



WONDER WOMAN

4
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MAY 87



PEREZ • WEIN

PATTERSON



HER NAME IS
DECAY...

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
DC
UNIVERSE
is must
reading

--AND HER TOUCH
MEANS **DEATH!**

DC Comics Proudly Presents

WONDER WOMAN.

created by
William
Moulton
Marston

A LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO FRIGHT!

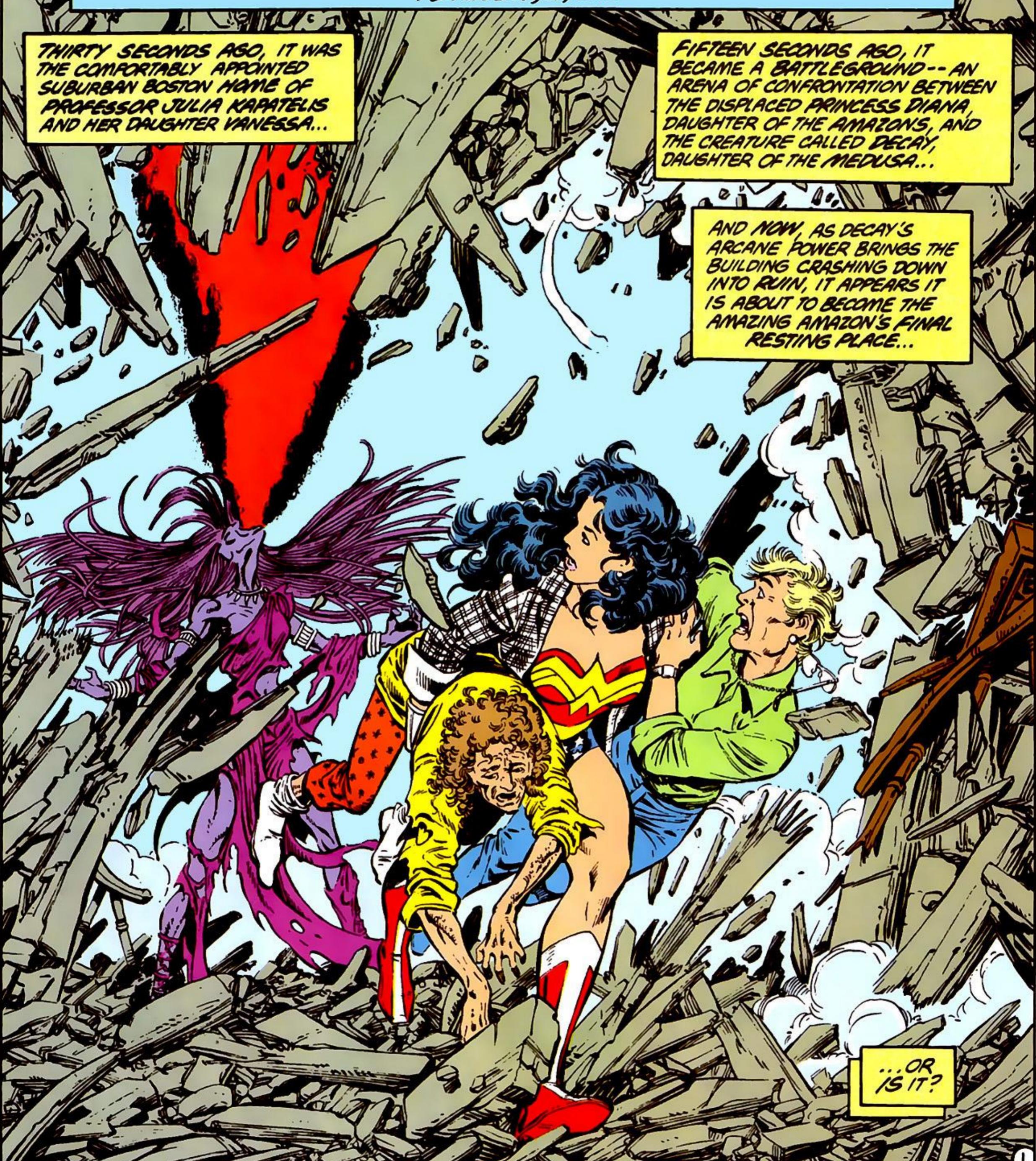
George Pérez . Len Wein . Bruce D. Patterson . Coslanza . Tatjana Wood
plotter / penciller scripter inker letterer colorist
Karen Berger, editor

THIRTY SECONDS AGO, IT WAS THE COMFORTABLY APPOINTED SUBURBAN BOSTON HOME OF PROFESSOR JULIA KAPATELIS AND HER DAUGHTER VANESSA...

FIFTEEN SECONDS AGO, IT BECAME A BATTLEGROUND -- AN ARENA OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE DISPLACED PRINCESS DIANA, DAUGHTER OF THE AMAZONS, AND THE CREATURE CALLED DECAY, DAUGHTER OF THE MEDUSA...

AND NOW, AS DECAY'S ARCANAE POWER BRINGS THE BUILDING CRASHING DOWN INTO RUIN, IT APPEARS IT IS ABOUT TO BECOME THE AMAZING AMAZON'S FINAL RESTING PLACE...

...OR
IS IT?



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WITH THE EXTRAORDINARY SPEED THAT IS HER BIRTHRIGHT--



--A GIFT FROM THE NOBLE HERMES, SWIFTEST OF ALL THE GODS--



--DIANA BECOMES A BLUR OF MOTION, CARRYING THE HAPLESS WOMEN FROM THEIR DEVASTATED HOME--



--EVEN AS IT CRUMBLES INTO DUST AND ASH BEHIND THEM!



WHAT THE HECK WAS ALL THAT NOISE?

CRIES! LOOK AT THE TREES..!

HEY--LOOK! THE KAPATELIS PLACE HAS CAVED IN..!

SO OLD-- ALMOST ROTTEN..!

I'VE HEARD OF TERRMITES--

--BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

(A MOMENT LONGER-- AND DECAY WOULD SURELY HAVE SLAIN US..!)

NO, I-I'M FINE, DIANA. BUT VANESSA..!

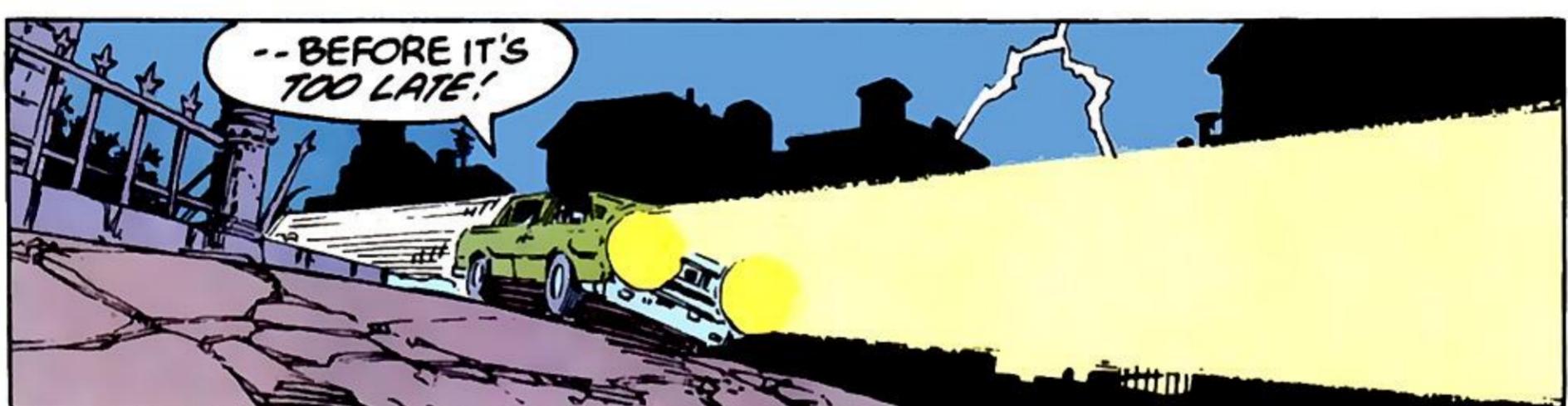
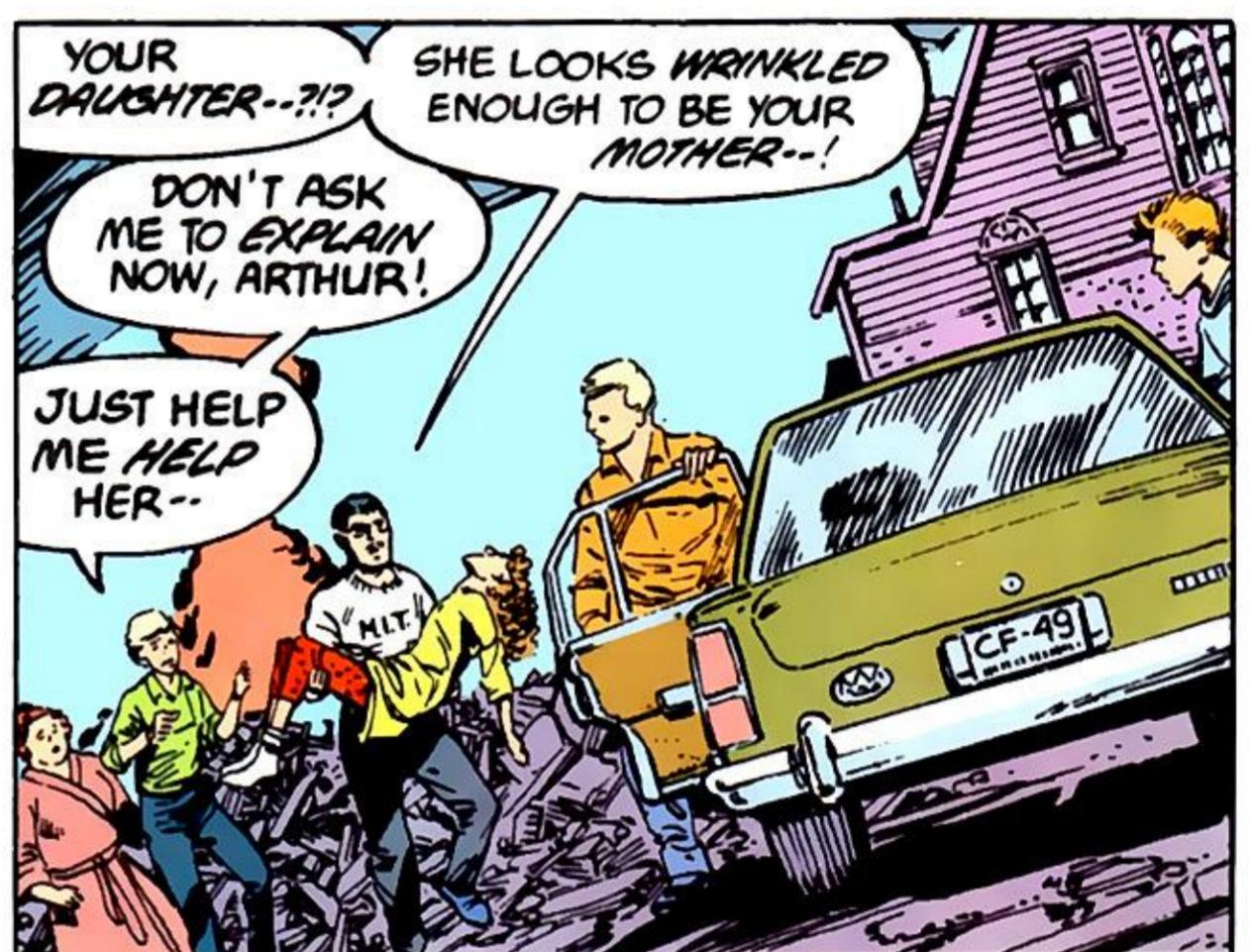
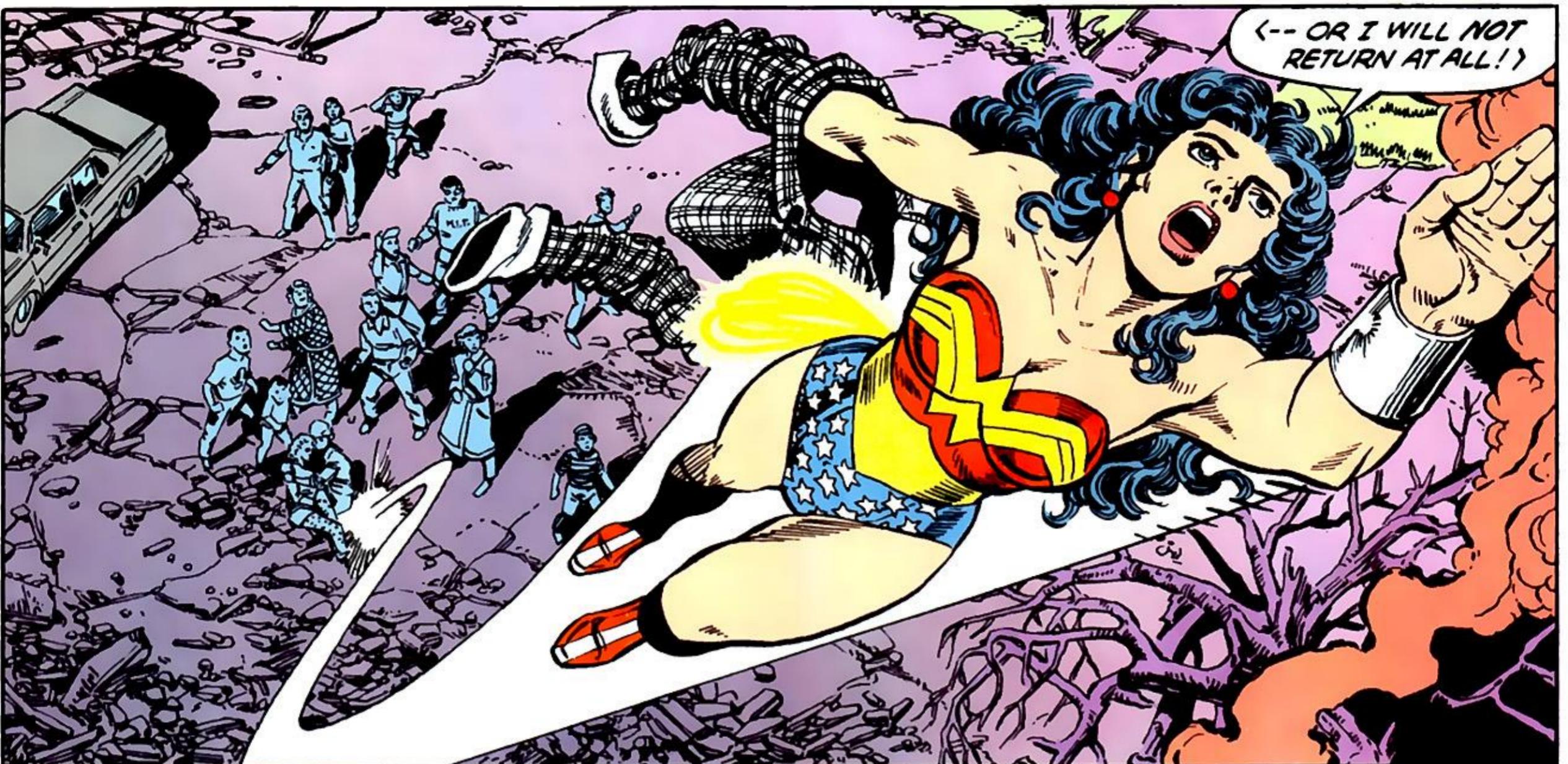
(ARE YOU INJURED, JULIA?)

