

MY NAME IS **JOKER**.

THE HAIR, THE MAKEUP, THE LAUGHTER-- THE POLICE HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. THEY CALLED ME A MURDEROUS, INCURABLE SOCIOPATH WHO NEEDED TO BE LOCKED UP **FOREVER**. THEY SAID I WAS A NEW TYPE OF CRIMINAL AND EVEN COINED A NEW TERM FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME: **SUPER-CRIMINALS**.

BUT IT'S A **LIE**.

I STARTED OUT AS A CRIMINAL, BUT I WASN'T A **MURDERER**. WHEN I WAS ARRESTED, THE POLICE NEVER GAVE EVIDENCE THAT I'D COMMITTED A VIOLENT CRIME--THEY JUST FUDGED THE PAPERWORK SO THEY COULD CALL ME A **SUPERCRIMINAL**.

TRUTH IS, I WAS JUST A KID FROM THE COUNTRY WHO WANTED TO BE A GOTHAMITE, AND WHEN THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT, I SCREWED UP AND ROBBED A BANK. I SERVED **TEN YEARS** FOR MY CRIME, BUT THEY DIDN'T WANT TO RELEASE ME.

BECAUSE TO THEM I WASN'T JUST A CRIMINAL, I WAS AN **EXCUSE**. MY REPUTATION AND UNSTABLE MENTAL CONDITION MADE ME A PERFECT CANDIDATE FOR THEIR SCHEME. THEY CLAIMED TO GIVE ME MEDS AND THERAPY, BUT REALLY THEY WERE MAKING ME WORSE, TURNING ME INTO THE BOOGYMAN THEY NEEDED.

THAT WAY THE GATEKEEPERS COULD GET MORE MONEY FROM GOTHAM. THEY CREATED A NEW SOURCE OF REVENUE, A BOOMING INDUSTRY NO ONE HAD EVER CONSIDERED: **CRIME**.

AND EACH TIME THE CITY QUESTIONED THE EXORBITANT FUNDING, THE GATEKEEPERS LET THE JOKER ESCAPE, REIGNITING TAXPAYER FEAR. AND SOON THEY HAD ENOUGH TO BUILD THEIR CROWN JEWEL...

...TURNING OLD FORT ARKHAM INTO **ARKHAM ASYLUM**.

I MIGHT HAVE PUT ON THE EYELINER, BUT ARKHAM CREATED THE JOKER.

I'M NOT THE ONLY VICTIM HERE: **WE ALL ARE**.

THE GATEKEEPERS CONVINCED US THAT GOTHAM WAS A SPECIAL CITY WITH **SPECIAL** PROBLEMS. THAT DUE PROCESS DIDN'T WORK IN GOTHAM, AND FOR YEARS WE'VE ACCEPTED THIS UNEASY FACT WHILE THEY MADE THIS INTO A CITY OF FEAR, WHERE CORRUPTION HAS SPREAD ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP.

A PLACE WHERE VIGILANTISM HAS BEEN NORMALIZED.

OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS I'VE SHOWN YOU THE EVIDENCE. DON'T LET THEM MAKE ME THEIR SCAPEGOAT ANYMORE. DON'T PUNISH **JACK NAPIER** FOR WHAT THE **JOKER** DID.

THE DOCTORS SAID I'M CURED, SO IT'S TIME TO **SET ME FREE**. RELEASE ME SO I CAN FIGHT THE GATEKEEPERS AND RECLAIM THE CITY WE **ALL** LOVE.

HOW COULD THEY RELEASE HIM? HE'S BEEN A VILLAIN FOR ALL THESE YEARS--SURELY HE'S GUILTY OF AT LEAST **HALF** THE THINGS THE **GCPD** SAYS HE IS!

I'M AS SKEPTICAL AS YOU ARE, MARK. BUT IT ALL COMES DOWN TO EVIDENCE, AND THE POLICE HAVE SURPRISINGLY LITTLE, DESPITE THEIR YEARS OF CLAIMS.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S REALLY HIM. WITHOUT ALL THAT MAKEUP HE'S ACTUALLY... GOOD LOOKING!

