

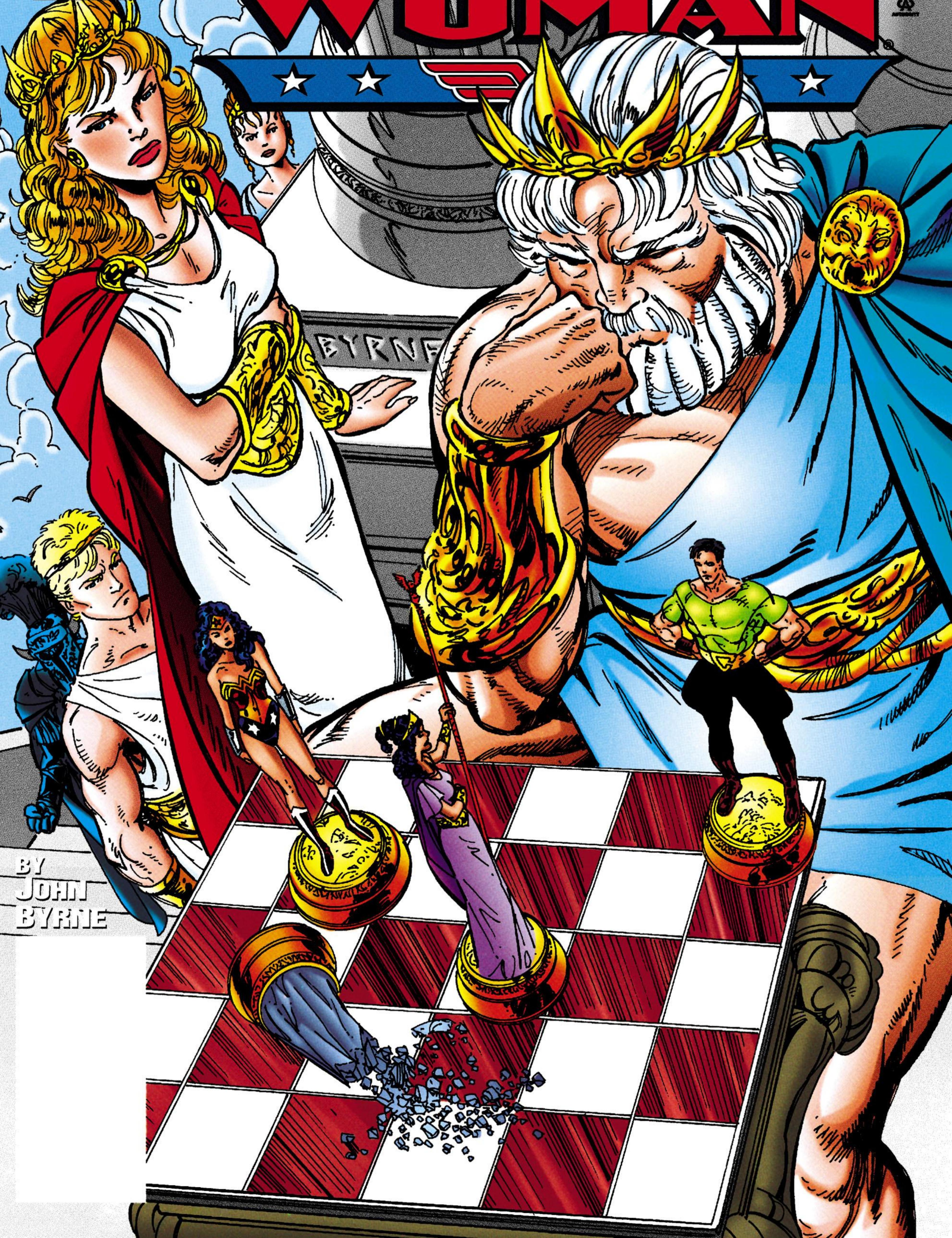


PAWNS OF THE GODS!

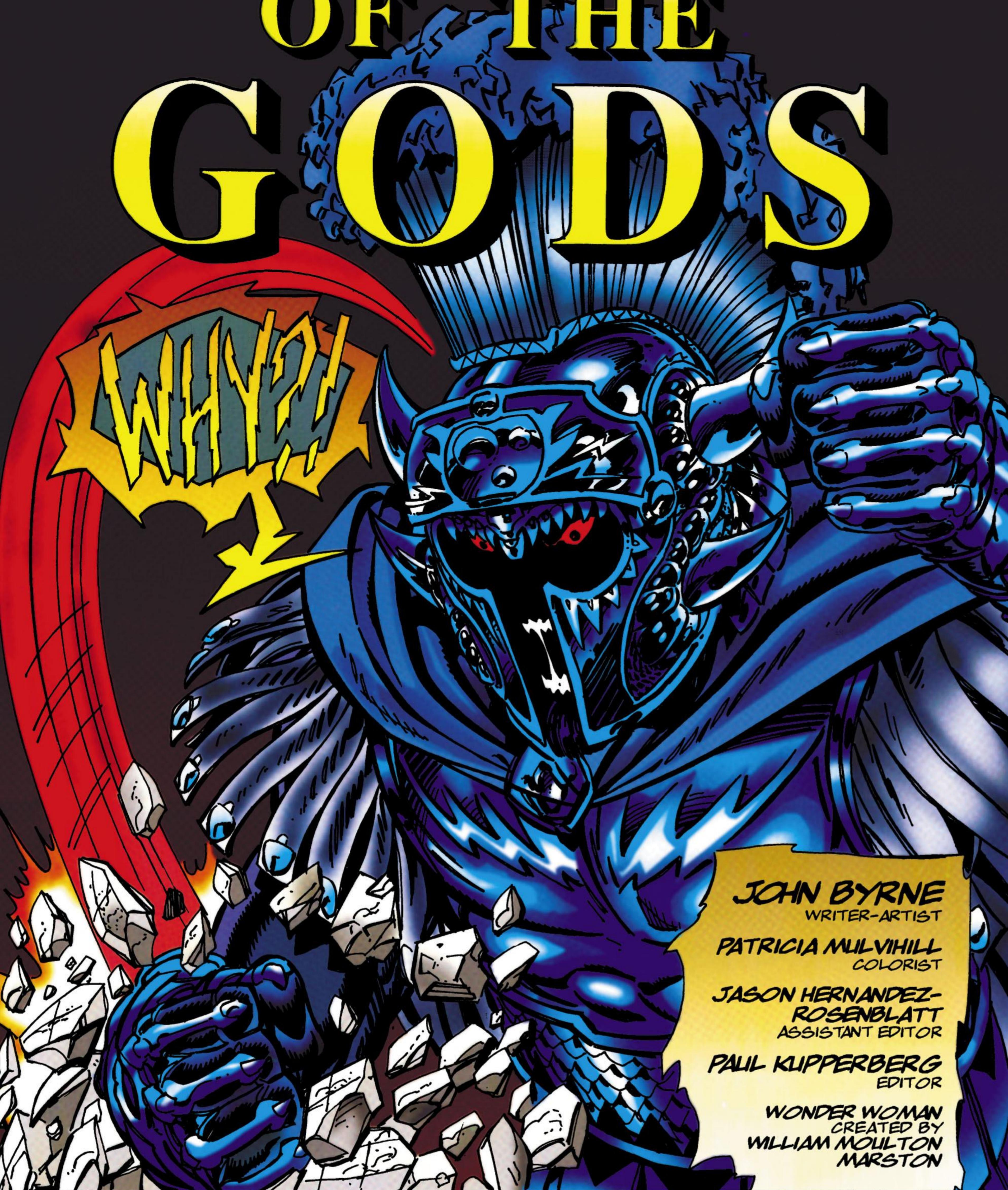
WONDER WOMAN

122 JUN 97

APPROVED BY THE
COMIC BOOK CODE
COUNCIL



JUDGMENT OF THE GODS



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WONDER WOMAN
CREATED BY
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THE WORLD CHURNS, LIKE A MAN TOSSED FITFULLY IN THE THROES OF NIGHTMARE, THE PLANET SHUDDERS.

IN JERUSALEM, AN ARAB TAILOR WHO HAS LIVED FOR TWENTY YEARS AT PEACE WITH HIS JEWISH NEIGHBORS TAKES UP A STOLEN MACHINE PISTOL AND SHOOTS NINE ISRAELI SCHOOLCHILDREN BEFORE HE IS HIMSELF GUNNED DOWN.

IN PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS, THE PASTOR OF A QUIET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PICKS UP A KITCHEN KNIFE AND BUTCHERS HIS WIFE AND VISITING PARENTS BEFORE TURNING THE BLADE ON HIMSELF.

IN SOMALIA, A WHOLE TRIBE IS WIPE OUT OF EXISTENCE WHEN AN ARMORED VEHICLE PLOWS THROUGH THEIR VILLAGE SPEWING CHEMICAL DEATH.

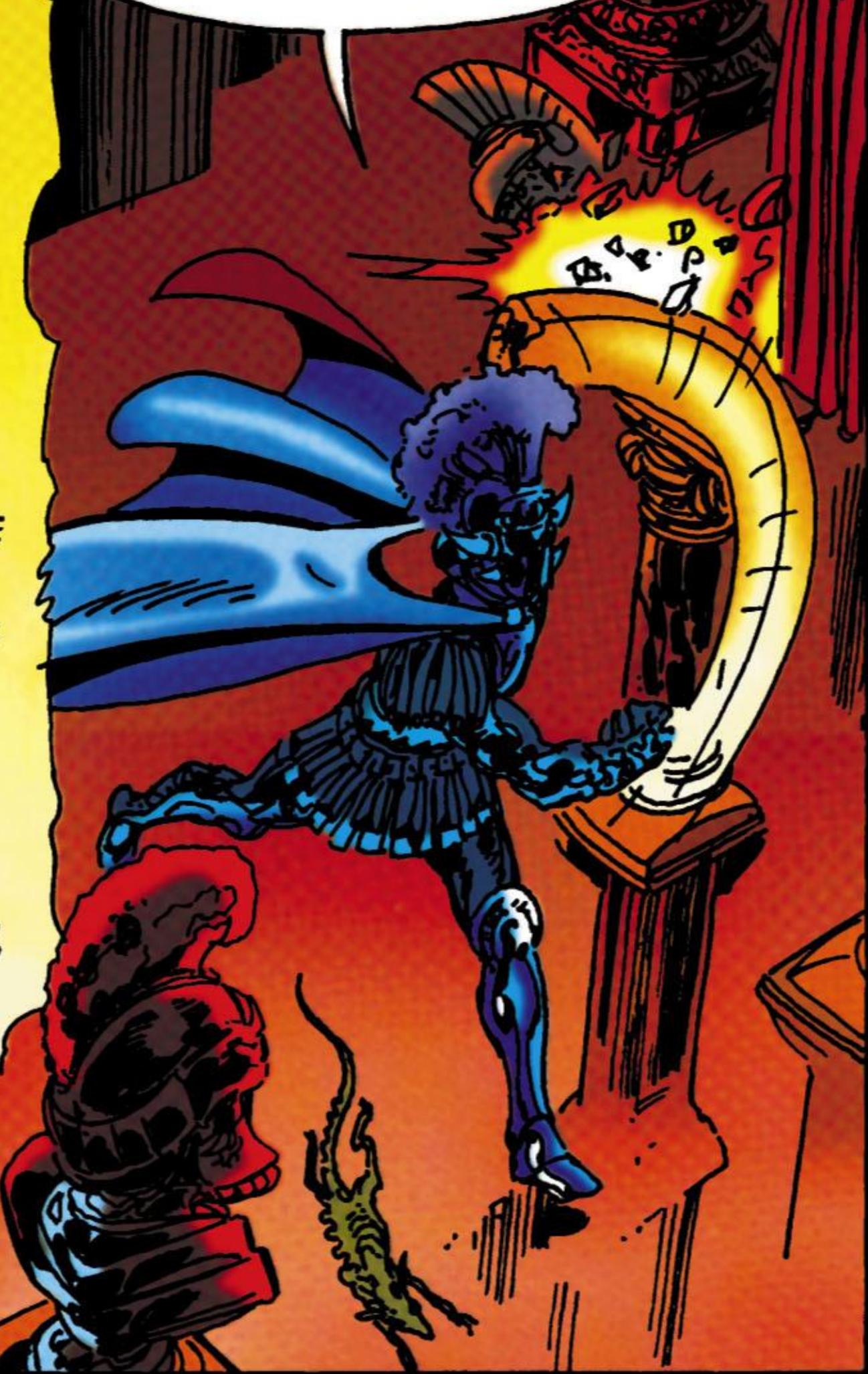
ON LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS PROGRAMS ANCHORS WITH STYLISH HAIRDOS AND ARMANI SUITS CAN ONLY SHAKE THEIR HEADS AND ASKS THEIR VIEWERS "WHY?"

WHY? THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE.

THE GOD OF WAR IS ANGRY...

FOR MONTHS I HAVE WORKED TOWARD FULFILLING A GOAL WHICH HAD BEEN MY DESTINY THROUGH ALL THE LONG MILLENNIA OF MY EXISTENCE...

NOW, WHEN THE FINAL FRUITS OF MY LABORS SEEM ALMOST WITHIN MY GRASP...



...THIS!!

THIS PLEASES US NOT AT ALL, MY SON.

YOUR ACTIONS IN THIS MATTER BRING GREAT SHAME UPON OLYMPUS!

