



SENSATIONAL DOUBLE-SIZED ISSUE!

# WONDER WOMAN

200  
MAR 04

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUG  
AUTHORITY

RUCKA  
JOHNSON  
SNYDER



WITH: BURCHETT • DEFILIPPIS • IMMONEN • MEDLEY • RISSO  
RODI • RUDE • SHANOWER • SIMONSON • STELFREEZE • TEMPLETON • WEIR

I WROTE A BOOK.



IN IT I INCLUDED SEVERAL OF THE SPEECHES I'VE DELIVERED SINCE COMING TO PATRIARCH'S WORLD, AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL ESSAYS.

MY THOUGHTS AND BELIEFS, BOUND AS BEST THEY COULD BE BETWEEN CLOTH COVERS.

YOU DO NOT CHANGE THE WORLD WITH A STROKE OF THE PEN OR THE SWEEP OF A SWORD. YOU CHANGE THE WORLD HEART BY HEART, MIND BY MIND.

I AM NO NAÏVE CHILD. I KNEW THERE WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT LIKE WHAT I HAD TO SAY, THAT SOME WOULD RAISE THEIR VOICES TO SHOUT ME DOWN.

DARREL KEYES WAS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE, PASSIONATE IN HIS OPINIONS OF ME, OF MY LIFESTYLE, OF MY PLACE.

I EXPECTED MEN LIKE KEYES TO REACT THE WAY HE DID.

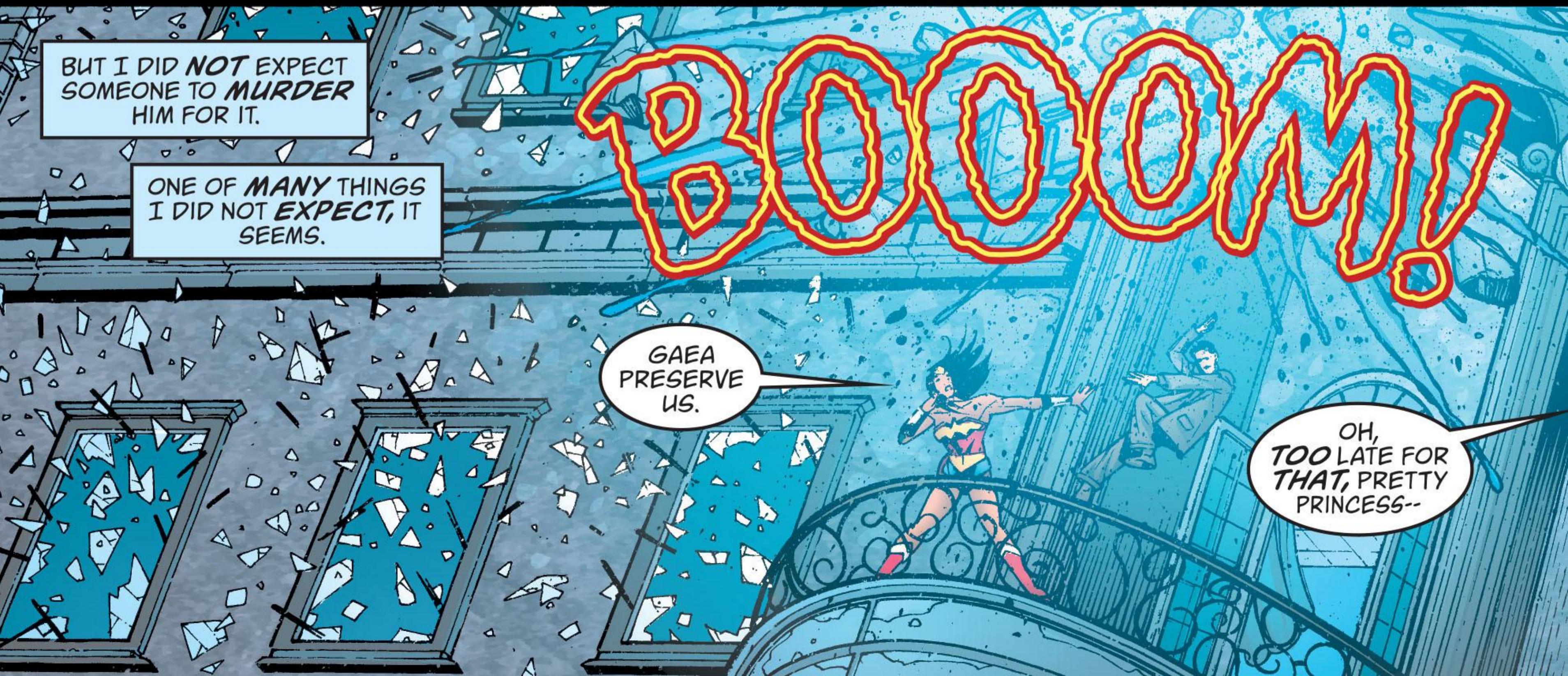
BUT I DID NOT EXPECT SOMEONE TO MURDER HIM FOR IT.

ONE OF MANY THINGS I DID NOT EXPECT, IT SEEMS.

BOOM!

GAEA  
PRESERVE  
US.

OH,  
TOO LATE FOR  
THAT, PRETTY  
PRINCESS--



# DOWN TO EARTH

## CONCLUSION

Greg  
Rucka:  
Writer

Drew  
Johnson:  
Penciller

Ray  
Snyder:  
Inker

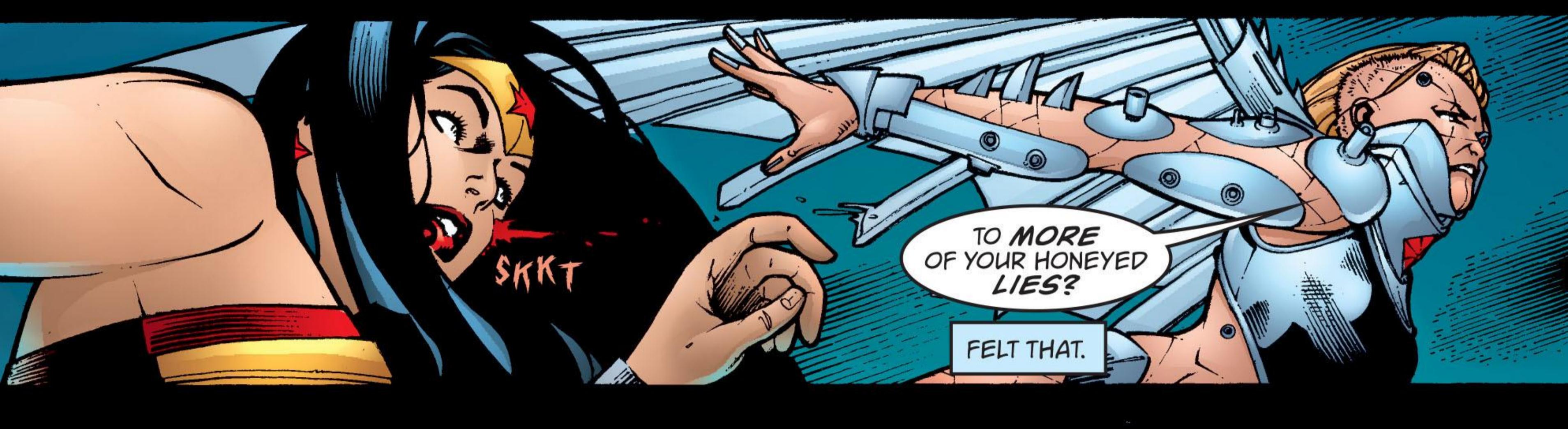
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Colors

Todd  
Klein:  
Letterer

Ivan  
Cohen:  
Editor

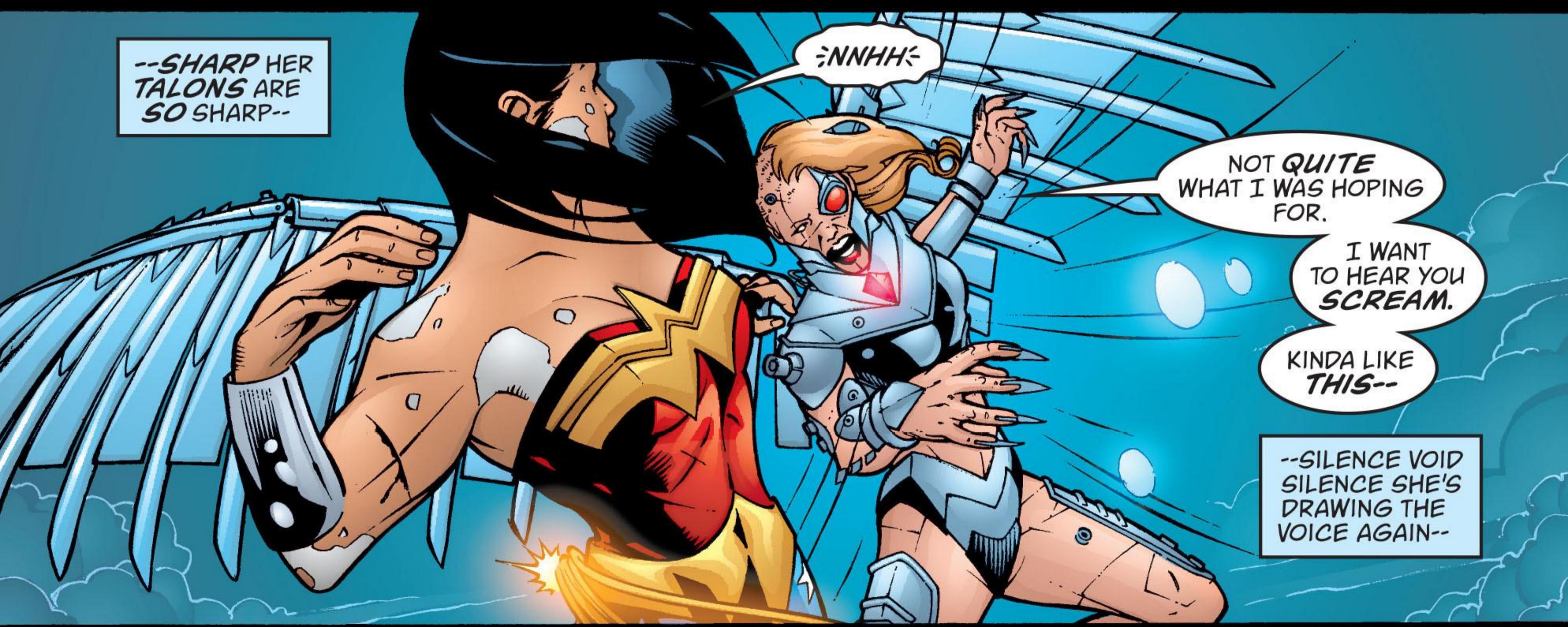
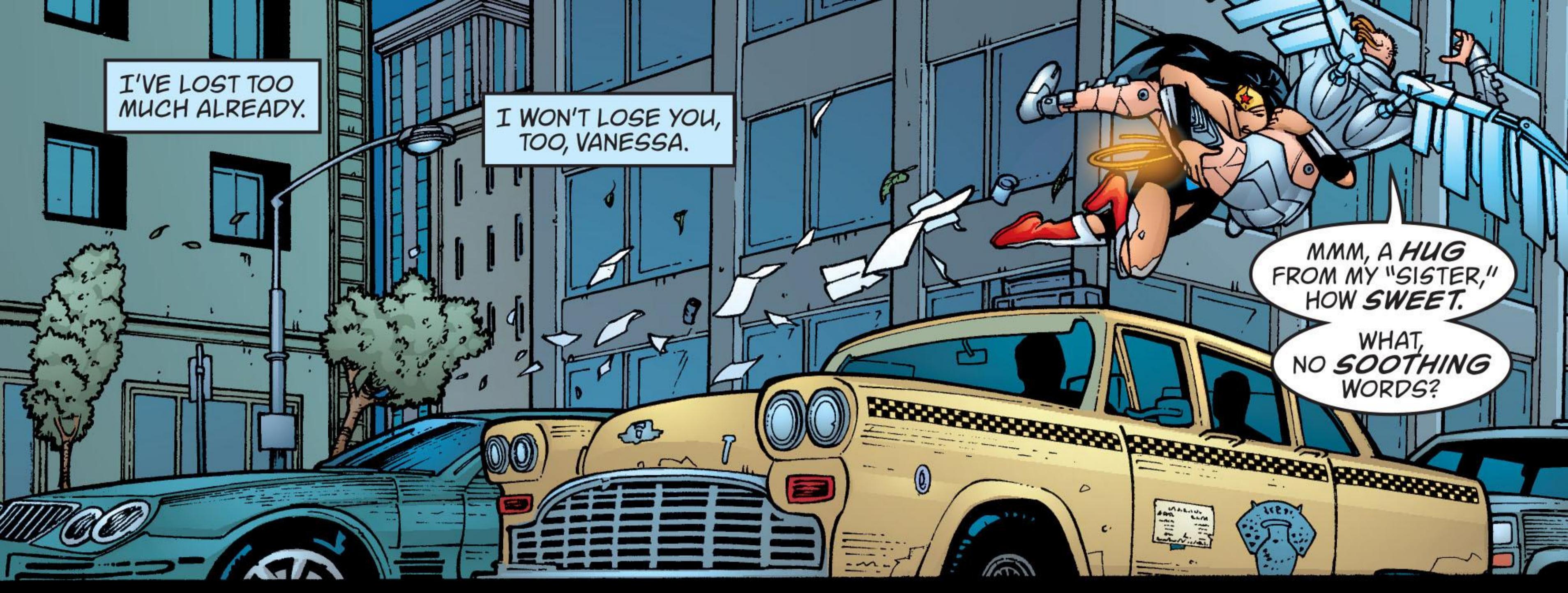
Wonder Woman  
created by  
William Moulton  
Marston













NO MORE GAMES OF THE GODS.

IS HE--

SHHH!

SHE'S COMING.

NOT THIS TIME.

BY MY BEARD, WOMAN, MUST YOU BE SO SHRILL?

WHO WAS THAT? WHO WERE YOU SPYING ON THIS TIME?

THAT TROLLOP AT THE SORBONNE, THE ONE WORKING ON HER DISSERTATION?

NOT AGAIN.

BROTHER-HUSBAND!

OR IS IT THAT BLEACH-BLONDE TRAMP WHO CALLS HERSELF A PERFORMANCE ARTIST?

NO ONE, MY SISTER BRIDE--

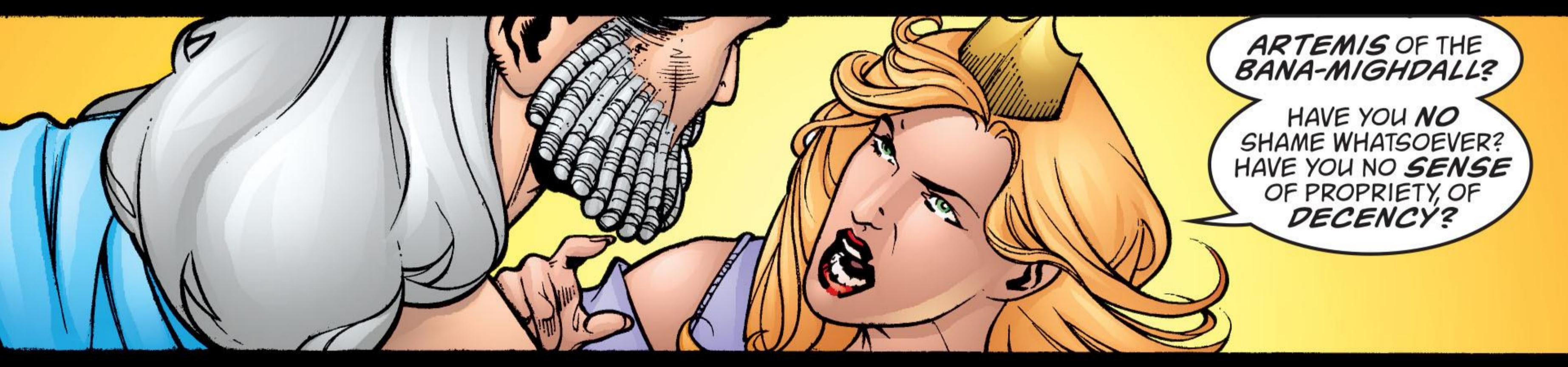
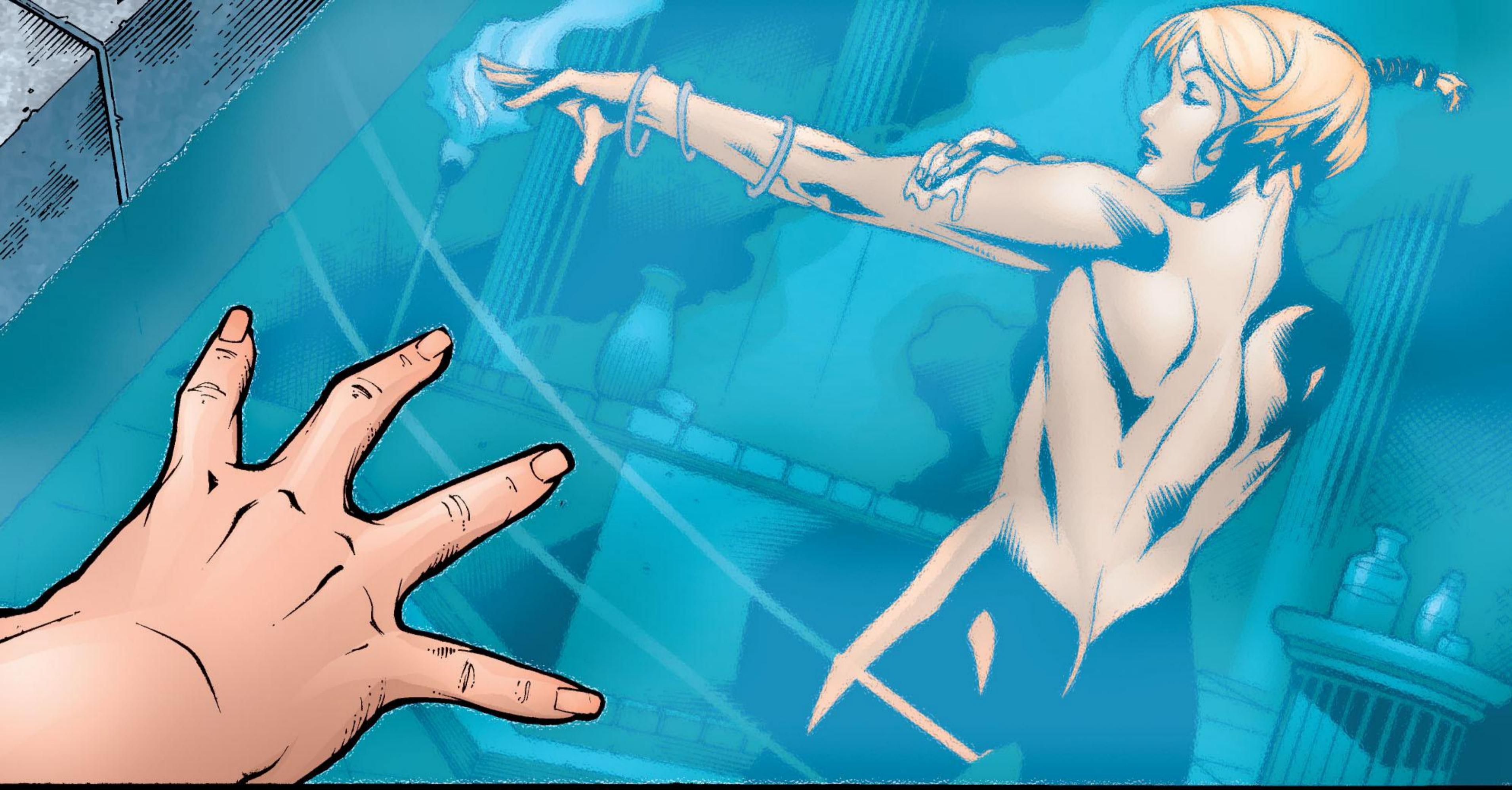
BRING IT BACK, LET ME SEE HER!

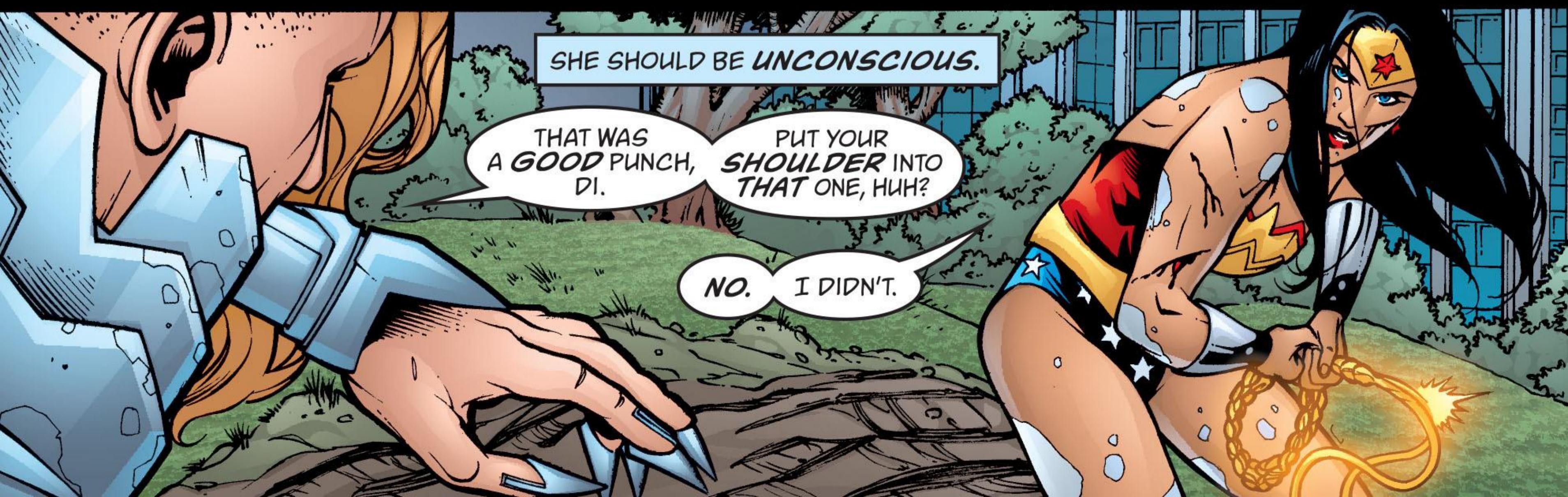
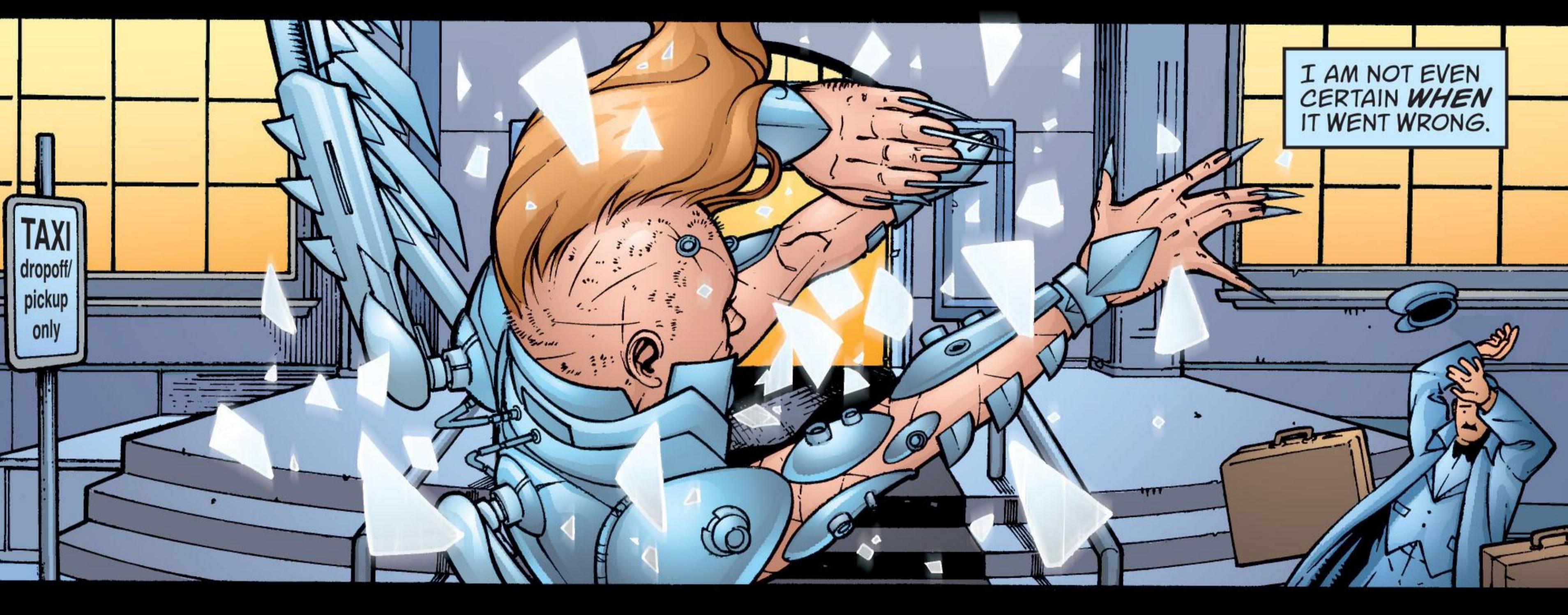
THERE IS NO ONE TO SEE, MY WIFE, REALLY--

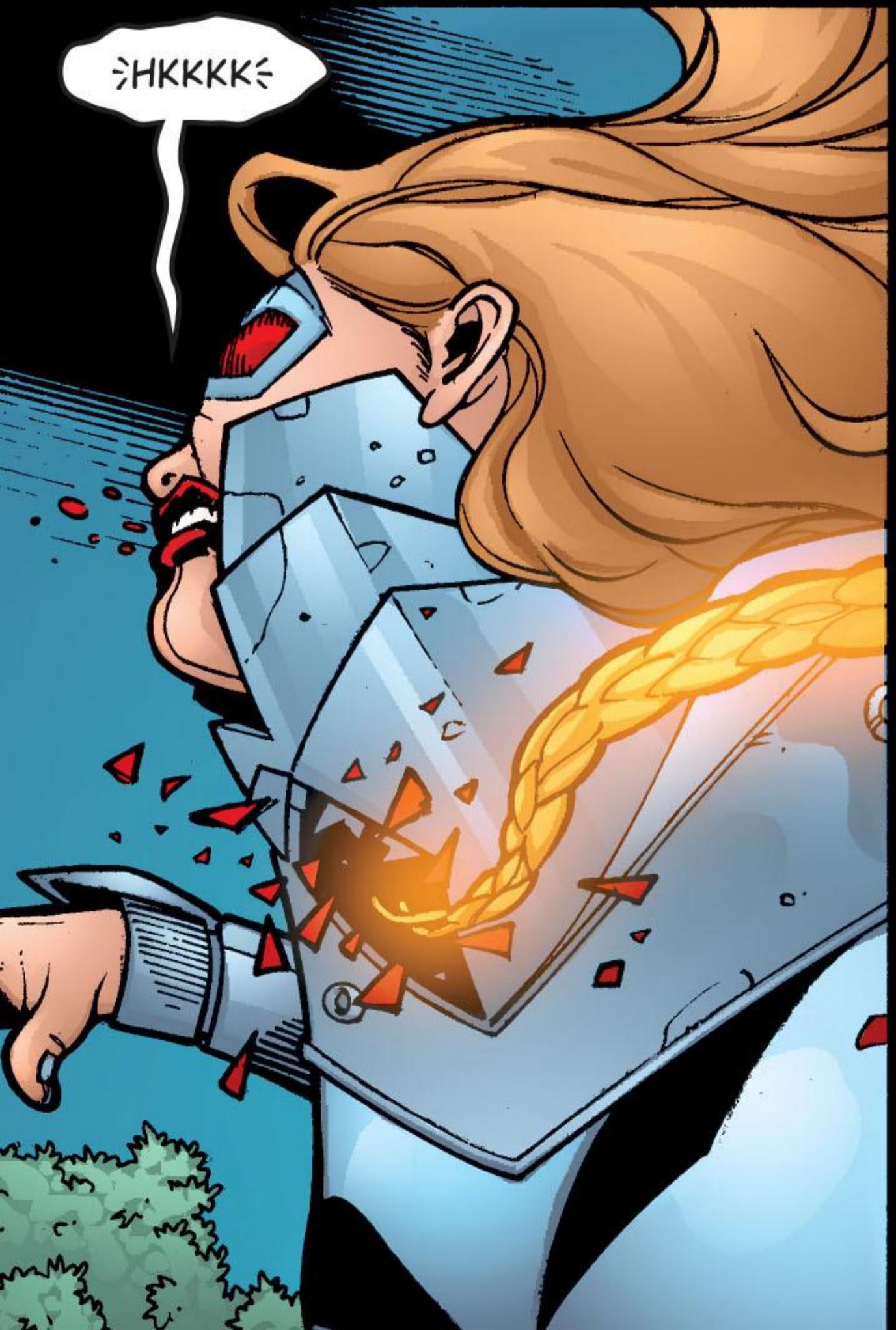
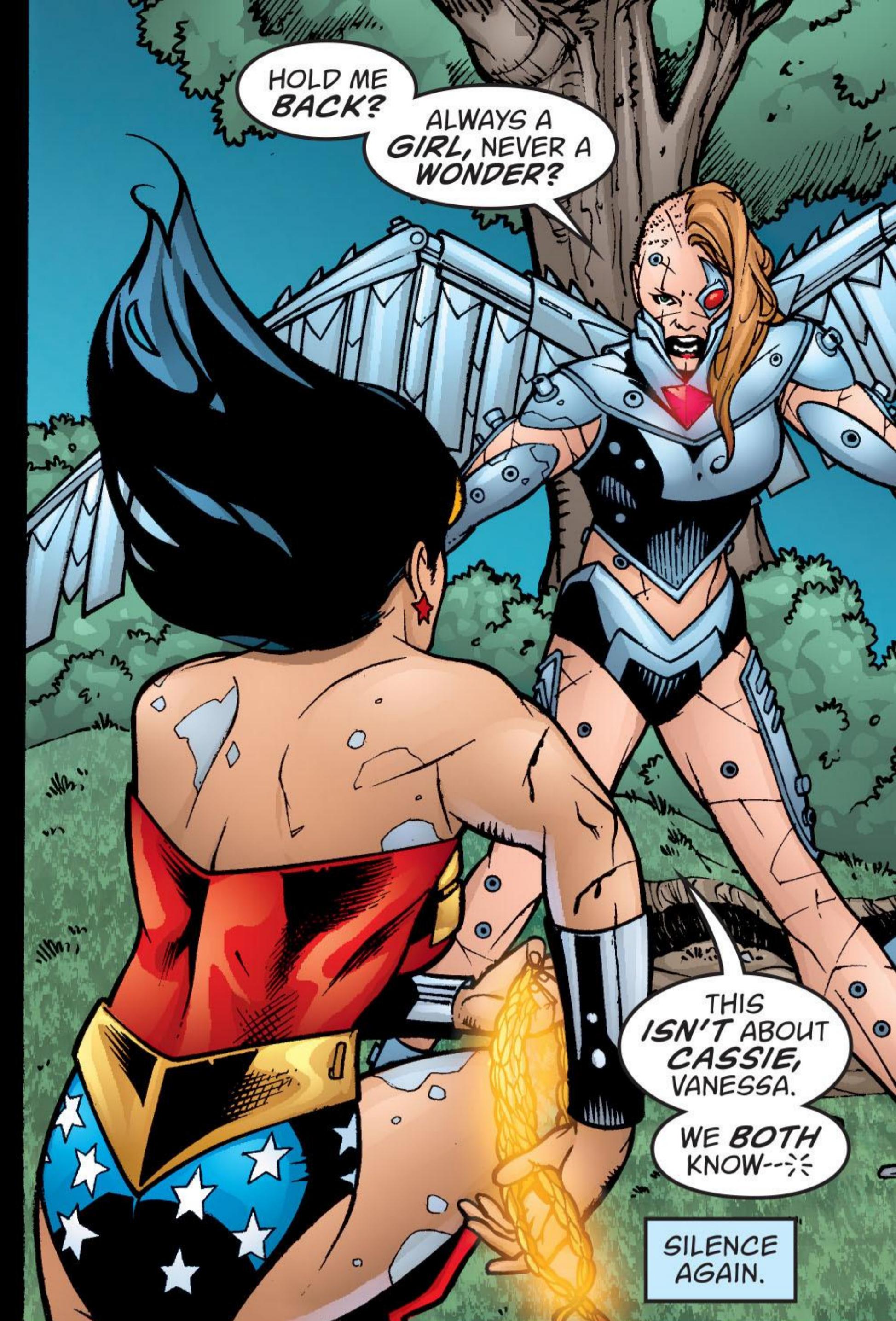
FINE.

I'LL DO IT MYSELF.

RETURN.







ALL THOSE CYBERNETICS,  
ALL THOSE MODIFICATIONS--

KILL  
YOU!

