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DIANA'S NEW JOB?!

WONDER WOMAN

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WONDER
WOMAN

73 US \$1.25
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BILL LOEBS
LEE MODER
ANDÉ PARKS



BOLLAND

WONDER WOMAN

LOST

SOMETHING IS VERY,
VERY WRONG.

A tale of things lost and things found... and some things discovered for the very first time.

Wm. Messner-Loebs
writer

Lee Moder
penciller

Andé Parks
inker

Matt Hollingsworth
colorist

John Costanza
letterer

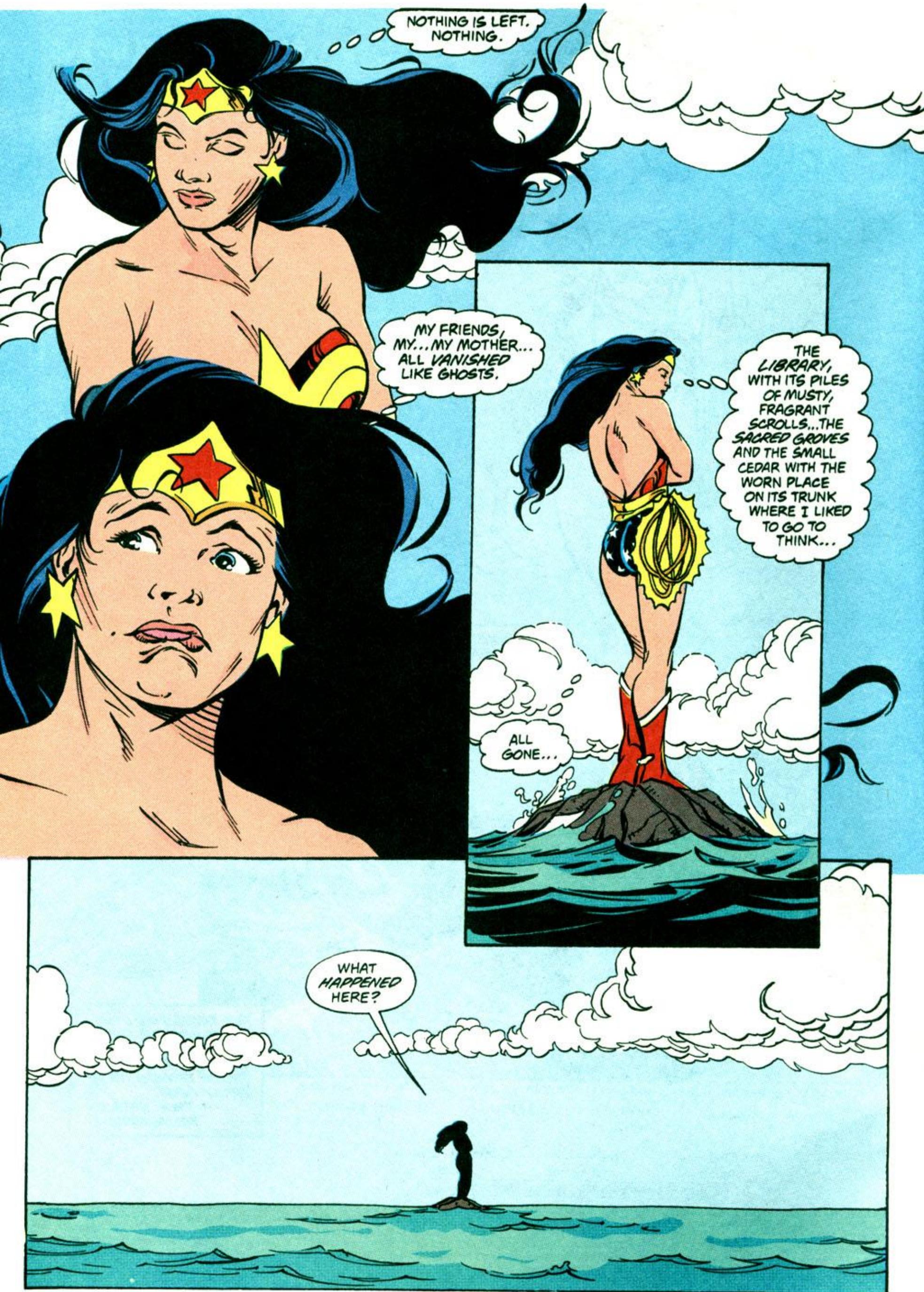
Ruben Diaz
asst. editor

Brian Augustyn
editor

Wonder Woman created by William Moulton Marston

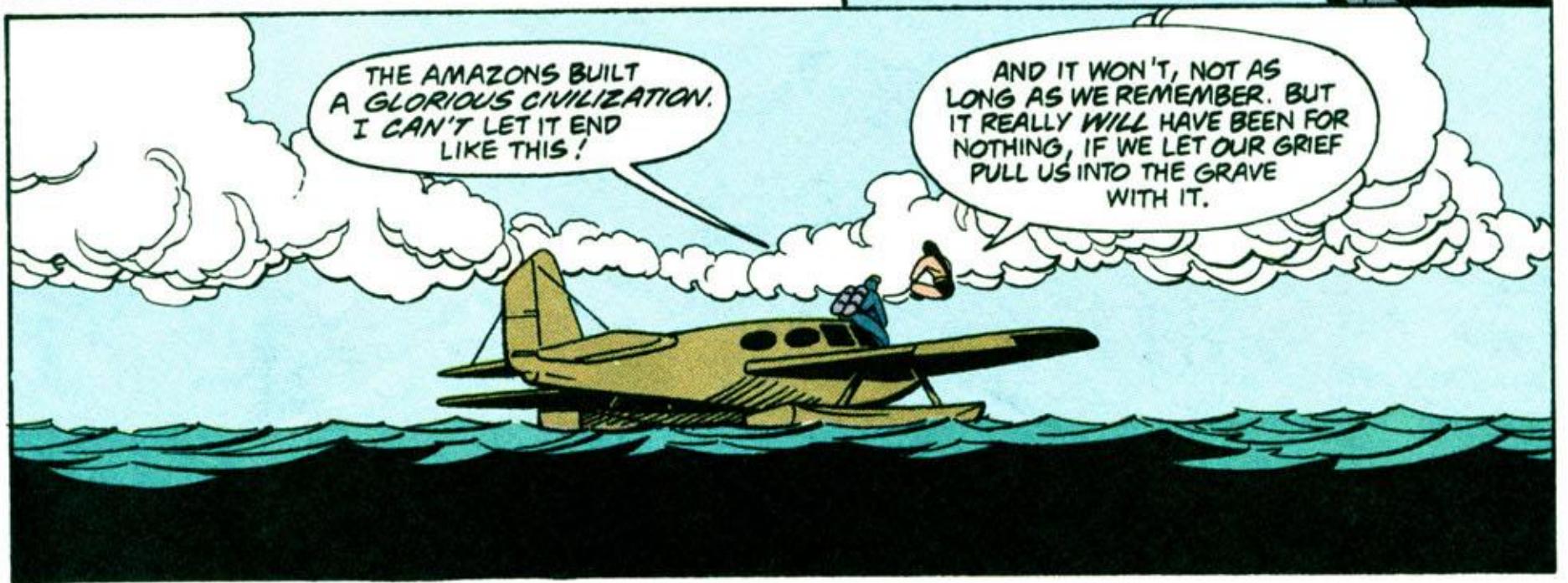
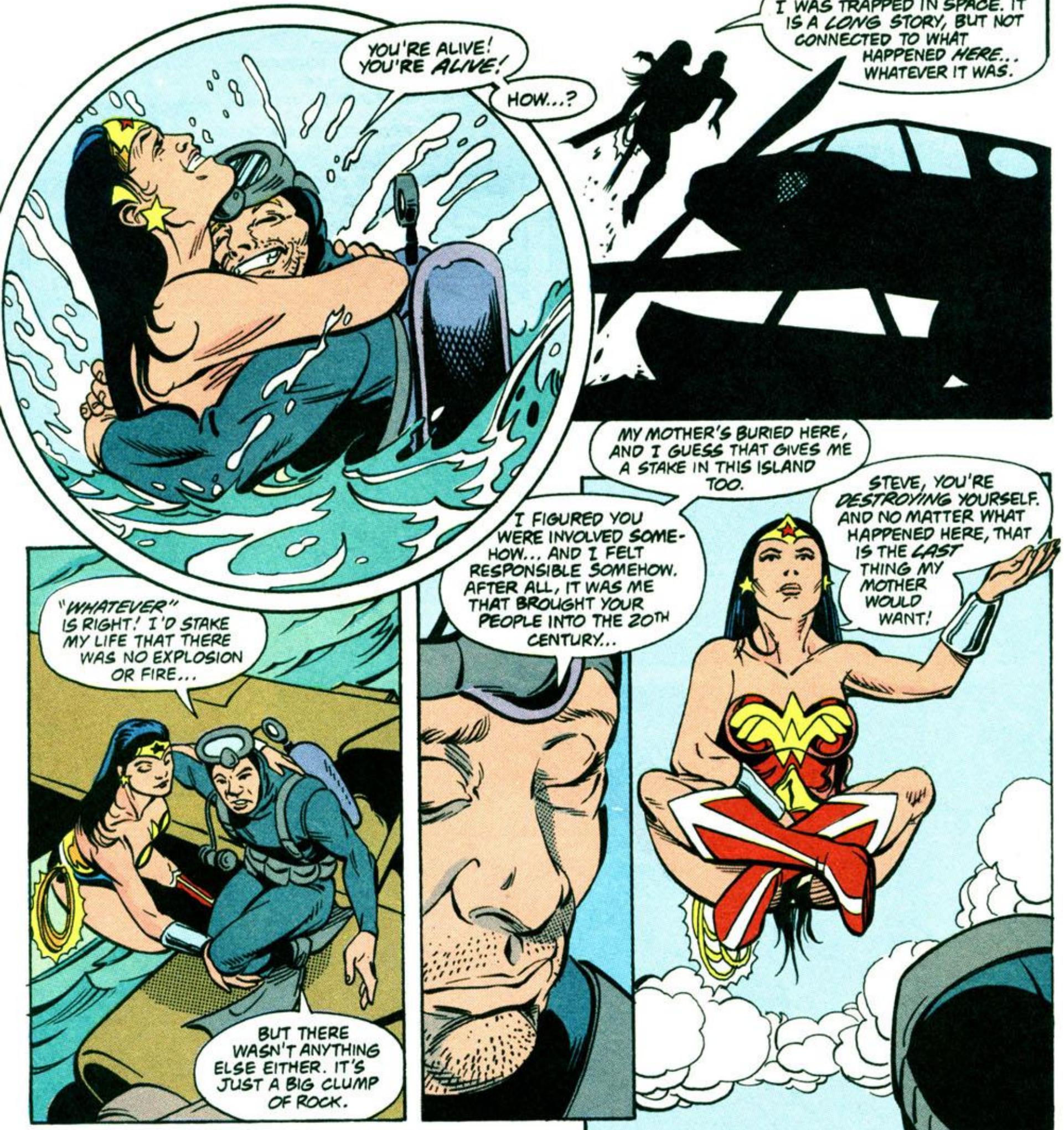
THE THINGS WE LOVE
MOST ARE THE THINGS
WE'VE LOST, AND YET,
WE CAN FIND ONLY
THOSE THINGS WE'VE
TRULY LOST.
-- PROF. ARTHUR
PREMGARDEN.

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STEVE, ETTA LOVES YOU. GO HOME. DROP THIS OBSESSION. BUILD YOUR AIRLINE... LIVE YOUR LIFE.

BUT HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT... YOUR MOTHER...?

WHAT HAS HAPPENED... HAS HAPPENED. AND PERHAPS NOTHING TRAGIC HAS OCCURRED.

FROM SUPERMAN TO THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS, OUR UNIVERSE IS CAPABLE OF ODD AND WONDERFUL THINGS.

