



THE JOKER WAR

PART
THREE

BATMAN

97

FEELING
COMFY,
BATS?!

HAHAHA HA!



TYNION IV
JIMENEZ
MOREY

AGES 13+

TRICORNER YARDS.



EVERY
CANISTER
I ASKED
FOR?

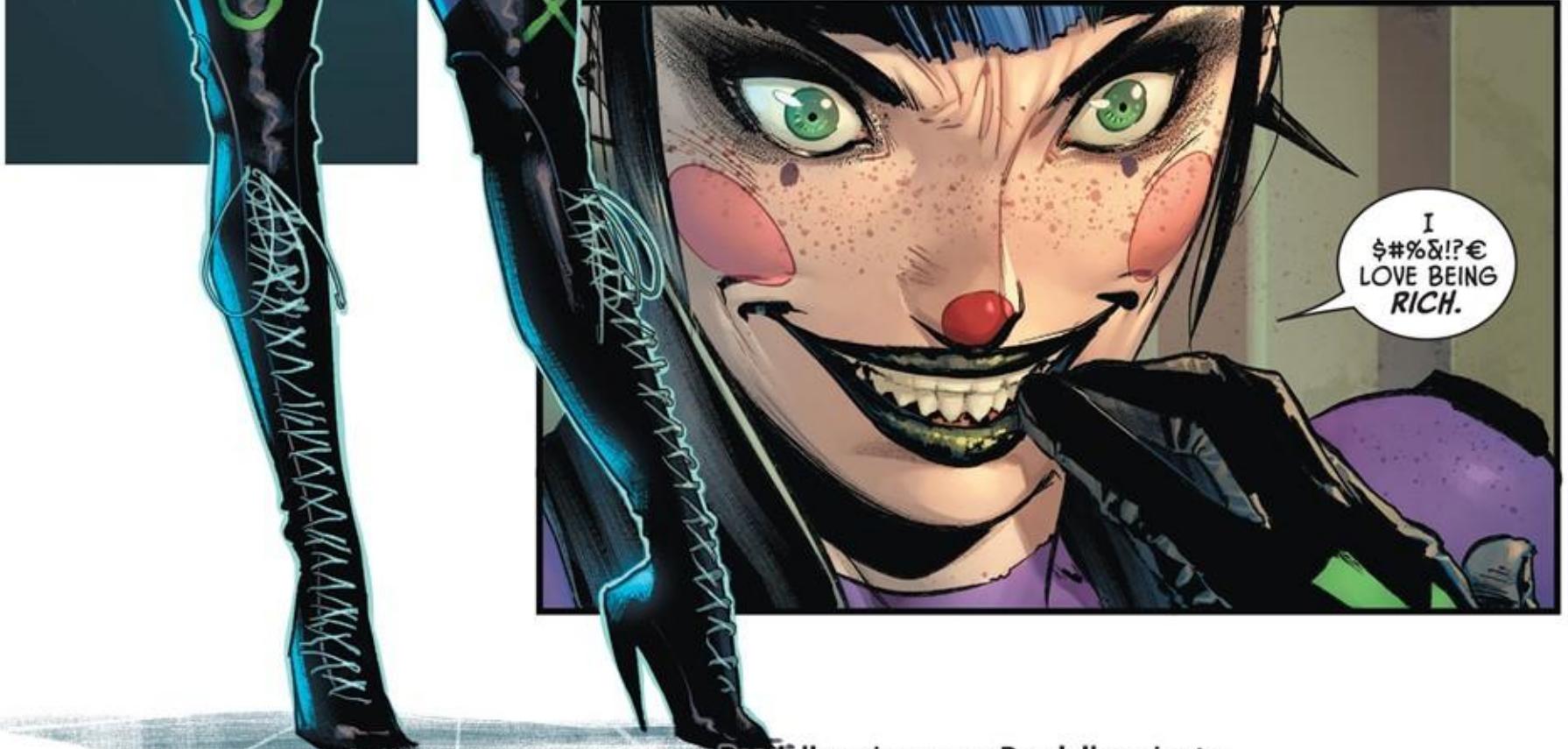


IT'S
ONLY BEEN
A DAY.

WE OUTBID THE SUPPLY SHIPS EN ROUTE TO OTHER NEARBY PORTS. IN ONE CASE, I MADE THE CALL TO BUY THE SHIP OUTRIGHT.



I
\$#%&!?€
LOVE BEING
RICH.



BOYS, WHEN THESE ARE LOADED UP, YOU'RE GOING TO BE MAKING THE TRIP DIRECTLY TO ACE CHEMICAL. THE BOSS WANTS THE NEW FORMULA COOKING BY THE END OF THE DAY.



