



WONDER WOMAN

PEREZ • WEIN

PATTERSON

75¢
6
JULY 87
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
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CARTOON
AUTHORITY



"WE INTERRUPT OUR REGULAR PROGRAMMING TO BRING YOU A SPECIAL CHANNEL 35 NOW-NEWS BULLETIN! HERE IS ANCHOR-WOMAN CONNIE CONLEY IN OUR NEWSROOM WITH AN UPDATE REPORT..."

"REPORTS ARE STILL COMING IN CONCERNING THIS MORNING'S ASTONISHING TAKEOVER OF A FEDERAL MISSILE BASE BY A BAND OF RENEGADE MILITARY PERSONNEL LED BY AIR FORCE GENERAL SAMUEL TOLLIVER..."

"APPARENTLY, TOLLIVER AND HIS TROOPS HAD INSIDE HELP IN ACCOMPLISHING THEIR INFILTRATION--THOUGH NO SPECIFIC DETAILS ARE YET KNOWN. WE SWITCH YOU NOW TO CHALINCEY STARK, LIVE IN WASHINGTON..."

SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN

TV 5

"THANK YOU, CONNIE. A HURRIED PRESS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CALLED HERE TO REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT EFFORTS TO DISSUADE GENERAL TOLLIVER FROM HIS PLANS TO LAUNCH A NUCLEAR MISSILE STRIKE DIRECTLY AT MOSCOW..."

"MISTER REAGAN HAS ATTEMPTED REPEATEDLY TO TALK WITH TOLLIVER, WHO CLAIMS CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF SOVIET PLANS TO LAUNCH A NUCLEAR FIRST STRIKE AGAINST AMERICA..."

"SINCE WE WERE NOT REACTING QUICKLY ENOUGH, ACCORDING TO TOLLIVER, HE CLAIMS HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO PROTECT AMERICA IN HIS OWN WAY AT THIS TIME, TOLLIVER REFUSES TO RESPOND TO ANY FURTHER COMMUNICATION..."



"THOUGH MEETINGS WERE HELD EARLIER TODAY TO DEAL WITH THE TOLLIVER AFFAIR--WHICH GENERAL JOHN HILLARY CALLS THE ARES ASSAULT--THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS, AND THE RESULTS OF THE MEETINGS REMAIN UNKNOWN."

"MEANWHILE, RUMORS HAVE REACHED US THAT A RENEGADE SOVIET GENERAL AND HIS TROOPS HAVE NOW TAKEN CONTROL OF A RUSSIAN MISSILE SILO AT THIS TIME, THE SOVIETS HAVE REFUSED TO SUBSTANTIATE THESE RUMORS..."

"CHANNEL 35 WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANY LATE-BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS DESPERATE SITUATION AS THEY OCCUR. MEANWHILE, WE NOW RETURN YOU TO 'ME AND THE CHIMP'..."



THE SCENE: THE AFOREMENTIONED BESIEGED AMERICAN MISSILE BASE...

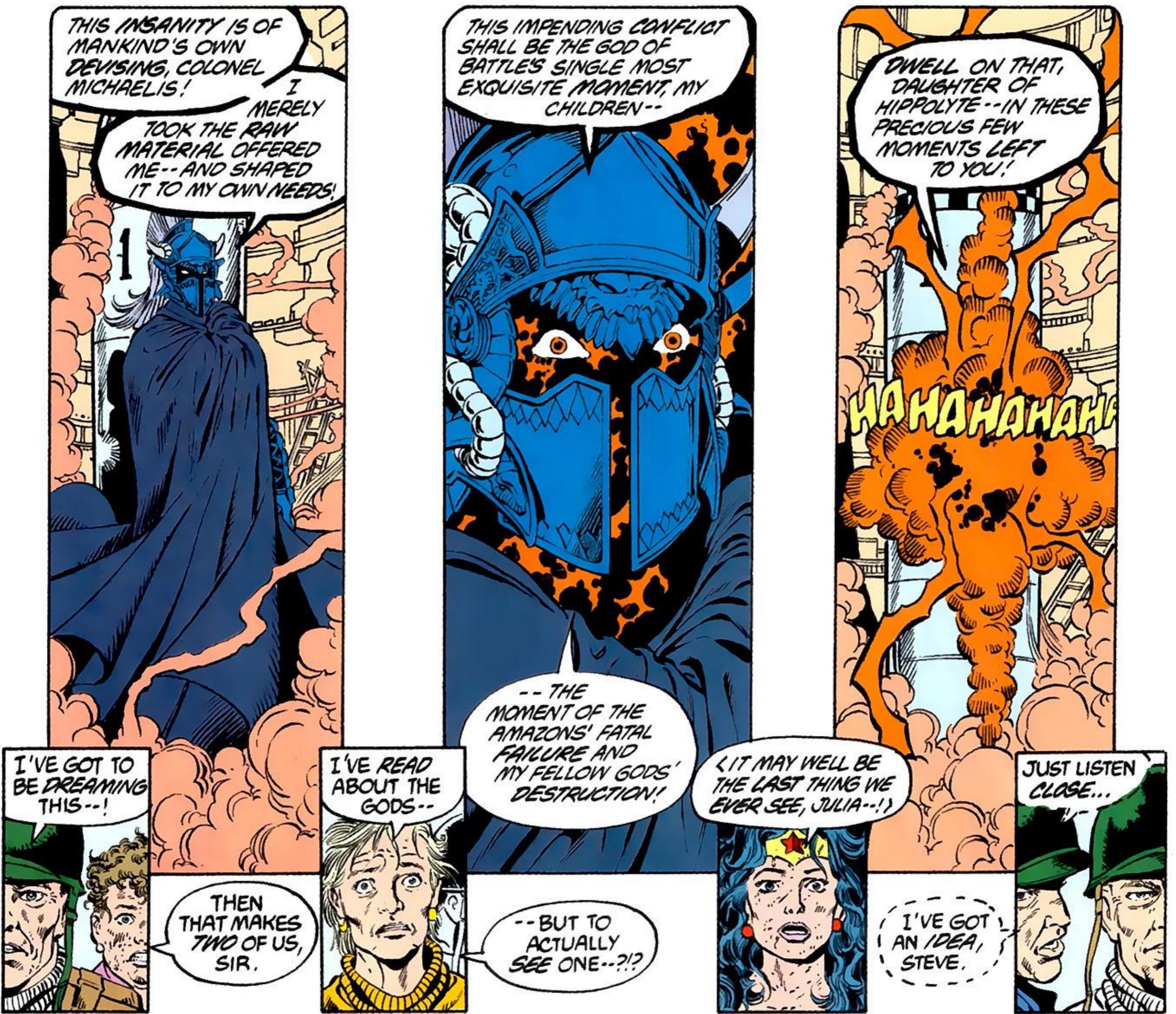
WITNESS, COLONEL STEPHEN TREVOR, THE COMING OF OUR MASTER, THE WAR-GOD ARES-- AT HIS MOMENT OF GREATEST TRIUMPH!

LOOK UPON HIS WORKS, YE MIGHTY-- AND DESPAIR!

THIS JUST KEEPS GETTING MORE AND MORE INSANE!

POWER!
PLOT & PENCILS: GEORGE PÉREZ • SCRIPT: LEN WEIN
INKS: BRUCE PATTERSON • LETTERS: JOHN COSTANZA
COLORS: TATJANA WOOD • EDITING: KAREN BERGER

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SILENTLY, PURPOSEFULLY, GENERAL SAMUEL TOLLIVER STRIDES ACROSS THE CHAMBER TO THE CONTROL ROOM DOOR --

-- PUNCHES IN A SECRET ENTRY CODE KNOWN ONLY TO HIMSELF AND VERY FEW OTHERS --



-- THEN SMILES A SELF-SATISFIED SMIRK AS THE ROOM'S IMPENETRABLE ARMORED DOOR SLIDES AWAY TO ALLOW HIM ENTRANCE...

...AND THAT'S WHEN IT ALL HITS THE FAN!



NO! YOU CAN'T STOP ME--!

NOT NOW--!!

NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE--!!

(BUT I MUST STOP YOU--)

(--FOR THE SAKE OF MY AMAZON SISTERS--)

