

PUNISHER

MARVEL 4

AARON
SAIZ
AZACETA
STEWART

“
And you shall know he is the
Fist of the Beast.
”



PARENTAL ADVISORY



MARVEL REMEMBERS

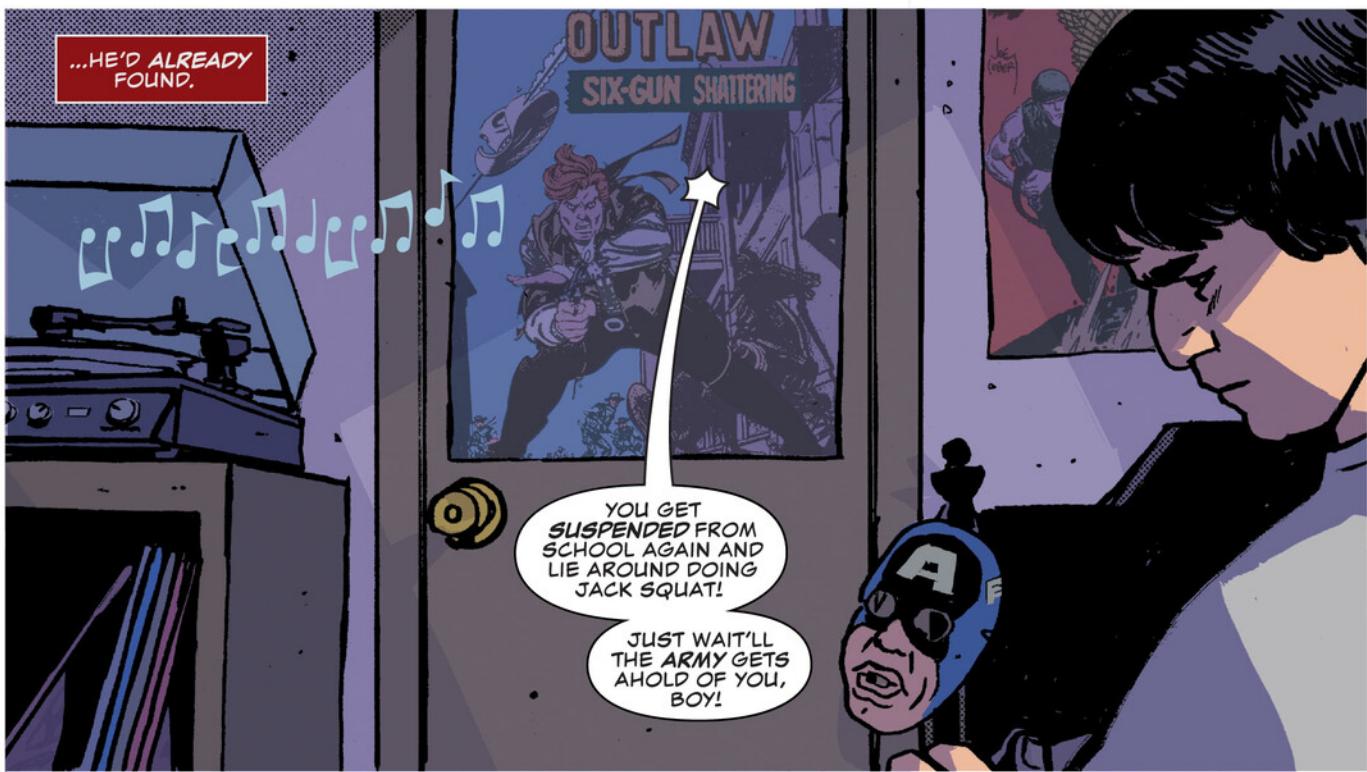


**NEAL ADAMS
1941-2022**

"Neal Adams was both an unstoppable force and an immovable object. The world just lost an amazing artist, a brilliant storyteller, a wild creative force of nature and a man who forever changed the comics medium and the culture of entertainment. I lost all of that, as well as a father figure, mentor and friend."

— BILL SIENKIEWICZ

Marvel celebrates the life of artist Neal Adams who passed away April 28, 2022. His photorealistic style caused a seismic change in comic book art in the 1960s. At DC, he drew headline characters such as Batman and Superman and struck new ground with writer Dennis O'Neil in the socially relevant *Green Lantern/Green Arrow* series. At Marvel, his work with Roy Thomas on both *X-Men* and the "Kree/Skrull War" in *Avengers* has had a lasting influence on the Marvel Universe. Adams also made an impact through his mentorship of new artists and the innovative work of his Continuity studio. Adams' influence cannot be overstated.



