



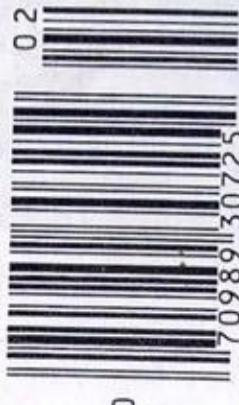
NOW
40

NO. 252
FEB.

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY

Wonder Woman®

YOU ARE
EVIL, WONDER
WOMAN, AND
YOUR SOUL
MUST BE
BURNED
FROM YOUR
BODY!!



YOU COULD BE A WINNER IN THE
SECOND **SUPERMAN** MOVIE CONTEST!
DETAILS INSIDE!

ANDRU &
GIORDANO

Wonder Woman

STORY BY: JACK C. HARRIS
ART BY: JOSE DELBO and
JOE GIELLA
LETTERING BY: MILT SNAPINN
COLORING BY: JERRY SERPE
EDITING BY: ROSS ANDRU

THE STARS -- FOR AGELESS EONS THEY HAVE BECKONED TO THOSE ON THE EARTH BELOW...

AND AS EARTH PEOPLE LOOKED UP TO THE TWINKLING LIGHTS IN WONDER, LEGENDS GREW ABOUT GODS AND DEMONS...

AND THEY SAW OMENS... AND, AS AN ANCIENT OMEN, THIS FALLING BIT OF BURNING MATTER HERALS THE ARRIVAL OF THE AMAZON PRINCESS...!



RESCUE ON THE VERY RIM OF OUTER SPACE -- AND IT IS BUT THE FIRST FATEFUL STEP WONDER WOMAN MUST TAKE BEFORE SHE CONFRONTS THE EPIC SPLendor OF...

BY VULCAN'S FORGE! WHAT MADE THIS CAPSULE FALL FROM ORBIT? HOUSTON REPORTED NO DIFFICULTIES!

THE EMPRESS OF the SILVER SNAKE!



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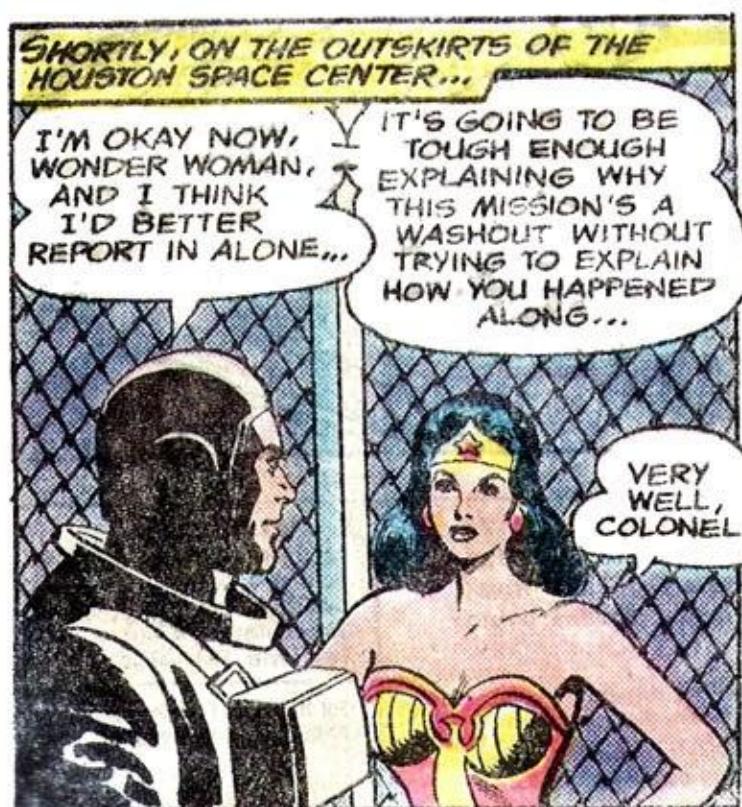
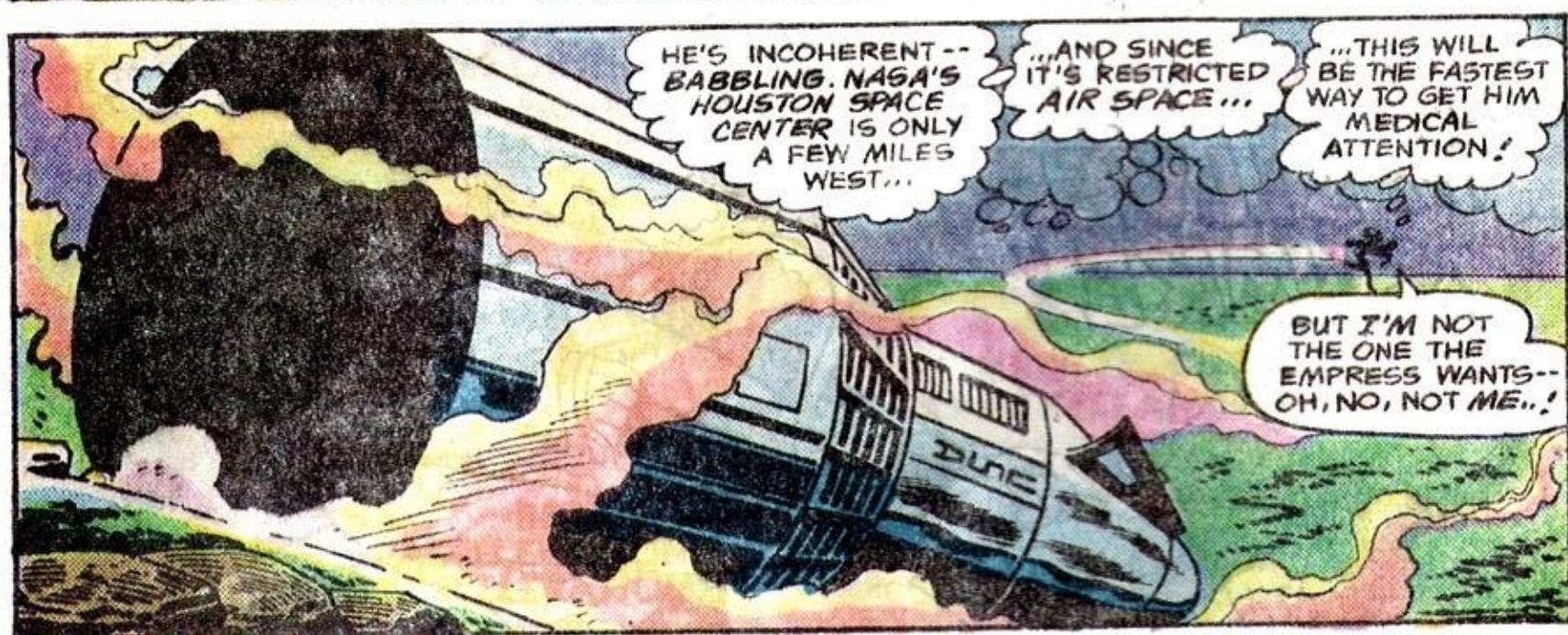
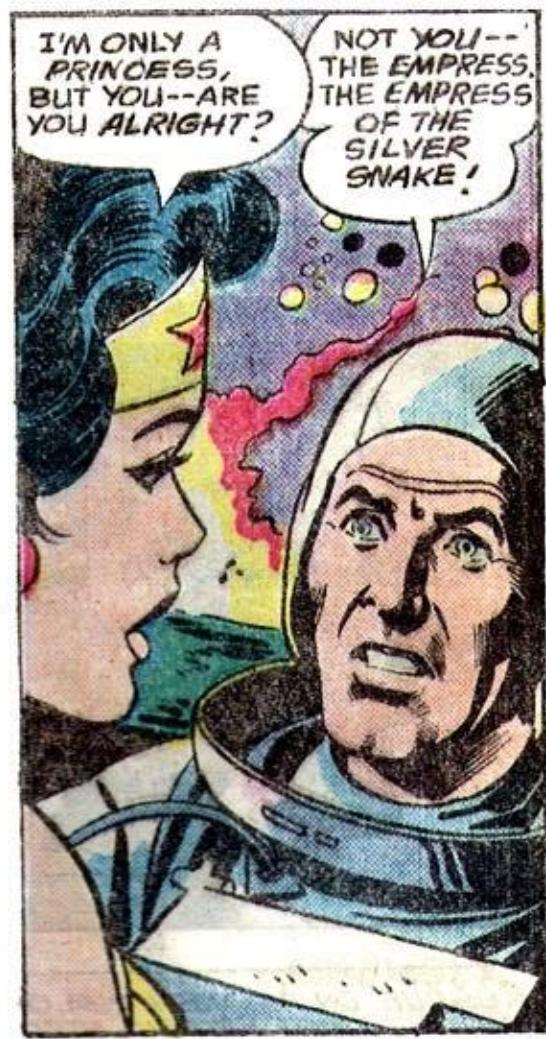
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SHORTLY, OUT OF SIGHT OF THE MASSIVE SPACE CENTER...

AS DIANA PRINCE, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY FOR MONTHS!

I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE LATE NOW!