I THINK MY MOTHER PROBABLY HAS JUST GONE... SOMEWHERE. SHE'LL CONTACT ME WHEN SHE CAN. LET'S GO HOME.

GOODBYE,
MOTHER.

JULIA WAS VERY NICE ABOUT EVERYTHING, SHE THINKS. SINCE QUINN HAD RENTED HER ROOM, JULIA OFFERED HER THE OLD COUCH IN THE BASEMENT.

ACTUALLY, JULIA HAD FIRST OFFERED THE COUCH IN THE LIVING ROOM, BUT DIANA PREFERRED THE BASEMENT... THE PRIVACY.

PERHAPS THIS MEANT THAT SHE REALLY WAS READY TO GO OFF ON HER OWN.

PERHAPS.

BUT, AT LEAST, SHE KNEW SHE WAS READY TO GET OUT OF THIS BASEMENT.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

MOST OF THE ADS CALL FOR TALENTS SHE DOESN'T HAVE, OR EXPERIENCE SHE HASN'T THE TIME TO ACQUIRE.

"MASTER PIPE FITTER WANTED. MUST HAVE OWN INSURANCE, AND TOOLS. MUST BE WILLING TO TRAVEL AT LEAST 300 DAYS A YEAR. AND SUPPLY CAR."

55.

REI

YES, I'M TRYING TO FIND THE ALL-NIGHT EMPLOYMENT AGENCY... IT'S ON HARPER.

THOSE REMAINING SHE HAS CIRCLED IN BLUE INK.

'SCUSE ME, MISS. YOU TRYING TO FIND SOMEPLACE SPECIAL?

HARPER'S ONE BLOCK OVER. I THINK THAT AGENCY'S IN THE OLD PRINTING PLANT. THE ONE THAT'S NEXT TO THE BAKERY.

NAH. THAT BAKERY'S CLOSED. IT'S A TV REPAIR PLACE NOW.

NO... THAT TV STORE YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IS ON FIRST, AN' IT'S OUT OF BUSINESS ANYHOW.

HEY, DON'T TELL ME! I WORKED AT THE CARPET STORE ON FIRST FOR 15 YEARS BEFORE I WAS LAID OFF. I KNOW FIRST!

