

Don't Hate on Hellcat



The Averted Eyes &
Disproportionate
Penalties
Piled on
Patsy "Trish"
Walker for Her
Core Community
Transgressions
within
Marvel Comics
and Netflix's
Jessica Jones



COMIC Community Transgressions

- She committed suicide because she couldn't handle Daimon's innate evil
- Heroes don't give up
- Heroes only deal with everyday pain like missing the rent, romantic pain, or massive heroic tragedy like dead parents--NOT internally-directed pain based on perceived personal chronic faults that are part of the foundational problems of one's self

Leading to Averted Eyes

- After she was resurrected, she and her friends almost never talked about the fact that she killed herself, and her relationship with Daimon was usually treated as a joke—until *Iron Man* (2020)

NETFLIX Community Transgressions

- She killed four murderers, one of whom killed her mom, and two by accident
- Heroes kill, but they don't like it and/or they don't do it with premeditation (OK, they sometimes do), and they can't be "out of control"
- She went from a normal person to a killer, instead of being a natural killer, which is OK
- Heroes in the Netflix MCU don't want to be heroes and thus be put in the position where they have to make these kinds of decisions in the first place

Leading to Disproportionate Penalties

- She was widely castigated by her equally-flawed friends for being a terrible person
- She was sent to the MCU's underwater maximum security prison, the Raft, for these deaths
- Meanwhile other Netflix MCU killers such as Punisher, Elektra, and Jessica Jones, were either allowed to live their lives without penalty or at worst died a hero's death



A Brief History

"--BECOME
VISIONS
OF LIFE!"

LIFE: A GIRL OF
SEVEN FACES A MOTHER
WHO CONSTANTLY DE-
MANDS MORE, PUSHING
SO HARD TO MAKE
THE DAUGHTER WHAT
SHE WANTS HER TO
BE, THAT SHE
ULTIMATELY DRIVES
THE GIRL AWAY.

LIFE: DOROTHY WALKER
LIES ALONE IN A HOSPI-
TAL BED, TORN WITH
PAIN, EATEN BY CANCER.
AVARRISH APPEARS,
OFFERING RELEASE, NEW
BEGINNINGS, RETURNED
YOUTH...

...ALL IN EXCHANGE
FOR THAT DAUGHTER
WHO WALKED AWAY,
FOR THE GIRL WHO
BECAME A DIFFERENT
KIND OF CANCER
IN THIS WOMAN'S
LIFE. FOR PATSY.

DEATH: THE FINAL MOMENT
COMES AND A SHRUNKEN
WRECK OF A HUMAN SCREAMS.
"YES! TAKE HER! JUST LET
ME LIVE! LET ME LIVE!"

THEN THE VISIONS FADE, LEAVING
BEHIND AN UNSAVORY TRUTH: HAD
HELLCAT'S MERGER WITH AVARRISH
BEEN SUCCESSFUL, DOROTHY WALKER
WOULD HAVE LIVED.

AND SHE WOULD
HAVE HAD NO
REGRETS.

...THAN BY THE SIGHT OF
THE BLOOD-EYED THING
THAT DELIVERED IT!

