

THE PUNISHER

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#17

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FRANK CASTLE was a decorated Marine, an upstanding citizen and a family man. Then his family was taken from him when they were accidentally killed in a brutal mob hit. From that day, he became a force of cold, calculated retribution and vigilantism. Frank Castle died with his family. Now, there is only...

THE PUNISHER

The Punisher previously took down Condor, a mercenary organization that was looking to push an unstable, strength and agility-enhancing drug known as EMC. During the massacre, one of Condor's top operatives known as "Face" overdosed on EMC, leading to the loss of both his hand and, eventually, his mind.

Face slipped into a coma and was hospitalized, only to come to with a new skeletal appearance, permanently enhanced abilities, and a thirst for revenge. Face turned the hospital into an abattoir, calling Frank to come find him. Frank answered. During their fight across Manhattan Face evaded Frank, sneaking into a movie premiere in Times Square.

Just as police surrounded Frank, Face appeared on the Times Square jumbotrons, offering the safe return of the hostages if Punisher duels him to the death!

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SIR, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COME WITH US.

SLOW AND EASY, PAL. COME ALONG NICE AND PEACEFUL-LIKE.



YOU DO REALIZE WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO, RIGHT?

PUNISHER!

FOR EVERY MINUTE YOU KEEP ME WAITING, SOMEBODY IN THIS THEATER WILL DIE.



TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, CHARLES HERE. CHARLES IS AN ACTOR! HE PLAYS A BAD GUY IN THIS FILM!



P-PLEASE, MY Q-RATING'S JUST STARTING TO CLIMB AND--



HE'S REALLY EXECUTING HOSTAGES!

KEEP PEOPLE AWAY FROM THAT THEATER! KEEP THIS CROWD CALM!

MY SISTER'S IN THERE!!!



SEE THAT, FRANK? FIFTY-FOUR SECONDS BEFORE I KILL AGAIN, THE MINUTE I SEE A COP, THEY ALL DIE.





WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY WON'T SOMEONE DO SOMETHING!



SORRY, BUT YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE. THIS BUILDING IS ON L-L-LOCKDOWN.

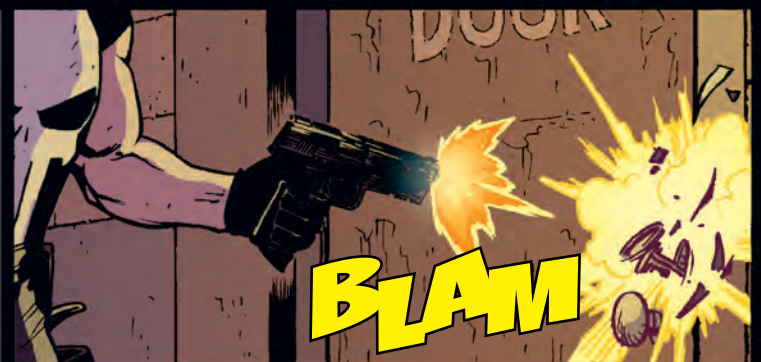
I'M SORRY, TOO.

FOR WHA--



YOU'LL WAKE UP SOON.

AAAHHH...



BLAM!