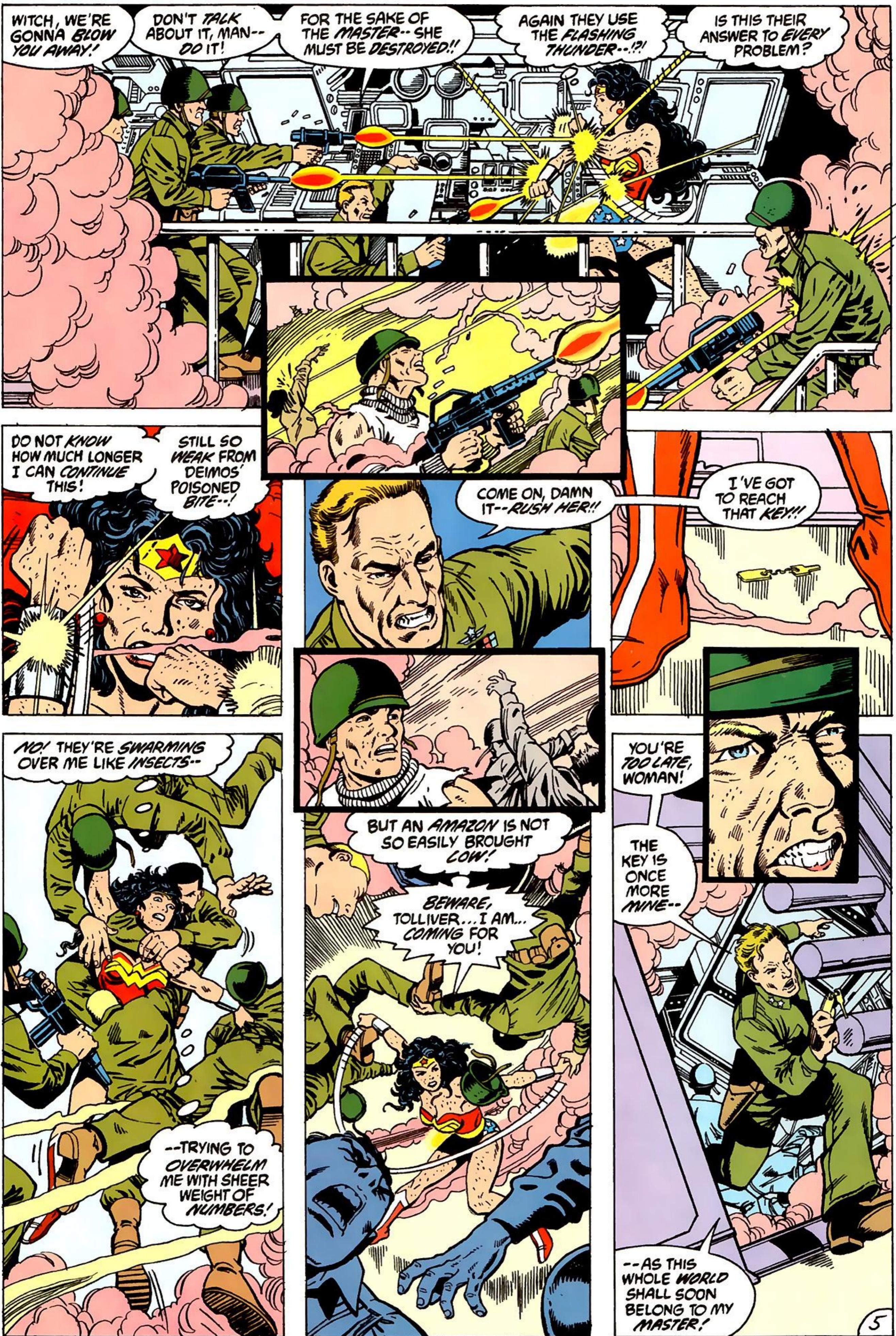
(--FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD--)

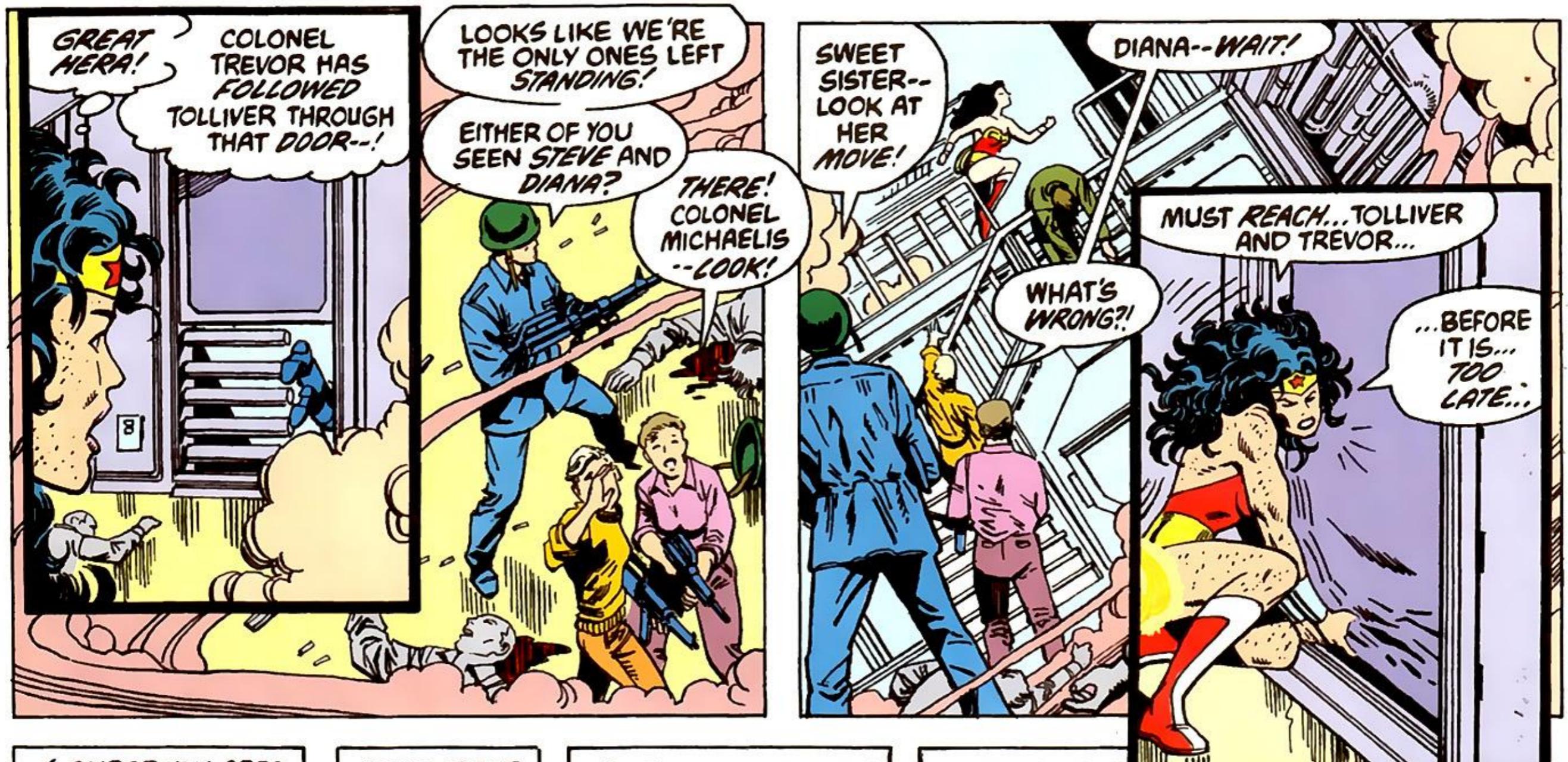
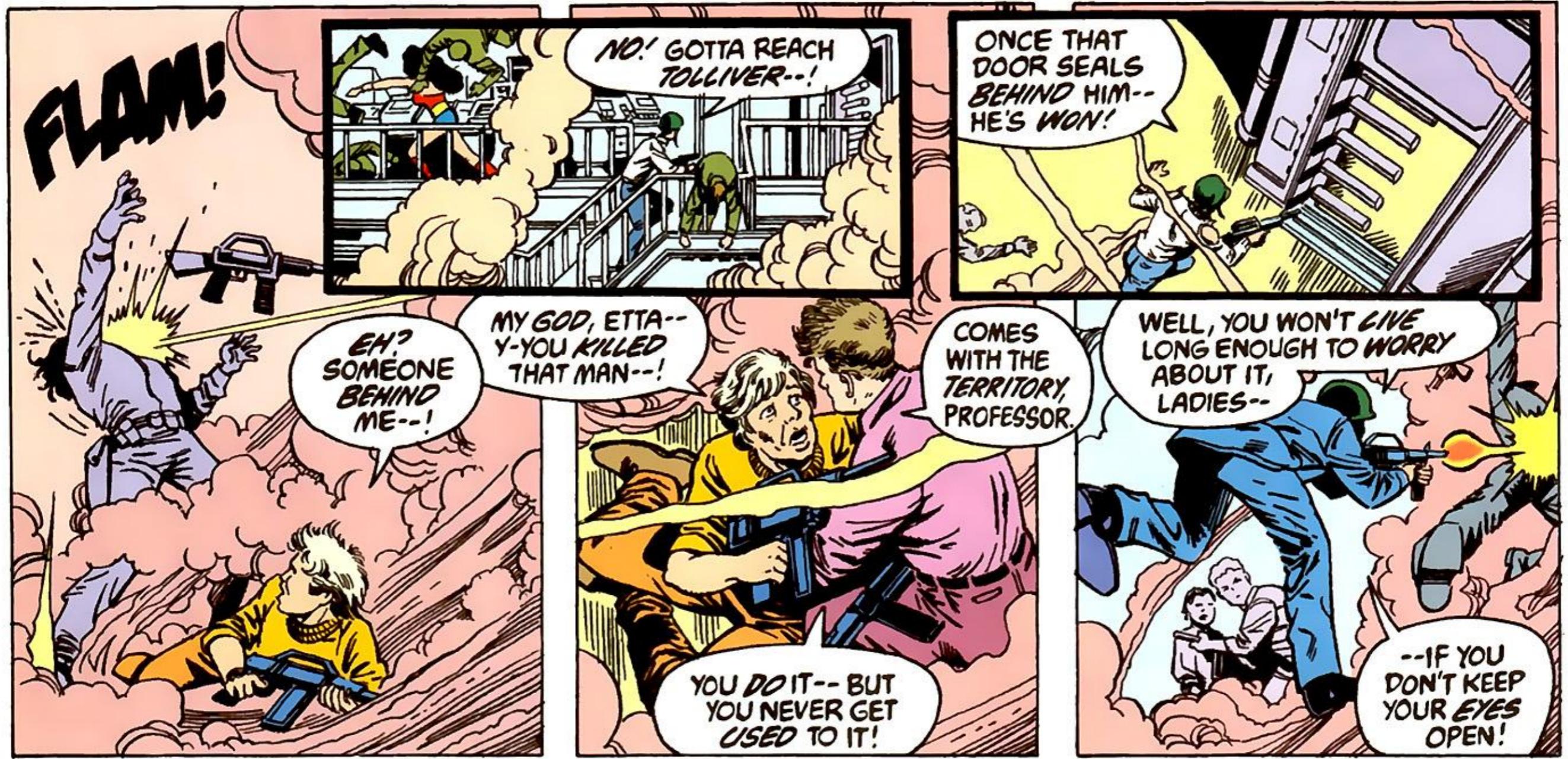
(--AND, BELIEVE ME, MADMAN--)

(--STOP YOU I WILL!!)