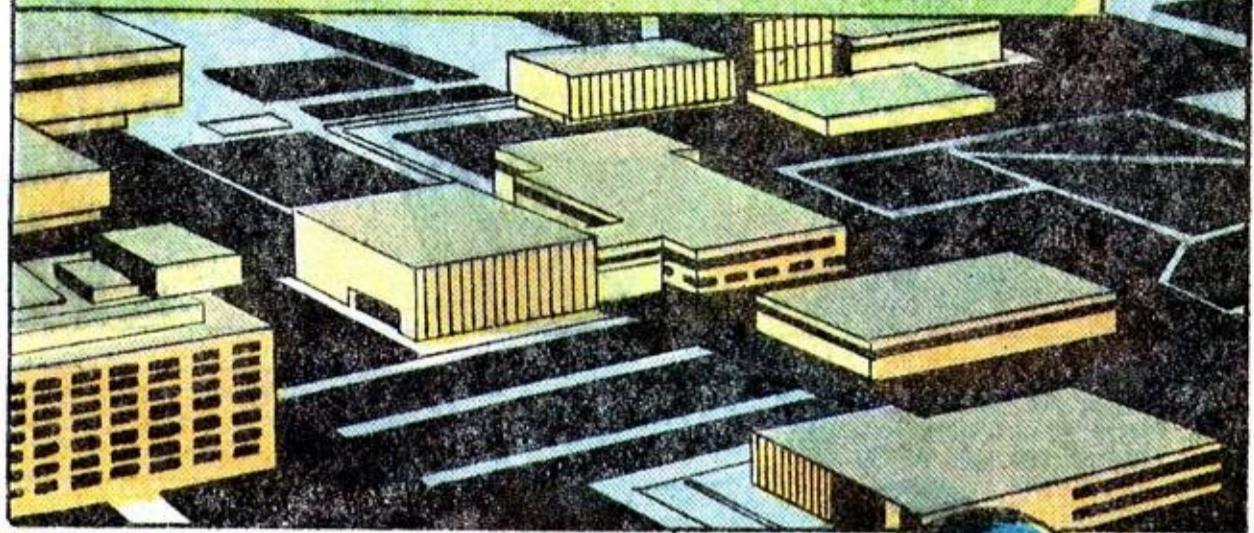


25 MILES SOUTHEAST OF DOWNTOWN HOUSTON, TEXAS LIES THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'S LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER...

SINCE SEPTEMBER OF 1963, THIS 1,620 ACREAGE SITE HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF SPACECRAFT AND ASSOCIATED SYSTEMS FOR MANNED FLIGHT...

AND IT IS HERE THE PIONEERS OF TOMORROW ARE TRAINED...

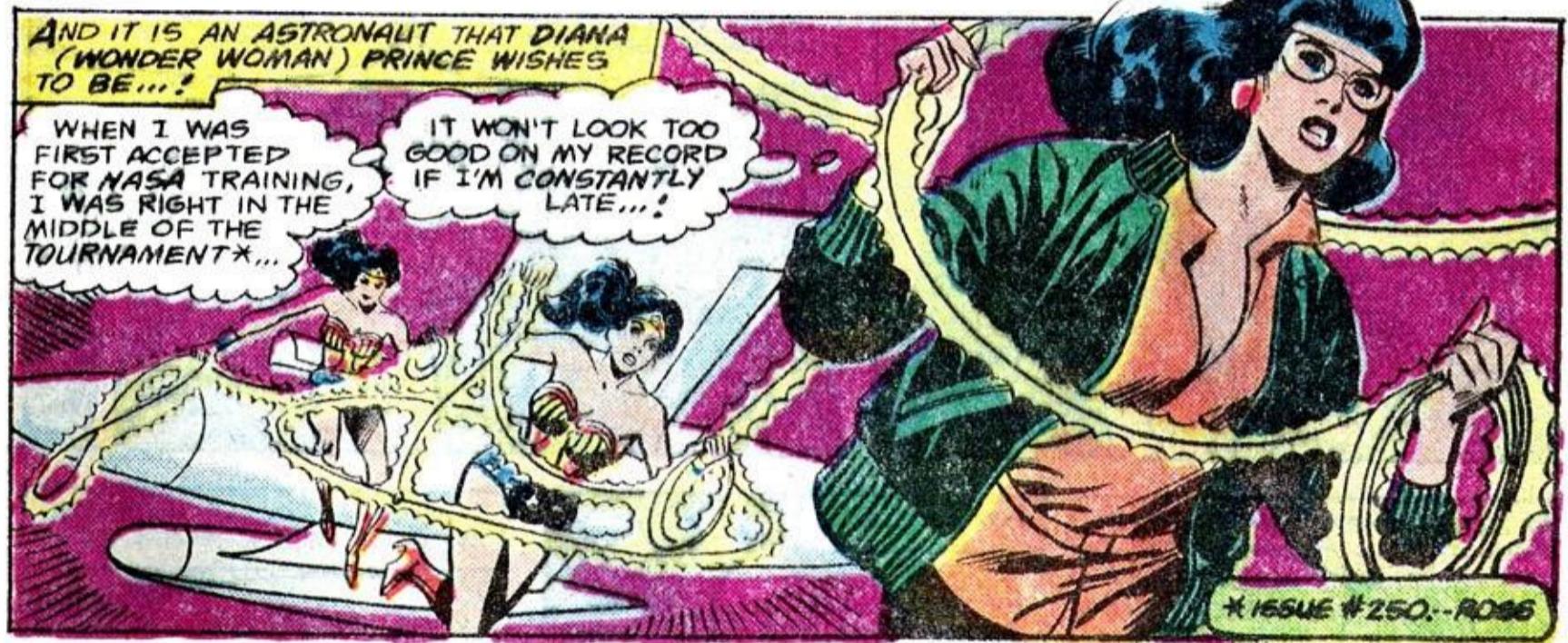
HERE IS WHERE MEN AND WOMEN BECOME... ASTRONAUTS.



AND IT IS AN ASTRONAUT THAT DIANA (WONDER WOMAN) PRINCE WISHES TO BE...!

WHEN I WAS FIRST ACCEPTED FOR NASA TRAINING, I WAS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TOURNAMENT!*

IT WON'T LOOK TOO GOOD ON MY RECORD IF I'M CONSTANTLY LATE...!



* ISSUE #250 - ROSE

MINUTES LATER, IN FRONT OF NASA'S PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUILDING...

MS. PRINCE! WE WERE GOING TO MEET YOU AT THE AIRFIELD...

THAT'S ALRIGHT, MR. STARFIELD, I HAD MY... OWN TRANSPORTATION.



TIMING IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US HERE AT NASA, MS. PRINCE...

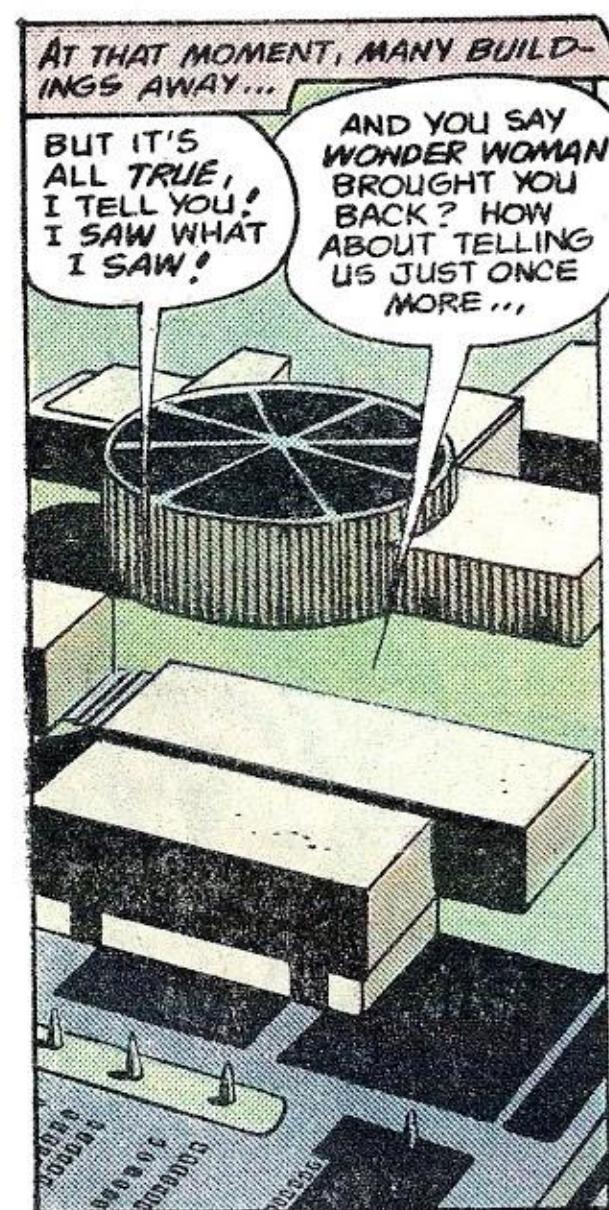
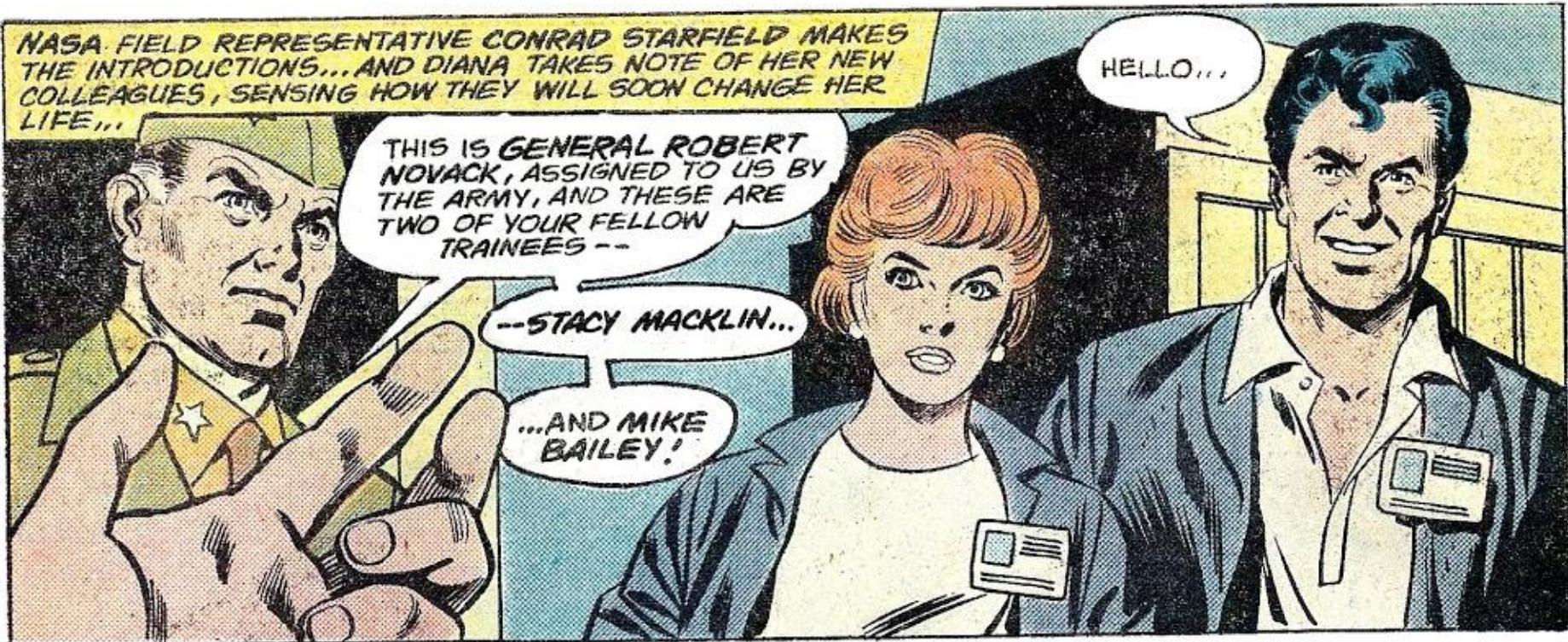
I HOPE BEING LATE AND OUT OF TOUCH AREN'T HABITS OF YOURS...

