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WONDER WOMAN®

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
A
UTHORITY

GODS OF
GOTHAM
PART 1 OF 4

A BOLD NEW DIRECTION!

AH!

I DRIFT ON A RIVER OF DARKNESS. I MELT INTO ETERNAL NIGHT. I EMBRACE THE SILENCE OF FOREVER. I SLEEP.

"I AM THE DAUGHTER OF WAR, AND WAR'S SISTER. I AM THE BATTLEGROUND UPON WHOM MANKIND HAS TRAMPLED EACH OTHER SINCE THE BEGINNING."

FROM SOMEWHERE SO FAR AWAY, YET CLOSER THAN A THOUGHT... THERE ARE DRUMS.

VOICES. CHANTING.

PEOPLE... PEOPLE ARE PRAYING.

TO ME?

I FEEL THEIR RAGE... THEIR BEAUTIFUL HATRED... ROUSING ME. "WE'RE HUNGRY," THEIR PRAYERS WHISPER, "FOR THE FOOD YOU BRING."

"WITHOUT HATRED AND ANGER, THE APPLES HAVE NO SUBSTANCE."

AND I SO HUNGER -- FOR THEIR WORSHIP.

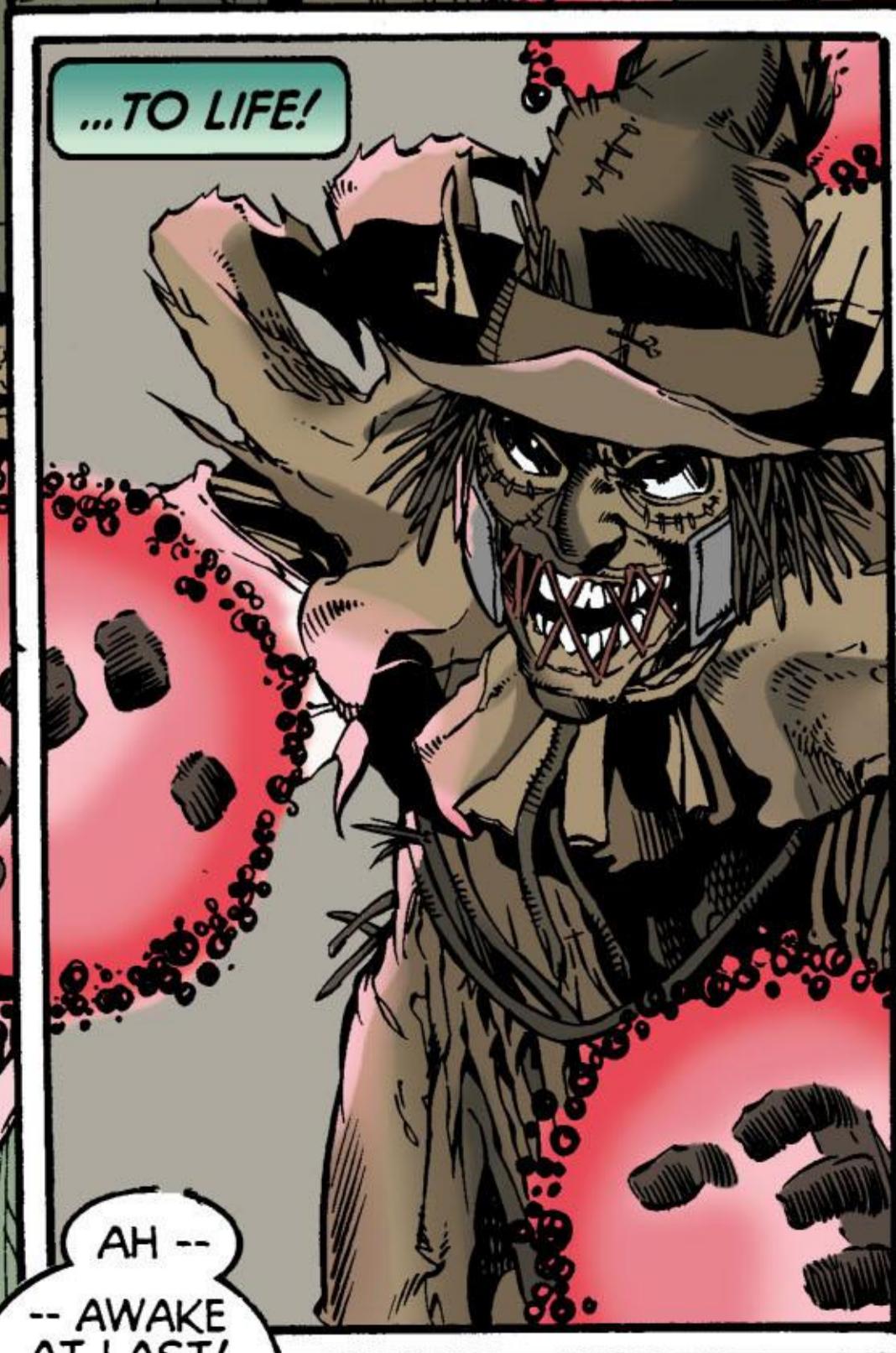
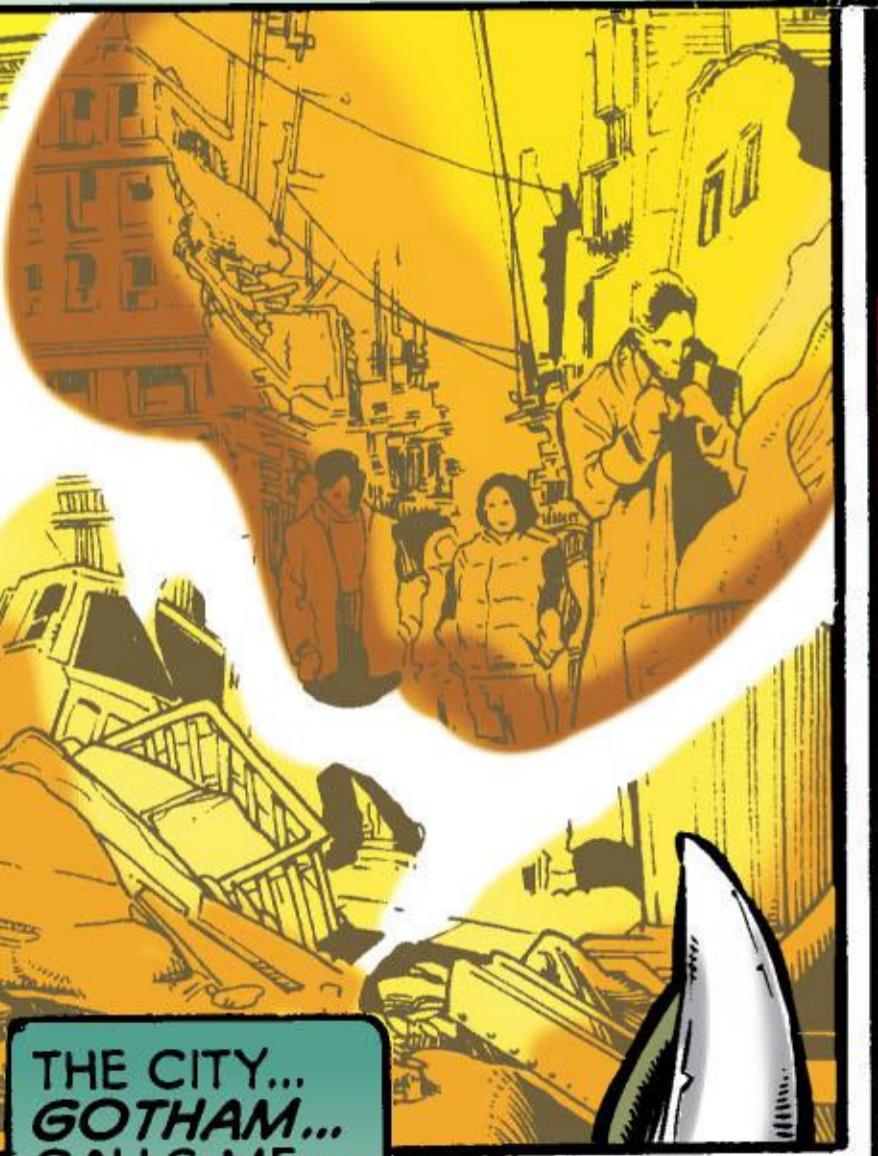
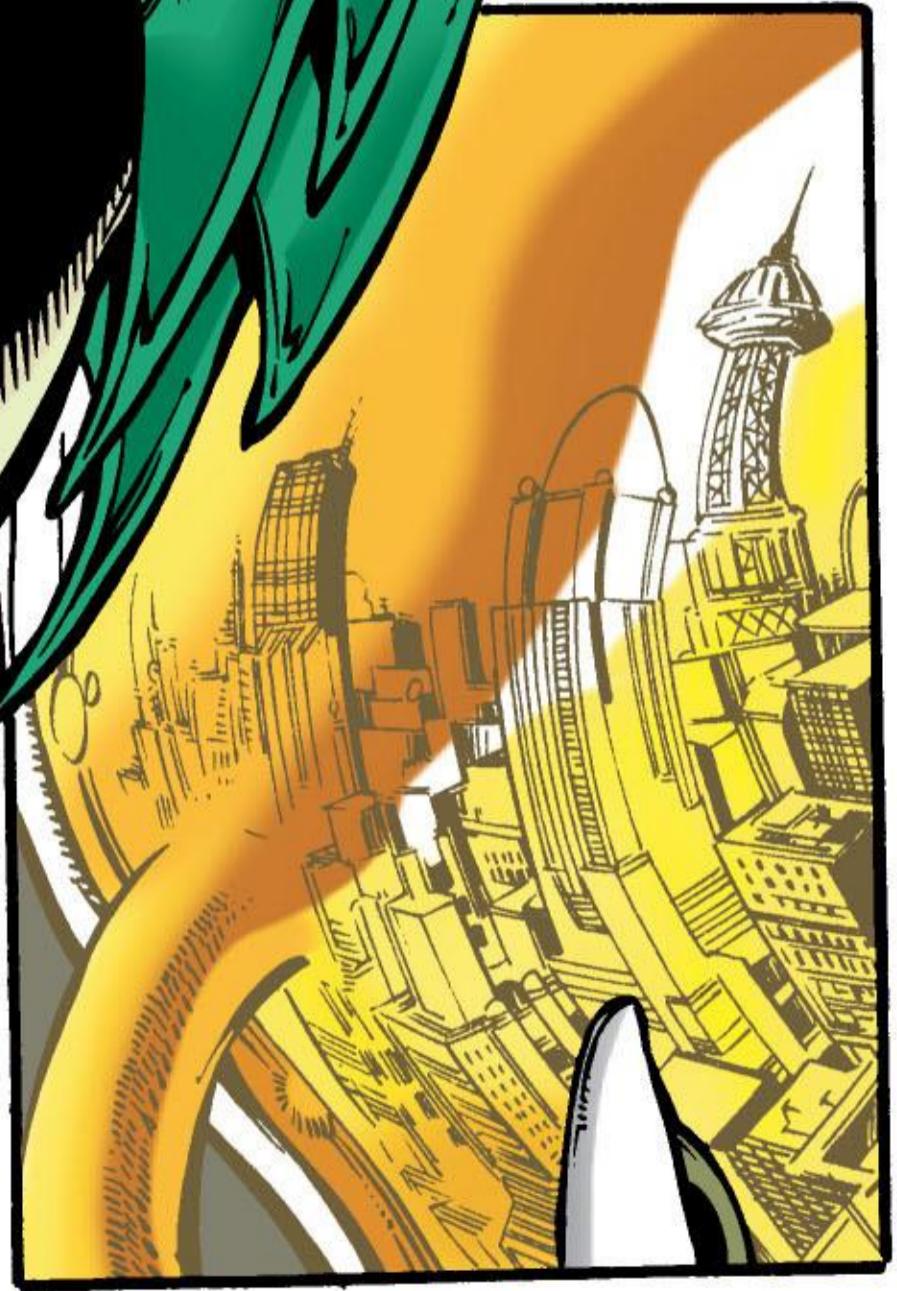
THEN THEIR PRAYERS FADE INTO WHISPERS -- AND A GREAT CITY RISES BEFORE MY EYES.

A CITY THAT HAS BEEN LITERALLY TORN APART BY CONTAGION AND CATASTROPHE. NATURE'S FURY... AND MAN'S STUPIDITY.

...TO LIFE!

THE CITY... GOTHAM... CALLS ME -- AS SURELY AS THE PRAYERS DO. CALLS ME...

AH --
-- AWAKE AT LAST! WELCOME BACK...



...POISON IVY.

YOU WEAR
A STRANGE FORM,
BROTHER, BUT WHAT
LIES BENEATH IS
COMFORTINGLY FAMILIAR.
ALMOST AS IF I'M
LOOKING INTO A
MIRROR!

DESPITE
OUR OUTER
DIFFERENCES, I
AM YOUR MIRROR...
AND SO MUCH
MORE!

AND WHAT
DO YOU CALL
YOURSELF
NOW?