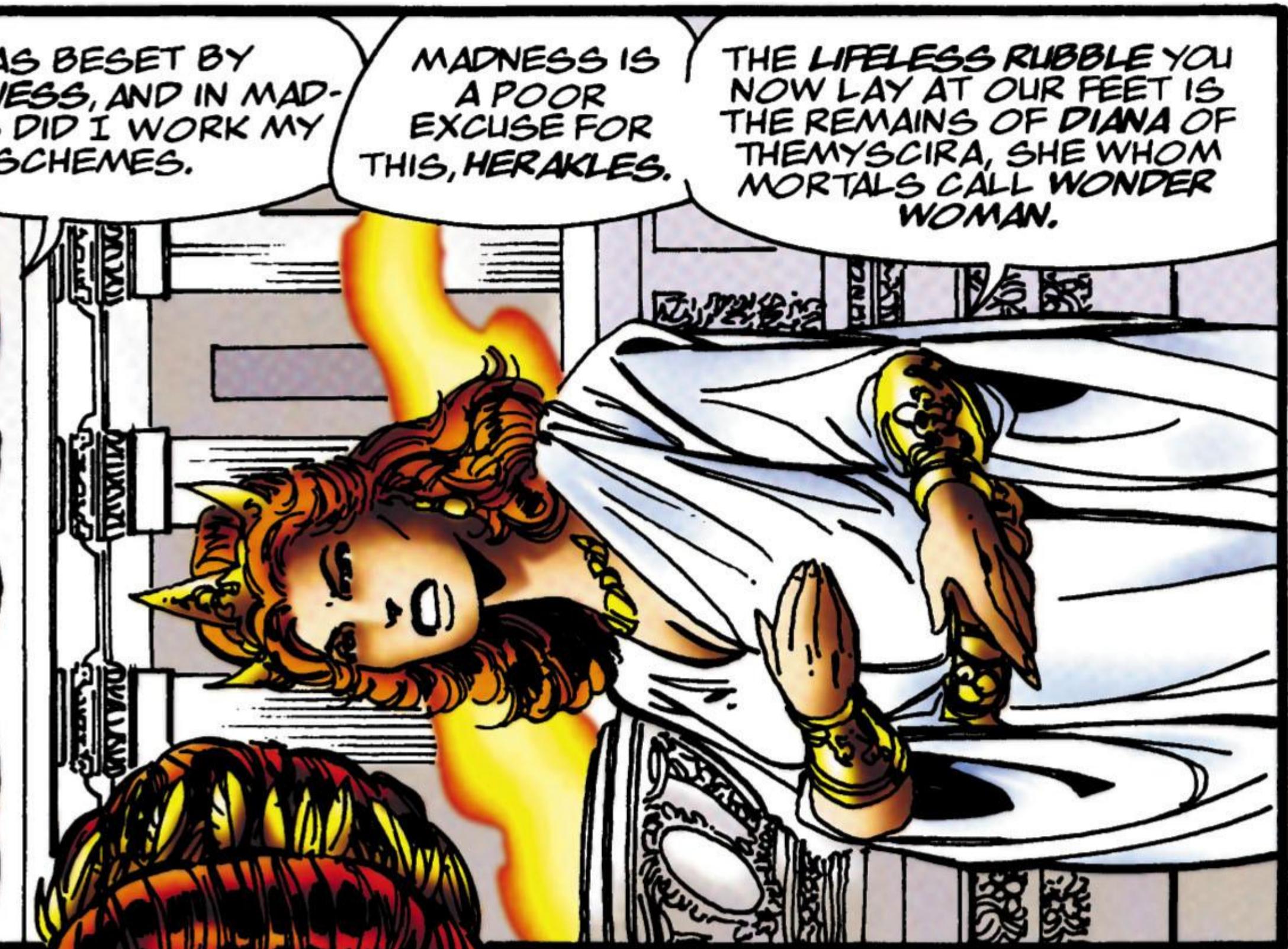
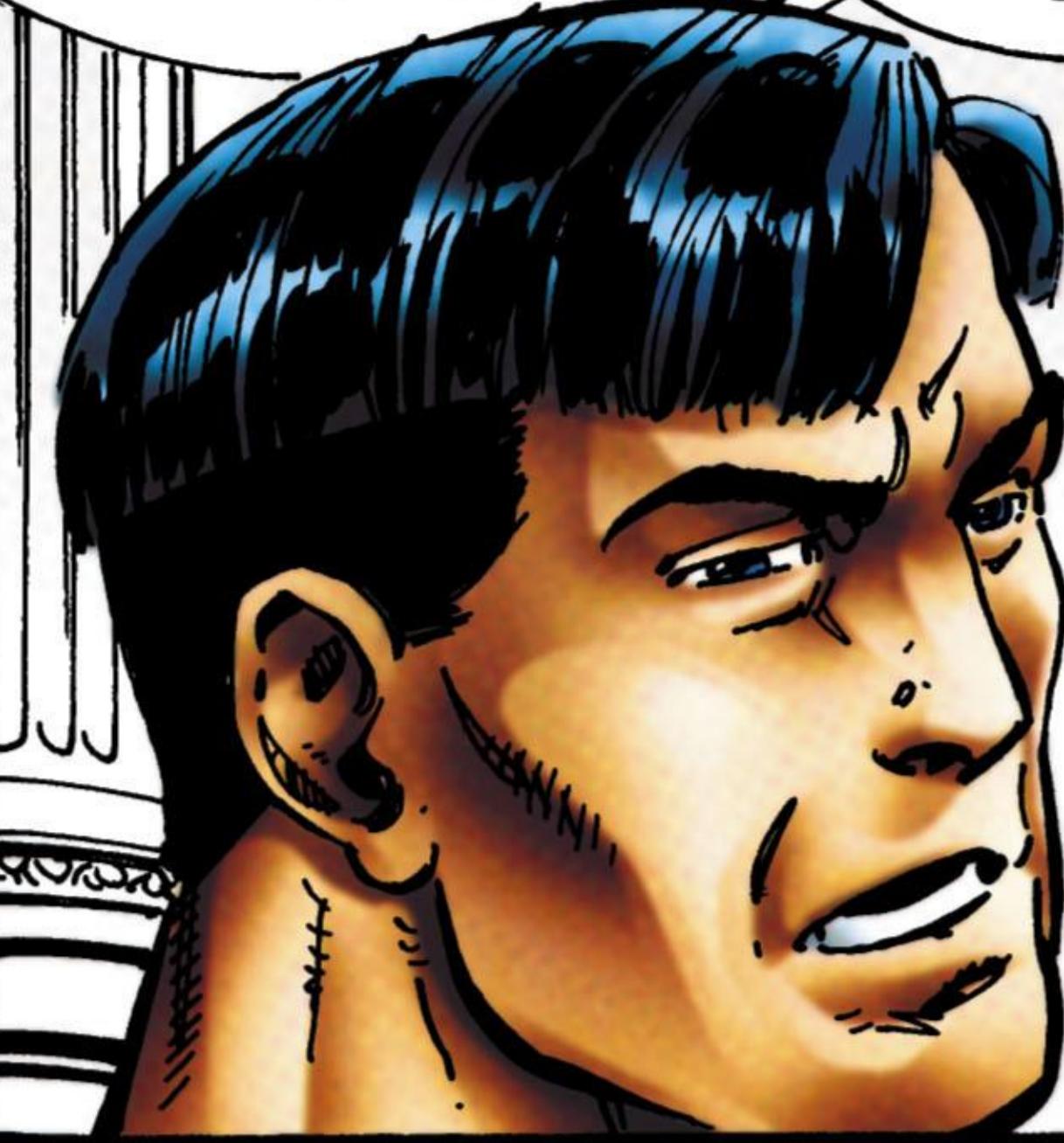


FOR THIS OFFENSE I CAN OFFER NOTHING BUT MY MOST HUMBLE APOLOGIES, FATHER.

I WAS BESET BY MADNESS, AND IN MADNESS DID I WORK MY SCHEMES.

MADNESS IS A POOR EXCUSE FOR THIS, HERAKLES.

THE LIFELESS RUBBLE YOU NOW LAY AT OUR FEET IS THE REMAINS OF DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA, SHE WHOM MORTALS CALL WONDER WOMAN.



AND WONDER WOMAN WAS GIVEN LIFE BY MY HAND, AND THE HAND OF MY SISTERS.

THAT YOUR FOOLISHNESS HAS BROUGHT HER TO THIS SORRY END IS INEXCUSABLE, EVEN FOR A GOD!



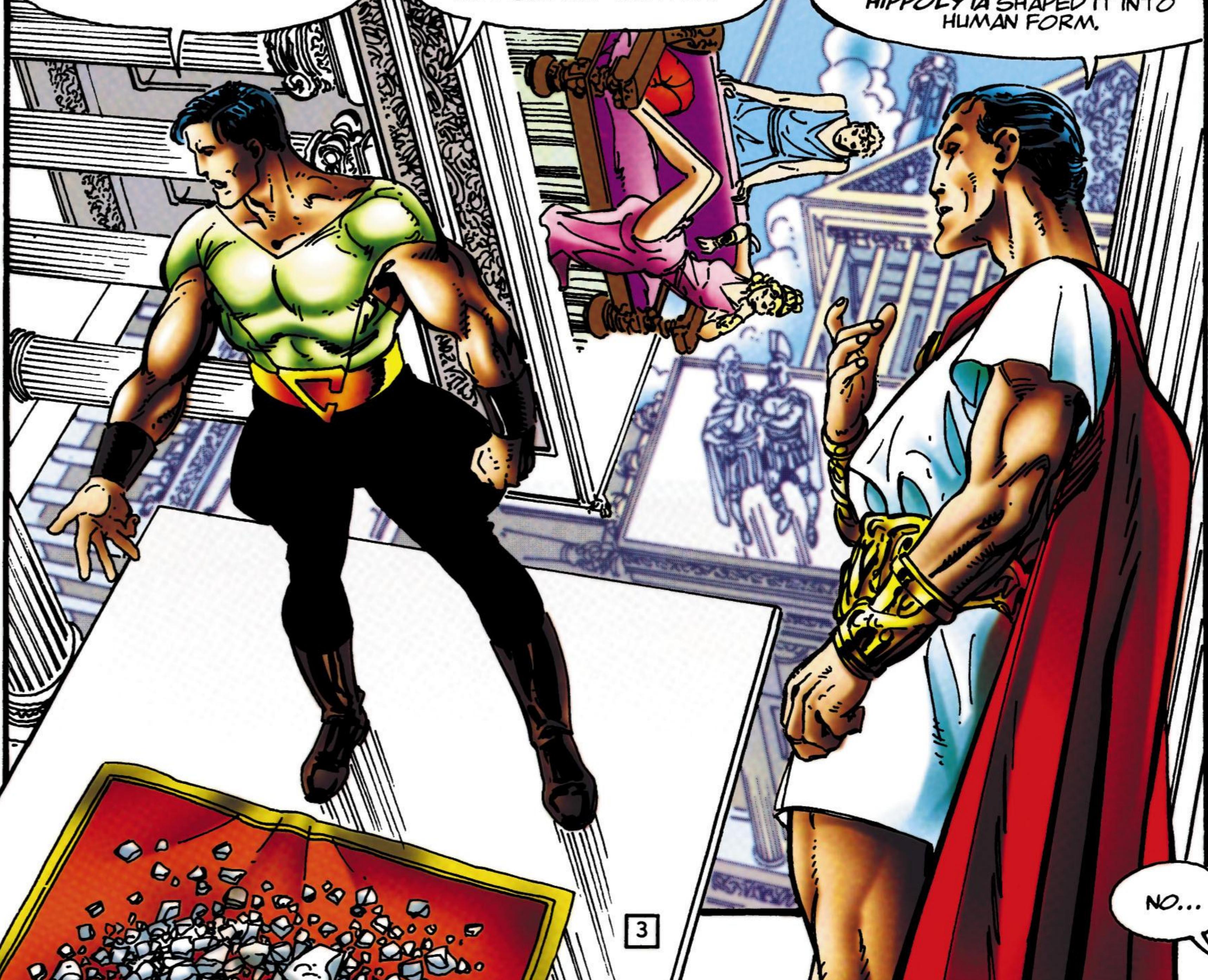
THIS "SORRY END" IS NOT MY DOING, ATHENA. THO' IT IS TRUE I SET OUT TO USE DIANA IN A SCHEME OF VENGEANCE AGAINST HER MOTHER AND HER FELLOW AMAZONS...

