SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
WONDER WOMAN 300
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C-200
HANNIGAN & GIORDANO '82
WHERE THE ACTION IS!

GEORGE PEREZ
82

SHE WAS BORN A PRINCESS-- DAUGHTER OF HIPPOLYTA, QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS-- BUT SHE LEFT THE TRANQUIL GROVES OF PARADISE ISLAND TO BATTLE EVIL IN A WORLD SHE NEVER MADE! SHE IS BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE... WISE AS ATHENA... STRONGER THAN HERCULES... SWIFTER THAN MERCURY!

SHE IS... WONDER WOMAN™

Beautiful Dreamer, DEATH Unto Thee!

A very special SUPER-LENGTH SAGA FOR THE AMAZING AMAZON'S 300TH ISSUE!

THREE A.M., WASHINGTON, D.C.: SHADES ARE DRAWN AGAINST THE NIGHT IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL...

...WHILE SOMEWHERE, IN A SQUALID BACK ALLEY, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MORTALS ON THIS PLANET MAKES READY TO BATTLE FOR HER LIFE...!

BY THE SANDS OF MORPHEUS!

ANOTHER NIGHTMARE-- SUCH AS I'VE BEEN HAVING ALL WEEK-- AND ALWAYS THE SAME NEAR-FACELESS FIEND!

BUT THIS TIME, IT SEEMS-- SO MUCH MORE REAL-- AND INFINITELY MORE FRIGHTENING--!

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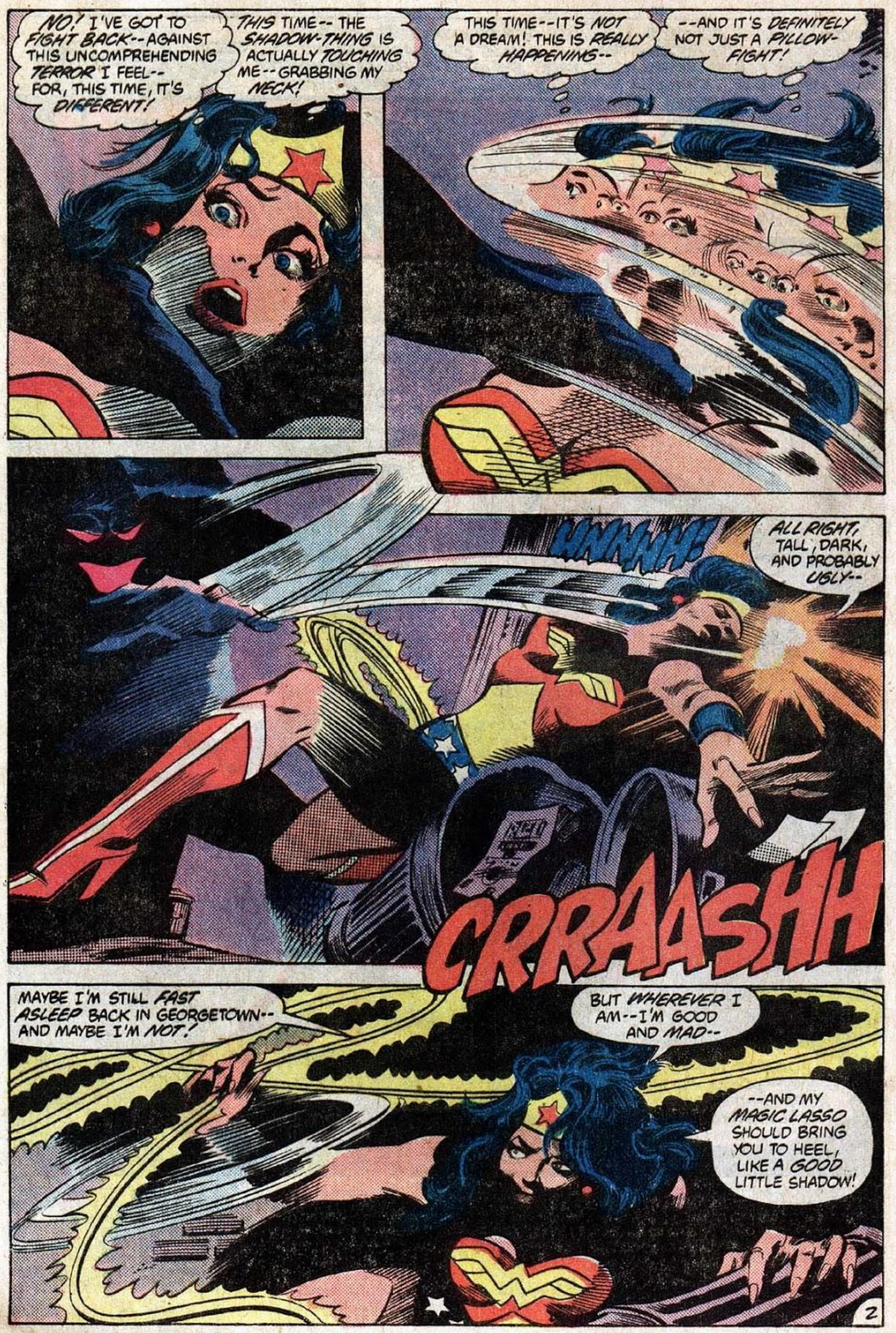

NO! I'VE GOT TO FIGHT BACK--AGAINST THIS UNCOMPREHENDING TERROR I FEEL--FOR, THIS TIME, IT'S DIFFERENT!
THIS TIME-- THE SHADOW-THING IS ACTUALLY TOUCHING ME--GRABBING MY NECK!
THIS TIME--IT'S NOT A DREAM! THIS IS REALLY HAPPENING--
--AND IT'S DEFINITELY NOT JUST A PILLOW-FIGHT!
UNNNNHH
ALL RIGHT, TALL, DARK, AND PROBABLY UGLY--
CRRAASHH
MAYBE I'M STILL FAST ASLEEP BACK IN GEORGETOWN--AND MAYBE I'M NOT!
BUT WHEREVER I AM--I'M GOOD AND MAD--
--AND MY MAGIC LASSO SHOULD BRING YOU TO HEEL, LIKE A GOOD LITTLE SHADOW!

SHOULD, PERHARS... BUT DOESN'T.

MERCIFUL MINERVA! MY LARIAT PASSED RIGHT THROUGH THAT THING--AS IF IT WEREN'T THERE!

BUT IT IS HERE--AND IT'S EVERY BIT AS STRONG--AS I AM!

I--CAN'T EVEN TOUCH IT--BUT IT'S GRASPING ME!

URRK!

AND JUST AS SURELY --AS I WANT TO LIVE--

--IT WANTS ME DEAD!

YET, EVEN AS THE SHADOWY CREATURE SEEKS TO DRAG THE BREATH OF LIFE ITSELF FROM WONDER WOMAN'S PULSING THROAT--

--A THROBBING, SURGING VORTEX OF BLACKNESS SEEMS SUDDENLY TO UNRAVEL THE VERY SKIES BROODING GREYLY ABOVE--

AND THROUGH THAT DARK, WHIRLING PORTAL LEAPS A GRIM BUT BRIGHTLY-CLAD FIGURE...

RELEASE HER, FIEND!

YOU'VE TRESPASSED BEYOND YOUR RIGHTFUL SPHERE--

--AND THE SANDMAN IS HERE TO SEND YOU BACK AGAIN!

DON'T KNOW-- JUST *WHO* YOU ARE, FRIEND-- BUT I SURE HOPE YOU BROUGHT A *CATCHER'S MITT!*

THAT THING'S GOT A THROWING ARM LIKE *ZEUS* HIMSELF--AND ZEUS HURLS A *MEAN THUNDERBOLT!*

DON'T WORRY, AMAZON! I'VE *GOT* YOU--

MMMFF!

NOW TO DEAL WITH THAT--

HOLD IT! I'M NOT *FINISHED* WITH YOU YET!

OR-- MAYBE I *AM!*

HE--*IT* JUST *VANISHED*-- IN THE GLARE OF THAT *LAMPPOST!*

YOU *ALL RIGHT?* AND YOU *ARE* WONDER WOMAN, AREN'T YOU?

LAST TIME I *LOOKED.*

ME *TOO!*

BUT, IF I'M STILL *DREAMING...!*

SLEEPWALKING, YOU MEAN! BUT YOU'VE SEEN THAT CREATURE BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU--IN NIGHTMARES!

ALL WEEK, YES! HOW DID YOU KNOW?

BESIDES, IT WAS NEVER SO REAL--TILL TONIGHT!

AND IT NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN! THAT'S PART OF MY JOB, YOU MIGHT SAY--TO KEEP NIGHTMARES LIKE THAT ONE FOREVER OUTSIDE THIS DIMENSION.

YOU ACT AS IF YOU REALLY ARE THE "SANDMAN" THEY TELL CHILDREN ABOUT.

"IN A SENSE, I AM! FROM MY HEADQUARTERS IN THE DREAM DIMENSION, I MONITOR DREAMS--AND WHEN I SAW YOUR NIGHTMARE SUDDENLY MANIFEST ITSELF ON EARTH--

EJECTOR TUBE

"--I LAUNCHED MYSELF INTO THE DREAM STREAM WHICH FORMS THE VAST, ETHEREAL BORDER BETWEEN YOUR WORLD AND MINE--

"--AND STREAKED DOWN TO SAVE YOU, FROM A MENACE WHICH COULD HAVE KILLED YOU, AS SURELY AS ANY BOMB OR BULLET! *

* THIS SIMON-AND-KIRBY SANDMAN APPEARED IN FIVE ISSUES OF HIS OWN DC MAG, FROM 1974-76. --MARV.

AND BY ALL THE GRAINS OF TIME--THE SIGHT OF ONE AS LOVELY AS YOU WAS WELL WORTH IT, I MUST SAY!

THANKS--FOR HELPING DRIVE OFF THAT FIEND, MORE THAN FOR THE COMPLIMENT.

AS TO THE NIGHTMARE--I'VE BEEN UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE LATELY, BOTH FROM MY OWN JOB--AND FROM THE MAN I LOVE, AND--

THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CHANGE EITHER YOUR JOB... OR THE MAN.

I'M AFRAID THAT'S *MY* BUSINESS, ISN'T IT?

TOUCHÉ! JUST ONE *MORE* UN-ASKED-FOR PIECE OF ADVICE BEFORE I GO.

I DOUBT YOU'VE SEEN THE *LAST* OF THAT *SHADOW-THING*...

...SO WATCH THAT CURVACEOUS *BOD* OF YOURS, OKAY?

'*BYE* NOW!

BEFORE WONDER WOMAN CAN SPEAK--EITHER TO OBJECT OR TO INQUIRE--THE MYSTERIOUS MASTER OF SLEEP HAS DISAPPEARED INTO THE WHIRLING VORTEX...

...LEAVING HER NO ONE TO COMPLAIN TO...EXCEPT HERSELF:

WHO DOES THAT SANDMAN THINK HE *IS*--TO MEDDLE IN MY *PERSONAL* LIFE?

MUST *ADMIT*, THOUGH--EVERY DAY, I'M FINDING IT *MORE DIFFICULT* TO LIVE AS TWO VERY *DIFFERENT* WOMEN!

EVEN NOW, MUST REACH HOME AND HOP INTO BED AS *DIANA PRINCE*--BEFORE *ETTA CANDY* WAKES UP.

THESE *EARLY-MORNING JOGGERS!* THEIR OUTFITS GET MORE *RIDICULOUS* EVERY DAY!

NOT MANY HOURS LATER, AT THE PENTAGON, BUSTLING BEEHIVE OF A BUSY NATION'S DEFENSE...

SORRY WE'RE A FEW MINUTES *LATE*, ETTA!

NO *PROBLEM*, DI!

YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING IN SO MUCH *OVERTIME*, I'M SURE *GENERAL DARNELL* WILL UNDERSTAND...

BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE GETTING ENOUGH *SLEEP*?

TOO MUCH, MAYBE.

HUH?

NOTHING! JUST HAD A *BAD NIGHT*, THATS ALL.

UH-OH! DOESN'T SOUND LIKE OUR *BOSS* IS GONNA MAKE THE *DAY* ANY BETTER--FOR *EITHER* OF US!

BUZZZ

SO YOU TWO HAVE *ARRIVED*, EH?

GEN. DARNELL

LT. PRINCE--LT. CANDY--WILL YOU BOTH STEP INTO MY *OFFICE* AT ONCE, PLEASE?

WHATEVER HE SAYS, ETTA--I'M TAKING THE *BLAME* FOR OUR BEING LATE, HEAR?

GENERAL DARNELL, BEFORE YOU *SAY* ANYTHING, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT *I* WAS FULLY RESPONSIBLE--

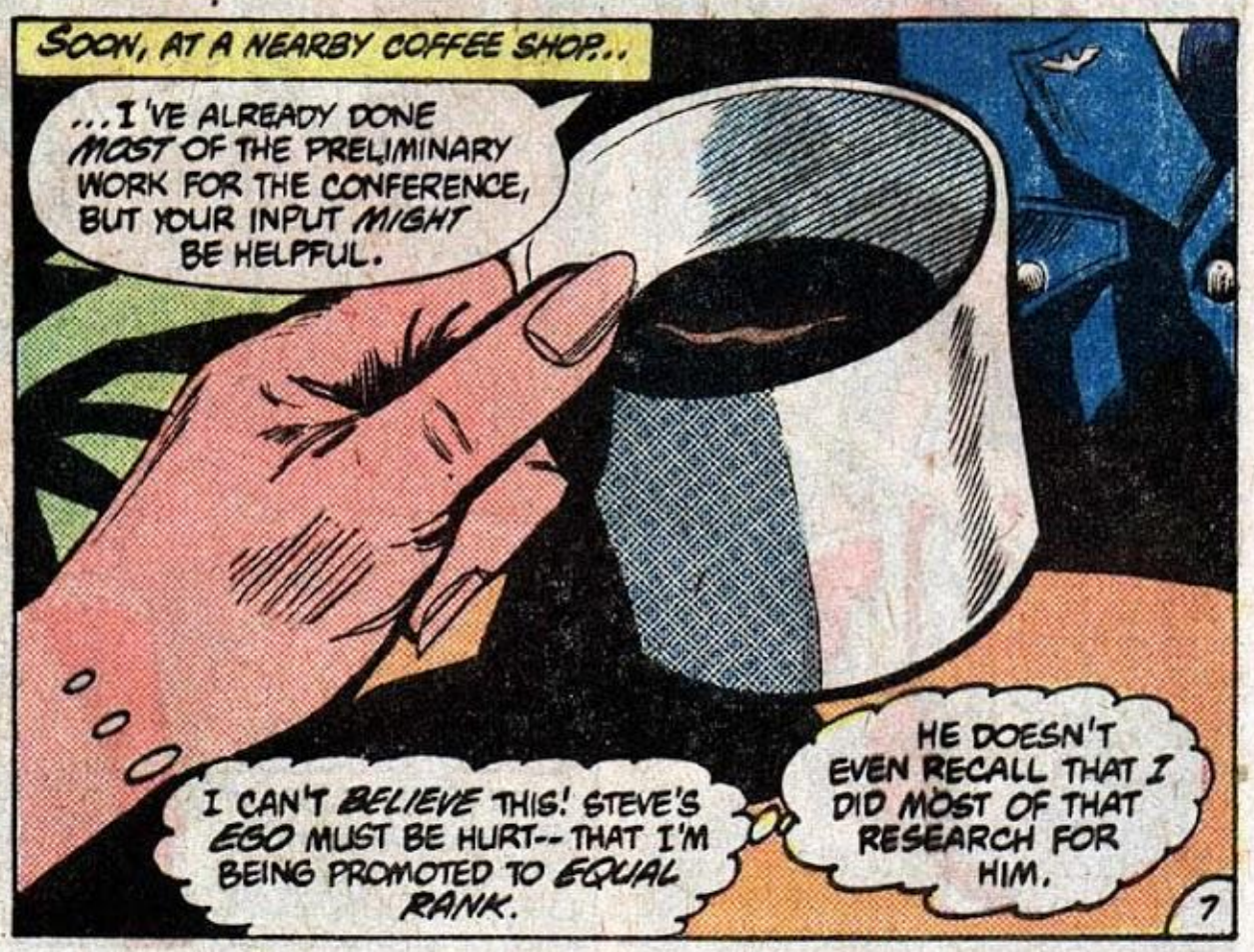
I NEVER DOUBTED IT FOR A *MOMENT!*

DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO *NEEDLE* HER, SIR?

CAN'T YOU JUST *GIVE* IT TO HER, SO WE CAN ALL GET BACK TO WORK?

GIVE ME? GIVE ME *WHAT?*

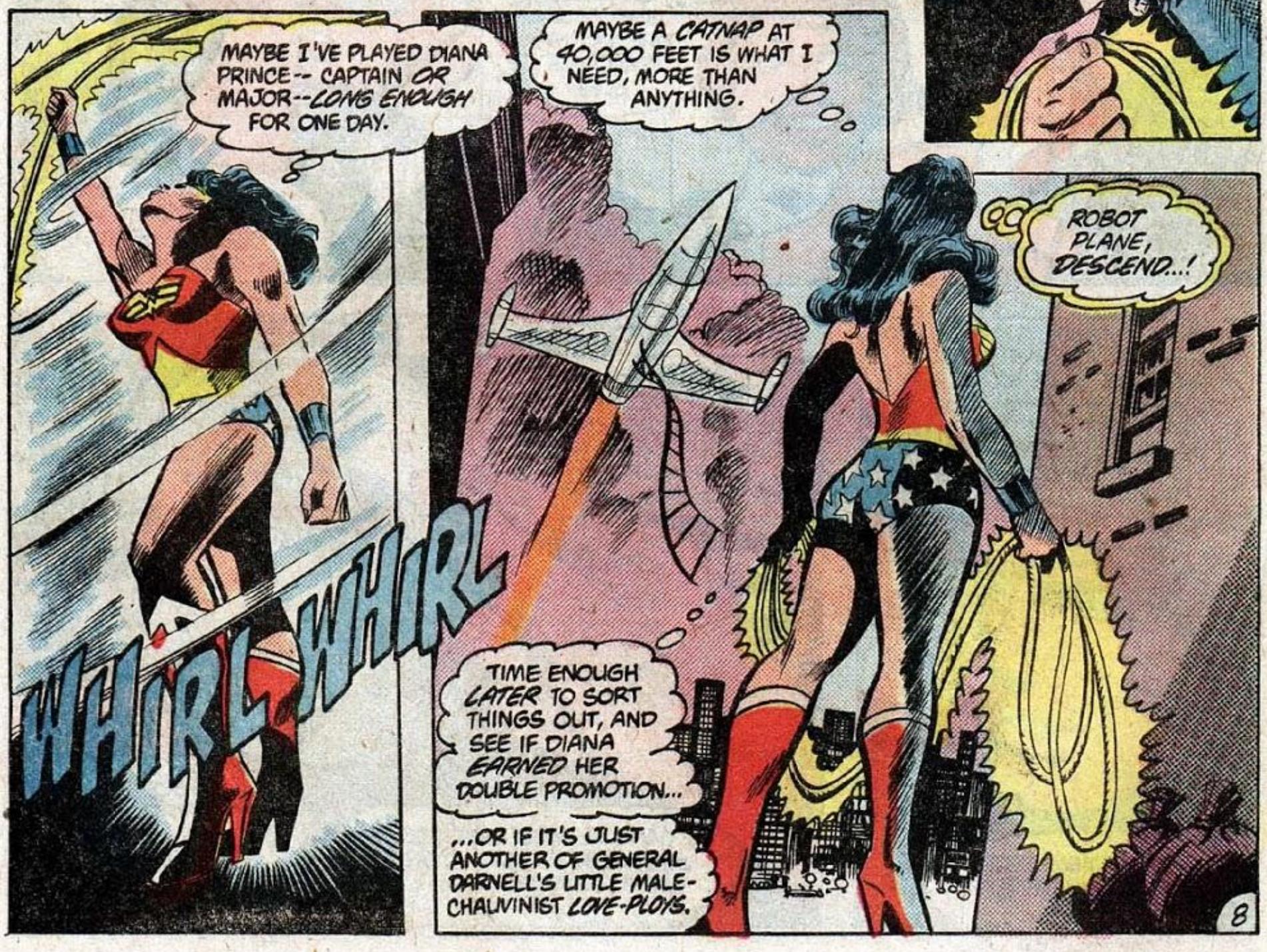
JUST A LITTLE *ORNAMENT* FOR YOUR LAPEL...



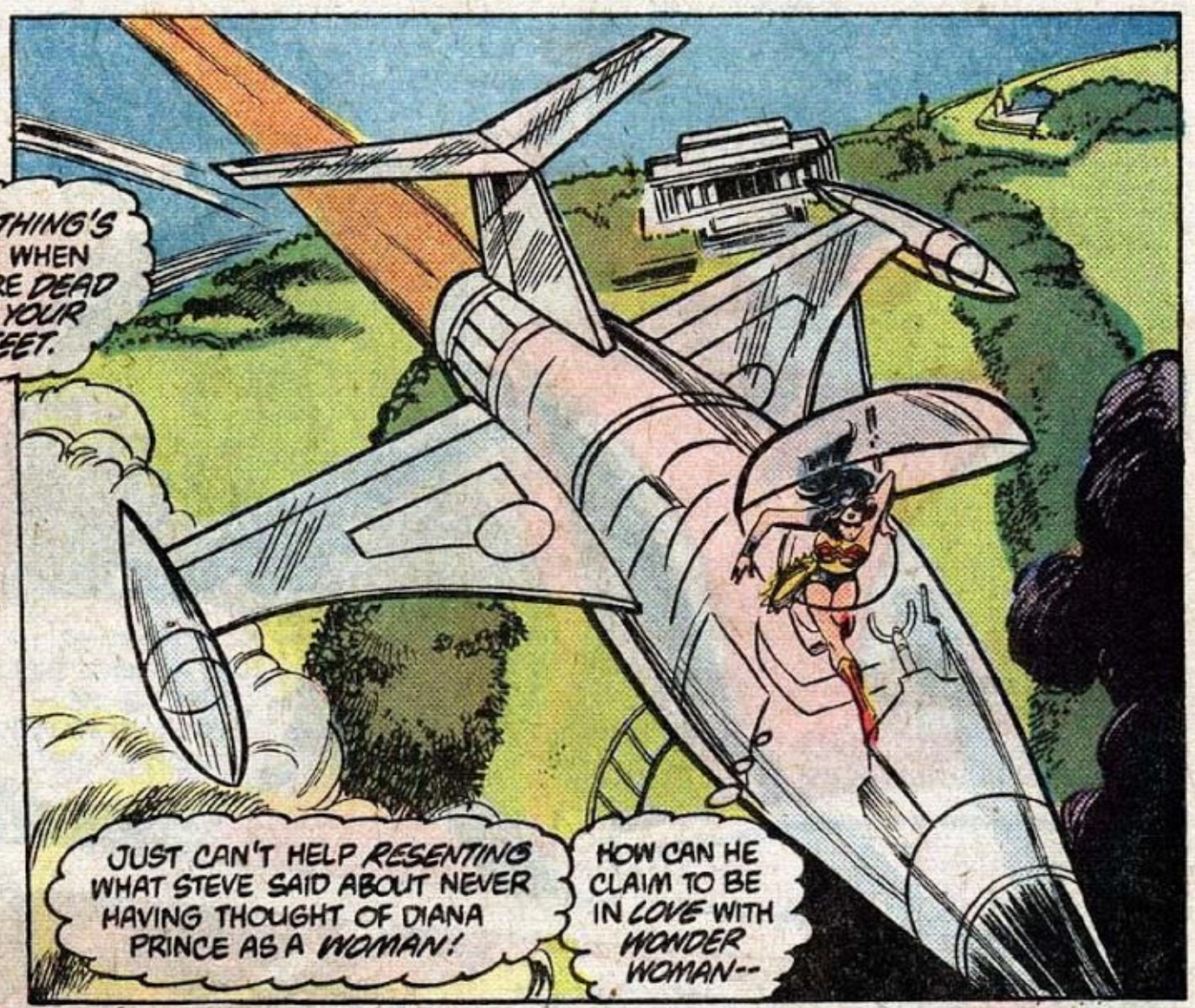
YOU KNOW, MAJOR-- SOMETIMES I WONDER IF THIS "NEW ARMY" HASN'T CHANGED TOO MUCH FOR ME.
I'VE EVEN BEEN THINKING-- OF RESIGNING MY COMMISSION.
WHY DON'T YOU SAY WHAT YOU'RE REALLY THINKING, COLONEL--

--THAT I WAS PROMOTED JUST BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN, AND YOU DON'T THINK I CAN CARRY MY WEIGHT!
ACTUALLY, MAJOR-- I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT OF YOU AS A WOMAN AT ALL!
IN THAT CASE, YOU PROBABLY WON'T NOTICE THAT I'M LEAVING!
HUH? WAIT! WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID--?

SHOULD'VE CONTROLLED MY TEMPER IN THERE.
BUT STEVE SURE CHOSE A BAD DAY TO TEST IT WITH HIS MASCULINE/ MILITARY MACHO.
NO! NOW I'M PUTTING LABELS ON HIM-- AND THAT'S NOT FAIR.
MAYBE STEVE'S GOT A POINT... I DON'T KNOW ANY MORE.
CAN'T THINK RATIONALLY... SO LITTLE SLEEP LAST NIGHT!


MAYBE I'VE PLAYED DIANA PRINCE-- CAPTAIN OR MAJOR--LONG ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY.
WHIRL WHIRL
MAYBE A CATNAP AT 40,000 FEET IS WHAT I NEED, MORE THAN ANYTHING.
ROBOT PLANE, DESCEND...!
TIME ENOUGH LATER TO SORT THINGS OUT, AND SEE IF DIANA EARNED HER DOUBLE PROMOTION...
...OR IF IT'S JUST ANOTHER OF GENERAL DARNELL'S LITTLE MALE-CHAUVINIST LOVE-PLOYS.

ALMOST MISSED MY "INVISIBLE ROPE LADDER"--AND I CAN SEE IT!


NOTHING'S EASY, WHEN YOU'RE DEAD ON YOUR FEET.
JUST CAN'T HELP RESENTING WHAT STEVE SAID ABOUT NEVER HAVING THOUGHT OF DIANA PRINCE AS A WOMAN!
HOW CAN HE CLAIM TO BE IN LOVE WITH WONDER WOMAN--

--AND NEVER HAVE SUSPECTED IN THE PAST YEAR... THAT THE TWO OF US... ARE THE SAME PERSON?
NODDING OFF! SO SLEEPY...!

BETTER PUT ON THE AUTOMATIC PILOT BY MENTAL COMMAND.
ROBOT PLANE, CLIMB TO 40,000 FEET... THEN LEVEL OFF, AVOIDING ALL REGULAR FLIGHT LANES!
WASHINGTON'S BEAUTIFUL, WHETHER FROM AIR OR GROUND--
BUT RIGHT ABOUT NOW, A SIGHTSEEING TOUR'S THE FARTHEST THING FROM MY OVER-TIRED MIND.

PLANE'S LEVELING AT EIGHT MILES HIGH.
FORTY OR FIFTY WINKS OUGHT TO--

HUH? THOUGHT MY PLANE'D HIT AN AIR POCKET, BUT-- BY VULCAN'S FORGE!
IT-- CAN'T BE--!

THE SHADOW-THING AGAIN!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE--AT 90,000 FEET?

WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY? WHAT ARE YOU--AND WHY ARE YOU HAUNTING ME??

NO ANSWER! IT JUST HOVERS THERE BEFORE ME--BLOCKING MY VIEW--MOCKING ME!

WELL, SINCE I CAN'T TOUCH IT, AND IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MENACING ANYONE ELSE JUST NOW--

ACCELERA

--MAYBE THE THING TO DO--IS OUTRUN IT!

NO USE! I'M TRAVELING AT MACH-5 ALREADY--YET IT'S STILL IN FRONT OF ME--

--RECEDING FROM VIEW, THEN RETURNING AGAIN--DELIBERATELY TAUNTING ME WITH THAT HIDEOUS, NIGHTMARISH SMILE!

BUT I'M NOT ASLEEP! I'M AWAKE! I KNOW I AM!

PERHAPS IF I VIBRATE THE PLANE AT SUCH HIGH SPEED, I'LL CONFUSE IT, AND--

GREAT HERA! IT WORKED--OR SOMETHING DID.

WAIT! THAT CREATURE VANISHED--BUT NOW THE STEERING MECHANISM'S LOCKED--

--AND I'M HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT!

I DIDN'T DREAM I WAS--THAT LOW!

NO WAY TO AVOID IT!

AND IF ANYONE'S INSIDE--!

WHAT--?

SOMETHING'S PULLING ME UP--JUST IN TIME--

--AND IT LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER VERSION OF MY OWN MAGIC LASSO!

CHAPTER TWO

MY SISTER, MY SELF!

ART BY ROSS ANDRU & DICK GIORDANO

I'VE GOT *NEWS* FOR YOU, MY SISTER!

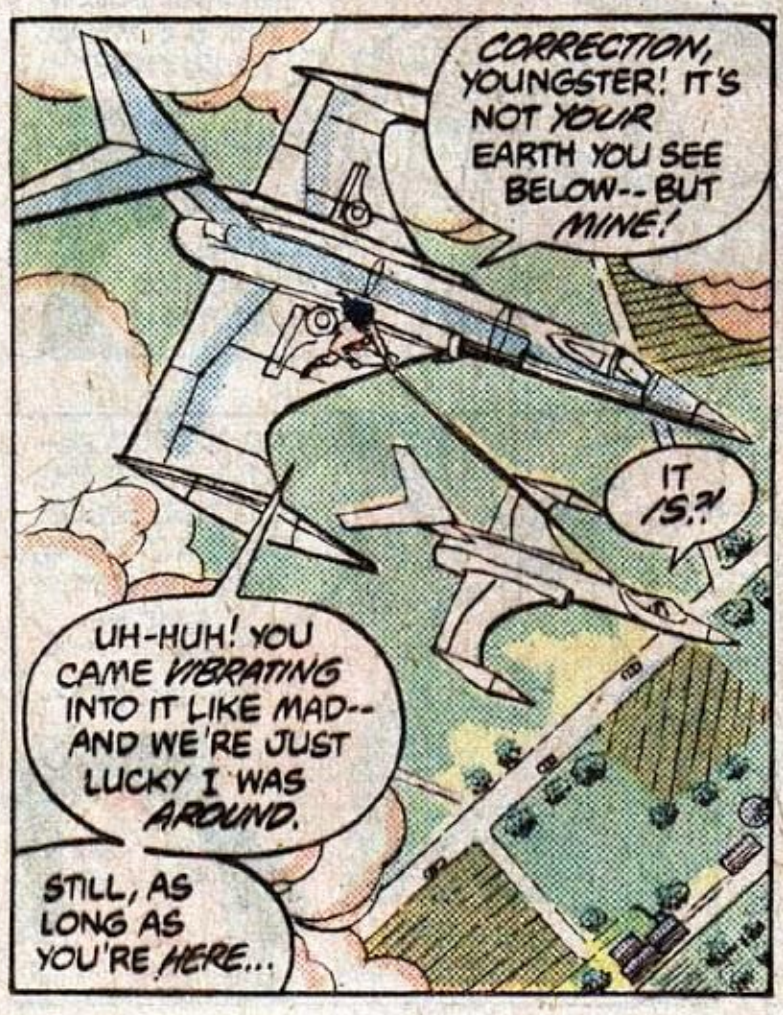
THAT'S JUST WHAT IT *IS*!

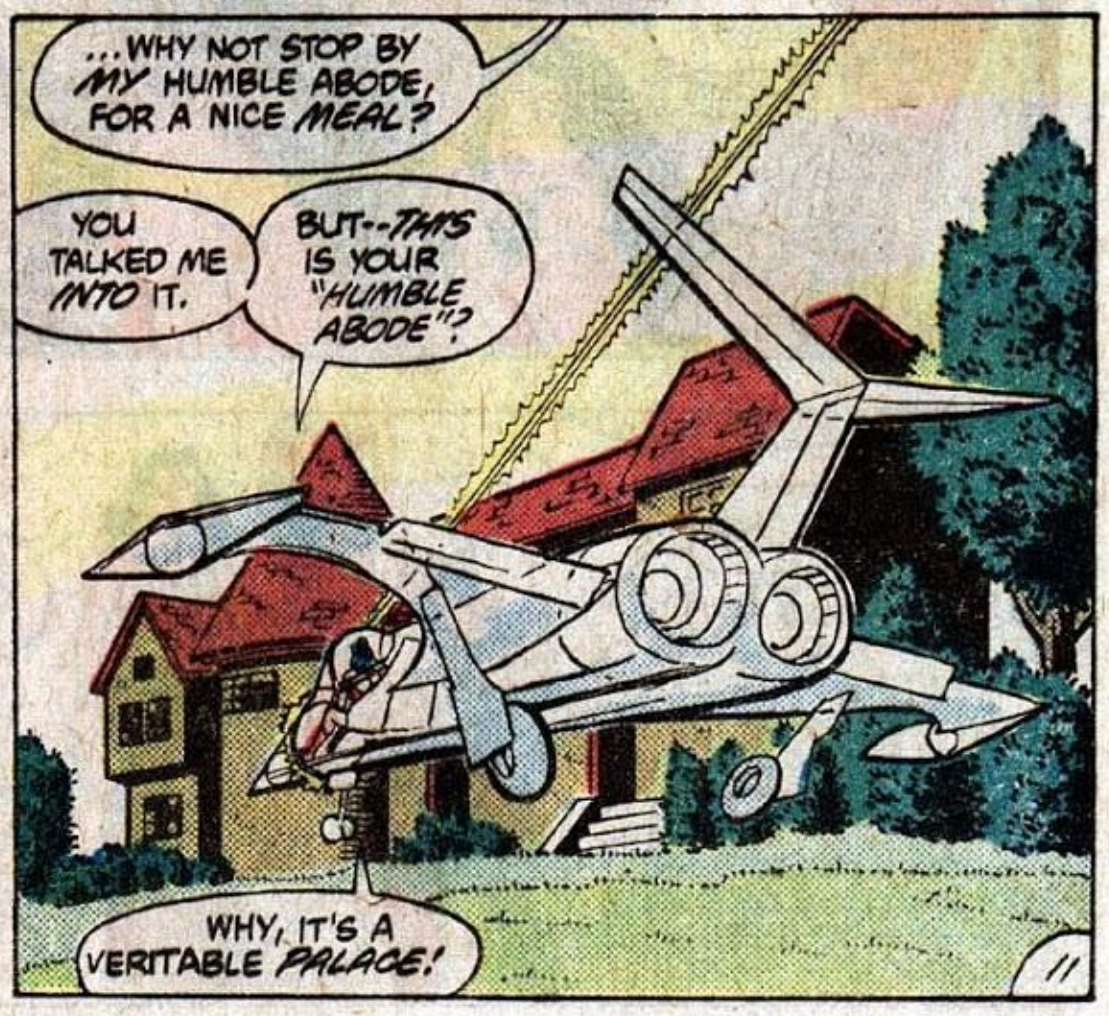
MERCIFUL MINERVA! I-- SHOULD HAVE *GUESSED*!

IT'S THE *EARTH-TWO* VERSION OF ME-- OR AM *I* THE EARTH-ONE COPY OF *HER*?

