

PETER J. TOMASI

story and words

VIKTOR BOGDANOVIC

pencils

TRAVIS LANHAM letters

ALEX ANTONE editor

ART THIBERT

inks

JOHN RAUCH

colors

DAN PANDOSIAN cover

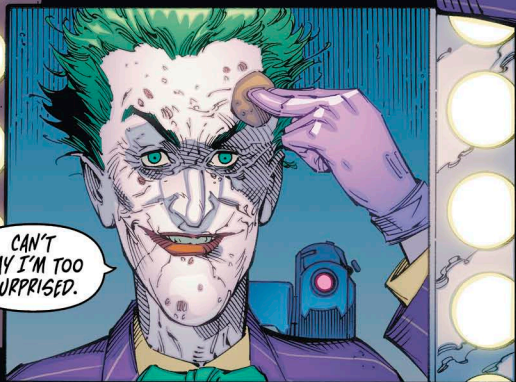
JAE LEE and JUNE CHUNG variant cover

BATMAN created by
Bob Kane

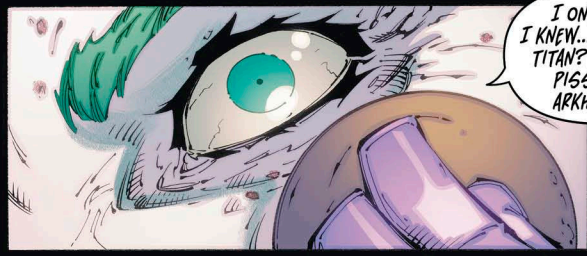
THE LAST WILL
AND TESTAMENT OF
THE JOKER.



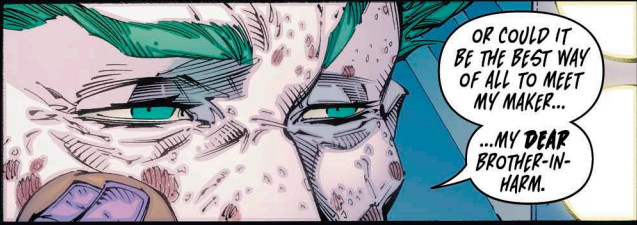
≠KAFFé...
WELL, GUESS
THIS DIDN'T
GO WELL.



CAN'T
SAY I'M TOO
SURPRISED.



I ONLY WISH
I KNEW... WAS IT THE
TITAN? OLD AGE?
PISSED OFF
ARKHAMITE?

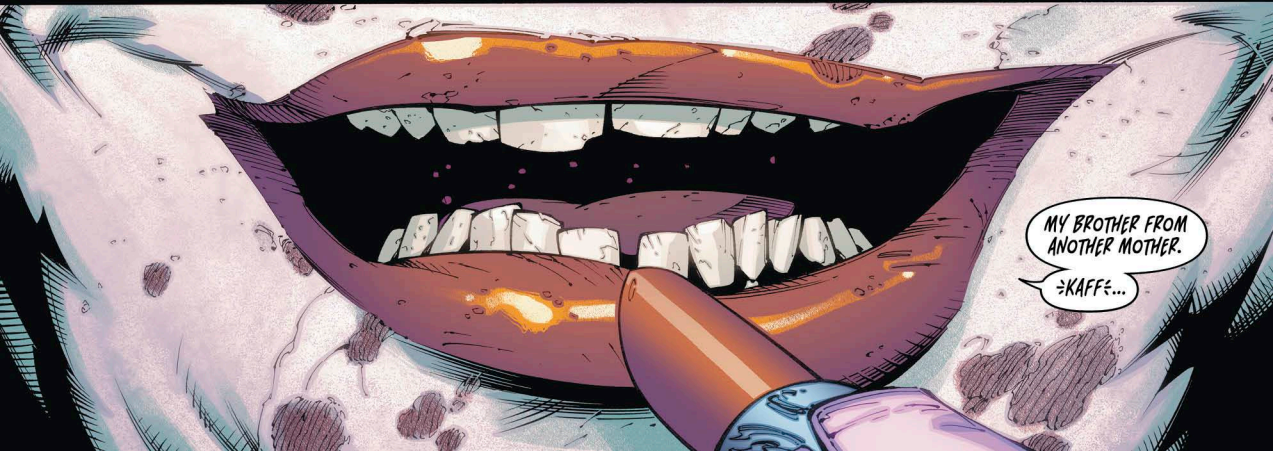


OR COULD IT
BE THE BEST WAY
OF ALL TO MEET
MY MAKER...
...MY DEAR
BROTHER-IN-
HARM.

