

"Batman: Saviour"

by
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Based on, the character created by Bob Kane

Current Revisions by
Paul M. Wolford, July, 22 2004

FADE IN:

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Another blank and starless night. But there is light to behold and it's shining towards the sky. We TILT DOWN TO see.

EXT. GOTHAM OIL & GAS REFINERY - CONTINUOUS

Huge. Imposing. And flat out ugly. Though just outside Gotham City you could swear this refinery was in downtown Gotham.

INT. GOTHAM OIL & GAS REFINERY - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

A gun shot rings out as a SECURITY GUARD gets shot in the chest and collapse onto the floor.

HENCHMAN #1 (O.S.)
Joe we got the stuff!

Two HENCHMEN run out from inside the office. HENCHMAN #1 holds a briefcase. Slowly JOE CHILL, mid-thirties and just plain evil, turns around holding a smoking gun.

CHILL
Good.

Joe shoots HENCHMAN #2 killing him on the spot. Henchman #1 stares on in shock. He stares a little too long as Joe shoots him as well. Joe walks over and picks up the briefcase.

CUT TO:

INT. GOTHAM OIL & GAS REFINERY - STAIRS - NIGHT

Joe runs down a flight of stairs as fast as he can, always looking over his shoulder to see if he's being followed.

CUT TO:

EXT. GOTHAM OIL & GAS REFINERY - MOMENTS LATER

Joe bursts through the front door. An OLD SECURITY GUARD spots him and draws his gun.

OLD GUARD
Freeze, Mister!

Joe shoots him and dashes to a car and smashes out the window. Within seconds the hot wiring is complete.

(CONTINUED)

Joe peels out and heads towards the front gate. Several more GUARDS show up and take aim and fire at Joe but to no avail as Joe crashes through the front gate.

I/E. COUNTRY ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Joe speeds down a rural road. Suddenly a tire blows out.

CHILL

Damn it!

Another tire blows out, wait... SHOT OUT! Joe tries to gain control but loses it and crashes the car into a ravine. With briefcase in hand Joe struggles out of the car and heads straight into the --

INT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Joe runs like a mad man through the woods, leaping over fallen trees and ditches.

Soon Joe sees what looks like to be a clearing up ahead. He runs past the trees only to find that he is in a clearing... but it's surrounded by more trees.

A loud NOISE hovering overhead is heard. Joe looks around in a panic. The sound gets louder and louder. Joe is completely lost and has no idea where to go. A blinding LIGHT is cast down upon him. Joe tries to look up into the light above him.

JOE'S P.O.V.

A silhouette of a giant BAT heads straight towards him.

Joe stares up in horror as The SHADOW OF A BAT gets larger. Larger. LARGER.

Joe aims his gun up to the sky -CLING!- Joe grasps his hand in pain as the gun is knocked out of his hands by a metal object. A BATARANG.

Now completely covered by the shadow of the bat Joe foolishly looks back up only to get KICKED in the mouth by a BLACK BOOT.

Joe falls back onto the ground holding his mouth in pain and mumbling swears. Chill gets to his knees. Finally he stands to his feet and turns around only to see... the saviour of Gotham. BATMAN: the Dark Knight.

Joe slowly builds what little courage he has then charges the Batman.

(CONTINUED)

Batman side steps Joe to the right then -WHAM!- nails him in the back of the neck with the palm of his hand. Joe hits the ground.

INT. BATWING - MOMENTS LATER

Batman sits inside the cockpit of the BATWING setting the controls.

EXT. WOODS - ARIEL SHOT - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON - THE BATWING'S REAR ENGINE, a beat then the AFTERBURNERS kick on sending the Batwing off at an amazing speed. As the Batwing flies away barley visible hanging by the waist is a body. Joe.

EXT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

COMMISSIONER JAMES GORDON is standing next to the BATSIGNAL. Two others are standing next to him. Gordon's SPECIAL ASSISTANT HARVEY BULLOCK, a large and out of shape detective who's seen one to many Gotham nights. Next to him is DETECTIVE RENEE MONTOYA, a beautiful Latino in her late twenties who's the perfect partner in looks and skill.

BULLOCK

I don't trust'em, Commish.

GORDON

He gets the job done, Bullock.

Gordon looks over to his right and sees something heading towards Gotham over the horizon. With a squint Gordon recognizes it and smiles.

GORDON(cont'd)

You think this one is awake,
Montoya?

The Batwing flies in over the Police Station then hovers above the roof -WHOOM!- Joe is dropped unceremoniously onto the roof in front of the three.

Joe starts to raise his head -WHAM!- the briefcase nails him in the back of the head knocking him out cold.

MONTOYA

Nope.

The Batwing takes off like -- well, like a bat out of hell.

BULLOCK

I don't trust him, Commish.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON
He gets the job done, Bullock.

INT. BATCAVE - MOMENTS LATER

The Batwing comes roaring into the BATCAVE and lands. God's gift to butlers, ALFRED THADDEUS CRANE PENNYWORTH, is halfway down the stairs. In his hands is a tray with a steaming tea kettle.

Batman hops out of the Batwing and walks towards Alfred who is now at the Batcomputer pouring a cup of tea for Batman.

ALFRED
Evening, Master Bruce. I made your favorite. Lapsang souchong tea.

BATMAN
Thanks, Alfred.

Batman strolls to his chair and sits down and begins to remove his gloves.

ALFRED
Did you have a rough night, sir?

BATMAN
No, it was pretty normal.

Batman begins to drink his tea and begins running some programs on the Batcomputer.

BATMAN(cont'd)
Know what I was thinking on the way home, Alfred?

ALFRED
No, sir what?

BATMAN
We should get a dog.

ALFRED
A dog, sir?

BATMAN
Yeah, I kinda miss having the cat since Dick took it with him to Bludhaven. I've always wanted a dog, you know - name him "Ace".

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED

If I may be so bold, sir but bats, cats and dogs at Wayne Manor? Tell me sir what's next a giant T-Rex in the Batcave.

BATMAN

Well, we got room for one.

Alfred turns to leave.

BATMAN

Hey, Alfred.

ALFRED

Yes, sir?

BATMAN

Does this look stupid?

Alfred takes a step back and looks at Batman holding a cup of tea and its soccer.

ALFRED

The Dark Knight drinking a cup of smoked Chinese tea in the Batcave?

(sarcastically)

Why no, sir. Whatever gave you that idea?

INT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

MAYOR HAMILTON HILL, competent but misguided, sits in front of Gordon's desk.

HILL

I don't want this city to rely on the Batman for everything that goes wrong Commissioner. The tax payers pay for the Police to protect them not some freak in a suit.

GORDON

Mr. Mayor, Batman doesn't handle everything that goes wrong. We only ask him for help when we need it. It's great Psychological Warfare against the crime in this city, besides he's more than a freak in a suit to this city.

HILL

That's right he's a vigilante.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON

That vigilante saved this city from the Joker.

HILL

I don't care what he --

GORDON

And if it wasn't for him Oswald Cobblepot would be Mayor now, not you.

HILL

(a beat)

Still, do you think this type of thing could happen in Metropolis or in Coast City without someone complaining?

GORDON

Who's complaining? The citizens of Gotham? If they have I haven't heard them.

HILL

And what about our businesses, do you think someone like Bruce Wayne wants Batman protecting Wayne Enterprises? He's worth over eight hundred million dollars.

(beat)

Do you know how much of that comes into the city and our charities? Not to mention the amount of money he gave the city to repair all the damages that Batman caused while he was dealing with the Joker and the Circus Gang, Mr. Freeze and all the others.

GORDON

I don't know I haven't spoken to Mr. Wayne about Batman. But Maybe you can take some notes for me at your next cocktail party.