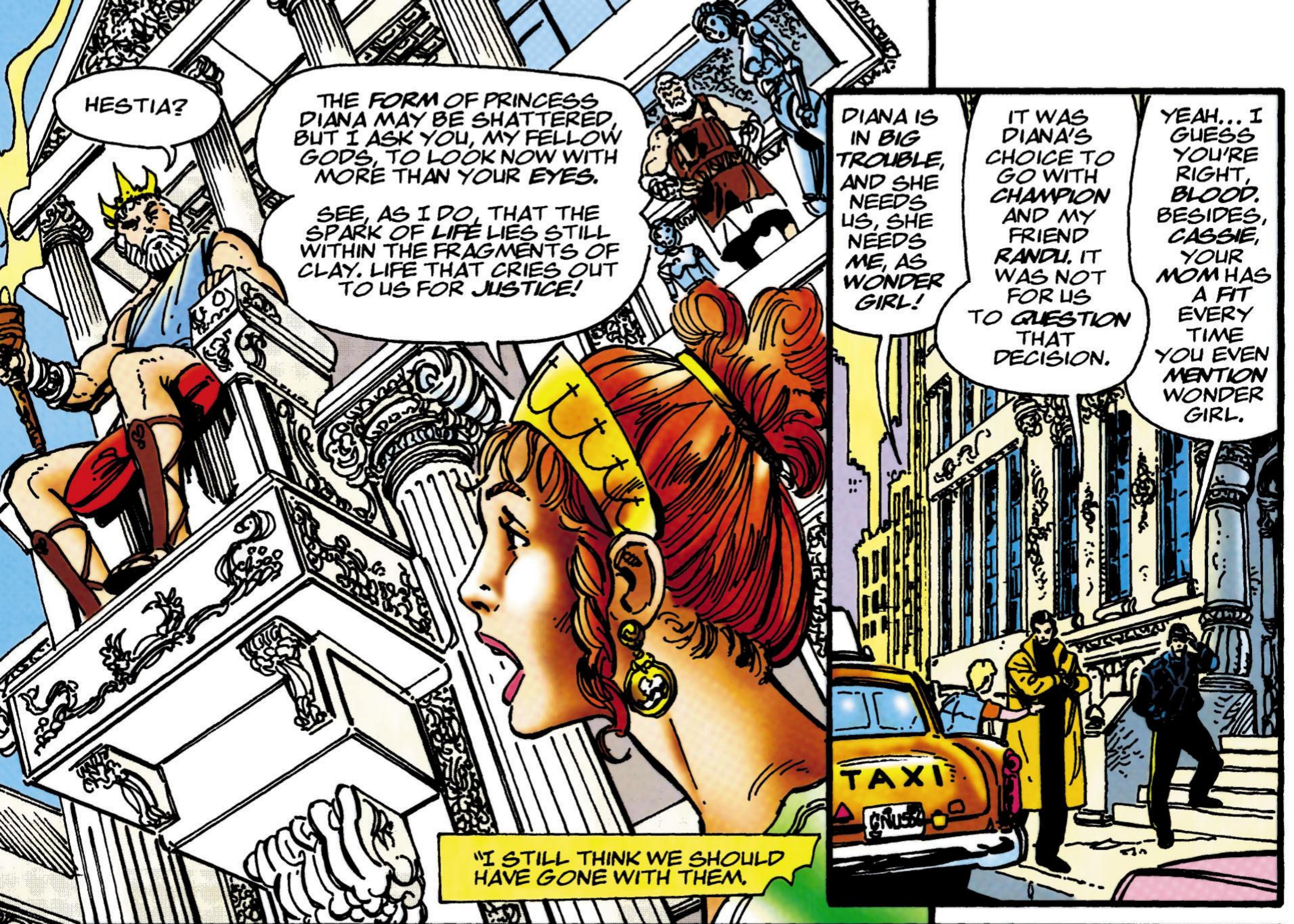
...IN THE MONTHS SINCE I SET MY PLAN IN MOTION I HAVE FELT MY HEART WON OVER BY WONDER WOMAN.

I LOVE HER, AND WOULD NOT SEE HER HARMED.

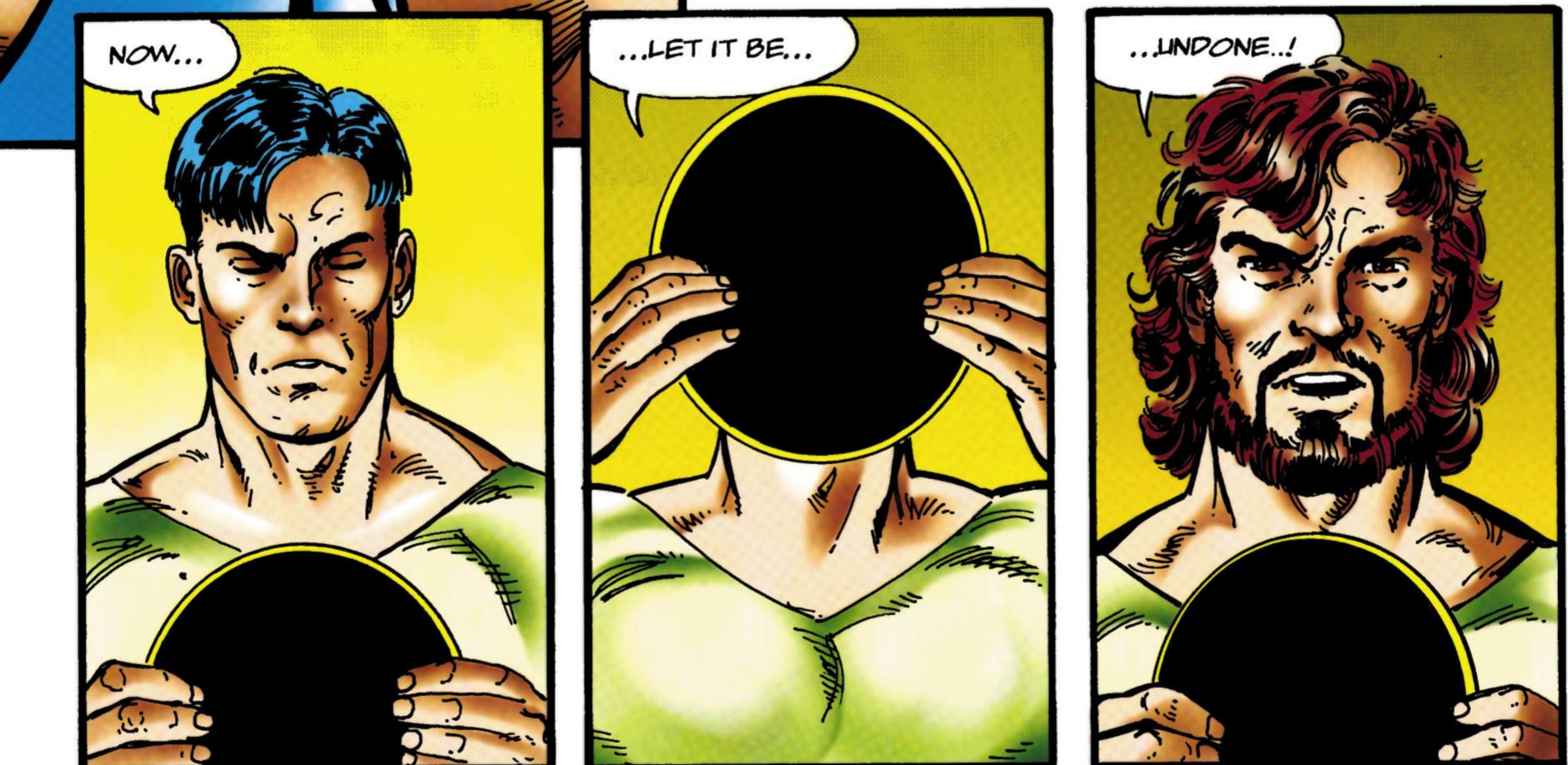
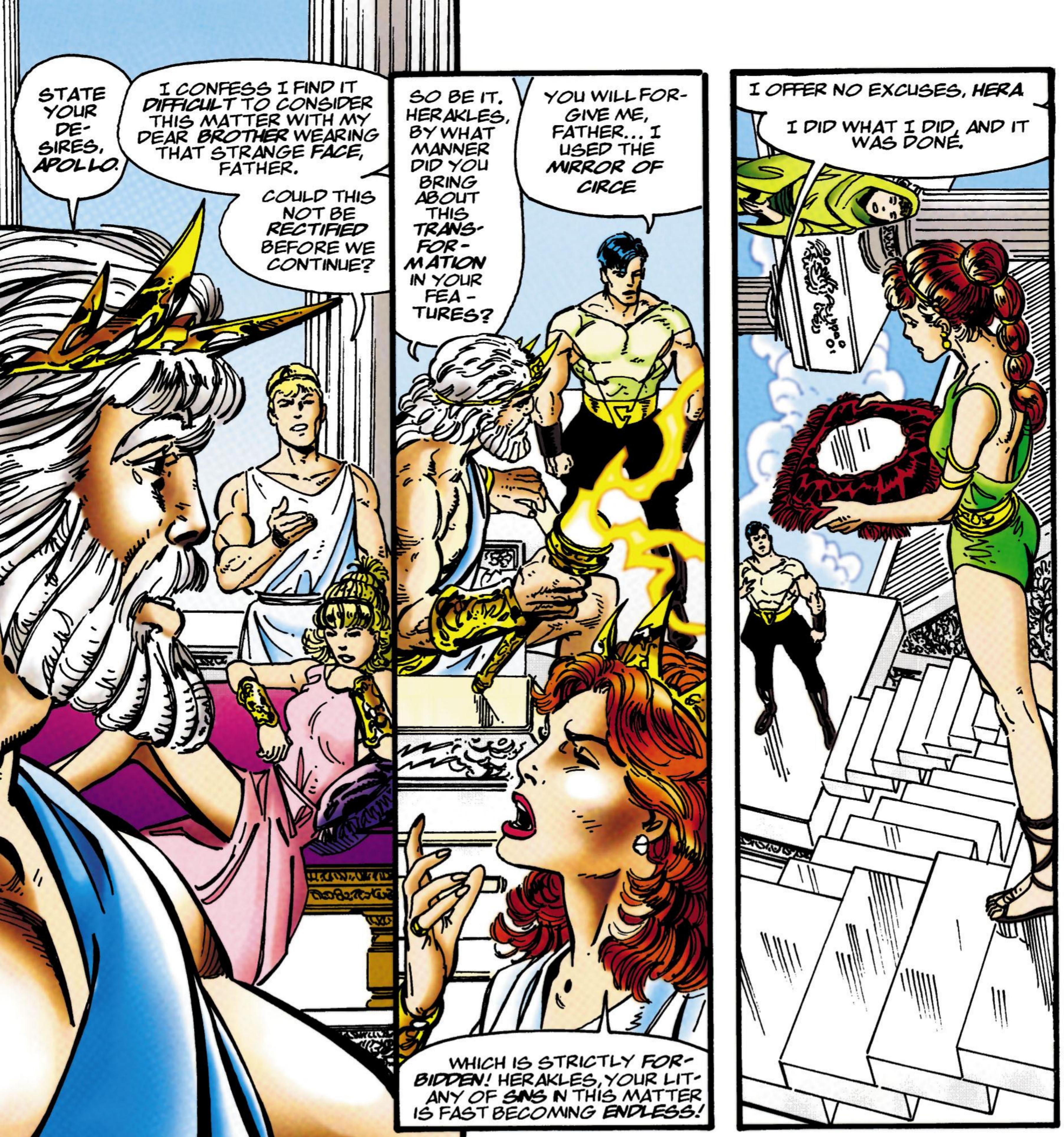
IT WOULD SEEM A TRIFLE LATE TO MAKE SUCH A CLAIM, HERAKLES.

THE BROKEN CLAY AT YOUR FEET IS AS LIFELESS AS IT WAS BEFORE QUEEN HIPPOLYTA SHAPED IT INTO HUMAN FORM.











PRAYER TO
ATHENA
SPARED THIS
PRIESTESS
THE FATE
WHICH HAD
BEFALLEN ALL
HER SISTER
AMAZONS?
DAUGHTER, WHAT
DO YOU KNOW OF
THIS?

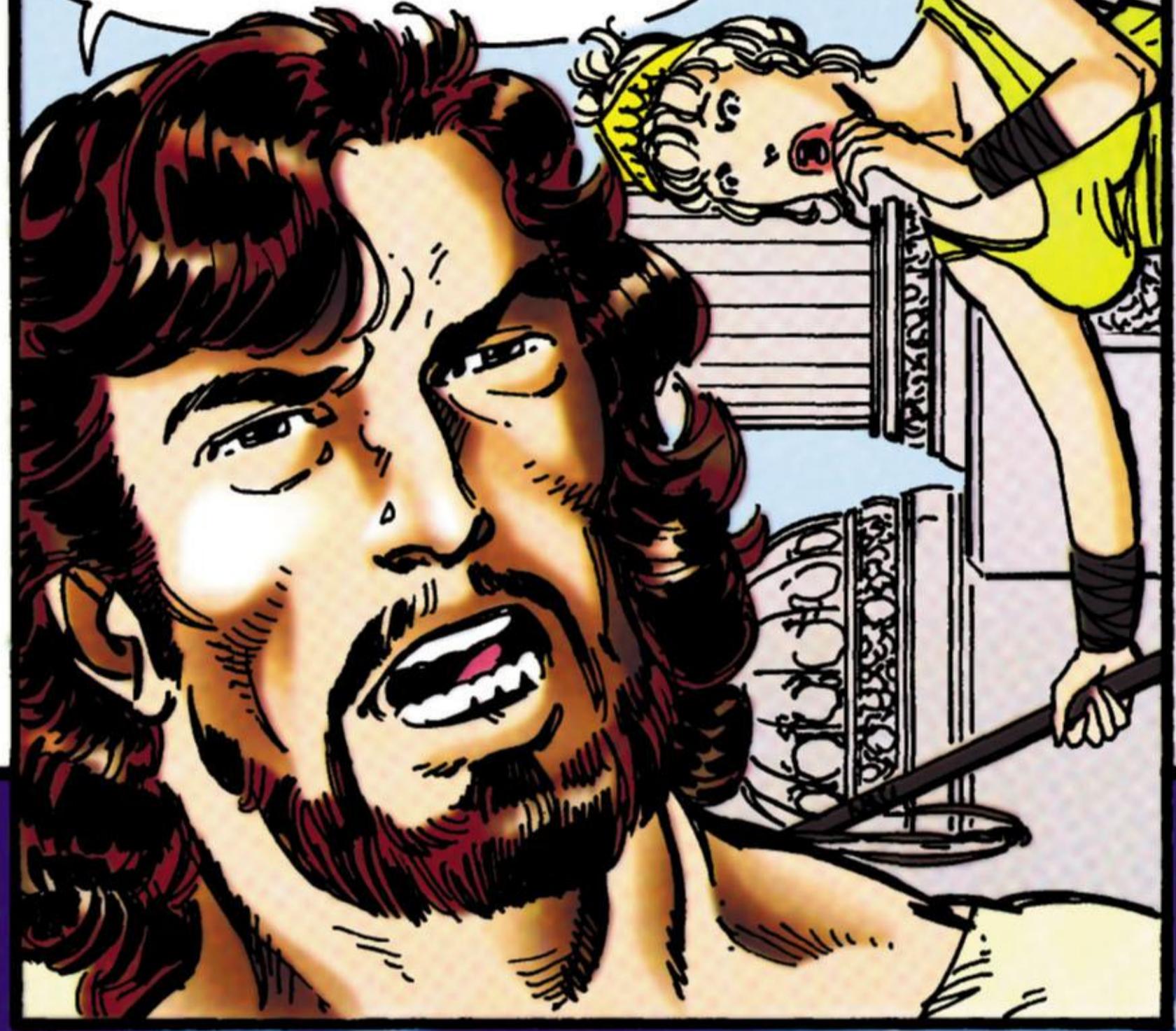
IT IS THE FIRST I HAVE BEEN
MADE AWARE OF IT, MIGHTY
ZEUS.