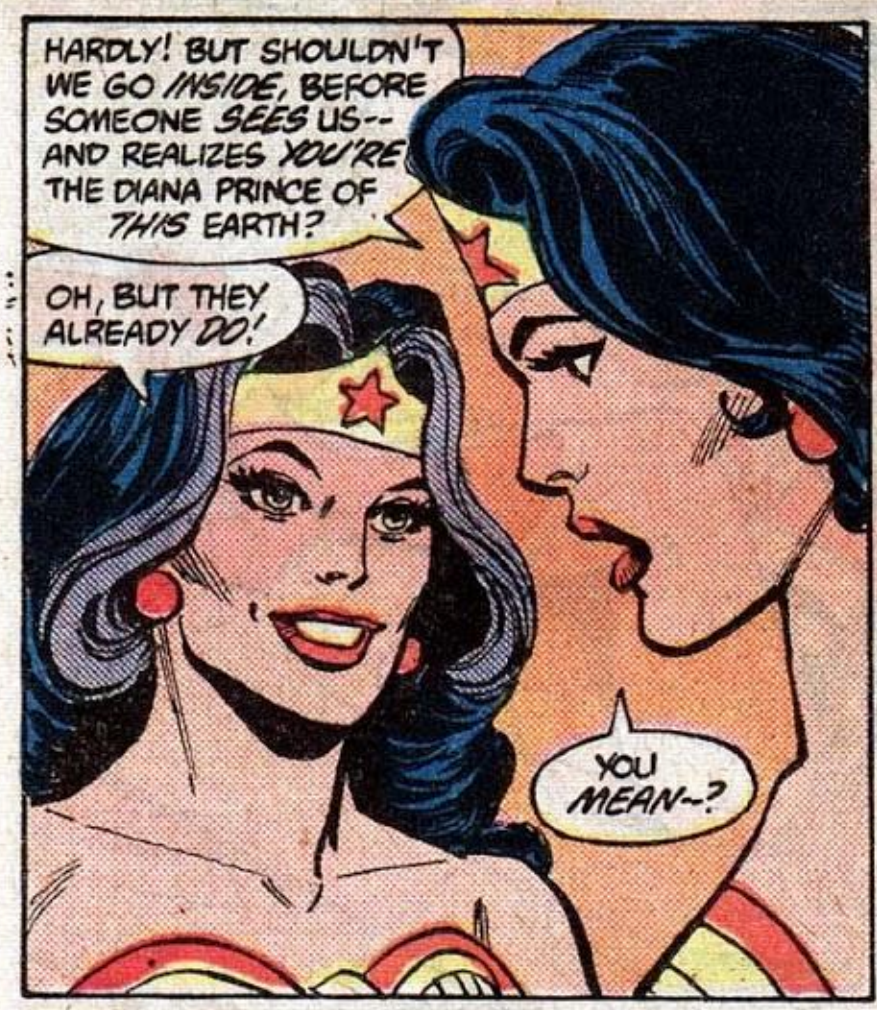
HOLA, "*SISTER*"! NOT THAT YOUR PRESENCE WASN'T *WELCOME*, EVEN IF *MY PLANE AND I* WOULD PROBABLY HAVE SURVIVED THE CRASH--

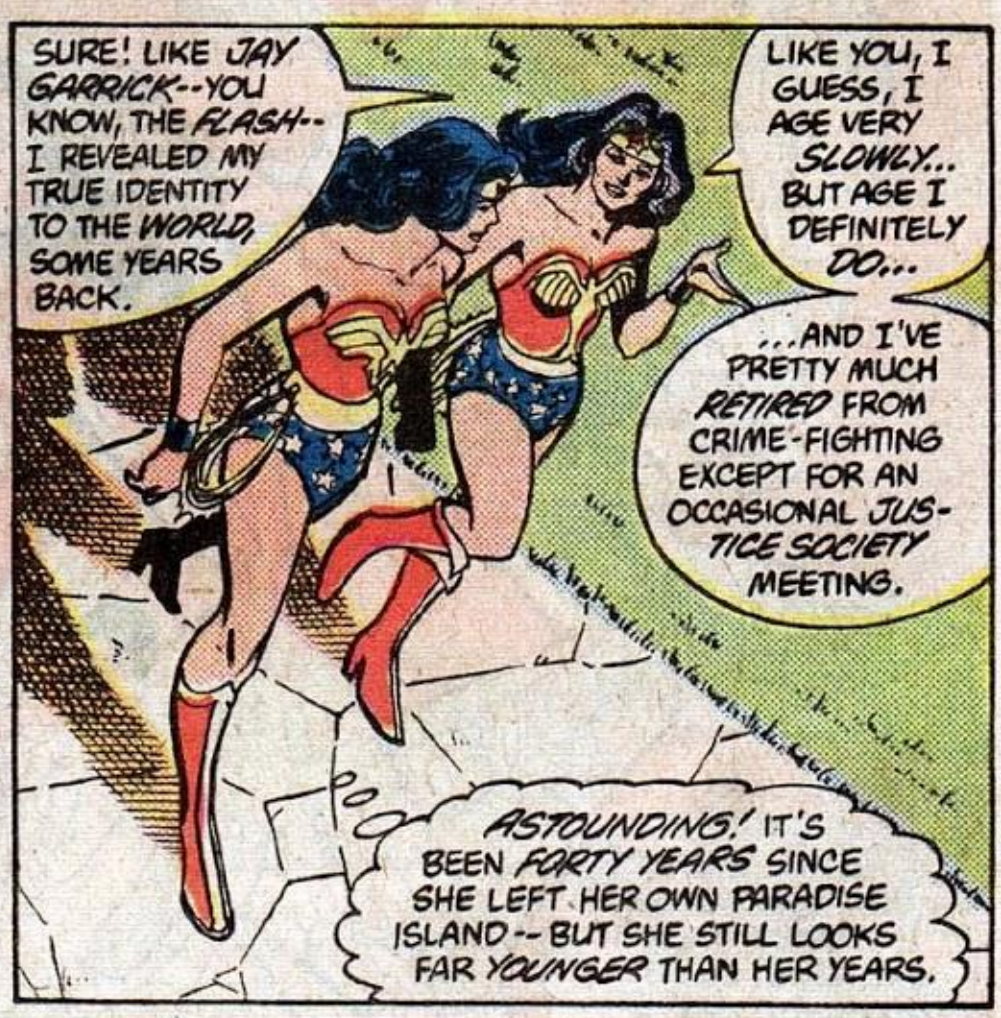
--BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON "*MY*" EARTH?





BUT FIRST-- THANKS FOR THE ASSIST!
TO THINK-- WE HAVEN'T MET SINCE THAT OTHER DAY WHEN I ACCIDENTALLY BLUNDERED INTO YOUR WORLD, CIRCA 1943, IN PURSUIT OF THE RED PANZER.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT NAZI NASTY, ANYWAY?
HE'S ANCIENT HISTORY, DIANA.*
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO-- GIVE AWAY MY AGE?
* SEE ISSUE # 228. --MARV.

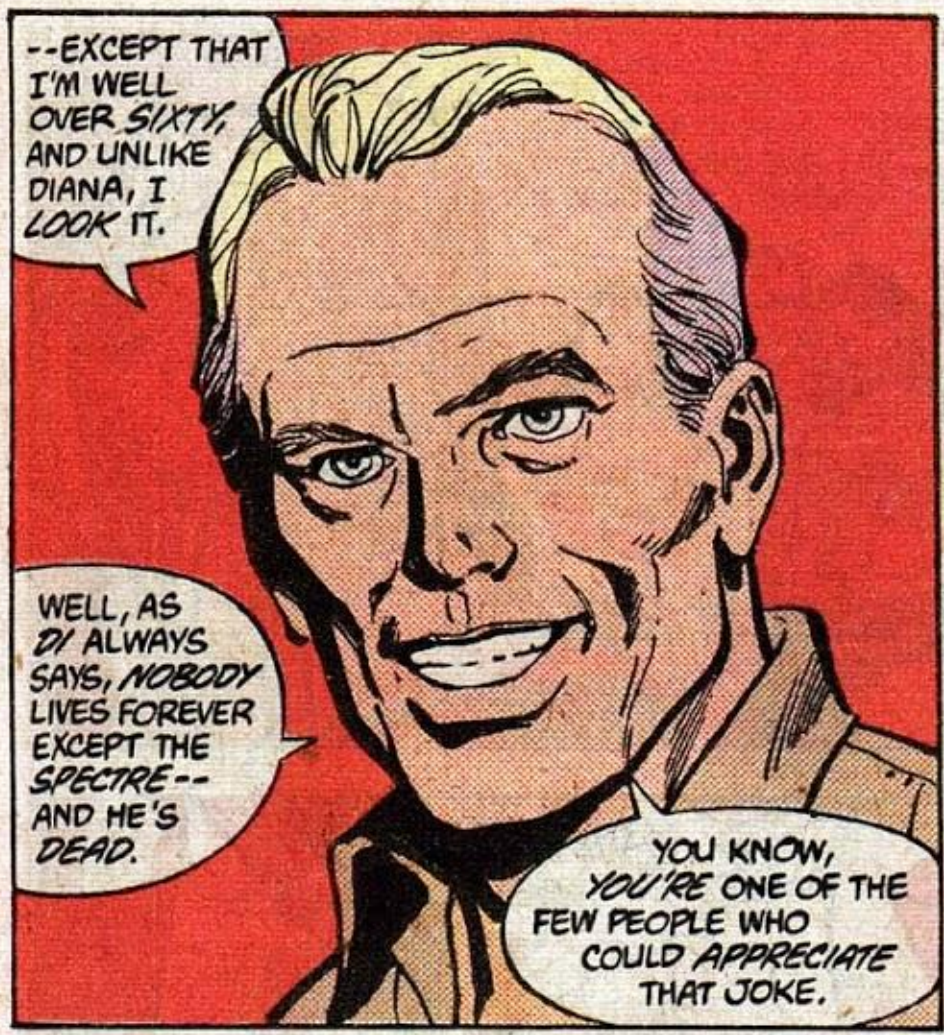

HARDLY! BUT SHOULDN'T WE GO INSIDE, BEFORE SOMEONE SEES US-- AND REALIZES YOU'RE THE DIANA PRINCE OF THIS EARTH?
OH, BUT THEY ALREADY DO!
YOU MEAN--?


SURE! LIKE JAY GARRICK--YOU KNOW, THE FLASH-- I REVEALED MY TRUE IDENTITY TO THE WORLD, SOME YEARS BACK.
LIKE YOU, I GUESS, I AGE VERY SLOWLY... BUT AGE I DEFINITELY DO...
...AND I'VE PRETTY MUCH RETIRED FROM CRIME-FIGHTING EXCEPT FOR AN OCCASIONAL JUSTICE SOCIETY MEETING.
ASTOUNDING! IT'S BEEN FORTY YEARS SINCE SHE LEFT HER OWN PARADISE ISLAND -- BUT SHE STILL LOOKS FAR YOUNGER THAN HER YEARS.

MOSTLY, I PREFER TO SPEND MY TIME AT HOME WITH STEVE AND--
STEVE?
STEVE TREVOR-- AS I SEEM TO RECALL, A NAME NOT TOTALLY UNKNOWN TO YOU.
THERE HE IS NOW! I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
HELLO, DARLING. GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER!
WELCOME BACK, ANGEL-- BUT WHAT'S--?

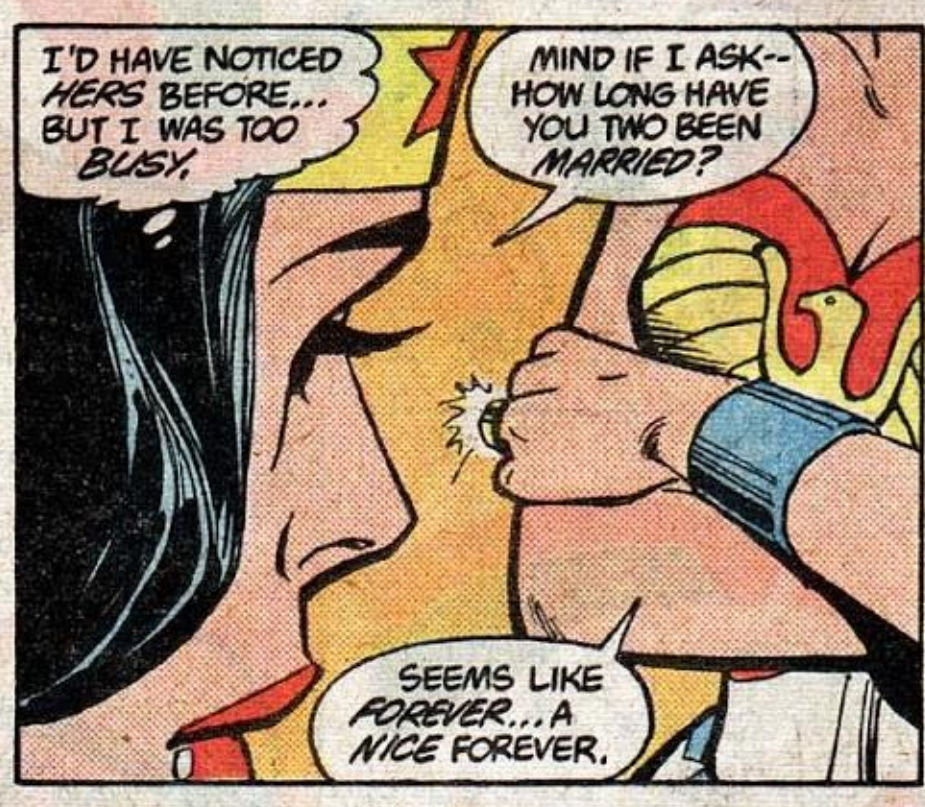
STEVE, I KNOW THIS'LL BE HARD TO BELIEVE-- BUT THIS IS THAT OTHER WONDER WOMAN I ONCE TOLD YOU ABOUT.
GOOD LORD! WHY, SHE LOOKS ENOUGH LIKE YOU TO BE YOUR YOUNGER SISTER -- ALMOST YOUR TWIN!
UH... HELLO... STEVE.

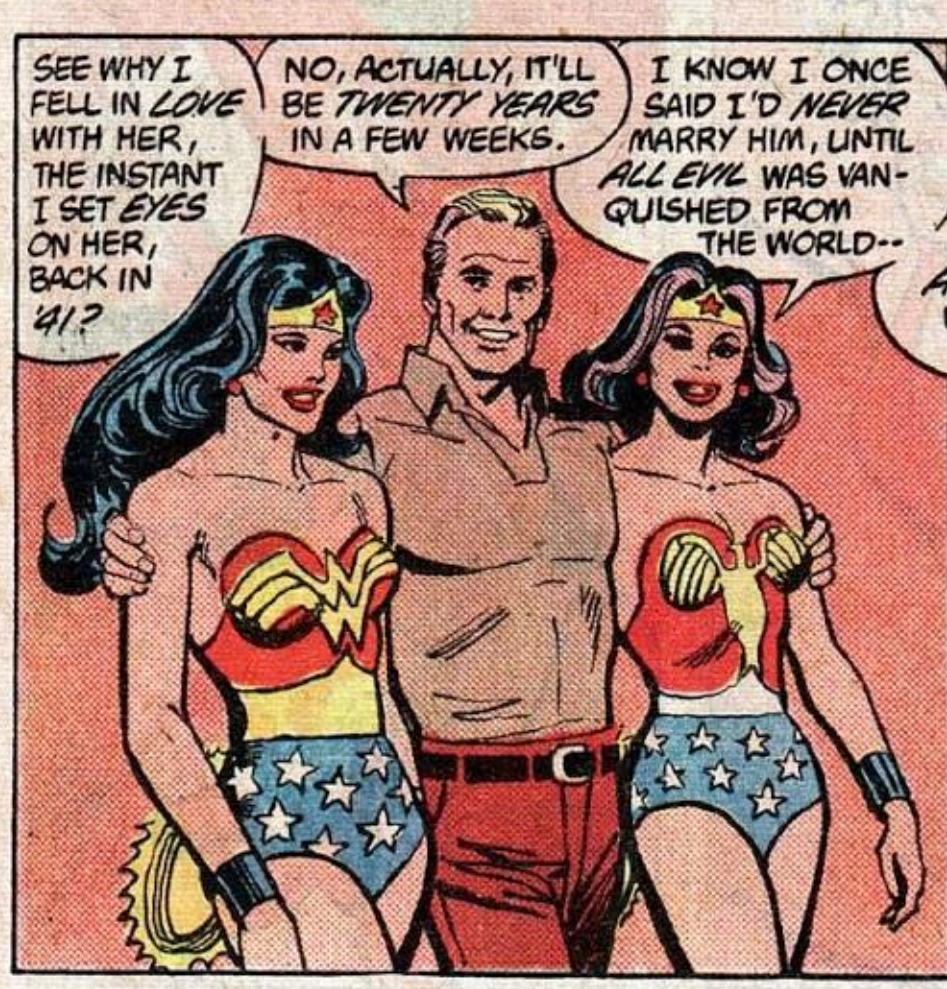
AND YOU LOOK-- JUST LIKE THE COLONEL STEVE TREVOR I KNOW, BACK ON MY EARTH--
--EXCEPT--
I KNOW, WONDER WOMAN...

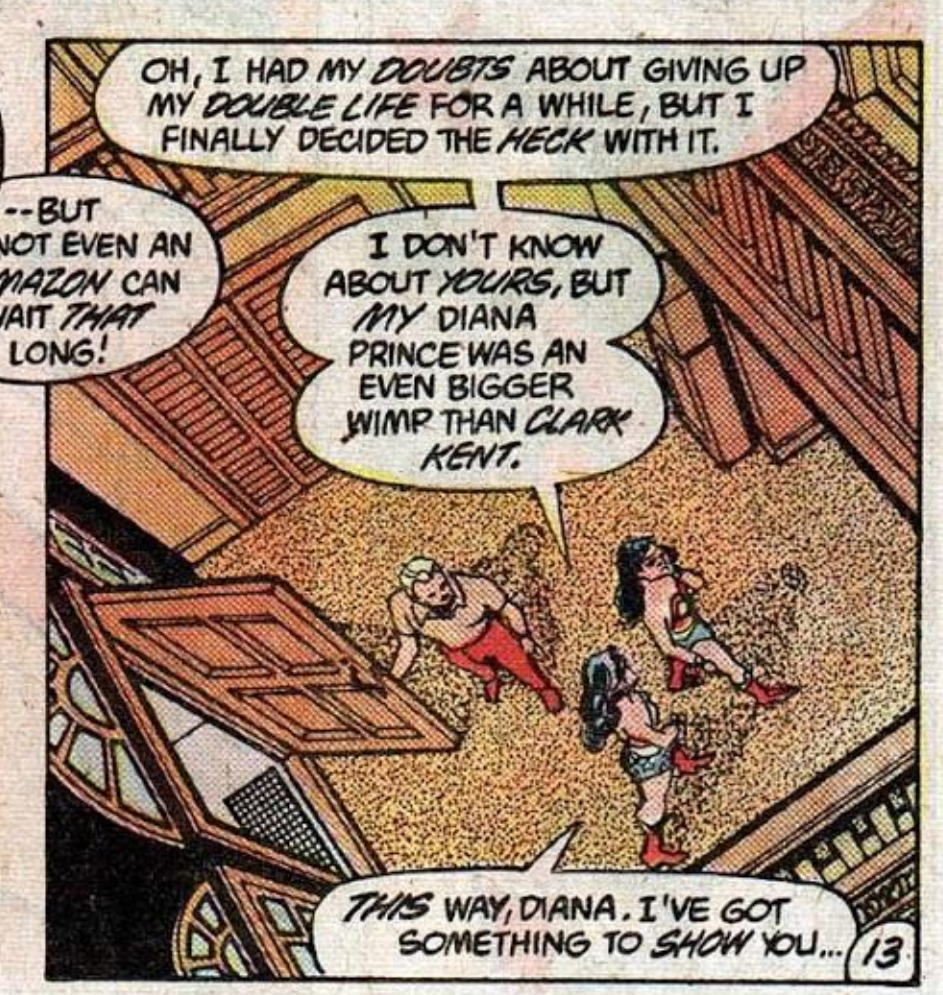

--EXCEPT THAT I'M WELL OVER SIXTY, AND UNLIKE DIANA, I LOOK IT.
WELL, AS DI ALWAYS SAYS, NOBODY LIVES FOREVER EXCEPT THE SPECTRE-- AND HE'S DEAD.
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO COULD APPRECIATE THAT JOKE.

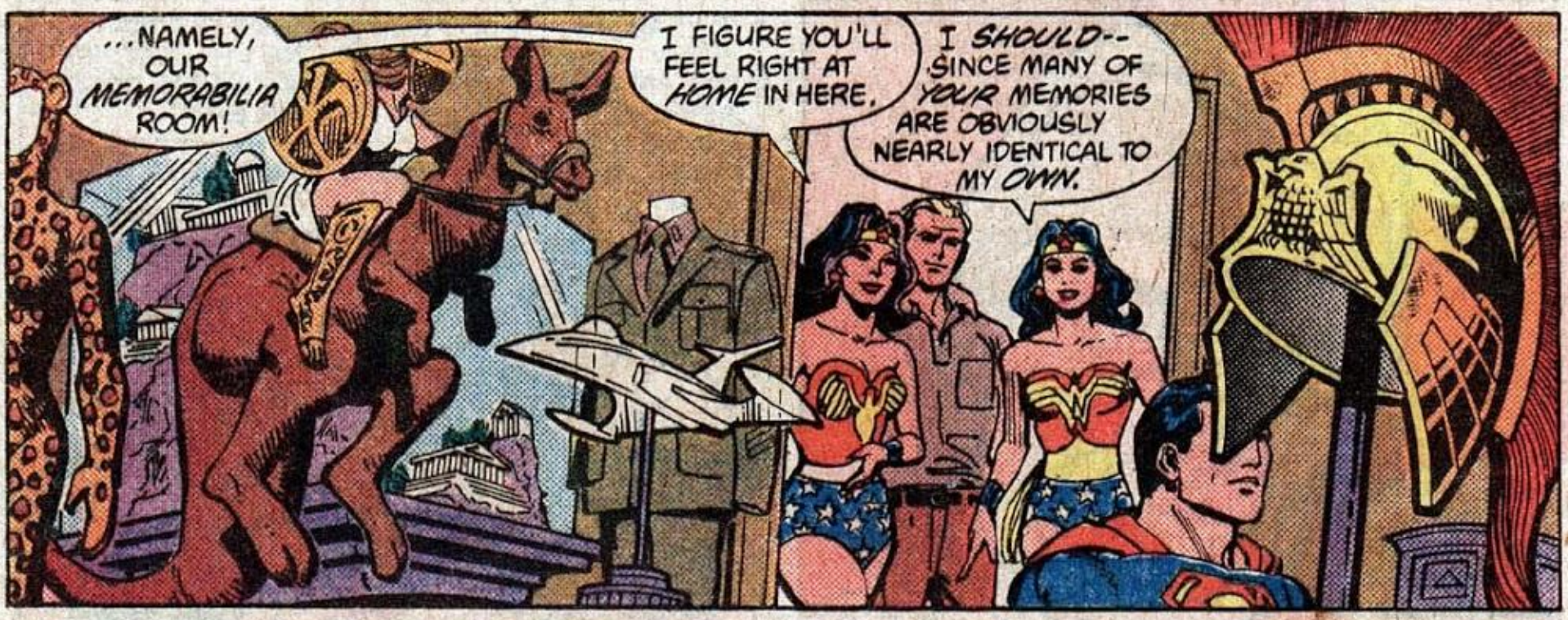
ANYWAY, IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU, AND YOU'RE DEFINITELY STAYING FOR DINNER. NO ARGUMENTS!
YOU CAN BOOST AN OLD MAN'S EGO BY TELLING HIM WHAT HIS YOUNGER ALTER EGO IS DOING, ON ANOTHER EARTH.
LATER, DARLING. SHE JUST GOT HERE.
YES. LATER.
HOPE HE DIDN'T NOTICE I FROZE UP WHEN HE GRABBED ME--

--AND I FELT THE IMPRINT OF HIS WEDDING RING!


I'D HAVE NOTICED HERS BEFORE... BUT I WAS TOO BUSY.
MIND IF I ASK-- HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO BEEN MARRIED?
SEEMS LIKE FOREVER... A NICE FOREVER.


SEE WHY I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER, THE INSTANT I SET EYES ON HER, BACK IN '41?
NO, ACTUALLY, IT'LL BE TWENTY YEARS IN A FEW WEEKS.
I KNOW I ONCE SAID I'D NEVER MARRY HIM, UNTIL ALL EVIL WAS VANQUISHED FROM THE WORLD--
--BUT NOT EVEN AN AMAZON CAN WAIT THAT LONG!


OH, I HAD MY DOUBTS ABOUT GIVING UP MY DOUBLE LIFE FOR A WHILE, BUT I FINALLY DECIDED THE HECK WITH IT.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOURS, BUT MY DIANA PRINCE WAS AN EVEN BIGGER WIMP THAN CLARK KENT.
THIS WAY, DIANA. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU...

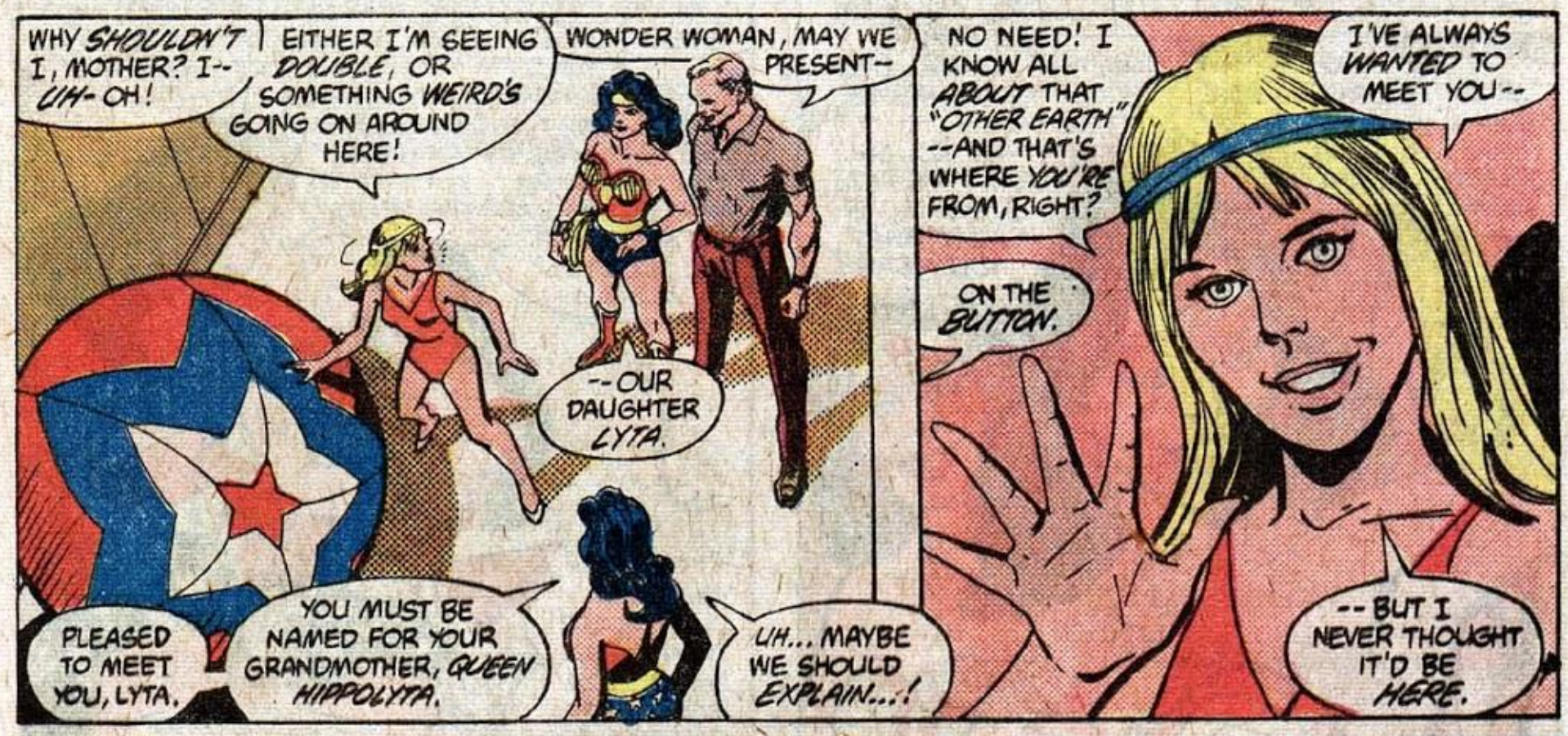

...NAMELY, OUR MEMORABILIA ROOM!
I FIGURE YOU'LL FEEL RIGHT AT HOME IN HERE.
I SHOULD-- SINCE MANY OF YOUR MEMORIES ARE OBVIOUSLY NEARLY IDENTICAL TO MY OWN.

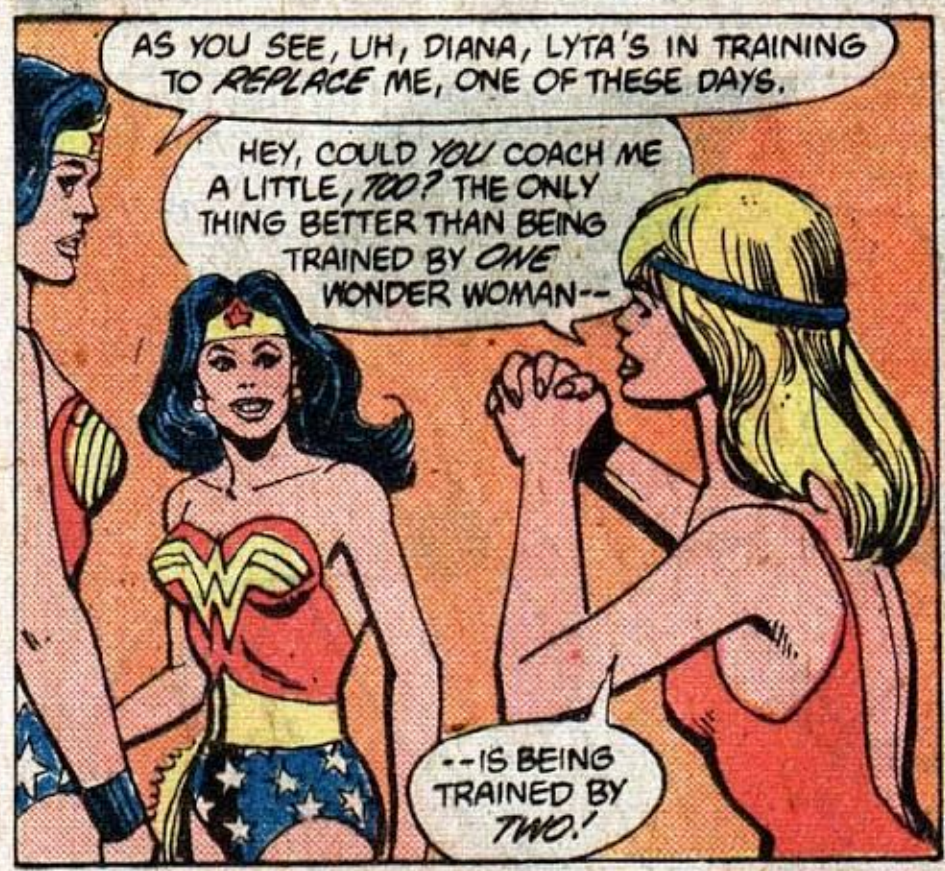
FUNNY! YOUR EARTH'S GREEN LANTERN AND FLASH ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM OURS, YET THE TWO OF US--
OHH!
LOOK OUT!
HEADS UP IN THERE!
KA-BOOM
DON'T WORRY, DIANA! I CAN HANDLE THAT--

--BEACH BALL!?
BY NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT--IT'S NOT RUBBER, AS I THOUGHT, BUT METAL!
THUMP!
IT MUST WEIGH AT LEAST A TON.

YOU OUGHT TO KNOW, MOTHER; YOU GAVE IT TO ME!
SORRY, BUT I WAS TOSSING IT AROUND, AND IT GOT AWAY FROM ME.

HERE, I'LL TAKE IT OFF YOUR HANDS.
WHY, SHE-- SHE'S LIFTING IT--LIKE A FEATHER!


WHY SHOULDN'T I, MOTHER? I-- UH- OH!
EITHER I'M SEEING DOUBLE, OR SOMETHING WEIRD'S GOING ON AROUND HERE!
WONDER WOMAN, MAY WE PRESENT--
--OUR DAUGHTER LYTA.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, LYTA.
YOU MUST BE NAMED FOR YOUR GRANDMOTHER, QUEEN HIPPOLYTA.
UH... MAYBE WE SHOULD EXPLAIN...!
NO NEED! I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT "OTHER EARTH" --AND THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE FROM, RIGHT?
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU--
ON THE BUTTON.
--BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D BE HERE.

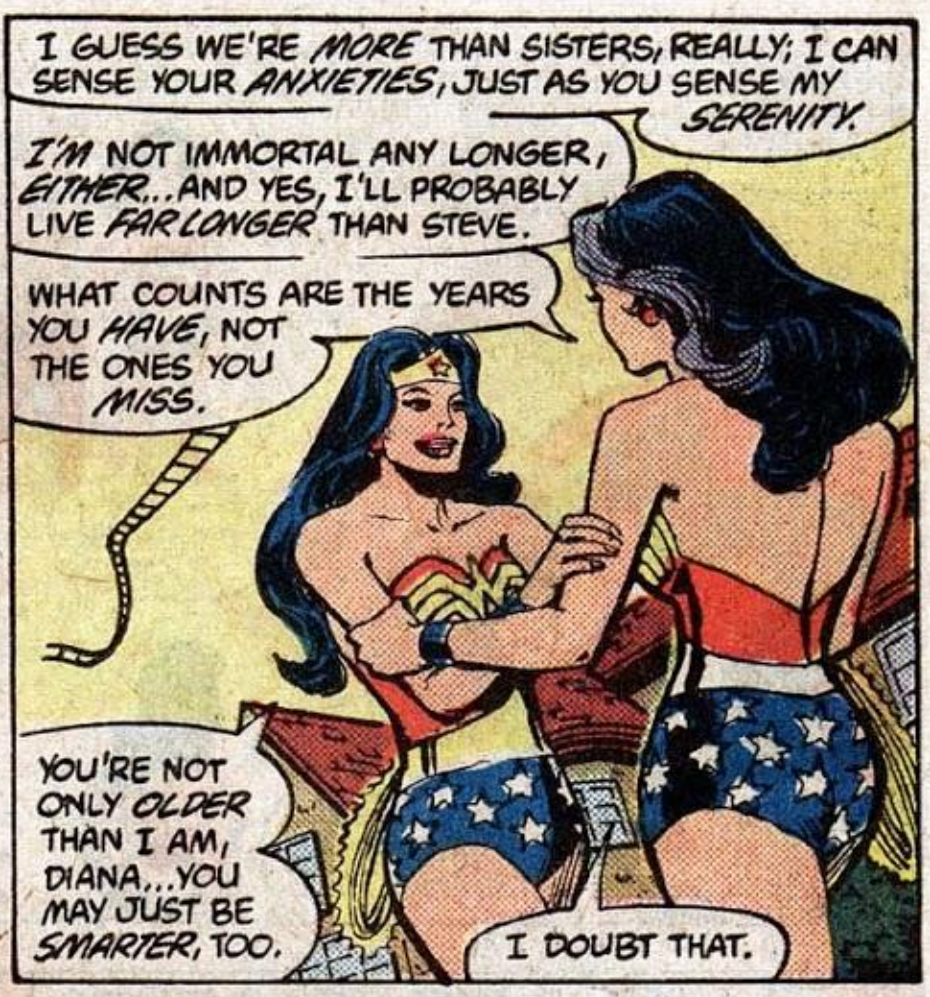

AS YOU SEE, UH, DIANA, LYTA'S IN TRAINING TO REPLACE ME, ONE OF THESE DAYS.
HEY, COULD YOU COACH ME A LITTLE, TOO? THE ONLY THING BETTER THAN BEING TRAINED BY ONE WONDER WOMAN--
--IS BEING TRAINED BY TWO!

I'D BE HONORED TO, LYTA... BUT I CAN'T, TODAY.
AFRAID I'VE GOT A LOT OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS BACK HOME... ONCE I BUM A FREE MEAL, THAT IS.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, MY BEEF WELLINGTON SHOULD BE ABOUT DONE.
YOUR--?

SURE! JUST BECAUSE I SPENT TWO MAJOR WARS AND A POLICE ACTION IN HARNESS--
--DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T HAVE ANY OTHER MARKETABLE SKILLS, DOES IT?
TOUCHÉ!

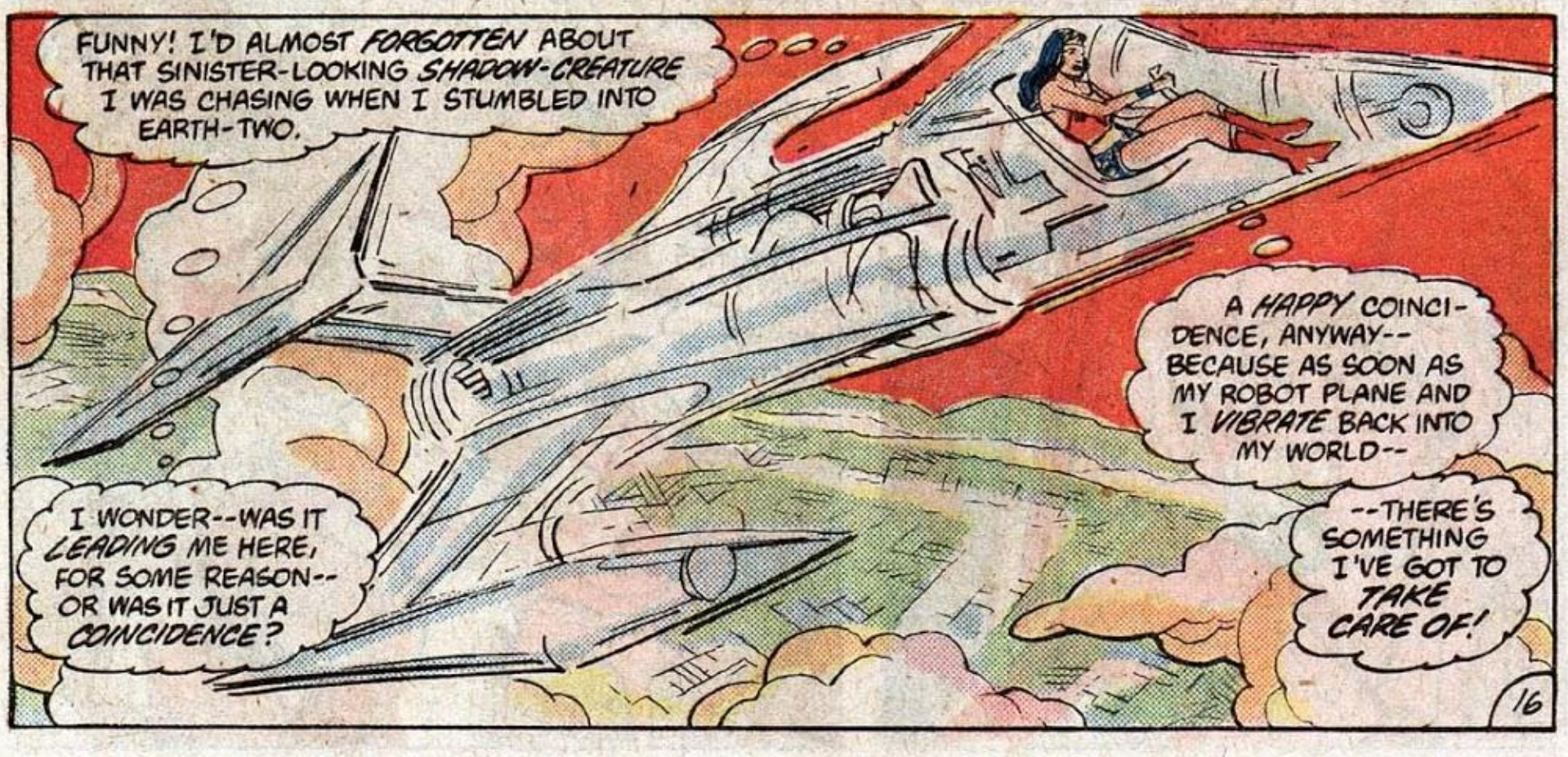
A MARVELOUS MEAL! WATCH YOURSELF, MRS. TREVOR...
...OR I MAY JUST HIJACK YOUR HUSBAND, TO REPLACE ANOTHER GOOD-LOOKING GUY I KNOW.
NOW THEN WE'D HAVE A REAL TWO-WORLD FIGHT ON OUR HANDS, DIANA.
AGE BEFORE BEAUTY, YOU MIGHT SAY.
OR I MIGHT NOT.

