



WONDER WOMAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
COP
AUTHORITY

70 US \$1.25
JAN 93 CAN \$1.50
UK 60p



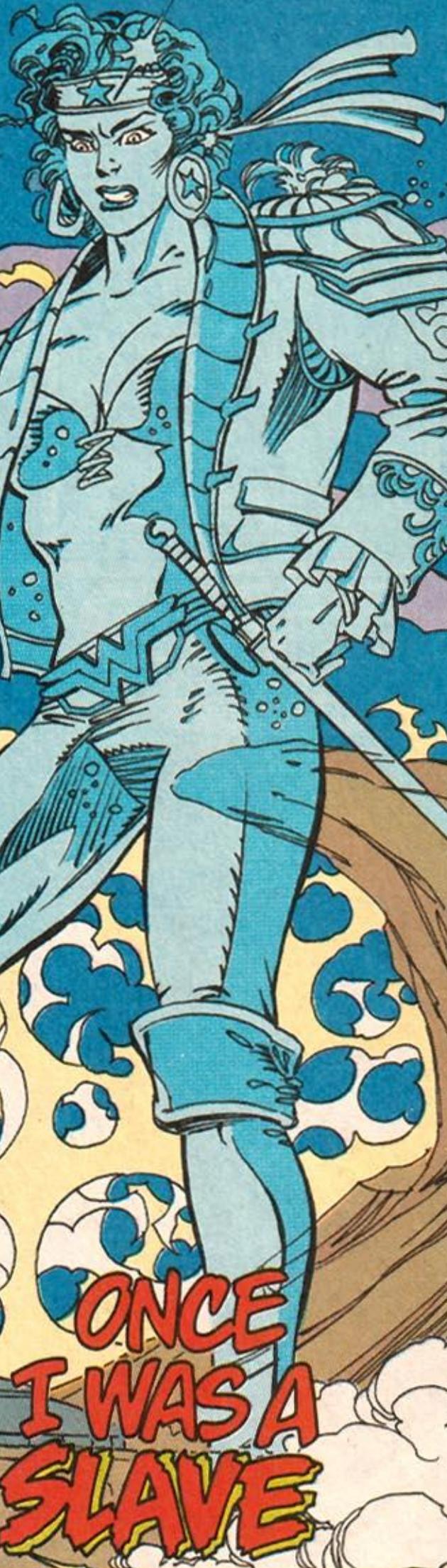
A HERITAGE RECLAIMED!



MESSNER-LOEBS
CULLINS
TANGHAL
PARKS

ONCE I WAS YOUR SLAVE, AND KNELT
IN CHAINS FOR YOUR FAVOR, BUT NOW
I HAVE RETURNED, AND I HAVE MOLDED
MY CHAINS INTO AN EXECUTIONER'S
SWORD. -- NOL LAPP, DURLAN
REVOLUTIONIST AND POET

FOR WEEKS, WHEREVER THE PRISON PLANETS
OF THE SANGTEE HANG IN BLIGHTED SILENCE,
A SINGLE FACE HAS APPEARED OVER THE
WRETCHED HORDES OF PRISONERS, WHO
HAVE BEEN RIPPED FROM A THOUSAND RACES
AND CULTURES. IT IS THE FACE OF A PIRATE,
WHO HAS PILLAGED AND FOUGHT THE SLAVE
TRADE, NEARLY HALTING THE CENTURIES-
LONG PRACTICE OF FEMALE ENSLAVEMENT.
THE SANGTEE PERPETUATE. AND WHEN-
EVER THIS IMAGE APPEARS, HOPE IS REBORN.



A STORY OF THE WONDER WOMAN

WILLIAM
MESSNER-LOEBS
WRITER

PARIS
CULLINS
PENCILER

RAMON & ANDRE'
TAMASHI PARKS
INKERS

JOHN
COSTANZA
LETTERER

MATT
HOLLINGSWORTH
COLORIST

RUBEN
DIAZ
ASST. EDITOR

BRIAN
AUGUSTYN
EDITOR

WONDER WOMAN
CREATED BY
WILLIAM Moulton
MARSHALL

"THE ATTACKS ON THE SPACE-PORTS HAVE GOTTEN BOLDER. SLAVE-RELATED BUSINESS IS DOWN NEARLY 17%."

"THERE HAVE BEEN THREE SERIOUS... INCIDENTS ON THE OUTER SECURITY PLANETS. THE DETAINEES SEEM TO BE RESTIVE."

"AND THAT DAMNED SYMBOL HAS BEEN APPEARING OVERMUCH LATELY, EVEN IN THE BACK STREETS OF THE CAPITAL. IT'S BECOMING AN EASY SHORTHAND FOR REVOLT."



< THE WORST THING IS THIS SHE-PIRATE'S GETTING A REPUTATION FOR CLEMENCY. THE CAPTAINS SURRENDER THEIR CARGOS BEFORE SHE FIRES A SHOT! >

< INTERESTING. >



(FOR THE LAST MILLENNIUM, ALL THE SANSTEE HAVE BEEN MALE. BLESSEDLY, WE ARE FREED FROM THE WEAKNESS THAT A FEMALE NATURE BRINGS.)

(WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS... THIS WOMAN TO HUMILIATE US.)

(WAR BETWEEN THE SEXES IS THE NATURAL WAY. FOR A THOUSAND YEARS WE HAVE ENSLAVED ALL FEMALES!)

(ANY COMPROMISE WILL DISHONOR OUR ANCESTORS AND DESTROY OUR CULTURE.)

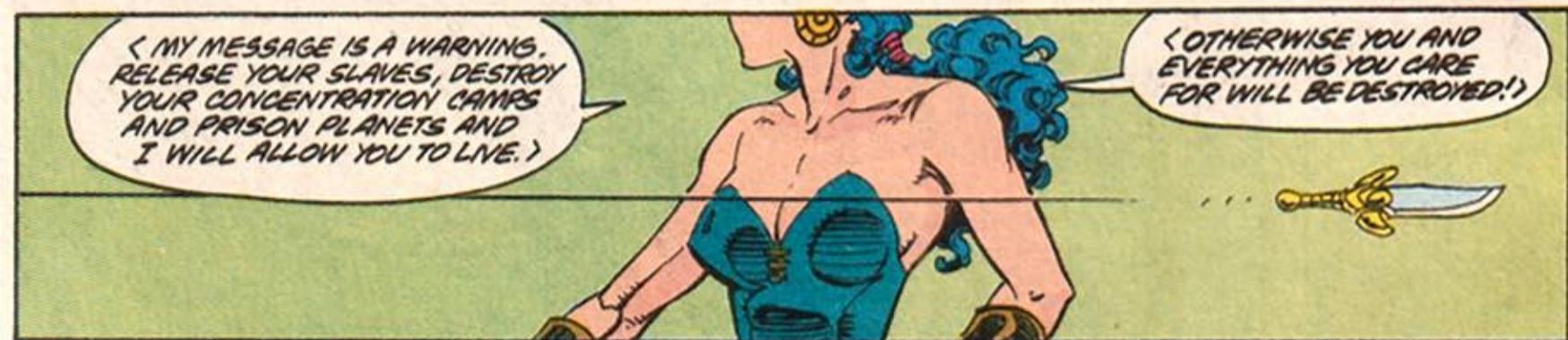
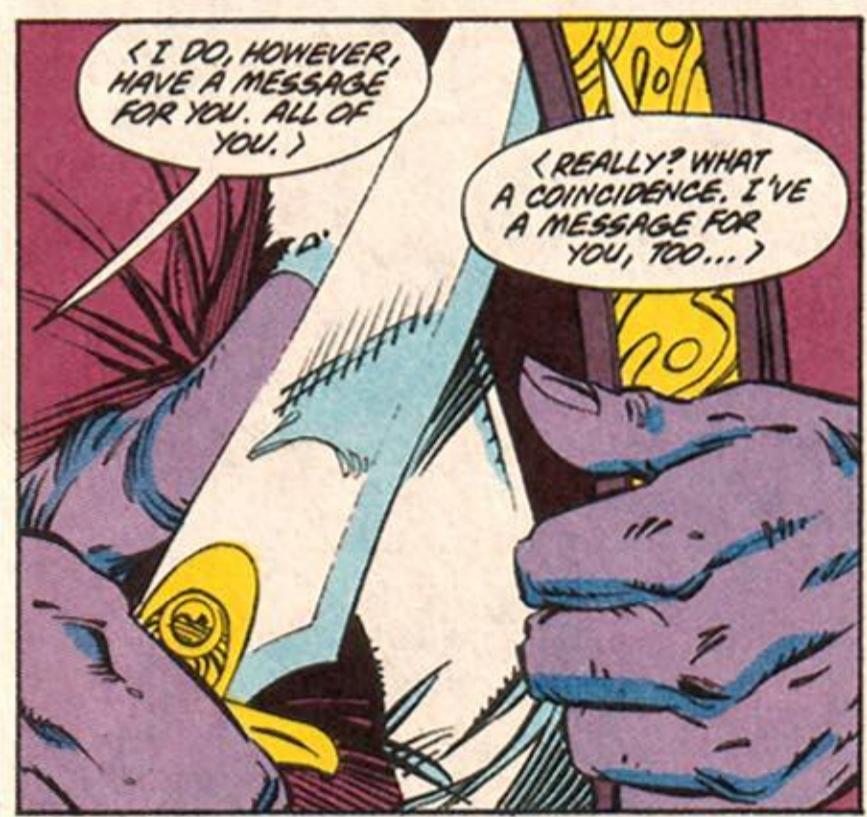
(THIS 'WONDER WOMAN' DISEASE BEGAN IN THIS SECTOR! WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN ABLE TO FIND HER BASE, ANTAR FITT B'JAN? YOU ARE P'Q'RORT HERE. ARE YOU CORRUPT OR A FOOL?)

