



®
WONDER
WOMAN

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
CARTOONISTS
AUTHORITY

WONDER WOMAN



BILL LOEBS

LEE MODER

ANDE PARKS

WONDER WOMAN

WORST

MOMENTS



IN THE WORST MOMENTS,
ALL THAT REMAINS IS
INSTINCT. IRENE
BEAUCHAMP, AVIATRIX

THERE WAS A SKELETON
ON A ROCK. PROMETHEUS,
PERHAPS, UNRESCUED BY
HERAKLES.

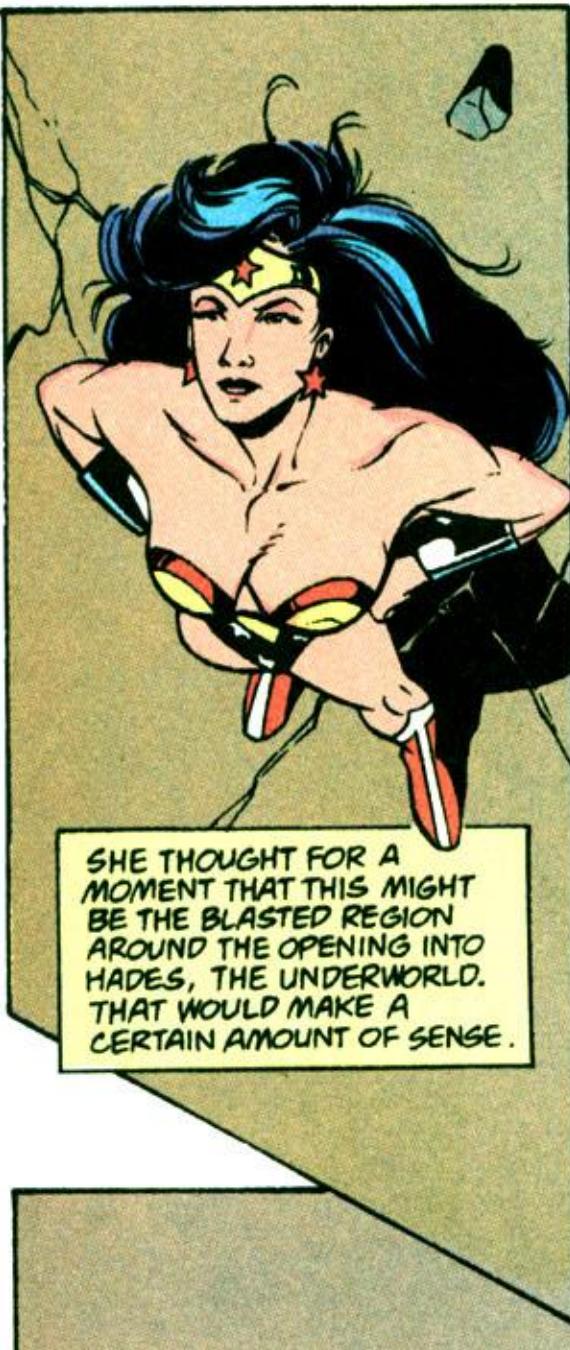
IT WAS HARD TO TELL.
THIS WAS THE LAND OF
MYTH AND METAPHOR,
WHERE SHE COULD
INFLUENCE WHAT SHE
BEHELD.

AND, AFTER ALL,
SHE HAD COME
SEEKING DEATH.

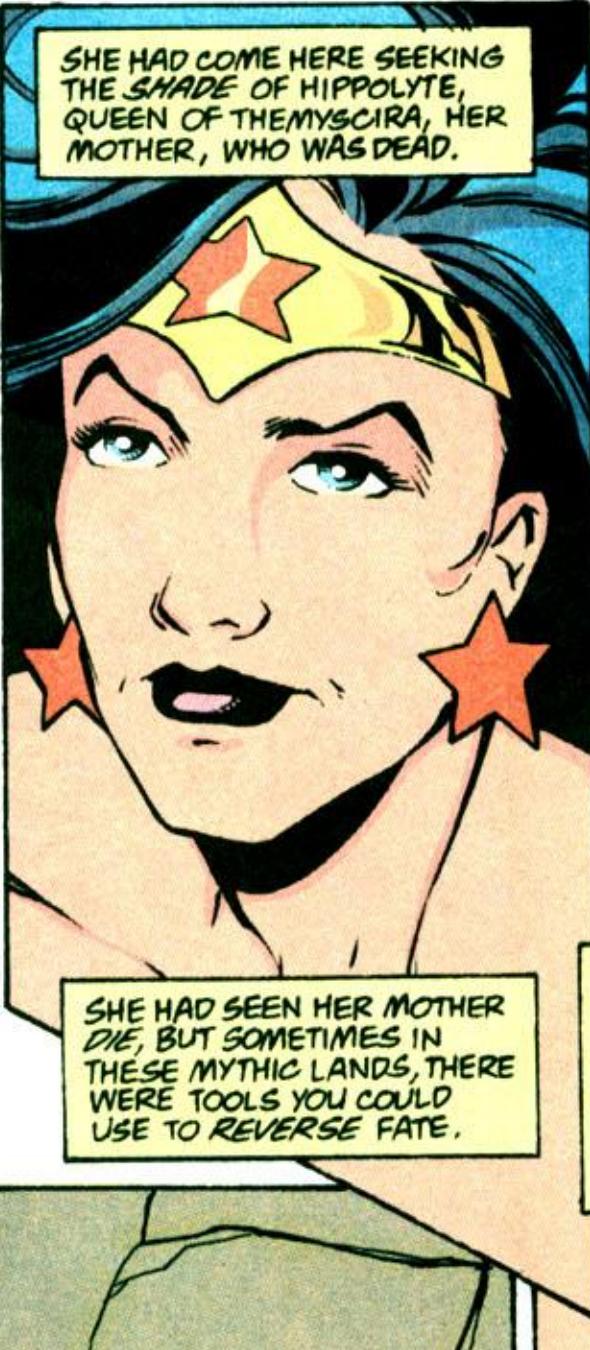
LOEBS - story
MODER - pencils
PARKS - inks
SETZER - colors
COSTANZA - letters
DIAZ - assistant
AUGUSTYN - editor

WONDER WOMAN created by
William Moulton Marston

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SHE THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE BLASTED REGION AROUND THE OPENING INTO HADES, THE UNDERWORLD. THAT WOULD MAKE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SENSE.



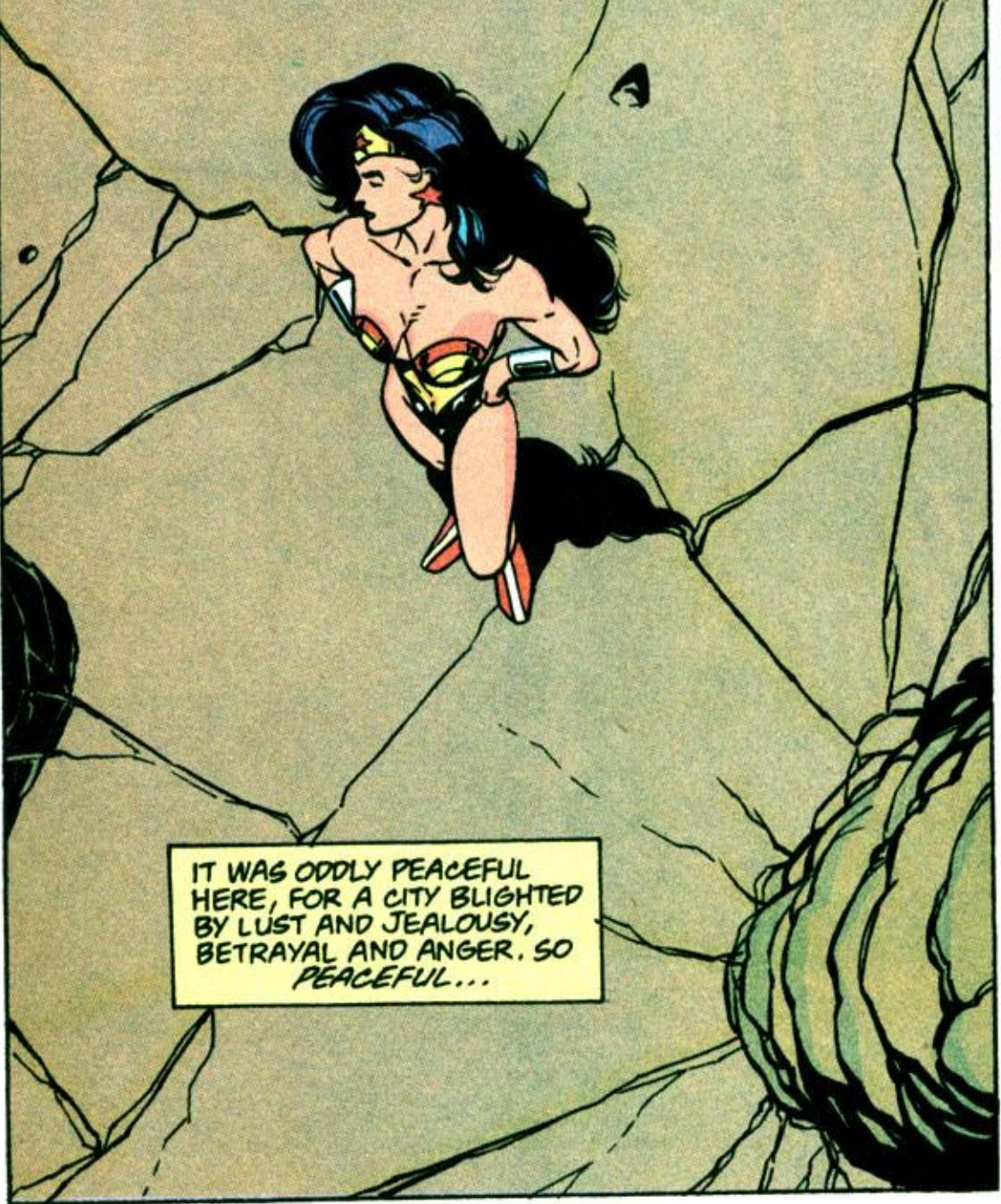
SHE HAD COME HERE SEEKING THE SHADE OF HIPPOLYTE, QUEEN OF THEMYSCIRA, HER MOTHER, WHO WAS DEAD.



SHE HAD SEEN HER MOTHER DIE, BUT SOMETIMES IN THESE MYTHIC LANDS, THERE WERE TOOLS YOU COULD USE TO REVERSE FATE.