WELL, THEN IT WAS ON MAIN, NEXT TO THE BANKRUPT FACTORY. I USED TO WORK THERE. SEEMS I REMEMBER.

THERE WAS A GYM ON MAIN, 'COURSE IT'S CLOSED NOW...

"WANTED: ELECTRONICS ENGINEER, WITH TEN YEARS EXPERIENCE IN DESIGN AND REPAIR. ALSO BUSINESS MANAGEMENT. MUST BE WILLING TO ACCEPT ENTRY-LEVEL POSITION..."

THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY IS FILLED WITH WELL-MEANING PEOPLE...

HOKAY, HON, YOU FILL OUT THIS. AN' SIGN BY THE EXES...

AS IS THE LARGE CORPORATION SHE GOES TO FIRST...

SO FILL THESE OUT. THE BLUE ONE'S A RELEASE FOR YOUR CREDIT HISTORY, AND THE PINK ONE'S A VOLUNTARY RANDOM DRUG TESTING FORM...

WE AREN'T ACTUALLY HIRING, BUT WE WILL KEEP THESE IN OUR FILES...

AND THE MID-SIZED CORPORATION SHE WENT TO NEXT...

THIS IS GOOD... VERY GOOD. DID I MENTION WE AREN'T ACTUALLY HIRING...?

AND THE 17TH SMALL BUSINESS SHE VISITED LAST. DO I LOOK LIKE I WANT A NEW EMPLOYEE, LADY?

THIS PLACE IS CLOSING NEXT WEEK, AND WE'LL ALL BE LOOKING F'R WORK!

THIS IS VERY GOOD! YOUR YOUTH, INTELLIGENCE, ATTITUDE... EVERYTHING IS JUST WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

YOU MEAN... YOU ARE HIRING?

OH, MY GOODNESS, YES!

NOW YOU GO HOME AND WE'LL GIVE YOU A CALL IN THREE MONTHS.





BUT THAT'S THE POINT,
QUINN. MY MOTHER SENT ME
INTO PATRIARCHS' WORLD TO
LEAD PEOPLE BY MY
EXAMPLE.

I AM SUPPOSED TO HELP THE
POOR, THE POWERLESS, TO SHOW
WOMEN HOW TO BE STRONG
WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

AND DON'T BE
TOO WORRIED 'BOUT
"MEANINGFUL EMPLOY-
MENT." WE ALL END
UP WITH OUR SNOUTS
IN THE SLOP, ONE
JOB'S PRETTY MUCH
LIKE ANOTHER.

IT WAS, DIANA HAD DECIDED,
TOO COLD FOR CENTIPEDES
OR COCKROACHES. SO IT WAS
EITHER A LARGE MOUSE, OR
A SMALL RAT.

SOMEHOW IT WAS
VERY IMPORTANT
TO IDENTIFY IT
PRECISELY.

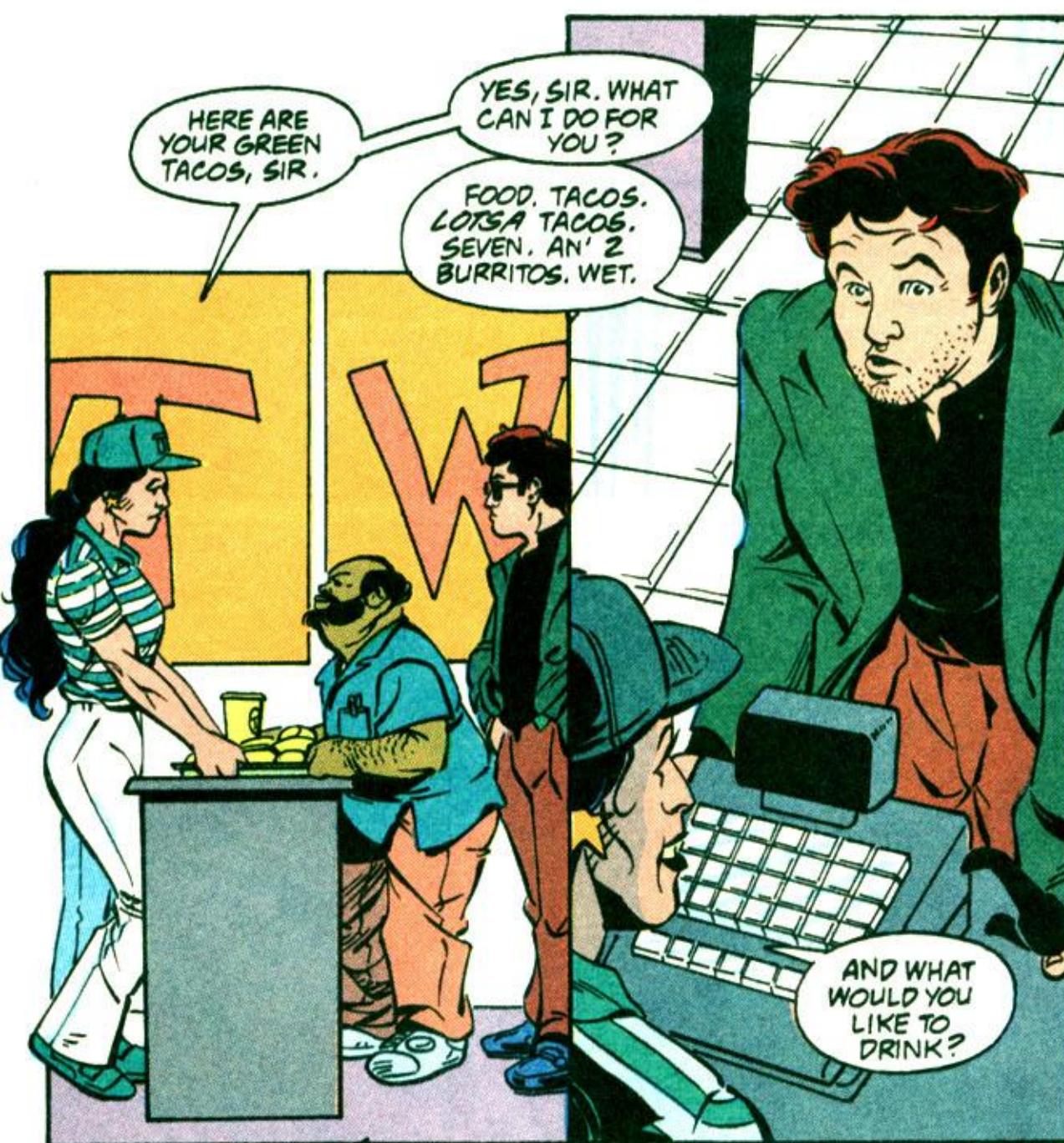
BUT NOW ALL I CAN THINK
ABOUT IS MONEY, MONEY,
MONEY... AND HOW TO
GET A JOB!