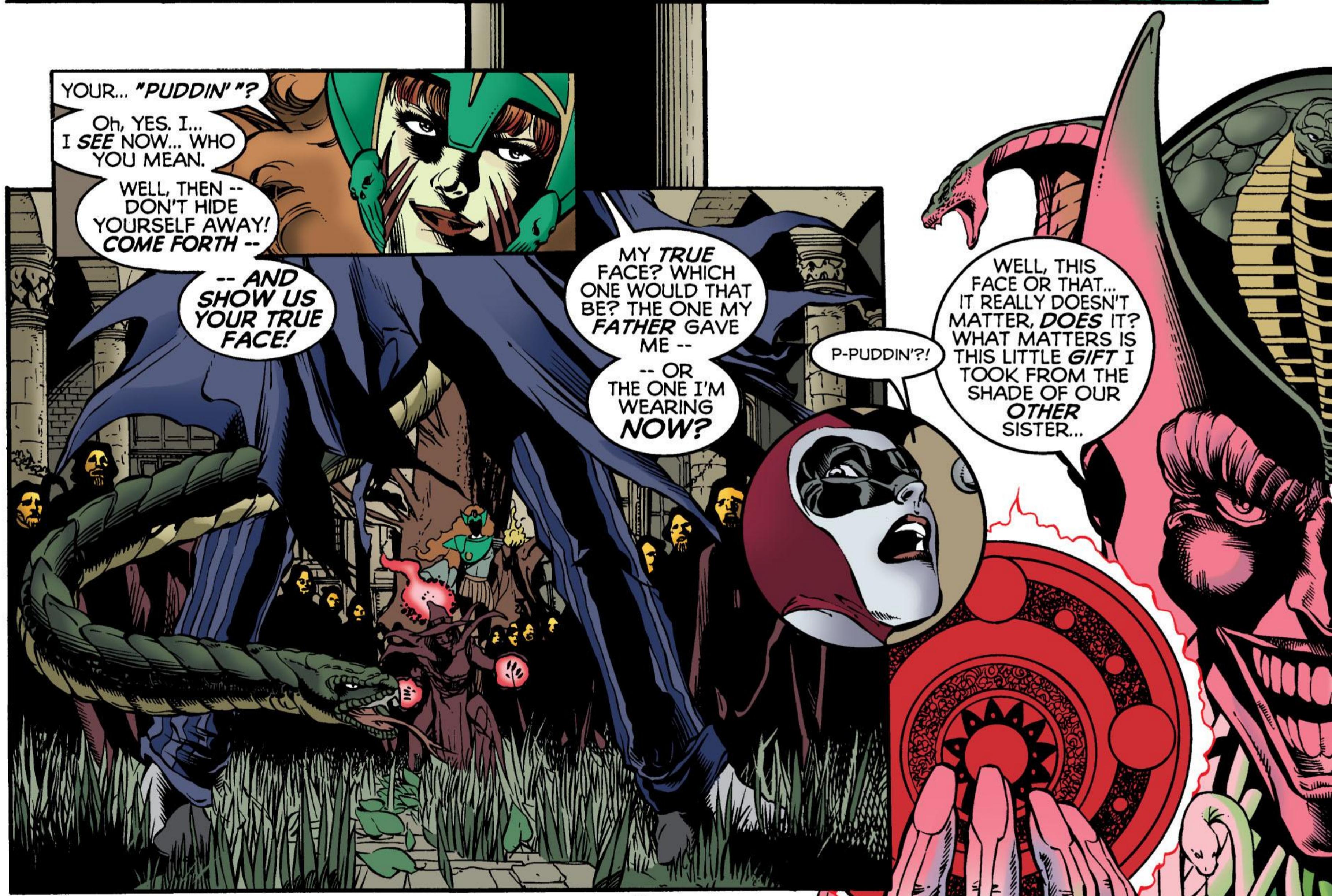
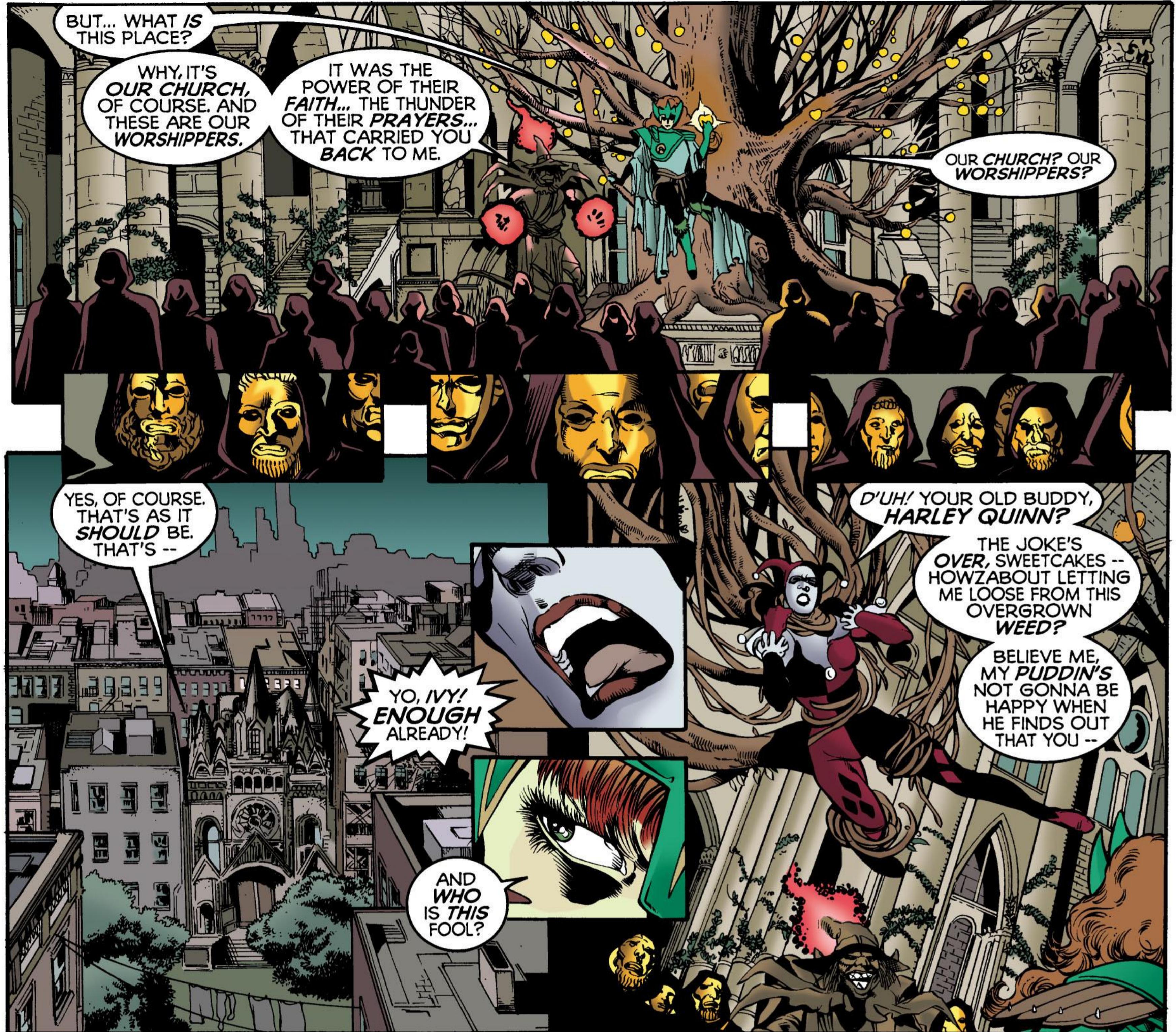
SCARECROW.
THAT'S ENOUGH.

IT TOOK MORE THAN
A MERE HANDFUL
OF OBALS TO BRIBE
CHARON THE
FERRYMAN TO
RELEASE YOU
FROM THE
STYX.

LET'S HOPE
LORD HADES
DOESN'T NOTICE
YOUR ABSENCE
UNTIL WE'VE
SEEN OUR
PLANS REACH
FRUITION,
Eh?

THE PRICE FOR
SUCH ATTEMPTS
AT ESCAPE IS
HIGH.

NOW COME, MY DEAR...
THERE IS GREAT WORK AHEAD
OF US, AND ALL OF IT DONE --
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER.



"... A GIFT THAT WILL ALLOW ME... ALLOW US... TO RECLAIM THE EARTH IN OUR FATHER'S NAME, AND UTTERLY DESTROY OUR MOST HATED ENEMY..."

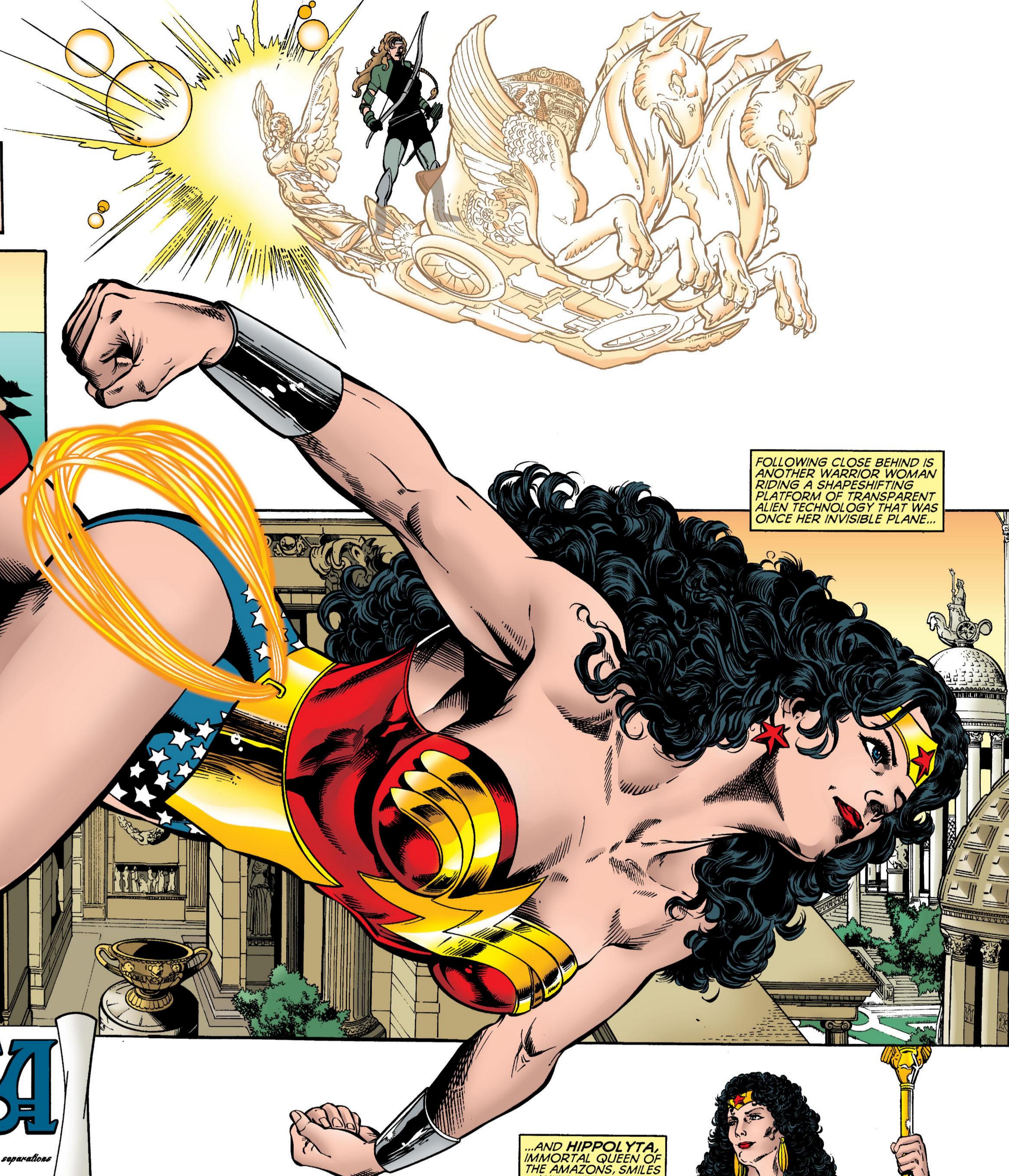
SHE WATCHES HER DAUGHTER DESCEND FROM THE CLOUDS ABOVE PARADISE ISLAND, SOARING DOWNWARD WITH THE POWERS OF SPEED AND FLIGHT GIVEN HER BY HERMES, MESSENGER OF THE GODS.

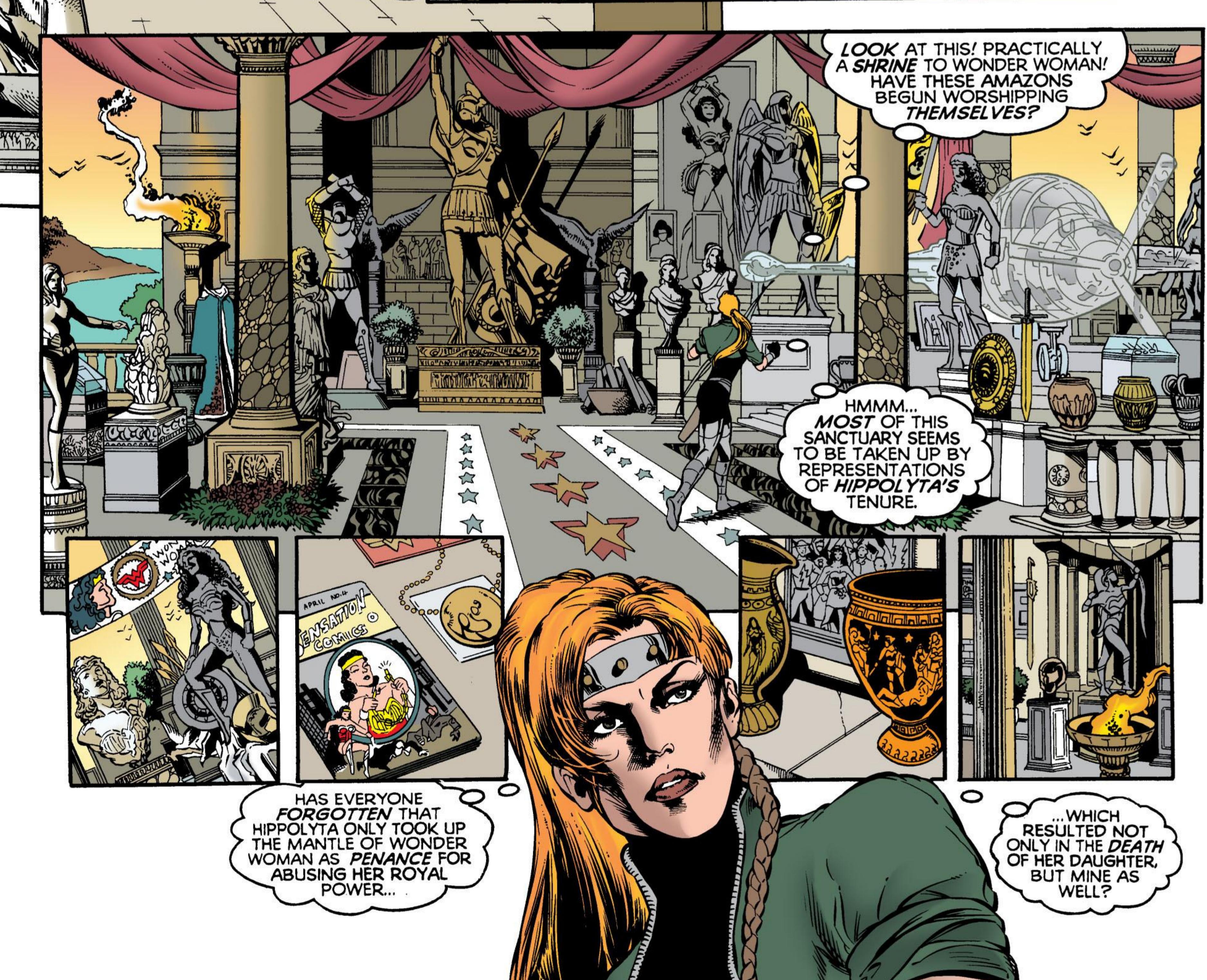
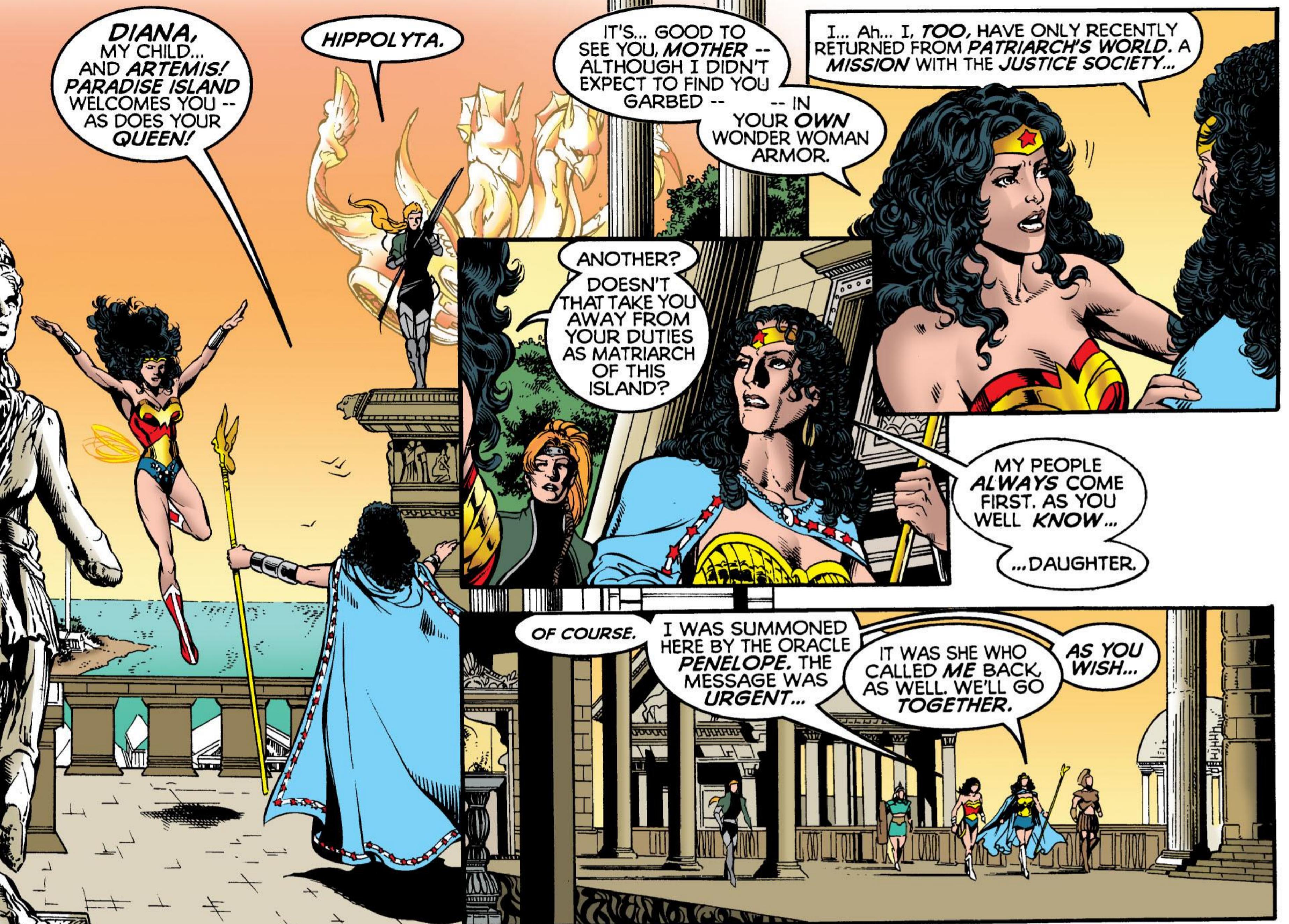
FOLLOWING CLOSE BEHIND IS ANOTHER WARRIOR WOMAN RIDING A SHAPESHIFTING PLATFORM OF TRANSPARENT ALIEN TECHNOLOGY THAT WAS ONCE HER INVISIBLE PLANE...

