

= Batman : The Killing Joke =

Batman : The Killing Joke is a 1988 one @-@ shot graphic novel featuring the characters Batman and the Joker written by Alan Moore , illustrated by Brian Bolland , and published by DC Comics . Set in the fictional U.S. city of Gotham , Batman : The Killing Joke provides an origin story for the supervillain the Joker , loosely adapted from the 1951 story arc " The Man Behind the Red Hood ! " . Taking place over two timelines , The Killing Joke depicts the Joker attempting to drive Jim Gordon insane and Batman 's desperate attempt to stop him .

Created by Moore as his own take on Joker 's source and psychology , the story became famous for its origin of the Joker as a tragic character ; a family man and failed comedian who suffered " one bad day " that finally drove him insane . Moore stated that he attempted to show the similarities between the two characters . The story 's effects on the mainstream Batman continuity also included the shooting and paralysis of Barbara Gordon ( a.k.a. Batgirl ) , an event that laid the groundwork for her to develop the identity of Oracle .

Many critics consider the graphic novel to be the definitive Joker story and one of the best Batman stories ever published . The comic won the Eisner Award for ' Best Graphic Album ' in 1989 and appeared on The New York Times Best Seller List in May 2009 . In 2006 , The Killing Joke was reprinted as part of the trade paperback DC Universe : The Stories of Alan Moore . In 2008 , DC Comics reprinted the story in a deluxe hardcover edition , which features new coloring by Bolland , with a more somber , realistic , and subdued palette than the original . Elements of The Killing Joke have inspired or been incorporated into other aspects of Batman media , such as films and video games .

= = Background and creation = =

Artist Brian Bolland 's version of the Joker stemmed in part from his having recently seen the film The Man Who Laughs . Giordano 's invitation led directly to Bolland working with writer Alan Moore to create a plausible background story for the Joker . He recounted , " I thought about it in terms of who 's my favorite writer at the moment , what hero I would really love to do , and which villain ? I basically came up with Alan , Batman and the Joker . "

Although the story takes pains to stress that it is merely one possible ' origin story , ' it has been widely accepted and adopted into DC continuity , and a central mutilation of a long @-@ running character had to be specially approved by editor Wein . Bolland said that he saw " Judge Death [ as ] almost a dry run for drawing the Joker . " He also recounted that " by the time Alan had finished Watchmen he had fallen out with DC to a certain extent ... in the end , he only continued to do Killing Joke as a favour to me . "

The 48 @-@ page prestige format one @-@ shot comic took a considerable amount of time to produce . Both Moore and Bolland are well known for their meticulous and time @-@ consuming work ; both creators ' then @-@ recently finished 12 @-@ issue maxiseries titles ? Moore 's Watchmen and Bolland 's Camelot 3000 ? had seen delays . He was aided by the laid back attitude taken by DC , who he says " seemed prepared to let me do it at my own pace . " The original editor , Len Wein , left the company , and was replaced by Dennis O 'Neil , a " very hands @-@ off sort of guy , " with whom Bolland only recalls having one conversation about the book .

Bolland envisaged the flashback sequences in black and white , and instructed Watchmen @-@ colorist John Higgins to use " muted November colors " . He was upset when he saw the finished comic had " garish ... hideous glowing purples and pinks ... and my precious Eraserhead @-@ esque flashback sequences swamped in orange . " The 2008 @-@ published 20th anniversary edition of the book featured new colouring by Bolland , restoring his artistic intentions to the palette .

= = Plot summary = =

The man who will become the Joker is an unnamed engineer who quits his job at a chemical

company to become a stand @-@ up comedian , only to fail miserably . Desperate to support his pregnant wife Jeannie , he agrees to guide two criminals through the chemical plant he previously worked at so that they can rob the card company next door . During the planning , the police inform him that his wife has died in a household accident . Grief @-@ stricken , the engineer tries to withdraw from the plan , but the criminals strong @-@ arm him into keeping his commitment to them .

At the plant , the criminals make him don a special mask to become the infamous Red Hood . Unknown to the engineer , the criminals plan to use this disguise to implicate any accomplice as the mastermind and to divert attention away from themselves . Once inside , they run into security personnel , and a shootout ensues . The criminals are gunned down and the engineer finds himself confronted by Batman , who is investigating the disturbance .

