

JUST OUTSIDE OF GOTHAM.
BEFORE.



N-NOW, YOU'LL NEED TO HAVE THE GAS MASK ON **BEFORE** YOU HIT THE BUTTON. THIS FORMULA IS POTENT ENOUGH THAT IT BURNED THROUGH THE LAST THREE BALLOONS.

IT NEEDS TO BE **STRONG**, OR IT WON'T HAVE THE LETHAL EFFECT YOU WANTED WHEN DROPPED A FEW HUNDRED FEET.

NOW, PLEASE...MR JOKER, YOU TOLD ME I WOULD BE ALLOWED TO CALL MY WIFE... T-TO MAKE SURE MY WIFE AND KIDS WON'T BE AT THE PARADE...

LEGION OF DOOM

PART THREE

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DON'T WORRY, EDDIE! I CAN MAKE THE CALL MYSELF!

HEHEHEHE...



AH, THERE YOU ARE, JOKER. I'VE BEEN WAITING AN AGE.



LUTHOR.

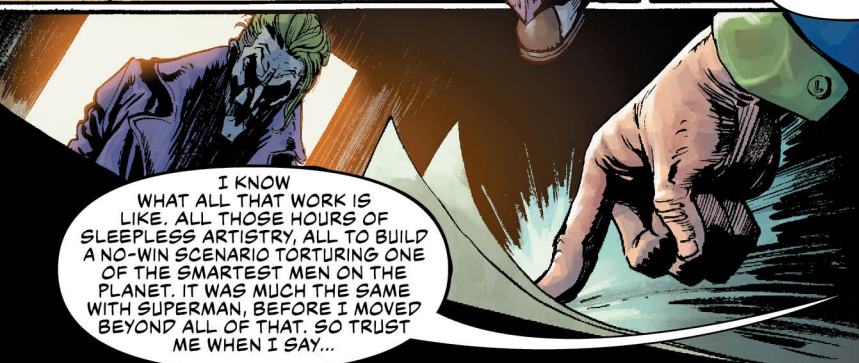
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY NOSING AROUND. I WANTED TO SEE WHAT FRESH LUNACY YOU HAD CONCOCTED.

BUT IT'S ACTUALLY ALL QUITE BEAUTIFUL IN A SAVAGE WAY. THERE'S REAL GENIUS HERE, I'M NOT AFRAID TO ADMIT IT.

YOU SPEND THE MOST TIME ON THE MOST BLINDINGLY OBVIOUS PIECE OF THE PLAN, BUT I SPENT THIS AFTERNOON CHECKING THE WIRING ON EACH BOMB YOU PLACED BENEATH GOTHAM'S CENTRAL AVENUE.

EVEN IF THE BALLOON PLOT WAS FOILED COMPLETELY, YOU'D LIKELY TAKE CASUALTIES IN THE DOUBLE DIGITS.

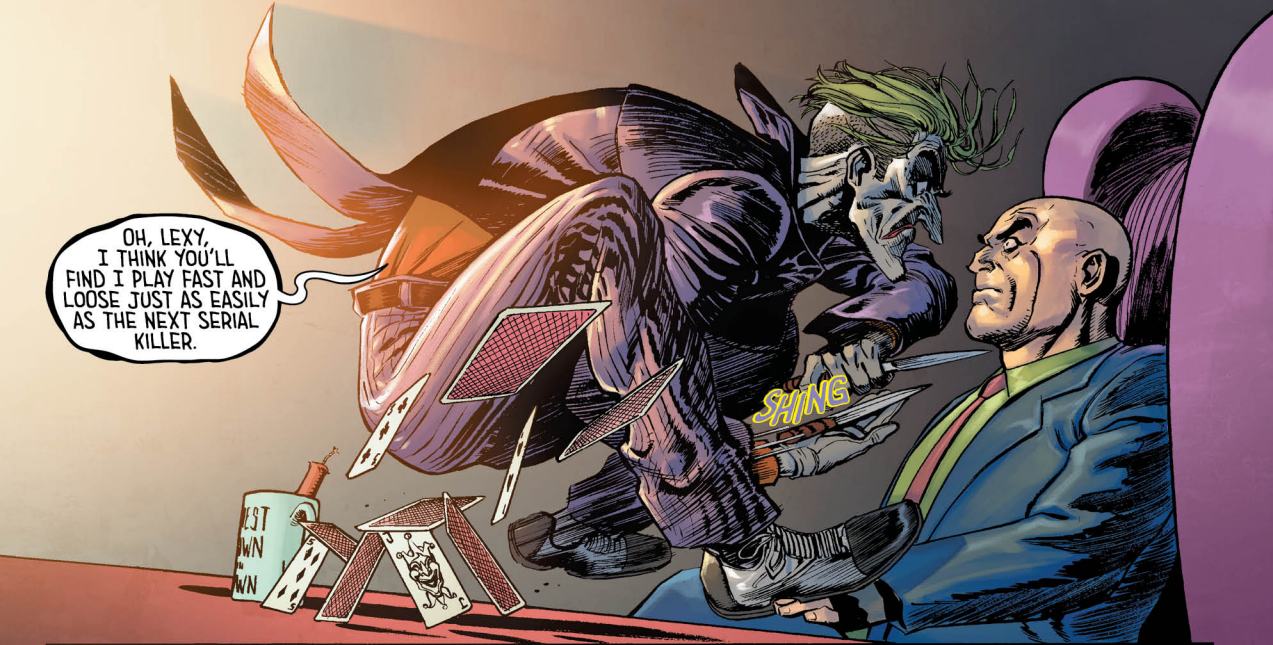
EACH ONE A KNIFE IN THE BAT'S HEART.