AS YOU WELL KNOW, SINCE
WE ABSENTED OURSELVES
FROM THE EARTH, WE NO
LONGER HEAR THE PRAYERS
OF THOSE WHO WORSHIP
US.

YES! THAT IS WHAT EUDIA
SAID! THAT THE AMAZONS
HAD REVERTED TO THEIR
ORIGINAL FORMS BECAUSE
WE GODS HAD LEFT THE
EARTH...

IS THAT...
POSSIBLE?

...AND TAKEN WITH US THE
POWER THAT GAVE THE
AMAZONS LIFE!



I
FEAR
IT
IS,
HESTIA.

RECALL THE MANY
CENTURIES PAST, WHEN YOU,
I, AND THREE OTHER
GODDESSES GATHERED AT
THE WELL OF SOULS.

"IN THAT PLACE WAS
PRESERVED THE MORTAL
ESSENCE OF THOUSANDS
OF WOMEN WHO HAD DIED
UNJUSTLY, DIED BEFORE
THEIR TIME.

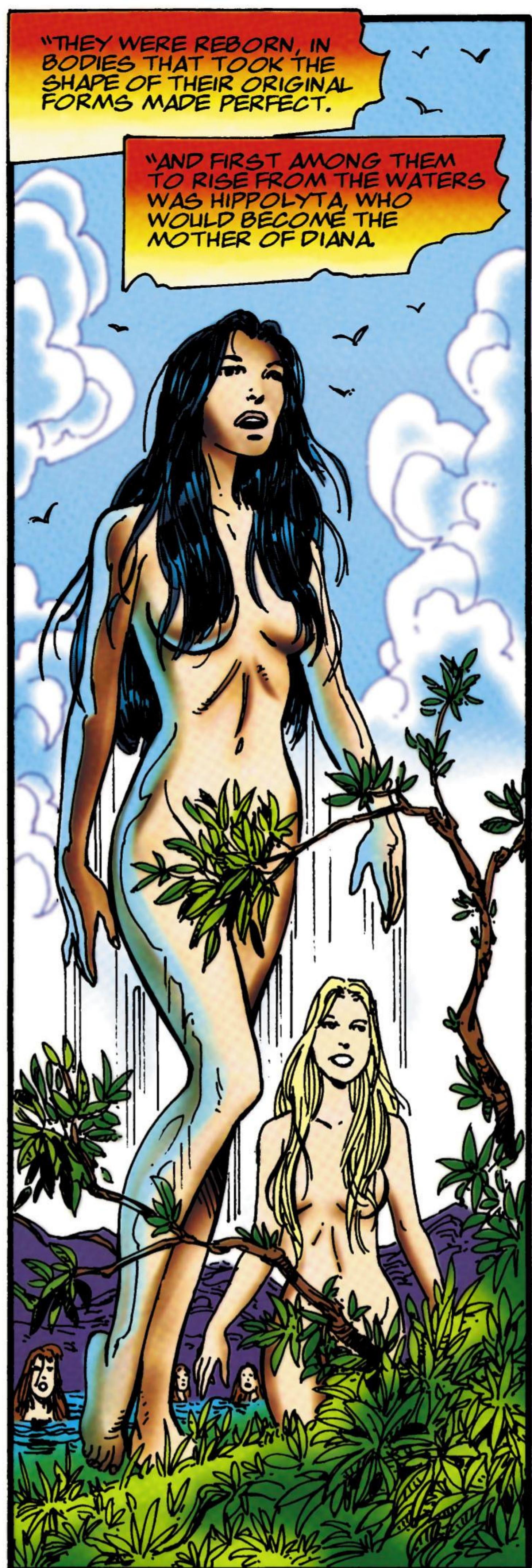
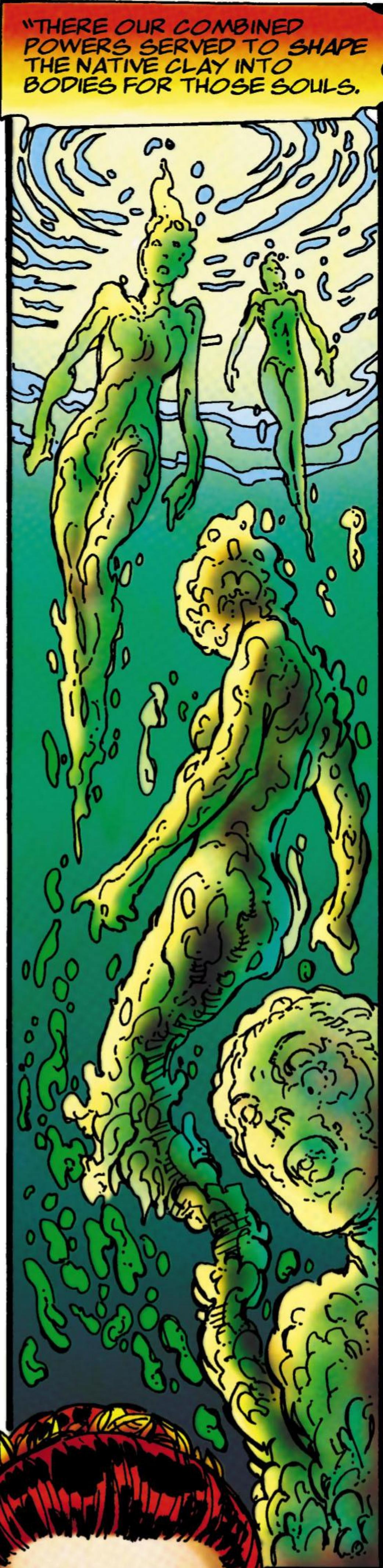
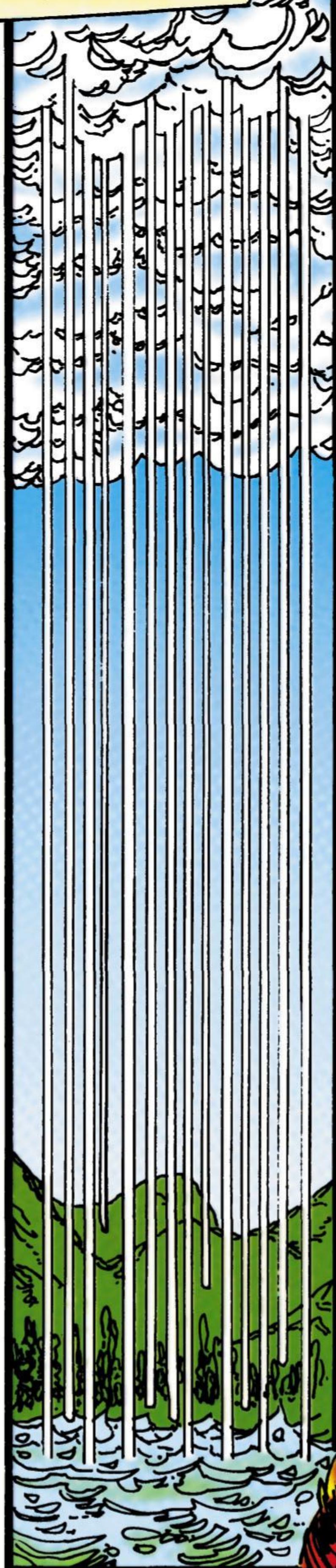


"WE RELEASED THOSE SOULS, AND SENT THEM INTO A SILVER LAKE IN THE HEART OF THOSE ISLANDS WE CHERISHED ABOVE ALL THE LANDS OF EARTH."

"THERE OUR COMBINED POWERS SERVED TO SHAPE THE NATIVE CLAY INTO BODIES FOR THOSE SOULS."

"THEY WERE REBORN, IN BODIES THAT TOOK THE SHAPE OF THEIR ORIGINAL FORMS MADE PERFECT."

"AND FIRST AMONG THEM TO RISE FROM THE WATERS WAS HIPPOLYTA, WHO WOULD BECOME THE MOTHER OF DIANA."



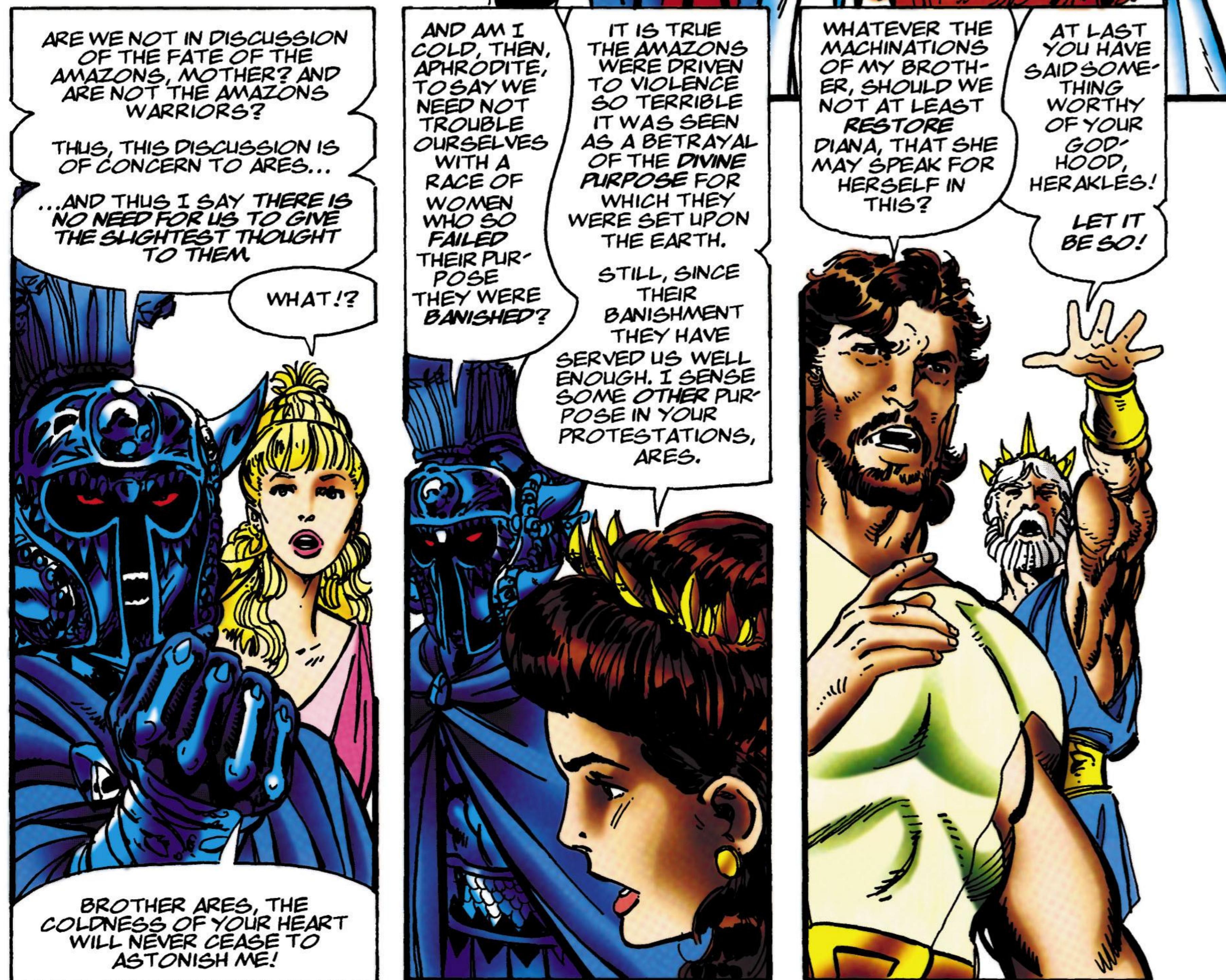
WHAT WE DID NOT THEN GUESS, WHAT MY WISDOM COULD NOT FORETELL...

