



**ABSOLUTE
BATMAN**

"THE ZOO"

**PART ONE
OF FIVE**

Hello again, Gotham.

It's been a long time.

So, who are you these days? Who have you become while I was gone?

You're prettier, I'll give you that. Taller, brighter.

But deep down...

PARTY ANIMAL GANG SLAUGHTERS NINE IN BRUTAL ATTACK, INCLUDING TWO POLICE OFFICERS...

CRIME WAVE

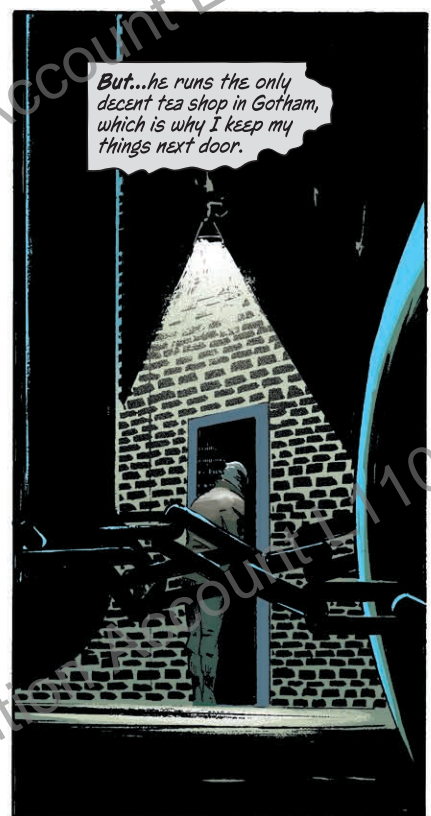
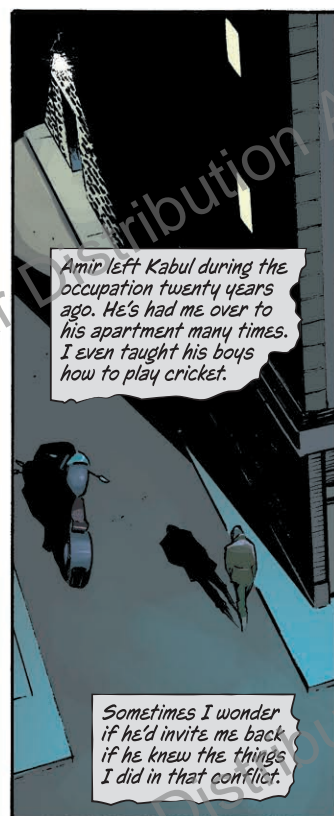
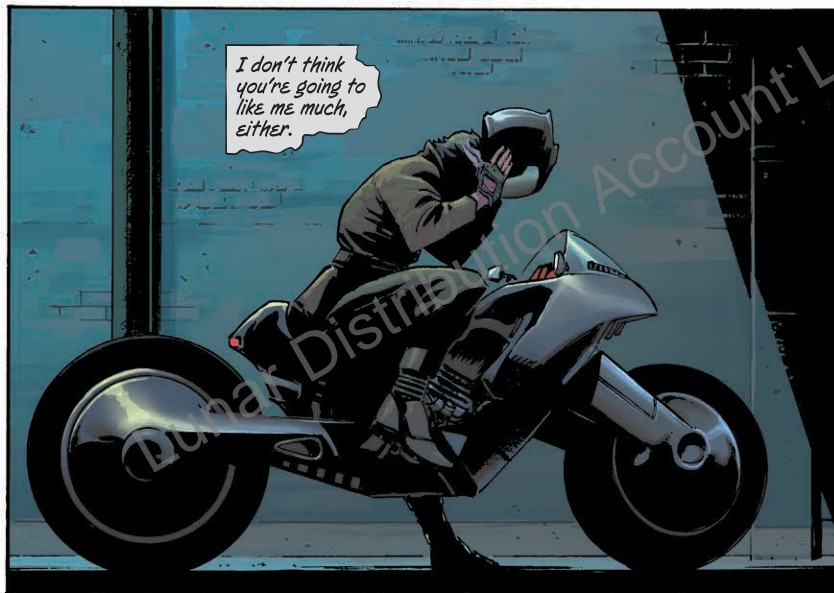
...something's changed.

