



## M2K Special Edition Cyberback

Collecting The Punisher #8 & 9 by Patrick Moore

These two issues were part of a larger story written, but unfortunately due to previous site crashes, the other two chapters written by Patrick Moore have been lost. While The Punisher #10 & 11 have been swallowed up by the internet, you can still enjoy these two opening stories!



TRIBAL PUNISHER BY CARLM

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**#8 – “Ultimate Hunter, Ultimate Prey”  
Written by Patrick Moore**

"Not another one," Detective Charlotte Jones said when she saw the headless body of a local street mugger in the alleyway of New York. "This is the third beheading this week. Someone is going postal on these Black Scorpion members."

The Black Scorpions are a street gang that just took over where the Red Dogs left off.

"Do you think the Punisher is behind this?" Officer Stan Kirby asked.

"Not his tone of action on the scum of the earth," said Charlotte. "But just in case, we better keep our eyes open."

Above the crime scene, someone or something was watching on a rooftop looking at his victory as he looked at the severed head that was in his hand.

< "Someone is going postal." > it repeated what Detective Jones said then disappeared into the night.

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Frank Castle stood where the World Trade Center once was before September 11th. He looked at the ash and rubble that was all around where the nightmare began when two hijacked airplanes rammed into the two towers causing one of 2001's most tragic events in history since the Oklahoma City bombing.

"I hope those troops find Osama bin Laden and kick his ass straight to Hell," he muttered under his breath as he remembered that 3,251 people lost their lives at the hands of bin Laden.

"I knew I would find you here, Castle," said the voice of the Black Cat, as she landed on the ground from a rooftop. "America is going to fight back against that terrorist coward and win."

"Thanks, Cat," said the Punisher. "What are you doing here anyway?"

"I come here every night during my patrol to look back at what happened here and mourn the dead," the former car burglar answered. "I also came here to see if you want to be a part of my security agency."

"I work alone, Cat," Frank gave a frowned look to his face. "I've heard about the Cat's Eye and I don't want to be in it. I don't belong with the Avengers, the Fantastic Four, or the X-Men. I just want to be alone and fight my own war."

"If you hadn't noticed that someone is beheading and killing criminals left and right, and all fingers will be pointing to you, Castle."

"I've read the Daily Bugle this morning."

"If you don't find who's behind these killings..."

The Punisher interrupted the Black Cat. "I find who's behind the killings, but I'll do it without any team-ups. The last team-up I had was with four mutant turtles that think that they're Jet Li or Chuck Norris. They sort of helped me when the Enforcers were attacking the city.\* So stay out of this, Cat."

( \*In issue #5-6 as part of the *Apocalypse: Ageless Fury* crossover - Dino )

But the Black Cat disappeared when Frank turned around.

"She's even worse than those damn turtles," Frank gritted his teeth as he got on his motorcycle and rode off.

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"Give me the money, bitch," said an armed gunman as he pointed his rifle at a female cashier at a local mini mart.

"All right, but don't kill me," The female cashier with her scared look to her face took the money out of the register and gave it to the gunman.

"I want the money from the safe, too," the gunman said. "Don't let me blow your fucking brains out!"

"I don't know the combination," the female cashier was still frightened. "The manager is off tonight and won't be back till tomorrow afternoon."

"DON'T GIVE ME THAT BULLSHIT AND OPEN THE DAMN SAFE!" The gunman has his finger on the trigger ready to fire.

"I'm telling you the truth," the cashier cried in tears.

"Spider-Man isn't going to save your ass," the gunman pointed the rifle at the cashier's head.

Suddenly, the gunman felt something grabbing his throat, but there was nothing there as he felt his upper lip being pulled from the inside. Blood began to appear as the gunman's skull and spine

was pulled from his body. The cashier screamed bloody murder as she saw the lifeless body of the gunman fell to the ground. She stared at the floating skull and spine in front of her, then she fainted onto the floor.

