

THE END

STORY BY
CHAS BLANKENSHIP

SCREENPLAY BY
CHAS BLANKENSHIP

Silence. Darkness. Almost nerve wracking.

FADE IN:

BFF Studios

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

Presents

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

A Chas Blankenship/Robert Thomas Production

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

A Robert Thomas Film

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

THE END

FADE IN:

The Batman logo, worn and tarnished, fades in behind the title.

FADE OUT: TEXT

The Batman Logo is left on screen

BATMAN (V.O.):

Every morning when I look in the mirror, it's into the eyes of a stranger. A ghost; a dead man. I watched him die on a filthy patch of street; watched him die beside my parents.

All that lived of that night...was me. By day, I wear a costume and a mask and go by the name Bruce Wayne; billionaire playboy, philanthropist. After dark, I shed my false skin and reveal my true self. I am the Batman; a creature of nightmare. A silent predator; stalking the streets of Gotham City under the cover of night. Preying upon the superstitious and cowardly lot of the criminal underworld.

During the monologue, we zoom out from the bat symbol, revealing its place in the pupil of an eye. We continue to zoom out to see the face of BRUCE WAYNE. A hand swipes across the mirror.

BATMAN (V.O.):
Carried away...

Bruce looks to his right (Reflection, to the left).

CUT TO:

Bruce looks out of the window of the Master Bath, catching the new rays of sunlight.

BATMAN (V.O.):
Forgot its still morning.

A knock on the door breaks the silence.

ALFRED PENNYWORTH (O.S.):
Master Bruce?

BRUCE WAYNE:
Right, Alfred. Be out in a minute.

Bruce fumbles with a bottle of cologne. Spraying a dab on, Bruce puts it back in the medicine cabinet. He shuts the cabinet, perfectly clipping a...

CUT TO:

INT. - ROLLS ROYCE

ALFRED PENNYWORTH, wearing his traditional driving gloves and chauffeur's hat, drives the Rolls. Bruce, wearing a tailored three piece, sits legs crossed. His chin resting in his hand, looking out the window in deep thought.

BATMAN (V.O.):
Some days, like today, are worse than others. I feel like

I'm losing myself, condemned to this flesh and bone cage.
Today marks a bittersweet occasion...

During the V.O. we slowly zoom in on Wayne. We stop at mid-shot; he's doesn't move.

CUT TO:

OTS BRUCE WAYNE:

As the Rolls crawls to a stop at a signal, we see a street corner. An ordinary corner, nothing to differentiate it from the world's other cities and dark places.

BATMAN (V.O.):

Thirty years today. Thirty years since three lives ended,
and one life began.

The Rolls continues forward down the street. Bruce turns to look forward (R PROFILE)

BATMAN (V.O.):

The City saw fit to hold a tribute for this morning; have me say words that will surely fall on deaf ears...Morbidity is the only thing that comes to mind.

FADE TO:

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY ROBINSON PARK

We pan over the parked limousines outside the iron gates of Robinson Park. Trees sway in the cold wind.

BRUCE WAYNE (O.S.):

It's a harsh place...This world of ours.

CUT TO:

INT. - GOTHAM CITY MEMORIAL PARK

CITIZENS sit in rows of lawn chairs. Bruce stands at a small pew that has been placed before the elaborate statue of his father; the name 'WAYNE' carved upon its granite base. Alfred stands to his left. DICK GRAYSON and TIM DRAKE stand to his right.

BRUCE WAYNE:

I find myself thinking of our city. Thinking of the turmoil it's endured; thinking of the night two of its most prominent citizens were...taken...from us...and sometimes I find

myself thinking...If only.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BRUCE WAYNE

Bruce stares at the crowd gathered with eyes of sorrow; of pain and loneliness. Of darkness. He's almost unable to continue...almost.

BRUCE WAYNE:

If only we...could successfully teach and be taught the difference of right and wrong; of reason and violence...of love and hate. If only our wills could be staunch, and our hearts strong. If only we could see the future; see the pain and despair that awaits us on this path we've taken.

Bruce looks down at the pew.

BRUCE WAYNE:

If only we weren't afraid to stand up to the threat...If...If only I had done something. If only I hadn't been afraid. If only...If only terror hadn't plagued our city...

CUT TO:

Alfred lays a hand on Bruce's shoulder. Bruce looks up into the older gentleman's fatherly gaze. After a moment, he acknowledges the crowd.

BRUCE WAYNE:

Maybe Dr. Thomas and Martha Wayne would still be alive today.

Alfred looks down; still clutching Bruce's shoulder.

CUT TO:

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

Nightfall has settled upon Gotham. A howl rolls through the wind outside the Elizabeth Arkham Asylum for the Criminally Insane. The bustling of the city can be heard in the distance. A prison bell sounds.

CUT TO:

INT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM

A red light bulb flashes on; we pan down to the door it sits above of. The words 'Maximum Security' are printed on it. The door opens; a SECURITY GUARD walks through. He holds his baton at his side as he walks down the narrow hall. Cells make up an entire wall. He finally stops at one; the guard fixes a key in the lock.

CUT TO:

INT. - CELL

The Arkham guard opens the bar door with a rusty creek. He looks into the cell.

ARKHAM GUARD:
Get up.

CUT TO:

In the shadows of the cell sits a MAN, slightly round, small in stature. He stands; light bounces off his one way tinted glasses. The man is PROFESSOR HUGO STRANGE. He smirks through his wiry gray beard.

CUT TO:

INT. - ARKHAM PSYCHIATRIC WARD

Strange walks down the main hallway of the Asylum Psyche ward; the guard follows behind.

CUT TO:

The guard steps forward as the two stop at the door of one of the Asylum's consultation rooms.

ARKHAM GUARD:
You're up for review, Strange. And I don't wanna have to see your ass for another six months.

CUT TO:

In handcuffs, Strange scratches his chin.

HUGO STRANGE:
Circumstance...is not without irony for me. Wouldn't you say?

ARKHAM GUARD:
No, I wouldn't. Save the fancy talk for the shrink.

The guard opens the door, shoving Strange over the threshold. Strange looks back in annoyance as the guard slams the door shut.

PSYCHIATRIST (O.S.):
Good evening, Hugo...Please, have a seat.

Strange turns to meet his Psychiatrist.

CUT TO:

A leather couch rests below a single light fixture, hanging overhead. The PSYCHIATRIST sits in a chair nearby; legs crossed, and a pen and notebook in his hands. Just beyond the light, he is in shadow from the chest up.

CUT TO:

Strange, reluctantly, moves forward.

CUT TO:

Strange takes a seat on the couch. The two sit in silence for several seconds.

PSYCHIATRIST:
Do you know why you were moved to Arkham last month, Hugo?

HUGO STRANGE:
Don't forget; I was once a psychiatrist to...

PSYCHIATRIST:
I'm not...Please answer the question.

Strange takes a deep sigh.

CUT TO:

In the Psychiatrists' hands, we look upon his notebook.

HUGO STRANGE (O.S.):
Exactly 39 days ago, I began to rave about dreams. Dreams concerning...the Batman.

During Strange's answer, the Psychiatrist draws a stick figure with a big smile, holding a butcher knife in one hand.

PSYCHIATRIST (O.S.):

Is it true that you know the identity of Batman, and that you planned to sell it on the black market prior to your arrest?

CUT TO:

Strange looks up at the psychiatrist; he remains silent for a moment.

HUGO STRANGE:

What does a question concerning financial motivation have to do with a routine psychological evaluation?

CUT TO:

PSYCHIATRIST:

Well...given the situation you've found yourself in, I'd say...

The psychiatrist uncrosses his legs, and leans into the light; revealing the face of the JOKER!

JOKER:

A great deal...heh heh heh heh...

CUT TO:

Strange stands with a gasp. Backing up, he trips over the sofa; falling to the floor. He starts to crawl for the door.

CUT TO:

The Joker sits, tapping his pen on his notebook; a toothed grin on his pale face. He makes no move to stop Strange. Loosening a sleeve, the Joker checks his watch.

JOKER:

Oh good. My next patient should be here any second.

CUT TO:

Crawling to the door, Hugo turns the knob. Opening the door, he finds himself starrng between a pair of legs. One red; one black.

CUT TO:

In between the legs, Strange's escort guard lies; his eyes wide. His mouth mimicking the Joker's smile...dead.

HARLEY QUINN (O.S.):
Uh Uh Uh!!!

CUT TO:

Strange looks up.

CUT TO:

HARLEY QUINN; The Joker's henchwench, made up in white make up and the red and black costume of the Harlequin. With a million dollar smile.

HARLEY QUINN:
The doc didn't check ya off yet!

She swings down her over-sized mallet.

CUT TO:

The mallet smashes upon Strange's arm, shattering his forearm into a bloody wad of bone. Rather than a scream, he whimpers hoarsely.

CUT TO:

The Joker stands, making his way towards Strange.

JOKER:
So it's true what they say...Break downs are always
messy...A HA HA HA HA HA HAA!!!

Grabbing Strange's leg, Joker pulls him back into the room. Harley skips into the room, closing the door.

CUT TO:

Strange is thrown onto the leather couch. He clutches at what once was his arm. Tears stream down from his glasses.

CUT TO:

JOKER:
Now...you have to play nice nice, or you'll never pass the test...Did you or did you not try to sell Batsy's identity before he brought you in?

CUT TO:

HUGO STRANGE:
YES! YES!! YOU WERE THERE, JOKER! YOU KNOW!

CUT TO:

Joker and Harley look at each other, startled and concerned.
Joker shrugs.

JOKER:

Oh...well, I guess we *didn't* have to turn his arm into
hamburger.

The two giggle maliciously at each other, flirting
devilishly.

CUT TO:

Joker leans down before Strange, pocketing a closed
switchblade.

JOKER:

Now, my fleshy foreign friend...Spill the beans.
Joker snaps the switchblade open.

JOKER:

Who is Batman?

CUT TO:

Hugo pants deeply, eyeballing the glistening blade.

HUGO STRANGE:

WAYNE! BRUCE WAYNE IS BATMAN!

CUT TO:

Joker rolls his eyes.

JOKER:

Not again...I'm not looking for lies.

Joker slices Hugo on the cheek; deep. Blood starts to spew
from the wound. He cries out with a snotty nose. Joker grabs
him by the chin, digging his fingers into the knife wound.

JOKER:

Be a good little bastard...And tell me the truth.

CUT TO:

Strange spits up blood.

HUGO STRANGE:
I...I SWEAR IT! I SWEAR THAT I AM!

CUT TO:

Joker looks at Strange inquisitively, like Sherlock Holmes searching for the smallest of clues. Over-exaggerated. He suddenly stops.

JOKER:
There's nothing...No smile in your heart; no spark in your soul. Empty...I can see it in your eyes...And lack of comedic spirit such as this tells me...that you ARE telling the truth...

CUT TO:
Strange nods ferociously, trying to save his life.

CUT TO:
Harley puts a comical hand over her mouth in shock.

JOKER (O.S.):
Wayne, huh?

CUT TO:
Joker turns to Harley with a smirk.

CUT TO:
Harley drops her hand from her mouth, picking up the mallet.

CUT TO:
Acknowledging the mallet, Joker waggles a finger at her before turning back to Strange.

CUT TO:
Joker smiles fully at Strange.

JOKER:
Well, well, Hugo. It seems you're getting out of Arkham after all.

CUT TO:
Strange starts to slowly shake his head, whimpering.

CUT TO:

Joker licks some of the blood off the blade. He makes a small sigh, almost like a wounded puppy, before slicing Hugo's throat.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - PSYCHIATRIC REPORT.

The psychiatric report sheet; unused by the Joker. A line of blood spits onto the document. The Joker erupts in laughter.

FADE OUT - VIDEO

The laughter continues in darkness.

FADE OUT - AUDIO

FADE IN:

INT. - THE BATCAVE

Bruce sits before the Bat-Computer, wearing the Batsuit sans the cape, cowl, gloves, and utility belt. Again, he finds himself lost in thought.

BATMAN (V.O.):

The caves beneath the mansion; the personification of my metaphorical hell. Fire and brimstone, no...But the fear and anguish...the rage and loneliness; the emptiness that dwells within its caverns and outcrops as it does within me...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BRUCE

Bruce strokes his chin as he looks off into space. A pack of North American brown bats screech overhead.

BATMAN (V.O.):

To many it would seem bizarre that this dark and obscure sight of perdition; this mass of limestone and naturally primal terror would be the one place on this earth where I truly feel a sense of home. A sense of security. In this war that I have begun, a base of operations is always necessary...

Suddenly, the sound of a man training breaks Bruce's concentration. He looks off to his right.

BATMAN (V.O.):
As are allied forces...

CUT TO:

A montage of shots revealing the training of TIM DRAKE.

BATMAN (V.O.):
Tim Drake. As ambitious a young man as I have ever known. He's known on the battlefield as Robin; the teen wonder. I see him in action, and am reminded of the one thing he has that I never can...access. When his night is done, he hangs up his uniform and goes back to a place of loved ones and friends. I've never had, nor will ever have that luxury. Tim sees being Robin as a privilege; a responsibility. A yellow cape and red tunic are not your basics for an after school internship...but he sees it as an honor to aid my crusade.
To continue a battle fought...

CUT TO:

Bruce looks on at Tim' training.

BATMAN (V.O.):
...by good soldiers...

Suddenly, a beeping erupts from the Bat-Computer. Bruce looks up to the screen.

CUT TO:

BAT-COMPUTER SCREEN

An IM reading 'SIGNAL MOTION DETECTOR' flashes on the screen. The Bat-Signal has been lit.

CUT TO:

Tim dismounts off a balance beam. He walks towards a bench, picking up a towel. He wipes his sweat drenched neck.

BRUCE WAYNE (O.S.):
Robin...

Tim turns and looks off for a moment before laying down the towel.

CUT TO:

Standing from his chair, Bruce takes up his cape from its

place off to the side of the console. Turning, Bruce whips his cape into place as he walks into camera.
WALK THROUGH TO BLACK:

BATMAN (V.O.):
...Finally...

FADE IN:

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY

GOTHAM CITY. An urban sprawl of glass, steel, and stone. A nightmarish conglomerate of towers and smokestacks; skyscrapers and gargoyles. Sprinkled with neon signs and bustling highways. A thriving metropolis in every sense of the word. The symbol of a giant black bat paints the ebony skies overhead.

CUT TO:

EXT. - GCPD CENTRAL

The headquarter precinct of the Gotham City Police Department; appropriately dubbed 'Central.' We pan up the building to the roof. Three figures stand around the Bat Signal; its face pivoted directly out to the rest of Gotham.

CUT TO:

JAMES GORDON; commissioner of the police. His trench coat collar pulled up to block the chill of the air. A pipe hangs from his lips; a puff of smoke escapes. Taking the pipe out in one hand, he checks the Rolex on the wrist of his other.

BATMAN (O.S.):
Jim.

Putting the pipe back in place, Gordon turns to the signal.

CUT TO:

We pan up the Bat symbol of the signal to the top of the fixture. In a mass of cape, the BATMAN lands atop the signal; his eyes flare. His head adorned by a pair of black horns.

CUT TO:
WIDE SHOT

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Punctual as always...

Batman leaps from the signal to the rooftop. ROBIN falls from the sky beside the signal.

CUT TO:

Robin stands from his crouched landing.

ROBIN:
Well, that's what it's for.

Robin pats the signal.

CUT TO:

Batman gives a side glance at Robin as he stalks up to Gordon. He turns back to Jim.

BATMAN:
What's the situation?

CUT TO:

DETECTIVE RENEE MONTOYA walks up behind Gordon. Moving to his side, she holds up a blood splattered manila folder.

CUT TO:

Batman takes the folder, and flips it to see a lime green question mark on its face.

CUT TO:

RENEE MONTOYA:
Two hours ago, Hugo Strange's body was found in one of the psychiatric consultation rooms at the Asylum.

HARVEY BULLOCK (O.S.):
Throat slit...

Montoya looks off to the side.

CUT TO:

DETECTIVE HARVEY BULLOCK steps out from the other side of the signal. He flicks on a Zippo lighter, bringing it to the fresh Cuban in between his teeth.

HARVEY BULLOCK:
Arm smashed to shit. Pretty gruesome; real heart breaking...

CUT TO:

Opening the envelope, Batman pulls out a folded piece of paper. He unfolds it and looks upon it.

BATMAN (V.O.):

It's a simple fact. In war, opponents will differentiate
between strategies to overcome the opposing threat. As
narrow-minded his crimes,

CUT TO:

On the paper is a riddle:

Money and Time for the perfect crime;
Math and Graves, it's all the same.

BATMAN (V.O.):

It seems the Riddler is no exception.

CUT TO:

Robin steps up beside Batman, reading the riddle. He turns to Gordon.

ROBIN:

But what would Nygma have against Strange?

Folding up the riddle, Batman puts it back in the envelope.

BATMAN:

That's the true question, Robin.

Batman hands the envelope...

CUT TO:

Back to Jim.

CUT TO:

Batman walks up to the edge of the roof as Robin already
hurls himself off into space.

CUT TO:

Batman steps one leg up onto the edge, looking on before the
city. His cape draped around his body.

BATMAN:
I'll be in touch.

With a flap of his cape, Batman aims and fires a grappling hook, and zips forward into the charcoal skies.

CUT TO:

Gordon looks on in silence. He places the pipe back in between his teeth, taking a puff of smoke.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
I know you will...

CUT TO:

Batman disappears between a pair of skyscrapers in the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. - BLACKJACK

In the heart of the Entertainment District stands the Blackjack, a trendy nightclub.

CUT TO:

INT. - BLACKJACK

We pan across the patrons of the club; dancing, conversing, having drinks. In the corner, two men sit; one in shadow.

NUMBERS:
You're sure he can get me protection?

CUT TO:
The man not in shadow, NUMBERS, looks at the shadowed man, RIDDLER, nervously.

RIDDLER (O.S.):
Question: Are there ever certainties in this line of work?

Numbers looks at his hands as he twiddles his thumbs. He looks back up.

NUMBERS:
Look, I gave you Strange. What ever the clown's planning, I want in...

CUT TO:

The Riddler sits, his face in shadow.

RIDDLER:

Immunity doesn't guarantee safety. You may gain both if what
you say is true...

Riddler leans in from out of the shadows.

RIDDLER:

But if you're lying...you'll be living your worst fears in a
coffin of ice.

CUT TO:

EXT. - BLACKJACK

We pull out from the club to the rooftop across the street.
Batman and Robin crouch on the ledge.

ROBIN:

This is the place?

CUT TO:

Batman looks to Robin, then turns back to look down upon the
club.

BATMAN:

Every connection we pressed said he'd be here...

ROBIN:

Y'know, after all these years, I can't remember solving a
riddle in one night.