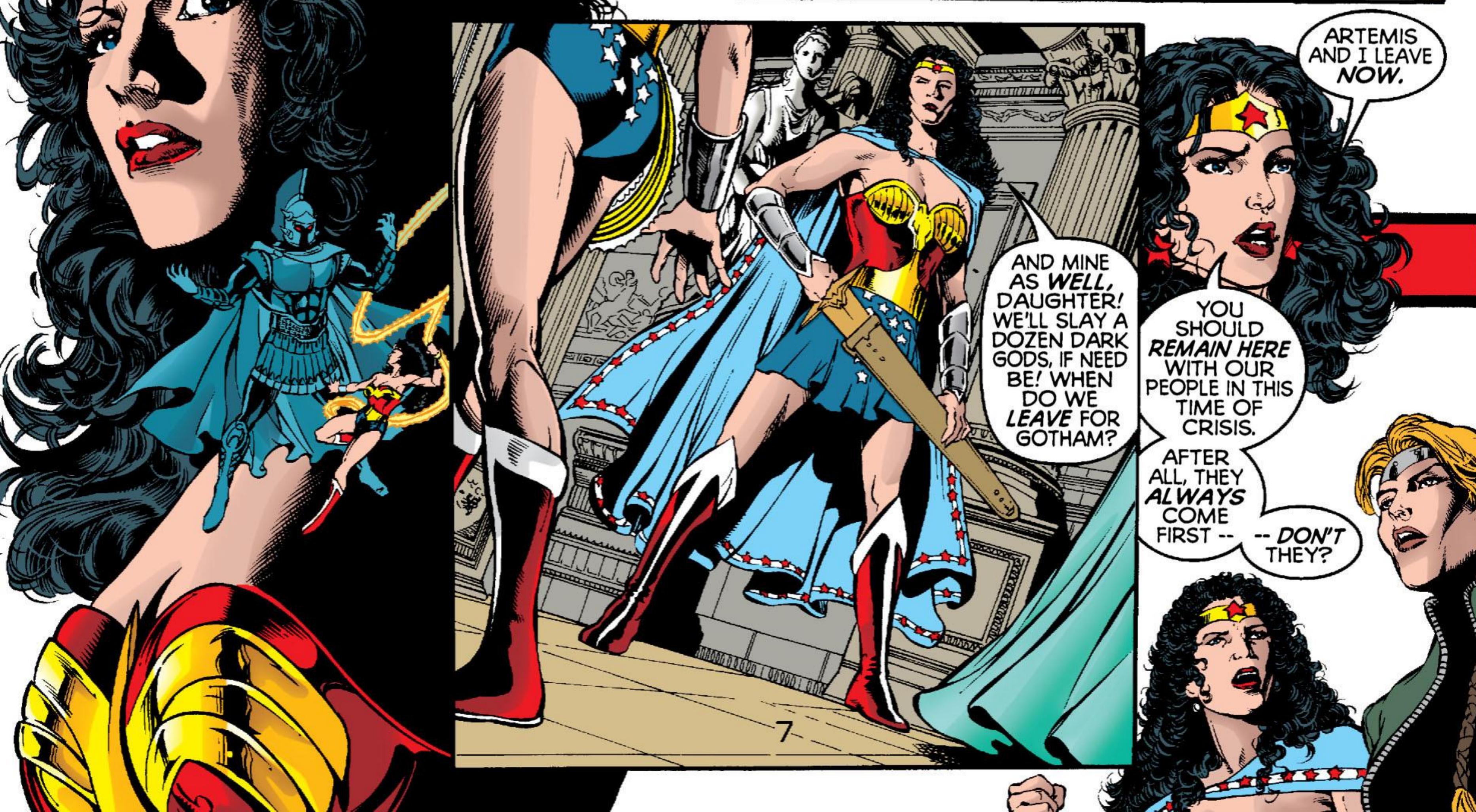
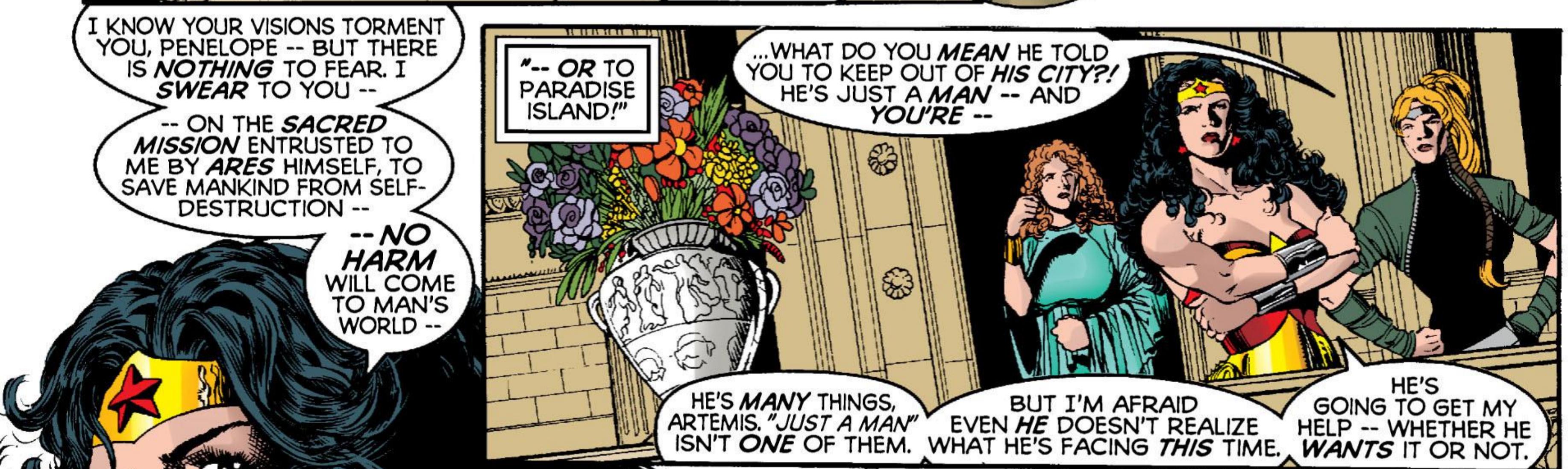
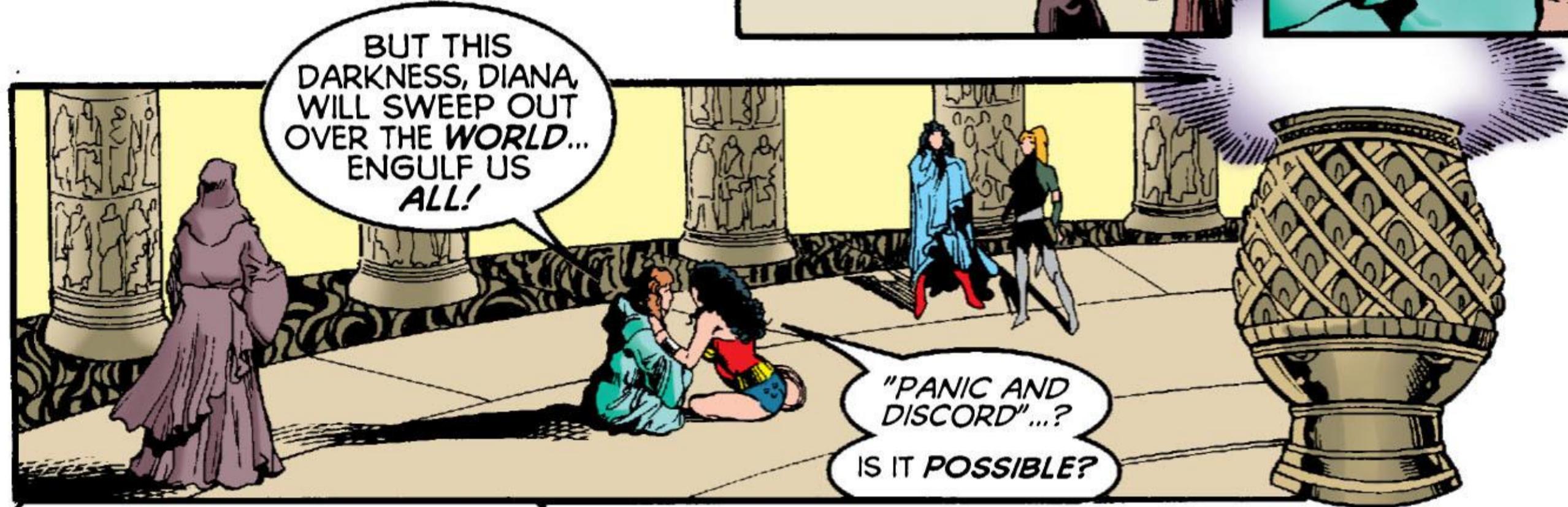
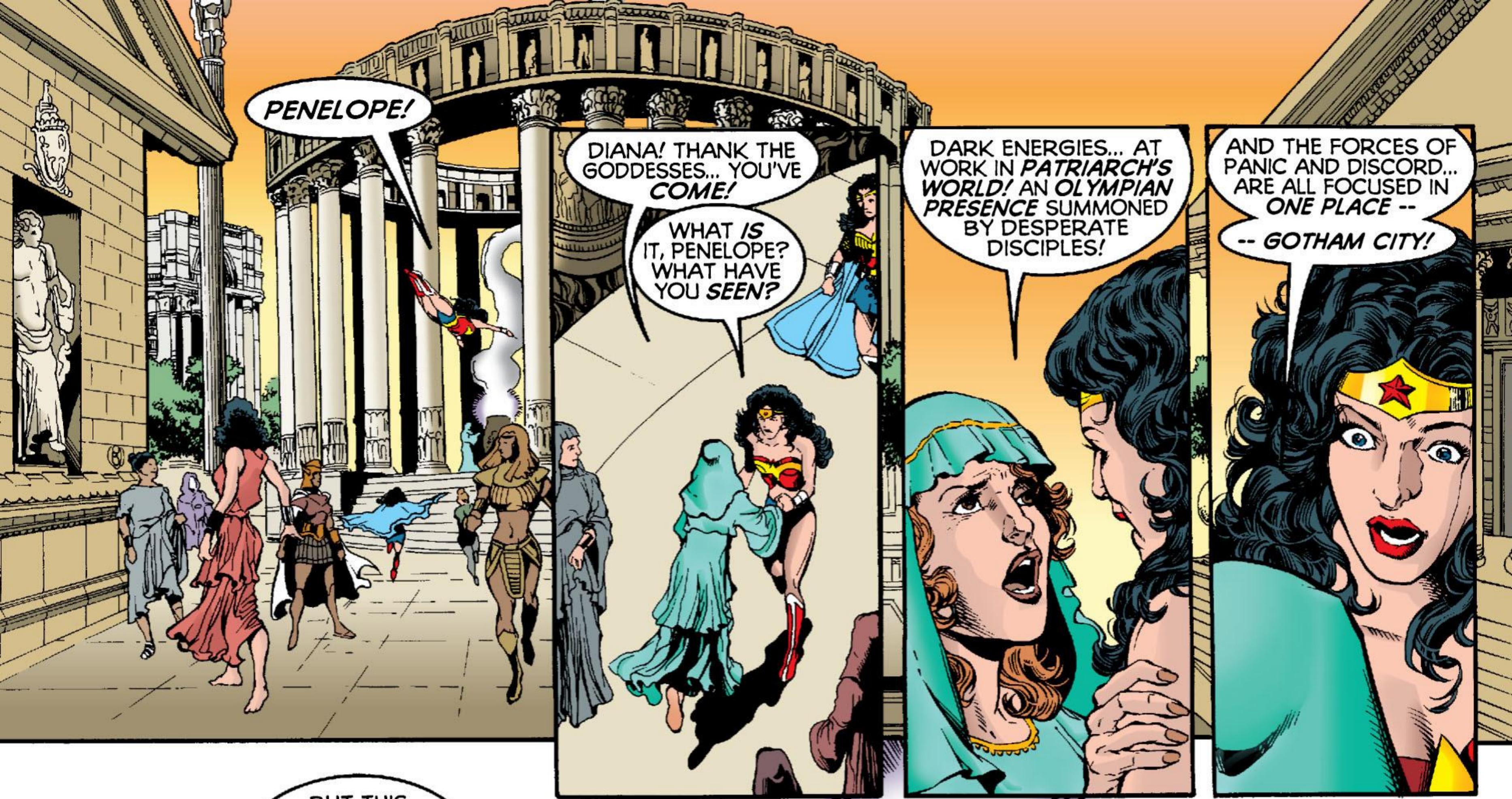
WONDER WOMAN Gods of Gotham