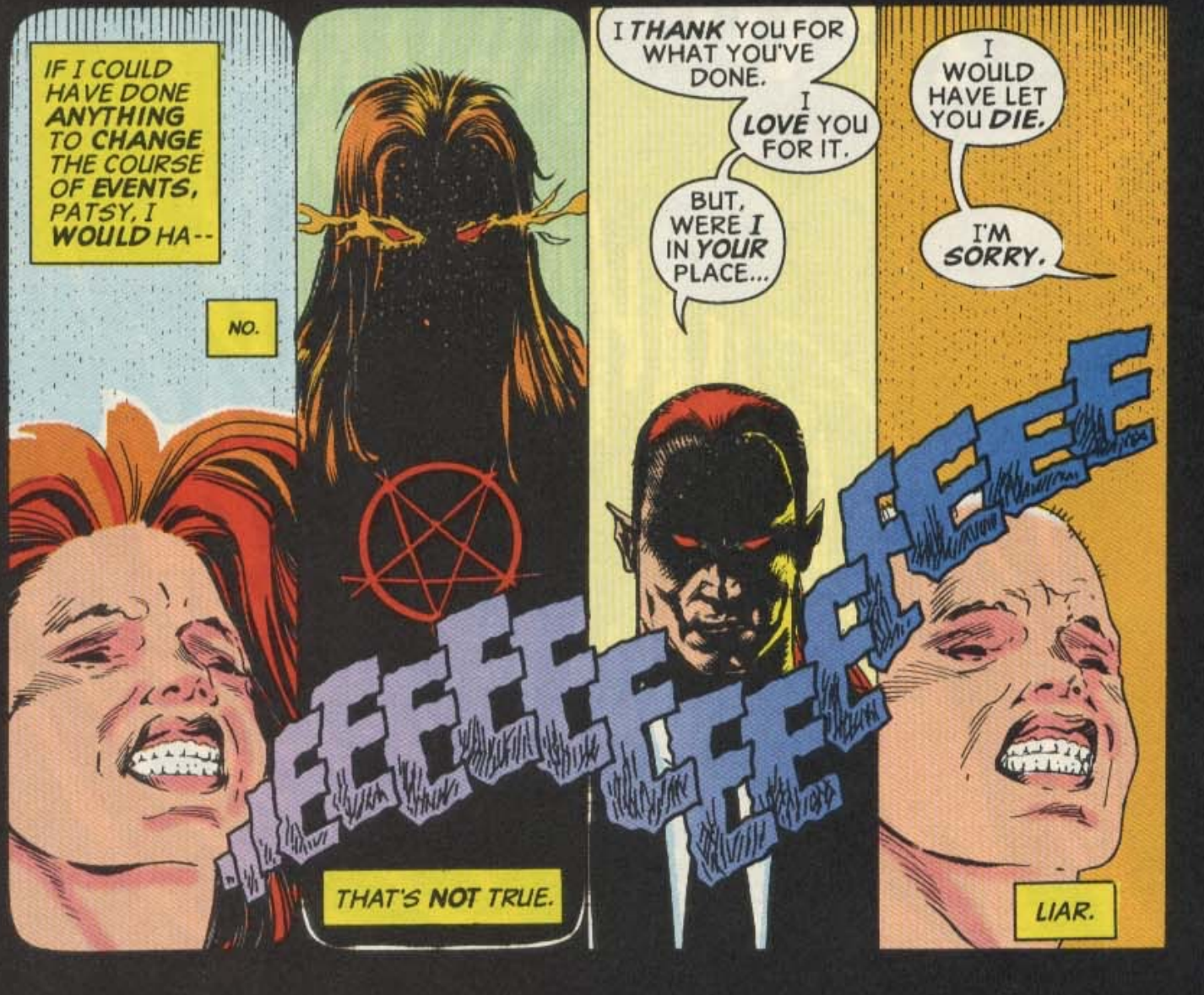
GAZE UPON ME,
ONCE-FRIENDS--
GAZE WITH
HORROR UPON
THE REBORN
HELLCAT!

AVARRISH IS IN
ME--AND I IN HIM!
TOGETHER WE SHALL
WALK THIS EARTH
TILL TIME'S END--

--A PITY THE SAME CAN-
NOT BE SAID FOR YOU!

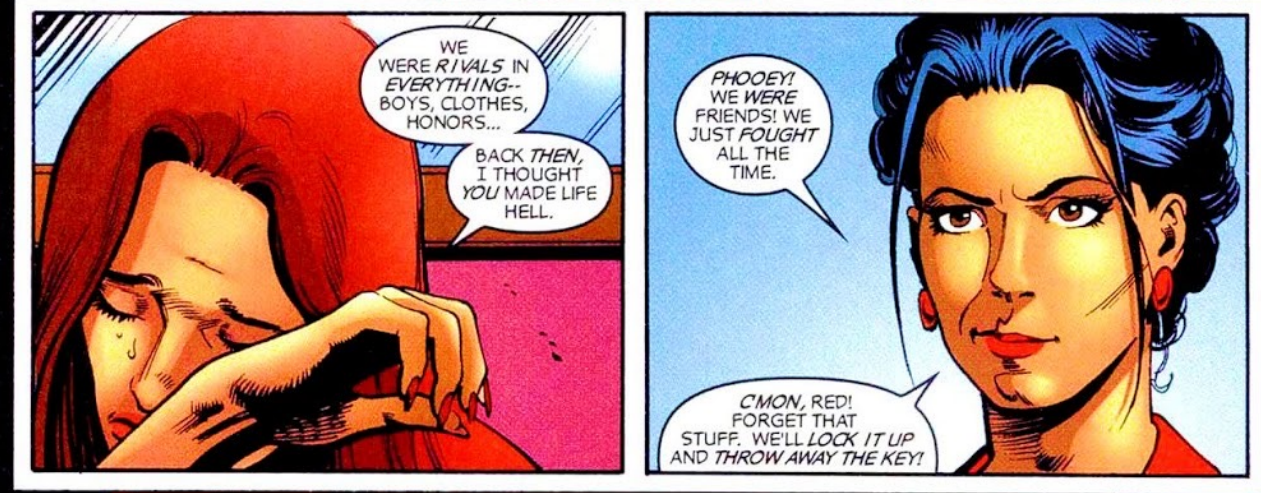
BY THE SEVEN CIRCLES!
PATSY HAS BEEN... **POS-
SESSED!** BUT IF THIS CREA-
TURE, AVARRISH, THINKS
HE CAN STAND LONG
AGAINST A MASTER OF
GODS!

