



WONDER WOMAN

AFTER SEVEN DECADES
OF LIVING ON
BORROWED TIME...

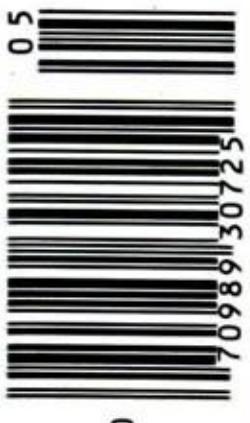
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FROM THE TRANQUIL SHORES OF PARADISE ISLAND CAME DIANA, PRINCESS OF THE AMAZONS, TO BATTLE EVIL IN THE WORLD OF MEN! STRONGER THAN HERCULES AND SWIFTER THAN MERCURY... WISE AS ATHENA AND BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE, SHE CHAMPIONS JUSTICE AS...

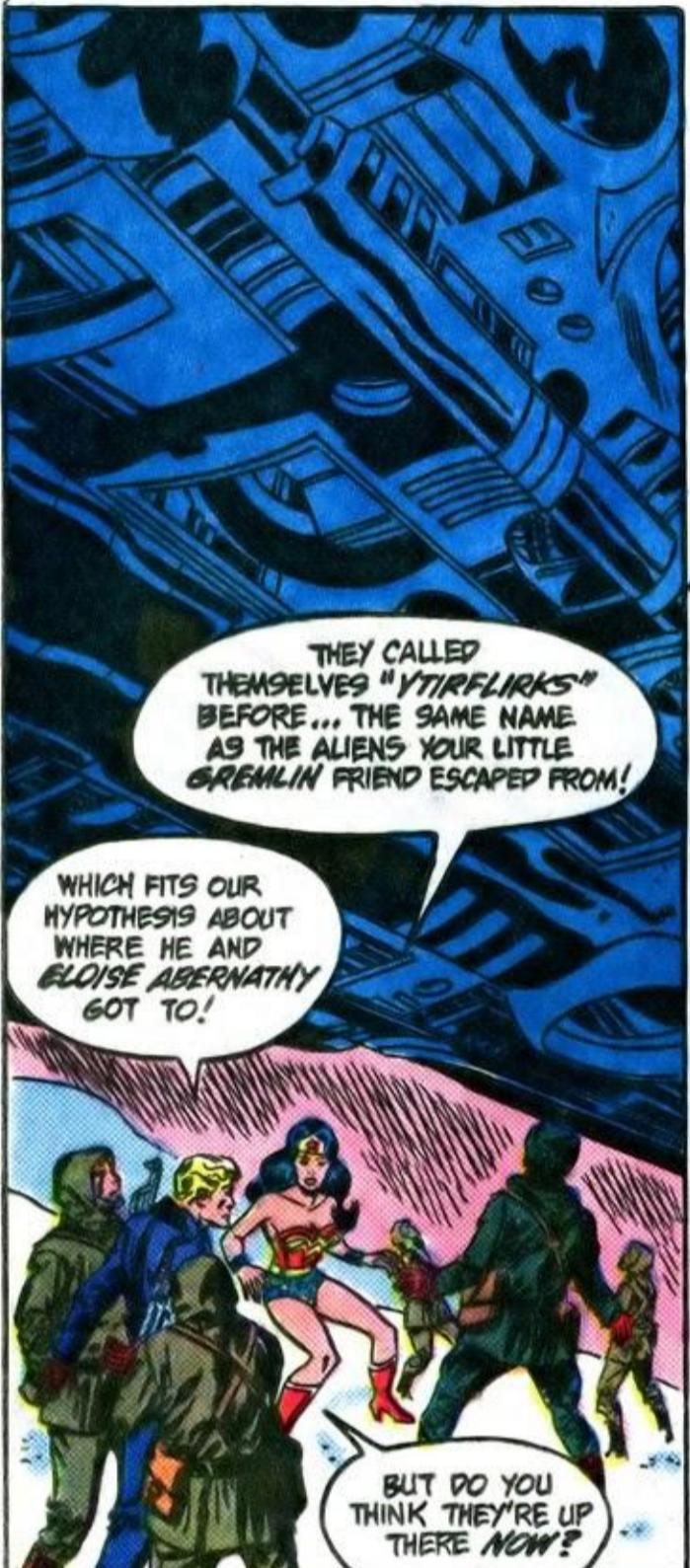
WONDER WOMAN



G-1678

Dan Mishkin • Don Heck • Ben Oda & John Costanza • Nansi Hoolahan • Alan Gold
WRITER • ARTIST • LETTERERS • COLORIST • EDITOR

