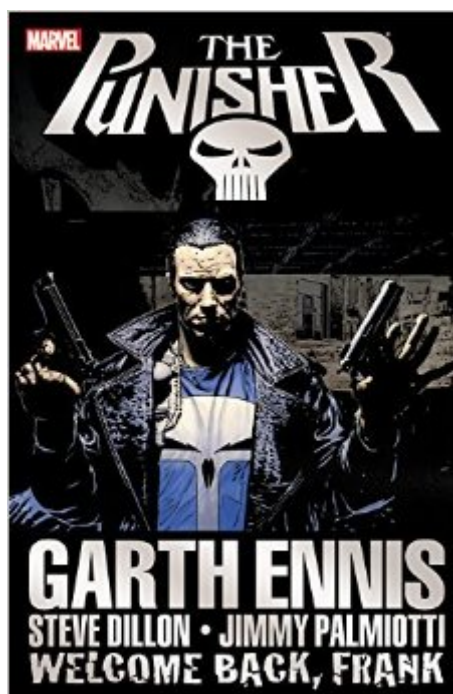


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Punisher: Welcome Back, Frank



Synopsis

"Contains material originally published in magazine form as Punisher #1-12"--P. [2] of cover.

Book Information

Series: Punisher

Paperback: 288 pages

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Customer Reviews

Frank Castle aka The Punisher has returned to New York City, and he feels it's time to let the scum know he's back in the only way he knows how. After breaking up a drug deal in deadly fashion, he turns his sights on the Gnucci mafia family. He dispatches their top guys, which angers the leader Ma Gnucci because those were her sons and brother he took out. She wages a full scale war against Punisher in which he's happy to take her up on. -summary

Interesting thing here, Garth Ennis's The Punisher: Welcome Back, Frank, was such a smash to the point where not only some fans hailed it as the definitive Punisher story at the time, but portions of it were also used for the 2004 live action film. This story actually breathed new life into the character, because during the mid to late 90's, it must be noted that the Punisher was being nailed by bad characterization and was in need of an overhaul. Ennis saved him back in 2000 with this 12 issue story, that skips the whole origin deal and gets straight down to business so fast, it will be awhile before you catch your breath, and your goal will be to run through all 260 plus pages in one sitting. Punisher means business here as the story begins with him giving some guy a second chance, so that only the guy can renege on his end, and Punisher would return to snap his neck completely all around. From there he begins to take out more guys, which sees the Gnucci Family hiring hit men and Frank taking them out too in smooth fashion. Castle is the definition of badass here, and although I wasn't new to his antics

before this; I still found myself wondering what he was going to do next. The main plot revolves around Punisher's feud with the Gnucci Family.

Garth Ennis is rightly credited with bringing the Punisher series back to life with his interpretation of the character and writing his best work and some of the Punisher's best books. "Welcome Back, Frank" is Ennis' first book that takes Frank Castle from bizarre and frankly boring stories about angels and Heaven, and putting Frank back on the streets with a gun in his hand pointed at gangsters, where he belongs. Ennis writes in his "mission statement" that he wanted to simplify the Punisher's adventures - great, interesting, exciting action with none of the droning introspection about "how many is enough, Frank?" and meandering thoughts on Frank's dead family. Here, and in Ennis' entire 10 book run on Punisher Max (each volume of which is highly recommended by the by), we see the Punisher do what he does best - taking bad guys down! The Gnucci gangster family, the taskforce created to take down the Punisher, 3 copycat vigilantes, and a mad Russian make up this excellent comic book and continually set Frank up with a number of entertaining challenges to take out in increasingly entertaining ways (death by fat guy is the funniest). Ennis' trademark humour is also present in the character of Detective Soap, heading the taskforce of 2 to take down the Punisher, and a joke in his Precinct, and one of the copycat vigilantes named "The Holy" whose crimes are covered up by a senile old woman. Having re-read this book after reading Ennis' numerous other books on the Punisher (he's written over 90 issues of this character), I'll say this is one of his most entertaining books he's ever written, counting everything he's done. Engaging, entertaining, fantastic action, compelling story, Ennis deserves all the credit for reinstating a fantastic character to his glory.

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