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AUG  
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RUCKA  
LOPEZ  
BIT

# WONDER WOMAN

GUEST-  
STARRING

BATMAN



I WANTED TO SEE HOW YOU WERE, BUT THAT'S NOT TRULY WHY I'M HERE.

THERE ARE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

TO SAY THAT KAL AND I FOUGHT WOULD BE TO DIMINISH THE CONTEST.

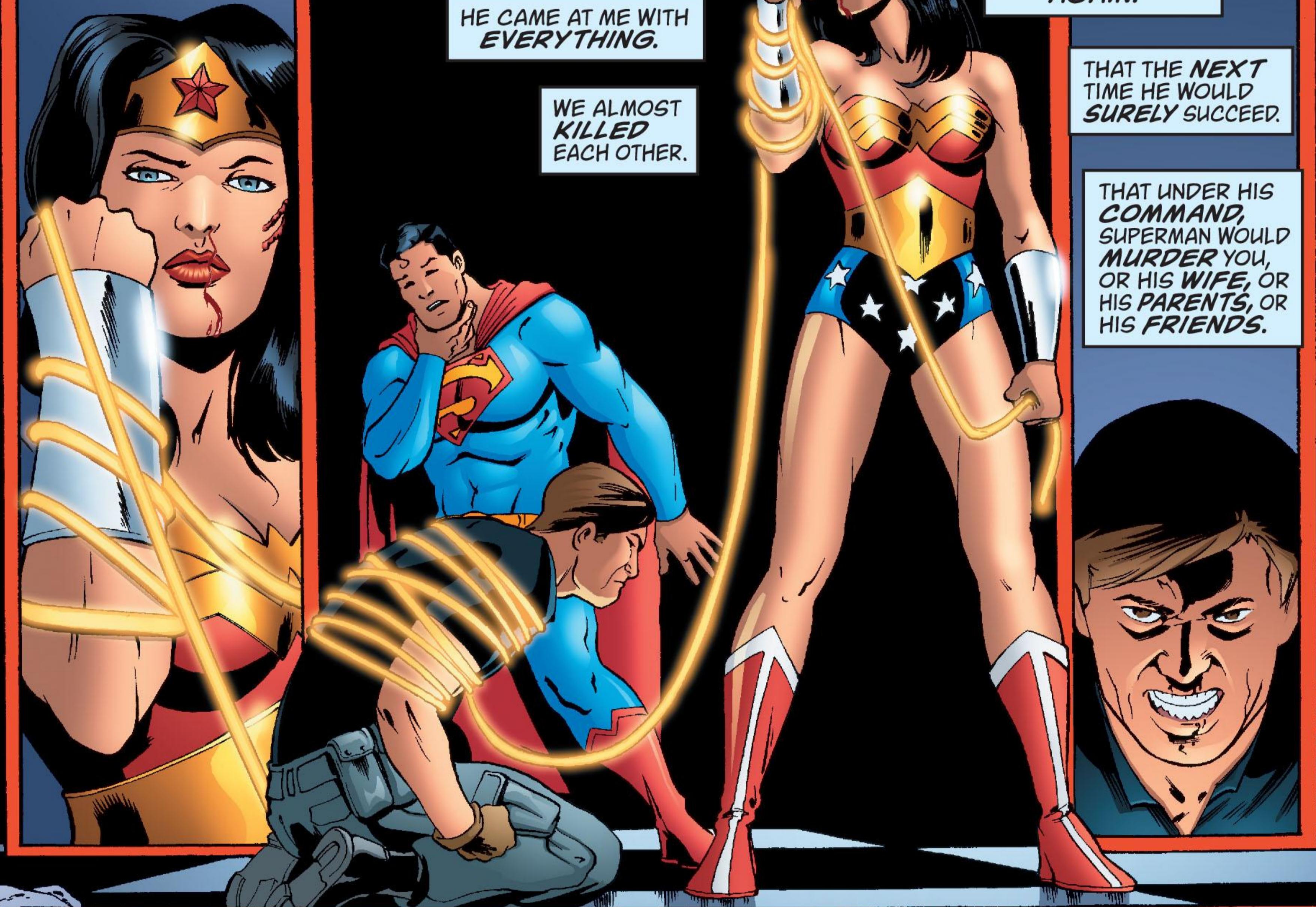
HE CAME AT ME WITH EVERYTHING.

WE ALMOST KILLED EACH OTHER.

AND MAX LORD MADE IT VERY PLAIN THAT HE WOULD MAKE SUPERMAN DO IT AGAIN.

THAT THE NEXT TIME HE WOULD SURELY SUCCEED.

THAT UNDER HIS COMMAND, SUPERMAN WOULD MURDER YOU, OR HIS WIFE, OR HIS PARENTS, OR HIS FRIENDS.



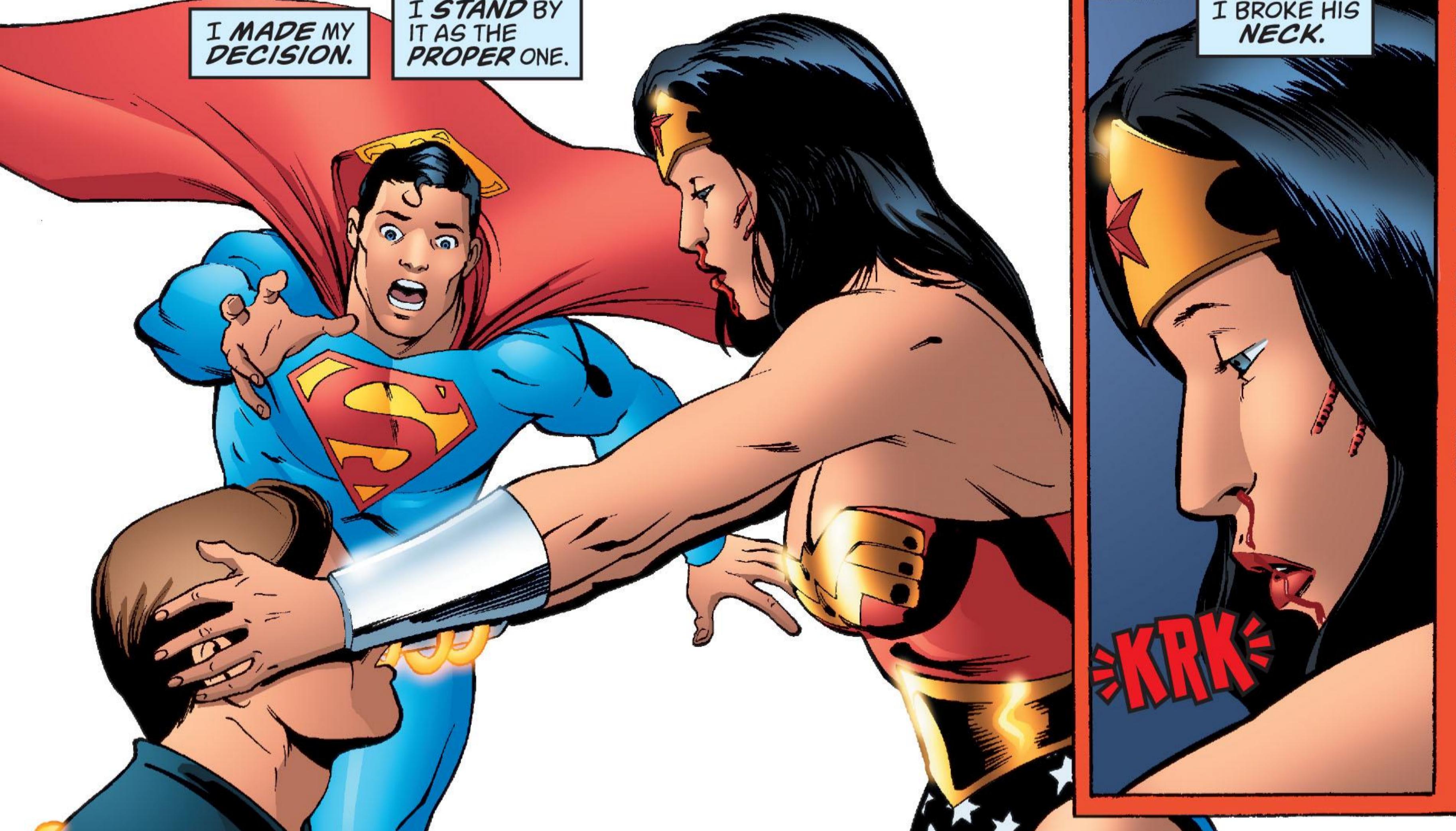
THE LASSO WAS UPON HIM, AND WITH IT, I ASKED HOW KAL-EL COULD BE FREED.

AND MAXWELL LORD TOLD ME.

I MADE MY DECISION.

I STAND BY IT AS THE PROPER ONE.

I BROKE HIS NECK.



I KILLED HIM.

AND IN DOING SO, I  
CAUSED ANOTHER  
DEATH...

WHAT  
DID YOU  
DO!?

# AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

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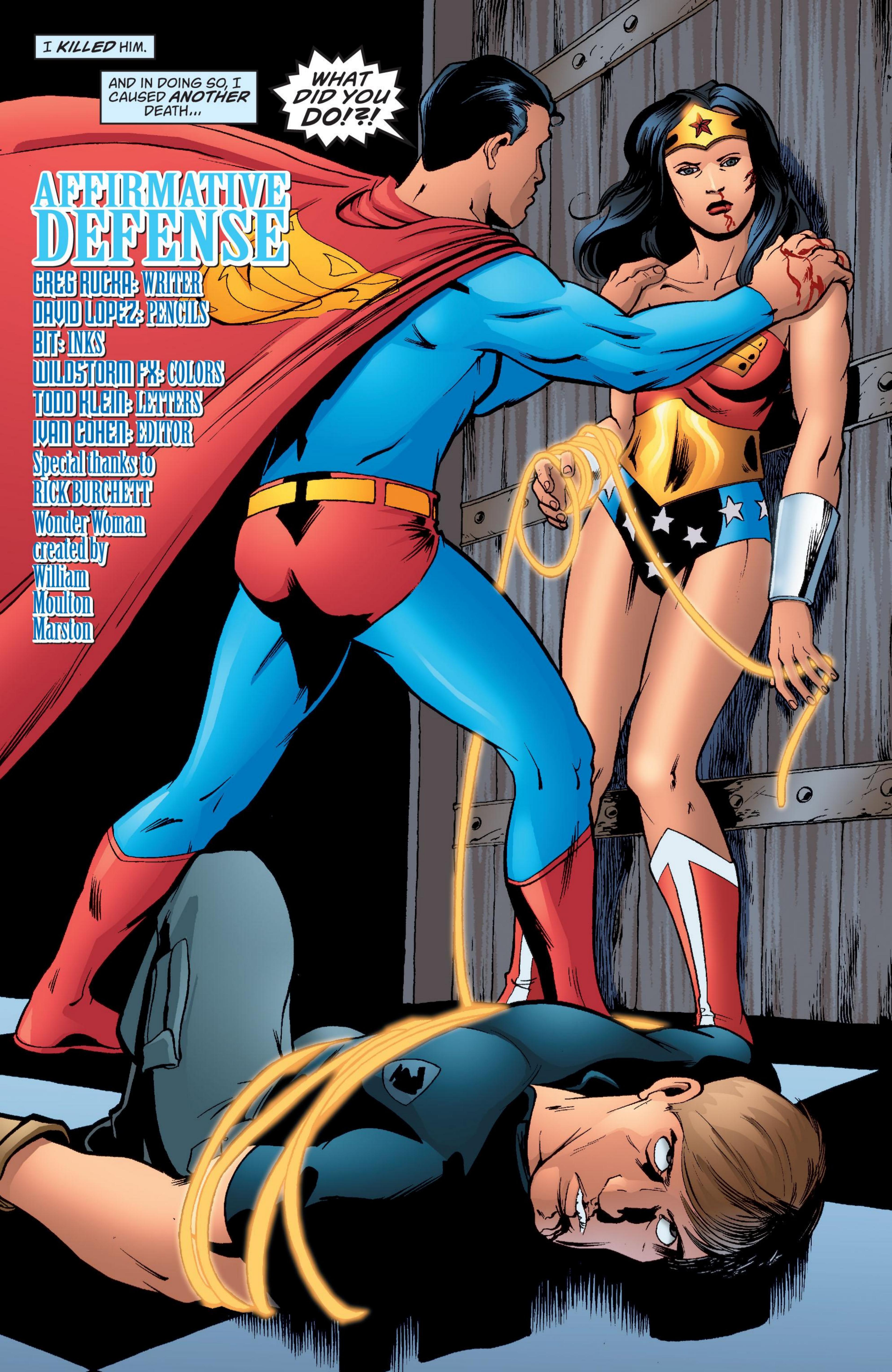
Wonder Woman

created by

William

Moulton

Marston



...I KILLED A FRIENDSHIP.

WHAT I HAD TO.

I COULD SEE IT IN HIS EYES.

THE DISBELIEF AND THE INCOMPREHENSION.

I HAD DONE WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE.

EITHER HE COULDN'T OR HE WOULDN'T SEE IT.

YOU MURDERED HIM.

THIS WAS NOT A MURDER.

MAX LORD WAS A MONSTER.

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?

PERHAPS HE NEVER WOULD.

YES.

WATCHTOWER TO WONDER WOMAN, RESPOND!

THEN BLACK CANARY CALLED FROM THE WATCHTOWER.

AROUND THE WORLD, EVERYTHING WAS GOING WRONG AT ONCE.

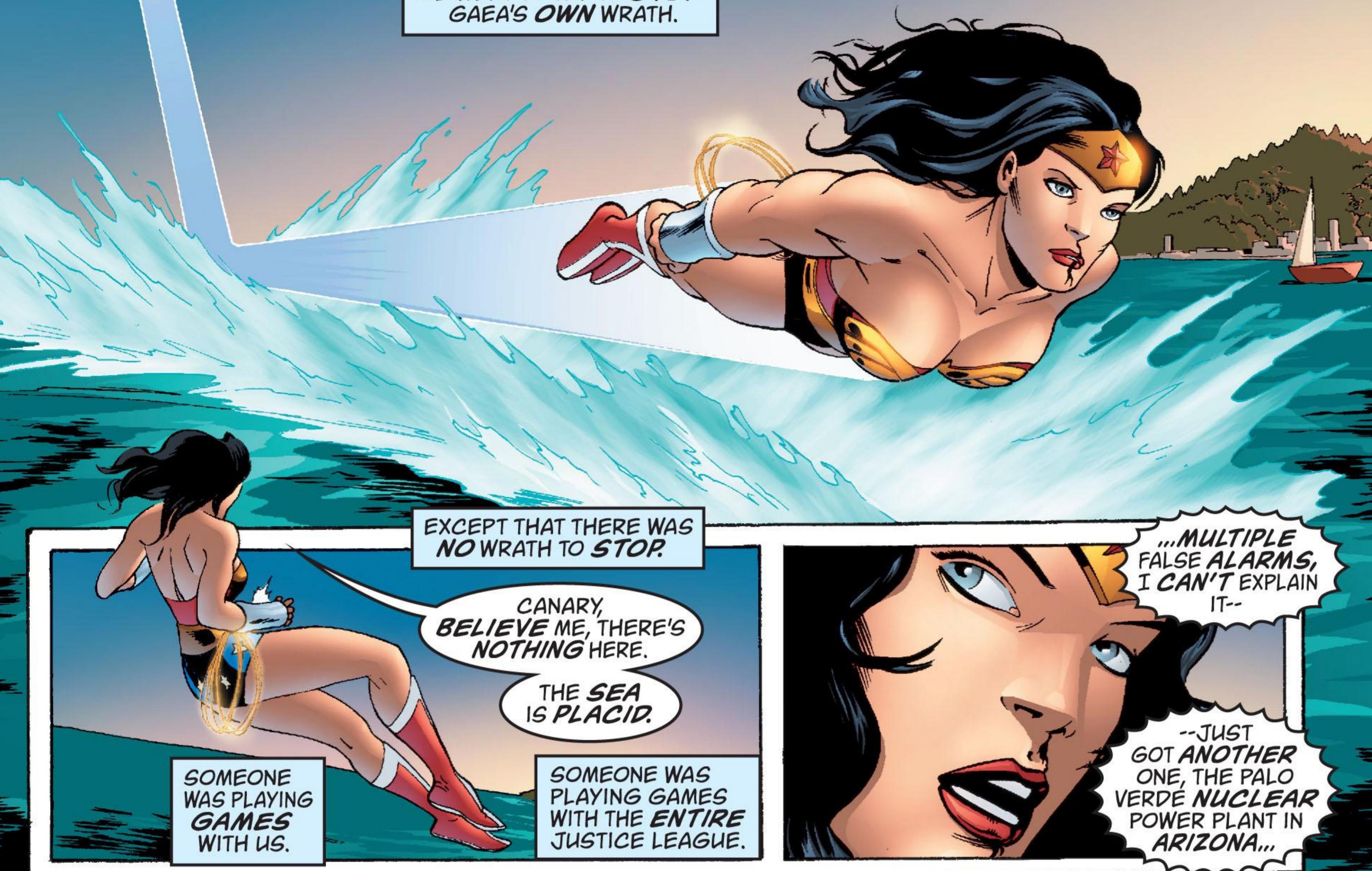
A NUCLEAR SUBMARINE HAD FIRED A MISSILE AT TAIWAN.