YOU LOUSY--!







DIANA

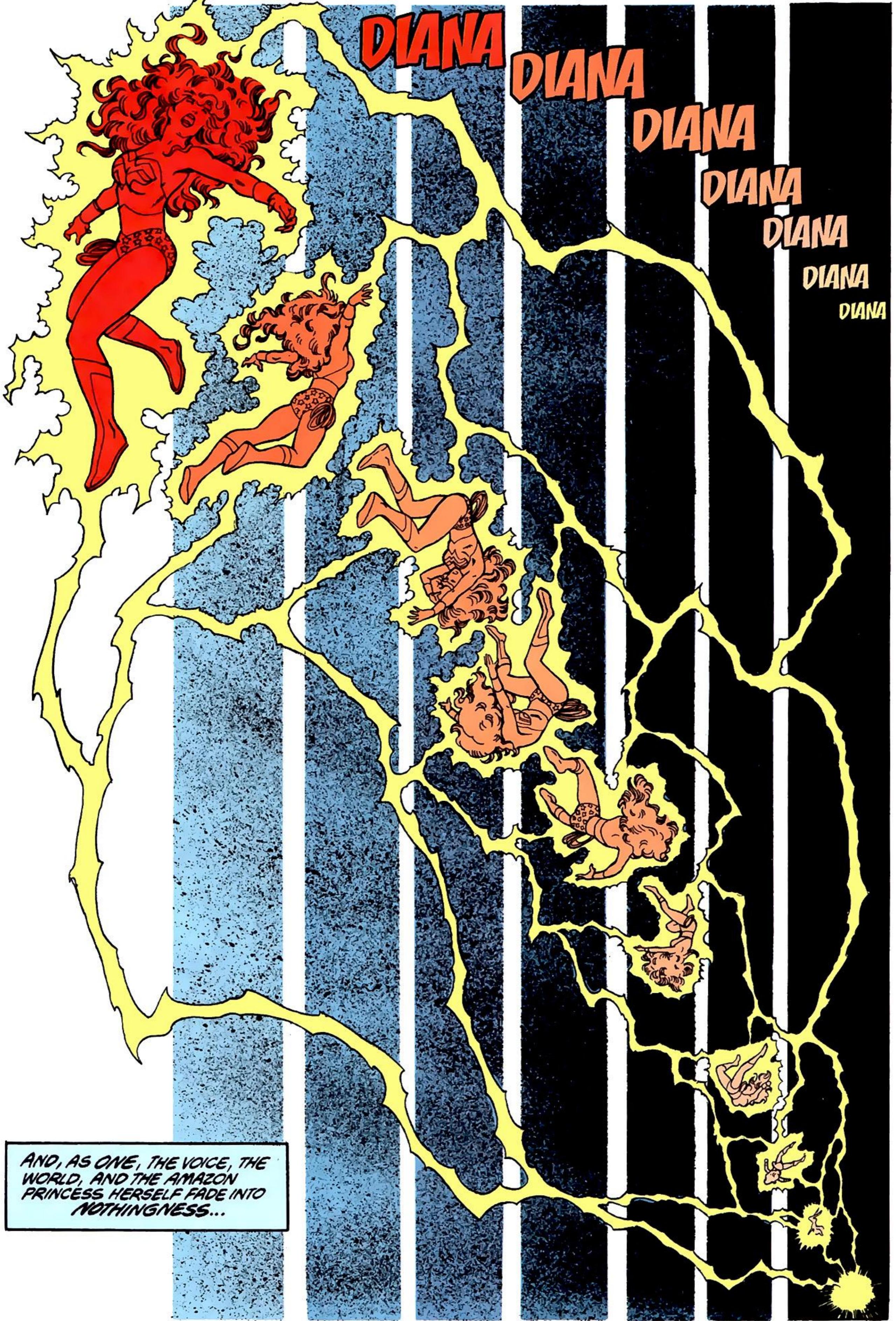
DIANA

DIANA

DIANA

DIANA

DIANA



AND, AS ONE, THE VOICE, THE
WORLD, AND THE AMAZON
PRINCESS HERSELF FADE INTO
NOTHINGNESS...

HIS FOOTSTEPS ECHOING LIKE METALLIC THUNDER, COLONEL STEVE TREVOR RACES SWIFTLY, YET CAUTIOUSLY, THROUGH THE HEAVILY-ARMORED CHAMBER --

-- KNOWING THE FATE OF ALL MANKIND NOW DEPENDS ON WHAT HE DOES HERE --

-- HIS HEART POUNDING WILDLY IN HIS CHEST, HIS BREATH CAUGHT COLD IN HIS THROAT --

-- AND PRAYING HE'S EQUAL TO THE TASK...

OKAY, GENERAL--
HOLD IT!

YOU'RE
TOO LATE,
TREVOR!

I'VE ALREADY OVERRIDDEN
THE FAILSAFE SYSTEMS AND
ACTIVATED THE LAUNCH CODES!

NOW I NEED
ONLY TURN THIS
KEY--

-- AND THE
MISSILES
WILL FLY!

TOLLIVER--NO! STAY
AWAY FROM THAT--

DAMN!

DIDN'T WANT
TO KILL HIM--
BUT HE GAVE
ME NO
CHOICE--!

NOW I HAVE TO
DEACTIVATE THE
LAUNCH CODES
WITHOUT HIM!

BETTER REMOVE THE KEY,
JUST IN CASE, BEFORE--

--EH?

LEAVE... IT...
ALONE!

OH...
MY...
GOD...

NOT
AGAIN!!

AT FIRST, THERE IS ONLY
THE DARKNESS, COMPLETE,
ALL-ENCOMPASSING--



-- THEN COMES THE THUNDER--

--AND THE
BLINDING
BURSTS OF
LIGHT--



--THE RANDOM ERUPTIONS
OF EXPLOSIVE FORCE THAT
RUMBLE SAVAGELY THROUGH
THE SHADOWS--



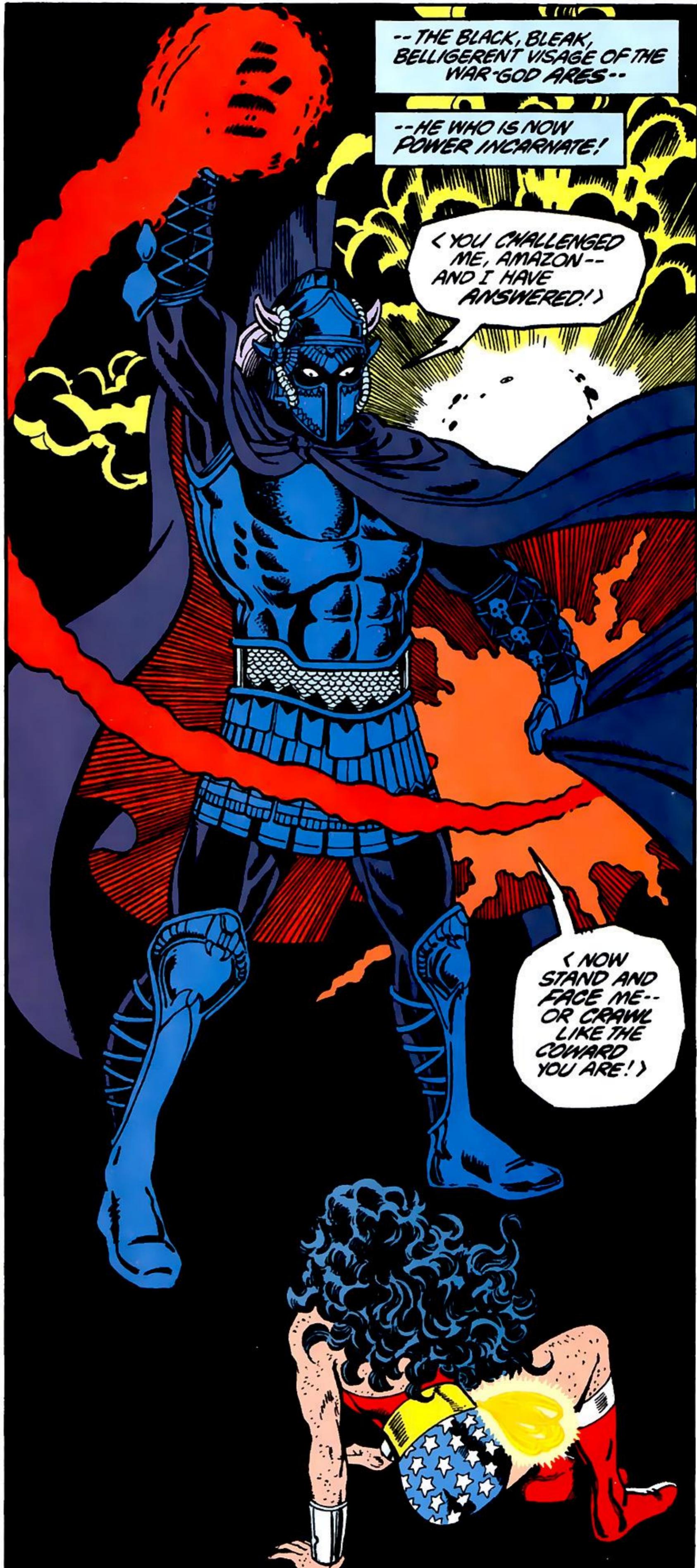
--ECHOING LIKE THE CACKLE
OF DEMONIC LAUGHTER--

