

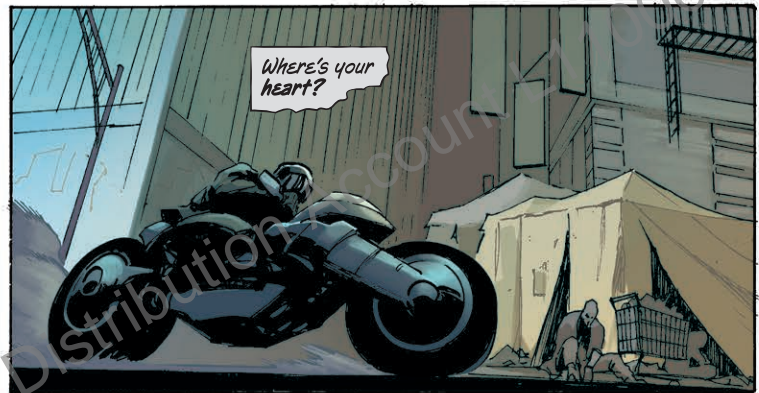
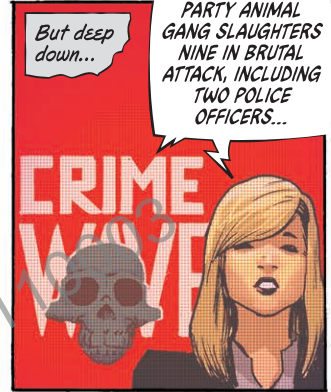
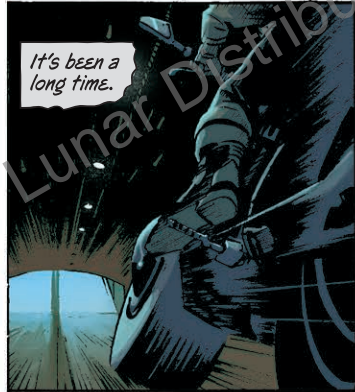


**ABSOLUTE
BATMAN**

"THE ZOO"

**PART ONE
OF FIVE**

Hello again, Gotham.





In fact, I barely recognize you anymore.



I'm not sure I like this new you, Gotham.

But that's okay.



I don't think you're going to like me much, either.



My name is Alfred Pennyworth.

And I'm here to do some bad things.

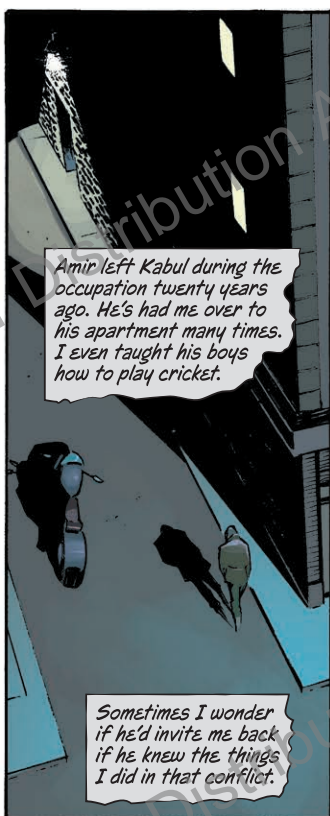


SO GOOD TO SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND. I STILL STOCK YOUR FAVORITE.

YOU'RE A GIANT AMONG MEN, AMIR.

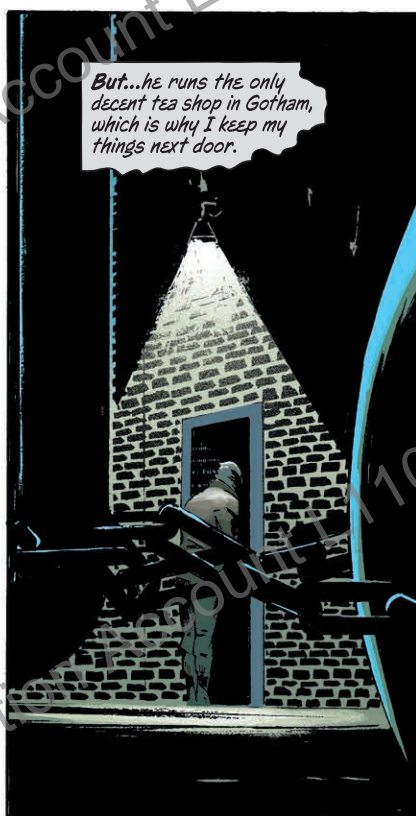
NEVER.

