

ANNOTATED

SPIDER-MAN



MARVEL

BOOK FOUR OF FOUR

MARVELS

ANNOTATED

MARVELS #4

"BOOK FOUR: THE DAY SHE DIED"

APRIL 1994

KURT BUSIEK

Writer

ALEX ROSS

Artist

RICHARD STARKINGS with JOHN GAUSHELL

Letterers

SPENCER LAMM

Assistant Editor

MARCUS McLAURIN

Editor

ALEX ROSS
Front Cover Artist

STEPHANIE HANS
Variant Cover Artist

MARK D. BEAZLEY
Collection Editor

JEFF YOUNGQUIST
VP Production & Special Projects

DAVID GABRIEL
SVP Print, Sales & Marketing

CAITLIN O'CONNELL
Assistant Editor

JEPH YORK
Research & Layout

C.B. CEBULSKI
Editor in Chief

KATERI WOODY
Associate Managing Editor

JESS HARROLD
Annotations

JOE QUESADA
Chief Creative Officer

JOE HOCHSTEIN
Associate Manager, Digital Assets

COLORTEK & JOE FRONTIRRE
Production

DAN BUCKLEY
President

JENNIFER GRÜNWARD
Senior Editor, Special Projects

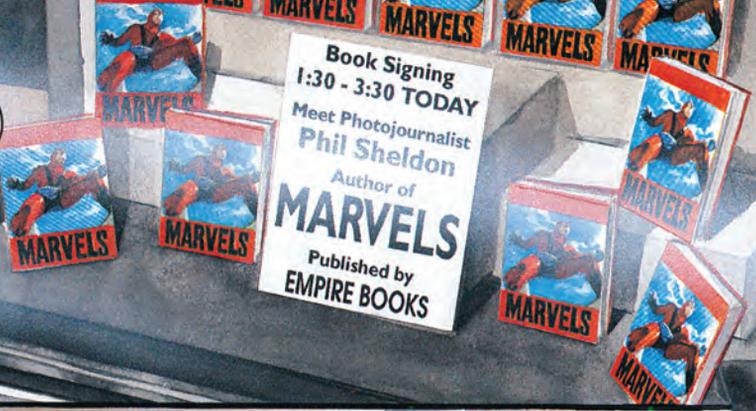
ADAM DEL RE & STACIE ZUCKER
Book Design

ALAN FINE
Executive Producer

Special Thanks to
BRIAN OVERTON, SAL ABBINANTI & TOM BREVOORT

COULD YOU SIGN IT, "TO MARTIN -- HAPPY FORTY-THIRD BIRTHDAY?"

Book Signing
1:30 - 3:30 TODAY
Meet Photojournalist
Phil Sheldon
Author of
MARVELS
Published by
EMPIRE BOOKS

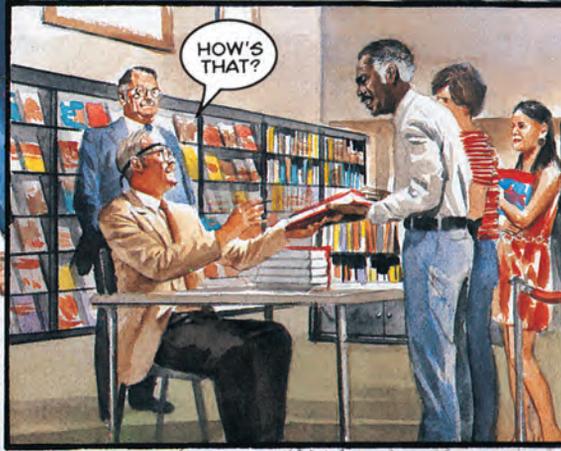


HOW'S THAT?

THIS IS EXCELLENT, PHIL. FAR BETTER THAN EXPECTED.

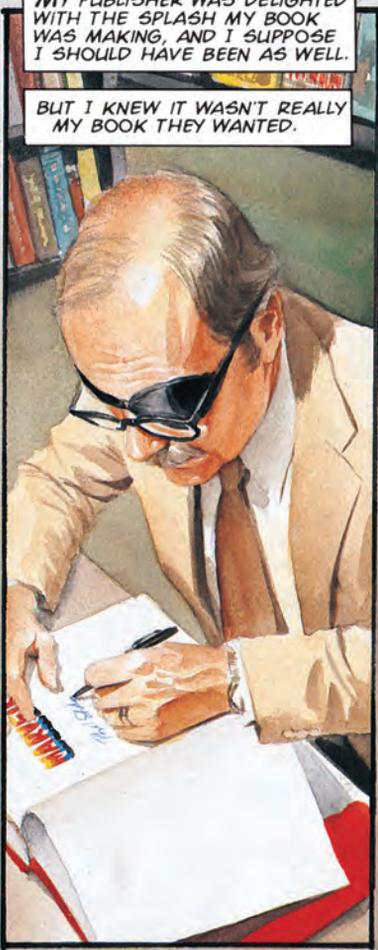
I'VE SENT BACK TO THE OFFICE FOR TWO MORE CASES.

WE HAVE TO START TALKING SEQUEL.



MY PUBLISHER WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE SPLASH MY BOOK WAS MAKING, AND I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN AS WELL.

BUT I KNEW IT WASN'T REALLY MY BOOK THEY WANTED.



I HAD TO TELL YOU -- THIS SHOT OF HAWKEYE --

-- IT'S SO BOLD -- HE LOOKS SO DARING --

THANK YOU. I WAS LUCKY TO GET IT.



THEY WANTED A TALISMAN.

THEY WANTED TO CLAP THEIR HANDS FOR TINKER-BELL AND SAY I BELIEVE, BUT DIDN'T KNOW HOW.

THEY WANTED THE AVENGERS TO COME BACK.