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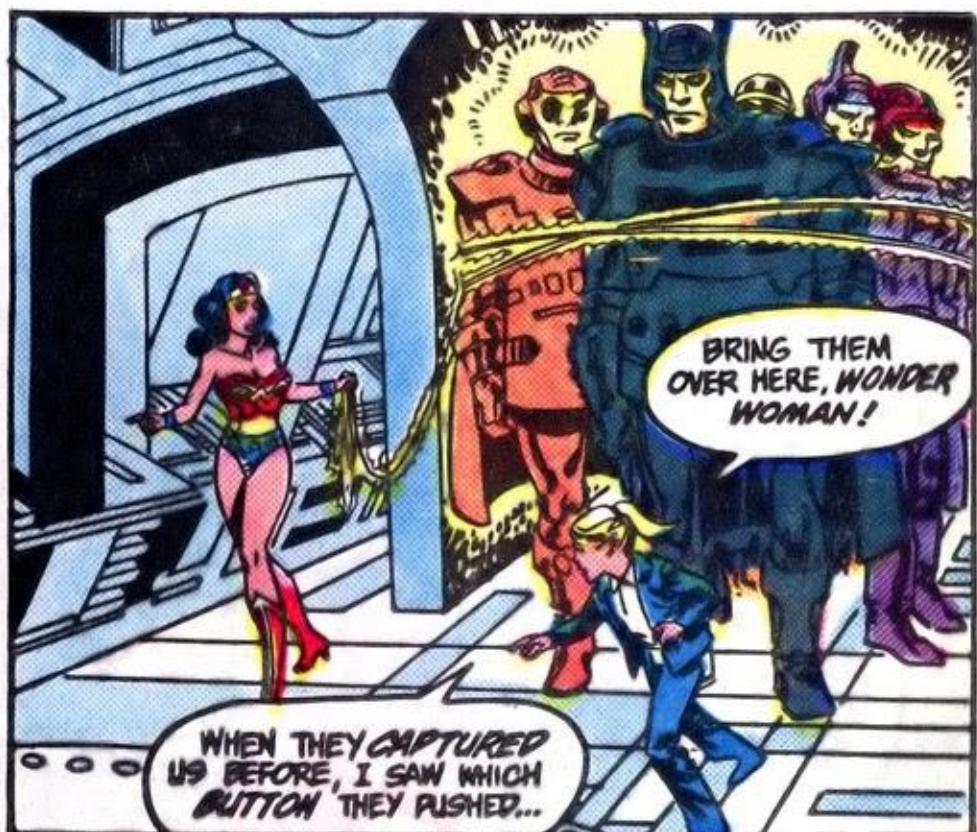
START

1. ----- IT!
2. ----- IT!
3. ----- IT!
4. ----- IT!
5. ----- IT!
6. ----- IT!

1. UNSCREW
2. LICK
3. MUNCH
4. CRUNCH
5. DUNK
6. EAT







The Ytfirflks were always talking about it, but I didn't know they'd build one :ihip:!

They say they had one on the ship :ihip: we stole... the one that crashed on earth!*

* SEE WW #312 -- A/AN.

Only I don't remember seeing anything in the salvage that looked like a bomb :ihip: when we rebuilt the ship!

MAYBE IT WAS CONSUMED IN THE EXPLOSION FROM THE CRASH, AND DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO DO ITS THING!

Nah--what exploded was the nuclear fuel... and that was after we jettisoned it!

If the P-bomb was on the ship... it survived!

DOES THIS SCHEMATIC jog your memory at all? I hooked into the ship's computer and called up the design of the bomb.

Wait a second--this piece looks :ihip: familiar! We used it for the new engine supports!

I guess the rest of the bomb must've rolled away :ihip: somewhere!

...AND WITHOUT THAT, THE WHOLE DEVICE IS UNSTABLE! IT'S A TICKING TIME BOMB THAT COULD GO OFF WITHOUT WARNING...

...AND WE DON'T KNOW WHERE ON EARTH IT IS!

Uh-uh! I don't remember any--

THEN WE'RE IN TROUBLE--BECAUSE WHAT YOU TOOK WAS THE BOMB'S TRIGGERING MECHANISM...

THE MOSCOW KREMLIN HAS STOOD, IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, SINCE THE ELEVENTH CENTURY...

...AND FROM THAT TIME ITS FORTIFICATIONS HAVE PRESERVED THE POWER OF PRIESTS AND PRINCES --

--OF TSARS AND THEIR PROLETARIAN SUCCESSORS--

--AND OF ONE OTHER...

< Boy, it's getting *z*igurp hot in here! >

< But it was so cold the last time I *z*eyurp went out... >

< When -- when was that? >



AND IN THE FAR LESS FORBIDDING CLIMATE OF PARADISE ISLAND...

I BID ENTRY, SISTER GUARDS, BY HIPPOLYTA'S COMMAND...

YOU MAY PASS, SOFIA.



HOLA, PAULA! HOLA, ANTIOME! THE QUEEN HAS ASKED ME TO REPORT ON YOUR PROGRESS IN REBUILDING HERA'S TEMPLE!

THE WORK IS PROCEEDING WELL, CONSIDERING THE DAMAGE THAT THE PURPLE RAY DID...*



... BUT I COULD HAVE DELIVERED THAT MESSAGE TO THE QUEEN MYSELF!

OR AM I NO LONGER WELCOME IN HER PALACE?

PAULA, PLEASE DON'T TAKE OFFENSE!

BY THE GODDESSES, ANTIOME, AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO RECOGNIZES HER ATTEMPT TO STEAL DIANA'S PLACE IN HIPPOLYTA'S HEART?

I FEAR THAT THIS OUTSIDER MEANS NONE OF US ANY GOOD!
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD BE SPEAKING NOT TO ME -- BUT TO SOFIA!

YES, PERHAPS I SHOULD... AND NOW!

GOOD! AND WHILE THOSE CLOSEST TO THE QUEEN ARGUE WITH EACH OTHER --

-- THE REST OF THE AMAZONS WILL COME TO RELY ON MY GUIDANCE IN AFFAIRS...