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The Punisher heard about the Black Scorpions on TV and on the radio. He also learned that they're also into drug smuggling and arms dealing. If these guys are like the Red Dogs, there's hell to pay. With this new killer loose on New York's street, Frank Castle better get enough ammo.

Frank entered Dino's Tavern to see if his informant was there. The bar was filled with cigarette smoke and the smell of vomit from a past brawl. He spotted his informant, a man around his forties drinking a beer and smoking a cheap cigar. Frank walked to the man and sat down next to him.

"Got anything, Caramel?" Frank asked his informant, Joe Caramel.

"You know what I want first," Caramel held out his hand.

Frank gave Caramel a wad of twenty-dollar bills. Caramel smiled.

"You get the rest when I get the info on the Black Scorpions," said Frank. "Now talk."

Caramel took a deep drag from his cigar and said, "Candyman."

"What?" Frank was puzzled at what Caramel just said. "What does some horror movie villain have to do with the Black Scorpions?"

"Candyman is the Black Scorpions' boss."

"Keep talking."

"I heard from two of the Black Scorpion members is that Candyman is getting some new type of guns from a mysterious benefactor tomorrow night."

"If those guns hit the street, they'll be a major gang war on our hands," Frank gave Caramel another wad of twenties. "Thanks, Caramel."

Caramel looked at his well-earned cash as the Punisher exited the tavern.

"Well?" a white haired woman in a brown trench coat walked up to Caramel.

"I told him about the Black Scorpions and their boss," said Caramel.

"You did good, Caramel," the woman gave Caramel a wad of fifties. "With the info I told you to tell the Punisher, he'll get to them before the killer does."

"Just doing my job, Cat," Caramel smiled some more at his wads of cash.

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It liked it here, it liked it's kills. The killer took some large tongs that held the blood covered skull and spine of the gunman from the mini mart and dipped it into a large barrel filled some kind of green water as it bubbles and hisses. The killer lifted his kill out of the barrel as the skull and spine were bone white as the blood that was on it was bleached off. It then pressed a button that opens a door revealing shelves not only with human skulls but skulls that are not from Earth. Pleased with the hunt, the killer went out to hunt again for bigger game.

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The Candyman was the Black Scorpions version of the Kingpin. He was a hulking African-American dressed in a black gangster outfit as he walked past crates filled with guns and ammo in his warehouse HQ. He walked towards two men named Pollard and Wheatley who were packing in semi-automatics into crates to be sent to the highest dealer.

"Report, gentlemen," Candyman ordered.

"The weapons are ready to be shipped as soon as possible, sir," said Pollard.

"We have two crates ready to be shipped to Hammerhead for tomorrow," said Wheatley.

"Excellent," said Candyman, as he lit a fresh cigar. "Our benefactor will be here tomorrow as well. How are my drug shipments doing?"

"We're making enough dope to make even President Bush sick to his stomach," said Pollard. "We should have a new batch ready in three days."

"Make it two days," Candyman corrected. "I don't Kingpin or Silvermane to make me look like a complete jackass when I ship my drugs into the streets before they do something more better. Now get back to work."

"Yes, sir," both Pollard and Wheatley said in unison, as Candyman left.

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The Candyman in his office as he began typing something on his computer. He typed in a password and an image of someone was on the screen, but the picture was distorted to protect his/her identity from being seen by Candyman.

{{ "Report, Candyman," }} said the distorted figure on the computer.

"The Black Scorpions and I are awaiting your arrival tomorrow night," answered Candyman.

{{"Excellent. I will be giving you more weapons as soon as you keep selling your drugs to those idiot junkies."}}

"It will be done."

{{"I don't want any of those damn Avengers trying to ruin our plans, Candyman. Is that understood?"}}

"Yes."

{{"W.R. out."}} The image on the computer shut off.

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Trish Tilby was outside of the mini mart as her crew was setting up of the taping for the latest newscast. Just then, Detective Charlotte Jones came towards her with an angered look on her face.