A TSUNAMI WAS HEADED FOR SEATTLE.

THERE WAS NO TIME FOR FURTHER DEBATE, NOR EXPLANATION.

KAL WENT AFTER THE MISSILE...

...I WENT TO TRY TO STOP GAEA'S OWN WRATH.



SOME OF THE GAMES MORE SERIOUS THAN OTHERS, IT SEEMED.



PALO VERDE IS LOCATED ROUGHLY FIFTY MILES FROM PHOENIX, ARIZONA.

WONDER WOMAN, THANK GOD!

THE ENTIRE CONTROL SYSTEM'S SUFFERED A CASCADE FAILURE--

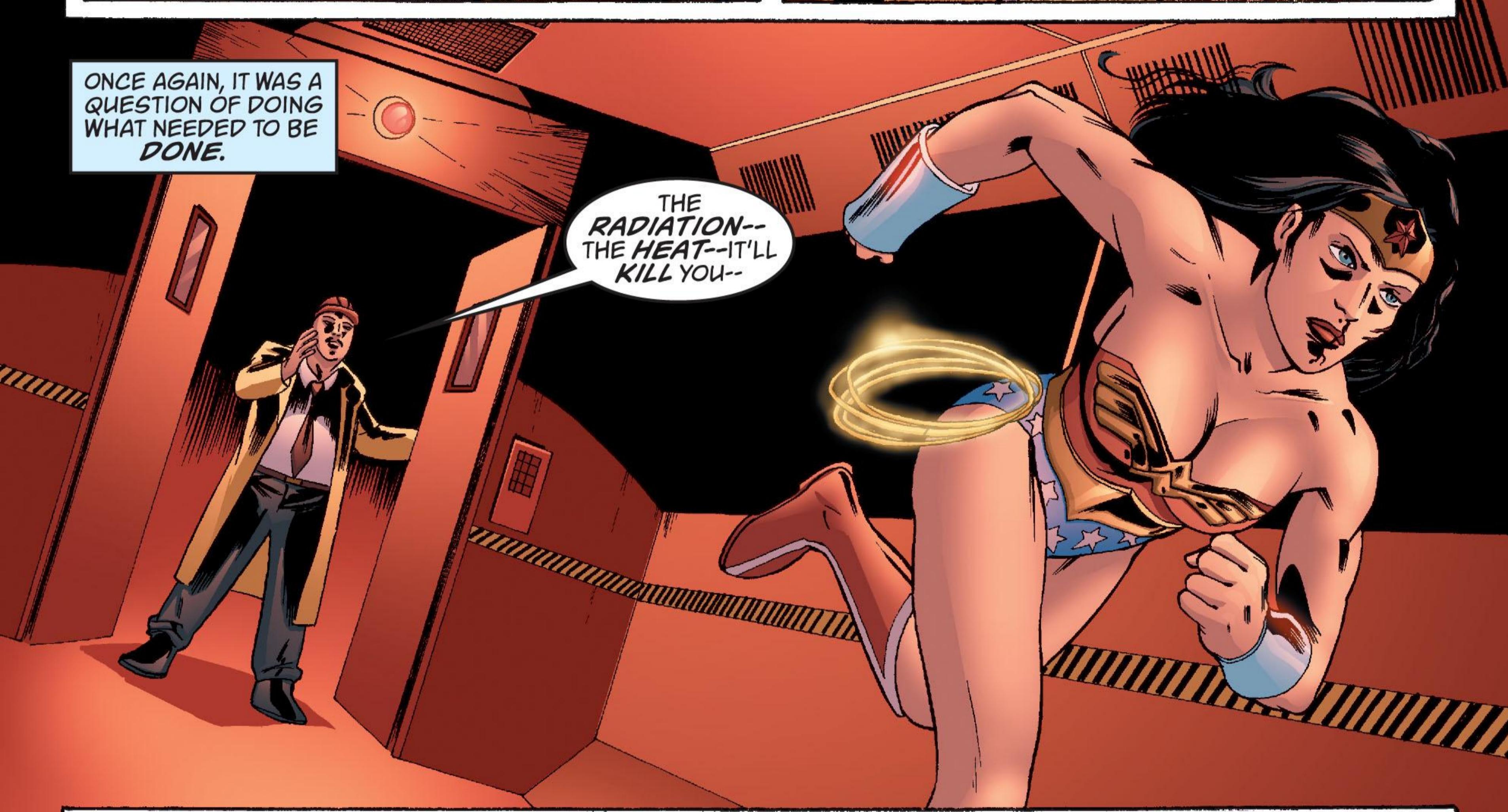
OVER FIVE MILLION PEOPLE LIVE IN PHOENIX ALONE.

--WE'VE GOT LESS THAN A MINUTE TO GET THE BORON RODS INTO THE PILE AND STOP THE REACTION!

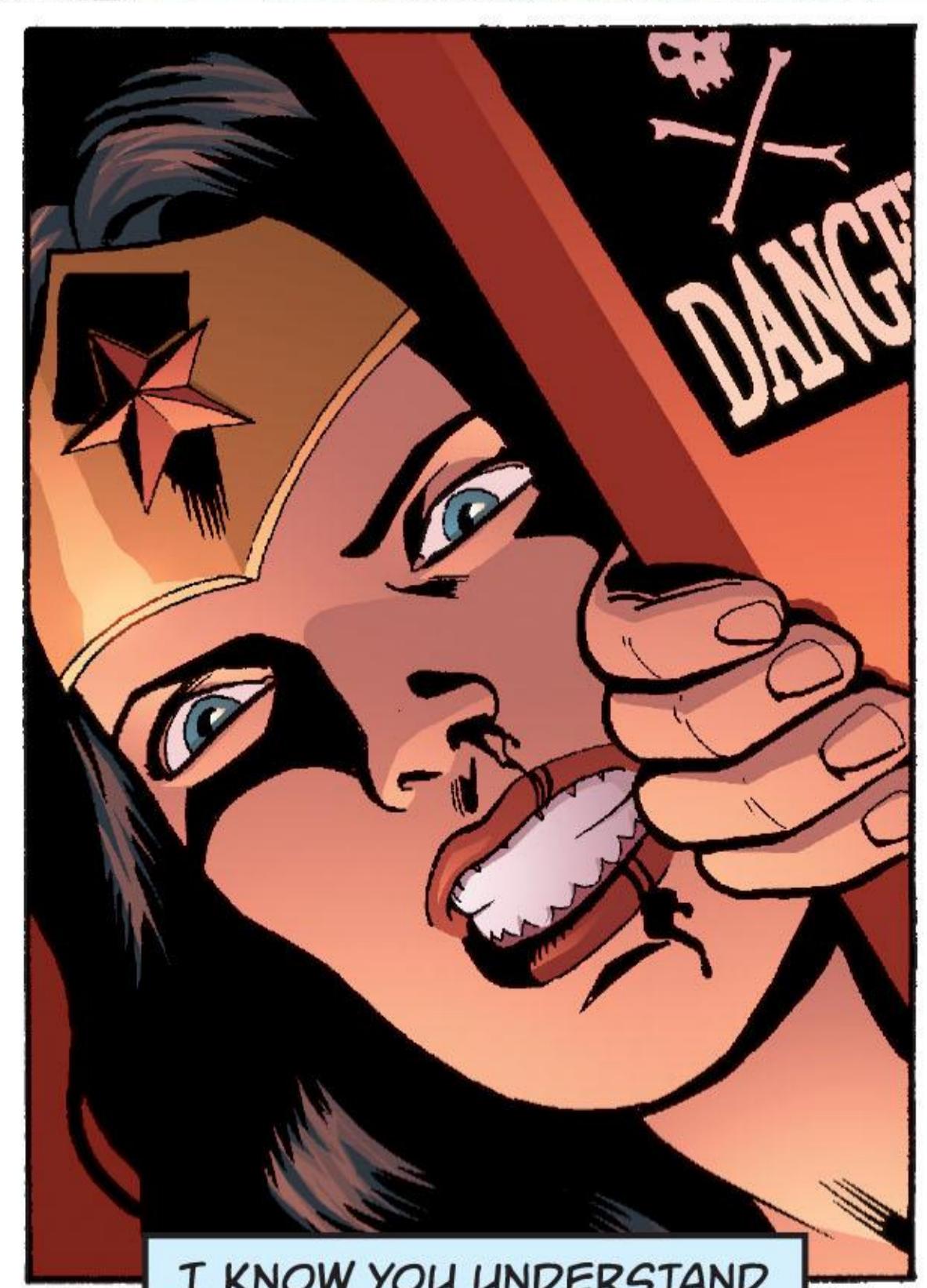
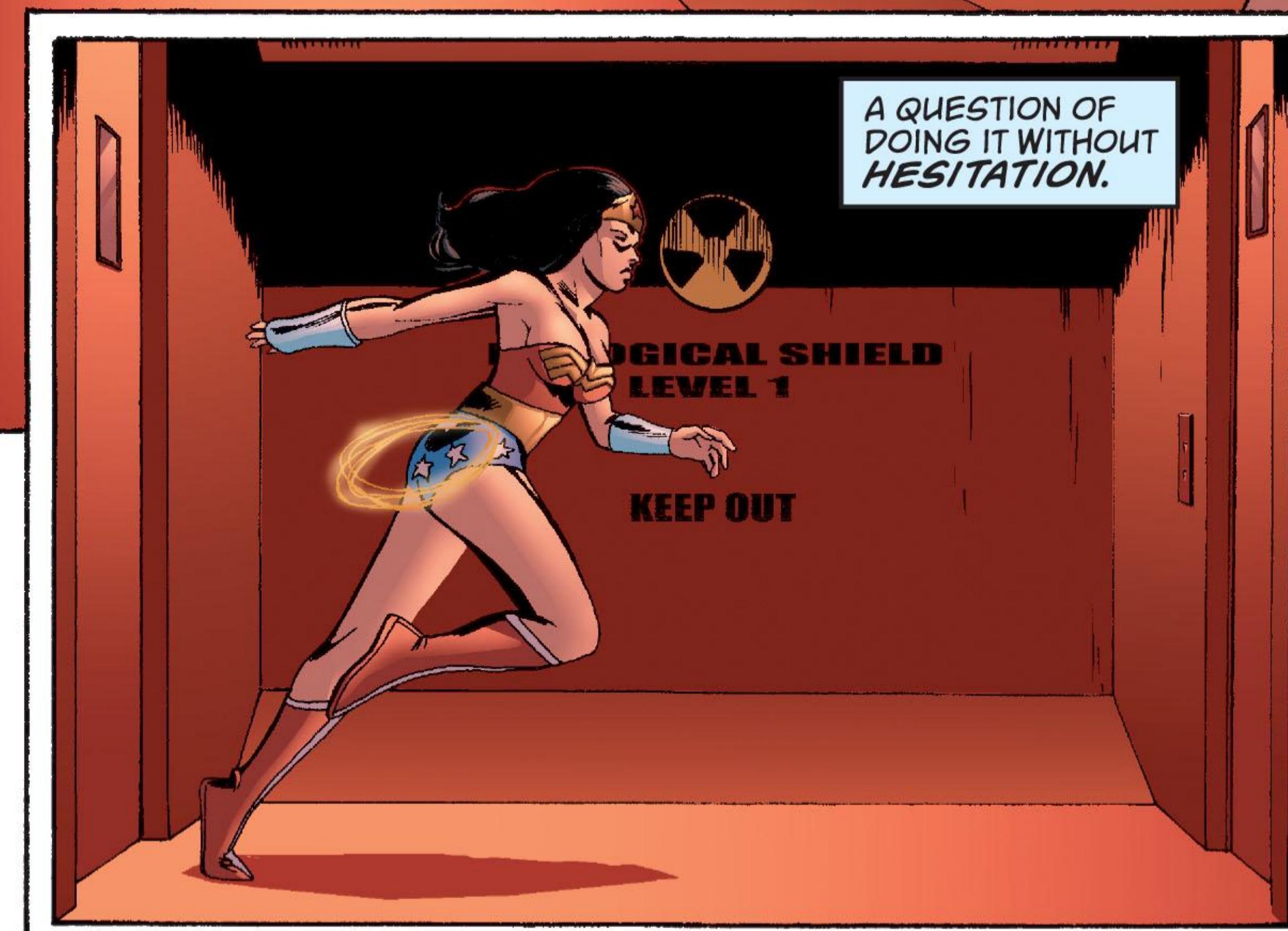


ONCE AGAIN, IT WAS A QUESTION OF DOING WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE.

THE RADIATION-- THE HEAT--IT'LL KILL YOU--



A QUESTION OF DOING IT WITHOUT HESITATION.



I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, MORE THAN MOST.

I HADN'T BEEN FEELING MY BEST TO BEGIN WITH.

FIFTEEN ROUNDS WITH KAL WILL DO THAT TO A WOMAN.

AND THE HEAT...

...THE HEAT WAS AS THE HEART OF HEPHAESTUS' FORGE.

I COULD FEEL THE BROKEN BONES IN MY WRIST AS THEY SCRAPED AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.

I COULD FEEL MY SKIN BEGINNING TO BURN.

I PULLED.

WITH ALL MY MIGHT, I PULLED.



I WON.

THE RADIATION ITSELF HAD BEEN LESS OF A THREAT TO ME THAN THE HEAT.

DECON IV

STAND CLEAR

BUT THE EXPOSURE HAD BEEN EXTREME.

UNLESS I WANTED TO IRRADIATE EVERYONE I ENCOUNTERED NEXT, DECONTAMINATION WAS REQUIRED.

IT WASN'T A QUICK PROCESS.

BUT IT GAVE ME TIME TO THINK.

IT GAVE ME OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER WHAT I NEEDED TO DO NEXT.

ACCORDING TO BLACK CANARY, THE ONSLAUGHT OF CRISES HAD ENDED AS ABRUPTLY AS IT HAD BEGUN.

SHE HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR WHAT HAD HAPPENED, NOR WHY.



I HAVE KNOWN FERDINAND FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

...DIDN'T EVEN SEE IT COMING.

PRICE I PAY FOR BEING COCKY.

JONAH DECEIVED ALL OF US.

HE IS A DEAR FRIEND.

IF THERE'S BLAME, IT RESTS WITH ME. I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED HE WAS HIDING SOMETHING FROM US LONG AGO.

