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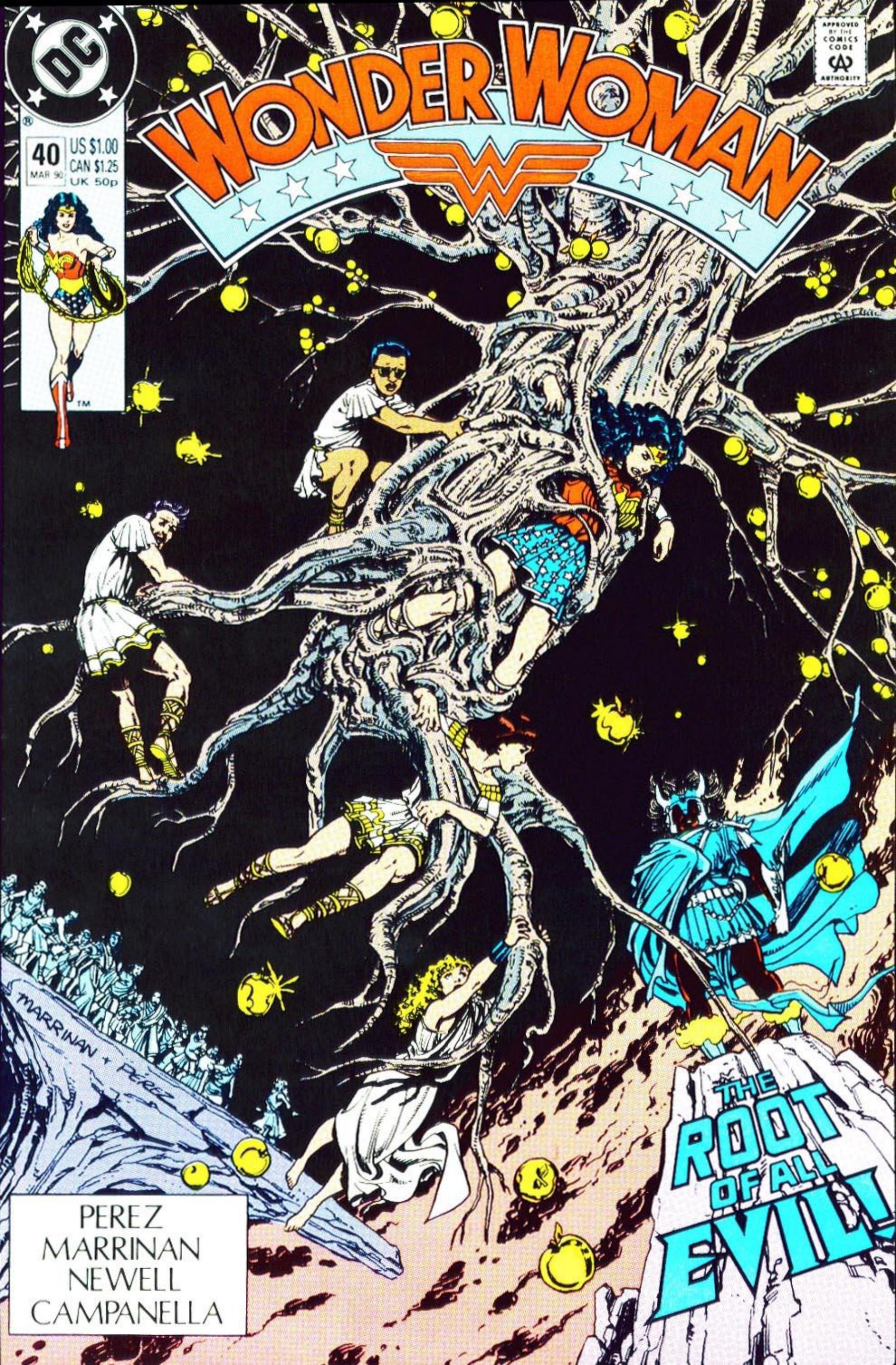


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# WONDER WOMAN



PEREZ  
MARRINAN  
NEWELL  
CAMPANELLA

THE  
ROOT  
OF ALL  
EVIL!

A Journey to the Other Side of Paradise

By Lois Lane

Fourth in a series of  
Daily Planet articles on  
the Themysciran Summit



I am a prisoner of malevolent forces in a jailhouse of moldering bark, my fate one hundred feet above me. And if a miracle doesn't happen soon, I will join Wonder Woman as sculpture worked in wood -- matching bookends in hell.

