

JOKER:™  
**LAST LAUGH**



BY ED  
BRUBAKER,  
SCOTT  
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& AARON  
SOWD

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY  
5 9 6  
DEC 2001



# BATMAN®





LAST WEEK THE JOKER STARTED A PRISON RIOT AT THE SLAB, LEADING TO THE MASS ESCAPE OF SOME OF THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINALS IN THE WORLD.

THIS WEEK HIS CHAOTIC PLANS EXTENDED TO ARKHAM ASYLUM, CRACKING ITS DOORS WIDE OPEN...

... AND SPILLING DOZENS OF PSYCHOTICS ONTO THE STREETS OF GOTHAM, ALL OF THEM INFECTED WITH SOME SORT OF JOKER TOXIN...MAKING THE INSANE EVEN CRAZIER.



FOR EXAMPLE: ARKHAM ASYLUM PATIENT #449721L--IDENTITY UNKNOWN, DUBBED "SANTA KLAUS" BY THE GUARDS AT ARKHAM BECAUSE OF HIS OUTFIT AND HIS GERMAN ACCENT.



I CAUGHT HIM LAST WINTER IN A PARKING LOT OUTSIDE GOTHAM PLAZA ASSAULTING PEOPLE AND SCREAMING THAT THEY'D BEEN NAUGHTY.

--CHEATED ON YOUR TAXES...CHEATED ON YOUR WIFE...LIED TO YOUR BOSS...



BRAAAATTAAT

NOT THE SCARIEST CREATURE I'VE EVER MET, BUT WITH A LITTLE OF THE JOKER RUNNING IN HIS VEINS HE'S AS DEADLY AS THEY COME.

BRAATTAA  
TTAAT

...CAR ISN'T NOT FUEL-EFFICIENT...

AND JUST DESPERATE ENOUGH TO BE SERIOUS TROUBLE FOR ANYONE WHO CROSSES HIS PATH...

FREEZE!

BRAATTAA  
-TTAAT

POLICE!

...STEALINK DRUGS FROM EVIDENCE ROOM...BEATINK SUSPECT...

...I WISH I COULD'VE BEEN THERE TO STOP HIM.

# CITY ON FIRE

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OH, GOD...  
PLEASE HELP  
ME! I CAN'T  
MOVE!







THE DEAD MAN IS YURI KALANIKOV, ONE OF THE LIEUTENANTS IN THE ODESSA MOB... HE'S THE THIRD ONE KILLED IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS.

YEAH, WE KNOW. ANY IDEA HOW THEY KNEW YOU'D FIND HIM SOON ENOUGH TO GET THAT NOTE?

IT WAS A SETUP.

FOR THREE NIGHTS RUNNING THERE'VE BEEN SERIOUS ASSAULTS IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. IT WAS A SAFE BET I'D BE PATROLLING IT MORE HEAVILY THAN USUAL...

THE BUILDING WENT UP ALMOST THE INSTANT I DROVE BY, SO SOMEONE MUST'VE BEEN ON LOOKOUT.

THAT'S A LOT OF EFFORT TO GO THROUGH, DON'T YOU THINK? KILLING THREE MEN AND TORCHING A BUILDING JUST TO TRY TO KILL YOU...

EXCEPT I WASN'T THEIR TARGET, DETECTIVE MONToya. I WAS JUST SOME EXTRA FUN, I THINK... AND A POSSIBLE DIVERSION FOR THE POLICE.

MAKE NO MISTAKE, THOUGH, LEW MOXON AND HIS MEN ARE PAYING BACK THE RUSSIANS FOR HIRING DEADSHOT...

THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT HIM... ALWAYS SUCH AN OPTIMIST.

YEAH, HE'S A REAL GLASS IS HALF-FULL TYPE OF GUY.

...AND IT'LL PROBABLY JUST GET UGLIER FROM THIS POINT ON...







WAKE UP, YOUNG DMITRI, WAKE UP... IT'S TIME TO VERIFY SOME OF OUR FACTS.

...OH, GOD... NO MORE, PLEASE... I HAVE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING...



TRUE... YOU'VE TOLD ME A LOT OF THINGS... WHETHER YOU'VE TOLD ME EVERYTHING, WELL, I GUESS WE'LL SEE.

...WHAT MORE CAN I DO...? PLEASE...



ONE MORE TIME, DMITRI... WHAT TIME DOES POPAVICH HAVE DINNER WITH HIS DAUGHTER?

AHHH!... PLEASE!

SEVEN O'CLOCK! I SWEAR TO YOU!