(IT'S HER! IT'S THE WONDER WOMAN!) SUMMON THE GUARDS! SEAL THE DOORS!

(SO UPSET, AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS DOING YOU A FAVOR, LETTING YOU KNOW WHERE I WAS.)

(I... I... NEITHER, CHIEF ADVISOR. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD SHE IS TO FIND. SHE STRIKES ANYWHERE! SHE HIDES IN THE MOST DESOLATE...)

:AH-HUMM:



HAHAHAHAHAHA



THE PROJE'CTOR
WORKED PERFEC'TLY,
CAPTAIN!

THEY WERE
ALL FOOLED!
SSSPLENDID!

THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!
WE'VE HAD SUCCESSES, BUT
THE ONLY WAY TO REALLY HURT
THE EMPIRE IS TO FORCE THE
EMPEROR INTO DOING SOMETHING
STUPID.

ALREADY HE'S COME
INTO THIS QUADRANT.
NOW WE HAVE TO
MAKE HIM MAD!

CUT OFF HIS LEGS
AND SUCK THE MARROW
OUT OF THEM! I FIND
THAT GENERALLY
WORKS!



THAT SUBTLE KHUND HUMOR, ECTREBA! IT NEVER FAILS TO LIFT MY SPIRITS.

AND LOOK! WE HAVE A VISITOR. IT'S ADVISOR A'IRR. HOW ARE YOU THIS MORNING, MY LORD?

HOW SHOULD I BE? YOUR SHE-DEVILS TRIED TO TORTURE ME YESTERDAY. YOU HAD TO PULL THEM OFF ME!

YES, WELL, I FEAR BEING ENSLAVED FOR MONTHS IN YOUR PLEASANT MINING COLONIES HASN'T IMPROVED THEIR SOCIAL GRACES.

SIT DOWN. PLEASE.

WE NEED TO KNOW VARIOUS THINGS ABOUT YOUR CULTURE. AND WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND YOUR EMPEROR.

YOU WERE HIS CHIEF ADVISOR?

YES, THE D'TASLOO PARVA. I WAS THE INTERFACE BETWEEN THE EMPEROR AND THE ARMY, AND THE CHURCH.

WHEEEWWW. QUITE A JOB. THEN WE'RE TALKING TO THE RIGHT MAN...

AND I WOULD SOONER DIE THAN BETRAY THE TERRIBLE SECRETS OF MY EMPEROR TO A COVEN OF DEBASED AND UNCLEAN FEMALES!

NAUGHTY. AND ECTREBA HERE WAS JUST SAYING HOW MUCH SHE LIKED YOU TOO.

LET'S TRY SOMETHING SIMPLE. THERE WAS A BIG FELLOW WITH THE EMPEROR, DRESSED LIKE YOU. HE WAS...?

PROBABLY BRUCT, MY DEPUTY. BY NOW HE'S BEEN ELEVATED TO MY STATION...

AND SO...

THREE HOURS OF COURT PROTOCOL! AND SILENCE WHENEVER THE EMPEROR COMES UP. THAT WAS WORTHLESS.

YESSS,
AND
YET...

SOMETHING,
SAKRITT?

HE SSSAID 'TERRIBLE SSECRETSSS.' AN ODD PHRASSE. MAYBE UNIMPORTANT, YET...

LET ME EXSSPLORE SOME RECORDSSSS...

HE WAS CLONED 26 SSSCYCLES AGO, AND IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TRAINING TO BE EMPEROR...

CLONED? HUMM, I HAD ASSUMED THE SANGTEE WERE ALL A THOUSAND YEARS OLD. THAT CHILDREN WERE ONLY BORN WHEN THEY CHANGED GENDERS.

APPARENTLY NOT. FROM THE TIME HE WAS FIFTEEN HE WASSS PROCLAIMED EMPEROR AND WASSS SSEN CONSSTANTLY BATTLING SSSSLAVE REBELLIONSSS...

BUT HE WAS HIDDEN FOR THE FIRST 15 YEARS OF HIS LIFE? IS THAT TYPICAL?

UNSSSURE. HE ISS WIDELY POPULAR, BUT ODDLY ENOUGH NOT WITHIN THE IMPERIAL BUREAU-CRASSSCY.

ALL OF YOU, DIG INTO THE PUBLIC RECORDS... FIND OUT IF SUCH HIDDEN CHILDHOODS ARE TYPICAL...

THERE'S SOME-
THING HERE.
SOMETHING WE'RE
NOT SEEING.

"THE EMPEROR HAS A SECRET. I NEED TO KNOW WHAT IT IS."

THE SITUATION IS UNACCEPTABLE! SHE STRIKES LIKE A SNAKE FROM AMBUSH AND MAKE US LOOK LIKE IDIOTS!

THEN WE SHOULD INVITE HER HERE!

YOUR MAJESTY...?

WHAT IF WE WERE TO
BRING SOMETHING SHE
LOVED HERE... SAY, SEVERAL
PRISONERS FROM THESE
LATEST REVOLTS...?

AND THEN EXECUTE THEM... GRUESOMELY.

SHE'LL BE TEMPTED TO
SOME GESTURE, SHE'LL
COME HERE, EITHER IN
FORCE OR BY STEALTH...

...AND THEN WE'LL HAVE HER!

THUNK!

A WEEK PASSES...

IT ISSS NOT COMMON
FOR THE SSSANGTEE TO
SSSEQUESTER THEIR YOUNG, BUT
IT DOESSS HAPPEN, IN ABOUT ONE
SSSIXSSTH OF ALL CASSSESSS.

AND AMONGST
THE ROYALTY?

NEVER
BEFORE THAT
I CAN FIND.

THERE.

TASHA, I WANT YOU TO
GATHER A RAIDING PARTY.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE EMPEROR
IS GATHERING HOSTAGES.
WE SHOULD SHOW HIM
THIS IS NOT A GOOD
IDEA!

SAKRITT, STAY FOR
A MOMENT, WILL
YOU?

SO, JUST BETWEEN US,
WHEN IS THE MUTINY?

MUTINY,
CAPTAIN?
WHAT
MUTINY?

THE MUTINY YOU'VE
BEEN PLANNING WITH ECTREBA
AND BELA AND DURLAN. AT
LAST ACCOUNT YOU HAVE NEARLY
TWENTY DESPERATE SOULS
READY TO JOIN WITH YOU.

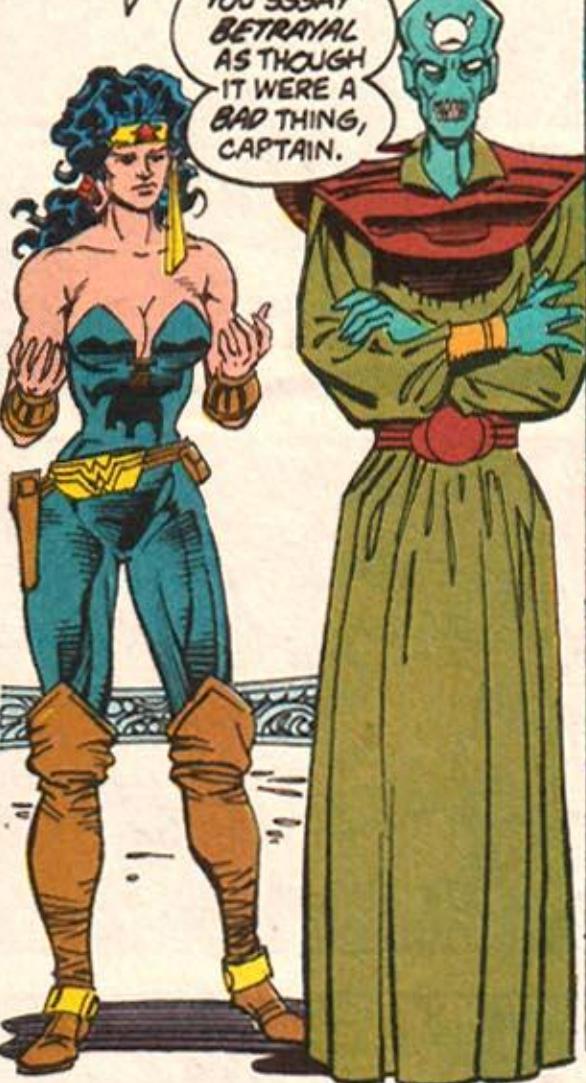
IF I COULD OFFER
A CONSTRUCTIVE
CRITICISM, THE
SECONDARY MUNI-
TIONS CHAMBER IS
NOT A VERY SECURE
PLACE FOR PLOTTING.