Terrified , the engineer jumps into the chemical plant 's waste pound lock to escape Batman and is swept through a pipe leading to the outside . Once outside , he discovers , to his horror , that the chemicals have permanently bleached his skin chalk @-@ white , stained his lips ruby @-@ red and dyed his hair bright green . This disfigurement , compounded with the man 's misfortunes of that one bad day , drives him completely insane and marks the birth of the Joker .

In the present day , the Joker kidnaps Commissioner Gordon and imprisons him in a run @-@ down amusement park , whose owner he has killed , and shoots and paralyzes his daughter Barbara ( alias Batgirl ) . His henchmen then strip Gordon naked and cage him in the park 's freak show . He chains Gordon to one of the park 's rides and forces him to view giant pictures of his wounded daughter , naked , hoping to drive Gordon insane in order to prove that the most upstanding citizen can go mad after having " one bad day . " Once Gordon has run the horrifying gauntlet , the Joker puts him on display in the freak show , ridiculing him as " the average man , " a naïve weakling doomed to insanity .

Batman 's attempts to locate Commissioner Gordon are unsuccessful until the Joker sends him a clue that leads him to the amusement park . Batman arrives to save Gordon , and the Joker retreats into the funhouse . Though traumatized by the ordeal , Gordon retains his sanity and moral code , and he insists that Batman capture the Joker " by the book " in order to show him that adhering to the legal process works . Batman enters the funhouse and faces the Joker 's traps , while the Joker tries to persuade his old foe that the world is " a black , awful joke " and thus not worth fighting for . He also states that it takes only " one bad day " to turn an ordinary man insane , and taunts Batman by correctly speculating that it was one bad day where he lost a loved one at the hands of a criminal that drove Batman into becoming a vigilante . Batman tracks down and subdues the Joker , tells him that Gordon survived everything he suffered at the Joker 's hands , and suggests that the Joker is alone in his madness . Batman then attempts to reach out to the Joker and offers to help his old foe recover and put an end to their everlasting war , which Batman fears may one day result in a fight to the death . The Joker declines , saying it is too late for that . He then says that this situation reminds him of a joke , and proceeds to tell the joke . Batman chuckles at the punch line , accompanying the Joker 's maniacal cackling as the police arrive . The laughter then stops as Batman and Joker disappear as the rain continues to fall . From the text itself , the ending is ambiguous : according to one view , the similar yet different adversaries , whom have been fighting for years , end all of their disputes by having a good laugh ; according to another view , Batman agrees with the Joker , breaking his neck out of panel , causing the laughter to stop abruptly . The ending was purposely left uncertain to allow the reader to decide what happened .

= = Themes and analysis = =

The book explores Moore 's assertion that , psychologically , " Batman and the Joker are mirror images of each other " by delving into the relationship between the two . The story itself shows how the Joker and Batman came to terms with their respective tragic days , both eventually leading to their present lives and confrontation . Critic Geoff Klock further explained that " both Batman and the Joker are creations of a random and tragic ' one bad day . ' Batman spends his life forging meaning from the random tragedy , whereas the Joker reflects the absurdity of " life , and all its random

injustice . "

The trials the Joker put Commissioner Gordon through were meant to serve as " proof that there is something buried deep within each lunatic , a nugget of insanity , that is simply waiting for the right moment to spring forth . " Unlike the Joker , Gordon kept his wits and moral code . The story is also famous for changing how the Modern Age of Comics perceived Batman comics by bringing it back to its darker roots . The comic book , however , delves deeper in order to present Batman 's own psychology , how he was just as insane as the clown , and how he and the Joker perceived the world according to differing points of view , with the Joker 's interpreted through a joke .

The Joker serves as an unreliable narrator . He admits to his own uncertainty , as he has disparate memories of the single event ( " Sometimes I remember it one way , sometimes another ... If I 'm going to have a past , I prefer it to be multiple choice ! " ) , accentuating the comic 's depiction of " a world unraveling toward relentless urban violence and moral nihilism ... "

= = Critical reception and legacy = =

Although a one @-@ shot , The Killing Joke had an extraordinary impact on the DC Universe ? most significantly , Barbara Gordon 's paralysis . DC officially retired the hero in the one @-@ shot comic Batgirl Special # 1 ( July 1988 ) . This eventually led to her identity as Oracle in the Birds of Prey series ( which was later adapted into a TV series of the same title that incorporated Killing Joke elements into its continuity ) and other DC Universe appearances . This event , along with a Batman storyline that takes place shortly after The Killing Joke involving the Joker murdering Robin ( Jason Todd ) , Batman : A Death in the Family , leads Batman 's obsession with the Clown Prince of Crime to a personal level . The mantle of Batgirl would eventually be passed to successor Cassandra Cain and later , Stephanie Brown . Gordon 's paralysis was later retconned into a temporary event that lasted only three years in DC Comics ' 2011 line @-@ wide title relaunch , The New 52 , which saw her restored as the first and only Batgirl .