## DIVIDED WE FALL

GEORGE PÉREZ - CHRIS MARRINAN  
PLOT PENCILS  
MINDY NEWELL - ROBERT CAMPANELLA  
SCRIPT INKS  
AGUSTIN MAS - CARL GAFFORD  
LETTERS COLORS  
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I try to still my rising panic. Somewhere above me is Paradise. Somewhere above me is rescue.

CANTWELL! CANTWELL!

THANK GOD-- YES! ARE YOU HURT? ANYTHING BROKEN?

HOLD ON! I'LL COME DOWN!

NO! GO GET HELP!

LOTS OF HELP!

It looks at me, and I get nauseous. It smiles, and my muscles tense. It turns away and I am furious.

I want to scream, kick, bite, hate. I'm so sick of fools, hypocrites -- fed up with snobs and bigots.

The shadows bend. There is a glint of gold in the darkness. Something is moving below me.

Now I know the monster. I've seen this woman-thing before. In Selma. At Kent State. In Saigon and in Bensonhurst.

In Themyscira.

IT'S NOT GONNA WORK! I'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER...  
...AND I'LL SEE TO IT THE AMAZONS GET IT, TOO!

The monsters snake their way up a lattice of tree limbs, higher and higher, uncoiling live wires of death.



It only laughs at my threat, a deep, guttural hissing that grates on my helplessness.



Then, like some twisted Eve in the Garden, it raises a golden apple toward Paradise...

...and great serpents erupt from its pulp.



ANSWER ME, WHY DIDN'T YOU LEAVE YOURSELF SOME KIND  
HERMES! OF ESCAPE CLAUSE OR FORMULATE A CONTINGENCY  
PLAN JUST IN CASE?!

DIANA NEEDED MY CADUCEUS  
IF SHE WAS TO SUCCESSFULLY  
TRANSPORT THE DELEGATES  
ACROSS CHAOS, STEPHEN.

DID YOU HAVE TO  
GIVE AWAY ALL OF  
YOUR TRICKS?

GREAT! AND NOW DIANA'S  
IN TROUBLE--WHO KNOWS WHAT'S  
HAPPENED TO THE DELEGATES--

THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN  
IN THE AIR FORCE, I CAN  
TELL YOU THAT!

WHAT WOULD BE THE  
FIRST THING THE AIR FORCE  
WOULD DO, STEPHEN?

HUH?  
IDENTIFY THE AGGRESSOR, ASSUMING  
THERE WAS ONE.

EXACTLY, WHICH I  
HAVE BEEN ENDEAVORING  
TO DO.

THERE IS MORE THAN MY INHERENT  
IMPOTENCE BLOCKING MY ATTEMPTS  
TO BREACH CHAOS, STEPHEN.

SOMETHING, OR SOMEONE, IS  
INTERFERING, AS WELL. BUT IT  
WILL BE STOPPED. I SWEAR IT.

BUT WHEN,  
AND HOW?

HOW DID I GET  
HERE MENALIPPE  
MENALIPPE STAND-  
ING WITH STANDING  
WITH WHO

DIANA! PRINCESS  
DIANA! DIANA, CAN  
YOU HEAR ME?

PRINCESS! YOU HAVE  
TO HEAR ME!!

WE NEED YOU!

DIANA!

SHE IS BEYOND NEED.  
BEYOND HELP. BEYOND  
REASON OR RESCUE.

AS YOU SOON  
WILL BE.

"I AM THE DAUGHTER OF WAR, AND  
WAR'S SISTER. I AM HIS MOTHER,  
AND HIS AUNT. I AM THE BATTLE-  
GROUND OF ARES, UPON WHOM  
MANKIND HAS TRAMPLED AND  
DESTROYED EACH OTHER SINCE  
THE BEGINNING."

WHO ARE YOU?!

"I AM STRIFE. I AM DISCORD."

YOU ARE ERISS!

"SO, THE  
PROFESSOR  
KNOWS ME."

LOIS. I'M SORRY.  
SHOULD HAVE REALIZED  
SOONER. GOLDEN APPLES.  
APPLES OF DISCORD...

DON'T BLAME  
YOURSELF,  
ROBERT!

"YOUR FRIEND IS  
RIGHT, MORTAL.  
EVEN THE  
GODDESSES  
FELL PREY TO  
ME."