SHE BEGAN TO RECOGNIZE LANDMARKS. HER MOTHER HAD TOLD HER OF A CITY WHERE ZEUS DESIRED A MAIDEN, AND HERA, HIS WIFE, HAD CAUSED THE CITY TO BE DESTROYED.



IT WAS ODDLY PEACEFUL HERE, FOR A CITY BLIGHTED BY LUST AND JEALOUSY, BETRAYAL AND ANGER. SO PEACEFUL...



ONLY THEN DID SHE REMEMBER THE REST OF THE STORY.

THAT ZEUS HAD GIVEN THE RULER OF THE CITY A NEW PEOPLE, GROWN FROM ANTS, STRONGER AND FIERCER THAN HUMANS.

SHE FELT THE HARD SHELL SLICE INTO HER FLESH... FELT HER OWN BLOOD...

THERE WERE TOO MANY...

TOO STRONG...

THEY COVERED HER LIKE A MOUNTAIN OF HUGE, ANGRY SCORPIONS. AND THEN...

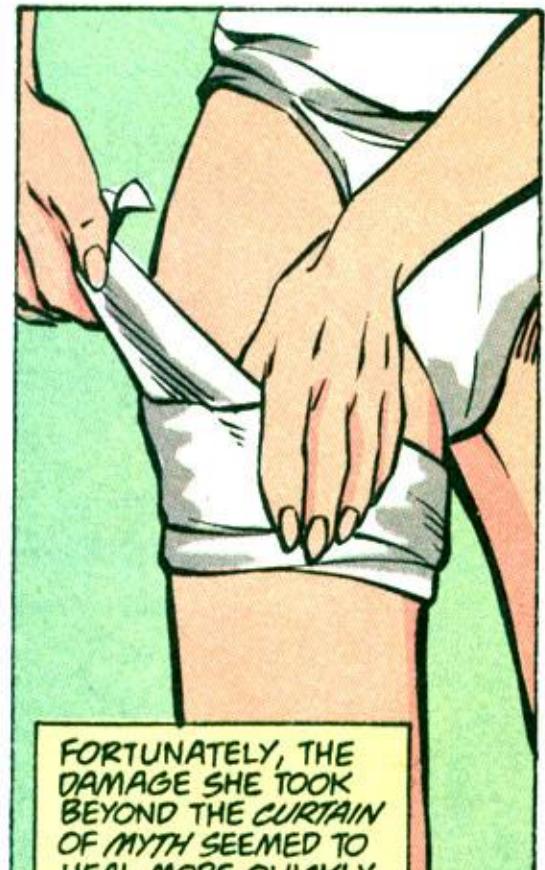


THEY KILLED HER

ANOTHER FAILURE.
NO BAD WOUNDS,
BUT THERE WAS A
THREE-INCH GASH
ON ONE LEG, PLUS
ASSORTED SCRAPES
AND BRUISES.



ONE
WRIST
FELT
SPRAINED.





I NEEDED A
JOB. MR. RAINS
OFFERED ME ONE.

BESIDES, I THINK
THE CITY IS IN TERRIBLE
DANGER.

HAH?

HUH?

THERE WAS THE CLOAKING MASK
MR. SAZIA WORE... THE ROBOT PARTNER
OF THE THIEF WHO CALLED HERSELF
"MOOT"... THE LIVING COMPUTER CHIPS
THAT ALMOST KILLED THE COMPUTER
GENIUS... AND DON'T FORGET THE
FORCE CANNON USED BY
DICKIE LODER. *

SO?

THEY ALL USE
ULTRA-HIGH
TECHNOLOGY...

SHE'S RIGHT! SOMEBODY'S
LEAKIN' THIS STUFF AND...

DON'T TRY AND STIR
UP A CASE, RAINS. YOU
KNOW THIS HIGH-TECH
GARBAGE KEEPS
FLOATING AROUND.

AND THAT STUFF
ISN'T NORMALLY
AVAILABLE TO STREET
SCUM! NOW, SUDDENLY,
WE'RE UP TO OUR
NAVELS IN IT!

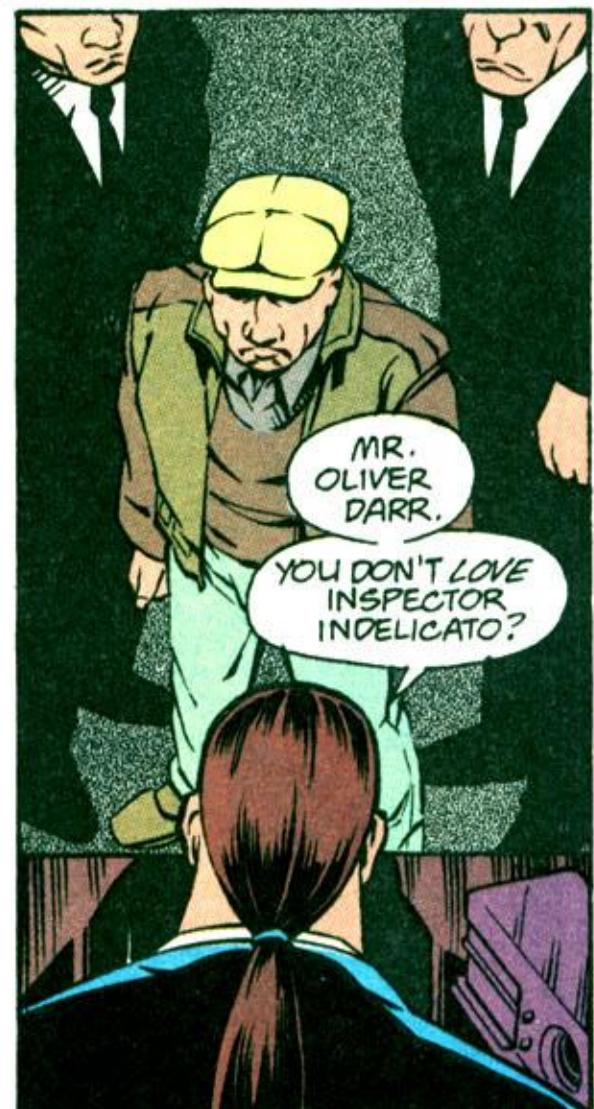
THERE'S A WAR OR
SOMETHING AND ALL THE
INVISIBILITY RAYS AND
PLASMA CANNONS END
UP ON THE BLACK MARKET.

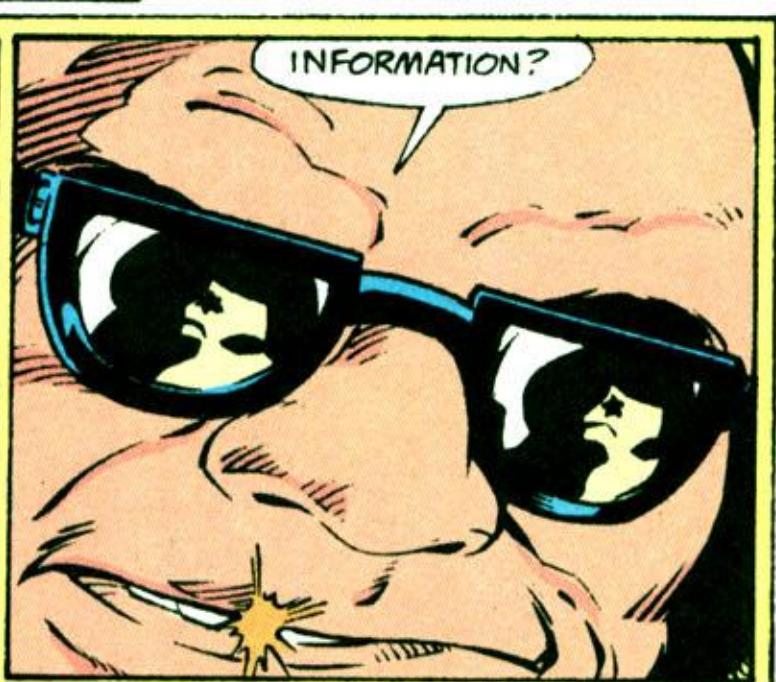
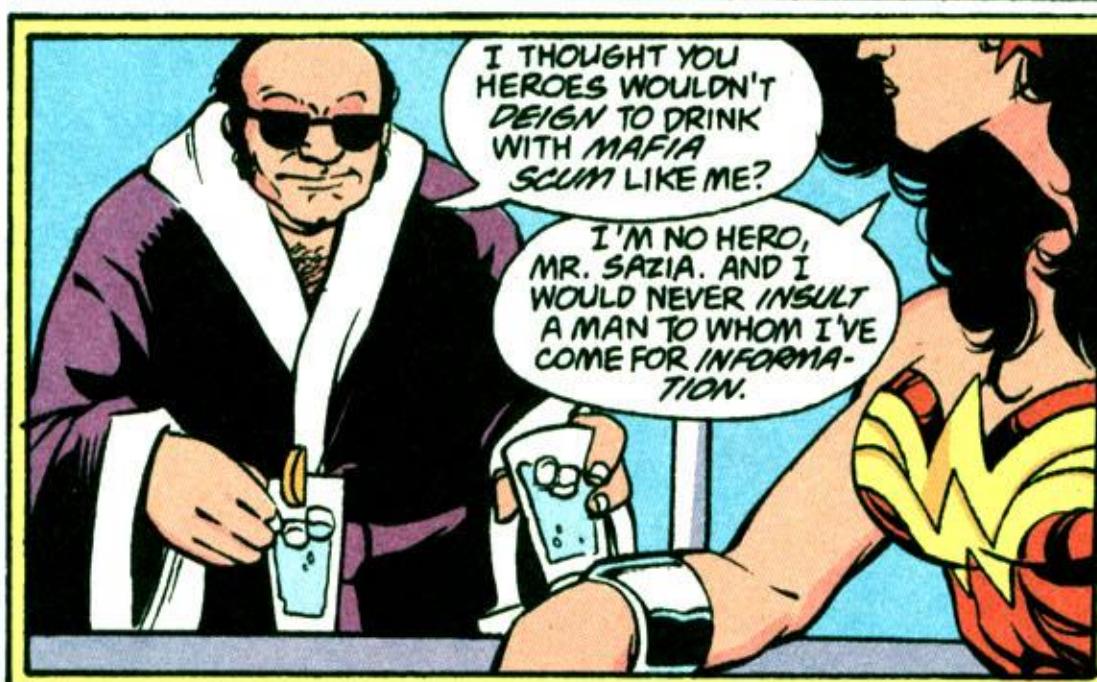
ALL THIS STUFF COULD BE
LEFT OVER FROM THE
INVASION OR...