HILL

Look Gordon this is my first term as mayor and I'm not going to be over shadowed by a bat!

(CONTINUED)

GORDON
Then you better get out of my
office and find someone who cares!

Hill gets up from his seat and grabs his coat off the hanger.

HILL
I'm watching you Gordon, you better
not slip up while I'm mayor.

Hill slams the door behind him as he leaves the room. Quickly
Montoya and Bullock enter the room.

MONTOYA
Man, what's got him so pissed off?

GORDON
Ahh, he was born with a silver
spoon in his ass instead of his
mouth.

BULLOCK
Was it about the Batman, Commish?

GORDON
Yeah.

BULLOCK
I don't trust 'em, Commish.

GORDON
Yes, Bullock you don't trust
Batman. We know.

BULLOCK
No, I was talking about the
Mayor...I don't trust the Bat
neither.

The phone on Gordon's desk rings Gordon quickly answers it.

GORDON
Gordon. What?

INT. APARTMENT #1 - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bullock and Montoya enter into a slum apartment which has now
been turned into a crime scene flooded with COPS. Bullock
walks up to an OFFICER

BULLOCK
What do we have officer.

(CONTINUED)

OFFICER #1
 You better take a look at this. The
 Officer leads them to the --

INT. APARTMENT #1 - KITCHEN - DAY

Before he enters the kitchen Officer #1 pauses.

BULLOCK
 What is it?

OFFICER #1
 Be careful. It's messy.

Behind the Officer we can make out the heads of four people sitting down to a nice quite family dinner, MOM, DAD, SARAH and LITTLE BILLY.

BULLOCK
 (aghast)
 Oh --

The Officer steps to the side and we see what Bullock does. Four throats SLIT from ear to ear. The bodies tied to the chairs to keep them from falling out.

Flies swarming the room as FORENSICS painstakingly work on the bodies and swatting at the flies.

FORENSICS #1
 Can someone please do something
 about these damn flies!

The Detectives start moving around the room. Montoya looks about ready to puke. She leans over the kitchen sink turning her back to everyone in the room.

MONTOYA
 Nobody saw or heard anything?

OFFICER #1
 Not a thing.

BULLOCK
 Nothing?

OFFICER #1
 Nothing.

MONTOYA
 What about Forensics?

(CONTINUED)

FORENSICS #2

So far we haven't found anything
Detectives. It will be awhile
before we can find out if they were
drugged before they were killed. So
far it doesn't look like it.

MONTROYA

They were murdered, not killed.
There's a difference.

BULLOCK

We'll check back with the
Department and have them check on
any nutcase that might have be
released. Come on, Montoya.

INT. BULLOCK'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

As we ride down Gotham City a visibly upset Montoya rides
shotgun. Bullock notices. Obviously it's a first.

BULLOCK

What's wrong, Montoya?

MONTROYA

Son of a bitch murdered two kids!

BULLOCK

I know.

MONTROYA

How couldn't somebody hear
something? They had to. You just
doesn't walk in and murder four
people like that without somebody
seeing or hearing something. Those
apartments are overrun with people,
you can't just --

BULLOCK

Come on, Montoya. You've seen that
section of town before. Nobody in
that part of town cares about
anybody. Hell, nobody in this city
cares about anybody. The same thing
goes for the force, too. You, me,
and the Commish are an anomaly.
We're the only people who care
about anything in this stinkin'
city.

(CONTINUED)

MONTOYA

Well, I kinda think Bruce Wayne cares. I don't think it's an act.

BULLOCK

Wayne? Wayne? That pretty boy only cares about how much money he has in the bank and how fresh the supermodel he has is under the sheets. He stinks and what the hell is this?!

Bullock slows down as a ROYALS ROYCE is double parked in front of the PICTURE NEWS office building. Bullock leans out the window. Montoya grabs his arm.

MONTOYA

Bullock.

BULLOCK

Hey! Hey move it!

MONTOYA

Bullock get in here. Bullock leans on the horn.

BULLOCK

Come on get out the way you rich --

ANGLE ON - THE ROYALS, as we see Gotham and America's showcase bachelor, BRUCE WAYNE, stepping out. He sees Bullock.

BRUCE

(huge smile)

Oh, hello, Detective Bullock. I didn't see you.

Bullock gives a fake smile and waves then leans back into the car.

BULLOCK

(under his breath)

I hate that guy.

The Royals pulls away as Bruce heads towards the Picture News' front door.

BRUCE

(under his breath)

I hate that guy.

INT. PICTURE NEWS - ENTRANCE - DAY

Bruce goes through the revolving doors and head straight towards the front desk where a thirty something Female RECEPTIONIST is reading a magazine without a care in the world.

BRUCE
Hello, Miss. I'm --

The Reception gives a quick glance at Bruce then does a double take. The magazine goes flying as the Receptionist hops to her feet.

RECEPTIONIST
Bruce Wayne! Oh, my God, you are so hot!

BRUCE
What?

RECEPTIONIST
(embarrassed)
I'm mean... hello, welcome to Picture News... so sorry.

BRUCE
No, it's alright. I'm here for an interview with Miss. Julia Remarque.

RECEPTIONIST
Yeah, she's right upstairs on the third floor.

BRUCE
Okay, thank you.

RECEPTIONIST
(HUGE smile)
You're welcome.

INT. PICTURE NEWS - THIRD FLOOR - DAY

Bruce exits the elevator and marches onto the third floor. Immediately everyone stops what they're doing and stares at Bruce. Bruce takes advantage of the situation.

BRUCE
Hi. Bruce Wayne. I'm looking for Miss Remarque.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA (O.S.)
Over here, Bruce!

Bruce looks over and sees JULIA REMARQUE, with her head peeked out the door from a corner office and waving. Bruce waves back. No eyes leave Bruce as they follow him through the room.

INT. PICTURE NEWS - JULIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Julia holds the door open to her plush office.

BRUCE
Hello, Julia.

JULIA
Hello, Bruce. Go ahead and have a seat I'm sure Talia doesn't mind.

BRUCE
Who?

TALIA (O.S.)
Talia.

A stunningly beautiful twenty five year old woman, at least she looks it, TALIA al Ghul stands up from her chair stopping Bruce dead in his tracks.

TALIA (cont'd)
Talia al Ghul.

Talia extends her hand. Bruce stares then finally comes to.

BRUCE
(shaking hands)
Hi. Bruce Wayne.

TALIA
Yes, I know. It's hard for a woman to come to Gotham City without knowing who Bruce Wayne is.

BRUCE
Is that so?

TALIA
Yes.

BRUCE
And who is Bruce Wayne might I ask?

(CONTINUED)

TALIA

Someone who isn't running short on date lists but hopefully could add one more sometime.

BRUCE

Anytime.

TALIA

I hate to be rude but I must go, however, I'll will keep free date in mind if you will.

BRUCE

Oh, it's in my mind all right.

Talia smiles and walks out and shakes hands with Julia.

TALIA

Goodbye, Julia.

JULIA

Bye, Talia.

Talia looks over her shoulder and gives one last smile and WINK to Bruce before she leaves.

JULIA (cont'd)

Nothing changes with you does it, Bruce?

BRUCE

I'm a billionaire playboy. I'm supposed to act this way. My public demands it.

Bruce hops down on a couch. Julia closes the door and goes to her desk.

JULIA

How's my dad doing?

BRUCE

Alfred? Oh, he's great.

JULIA

You know Bruce our interview wasn't scheduled for another hour.

BRUCE

Yeah, well I was in the neighborhood so I figured why not? So what's the deal with Talia?

(CONTINUED)

JULIA
I'm doing a piece on her. She's not
your type.

BRUCE
What makes you say that?

JULIA
She's an environmentalist.

BRUCE
(she's right)
Oh, one of those?

