



THERE IS GREAT POWER IN A SECRET.

FOR IT IS NOT THE KNOWN THAT SHAPES THE WORLD, BUT RATHER THE UNKNOWN, AND THE FEAR OF IT.

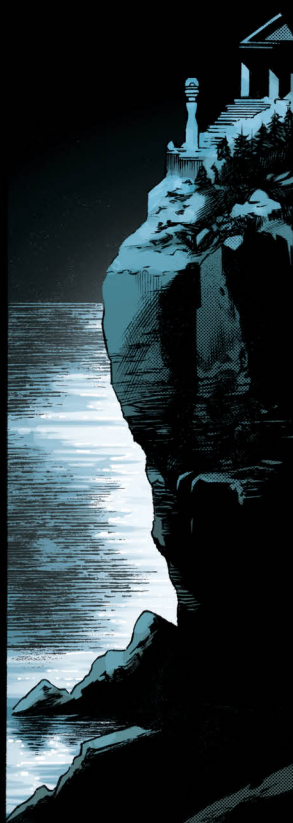
EVEN ON THE VERGE OF HER TWELFTH YEAR, DIANA KNEW THIS.

AND SHE KNEW THERE WAS NO SECRET ON THEMYSIRA GREATER THAN WHERE THE NINE CHTHONIAN WITCH WOMEN WALKED EACH HUNTER'S MOON.

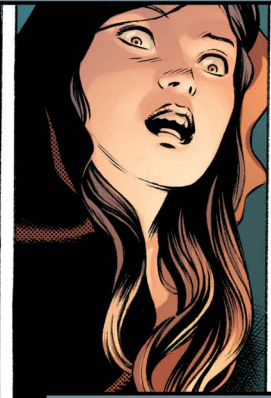
HER MOTHER, HIPPOLYTA, FORBADE SHE ASK THE QUESTION. SHE WOULD LEARN SOME SECRETS IN TIME, AS THE MYSTERIES OF WOMANHOOD REVEALED THEMSELVES TO HER.

OTHERS SHE WOULD LEARN SHE DID NOT WANT TO KNOW.

BUT DIANA, LIKE ALL CHILDREN, WAS PRECOCIOUS AND CURIOUS. UNLIKE MOST CHILDREN, SHE WAS ALSO CAPABLE.



IN THE HIGH PEAKS OVER THEMYSCLIRA
LIE TWO WORKERS' PATHS, PAVED BY
FOOTSTEPS WHEN THE ISLAND WAS NEW. THE
PATHS CONVERGED DEEP IN THE FOREST.



AT THE CROSSROADS, DIANA
WATCHED THE WITCH WOMEN
DANCE AND SING. THREE AND
THREE AND THREE.

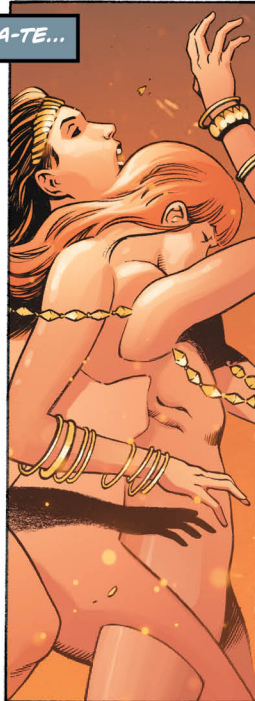


THE LAST AGE OF MAGIC

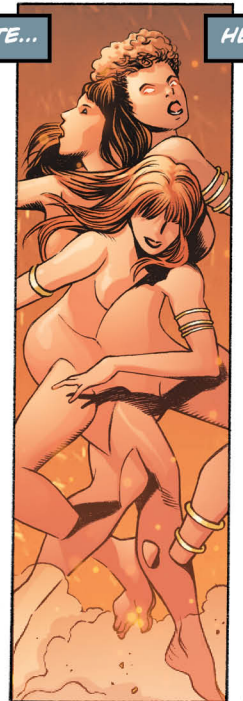
CHAPTER 2



HE-CA-TE...