BATMAN:

I know. Something's not right about this...

CUT TO:

L PROFILE - BATMAN

BATMAN:

They're his obsession; his addiction. It's unusual.
Riddler's challenges are never terribly difficult. But for
it to be *this* easy...

CUT TO:

ROBIN:
So who is this guy anyway?

BATMAN (O.S.):
Numbers.

CUT TO:

Batman turns to Robin off frame.

BATMAN:
One of Strange's confidants, and his financial expert.

CUT TO:

ROBIN:
Still doesn't explain a connection.

CUT TO:

BATMAN:
Well, we'll have to ask him, won't we?

CUT TO:

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

JOKER (V.O.):
NOW IS OUR CHANCE! THE TIME HAS COME...AND THE FINAL BATTLE
IS UPON US!

CUT TO:

INT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM

We pan along a row of open cells.

JOKER (V.O.):
For years, he has tormented us. Gotham's self-appointed
messiah, come to deliver this hell hole of a town from
us...as if we were evil...He continues to stand in the way
of our goals; our god giving rights as living beings.

CUT TO:

We roam down a long hallway. GUARDS with deathly pale faces

and wide smiles are strewn about the floor.

JOKER (V.O.):

We've allowed him to intimidate and overpower us as he sits comfortably from his high horse, claiming his actions to be in the name of justice.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Joker stands at a podium in the operating theatre talking to the ROGUES GALLERY and INMATES in the stands.

Joker:

We've allowed this so-called savior to destroy our spirits and lay waste to our souls. We've allowed him to reign over us for long enough. It's been fun over the years, but it's become old hat...until now...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

JOKER:

It brings a smile to my face to know your support is respectfully given. Together, we will destroy his world, and his morals. And eventually...himself!

CUT TO:

Joker's crowd cheers for the speech.

JOKER (O.S.):

TONIGHT! THE FIRST BLOW IS MINE!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

JOKER:

TOMORROW, WE STRIKE!

A smile stretches across Joker's lips as the cheering grows.

CUT TO:

INT. - BLACKJACK

Riddler and Numbers sit silently for several seconds. Suddenly, Riddler's cell begins to ring.

CUT TO:

Numbers looks at Riddler cautiously.

CUT TO:

Flipping the phone open, Riddler puts it to his ear.

RIDDLER:
Go ahead.....when?

Riddler turns and looks at...

CUT TO:

A pair of men, HIRED GOONS, stand off in the distance.

RIDDLER (O.S.):
How long?...Who did they hit?

CUT TO:

Riddler nods as he turns back to Numbers.

RIDDLER:
Yes...okay...

Riddler hangs up the phone.

RIDDLER:
Looks like you were right after all. Right on schedule.

CUT TO:

NUMBERS:
When do you think they'll get here?

CUT TO:

Riddler looks off.

CUT TO:

The two goons are nowhere to be found.

CUT TO:

RIDDLER:
I think they already are...

Riddler turns his head, snapping his fingers.

CUT TO:

THREE MORE GOONS at the bar nod, taking out their firearms.
One aims to the ceiling.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - GUN BARREL

GOON 1 fires.

CUT TO:

EXT. - BLACKJACK

The club patrons burst out of the club in terror.

CUT TO:

The patrons spill out onto the street in panic.

CUT TO:

INT. - BLACKJACK

CLOSE UP - GUN BARREL

A silver bo staff whips the gun from Goon 1's hand.

CUT TO:

Goon 1 recoils his hand in pain. The bo staff swings across his face; again a second time. The staff whips up for a third strike, catching Goon 1 under the chin.

CUT TO:

Goon 1 skids across the bar, unconscious.

CUT TO:

Robin stands in an offensive position for a moment. Standing up right, he turns.

CUT TO:

Batman side steps, missing a punch from GOON 2. Batman catches the arm and twists it. As Goon 2 reels in pain,

Batman takes the man's head by his hair, and bashes it into a nearby table. As Goon 2 fall, a gunshot rings out. Batman ducks into a crouch.

CUT TO:

Flapping his cape to the side, Batman throws a batarang.

CUT TO:

GOON 3 drops his gun in pain. We pan to the right to see Riddler run out the back exit.

CUT TO:

Batman raises his head at the escaping Riddler off frame. He turns to look at Robin.

BATMAN:
Take care of things here!

Batman exits frame.

CUT TO:

The Bo staff swipes across Goon 2's face.

CUT TO:

A black, split-toe ninja tabi boot roundhouses Goon 3 to the temple.

CUT TO:

Numbers tries to run for the front door. The Bo staff strikes him in the side. Robin takes the opportunity, pinning Numbers to the wall. In the background, Batman exits through the back door after Riddler; his cape trailing behind him as a ghost image. Robin leans into Numbers.

ROBIN:
Let's talk.

CUT TO:

EXT. - ALLEYWAY

The camera follows Riddler as he scrambles down the trash filled alleyway

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Riddler bolts across the street into another alley. Batman follows on the rooftop of a building nearby.

CUT TO:

From a fire escape, we see Riddler turn a corner into another alley. Batman lands onto the railing of the fire escape and jumps into the air once more in one fluid motion.

CUT TO:

Riddler turns a second corner, and stops to catch his breath. He turns to see the way he came.

CUT TO:

RIDDLER POV

Riddler's surroundings. Nothing and no one. Steam rises from the gratings on the ground. Silence. Twenty seconds of calm stillness.

CUT TO:

Straightening his jacket, Riddler looks on for but a moment. He turns back to continue on, only to meet Batman face to face! Batman head butts Riddler.

CUT TO:

Riddler falls to the ground, spitting up blood.

CUT TO:

Batman stands before Nygma, looking down upon him ominously.

BATMAN:
Riddler.

RIDDLER:
Oh Batman...

CUT TO:

Riddler looks up at Batman.

RIDDLER:

I've got the greatest question for you...

Batman grabs Riddler's tie with one hand and hoists him up.

CUT TO:

Batman holds Nygma up by his tie, bringing his face to his own.

BATMAN:

Not before you answer my own question...What was your connection to Strange?

Riddler laughs

RIDDLER:

I have my reasons. They're miniscule now. To find the answer is to see the deeper meaning of the question itself...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

BATMAN:

What're you talking about?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - RIDDLER

Riddler laughs.

RIDDLER:

Question: How many more must suffer,
before you take us down?

CUT TO:

Batman grimaces at Riddler.

CUT TO:

Riddler laughs as he looks off to his right.

CUT TO:

Batman, with a sneer, punches Riddler.

CUT TO:

Riddler falls unconscious.

CUT TO:

Batman looks at Riddler for several seconds. He turns and looks to his left. His eyes widen in shock. We pan behind his head to see what he sees; to see what the Riddler had gazed upon. A large billow of smoke rises from the horizon above the skyscrapers.

CUT TO:

Batman's eyes widen.

CUT TO:

The smoke continues to rise to the heavens in the distance.

ROBIN (O.S.):
Well, I didn't get anything out of Numbers...

CUT TO:

As Batman continues to look on, Robin walks up behind him.

ROBIN:
What about you?

Batman doesn't respond as Robin steps forward even more.

ROBIN:
Batman?

Robin looks on at what Batman is staring at.

CUT TO:

Batman looks on at the smoke continues to rise. The camera is placed behind Batman, with his head facing away from us.

CUT TO:

Batman and Robin look on in silence for a moment.

ROBIN:
Wait...Isn't that where...

With a snarl, Batman flaps his cape, enveloping the screen.

ENVELOPE TO BLACK:

DRIVE OUT:

EXT. - WOODLANDS

The Batmobile drives out from camera at accelerating speeds.

CUT TO:

EXT. - WAYNE MANOR.

The mansion; engulfed in flames. Huge portions of the house are destroyed, as if caught in an explosion. Rubble is strewn about.

CUT TO:

The Batmobile breaks through the main gates; a spit of flame trails off from the back burner.

CUT TO:

The Batmobile drives towards camera. Hitting the brakes, its rear pivots, turning the Batmobile nearly in place along its path. It stops to the side.

CUT TO:

Fire dances along Wayne Manor. A cluster of bricks breaks off, falling to the ground.

CUT TO:

The Batmobile canopy slides open. Batman jumps out, racing up to the mansion. The camera follows behind Batman. He stops in his tracks. We pan around to face Batman. He looks over the mansion, almost in disbelief.

BATMAN:
...Alfred...

CUT TO:

INT. - WAYNE MANOR

Batman kicks open the weakened front door and runs into the mansion.

BATMAN:
ALFRED!

CUT TO:

Batman runs through the foyer and into the living room, consistently dodging bursts of flame and debris as he searches.

BATMAN:
ALFRED! ALFRED!

CUT TO:

Batman stops, spotting Alfred sitting in a large lounge chair. We don't see his face.

CUT TO:

Alfred, sitting in the chair, facing away from Batman (camera).

CUT TO:

Batman runs over to Alfred, stopping just short right behind him.

BATMAN:
...Alfred?

Batman puts a hand on Alfred's shoulder.

CUT TO:

Suddenly, Alfred's head rolls to the right; dead. He looks up at Batman with a large smile and wide eyes.

CUT TO:

Batman is physically taken aback in utter shock as the mansion burns around him. He slowly looks up to his left.

CUT TO:

We zoom up to the portrait of Dr. Thomas and Martha Wayne. It's vandalized. They bear hideous grins.

BATMAN (O.S.):
God, no...

CUT TO:

Shocked, Batman steps back. He staggers. Forgetting his

hand, he accidentally pulls Alfred's corpse from the chair.
He falls onto his stomach.

CUT TO:

Batman looks down at Alfred, overwhelmed. He begins to
hyperventilate.

CUT TO:

Alfred's corpse lies among rubble.

CUT TO:

Robin runs up to Batman, looking down at Alfred.

ROBIN:
C'mon, Bruce...

Robin tries to pull Batman back, but Batman resists as he's
still in shock. Slowly but surely, Robin struggles with
Batman, who continues to resist.

ROBIN:
Bruce!

BATMAN:
ALFRED!

ROBIN:
NO...He's gone! He's gone!

BATMAN:
No...

ROBIN:
He's DEAD! Bruce...we gotta get outta here; this whole place
is coming down!

CUT TO:

Alfred's corpse lying in the rubble.

CUT TO:

Batman steps back, barely missing falling debris.

CUT TO:

Robin and Batman dodge fire and debris as they make it for

the front door.

CUT TO:

We pull back from Alfred's corpse. Rubble falls, covering the frame.

CUT TO:

EXT. - WAYNE MANOR

The Batmobile canopy slides back into place.

CUT TO:

The Batmobile tires squeal and rev on the pavement.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

The Batmobile backs up, turns its wheels, and zooms off away from the mansion as it continues to burn. More chunks of brick fall.

FADE TO BLACK:

BRAD WALSH (O.S. TV):
Good Evening, Bludhaven. I'm Brad Walsh.

FADE IN:

EXT. - BLUDHAVEN

Bludhaven, Gotham's sister city. As bad as Gotham is, Bludhaven's worse in a lot of ways; or so it's told. We pan over to a tenement building.

BRAD WALSH (O.S. TV):
Our top two stories come from Gotham City, where police were baffled late this afternoon by the disappearance of the Bat-Signal from the rooftop of the department's 'Central' precinct. However, this case of theft holds no connection to today's biggest news event, where a development has been made...

CUT TO:

INT. - DICK GRAYSON'S APARTMENT

CLOSE UP - TV

The Bludhaven Newscast. Once the story goes to Summer Gleason on location, a knock on the door erupts.

We pull back from the TV. A man walks in from camera right. We pull back to see the back of his head. We follow behind him down a small hallway as he opens the door, clipping a...

CUT TO:

EXT. - DICK GRAYSON'S APARTMENT

The door opens, revealing DICK GRAYSON, in civilian clothes.

CUT TO:

INT. - DICK GRAYSON'S APARTMENT

BARBARA GORDON, wheelchair bound, looks up at Dick. Behind her, CASSANDRA CAIN grips the handles of her chair.

DICK GRAYSON (O.S.):

Babs; Cassie.

BARBARA GORDON:

How is he?

CUT TO:

DICK GRAYSON:

He just didn't know where else to go...

Dick, Barbara, and Cassandra walk/wheel into the living room as the newscast continues playing. They look in upon...

CUT TO:

HELENA BERTINELLI, sitting in a chair watching the news. She looks over, and stands. We pan over to see Tim Drake in civilian cloths sitting on the arm of a sofa. Batman stands, looking out the window; facing away from camera.

BATMAN (V.O.):

When dealt a significant blow, retreat is the primary option. It gives you time to recollect your thoughts...plan your next motion, be it attack or defense...gather your forces together...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - L PROFILE - BATMAN

Batman, his eyes closed, as he faces the window.

BATMAN (V.O.):

And mourn the casualties that have fallen in your stead.

Batman, eyes closed, in silence.

CUT TO:

A hand turns off the TV.

CASSANDRA CAIN (O.S.):

Anything new?

CUT TO:

Having turned off the TV, Dick stands upright, turning to Cassandra.

DICK GRAYSON:

Detonators. Traces of them found in the house.

BARBARA GORDON:

Do you really think it to be Firefly's work?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - GRAYSON

DICK GRAYSON:

Seems that way...Tim, did you see anything?

CUT TO:

Tim steps forward; Batman stands behind him to camera left; still facing away towards the window.

TIM DRAKE:

If you count fire and dust as a clue. It was just too much.
It could very well have been Lynns.

BATMAN:

It wasn't.

CUT TO:

The knights turn and look on at Batman off frame.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman, facing away from camera.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - DICK GRAYSON

DICK GRAYSON:
But...if not Lynns, then...who?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman, facing away from camera. He's silent for several moments.

BATMAN:
...Joker.

CUT TO:

Barbara's eyes widen.

BARBARA GORDON:
WHAT?

CUT TO:

Tim turns to face Batman.

TIM DRAKE:
What makes you so sure it was him?

BATMAN (O.S.):
I know what I saw...

CUT TO:

Batman, facing away from camera.

BATMAN:
My mother and father's portrait; vandalized with grins on
their faces. Alfred's dead smile; the same affects as the
Joker's neurotoxin.

CUT TO:

CASSANDRA CAIN:
What? Mr. Pennyworth's...dead?

CUT TO:

TIM DRAKE:
So what does that mean?

DICK GRAYSON (O.S.):
Are you listening, Tim?

Tim turns his head.

CUT TO:

DICK GRAYSON:
It means he knows.

CUT TO:

TIM DRAKE:
But...

CUT TO:

DICK GRAYSON:
JOKER KNOWS! What part of that aren't you getting?

CUT TO:

Batman continues to look out the window in silence.

CUT TO:

TIM DRAKE:
Then what are we supposed to do now?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - L PROFILE - BATMAN

Batman; his eyes still closed. Suddenly, a small beeping rings off in his ear. Batman opens his eyes, and places a finger to his left ear.

CUT TO:

Helena turns to look in Batman's direction.

HELENA BERTINELLI:

What is it?

CUT TO:

Batman turns to the knights finally, lowering his hand.

BATMAN:

Gordon's tuning into his frequency on the police ban radio.

CUT TO:

DICK GRAYSON:

Right.

Dick turns and moves into another room.

CUT TO:

Walking up to a desk, Dick opens a drawer, taking out a wireless radio.

CUT TO:

Dick sets the radio down on a table. We pull out to see the knights positioned around the table as Dick tunes into Gordon's frequency. After a period of static...

COMMISSIONER GORDON (O.S. RADIO):

Calling for support, calling for support. This is Commissioner James Gordon, The GCPD 'Central' precinct is under siege, repeat; The GCPD 'Central' precinct is under siege. Calling for support from all precincts within the lower and upper west side and Bludhaven. Repeat, 'Central' precinct is under siege...*static*

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BARBARA GORDON

BARBARA GORDON:

Dad...

BATMAN (O.S.):

Nightwing...

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman turns to Grayson.

BATMAN:
You and Batgirl suit up. Go to Central; help Gordon and the
cops...

Batman looks over his shoulder to Tim and Helena.

BATMAN:
Robin and Huntress, you two go to Arkham, see if you can
find out something we don't already know.

CUT TO:

DICK GRAYSON:
What about you?

CUT TO:

Batman turns back to Grayson.

BATMAN:
I know what I need to do, and that we don't have the time
for me to elaborate.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman turns to camera.

BATMAN:
We move out now!

CUT TO:

EXT. - CENTRAL PRECINCT

A cluster of COPS burst from the main doors, causing tear
gas to billow out onto the street. They cough feverishly.

COP 1:
UGH...OH GOD!

CUT TO:

The cops fall upon the front steps, toppling to their knees.
A few of them tumble down the staircase.

CUT TO:

Through the tear gas, we see the silhouette of THE PENGUIN.

PENGUIN:
WAGHH, WAGHH, WAGHH!

CUT TO:

BATMAN (V.O.):
Retreat is the premiere option in combat. However in doing so, you risk leaving your post vulnerable to opposing attack. Gotham is a fragile battlefield, and has seen its share of tragedy. And in abandoning it, I may have mistakenly given the enemy firm footing...

During Batman's monologue, we...
CUT TO:

MID SHOT

INT. - CENTRAL PRECINCT

Penguin turns with a smirk, making his way back into Central; twirling his umbrella.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - COP 2.

COP 2 stands, his eyes unblinking, as a white-gloved hand sticks an 'In This Style 10/6' mid control card into the brim of his hat. The card gives off two electronic beeps.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Jervis Tetch, The MAD HATTER, steps back; admiring his work. A line of COPS; under his mind control. Penguin walks up to his side.

END OF MONOLOGUE

PENGUIN:
When do you believe our brooding friend will arrive?

CUT TO:

Mad Hatter looks at camera; Penguin stands off to his left behind him.

MAD HATTER:

With certainty I am not, young Alice. For the Red Queen
plays her pawns first...

CUT TO:

Gordon, crouched in his office; his head poking out from the
open doorway. He turns back in, facing his left.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
Cobblepot's got that goddamn umbrella. I don't see a weapon
on Hatter.

We pan over to find Montoya and Bullock crouching beside
their commissioner.

BULLOCK:
How strongly are they guarding the door? The emergency
exits?

CUT TO:

EXT. - GORDON'S OFFICE

Gordon looks out from around the corner again.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
The emergency exits are...

CUT TO:

The emergency exit doors; a stack of corpses block them.

COMMISSIONER GORDON (O.S.):
Barricaded...

CUT TO:

EXT. - GORDON'S OFFICE

Gordon turns his head slightly.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
They've started rounding up men with Tetch's brainwashing
technology. They've got the door covered.

CUT TO:

Hatter and Penguin converse out of earshot in front of the mind controlled cops. We pan over across the front clerk's desk to see the other side of it vacant; apart from a few strewn bodies.