WHAT HAS THAT MONSTER DONE TO HER?

ONLY THAT WHICH I SHALL SOON DO TO YOU, PROFESSOR-- AND TO THAT PITIFUL AMAZON AS WELL!

(COME YE FORTH, O MIGHTY PRINCESS-- IF YOU DARE..!)





MOUNT OLYMPUS: HERE, HIGH ABOVE THE ROLLING CLOUDS OF THERSALY, THE GODS PONDER THE LOT OF BEASTS AND MEN--

--AND MOUTH A SILENT PRAYER, PERHAPS, TO WHATEVER POWERS THEY MAY WORSHIP--

--IF, INDEED, GODS WORSHIP POWER...

THE BRAVE DIANA FARES NOT WELL, HERMES.

MAYHAP OUR TRUST IN HER WAS UNFOUNDED.

THE CHILD IS MADE OF STERNER STUFF THAN WE HAVE SEEN, ATHENA.

MY CONFIDENCE IN HER DOES NOT WAVER.

CAN WE NOT HELP HER, HERMES?

'TIS OUR FATE AS WELL THAT HANGS IN THE BALANCE.

PERHAPS, APOLLO-- FOR THE PRINCESS MUST DEFEAT ARES UNAIDED!

IF MORTALS ARE TO SURVIVE, THEIR SALVATION MUST COME AT THE HANDS OF A MORTAL. SO IT HAS BEEN DECREED!

STILL, I SHOULD NOT HAVE LEFT HER THERE ALONE.

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT, SOMEHOW.

IF DIANA IS SLAIN, 'TWILL BE AT THE HANDS OF THE CHILDREN I BORE FROM MY TRAGIC MARRIAGE TO ARES.

APHRODITE, SO SOON, DEMETER?

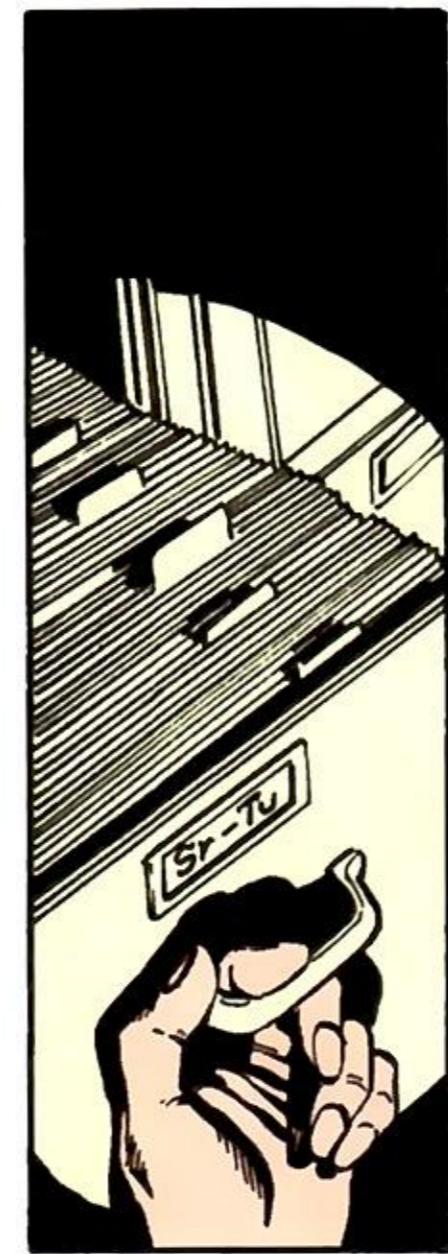
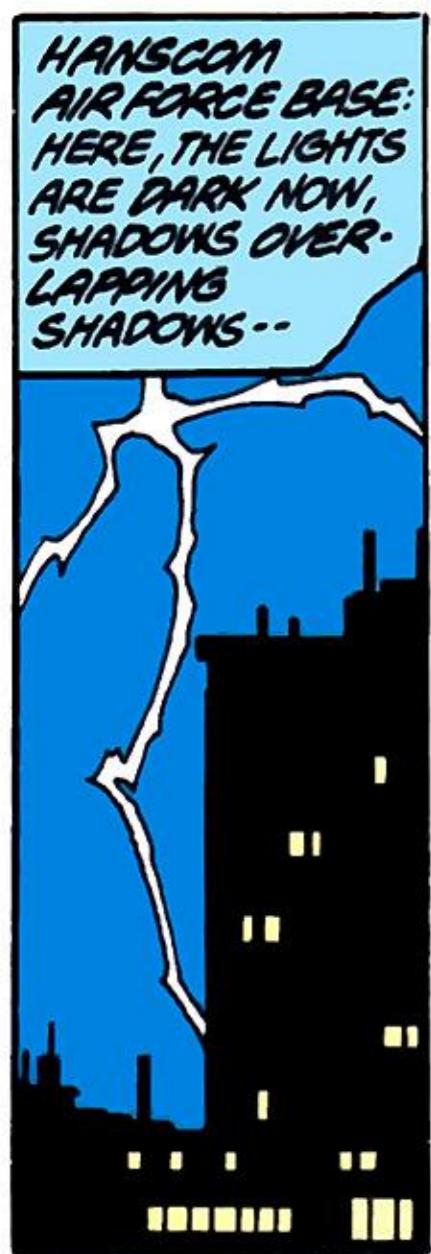
I HAD HOPED FOR MORE TIME--!

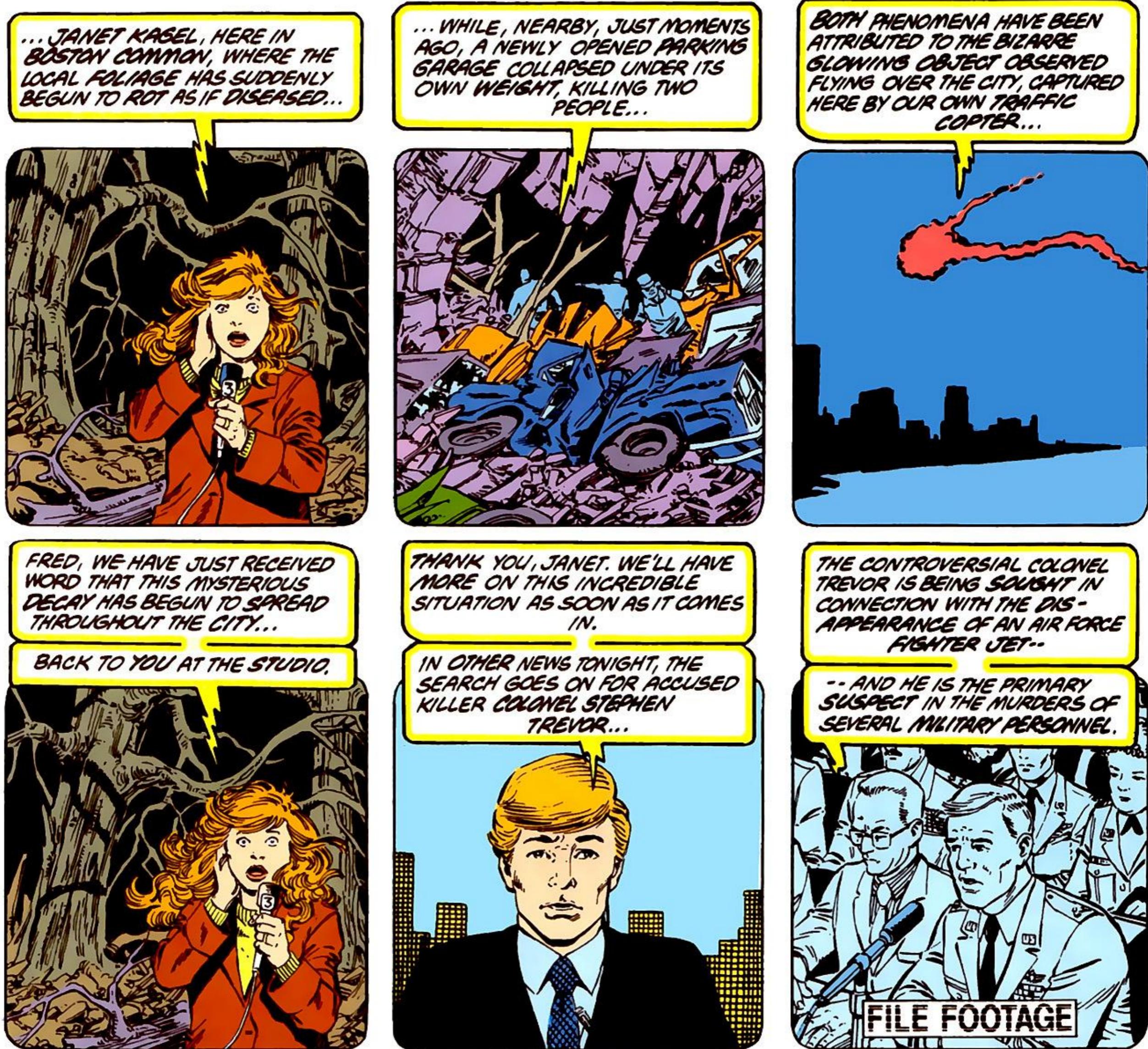
IF SO, FAIR ARTEMIS-- OUR FATE IS SEALED.

IT WAS LIKE LEAVING A LAMB AMONG THE WOLVES.

TIME IS THE ONE LUXURY WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD.

NOW COME YOU ALL--THE ARK AWAITS IN HADES TO SPEED US TO OBLIVION.





WHILE, ALL ACROSS BOSTON, LATE NIGHT STROLLERS STOP ABRUPTLY IN THEIR TRACKS --

-- TO BEHOLD NEWLY LAID ASPHALT BUCKLING AND CRUMPLING LIKE CHEAP TISSUE PAPER --

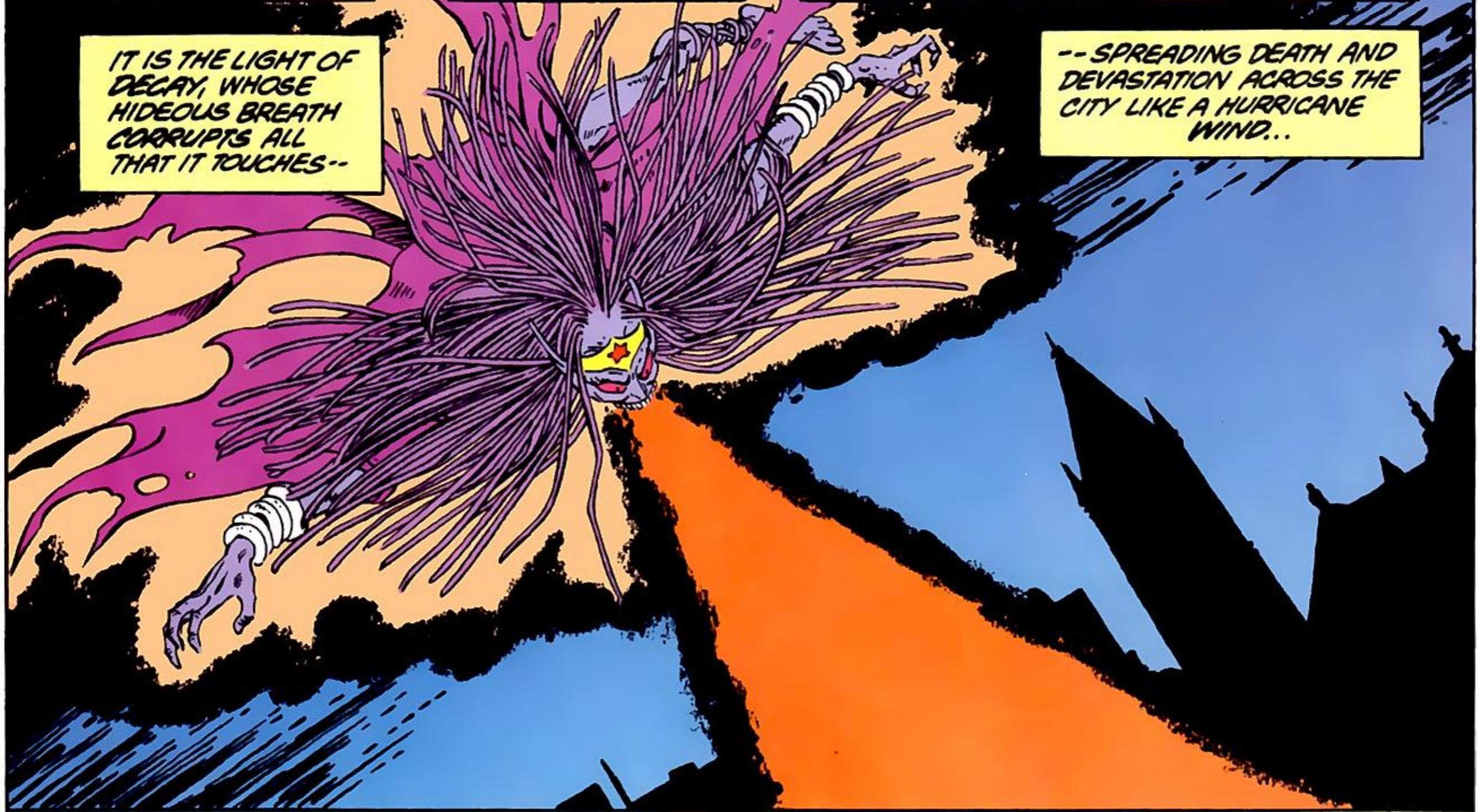
-- AND RELUCTANT SKY-WATCHERS CHOKE BACK TERRIFIED CRIES AND WHISPERS --

-- AS A MINIATURE, SCORING SUN FILLS THE NIGHT WITH FRIGID LIGHT.