...WAS THAT SUCH A GENESIS SO TIGHTLY LINKED THE AMAZONS TO US, THAT WHEN WE DEPARTED...

...THEY SLOWLY REVERTED TO THE CLAY OF THAT LAKE BED!

OH, SISTERS, WE HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF A GRAVE CRIME AGAINST THESE WOMEN WHO WORSHIPPED AND TRUSTED US!





A SUDDEN SILENCE FALLS UPON THE LOFTY HALLS OF OLYMPUS.

THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM OF THE GODS, EVEN THOSE WHO ARE NOT PRESENT IN THE THRONE ROOM OF ZEUS PAUSE...

...AND TURN THEIR THOUGHTS AND HEARTS TO THE MIRACLE OCCURRING IN THAT MOST SACRED OF ALL THEIR HOLY PLACES...

...THE RESTORATION OF ONE WHO MIGHT WELL BE THEIR MOST FAITHFUL ACOLYTE.

PRINCESS DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA, KNOWN TO THE WORLD OF MORTALS AS...

WONDER WOMAN



AND ARE NOT
MY NEEDS
THE NEEDS
OF ALL
GODS, HERA?

DO WE EVER
ASK MORE
THAN THE
LOVE AND
DEVOTION
OF THOSE
WE
CHERISH?

A PRETTY
SPEECH, ARES,
AND ONE I
COULD IMAGINE
MYSELF
MAKING, IN
THE RIGHT
CIRCUMSTANCE.

BUT NOTHING
TO DO WITH
THE MATTER
THAT
CONFRONTS
US NOW.

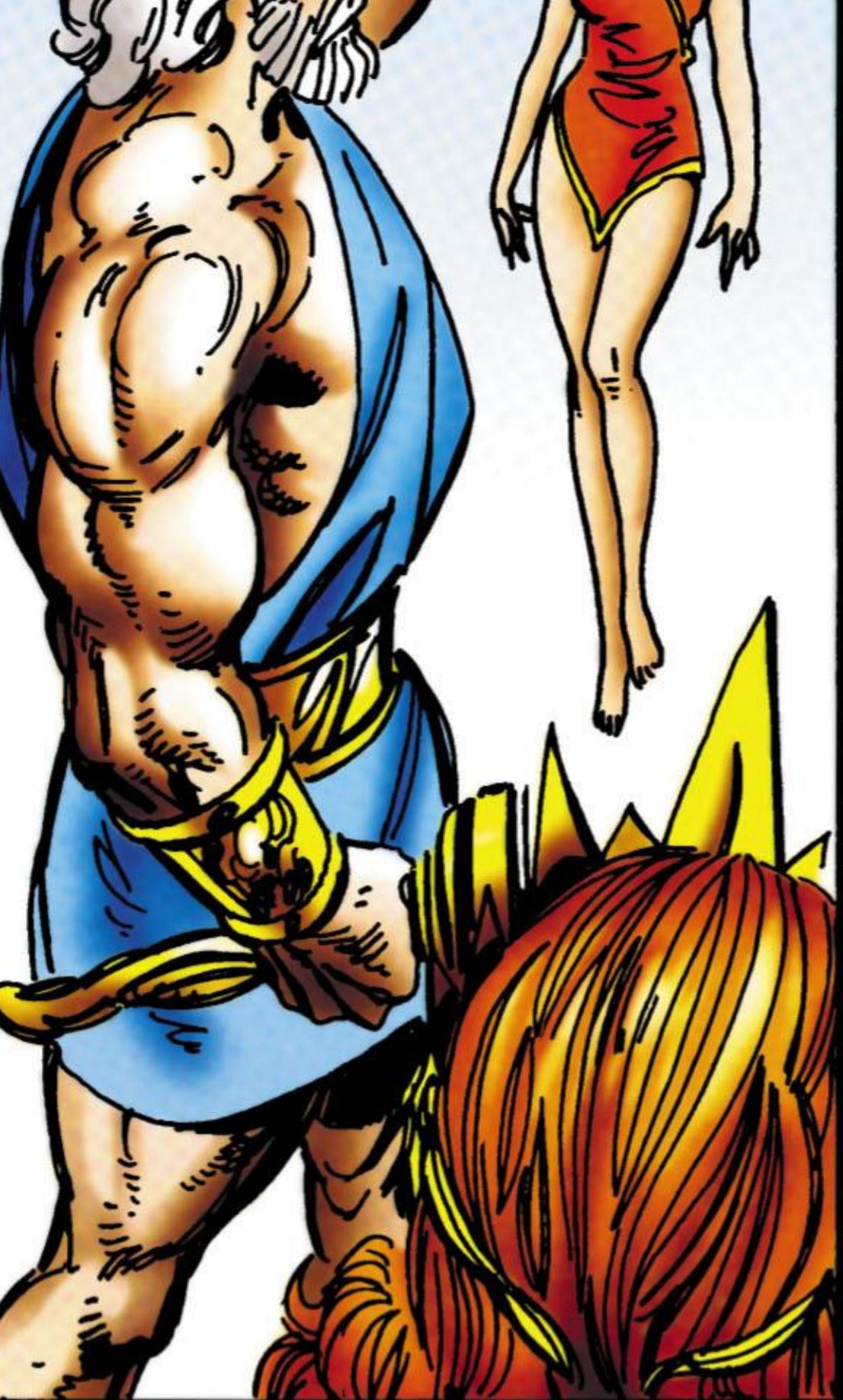
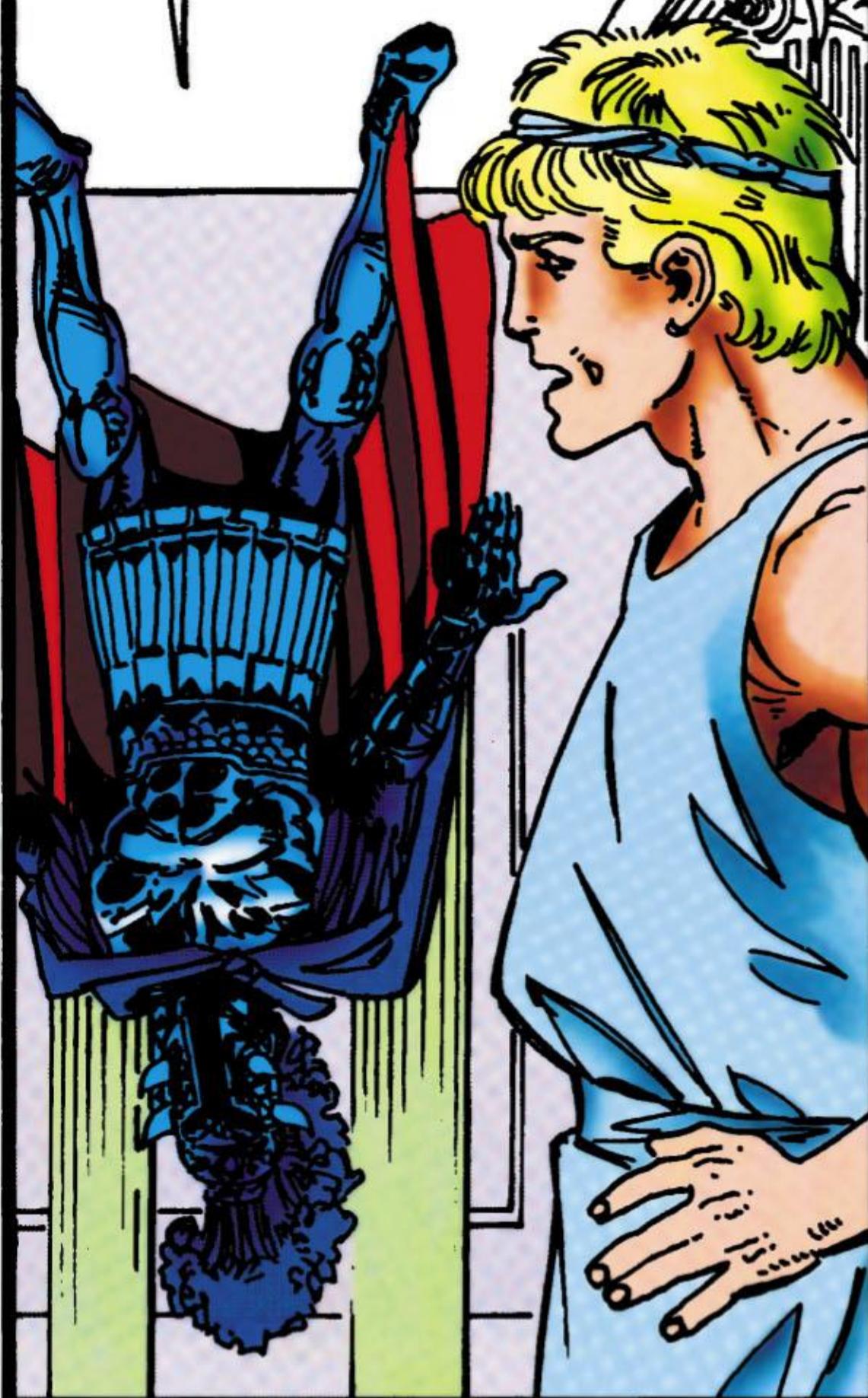
APOLLO IS
RIGHT, MIGHTY
ZEUS. ALL
THAT NEED
CONCERN US
HERE IS THE
QUESTION OF
WHETHER WE
SHOULD RE-
TURN OUR-
SELVES TO
THE EARTH.

IS THERE ANY
CAUSE FOR
DEBATE,
ATHENA? IF WE
DO NOT RE-
TURN, WE
CURSE THE
AMAZONS TO
AN ETERNITY
OF STONE!

ATHENA IS RIGHT.
THIS MATTER MUST
BE PROPERLY
EXAMINED.

PRINCESS DIANA,
I INVITE YOU TO
PREPARE A LIST OF
WITNESSES FOR
YOUR CASE.

WIT-
NESS-
ES,
ZEUS?
CASE?



LET THE MORTALS
THEMSELVES SHOW US IF
THEY HOLD US IN SUFFICIENT
RESPECT THAT WE SHOULD
REMOVE OURSELVES FROM
THIS PLACE, AND SET
OURSELVES ONCE MORE
AMONGST THEM!

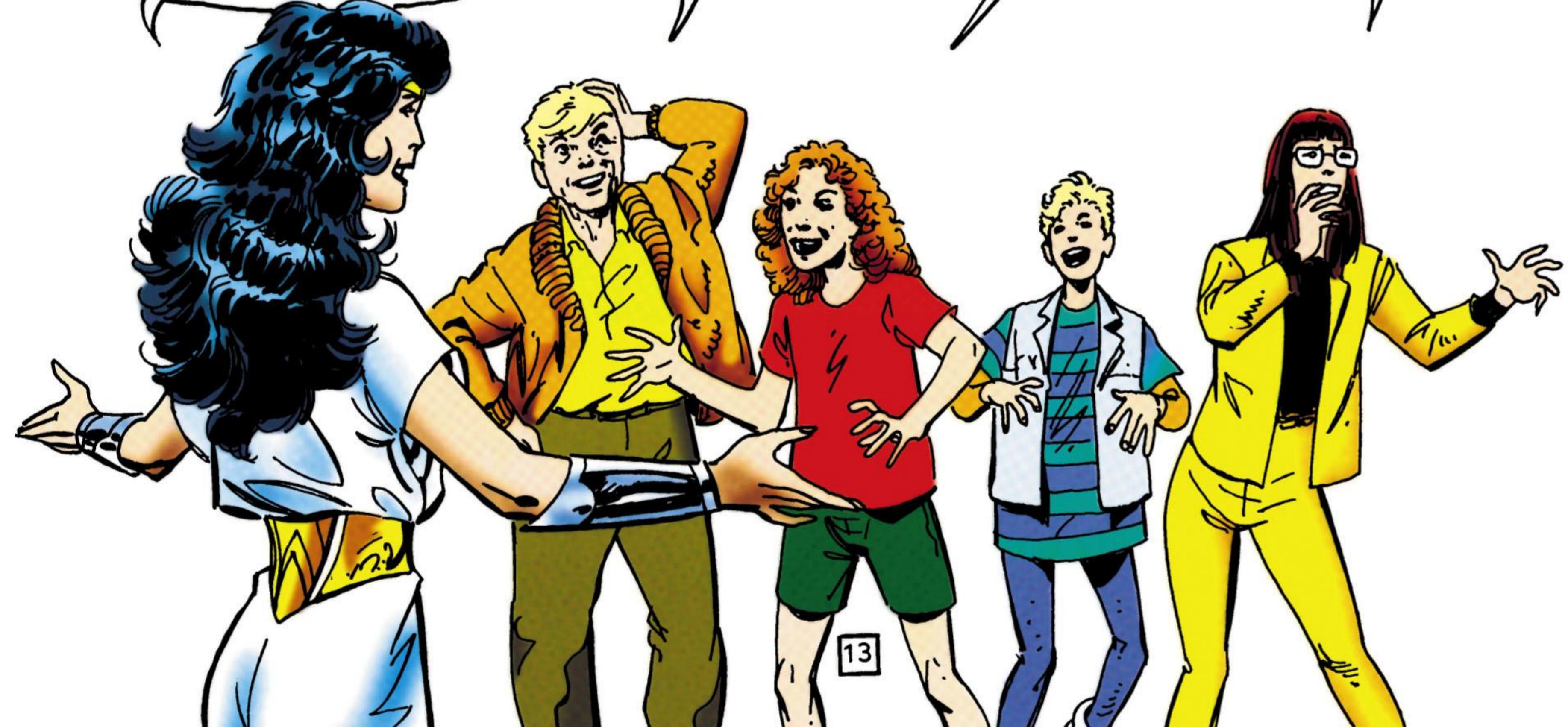
"DIANA!!!