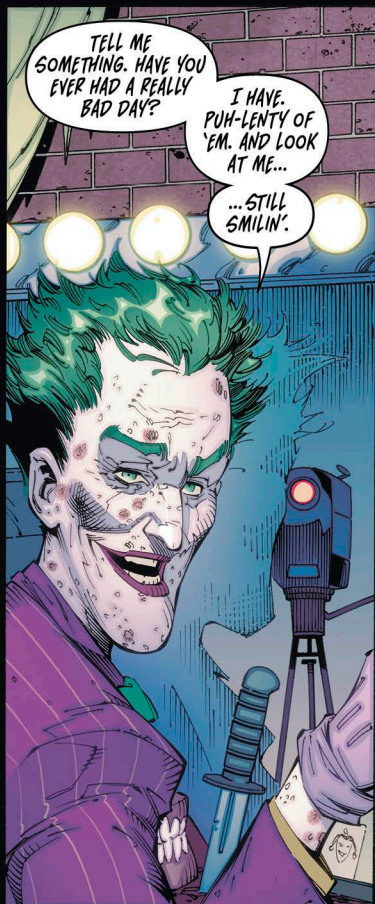


THE MAN
YOU FEAR TO LOVE
AND LOVE TO
FEAR!
B TO THE A TO
THE T-MAN!

OR, AS
I LIKE TO
CALL HIM...



MY BROTHER FROM
ANOTHER MOTHER.
≠KAFFé...



TELL ME SOMETHING. HAVE YOU EVER HAD A REALLY BAD DAY?

I HAVE. PUH-LENTY OF 'EM. AND LOOK AT ME...

...STILL SMILIN'.



NOW I KNOW YOU'RE WONDERING, SO LET ME TELL YOU WHY I'M MAKING THIS RECORDING.



FIRSTLY, TO PASS ON JUST A SMIDGE OF WHAT I'VE LEARNED IN THE HOPES THAT UNDERSTANDING THE THINGS THAT MAKE ME WILL HELP MAKE YOU A BETTER YOU!