ALL WE KNEW WAS THAT THEY WERE IN ANOTHER GALAXY.

ALL WE KNEW WAS THAT THEY WERE FIGHTING IN A WAR -- A WAR BETWEEN TWO ALIEN RACES. AND IF THEY FAILED, WE WOULD ALL DIE.

THERE WERE NO BULLETINS. NO RADIO REPORTS. HOW COULD THERE HAVE BEEN?

ALL WE COULD DO WAS WAIT. AND HOPE.

AND, AMID PRAYERS AND CROSSED FINGERS, WE KNEW ONE THING:

WE'D PILLORIED THEM IN THE STREETS, SLANDERED THEM IN A SENATE INVESTIGATION --

OH, WE KNEW NOW WE'D BEEN WRONG -- THAT THE SENATOR WHO'D TURNED US AGAINST THEM WAS AN ENEMY ALIEN HIMSELF --

IN MY DAY, WE'D HAVE BEEN HONEST ABOUT IT.

"TONIGHT, AMERICA HOLDS HER BREATH AND HOPES THAT WHEREVER THEY ARE TONIGHT, HER BOYS ARE SAFE.

BUT NOT TODAY.

"WE HANG OUR HEADS AT THE INJUSTICE WE HAVE DONE THEM AND SILENTLY BEG THEIR FORGIVENESS."



THEY WERE LAYING THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR US -- AFTER ALL WE'D DONE TO THEM.



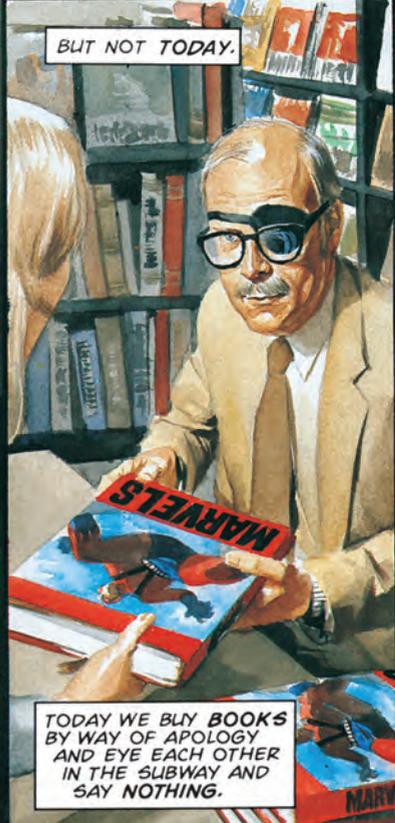
-- TRIED TO HAVE THEM FORCIBLY ARRESTED AS TRAITORS.



-- BUT BY THAT TIME, THEY WERE GONE. FIGHTING TO SAVE A WORLD THAT HAD SPIT ON THEM AND CURSED THEM.



WALTER WINCHELL OR H.V. KALTENBORN WOULD HAVE COME ON THE RADIO --



TODAY WE BUY BOOKS BY WAY OF APOLOGY AND EYE EACH OTHER IN THE SUBWAY AND SAY NOTHING.

AND WHEN THEY DID COME BACK AND WE WERE SAFE AGAIN, WE COUGHED AND SAID IT WASN'T THAT IMPORTANT ANYWAY.

WE HAD OTHER THINGS TO OCCUPY OUR ATTENTION NOW.

BAXTER BUILDING
FACE OF A MURDERER
READ THE DAILY BUGLE AND LEARN THE TRUTH!

IT WOULD HAVE SERVED US RIGHT IF THEY'D NEVER RETURNED.

WE DIDN'T DESERVE THEM.

-- I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE **MARCIA HARDESTY**, BIG JACK HARDESTY'S DAUGHTER.

SHE'S JUST HIRED ON AS MY ASSISTANT.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, PHIL? TOO GOOD FOR US NOW?

IT WAS THE BEST SELLER. WENT STRAIGHT TO HIS HEAD.

GOT NO TIME FOR WORK NOW, OUR PHIL -- HE'S GOT TO DO ALL THE TALK SHOWS.

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.

GATHER 'ROUND, YOU LOSERS AND HAS-BEENS --

I MIGHT'VE KNOWN. YOU'RE JACKALS, ALL OF YOU -- STRIKING AT ANY SIGN OF WEAKNESS!

BUT I'M TOO STUBBORN TO QUIT AND YOU KNOW IT! DORIS STILL HAS TO BADGER ME FOR MONTHS TO TAKE A VACATION.

BUT I'M GETTING OLD. I'M NOT AS FAST AS I USED TO BE --



AND MY HANDS -- I'M STARTING TO NEED HELP IN THE DARKROOM...

HEY! YOU DON'T NEED TO JUSTIFY ANYTHING TO THESE WISENHEIMERS, PHIL!

IF ANYBODY IN THIS PLACE HAS EARNED A REST, IT'S YOU!

THE TRUTH WAS, IT WASN'T JUST MY HANDS.

I WAS TIRED. TIRED AND IRRITABLE. I WAS TURNING INTO A SOUR OLD MAN, AND I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO STOP IT.



THE JOBS I WAS GETTING CERTAINLY WERENT ANY HELP.

-- WILL PROVE BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT THE VIGILANTE KNOWN AS THE BLACK WIDOW, WITH MALICE AFORETHOUGHT --

-- SET OUT TO COMMIT MURDER AND DID SO!

MURDER -- IN THE FIRST DEGREE!

THIS IS SO EXCITING!

IT'S A FARCE, IS WHAT IT IS!

SHE STOPPED A CRIMINAL -- THE COSTUMED MANIAC CALLED THE SCORPION. HE WASN'T EVEN DEAD, AS IT TURNED OUT.



BUT WE TRIED TO HANG HER FOR IT ANYWAY.