"What the hell are you doing her, Tilby?" Detective Jones asked.

"I'm going to do the story on the recent killings that happened two days ago," answered the reporter.

"This is none of your business."

"It's the media's business, detective."

"You know I can arrest you. Besides, aren't you always doing news stories on mutants? I thought April O'Neil would do this story."

"Camera's ready, Trish," said Trish's cameraman.

"Thanks, Johnny," Trish said to her cameraman, then turned back to Detective Jones. "April's on personal leave,\* so I'm taking her place here till she comes back. So, who's the latest victim our killer struck now?"

( \*See current issues of *TMNT* for the reason why - Dino )

"You don't want to know, Tilby," Detective Jones warned. "The cashier told me that her robber's skull and spine was pulled out from the inside."

Trish almost began to vomit.

Detective Jones continued. "This is one of the most strangest cases we have ever dealt with. With the likes of mutant terrorists like Magneto, the Masters of Evil, ninjas, Sentinels, Venom, and the Green Goblin, our killer makes them look like something out of Saturday morning cartoons. Do you still want to do you news story now?"

"The media never sleeps," said Trish, as she regained herself from vomiting.

Detective Jones just sighed.

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**\*BLAM\***

The Punisher shot one of six members of the Black Scorpions in the head, as he spotted them holding employees at a Marvel Burger hostage during closing hours. One of them grabbed a female employee and pointed a pistol to the side of her head.

"Please don't hurt me!" the female employee cried.

"Shut up!" The gunman shouted at her then turned to the Punisher. "Put the gun down, Mr. Vigilante, or the bitch gets it in the head."

"I'm going to ask you again, scum." Punisher said. "Where is Candyman?"

"Who gives a fuck?" a Black Scorpion member said.

**\*BLAM\***

The Punisher shot the Black Scorpion member in the kneecap. "Wrong answer," he said.

"I'm going to kill this tramp right now, if you don't stop shooting my men," the gunman squeeze on the trigger of his gun, but he felt something razor sharp slice of his hand with the gun on it. The gunman screamed in agony as the female hostage escaped from him.

"What the?!" the Punisher said to himself, as he saw what just happened.

He suddenly saw three red dots in the shape of a triangle on the head of another Black Scorpion member.

"What are you staring at?" The Black Scorpion member asked the Punisher.

"Don't move," the Punisher said to the thug.

"Why?"

"Just shut up and don't move, idiot."



"Screw you, Punisher."

But it was too late, as a blue-white laser blast struck the Black Scorpion's head blowing it up as blood was splattered on the walls.

"Let's get out of here," said another member, as he and his cohorts escaped from the back door.

"Don't leave me here, you bastards!" the Black Scorpion member who had his hand cut off shouted, as he was lying on the floor. But it was too late for him as well, as he was grabbed by the throat and felt two sharp knives piercing his chest as blood began spilling on the floor killing him instantly.

The Punisher was shocked as he saw the dead Black Scorpion member's blood covered skull and spine being taken from the inside as the killer pulled the flesh from it's victim.

"Who or what the hell are you?" Punisher asked whoever was there.

The killer was invisible to Frank Castle, but became visible to him when it revealed itself to him. The killer wasn't human; it wasn't even Kree, Skrull, or mutant. It's eyes pointed to the Punisher through its armored mask type helmet. < "Who or what the hell are you?"> the creature repeated what Frank just said, then turned invisible again and left leaving the Punisher more puzzled than ever.

"First Sentinels, then giant ninja turtles, now this," the Punisher sighed. "This isn't going to be one of these nights."