GRD



Hellstorm: Prince of Lies
4 (top), 2 (right)

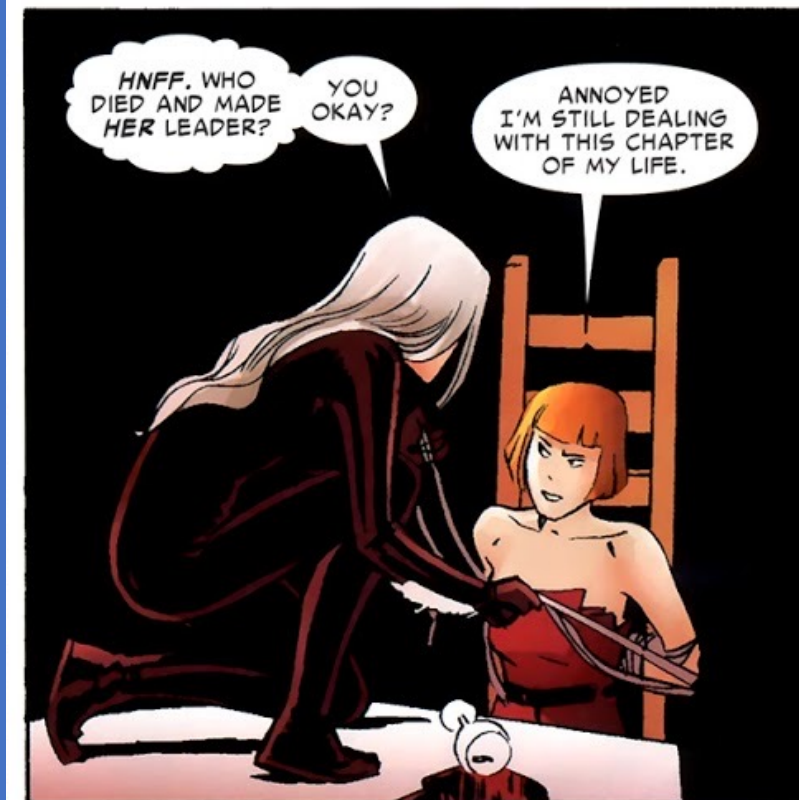




Thunderbolts Annual 2000 (top right)
Hellcat (2000) 1 (bottom right, above)



Marvel Divas
1 (left),
3 (right),
4 (top)





Patsy Walker, A.K.A. Hellcat!

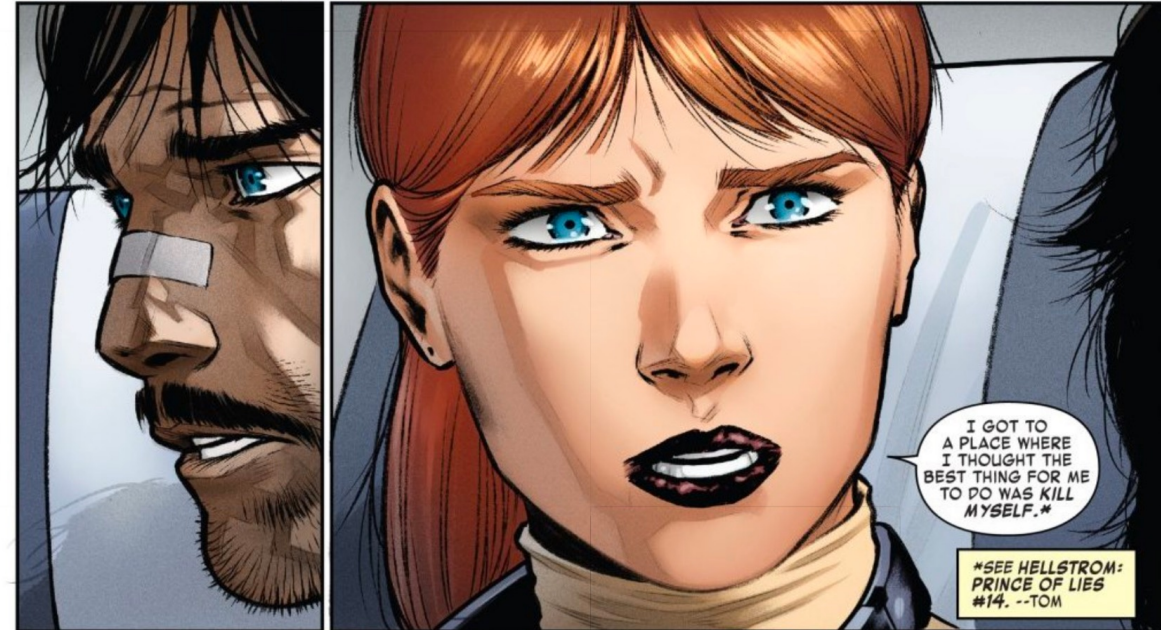
1, 9, 10



Fearless

3





Iron Man (2020)