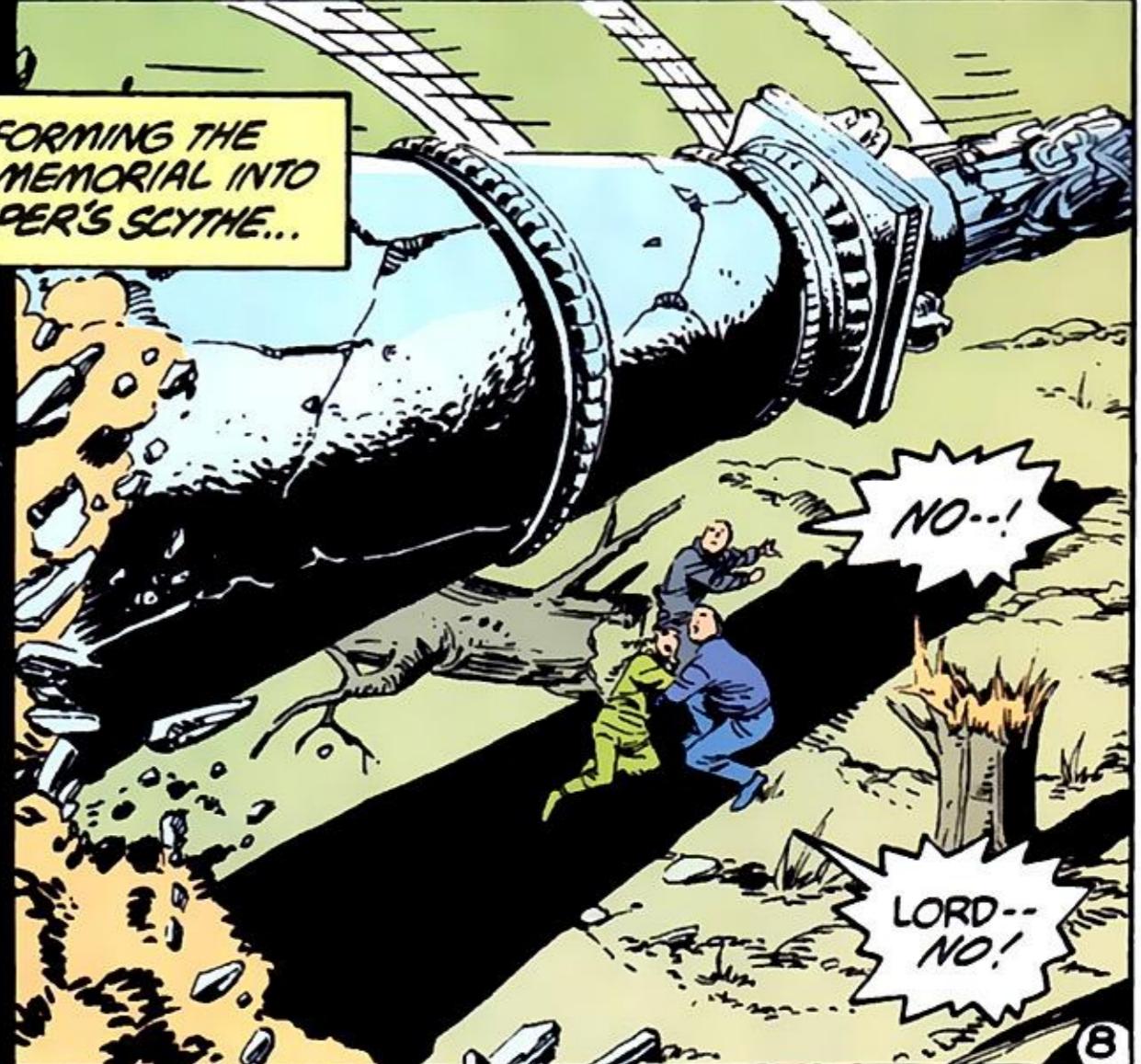
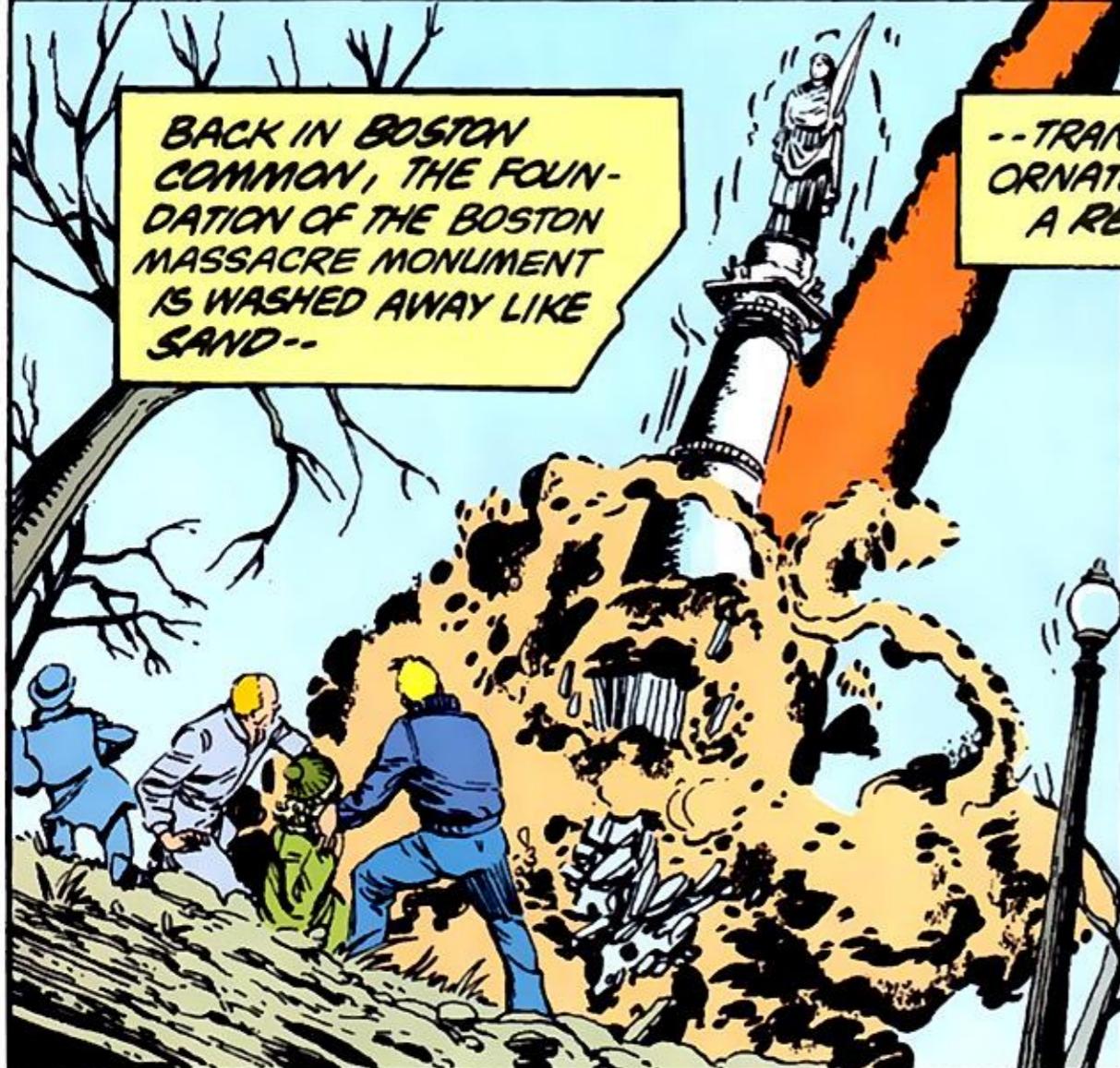
IT IS THE LIGHT OF DECAY, WHOSE HIDEOUS BREATH CORRUPTS ALL THAT IT TOUCHES --

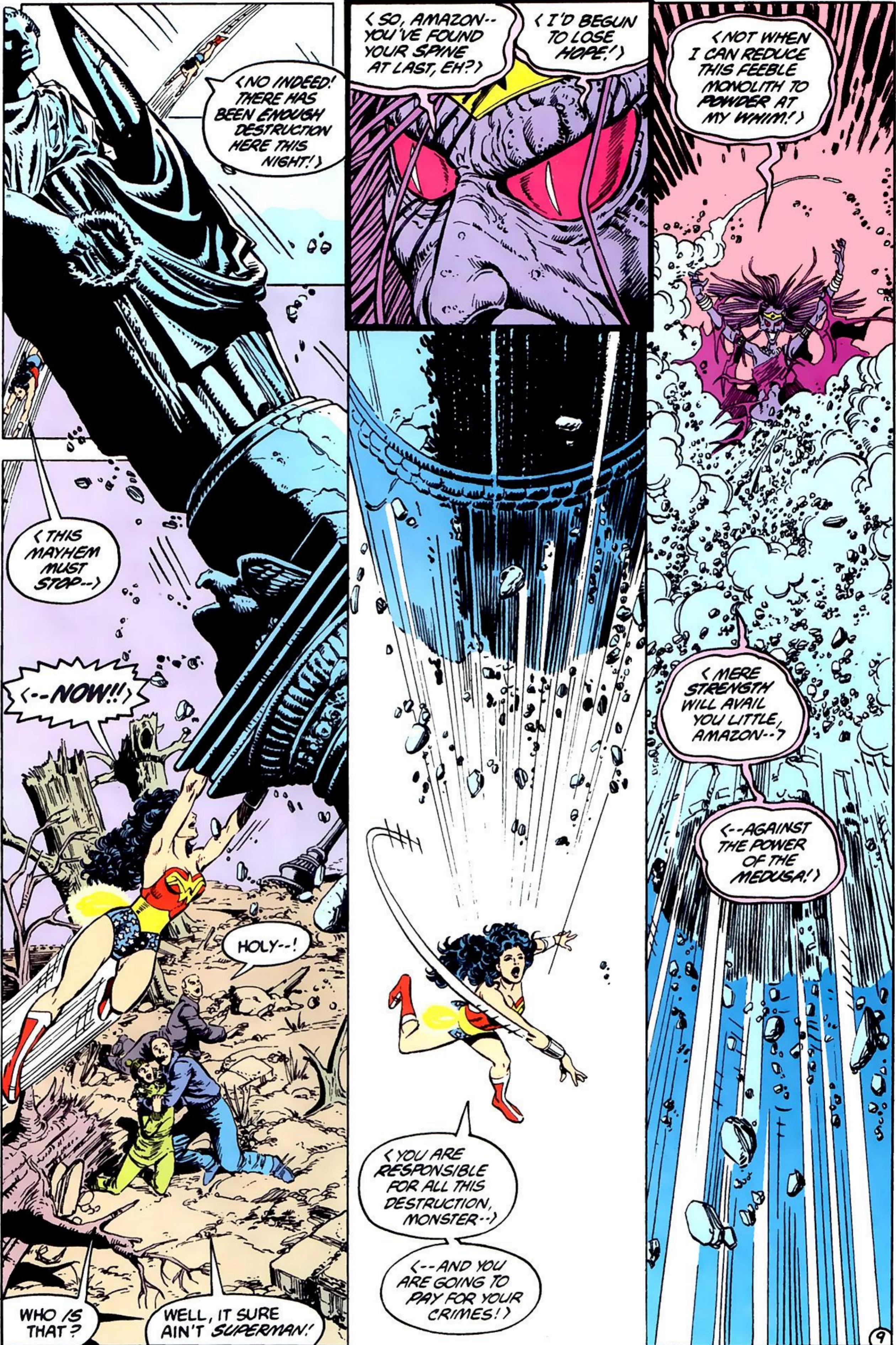
-- SPREADING DEATH AND DEVASTATION ACROSS THE CITY LIKE A HURRICANE WIND...



BACK IN BOSTON COMMON, THE FOUNDATION OF THE BOSTON MASSACRE MONUMENT IS WASHED AWAY LIKE SAND --

-- TRANSFORMING THE ORNATE MEMORIAL INTO A REAPER'S SCYTHE...





