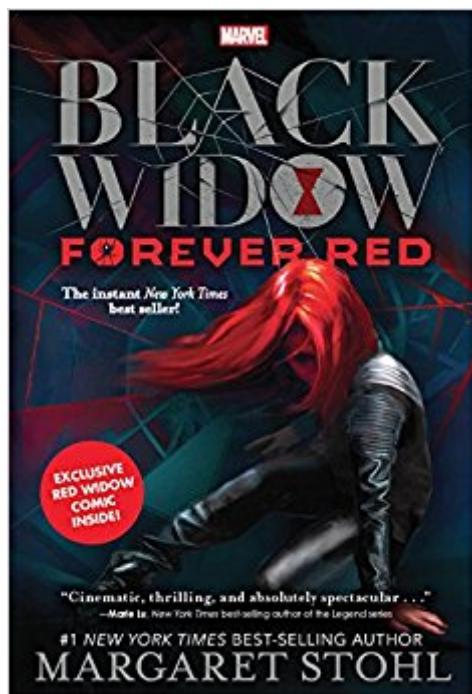


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Black Widow Forever Red (A Black Widow Novel)



Synopsis

Enter the world of the Avengers' iconic master spy Natasha Romanoff is one of the world's most lethal assassins. Trained from a young age in the arts of death and deception, Natasha was given the title of Black Widow by Ivan Somodorov, her brutal teacher at the Red Room, Moscow's infamous academy for operatives. Ava Orlova is just trying to fit in as an average Brooklyn teenager, but her life has been anything but average. The daughter of a missing Russian quantum physicist, Ava was once subjected to a series of ruthless military experiments-until she was rescued by Black Widow and placed under S.H.I.E.L.D. protection. Ava has always longed to reconnect with her mysterious savior, but Black Widow isn't really the big sister type. Until now. When children all over Eastern Europe begin to go missing, and rumors of smuggled Red Room tech light up the dark net, Natasha suspects her old teacher has returned-and that Ava Orlova might be the only one who can stop him. To defeat the madman who threatens their future, Natasha and Ava must unravel their pasts. Only then will they discover the truth about the dark-eyed boy with an hourglass tattoo who haunts Ava's dreams. . . . *Black Widow: Forever Red* features all the heart-pounding adventure readers expect from Marvel, written by #1 New York Times best-selling author Margaret Stohl. Uncover a new side of the Marvel Universe that will thrill loyal fans and newcomers alike, as Stohl reveals the untold story of Black Widow for the very first time.

Book Information

Series: A Black Widow Novel

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up  •*Beautiful Creatures* (Little, Brown, 2010) coauthor Stohl and Marvel team up for a brand new Black Widow story with two original main characters. Once a lethal assassin for Russia, Natasha Romanov (aka Black Widow) strives to atone for her past mistakes. Working with S.H.I.E.L.D, Natasha is ready to kill her former teacher, Ivan Somodorov, but does not count on rescuing a little girl from a planned explosion at his lab. Without realizing it, Natasha and Ava are caught in Ivan's latest experiment, which gives Ava access to Natasha's abilities. Years later, their lives converge when Ava meets Alex, a boy she has been having dreams about, and is reunited with Natasha, who turns their normal lives upside down. Natasha reluctantly involves Ava and Alex in her mission to kill Ivan and save the world, but the cost may be too high. *Black Widow: Forever Red* can be enjoyed without prior knowledge, and for those who are familiar with Black Widow, Natasha's history is expanded in new ways. **VERDICT** Great fight sequences, plenty of action, twists in the plot, and characters motivated by strong emotions will keep readers engaged and entertained. A great addition for most young adult collections.  •*Marissa Lieberman, East Orange Public Library, NJ* --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

* "Every aspect of this book is terrific, from the concrete details and rich language to the interactions among Alex, Ava, and Natasha Here's hoping for a sequel!"  Booklist, starred review "Action-packed . . . [Stohl creates] a complex tapestry from which emerges the story of the origins of the Black Widow."  VOYA

I bought the Book because I like the Black Widow. I have read comics since I was a kid, and Marvel has always been my go to company. While BW was never one of my favorites, I did always enjoy the character. In this book, she is a secondary character behind two older teens named Alex and Ava. The book goes back and forth between each of the three as each chapter is told from one of their perspectives. The story is about Natasha trying to kill somebody from her past, and of course the main characters get intertwined as well. While it was off the Black Widow book was not mainly about Black Widow, it honestly wasn't a big deal early on. It still felt like a good spy story with shield and Avengers tie ins. It started to fall apart about half way through, when the "young adult" part of the book kicked in. We get romance, which I usually enjoy, and we get some really off backstory on Natasha that tries to humanize that character. Now I know this book giant considered cannon, or

part of the actual marvel universe, but it still seemed very out of place with this character. Without going into spoilers, I can't really explain why I didn't like it. But it just felt cheesy and seemed almost like they only did it to tie the 3 characters together. The book wasn't bad, and I really enjoyed the first half of it. I loved every interaction Coulson had, and the cameo by a certain Avenger early on. But finishing the book was difficult. It was on sale for a dollar, I easily got that out of it. But I have no interest in reading the next book.