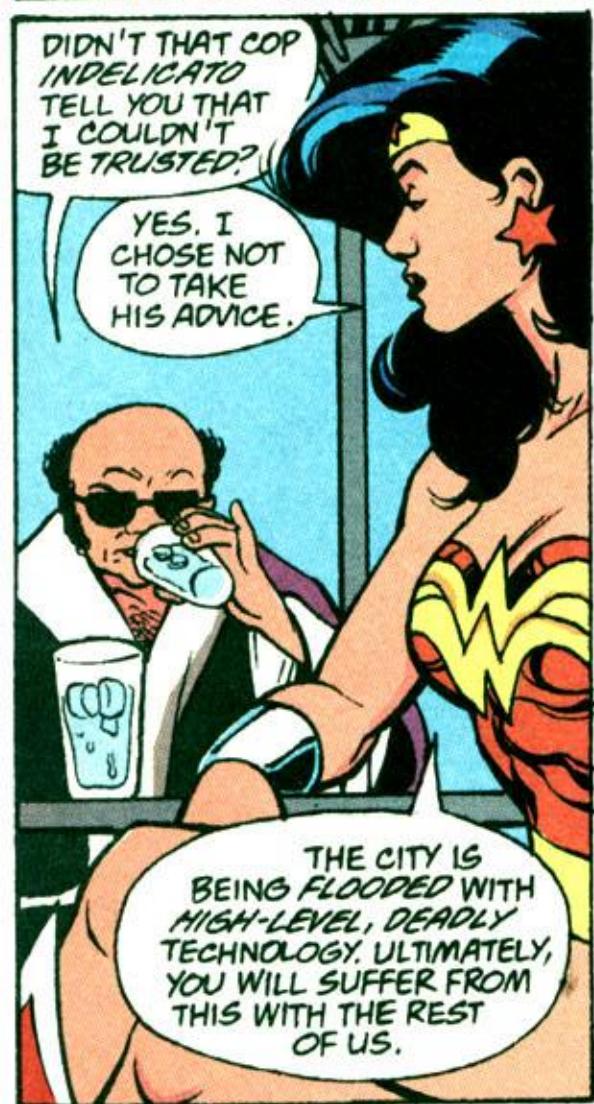
HEY,
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

TO FIND YOU
SOMETHING YOU
CAN BELIEVE.

INST
ED INDE







CLUMFFT
CLUMFFT
CLUMFFT

BOSTON
MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL



I CAME BECAUSE
I WANTED TO SEE
HOW YOU WERE
DOING...

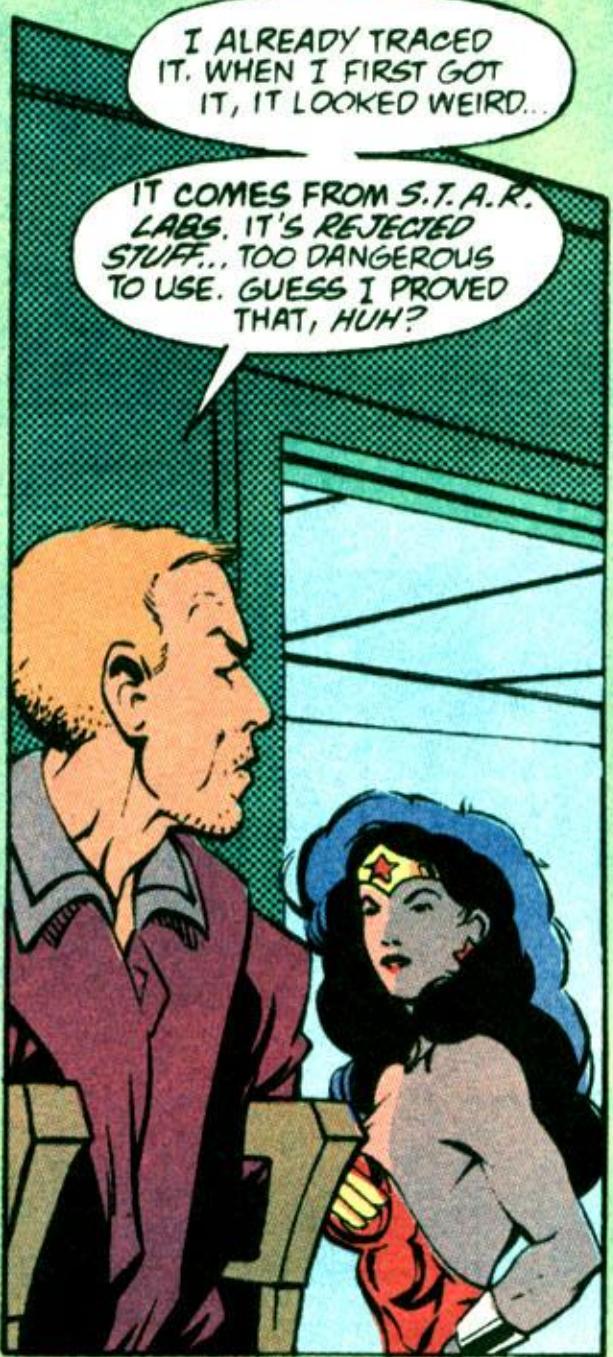
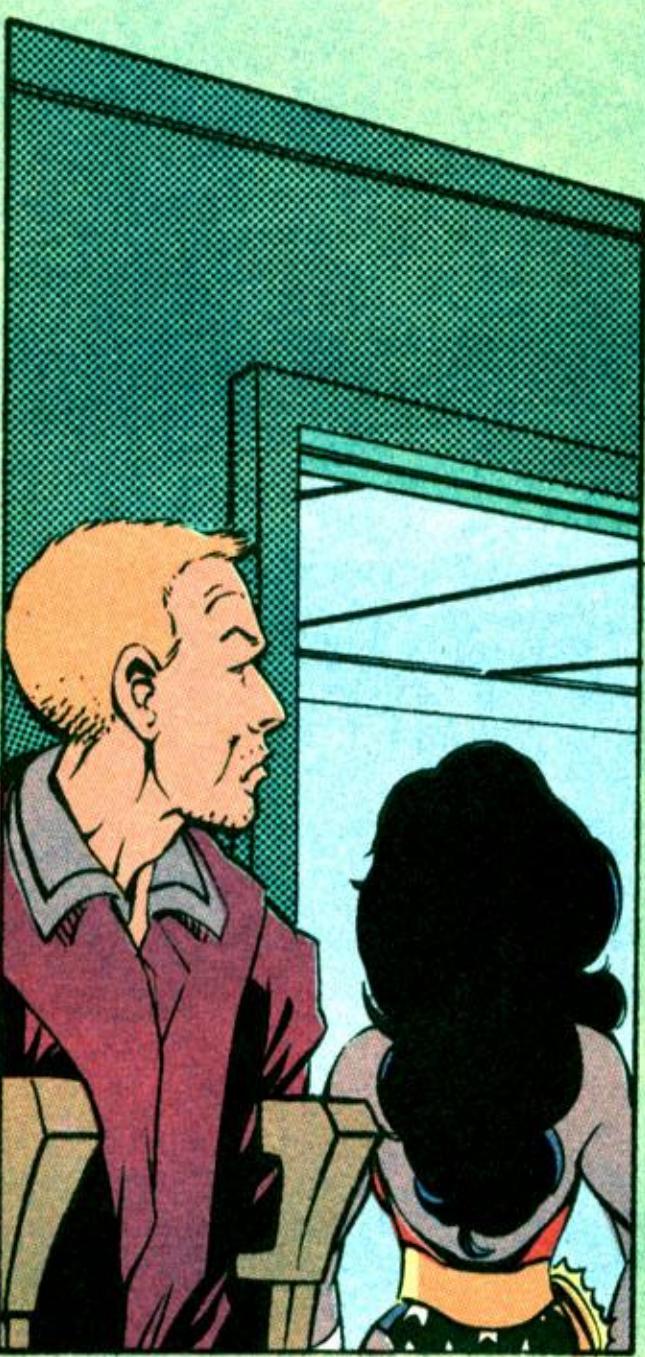
SO LOOK! I
WAS STUPID!
EVIL! I GOT
MYSELF MESSED
UP! YOU SAVED
MY STUPID
LIFE!

ISN'T THAT
WHAT YOU
WANT TO
HEAR!?

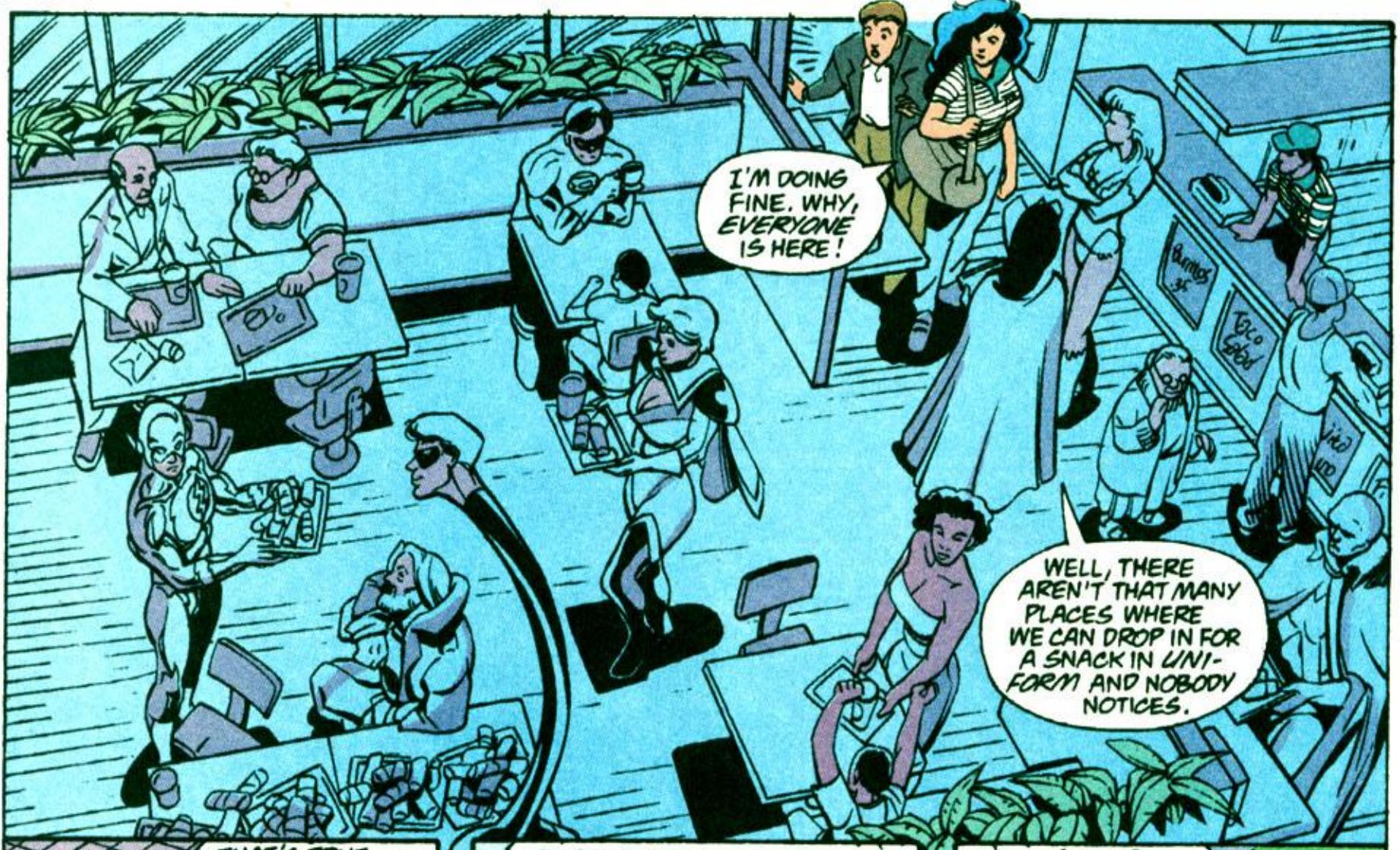
CLUMFFT
CLUMFFT
CLUMFFT

...AND
BECAUSE I
NEED TO ASK
YOU A QUESTION.