3

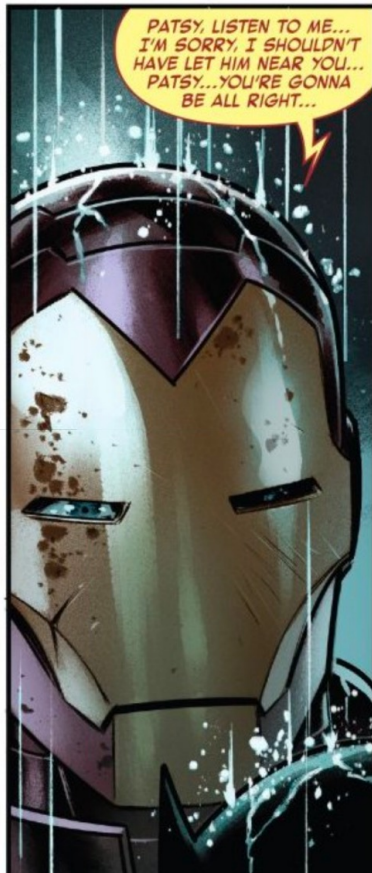


Iron Man (2020)

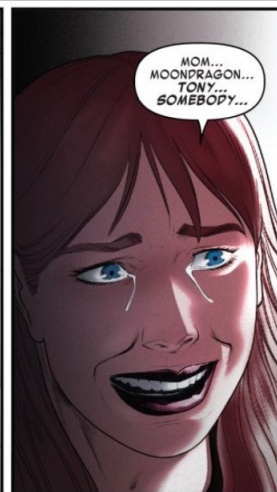
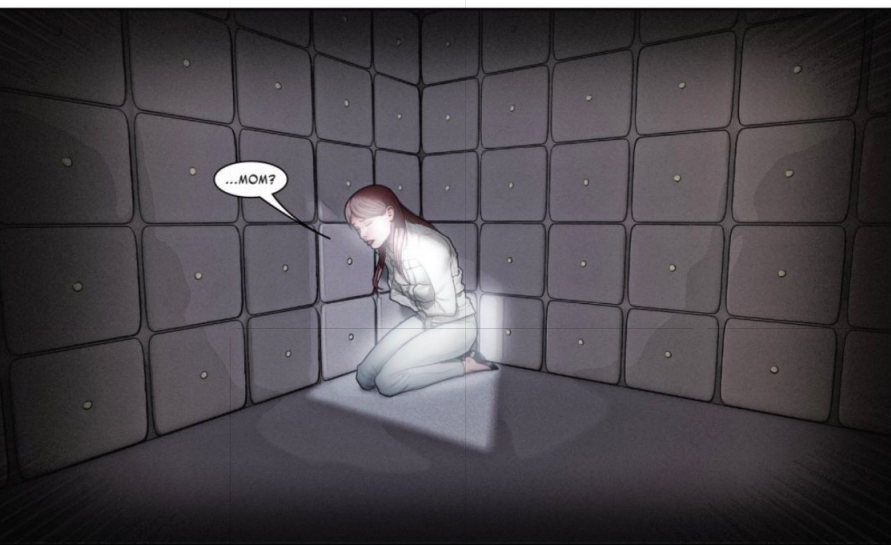


Iron Man (2020)

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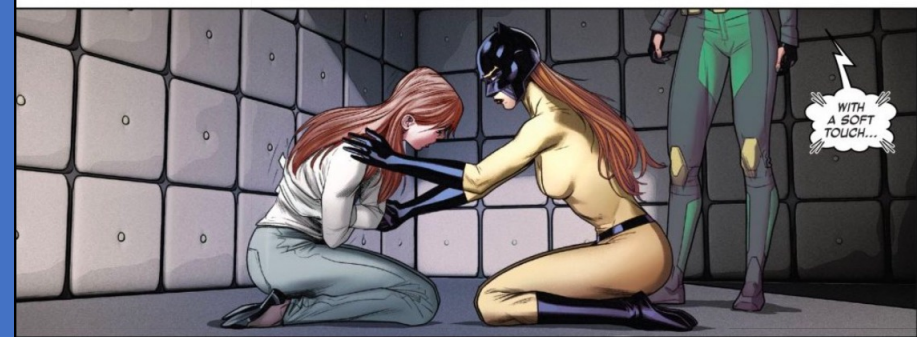