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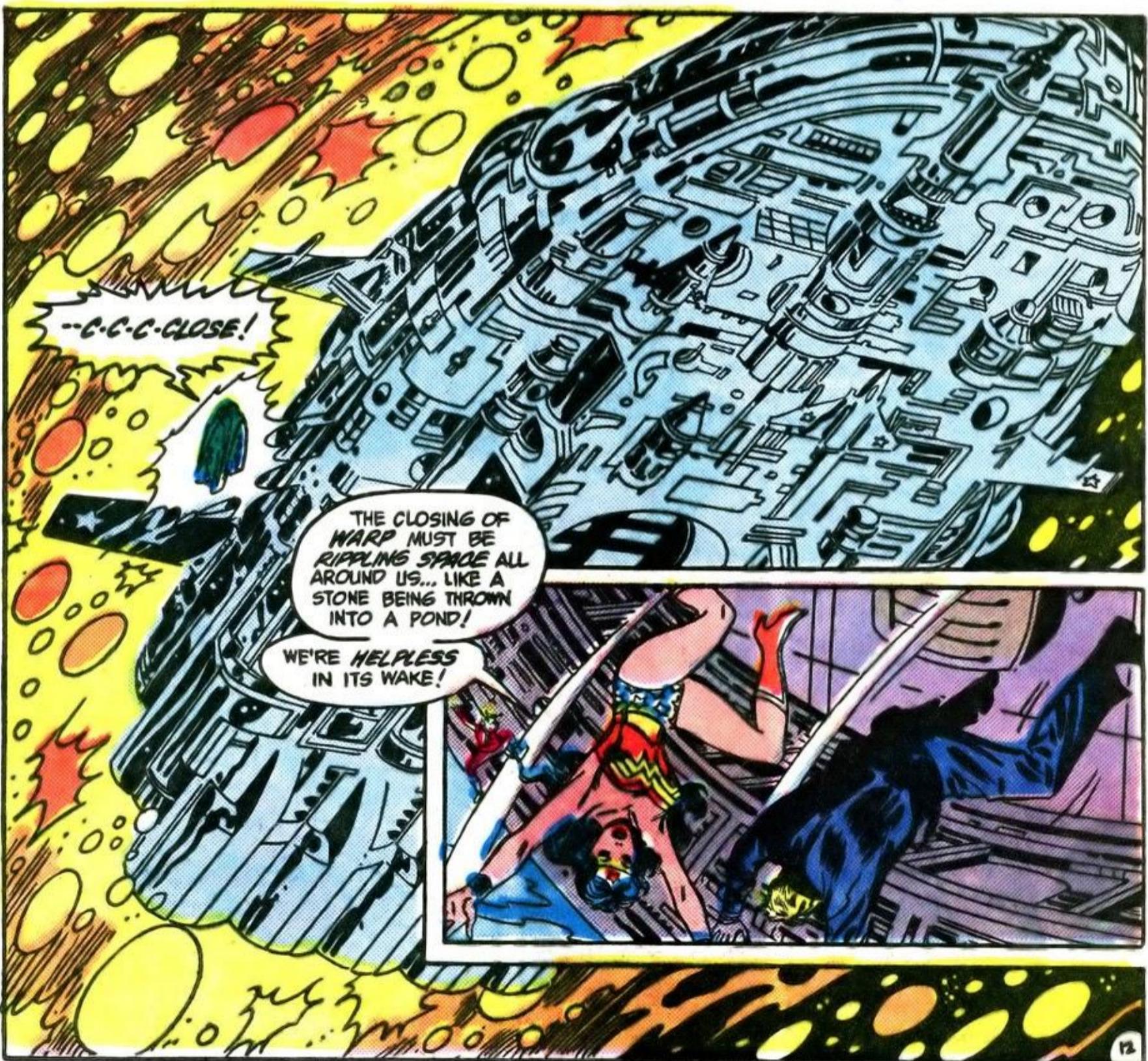
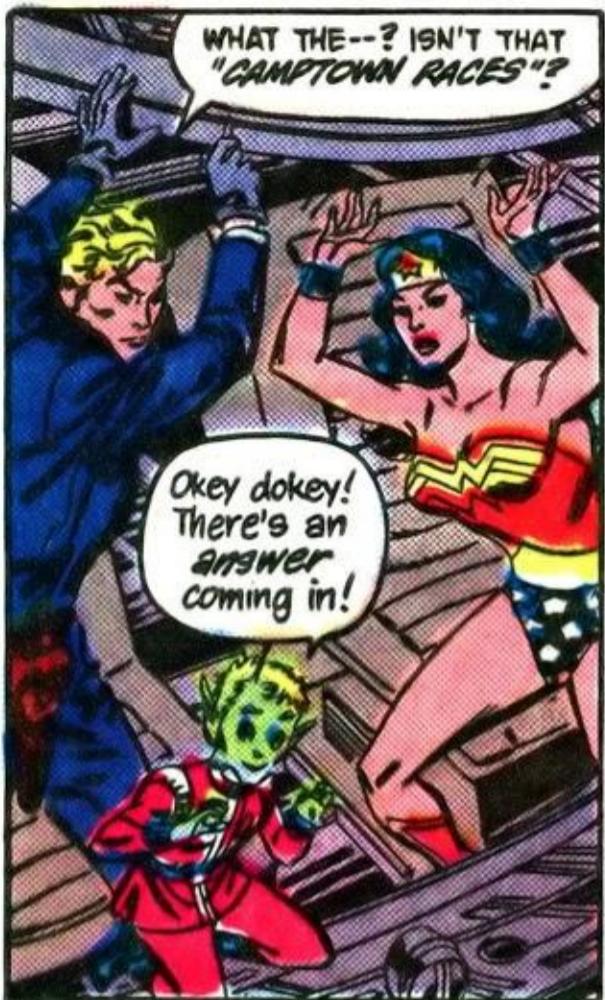
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in our language, but he's