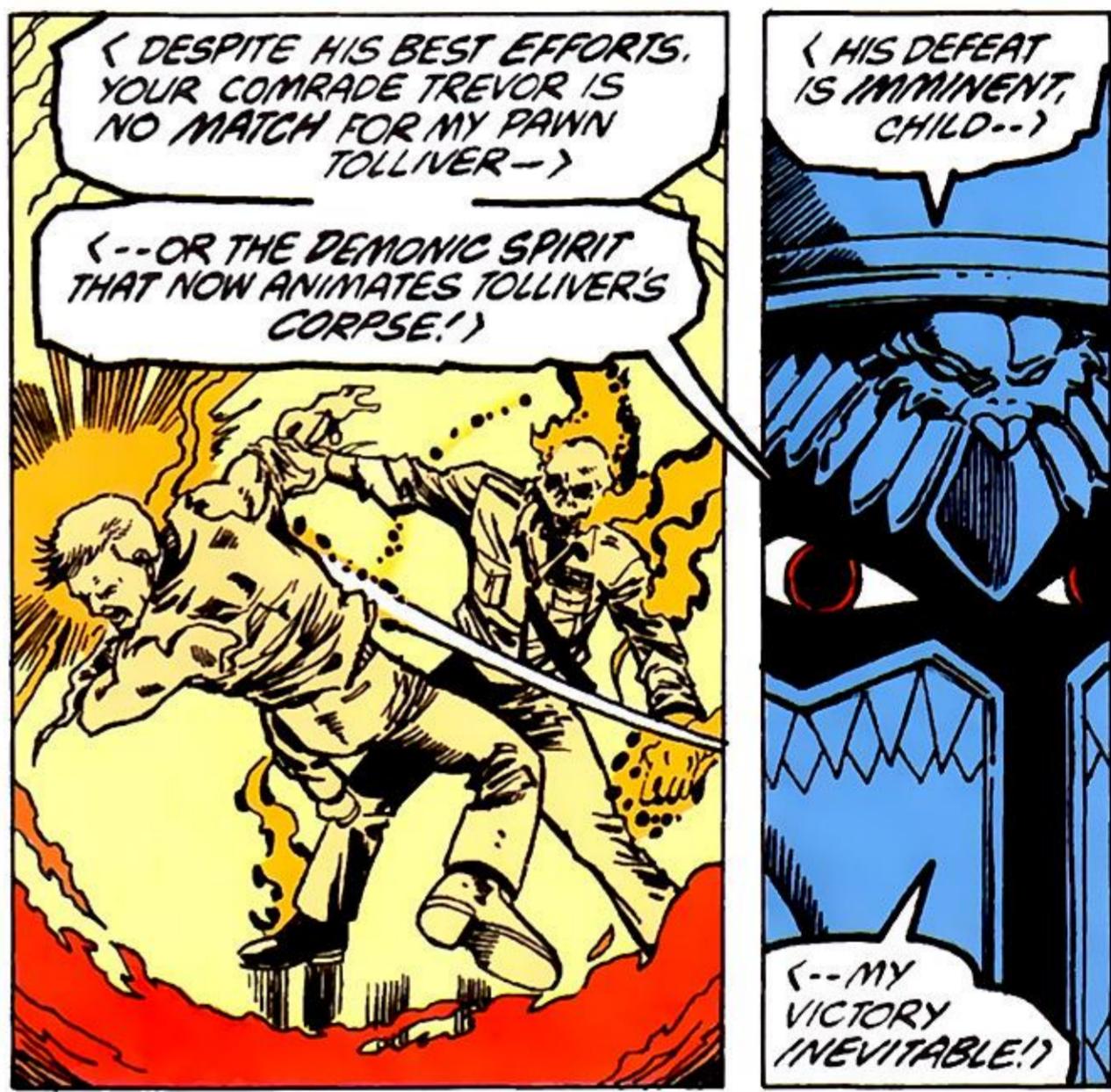
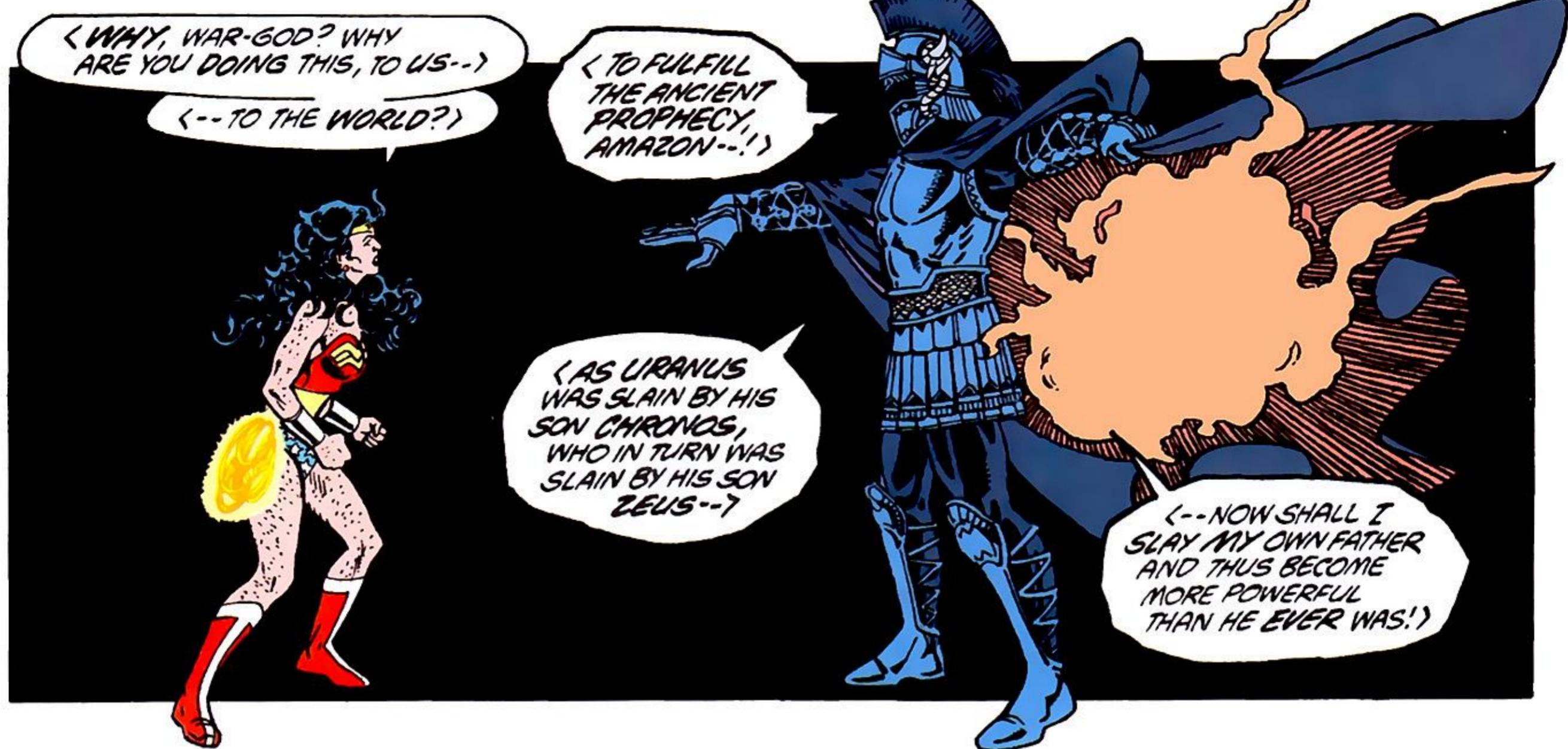