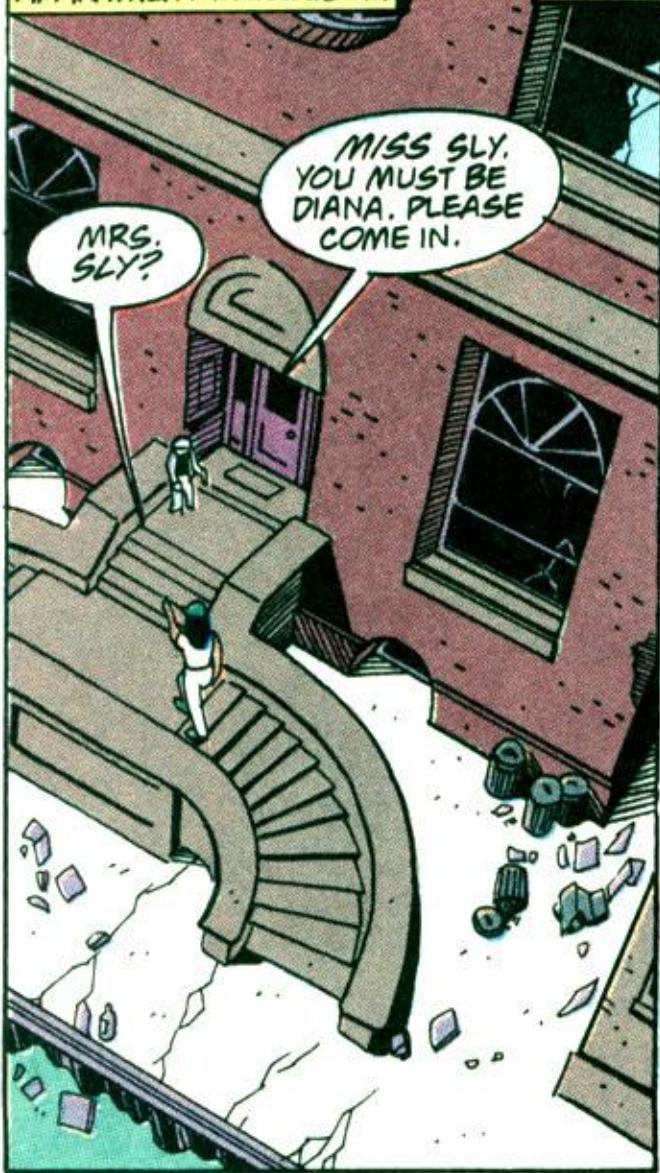
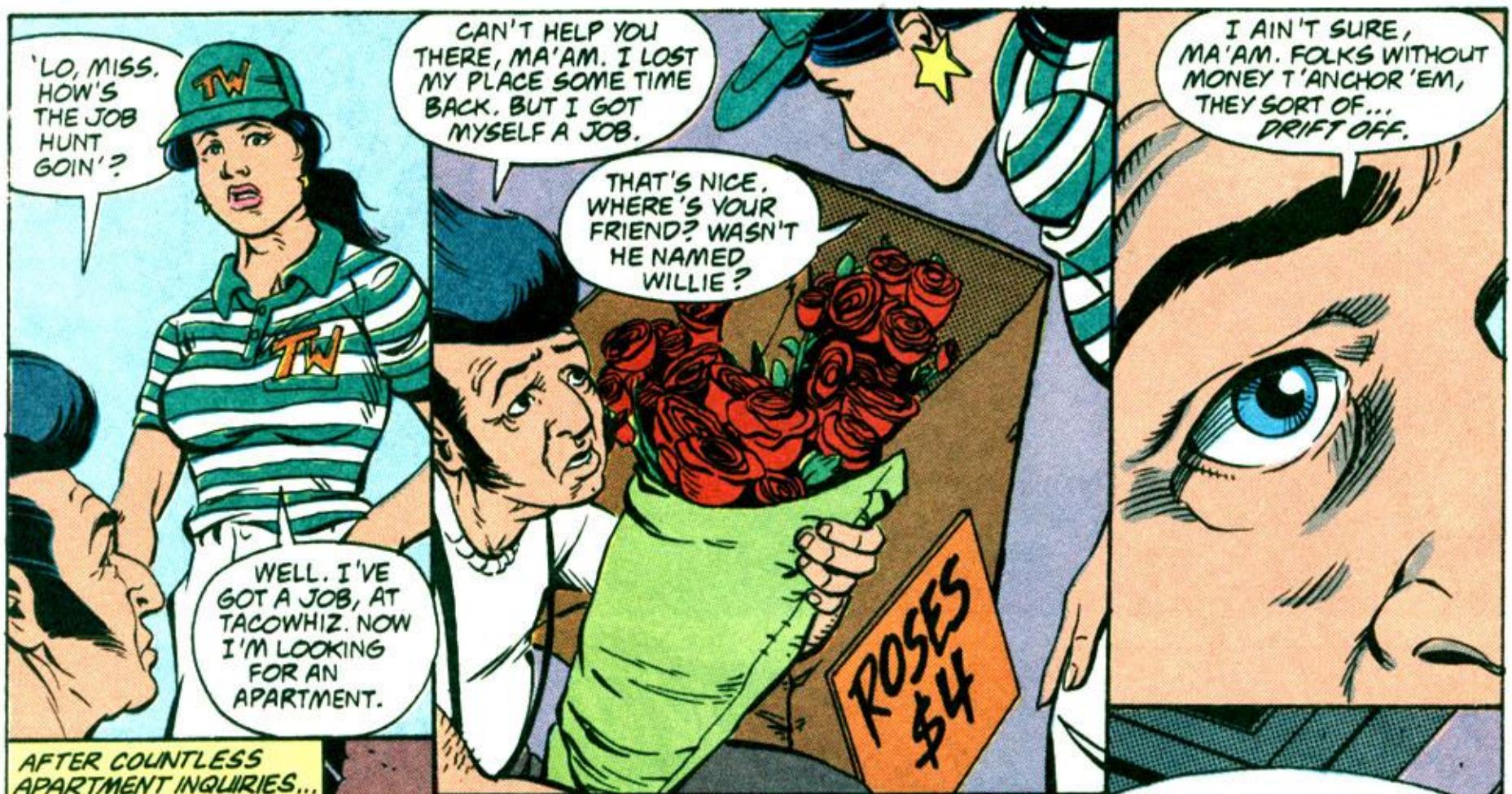
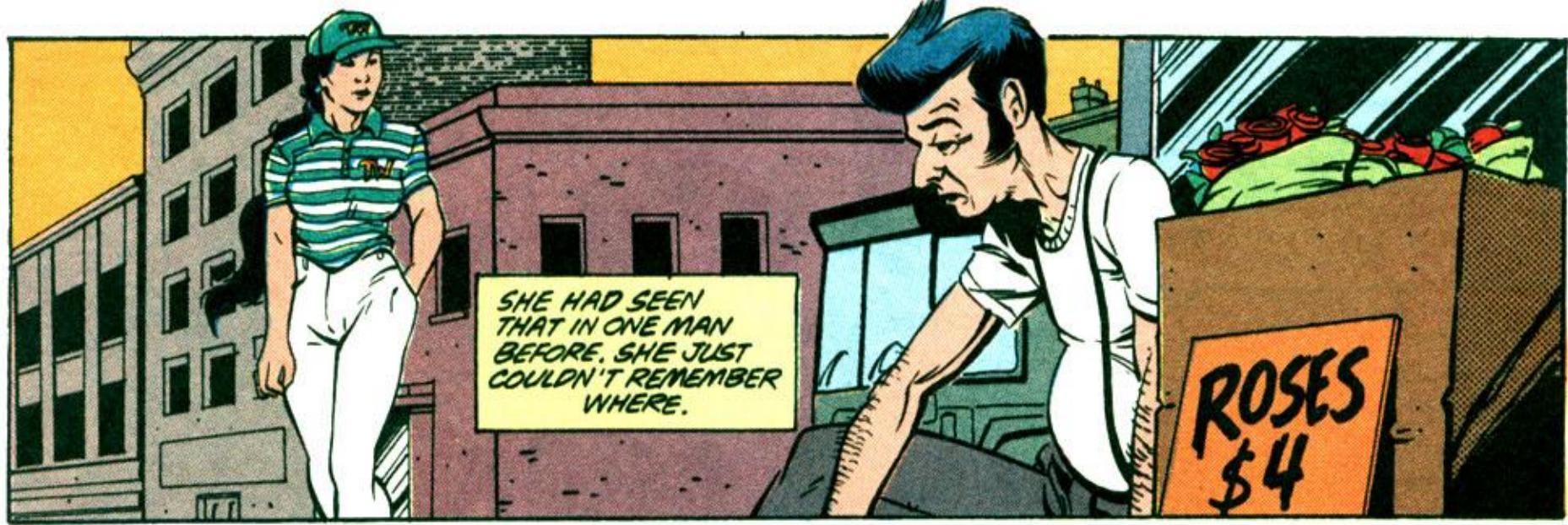
WELCOME
TO THE HUMAN
RACE, BABE.