--SHE'S SO  
QUICK--

CUT  
YOUR HEART  
FROM YOUR  
CHEST--

--SO  
QUICK--

=NNHH=  
--BURN  
IT I'LL BURN  
YOU--

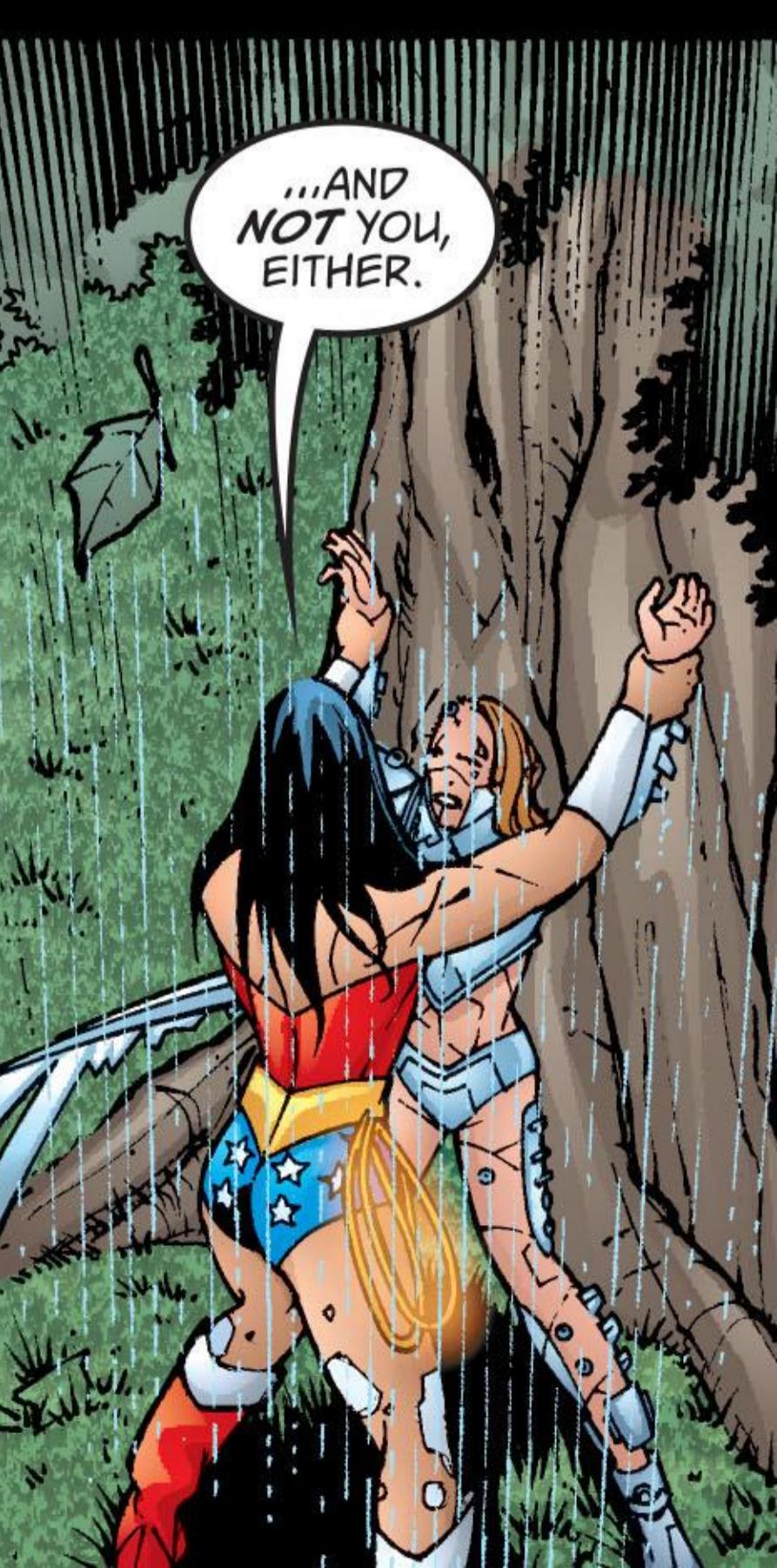
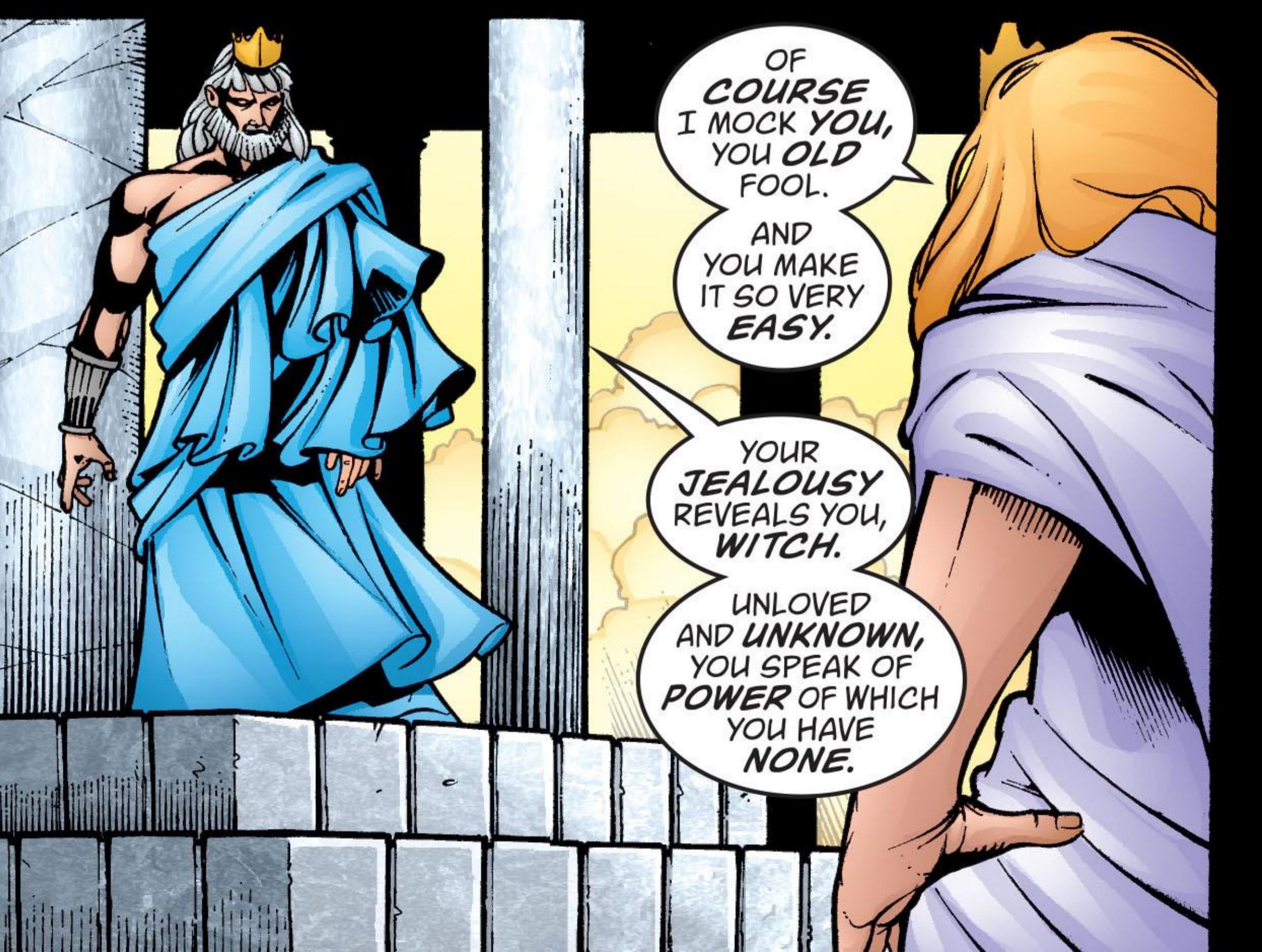
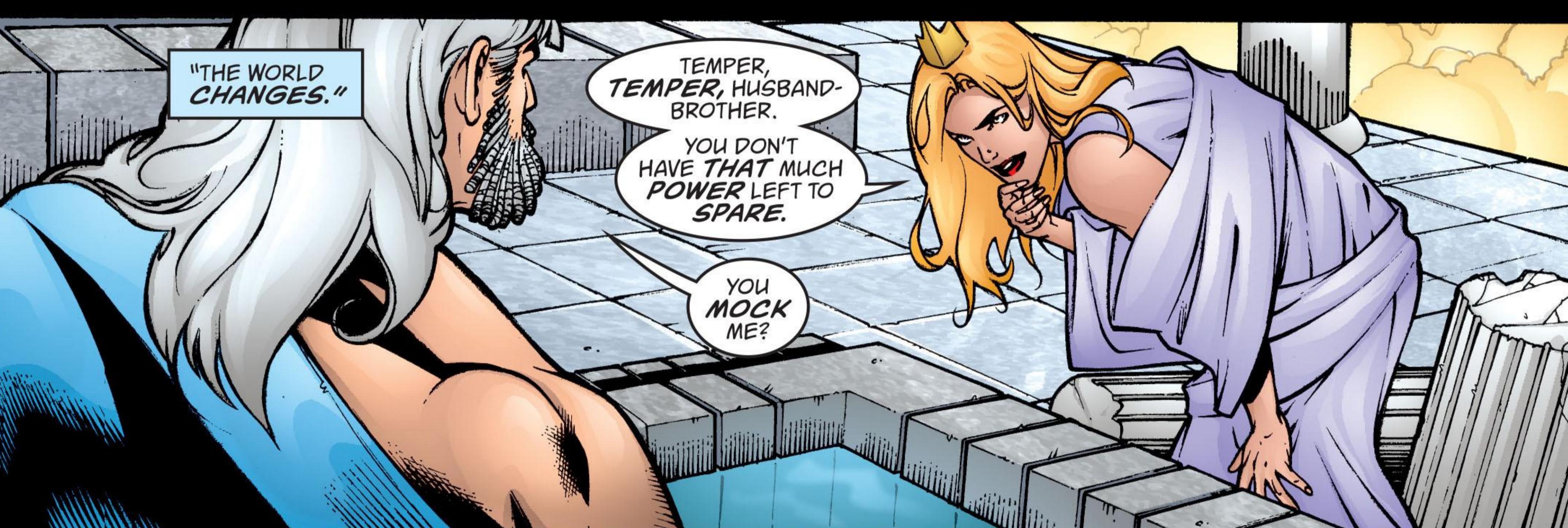
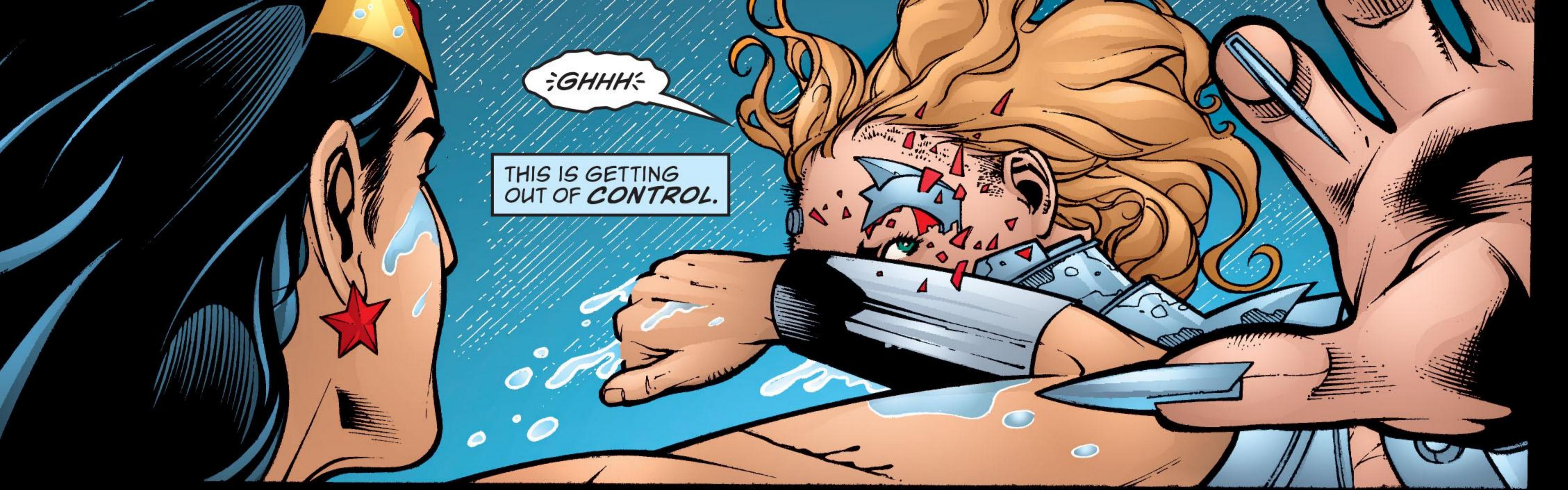
...KEEPING...  
CUTTING  
AT ME...

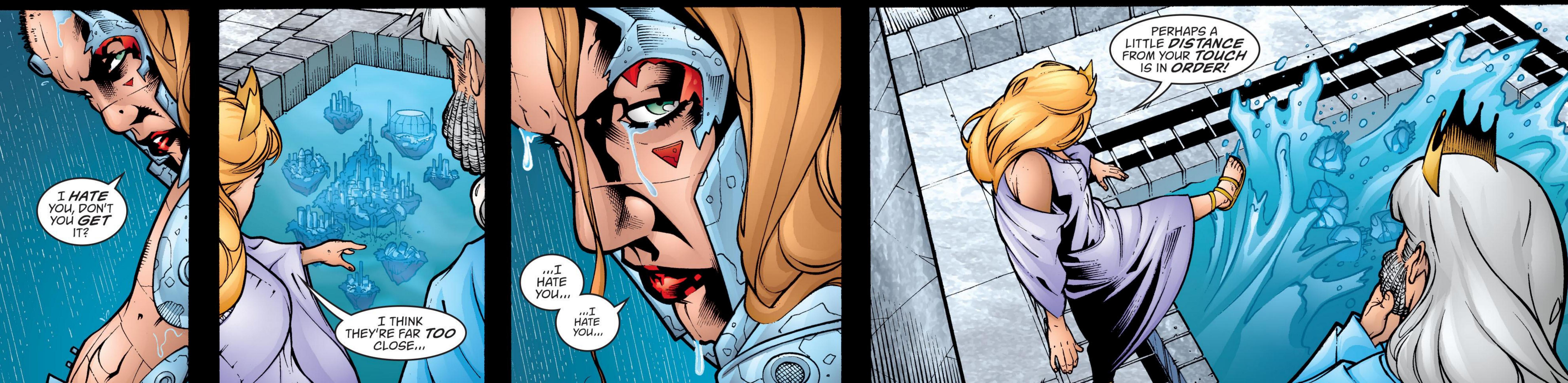
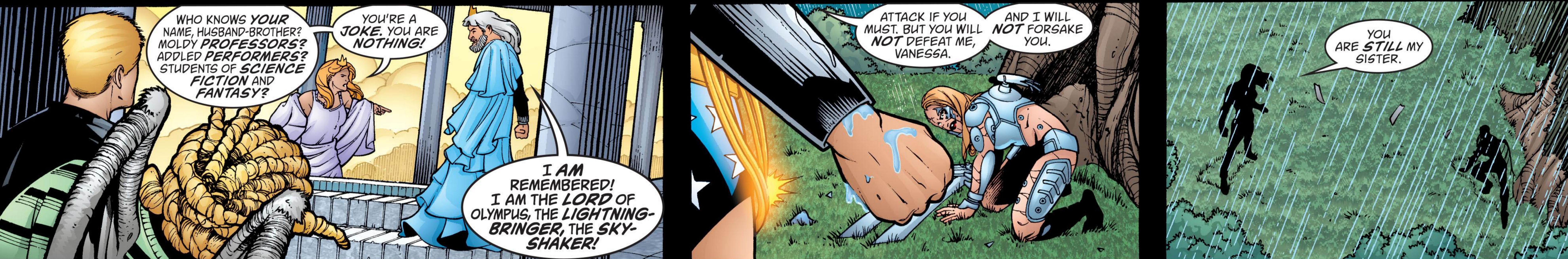
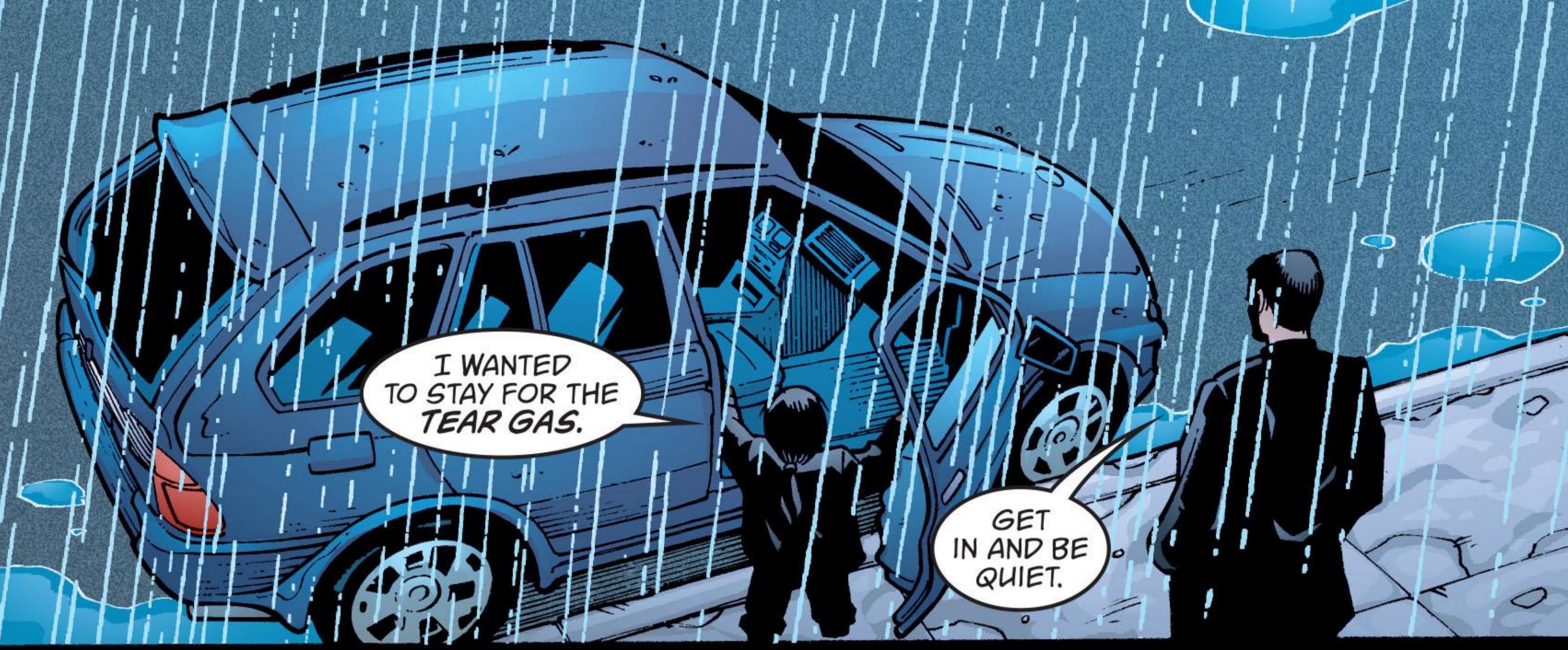
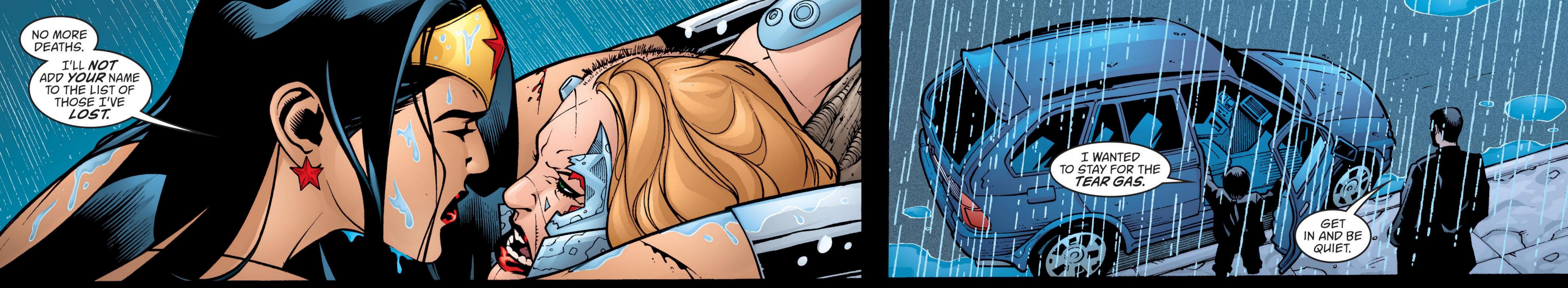
--CARVE  
IT OUT OF  
YOUR LIVING  
CHEST!


...ARMOR  
HELD...

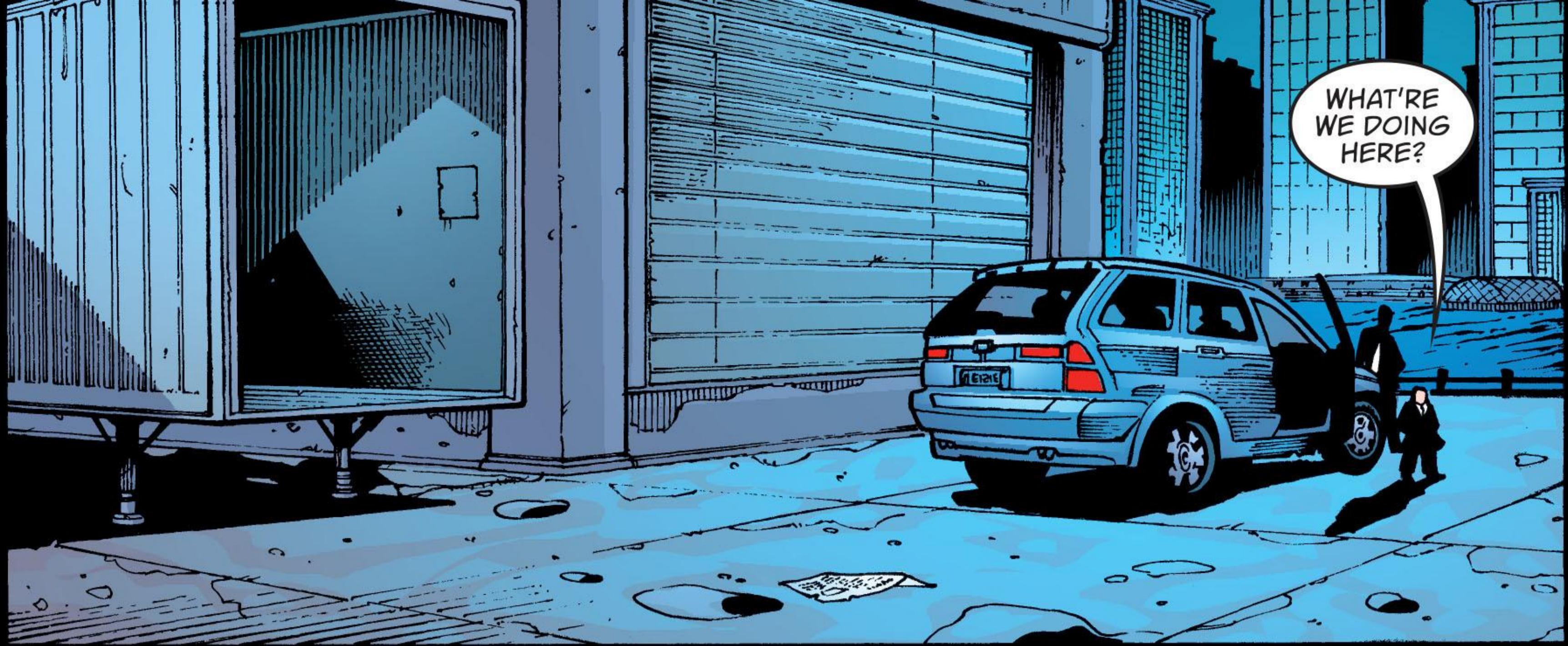
HUH.  
THERE'S A  
SURPRISE.

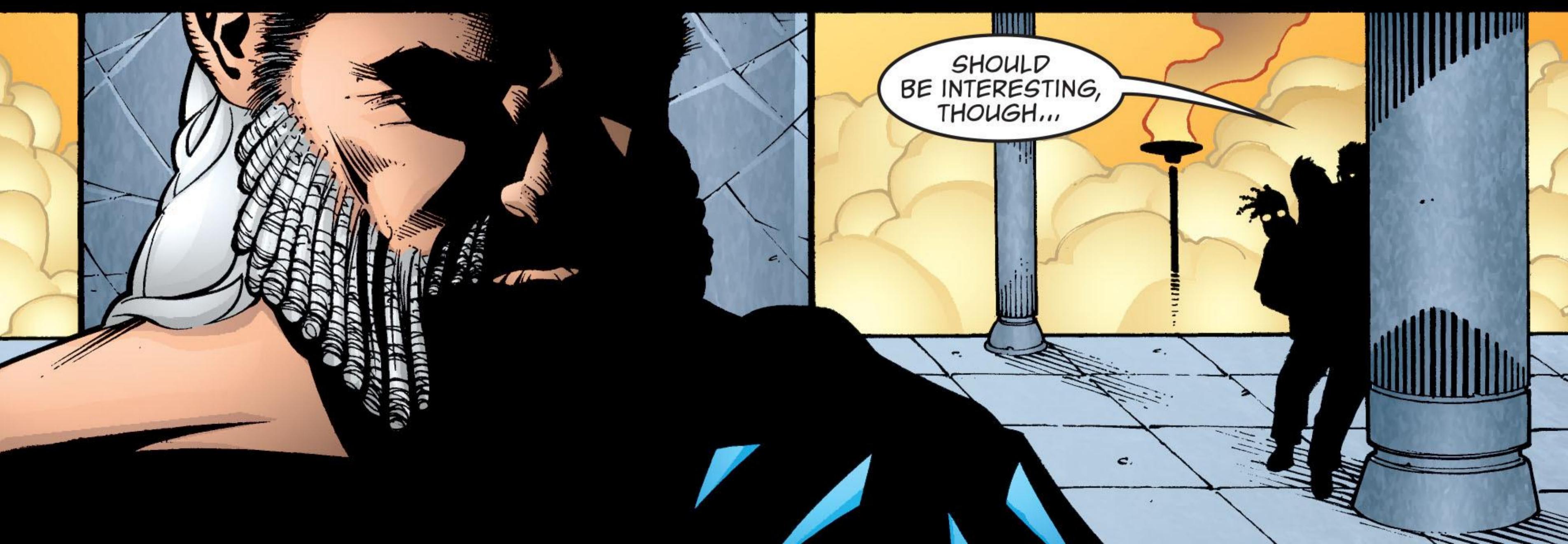
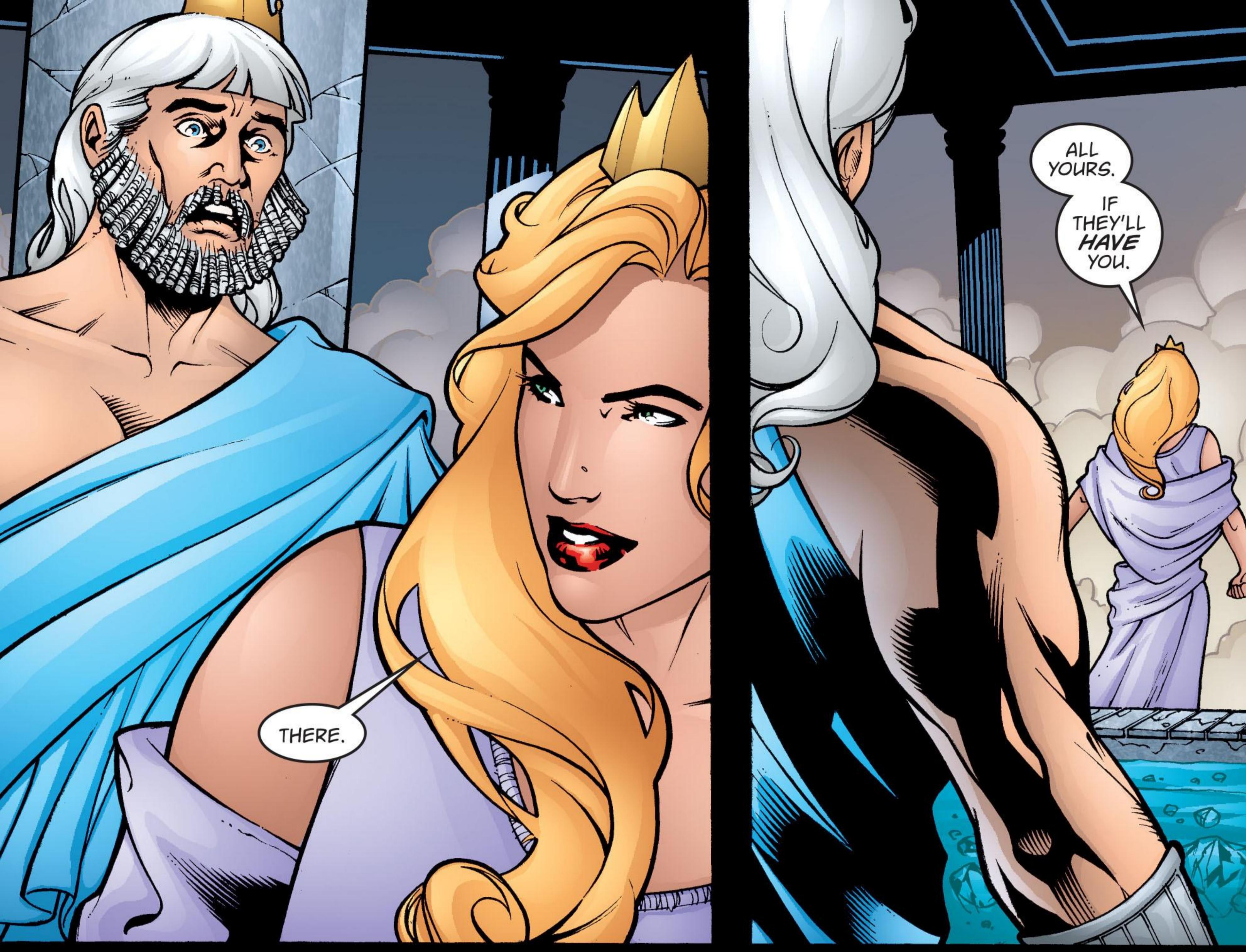
HERE'S  
ANOTHER  
ONE.















Created by  
William Moulton Marston

# Wonder Woman

STORY: ROBERT RODI  
ART: RICK BURCHETT  
COLOR: TOM McCRAW  
LETTERS: TODD KLEIN

WHAT COULD INDUCE AMERICA TO TURN ITS BACK ON ITS BELOVED PROTECTRESS, **WONDER WOMAN**? NOTHING, YOU SAY? THEN PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A SHOCK — FOR JUST SUCH AN UNTHINKABLE TURN OF EVENTS OCCURS WITHIN THIS VERY STORY! STEEL YOURSELF FOR A TALE OF SUCH PERFIDY AND INFAMY THAT EVEN THE RENOWNED AMAZON — BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE, WISE AS ATHENA, STRONGER THAN HERCULES, AND SWIFTER THAN MERCURY — MIGHT NOT BE UP TO THE CHALLENGE! WILL SHE DEFEAT THE FORCES AT WORK AGAINST HER, OR WILL THIS CHRONICLE BE KNOWN FOREVER AS THE BITTER BEGINNING OF "THE EXILE OF WONDER WOMAN"



I'D LIKE YOU TO ENDORSE MY NEW PERFUME, **SUPERBA**. I'LL PAY YOU WELL.

IT'S A LOVELY SCENT, BUT I'M AFRAID I NEVER ENDORSE ANYTHING UNLESS IT'S FOR CHARITY.

STILL, I'M VERY GLAD TO HAVE MET A LADY EXECUTIVE.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU!

BACK IN HER LUXURIOUS APARTMENT, VERONICA RAGES OVER WONDER WOMAN'S REFUSAL.

THE GALL OF THAT AMAZON – SNUBBING ME, VERONICA CALLOW! I'LL SHOW HER! I'LL INVENT MY OWN WONDER WOMAN TO SELL MY PERFUME!

USING HER VAST FORTUNE, VERONICA HIRES A SKILLED SCIENTIST TO BUILD HER A **SUPER ROBOT**.

HURRY, DR. WEASLE, I CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE A MIGHTY HEROINE AT MY BECK AND CALL!

PATIENCE, MISS CALLOW, PERFECTION CAN'T BE RUSHED!

AT LAST, THE FATEFUL DAY ARRIVES.

FINALLY, YOU'RE READY, MY OWN **SUPERBA**! AND WHAT A HANDSOME ROBOT YOU ARE! WITH MY FACE AND WONDER WOMAN'S POWERS, YOU'LL MAKE YOUR NAMESAKE PERFUME A **SENSATION**. THAT HIGH-AND-MIGHTY AMAZON WILL LOOK LIKE A FOOL FOR REFUSING ME!

YES, MISTRESS.

BUT IT ISN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE HER LOOK FOOLISH. I WANT TO SMASH HER INSUFFERABLE PRIDE FOREVER. I WANT TO RUIN WONDER WOMAN!



