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BY JOHN
BYRNE

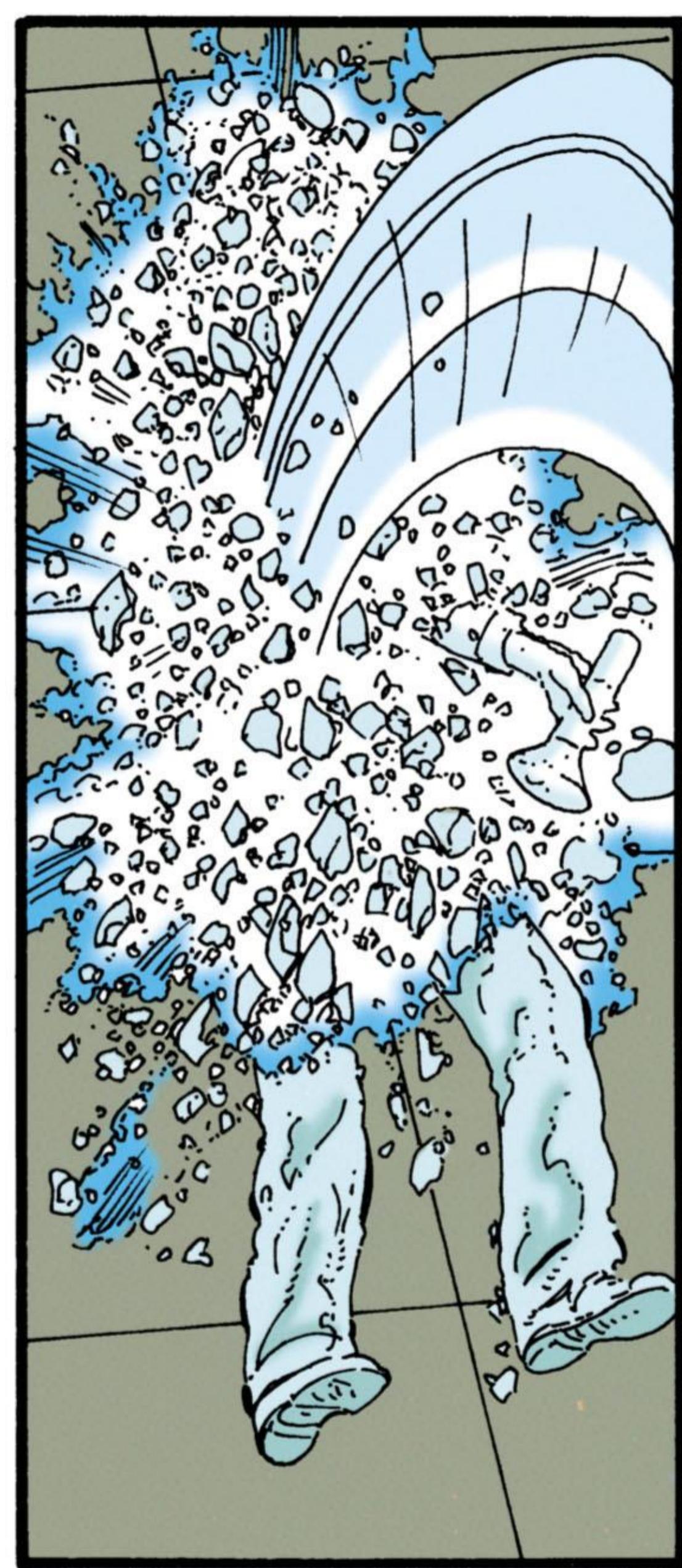
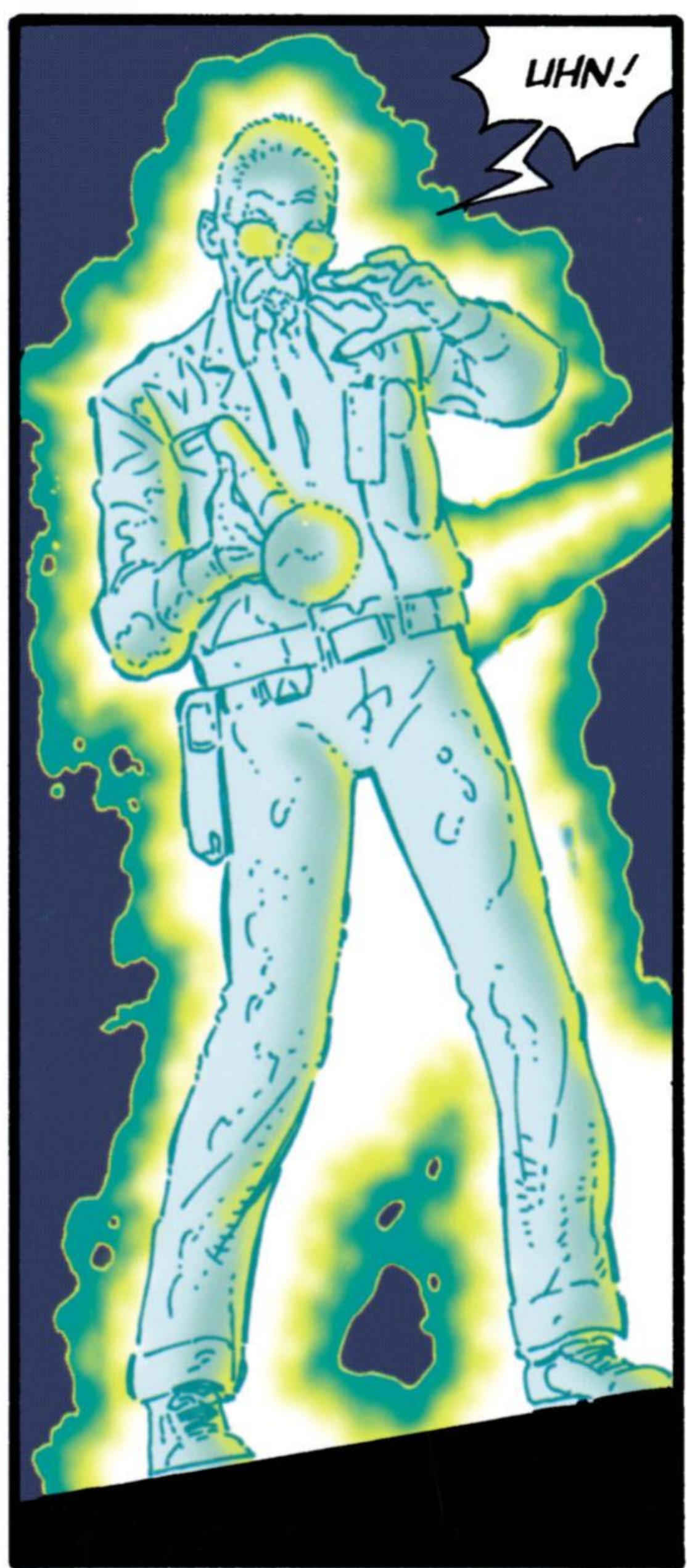
WONDER WOMAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

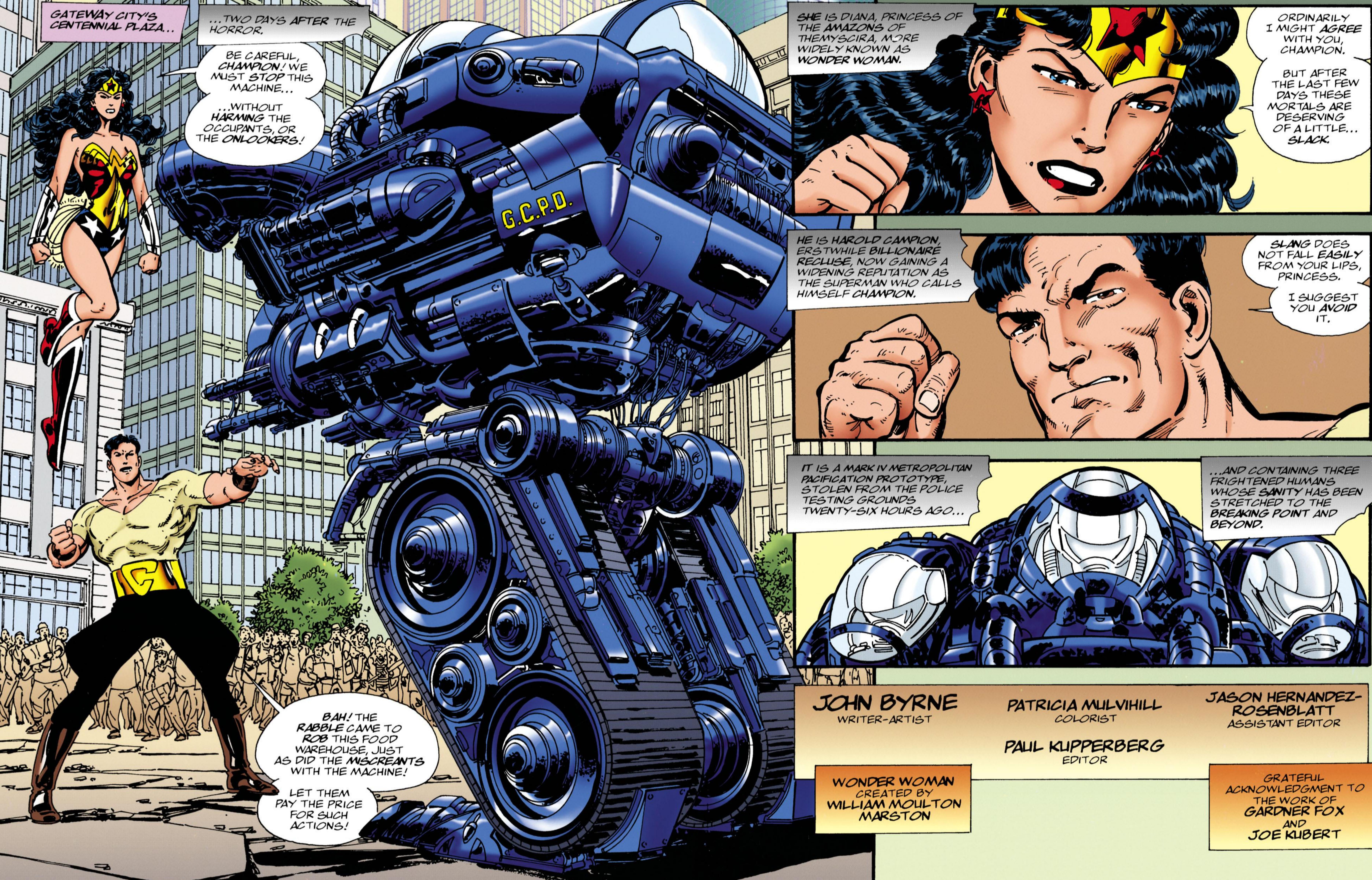
THEY CAME FROM
THE PAST...



...TO DESTROY
THE FUTURE!