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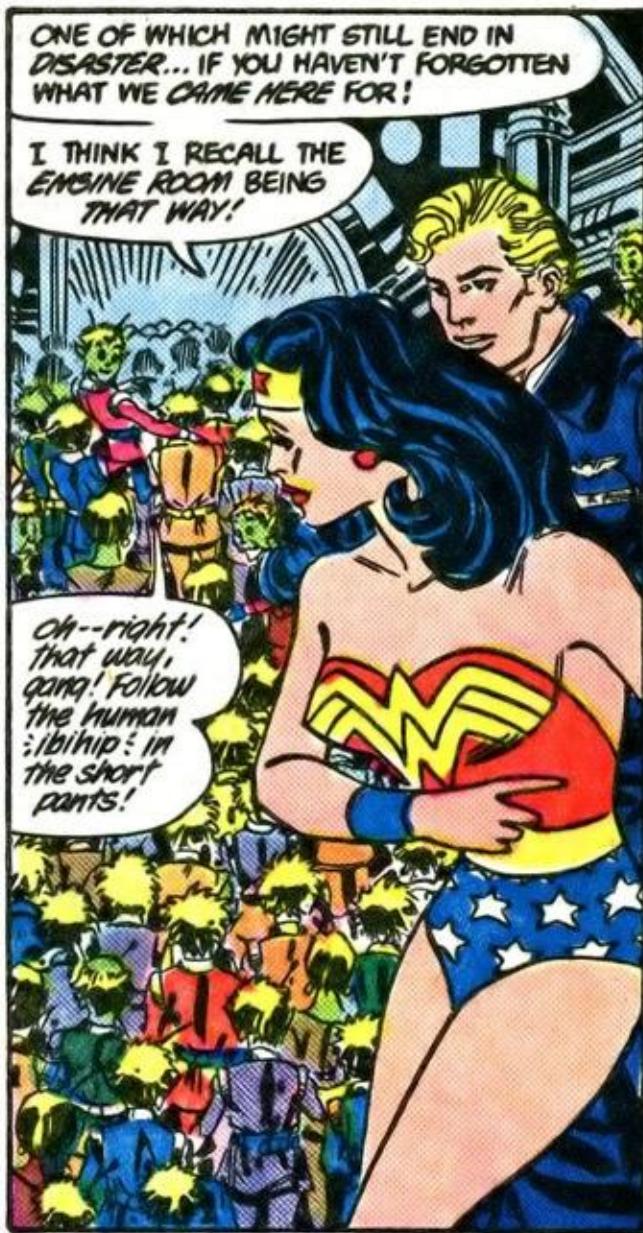
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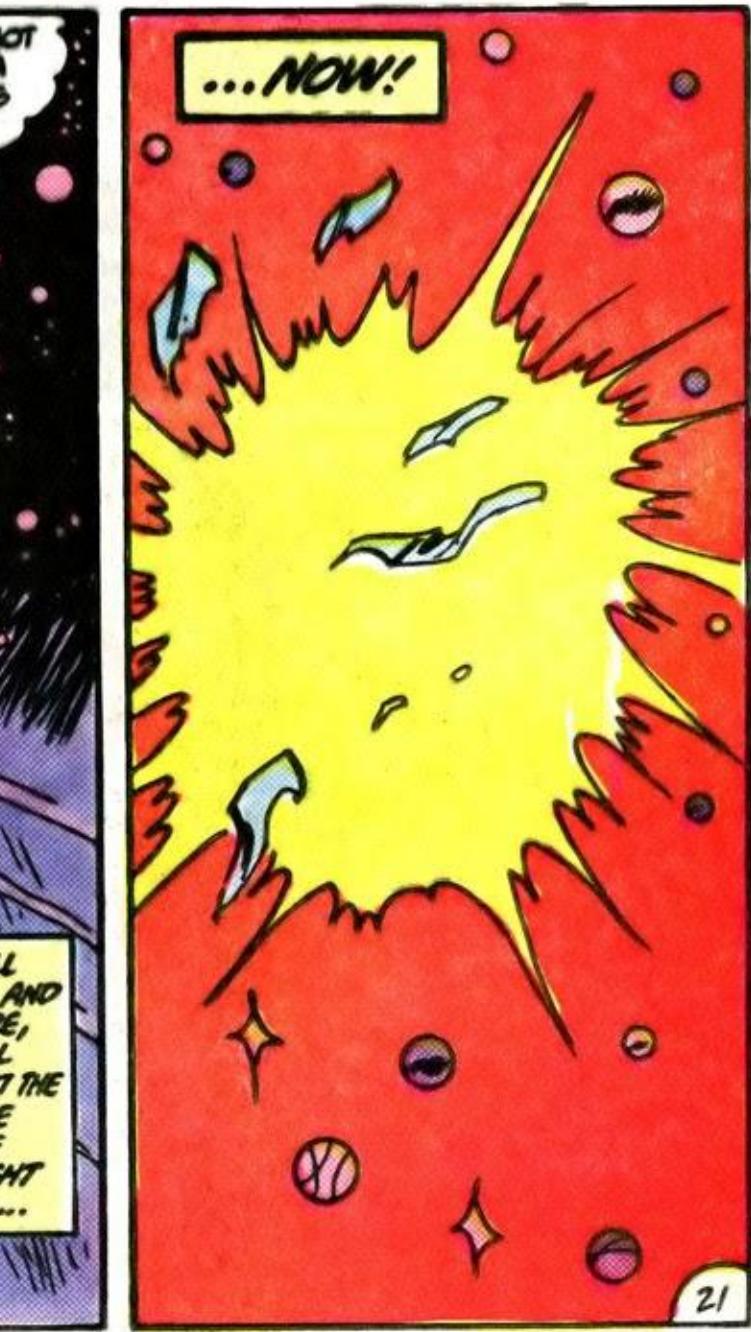
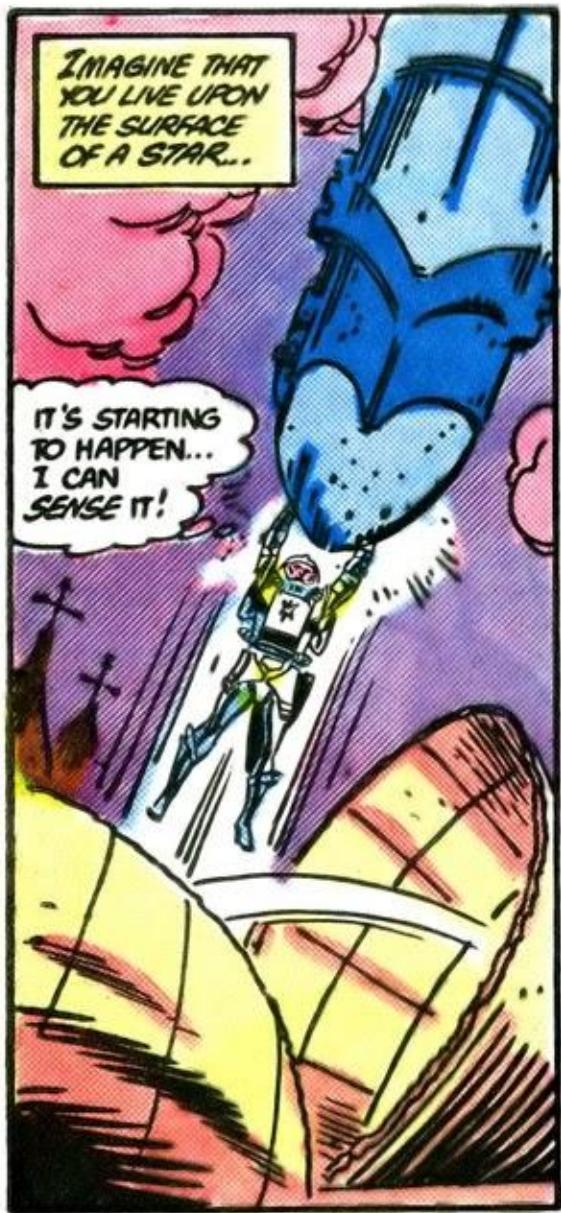