AFTER RETIRED MARINE FRANK CASTLE'S WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE KILLED BY STRAY GUNFIRE DURING A SHOOT-OUT IN CENTRAL PARK, HE BEGAN A ONE-MAN VIGILANTE WAR ON CRIME. ARMED WITH A VAST ARSENAL AND GRIM DETERMINATION, HE BECAME THE...

PUNISHER

THE CULT OF ASSASSINS KNOWN AS THE HAND MADE FRANK CASTLE AN OFFER HE COULDN'T REFUSE: BECOME THEIR HIGH SLAYER IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF HIS LONG-DEAD WIFE, MARIA. FRANK IS JUST ONE IN A LONG LINE OF FABLED FISTS OF THE BEAST, THE HAND HAVING OBSERVED HIM SINCE HIS EARLY CHILDHOOD. FRANK NOW USES THE HAND'S RESOURCES TO COMBAT THE WORLD'S EVILDOERS, INCLUDING A CULT OF WARMONGERS LED BY THE GOD ARES.

FRANK RESIDES IN THE HAND'S FORTRESS IN JAPAN ALONG WITH MARIA, WHOSE MEMORY OF THEIR TRAGIC PAST REMAINS SHROUDED AND UNSTABLE. BUT WHILE THE HAND REVIVED MARIA, THEY HAVE NOT RESURRECTED FRANK AND MARIA'S DECEASED CHILDREN...YET.

THE KING OF KILLERS

Book ONE, Chapter FOUR
“THE WAY OF THE PUNISHER”

by **JASON AARON, JESÚS SAIZ & PAUL AZACETA**

color artist **DAVE STEWART** *letterer* **VC's CORY PETIT**

JESÚS SAIZ

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production design

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assistant editor

MARTIN BIRO

associate editor

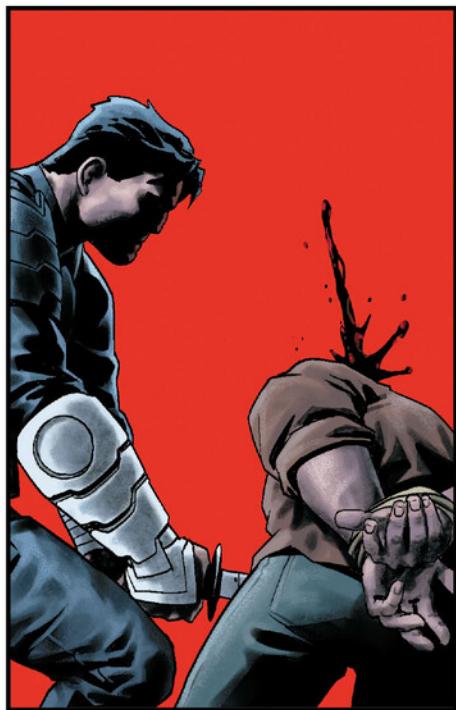
ANNALISE BISSA

editor

TOM BREVOORT

editor in chief

C.B. CEBULSKI









THEY MUST
WASH THE FEET
OF THEIR HONORED
LORD WITH THE
WATERY BLOOD FROM
THEIR GUTLESS
BELLIES!

STOP.

WE NEED
ALL THE MEN
WE HAVE.

THESE
THINGS ARE
NOT MEN! THEY
ARE DOGS!

WE'LL
NEED DOGS
TOO.

IF I HAVE
LEARNED ANYTHING
IN MY MANY YEARS OF
BLESSED SLAUGHTER,
SEARCHING FOR THE ONE
TRUE FIST OF THE
BEAST, SEARCHING
FOR YOU...

...IT IS THAT
MEN AND DOGS
ARE MUCH THE SAME.
THEY WILL ALWAYS
FAIL YOU.

YOU NEED...
SOMETHING
MORE.

YOU NEED
WARRIOR WORTHY
OF YOUR NAME.

THOSE WHO
BREATHE THE
BLOOD OF OTHERS.
WHO DREAM IN RED
AND RAGE.

TRULY
INSATIABLE
DISCIPLES OF
THE BEAST. JUST
LIKE YOU, LORD
HIGH SLAYER.