JULIA
Yes. And the Wane Foundation's
history hasn't always been very
environmentally friendly.

BRUCE
We are so. I was the one who
confronted Max Shrek about--

The phone RINGS. Julia gives Bruce the "hold that thought"
signal and answers it.

JULIA
Julia... Uh-huh... Really? Hold on
a moment.

Bruce plays around with the lamp shade next to the couch.
Julia grabs a pen and starts taking notes.

JULIA (cont'd)
Okay. West Side? Bullock's in
charge?

That got Bruce's attention.

JULIA (cont'd)
Okay, thanks.

BRUCE
What was that all about?

JULIA
Um... something just came up.

BRUCE
Really?

(CONTINUED)

JULIA
Yeah, uh... look... could we do
this another time?

BRUCE
Sure, No problem.

Julia goes to open the door for Wayne. Bruce jumps up but takes a quick look at her notes then heads towards the door before Julia turns around.

JULIA
Sorry.

BRUCE
(smiles)
Don't worry about it. I'll catch
you later.

JULIA
Thanks.

They exchange kisses on the cheek and Bruce leaves.

INT. ZSASZ'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A dark empty apartment. The outside light is blocked out by aluminum foil on the windows. A small light O.C. shines on a MAGICIAN'S TOP HAT, JACKET, etc. which is lying on a chair.

ZSASZ (O.S.)
(whispers)
Mommy.

Small DROPS are heard going into a sink.

INT. ZSASZ'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

Standing in front of the sink stands MR. ZSASZ, a tall and well built blonde man in his thirty's. Small scars are spread across his body. Four scars with one across the middle as if he's keeping count on his body with a knife... he is.

ZSASZ
(whispers)
Daddy.

More drops are heard going into the sink.

ANGLE ON - THE SINK, as several drops of blood fall.

(CONTINUED)

ZSASZ (cont'd)
 (whispers)
 Sarah.

We TILT up to see Zsasz cutting his forearm with a knife.
 Next to the area he is cutting are three fresh cuts.

ZSASZ (cont'd)
 (whispers)
 Little Billy.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Bruce sits in front of the Batcomputer watching Anchor SUMMER GLEESON give a report.

SUMMER
 (filtered)
 A grizzly crime was discovered on the West End of Gotham City today. An entire family was found murdered. Two of the victims were under the age of ten. Early reports state that all four of the victims' throats had been slit, though Gotham City Police Commissioner James Gordon has not validated that report.
 (beat)
 The story was first broke to the public by journalist Julia Remarque from the Picture News. Bruce turns off the feed and sits back in his chair.

INT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Gordon is sitting alone at his desk on the phone.

GORDON
 We can't solve a murder like this in one day Mr. Mayor, it takes time to... Well maybe if the city would quit cutting back our department funds we could hire more... I can't give you the men if we can't.. That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard...Yes, Mr. Mayor.

Gordon slams the phone down.

GORDON (cont'd)
 Damn!

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN (O.S.)

Leads?

Gordon jumps. He swings around and sees Batman standing inside the office next to the window.

GORDON

No... I'm afraid we don't have any yet. I don't know how the news media got the information they did but what they reported was true. The whole family was murdered. It looks like professional work. You wouldn't happen to have anything would you, Batman?

BATMAN

No.

GORDON

You know, the new Mayor has been riding me pretty hard about you. He even asked me if I thought that you did it. I told him that was the stupidest thing I've ever heard.

BULLOCK (O.S.)

Hey, Commish!

Gordon's office door quickly opens up.

GORDON

Harvey!

BULLOCK

What? I'm just telling you I'm heading out. Geese, it's not like you're talking to anyone in here.

Gordon turns around to see Batman no where in sight.

BULLOCK (cont'd)

Commish?

GORDON

Yeah, alright Bullock. Take it easy.

Bullock shuts the door.

GORDON (cont'd)

Batman?

(CONTINUED)

Gordon gets up and looks out the window only to see a busy Gotham street. No Batman.

EXT. GOTHAM STREETS - WEST SIDE - NIGHT

A YOUNG GIRL runs down the sidewalk. In her hands is a TEDDY BEAR that she is clinging onto. She hurries past an alley. Quickly Zsasz, dressed as a MAGICIAN in coat and tie, steps out in front of her. The Young Girl jumps back in fright.

ZSASZ

Oh, I'm sorry little one. Did I frighten you?

She shakes her head: Yes.

ZSASZ

Why are you running? Are you scared of someone?

She shakes her head: No.

ZSASZ

Are you late getting home?

A nod of: Yes.

ZSASZ

Your parents are going to be mad, huh? Well, maybe I should take you home, hmm? And then you can give these flowers to your mother and say that's why you were late. You were getting her some flowers.

LITTLE GIRL

(child pronunciation)
Flowers?

ZSASZ

Yes, the flowers that your friend is holding.

The Girl looks down and in the arms of the Teddy Bear is a bouquet of flowers. The Girl smiles.

LITTLE GIRL

Wow.

ZSASZ

So now tell me... where does mommy and daddy live?

EXT. LITTLE GIRL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Police cars surround the house. Reporters run around the scene in a frenzy eating up the ratings they know they're receiving.

INT. LITTLE GIRL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Once again Police have swarmed the house searching for clues inch by inch.

Sitting in a lazy boy is the FATHER with his throat slit still holding the remote control in hand. His head arranged to look like he's still watching the TV that's still flickering.

Sitting on the end of the couch is the MOTHER. Throat slit and still holding her "GOTHAM MONTHLY" magazine.

In the corner of the room is a large white sheet covering up a BABY'S CRIB.

On the floor next to it is small white sheet. Next to it is the little girl's Teddy Bear, still holding the flowers.

In the center of the room Gordon is consulting with Montoya and Bullock.

GORDON

I'm sorry for calling you two in
but I had to.

BULLOCK

Don't worry about it, Commish. Me
and Montoya will find the guy.
Right, Montoya?
(no answer)
Montoya?

Bullock turns to see Montoya staring in space.

GORDON

Montoya what's wrong?

Everyone behind Montoya looks at her then stare to the direction she is looking.

BULLOCK

What is going --

Bullock and Gordon turn around to see Batman walking into the living room. All the Police are silent and stare at Batman.

(CONTINUED)

This is the first real Batman sighting for most in the room and we can tell. Batman doesn't waste any time walking towards Gordon.

GORDON

Batman? What are you doing here?

BULLOCK

I got a better question. Who the hell let you past the tape, Bats?

GORDON

Settle down, Bullock. Batman we haven't found anything new here but we're trying our best.

Batman looks over at the baby's crib and marches towards it.

BULLOCK

Hey, what are you doing?

GORDON

Quiet, Bullock. He's helping.

BULLOCK

Helping, huh?

Batman slowly leans down and picks up the Teddy Bear and stares at it. A look of sadness overcomes the Batman that soon turns into anger.

BULLOCK

I tell what he's doing, he's using this as an alibi.

(pulling his gun on
Batman)

This son of a bitch did it!

Batman looks up at Bullock.

GORDON

Bullock put it down!

BULLOCK

He did it!

GORDON

No, he didn't!

BULLOCK

Yeah, how do you know that? Nobody knows anything about this freak. What's the story, Bats, huh?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BULLOCK(cont'd)

Did your mommy and daddy neglect
you as a child so you grow up
wearing a rubber suit and murdering
babies?!

Batman storms towards Bullock. Bullock jumps back and points
the gun at Batman's face. Batman holds up one of the flowers.

BATMAN

I'm taking this.

Batman shoves the Teddy Bear into Bullocks chest then walks
towards the back of the house.

BULLOCK

Hey, that's evidence you can't take
that!

GORDON

Bullock!

