



®  
WONDER  
WOMAN

78 US \$1.25  
SEP 93 CAN \$1.60  
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BILL LOEBS  
LEE MODER  
ANDE PARKS

# WANTED: DEAD! WONDER WOMAN

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
A  
AUTHORITY



BOLLAND



"The capacity of our species to make and understand contracts is what guarantees the continuance of civilization," --EDNA TEEL, TEEL'S GUIDE TO CONTRACT LAW

# THE FAST CONTRACT

WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS ★ LEE MODER ★ ANDE PARKS with AARON McCLELLAN  
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PATRICIA MULVIHILL ★ JOHN COSTANZA ★ RUBEN DIAZ ★ BRIAN AUGUSTYN  
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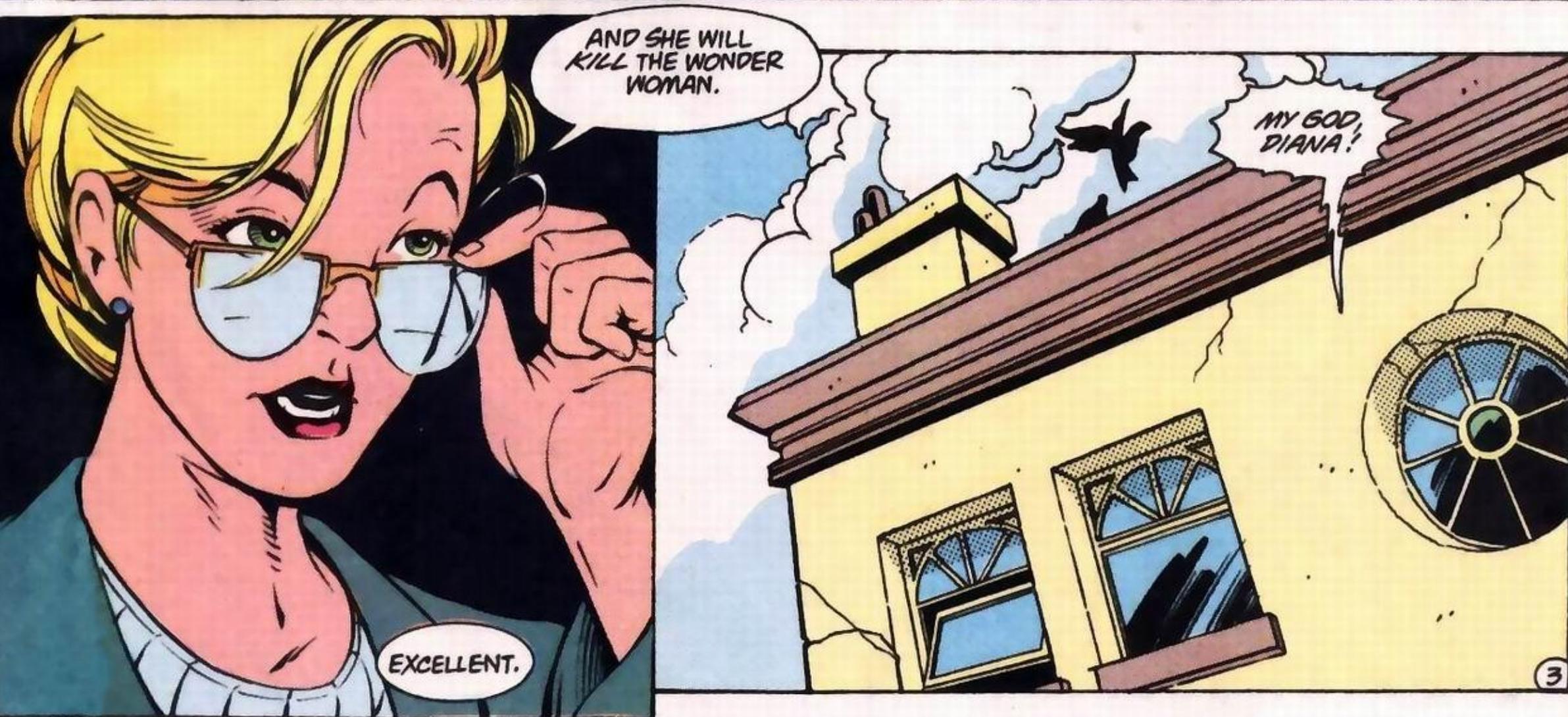
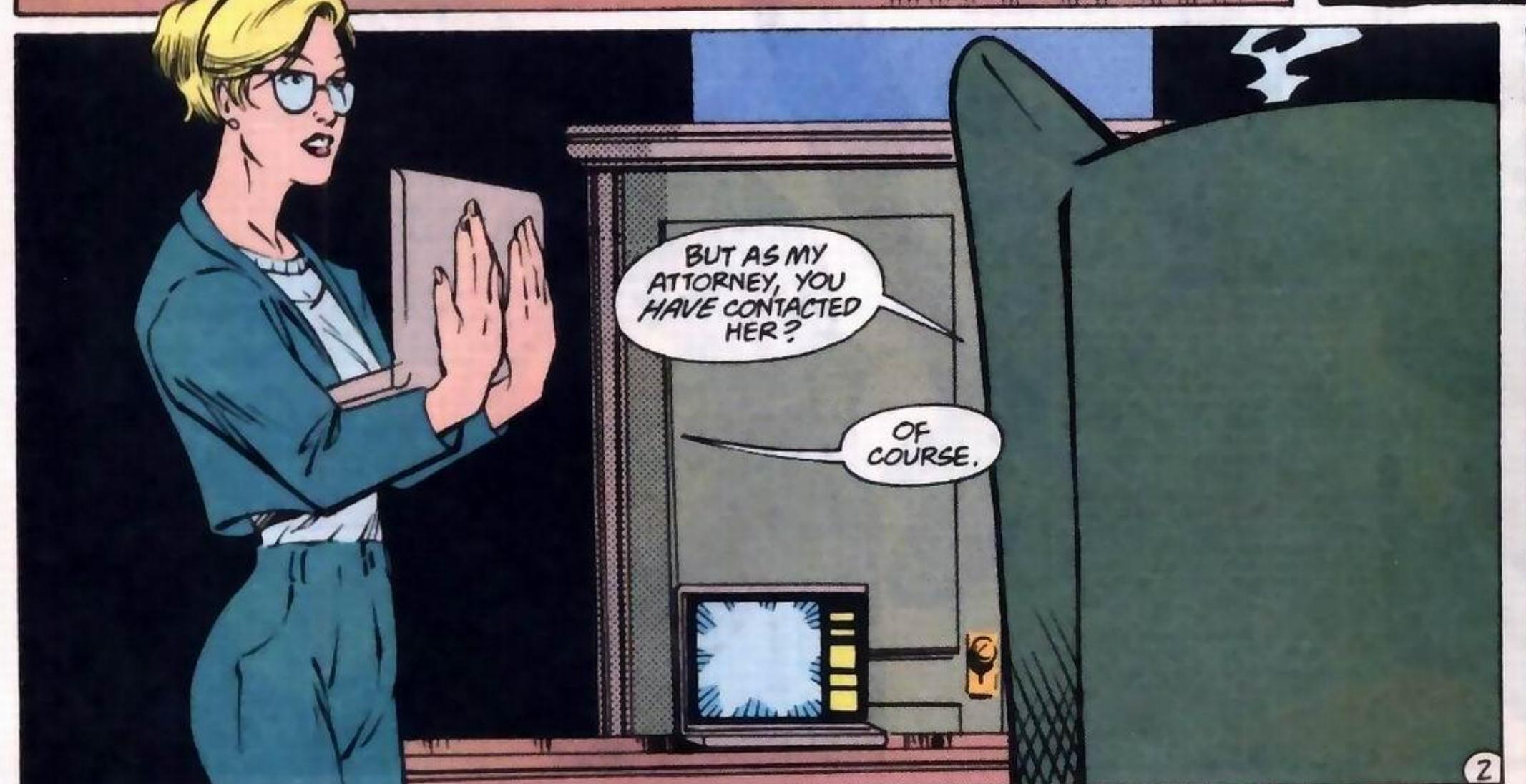
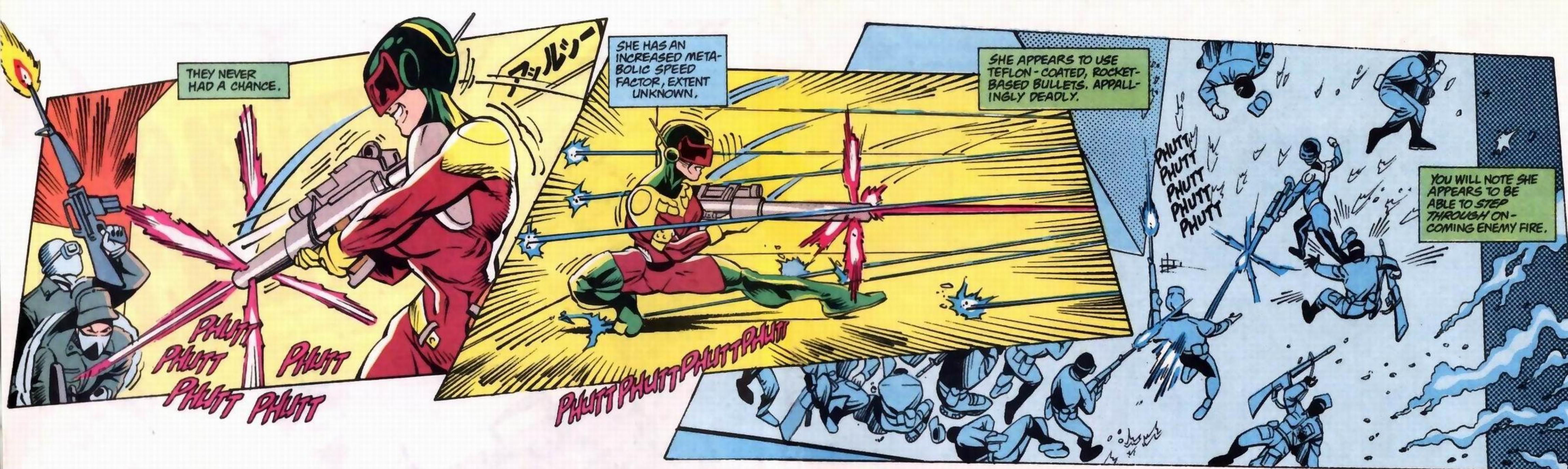
OBSERVE. THIS TAPE WAS MADE TWO MONTHS AGO, JUST AFTER THE MURDER OF A TOP LABOR LEADER IN JAPAN.

