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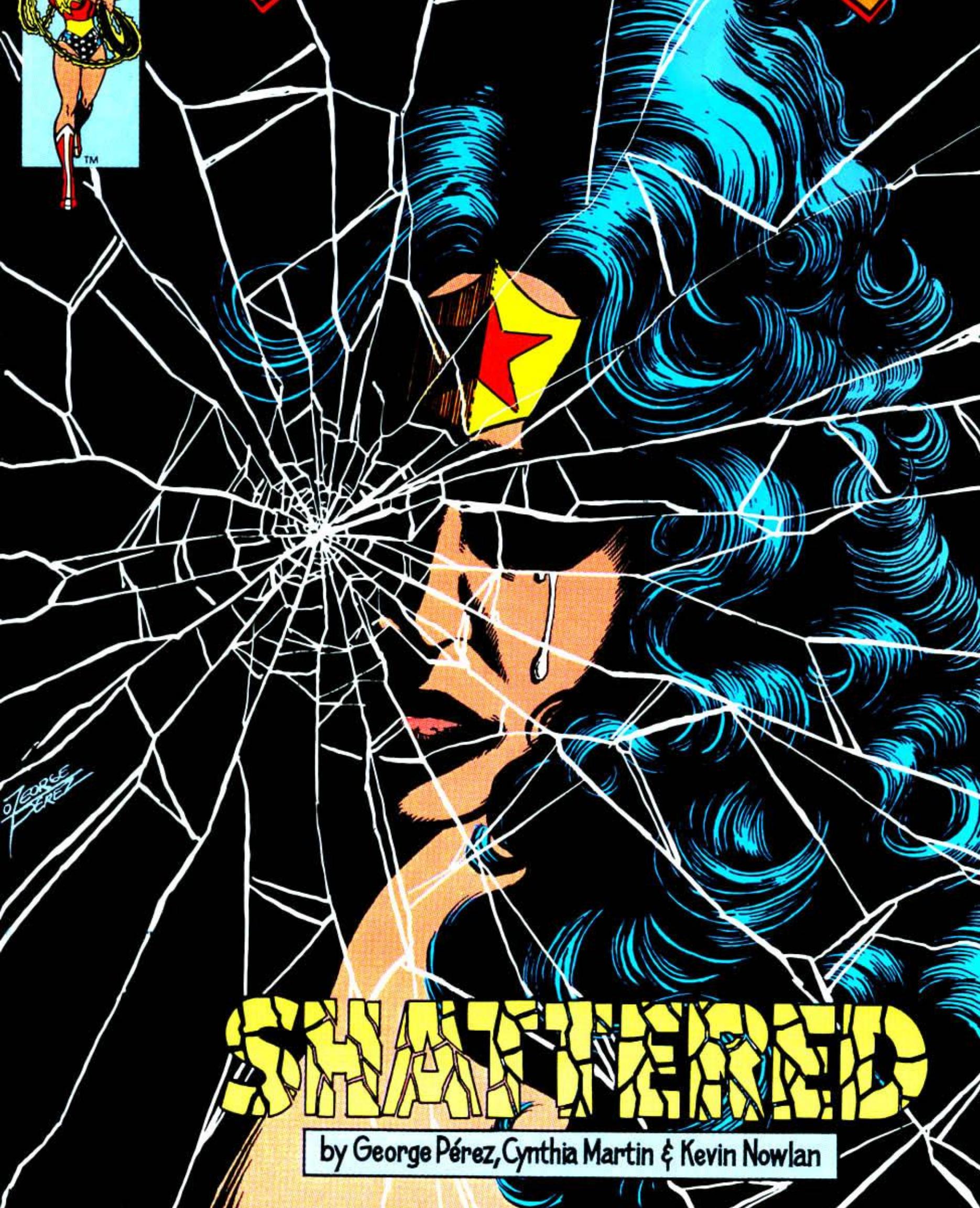


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WONDER WOMAN

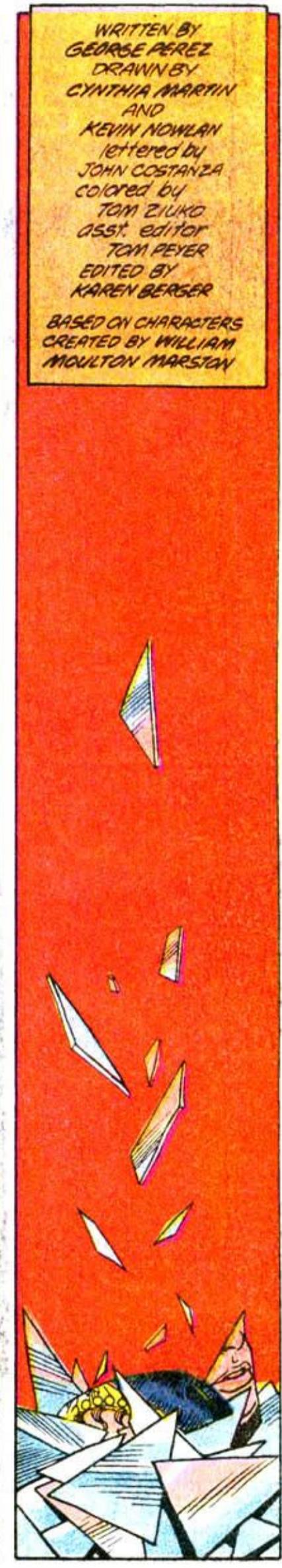
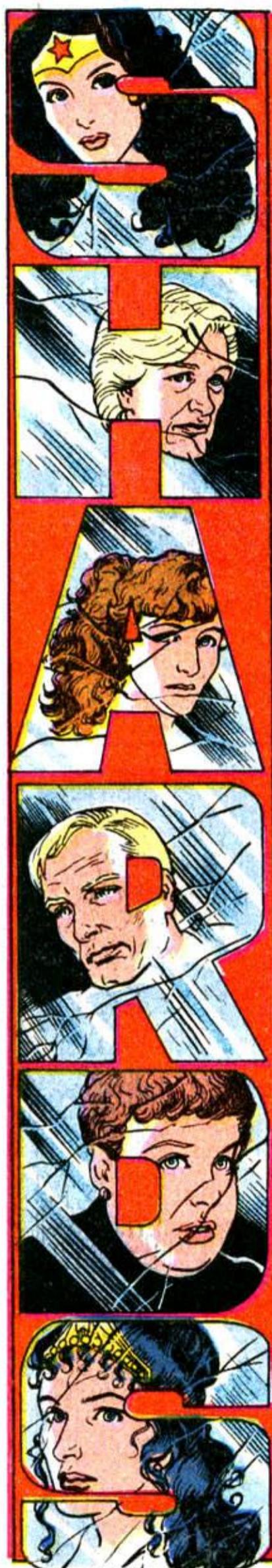
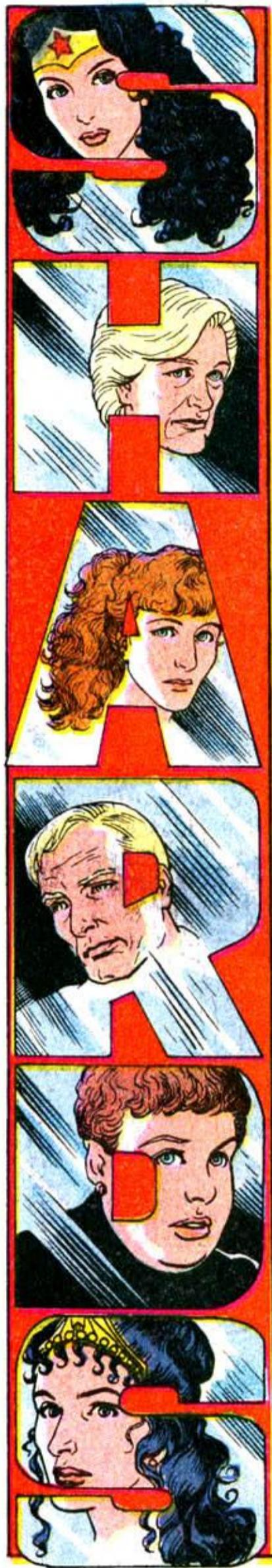


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HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

GAAAWD. I CAN'T BELIEVE
SHE'S DOING THIS TO ME. ON
A SATURDAY YET. DON'T
MOTHERS HAVE ANY CONSIDER-
ATION AT ALL?

C'MON,
NESSIE, I'M SURE
YOUR MOM DIDN'T
LEAVE HER PAPERS
HOME ON PURPOSE.

YEAH, RIGHT.
NOW ALL OUR
FRIENDS ARE
GONNA GET ALL
THE GOOD
STUFF AT THE
COOP.

HURRY UP, EILEEN. IF WE GET
THIS OVER WITH QUICK MAYBE
WE CAN GET BACK BEFORE
THEY ALL HEAD TO BRIGHAM'S.

THEN I GOTTA GO HOME
AND SEE IF DIANA
CALLED.

SHE AND I
MADE SOME
BIG BIG PLANS
FOR TONIGHT.

HI, ELIOT, I CAME
TO GIVE THIS
SATCHEL TO MY
MOTHER.

OH, HI, HALF-
PINT. YEAH...
THE PROF'S
REALLY ANXIOUS
ABOUT GETTING
THAT. SHE'S IN
THE MAIN
LIBRARY,

THANKS.

