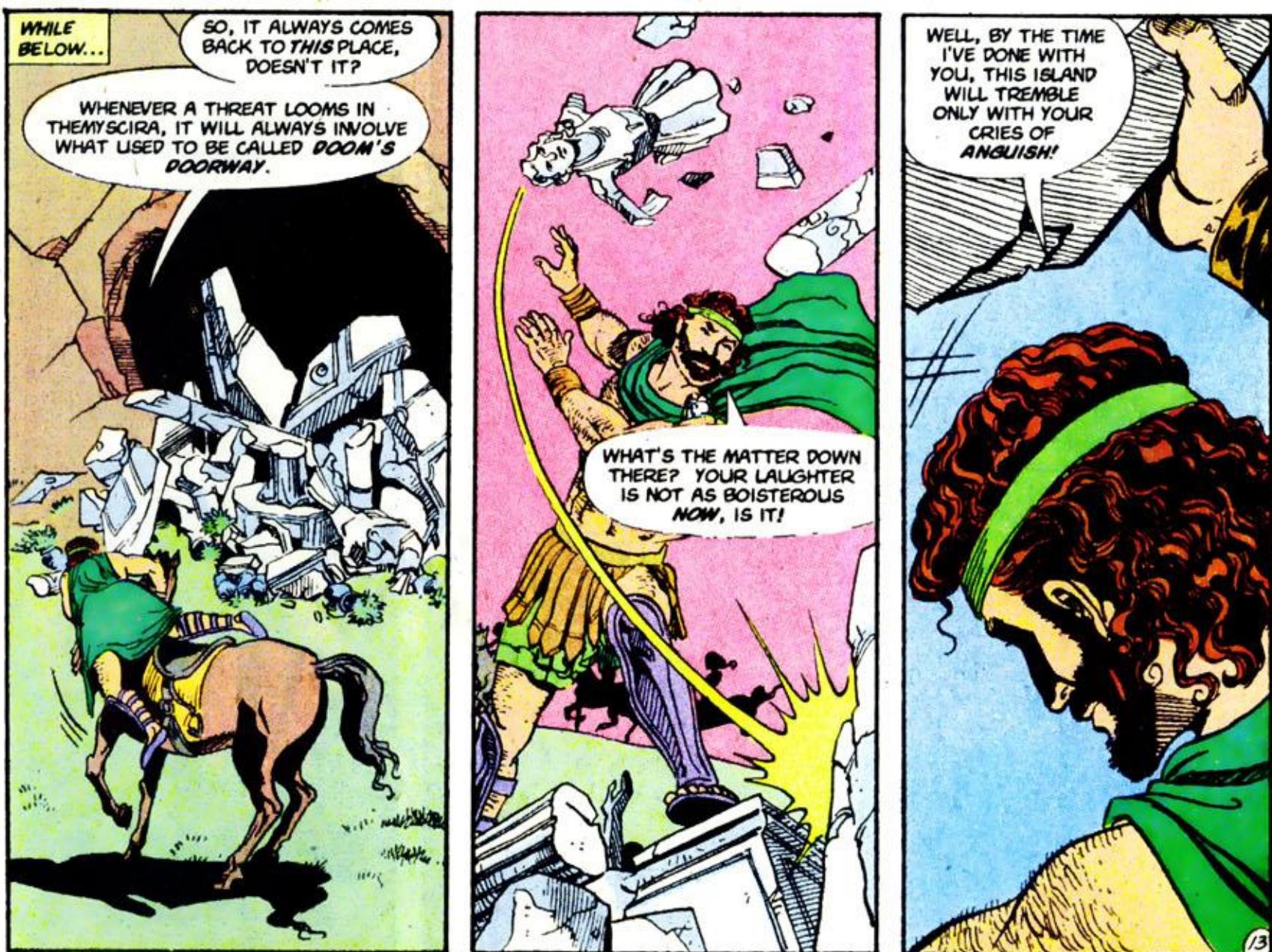
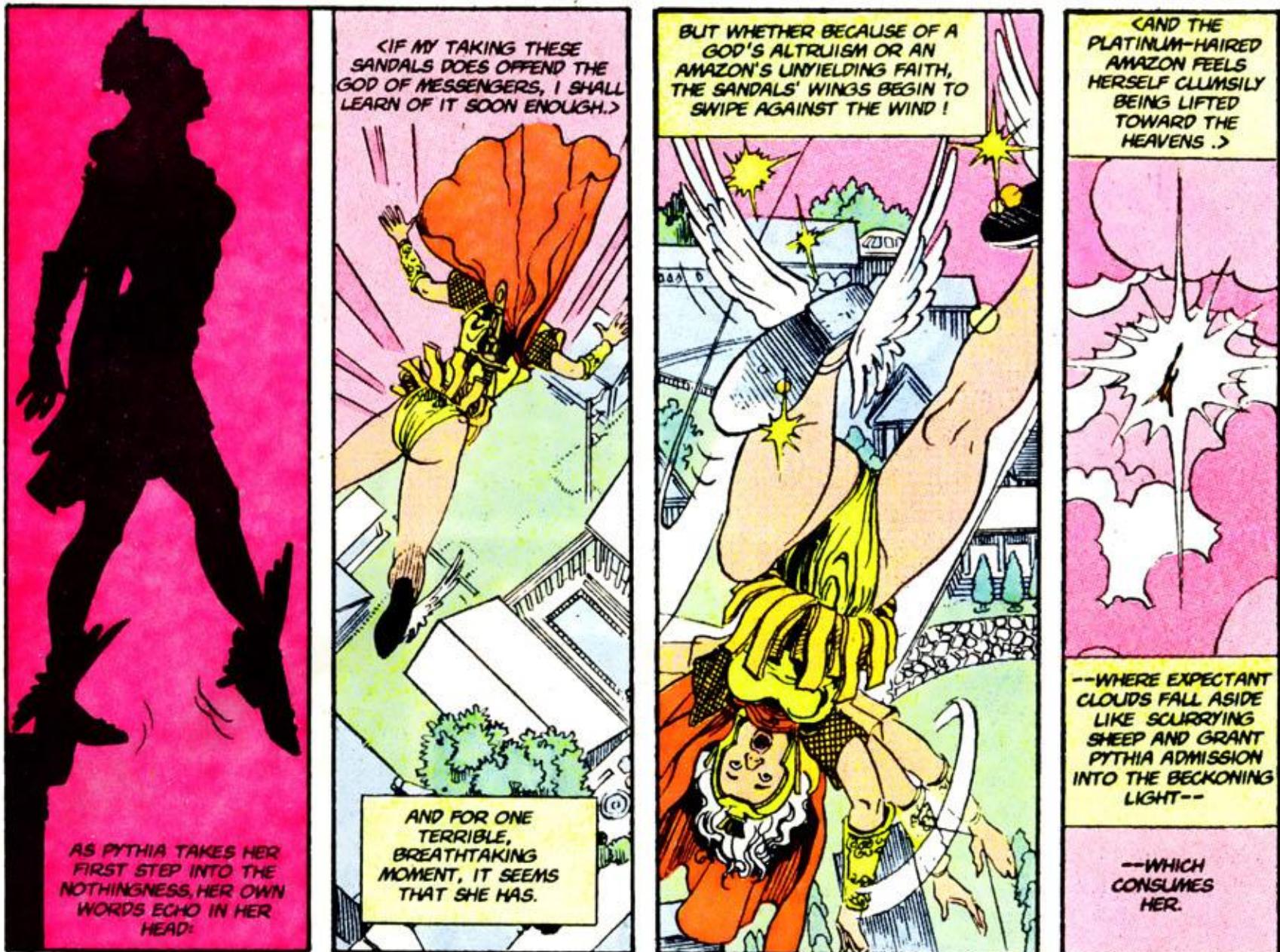
(I KNOW, MYRRHA, BUT THESE SANDALS CAN. DON'T YOU SEE? JULIA'S TORMENT HAUNTS ME. I HAVE TO AT LEAST TRY.)