IT WAS MY GIFT OF THE APPLE THAT LED TO THE JUDGMENT OF PARIS. MY GIFT THAT LED APHRODITE TO AWARD THE FAIR HELEN TO HIM, THOUGH SHE WAS MARRIED TO MENELAUS.

MY GIFT THAT LED TO THE FALL OF ANCIENT TROY, A WAR THAT FEED ON THE JEALOUSIES AND LUSTS OF MEN FOR THEIR WOMEN.

THE AMAZONS FELL BELOW THOSE ANCIENT WALLS. THEY FALL NOW IN THEMISCIRA, DESTROYING THEMSELVES AS MY FRUIT DESTROYS THE BARRIERS OF HIDDEN HATREDS.

THE DREAMS OF THE OLYMPIAN WOMEN ARE THWARTED, AS MY FATHER ARES PREDICTED THEY WOULD BE.

THE DELEGATES WILL REPORT FAILURE. THEY WILL POINT THEIR FINGERS. THERE WILL BE ACCUSATIONS AND THREATS.

I KNOW YOU NOW! YOU'RE WANG MU, THE MONSTER-MOTHER! IT'S YOU WHO CAUSES DISEASE AND DEATH!

I WON'T LET YOU! I WON'T!

LIN KOO--!

LIN KOO!



AND MAN WILL ONCE AGAIN BE BENT ON THE SELF-DESTRUCTION THAT IN HIS DESTINY.



UHHH-- ALL RIGHT, IT'S ALL RIGHT, I'VE GOT YOU.

= SNIFFE



DON'T CRY,  
LIN KOO, IT'S  
GOING TO BE  
OKAY.

HOLD ON,  
ROBERT, I'M  
COMING UP!



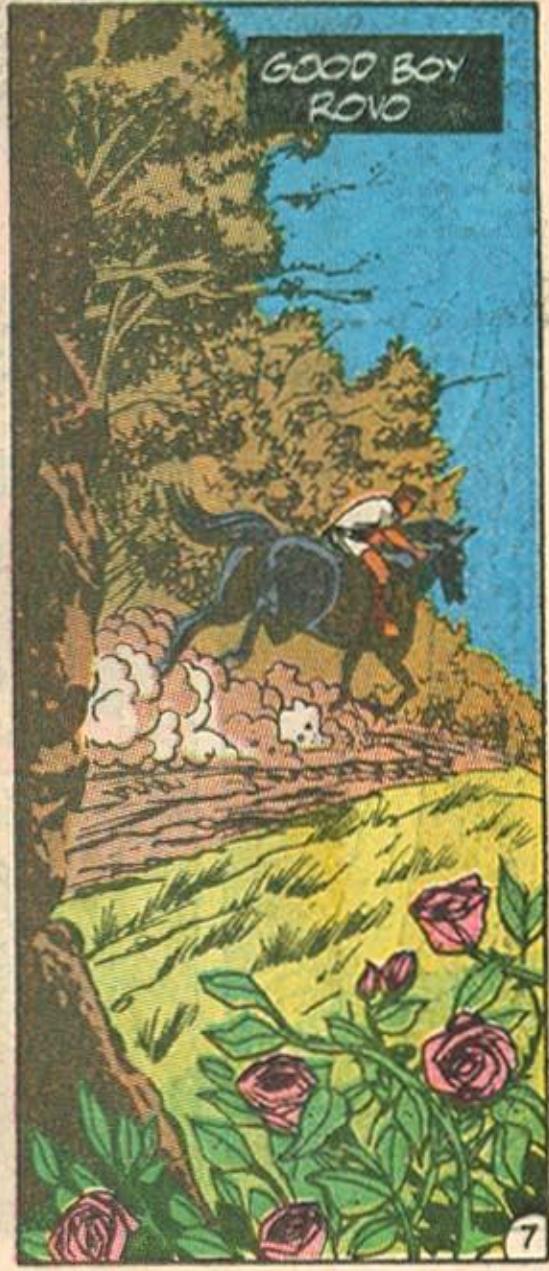
Through it all, Eris made no move to stop us. I think we amused her.

LOIS BE CAREFUL WHAT IS GOING ON IS THIS A DREAM NO



NO DREAM ERIS WILL DESTROY MUST STOP HOW





WHO IS RIDING YOU,  
BOY? SHE WILL RUE  
THE DAY!

AS FOR YOU--!

RIDE AWAY,  
CHILD. RIDE TO  
YOUR DEATH!