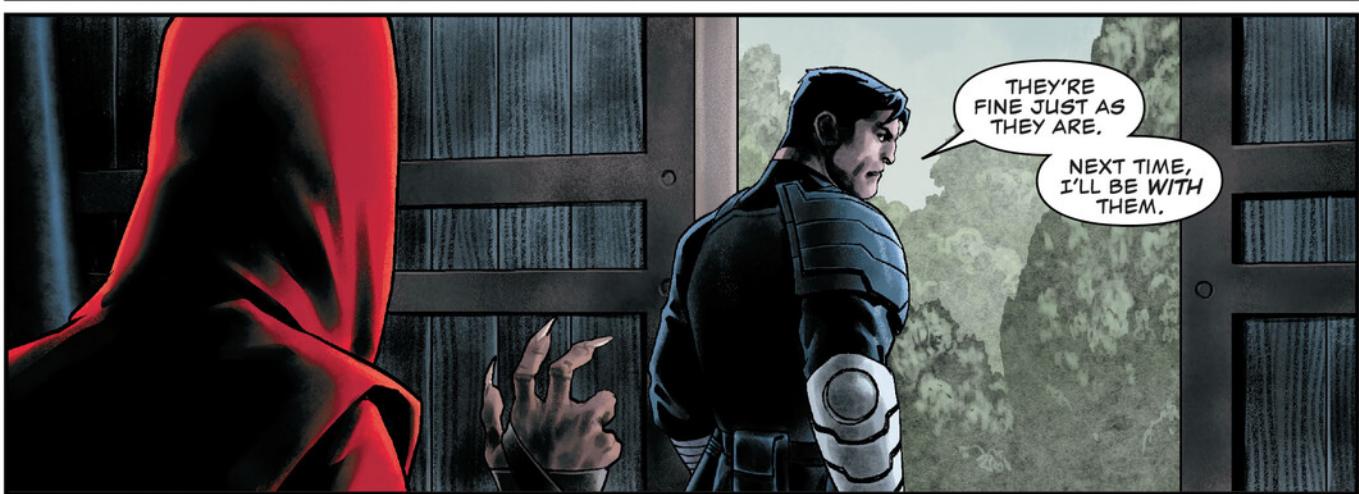
YOU NEED
MASTERS IN THE
WAY OF THE
PUNISHER.

AND THEY
CAN ONLY LEARN
THIS ART FROM YOU,
OH MIGHTY FIST. THE
WORLD'S MOST
ACCOMPLISHED
LIVING LIFE TAKER.

YOU MUST
FORGE THE
WARRIOR OF THE
HAND IN YOUR OWN
BLOOD-DRENCHED
IMAGE.

INTO
UNSTOPPABLE,
UNRELENTING,
UNWAVERING...