(IT IS MY ONLY HOPE OF BREACHING THE CHAOS WHICH SEPARATES OUR TWO WORLDS. PLEASE, MYRRHA, DO NOT TRY TO STOP ME.)

(IF MY TAKING THESE SANDALS DOES OFFEND THE GOD OF MESSENGERS, I SHALL LEARN OF IT SOON ENOUGH.)

(PRAY FOR ME, SISTER, AS I SHALL PRAY FOR ALL OF YOU. THE GLORY OF GAEA BE WITH YOU.)

(AND WITH YOU... BRAVE PYTHIA.)



HERACLES! WAIT! WE
WANT TO HELP! YOU
DON'T-->

HELP! BY THE GODS, WOMAN,
DON'T BE SO PRESUMPTUOUS AS
TO THINK THAT THE LION OF
THEBES WOULD NEED THE
ASSISTANCE OF ANYONE. >

THAT LAUGHTER
FROM THE DARKNESS
IS A DIRECT
CHALLENGE TO
HERCLES-->

--AND IT IS A
CHALLENGE I SHALL
FACE-->

LAU-O-O-O-O.
N-N-N-N-->

THUD!

WELL, WELL, OLYMPIAN,
WONDERFUL OF YOU TO DROP IN.
HOW REASSURING TO SEE THAT
SOME THINGS DO NOT CHANGE WITH
THE PASSING MILLENNIA.

YOU ARE STILL AS BULL-
HEADED AND RECKLESS
AS EVER.

ATLAS!

SO, IT REALLY IS YOU. I
THOUGHT OUR LAST
ENCOUNTER HAD TAUGHT YOU
THE FOLLY OF MATCHING WITS
WITH HERACLES.

YET, THERE IS
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT ABOUT
YOU THIS TIME--

ONLY THAT MY MAGNIFICENCE,
UNLIKE SOME UPSTART I KNOW,
HAS GROWN WITH THE PASSING
OF THE AGES.

YOUR PEA-SIZED BRAIN IS
PROBABLY STRAINING TO
DETERMINE HOW AND WHY I'VE COME
HERE, BEARING THE WEIGHT OF THIS
INSIGNIFICANT ISLAND ON MY
SHOULDERS, EH?

POMPONIUS FOOL! I MAY
KNOW NOT WHAT POWER
FREED YOU, BUT I KNOW IT
SHALL BE MY HAND THAT
TOSSES YOU BACK INTO
PERDITION'S PIT!

O, TRULY? AND WHAT THEN?
IMBECILE OF THEBES-- I AM ALL THAT
STANDS BETWEEN THEMISCIRA AND
OBLIVION.

I COMMAND YOU TO
RELEASE THEMISCIRA!