IS THIS... UH...

IS THIS IT? NO SECURITY?

YOU'RE THE SECURITY.

I JUST MEAN...THE GUYS HAVE BEEN TALKING. WE GOTTA PASS THROUGH THE NARROWS TO GET TO ACE...

CLOWNS DON'T DO TOO HOT IN THE NARROWS RIGHT NOW.

TALK FASTER. MAKE ME CARE.



THE NARROWS.
YESTERDAY.

I AM
HITTING THE
ACCELERATOR,
REGGIE! IT'S NOT
DOING A DAMN
THING!

UM...
hi.

so, those
controls don't
work too good,
huh?

wasn't sure if i could
short-circuit one of your
fancy cars. but it looks
like i just needed a
transformer and a
fire hydrant.

THIS USED TO BE A
BATMOBILE. YOU'RE
NOT BREAKING
IN, KID.

oh, i don't
really care to
break in. gonna
be hot hot hot
in there.

i've got
my anti-clown
toxin here. i
bought it down
at the gas
station.

IS THIS...
GASOLINE!?

WHO THE
@\$@@ DO
YOU THINK YOU
ARE?!



IF YOU'RE SCARED OF THE NARROWS, GO AROUND THE NARROWS. BUT I WANT YOU TO KEEP THIS IN MIND...



YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO LOOK FAILURE IN THE FACE, HAVE YOU, BATS?

WELL, HERE IT IS, READY TO TEAR YOU TO PIECES. SOME OF THESE BAGS OF BONES HAVE BEEN ROTTING IN THE DIRT FOR YEARS... SOME ARE MUCH FRESHER.

WHICH DO YOU THINK ARE ANGRIER? THE ONES WHO WERE THERE AT THE BEGINNING, WHEN I WAS A VERY DIFFERENT SORT OF CLOWN? BACK WHEN YOU UNDERESTIMATED HOW MANY CASUALTIES THERE'D BE...

OR IS IT THE RECENT DEAD...THE ONES WHO DIED WITH YOU KNOWING THAT THE LONGER I STAYED ALIVE THE MORE OF THEM WOULD GO THE WAY OF THE REAPER?

I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER. THEY'RE ALL ANGRY. THEY'RE ALL DISAPPOINTED...

THEY ALL WANT YOU DEAD.

NOW, ME...
I THINK THEY'RE
A LITTLE IMPATIENT,
IF I'M BEING
HONEST.

I THINK
IT'LL BE BETTER
IF THINGS GO
ACCORDING TO
MY PLAN.

KILLING YOU
IS EASY. IT WON'T
HURT YOU ENOUGH.
BUT MAKING EVERYONE
IN GOTHAM CITY RELIVE
YOUR CHILDHOOD
TRAUMA?

NOW
THAT'S WHAT I
CALL FUN!

HAHAHAHAHAHA!

PICTURE IT,
BATS...THEY'RE ALL
GOING TO COME TO
WATCH MY SPECIAL CUT OF
ZORRO. THEY WON'T BE ABLE
TO STOP THEMSELVES.
I'M OFFERING TOO
MUCH MONEY!

THEY'LL FEEL
JUST LIKE YOU DID
THAT NIGHT IN THE THEATER...
ALL THE DRAMA AND ROMANCE
AND POWER OF THE
OLD LEGEND.

AND AT
THE END OF IT, I'LL
REVEAL THE TRUTH:
THAT YEARS AGO IDLE
WIDDLE BRUCE WAYNE
WAS JUST LIKE
THEM.

THEN
THE BAD MAN
CAME WITH THE GUN.
AND SURVIVING THAT
MADE HIM INTO
BATMAN.

AND I'LL
ASK THEM WHAT
IT'LL TURN THEM
INTO, BEFORE THE GAS
STARTS FILLING THE
THEATERS.

DON'T LISTEN
TO HIM, MASTER
BRUCE...KEEP
YOUR FOCUS.

I'M
TRYING, ALFRED...
PUNCHLINE'S TOXIN IS
STILL SO STRONG. IT'S
TWISTING REALITY
AROUND ME...



beeebeep

I SAID SHUT UP!

BOOM

SIR...
THE TOXIN
IS TOO MUCH.
I CAN'T TRUST
MY EYES.

RRRIP

BUT I
DON'T NEED
THEM TO FIGHT.

A GOOD
BAT KNOWS
HOW TO FIGHT
BLIND.

WHAM

KRAK

BAM

SLAM

SIR...SIR.
THEY'RE RELENTLESS.
YOU CAN'T SURVIVE
THIS FOR LONG.