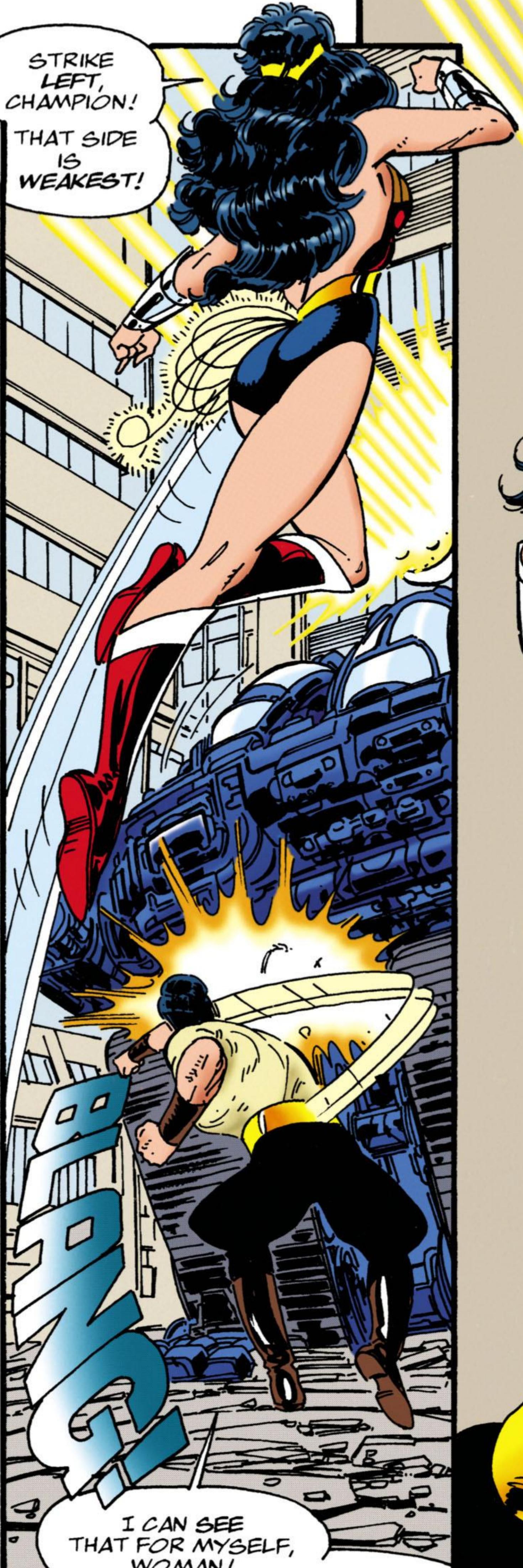


THE MEN WHO MOVED THE WORLD



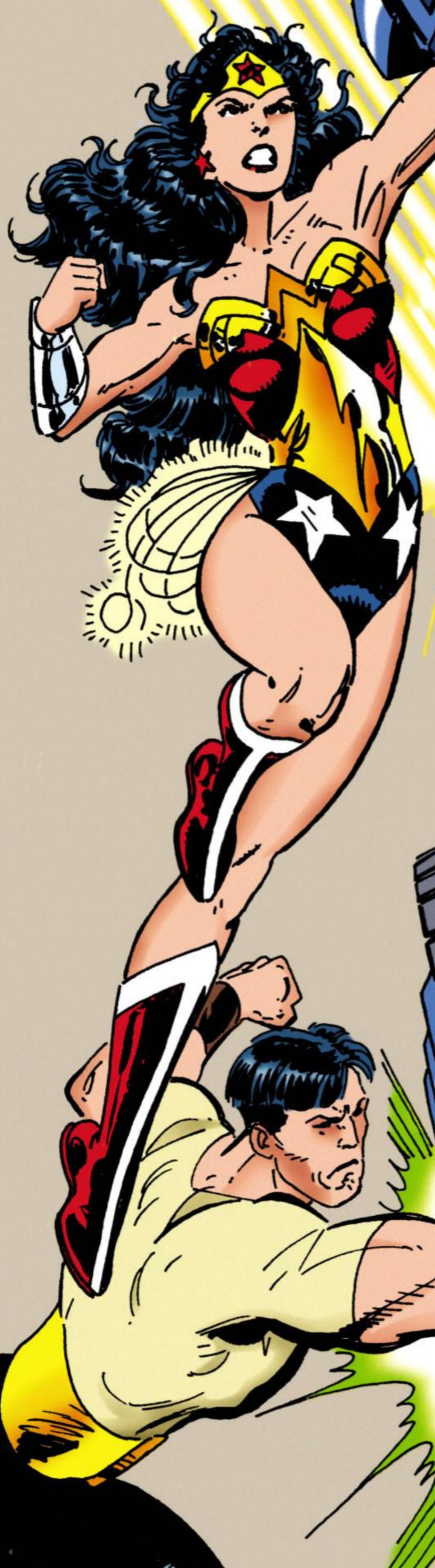
STRIKE
LEFT,
CHAMPION!
THAT SIDE
IS
WEAKEST!

ONCE MORE
HE MAKES A CRYPTIC
REFERENCE TO HIS
PAST--HIS LONG
PAST.



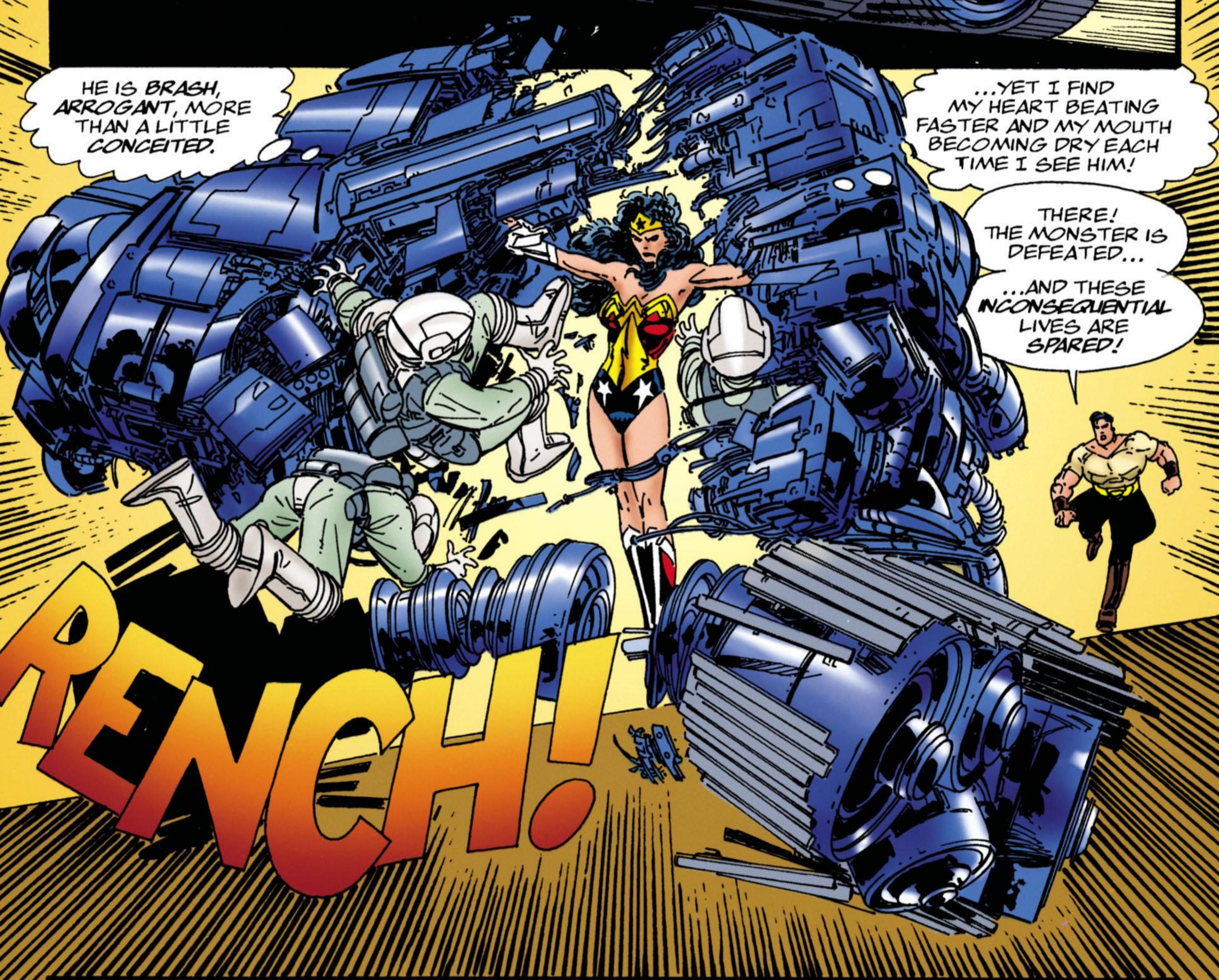
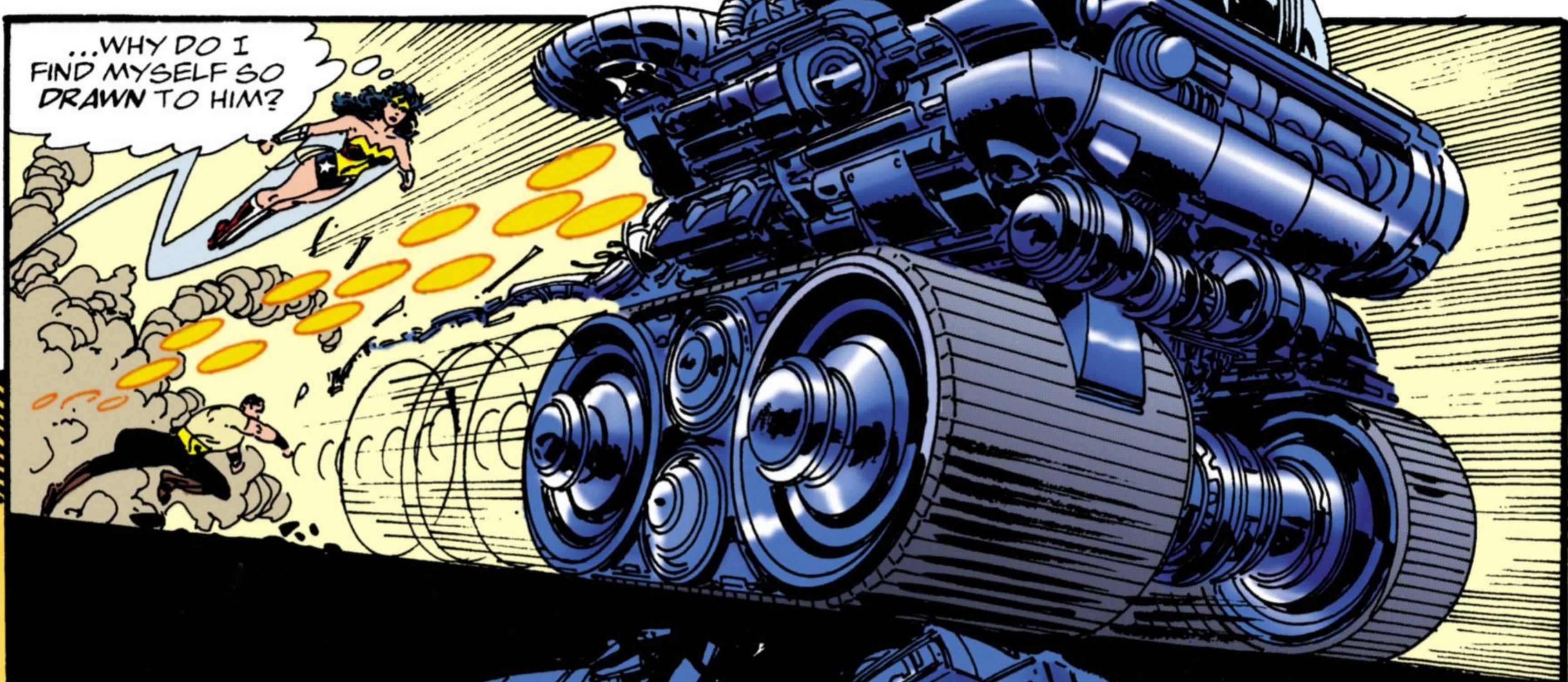
I CAN SEE
THAT FOR MYSELF,
WOMAN!

I WAS FIGHTING
MONSTERS SUCH AS THIS BEFORE
YOU WERE CALLED FORTH FROM THE
LIFELESS CLAY OF PARADISE ISLAND!