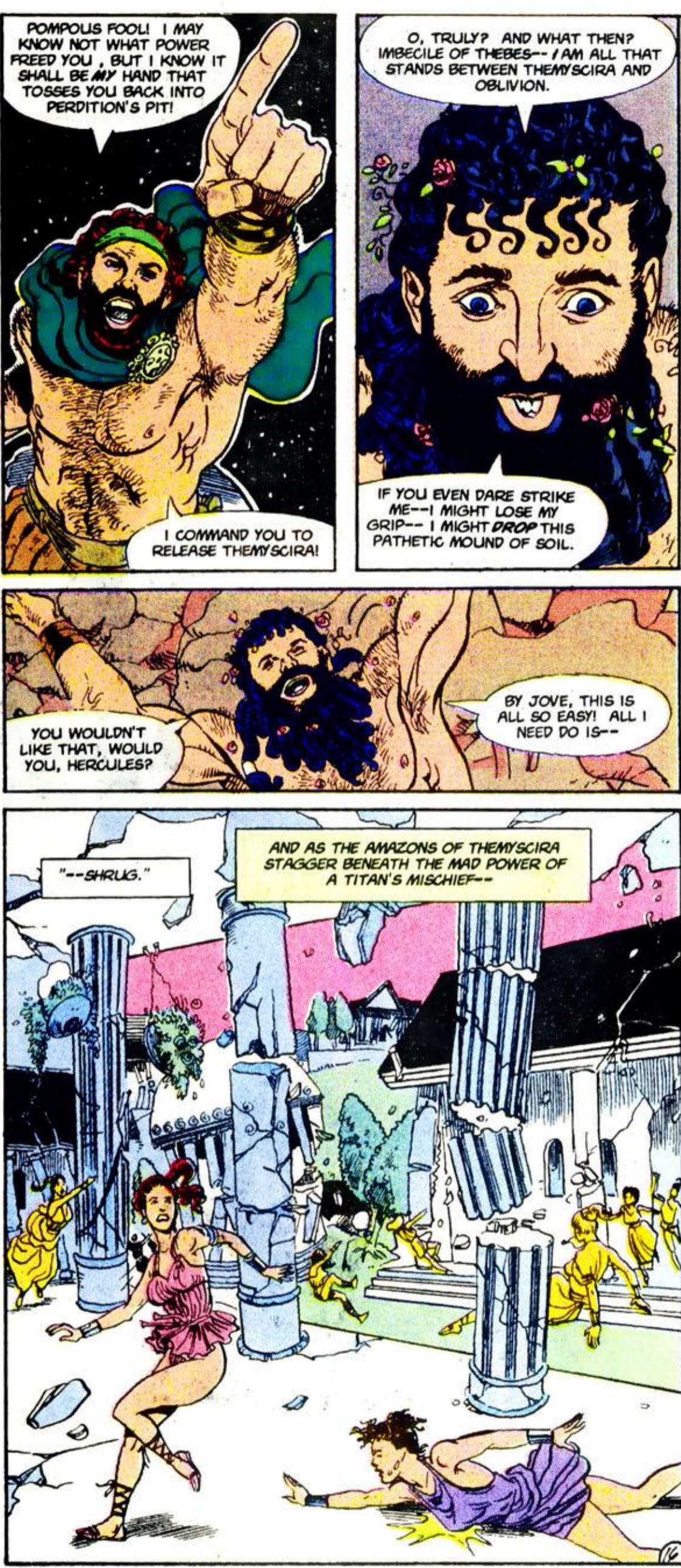
IF YOU EVEN DARE STRIKE
ME-- I MIGHT LOSE MY
GRIP-- I MIGHT DROP THIS
PATHETIC MOUND OF SOIL.

YOU WOULDN'T
LIKE THAT, WOULD
YOU, HERCULES?

BY JOVE, THIS IS
ALL SO EASY! ALL I
NEED DO IS--

--SHRUG.
AND AS THE AMAZONS OF THEMISCIRA
STAGGER BENEATH THE MAD POWER OF
A TITAN'S MISCHIEF--

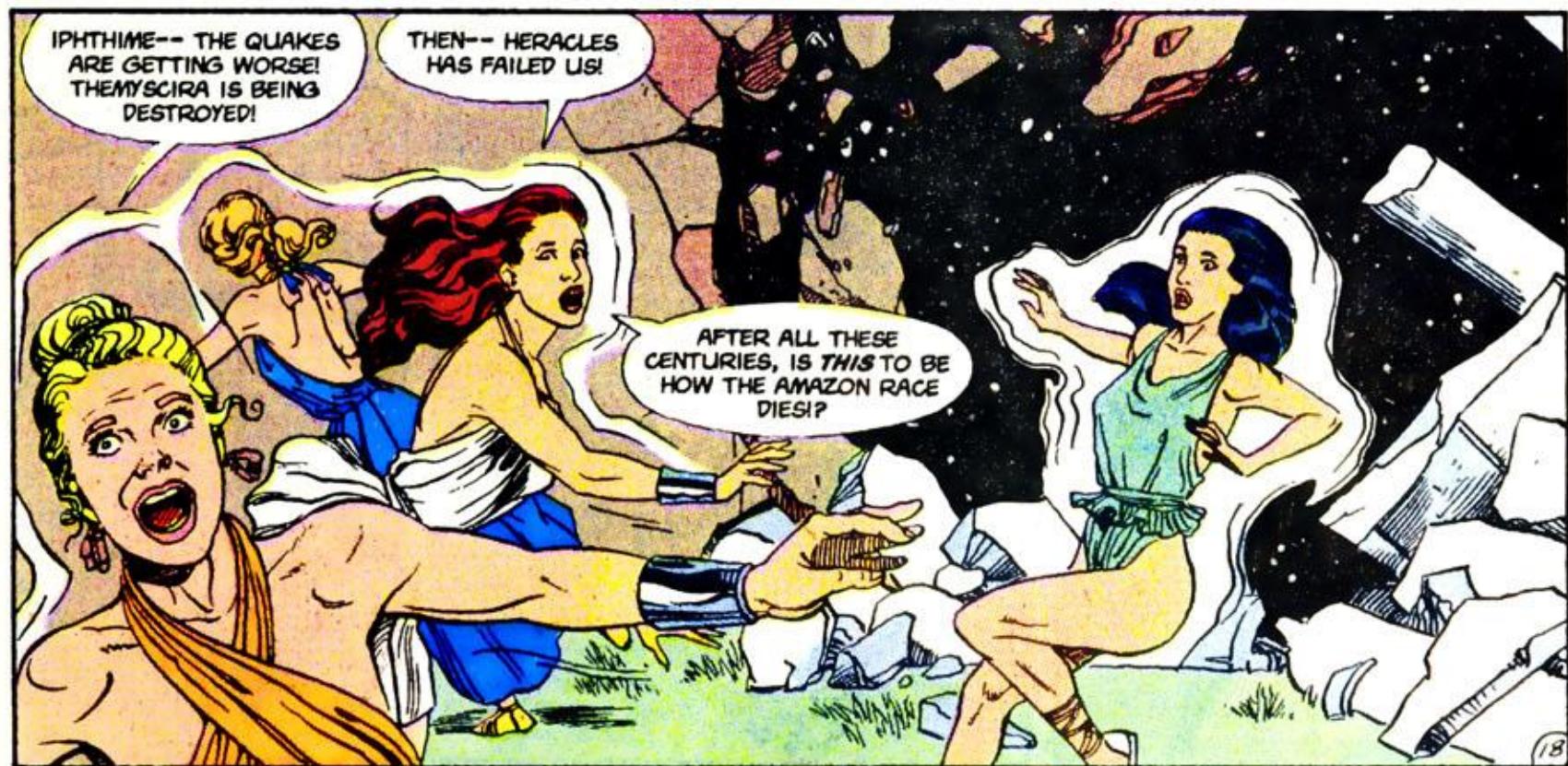
WELL, OLMPIAN, I SHALL BE
HONEST WITH YOU-- I KNOW
NOT-- BUT, IF THIS WILL CAUSE
YOU EVEN THE TINIEST BIT OF
CONSTERNATION-- I REALLY
CARE NOT.