BULLOCK

By God I'm going to shoot'em.

Bullock runs off after Batman.

GORDON

Bullock get back here!

INT. LITTLE GIRL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bullock runs into the bedroom and switches the light on only
to see an open window with the curtains blowing in the wind.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Batman slides the flower under a large microscope then walks
over to his chair at the Batcomputer and types a few keys.
The flower comes up on the large monitor.

Batman magnifies the image; small unintelligible lettering
can be seen. Batman magnifies several times until we can read
the lettering:

GOTHAM MAGIC SHOP

CUT TO:

INT. GOTHAM MAGIC SHOP - NIGHT

The STORE OWNER cowers back into a corner.

(CONTINUED)

OWNER
 (broken English)
 What do you want man?! I don't
 break no laws. I just working late!

The flower is thrown on him.

OWNER (cont'd)
 What this? I don't know this. I
 don't know nothin'.

BATMAN
 Names.

OWNER
 But --

BATMAN
 Now!

INT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Gordon walks in and gets ready to take off his jacket. Wait something's on the desk. Gordon walks over and sees a list of names with a BATMAN LOGO on the bottom of the page.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE:

Gordon, Bullock, Montoya and many other of Gotham's finest are going door to door, house to house, day and night questing people. All races. All ages.

INT. ZSASZ'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

BAM! The front door is smashed open with Gotham's Special Unit spilling in. On the floor sits Mr. Zsasz in his Magician's outfit. Zsasz looks up at the Police not surprised.

ZSASZ P.O.V. as the butt of a rifle flies towards us -- WHAM!

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

Summer Gleason is giving a special report. Over her shoulder footage of Zsasz being put into a Police car and taken into Police Headquarters is being played on a LOOP.

(CONTINUED)

SUMMER

Gotham City Police have arrested a man in connection to the series of murders that have been plaguing Gotham for the past few days. The man's name has not yet been released but what we do know is that the Batman played a pivotal role in helping the capture of this man.

INT. WAYNETECH - BRUCE'S OFFICE - DAY

Summer's report is playing on a large plasma screen on the wall. Bruce lays asleep on his couch cat napping.

SUMMER

(filtered)

At this hour the man is still being interrogated by Gotham City Police.

INT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Zsasz sits at a table twiddling his thumbs. He's not alone. Montoya, Gordon and Bullock all sit at the table waiting for their turn with him.

BULLOCK

(slamming his fist on the table)

Why did you do it you sick bastard?!

Zsasz looks up at Bullock with one hell of a BLACK EYE.

ZSASZ

Who me? Do you think I did it?

BULLOCK

I ask the questions here not psychos like you!

ZSASZ

And even though I'm just a magician I know that I don't have to speak to you unless I have a lawyer.

MONTOYA

Ahh, I knew he'd pull this crap.

(CONTINUED)

ZSASZ

On the contrary I'm not. Instead I won't speak until the Batman is present.

MONTOYA

What?

ZSASZ

Batman. You can call him right? Oh, that's right, he doesn't come out until night since he can't see the BATSIGNAL during the day. Maybe you should invest in a big red phone that way you can call him during the day, Jim.

GORDON

Commissioner Gordon.

ZSASZ

Oh, sorry.

(beat)

So are you going to get the bat or not? If you have to wait until night I suggest you take me to a holding cell. You can't leave me cuffed in here until nightfall can you? Then again if fat boy can pass the physical then you could probably get away with anything.

BULLOCK

You son of a --

Zsasz laughs his ass off as Gordon and Montoya hold Bullock back.

GORDON

(to Zsasz)

You want Batman? He'll be here.

Zsasz smiles.

EXT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

The BATSIGNAL shines brightly overtop of the Station.

INT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Zsasz sits at the table. Pleased with the outcome. Montoya, Gordon and Bullock once again are in the room.

(CONTINUED)

Most importantly standing in the darkest corner of the room is the Batman.

ZSASZ
Well, now we can talk.

GORDON
Alright. What is your name?

ZSASZ
Mr. Zsasz.

GORDON
Your first name?

ZSASZ
Mr. Zsasz.

GORDON
Fine. Did you murder those people?

ZSASZ
Let's ask the bat. Did I do it?

BATMAN
Roll up his sleeves.

BULLOCK
What?

GORDON
Do it, Bullock.

Bullock walks over to Zsasz and rolls up his left sleeve and sees the OLD scars. Bullock looks up at Zsasz with a questioned look. Bullock rolls up the other sleeve. Eight fresh scares.

BULLOCK
Well, well, well.

MONTOYA
What is it?

BULLOCK
Eight slashes on his forearm.

ZSASZ
What does that mean?

BULLOCK
Eight victims, eight slashes.

(CONTINUED)

ZSASZ

Maybe I have a volatile cat.

BULLOCK

What you're gonna have is my foot
stuck up your --

GORDON

Harvey!

ZSASZ

Is Batman always this quiet?

GORDON

Where were you two nights ago?

ZSASZ

Home. Praying. Do you pray Batman?
Does the saviour of Gotham pray to
the Saviour of the world? Are your
sins still bottled up inside Batman
or did you lose them on a cross? I
know my sins are cleansed.

No answer.

ZSASZ

I guess not, huh, Batman? You know
as well as I do that no God exist
and that no Son died on a cross.
Why would someone who so, "loved
the world" allow a man to slit the
neck of a sleeping baby, which I am
accused of. Tell me how could a God
of love allow a child to watch
their parents die in front of them?
To be taken from them. To never see
them again at that tender age. If
He's all powerful He could stop it
couldn't He? But He doesn't does
He? No, he let's it happen over and
over again and nothing ever
happens. Is that it Batman? Have
you taken on the form of vengeance
because there is no God of one so
you think you must become it? Do
you actually think you can do the
work of a god like Superman can?

BATMAN

You have no idea what I can do.

(CONTINUED)

A knock on the door breaks the tension. Montoya answers it and doesn't like who's behind it.

MONTOYA

Oh, great.

DELIA (O.S.)

You can't do this.

Montoya steps back as DELIA MAXWELL, a beautiful and ticked off attorney, enters the room.

DELIA

You can not hold this man and interrogate him without proper representation.

GORDON

Delia --

DELIA

That's Miss. Maxwell, Commissioner.

GORDON

Miss. Maxwell this man has waved his right to an attorney.

DELIA

This man could also be mentally challenged and does not understand how serious the matter is.

BULLOCK

Look lady, this guy is a nut job and he --

DELIA

So, you admit that he isn't of sound mind and yet you continue to interrogate him for hours on end? And don't you know that --
(spotting Batman)
Ahh!

Montoya, Bullock and Gordon hide their smiles.

GORDON

Oh, I forgot to mention that Batman was here Miss. Maxwell.

(CONTINUED)

DELIA

I can see that. What is that man doing here? He has no authority to be here.

GORDON

Batman can --

DELIA

Batman can not. He is the true villain here. He's a vigilante. The last time I checked those types were illegal.

(beat)

Gordon neither you nor the DA can keep this man here. I have already spoken to Mayor Hill about this and a medical professional is outside the door and we'll see if this man goes to Arkham or stays here.

MONTOYA

You're a real pain in the ass you know that?

DELIA

I'm defending the Constitution Detective Montoya. Maybe you should start defending it as well?

BATMAN

Arkham isn't the answer.

DELIA

You don't believe in rehabilitating people for the outside world?

BATMAN

I do.

DELIA

Then what's the problem.

BATMAN

Arkham will let him out.

DELIA

If he goes and that's a big "if", then when he is released he would be fully rehabilitated.

BATMAN

Doubtful.

(CONTINUED)

DELIA

Whither or not you believe that Jeremiah Arkham is capable of running his Uncle's Asylum does not change that fact that you have no say in this Batman and neither do you Gordon.