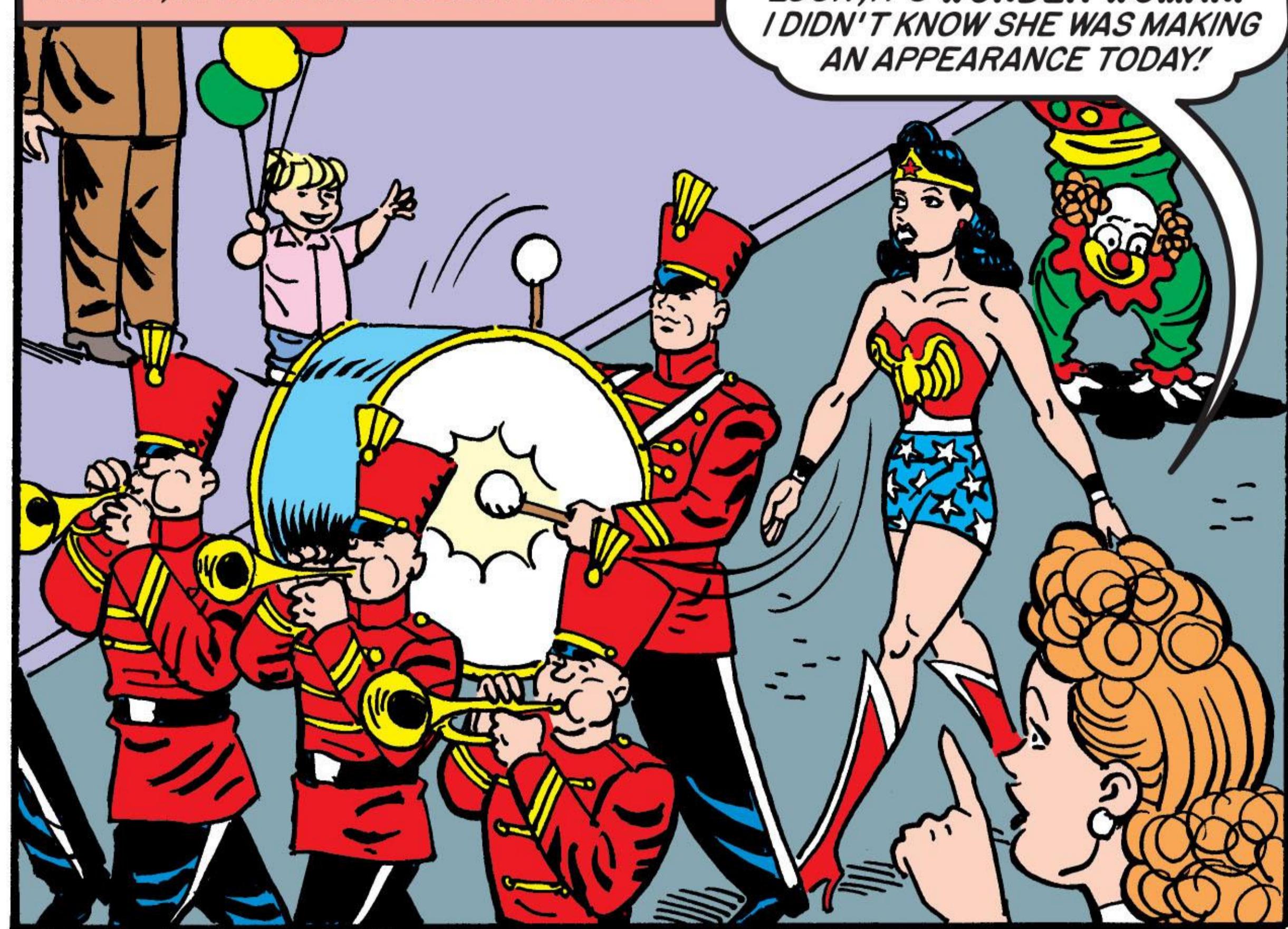
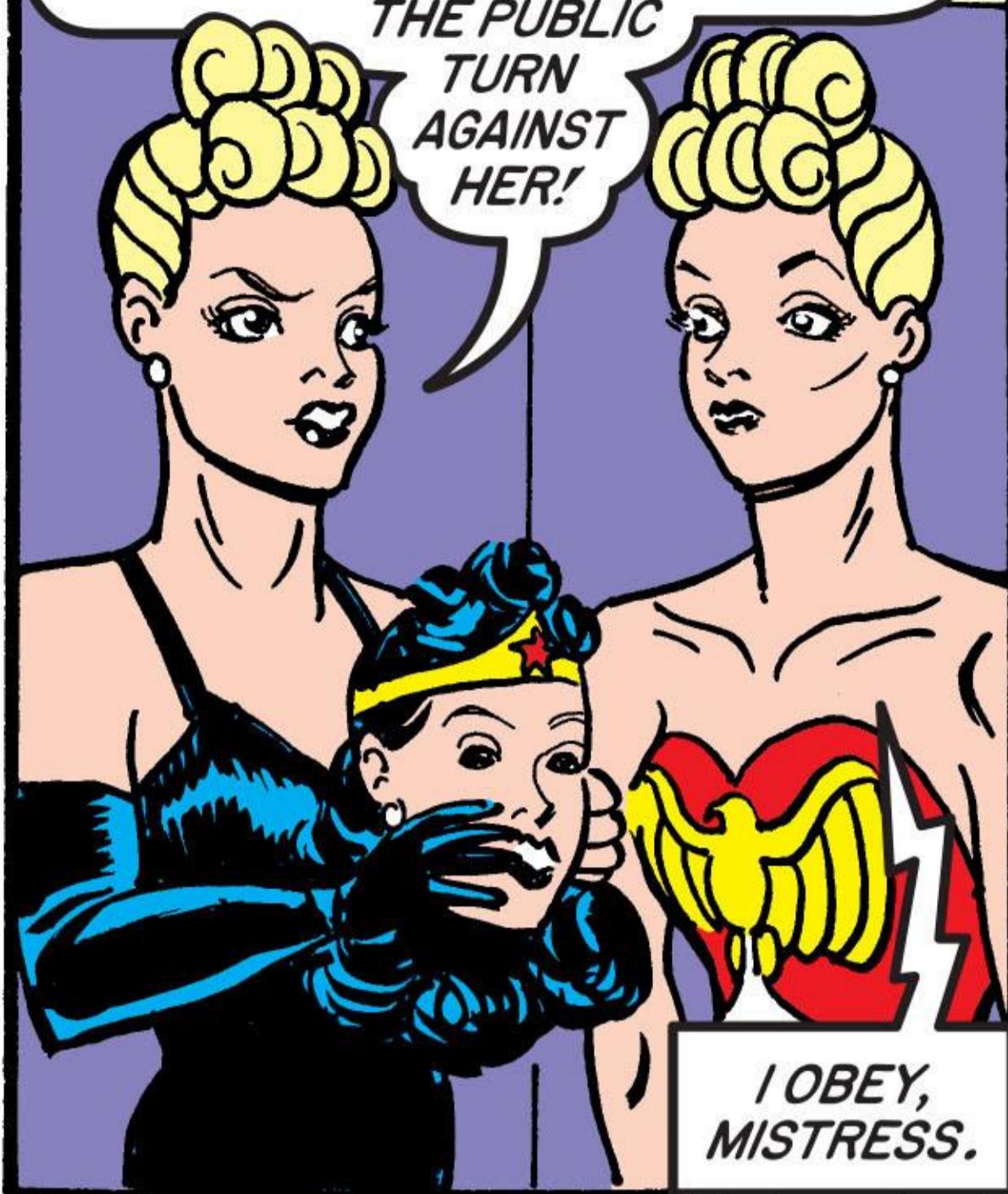
VERONICA CONCOCTS A DASTARDLY PLAN.

YOU'LL GO OUT INTO THE WORLD DISGUISED AS WONDER WOMAN, MY SUPERBA! AND YOU'LL COMMIT HEINOUS DEEDS TO MAKE THE PUBLIC TURN AGAINST HER!

I OBEY, MISTRESS.

AND SO, AT A FESTIVE HOLIDAY PARADE —

LOOK, IT'S WONDER WOMAN!  
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS MAKING AN APPEARANCE TODAY!

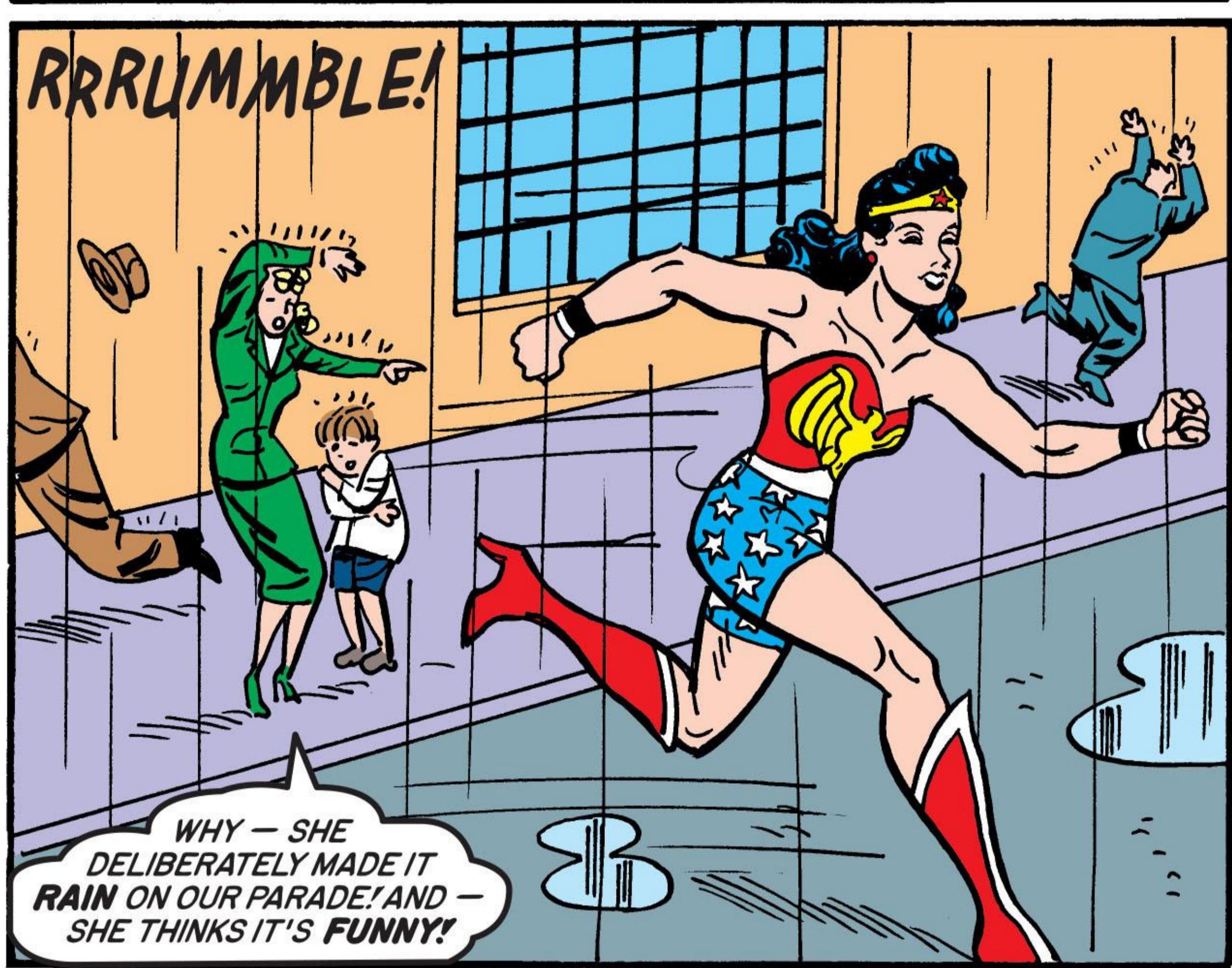


BUT THE AMAZON IMPOSTOR HAS MORE THAN PUBLICITY IN MIND, AS SHE CLAPS HER HANDS TOGETHER, CREATING A PERCUSSIVE FORCE THAT RUPTURES THE CLOUDS!



RRRUMMBLE!

WHY — SHE DELIBERATELY MADE IT RAIN ON OUR PARADE! AND — SHE THINKS IT'S FUNNY!



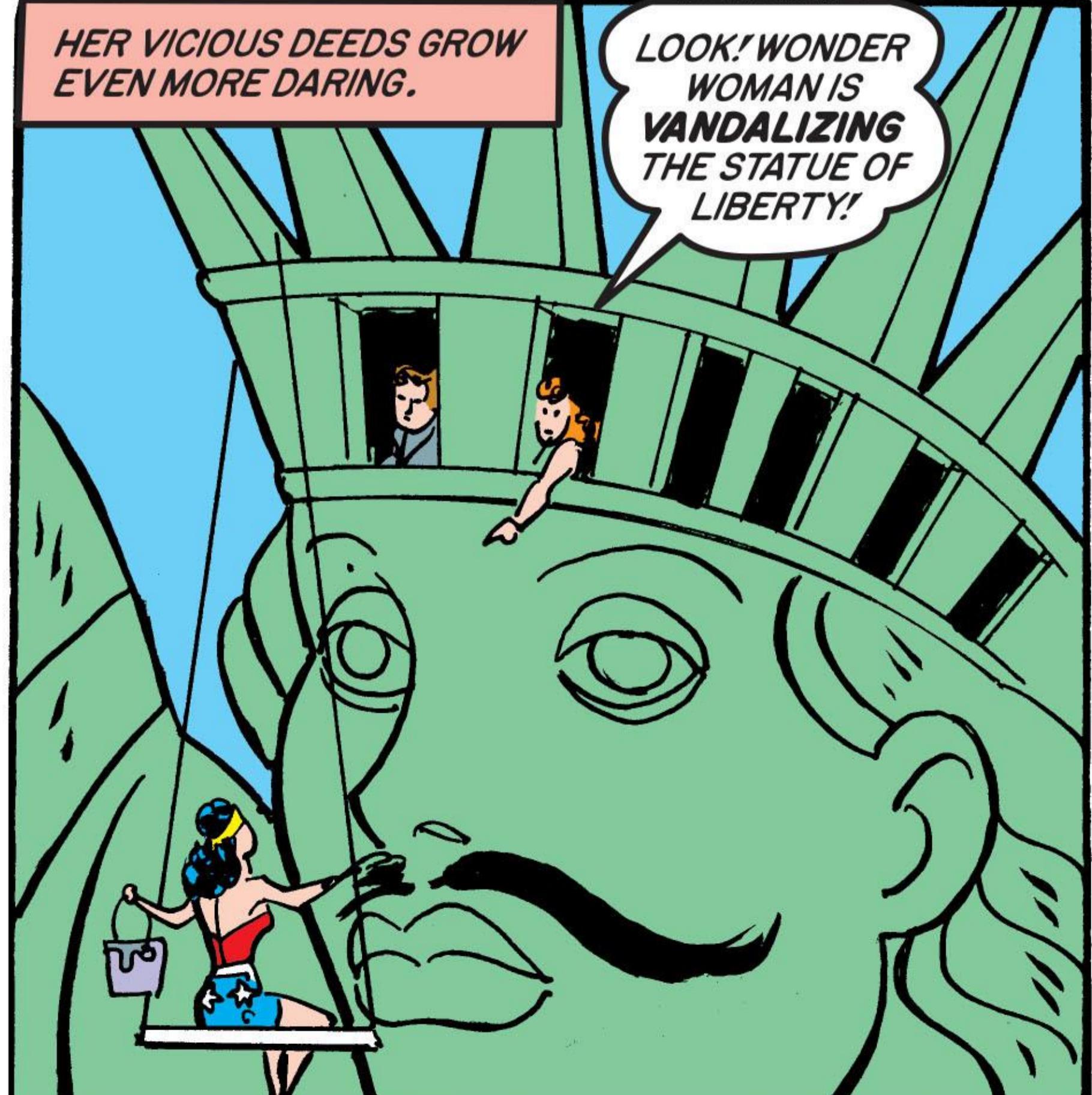
EMBOLDENED BY HER SUCCESS, SUPERBA CONTINUES HER RAMPAGE.

WE'LL HAVE TO CANCEL THE YACHT RACE! WONDER WOMAN KEEPS BLOWING US BACK TO THE STARTING LINE!



HER VIOCIOUS DEEDS GROW EVEN MORE DARING.

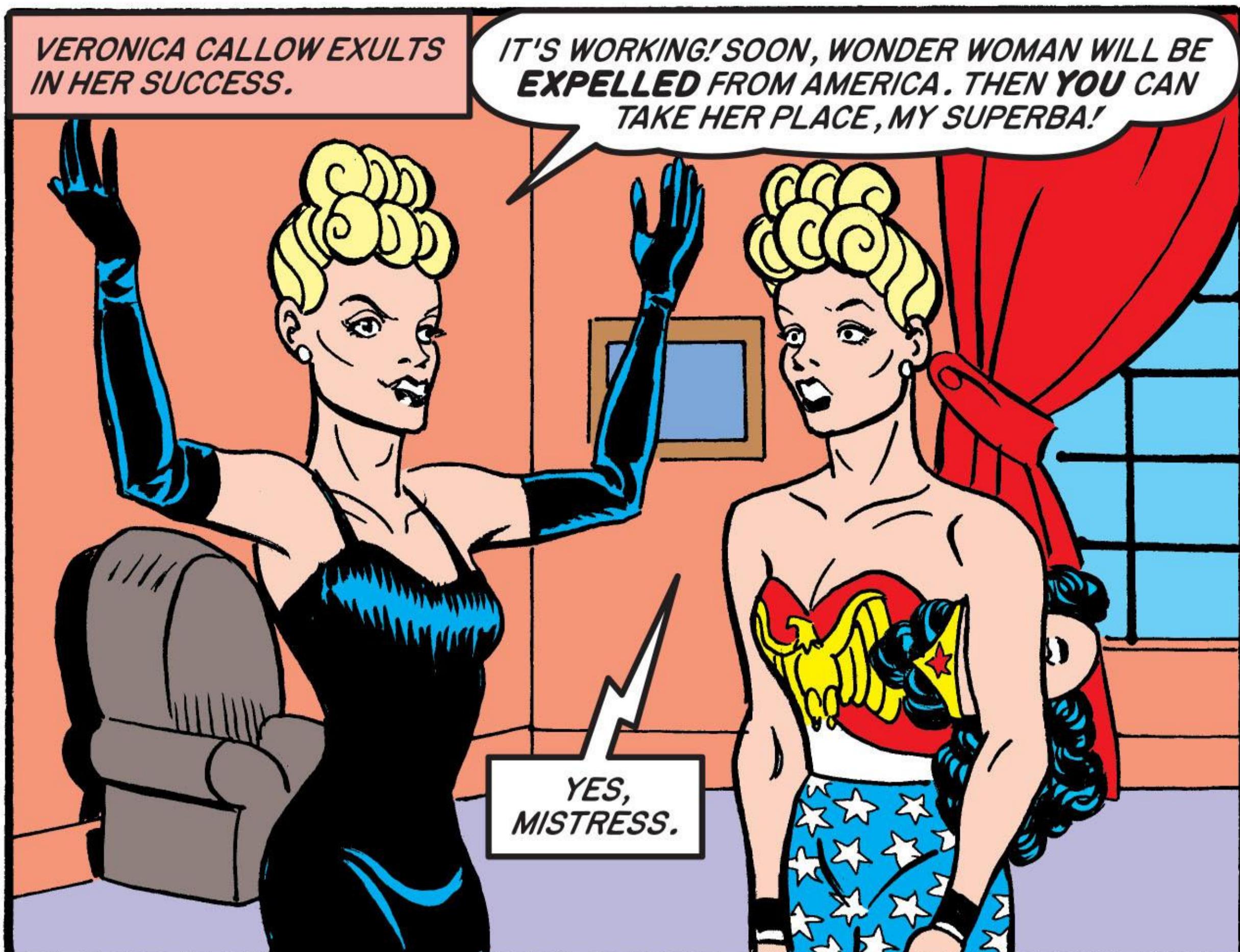
LOOK! WONDER WOMAN IS VANDALIZING THE STATUE OF LIBERTY!



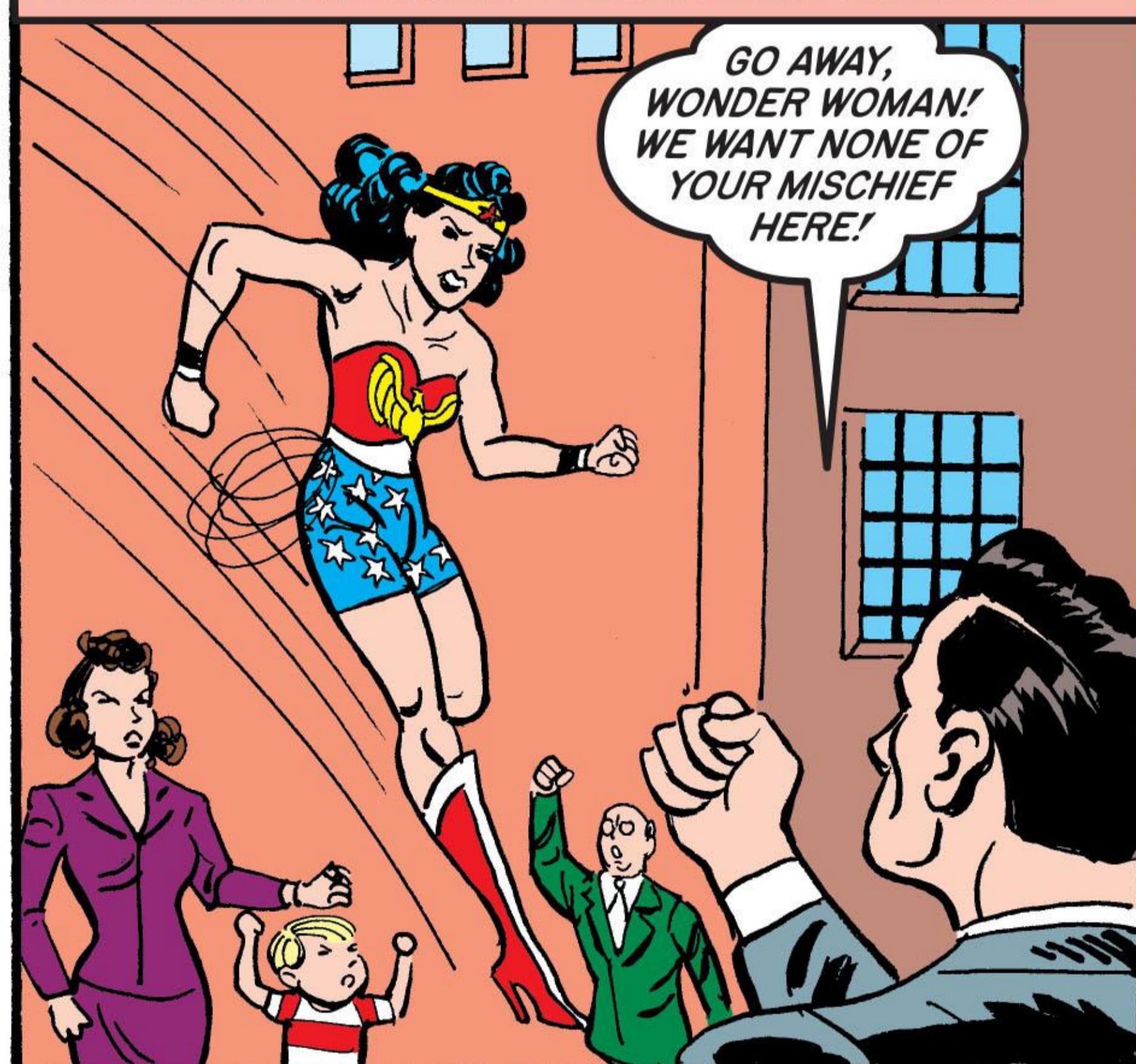
SOON, ALL AMERICA IS FORCED TO DRAW A TRAGIC CONCLUSION:



VERONICA CALLOW EXULTS IN HER SUCCESS.



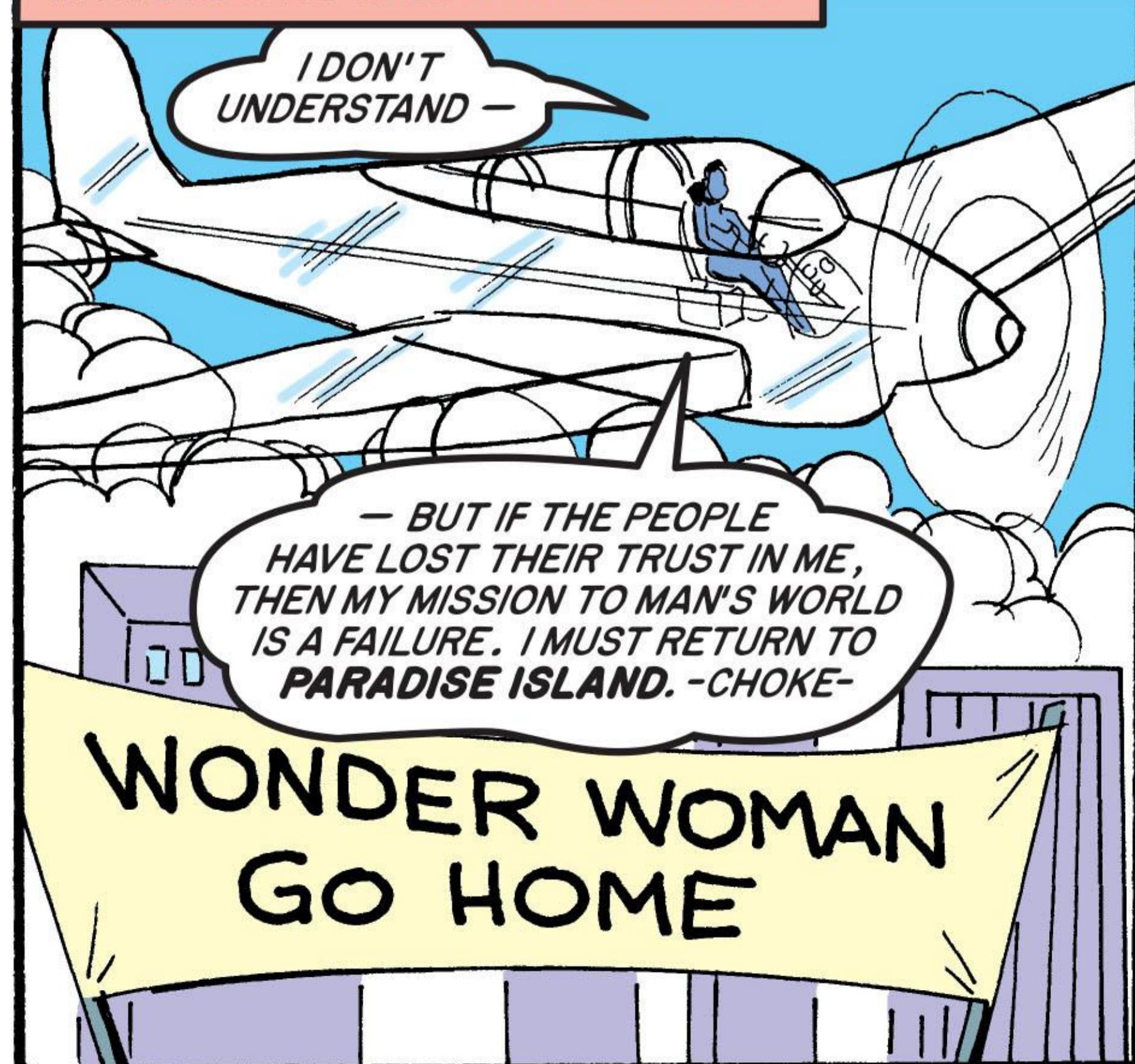
MEANWHILE, THE REAL WONDER WOMAN RETURNS FROM A MISSION, TO FACE A VERY UNEXPECTED WELCOME.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I JUST RETURNED FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION, WHERE I AIDED QUEEN TURVY-TOPSA OF UPSY-DAISYLAND!



EVERWHERE SHE GOES, OUR HEROINE IS CONFRONTED WITH EVIDENCE OF LOATHING FOR HER.



IN HER SECRET IDENTITY OF DIANA PRINCE, THE AMAZON CLEARS OUT HER DESK WITH A HEAVY HEART, ALL BUT UNNOTICED BY COL. STEVE TREVOR.



FINALLY, THE DREADFUL DAY YOU THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER SEE!

GOOD-BYE, AMERICA. MY HOPES AND PRAYERS WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU —!

LATER, NOT KNOWING SHE HAS ALREADY WON, VERONICA CALLOW SENDS HER SUPER-ROBOT OUT FOR MORE DEVILTRY.

GO, SUPERBA — THIS TIME TO WONDER WOMAN'S CLOSEST FRIENDS. YOU MUST TURN THEM AGAINST HER!

I OBEY.

AND SO, STEVE RECEIVES THE VISIT HE'S BEEN LONGING FOR.

WONDER WOMAN! GOSH, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU.

NEVER MIND THAT, STEVE. WHY DON'T YOU JUST KISS ME?

LITTLE DO STEVE AND SUPERBA REALIZE THEY'RE BEING SPIED ON BY THE HOLLIDAY GIRLS!

TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT ALL THOSE AWFUL RUMORS —

WELL, WE SURE FOUND WONDER WOMAN!

WONDER WOMAN, YOU MUST GO — YOU DON'T SEEM YOURSELF — YOU'RE CONFUSED — !

PSST — GIRLS! LET'S FOLLOW HER!

MINUTES LATER, BACK AT VERONICA'S APARTMENT —

I HAVE RETURNED, MISTRESS, AND I —

WOO WOO! I KNEW THAT BRAZEN HUSSY WASN'T THE REAL MCCOY!

SEIZE THEM!

MEANWHILE, ON PARADISE ISLAND AND THE NOW-RETired PRINCESS DIANA SEEKS A FAVOR FROM HER MOTHER, QUEEN HIPPOlyTE.

MOTHER, WHEN I LEFT AMERICA, I FORGOT TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO ETTA CANDY AND THE HOLLIDAY GIRLS. CAN YOU LOCATE THEM ON THE MAGIC SPHERE?

CERTAINLY, DAUGHTER.



BUT THE SPHERE REVEALS A SCENE DIANA COULD NEVER HAVE DREAMED OF!

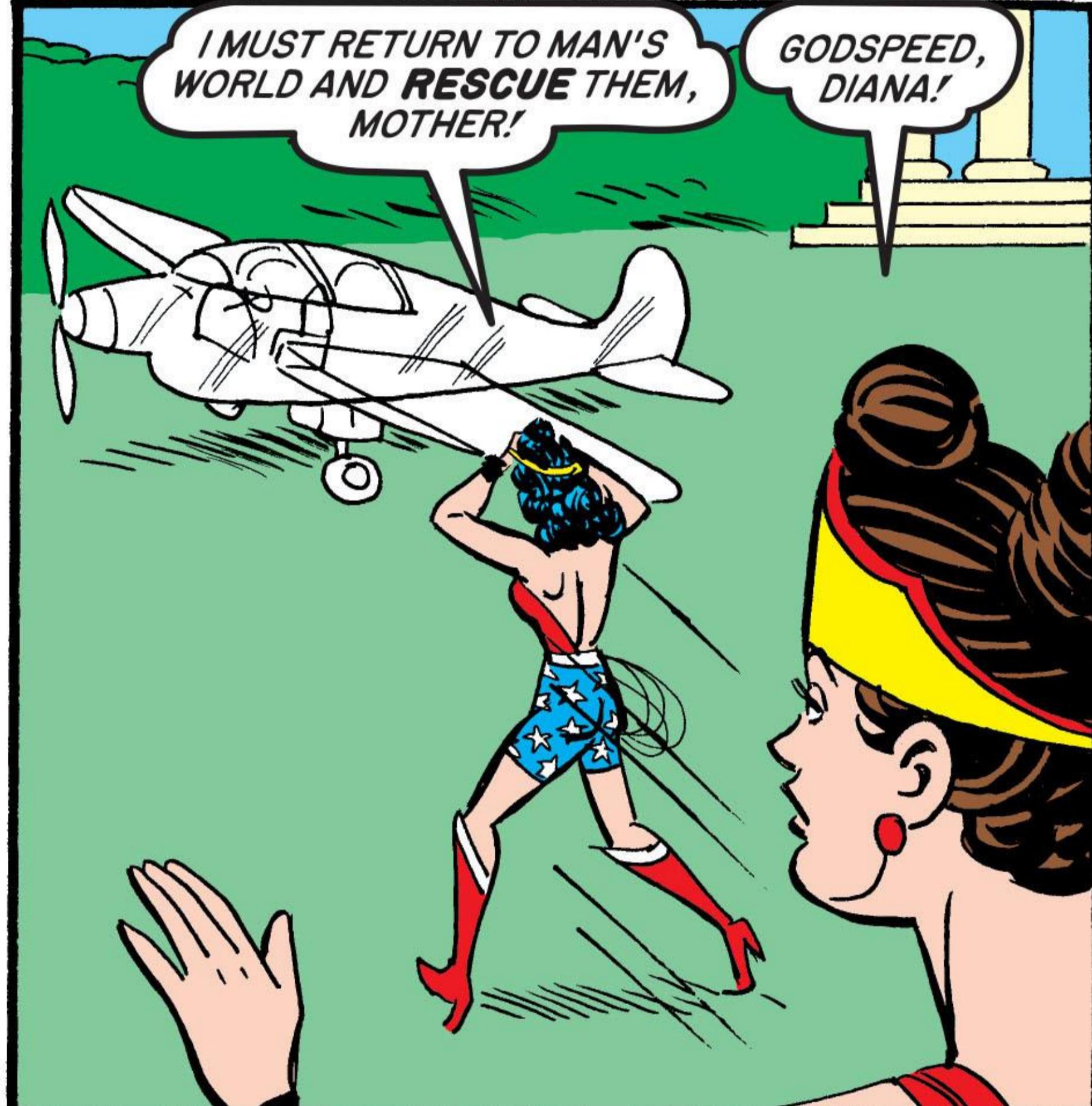
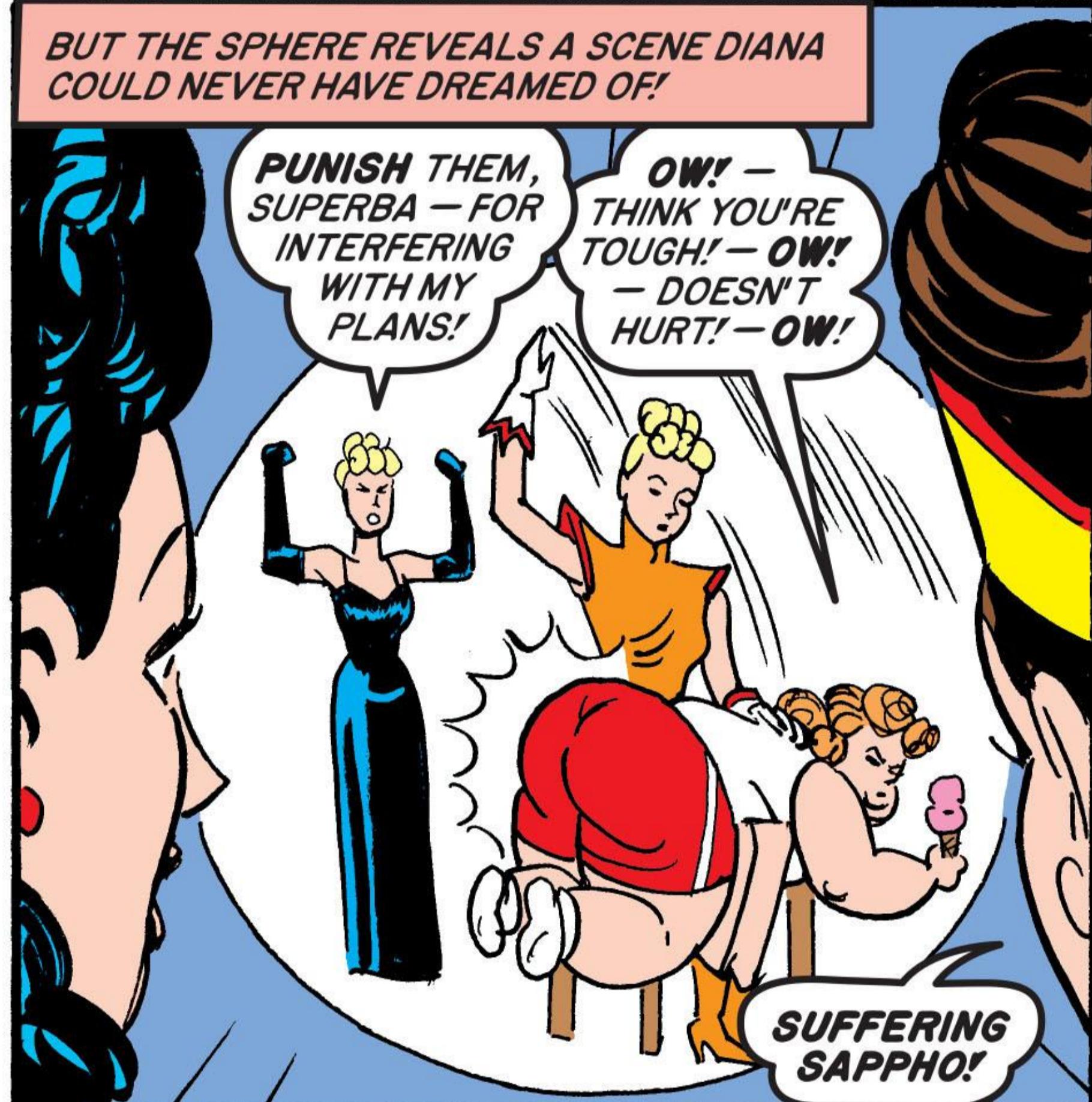
PUNISH THEM, SUPERBA — FOR INTERFERING WITH MY PLANS!