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***NEXT ISSUE: It the words of the Thing: "IT'S CLOBBERING TIME!" As the Punisher takes on Candyman, the Black Scorpions, and a certain alien hunter. Plus a certain wallcrawler guest stars, and the return of an old Spidey villain.***

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#### SKULLS AND BULLETS

*It's been a year, but the Punisher is back better than ever here at Marvel 2000. I've never had a liking for the Punisher, but I've finally had an idea to get him a sci-fi edge for my run. I needed to give Frank Castle a villain than just the same old thugs, gangsters, and terrorists he deals with in ever issue. After looking at the Batman vs. Predator trilogy (which is a fan favorite crossover of mine) I've found the perfect villain for the Punisher. Since Dino Pollard has The Crow, characters from Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and the TMNT at M2K, what better way than to introduce the Predator to the M2K universe. That's it for now. If you have any rants or comments e-mail me at cmoore1703@yahoo.com under the subject Skulls and Bullets.*

-Patrick Moore  
January 18, 2002



**#9 – “Ultimate Hunter, Ultimate Prey: Part 2”**  
**Written by Patrick Moore**

"What was that thing?" The Punisher asked himself that same question after he saw what happened at the Marvel Burger last night.\* "It looked like it wasn't human at all, and it can't be a mutant like the X-Men. Whatever killed those two Black Scorpion members last night at the Marvel Burger must have been doing this type of thing for years now." He was in his storehouse getting enough firepower to take out on the Candyman and the Black Scorpions. "Right now, I've got some scorpions to sting."

( \*Check last issue for details - Dino )

As he loaded his ammo into his van, Frank Castle remembered Jane and the Red Dogs, hoping not to make the same mistake like last time.\*

( \*Go back and read issue #7 for more on the Red Dogs - Dino )

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{{ "Last night four more bodies were found; three being members of the Black Scorpions at a Marvel Burger and one being a lone robber at a mini-mart. In an interview with Detective Charlotte Jones, she says that these killings are not linked to the vigilante known as the Punisher, due to that this isn't his style of justice by taking the bloody skulls and spines of his victims. CBNC News will have more info on these killings as soon as possible. This is Trish Tilby reporting." }}

Peter Parker shut off the TV after he heard the news story. "I know the Punisher isn't behind those killings," he said.

"Turn the TV back on, Peter, I don't want to miss Invader Zim," said Peter's roommate, Randy Robertson, son of Daily Bugle's Joe "Robbie" Robertson. "Besides, how do you know about the Punisher?"

"I heard it on the Internet," Peter lied not to let Randy know that he had worked with the Punisher in the past as Spider-Man.

Randy chewed on some popcorn while he turned the TV back on. "You want to watch Zim with me, Pete?"

"Not today, Randy," Peter said as he put on his jacket and grabbed his camera off the table. "I'm going to take pictures for Jameson."

"I'll tape the show for you while you're gone," said Randy.

But Peter was gone like a bullet.

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Candyman was puffing on a fresh Cuban cigar when he heard the news about what happened last night with his men at the Marvel Burger and their run in with the Punisher.

"I sent you for food and you come back with nothing because of the damn Punisher," he said to the remaining members of his gang who went to the Marvel Burger. "Three of my men killed by that son of a bitch. Explain why any of you didn't you kill that bastard when you had guns to shoot him with?"

"The Punisher wasn't the only one there, Candyman," said one of the Black Scorpion members. "Someone else killed Jimmy and sliced of Tony's hand."

"Did you see who it was that killed Jimmy?" Candyman gave a stern look at their faces.

"A laser came out of nowhere and blew Jimmy's head into ground chuck," said another member.

"I'm losing men here thanks to some invisible man shooting lasers," Candyman was being sarcastic after hearing what he just heard. "My boss is coming in a few hours and I don't want this bull crap happening when the new guns come in. If the Punisher does have an ally helping him clean the streets of my men, we might as well bring them both here for the boss to blow their brains out." Candyman took a long drag from his cigar. "The next time the Punisher shows up, lead him to me and I'll do the rest."

"You're the boss, Candyman," said yet another member.