I SSEE, AND
WHEN DO YOU PLAN
OUR EXSSECUTION?

I HAVEN'T PLANNED
ANYTHING... YET.

I WANT TO KNOW WHY! ON THE ISLAND WHERE I WAS BORN, WE WOULD RATHER DIE THAN BETRAY A SISTER. YET A DOMINATOR WILL BETRAY ANOTHER DOMINATOR EASILY.

YOU SSSAY BETRAYAL AS THOUGH IT WERE A BAD THING, CAPTAIN.



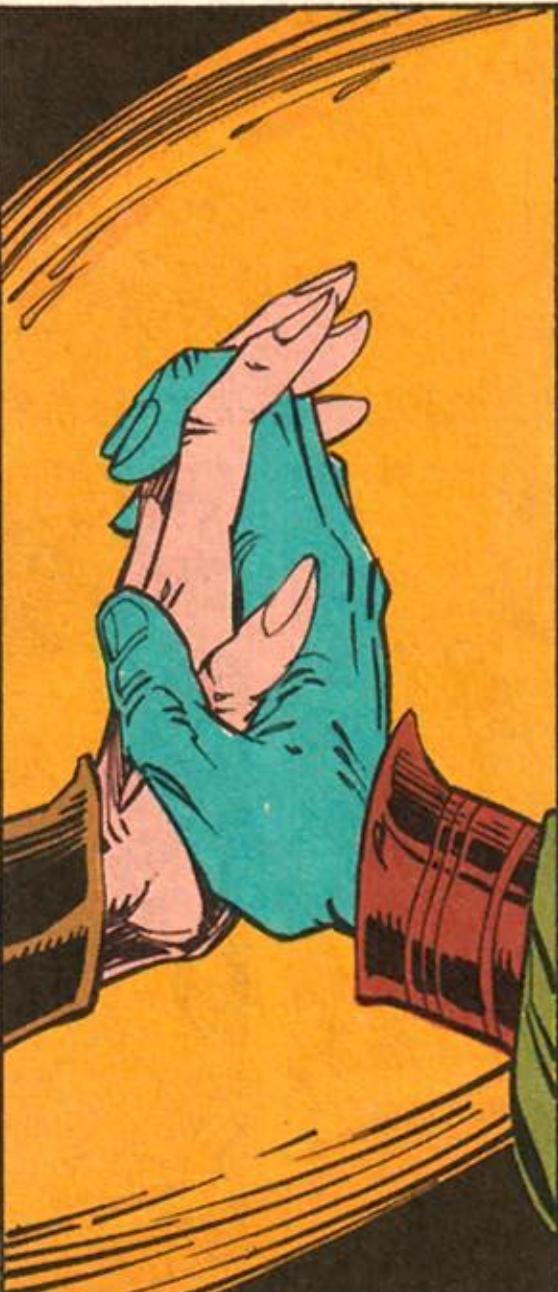
WOULD YOU NOT CONSSSTANTLY TESSST A ROPE YOU HAD TO CLIMB? IF A LEADER CANNOT SSSURVIVE TREASSON, THAT LEADER HASSS NO RIGHT TO RULE.

THUSSS, BETRAYAL ISS THE HIGHESSST TRIBUTE. THOUGH ONLY DOMINATORS UNDERSSTAND THISSS.



CAN YOU GIVE ME TWO DAXGS' WORTH OF MY KIND OF LOYALTY? AFTER THAT... WELL, AFTER THAT I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.

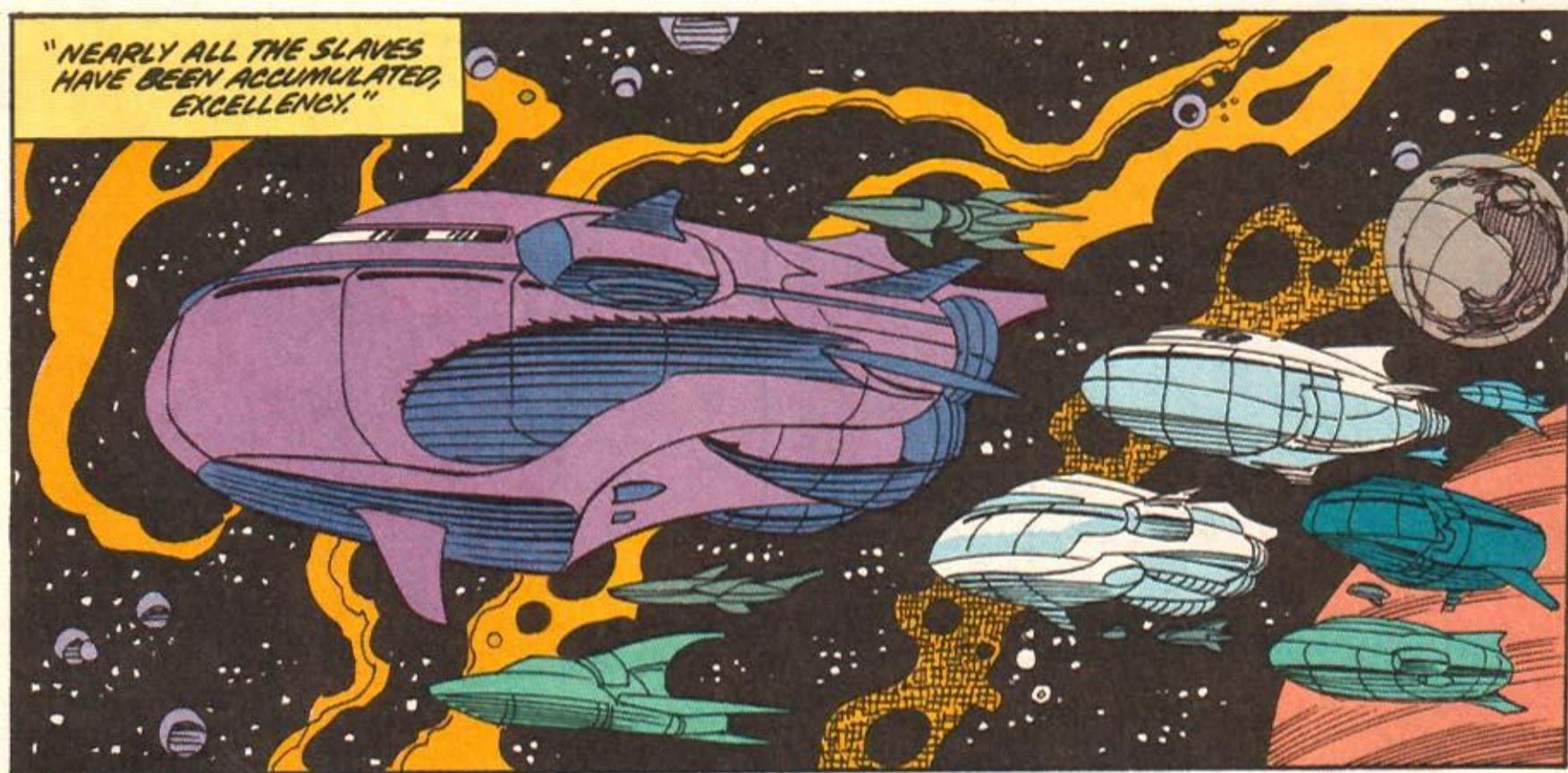
SAKRITT?



SAKRITT? DOES SHE KNOW, SAKRITT...?

SHUT UP!
SHUT UP! I HAVE TO THINK!

"NEARLY ALL THE SLAVES
HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATED,
EXCELLENCY."



("WE'VE CONSTRUCTED
THE HOLDING PENS AND
TRIPLED THE GUARD.
THERE'LL BE NO PROBLEM.")



(AND THIS
THING?)

(WE AREN'T SURE. IT
SEEMS COMPLETELY INERT
AND YET...)



(YOUR PARDON,
EXCELLENCY, BUT
THERE'S BEEN A
DISTURBANCE...)



*(THIS... CREATURE
IS CLAIMING...)*

*(EXSSCELLENSSY, IF YOU
WANT TO CAPTURE THE WONDER
WOMAN, YOU MUSSST SSSTRIKE
SSSWIFTLY...)*

*...WHILE SSHE ISSS
HELPLESSSS!)*

*(YES. THE PLAN WASSS TO HIDE
WITHIN THE HOLLOW SIDES OF THISSS
TRANSSPORT VESSEL UNTIL I
RELEASED THEM.)*

*(BUT I HAVE
DESSCIDED I
WOULD RATHER
HAVE THE
REWARD YOU
PROMISSE
FOR HER
HEAD,
INSTEAD.)*

*(THERE, YOU
SSSEE? THE ADVISOR
WASSS TO BE A
HOSSTAGE!)*

NO!

*BETRAYED
WE BE!*

*(TAKE THIS
OFFAL TO THE
SLAVE PENS!)*

*SAKRITT,
WHY?*

*BECAUSE IT
IS MY NATURE.*

(Lord A'hir... naturally I never meant to usurp your authority...)

(Naturally. We can talk on this later, Bruct. What will happen to the Wonder Woman? She saved my life.)

(Something that will test her bravery. I was thinking of crucifixion on an asteroid of pure plutonium. Or something.)

(And the traitorous dominator?)