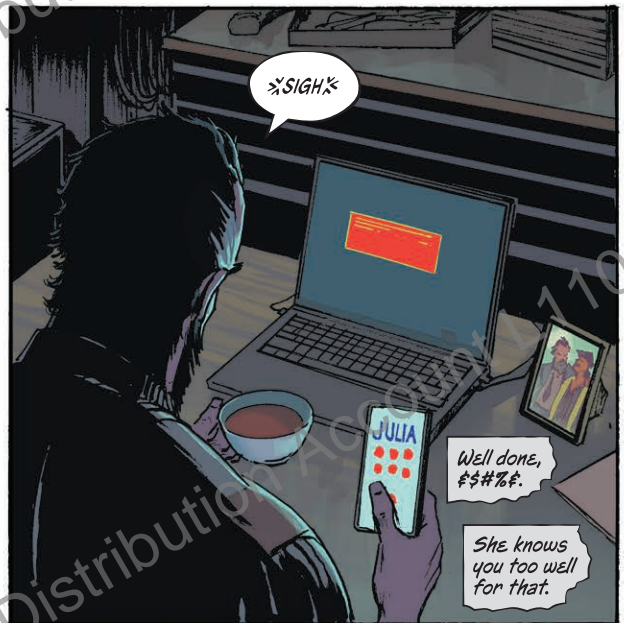
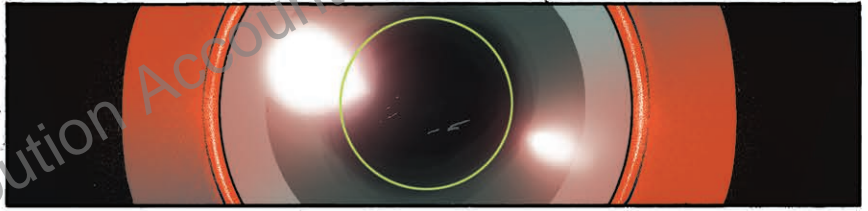
My third lap around and I still can't find it.

Where's your heart?

You used to have a center. Hot and beating.

But something's hollowed you out.







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...

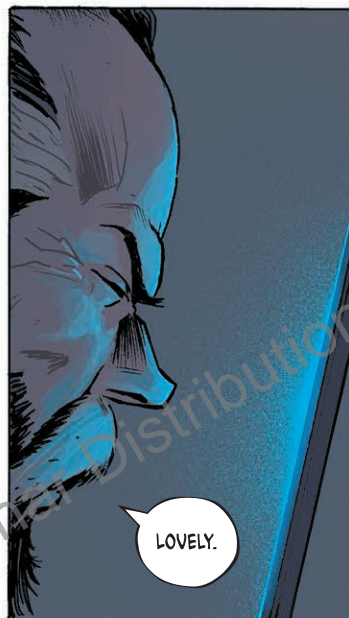
YOUR
ASSIGNMENT IS STRICTLY
SURVEILLANCE. GATHER
INFORMATION ON THESE
"PARTY ANIMALS." BUT
DO NOT ENGAGE.

PARTY ANIMALS

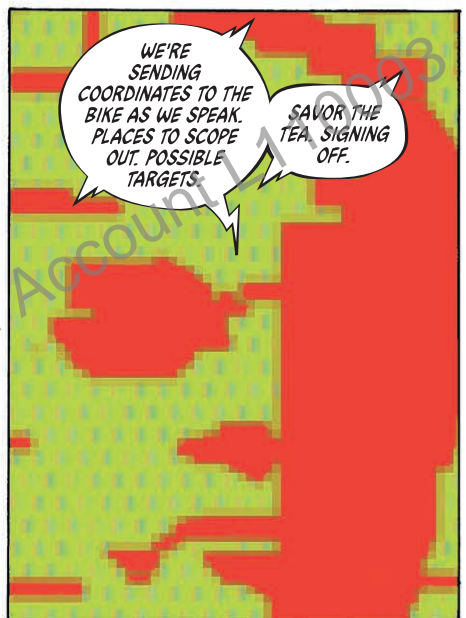


ONE NOTE--THERE MIGHT BE...
ANOTHER PLAYER IN TOWN.