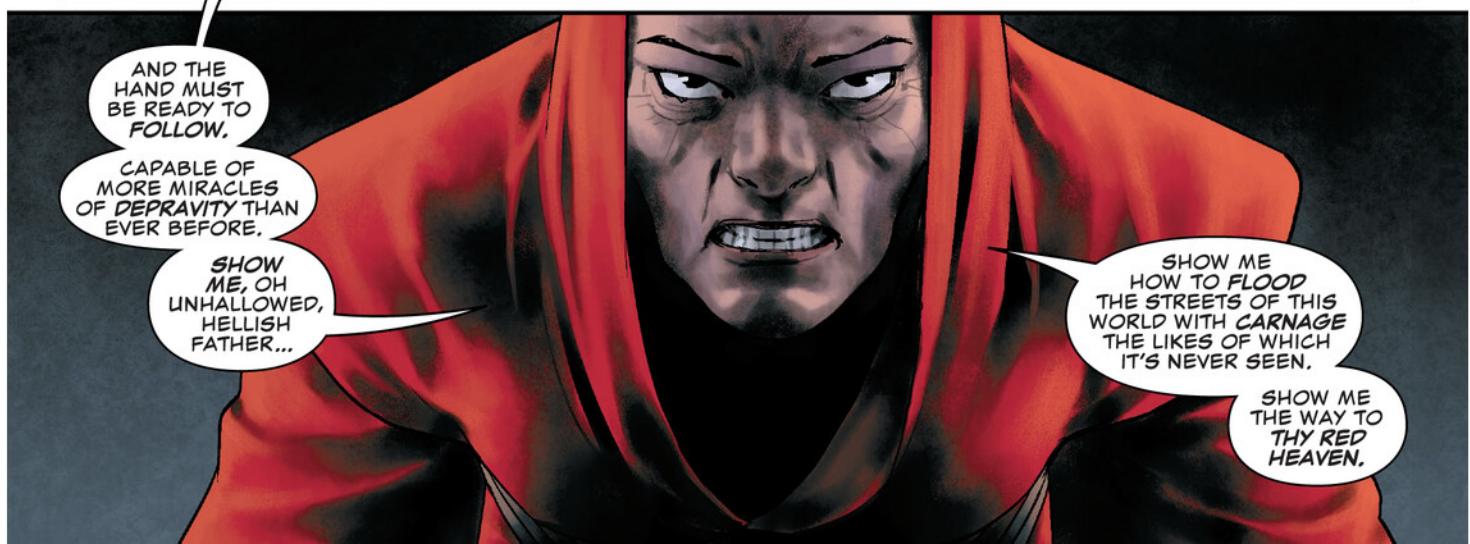
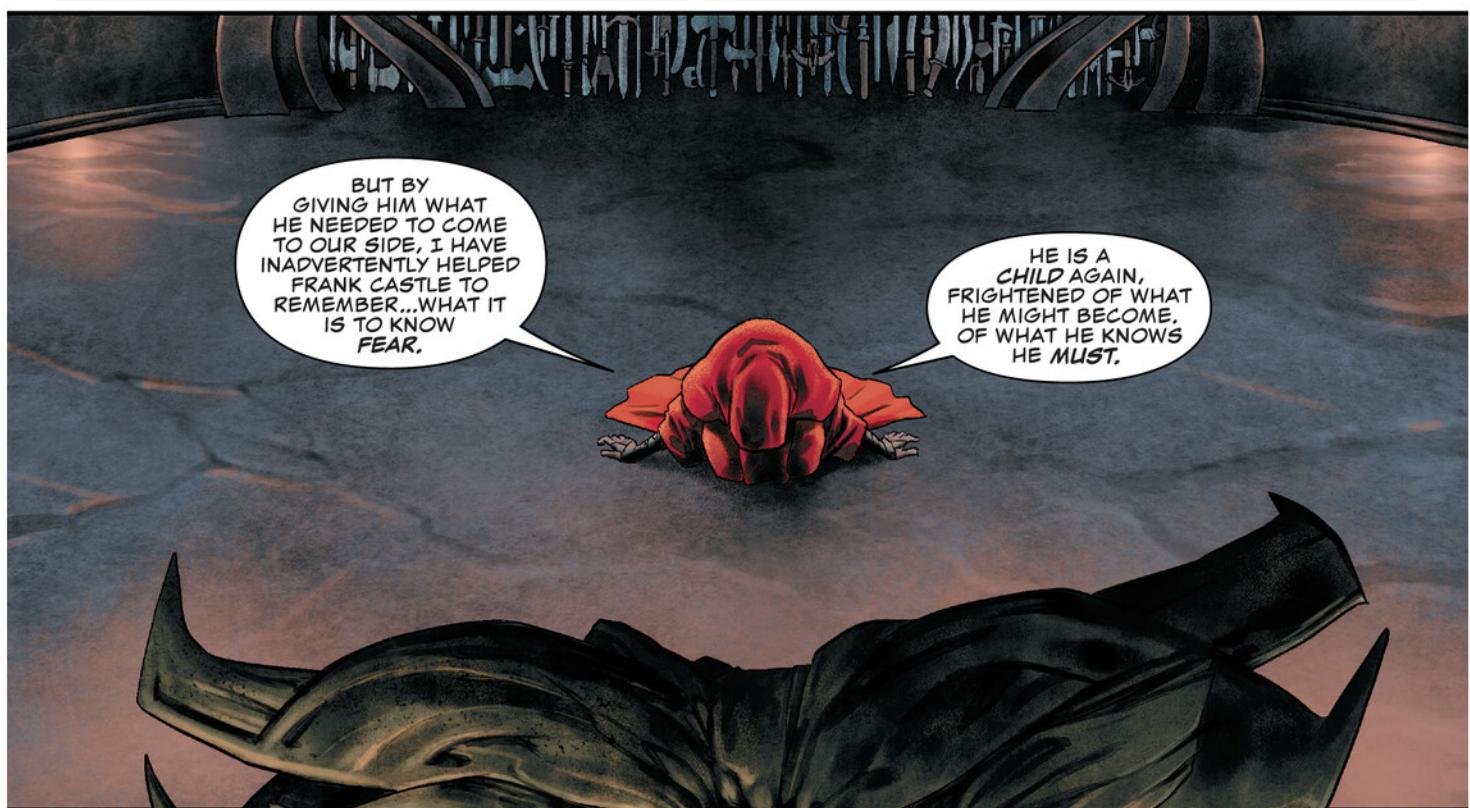
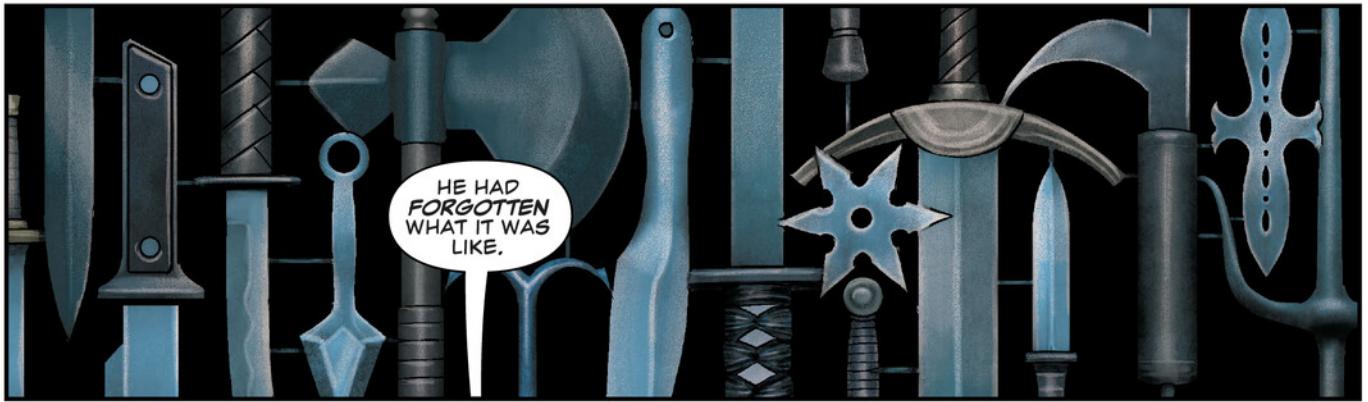
...MACHINES
OF MASS
MURDER.





