

“I’m So Done With Clowns”

By: Paige Platter



In recent years, Harley Quinn has risen to fame and power all on her own. First being shown in *Batman: The Animated Series* in 1992, Harley was only the Joker’s girlfriend, a punch line and a punching bag. However, with the rise of feminism and female empowerment movements, Harley has taken on a bigger role and become her own individual person and everyone wants a piece of the Harley pie. Even DC themselves wants the attention Harley is bringing. DC recently released *Harley Quinn: The Animated Series* on their streaming platform DC Universe. There are only a few episodes out right now, with new episodes arriving every Friday, but even so, it’s earned itself an 88% from critics and a 72% from viewers on Rotten Tomatoes.

Harley Quinn, born Harleen Quinzel, was a psychologist at Arkham Asylum when she met Joker and Poison Ivy. Joker, however, plays a bigger role until recently. He manipulated Harley, abused her and in some universes raped her.

He made her Harley Quinn by breaking her mind and in some version, throwing her into a vat of acid. We’re given this side of Harley in the show, she confronts the Joker, with the help of her friend and fellow villain Poison Ivy, and kicks him out of her life. She has to break through the manipulation though. Joker left Harley in Arkham to rot. Harley kept saying he was coming back for her, even though everyone knew he wasn’t. Ivy helped her escape and gave her a place to stay, against Ivy’s talking plant Frank’s protests. Harley realizes that her “puddin” isn’t coming for her and Ivy convinces her to break up with Joker. However, when she confronts Joker, he manipulates her into staying and Harley kisses him before things got “ugly real quick” in Harley’s words.

Harley ended up back at Ivy’s place, and sullen about the fact Joker may have never truly loved her. Ivy responds by reminding her of Harleen, the only doctor who got through to her. Harley then hallucinates, most likely from the blood rushing to her head from being hung upside down by Ivy’s vines, and starts to talk to a picture of herself when she was Harleen. With this conversation comes the realization that the Joker never loved Harley and was willing to sacrifice her life in order to reach his ultimate goal, kill the Batman.

After her realization, she confronts Joker, throws her old costume in his face, and tries to walk out. Joker, however, won’t let her leave and “sicks” his goons on her. Harley, armed with only her hammer fights back. She gets her hammer knocked out of her hands, and steals on the goons bats. With that, she beats them all to a pulp and blows the building up with Joker Bombs. Joker is the only one left alive. When



asked if she was going to kill him, Harley responded with “no, I want you alive so I can see the look on your face when I’m runnin’ this town” then walks away, leaving him to suffer and contemplate.

The show is overall high quality, and the best show DC has done in a while. It’s light, but also dark at the same time. It’s got that Harley spunk and crazy with some darker elements. The show is definitely not for kids, but it is an R-rated series. There is blood and gore, but it’s balanced out with the wackiness of Harley and Ivy. In the middle of Harley beating Joker’s goons up, Ivy shows up and asks what she wants for dinner. Plus Frank the talking plant is always a great addition. There is a lot of swearing, a bit too much sometimes, it almost feels unnatural at some points.



Some good things that have been shown so far is Harley having her New Jersey accent and her relationship with Ivy. Hopefully, as the show goes on, they’ll develop Harley and Ivy’s relationship seeing as the show is based off The New 52 and in those comics, Harley and Ivy are in a relationship together. However, there has been some speculation that Ivy will be dating Kite-Man even though she’s canonically a lesbian. Hopefully, they’ll bring Harley’s hyenas in because they’re just a nice touch to her personality. As well as showing her daughter, if not spending time with Harley, then Harley at least seeing her even from afar.

I have high hopes for this show, and I know many others do as well. It’s fun and almost carefree. Something we haven’t seen from mainstream DC since the Super-Pets comics. Only time will tell if *Harley Quinn: the animated series* will be as good as *Batman: the animated series*.