--AND ROUSING THE PRINCESS
DIANA FROM HER NUMBED
SLEEP--

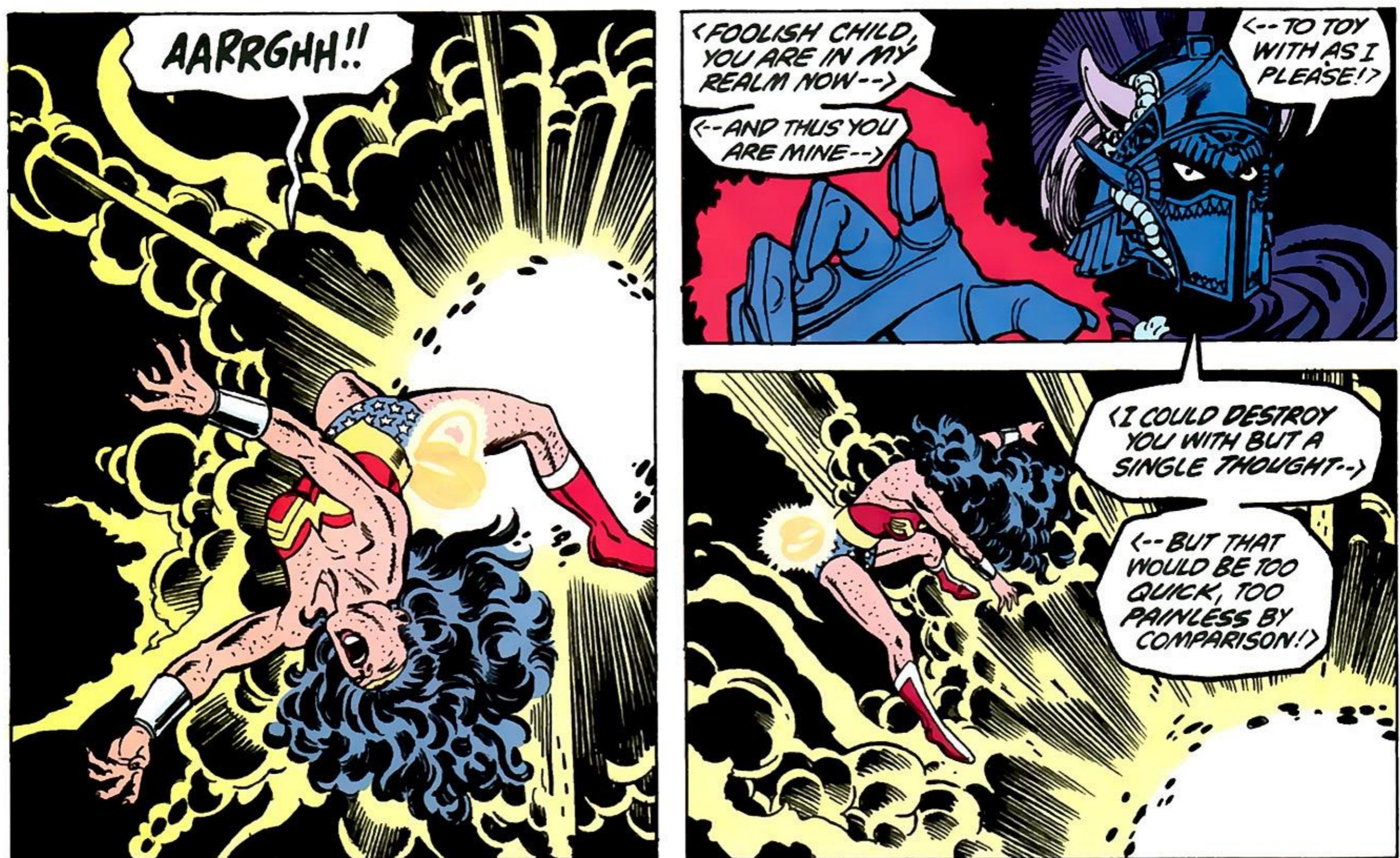


--TO BEHOLD THE LIVING
EMBODIMENT OF NIGHTMARE--



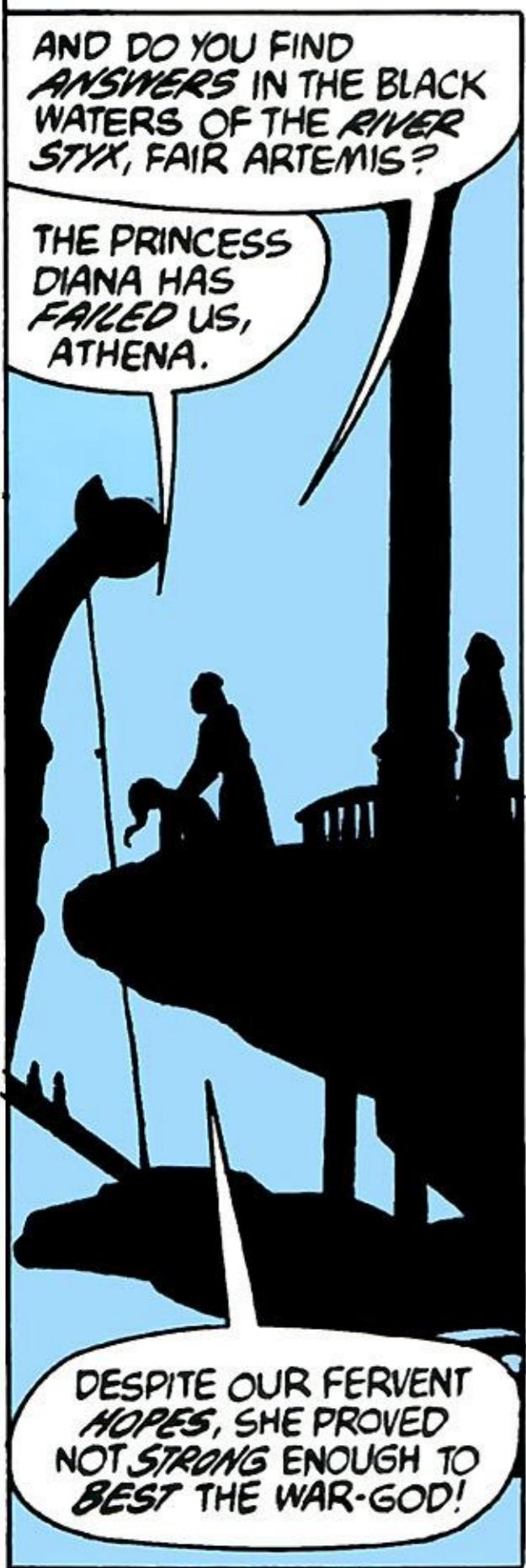


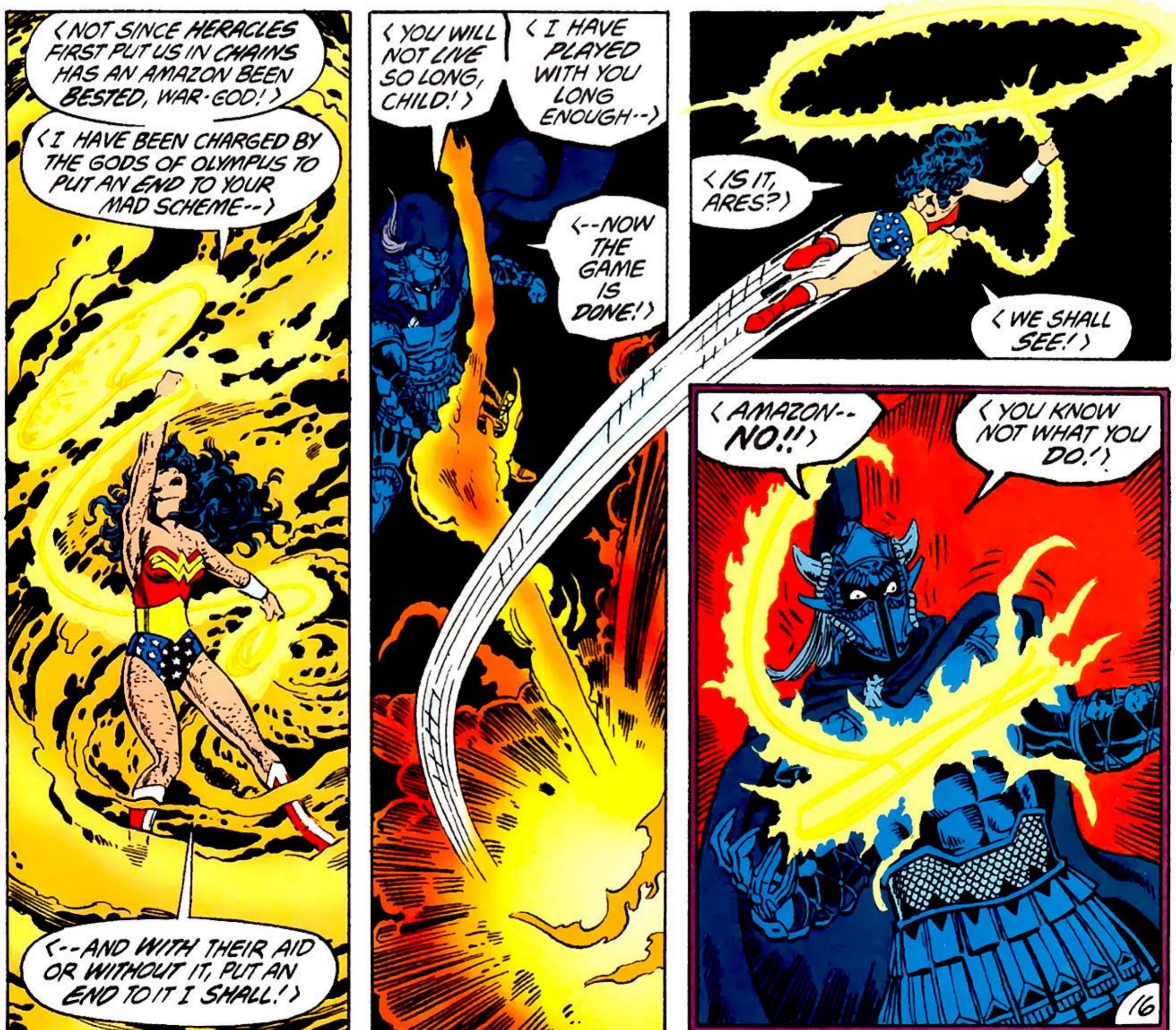
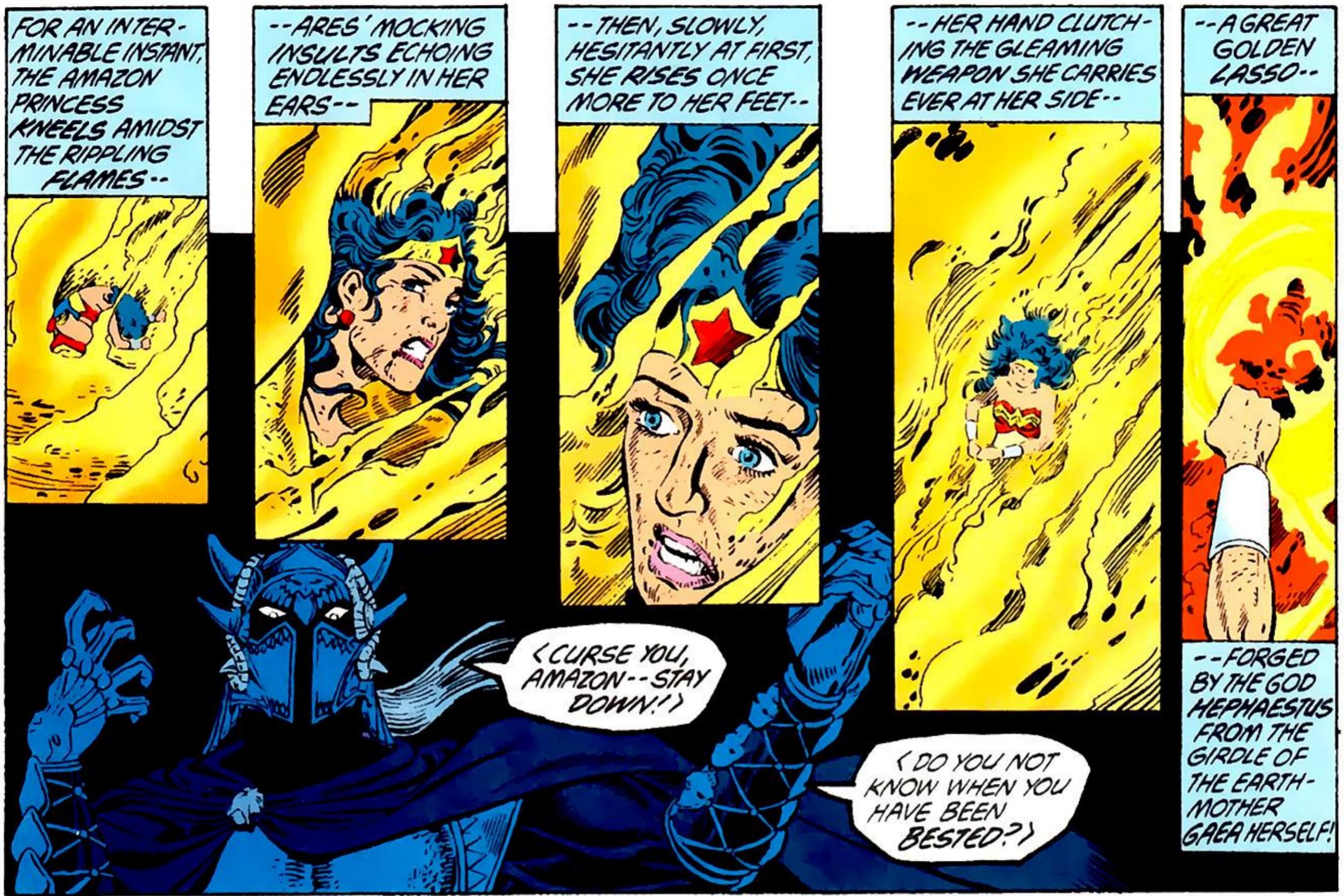