THE PREVIOUS NIGHT.





MADRIPOR.

IT APPEARS
TO HAVE
GONE QUITE
SPLENDIDLY,
SIR.

BOTH Factions
EFFECTIVELY DEPLOYED
THE WEAPONS WE GAVE
THEM ON CREDIT.

BANNER
CANNONS
AND CAR-FIRING
GRAVITON
BAZOOKAS.

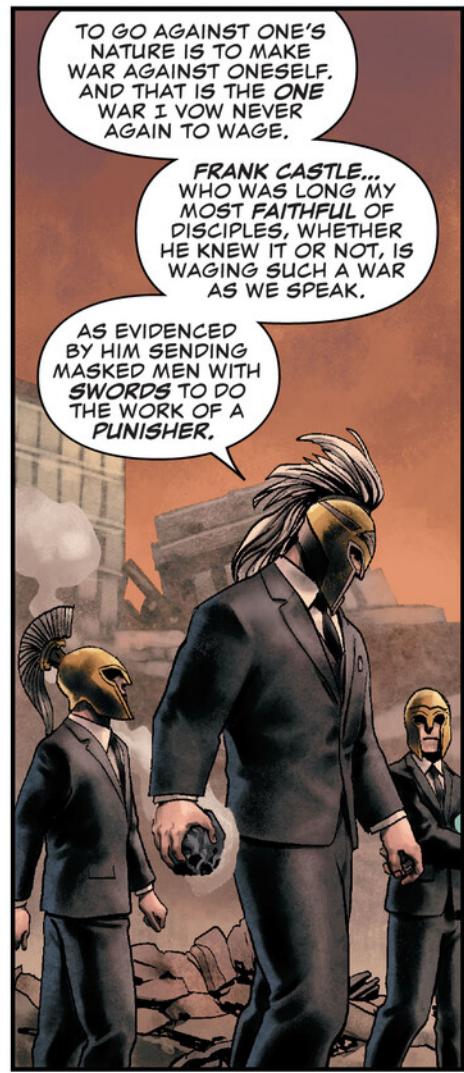
FIVE
SQUARE BLOCKS
WERE LEVELED IN ONE
AFTERNOON, WITH
IMPRESSIVE CASUALTY
NUMBERS.

