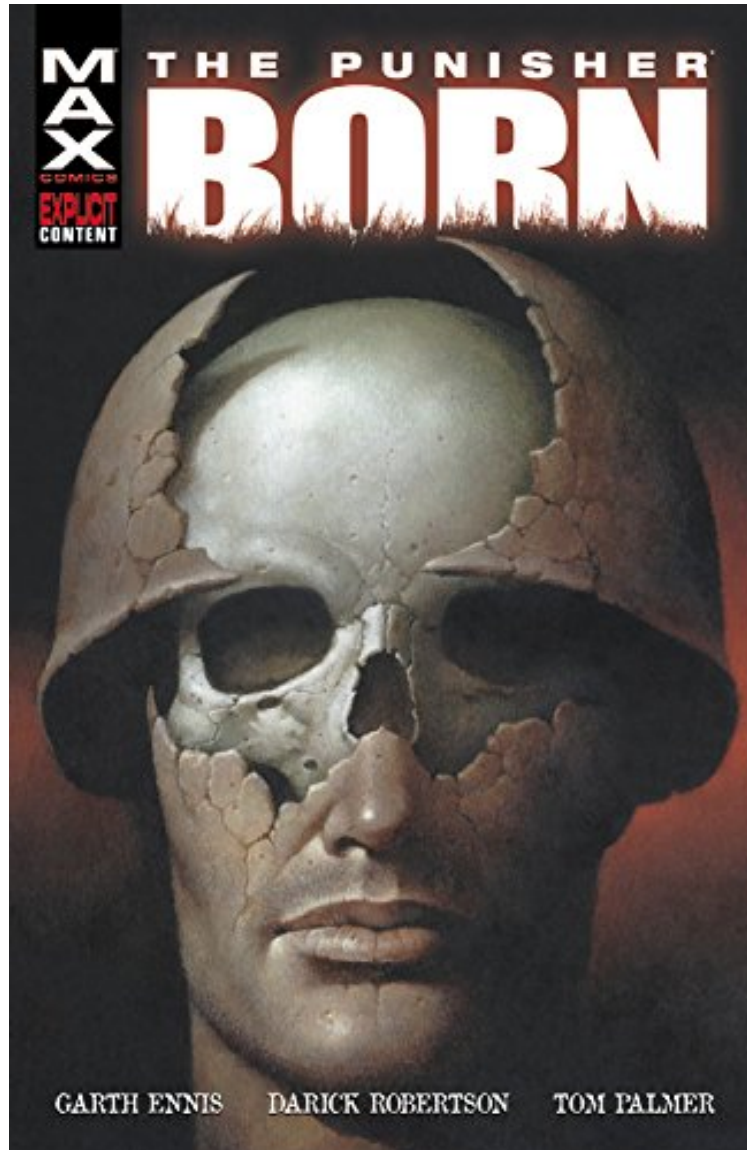


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## Punisher: Born

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#100963 in Books Ennis Garth 2016-05-10 2016-05-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.25 x .25 x 6.631, .0 #File Name: 1302901737112 pagesPunisher Born | File size: 56.Mb

**Garth Ennis : Punisher: Born** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Punisher: Born:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Fantastic Story; Spoiled By The EndingBy Casey Hamlin\*Spoilers Ahead\*Punisher MAX: Born isn't your typical origin story. In fact, one could argue that it isn't an origin story at all. When we meet Captain Frank Castle in the first pages of this story, we learn that this is actually his third tour in Vietnam and that he's been in the whole coldly-killing-people business for awhile now. We don't actually

