



BLACK PANTHER

WORLD OF WAKANDA

The *Dora Milaje* (pronounced "DOR-ah muh-LAH-jay," and which means "Adored Ones") are the personal bodyguards of the Black Panther and the royal family, recruited from every tribe of Wakanda. An ancient tradition originally designed to help keep the peace among the rival tribes, the *Dora Milaje* used to also be potential wives-in-training for the king, but that aspect has since fallen by the wayside. And now the time has come for the *Dora Milaje* to perhaps evolve even further...

Following a devastating attack by Thanos and The Black Order, Wakanda is in chaos. The *Dora Milaje*, who had previously suffered a schism over T'Challa's leadership, still struggle to balance their allegiance to the crown and responsibility for their own actions.

Two of the *Dora Milaje*, Ayo and Aneka, feel the pain of this crisis acutely as they hide their growing romantic relationship. In keeping their secret, however, they were absent for the worst of Thanos' attack. Now, in the aftermath, they must live with their choices...

[This story takes place before the events of **BLACK PANTHER #1**.]

DAWN OF THE MIDNIGHT ANGELS

part **4**

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BLACK PANTHER: WORLD OF WAKANDA No. 4, April 2017.
Published Monthly by MARVEL WORLDWIDE INC., a subsidiary
of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT LLC, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:
135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. BULK MAIL
POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL
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coincidental. \$3.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852)
in the direct market; Canadian Agreement #40668537. Printed
in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S.
\$26.99; Canada \$42.99; Foreign \$42.99. POSTMASTER: SEND
ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO **BLACK PANTHER: WORLD OF
WAKANDA**, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTIONS P.O. BOX 727
NEW HYDE PARK, NY 11040. TELEPHONE # (888) 511-5480.
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511-5480. Manufactured between 01/20/2017 and 01/31/2017
by LSC COMMUNICATIONS INC., GLASGOW, KY, USA.

**BLACK
PANTHER**

created by
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THE FRONT PLAZA OF UPANGA, DORA MILAJE TRAINING FACILITY

WE ARE HERE TO CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT THE BLACK ORDER HAS BEEN DEFEATED AND RUN OUT OF WAKANDA.

BUT WE ARE ALSO HERE TO MOURN MY BELOVED DAUGHTER, QUEEN SHURI, WHO GAVE HER LIFE SO THAT THE GOLDEN CITY COULD BE REBORN.

BEFORE HER PASSING, MY DAUGHTER MADE PEACE WITH HER BROTHER, T'CHALLA. HE IS NOW ONCE AGAIN THE KING OF WAKANDA, SO TO HONOR HER SACRIFICE I ASK THAT YOU, PROUD WOMEN OF THE DORA MILAJE, MAKE PEACE WITH T'CHALLA TOO.

BECAUSE FOR WAKANDA TO MOVE FORWARD, WE MUST STAND UNITED.

HOW DOES RAMONDA EXPECT ME TO MOVE FORWARD WHEN I FEEL SO TRAPPED WITH GUILT OVER QUEEN SHURI'S DEATH?

I TOO REGRET NOT BEING HERE FOR OUR QUEEN, ANEKA, BUT WE COULD NOT HAVE PREVENTED HER UNTIMELY DEATH. THE BLACK ORDER NEARLY BROUGHT THIS COUNTRY TO ITS KNEES.



ANEKA, I LOVE YOU, I DO, BUT I HAVE DONE NOTHING TO EARN YOUR CONTINUED DISDAIN AND DISMISSAL. HOW MUCH LONGER WILL YOU PUNISH ME?

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT, AYO. IF I HADN'T BEEN OFF WITH YOU BEING SELFISH, I COULD HAVE HELPED QUEEN SHURI! I KNOW IT.

YOU DO NOT WANT TO WAIT AND FIND OUT. JUST KNOW THAT I PUNISH MYSELF FAR MORE.





ANEKA, AYO-- NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR INDULGING IN SELF-RECRIMINATION. WE WILL REMEMBER OUR DUTY, WHICH LIVES ON NOW MORE THAN EVER.