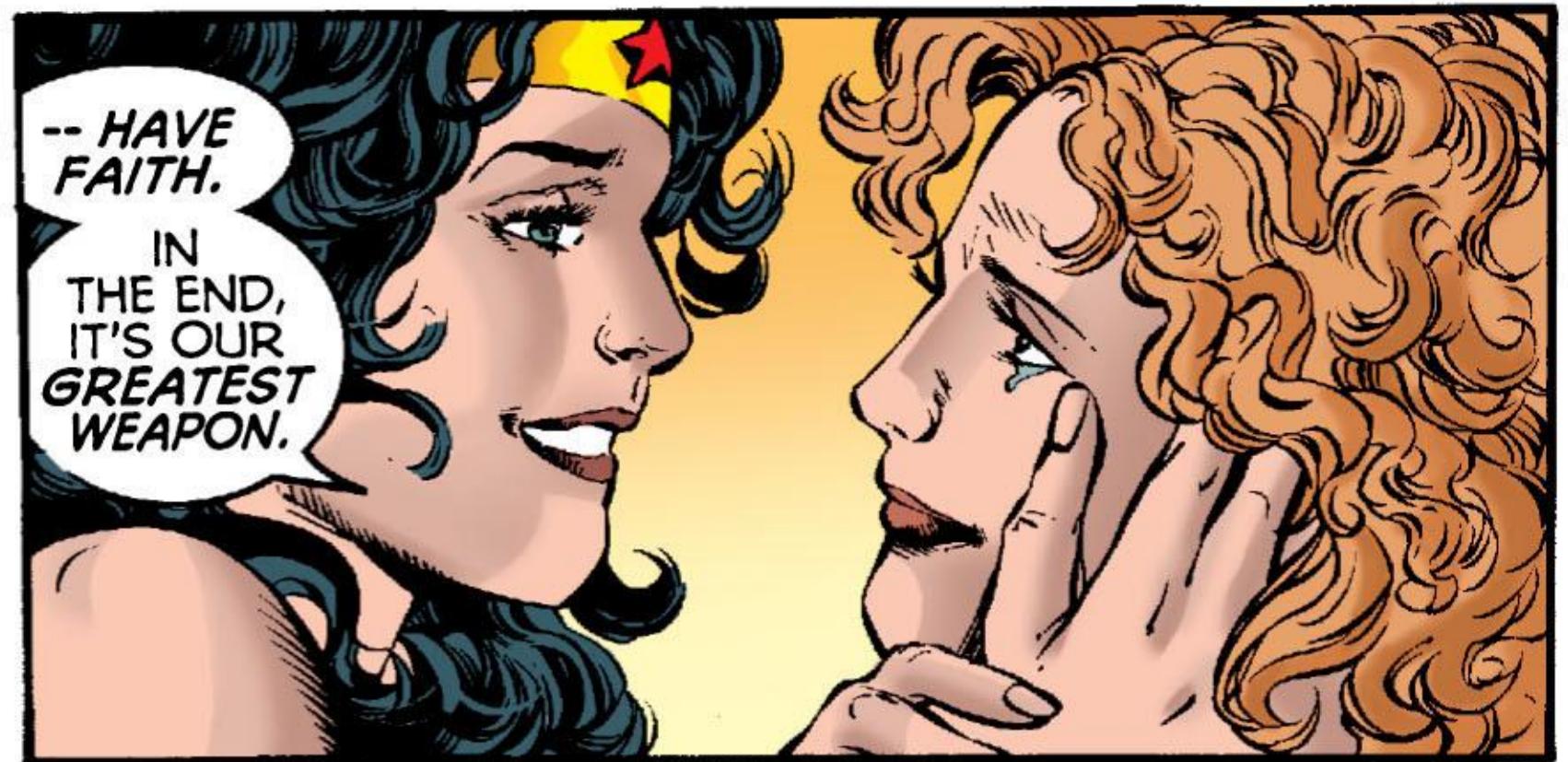
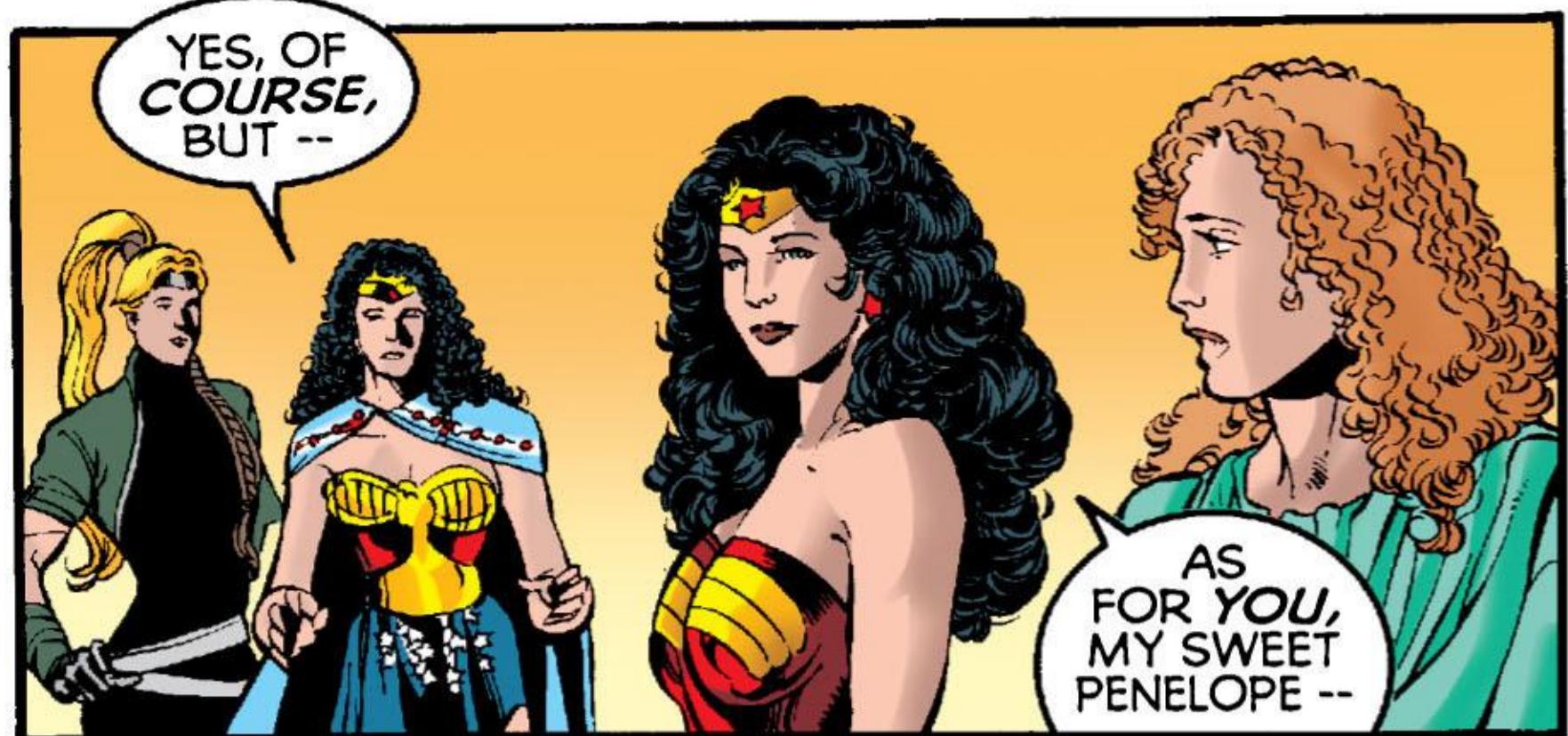
PART I DISCORDIA

Phil Jimenez story & pencils G.M. DeMatteis co-scripter Andy Lanning ink Pam Rambo colors Gamison separations
Comicraft letters Tony Bedard editor Wonder Woman created by William Moulton Marston









AND I DON'T BELIEVE IN THEM.



THEY'VE BEEN
GATHERING HERE IN
THE HILL... ASSEMBLING
IN THAT CHURCH... FOR
WEEKS NOW.

CORRECT ME IF
I'M WRONG --

ARE YOU
EVER?

-- BUT
THOSE TREES
AROUND THE
CHURCH --

-- ARE NEW, AND THERE'S NO
NATURAL WAY THEY COULD'VE
GROWN THERE SO QUICKLY. THEY --

GREETINGS,
MY LOYAL
CONGREGATION!

I COME
TO YOU
WITH GOOD
NEWS.

THE POWER TO RAISE
YOU... ALL OF YOU... UP
OUT OF YOUR SUFFERING!
TO WIPE THE FILTH OF
THIS CITY FROM YOUR
SOULS AND REMAKE
YOU IN THEIR
IMAGE!

I... AS SOME
OF YOU KNOW...
AM DESCENDED
FROM MIGHTY
ZEUS HIMSELF.
KING OF ALL
GODS.

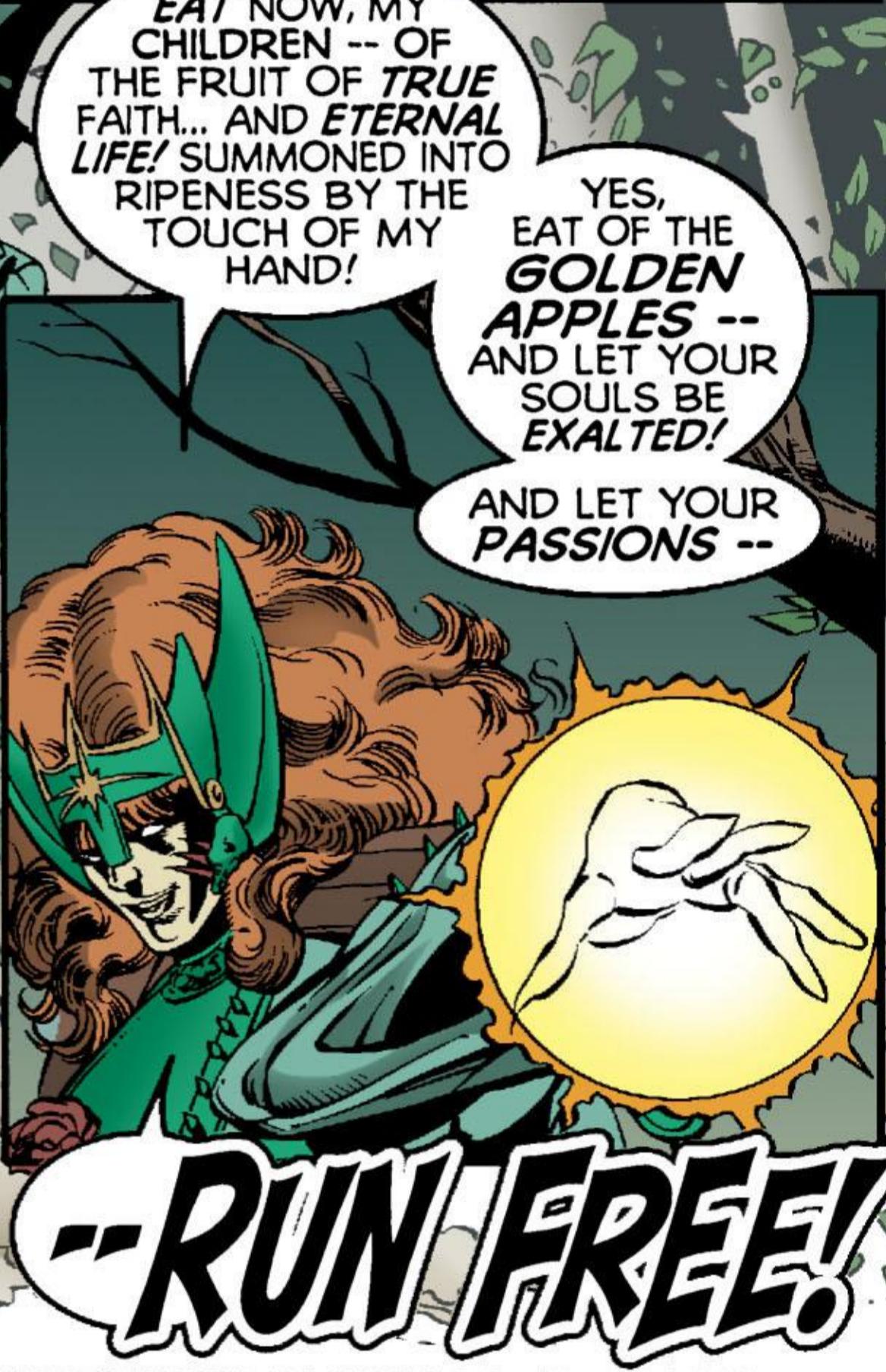
HIS
KNOWLEDGE
FILLS MY VEINS,
HIS WISDOM
BEATS IN MY
HEART.

I HAVE SEEN
THEM, MY FRIENDS!
I HAVE SEEN THE GODS
OF GREEK MYTH FACE-
TO-FACE! BUT AS I TOLD
YOU -- AS I TELL YOU
AGAIN -- THEY ARE
NOT MYTHS --

-- THEY HAVE
FLESH AND BLOOD
AND POWER BEYOND
IMAGINING!

RECOGNIZE
HER?

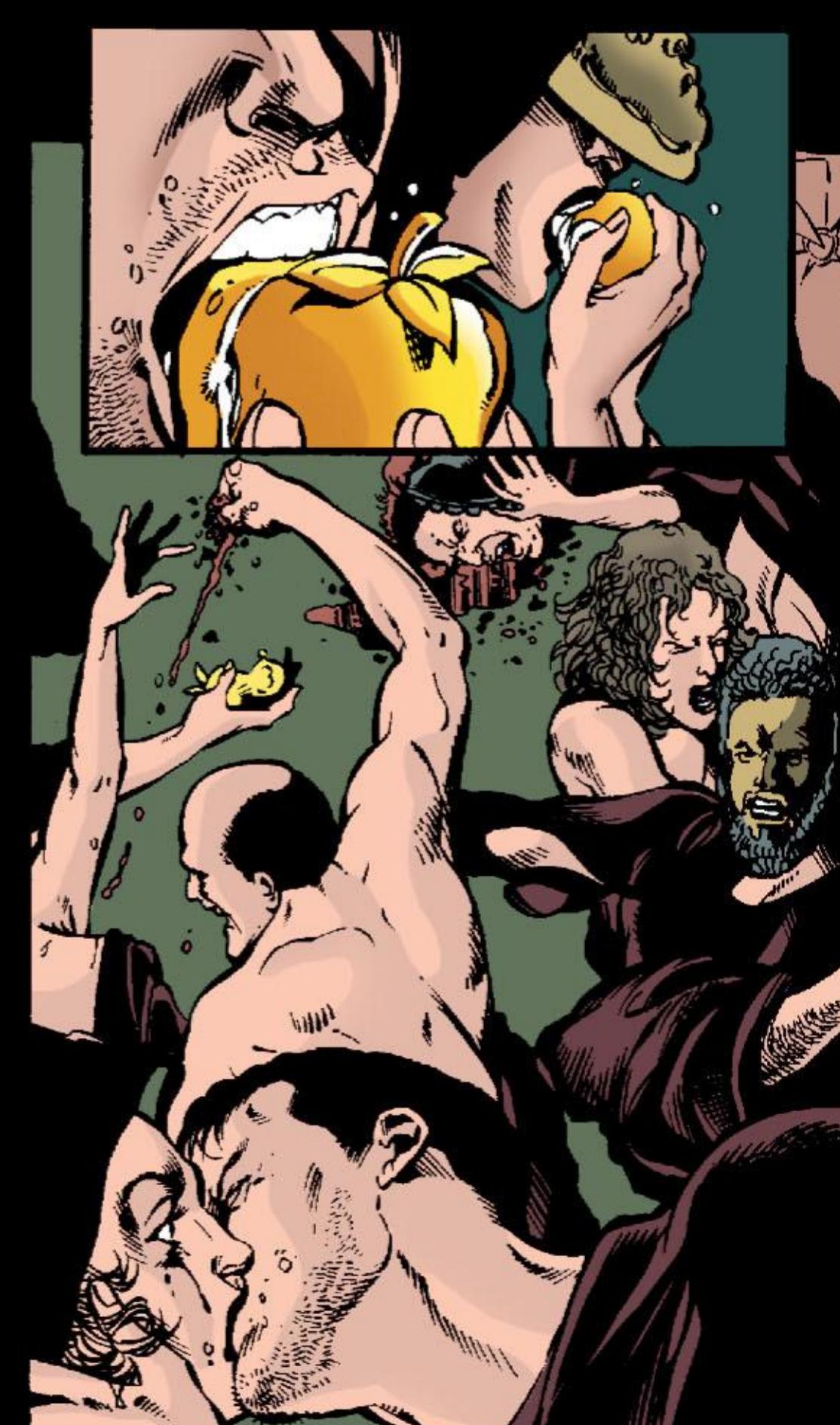
OHMIGOD --!