HE KNOWS ME BETTER THAN MOST.

HE KNOWS WHEN I AM TROUBLED.

HERE, USE THIS.

I'M THINKING YOU NEED IT MORE THAN ME. WHAT HAPPENED?

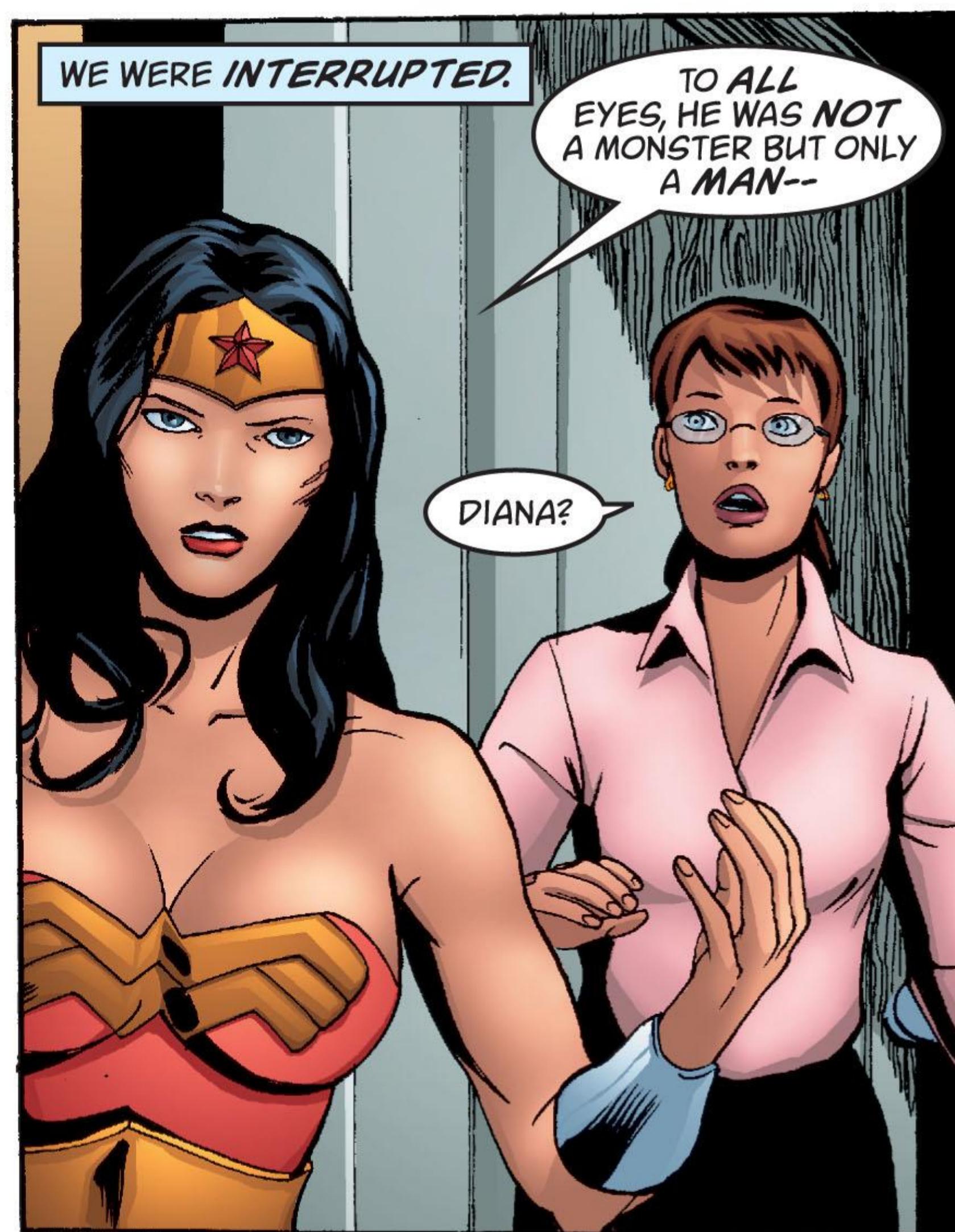
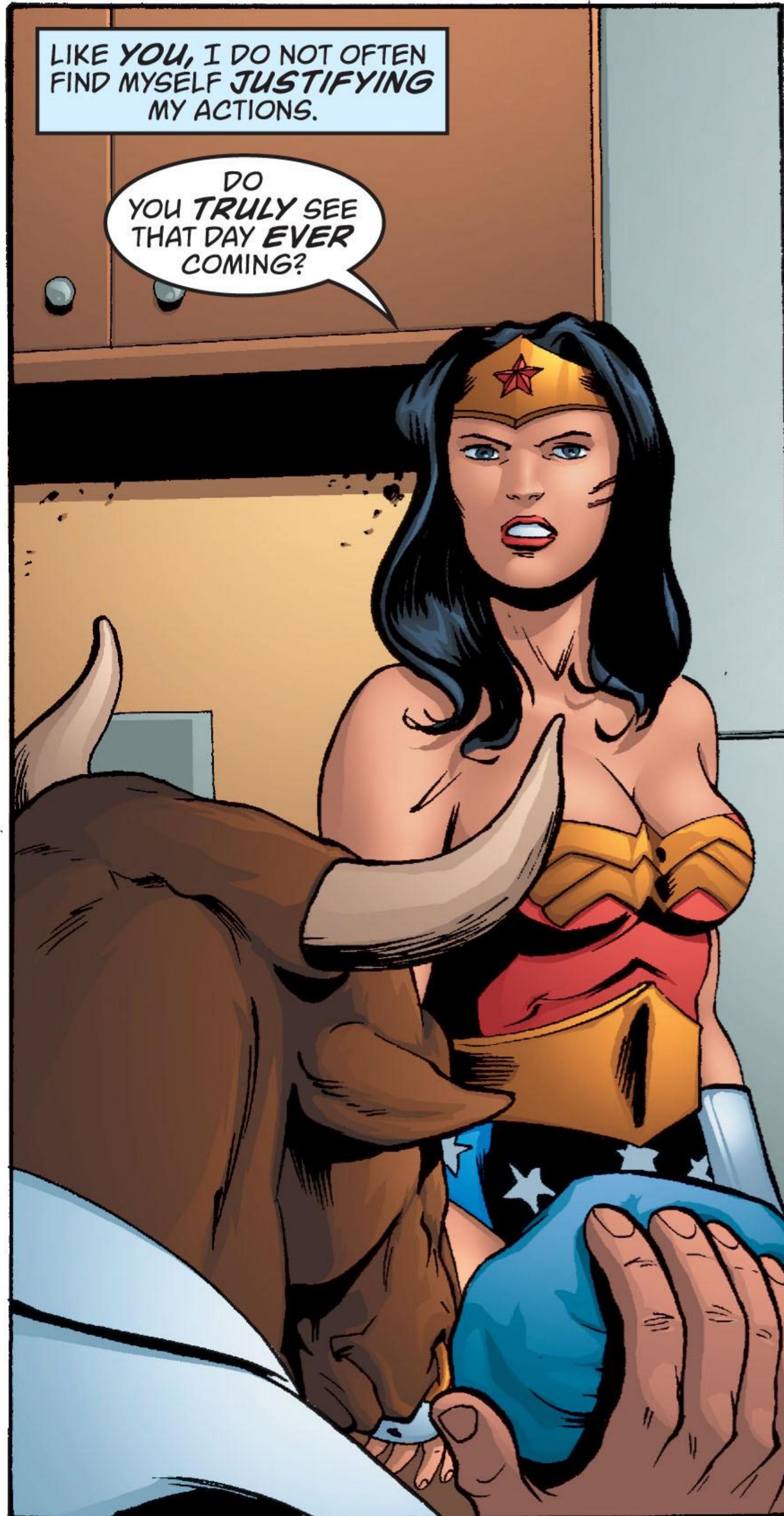
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WENT THE DISTANCE WITH THE HYDRA AND YOUR BEST FRIEND DIED ANYWAY.

I HAD TO TAKE A LIFE TODAY.

AND EVEN WITH ATHENA'S EYES, I HAVE NOT THE WISDOM TO SEE WHERE MY ACTIONS MAY LEAD.

AND I AM... TROUBLED.

THE DAY YOU'RE NOT IS THE DAY YOU SHOULD START TO WORRY.



FERDINAND HAD BELIEVED HER ABSENCE HIS DOING, THAT HE HAD DRIVEN LESLIE AWAY.

EVEN WITHOUT ATHENA'S VISION, THE FACT THAT SHE DOES IS PLAIN FOR ALL TO SEE.

HELLO, LESLIE.

PLAIN TO ALL SAVE THE TWO OF THEM.

I'M...I'M GLAD YOU CAME BACK. I'D THOUGHT...

NO, IT'S...IT WASN'T ABOUT YOU...

THAT SHE COULD NOT POSSIBLY FEEL FOR HIM WHAT HE FEELS FOR HER.

FERDINAND.

I LEFT THE TWO OF THEM ALONE.

THERE WAS STILL THE MATTER OF JONAH TO ATTEND TO, AND HIS FLIGHT HAD COMPLICATED THINGS.

SURELY, HE WAS ON THE RUN NOW.

WHERE HE WAS, AND WHERE HE WAS GOING, I DID NOT KNOW.

BUT A SEARCH OF HIS OFFICE SEEMED IN ORDER.

THERE WAS NOT MUCH TO FIND.

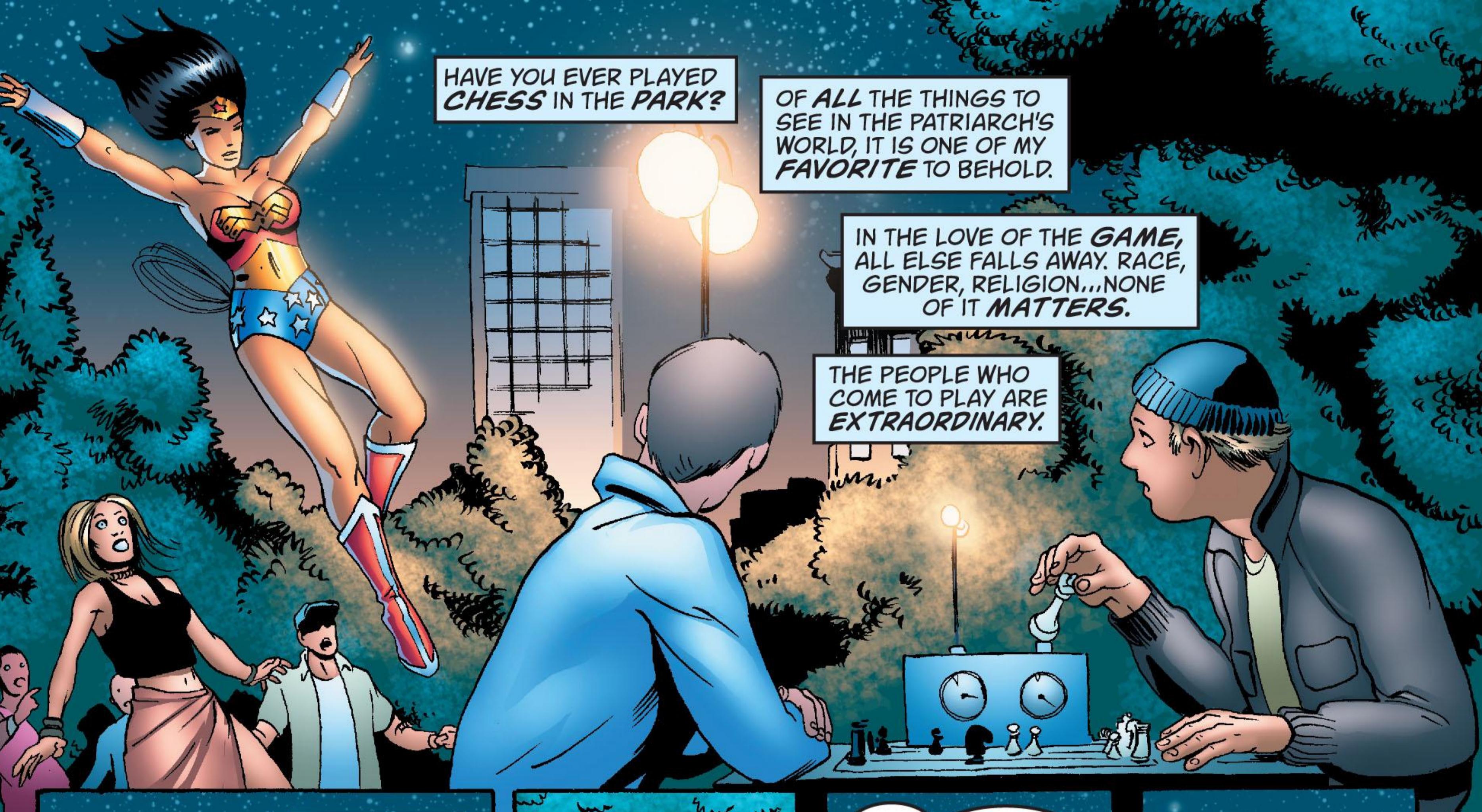
BUT WHAT I FOUND WAS ENOUGH.

HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED CHESS IN THE PARK?

OF ALL THE THINGS TO SEE IN THE PATRIARCH'S WORLD, IT IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE TO BEHOLD.

IN THE LOVE OF THE GAME, ALL ELSE FALLS AWAY. RACE, GENDER, RELIGION...NONE OF IT MATTERS.

THE PEOPLE WHO COME TO PLAY ARE EXTRAORDINARY.

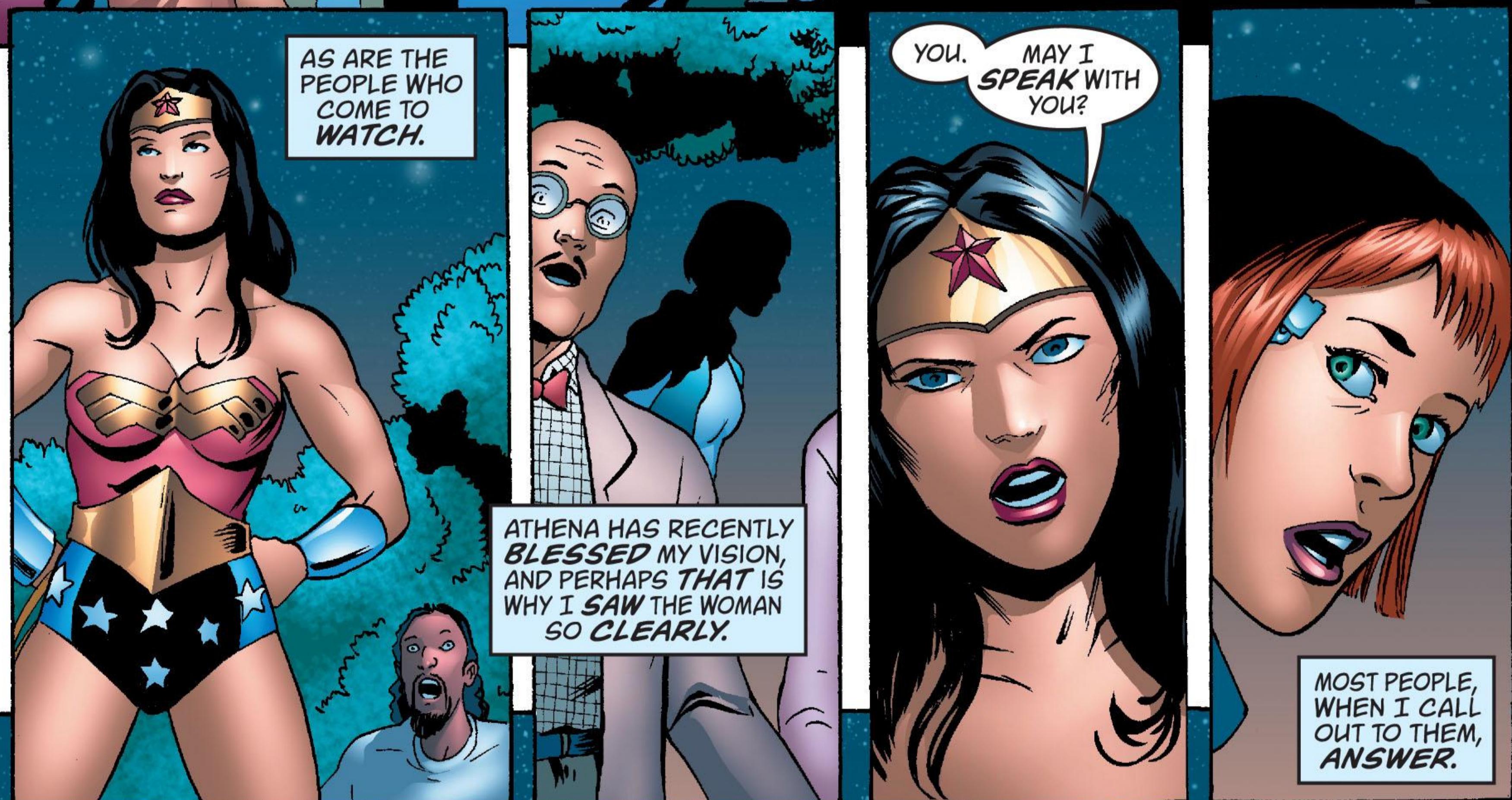


AS ARE THE PEOPLE WHO COME TO WATCH.