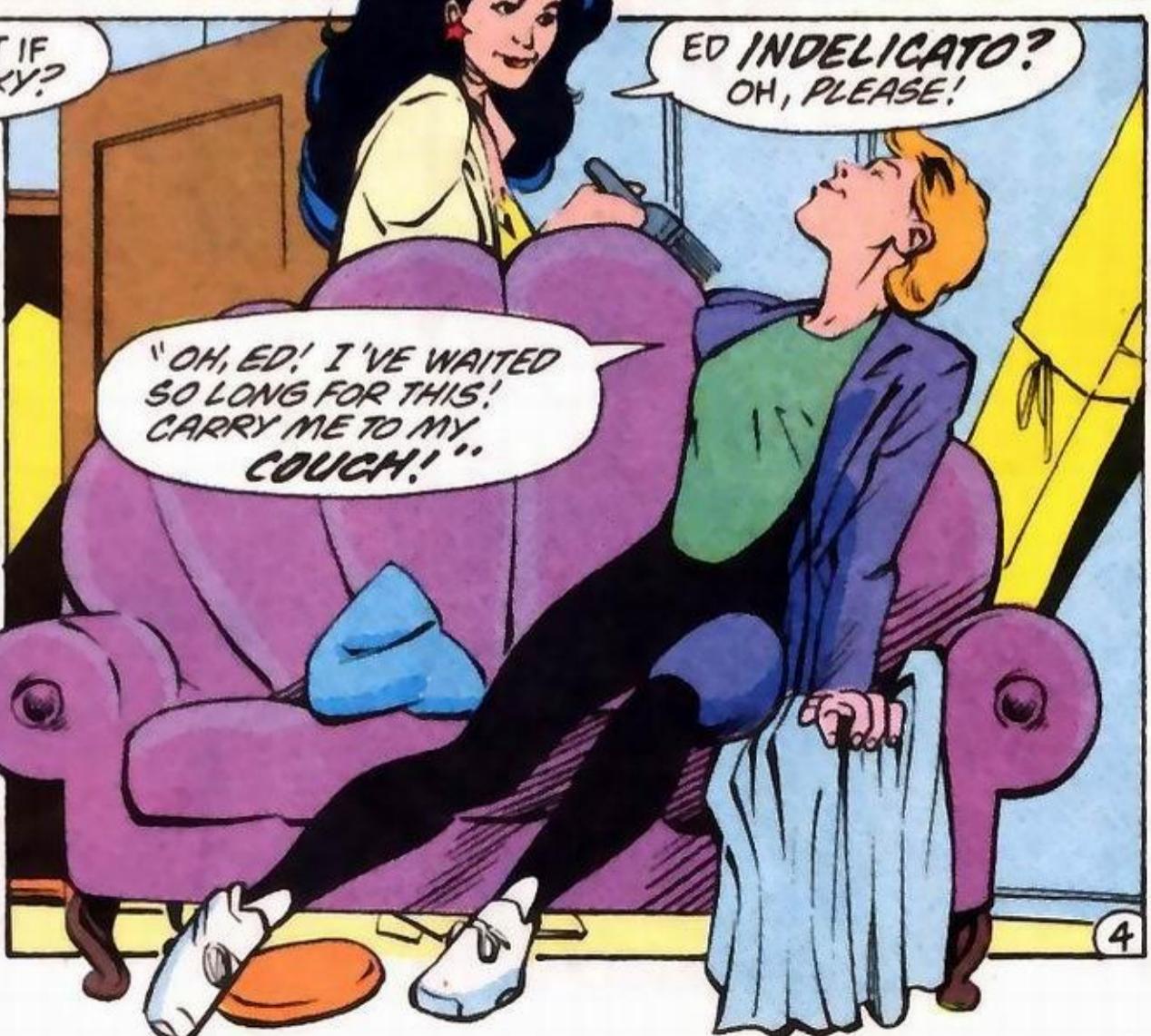
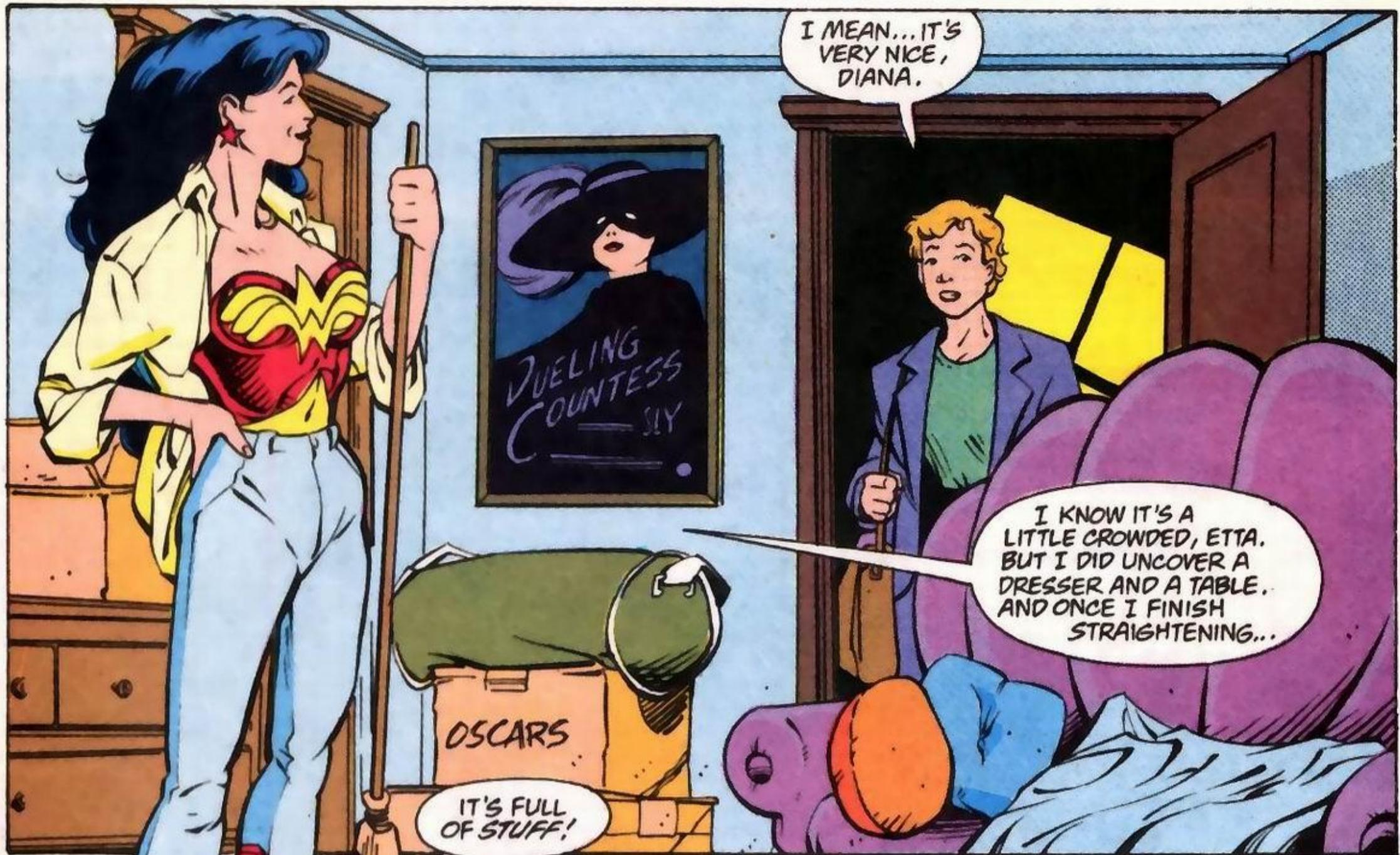
THE YOUNG WOMAN IS THE KILLER. SHE IS SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE TOP TWO PERCENTILE OF ASSASSINS. HER CODE-NAME IS MAYFLY.

SHE IS TRAPPED IN A DEAD-END CORRIDOR, SURROUNDED BY A CRACK SECURITY FORCE OF THIRTY, ALL HIGHLY MOTIVATED, HEAVILY ARMED AND THOROUGHLY TRAINED.

WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

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# DUELING DUNTESS

YES, THOUGH IT  
DOES SEEM  
FAR-FETCHED.

WELL, IT'S A THOUGHT.  
IS THAT THE SILENT MOVIE STAR  
YOU THINK MAY BE YOUR  
LANDLADY?

NOT COMPARED  
TO FIGHTING  
CRIME WITH  
A MARTIAN,  
WHICH WE  
KNOW  
YOU DO.

HMM... HERE IT IS...  
"SLY. CAMILLE. 1889--? OFTEN  
CALLED THE 'FEMALE FAIRBANKS'  
SLY DID MOST OF HER OWN  
STUNTS, EVEN DIRECTING UPON  
OCCASION. AFTER THE INTRO-  
DUCTION OF SOUND, SHE  
DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT..."

DOES SHE LOOK  
FAMILIAR?

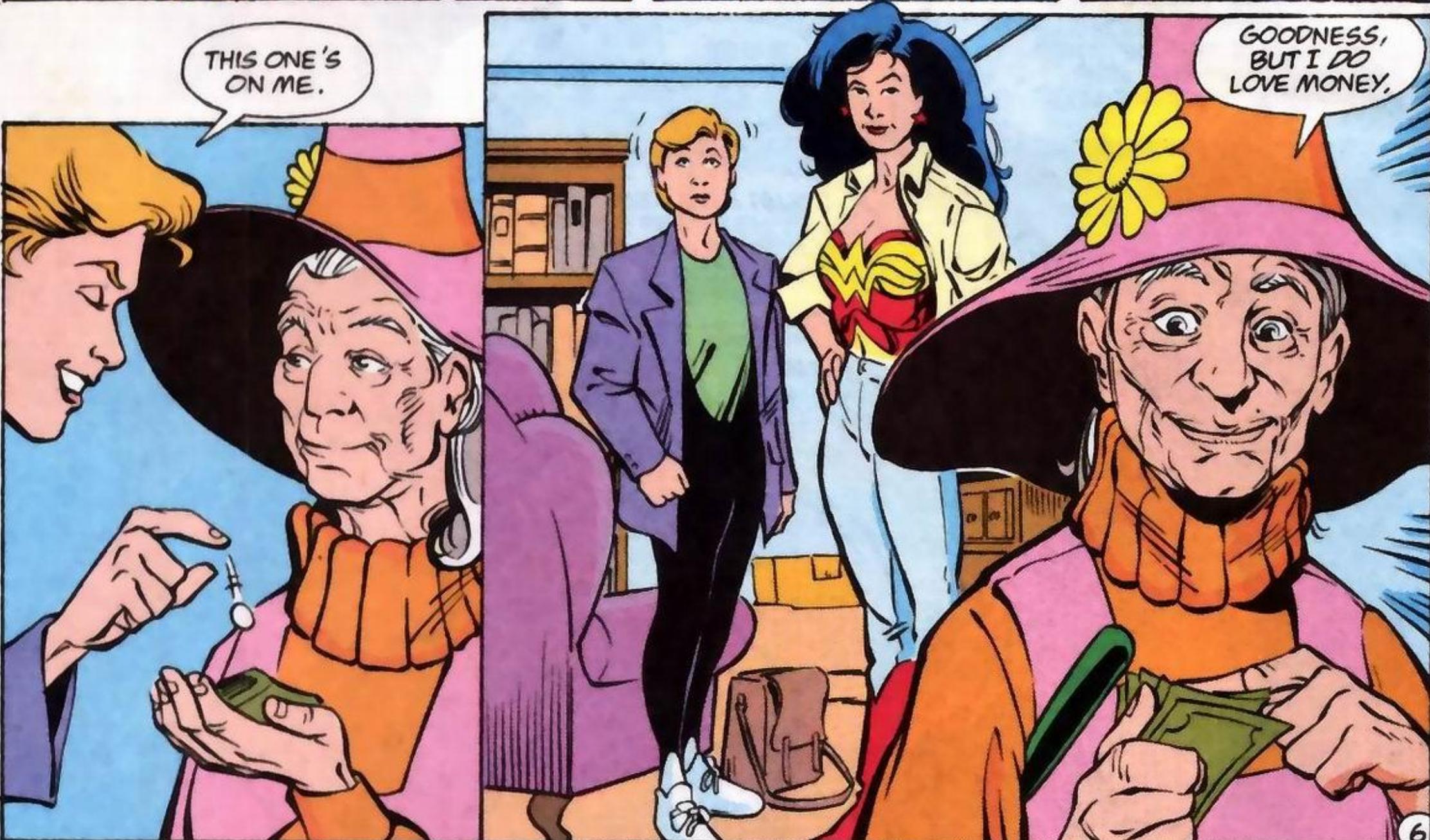
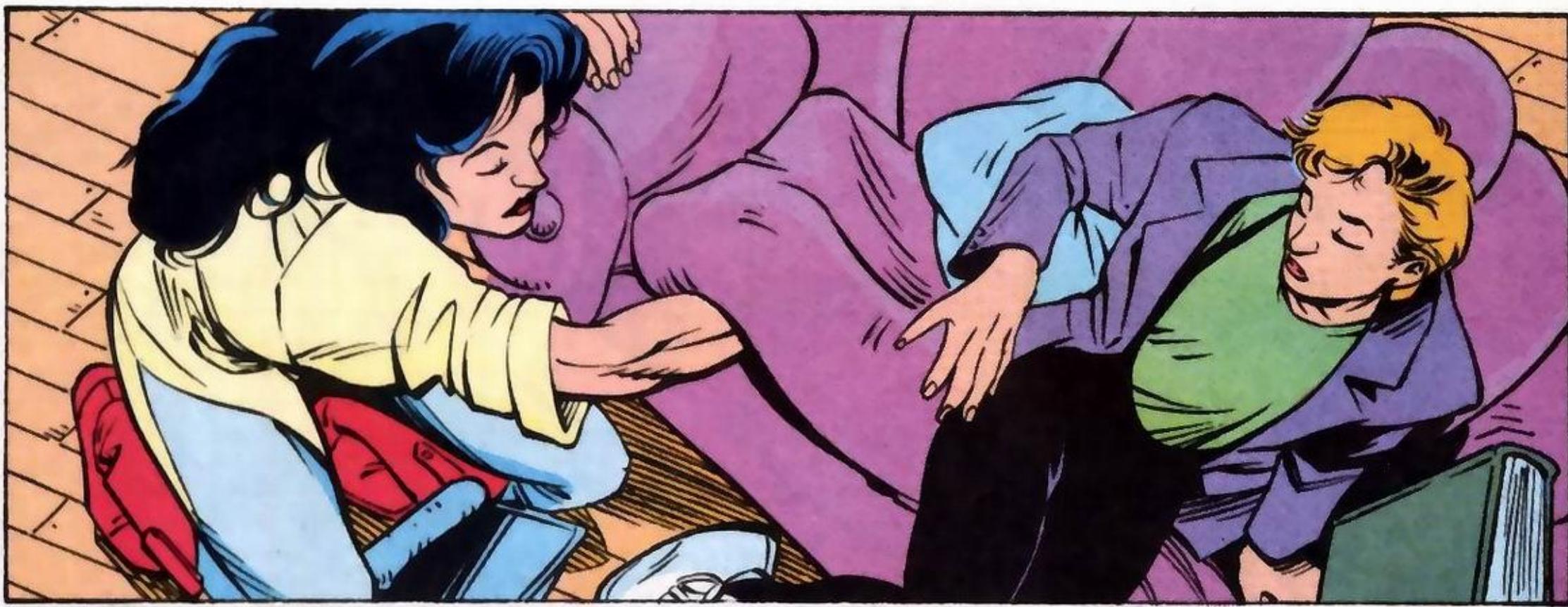
SLY CAMILLE 1889--?  
led the "Female  
Fairbanks", Sly did most of  
her own stunts, even directing  
occasionally. She  
dropped out of sight. Sly is  
remembered for her  
MAYBE.

