

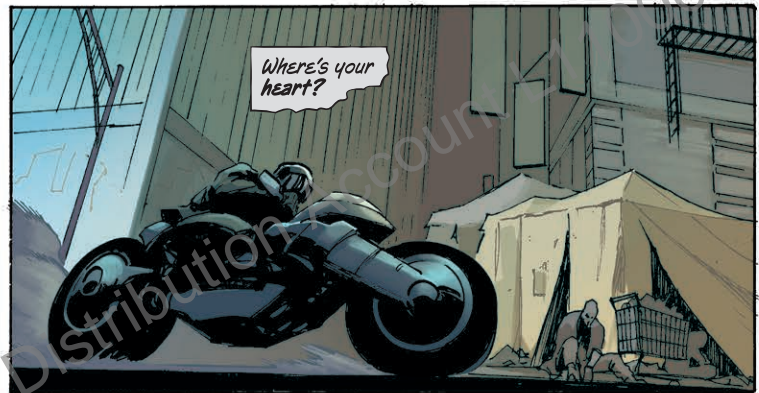
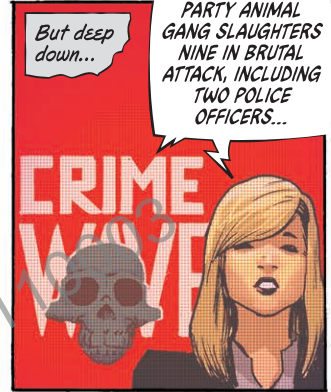
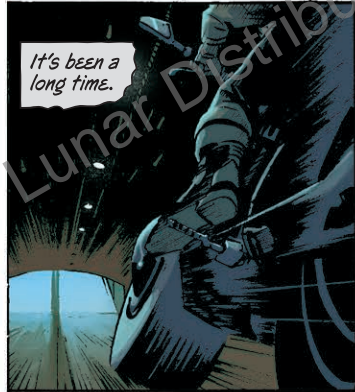


**ABSOLUTE
BATMAN**

"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.

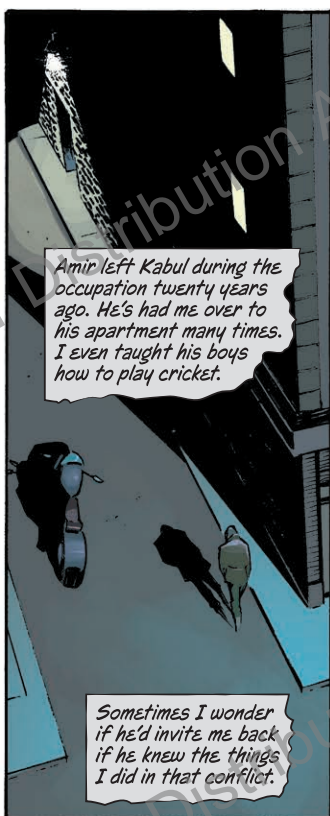


SO GOOD TO SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND. I STILL STOCK YOUR FAVORITE.

YOU'RE A GIANT AMONG MEN, AMIR.

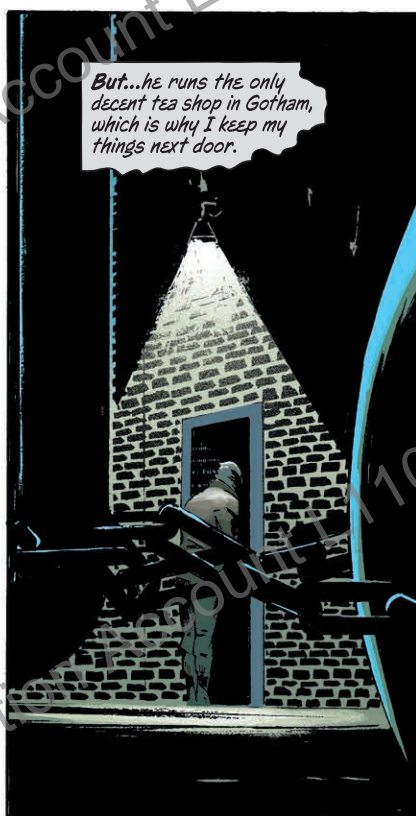
NEVER.