JUST BE GLAD IF YOU
DON'T END UP SLINGIN'
THE REFRIEDS AT TACOWHIZ.
I WORKED THERE THREE
YEARS T'PAY FOR SCHOOL
AND IT'S THE PIT OF THE
UNIVERSE!

SHE RECOGNIZED THE
IRONY. A MONTH AGO
SHE HAD TOPPLED AN
EMPIRE. NOW SHE WAS
LYING ON A BORROWED
COUCH, LISTENING TO
A LARGE MOUSE. OR
A SMALL RAT.







THIS USED TO BE SUCH A NICE NEIGHBORHOOD, FILLED WITH RICH PEOPLE. BUT THEN, I WAS RICH TOO.

THEN, ONE DAY, I WOKE UP AND I WAS OLD AND POOR AND AFRAID TO LIVE IN MY OWN HOME. BAD-TEMPERED JACKALS KEPT SENDING ME BILLS.

THEN I REALIZED... 24 ROOMS FULL OF LONELINESS MEANT I COULD BE LIVING WITH 24 PEOPLE, WHO WOULD KEEP ME COMPANY.

AND THEY'D PAY ME TO BE MY FRIENDS. WHAT A WONDERFUL ARRANGEMENT.

HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING LONG FOR A PLACE TO STAY, DEAR?

YES, ALL OVER TOWN. BUT MOST WANT THE FIRST TWO AND LAST MONTHS' RENT AND A SECURITY DEPOSIT. A COUPLE EVEN WANTED A CLEANING DEPOSIT ON TOP OF THAT!

I COULDN'T AFFORD IT.

AS YOU CAN SEE I ONLY EXPECT ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE. AND THE ROOMS ARE FURNISHED, WITH FULL KITCHEN PRIVILEGES.

YES, I SEE. BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE I CAN AFFORD IT, MRS. SLY.

BUT YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE, DO YOU, DEAR?

AND PLEASE... CALL ME CAMILLE!

SO YOU
HAVE 24
TENANTS?

NO. AS IT
TURNED OUT, NO
ONE WANTED
TO RENT THE
BATHROOMS.

THERE'S NO BED, I'M
AFRAID. THIS WAS THE UP-
STAIRS SITTING ROOM.
BUT I'M SURE THE COUCH
WILL MAKE UP INTO A
LOVELY BED.

YOU GET ACQUAINTED
WITH YOUR NEW ROOM
AND I'LL GO FIND
SOME BEDDING.

RUSTLLL
RUSTLL
RUSTLE



AND BACK TO WORK...

IF I GOT A SECOND JOB, MAYBE AT NIGHT, AND ONLY EAT TWO MEALS A DAY AT TACO-WHIZ... AND NEVER BUY ANYTHING, I'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE ALMOST TWO DOLLARS A WEEK...

I WONDER WHAT THE "EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION" WAS?

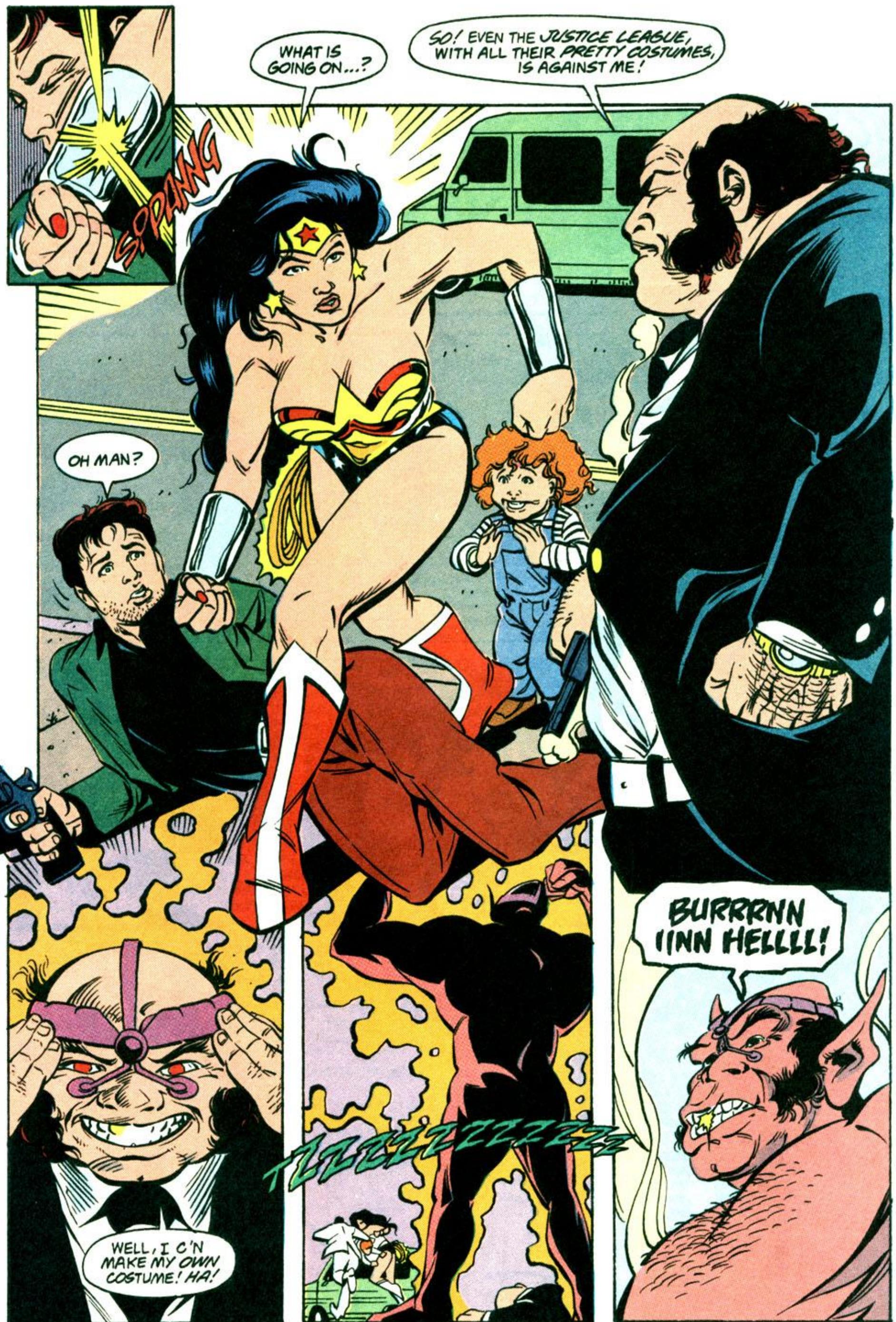
IT'S TIME...

