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Newsletter #18 - May 2022

Jack Kent: The Wit, Whimsy, and Wisdom of a Comic Storyteller

Last month my editor at University Press of Mississippi wrote to ask why I hadn't responded to their contract offer for my biography of cartoonist and children's author Jack Kent. Turns out they'd drawn up the offer in December but never actually sent it to me. In that gap, I'd signed an advance contract for my book about Mark Gruenwald. So that's why my fifth contract is for my fourth book.

Jack Kent: The Wit, Whimsy, and Wisdom of a Comic Storyteller is due out in spring / summer 2023!



Mark Gruenwald: Master of Fictional Reality

If you watch all the way through the credits of a Marvel movie (as you should), you'll see a "special thanks" section that lists some of the comic book creators whose work informed the film. Mark Gruenwald's name has shown up in these quite a bit lately, and now that I'm immersed in his work, it's been fun for me to try to figure out where it is in the movie. Some examples: In *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, the "fight club" scene was inspired by Mark's *Captain America* #411 (January 1993). The most recent MCU hit, *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*, features Wundagore Mountain, a place Mark had helped establish as having special significance to the Scarlet Witch way back in *Avengers* #185-187 (July-September 1979).



A Successful Signing

I had a great time last week selling and signing my books at Bobzbay Books in downtown Bloomington. I saw some longstanding friends and met some new ones, and felt the joy having people show genuine interest in my work! Congrats to Kelli and Gina on winning the Funko Pop raffle!



A Brain Cloud



"I'll just write you a prescription for that."

As always, thank you for reading. Love and peace to you all.