AND HIS DEVASTATING CRITIQUE OF GOTHAM SEEMS TO HAVE REALLY STRUCK A CHORD WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIORS. THEY SEE NAPIER AS SOME KIND OF...HERO!

NAPIER IS ESPECIALLY POPULAR WITH THE **BACKPORT** NEIGHBORHOOD, WHERE PROTESTERS ARE TAKING A STAND AGAINST GOTHAM'S MISTREATMENT OF MINORITIES.

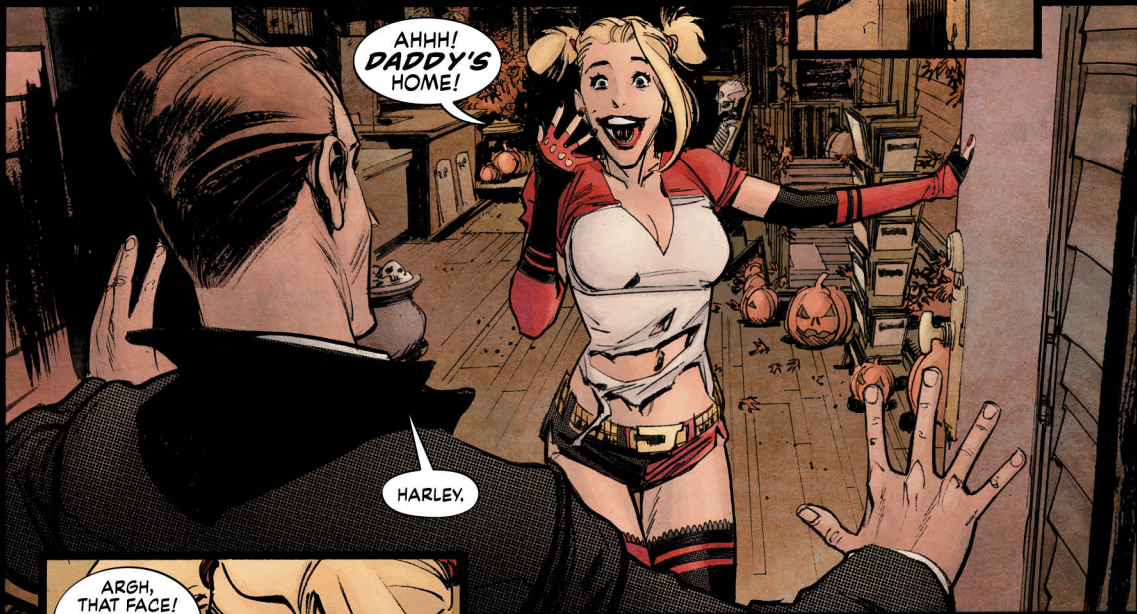
TRUST IN GOVERNMENT AND IN THE **GCPD** IS AT AN ALL TIME LOW AS MOST PEOPLE FEEL THEY'VE BECOME PAWNS OF THE 1% ELITE.

WITH ONE SPEECH, NAPIER NOT ONLY WON HIS FREEDOM, HE ALSO TURNED HIMSELF INTO A **PATRIOT** WHO JUST STARTED A MEDIA WAR AGAINST GOTHAM'S GATEKEEPERS.

BUT IS HE FOR REAL--

--OR IS THIS JUST PART OF A **LARGER CON?**





AHHH!
DADDY'S
HOME!

HARLEY.



ARGH,
THAT FACE!
YOU LOOK LIKE
A FREAK!
BLEGH!



SORRY,
I'M JUST NOT
MYSELF.

CAN WE
TALK?

UH,
OKAY?

I'VE BEEN
THINKING A LOT
ABOUT THIS MOMENT,
AND THERE'S SOMETHING
I NEED TO SAY.



WE'LL GET
YOU FIXED UP IN
NO TIME.

HARLEY--

NO TALKING!
NOT UNTIL MAMA'S
DONE WITH YOU.
THEN SEX.

HARLEY,
STOP.