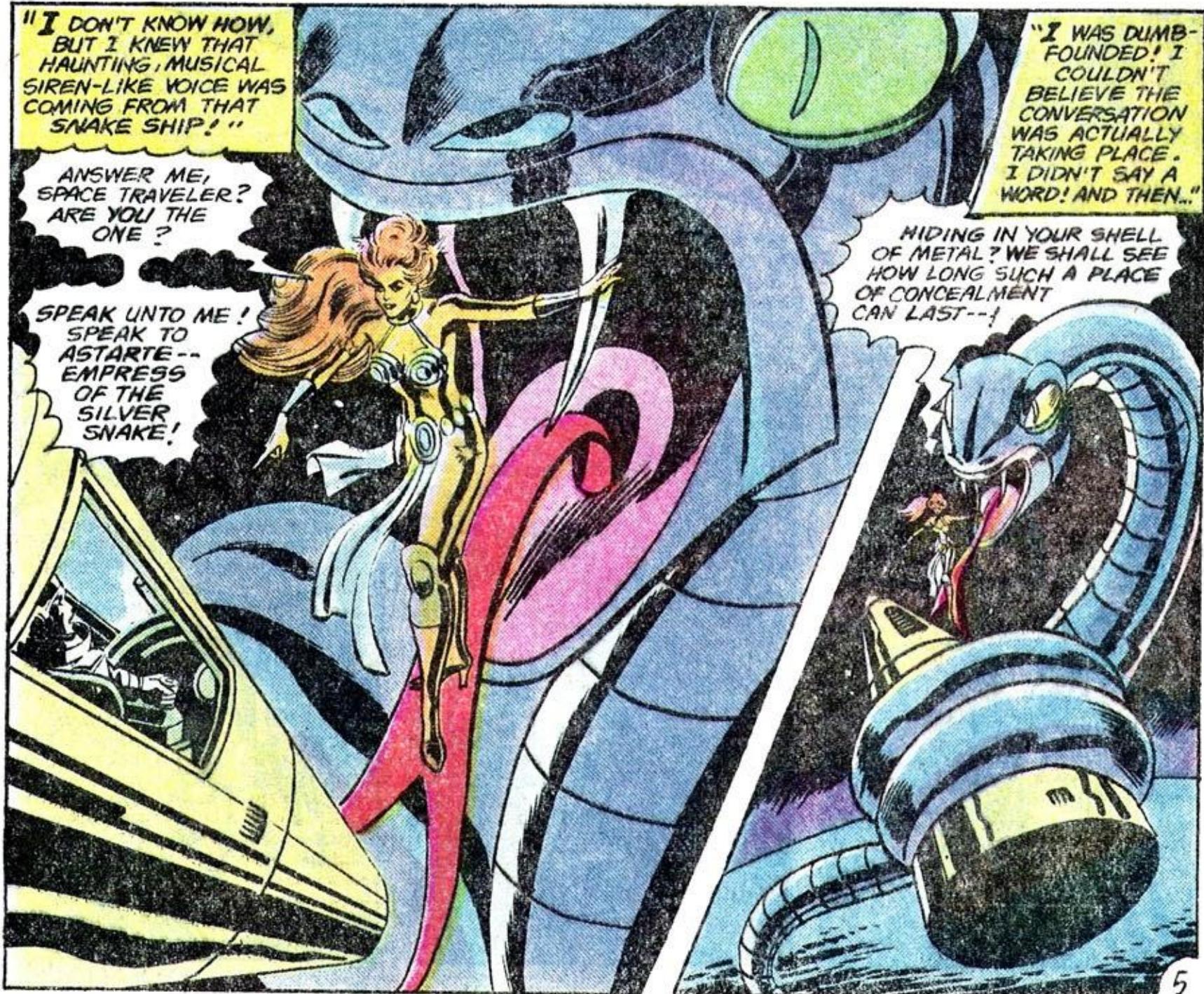
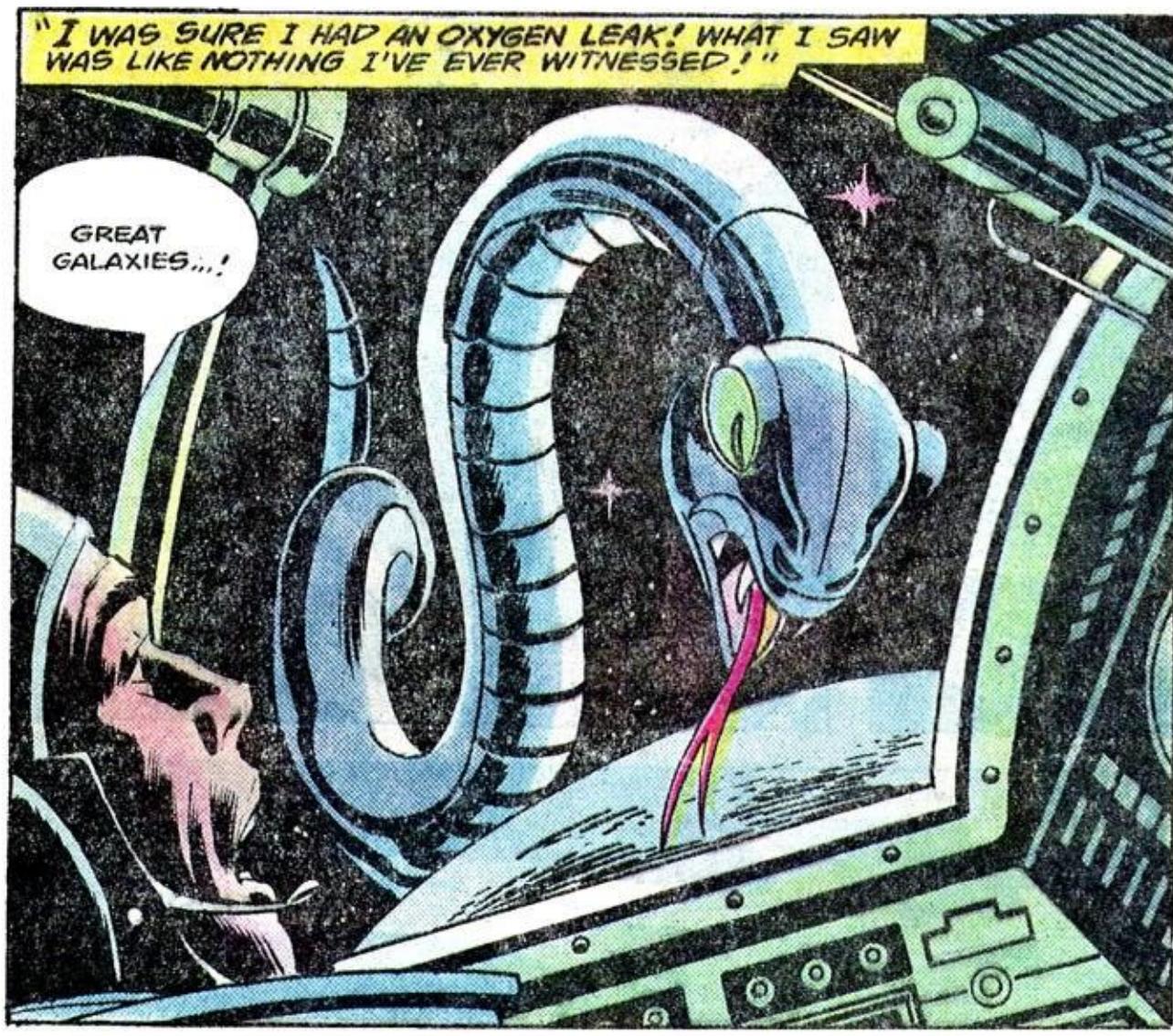
I APOLOGIZE, GENERAL...

...NOVACK! BUT LET ME MAKE ALL THE INTRODUCTIONS...



NASA FIELD REPRESENTATIVE CONRAD STARFIELD MAKES THE INTRODUCTIONS... AND DIANA TAKES NOTE OF HER NEW COLLEAGUES, SENSING HOW THEY WILL SOON CHANGE HER LIFE...





"I DON'T REMEMBER DOING IT, BUT I MUST HAVE AUTOMATICALLY PUT MY HELMET ON WHEN I HEARD THE AIR ESCAPING THROUGH THE CRACKS IN THE METAL . . ."