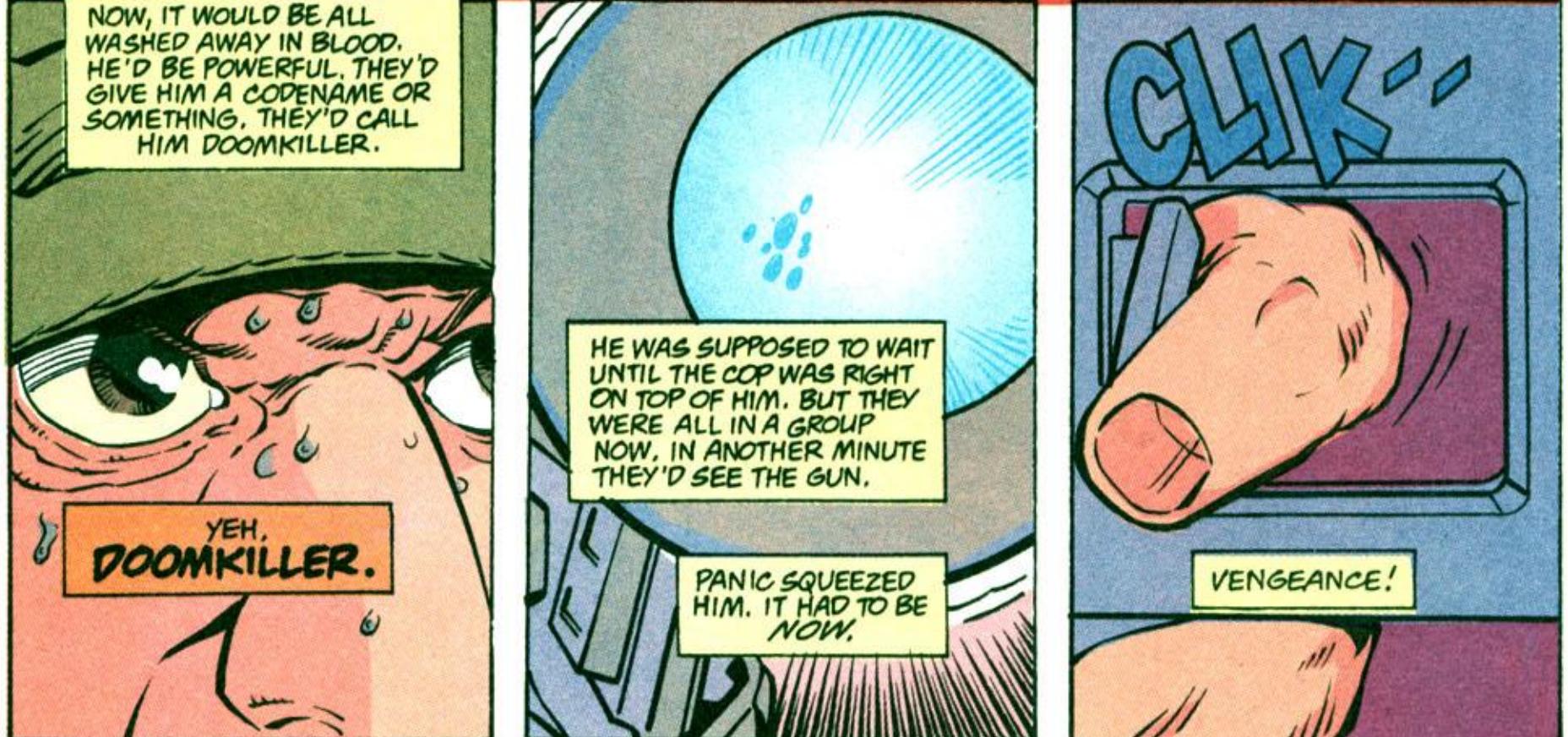
CLUMFFT CLUMFFT CLUMFFT

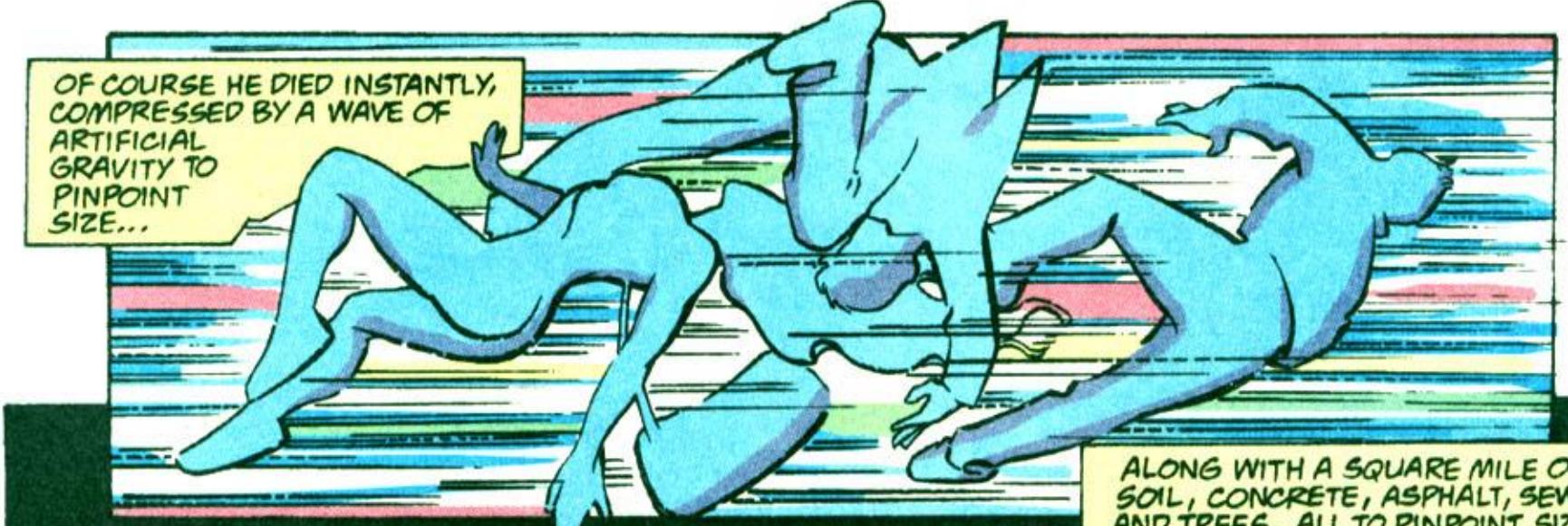






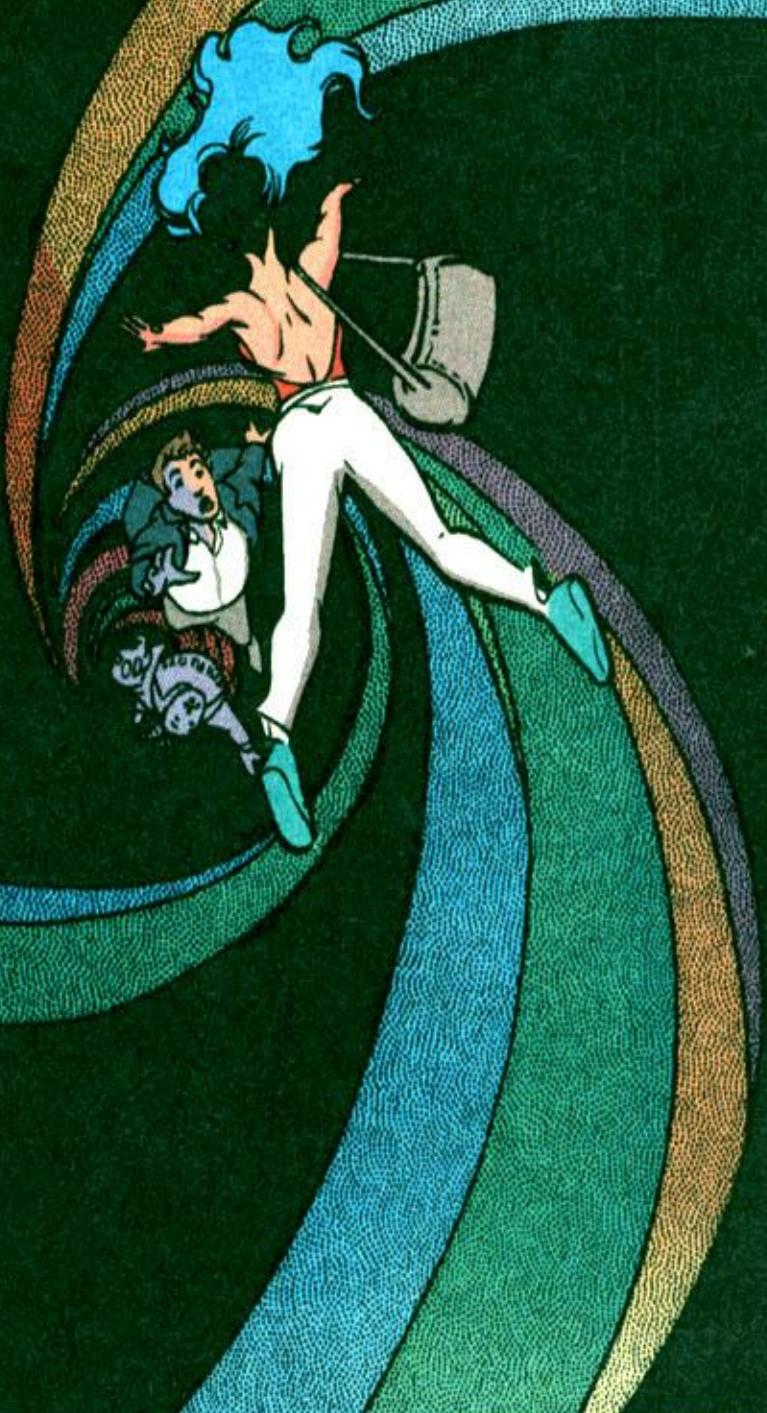




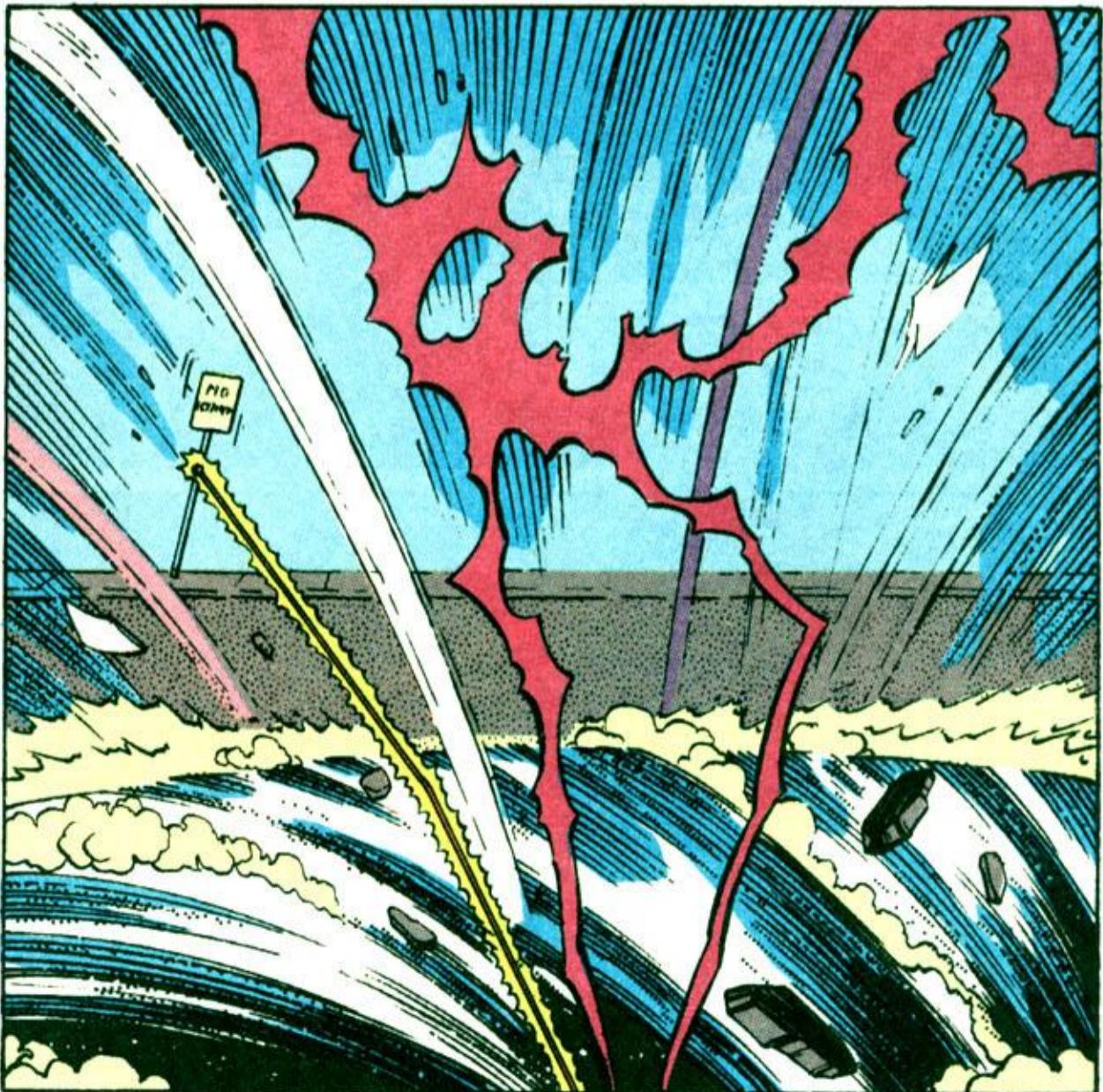
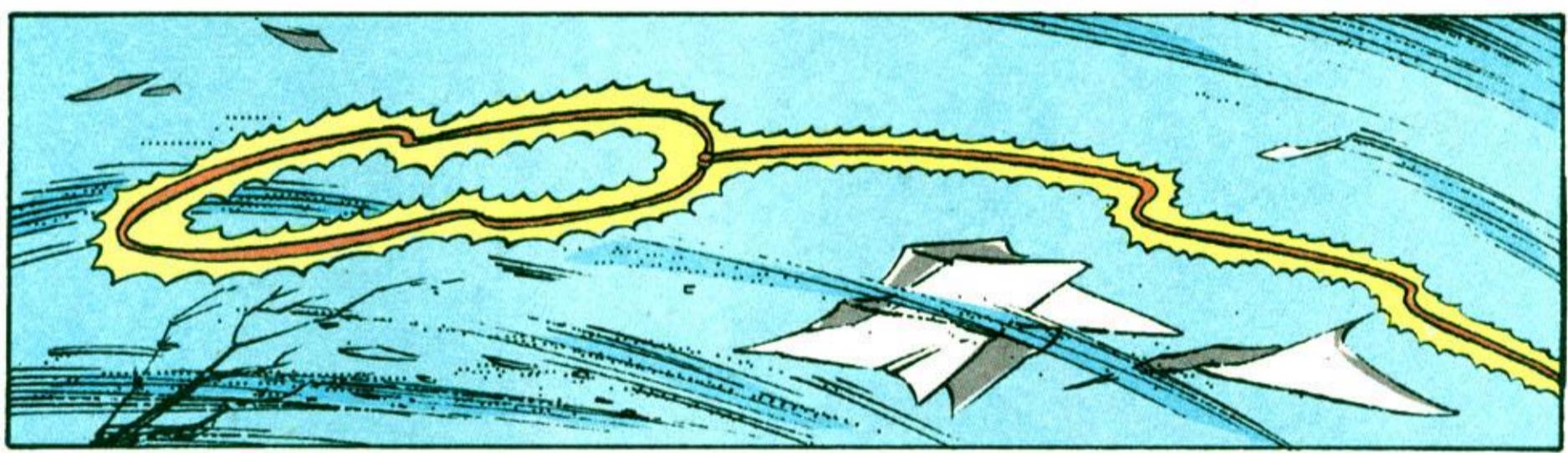
