



| Cartoon: Rick McKee, The Augusta Chronicle, GA

¹ Rick McKee's cartoon depicts Spiderman dramatically shouting in disbelief upon learning that Stan Lee has passed. He feels as though he has lost a father, but he is not alone. Thor, Hulk, Invisible Girl/Woman, Iron Man and Batman are all there to comfort him; they too have lost a father. However, Iron Man is certain that this is not the end. Surely they will see him again. Spider Man doesn't quite understand, but the narrator clarifies that no one ever really dies in comic books. It is, rather, only the beginning.

² Stan Lee was the chief creator at Marvel Comics for decades, hence the comic book style of this cartoon. In comics, the plot unfolds in panels with dialogue appearing in speech balloons. When the narrator speaks, these balloons usually have a different shape to indicate this to the reader. The final speech balloon with the words "to be continued....", is also very typical of comics. This makes it clear to the reader that the action does not stop here, but rather that you will have to read the next issue to find out what will happen next.

³ In this cartoon, the author has placed Stan Lee in the very universe he helped create. Lee co-created a majority of the characters who have gathered to mourn their shared loss. Batman was also reinvented by Stan Lee in 2001, establishing a relation between the Dark Knight and Lee. The loss of a parent or a traumatic event is a classic trope of the comic book genre, which is once again used in honor of Stan Lee. This stage often comes before the average Joe becomes a super hero endowed with powers. The suspenseful ending also implies that there is more to come and that, although Stan Lee has left this world, he will never leave our hearts or the Marvel universe because "[n]obody ever truly dies in the comics." The coming together of both the DC and Marvel universe indicates that he will be missed by all.

- ⁰⁻¹ **to be continued** Fortsetzung folgt – **to depict** (-'') h.: zeigen – **in disbelief** (dɪsbɪ'li:f) ungläubig – **to pass (away)** versterben – **to comfort s.o.** ('--) jdn. trösten – **narrator** (nə'reɪtə) Erzähler – **to clarify** ('klærɪfə) klarstellen
- ² **chief** Haupt- – **for decades** jahrzehntelang – **hence** daher – **plot** Handlung – **to unfold** s. entwickeln – **speech balloon** (bə'lu:n) Sprechblase – **to indicate s.th.** auf etw. hindeuten
- ³ **the very ...** genau das ... – **majority** (mə'dʒɔrəti) Mehrheit – **to mourn** (mɔ:n) betrauern – **to establish** etablieren – **trope** (trəʊp) h.: Motiv – **in honor of** zu Ehren von – **stage** Stadium – **average Joe** Durchschnittstyp – **to be endowed with s.th.** (ɪn'daʊd) mit etw. ausgestattet sein – **suspenseful** (sə'spensfəl) spannend



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