<GREAT GAEA!>





BY THE GODS, HERACLES, STOP THINKING WITH YOUR BICEPS! YOUR BRAVADO MAY DOOM THOSE YOU SEEK TO SAVE.

ATLAS HAS PLAYED ON YOUR PRIDE BEFORE. YOU MUST THINK--PLAN YOUR NEXT MOVE CAREFULLY...

HERCULES... WAIT... SOMETHING ... IS NOT RIGHT... HERE...

ANOTHER TRICK, TITAN? ANOTHER RUSE? WELL, I SHAN'T PLAY THE FOOL AGAIN.

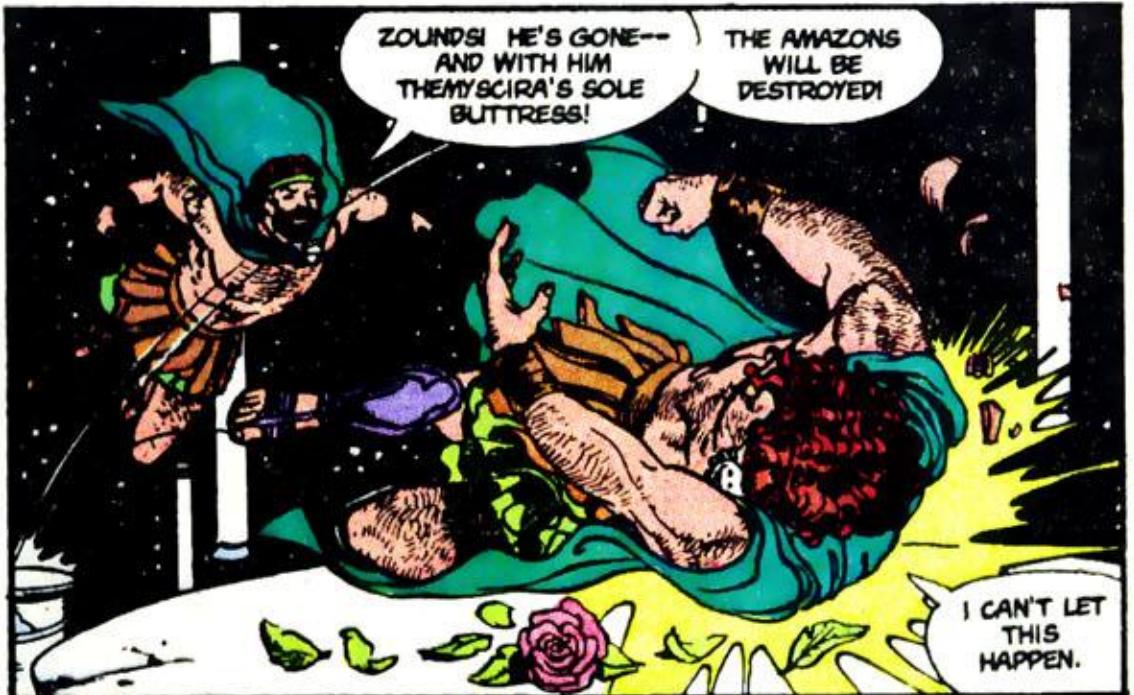
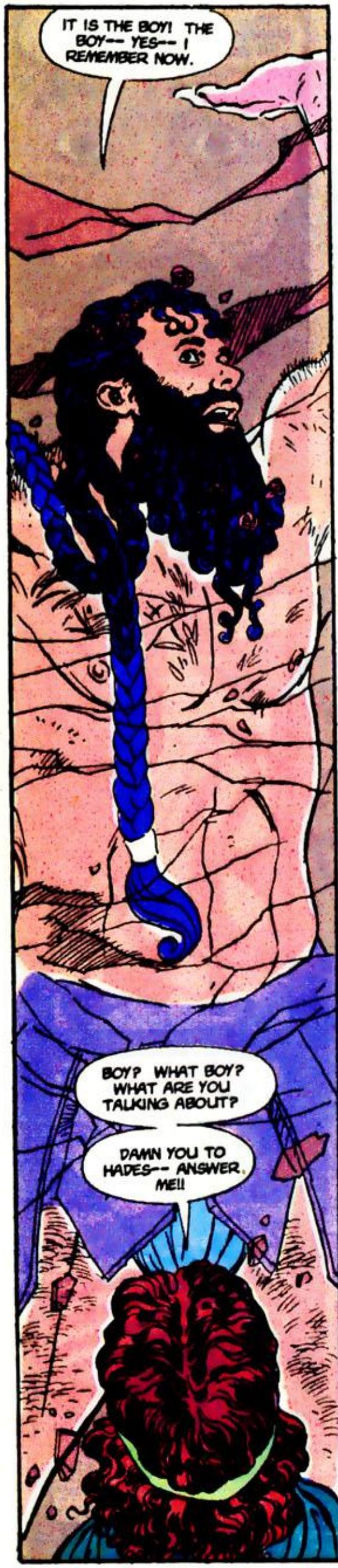
AND THE NAME IS HERACLES!