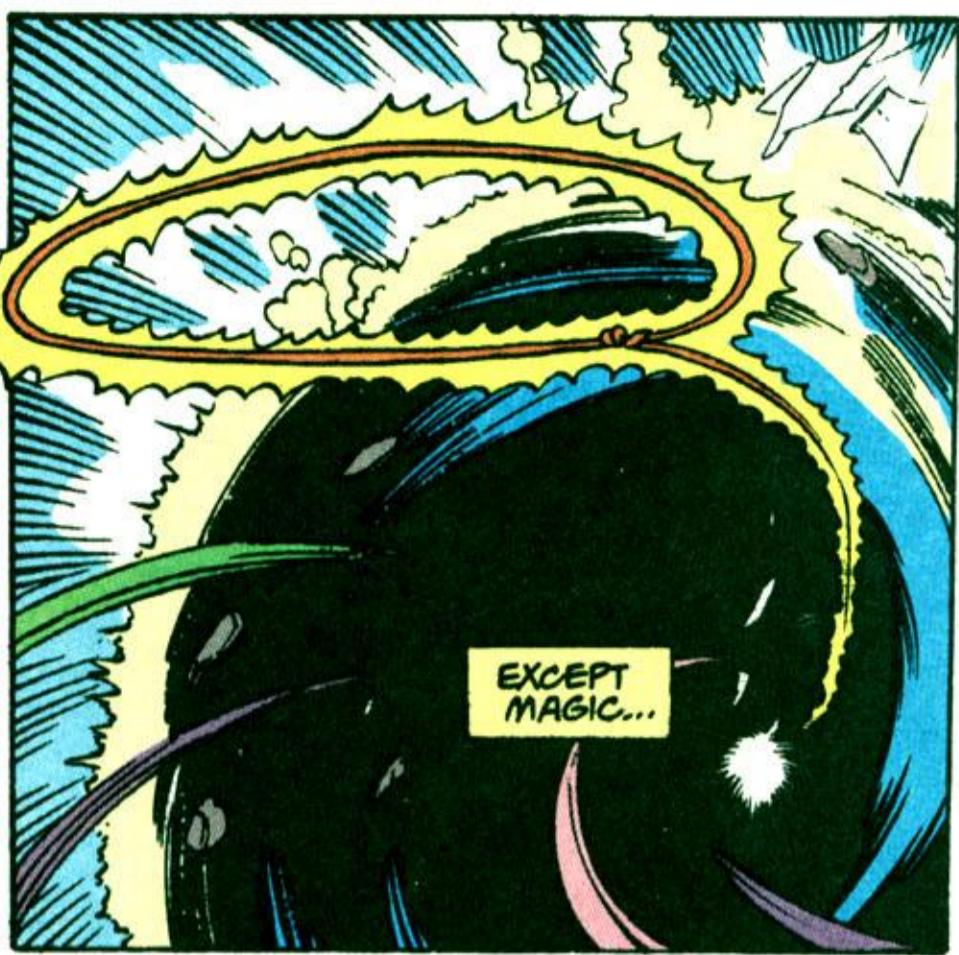


OF COURSE HE DIED INSTANTLY,
COMPRESSED BY A WAVE OF
ARTIFICIAL
GRAVITY TO
PINPOINT
SIZE...

ALONG WITH A SQUARE MILE OF
SOIL, CONCRETE, ASPHALT, SEWERS
AND TREES. ALL TO PINPOINT SIZE,
FOR THAT WAS HOW A BLACK HOLE
WORKED.

