

Below, George R.R. Martin responds to why "the 16 year-old George R.R. Martin" liked Avengers #9 so much: George R.R. Martin: I liked Wonder Man. And you know why? [Laughs] Now it's coming back to me vividly! Wonder Man dies in that story. He's a brand new character, he's introduced, and he dies. It was very heartwrenching. I liked the character — it was a tragic, doomed character. I guess I've responded to tragic, doomed characters ever since I was a high-school kid. John Hodgman: Especially those who might die at any minute. George R.R. Martin: That's right. Of course, being comic books, Wonder Man didn't stay dead for long. He came back a year or two later and had a long run for many, many decades. But the fact that he was introduced and joined the Avengers and died all in that one issue had a great impact on me when I was

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