I had reached Mr. Cantwell. We were trying to calm down Lin Koo when we overheard Eris muttering Rovo Quashi's name.

She was working some kind of magic spell on the apple.

...and reform into the familiar image of Menalippe, high priestess of the Amazons. Eris was whispering to her--and, somehow, controlling her.



Its color faded to crystal, then darkened as clouds seemed to gather, break up...

THAT WITCH IS LAYING AN AMBUSH FOR THE BOY!



THAT WASN'T SMART, MR. CANTWELL.

Her feral eyes glowed...



...and the Tree of Discord came to life...



...winding, enveloping, growing all about us and around us, feeding off our flesh and draining our blood.



LIN KOO LO S MR  
CANTWELL YES I  
WILL HELP  
I WILL

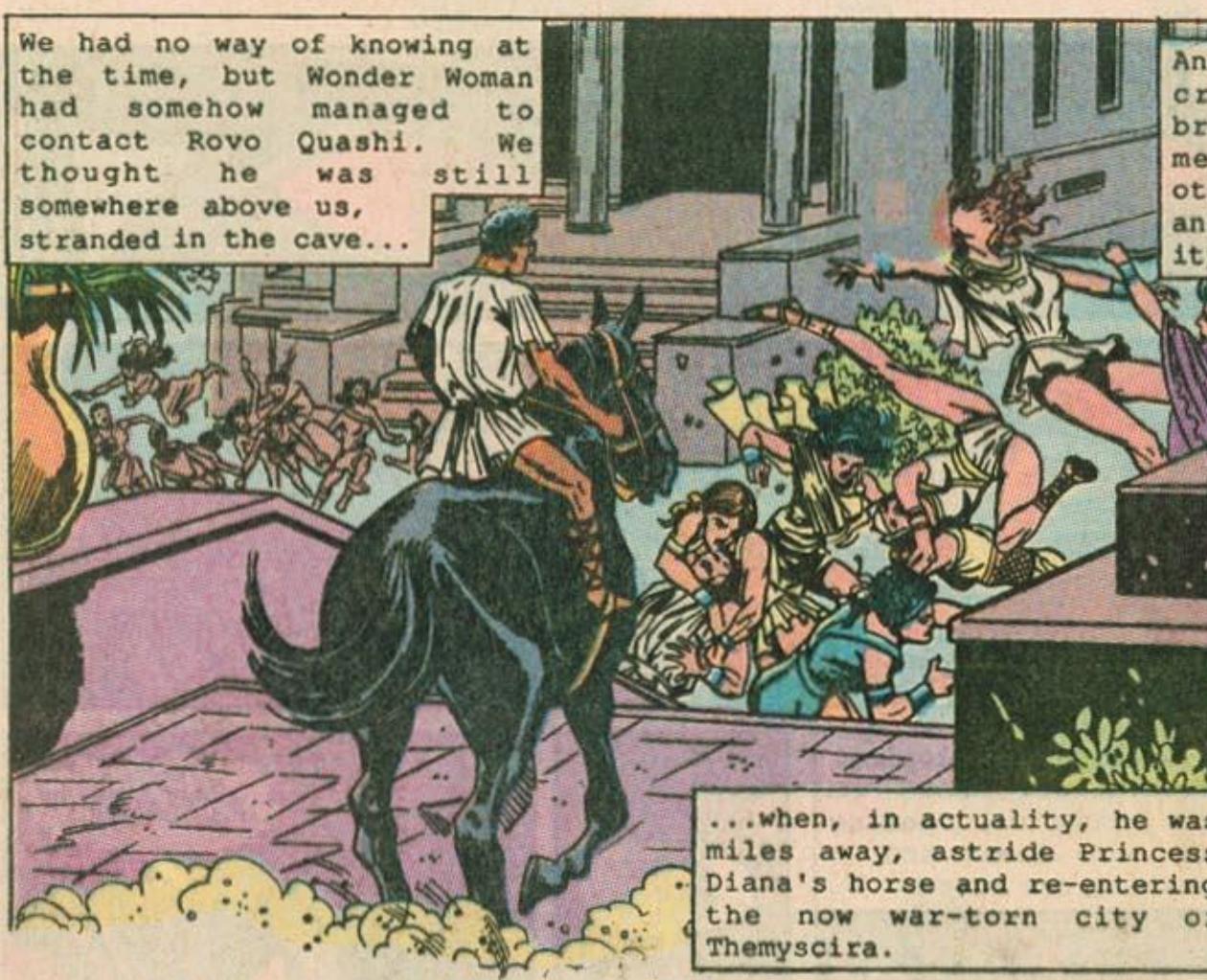


THERE IS NOTHING YOU  
CAN DO FOR THEM DIANA  
YOU MUST CONCENTRATE  
ON THE BOY



We had no way of knowing at the time, but Wonder Woman had somehow managed to contact Rovo Quashi. We thought he was still somewhere above us, stranded in the cave...