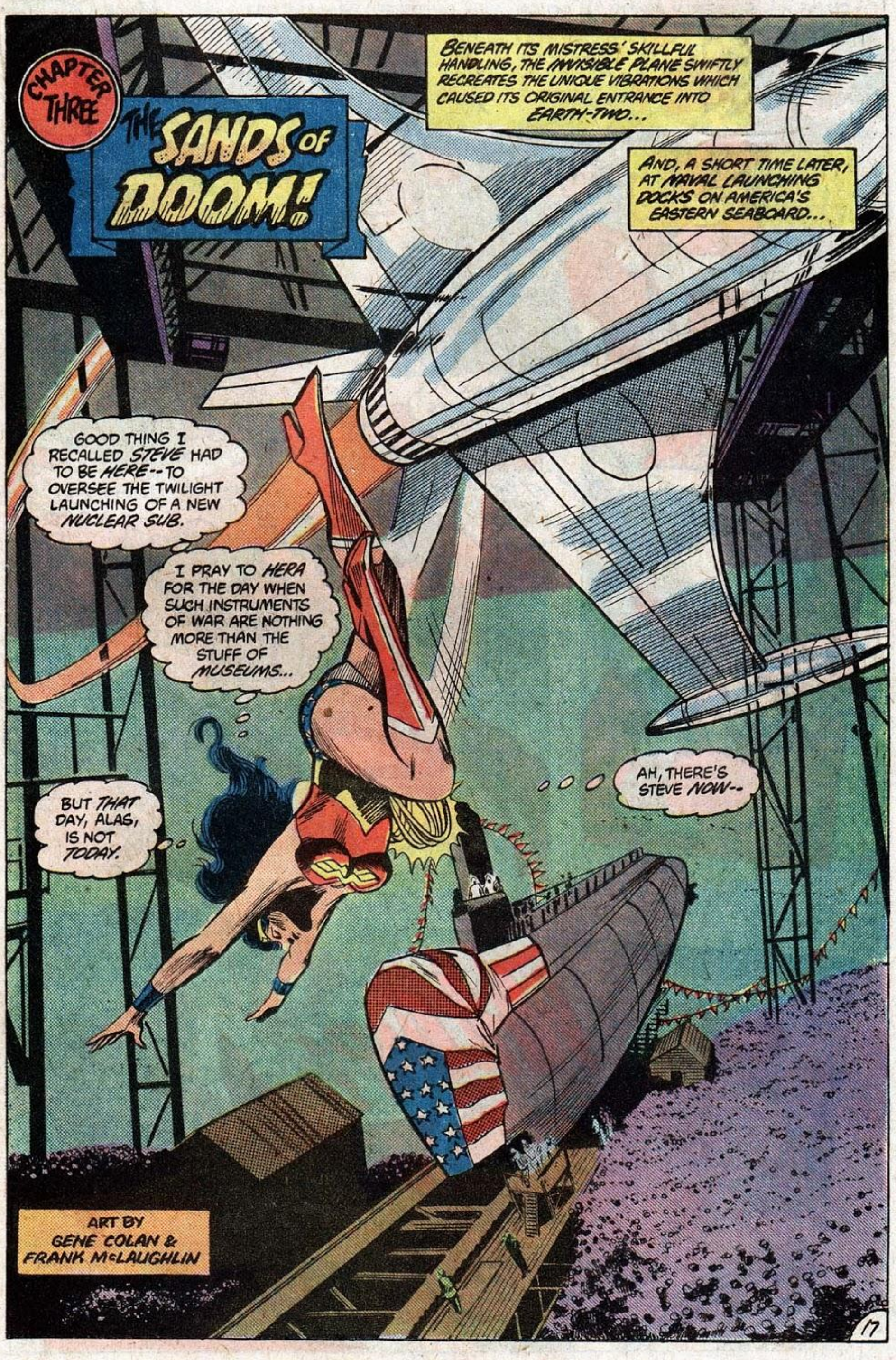
ONE SUMPTUOUS REPAST LATER...
YOU ALL SEEM SO HAPPY TOGETHER, DIANA...EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE AGING AT--UH--
--AT ROUGHLY HALF THE RATE STEVE IS... IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN?
'BYE, DIANA! SAFE JOURNEY HOME!
AND COME BACK SOON, OKAY?
WILL DO!
WELL... YES.


I GUESS WE'RE MORE THAN SISTERS, REALLY; I CAN SENSE YOUR ANXIETIES, JUST AS YOU SENSE MY SERENITY.
I'M NOT IMMORTAL ANY LONGER, EITHER...AND YES, I'LL PROBABLY LIVE FAR LONGER THAN STEVE.
WHAT COUNTS ARE THE YEARS YOU HAVE, NOT THE ONES YOU MISS.
YOU'RE NOT ONLY OLDER THAN I AM, DIANA...YOU MAY JUST BE SMARTER, TOO.
I DOUBT THAT.

JUST REMEMBER--YOUR WAY TO HAPPINESS MAY NOT BE THE SAME AS MINE...
BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
IF LOVE ISN'T IMMORTAL... THEN NOTHING IS.
AS LYTA SAID--COME BACK SOON!

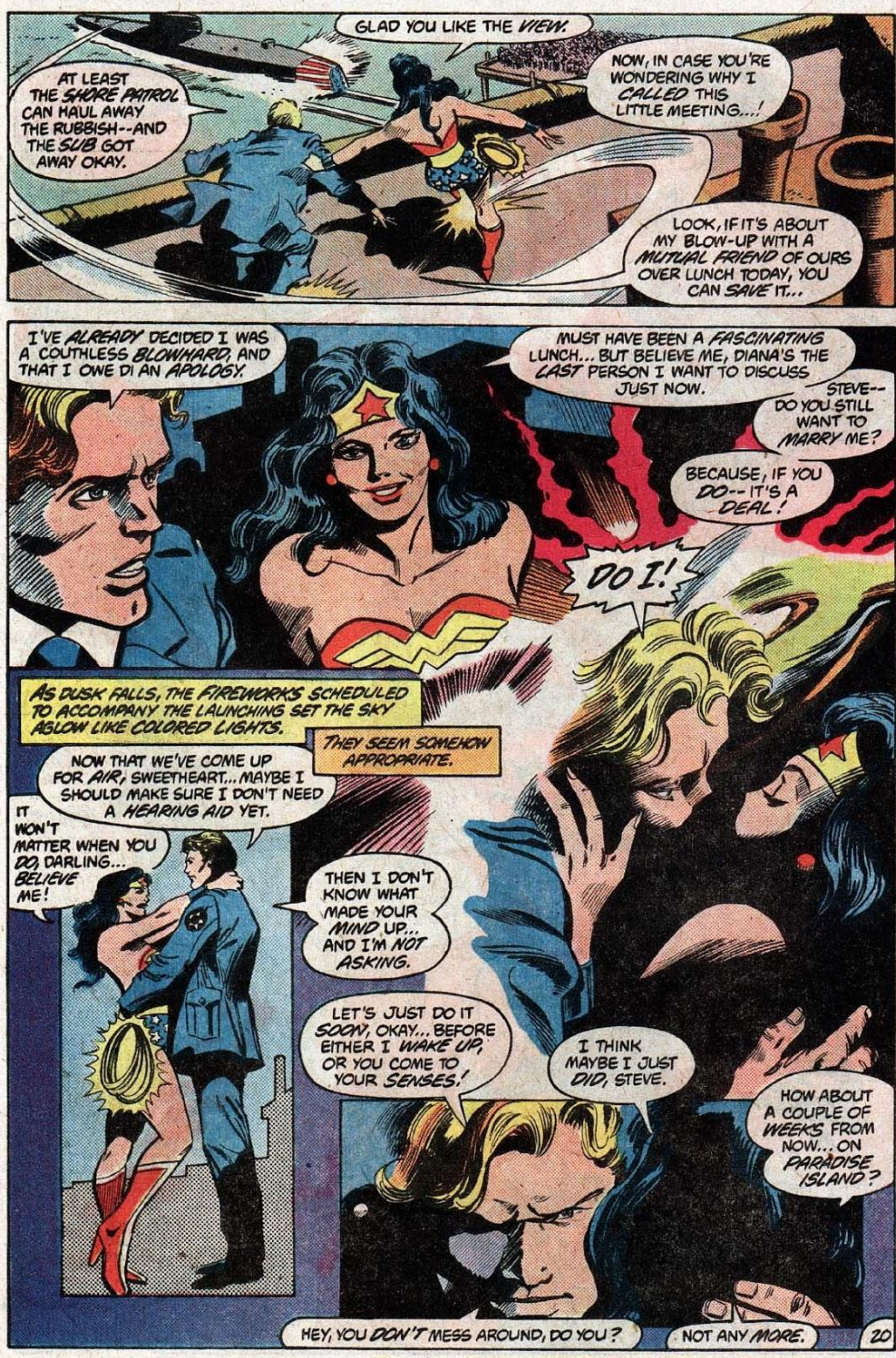
I'LL TRY, DIANA--AND THANKS!
THIS LITTLE SIDE-TRIP MAY BE THE BEST THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME--SINCE I MET MY STEVE TREVOR, A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK.


FUNNY! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT SINISTER-LOOKING SHADOW-CREATURE I WAS CHASING WHEN I STUMBLED INTO EARTH-TWO.
A HAPPY COINCIDENCE, ANYWAY--BECAUSE AS SOON AS MY ROBOT PLANE AND I VIBRATE BACK INTO MY WORLD--
I WONDER--WAS IT LEADING ME HERE, FOR SOME REASON--OR WAS IT JUST A COINCIDENCE?
--THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF!


CHAPTER THREE
THE SANDS OF DOOM!
BENEATH ITS MISTRESS' SKILLFUL HANDLING, THE INVISIBLE PLANE SWIFTLY RECREATES THE UNIQUE VIBRATIONS WHICH CAUSED ITS ORIGINAL ENTRANCE INTO EARTH-TWO...
AND, A SHORT TIME LATER, AT NAVAL LAUNCHING DOCKS ON AMERICA'S EASTERN SEABOARD...
GOOD THING I RECALLED STEVE HAD TO BE HERE--TO OVERSEE THE TWILIGHT LAUNCHING OF A NEW NUCLEAR SUB.
I PRAY TO HERA FOR THE DAY WHEN SUCH INSTRUMENTS OF WAR ARE NOTHING MORE THAN THE STUFF OF MUSEUMS...
BUT THAT DAY, ALAS, IS NOT TODAY.
AH, THERE'S STEVE NOW--
ART BY GENE COLAN & FRANK McLAUGHLIN

"...DOING HIS SOLDIERLY DUTY!"
GO ON, MRS. VANDERFELLER--GIVE HER A GOOD WHACK!
"I CHRISTEN THEE, THE U.S.S. POLYPHEMUS..."
OTHER EYES UPON THE PROCEEDINGS, HOWEVER...
...ARE DECIDEDLY LESS FRIENDLY THAN WONDER WOMAN'S:
;UNNNH!;
BLAM
SOMEONE'S SHOT THAT SHORE PATROLMAN!
HIT THE DIRT, EVERYBODY!
TERRORISTS!
THAT FOOL TOOK THE SHOT MEANT FOR YOU, TREVOR!
YOU'RE NOT ATTENDING ANY ARMS TALKS IN MEXICO--THIS YEAR OR ANY OTHER!
WHUMP!
THANKS FOR TELEGRAPHING JUST WHICH PARTICULAR KIND OF TERRORIST YOU ARE, FRIEND.
IT'S SO HARD TO TELL YOU BOYS APART THESE DAYS, WITHOUT A GUEST LIST.
WONDER WOMMMMFF!

YOU'RE ALWAYS A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES, ANGEL--
SOCK!
--BUT NEVER MORE THAN RIGHT NOW!
LET'S TAKE CARE OF THESE PARTY-CRASHERS TOGETHER, OKAY?
THEY'RE TAKEN CARE OF.
THERE WERE ONLY TWO OF THEM, AFTER ALL.
SMACK
HEY, THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN WASTE AN ATTEMPT AT FRIENDLY PERSUASION OR YOUR MAGIC LASSO ON THEM.
BUT HOW COME YOU--?
YEEEOWW!
SHISSSH
WE'VE GOT THINGS TO TALK OVER, STEVE... BEFORE I START GETTING ALL INTROSPECTIVE, AND CHANGE MY MIND.


GLAD YOU LIKE THE VIEW.
AT LEAST THE SHORE PATROL CAN HAUL AWAY THE RUBBISH--AND THE SUB GOT AWAY OKAY.
NOW, IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I CALLED THIS LITTLE MEETING...!
LOOK, IF IT'S ABOUT MY BLOW-UP WITH A MUTUAL FRIEND OF OURS OVER LUNCH TODAY, YOU CAN SAVE IT...
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED I WAS A COUTHLESS BLOWHARD, AND THAT I OWE DI AN APOLOGY.
MUST HAVE BEEN A FASCINATING LUNCH... BUT BELIEVE ME, DIANA'S THE LAST PERSON I WANT TO DISCUSS JUST NOW.
STEVE-- DO YOU STILL WANT TO MARRY ME?
BECAUSE, IF YOU DO-- IT'S A DEAL!
DO I!
AS DUSK FALLS, THE FIREWORKS SCHEDULED TO ACCOMPANY THE LAUNCHING SET THE SKY AGLOW LIKE COLORED LIGHTS.
THEY SEEM SOMEHOW APPROPRIATE.
NOW THAT WE'VE COME UP FOR AIR, SWEETHEART... MAYBE I SHOULD MAKE SURE I DON'T NEED A HEARING AID YET.
IT WON'T MATTER WHEN YOU DO, DARLING... BELIEVE ME!
THEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT MADE YOUR MIND UP... AND I'M NOT ASKING.
LET'S JUST DO IT SOON, OKAY... BEFORE EITHER I WAKE UP, OR YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES!
I THINK MAYBE I JUST DID, STEVE.
HOW ABOUT A COUPLE OF WEEKS FROM NOW... ON PARADISE ISLAND?
HEY, YOU DON'T MESS AROUND, DO YOU?
NOT ANY MORE.

THEN IT'S *SETTLED*...IF YOU CAN FIGURE A WAY FOR ME TO *SET FOOT* ON YOUR LITTLE ISLAND, WITHOUT TURNING INTO A *FROG*, OR WHATEVER'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.

I'LL *WORK* ON IT, WHILE YOU'RE IN *MEXICO CITY*.

AND BY THE WAY--I *LOVE* YOU!

AND I LOVE *YOU*, LADY--TODAY, MAYBE MORE THAN *EVER*!

TWO DAYS LATER, THE CONVERSATION ON BOARD A CERTAIN MILITARY JET, SOUTHBOUND FROM OUR NATION'S BUSTLING CAPITAL, TOUCHES RATHER LESS THAN IT ORDINARILY WOULD UPON THE FORTHCOMING AND VITAL ARMS CONFERENCE...

...YEP, THAT'S JUST HOW IT *HAPPENED*, GENERAL DARNELL.

AFTER HELPING ME TAKE OUT THOSE TWO *TERRORISTS*, WONDER WOMAN SWEPT ME OFF MY *FEET*--BUT *LITERALLY*.

EVERYTHING'S *SET*--AND NOW THAT I'VE REMOVED MY BIG *FOOT* FROM MY MOUTH, LT. PRI--I MEAN, *COLONEL PRINCE* HAS EVEN AGREED TO BE HER *MAID OF HONOR*.

BELIEVE ME, STEVE, NOTHING COULD MAKE ME *HAPPIER* THAN TO SEE YOU MARRY WONDER WOMAN.

THANKS, DI. I *APPRECIATE* THAT.

I JUST WISH WE'D CAUGHT *MORE* OF THAT TERRORIST GROUP THAT'S SWORN TO *SABOTAGE* THESE ARMS TALKS...!

OH, *FORGET* THEM, COLONEL--AND *CONGRATS* AGAIN, FROM ME *PERSONALLY*!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO *TIE THE KNOT*, YOU MIGHT AS WELL PICK A GIRL WITH HER OWN *LASSO*, HEY?

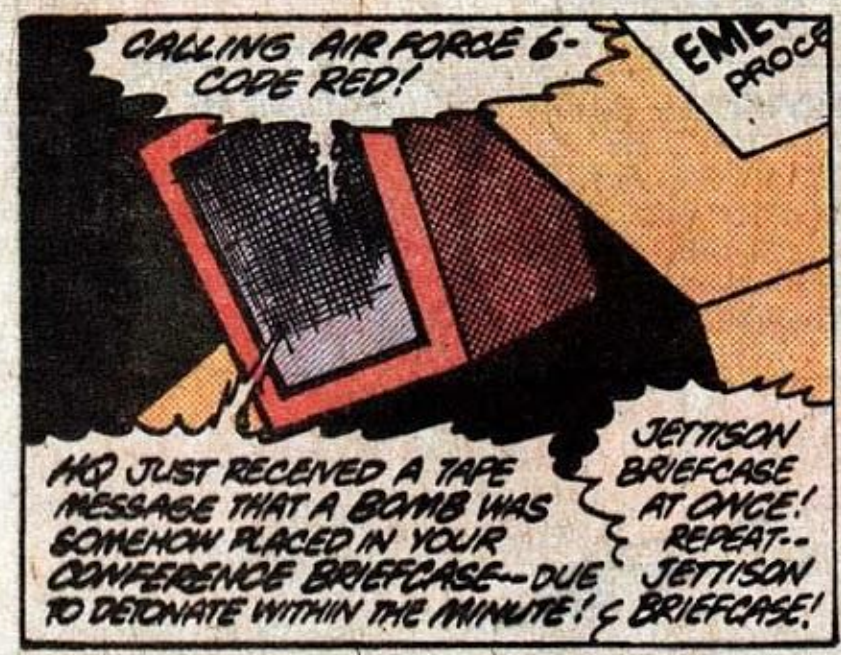
UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, I'D JUST HOPE THE GENERAL *FORGETS* THAT LITTLE JOKE, BEFORE HE GIVES HIS *WEDDING TOAST*...

...BUT IN THIS CASE, I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE IN THE *MOOD* FOR FRIVOLITY SO SOON AFTER--WHAT MUST BE *DONE*.

HEY, DI--WANNA READ THE *PAPER*?

I MEAN, I KNOW IT'D BE DIFFICULT WITH THAT BRIEFCASE FULL OF TOP-SECRET PAPERS HANDCUFFED TO YOUR WRIST, BUT--
NO, ETTA... I THINK I'LL READ AND HEAR QUITE ENOUGH ABOUT THIS WEDDING BEFORE IT'S OVER WITH, THANKS.
WASHINGTON WORLD
WEDDING BELLS FOR
ONDER WOMAN?

NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE THE DIANA PRINCE I'VE KNOWN FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.
I THOUGHT SHE ACTED A BIT TOO THRILLED WHEN I TOLD HER THE NEWS.
WELL, MAYBE SHE'LL FIND SOMEBODY OF HER OWN WHO'LL--


CALLING AIR FORCE 6- CODE RED!
EME PROC
HQ JUST RECEIVED A TAPE MESSAGE THAT A BOMB WAS SOMEHOW PLACED IN YOUR CONFERENCE BRIEFCASE--DUE TO DETONATE WITHIN THE MINUTE!
JETTISON BRIEFCASE AT ONCE! REPEAT-- JETTISON BRIEFCASE!

BUT--I'M HANDCUFFED TO IT!

DON'T WORRY, DI! WE'LL--
THERE'S NO TIME!
WAIT! WHAT'RE YOU--?

"GOOD LORD! SH-SHE GRABBED THAT 'CHUTE-- AND DIVED OUT!

"BUT--THE PARACHUTE'S NOT OPENING!"

ANOTHER MOMENT, HOWEVER...

...AND THAT FACT HARDLY MATTERS, DOES IT...?
BLAMM

THE ARMS CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY, BY MUTUAL CONSENT, IS POSTPONED A FEW DAYS, WHILE THE WORLD ARMAMENT RACE GOES FORWARD AS PLANNED... AND, NOT MANY NIGHTS AFTERWARD, A MEMORIAL SERVICE IS HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FOR A SOLDIER FALLEN IN BATTLE:

...LOST A GOOD AMERICAN THAT DAY... A WOMAN WHO KNEW THE TERRIBLE RISKS SHE TOOK, YET WOULD NOT BE SWAYED FROM HER DUTY, AS SHE SAW IT.

A FEW OF COLONEL PRINCE'S CLOSEST FRIENDS WILL EACH SAY A FEW WORDS NOW... WORDS BY WHICH WE MAY REMEMBER HER...!

W-WE ALL LOVED DIANA -- IN OUR OWN WAYS.

IF ONLY I'D NEVER LET HER STRAP THAT THING ON HER OWN WRIST, SHE'D STILL--

EASY, GENERAL... DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.

DI WAS...MY BEST FRIEND. SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FAMILY... NONE I'VE EVER HEARD OF ANYWAY...

...JUST US.

COLONEL TREVOR...?

I'M... SORRY. I THOUGHT... I COULD SAY SOMETHING... BUT I CAN'T.

I WANT TO... BUT I CAN'T.

THEN, IF THERE ARE NO FURTHER SPEAKERS, WE WILL CLOSE WITH A READING FROM--

I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS, REVEREND.

EH? W-WONDER WOMAN!?

I APOLOGIZE FOR ARRIVING SO LATE, MY FRIENDS.

I DIDN'T BELIEVE I COULD BRING MYSELF TO BE HERE TONIGHT... BUT AT THE LAST MOMENT, I JUST COULDN'T STAY AWAY.

IN MANY WAYS, I THINK I KNEW DIANA ...EVEN BETTER THAN ANY OF YOU DID...

...AND I'LL MISS HER.

DIANA AND I COULD NOT HAVE BEEN CLOSER... IF WE'D BEEN *SISTERS*.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT SHE *LOVED* YOU ALL, VERY MUCH...

...AND SHE'D WANT *THAT*, RATHER THAN FLOWERS AND TEARS, TO BE HER *LEGACY* ON THIS TROUBLED PLANET.

THAT WAS A *BEAUTIFUL* TRIBUTE, ANGEL! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU AND DI WERE *THAT* TIGHT.

LOOK, DO YOU THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD *POSTPONE* OUR WEDDING, BECAUSE OF--?

NO, STEVE. SHE WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED US TO DO THAT.

I THINK SHE'S *RIGHT*, COLONEL.

I GUESS YOU TWO... BOTH KNEW DIANA A LOT BETTER THAN *I* EVER DID, SO...

WELL, I'M GOING FOR A *WALK* BY MYSELF, ANGEL.

I'LL SEE YOU LATER TONIGHT-- BEFORE I LEAVE FOR THE *CONFERENCE* TOMORROW.

FINE, DARLING.

IT BREAKS MY *HEART* TO HAVE CAUSED SUCH WONDERFUL FRIENDS... SO MUCH *SADNESS*.

I SUPPOSE I JUST NEVER THOUGHT DIANA'S "*DEATH*" WOULD HIT SO MANY PEOPLE SO *HARD*...

...ESPECIALLY MY OWN *FIANCEE*, WHO ALWAYS PAID ABOUT AS MUCH ATTENTION TO LT. PRINCE AS HE DID TO A *HERTZ-RENT-A-CAR*.

WHAT? I THOUGHT EVERYONE HAD *LEFT*.

WHO'S THAT?

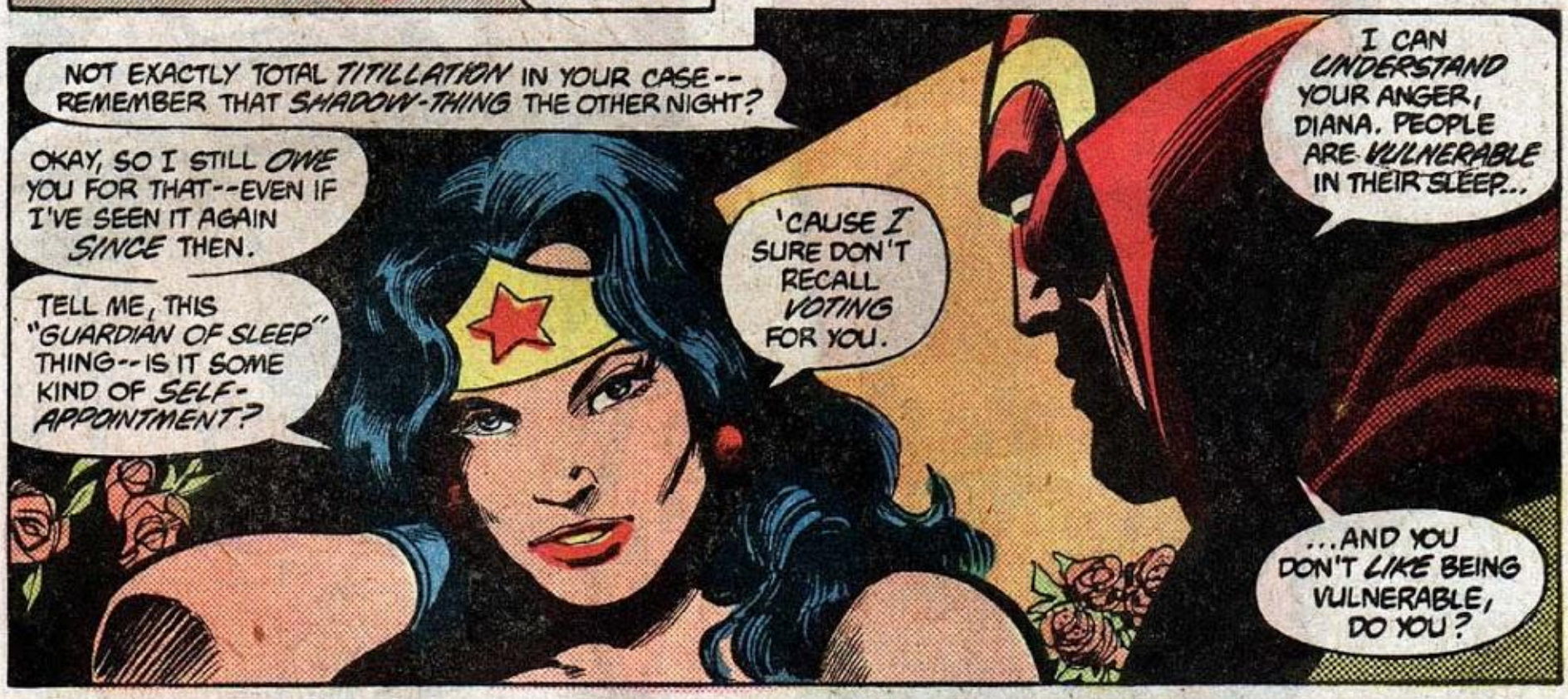
JUST A *FRIEND*... COME TO PAY HIS LAST RESPECTS.

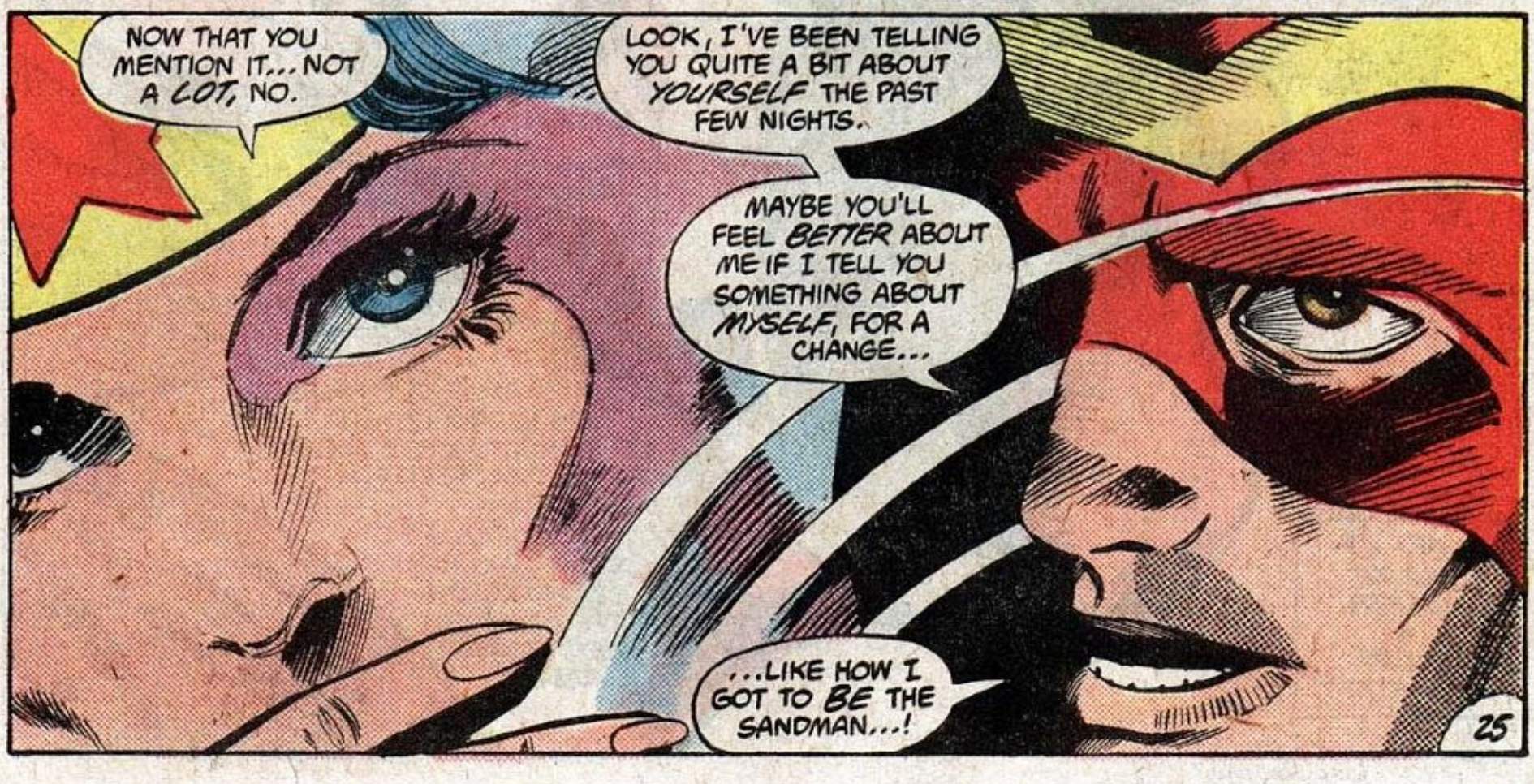
IN FACT, YOU MIGHT SAY I COULDN'T RESIST SHOWING UP TO JUDGE THE *QUICK*... AND THE *DEAD*.

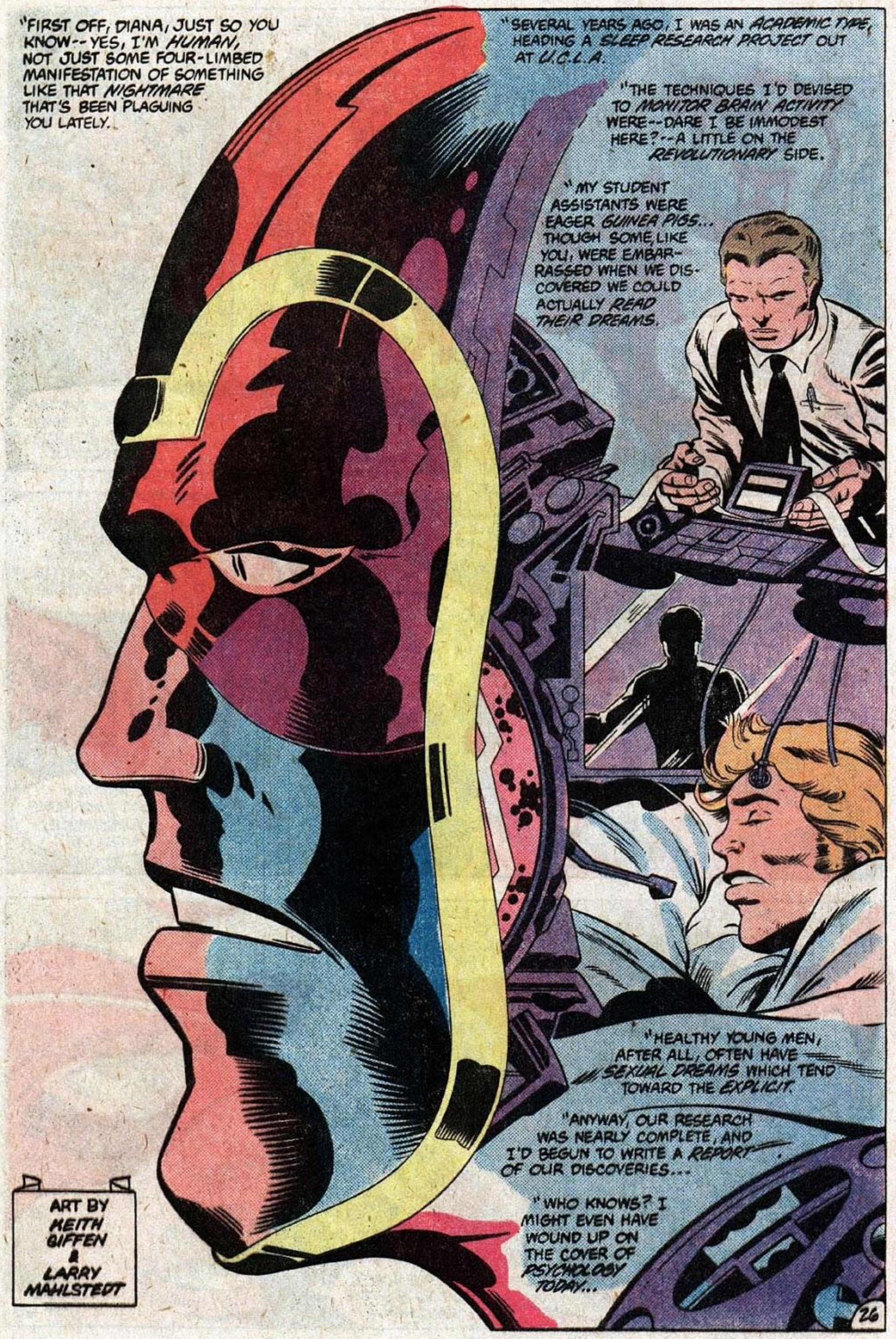
ESPECIALLY SINCE, IN THIS CASE, THEY'RE THE *SAME PERSON*.