TRUE, TRUE. BUT I WOULDN'T LEAVE YOUR BIKE OUT THERE UNLESS YOU'RE ASKING FOR TROUBLE...

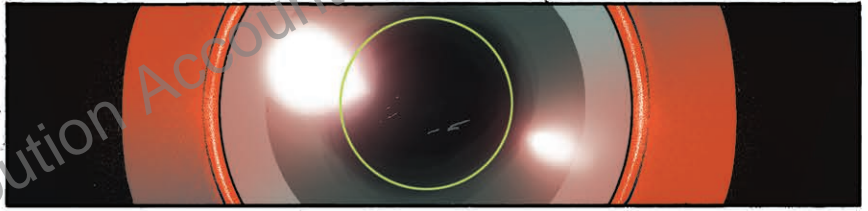


Amir left Kabul during the occupation twenty years ago. He's had me over to his apartment many times. I even taught his boys how to play cricket.

Sometimes I wonder if he'd invite me back if he knew the things I did in that conflict.



But...he runs the only decent tea shop in Gotham, which is why I keep my things next door.

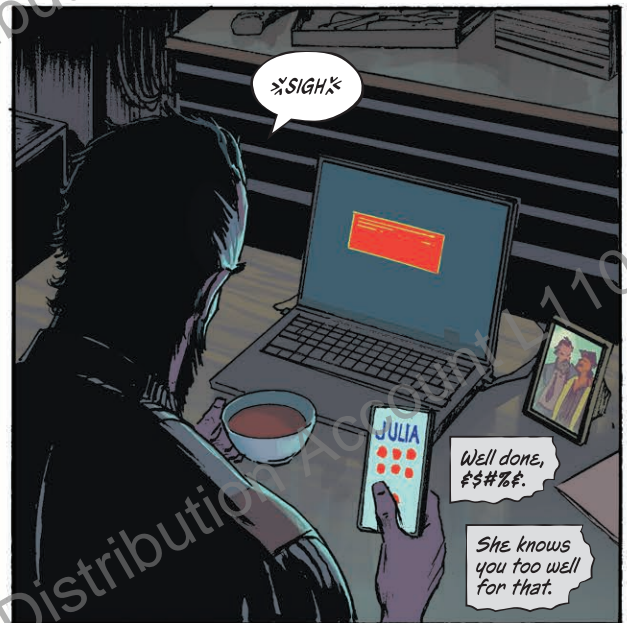


--JULIA, LEAVE A MESSAGE.

...

JULIA...? HI. I KNOW IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, BUT I'M IN GOTHAM. AT LEAST FOR A SHORT WHILE. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU EVEN STILL LIVE HERE ANYMORE, BUT IF YOU DO, I'D BE GRATEFUL FOR THE CHANCE TO SEE YOU.

THIS IS YOUR FATHER, BY THE WAY.



SIGH

Well done, \$%#&.

She knows you too well for that.



PENNYWORTH
SIGNING IN.
CONNECTION
SECURE.

AH, TEA AS GOOD
AS YOU REMEMBER?

DELIGHTFUL.
WHAT'S THE
ASSIGNMENT?

I READ THE
DOCKET. BUT CAN
I ASK WHY YOU PULLED
ME OUT OF SINGAPORE?
I WAS **THIS CLOSE**
TO THE TARGET. I'D BEEN
CHASING HIM
FOR FIVE--

IN THE PAST
THREE MONTHS, A GANG
KNOWN AS "**THE PARTY ANIMALS**"
HAS BEEN SOWING CHAOS, BUTCHERING
CITIZENS AT RANDOM, RAISING THE
MURDER RATE BY 700 PERCENT ALMOST
SINGLE-HANDEDLY. A DAY CARE WAS
TORCHED YESTERDAY. THEY
DANCED OUTSIDE WHILE
32 BURNED.



YOU'RE NEEDED **HERE**. AND
QUITE FRANKLY, **NO**, YOU
MAY NOT. MANNERS...

