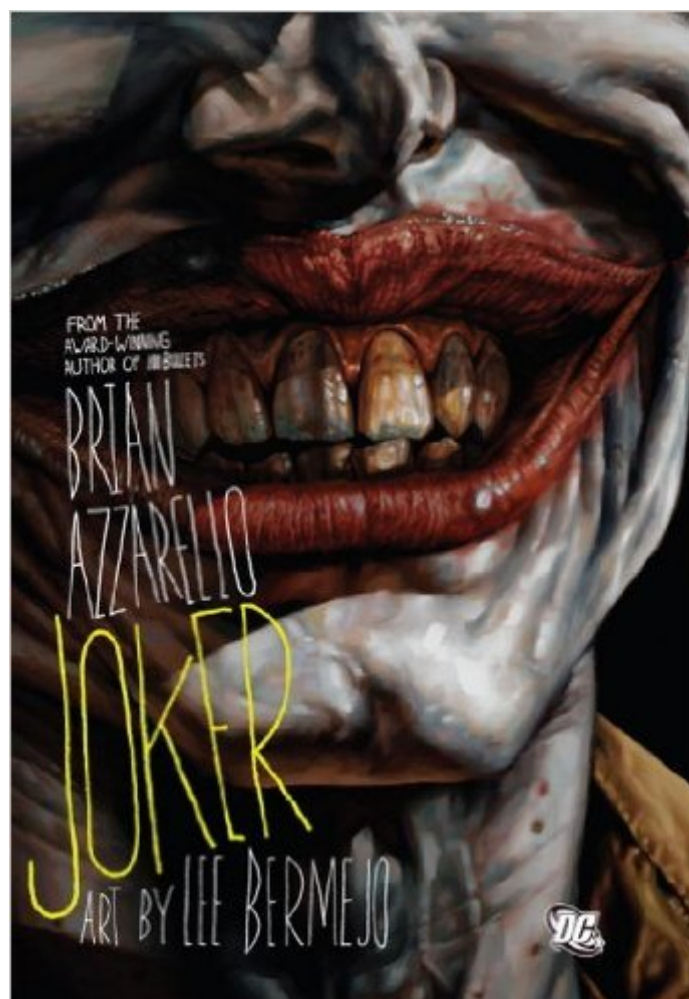


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The Joker



Synopsis

An original hardcover graphic novel that tells the story of one very dark night in Gotham City--from the creative team behind the graphic novel LEX LUTHOR: MAN OF STEEL. The Joker has been mysteriously released from Arkham Asylum, and he's none too happy about what's happened to his Gotham City rackets while he's been "away." What follows is a harrowing night of revenge, murder and manic crime as only The Joker can deliver it, as he brutally takes back his stolen assets from The Penguin, The Riddler, Two-Face, Killer Croc and others. Brian Azzarello brings to THE JOKER all the visceral intensity and criminal insight that has made his Vertigo graphic novel series 100 BULLETS one of the most critically-acclaimed and award-winning series in all of comics.

Book Information

Hardcover: 128 pages

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Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.4 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (355 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #12,343 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in Â Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > DC #86 in Â Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Superheroes #4498 in Â Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy

Customer Reviews

Ever wonder what it would be like to be employed by the Joker? Job security would not be a selling point, nor would benefits like health and life insurance. In fact it might be a good idea to buy some beforehand. Just ask Jonny Frost, his new henchman. Brian Azzarello's anticipated Joker novel is told through the eager yet anxious perspective of his new accomplice in crime, and no previous experience on the streets of Gotham is going to prepare him for the mayhem and madness to follow. This is a different Joker than normal; more serious than silly, more reflective than refractive. He has just returned from another of his enforced sojourns in Arkham, released legally for a change, back with a vengeance to reclaim lost turf and heaven help those in his way. Joining the party on various sides are Killer Croc, the Penguin, slightly tweaked incarnations of Harley Quinn and the Riddler, and the one downside, an ineffective Harvey Dent. While this is the Joker's story, it serves

little purpose to portray other villains as weak to make him loom larger. As Batman can attest you're only as strong as your opponents. All of the rogues have different looks, thanks to the imaginative illustrations of Lee Bermejo, whose work ranges from remarkable to occasionally awkward. As for Batman he's only seen briefly at the end, a somewhat unsatisfying conclusion that did appear abrupt and condensed, but then again this is more about portent and personalities than plot and practicalities. Comparisons to the creators fantastic Lex Luthor mini are natural and inevitable. That tale took Lex in a different direction and was a major part of its appeal. While this project didn't break any new ground, it thankfully didn't retread the same tiresome and inane gag fests and mindless mania that many of his stories do.

I was really eager to get this book when I ordered it, the synopsis said that I should expect the Joker wreaking havoc on Gotham along with Harley Quinn, Two Face, Killer Croc and the Penguin. And that's what I got, essentially, but it was delivered in a manner that I was not expecting. While the art was beautiful and plot not horrible- albeit lacking some of the complexity I was expecting from an 100+ page book- I was taken aback by the complete butchering of certain characters, specifically Harley Quinn. I don't even need to describe how she was in the book, the artist's own words puts it perfectly."Visually, I threw her in a vinyl outfit and made her look as much like a junkie as possible. Harley Quinn is like a stripper to me. I don't want to know her name, I don't want to hear about her life, and I sure as hell don't want her to talk. Just dance, baby..."Personally, had I read this before buying the book, I would have thought twice about getting it. In addition to the usually energetic Harley being turned into a stoic crack whore, Killer Croc is a gangster with a penchant for hanging out in a slaughter house, the Penguin is a total pushover and the Riddler is a sixties dope head that shows up for no more than three to five pages. If that's not how you want to see some of your favorite characters, then this comic is not for you. Also, if you're not interested in reading this story from the perspective of Jonny Frost, the uninteresting one dimensional lowlife who is more annoying than Holden Caulfield, then don't pick this thing up. He's really what ruined the comic for me. I was so distracted by his rather irritating commentary, explaining things that I can deduct for myself.

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