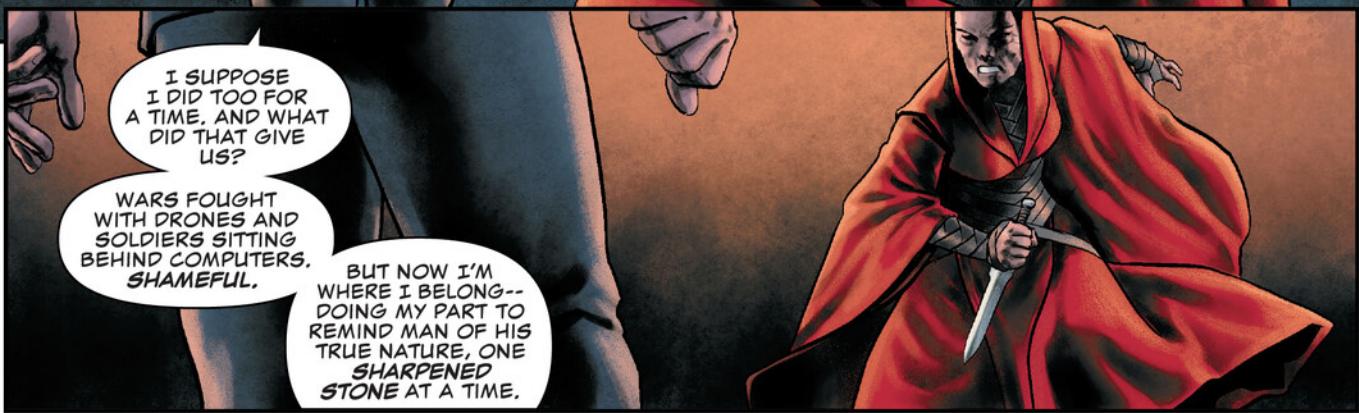
ALL FROM A
BATTLE OF LOWTOWN
STREET GANGS THAT
NORMALLY WOULD'VE BEEN
SETTLED WITH BROKEN
BOTTLES AND
SWITCHBLADES.

YOUR BLESSINGS
INTO THE EARTH ARE
INDEED MAKING IT A MORE
GLORIOUS WORLD, LORD
GENERAL ARES.

MORE
GLORIOUS
FOR HUMAN
WARFARE.

HMPH.





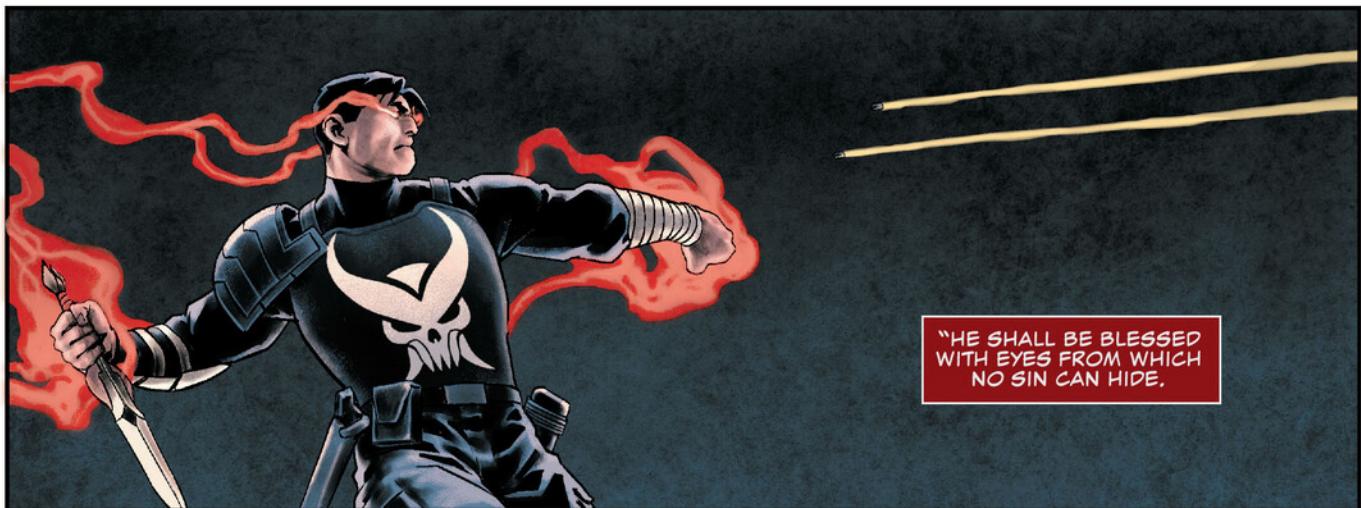












AAAAAAAARRRRGGH!