OF COURSE,  
THAT WOULD  
MAKE HER  
OVER A  
HUNDRED...

RENT TIME!

I JUST LOVE RENT DAY,  
DON'T YOU, DEAR? A NEW  
MONTH... A CHANCE FOR  
EVERYONE TO BE SELF-  
SUPPORTING!

UHM...  
YES.



THANK YOU,  
ETTA.

HEY, MI  
DIME ES SU  
DIME!



I DIDN'T  
REALIZE  
THINGS WERE  
SO TIGHT,  
DIANA. IF  
YOU NEED A  
LOAN...

I DON'T  
NEED MUCH,  
ETTA. AND YOU  
ARE GETTING  
MARRIED.

STILL...

ONCE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE  
RECORDS ARE STRAIGHTENED OUT,  
AND I'M NOT DEAD ANYMORE,  
I'LL BE GETTING A SALARY.

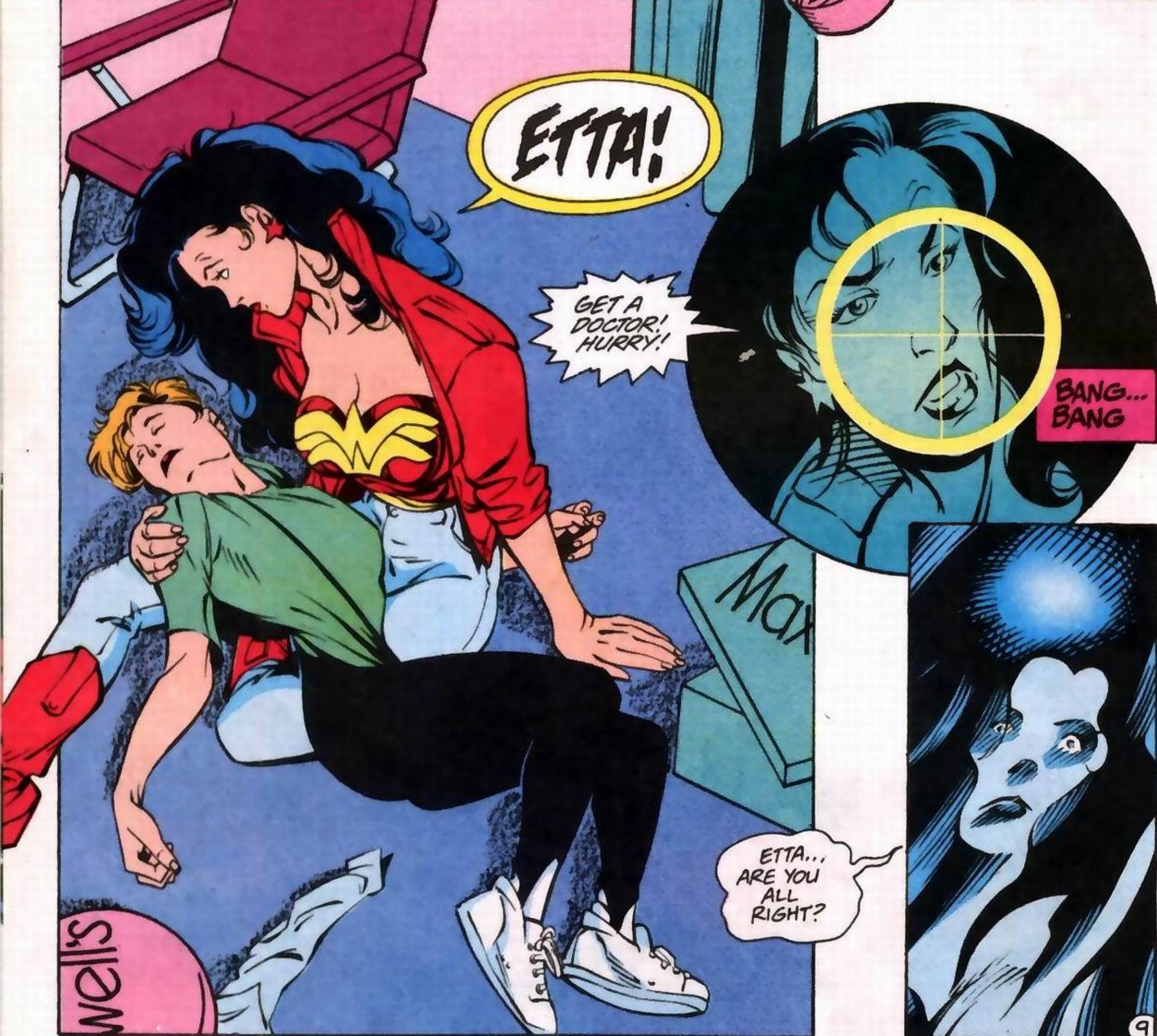


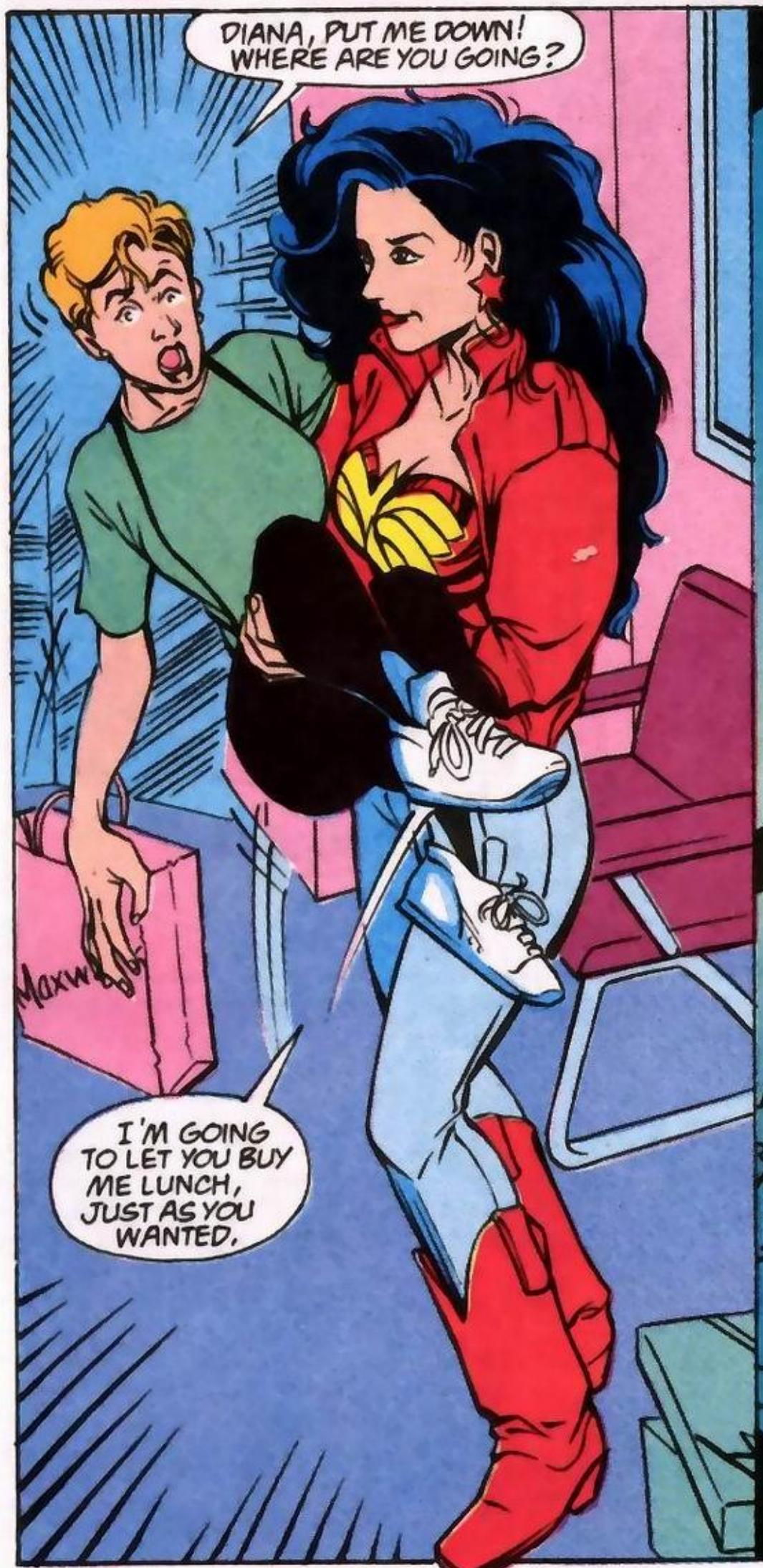
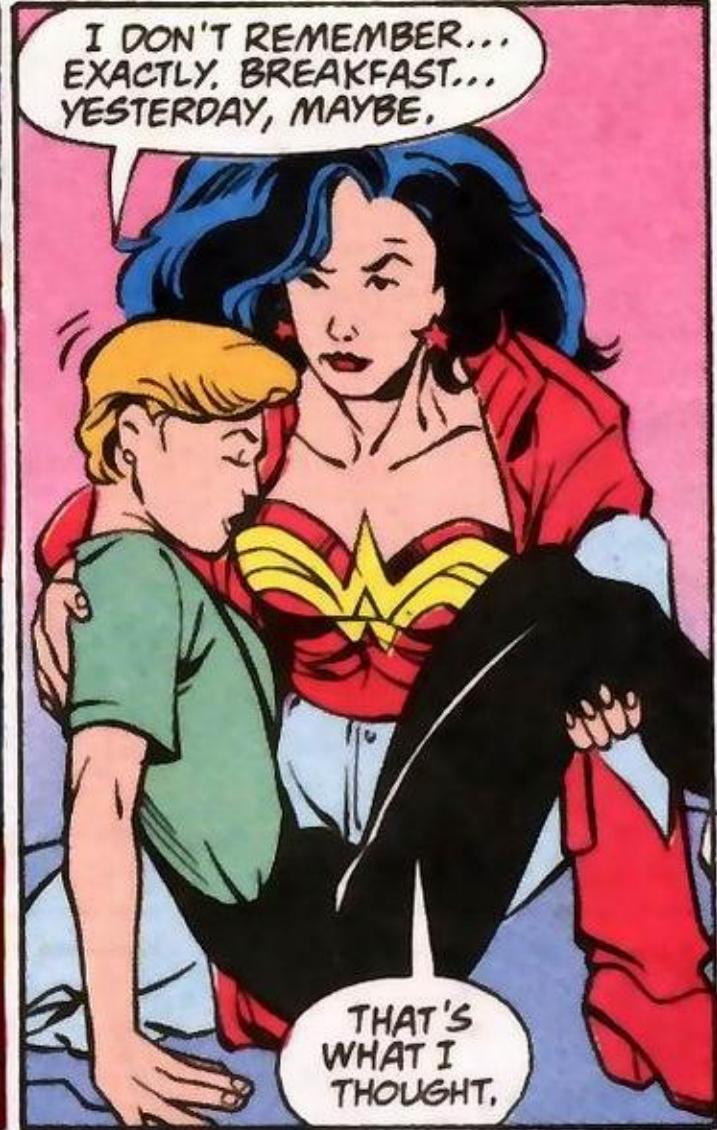
AFTER ALL,  
YOU'RE HELPING  
ME PICK A  
WEDDING  
DRESS.