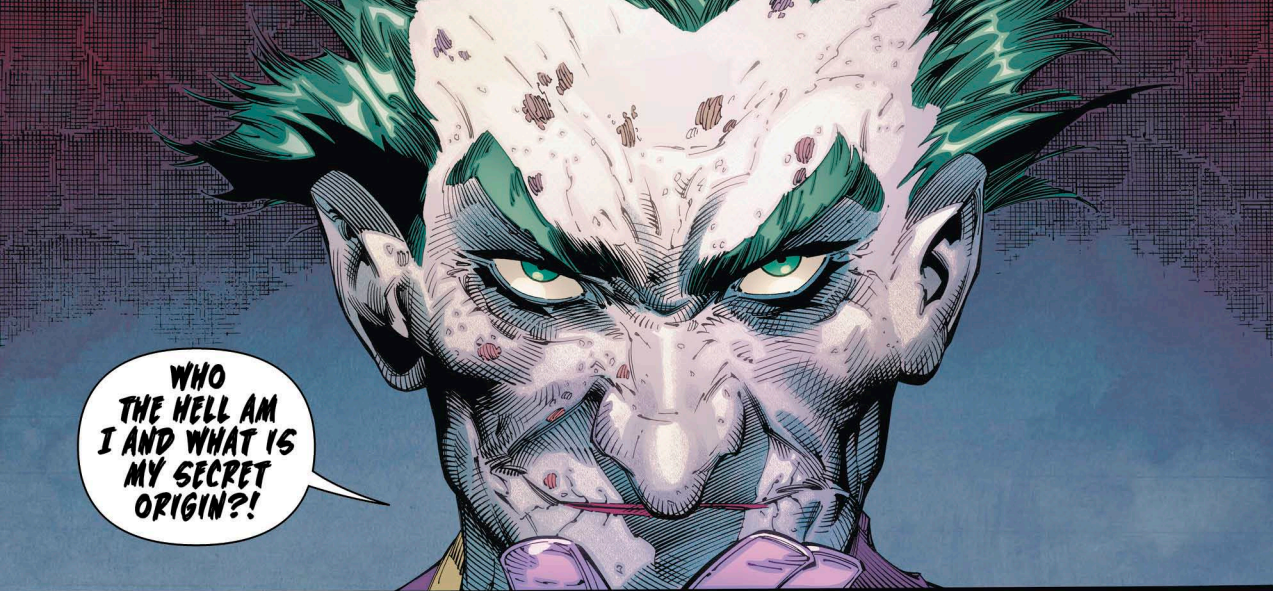


AND SECOND, BECAUSE I KNOW THIS IS PROBABLY MY LAST TIME TO TALK TO YOU-KNOW-WHO.

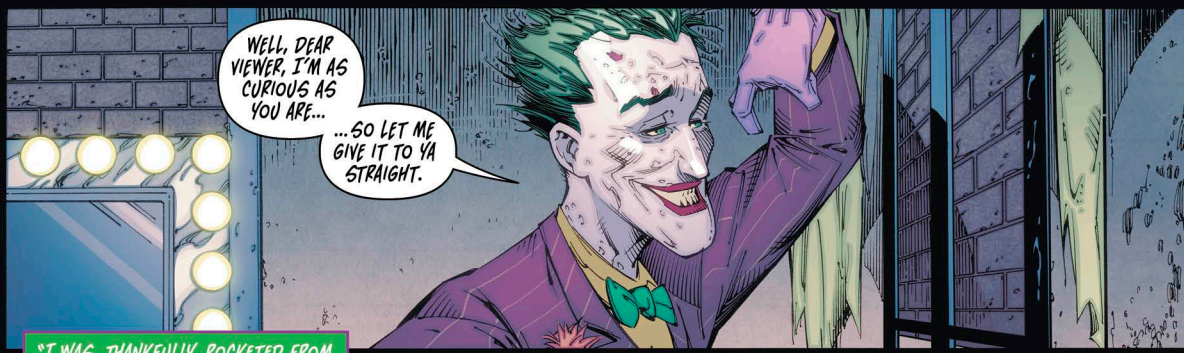
I MEAN WHO ELSE WOULD WATCH THIS STUFF WHEN THERE'S WASHED UP MOVIE AND TV STARS PRANCING AND DANCING FOR PRIZES ON ALL THOSE GLORIOUS CHANNELS?!



NOW, LET'S START WITH THE ONE QUESTION YOU'RE DYING TO KNOW...