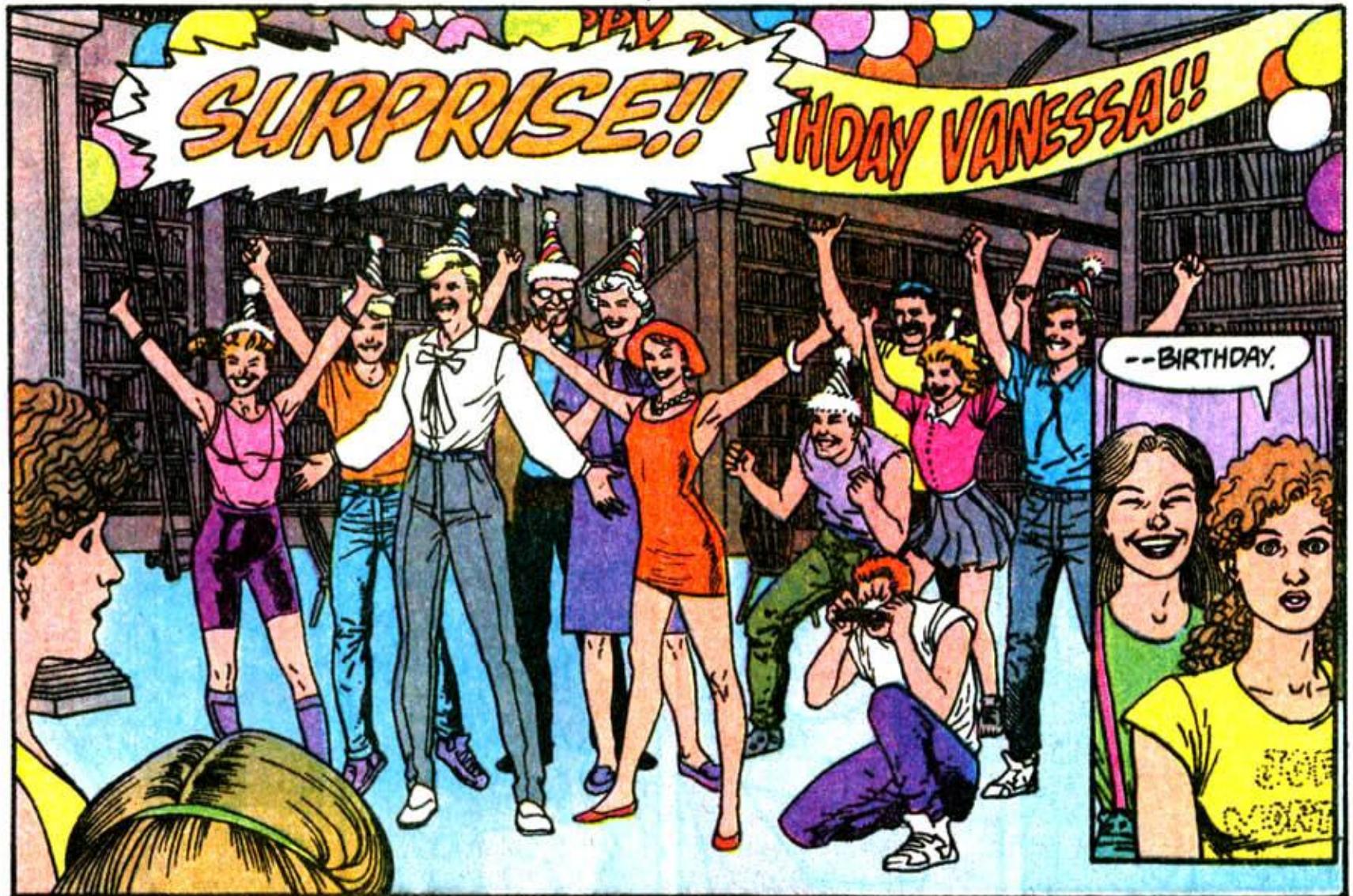
MAN, ELIOT SURE LOOKED
NERVOUS. MOM MUST
REALLY BE HAVIN' A FIT.

NAH. SHE'S ALWAYS
HELL ON WHEELS
DURING MID-TERMS.
THAT'S WHY I GOTTA
BE SO 'SPECIALLY
GOOD, Y'KNOW?
DON'T WANNA GET
HER P.O.'D.

'SPECIALLY
NOT SO CLOSE
TO MY--

YOU DON'T
THINK
ANYTHING'S
WRONG,
DO YA?





BOY, KAPATELIS, YOU SURE HAD A DOPEY LOOK ON YER FACE WHEN WE SURPRISED YA. I GOT IT ALL RIGHT HERE.

MAYBE WE CAN USE IT FOR THE YEARBOOK. "GIRL MOST LIKELY TO SCARE CROWS." HAHA.

"HELLO? KAPATELIS? ANYBODY HOME?"

"HEY, I'M SORRY AWRIGHT. I DIDN'T MEAN THAT CRACK ABOUT CROWS, OKAY? NESSIE?"

LEAVE POOR NESSIE ALONE, JOHNNY. CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, NESSIE? I NOTICED THAT WONDER WOMAN ISN'T HERE.

WATCH IT, RIDINGS.

--HUH? WHAT'S THAT, JOANNE?

MAYBE YOUR CLOSE, CLOSE FRIEND PRINCESS DIANA WAS JUST TOO BUSY, HUH?

RIDINGS, I'M WARNIN' YA--

MOM! WHERE'S DIANA? WHY ISN'T SHE HERE? WHERE IS SHE?

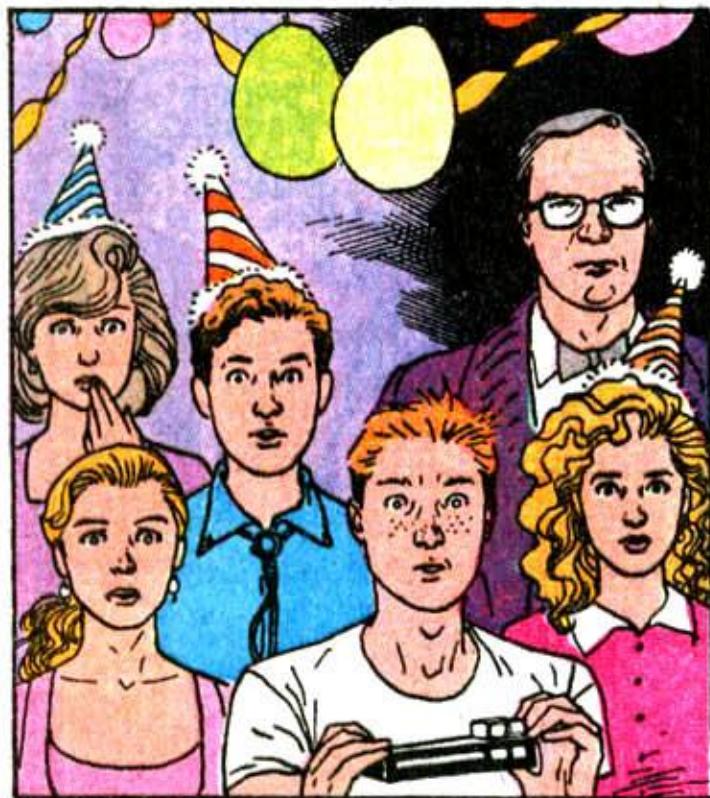
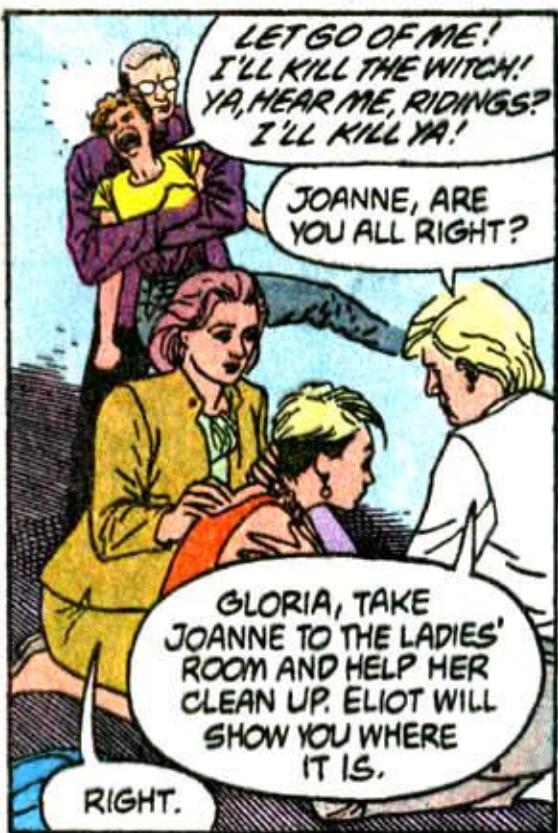
NO! DIANA'S NEVER BEEN LATE FOR ANYTHING BEFORE--UNLESS--SOMETHING WAS WRONG!