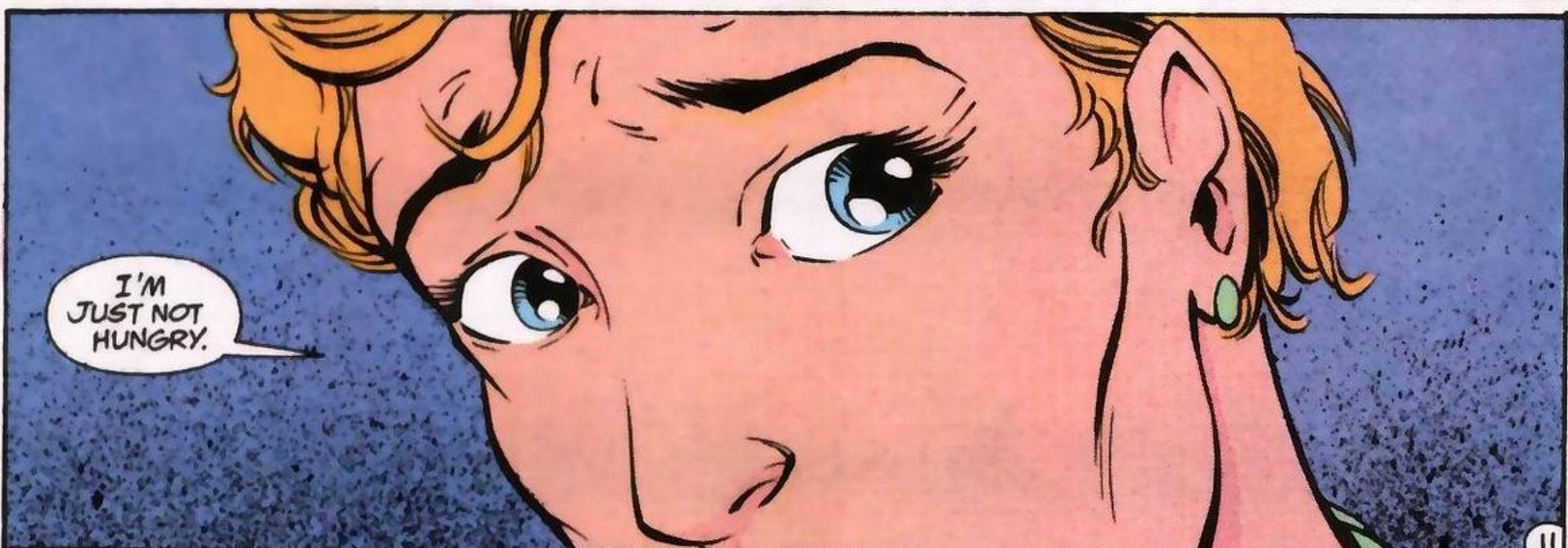
DEAL!

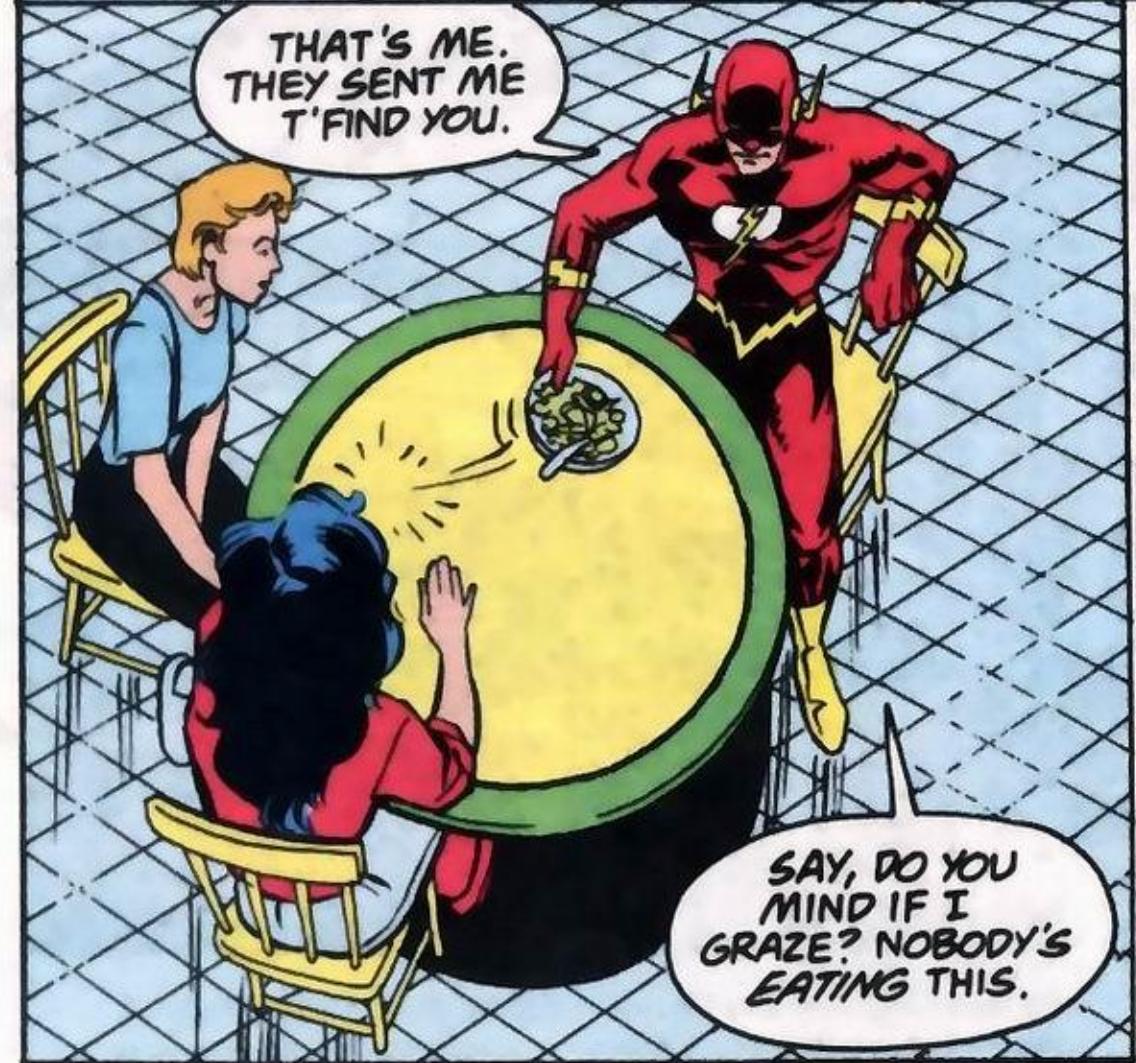
BANG

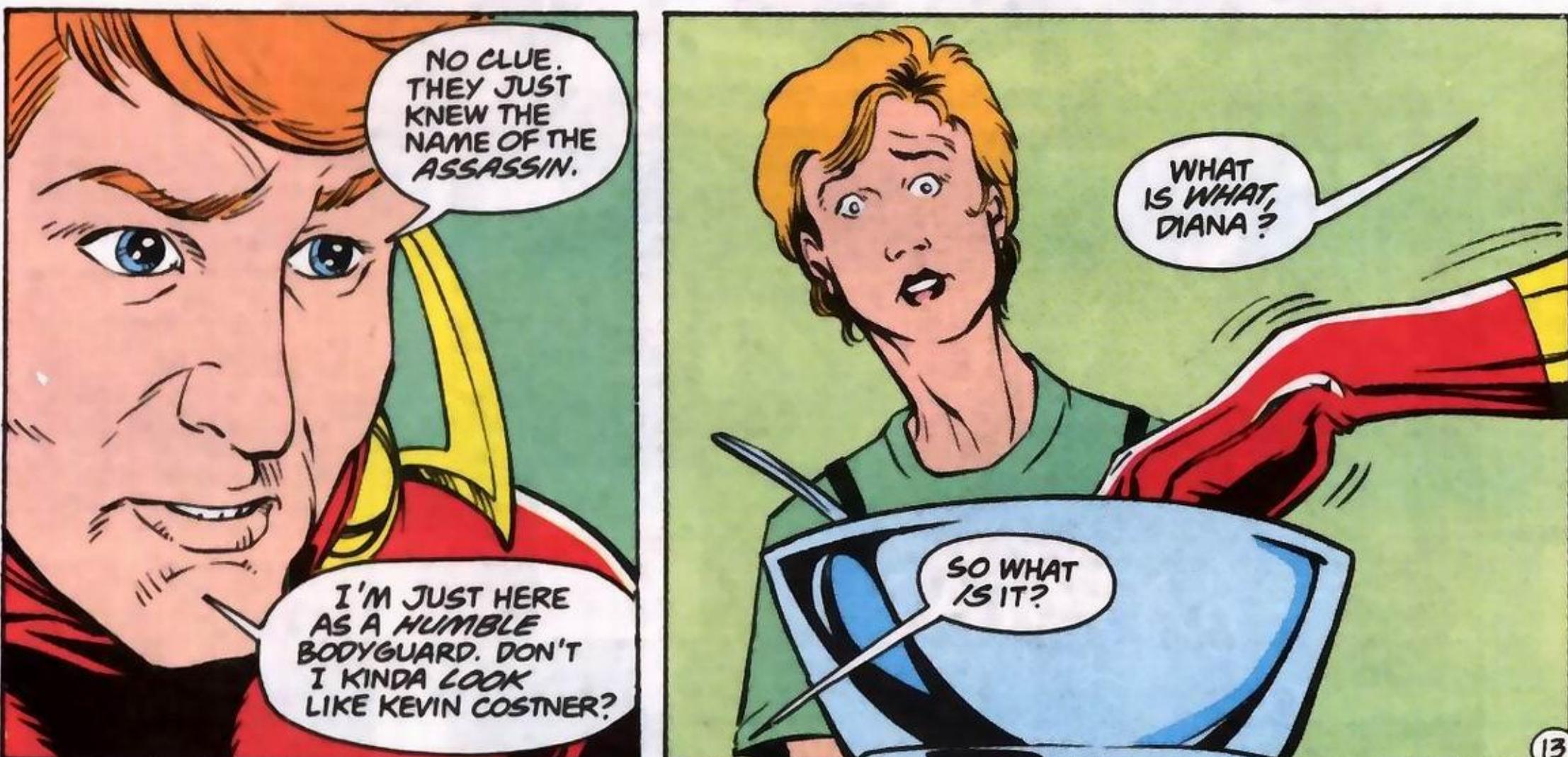
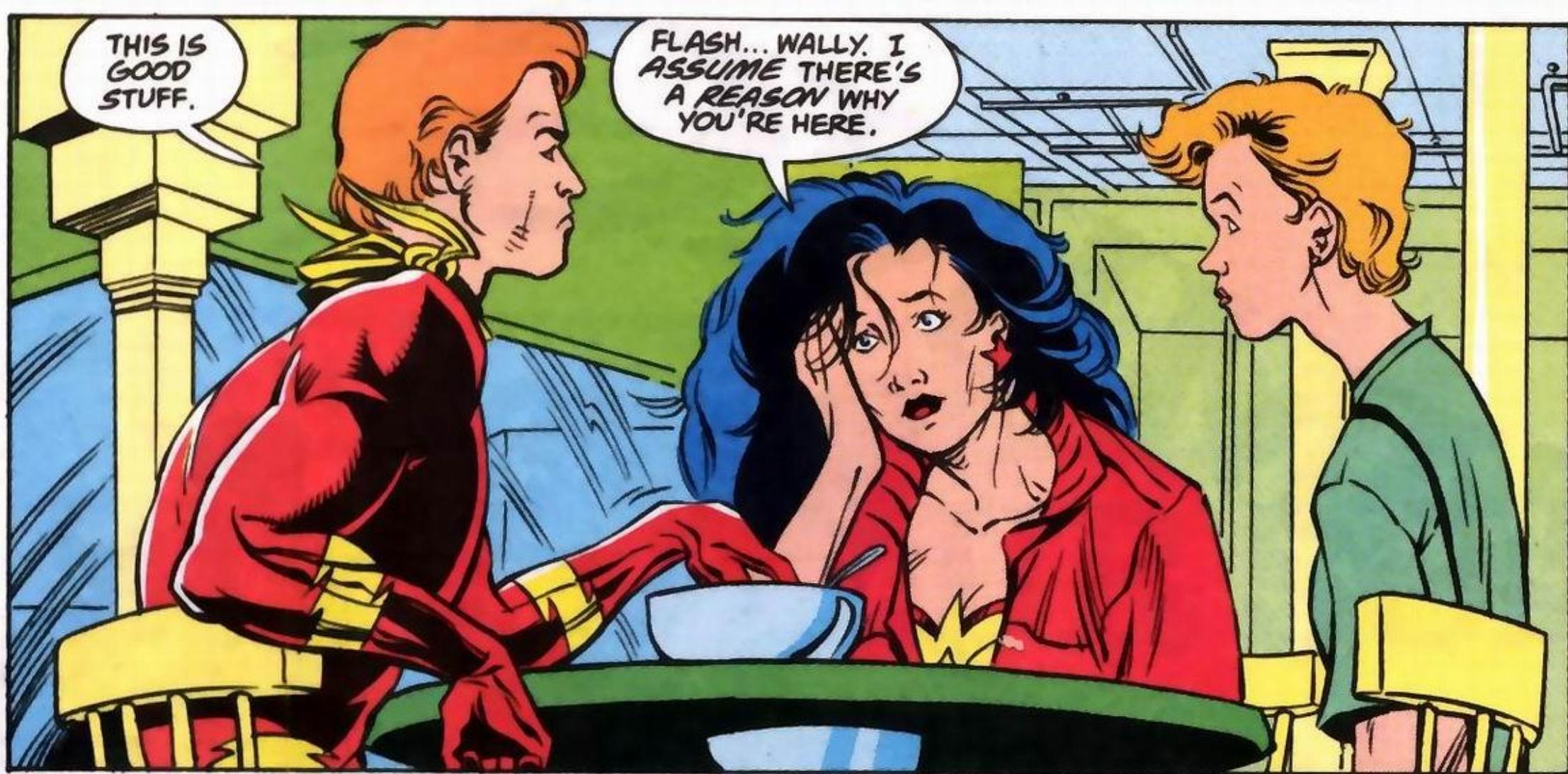