see the beginnings of Frank Castle's descent into darkness, but rather his metamorphosis into an apparently invincible agent of death. More on that later. 95% of the story is absolutely fantastic. It puts an interesting new spin on The Punisher character: he doesn't kill because he has to, he kills because he wants to. That's a bold thing to do. Ennis is turning The Punisher from the violent anti-hero he was into a complete psychopath. And I have to say, I really like it. I have never seen The Punisher as an anti-hero. I always saw him more of a conflicted villain that treads the line between focused insanity and totally chaotic insanity. Seeing Pun as a twisted product of war who would do anything he could just to ensure he could rack up his next kill is awesome. But what kills the entire story for me, is his interactions with "the voice in his head." If you've read Ennis's storyboards, you'll know that the "voice" is intended to be Death himself. It's this supernatural element thrown into a Punisher character that is primarily grounded in reality that ruins the story for me. It makes a little bit of sense from a story perspective, since Ennis needed a way to explain how The Punisher could possibly survive all 30+ years worth of shootouts. But I'd rather suspend my disbelief and assume that he's both very careful and very lucky and that is what has kept him alive. It's way better than just saying The Punisher is untouchable because he's being protected by Death at the price of his family. Not only did that ruin this story, but it soured the preceding stories a little bit for me as well. Definitely worth the buy, but in my opinion, the one twist in this story takes a flawless 5/5 book down to a 3/5.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you think payback's bad, you haven't met Frank Castle. 86% By Duckman Since late 2010, I've been getting into the world of graphic novels, mostly with acclaimed Batman titles and some limited series like V for Vendetta and the Watchmen. I recently got into The Punisher after a respectable comic buff confirmed that I'd love Garth Ennis's spin on Marvel's iconic vigilante (especially since Ennis's Punisher books are under Marvel's MAX imprint, which is made for titles featuring gory violence, nudity, and sexual content). I picked this one up first as it was the cheapest, and am glad to have read it!

**STORY** Punisher: Born is set during the Vietnam War in late 1971. Valley Forge Firebase on the Cambodian border is one of the last US military bases in the region, and Captain Frank Castle is one of the last Marines on the base committed to the fight. With dwindling supplies and manpower, Castle senses a giant Viet Cong attack, and to survive, he must make a grim decision that will change his life forever.

**CHARACTERS** While this comic benefits from having a cast full of believable characters, it's Frank Castle that's the best developed character here, after all, as this story is about how he'd become the type of killing machine that's a central trait for The Punisher. Like what some other reviewers have pointed out, this story is like a character study of Castle. Castle is portrayed as a man who lives for the war, and throughout the comic, he struggles with an inner-voice that keeps nudging him into becoming an unstoppable killer. Born does a great job portraying Castle as a man with the darkest urges to go on killing those "that deserve it." Examples of this is when he leads General Padden to his death by making him walk to a sniper range after Padden threatens to shut down the base, and when Castle drowns McDonald for raping a female Viet Cong (though Castle would shoot her in the head, stating that they're here to kill the enemy). The two other most developed characters are fellow Marines Steve Goodwin and Angel. Goodwin counts down the days when he'll be taken out of Vietnam for good while feeling optimistic for all the good things that he thinks await him, and Angel is a druggie that doesn't care about "coming home," as he feels being black, that all that awaits him is a deadly ghetto.

**APPEARANCE** The artwork in this comic is, for the most part, superb. The way the characters are drawn is impressive (despite being in a comic, they have a strong "realistic" aesthetic to them), and especially with Castle, he perfectly matches the unfortunate person whose young, but has seen way too much darkness for someone his age. In the panels where there's combat, there's a sense of visual grittiness that perfectly fits the grimness of the war. This is all done thanks to line artist Darick Robertson and ink artist Tom Palmer, which their combination of artistic contributions create a visually detailed, grimy look of the last days of the Vietnam war. My only complaint with the artwork is that in the scenes where you'd see Castle and other Marines in the jungle, you can notice that stock "leaf" and "grass" paint brushes from Photoshop were used to color the trees and grass. Not to knock on Palmer, but you'd think that because this is an effort by a publishing juggernaut like Marvel, that they'd stray away from using such stock artistic tools in this area. Knowledge from my college studies in action, hahaha. Oh well, besides this one blemish, I loved the artwork in Born. Without spoiling the ending, I'll merely say that near the end, Frank Castle looks like something from your worst nightmares, and is a perfect visual representation of the man.