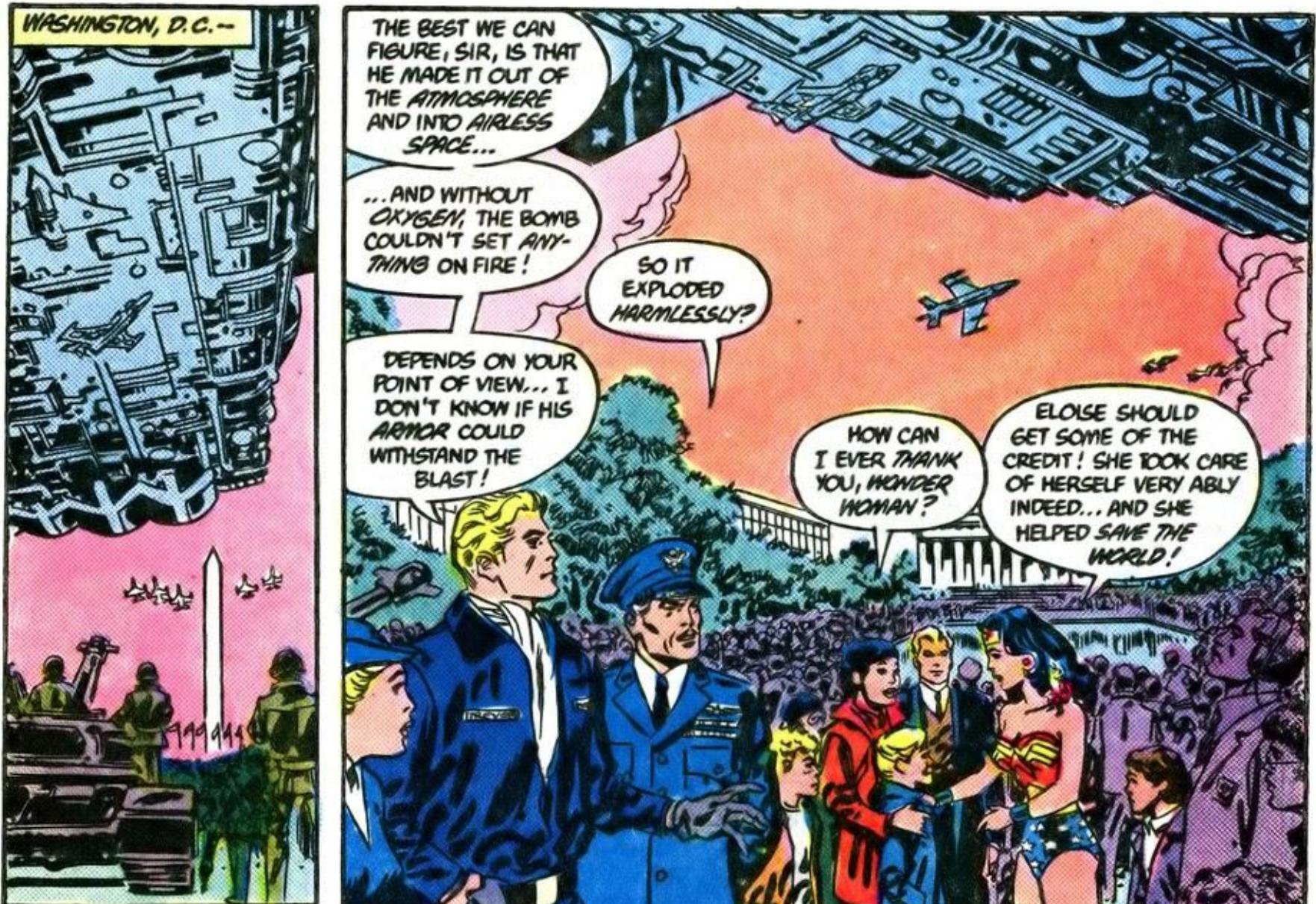
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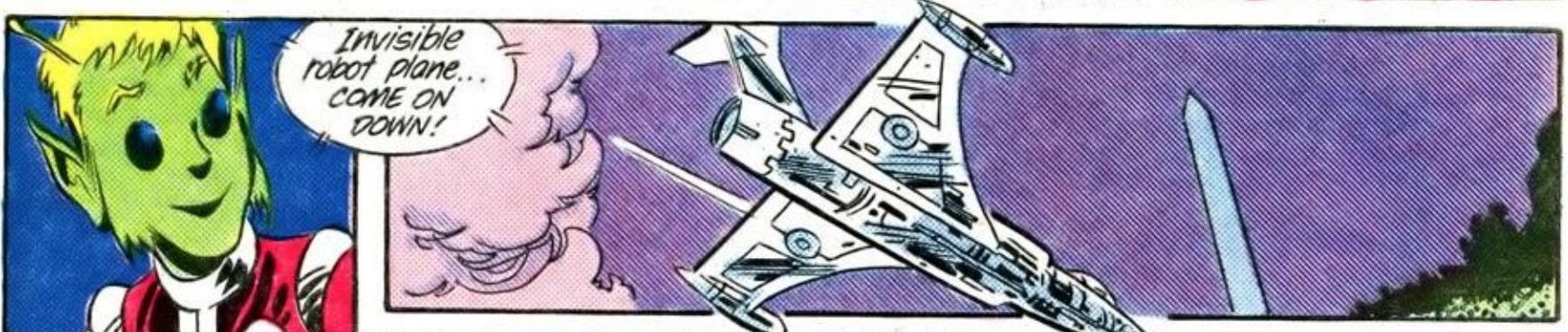
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Dear Sirs,