ZSASZ

Ma'am?

DELIA

Yes?

ZSASZ

I would appreciate it very much so if you would be my attorney.

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

Summer is giving a report. Clips of Zsasz being taken to ARKHAM ASYLUM is playing behind her.

SUMMER

The man who is now being held responsible for the string of murders in Gotham city was moved to Arkham Asylum today. The only name that the man has given to authorities is Mr. Zsasz. No birth records from his finger prints have been found yet but the Gotham Police are working on it and have sent all available information to INTERPOL. But by far the most bizarre fact to come out is the markings on Mr. Zsasz's body. After examination by Arkham Doctors they have found over one hundred and fifty cuts on Mr. Zsasz's body. The Police at this time are lead to believe that with eight fresh cuts on his person, the same number of murder victims in Gotham, that Zsasz marks each of his kills by cutting a slash mark on his body. Of course we will have more news on this as it develops.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SUMMER(cont'd)

In other news Gotham's favorite son Bruce Wayne will be meeting with environmentalist Talia Head today. When asked what the meeting would be about Chief Executive Officer of the Wayne Foundation Lucius Fox had this to say.

LUCIUS FOX is stands outside the Wayne Foundation in front of a circle of reporters.

LUCIUS

WayneTech, regardless of what S.T.A.R. Labs, LexCorp and others may say, has always had the public and environment in mind. By meeting with environmentalists and their foundations WayneTech can open a dialogue and both sides can be heard. If technology can make the world a better place then working with the environmentalists can only make it twice as better.

INT. WAYNE MANOR - BALLROOM - DAY

Bruce and Talia are slow dancing in the middle of the Ball Room while a STRING QUARTET serenades them.

TALIA

Is this how all your meetings go?

BRUCE

Only the good ones.

TALIA

And do you think that this meeting is going good?

BRUCE

(huge smile)
Very good.

TALIA

So uh... who's the quartet?

BRUCE

They're students from Gotham University. I give out grants every year to local schools, each one for a different field. There's just happened to be music. Soon they'll be moving on to the Gotham City Orchestra.

(CONTINUED)

TALIA

So deep down there's more to you
then just a rich playboy.

BRUCE

That's right. I'm a real superhero.

TALIA

Well, for the ladies sake I hope
you're not the Flash when it comes
to the bedroom.

BRUCE

No, I think I got that part under
control.

TALIA

So... how long have you lived here,
Bruce?

BRUCE

Bruce? Oh, I'm on a first name
basis now?

Talia smiles ear to ear.

BRUCE

I've lived here all my life. As a
matter of fact aside from the
Penthouse at the Wayne Foundation
this is the only house I've ever
spent the night in while in Gotham.

TALIA

Really? No sleep overs during grade
school or anything?

BRUCE

No, my childhood was... less then
normal. So what about you, Talia?

Talia smiles at her name.

TALIA

Um, you could say the same with me.
My father didn't spend much time in
one area so we moved around a lot
so I didn't have very many friends.
And my father loved helping the
environment so I guess since I
lacked in friends I just kinda
threw myself into his cause and
made up for it there.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE
So would you say that you and your
father are close?

TALIA
Yes, I like to think so.

Talia begins to speak but she holds back. Bruce notices it.

BRUCE
What is it?

TALIA
Nothing.

BRUCE
No, what is it?

TALIA
I was going to ask you something
but never mind.

BRUCE
No, it's okay. You can ask me
anything.

TALIA
Well, I heard what happened to your
parents when you were younger and I
was going to ask you if you
remembered what relationship you
had with them. It just seems so
long ago I can't even remember my
father when I was that age.

BRUCE
No, it's okay. I still remember
them... not a day goes by that I
don't. I remember my father was
strict but he was fair and that my
mother would always protect me if I
did something wrong and was going
to be punished for it.

(beat)
We spent most of our time playing
cards or board games and every
weekend my father would take me and
my mother to the theater. No matter
what he always made time for us, my
mother did aswell.

TALIA
Sounds like you really love them.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

I do. I built my whole life around them.

TALIA

Well, I'm sure they still love you where they're at. I'm sure a lot of people love you.

BRUCE

Not many.

Talia stands as close as she can to him.

TALIA

Well... maybe it's time for one more.

Talia and Bruce stare deeply into each others eyes. Talia lays her head on Bruce's chest as he wraps his arms around her and holds her.

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - DAY

Two Police cars pull into the gates of ARKHAM ASYLUM. After driving up the long hill leading to the Asylum the cars finally park. Gordon steps out of one of the cars while Bullock and Montoya get out of the other.

GORDON

Man, I hate this place.

BULLOCK

The dregs of Gotham, Commish.

MONTOYA

Well, put a tie on them and we'd have the Politicians of Gotham.

GORDON

(whispers)

Shhh, not out loud, Montoya.

MONTOYA

(whispers)

Sorry.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - ENTRANCE - DAY

JEREMIAH ARKHAM greets the Police at the door.

(CONTINUED)

JEREMIAH

Ahh, I've been expecting you. How has your day been officers?

GORDON

It's been better, Dr. Arkham.

JEREMIAH

Oh, I see. No new leads into your case?

GORDON

Not yet I'm afraid. How is the patient doing?

JEREMIAH

Mr. Zsasz is doing quite well I must say.

BULLOCK

So what's the verdict doc is Zsasz a freakin' whack job or not?

JEREMIAH

Officer, we stress not to use terms like that. Mentally ill, is the acceptable term.

BULLOCK

The guy's a murderer, it's all the same.

JEREMIAH

No, I'm afraid it's not. If he was just plain evil doing it of his own free will then he would be, but if a person is mentally ill then it's not their fault, they can't control their actions. Now please follow me.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - FIRST FLOOR - DAY

As the four walk down a hallway that's filled with NURSES helping PATIENTS. The longer they walk down the hall the fact that Arkham was originally a Victorian Mansion which was converted to a Asylum can easily be made out.

JEREMIAH

Don't worry, I assure you that these floors, in fact all our floors are perfectly safe.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JEREMIAH(cont'd)

We have twenty-four hour surveyance on all floors and ten security guards per floor. We keep our most dangerous patients on the lower levels so please this way.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - BOTTOM FLOOR - DAY

Jeremiah leads the Police down a large and well lite floor. Giant doors with huge locks as far as the eye can see on both sides fill the hallway. As Jeremiah talks Montoya spots a QUESTION MARK LOGO on one of the doors. On the other side of the room Bullock sees a ROSE LOGO on another door.

JEREMIAH

In order to help some of our newer talent along the way along with the obvious cell numbers we put logo's on the cell doors as well. This tends to keep everyone walking in the middle of the hallway.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - ZSASZ'S ROOM - DAY

Jeremiah opens a door that leads to a small room cut off from the rest with a large glass frame with four guards watching over Zsasz who is asleep on a cot.

JEREMIAH

It seems that several patients felt threatened by the fact that he holds a higher kill count then others. Also their were some who abhor Mr. Zsasz for what he did to the children so we have to keep him sperate from the others.

Jeremiah walks over to a intercom on the wall and presses the speak button on it.

JEREMIAH

Mr. Zsasz please wake up, you have visitors.

BULLOCK

What's the deal with the intercom is the room soundproof?

JEREMIAH

Yes, very.
(into the intercom)
Mr. Zsasz, visitors.

(CONTINUED)

Zsasz rolls over from his cot and raises his head and looks at the Police. Zsasz, now dressed like all the other patients, gets out of the cot and walks over to his intercom.

ZSASZ
Hello, Dr. Arkham.

JEREMIAH
Hello, Mr. Zsasz. How are you feeling today?

ZSASZ
I'm feeling lovely.

JEREMIAH
The Police have a few questions for you, Mr. Zsasz.