YES... AND THEREIN RESTS THE ENIGMA. NEITHER OF US IS WHO WE BELIEVE THE OTHER TO BE.

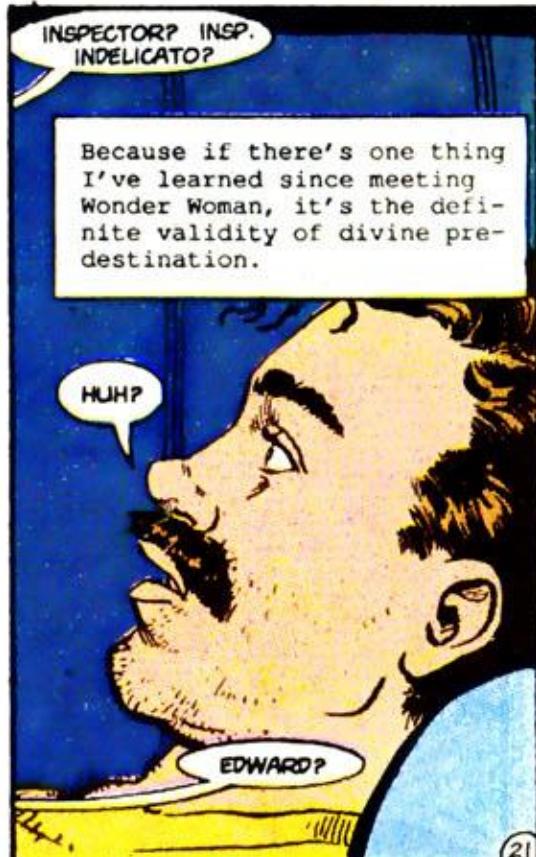
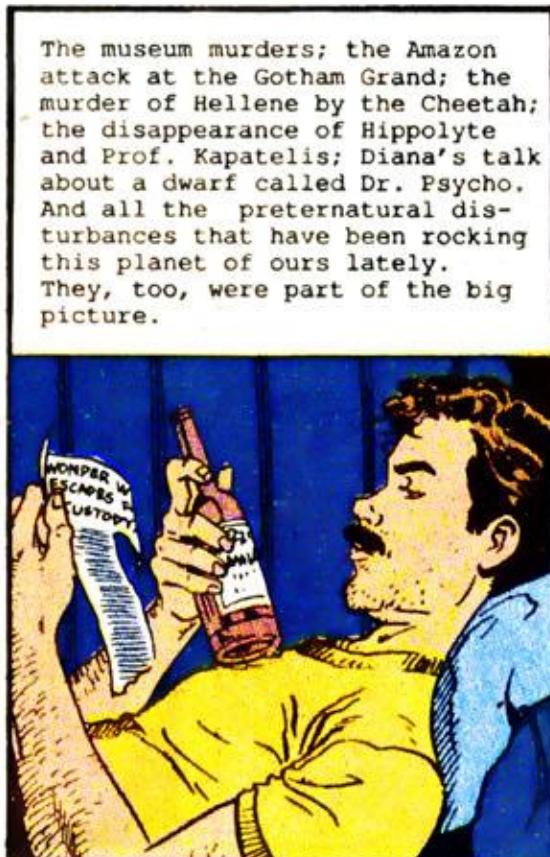