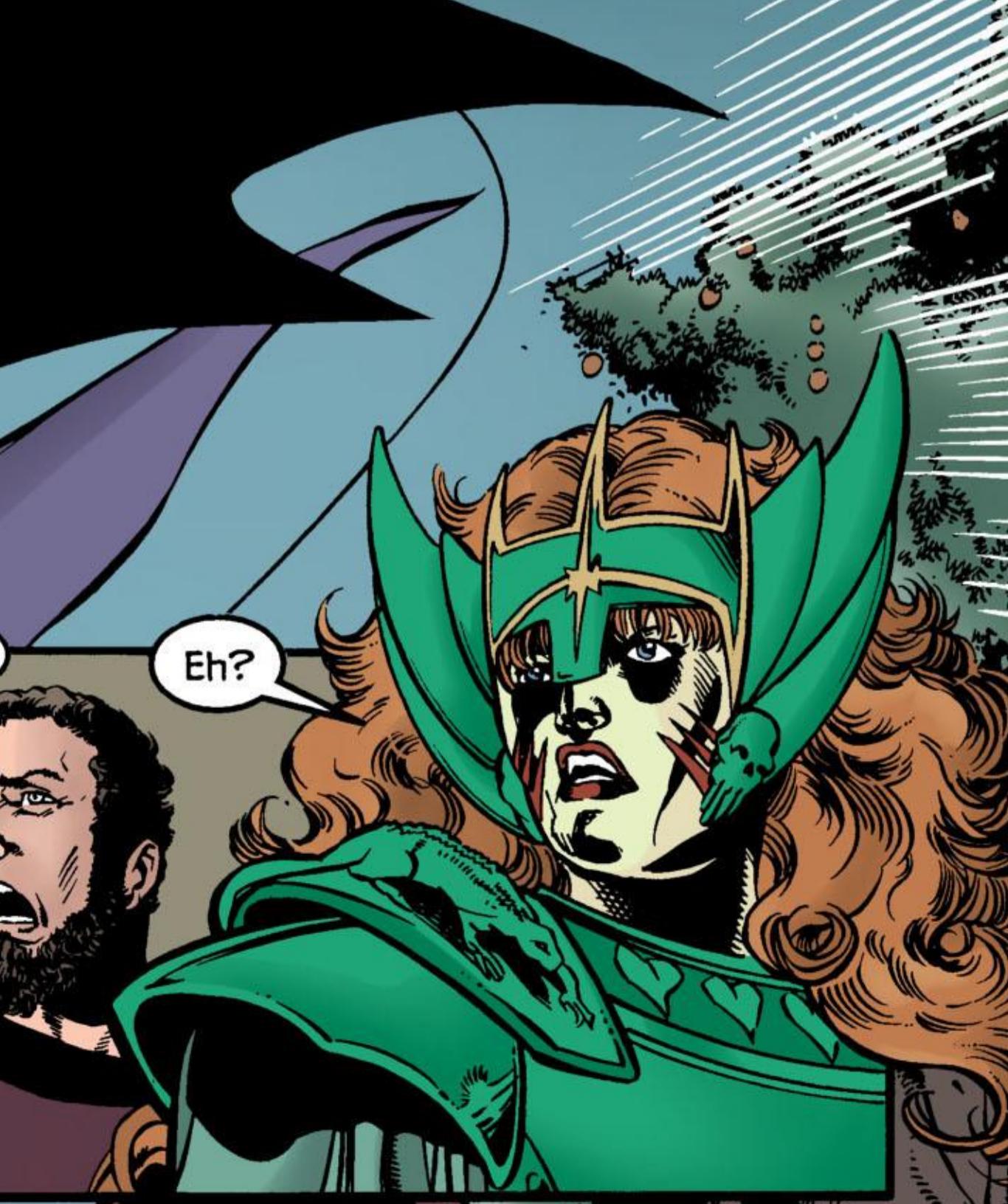
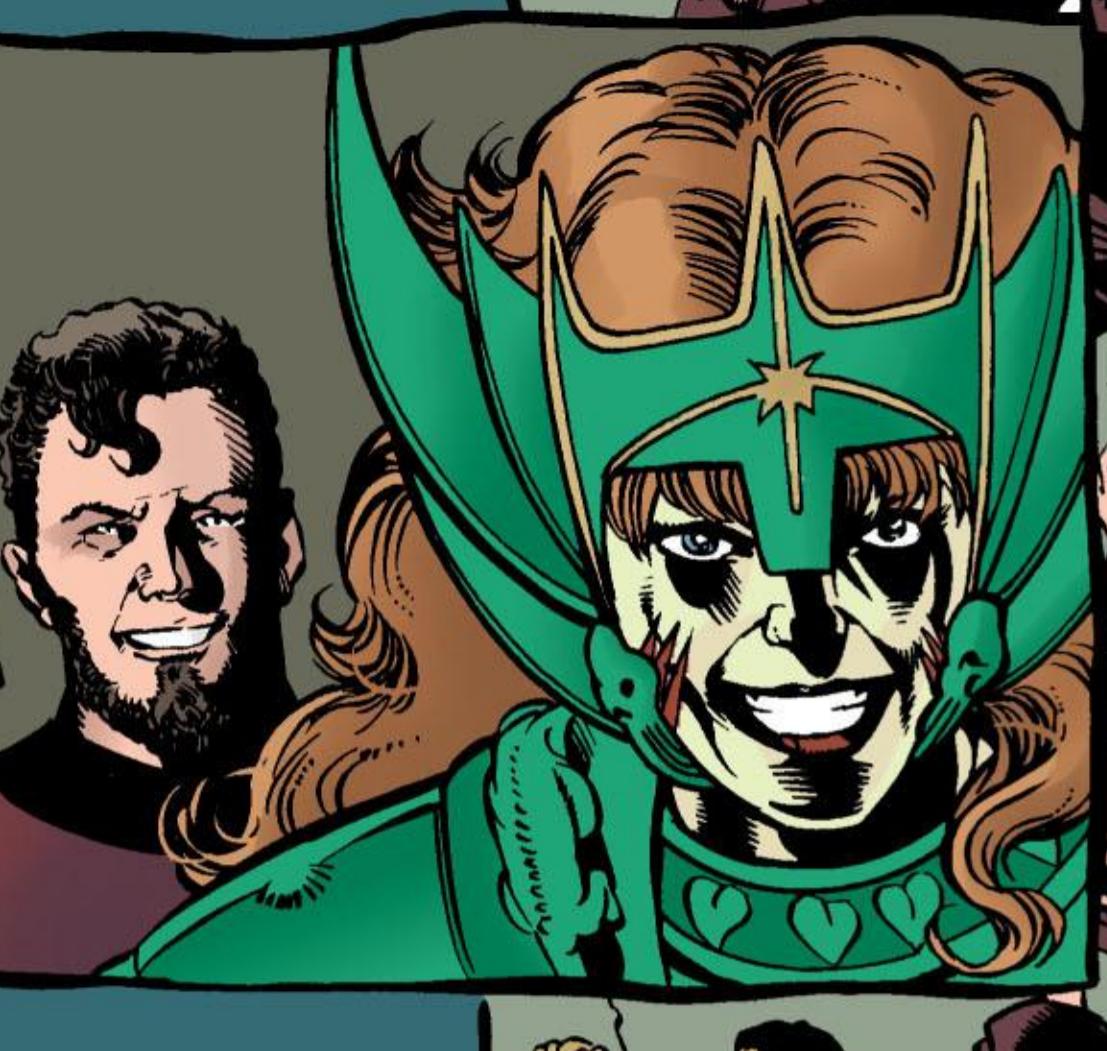


"SINCE WHEN DOES POISON IVY GO IN FOR ARMOR AND STILTDED DIALOGUE, BATMAN?"

"MAYBE SINCE MAXIE ZEUS STARTED PLAYING WITH HER HEAD?"

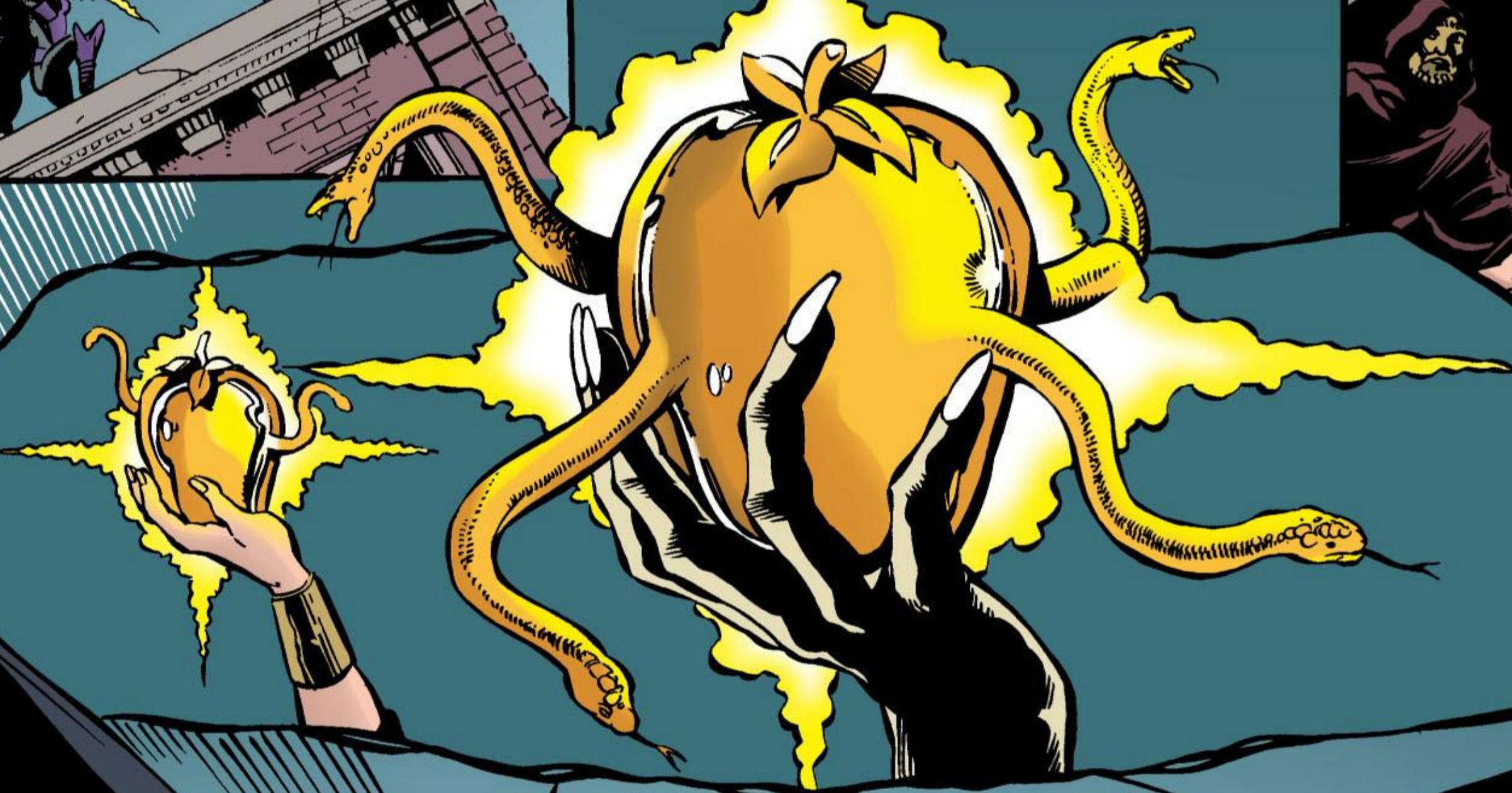
"IN ANY CASE -- THOSE APPLES OF HERS ARE INDUCING SOME KIND OF PSYCHOTIC STATE IN THE CROWD --"





"WELL, THERE ARE SEVERAL REFERENCES TO GOLDEN APPLES IN *GREEK MYTHOLOGY*, BUT THE ONE THAT SEEMS RELEVANT HERE RELATES TO THE *TROJAN WAR*..."

"...WHICH STARTED WITH A BATTLE BETWEEN THREE GODDESSES -- CAUSED BY A GOLDEN APPLE MARKED WITH THE WORD 'KALLISTI'."



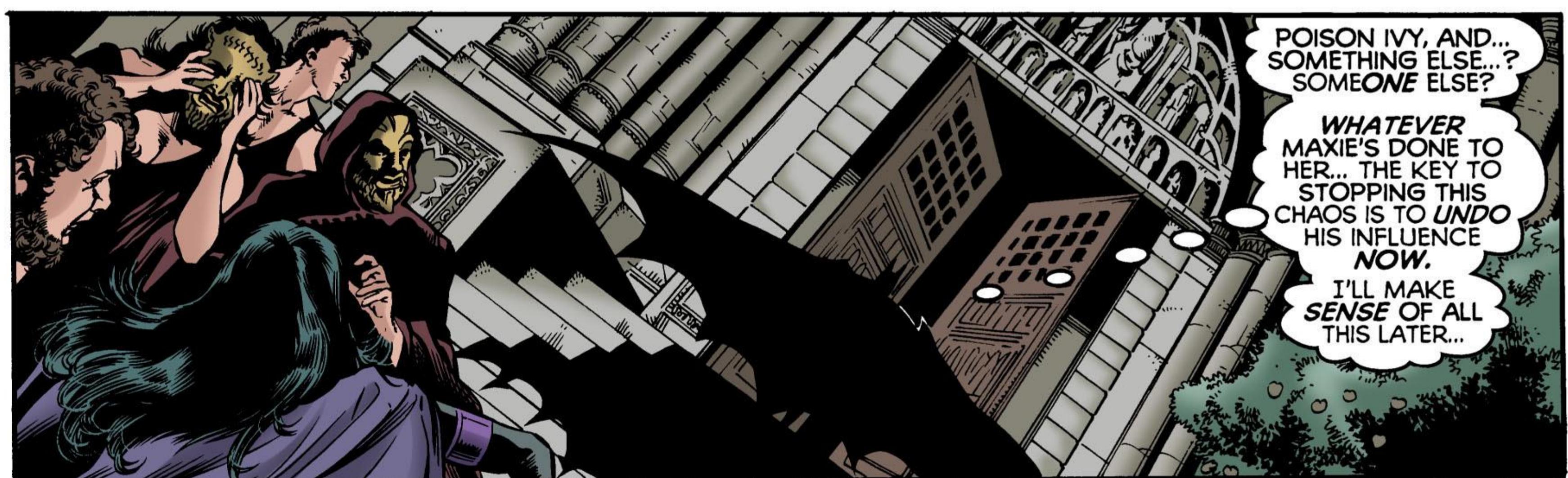
WELL,
WHATEVER'S
CREATING THIS
BATTLEFIELD,
**IT ENDS
NOW!**
I'LL TAKE
IVY --

-- AND THE
"GLADIATOR"
REJECT'S ALL
MINE!

BATMAN!

Eh?





BUT WITHIN THEIR CHURCH, NOTHING MAKES SENSE...

-- 'CAUSE THIS --A-Heh-- SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE INSIDE OF ANY CHURCH I'VE EVER BEEN IN!

