

PUNISHER

MARVEL 5

AARON
SAIZ
AZACETA
STEWART

“

Maria, no matter what happens, promise me you'll keep moving until you're out of sight of this place. And you won't look back.

”

PARENTAL
ADVISORY
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BONUS DIGITAL EDITION — DETAILS INSIDE!

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 CHILDHOOD. FRANK NOW RESIDES IN THE HAND'S FORTRESS IN JAPAN ALONG WITH AN UNSTABLE MARIA, WHOSE MEMORY OF HER TRAGIC PAST REMAINS SHROUDED. FRANK HAS ALSO BEEN MANIFESTING SUPERNATURAL POWERS DUE TO HIS GROWING CONNECTION TO THE DEMONIC BEAST.

FRANK HAS BEEN USING HIS NEW RESOURCES TO COMBAT THE WORLD'S EVILDOERS, INCLUDING A CULT OF WARMONGERS LED BY THE GOD ARES, WHO IS ANGERED BY THE HAND'S INFLUENCE OVER FRANK. WHEN A GROUP OF NINJA ESCAPED DEATH AT THE HANDS OF ARES, THE HAND'S PRIESTESS SLAUGHTERED THEIR FAMILIES IN FRONT OF THEM FOR THEIR PERCEIVED WEAKNESS. HORRIFIED BY THIS TURN OF EVENTS, FRANK IS NOW SEEKING TO ESCAPE THE HAND ALONGSIDE MARIA.

THE KING OF KILLERS

Book ONE, Chapter FIVE

"GOD BLESS THE BEAST"

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"FRANK...
WHAT'S
HAPPENED?"



NO TIME TO TALK,
MARIA. NO TIME
TO PACK. WE'RE
LEAVING.

BUT YOU'RE
HURT, YOU'RE
BLEEDING.

NO.



IT'S
NOT MY
BLOOD.



MARIA, NO
MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS, PROMISE
ME YOU'LL KEEP
MOVING UNTIL YOU'RE
OUT OF SIGHT OF
THIS PLACE.



AND
YOU WON'T
LOOK BACK.

TO ANY MAN OF
FAITH, DOUBTS WILL
SOMEDAY COME...

...MOUTH-FIRST...

...LIKE STARVING
MAGGOTS DRAWN TO
A FESTERING WOUND.

MOMENTS EARLIER...

WHAT
DID YOU
DO?

I MURDERED
THEIR FAMILIES
WHILE THEY
WATCHED.

IF LEFT UNGUTTED, THOSE MAGGOTS
WILL EAT EVEN THE MOST FRIGHT-FILLED
OF GOD-FEARING MEN TO THE BONE.

LIKE THE RIGHT HANDS OF
COWARDS AND THE
TONGUES OF PEACEMAKERS,
DOUBTS MUST BE LOPPED
OFF AND BURNED TO ASH.

NOW THEY
HAVE BECOME TRUE
CHILDREN OF THE BEAST.
AND THEY ARE YOURS
TO COMMAND.

DOUBTS MUST
BE FED STEEL.

AS
ARE WE
ALL.

TELL US,
OH MIGHTY
FIST...

...WHAT
WOULD YOU
HAVE US DO
NEXT?



STEADMAN STERNBERGER WAS A STUDIOUS AND SWEET-NATURED CHILD WHO HAD NEVER THROWN A PUNCH AND HAD NO INTENTION OF LEARNING HOW.



EVEN AS HE BECAME AN IRRESISTIBLE TARGET FOR EVERY BULLY ACROSS THE FIVE BOROUGH.

MEANWHILE, TEENAGE FRANK CASTLE WAS A TIGER TRAPPED INSIDE A PETTING ZOO.



TOUCH HIM AGAIN AND I TEAR OUT YOUR FINGERNAILS.

EAGER FOR ANY EXCUSE TO INFLICT RIGHTEOUS VIOLENCE.



YOU'RE &%%\$#@ CRAZY, CASTLE!

THEY WERE THE PERFECT MATCH.