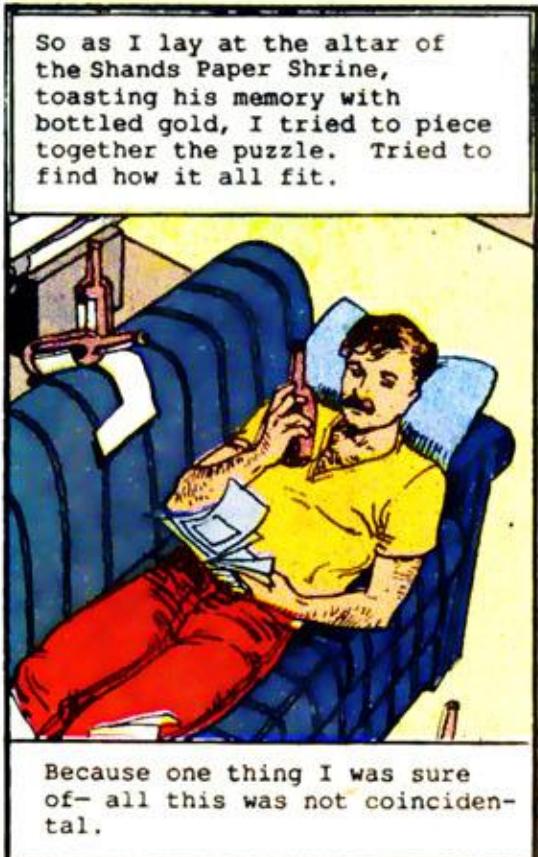
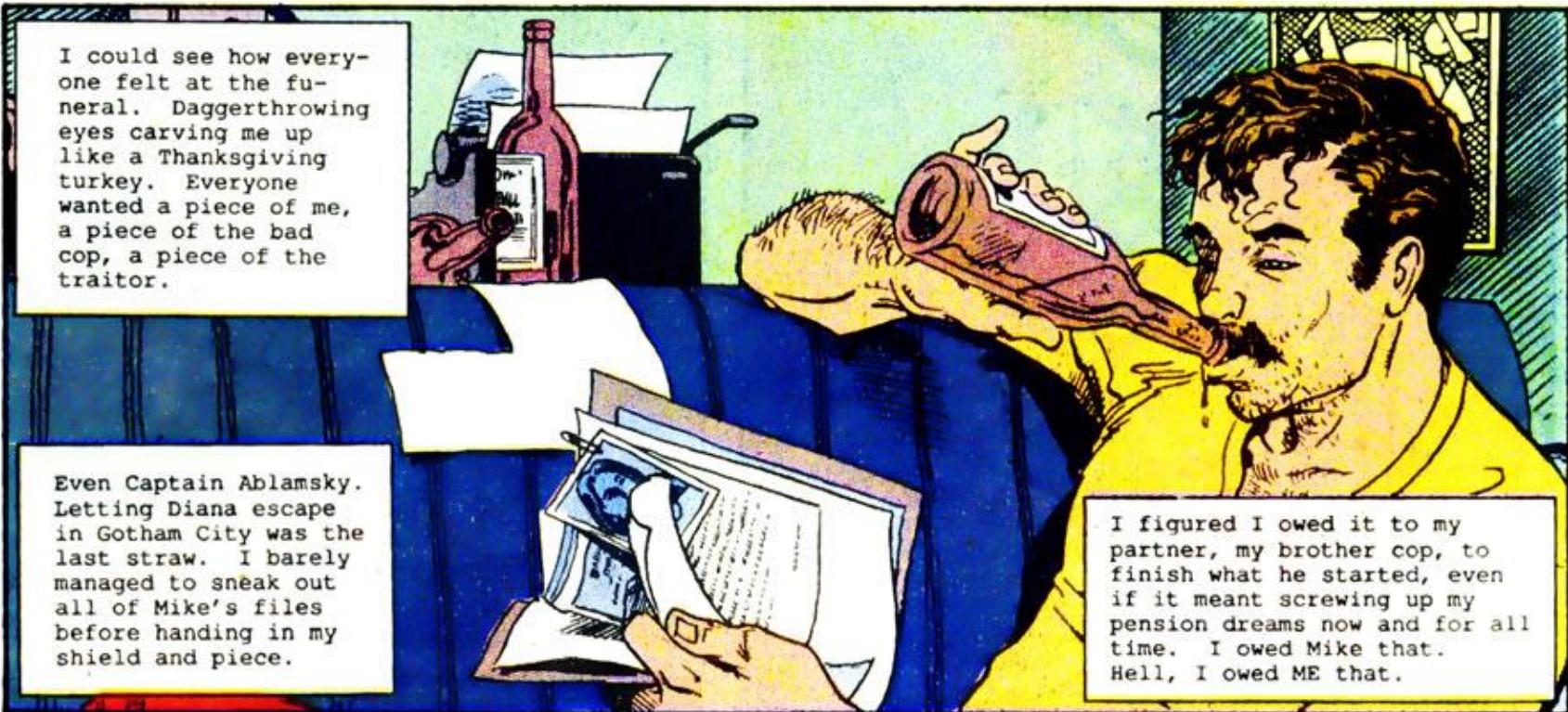
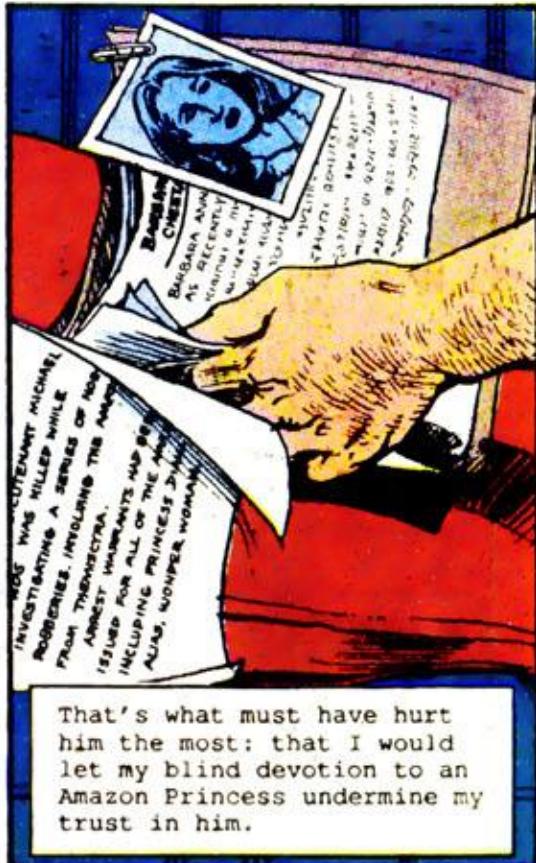
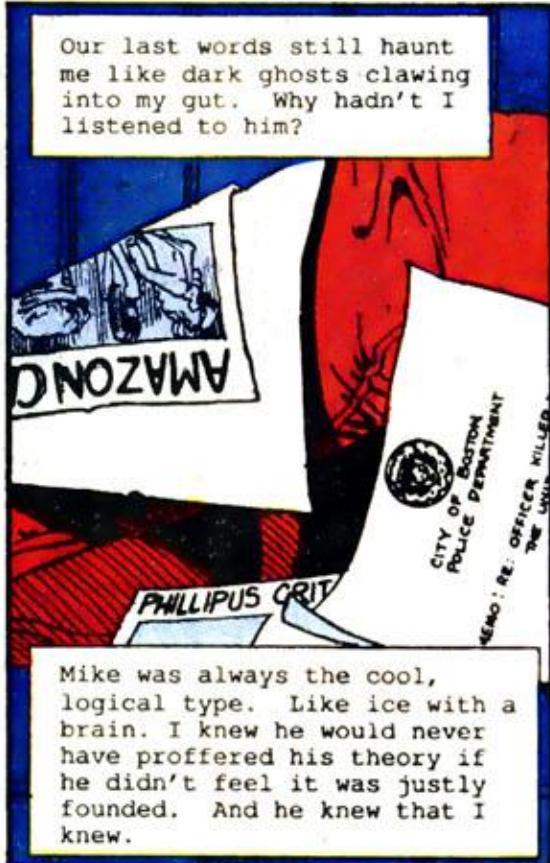
YOU AND I... ARE STRANGERS...