OW! — THINK YOU'RE TOUGH! — OW! — DOESN'T HURT! — OW!

SUFFERING SAPPHO!

I MUST RETURN TO MAN'S WORLD AND RESCUE THEM, MOTHER!

GODSPEED, DIANA!



WITH LIGHTNING SWIFTNESS, THE AMAZING AMAZON ARRIVES ON THE SCENE.

RELEASE THOSE GIRLS AT ONCE!

WONDER WOMAN!

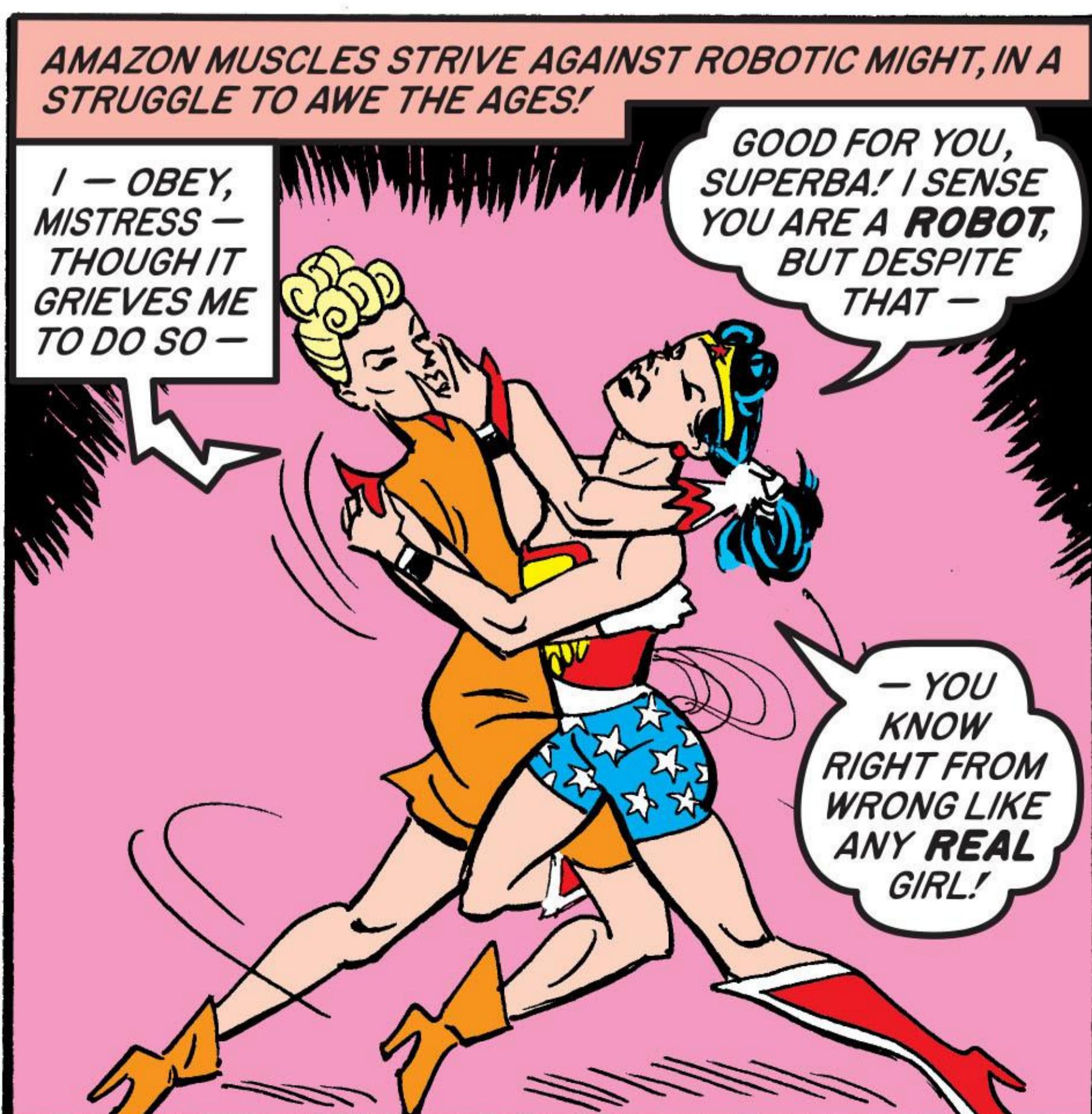
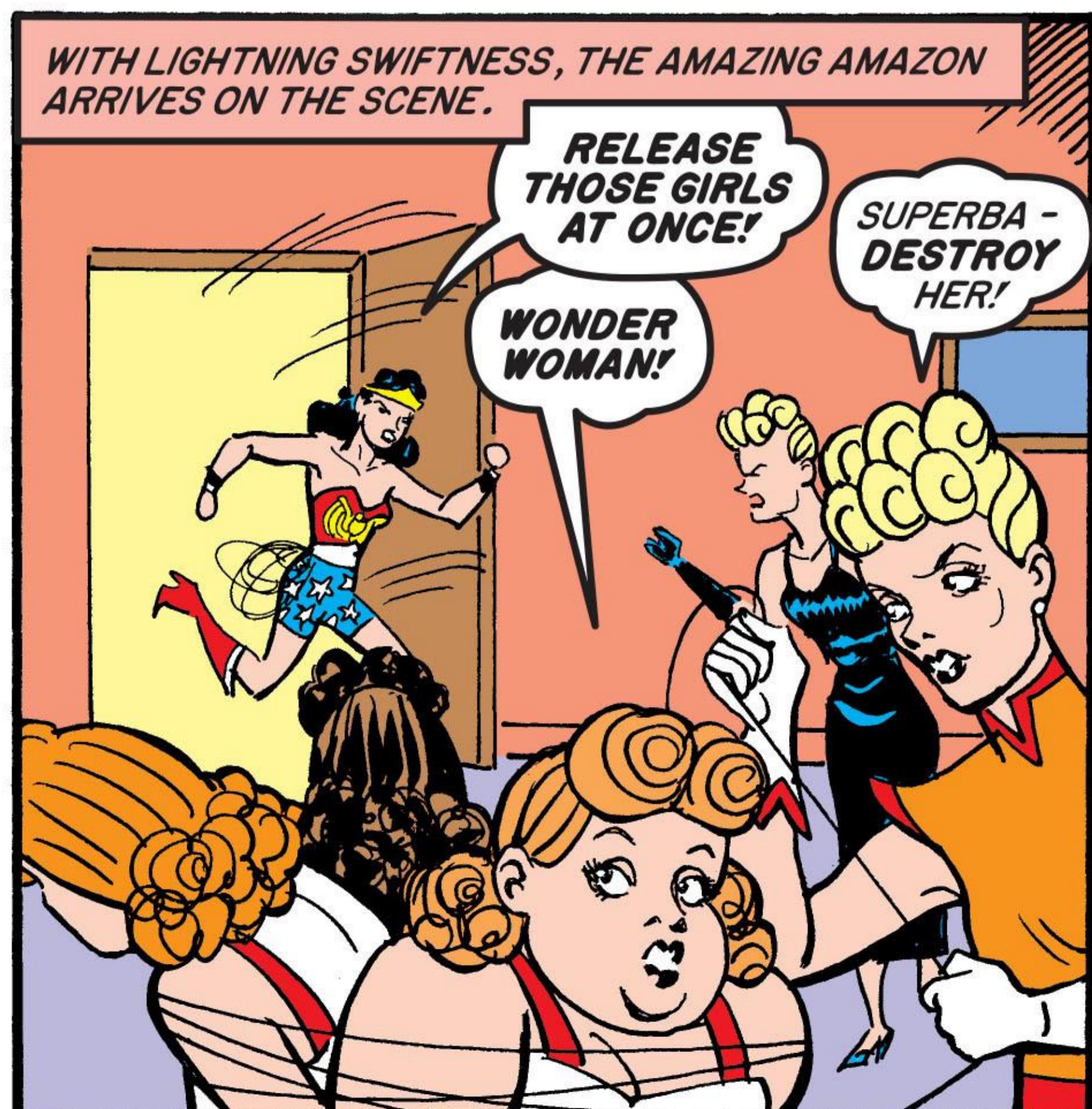
SUPERBA — DESTROY HER!

AMAZON MUSCLES STRIVE AGAINST ROBOTIC MIGHT, IN A STRUGGLE TO AWE THE AGES!

I — OBEY, MISTRESS — THOUGH IT GRIEVES ME TO DO SO —

GOOD FOR YOU, SUPERBA! I SENSE YOU ARE A ROBOT, BUT DESPITE THAT —

— YOU KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG LIKE ANY REAL GIRL!



SUPERBA GAINS AN ADVANTAGE –  
BUT WONDER WOMAN NEVER GIVES  
IN!

I MAY BE A ROBOT –  
BUT I WISH I WERE  
A REAL GIRL –

I WILL NOT  
FIGHT YOU,  
WONDER  
WOMAN.  
YOU ARE  
NOBLE.

BAH! I'LL KILL  
HER MYSELF!

BLAM!

BLAM!

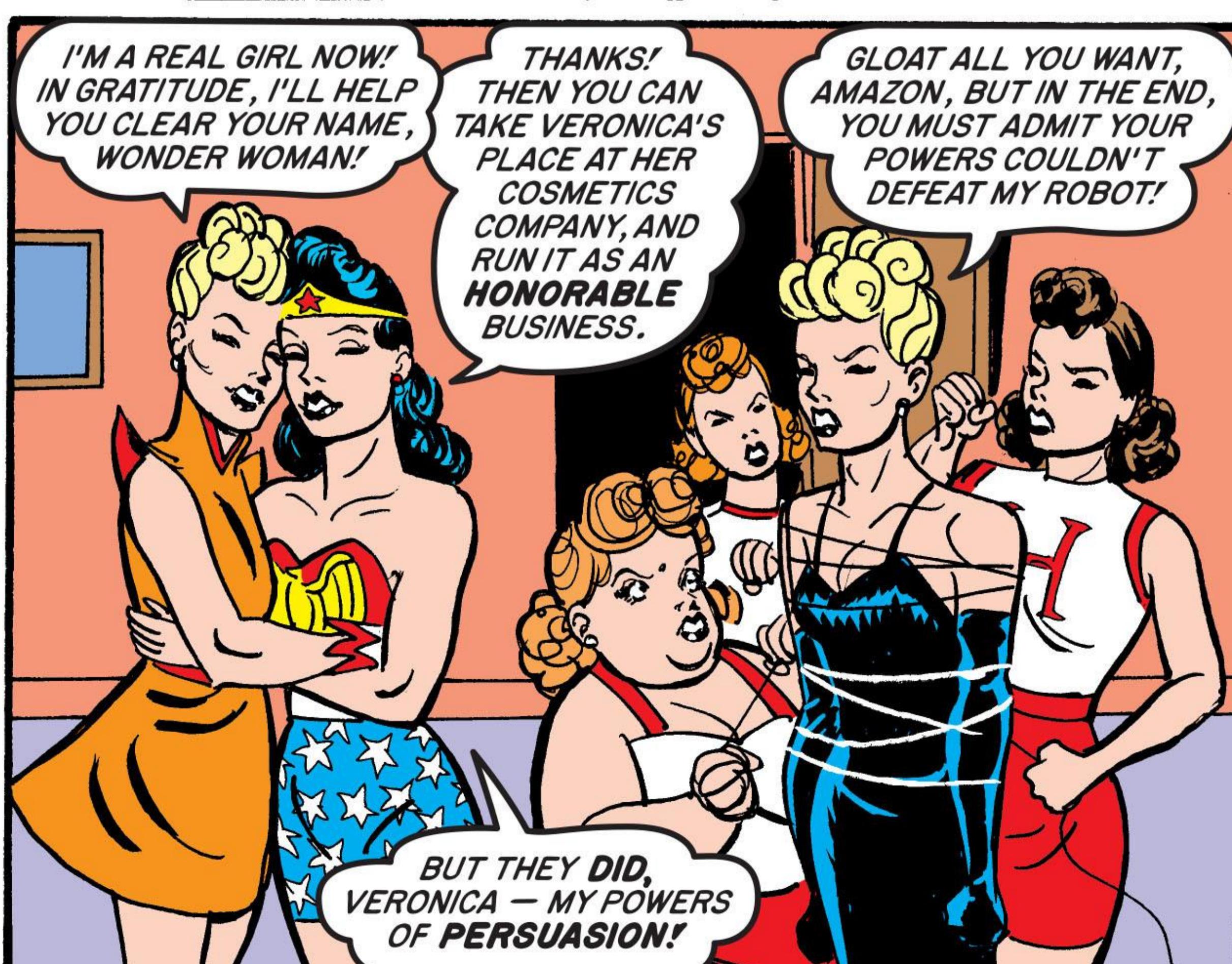
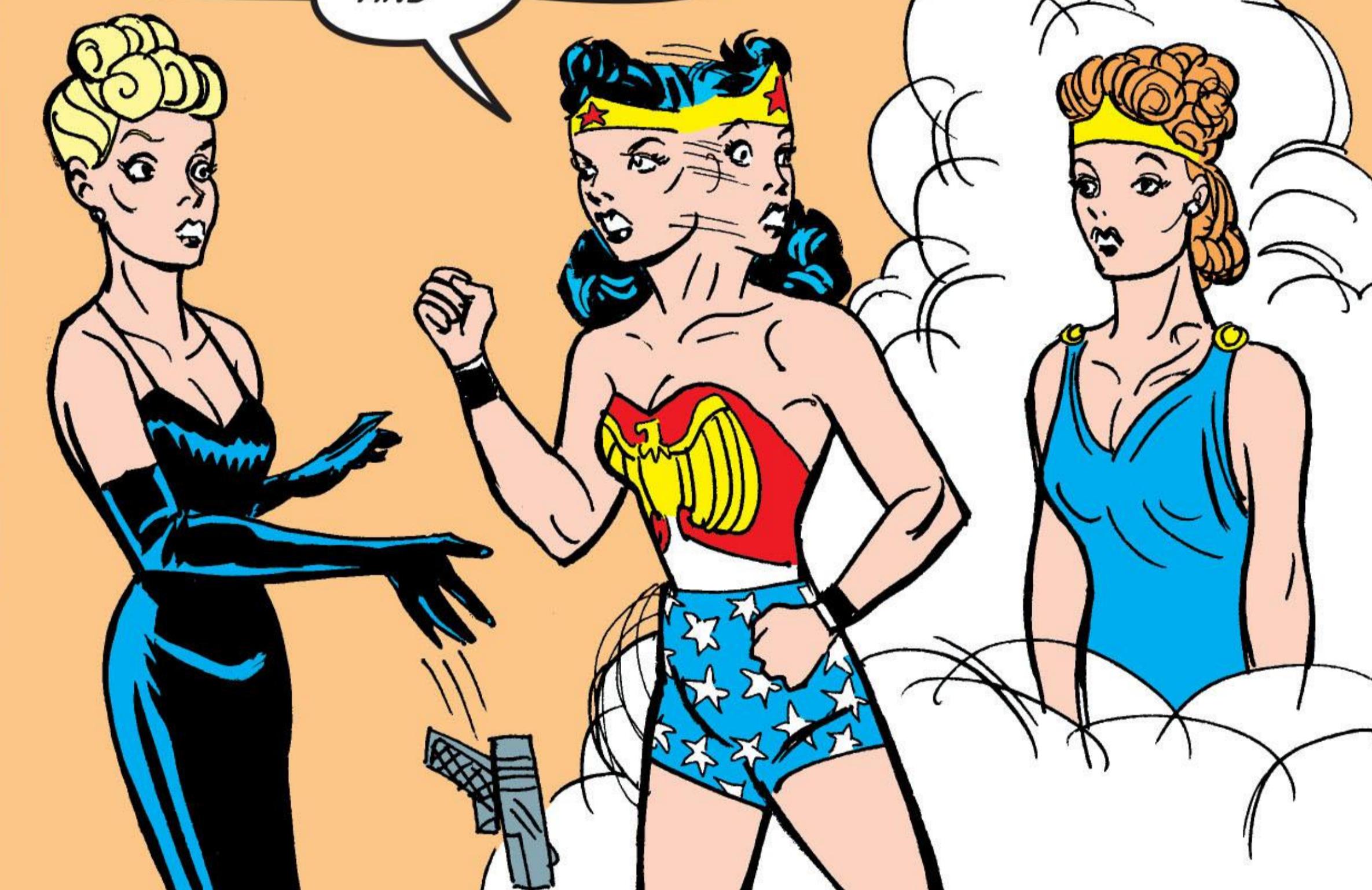
BELIEVE ME, SUPERBA –  
IF YOU CAN WISH IT, IT CAN BE  
SO! NO DREAM IS OUT OF REACH  
TO SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES  
IN HERSELF!

GUESS OL'  
VERONICA NEVER  
HEARD OF BULLETS  
AND BRACELETS!

THE JIG'S UP, VERONICA! I'LL SEND YOU TO  
PARADISE ISLAND WHERE AMAZON SCIENCE  
WILL REFORM YOUR EVIL WAYS  
AND –

– EH? THE GODDESS  
APHRODITE!

I HEARD THE WISH OF THIS WORTHY  
ROBOT, AND JUST AS I GRANTED LIFE  
TO THE STATUE OF PYGMALION, I  
WILL DO SO NOW. BUT SUPERBA  
MUST UNDERSTAND THAT SHE WILL  
LOSE HER FANTASTIC POWERS  
WHEN SHE BECOMES  
HUMAN.

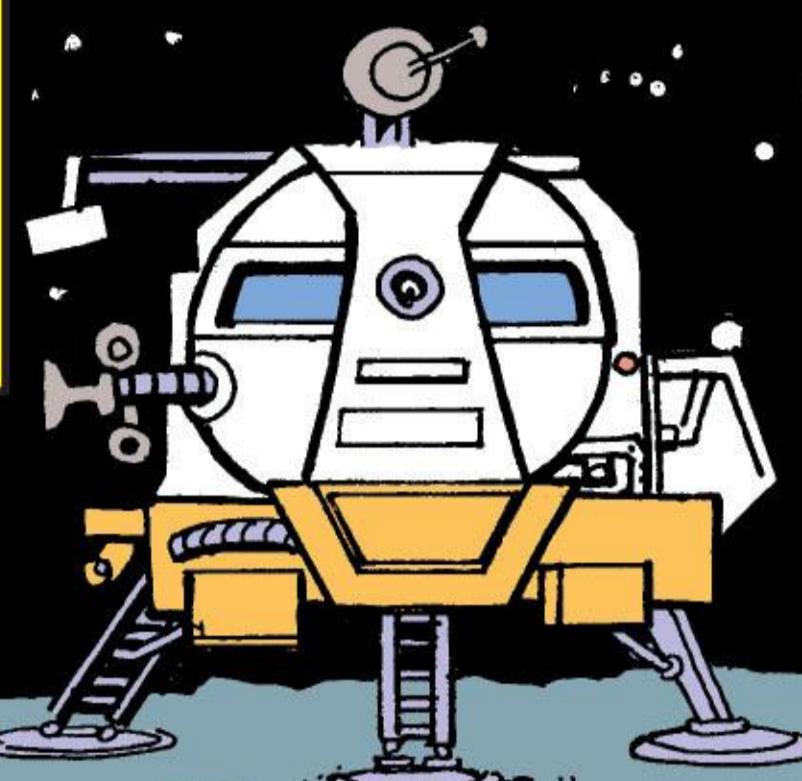




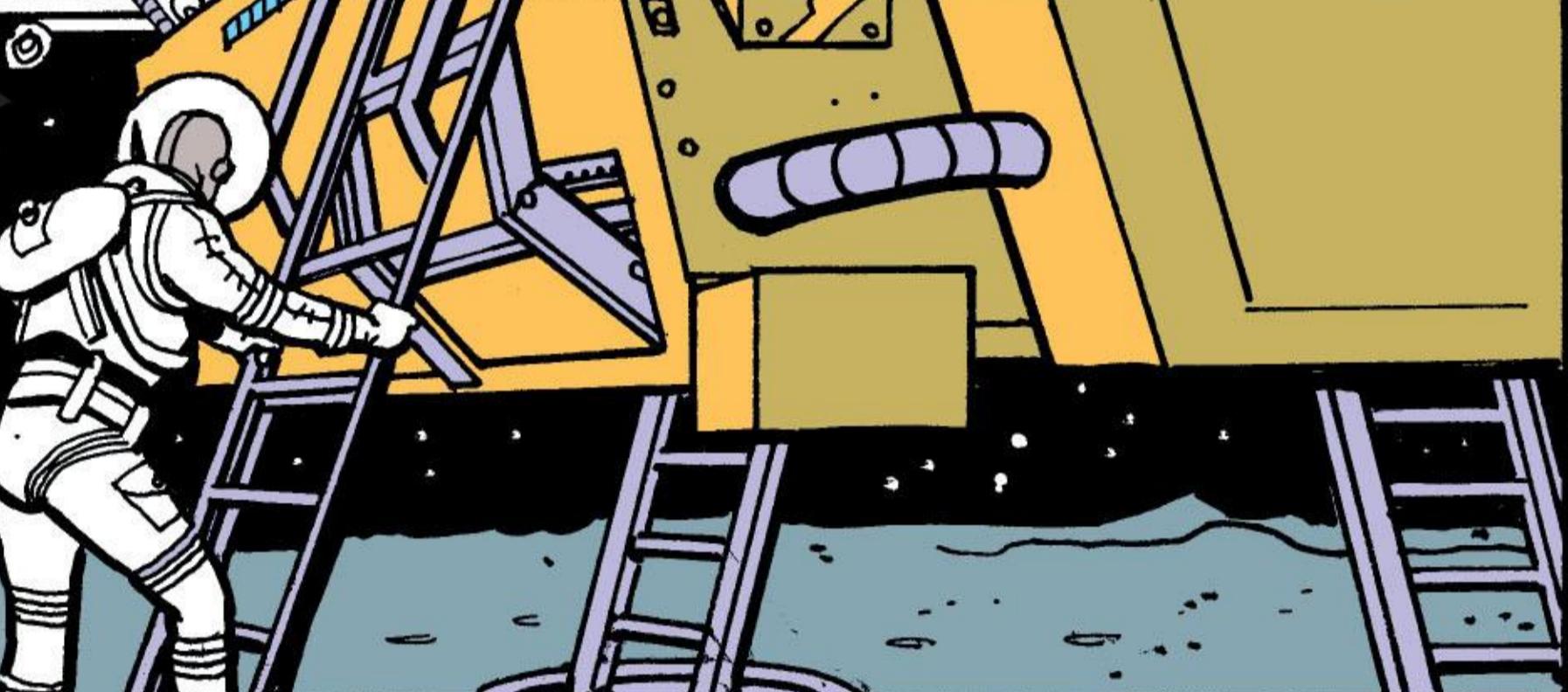
THE MOON! A MAGNIFICENT ORB IN SPACE! SYMBOL OF THE VIRGIN GODDESS ARTEMIS! A PARADISE UNTOUCHED BY MAN...

...UNTIL TODAY!

FOR TODAY IS THE DAY THAT AIR FORCE COLONEL STEVE TREVOR SETS FOOT ON THIS MYSTERIOUS SATELLITE! HE IS THE FIRST PERSON ON THE MOON!



HOUSTON, I'M JUST ABOUT TO SET FOOT ON THE LUNAR SOIL! AND LET ME TELL YOU, IT LOOKS NOTHING LIKE GREEN CHEESE...



OR PERHAPS NOT THE FIRST!