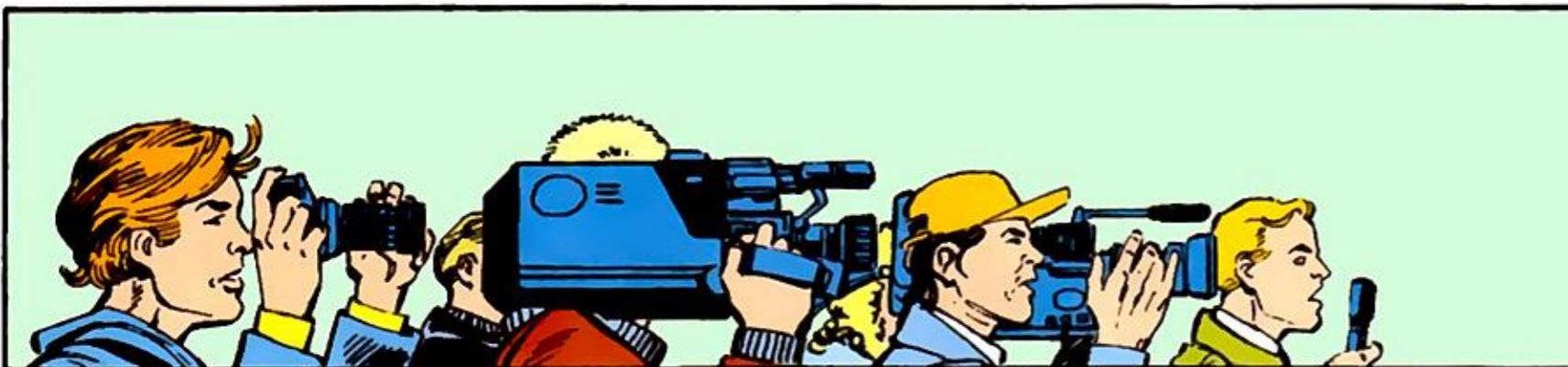
<SO--AT LAST A SUITABLE AUDIENCE HAS ARRIVED, FAIR DIANA-->

<--TO WITNESS YOUR ABJECT HUMILIATION!-->



<OR YOURS, DECAY-->

<--ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON YOU!-->



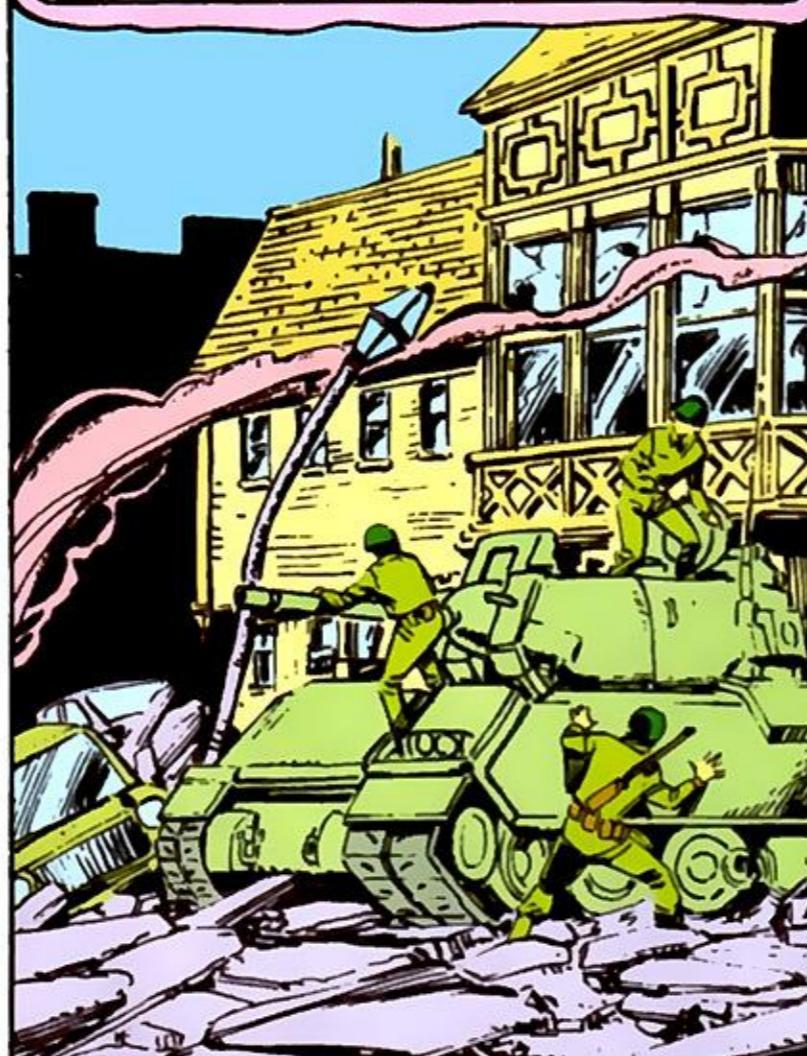
<SO YOU KEEP THREATENING-->

<--BUT YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO TRY!!>



<I HAVE BROUGHT THIS SPRAWLING METROPOLIS TO ITS KNEES-->

<--STOPPED AMERICA'S MUCH-VAUNTED MILITARY MACHINE DEAD IN ITS TRACKS-->



<--AND CUT OFF ALL FORMS OF ACCESS TO AND FROM THE AREA...>

<ALL THIS WAS BARELY A THOUGHT--!>

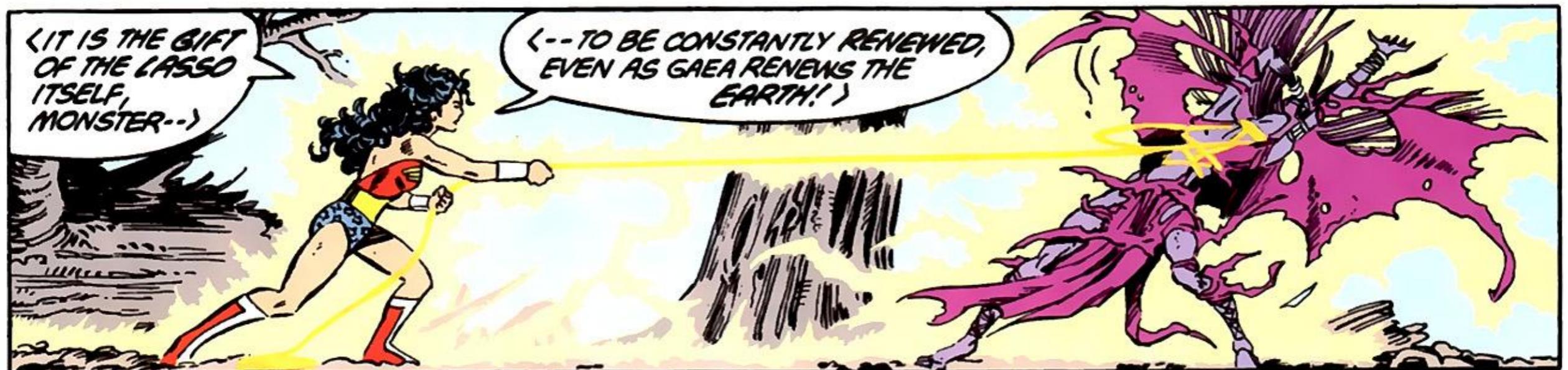
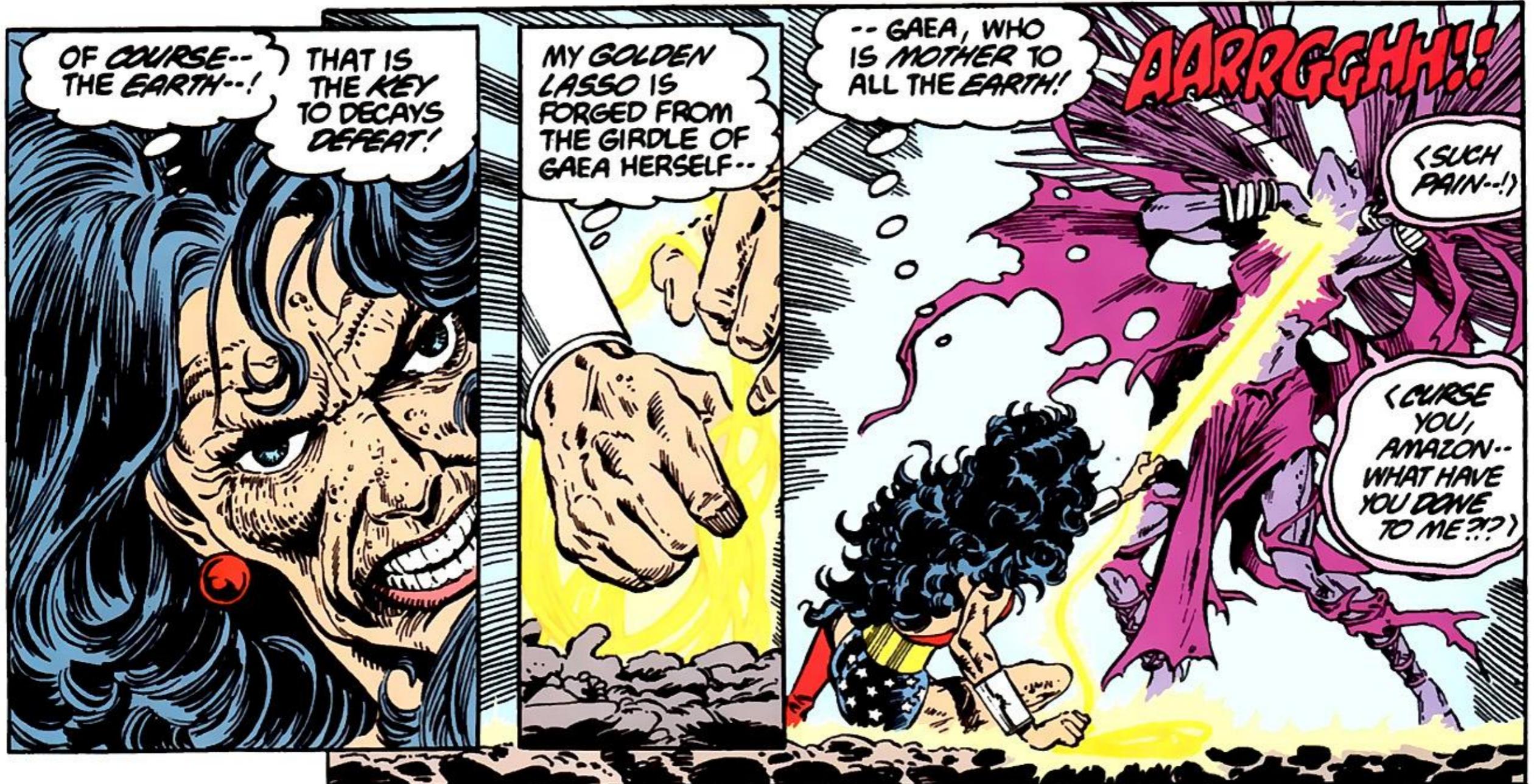
<--IMAGINE THEN, AMAZON, WHAT DECAY WILL DO TO YOU!!>

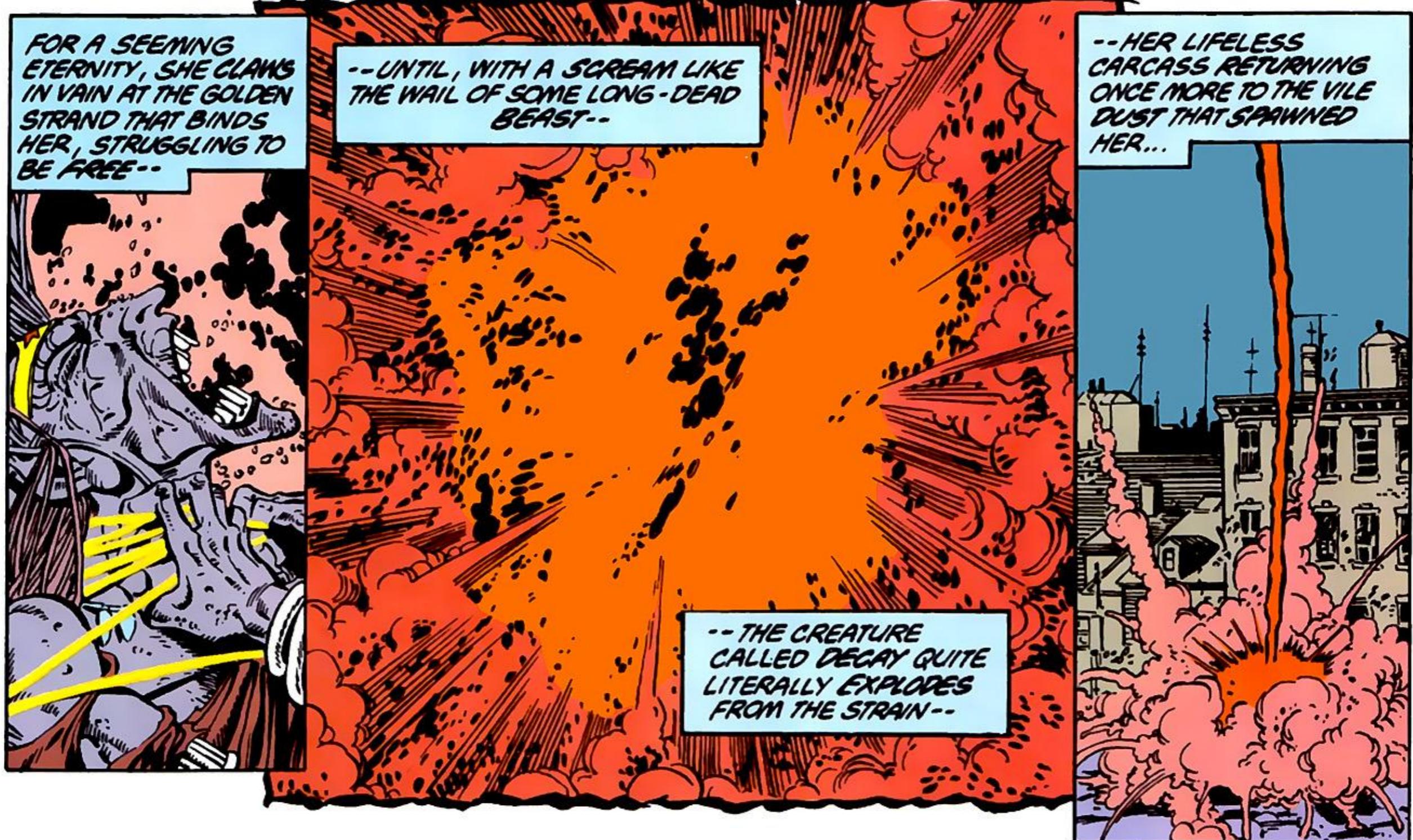
<YOU YOURSELF HAVE SAID IT, MONSTER-->

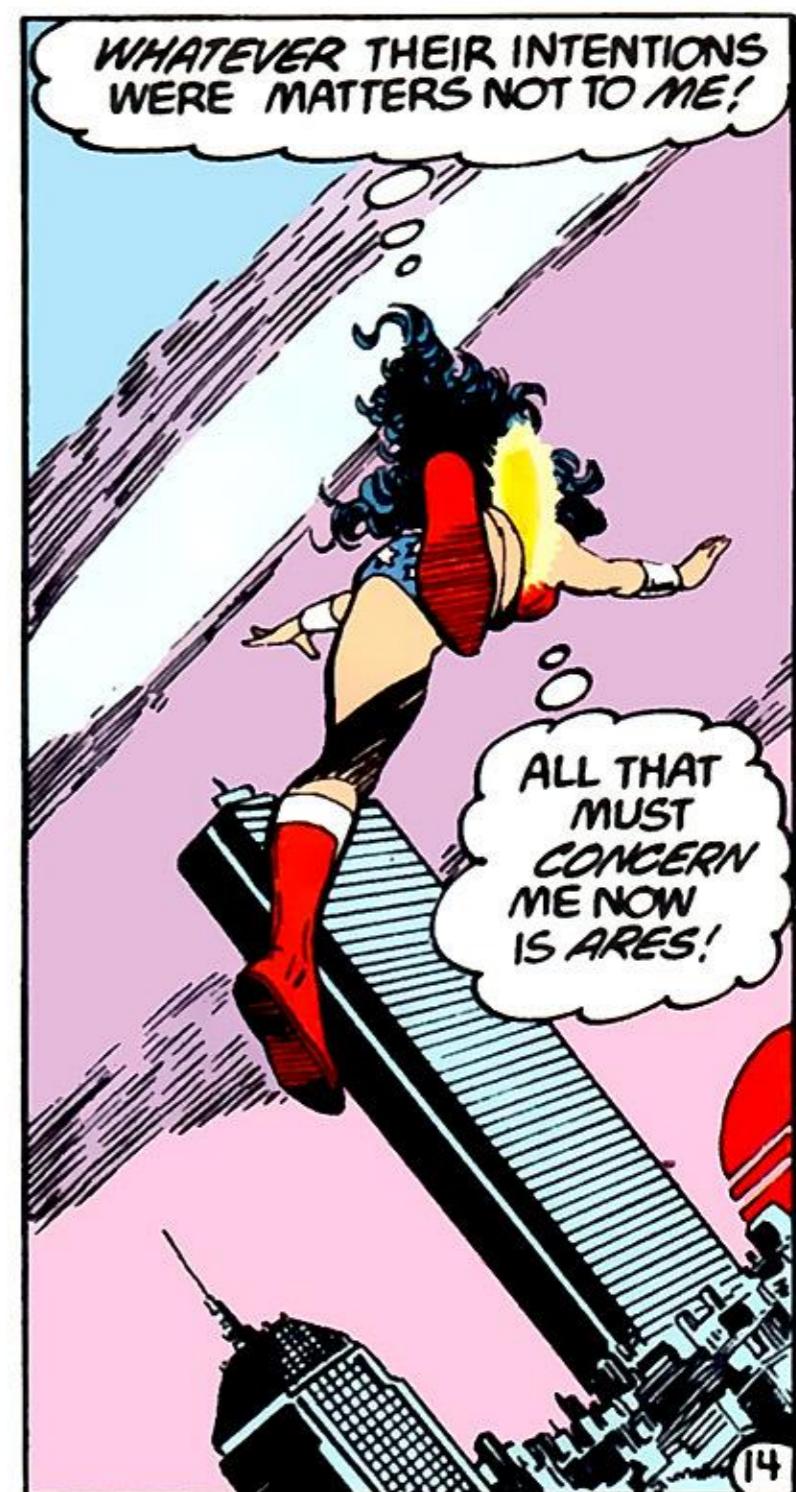
<--YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO TRY!!>

