



**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

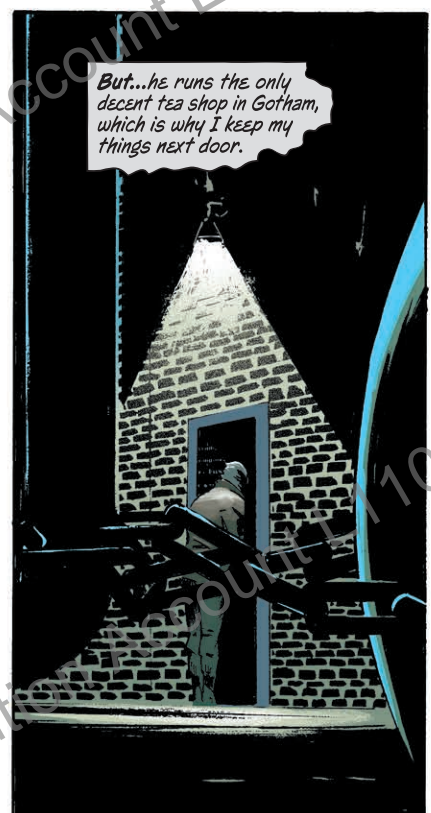
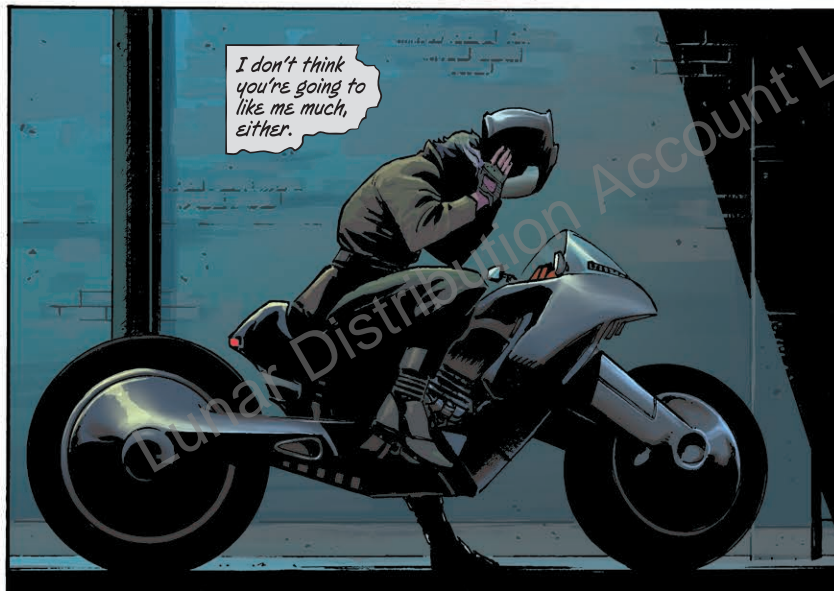
...something's changed.

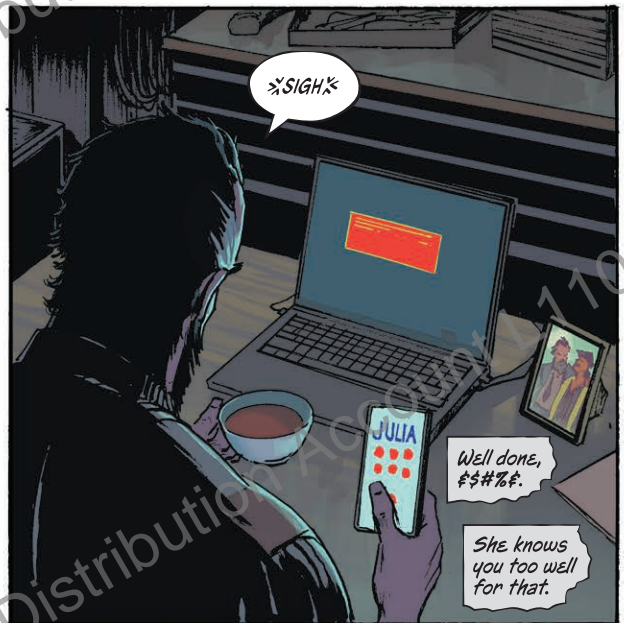
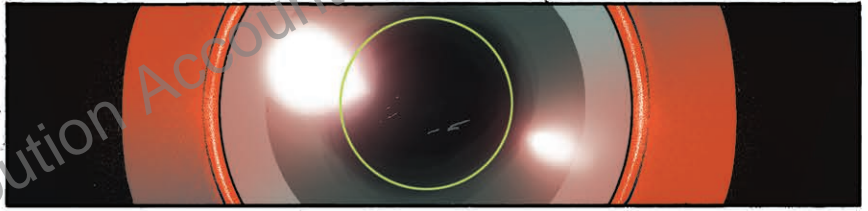
My third lap around and I still can't find it.