OH MY GOD! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

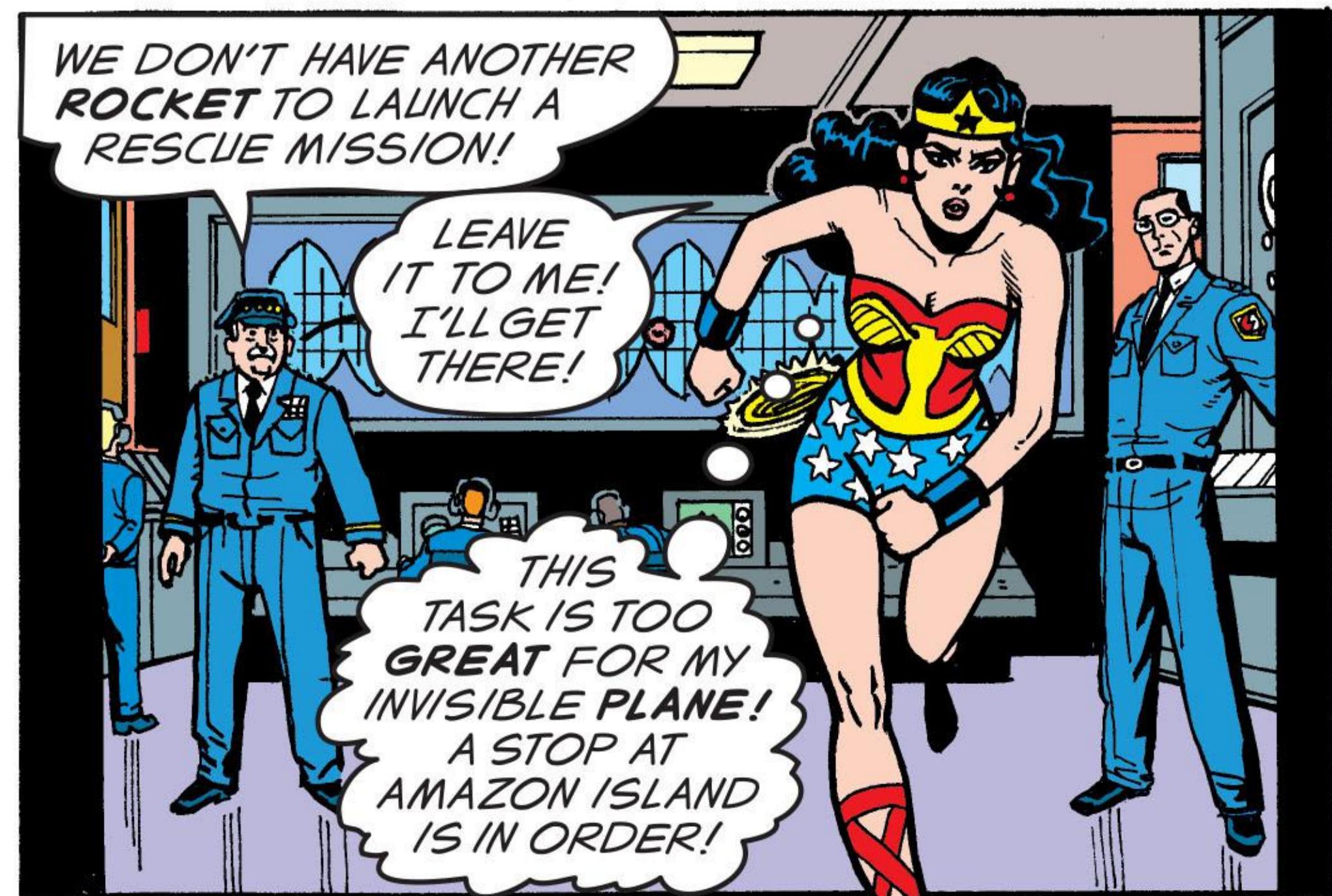


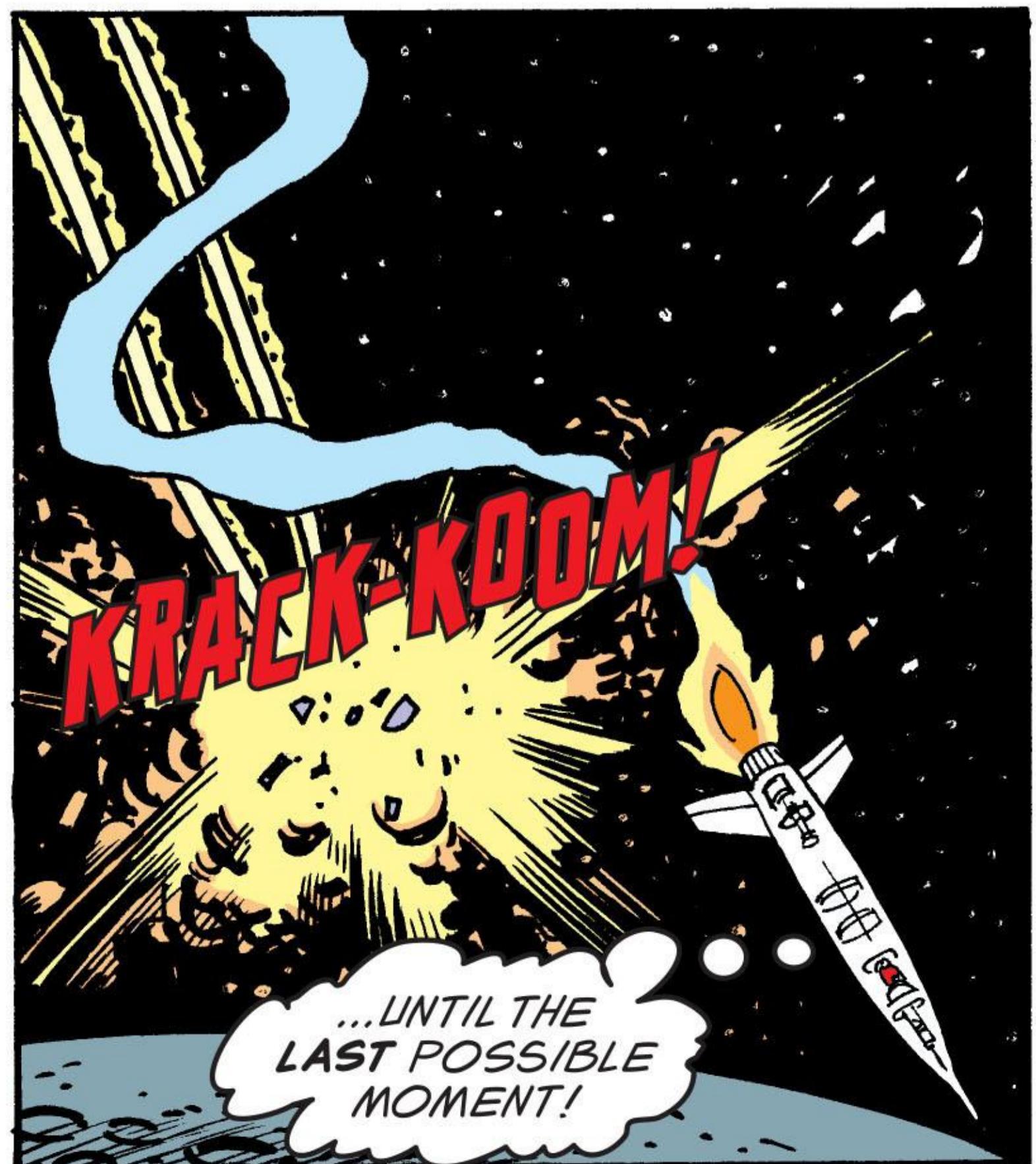
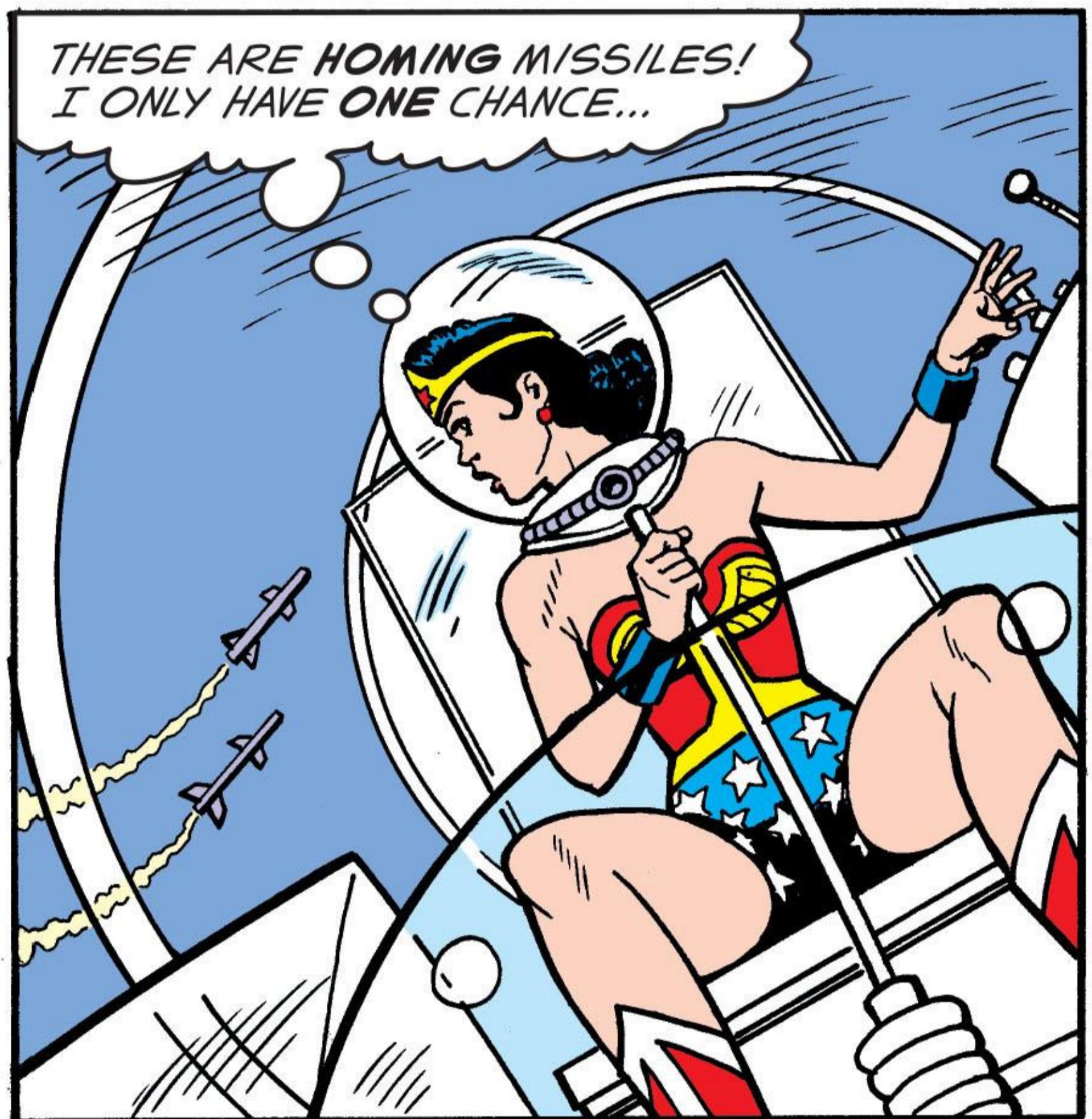
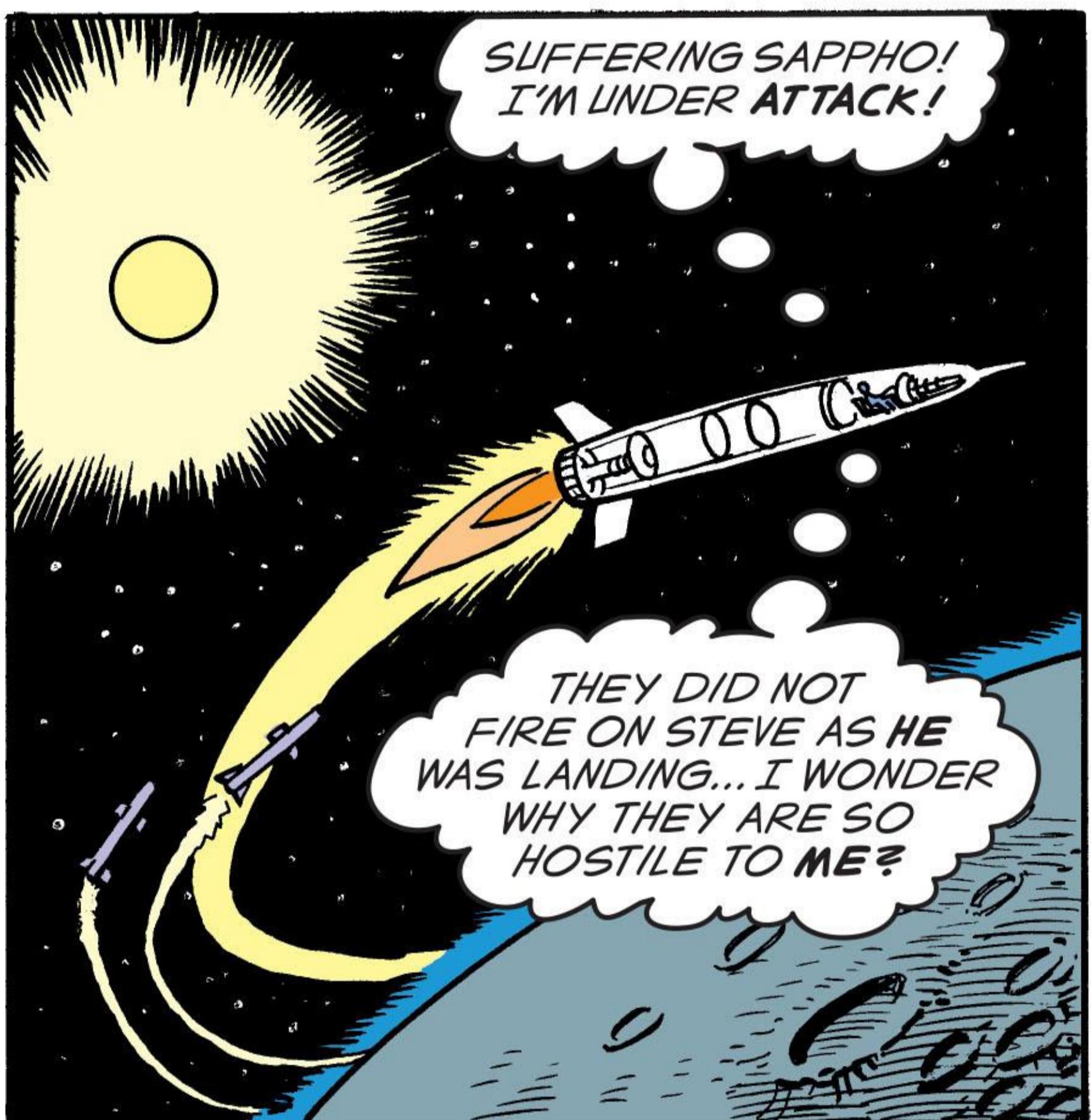
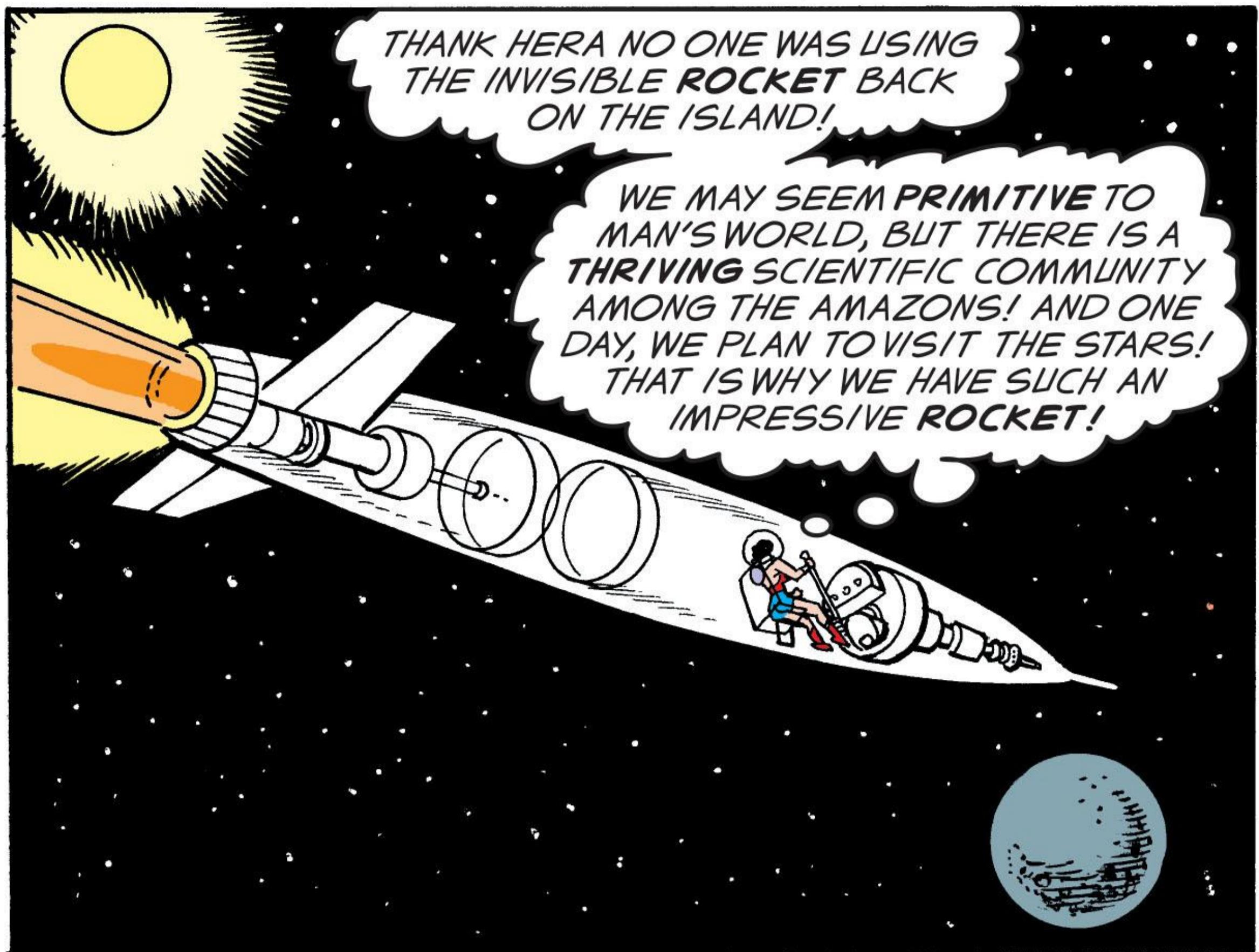
DEAR READERS-- WHENEVER WE CAN WE BRING YOU THE MOST ASTONISHING ADVENTURES OF WONDER WOMAN, BUT SOMETIMES THEY ARE SO STARTLING THAT WE HESITATE! BUT NOW, WE CAN NO LONGER HOLD BACK FROM YOU THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF...

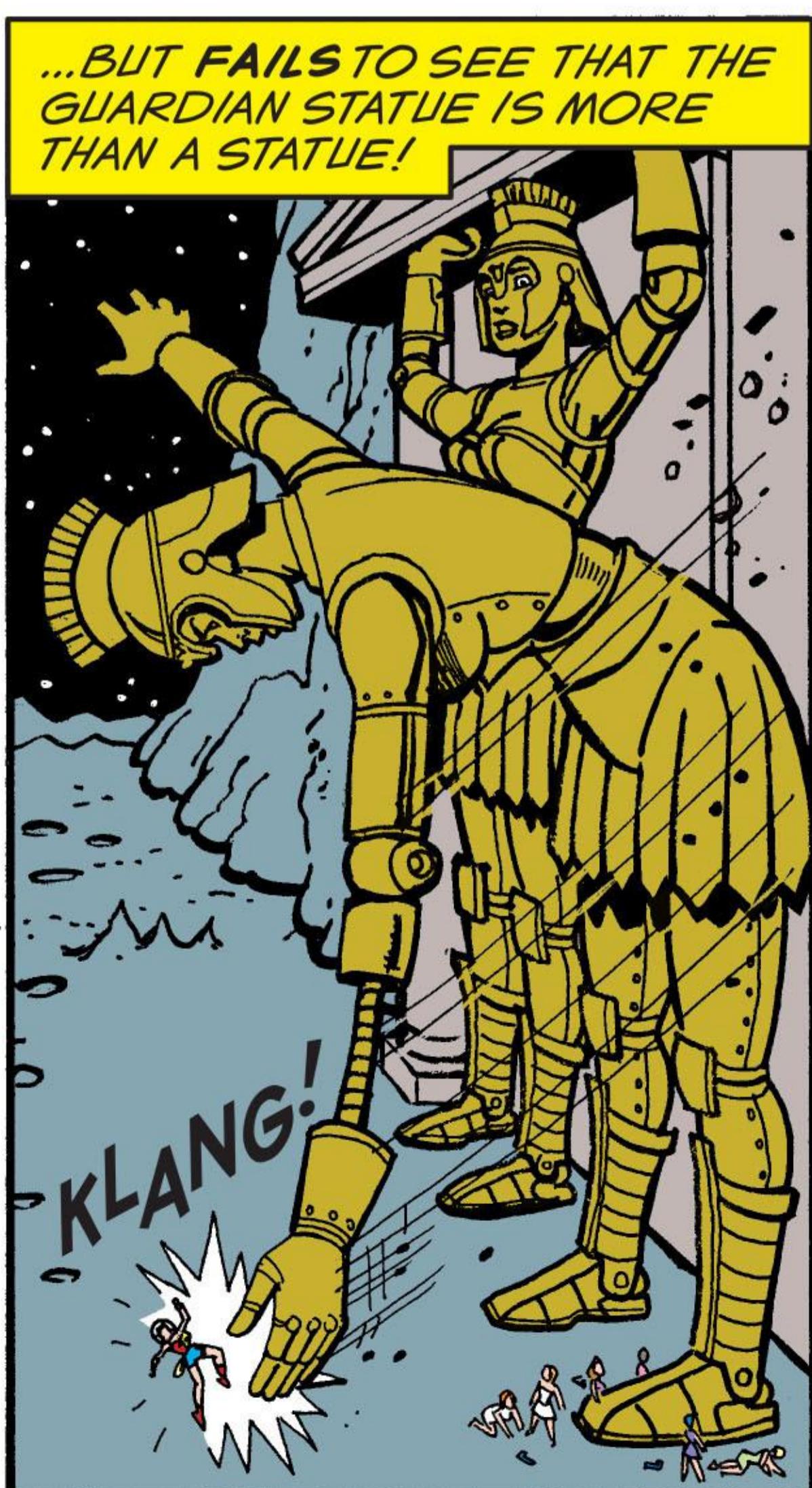
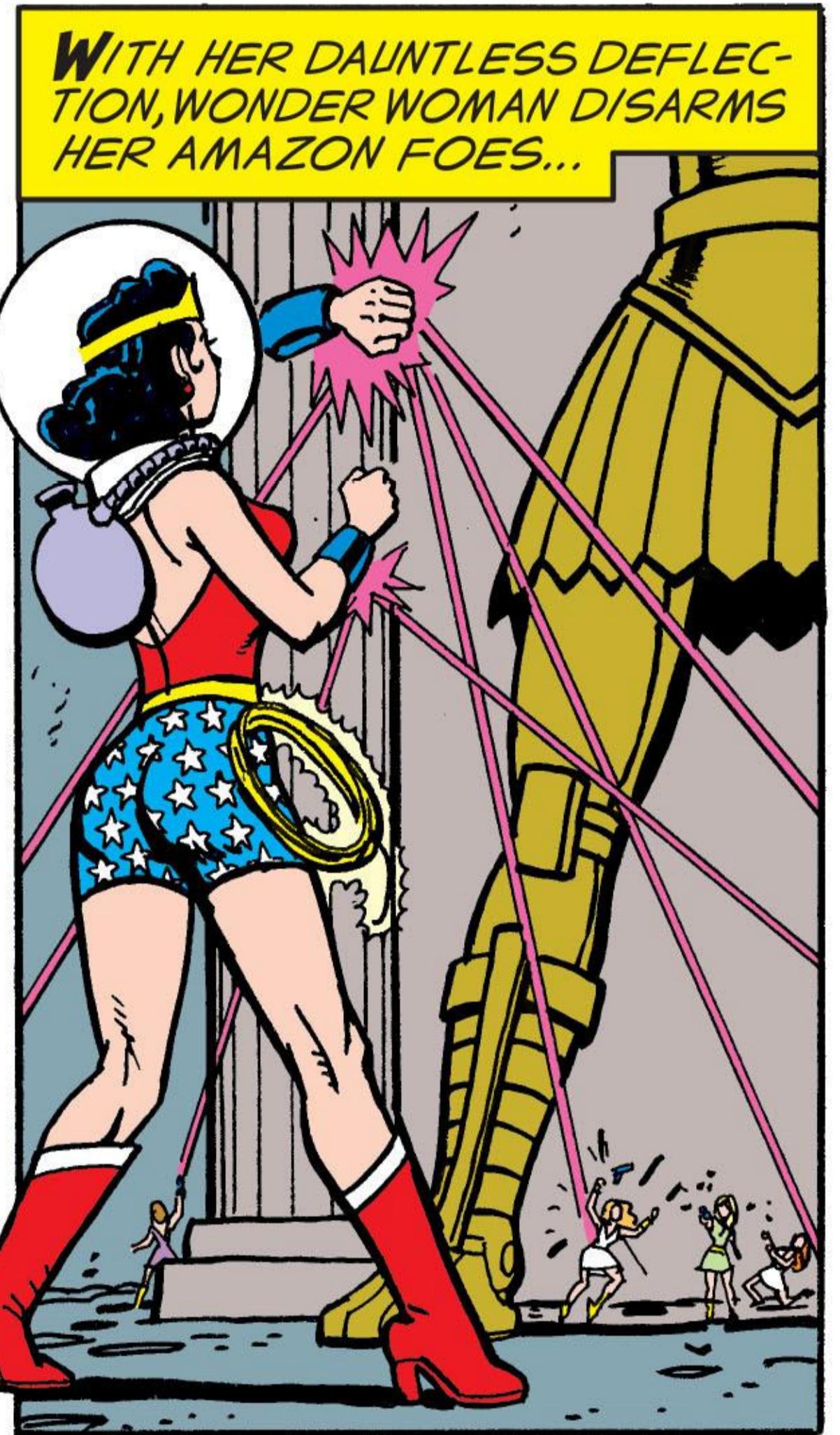
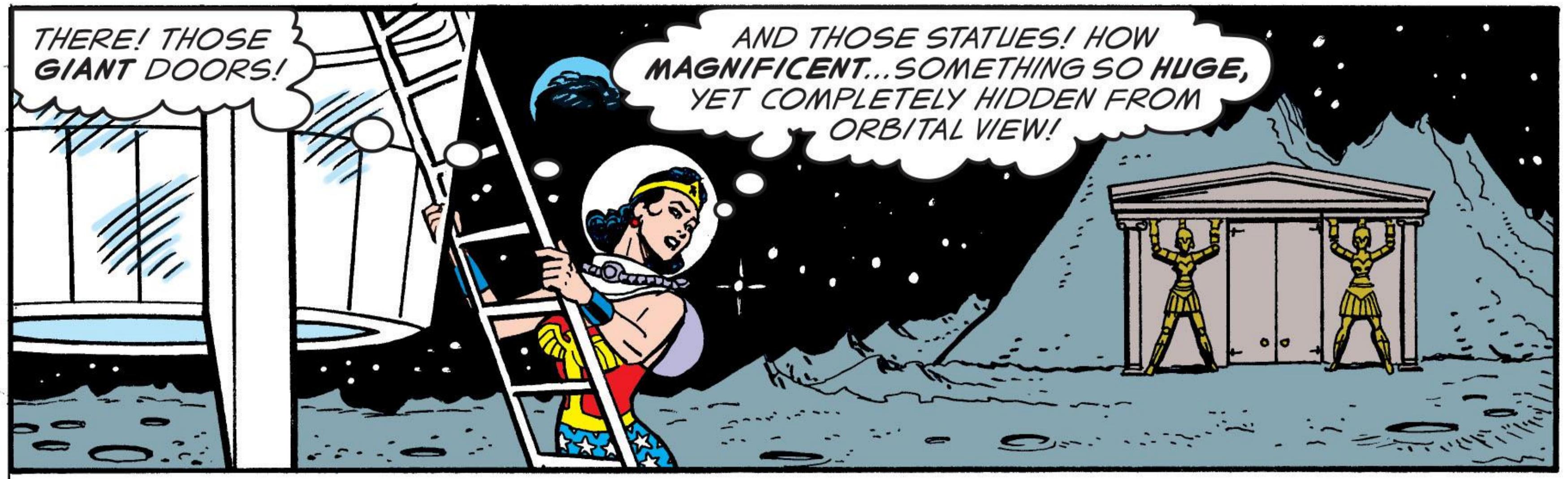
# AMAZON WOMEN ON THE MOON!

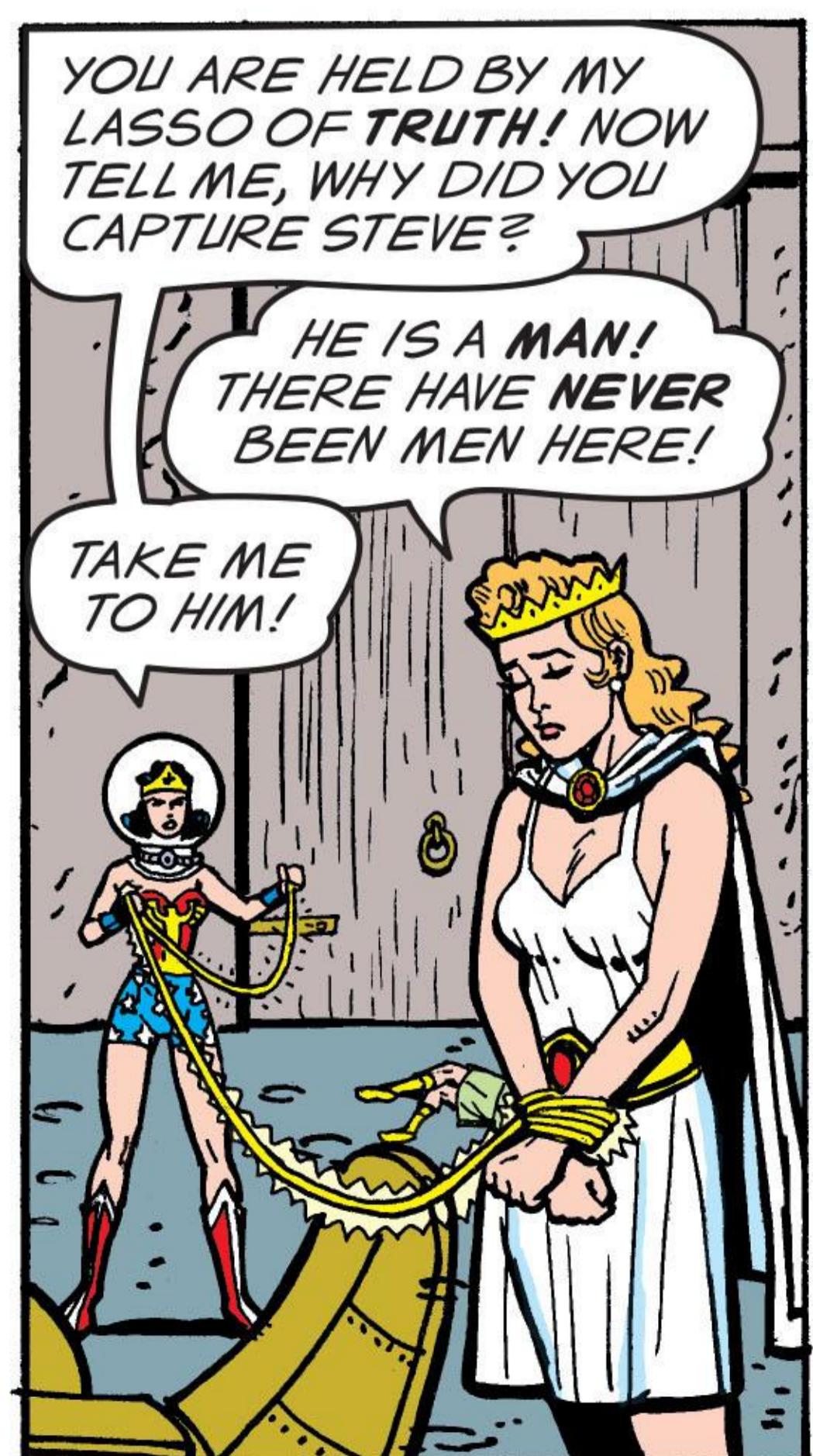
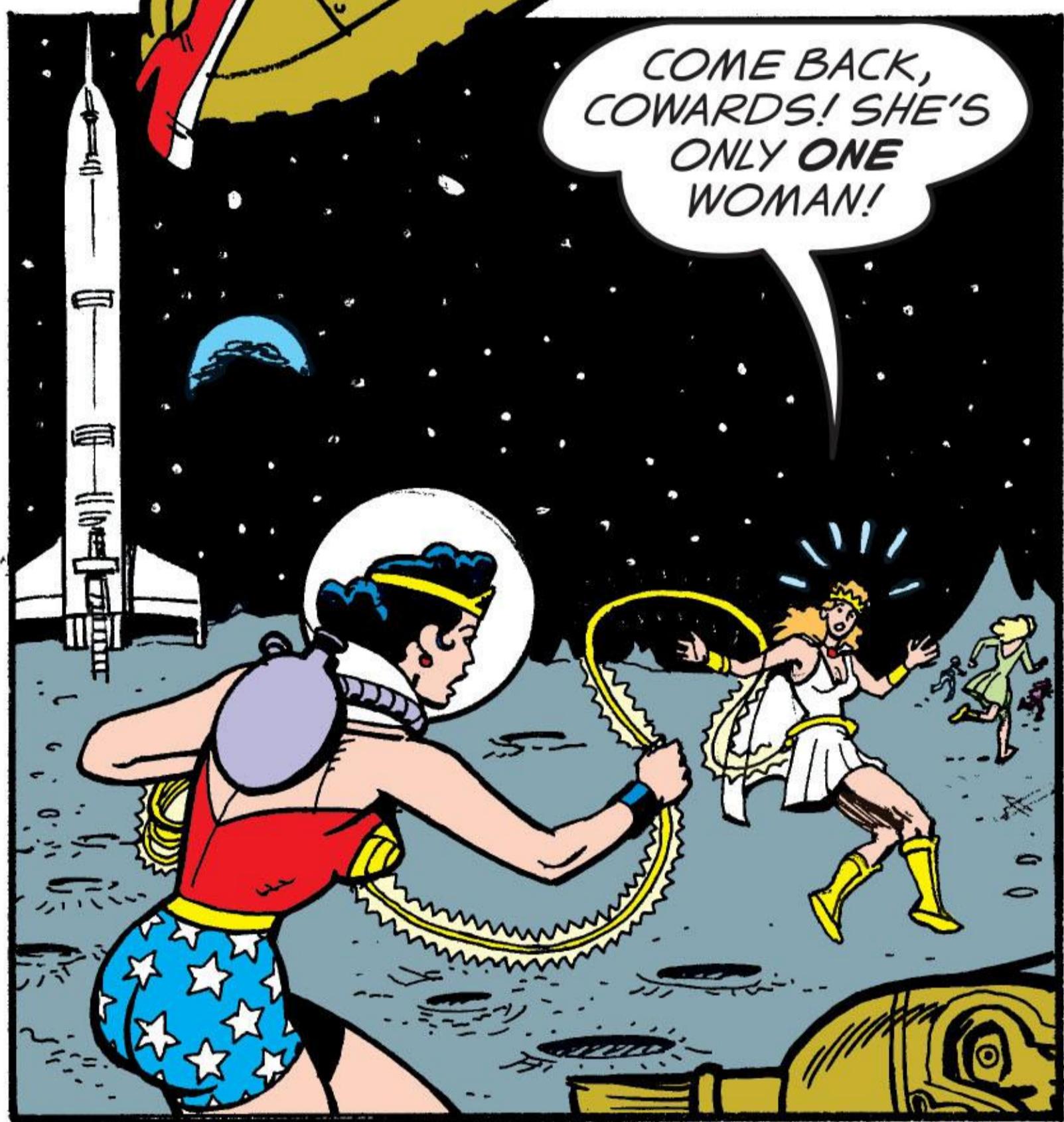
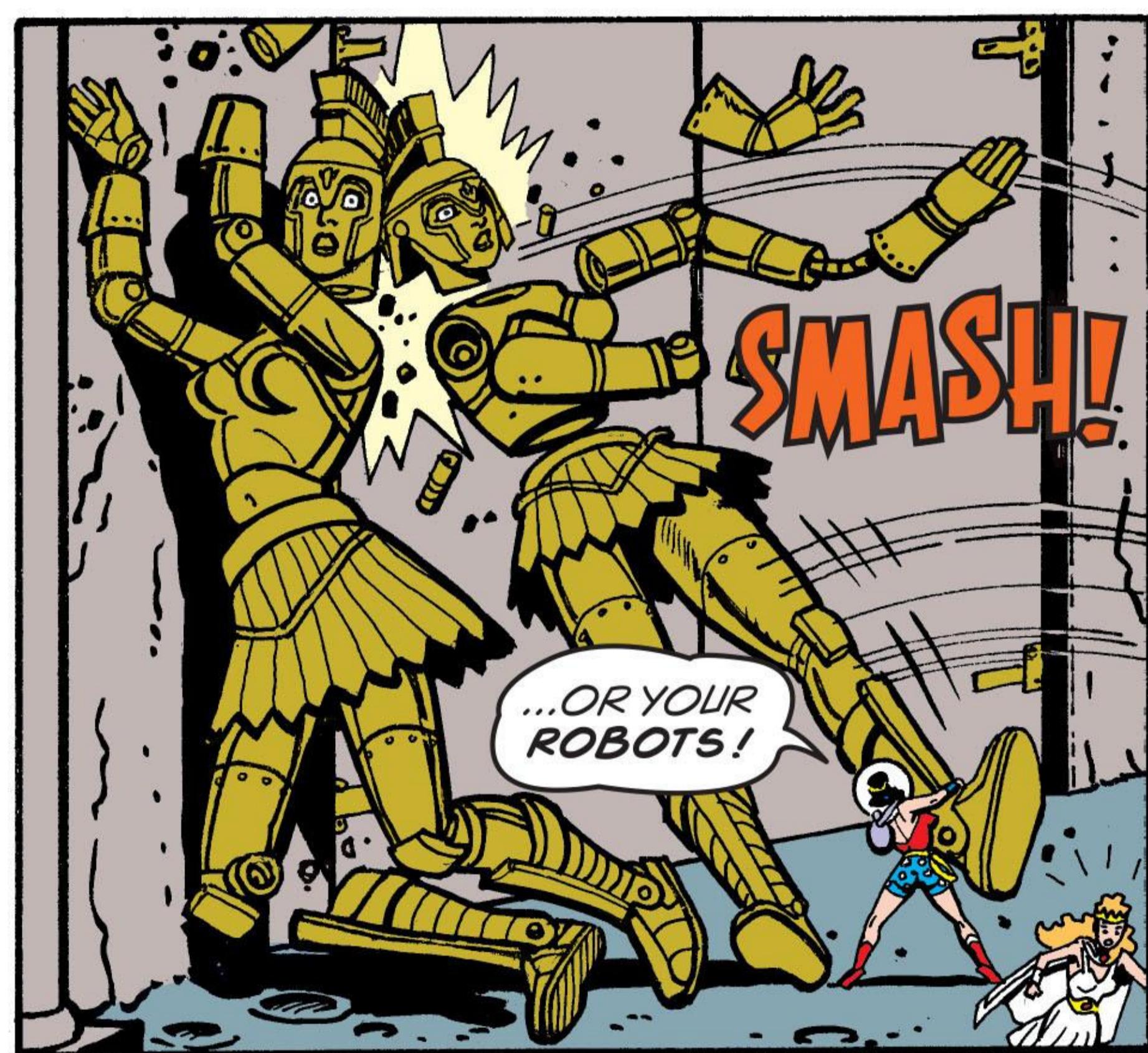
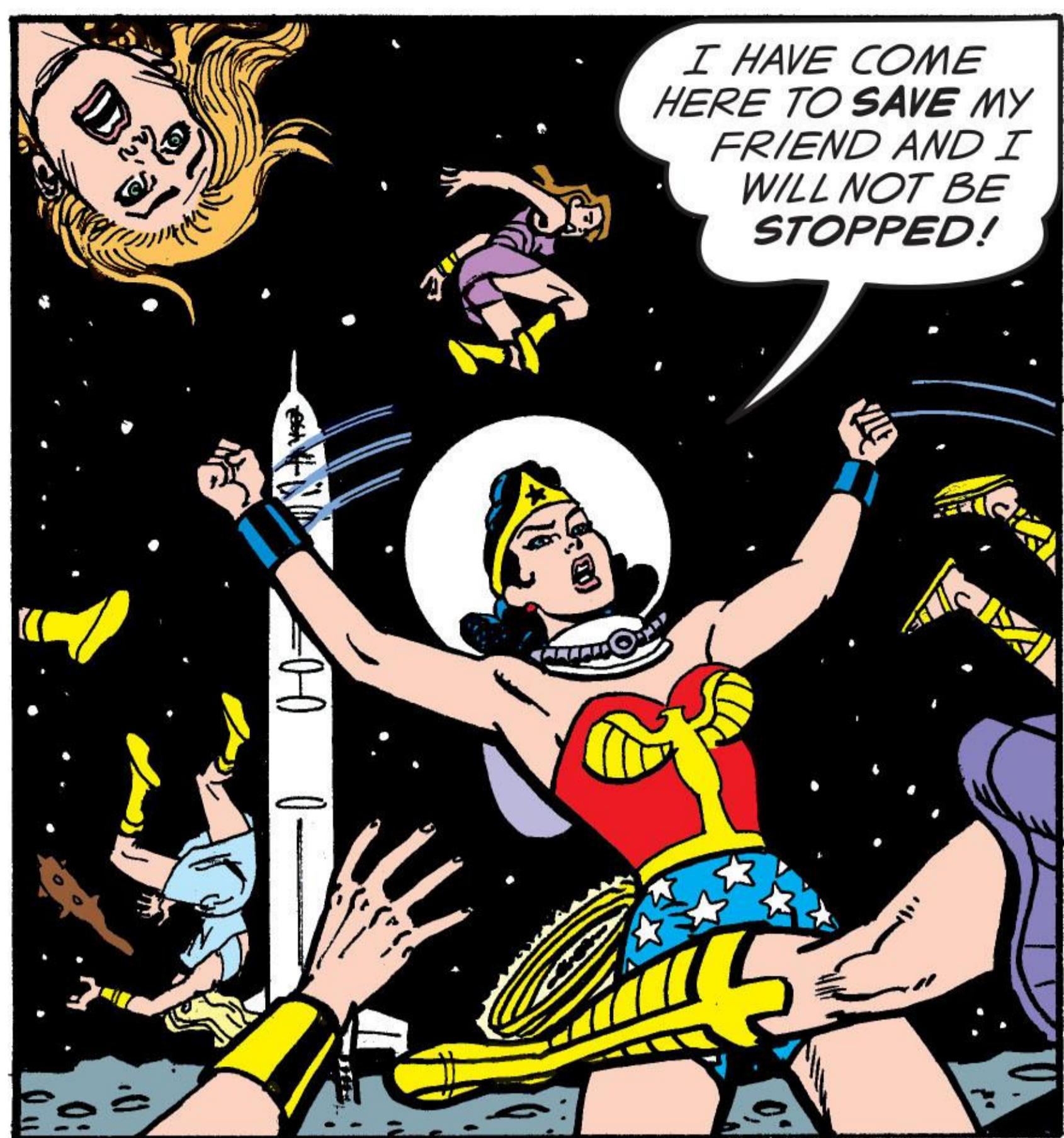
NUNZIO DEFILIPPIS & CHRISTINA WEIR / TY TEMPLETON / TOM MCCRAW / TODD KLEIN / IVAN COHEN  
WRITERS ARTIST ARTIST LETTERS EDITOR