COMMISSIONER GORDON (O.S.):

If we could get to the side of the desk, we could catch them off guard and make a run for the garage.

CUT TO:

Gordon turns back to Bullock and Montoya.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

You follow me?

RENEE MONTOKYA:

Always.

CUT TO:

Gordon smirks.

CUT TO:

Gordon turns, looking over his shoulder. Bullock and Montoya crouch beside him. Slowly, all three pull their firearms.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

We play it slowly. Don't shoot until absolutely necessary. Follow my lead.

CUT TO:

MAD HATTER:

Joker said it would take time. Learn some patience, you squawking bird!

PENGUIN:

Don't yell at me! And who put you in charge? I'M the one who hit the cops FIRST; while you sat with your stupid cards, picking up the scraps like a stubborn vulture!

CUT TO:

As Penguin and Hatter bicker, we pan alongside Gordon as he leads Montoya and Bullock on all fours. They weave around dead cops.

CUT TO:

Gordon stops cautiously. He looks down.

CUT TO:

A cop; dead. Eyes open, face bloody.

COMMISSIONER (O.S.):
Merkel...

CUT TO:

Gordon narrows his eyes in grief as he presses on.

CUT TO:

We hear the faint sound of Gordon and the detective's movements. Penguin hears the movement; his eyes respond. He looks back at Hatter.

PENGUIN:
My sincerest apologies, but this bickering is pointless.
Lest we forget the reason we were sent here.

CUT TO:

Hatter's eyes dart to the side for a moment, then return to Penguin with a small smirk.

MAD HATTER:
You're right, Oswald.

Tetch shifts up a sleeve, revealing a small computer gauntlet of sorts. He presses a small button.

CUT TO:

Gordon looks at Bullock and Montoya. He pulls back the chamber of his gun.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
On my mark...

Gordon releases the chamber, it slides quickly back into place.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
Three...Two...

CUT TO:

Gordon props up from behind the desk, followed by Bullock.
Montoya is off frame.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
DROP THE WEAPON, NOW!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - PENGUIN'S HAND/UMBRELLA HANDLE

Penguin pumps the handle; the sound of a shotgun pumping goes off.

CUT TO:

Penguin spins in place, aiming his umbrella off frame to camera left in a three quarter stance.

PENGUIN:
WAGHH...

CUT TO:

The three hit the dirt as a shotgun round explodes, blowing a chunk off the desk. In turn...

CUT TO:

Gordon pokes out from the side of the desk, taking two shots.

CUT TO:

The first shot hits the ground. The second shot is a success, catching Penguin in the knee cap. Penguin squawks in pain.

CUT TO:

From the other side of the desk, Bullock charges forward.

CUT TO:

Hatter turns just in time to receive a fierce right cross to the face.

CUT TO:
Bullock delivers a pair of gut punches to Tetch, knocking him down.

CUT TO:

Penguin, on his side on the floor, searches around for his discarded umbrella. He spots it.

CUT TO:

Penguin picks up the umbrella.

CUT TO:

Penguin tilts his head to look at Hatter and Bullock.

CUT TO:

Bullock crouches before the fallen Hatter, choking him.

CUT TO:

Penguin grimaces as he squeezes off a round.

COMMISSIONER GORDON (O.S.):
Harvey, LOOK OUT!

A shotgun round booms.

CUT TO:

Harvey ducks. Just behind him, Montoya runs up. She catches the round high in her chest. The impact sends her flying up onto the clerks' desk.

CUT TO:

Bullock turns to look, in shock.

HARVEY BULLOCK:
MONTOKA!

CUT TO:

Hatter smirks; he head butts...

CUT TO:

Bullock in the temple. Bullock staggers off of Tetch.

CUT TO:

Penguin smirks, coughing up a strand of blood, as he clutches his knee in one hand and the umbrella in the other.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - PENGUIN'S HAND

Penguin slowly begins to squeeze on the umbrella handle.

CUT TO:

Gordon kicks the umbrella from Penguin's grasp. Then as Penguin looks up in frustration, a second kick to his face; his beak crunches from the blow. Blood spews.

CUT TO:

Bullock backs off, disoriented by Hatter's attack. Suddenly, Hatter kicks him in the groin. Bullock goes down, screaming in pain.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - HATTER'S SLEEVE

From his other sleeve, Tetch pulls another mind controlling card.

CUT TO:

Gordon picks up Penguin's collar, back fisting him across the face. He punches him. Again and again.

CUT TO:

Penguin's head jolts to the sides with each blow. Blood spews every which way.

CUT TO:

Gordon, delivering blow after bone crushing blow.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
You SON OF A BITCH!

CUT TO:

Penguin spits up blood as he's beaten into a fleshy wad.

CUT TO:

Gordon stops, trying to catch his breath. Suddenly, the

hammer of a gun is pulled back off frame. Gordon turns his head.

CUT TO:

Bullock, under Hatter's mind control. He levels his pistol.

CUT TO:

Hatter laughs as he begins to press a button.

CUT TO:

Gordon releases Cobblepot's collar. Penguin's unconscious heap of body falls to the floor. Slowly, Gordon tries to stand.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

No, Bullock...Not you...Don't do it...Bullock.

CUT TO:

Harvey, unblinking; unflinching. He keeps his gun steady. Hatter laughs again.

MAD HATTER (O.S.):

He can't hear you, Commissioner!

CUT TO:

MAD HATTER:

No one can hear you!

Hatter tries to press the button, but a batarang stops him, digging into his hand. Tetch howls with pain.

CUT TO:

BATGIRL crashes through one of the windows.

CUT TO:

Batgirl lands in a mass of black cape before Hatter. Hatter turns to look upon her with a sneer.

MAD HATTER:

BITCH! You nearly took my HAND!

NIGHTWING (O.S.):

She could've done more than that.

Hatter looks up.

CUT TO:

NIGHTWING stares down from an open skylight. Crouching, he jumps into the air, and falls through the skylight into the station.

CUT TO:

Nightwing lands beside a still-crouched Batgirl. He stands upright, pulling a single escrima stick.

NIGHTWING:

Be grateful she doesn't think you fit to die at her hand.

CUT TO:

Hatter growls angrily as he quickly presses a button. We swivel to Bullock. His mind control card beeps. He turns, aiming his pistol. He fires off his rounds.

CUT TO:

Nightwing crouches beside Batgirl. The two leap to the other side out of the range of fire.

CUT TO:

Bullock turns to his left, continuing to fire in Nightwing's direction.

CUT TO:

Nightwing performs acrobatics; flipping off walls and desks, dodging the gunfire. With a forward flip, Nightwing hurls his escrima stick.

CUT TO:

The stick bludgeons Bullock in the head, but successfully smashes the card off of him.

CUT TO:

The pieces of the card's circuitry fall before Bullock to his feet.

CUT TO:

Bullock blinks, dropping his gun. He massages his head.

HARVEY BULLOCK:
What...what the?

CUT TO:

Hatter grabs Nightwing's discarded weapon.

CUT TO:

Nightwing drops to the floor, and begins to charge Hatter; pulling his second escrima stick.

NIGHTWING:
COMMISSIONER, GET OUT OF HERE!

CUT TO:

Gordon, stunned by the evening's events. Slowly, he regains composure. He nods, and moves to exit.

CUT TO:

Hatter swings to catch Nightwing in the side; Nightwing blocks the attack. Twirling the escrima stick, Nightwing jolts the butt of the shatter proof weapon upward, catching Hatter under the chin.

CUT TO:

Hatter staggers. Nightwing twirls in place, connecting the heel of a powerful roundhouse to Hatter's temple.

CUT TO:

As Nightwing and Hatter fight off frame. Gordon runs out the front entrance.

CUT TO:

EXT. - CENTRAL PRECINCT

Gordon runs down the front steps, looking back at everything inside. He turns, but stops in his tracks.

CUT TO:

The cops under Hatter's mind control. They stand in a line, not moving or speaking.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Gordon faces the controlled cops.

CUT TO:

Slowly, the cops move to form a circular barrier around Gordon.

CUT TO:

The circle is completed around Gordon. He looks around at all the cops cautiously.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LOCK UP'S FEET.

Slowly, a pair of black booted feet walks up.

CUT TO:

Gordon, looking around at the cops.

LOCK-UP:

How intriguing, this device of Tetch's.

Gordon turns to the voice.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Bolton...

CUT TO:

Lyle Bolton, LOCK-UP, steps forward just behind a pair of min controlled cops.

LOCK-UP:

Not bad craftsmanship for a piece of slime like him.

Lock-Up holds up his arm. Another of Tetch's gauntlets.

CUT TO:

Gordon raises an eyebrow to the gesture.

LOCK-UP:

You can activate the mind control with one, but control it
with another.

CUT TO:

Lock-Up presses a button.

CUT TO:

The mind control cards beep as the cops pull their firearms.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - COPS

A row of the cops, motionless. They don't blink, don't
speak; nothing.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - COMMISSIONER GORDON

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Don't...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LOCK-UP'S GAUNTLET

Lock-Up presses the button.

CUT TO:

The pair of cops standing in front of Bolton fire.

CUT TO:

Gordon's hit in his knees. His weight gives way from the
loss of feeling in his legs. He goes down.

CUT TO:

Gordon tries to slowly prop himself up onto his elbows in
slight shock.

LOCK-UP (O.S.):

I don't know what's worse.

Gordon slowly looks up at Bolton off frame.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LOCK-UP

LOCK-UP:

You ruining my life and career...Or entrusting Gotham to a
band of insane vigilantes.

CUT TO:

Gordon coughs.

CUT TO:

INT. - CENTRAL PRECINCT

Nightwing dodges Hatter's downward swing. He follows suit,
elbowing Tetch in the back of his neck. Hatter falls.

CUT TO:

Coughing blood, Hatter tries to get back up. Suddenly, the
two escrima sticks, both now wielded by Nightwing, close in
a vice around Hatter's neck. Suddenly, they force his own
head to hit upon Nightwing's knee.

CUT TO:

Nightwing stands, holding the escrima sticks. Giving one a
slight twirl, he puts them back into their place, reaching
down with free hands.

CUT TO:

Nightwing hunches over Hatter, pulling him up by his collar.

NIGHTWING:

Where's Joker?

Tetch coughs. Slowly, he starts to giggle.

MAD HATTER:

You can't stop him now...It's coming, and by daybreak
tomorrow, Gotham will be ours.

NIGHTWING:

What're you talking about? WHO ELSE is BEHIND THIS!?

CUT TO:

Mad Hatter coughs some more as he pulls out a piece of paper with a free hand. He holds it in his fingers.

MAD HATTER:

To find the answer...is to see the deeper meaning of the question itself...

CUT TO:

Nightwing sneers upon Tetch. He takes a final swing...

CUT TO:

The blow sends Tetch unconscious.

CUT TO:

Nightwing continues to sneer upon the fallen Hatter. Slowly he picks up the paper Hatter was holding. He unfolds it, and reads. His eyes widen.

NIGHTWING:

No...

LOCK-UP (O.S.):

READY!

Nightwing looks up.

NIGHTWING:

Gordon...

CUT TO:

EXT. - CENTRAL PRECINCT

The mind controlled cops pull up their pistols. They all pull back their hammers.

CUT TO:

Gordon propped up on his elbows, facing down at the asphalt. He coughs up a wad of blood to the pavement.

CUT TO:

Lock-Up presses a button.

LOCK-UP:
AIM!

CUT TO:

The cops level their weapons upon the commissioner.

CUT TO:

Gordon closes his eyes tightly. Slowly, they open.

CUT TO:

Gordon looks up at the cops. The very men and women that served under him for so long. He pants heavily as he braces himself for the onslaught.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LOCK-UP'S GAUNTLET

Lock-Up presses a button.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LOCK-UP

LOCK-UP:
FIRE!

CUT TO:

Without warning, Batgirl leaps from behind the cops on the other side of Bolton! Using her cape to slow the descent, she...

CUT TO:

Lands on top of the huddled commissioner. She spreads her cape taut around her and Gordon.

CUT TO:

INT. - CENTRAL PRECINCT

Gunfire explodes in fury. Nightwing turns.

NIGHTWING:
NO!!!!

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

The circle of cops' fire upon Batgirl! Blood spews from the mass of scalloped cape.

CUT TO:

Lock-Up stands, arms folded. Looking on as the gunfire continues. Suddenly, a battle cry from Nightwing. Lock-Up looks up and is shocked.

CUT TO:

Nightwing falls upon Lock-Up with an outstretched leg.

CUT TO:

Batgirl's body writhes around from the gunfire.

CUT TO:

The cops continue firing. Suddenly, they stop, continuing to aim their smoking pistols.

CUT TO:

Lock-Up, unconscious upon the pavement. Nightwing cautiously walks into frame. He stops; his legs shaking slightly. The gauntlet remote falls to the ground.

CUT TO:

OTS BATGIRL

Batgirl's lifeless body. From a distance, Nightwing cautiously and slowly walks forward in utter horror and shock.

CUT TO:

NIGHTWING POV

We inch closer to Batgirl.

CUT TO:

Nightwing stops and falls to his knees before Batgirl. He can't say a word; he just looks dumbfounded. Slowly, he

reaches; putting a hand on Batgirl's shoulder.

CUT TO:

Not wanting to overly disrupt Batgirl, Nightwing slowly tugs on her shoulder. Without warning, she topples off of Gordon, facing up before Nightwing.

CUT TO:

Nightwing looks away in sheer disgust, closing his eyes in pain. He breathes a heavy sigh. Slowly, he looks back, trying to hold in tears.

CUT TO:

Batgirl; dead. Her cowl almost ripped off her face. Cassandra's dead eye looks up at Nightwing. Blood drips from her gaping, open mouth. Her costume and body are completely ripped through; black leather fused with flesh and blood.

NIGHTWING (O.S.):
...Cassie...

CUT TO:

Nightwing looks down in mourning. Slowly, he looks back up at Cain, sobbing soundly. He crouches down further, placing his head upon her stomach. Tears flow freely as he mourns the fallen heroine.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Nightwing huddles over Batgirl, crying. The cops stand still and motionless in a circle about them without a command from their mind control.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing; his eyes closed. Suddenly, Gordon starts to groan in pain off frame. Nightwing's eyes slowly open.

CUT TO:

Nightwing kneels back upward. He sees Gordon.

CUT TO:

Gordon slowly tries to move; he's clearly having trouble.
Nightwing moves to his side.

NIGHTWING:
Commissioner...

CUT TO:

Gordon coughs as he tries to look up at Nightwing.

CUT TO:

NIGHTWING:
Easy, easy...The hospitals' a few blocks. You'll be okay...
Nightwing takes a breath as he moves to hoist Gordon to his feet.

NIGHTWING:
C'mon.

CUT TO:

Nightwing slowly hoists Gordon to his feet, wrapping
Gordon's right arm around his own neck. Gordon groans;
Nightwing turns to look downward.

CUT TO:

The paper Tetch had on his person. We can't read it or see
what's on it too clearly.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing narrows his eyes.

NIGHTWING:
Bruce...

BEAT

NIGHTWING:
Damn it...

CUT TO:

Nightwing turns back to Gordon. As Nightwing and Gordon

start to walk into a nearby alley, he turns on the radio receiver in his ear with two fingertips.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT:

Nightwing escorts Gordon away from the circle of cops, the unconscious Lock-Up, and Cassandra Cain.

NIGHTWING:

I need an ambulance and squad cars at 37th and Devonshire;
the 'Central' precinct...Hurry...please...

FADE TO BLACK:

FLASH IN:

COMPUTER MONITOR

A computer boots up to life, files blink up in rows on the screen. A dial tone goes off. After a moment, it clicks on.

NIGHTWING (O.S. RADIO):
Oracle...

ORACLE (O.S.):
Dick, how's dad? Is he...?

NIGHTWING (O.S. RADIO):
He's fine Barbara. Everything's fine...

CUT TO:

EXT. - SENTRY HOSPITAL

Nightwing crouches on a rooftop overlooking the hospital below. His back to camera.

NIGHTWING:

I took him to the Sentry Hospital on 39th near the bypass.
Bullock's sitting with him now.

CUT TO:

INT. - CLOCK TOWER

Barbara breaths a sigh of relief.

ORACLE:
Thank god.

NIGHTWING (O.S. RADIO):

Listen, we can't worry about that now. Back at 'Central,'
Tetch had a clue that pinned Leslie to be the next target.

CUT TO:

EXT. - SENTRY HOSPITAL

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing, looking upon the hospital. A finger to his
receiver.

ORACLE (O.S. RADIO):

Ms. Thompkins? But why?

NIGHTWING:

I suppose now that Joker knows the truth, he's having all of
our friends and allies taken out...Any idea where Bruce is?

CUT TO:

INT. - CLOCK TOWER.

Slowly, and cautiously, a purple gloved hand opens a door.

ORACLE (O.S.):

No. He's turned off his tracking signal.

NIGHTWING (O.S. RADIO):

Where the hell could he be with all of this happening?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ORACLE

ORACLE:

Wait...Dick, where's Cassandra? I don't see her signal
either...

CUT TO:

EXT. - SENTRY HOSPITAL

Nightwing closes his eyes in silence. He takes a breath.

NIGHTWING:

...She's gone...

CUT TO:

INT. - CLOCK TOWER

CLOSE UP - ORACLE

ORACLE:
WHAT!? HOW!?

CUT TO:

A pair of white sneaker and red sock wearing feet slowly and steadily walk into the room.

NIGHTWING (O.S. RADIO):
A group of the cops were under Tetch's mind control. She shielded the commissioner when they were ordered to fire.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ORACLE

ORACLE:
A hero till the end...

NIGHTWING (O.S. RADIO):
I'm en route to Leslie's. Keep me updated if and when Bruce decides to tap back into reality.

ORACLE:
Right...

Silence. Suddenly, the computer beeps. Oracle looks over the screen. Her eyes widen.

ORACLE:
Dick, hold on.

NIGHTWING (O.S. RADIO):
What is it? Bruce turn on his signal again?

ORACLE:
Not exactly. Someone much more surprising.

CUT TO:

The purple gloved hands hold up a camera before a Hawaiian shirt.

NIGHTWING (O.S. RADIO):
I'm going anyway...Nightwing out...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ORACLE

ORACLE:
I'll let you know about Bruce.

Oracle presses a button, ending the comm link.

CUT TO:

Suddenly, a purple gloved hand tugs on Oracle's wheelchair, spinning her around.

ORACLE:
Ugh...What the?

Oracle looks up, confused.

CUT TO:

Joker, decked out in the same clothes he wore when he paralyzed Barbara. He smiles menacingly as he brings the camera up to his eye (Killing Joke cover).

JOKER:
Smile.