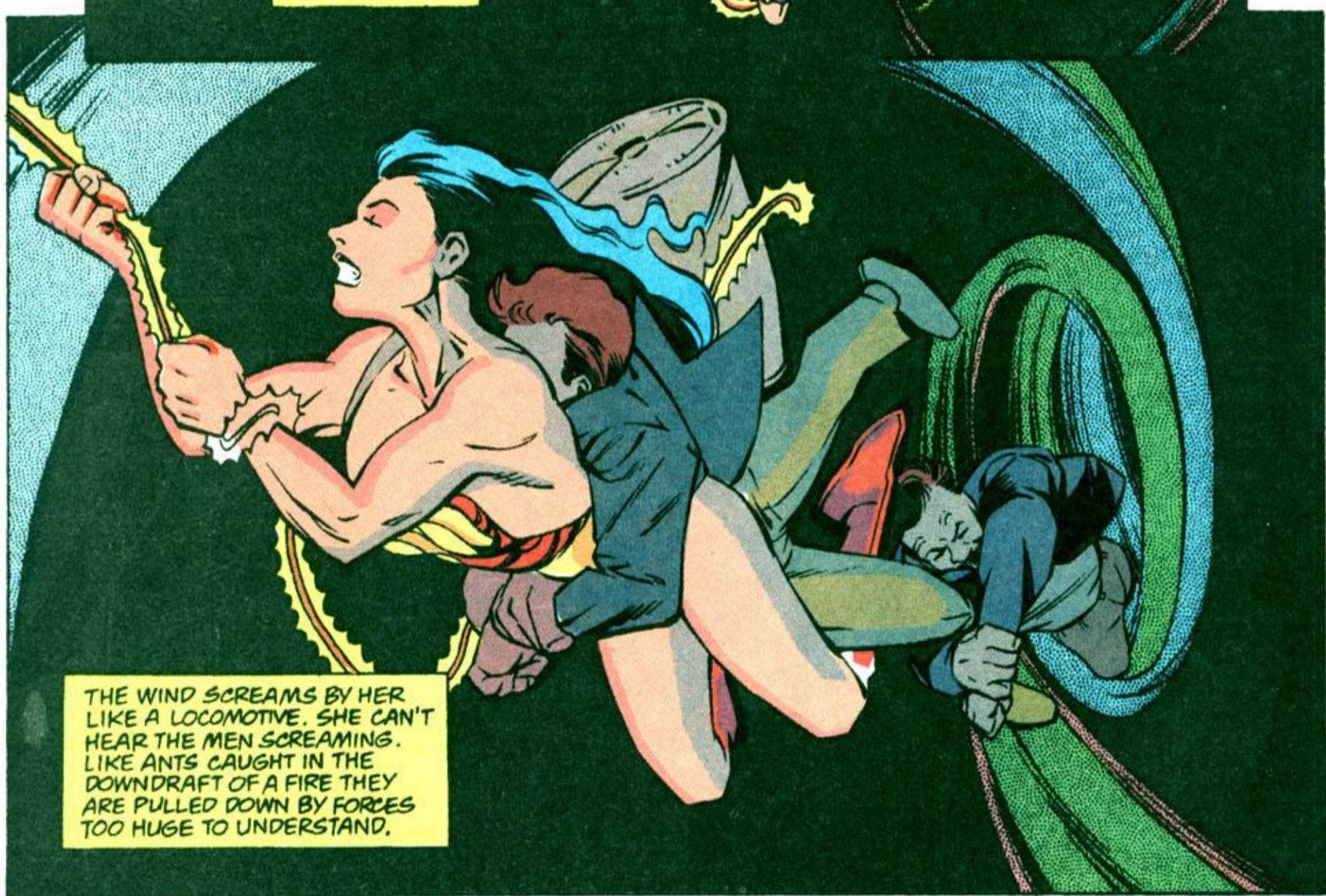


EVERYTHING WAS
COMPRESSED TO A
PINPOINT, EVEN
LIGHT. NOTHING
COULD ESCAPE...

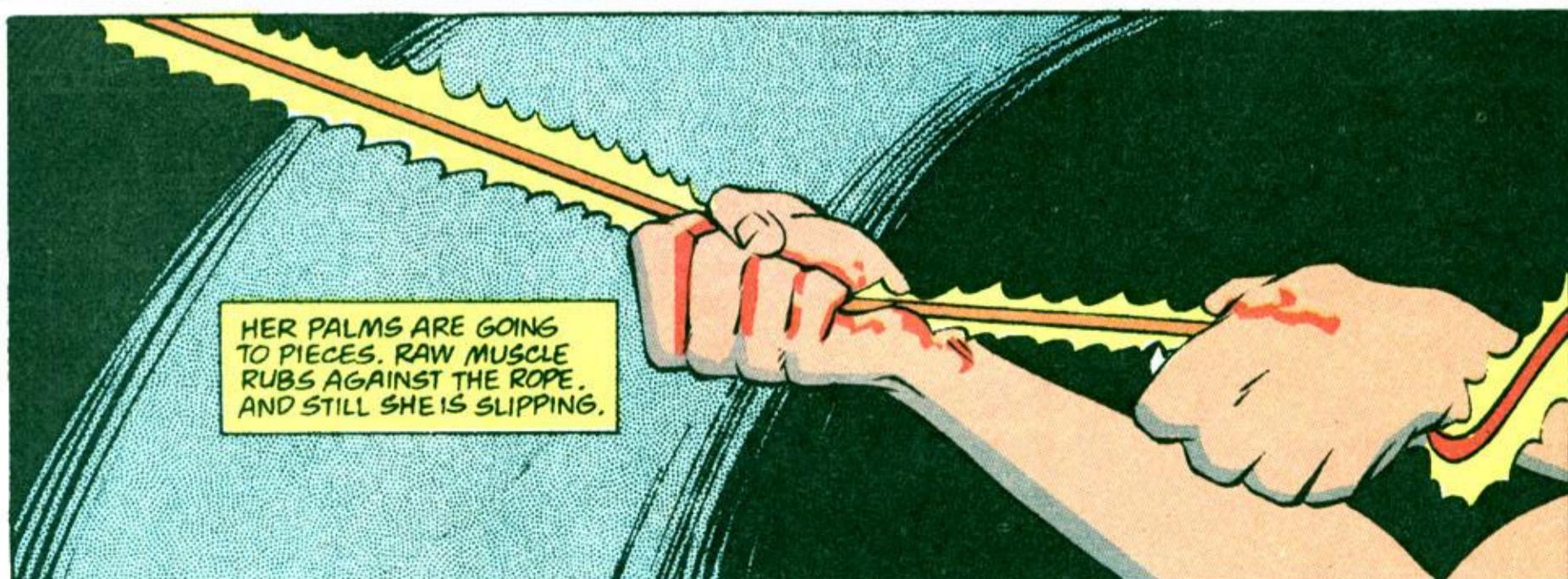


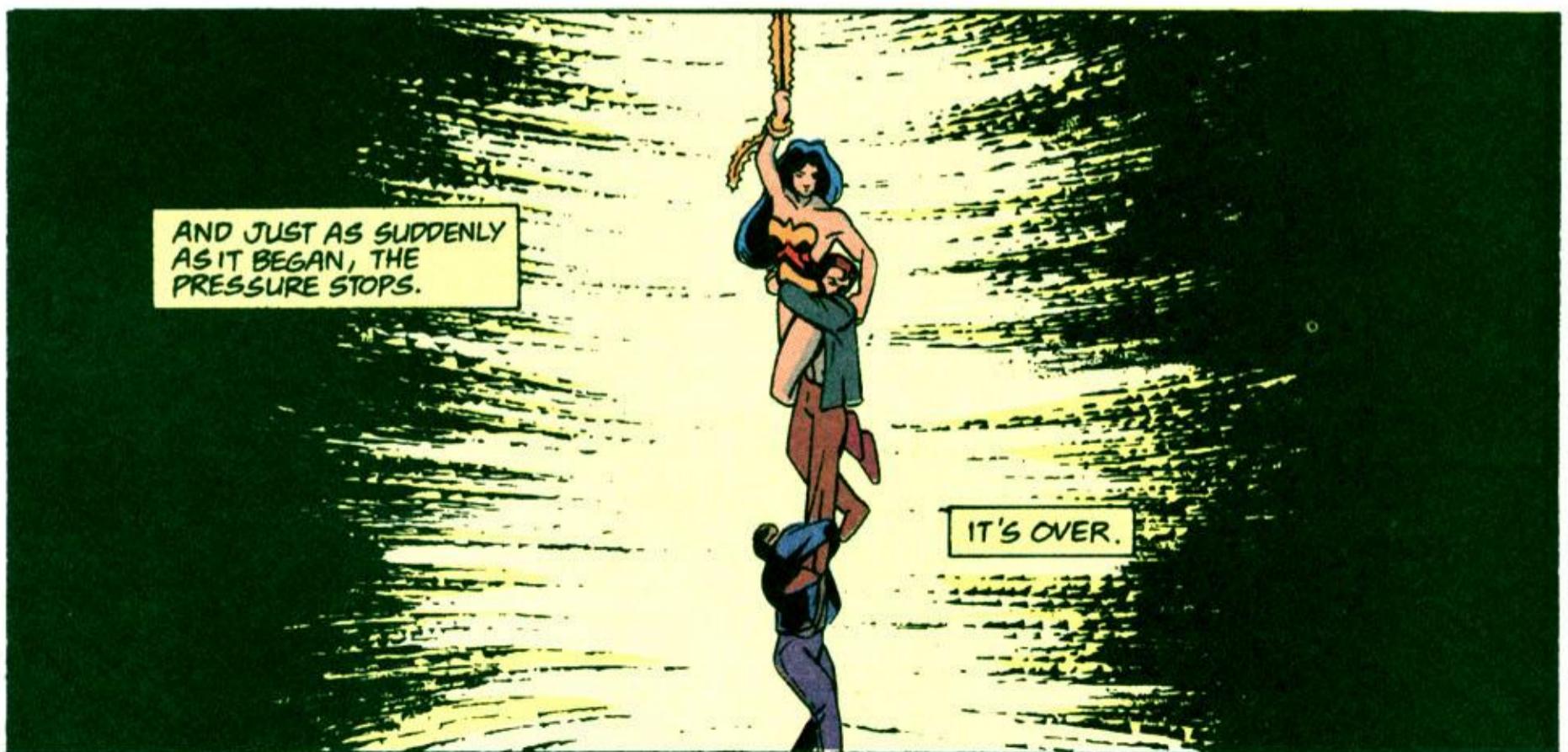
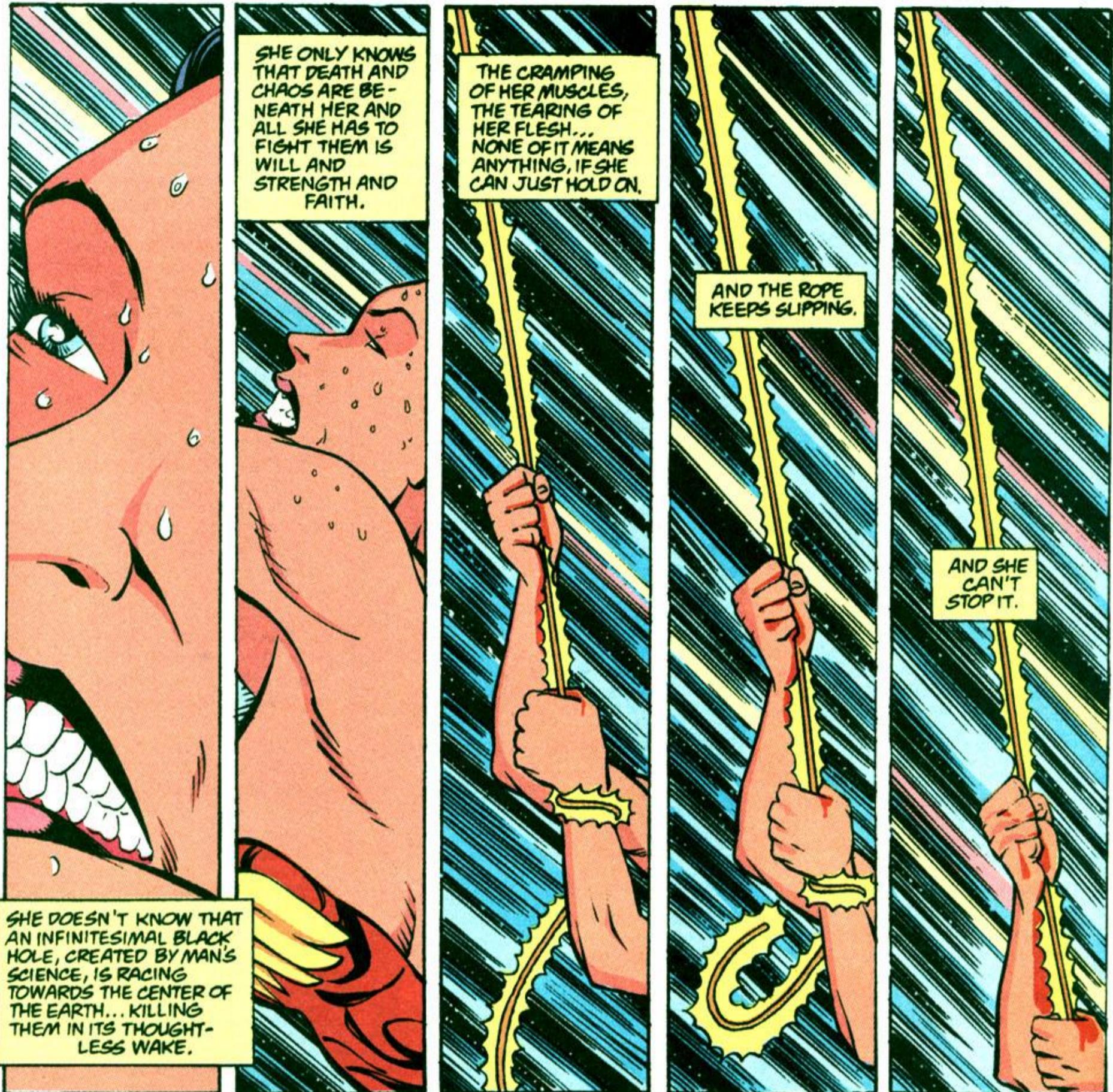