HEED THE CALL OF ASTARTE -- COME FORTH!

SO! YOU ARE NOT THE ONE I SEEK! RETURN HIM TO THE SOIL FROM WHICH HE SPRANG, MY PET!



"AND WITH A FLIP OF ITS BODY, I WAS HURLED BACK INTO THE ATMOSPHERE -- !"



AS THE ORIENTATION PROGRAM CONTINUES...

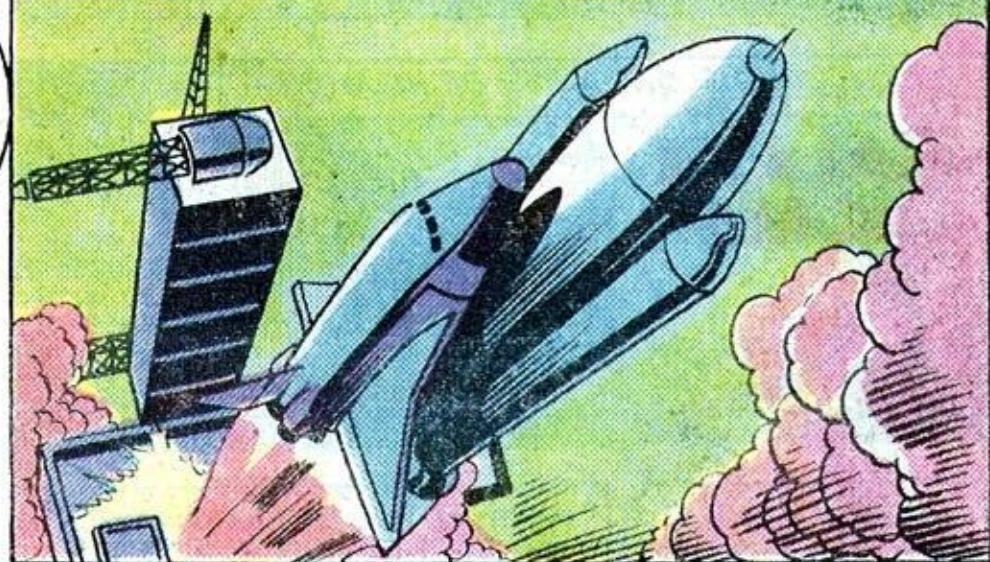
AS YOU KNOW,
YOU ALL MEET
THE PHYSICAL AND
EDUCATIONAL
REQUIREMENTS
FOR ASTRONAUT
CANDIDATES--

--YOU ALL HAVE AT LEAST
1,000 HOURS OF FLIGHT
TIME, YOUR HEARING AND
SIGHT ARE BOTH EXCELLENT,
AND YOU HAVE A B.A. DEGREE
IN ENGINEERING, PHYSICAL
SCIENCE OR MATHEMATICS...



YOUR TRAINING
WILL COVER
EVERYTHING
FROM THE
HISTORY OF
SPACEFLIGHT
TO SIMULATED
TRAINING IN
SPACESUITS, THE
SKYLAB AND THE
SHUTTLE...

"BY THE END OF YOUR TRAINING PROGRAM, YOU'LL BE
FLIGHT-READY-- COMPLETELY PREPARED TO PILOT OR
OTHERWISE MAN THE SPACE SHUTTLE..."

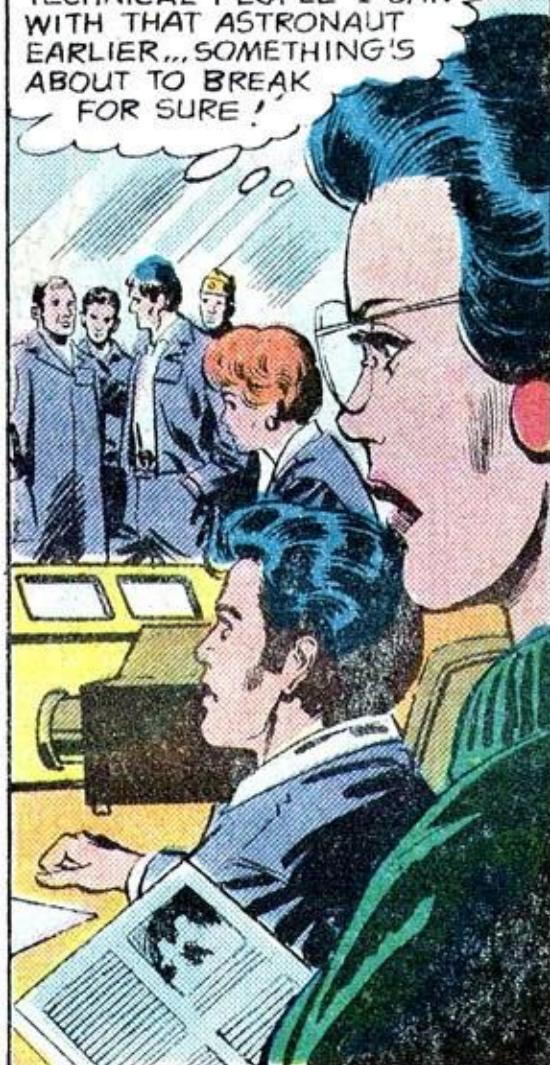


"THE MISSIONS NOW BEING
PREPARED FOR THE SHUTTLE
COVER EVERYTHING FROM
RECOVERY TO ASTRONOMIC
OBSERVATION..."



BUT BEFORE THEY CAN CONTINUE...

UH OH...THOSE ARE THE
TECHNICAL PEOPLE I SAW
WITH THAT ASTRONAUT
EARLIER... SOMETHING'S
ABOUT TO BREAK
FOR SURE!



BUT THE CURIOUS AMAZON
PRINCESS IS NOT ABLE TO
LEARN OF DEVELOPMENTS
AT THIS MOMENT...

IT LOOKS AS IF WE'RE
GOING TO HAVE TO CUT
YOUR ORIENTATION SHORT
TODAY, MY FRIENDS.

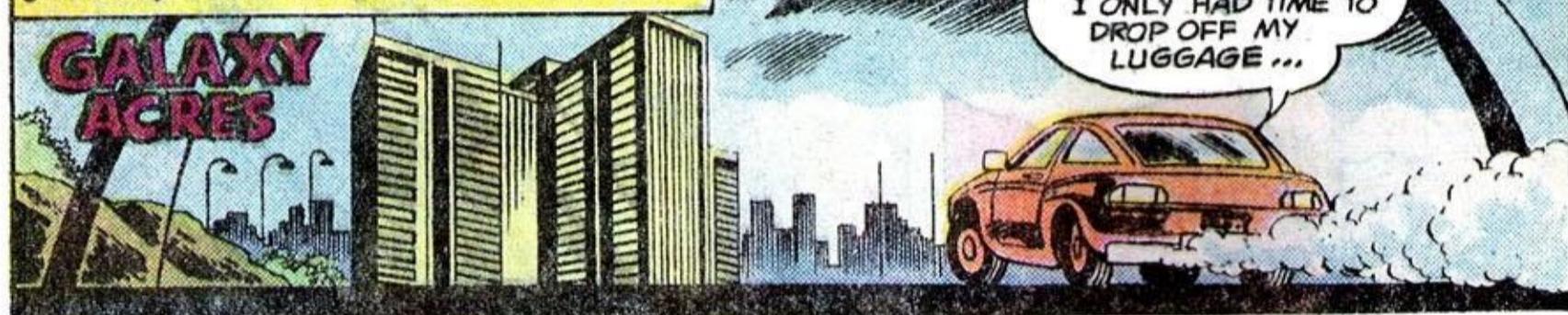
YOU HAVE A FEW
DAYS TO GET
SETTLED...



AS THE THREE TRAINEES ARE GUIDED THROUGH THE LAST OF THEIR FIRST DAY OF PROCESSING...



SHORTLY, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF HOUSTON...



THIS IS THE PLACE... I ONLY HAD TIME TO DROP OFF MY LUGGAGE...



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

HUNDREDS OF MILES EAST,
AT THE TIP OF THE STATE OF
FLORIDA, A 122-FOOT SPACE
SHUTTLE ORBITER IS HURLED
INTO THE HEAVENS...

...WHILE, BACK IN TEXAS, A
THOUSAND TECHNICIANS, EYES
FIXED ON THEIR INSTRUMENTS,
TRACK THE MIGHTY CRAFT'S
COURSE...



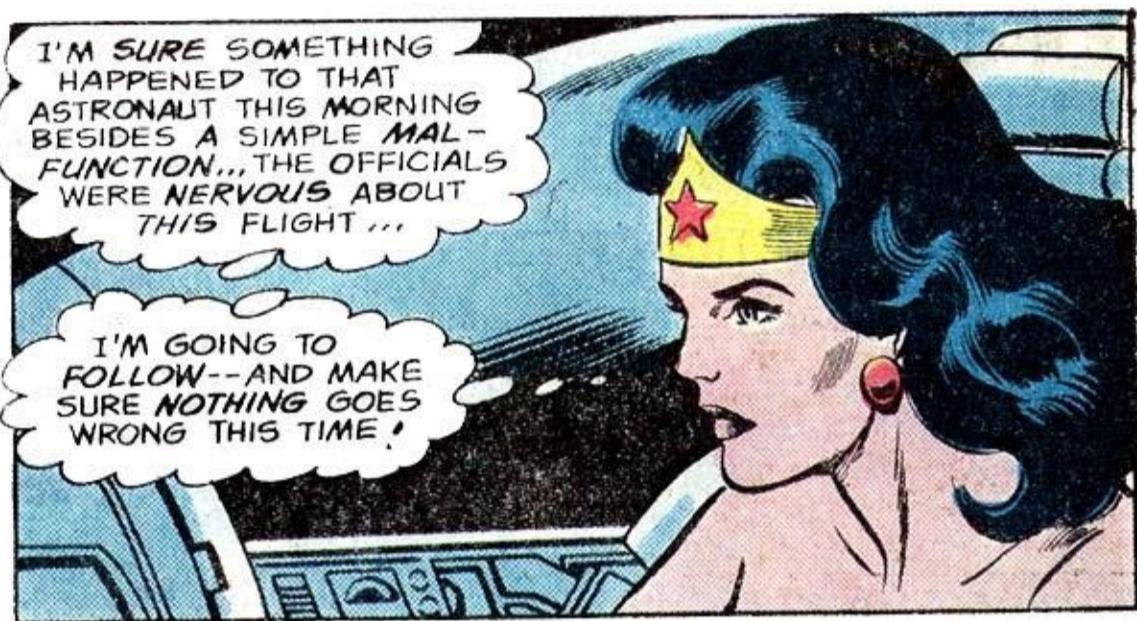
AND, AS THE CRAFT EJECTS ITS BOOSTER ROCKET...