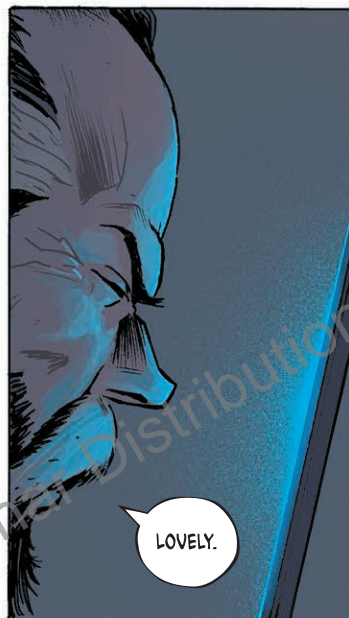
YOUR
ASSIGNMENT IS STRICTLY
SURVEILLANCE. GATHER
INFORMATION ON THESE
"PARTY ANIMALS." BUT
DO NOT ENGAGE.

PARTY ANIMALS

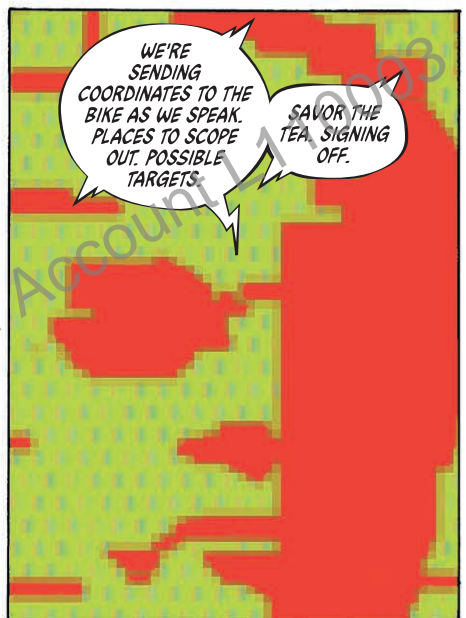


ONE NOTE--THERE MIGHT BE...
ANOTHER PLAYER IN TOWN.

WE'VE ONLY
CAUGHT GLIMPSES, BUT
HE SEEMS TO BE CIRCLING THE
GANG AS WELL. IF HE GETS
TOO CLOSE, YOU DO HAVE
AUTHORIZATION TO
ENGAGE HIM.



LOVELY.



WE'RE
SENDING
COORDINATES TO THE
BIKE AS WE SPEAK.
PLACES TO SCOPE
OUT. POSSIBLE
TARGETS.

SAVOR THE
TEA. SIGNING
OFF.



What's gotten into
you, old man?
Questioning
orders.

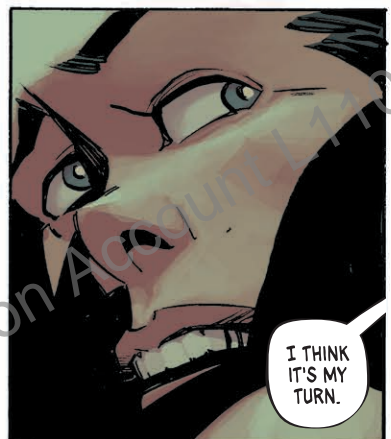


You're a
servant.

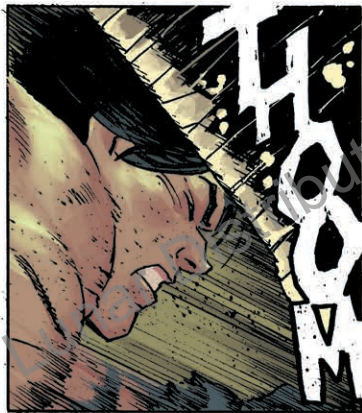


They ring, you serve.
Whether it's in Saigon, Khartoum, or...