I KNOW WHAT ALL THAT WORK IS LIKE. ALL THOSE HOURS OF SLEEPLESS ARTISTRY, ALL TO BUILD A NO-WIN SCENARIO TORTURING ONE OF THE SMARTEST MEN ON THE PLANET. IT WAS MUCH THE SAME WITH SUPERMAN, BEFORE I MOVED BEYOND ALL OF THAT. SO TRUST ME WHEN I SAY...



...WHAT A WASTE.



OH, LEXY, I THINK YOU'LL FIND I PLAY YOU FAST AND LOOSE JUST AS EASILY AS THE NEXT SERIAL KILLER.

SHINE



PLEASE. YOU THINK I DIDN'T BRING PROTECTION? YOU COULDN'T TOUCH ME THROUGH THIS FORCE FIELD IF YOU TRIED, CLOWN.



I'LL GET ON WITH IT. IF I FOUND YOU HERE, BATMAN WILL BE HERE IN THIRTY MINUTES.

LET'S BE GENEROUS TO THE HERO SET FOR THE MOMENT, AND CALL IT FIFTEEN.



I'M NOT HERE TO STOP YOU, JOKER. I HAVE SEEN THE TRUE NATURE OF HUMANKIND, AND YOU ARE ITS PINNACLE.



NOW, IF I KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE ALL HUGS AND KISSES I WOULD HAVE TRIED A NICER WAY TO KILL YOU.



I WANT TO GIVE YOU UNSPEAKABLE POWER. POWER UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU'VE EVER FELT BEFORE. POWER TO MOVE THE COSMOS, AND SHATTER TIME IN YOUR FISTS.

I WANT YOU TO MAKE THE MOST SPECTACULAR ART AND MAKE THE UNIVERSE YOUR CANVAS. I'M HONESTLY QUITE THRILLED AT THE IDEA OF WHAT YOU MIGHT DO WITH IT.

NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME A BIG HEAD. BUT I'VE ALREADY GOT ONE.

SO WE HAVE A FEW MATTERS OF BUSINESS TO NAIL DOWN AND NOT LONG TO DO IT.

I'VE HEARD RUMBLINGS OF WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO. THE SORT OF PEOPLE YOU'VE BEEN VISITING. YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE WORLD'S UN-FINEST TEAM-UP.

YOU'RE GOING FOR THE BEST AND THE BADDEST.

BUT IF YOU WANT ME, THERE'S ONE DARK PATH YOU'RE **NOT** GOING TO TURN DOWN. THERE'S NO **JOKE** HERE. I THINK YOU'LL FIND I'M **DEADLY** SERIOUS ON THE TOPIC...

THE BATMAN FROM THE OTHER WORLD. THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS. HE'S A **WRONG** THING, LEX...

HE'S GOING TO RUIN THE WHOLE GAME, AND I **WON'T** STAND FOR IT.

BATMAN WILL **ACTUALLY** BE HERE IN FIVE MINUTES.

MY GOONS JUST CLOCKED THAT STUPID CAR OF HIS RACING ACROSS THE TRIGATE.

AND THE TOXIN I JUST SET OFF IS LETHAL THROUGH ANY FORCE FIELD YOU CAN BREATHE THROUGH.

THE DEAL IS HIM OR ME.

HA! THAT'S IT? DEAL.

I'M SERIOUS, LEX...

JOKER... I'M ABOUT TO WIELD THE POWER OF CREATION IN MY HANDS.

WHAT WOULD I WANT WITH THAT DARK NIGHTMARE?

THE HALL OF DOOM. NOW.

THE DEAL IS YOU RELEASE ME. YOU ACCEPT THAT I HAVE MY OWN PLOTS, MY OWN MOTIVATIONS.

THAT THEY MAY NOT WORK IN TANDEM WITH YOURS. YOU AGREE NOT TO STAND IN MY WAY, AND I AGREE I WILL NOT STAND IN YOURS.

WHY SHOULD I TRUST YOU?

TRUSTING IN OTHERS IS AN IDIOT'S GAME, LEX. YOU DON'T NEED TO TRUST ME.

TRUST YOURSELF. TRUST THAT CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER. TRUST THAT YOU'LL WIN EVEN THOUGH YOU MIGHT LOSE.

DEAL. TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW, NOW.

YOU HAVE DEDUCED THAT THE DARK FORCES OF CREATION WERE LOCKED AWAY. WHO WERE THEY LOCKED AWAY FROM?

YOU KNOW THAT THE SOURCE WALL IS A PRISON. WHO WAS IT BUILT TO IMPRISON?

HER NAME IS PERPETUA.

CAN YOU HEAR ME IN THERE, PERPETUA? CAN YOU SHOW ME THE WAY?

HM?

JUST MY IMAGINATION...

THEY'RE HERE.