THERE IT IS! SINCE MY
PLANE IS OF A MAGICAL
NATURE, IT CAN PACE
THE ORBITER VELOCITY
FOR VELOCITY...



I'M SURE SOMETHING
HAPPENED TO THAT
ASTRONAUT THIS MORNING
BESIDES A SIMPLE MAL-
FUNCTION... THE OFFICIALS
WERE NERVOUS ABOUT
THIS FLIGHT...

I'M GOING TO
FOLLOW--AND MAKE
SURE NOTHING GOES
WRONG THIS TIME!



THE AMAZONS
COULDN'T DEPEND
ON MAGIC ALONE
TO CONQUER SPACE,
SO THEY DEVELOPED
A TECHNOLOGY THAT
ALREADY EXCEEDS
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD'S--

--AND I'M DETERMINED THAT
AMERICA WILL SOMEDAY HAVE
SUCH A COMMAND OF THE SPACE-
WAYS AS WELL!



FAR BELOW, ON AN ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DREADED
AND MYSTERIOUS BERMUDA TRIANGLE, LIES THE HOME OF
THE AMAZONS--PARADISE ISLAND!

I KNOW WHERE
MY DAUGHTER IS!
SHE'S LEFT THE EARTH
AND IS SOARING THROUGH
SPACE ITSELF...



AND THE RULER OF THE AMAZONS
IS THEIR QUEEN--HIPPOLYTE,
MOTHER OF WONDER WOMAN!

I'VE FEARED
FOR HER EVER
SINCE SHE FIRST
STEPPED INTO
THE WORLD OF
MEN THOSE MANY
YEARS AGO--

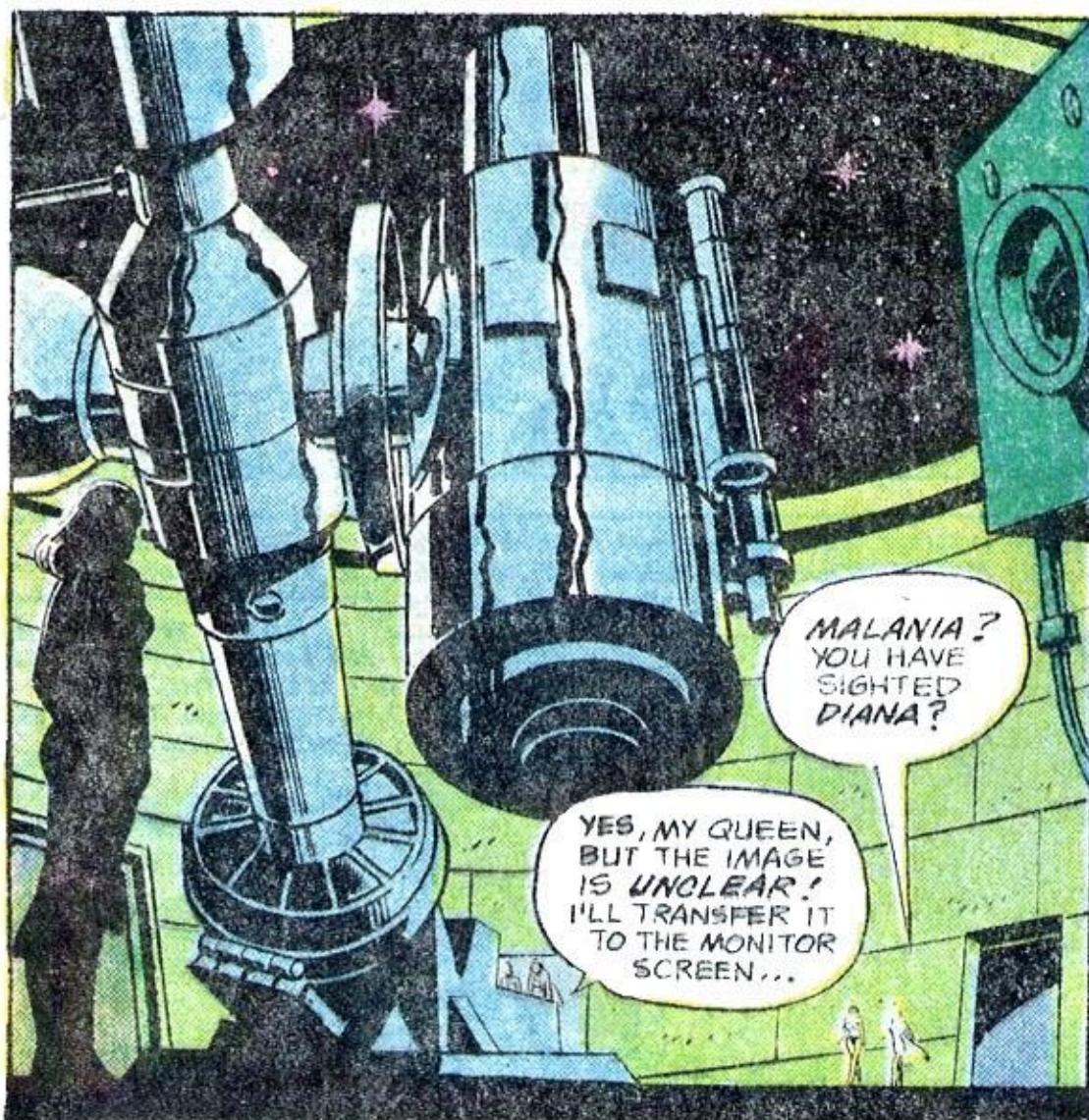
BUT NOW
I FEAR
EVEN
MORE!