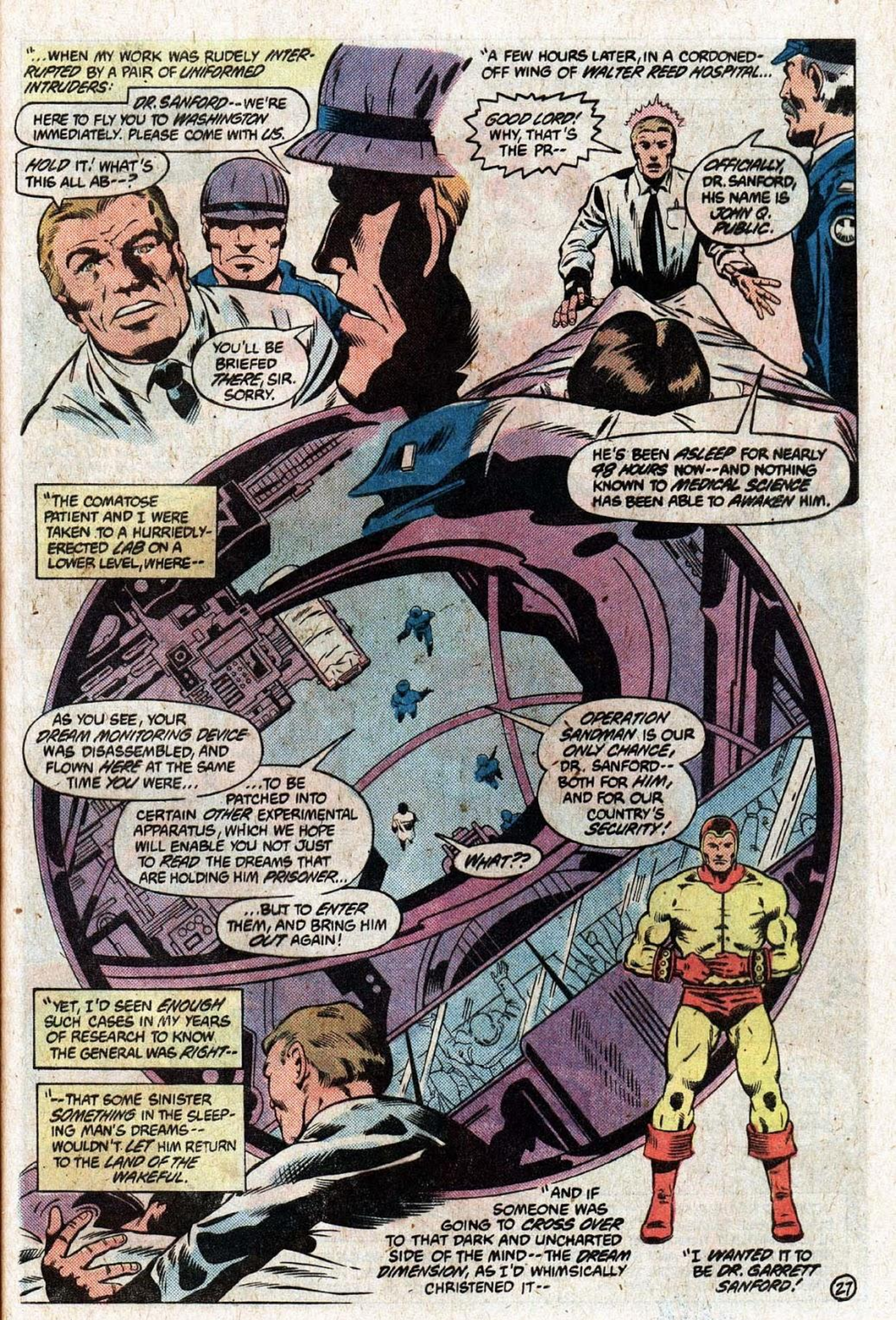
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALK--OH! SANDMAN!
YOU DON'T HAVE A LOCK ON THE SECRET IDENTITY BIT, DIANA.
HARDLY! BUT WHO TOLD YOU THAT FAIRYTALE ABOUT DIANA PRINCE AND ME BEING ONE AND THE SAME?

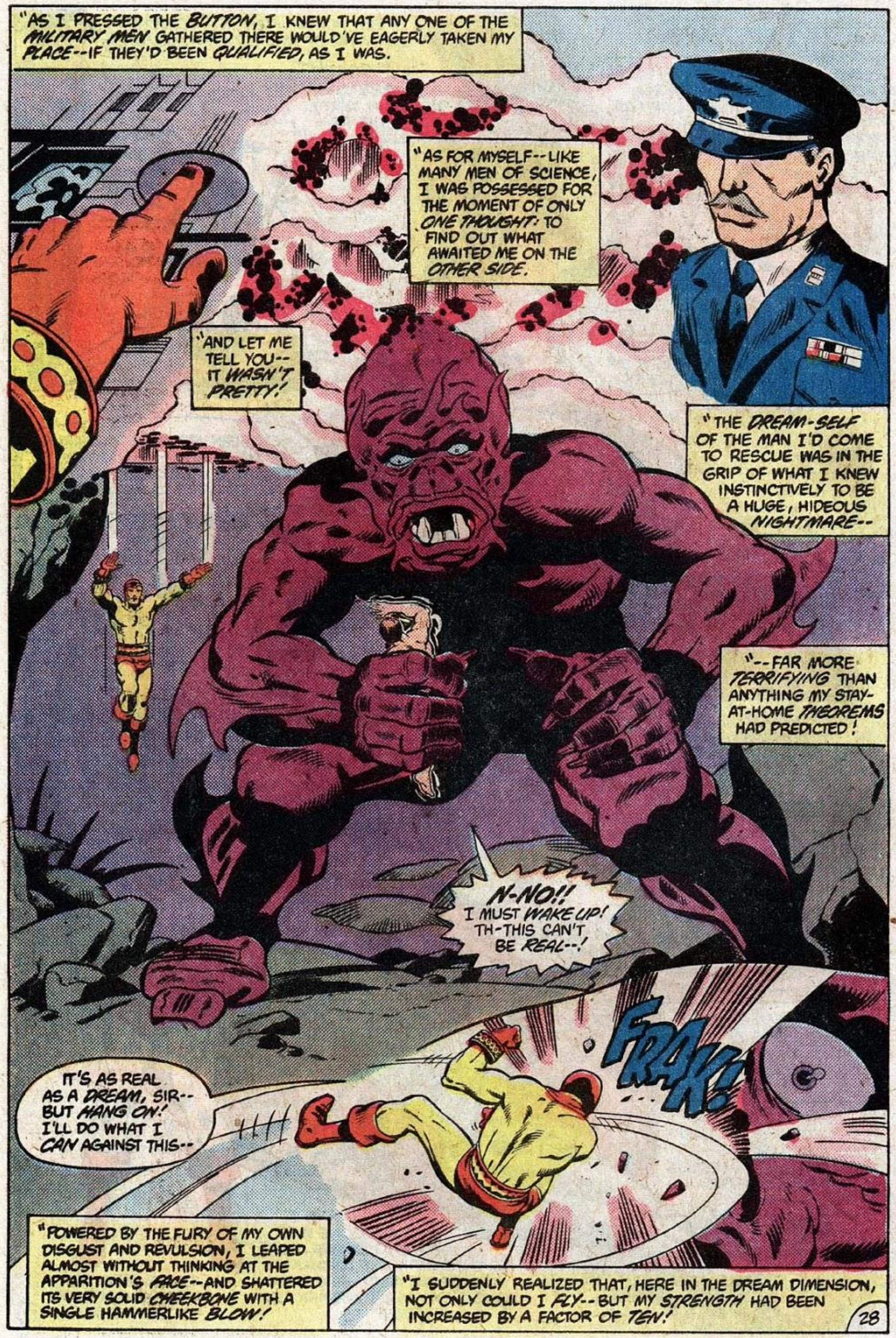
YOU DID! YOU MAY BE GREAT AT KEEPING SECRETS WHILE YOU'RE AWAKE, BUT ASLEEP-- FORGET IT!
THEN THAT LINE YOU HANDED ME ABOUT WATCHING MY DREAMS-- WAS TRUE!?
ALL IN THE LINE OF DUTY, GORGEOUS, FOR THE GUARDIAN OF SLEEP.
SOME DUTY! PUTTING A WIRETAP ON OTHER PEOPLE'S PRIVATE SUBCONSCIOUS!


NOT EXACTLY TOTAL TITILLATION IN YOUR CASE-- REMEMBER THAT SHADOW-THING THE OTHER NIGHT?
OKAY, SO I STILL OWE YOU FOR THAT--EVEN IF I'VE SEEN IT AGAIN SINCE THEN.
TELL ME, THIS "GUARDIAN OF SLEEP" THING--IS IT SOME KIND OF SELF-APPOINTMENT?
'CAUSE I SURE DON'T RECALL VOTING FOR YOU.
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR ANGER, DIANA. PEOPLE ARE VULNERABLE IN THEIR SLEEP...
...AND YOU DON'T LIKE BEING VULNERABLE, DO YOU?


NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... NOT A LOT, NO.
LOOK, I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU QUITE A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF THE PAST FEW NIGHTS.
MAYBE YOU'LL FEEL BETTER ABOUT ME IF I TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT MYSELF, FOR A CHANGE...
...LIKE HOW I GOT TO BE THE SANDMAN...!


"FIRST OFF, DIANA, JUST SO YOU KNOW--YES, I'M HUMAN, NOT JUST SOME FOUR-LIMBED MANIFESTATION OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT NIGHTMARE THAT'S BEEN PLAGUING YOU LATELY.
"SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I WAS AN ACADEMIC TYPE, HEADING A SLEEP RESEARCH PROJECT OUT AT U.C.L.A.
"THE TECHNIQUES I'D DEVISED TO MONITOR BRAIN ACTIVITY WERE--DARE I BE IMMODEST HERE?--A LITTLE ON THE REVOLUTIONARY SIDE.
"MY STUDENT ASSISTANTS WERE EAGER GUINEA PIGS... THOUGH SOME, LIKE YOU, WERE EMBARRASSED WHEN WE DISCOVERED WE COULD ACTUALLY READ THEIR DREAMS.
"HEALTHY YOUNG MEN, AFTER ALL, OFTEN HAVE SEXUAL DREAMS WHICH TEND TOWARD THE EXPLICIT.
"ANYWAY, OUR RESEARCH WAS NEARLY COMPLETE, AND I'D BEGUN TO WRITE A REPORT OF OUR DISCOVERIES...
"WHO KNOWS? I MIGHT EVEN HAVE WOUND UP ON THE COVER OF PSYCHOLOGY TODAY...
ART BY KEITH GIFFEN & LARRY MAHLSTEDT
26


"...WHEN MY WORK WAS RUDELY INTERRUPTED BY A PAIR OF UNIFORMED INTRUDERS:
DR. SANFORD--WE'RE HERE TO FLY YOU TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY. PLEASE COME WITH US.
HOLD IT! WHAT'S THIS ALL AB--?
YOU'LL BE BRIEFED THERE, SIR. SORRY.
"A FEW HOURS LATER, IN A CORDONED-OFF WING OF WALTER REED HOSPITAL...
GOOD LORD! WHY, THAT'S THE PR--
OFFICIALLY, DR. SANFORD, HIS NAME IS JOHN Q. PUBLIC.
HE'S BEEN ASLEEP FOR NEARLY 48 HOURS NOW--AND NOTHING KNOWN TO MEDICAL SCIENCE HAS BEEN ABLE TO AWAKEN HIM.
"THE COMATOSE PATIENT AND I WERE TAKEN TO A HURRIEDLY-ERECTED LAB ON A LOWER LEVEL, WHERE--
AS YOU SEE, YOUR DREAM MONITORING DEVICE WAS DISASSEMBLED, AND FLOWN HERE AT THE SAME TIME YOU WERE...
...TO BE PATCHED INTO CERTAIN OTHER EXPERIMENTAL APPARATUS, WHICH WE HOPE WILL ENABLE YOU NOT JUST TO READ THE DREAMS THAT ARE HOLDING HIM PRISONER...
...BUT TO ENTER THEM, AND BRING HIM OUT AGAIN!
OPERATION SANDMAN IS OUR ONLY CHANCE, DR. SANFORD--BOTH FOR HIM, AND FOR OUR COUNTRY'S SECURITY!
WHAT??
"YET, I'D SEEN ENOUGH SUCH CASES IN MY YEARS OF RESEARCH TO KNOW THE GENERAL WAS RIGHT--
"--THAT SOME SINISTER SOMETHING IN THE SLEEPING MAN'S DREAMS--WOULDN'T LET HIM RETURN TO THE LAND OF THE WAKEFUL.
"AND IF SOMEONE WAS GOING TO CROSS OVER TO THAT DARK AND UNCHARTED SIDE OF THE MIND--THE DREAM DIMENSION, AS I'D WHIMSICALLY CHRISTENED IT--
"I WANTED IT TO BE DR. GARRETT SANFORD!


"AS I PRESSED THE BUTTON, I KNEW THAT ANY ONE OF THE MILITARY MEN GATHERED THERE WOULD'VE EAGERLY TAKEN MY PLACE--IF THEY'D BEEN QUALIFIED, AS I WAS.
"AS FOR MYSELF--LIKE MANY MEN OF SCIENCE, I WAS POSSESSED FOR THE MOMENT OF ONLY ONE THOUGHT: TO FIND OUT WHAT AWAITED ME ON THE OTHER SIDE.
"AND LET ME TELL YOU--IT WASN'T PRETTY!
"THE DREAM-SELF OF THE MAN I'D COME TO RESCUE WAS IN THE GRIP OF WHAT I KNEW INSTINCTIVELY TO BE A HUGE, HIDEOUS NIGHTMARE--
"--FAR MORE TERRIFYING THAN ANYTHING MY STAY-AT-HOME THEOREMS HAD PREDICTED!
N-NO!! I MUST WAKE UP! TH-THIS CAN'T BE REAL--!
IT'S AS REAL AS A DREAM, SIR--BUT HANG ON! I'LL DO WHAT I CAN AGAINST THIS--
FRAK!
"POWERED BY THE FURY OF MY OWN DISGUST AND REVULSION, I LEAPED ALMOST WITHOUT THINKING AT THE APPARITION'S FACE--AND SHATTERED ITS VERY SOLID CHEEKBONE WITH A SINGLE HAMMERLIKE BLOW!
"I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT, HERE IN THE DREAM DIMENSION, NOT ONLY COULD I FLY--BUT MY STRENGTH HAD BEEN INCREASED BY A FACTOR OF TEN!

"THUS WAS I REBORN, INTO A WORLD I COULD NEVER LEAVE.
"LATER, WITH THE DREAM MONITOR SENT IN TO ME, I DECIDED TO USE IT TO HELP HUMANKIND, BY KEEPING TABS ON WHAT MOVIE-MAKERS USED TO CALL 'MONSTERS FROM THE ID.'
"HECK, I EVEN CHRISTENED MYSELF THE SANDMAN AFTER BOTH THE PROJECT AND AN OLD COMIC-BOOK HERO.
"LIKE A WILD MAN, I BUZZED ABOUT--
"--PUMMELING THE NIGHT-MARISH CREATURE, TILL ABRUPTLY, ITS HUMAN PREY VANISHED FROM ITS MASSIVE FIST--
WOMP!
"IF A GUY'S GONNA SPEND A LIFETIME OF DREAMS IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, HE MIGHT AS WELL PLAY OUT A FEW FANTASIES OF HIS OWN, RIGHT?
"--TO REAPPEAR, I KNEW, IN THAT HOSPITAL, A HEARTBEAT--AND A WORLD--AWAY:
THANK THE LORD! Y-YOU'RE BACK, SIR!
YES, BUT--THE MAN WHO SAVED ME--!?
I'M AFRAID--PHYSICALLY ENTERING THE DREAM DIMENSION IS STILL A ONE-WAY STREET, SIR.
WE CAN SEND HIS DREAM MONITOR AFTER HIM--FOR WHATEVER GOOD IT MAY DO HIM THERE--BUT HE CAN NEVER RETURN.
OPERATION SANDMAN WAS A SUCCESS--YET IT MUST REMAIN TOP SECRET, AND DR. SANFORD'S "DISAPPEARANCE" MUST REMAIN FOREVER OFFICIALLY UNSOLVED!

EVENTUALLY, I EVEN FOUND A WAY TO *RETURN* TO THIS SO-CALLED "*REAL*" WORLD, IF ONLY FOR AN *HOUR* AT A TIME--

--AND *ONE GLIMPSE* OF YOU IN THE FLESH THE OTHER NIGHT CONVINCED ME THAT ONE THING MY DREAM-WORLD *LACKS*--

--IS *YOU!*

I'M A *PERSON*, SANDMAN--NOT A *THING*.

HOLD ON--!

LOOK, I DON'T WANT TO *HURT* YOU--BUT YOU KNOW I'M MARRYING *STEVE*, AND EVEN IF YOU REVEAL MY *DECEPTION* TO HIM--

YOU MISUNDERSTAND, DIANA. I DON'T WANT TO *OWN* YOU...OR *HURT* YOU!

I...*LOVE* YOU!

I'M... *SORRY!* I FEEL *GRATITUDE* TO YOU... AND *SORROW*... BUT NOT *THAT*.

THEN I'LL GO-- BUT REMEMBER, I SEE YOUR *DREAMS*.

I KNOW YOUR *SLEEP* OF LATE IS *RESTLESS* WITH THE DECISION YOU MADE... AND *FEARFUL* THAT MAYBE, JUST *MAYBE*, STEVE TREVOR *ISN'T FOR YOU!*

BY THE WAY, DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU DON'T SEE THAT *SHADOW-THING* AGAIN; THAT SPECIES CAN APPEAR JUST WHEN *LEAST EXPECTED*.

IF IT DOES... I'LL BE *AROUND*.

THAT SOUNDS ALMOST LIKE A *THREAT!*

NO USE PRETENDING HE'S *WRONG*--BUT IT'S *NORMAL* TO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT *ANY* FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE, THEY SAY.

I WON'T LET *ANYTHING* DISTRACT ME FROM MY WEDDING PLANS--AND THE HAPPINESS OF A REUNION WITH MY *MOTHER* AND MY *FRIENDS* ON *PARADISE ISLAND*...!

SOON, AMID THE BRIGHTENING DAWN, WONDER WOMAN RELAXES IN THE HOME OF HER YOUTH, AS THE FIRST WEDDING GIFTS ARE PLACED BEFORE THE BEAMING BRIDE-TO-BE...

A WEDDING *HERE* WILL BE MOST *UNUSUAL*, MY DAUGHTER.

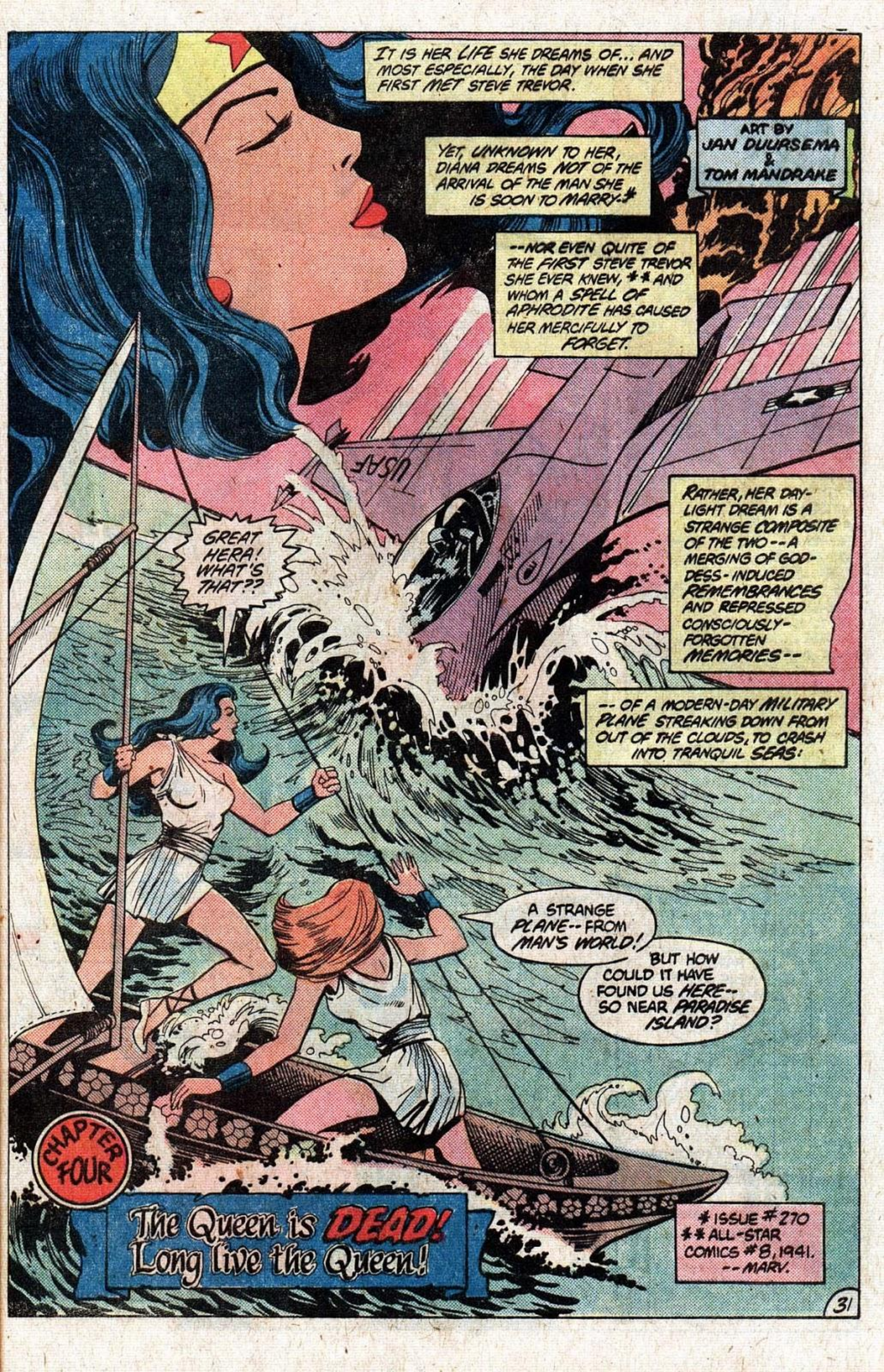
I KNOW, MOTHER.

BUT ALL SHALL BE DONE PROPERLY, ACCORDING TO *AMAZON LAW*.

SOON, REALIZING THE PRINCESS IS FAR TOO EXHAUSTED FOR CONVERSATION, QUEEN HIPPOLYTA SEES TO IT THAT SHE IS LEFT ALONE AND UNDISTURBED...

...TO FALL ASLEEP, ERE LONG, UPON HER MOTHER'S PILLOWED THRONE.

BUT HERS IS A MOST UNEASY SLEEP.

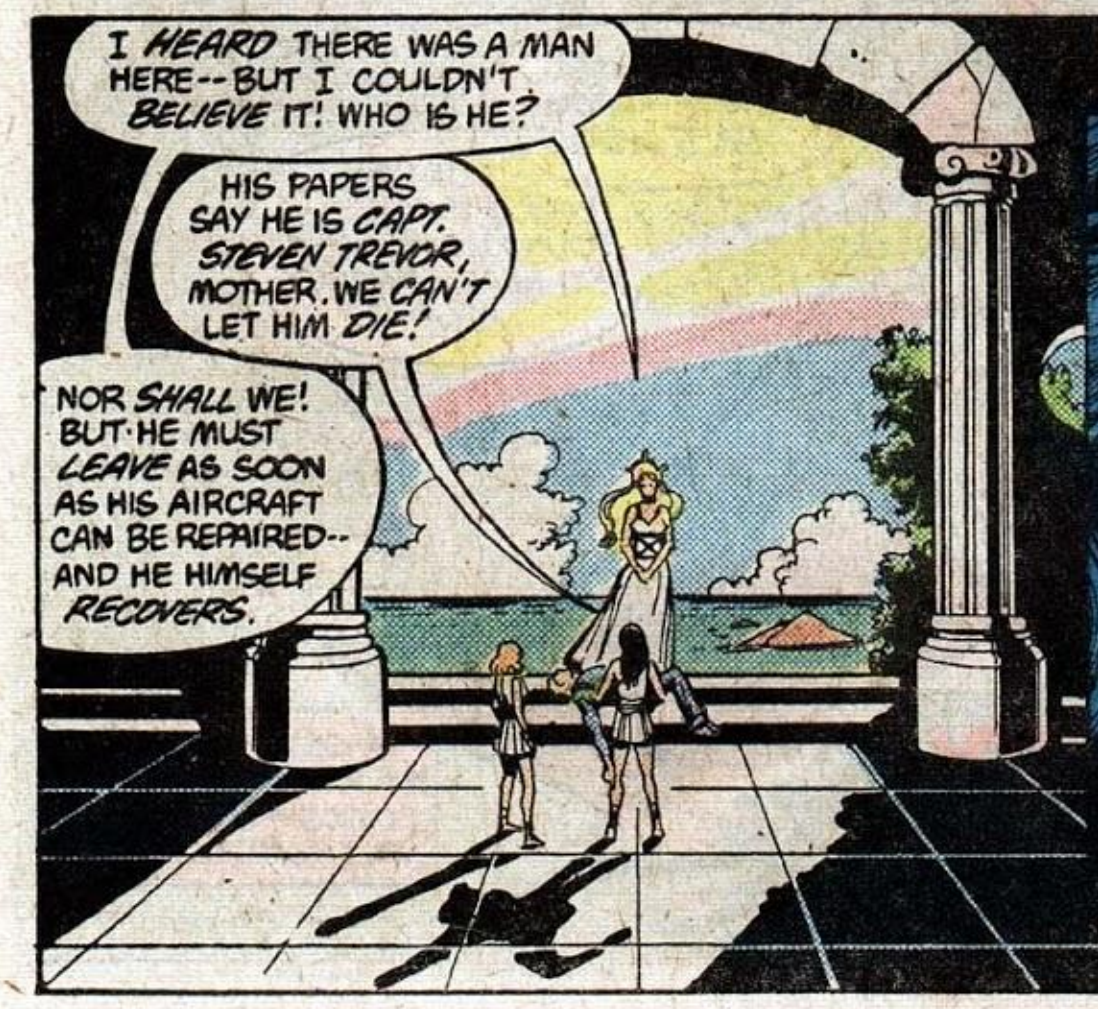

IT IS HER LIFE SHE DREAMS OF... AND MOST ESPECIALLY, THE DAY WHEN SHE FIRST MET STEVE TREVOR.
ART BY JAN DUURSEMA & TOM MANDRAKE
YET, UNKNOWN TO HER, DIANA DREAMS NOT OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAN SHE IS SOON TO MARRY-*
--NOR EVEN QUITE OF THE FIRST STEVE TREVOR SHE EVER KNEW, ** AND WHOM A SPELL OF APHRODITE HAS CAUSED HER MERCIFULLY TO FORGET.
USAF
GREAT HERA! WHAT'S THAT??
RATHER, HER DAY-LIGHT DREAM IS A STRANGE COMPOSITE OF THE TWO--A MERGING OF GOD-DESS-INDUCED REMEMBRANCES AND REPRESSED CONSCIOUSLY-FORGOTTEN MEMORIES--
--OF A MODERN-DAY MILITARY PLANE STREAKING DOWN FROM OUT OF THE CLOUDS, TO CRASH INTO TRANQUIL SEAS!
A STRANGE PLANE--FROM MAN'S WORLD!
BUT HOW COULD IT HAVE FOUND US HERE--SO NEAR PARADISE ISLAND?
CHAPTER FOUR
The Queen is DEAD! Long live the Queen!
* ISSUE #270
** ALL-STAR COMICS #8, 1941.
--MARV.

I DOUBT IF IT FOUND US AT ALL, MALA--BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW.
THAT PILOT WILL DROWN--UNLESS I REACH HIM IN TIME!

HE'S ALIVE--BUT HURT BADLY, I'M AFRAID!
STRANGE! A MAN SEEMS A MYTHICAL CREATURE TO ME--AS I'M TOLD WE AMAZONS WOULD BE TO HIM, IN THE OUTER WORLD.
THE GODDESS APHRODITE HAS DECREED WE AMAZONS WOULD LOSE OUR POWERS AND OUR IMMORTALITY IF WE ALLOW A MAN TO SET FOOT ON PARADISE ISLAND...

...SO I MUST SEE TO IT THAT HE DOESN'T "SET FOOT" HERE!
SO THIS IS A MAN! HE'S SO DIFFERENT FROM US--HEAVIER, TOO--
OHHH
--THOUGH STILL LIKE A FEATHER TO ME.

YOUR MOTHER AWAITS, PRINCESS, AND--OH! HE'S AWAKE!
WH-WHERE--? THERE'S AN ANGEL SMILING AT ME--
--A BEAUTIFUL ANGEL!


I HEARD THERE WAS A MAN HERE--BUT I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT! WHO IS HE?
HIS PAPERS SAY HE IS CAPT. STEVEN TREVOR, MOTHER. WE CAN'T LET HIM DIE!
NOR SHALL WE! BUT HE MUST LEAVE AS SOON AS HIS AIRCRAFT CAN BE REPAIRED--AND HE HIMSELF RECOVERS.

IN THE ENSUING DREAMTIME "DAYS," THE QUEEN'S ONLY DAUGHTER AND THE YOUNG BLOND PILOT GROW CLOSER, AS THEY HAVE DONE IN TWO INCARNATIONS.
YOU'RE AN ANGEL! TELL ME--DID I DIE AND GO TO HEAVEN?
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT... STEVE.

UNHAPPY WITH DIANA'S GROWING ATTACHMENT FOR STEVE, HIPPOLYTA DECREES A CONTEST TO SEE WHICH AMAZON WILL TAKE HIM BACK TO MAN'S WORLD--

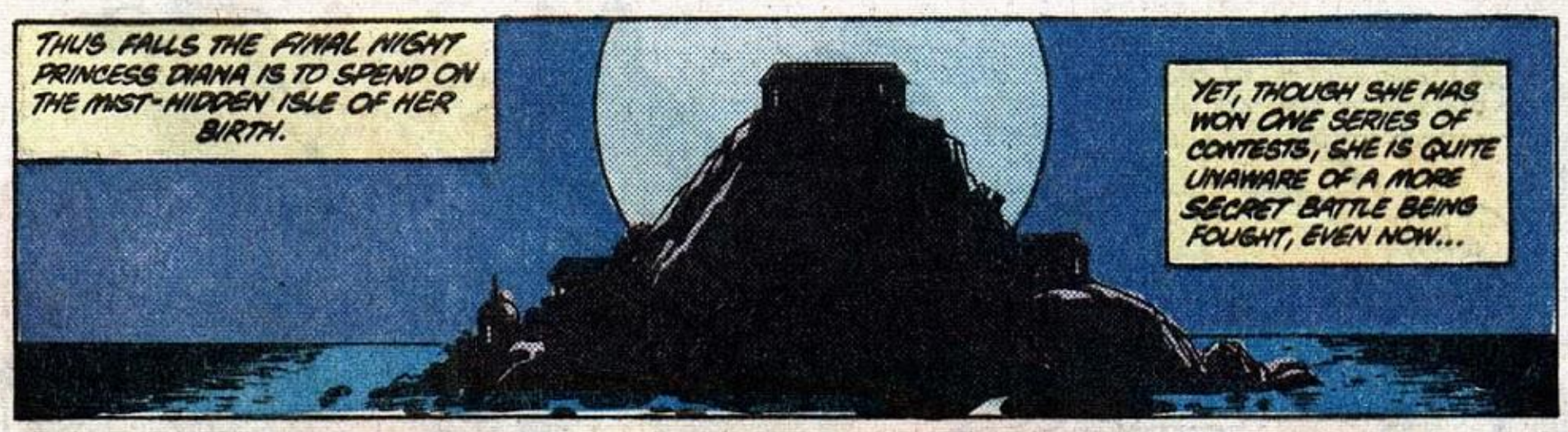
--AND REMAIN THERE TO FIGHT EVIL, AS THE GODDESS APHRODITE WILLS.

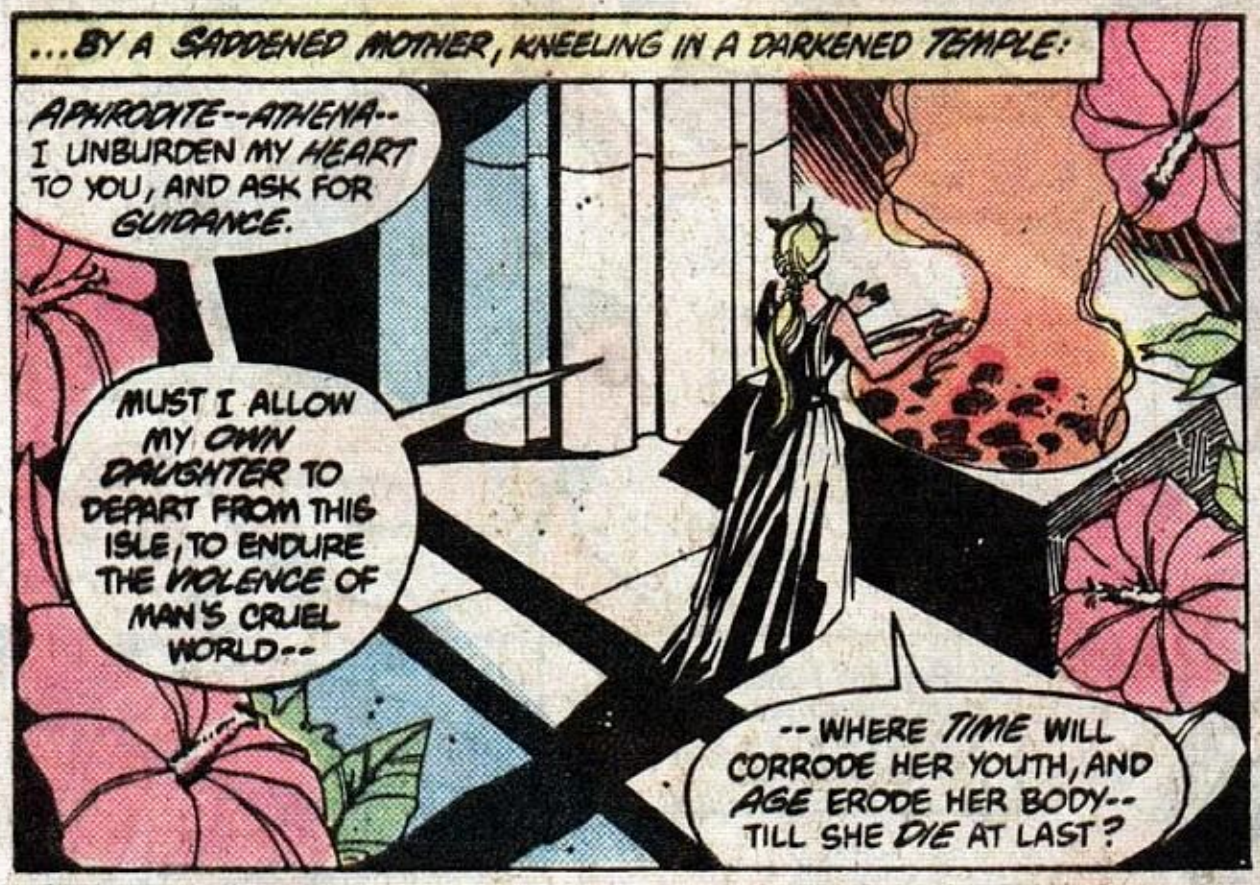
YET, UNCANNILY, ALL THE EVENTS ARE WON BY A MYSTERIOUS MASKED FIGHTER:

THE SWORDPLAY ON THE BACKS OF HUGE WILD KANGAS, WHICH REQUIRE THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES TO CONTROL PROPERLY--

--RACES WHICH ONLY ONE SWIFT AS MERCURY HIMSELF COULD HOPE TO WIN--

--EVEN THE BATTLE OF BULLETS AND BRACELETS, THAT ULTIMATE CONTEST CALLING UPON ALL THE SKILLS AND ENDURANCE WHICH EVEN AN AMAZON COULD MUSTER.


THUS FALLS THE FINAL NIGHT PRINCESS DIANA IS TO SPEND ON THE MIST-HIDDEN ISLE OF HER BIRTH.
YET, THOUGH SHE HAS WON ONE SERIES OF CONTESTS, SHE IS QUITE UNAWARE OF A MORE SECRET BATTLE BEING FOUGHT, EVEN NOW...


...BY A SADDENED MOTHER, KNEELING IN A DARKENED TEMPLE:
APHRODITE--ATHENA-- I UNBURDEN MY HEART TO YOU, AND ASK FOR GUIDANCE.
MUST I ALLOW MY OWN DAUGHTER TO DEPART FROM THIS ISLE, TO ENDURE THE VIOLENCE OF MAN'S CRUEL WORLD--
--WHERE TIME WILL CORRODE HER YOUTH, AND AGE ERODE HER BODY-- TILL SHE DIE AT LAST?

I BESEECH YOU--APHRODITE, IN YOUR LOVE, AND ATHENA, IN YOUR WISDOM--TELL ME HOW TO KEEP HER FROM THAT FATE WHICH WE OTHER AMAZONS ARE SPARED!
IF SELFISH I BE--THEN 'TIS A MOTHER'S SELFISHNESS!

WE ARE HERE, HIPPOLYTA... THOUGH NO WISDOM OF MINE CAN HELP YOU.
BECAUSE DIANA LOVES THIS MORTAL MALE, LOVE MUST CONQUER...NOR MAY WE INTERFERE.
NOT EVEN IF I WOULD GIVE UP MY OWN LIFE TO SPARE HER SORROW AND EVENTUAL DEATH?

THOUGH YOU COULD NOT HAVE GUESSED IT, O QUEEN, YOUR OWN NATURAL WISDOM HAS GIVEN YOU THE ONLY ANSWER.
SINCE YOU DO SO WILLINGLY, YOU MAY QUIT THIS ISLAND, THIS LIFE--AND SIT WITH THE IMMORTAL HOST IN OLYMPUS ITSELF.
GLADLY-- IF 'TWILL SAVE MY DAUGHTER!
BUT, WHO WILL RULE PARADISE ISLAND IN MY STEAD?
WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE?
COME NOW-- AND SEE THE PLACE WHICH HAS BEEN LONG PREPARED FOR YOU...!

THE DAWN THAT FOLLOWS IS FAR FROM JUST ANOTHER DAY UPON THIS ISLAND REFUGE...

...AS WHISPERED WORD OF THE QUEEN'S DEPARTURE FROM THIS WORLD QUICKLY REACHES EVERY PAIR OF EARS...