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.

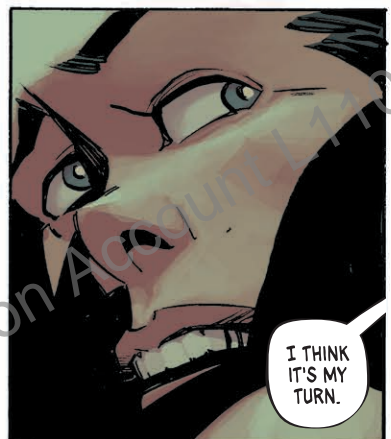


You're a
servant.

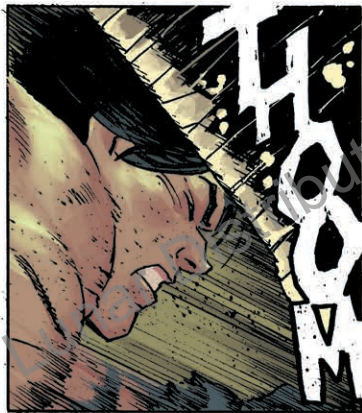


They ring, you serve.
Whether it's in Saigon, Khartoum, or...





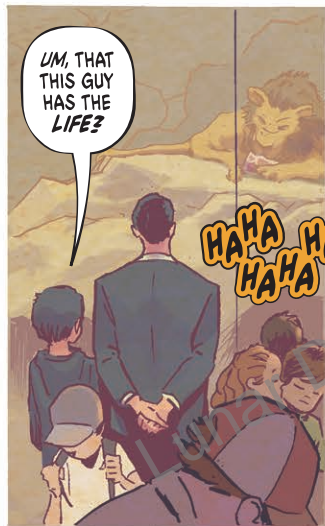




SO, WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED, CLASS?



BOOM

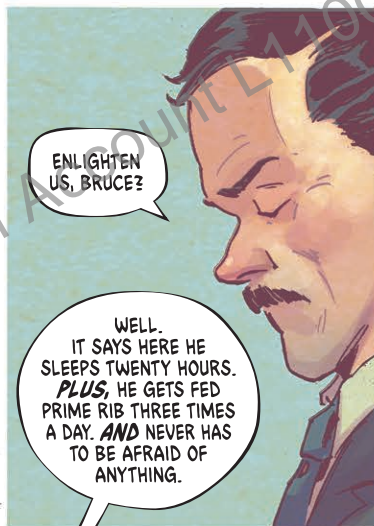


UM, THAT THIS GUY HAS THE LIFE?

HAHA HAHHA

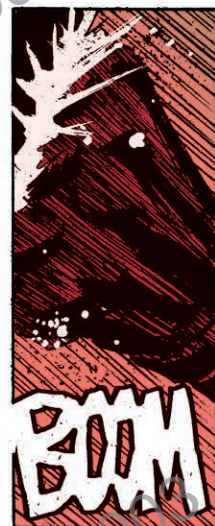


ROAR



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.



BOOM



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

NEVER MEAN VERY MUCH.

HE NEVER HAS TO GO TO SCHOOL...

HAHA HAHHA



THUD



SAYS THE BOY TO HIS FATHER, THE TEACHER.

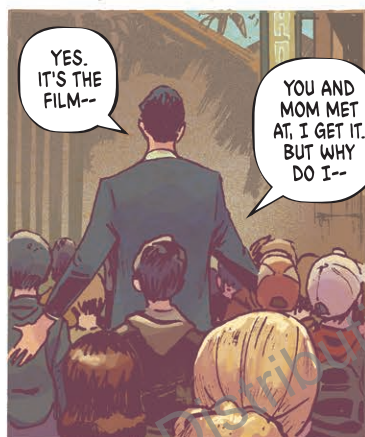
I'M JUST MESSING WITH YOU... MR. WAYNE.

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.