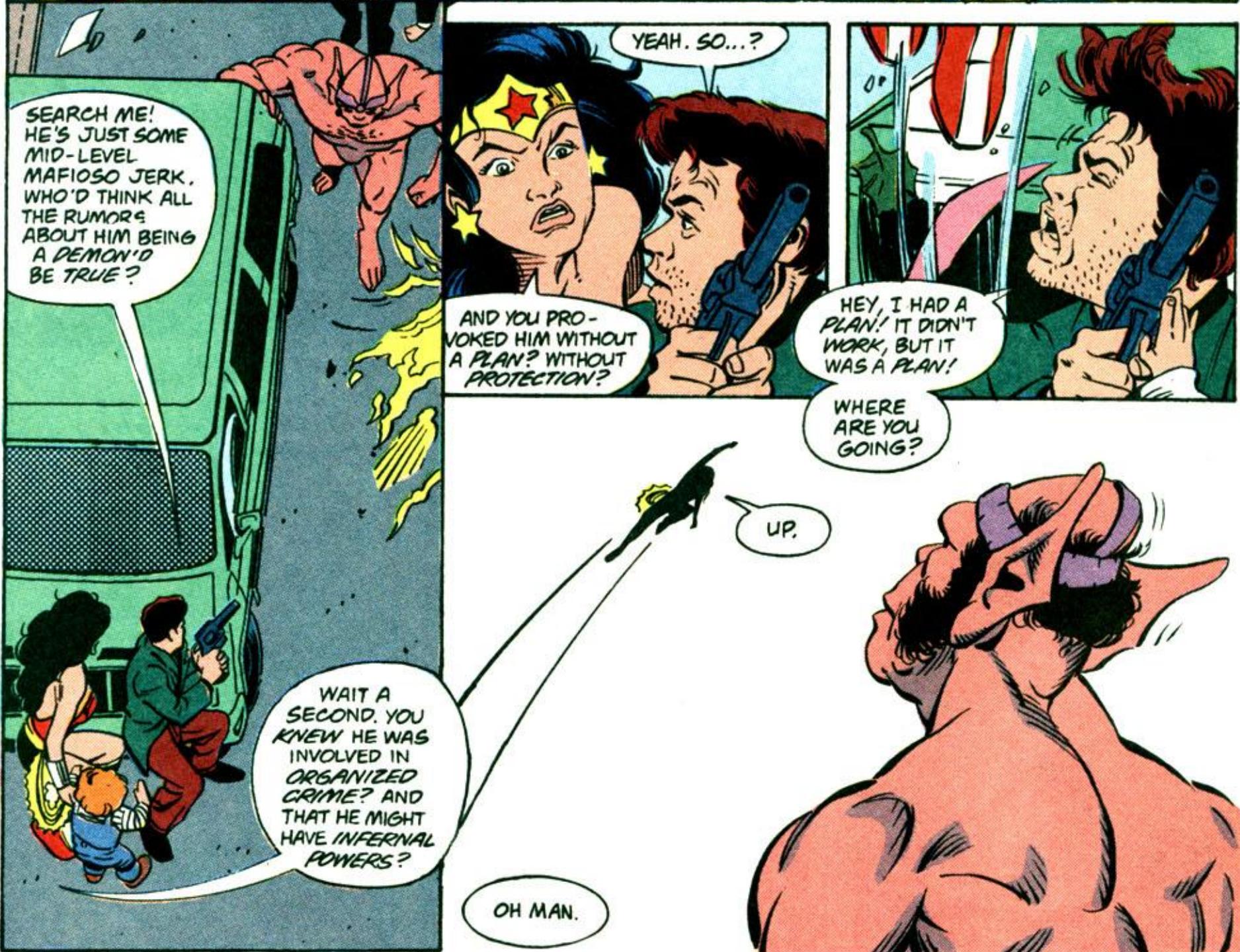
MR. SAZIA? THIS PAPER SAYS YOUR EX-WIFE HAS CUSTODY OF YOUR KID. SO SUPPOSE WE GO AN' SEE HER AN'...

KILL THIS GUY!











THAT, FOR FUTURE
REFERENCE, WAS
A PLAN!



I SUGGEST WE TAKE
EVERYONE TO THE
POLICE AND LET THEM
STRAIGHTEN THIS
OUT.