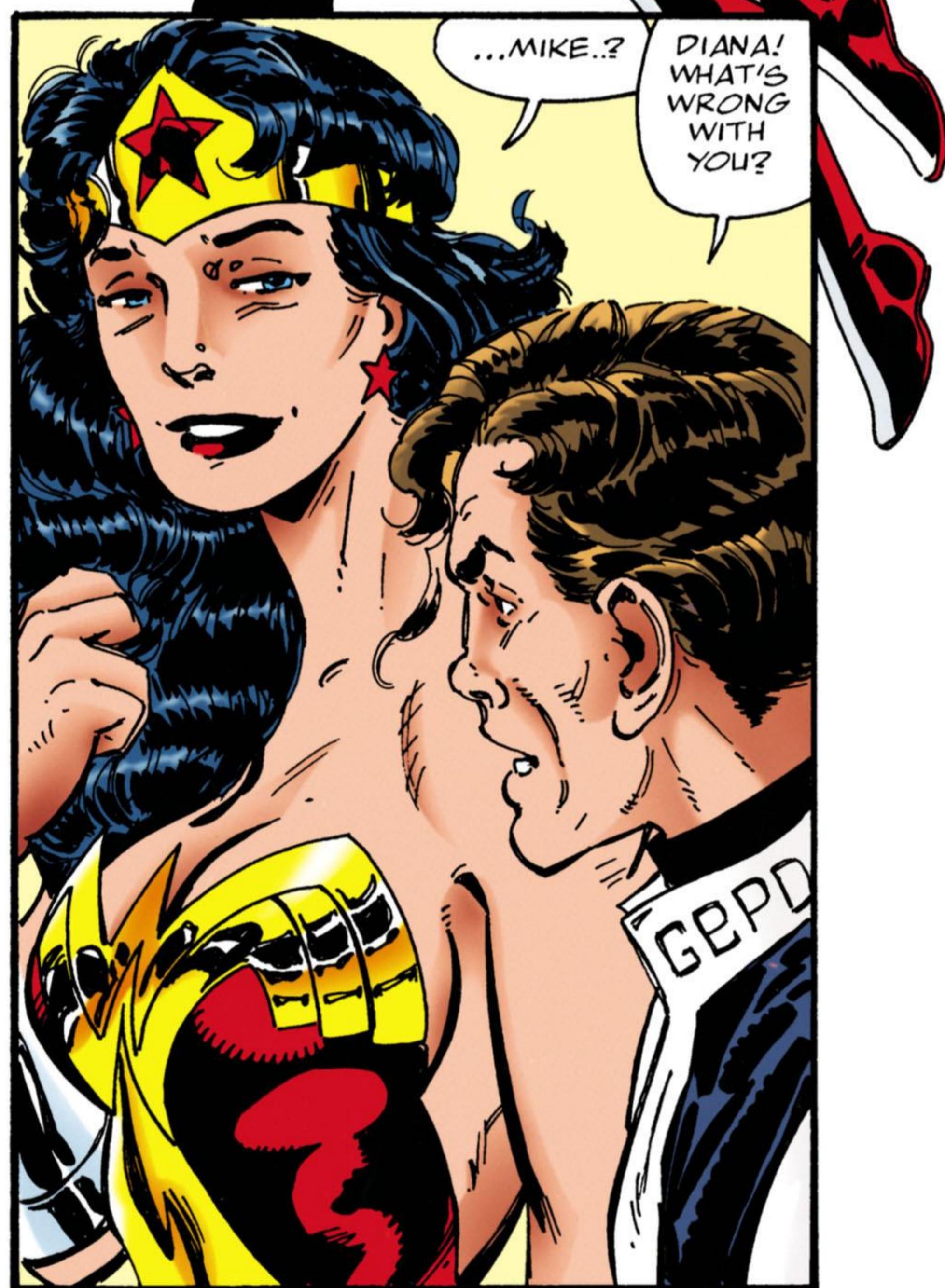
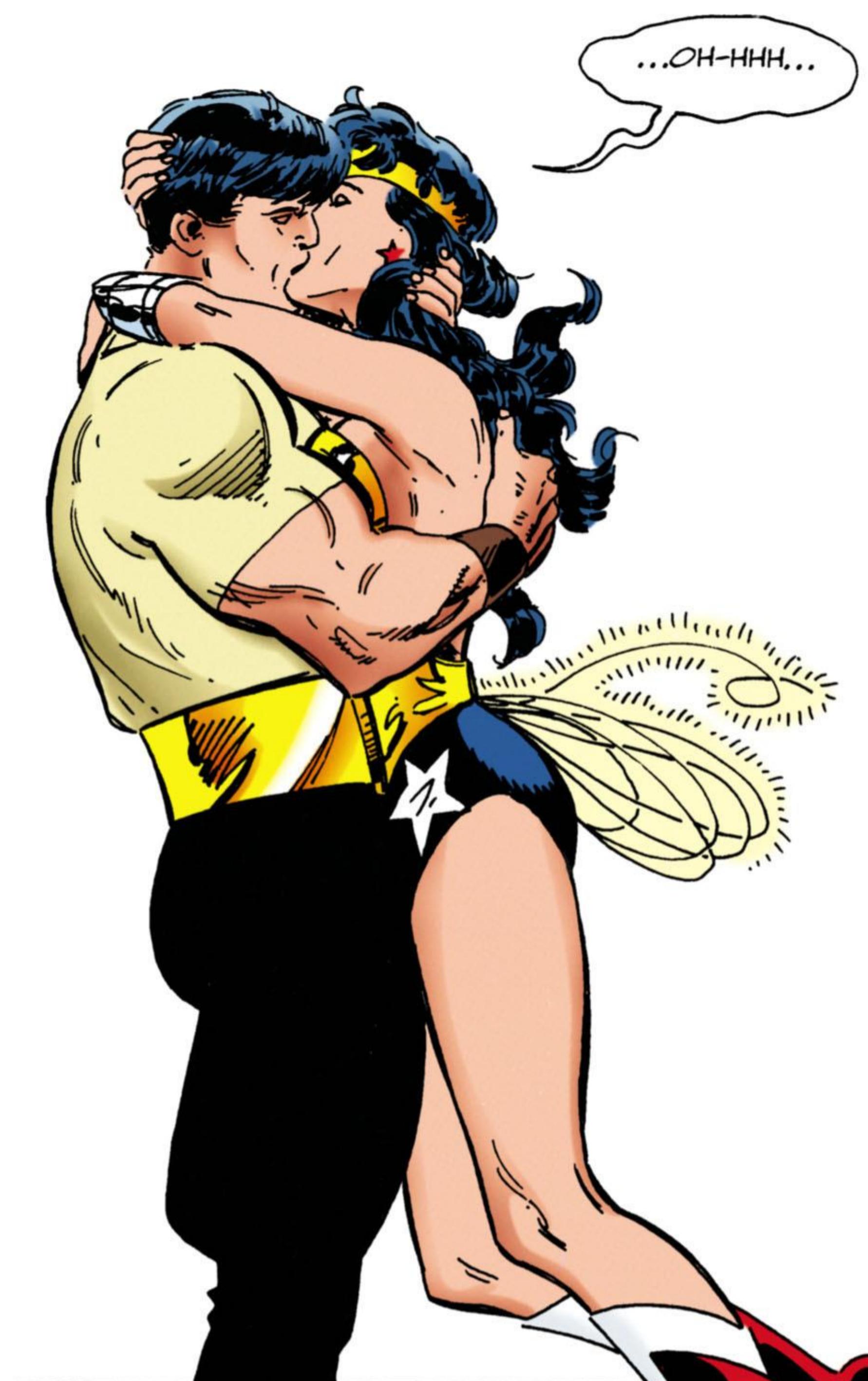


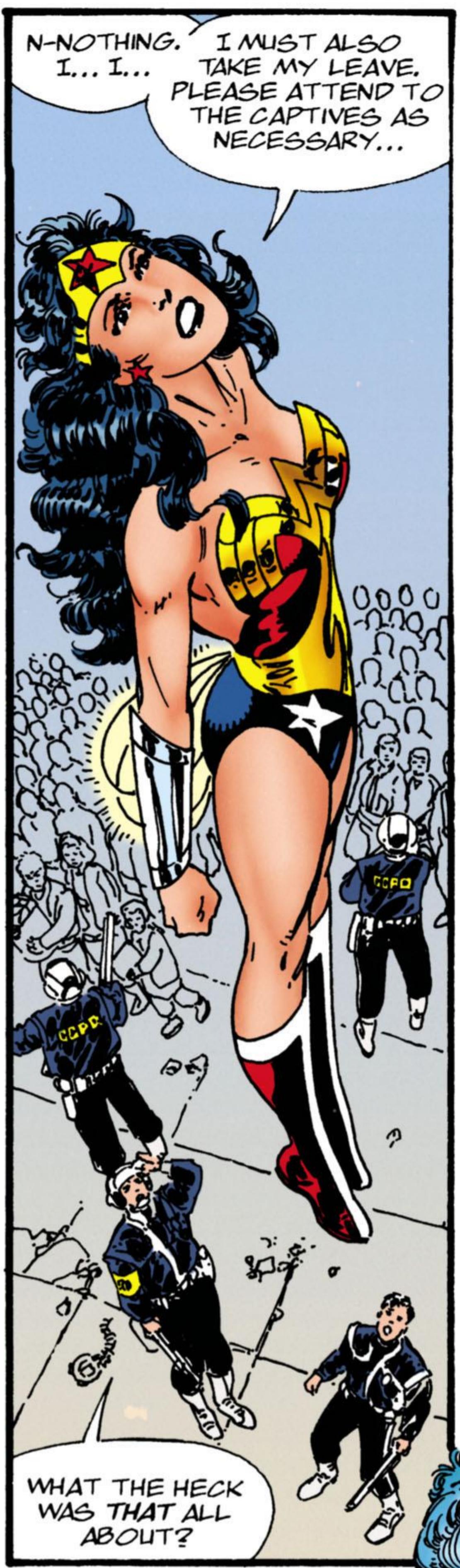
WHO IS
THIS MAN WHO
CALLS HIMSELF
CHAMPION? AND...
APHRODITE GUIDE
ME...











"HE SURE DON'T LOOK LIKE HE'S IN HIS NINETIES!"

WELL?

DID ALL GO
ACCORDING TO
YOUR "PLAN"?

THE TONE OF
IRONY FAIRLY
DRIPS FROM YOUR
VOICE, OLD
FRIEND.

THE RECENT MADNESS
DELAYED MY PLAN, BUT,
YES, THE POTION
WORKED AS YOU
PROMISED
ME IT WOULD.

YOU HAVE KNOWN ME LONG
ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE THE
TINIEST CHANGE OF
INFLECTION IN MY VOICE, IT
IS TRUE. AND I COULD SAY
THE SAME FOR YOU.

THIS IS NOT GOING
AT ALL AS YOU
WISHED, IS IT?

NONSENSE! THE
WOMAN IS FALLING
UNDER MY SPELL! IN
A MATTER OF DAYS,
A WEEK OR TWO AT
THE MOST...

...HER LEGENDARY
IRON WILL SHALL BE
DISSOLVED, AND MY
VENGEANCE WILL BEGIN
ITS FINAL PHASE!

SIGH. AND I HAD
HOPED SUCH THOUGHTS
LONG SINCE SET ASIDE.
DID YOU NOT SAY, YOUR-
SELF, THAT YOU HAD MADE
PEACE WITH THIS
ANCIENT PAIN?

I... BELIEVED
THAT TO BE
THE CASE.
IT PROVED
NOT TO BE.

NOW,
LEAVE ME
A WHILE.

"THERE IS MUCH I NEED TO
THINK ABOUT..."

TOO
MUCH!



AS IF THIS TERRIBLE BUSINESS OF THE SUN-EATER WERE NOT ENOUGH TO TAX EVEN THE STRONGEST AMONG US TO THE LIMITS...

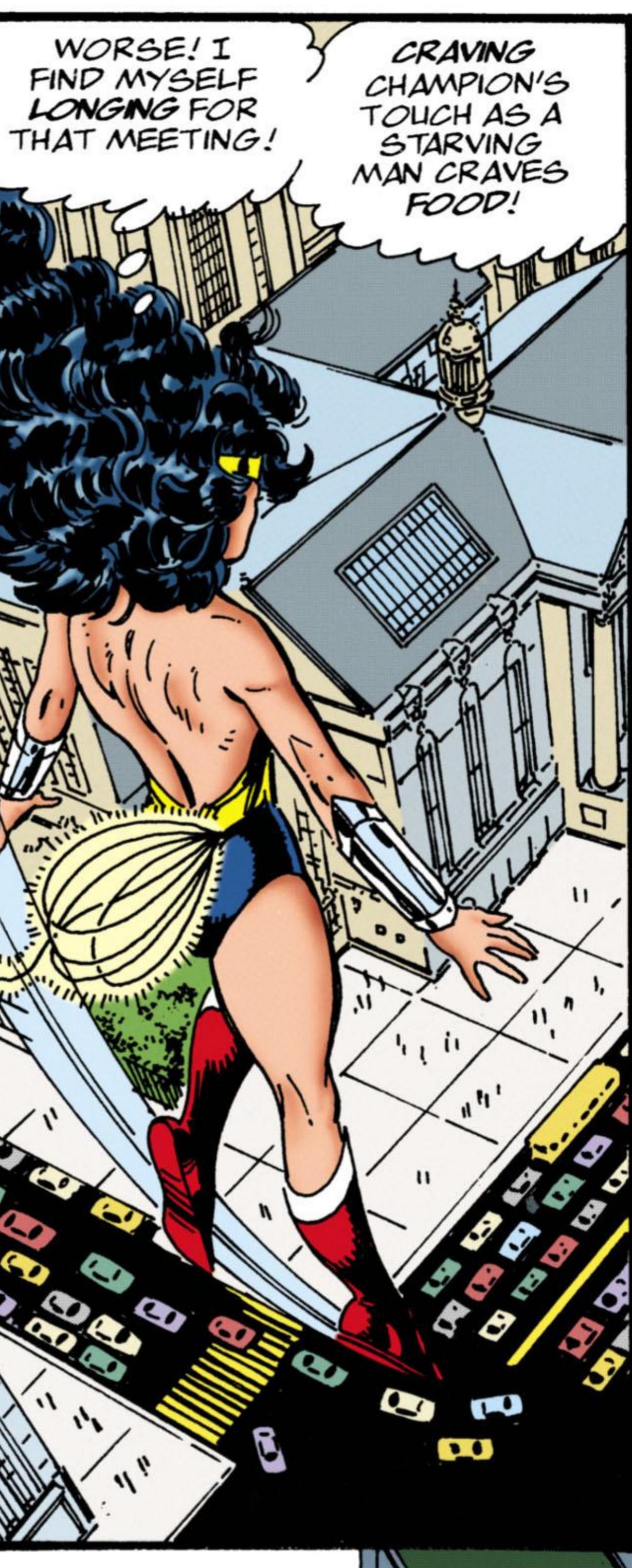
...THIS IS ALL SO SUDDEN, SO OVERWHELMING.