I UNDERSTAND, BEING HERE IN OUR NEXUS... MUST BE SO DISCONCERTING TO ONE OF SUCH LITTLE INTELLECT AND IMAGINATION.

...LOOK, Mr. J --

-- I KNOW YOU LOVE A GOOD LAUGH MORE THAN ANYBODY --

-- BUT THIS JOKE'S GETTIN' A LITTLE OLD, DON'T YA THINK?

I MEAN, WHEN ARE YOU GONNA TELL ME WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?

OR FOR THAT MATTER -- WHERE WE ARE --

Oh, MY POOR HARLEY -- YOU'RE CONFUSED AND FRIGHTENED, AREN'T YOU?

A LITTLE.

WELL... YEAH. IT...
HEY! DID YOU JUST CALL ME STUPID?!



I DID.

BUT, IF YOU'D LIKE --- THAT IS, IF YOU'RE STILL CONSCIOUS AFTER WHAT MY LITTLE PETS DID TO YOU --

-- I'D BE HAPPY TO SHARE THIS MUCH WITH YOU; POISON IVY... IS USING THE GOLDEN APPLES OF DISCORD --

-- AN APPROPRIATE NAME, DON'T YOU THINK? --

-- TO COLLECT THE PSYCHIC ENERGIES OF HER WORSHIPPERS. THROUGH IVY AND HER PRIEST, THE MALLEABLE MAXIE ZEUS, THESE POOR, FORGOTTEN MEMBERS OF GOTHAM'S UNDERCLASS --

-- HAVE FOUND NEW GODS... NEW HOPE! AND THEY'LL GLADLY GIVE THEIR LIFE'S BLOOD TO US! THEY'LL --
Oh, DEAR.
SHE'S TOO BUSY BLEEDING TO LISTEN!

THERE'S TROUBLE OUTSIDE!

N-NO... NO! NOT THAT!
ONE OF... THE SUPER-HUMANS! HE'S PURSUED IVY INTO THE CHURCH!

WELL, ISN'T THAT WHAT WE WANTED?

Hmmm.
NOW WHO IN ALL OF GOTHAM WOULD POSSIBLY THINK OF INTERFERING WITH OUR SWINGING SOIREE?

IT'S BATMAN!
BATMAN!

I KNOW THAT, YOU PUSILLANIMOUS IDIOT! BUT UNLIKE YOU, I ENJOY A LITTLE CONFLICT!



VER THE YEARS, THE SPRANG RIVER OF GOTHAM CITY HAS FLOWED QUIETLY PAST MANY REMARKABLE SIGHTS...

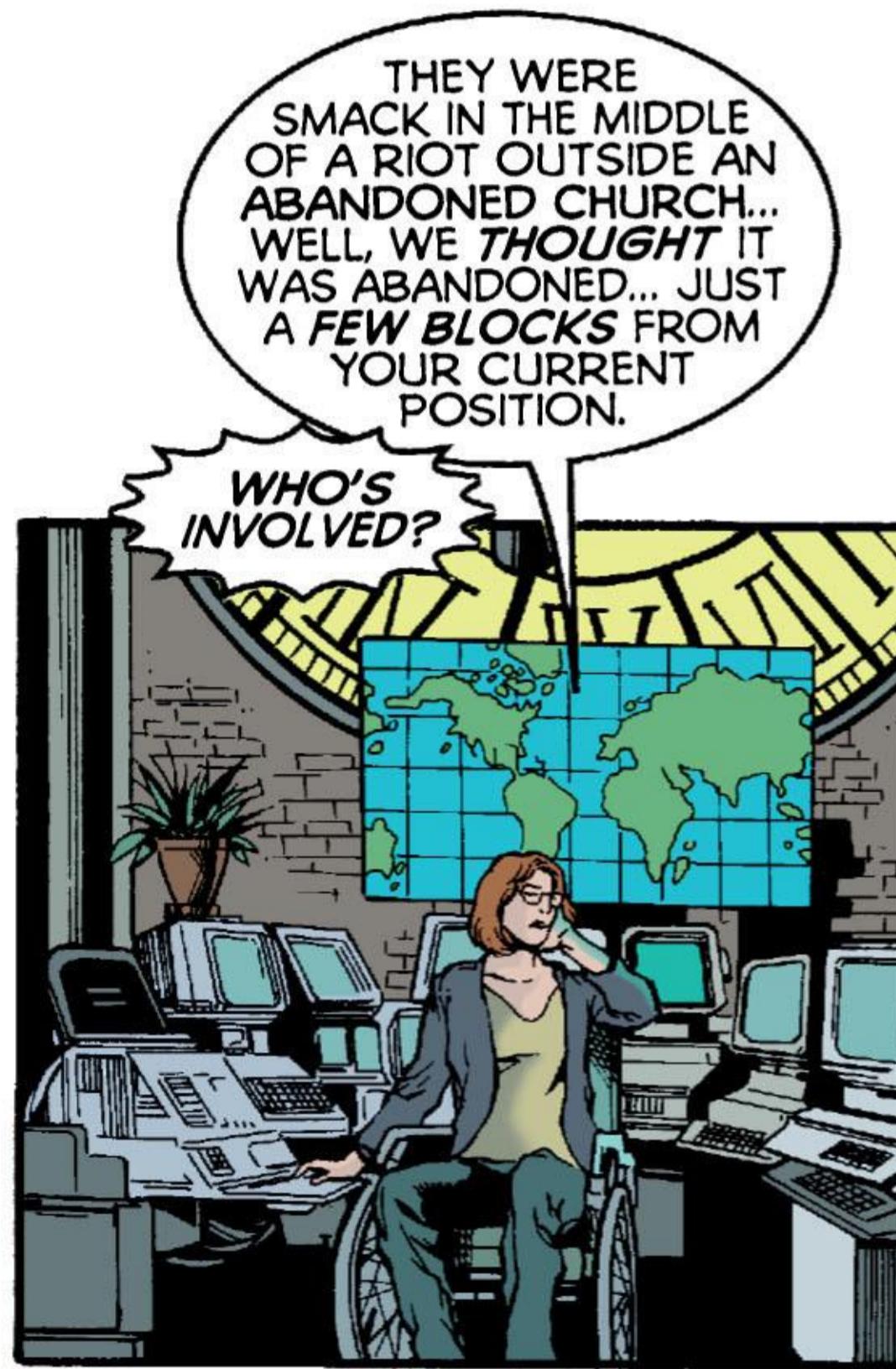


...BUT NONE SO SPECTACULAR AS PARADISE ISLAND APPEARING SUDDENLY FROM A DIMENSIONAL WARP TO SIT, FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT, ALONGSIDE THE GOTHAM DOCKS!



ORACLE -- WE'RE HERE!

PERFECT TIMING, PRINCESS! I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH BATMAN AND HUNTRESS!



THEY WERE SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF A RIOT OUTSIDE AN ABANDONED CHURCH... WELL, WE THOUGHT IT WAS ABANDONED... JUST A FEW BLOCKS FROM YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

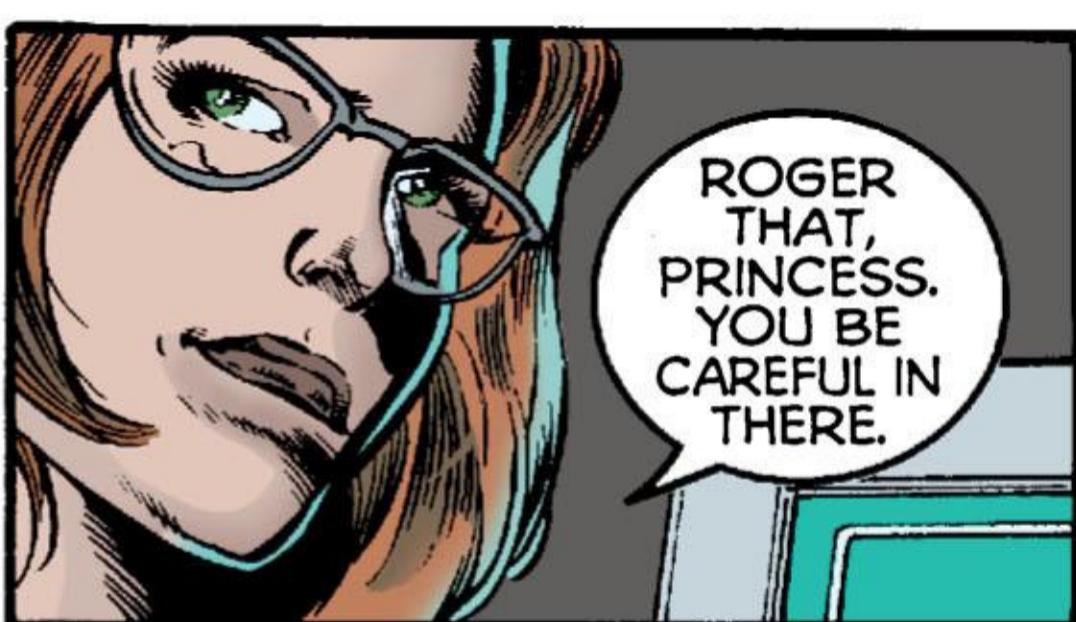
WHO'S INVOLVED?

A SELF-PROCLAIMED DESCENDANT OF THE GREEK GODS NAMED MAXIE ZEUS -- AND YOUR OLD FRIEND, POISON IVY.

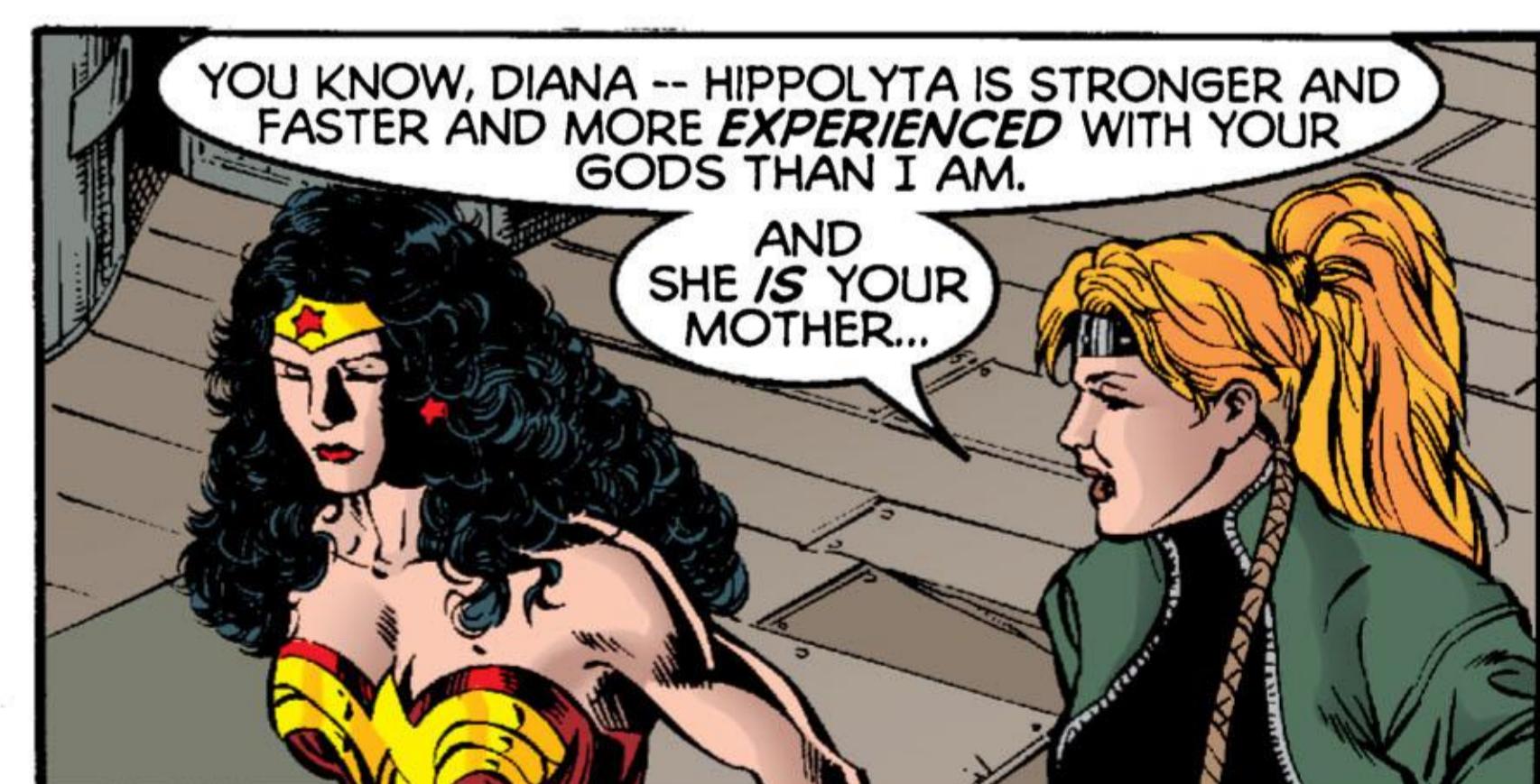
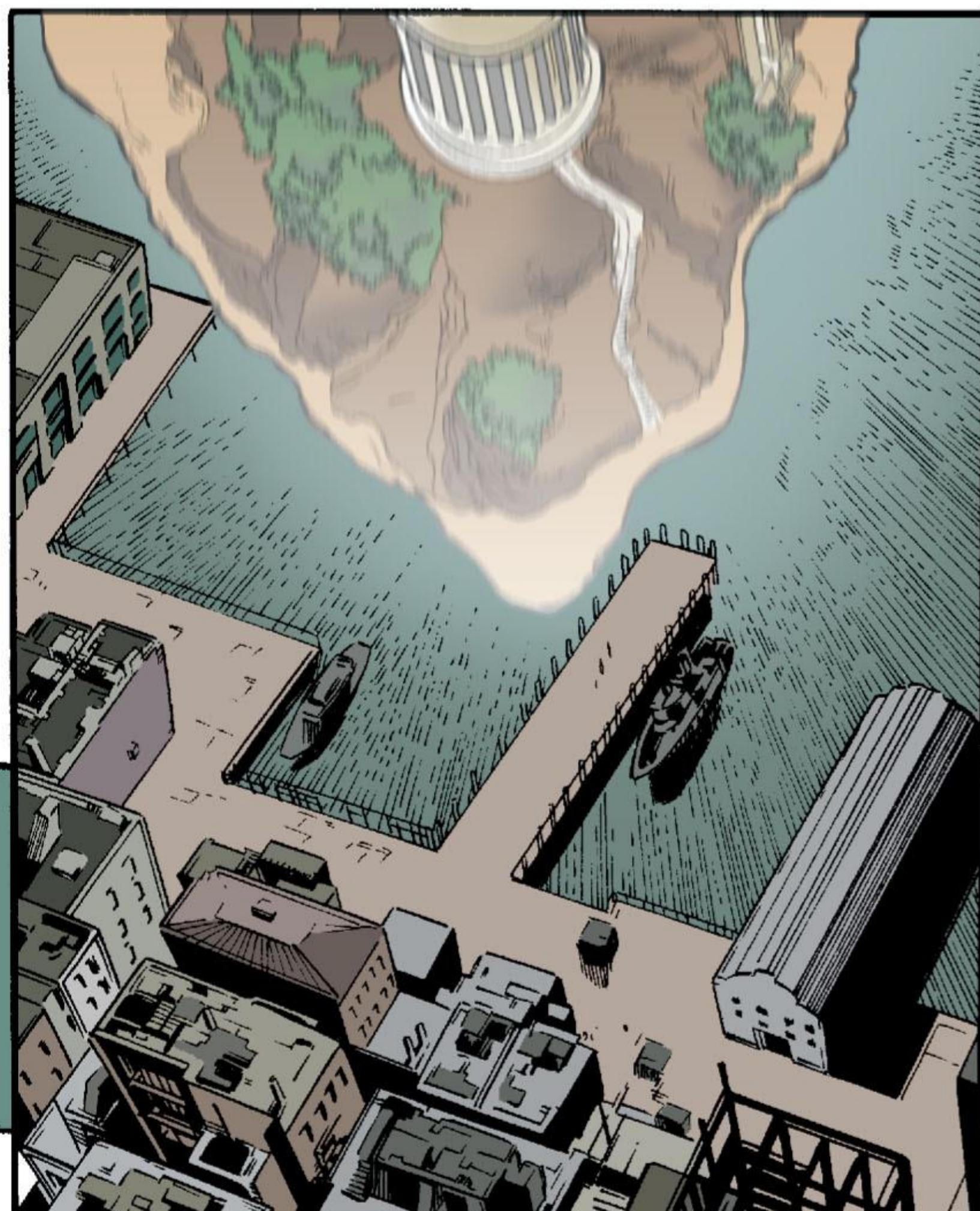


FROM WHAT I KNOW OF YOUR ENCOUNTER -- YOU TWO WERE HARDLY FRIENDS.