CUT TO:

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY

We pan along a street as citizens walk along the sidewalks. We stop on a building across the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. - ANGEL OF MERCY 24 HOUR CLINIC

The sign for the 'Angel of Mercy 24 Hour Clinic.'

CUT TO:

INT. - ANGEL OF MERCY 24 HOUR CLINIC

WIDE SHOT

LESLIE THOMPkins walks forth out of the kitchen, holding a plated cup of hot tea. She slowly turns, turning off the

kitchen light in her wake as she makes her way into the living room. The clinic doubles as her home.

CUT TO:

Leslie takes a seat in a large comfortable chair, setting the tea down. Off in the background is Leslie's desk; an activated computer resting on top, working its screensaver. With a sigh, Leslie picks up a remote, turning on the TV.

SUMMER GLEASON (O.S. TV):

The DA made the deal, and bail was denied to the plaintiff on racketeering charges.

CUT TO:

SUMMER GLEASON (TV):

In other news, gang drive bys have escalated in the past two weeks. Thirteen children, none of them more than nineteen, have been found shot to death around Crime Alley and the Bayside district.

The TV turns off.

CUT TO:

Leslie puts the remote down with a solemn sigh. She rubs the bridge of her nose as she narrows her eyes in frustration. She turns, picking out her tea cup. She takes a small sip.

HILDA:

You still awake, Ms. Thompkins?

Leslie turns.

CUT TO:

A woman, HILDA, walks down a flight of stairs.

CUT TO:

Leslie turn back to her tea.

LESLIE THOMPkins:

Yes, I'm afraid. Did I disturb you?

HILDA (O.S.):

Oh no, honey.

CUT TO:

Hilda steps up to Leslie.

HILDA:
Denise finally fell asleep, so...

LESLIE THOMPkins:
I see. Will you be back tomorrow?

HILDA:
Same time. I'll bring you some breakfast.

CUT TO:

Leslie smiles, looking down at the tea. She looks back up at Hilda.

LESLIE THOMPkins:
Thank you, Hilda.

CUT TO:

HILDA:
No...Thank you, Ms. Thompkins.

With a smile, Hilda turns and exits.

CUT TO:

Leslie turns to the side table beside her chair. She picks up a book and opens it to read as the sounds of Hilda unlocking, shutting, and relocking the front door can be heard.

CUT TO:

Leslie takes another sip of her tea as she reads for several moments in silence. 20 seconds at least. Suddenly, there's a small knock on the door. Leslie turns to the door, still for a moment. She sets down her cup and book, and moves to the door.

CUT TO:

Leslie moves up to the door.

CUT TO:

Slowly, Leslie snaps the door chain in place. We pan down with her hand as she unlocks a number of locks on the door. She slowly turns the knob opening the door.

CUT TO:

BEAT

The door bursts open, sending Leslie flying across the living room.

CUT TO:

Leslie hits back into her chair. She gasps for air after having the wind knocked out of her. She slowly looks up. Her eyes widen.

CUT TO:

A pair of large booted feet slam into the room. They stop, we pan up the hulking mass of muscle to find the Latin mercenary; BANE!

BANE:

Senora Thompkins. A pleasure to see you again.

CUT TO:

LESLIE THOMPkins:

Bane?

CUT TO:

BANE:

I do appreciate your work, healing the sick and wounded of this city. However business is business. The clown sees fit to have you dead.

CUT TO:

LESLIE THOMPkins:

The Joker...He sent you?

CUT TO:

BANE:

No man controls me! Money is the world's greatest power, alongside me...

CUT TO:

Bane begins to walk forward to Leslie. Leslie desperately tries to get up.

CUT TO:

Leslie, facing away from camera, looking at the approaching Bane. We pan down, to see her hand trying to fumble for an object. It falls upon the hot tea cup handle.

CUT TO:

Bane stands just before Leslie. Without warning, Leslie flings the tea into Bane's eyes.

CUT TO:

Bane shrieks from the pain, staggering back.

CUT TO:

Leslie jumps from the chair, running to the computer.

CUT TO:

Leslie boots up the computer, picking up and holding a headset microphone to her mouth.

LESLIE THOMPkins:

ORACLE! ORACLE! Send someone over to the clinic, Hurry!

CUT TO:

INT. - CLOCK TOWER

CLOSE UP - ORACLE

Barbara Gordon, dead. Eyes open. Riddler carves a question mark into her forehead with a rusty utility knife.

LESLIE THOMPkins (O.S. RADIO):

Bane's here! Oracle! Bruce?

CUT TO:

LESLIE THOMPkins (O.S. RADIO):

Can anyone hear me?

Riddler crouches over Barbara, admiring his work. Joker stands off behind him, looking down with nothing but a smile.

RIDDLER:

Riddle me this, Riddle me that...Riddle me this, Riddle me that.

CUT TO:

INT. - ANGELS OF MERCY 24 HOUR CLINIC

CLOSE UP - LESLIE THOMPkins

LESLIE THOMPkins:
ORACLE!

CUT TO:

R PROFILE - LESLIE THOMPkins

A large gloved hand encloses around the headset in Leslie's hands as Bane pulls Leslie back by the scruff of her sweater top.

CUT TO:

Bane hurls Leslie back to the chair. She hits it, toppling over the chair to the floor.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE'S HAND

Bane crushes the headset in one hand.

CUT TO:

Groggy, Leslie tries to stand. Bane reaches down, hoisting her up to her knees.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Bane stands menacingly; towering over Leslie. He pulls back his other fist.

BANE:
Goodbye...Senora Thompkins.

CUT TO:

The front door to the clinic. A sharp and small knock.

CUT TO:

Bane looks at the door (at camera off frame).

CUT TO:

Suddenly, a katana juts into the door, splintering an opening. It sits for a split second before pulling back out. The door is kicked in off its hinges.

CUT TO:

The door falls to the ground, kicking up dust.

JEAN PAUL VALLEY (O.S.):
Step away from her, Bane.

CUT TO:

In the doorway, the silhouette of a large man stands. Slowly, the man known as JEAN PAUL VALLEY steps forward.

CUT TO:

Bane looks at him off frame for a moment. He stands upright, stil holding Leslie's collar.

BANE:

Ahh...Jean Paul...Last I heard, you were in Prague; laying waste the remnants of that antiquated cult of yours...

CUT TO:

JEAN PAUL VALLEY:
I'm not going to tell you twice.

CUT TO:

Bane looks down at the bruised Leslie. He whips her feeble form into her chair with an annoyed grunt.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul's eyes narrow.

JEAN PAUL VALLEY:

A low level thug for hire...Quite a departure from your so called 'glory days.'

BANE (O.S.):

A minor lapse. No more than money...

CUT TO:

BANE:

If nothing else, revenge on your head will make it all the sweeter.

CUT TO:

JEAN PAUL VALLEY:

Shut up, and pump your pathetic venom. But be mindful. This time, I'll break more than your pride.

CUT TO:

Bane stands tall. He moves and turns the dial on his wrist gauntlet. Deep within the bowels of his diaphragm, a growl swirls as he begins to shake.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul stands still. Flapping up his coat, we see the sheathed katana by his side.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE'S ARM

We see a green solution pumping through the tubing to his head. Slowly, the mass of his hand increases, we pan up his arm as its muscle builds. His neck thickens as veins pop out. His growl grows more bloodthirsty.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE'S LEG

Bane's calf begins to bulge.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE'S CHEST

Bane's chest begins to shift and grow in mass.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE'S LEG

Bane's calf continues to grow. Suddenly, the weight causes his foot to break into the floor, making its own mini crater in the floorboards.

CUT TO:

Bane stands tall with one final yell, looking up to the ceiling.

CUT TO:

Slowly, Bane looks back down upon Jean Paul (at camera) with a small laugh.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JEAN PAUL'S HAND

Jean Paul grabs the handle of the katana.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul pulls out the katana lighting fast, slicing at the air as he brings it to his side in a defensive position.

CUT TO:

Bane grunts.

BEAT

Bane charges forward. His footfalls make the ground tremble.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul crouches, and leaps backwards back out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. - ANGEL OF MERCY 24 HOUR CLINIC

As Jean jumps backwards off the front steps of the clinic, Bane breaks through the threshold, sending cracks up the face of the structure.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul takes a step back, and charges Bane with the katana.

CUT TO:
WIDE SHOT

Jean Paul takes a barrage of slices and swipes at Bane, all of which Bane side steps and dodges. Suddenly, Bane lifts a forearm to the final one. The katana halts on Bane's second steel gauntlet.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul stops, looking up at Bane angrily.

CUT TO:

Bane grimaces at the katana, and looks down at Jean Paul with a sinister laugh.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul sneers. Without warning, he takes a side swipe, trying to catch Bane's venom tube.

CUT TO:

Bane dodges, and back fists Jean Paul, sending him flying.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul lands on top of a car across the street. Citizens, having stopped to witness the fight, scream in terror at the sight. More than half of them run away. A couple takes off in the opposite direction.

MAN:
CALL 911!

CUT TO:

Jean Paul shakes his head; his temple throbs. Sounds of a telephone pole being ripped down can be heard off frame. He squints and looks. His eyes widen.

CUT TO:

Sure enough, Bane chucks a section of a down telephone pole at Jean Paul.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul rolls himself off the car, taking cover behind it as the pole smashes on top of the car where Jean Paul had

been.

BANE (O.S.):
Hiding won't do you any good, little man!

CUT TO:

Bane walks across the street, causing small tremors in his wake.

BANE:
But I digress. At least you're worth my time; unlike the boy
and the bitch...

Bane walks up into camera.

WALK IN CUT TO:

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM

The evacuation alarm rings off outside the Asylum.

CUT TO:

ARKHAM ORDERLIES run out from the front entrance for their lives.

CUT TO:

DOCTOR JEREMIAH ARKHAM runs as well. He stops, and looks back at his Asylum.

CUT TO:

The large, wrought iron sign that reads 'ARKHAM ASYLUM.'

CUT TO:

DR. ARKHAM:
I'm sorry, father...

Arkham continues to run.

CUT TO:

INT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM.

The HUNTRESS tumbles down a hallway, throwing smoke pellets.

CUT TO:

The smoke pellets explode in a flash of light, sending a cloud of smoke billowing up to a crowd of inmates. They cough uncontrollably.

CUT TO:

Huntress lands in a crouch. We pan to the side to see Robin fighting with VICTOR ZSASZ.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Zsasz, wielding a butcher knife from the Asylum kitchen, takes a strike at Robin. Robin ducks, and vaults his leg up into Zsasz' side. Zsasz wheezes in pain. Without hesitation, Robin bashes a forearm into the side of Zsasz' neck; causing Victor to drop the knife.

CUT TO:

The knife clashes onto the tile floor.

CUT TO:

As Zsasz staggers back, Robin vaults a knee into Zsasz' chin, sending him falling back to the floor. Huntress lands behind Robin.

HUNTRESS:
Any sign of Bane?

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Robin turns to Huntress.

ROBIN:
I think he used the explosion as a diversion. Hopefully
someone else has him covered.

Suddenly, the sound of a female laugh echoes from overhead. Robin and Huntress look upward.

CUT TO:

Sitting cross legged atop a large mutant vine is the sensuous POISON IVY!

POISON IVY:
Leaving so soon, sweethearts?

Ivy smirks flirtatiously.

CUT TO:

Sneering, Robin and Huntress aim and fire grappling hooks to the second floor.

CUT TO:

The hooks dig into the wall of the Asylum.

CUT TO:

Robin zips up into the sky; Huntress follows.

CUT TO:

Poison Ivy giggles as another vine snaps down at the heroes.

CUT TO:

The vine strikes down Robin. Huntress dodges, and continues her ascent.

CUT TO:

The vine slams Robin into the wall.

CUT TO:

Huntress reaches the second floor. Twirling in the air, She kicks.

CUT TO:

The kick catches Ivy across the face. She falls off the vine to the second floor itself.

CUT TO:

Huntress lands in an offensive position before Ivy. Slowly, Ivy stands.

CUT TO:

POISON IVY:

You look bruised; exhausted. Maybe I could kiss it and make it better...

CUT TO:

HUNTRESS:

You're pushing' forty, Isley. I would've cut the innuendo years ago.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ROBIN'S HAND

Robin pulls out a batarang.

CUT TO:

Robin punctures the batarang into the vine. Green and white juices spew from the wound.

CUT TO:

OTS HUNTRESS

Ivy stands. A hip jutting outward slightly. Her arms crossed.

CUT TO:

OTS POISON IVY

Huntress stands in an offensive position. A grasp of cape in her right hand; her left open, palm facing her hip.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - HUNTRESS

Huntress looks on with squinted eyes.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - POISON IVY

Ivy looks on with a seductive smile. Suddenly, her eyes widen.

CUT TO:

A vine snaps forth to strike Huntress.

CUT TO:

Like a gunslinger, Huntress draws one of her hand-held crossbows, and fires.

CUT TO:

A pair of stainless chrome arrows bite into the vine. From the bowels of the Asylum, a monstrous growl erupts.

CUT TO:

Huntress turns, looking over the railing.

CUT TO:

The other vine is finally severed. Robin falls to the ground.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ROBIN

Catching his breath, We pull in tight on Robin as he turns his head to look at camera.

CUT TO:

Within a long dark hallway, a rumble grows. After a few moments, tremors shake the Asylum to its core. Without warning, a giant venus fly trap bursts forth from the darkness.

CUT TO:

Robin looks up to the second floor.

CUT TO:

Huntress looks down. Unknowingly to her, a vine creeps up from behind.

CUT TO:

ROBIN:
Huntress! BEHIND YOU!

CUT TO:

Huntress spins around, but is too late. The vine wraps around Huntress ferociously.

CUT TO:

Ivy smirks.

CUT TO:

The vine suddenly pulls Huntress down another hallway.

CUT TO:

ROBIN:

NO!

A growl from the fly trap. Robin spins in place and runs, barely missing another vine.

CUT TO:

The fly trap turns in its place to track Robin.

CUT TO:

We pan alongside Robin as he continuously jumps, tucks, dives, and dodges vine after vine after vine.

CUT TO:

The fly trap roars.

CUT TO:

Poison Ivy laughs slightly.

CUT TO:

Robin ducks one vine, but gets hit by another one. Robin flies across the room.

CUT TO:

INT. - JOKER'S CELL

Huntress crashes into a cell, wrapped in the vine.

CUT TO:

Huntress coughs as she reaches down into her belt.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - HUNTRESS' HAND

Huntress pulls out one of her crossbow arrows.

CUT TO:

Huntress, with all her might, turns. Suddenly, she stabs at the vine.

CUT TO:

INT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM

The fly trap roars in pain.

CUT TO:

INT - JOKER'S CELL

Huntress stabs again and again; over and over.

CUT TO:

Finally, the vine discards Huntress, and recoils back into the hall.

CUT TO:

Huntress stands, massaging her side. She slowly looks around, and notices the clown motif of the cell. It belonged to the Joker.

CUT TO:

We pan around the cell. Off in the corner, a small Batman doll hangs from a miniature noose. Newspaper clippings about Batman line the walls.

CUT TO:

Huntress looks around the cell. She slowly looks down.

CUT TO:

On the barrack lies a folded note.

CUT TO:

Huntress walks up to the barrack, and picks up the paper.

CUT TO:

Brining up the paper while unfolding it, Huntress reads it over. Slowly but surely, her jaw drops slightly. She turns and looks up to the side.

HUNTRESS:
Barbara!

CUT TO:

INT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM

A vine presses Robin to the ground with brute force. Squeezing his head down upon the ground harshly.

CUT TO:

POISON IVY:
Kill him, darling! Squeeze the life out of him!

CUT TO:

The fly trap snarls as it continues its assault.

CUT TO:

Robin starts to scream in pain.

CUT TO:

The fly trap continues to snarl. Suddenly, Huntress whistles off frame. The fly trap turns its attention.

CUT TO:

Taking his chance, Robin rolled out from under the vine, shooting another hook to the second floor.

CUT TO:

Huntress holds a fire extinguisher. She hurls it.

CUT TO:

The extinguisher catches into the fly trap's open mouth.

CUT TO:

As he zips up, Robin hurls a batarang.

CUT TO:

The batarang hits the fire extinguisher. It explodes, foaming into the fly traps mouth. The fly trap gags on the contents of the canister.

CUT TO:

Poison Ivy grabs her hair in frustration.

POISON IVY:
NO! MY BABY!!

CUT TO:

Robin makes it to the second floor, and hurls a Bat Bola at Ivy.

CUT TO:

Ivy is bound in a mess of black wire. She falls.

CUT TO:

Robin stands with a smirk.

HUNTRESS:
TIM!

Robin looks over.

CUT TO:

HUNTRESS:
We have to get out of here NOW!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BOMB

A bomb timer, winding down. Suddenly, it reaches zero, and begins to beep.

CUT TO:

Robin spins in place, finding a beeping sound coming from

behind.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

The second floor is rocked by an explosion as the bomb goes off.

CUT TO:

Huntress is blown down onto the main floor.

CUT TO:

Out of the chunk of wall missing from the blast, AKRHAM INMATES pour out.

CUT TO:

The inmates overtake a winded Robin. Robin tries to force them back, but they overpower him, and tackle him. They take his arms and torso, and pull him back through the opening in the wall.

CUT TO:

Huntress looks up, winded and bruised. She coughs.

HUNTRESS:
Ro...Robin...ROBIN!!!

CUT TO:

Robin and the inmates are gone.

CUT TO:

Huntress looks up in despair. She looks back down in the note in her hands. Another explosion rocks the Asylum in the distance.

HUNTRESS:
SHIT!

Huntress slams her fist on the ground, clipping a...

CUT TO:

EXT. - ANGELS OF MERCY 24 HOUR CLINIC

Jean Paul takes a step back, catching his breath heavily as he moves into a defensive stance. His katana glistens in the moonlight.

CUT TO:

Bane tries to back fist Jean Paul. Jean Paul ducks.

CUT TO:

Taking the opportunity, Jean Paul kicks Bane in the side.
CUT TO:

Groaning, Bane drops to a knee.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul raises the katana over his head.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Jean Paul takes a downward slice, Bane ducks his head. Jean Paul responds with a slash move to his left (camera right). Bane dodges as he slowly tries to stand. Jean Paul takes a slash to his right (camera left). Bane ducks.

CUT TO:

Bane throws a vicious uppercut.

CUT TO:

The upper cut connects. Jean Paul sprawls to the asphalt.

CUT TO:

Bane advances.

BANE:
This is over, Valley...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JEAN PAUL VALLEY

Jean Paul looks up.

JEAN PAUL VALLEY:

Go to hell...where you belong.

CUT TO:

As Bane closes in, Jean Paul performs a move a kin to a break dancer, and juts a powerful kick into Bane's gut.

CUT TO:

Bane staggers in pain.