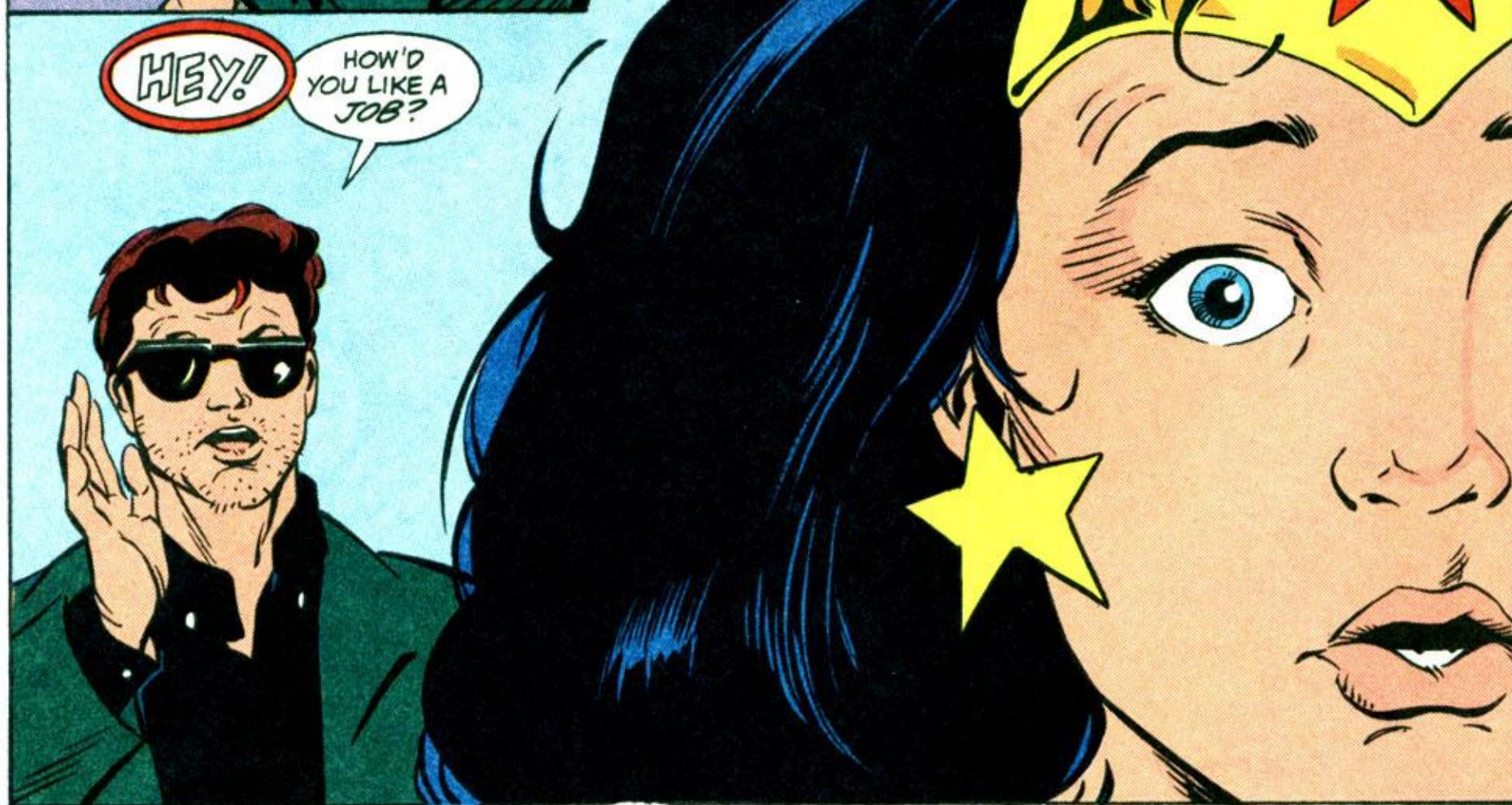
HERE.
JUST HOLD
IT ON, OR
YOU'LL TURN INTO
A DEMON.

HEY, THAT WAS PRETTY
SLICK HANDLING... F'R
A CHICK, I MEAN IT...



HEY!

HOW'D
YOU LIKE A
JOB?



WONDER WOMAN



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Dear Brian:

Bill is taking Diana where no Wonder Woman has gone before—not like this. I never thought I'd see her in black leather and heels—Yes! Heels! in #69, pg. 6, panel 4—pragmatically she opts for boots the rest of the time, thank you. My elder son says black is her color. I liked the outfit, too, as a stylish change from her somewhat *démodé* armor. Can she keep it?

The book was visually beautiful, from Bolland's impressive cover to Diana's ultimatum on the final splash page, although Diana's appearances were punctuated by the on again, off again jacket and the now you see it, now you don't holster. Apparently the perfidious Kree—no, wait—Sangtee—switch names as well as gender: that's once a century, right? No! Once a millennium. Personally, it doesn't matter to me either way about their sexual fluctuations; I just want a little continuity. I did find it touching that she named her flagship for her mother—though she forgot how to spell it right—and nicknamed the Daxamite for Julia.

I've never read any of William Moulton Marston's original scripts, but I've read about them, and it seems to me that Bill is reinjecting the title with some of Marston's psychological perspectives while simultaneously extrapolating them into a modern milieu. Marston's quirky sexual undertones, "loving discipline" and implied lesbianism so incensed Dr. Wertham that he witch-hunted the book mercilessly for them, ignoring the positive messages of female independence and self-worth, and the rich mythological heritage. Bill has reinterpreted the discipline motif: Diana's conquest and punishment of the Sangtee, tattoo and all (interesting how her mind works now) was anything but loving, and the discipline she dispenses towards her fighters isn't Marston's obedience through gentle subjugation, but simply rigorous training. Her grim observation that she wanted her people to be able to master and live with themselves post-war depicts her elegant nobility, one of the basic reasons she's survived so long as a character.

I do see some disturbing indications that Diana's burgeoning self-confidence and fight for justice against the Sangtee are assuming obsessional proportions; almost a

holy jihad, as she chooses to sacrifice personal desires—hers and everybody else's—in her consuming passion to destroy the slave traffic. But it's a splendid cause, and there's a price to pay for everything. As a leader, she's daring: scuttling her ship to trap the first Sangtee was innovative, strategically brilliant, and emphatically decisive, going on the offensive—a new characteristic—against the empire and her own people when necessary, belting the Khund Ectreba as much to preserve her authority as to release the Sangtee prisoner. Still, it may be that Bill is setting her up for a classic hubris downfall somewhere up the line.

I'd like to address Paul Girard's request to give the title a Mature label. As was noted, Pérez infused the book with many mature themes, but subtly and with finesse. Marston's original was rife with psychosexual allusions, and Bill's current storyline is quite mature: the slavery of women by men, with all that implies. Diana's personal sexuality has never been clearly defined in her title, though it's been discussed inconclusively several times in interviews, but Bill has given her a heightened awareness of her feminine power by having her emphasize her triumph over the Sangtee captain by rather seductively cupping his face, then subjecting him to a classic dominatrix tableau, justifiably gleeful in her victory. The philosophical foundation of the Amazons is that the whole race, with Diana the sole exception, was raped and traumatized, certainly one of the most mature origins extant in comics. This is pretty strong stuff, Paul.

The traditional "mature" elements of the book (plot content aside): profanity, nudity, sex, and violence, aren't flung flagrantly or gratuitously at us, but they're there. Even the art is now reflecting that, with Diana's new zaftig physique, and undeniably sexy uniform we have to assume she designed herself (sorry, Paris), and her occasional acquisition of a couple of small anatomical details not regularly portrayed in a mainstream book. So, what Mr. Girard really wants is a grittier presentation of motifs already present. I think his suggestion has merit, though I'd rather see it happen in a Prestige or graphic novel format, the preferred forum for the adult readership, and not in the main title, which could

deprive some younger readers access to a strong role model. There's the ELSEWORLDS series as a possible platform, perhaps even a companion series, à la LOTDK, perhaps released as a miniseries or in a limited run to begin with, if you don't think the readership's there. The character is multilayered—her presentation should be, too.

So, whatcha think? I'd buy it, and so would Paul Girard, and, I'll wager, a bunch of other people.

And thanks for a highly enjoyable story arc.

Nancy Champion
Manassas, VA

Diana was forced to take an aggressive role to accelerate the peace force on the planet. Many readers thought that Diana would now be a grim character because of the methods she exhibited in the Space Pyrates arc. Not true. Like Malcolm X, Diana is out to "achieve peace by any means necessary." Sometimes drastic times call for drastic measures. As you can now see, in a different environment, Diana behaves as a clearly different person.