Oboy. Oboy. You really did it this time. Here I was, hoping in all my innocence that WONDER WOMAN would finally get on track. That continuity would finally make some sort of sense in this poor, sorry book. I should've known better. Everybody knows that this book is one that is foisted on writers who then whip the stories together after they've finished the stuff they really enjoy doing. I imagine in Mishkin's case, it's... it's... it's the (gulp) BLUE DEVIL.

Sorry, guys, but I'm really disappointed. I expected better of the whole thing. I guess I should've realized that WONDER WOMAN's continuity is so messed up, no one could fix it. Short of killing Diana off and starting with another Amazon. But c'mon...

Why did Hippolyta have to get blamed for the whole thing? It wasn't her (if I may remind you) that threw the Mists of Nepenthe around. It wasn't her that brought Trevor back to life. It wasn't her that stuck Eros underneath the island.

It was her that had Aphrodite use the Mists of Nepenthe to smooth the present day Trevor's entry into Earth-One (surely a few people, not the least of which Greg Trevor, would have been a little unsettled by his return to life). It was her who had the marriage platform built (only to have him leave her daughter standing at the altar). Then she saves his (worthless) life when Eros goes mad.

And then Diana has the gall to mouth off at her mother, to mouth off at her queen. Shoot, she should be glad Hippolyta didn't grab her sword and run Trevor through the first time she saw him (saving us all a lot of trouble).

All right, so Hippolyta should not have meddled. But she's a mother. All mothers meddle. It's what makes them mothers. And it's not meddling, it's trying to do their best for their child. Unfortunately, because she is queen and has considerable power at her command, her actions tend to be more far-reaching than your average person. (In fact, doesn't Wonder Woman meddle with her abilities? Wouldn't mankind be better off finding their own path and not having to worry about super-powered beings?)

And speaking of power, that brings us to Aphrodite. She is the goddess to whom Hippolyta looks for guidance and assistance. It seems to me that if anyone's at fault here, Aphrodite has to come in for her share. Did she advise against Hippolyta trying to help Diana's misery, to let Diana work it out for

herself? Heck, no, she came up with the means for Hippolyta to help out real well. Then her son (by the way, what did he do to have her take his life force to give Trevor? Now, there's meddling!) goes crazy. Does she stick around to help out? Naw, she's out o' there.

And now Trevor has all the memories of the first Trevor and (I assume) Trevor-Howard. If that's true, then he knows that Diana Prince and Wonder Woman are one and the same. Once that sinks in, if he's any kind of person at all, he should be a little upset at being deceived, especially in regards to Diana's "death" during the wedding. Of course, he might not have the brains to have it sink into. I've never considered Trevor to be especially bright, and nothing added onto more nothing is still nothing.

What's Keith Griggs gonna think if Trevor suddenly starts getting cosy with Diana? Or General Darnell? (By the way, is Diana a major, a colonel, or what?) [She's a major.—Alan]

And Atalanta felt suffocated by Hippolyta's rule. My heart bleeds. Seriously, Diana seems to be looking more to Atalanta than to her own mother and I think Diana is in for a big surprise. As I mentioned before, Atalanta's Amazons have children and to have children present, one also has to have males present, and we didn't see any around. Now, it would be nice to say that a neighboring village is helping the Amazons out (so to speak), but it seems to me if men visited the Amazon village, word would soon get around... if the men were able to leave. Otherwise, the Amazons would have been absorbed into a more present-day culture by now. They're not, which means either the men have their memories wiped clean, (that's the nice way, but if Diana objected then surely the men have a right to object), or the men simply don't leave, becoming prisoners... or dead meat. Now, that's interesting.

In closing I'd like to ask that you get rid of that silly gremlin, and that you smarten up the men in this series. I mean, Trevor obviously can't recognize anyone when they put glasses on, but now we have this turkey running around who actually thinks Etta Candy is Wonder Woman. How stupid can you get? And please, don't you dare take Hippolyta and the Amazons out of this series. You are supposed to want new readers... not lose old ones, if you get my drift.

Gina L. Dartt
Nova Scotia, Canada

P.S. I'm a reasonable person. If any

lettercol writer out there can give three good reasons why the gremlin should stay, though he's straight out of Saturday morning cartoons, which is not what this book needs, and one good reason why Trevor should not be stapled to a low-voltage fence, then I will cheerfully lay off them. I don't think it can be done, personally.

P.P.S. An alien invasion? You saw V too, huh? Aww, Diana against Diana. I love it.

You put me in a difficult position. Gina, I really hate to be argumentative with the paying customers, but, delivered such an unmitigated panning, I feel I have to offer an alternative view.