MY GOD.

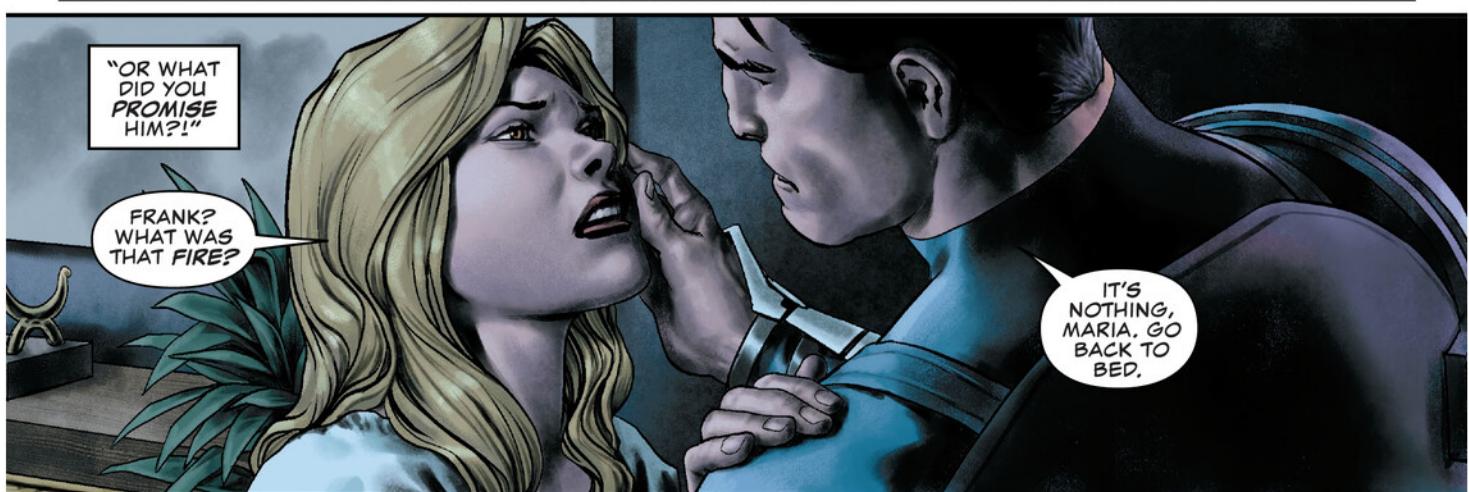
IT'S TRUE.