YOU KNOW, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE A TASTE FOR THE FINER THINGS.

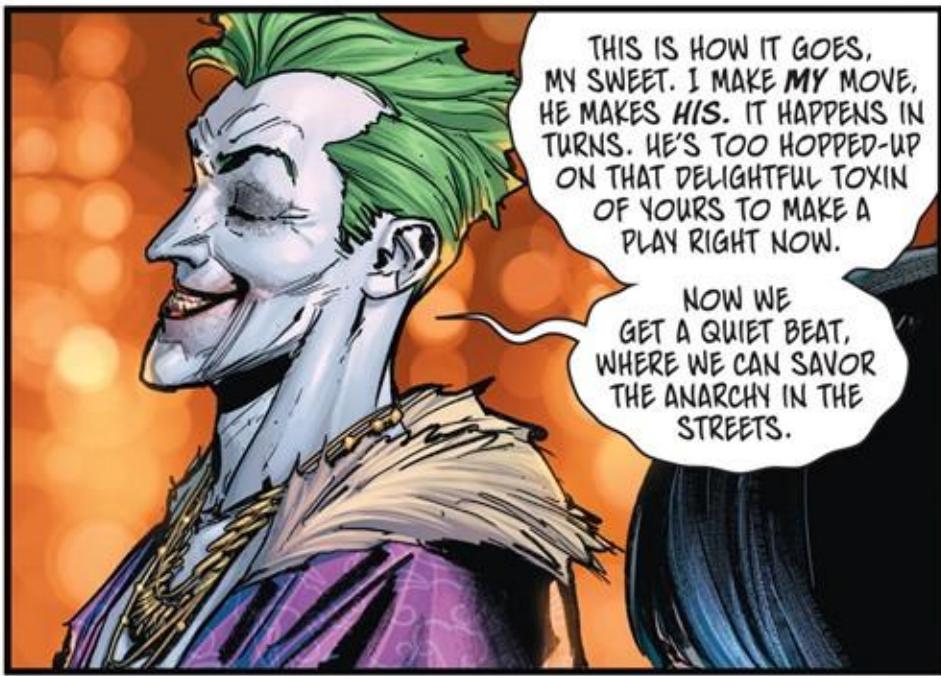
I WAS A DIRTY LITTLE STREET CLOWN, AND IF I SAW AN UPURNED NOSE, I JUST WANTED TO STICK A KNIFE IN IT.

BUT THE HIGH LIFE GROWS ON YOU. LIKE SOME KIND OF HORRIBLE GOLDEN FUNGUS.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT, PUNCHLINE?

FROM UP HERE THE PEOPLE LOOK LIKE LITTLE FLEAS SWARMING OVER THE ROTTING CARCASS OF GOTHAM, AND WE'RE HERE TO GAS THEM OUT.

BATMAN'S STILL OUT THERE.



THE VIGILANTES OF GOTHAM, THEY DON'T KILL. ALL HIS LITTLE BATS AND BIRDS. THAT'S ONE OF THE RULES OF THIS CITY.

WHENEVER ONE OF THE LITTLE ONES GETS THE STUPID IDEA TO PUT ON A MASK THEY FOLLOW HIS RULES. HIS SYMBOL.

THIS BEAUTIFUL, HORRIBLE KID KNOWS THAT THE RULE BOOK HAS BEEN THROWN OUT! HAHAHAHAHA!

ABOUT @#\$%# TIME.

SO YOU WANT TO LET HIM JUST KEEP KILLING OUR PEOPLE?

NO. SEND SOME OF OUR HEAVY HITTERS TO CRUCIFY HIM ON THE STREETS TO LET THE CITY KNOW WE WON'T TOLERATE THAT KIND OF THING. BUT IT'S A GOOD SIGN.

AND THEN I THINK IT'S TIME TO DOUSE MY FORMER FLAME.

IF YOU'RE OUT TO BREAK HARLS, THERE'S ONLY ONE REAL WAY TO GET UNDER HER SKIN.











AND I'M
VERY SORRY,
MASTER BRUCE, BUT
I THINK IT'S TIME WE
HAD A SERIOUS
TALK.

DC COMICS PRESENTS

THE JOKER WAR

PART THREE

JAMES TYNION IV WRITER JORGE JIMENEZ ARTIST
TOMEU MOREY COLORS CLAYTON COWLES LETTERS
GUILLEM MARCH & TOMEU MOREY COVER
FRANCESCO MATTINA VARIANT COVER
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASSOC. EDITOR BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

NEXT: HARLEY QUINN
VS. PUNCHLINE
ROUND 2!