ATHENA HAS RECENTLY BLESSED MY VISION, AND PERHAPS THAT IS WHY I SAW THE WOMAN SO CLEARLY.

YOU. MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU?

MOST PEOPLE, WHEN I CALL OUT TO THEM, ANSWER.

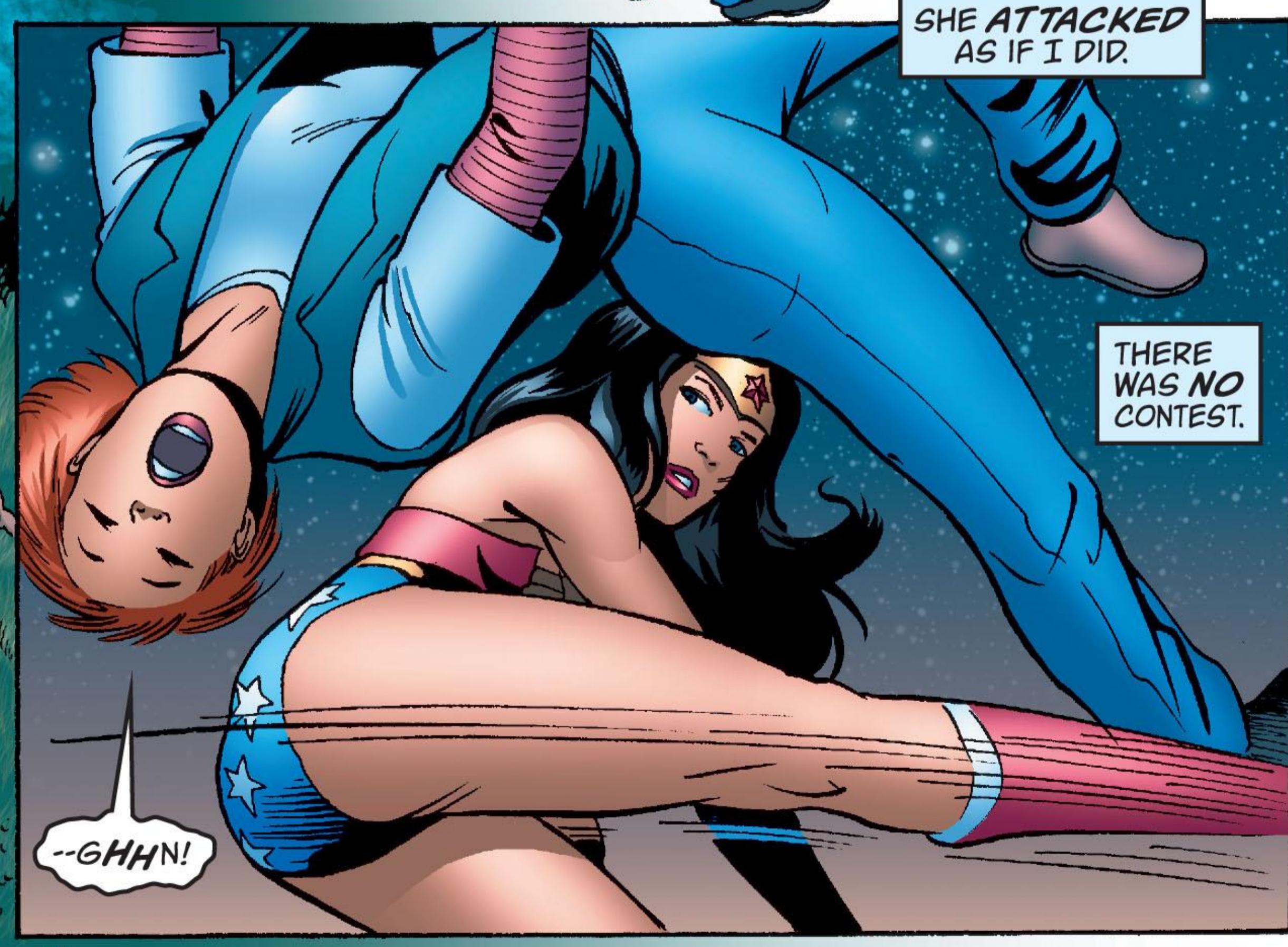
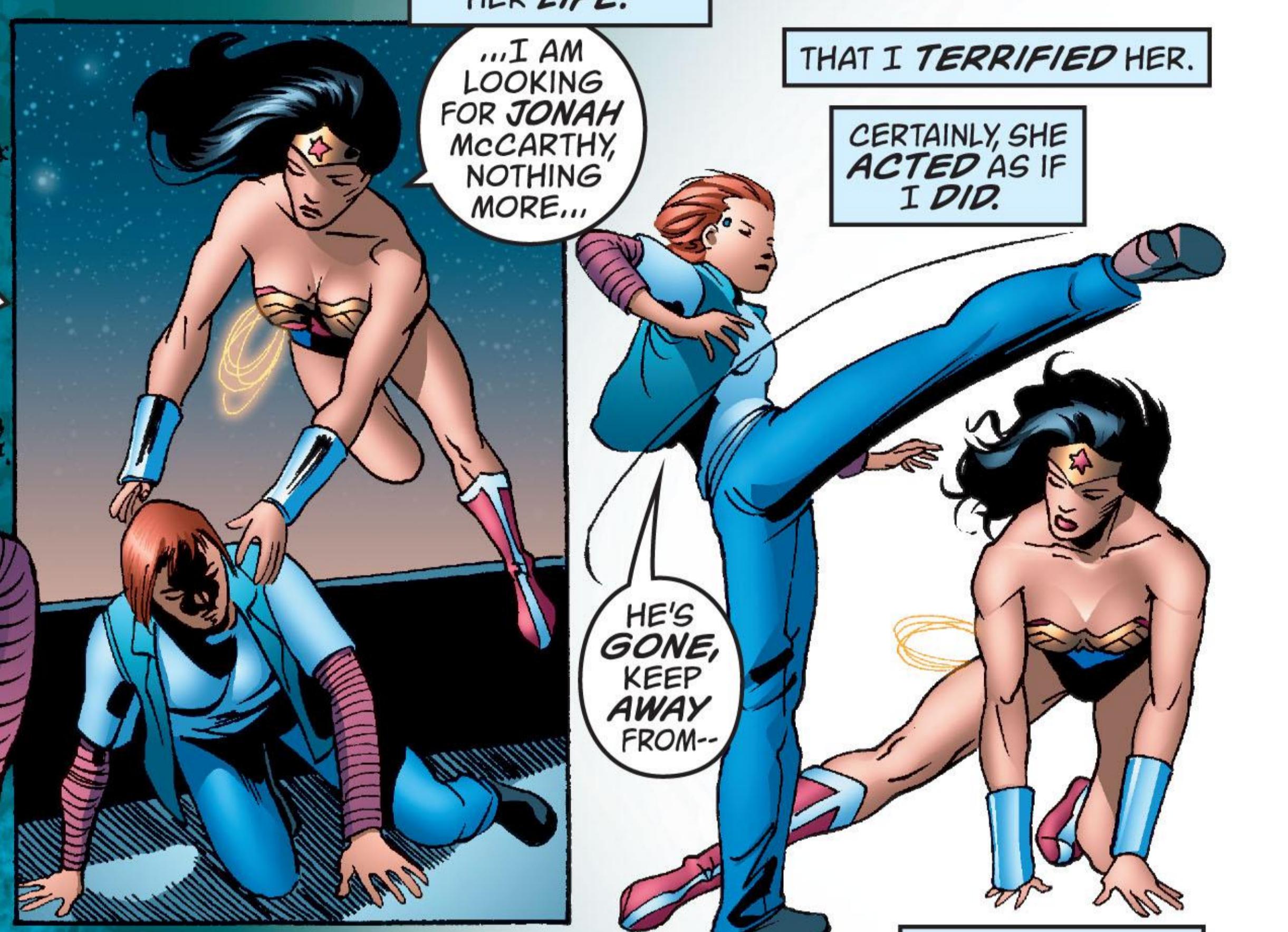


SHE RAN.

AS FAST AS SHE COULD, SHE RAN.



AND I HAD TO WONDER IF THIS REACTION WAS NOT A HINT OF WHAT WAS TO COME.



ALL I WANTED WAS AN ANSWER.

WHERE IS HE?

SHE REFUSED TO SPEAK.

WHERE IS JONAH?

IF THERE HAD BEEN MORE TIME I WOULD HAVE SOUGHT MY ANSWERS A DIFFERENT WAY.

BY HIS FLIGHT, JONAH HAD DENIED ME THAT LUXURY.

THE LASO DRAWS ALL OR NOTHING.

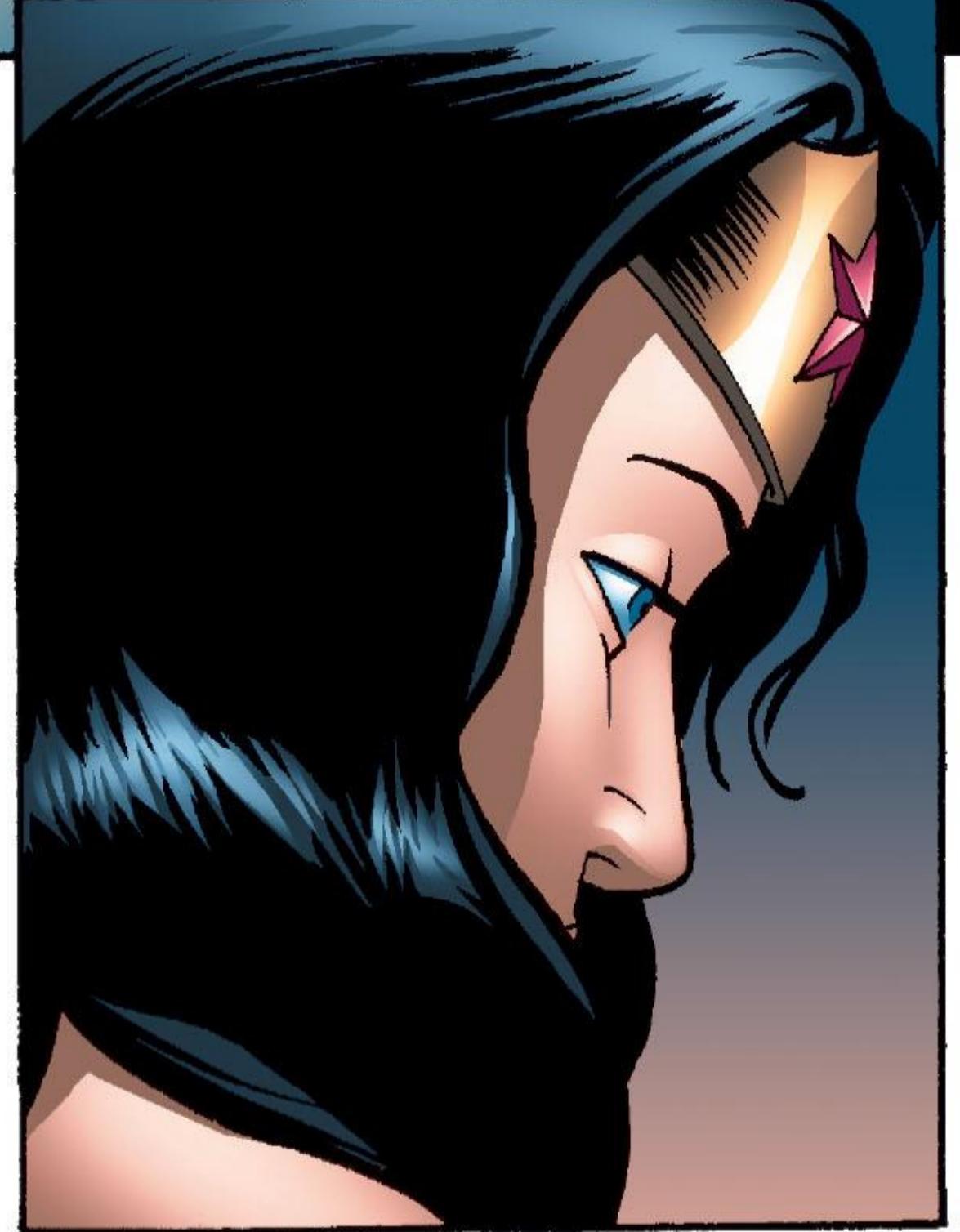
WHEN ONE SPEAKS IN ITS EMBRACE, IT COMPELS THE TRUTH. THERE ARE NO HALF MEASURES.

SHE TOLD ME MANY THINGS.

NOT OUT OF FEAR, BUT OUT OF HATRED.

SHE SURRENDERED WHAT I REQUIRED.

THEN SHE ASKED IF I PLANNED TO KILL JONAH, TOO.



MAX LORD HAD CONTROLLED SUPERMAN. MAX LORD WAS THE BLACK KING OF CHECKMATE.

--FOR EXTRACTION.  
THE BLACK KING IS DEAD,  
ALL STATIONS ARE BEING RECALLED.

JONAH McCARTHY WAS AN AGENT OF CHECKMATE.

JONAH HAD LIVED AND WORKED BENEATH MY ROOF FOR OVER A DOZEN MONTHS.

UNDERSTOOD OUT.

HE HAD DINED AT MY TABLE. HE HAD LAUGHED WITH ME. HE HAD WEPT WITH ME.

