

QUICK PITCHES for Punisher & Wolverine

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PUNISHER: NAKED KILL (1-shot)

Game of Death meets *Die Hard*. Frank Castle gets wind of a terrible new spin on the human slave trade market: kiddie porn snuff films, made right here in the city. Problem is, the studio is on the fiftieth floor of one of the most heavily guarded buildings in the world. Nitrate sniffers, metal detectors, full-body searches, and virtually impregnable from the outside. Frank has to go in alone and unarmed and make his way to the top of the skyscraper, staying silent, using only what he can find as a weapon. If he sets off an alarm the captive children will be killed outright. Frank has to rely on *Hadaka korosu*, the obscure sub-science of jujutsu called ‘the art of the naked kill’, the use of commonplace objects as weapons. But Frank Castle is the Punisher, and in his hands anything from a plastic trash-bag to a paperclip is a deadly weapon. Every floor he has to climb, every fight he has to win, makes him madder and more determined to bring his own terminal brand of justice to monsters who would exploit and destroy innocence.

WOLVERINE: HERO SCHOOL (1 shot)

Logan is wrapping a solo mission on the Philadelphia docks when he sees a team of killers in high-tech exoskeletons attacking the dockworkers. Before he can step in to help a young man with superhuman powers comes to the rescue. Except that he gets his butt handed to him by the bad guys. Logan watches long enough to appreciate the kid’s grit, but has to step in to keep him from getting killed. Afterward Logan takes the kid aside and talks to him about becoming a warrior. About how ‘tough’ isn’t a quality of physical strength or superhuman abilities. About what it means to be a hero –and how it’s important for warriors to be the best they can be so they don’t risk the lives of the people they want to protect. The kid appeals to Logan to give him some pointers and, using a series of attacks on the villains with the exoskeletons, Wolverine teaches his apprentice the ABCs of kicking ass the superhero way. This would be an action-packed meditation on the warrior spirit, with echoes of Samurai philosophy and good old fashioned down-and-dirty fighting sense.

PUNISHER/CAPTAIN AMERICA: FREEDOM FIGHTERS (5 issue limited series)

In New York Frank Castle is following a group of neo-Nazis who are buying and stealing supplies to make ampho –a chemical explosive; in Washington DC, Captain America is tracking a Hydra splinter group that has been working to smuggle stolen Russian-made portable nuclear weapons into the

country. Working independently from two ends of a massive conspiracy the Punisher and Cap fight their way up the line into the heart of a conspiracy to detonate dirty bombs all across America on the 4th of July. When their paths cross, they have to settle personal differences and forge a unified front against the terrorist cell that is paying both the neo-Nazis and the Hydra splinter cell –*The Last Jihad*.

WOLVERINE: INFINITE RAGE (5-issue limited series)

Logan is mopping up the floor with a bunch of bad guys when a young woman appears from out of nowhere and tries to blow his head off with a futuristic shock-pulse pistol. Later that day two young teenagers try to kill him with acid bombs. There's another attack, and another. Each of the attackers is young, each carries an exotic weapon; and each one accuses him of being evil. When Wolverine captures one of them he learns that these 'assassins' are young people from a hundred years in the future –a time when a vast army has nearly conquered earth and its settlements on the Moon, Mars and Jupiter's moons. The leader of this army is Logan.

Logan allows himself to be taken to the future (through some sketchy time-travel device that may or may not work well enough to get him home). In the future he encounters a clone of himself who calls himself The Infinite. The clone is the result of a decades-long experiment to clone Wolverine from blood and tissue recovered from various scenes of Logan's old battles. The Infinite has created an army of Wolverines, each with the bone claws and the mutant healing factor. The Infinite has even experimented with transgenics to create female Wolverines and versions with other abilities –wings, scorpion tails, and other fearsome armament from nature. He asks Logan to join him and help rule all human worlds.

Instead of agreeing, Logan gets really, really pissed, and he goes to war against an army of...himself. Of course, claws and a mutant healing factor are not what makes Wolverine the most efficient fighting machine on earth. Plus he's a little crazy. Logan has a psychological X-factor and years of training. The battle to save mankind from himself is going to be very, very bloody.