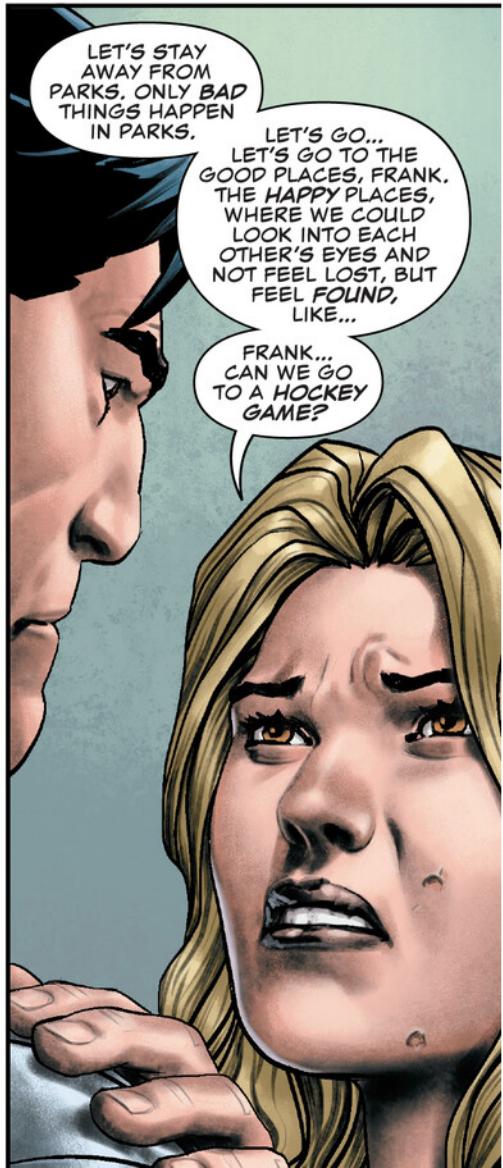
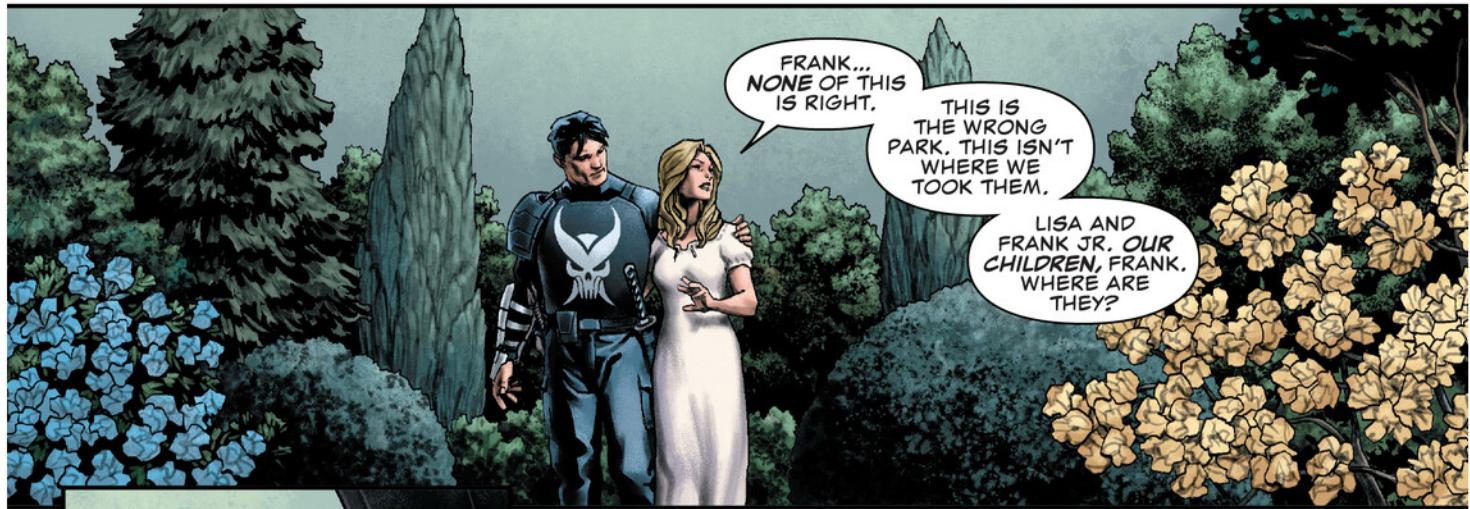
YOU REALLY ARE HIM.

"AND YOU SHALL KNOW HE IS THE FIST OF THE BEAST."

OH MIGHTY FIST.

--THE BOOK OF THE SICKLY ONES.







...SO THAT WE
MAY SHOW OUR
STRENGTH...

...BY LEAVING
THAT LOVELY
TEMPTATION...

...DEAD IN
OUR WAKE.











AND NOW
THEY STAND BEFORE
YOU TO SHOW YOU
THEIR UNWAVERING
STRENGTH.

TO SHOW
YOU THAT THEY
HAVEN'T EVEN
CRIED.



NOW THEY
HAVE BECOME
TRUE CHILDREN
OF THE BEAST.

AND
THEY ARE
YOURS TO
COMMAND.

AS
ARE WE
ALL.



TELL US,
OH MIGHTY
FIST...

...WHAT
WOULD YOU
HAVE US DO
NEXT?





NEXT:

PUNISHER

5
#



IS THE PUNISHER TRULY THE FIST OF THE BEAST AND THE PREDESTINED HIGH SLAYER OF THE HAND? OR IS HE NOTHING MORE THAN A PRISONER OF THEIR LIES? BECAUSE IF THERE'S ONE THING FRANK CASTLE HAS NEVER BEEN PARTICULARLY GOOD AT BEING...IT'S A PRISONER.