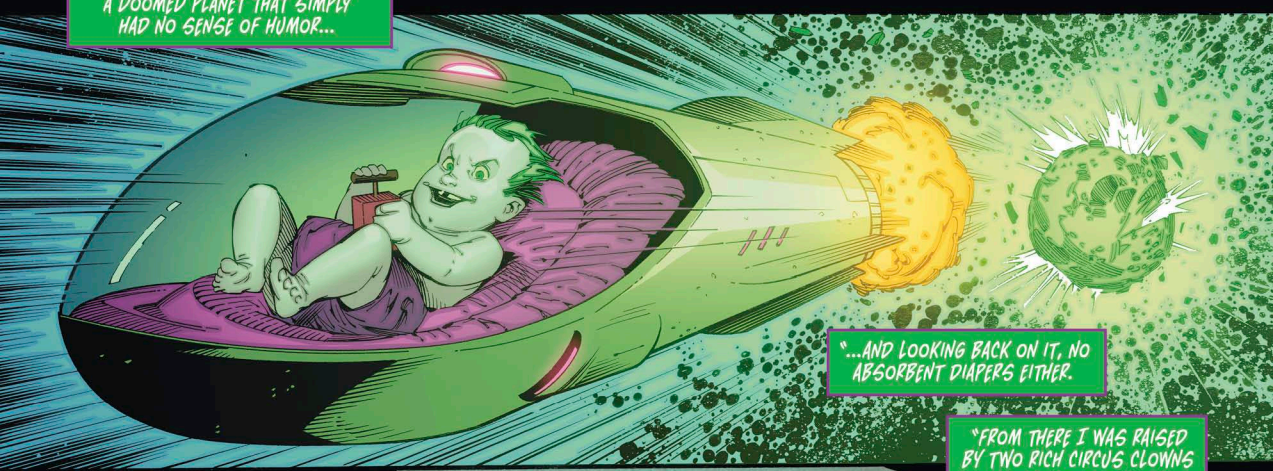


WHO THE HELL AM I AND WHAT IS MY SECRET ORIGIN?!



WELL, DEAR VIEWER, I'M AS CURIOUS AS YOU ARE...
...SO LET ME GIVE IT TO YA STRAIGHT.

"I WAS, THANKFULLY, ROCKETED FROM A DOOMED PLANET THAT SIMPLY HAD NO SENSE OF HUMOR..."



"...AND LOOKING BACK ON IT, NO ABSORBENT DIAPERS EITHER."

"FROM THERE I WAS RAISED BY TWO RICH CIRCUS CLOWNS WHO I HAD TO KILL ONE NIGHT UNDER THE BIG TOP..."



"...FOR FORGETTING THEIR WHOOPEE CUSHIONS..."

"...AND COMMITTING THE CARDINAL SIN OF CLOWNDOM..."

"...FAILING TO BE FUNNY."



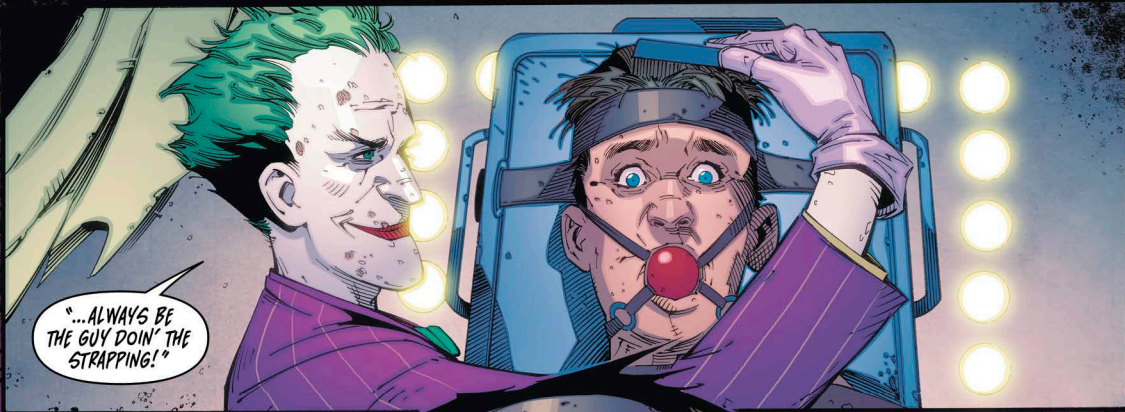
SO, BASICALLY =KAFF= CHILDHOOD WASN'T EASY.
WHOSE IS THOUGH, AM I RIGHT?!