...SAVE ONE:

PRINCESS--WHAT'S WRONG? I'M STANDING ON THIS SPECIAL GOLDEN CARPET LIKE YOU TOLD ME--SO MY FEET DON'T TOUCH THEIR PRECIOUS ISLAND--

--BUT ALL THESE AMAZONS ARE STARING AT ME LIKE I JUST KILLED SOMEBODY!

IN A SENSE, STEVE, PERHAPS YOU DID... AND SO DID I.

HUH? YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE, ANGEL!

PLEASE, STEVE--DO NOT CALL ME THAT AGAIN, FOR IT ONLY MAKES WHAT I MUST DO ALL THE HARDER.

DO YOU SEE THIS BELT I WEAR?

UH--YEAH--THOUGH YOU SURE DON'T NEED ONE!

IT'S THE ONE YOUR MOTHER WORE, ISN'T IT?

SHE IS GONE, STEVE--TO A REALM WHERE TIME DARES NOT TREAD, AND CENTURIES ARE AS AN ERRANT BREEZE.

AND I MUST REMAIN HERE TO TAKE HER PLACE AS QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS--

--FOREVER!

NO! YOU WERE COMING BACK WITH ME, REMEMBER?

I LOVE YOU, ANGEL!

AND I YOU, STEVE TREVOR... BUT THAT DOES NOT MATTER NOW.

MY FIRST PROCLAMATION AS QUEEN MUST BE TO SEND YOU BACK TO MAN'S WORLD...

...WITH MALA, FOREMOST OF OUR TRIBE...

...TO BE KNOWN HENCEFORTH AS WONDER WOMAN!

I SHALL NOT DIS-GRACE YOU IN THE OUTER REALMS... QUEEN DIANA!

I'M SURE YOU WON'T, MALA.

NOW YOU MAY CALL THE INVISIBLE ROBOT PLANE WHICH OUR SCIENTISTS DESIGNED FOR THE FIRST AMAZON VISITOR TO THE OUTER WORLD.

CALLING ROBOT PLANE-- COME IN FOR LANDING--!

BUT, ANGEL-- WHAT ABOUT US? I--I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU!

IN A WAY, STEVE, YOU NEVER WILL! BUT I'VE A SACRED MISSION NOW, TO RULE MY PEOPLE... AND YOU COULD NEVER BE ANY PART OF THAT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I'D WANT YOU TO.

SO... THIS IS GOODBYE, HUH?

YES. AND BY THE WAY... MY NAME IS DIANA.

STEVE... I KNOW THAT YOU--

PLEASE, MALA. NOT NOW. MAYBE... SOMETIME. LATER.

BUT NOT TODAY, OKAY?

FAR BELOW AND INCREASING LEAGUES AWAY, DIANA SITS ON THE THRONE OF APHRODITE, THE FABLED BELT OF HIPPOLYTA ABOUT HER WAIST... THE CROWN OF ATHENA UPON HER BROW.

IT IS A ROLE SHE DID NOT CHOOSE... BUT ONE SHE WAS BORN TO PLAY...

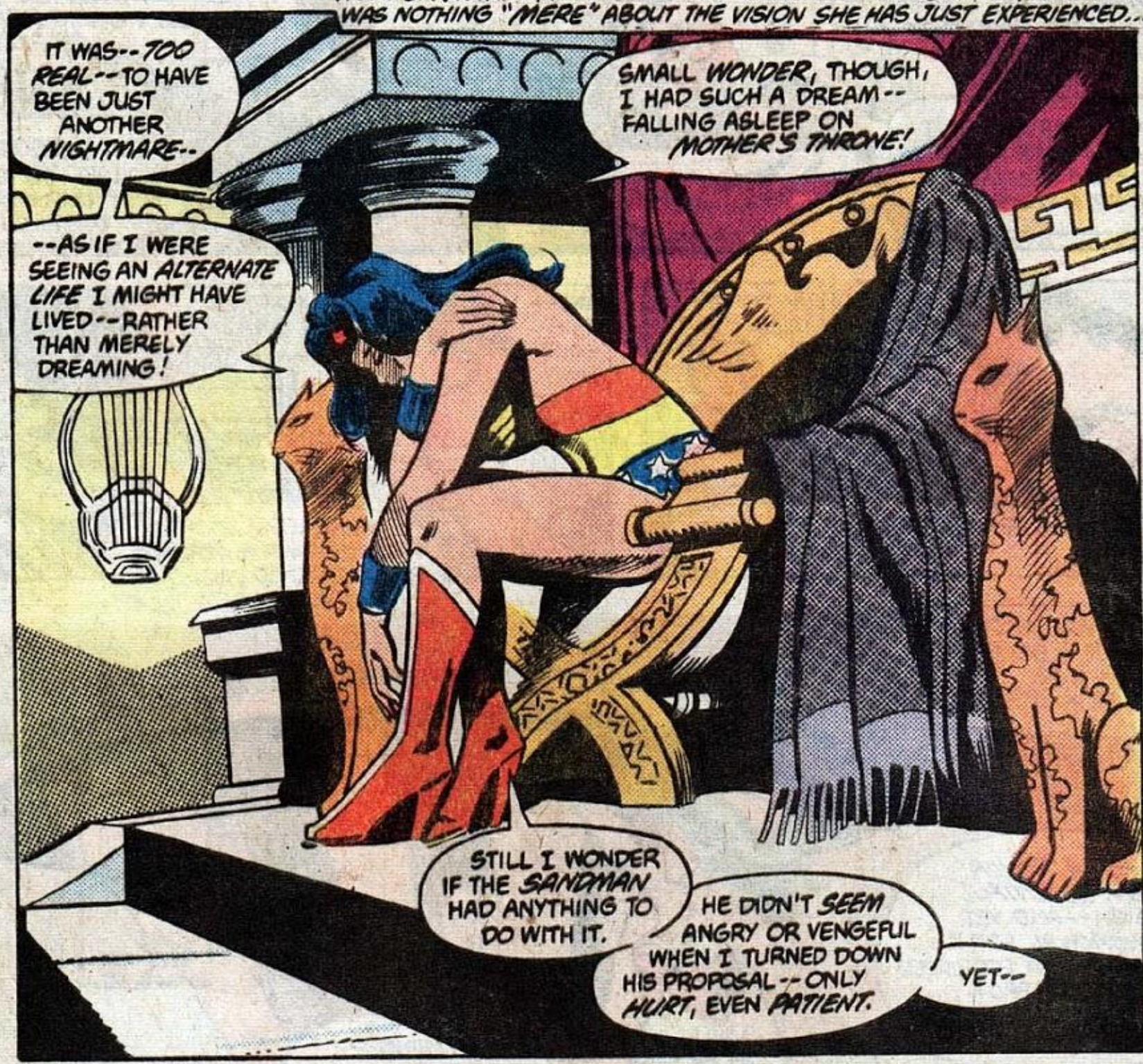
HAIL QUEEN DIANA THE FIRST!

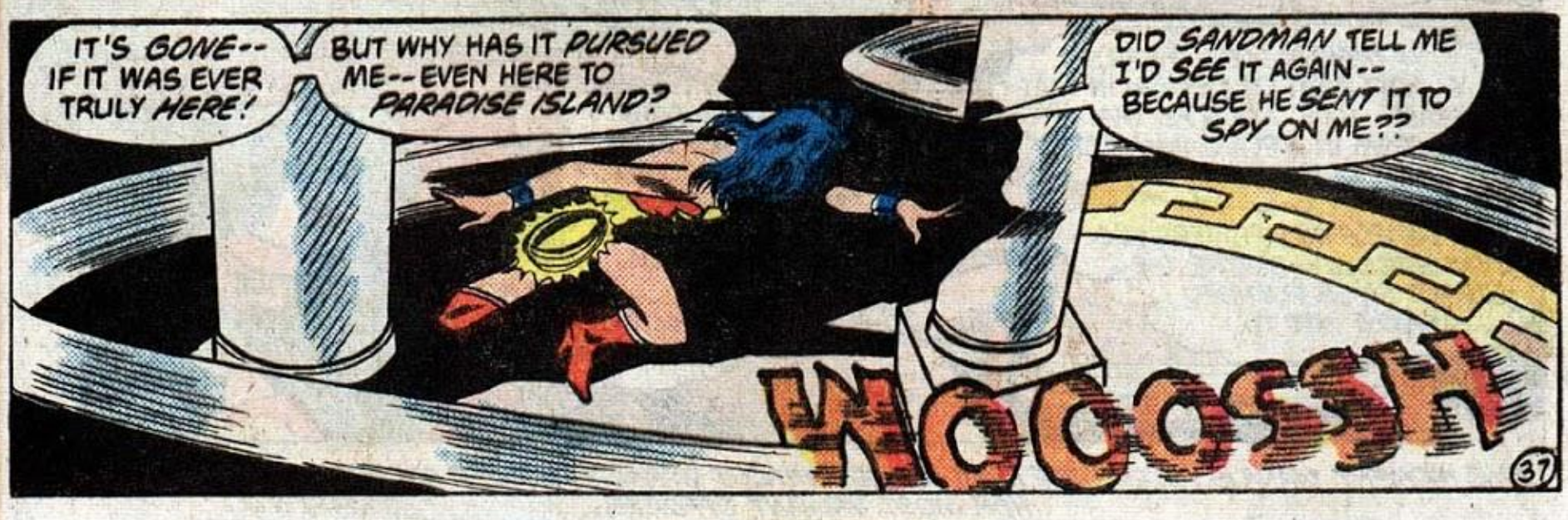
...AND SHE WILL NOT BETRAY HER HERITAGE.

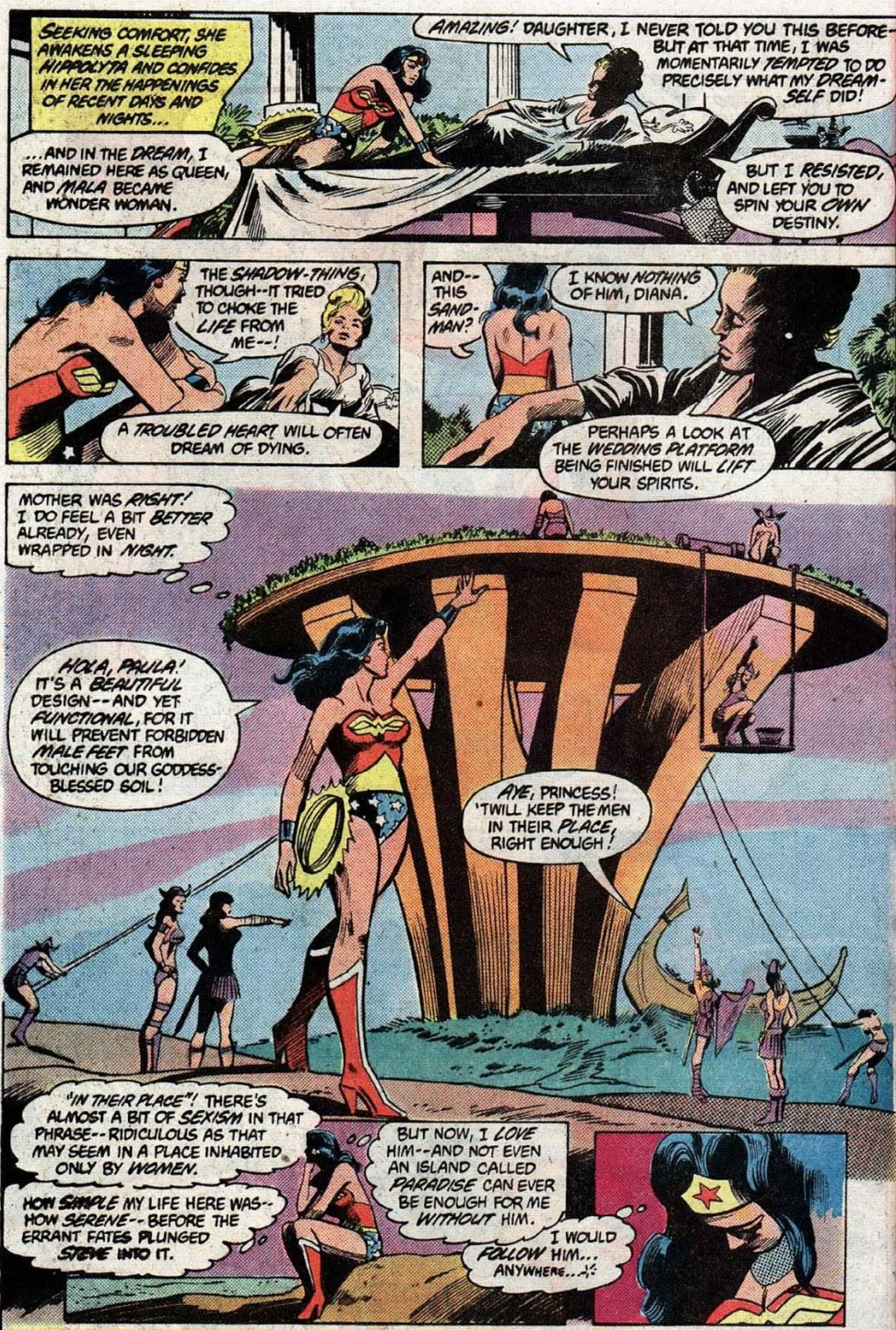
"A crown, golden in show,
Is but a wreath of thorns...
Brings dangers, troubles, cares...

"...and sleepless nights."
--JOHN MILTON, PARADISE LOST.

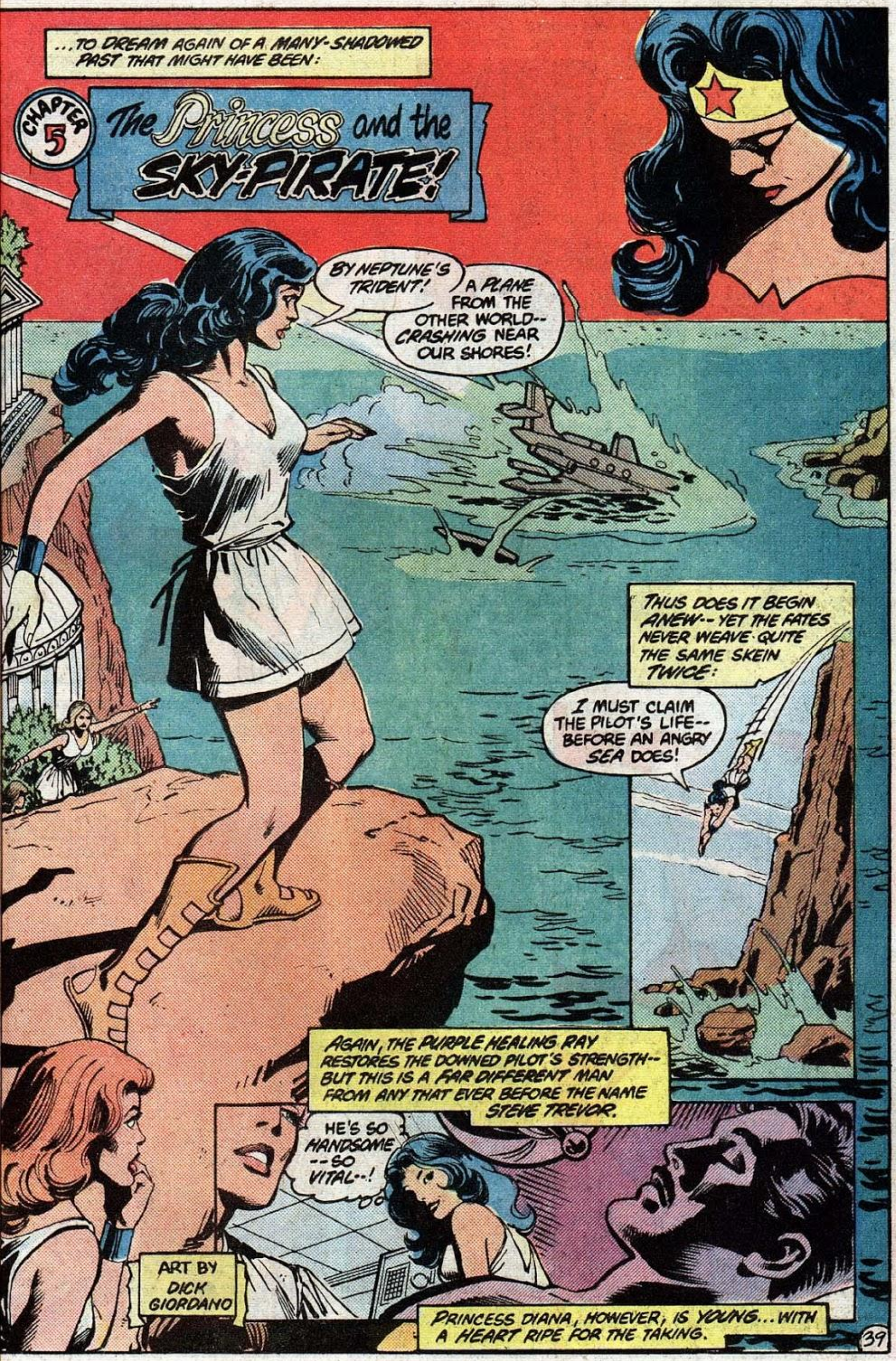
INTERLUDE: AN EMBARRASSING NUMBER OF FANTASY STORIES OVER THE YEARS HAVE ENDED WITH A LINE SUCH AS, "BUT IT WAS MERELY A DREAM." WONDER WOMAN, AWAKENING IN A MARBLED THRONE ROOM, KNOWS THERE WAS NOTHING "MERE" ABOUT THE VISION SHE HAS JUST EXPERIENCED...







ONE MOMENT, DIANA IS AWAKE. THE NEXT, ALMOST WITHOUT WARNING, ASLEEP ONCE MORE, DESPITE HER MOST VALIANT EFFORTS...


...TO DREAM AGAIN OF A MANY-SHADOWED PAST THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN:
CHAPTER 5
The Princess and the SKY-PIRATE!
BY NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT!
A PLANE FROM THE OTHER WORLD-- CRASHING NEAR OUR SHORES!
THUS DOES IT BEGIN ANEW--YET THE FATES NEVER WEAVE QUITE THE SAME SKEIN TWICE:
I MUST CLAIM THE PILOT'S LIFE-- BEFORE AN ANGRY SEA DOES!
AGAIN, THE PURPLE HEALING RAY RESTORES THE DOWNED PILOT'S STRENGTH-- BUT THIS IS A FAR DIFFERENT MAN FROM ANY THAT EVER BEFORE THE NAME STEVE TREVOR.
HE'S SO HANDSOME --SO VITAL--!
ART BY DICK GIORDANO
PRINCESS DIANA, HOWEVER, IS YOUNG...WITH A HEART RIPE FOR THE TAKING.

IN SHORT ORDER, THE STRANGER HAS INDEED CAPTURED THAT HEART... AND IS TAKEN, UPON A SPECIAL CARPET OF CRYSTAL, TO MEET THE QUEEN...

SO YOU ARE THE MAN WHO FELL FROM THE SKY.

TREVOR STEVENS IS THE HANDLE-- A MAN OF MANY TALENTS--

--THOUGH OBVIOUSLY FLIGHT NAVIGATION ISN'T ONE OF THEM.

DIANA HERE TELLS ME YOU'RE CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADS AROUND HERE-- AND HER MOTHER, TO BOOT.

SHE'S JUST RIBBIN' ME ABOUT THAT LAST PAST, ISN'T SHE-- I MEAN, A LOOKER LIKE YOU--!?

I AM QUEEN HIPPOLYTA, MR. STEVENS... AND MY DAUGHTER WOULD HARDLY HAVE LIED ABOUT SUCH A THING.

MOTH-ER! I DON'T THINK HE MEANT--

HEY, DON'T RUFFLE YOUR FEATHERS, KID! FLATTERY'S PART OF MY CHARM.

YOUR TYPE OF "CHARM," SIR--

--IS THAT OF THE WRITHING SERPENT!

I AM NOT AS NAIVE AS DIANA; YOU HAVE TOO MUCH OF THAT SCOUNDREL HERCULES ABOUT YOU TO DECEIVE ME.

BUT, MOTHER--!

YOU WILL LEAVE THIS ISLAND TOMORROW-- ALONE!

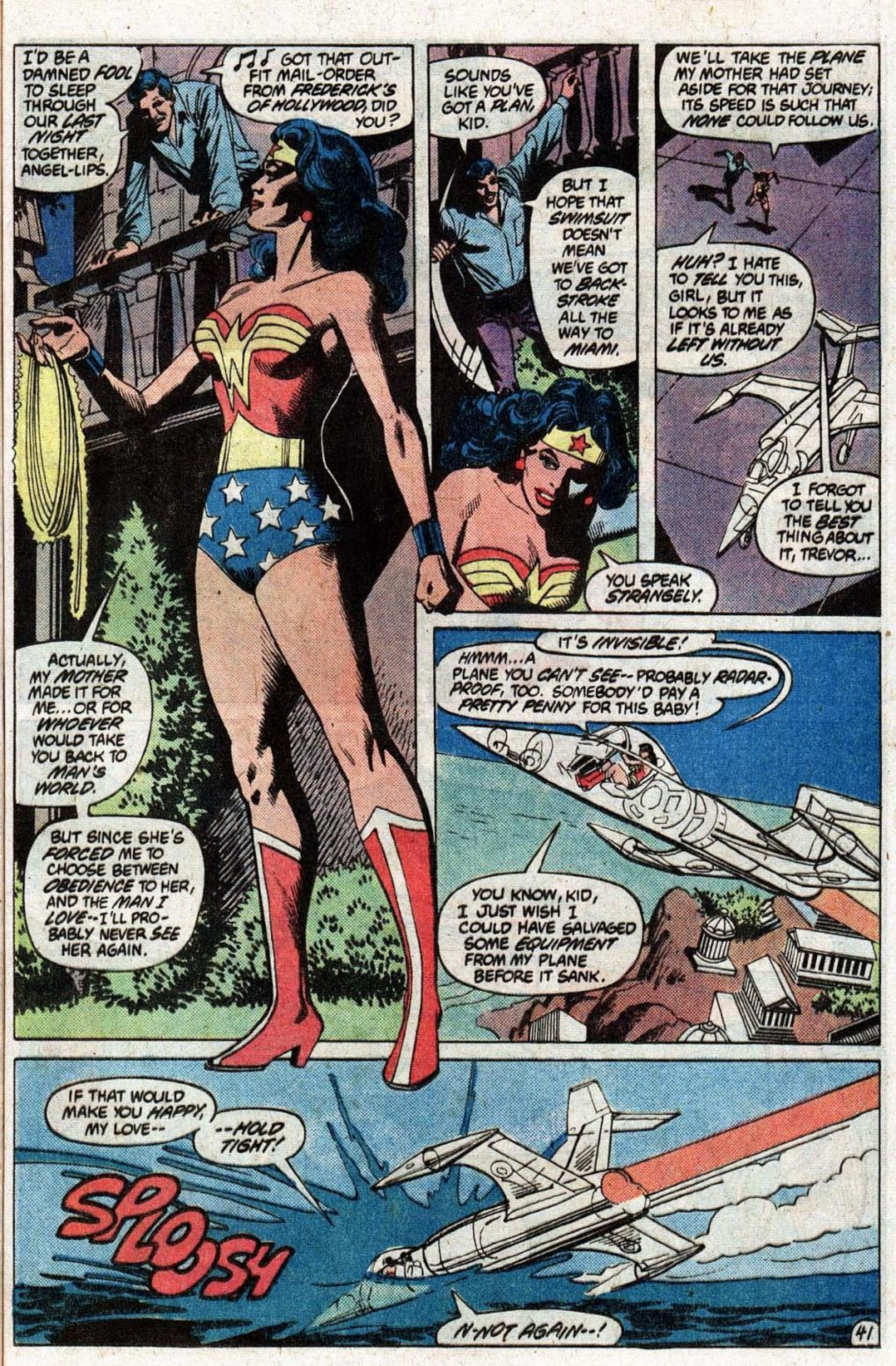
THAT NIGHT, AS A PEAL-SHAPED MOON ASCENDS ABOVE THE SCEPTRED ISLE...

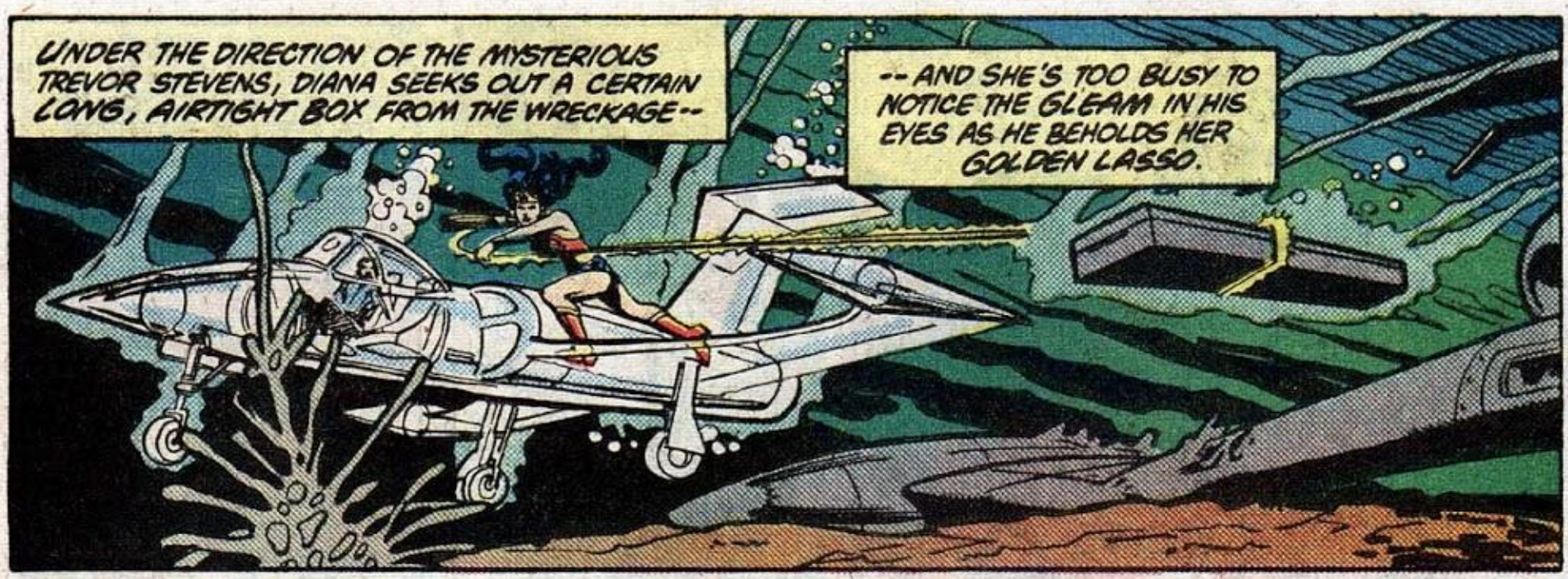
TREVOR, OLD BOY-- YOU MUST BE LOSING YOUR TOUCH!

THIS SET-UP'S TOO GOOD TO PASS UP! ENOUGH WEALTH AROUND HERE TO BUY OUT ATARI!

MAYBE THAT PRISSY OUGHT TO HAVE A LITTLE ACCIDENT...!

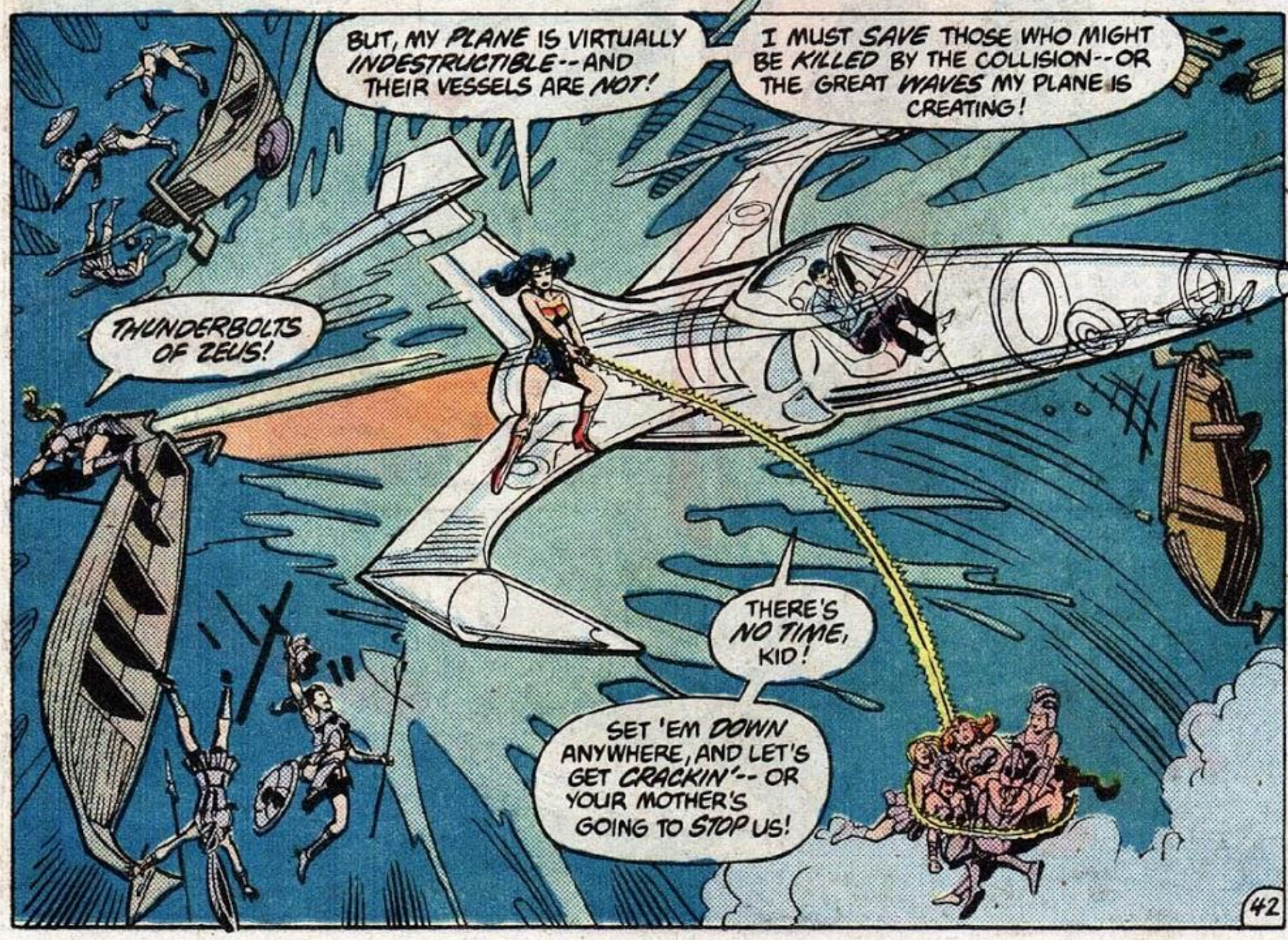
PSST... TREVOR STEVENS, ARE YOU AWAKE...?

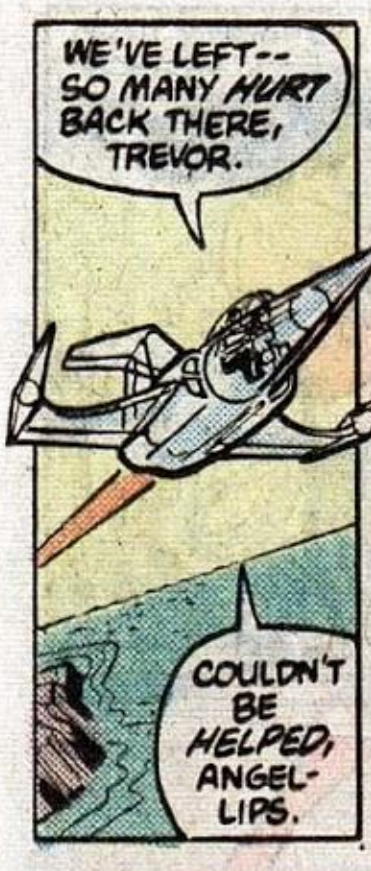

I'D BE A DAMNED FOOL TO SLEEP THROUGH OUR LAST NIGHT TOGETHER, ANGEL-LIPS.
♫♪ GOT THAT OUT-FIT MAIL-ORDER FROM FREDERICK'S OF HOLLYWOOD, DID YOU?
ACTUALLY, MY MOTHER MADE IT FOR ME...OR FOR WHOEVER WOULD TAKE YOU BACK TO MAN'S WORLD.
BUT SINCE SHE'S FORCED ME TO CHOOSE BETWEEN OBEDIENCE TO HER, AND THE MAN I LOVE--I'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A PLAN, KID.
BUT I HOPE THAT SWIMSUIT DOESN'T MEAN WE'VE GOT TO BACK-STROKE ALL THE WAY TO MIAMI.
YOU SPEAK STRANGELY.
WE'LL TAKE THE PLANE MY MOTHER HAD SET ASIDE FOR THAT JOURNEY; ITS SPEED IS SUCH THAT NONE COULD FOLLOW US.
HUH? I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, GIRL, BUT IT LOOKS TO ME AS IF IT'S ALREADY LEFT WITHOUT US.
I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THE BEST THING ABOUT IT, TREVOR...
IT'S INVISIBLE!
HMMM...A PLANE YOU CAN'T SEE--PROBABLY RADAR-PROOF, TOO. SOMEBODY'D PAY A PRETTY PENNY FOR THIS BABY!
YOU KNOW, KID, I JUST WISH I COULD HAVE SALVAGED SOME EQUIPMENT FROM MY PLANE BEFORE IT SANK.
IF THAT WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY, MY LOVE--
--HOLD TIGHT!
SPLOSH
N-NOT AGAIN--!


UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MYSTERIOUS TREVOR STEVENS, DIANA SEEKS OUT A CERTAIN LONG, AIRTIGHT BOX FROM THE WRECKAGE--
--AND SHE'S TOO BUSY TO NOTICE THE GLEAM IN HIS EYES AS HE BEHOLDS HER GOLDEN LASSO.

NOW, WE'LL RE-SURFACE, AND ON TO MAN'S WORLD.
I'VE KNOWN SOME TOUGH DAMES IN MY DAY, BUT--
OH NO! LOOK-- ABOVE US--!

MY MOTHER HAS SENT THE AMAZON ARMADA AFTER US--
--AND WE'RE GOING TO COME UP RIGHT IN THEIR MIDST!
SO WHAT? THAT'S THEIR LOOKOUT, RIGHT? WE'LL BE OKAY!


BUT, MY PLANE IS VIRTUALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE--AND THEIR VESSELS ARE NOT!
I MUST SAVE THOSE WHO MIGHT BE KILLED BY THE COLLISION--OR THE GREAT WAVES MY PLANE IS CREATING!
THUNDERBOLTS OF ZEUS!
THERE'S NO TIME, KID!
SET 'EM DOWN ANYWHERE, AND LET'S GET CRACKIN'-- OR YOUR MOTHER'S GOING TO STOP US!


WE'VE LEFT-- SO MANY HURT BACK THERE, TREVOR.
COULDN'T BE HELPED, ANGEL-LIPS.

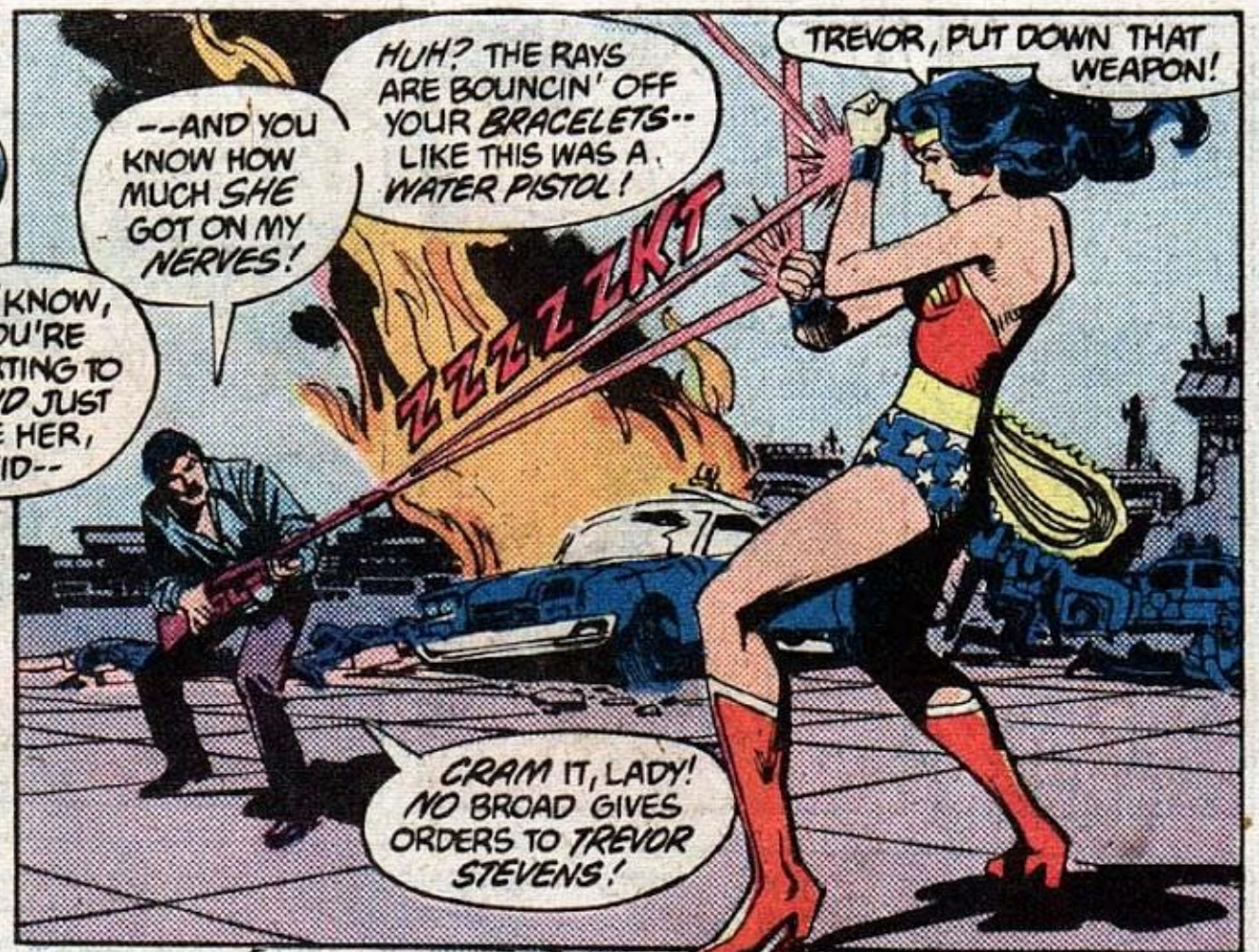
I FEEL SO ASHAMED! THEY WERE MY AMAZON SISTERS-- MY FRIENDS--
YET I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, I NEARLY KILLED THEM!

