



## Civil War: Punisher War Journal

*Matt Fraction , Mike Deodato (Illustrator) , Ariel Olivetti (Artist)*

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**Civil War: Punisher War Journal** Matt Fraction , Mike Deodato (Illustrator) , Ariel Olivetti (Artist)

He's back - with a vengeance. Taking no prisoners. Literally. With Civil War in full throttle mode, Frank Castle is feeling the heat. His safe houses have been raided and his munitions seized, and he's square in the crosshair of a Marvel Universe big gun who always gets his man. Covers #1-#4

## Civil War: Punisher War Journal Details

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**Download and Read Free Online Civil War: Punisher War Journal** Matt Fraction , Mike Deodato (Illustrator) , Ariel Olivetti (Artist)

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# From Reader Review Civil War: Punisher War Journal for online ebook

## Brenda says

This was one of the better volumes in the Civil War story arc, I thought. I really liked the artwork, and the Punisher is an interesting character.

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## Jake says

I am not a huge fan of the Punisher in the first place, but his unique position and role in the Civil War I thought would be interesting.

Honestly, this was pretty disappointing. It doesn't really tell much of a story of the Punisher's actions, you catch snippets here and there that feel disjointed and thrown in.

The Punisher does a lot of frankly pointless internal monologue. I think it is supposed to make him brooding and dark, but all it does it create a lot of text that could be shortened or shown through action.

After reading this all I could conclude is that the Punisher did very little in the Civil War, but likes Captain America.

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## Frédéric says

What a mess. I mean, aside from a paper thin plot-Frank is recruited by Cap Am during Civil War, guess what happens-the script is barely coherent and seems done by an aspiring writer, not Matt Fraction. The story is confused, the narration is hacked, ellipses look like holes, I mean, WTF?

Frank talks way too much, to a point he seems off-character-Ennis' bad influence on the much better Max imprint I reckon.

Even Cap seems out of himself with some speech to kill VCs when touring Marines Boot Camps.

The only good issue is the last one, bittersweet funerals for a C-list villain.

I don't like Olivetti's art. Period. Not to say he's bad, it just ain't my cuppa. Deodato illustrates the 4th but in a sad low key mode.

To say I bought the whole lot of TPBs at a bargain sale...

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## Jen says

It was really interesting seeing things from the Punisher's viewpoint, I liked seeing more about Frank Castle and his motivations (I have not previously read any Punisher specific runs). The volume itself was pretty short/small though.

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### **Craig says**

A half-decent event tie-in, let down by being a bit thin on content. Still, a good bit of fluff.

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### **Gavin says**

Meh. Disappointing for sure. Treated Frank like a joke and make him look stupid next to Cap. Expected more from Fraction.

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### **Bryson McCheeseburger says**

I wish there was (and if there is, I wish I knew earlier) a compendium of the Civil War that put the main story and all the side stories in order. I know it would be a huge, multi volume set, but it would be nice to read parts of the story in the middle of Civil War instead of getting these glimpses back to different characters here and there after the fact. I loved this one, but it's Punisher, and I own almost every Punisher comic released since I was a kid. As part of the Civil War set, this is just an extended scene really. I liked the last one-shot story in the book at the bad guy bar, but it really doesn't fit into the Civil War set at all, and was more like one of the tales from Spider-Man's Tangled Web. No matter what, it's great to see more Punisher.

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### **Martin says**

One of the more interesting "Civil War" tie-ins, by no means required reading but a really enjoyable one. Why five stars? It wasn't 'Amazing' per se; it's really a four-star book, but it was **so** much fun to read, I had to give it that extra star. The Punisher is back - why does it always seem like *he's back*? Back from where?

Matt Fraction's script is full of action and has a lot of genuinely funny bits. It's always fun to read the Punisher when it's as funny as it is violent.

The three-parter that kicks off this trade paperback is illustrated by Ariel Olivetti who, I'm discovering, has a real knack for comedy, and that's reflected in his characters' facial expressions. He does a really good job at bringing the humor from the script to the comic book page.

The fourth and final issue of this collection is illustrated by Mike Deodato, and even though it takes place at a villain's wake, it is very, very funny.

Check this one out. This is one fun book to read.

**Kneel before Doom!**

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## Tom Williams says

Mixed bag. First two in particular were pretty bad.

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## Ed says

I enjoyed Fraction's take on the Punisher. This ties in loosely to rest of Civil War, but the connections make sense and it largely holds up as a separate story. I dug the art style, too. The last issue with Stilt-Man's wake is especially fun. It was drawn by Mike Deodato whose current art style is my least favorite in Marveldom, but his older style as seen here works for me.