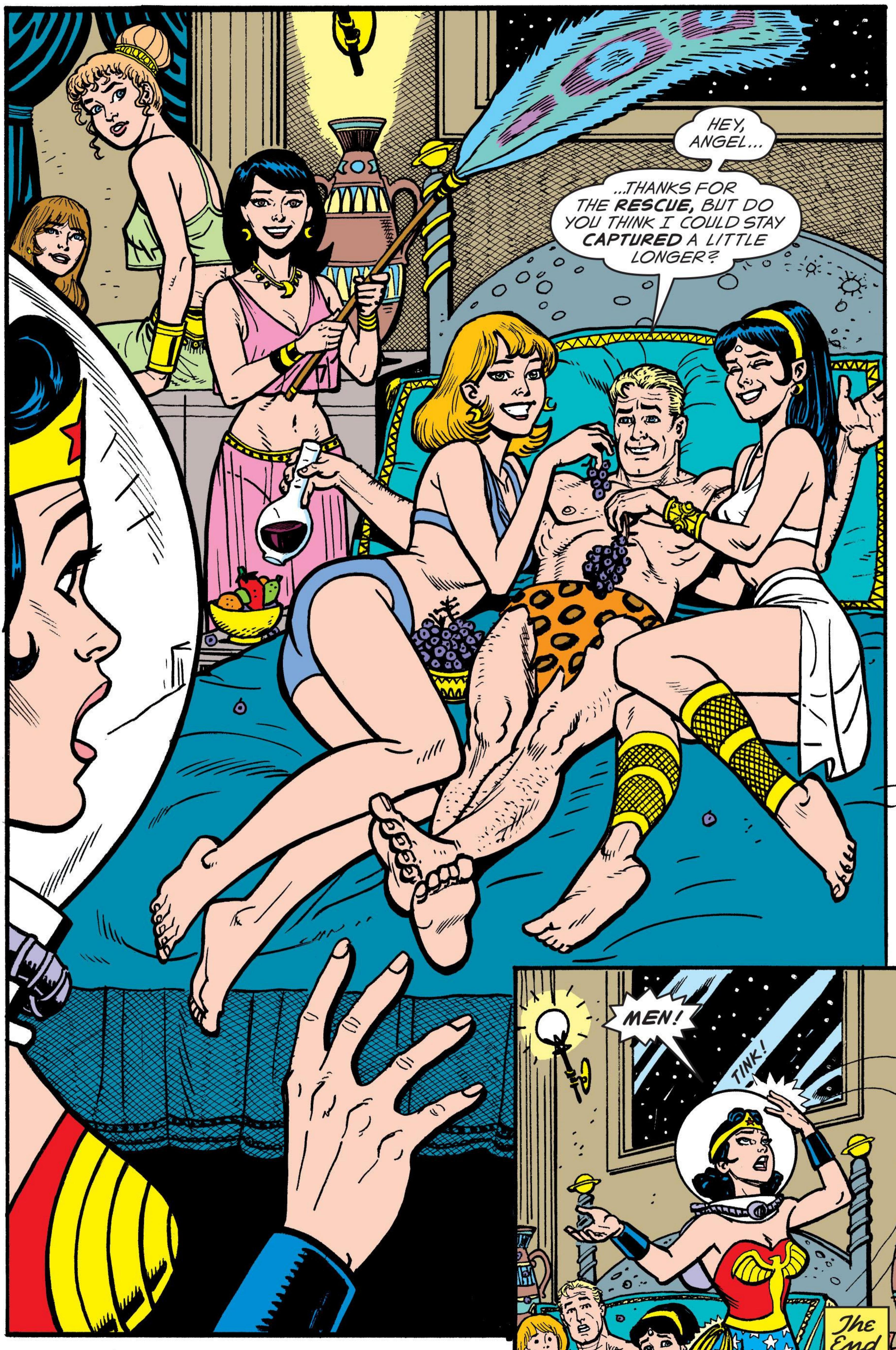
MEANWHILE, BACK IN HOUSTON,  
DIANA PRINCE--WHO UNKNOWN  
TO THE WORLD IS ALSO THE  
AMAZON PRINCESS WONDER  
WOMAN--WONDERS HOW STEVE'S  
MISSION IS GOING...







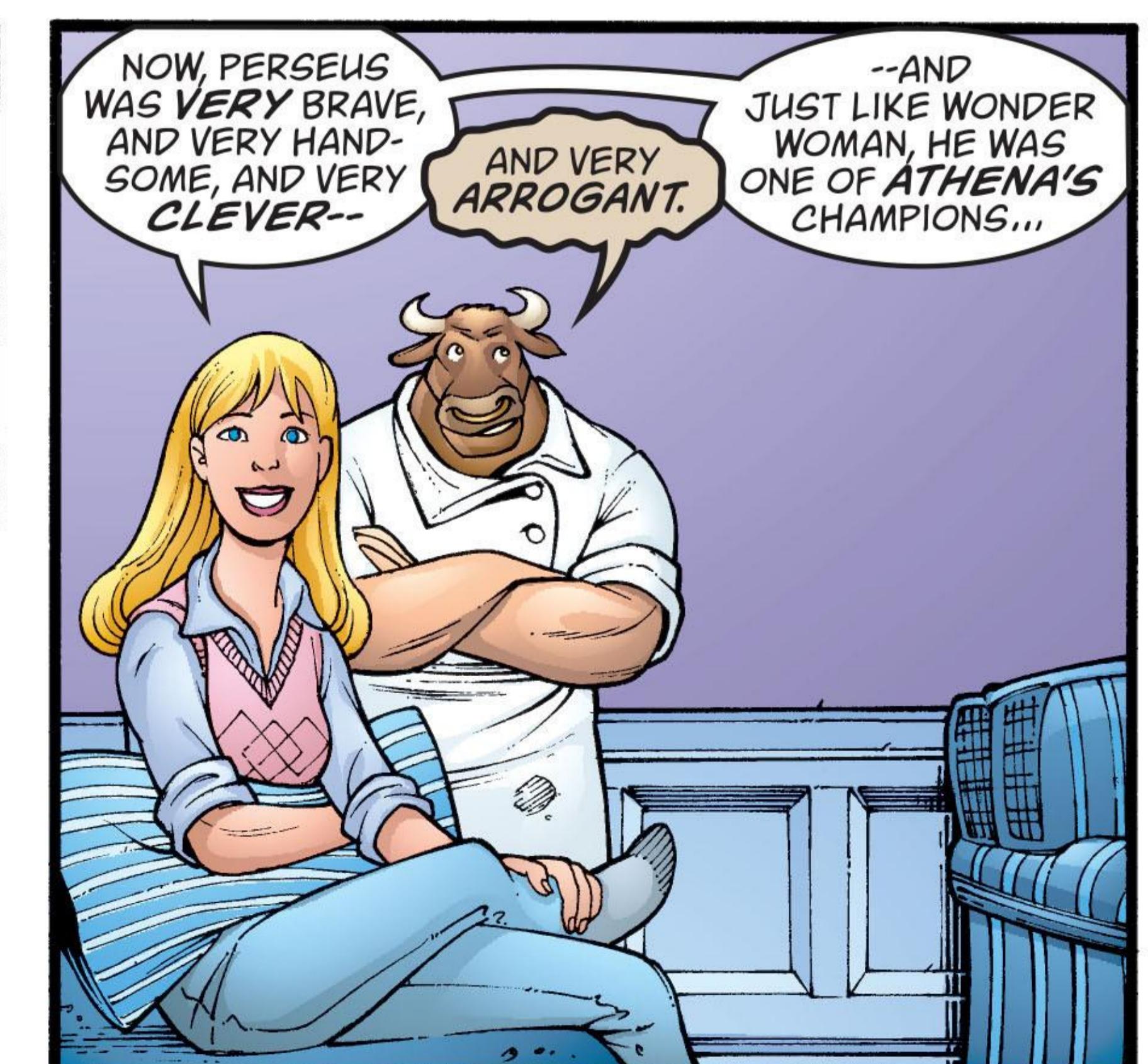
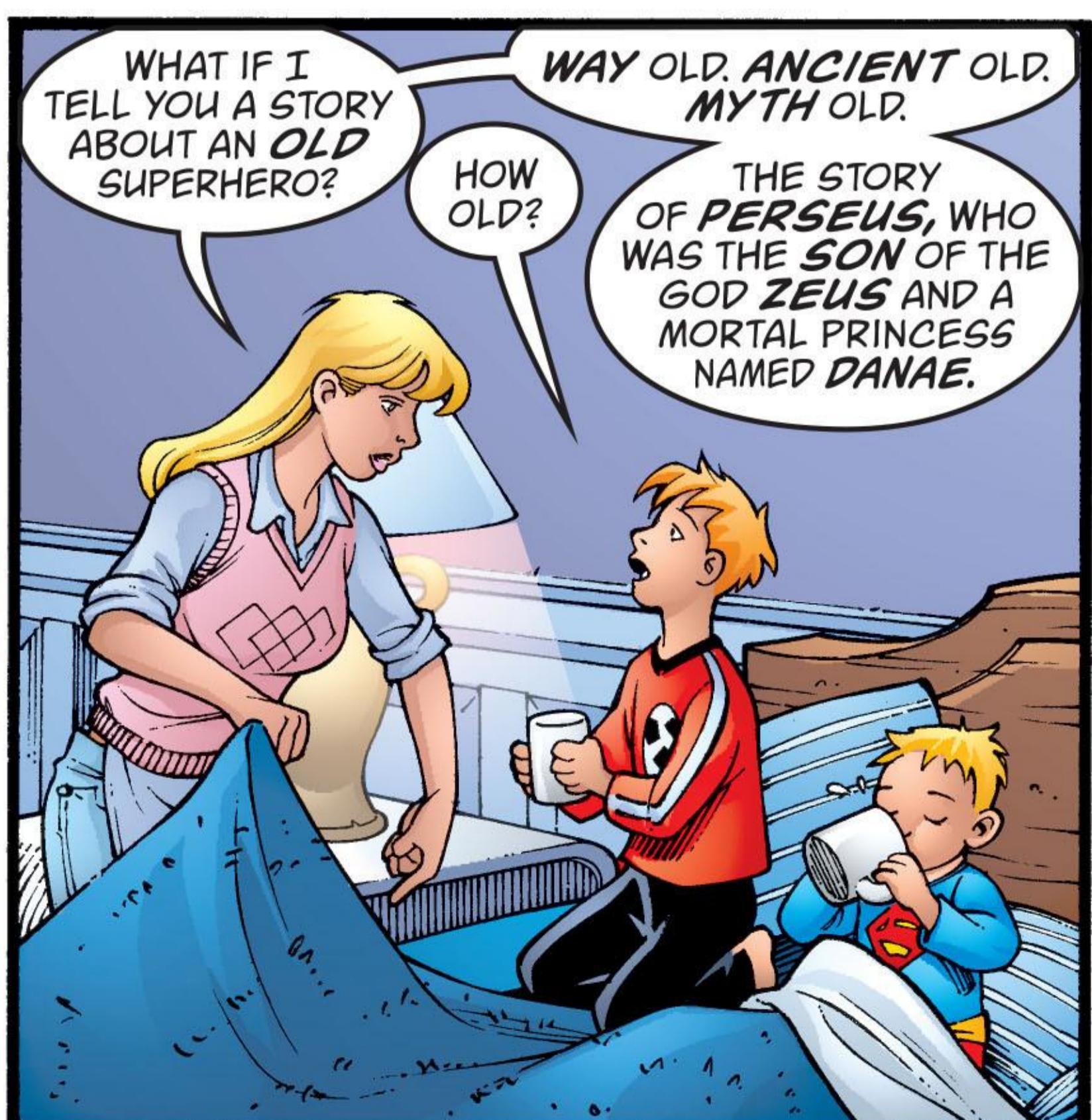
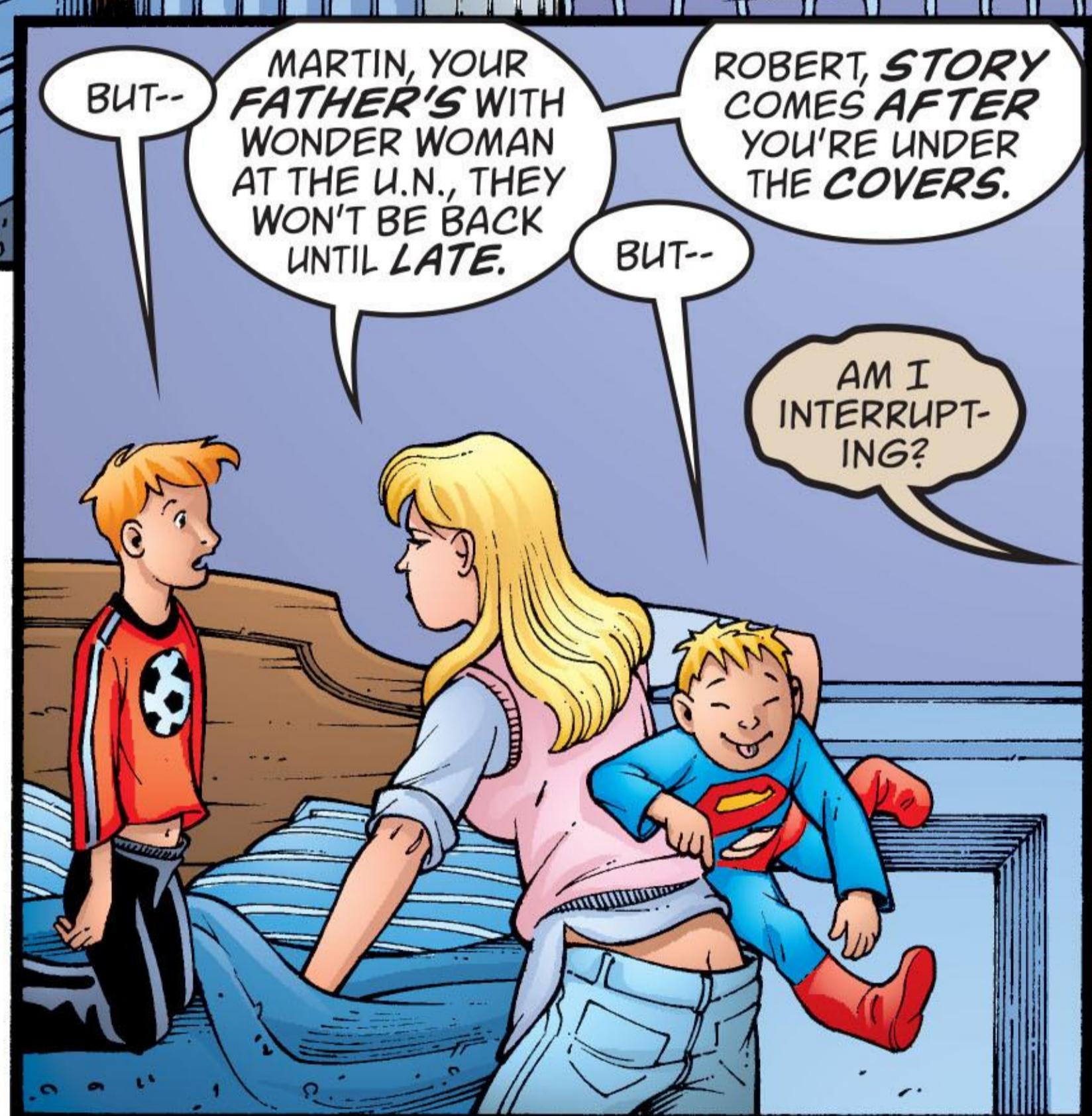
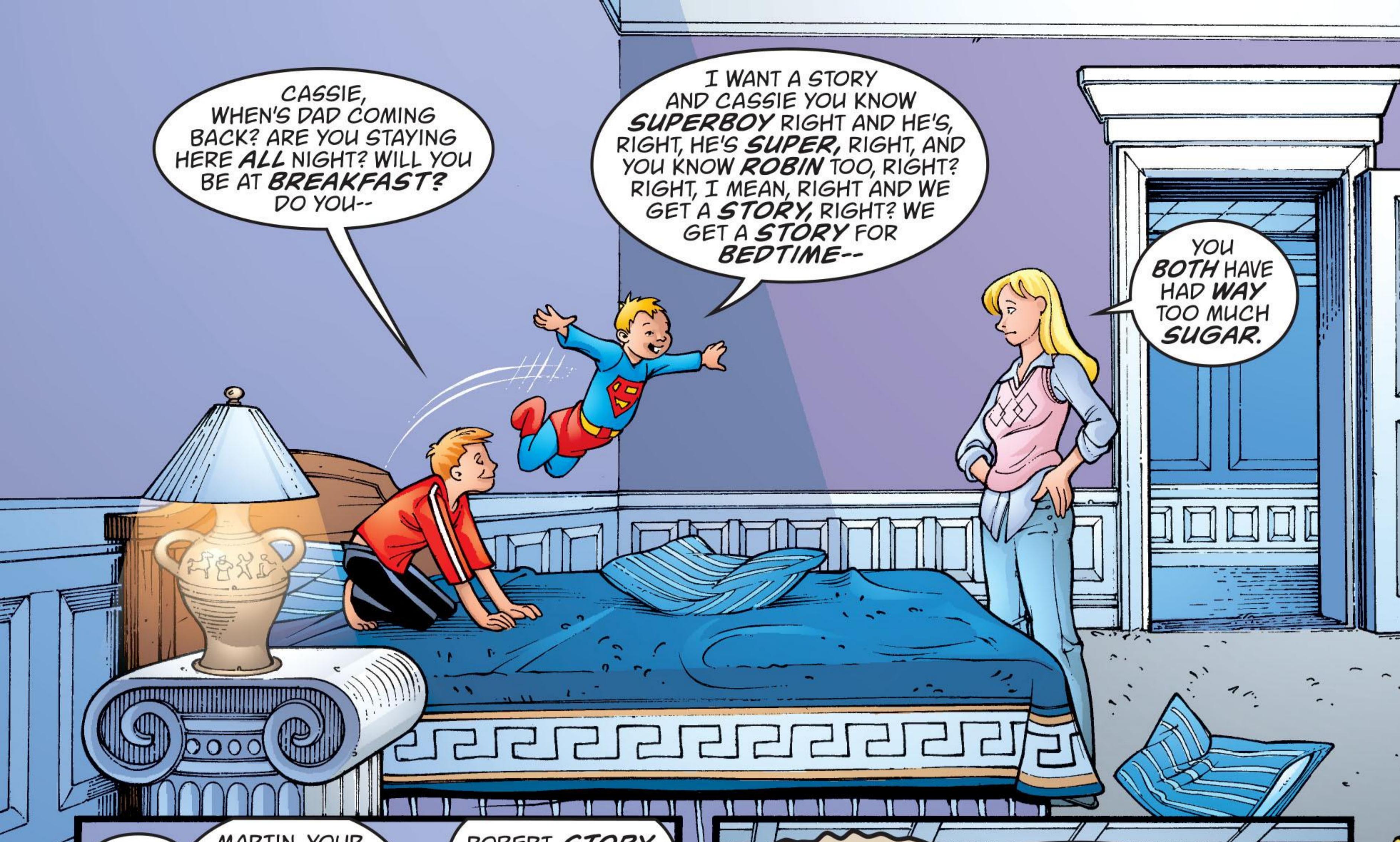






M Onso 9.23.03





"PERSEUS AND HIS MOTHER DANAEE LIVED ON THE ISLAND OF SERIPHOS, RULED BY KING POLYDECTES. POLYDECTES HAD TAKEN THEM IN WHEN PERSEUS WAS JUST A LITTLE BABY."

"THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT, CASSANDRA."

"NOT REALLY RELEVANT RIGHT NOW, FERDINAND."

"IT CERTAINLY WAS RELEVANT TO PERSEUS."

"PERSEUS ISN'T HERE, OKAY?"

"WHERE WAS I?"

"UHM...PERSEUS AND HIS MOM LIVED WITH A KING?"

"RIGHT, THANK YOU, MARTIN. NOW, KING POLYDECTES LOVED DANAEE, BUT SHE DIDN'T LOVE HIM, SHE LOVED ZEUS."



"POLYDECTES DIDN'T KNOW THAT PERSEUS WAS A SON OF ZEUS. HE JUST WANTED TO MARRY DANAEE, AND HE KNEW PERSEUS WOULD NEVER ALLOW IT."

"HE HAD TO GET RID OF PERSEUS. SO ONE DAY, HE SUMMONED ALL THE MEN OF SERIPHOS AND SAID..."

"IN A WEEK I SHALL MARRY, AND AS IS OUR TRADITION, YOU SHALL BRING ME GIFTS."

"POLYDECTES DIDN'T SAY WHO HE WOULD MARRY. AND HE KNEW THAT PERSEUS COULDN'T AFFORD A GIFT. THIS WOULD BE AN INSULT, AND WOULD ALLOW THE KING TO EXILE THE BOY."

"THAT'S MEAN, IT'S NOT PERSEUS' FAULT HE'S POOR!"

"YES, ROBBIE, IT WAS MEAN."

"THE MEN OF SERIPHOS TOLD THE KING ABOUT THE GIFTS THEY WOULD BRING HIM, FABULOUS RICHES AND THINGS LIKE THAT."

"THEN IT WAS PERSEUS' TURN, AND POLYDECTES WAS ALL SET TO BANISH HIM. BUT PERSEUS SURPRISED HIM."

NOBLE POLYDECTES, OUR HOST FOR SO MANY YEARS, I AM POOR AS YOU KNOW, AND HAVE NO RICHES TO OFFER YOU.

STILL, I WILL WIN YOU A WORTHY PRIZE. I WILL BRING YOU THE HEAD OF A GORGON...

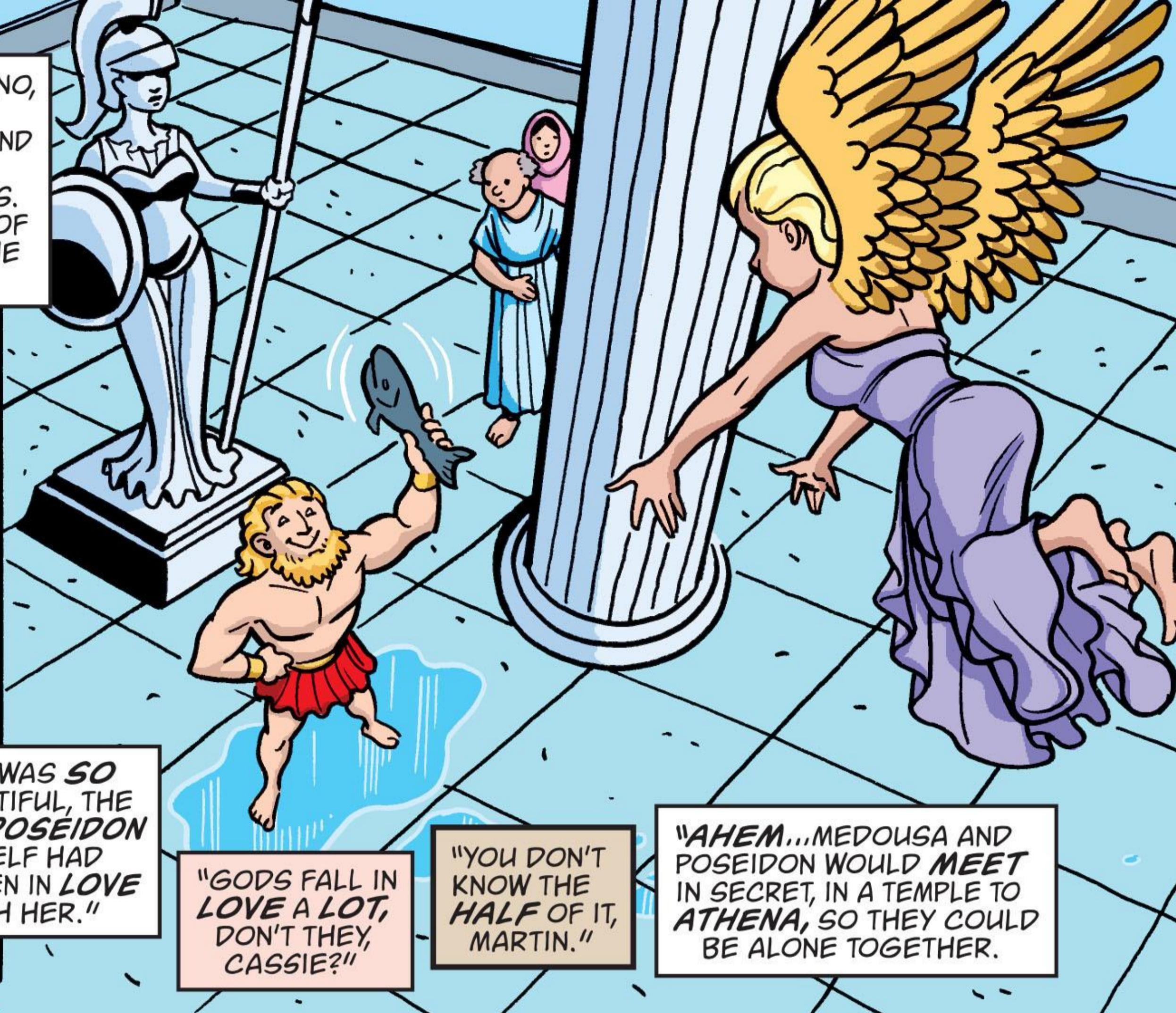
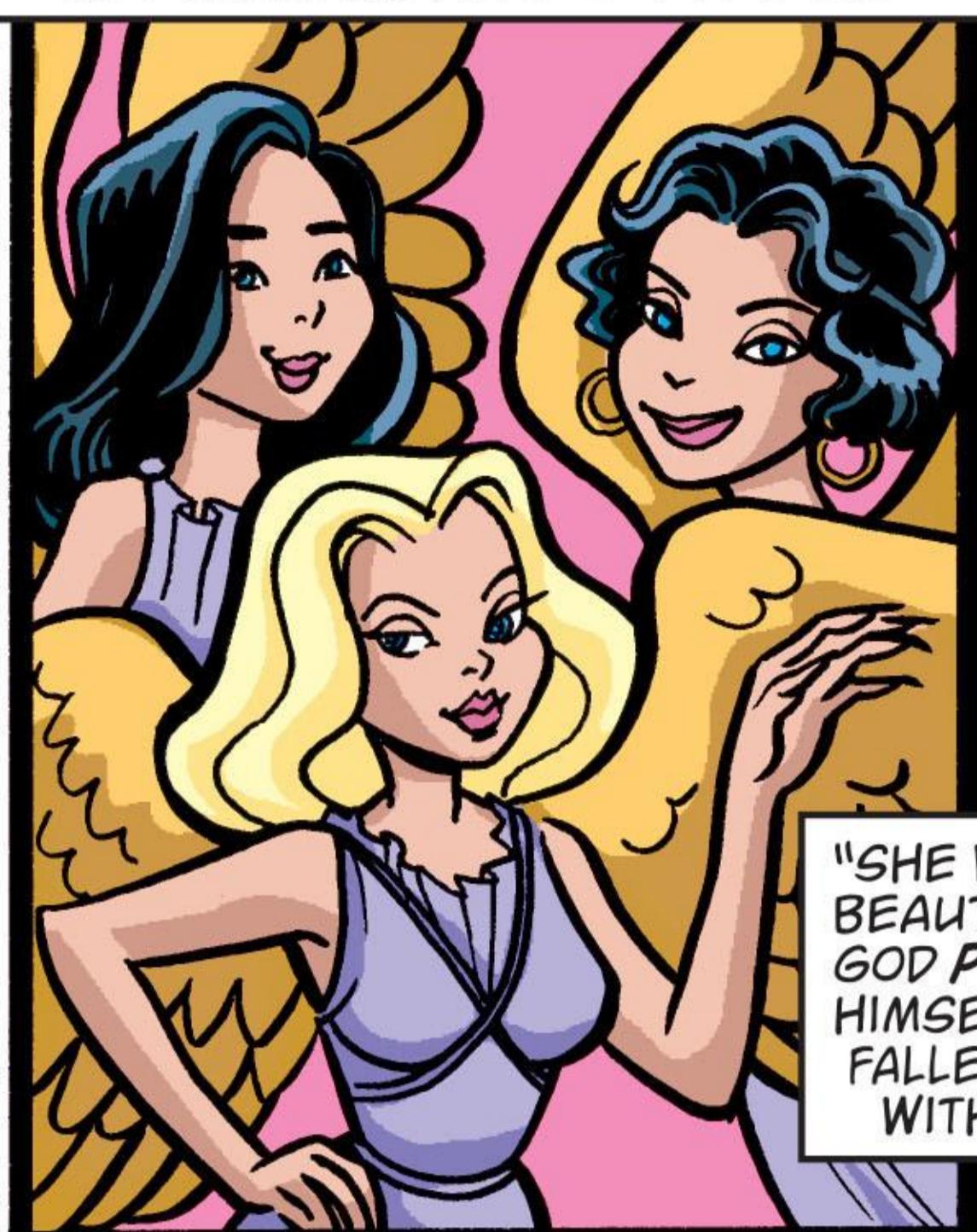
...I WILL BRING YOU THE HEAD OF MEDUSA.

"THIS WAS BETTER THAN POLYDECTES HAD DREAMED, BECAUSE PERSEUS HAD PROMISED AN IMPOSSIBLE THING, SOMETHING THAT WOULD SURELY GET HIM KILLED."