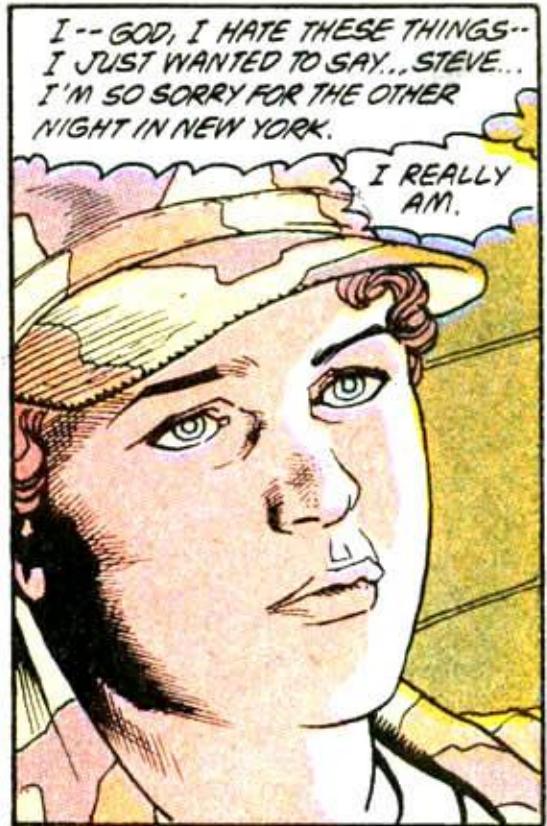
CHILL OUT, NESSIE. IT AIN'T A BIG DEAL OR ANYTHING, Y'KNOW.

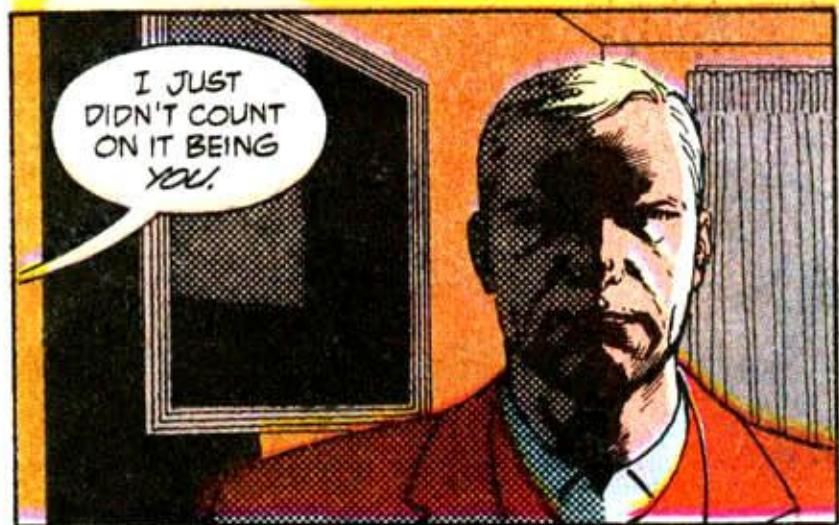
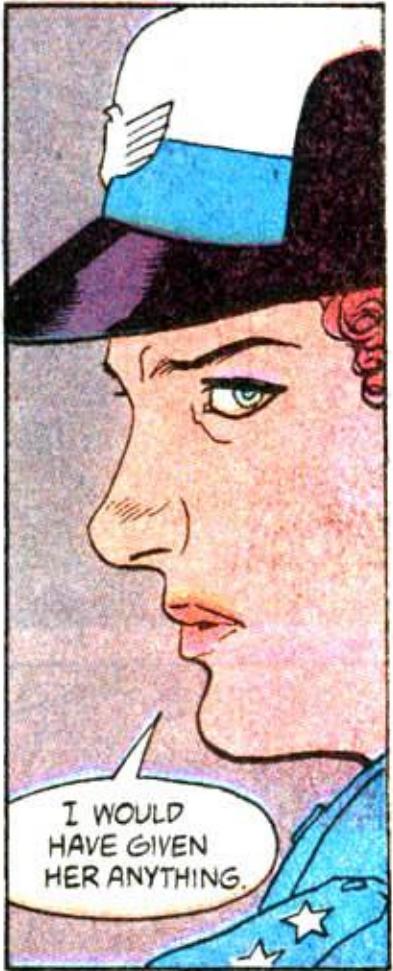
MAYBE YOUR FRIEND THE PRINCESS HAD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN COME TO A STUPID BIRTHDAY PARTY.

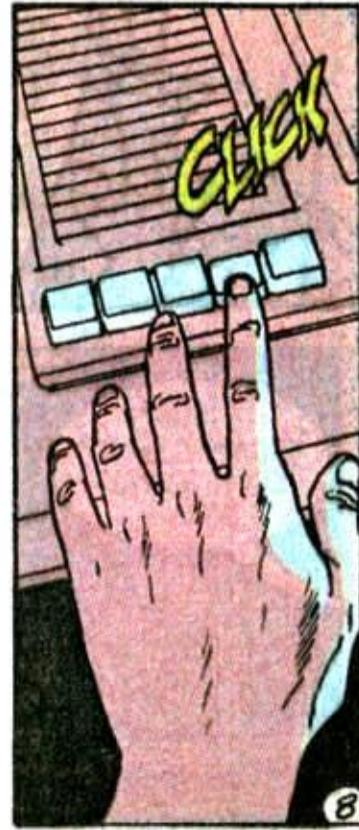
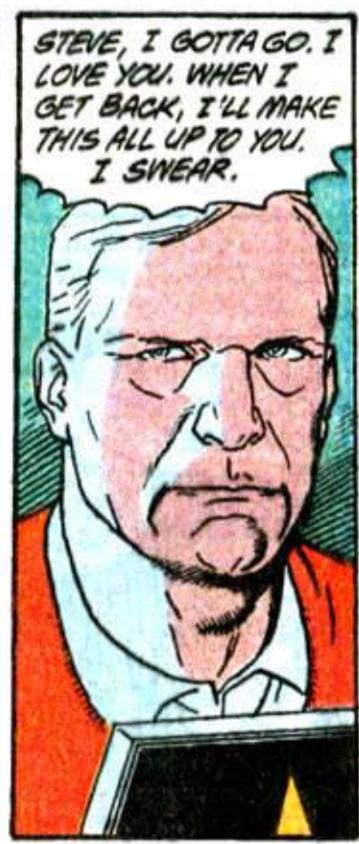
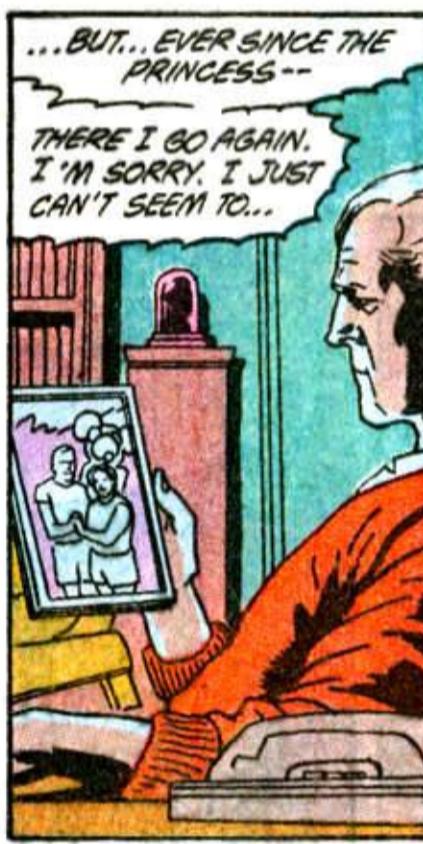
VANESSA!

