



One-shot: Fresh Meat
Featuring: The Punisher

Previously

The Punisher is free from his Prison, last seen in Dakota trying to kill metahumans under the instructions of Amanda Waller, an agent of the Masters, he was placed in S.H.I.E.L.D. custody, but the breakout means he's now on the run. And it is the criminals that should be afraid.

Scene 1

Central Park, 3rd October 1990, 13:45 EDT

Frank Castle, his wife Maria and his children

Frank Castle: And that is how I got this medal of bravery (the children cheer)

Maria: So, how long a leave of absence has Captain Ross allowed you this time?

Frank Castle: A couple of weeks, there's some sort of conflict in Latveria they want us to look into, I'll be on duty for another year

Maria: (In a quieter tone, so the children couldn't hear) I'm not sure I can take this anymore, Frank, you not being around. It's not helping the kids.

Frank Castle: Look, I'll try and ask Captain Ross for shorter assignments and more time off, but you know how he is, he won't take no for an answer (a woman is being dragged through the park by a member of the mafia) hey (the chases after the guy dragging the woman but he shoots her on sight and hangs her from the tree for Maria and the children see) don't look (he goes to comfort the children) it's all gonna be alright (he looks back on the body in disgust)

Scene 2

New York Apartments, 21:35 EDT

Maria: I'm not sure how we can get the kids to forget that, I'm not even sure I can forget that.

Frank: We'll sort this out

Maria: You must see this stuff often
Frank: Too often (several armed men break into the apartment)
Mob 1: Costa demands no witnesses (Frank tries to hold them off)
Frank: Get the children and run (he punches the mobster in the face, but he hears the gunshots go off as his wife and children are murdered, Frank becomes enraged, grabs the gun and begins shooting the soldiers down)

Scene 3

Costa's apartment, 22:15 EDT

Costa: (Picks up the phone) is it done?
Frank: Not quite (the guy holding the phone is killed) Bruno Costa, you've just made your last mistake; I'll kill you for what you've done. (The line is disconnected)

Scene 4

Manhattan, New York, 12th October 2018, 20:00 EDT

Frank Castle goes up to a TV screen in an alleyway, and turns it on

Frank: Talk to me Waller
Waller: You gave my name when you were caught last; you know that could compromise my cover within the Masters. They have moles in S.H.I.E.L.D.
Frank: Maybe you could tell me why you were so interested in stopping me bumping off a few metahuman scumbags. Not that I mind
Waller: That doesn't matter. Your new list of targets is being transferred to your cell-phone. Don't use this line again.
<Frank>: Always was a bitch (he checks his cell phone and sees on his list of targets Bruno Costa) ah, this looks to be a good week.

13th October 14:00

The heads of several crime families are having a lunch meeting; the Punisher is watching the meeting from the eyes of his sniper rifle

<Punisher>: I'll have to be careful with this one, last thing New York needs right now is a gang war.

Rupert: A fine meal indeed, how's business Antonio

Antonio: Always good, Mr Thorne

Rupert: That's what I like to hear

<Punisher>: I got a S.H.I.E.L.D. file on Rupert Thorne, was once a crime boss in Gotham City until Batman drove him out. So he set up shop in New York, a city bustling with superheroes. Yeah, he's not as smart as people credit him for, still, he isn't my target, killing him would only make him a martyr, now his enforcer is a very different story.

Antonio: We have however had trouble with HYDRA; they seem to want control of all the side gangs

Rupert: What's your take on this, Bruno?
Bruno: HYDRA have been growing in strength rapidly since Ra's al Ghul overthrew their former leaders
Antonio: We need to mount an offensive against HYDRA
Rupert: (Laughs) and what makes you think you'd stand a chance against them, Tony; you'd be dead within minutes. They have the superior manpower, not to mention those new abilities they demonstrated when they attacked Stark Tower (The Punisher has Bruno in his sights)
<Punisher>: Say goodbye you son-of-a... (He hears a woman screaming)
Thug: Come here, Darling (he approaches her, she backs away) there's nothing to be afraid of, I don't bite (he grabs the woman's arms) now come close so I can... (He is shot through the head by the Punisher's sniper bullet) the woman runs off
<Punisher>: You're welcome (he looks back and the lunch meeting has already been adjourned) damn!