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## Jedhua says

**Book Info:** This collection contains *Punisher War Journal* issues #1-4.

ABSOLUTE RATING: {**2.5/5 stars**} (*Rounded Up*)

STANDARDIZED RATING: <**2/5 stars**>

Frank Castle (aka the Punisher) generally doesn't involve himself in the affairs of metahumans, and sticks to tackling street-level crime. Sadly for him, the recent enactment of the Superhuman Registration Act is stretching "good guy" numbers very thin, and giving supervillains the chance to capitalize on the chaos. Apparently, some unknown benefactor is providing technological upgrades for these baddies, so Frank's clearly got his work cut out for him. And to make matters worse, S.H.I.E.L.D. has hired hard-driving, ex-mercenary G.W. Bridge to head the operation to apprehend the vigilante. But with the help of a tech-savvy ally who's got a mutual interest in shutting down this supplier, Frank suits up and enters the fray – doing his dirty work behind the scenes, all the while trying to avoid Bridge and his "cape-killers."

The first thing that struck me as wrong about Fraction's take on *Punisher* was the writer's use of humor. While it's something that worked well in Ennis' pre-MAX *Punisher*, the implementation is different here and much less effective. I'm sure it might sound admirable to some that it's not the kind of delivery that relies so heavily on violence – which was the case with Ennis – but it only helps to sap this book of its sense of urgency and danger. Here we have cute little baby Iron Men running around, Frank uncharacteristically cracking cheap jokes, quirky mad scientists, and muggers taken out by a brick to the head. This focus on lightheartedness and levity is just completely misguided for a *Punisher* book, and made it too difficult for Fraction to play to the title's strengths.

*[If I'm being totally honest here, this is probably a scene that could have worked great in another book, and*

*this crazy scientist could very well have been an entertaining character under the direction a slightly more experienced writer. However, Punisher isn't the place, and Fraction isn't quite at that place yet in his career.]*

*[To anybody who doesn't know: The Punisher is a man of action and few words. Here, we have far too much unrestrained dialogue and joking going on. And as a general rule of thumb for writers looking to take this character on, they should just ask themselves if it sounds like something they see Jon Bernthal saying live-action. (Click here for a visual aid.) Using these guidelines, do you really see Frank ever using the phrase "bestest new friend?"]*

Though it wasn't perfect, I see a much more thematically-appropriate presentation looking back on Remender's *Punisher: Dark Reign*. And in spite of its bloodiness and often sinister tone, there was a measure of dry humor and witty one-liners that kept things from becoming too gloomy, while also better complementing its central seriousness. Another huge difference between them – and probably a bigger reason why this book lacked urgency – was that there was almost no threat formidable enough to challenge Frank in the slightest; S.H.I.E.L.D.'s cape-killers weren't half as menacing as the guys Frank faced in *Dark Reign*, and G.W. Bridge never gets the opportunity to show off his skills. Apparently, Bridge is supposed to be some kinda big-shot merc from Six Pack, so he should've proven himself a capable enough adversary. One of the greatest strengths of *Dark Reign* was that it had non-stop action and lots of close calls, so I really think this comic could have benefited more from emphasizing a cat-and-mouse dynamic between Bridge and Castle. In this respect, I believe Fraction was on the right track with the fast-paced narrative, but *War Journal* isn't suspenseful, and felt a little disjointed during its numerous, abrupt scene changes.

By far the best character work Fraction accomplishes in this book had to be the interaction between the Punisher and Captain America. For one thing, it answered a lot of the questions I had from *Civil War* concerning exactly how their first encounter went, as well as showed more of the details surrounding their partnership and the stipulations which preceded it. I already knew from *Civil War* that Frank had a very deep admiration for Cap, but only here was I able to gain some insight into how he could be so bold that he'd defy him. Essentially, Frank respected him too much to see him compromise his morals, so he transcended his hero worship, and acted to keep Cap's hands clean and preserve the purity of "[America's] fighting spirit." This complex and potentially powerful stuff was sadly weighed down by a middling series of flashbacks which tries and fails to add profundity by depicting their first encounter during the Vietnam War.

Okay. I can't afford to end this review before talking about issue #4, so here goes: this final chapter is a standalone story separate from the leading 3-issue arc, and it involves a funeral attended by several no-name supervillains who knew the now-deceased Stilt-Man. Especially following the rather somber first page, it's all too deliberately pathetic to be funny. The balance between mournful nostalgia and silliness could not possibly be more awkward, and the writing was so weak and jumpy between characters that it never even came close to working out. Fortunately, there's a punch-line to this painfully drawn out joke, but it comes much too late to justify the effort, and isn't all that clever enough to redeem what came before it. If Fraction had instead used this issue to decompress the main story arc of this volume, we could have seen a more satisfying and developed conflict between Bridge and Frank. But in the end, it was shit like this which drowned-out the writer's occasional spurts of genuine talent.