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It was almost night when the Punisher was looking for the Black Scorpions or the mysterious killer while driving his van. He didn't want to get caught by the police without clearing his name in case people think he's the one behind these recent killings. Suddenly, he felt a thud hit the roof of his van. It may be the killer, he thought as he drove the his van into Central Park hoping that there were no people around to get in the way of his fight. When he got out of the van, he took out his shotgun and pointed to a familiar person on top of the van's roof.

"You!?" Frank was shocked to see a certain red-blue costumed hero instead of his true enemy. "What the hell are you doing here, Spider-Man?"

"Put the gun down, Punisher, they're people going to look at us acting like idiots," said Spider-Man.

"Did the police send you to capture me?" the Punisher asked the wall-crawler.

"If I did, gunhead, would they be following me?" Spidey asked.

"Good point."

The Punisher lowered his shotgun as Spider-Man jumped down to the ground.

"I know you didn't do those murders, Punisher," said Spider-Man. "That's why I came looking for you to prove your innocence."

"Thanks, webhead," the Punisher said back. "I'm sorry about what I did to you a few months back when Norman Osborn hired me to hunt you down for the murder of Joey Z and the kidnapping of his grandson."

"That was in the past, Punny," said Spider-Man. "Who you after this time? The Backstreet Boys?"

"Have you ever heard of a gang named the Black Scorpions?" Frank asked.

"The only Black Scorpion I could think of is that female superhero on the Sci-Fi Channel," Spidey answered in his sarcastic way.

The Punisher gave Spider-Man a stern dark look at him. "The Black Scorpions is that new gang that took over where the Red Dogs left off, and they have this boss calling himself the Candyman. Plus, there's this creature that's killing not only Black Scorpion members but other criminal scum as well."

Spider-Man just shrugged. "Must be your imagination."

"I saw it with my own eyes, dammit!" the Punisher barked. "I saw it pull the skull and spine from one of the Black Scorpions last night! If you stop fighting the Green Goblin and Venom for one minute and believe me for once!"

"I believe you didn't commit those murders, but I don't believe some creature would be behind the deaths," said Spider-Man.

"HELP!" the voice of a woman can be heard as the two heroes stopped arguing to hear the scream for help.

Both of them ran to where the woman's scream came from as they saw four men attacking a woman. The Punisher looked at the men closely only to find out that they were the same men from the Marvel Burger attack last night.

"It's them," he said as he took out his shotgun.

"Who?" Spider-Man asked.

"The Black Scorpions from last night," the Punisher said as he ran towards the attackers with his shotgun.

"No bloodshed!" Spider-Man shouted.

The Punisher ran towards the thugs and whacked one of them with his shotgun and he landed on the ground.

"When are you jackasses going to get it through your thick skulls that crime doesn't pay?" Punisher pointed his blood covered gun at the remaining three members then turned to the woman. "Get out of here, lady."

The lady ran as far away as she could away from what the Punisher was going to do next.

"Listen up," Punisher said to the thugs while pointing his gun at them. "You three are going to take me to Candyman so I can kick his ass."

"What if we don't?" a Black Scorpion member said.

"Then I'll blow all three of your brains out right here in Central Park," The Punisher smirked.

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The abandoned Exner warehouse was once filled with crates full of toys for kids, now the Candyman and the Black Scorpions have taken over and replaced them with guns and drugs.

"Where are they?" Candyman said as he looked over his crates. "They should have the Punisher here by now."

"They'll get the job done, Candyman," a woman's voice is heard from behind him. "You told them to mug someone in Central Park to get that trigger happy idiot's attention."

"I know. It's just that want to break the Punisher's spine in two when he comes."

The woman came out of the shadows reveling herself wearing white furry boots, blue suit coat, white vest with pocket watch, pink bow tie, her face in white makeup, and rabbit ears on her head. She is the White Rabbit.

"You can have the Punisher, but I want these guns shipped to Hong Kong in two days," she said to Candyman. "I don't want any screw ups."

**HONK! HONK!**

"They're back," said Candyman. "I hope the Punisher is following them."