* * * *

Hey, Guys:

Ohhh, I can hear them now. "What has Loebs done to Diana? She's acting like a barbarian warrior!" Guess what, people? The Moon Women (Amazons) were Bronze Age warrior-priestesses, defenders of the temples of the Moon Goddess and protectors of Her followers. The armed priestesses were found throughout the Mediterranean, as far south as Libya and as far east as Armenia. They are credited with the defense of hundreds of communities against invading conquerors, up to and including Troy. They would negotiate a peaceful agreement on cohabitation and trade if they could, but if the new neighbors wanted to grab the local tribes' (yes, tribes) land, the Amazons would go out and kick their tail.

George Pérez did the best job with Wonder Woman anyone has ever done, but I was bitterly disappointed with the fact that his history and mythography was stuck in the Victorian Era. He completely ignored all the research that has been done on this subject in the past 100 years! It's unbelievable. I did not expect him to deal with anything as controversial as the original meaning of the

word "hero," but he could have acknowledged the fact that the Heroic Age was a period of great tribal warfare which led to the unification of Greece. Or that the Pantheon was an artificial construct designed to appease the united tribes by giving their tribal deities roughly equal status. Or that the squabbles of various gods were records of intertribal relations. Or that non-Judeo-Christians tend not to be as hung up on absolute obedience to their gods as we are. Or that agrarian cultures have far more that they consider sacred than non-agrarian cultures do. You couldn't even tell Themyscira was agrarian, for Hera's sake.

Sorry. I've been wanting to get that off my chest for a while now. Didn't think it would do any good earlier.

Paris Cullins's art is nice. I did detect a certain Pini influence this time. Does Two-Edge know he has a sister? You certainly have the most eye-catching cover of the month. Thanks for taking so much care to pose your women correctly. One of the main reasons women don't buy comics is that the women in them don't move right. Boobs and wasp waist aside, if a woman wouldn't stand that way, that ain't a woman. If you could ever get it through to your artists that a female center of gravity is located at the waist, and that a woman doesn't look awkward moving from her hips, your readership would double.

Geez, what a load of complaints. But I wouldn't waste my 29 cents if I didn't think you weren't worth it. *WONDER WOMAN* is the only "super-hero" title I read anymore. I nearly dropped it during Pérez's later work, but now I'm seeing some of the magic I always dreamed of since I was a little girl holding my first comic book. After 20 years, it looks like the day may finally come when I turn the page and see a real Amazon Princess.

Debra Byrd
Hattiesburg, MS

*Well, we all try to bring across the multiple aspects of what it is to be a princess, much less an Amazon. Sadly, since most of the collaborators of *WONDER WOMAN* could never be princesses (princes, maybe) and none of them were ever Amazons (despite what anyone says, Jill) please accept these tales as our best conceptions of this popular mythos.*

* * * *

Dear Creative Team:

I know it's only been a few days since I wrote you, but issue #69 of *WONDER WOMAN* appeared in my mailbox over the weekend, and I had to write you a quick letter after I read it.

In my last letter I expressed some disappointment in Paris Cullins's art. I did, however, say that he was improving. Well, this issue I'm now fully convinced that issues #65-68

were just warm-ups for this one. *THE MAN CAN DRAW!* Very few times has Diana ever looked this good. I know now that I really misjudged him. Diana's pirate attire looked perfectly suited to her, and the determination that showed on her face throughout the entire issue really stressed the fact that this is the same Diana we've known all along. Everything was in character. Wonderful! (Please, excuse the pun.)

I was intrigued by William Messner-Loebs's use of the Daxamite—now named Julia. What an interesting ally for Diana, who showed remarkable compassion for this poor, victimized woman. It is my hope that after this storyline concludes, Julia reveals more about herself and becomes part of DC's regular continuity. You can probably tell how impressed I was by such a small character, but you can thank Mr. Messner-Loebs for that. He seems to have a way with introducing a character whom you know right away has great potential.

The "Exodus in Space" story is very good, but I will be glad to see Diana get back to Earth and interact with Julia, Vanessa, Steve, Etta, and, oh yes, Superman. Superman's going to need some help after Eclipso and the coming Doomsday, and I know Diana's the person for the job. (By the way, before I sign off, when is the annual supposed to take place in relation to the other stories? Diana seems to have met Asquith Randolph for the first time in both the annual and #66. Which is right?)

See you next month.

Greg Armentrout
Afton, VA

Yeah, character development, in my opinion, is what Bill does best.

* * * *

Dear Editor:

I would like to comment on WW #69. The cover is the best one out of Bolland yet. With this issue, we saw Diana in a sexy outfit other than her normal costume. Please keep her in it for another couple of issues.

I think she should have a boyfriend—perhaps a big rock star, or a surf bum, or a race-car driver (just as long as he's not superpowered). Of course, these are not what we would think of as her ideal dates; there would have to be another reason why they were drawn together.

I am anxious to see what kind of reception she will have when she returns to Earth. Pull out all the stops! I think Superman should play a big part in this, so try to do this before you kill him off or after you've brought him back from the dead.

As for the controversy over the logo on her chest, I think you should go back to the eagle breastplate she had years ago, and I've written several times stating this. I never was able to accept the drastic change from eagle to the double "W", and I think it's time to get back to basics. Superman's and Batman's

costumes haven't changed, or at least not this drastically, and they and Wonder Woman are DC's three biggest characters.

The possibilities for her character are as limitless as the galaxy she is even now on the other side of. Do whatever you want with her, but don't cancel her title again.

Bruce Williamson

Diana with a BOYFRIEND? Hmm, somehow I think Micah would get jealous, but don't tell him I said that. And don't worry, there should never be another day when W.W. isn't on the stands.

* * * *

Dear Brian and Ruben:

I was all fired up to reply to Paul Girard's letter in issue #69, but then realized I'd already said all that probably needs saying in a previous letter—to #67, in fact. Suffice it to say that this radical revision of Diana's life is growing on me rather more than I thought it would, having loved George Pérez's unique version.

I hope that it grows on many more readers also, though you're certainly not making it easy on those who might find this more focused warrior-woman persona difficult to handle. I can remember the rumble of controversy in the early '80s when you changed the eagle symbol on Diana's body-armor to the more feminist, propaganda-oriented "double W"; but to see it now tattooed on the forehead of the male slaver was a bit of a shock, to say the least. In the coldness of space, and in the company of a sorority that has suffered such basic, life-insulting deprivations, the brutality of these reprisals makes a sort of sense....but I dread to think how Diana is going to readjust to life on Earth when she finally returns!

It's ironic that she should be thinking of Superman, for the broadcasting of her image across the heavens in the last panel is certainly going to spread her fame around the cosmos in the way Kal-El's used to be, in a former life. I suppose what we're really seeing here is the final development of her heritage—she is, after all, a child of the gods, a potential goddess herself, in much the same (though far less complex!) way as her soul-sister, Troia. And in effect, she's finally forging for herself the legend that she certainly didn't have when she first appeared on Earth—equally ironically, in the pages of *LEGENDS*.

Will there be enough on Earth to satisfy her when she does come back?

Jim Jackson
Biggin Hill, Kent
England

Next Issue: Join us as the Amazon Princess must discover what scheme The White Magician is up to. Also, what secrets does Isabelle Rosini know that she must be willing to die for?