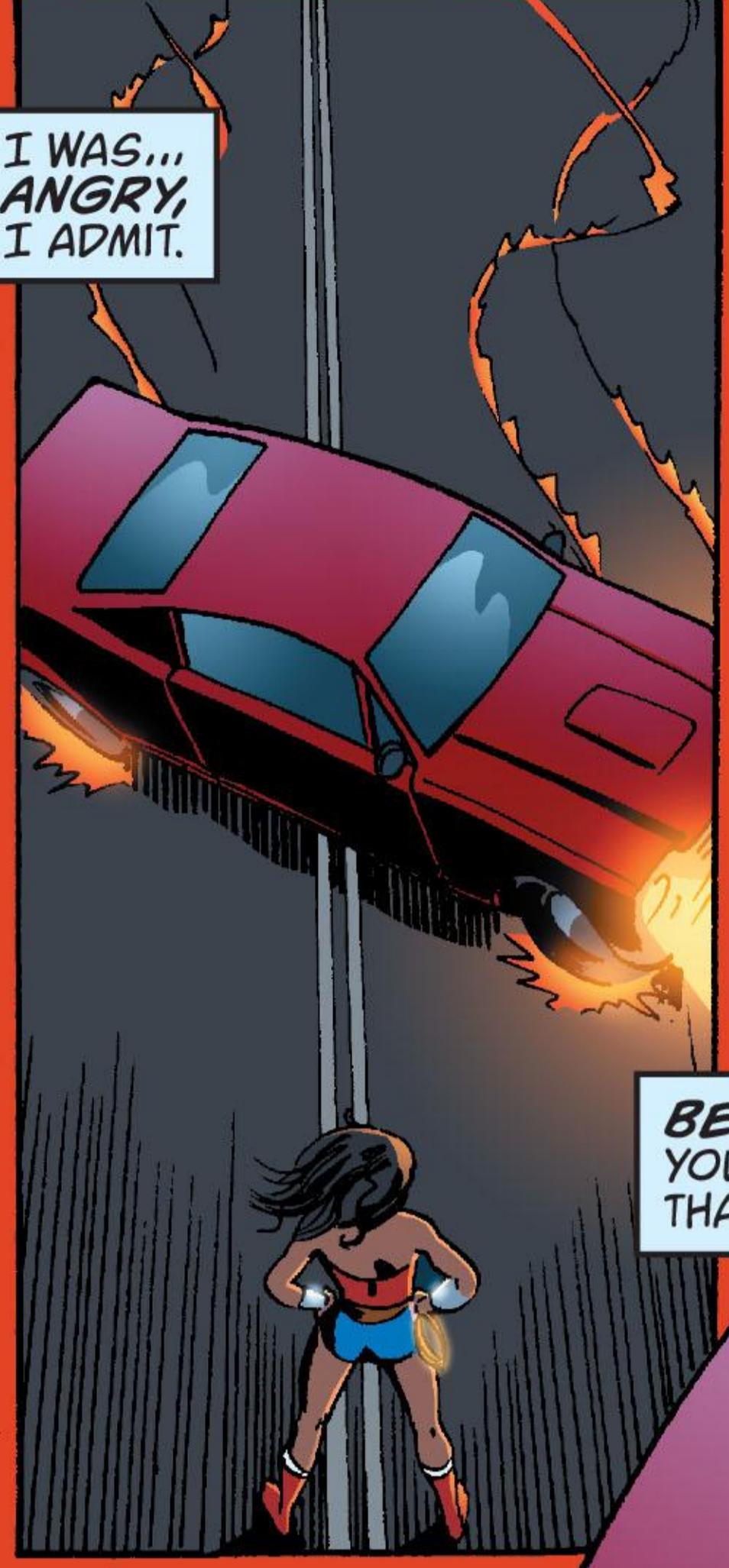
A SPY IN MY HOME.

HAD SPYING BEEN HIS SOLE INTENT? HIS ONLY PURPOSE?

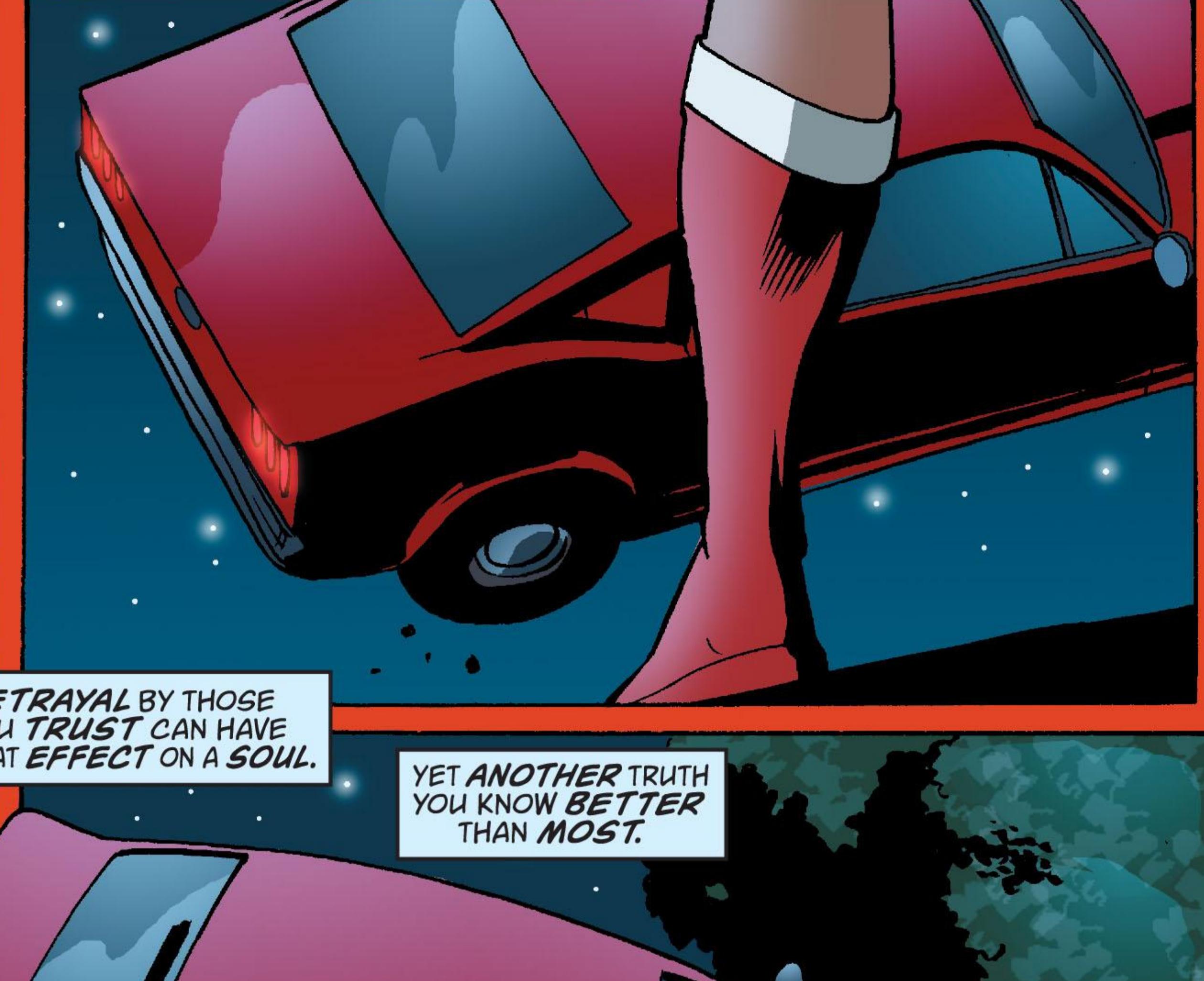
OR WAS THERE MORE TO HIS AGENDA?

HAD CHECKMATE WISHED TO DO TO ME WHAT HAD BEEN DONE TO KAL?

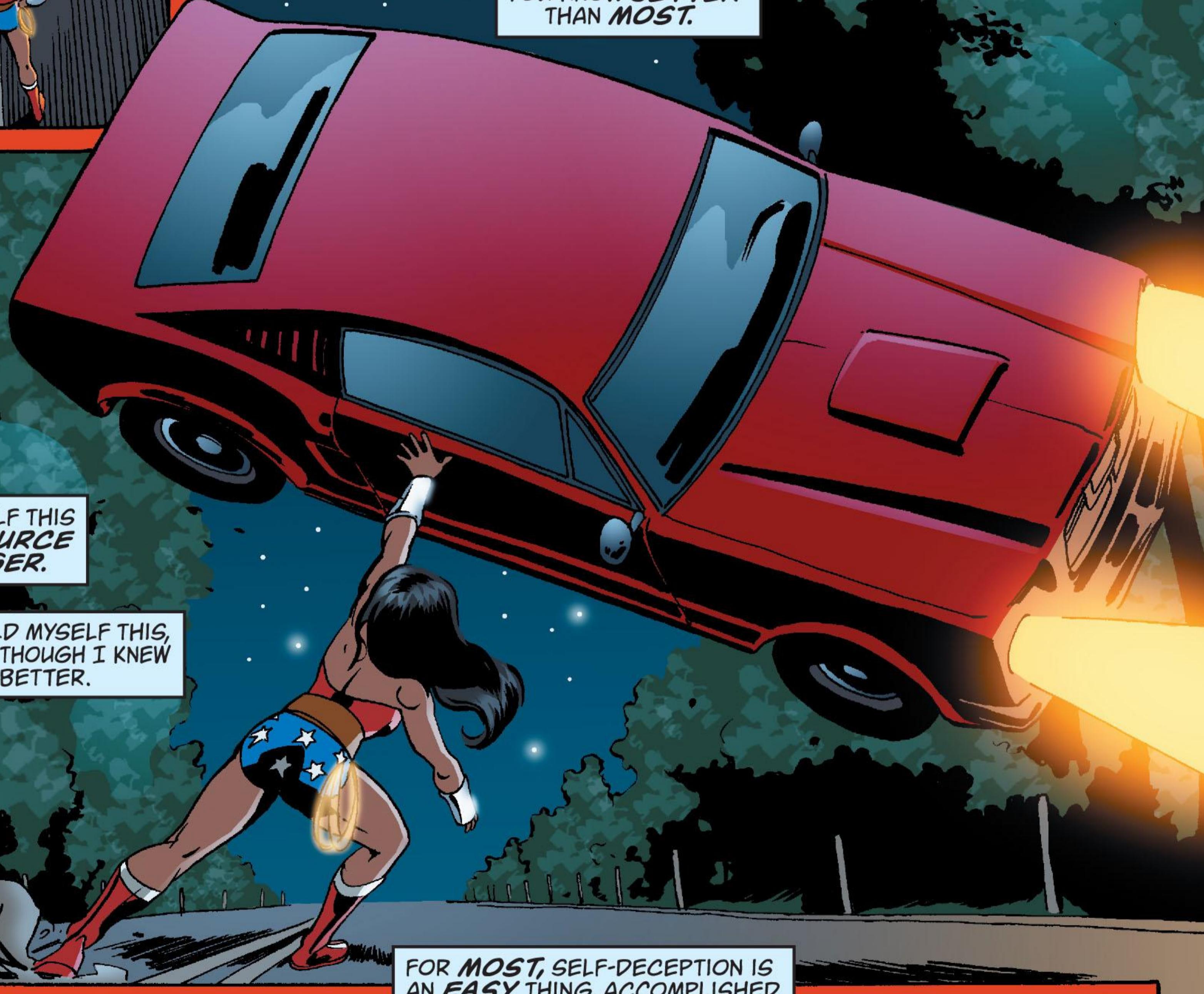
I WAS...  
ANGRY,  
I ADMIT.



BETRAYAL BY THOSE  
YOU TRUST CAN HAVE  
THAT EFFECT ON A SOUL.

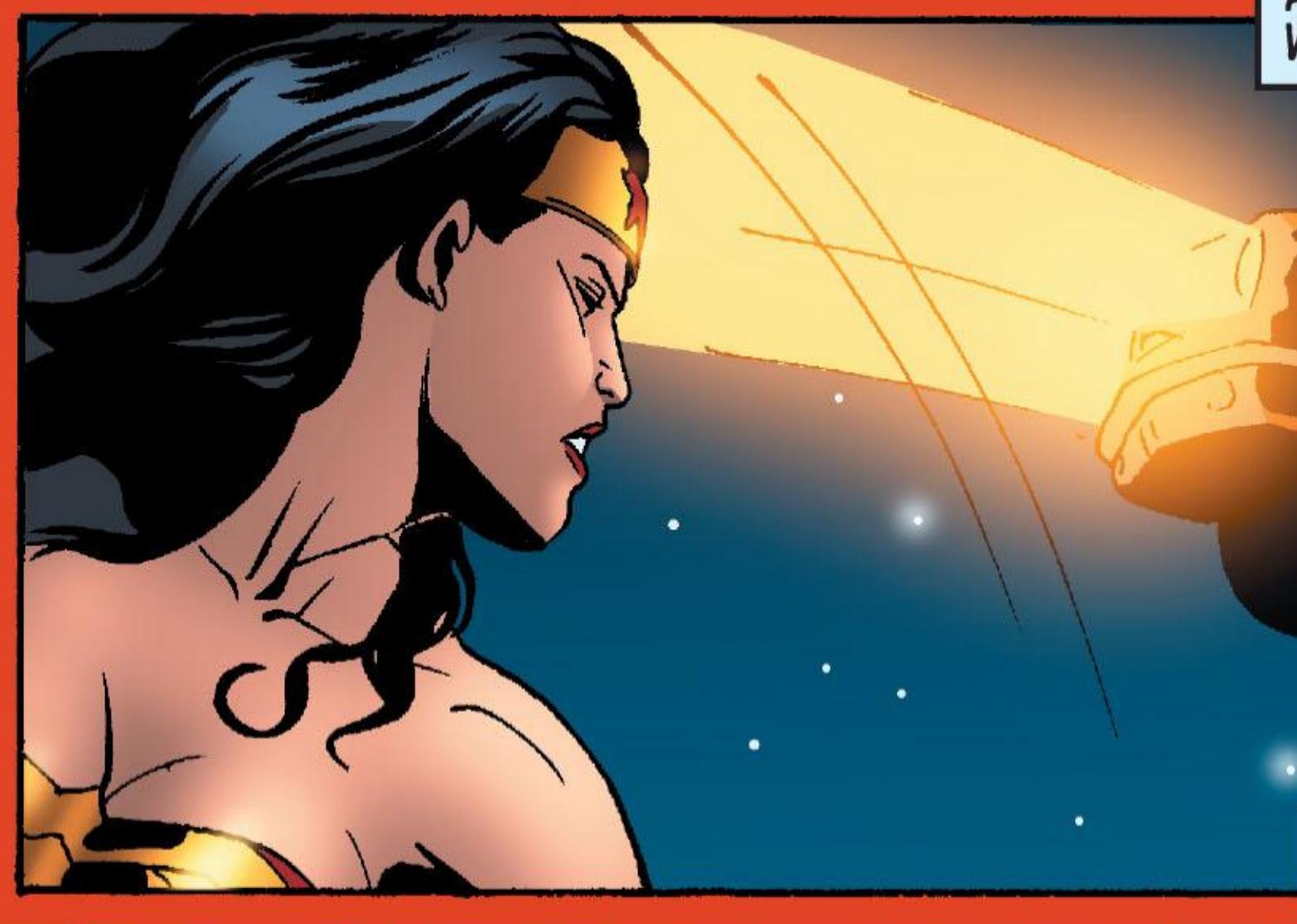


YET ANOTHER TRUTH  
YOU KNOW BETTER  
THAN MOST.