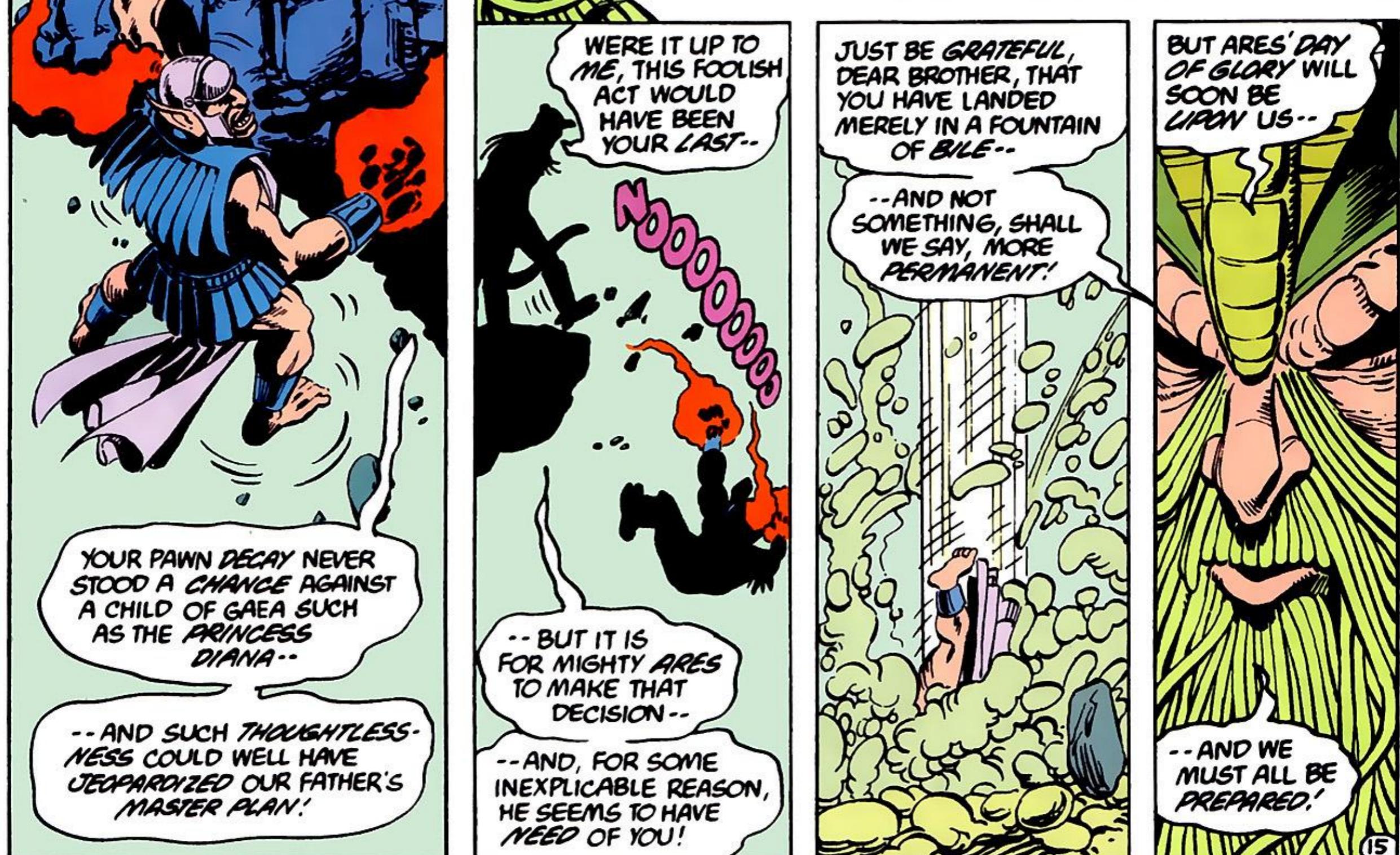
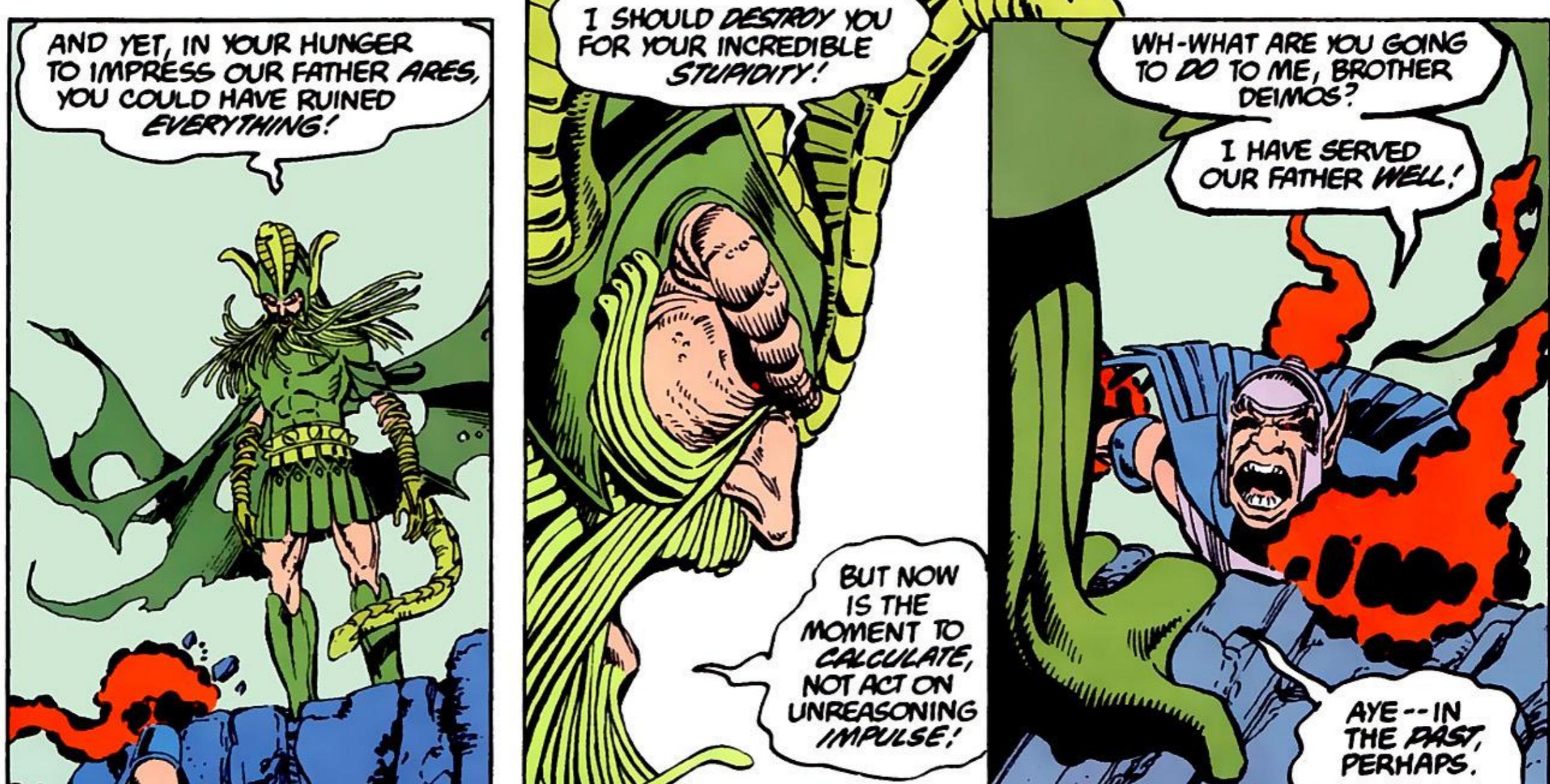
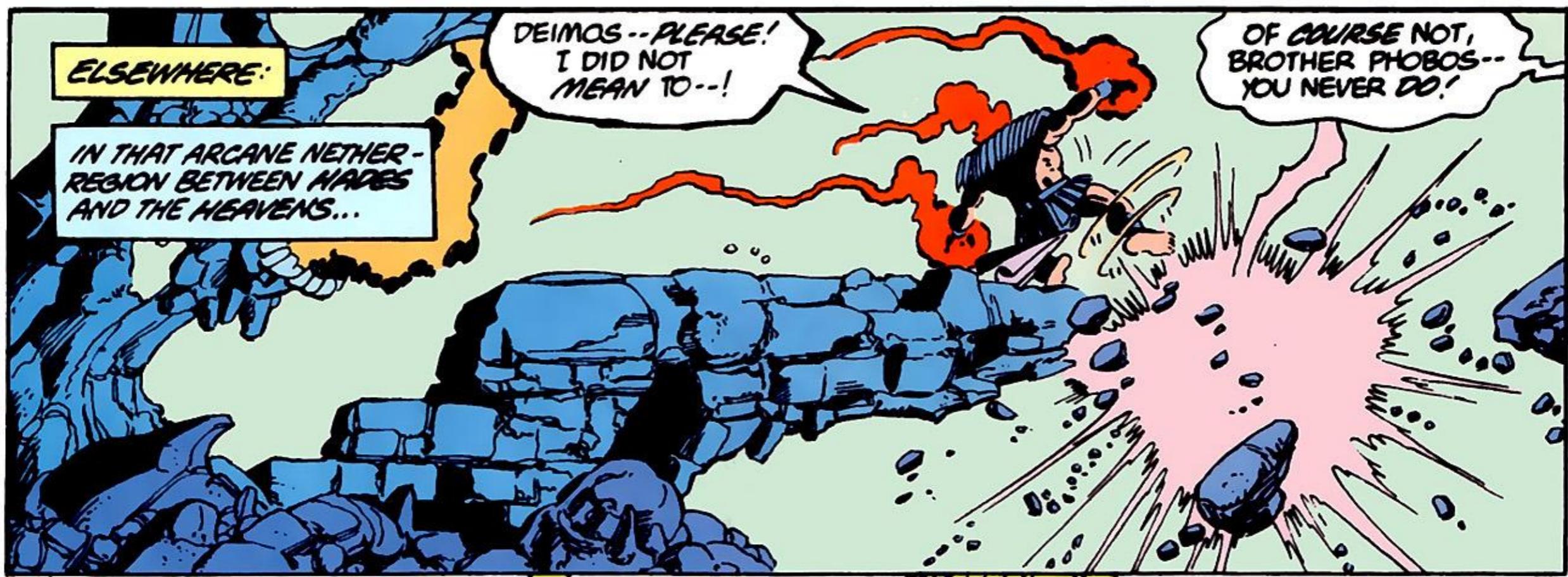












HALFWAY ACROSS BOSTON, CAROLE BENNETT STARES AT THE PHOTO ON HER DESK AND CHUCKLES SOFTLY TO HERSELF...

AS CITY EDITOR, SHE REALIZES THAT, IF TONIGHT'S NEWS IS HANDLED RIGHT, THE BOSTON GLOBE-LEADER COULD BE MAKING JOURNALISTIC HISTORY...

SHE ACTUALLY FLEW? LIKE A BIRD? LIKE SUPERMAN?



YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY SCARE OF THIS? THIS ISN'T JUST MORE SWAMP GAS OR ANOTHER SIGHTING OF THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN?

CAROLE, TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF, OKAY?

YOU REMEMBER WHEN SUPERMAN HIT METROPOLIS -- HOW THE PLANET LATCHED ONTO HIM --!

THEIR CIRCULATION ZOOMED. THIS COULD BE OUR CHANCE.

COULD BE, MAX--BUT WE'RE GONNA NEED A NAME FOR OUR NEW SUPERSTAR.

HOW ABOUT SUPER-WOMAN?

HOW ABOUT BEING SERIOUS.

HMM--THIS SYMBOL ON HER CHEST--LOOKS LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN A BIRD AND SOME SORT OF STYLIZED DOUBLE-W.

WELL, BIRD-WOMAN IS OUT--THERE'S ALREADY A HAWK-WOMAN.

SO LET'S THINK ABOUT THE DOUBLE-W.

I MEAN, SUPERMAN HAS AN S ON HIS CHEST FOR IDENTIFICATION--SO WHY NOT A DOUBLE-W FOR HER?

"WE'RE GONNA NEED SOMETHING CATCHY, SOMETHING EASY TO REMEMBER--

--AND, BOYS AND GIRLS, I THINK I'VE GOT IT...

BOSTON GLOBE-LEADER

WONDER WOMAN!

MYSTERY HEROINE SAVES CITY FROM DEADLY DEMON OF DESTRUCTION



"...A BIG NEWS-BREAK! LAST NIGHT'S AMAZING BATTLE OVER BOSTON COMMON SEEMS TO HAVE INTRODUCED TO OUR CITY A NEW HEROINE OF ASTONISHING POWER!"

"THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALREADY DUBBED HER WONDER WOMAN, AND THAT APPEARS TO BE THE PERFECT NAME FOR HER."

"SINGLE-HANDEDLY, THIS WONDER WOMAN SAVED BOSTON FROM THE MONSTER WHO CALLED HERSELF DECAY, EVEN AS..."



WHILE, IN THE WOODLANDS
NORTH OF BOSTON, A
SMALL SEDAN SNAKES
ITS WAY UP A WINDING
MOUNTAIN TRAIL...

THIRTY-TWO DOLLARS?
THIRTY-TWO DOLLARS
FOR ONE SACK OF
GROCERIES?

I THINK
I'M GONNA
BE SICK.

COLONEL
TREVOR,
SIR-- I'M
BACK.

I'LL TELL YOU, SIR--
CONSIDERING THE
COST OF FOOD
THESE DAYS, WE
REALLY SHOULD
CONSIDER GIVING
OURSELVES UP!

AT LEAST, IN
JAIL, WE'D
GET FED FOR
FREE!

COLONEL?

IN HERE, ETTA-- SLOWLY
LOSING MY MIND!

WHAT IS IT,
SIR? WHAT'S
WRONG?

JUST GET IN
HERE -- AND LISTEN
TO THIS!

REMEMBER THAT WOMAN
I TOLD YOU ABOUT, ETTA--
THAT ANGEL I FANTASIZED
WHO SAVED ME FROM
MY PLANE CRASH?

WELL, SHE WASN'T A
FANTASY-- WASN'T A
HALLUCINATION!

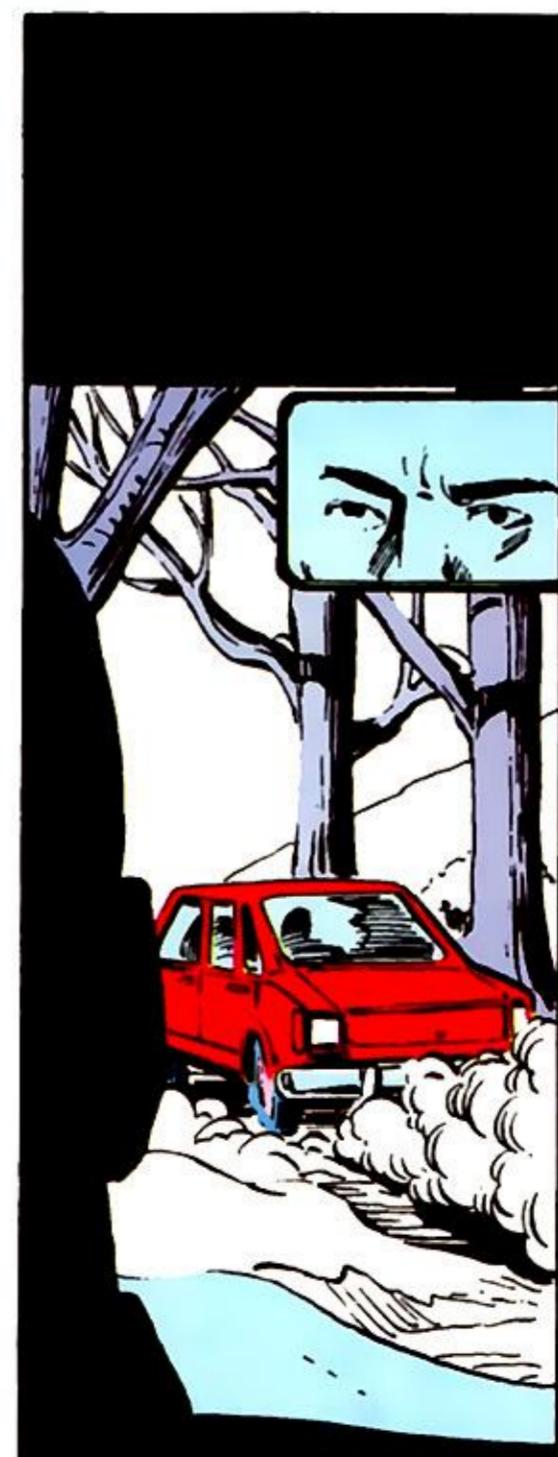
THERE SHE IS ON
THE TV, ETTA--
IN THE FLESH.

