

NO JOKE

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OPENING - PITCH BLACK

JOKER (VO)
Where'd we begin?

A chilling hysterical laughter shears out.

OPENING TITLE - FADES IN/FADES OUT

FADES IN:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Everyone is sitting in the living room. A child and his mother are on the floor playing a board game while the father sits on the couch reading a newspaper. The father sits there with a noticeable police badge and gun on the small table next to him. There in big words on the newspaper article he's reading says, "THE JOKER BREAKS OUT OF ARKHAM AGAIN."

FATHER
(Mumbles to himself)
Jeez, where do these freaks come from?

The mother starts picking up the board game and putting it back into the box.

BOY
Aw mom, do I have to go to bed right now? I want to finish playing.

She finishes putting all of the board game's objects into the box and stands up.

MOM
We can tomorrow.

MOM (cont.)

After all you start your first day in elementary tomorrow.

BOY

Okay!

The kid gets up and ran through the hallway and turns to the right and leads into his bedroom. The mother yells back at her son.

MOM

I'll be there in a few minutes to tuck you in.

She walks towards her husband as he is still looking into the newspaper.

MOM

So aren't you going to say good night to your own son?

FATHER

I will.

MOM

Okay.

He continues reading. She nods and starts walking off towards the hallway.

CUTS TO:

Suddenly the door busts open and she starts screaming. A man with permawhite, green greasy hair, with red lipstick smeared across his face, and wearing a dark purple suit with a dark green tie around his neck strikes into the living room. The wife just stands there looking at him.

JOKER

Ooh, not so loud! I have such sensitive ears.

Joker hysterically laughs. The husband reaches out to his gun located on his small table. But the Joker points a gun towards his face before he could grab the gun.

JOKER

Na-ah-ah, not so fast!

The wife stands there, frightened. The husband looks up and stares at him.

FATHER

What do you want?

JOKER

What anyone wants...

Long pause.

JOKER

A good laugh!

Joker shoots the husband's head. The wife starts to scream. She starts heading for the hallway quickly. Joker shoots at her in the back of the head. She trembles forward to the ground, as her head lies aside of the open door of her son's bedroom with him staring blankly at her dead body, looking as if he was in total shock. Joker blows the smoke off his pistol and then sees the boy peek out and quickly pulls back. Joker grins, as he puts away his gun into his left pocket. He stares directly at the hallway walking towards the dead corpse of the mother, just crossing over her and leaping into the room.

4.

CUTS TO:

INT. BOY'S BEDROOM

Joker starts checking the room. He stands up and twisted his head left and right to make cracking sounds out of his neck. He hears something. The closet door moved a bit. He grins again and slowly walks over and opens the door.

CUTS TO:

He sees a frightened little boy staring back at him. He gets out a pocket knife and starts juggling with it.

JOKER

Aw, what's wrong?

Short pause. Joker shouts at him.

JOKER

I said what's wrong?!

The little boy starts to cry.

BOY

(scared)

I want my mommy!

JOKER

Aw, you want your mommy? Isn't that right?

He nods.

JOKER

Aw, I'm sorry.

JOKER (cont.)

Let me tell you what? I am not going to kill you.
But as for your parents, heh, it's too late for
them. See your dad, is a cop, he had gotten into my
business way too much! So you see I had to kill
him. Your mom..well, she was too noisy! She wouldn't
shut up! So she had gotten in the way of my
business.

Joker makes a gesture of a gun with his hands.

JOKER

So point and pull is all I did!

Joker hysterically laughs, scaring the kid some
more.

JOKER

That stupid-rotten-nosey dad of yours! I hate him!
But not you! You're my favorite. 'Cause you know
why?

The boy shakes his head right to left.

JOKER

Well you remind me of myself! I'm going to make you
suffer, just for the fun of it! So---let's put a
smile on that face!

Joker's pocket knife flings open, as the knife on
it made that clicking sound. Joker points the knife
towards the boy.

JOKER

Open wide!
(grins)

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

The front has 'CAUTION' tape around the front entrance of the house. Commissioner Gordon comes onto the scene while Detective Harvey Bullock walks towards him. They both stop looking at each other while Bullock has a Joker playing card in his right-hand.

GORDON

So what do we have, Bullock?

BULLOCK

Double homicide and one survived victim. The husband, his wife, and their son. The husband was Officer Flass.

GORDON

Who survived?

BULLOCK

Their son.

GORDON

What's that in your hand?

BULLOCK

Oh this...?

Bullock held up the Joker playing card in the evidence bag.

BULLOCK (cont.)

It's evidence.

Bullock hands it to Gordon.

BULLOCK (cont.)

There's a message on the back of the card. I think
you should read it.

GORDON

I'll check on it later.

Gordon puts it in his right jacket pocket.

GORDON

Can I see the boy?

BULLOCK

Go right ahead.

GORDON

Where is he now?

BULLOCK (cont.)

Inside still, Montoya is talking to him right now.

Gordon nods and walks pass Bullock as he walks into
the front entrance of the house.

CUTS TO:

INT. HOUSE

The corpses of the parents are still in the same
places where they have been killed. Detective Renée
Montoya is talking to the boy on the other couch
located in the living room. The boy's face is being
covered by Montoya's head.

GORDON

Renée, I want to speak to the boy.

Her head turns. The boy's face is still being covered.

MONTROYA

Sure thing, Gordon.

We see Gordon's face turn to see Montoya walking pass him. His head turns to see the boy and his expression changes as he held his mouth and look away for a moment. He looks back up at the boy, and as we see the kid his face was terribly scarred. The scars make it seem the boy had a big grin across his face. Gordon speaks in sudden shock to his mood.

GORDON

What happened to you?

BOY

(stutters)

The clown---made me smile.

Gordon looks away, feeling terrible for this kid but suddenly sees another Joker playing card underneath the father's police badge. He picks it up and reads what it says on it, "Read my message." Gordon looks at it, confused. And then he got it. He drops the card and takes out the evidence card in his pocket. He turns it around to read the message on the back. On the back is blank but with words written all over it. He reads it, "I'm back. No one is going to stop me this time. Not the police and definitely not the Bat-Man! Oh, this is No Joke at all, and I promise you that I'll bring Gotham to it's knees! HaHAhAhaHahAHAHa!" Gordon looks up with a sudden shock look on him.

9.

QUICK CUT TO BLACK:

GORDON (VO)
He's back.

Joker's hysterical laughter shears endlessly. The
laughter fades out.

THE
END

...or...

Just the beginning?

END CREDITS ROLLING