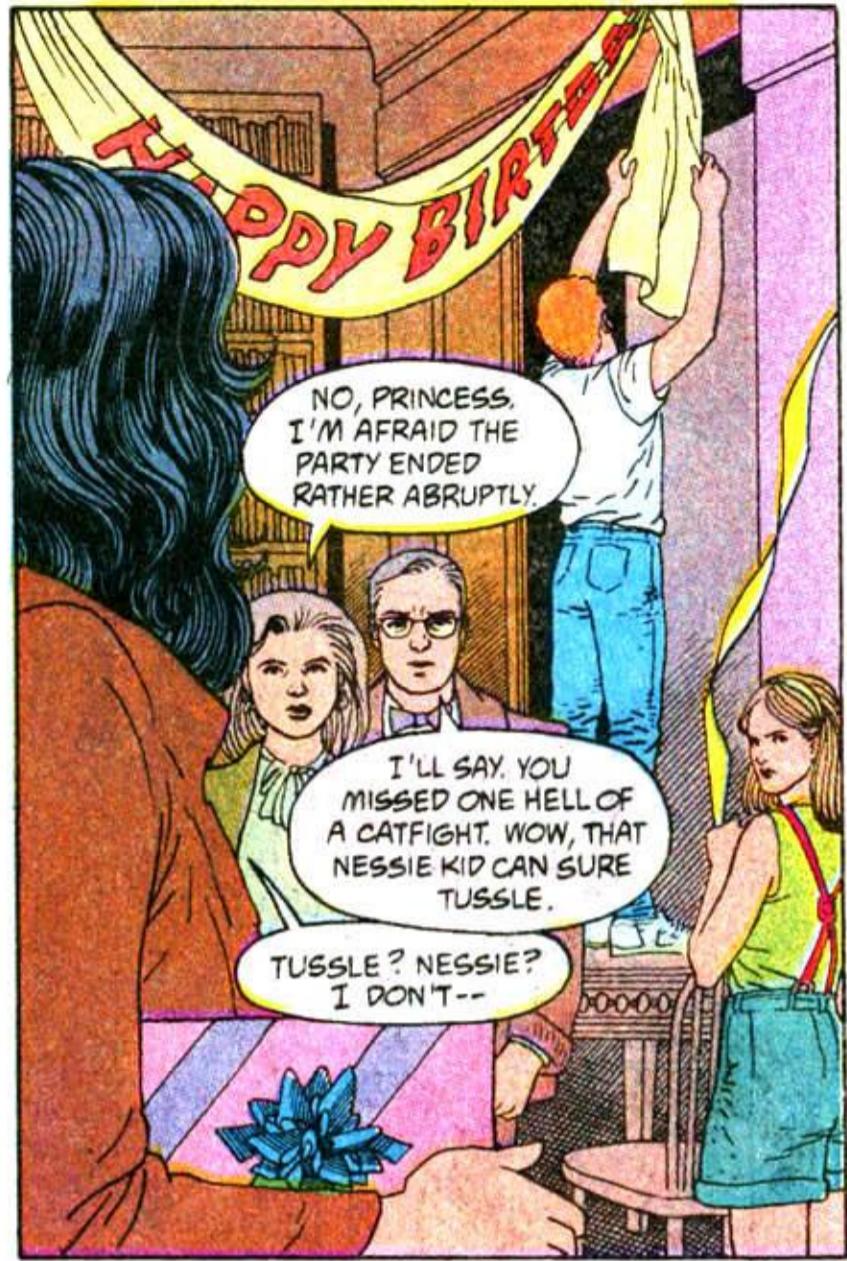
WHOA, BABY CALM DOWN. SHE'S JUST A LITTLE LATE, THAT'S ALL. YOU KNOW HOW BUSY--

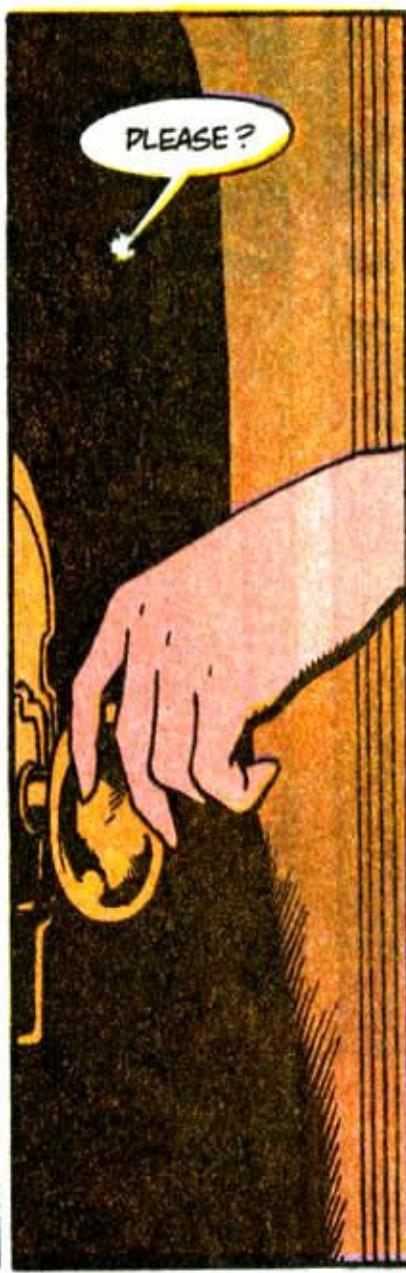


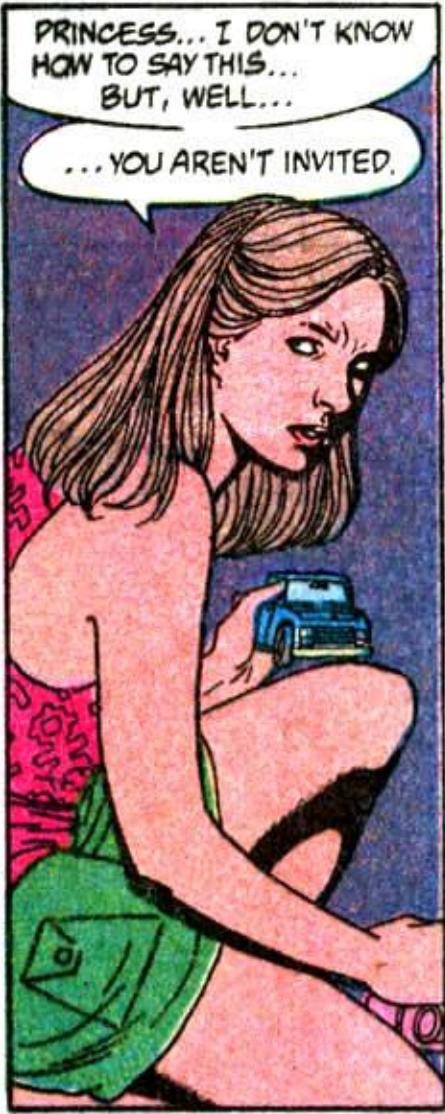
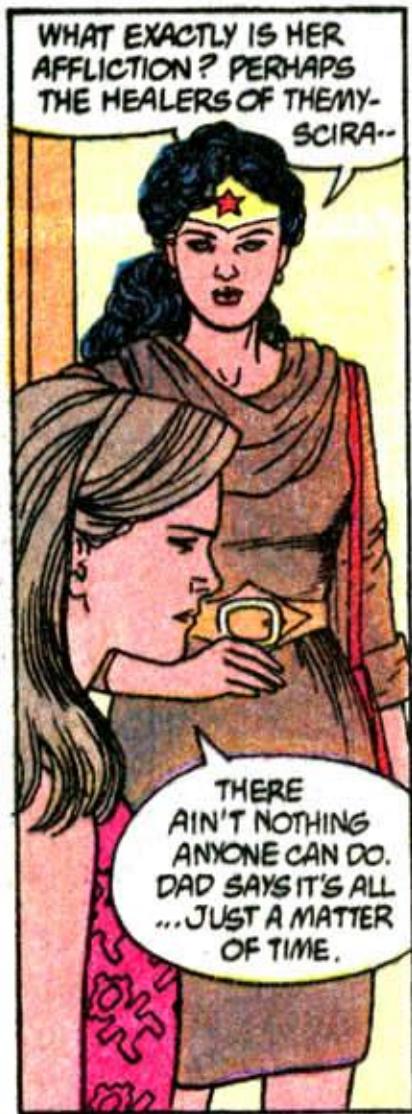












IT'S NOTHIN' PERSONAL,
PRINCESS. IT'S JUST THAT I
WANT THIS TO BE NESSIE'S
SPECIAL DAY. I DON'T WANT
ANYTHING TO RUIN IT
FOR HER.

BUT, HOW
WOULD I?

JUST BY BEING THERE.
IT'S NESSIE'S PARTY.
WITH YOU THERE, WHO'LL
PAY ATTENTION TO HER?

...JUST BECAUSE OF
WHO SHE IS, NOT YOU.
PLEASE, YOUR HIGHNESS,
DON'T COME. FOR
NESSIE'S SAKE.

"PLEASE?"

