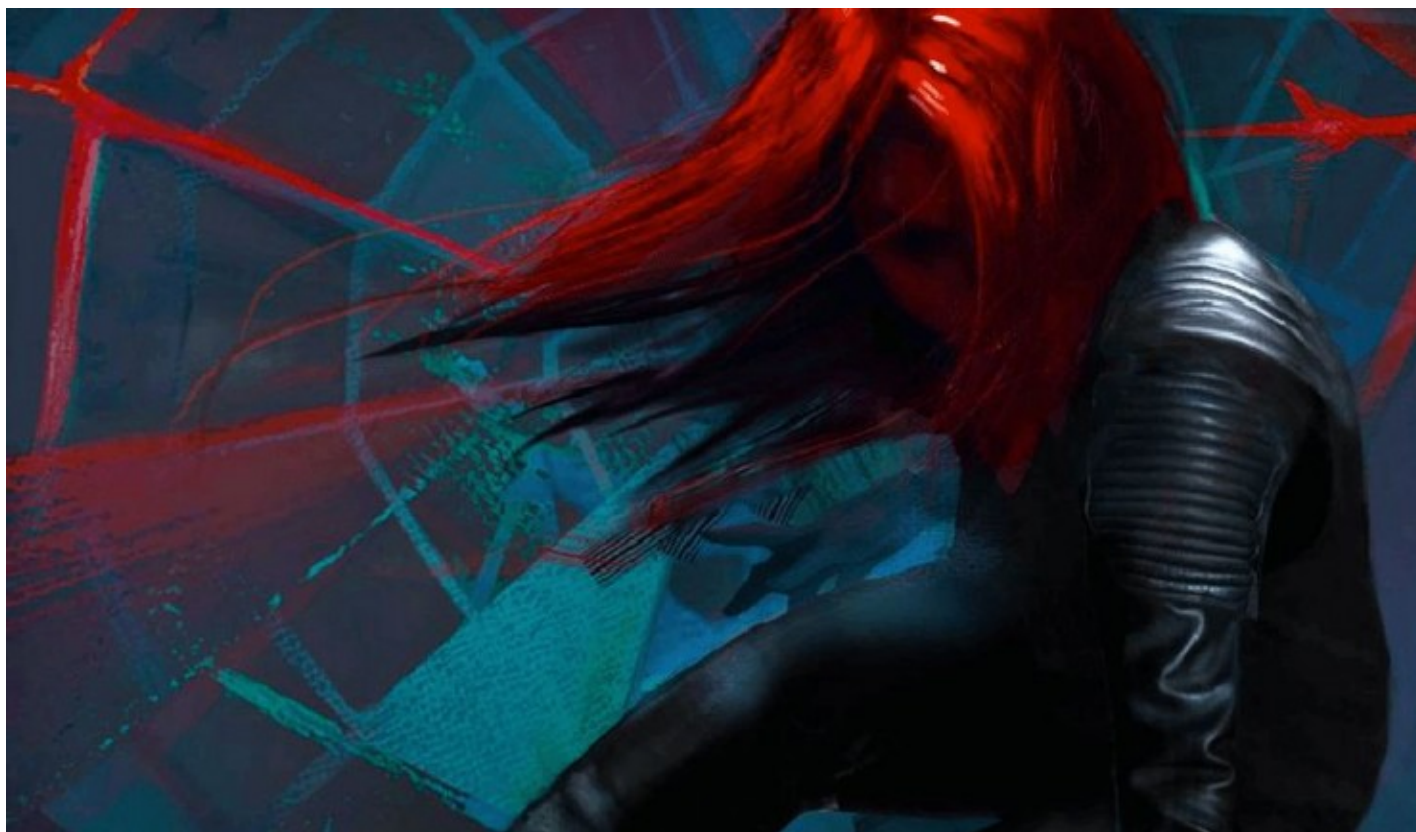


## REVIEW: 'Black Widow: Forever Red' Untangles One of Natasha's Complex Webs



*Black Widow: Forever Red* gives fans of Natasha Romanoff some backstory to how she became one of most bad-a\$\$ members of the Avengers but this book is only the beginning to what hopefully will become more Natasha stories.

It seems like only months ago we were screaming, "Where is Natasha!" And that is a true statement. After the release of *Avengers: Age of Ultron* and the whole "no Black Widow toys" and who could forget that awful "slut" shaming moment, fans of the red-head assassin from Russia finally have something that is ALL about Black Widow. Sure, it isn't a stand-alone film but this extremely well written book by Margaret Stohl – is NOW a New York Times Bestseller. So where's Natasha now? – this book is a good start for more Black Widow and female protagonist works from the world of comics. And the big wigs have noticed, announcing back at NYCC earlier this month that a sequel to *Black Widow: Forever Red*, titled *Black Widow: Red Vengeance*, is currently in the [works](#) for a 2016 release.

Now onto the actual book, *Black Widow: Forever Red*. Like most people who heard about a YA book being written centering around Natasha Romanoff you would figure we would be getting a teenage Natasha. We would finally learn what happened in the Red Room and how Natasha became Black Widow and teamed up with S.H.I.E.L.D. Well, I am sorry geeks, you are wrong!

Which is okay because what we got was way better! I am personally a fan of keeping some of Black Widow's secrets a secret. What I LOVE about Natasha is her sense of mystery and HELL YEA I want more of her in my world but that doesn't mean I want to dissect everything about the Avenger. In *Forever Red* we get to see a different side of Natasha thanks to the addition of Ava Orlova. Trying to remain spoiler free – because you REALLY should just read the book for yourself – Ava's tale is equally as important as Black Widow's in this novel. What *Forever Red* and author Stohl gives us is a brand new super up and coming agent.

Ava's life was heading towards the direction of a young Natasha back in Russia when Red Room creator, Ivan Somodorov, was holding her prisoner. Then in comes S.H.I.E.L.D and Black Widow to save the day. Ava was saved from Ivan but grows up in Brooklyn hidden away by S.H.E.I.L.D.. Ava thought she found a sister in Natasha, now known to the world as the famous Avenger assassin, Black Widow. But after years of no contact with Natasha, Ava has grown bitter and resentful towards her savior.

Through a series of dreams and the return of Ivan the two are reunited and soon learn that they have way more in common than just their curly red locks. With the addition of the civilian minor, Alex, the trio go awol in search for Ivan, what really happened 8 years ago on the night Natasha rescued Ava, and the true identity of Alex.

The story is told in an Aaron Sorkin format. Natasha recalls the events of what happened during a D.O.D briefing. Though some of the plot points within the novel are predictable, the tale of Natasha, Ava, and Alex is enjoyable and exciting to read. Plus, we get cameos by Tony Stark and Agent Coulson. The novel holds up to the YA genre but is truly suitable for Marvel and Black Widow fans of all ages. Basically, if you are a Black Widow fan then read the freaking book!

*Forever Red* may untangle one of Black Widow's many webs, a look into a past that she would like to forget and one she wants no one to have access too. The true victor of *Forever Red* is Ava Orlova or shall I say...Red Widow. *Forever Red* leaves the reader wanting more of both Natasha and Ava and thanks to Marvel we will be getting more in 2016!

***Black Widow: Forever Red* is currently available to purchase in hardcover, ebook, and audio format.**

## Review overview

Overall Rating 8.5

Need for More Black Widow/Red Widow 10

Chicks Kicking A\$\$ 9

Red Head Power! 9.7

Witty Tony Stark Dialogue 8

## Summary

If you are a fan Black Widow or simply just a fan of NOT one BUT two female protagonist in your books then get Black Widow: Forever Red!

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