First of all, you're wrong about Dan's dedication to this comic—and I'm in a position to know, being the editor of (gulp) BLUE DEVIL, too. He put as much effort into WONDER WOMAN as anybody puts into comics writing. I'm talking about joining in on at least a couple of lengthy story conferences per issue, offering bits of subplotting inspired on a daily basis by his early-morning shower, and doing a lot of hard thinking about the perplexing continuity he inherited with this assignment. On the day we met (over the phone; he was plotting WW #308), he told me he intended to clear up the lost-memory business once and for all. He's been working on that storyline for years. I regret that Dan's way out of the maze isn't entirely to your liking; then again, Dan himself is a longtime and passionate comics fan, and he might very well have written a scathing letter objecting to your solution, if you were the writer and he the reader. You can't please everybody; therefore, I let Dan please himself.

We have not set up Hippolyta as the bad guy. Diana perceives her queen as a wrong-doer, but we've tried to show that Hippolyta made at worst just honest mistakes, showed bad judgment. The antagonism between Diana and Hippolyta is a storyline that will unfold over the next year. Who says that Di's life should ever be simple? Meanwhile, don't write off Paradise Island, just because Diana has no intention of paying her homeland a visit soon. The Amazons will be very much in evidence every issue; note the storyline involving Sofia, Paula, and Antiope. Finally, don't condemn Atalanta and her Amazons until you know the whole story. You'll learn how their society works, I promise—and it isn't as sinister as you think, so simmer down.

I wish I could respond at adequate length to your objections, but I've taken up too much space already. Briefly, then: the gremlin has made his last appearance for at least a year, assuming that WW remains bimonthly. Colonel Trevor has a very interesting life crisis coming in a couple of months, so give the guy a chance, for pete's sake! Harold Huckabee's not as simple as you think. And the alien invasion was planned back at the plotting of WW #311-312 (long before we'd heard of V). Sheesh, Gina, alien invasion wasn't imagined for the first time by TV! Why not accuse us of ripping off War of the Worlds?

Dan,

Don Heck is doing the best work of his career because he's satisfying me and I am not a Don Heck fan. Perhaps, therefore, others should give him another chance to satisfy them. Getting people to read WONDER WOMAN is an even harder task than getting them to read JONAH HEX, though, so why not a two-parter with the Blue Devil? Begin it there and end it here. Could draw the crowd's attention, as I'm sure you know. And how about DC doing house ads for their talent, not just their titles? I'd like to see a BLUE DEVIL panel or cover and an AMETHYST panel or cover and a WONDER WOMAN panel or cover all on the same page, with your byline on it. People need to know you're here in WW. Thanks again for adding integrity to a character who's needed it for so long and whose sales will skyrocket within the next twelve months. Promise. Because of such previous bad press, it'll take some heavy stoking to get a full head of steam under WW, but this train's rollin'. The DC Express: Nonstop quality.

Jim Planck
Greenfield Park, NY

The Princess of Power made a brief but significant appearance in BLUE DEVIL #10, Jim. She'll be back, I promise, but I don't see a crossover in the cards for 1985, what with the big news of the year (the CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS maxi-series) and the crossovers that will involve.

Dear Mr. Gold,

Will Wonder Woman ever visit the original Steve Trevor's grave? Where is he buried? Does Wonder Woman love him more than the second one? Let's have Steve Trevor visit the original's parents. Why doesn't Steve, now knowing where he came from, miss his parents and loved ones on the parallel world he came from? Did he have a wife?!!! Children?!!!

I heard from the comic newsletter, *Mile High Futures*, in their interview with George Pérez, that he is planning on penciling and possibly plotting and scripting WONDER WOMAN at some future date! Please confirm this, as I'm

dying to know. With George Pérez's marvelous art, this book will once again be on a monthly basis. High sales could mean an annual, a graphic novel, and who knows what!

Rodger Cooper

Your questions about Diana visiting the original Steve's grave, etc. are very intriguing, Rodger, and I'm passing them along to our new storyteller, Mindy Newell. Thanks! As for George Pérez's drawing this comic ... well, he was just ventillating a long-held desire of his. It's not something he could possibly get to in the near future. Besides, I'm not sure I'd gladly be a party to asking Mindy and Don to give up their assignment for anyone, even a recognized comics superstar.

Dear People,

Thank you for straightening out Wonder Woman's memories. I've been waiting many issues for this day, a perfect way to end the monthly run of WONDER WOMAN. I hope to really like the bimonthly issues to follow. I even appreciate your straightening Steve out to have all the memories of all the Steves. If Steve must continue as a character, then he should be the same Steve he has been since the beginning.

I appreciated the reference to the movie *Gremlins*—and I also appreciate the fact that you are developing Glitch the gremlin along a different line from the movie. (The movie was not about actual gremlins as far as I am concerned. I have a good friend who considers herself the chief gremlinologist in the country and she has liked the WONDER WOMAN issues with gremlins much better than she liked the movie. She wishes a real gremlin would play pranks on Steven Spielberg.)

Now that Wonder Woman has had all her memories restored, perhaps she and Steve are better able to consider marriage. If she married anyone, Steve should be the one. (And I liked the way Wonder Woman used her bracelets to deflect Cupid's arrow. She won't have anyone toying with her feelings again!) Now that this mess has been straightened out, marriage might be the next step—perhaps an actual marriage in your 400th issue?