I AM A PRINCESS OF THE AMAZONS! I HAVE BEEN TRAINED SINCE CHILDHOOD TO CONTROL MY EMOTIONS, TO BE MASTER OF MY MIND AND HEART!

NOW, A SINGLE, STOLEN KISS...

...AND I FEEL AS THO' IT WILL TAKE EVERY OUNCE OF MY RESOLVE...

...TO STOP ME FROM HURLING MYSELF INTO CHAMPION'S ARMS, THE NEXT TIME WE MEET!



WORSE! I FIND MYSELF LONGING FOR THAT MEETING!

CRAVING CHAMPION'S TOUCH AS A STARVING MAN CRAVES FOOD!

PERHAPS... HELENA SANDSMARK IS MORE FAMILIAR WITH THESE MATTERS THAN I. IF SHE COULD ADVISE ME...

I DON'T WANT EXCUSES! I KNOW THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN HORRIBLE, BUT WE HAVE TO PUT OUR LIVES BACK ON TRACK NOW!

AND, SOMEBODY BROKE THE SEALS ON THOSE SARCOPHAGI. I WANT TO KNOW WHO!



IS THERE SOME PROBLEM, HELENA?

OH, DIANA. GOOD MORNING. YES, THERE'S A "PROBLEM."

I'M CURSED WITH AN INCOMPETENT STAFF THAT WON'T EVEN ADMIT ITS FAILINGS!

THAT'S NOT FAIR, PROFESSOR. IF ONE OF US HAD BROKEN THE SEALS, WE'D FESS UP. BUT NONE OF US DID!

DON'T INSULT MY INTELLIGENCE, BURTON! I MAY BE THE YOUNGEST PERSON EVER TO HOLD THIS POSITION, BUT I AM FAR FROM THE STUPIDEST.

ONE OF THOSE SEALS MIGHT HAVE CRACKED AND FALLEN OFF ALL BY ITSELF, GIVEN THE AGE OF THE SARCOPHAGI AND THE TERRIBLE COLD.

BUT NOT ALL THREE!



WHAT ARE THESE THINGS, HELENA?

WE'RE NOT SURE, DIANA. THEY WERE FOUND IN CRATES IN THE MUSEUM'S ATTIC ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO.

AS NEAR AS WE CAN TELL, THEY'VE BEEN UP THERE SINCE THE MUSEUM BUILDING WAS COMPLETED BACK IN 1884.

WE BROUGHT THEM DOWN TO EXAMINE THEM, AND THIS MORNING WE FOUND THE SEALS BROKEN.

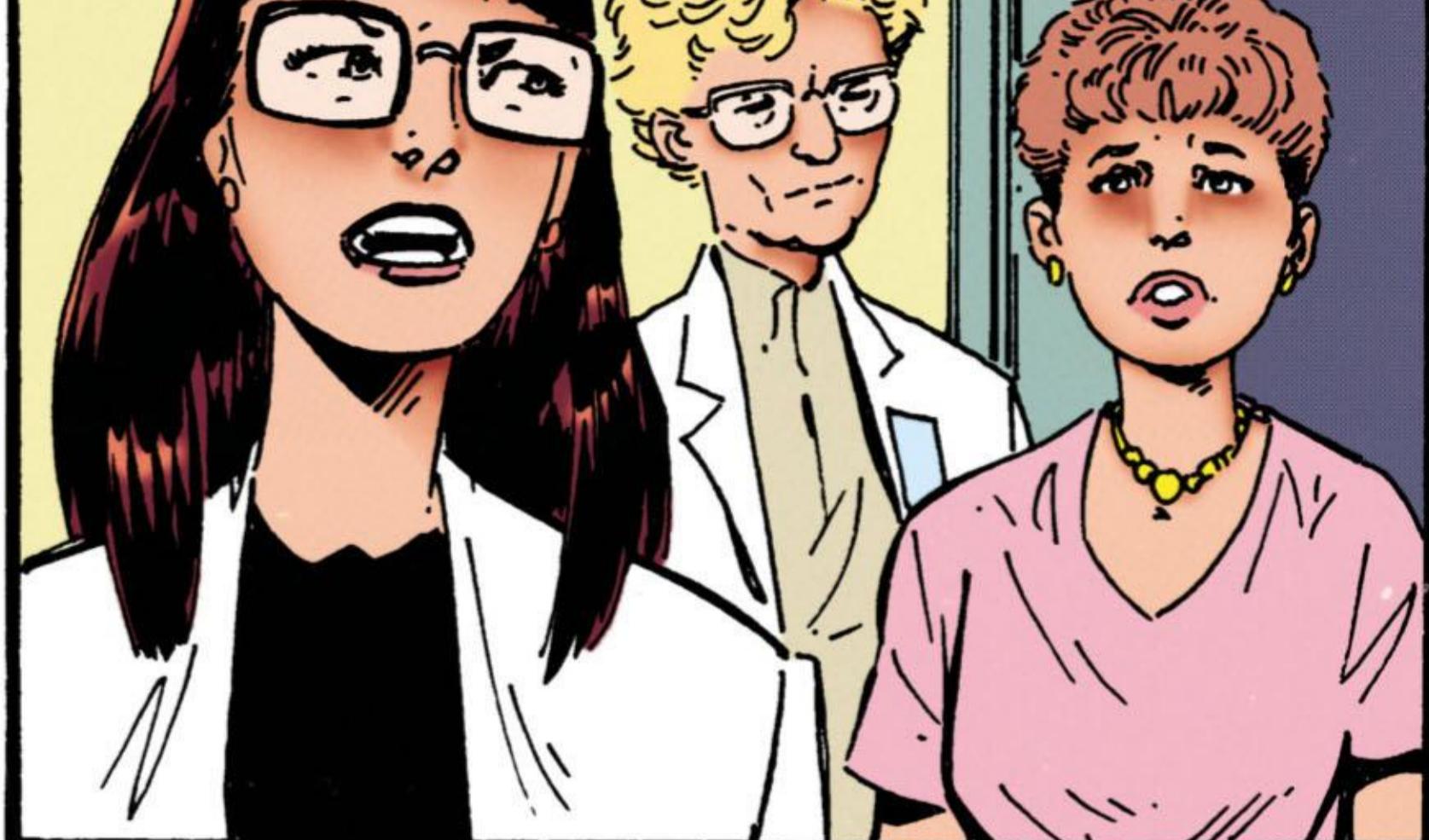
AND YOU THINK THE ANCIENT SEALS MIGHT HAVE CRUMBLED WHEN EXPOSED TO THE FREEZING EFFECT OF THE SUN-EATER'S PRESENCE?

THAT'S ONE UNLIKELY EXPLANATION, DIANA. AT LEAST THE COLD MAY HAVE SERVED TO REDUCE ANY DAMAGE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DONE TO THE CONTENTS BY ANY AIR LEAK...

PROFESSOR SANDSMARK... THERE'S AN URGENT CALL FOR YOU.

TAKE A MESSAGE, CAN'T YOU, JEANNA? I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING.

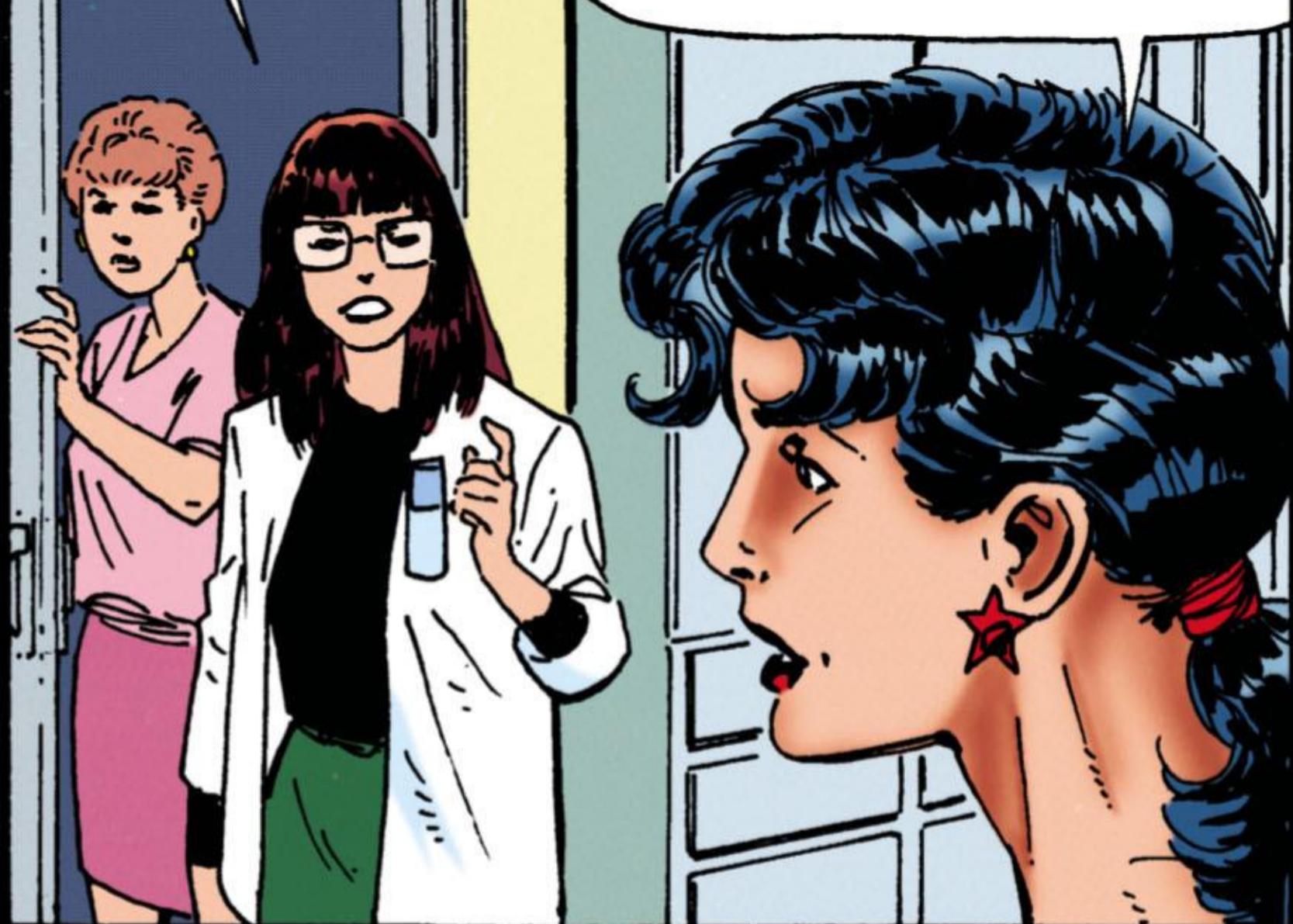
BUT IT'S BURT KEPPELHOFFER'S WIFE, PROFESSOR. SHE'S ABSOLUTELY FRANTIC.