The graphic novel won the Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album and garnered Alan Moore the Best Writer award in 1989 . Hilary Goldstein of IGN Comics praised The Killing Joke , calling it " easily the greatest Joker story ever told , " and adding that " Moore 's rhythmic dialogue and Bolland 's organic art create a unique story often mimicked but never matched . " IGN declared The Killing Joke the third @-@ greatest Batman graphic novel , after The Dark Knight Returns and Batman : Year One . James Donnelly of Pop Syndicate called The Killing Joke " one of the greatest comics of the 20th century , period . " Van Jensen of ComicMix said , " Each time [ I read The Killing Joke ] I 'm amazed all over again at how Alan Moore and Brian Bolland teamed to pack such intensity , ferocity and humanity into those pages . B.L. Wooldridge of Batman in Comics called the graphic novel " an incredible story , with Moore at his best and awe @-@ inspiring art by painter Brian Bolland . " Comics historians Robert Greenberger and Matthew K. Manning describe it as " the definitive Joker story of all time . " Manning additionally called it " one of the most powerful and disturbing stories in the history of Gotham City . "

Andy Shaw of Grovel had a more lukewarm response to The Killing Joke , saying that though " wonderfully executed , " it " suffer [ s ] from its reliance on the rules of the superhero story . " Seb Patrick of Den of Geek also had a mixed response , calling The Killing Joke " one of the most revered and influential ' Batman ' stories ever written and arguably the definitive Joker story , " but adding that it 's " not at the level of [ Alan Moore 's ] true masterpieces [ such as ] Watchmen , V for Vendetta , [ and ] The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen . "

= = Creator 's response = =

In a 2000 interview , Moore said : " I don 't think it 's a very good book . It 's not saying anything very interesting . " In 2003 , he elaborated :

The Killing Joke is a story about Batman and the Joker ; it isn 't about anything that you 're ever going to encounter in real life , because Batman and the Joker are not like any human beings that have ever lived . So there 's no important human information being imparted ... Yeah , it was

something that I thought was clumsy , misjudged and had no real human importance . It was just about a couple of licensed DC characters that didn 't really relate to the real world in any way .

In a 2006 interview with Wizard magazine , Moore was also critical about his decision to cripple Barbara Gordon : " I asked DC if they had any problem with me crippling Barbara Gordon - who was Batgirl at the time - and if I remember , I spoke to Len Wein , who was our editor on the project ... [ He ] said , ' Yeah , okay , cripple the bitch . ' It was probably one of the areas where they should 've reined me in , but they didn 't . "

In the introduction to the story as it appears in the DC Universe : The Stories of Alan Moore trade paperback , Brian Bolland disputes the widely held belief that the story started as a Batman annual story and ended up as a prestige @-@ format book . Bolland recalls that the idea for a one @-@ off Batman story focusing on the Joker ? with Batman more of an incidental character ? was his . Bolland says that in 1984 , DC editor Dick Giordano told him he could do any project for DC he wanted , and Bolland requested to do a Batman / Joker prestige book with Moore as writer . Bolland has also expressed dissatisfaction with the final book , and regrets that its impending schedule for release meant he could not color the book himself ( John Higgins was the colorist ) . Bolland says that " the end result wasn 't quite what I 'd hoped . I don 't think it rates with some of the highlights of Alan 's career . " March 2008 saw the release of the artwork as Bolland intended it : the twentieth anniversary hardcover edition of The Killing Joke is completely recolored by Bolland himself . The book made The New York Times Best Seller list in May 2009 .

= = = Influence on Joker stories = = =

Critic Mark Vogler wrote that The Killing Joke provided the Joker " with a sympathetic back story as it presented some of the villain 's most vile offenses . " Moore 's rendition of the Joker 's origin employs elements of the 1951 story " The Man Behind the Red Hood " ( Detective Comics # 168 ) , which established the concept of the Joker originally having been a thief known only as the Red Hood . The tragic and human elements of the character 's story , coupled with his barbaric crimes as the Joker , portray the character as more of a three @-@ dimensional human being . During an interview with Salon , Moore explained that Joker 's psychotic nature could have been caused by a " bad decision " in his life .