BLACK WIDOW: FOREVER RED is an exciting and electrifying and action-packed story that gives readers a peek into the life of one of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s most mysterious and kick-ass agents, Natasha Romanov. It uncovers details of her past. It reveals chinks in her armor that suggest that she might not be as cold-hearted as she'd like everyone to believe. It introduces a new character, Ava Orlova, whose past and present are intertwined with the Black Widow's. And it sends them both on a quest for answers and a mission to take down their mutual enemy. Ava Orlova would never forget the red-haired woman who rescued her from the clutches of Ivan Somodorov. She owed her life to this woman who'd called her sestrenka, little sister. This hero who promised she'd be there for her whenever she needed her. But after years spent locked up in one of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s military bunkers with no answer to her many requests to see her and years spent on the streets of Brooklyn fighting for her survival, Ava wanted nothing to do with her. She might never be able to forget what the Black Widow had done for her, but she wasn't going to forgive her for what she didn't do. Natasha Romanov had no intention of coming back into Ava's life. As long as she was safe there was no reason to. But when it appears that the man responsible for both of their tortured pasts is alive and going after Ava, she is forced to step in. Because if she wants answers as to why Ivan is coming for Ava after all these years, she'll need to keep Ava alive. And, even if she won't admit it, she cares whether Ava lives or dies. Author Margaret Stohl created a fantastic new addition to the Marvel Universe with her Black Widow story - a story that is just as much Ava's story as it is Natasha's. She expanded on the character that is the Black Widow, bringing more of her past and her family's past into the light, allowing her to show just a tiny bit of humanity, and giving her another dangerous mission to complete, this time with two untrained civilians in tow. The author created two new key characters - Ava and Alex - whose connection to and with each other is fascinating, bewitching, and a bit of a mystery, and allowed for a touch of romance in this otherwise action-filled tale. And she paired them up with the Black Widow, but made

no promises that the outcome would be a happy one. The story alternates between three of its most integral characters' points of view - Natasha's, Ava's, and Alex's - allowing for a more expansive view of what's going on. The start of most chapters begins with a S.H.I.E.L.D. Line-of-Duty Death Investigation transcript that teases information about what happened to the three of them and where things might have gone wrong. And throughout, it offers cameos of one of the most charming of the Avengers. *BLACK WIDOW: FOREVER RED* is a thrilling and riveting and heartbreakingly read. It delivers two kick-ass heroines, one of whom is legendary, a surprising hero, a world that is both familiar and new, a villain who is beyond evil, a deadly mission, and some comic relief in the form of a much beloved Avenger. There will be surprises. There may even be a few tears. And it will be impossible to put this story down before the adventure ends.

It was very well written and had a thrilling story! Margaret Stohl really captured Natasha Romanoff's character and I could hear Scarlett Johansson's voice throughout the entire thing. But I will warn you, the book is more about Ava Orlova than Natasha. Although some of the book is in Natasha's point of the view, it does mostly center around Ava. (SPOILER ALERT!) She's a young teenager who was basically used by the bad guy, Ivan Somodrov. Natasha had saved her from him years before and took care of her from a distance. They're linked by something called the O.P.U.S. (created by Ivan) Everything that Natasha knows and remembers, Ava knows and remembers. It's part of the mystery of the story... which I just gave away.... oops... You also sometimes follow a young boy named Alex (or Alexei) Manorovsky. He is apparently Natasha's younger brother. (I gave that away too...) Now, I haven't read any comics books or even seen anything of a younger brother on her wikipedia or biography. I believe it's not cannon and just something Stohl made up (and hey! you can bring any new characters you want in fanFictions!) I write this because I frantically searched and searched for him in comics but I found nothing. And I don't want other people to have the same problem. There was also a cheesy romance. But then again I'm not really into that kind of teenage romance thing. If you are, then you may like it. It was one of those "couple days" kind of romance. Like they knew each other and then they're in love like that. There's nothing bad in it, it just wasn't amazing. Tony Stark is amazing! He was funny and acted just like Tony Stark!:) I was really happy that the book mentioned other Avengers. Cap, Bruce Banner and Hawkeye! (pretty sure...) I bought the book because I am a HUGE Black Widow fan and I mostly wasn't disappointed. The story was solid and it keeps you reading. It's scary and the antagonist is a strong character. If you're afraid you'll be disappointed, it's not because the story is annoying or that Stohl didn't write Natasha

well, but only that you're following someone different and there's a sick romance. I encourage you to read the book if you're a Black Widow fan and you love comics book novels! Over all, it was a great book!

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