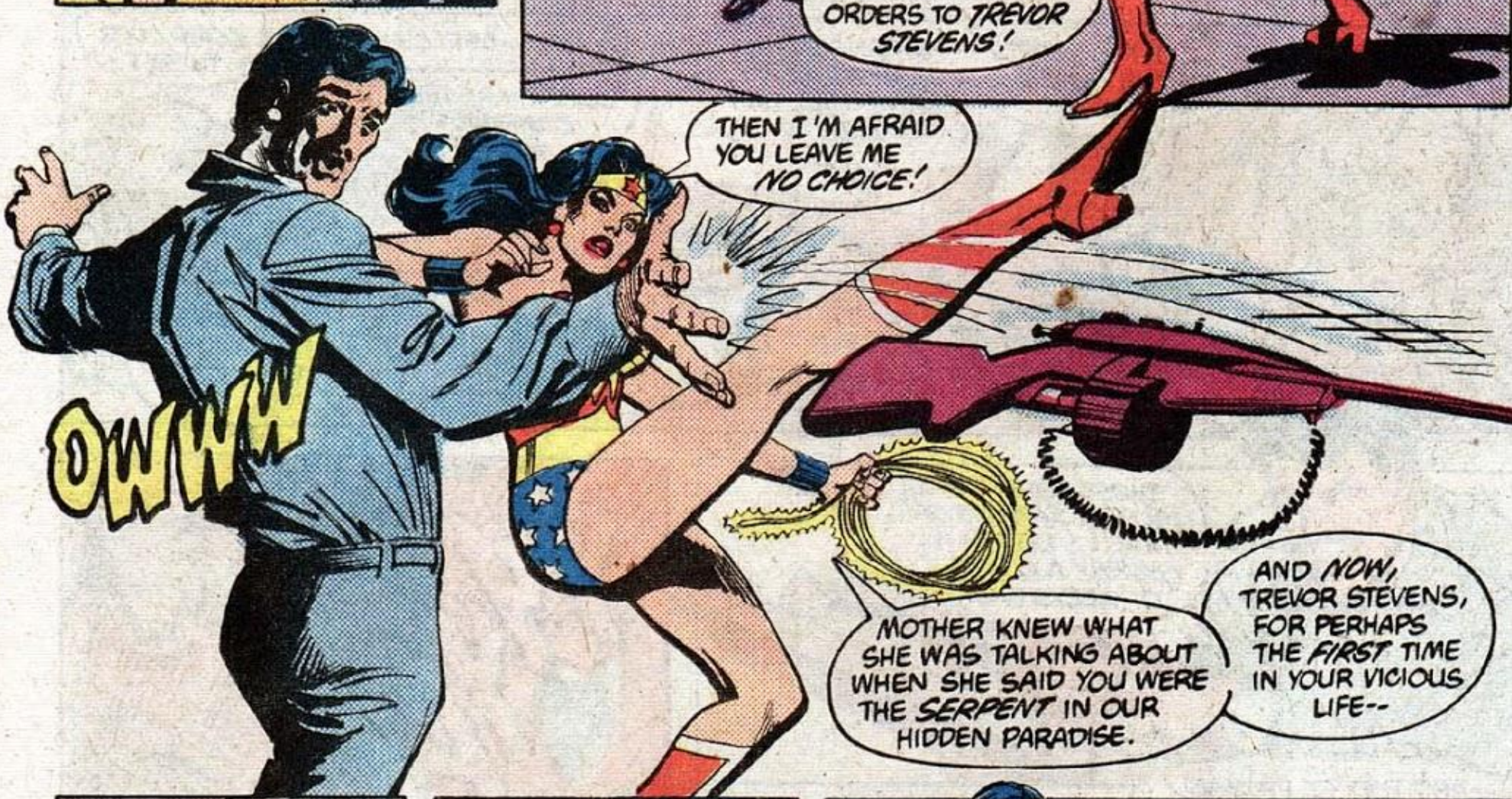
YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, KID?
YOUR SENSE OF PRIORITIES!
BUT I-- MMMM

Y'KNOW, BABY, FOR SOMEBODY WHO SPEND ALL HER LIFE ON AN ISLAND, YOU SURE FOUND YOUR WAY OUT OF THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE WITHOUT A HITCH.
THERE'S MIAMI INTERNATIONAL!

HOLA, PEOPLE OF THE OUTER WORLD!
STRANGE! THEY CANNOT SEE MY PLANE--YEY THEY SEEM SO EXCITED.
YEAH--ESPECIALLY THOSE COPS OVER THERE!
"COPS"? ARE THEY COMRADES OF YOURS?
OH, SURE! UH--HAND ME THAT BOX, WILLYA?
THOSE BOYS-IN-BLUE SORT'A SAW ME OFF WHEN I LEFT IN A HURRY A COUPLE OF WEEKS BACK--
--AND THEY'RE PROBABLY ANXIOUS TO SEE WHAT SORT OF GIFTS I'VE BROUGHT BACK FROM MY LITTLE TRIP.
SORRY, BOYS--BUT I'M SORT'A FOND OF THIS DISINTEGRATOR PROTOTYPE I BORROWED FROM THE ARMY LABS--
--AND I DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE GIVING IT BACK!
YYAAAA
FFOOOOMMMM

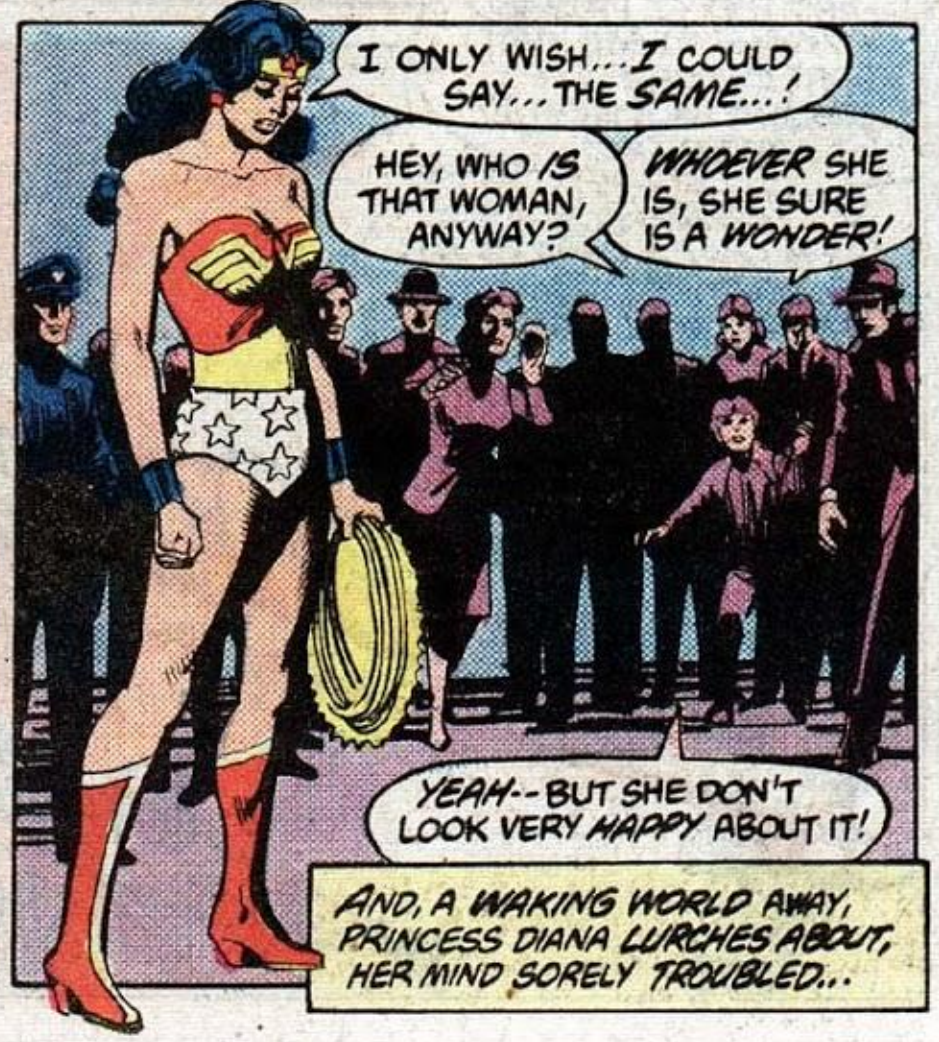
TREVOR! Y-YOU KILLED THOSE MEN!
YOU'RE EVIL-- JUST AS MOTHER SAID!


Y'KNOW, YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND JUST LIKE HER, KID--
--AND YOU KNOW HOW MUCH SHE GOT ON MY NERVES!
HUH? THE RAYS ARE BOUNCIN' OFF YOUR BRACELETS-- LIKE THIS WAS A WATER PISTOL!
TREVOR, PUT DOWN THAT WEAPON!
ZZZZZZKT
CRAM IT, LADY! NO BROAD GIVES ORDERS TO TREVOR STEVENS!


THEN I'M AFRAID YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!
OWWW
MOTHER KNEW WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT WHEN SHE SAID YOU WERE THE SERPENT IN OUR HIDDEN PARADISE.
AND NOW, TREVOR STEVENS, FOR PERHAPS THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR VICIOUS LIFE--

--YOU'RE GOING TO TELL THE TRUTH!
CAN'T-- HELP MYSELF!
I STOLE THE GUN-- AND THE PLANE! THE REST YOU KNOW!

BUT I DON'T NEED ANY TRICK LASSO AROUND ME TO TELL YOU-- I NEVER LOVED YOU, LADY--
(CHOKE!)
--NOT FOR A MINUTE!


I ONLY WISH... I COULD SAY... THE SAME...!
HEY, WHO IS THAT WOMAN, ANYWAY?
WHOEVER SHE IS, SHE SURE IS A WONDER!
YEAH-- BUT SHE DON'T LOOK VERY HAPPY ABOUT IT!
AND, A WAKING WORLD AWAY, PRINCESS DIANA LURCHES ABOUT, HER MIND SORELY TROUBLED...

...ONLY TO SUDDENLY DISCOVER:

A DREAM! IT WAS--ANOTHER OF THOSE TERRIBLE NIGHT-MARES!

GREAT HERA! LOST IT FOR A MOMENT--IN THE BLINDING GLARE OF THE SUN--AND NOW IT'S GONE AGAIN!

ALL THAT REMAINS IS ITS HORRIBLE GRIN--LIKE SOME CHESHIRE CAT OF THE MIND!

AND THERE'S THAT SHADOW-THING AGAIN--SO CLOSE, SO MENACING--I CAN ALMOST REACH OUT AND--

BUT--WHOSE MIND? MINE--AN OLD ENEMY'S--OR THE SANDMAN'S!?

IS HE BEHIND THIS CREATURE--TAUNTING ME--BECAUSE I WOULDN'T FORSAKE STEVE TO JOIN HIM IN HIS DREAM DIMENSION?

THE PERPLEXING DILEMMA STILL UNRESOLVED, WONDER WOMAN FORCES HER THOUGHTS BACK ONCE MORE TO HER WEDDING PLANS...

AND SOON, SHE IS DELIVERING SOME V.I.P. INVITATIONS WHICH ARE RATHER BEYOND THE REGULAR DELIVERY ROUTES OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE...

HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN, EVEN FOR A FEW DAYS, ABOUT ALL MY FRIENDS IN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?

BUT I GUESS ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE THESE DAYS--IN MY FRAZZLED STATE OF MIND.

WELL, THERE'S THE JLA SATELLITE.

WHOEVER'S ON MONITOR DUTY OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO FORWARD THESE INVITES WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE.

WONDER WHO IT IS TODAY... BATMAN, OR BLACK CANARY, OR...

SUPERMAN!

HOLA, WONDER WOMAN-- OR IS IT PERMISSIBLE JUST TO SAY HI?

YOU KNOW, YOU'VE GOT THE ONLY PLANE I KNOW THAT ALLOWS ME TO SEE THE PILOT-- WITHOUT USING MY X-RAY VISION.

GOOD NEWS TRAVELS FAST AS BAD THESE DAYS... ESPECIALLY TO A SPACE SATELLITE.

MAY I ASSUME THIS IS A SOCIAL VISIT?

YOU MAY. HERE...

I GUESS THIS MAKES THOSE NEWS REPORTS OFFICIAL... AND I SEE YOU'RE STILL NOT LETTING ON THAT YOUR REAL NAME IS DIANA...

Queen Hippolyta of the Amazons requests the honor of your presence at the wedding of her daughter, as Wonder Woman to Colonel Steven Trev USAF on November 10, 1 on Paradise Is Reception Immed

...BUT COULDN'T YOU HAVE ALLOWED A CERTAIN MILD-MANNERED REPORTER THAT YOU AND I BOTH KNOW TO BREAK THE STORY?

WELL... UH...

JUST KIDDING, DIANA. CONGRATULATIONS... AND AN EARLY KISS FOR A BEAUTIFUL BRIDE-TO-BE.

THANKS... CLARK.

IF YOU DON'T MAKE IT TO THE WEDDING, I'LL COME LOOKING FOR YOU WITH A PIECE OF KRYPTONITE.

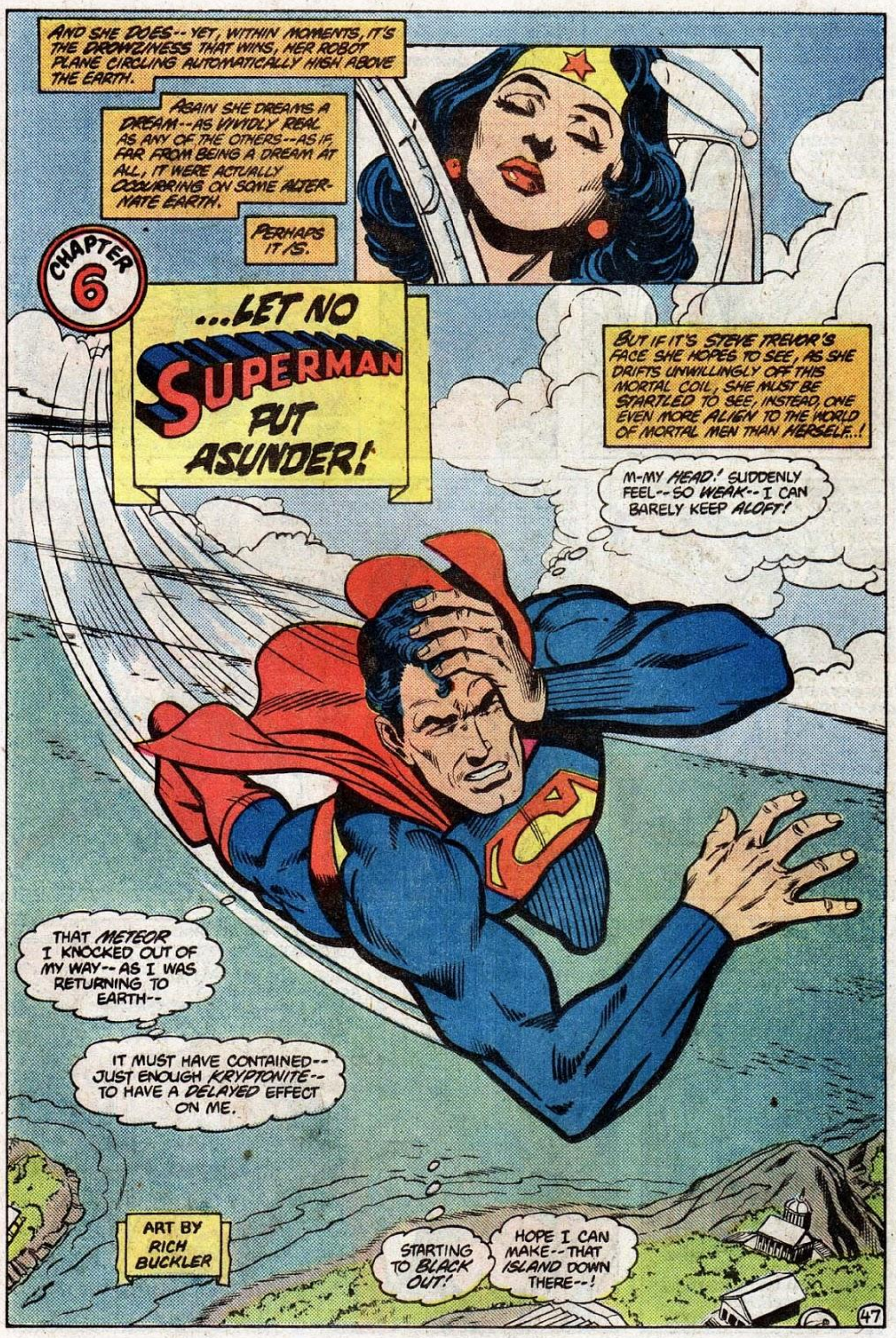
HE'S SO GENTLE AND KIND... AS ONLY THE STRONGEST OF MEN CAN BE.

WONDER IF HE'LL EVER MARRY LOIS LANE, LIKE HIS COUNTERPART ON EARTH-TWO DID.

WELL, NONE OF MY BUSINESS! JUST BECAUSE I'M ALL WRAPPED UP IN ROMANCE AT THIS JUNCTURE OF MY LIFE DOESN'T MEAN MY FELLOW JUSTICE LEAGUERS--

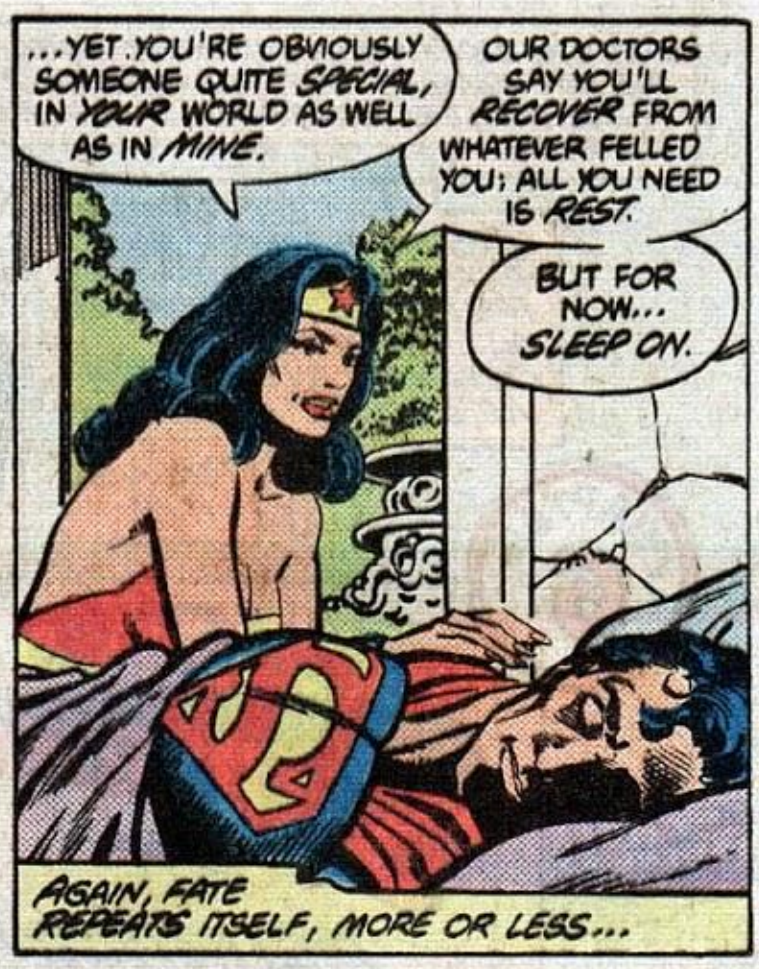
OH NO! SUDDENLY-- GETTING DROWSY AGAIN-- CAN'T FIGHT IT!

BUT I MUST-- I'VE GOT TO--!


AND SHE DOES -- YET, WITHIN MOMENTS, IT'S THE DROWSINESS THAT WINS, HER ROBOT PLANE CIRCLING AUTOMATICALLY HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH.
AGAIN SHE DREAMS A DREAM -- AS VIVIDLY REAL AS ANY OF THE OTHERS -- AS IF, FAR FROM BEING A DREAM AT ALL, IT WERE ACTUALLY OCCURRING ON SOME ALTERNATE EARTH.
PERHAPS IT IS.
CHAPTER 6
...LET NO SUPERMAN PUT ASUNDER!
BUT IF IT'S STEVE TREVOR'S FACE SHE HOPES TO SEE, AS SHE DRIFTS UNWILLINGLY OFF THIS MORTAL COIL, SHE MUST BE STARTLED TO SEE, INSTEAD, ONE EVEN MORE ALIEN TO THE WORLD OF MORTAL MEN THAN HERSELF...!
M-MY HEAD! SUDDENLY FEEL -- SO WEAK -- I CAN BARELY KEEP ALOFT!
THAT METEOR I KNOCKED OUT OF MY WAY -- AS I WAS RETURNING TO EARTH --
IT MUST HAVE CONTAINED -- JUST ENOUGH KRYPTONITE -- TO HAVE A DELAYED EFFECT ON ME.
ART BY RICH BUCKLER
STARTING TO BLACK OUT!
HOPE I CAN MAKE -- THAT ISLAND DOWN THERE -- !

BUT SOME HOPES ARE BORN TO BE DASHED...
LOOK, PRINCESS DIANA!
A MAN HAS FALLEN FROM THE SKY!
I'LL GET HIM, MALA.

THE RESCUE SUCCESSFUL, THE YOUTHFUL AMAZON SOON ATTENDS A MOST UNUSUAL PATIENT ON PARADISE ISLAND...
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU COME FROM...

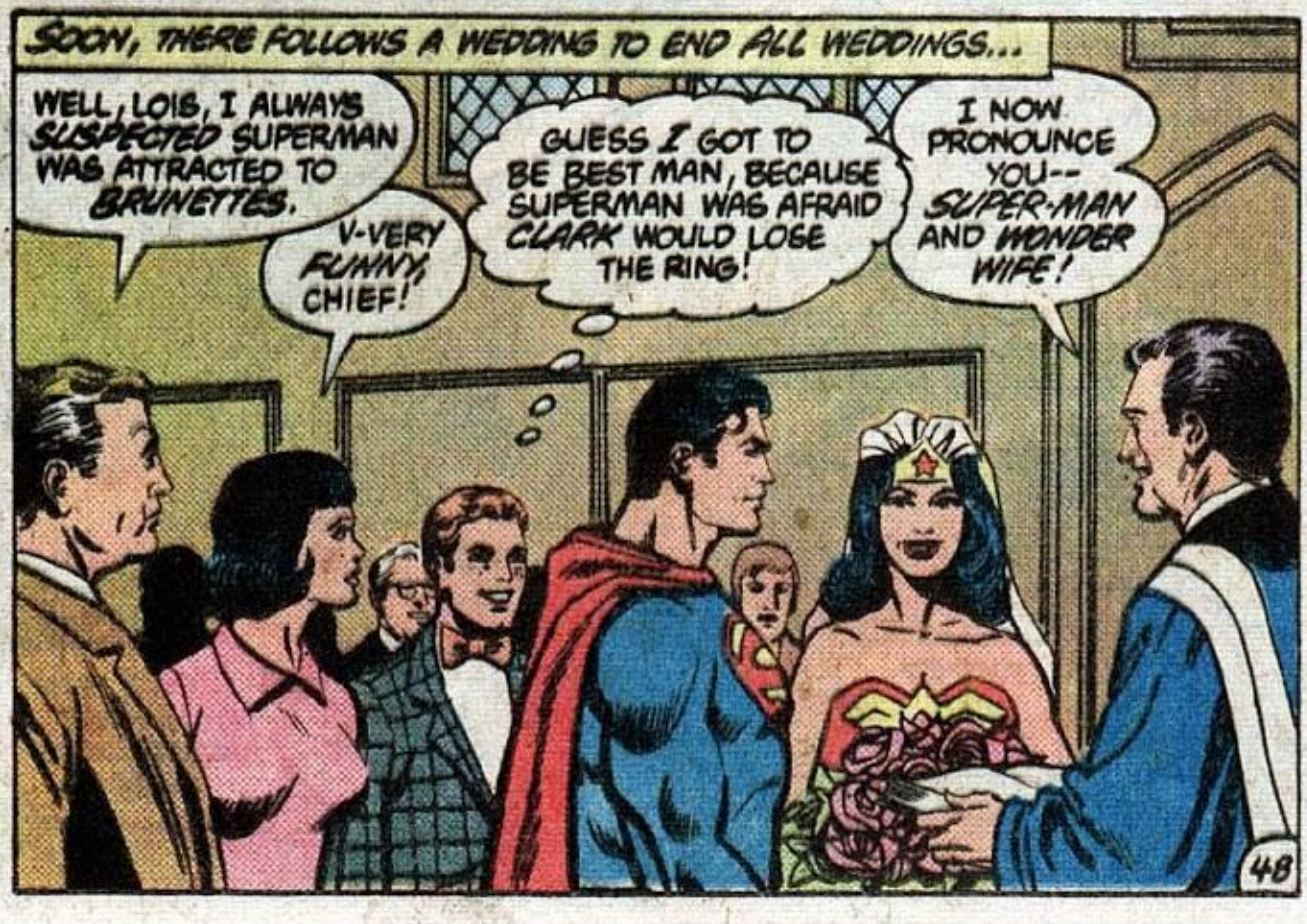

...YET YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY SOMEONE QUITE SPECIAL, IN YOUR WORLD AS WELL AS IN MINE.
OUR DOCTORS SAY YOU'LL RECOVER FROM WHATEVER FELLED YOU; ALL YOU NEED IS REST.
BUT FOR NOW... SLEEP ON.
AGAIN, FATE REPEATS ITSELF, MORE OR LESS...

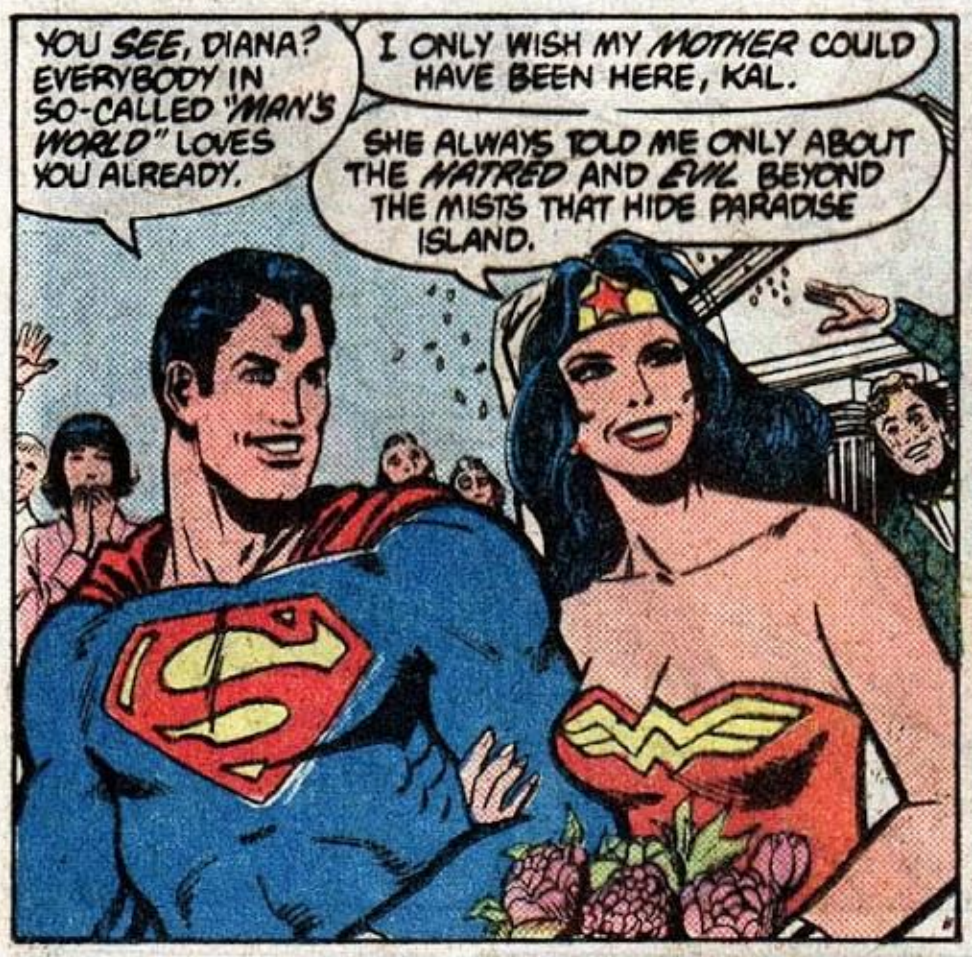
AND WHEN GLADIATORIAL GAMES ARE HELD, PRINCESS DIANA NOT ONLY WINS...
...BUT DESIGNS HER OWN COSTUME, INSPIRED BY THE ONE CALLED SUPERMAN.
MY DAUGHTER, FROM THIS DAY FORWARD YOU SHALL BE KNOWN AS-- WONDER WOMAN!

DIANA, YOUR NEW NAME FITS YOU AS WELL AS THAT OUTFIT.
SUPERMAN AND WONDER WOMAN-- WE ARE A PAIR OF SUPERLATIVES, AREN'T WE?

JUST THINK WHAT A TEAM WE COULD MAKE--IN WHAT YOUR PEOPLE CALL "MAN'S WORLD"!
IS THAT A PROPOSITION, KAL-EL?
NO...A PROPOSAL.
THEN I ACCEPT! YOU'RE TOO BIG A FISH TO THROW BACK.

MOTHER--KAL-EL AND I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY...
YOU COULD HARDLY HAVE CHOSEN A WORTHIER MATE! GO, WITH MY BLESSING!


SOON, THERE FOLLOWS A WEDDING TO END ALL WEDDINGS...
WELL, LOIS, I ALWAYS SUSPECTED SUPERMAN WAS ATTRACTED TO BRUNETTES.
V-VERY FUNNY, CHIEF!
GUESS I GOT TO BE BEST MAN, BECAUSE SUPERMAN WAS AFRAID CLARK WOULD LOSE THE RING!
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU-- SUPER-MAN AND WONDER WIFE!


YOU SEE, DIANA? EVERYBODY IN SO-CALLED "MAN'S WORLD" LOVES YOU ALREADY.
I ONLY WISH MY MOTHER COULD HAVE BEEN HERE, KAL.
SHE ALWAYS TOLD ME ONLY ABOUT THE HATRED AND EVIL BEYOND THE MISTS THAT HIDE PARADISE ISLAND.

WE'LL VISIT YOUR HOME AGAIN SOON, I HOPE-- EVEN IF I DO HAVE TO HOVER AN INCH OR TWO OFF THE GROUND THE WHOLE TIME I'M THERE.
BUT SINCE I'VE ALREADY BEEN AWAY FROM MY WORK AS SUPERMAN FOR SO LONG--
I UNDERSTAND, DARLING--AND A SHORT HONEYMOON ON A SECLUDED ISLE IN THE PACIFIC IS FINE WITH ME.

AFTER ALL, I KNEW I WAS MARRYING A MAN SWORN TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT HIS ADOPTED PLANET--AND THIS IS MY WORLD, TOO, YOU KNOW.
EVER SINCE I BECAME SUPERMAN, I'VE MADE THAT MY MISSION IN LIFE-- AND I'M OVERJOYED THAT YOU WANT TO SHARE IN THAT WORK.

IN MY OWN WAY, OF COURSE, KAL.
WE AMAZONS HAVE SOME PRETTY LOFTY IDEALS OURSELVES.
SO RIGHT AFTER THE HONEYMOON-- IT'S "WONDER-WIFE" TIME!

YES, I DO SEEM TO RECALL A CERTAIN RESCUE AT SEA A FEW WEEKS BACK, AND--HOLD IT!
DO YOU HEAR THAT MOUNTAINOUS ISLAND BELOW-- THAT RUMBLING SOUND?

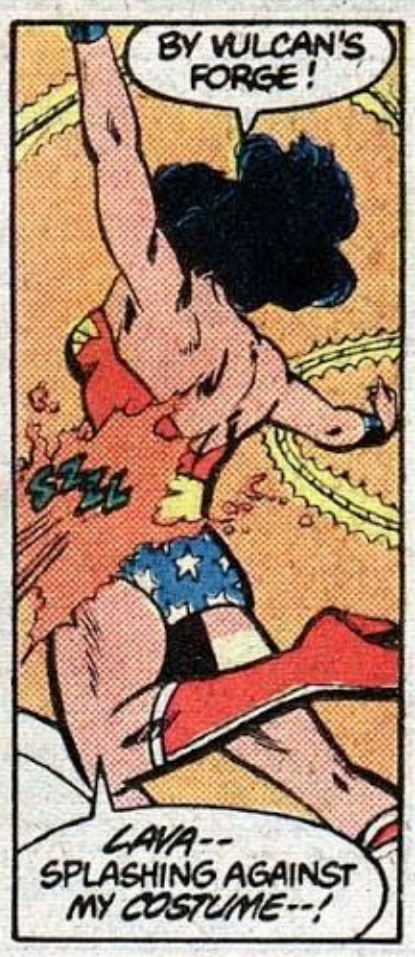
FRANKLY, NO--BUT THEN YOUR HEARING'S EVEN BETTER THAN--
SAY-- WAIT FOR ME!
NO, DIANA! STAY THERE! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS! THAT MOUNTAIN'S ABOUT TO BECOME--

KRAKKA-THOOM
--A VOLCANO!

WARNING DULY NOTED, HUBBIE MINE--BUT I DIDN'T EXACTLY LEAVE HOME JUST TO MAKE SUPER-HEROICS A SPECTATOR SPORT.

SO I SEE! OKAY, HONEY--YOU WIN.

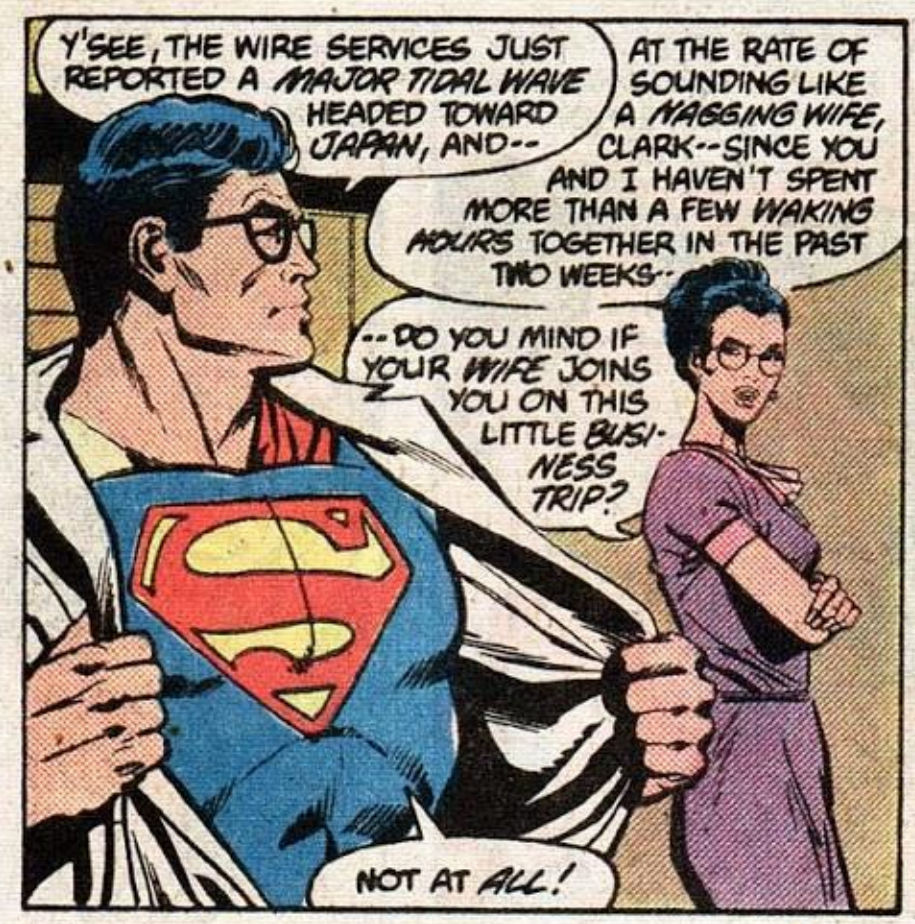
WHEN I DROP THIS GIGANTIC BOULDER TOWARD THE VOLCANO'S MOUTH--PULL YOUR LARIAT'S NOOSE TIGHT--



A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE NEWLYWEDS HAVE SETTLED BACK INTO THEIR "NORMAL" LIVES-- OR WHAT PASS FOR SAME...
AND THAT'S IT FOR THE EVENING NEWS! GOOD NIGHT, METROPOLIS!
OKAY, MR. KENT-- WE'RE OFF THE AIR.
OH, BY THE WAY, MRS. KENT'S WAITING FOR YOU BACK-STAGE.
SHE IS? BUT I--!