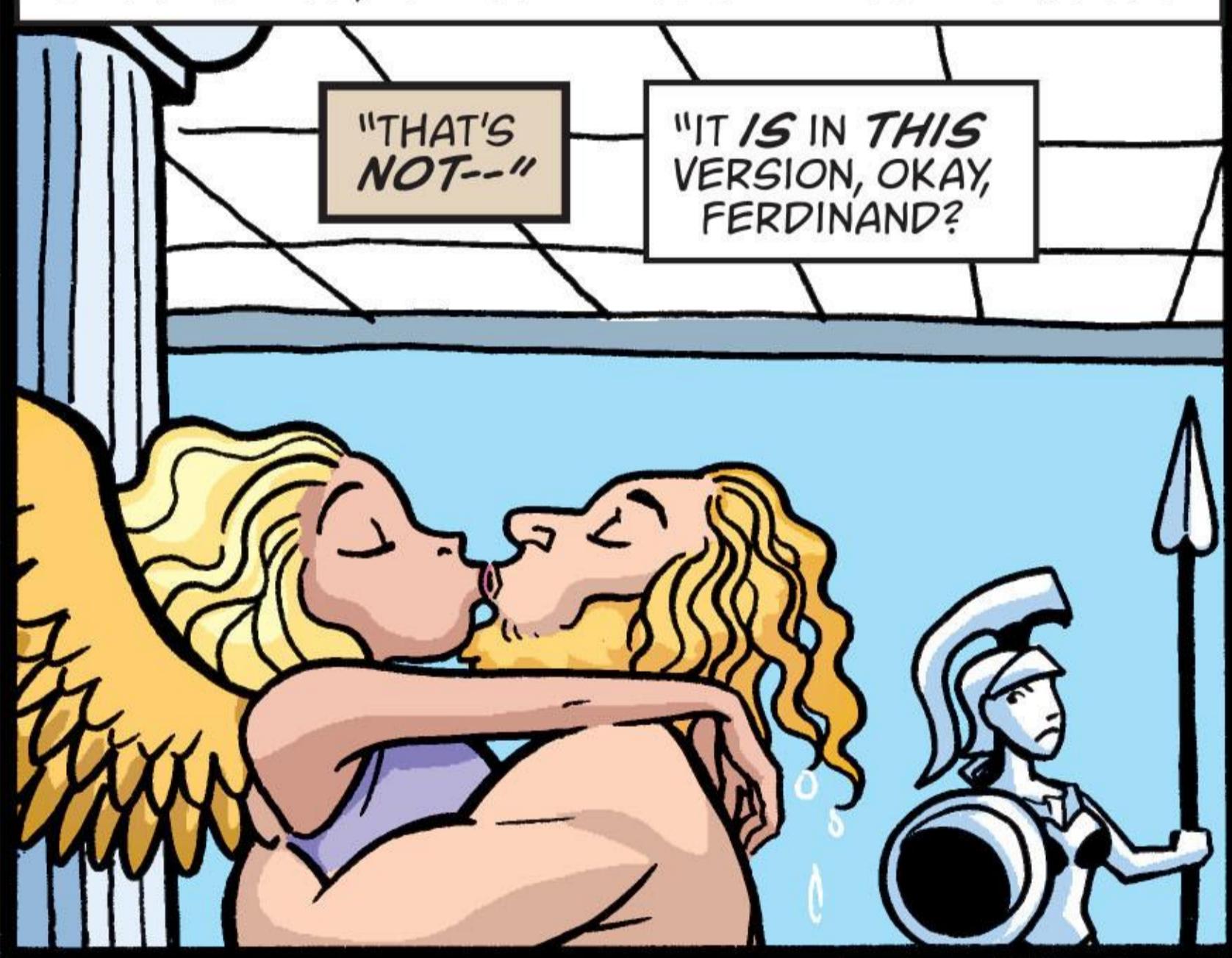
"WHAT? WHY?"

"I'M COMING TO THAT, MARTIN."

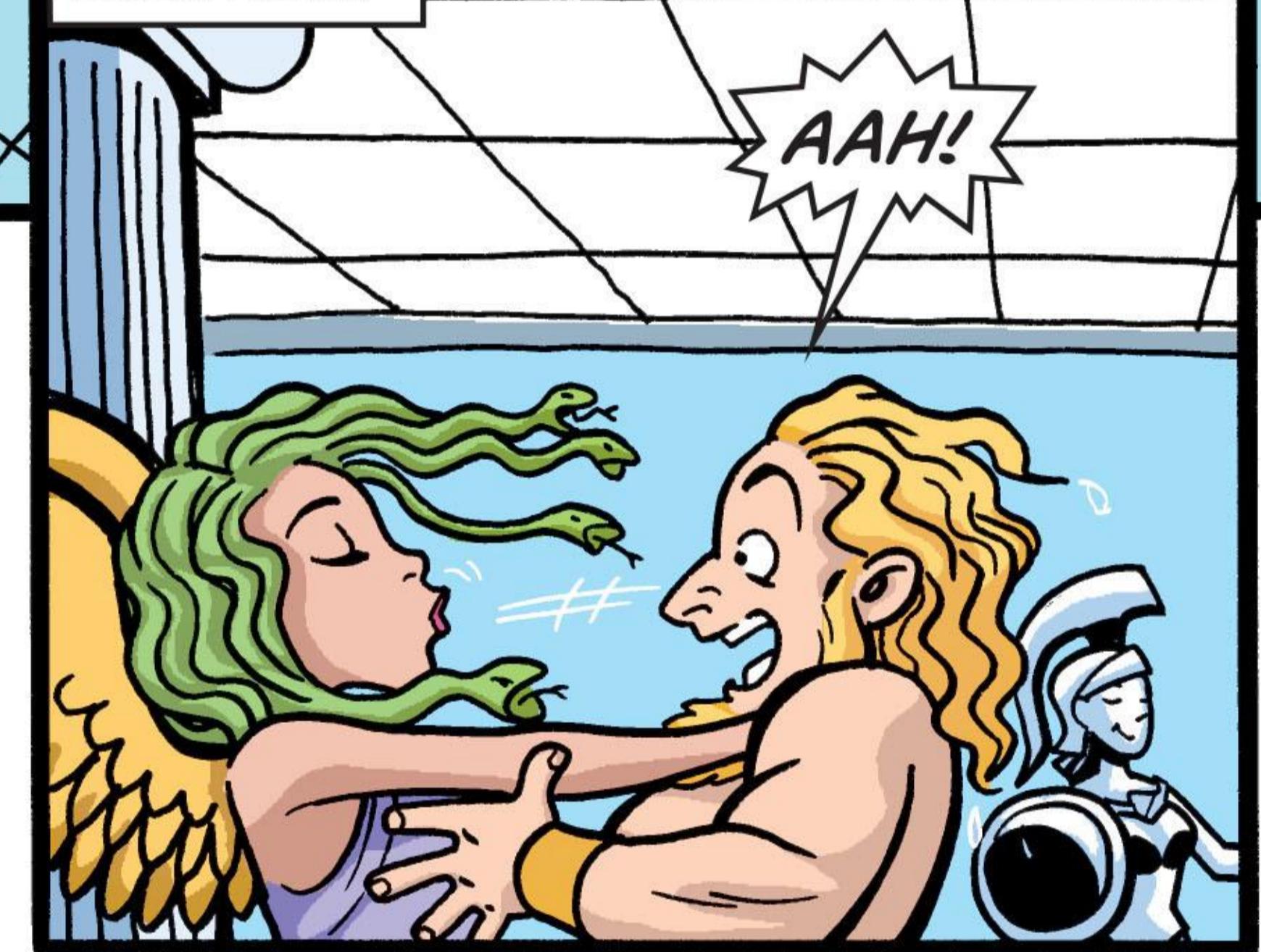
"THERE WERE THREE GORGONS: STHENO, EURYALE, AND MEDOUSA, ALL SISTERS. THEY WERE DAUGHTERS OF THE SEA, AND ALL OF THEM WERE BEAUTIFUL, WITH GOLDEN WINGS AND GOLDEN CLAWS. MEDOUSA WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ALL, BECAUSE UNLIKE HER SISTERS, SHE WAS MORTAL, AND COULD DIE."



"ATHENA DID NOT LIKE THIS. IT INSULTED HER, AND HER WORSHIPPERS, BECAUSE WHEN POSEIDON WAS IN THE TEMPLE, PEOPLE COULD NOT PRAY TO ATHENA."



"SO ATHENA PUNISHED THEM, AND MADE IT SO NO ONE WOULD WANT TO LOOK UPON MEDOUSA EVER AGAIN."



"ATHENA HAD MADE MEDOUSA SO FRIGHTFUL TO LOOK UPON, HER VERY GAZE TURNED PEOPLE TO STONE!"



"PERSEUS KNEW MEDOUSA LIVED IN HIDING WITH HER SISTERS, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE. AND EVEN IF HE COULD FIND HER, HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DEFEAT HER."

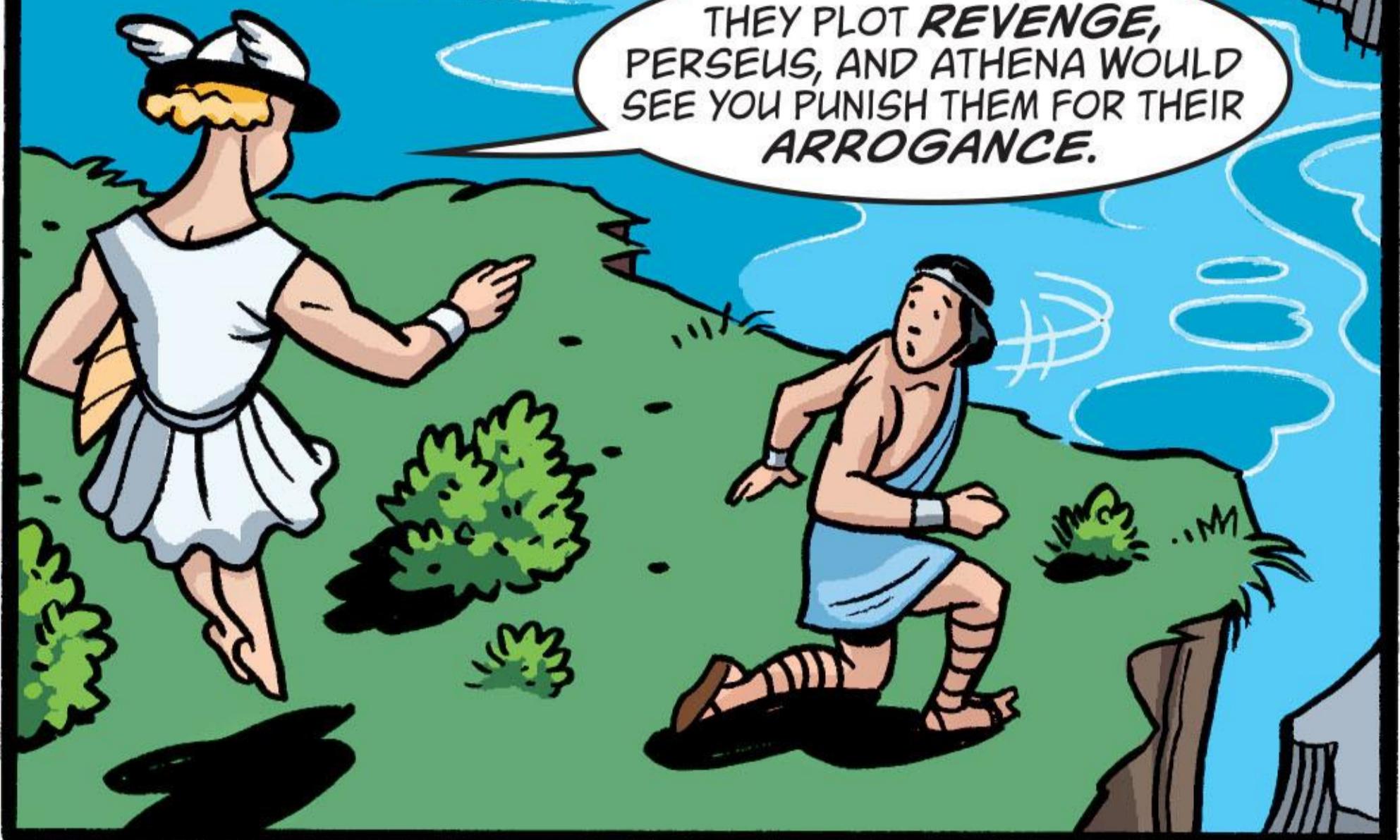
"SO HE PRAYED TO HIS FATHER FOR HELP."

O ZEUS, I MUST KILL MEDOUSA. I BEG FOR YOUR GUIDANCE, SO I CAN SLAY THIS HORRIBLE BEAST.

"IT WAS HERMES, HERALD OF THE GODS, WHO ANSWERED THE PRAYER."

RISE, BROTHER. THOUGH YOUR FATHER HEARS YOUR PRAYER, IT IS ATHENA WHO SENDS ME TO ANSWER, FOR SHE IS THE SWORN ENEMY OF THE GORGONS.

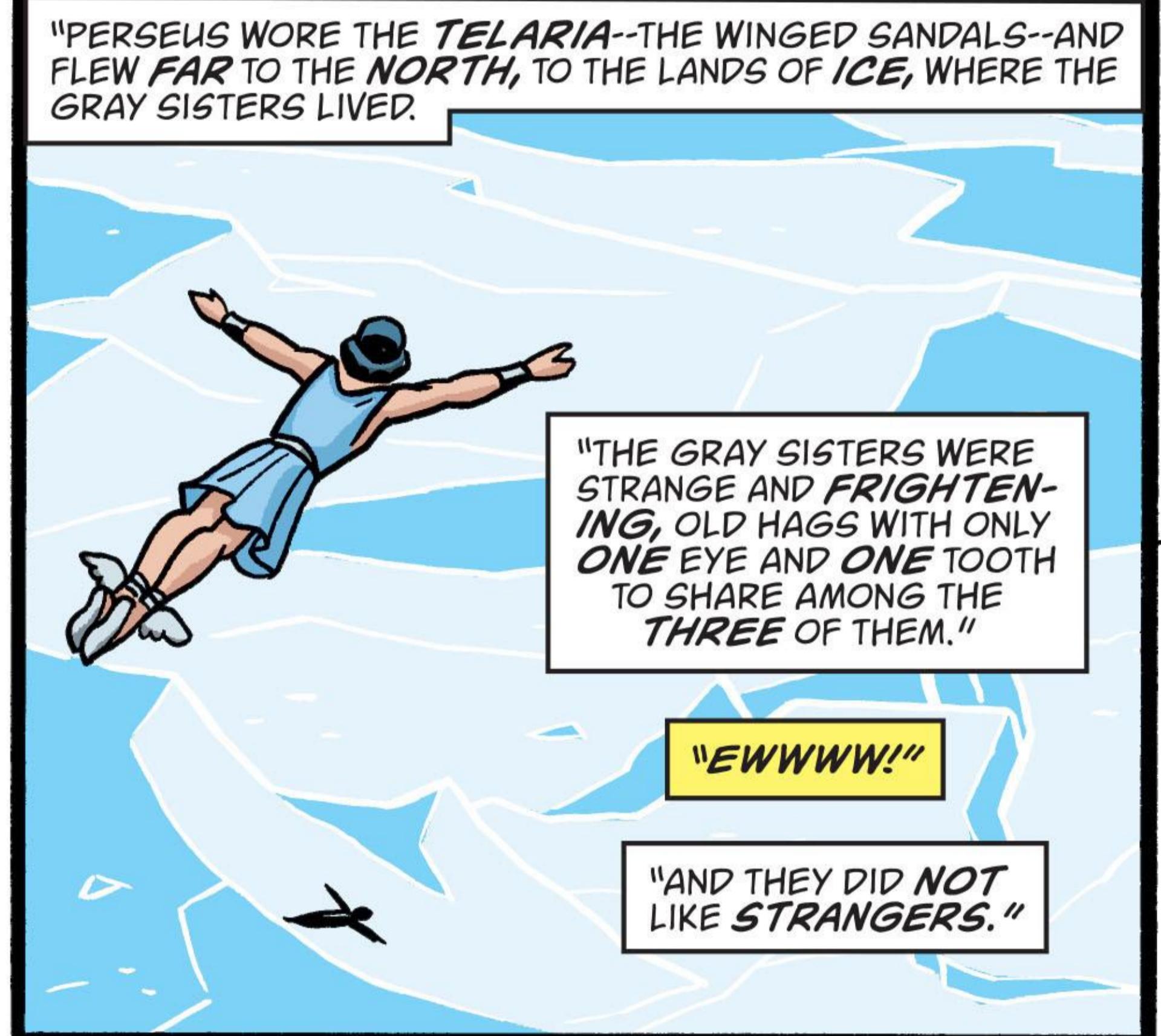
THEY PLOT REVENGE, PERSEUS, AND ATHENA WOULD SEE YOU PUNISH THEM FOR THEIR ARROGANCE.



TAKE THESE SANDALS, MADE BY ATHENA, AND WITH THEM SEEK THE GRAIA, THE GRAY SISTERS, FOR THEY ALONE KNOW THE WAY TO THE NYMPHS OF THE WEST.

IT IS THE NYMPHS WHO HOLD THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO SLAY MEDOUSA.

"PERSEUS WORE THE TELARIA--THE WINGED SANDALS--AND FLEW FAR TO THE NORTH, TO THE LANDS OF ICE, WHERE THE GRAY SISTERS LIVED.



"AND THEY DID NOT LIKE STRANGERS."

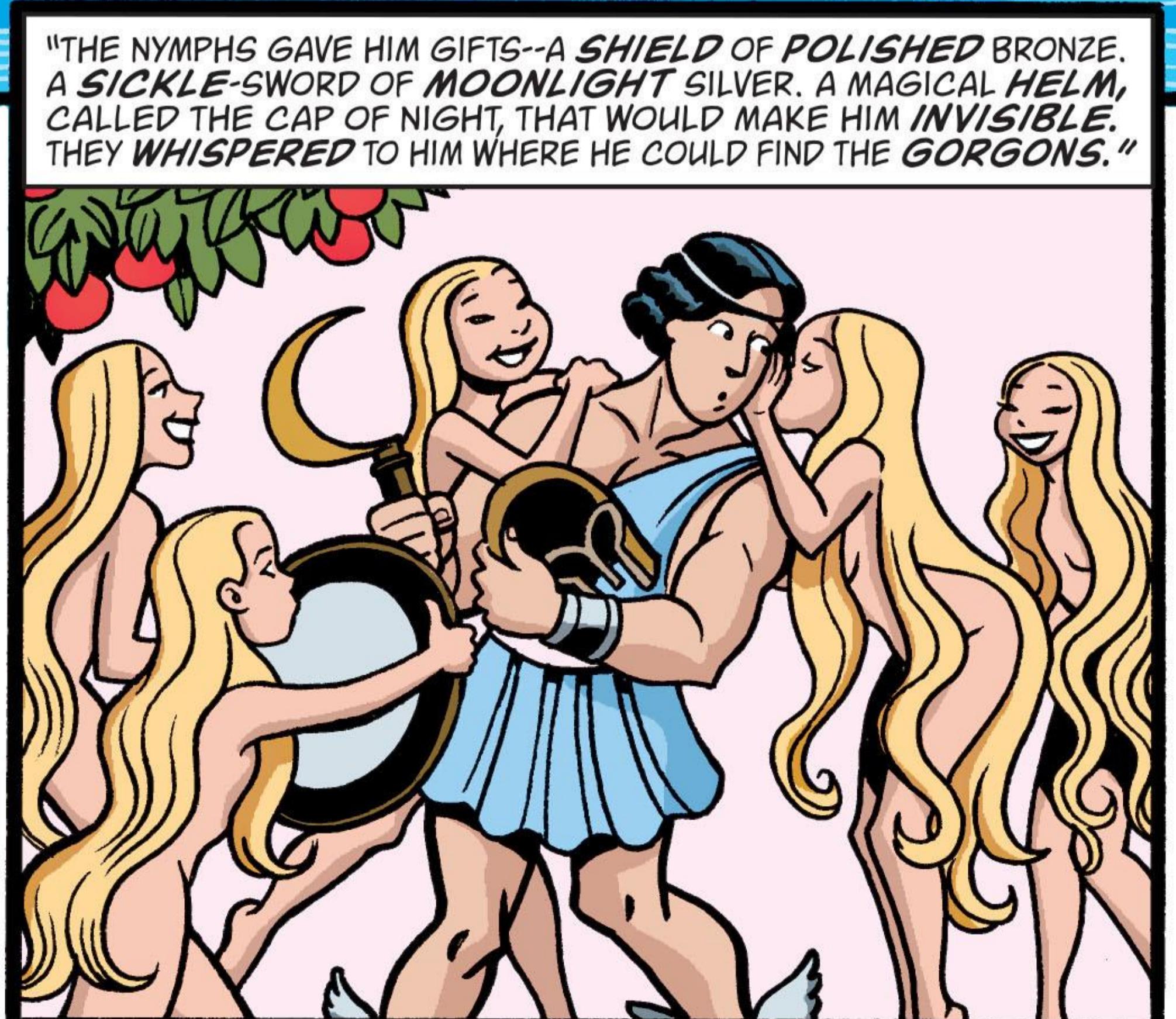
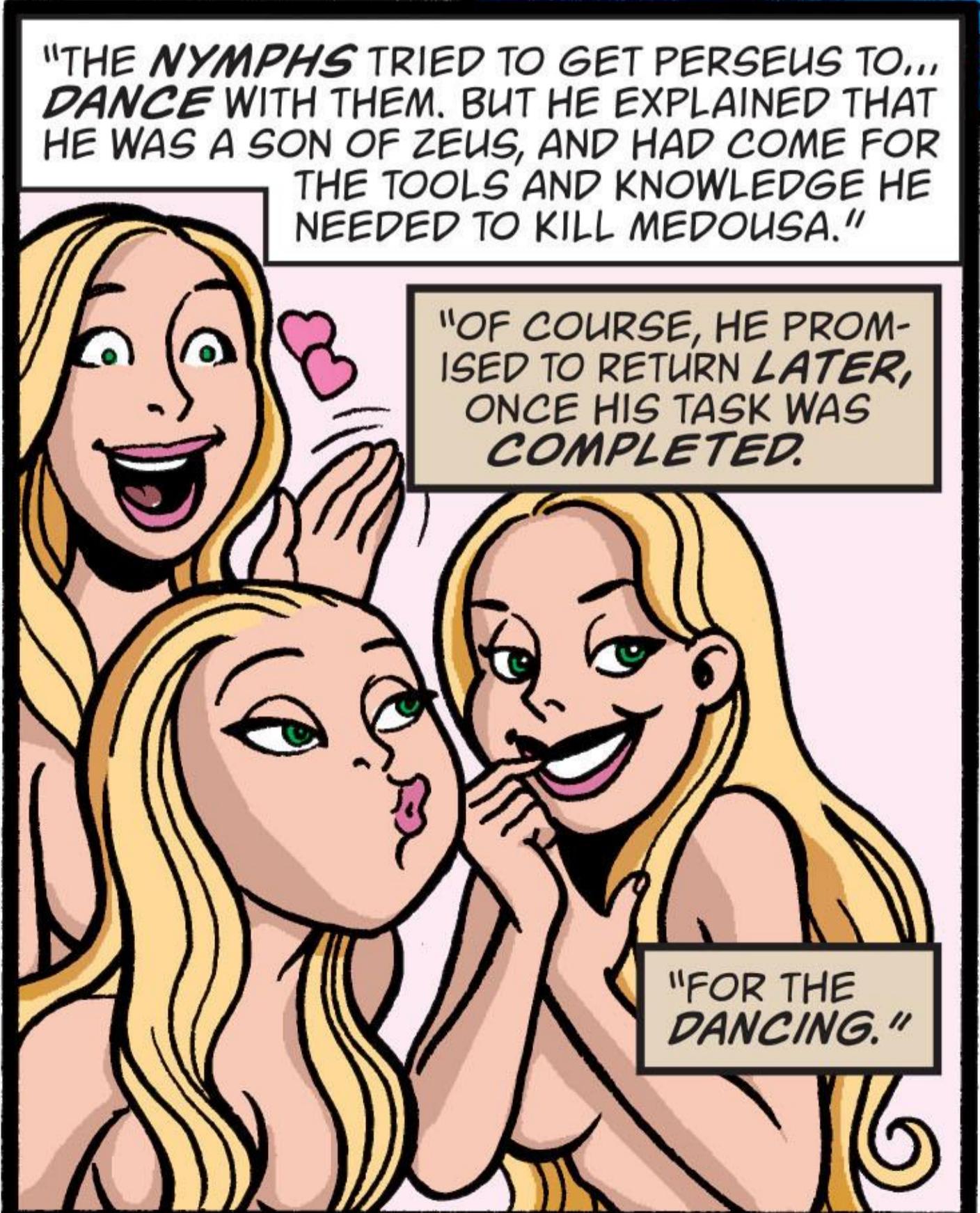
"PERSEUS STOLE THE EYE AND THE TOOTH FROM THE HANDS OF THE GRAY SISTERS."

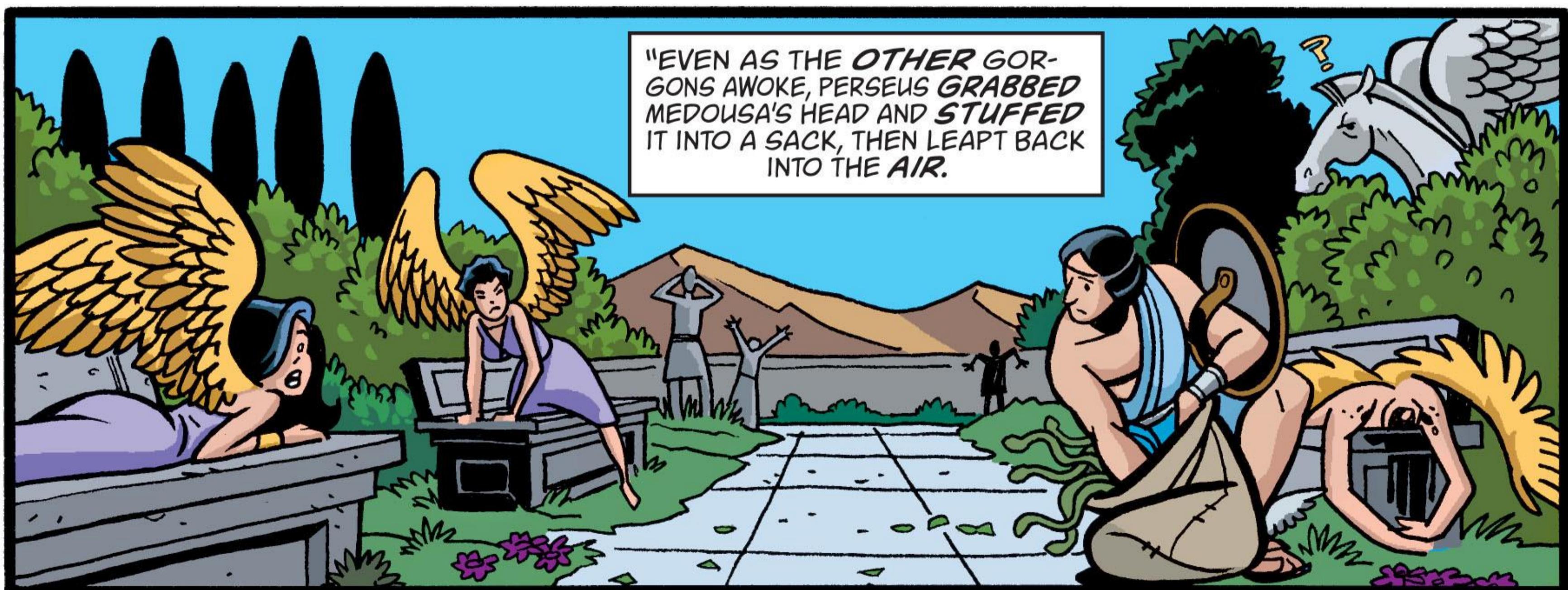
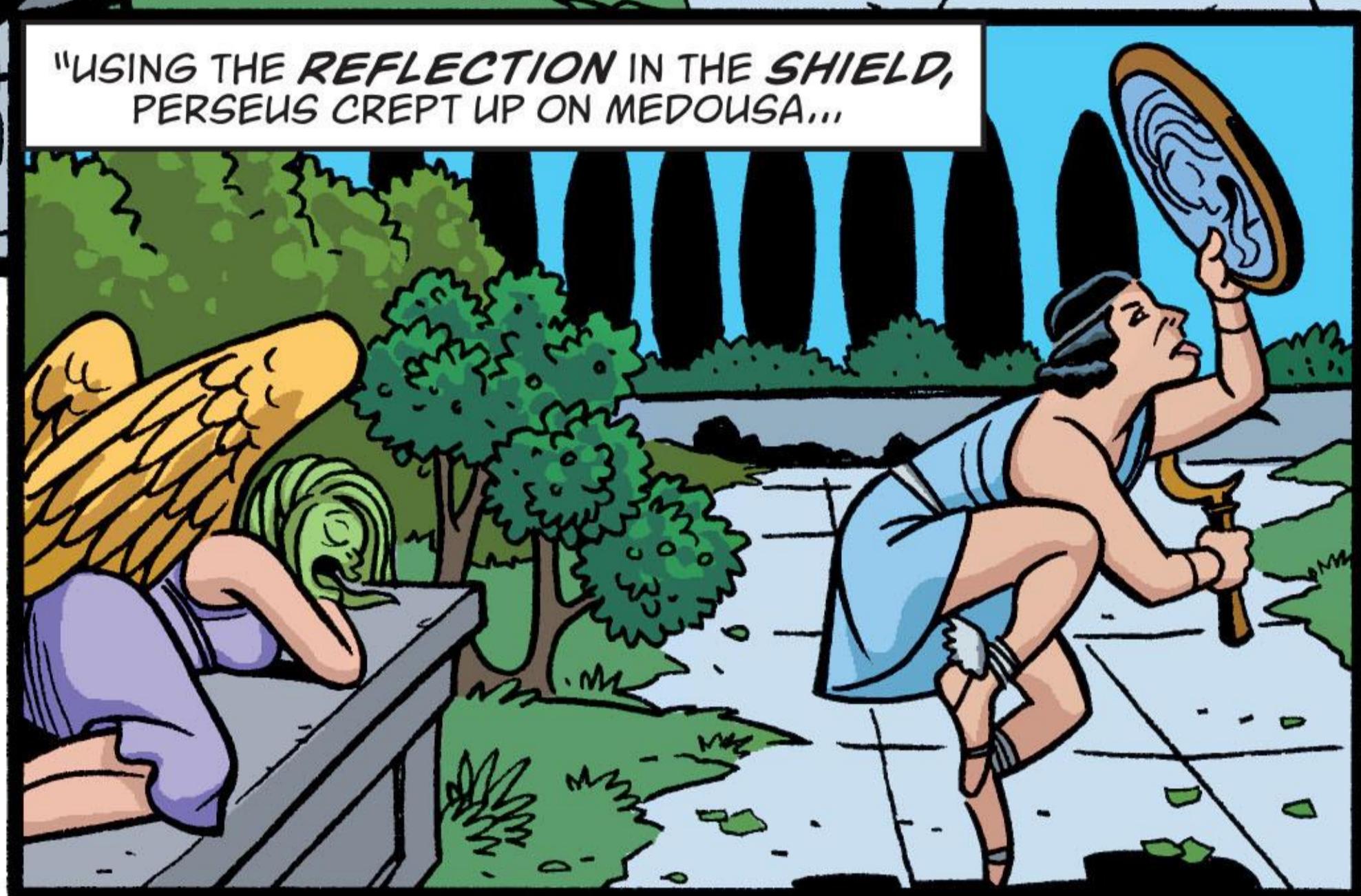
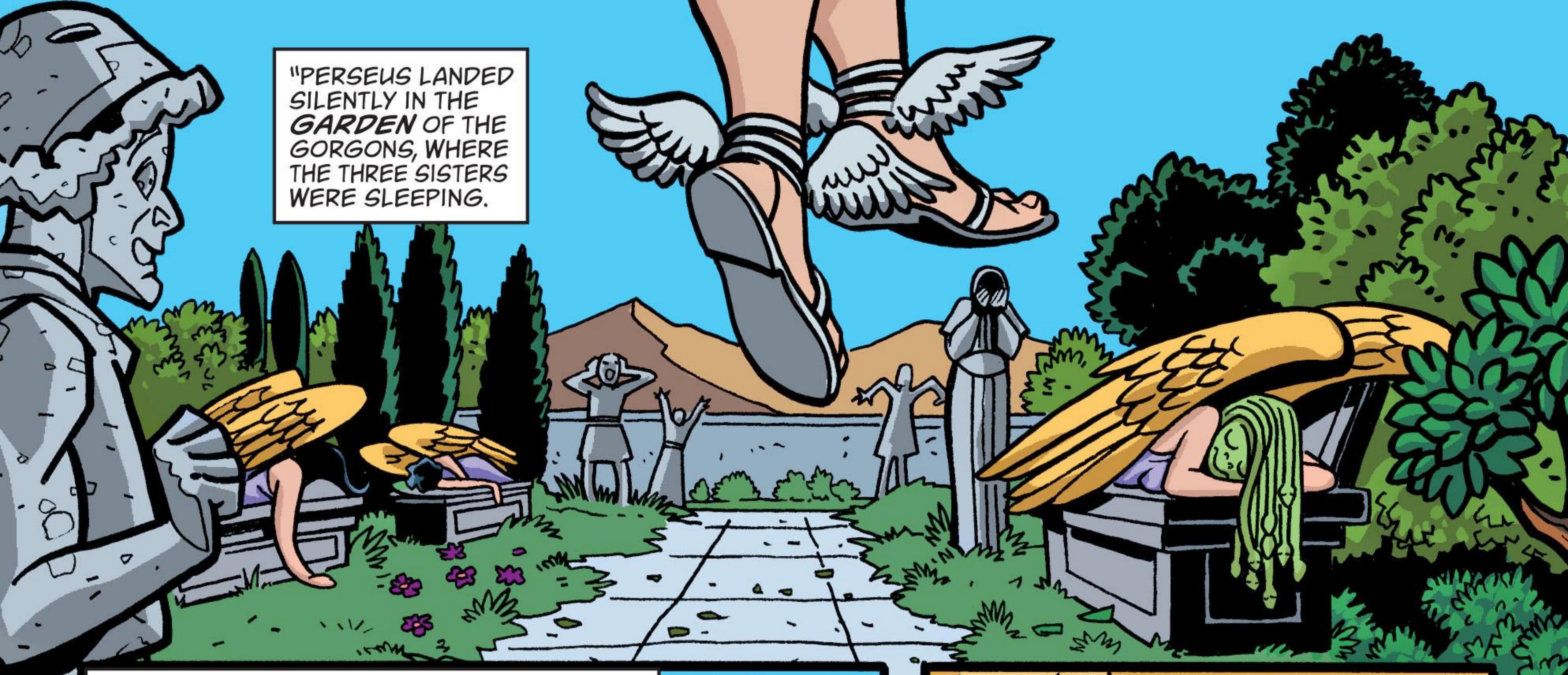
GIVE ME THE EYE, SISTER, AND YOU SHALL HAVE THE TOOTH.