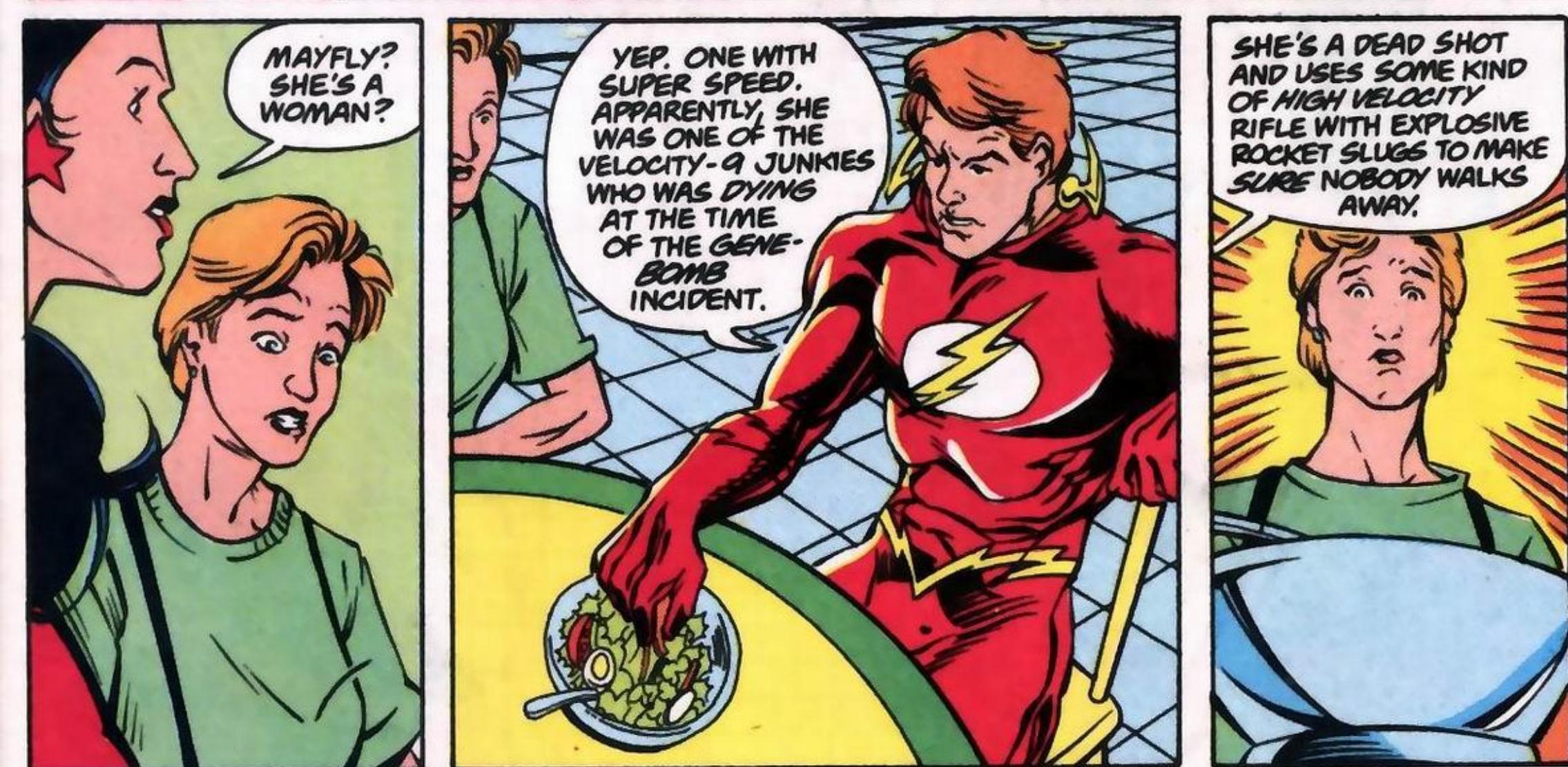




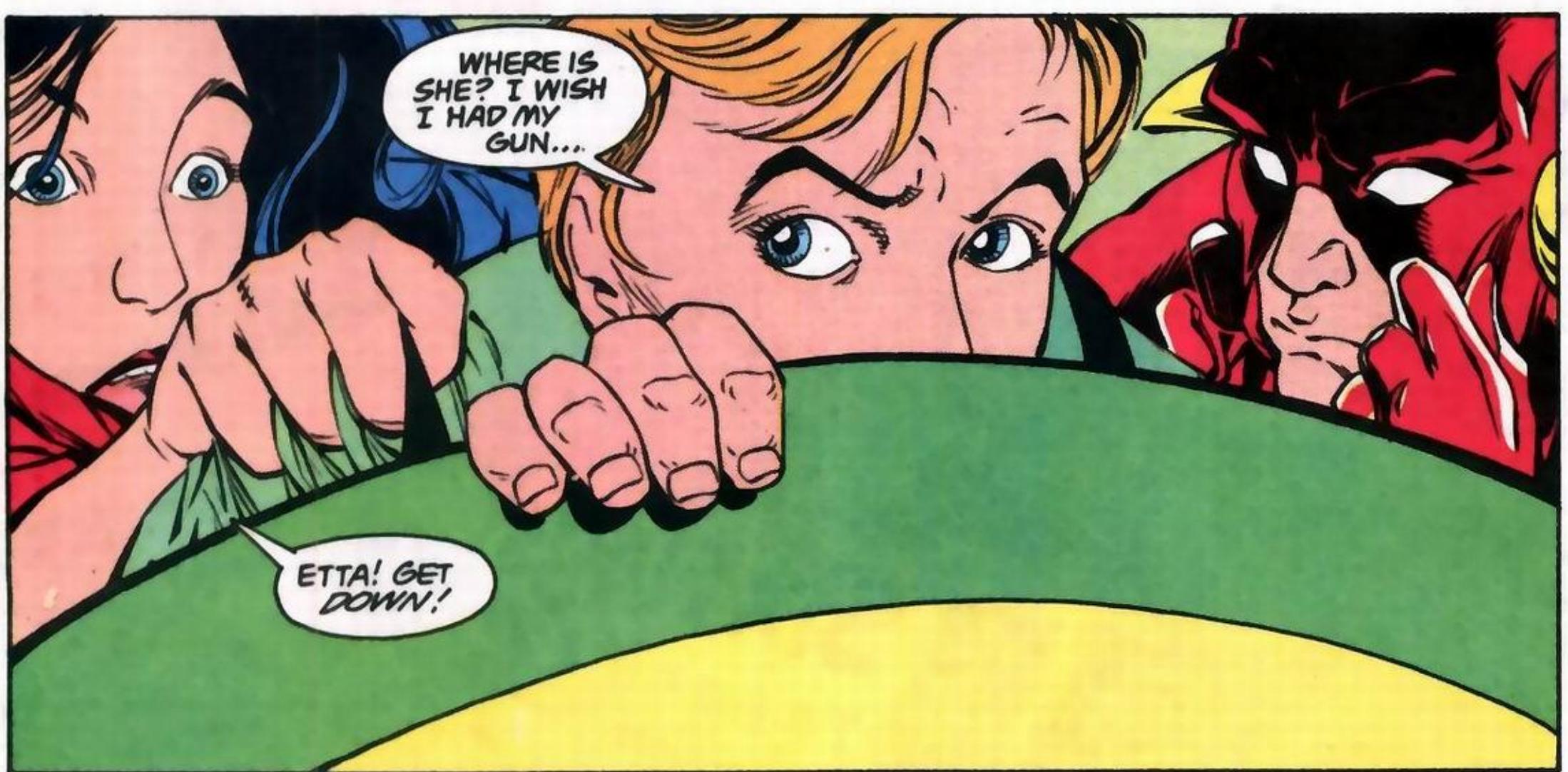
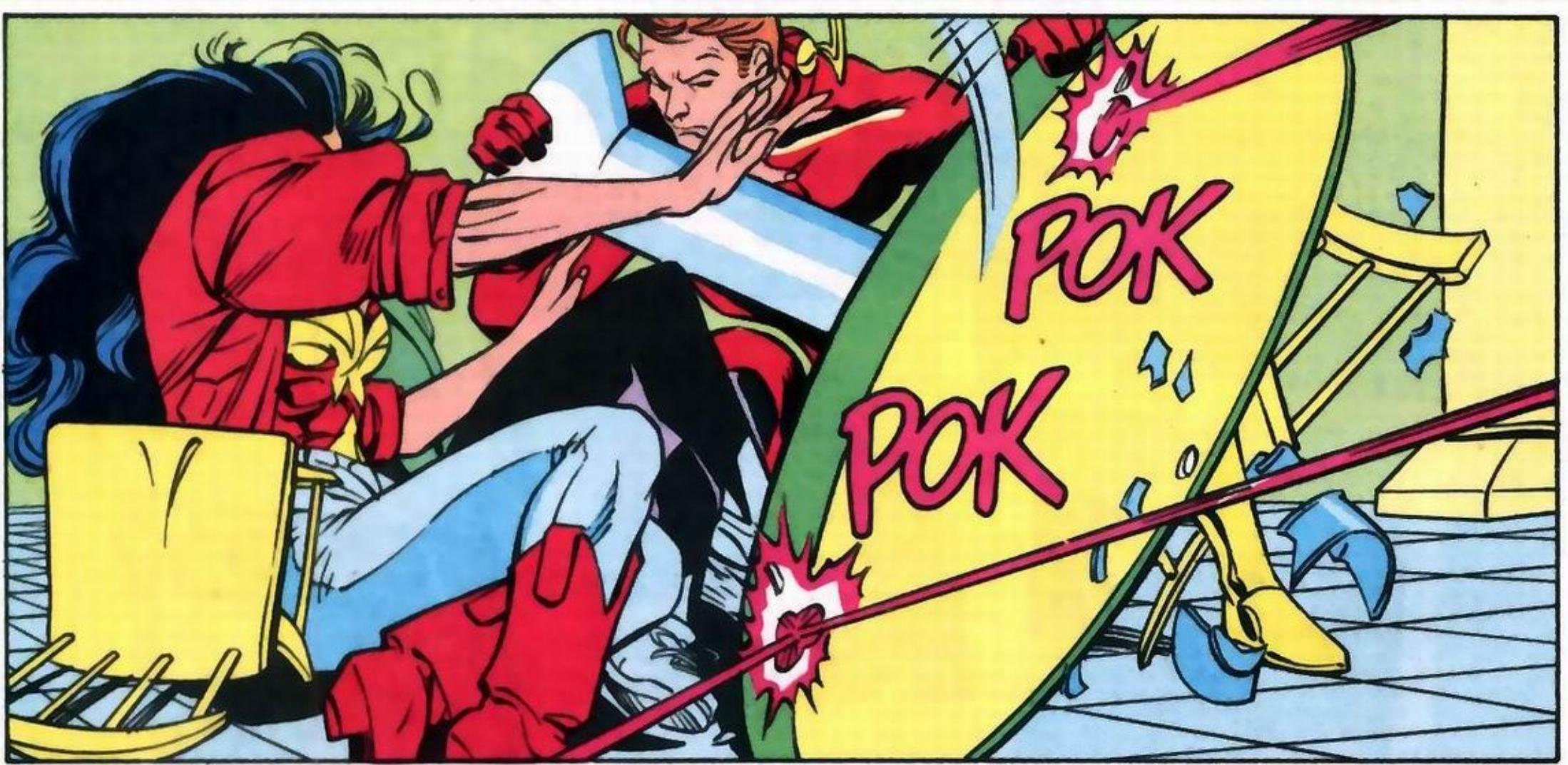