Scene 5

Unknown, 13th October, 19:00 EDT

Ra's al Ghul waits as Sportsmaster approaches
Sportsmaster: You summoned me, Master
Ra's al Ghul: I did, the people in the New York crime syndicates are resisting the Masters; it needs to be taken care of.
Sportsmaster: Consider it done

Scene 6

13th October, 22:00 EDT

<Punisher>: It took a lot of talk to find this guy again. Fortunately, I've waited over 20 years; I can wait a tad longer (he has his sights set on the apartment Bruno is currently living at, Sportsmaster kicks Bruno's door down)
Bruno: How dare you?
Sportsmaster: Oh, I dare (he gets out a flail) you die (he tries to whack Bruno with his flail)
<Punisher>: Damn it, have to do this up close (he fires a rope down to the building, Bruno is avoiding Sportsmaster's flail but stands right by the window as the Punisher smashes through and kicks him in the back)
Sportsmaster: He's my kill (Punisher gets out machine guns)
Punisher: In a pig's eye (he fires upon Sportsmaster, Sportsmaster twirls his bo-staff to block the shots, before throwing it at the Punisher, the Punisher dodges) missed (the bo-staff explodes pushing him forward, but he stays on his feet, as Sportsmaster throws his flail at him, he dodges the attacks, eventually grabbing the rope, pulling Sportsmaster towards him and punching him in the

jaw, breaking his mask, Bruno begins to recover but the Punisher points a gun at his head) move and you're finished

Bruno: You think? (He presses a button and explosives begin to activate, he is then stabbed in the chest by a bo-staff thrown by Sportsmaster)

Sportsmaster: Mission accomplished (he is teleported out of the building)

Punisher: Sh*t (he runs and jumps out of the apartment as it explodes, landing in a window-washer platform)

<Punisher>: Bruno Costa just took his last breath but Sportsmaster got to him first, which means he's next (his phone begins to ring)

Amanda: Stand down; you are not to fight Sportsmaster

Punisher: Lady, you may give me targets but that doesn't mean you're my boss. Not unless you want them to find out about the intel you've been leaking to me.

Amanda: Neither of us would survive

Punisher: And you think that matters to me, we're done. (He hangs up)

The Rose Thorne, 23:00 EDT

There are dozens of people eating at the Restaurant, the Punisher breaks in, machine guns pointed in the air.

Punisher: Everyone out (he begins shooting) NOW! (The customers all run out of the message)

Rupert: What is the meaning of this! (He eyes the Punisher) if you're gonna shoot me, just get on with it.

Punisher: Hh, you should be so lucky (he grabs Thorne by the shirt) you're just the bait (one of Thorne's henchmen tries to attack but the Punisher shoots him down) tell your men not to attack me, or they'll end up like him.

Rupert: Stand down (his men don't attack; a bo-staff flies through the window of the restaurant)

Punisher: Here we go (he pushes Rupert out of the way as the bo-staff explodes and Sportsmaster enters the restaurant)

Rupert: Don't just stand there, kill them, both of them (Thorne's men attack both Sportsmaster and the Punisher, the Punisher shoots down any of Thorne's henchmen that attack him, whilst the attackers that attack Sportsmaster are easily defeated by his prowess in martial arts)

Sportsmaster: Why are you even here? You punish criminals, now you're defending them

Punisher: I know what the Masters want with him, and there's no way I'm gonna let the Masters gain any more power

Sportsmaster: You don't really have any say in the matter (he throws two blades and uses them to disarm the Punisher of his machine guns, he grabs a pistol and starts shooting at the Punisher, the bullets bounce off the Punisher's armour; the Punisher gets out his pistols and begins to fire. Sportsmaster takes cover and prepares two bolas, he throws them and ties up the Punisher, the Punisher

manages to slip out a blade and cut through the Bolas, but before he can get to his feet Rupert Thorne is already dead) bad luck (he is teleported away)

Punisher: NO! (He bashes his hands against a wall)

Scene 7

14th October 05:00 EDT

Vandal: Your plan worked perfectly, Mrs Waller. Thanks to the Punisher downgrading Thorne's security we now have complete control of the crime syndicates of New York! And it is just the first to fall.

Amanda: The days are counting down.