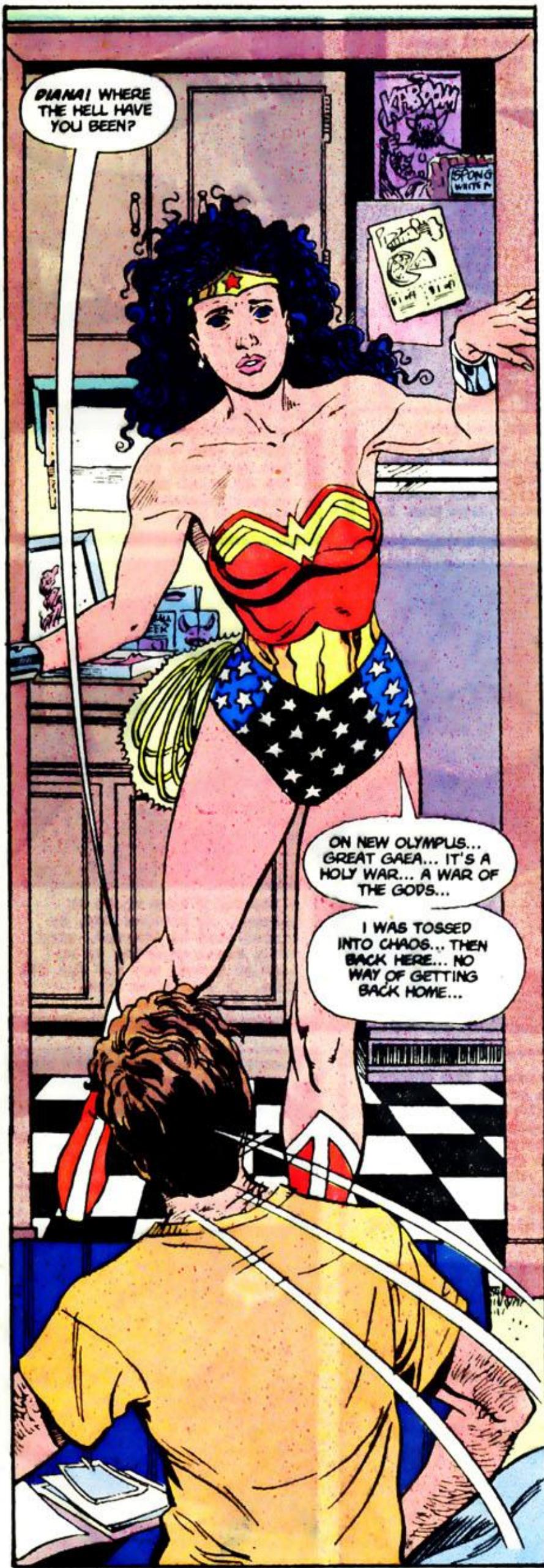
NO! THIS CANNOT BE! MY LEGS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME!? YOU FOOL! THE AMAZON ISLAND WILL PLUMMET INTO THE PIT!

THIS IS NOT OF MY DOING! BY THE GODS, WHAT MANNER OF INSANE JEST IS THIS?



Tales From the
Front Lines.
Chapter 17.





TO BE CONTINUED...

POSTSCRIPTS TO PARADISE



Cover by George Pérez, colored by Tatjana Wood.

Hello, everybody. It's been a little while since we've had a chance to talk with you, but there's a good reason: we've been busy dodging lightning bolts. As careful WONDER WOMAN readers know, there have been some mysterious troubles brewing that involve the Gods, the Amazons, the DC super-heroes and even existence itself. You saw hints right here in recent months, and the full story has begun to unfold this month with the premiere of WAR OF THE GODS.

The four-issue miniseries is written and laid out by WONDER WOMAN writer/re-creator George Pérez, with pencils by Cynthia Martin and Russell Braun, inks by Cynthia, and covers by George. The story will cross over into this title and many of your other favorites over its three-month run, in SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL, BATMAN, THE FLASH, THE NEW TITANS, JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE, HAWKWORLD, THE DEMON, DR. FATE, ANIMAL MAN and more. Many of the storylines that George has built over the last 50-plus issues of WONDER WOMAN will culminate in this complex epic. Its major villain is our own Circe, and Diana herself plays a central role in the miniseries and many of the crossovers. Indeed, over the next three months, you'll have an unusual opportunity to see a wide variety of artists and writers interpret your favorite Amazon.

As a special bonus, we're inserting free miniposters into the editions of WAR OF THE GODS #1-4 that will be distributed to comic specialty shops (and into all copies of #1). They're pencilled by Chris Sprouse, inked by George, colored by Rick Taylor, and printed on the same glossy paper we use for our covers. The first issue's set features Diana, Circe, Robin, and Deathstroke, the Terminator.

Later on this year, we'll be celebrating Wonder Woman's 50th anniversary with a gorgeous retail poster by Pérez and a special trade paperback reprinting George's first major storyline. Plus, we'll be filling you in on some anniversary-related events in our own beloved real world. Right now, let's read some mail...