And it was war at its crudest . and most brutal, for women and men were at each other's throats, true animals in their ferocity.



...when, in actuality, he was miles away, astride Princess Diana's horse and re-entering the now war-torn city of Themyscira.

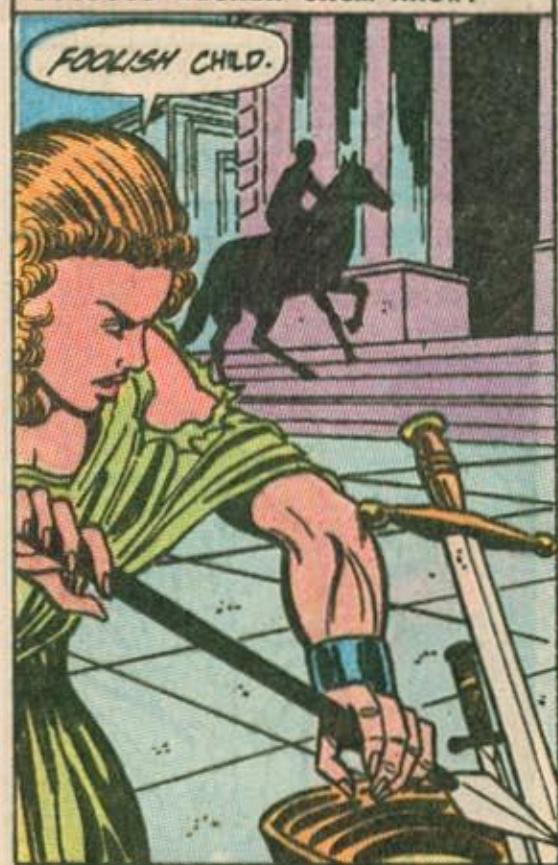


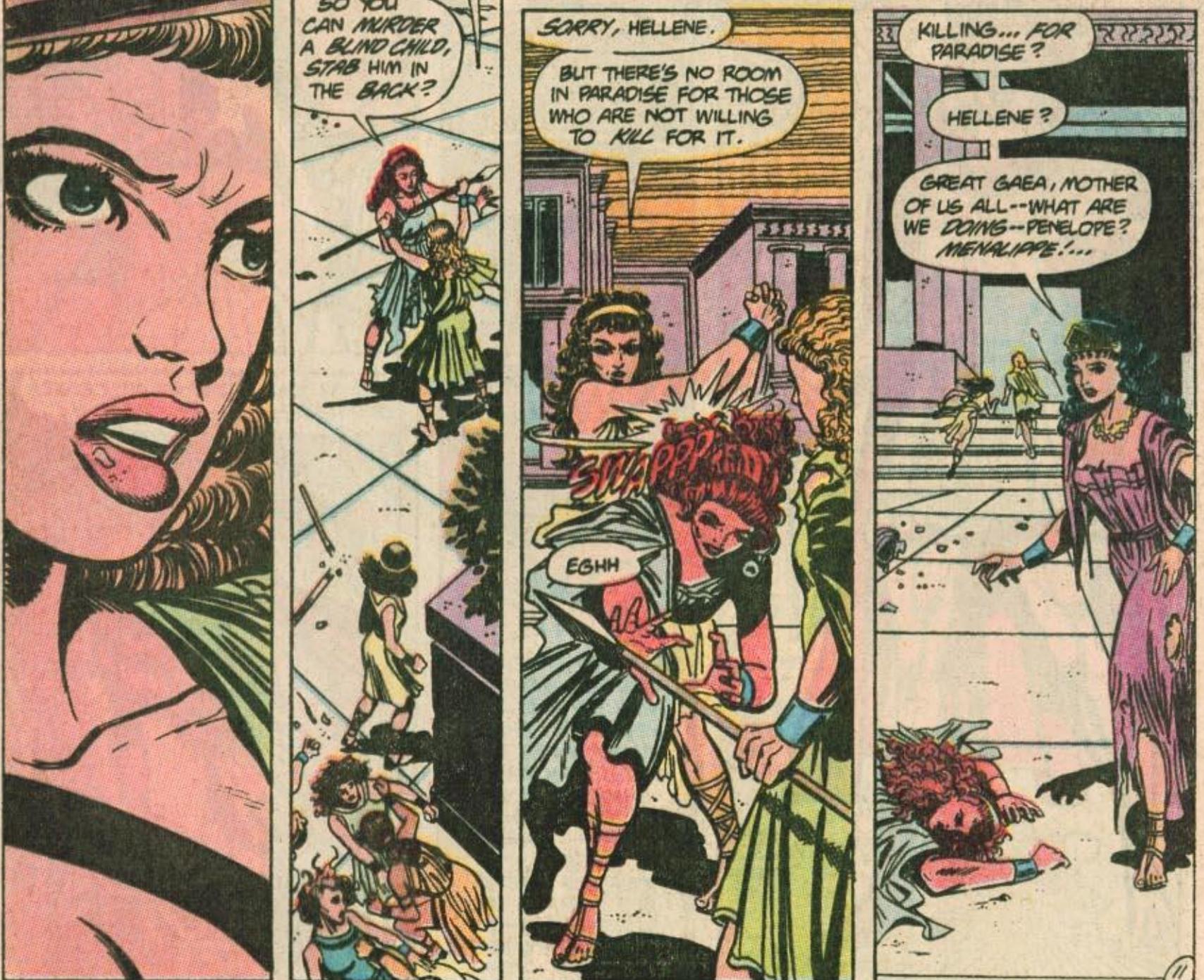
Eris and her Apples of Discord had destroyed three thousand years of Amazonian ideals and values.