OH, VERY WELL, I'LL SPEAK TO HER. DIANA... HAVE A LOOK AT THOSE SEALS, WOULD YOU?

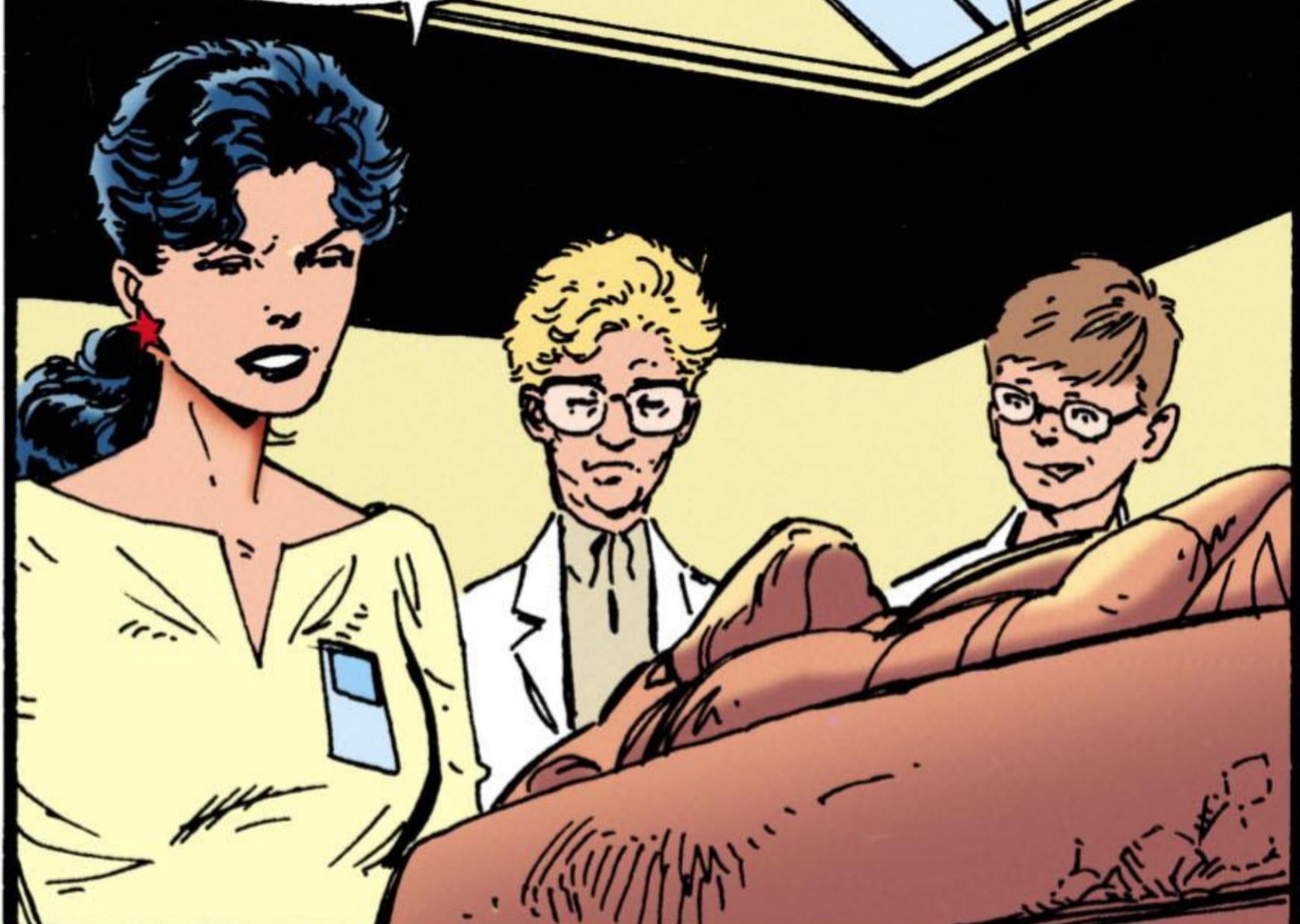
MAYBE YOUR YEARS AS A CRIMEFIGHTER WILL TELL YOU SOMETHING!

I WILL BE GLAD TO TAKE A LOOK, HELENA...



...BUT FOR SOMETHING APPROXIMATING DETECTIVE WORK YOU MIGHT BE BETTER SERVED BY SOMEONE LIKE THE BATMAN.

BATMAN? YOU... KNOW HIM, DON'T YOU, WONDER WOMAN?



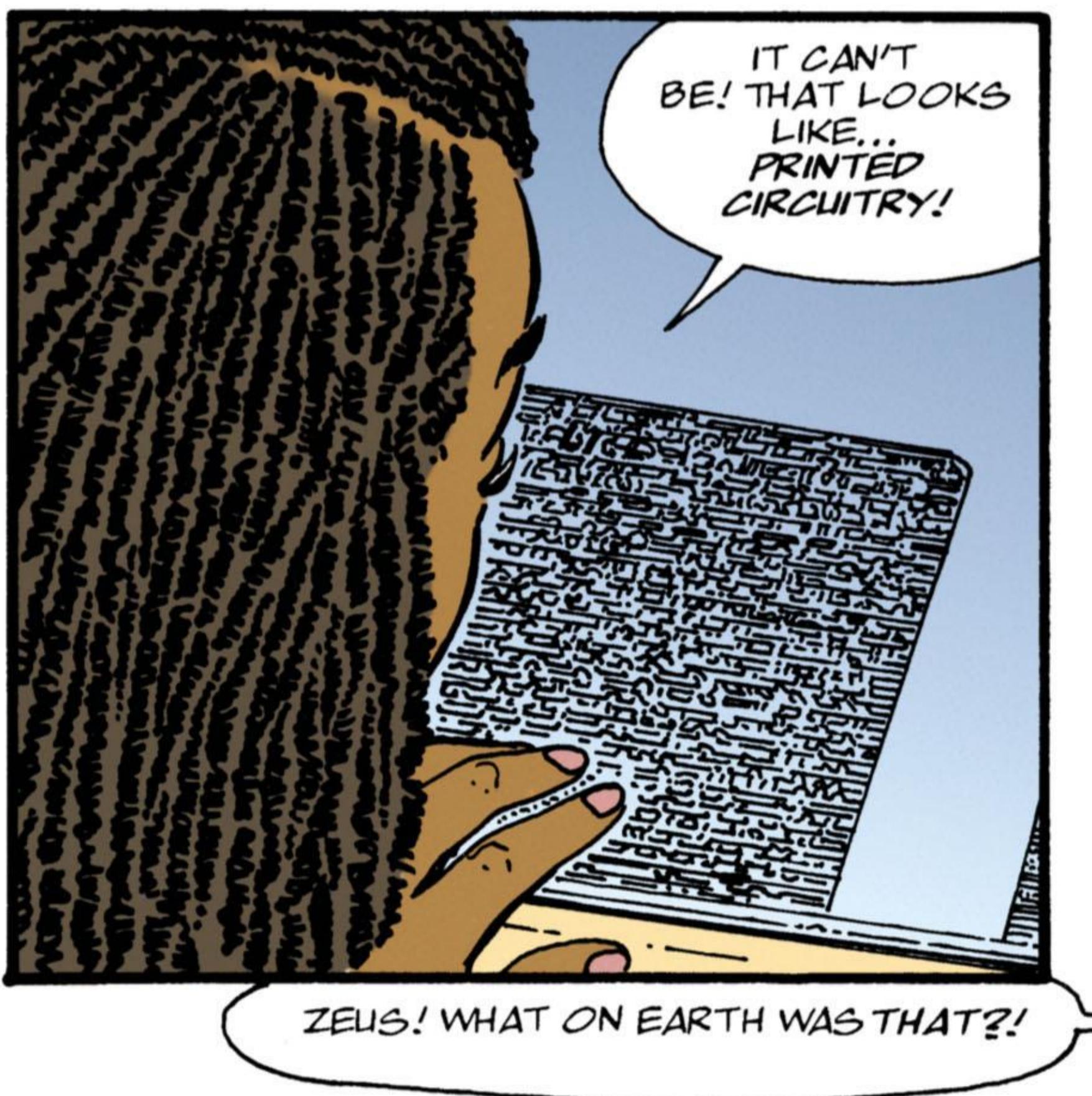
PLEASE CALL ME "DIANA." DO YOU HAVE A MAGNIFYING LENS HANDY?

RIGHT HERE.

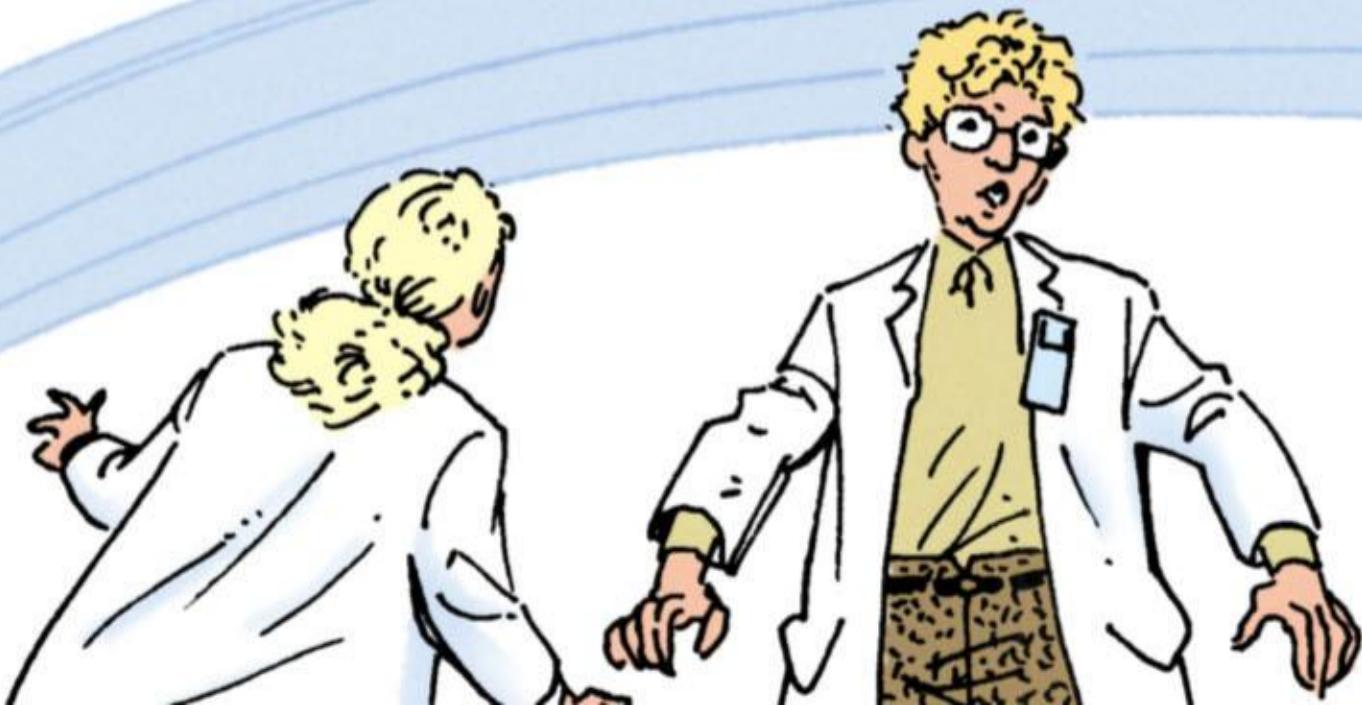
HMM... MY EYES DID NOT DECEIVE ME.