ZSASZ
Oh, is that so? Well, I'm always willing to help the Police.

Gordon walks over to the intercom.

GORDON
Zsasz.

ZSASZ
Commissioner.

GORDON
How have you been treated?

ZSASZ
Excellent, Commissioner.

GORDON
Look, we need more information from you.

ZSASZ
Like what?

GORDON
The scars on your body, are they from other people you have murdered?

ZSASZ
Zombies, Mr. Commissioner, they were mindless zombies caught in a world of the never ending pointless trivial stuff.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ZSASZ(cont'd)

The same old, same old as you would say. There lives, what little they were, were never going to change. They did what society told them to do. Living in Gotham and every other city on this planet will destroy your life and turn it into shit. They were lost and were never to return. I helped them escape. But I do realize they were human as I am and that is why I mark myself. To remind myself that I am human also.

GORDON

So you admit your murdered them.

ZSASZ

No. I exterminated them, Commissioner.

GORDON

You do realize that is not how the courts will see it.

ZSASZ

The court system is in its very nature corrupt Gordon. Instead of cases being judged by the law it's judged on precedence. The judges care more about what some other judge says then what the law says. They are also mindless drones Commissioner. It's sad that a man like you puts so much faith into it. Maybe that is why you allow Batman to run amok since he goes against the rules that are so venal.

GORDON

You're going to be locked up for a long time, Zsasz.

ZSASZ

With this court system? I doubt it. With good behavior I'll be out in six months.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - OUTSIDE ZSASZ'S ROOM - DAY

The door opens with Montoya, Bullock, and Gordon walking out the door with Jeremiah following behind them.

(CONTINUED)

JEREMIAH

Well, I hope you're happy with your interview, Commissioner Gordon.

GORDON

He just admitted that he murdered all those people. Of course I'm happy, we got him.

JEREMIAH

Just because you have him doesn't mean you'll get him.

MONTOYA

What are you saying?

JEREMIAH

Remember if he is mentally ill then we take care of him. You don't get the luxury of frying him.

BULLOCK

You dirty --

GORDON

You have no idea the danger this man possess. You can't hold him here.

JEREMIAH

No Commissioner I told you we are fully capable of handing the situation and only we can give him the help that he needs. Like the sign says on the Gate says "Arkham Asylum: Home for the Criminally Insane".

MONTOYA

If that monster gets loose --

JEREMIAH

I assure you he won't.
(motioning security)
Now please, I think you may have upset my patient. I'll have security will escort you out.

BULLOCK

We don't need your security.

Jeremiah watches the Police then turns back into Zsasz's room.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - ZSASZ'S ROOM - DAY

Jeremiah walks up to the intercom as Zsasz goes to his.

JEREMIAH

I'm sorry for the actions of the police.

ZSASZ

That's alright. Do you wish to begin another session now?

JEREMIAH

Yes.

ZSASZ

(smiles)

Good.

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - DAY

The Police head towards their respective cars.

BULLOCK

This stinks, Commish. You better have a talk with the mayor about this one.

GORDON

I'll talk to him Bullock but I doubt he'll see the light.

BULLOCK

Well, we're going to be seeing whole lot of dead Gothamites if that nut job isn't taken care of. He belongs in San Quentin not in Arkham.

GORDON

I know Bullock but if the Mayor doesn't agree then we're --

MONTOYA

Screwed.

GORDON

Big time.

EXT. WAYNE MANOR - BACKYARD - DAY

Bruce walks along side Talia down a path. Talia is astonished at the size and beauty of Bruce's backyard. This is a sight you would never see in a Gotham Travel Brochure.

TALIA

It must take a fortune to care for this place.

BRUCE

It does and the only time nobody is working on it is the winter.

TALIA

I don't see anyone out here today.

BRUCE

Well, I that's 'cause I gave them the day off. That or they finished early I can't really remember.

TALIA

Yeah, right. You just wanted to get me back here alone didn't you?

BRUCE

Well--

TALIA

Oh, look at the flowers!

Talia races up to a large garden leaving Bruce standing by himself.

BRUCE

(finishing)

Yeah, actually I did.

Bruce strolls over to Talia who has immersed herself inside the garden.

TALIA

These are so beautiful.

BRUCE

Yeah, Alfred picks them out every year.

TALIA

Really?

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

Yeah -- no, no, no, I mean I pick them out every year.

Talia looks back at Bruce knowing it's a lie.

BRUCE (cont'd)

Yeah, WayneTech and the environment, I love the environment. First thing I think of in the morning 'cause I have to breath and if I can't breath then I say, "Hey, something's wrong with the environment but it's not WayneTech's fault because we love the environment."

Talia smiles at Bruce. Bruce smiles back and extends his hand. Talia softly takes his hand. Bruce starts leading her through the garden and she happily follows.

As they walk Talia slowly tightens her hand around Bruce's. He does that same to her's and are soon walking hand in hand. Talia wraps her other arm around Bruce's then gently lays her head on his shoulder.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The Mayor sits behind his desk not caring what Gordon has to say to him.

HILL

No.

GORDON

Mayor, you don't see the --

HILL

I don't care, Gordon. Zsasz is in Arkham. He can't escape and the courts are going to handle his case. That's all I can do.

GORDON

Hamilton, you know as well as I do that Arkham isn't inescapable and Zsasz is going to attempt it the first chance he gets.

HILL

I don't know that.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON

What?!

HILL

I don't know that he won't escape,
hell he might like it in there.

GORDON

What kind of crap is this?

HILL

This crap is --

GORDON

Politics! It's damn politics! It
never changes with you people!

HILL

Gordon I've had enough of you. Get
out my office.

GORDON

Mark my word Mr. Mayor when Zsasz
gets out I putting the blood on
your hands not my department.

HILL

Get out!

Gordon slams the door shut as he leaves the room. After a
beat a familiar voice is heard.

BULLOCK

(through the door)
He stinks!

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - ZSASZ ROOM - NIGHT

Zsasz sits quietly inside his room while the guards sit
around in a circle playing cards.

Nobody notices Zsasz's smile.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT

TWO SECURITY GUARDS sit in front of the monitors each one
slowly dozing off. One guard catches himself from falling
asleep and smacks the other guard on the shoulder waking him
up.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - JEREMIAH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Jeremiah sits at his desk looking over inmate files. EDWARD NIGMA, VICTOR FRIES and PAMELA ISLEY are the recognizable names that we see.

Jeremiah opens his file on Zsasz... completely empty.

He reaches inside his coat pocket and takes out a key and unlocks his desk drawer and pulls out another file. An overflowing file marked... THE BATMAN.

A KNOCK on the door. Jeremiah quickly stashes the Batman files.

JEREMIAH

Come in.

AHMS LABARBA, Jeremiah's assistant walks in.

JEREMIAH (cont'd)

Ahms, come on in.

AHMS

Mr. Arkham you wanted to see me?

JEREMIAH

Yes, come in, come in. I wanted to talk to you about Mr. Zsasz.

Ahms takes a sit next to Jeremiah desk.

AHMS

What did you have in mind?

JEREMIAH

Ah, mind, that's exactly it. I believe that Mr. Zsasz can help us achieve some great success in the field.

AHMS

Yes, Mr. Zsasz is in need of some serious --

JEREMIAH

No, no, no. That's not what I'm talking about. It's a given that Mr. Zsasz would be a great study but in this city who would be the greatest study?

(CONTINUED)

AHMS
I don't quite follow.

JEREMIAH
Batman.

AHMS
Batman?

JEREMIAH
Nobody knows anything about him,
only the people he picks up. Look
at this file.

(handing the file to Ahms)
This file is full of story's about
the Batman. Who knows which ones
are true and which ones aren't. The
thing that is almost a given is
that the Batman never does anything
in the day.