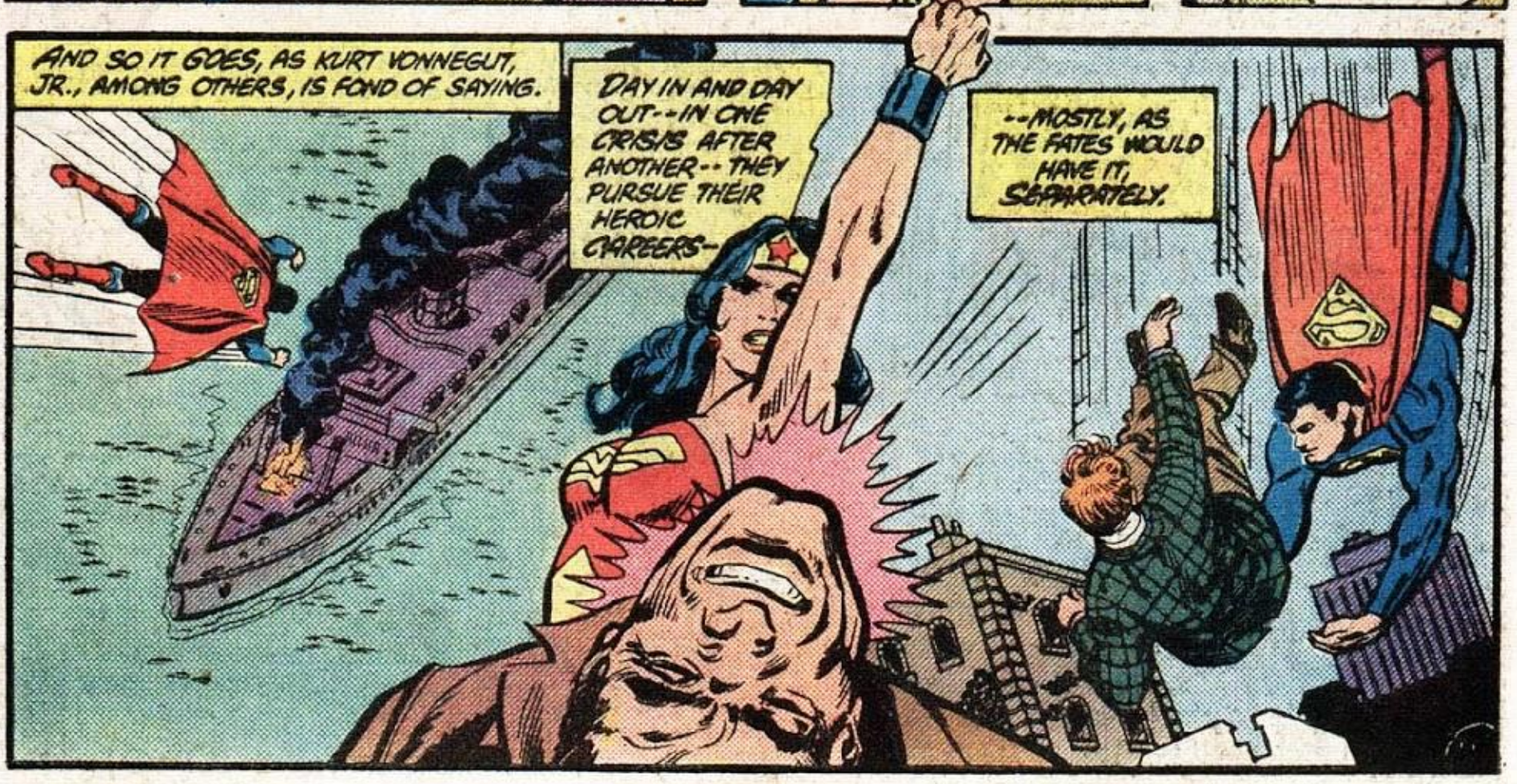
SORRY, DIANA! GOTTA FLY NOW, AS THEY SAY.
CLARK! I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD GRAB A BITE TO EAT AT--
I'LL CATCH A SANDWICH LATER.
NOT AGAIN! THAT'S TWICE THIS WEEK ALREADY!

I KNOW, HONEY --I'LL EXPLAIN WHILE I CHANGE.


Y'SEE, THE WIRE SERVICES JUST REPORTED A MAJOR TIDAL WAVE HEADED TOWARD JAPAN, AND--
AT THE RATE OF SOUNDING LIKE A NAGGING WIFE, CLARK--SINCE YOU AND I HAVEN'T SPENT MORE THAN A FEW WAKING HOURS TOGETHER IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS--
--DO YOU MIND IF YOUR WIFE JOINS YOU ON THIS LITTLE BUSI-NESS TRIP?
NOT AT ALL!

IN FACT, I WISH I COULD DO THAT! IT'D SAVE A LOT OF TIME.
:HMMF!:

KAL--WAIT! I'M RE-CEIVING AN EMERGENCY CALL FROM MOTHER ON MY TIARA.
I-I'LL HAVE TO MEET YOU LATER.
OKAY, HON! SEE YOU SOON!

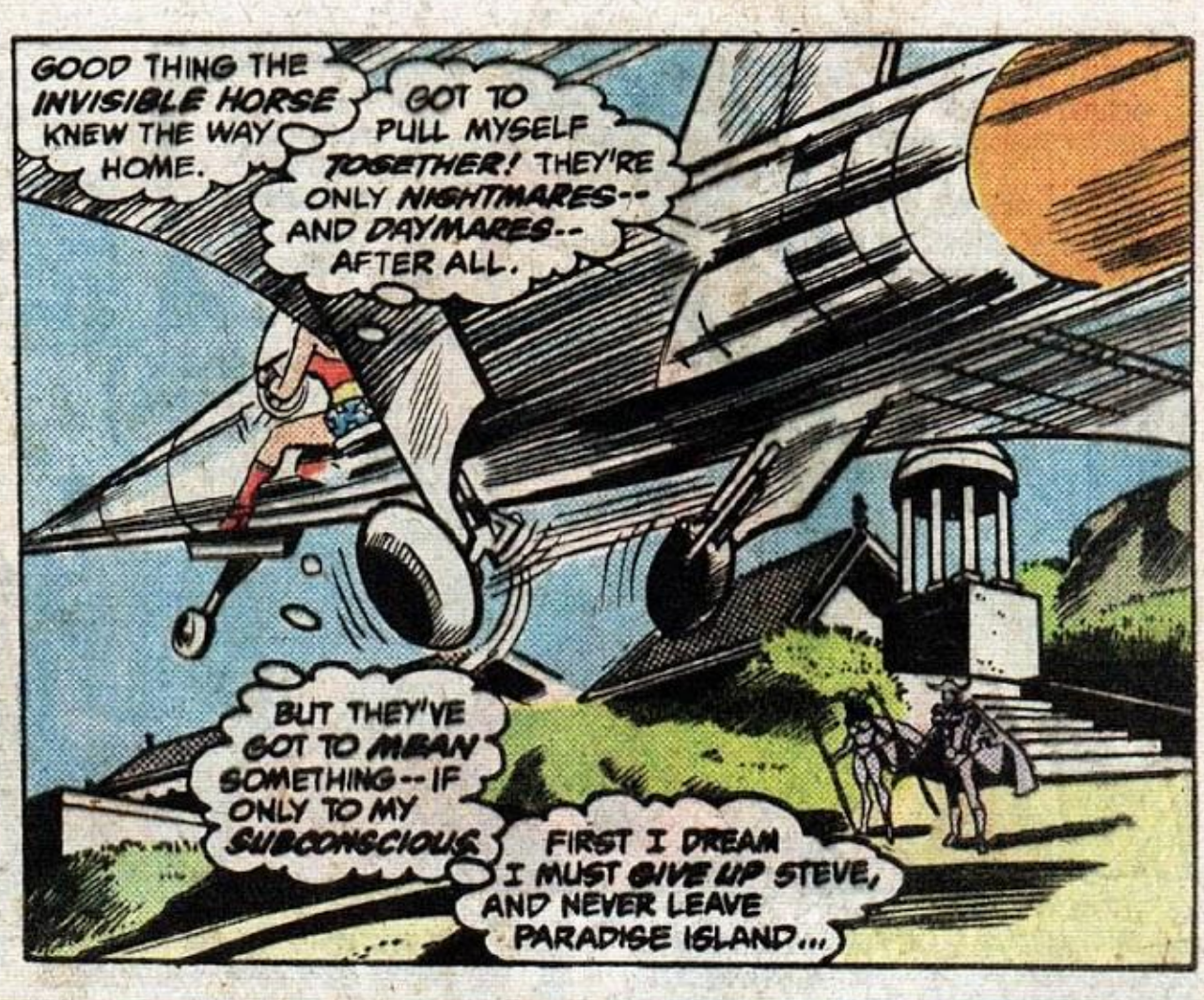

AND SO IT GOES, AS KURT VONNEGUT, JR., AMONG OTHERS, IS FOND OF SAYING.
DAY IN AND DAY OUT--IN ONE CRISIS AFTER ANOTHER--THEY PURSUE THEIR HEROIC CAREERS--
--MOSTLY, AS THE FATES WOULD HAVE IT, SEPARATELY.

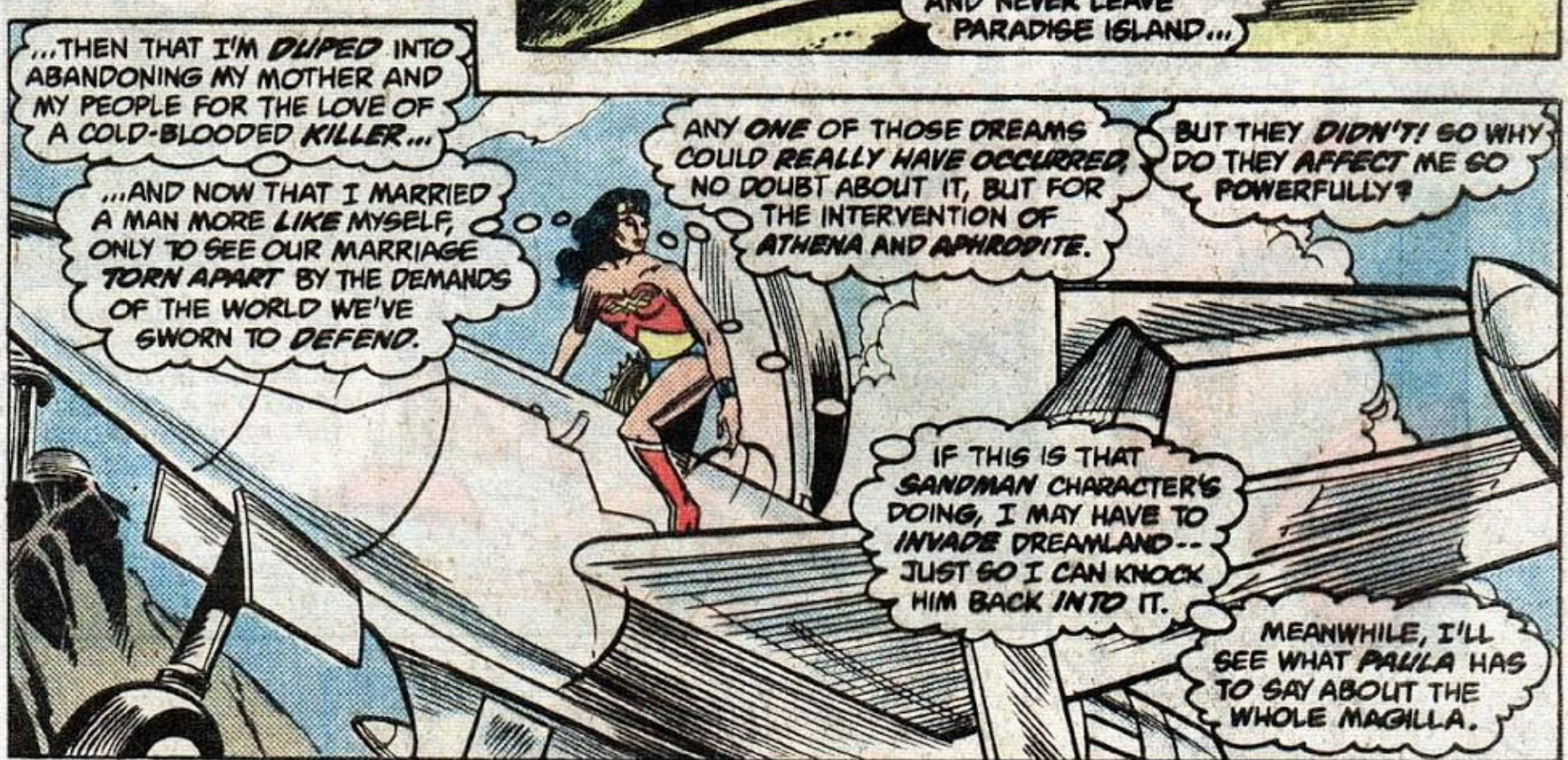
THEY GIVE UNSELFISHLY OF THEIR POWERS, THEIR MINDS... EVEN THEIR HEARTS...

...TO EVERY GOOD CAUSE...

...EXCEPT EACH OTHER.

...INTRUDED UPON BY THE WORLD WHICH IS:
DON'T I HAVE ANY CONTROL LEFT?
WHERE-- AM I?? BY ZEUS--I WAS DREAMING AGAIN!


GOOD THING THE INVISIBLE HORSE KNEW THE WAY HOME.
GOT TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER! THEY'RE ONLY NIGHTMARES-- AND DAYMARES-- AFTER ALL.
BUT THEY'VE GOT TO MEAN SOMETHING--IF ONLY TO MY SUBCONSCIOUS.
FIRST I DREAM I MUST GIVE UP STEVE, AND NEVER LEAVE PARADISE ISLAND...


...THEN THAT I'M DUPED INTO ABANDONING MY MOTHER AND MY PEOPLE FOR THE LOVE OF A COLD-BLOODED KILLER...
...AND NOW THAT I MARRIED A MAN MORE LIKE MYSELF, ONLY TO SEE OUR MARRIAGE TORN APART BY THE DEMANDS OF THE WORLD WE'VE SWORN TO DEFEND.
ANY ONE OF THOSE DREAMS COULD REALLY HAVE OCCURRED, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, BUT FOR THE INTERVENTION OF ATHENA AND APHRODITE.
BUT THEY DIDN'T! SO WHY DO THEY AFFECT ME SO POWERFULLY?
IF THIS IS THAT SANDMAN CHARACTER'S DOING, I MAY HAVE TO INVADE DREAMLAND-- JUST SO I CAN KNOCK HIM BACK INTO IT.
MEANWHILE, I'LL SEE WHAT PAULA HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE WHOLE MAGILLA.

MY ADVICE, PRINCESS, IS TO CALL STEVE.
LET HIS WORDS REASSURE YOU... IF ANYTHING CAN.
PAULA, YOU'D MAKE A GREAT SHRINK, IF YOU EVER STOP BEING THE AMAZON'S TOP SCIENTIST.
I DON'T MUCH LIKE INTERRUPTING THAT ARMAMENTS CONFERENCE--

--BUT HIS VOICE'LL SURE SOUND GOOD TO ME, RIGHT ABOUT NOW!

I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE I'M COMING APART AT THE SEAMS.

HELLO... WONDER WOMAN CALLING! YES... IT REALLY IS.

MAY I SPEAK WITH COLONEL TREVOR, PLEASE?

THAT YOU, ANGEL? HI!

YEAH, I MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY, TOO! THE TALKS ARE OVER, AND THEY DIDN'T GO TO WELL... SURPRISE, SURPRISE.

AND THESE TALKS WERE WITH OUR ALLIES!

YEAH, TOMORROW'S THE BIG DAY, ALL RIGHT! I'M FLYING OUT TONIGHT.

HE SOUNDED SO DISTANT... SO PREOCCUPIED.

UP TO NOW, HAVEN'T HAD A MINUTE TO THINK ABOUT THE WEDDING, BUT--

FUNNY. I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT MUCH OF ANYTHING ELSE. STEVE--

CONNECTION GOING BAD... GOODBYE, DARL--

HE HUNG UP--OR ELSE WE WERE CUT OFF--BEFORE I COULD EVEN TELL HIM HOW MUCH I MISS HIM--HOW MUCH I LOVE HIM.

CLICK!

MONITOR

BUT FROM WHAT THESE MONITORS SHOW ABOUT THE WORLD SITUATION--MAYBE IT'S A WONDER THAT HUMANKIND CAN LOVE AT ALL!

ALL I SEEM TO DO--IS KEEP DRIFTING OFF TO SLEEP--YET I'M CONSTANTY EXHAUSTED!

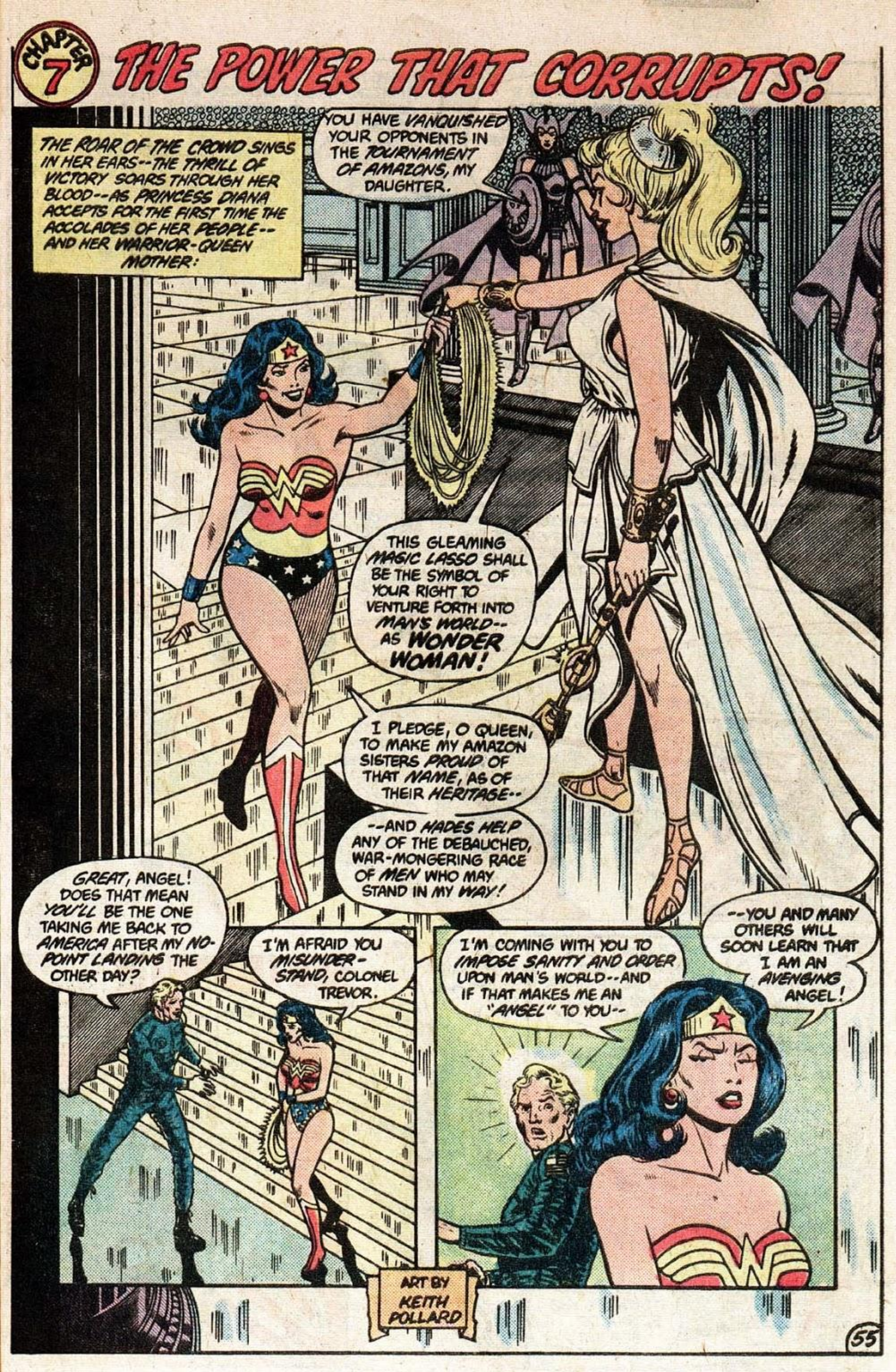
OH NO! GETTING DIZZY AGAIN--NO--DROWZY--BUT SO POWERFULLY--IRRESISTIBLY!

SANDMAN--CAN YOU HEAR ME, OFF THERE IN NEVER-NEVER-LAND? IF YOU'RE BEHIND THIS, I'M GOING TO--

N-NO! I--DON'T DARE FALL ASLEEP--NOT IF IT MEANS--ANOTHER OF THOSE NIGHTMARES! I--

WONDER WOMAN, HOWEVER, IS NOT GIVEN THAT CHOICE.

KLUMP


CHAPTER 7
THE POWER THAT CORRUPTS!
THE ROAR OF THE CROWD SINGS IN HER EARS--THE THRILL OF VICTORY SOARS THROUGH HER BLOOD--AS PRINCESS DIANA ACCEPTS FOR THE FIRST TIME THE ACCOLADES OF HER PEOPLE--AND HER WARRIOR-QUEEN MOTHER:
YOU HAVE VANQUISHED YOUR OPPONENTS IN THE TOURNAMENT OF AMAZONS, MY DAUGHTER.
THIS GLEAMING MAGIC LASSO SHALL BE THE SYMBOL OF YOUR RIGHT TO VENTURE FORTH INTO MAN'S WORLD--AS WONDER WOMAN!
I PLEDGE, O QUEEN, TO MAKE MY AMAZON SISTERS PROUD OF THAT NAME, AS OF THEIR HERITAGE--
--AND HADES HELP ANY OF THE DEBAUCHED, WAR-MONGERING RACE OF MEN WHO MAY STAND IN MY WAY!
GREAT, ANGEL! DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL BE THE ONE TAKING ME BACK TO AMERICA AFTER MY NO-POINT LANDING THE OTHER DAY?
I'M AFRAID YOU MISUNDERSTAND, COLONEL TREVOR.
I'M COMING WITH YOU TO IMPOSE SANITY AND ORDER UPON MAN'S WORLD--AND IF THAT MAKES ME AN "ANGEL" TO YOU--
--YOU AND MANY OTHERS WILL SOON LEARN THAT I AM AN AVENGING ANGEL!
ART BY KEITH POLLARD

SOON...

I NEARLY FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU, STEVE TREVOR, AFTER I PULLED YOU FROM THE WRECKAGE OF YOUR JET.

BUT WHEN I REMEMBERED THE HARDSHIPS AND HORRORS MEN HAVE WREAKED UPON WOMEN SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL--I HARDENED MY HEART!

IF YOU STILL HARBOR ANY FOOLISH ROMANTIC NOTIONS ABOUT ME--BEST FORGET THEM.

BELIEVE ME, AMAZON--I'VE ALREADY BEGUN TO!

GOOD.

AMID STONY SILENCE, A FAMILIAR SKY-LINE SOON COMES INTO VIEW...

YOU CAN LAND ON THE PAN-AM BUILDING UP THERE, WONDER WOMAN.

LEAVE IT TO MEN TO NAME ONE OF THEIR TALLEST STRUCTURES AFTER AN OVER-SEXED GOAT-GOD!

ACTUALLY, PRINCESS, I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT "PAN-AM"--HUH?

THAT BUNCH OF GUNMEN DOWN THERE--HIJACKING ONE OF THE 'COPTERS THAT MAKE REGULAR FLIGHTS TO THE AIRPORTS!

SET THIS THING DOWN, LADY! I'VE GOT TO--

YOU CAN STAY RIGHT HERE AND WATCH, TREVOR.

LOOKS LIKE A GOOD CHANCE FOR ME TO STRETCH MY LEGS--

--NOT TO MENTION A FEW CRIMINAL NECKS!

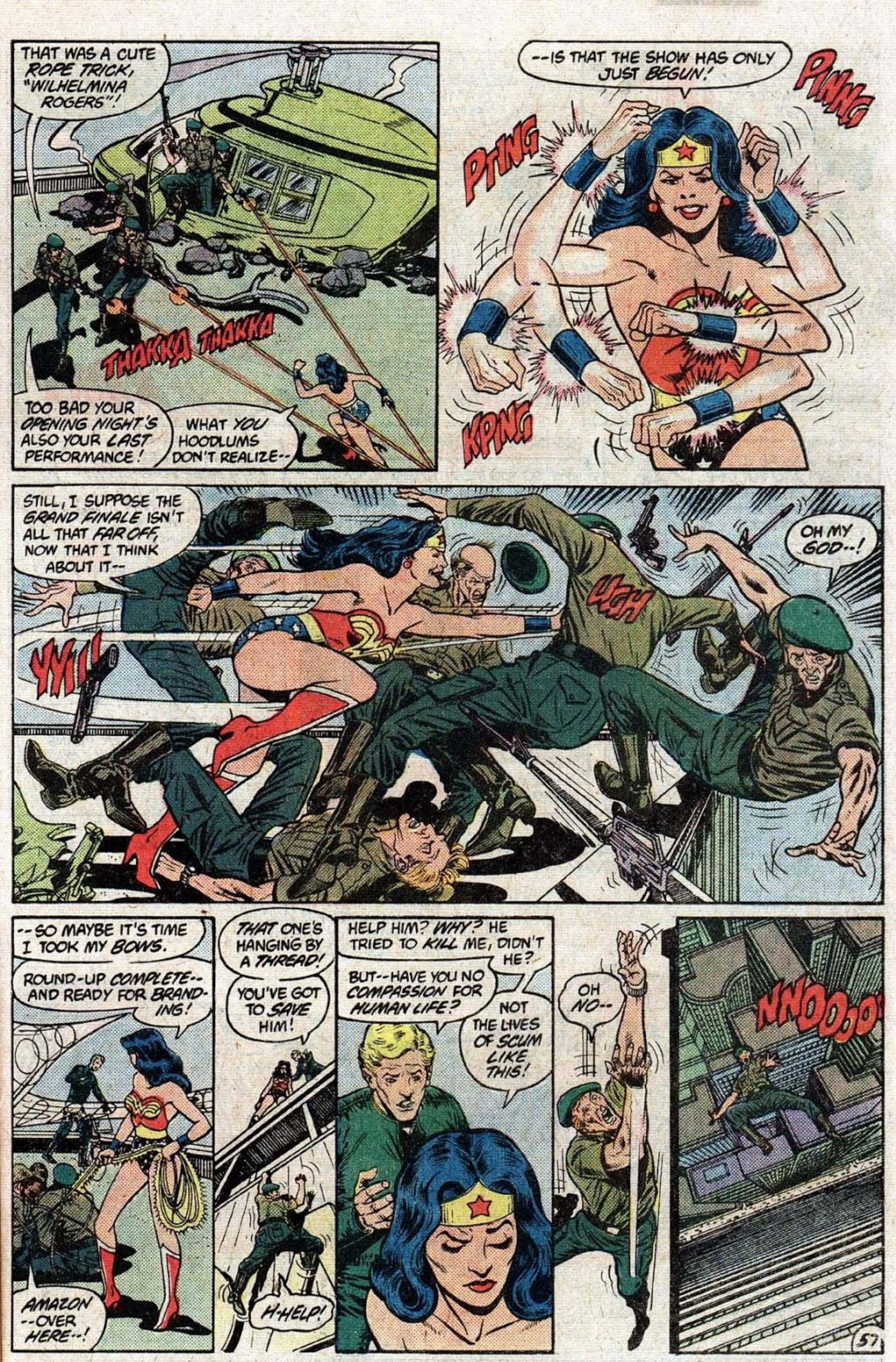
WH--? DON'T LOOK NOW, GUYS--BUT THERE'S SOME KIND'A COWGIRL ON OUR TAIL!

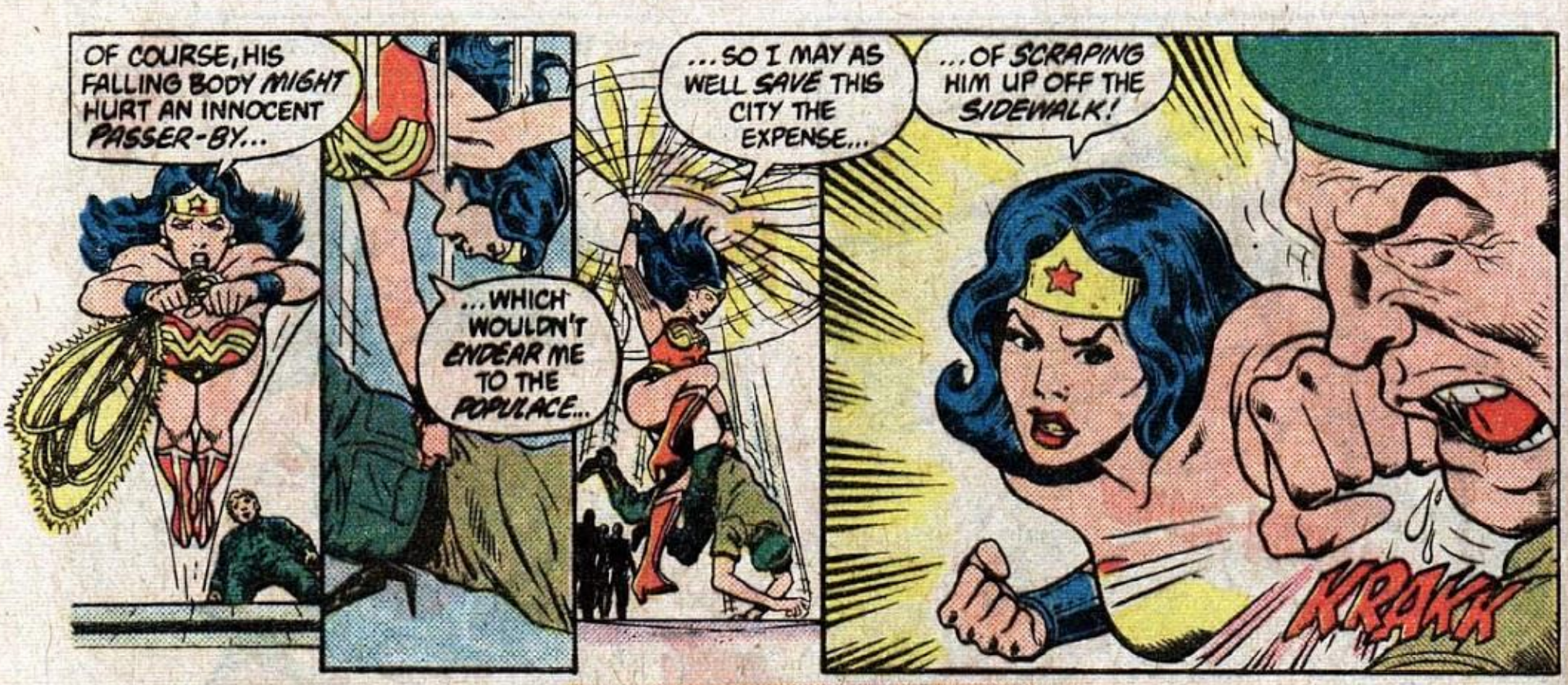
DON'T SWEAT IT! WHAT'S SHE GONNA DO AGAINST A CHOPPER?

HUH??

YOU WERE SAYING?

SLAM

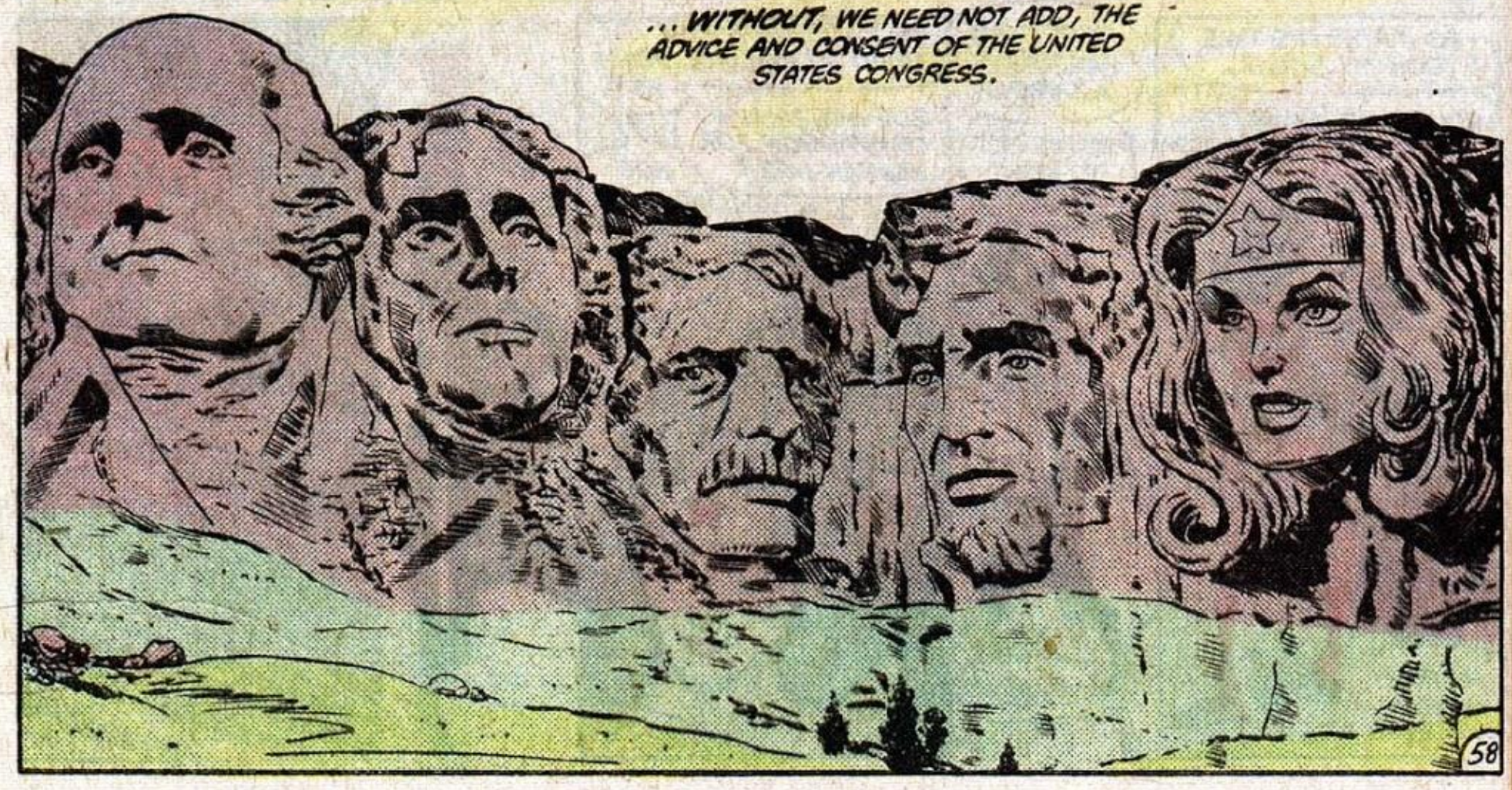

THAT WAS A CUTE ROPE TRICK, "WILHELMINA ROGERS"!
THAKKA THAKKA
TOO BAD YOUR OPENING NIGHT'S ALSO YOUR LAST PERFORMANCE!
WHAT YOU HOODLUMS DON'T REALIZE--
--IS THAT THE SHOW HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN!
PTING
PINNG
KPING
STILL, I SUPPOSE THE GRAND FINALE ISN'T ALL THAT FAR OFF, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT--
YYII
UGH
OH MY GOD--!
--SO MAYBE IT'S TIME I TOOK MY BOWS.
ROUND-UP COMPLETE-- AND READY FOR BRANDING!
AMAZON --OVER HERE--!
THAT ONE'S HANGING BY A THREAD!
YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM!
H-HELP!
HELP HIM? WHY? HE TRIED TO KILL ME, DIDN'T HE?
BUT--HAVE YOU NO COMPASSION FOR HUMAN LIFE?
NOT THE LIVES OF SCUM LIKE THIS!
OH NO--
NNOOOO



BEFORE LONG, EVERYONE KNOWS IT...