Dear Karen,

Concerning WONDER WOMAN #54: I'm perplexed, confused, more than a little distraught, and I love it!!! Since issue #50 we have really been picking up steam, and it is wonderful to see George weave different elements from past storylines into one. "Mind Games" reminds me slightly of Grant Morrison's tenure on ANIMAL MAN, wherein the reader had to question what "really" is going on here. Bravo! All this and a new Dr. Psycho making his bug-eyed debut—what more can I ask for? No requests are necessary—I'd rather sit back and wait for you all to surprise me once again.

Matt Gersper

(Address withheld)

P.S. Jill Thompson is wonderful—and getting better!

She sure is, isn't she, Matt? Jill has brought such creative energy and lyricism to bear that I hereby make a prediction: the work you're seeing now will rank among the all-time great and definitive portrayals of Wonder Woman, alongside those of George Pérez, Ross Andru and H.G. Peter himself. Okay, so it isn't such a wild prediction—but sometimes you can make yourself sound really smart by loudly proclaiming the obvious.

We're glad you liked Dr. Psycho. His puffy, pasty, sweaty visage has so...uh...charmed us all that we've already hatched a secret plan to spread his popularity even further. Keep your bug-eyes peeled for more news sometime next year.

Dear Wonderful People,

Jill Thompson is a gift from God. Her artwork is incredible. That's all I have to say. Thanks.

Robert Jones

2295 W. 11th St. #7D
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Dear Wonder People,

WHEW!!!

That was my emphatic reaction to WONDER WOMAN #54. Upon the story's completion, I suddenly found myself in a cold sweat, with a profusely pulsating heart, and at a loss for words I kid you not. As comic books do not commonly elicit such emotions from me, I felt I had to write.

Actually, though, I'm glad. I've had the urge to write for some months now. Although this book has never failed to please, I have been consis-

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tently and increasingly enthusiastic about the stories of late. There has been a definite surge in the storyline, which I have followed with fervor.

The meeting between Diana and Donna Troy (Troia) in #47 and #48 was everything I'd expected. It was so natural, as if these two had known each other for ages. Their personalities mesh perfectly; I would enjoy seeing these kindred spirits meet regularly.

The retrospective issue (#49) was also well done (and I was happy that it finally cleared up the Justice League Europe membership fiasco).

I was genuinely touched by the Amazon's entrance into Man's World in #50. A new era indeed—and the open possibilities of new subplots!

Admittedly, the Mercury appearance in #51 confused me. That one just came from nowhere.

The most powerful story was #52's "Shards" (what sharp imagery—no pun intended). I truly felt for Diana, and could relate to her.

The past two issues, however, were the most exciting. My heart raced with each and every panel. George's pace is constantly improving. The biting suspense and mystery is what this title had been sorely lacking. Quite obviously, the present goings-on are the strings that will be tied up in WAR OF THE GODS (probably explaining Mercury's attack). Dr. Psycho, the renegade Amazons, the darkly-clad thieves, Queen Hippolyte's abduction, the imminent destruction of Boston... chilling stuff. What intrigue! So many unanswered questions!

The best parts of this issue centered on Hippolyte and the Amazons in the Gotham City (nice touch) hotel. Clearly, whoever has been stealing from the museums is responsible for robbing the Goblet of Heracles and kidnapping the Queen. This would appear to be the renegade Amazons (they committed the museum killings), but the abductors were men. An alliance, maybe? Are these the Egyptian Amazons from the Cheetah storyline? So many unanswered questions!

Since I am finally writing, I will say everything I have been meaning to say:

1) Please do not allow a Diana/Indelito relationship to blossom. The similarities to the pre-Crisis Diana/Steve "thing" would be too great. Unfortunately, this infatuation appears to be just that—a crush. We all remember the last time someone had a crush on Diana; a "super" farce! How about a relationship between the Inspector and one of the other Amazons (maybe the Queen)?

2) Please do not change Wonder Woman's legendary costume. The question shouldn't be one of sexism, but of the rich history and legacy the star-spangled outfit bears; however, I am not against seeing Diana in civilian clothes more often. In fact, I encourage it.

3) I don't think reviving SENSATION COMICS is such a good idea. I mean, can you find creators who care about Diana as much as you guys do? Remember: quality, not quantity.

4) Even though I approve of Diana's "distance" from the super-hero community, I would like to see the occasional guest star in these pages. Some suggestions: Superman, Black Canary, and Aquaman and Dolphin (Themyscira is an island, right?).

5) I wish that Wonder Woman were shown a little more respect and consideration by other creators. Just this week Diana appeared in another DC title and had straight hair, a pre-Crisis

tiara, and even high heels! This is understandably very unnerving and has happened many times before. Why? Heaven forbid they screw up Batman's costume!

I realize this is a long letter and I sincerely thank you for your time. Keep up the extraordinary work. I anxiously await WAR OF THE GODS!

Michael Alleni
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We thank you for your time as well, Michael. It's a pleasure to receive such a comprehensive and enthusiastic letter.

To address your points:

1) No decision has been made regarding Diana and Indelicato, but I think the difference from the Steve/Diana stories would be more striking than the similarities. How do the rest of you feel?

2) At this point, if we make any changes in Wonder Woman's costume they'll probably be minor, although we'll continue to see her dressed in other outfits.

3) I think you underestimate many of the writers and artists working in comics these days. Diana's appearances in the WAR OF THE GODS crossovers read pretty well. Have no fear, however; no plans exist to revive SENSATION.

4) Diana's distance from the superhero community seems to be diminishing these days. After we come down from the crossovers, you'll probably be seeing some guest-stars.

5) I hate to keep harping on the war of the you-know-whos, but I think you'll be pleased with the attention to detail that the creative teams display in her upcoming appearances.

—Tom Peyer

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**SUPERMAN:
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HAWKWORLD #15
STARMAN #38
L.E.G.I.O.N. '91 #31
CAPTAIN ATOM #56
And...

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