JULIA! VANESSA! FORGIVE
ME FOR HAVING YOU
BROUGHT HERE, WITHOUT
WARNING LIKE THIS.

IF HERE IS WHERE I
THINK IT IS, NO APOLOGY
IS NECESSARY!

THIS IS
OLYMPUS,
ISN'T IT?

H-HOW COULD
IT BE
ANYWHERE ELSE..??



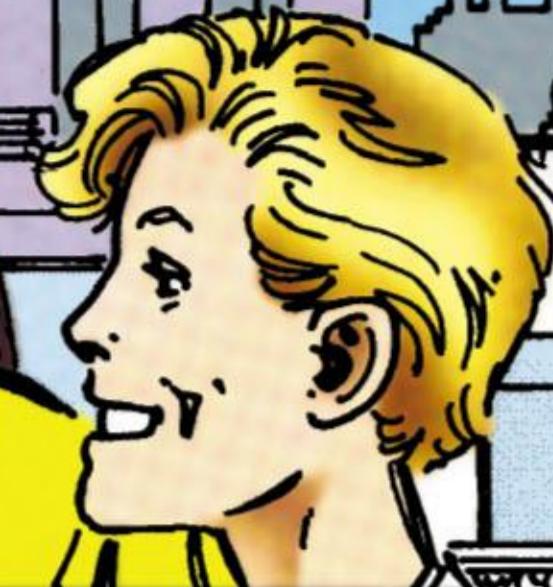
HELENA! IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU! AND... SURELY THIS CAN'T BE CASSANDRA! SHE WAS BARELY THREE YEARS OLD THE LAST TIME I SAW HER!

YES, IT IS, JULIA. CASSIE, THIS IS JULIA KAPATELIS, AND HER DAUGHTER VANESSA.

OH, YEAH. MOM TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.

WHY ARE WE HERE, DIANA?

TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE GODS, VANESSA. AND THERE SHOULD BE OTHERS ARRIVING SOON...



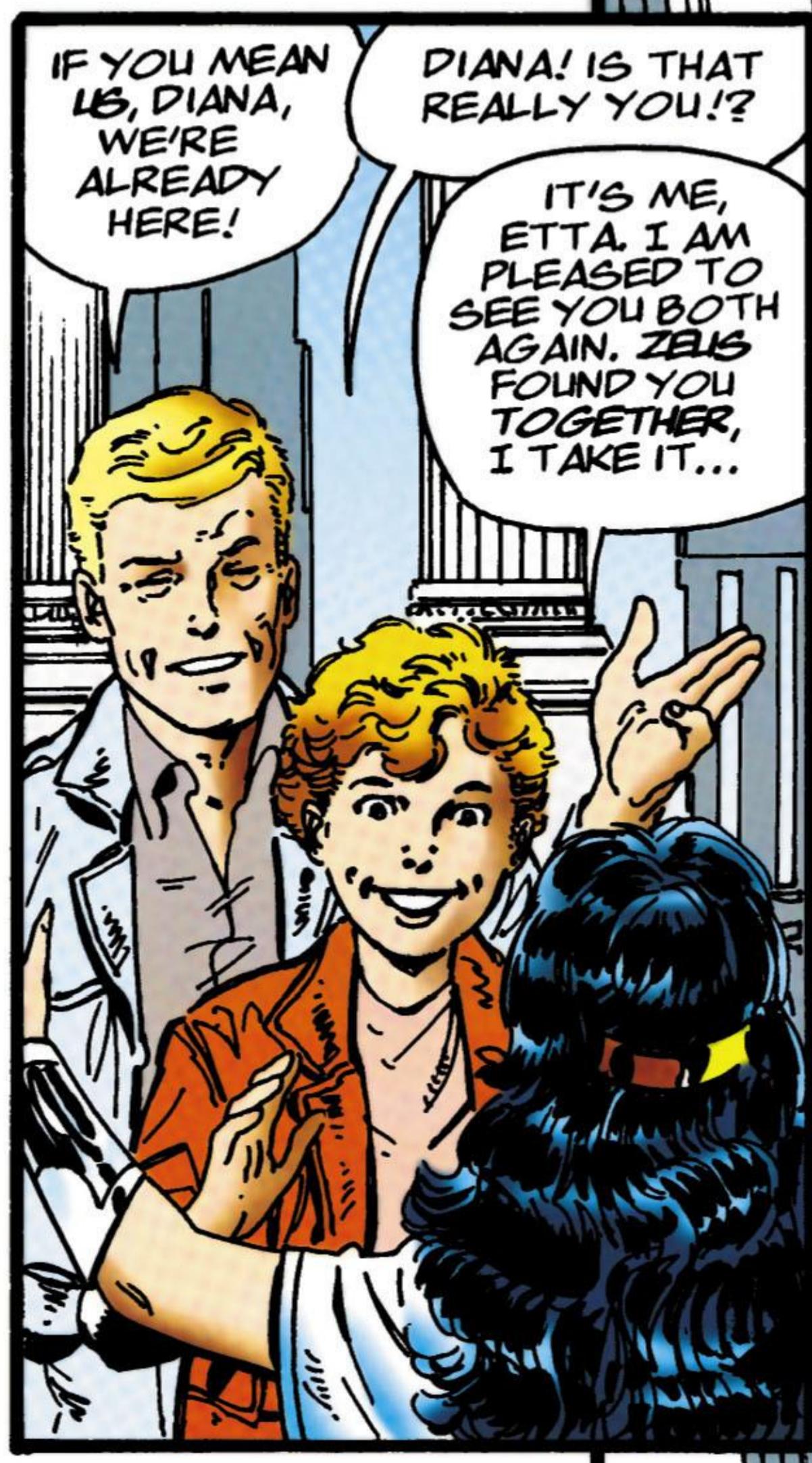
IF YOU MEAN US, DIANA, WE'RE ALREADY HERE!

DIANA! IS THAT REALLY YOU!?

IT'S ME, ETTA. I AM PLEASED TO SEE YOU BOTH AGAIN. ZEUS FOUND YOU TOGETHER, I TAKE IT...

WELL, STEVE AND I ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER NOW, DIANA. SIX MONTHS AGO WE GOT...

ENOUGH OF THIS FOOLISHNESS! ARE THESE THY "WITNESSES," WONDER WOMAN?



I AM HERE, DIANA. AND I UNDERSTAND WHY I AM HERE.

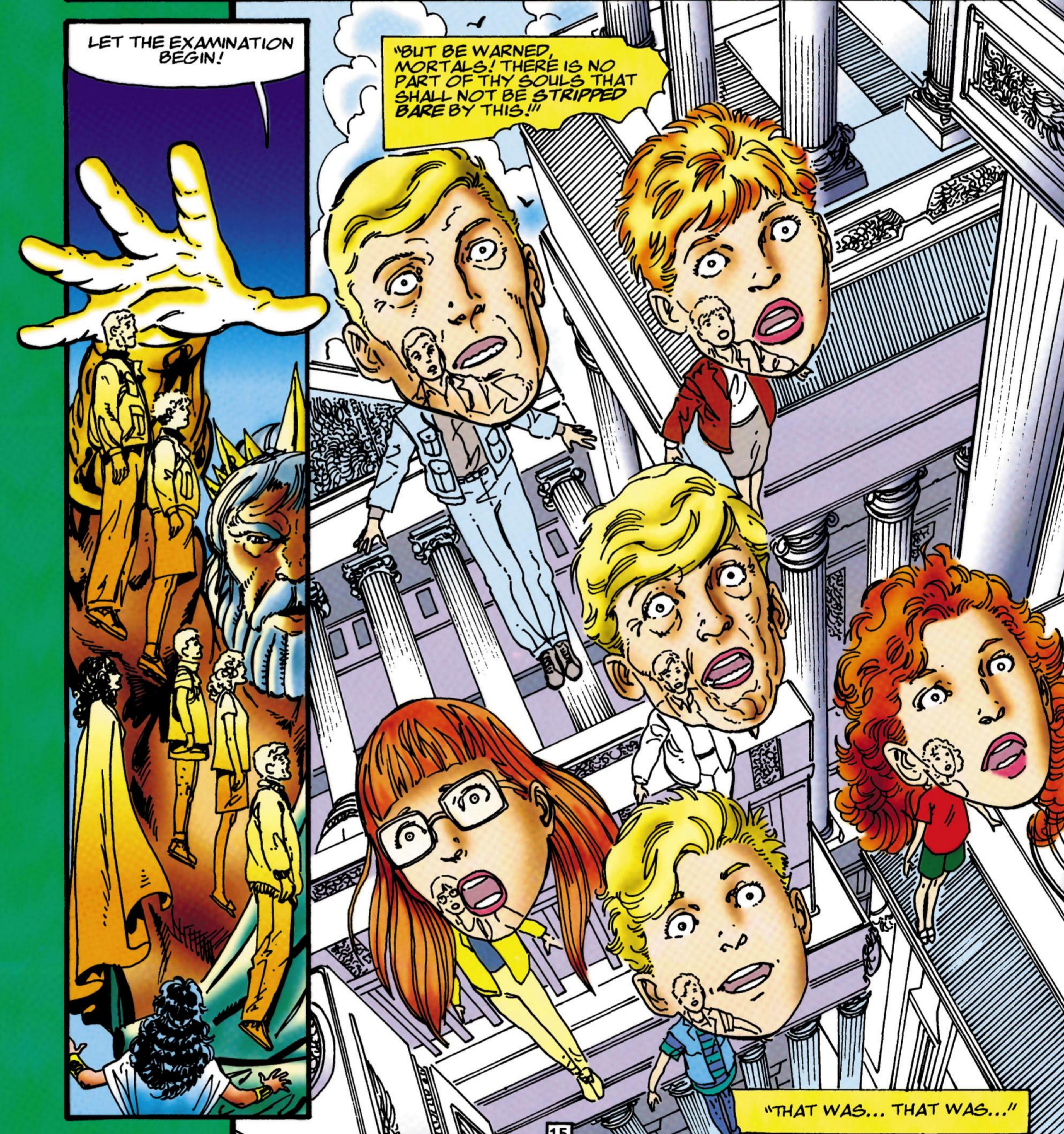
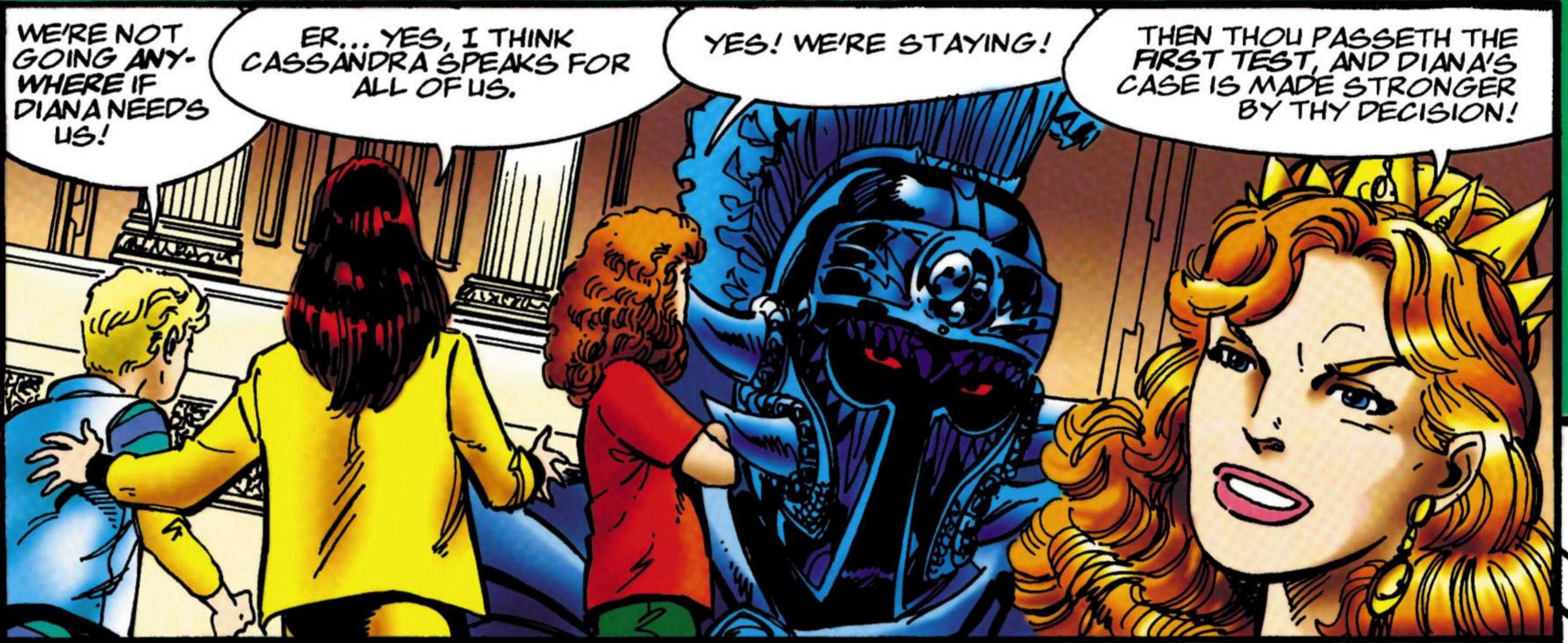
GOOD. COME, STAND WITH THE OTHERS.

