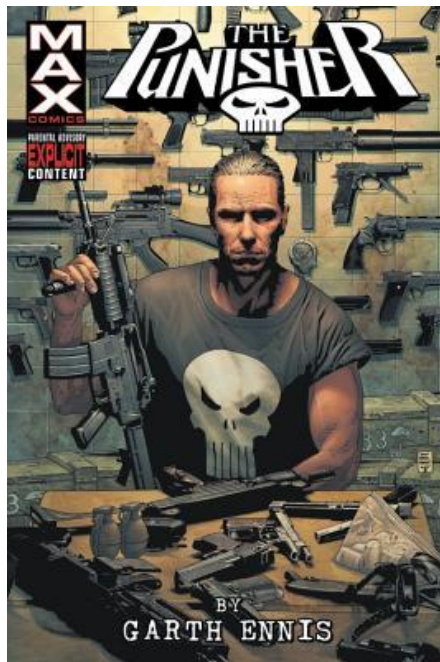




The Punisher Max by Garth Ennis Omnibus, Vol. 1

Garth Ennis , Marvel Comics (Text)

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Punisher Max by Garth Ennis Omnibus, Vol. 1

Garth Ennis , Marvel Comics (Text)

The Punisher Max by Garth Ennis Omnibus, Vol. 1 Garth Ennis , Marvel Comics (Text)

Hard-hitting Punisher tales by one of Frank Castle's signature writers! But do the Punisher's origins trace back even further than the fateful day in the park when he lost his family? In 1971 Vietnam, with his platoon under attack, Captain Castle must make a grim choice. And in the modern day, Punisher's old partner Microchip resurfaces with a startling offer! Nick Fury has a proposition, too - a dangerous mission involving a Siberian nuclear missile silo and a lethal retrovirus. But Castle's actions set off a chain reaction that will bring him into conflict with a ruthless Russian general - and take the world to the brink of war. Plus, mobster Nicky Cavella returns to plague the Punisher - and a wave of violence rocks New York to its core!

COLLECTING: BORN 1-4, PUNISHER (2004) 1-30

The Punisher Max by Garth Ennis Omnibus, Vol. 1 Details

Date : Published May 15th 2018 by Marvel

ISBN : 9781302912079

Author : Garth Ennis , Marvel Comics (Text)

Format : Hardcover 864 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Superheroes, Marvel, Graphic Novels

 [Download The Punisher Max by Garth Ennis Omnibus, Vol. 1 ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Punisher Max by Garth Ennis Omnibus, Vol. 1 ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Punisher Max by Garth Ennis Omnibus, Vol. 1 Garth Ennis ,
Marvel Comics (Text)

From Reader Review The Punisher Max by Garth Ennis Omnibus, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Maik Krüger says

I heard so many good things about Garth Ennis' run on the Punisher, and to my surprise, they were all true. The characters are all so well fleshed out, so evil and psychotic that I couldn't help but feel that Castle put my own thoughts into words when he says in "The Slavers": *It had been a long, long time since I hated anyone the way I hated them.*

Marvel's MAX series was an attempt to publish comics for adults, so be aware that there are no stops for political correctness, language, violence or sexual topics. This omnibus collection includes the 4 issue prequel "Born" for which I didn't care much, and five stories from the first 30 issues of Ennis' Punisher, which are all excellent. "Kitchen Irish" may be the weakest of these, mainly because all Irish are morons in this book. But Ennis is from Belfast, and you can't be racist by mocking your own people, so he's forgiven for that. Plus, it introduces a very interesting character who re-appears later.

Castle himself is quite different to what you've seen before: He's old. He's alone. He's psychotic, even borderline insane. It's probably the realization that there are not enough bullets for all the evil people that's bringing him down in the end.

Shawn Birss says

A middle aged, white, American, hetero male sees corruption, and knows that the only way to solve it is with violence, and to do it alone. Fuck the system. Those bureaucrats and politically correct whiners don't know anything about the reality of how to deal with this scum. Let The Lone Hero deal with it like A Man.

Yah.

There is obviously a lot that can be said about how gross this cliché of a story has become. And there is a lot to be said about how tired and cliché this gross story has become. I'm glad that in 2018, machismo is finally falling out of popularity.