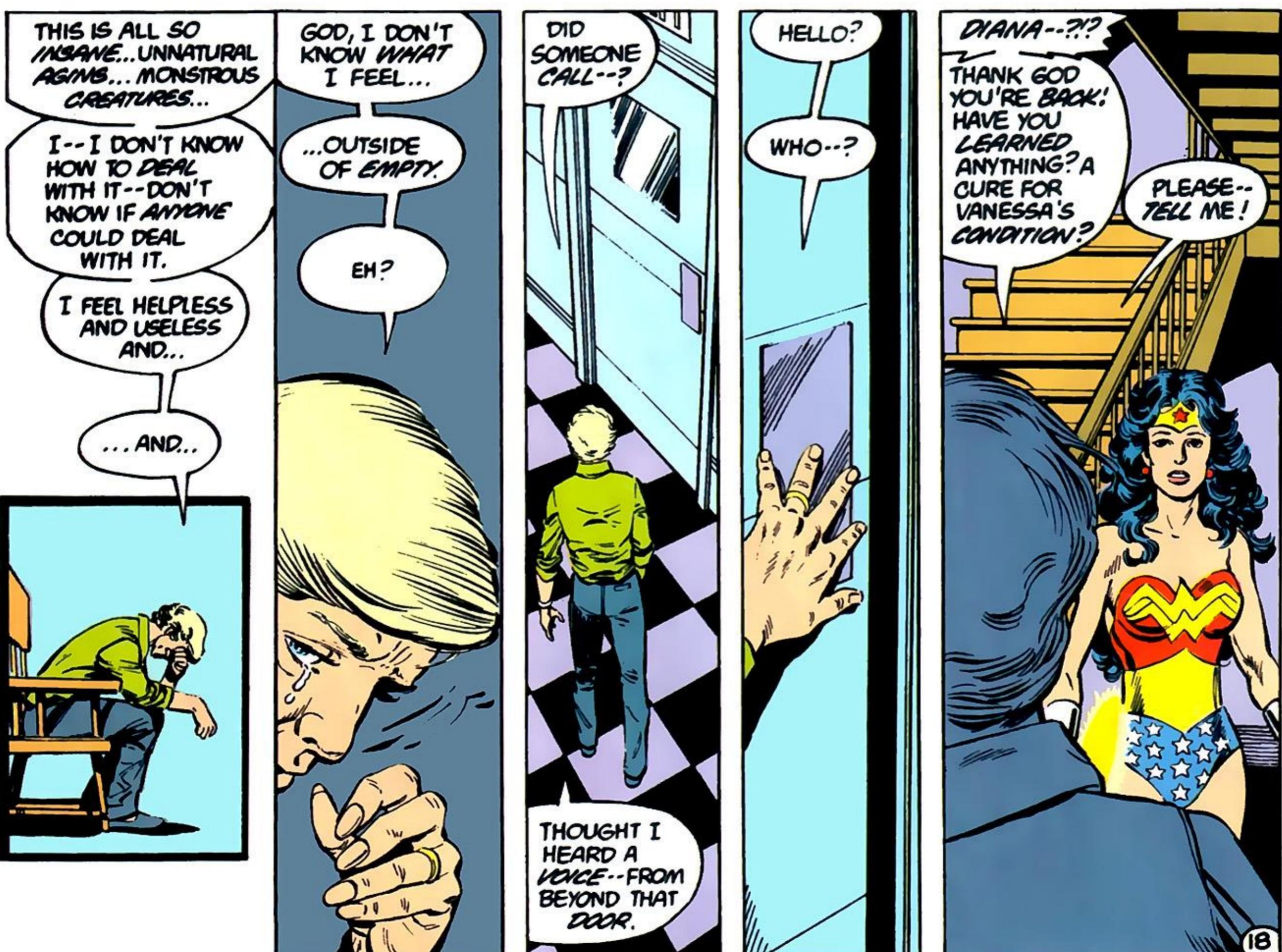
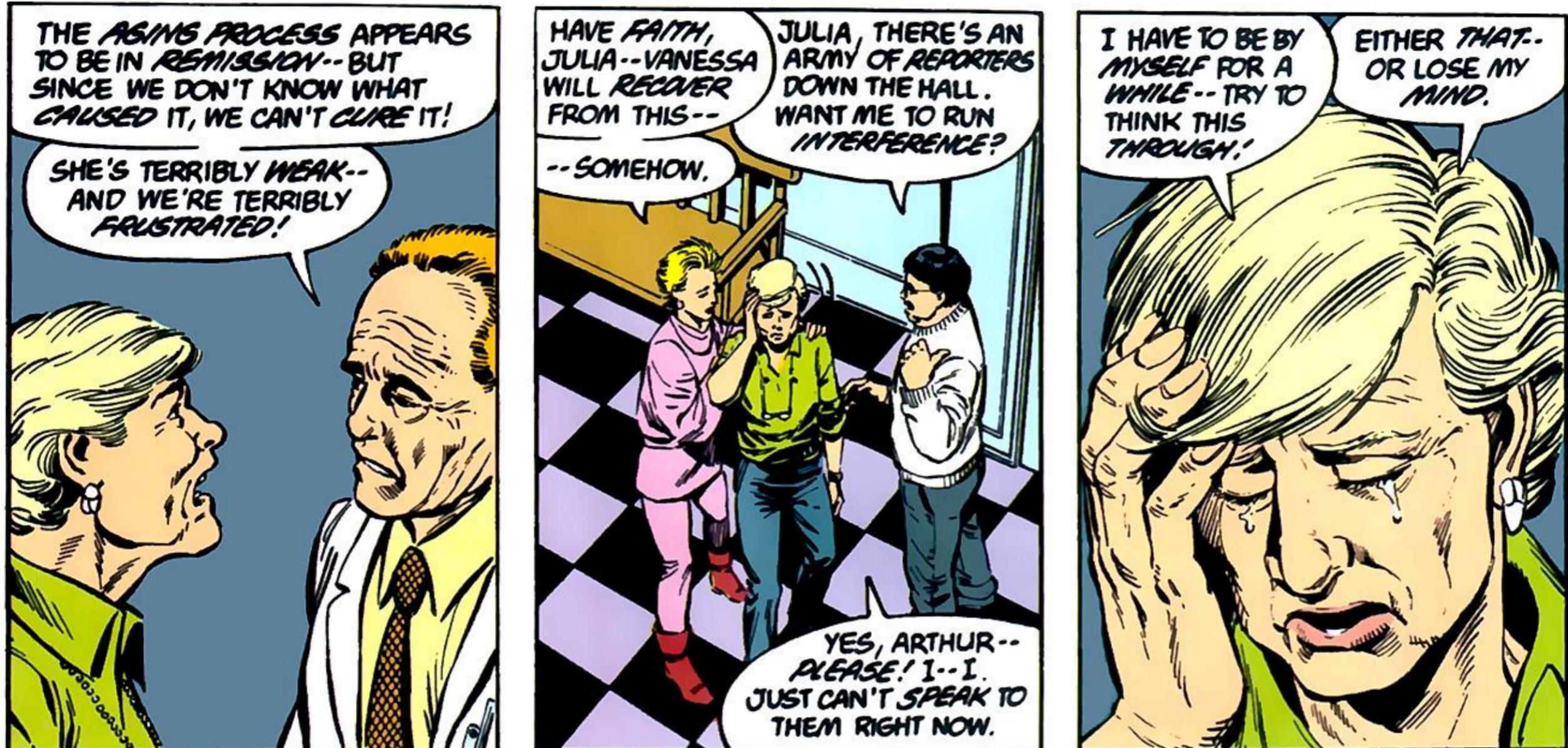
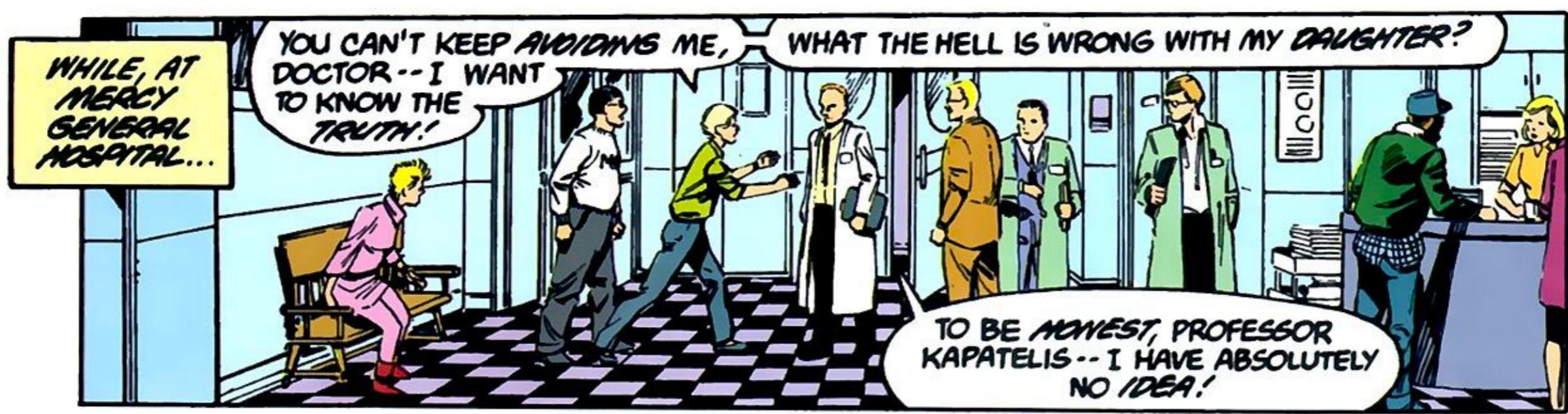
AND, IF YOU'LL PARDON
MY SAYING SO, COLONEL--
JUDGING FROM THAT
COSTUME--

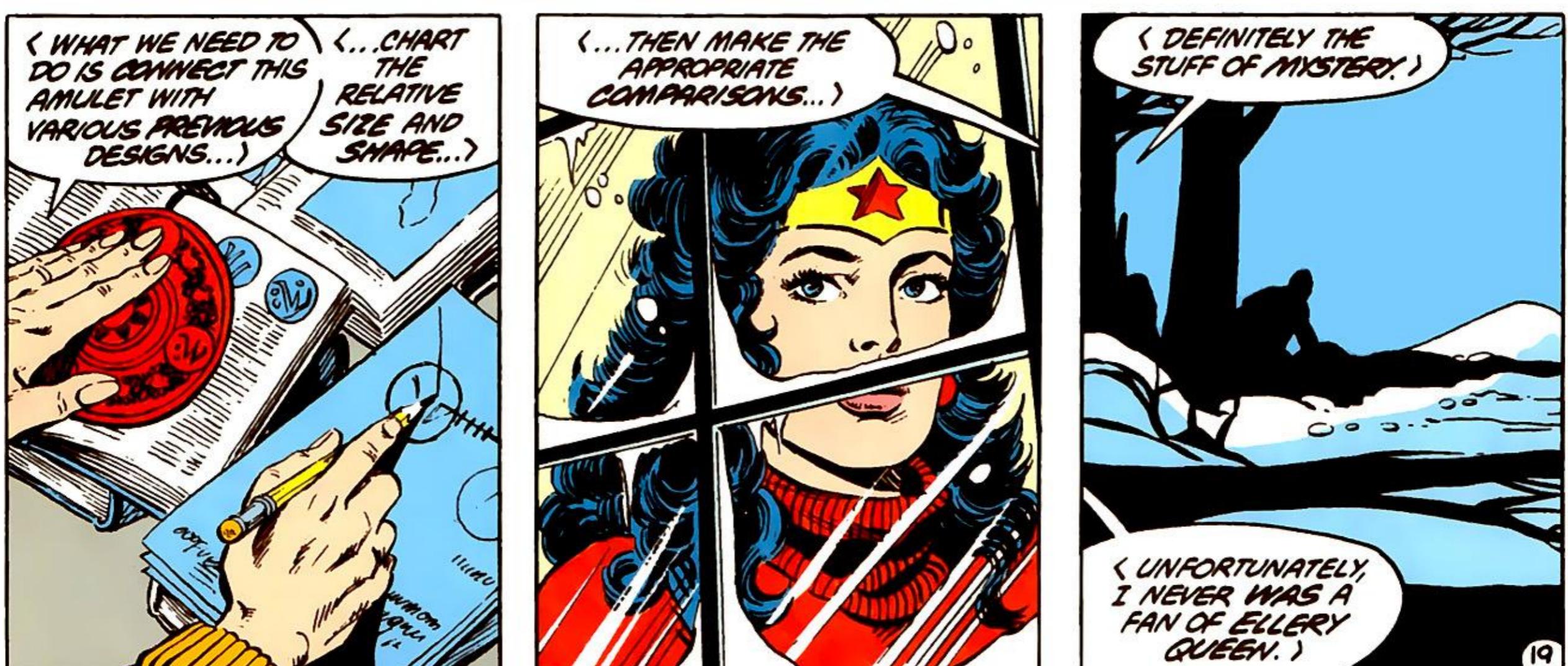
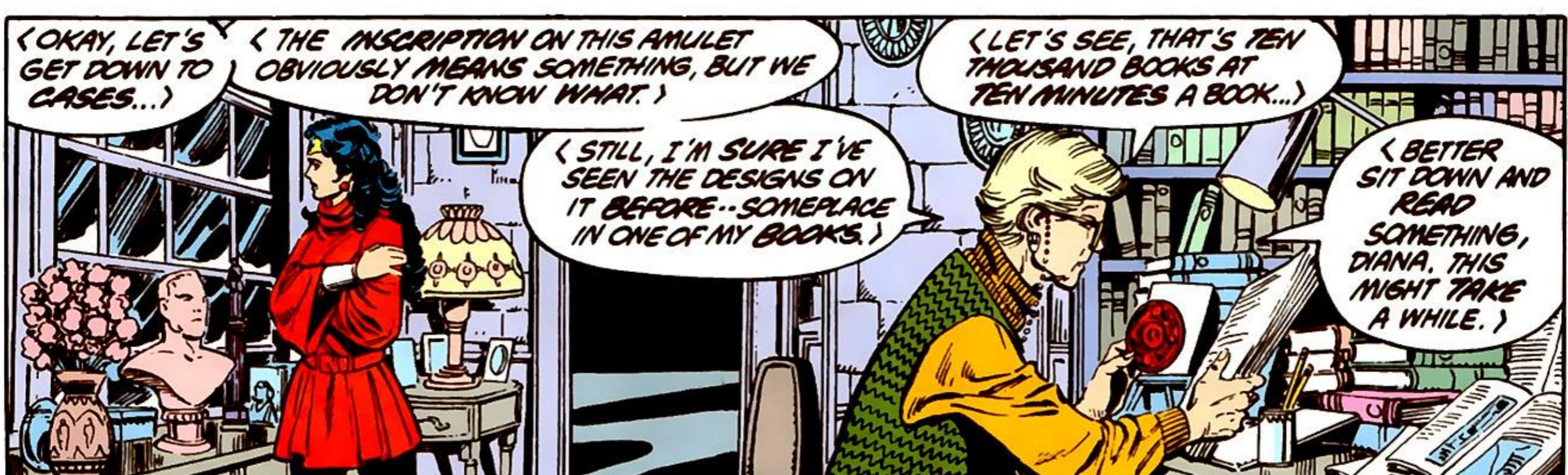
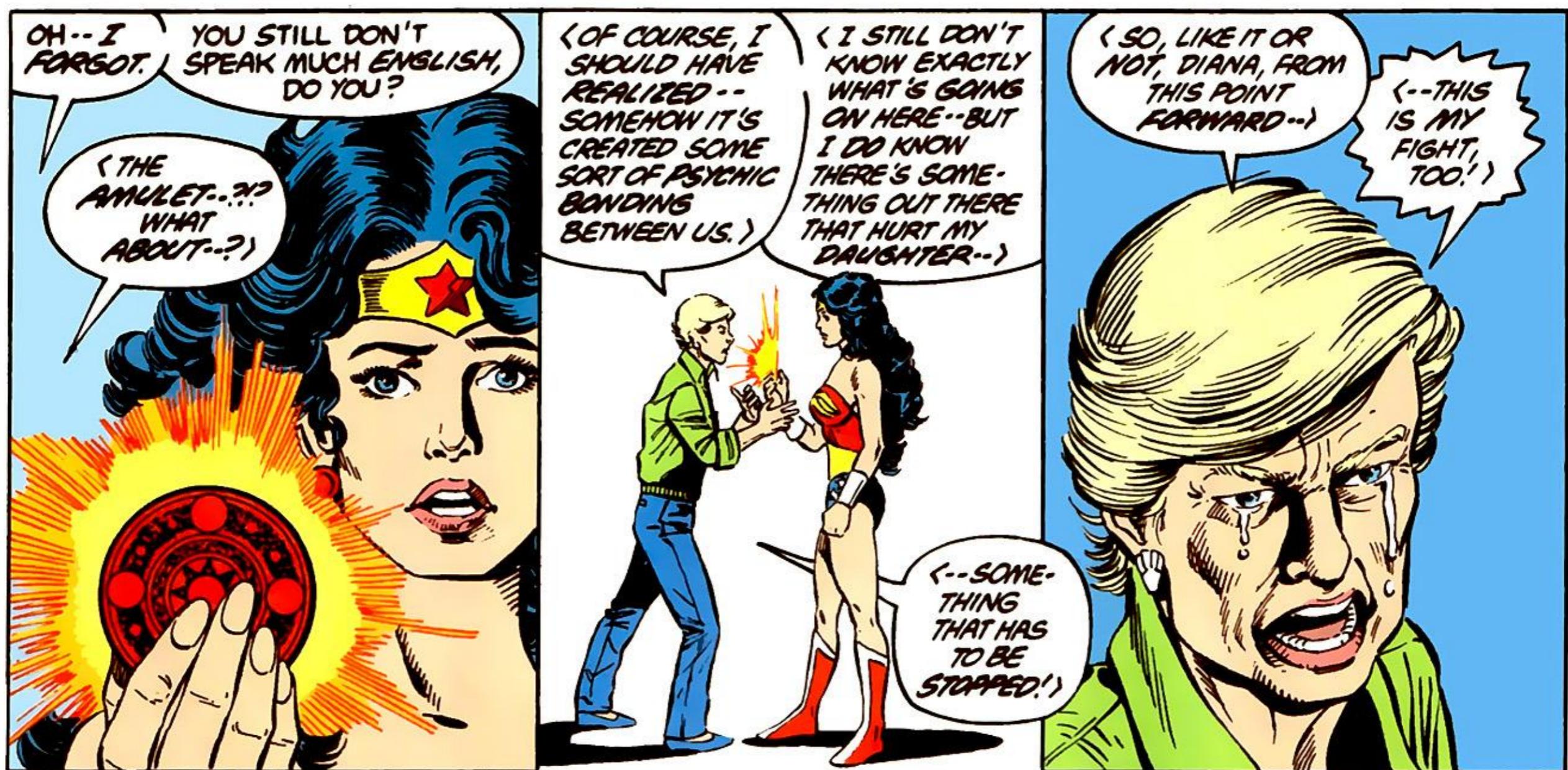
--LOTS OF
FLESH,
INDEED!