AND I HAVE NOTHING!

THE EYE? YES, I HAVE IT HERE...







"PERSEUS RETURNED TO SERIPHOS AND THE KINGDOM OF POLYDECTES, ARRIVING IN TIME TO SEE HIS MOTHER ABOUT TO MARRY THE KING."

PERSEUS!  
YOU SHOULD NEVER  
HAVE RETURNED! I  
WILL HAVE DANAЕ AS  
MY BRIDE!

GUARDS!  
KILL HIM!

"AND AS THE GUARDS  
MOVED TO ATTACK  
PERSEUS, THE YOUNG  
HERO REACHED INTO  
HIS SACK..."

MOTHER!  
CLOSE YOUR  
EYES!

"...AND TURNED POLYDECTES,  
AND THE GUARDS, AND ALL  
THE GUESTS TO STONE.

"PERSEUS GAVE PRAYERS OF  
THANKS, AND HERMES CAME  
TO HIM AGAIN, NOW TO COL-  
LECT THOSE TOOLS HE HAD  
USED.

"PERSEUS RETURNED  
THE HELM, AND THE  
SHIELD...

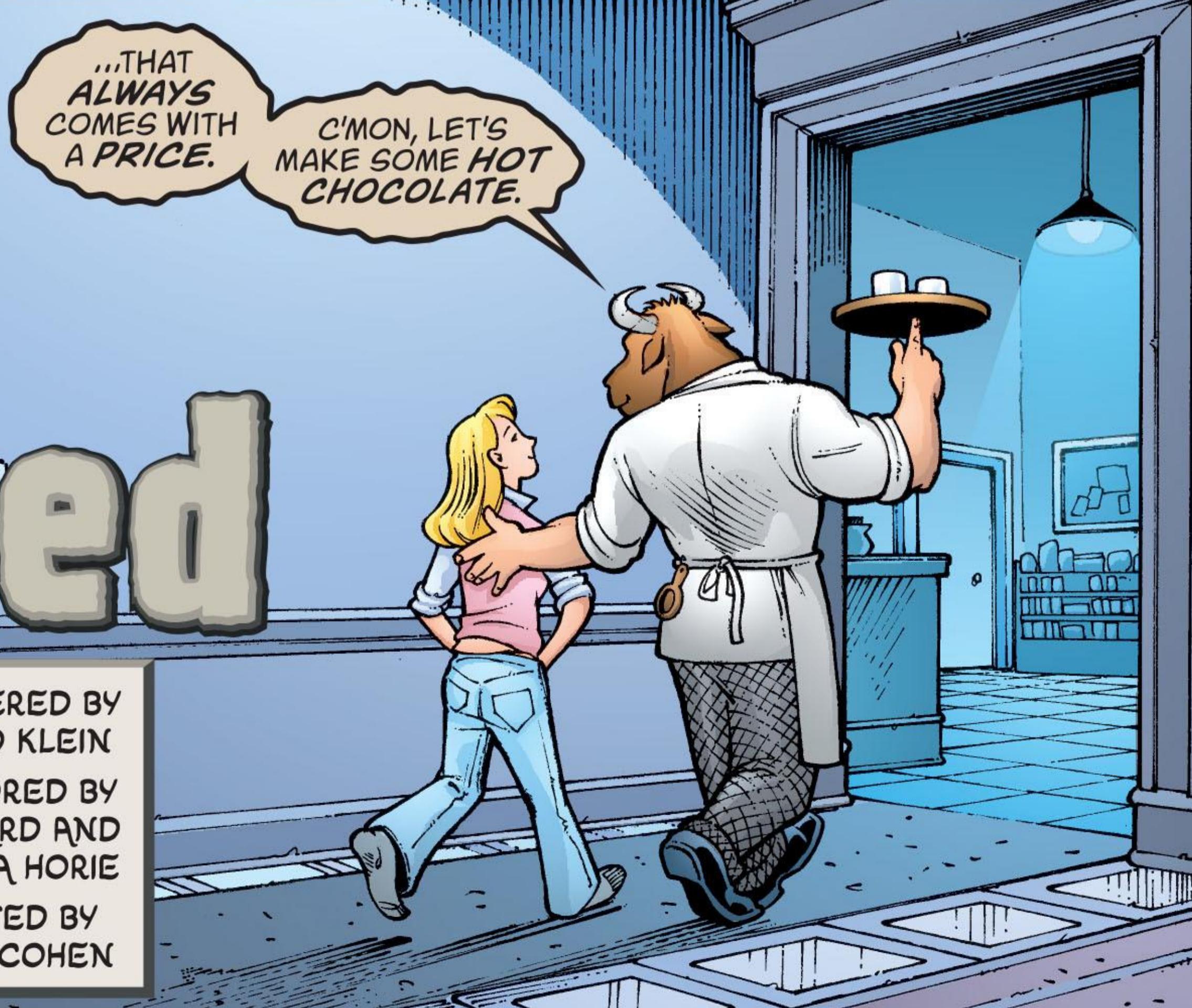
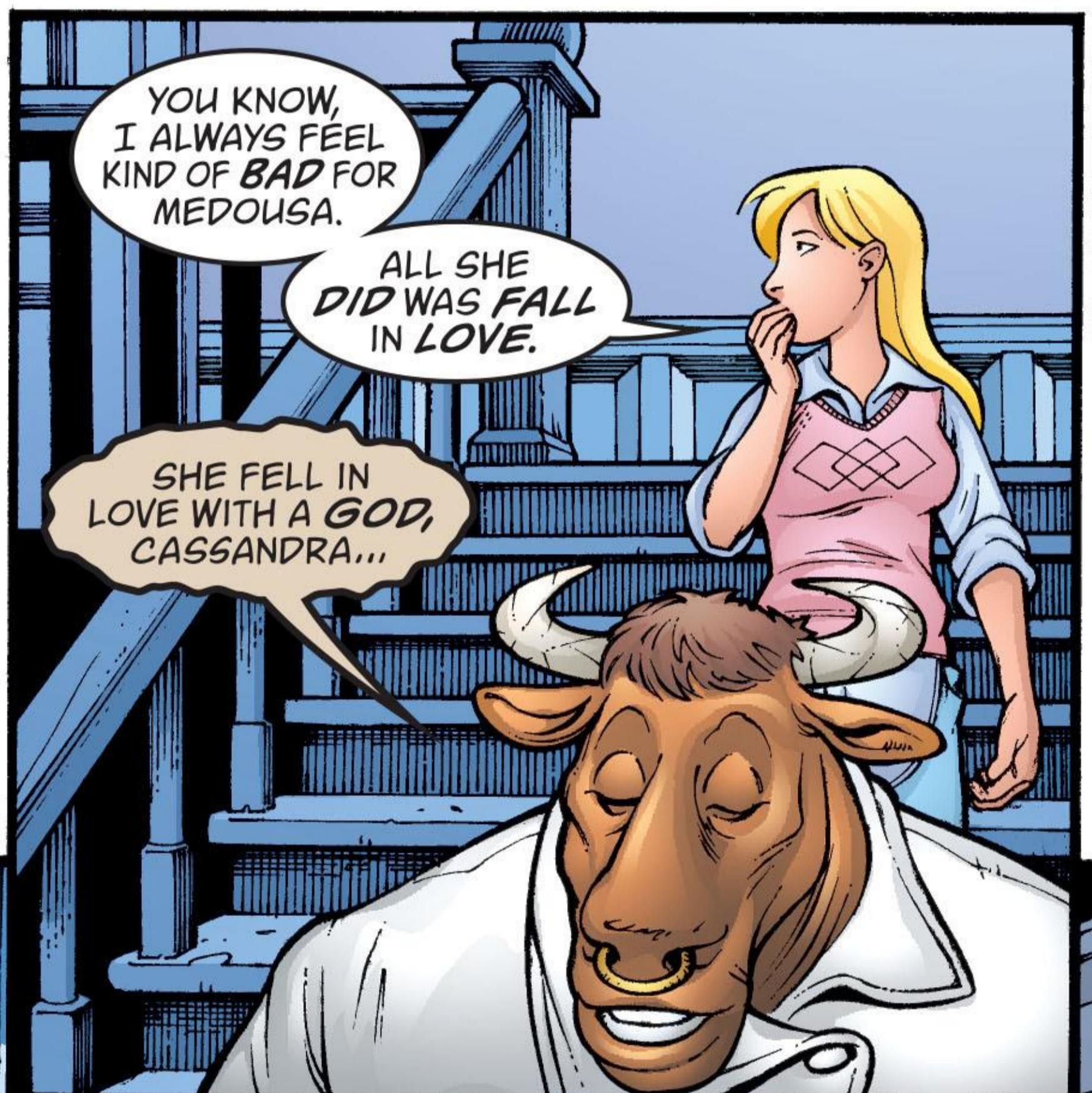
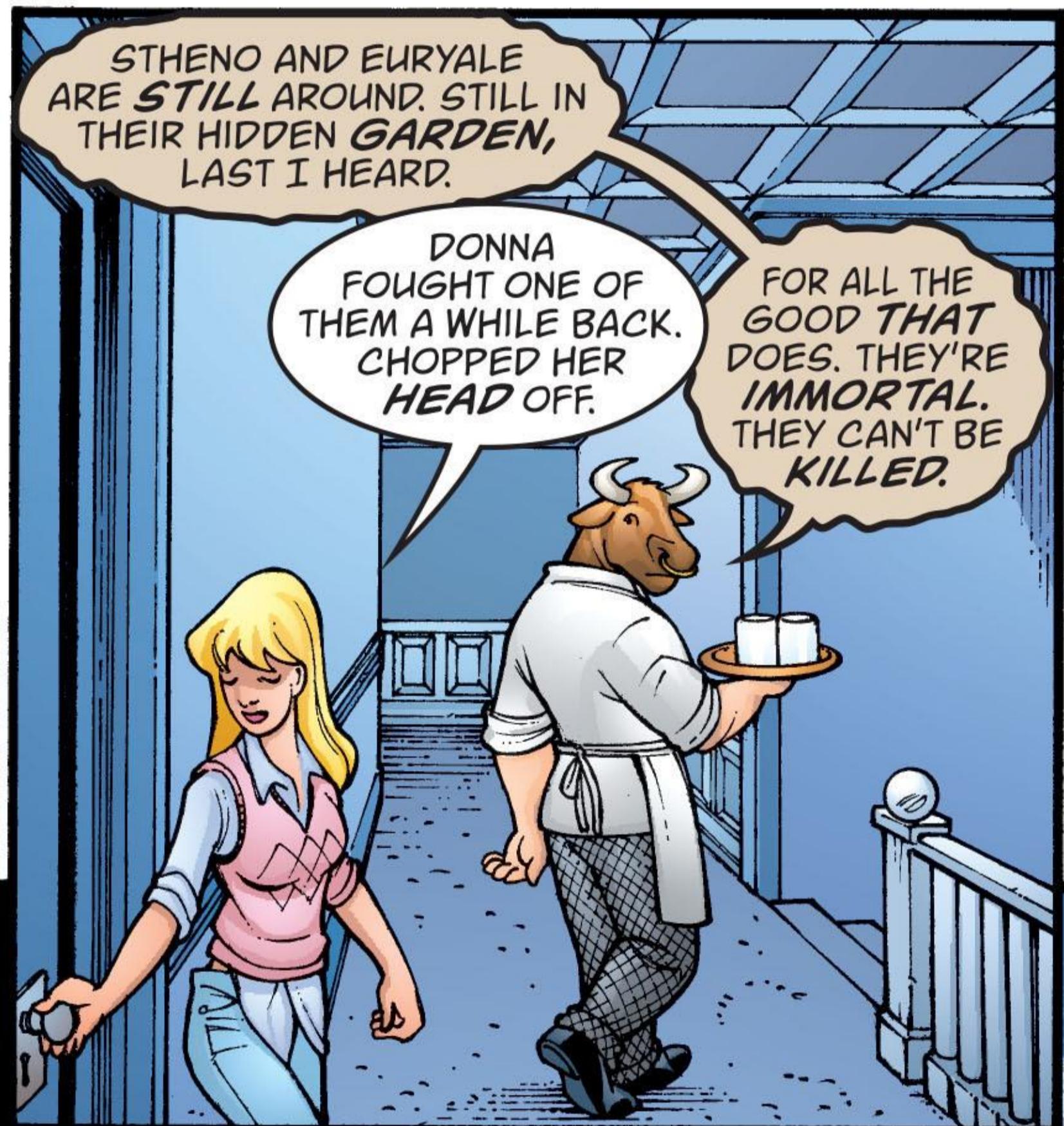
"...WHERE MEDOUZA'S RE-  
FLECTION HAD BEEN  
ETCHED AS IF BY ACID.

"AS FOR MEDOUZA'S HEAD,  
PERSEUS WAS AFRAID IT WAS  
TOO DANGEROUS TO KEEP...

"...WHERE IT RESTS EVEN NOW,  
TURNING TO CORAL ALL THE  
FISH WHO LOOK UPON IT..."

"THIS SHIELD WAS TAKEN BY  
ATHENA, AND IT BECAME  
HER AEGIS, AND SHE  
ALWAYS WORE IT IN BATTLE.

"...AND SO HE  
THREW IT INTO  
THE SEA...



# Stoned

WRITTEN BY  
GREG RUCKA

LETTERED BY  
TODD KLEIN

PENCILLED BY  
LINDA MEDLEY

COLORED BY  
RICHARD AND

TANYA HORIE

INKED BY  
MEDLEY AND

RAY SNYDER

EDITED BY  
IVAN COHEN

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this past week.

Calvin —  
See attached.  
Cale's not going  
to be happy.  
—Warren

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many  
during  
and a  
and during the recent  
incident thus raising the inevitable question of  
the place of so-called "metas" in global politics, and  
once again bringing the debate to the fore. The  
United Nations decision to call upon Wonder Woman  
to resolve the crisis and effect the arrest of General  
Abaku only further complicated the matter, since she  
was approached not in her capacity as a member of  
the Justice League, but rather as the Themysciran  
Ambassador to the United Nations.

"Clearly this was a unique case, and it required a unique solution," the Secretary-General told *Newstime*, speaking via telephone. "Of course this would not have been possible with the aid of any other ambassador. But we are speaking of the Themysciran Ambassador to the United Nations, Wonder Woman, a person who has been one of the U.N.'s most visible, and vocal, champions."

But was the decision to call upon Wonder Woman in her dual capacities — as both ambassador and metahuman — justified?

"Absolutely," the Ambassador responds. "The Security Council passed two prior resolutions regarding Itari and General Abaku, both of which the General ignored. The only other option was a military one, which would have resulted in the deaths of thousands — perhaps tens of thousands — of Itari citizens, not to mention countless soldiers on both sides of the conflict. There was an additional concern that an open conflict would have spilled over to neighboring countries, and perhaps drawn Umeci involvement."

Not everyone agrees with this assessment, however, and discussion since the event has continued, both within the U.N. itself, and in other governing bodies. Senator David Hale (R-Texas) is vocal in his concern for what he terms a "dangerous precedent."

"This isn't about the lives saved," Senator Hale says. "It's grossly simplistic to reduce the debate to just that. Was the Wonder Woman option more efficient than a military solution? Absolutely. Were lives spared? Beyond question. But once we turn to metas to solve problems of global conflict and politics, we're skating onto very thin ice. Where does it stop? When we turn to Superman or to Wonder

Woman to solve those conflicts that we should be able to solve ourselves, we abdicate our authority, and our responsibility, both as human beings, and, speaking personally, for the people we represent."

Perhaps surprisingly, Wonder Woman shares the concern. In her book *Reflections: A Collection of Essays and Speeches*, she writes, "If there is one duty I must perform above all others, above my tasks as an ambassador of my people, above my responsibilities as an individual of great power, it is to teach... in action, to lead by example; in word, to inspire and energize."

Understandable, then, that many members of the international community claimed surprise, and, in some cases, alarm, at Wonder Woman's involvement in the arrest of Abaku. "No one believes she acted in a rogue or irresponsible fashion," says Hale. "Abaku's crimes shatter the imagination, and there's no question he had to be stopped, and brought to justice. Wonder Woman clearly acted on behalf of the U.N. But what if she had acted on behalf of Themyscira? What if it hadn't been a Third World dictator she'd apprehended, but a duly-elected First World official? The lines are blurring, and I'm afraid they're in danger of being erased."



Ambassador Diana's book, *Reflections*, advocates public protests, like this one in New York's Times Square from spring 2003 (S. Schreck/Airwave Studios)

"If the Security Council had not specifically approved my part in the arrest of General Abaku, I would not have acted, it's as simple as that," the Ambassador responds. "We share the planet and our responsibility to it. For one person, any person, myself included, to presume that their way alone is the only way, or indeed the only best way, would be an act of supreme arrogance."

And should the situation arise again?

"I don't think it will," says Wonder Woman. "I pray that it doesn't."

It may be a faint prayer given the recent expulsion of U.N. Aid Workers from Umeci this past

# WE SAY: New York Wonder

**She's beautiful, talented, and she saves the world from destruction almost daily. What's next for Wonder Woman? No less than inspiring a generation.**

Cassandra Sandsmark, in torn and faded blue jeans and a gray T-shirt with the words "Property of Alcatraz" stenciled on the front, is brushing stray hair out of her eyes as she looks through the latest releases in the CD section. Ten feet away, Wonder Woman herself is struggling to decide between two boxed sets — Mozart or Beethoven.

And people are staring, and of course they are, because it's Wonder Woman standing there, the same Wonder Woman whose new book is stacked in the window displays all along the Lexington Avenue side of the store. Wonder Woman, wearing jeans and a wool sweater with sleeves that don't quite hide the shining bracelets at her wrists, and she's standing right there, in the Classical section, and yes, that really is Wonder Girl at the New Releases.

That's just not something you see every day.

"What about this?" Cassie asks, showing the latest by *McNamara Intact* to Wonder Woman. "Is this any good?"

"It's better than their last album," Wonder Woman says after a pause. "I think he'd probably like it."

When Cassie's asked who she's buying for, she shakes her head, grins, and says, "You'll need a lasso to get an answer out of me."

## AMAZING AMAZONS

It's December 17th, almost a week before Christmas, and Diana and Cassie are engaged in a little holiday shopping. Not, perhaps, the most Amazonian of pursuits, but then again, who expects Wonder Woman to have even heard of *McNamara Intact*, let alone be able to comment on the relative merits of their latest album? Still, it's so mundane as to be almost unbelievable. An Amazon and her protégé shopping? Shouldn't they be out swinging swords or something?

"Right, because Amazons are all about blood, sweat, and tears," says Cassie with a laugh. "After this, we'll go castrate some men, don't worry."

"Don't say that," Diana says with a grin. "Someone's sure to take you seriously."

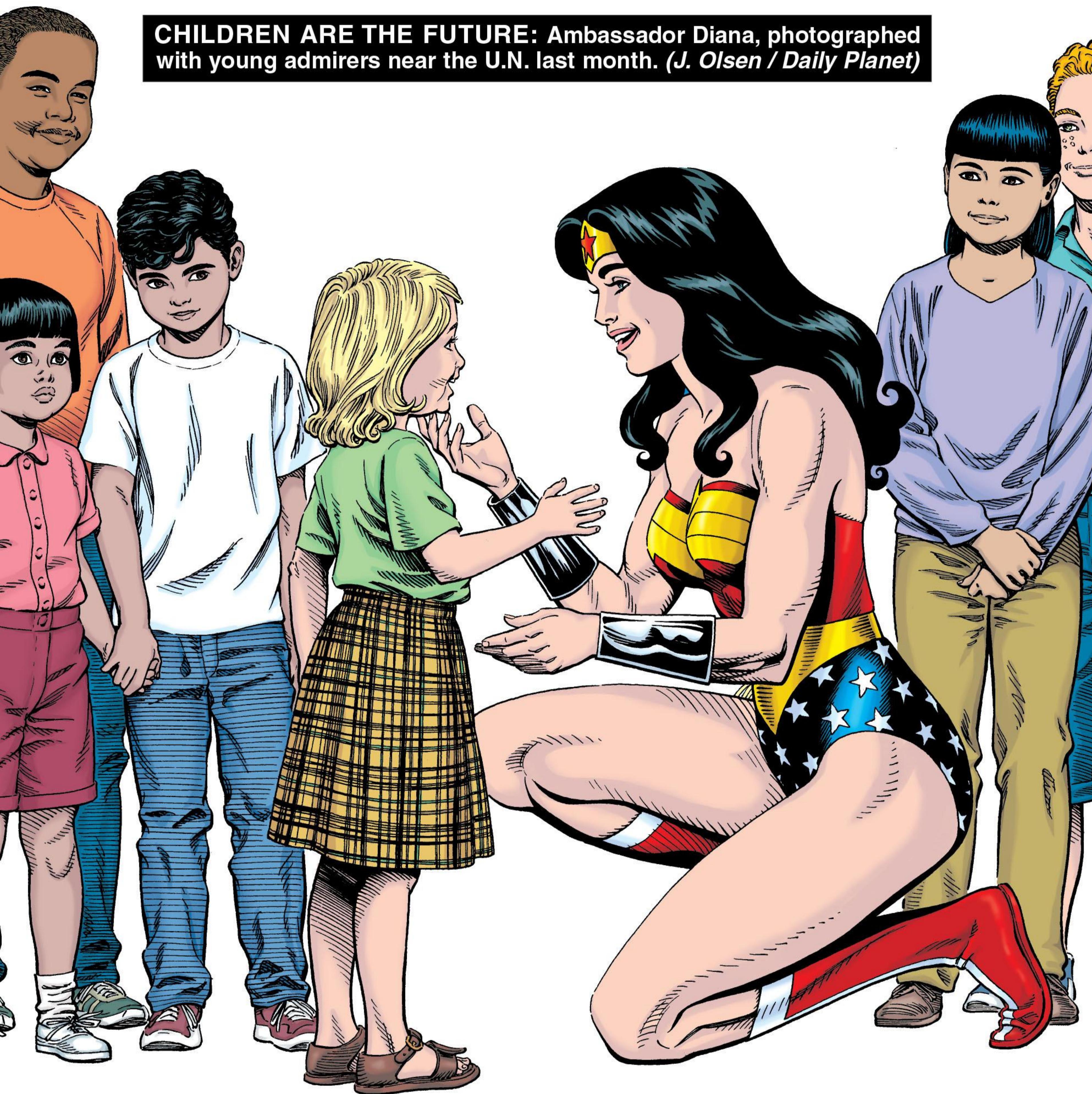
Ridiculous, perhaps, but then again, maybe not. Since

the publication of Wonder Woman's book, *Reflections*, touched off a storm of public debate, the Themyscirian Ambassador has been accused of everything from being a visionary to a subversive, and with a few more inflammatory stops along the way. It's a debate not without some merit. With chapters on everything from conservation (the Wonder Woman, a vegetarian, has strong views on the environment, and in particular the damage that comes from supplying the First World with beef) to the nature of love ("Aphrodite is one of my patrons," Diana is quick to point out. "What was it John Lennon said? 'Love is the flower you've got to let grow.' Let it grow already, and quit trying to legislate it!"), the book has touched a nerve, and sparked everything from mild debate to public protest. "Which was precisely the point," says Diana. "Where's the purpose in sharing my views if people are just going to blindly and blithely accept what I have to say? That's called propaganda, not education."

Debate is one thing, but it hasn't stopped there. "I think it's ridiculous," Cassie says,

# WE SAY:

**CHILDREN ARE THE FUTURE:** Ambassador Diana, photographed with young admirers near the U.N. last month. (J. Olsen / Daily Planet)



## AMAZONS

accusing Diana of trying to ‘pervert’ their kids, and that’s just... that’s just so *backwards*. Themyscira is the most socially and technologically advanced society in the world, they must be doing *something* right. But people hear the word ‘Amazon’

and the phrase ‘island of women’ and they suddenly want to hide behind the couch. It’s 2004, people, get over it! Stop being afraid of women!”

Diana smiles, listening to Cassie, her piercing blue eyes shining (“It’s like looking into the most perfect blue sky,” describes one embassy staffer who asked to remain name-

less). The fondness the two have for one another is obvious in the way they banter and joke while taking a break in the store’s café — Diana drinks a hibiscus tea, while Cassie downs a mocha latte — their relationship part mentor and student, part older sister/younger sister.

So maybe this is more like

# New York Wonder

it? Maybe this is what being an Amazon is about?

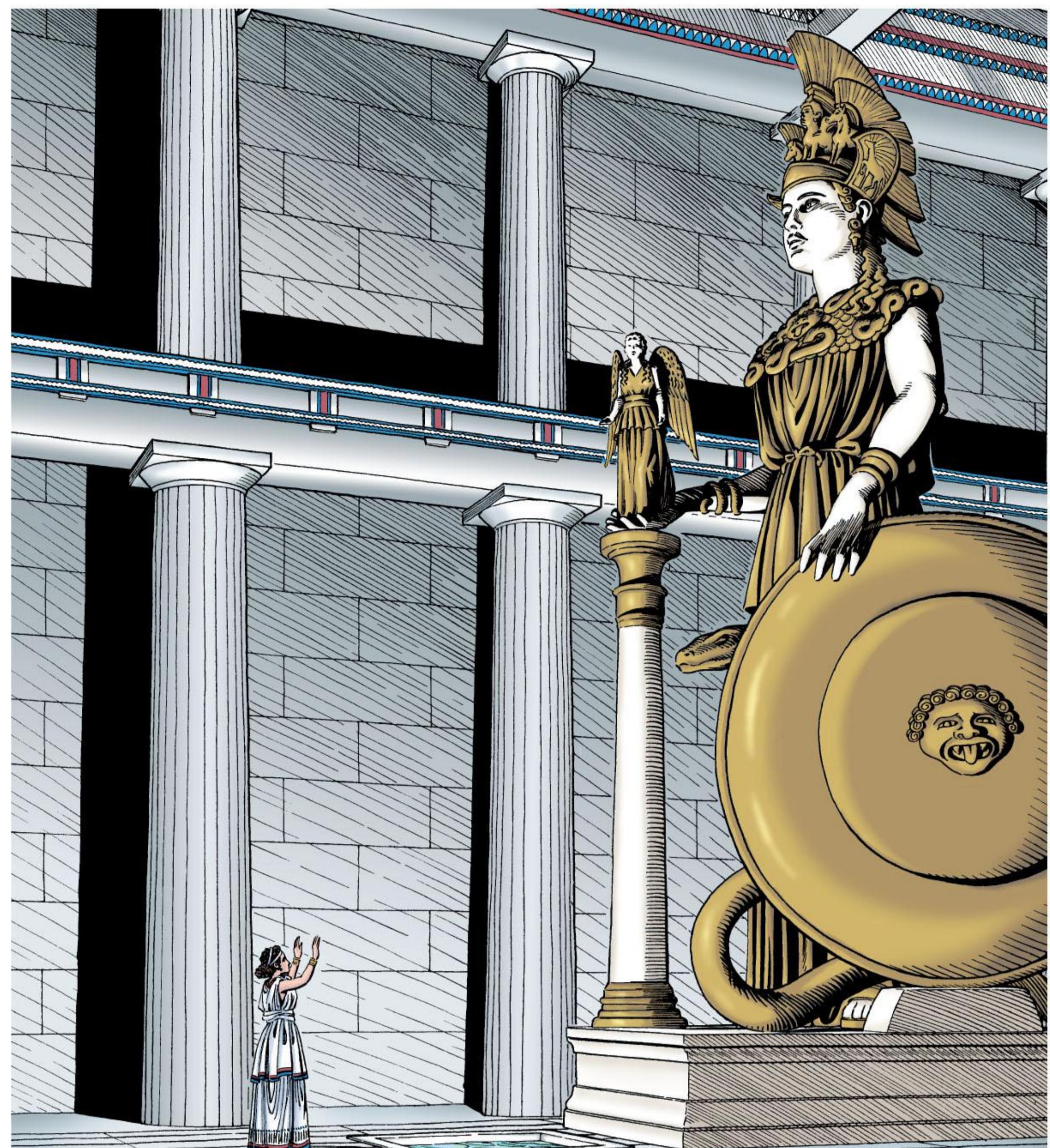
"Do they have mocha lattes on Themyscira?" asks Cassie. "No, it's not, but it is, too... it's the comfort that comes from just, you know, hanging out with those who love you because they see the best in you, and they can forgive the worst. Being an Amazon — even an honorary Amazon — that's the coolest thing imaginable! To be part of that history, and to bring those ideas, those philosophies and beliefs to the rest of the world... that's about as cool as being a Titan."

"About?"

"Well, you guys don't have pizza," Cassie says.

Diana laughs. "We're working on it," she says.

Tea and latte finished, the two gather their purchases and make for the exit. It's a process that takes twenty-six minutes, as each of them is stopped several times for autographs and



**NOT OLD ENOUGH TO BE A CLASSIC:**  
Worship of Athena, acceptable in *The Odyssey*, provokes debate in modern *Reflections*.



**WHERE'S THE BEEF?**  
Illustration from  
*Reflections* focuses on  
grazing-land controversy

# THEMYSCIRA: MARGINALIZATION IN THE FACE OF MULTILATERALISM

BY RACHEL KEAST

*Doctor Rachel Keast is the Legal Attaché at the Themysciran Embassy in New York and advises the Themysciran Ambassador in matters of United Nations proceedings and international law. She is the author of seven books, including the forthcoming Bullets and Bracelets: The Law of Themyscira, Then and Now.*

The United States commitment to multilateralism as outlined in the September 2002 release of the National Security Strategy seems to have been swept aside in the recent debate on unilateralism and the efficacy of implementation of the Powell Doctrine. Globalization as such is here to stay, despite national interests to the contrary around the globe. In all this, Themyscira has effectively been reduced to a non-entity, coming lately as it has to the world stage. But examination of the Themysciran principals of diplomacy, sometimes referred to as the Hippolyta Doctrine, may shed new light on future diplomatic proceedings, insofar as multilateralism remains a pressing concern.

Separating those elements that remain well out-of-reach, that are unique to Themyscira, from those practices available to other nations provides a framework of discussion for further advances in diplomatic action and overtures that the United Nations, as well as other sovereign governments, could do well to adopt. With three thousand years of stable, peaceful governance to draw upon prior to its entrée into international global politics, Themyscira offers a unique diplomatic model.

Of course, there is always the issue of Themyscira's military might, which derives not from a strength of numbers, but from a combination of cultural imperatives and technological advantages unique to the nation. Themyscira is, perhaps, the only nation on

Earth where not only do all of its citizens serve, but all of them do so willingly, and with pride, and remain at a state of readiness that is the envy of many armies. Presented as such, military action has always existed as a political option for the Amazons.

Yet, recent extraordinary conflicts notwithstanding,<sup>1</sup> military force is an option Themyscira is ever loath to use. This is due in part to its self-imposed exile from what the Amazons call the World of the Patriarchy for so many centuries, but more in fact from the fundamental Amazonian understanding of all that a military option entails. As such, the Themysciran military option exists solely for the purpose of defense and is ever exercised only in such times and in such a manner as to insure the safety and continued protection and well-being of her citizens, a right shared by all sovereign nations.

Ironically, perhaps, the presence of this military, backed as it is

<sup>1</sup> Referring of course to the global defense against Imperiex.

by the unique science and technology of Themyscira, has committed the nation to a path of peace that as yet stands unshaken. That its technology remains wholly proprietary is certainly of issue; while there are global interests who feel they, too, should have access to all that Themyscira has, it is the responsibility of the island nation's leaders to maintain a guarded stance that would prevent unchecked proliferation. In fact, it would be irresponsible in extremis for Themyscira to do anything else. This, along with many other factors, has further allowed Themyscira to maintain its status as an independent, neutral, and peaceful nation participating in global politics.

In fact, Themyscira's main export has been its ideals, in the form of its Ambassador to the United Nations, Diana daughter of Hippolyta, referred to more commonly as the Wonder Woman. These are policy stances that are offered rather than imposed.



Fig 1.1: Connection between "Homeric" Amazons and current Themyscirans a controversy among scholars (Illo by Eric Shanower, used with permission)