Much of the Joker 's backstory from The Killing Joke is also referenced in 2004 's " Pushback " ( Batman : Gotham Knights # 50 @-@ 55 ; reprinted with # 66 as Batman : Hush Returns ) , in which the events are observed and reported by the Riddler , who recounts that the pregnant wife of the pre @-@ accident Joker , who is called " Jack " prior to his accident , was kidnapped and murdered by the criminals in order to force his compliance .

= = = Feminist interpretations = = =

The book has been the subject of feminist critique , criticizing the treatment of Barbara Gordon . Author Brian Cronin notes that " [ many ] readers felt the violence towards Barbara Gordon was too much , and even Moore , in retrospect , has expressed his displeasure with how the story turned out . " Author Sharon Packer wrote : " Anyone who feels that feminist critics overreacted to [ Gordon 's ] accident is advised to consult the source material ... Moore 's The Killing Joke is sadistic to the core . It shows Gordon stripped and mutilated , with before , during , and after photos of the attack displayed before her bound and gagged father , the police commissioner . She is more than merely disabled . " Gail Simone included the character 's paralysis in a list of " major female characters that had been killed , mutilated , and depowered " , dubbing the phenomenon " Women in Refrigerators " in reference to a 1994 Green Lantern story where the title character discovers his girlfriend 's mutilated body in his refrigerator . Author Jeffrey A. Brown , noted The Killing Joke as an example of the " relatively unequal violence [ female characters ] are subjected to . " in the major DC / Marvel comics industry . While male characters may be critically injured or killed , they are more than likely to be returned to their original conception , while " women on the other hand , are more likely to be casually , but irreparably , wounded such as when Barbara Gordon 's ( the original Batgirl ) spine

was shattered by the Joker just for fun and has been restricted to a wheelchair for over a decade now . "

== = " No Joke " == =

In 2007 , Geoff Johns wrote a companion story to The Killing Joke entitled " No Joke " that appeared in the series Booster Gold .

In the story , Booster Gold is charged by Rip Hunter to go back in time and save Barbara from being shot by the Joker . Booster arrives at the carnival shortly after the Joker has rounded up the freaks , only to be attacked by them . He manages to escape ( after the Joker torments him ) , but arrives too late to save Barbara . Catching the Joker in the middle of taking photos of the wounded Barbara ( after having struck down Commissioner Gordon ) , Booster attacks the Joker in a rage ; the Joker nevertheless gains the upper hand , snapping several photos of Booster as well . Rip removes Booster moments before he is killed , but Booster demands to be sent back again . Booster fails several times until Rip reveals that the Joker is destined to paralyze her , as it would ensure that she would become Oracle .

The story also reveals that Batman kept the photos of Barbara and Booster , and had been waiting until Booster came of age before confronting him . Batman thanks Booster for trying to stop the Joker and offers him his friendship . Eventually , Dick Grayson , who becomes his mentor 's temporary successor as Batman , would also learn about this and offer his thanks as well .

== = " Ladies ' Night " == =

In 2010 , writer J. Michael Straczynski and artist Cliff Chiang collaborated on a one @-@ shot story called " Ladies ' Night " , which was published in the anthology series The Brave and the Bold . The story is set shortly before The Killing Joke , and deals with Zatanna and Wonder Woman struggling to come to terms with the impending attack on Barbara after Zatanna has a precognitive dream about it . Like " No Joke , " the story heavily implies that the heroines cannot alter Barbara 's fate , despite their desire to do so , instead giving her a final night on the town before she loses the use of her legs . The story also implies that Wonder Woman served as the inspiration for Barbara Gordon 's eventual codename of Oracle .

== = The New 52 == =

When DC comics relaunched its universe in 2011 , many of Batman 's stories were erased or altered , but The Killing Joke story was still intact . In the new continuity , Barbara Gordon recovered from the paralysis inflicted upon her by the Joker 's bullet , which lasted for four years . Although she resumes her work as Batgirl one year after recovering her mobility , she continues to suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder when exposed to gunfire that could result in receiving new spinal damage . During Batman Eternal , Batgirl refers to her paralysis when she tracks a villain to the carnival where the Joker took Gordon after he had shot her , although she only confronts the Joker 's Daughter rather than the Joker himself as Joker is currently presumed dead .