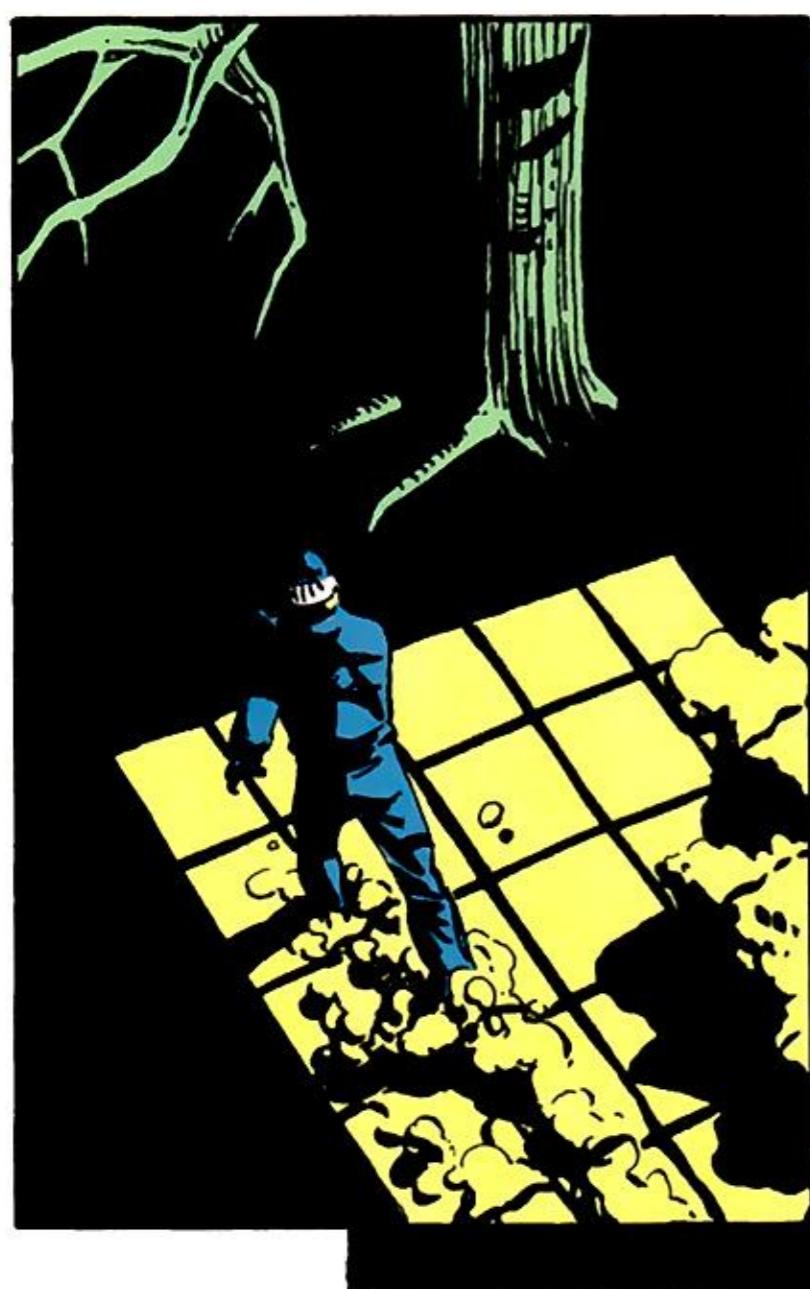
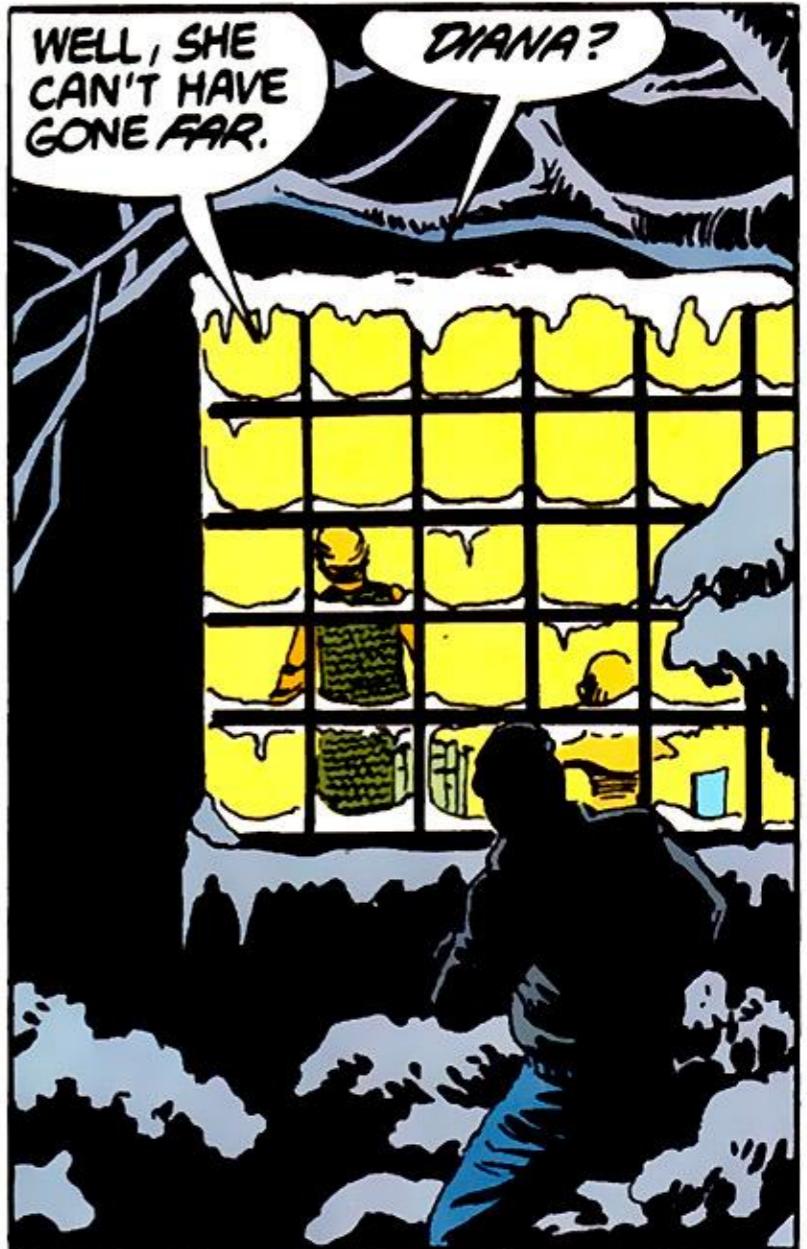
YOU SEE,
ETTA-- I
WASN'T
GOING CRAZY!
MY MYSTERIOUS
ANGEL OF
MERCY IS
REAL!

AND SHE MAY
BE THE ONLY
ONE WHO KNOWS
WHAT REALLY
HAPPENED TO
ME THAT NIGHT.

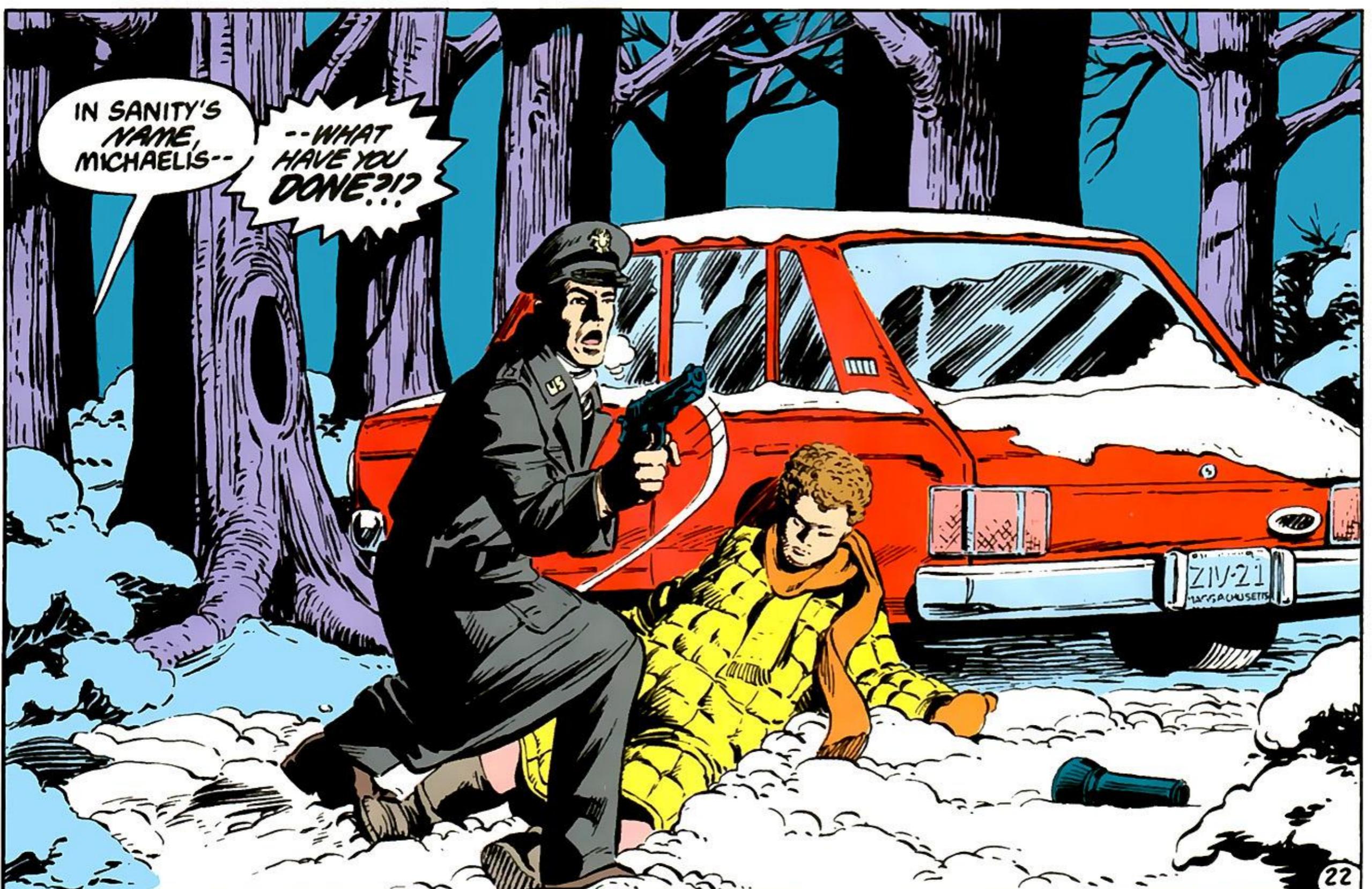
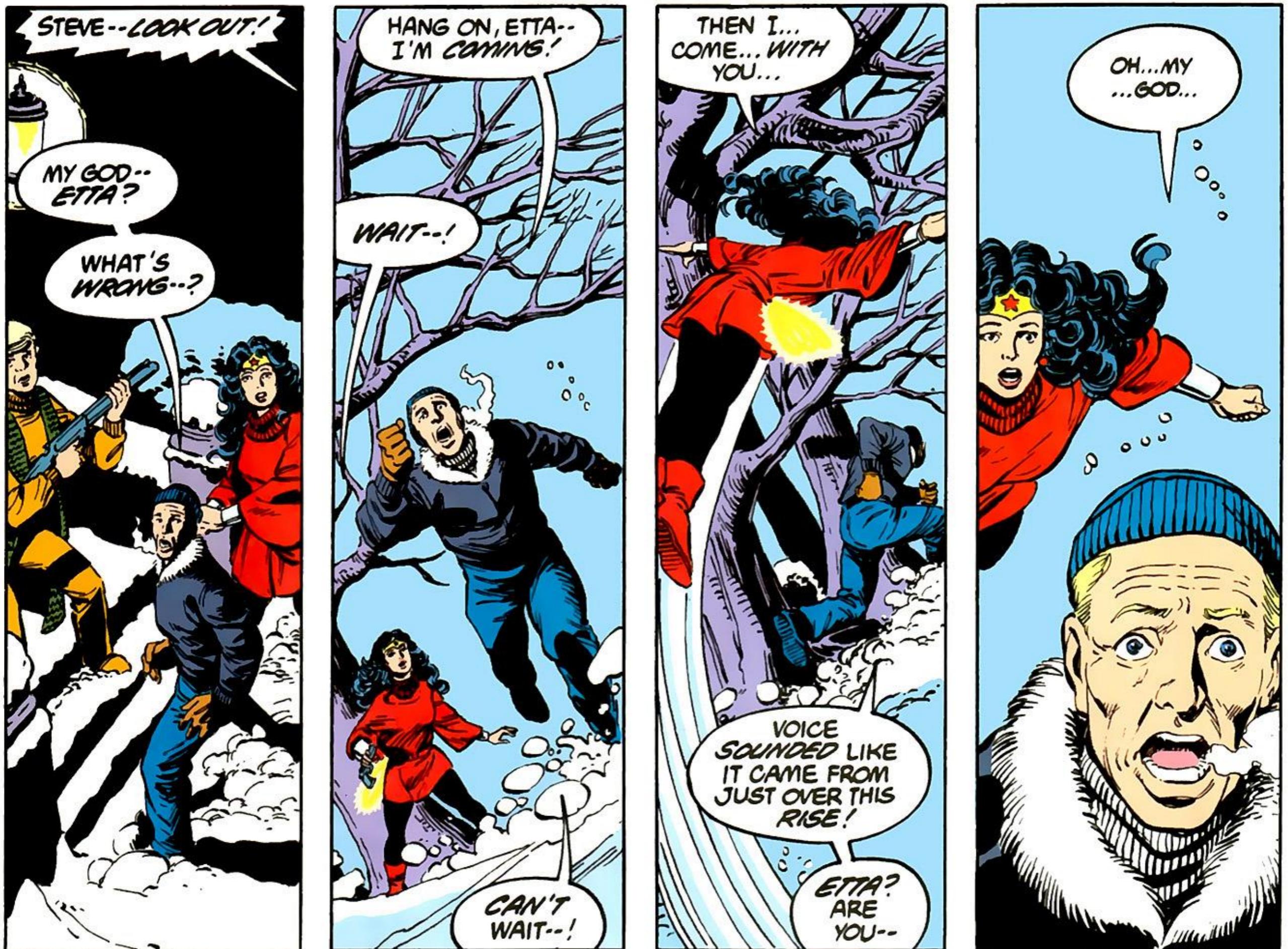