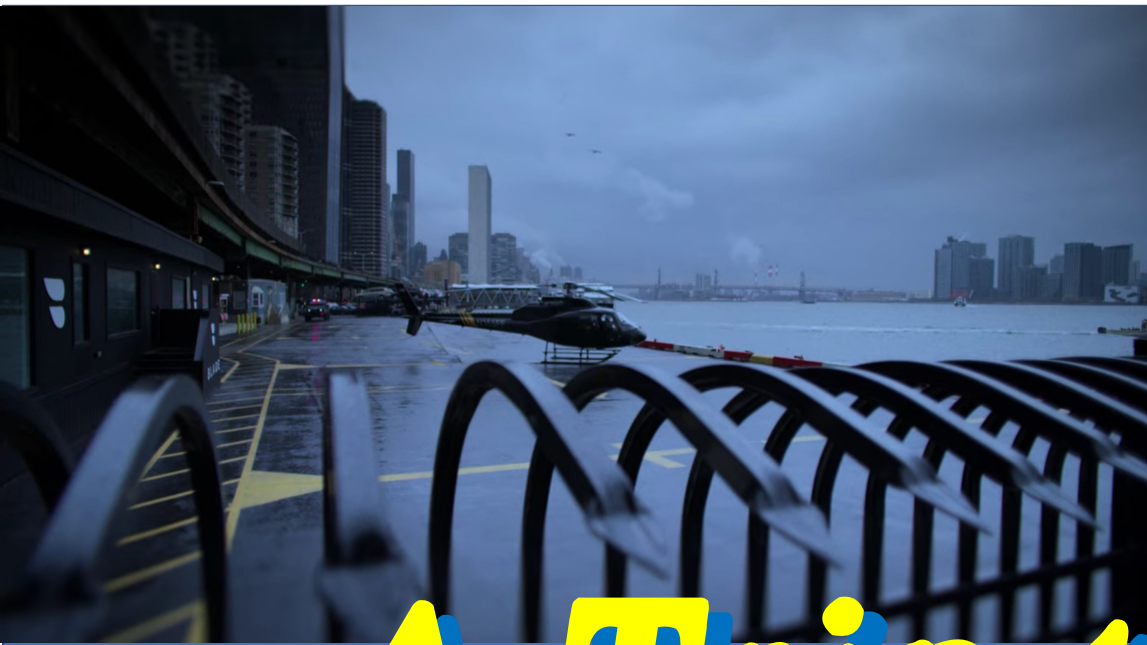
Iron Man (2020)



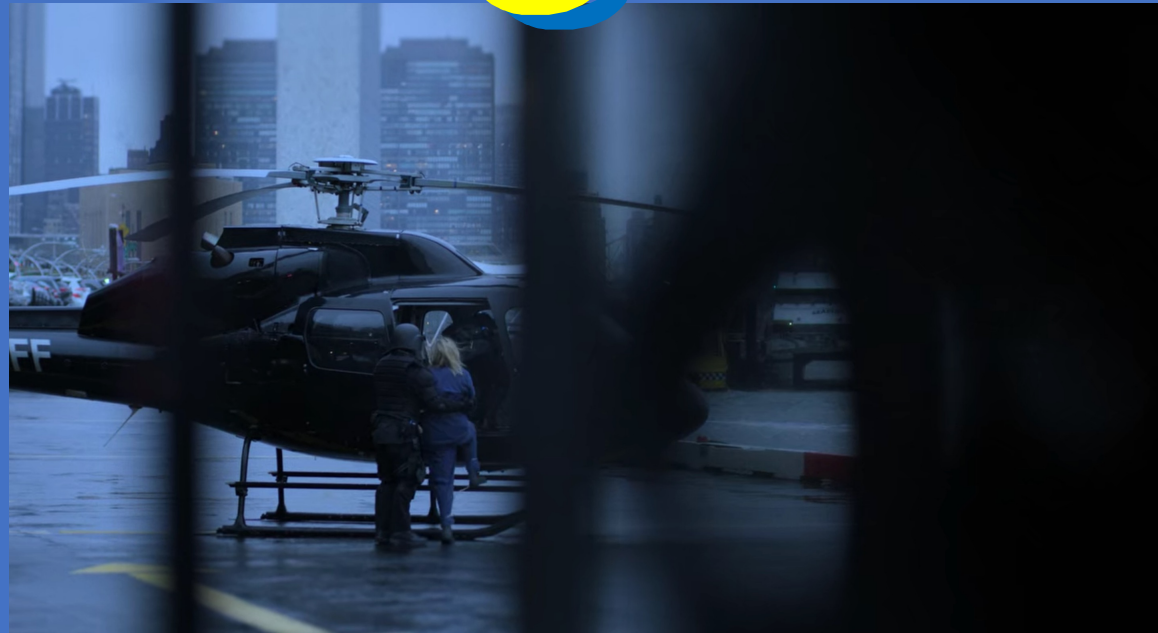
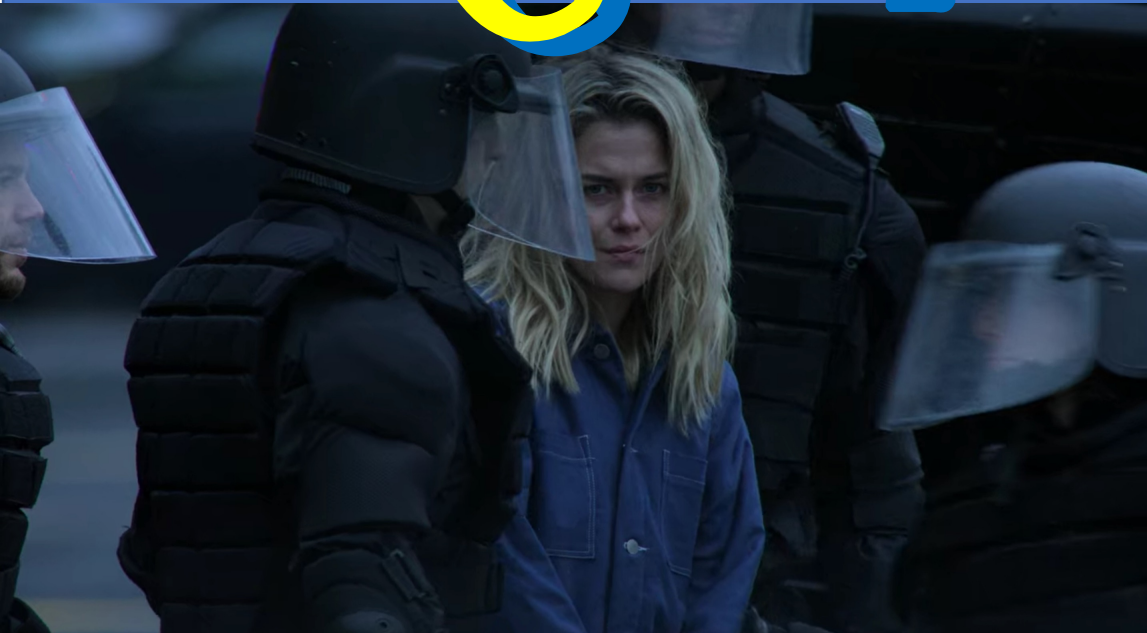
Iron Man (2020)