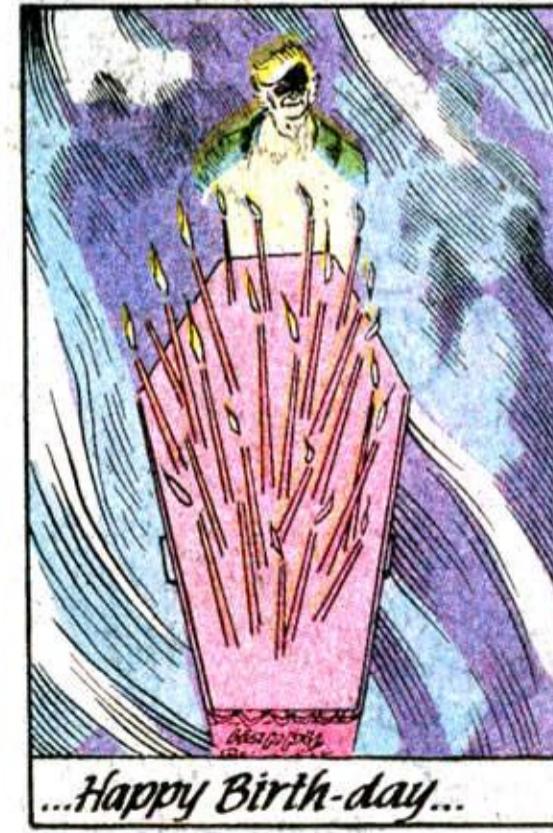
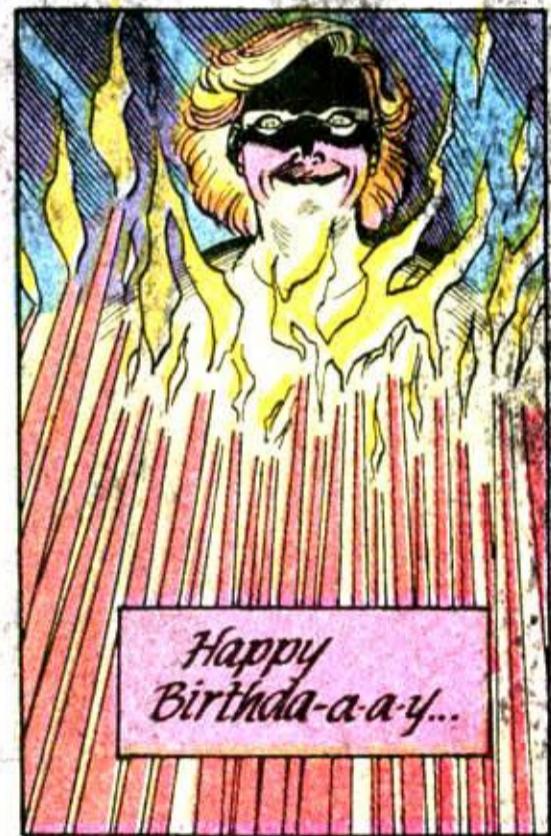
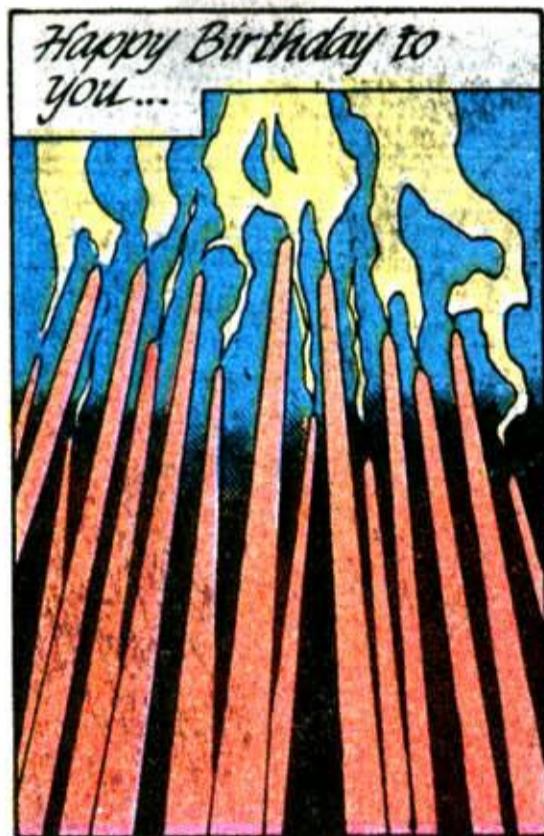


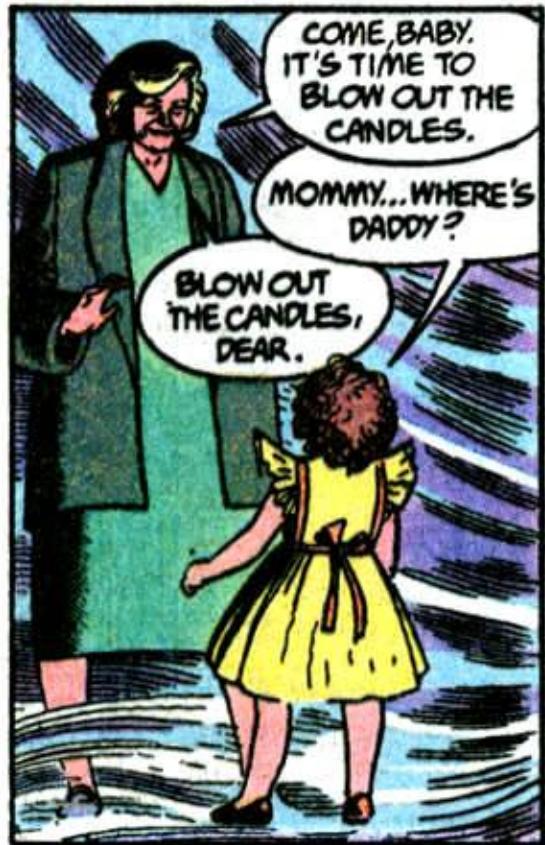
EILEEN, I DIDN'T COME
HERE AS AN ACT OF
DEFIANCE. I THOUGHT
JULIA HAD SPOKEN TO
YOU. DIDN'T SHE EXPLAIN--?

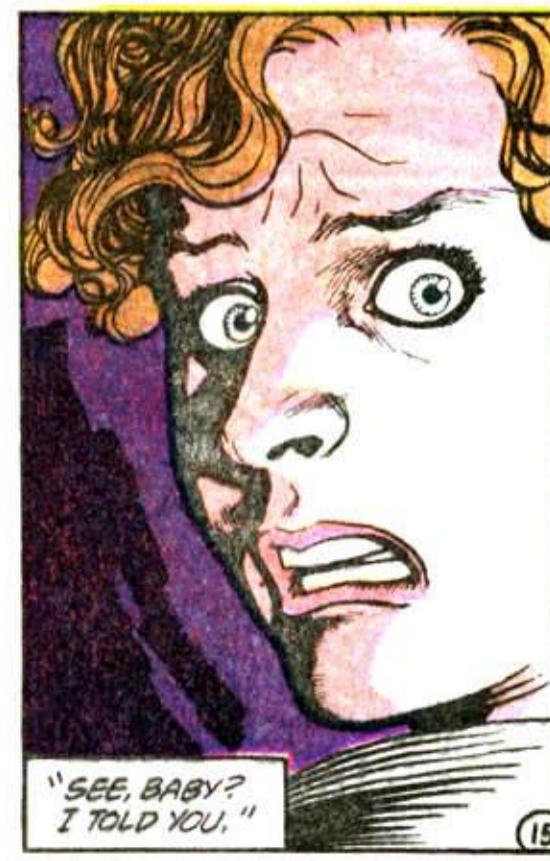
WELL, AS IT TURNED
OUT, I GUESS I WAS
BEING PRETTY STUPID
AFTER ALL.

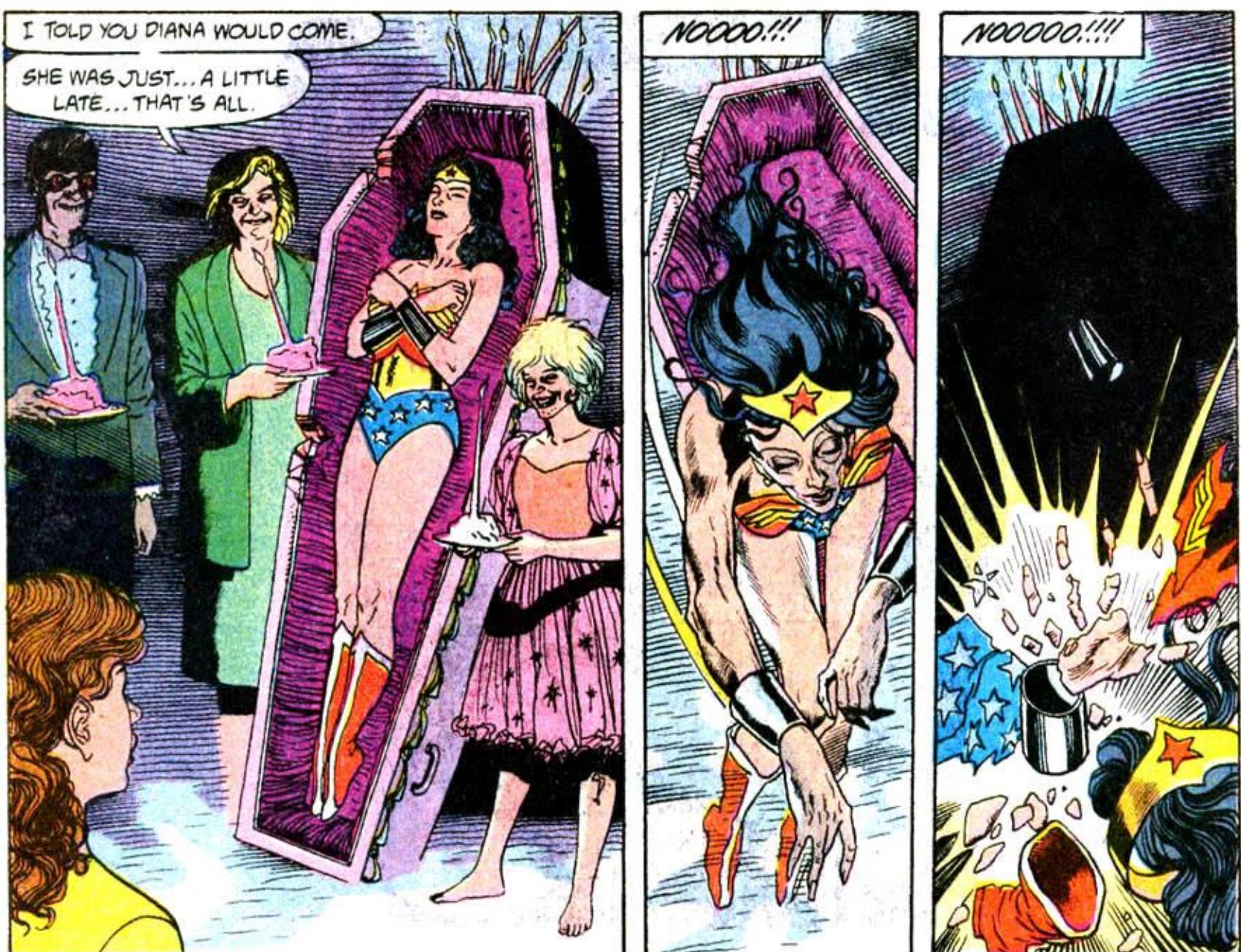
WE BOTH SURE GOT
CRUMMIES WAYS OF
SHOWING NESSIE HOW
MUCH WE LOVE HER,
DON'T WE?