LIKE THE COILS OF SOME
SURREAL SERPENT, THE
STRANDS OF THE GOLDEN
LASSO ENCIRCLE THE
WAR-GOD'S TORSO--

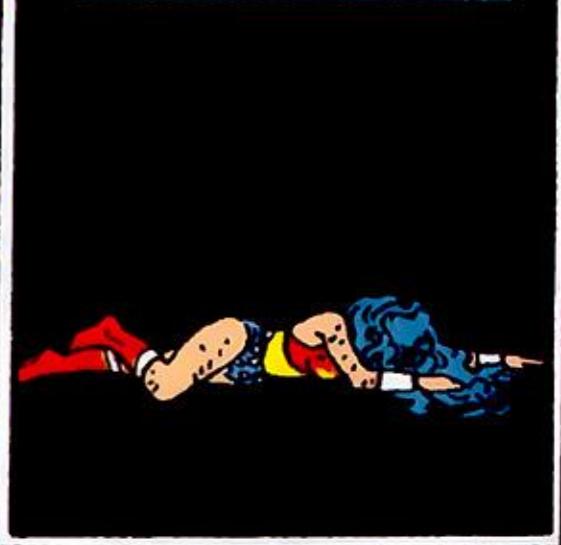
-- GROWING TIGHTER, EVER
TIGHTER, UNTIL ARES
SCREAMS--

-- AND THE
NETHER WORLD
GOES SUDDENLY
MAD --

-- ITS VIOLENT CONVULSIONS
KNOCKING THE AMAZON
PRINCESS BACK OFF HER
FEET--



-- SENDING HER
SPRAWLING,
BARELY ALIVE...



AND SUDDENLY, ARES CAN SEE THE AWESOME MUSHROOM CLOUDS RISING SHROUD-LIKE OVER THE EARTH'S GREAT CITIES...

SUDDENLY, HE CAN FEEL THE HEAT FROM THE BLOSSOMING FIREBALLS STRIPPING FLESH FROM BONE, REDUCING BONE TO ASH--

--LAYING WASTE TO ALL THE WORLD!

FOR ONE BRIEF INCANDESCENT MOMENT, AS A FIERY TIDE SWEEPS RELENTLESSLY ACROSS THE LAND--

--ARES IS TRULY AND FINALLY MASTER OF THE WORLD--

--AND THEN HE IS ALONE--

--HIS KINGDOM A CHARRED AND SMOKING CINDER, DEVOID OF LIFE--

AYE, ENVELOPED BY THE CASSO OF TRUTH, ARES SEES--TRULY SEES--THE ULTIMATE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACTIONS--

--AND THUS DEVOID OF PURPOSE...

--AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS IMMORTAL EXISTENCE, THE WAR-GOD WEEPS...

FOR, WITHOUT
THOSE ALIVE TO
WORSHIP HIM, ARES'
POWER SWIFTLY
WADES...

-- HIS GREAT PALACE
AREOPAGUS GROWING
MORE AND MORE
DECAYED...

-- UNTIL, AT LAST,
IT CRUMBLES INTO
NOTHINGNESS --



-- CARRYING THE WAR-GOD WITH IT DOWN
INTO THE VILE DUST WHENCE HE FIRST SPRUNG--

-- UNMOURNED, UNHONORED,
AND UNSUNG...



(NO...IT
CANNOT
BE....)

(MY DREAMS
OF GLORY...
ALL COME
AT LAST TO
THIS...???)

(IT IS THE TRUTH,
MIGHTY ARES --
BELIEVE IT -- !)

(FOR YOUR OWN
SAKE -- FOR THE
SAKE OF US ALL --)

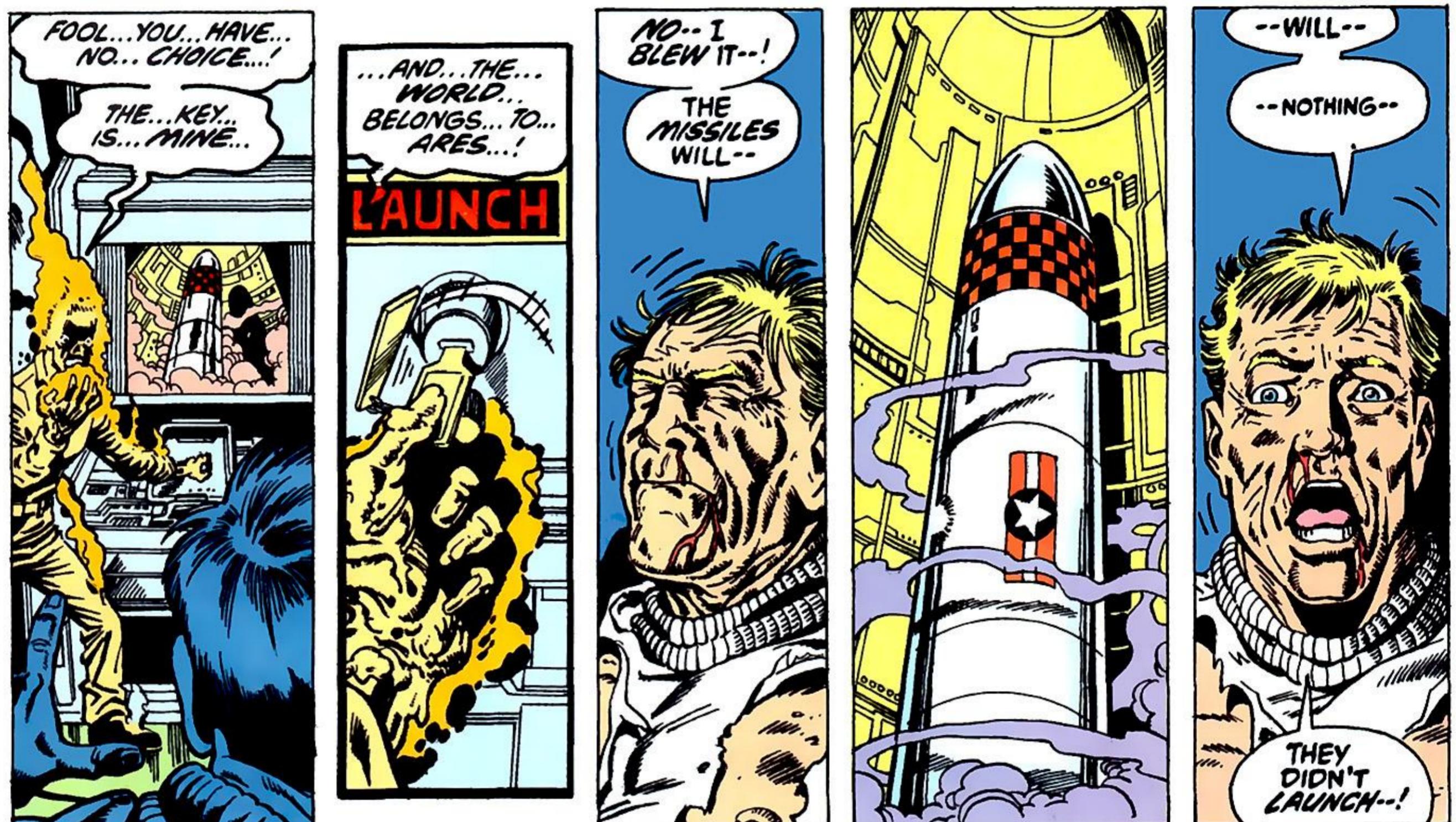
(-- YOU MUST STOP
THIS MADNESS BEFORE
IT IS TOO LATE !)