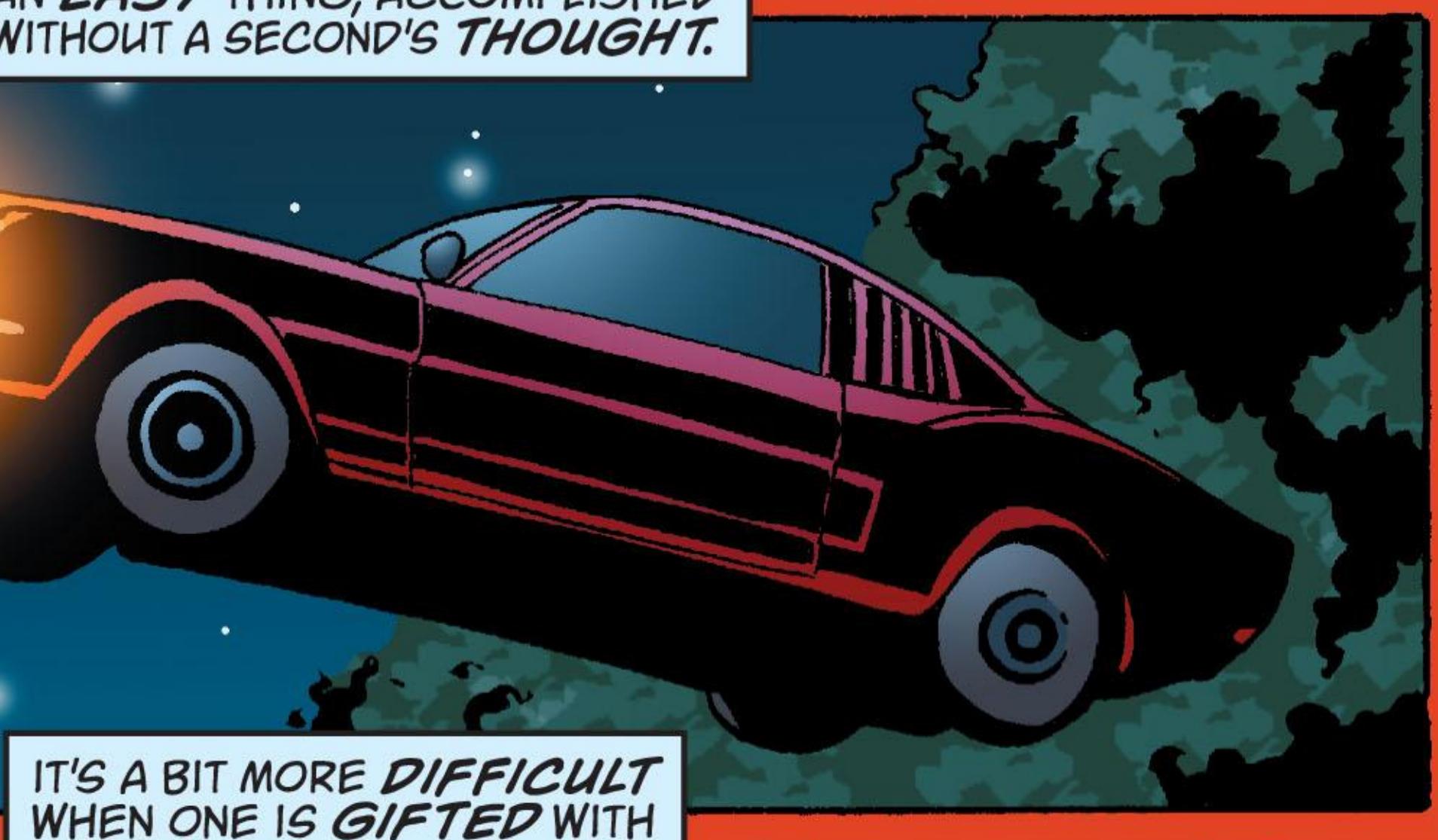


I TOLD MYSELF THIS  
WAS THE SOURCE  
OF MY ANGER.

I TOLD MYSELF THIS,  
EVEN THOUGH I KNEW  
BETTER.



FOR MOST, SELF-DECEPTION IS  
AN EASY THING, ACCOMPLISHED  
WITHOUT A SECOND'S THOUGHT.

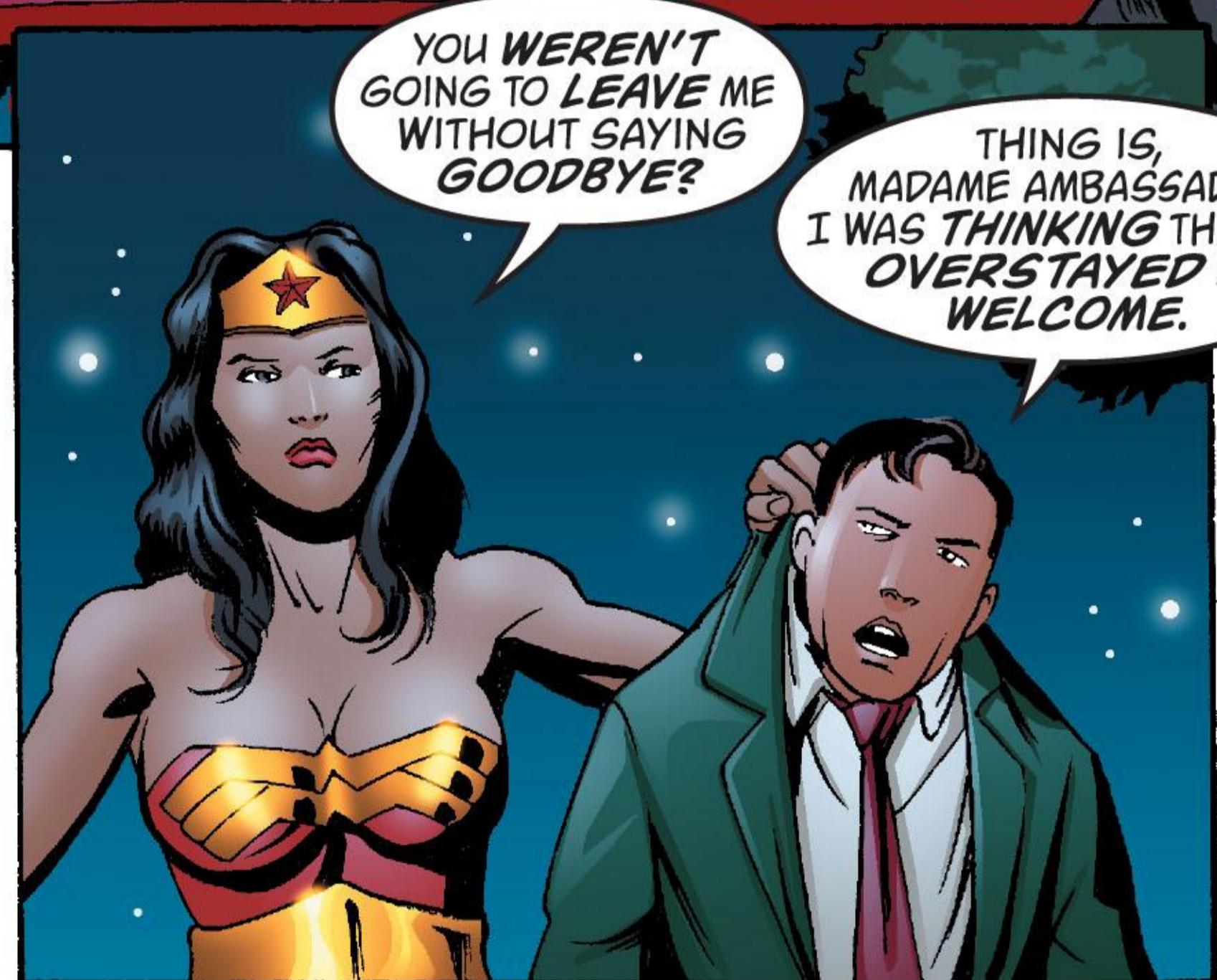
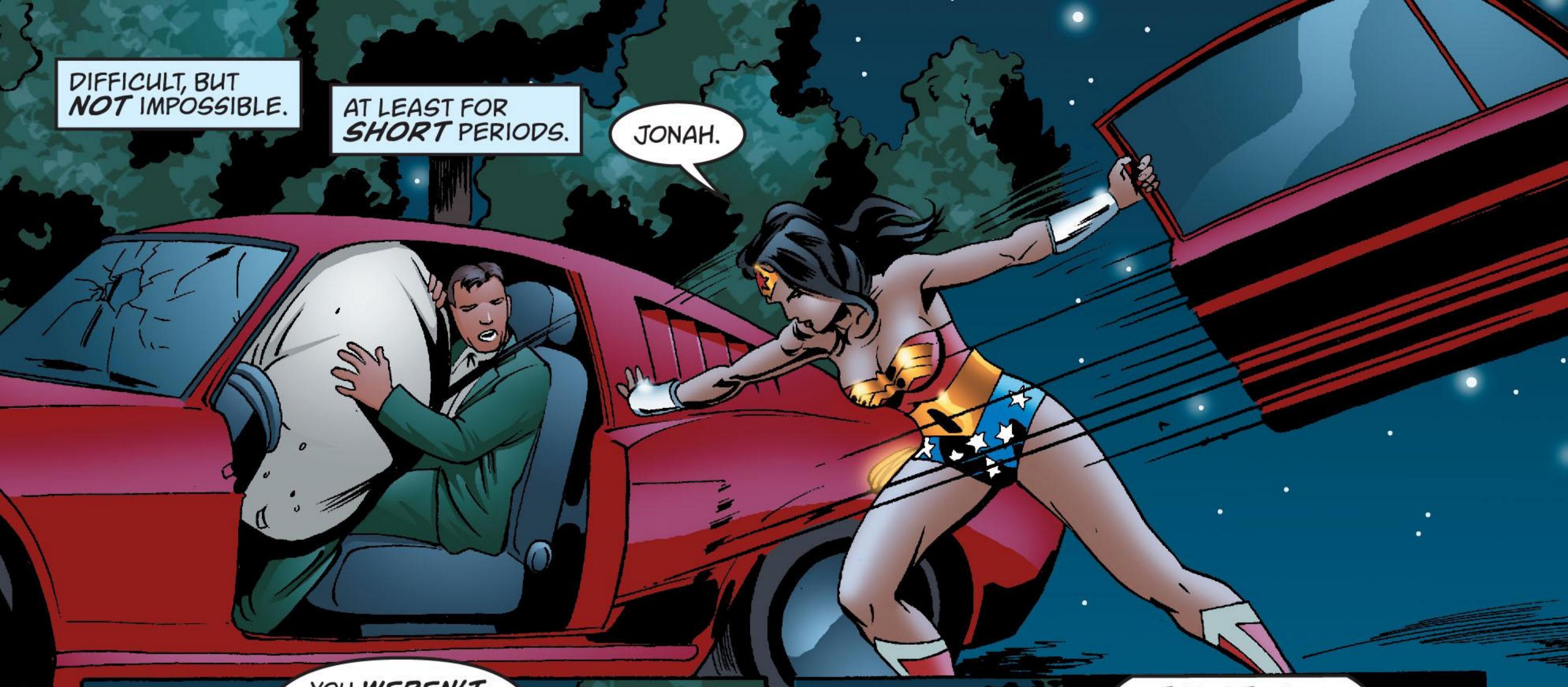


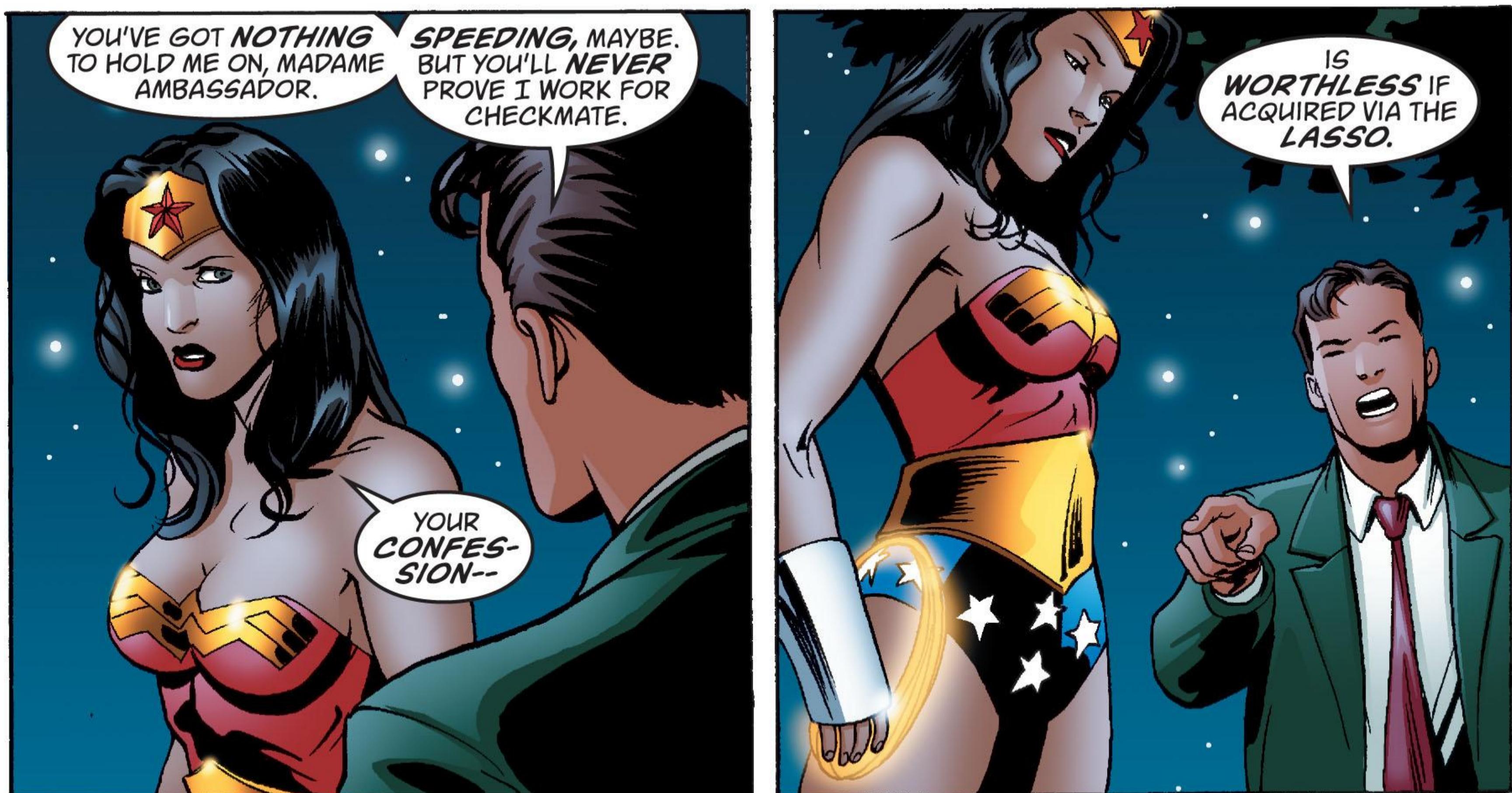
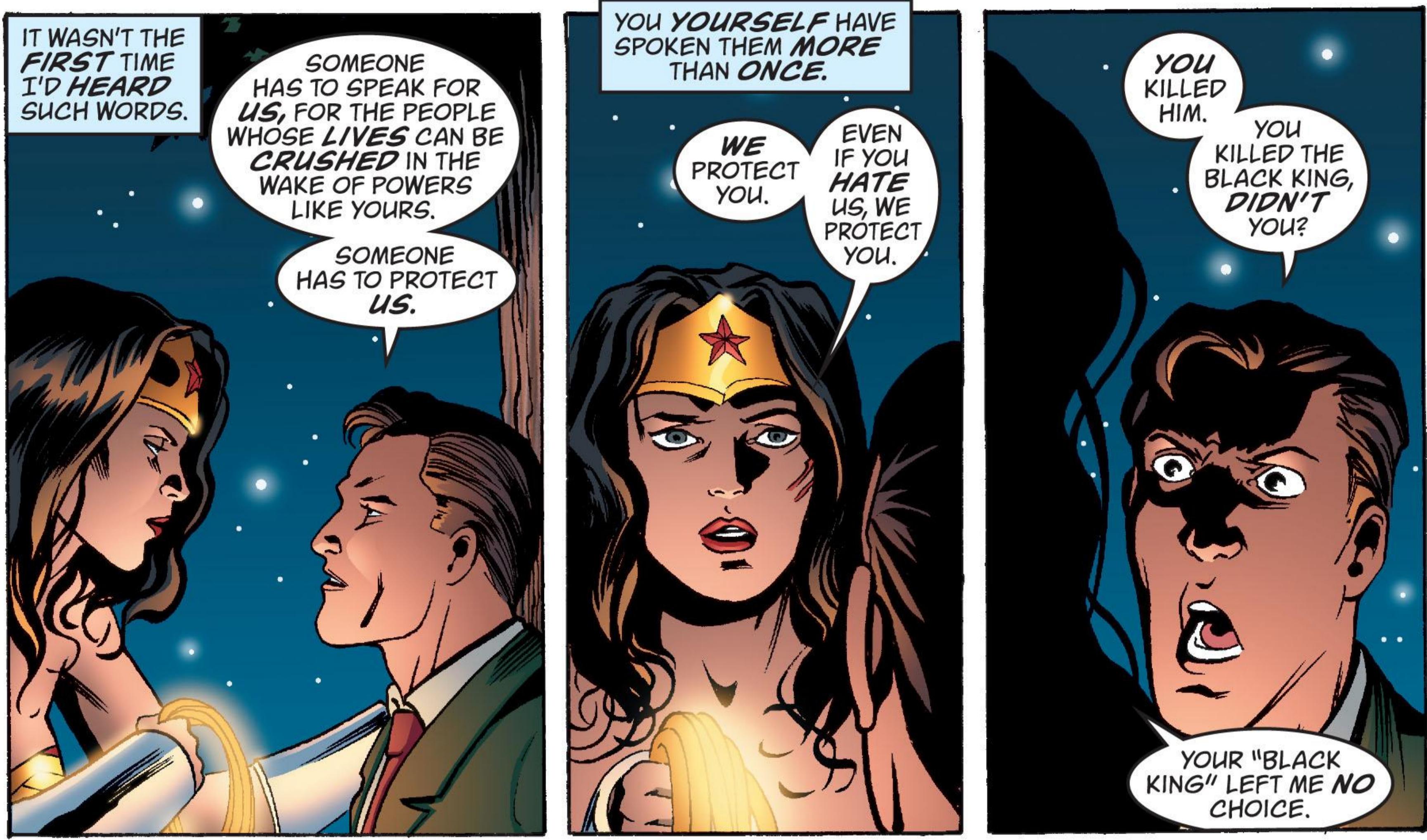
IT'S A BIT MORE DIFFICULT  
WHEN ONE IS GIFTED WITH  
THE WISDOM OF ATHENA.