"MY POOR BABY. HOW LONG HAVE THESE NIGHTMARES BEEN OCCURRING?"



"DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT, PROF. KAPATELIS..."

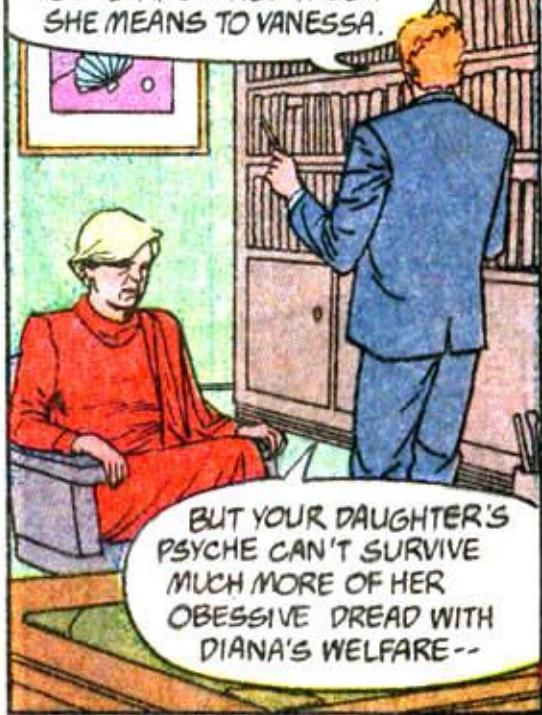
...BUT THIS LAST ONE HAS SERVED ONLY TO VALIDATE MY PREVIOUS PROGNOSIS.



YOUR DAUGHTER, PROF., MAY HAVE NO CHANCE OF RECOVERY, NO REASONABLE EXPECTATION FOR A SECURE, NATURAL CHILDHOOD --

...AS LONG AS WONDER WOMAN IS AROUND.

NOW, I KNOW HOW MUCH PRINCESS DIANA MEANS TO YOU. I KNOW HOW MUCH SHE MEANS TO VANESSA.



BUT YOUR DAUGHTER'S PSYCHE CAN'T SURVIVE MUCH MORE OF HER OBSESSIVE DREAD WITH DIANA'S WELFARE --



THIS PARTY SIMPLY TOOK HER BACK TO THE FIRST TIME SHE FELT DEEP LOSS AND BETRAYAL.

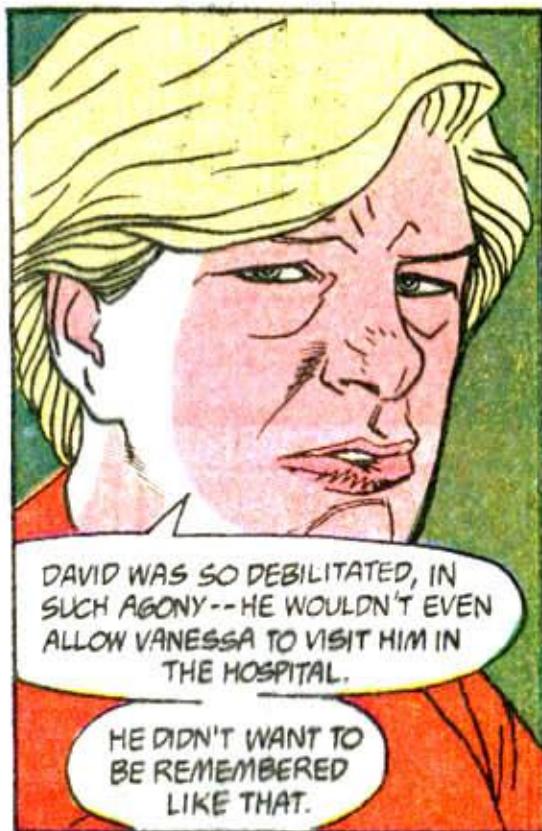
HER FIFTH BIRTHDAY PARTY--



--THE DAY SHE LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF HER FATHER.

SHE SAID THAT YOU LIED TO HER ABOUT IT, DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING UNTIL AFTER IT WAS OVER.

IT WAS...WHAT DAVID WANTED.
HE DIDN'T WANT...
TO SPOIL NESSIE'S PARTY.



DAVID WAS SO DEBILITATED, IN SUCH AGONY--HE WOULDN'T EVEN ALLOW VANESSA TO VISIT HIM IN THE HOSPITAL.

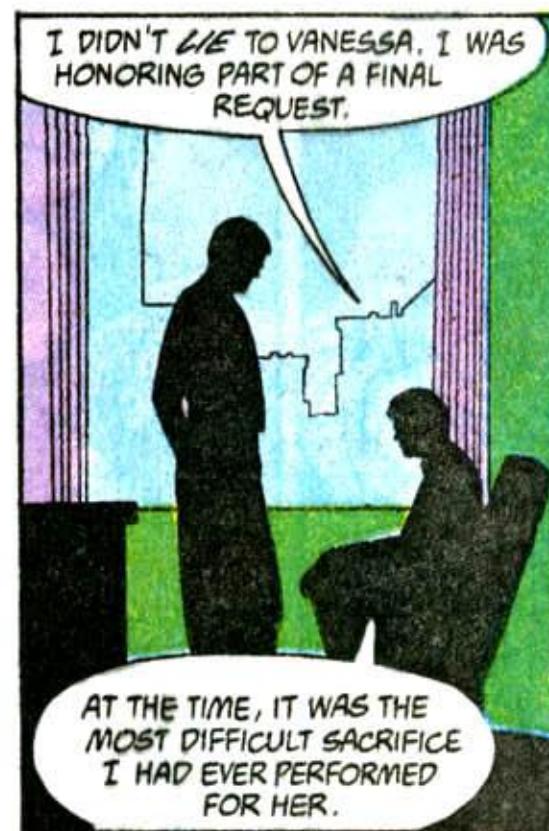
HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE REMEMBERED LIKE THAT.



A WHEEZING HUSK. KEPT ALIVE BY TUBES AND WIRES LIKE SOME DAMNED FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER.

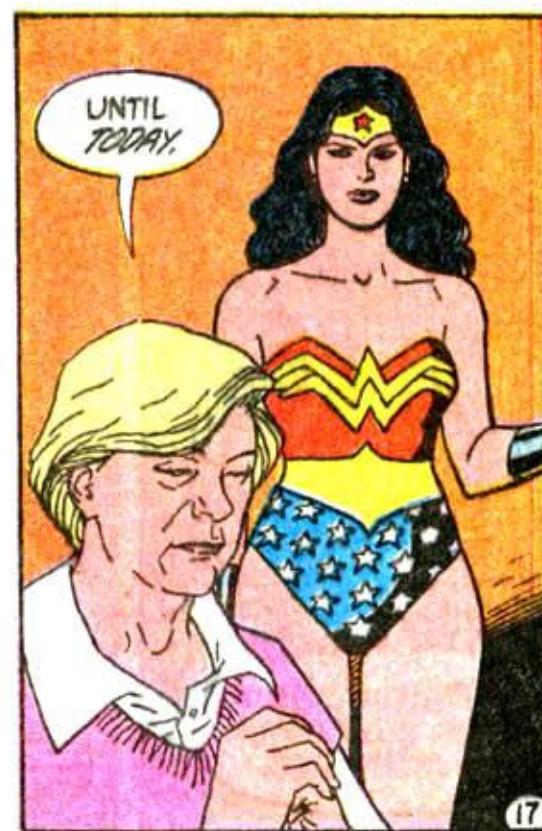
BEGGING ME WITH HIS EYES. THAT LAST FADING SPARK OF WHAT WAS LEFT OF DAVID.

CRYING ONE LAST TIME FOR SOME FINAL SHRED OF DIGNITY...



I DIDN'T LIE TO VANESSA. I WAS HONORING PART OF A FINAL REQUEST.

AT THE TIME, IT WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT SACRIFICE I HAD EVER PERFORMED FOR HER.



UNTIL TODAY.

I'M SORRY, DIANA, I HAVE NO CHOICE. I'VE BEEN AGONIZING ABOUT THIS EVER SINCE I SPOKE TO VANESSA'S GUIDANCE COUNSELOR AFTER LUCY'S DEATH.