(AYE, CHILD -- THERE
IS NO OTHER CHOICE !)

(HAND ME MY
DAUGHTER HARMONIA'S
TALISMAN !)

(AND LET
THE BALANCE
BE RESTORED !)







AND, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST,
THE LIGHTS IN MAN'S WORLD GROW
BRIGHTER ONCE MORE...

NEVER
SEEN ANYTHING
LIKE IT,
GENERAL
HILLARY,
SIR--

--MINUTE
WE BROKE IN
HERE, TOLLIVER'S
BOYS ALL WENT
UP LIKE
TORCHES--
JUST LIKE
GENERAL
KOHLER!

MUST'A
BEEN SOME
KIND'A FREAKY
SUICIDE
PACT--!

ANY
OTHER
CASUALTIES,
SON?

"JUST
ONE, SIR--

"BUT I'M AFRAID
IT'S A BAD ONE...

"COLONEL TREVOR'S BUDDY,
COLONEL MATTHEW
MICHAELIS--!"

"SEEMS HE BOUGHT
IT WHILE SAVING
LIEUTENANT
CANDY AND THAT
KAPATELIS WOMAN--!"

"HE WAS ONE
OF THE BEST,
SIR--HE'LL BE
MISSED!"

INDEED HE WILL, SON! AND
SPEAKING OF TREVOR--

WHERE IS HE,
LIEUTENANT?

HE HAS A HEAP
OF EXPLAINING
TO DO!

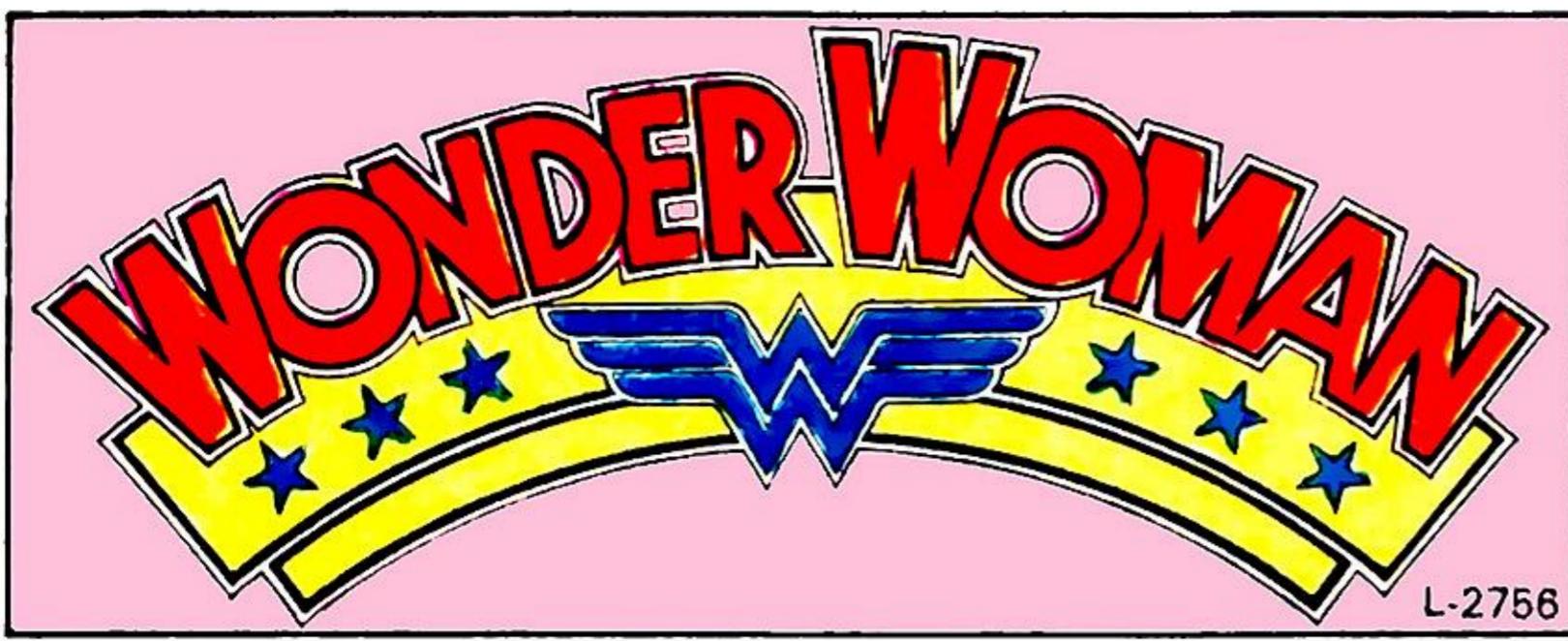
I'M RIGHT
HERE,
GENERAL--

EH?

--AND RIGHT NOW,
I'M NOT VERY
HAPPY!

FOR GOD'S SAKE,
WILL SOMEBODY
PLEASE HELP
ME WITH HER?!?

THE END?



L-2756

Dear Karen,

After just three issues, WONDER WOMAN has become one of the best titles available on comic racks. George Perez's pencils, coupled with a new and refreshing approach to the character have made WONDER WOMAN exciting for the first time in years. The art is exquisite, the concept intriguing, and the characters very interesting.

Wonder Woman's character is much more interesting than any of her previous incarnations. She is now portrayed as being quite youthful, and her wide-eyed naivete makes her an interesting and endearing character. Although the book is hers, much of the focus has not been on her in the past two issues. We have been introduced to supporting characters Steve Trevor, Etta Candy, and Julia Kapatelis. This has proved quite important in setting up these characters in the overall premise of the book. Even though battle sequences have been few and far between in issues one through three, the comic has still maintained a high level of excitement through the interesting characters and impending threat of Ares.

It is obvious that Steve Trevor will not be a romantic interest of Diana, as seen by their age difference. However, the character of Steve Trevor is much stronger than it has ever been. He is a hero in his own right, and will serve as more of a partner for Diana than as a Lois Lane to Wonder Woman's Superman. It is the strength of his convictions that make Steve Trevor so interesting. For years, writers have been using Steve Trevor as a crutch for Wonder Woman stories. He had been brought back from the dead twice, and no one had any idea what to do with the character, or for that matter the comic in general. Now, we see a different and more exciting Steve Trevor, and we already know that his part in the war against Ares will become increasingly important.

Obviously, Etta Candy is the only other character remaining from the old series. It is a relief to see that this Etta Candy does not constantly have a box of chocolates in her hand, and has not once said, "woo-woo." Etta Candy has been made a more believable and interesting character by updating her to fit into a modern, serious comic book.

Julia Kapatelis is an interesting newcomer, and I am sure we will learn more about her in the months to come. It seems as though she will serve as Diana's mentor and her bridge to the

modern world, rather than the Diana Prince shell that she has worn for 45 years. It is important that Diana learn as much as she can about the modern world through Julia, seeing that the Amazon's knowledge of the modern world is very limited.

I hope that the excitement created in the first three issues continues, and that Wonder Woman will once again become the great hero and leader in women's comics that she once was. With great talents George Perez and Len Wein at the helm, I suppose I have reason to be optimistic.

Floyd D. Barber
West Nyack, NY 10994

Glad you like the "new" versions of Steve Trevor and Etta Candy, as well as the introduction of Julia Kapatelis, Floyd. As you stated, Julia is a necessary and prominent figure in Diana's life, serving as mentor, guide, translator and ultimately, trusted friend. While, we're not going to reveal whether Diana and Steve do become romantically entangled, their age difference shouldn't be a factor. We'd like to think that when it comes to true love, age is all relative.

Dear Karen. *****

Let me begin by saying that I have never written to a comic magazine before. Actually, I have never written any kind of "fan mail" before. However, I feel compelled enough to finally voice my reactions to the new WONDER WOMAN.