CUT TO:

Propping himself onto the brunt of his back, Jean Paul kicks both feet upward.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

Valley's feet catch Bane under his chin, returning the favor of the upper cut. Bane falls.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul stands, breathing heavily.

CUT TO:

Bane falls. We focus in on the venom tube in the back of his head.

CUT TO:

With a primal cry, Jean Paul raises his katana, and strikes down.

CUT TO:

Bane rolls his shoulder while looking up at Jean Paul. Sparks fly off the asphalt.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul looks down, but he's become too exhausted to react.

CUT TO:

Bane vaults one arm out to Jean Paul with a ferocious and brutal speed.

CUT TO:

Bane's grabs Jean Paul's head in a single large hand. The camera almost shakes with the viciousness of the move.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

Bane just stares at camera.

CUT TO:

Bane lifts Jean Paul into the air.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul; his face covered by the hand. Totally exhausted. Suddenly, with all his might, he swings up his katana.

CUT TO:

Bane grabs Jean Paul's arm, forcing him to drop the katana. He breaks Jean Paul's forearm in an obvious manner. Behind Bane's hand, Valley shrieks in pain.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

BANE:

You've fought well, Jean Paul...Don't be discouraged. Let it be known that you died...with honor...

CUT TO:

With one hand, Bane wrenches Jean Paul's neck; snapping it. We stay on Jean Paul's covered head in Bane's hand.

CUT TO:

Bane tosses Jean Paul like a rag doll.

CUT TO:

Jean Paul lands on top of the car once more.

CUT TO:

INT. - ANGELS OF MERCY 24 HOUR CLINIC

Leslie Thompkins sits behind her chair in hiding; exhausted by tonight's events. Slowly, she looks up. She can't even react.

CUT TO:

Bane looks down at camera. He leans in, enveloping the camera in his hand.

ENVELOPE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

EXT. - WOODLANDS

Trees sway in the darkness. Silence; haunting.

FADE TO:

EXT. - WAYNE MANOR RUINS

The ashen ruins of the Wayne Mansion. A perimeter of police tape has been placed before it. However, the strand of tape in frame has been snapped in two. The two sections billow in the breeze.

CUT TO:

EXT. - WAYNE MANOR

The tarnished front doors of the manor. One of them is open.

FADE TO:

INT. - WAYNE MANOR

Wayne Manor; partially demolished from the fire and explosions. We pan down a large hallway. The photos and paintings on the walls are either completely destroyed, partially destroyed, or gone. We turn a corner, and peer into the study. The grandfather clock entrance to the Batcave is open.

CUT TO:

INT. - BATCAVE

WIDE SHOT

We sit in the large darkened scope of the Batcave. A tiny

dot of a figure, Batman, slowly walks along the Bat-Computer platform.

BATMAN (V.O.):

The Cave...Thankfully still hidden, despite the onslaught of CIA and FBI agents that had been roaming the grounds for the last two hours...Thought they'd never leave...

CUT TO:

BATMAN (V.O.):

Supplies are always essential in combat. You never pass up the chance to re arm yourself; be it through tangible necessities, weapons, and medical kits. Or through collecting your thoughts and giving yourself a chance to reflect on the battle up until now...

During the monologue, Batman walks through the cave.

CUT TO:

Batman stops. Silence, nothing.

CUT TO:

Batman turns to look upon.

CUT TO:

The Robin costume in its glass case...

CUT TO:

Batman walks up to the costume.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman stands before the robin costume, looking up at it. His scalloped cape draped around him. 15 seconds of silence.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman, looking sternly off frame at camera.

CUT TO:

The Robin costume.

BATMAN (V.O.):
Jason.....The good soldier...

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY

We pan along the skyline of Gotham.

BATMAN (V.O.):
When Dick left me, at the time I had thought it for the best. It would give me the chance to reclaim Gotham the way I had intended to. Honestly, it never occurred to me to ever have a young partner.

CUT TO:

INT. - CRIME ALLEY

A young boy, JASON TODD, tries to pull off a wheel. He wipes the sweat from his dirty brow. Suddenly, a thud on the car hood. Jason looks up in awe.

FADE TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman crouches upon the Batmobile, the car Jason was steeling off of.

BATMAN (V.O.):
Finding Jason that night was a bittersweet event. In a sense, I found yet another young man that if given the opportunity could either become a great man or an eventual foe if left to his own devices.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JASON TODD

Jason looks up, still in shock.

BATMAN (V.O.):
Even then I knew...In the dark recesses of my mind...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks down in silence upon Jason.

BATMAN (V.O.):
That this boy was no Dick Grayson...

FLASH CUT TO:

BATMAN (V.O.):
Stupid...

Montage of Joker beating Robin to death with a crow bar.

An explosion goes off.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. - BATCAVE

Batman stands, eyes closed. Slowly he opens them once more.

CUT TO:

The Robin suit.

BATMAN (V.O.):
If I only had listened to my instincts...

CUT TO:

Batman looks on at the costume in silence. Suddenly, the hammer of a gun is pulled back off frame.

TWO-FACE (O.S.):
He said you'd come back here...

CUT TO:
Batman turns slowly...

BATMAN:
Harvey.

CUT TO:

We pan up to the faces of TWO-FACE; The ex-district attorney Harvey Dent. Once Batman's ally; now his enemy. Half of his face is burnt off, wounded. Since, the wounds have scabbed into a horrible disfigurement. However, Dent's scars are more than skin deep.

TWO-FACE:
Try again...

CUT TO:

BATMAN:
How'd you get in...Two-Face?

CUT TO:

TWO-FACE:
Do you remember the Hangman, Bats? The tunnels in the
sewer...leading to your cave...

CUT TO:

Batman's eyes narrow.

CUT TO:

TWO-FACE:
When Joker said this was it...We didn't believe him. That
pathetic fool; to think he could truly pull something off
like this...But your death won't be his to claim.

CUT TO:

BATMAN:
Last I heard, your psychiatric evaluations were proving to
be more and more impressive...You were on a road to
recovery, Harvey...

TWO-FACE (O.S.):
Spare the effort, Bats...

CUT TO:

TWO-FACE:
Harvey lost control from the get go. Don't bother trying to
call for that little worm...It's the hand of Two-Face that
you'll die by...

CUT TO:

BATMAN:
Why, Two-Face...You and Joker have never seen eye to eye.
Why side with him?

CUT TO:

TWO-FACE:

We must admit, he's smart for a homicidal imbecile. But Harvey has his own reasons for killing you...Personally, I'd thank you for letting me out...But you're the one who did this to him...And neither you, nor Gordon, nor even Bruce Wayne is going to stop me from carrying out his wish...

CUT TO:

Batman opens his eyes to normalcy.

BATMAN:
Then...he didn't tell you?

CUT TO:

Two-Face stands still for several seconds. Slowly, he starts to lower his gun.

HARVEY DENT:
Tell me...what?

CUT TO:

Batman notices the change in voice. His friend has surfaced.

BATMAN:
Harvey...Listen, to me...Remember our friendship. Remember the good you represented.

HARVEY DENT (O.S.):
You...you don't have to explain...

CUT TO:

HARVEY DENT:
I know who you are. I suppose I've known for some time...

TWO-FACE:
Who is he?

CUT TO:

Batman stands, listening to his friend and his foe.

HARVEY DENT (O.S.):
Part of me didn't want it to be true...

CUT TO:

HARVEY DENT:

You could've...You could've saved me...Surely you were fast enough to stop Maroni...Before...

Harvey touches the scarred half of his face. Suddenly, Two-Face jerks out of Dent's reach, leveling the gun at Batman once more.

TWO-FACE:
WHO IS HE!!! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!

Harvey tries to lower the gun in Two-Faces' hand. His left moves to keep it aimed at Batman.

HARVEY DENT:
Why didn't you stop him? Why, Bruce?

CUT TO:

Batman gives a depressed sigh, looking up to the ceiling of the cave as if searching for an unobtainable answer to Dent's question. He looks back upon Harvey.

CUT TO:

Two-Face stops. He looks at Batman squinting his eyes, trying to see the resemblance.

TWO-FACE:
Wayne? Is that YOU under that mask???

HARVEY DENT:
I...I won't let you hurt him!

TWO-FACE:
The HELL you will. This is what you wanted!!!

HARVEY DENT:
No...Not anymore.

TWO-FACE:
Well...you may not want him dead, but I sure as hell do!

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

The body that holds Harvey and Two-Face begins to convulse and spasm. It's knees lock; it shakes violently.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - TWO-FACE - QUARTER L PROFILE

The left, scarred side of Two-Face.

TWO-FACE:

You always were the weaker, Dent!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - HARVEY DENT - QUARTER R PROFILE

The right, smooth side of Harvey Dent.

HARVEY DENT:

He's my friend. I won't let it happen. I...I understand now,
Bruce. You did what you could, but...

TWO-FACE:

But NOTHING!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - TWO-FACE - QUARTER L PROFILE

TWO-FACE:

HE DID THIS TO US! HE COULD'VE STOPPED MARONI! BUT HE CARES
NOTHING FOR YOU, YOU PATHETIC INSECT!!!

CUT TO:

BATMAN:

Don't listen to him Harvey. Don't listen...FIGHT IT!

CUT TO:

After convulsing for a long period of time, Two-Face finally
stops. He reaches into his pocket, pulling out his trademark
coin.

TWO-FACE:

Fine! We'll let fate decide...As it rightfully should.

HARVEY DENT:

Please don't.

Two-Face interrupts.

TWO-FACE:

SHUT UP!

Two-Face flips the coin.

CUT TO:

The coin flips up into the air.

CUT TO:

Batman tracks the coin upward.

CUT TO:

Reaching its peak, the coin floats in mid air for a second before beginning its descent.

CUT TO:

Two-Face puts out his hand.

CUT TO:

Without warning, a shuriken strikes the coin.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman and Two-Face look off to the side as the coin hits the cave floor in the distance, and rolls off.

CUT TO:

TWO-FACE:
WHAT?

Two-Face spins around. An upward palm strike slams up into Two-Face's chin.

CUT TO:

Two-Face falls unconscious.

CUT TO:

Batman looks down upon Two-Face. Slowly, he looks up, standing upright.

CUT TO:

LADY SHIVA walks forward. Wearing protective black tape around her forearms, a purple gi top, and black ninja

bottoms, she epitomizes both beauty and martial skill.

LADY SHIVA:

Oh Wayne-San. How could you have allowed this to happen?

CUT TO:

BATMAN:

Nice to see you again as well, Shiva...

LADY SHIVA (O.S.):

You left yourself vulnerable...I thought I had taught you better.

CUT TO:

LADY SHIVA:

You can never drop your guard; be it physical, mental, or emotional...And you allowed your enemies to take advantage of your identity...You've grown soft...

Shiva looks down.

CUT TO:

The unconscious Two-Face.

LADY SHIVA (O.S.):

Even minor threats like this DA have succeeded in making you a joke...

CUT TO:

Shiva looks back up.

LADY SHIVA:

It appears...that you still have much to learn...

CUT TO:

BATMAN:

I take it you're not a part of this.

LADY SHIVA (O.S.):

Of course not.

CUT TO:

LADY SHIVA:

But a chance to challenge my greatest student...How could I resist?

With a smile, she charges Batman.

CUT TO:

Before Batman can even blink, Shiva roundhouses Batman to the temple.

BATMAN (V.O.):
She's fast...

CUT TO:

Shiva lands in a crouch, facing away from camera.

BATMAN (V.O.):
Faster than I remember...I can't underestimate her skill,
despite her age...

CUT TO:

Batman spins in place, flapping his leathery cape. He lets loose a powerful kick.

CUT TO:

Shiva flips up into the air. The leg misses, hitting the cave floor.

CUT TO:

As Shiva flips in the air...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - SHIVA'S HANDS

She pulls a mini staff of sorts. She spins it into a telescoping bo staff.

CUT TO:

Shiva lands as Batman turns to face her. She snaps her staff down. Batman blocks easily with his forearm. Batman takes his chance, kicking Shiva in her side. Shiva swipes the staff up, catching on Batman's chin. Batman palms the staff away as he strikes a chop into the nerve cluster in Shiva's shoulder.

CUT TO:

Shiva backs off, grabbing her right shoulder. She takes another high kick.

CUT TO:

Batman backs off. He sends a punch.

CUT TO:

Shiva raises the staff, blocking the punch. Twirling the staff in her hand, she throws off Batman's fist. Taking the staff in both hands, Shiva shoves it.

CUT TO:

The butt of the staff strikes Batman square in his chest emblem. He falls.

CUT TO:

Even as Batman falls, he swipes his leg across the ground; the trips up Shiva. Shiva falls.

CUT TO:

Shiva moves her head, clutching her temple for a second. Angrily, she...

CUT TO:

Kicks Batman in the face; Batman falls back to his back.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman lays, bruised. Taking the bo staff in both hands, Lady Shiva flips herself back up onto her feet.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman shakes his head. The butt of the staff juts in from off frame at Batman's face. Batman looks up with a grimace.

LADY SHIVA (O.S.):

You're slacking...You should've been able to disarm me by

now...

CUT TO:

LADY SHIVA:

In the Cult of the Monkey Fist, failure was penance for death...

CUT TO:

Batman looks up at Shiva.

CUT TO:

Shiva smirks with a sigh, closing her eyes. After several moments, she opens them again.

LADY SHIVA:

So be it...

Shiva raises her staff, ready to strike.

CUT TO:

Batman grits his teeth.

CUT TO:

Suddenly, the sound of a bullwhip cracks the air.

CUT TO:

Shiva grunts in pain as the bo staff is pulled out of her hands.

CUT TO:

The bo staff, tied up in the middle by a whip, flies through the air.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LADY SHIVA

Lady Shiva turns to look behind her, angry.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN'S HAND

A claw-gloved hand catches the bo staff in the air.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

BATMAN:
Selina.

CUT TO:

CATWOMAN holds the staff in her raised hand. Her other hand holds the handle of her bull whip. She smirks.

CATWOMAN:
You should be more careful, Bruce. Keep leaving the door open like that, and strays are bound to wander in...

CUT TO:

LADY SHIVA:
This night holds no concern for you, Kyle...petty thief...

CUT TO:

Catwoman shakes her head, lowering the staff to her side.

CATWOMAN:
He's not yours to play with...Sandra.

Catwoman flings the staff forward.

CUT TO:

Shiva grimaces at the use of her true name as she catches the staff from Catwoman's toss.

CUT TO:

Catwoman takes her offensive stance.

CATWOMAN:
Go find your own rich boy.

CUT TO:

Shiva says nothing. Suddenly, she leaps into the air.

CUT TO:

Catwoman looks upward.

CUT TO:

Flipping in mid air, Shiva falls, kicking at Catwoman.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Catwoman side steps as Shiva falls to the ground. Spinning in place, Shiva twirls the staff forward, swiping across Catwoman's face. Catwoman falls.

CUT TO:

Shiva turns, raising her staff.

CUT TO:

Catwoman looks up, shocked.

CUT TO:

Shiva slams down the staff.

CUT TO:

Catwoman rolls out of the way, missing the staff. Shiva tries again; Catwoman rolls to the other side.

CUT TO:

Shiva raises the staff, and swings it down once more.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BO STAFF

The staff swings down. Without warning, Batman catches the staff in his hand.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Shiva stands, looking down at Catwoman, holding the staff. Catwoman is propped on an elbow, looking up at Shiva. Batman stands off to the side, his knees slightly bent. The other end of the staff is held in his hand.

CUT TO:

Shiva looks up at Batman off frame.

CUT TO:

Catwoman takes the opportunity, kicking Shiva in the gut.
Shiva staggers back.

CUT TO:

Shiva backs off into frame, massaging the pain away.

LADY SHIVA:

Well...ugh...It seems Dragon made good with your training...

CUT TO:

Batman stands facing Shiva. Catwoman stands up beside
Batman.

CUT TO:

LADY SHIVA:

It won't be enough...

CUT TO:

CATWOMAN:

Then shut up, and get on with it...

Batman charges Shiva.

CUT TO:

Shiva braces Batman's gauntlet strike with her staff.
Batman vaults up a knee; Shiva shifts the staff to catch it
as well. They find themselves in a standoff.

LADY SHIVA:

A sloppy attack...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LADY SHIVA

LADY SHIVA:

Your becoming forgetful of your skill...What makes you think
charging me was your best approach?

Shiva smirks.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman struggles with Shiva. His eyes glance upward.

CUT TO:

Shiva's eyes widen.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman jumps back as Catwoman falls, kicking Shiva in the back.

CUT TO:

Shiva falls forward, but catches herself with her leg. She spins, swiping the staff.

CUT TO:

Catwoman, standing in place, backs off her torso, missing the staff.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman advances, sending a roundhouse to Shiva's temple. Shiva ducks, throwing a back fist, catching Batman in the face. Catwoman chops the staff out of Shiva's hand, and takes Shiva's left arm into her own grip. Catwoman kicks into the small of Shiva's back. Shiva head butts Catwoman. And grabs her by the throat.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LADY SHIVA

Shiva, grimaces as she holds Catwoman up by her throat.

CUT TO:

Catwoman grabs Shiva's forearm with both hands. Gritting her teeth, Catwoman struggles to get out of Shiva's grip.

CUT TO:

Batman rubs his chin as he gets back up. He charges forward.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LADY SHIVA

Shiva, still holding Catwoman, looks back at the advancing Batman. She kicks high, trying to catch Batman in the chest.

CUT TO:

Batman ducks as he continues his advancement, missing Shiva's attack. He rises, and catches Shiva's leg.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

As she holds up Catwoman by the throat, Shiva stabilizes herself on one leg as she looks back at Batman, who holds her other leg.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LADY SHIVA

Shiva looks back at Catwoman, shocked.

CUT TO:

Still struggling, Catwoman pulls off a slight smirk.

CATWOMAN:

Gu...Guess...It wasn't enough.

Catwoman continues to smirk.

CUT TO:

Shiva turns her head, and looks to camera.

CUT TO:

SHIVA POV

Batman slams a fist into camera.

FLASH CUT TO BLACK:

CUT TO:

Shiva and Two-Face rest on the floor of the cave, bound in black wire.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

Batman and Catwoman stand off. Catwoman turns to Batman.

CATWOMAN:
What *would* you do without me?

Batman says nothing. He stalks off to the staircase leading back up to the mansion.

CATWOMAN:
Humph...Guess that's the same as 'thanks for saving my
ass'...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman walks into frame. He stops, and slowly looks down.

CUT TO:

Two-Face's legs and back. His coat is partially flipped up.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks even more, as if he spots a clue. He does...

CUT TO:

We zoom up to Two-Face's back pocket. A folded piece of paper sits in it.