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...

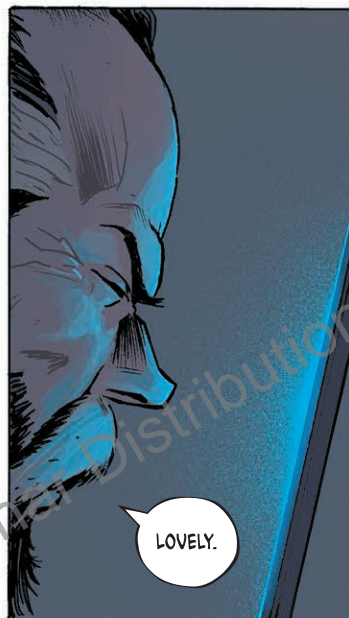
YOUR  
ASSIGNMENT IS STRICTLY  
SURVEILLANCE. GATHER  
INFORMATION ON THESE  
"PARTY ANIMALS." BUT  
DO NOT ENGAGE.

PARTY ANIMALS

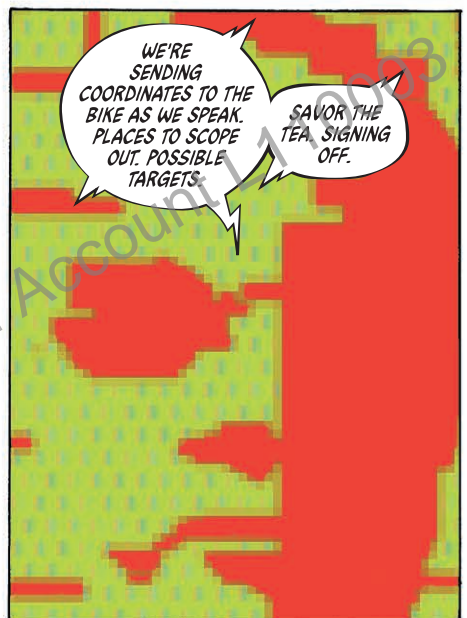


ONE NOTE--THERE MIGHT BE...  
ANOTHER PLAYER IN TOWN.

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.

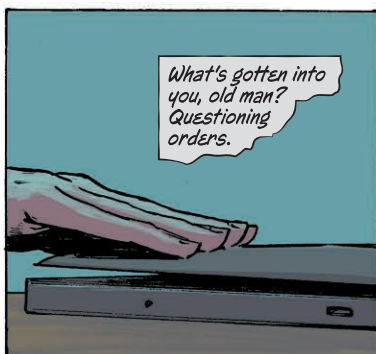


LOVELY.



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.

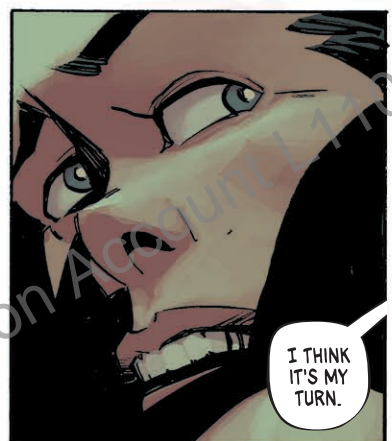


You're a  
servant.