(You always told me that traitors are dangerous, and dominators are the worst of all, since they are traitors by instinct. She will be killed, quickly.)

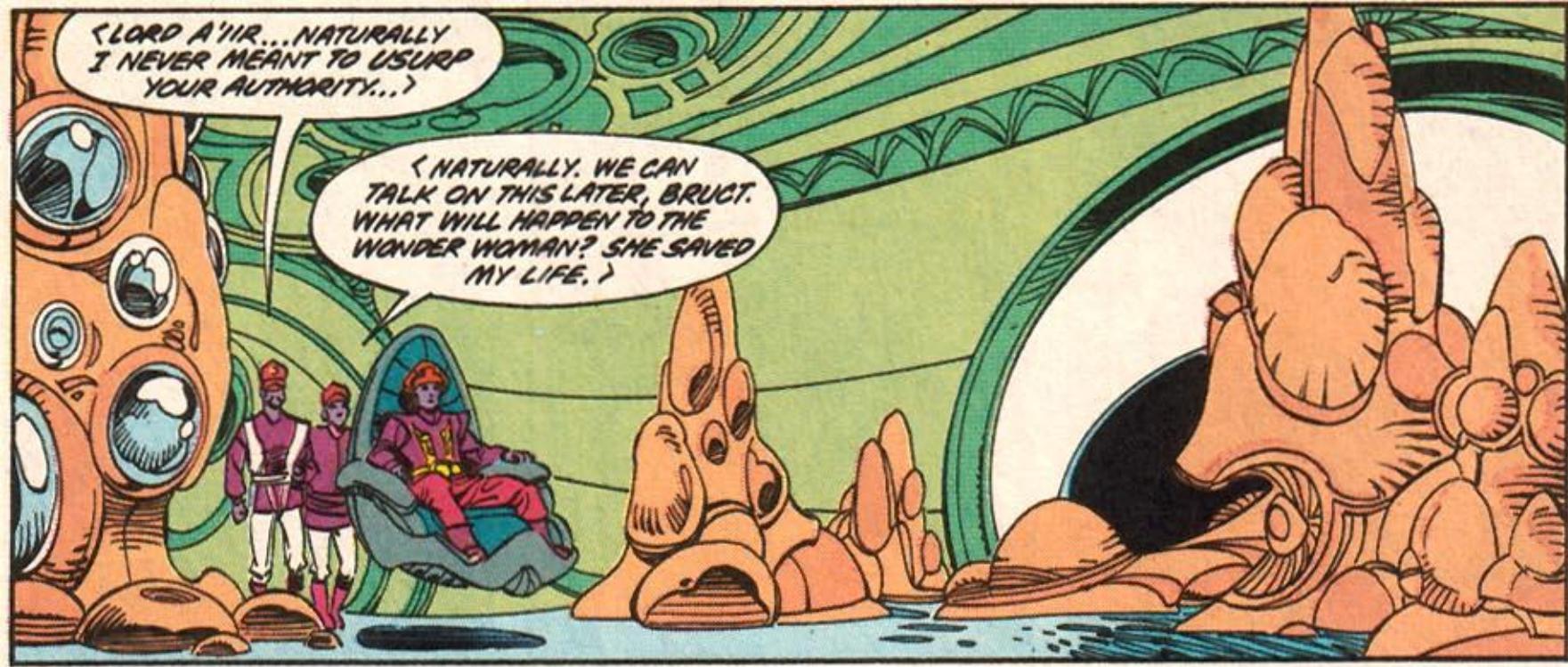
(Wait, how did you know the dominator was a traitor? You were captive...)

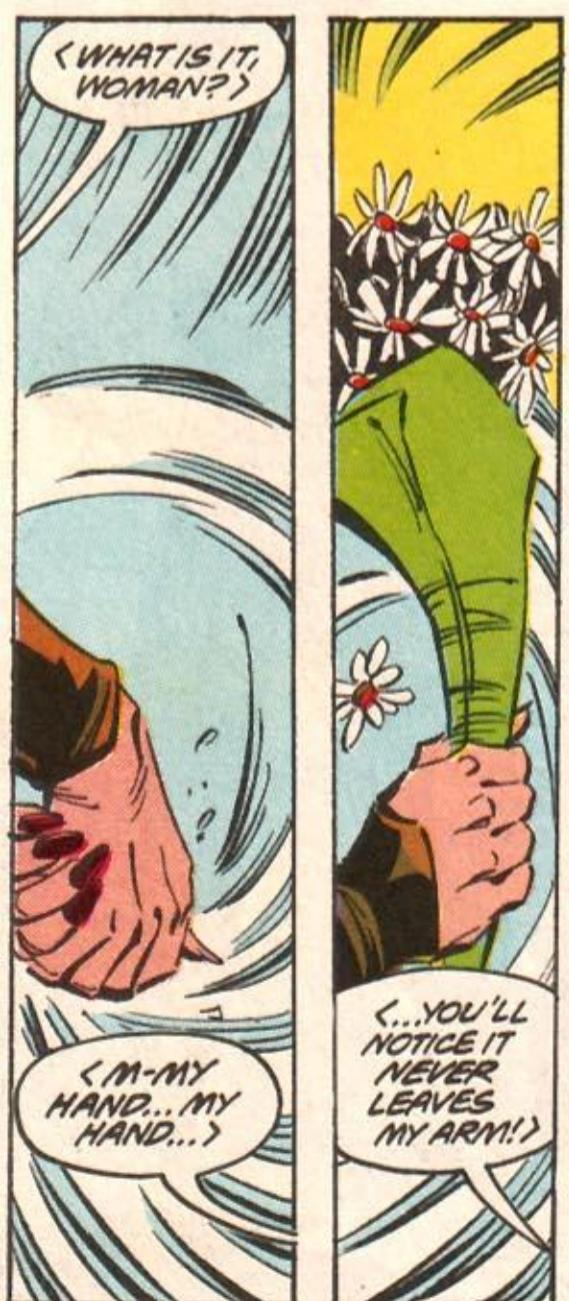
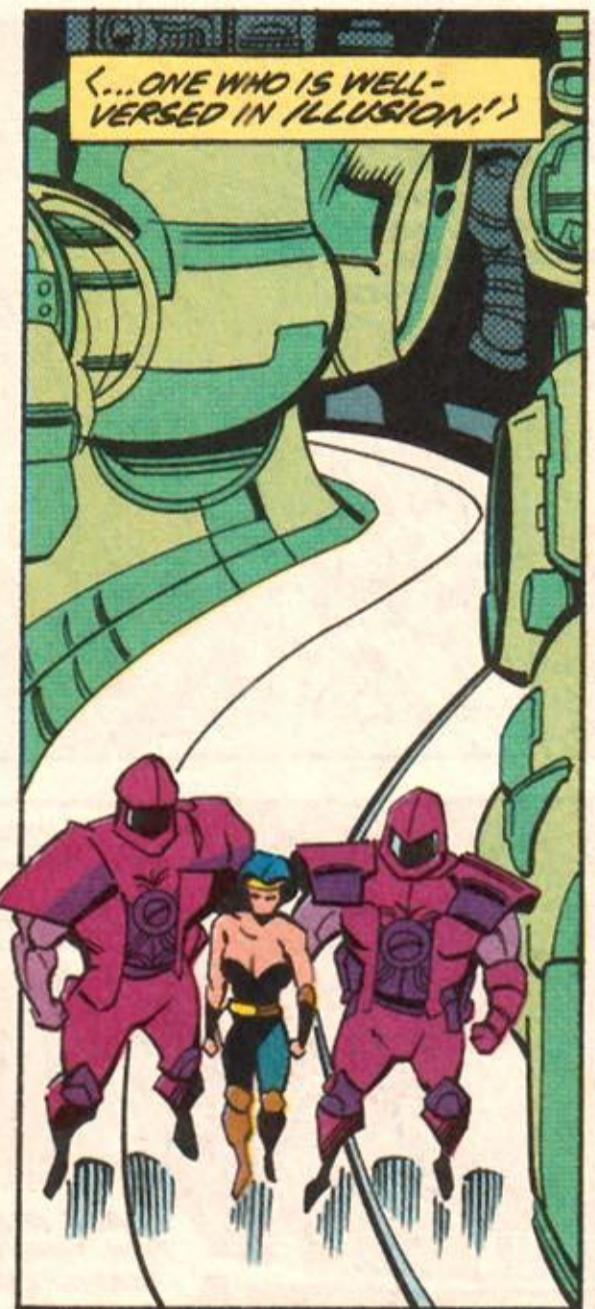
(Have you ever wondered what might happen, if a holographic image were projected around a living being?)