But that doesn't mean I am necessarily ready to give up on the genre altogether. And I think it is a genre. There is a story there, and a way to tell it using the tropes of the genre to say something fresh. For example, I would be into a story like the one I described above, but with one element changed. Have The Hero be gay, or a woman, or fighting against, instead of for, the United States (practically or figuratively). Or have them fail, miserably, and in failing reveal that it just doesn't work (as I write this, I am reminded of certain incidents in The Last Jedi).

Besides the tired clichés, this massive collection also has the writer Garth Ennis for and against it. I believe Ennis, like Miller, even at his best, is best in small doses. As a consequence, Each story taken alone in this collection was better than the whole. There is a dark, gross bitterness to Ennis that gets under my skin when I have too much of him. Though this book didn't delve as far into potty humour as Preacher, it flirted with the line. I also think that the book was partially saved from the most perverse of Ennis tendencies by not also being combined with Steve Dillon. Those two together make a combo that often has me putting a book down for a few days because I feel ill. This one merely had me cringe and close my eyes to let the mild nausea pass. Win!

Taken in one big gulp, some troubling similarities between these stories rise to the surface. Our White Hetero

Male Protagonist is almost always fighting, and killing, immigrants. Too many times they are told to go back to their own country. Racist epithets are aplenty. That doesn't alone make the book racist, of course. But it doesn't go out of its way to show negative consequences to that kind of racism. Female characters are few, and very shallow when they appear. One in particular, a cardboard cutout of a horny woman who was motivated to sleep with Frank Castle, was very difficult to read. But when each story is taken alone, these patterns are less obvious. And, with the final story, The Slavers, the book makes a surprising turnaround and seems to address almost every single issue I just mentioned, and do it well. It actually becomes nearly like one of the stories I suggested that could be told in this genre and be effective by its subversion. So my feelings on this are mixed.

The book is at its best when it shows the limits of its title character. When he fails, or his successes are shown to be hollow, the book works.

I wouldn't recommend reading this collection. I think Born is worth reading as a simple and effective war story. Mother Russia is a good character study, and the high point of the collection. After that, Slavers is worth reading to see something a little more emotionally complex. I would skip the rest, even Volume One, whose sexist female cop character just stuck in my gut and turned sour as I processed the book in the days after finishing it.

The following are my thoughts on each story included in this collection. As you'll see, the I am more positive about the individual parts than I am about the whole:

Born:

The first story in this collection is one of Frank Castle in Vietnam, before his family is killed. It shows him learning to kill, his beginning to like and even need to do so, and compares it to others fighting beside him who are addicted to sex and smack. It suggests he likes killing more than he likes his family. It is grim, cynical, pessimistic, and very American in the way every Vietnam War story can be.

Four Stars

In The Beginning:

There is a verisimilitude to this comic that is truly amazing. For a story that is undeniably about a "superhero" (actually an antihero), the tone and circumstance, events, characters, and dialogue all ring true (but for an unfortunate female character who is a walking cliché, and portrayed in a horribly sexist way - this storyline's biggest flaw). I don't know if Ennis ever served in the military. If not, he probably had someone from the military as an advisor. Frank Castle's character is very well developed. His motivations make sense. Considering what a horrible person he is, it is amazing how Ennis is able to make us sympathize. Castle is cynical and intelligent, and even righteous in his own way. The art in this book is phenomenal. The covers are perfect. I am really amazed at this book. I didn't think mainstream superhero comics could be this good.

Four Stars

Kitchen Irish:

Hm. This story wasn't nearly as good as the first two. It was more of a pulp crime novel than a Punisher book, really. Frank Castle was in it. But he was not the protagonist. In truth, he wasn't really important to the story. The art was, unfortunately, not as good as the first two, either. While the first two were among the best of how the medium can look, this one started weak, and worked its way up to competent. I found it ugly to even look at until halfway through, and never good enough to not be distracting. This was disappointing. That this same illustrator comes back for the fifth and sixth story in this collection does not excite me. But maybe, by then, he will have improved, as he improved during these six chapters. The covers/chapter breaks continue to be amazing.