CUT TO:

As Catwoman walks forward to Batman, Batman turns and crouches down to Two-Face.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN'S HAND

Batman grabs the note from Two-Face's back pocket.

CUT TO:

Batman, keeping his eye on the note, stands up. He unfolds the document as Catwoman moves to his side. Catwoman looks up at Batman, then at the paper in his hands.

CUT TO:

Money and TIME for the perfect crime;
Math and Graves, it's all the same.

A crude purple crayon drawing of the Gotham Clock Tower is on the paper as well. Another picture of a cartoon caricature of Barbara; her eyes 'X' ed out, and her face bloody in red crayon.

CUT TO:

Batman looks at the document. He feels something glued to the back. He turns it over.

CUT TO:

An admissions ticket to the movies. A showing of 'Citizen Wayne' at the same theatre the Wayne's attended the night of their murder.

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks up, lost in thought.

CUT TO:

Batman turns and runs for the staircase to the mansion.
Catwoman looks in his direction.

CATWOMAN:
HEY!

Catwoman follows in pursuit.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman races out of the Grand Father Clock entrance;
Catwoman in pursuit. She runs up, catching up to his side as they continue to run.

CATWOMAN:
Can you at least tell me what's going on?

BATMAN:
This isn't the time, Catwoman...

CATWOMAN:
Look, first I hear about the mansion being destroyed. Then the attacks on 'Central' and Arkham. Now I'm all for helping you out, but the least you could do is...

During the dialogue segment, Batman and Catwoman make their way out of the front entrance of Wayne Manor. Clipping and interrupting Catwoman is a flash of light and an explosion. Batman and Catwoman stop in their tracks just outside the front door to the mansion in shock.

CUT TO:

The Batmobile explodes in a burst of hellish flame. Jagged debris from the car shoots out in every direction.

CUT TO:

Without warning or hesitation, a noose falls around Catwoman's neck. Choking, she rises up into the air. Batman turns and looks up, craning his head up in a sharp motion.

BATMAN:
SELINA!

CUT TO:

Catwoman rises into frame, being held up by her neck. Choking; her arms and legs flail about furiously.

CUT TO:

Batman looks up even higher past Catwoman.

CUT TO:

We pan up the front of Wayne Manor to see the SCARECROW! He stands atop the roof of the mansion foyer. In one hand he holds the other end of Catwoman's noose; the other holds a rusty scythe.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - SCARECROW

SCARECROW:
With sparkling colors
The clouds burst away
Into magical moonballs
Who wanted to play.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

BATMAN:
LET HER GO, CRANE!

CUT TO:

Scarecrow looks down at Batman, tilting his head like a curious puppy. Turning his head down to Catwoman, he pulls up the rope, bringing Catwoman's head close to his feet.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN'S HEAD

Scarecrow slowly lowers the sickle blade to Catwoman's neck as she continues to gag.

SCARECROW (O.S.):
They tumbled in teams
Full of frolicking fun
For their mystical journey
Had now just begun

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman, looking up at Scarecrow and Catwoman. With blinding speed, he pockets and hurls a batarang skyward.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow raises the scythe, ready to strike Catwoman. Before he can, the batarang snaps the rope. Catwoman falls.

CUT TO:

Catwoman falls into Batman's waiting arms. She coughing furiously.

CATWOMAN:
Looks...like were...even now...

Batman looks at her in silence. He looks back upward.

CUT TO:

BATMAN POV

Scarecrow falls to camera, slicing his scythe downward.

CUT TO:

Batman side jumps as Scarecrow strikes the ground.

CUT TO:

Batman kicks at Scarecrow.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow falls, tumbling down the burnt staircase leading to the front door of the mansion.

CUT TO:

Batman lays Catwoman, still coughing, down on the doorstep. Batman turns his head.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow, still holding the scythe, runs off onto the darkened grounds, lit by the flames from the Batmobile.

CUT TO:

Batman turns back to Catwoman.

BATMAN:
Stay here...

With that, Batman turns and races after Scarecrow.

CUT TO:

We pan alongside Batman, gripping his cape in both hands, as he sprints into the woodlands on the grounds in Scarecrow's direction.

CUT TO:

OVERHEAD SHOT

Batman runs into frame. He stops, looking right and then left. He darts off to the left.

CUT TO:

The trees sway in the breeze.

BATMAN:
CRANE! COME OUT, NOW!

CUT TO:

Batman walks into frame. We pan alongside him as he looks around. His head turns to camera as he continues to walk.

BATMAN:
Crane!

Suddenly, we hear the sound of crushed gravel and dirt. Batman looks down.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN'S BOOT

Batman lifts up his foot to see unearthed soil.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks up, as if to track something along the ground.

CUT TO:

A trail of unearthed gravel and soil, leading deeper into the woodlands.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman's eyes widen; his jaw falls barely a quarter of an inch.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman sprints, following the trail.

CUT TO:

BATMAN POV

We race through the trees, following the soil trail. Off frame, Batman's breathing quickens.

CUT TO:

Batman races through the woods, panting as he increases his speed.

CUT TO:

BATMAN POV

We continue through the trees, turning one way, then another.

CUT TO:

TOMBSTONE OTS

The back of a tombstone, on camera right. After a moment of silence, Batman races in from camera left, and stops in his tracks.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman, nearly out of breath. His eyes widen in shock, his jaw considerably lower as he sort of stumbles forward in awe. Slowly we pan around behind him to see what he sees...The tombstones of DR. THOMAS WAYNE and MARTHA WAYNE; his parents. Their plots are dug up. Their caskets tipped over and open.

CUT TO:

Batman walks forward, his emotions bubbling beneath the surface. (Think Superman's reaction to the dead Lois Lane in the 1978 Superman: The Movie.)

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman walks up to the tarnished grave plots.

CUT TO:

Batman shakes his head. He looks down.

CUT TO:

Written on Thomas' casket in lime green.

'DEEPEST REGRETS, J'

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

Batman falls to his knees before the plots, completely drained of thought and rationality. He goes semi limp; his head rolls downward. Batman sighs deeply.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks down. His face starts to form as if he's about to cry. His eyes close tightly. He gives off a small and subtle growl.

FLASH CUT TO:

EXT. - ACE CHEMICALS

The Joker emerges from the chemicals dumped into the river.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Joker crawls up on the river bank, coughing. He staggers up, holding his face. He turns, falling to his knees.

CUT TO:

RIVER REFLECTION

Joker looks into the river. Slowly but surely, he begins to giggle. The giggle morphs into a laugh.

CUT TO:

Joker rises into frame, holding his hair with both hands, laughing manically (The Killing Joke panel).

FLASH CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - WOMAN

A WOMAN, bearing a hideous grin. Affected by the Joker Toxin. During this montage, the Joker's laugh continues.
FLASH CUT TO:

A COUPLE, affected by the Joker Toxin.

CUT TO:

A group of cops, both shot to death, and killed by Toxin.

FLASH CUT TO:

JASON TODD, lying dead among a cache of rubble and splintered wood beside his bloody and bruised mother.

FLASH CUT TO:

Barbara Gordon, cringing as she holds at the bullet wound in her stomach, lying about the glass shards of a broken coffee table.

FLASH CUT TO:

SARAH ESSEN GORDON, lying face down in a pool of blood. A single infant sits beside her, putting a hand on the back of her blood soaked head.

FLASH CUT TO:

TOMMY ELLIOT, shot to death in a back alley. Holding the pendent given to him by his mother.

FLASH CUT TO:

Aiming a gun, Joker shoots madly.

FLASH CUT TO:

A Joker Card on a black background.

FLASH CUT TO:

The Joker, swinging down a large mallet, smiling gleefully.

FLASH CUT TO:

The Joker card. Slowly, blood starts to run down the screen.

FLASH CUT TO:

Joker pumps a shotgun, aiming it. He fires, clipping a...

FLASH BANG CUT TO:

The Joker card, drenched in blood.

FLASH CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman opens his eyes once more, looking upon the plots of his parents' graves.

BATMAN (V.O.):
No more.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

We hear the scythe swinging, Batman ducks, as the blade swings overhead, digging into a tree behind him.

CUT TO:

SCARECROW OTS

Batman stands back up, and gives Scarecrow a right cross.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Scarecrow finally pulls the scythe back out, trying to swipe the blunt of the blade at Batman. Batman ducks. We notice a garden shed off to the side by a greenhouse.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Scarecrow takes another slice at Batman. Batman ducks once more, but stands up as if in one fluid motion, grabbing

Scarecrow's right arm into the cradle of his own right arm. Pulling the arm taut, Batman throws down an elbow, smashing into Scarecrow's locked arm. A sickening snap; Scarecrow yells in pain. Batman shuts him up with a fierce back fist up into his chin immediately following the elbow strike. Following through, Batman grabs the back of Scarecrow's neck, and vaults a knee up into the bottom of his rib cage.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN/SCARECROW'S HAND

Batman takes the hand that Scarecrow still wields the scythe with. Pressing his wrist pressure point, Scarecrow drops the scythe into Batman's hand.

BATMAN (V.O.):
No more.

CUT TO:

Batman, using the handle of the scythe rather than the blade, swipes it across Scarecrow's cheek. Scarecrow backs up.

CUT TO:

We pan alongside Scarecrow as he backs away and Batman advances. Batman strikes Scarecrow with the handle; again and again and again. He grows fiercer with every blow.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow slams into the door of the tool shed.

CUT TO:

Batman swings the scythe handle once more.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow ducks.

CUT TO:

Batman continues the move.

CUT TO:

The scythe blade accidentally hits the lock on the tool shed

door, imbedding itself in the door. Scarecrow stands, pulling out the scythe, and accidentally opening the tool shed door.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow advances, swinging the scythe.

CUT TO:

Batman side steps.

CUT TO:

Taking the opportunity, Scarecrow shoots a dose of his Fear Toxin at Batman.

CUT TO:

Batman stands, looking sternly at Scarecrow as the gas consumes the air around him.

CUT TO:

SCARECROW:
You haven't defeated me, Batman. The nightmare is just beginning.

CUT TO:

Grimacing, Batman takes a deep breath; inhaling the Fear Toxin.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow steps back, concerned and confused.

SCARECROW:
What?

CUT TO:

Batman looks on at Scarecrow.

BATMAN:
NO MORE!

CUT TO:

Annoyed, Scarecrow swings at Batman.

CUT TO:

Batman doesn't move. He catches the scythe handle in one hand before it can strike him.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow, shocked. Tries to pull the scythe away.

CUT TO:

Batman sneers with a low growl. Suddenly, with utter ruthlessness.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - SCARECROW'S KNEE

Batman kicks at Scarecrow's knee, snapping it back.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Scarecrow shrieks as he falls before Batman. Batman stands before Scarecrow, still holding both his arm and the scythe. Taking the scythe in his hand, Batman tosses it off to the side.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - SCARECROW'S COLLAR

Batman grabs Scarecrow's collar.

CUT TO:

Batman hurls Scarecrow.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow falls into the tool shed. Tools fall and clang together. Then silence.

CUT TO:

Batman looks on at camera for a moment. Batman turns, and starts to walk away.

CUT TO:

EXT. - TOOL SHED

We VERY slowly zoom in on the door of the tool shed. Silence for five seconds. Suddenly...

SCARECROW (O.S.):
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN'S FEET

Batman walks into frame, gravel crunches beneath his boots. He stops.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

Batman, his back facing camera. He turns his head to acknowledge the singing behind him. Slowly, he turns to camera with a snarl.

CUT TO:

EXT. - TOOL SHED

We continue to zoom in slowly on the tool shed.

SCARECROW (O.S.):
How I wonder what you are...

Suddenly, a gasoline powered rumbling begins in the tool shed. It revs up with in a ferocious manner. Suddenly, Scarecrow erupts from the shed, flailing about with a revving chainsaw! He raises it up above his head, revving it faster. He charges forward.

CUT TO:

Batman just stands, not moving.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow rushes to camera, aiming the chainsaw forward; puffs of gas spit from the engine of the chainsaw.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Scarecrow rushes the still Batman. Scarecrow swipes the chainsaw forward. With an almost superhuman speed, Batman ducks.

CUT TO:

Batman gives a pair of stomach punches to Scarecrow.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow backs off, and slices the chainsaw downward.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman catches the handle of the chainsaw. While Batman struggles to keep the rotating chainsaw blade back, Scarecrow tries to advance it. The two are evenly matched.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP MID SHOT - BATMAN

The blade edges closer to Batman, revving up more. Batman grits his teeth as he struggles.

CUT TO:

Batman vaults a knee into Scarecrow's gut.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman grabs the chainsaw as Scarecrow backs off. Batman hurls the chainsaw back.

CUT TO:

The chainsaw hits the ground, the blade facing the battle. The blade continues to rotate at pulsing speeds.

CUT TO:

Batman karate chops Scarecrow in the side of his neck. Scarecrow rebuttals with a punch to Batman's face. Side stepping, Batman catches Scarecrow's fist. Spinning Crane in place like a top, Batman punches Scarecrow back.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - SCARECROW'S FEET

Scarecrow stumbles.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow falls back.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - SCARECROW'S FIST/BATMAN'S HAND

Batman lets go of Scarecrow.

CUT TO:

Scarecrow falls into camera.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - SCARECROW

Scarecrow falls. Suddenly, the revving of the chainsaw becomes muffled, as it rips through Scarecrow off frame! Scarecrow shrieks in utter horror; his screams start to gargle with blood.

CUT TO:

Batman, crouched in a defensive position, holding up his cape in one hand. Slowly, he stands upright as the chainsaw muddles down and stops.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman slowly walks up into frame. On far camera left, Scarecrow's hand, stiff and dead. Its fingers curled and buckled. The saw juts up beside the hand, drenched in crimson blood.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman's eyes narrow.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - SCARECROW

Scarecrow, dead. Inside his burlap mask where his mouth is located is a stain of blood.

BATMAN (V.O.):
...No more...

CUT TO:

EXT. - WAYNE MANOR

A pair of Batcycles ride up to the mansion. Off to the side sits the remnants of the Batmobile, flames still dance along its crackling frame and body.

CUT TO:

Nightwing rides to a stop into frame. Huntress stops beside him. They both look on at the Batmobile.

HUNTRESS:
Are we too late?

Nightwing turns and looks forward at the mansion off frame. His eyes widen as he dismounts the parked Batcycle.

CUT TO:

Nightwing steps up to Catwoman. Groggy, Catwoman looks up as Nightwing kneels.

CATWOMAN:
I was wondering where you kids have been.

NIGHTWING:
Where's Batman?

HUNTRESS:
NIGHTWING!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing stands up into frame. He turns to look in a three quarter view.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

In the distance, Batman walks from the woods, cradling the corpse of the Scarecrow in his arms.

CUT TO:

Nightwing walks up beside Huntress. They look at each other, concerned.

CUT TO:

Nightwing and Huntress turn back to Batman as he walks up to them.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING'S/HUNTRESS' FEET.

Scarecrow's corpse is dropped to the ground before Nightwing and Huntress. We pan up to see Nightwing and Huntress, looking down at the body. They slowly stand up to look at Batman.

CUT TO:

Starting at Batman's blood soaked gloved hands, he pan up to Batman, who just stares in silence.

CUT TO:

NIGHTWING:
Bruce...what happened?

We pan to Huntress.

HUNTRESS:
Are you alright?

CUT TO:

Batman just stares forward.

BATMAN:
Oracle...she's dead...

CUT TO:

Nightwing looks down.

CUT TO:

Batman grimaces even more so.

BATMAN:
Stay here; look after Selina.

Batman begins to walk forward.

CUT TO:

Nightwing turns, confused.

NIGHTWING:
Wait a minute...

CUT TO:

Batman walks away from camera. Nightwing stops him, grabbing his shoulder. Batman doesn't turn back.

NIGHTWING:
What're you going to do?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman, facing away from camera.

BATMAN:
What should've been done...so very long ago.

CUT TO:

HUNTRESS:
No...Don't do it. Don't do something you'll
regret...Remember what you stand...

Batman interrupts.

BATMAN:
Shut up.

Huntress bites her tongue, startled.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN.

Batman turns his head back to Nightwing and Huntress.

BATMAN:

You weren't there. You weren't there when I created that unholy monster. The day I would forever damn myself for allowing him to live.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman turns to camera.

BATMAN:

No more...I won't have any more blood be spilt by allowing him another breath...

CUT TO:

Nightwing doesn't take his hand off Batman's shoulder.

NIGHTWING:

You're not going anywhere. We're going to put our heads together, and find another way...

Batman spins, knocking Nightwing's arm away. He uppercuts Nightwing.

CUT TO:

Nightwing falls to the ground coughing up blood. He looks up, obviously concerned.

CUT TO:

Huntress looks down at Nightwing. She turns to Batman angry.

HUNTRESS:

Have you lost your mind, Bruce?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN - L PROFILE

Batman looks on. Slowly, he turns to Huntress, saying nothing. He scowls beneath his mask.

CUT TO:

Huntress walks up to Batman.

HUNTRESS:

If you go after Joker, you're no better than him! Listen to reason.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT - NIGHTWING

Nightwing throws out a hand.

NIGHTWING:

Helena, NO!

CUT TO:

Batman spins, and roundhouses Huntress across the temple.

CUT TO:

Huntress falls, out cold.

CUT TO:

Nightwing looks up at Batman, shocked.

CUT TO:

Batman turns, looking down at Nightwing in silence.

CUT TO:

Nightwing recoils, slightly in terror.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks directly at camera, silent. He sneers. And with a small snarl, he exits frame, whipping out his cape.

CUT TO:

CATWOMAN OTS

Slowly, Catwoman slides up the burnt wall of the mansion next to the front door, using it as a brace. In the distance, we see Batman mount one of the Batcycles. Revving it up, he spins it in place. Revving up the handle, Batman streaks off into the darkness.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

CATWOMAN:
Bruce...

Catwoman looks on in silence. Slowly, she turns her head.

CUT TO:

Nightwing tries to prop himself up onto his elbows.

CUT TO:

Huntress, lying on the ground. Her face faces away from camera.

CUT TO:

Nightwing tries to stand but has difficulty. However, Catwoman comes to his aid.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing stops, and slowly looks up

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

Catwoman looks down with a small smirk.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing returns the smirk.

CUT TO:

Taking his arm, Catwoman helps Nightwing top his feet.

CATWOMAN:
Are you alright?

NIGHTWING:
I'll manage.

Catwoman looks off in Batman's direction.

CATWOMAN:
What about him?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

Catwoman looks up at Nightwing.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing looks on, grim and solemn.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

CATWOMAN:
Nightwing?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing looks on in silence for several moments.

NIGHTWING:
The man we've come to know is gone...It's over...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

CATWOMAN:
What do you mean?