Rovo rode into an apocalypse, and by what miracle he survived...

...only the heavens and the secrets within them know.

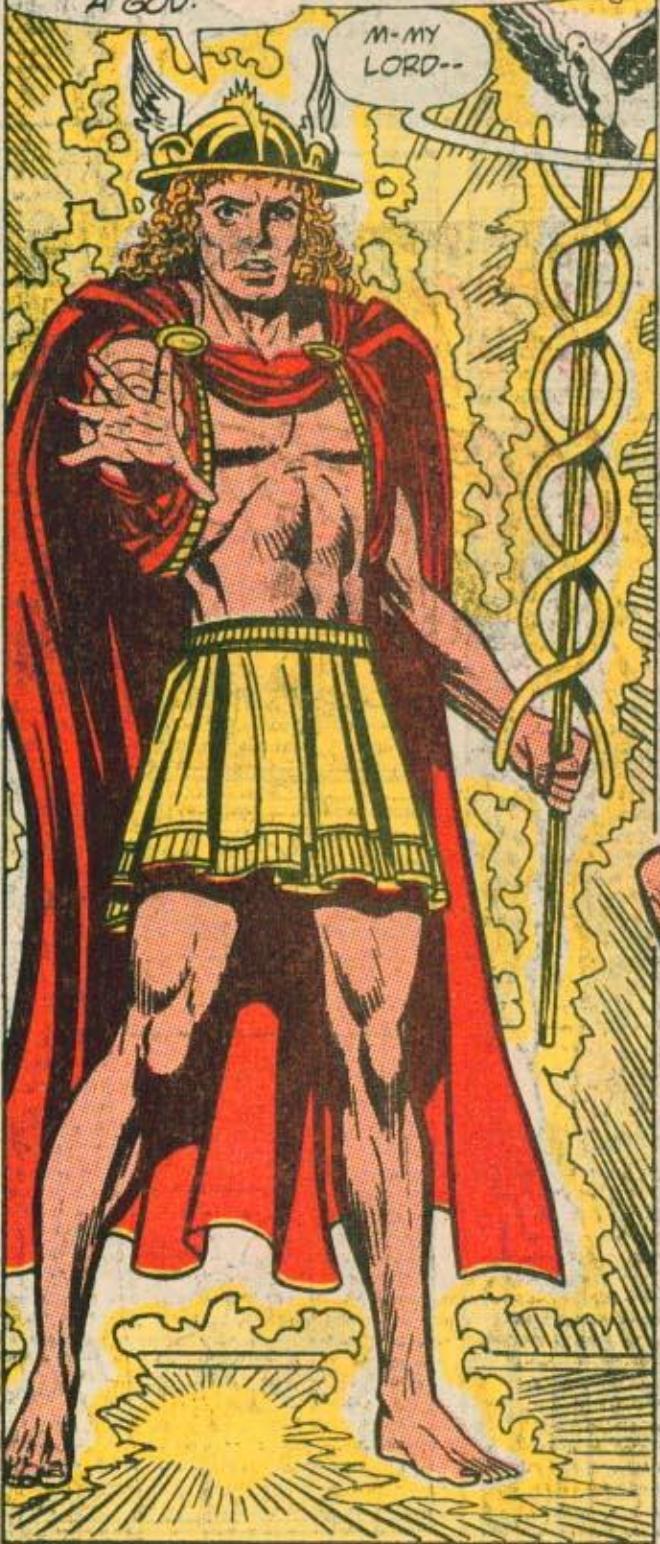


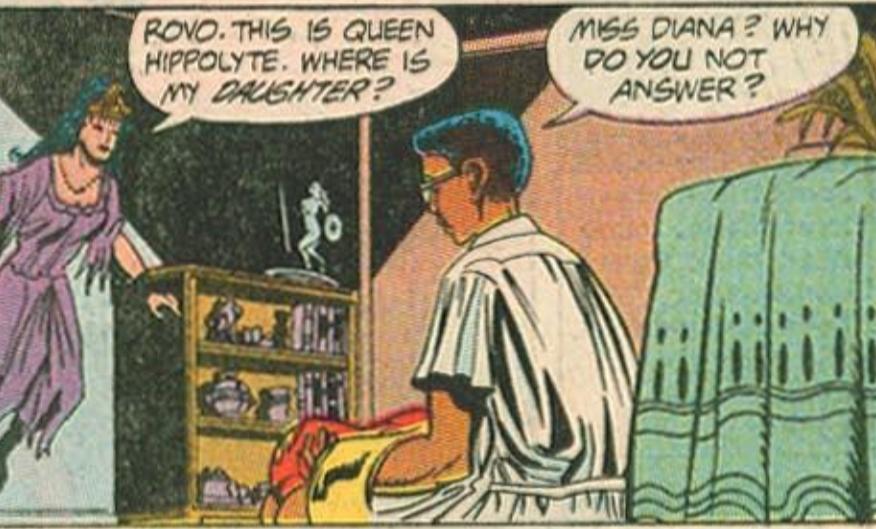


EGHH



TOUCH EVEN ONE EYELASH BELONGING TO THE MORTAL STRIPLING, MENALIPPE, AND YOU SHALL RUE THE DAY YOU CROSSED A GOD.







Something was happening. The dead bark that was Wonder Woman shuddered, and her wooden eyes seemed to blink.



The discord  
was fading.

--CANNOT APOLOGIZE ENOUGH  
FOR WHAT HAS OCCURRED.  
WE CAN NO LONGER STAND  
AS AMAZONS UNDER THE  
BANNER OF ARTEMIS.  
WE MUST--

STAND  
TOGETHER,  
MENALIPPE. AND  
LET HIM WHO IS  
WITHOUT SIN  
CAST THE FIRST  
STONE.

GORBY COULD NOT SAY  
IT BETTER!

RIGHT ON,  
REVEREND!

FRIENDS AND SISTERS!  
MAY WE PLEASE HAVE  
ORDER FOR JUST A  
MOMENT.

I THINK IT IS TIME  
TO THANK OUR PERSONAL  
CHOICE OF DEITY FOR  
SEEING US THROUGH  
THIS CRISIS.

SISTERS! WE HAVE FALLEN UNDER THE  
SPELL OF THE ANCIENT APPLES OF  
DISCORD. WE MUST MARSHAL OUR  
FAITH IN HUMANITY, AND OUR  
STRENGTH AS AMAZONS...

...AND THROW OFF THE  
SHACKLES OF ERISS!

THE LORD IS MY  
SHEPHERD, I SHALL  
NOT WANT.

SCH'MAI YISROEL,  
ADONOI ELEHENNU,  
ADONOI E-CHUD.

NOOOOOOOOOOOO!

Nation would not rise against  
nation again.