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A Trip to the Raft



S3E13

NETFLIX Trish Killed Four People

- 1. Alisa Jones, Jessica's mother, a mass murderer. Trish killed Alisa to keep the police from killing both Alisa and Jessica.**
- 2. Carl Nussbaumer, a corrupt cop and repeat murderer. Trish killed him by accident in a fight after trying to get him to confess on tape. She repeatedly shouted "no" after he died and was distraught that she killed him.**
- 3. Jace Montero, killed many people via insurance fraud schemes. Trish unintentionally killed him after losing control when he triggered her past traumas, and she saw him as Gregory Sallinger. Her original intention was to leave him alive as part a plan to keep Jessica from being blamed for Nussbaumer.**
- 4. Gregory Sallinger, serial killer; he tortured and killed Trish's mother. Trish first tried to kill him in his apartment right after he killed her mom, but Jessica stopped her. She tried again in the hospital, but again Jones stopped Trish. Finally Trish killed him while he was in police custody.**

Other Netflix MCU Killers

- Jessica Jones intentionally planned and carried out the murder of Kilgrave.
- Jessica Jones accidentally killed Dale Holliday, a prison guard hassling Jessica and her mom, and makes his death look like a suicide.
- Jessica seriously threatened to kill at least three more people and was addicted to violence, beating up numerous others and regularly destroying property. She suffered no real consequences and was hailed as a hero in the media.
- Punisher killed innumerable people in cold blood. He built a positive relationship with a teenage girl while engaged in his murdering sprees, and at the end of the show was building a relationship with Madani, in the CIA, who wanted to use his talents. He then went off to happily slaughter some gang members.
- Elektra killed numerous people, including Stick and multiple members of the Chaste and Hand, some with premeditation. She was given a hero's death, twice, and was clearly seen as a sympathetic figure both by the show and Daredevil. Murdock would still have done anything for Elektra by the end of *Defenders*.

Other Netflix MCU Killers

- Stick killed many, with premeditation, such as the child Black Sky, Sowande, Nobu, Star, Aito, and Hirochi.
- Alisa Jones killed at least 8, including Will Simpson, Whizzer, Kozlov, Leslie Hansen, and a cop; her death was sympathetic and Jessica always believed in her ability to reform.
- Will Simpson killed at least four people, including police officer Oscar Clemons in cold blood. He is mostly ignored and dies in a sympathetic manner.
- John Pilgrim was a mass murderer. The Punisher allowed him to go free since he did it for his family and was finished with violence.
- Colleen Wing killed Bakuto and Misty Knight killed one of his men. No consequences.
- Daredevil twice used lethal force against Nobu before knowing he could regenerate. No consequences.
- Karen Page killed James Wesley, partly in self-defense but with overkill, and was responsible for her brother's death. No major consequences. She later helps the Punisher, believing in his innate goodness.

The Finale of the Netflix MCU

Trish's trip to the Raft is the penultimate scene in all of Marvel Netflix—the culmination of 13 seasons of shows--so it means a lot in the context of that universe.