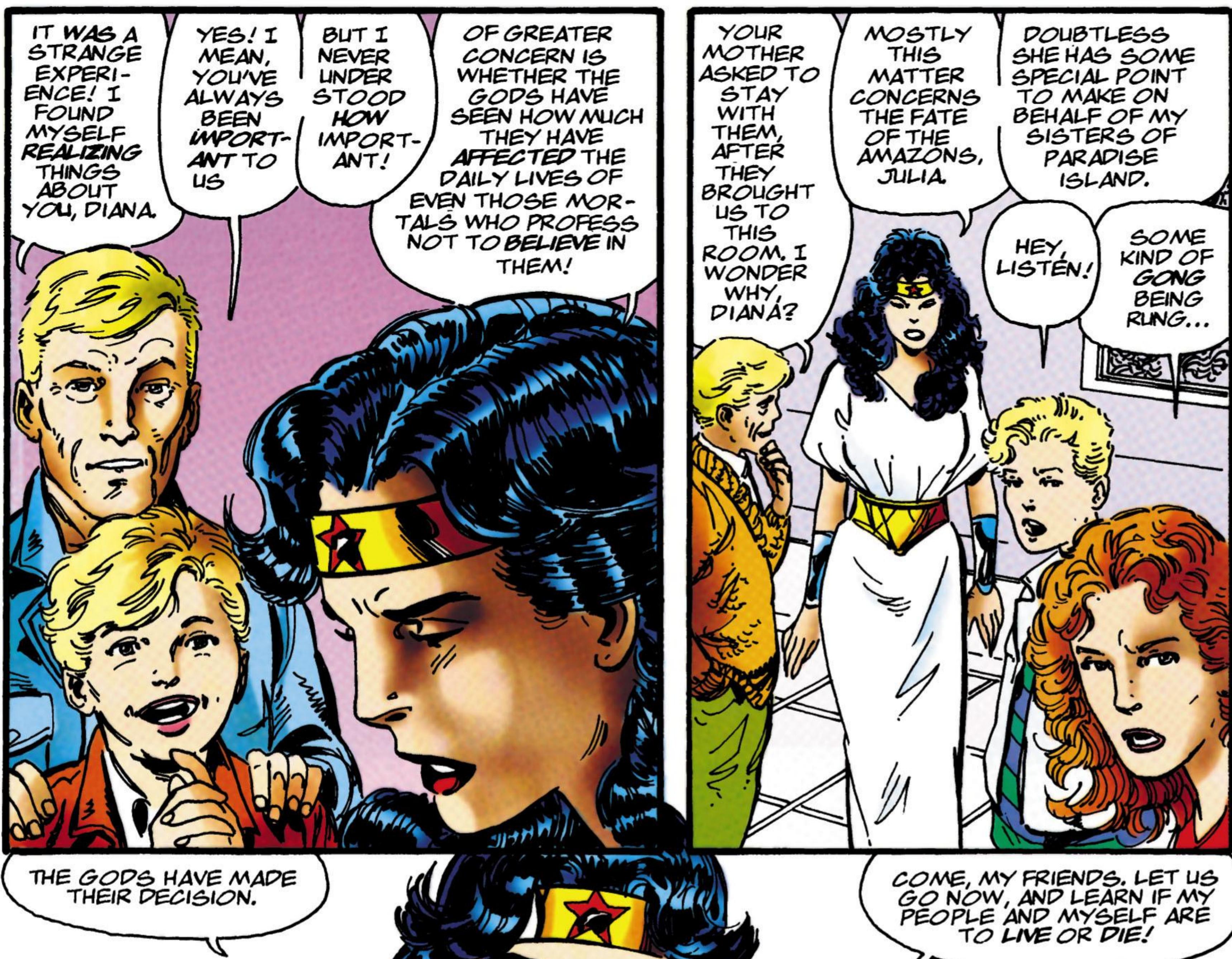
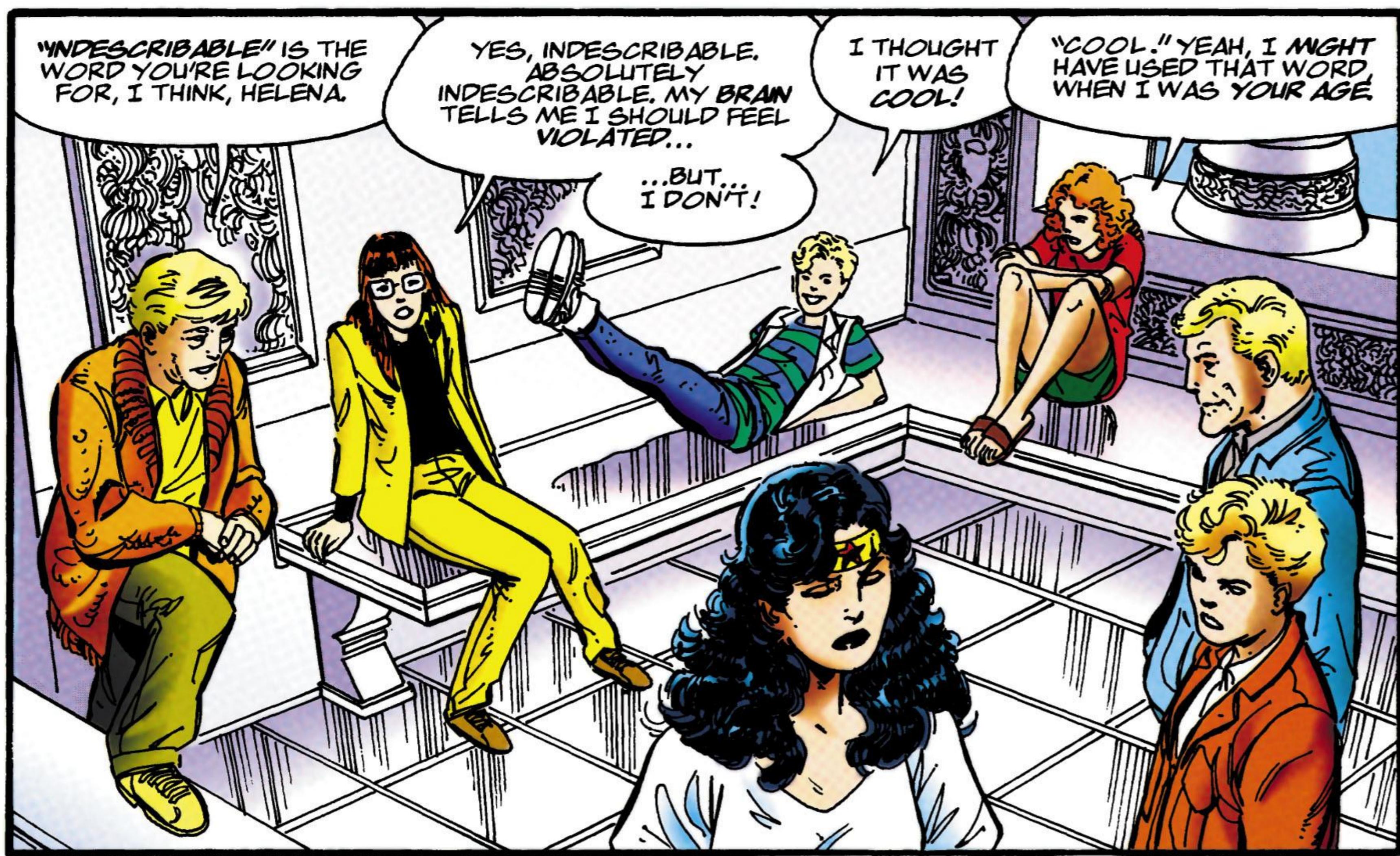
UNDERSTAND, MORTALS. THAT THOU ART HERE TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE GODS OF OLYMPUS...

...BUT SUCH TESTIMONY WILL NOT BE AS THOU MIGHT MAKE IT IN A COURT OF LAW. HERE THY HEARTS, THY MINDS, THY VERY SOULS WILL BE LAID OPEN TO EXAMINATION!

IF ANY AMONG THEE IS NOT PREPARED TO FACE SUCH AN EXAMINATION, THOU ART FREE TO LEAVE NOW, WITHOUT REBUKE.







OUR DECISION IS MADE,
MORTALS, SAVE FOR ONE
WHOSE VOTE IS NOT YET
GIVEN.

ARES! WHERE IS
THE WAR-
MONGER? AND
WHERE IS MY
MOTHER?

HERE,
DAUGH-
TER.

HEY, WHAT
GIVES! HE'S
THE SAME
SIZE AS US!

THE GODS
CAN TAKE
WHATEVER
FORM THEY
DESIRE,
CASSANDRA.

MOTHER..?

ARES HAS
ELECTED TO
CAST HIS VOTE
FOR THE
RETURN OF THE
GODS TO EARTH,
DIANA.



ARES? WHAT
HATH TURNED
THY MIND
FROM ITS
PRIOR
DISPOSITION?

SUFFICE IT TO
SAY HIPPOL-
YTA MADE
A POWERFUL
ARGUMENT,
FATHER.

AND NOW THAT
THE DECISION
IS MADE, LET
US BE ABOUT
THE MATTER,
BEFORE THESE
MORTALS PUR-
THER TAINT OLYMPUS
WITH THEIR
PRESENCE!

SO BE IT! LET
THE TIMES AND
SPACES THAT
SEPARATE US
FROM OUR ANCIENT
HOME DISSOLVE.

LET THE CITY OF OLYMPUS
BE LINKED, ONCE MORE, TO
THAT MOUNTAIN TOP WHICH
BEARS ITS NAME!



GREECE. ABOVE THE ROCKS AND FIELDS OF THAT ANTIQUE LAND THE DARK SLOPES OF OLYMPUS RISE IN SUDDEN SPLENDOR.

SO DRAMATIC IS THE CONTRAST OF HILLS AND FIELDS AGAINST THE SHEER FACE OF THE MOUNTAIN, IS IT ANY WONDER ANCIENT PEOPLES CAME TO DREAM THEIR GODS LIVED THERE?

AND NOW, AT LAST, THOSE DREAMS ARE ONCE MORE TRUE.

AND, A FEW HOURS LATER...

WELL, HERAKLES? DO YOU HAVE AN EXPLANATION FOR YOUR ACTIONS?

IT WAS THE UNDERSTANDING OF US AMAZONS THAT YOU HAD LEARNED TO SET ASIDE YOUR ANIMOSITY TOWARD US!

THERE WERE TIMES I THOUGHT I HAD, HIPPOLYTA. BUT THERE WERE JUST AS MANY TIMES WHEN I WAS CONSUMED BY A NEED TO AVENGE MYSELF. IT WAS IN SUCH A TIME THAT MY PLAN TO SEDUCE DIANA WAS CONCEIVED.



BUT... WHY? THE GODS PUNISHED YOU BY IMPRISONING YOU BENEATH THEMYSCIRA. AFTER THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF HOLDING THE ISLAND LITERALLY ON YOUR BACK...
...IT WAS DIANA WHO FREED YOU!

YES, BUT I WONDER IF YOU UNDERSTAND AT ALL WHAT THAT ORDEAL WAS LIKE FOR ME? THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN DARKNESS. THOUSANDS OF YEARS WITH ALL THE WEIGHT OF THEMYSCIRA UPON MY BACK.

THERE WAS NOT A FOOTSTEP I DID NOT FEEL. NO LEAF FELL, BUT THAT I FELT IT. WHEN THE AMAZONS RACED THEIR STALLIONS, IT WAS AS THOUGH TEN THOUSAND HAMMERS POUNDED ON MY SHOULDERS.

I WAS DRIVEN INSANE AND BACK AGAIN A THOUSAND TIMES. WHEN DIANA FOUND ME THERE I WOULD HAVE SAID ANYTHING, ANYTHING TO BUY MY RELEASE.

BUT THE PUNISHMENT I NOW BEAR IS GREATER THAN ANY I KNEW IN THOSE LONG, DARK CENTURIES!