Olivetti is probably the best part of this book, and by a very significant margin. Aside from, and perhaps even including *Son of Banner*, I can't say I've ever seen the artist drawing this good in a comic book. Maybe it depends on the colorist or something – I dunno – but I'd actually say he did an excellent job with this. I

guess it could also be that I'm finally getting used to him, but this was the first time it took no period of adjustment before I was settled with his illustrations. It's very detailed, expressive, and fluid, and was a much better fit than Deodato was in issue #4. Like *Son of Banner*, this book was pretty action-packed and playful, and Olivetti seems to be best suited to this kind of atmosphere.

You think maybe the publishers could have made a mistake, and put the wrong writer on the cover? There's no \*way\* this could be the same Matt Fraction who wrote *Invincible Iron Man* (which was great up until around volume eight), and went on to write acclaimed series like *Hawkeye* and *Sex Criminals*, could it? For a 2.5 star book, this book couldn't have been closer to 2 stars. Talk about humble beginnings... Wow. And I guess I can assume that Fraction was the writer who first started giving Frank these unstoppable, high-tech weapons? It's something I've seen carried over in later books like *Crime and Punisher* and *Dark Reign*, and while I get the obvious coolness factor, I think it's still generally more interesting to see Frank duke it out with regular firearms and equipment. So now it seems the search for a good non-Ennis *Punisher* run continues...

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### **Francisco Becerra says**

I was hugely dissatisfied with the Punisher entry on Civil War. He just served to infiltrate the Baxter building, save Spiderman from some minor villains, and to get beaten by Cap for being who he is. At least he got some treatment, unlike Daredevil who was just a cameo. My two favorite Marvel superheroes deserved better.

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### **Jeff says**

Maybe what these Civil War crossover event books need is less rhetoric and more Frank Castle.

Just maybe.

The Civil War and the Registration Act haven't changed the Punisher's methodology – he's a vigilante, above the law, and his goal is to kill as many bad guys as possible - it's just put a crimp in his resources, as SHIELD raids his secret armories.

Frank is single-minded in purpose, so it doesn't matter if it's the hapless Stiltman, who's trying to turn over a new leaf. There are no shades of gray with this Punisher – Bang!

You can follow the trail of bodies from his rescue of Spider-Man to his capture by the anti-registration heroes, led by Captain America.

From one soldier to another, Captain America thinks he can make use of Castle's particular skill set and military background, but Frank's kind of set in his ways. "We don't need no stinkin' prisoners!"

P.S. Frank – You don't want to anger an already pissed off Captain America.

(view spoiler)

The must-read issue here is #4 – a wake for the late Stilt-Man.

It's a humorous meditation on the differences between older comics and the current grittier books – a capsulation of the zeitgeist of modern comics.

The volume is rounded out with a black and white version of issue #1. Why not present that issue in black and white instead from the get go?

Finally you have Civil War: War Crimes. The Kingpin is in jail and he wants to make a deal with Tony Stark, because he's civic-minded and wants to help the Man out. Heh!

Between the speeches and infodumps, it's backstabby fun.

Three and a half stars rounded down.

**Bottom line:** This one's somewhere in the middle in terms of Civil War readability – more action, less speechifying.

The mini-Ironmen are a nice touch.

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## Jim C says

This collection is a supplemental piece to the Marvel story arc that is Civil War. In this one, we get to see the action thru The Punisher. The Rhino is prevalent thru this volume so my review might be a little biased as he was one of my favorites as a child.

I thought this was one of the better companion pieces to this event. We get to see that The Punisher is a man of principles even though most people might not agree with them. I thought this was a nice juxtaposition to Captain America since he is fighting this war because of principles. There was a nice flashback scene that portrays this beautifully. I liked how this also explored the affects of this event on the B-list criminals. The last issue deals with a wake of one of these criminals and it was the highlight of this collection. I loved the scene of the barroom fight between these criminals. It was fun and had a message but it also shows the ruthlessness of The Punisher.



I have read several of these companion pieces to Civil War and I thought this was one of the better ones. I believe even readers who are not fans of The Punisher will enjoy this one as it has appearances by Captain America and Spider-Man and delivers on the state of affairs that is happening at this point in this comic book universe.

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## **David says**

After using Comixology Unlimited to read Civil War and Death of Captain America, I thought that I would use Comixology to read through the Punisher's connection to the event. The Punisher isn't my favorite hero. In terms of Marvel Comics, I usually frequent the stories of Captain America, Spider-man, and the X-Men. The heroes who avoid killing. The only time I have really ever seen anything with the Punisher in it is through crossovers or events. Overall this wasn't a bad read. I enjoyed seeing a little further into the events that occurred during Civil War. I also enjoyed the wake for a villain story until the end. For a moment I forgot that I was reading a Punisher story, until the brutal ending.

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