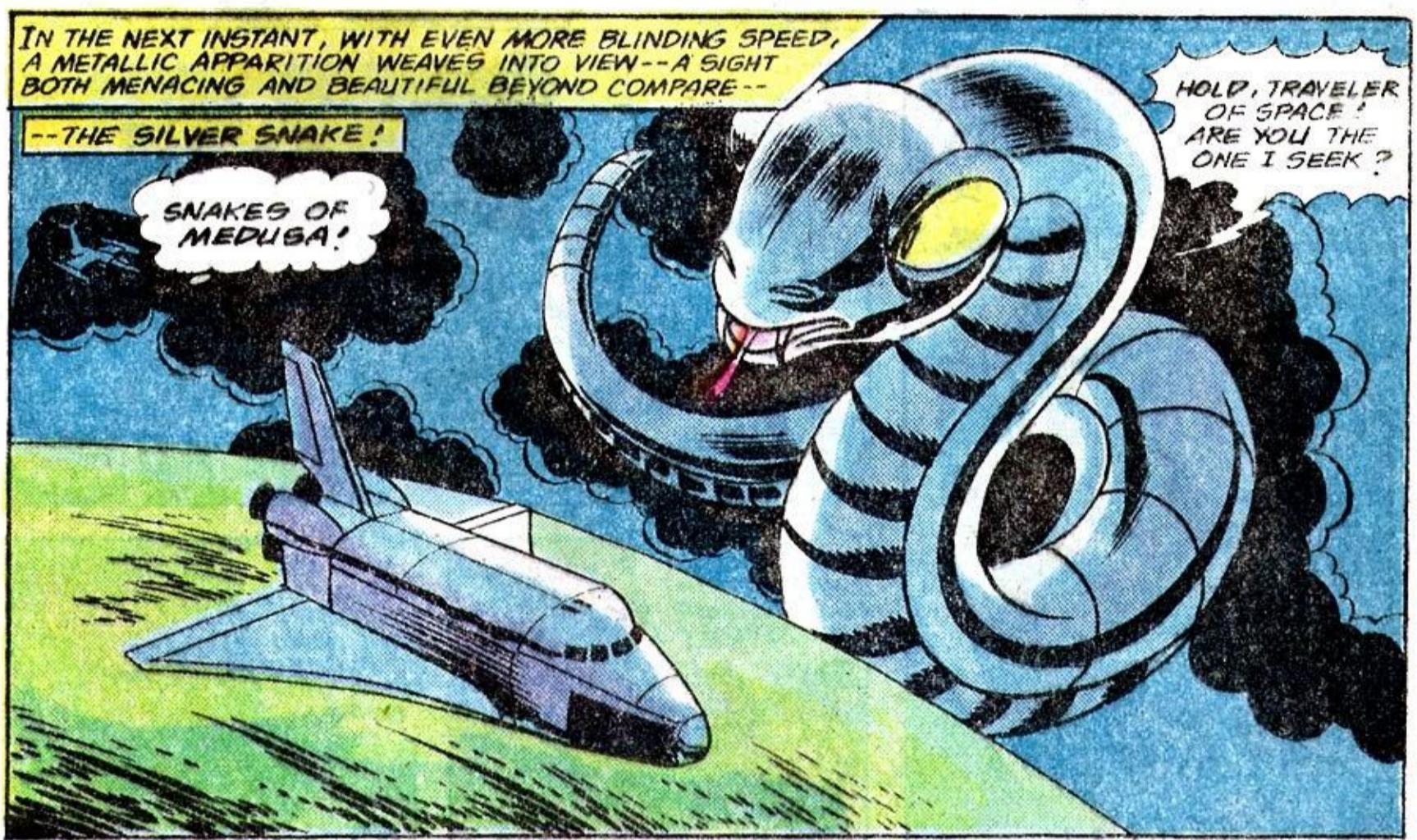
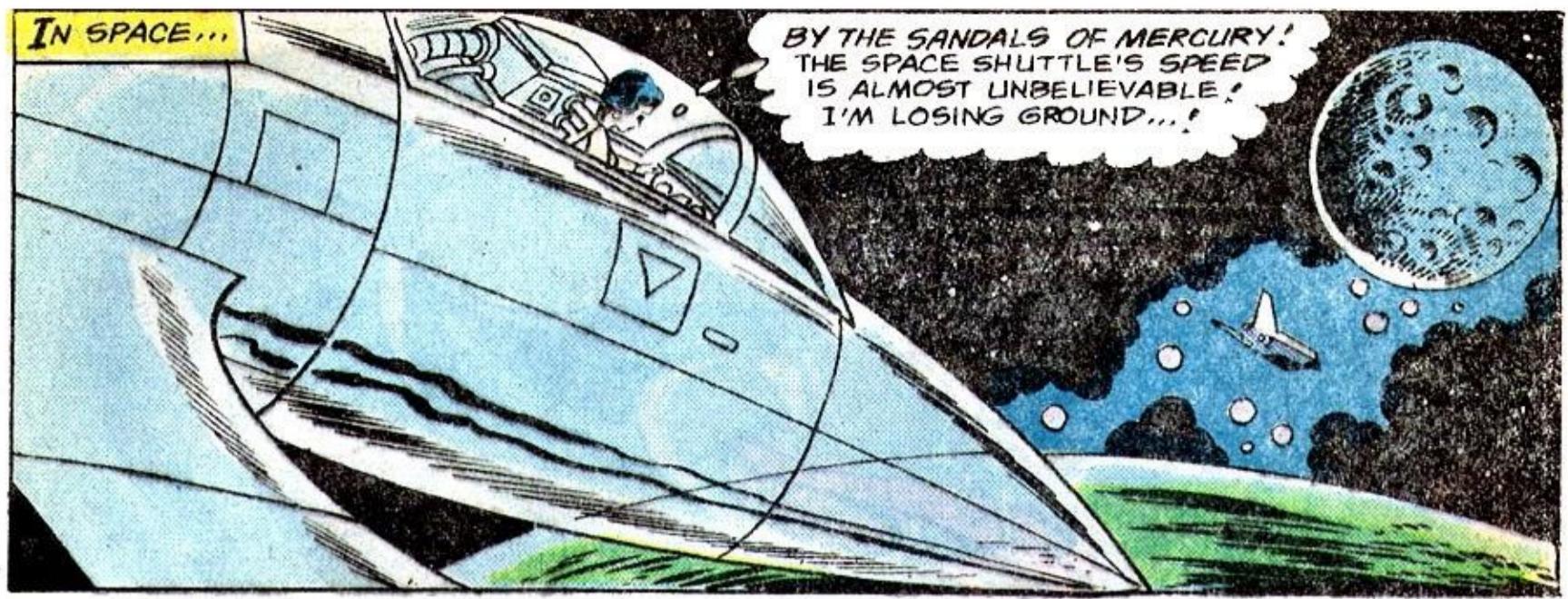
NOW SHE RISKS THE
WRATH OF THE GODS!
SHE DISOBeyed THEIR
WILL--LEFT PARADISE
ISLAND WHILE ANOTHER
WAS CHOSEN AS
WONDER WOMAN!*

* ISSUE # 251.

AWAY FROM THE EARTH,
THE GODS' POWER IS
STRONGEST! HOW LONG
WILL THEY WAIT
BEFORE EXERCISING
THEIR ANGER?

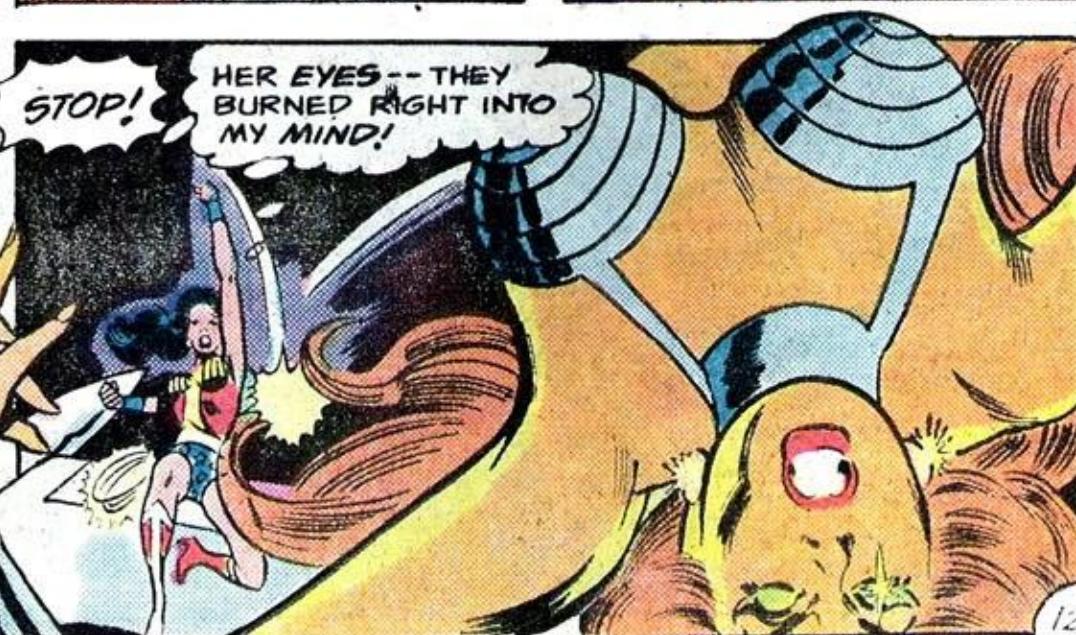
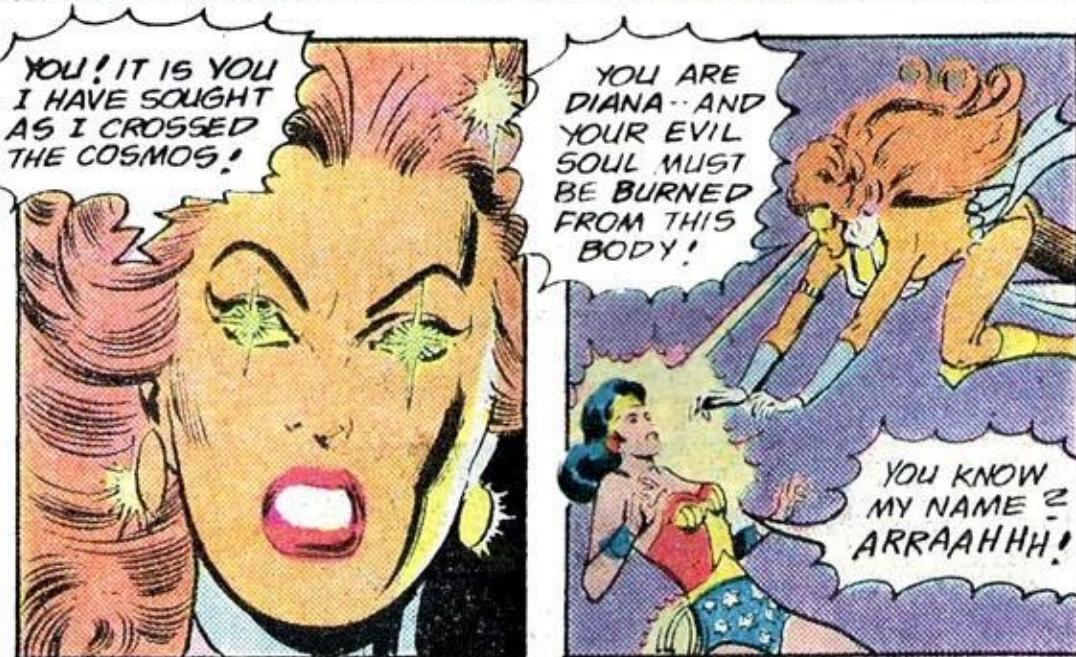
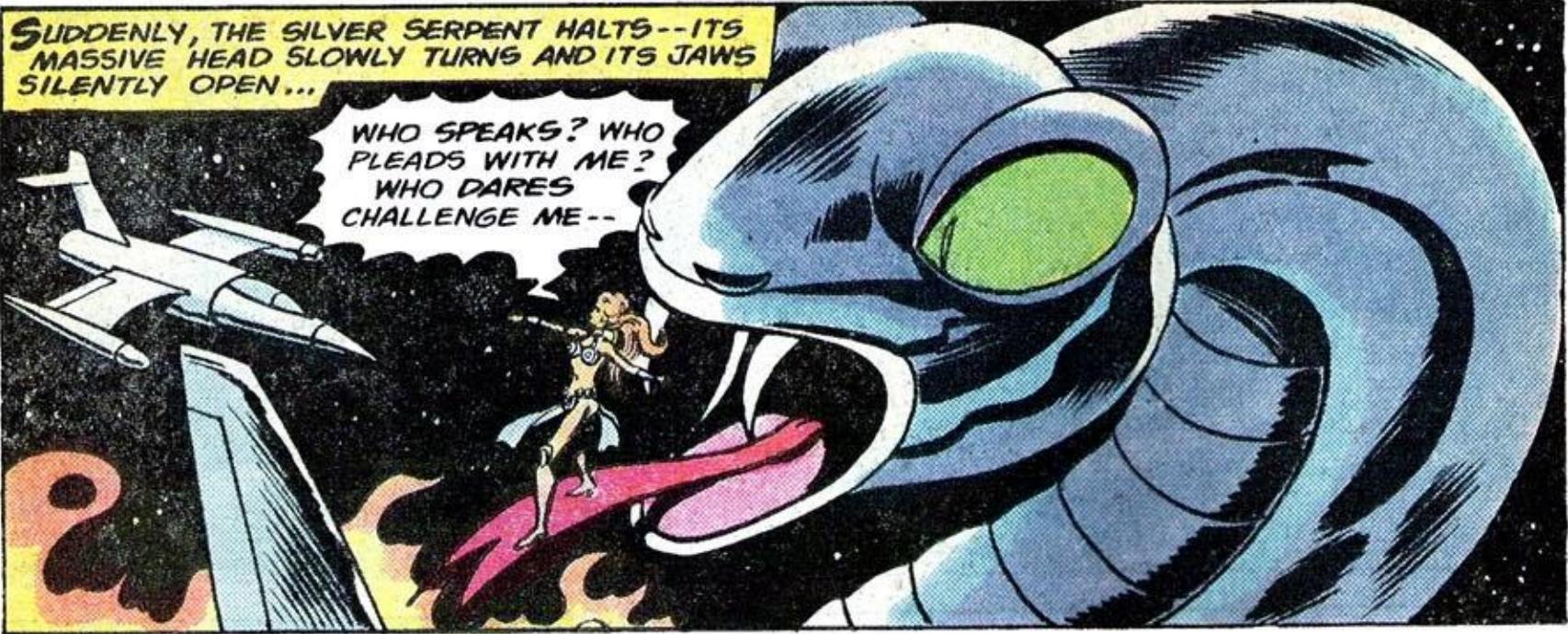
MY QUEEN..?