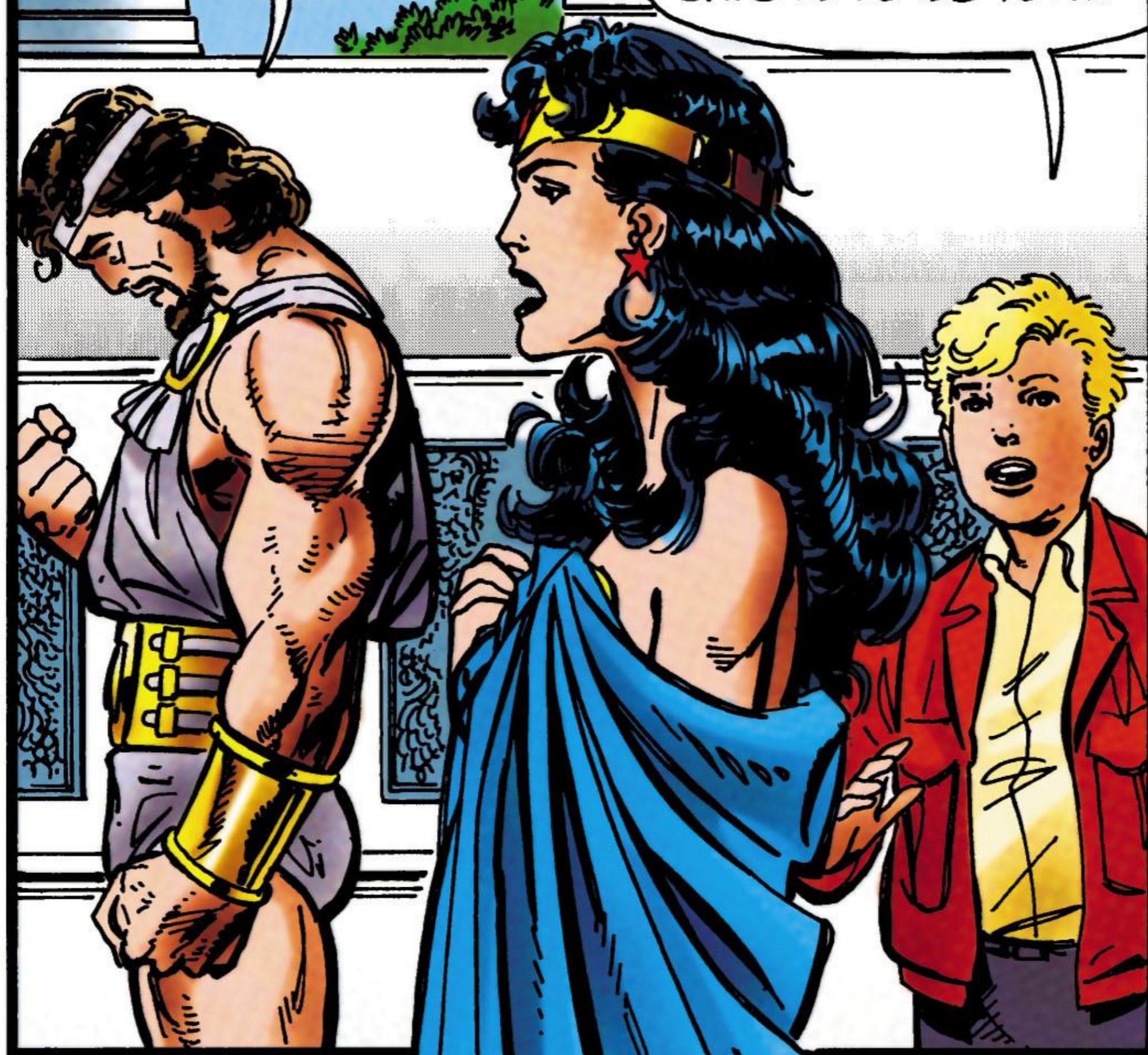
SPARE ME YOUR SAD SONGS, HERAKLES. I SEE BEFORE ME NOTHING BUT A GOD WHO HAS REVEALED HIMSELF AGAIN TO BE A CHEAT AND A LIAR.

BUT... BUT HE BROUGHT YOU TO OLYMPUS TO SAVE YOU, DIANA. HE SAYS HE LOVES YOU...

AND IF HE DOES HE HATH CREATED THE INSTRUMENT OF HIS OWN PUNISHMENT. BUT THE TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF SUCH THINGS IS NOT NOW.

NOW I HAVE COME TO RETURN THEE TO THY EARTHLY HOMES.

WELL! AND HERE I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU GODS HAD FORGOTTEN US!



OH NO! WHERE'S CASSANDRA?

"SHE'S SNUCK AWAY AND I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE!!!"

THIS IS MY ONE BIG CHANCE. I BETTER NOT BLOW IT!

THERE HE IS!

HEY, MR. ZEUS!
'SCUSE ME, YOUR GODSHIP, BUT I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!

MORTAL? THOU WOULDST SPEAK THIS TO THE KING OF THE GODS?

ER... YEAH. LOOK, I'M SORRY IF I DON'T KNOW THE PROPER WAYS TO SPEAK TO YOU, MR. ZEUS, BUT I'M NEW AT THIS STUFF.

BUT... I WANT TO ASK YOU A BIG FAVOR.

A FAVOR...

YEAH. I'VE TAKEN ALL THIS FLAK FROM MY MOM BECAUSE I WANT TO HELP DIANA AS WONDER GIRL. AND EVEN DIANA DIDN'T STICK UP FOR ME WHEN SHE SHOULD HAVE.

BUT YOU LOOKED INSIDE MY HEAD, RIGHT? SO YOU KNOW I'M SMART ENOUGH AND BRAVE ENOUGH TO BE A SUPERHERO.

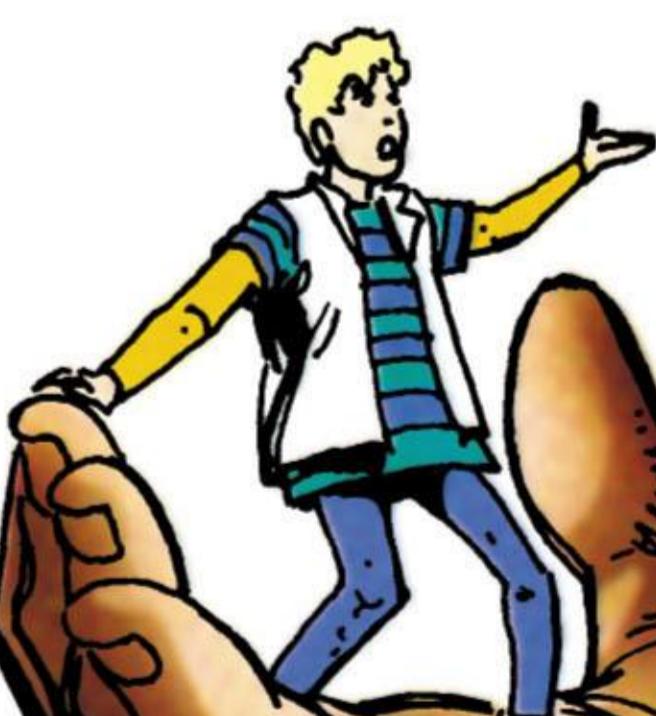
YIPE!

THAT THOU HAST COME TO ZEUS. THIS IS INDICATION ENOUGH OF A GREAT FORTITUDE, MORTAL. OR AN EVEN GREATER FOOLHARDINESS!

CALL IT WHATEVER YOU LIKE, YOUR KINGNESS...

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I'M ASKING HERE, RIGHT? I MEAN, YOU GODS KNOW EVERYTHING, RIGHT?

ZEUS KNOWS, AND FURTHERMORE, BECAUSE THOU HAST IMPRESSED ZEUS WITH THY MORTAL COURAGE...



"...ZEUS DOETH GRANT THY FONDEST WISH..."

YES, I SHALL BE RETURNING
TO OUR HOTEL SHORTLY,
MY WIFE. AFTER THE FLIGHT
FROM BATON ROUGE I
STOPPED HERE AT
JASON'S TO BRING HIM UP
TO DATE ON...

...IF YOU EVER
RUN OFF LIKE
THAT AGAIN...

OH!
WHERE
ARE
WE
NOW!

MY APART-
MENT, HELENA.
WELCOME
BACK.

I ASSUME FROM DIANA'S
WHOLE CONDITION THAT
YOUR AUDIENCE WITH THE
GODS WENT WELL?

YOU KNEW WHERE WE WERE, JASON?

A REASONABLE
GUESS, DIANA. AND, AS I
SAID, ALL WENT WELL?

IT WOULD SEEM SO, JASON. MY SISTERS
AND I ARE RESTORED. SINCE
VANESSA, STEVE AND ETTE ARE NOT WITH
US, I ASSUME THEY HAVE BEEN RETURNED
TO THE PLACES FROM WHICH ZEUS TOOK THEM.

BUT... WHY HAVE WE BEEN
PUT HERE, THEN? MOM AND
I HAD GONE HOME AFTER
WE SAW THE PILLOW GUY.



"PIL-
LOW
GUY"
?

OH-HH DEAR!
IN ALL THIS
MADNESS
WITH GODS
AND TRIALS,
I'D ALMOST
HOPED THAT
WAS A DREAM.

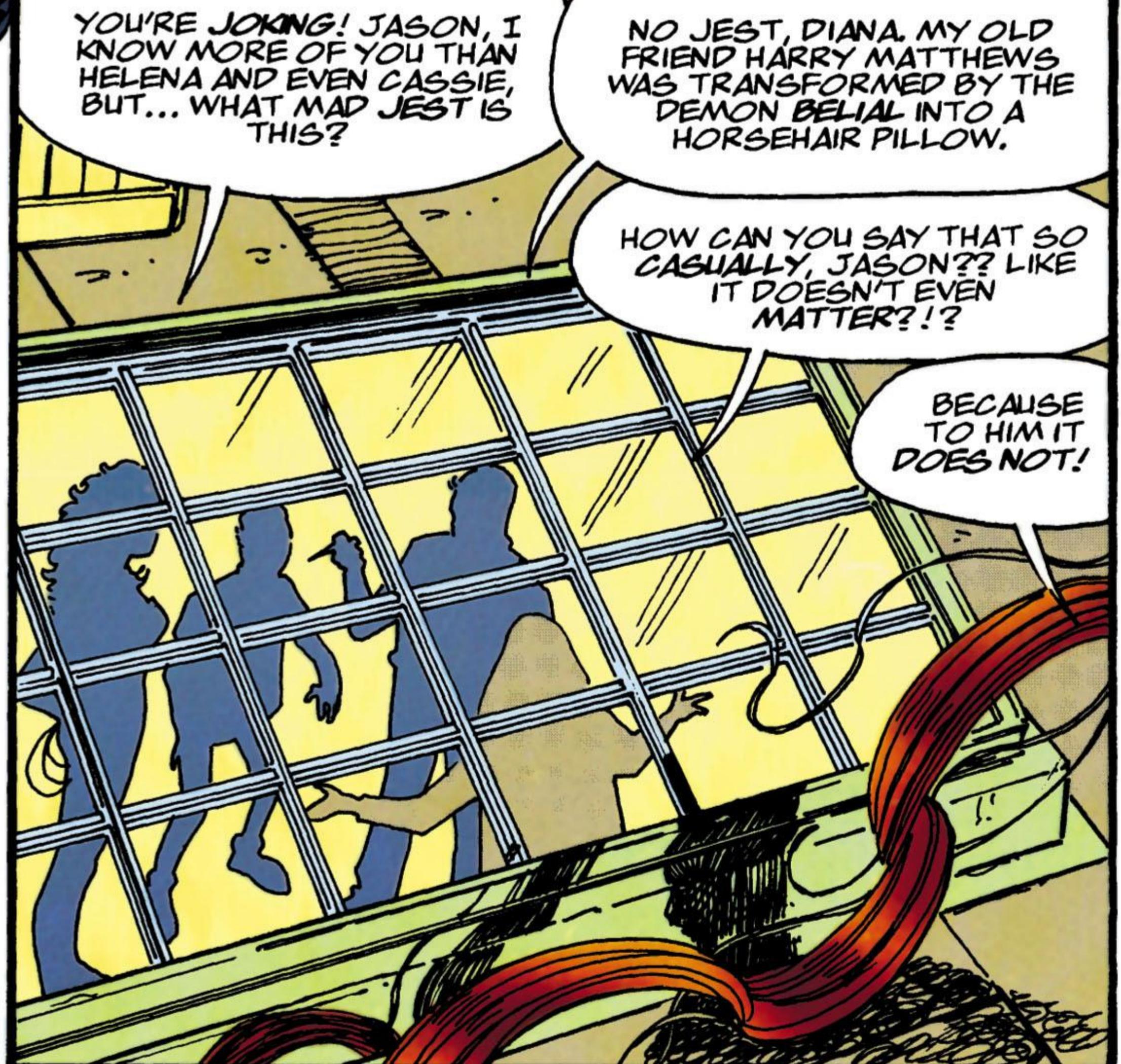
BUT IT
WASN'T,
WAS IT,
JASON?
YOU
REALLY
HAVE A
FRIEND
WHO'S
BEEN
TURNED
INTO A
PILLOW!

YOU'RE JOKING! JASON, I
KNOW MORE OF YOU THAN
HELENA AND EVEN CASSIE,
BUT... WHAT MAD JEST IS
THIS?

NO JEST, DIANA. MY OLD
FRIEND HARRY MATTHEWS
WAS TRANSFORMED BY THE
DEMON BELIAL INTO A
HORSEHAIR PILLOW.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT SO
CASUALLY, JASON?? LIKE
IT DOESN'T EVEN
MATTER???

BECAUSE
TO HIM IT
DOES NOT!



NOTHING
MATTERS TO A MONSTER
SUCH AS JASON BLOOD...

...AND THAT IS WHY HE
MUST DIE!

ARTEMIS!!

FRIENDS ARE NOT TO BE ALLOWED SO MUCH AS A MOMENT TO CATCH THEIR BREATH AFTER THEIR OLYMPIAN ADVENTURE. JOIN THEM AND US IN 30 DAYS AS WE UNFOLD THE DARK SECRETS OF JASON BLOOD, AND BEGIN TO LEARN THE TRUE DEPTHS OF HIPPOLYTA'S BETRAYAL OF DIANA. IT'S ALL IN A TALE WE HAD TO CALL...

HELL HATH NO FURY

BYRNE
apres
BYRNE!