Two men opened the doors as a van drove inside as Candyman and White Rabbit greeted it. Both of them looked around to see if the Punisher was behind them or not.

"Where's the Punisher?" Candyman asked the driver.

The driver had a scared look to his face. "He's coming."

"When?" White Rabbit asked.

"How about now, bimbo," said a voice from the van.

The side door of the van opened as the Punisher came out armed.

"KILL HIM!" White Rabbit roared to the Black Scorpions to open fire at the Punisher.

Guns fired at the Punisher fired back killing seven men in the process. Frank has dealt with these types before in his years as the Punisher, but what if that thing he saw at the Marvel Burger showed up to make this gunfight more interesting. The Punisher didn't need any help to take on these goons.

As the White Rabbit pointed her umbrella gun at the Punisher, a string of webbing shot out of nowhere the struck the umbrella and was pulled away. The White Rabbit turned to see Spider-Man on top of the ceiling.

"Nice to see you again, you Playboy Bunny reject," Spider-Man said as he landed on the floor. "When did you decided to become a Kingpin wannabe?"

"That is none of your business, wall-crawler," she said as she ordered some Black Scorpion members to attack Spider-Man. "Kill this web menace!"

But it was not to be as two razor sharp disc sliced the heads off the three thugs that were going to kill Spider-Man. Both the web slinger and the White Rabbit were shocked at what just happened.

"It's here!" Punisher said as he shot four more thugs to the ground. "Shoot at the shimmer!"

It was too late as the remaining members of the Black Scorpions had either escaped or got killed by the creature. Gunfire was still heard as the Candyman struck the Punisher with a hard blow in the chest.

"You and Spider-Man sent that invisible killer after me," Candyman said as he struck a few more blows to the Punisher. "Now I'm going to break you in half for this."

The Punisher punched back at the Candyman. "I didn't invite Spider-Man or that thing to join me in kicking your ass."

Two Black Scorpion members fired at the shimmer as the creature became visible to them and stabbed one of them with a metal spear. The other member ran as fast as he could, but the creature threw a net at him that pinned him to the wall and pieced his flesh.

"I'm getting out of here," said the Candyman as he began to run. "That thing ain't human."

"Not until I blow your damn brains out first," Punisher fired a shot into one of Candyman's kneecaps. He walked up to the fallen villain and pointed his gun to his forehead. "Say goodbye, you Kingpin reject."

Before he fired at the Candyman, the creature lunged at the Punisher as they both landed on the floor. Frank struggled to get his gun and fired at the creature's arm as green blood began gushing out. The creature screamed, as it became invisible again.

The sounds of police sirens can be heard as Spider-Man webbed up the White Rabbit and the remaining Black Scorpion members for them to pick up. He soon turned to the Punisher as he got up from his battle with the creature pointing his gun at the wounded Candyman.

"You're going to rot in prison, Candyman," Punisher said. "I would have blown your brains out, but Spider-Man's here and the police are coming to haul your ass to jail."

"I'll be out by tomorrow afternoon," smirked Candyman. "While you're at it, you might as well find that thing that attacked my men."

The Punisher whacked Candyman in the head with his gun. "I'll get that son of a bitch, but I'm not doing it for you. I shot that thing and it bleeds. If it bleeds, I can kill it."

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**NEXT ISSUE: *Punisher vs Predator! 'Nuff said!!***

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## **SKULLS AND BULLETS**

*First off I like to give apologies to Mike Exner III for using the Black Cat for last issue. I looked in the Dibs list and I didn't see her being used by no one else. Originally I was going to use Daredevil, but he was used in Defenders.*

*Second, I wanted to see a Spidey/Punisher team-up happen, not as much. Spider-Man's role in this issue takes place between M2K's Amazing Spider-Man # 18 and 19.*

*Third and finally, thanks to Dino, Cory, and Mike III for the good reviews of last issue. I try and post those reviews up in next issue.*

-Patrick Moore