

Marisa Acocella Marchetto

AUTHOR OF *CANCER VIXEN: A TRUE STORY*



Marisa Acocella Marchetto first began her career as a cartoonist in 1994, when a character she created called “She” appeared in *Mirabella* magazine. In 1995, Marisa published her first graphic novel, *Just Who the Hell is She, Anyway?* (Harmony Books) which was optioned by HBO as a pilot. “She” later appeared in the pages of *Elle* magazine from 1996-1997.

In 1998, Robert Mankoff—cartoon editor of *The New Yorker*—asked Marisa to contribute work to the magazine, and her cartoons, which focus on women and their relationships to fashion, men and the world, have been appearing there ever since. Bob (as the cartoonists call Robert) assigned Marisa a reportage piece on opening day in the New York Knicks locker room. When her story appeared in *The New Yorker*, it caught the eye of editors of *The New York Times* Sunday Styles section. They hired Marisa to write and draw a cartoon strip called “The Strip,” which was the first ever regular cartoon feature in the *Times*; it ran from 2000-2001.

In addition to *The New Yorker*, Marisa has had ongoing cartoons in *Glamour*, *Talk*, *Advertising Age*, *Modern Bride*, and *ESPN* magazines. Since 2002, her single panel cartoon “Glamour Girls” has appeared monthly in *Glamour* magazine’s “Dos & Don’ts” section. In 2004, three weeks before getting married for the first time at the young age of 43, Marisa was diagnosed with breast cancer. When her *Glamour* editors found out, their second reaction was to ask Marisa to document her battle with the disease. *CANCER VIXEN* originally ran as six pages in *Glamour* in May 2005, and a story about the spread was featured as a front page Arts story in *The New York Times*. *CANCER VIXEN*, a graphic memoir, was published by Alfred A. Knopf in October 2006, and is coming out in paperback by Pantheon in October 2009.

Today Marisa is grateful to be happily married and healthy. She is donating a percentage of the book’s proceeds to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation and to underprivileged women at the Comprehensive Cancer Center affiliated with St. Vincent’s Hospital in Manhattan: her *CANCER VIXEN* FUND. This October 30, on National Mammography Day, the *CANCER VIXEN* FUND will be sponsoring their fifth free screening for uninsured women – the screenings happen twice a year in May and every National Mammography Day.

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