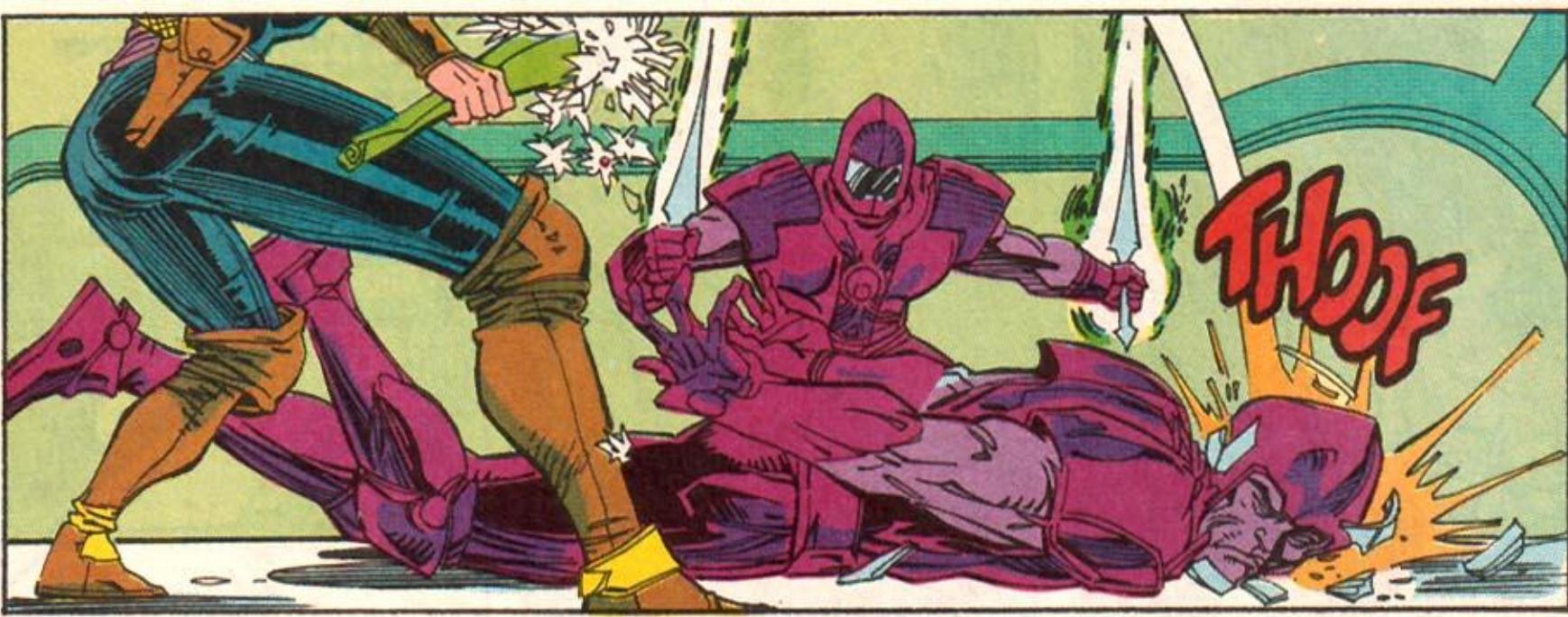
(The appearance would be disguised, but the form beneath could be touched. The perfect illusion...)

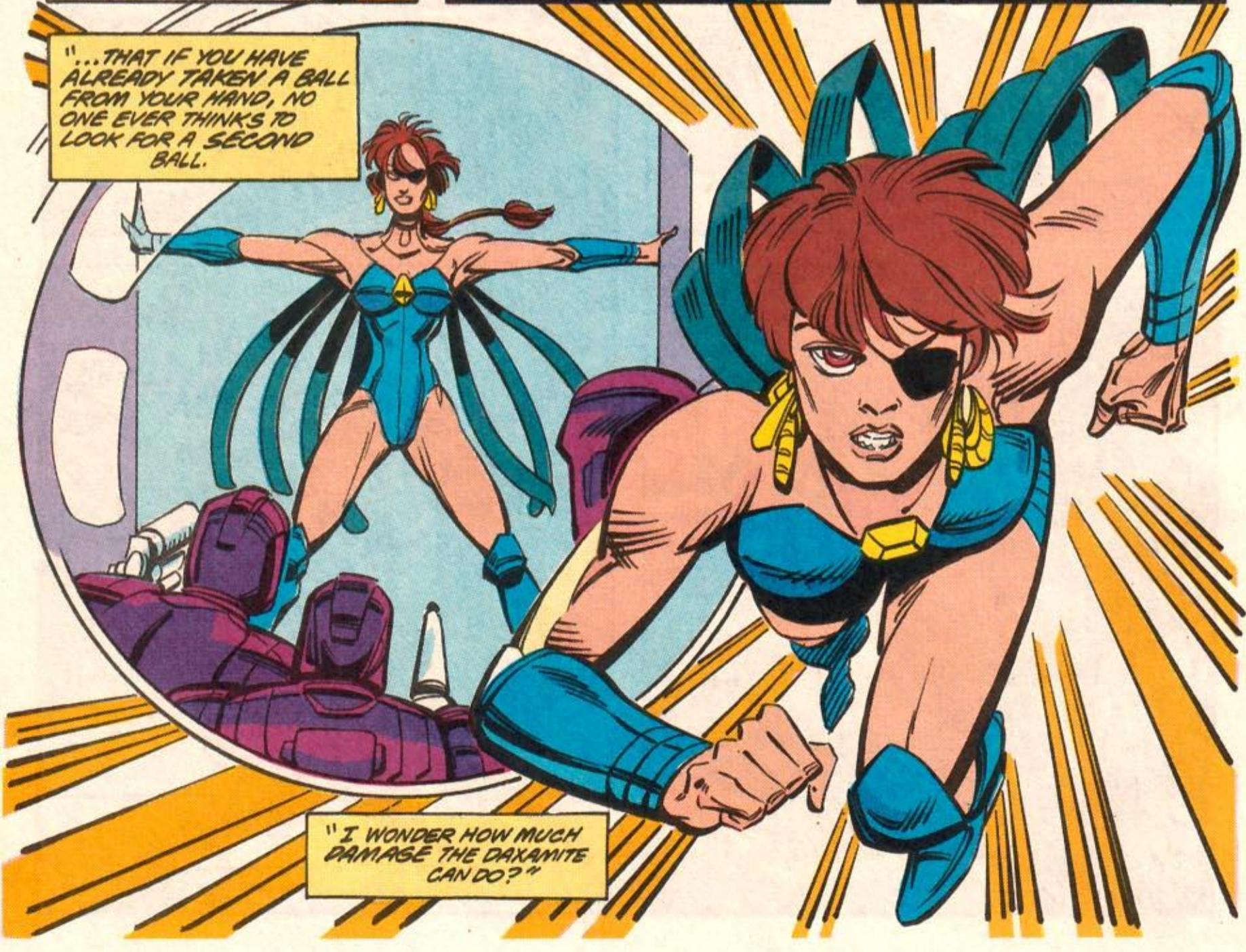
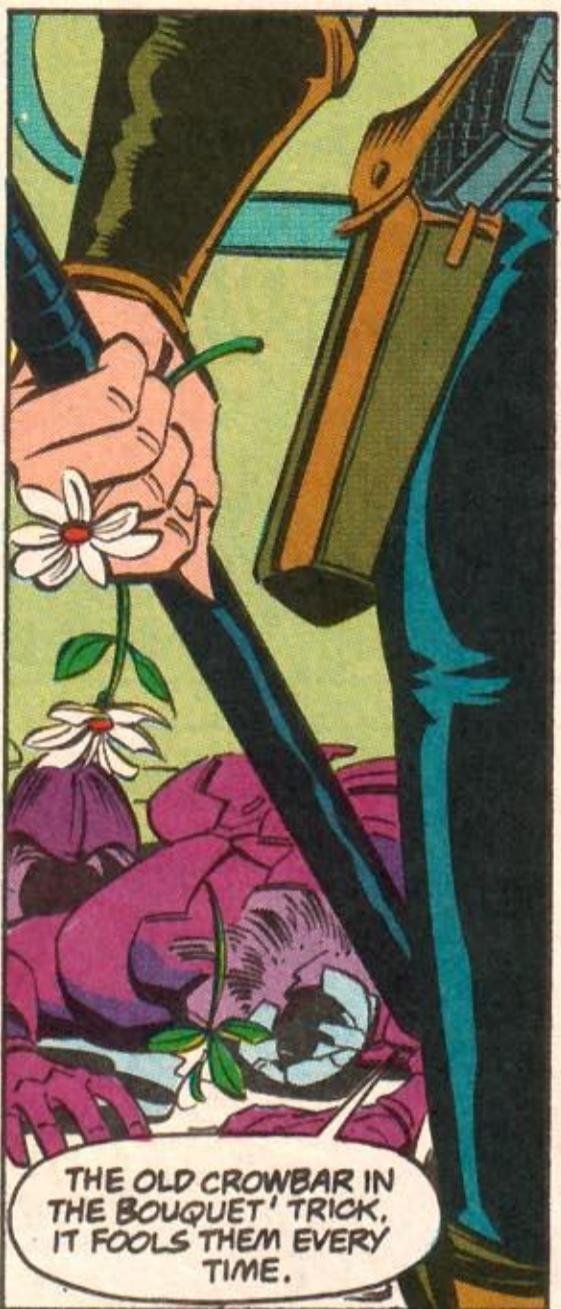
(You see?)

(Hello, Your Majesty. I heard you wanted to meet me!)