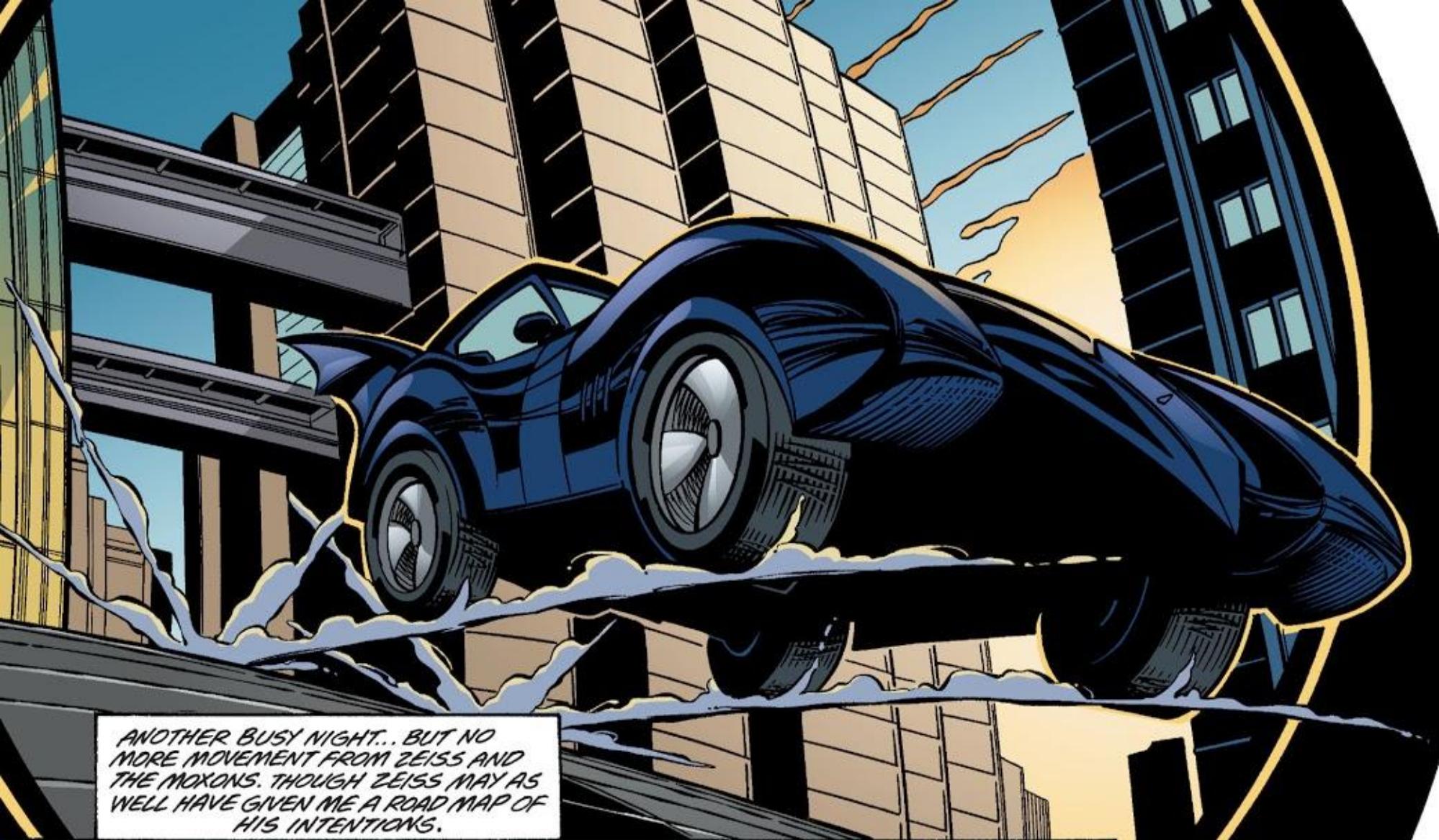
AND IT'S THE SAME DAY EACH WEEK, ALWAYS?

YES! ALWAYS ON THURSDAY!

...OH, OH, GOD... HELP ME...



GOOD, GOOD... THEN WE MOVE TOMORROW AS PLANNED, AND YOU CAN BE FREE OF THIS PAIN, DMITRI...



ANOTHER BUSY NIGHT... BUT NO MORE MOVEMENT FROM ZEISS AND THE MOXONS. THOUGH ZEISS MAY AS WELL HAVE GIVEN ME A ROAD MAP OF HIS INTENTIONS.



IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THEY GO AFTER POPAVICH.



I'LL HAVE TO KEEP A CLOSER WATCH ON HIM FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS... ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE I HAVE TO DEAL WITH.

...BREAKIN SPEED LIMIT...  
BREAKIN LAWS...



...ZEN I CAN SLEEP... MORE JUSTICE TONIGHT... YES...



NO TIME FOR JUSTICE NOW... NO TIME... HAFF TO EAT SOMESINK...



PIZZA  
PAPA





CAR CRASH... FIVE, MAYBE SIX BLOCKS AWAY. AND GUNFIRE.



THAT'S POPAVICH'S CAR, THIS COULD BE IT... WHERE IS ZEISS, THOUGH?





DAMN. HE'S FASTER THAN BEFORE.

MUST'VE BEEN PRACTICING THE PAST FEW MONTHS SINCE I BEAT HIM.









AW, WHAT  
THE HELL?  
DAMN IT...

I'VE GOT  
YOU... DON'T  
WORRY.

AH-HAH-  
HAHHAHHA!

WHAT  
IN--?