Richard J. Ranke
Shaker Heights, OH

Thanks, too, to everyone else who wrote concerning WONDER WOMAN #322 (and some latecomers writing about WW #321): Chris Miller, Meredith Gold (if you have a year's subscription, you will receive twelve issues of WW over a two-year period, Meredith), Kevin T. Brown, Jenny Blank, Randall Clark, Stephen Baer, Jeff Mitchell, Michael Newton, Pete Rios (trust me, Pete, dramatic situations are thought up only for reader entertainment, not to give anybody a bad day), Immanuel Hernandez, Paul Emmett,

Jef Peckham (the repairing of the Purple Ray was begun immediately, Jef; but don't expect to see it fully operational for at least a year), James K. King, Fred Grandinetti (Steve Trevor was never on Paradise Island, Fred; he was on Science Island, Christine Warloski (sorry, I don't know where you can get old issues of WW at cover price in the Eau Claire, WI, area, Christine; maybe other readers can help out—?)), Steve Katros, Jack Holloman, Robin Miller, Michael Pickens, Jeff Christakos, Allen Carpenter, James C. Taylor, Keith Dooley, John M. Burt, C. Ward White, Chuck Alligood, "T.M. Maple", Paraic Kenny, Neil Ahlquist, Gregg Sterne, and Howard Hale (I disagree very strenuously with your opinions, as you might expect, Howard; perhaps I can fit your letter in a future letter column). As always, if I've omitted anyone, it was an oversight I regret.

NEXT ISSUE: Mindy Newell starts on what should be a long and interesting run on this book. Her first effort is called "Tropidor Heat." Some of you might remember a bit of subplotting left hanging awhile back. Well, Mindy and Don bring us back to Central America, where Keith Griggs and his new partner are in a lot of very hot water. See you in two months.

—Alan

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MEANWHILE...

Just when I thought we had finished introducing you to everyone (although it's really been almost a year by now), I have someone else for you to meet. Rather than have her do an autobiography, I asked our resident reporter, Bob Greenberger, to bring us the lowdown on Barbara Randall:



BOB: So tell us, who is Barbara Randall and how did she get to DC Comics?

BARBARA: United Airlines. Actually, I was never really a comics fan, I sort of fell into reading them as a teenager. I jumped into being a writer from the cold. Dick ran a letter in **DETECTIVE COMICS**, talking about female superheroes, and invited suggestions on the subject. So, I wrote a long letter with a critique and suggestions—just to be helpful.

Dick called and offered me the Batgirl assignment and I wrote one two-parter that saw print and another two-parter that's been used to train new talent. What happened was, Dick gave up editing the Batman titles and Len took them over and he chose to use Green Arrow instead of Batgirl.

BOB: That was all in 1981. What happened to you since then?
BARBARA: I went back to finish college and received a BA from California State Polytechnic University-Pomona in Drama. I concentrated on costuming; spent the rest of my time writing plays or painting scenery. I then worked full-time for the Pomona Public Library as a Circulation Clerk and Reference Clerk.

BOB: Why didn't you continue trying to write?

BARBARA: I kept getting cold feet. I'm psychotically shy and I didn't think I was ready. DC kept more in touch with me than I did with them.

I finally got gutsy when my father and I got free airplane tickets to New York. I came last May and spent the week reading in the library and spoke with Dick about how useful I could be to the staff. When an opening presented itself in the late summer, Dick called and I was ready. I packed all my stuff and came out here, starting on October 29.

BOB: What was your first impression of comics' professionals?

BARBARA: Well, I went to my first comics convention in San Diego just after Dick called me the first time. He was going to be at the show and he wanted to talk to me, so I went, having never seen a comics fan or a professional. I left a message at Dick's hotel, saying I was 5'4", had brown hair, a red shirt, blue jeans, and a frightened expression.

I then watched a panel with Julie and Len and went up to Julie afterward, asking if he could describe Dick to me.

He heard I was expected, so he and Len each grabbed an elbow and we went looking for Dick. We were going upstairs and there was this man standing at the top, pointing a finger at me. Yep, it was Dick.

He took me to lunch with Don Newton and we talked comics all afternoon. Later, there was a party for Julie's birthday, which Jenette Kahn attended, and it was wonderful!

BOB: Now that you're here, what's your impression?

BARBARA: Oh boy for sure neat-o! I'm having a wonderful time. The first thing I learned about New York is that the drivers are crazy! Then, when I got to the office, the first thing I learned to say was, "Marv, it's late." The second thing I learned was how to raid Len's candy jar.

BOB: Why don't you mention the books you're working on?

BARBARA: OK. I'm an Associate Editor, working with Marv on both **TEEN TITANS** titles and **VIGILANTE**. But that's just for starters. I figure I'll be running this company in five years, but I told Dick I'd keep him for another ten. I also hope to be doing some more writing in the future.



What Barb didn't mention is her always sunny disposition and the marvelous nonsense language she invented, which I call Barbspeak. At best, it sounds like this: "(chirrup) dráya chiraaaka numukai (chirrup)." Better yet, she keeps her own candy jar on the desk, filled with gummy bears that taste great but do nothing for my figure. Having Barbara on board has made the workload a little easier on all of us and she will be contributing to more titles in time. And, Barb, thanks for letting me stay on those ten years.

Meanwhile, Thank You and Good Afternoon.

DICK

D C
ON SALE WEEK
CHECK
OF FEBRUARY 28
L I S T

Tales of the Legion 323: The Exile saga concludes as Brainiac 5 holds the secret!

- Action Comics 567: Two titanic tales, including the return of the Yellow Peri!
- Detective Comics 550: Batman and Robin in all-out action! More adventure with Green Arrow!
- World's Finest Comics 315: Superman and Batman must stop a plot to plunge Gotham into darkness!
- All-Star Squadron 45: Somebody's stolen the original Liberty Bell for a deadly purpose!
- Arion 31: Arion undergoes

- intensive training in Chian's native land of Hoshan!
- Spanner's Galaxy 6: The mini-series concludes with a galaxy hanging on a shek's razor—a shek wielded by Baka!
- V 4: The revenge of Ham Tyler! The wrath of Diana!
- Wonder Woman 325: Wonder Woman and the Atomic Knight defend Earth from alien invaders!
- Sun Devils 11: A Sun Devil goes after the Starcrusher to destroy the Sauroid homeworld!



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