DIFFICULT, BUT  
NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

AT LEAST FOR  
SHORT PERIODS.

JONAH.





YOU DON'T  
GET IT, CHECKMATE  
ISN'T A GOVERNMENT  
AGENCY. IT'S BIGGER  
THAN THAT.

EVEN IF  
YOU FORCE  
THE TRUTH OUT OF  
ME, IT WON'T  
STAND.



YOU  
UNDERESTIMATE  
THE POWER OF THE  
TRUTH.

MAYBE.



IF YOU  
KILLED MAX, HE  
HAD TO HAVE CROSSED  
A FINAL LINE. HE HAD TO  
HAVE PUT INNOCENT  
LIVES IN IMMEDIATE  
JEOPARDY.

HE HAD  
TO HAVE BECOME  
A MONSTER  
WITHOUT REDEMPTION.



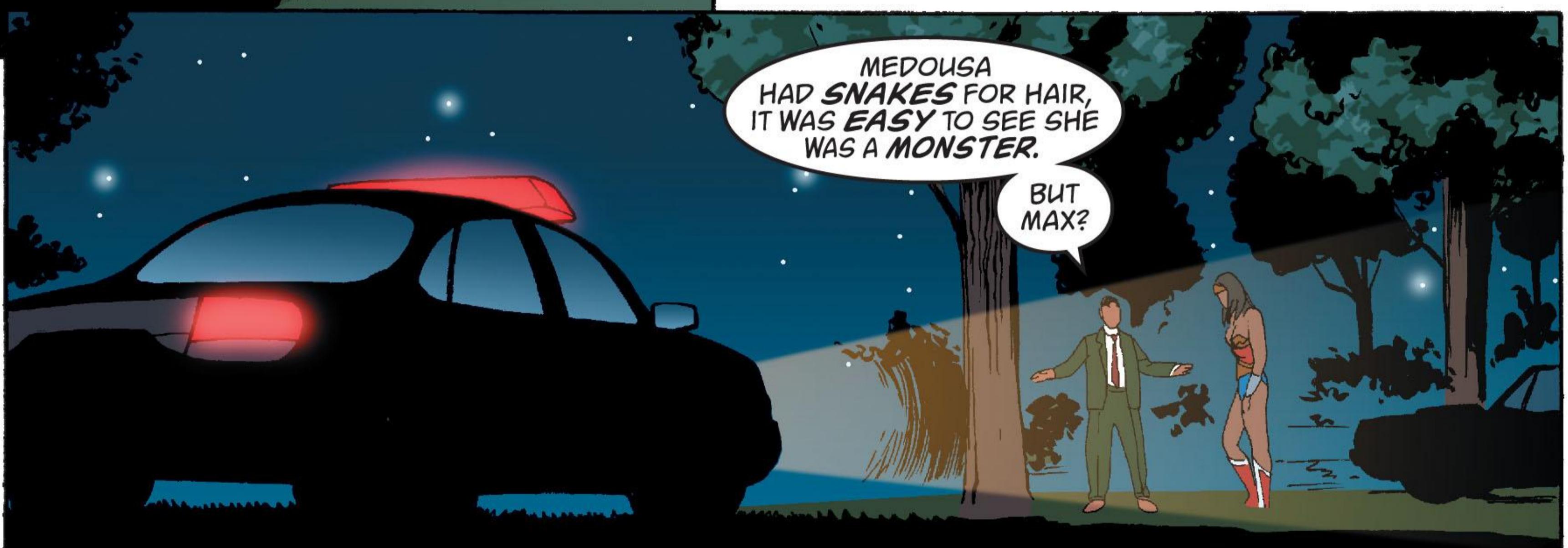
SO MAYBE YOU HAVE  
AN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE,  
MAYBE YOU HAD TO DO IT AND  
THE AUTHORITIES WON'T  
TOUCH YOU.

BUT  
WHAT ABOUT  
THE PUBLIC?  
WHAT ABOUT  
YOUR  
MISSION?



MEDUSA  
HAD SNAKES FOR HAIR,  
IT WAS EASY TO SEE SHE  
WAS A MONSTER.

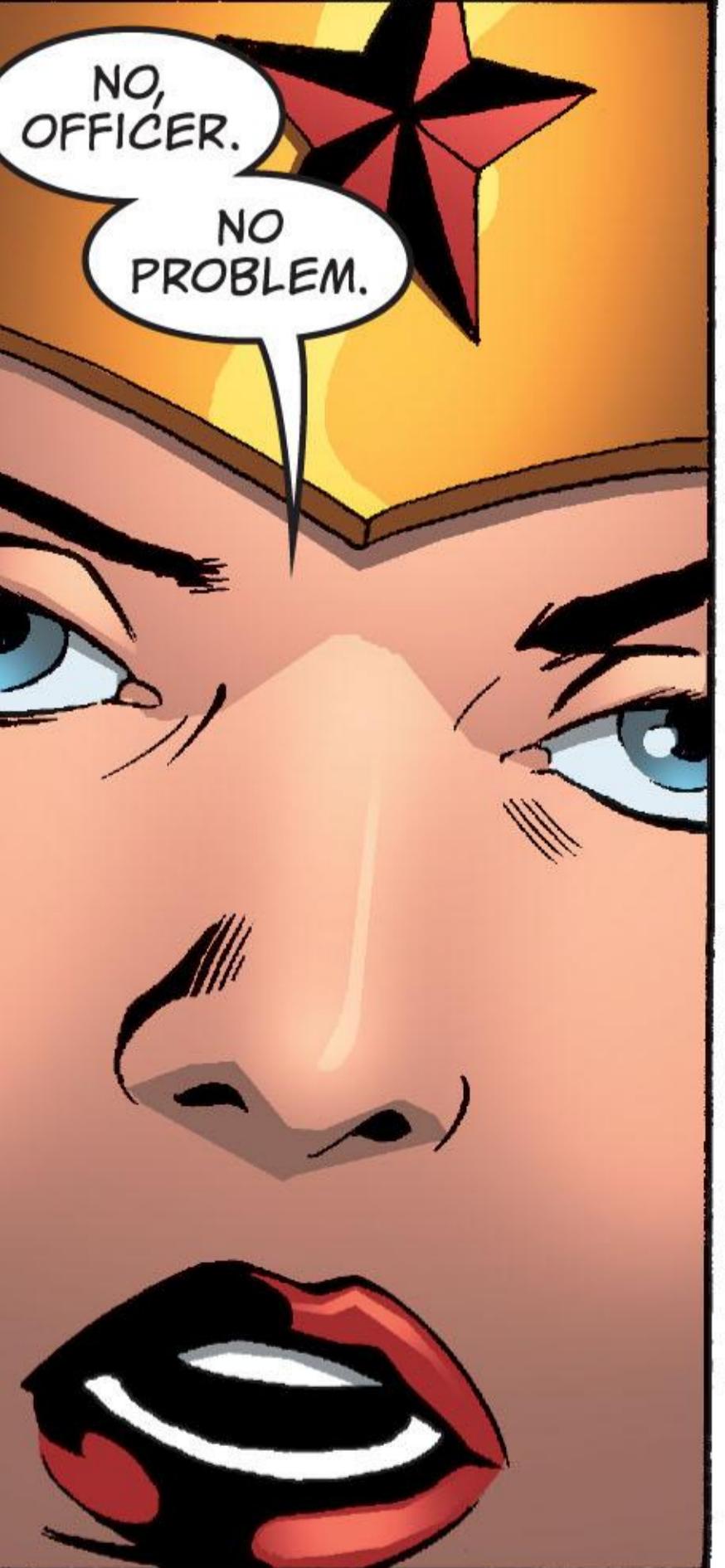
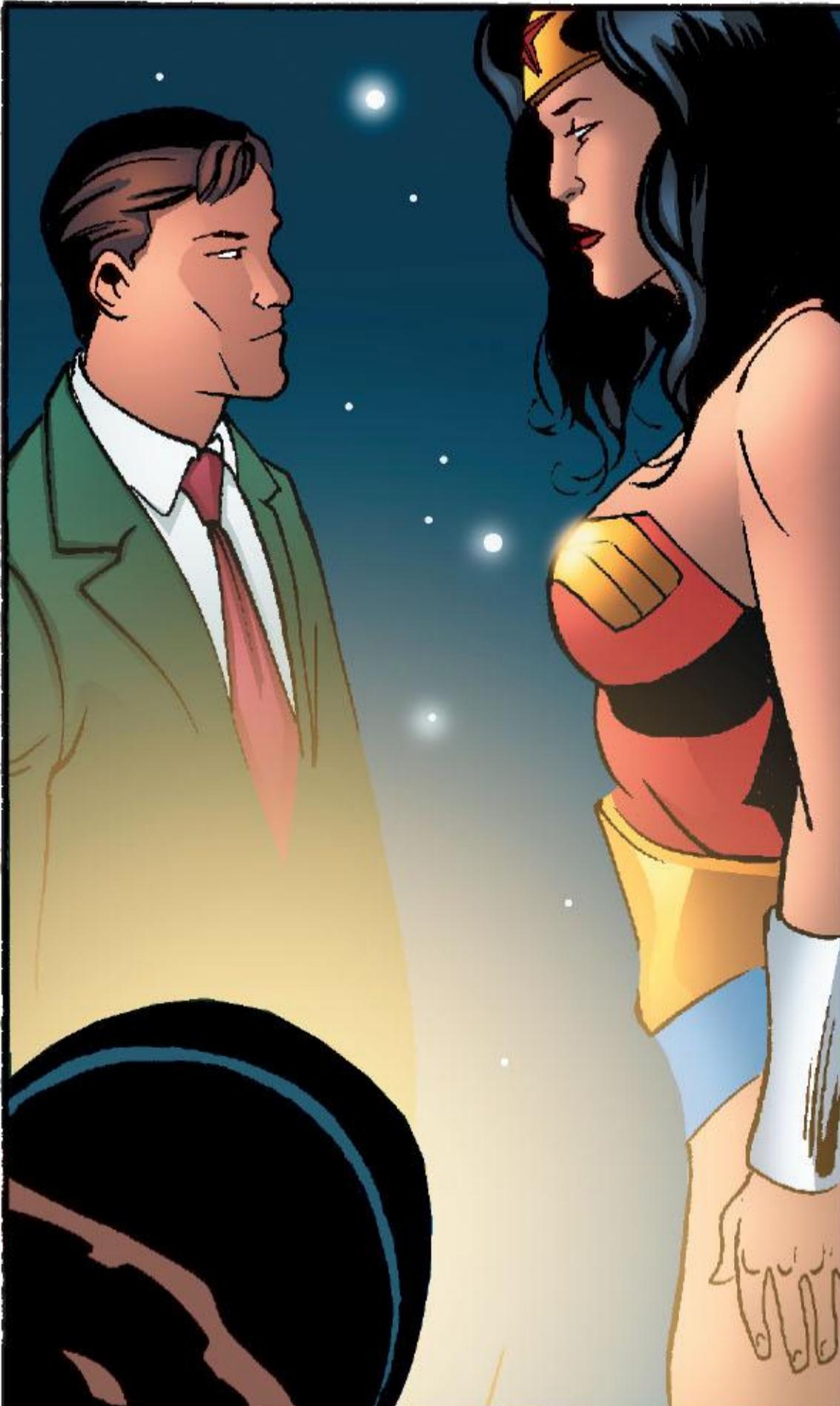
BUT  
MAX?