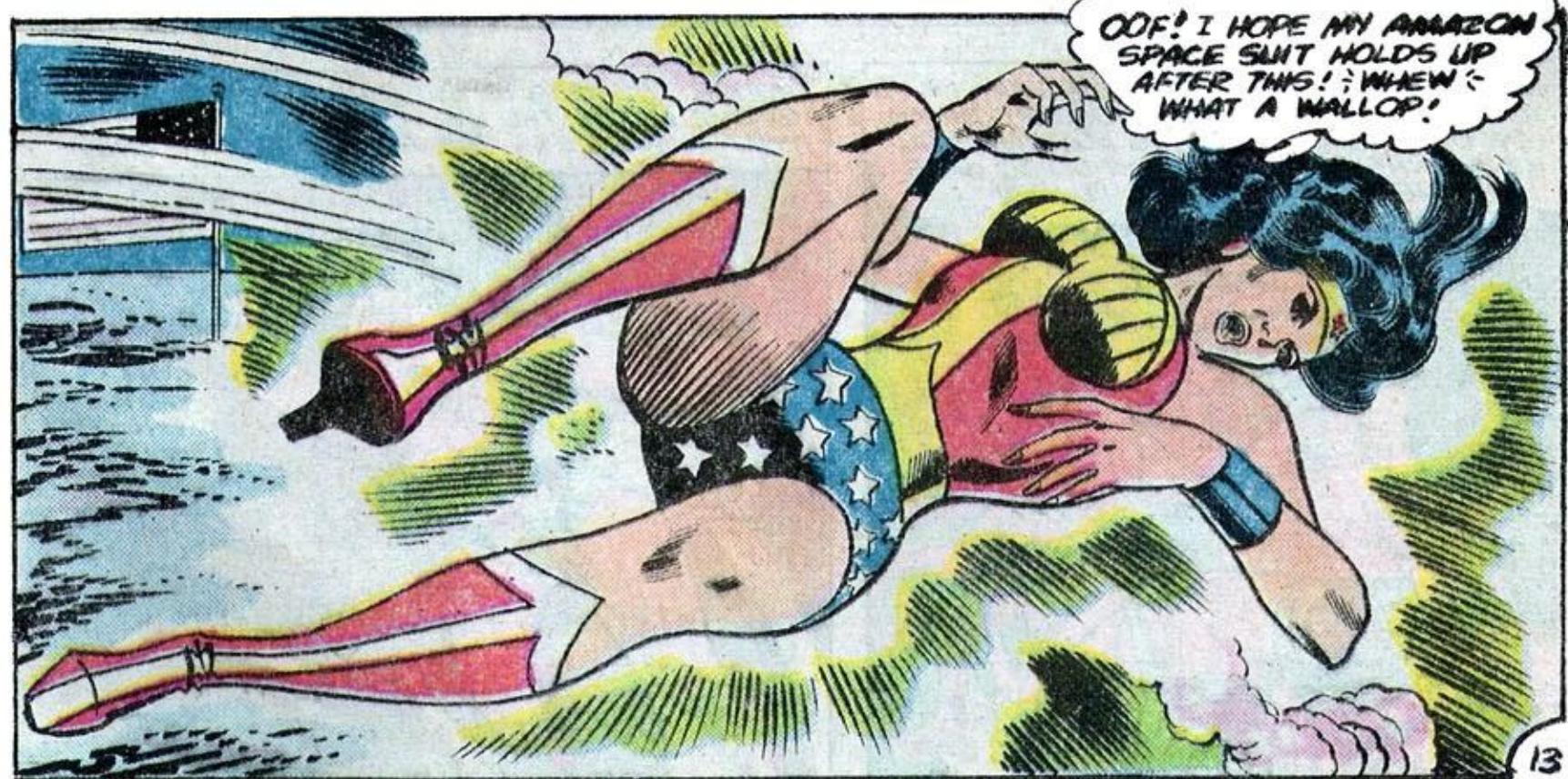


SUDDENLY, THE SILVER SERPENT HALTS--ITS MASSIVE HEAD SLOWLY TURNS AND ITS JAWS SILENTLY OPEN...