On March 13 , 2015 DC Comics released 25 Joker @-@ themed variant covers for its various monthly series for release that June , in celebration of the character 's 75th anniversary . Among them was a cover to Batgirl # 41 by artist Rafael Albuquerque that took its inspiration from The Killing Joke . The cover depicts the Joker standing next to a tearful Batgirl , who has a red smile painted across her mouth . The Joker has one hand holding a revolver draped over Batgirl 's shoulder and is pointing to her cheek with the other hand , as if gesturing to shoot her . The cover quickly drew criticism for highlighting a dark period in the character 's history , especially when juxtaposed with the youthful , more optimistic direction of the series at the time . The hashtag # changethecover drew dozens of posts on Twitter and Tumblr asking DC to not release the variant . DC ultimately withdrew the cover from publication at the request of Albuquerque , who stated , " My intention was never to hurt or upset anyone through my art ... For that reason , I have recommended

to DC that the variant cover be pulled . "

= = In other media = =

= = = Film = = =

In 2011 , during Comic @-@ Con , actor Mark Hamill stated that he would be willing to voice the Joker for an adaption of The Killing Joke , encouraging fans to campaign for said adaptation , most notably in a tweet made on October 24 , 2011 . Since then , a Facebook page titled " Petition to get Mark Hamill to play the Joker in animated Killing Joke " has been set up by his fans . In 2013 , Bruce Timm also expressed a desire to create the project , saying it was only a possibility . On July 10 , 2015 , during the Justice League : Gods and Monsters panel at San Diego Comic @-@ Con , Bruce Timm announced that an animated film based on the novel is in development and slated to be released in 2016 . Sam Liu will direct and Timm will executive produce the film . The film will feature a 15 @-@ minute prologue that sets up the story . On July 17 , Hamill tweeted that he hoped that he would be contacted to reprise his role as the Joker . On July 27 , Collider reported that Hamill will voice The Joker in the film . Warner Bros. has reportedly given the filmmakers the go @-@ ahead to make the film rated R. On March 14 , 2016 , Hamill 's Batman : The Animated Series castmates , Kevin Conroy and Tara Strong , were confirmed to play Batman and Barbara Gordon respectively , alongside Ray Wise as Commissioner Gordon . It has been confirmed to release on Blu Ray and DVD on August 2 , 2016 . It will also play in select theatres in a one night only event on July 25 , complete with an introduction from Hamill .

Influence on other films

Along with The Dark Knight Returns , Tim Burton has mentioned that The Killing Joke influenced his film adaptation of Batman : " I was never a giant comic book fan , but I 've always loved the image of Batman and the Joker . The reason I 've never been a comic book fan ? and I think it started when I was a child ? is because I could never tell which box I was supposed to read . I don 't know if it was dyslexia or whatever , but that 's why I loved The Killing Joke , because for the first time I could tell which one to read . It 's my favorite . It 's the first comic I 've ever loved . And the success of those graphic novels made our ideas more acceptable . "

Director Christopher Nolan has mentioned that The Killing Joke served as an influence for the version of the Joker appearing in the 2008 feature film The Dark Knight . Heath Ledger , who played the Joker , stated in an interview that he was given a copy of The Killing Joke as reference for the role .

The story is referred to in a flashback scene in the DC Universe Animated Original Movies , Batman : Under the Red Hood . In the movie , the antagonist Red Hood lured Batman to the chemical factory where the Joker 's accident took place . Batman remembered the events like in the comic , where a fleeing Joker attempted to escape while trying to claim that he was set up but accidentally fell into the toxic waste and disfigured him . Red Hood called it Batman 's greatest failure . Jason Todd also refers to Joker crippling Barbara .

= = = Television = = =

Birds of Prey features a slight retelling of The Killing Joke in the series prologue . In this version Barbara is shot by the Joker , who clearly knows that she is Batgirl , after she opens her front door .

The Batman features some homages to The Killing Joke : In the season one two @-@ parter , " The Rubberface of Comedy / The Clayface of Tragedy " , Joker tortures Detective Ethan Bennett by breaking him in a way similar to the way he tortured Gordon in the book , and the " one bad day " is mentioned by the transformed Bennett into Clayface in the 2nd part . In the Season 4 episodes , " Artifacts , " which takes place in the future , it shows Barbara has become Oracle .