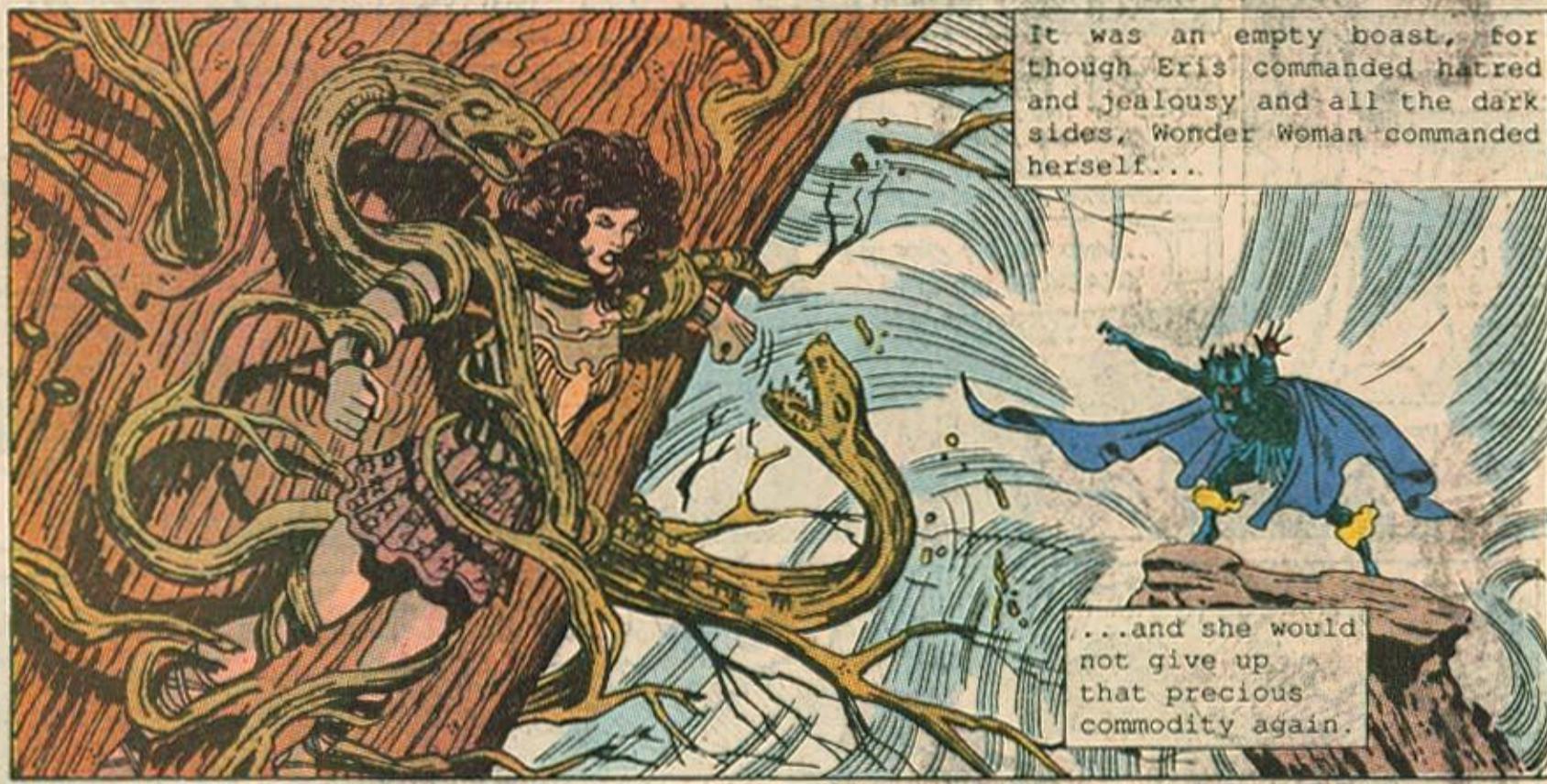
It was over.



But Eris was not yet ready to give up.



THEY THINK THEY HAVE DEFEATED ME! BUT I STILL HAVE YOU!



It was an empty boast, for though Eris commanded hatred and jealousy and all the dark sides, Wonder Woman commanded herself...

...and she would not give up that precious commodity again.









It was power beyond reason. We were witnessing what humanity had not been meant to witness.



It was the twilight of a god who did not wish to die. My hatred and anger toward Eris was dispelled...

...and I thought to myself, how sad and lonely is the pride of a goddess, how humiliating to fail before those who once feared you.



I watched Wonder Woman play Bullets and Bracelets with a goddess' wrath...



...and I did not fear for the Amazon.









...and, with her passing, the strange spell that had overtaken us all dispersed.

There was much shuffling of feet, and embarrassed murmurs of apology.

For the ugliness of humanity had risen to the surface. Could we rise above all that had happened?