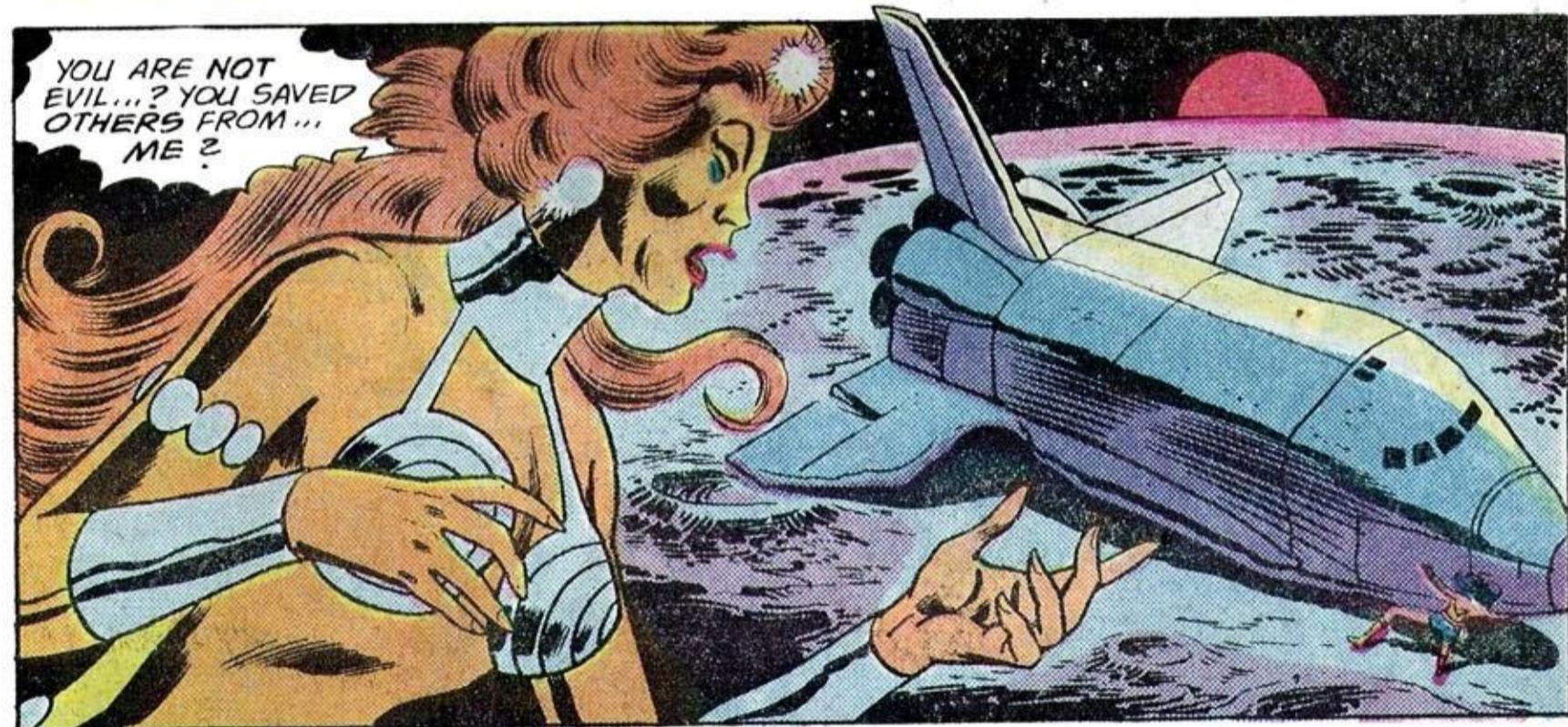
WHO SPEAKS? WHO PLEADS WITH ME?
WHO DARES CHALLENGE ME--



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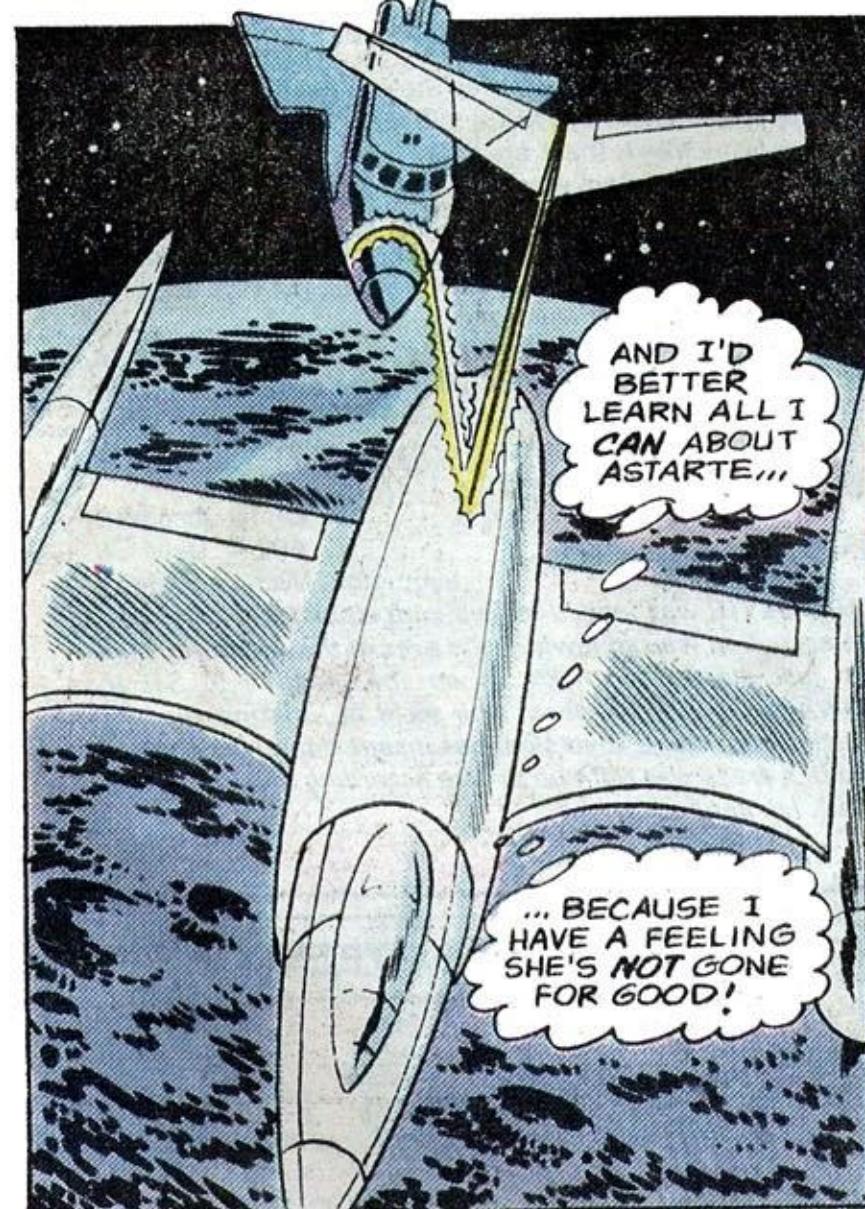
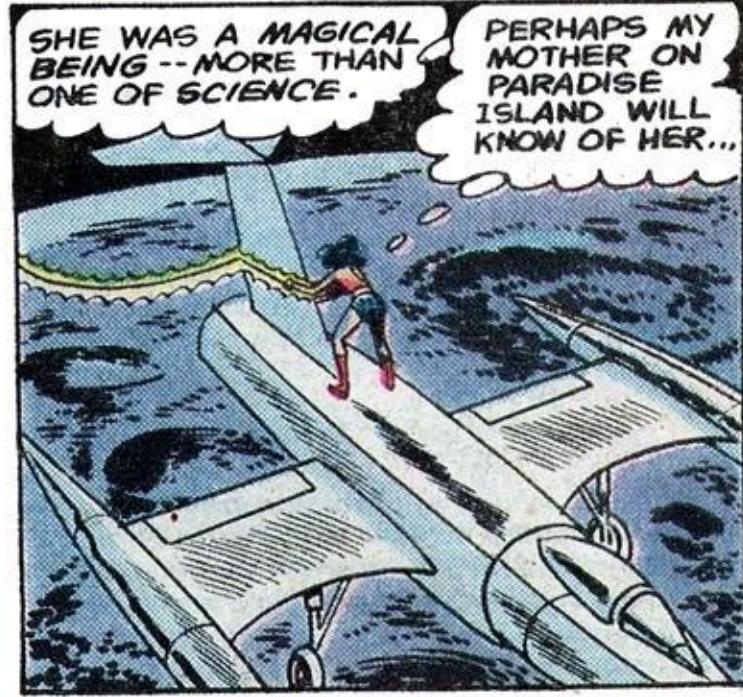




ENERGY OF UNIMAGINABLE FORCE CRACKLES
SILENTLY ON THE AIRLESS MOON--SURROUNDING
THE EMPRESS KNOWN AS ASTARTE--SURROUND-
ING THE SLEEK AND SINISTER CRAFT CALLED THE
SILVER SNAKE UNTIL--

--THEY HAVE BECOME AS STONE!

GREAT SHADES
OF PLUTO!





Wonder Words

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

L-204

Dear Jack and Company,

Thanks for inventing a fabulous villain for WONDER WOMAN in #247! At last a villain equal in power and wit! The story itself was a little too fast-paced, but good fun. Inversion is a truly unique villain and I am awaiting his return. It was also nice seeing the ELONGATED MAN as guest and I hope you team WW with more JUSTICE LEAGUE members.

The only thing that bothered me in the issue was Diana's reaction to Steve's "kidnapping." She seemed to care less about him and what surprised me most was that she chose to save Inversion instead of searching for Steve. This shows me Diana has lost interest in her so-called boyfriend and their relationship should be developed.

The Amazon story was superb! The art could have been better, but I am still looking forward to more stories. Overall, the issue was nice (not terrific, but nice). By the way, I heard that Diana will be training as an astronaut. Can this be so?

John Doherty

7 Hopkins Rd.
Plymouth, Mass. 02360

Yes, it's so, John, as you have seen in our latest issues. As for the relationship between STEVE and DIANA, it can no longer be—since STEVE'S permanent departure from the land of the living. As for WONDER WOMAN'S seeming desertion of STEVE in issue #247, such was not the case. She saw him abducted by the U.S. Army, and her deep patriotic feelings for the military did not allow her to believe STEVE would come to harm. She did fear for INVERSION'S life, and, due to her Amazonian upbringing, she felt the saving of a life more important than learning STEVE'S whereabouts.—JCH

Dear Editor,

WONDER WOMAN has never been one of my favorite comics, it still isn't, but the last few issues have improved by leaps and bounds. Of course anything had to be an improvement over the WWII stories. I have never liked superhero stories set during WWII, so I was extremely pleased to see WW (that's WONDER WOMAN not World War) return to the present.

I didn't really care for Inversion either, he just didn't seem menacing enough. I do, however, like the Steve Trevor/Howard subplot, and the characterization you are adding to both Trevor/Howard and WW.

To me the highpoint of the issue came with the cameo appearance of the ELONGATED MAN. I'm a great EM fan from way back and any appearance by him anywhere is greatly appreciated.

The lowpoint of the issue was the last two panels in the WW story. These seem to be just stuck in to add some sort of continuity between the lead and backup stories. They detracted from both by making me look for some sort of connection where none existed. Please don't try to tie the two features together unless they really fit.

THE SECOND
GREAT

SUPERMAN MOVIE CONTEST!



General Zod

19. General Zod was sentenced to the Phantom Zone for . . .
a) blowing up Krypton's inhabited moon, Wegthor
b) cheating on his income tax
c) attempting to take over Krypton with an army of Bizarros
d) rigging an election for the Science Council
e) stealing the Sun-Stone

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QUESTION NINETEEN:



Terence Stamp

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About the "TALES OF THE AMAZONS" feature, it seems that Mr. Whitman and friends have this thing for skimpy and see-through clothing. Not that I'm complaining, I liked it, but that seemed to be the main purpose behind the whole story. I hope, however, that this will be proven to be an erroneous deduction as the series develops.

M.L. Fennessy
241 S. Hoopes Ave.
Auburn, NY 13201

Now that we have again changed format, our AMAZON series has been suspended, but not forgotten. We hope you paid attention to those tales because it just might give you some insight into some upcoming developments. Keep alert!—JCH

Dear Editor,

The plot about Steve Howard/Trevor is good, but I can't say all that much for the Inside-Out Man in issue #247.

Although I am afraid you are going to get rid of Steve Howard/Trevor. This will be a big mistake. I thought so when he was killed originally and was glad to see him brought back to life.

The thing I like about DC is the way they treat their supporting characters. These people don't have super-powers, but not only do they do whatever job they're supposed to do, but they also catch the attention of someone who is super-powered. We can imagine, if we are so inclined, that we might be that type of person ourselves. Your competitor is not half as good as you are in this respect and for that reason and others, DC is my favorite.

This is also why I hope you keep Steve Howard/Trevor. He is very important to the WONDER WOMAN legend.

As for issue #247, there are some questions: Why was the Inside-Out Man doing what he was doing? Was his mind snapped because of what happened to him? What did he eventually hope to gain? Also, that dress Diana was wearing! Does she really wear a dress with a slit up the side to work? Somehow that doesn't seem right.

I wasn't all that fond of the "Tales of the Amazons" because of the way Hercules was treated. I always rather liked him. One thing, though: Has Hippolyte, in her most secret of hearts, wished that Hercules words of love had been true? She had to like him to have been deceived!

Penny Jacobson
602 N. Delia St.
Ludington, Michigan 49431

HIPPOLYTE was indeed in love with Hercules. That is why the deception was so lowly in the eyes of the Amazons. Mail has just started to trickle in on the reaction to STEVE HOWARD/TREVOR'S death and we'll be printing readers' reactions next time. Inversion was insane due to his affliction and DI's dress was right up to date according to current NEW YORK fashion!—JCH