= = = Video games = = =

The Joker , in his Hawaiian attire , appears as an unlockable playable character in Lego Batman : The Videogame .

The 2009 video game Batman : Arkham Asylum adapted a post @-@ The Killing Joke timeline , in that Barbara Gordon feeds Batman information as Oracle . Several references to the story are also made in the game . The Joker 's makeshift throne made of mannequins at the end of the game is almost identical to the one in the graphic novel . During the game , it is revealed that the Joker had been using e @-@ mail under the alias " Jack White , " which Batman identifies as " one of Joker 's oldest aliases . " The Joker even personally makes a knowing reference to the story : " There were these two guys in a lunatic asylum ... Oh hell with it , you 've heard that one before , haven 't you ? "

In the 2011 video game Batman : Arkham City , which is the sequel to Batman : Arkham Asylum , when the Joker 's interview tapes are found , he retells his origin from The Killing Joke . In this version , he reveals that the two thugs worked for Carmine Falcone . He apparently blames Batman for what happened to him . Hugo Strange then accuses him of having fabricated a series of events in order to conceal the truth about his condition , as he has read twelve different accounts of his past , all different , except for one detail : Batman . He then paraphrases a line from the book : " I like to keep things interesting . A wise man once told me that if you have to have an origin story , you 're better off making it multiple choice " .

In 2013 video game Injustice : Gods Among Us , a downloadable content Killing Joke pack includes three skins for the character from the story . It includes his Hawaiian attire , the Red Hood , and his hat and long coat .

In Batman : Arkham Origins , there are several references to The Killing Joke . When Batman enters a carnival @-@ esque room , Joker tells him he got a great deal on an out @-@ of @-@ service amusement park , " You should have seen the look on the real estate agent 's face when we shook hands on the deal ! " , alluding to Joker 's conning a theme park entrepreneur into granting him the rights of a run @-@ down amusement park early in the graphic novel and then proceeding to murder him via Joker toxin . In a level featuring a psychiatric interview with Dr. Harleen Quinzel , Joker is playable as the Red Hood , walking through the chemical plant that will end with him becoming the Joker , as well as earlier beating up several patrons at a Comedy Club due to very poor reception towards a joke he made . The name of the achievement for defeating the Joker in the ending of the game was a reference to Batman 's talk with " Joker " in the beginning of the graphic novel . While promoting the game , Troy Baker , who voices the Joker in the game , recites a monologue from the graphic novel .

In Batman : Arkham Knight , while under the influence of Scarecrow 's latest toxin , Batman hallucinates the Joker 's shooting of Barbara Gordon after she is kidnapped by the mysterious Arkham Knight , a hallucination of Joker noting that he merely got lucky when he shot Barbara as he was ignorant of her true ties to Batman , and also claimed that he had actually been aiming for Barbara 's head . In addition , the DLC side story Batgirl : A Matter of Family had various similarities to the story of The Killing Joke , including Joker kidnapping and holding Police Commissioner Gordon hostage at a run @-@ down amusement park as well as the backstory revealing that Joker had conned and murdered the original person who owned the park into granting him control .

= = Reprints = =

The Killing Joke is included in the 2006 trade paperback collection DC Universe : The Stories of Alan Moore .

In March 2008 , a deluxe hardcover version of the book was released , featuring recoloring of the book by Brian Bolland . The new colors featured black @-@ and @-@ white flashbacks , as opposed to Higgins ' colors , along with one or two items per panel colored in pink or red , up until the helmet of the Red Hood is revealed . In addition to recoloring the pages , Bolland also removed the yellow oval around the bat symbol on Batman 's chest . Also included is a colored version of Bolland 's " An Innocent Guy " ( originally published in Batman Black and White ) , an introduction by Tim Sale and an epilogue by Bolland . Van Jensen of ComicMix said that " the new colors really do

improve the book , giving it a subtlety and grimness not present in the original . " James Donnelly of Pop Syndicate said that the original version " is outdone by Bolland 's recoloring " , which he said " gives the comic a more timeless quality " . Seb Patrick of Den of Geek had a lukewarm reaction , calling the recoloring of the flashbacks " superb " , but commenting that " some of the [ other ] changes seem to have less of a point ? increasing definition for the sake of it , but giving the book too much of a present @-@ day feel rather than looking like it was printed in the 1980s . "