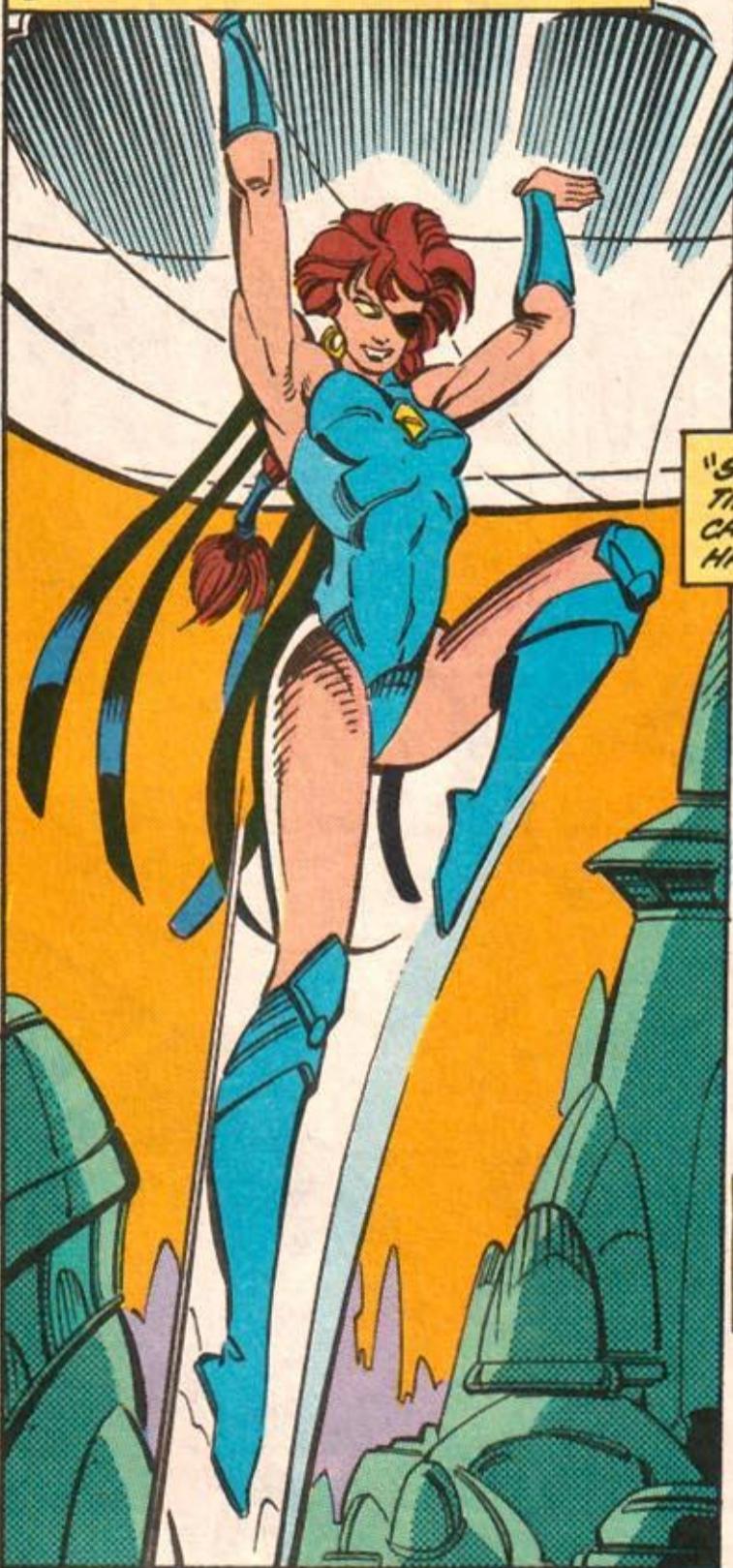




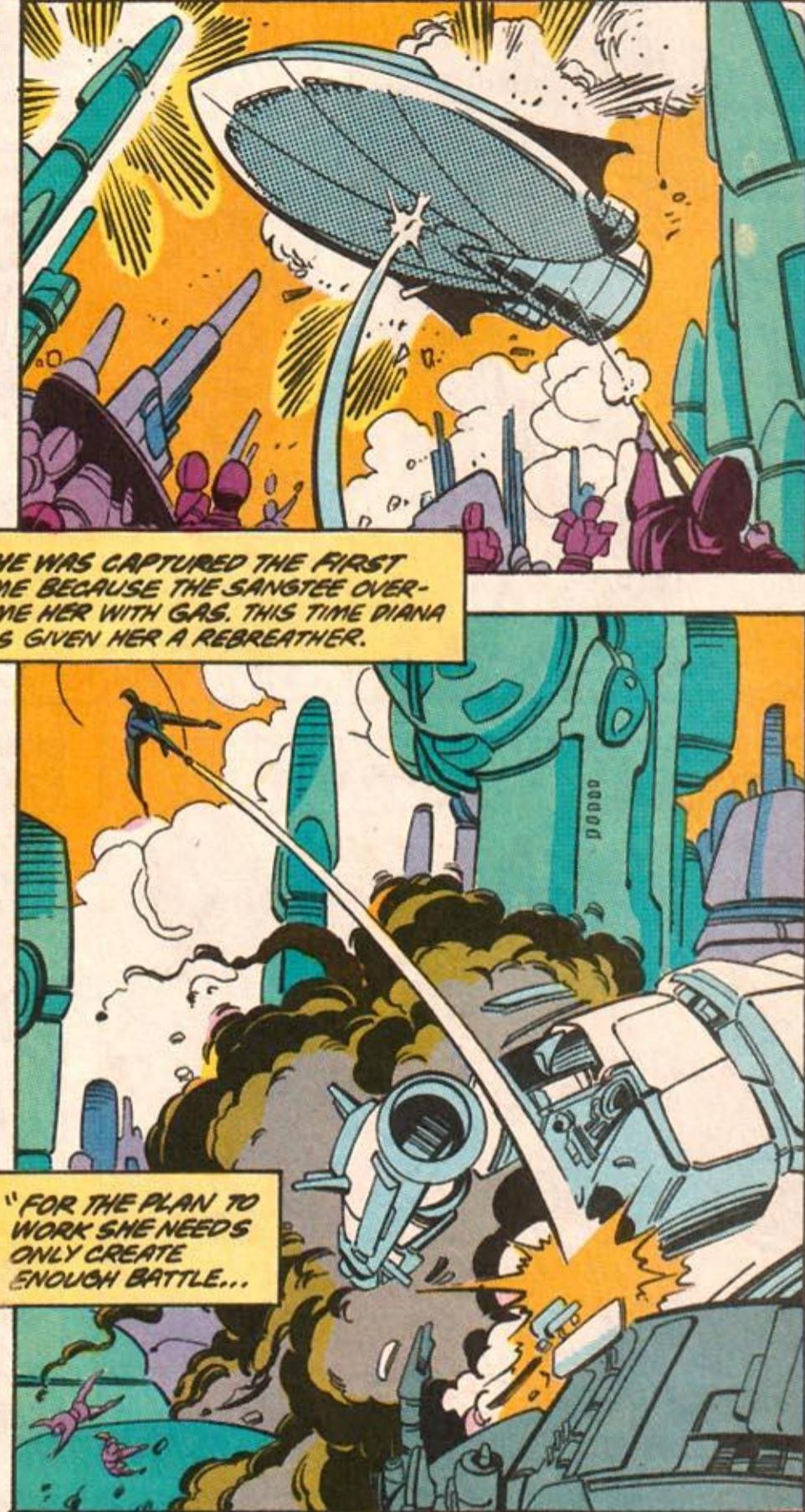




"THE DAXAMITES WERE SUPPOSED TO BE AS POWERFUL AND WITH SIMILAR POWERS AS SUPERMAN OF EARTH. THIS MEANS SHE CAN GIVE AND ABSORB AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF PUNISHMENT."



"SHE WAS CAPTURED THE FIRST TIME BECAUSE THE SANGTEE OVER-CAME HER WITH GAS. THIS TIME DIANA HAS GIVEN HER A REBREATHER."