This is magnificent.

Admittedly, you, George and Len have set yourselves quite a task in seeking to create a book that appeals to a largely nonexistent female audience while also attracting a male audience to a central female character. Lofty goals, indeed.

However, it is just this kind of serious, thoughtful approach to a comic that makes it and a few others (like SWAMP THING, WATCHMEN, Love and Rockets, etc.) so exciting.

If I may speak as a comics fan, not an "in-the-business-too" person, (I help Bruce Ayres run Capital City Comics and also work for the Westfield Company) I have a few observations I would like to share with you.

1) Don't shy away from the feminist perspective in WONDER WOMAN. It is one of the things that makes the book so refreshing. The feminist overtones seemed to be stronger in #1 than in subsequent issues. It would be a loss for them to be severely watered down.

2) Take your time with the pacing of

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the book. If fully fleshed out, the story in #1 could have taken up six full issues. Diana is, understandably, quite unaccustomed to the modern "Man's World." I am looking forward to seeing her learn and grow with each new experience. You cannot be faulted for wanting to produce a book that sells well, but each issue does not have to have a battle in it to be a "good comic." Infrequency makes the battles that do occur more effective. I am very pleased to see that Diana will be kept away from the role of a crimefighter. This is Batman's job. Diana finding her role as "...a teacher ... and a student" is extremely fertile ground to be sown. (The quote is from George Pérez in Amazing Heroes.)

3) The larger story of the Ares/Goddesses conflict is a gem and should not be too quickly resolved. This story element lends itself very well to both social commentary and insight on traditional gender differences in approach to solving conflicts.

4) George Pérez is about the only artist I have seen who gives this book the right look. Just as Bissette and Totleben gave SWAMP THING the exact look the book needed, so does Pérez give WONDER WOMAN the look it requires. I have never seen Diana herself drawn any better than now.

5) Finally, (whew!) should George or Len ever decide to stop plotting/scripting the book, PLEASE, PLEASE twist Alan Moore's arm to take up the reins. He is the only other writer I can think of who could keep the proper feminist perspective and consistent high quality that one of the Big Three titles deserves. Besides, it won't be long before Alan wraps up his run on SWAMP THING (sob, sniff sniff).

Thank you for your patience in getting through this horribly overwritten first attempt. Thanks also for producing a book that I look forward to reading each month.

Best of luck to you and everyone at DC.

Sincerely,
David Macey
Madison, WI

Nothing makes us feel better than to be the recipients of one's first letter, David, so thanks for sharing your feelings with us. We agree with your comments that the "feminist perspective" was more prevalent in issue #1 than the ensuing issues, but we don't think that we've strongly diluted the women's sensibility in the latter stories. Since the concept of this series is

grounded in the Goddesses and their creation of an all-women race, naturally the premiere story would concentrate more in that area. Even though the storyline has currently taken us away from Paradise Island and the Goddesses' direct influence, we feel that Diana's strength of character and purpose has formidably carried the "feminist perspective." (Not to mention the addition of an array of female characters: the smart, witty Julia, her sharp-minded, spirited daughter, Vanessa, and Etta, a very able, competent person in her own right.)

As for your observation about the pacing of the first issue, well, we would have loved to have taken our time developing Wonder Woman's ancestors' "back-story," but if we did, Wonder Woman wouldn't have appeared until the third or fourth book. Now, if you were the star of your own series, how would you feel?

Dear Editor:

With every issue the methodology of the new Wonder Woman gets a little clearer and a little more intriguing. For me, this makeover symbolizes (far more than the changes in Batman and Superman) what DC is about these days. You aren't just going back to basics here. You're telling a new story with a logic and sensitivity that didn't even exist in comics when Charles Moulton created the original Wonder Woman over 45 years ago. For example there has never been a sane reason given why a woman from an isolated race descended from the Greek gods should set foot in the States for the first time speaking perfect English and wearing a costume based on the American flag. As a result, the new Diana is speaking ancient Greek and her costume is a genuine mystery to be explained at a later date.

The most startling and drastic change for me, though, is Diana's age. This is clearly a young woman of 18 or 19, about 10 years younger than the old Wonder Woman. This would seem to spell a definite end to the most boring romance in comics, her love affair with Steve Trevor, and recasts the most famous female character in comics as a real role model for young women. Let's face it, Wonder Woman was always an adolescent boy's sex fantasy before with those looks and costume. Now she's someone girls can identify with more readily, I would think, and I hope this is the first step towards welcoming comics' long-neglected female audience into the fold.

This new logical version of Wonder Woman raises a much more delicate question as well. In TEEN TITANS SPOTLIGHT #7, there was a touching, heartfelt letter about the possible creation of a homosexual hero. It wouldn't work with that writer's suggestion, Jericho, but think about it. Diana comes from an all-female society and mistrusts men... No, I don't think the world is ready for a lesbian Wonder Woman. Certain types out there would crucify you and it would go against the book's premise about

Wonder Woman and the Amazons being created to unite the male and female impulses in the world. What would seem natural, though, would be for Diana's attentions to be turned towards women until she learns to not consider all men the enemy. That could be a powerful subtext within the first year or so of this book and judging by Diana's appreciation of Vanessa's beauty when they meet, I wonder if you aren't already thinking along these lines.

To more mechanical matters of script and art, undiluted George Pérez is one of the glories of the comics world and Bruce Patterson is a very sympathetic inker for him. I see George is handling the entire plot himself too. Well, he co-plotted some of the Teen Titans' finest stories with Marv Wolfman so I'm sure he can handle it. Len Wein's scripting seems to have some of its old snap back too. This seems to be one of those projects that breeds enthusiasm in everyone who works on it.

DC is currently churning out high quality revamped series at almost too fast a rate. We can hardly catch our breaths from THE QUESTION and COSMIC BOY when here comes SHAZAM! and THE SPECTRE. WONDER WOMAN shouldn't get lost in that shuffle because it's suddenly become one of the three or four best books you have. There's a sense of majesty and uplift to this series that's as bracing as a cold, clear river especially if you've just dealt with the dark shadows of Alan Moore's or Frank Miller's latest works. This is easily the best Wonder Woman series ever and I hope it gets the applause it deserves.

Jerome Wilson
22 Woodland Way
Greenbelt, MD 20770

You're not the first who's raised the question of Diana's possible sexual preferences, Jerome, and you've very clearly answered the issue yourself. Diana would obviously feel more comfortable around Julia than Steve, for she'd never laid eyes on a man before him. Her justifiable wariness of men, though, will eventually lead to intrigue and attraction. Diana's reaction to Vanessa, however, was one of pure wonder. Remember, Diana was the only child ever on Paradise Island, so seeing a young girl would truly be an incredible experience for her.

Len, George, Bruce, and Karen

My favorite element of "Deadly Arrival!"—and a real achievement on your part—is the welcome variety of women. It is so refreshing to see women treated in a realistic way for once. In comics, as in TV, advertising, and movies, women are almost always stereotyped and glamorized. I get so sick of the simplistic, adolescent views endlessly presented in the media, completely unrealistic and unhealthy attitudes towards half of the human race. Women are always portrayed in one of two ways: beautiful, buxom, sensual creatures; or funny uglies and fatso

who can't get a date. In comics, heroines are built like Christie Brinkley, inflated to epic proportions; villainesses and supporting female characters are usually likewise striking or at least attractive. There is never any sense of the variety of female forms in the real world, and the beauty which can be present in them all. (A notable exception is *Love & Rockets*, of course.) In "Deadly Arrival!", however, Len and George depicted *real women, females who were not all cast from an identical, typical mold*. First, there was Diana herself, a truly beautiful woman with a traditional heroine's figure.

Then, in counterpoint, you showed us Professor Kapitelis, who did not possess the statuesque physical beauty, but had instead a strong, intelligent, witty, and compassionate nature. Her daughter, Vanessa, was not a goddess, either, but she had a similarly bright force of character, and was, as her mother said, "headstrong, fiercely independent..." In fact, when Diana first sees Vanessa, she thinks how beautiful the girl is—recognizing that real beauty is based on something other than a bulging chest and a round rump. Finally, there is Etta Candy, a new version of the old Wonder Woman sidekick who is the closest to a real human being you're likely to find in any comic. Etta is heavy, and unattractive by society's standards, but she is intelligent and loyal and shrewd, proving you don't have to look like Diana to be heroic. Nice work on these people, and I hope to see an even wider spectrum of physical and personality types in future issues—of both sexes.

All in all, brilliant work. I liked everything in this issue. Phobos, Deimos, and Decay are great villains, and promise an exciting battle with Diana. I especially thought it was clever that Diana could not speak English when she first arrived; really, it only makes sense. And Boston is a good choice for a central location for this series.

Keep it up, and I'll keep reading

Robert T. Jeschonek
129 Hostetler Rd
Johnstown, PA 15904

We take great pains in portraying female characters that aren't stereotypical, Robert, so we really appreciate it that you appreciate it. Your assessment of Hermes and Steve's roles were also right on target. But, wait until you hear about Steve's past!

NEXT: While Zeus ponders the fate of the Amazons, the deadly all-new CHEETAH plans her attack! See you then—Karen



MINUTEMEN

KANG HAS NEVER SERVED ANY BUT **HIMSELF**. WHY SHOULD I **ACCEPT** SUCH AN OFFER, ESPECIALLY FROM AN UNKNOWN?

BUT WE ARE **NOT** UNKNOWN, GREAT KANG. YOU KNOW US WELL. AND WE KNOW YOU.