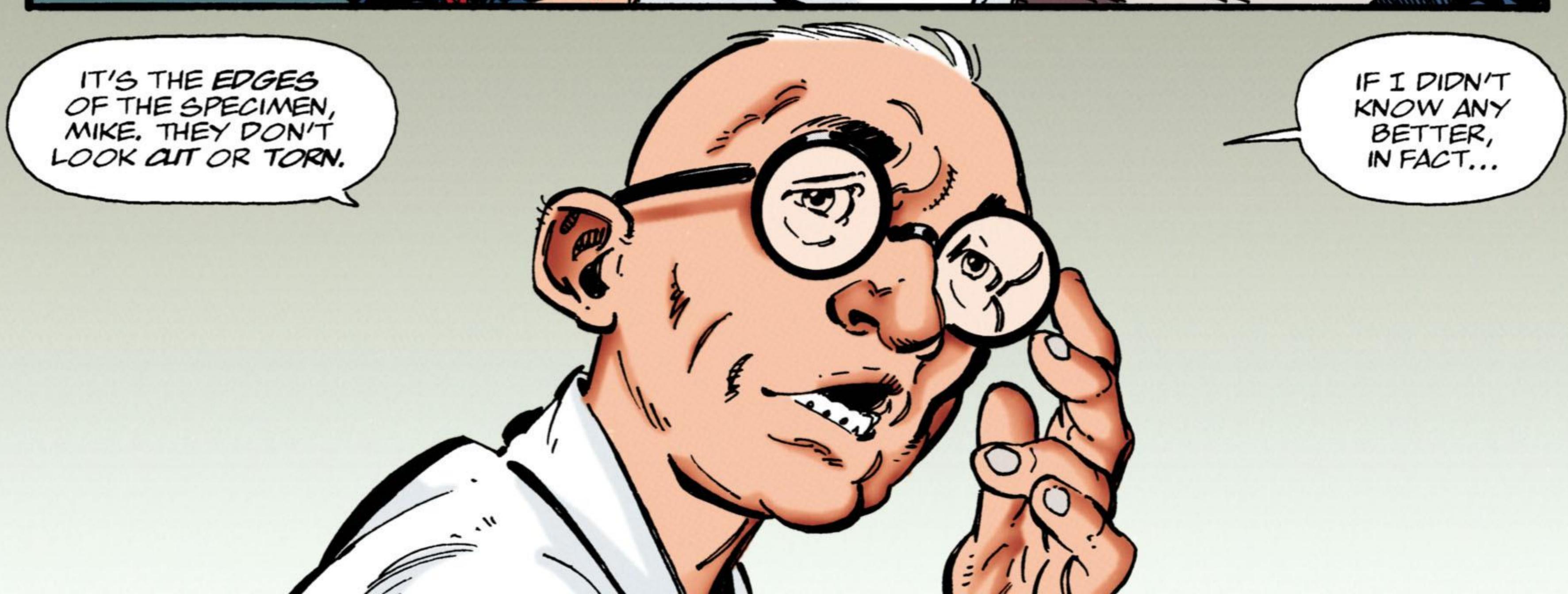
SOME OF THE REMAINING FRAGMENTS OF THE SEAL SHOW CLEAR INDICATION OF HAVING BEEN BENT OUTWARDS.

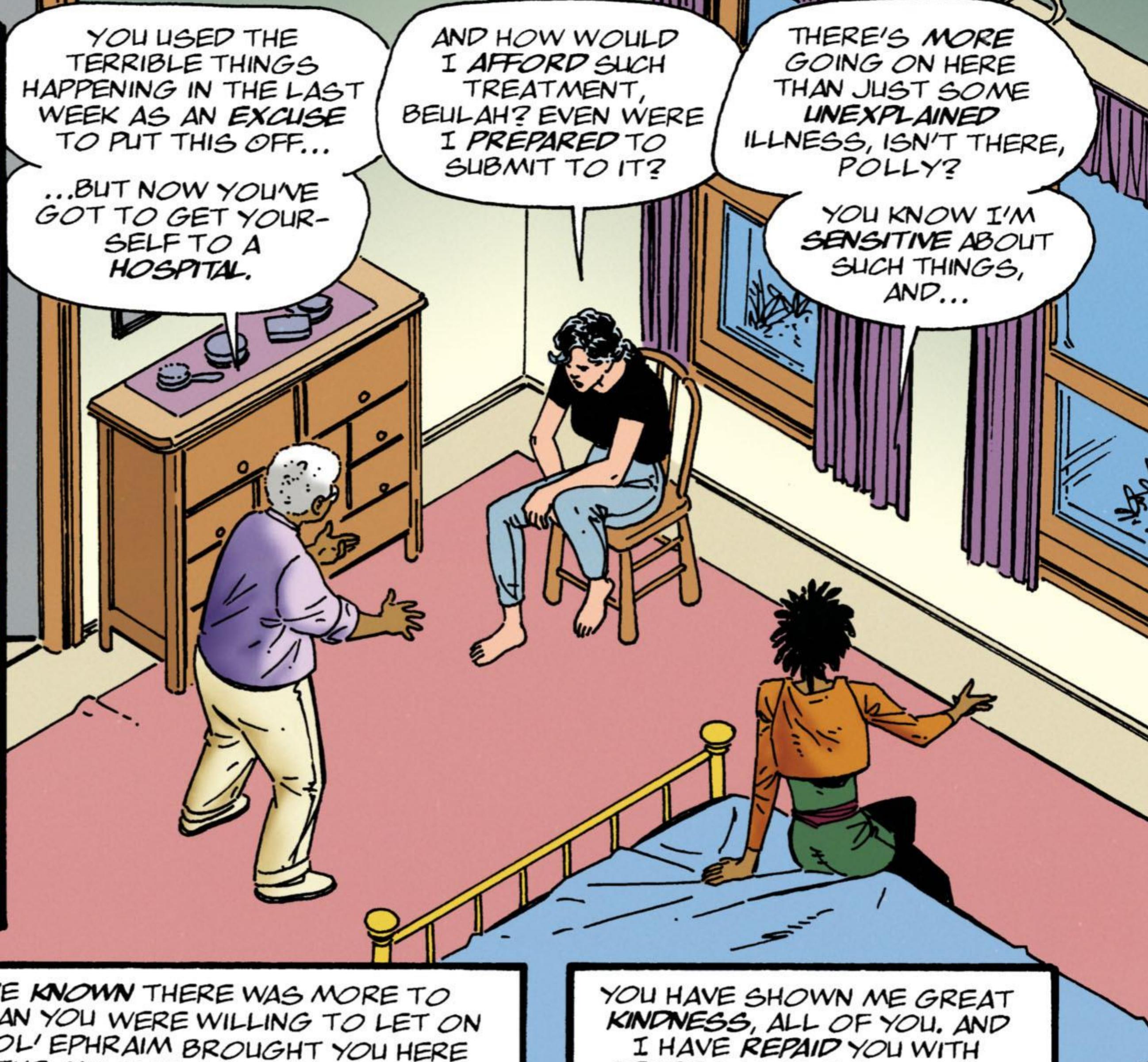


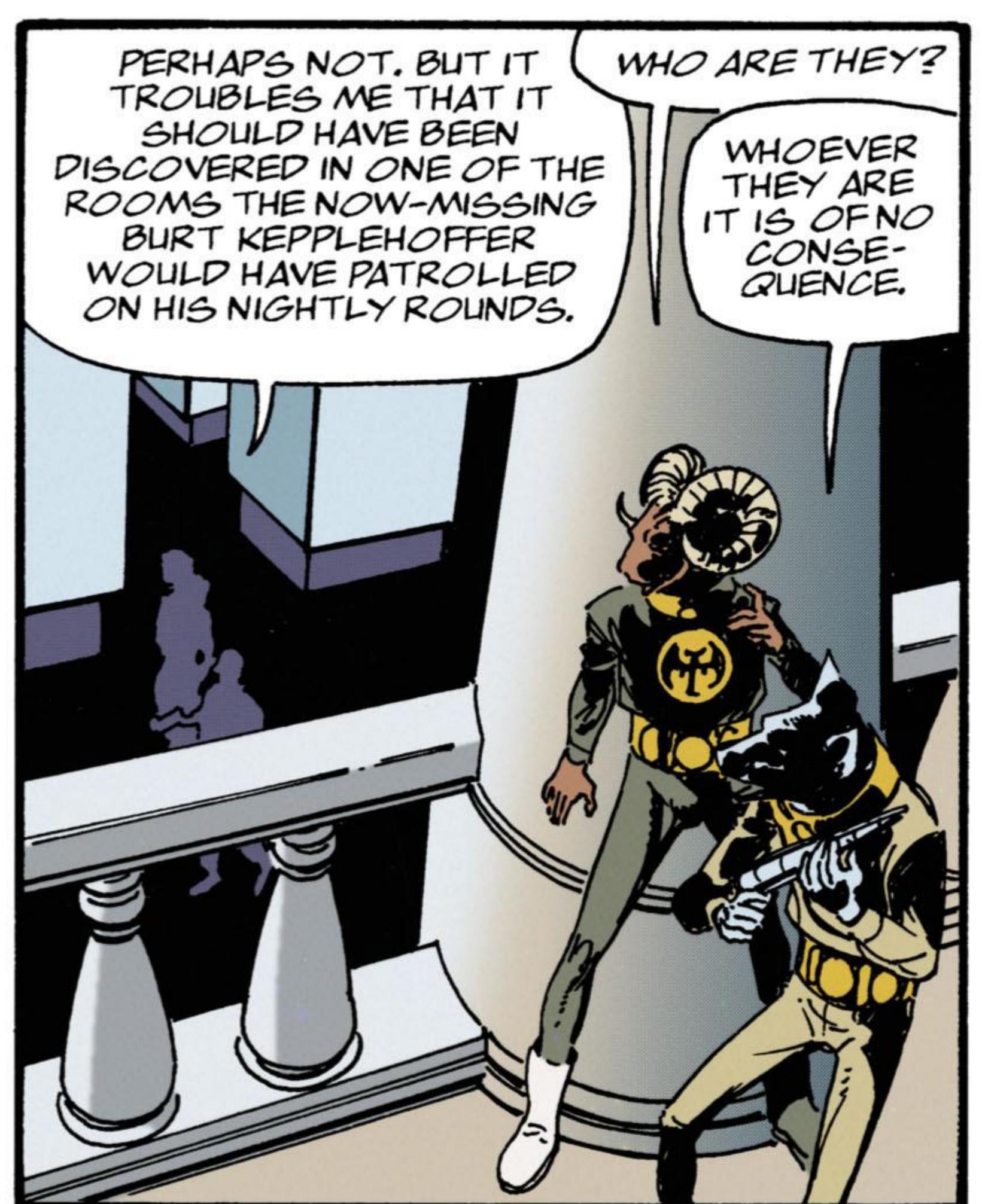
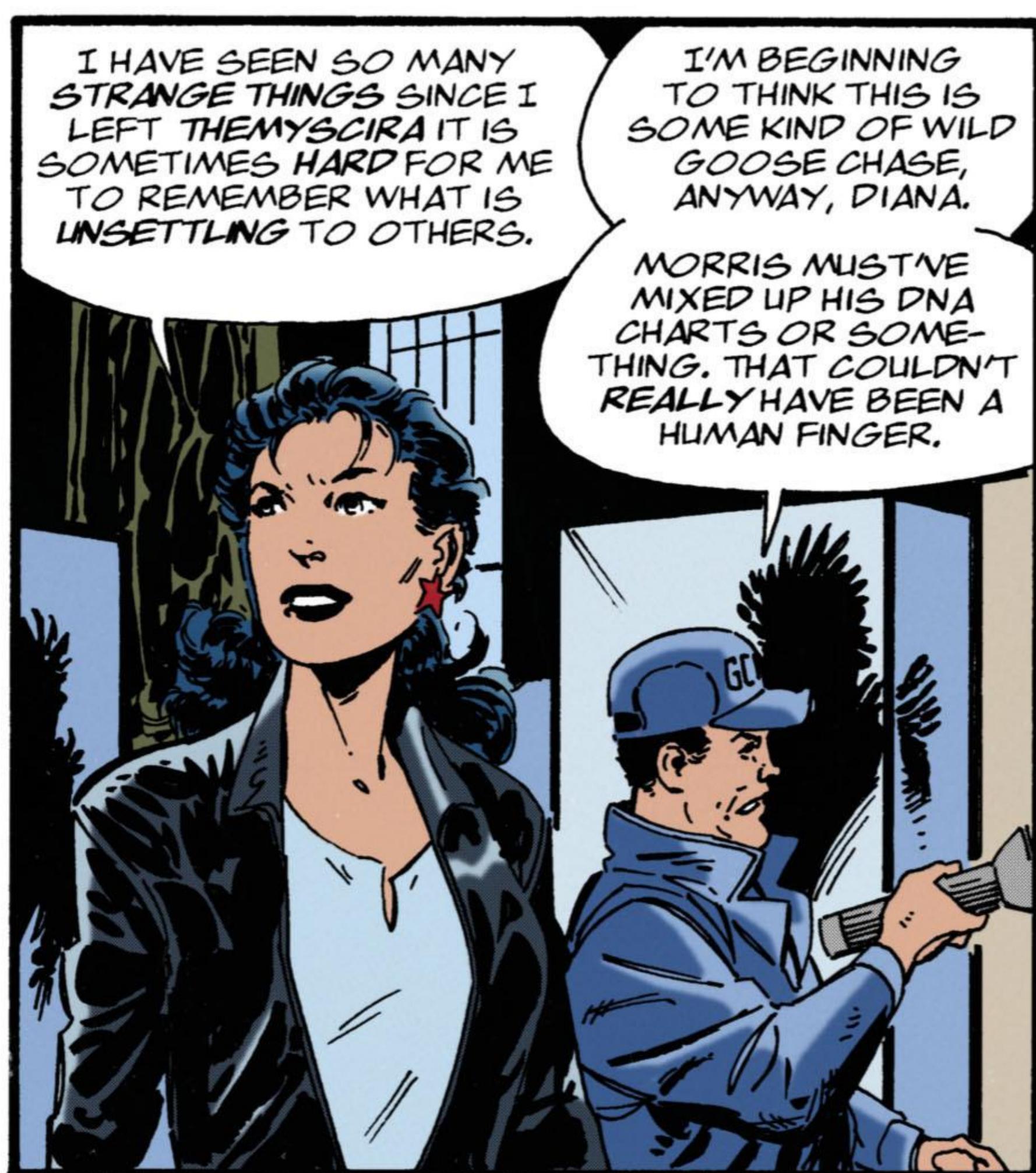
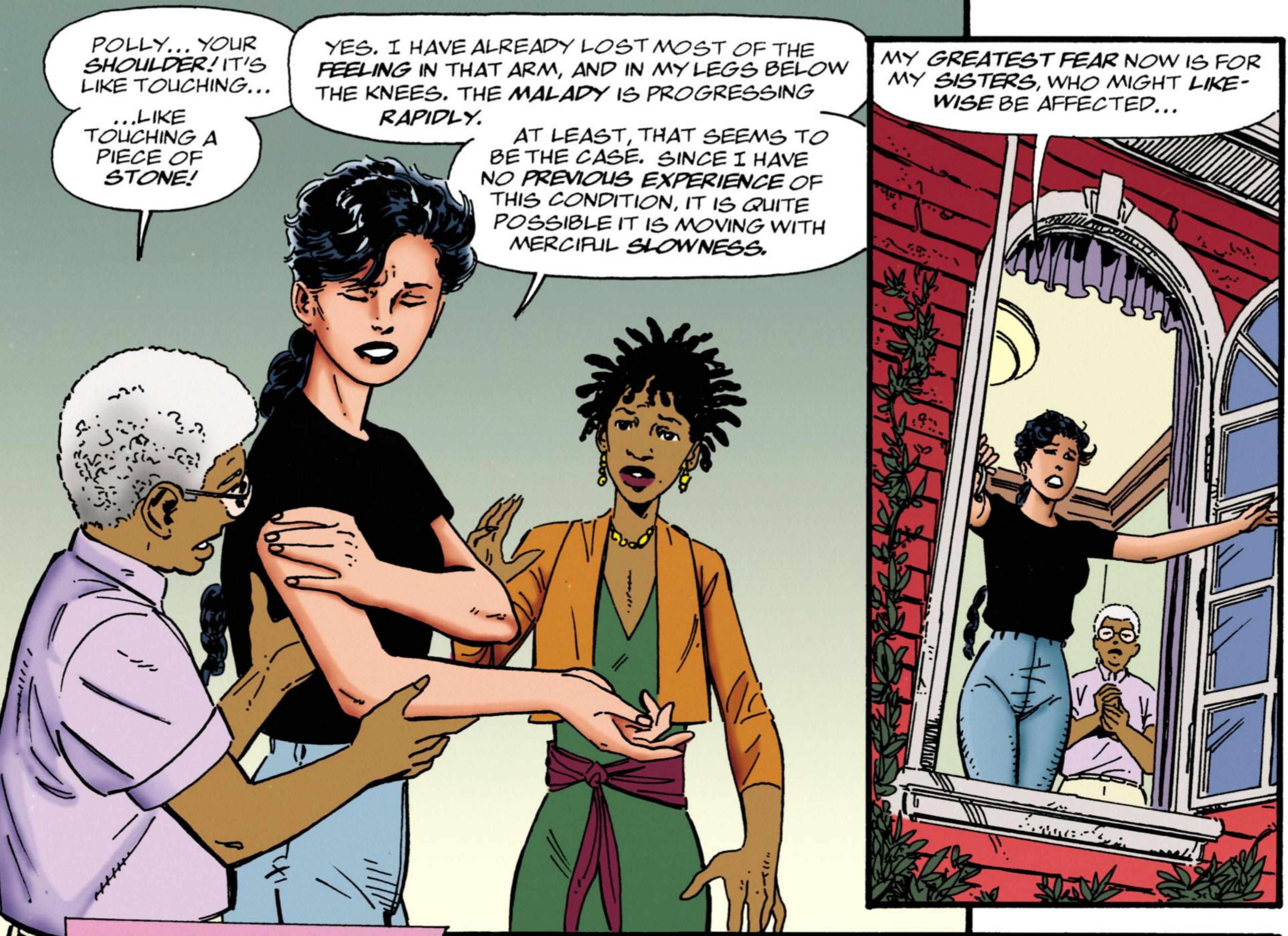