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

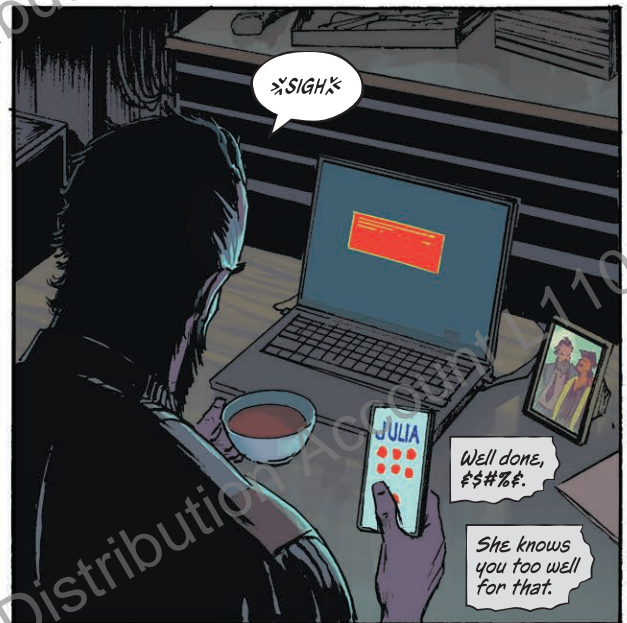
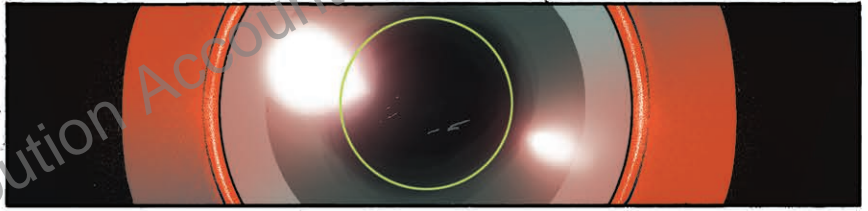


Amir left Kabul during the occupation twenty years ago. He's had me over to his apartment many times. I even taught his boys how to play cricket.

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.





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.



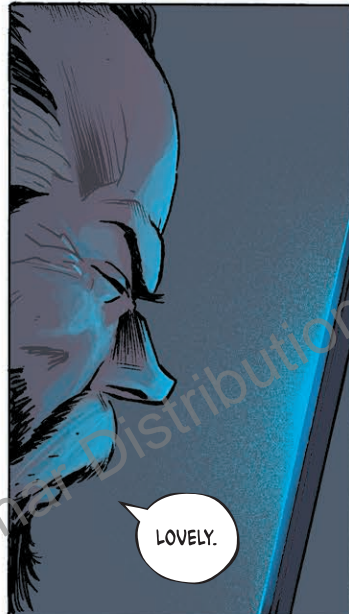
YOU'RE NEEDED HERE. AND QUITE FRANKLY, NO, YOU MAY NOT. MANNERS...

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

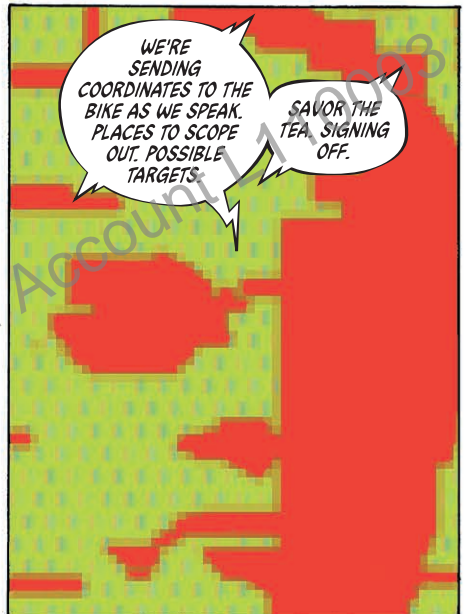


ONE NOTE--THERE MIGHT BE... ANOTHER PLAYER IN TOWN.

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.

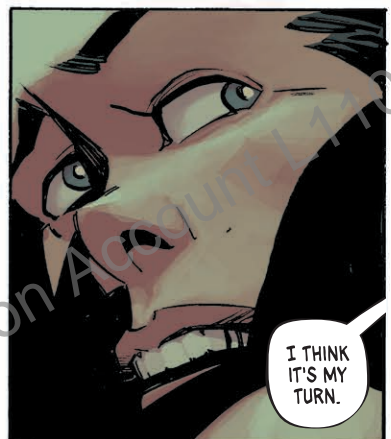


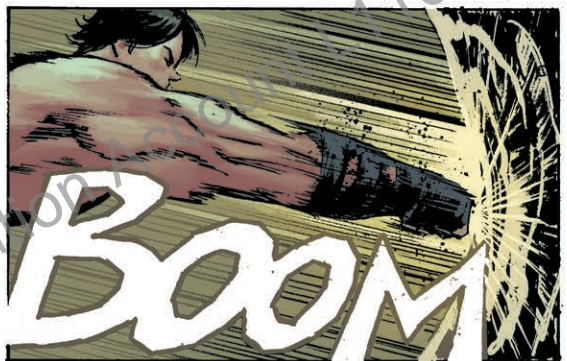
You're a servant.

