



ARKHAM
CITY

The ORDER of the WORLD

WRITTEN BY
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From the journal of
Dr. Jacosta Joy:

The young girl in question was named Stephanie.

We'd already managed to remove her parents from the house, quietly.

The rampaging of police boots through the door would have ended in tragedy. They let me go in alone.



Stephanie was eight years old. I spoke to her softly from the doorway. Asked her simple questions to keep her calm.

She told me her favorite color was orange, like her cat.



The cat had gone missing two days ago.



It was the first thing I'd asked them to look out for.







CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS



A few short months ago, the Joker unleashed a new toxin into Arkham Asylum. It killed almost everyone inside. The patients, the staff. Very few escaped.

Every psychologist on staff was working that night. Except me. It was the first day off I'd had in eight days.

Today was the first time I returned since what has come to be known as A-Day.

Arkham sits hollow. It has not yet been decided whether it will be torn down or reinvented.

It reminds me of how our language regarding such facilities is torn down and reinvented, roughly every hundred years.

In the 18th century, we called them madhouses.

In the 19th, they became lunatic asylums.

Arkham never seems to have gotten the memo, but for the last century, they've primarily been known as mental hospitals.

Part of this reframing serves a simple function...

It hides the fact that each iteration of these institutions has failed in their purpose.

SOME PRETTY GRUESOME GEAR YOU'VE GOT IN HERE, DR. JOY.

THESE THINGS WERE OKAY FOR YOUR PATIENTS TO SEE?

THEY NEVER DID. THIS WAS MY PRIVATE OFFICE. TREATMENT HAPPENED IN A ROOM DOWN THE HALL.

THIS EQUIPMENT ALWAYS STOOD TO REMIND ME OF WHAT WERE CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE TREATMENT METHODS ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO.

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, YOU WERE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS WITH SOME OF THEM.

PSYCHOLOGY HAS COME A LONG WAY SINCE FREUD AND ALL HIS OEDIPUS CRAP.

CURES ARE A RARE THING IN THIS LINE OF WORK. SO YOU LEARN TO THINK SMALL. STEP BY STEP.

AND THEN ON A-DAY, ALL YOUR LIFE'S WORK DROPPED DEAD, OR ESCAPED OUT THE DOOR.

THAT IF YOU CAN HELP EVEN ONE PERSON, IT'LL ALL BE WORTH IT.

A LOVELY SENTIMENT. THESE WERE ALL YOUR PATIENTS?

ONES WHO ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR.

WHICH MEANS THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE. HURTING PEOPLE.

WELL, THEY'LL BE HIDDEN AWAY FOR THE MOST PART...



"...PICKING UP THEIR OLD ROUTINES WHERE THEY LEFT OFF."

"PROFESSOR PYG IS VERY HAPPY. THERE IS A PERSON IN FRONT OF HIM, AND HE LIKES TO CUT THEIR FACES OFF."

"HE WANTS TO MAKE THEM PERFECT, SO HE USUALLY PUTS A DOLL'S FACE ON INSTEAD. DOLLS ARE VERY NICE AND THEY ARE UNBLEMISHED."

"TODAY HE STOPS AND LAUGHS AWHILE."

"BECAUSE ON THIS ONE THERE IS NO FACE, AND HE HAS NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO PERFECT AS THAT, HA HA."

GOTHAM IS CHANGING. SOME OF THEM ARE GOING TO BE FINDING THAT OUT THE HARD WAY, AND THEY'RE GOING TO BE DEEPLY DISTRESSED.

SO YOU'RE RIGHT. PEOPLE ARE PROBABLY GOING TO END UP GETTING HURT.















Mental institutions fail because, despite hundreds of years of research into the topic, insanity is not something we understand.

It is what a society labels behavior that defies it in a way said society cannot assimilate.

For example, Jervis Tetch believes himself to be the Mad Hatter.

...A fictional character from a Lewis Carroll novel.



But unlike most who suffer psychoses, Tetch has found ways of molding the world around him.

The mind-control technology in his hats allows him to pull others into his delusion. Like children down a rabbit hole.

Within the limits of the world he creates for his "henchmen," Mad Hatter is not mad. He is the only one who makes any sense at all.



The problems begin when the boundaries of that wonderland are breached.

A BEAT OFFICER NOTICED THE SMELL COMING FROM THE MANHOLE...



HE THOUGHT
SOMEONE WAS
COOKING HOT
DOGS DOWN
HERE.

SOMETHING MUST HAVE
SPOOKED TETCH. SHAKEN
THE WORLD HE HAD
CREATED FOR HIMSELF
DOWN HERE SEVERELY
ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM
CUT AND RUN WITHOUT
HIS...CHARACTERS.

HE FRIED THEM.
SOME SORT OF
KILL SWITCH--

Uh--

OH, HELL!

GET THE
PARAMEDICS
DOWN HERE
NOW! ONE'S
STILL ALIVE!

PLEASE, SOMEONE
MAKE SURE THERE
ARE NO PRESS
LURKING. WE
REALLY DON'T
WANT--

AAAAAH

DR. JOY,
WITH ALL DUE
RESPECT...RIGHT
THIS MOMENT,
SHUT UP.