AND WHAT THOSE PLANS ARE, IT TURNS OUT, IS ANYTHING BUT SECRET, WHEN A FIFTH FACE IS ADDED TO THE GRAND TABLEAU OF STONE AT MT. RUSHMORE...

...WITHOUT, WE NEED NOT ADD, THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.



WHEN NOT IMPOSING HER OWN BRAND OF HARD JUSTICE UPON HUMANKIND, WONDER WOMAN ENJOYS THERE THE ONLY COMPANY SHE FINDS TOLERABLE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD:

HER OWN.

WONDER IF I SHOULD BUILD A ROBOT, SO IT CAN PEEL ME A GRAPE.

WITHIN DAYS, SHE DECIDES TO PAY AN UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO A STARTLED NATION'S CAPITAL...

NICE HOMEY-LOOKING PLACE DOWN THERE! MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE IT BACK TO SOUTH DAKOTA WITH ME.

...AND TO ITS HIGHEST ELECTED OFFICIAL:

WHAT THE--? HOW DID YOU GET PAST THE SECRET SERVICE?

NOT PAST.

THROUGH.

I DECIDED WE SHOULD HAVE A LITTLE TALK, MR. PRESIDENT...

...CONCERNING YOUR IMPENDING RESIGNATION, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A FULLY-QUALIFIED WOMAN IN YOUR PLACE!

RESIGN? BUT I NEVER CONSIDERED..

THEN YOU'D BETTER--AND FAST.

NO HURRY, MR. PRESIDENT.

TREVOR!

CHECK! I HALF EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THIS--ONCE I SAW HOW YOUR SUPER-FEATS WERE GETTING MORE AND MORE SENSELESSLY DESTRUCTIVE!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

NOT BY ALL THE THUNDERBOLTS OF JOVE!

THEN WE'LL HAUL YOU OFF IN MANACLES IF WE HAVE TO--

HOLD IT, MEN! DON'T SHOOT! THE BULLETS WILL ONLY RICOCHET DANGEROUSLY OFF HER BRACELETS..!

THAT THEY WILL, TREVOR--

THANG

THAK

WANG

--VERY DANGEROUSLY!

ARRH..!

AND SO SHE FLEES, A FUGITIVE FROM THE VERY JUSTICE SHE WAS SENT TO ADMINISTER--FROM A WORLD WHICH CAN ONLY RETURN HER SCORN, IN KIND.

"'YOU SHALL HAVE A JOY, OR YOU SHALL HAVE POWER,' SAID GOD. 'YOU SHALL NOT HAVE BOTH.'" --RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

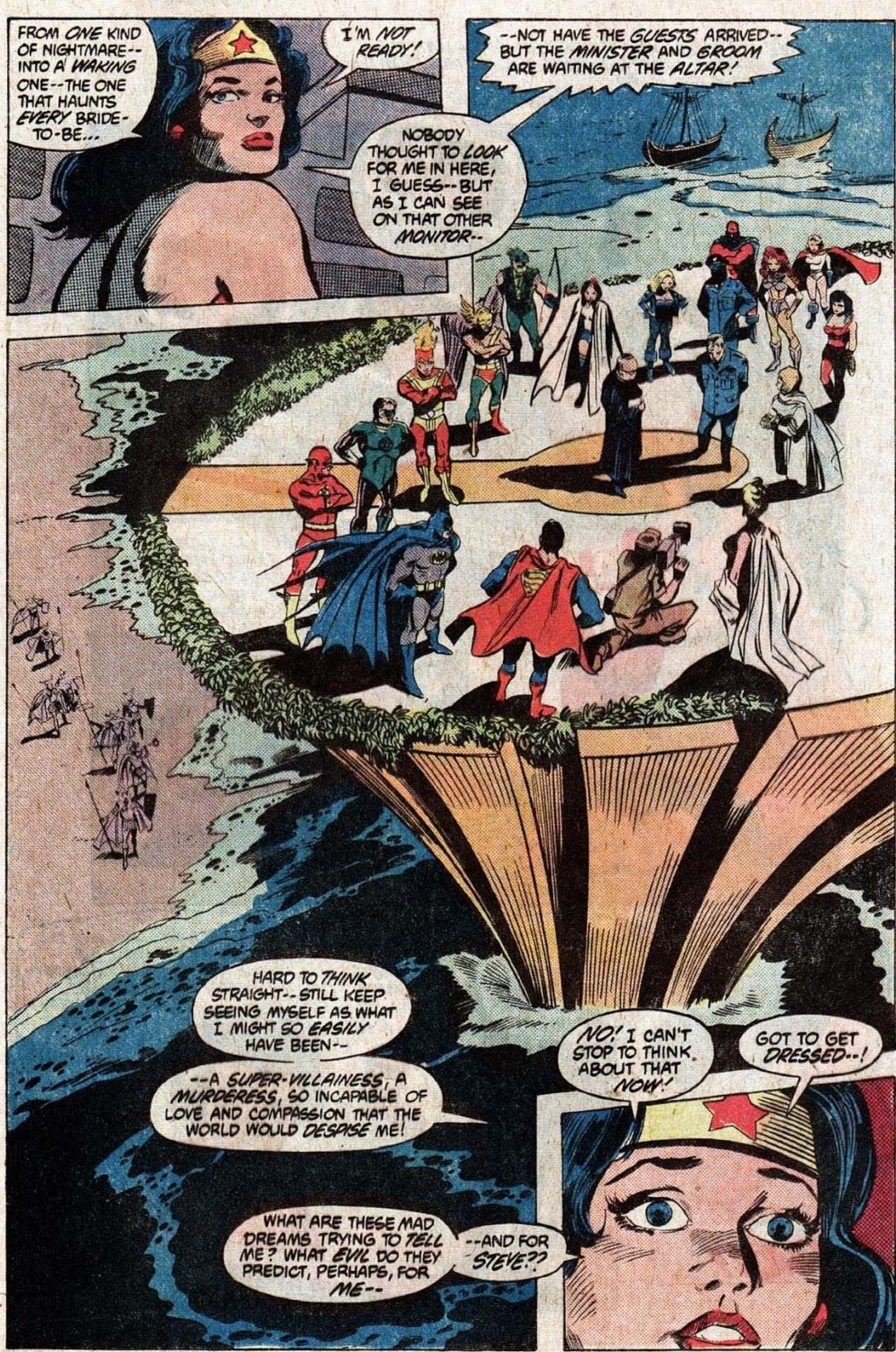
WANTED
the F.B.I.
WONDER WOMAN
A.K.A. PRINCESS DIANA
REWARD DEAD or ALIVE

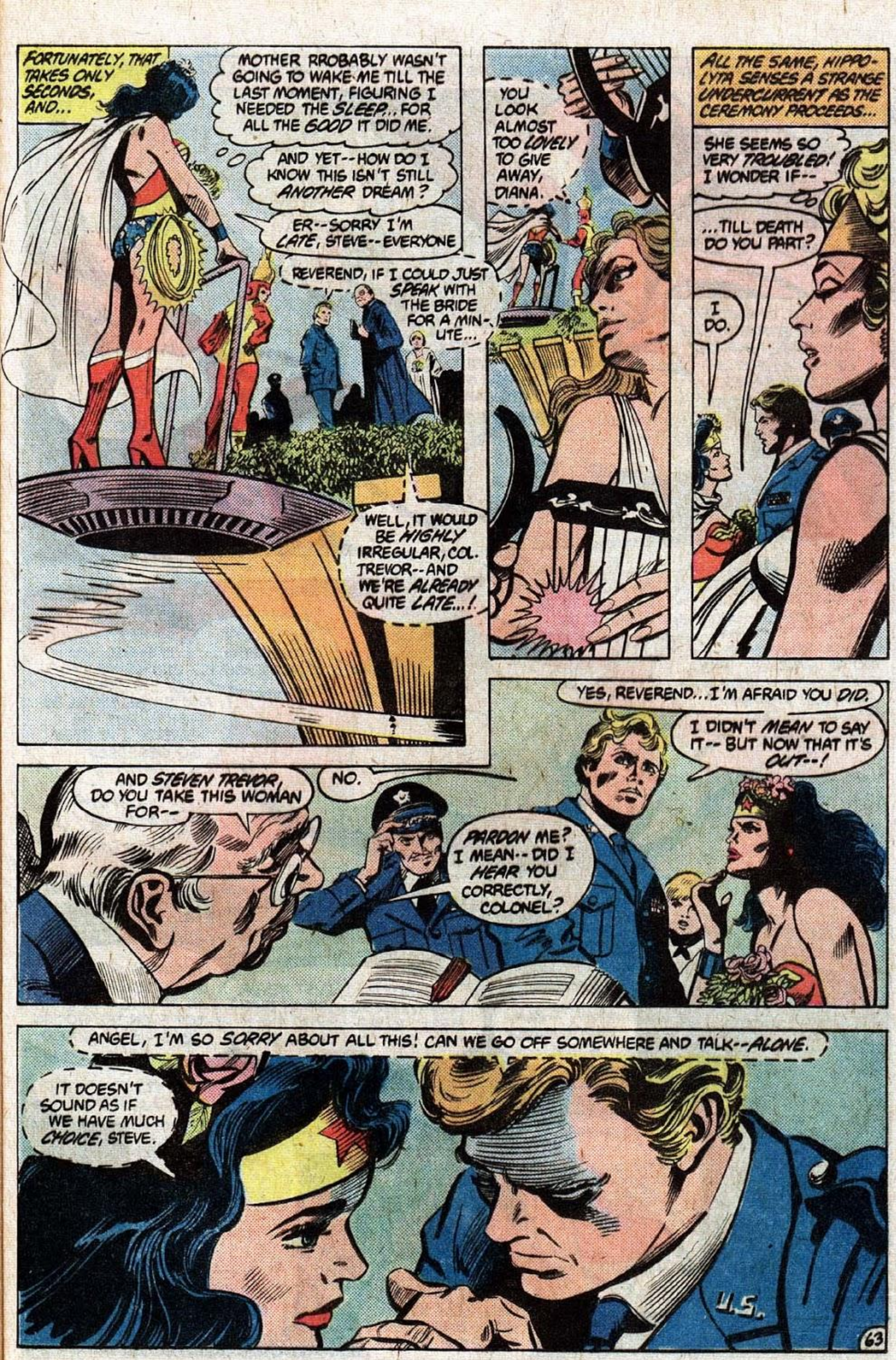
Interlude: SHE FELL INTO THE WELL OF SLEEP WITH THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF *WAR* AND *CRIME* HOWLING FORTH FROM THE MANY *TV SCREENS* ABOUT HER.
SHE AWAKENS TO SEE UPON THEM A *DIFFERENT* KIND OF HORROR--

WHERE *AM* I?? YES--NOW I KNOW--THE *MONITOR ROOM!*

BUT NOW THE *SHADOW-THING* IS ON EVERY ONE OF THEM--*LAUGHING*--*MOCKING*--!

I--I CAN'T *STAND* IT! I DON'T EVEN *KNOW* OR *CARE* HOW IT'S JAMMING OUR *FREQUENCIES*--


FROM ONE KIND OF NIGHTMARE-- INTO A WAKING ONE--THE ONE THAT HAUNTS EVERY BRIDE-TO-BE...
I'M NOT READY!
--NOT HAVE THE GUESTS ARRIVED-- BUT THE MINISTER AND GROOM ARE WAITING AT THE ALTAR!
NOBODY THOUGHT TO LOOK FOR ME IN HERE, I GUESS--BUT AS I CAN SEE ON THAT OTHER MONITOR--
HARD TO THINK STRAIGHT--STILL KEEP SEEING MYSELF AS WHAT I MIGHT SO EASILY HAVE BEEN--
--A SUPER-VILLAINESS, A MURDERESS, SO INCAPABLE OF LOVE AND COMPASSION THAT THE WORLD WOULD DESPISE ME!
WHAT ARE THESE MAD DREAMS TRYING TO TELL ME? WHAT EVIL DO THEY PREDICT, PERHAPS, FOR ME--
--AND FOR STEVE??
NO! I CAN'T STOP TO THINK ABOUT THAT NOW!
GOT TO GET DRESSED--!


FORTUNATELY, THAT TAKES ONLY SECONDS, AND...
MOTHER RROBABLY WASN'T GOING TO WAKE ME TILL THE LAST MOMENT, FIGURING I NEEDED THE SLEEP... FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID ME.
AND YET--HOW DO I KNOW THIS ISN'T STILL ANOTHER DREAM?
ER--SORRY I'M LATE, STEVE--EVERYONE
REVEREND, IF I COULD JUST SPEAK WITH THE BRIDE FOR A MIN-UTE...
WELL, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY IRREGULAR, COL. TREVOR--AND WE'RE ALREADY QUITE LATE...!
YOU LOOK ALMOST TOO LOVELY TO GIVE AWAY, DIANA.
ALL THE SAME, HIPPO-LYTA SENSES A STRANGE UNDERCURRENT AS THE CEREMONY PROCEEDS...
SHE SEEMS SO VERY TROUBLED! I WONDER IF--
...TILL DEATH DO YOU PART?
I DO.
YES, REVEREND...I'M AFRAID YOU DID.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY IT--BUT NOW THAT IT'S OUT--!
AND STEVEN TREVOR, DO YOU TAKE THIS WOMAN FOR--
NO.
PARDON ME? I MEAN--DID I HEAR YOU CORRECTLY, COLONEL?
ANGEL, I'M SO SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS! CAN WE GO OFF SOMEWHERE AND TALK--ALONE.
IT DOESN'T SOUND AS IF WE HAVE MUCH CHOICE, STEVE.
U.S.

THE SHOCKED GUESTS SPECULATE IN WHISPERS, AS THE COUPLE SOAR AWAY FROM THE WEDDING PLATFORM...

...WHILE, IN ANOTHER SPHERE ENTIRELY, ONE WHO WAS UNINVITED LOOKS ON, AND IS NOT DISPLEASED.

THESE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN LIKE *HELL* FOR ME, SWEETHEART.

WAS THE ARMS CONFERENCE REALLY *THAT* BAD?

IT *WASN'T* THAT! I WAS *OBSESSED* WITH SOMETHING ELSE--NO, I'VE GOT TO BE HONEST--WITH *SOMEONE* ELSE.

STEVE, ARE YOU TELLING ME--YOU'RE *INVOLVED* WITH, MAYBE EVEN IN *LOVE* WITH--*ANOTHER WOMAN*?

THAT'S JUST IT, ANGEL... I *DON'T KNOW*.

IT'S SO CONFUSING--YOU'LL SAY I'M *CRAZY*, AND MAYBE YOU'LL BE RIGHT--BUT THE *PERSON* I'VE BEEN SO OBSESSED *WITH* IS--

--DIANA PRINCE!

WHAT? BUT, SHE'S *DEAD*, STEVE.

I GUESS I JUST NEVER *REALIZED* HOW MUCH DIANA MEANT TO ME--*UNTIL* SHE DIED, AND THEN IT WAS *TOO LATE*.

IT'S AS IF SOME GREAT *VOID* WAS LEFT IN MY LIFE--WHICH NOT EVEN THE WOMAN I LOVE--*YOU*--COULD FILL.

LOOK, I *TOLD* YOU IT'D SOUND *CRAZY*...!

LISTEN TO ME, STEVE! I MAY AS WELL *TELL* YOU NOW--DIANA AND I ARE THE *SAME*--

NO, ANGEL--NO, YOU'RE *NOT*!...

YOU MAY *THINK* YOU AND YOUR BEST FRIEND WERE A LOT *ALIKE*--BUT YOU *WEREN'T*--NOT AT ALL!

I DON'T KNOW IF I *LOVED* DI OR NOT, BUT I FEEL SO--SO *EMPTY* NOW THAT SHE'S GONE--

--THAT, MUCH AS I'VE *WANTED* TO EVER SINCE I MET YOU A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK, I *CAN'T* MARRY YOU--NOT JUST *NOW!*

PLEASE *F-FORGIVE* ME, ANGEL! I'VE--GOT TO *LEAVE*...!

IF YOU KNEW WHAT *I* HAD DONE, STEVE, IT WOULD BE *YOU* WHO WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED TO FORGIVE *ME*.

S-SO LONG, ANGEL. WE'LL TALK MORE *LATER*...IF YOU *WANT* TO, THAT IS.

FAREWELL, STEVE. I'LL TELL THE OTHERS.

WE'LL SEE.

THE *TEARS OF APHRODITE* FALL UPON US *ALL*, MY DAUGHTER.

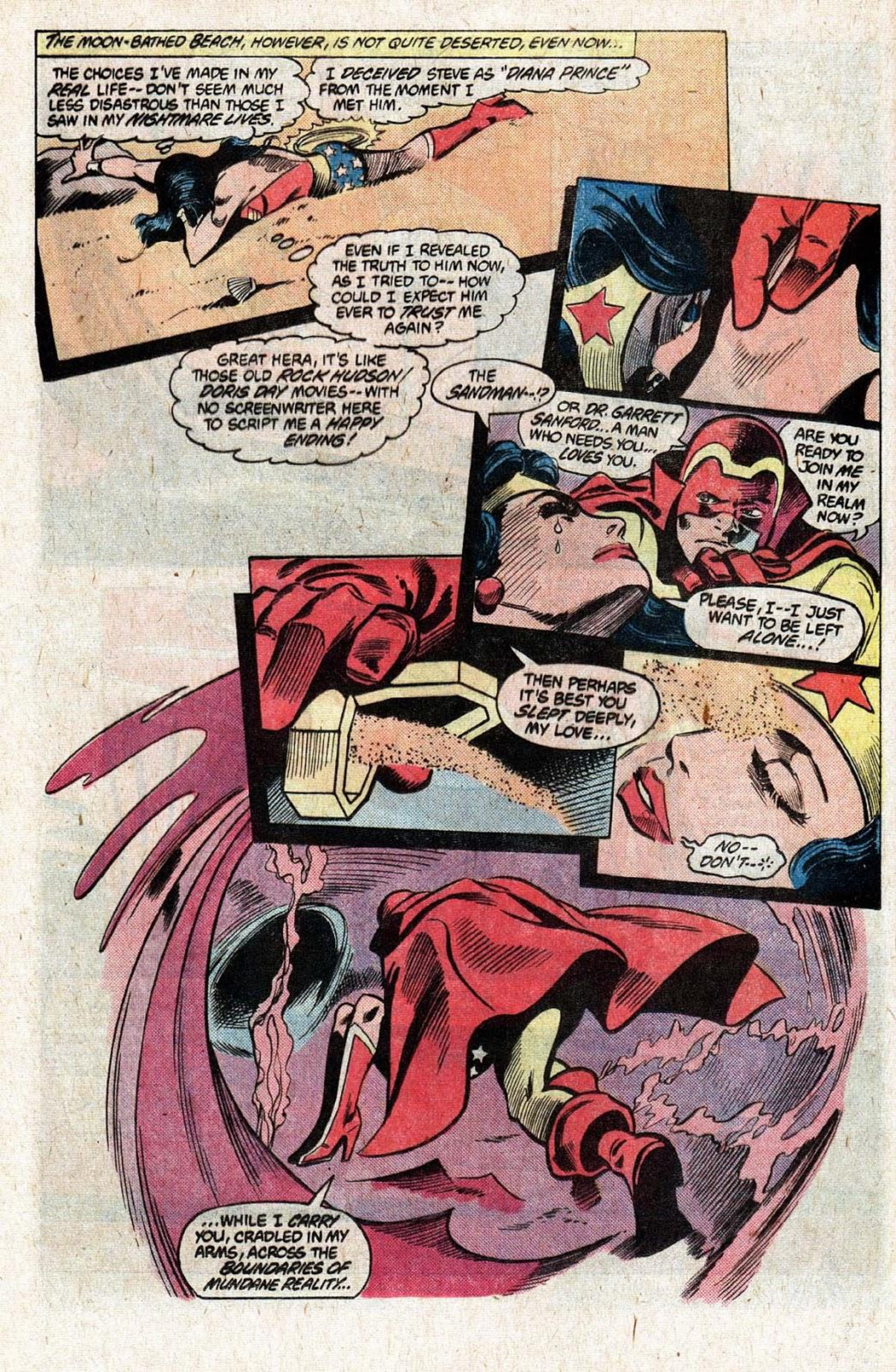
YOU SEE? *SUPERMAN* WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR FRIENDS IN THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* AND THE *TEEN TITANS*.

THAT'S GOOD, MOTHER... BECAUSE *I* SURE DON'T.

I'M CERTAIN THEY ALL *UNDER-STAND*.

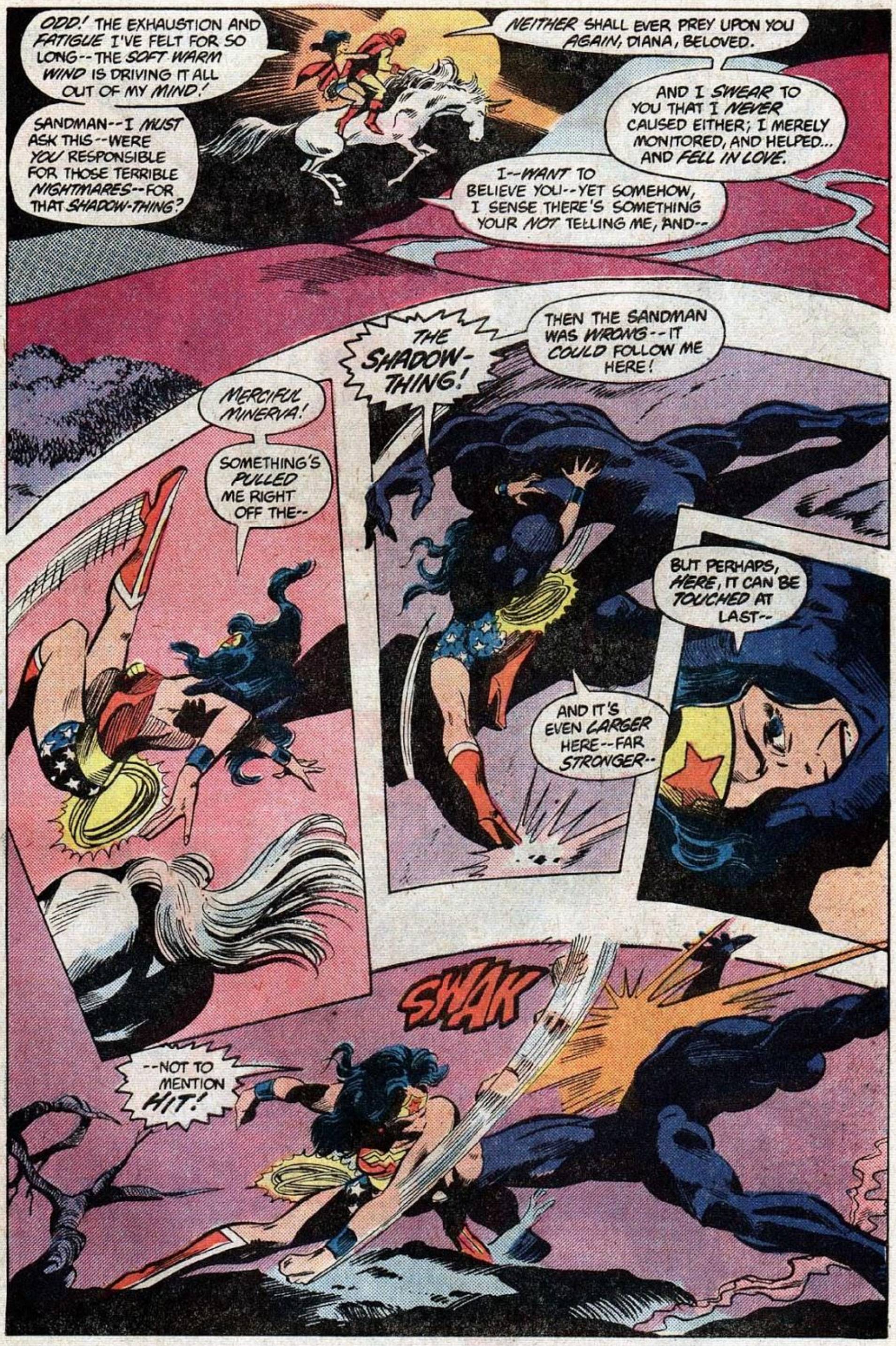
HOURS PASS IN SILENT SADNESS, AND NIGHT COMES AT LENGTH TO PARADISE ISLAND...

...AS THE OCEAN'S PULSING WAVES WASH STEADILY, POWERFULLY AGAINST A GLEAMING PLAT-FORM WHICH ONE DAY SOON WILL CRUMBLE AND BE BORNE AWAY.

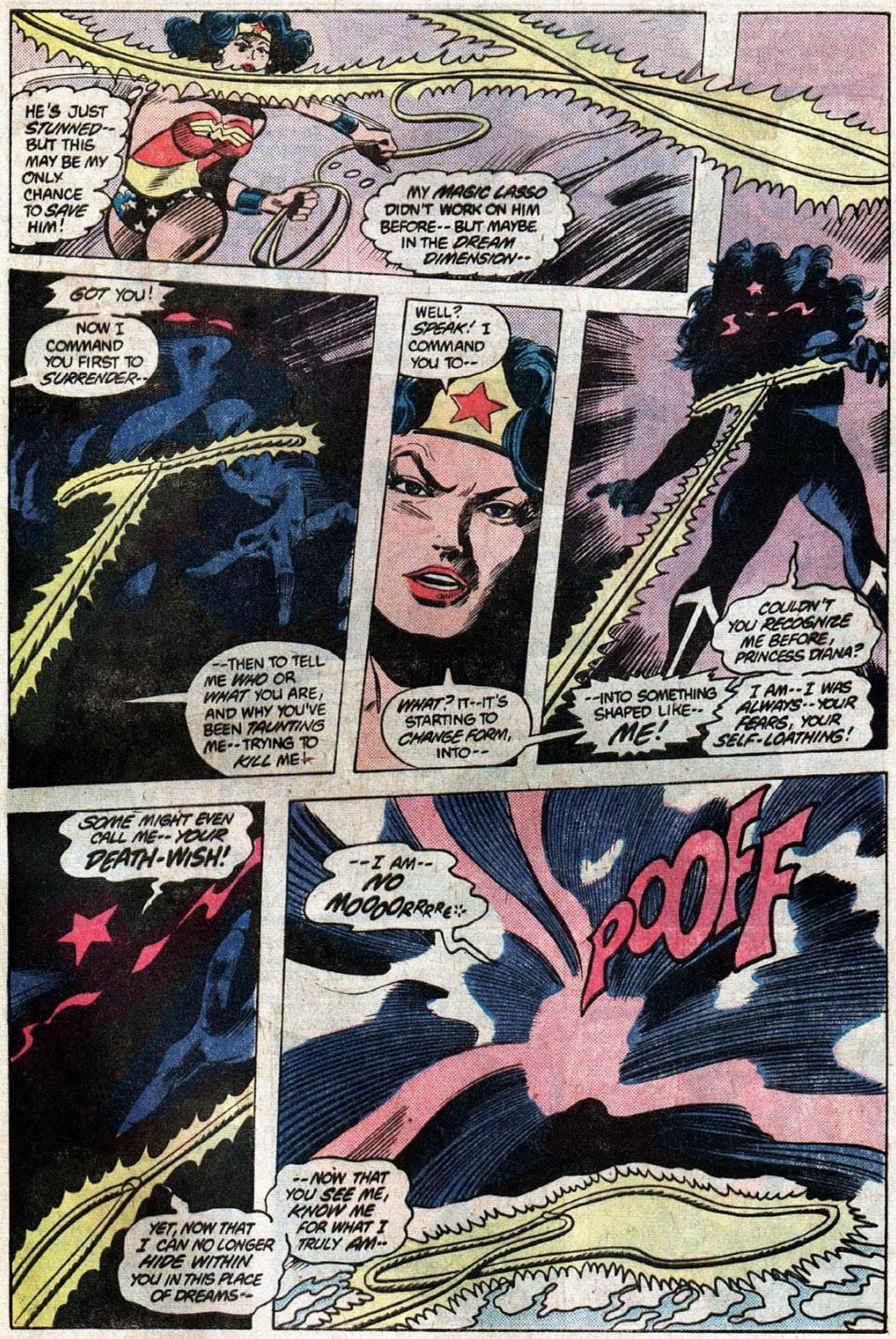

THE MOON-BATHED BEACH, HOWEVER, IS NOT QUITE DESERTED, EVEN NOW...
THE CHOICES I'VE MADE IN MY REAL LIFE-- DON'T SEEM MUCH LESS DISASTROUS THAN THOSE I SAW IN MY NIGHTMARE LIVES.
I DECEIVED STEVE AS "DIANA PRINCE" FROM THE MOMENT I MET HIM.
EVEN IF I REVEALED THE TRUTH TO HIM NOW, AS I TRIED TO-- HOW COULD I EXPECT HIM EVER TO TRUST ME AGAIN?
GREAT HERA, IT'S LIKE THOSE OLD ROCK HUDSON/ DORIS DAY MOVIES-- WITH NO SCREENWRITER HERE TO SCRIPT ME A HAPPY ENDING!
THE SANDMAN--!?
OR DR. GARRETT SANFORD... A MAN WHO NEEDS YOU... LOVES YOU.
ARE YOU READY TO JOIN ME IN MY REALM NOW?
PLEASE, I--I JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE...!
THEN PERHAPS IT'S BEST YOU SLEPT DEEPLY, MY LOVE...
NO-- DON'T--!
...WHILE I CARRY YOU, CRADLED IN MY ARMS, ACROSS THE BOUNDARIES OF MUNDANE REALITY...

CHAPTER 8
BEYOND THE GATES OF SLEEP!
--INTO THE TWIN LANDS OF NEVER-WAS AND, MOST ESPECIALLY, OF ALWAYS-SHALL-BE!
WE HAVE CROSSED THEM WITHOUT HARM, MY SLEEPING PRINCESS-- THE QUICKSANDS OF TIME-CONSCIOUSNESS--
AND HERE, YOU AND I SHALL EVER BE--AS ONE..
AWAKEN UNTO THE ONE LIVING DREAM, DIANA, WHICH WILL NEVER BE A NIGHTMARE--
--AND BEHOLD THE TIMELESS KINGDOM WHERE YOU SHALL BE MY QUEEN, FOR ALL ETERNITY!
WH--? IT'S SO STRANGE--I WAS ASLEEP, YET EVEN THERE, I HEARD YOUR VOICE, AND--
THIS LAND--WITH STARS AND AURORAS BEYOND COUNTING--IT'S ALL SO BEAUTIFUL--!
DID YOU CREATE ALL THIS, SOMEHOW-- JUST FOR ME?
NO, MY LOVE...YOU DID!

NOR DID I MEAN THAT REMARK FIGURATIVELY... BUT RATHER QUITE LITERALLY.
YOU ARE THE CREATOR OF ALL THAT IS BEAUTIFUL HERE YOU SEE?
IT'S TRUE! I MERELY THOUGHT--OF ONE BRIGHT SUN--AND IT APPEARED IN PLACE OF THE OTHERS!
A SUN BIRTHING IN THE EAST, DIANA, TO MIRROR THE RADIANCE WITHIN YOU.
HERE, IN THE DREAM DIMENSION, YOU ARE A VERITABLE GODDESS.
NO, DIANA. IT MAKES ME JUST A LONELY MAN...
DOES THAT MAKE YOU... A GOD?
...WHO'S LONELY NO LONGER...!
THEN, THE SANDMAN KISSES THE WOMAN BEFORE HIM.
AND, BECAUSE SHE WANTS--NEEDS TO BLOT OUT THE PAIN STILL THROBBING WITH HER, SHE KISSES BACK.
AFTER WHICH...
MY SILENT WHISTLE WILL SUMMON A STEED WORTHY OF YOU, MY LOVE.
A UNICORN?!
A BIT MORE STYLISH THAN A KANGA, I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE.
TOGETHER, WE'LL BOTH EXPLORE THIS REALM OF ETERNAL SLEEP--AND RE-CREATE IT ANEW, IN OUR OWN IMAGE.


ODD! THE EXHAUSTION AND FATIGUE I'VE FELT FOR SO LONG--THE SOFT WARM WIND IS DRIVING IT ALL OUT OF MY MIND!
SANDMAN--I MUST ASK THIS--WERE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE TERRIBLE NIGHTMARES--FOR THAT SHADOW-THING?
NEITHER SHALL EVER PREY UPON YOU AGAIN, DIANA, BELOVED.
AND I SWEAR TO YOU THAT I NEVER CAUSED EITHER; I MERELY MONITORED, AND HELPED... AND FELL IN LOVE.
I--WANT TO BELIEVE YOU--YET SOMEHOW, I SENSE THERE'S SOMETHING YOUR NOT TELLING ME, AND--
THE SHADOW-THING!
THEN THE SANDMAN WAS WRONG--IT COULD FOLLOW ME HERE!
MERCIFUL MINERVA!
SOMETHING'S PULLED ME RIGHT OFF THE--
BUT PERHAPS, HERE, IT CAN BE TOUCHED AT LAST--
AND IT'S EVEN LARGER HERE--FAR STRONGER--
SWAK
--NOT TO MENTION HIT!

DIANA! HOLD ON-- I'M COMING!
IN THIS REALM, THAT MONSTER--CAN KILL YOU!
KOFF! CHOKE! IT'S-- CERTAINLY TRYING TO--!
WELL, BY ALL THE SNARES OF MORPHEUS-- IT WILL HAVE TO SLAY THE SANDMAN FIRST!
WHUMP
AND I'M NOT AN EASY "SLEEPWALKER" TO--
UNNNH
THUD
SANDMAN!


HE'S JUST STUNNED-- BUT THIS MAY BE MY ONLY CHANCE TO SAVE HIM!
MY MAGIC LASSO DIDN'T WORK ON HIM BEFORE-- BUT MAYBE IN THE DREAM DIMENSION--
GOT YOU!
NOW I COMMAND YOU FIRST TO SURRENDER--
--THEN TO TELL ME WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE, AND WHY YOU'VE BEEN TAUNTING ME--TRYING TO KILL ME!
WELL? SPEAK! I COMMAND YOU TO--
WHAT? IT--IT'S STARTING TO CHANGE FORM, INTO--
--INTO SOMETHING SHAPED LIKE-- ME!
COULDN'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME BEFORE, PRINCESS DIANA?
I AM--I WAS ALWAYS--YOUR FEARS, YOUR SELF-LOATHING!
SOME MIGHT EVEN CALL ME--YOUR DEATH-WISH!
YET, NOW THAT I CAN NO LONGER HIDE WITHIN YOU IN THIS PLACE OF DREAMS--
--I AM-- NO MOOOORRRRE!
POOF
--NOW THAT YOU SEE ME, KNOW ME FOR WHAT I TRULY AM--

SANDMAN! WE WERE WINKING BACK--INTO THE REAL WORLD! YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES... JUST TERRIBLY, TERRIBLY ASHAMED OF MYSELF!

THEN YOU DID KNOW, ALL ALONG, EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T CREATE THOSE NIGHTMARES OR THAT SHADOW-THING?

YES, DIANA. MONITORING YOUR DREAMS, I KNEW OF YOUR REPRESSED ANXIETIES ABOUT YOUR TWO LIVES--AND YOUR WORRY BECAUSE STEVE TREVOR LOVED WONDER WOMAN, BUT NOT DIANA PRINCE.

SANDMAN--GARRETT--I--

NO, LET ME FINISH: YOUR DREAMS WERE AN OPEN BOOK TO ME... BUT ONE I SHOULD HAVE CLOSED WITHOUT READING, IN THE NAME OF DECENCY.

YOUR ANXIETIES FINALLY BECAME SO STRONG THEY MANIFESTED THEMSELVES AS THAT MONSTER.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BRING IT WITH YOU INTO MY WORLD--BUT I SHOULD HAVE.

STRANGE! THE SHADOW-THING'S GONE NOW--THE NIGHTMARES ENDED--NOT BY ESCAPE, BUT BY CONFRONTATION.

I DO STILL LOVE STEVE, YOU KNOW.

I DO... AND I HOPE YOU FIND A PATHWAY TO A MORE OPEN AND HONEST RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

BUT GIVE HIM TIME, DIANA.

I KNOW ALL ABOUT TIME...!

GOODBYE... FRIEND.

SOON, ABOVE A NIGHT-SHROUDED CAPITAL...

MOTHER UNDERSTOOD WHY I HAD TO LEAVE SO SUDDENLY.

WOULD'VE ALREADY BEEN BACK HERE, EXCEPT FOR THAT CABLEGRAM I HAD TO STOP AND SEND FROM MEXICO.

YES, WHO--WONDER WOMAN!

I WAS HOPING IT'D BE YOU--BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D EVEN SPEAK WITH ME, AFTER--

MAYBE I WON'T, STEVE.

HUH?

I MEAN... THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO SAY HELLO, YOU KNOW.

I LOVE YOU, ANGEL--I REALLY DO!

I KNOW. BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD ANSWER THE PHONE?

RRING

STEVE? GEN. DARNELL HERE! I--I JUST GOT A CABLE SAYING DIANA'S SAFE--CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

SHE SURVIVED SOMEHOW--SAYS SHE'LL EXPLAIN SOON AS SHE HITCHES A RIDE BACK.

STEVE--?