NIGHTWING (O.S.):
The look in his eyes. That dark emptiness.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

NIGHTWING:
His spirit is broken...Everything that he cares for is

gone...His life tainted by the Joker.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

NIGHTWING (O.S.):

During my first year under his wing, I caught a glimpse of something no one else has seen...Something I couldn't even fathom.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing turns to Catwoman.

NIGHTWING:

Inside...beyond the rationality. Beyond the intellect and skill...He's an utter monster...a madman, just as everyone thought him to be...He had been able to suppress that insanity all these years.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

CATWOMAN:

But now with all the Joker's done...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing turns back to look on.

NIGHTWING:

There's nothing left for Bruce...but death...It's all that he ever had waiting for him on his path...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

Catwoman looks at Nightwing, concerned. Slowly, she shakes her head.

CATWOMAN:

No...No, it can't be...

Catwoman looks back on.

CATWOMAN:
Bruce...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing looks back at Catwoman.

NIGHTWING:
...You do love him...don't you?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN'S EYES

Catwoman's eyes close in sadness.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

NIGHTWING:
I'm so sorry, Selina...The man you love is dead...

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

Catwoman backs away from Nightwing, looking at him in slight anger.

CATWOMAN:
No...There's still hope...I know he loves me to.

NIGHTWING (O.S.):
Don't be stupid.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

Nightwing turns to Catwoman.

NIGHTWING:
Listen to me...He is gone! There is nothing you or any of us

left can do...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

Catwoman looks at Nightwing for several moments, appalled.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing turns away from Catwoman, looking on.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

CATWOMAN:

His greatest ally.....he'd be ashamed of you...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing looks back at Catwoman.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Catwoman stands for several seconds before running off frame. Nightwing looks on in Catwoman's direction.

NIGHTWING:

Catwoman!

CUT TO:

Catwoman mounts the other Batcycle.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN'S HAND

Catwoman revs up the handle of the Batcycle.

NIGHTWING (O.S.):

Stop! It's pointless!

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

NIGHTWING OTS

Catwoman rides off into the darkness.

NIGHTWING:
It's not worth your life!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NIGHTWING

Nightwing looks on, solemn.

FADE TO:

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY

We pan over the skyscrapers of Gotham City. The bleakest night in its history.

FADE TO:

EXT. - SENTRY HOSPITAL

The Sentry Hospital.

CUT TO:

INT. - GORDON'S ROOM

HEART MONITOR SCREEN

Gordon's heartbeat. Subtle and normal.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

Gordon, resting in his hospital bed. His eyes closed, the anesthesia laced into his nostrils.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Gordon resting in the bed. We pan over to the large window pane. We hear a rustling of cape.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - FLOOR

We hear the window being slid open. A small breeze billows in. A black boot steps into the room.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT - GORDON

Gordon continues to rest. The horned shadow of Batman crawls up along Gordon's torso.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks down at Gordon (camera) in silence for several moments.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT - GORDON

Slowly, Gordon starts to open his eyes. He looks up at Batman in silence.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman's eyes narrow. He moves to pull off his cowl.

CUT TO:

BATMAN OTS

Gordon looks up at Bruce pulls off his cowl. He lowers the cowl to his side, standing before the on looking Gordon.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - GORDON

Gordon looks up at Bruce for several seconds. He closes his eyes.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
Oh, Bruce...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman pulls his cowl back over his face. He lowers his hand back to his side. Silence for a second.

BATMAN:
In her name...old friend...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - GORDON

Gordon; his eyes still closed.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
Bruce...

A rustling of cape once more. Batman is gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. - OLD GOTHAM THEATRE

The old Gotham Movie Theatre; condemned. A man stands on a ladder before the marquee.

CUT TO:

The man, JOKER GOON 1, places an 'E' on the marquee, completing the title 'CITIZEN WAYNE.'

CUT TO:

INT. - OLD GOTHAM THEATRE

We pan around as JOKER GOONS roam the theatre, getting ready for the 'show.'

CUT TO:

HARLEY QUINN:
More to the right!

Harley turns, looking over a clipboard, wearing glasses over her mask. She juts out her thumb to the corner of her mouth, in over the top thought as she looks over the paper on the clipboard. She looks up out to the seats.

HARLEY QUINN:

String up those lights outside!

Harley looks back down at the clip board. She smiles.

CUT TO:

Harley puts a heart shaped dot over the 'I' in 'Puddin' on her paper; riddled with lovey dovey works of her pet names for the Joker. Dozens of hearts, 'Puddin's, and 'Mr. J's!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - HARLEY QUINN

Harley does her trademark school girl squeal.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Harley skips off backstage.

CUT TO:

INT. - DRESSING ROOM

A gloved hand picks up an applicator of powder finish. After a few seconds, the hand puts it back down. Harley walks through the door.

JOKER (O.S.):
Are the actors in place, Harl?

HARLEY QUINN:
Yep!

JOKER (O.S.):
Excellent, my dear!

Joker laughs.

CUT TO:

Joker looks in the mirror, putting a hand through his hair. He sighs.

JOKER:
Can't believe it's finally here! The final act...Almost makes me depressed.

Joker frowns like a puppy.

JOKER:

To think...after all these years...that's it's come to an end...

Joker sits, frowning for several moments.

JOKER:

At least I get to go out with a bang!

Joker laughs hysterically.

CUT TO:

Joker Goon 1 pokes in to the dressing room.

JOKER GOON 1:

Boss. Recons' spotted him in the Financial District, heading straight here.

Joker laughs again.

CUT TO:

Joker stands up. We pan up alongside him.

JOKER:

Then let the opening act begin...

Joker smiles menacingly.

CUT TO:

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY

We pan over the Gotham skyline.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - MOTION SENSOR CHARGE

The hands of Bane press a button, activating the motion sensor charge on the asphalt.

CUT TO:

Bane stands, taking out a walkie-talkie from his belt. He looks outward. After a second of static...

BANE:

Status?

CUT TO:

A man in an orange jumpsuit, ARKHAM INMATE 1, stands across the street some distance from Bane. He holds up a pair of binoculars.

ARKHAM INMATE:
Three blocks away.

CUT TO:

Bane lowers the walkie talkie. He turns.

CUT TO:

A large group of ARKHAM INMATES.

BANE (O.S.):
Positions.

CUT TO:

Batman drives on the Batcycle at blazing speeds. A scowl on his face.

CUT TO:

Bane stands on the street, facing camera as Batman approaches.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman raises an eyebrow, spotting Bane. His eyes dart downward.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - MOTION SENSOR CHARGE

The Batcycle wheel roles over the charge.

CUT TO:

The charge explodes in a large ball of flame and smoke. The Batcycle flips through the air, slamming onto the asphalt a flame.

CUT TO:

The inmates come out from behind their positions, smirking and laughing maliciously as they crowd around Bane.

CUT TO:

A large cloud of orange-tinted smoke hangs above the street. Flame dances on the mailboxes and parked cars that it's caught onto.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

Bane laughs under his breath. But as soon as he does, he stops.

BATMAN (V.O.):

Careless...I should have known Joker would've reacted like this.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Out from the cloud of smoke, the silhouette of Batman begins to walk forward menacingly; silently.

BATMAN (V.O.):

When the climax of the battle is in sight, forces will set up a final perimeter of their numbers, in a vain attempt to keep their opponents at bay...

CUT TO:

The inmates look on. They stop smirking; stop laughing. Slowly they become terrified at the hellish presence of their sole captor.

BATMAN (V.O.):

It is however at the misfortune of both the enemy and their perimeters.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman continues forward.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman walks forward, looking down with a grimace. We see his clenched mouth and the top of his nose, but we don't see his eyes. He continues forward, backlit by flame.

BATMAN (V.O.):

When they grossly underestimate that opponent.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ANGRY ARKHAM INMATE

One of the inmates becomes frustrated.

CUT TO:

The angry inmate charges forward at Batman.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman, walking towards a continuously backing camera. The inmate charges into frame. With a single back fist, Batman slams it across the inmates' face, but he doesn't stop; he continues walking forward, looking forward. The blow sends the inmate reeling behind Batman.

CUT TO:

The inmate falls to the ground, out cold.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

Bane walks forward.

BANE:

You never cease to disappoint.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman continues to walk forward, still looking down upon the ground as he continues.

CUT TO:

BANE:

You shouldn't be surprised...It's only fitting that men such
as ourselves would represent the decisive battle for
supremacy, Batman...

CUT TO:

Batman stops walking. He stands in the middle of the street,
silent.

CUT TO:

Bane and the inmates look on in silence.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman, looking down at the ground.

BATMAN:

I'm not Batman...

Batman slowly looks up at the criminals in his way. He
sneers.

BATMAN:

...I'm the angel of death.

CUT TO:

Bane, angry, charges forward; he pulls back a punch for
Batman.

CUT TO:

Bane punches at Batman. Batman ducks, catching the arm into
his own.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

Bane looks down, utterly shocked.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks up at him in silence. He says nothing.

CUT TO:

Without hesitation, Batman snaps Bane's arm sharply.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

Bane screams in pain.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

We zoom in on Bane from behind. We pivot around to see Batman. Without blinding speed, Batman takes Bane's arm. Spinning in place, he continues increasing his speed. Batman, facing away from camera, hurls Bane with all his strength at a nearby brick building. Then, as if in slow motion, Batman slowly turns back to the inmates (camera) with a scowl, as Bane simultaneously smashes through the brick wall with an utter force.

CUT TO:

The inmates look at Batman in horror.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks at the inmates in chilling silence.

CUT TO:

The inmates look at each other concerned.

BATMAN (O.S.):
What're you waiting for?

The inmates turn back to Batman.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman becomes angrier; more bloodthirsty. As he speaks,

it's almost in a growl of sorts.

BATMAN:

Follow your order...If you dare to try and stop me...

CUT TO:

Reluctant at first, the inmates become angry. Slowly but surely, they start to charge Batman.

CUT TO:

FIGHT MONTAGE

BATMAN (V.O.):

Kamikazes present a questionable difficulty during combat.

They come to the battlefield, prepared to die. Without consequence, without hesitation...and without remorse for the unspeakable atrocities they are soon to commit.

During the monologue, all hell breaks loose. Batman breaks bones, pierces skin with his gauntlet blades, snaps arms and legs, throws batarangs into men's jugulars, and tosses men in light poles, electrocuting them. With each brutal attack, he becomes more demonic; more ruthless. This gruesome onslaught continues for several minutes.

CUT TO:

Bane staggers up to the jagged hole in the brick building, massaging his head. He looks down upon the battle.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ASPHALT

The head of an inmate falls to the ground into frame. Slowly, blood starts to pool from his head as a scream erupts off frame.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - FINAL ARKHAM INMATE

The last inmate. His face a sheer mess of blood, bruises, flesh, and bone. Batman punches the face once more.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks down, gritting his teeth. He growls fiercely.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

Taking the collar of the inmate, Batman starts to bash the inmates' head into the ground. Over and over and over; again and again and again. He doesn't stop. Blood spews and whips around the air.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Blood spits up onto Batman's face in spades as he continues to smash the inmate's head in.

CUT TO:

The inmates' head smashes into the pavement just off frame camera left. Blood spills onto the pavement into frame, pooling and expanding.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman, with a horrific yell, bashes his head to the ground one final and harsh time. He looks down in silence, gritting his teeth and panting.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - FINAL INMATES' HAND

The hand of the inmate, bloody, twitches in a seizure-like spasm.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

Batman crouched before the inmate. His back facing away from camera. Bane screams off frame. Batman turns, and looks up with a grimace.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

Bane finishes turning the dial on his venom gauntlet.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

Bane yells as the venom courses through his veins.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Bane's muscle mass increases as the venom pumps through the tubes into his head. He continues to scream.

CUT TO:

Batman stands up into frame, looking upward at Bane off frame. Bane's screams stop, but they echo slightly in the caverns of the city.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - GROUND

Bane falls to the ground from the building, creating a small crater in his wake. He growls as well, thanks to the venom in his system.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks at camera in silence.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

BANE:

Gotham City belongs to ME NOW! You're nothing but a lost soul...craving for death...and you shall have it...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

BATMAN:

Then spare yourself, and DO IT!

CUT TO:

Batman leaps into the air.

CUT TO:

Bane looks up.

CUT TO:

Pulling his cape taut into 'Bat wing' form, Batman falls back to earth upon Bane.

CUT TO:

Bane turns and looks up, awaiting Batman. He laughs slightly.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman falls through the sky.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN'S CAPE

Batman's leathery cape. Suddenly, it whips up, revealing a batarang in Batman's hand.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

Bane stops laughing. He slowly becomes frightened. He steps back.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman falls onto Bane, locking his legs around Bane's torso.

CUT TO:

Batman strikes the batarang down.

CUT TO:

The batarang digs into Bane's shoulder. Bane grunts in pain.
CUT TO:

Batman grabs the tube right in Bane's head, and rips it out.

CUT TO:

As Batman jumps off Bane, Bane begins to scream. Venom spills out onto the street from both the tubes and the back of Bane's head.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

As Batman crouches before Bane, Bane grabs his head as he screams. He writhes around on his feet, and finally falls to his knees before Batman.

CUT TO:

Batman moves in close to Bane, and throws a barrage of blows into Bane's midsection. Blow after blow; relentless.

CUT TO:

Batman stops as Bane continues to scream. Batman shuts him up with a punch into his jaw. Batman then grabs Bane's head in his hands.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman struggles. Then, with a mighty scream.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

Batman wrenches Bane's neck, cracking it off to the side. But he doesn't break it. Bane shrieks in utter pain.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman takes his hands off of Bane's head and stands upright before Bane. Bane rests on his knees, carefully touching his neck in utter pain.

BANE:
Oh...Oh GOD! My neck...my...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

BATMAN:
So this is what your actions have brought you, Joker...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

Bane cries as he touches his broken neck.

BATMAN (O.S.):
As it obviously would have.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

BATMAN:
Death comes for you...on swift and leathery wing...And your
final hour is at hand...

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman leans down before Bane, and picks up his arms by
Bane's wrists after slight struggling. (Think Raggedy Ann).

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

BATMAN:
And nothing will stop it from taking its toll!

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman pulls Bane's arms taut, and kicks viciously into the
small of Bane's back. A grotesque snap. Bane screams
maddeningly.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BANE

Bane shrieks from the pain; as if he'd never stop.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks on in silence as Bane continues to scream.

CUT TO:

Bane is dropped to the ground. He continues to scream.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman stands before the screaming Bane. His cape billows in the breeze.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman turns his head. His eyes narrow.

CUT TO:

A Batcycle rides forward down the street. As it moves into frame, Catwoman slows down, and stops.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN'S FOOT

Catwoman kicks the brake stem on the Batcycle, resting the bike on a tilt.

CUT TO:

Still mounted on the bike, Catwoman looks around slowly.

CUT TO:

We pan around the street. Inmates and blood line the street and sidewalks. The other Batcycle, still in flame, lies down the street. Bane whimpers off to the side.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

Catwoman, looking down. Slowly, she looks back up down the street off frame. Her facial features give off a depressed and saddened look.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATCYCLE EXHAUST

The bike revs up. A puff of smoke billows from the exhaust pipe. Catwoman drives off down the street. Over the horizon of the skyscrapers, a pair of spotlights rotates in the sky. We zoom in somewhat on the thick beams of light in the clouds.

CUT TO:

EXT. - OLD GOTHAM THEATRE

The spotlights rotate outside the theatre. The marquee saying 'CITIZEN WAYNE' is lit.

CUT TO:

INT. - OLD GOTHAM THEATRE

The interior of the theatre. The curtain covers the stage. It's empty and vacant. 20 seconds of silence.

CUT TO:

OLD GOTHAM THEATRE ENTRANCE

A pair of goons, JOKER GOON'S 2 AND 3, smash through the doors into the theatre. They continue, flying off frame from camera left clean through camera right.

CUT TO:

The camera, placed directly at the closed curtain for a few moments.

CUT TO:

Joker Goon 2 lies on the floor, knocked out. Joker Goon 3 hangs off a pair of seats on the back row of the audience

seats. After a second, Batman walks into the theatre.

CUT TO:

Batman walks into frame, and stops. He looks left and right. Slowly, he turns and faces the curtain.

CUT TO:

Batman, facing away from camera, looking at the curtain. Suddenly, a drum roll starts.

HARLEY QUINN (O.S.):

Ladies and Gentlemen; Welcome on this oh so special occasion. We thank you for attending what will soon become the most memorable show in the history of Gotham!

CUT TO:

The curtain; still closed.

HARLEY QUINN (O.S.):

Before we begin, we encourage you to please abide by the rules of the theatre. No talking, no smoking, no eating, no flash photography, and please keep all babies and wards silent...Now, without further adieu...ON WITH THE SHOW!

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

The curtain opens, and Joker bounds onto the stage, wearing a raggedy mock up of the old Robin costume. From pixie shoes and flesh toned stockings; to a patchwork of a red tunic and a yellow 'J' emblem on the left side of his chest.

THE PERFORMANCE

The Joker sings his song as the corpses of Alfred, Barbara Gordon, Batgirl, Lucius Fox, Leslie Thompkins, Jean Paul Valley, and The Waynes fall onto the stage; strung up like marionettes! (NOTE: All the bodies bear the same deformities given to them upon their death).

CUT TO:

Harley, off stage, works the wires holding the bodies.

CUT TO:

As Joker does the show, the marionette corpse flail about in a bizarre and horrific dance number of sorts!

CUT TO:

During the performance, we notice JOKER GOONS starting to close in on Batman. They take their positions.

CUT TO:

The musical number ends on a big note.

CUT TO:

Harley skips onto the stage, whistling and cheering on her puddin.'

CUT TO:

Joker turns to Harley and bows in an over-exaggerated fashion. He turns to the audience and bows again. Standing upright, Joker looks up at the audience.

CUT TO:

Batman stands, looking down at the floor. The only sound is Harley's clapping.

CUT TO:

Joker's smile fades for a split second. Then it returns.

JOKER:

C'mon, Batsy! Let's see a smile! After all, tomorrow is a brand new day!

Joker laughs madly.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman doesn't say or do anything. He continues looking down in silence. Joker's laugh dies down.

CUT TO:

Joker and Harley smile.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman doesn't look up from the ground.

JOKER (O.S.):
What?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

JOKER:
No 'You're Insane?' No, no... 'You're going to Arkham' or
'Why did you do it?'... No threat to beat me within an inch
of life? C'mon, Batman. Don't tell me you forgot your
lines... after all these years...

Joker's smile grows wider.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman doesn't move or respond.

CUT TO:
Joker and Harley's smiles slowly fade. They look at each
other confused.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Slowly and chillingly, Batman begins to chuckle beneath his
breath. After a moment, the chuckle slightly increases into
a haunting laugh.