AHMS
(coming around)
Wait a minute. Do you want to use
Zsasz to study Batman?

JEREMIAH
Yes.

AHMS
How?

JEREMIAH
How do you think the Batman would
react if Zsasz got loose?

AHMS
Wait -- are you going to let Zsasz
go free?

JEREMIAH
No of course not. He's going to
break out.

AHMS
But what about the people of
Gotham?

JEREMIAH
Sacrifices are made everyday. It's
time that the greedy Gothamites
sacrifice something too.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JEREMIAH(cont'd)

We have the chance to not only study the Batman, but also a criminal mind and the entire city of Gotham.

AHMS

You're mad. Everyone was right. Your family was and now you are too.

JEREMIAH

Don't you dare back out on me, Ahms. Not after all we've been through.

AHMS

No. No, I won't stand for this! NO!

Ahms starts heading for the door Jeremiah stands up to block him.

JEREMIAH

You're not leaving until you go through with this.

AHMS

You're crazy! Ahms tries to go around.

Jeremiah grabs Ahms. A struggle ensues. Ahms overpowers Jeremiah and throws him onto a couch and heads for the door. Ahms swings it open only to get his throat slashed.

Ahms falls dead to the floor.

Jeremiah looks down at his fallen assistant. Two bare feet stand next to him. Jeremiah looks up to see Zsasz.

ZSASZ

Plans changed.

JEREMIAH

You -- you weren't suppose to kill anybody here.

ZSASZ

I've only killed one. It's the others that I'm worried about.

JEREMIAH

What others?

Zsasz walks over and grabs Jeremiah and drags him to the door way.

(CONTINUED)

ZSASZ

Those others.

Jeremiah looks on in horror as the inmates are literary running the asylum.

JEREMIAH

Damn you, you released them.

ZSASZ

Perceptive.

JEREMIAH

You were the only one who was suppose to --

ZSASZ

I said the plans changed. Look on the bright side. If no one here kills you you're going to have a lot of paper work to keep you busy for the next several years.

Zsasz starts to walk off then stops.

JEREMIAH

But --

ZSASZ

Oh, by the way, where did you put my clothes at? I can't seem to find them.

JEREMIAH

Uh... third floor.

ZSASZ

Thanks, you're a real pal.

Zsasz takes off. Jeremiah bolts behind the door and locks it. Quickly the room fills with light. Jeremiah looks out the window and sees the BATSIGNAL shinning brightly over the city.

EXT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Gordon stands beside the BATSIGNAL smoking his pipe. Waiting. Watching. Hoping.

INT. GOTHAM HOTEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Bruce is walking hand in hand with Talia down the Hallway. Both being very "friendly" with each other, we know what's coming next. Behind them is a large window with the BATSIGNAL shining over the city. Amazingly Bruce misses it.

TALIA

Here's my room.

Bruce walks with Talia to the door.

BRUCE

It's a shame we didn't get to speak more about business.

TALIA

Yes, I guess we'll have to do this again.

Talia begins to unlock the door.

BRUCE

I have no problem with --
(noticing the signal)
-- that.

Talia turns back and catches Bruce's glance and then looks out the window.

TALIA

Oh, wow, so that's what it looks like?

BRUCE

(hurrying along)
Yeah, it -- it's just Batman.

TALIA

Is he going to fight someone?

BRUCE

I don't know. I don't really pay attention to that Batman crap.

TALIA

Jealous?

BRUCE

No. Just no interest in him but hey look, um, it's getting kinda late so I'm going to leave. I don't want to wear my welcome out.

(CONTINUED)

TALIA

But I was just going to ask you if you wanted to come in for awhile?

BRUCE

No, that's okay, I don't want you to think I was trying to get you in the sack or anything so I'll see you tomorrow. Okay?

TALIA

Um... you sure?

BRUCE

Yeah.

Talia leaps forward and hugs Bruce tightly and gives him a big KISS on the cheek leaving a LIPSTICK print.

TALIA

Tomorrow, love.

Bruce gives a quick "I've-got-to-get-out-of-here" hug.

BRUCE

Okay, bye.

TALIA

Bye-bye.

Bruce turns and walks away.

TALIA (cont'd)

Say, "Hi" to Batman for me.

Wayne quickly turns back around.

BRUCE

What?

TALIA

In case you see him on the way home. You know in that Bat-car thing.

BRUCE

You mean the Batmobile?

TALIA

Is that what they call it?

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE
I don't know. Some reporter Knox
said something like that.

TALIA
Okay. Well, Nightie-night.

Talia blows a kiss then closes the door. Bruce turns and runs
down the hallway.

EXT. GOTHAM HOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

Bruce runs out of the front door and straight to the waiting
Royals with Alfred driving. Bruce hops in.

BRUCE
Quickly, Alfred.

ALFRED
Yes, sir.

Alfred hurries quickly gets in the car and takes off.

INT. ROYALS ROYCE - NIGHT

Bruce starts undoing his tie.

ALFRED
Shall we pull into a deserted ally
and give the coordinates to the
Batmobile and you can change while
waiting for it there?

BRUCE
No. Just send it to Police
Headquarters.

ALFRED
Yes, sir.
(beat)
Sir?

BRUCE
Yeah, Alfred?

ALFRED
You have lipstick on your face.

Bruce quickly begins wiping it off. Alfred reaches underneath
the front seat and pulls out a small laptop then punches in a
few keys.

CUT TO:

INT. BATCAVE - THAT MOMENT

The cave is pitch black. Suddenly a loud ROAR deafens us. A FIRE starts in the middle of the screen then takes off at break neck speed.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Headlights blind us winding around the a rural road. Leaves are blowing up to the sky. Birds fly from their nest in panic. The roar gets louder by the second.

The headlights go down a hill and we see nothing but the street.

WHOOM! The BATMOBILE races over top of the hill in front of us in it's full glory.

EXT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Gordon continues his wait on the Batman.

BAM!

Gordon turns to his side in time to see a the hook of a BATGRAPPLE wrap around one of the satellites on the rooftop. Within seconds the Batman whips upward by the spring-action reel from the BATGRAPPLE landing on the ledge of the building.

GORDON

We have serious problems, Batman. I've spoken with Mayor Hill and he doesn't see eye to eye with Montoya, Bullock and myself.

BATMAN

What is it?

GORDON

Zsasz. We believe that he will try to escape Arkham whenever he gets the chance. We need him moved to a maximum security area but the mayor won't budge and Arkham needs a complete rehaul on his security and we both know that Jeremiah Arkham will never do that.

BATMAN

What about the D.A.?

(CONTINUED)

GORDON
He's useless. We haven't had a good
one since Harvey Dent.

BATMAN
What do you want me to do?

GORDON
I want you at Arkham but if the
Mayor even has hint that you're
there then we're both out of
Gotham. So I guess I just want you
to be ready... for anything.

BATMAN
Always.

A ROAR is heard coming from the streets. Batman reaches into
his UTILITY BELT and pulls out a RADIO TRANSMITTER.

BATMAN (CONT'D) (cont'd)
(into the transmitter)
Stop.

The roaring stops. Bullock and Montoya run out onto the roof.

MONTOYA
Batman! Thank, God.

GORDON
What is it?

BULLOCK
All hell just broke loose at
Arkham. The inmates running loose
everywhere.

GORDON
Zsasz must have escaped and
released all the inmates. Batman
you --

WHOOSH! Before Gordon can finish his sentence the Batman
leaps off the ledge. Gordon, Montoya and Bullock run to the
ledge only to see the BATMOBILE starting up again and
blasting down the streets of Gotham.

BULLOCK
Alright I'll admit it. That's cool
as hell. But I still don't
trust'em.