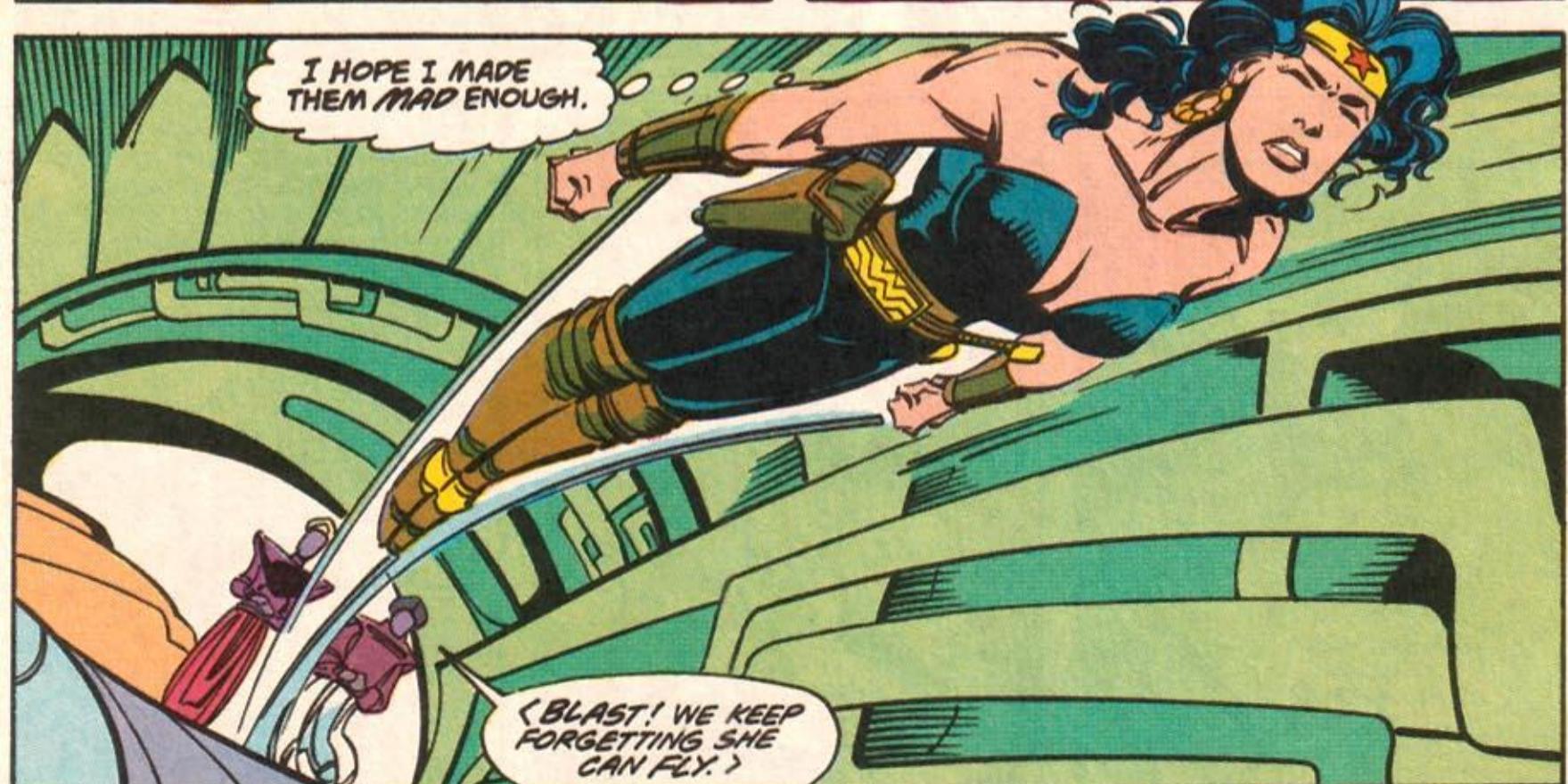


"FOR THE PLAN TO WORK SHE NEEDS ONLY CREATE ENOUGH BATTLE..."



"...TO ACT AS A DISTRACTION!"
"AND IT MEANS I HAVE ONLY A FEW MINUTES LEFT TO FIND AND FREE THE HUNDREDS OF SLAVES IMPRISONED HERE."











(YES, YOU MIGHT POSSIBLY KILL ME WITH THAT.)

(BUT THAT WON'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOUR CULTURE IS DYING... POISONED BY ITS FEAR AND LOATHING OF THE FEMALE.)

(YOUR SOCIETY HAS TURNED TO SLAVERY AND GENOCIDE OUT OF SELF-HATRED... TO CONTROL THE PART OF YOURSELVES YOU COULD NEVER CRUSH.)

(YOU CAN'T CHANGE US. NOTHING CAN CHANGE US.)

(I FOUGHT YOU TO EMPTY THE SLAVE PITS. BUT I'M JUST A PIRATE AND AN ADVENTURER. ONLY AN EMPEROR CAN CHANGE AN EMPIRE.)

(BUT IF YOU DON'T START CHANGING YOUR CULTURE FROM WITHIN, DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN SURVIVE?)

(NO. NO, I DON'T.)

"AND JUST LIKE THAT, WITH THE FADING IMPACT OF METAL ON TILE AND A COUPLE OF MUTTERED WORDS, SHE REALIZED IT WAS OVER.

THE YEARS OF SLAVERY AND BATTLE... THE HATRED AND CHALLENGE AND DANGER. ALL GONE.

TOMORROW SHE WOULD EXULT AND SCREAM AND LAUGH. NOW SHE JUST WANTED TO FIND HER FRIENDS AND TELL THEM THEY HAD WON AND SLEEP FOR A MONTH.

NEXT MONTH: STILL A LONG WAY FROM HOME.

IT WAS OVER.

WONDER WOMAN

DC COMICS INC.
1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

JENETTE KAHN, President & Editor-in-Chief
DICK GIORDANO, VP-Editorial Director
BRIAN AUGUSTYN, Editor
RUBEN DIAZ, Assistant Editor
JIM CHADWICK, Director-Design Services
JOE ORLANDO, VP-Creative Director
PAUL LEVITZ, Executive VP & Publisher
BRUCE BRISTOW, VP-Sales & Marketing
PATRICK CALDON, VP & Controller
TERRI CUNNINGHAM, Dir.-Editorial Administration
CHANTAL D'AULNIS, VP-Business Affairs
LILLIAN LASERSON, VP-Legal Affairs
BOB ROZAKIS, Production Director

Dear Eddie,

First, old business. Goodbye, Dan Thorsland. Some of my most favorite stories came from your tenure as editor. You will be missed at DC, though I'll probably feel your professional influence over in that company in Oregon.

Second, new business. Hello, Brian Augustyn. Jeez, if you edit any more titles you're gonna explode.

Which reminds me... (no, this segue makes no sense. Don't try to figure it out.) **WONDER WOMAN** #66 was without a doubt the most enjoyable issue I've read in a long time. And if subsequent issues maintain the high quality of #66, then it just may rival WW #1-6 as the best **WONDER WOMAN** storyline I've ever read.

The first item that I must praise is the cover. Brian Bolland is one of the greatest comics artists in the biz, and the cover of WW #66 is proof of it. I loved the attention to detail all the way down to the technician who is working on Diana's spacesuit even as she is putting it on.

The story really looks to be a departure for Diana, and I think the new environment will bring aspects of the character forward that I haven't seen before. It'll be interesting to see what survival instincts Diana possesses.

I like the new characters. Bill brings a sense of history with Asquith Randolph that is appreciated. I like the fact that we feel he's been around forever even though he is a new character. I also like the character of Natasha. I hope she makes it through the ordeal with Diana.

David Scott
Boise, ID

Thank you for all the kind words, Scott, and yes, we are taking special precautions to see that Brian doesn't explode. It's not a pretty sight when it happens. Able assistant editor Ruben Diaz is still recovering from the last time.

* * * * *

Dear Brian and Eddie,

Gee, I hope my June 23rd letter didn't chase Thorsland away. I forgave him in the next one. I wish him good luck with his "Predators" and "Aliens," and welcome Brian Augustyn to **WONDER WOMAN**.

I like #66 so much more than #65, though I would have preferred a little less of that pretty cinematography in the beginning in favor of greater detail in Diana's preparations for her departure into space. The story moved forward quickly, which is good in one sense, but the pace was so rapid that it

left out some salient elements: Did Diana have a chance to tell anyone good-bye? Does anyone even know where she went, and how? When did she get so technologically competent?

I thought Randolph's reference to the sled being designed for Darkseid's hunger dogs concealed a nasty concept, carrying the inference that a mere woman *might* be able to drive a ship intended for stupid constructs to operate. It gives us an idea of the depths of depravity to which this purported "hero" will sink to eliminate his perceived rival. The fact that he had the means and was willing to sabotage an International space effort and kill an innocent cosmonaut to destroy Wonder Woman establishes Randolph as an extremely dangerous opponent for Diana, with the stature to become her constant nemesis, *vis-à-vis* Batman and Joker. I hope we see a lot more of his greedy, ambitious machinations.

I suspect Diana will come out of this little adventure much tougher philosophically than we've seen her. I don't know what the Sangtree have planned yet, but I expect to see Diana lose a lot of her innocence and her innate faith in others. It will be interesting to see how you balance this with her foundation of compassion and conciliation. I noticed you have effectively modified her purpose in our world—from a godly mission to her mother's dream of struggling, via "righteous battle," for peace. "No greater pleasures," huh? There's still a lot she doesn't know. This isn't your mother's Wonder Woman, most assuredly. I can't wait to see her packing and using weapons and going against Lobo.

I wish you hadn't played quite so fast and loose with physics—hard to believe a trained cosmonaut couldn't tell where she was from the positions of the stars. Being thrown out of orbit "thousands of miles" is a minuscule thing compared to stellar distances and relative positions. The Earth would've still been visible. Perhaps this should have read "millions of miles." And why wasn't at least Natasha squished or injured from the sudden acceleration after the explosion?

Diana's much vaunted confidence is being pushed a little too soon, too fast. There's been no established reason for this sudden leap of assurance, although I'm sure this storyline will rapidly develop the premise. I did like Diana's reaction to their plight as they fired their jury-rigged engines into the unknown, and the reasoning behind it. To laugh in the face of such utter desolation depicted Diana's acknowledgment of a desperately impossible situation and her fierce determination to go down trying. Hell of a role model.