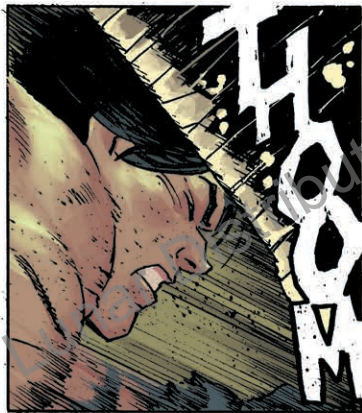
They ring, you serve.  
Whether it's in Saigon, Khartoum, or...







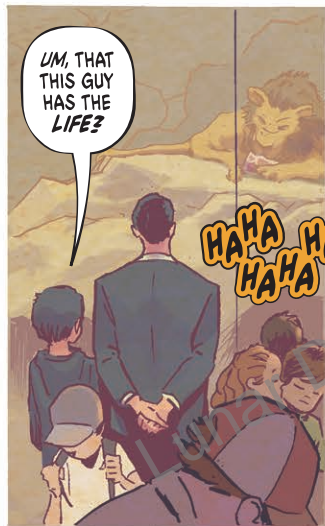




SO, WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED, CLASS?

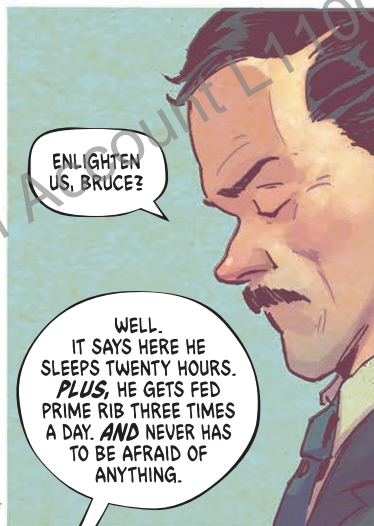


**BOOM**



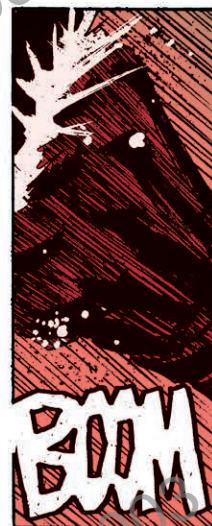
UM, THAT THIS GUY HAS THE LIFE?

**HAHA 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.



**BOOM**

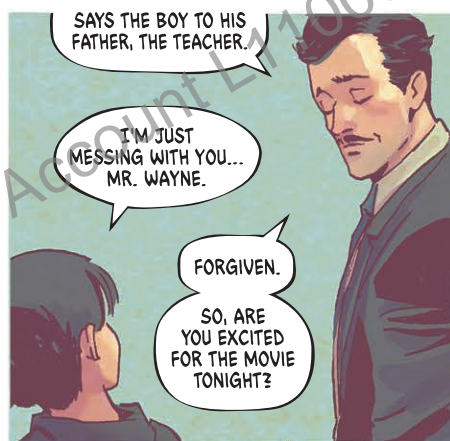


FAIR. HE MIGHT BE CODDLED, BUT HE'LL NEVER AFFECT ANYTHING.

NEVER MEAN VERY MUCH.

HE NEVER HAS TO GO TO SCHOOL...

**HAHA HAH**



SAYS THE BOY TO HIS FATHER, THE TEACHER.

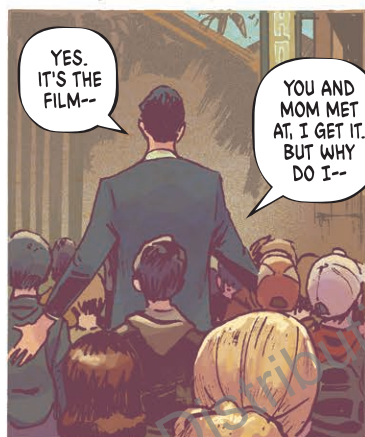
I'M JUST MESSING WITH YOU... MR. WAYNE.

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--

**B  
L  
A  
M**



OH GOD.