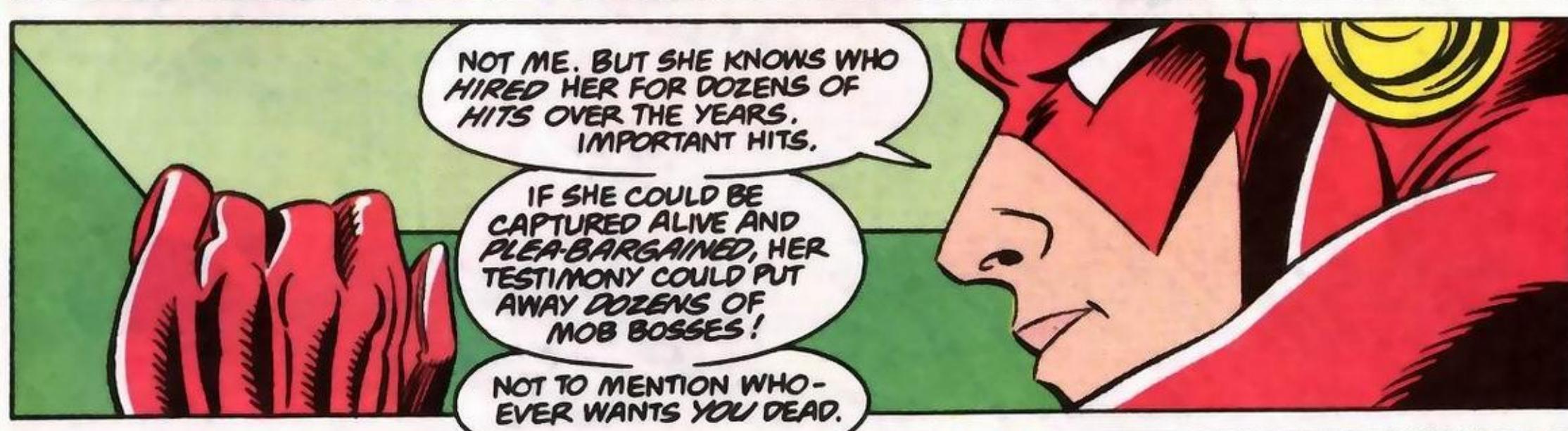












NO. WHAT WE NEED IS  
ME. HOWEVER FAST SHE  
IS, SHE ISN'T FAST  
ENOUGH TO HIT ME AT  
TOP SPEED!

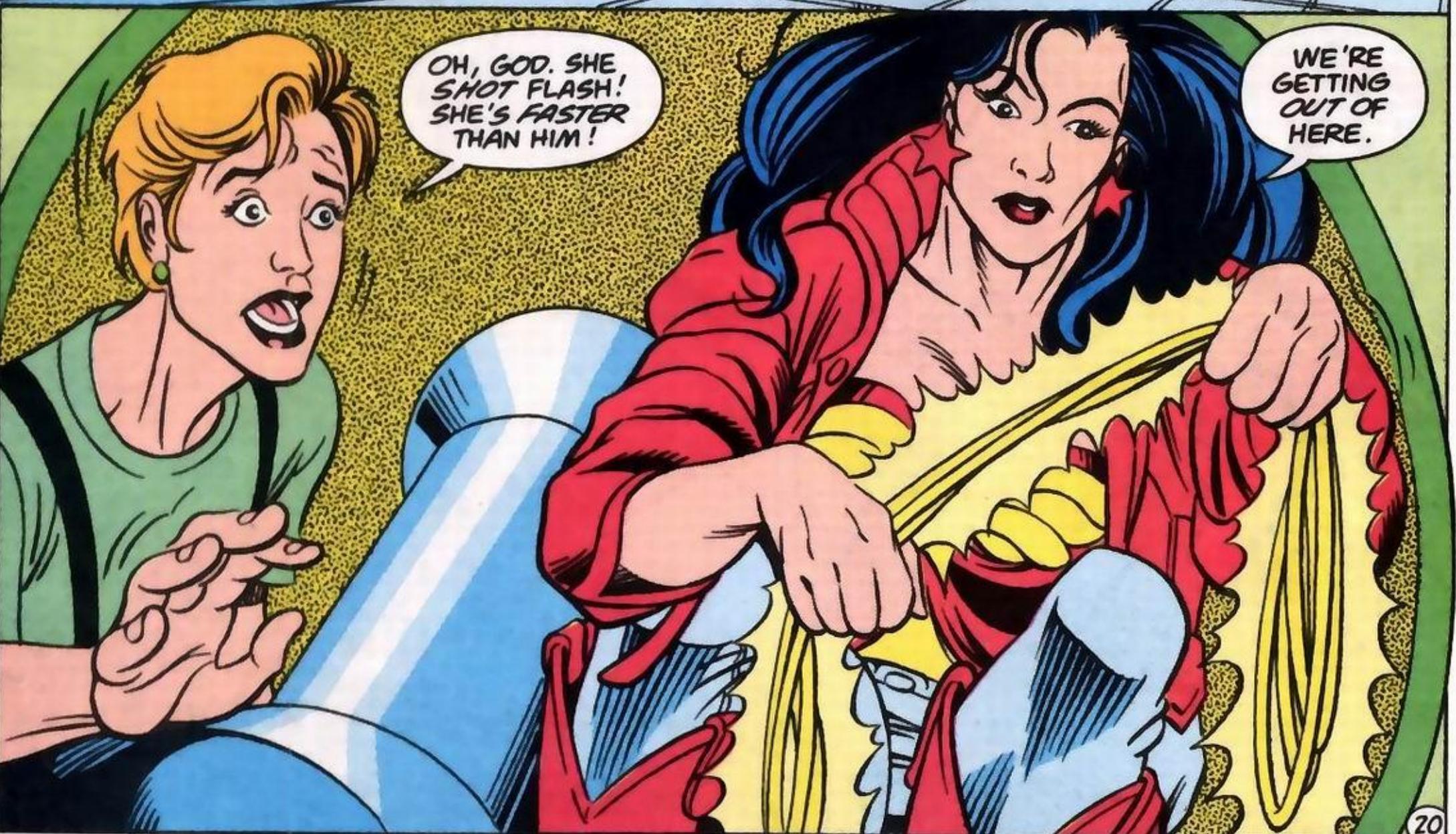
WAIT HERE. I'LL  
SPIN THIS PEST  
AROUND SO FAST SHE'LL  
PASS OUT FROM THE  
SHEER JOY OF IT!