WE'RE PROCEEDING, ORACLE. KEEP YOUR COMLINK OPEN.



ROGER THAT, PRINCESS. YOU BE CAREFUL IN THERE.



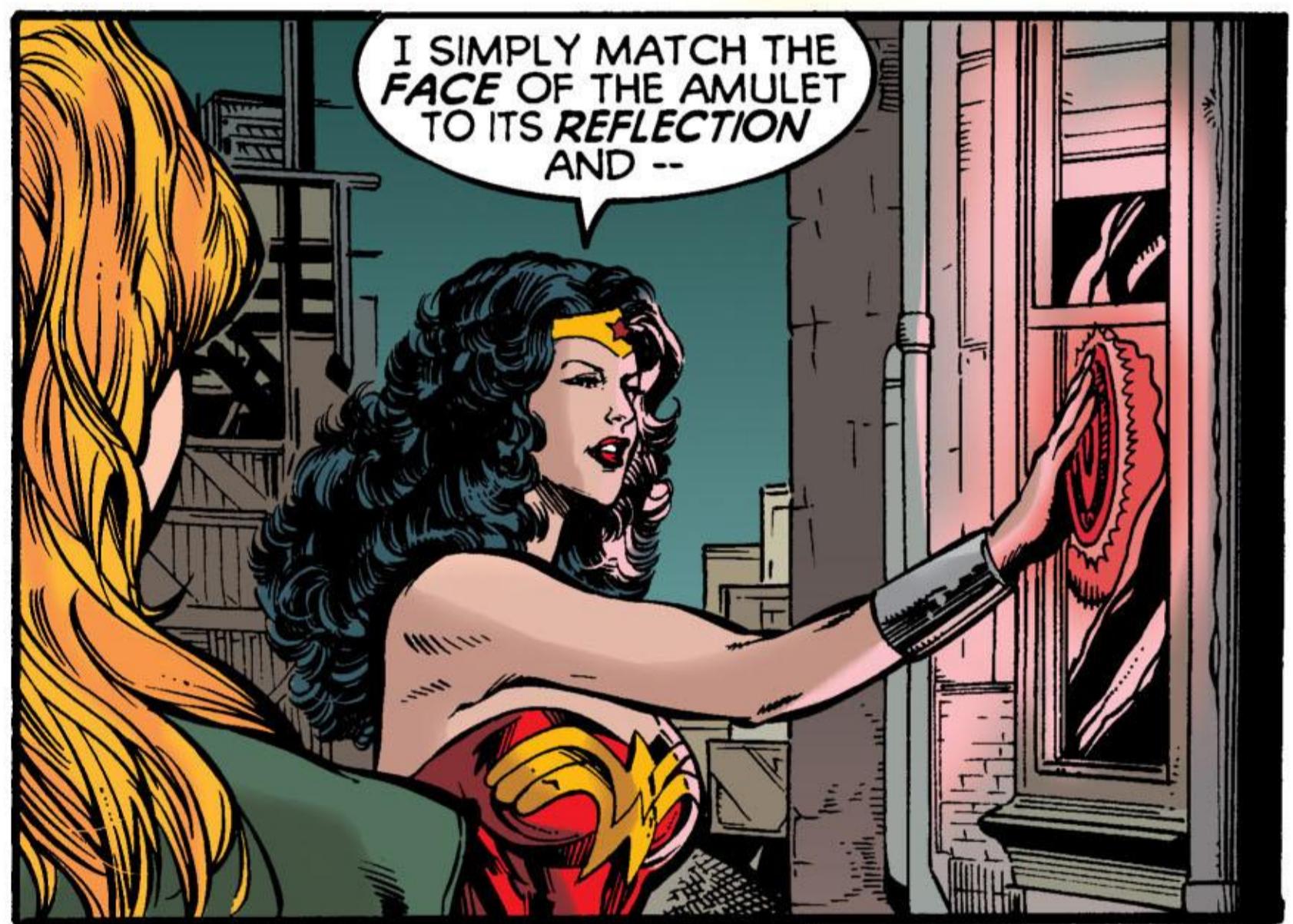
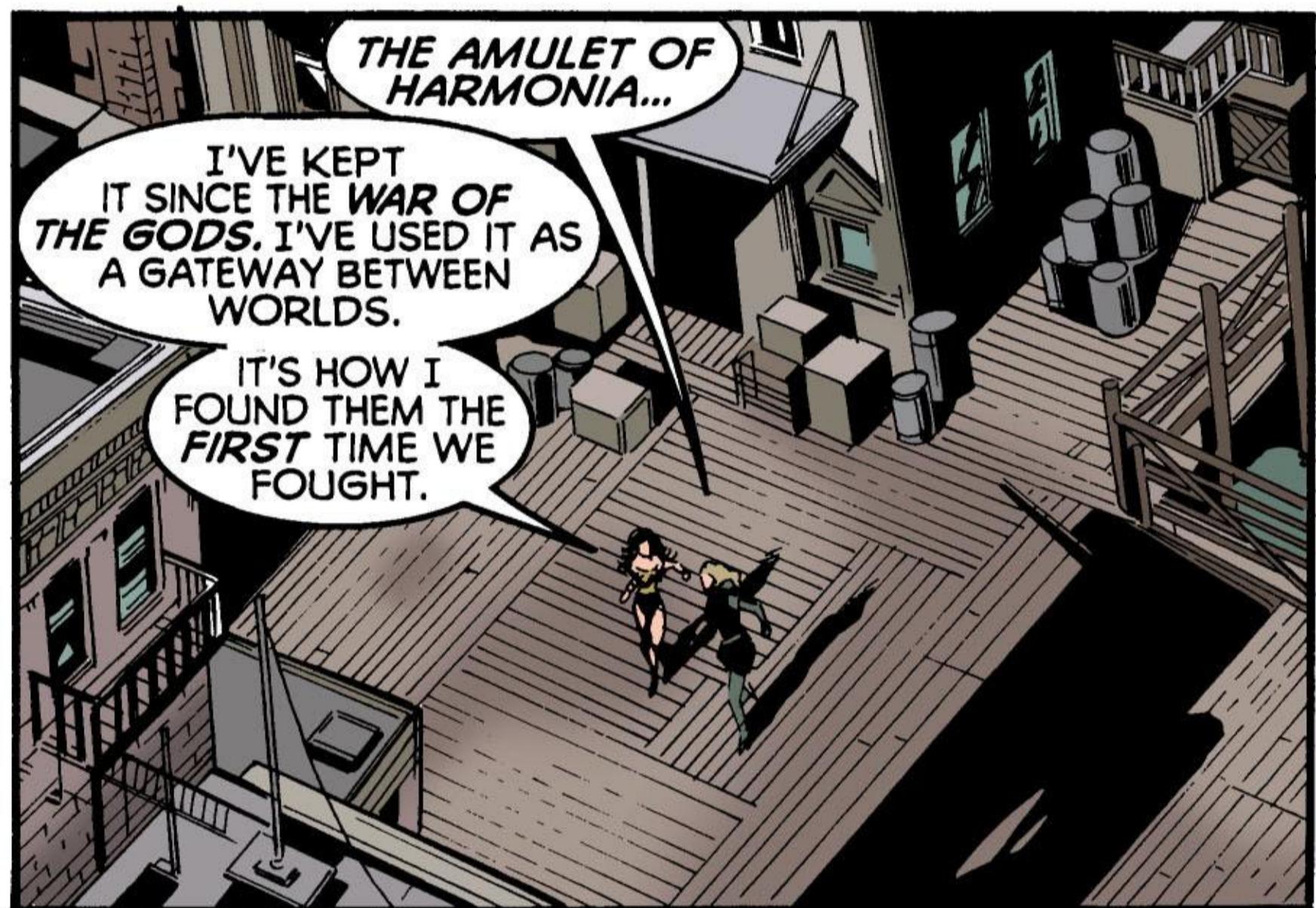
YOU KNOW, DIANA -- HIPPOLYTA IS STRONGER AND FASTER AND MORE EXPERIENCED WITH YOUR GODS THAN I AM.

AND SHE IS YOUR MOTHER...



THE AMAZONS OF THEMYSCIRA NEED A PROPER QUEEN TO LEAD THEM, NOT A PART-TIME MATRIARCH WHO PLAYS AT BEING A "SUPER-HERO" IN MAN'S WORLD.

IT'S TIME MY MOTHER REMEMBERED THAT.



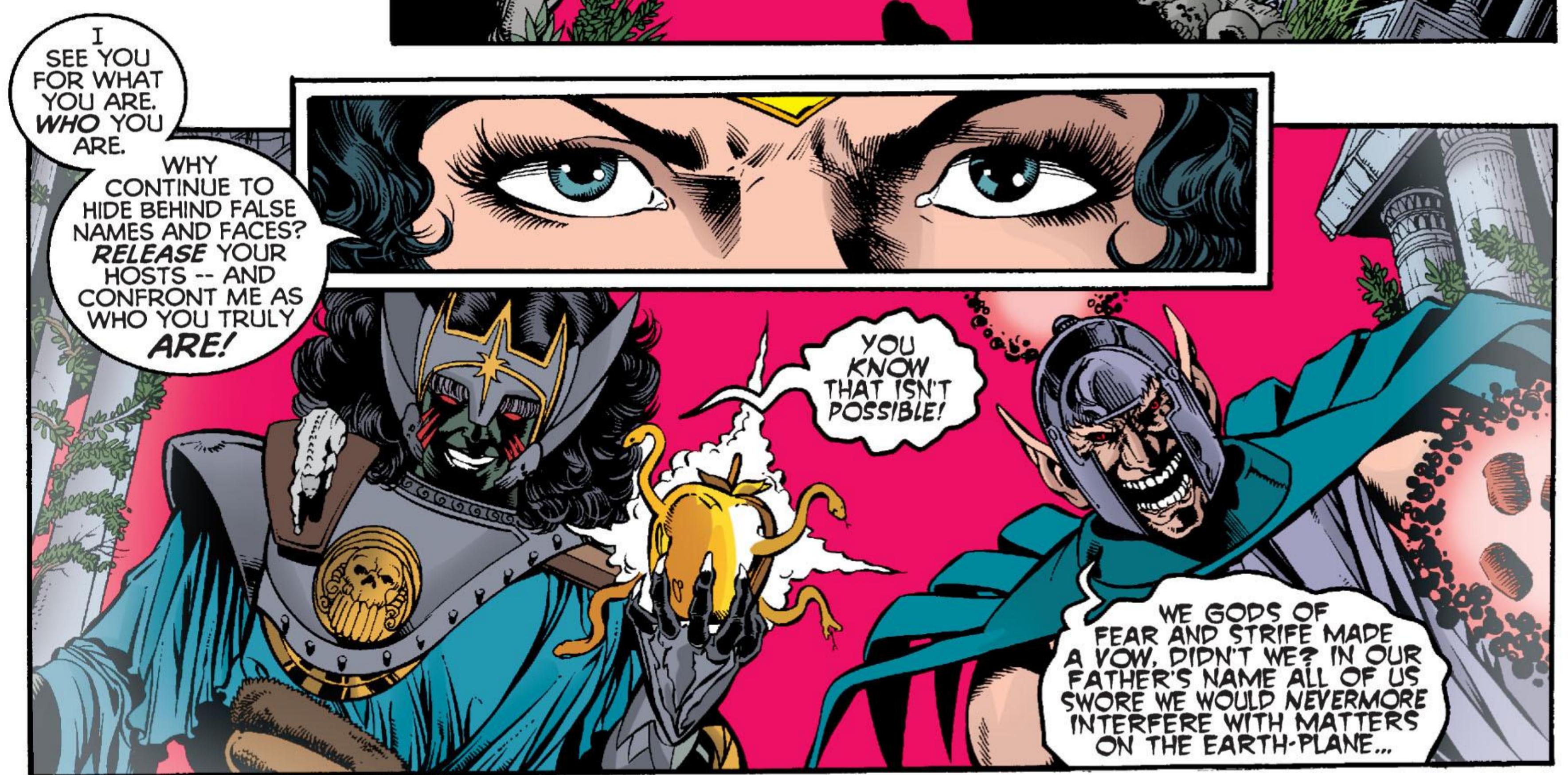
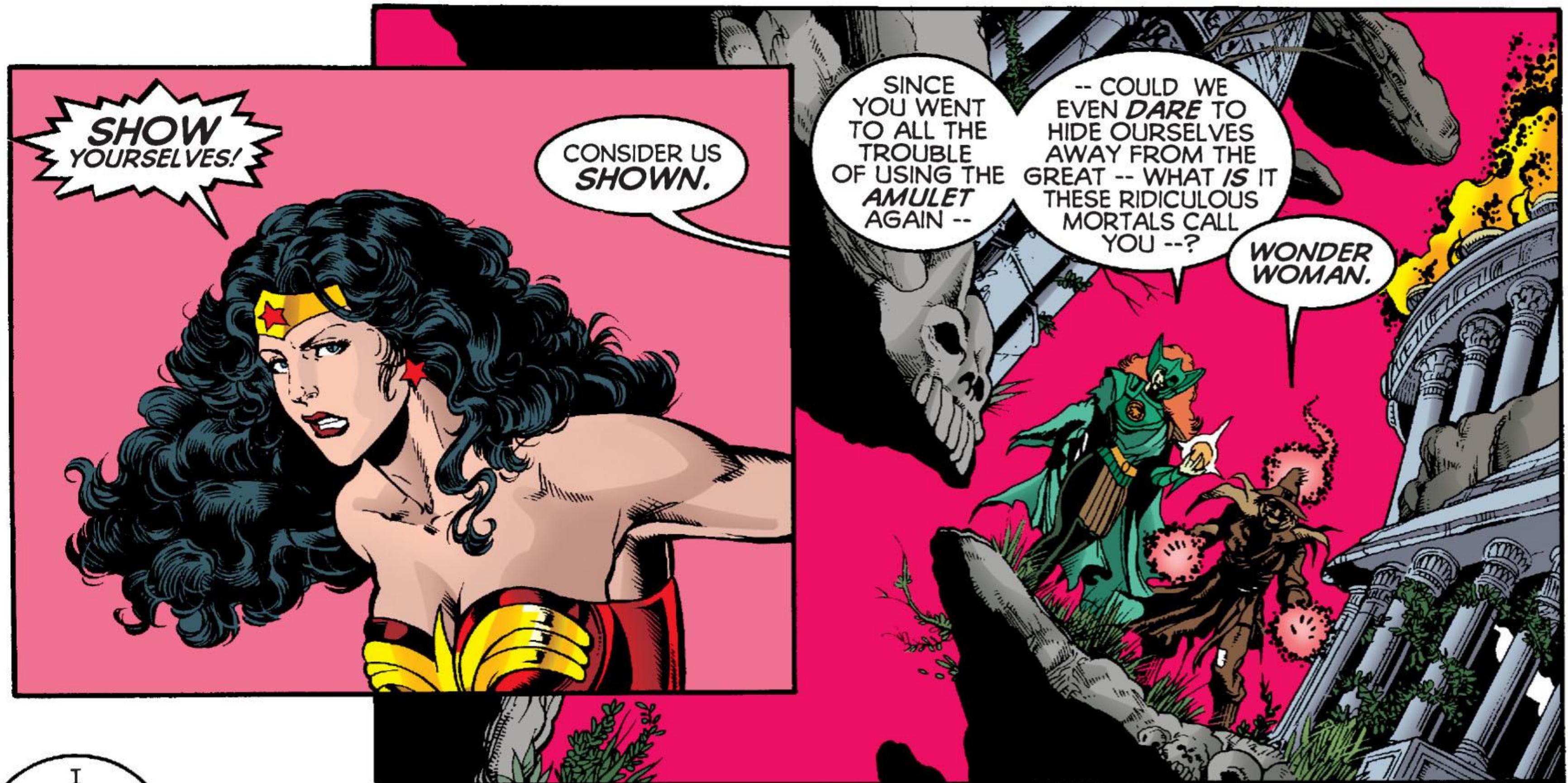
-- I FEAR IT
IS GOING TO
BE YOU!"