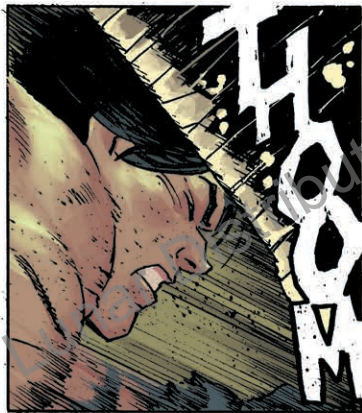


They ring, you serve. Whether it's in Saigon, Khartoum, or...





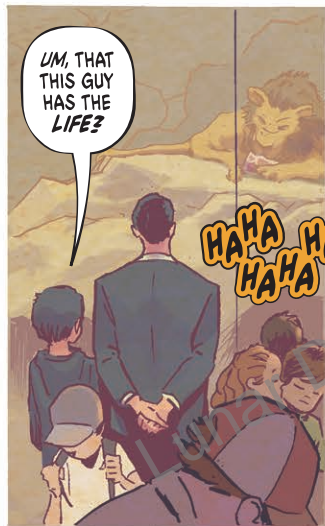




SO, WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED, CLASS?

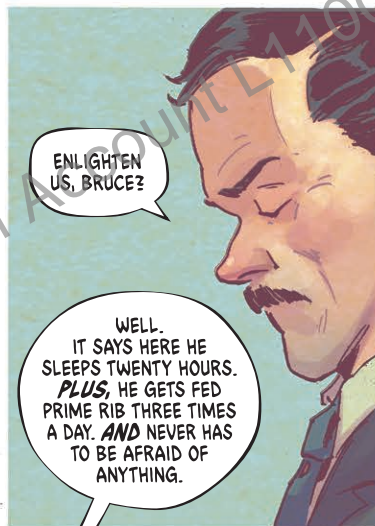


BOOM



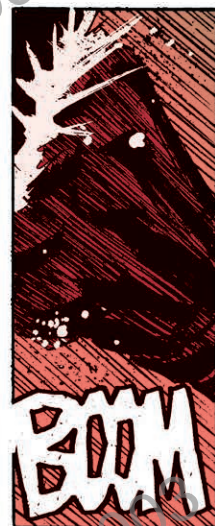
UM, THAT THIS GUY HAS THE LIFE?

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

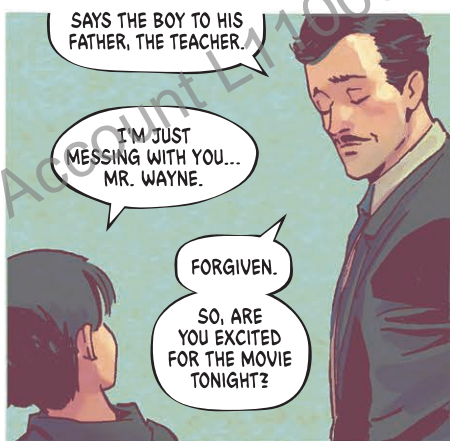


FAIR. HE MIGHT BE CODDLED, BUT HE'LL NEVER AFFECT ANYTHING.

NEVER MEAN VERY MUCH.

HE NEVER HAS TO GO TO SCHOOL...

HAHA HAH



SAYS THE BOY TO HIS FATHER, THE TEACHER.

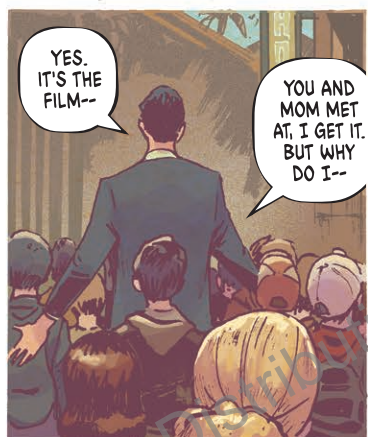
I'M JUST MESSING WITH YOU... MR. WAYNE.

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--

BLAM



OH GOD.