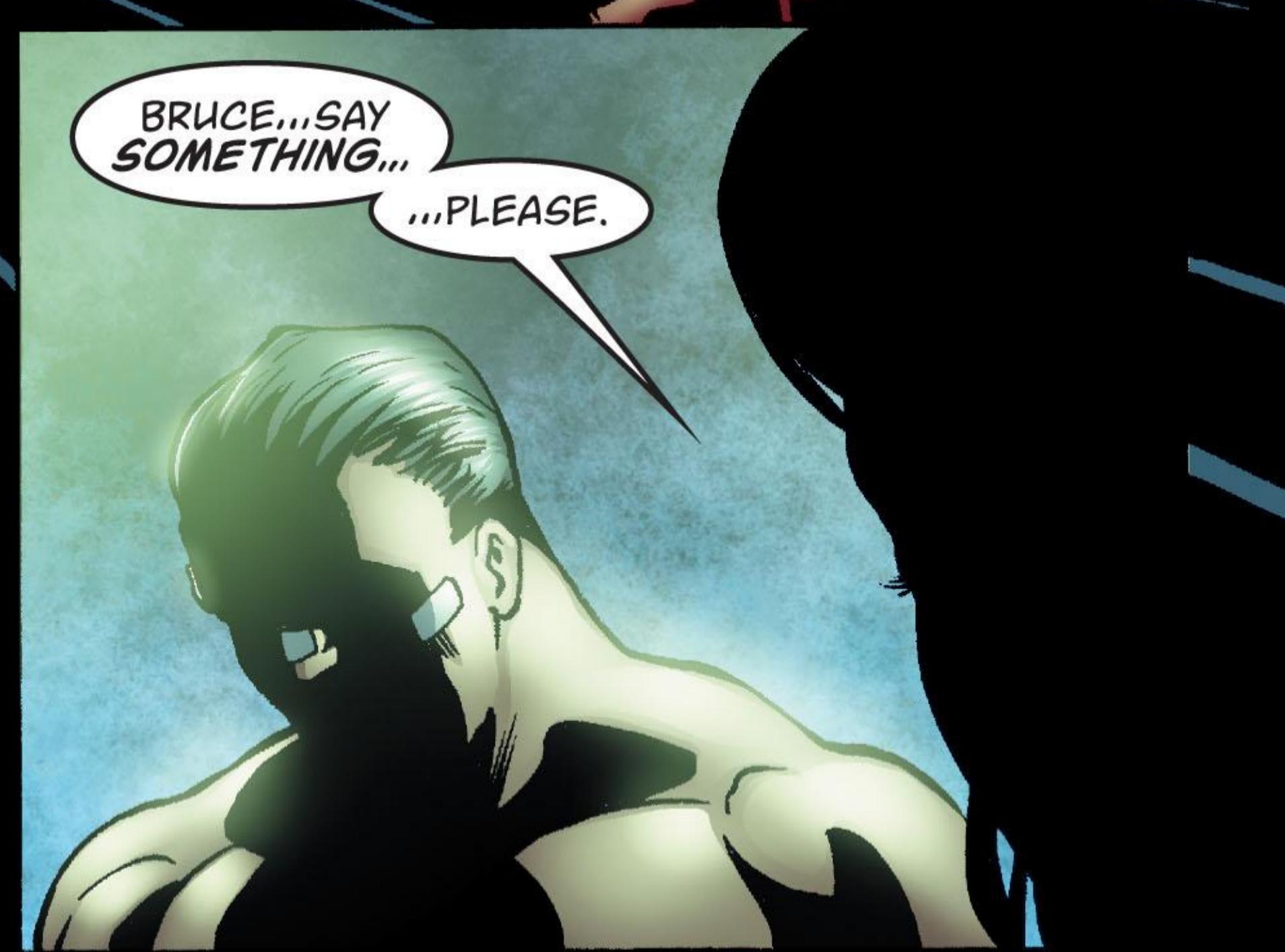
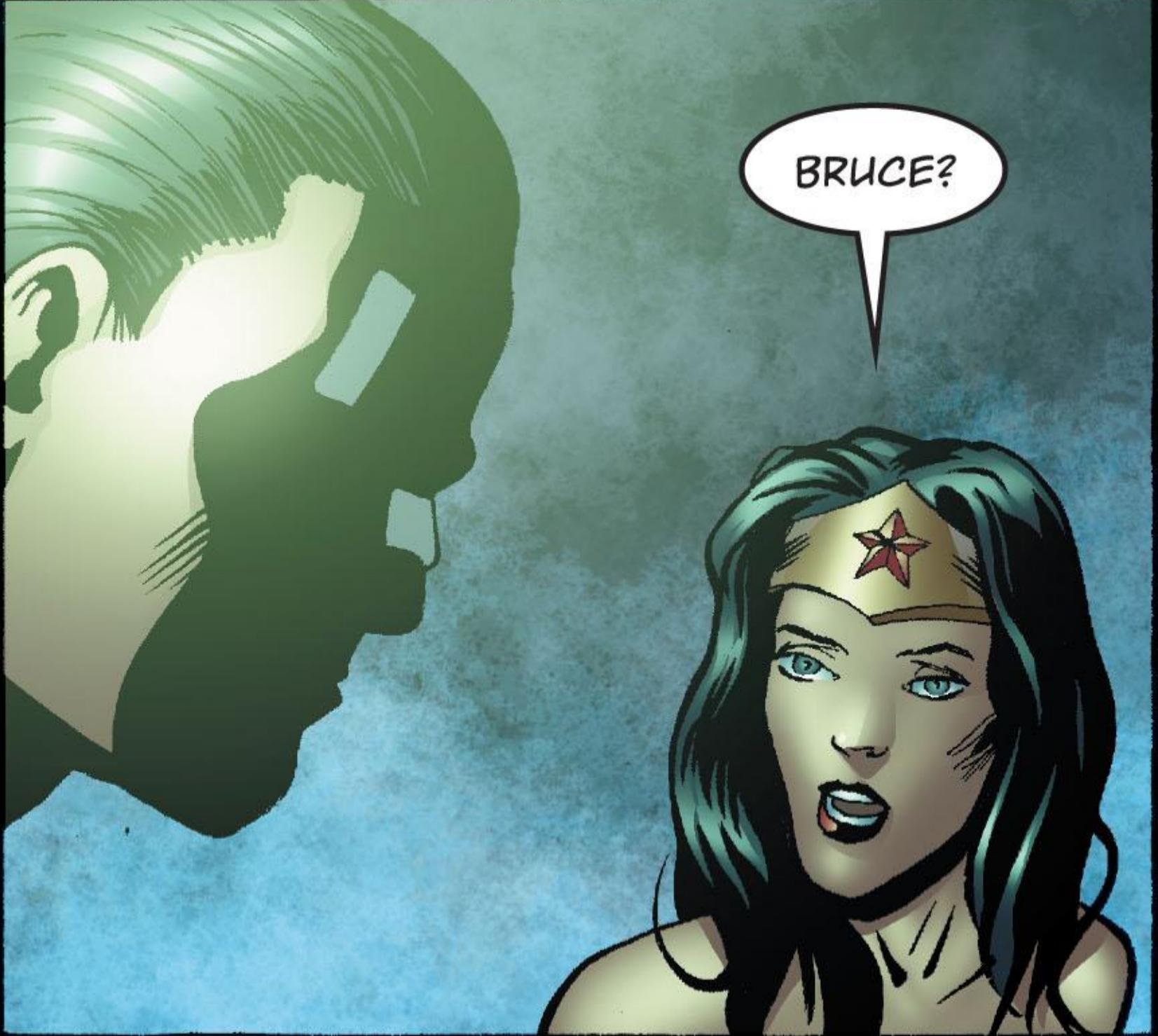


MAX LOOKED LIKE  
EVERYONE ELSE, MADAME  
AMBASSADOR.

WONDER  
WOMAN!

IS, UH...  
IS THERE A  
PROBLEM  
HERE?







GET  
OUT.

FROM THE WRITER OF  
BIRDS OF PREY & SECRET SIX

# GAIL SIMONE

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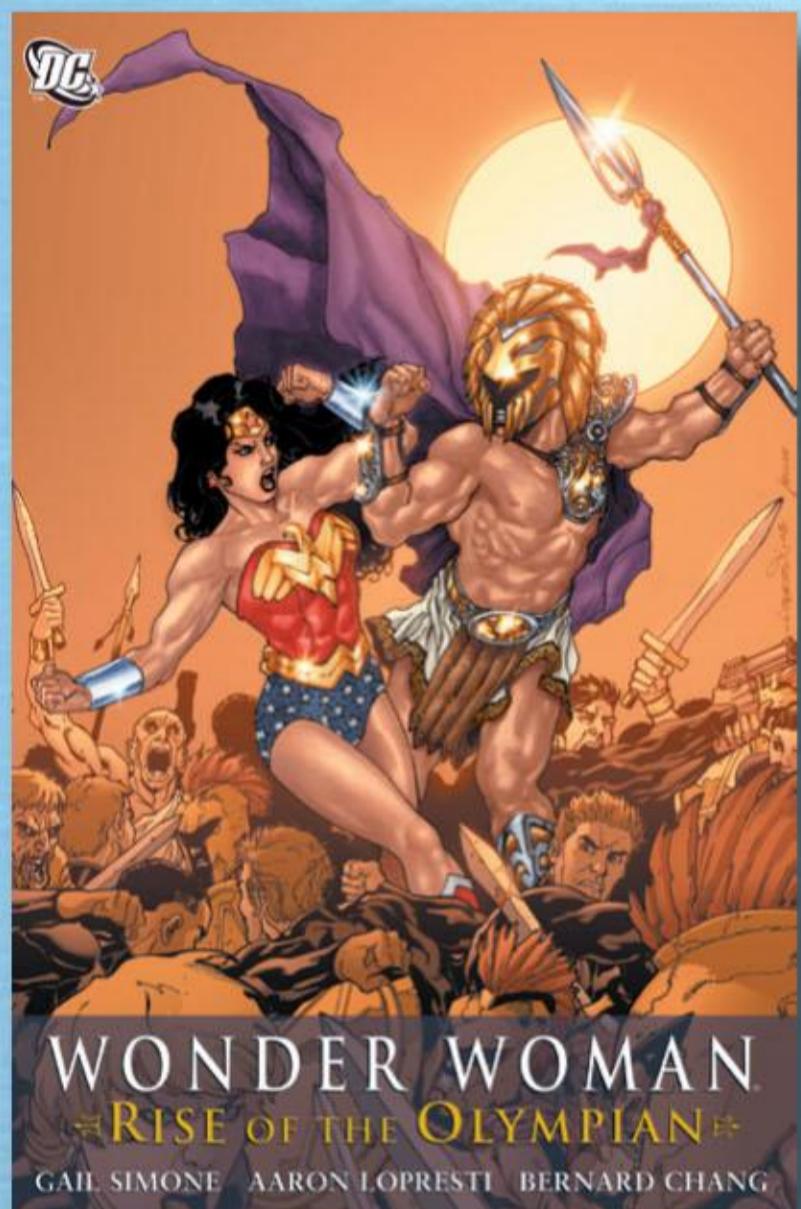
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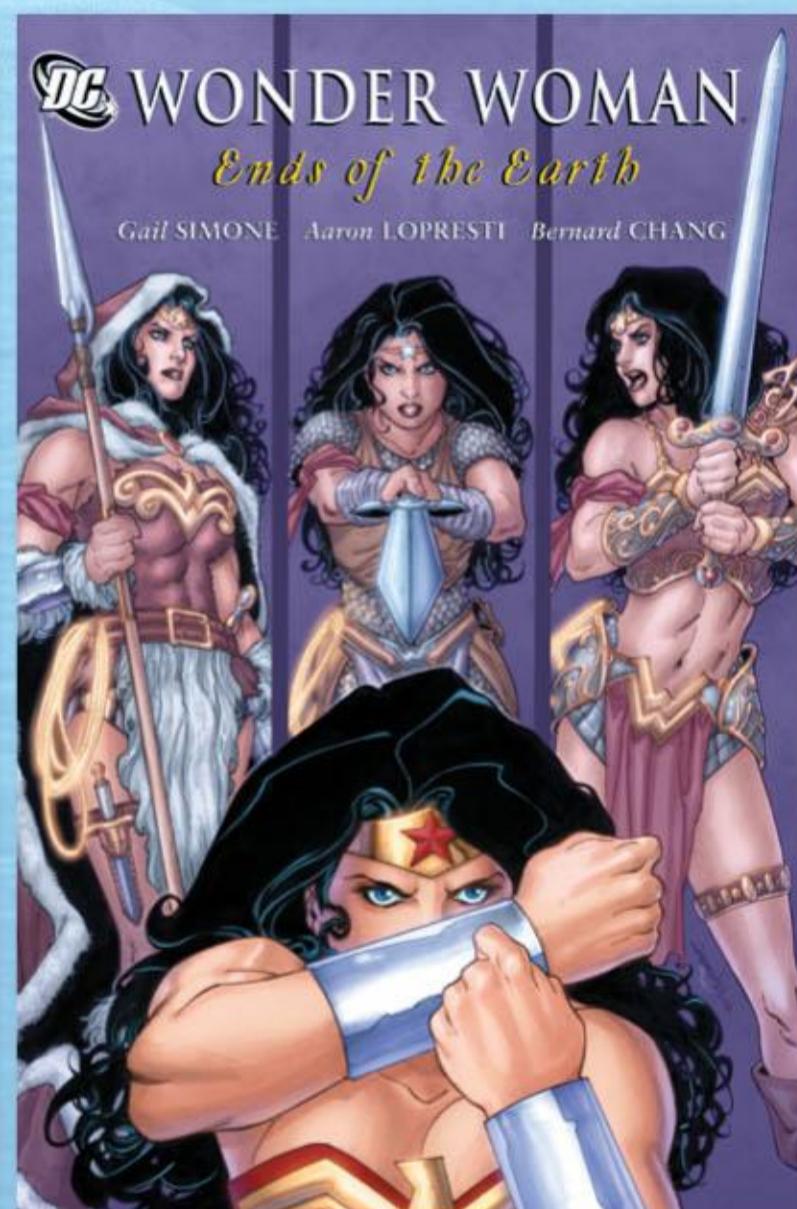


WONDER WOMAN:  
RISE OF THE OLYMPIAN



with  
**AARON LOPRESTI**  
& **BERNARD CHANG**

WONDER WOMAN:  
ENDS OF THE EARTH



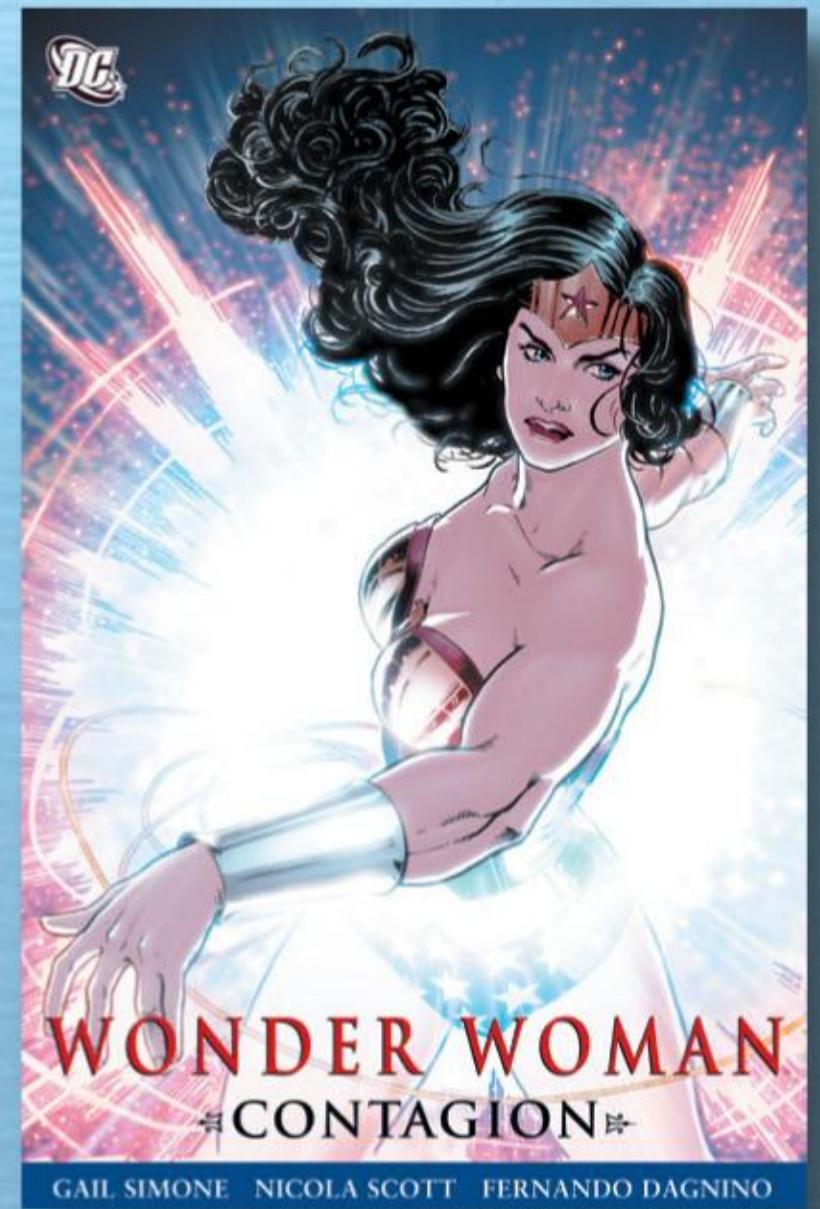
with  
**AARON LOPRESTI**  
& **BERNARD CHANG**

WONDER WOMAN:  
WARKILLER



with  
**AARON LOPRESTI**  
& **BERNARD CHANG**

WONDER WOMAN:  
CONTAGION



with  
**NICOLA SCOTT**  
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