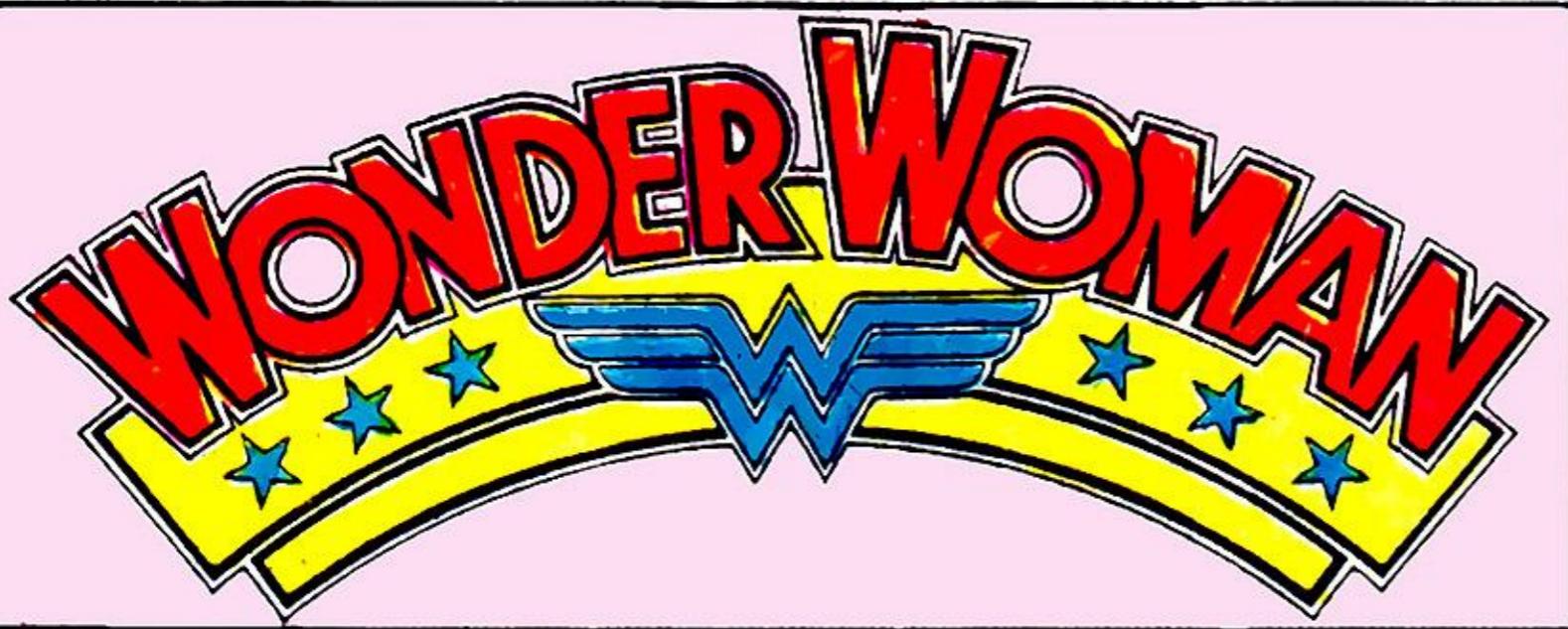




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NEXT
ISSUE:

WHAT IS... **THE ARES PROJECT!**



Dear Editor and Crew,

Ever since the demise of the original magazine and her de-evolution in the CRISIS series, I have waited impatiently for the return of Wonder Woman. She has always been my favorite character, as well as the reason I started reading comics in the first place.

I am *not* disappointed with the new beginning. The thing that struck me the most was the *passion* you put into this book, something that this series has lacked for a long time. There are some very strong loves and hates presented here. I can only hope that these continue and deepen.

In this new beginning, all the gods played a role in the foundation of the Amazon race. This provides more variety than just Aphrodite with Athena for backup. I always wondered why the other goddesses didn't play a larger role when Wonder Woman was always saying "Great Hera," and was named Diana.

While expanding the importance of the other gods, you've also expanded the cast of the Amazons. I sincerely hope that you keep the ones named in the first issue, maybe adding a few more, so that Hippolyte won't be the only familiar face in Paradise. Where was Diana's best friend Mala?

I don't know what you're planning to do with Steve Trevor, but there is one thing he needs right away: a past (a family, a hometown, a childhood). That was one thing he always lacked. Whatever you do with him, make him one man in man's world who stands for what Diana believes in—making their relationship more plausible. Take it slow! Remember, Diana's never seen a man before, and she's going to fall into the arms of the first one she meets?

I commend Greg and George on a terrific job with the story. They took the basic Wonder Woman myth, improved and expanded it, plus left many threads to be picked up in later issues. The one thing I can't wait to read about is—what happened to Antiope? In the myths, either she or Hippolyte had a son by Heracles/Theseus, named Hippolytus (the story varies). It would be interesting to see how Diana would react to a male cousin.

Feminism has been Wonder Woman's credo since 1942. In the new stories, I think this should be modified. Yes, she should go on promoting equality for women, but not to the extreme of pressing their superiority. In today's world there are smart women, smart men, strong men, strong women,

etc. I'm not saying that the lot of woman-kind can't be improved, I'd just like to see a Wonder Woman not as bitter against men as she has been portrayed in the past. She was sent to proclaim love as a means, so she should practice what she preaches.

I've gleaned a few facts from your ads and essay. Diana's going to be in Boston and Etta's returning. Boston sounds like a good choice. Will Wonder Woman meet Robert Urich? I've always liked Etta, so you'd better treat her right.

You've all done a great job in this first issue, and I'm looking forward to many more. Success!

Sincerely,

Jeff Turner

1756 W. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601

As you duly noted, Jeff, in revitalizing WONDER WOMAN we expanded and built on a majority of the original series' mythological concepts and characters. In our opening six-issue storyline (Diana's mission to find and stop Ares from destroying man and god), we do meet many familiar faces from the ghosts of series past but most of them, particularly Hippolyte, Ares, Etta Candy, and Steve Trevor, have been markedly altered and their personas strengthened. And as we've been seeing, Diana's reactions to Steve Trevor have been far from romantic.

As for your comments about the "modification of feminism," we wonder why you would perceive that the principle that women should have social, economic, and political rights equal to those of men would take on a radical, superior bent. We think that the lot of humankind—men and women alike—could do for a lot of improving.

Dear DC,

I want to write and express my admiration for your revitalization of WONDER WOMAN, the first issue of which I have just bought.

For the most part both story and artwork were impressive, and both seemed to be making attempts to transcend conventional super-hero fare. I am not surprised by this, as I believe you have WONDER WOMAN going in the best direction in which the title can be taken. That is to say, you are emphasizing its Greek myths and feminism aspects which are so obviously inherent in the concept of Wonder Woman but have never been exploited, at least not in the Silver Age of comics.

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There were a few moments, however, in issue #1 that I thought were a little confusing. Anyone totally unfamiliar with the Greek myths probably had a hard time keeping track of all the names of gods being bandied about. Similarly, the entrance of Heracles into the proceedings was baffling because there was no reason for readers to presume he was a demigod rather than, wholly, a Greek man. Perhaps you should have explained in the narrative preceding Heracles' introduction that Zeus had sired an offspring born of a Greek mortal.

But, to wax somewhat lyrical, therein lies the rub. The Greek myths are so detailed and fascinating that, to do them justice, you needed to take longer with the story of Diana's ascendency to the role of Amazon champion. The first issue, then, seemed unfortunately rushed to me but understandably so. You needed also to introduce Wonder Woman in her own premiere comic book by the final page. Otherwise casual readers, at least, may have been puzzled as to what title they had bought.

Still, I won't allow my gripe to spoil what I consider a super effort on the part of all concerned in producing that premiere issue.

Before I get off the subject, I want to mention Diana's facial reactions to the menace of the "flashing thunder" on page 31. It would have been very easy for you to follow the stereotypical scene wherein the hero shows grim-faced fearlessness in the face of a strange possible death. Instead, the four panels showed a range of emotions on Diana's part including, I would say, shock, fear, and even bewilderment. Thank you for making her a three-dimensional character.

Paul Carbonaro
1012 Pacific St.
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Yes, we were aware that introducing a multitude of gods and goddesses in the first issue (let alone the first 10 pages) would be a lot for some readers to grasp in just one sitting, Paul. But all of the characters you met were integral in shaping the history of the Amazons and their reason for being. The gods are such a strong force in Wonder Woman's mythos and series that their presence was critical from the start. Also, thanks for commenting on the three-dimensionality of Diana's character. We're trying our utmost to portray her as the multi-faceted person that she is.

Dear Karen,

The first comic book I ever bought was WONDER WOMAN #250 back in 1978. Since then I have stayed with the lady, suffering her downs, relishing her highs! Though there were far more of the former, WW was on her way back up again when her book was cancelled, and the lady killed off! I was stunned. For the first time in eight years WW wasn't part of my monthly list.

But you can't keep a good feminist (or Amazon) down for long! WW is back and looking better than ever under the great talent of George, Greg, yourself, and the rest of the gang.

As you said on the cover, the first issue was indeed fantastic! The anticipation of a great event occurring was there right from page one, climbing steadily to page 24 when Hippolyte carved the shape of a baby in the sand, reaching a climax on page 25 when the new WW was born.

One thing! Is Diana immortal? If she is, shouldn't she have stayed a baby forever? Or shouldn't Hippolyte have carved her as a fully grown woman? But perhaps I just missed something!

I love the concentration on the Gods of Olympus, and Paradise Island. I only hope you keep on concentrating on this part of WW's life, and don't move down similar paths as your former colleagues did!

The new WW deserves to succeed. Let's hope the great world public has enough taste to make it so!

Yours sincerely,
Neil Roberts
South Wales, U.K.

All Amazons are immortal, Neil, as long as they never leave Paradise Island. Thus, by undertaking the responsibility to save Earth and the gods from extinction, Diana forfeited her ability to live forever by setting forth onto "man's world." Diana's quest for the destructive and relentless Ares, God of War, initially leads her to Boston (as we're all well aware) but will eventually take her to places of more godlike proportion.

To Greg, George and Bruce,

After carefully perusing WONDER WOMAN #1, I must say that congratulations are in order to the creative team. I am eternally grateful to you, gentlemen, for at last putting Wonder Woman in her rightful place in the DC Universe.

I am one of many who were particularly distressed by WW's "death" in the CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS. The new Wonder Woman truly shows promise. (It appears so—why else did I buy three issues yesterday?)

Wonder Woman has been one of my favorites ever since I read my first WONDER WOMAN book. I was immediately fascinated by the part Greek mythology had in the series.

Comics were very expensive where I come from. Comic books were considered a luxury—and more often than not a waste of time and money in the Philippines, former home of Asia's one-

time Queen of Soles. Somehow, I managed to get my hands on such books as SUPERMAN, GREEN LANTERN / GREEN ARROW, WONDER WOMAN, and JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA. I enjoyed DC comics very much then, and I still do.

As I got older, the situation got worse. Last year, 750 titles sold from 22-24 pesos, while the deluxe editions were sold from P40 up. My love for comic books was unhindered, though. I was able to buy some issues of TEEN TITANS, LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES and others. However, the WONDER WOMAN series, with its bad sales, never even reached the specialty stores in Manila. When I came here, I learned of the fate this series had suffered. I even went so far as to buy some back issues of the original series. And I knew why.

So what else can I say? Thanks for not only bringing back Wonder Woman, but for making Wonder Woman into what she should be. This issue really showed how different she was from such characters as She-Hulk et al.

The art was perfect. Though not as powerful as George's early work in THE NEW TEEN TITANS (offset), his rendition of the Amazon Princess is truly befitting. I most certainly hope that George does not leave the series like he did leave the TEEN TITANS.

Some questions though:

- 1) What happens to Wonder Girl now that there is a new Wonder Woman?
- 2) Will other DC characters crossover into the new WW series?
- 3) Will we ever see the Earth-2 Wonder Woman?
- 4) Could you change the WW logo?
- 5) How do I subscribe to WONDER WOMAN?

Truly yours,
E. Soriano Jr.
(no address given)

Taking your questions in order, E.:

- 1) Don't be surprised if one day you read a "Who is Donna Troy?" Part Two, in the pages of the TEEN TITANS.
- 2) Yes, other titles will crossover with WONDER WOMAN, namely SUPERMAN, towards the end of our first year.
- 3) No, we'll never see the Earth-2 Wonder Woman again, ever.
- 4) No, we like the logo very much, thank you.
- 5) See the indicia (the tiny print on page one) for subscription information.

Dear Karen,

The first issue of WONDER WOMAN was really incredible! I've waited a long time for something this good to happen to my favorite character. Let me tell you why I loved this issue:

First, there is Diana's origin. With all the Greek mythology and history that it is made up of, I find it totally fascinating each time I read it. Seeing it presented through the work of Greg Potter, George Perez and Bruce Patterson really made it come alive for me. The Amazons rising from the water on page nine made me

believe that these women really were the creation of gods. It was so real!

Then there were the characters of Hippolyte and Heracles. I don't think I've ever seen those two portrayed better anywhere. The scenes between those two alone would have made the book for me but there was so much more ... witness the gods' bickering and confusion, letting Ares divide them. They seemed all so human to me.

Next, the subplots developed this issue had to be enough to keep the series going for at least a year. I mean, the war with Ares is coming up, the band of renegade Amazons, not to mention whatever the queen decides to do about Heracles. However good this book is I want to leave you with one suggestion: Bring back the Cheetah! Please, Please, Please! The sight of Priscilla Drew in her original full body costume trying to claw Diana's eyes out, and Wonder Woman holding back because she knows the Cheetah can't control her actions is always exciting. Think about it please.

I'm an old fan of Wonder Woman (I'm eighteen) and I'm hooked, but I know you've got to draw new readers, so I'll be keeping my fingers crossed and try to spread the good word among my friends. Congratulations on a great comic!

Steven L. Turner
P.O. Box 722
Kenbridge, VA 23944

P.S. If you are going to be soliciting new letter column titles, how about the Greek word for hello, or Hola, whatever the Amazons use.

Good news, Steven, the Cheetah will be returning. Look for her around issue #7 or 8.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TIME:

Yes, folks, it's a contest!

We'd love one of you readers to come up with the title that will grace this column. So ... please mail all submissions to:

WONDER WOMAN CONTEST
DC COMICS INC.
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10103

The winner will receive something special! See you next month—Karen Berger



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.