SHE CAN'T
FEEL THE PAIN.



HER PALMS ARE GOING
TO PIECES. RAW MUSCLE
RUBS AGAINST THE ROPE.
AND STILL SHE IS SLIPPING.





AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HAS BEEN CALLED TO HELP FILL IN THE CRATER. WONDER WOMAN HAD NO COMMENT ON THE INCIDENT, BUT SHE AND THE TWO OTHERS WERE RUSHED TO BOSTON MEMORIAL WHERE THEY WERE PRONOUNCED IN TEMPORARY SER...*

DAMN.

APPARENTLY, THE WORM DID NOT WAIT LONG ENOUGH TO DISCHARGE THE SINGULARITY. AND THE SINGULARITY ITSELF BURNED OUT. I HATE IT WHEN MY TOOLS ARE WEAK.

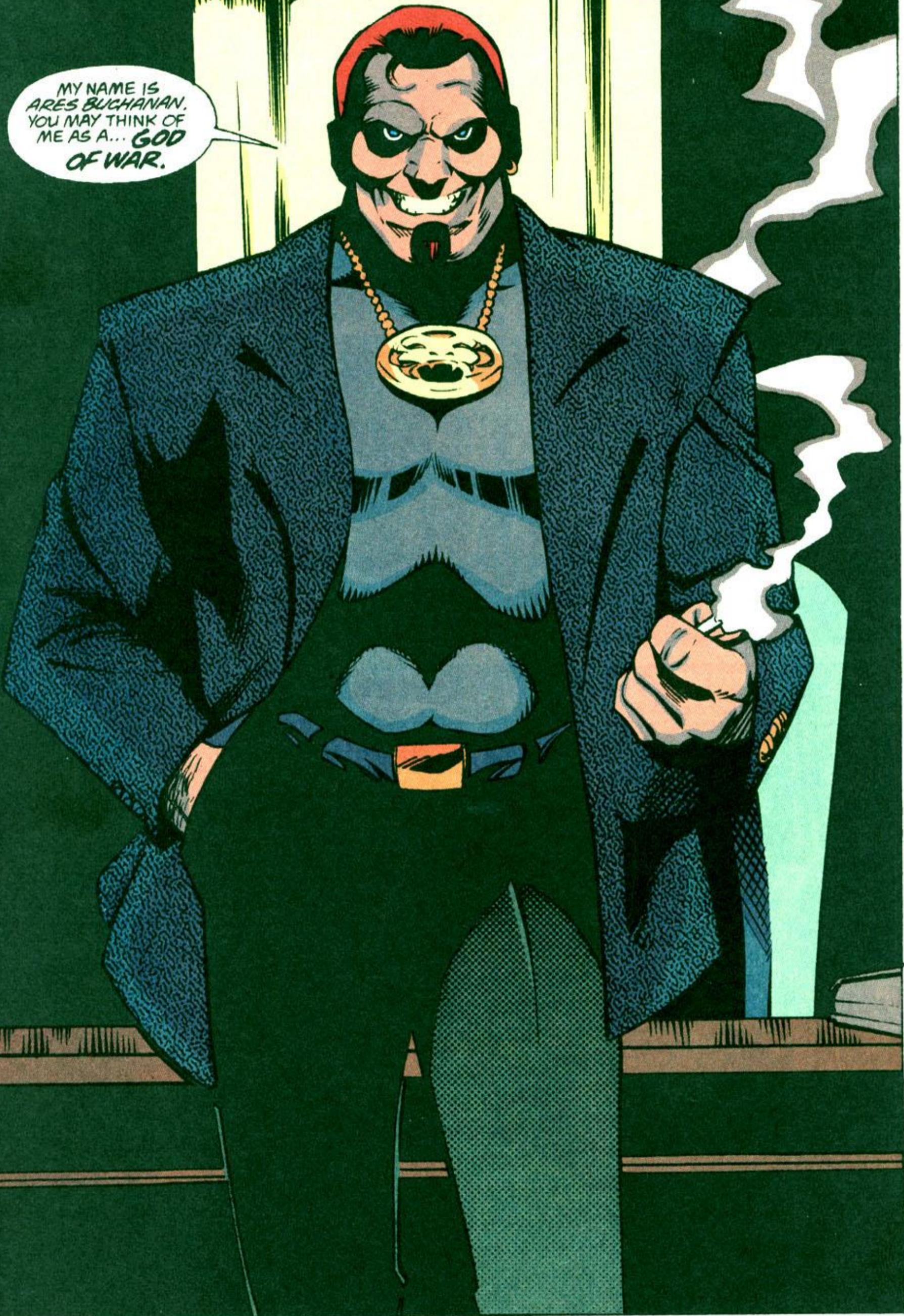
STILL I'M AMAZED THEY SURVIVED... THAT SHE SURVIVED.

WE'LL SEE. AND NOW TO YOU, SIR.

SINCE WE ARE TO BE BUSINESS PARTNERS, MR. SAZIA, I THOUGHT IT WAS PAST TIME WE MET.

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS
ARES BUCHANAN.
YOU MAY THINK OF
ME AS A... GOD
OF WAR.



WONDER WOMAN



Hello and welcome to this latest installment of your friendly neighborhood Amazon's letters page, brought to you now—and for the foreseeable future—by me, your humble editor. Ruben has found himself a bit swamped with other duties, and rather than leave you in the hands of a strange assistant editor (and believe me when I say that the assistant editors around here are pretty strange), I thought I'd jump in.

It won't be too jarring a transition, I trust. I expect only two things: lots of mail and lots of thoughtful, reasoned correspondence leading to intelligent conversation here in these pages. That's not too much pressure, is it?

We'll have fun and controversy both, I'm sure—especially if we work at it. I look forward to "chatting" with you all on a regular basis.

Now back to our regularly scheduled letter column. See you at the end.

—Brian

Dear Brian and Ruben,

Oooo—Ruben! Bolland gave her Geena Davis eyes (well, eye)! And smile! Just for you! I personally think that the hypothetical actress to portray Diana in the non-existent movie should be an unknown.

What a neat little synopsis above the credits on the splash page—I enjoyed that. Also the nod to Valentine's Day as seen in the lovely little hearts decorating the demon's shorts. Cute.

From #73 I have deduced several things about Bill: he has an affinity for nasty demon-things and tiny children; a working knowledge of apartment hunting; sympathy for the jobless and homeless; a fine appreciation of the ironic; and a large, possibly pathological desire to be unpredictable.

I thought the reunion with Steve was deftly droll. I'll never be able to accept devastating news with the sanguinity Diana displays, in what is becoming a fascinating synthesis of fatalistic optimism, but if she intuits that Mom'll be in touch when she's able and finds peace in that, I certainly won't disagree. I myself regard that big chunk of rock with suspicion. I think therein lies the tale.

It's rather a jolt to see Diana—champion of justice, vanquisher of evil empires—broke and camped out on a borrowed, too-small basement sofa. Surely Julia could've offered more hospitality than a couch, regardless of where it was in the house.

Why doesn't anybody but the bad guy seem to recognize her? It's almost as if Boston has succumbed to a collective amnesia towards Diana. A year isn't that long.