ZEUS! WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT?!









WE LOST ENOUGH TIME WHILE THIS PLANET FROZE. WE CAN BROOK NO FURTHER DELAY.

FORTY THOUSAND YEARS HAS BEEN MORE THAN ENOUGH!

DOWN!

HOLY COW!
IT'S SOME KIND OF... FREEZING RAY!

IT'S NOT STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN...?!?



NO, THIS IS SOMETHING NEW AND DIFFERENT.

ZEUS!
MEN IN ANIMAL MASKS!



NO!
STOP HER!

SHE IS TOO SWIFT FOR ME TO AIM PROPERLY!

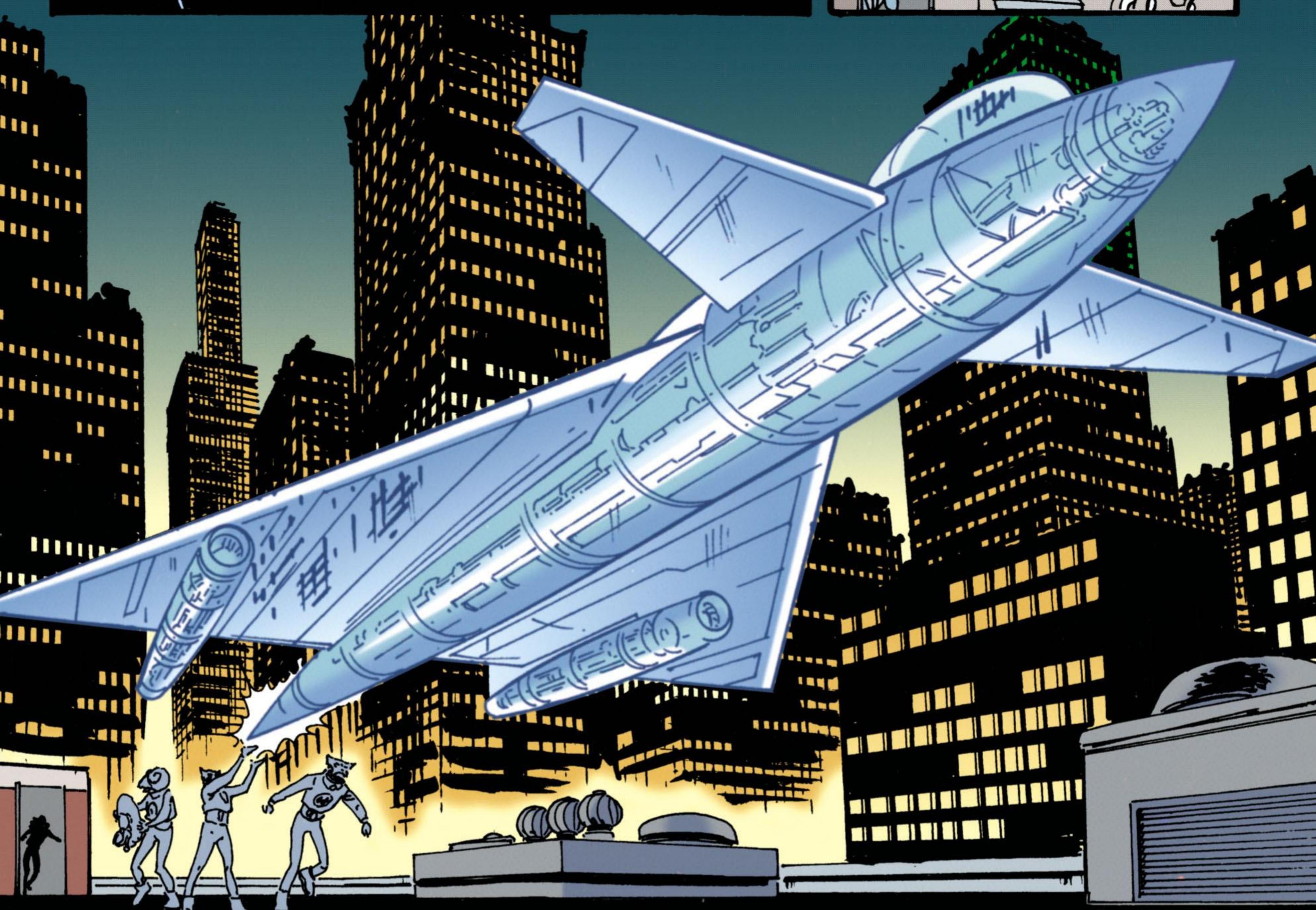
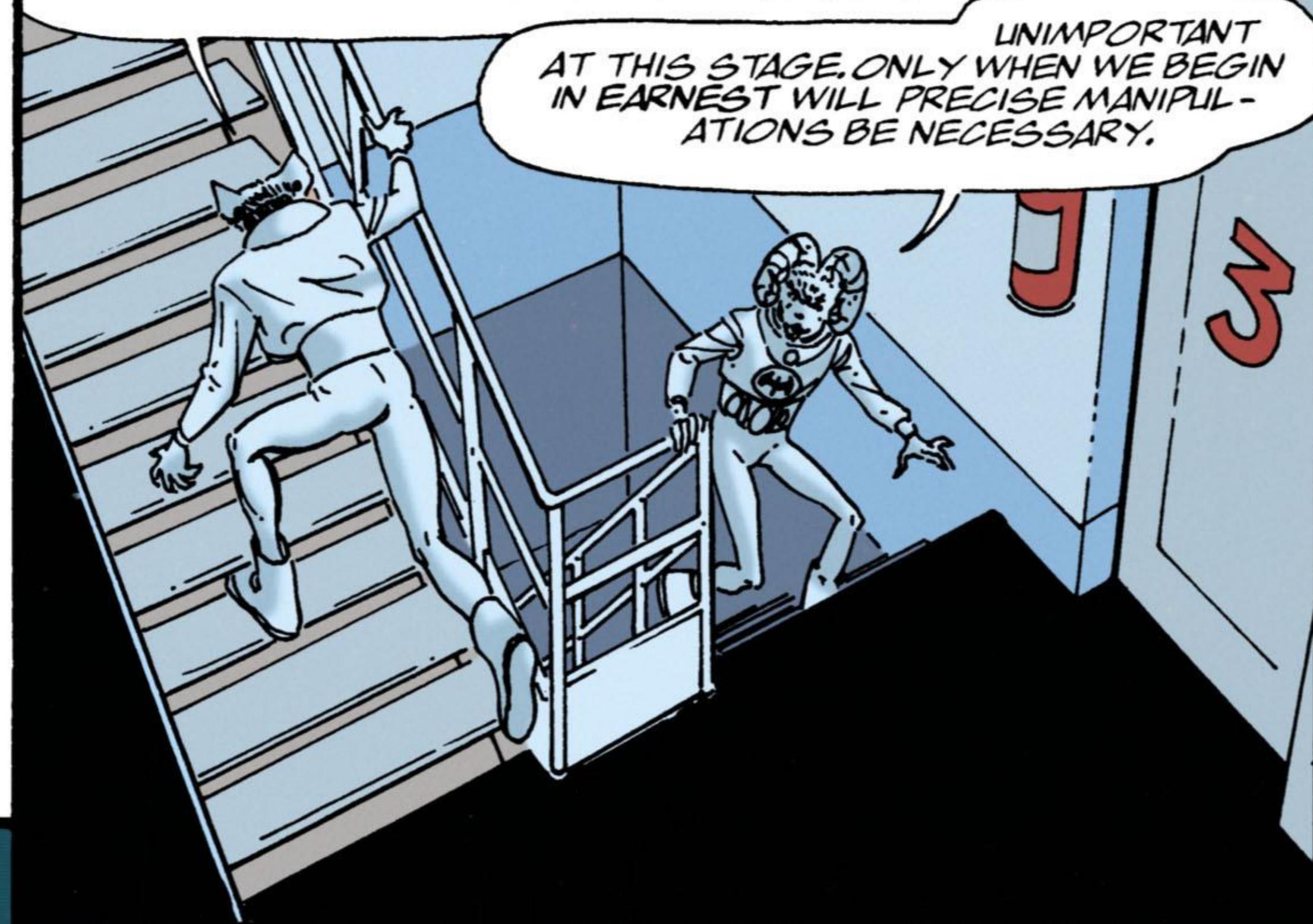




BUT AT WHAT COST? HE DOES NOT KNOW THE PRECISE FORMULA FOR TRIGGERING THE TECTONIC EFFECT.