Right before that, Trish says, “I’m the bad guy.”—really? She is the FINAL BIG BAD of the show, and of Marvel Netflix. How does she stack up against Sallinger and Kilgrave, or even Alisa Jones, let alone Wilson Fisk, Howard Meachum, Bushmaster, Jigsaw, Davos, even Mary Walker.

Jessica's final act of on-screen heroism is to send Trish to the Raft, where the only other known prisoners are villains Baron Zemo and Diamondback, instead of getting her addiction or other mental health treatment.

The Show's Moral Stance

Jessica Jones is about several very morally questionable people—Jessica, Trish, Malcolm, Hogarth, Trish's mom Dorothy, Erik. The end of the show provides a clear moral stance on each one:

Jessica, Erik, and Malcolm all end up being “good.” They have all done significantly bad things repeatedly, but have rejected those deeds at this point in time. Malcolm gets the Alias agency, Erik becomes a partner to a cop. Even Dorothy is lionized in death.

Hogarth and Trish end up being “bad.” Hogarth is harshly told by her girlfriend that she will “die alone” and Trish, realizing she is the “Bad Guy,” is sent to the Raft.

I would argue that if the show stopped at any other given point in time, different characters would currently be “good” or “bad,” and that the show's clear moral stance on these characters' morality is thus artificial and contrived.

Definitions of Heroism

1-1 Jessica's basic moral stance: "People do bad shit. I just avoid getting involved with them in the first place. That works for me. Most of the time."

2-10 Trish says about herself and Malcolm: "We can't just stand by when bad shit happens. It's not in us."

2-13 Alisa: "Hero isn't a bad word, Jessica. It's just someone who gives a shit and does something about it."

3-11 Dorothy's doorman says he's sorry. Trish says there's nothing he could have done. He says there's always something we could do: "Satan wins when the forces of light stand idly by."

Jess Saying That Trish Has a Better Sense of Morality Than She Does

1-8 “I’m having a ‘what would Trish do?’ moment. Actually, I ask myself that a lot.”

2-11 “She wants to be like me. Except she would be a real hero.”

3-9 “I was strong way before I gave a shit. But you gave a shit long before you were even strong.”

Trish's Trauma and Her Need to Intervene When She Sees Problems

Trish's dad beat her mom, and then her mom physically abused her in turn. She was sexually abused by a film director when she was 15, at the instigation of her mother. She became addicted to drugs, and her mother was killed by a serial killer.

3-6 Trish says if her mom doesn't feel safe, try being her kid. Now she can save other little girls from that sort of thing. "I am this way because you made me this way."

3-12 When she was a kid, her dad threw her mom against a wall, and Trish decided he had to go. She got her mom's blood and put it on herself so he would be arrested. She never saw him again. **"Now, what I did was wrong. But it was also right."** The show essentially disagrees with this assertion when it comes to her killing of Sallinger.

Definitions of Murder

1-7 Simpson says some people deserved to be removed from this Earth. Trish: “We don’t get to decide that. Killers decide that. That’s what makes them killers.”

3-3 Trish: “Vengeance, not justice? That’s not what a hero does.” Jess: “You’ve been a hero for 5 minutes. I’ve been one half my life.” Trish: “You’ve been super, Jess. There’s a difference.”

3-9 Jess stops Trish from killing Sallinger: “If you kill him, then you’re the bad guy. “