CUT TO:

Joker looks on at Batman. Joker tries to laugh off the
situation, but ultimately fails as he realizes the truth;
Batman's peculiar behavior begins to frighten him. Harley is
already scared.

CUT TO:

The Joker Goons surrounding Batman start to step back in
terror as Batman's laugh swells.

CUT TO:

The Riddler walks onto the stage, looking on at Batman. He tries to stay at a distance. Batman continues to laugh.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks back down, and slowly his laugh starts to die down. He retains a sinister smirk. He looks back up directly at Joker.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

Joker shakes his head.

JOKER:
This...this isn't right.

CUT TO:

Batman starts to walk towards the stage.

CUT TO:

JOKER:
It wasn't supposed to happen this way...

CUT TO:

Batman continues forward. His smirk fades away into a scowl.

CUT TO:

JOKER:
KILL HIM!

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

As Joker and Harley flee off to the backstage, The Joker Goons charge Batman.

CUT TO:

Batman fights the EIGHT JOKER GOONS. He snaps their necks,

and sends a barrage of gut punches, vicious roundhouses. He takes out each threat in a horrific and brutal way.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - FINAL JOKER GOON 8

Batman grabs JOKER GOON 8 by the throat, and raises him up into the air. After a small struggle, Batman breaks the man's neck.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Still holding up the dead Joker Goon 8, Batman turns and looks to the stage. He throws the corpse to the side and leaps into the air.

CUT TO:

Batman lands on the stage. But before he can go after Joker. A gunshot; the bullet grazes Batman's side. He falls with a grunt to a single knee.

CUT TO:

Riddler walks up to the kneeling Batman, holding a gleaming pistol.

RIDDLER:

You've yet to answer my question, Mr. Wayne.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks up at Riddler, gritting his teeth.

CUT TO:

Riddler aims the gun, pulling back the hammer.

RIDDLER:

How many more must suffer?

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Batman crouches in silence for a moment. Suddenly, he spins

on his hands, swiping his leg across the stage floor. Batman trips up Riddler.

CUT TO:

Riddler falls. Before he can fall fully, Batman grabs the arm that holds the gun, and breaks it. Riddler shrieks; dropping the gun.

CUT TO:

Batman reaches down, opening the Riddler's coat; revealing the shoulder strap for Nygma's pistol. He unbuckles it and pulls it off Riddler.

CUT TO:

Taking Riddler by the arm (the shoulder strap in his other hand), Batman pulls Riddler to a nearby empty rope, hanging down from the battens overhead.

CUT TO:

Batman ties the rope into a noose around Riddler's neck. Riddler's too shocked by his arm to respond.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - PISTOL

Batman picks up the discarded pistol.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN'S TORSO

Batman straps the shoulder holster on.

CUT TO:

RIDDLER OTS

Batman turns, opening the chamber of the gun, checking for bullets. Clicking the chamber back into place, Batman holsters the pistol into the strap, and closes his cape once more. He stalks up to Riddler.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - RIDDLER

Riddler, panting, looks up at Batman

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

BATMAN:
Just three more...

CUT TO:

Batman walks off to stage left. Riddler looks off at him, then finally notices the noose around his neck.

CUT TO:

Batman walks forward. He stops.

CUT TO:

The handles that hold down the ropes with weights. We focus onto a single rope, we pan upward, tracking the rope overhead. We find the two ends of the rope. One connected to a sandbag. We pan down to see the other end...wrapped around the Riddler!

RIDDLER:
NO!

CUT TO:

Batman flaps his cape, and throws a batarang.

CUT TO:

The batarang snaps through the rope.

CUT TO:

The sandbag falls through space.

CUT TO:

Batman walks off after the Joker as Riddler zips up into the air, screaming. The sandbag falls, hitting the stage with a sickening thud. Batman walks off through the exit door backstage; his cape trailing behind him.

CUT TO:

EXT. - OLD GOTHAM THEATRE

Batman, climbing the roof access ladder, steps up onto the rooftop of the theatre. He stalks along the roof, silent and menacing.

CUT TO:

On the other side of the roof, Joker wears a white two-piece tuxedo and a purple undershirt (DKR Joker). He stands, propping up a dirty unearthed coffin, unmarked and empty.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman walks into frame, and stops.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

With a sinister smile, Joker lets the coffin fall.

CUT TO:

The coffin falls onto the rooftop with a sickening thud.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

JOKER:

So...which of us is it for? He He He...Ha Ha Ha Ha...AAA
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!

CUT TO:

Batman charges Joker without mercy.

CUT TO:

Batman tackles Joker to the roof.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

Joker looks up at Batman, giggling.

CUT TO:

Batman slams his fist into Joker's grin over and over.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

Batman punches Joker again and again and again.

CUT TO:

Suddenly, Harley's oversized mallet swings Batman off of Joker.

CUT TO:

Batman rolls off into a crouch. Angry, he hurls a weighted bola at Quinn, holding onto one end of it.

CUT TO:

The bola ensnares Harley; she drops the mallet.

CUT TO:

Taking the wire in both hands, Batman swings it and throws Harley off the edge of the building.

CUT TO:

Still ensnared in the bola, Harley screams as she falls to her death.

CUT TO:

Joker runs and looks over the ledge.

JOKER:
NOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

Silence.

CUT TO:

Joker turns, and looks at Batman with a look of pain and sadness. His lip quivering, his eyes wide; he works for several moments. Suddenly, he closes his eyes and snaps them open, smiling once more.

JOKER:

Who am I kidding? I would've done it sooner or later
anyhow...

With a laugh, Joker charges Batman.

CUT TO:

Batman and Joker battle in silhouette, backlit by the night sky.

CUT TO:

Joker throws a left hook. Batman catches his fist. Taking the arm in both hands, Batman breaks it at the elbow over his knee and smashes his forehead into the Joker's face. Grabbing Joker, he pulls him into his waiting fist, punching Joker clean in the gut. Flapping his cape, Batman spins and kicks Joker in the stomach, sending him sprawling into the coffin.

CUT TO:

JOKER POV

Batman, angry as hell, looks down into the coffin in a demonic fashion.

CUT TO:

Joker; his face bloody. He laughs, spitting up blood in the process.

JOKER:

Very good, my dear dear friend. And I'd be more than willing
to take my leave. But the shows' not over yet.

CUT TO:

Giggling, Joker points a finger to the left. Batman follows it.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman turns to his right, looking at camera. His eyes snap open.

CUT TO:

On the other side of the elongated theatre roof, the Bat-Signal sits. Strapped onto the signal is Robin!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman, utterly shocked.

BATMAN:
ROBIN!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ROBIN

Robin screams viciously. His flesh smokes and crackles and burns underneath the strain of the light.

CUT TO:

Batman tries to move after Robin. Suddenly, a blow strikes him on the back of his head. Batman falls; Joker stands, holding a rubber chicken and a grin.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ROBIN

Robin shrieks, shaking his head from side to side.

CUT TO:

Taking a knife from his sleeve (Killing Joke nod), Joker slices the chicken open. He pulls out a crowbar, discarding the rubber shell.

CUT TO:

Joker walks forward past Batman. Batman, struggling, props up on a forearm. He looks up with grit teeth.

CUT TO:

Joker walks up to Robin, looking up at him. Joker strokes a hand down Robin's torso as Robin screams and convulses. Joker turns to Batman.

JOKER:
Humph...At least he doesn't scream like a girl...like the
other one did...

Joker laughs.

CUT TO:

Joker turns, and strikes Robin with the crowbar.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ROBIN

The crowbar swipes across Robin's face, he spits up more blood.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

Joker laughs as he pulls back the crowbar.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER'S BACK

Suddenly, a bullwhip strikes Joker across his back; ripping into his jacket.

CUT TO:

Joker screams, dropping the crowbar.

CUT TO:

Catwoman rushes Joker as he turns, and punches him.

CUT TO:

Catwoman pulls back her other fist. With a sharp motion, Catwoman snaps her hand open; unsheathing a set of razor claws.

CUT TO:

Catwoman strikes Joker's face with the claws.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

The cuts run deep; blood starts to drip from the wounds.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Catwoman kicks Joker in his side. Joker staggers backward.

CUT TO:

Catwoman snaps the bullwhip.

CUT TO:

The bullwhip strikes the Joker on his chest. He backs off, but starts to laugh at the wound.

CUT TO:

Catwoman whips again.

CUT TO:

Another strike. This time on the Joker's leg. Joker continues to laugh as he backs away. Suddenly, Batman charges Joker from behind, tackling him to the roof.

CUT TO:

Batman smashes Joker's face into the roof. Again and again and again and again.

CUT TO:

Joker's laugh is muffled; but he continues.

CUT TO:

Batman looks down at him in disgust.

CATWOMAN (O.S.):
BRUCE!

Batman looks up, and runs.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ROBIN'S STRAPS

A strap holding Robin's right wrist is broken.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ROBIN'S STRAPS

A strap holding Robin's left ankle is broken.

CUT TO:

Batman takes Robin, cradling him in his arms. Robin's corpse is burnt; black. Smoke literally seeps and rolls and billows off of him. Batman falls to his knees.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ROBIN

Robin, dead. His eyes closed as his face faces up to Batman, looking down upon him.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman, solemn and sad. Slowly, he starts to openly weep. Very heartfelt and human, unlike his emotions for the past few scenes.

CUT TO:

Catwoman stands off, sad and silent, as Batman openly weeps for Robin off frame.

FADE TO:

WIDE SHOT

We pull back slightly from the scene. Batman kneels in center frame, cradling Robin; almost rocking him as if he's an infant. He lowers his head into Robin's chest and pulls Robin closer to him. Catwoman stands off to the side behind Batman.

BATMAN:
...Good soldier...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman; his head resting under Robin's burnt chin. His eyes closed as he and Robin slowly rock. He whimpers for his dead

partner.

BATMAN:
...Good soldier...

CUT TO:

Catwoman walks around Batman, and kneels down before him.

CATWOMAN:
I'm so sorry, Bruce.

CUT TO:

Batman doesn't respond for a moment. Slowly, he looks up into her eyes.

CATWOMAN (O.S.):
He's in a better place.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

CATWOMAN:
He gave it his all...and you taught him well...

CUT TO:

Batman looks back down at Robin. Being careful with him, Batman lies him down onto the roof. He looks down at him for a moment before slowly standing.

CUT TO:

Catwoman stands up with Batman.

CATWOMAN:
Bruce...I have to tell you something.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks up at Catwoman.

CATWOMAN (O.S.):
No matter what's happened between us through all these years, I have to be honest with you...

CUT TO:

Catwoman starts to get slightly teary eyed.

CATWOMAN:
I love you...Bruce Wayne...Batman.

CUT TO:

Batman looks at her whole heartedly.

CUT TO:

CATWOMAN:
I always have.

CUT TO:

Batman sighs; he looks as if he's about to cry once more.
Suddenly, he moves and...

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Standing before the lit Bat-Signal, Batman and Catwoman embrace. They hug each other, neither of them wanting to ever let go.

CUT TO:

BATMAN OTS - CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN
Catwoman just hugs Batman in silence, her eyes closed.

CATWOMAN OTS - CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman rests his head on Catwoman's shoulder, his eyes closed as he snuffles his nose slightly.

CUT TO:

Batman and Catwoman step back from each other, but remain in each others arms.

CATWOMAN:
I can't fathom what's happened to you...But I know there's
still good in your heart.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

CATWOMAN:

Come with me...Leave Gotham behind...And be with me for the
rest of our lives...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks at her very lovingly.

BATMAN:

Selina, I...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

CATWOMAN:

Forget the villains and the masks...Be with me...Be the man
I love...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks down, silently. Suddenly, a gunshot. Batman's
eyes snap open. He looks back up.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - CATWOMAN

Catwoman's eyes snap open wide. She gasps for air. She's
still for a moment.

CUT TO:

We pan up behind Catwoman to see a bullet entry in the small
of her back.

CUT TO:

Joker, propped up on one forearm. He holds up the gun.
Despite an array of missing teeth, Joker grins viciously.
Blood drips from the corners of his mouth.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

Batman looks down in shock as Catwoman goes lifeless in his arms.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

JOKER:
Me-Ouch!

Joker laughs, coughing up blood.

CUT TO:

Batman holds Catwoman in his arms.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks down, speechless and in utter and merciless shock. He shakes his head (NOTE: He's lost the love of his life. He needs to emote that! Think Chris Reeve at the end of Superman: The Movie)

BATMAN:
Se...Selina...No...

CUT TO:

BATMAN OTS

Catwoman, gasping for air. She looks up at Bruce.

CUT TO:

Catwoman strokes Batman's cheek.

CUT TO:

CATWOMAN:
Br...Bruce...

Catwoman chokes, and blinks. Suddenly, her eyes slowly open and she dies in Batman's arms. Batman tries to gently shake her.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

BATMAN:

No...No, come back...come back, Selina...come back...

Batman starts to cry. He looks down and closes his eyes. The Joker begins to laugh off frame.

CUT TO:

Joker stands up slowly, coughing and laughing.

JOKER:

Oh please...Don't be such a whimp. I'm sure you can find some other girl with a fractured psyche that dresses up like a pussy...

Joker laughs hysterically. He slaps his knee with his free hand.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks down at Catwoman. Slowly he looks up at Joker with THE MOST PISSED OFF FACE HE CAN MAKE!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

Joker laughs even harder, his eyes clenched shut. Slowly, he opens them.

CUT TO:

Batman dives into camera.

CUT TO:

Batman tackles Joker to the roof once more. Joker discards the gun.

CUT TO:

Joker lands on his back, Batman on top of him. Batman gives him utter hell! Breaks his fingers, breaks his arm three times along the forearm. An assault of blows to the stomach, neck, shoulders, head, and face. He breaks in Joker's ribs, and a part of his collar bone. He bashes Joker's head into the roof multiple times.

CUT TO:

JOKER POV

Batman stands.

CUT TO:

Joker seizures, spitting up blood. He twitches and slowly looks up at Batman. He smiles.

CUT TO:

JOKER POV

Flapping up his cape, Batman moves to pull his pistol.

CUT TO:

Joker's smile fades as he continues to twitch.

CUT TO:

Batman pulls the handgun, and slowly lowers it.

CUT TO:

The gun lowers into frame, aiming directly in between Joker's eyes.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks at Joker, pissed as could be.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

Joker coughs up a wad of blood as he tries to speak.

JOKER:

My point's...been proven...finish it...kill me...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks down with a ferocious sneer. Joker laughs off frame.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

Joker laughs.

JOKER:

Send me to hell in a hand basket...with a smile on my face...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

BATMAN (V.O.):

When all else fails...And it's apparent that you are near defeat, there's still the final option. The choice to succeed against your foe in a psychological sense, rather than a physical one...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - GUN

Batman pulls back the hammer on the gun. He doesn't waver in aiming it.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

Joker smiles. His eyes widen in a chilling fashion.

CUT TO:

BATMAN (V.O.):

After so many failures, one can become tired of combat. They then realize the perfect way to win is to leave their enemy in a complete state of disarray and madness. Take away all that is decent and good and important to them. Lay waste everything that they hold to be sacred and most dear, and you will ultimately succeed where you had previously failed. The enemy will then have no choice but to grant you immunity through death...and hale the end of your war...

During the monologue with zoom in past the gun, up Batman's arm, into his face, into his eye. We zoom in extremely into

his eye as he continues to look down upon the Joker. We zoom in all the way.

ZOOM IN TO BLACK:

A single gunshot...

END CREDITS.

Silence for several seconds.

BATMAN (V.O.):

...There is, however, one facet of the battle that your enemy may never count on...

BEAT

BATMAN (V.O.):

Compassion...

CUT TO:

ZOOM OUT:

We pull out of the Joker's face quickly. With a saturated gasp and very wide eyes, he awakes. He breaths deeply. Staring up. He's strapped to a hospital bed of sorts.

CUT TO:

INT. - BATCAVE

The ceiling of the Batcave. Bats screech and fly by overhead.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

Joker looks up, panting. After several seconds. He turns his head slightly and looks around.

CUT TO:

JOKER POV

We pan around the cave. A waterfall can be heard in the distance. Bats fly by.

CUT TO:

Joker looks over.

CUT TO:

His heartbeat pulses on the monitor.

CUT TO:

Joker puts his head back down again.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT

Joker lies in silence for several seconds. It's almost nerve wracking. Then, without build up or warning.

BATMAN (O.S.):
You're awake.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

Joker gasps, and tries to look and find the source of the voice.

CUT TO:

We pan around the Batcave. Utter darkness.

BATMAN (O.S.):
I didn't think you'd survive the ride home...The bullet dug
deep...

CUT TO:

Joker blinks. He looks down.

CUT TO:

A bullet wound scar on his bare, white chest.

CUT TO:

Joker looks back out into the cave.

BATMAN (O.S.):
It's been sketchy for the past three weeks.

JOKER:

Show yourself!

CUT TO:

Silence. No response. Nothing happens.

CUT TO

Joker tries to get up; he can't.

CUT TO:

His bonds hold him to the bed.

BATMAN (O.S.):

You're not ready to stand...Not yet. Your muscles have grown weak. In time, I'll help you rebuild them.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

JOKER:

Why?

CUT TO:

Slowly, Batman walks forward from the shadows. He stalks up to Joker's bedside.

CUT TO:

Joker turns his head and looks up at Batman.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - BATMAN

Batman looks down at Joker in silence. 25 seconds of silence. No response.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

JOKER:

ANSWER ME!!!

CUT TO:

BATMAN:

You need your rest...Tomorrow, we'll get started with liquid digestion...After a few weeks of that, we'll move on to liquids with solid components; soups, stews...

CUT TO:

JOKER:

STOP! ANSWER MY QUESTION!!!

CUT TO:

Batman takes a deep breath.

BATMAN:

Once I've helped you regain your strength, we'll begin psychiatric rehabilitation...It'll be good for you...and for me...But for now, rest.

Batman turns and walks off back into the shadows.

BATMAN:

I'll be back down in a few hours or so...

CUT TO:

JOKER:

ANSWER ME!!! WHAY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

CUT TO:

The cave. Dark and empty. No response.

CUT TO:

JOKER:

BATMAN!

CUT TO:

Still no response. Bats fly by in a small cluster.

CUT TO:

JOKER:

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? FINISH IT! KILL ME!!! BATMAN, COME BACK!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JOKER

Joker flies his head back onto the pillow, screaming as he tries to break his bonds. We slowly pull back from the Joker, eventually ending in a WIDE SHOT with Joker in the hospital bed square in the middle.

JOKER:

NO! FINISH IT, BATMAN!!! KILL ME; KILL ME NOW! DON'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS! IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO END LIKE THIS! NOOOOO!!!

BATMAN!!!!

Joker sobs as bats continue to fly overhead.

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END.