

Author G. Willow Wilson Bids Farewell to *Ms. Marvel*

With acclaimed author Saladin Ahmed set to take over writing duties for Ms. Marvel, G. Willow Wilson wrote a letter to fans as she passed the torch on the beloved character she helped to create.

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Being part of the genesis of Kamala Khan has been one of the greatest honors of my life. From my puzzlement during that first telephone conversation with Sana in 2012—I was pregnant, frazzled from a long book tour, and in disbelief (You want to launch a new character? In this market?)—to my stunned amazement when the first issue went into its seventh printing, to my glee when Sana handed the first trade paperback to the President of the United States, this journey has been pure joy.

And that is in no small part thanks to you, the readers. Your enthusiasm has propelled this character to greater and greater heights. Never in my life did I imagine I would walk into my local drugstore and see something I created staring back at me from t-shirts and action figures. Yet it's the experiences I've had meeting readers that have changed me on an elemental level. At signings, at conventions, at classroom visits, we've laughed and cried together. I've met your kids, seen pictures of your dogs, held your hands while you talked about your most difficult experiences. Kamala is not just what you read on the page or watch on TV—she is this community. And she has made all of us better human beings.

In February, I will have written sixty issues of this book—five years of Kamala's story. She is now something much bigger than the miniseries Sana and I planned years ago. She will, in all likelihood, outlive us all. I couldn't be happier about it—and by that same token, it means that my part in Kamala's adventures must eventually come to an end. Great superheroes stay fresh and relevant because they are the work of many storytellers, all of whom bring their unique perspectives and experiences to the character.

I was delighted when Saladin said yes to taking over writing duties on *Ms. Marvel*. His plans for Kamala are incredibly exciting, and it's been a lot of fun getting an inside look at where the series is headed under his direction. I was blown away by his work on *Black Bolt*, which gave me the same sense of endless possibility that reading *Sandman* gave me as a teenager. You're in for a treat.

I will miss working with the phenomenal roster of artists that has made this series one of the best-looking books on the shelf year after year—Adrian Alphona, whose genius character and environmental designs gave this series its distinct look; Jamie McKelvie, whose design sense is already legendary, for the costume that so quickly became iconic; Takeshi Miyazawa, whose kinetic, gleeful style was impossible not to love; and Nico Leon, who is basically my blood brother at this point, and for whom no action sequence is too weird. The amazing Ian Herring, who has colored EVERY SINGLE ISSUE of this book for five straight years, and whose flawless palette gives the book stylistic continuity no matter who is drawing it. And Joe Caramagna, letterer extraordinaire, who has spent half a decade putting up with my last-minute edits when he really shouldn't have had to. (I love you, Joe. I'm sorry, Joe.)

In a couple of months, I will step down as the writer of *Ms. Marvel*. But I will be a fan for life.

G. WILLOW WILSON

WRITER

G. Willow Wilson is the Eisner Award-nominated author of the ongoing series *Air* and the graphic novel *Cairo* (both with artist M.K. Perker). Her first nonfiction book, which contains no pictures whatsoever, *The Butterfly Mosque*, was released in June 2010 from Grove/Atlantic. Besides being a critically acclaimed author, Wilson describes herself as a professional genre-bender, casual gamer, and student of religion. Her phenomenal success with *Ms. Marvel* led her to a stint on *X-Men* and a collaboration with fellow writer Marguerite Bennett, together assembling Marvel's female heroes into *A-Force*.

SANA AMANAT

EDITOR

Sana Amanat, Production and Development Executive at Marvel, is most well-known for co-creating Kamala Khan, the Pakistani-American superhero called Ms. Marvel. She has brought countless new fans into comics and delighted long-time readers as she expands her role of superhero storytelling into other mediums as well.

ADRIAN ALPHONA

ARTIST

Canadian artist Adrian Alphona studied graphic design at Toronto's George Brown College and joined Toronto-based Bright Anvil Studios before he landed his first professional comic-book work as co-creator of *Runaways* with writer Brian K. Vaughan. While he designed all the early *Runaways* characters, Alphona has said he especially likes drawing Nico and Karolina. Alphona's other Marvel credits included *Uncanny X-Force* before he teamed with G. Willow Wilson on the bestselling *Ms. Marvel*, starring young heroine Kamala Khan.