Two Stars

Mother Russia:

After expecting from the last story to see this series begin to go downhill, Mother Russia pulls it right out of the fire. It isn't without flaws. But it is still my favourite so far. The interior art is excellent, though the covers/chapter breaks aren't as good as previous stories. But the story is fantastic. This one is worth reading alone, without any of the others. I was skeptical at first, because of the portrayal of Nick Fury and Frank Castle's characters. They are established at the beginning of this book in a way perfect for this story, but inconsistent with how they are portrayed elsewhere. For Nick Fury, in the Punisher Max world he is being portrayed as nearly as much of an antihero as Castle. He's a whoring, grizzled, bad mouthed asshole. This I can forgive if I read it as an interpretation of his character in a different universe, this one, one in which colourful Avengers and Spider-men don't really fit, either. But Frank Castle is established early in this story as someone a little too willing to work with Nick Fury, who is himself working with the military. It was made clear in earlier stories of this same collection that Castle won't do this. However, I believe the story in its completion justifies the hole. It's just that good. I can imagine a few minor changes that could have been made to close that hole, and justified The Punisher teaming up. These minor story details aren't clearly communicated. But room is made for them so that I can allow the discrepancies to slide. All that said, the story taken as its own story outside of any continuity is just excellent. It is tightly plotted, character driven, tense, and in the end, beautiful. Frank Castle's character is developed in some very beautiful ways that honour his past and even more clearly define his motivations and convictions now. Without giving too much away, Ennis does this mostly through Castle's relationship with an innocent little girl. Great story.

Five Stars

Up is Down and Black is White:

Well, this one was bad. And it was bad in all the ways I thought it might be bad. Fernández has returned on pencils. His work looks even uglier than the last volume he illustrated, Kitchen Irish. That the last books were named for the ethnicity of the gang targeted by The Punisher made me nervous when I saw "black" in the title of this one. And yes, there is a panel of The Punisher blasting a young black man's head open with a high powered gun. That's pretty gross, on every level. He also makes fun of how the black gang members hold their guns, a cheap shot since they were written that way in this book to copy rap videos, not reality. This is also the first book to include rape (at least as far as I can remember - this one is explicit and frequent). . It is by no means sensitive in its portrayal. The story is just a series of gratuitous violent incidents. Gross ones. Basically, this book reads less like the thoughtful high points in this series and more like exploitation trash fiction.

One Star

The Slavers:

I must admit that once I came to this story, I didn't even want to enjoy these anymore. I was a cynical sonofabitch, ready to dismiss this story outright, having just had enough Ennis in my system than I prefer. I already knew I didn't like the artist. I expected that Ennis' good writing had dried up several chapters ago. But then . . . it was actually good.

The addition of two police officer characters, one a woman with actual character and motivation, the other a gay black man, was exactly what this book needed. Also, by adding a social worker, also a woman and a person of colour, we get to see the limits of what The Punisher can and can't do. The epilogue gives the reader an opportunity to reflect on The Punisher's methods, and the reality of the many risks that real human beings take every day in their own front line wars against real oppression and abuse.

The Slavers was, predictably, grim, violent, pessimistic, and cynical. But it also had a shred of a conscience that has been missing in the series up until now. This was enough to make me decide to keep reading Omnibus 2.

Four Stars

?

Read as trade paperbacks Born, The Punisher: In The Beginning, The Punisher: Kitchen Irish, The Punisher:

Mother Russia, The Punisher: Up is Down and Black is White, and The Punisher: The Slavers
Max/Marvel 2004/2018
Originally published as Born Issues 1-4 and The Punisher Issues 1-30
Illustrated by Darick Robertson, Lewis Larosa, Leandro Fernández, and Doug Braithwaite

Three Stars

February 2-10, 2018

?

Aildiin says

I am only giving 4 stars because I found the that the first story Born was a little slow.
After that it's a pure gem though.
This is the first time I read any punisher comic and I think I started with the best.
This is no surprise since this is Garth Ennis and everything I have read so far by him has been Golden (loved
The Boys)

Richard says

Collecting the first six story arcs from Garth Ennis's famous Punisher series for Marvel's MAX line, this is a must-read for any fans of Frank Castle or anyone interested in the character. These stories are dark and brutal, holding nothing back, and illustrative of Castle and the world he inhabits. This includes classic Punisher stories like *The Slavers*, *Born*, and *Mother Russia*.

I previously reviewed all of the books included here in more detail in the series' first two deluxe editions:

The Punisher: The Complete MAX Collection, Vol. 1

★★★★

The Punisher: The Complete MAX Collection, Vol. 2

★★★★★