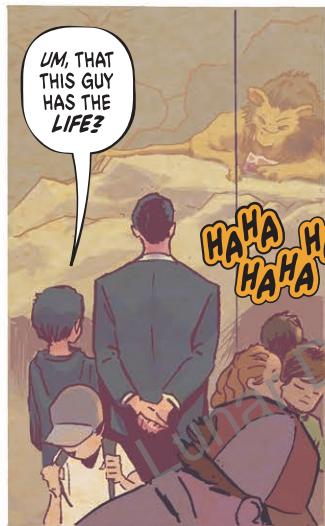






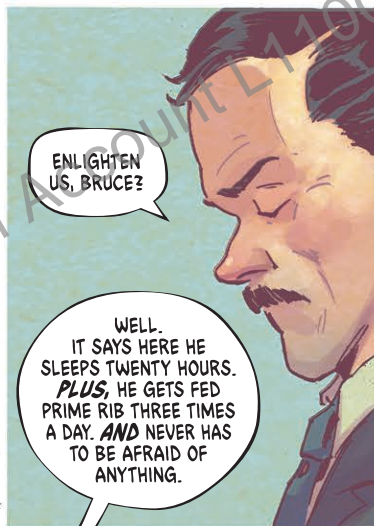


SO, WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED, CLASS?



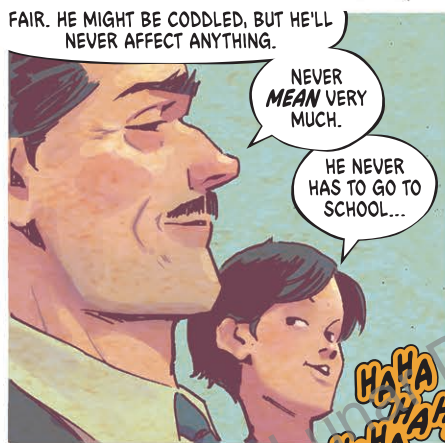
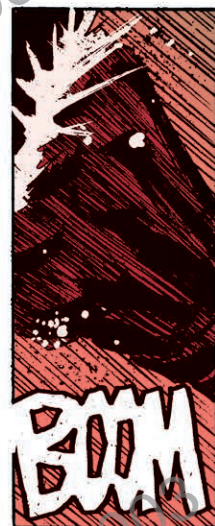
UM, THAT THIS GUY HAS THE LIFE?

HAHA HAH



ENLIGHTEN US, BRUCE?

WELL, IT SAYS HERE HE SLEEPS TWENTY HOURS. PLUS, HE GETS FED PRIME RIB THREE TIMES A DAY. AND NEVER HAS TO BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING.

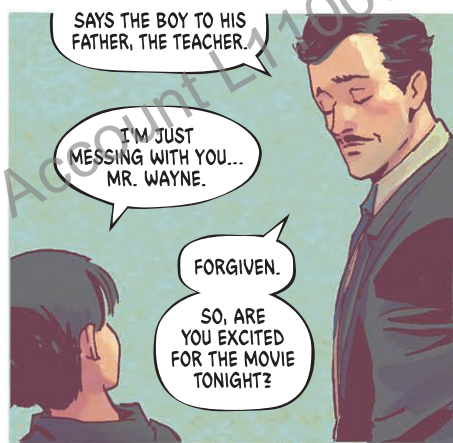


FAIR. HE MIGHT BE CODDLED, BUT HE'LL NEVER AFFECT ANYTHING.

NEVER MEAN VERY MUCH.

HE NEVER HAS TO GO TO SCHOOL...

HAHA HAH



SAYS THE BOY TO HIS FATHER, THE TEACHER.

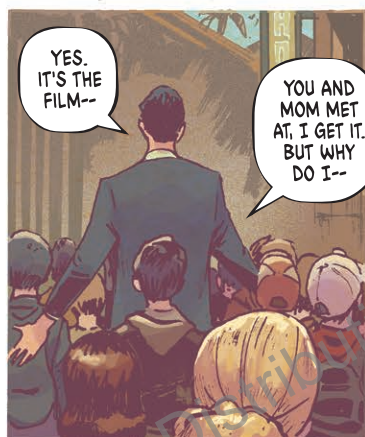
I'M JUST MESSING WITH YOU... MR. WAYNE.

FORGIVEN.

SO, ARE YOU EXCITED FOR THE MOVIE TONIGHT?



I MEAN, I'M EXCITED FOR THE *NAR* DO I REALLY HAVE TO COME?



YES. IT'S THE FILM--

YOU AND MOM MET AT, I GET IT. BUT WHY DO I--

BLAM



OH GOD.