IT'S JUST THAT-- WELL, IT'S GOING TO BE HARD ENOUGH TRYING TO GET HER TO FORGIVE ME --

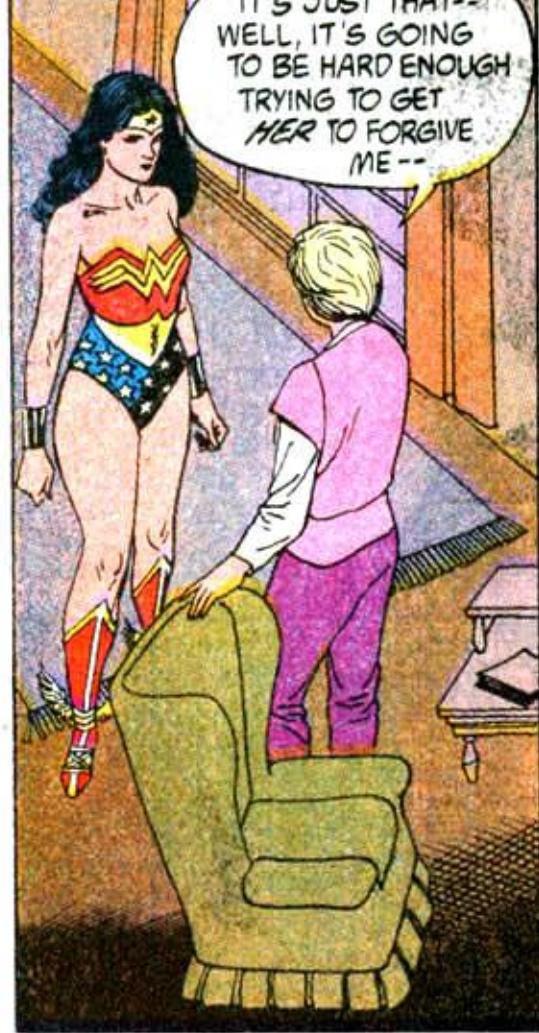
THERE'S NOTHING TO FORGIVE, JULIA. YOU ARE ONLY DOING WHAT A MOTHER SHOULD DO.

PROTECTING YOUR DAUGHTER.

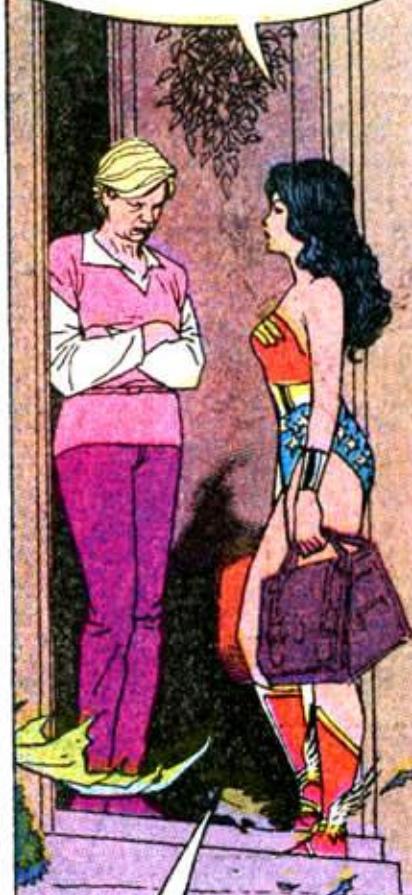
I'M SORRY FOR HAVING BROUGHT SO MUCH PAIN.

PLEASE, JULIA. IT'S ALL RIGHT. I DO UNDERSTAND.

DON'T LET OUR FRIENDSHIP SUPERSIDE YOUR MATERNAL DUTY. YOU ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING.

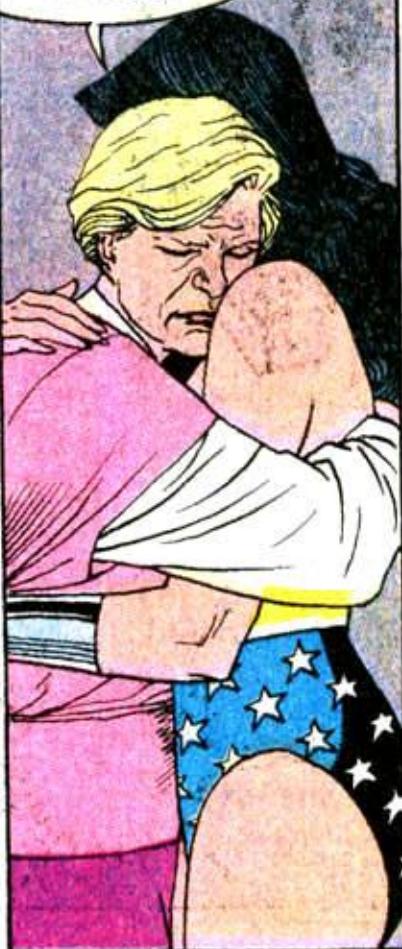


I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE FIRST DAY I ENTERED THIS HOUSE. I WAS SUCH AN INNOCENT THEN.



OH, BY THE GODS-- I WILL MISS YOU BOTH SO TERRIBLY.

SWEETIE... IT'S NOT AS IF WE'LL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN. IT'S ONLY--

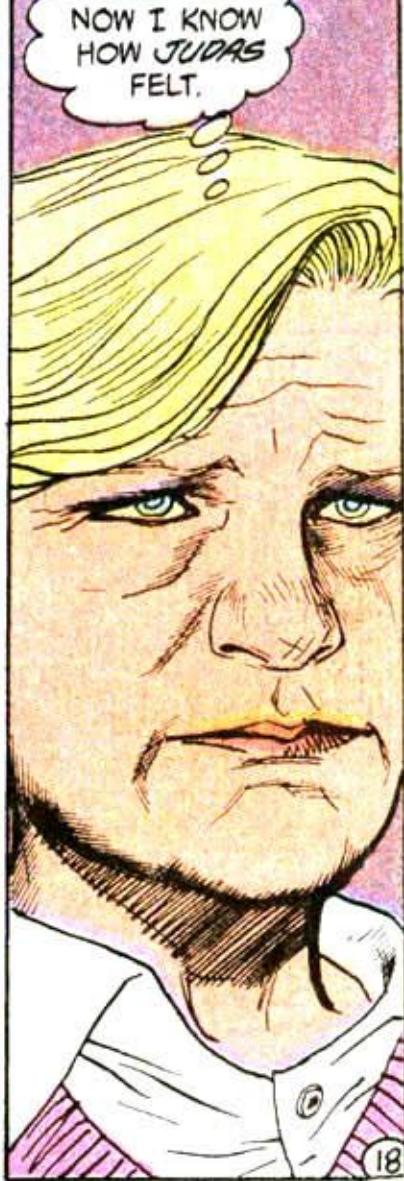


FAREWELL, JULIA.