**MATURE CONTENT** With Born being a part of Marvel's "mature" MAX line of comics, it's certainly not a comic you'd lend out to the kids. With this book taking place in the Vietnam War, there's plenty of scenes with soldiers being torn apart with Claymore mines (this is really gruesome) and heavy-caliber gunfire. There's also a part of the book where a Marine rapes an injured female Viet Cong guerrilla, though you only see an exposed breast on the guerrilla and an exposed buttocks on the Marine. There's also a lot of salty language in this comic, as the F and S-bombs are used pretty liberally and even some racial slurs are thrown around, though none of these feel gratuitous as given the context of the story, these salty words fit in perfectly.

**FINAL WORD** Garth Ennis struck gold with this tale telling how Frank Castle would eventually become The Punisher. My only overall complaint with this mini-series is that it could have been a little longer to develop the story and characters some more, but what's done here is really well-done, and you should read this if you're craving a comic that does a great job showing how The Punisher was formed. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Frank's inner demons

**By Hermgerm** Frank Castle, the man who would one day be known as The

Punisher, is on his third tour of duty in Vietnam when something terrible starts creeping into his psyche as his bloodthirsty nature gets the better of him in this trade paperback entitled BORN. I enjoyed it a lot, and I would love it if Garth Ennis took it upon himself to write more tales starring a younger Punisher who is still learning the ropes and coming to grips with who he is and what he will eventually become. BORN appealed to me because it centers around the notion that the death of Frank's family was not the catalyst that gave birth to The Punisher, but that the vigilante side has lurked beneath the surface ever since Frank's last tour in 'Nam, when he made a deal with something or someone that feeds on death and bloodshed. This allowed him to survive long enough to become the world's fiercest vigilante, but at a terrible price. I adore Robertson's art (check out Ennis and Robertson's other project The Boys for similar brilliance) and the covers of the individual issues by Wieslaw Walkuski are absolutely amazing. Punisher shows that even during his early years no one was safe from his wrath as he punishes Vietnamese and fellow soldiers alike in typically violent ways in trademark Ennis style. I loved the plot and the overall realization that some dark entity inspired the Punisher, and it makes for an interesting read at the end of the day. I gave it four stars because the comic turned out to be a tad more predictable than Ennis' ongoing Punisher MAX series, and it felt as if I had seen something like it before somewhere (a man in dire peril makes a deal with a devil or whatever to become something inhuman that serves the devil's needs, almost like Ghost Rider). What is different here though is that Frank Castle enjoyed killing and just needed an excuse to go on an endless rampage and become what he always wanted to become. Even when he moralizes with fellow officers his inner voice or demon refutes his claim that he wishes to be 'saved'. Throughout the book Frank is portrayed as a man in love with death, and though he is presented with a choice the reader gets the feeling towards the end that we know which path Frank will take, since he is obviously destined to become Marvel's quintessential vigilante, so the comic basically just shows you how the situation in which Frank makes the choice came about. I heartily recommend this book to anyone who has read the MAX series or even Ennis' earlier Preacher comics, it won't disappoint.

In the waning days of the Vietnam War...the Punisher is born. The year is 1971. With mounting casualties and a rising anti-war sentiment, America's time in Vietnam is coming to a close. Yet in the isolated Valley Forge Firebase on the Cambodian border, Captain Frank Castle is one of the few soldiers still committed to the fight against the enemy. With dwindling reserves, Castle must stand against an impending Viet Cong attack that threatens to wipe out the entire American platoon. To survive the battle, what grim decision must he make that will forever alter the course of his life? In this acclaimed tale, superstar Garth Ennis reveals the never-before-told story of the horrors Castle was forced to face to come home from Vietnam alive - ending in a shocking twist that will forever change how readers see Marvel Comics' most famous urban vigilante. COLLECTING: BORN #1-4