YES, MISTRESS ZOLA.



THERE ARE MORE PRESSING CONCERNS. AS A MEANS OF MAKING PEACE WITH T'CHALLA, I WANT THE TWO OF YOU TO ACCOMPANY HIM AS HE CREATES A NEW ALLIANCE CALLED THE ULTIMATES.*

*SEE THE ULTIMATES: OMNIVERSAL VOL. 1 TPB. -WIL



I NEED TO BE ALONE RIGHT NOW.

YOU NEED TO DO AS I SAY RIGHT NOW, AND THAT MEANS WORKING WITH AYO AND SERVING T'CHALLA. I WILL HEAR NO MORE OF YOUR SELF-PITY.



WE WILL DO YOUR BIDDING, MISTRESS ZOLA...

...THOUGH IT CLEARLY PAINS MY CAPTAIN TO WORK WITH ME.

LATER

WE CANNOT JUST SIT HERE CRYING FOR WHAT HAS BEEN LOST, MISTRESS ZOLA. WE MUST FIGHT AND DESTROY OUR ENEMIES, AND DEFEND OUR COUNTRY'S HONOR!

NO ONE IS JUST SITTING AROUND CRYING, FOLAMI. AYO AND ANEKA ARE WORKING WITH T'CHALLA AND THE ULTIMATES.

QUEEN-MOTHER RAMONDA HAS A FULL SECURITY DETAIL. EVERY MEMBER OF THE DORA MILAJE IS WORKING HARD.

ENOUGH! WE NEED TO DO MORE THAN PROTECT! WE NEED TO AVENGE.

QUITE A DISPLAY OF AGILITY, FOLAMI... CLEARLY YOU HAVE ENHANCED YOURSELF SOMEHOW. ARE YOU FINALLY GOING TO TELL ME WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO YOURSELF, OR DO I NEED TO HAVE YOUR BLOOD ANALYZED?

I MET AN INCREDIBLE MAN-- AOKO--WHO IS AS INTERESTED IN VENGEANCE FOR WAKANDA AS I AM! MISTRESS ZOLA, HE GAVE ME THE POWER TO BE SO MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLY HUMAN! HE WILL GIVE THIS POWER TO ALL OF US, IF YOU ALLOW IT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE NANITES THAT ARE NOW COURSEING THROUGH MY BODY HAVE TRIPLED THE STRENGTH OF MY MUSCLES! AND MY SENSES ARE KEEN. I CAN THINK SO CLEARLY, SO QUICKLY, SOMETIMES IT MAKES MY HEAD ACHE.





FOLAMI, WHO IS THIS MAN?!

I TOLD YOU-- AOKO. LIKE ME, HE KNOWS THAT OUR ENEMIES WILL NOT STOP ATTACKING WAKANDA, AND SO HE IS MAKING SURE THAT NEXT TIME WE ARE READY.



ENOUGH. YOU WILL COME WITH ME.

I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU LET A MAN YOU DID NOT KNOW ALTER YOUR BODY IN WAYS YOU CANNOT FULLY UNDERSTAND--ALL FOR SOMETHING AS FRAGILE AS VENGEANCE.



DR. EKEH, FOLAMI HAS BEEN INJECTED WITH SOME KIND OF NANITE TECHNOLOGY. SHE NEEDS A COMPLETE MEDICAL WORKUP SO WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT EXACTLY HAS BEEN DONE TO HER AND IF IT CAN BE LNDONE.

I WILL SEE TO THIS MYSELF, MISTRESS ZOLA.



OVER MY DEAD BODY-- OR PERHAPS OVER HERS--WILL I LET ZOLA LINDO WHAT I HAVE DONE!



STUDY ME IF YOU MUST. YOU WILL SEE THAT I HAVE BEEN MADE BETTER, AS WE SHOULD ALL BE MADE BETTER.



DEAR GIRL, YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE. FOR THE TIME BEING, YOU ARE CONFINED TO UPANGA. THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES FOR YOUR IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS.

IF VENGEANCE FOR WAKANDA DEMANDS SACRIFICE OF ME...