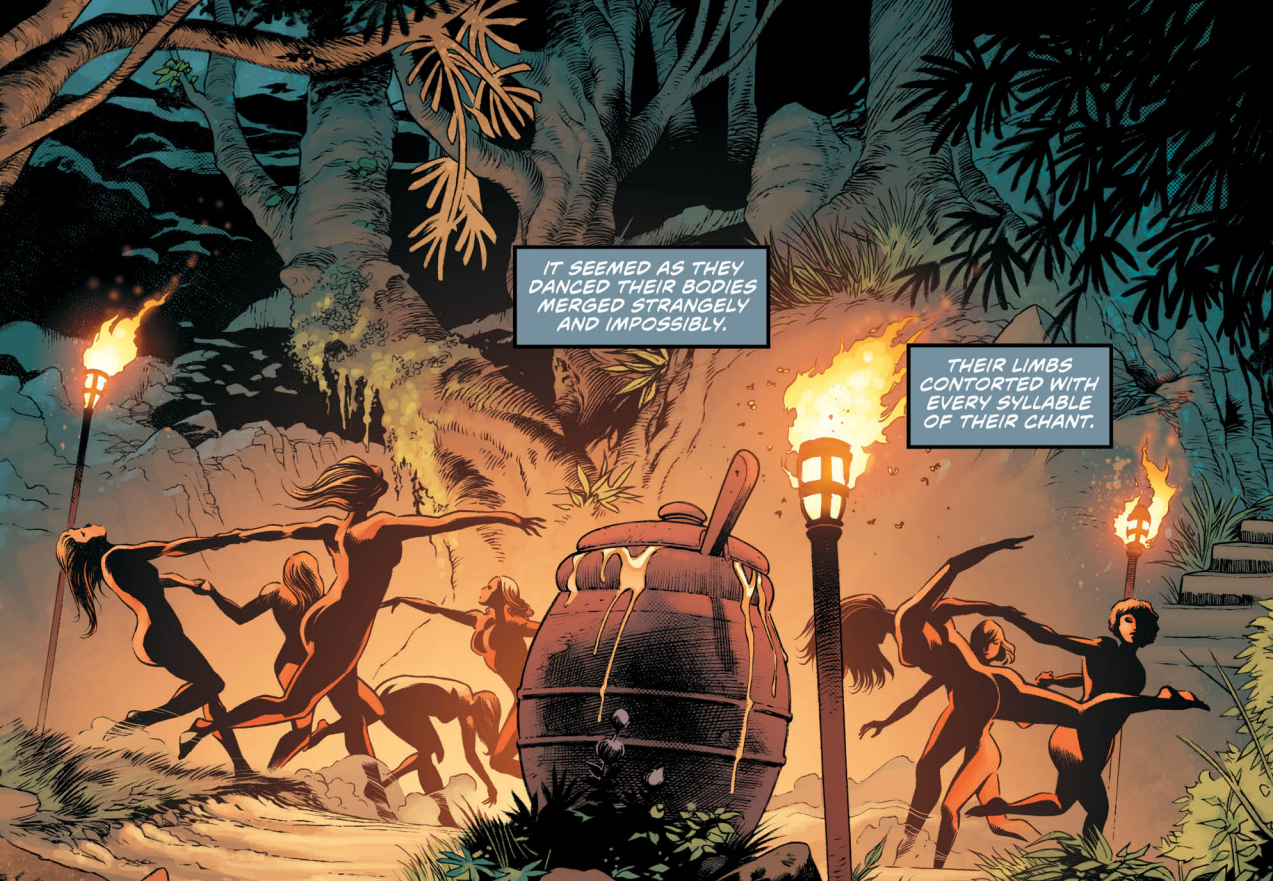


HE-CA-TE...



HE-CA-TE...





IT SEEMED AS THEY DANCED THEIR BODIES MERGED STRANGELY AND IMPOSSIBLY.

THEIR LIMBS CONTORTED WITH EVERY SYLLABLE OF THEIR CHANT.

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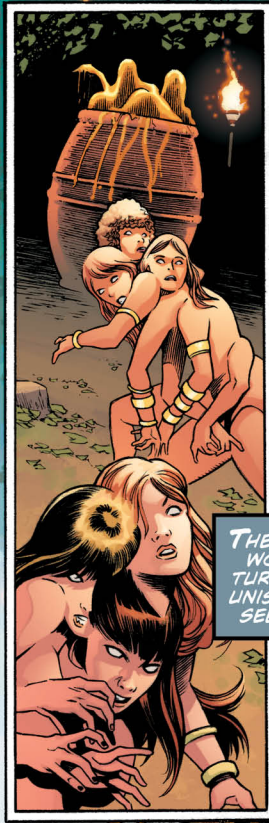


THE HAIR STOOD ON THE BACK OF DIANA'S NECK, AND SUDDENLY SHE KNEW SHE WAS WATCHING SOMETHING THAT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE SEEN.



SHE WAS LEARNING SOMETHING SHE WAS NOT PREPARED TO KNOW.

Gasps



THE WITCH WOMEN TURNED IN UNISON TO SEE HER.



BEHIND THEM WAS SOMETHING IN THE DARK. SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLY ANCIENT AND UNSPEAKABLY POWERFUL. IT LOOKED AT HER.



BRING HER TO ME.



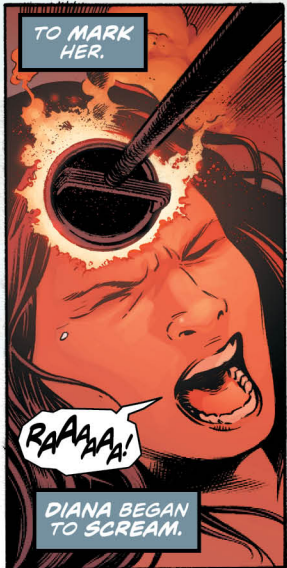
THE HORROR WAS UNLIKE ANYTHING SHE HAD EVER KNOWN...



THE FEAR PARALYZING AS SHE FELT THE PRESENCE DRAW NEARER.



A HAND REACHED OUT TO TOUCH HER.



TO MARK HER.

RAAAA!

DIANA BEGAN TO SCREAM.

WONDER WOMAN, WATCH OUT! THESE CREATURES ARE BREAKING THROUGH MY VINES!



RAAAAAA!!!

THEN TRY SOMETHING STRONGER, SWAMP THING. WE NEED TO GET THESE CREATURES DOWN.

BOBO, WATCH MY BACK!



ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! I BARELY KNOW HOW TO HOLD THIS THING! THEY DON'T TEACH SWASHBUCKLING AT DETECTIVE SCHOOL!



SKREE!

THE OTHERKIND WILL EAT YOU!



THEY DAMN WELL BETTER NOT!