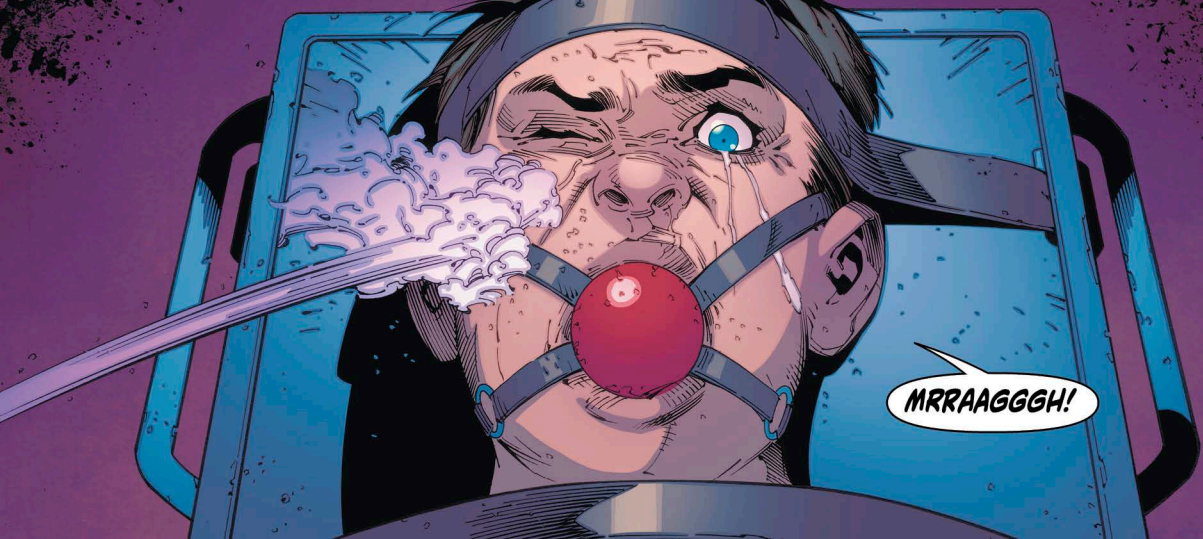
WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS TO KNOW, IS THAT I TAUGHT MYSELF ALL THE IMPORTANT STUFF AFTER MY PARENTS' SUDDEN DEMISE.
I STUDIED. I WORKED. I MASTERED.



AND I PROMISED MYSELF SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
JOKER, I SAID, "NEVER BE THE POOR SHMUCK STRAPPED IN AND CHAINED TO HIS DESTINY."
"INSTEAD," I SAID...



"...ALWAYS BE THE GUY DOIN' THE STRAPPING!"



MRRAGGGH!



"SO, ARMED WITH AN EASILY DIGESTIBLE PHILOSOPHY, I FINALLY MADE MY WAY TO THE CONCRETE CANYONS OF GOTHAM AND FOR MONTHS PLIED MY TRADE AT A VERY LOOOOOW LEVEL.

"I WAS BUT AN APPRENTICE FOR URBAN MAYHEM AND MALEVOLENCE UNTIL THE DAY SOME OF MY WORK BUDDIES GOT THEMSELVES INTO TOO MUCH TROUBLE...



"...AND I REALIZED I HAD A FRONT ROW SEAT TO THE GREATEST SHOW IN TOWN.

"LET ME TELL YA, KIDS, ALMOST EVERY NIGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING SPECTACULAR TO SEE IN THE BIG 6.



"YOU KNOW HOW EVERYONE OVER 60 REMEMBERS WHERE THEY WERE WHEN KENNEDY WAS SHOT?

"OR WHEN JETER HIT HIS 3000TH HIT?

"OR WHEN THEY STRANGLERED THEIR MOTHER'S BEST FRIEND... AND THEN THEIR MOTHER?



"THAT WAS MY NIGHT EVERY NIGHT. KID IN A CANDY STORE.

"I KNEW RIGHT THEN AND THERE TO APPRECIATE IT...

"...BECAUSE I UNDERSTOOD THAT NOTHING LASTS FOREVER.



"AND TRUST ME, PALS AND GALS, NO ONE WAS MORE NOTHING THAN ME."

"IT'S AN AMAZING THING TO REALIZE YOUR DESTINY."

"NATURALLY, I HAD TO GET STARTED IMMEDIATELY!"



"SO I RAN STRAIGHT BACK TO MY DEF-LUX APARTMENT IN THE SKY-Y-Y WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT."



"WELL, THAT'S MOSTLY TRUE."



"MAN'S GOTTA HAVE PRIORITIES, Y'KNOW."