THE STENCH THAT
FILLS MY NOSTRILS IS AS
OVERWHELMING --

-- AS IT
WAS THE FIRST
TIME I EXPERIENCED
THE VIBRATION OF
EVIL...OF NAKED
DEPRAVITY...THAT
PERMEATES THIS
PLACE!

I MUST KEEP
FOCUSED, CLEAR --
MY INTENTIONS IN LINE
WITH THE HIGHEST IN
MY SOUL -- OR THE
BATTLE WILL BE LOST
BEFORE IT'S EVEN
BEGUN.

NOW IT'S
TIME I PUT AN
END TO THIS
DARKNESS ONCE
AND FOR ALL.





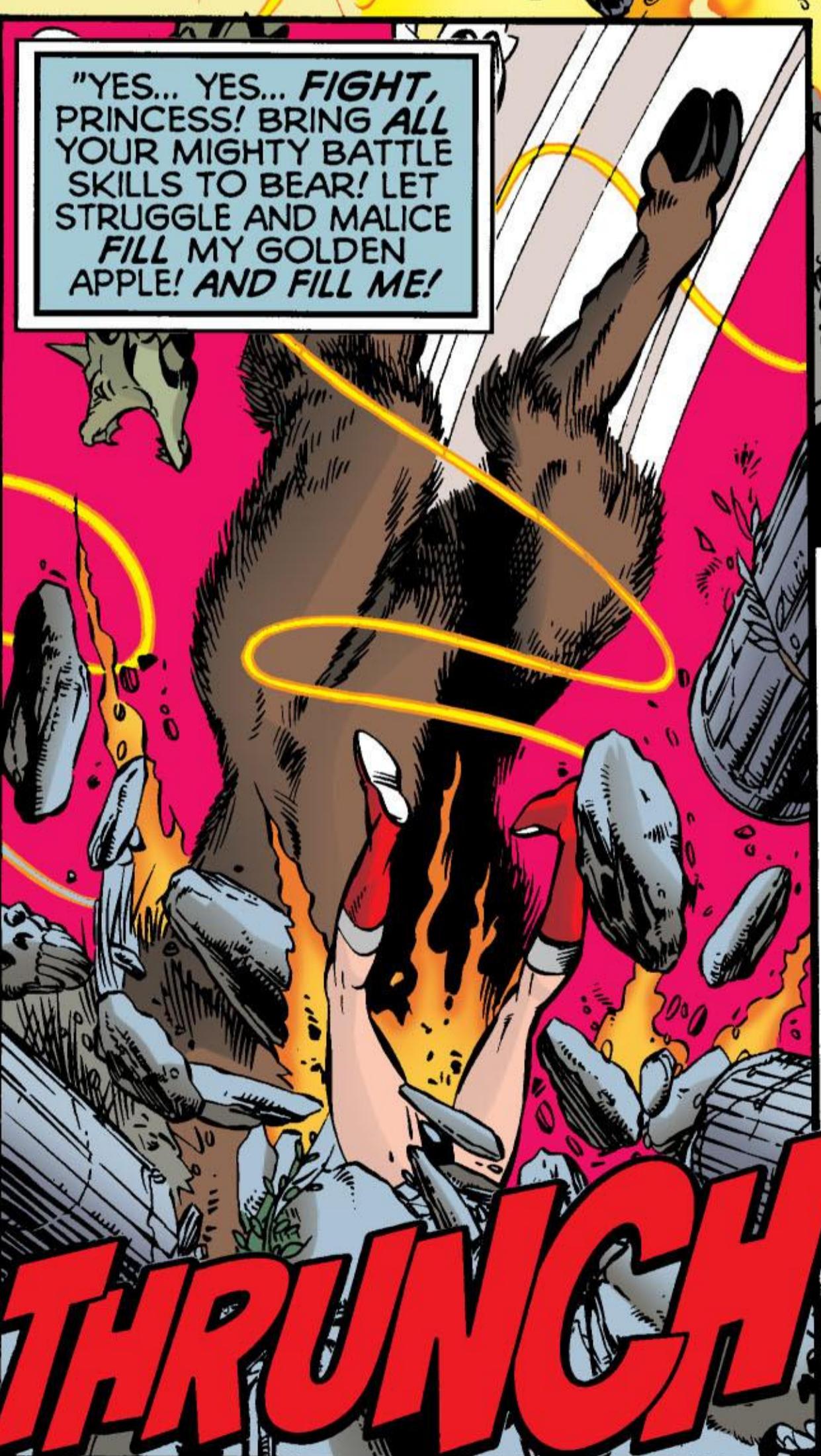
JUST LOOK AT THESE PEOPLE YOU SO CHERISH!

THEY'RE RULED BY FEAR -- EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!
DO YOU THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO EASY FOR US IF IT WASN'T?

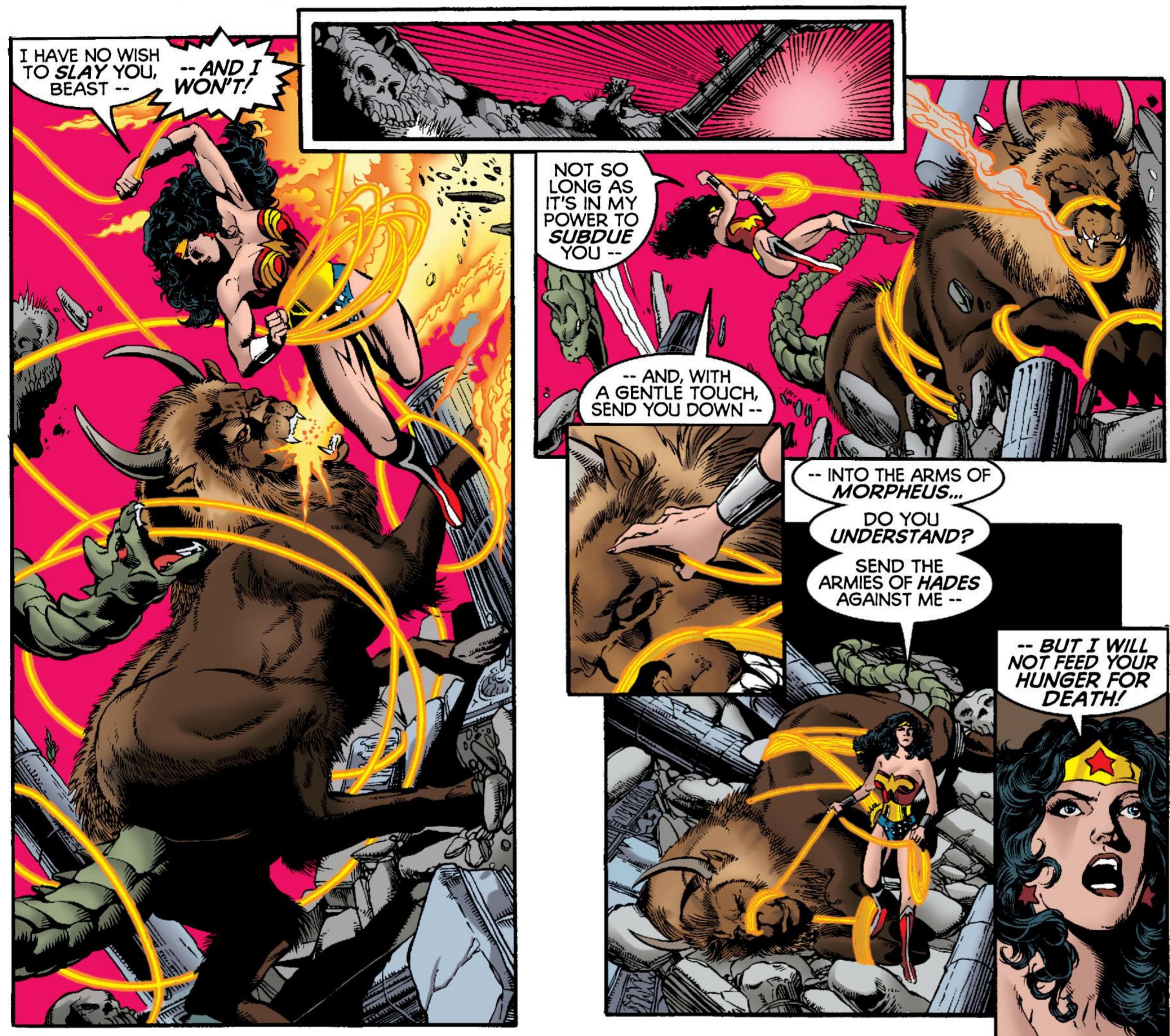
Ah, BUT YOU PRINCESS --
YOU **CAN** RESIST OUR CHARMS! SUCH A PURE AND POWERFUL **SPIRIT** YOU HAVE!

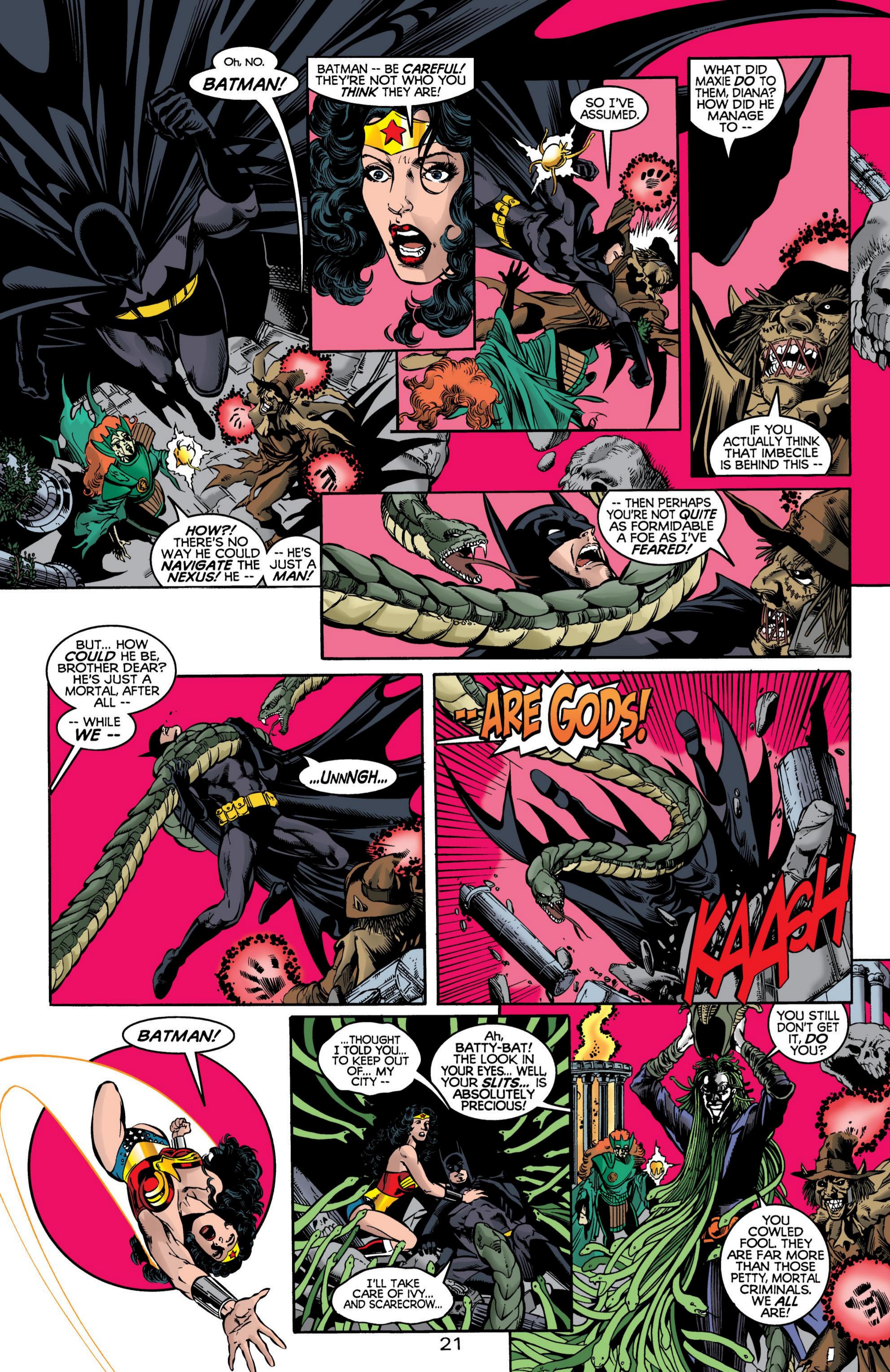


YOUR HEART BLEEDS FOR ALL THE BEINGS IN CREATION! AND NOW --









OMIGOD.

PENELope,
WHAT IS
IT?!

GAEA HELP US...
THEY'RE BACK!

YOUR OLD
COMPANION WAS
KIND ENOUGH TO
LEND ME HIS BODY.
IN FACT, HE
VOLUNTEERED.

HE CALLS
HIMSELF THE JOKER,
AS YOU BOTH KNOW.
WE'VE ALL TAKEN A
TWISTED PLEASURE IN
ASSUMING THESE
COLORFUL MORTAL
NAMES --

-- BUT I
MUCH PREFER
MY TRUE
NAME --

-- DEIMOS,
GOD OF
TERROR!

YOU'VE MET
MY SISTER -- ERI,
GODDESS OF
DISCORD!

AND MY
SOMWHAT...
CRAVEN BROTHER,
PHOBOS, GOD
OF FEAR!

WE ARE THE
CHILDREN OF ARES,
GOD OF WAR -- AND
WE LIKE YOUR GOTHAM
CITY VERY MUCH! SO
MUCH THAT WE'RE
GOING TO REMAKE IT
IN OUR FATHER'S
IMAGE --

-- AND FROM
THIS PLACE, THE
WAR-GOD WILL
STRIKE -- AND BRING
DEVASTATION TO
THE EARTH --

-- WITH
HIS BELOVED
CHILDREN BY
HIS SIDE!

NEXT
WAR!



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Distributions