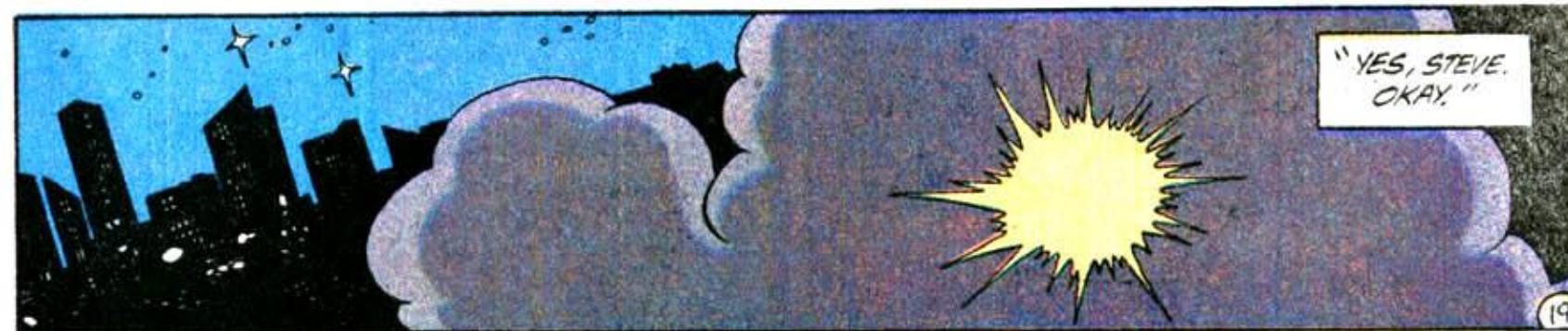
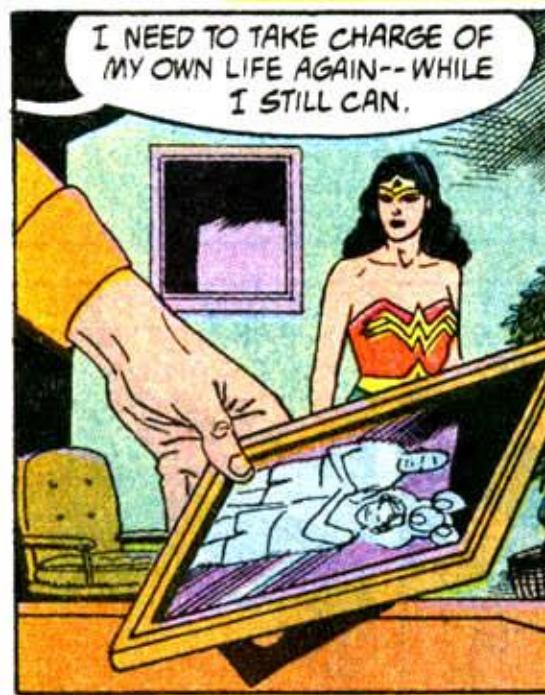
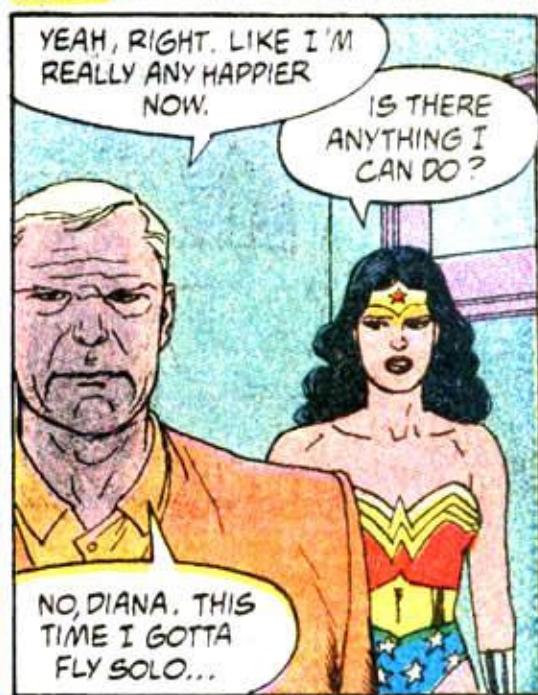
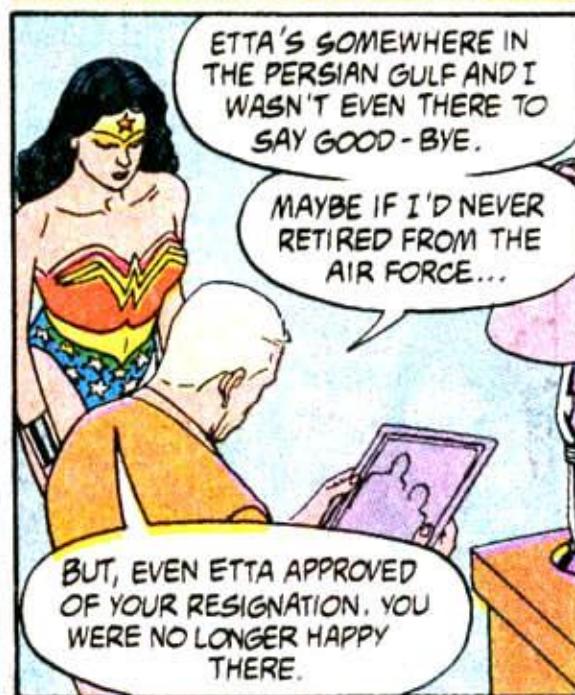
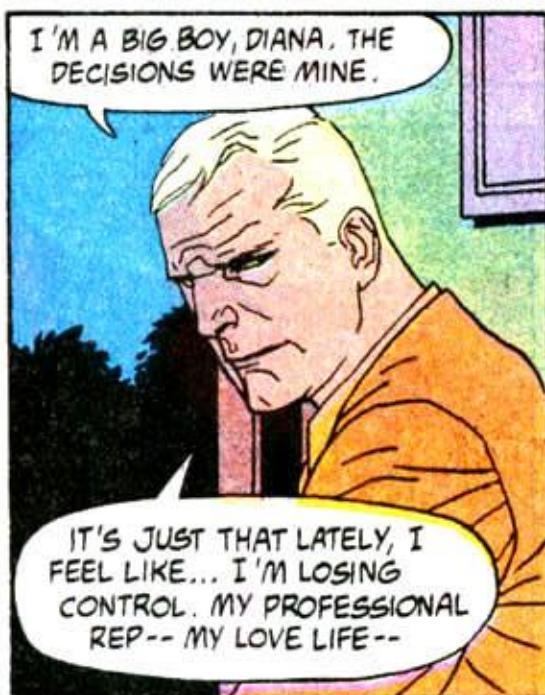
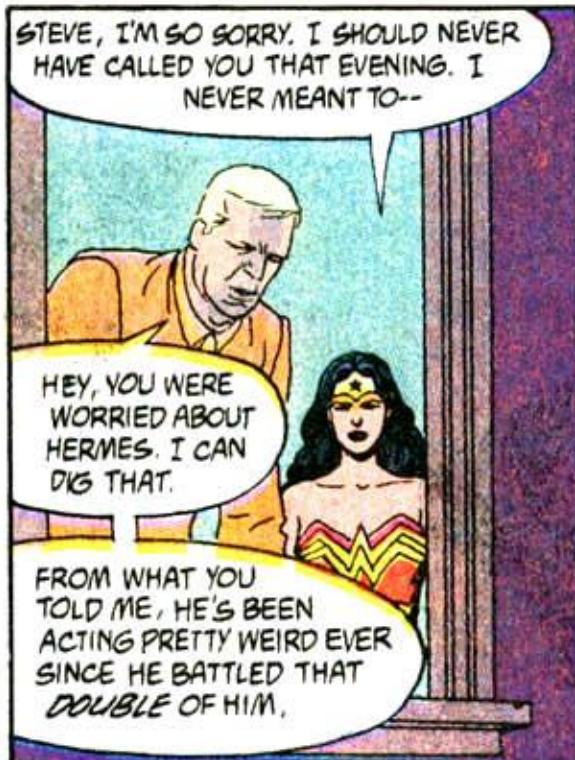
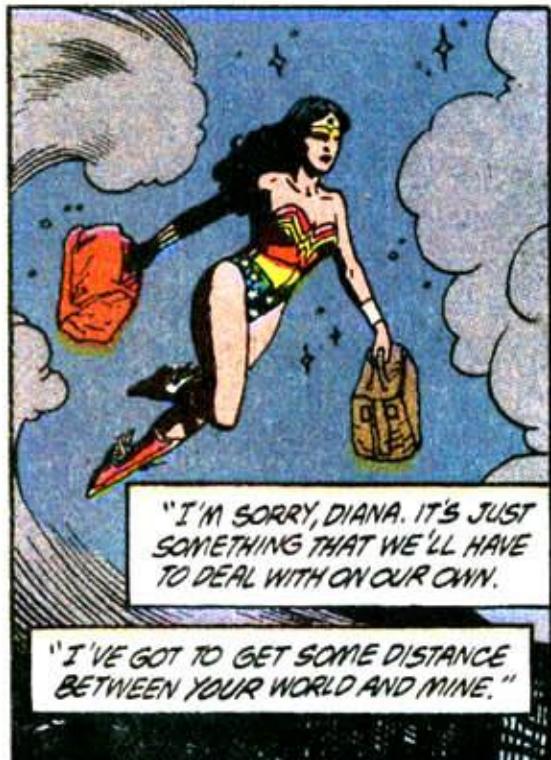


GOD FORGIVE ME.

NOW I KNOW HOW JUDAS FELT.



YOU TAUGHT ME SO MUCH, JULIA. BOTH YOU AND NESSIE.



"(BUT, MOTHER, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY--?)



"(DO NOT THINK THIS A DECISION REACHED LIGHTLY, MY CHILD.)"

"(I CAME TO IT AFTER SEVERAL LONG CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EMISSARIES FROM THIS WORLD.)

"(IT IS TIME THAT WE AMAZONS SHOW OURSELVES AS MORE THAN MERE EXTENSIONS OF WONDER WOMAN.)

"(QUEEN HIPPOLYTE SPEAKS RIGHTLY. WE CAME TO THIS WORLD AS TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS, AND WE MUST PRESENT OURSELVES AS SUCH.)



"(BUT, I AM THAT TOO, MNEMOSYNE. A SEEKER AND EXPONENT OF PEACE AND TRUTH, THE SAME AS YOU.)

"(TRUE. BUT TO THE MORTALS OF THIS WORLD, YOU ARE FAR MORE.)

"(YES, PRINCESS. TO THEM YOU ARE A WARRIOR.)

"(WHAT THE OUTWORLDERS CALL A SUPER-HERO.)

"(BESIDES, DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU HAD PERSONAL MATTERS TO ATTEND? VANESSA'S BIRTHDAY BEING ONE?)

"(AND THAT LORD HERMES IS STILL IN NEED OF YOU?)

"(YES. ALTHOUGH I DOUBT WHETHER HE WISHES MY AID NOW. MENALIPPE, PERHAPS IF YOU CAME WITH ME--)

"(MENALIPPE ALREADY HAS HER DUTIES ON THIS TROUBLED WORLD. AS WE ALL HAVE. AS YOU HAVE, MY DAUGHTER.)

YOUR LIMOS ARE WAITING, YOUR MAJESTY.

THANK YOU.

"LET US HURRY, SISTERS. I AM ANXIOUS TO FEEL WHAT IT IS LIKE TO FLY IN AN AIRPLANE.)

"(GAEA'S GLORY BE WITH YOU, DAUGHTER. AND DON'T LOOK SO DISAPPOINTED.)

"HOW CAN I HELP IT? I WILL BE SO LONELY. I FEEL LIKE YOU WANT TO BE AWAY FROM ME.)

"NONSENSE, DIANA. IT IS SIMPLY LESS CONTENTIOUS THIS WAY. WE SHALL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN BEFORE TOO LONG.)

"(BESIDES, WITH ALL THE FRIENDS YOU'VE MADE ON THIS WORLD, HOW COULD YOU EVER BE LONELY?)