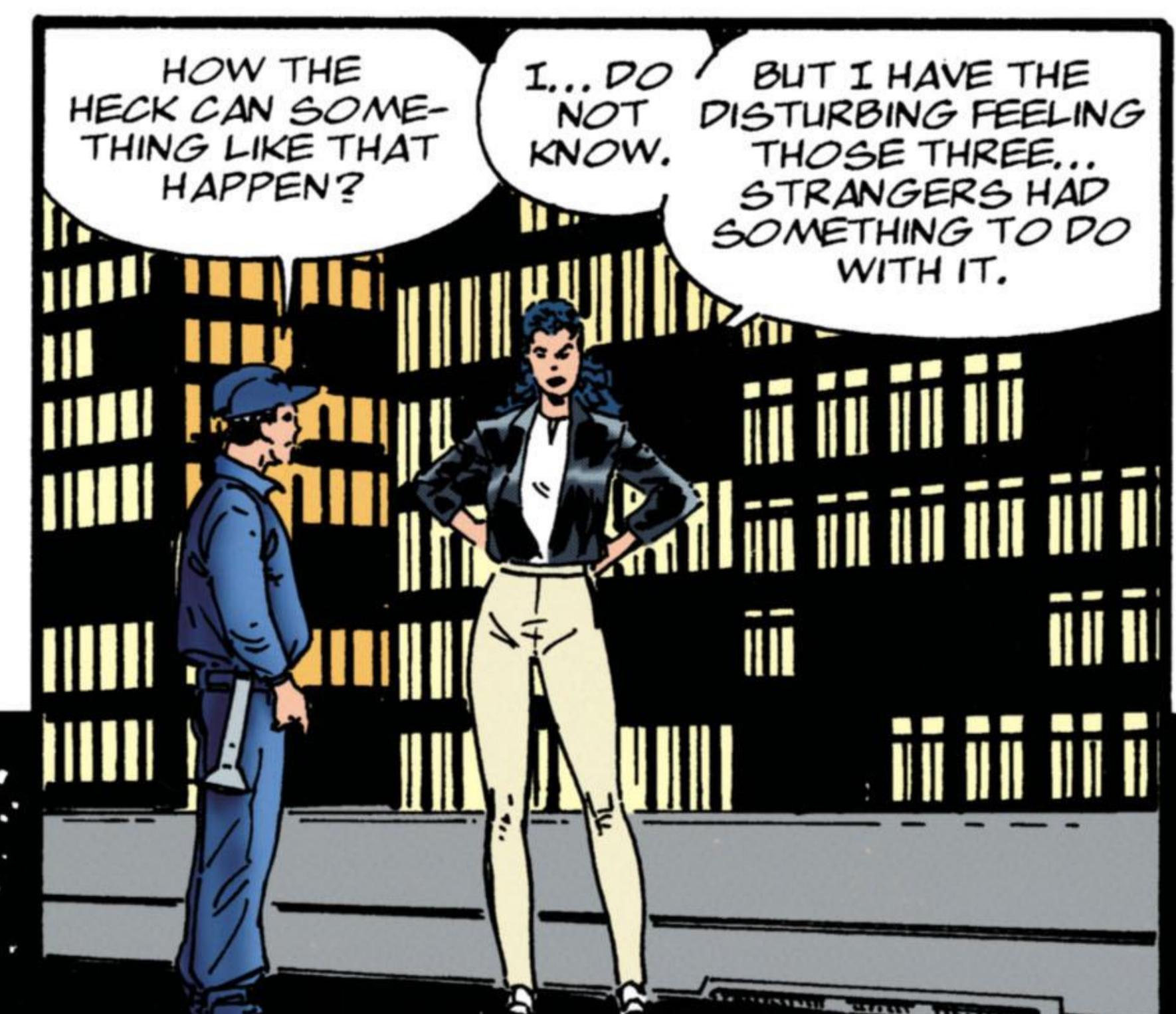
UNIMPORTANT
AT THIS STAGE, ONLY WHEN WE BEGIN IN EARNEST WILL PRECISE MANIPULATIONS BE NECESSARY.

HURRY! THE ONE CALLED WONDER WOMAN IS RIGHT BEHIND US!

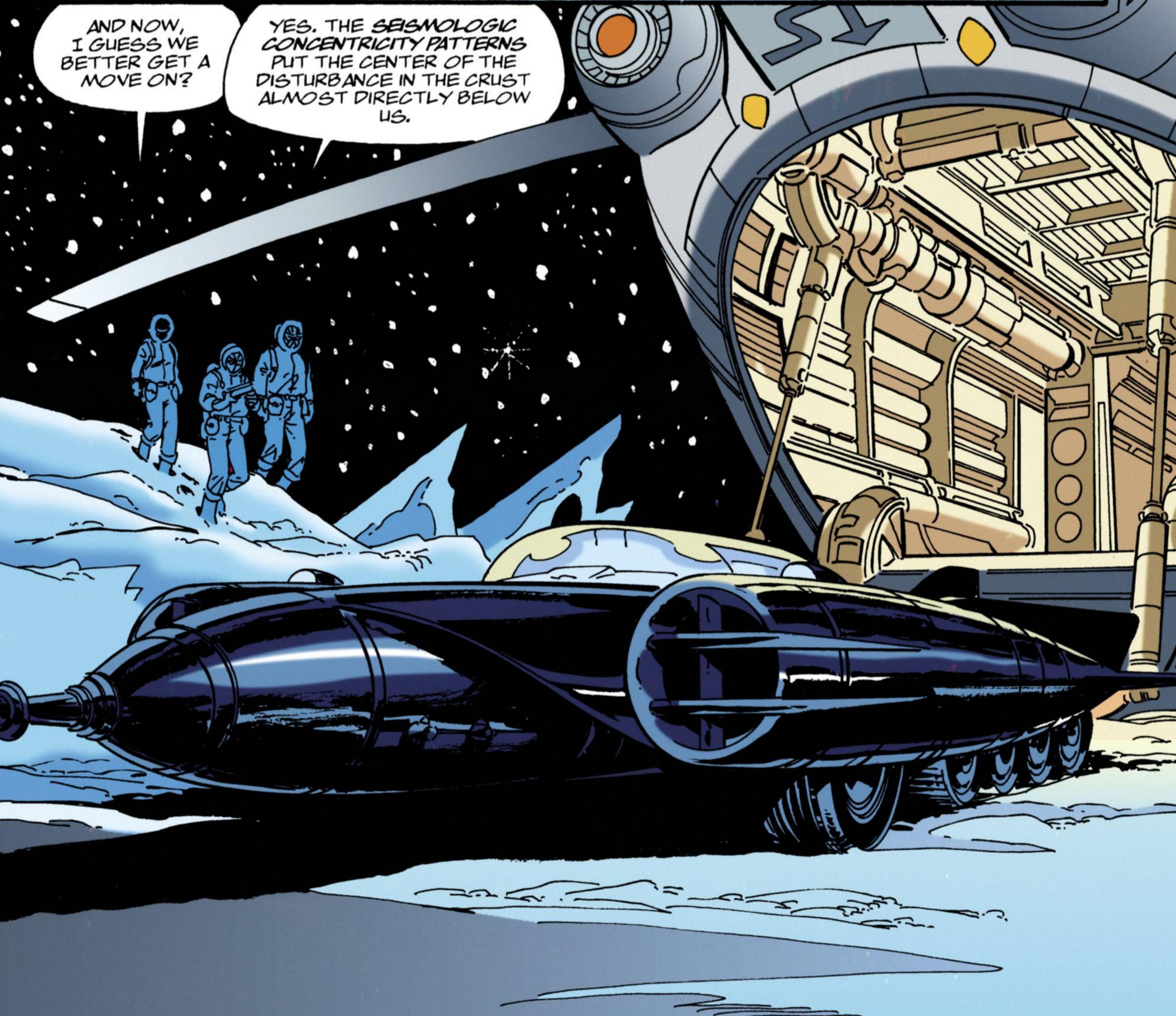


SWIFT YOUR STRANGE CRAFT MAY BE, BUT NOT SO FLEET AS TO ELUDE ONE WHO POSSESSES THE SPEED OF HERMES!





KICK IT IN.



I SURE HOPE THE MODIFICATIONS YOU MADE TO THE MOLE WILL DO THE TRICK, CAVE YOU WERE A BIT RUSHED, AND THERE WAS NO TIME FOR A TEST RUN.

I'M PRETTY SURE WE'LL BE OKAY, BULL.

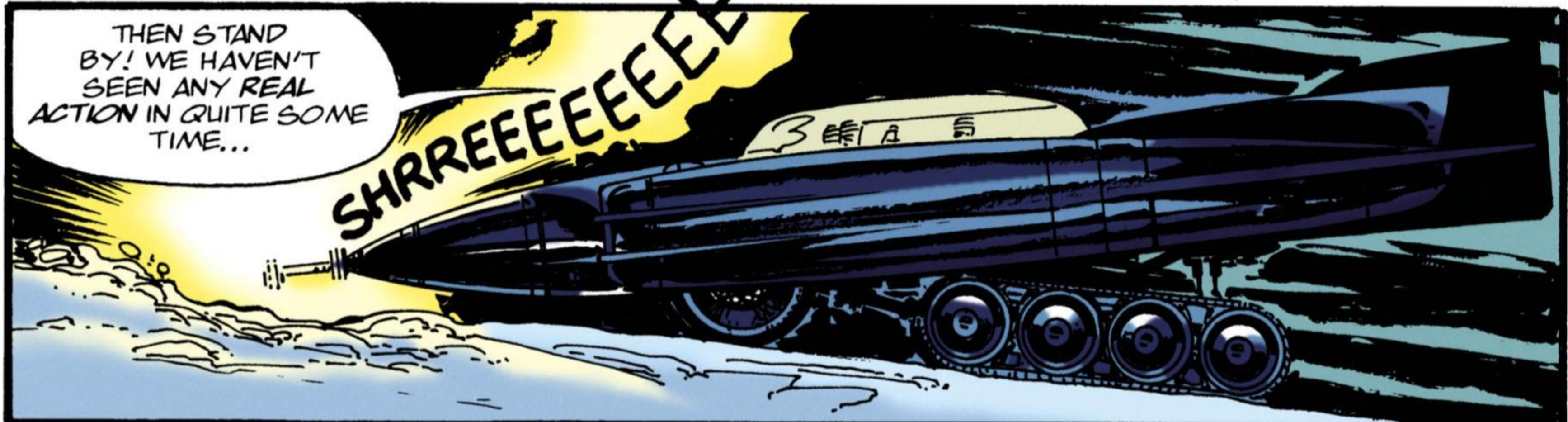
CHRISTIE, MONITOR THE SYSTEMS AT ALL TIMES. IF YOU SEE ANY HINT OF LEAKAGE...

I'M ON IT, CAVE



THEN STAND BY! WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY REAL ACTION IN QUITE SOME TIME...

SHRREEEEEEE



...AND I HAVE A NASTY FEELING THIS MAY BE THE GREATEST DANGER WE'VE FACED IN ALL OUR ADVENTURES INSIDE EARTH!