The art has improved from last issue, but I still miss Jill Thompson. I am enjoying her work in **SANDMAN**, though. Bring back the page numbers, please. Page 16 was nicely done; Diana's spacesuit looked commendably technical. I hate a book composed of nothing but little rectangular panels—innovative art adds immeasurably to the visual appeal of a book. Give me irregular or overlapping panels and figures flowing out of panel. Much more exciting for the eye. Matt Hollingsworth's colors worked very well with this issue. Brian Bolland's cover, as always, was wonderful. I'd love to see him do an Elseworlds book for Wonder Woman.

This little saga is shaping up to be quite an eventful journey, both for Diana and her readers. It's going to be fun. Thank you, Bill. I will never understand why, with writing of this calibre, this book isn't more wildly received. So what if our hero happens to be female? Courage and capability shouldn't be a function of what flavor hormone you happen to possess. I'd pit Diana's raw guts against Superman's or Batman's anytime.

A few loose ends:

1) Floccinaucinihilipilification is definitely allowed in a Code book—it means defense of a worthless cause. You almost did it in this issue, although the adjective I'd use here would be "hopeless" to describe Natasha and Diana's predicament.

2) Brian—lend Diana to DEMON editor Dan Raspler. That's 58 cents I've spent on this request, not counting letters to Bad Dan.

3) Surely you caught Watterson's 7/22/92 "Calvin and Hobbes" strip ("Is Amazon Girl's super power the ability to squeeze that figure into that suit?..." "Nah, they all can do that.") Reciprocity among comics artists.

4) How come Diana goes barefoot to a beauty salon? Is she getting eccentric on us? But then, who's going to tell her to wear shoes...

5) I've enjoyed Diana's appearances in JLA and JLE. She needs to join one of them. Your revelation of a coming assemblage of women heroes under the auspices of this book is something I've wanted to see for a long time. Diana's natural leadership abilities should enable her to guide such a network admirably. She certainly manifests a more level head than most of the other women, who tend to be too stridently feminist, and too overly reactive to the male heroes.

6) Thank you for reading this extremely long letter. I got carried away.

Nancy Champion
Virginia Beach, VA

1) You have to be careful what you floccinaucinihilipilificate with.

2) Why? He can get his own dates.

3) We didn't, but we'll look for it in the collected volumes.

4) Nobody said she did. Diana just likes to get comfortable when she's getting her hair done and kicks off her shoes. They're right behind the woman in the green sweater. Really.

5) While it probably wasn't the female force you were expecting, we hope you enjoyed Diana's band of pirates. As you say, Diana has natural leadership abilities, and this space saga proved it.

6) Not too far, we hope; we enjoy your letters.

Oh, and regarding Tasha's error in distance—there are two explanations: a) Tasha was so frazzled by the explosion that she didn't know what she was talking about, or b) we goofed and didn't translate her Russian properly. Sorry.

* * * *

Dear Wonder Ones,

Okay, I'll bite. Who the heck is Mr. Magic, the White Sorcerer and the Echoes of Justice? This is nowhere to be found in my HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE! Be careful, I'm dialing 911 for the continuity cops!

Mark Phillips
Knoxville, TN

Hey, it's in ours! Can we help it if a hairdresser's grandmother is better informed than you, Mark?

* * * *

Dear Mission Team,

"Wonder Woman in Space"?!! It's a weird idea, but it works for me! William Messner-Loebs has taken Diana out of her element and dropped her into the depths of the universe to see how she will survive. I think she's doing rather well, and the fact that she's already had to fight very hard for her survival in space makes this first installment believable. She's proven she can be the wonder that she's been named for. I especially liked the fact that when Diana feels that she's the only hope for one other person's survival, she'll bravely undertake the mission (like she did with the Cheetah), no matter how deadly that mission will be. As we discover at the story's end, she views this as her role as a warrior in life and as a challenge. The fictional quotation on the splash page of "A Sudden, Deadly Leap" was also a nice touch.

Likewise, Natasha Teranova became a realistic person to me in the course of just one issue. Her love for her daughter and her enjoyment of the magic tricks make her a whole character, while her bravery as a cosmonaut in the face of danger makes her a "wonder woman" in her own right. ("I will not despair. The universe is a magical place.") Telling the story through her letters to her daughter is a beautiful way to do it, and the tensely written script had me constantly hoping the two women would make it through their predicament alive.

The mysterious Asquith Randolph makes an intriguing villain, one who embellishes the tale rather well with such a brief appearance. Why he would send Wonder Woman on a dan-

gerous secret mission and then sabotage it is beyond me. I'm thoroughly interested in the reasons for his deception, and I'm glad that Diana is suspicious of his actions.

In all honesty, I'm going to miss Jill Thompson's work on this book terribly. Paris Cullins and Robert Campanella are doing a beautiful job, however. I like the way they depict Diana as muscular and feminine at the same time. One panel I especially liked was the one with Diana and Natasha (wearing a top hat) floating in the spacecraft, amid a deck of cards littering the air. It made a mesmerizing scene. An interesting character touch for Diana was the one in the beauty parlor. It was simple and insightful. I always thought that Diana should have the best-looking hair in the DC Universe, and indeed she does. Brian Bolland's cover is the most striking and realistic one that he's done for this series so far.

I've also been excited to see Wonder Woman making appearances in the Justice League books lately! Please keep it up!

Neil Ahlquist
Minneapolis, MN

Diana will continue to make her presence felt throughout the DC Universe.

* * * *

Dear Mr. Augustyn,

Congratulations and welcome aboard! I sincerely hope you stay on as editor of this book for a long, long time.

Having followed Diana's adventures since age three, I've been with her through all of her various changes. Therefore, I feel compelled to convey my views on this latest restructuring of her character. Quite frankly, I am surprised at how well everything has turned out. I was naturally a little leery about this newest shift in direction, but now I am at ease. Simply put, I like this new Diana—*A LOT!*

You've taken the same old princess we all love so dearly, and given her a truly fresh start. That distinctive sense of wonder and excitement has been lacking in this title and has now returned, as Diana is discovering and experiencing new things (the depths of space, for example). There is definitely a strong focus on her spirit, determination and inner strength. Her true courage is shown through her ability to see and live life without fear, but with self-respect and ambition. These traits were never really explored within her, as her naivete and unassertiveness were overplayed. Thus, I'm glad to see Diana's new aggressive nature.

The most recent appearances of Wonder Woman really captured her newfound confidence and self-assurance. She is beginning to see a certain levity in life, and a sense of "lightness" is reflected in her attitude. Essentially, Diana has matured, yet kept that wonderful childlike innocence which has become her trademark, and which has made her the uniquely special character she is.

The current storyline perfectly showcases all that Wonder Woman is. The fact that Natasha is almost instantly attracted to Diana's person clearly illustrates the Princess's infectious aura. Diana also proved her effectiveness in a crisis situation. Not too con-

cerned over being fooled by Mr. Randolph, she put her mind to saving Natasha (as well as herself). And as the prospect of death stared her coldly in the face, Diana laughed.

The only thing that honestly bothered me in the issue was Diana's reply to Randolph—"But there are more powerful meta-humans..." This quotation really frustrated me. I could be wrong, but I've always considered Wonder Woman one of the most powerful people in the DC Universe (after Super-man). To think that anyone in the JLA or the Titans can be compared to her is ludicrous! Instead of being Natasha's "last hope," she should have been one of the top choices. Diana is no slouch! In her recent fight with Deathstroke, Diana should have been able to knock him at least by the second punch (unless she was holding back); however, Aquaman seemed to have given Deathstroke a harder time in the latter's own book this month. How? Sensibly, with the strength of Heracles, Wonder Woman should be up there in terms of power ranking.

Now, I'll comment on some of the general aspects of this series:

1) Don't forsake Hippolyte and the Amazons altogether. There are still many untapped possibilities there.

2) Definitely keep Julia and Nessie around. Diana needs them, and they are some of the most fleshed out supporting characters anywhere (along with Steve and Etta).

3) If you must keep Ed Indelicate please don't entertain any notion of a romance between himself and Diana.

4) What's going to happen to the Silver Swan? Perhaps she can hook up with a super-team or something? She has a lot of potential.

5) I'd like to see Diana work with any or all of the following: Troia, Black Canary, Captain Marvel, Hawkgirl, Batman, Peter Cannon, Aquaman, Dolphin and Supergirl. Will she be joining any of the Justice Leagues?

6) Lose the new art team. I don't mean to insult Mr. Cullins and Mr. Campanella, but they are just not suited for WONDER WOMAN. Sorry.

7) How about a pet for Diana?

In closing, let me just say that Diana could be stranded in space for the next hundred issues, and I'd still be there.

Thank you for injecting some fun into these books once again.

Michael Allen
Staten Island, NY

We'll try to make sure that Diana eats her Wheaties, Michael, and for your other comments:

1) OK.

2) Sure.

3) That's what we've been sayin'

4) Hey, there's always "Swan's Crossing."

5) Hmm, there's JLA, JLE and JUSTICE LEAGUE STRIKE FORCE.

6) Stay tuned.

7) Rex, the Wonder Dog?!

NEXT ISSUE: Time flies when you're leading a space rebellion as Diana finds out when she finally returns to Earth....only to discover that things have changed drastically. It's the not the homecoming you'd expect!

—Eddie Berganza
Take it away, Ruben