Realistically someone of Diana's magnitude would be bombarded with lucrative endorsement proposals, though we know she would ethically decline them. Corporations would clamor for her, if only as titular adornment and those periodicals devoted to exploitation of the female form, discovering her financial need, would have been only too pleased to negoti-

ate a price on her principles with temptingly monstrous sums; however, by diminishing her fame and forcing her into this strange anonymity, she now has to face the realities of life like the rest of us, emphasizing her common bonds with humanity. The parameters are different, but Diana still endures a test of survival. It may be more plebeian than that which she confronted in space, but it's no less real. Even in this adversity she still reaffirms her mandate to lead by example: Tacowhizzing isn't glamorous and the pay's lousy but it's better than nothing and it's honest work. Don't ask me why Julia couldn't get her on staff at Harvard—too easy, I guess, and an option most of us wouldn't have.

She still managed to find, if only symbolically, a surrogate mom in Camille Sly. The faded posters and scattered sheet music were poignant dusty echoes of an old woman's yesterdays. Camille's lament: "Then, one day, I woke up and I was old...and afraid to live in my own home..." touched me: I have an 84-year-old mother who insists on living alone. Courage and fierce independence aren't reserved for the young and strong. Our society vastly undervalues its elderly.

Hey—where's Indelicate? She's been back two issues and she hasn't even seen Indelicate! Sheesh. I almost thought Raines was Ed at first, but, no—he's a visual clone. Except Indelicate wouldn't slop at the trough, belch disgustingly and call Diana a "chick." Ruben, your editorial reply to Bruce Williamson's petition for a paramour for Diana ("Micah would get jealous") leads me to suspect that you may be planning an opposites-attract scenario. I don't agree with the snare 'em and change 'em school of romance, but Micah's sorely in need of etiquette reform—we're talking major couth deficit here. Would you really leave loyal, brave, steadfast Indelicate out in the cold like this? If you're planning on introducing an element of romance

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1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

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here, which is fine by me (and, having just snagged a peek at DC's '93 Editorial Presentation, I know you are), you may as well just go whole hog and make it as complex as the rest of Diana's life; a nice, complicated triangle would be fun.

Thank you for printing my very long letter in #73. When readers pose questions in lettercols, I find it very courteous of the editorial staff when replies directly address those queries—inquiring minds really do want to know. I would also suggest that, as many books do, you publish full addresses unless requested not to, allowing your readers to network if they wish. I'd love to compare notes with Debra Byrd of Hattiesburg, MS (hey, I used to live in Meridian!) if I knew how to reach her.

Re: The ubiquitous phrase "politically correct" now rampantly haute vogue in Washington and the media: one of the first times I recall seeing it was in last year's annual when Bill had Randolph deride Diana several times with the term. You're at the vanguard of politically correct awareness here, folks.

Speaking of the devil, I'm looking forward to seeing Randolph in action next month. He's one of the sleaziest, slickest, best bad guys around.

Nancy Champion
7705 Anderson Ct.
Manassas, VA 22110

P.S. Are page numbers gone forever??

Well, Nancy, forever is a long time, so...In fact, I'm not sure why we haven't had page numbers of late, and I'm going to get to the bottom of it...that's a promise. It's not much of a controversy, I'll grant, but it is mine own.

As for the "collective amnesia" surrounding Diana's return, just chalk it up to a fickle public mind-set. A year may not seem like much to you or me, but in that time we've had countless royal romance catastrophes, the whole Woody and Mia mess, the nauseating "Long Island Lolita" case and three (count 'em) repulsive made-for-TV movies about same. And that's just the tip of the ice flow when it comes to what "inquiring minds" really do want to know. Being last year's celebrity is much the same as being last week's talk show guest—the world has moved on.

Besides, as you correctly intuit, Diana would opt for honest work over some lucrative endorsement deal, anyway. Isn't it much more interesting this way?

Give Micah a chance; something tells me he's far less annoying when

he's not working to impress new friends.

* * * * *

Dear Ruben,

Wonder Woman, princess of the Amazons, is a cashier at Taco Whiz. Now, that's what makes for an interesting story. For the second issue in a row, the team of Loebs, Moder and Parks have made *WONDER WOMAN* a special book again. No longer trapped in that long-winded "Space Pyrate" story, Wonder Woman can take new paths that have never previously been explored, even by Pérez or Marston. #73 was a look at the real world, plus a few super-hero angles that just piqued our interest for the next issue.

In Bill Loebs's script, Diana was presented as someone trying to find a job, yet someone not accustomed to (sad to say) American ways. Not many super-heroes have that problem, as most of them are either mutants, millionaire playboys or aliens. I am glad that Diana, or Diana Prince, will not be resting on her laurels when she's not out saving the world. It's finally possible to see what the life of a super-hero would be like if they existed. There isn't a world crisis every minute, is there? Bill also seems to be firmly placing Steve Trevor as well as the Kapetelis clan back in the supporting cast clan, another move I'm praising. As for the strange disappearance of Themyscira, I haven't seen one clue. This should be an interesting story, don't you agree? Lastly, Bill injected a strange thing into #73 of this title: Dare I say it? Humor.

That humorous dialogue would not have worked with Jill Thompson or Paris Cullins (both extremely talented artists). But with new penciller Lee Moder? It's perfect! Lee's showing a talent in drawing facial expressions on people, many of them strangely funny. From the pig at Taco Whiz ("There were certainly a vast number of strange people in the world") to the Princess herself, Lee is extremely gifted. Ande Parks is also doing an excellent job. In all, the artwork in this title is definitely not for everyone, but it's DEFINITELY for me. Matt Hollingsworth's name, too, deserves mention, but I have a question. In many "darker" titles, the borders on the comic are black, not white. Is there a possibility that *WONDER WOMAN*'s borders could be colored light blue? That would work out beautifully.

I am also inclined to comment on some of the lettercol topics. Nancy Champion most certainly has a point when she mentions many of the adult or "mature" things that George Pérez brought into this title without slapping on the Mature Readers label. I've heard this suggestion in every letter column from *AQUAMAN* to *BATMAN* to *DEATHSTROKE* and it gets annoying: A writer has class when he can inject mature topics without driving away readers under 18, or whatever. Secondly, I feel it is a pointless debate about whether WW should wear the eagle on her chest. To me, the double W design is fine, as is the eagle. One question—is it "lawful" for a character to have more than one costume? Remember "The Rainbow Outfits of Batman"?

See you next issue.

Joey Marchese
Union, NJ

Indeed I do, Joey, though don't expect to see Wonder Woman modeling polar or jungle costumes any time soon with either the eagle design or the double double-you.

I agree about the meaning of the word "mature." Too often comics use the word to denote a book that features the rather immature use of language or sniggering sexual innuendo. Check out the VERTIGO titles for mature done maturely...and well.

Our printing process doesn't allow for color in the borders. Frankly, I'm not even sure why you'd want it anyhow.

* * * * *

Dear Brian and Ruben,

I guess here's another letter talking about artist Lee Moder. Well, I'm a little bit skeptical (am I really alone?) when there's a new regular artist drawing one of my favorite superheroes. I was a little disappointed with some of Lee's art on his debut. Diana looks old! I mean, did she age that fast after the recent space story? But then, I really liked page 16, last panel and page 22 of WW #72. This is the kind of Wonder Woman I am looking for. This is the way she should be drawn, and the WW on her chest is just right. Thanks, Lee!

Now, WW #73 is a different story. Lee's art is definitely getting better. As a matter of fact, I liked it! I guess I just have to wait and see, huh?

As always, Bill did a great job writing about jobless persons. It's like presenting a problem in a light manner rather than giving it a brooding tone, although I find Diana here a little too strange. Questions:

1) Does Diana have to wear her headband when applying for a job? I mean, she's famous, you know! She's the only one with that kind of headband in Boston, isn't she? Unless she was absent for so long, which brings me to question #2;

2) How many months did Diana miss? How come she didn't have time to be sad about Superman's death?

3) Will Diana and Troia meet again? I would like to see Bill do it. That would be exciting!

4) When will there be a trade paperback of WW?

As for the letter column title, I have two: Wishing Well, Well Wishers.

Rey Beltran
Quezon City

1) No, she doesn't have to wear it, except to keep her hair out of her eyes. You wouldn't want her looking unkempt on a job interview, would you? As for her relative fame, see the answer to Nancy Champion's letter above.

2) She was gone for about a year. She's still catching up on all the episodes of "Seinfeld" she has on tape.

3) A meeting between these two wondrous women is possible. What do the rest of you think?

4) Probably not. Unless there's a huge public outcry. And I mean HUGE. Dear Mr. Loebs,

What were you thinking of when you had Diana work at the Taco Shack or whatever? That was almost completely out of character for her. If she

really needed a job, she could have done countless other things. Even (I can't believe I'm suggesting this) a secret identity is better than working at the Taco Hut or Burger Barn! I am praying to God that this is either just a temporary thing played for a little comic relief, or that you guys can pull it off and make it work.

I heard something about a new FOX animated series (*à la Batman*) in the works starring Wonder Woman, due out in November. Can you guys either confirm or deny? If so, does this mean there will be a Wonder Woman Adventures comic magazine?

Sorry if I was too critical, guys, but WW is one of the things I really care about. See ya in 30!

Jim Headrick
Baltimore, MD

As already discussed, the Taco Whiz job, while not glamorous, is certainly honest work. It is also certainly within Diana's character not to discriminate against people or types of employment. Short-lived or not, don't be so narrow-minded.

Sadly, there won't be an animated Wonder Woman series, though I guess we could open these pages to a discussion of who should provide the voice for Diana if there ever is one, hmmm?

* * * * *

Dear Wonder Woman Crew,

WONDER WOMAN #73 was very, very good. The story carried nicely, but it's hard for me to see Diana shrug off the disappearance of her mother so easily.

I'm sorry, but I just have to say this: THE COVER WAS ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT!! I loved it! I know you've heard this before, but is there anything, anything at all that we can do to get him working on the inside of the book too?

Seeing as how Diana was gone for an entire year, isn't it odd that she just returns and instantly takes over the leadership of the Justice League?

Aaron P. Cullers
Miamisburg, OH

Well, it doesn't seem odd to me. She is one of Earth's greatest heroes and a natural leader, after all. Also, I edit both books, so...

Never apologize for loving a Brian Bolland cover. We all do.

* * * * *

Coming in September from Bantam Books: THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF *WONDER WOMAN* edited by Martin H. Greenberg. All-new prose short stories featuring the Amazon Princess. 384 pages. \$4.99.

* * * * *

NEXT ISSUE: Someone really wants Wonder Woman dead, and that makes Diana the target of Mayfly—a super-fast, super-unstable assassin for hire. Plus a guest shot by Flash and the startling return of Etta Candy! All of this brought to you by Bill, Lee, Ande, John, Steve, Ruben and me—

—Brian Augustyn