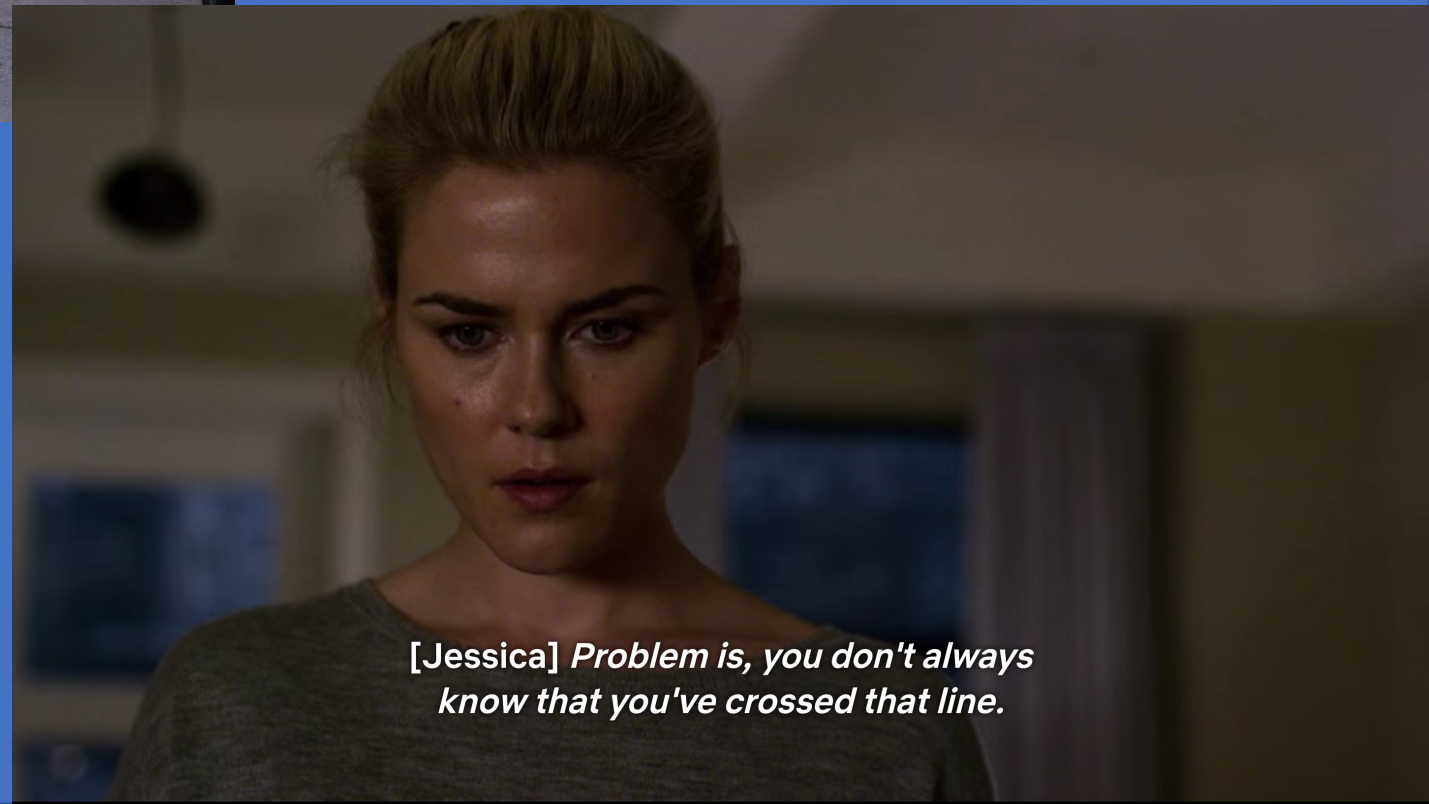
3-12 Trish says the people she killed were killers. Malcolm asks why it was up to her to fix that.

3-11 But, Erik repeatedly tells Trish that his psychic evil-sense shows that killing these men has made the world a better place.



*life will push you over the line
until you're the villain.*

S1E12



[Jessica] *Problem is, you don't always
know that you've crossed that line.*

Jess's Reasons to Stop Her

Trish does do some other dumb stuff in the show, like kidnapping Malcolm in season 2 and Hogarth's girlfriend in season 3, and it all snowballs in the last episode.

3-13 Trish asks, "Why can't you just let me go?" Jess lists off the dead, and Trish says they won't hurt anyone else. Jess says "**But you will.**"

3-13 Jess: "I thought this was because of what Sallinger did to you, or a side effect of your powers. **But it has been there all along.** I saw it when you shot my mother. And I can see it now....You think you're avenging [your mom], but you've become her."

This contradicts Jessica's regular assertions that Trish is a better person than she is, Trish's numerous acts of heroism, and Trish's own statements about her motivations.

Jess's Curious Strategy of Belittling Trish (In Order to Help Her?)

In fact, instead of blaming Trish for an essentialist "bad guy" self, Jess may want to look at her own relationship with her. Despite calling Trish her best friend numerous times, Jess constantly belittles Trish's desire to be a hero, the powers she got, and the way she uses them. She builds more anger in Trish, who is driven by a feeling of powerlessness and lack of respect, making her feel even more powerless. She repeatedly takes away Trish's agency, keeping her from killing Sallinger multiple times and making a deal with Sallinger to destroy some evidence so Trish won't go to jail—against Trish's wishes.

Jess beats up Trish-as-Hellcat in a way that humiliates her, multiple times.

She never says, "Let me mentor you and explain how I dealt with my powers."

What if Jess actually tried to support Trish's desires instead of stopping them?

What if she helped Trish be a hero like Jess temporarily did with Kilgrave and her mom?

3-5 Trish: "You never treat me like an equal." Jess: "Well, you don't act like an equal."

Mitigating Circumstances

- Addict
- Two deaths were by accident
- Physical and sexual abuse instigated by both parents
- Told she was doing good by Erik's psychic powers
- Engaged in several acts of heroism
- Jessica modeled murder and lawbreaking as a solution for her

Trish is a very flawed person. But her problems stem from her trauma and her addiction. The correct solution for her was treatment, not the Raft, which was a disproportionate penalty based on the Netflix MCU heroes' idiosyncratic codes of conduct, where you can kill, but you can't be out of control; where you can be a killer, but not an ordinary person who kills; and where you aren't allowed to *want* to be a hero, because if you do, then you own all the decisions you make as a hero, which is to say, someone who takes the initiative in getting involved in other people's lives.