THIS IS THE EXACT KIND OF BLOODBATH I WAS WORRIED ABOUT.

HE WAS PROBABLY A NORMAL GUY A WEEK AGO. MAYBE THIS MORNING HE WAS MAKING BACON AND EGGS FOR HIS WIFE AND KIDS. THEN MAD HATTER GOT AHOOLD OF HIM.

NOW I HAVE TO FIND A HOSPITAL BED FOR HIM, OR HE'S GOING TO BLACKGATE WITH ALL THE OTHERS. BECAUSE OF ONE OF YOUR PATIENTS.

MY EMPATHY CAN ONLY STRETCH SO FAR IN THEIR DIRECTION, YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

I HAVE BEEN KEEPING THE BEHAVIOR OF THESE ESCAPED LUNATICS FROM THE EYES OF THE PRESS--AND GAGGING AND THREATENING THEM WHEN THAT FAILS.

ALL AT YOUR BEHEST.

BUT AT A POINT, I HAVE BIGGER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT. AND THE PEOPLE OF GOTHAM HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT THREATS HANG OVER THEM.

MORE SPOOKY CRAP. GREAT.

AT THIS POINT, I HOPE THERE IS A GHOST...

The hood... and the fire!

And all was howling!













CELEBRATE THE PAST,
PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF
THE AMAZON WARRIOR!



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OCTOBER



100-PAGE
SUPER
SPECTACULAR
A PRESTIGE FORMAT ONE-SHOT

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BATMAN THE LONG HALLOWEEN

Writer Jeph Loeb and artist Tim Sale have teamed up for some of the most memorable and stylish Batman stories of all time, starting with the holiday-spanning murder mystery *Batman: The Long Halloween*. The pair have reunited with *Batman: The Long Halloween Special*, a brand-new story that continues their saga and uncovers long-buried Gotham City secrets.

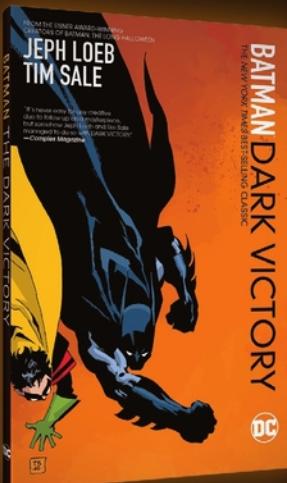
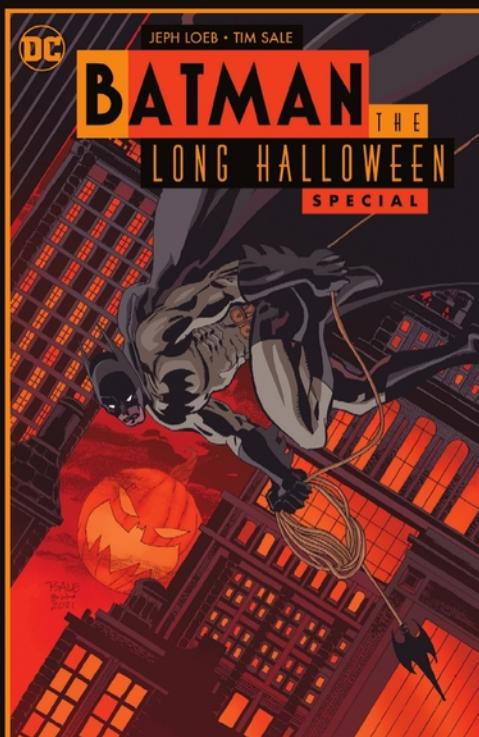
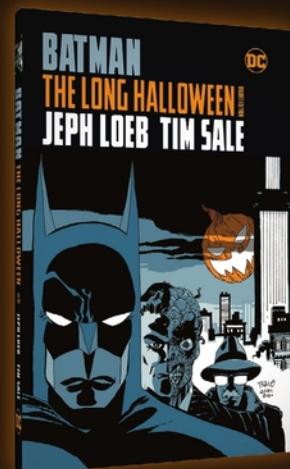
Need to catch up? Loeb and Sale's past Bat-collaborations are available as collected editions that, appropriately enough, make for engrossing reading all year round.

BATMAN: DARK VICTORY

The sequel to *The Long Halloween*, the 14-part *Dark Victory* picks up just a few months later and introduces Dick Grayson to Loeb and Sale's visionary take on Batman's world, as he takes on the mantle of Robin for the first time. *Dark Victory* finds Batman pursuing a new mysterious killer—the Hangman—as Two-Face's ascent in the crime world puts him at odds with the Falcone family.

BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN

One of the most revered Batman epics of the past 25 years, the award-winning 13-chapter saga told the mystery of Holiday, who murders once a month—each time coinciding with a holiday. *The Long Halloween's* whodunit weaved in Loeb and Sale's distinct depictions of Batman's classic rogues gallery and Gotham City's crime families, highlighted by a surprisingly scary reinvention of Calendar Man.



DON'T MISS BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN SPECIAL, ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

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