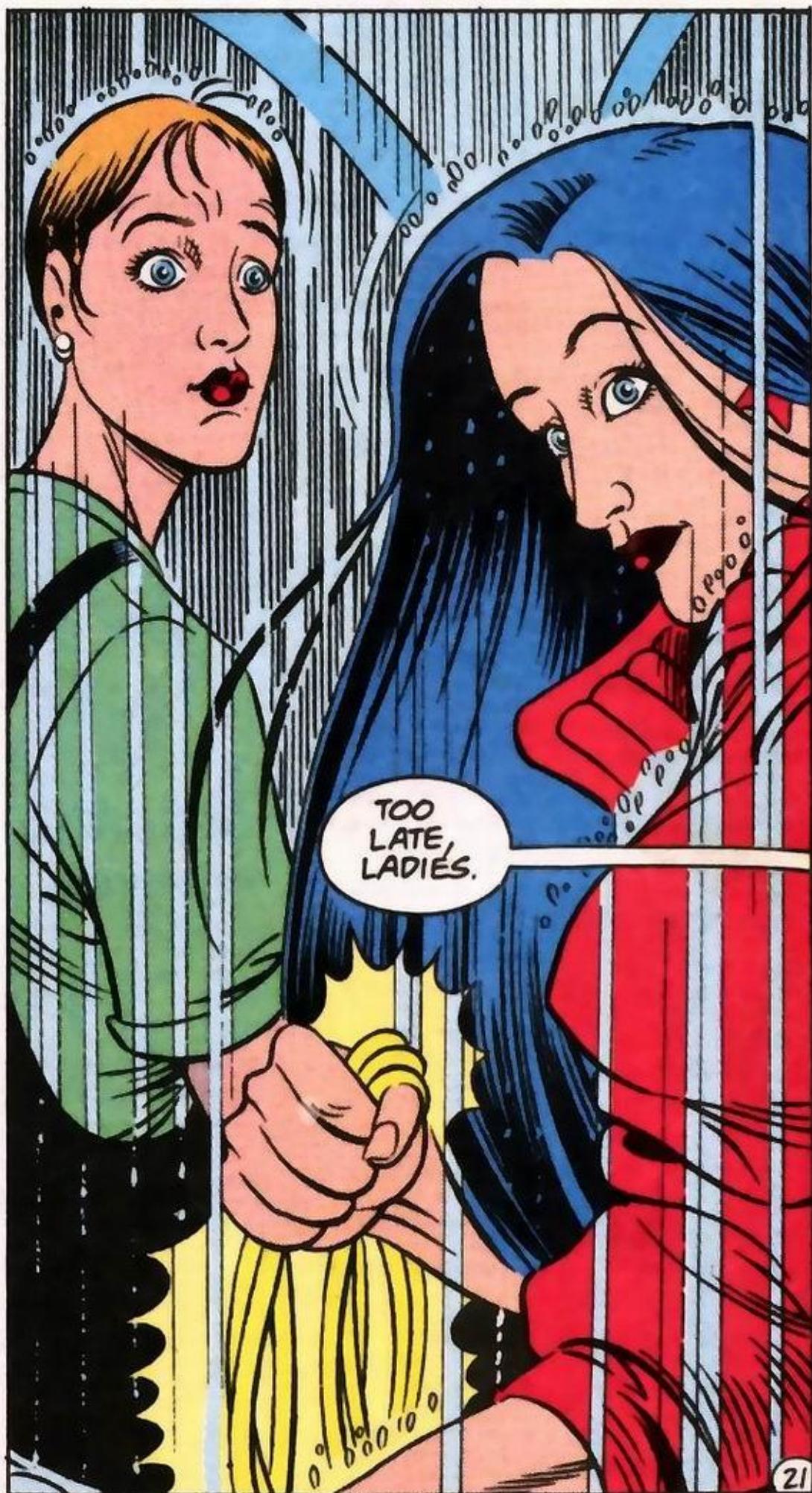
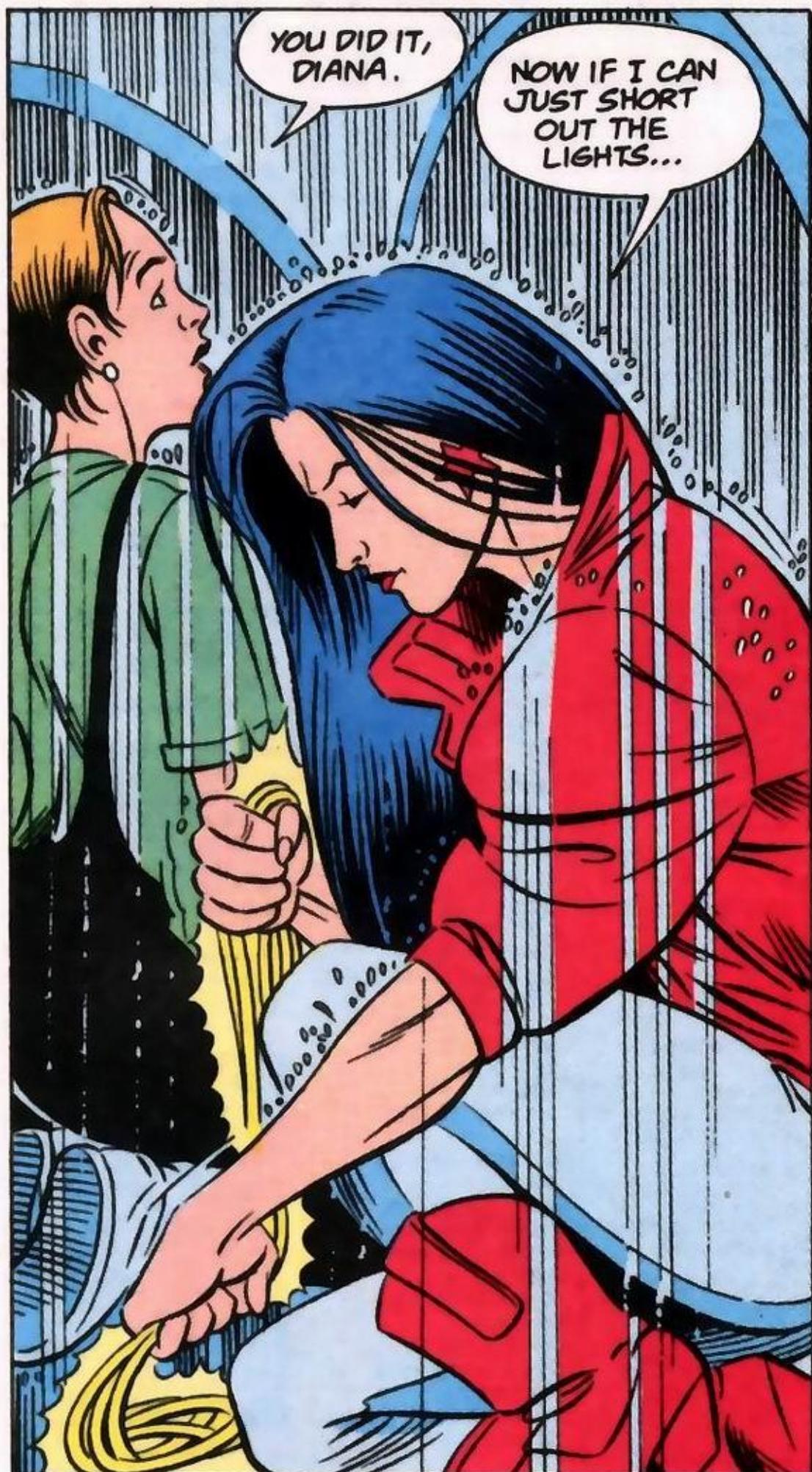
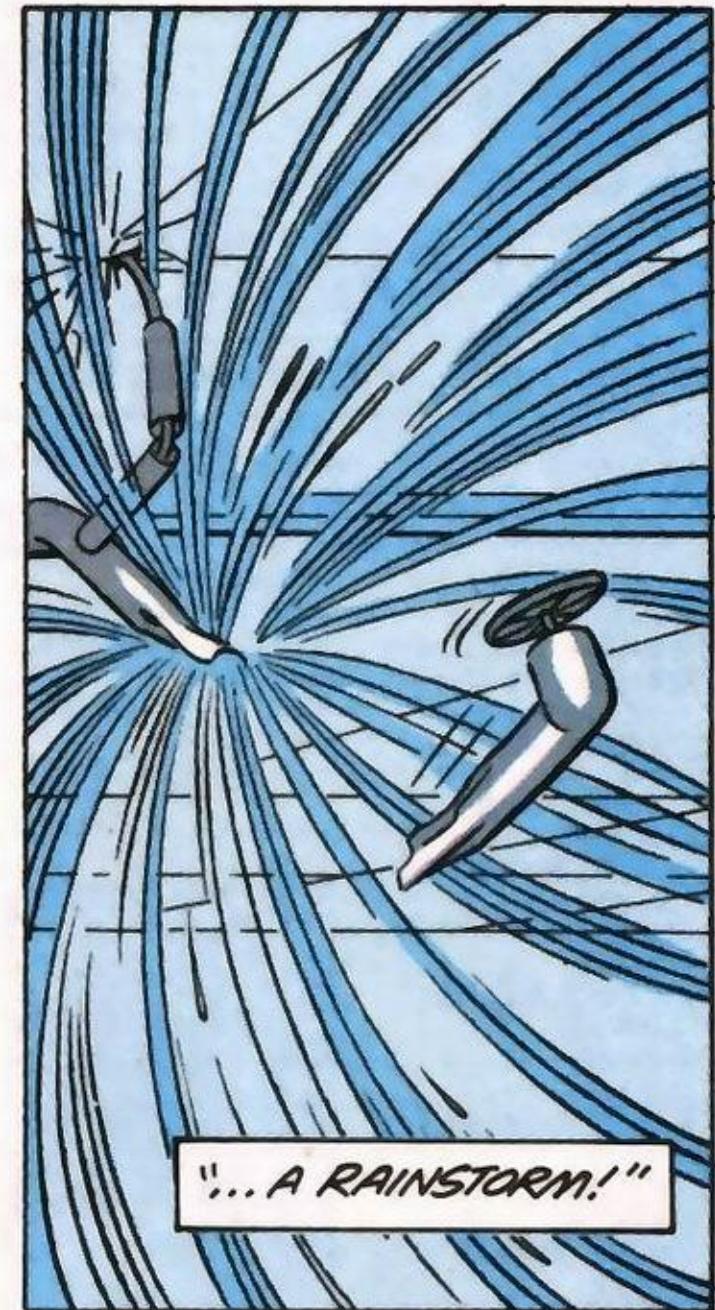
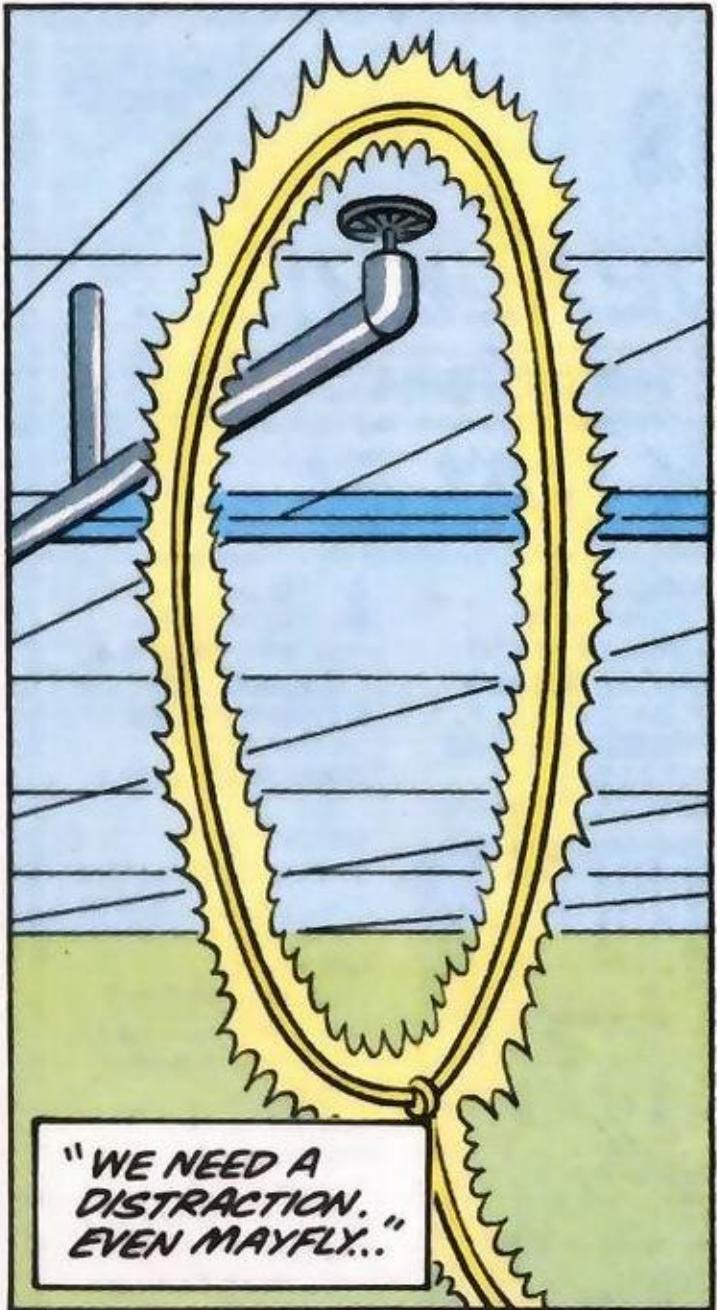
WALLY!  
WAIT...

RIGHT. NEVER  
TOUCHED ME! NOW  
TO FIGURE OUT JUST  
WHERE SHE'S  
HIDING AND...!

Salad If







BANG  
BANG. SPLAT.  
YOU'RE  
DEAD.

To be Continued!

# WONDER WOMAN

Dear Creative Team,

Wonderful! Stupendous! Are there any other adjectives I can use? What am I talking about? Why, I happen to be speaking of "The Last True Hero" in WONDER WOMAN #75. This is the story of the "new" Wonder Woman that I have been waiting so patiently for since Bill Loebs took over the book. After the awful continuity glitch in #72 ("The Song of Creation") and Diana's attempt to find a job in #73 ("Losses"), it's terrific to see our favorite heroine do what she does best: help people. Mr. Loebs has finally delivered a story that reminds us just what Diana stands for and why we readers keep coming back for more. He has proved to this point to be a little uneven as far as storylines go, but he really has created something here that he should build on and feel proud of at the same time.

The appearance of Ed Indelicato was great and I'm glad he hasn't been dropped from the supporting cast. His defense of Diana to Ms. Modini in the hospital shows that he still harbors that crush, which is good. I hope it stays just like that. Past letter columns seem to indicate that Ed and Diana should have some sort of interest in each other, but it appears to me that you're shying away from that altogether. I would find any such relationship a little out of character for both of them, but you're doing fine in that department.

The way that Diana saved the life of Brian Elliot was definitely in keeping with her established personality and continuity. I believe Diana has all kinds of mystical abilities no one has ever seen, and this little incident makes me want to see more of them. It's also good to see her be able to go to the gods to get help even though they are not reachable. (By the way, will we ever see them again?)

The artwork, as always, is the best thing about this comic. Each month I look forward to Lee Moder's able pencils, Ande Parks's inks and, as of this issue, Steve Mattsson's colors. Everything blends so well and looks so good. Diana truly is a classic in the hands of these very capable gentlemen. Please keep them around for a long time. They are the only ones able to draw the post-Crisis Diana with accuracy. Her welcome appearances in JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA are marred only by the fact that Dan Jurgens draws her with pre-Crisis tiaras, belts and bracelets.

Before I go, I'd like to make a few suggestions (you knew it was coming). Let's get a confrontation between Diana and Asquith Randolph. With the events this issue, that man is cruisin' for a bruisin'. He's a really evil guy. Let's see more of Steve and Etta. Are they married yet? Don't let Randolph be the only new vil-

ain. Diana will confront. What about all these robots that have appeared lately (#72 and #73)? And thanks for printing my letter in #73; this comic is hard to get printed in. Looking forward to next issue and the appearance of Dr. Fate. I guess that's all for this month. Keep up the good work, gang!

Greg Armentrout  
Afton, VA

*Don't worry, Randolph is far from the only baddie in Diana's busy life, as the appearance of the scheming Ares Buchanan should prove. And how about Mayfly, the world's first hemophiliac, super-fast assassin for hire?*

Thanks for the enthusiasm, Greg.



Dear Brian, Bill, Ruben,

I know. I said I wouldn't write any more LOCs, but I couldn't resist WW #75 and Bill's JLQ #11 story—they were too excellent to forgo.

Both stories were richly textured with the characterization that is Bill's forte. Usually hero saves somebody, somebody's grateful, hero flies off into the sunset. Or, hero catches villain, villain vows revenge, hero flies off into the sunset. Business as usual. Here Diana saves both cop and punk. Punk is contrite, cop hates both Diana and punk. The rescue sequence in #74 and its ramifications in #75 brought up the interesting moral dilemma of whom to save. Diana's pragmatic solution, both with her priorities being 1) Modini's life, 2) Loder's life, 3) Modini's comfort. Through a purely objective lens, the sequence is correct. From Modini's viewpoint, Diana has possibly sacrificed the cop's career to elicit the humanity of someone to whom Modini ascribes no humanity at all. To her Loder is a lost cause. Isabella's smoldering resentment of Diana turns to gratitude when Loder saves her from the assassin's bullets, forfeiting his own life (and titling the story), vindicating Diana's belief in him and the correctness of her choices. An exceptionally nice piece of business.

We've come to expect Diana to risk her life for her enemies. She did it for Cheetah and now for Brian the computer kid whose childhood abuse at the hands of his father brought him to a tragic endgame, courtesy of Randolph (who remains the villain I love most to hate). Diana's ability to tap into her strange, mythic resources is a fascinating adjunct to her powers. Obviously she won't do this often since the price she must pay each time is potentially lethal. Though her strength has been described often as "almost equal" to Superman's, she doesn't possess his virtual invulnerability

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(present situation notwithstanding), so she does what she does knowing there'll be painful consequences and that she'll probably wind up injured. Bill has defined his concept of fear and bravery several times in the book and I agree. Courage isn't lack of fear, it's the ability to transcend it. The fact that some things do frighten Diana reasserts her humanity. That she surmounts her fears reaffirms her nobility and deep courage. That she'd awaken from collapsing after the trauma of magic fleece filching and worry that she'd missed the noon rush at Taco Whiz was testimony to the human paradoxes within her. Bill's made her a rich, complex person with sometimes conflicting needs. I very greatly enjoy the juxtaposition of Diana the adroit warrior with Diana the still pretty naive "sweet kid" trying to adjust to living in a world she still doesn't fully understand.

The JLQ story was equally replete with characterization, not only of Diana, but also the other JL women. The dialogue, repartee and humor injected were wonderful. Best line, hands down, was Kara's "space booger" slap at Diana, followed by background remarks by Crimson Fox and Dr. Light. Best sequence was Diana's masterfully forceful derailment of Kara's impetuous attempt to leave and Kara's capitulation after Diana had so effortlessly contained her. This nascent animosity on Kara's part is an interesting dimension to their relationship; I'd like to see it explored further. I also found entertaining the thread of "most embarrassing moment" that ran through the story, culminating in Diana's newest embarrassment at interrupting Kara and her admirer's little tête-à-tête and Tora's relief that it wasn't her faux pas. Apparently Tora has a need to lionize someone as she seems to have transferred her hero worship from Superman to Diana. Perhaps now, in the wake of the infamous slumber party, she won't find Diana so daunting.

Combine these stories with the current issues of JLA and JLE and it's been a great month for Dianaphiles. More!

Nancy Champion  
Manassas, VA

*This letter is just one more reason that I hope you're not serious about "...no more LOCs." A WW letter column without a Nancy Champion letter would be like an Amazon without her lasso—not quite complete and less interesting by half. Please keep the thoughtful commentary coming.*



Dear Brian and Ruben,

There was something very special about this issue. Its slow, calm and

beautiful moments of character interaction are what Bill Loebs has shown himself to be master of again and again. I hope everybody reading this title also caught his excellent "girls only" JUSTICE LEAGUE story in the Quarterly #11. That's brilliant too. There for its humor, here we have that most rare of comics stories, the very human resolution that comes after the drama.

The amazing thing about Diana (is there anything about her that isn't?) is the way she can breeze into a very bitter situation, say and do all the wrong things and yet ultimately prove the worth of her efforts. Well, I suppose that's easily explained after all. She gets things wrong because, despite her very sincere efforts to live amongst the most normal and lowly of humanity, she just doesn't really understand people all that well... yet on the other hand, she's royalty bordering on godhood and can stretch into her own soul up into the very realm of magic and pluck miracles out of thin air. The pacing of the narrative in this tale was made all the more poignant, for, just as she was most needed to save Modini, her mind was on another plane of existence; and the golden fleece was used to help children's burns rather than mend the officer's broken neck. The very addict that proved to be the cause of Modini's affliction inadvertently saves her life by sacrificing his. Not so much a worthless perp after all; his humanity very definitely was reaffirmed.

Although I'm glad to see not only the return of Dr. Fate but also the search for Themyscira appearing next issue, I have confidence that Bill's usual and careful building of an interesting supporting cast, as seen last in the late and lamented DR. FATE title itself, will mean that we haven't seen the last of Modini. Perhaps her skills might come in useful in the detective agency which I hope you will give some scope to? I still have the same reservations about such a job as Diana voices at the start of this issue, but it's an interesting angle to develop in some fashion. Don't leave it too many more months before she gets her first real case!

Yours,  
Jim Jackson  
Biggin Hill, Kent  
ENGLAND

Pursuing the fate of her homeland may well be Diana's first great mystery to solve, though not under the auspices of the Raines Detective Agency. As one of the many things going on in her life, Diana's career as a detective is something that will play itself out in time—wait and see.



Brian and Ruben,

Great Bolland cover on #75, as usual. It reminds me of the Aurora model of Wonder Woman from the 1960's.

So, Diana doesn't feel right taking money for helping people, but feeding them is a "just and noble occupation"...I guess I can accept that logic, but you know, I was *really* hoping the Taco Whiz job was a one-issue deal. I can just see her showing up at an emergency Justice League meeting with refried beans stuck to her cap. God.

It's nice to see a strong female character challenging Diana's philosophies.

Although I've recently complained about the large amount of "instant supporting cast" characters, I'd like Isabelle Modini to stick around.

This issue marks the second time Diana's encountered the gods through a meditation technique of some kind. This is an interesting new power and I'd like Bill to explore it further. Can she only use it to contact the gods?

My want list: Diana's reaction to Superman's death and resurrection; Steve and Etta's wedding; a wising to the ways of the White Magician and the return of the Kapateli family!

Until next month,  
Jacques Viau  
Montreal, CANADA

*Try to view the job at Taco Whiz in the same light as Diana herself, Jacques, as a noble, worthwhile endeavor. She doesn't feel the job is beneath her; neither should you. Not to mention that countless real folk labor every day in jobs like this—and they don't deserve your condescension either.*

Thanks for the otherwise enjoyable letter.



Dear Bill and Lee,

I can't tell you (well, that's not true, since that is exactly what I am doing) how ecstatic I am that you are taking us back into the mythological aspects of Wonder Woman's identity. While I felt that the year-in-space storyline was well written, I must admit that I felt Diana was a bit, well, misplaced. I guess I am one of those readers who is still living in the Pérez version of Diana's universe. At the same time, I am glad that Diana is spending less time with the good professor. Now, if only you would get rid of Indelicato...

Bill, I enjoyed your glimpse of Apollo's island. I am not so sure that I see Diana as a mystic, but the other-dimensional journey was quite appropriate nevertheless. If this is a hint of the manner in which you will treat the search for Themyscira, then I eagerly anticipate reading that story arc. You seem to be rather influenced by principles of matriarchal-based Earth religion, to a greater extent than Pérez, I believe (whose stories sometimes read too much more like classic mythology). That is fine with me and appropriate also, I think. Can we see more?

As I said, the mythological (in this case, metaphysical) aspects of the Wonder Woman persona are much more interesting to me than the "superheroic," traditional approach to the character. Now, I know that you all feel the need to plant Diana more squarely in the DC Universe proper, but I would beg that you do more than just remain cognizant of her religious background as you construct this western-acclimated character. Do, as you do here, bring her back frequently to her roots. These are the defining characteristics of her resurrected, post-Crisis personality.

And, for heaven's sake, please do not make her a private detective...working with Hoppy at the taco stand is far more preferable.

Sincerely,  
Bryan M. Ott  
Highwood, IL

*Trust us to continue the full mix of super-heroics, mythology, mysticism*

and human interest that we have presented thus far.

As for Diana the detective, why not reserve judgment until it plays out? You know you can count on it being unlike anything you expect, so wait and see, hmm?



Dear Brian,

Is there anybody out there?

Correct me if I'm wrong, but WW #75 is the third issue in a row without a letter column. Am I the only one who writes anymore?

I thought you guys might have added something a little extra to celebrate your 75th issue. No foil-embossed wraparound cover. No polybagged issue with trading card. Just an "ordinary" high-quality, well-written issue. That's OK by me. Leave the hype to those guys at the other company!

WW #75 took a break from the more action-oriented stories of late and focused a little more on Diana's mythological qualities. The healing sequence in the hospital was reminiscent of George Pérez. I was hoping this experience would influence her to renew her search for Themyscira, and from reading the next issue box it looks like it has. I look forward to next issue's team-up with Dr. Fate.

Diana has proved herself a capable leader and heroine in recent issues of this book and in both JUSTICE LEAGUE titles. "The Last True Hero" illustrates that even though she is one of the strongest heroes on the planet, her greatest strength lies in her ability to deal with people. Most super-heroes would have given up on the wounded policewoman after witnessing her hostility. Diana has a nice mix of intelligence, stubbornness, compassion and naiveté that enables her to deal with these types and often change their minds.

Lee Moder's pencils have been improving. It took me several issues to get accustomed to his style. I thought his best work was in issue #74. The biggest problem, to me, seems to be Diana's facial features. They tend to lack consistency from one panel to the next. I'm sure he will become more consistent with each issue.

Congratulations on 75 issues. I hope this title is around for at least 75 more!

David Whitsett  
Owensboro, KY

*I think it's evident that Lee's stuff is improving all the time. In fact, his stuff can soon be seen in other venues as well; starting next issue, Lee takes some time out here to draw this year's ACTION ANNUAL, and he has some top-secret, hush-hush work for Denny O'Neil's office scheduled for later this year. Watch for it!*



**NEXT ISSUE:** The threat of Mayfly continues, with Flash hovering near doom—with Diana right behind him. It's terror in the mall, with no exit in sight! Also, the evil of Ares Buchanan unfolds.

Join Bill, Ande, Patricia, Ruben, me, and fill-in pencillers Steve Carr and Deryl Skelton for all the excitement! See you then.

—Brian Augustyn  
worried about getting mail  
from anti-hemophiliacs.