Gordon turns and around and heads towards the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON

Okay, I want all units on the streets now and headed to Arkham. Call the S.W.A.T. team, the National Guard and alert all the news agencies to tell --

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - NIGHT

Summer sits at the anchor desk once again.

SUMMER

-- all citizens of Gotham to stay calm. All police units are being mobilized and sent out as we speak. We have even been informed by Police Commissioner Gordon.

(beat)

It is unknown at this point in time the whereabouts of the current proprietor of Arkham, Jeremiah Arkham. Police fear that a hostage situation could develop.

SMASH CUT:

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - JEREMIAH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

CLOSE UP

Jeremiah's face.

INMATE #1 (O.S.)

Say it!

JEREMIAH

(weakly)

I --

INMATE #1 (O.S.)

Say it!

JEREMIAH

(weakly)

I like peanut butter.

Standing in front of Jeremiah is an inmate with shirt pulled over his face and a SPATULA in his hand. A CHEER goes out from the group of inmates sitting around a circle with Jeremiah being in the center of it on a swivel chair.

The group swings Jeremiah around in the chair. The inmates stop Jeremiah right in front of the screaming Inmate.

(CONTINUED)

INMATE #1
Say it again!

JEREMIAH
I like --

INMATE #1
Say it like you mean it!

JEREMIAH
I like peanut butter!

Another CHEER goes out. Jeremiah gets swung around again and stopped in front the Screaming Inmate.

INMATE #1
Say it again!

CUT TO:

I/E. BATMOBILE - THAT MOMENT

Batman races through the city getting closer and closer to Arkham.

ALFRED (O.S.)
(filtered)
Sir?

Batman looks down and sees Alfred on a small monitor.

BATMAN
What is it, Alfred?

ALFRED
(filtered)
That lovely young lady, Talia is on the phone.

BATMAN
Great.

ALFRED
(filtered)
She is worried about your safety because of the break out.

BATMAN
Can't your tell her I'm on a private plane going to an emergency meeting?

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED
(filtered)
I don't think she is going to take
that for an answer, sir but I will
bail you out... again.

BATMAN
Thanks, Alfred. I owe you one.

ALFRED
(filtered)
Two if you count, Miss. Kyle.

I/E. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Gordon rides in the back of Bullock and Montoya's car. Behind them the majority of Gotham's finest follow.

BULLOCK
Man, oh man, the mayor is going to
love this!

GORDON
I know. We just better hope that
the Batman gets there in time
before anything bad really happens.

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

Too late. INMATES are running around the front of Arkham going... insane.

The rest are breaking into cars while others have the keys and are in the process of driving off.

The Asylum itself has seen better days. One side is completely covered in ICE. The other in VINES.

The inmates who haven't fled yet and are just hanging around outside stop as they hear something... the BATMOBILE.

As soon as the BATMOBILE drives up the hill the inmates flip out and start throwing rocks at it or beating themselves or each other up. Quickly NETS are shot out from the sides of the BATMOBILE capturing several inmates in each.

The GUNS from the hood of the BATMOBILE pop open, the inmates scream in horror. Batman flips a switch. The guns FIRE. But instead of bullets streams of DARTS shoot out. The inmates grab the body parts they were shot at then slowly slip into unconsciousness.

Batman stops and hops out of the BATMOBILE.

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - CONTINUOUS

The Gotham Police finally arrive on the scene as the Batman walks into the Asylum.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The Batman walks into the Asylum and gets met by two inmates. The one is CHALLENGING Batman and the other is FROTHING at the mouth and keeps running into a wall.

The Challenger charges Batman. Batman quickly side steps him causing the Challenger to run out the front door.

POLICEMAN (O.S.)

Freeze!

The Challenger does an about face only to have Batman -WHAM!- SLAM the door in his face knocking him out cold.

Batman turns back around. The Frothing Man is still running into the wall. Batman sees no danger and walks past him into the Asylum.

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

Gordon, Montoya and Bullock lead the charge into the Asylum.

GORDON

Remember, don't shoot unless you have to. Let's go! Go!

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Batman walks into to an insane nightmare. FROZEN Asylum workers, DEAD MEN with ROSES placed on their chest, RIDDLES written in graffiti and members of the RED TRIANGLE CIRCUS GANG drawing RED TRIANGLES under their right eyes with RED magic markers and ink pens.

The LEADER of the group turns and sees Batman.

LEADER

You! You killed the Penguin! You killed Oswald!

The Triangle Gang ATTACKS Batman with a furry and with whatever makeshift weapon they can find. Batman quickly starts laying them out one by one but Batman becomes surrounded by them. The Dark Knight reaches into his UTILITY BELT and pulls out a BATARANG with a LED Screen on it, much like the "homing BATARANG" from Batman Returns.

(CONTINUED)

LEADER (cont'd)
 Oh no. We've seen that toy before,
 Batman. You're not going to fool us
 with that one.

Batman tosses the BATARANG into the air. The Triangle Gang watches it hurl into the air. Batman kneels down and covers himself in his cape.

WHOOM! A blinding light shoots out from the BATARANG revealing that it was actually a FLASH BOMB.

Batman walks out of the circle of the Triangle Gang while they stumble around in blindness swinging wildly.

Gordon and the Police rush in.

GORDON
 Freeze! Everybody get your hands
 up!

A Triangle member takes a wild swing and knocks out the LEADER.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - JEREMIAH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Batman kicks open the door. Jeremiah is still in the same predicament he was last time.

JEREMIAH
 Batman, please help!

Batman back up and walks away.

JEREMIAH (cont'd)
 Batman!

INMATE #1
 Say it again!

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - FIRST FLOOR - NIGHT

The police begin handcuffing the Triangle Gang. Gordon, Montoya and Bullock head off in the same direction as Batman and run across --

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - JEREMIAH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Gordon looks inside.

GORDON
 What the...

(CONTINUED)

JEREMIAH
Gordon, help!

Gordon considers it. Then heads off after Batman.

GORDON
Let's go!

JEREMIAH
Gordon!

INMATE #1
Say it again!

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - BOTTOM FLOOR - NIGHT

Batman walks along the floor noticing every cell is empty. He gets to the end of the hallway to Zsasz room and opens the door.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - ZSASZ'S ROOM - NIGHT

Inside the four Security Guards are still sitting on the floor with cards in front of them. Throats SLIT. Batman heads back into the hallway.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - OUTSIDE ZSASZ'S ROOM - NIGHT

Gordon and Montoya run up to Batman.

GORDON
Okay who's our biggest problem
right now?

MONTOYA
Ivy, Riddler, Bane, Freeze, Croc,
Man-Bat, Clayface, Deadshot and
Zsasz.

GORDON
Is that all?

MONTOYA
Off the top of my head.

GORDON
Any ideas on how to handle this,
Batman?

BATMAN
Take who you can get.

(CONTINUED)

Batman walks heads off with Gordon and Montoya following.
Bullock runs Batman exits with Gordon and Montoya.

GORDON
Come on, Bullock.

BULLOCK
(winded)
I just got down here.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - FIRST FLOOR - NIGHT

Batman and the rest walk through the First Floor with some inmates still running loose but are being caught easily by the Police.

GORDON
How's it going in here?

COP
It's under control so far.

GORDON
After all these inmates are locked up I want all available officers on the streets looking for every escaped inmate.

Gordon, Montoya and Bullock follow Batman out the door.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

As Batman walks passed the entrance Frothing Man is still running into the same wall. Without losing his stride Batman grabs him by the shoulder and turns him around sending the Frothing Man BACK into the Asylum.

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - CONTINUOUS

Batman heads towards the BATMOBILE. Outside the remaining inmates are being cuffed and taken back inside.

GORDON
You know Batman, this is a real crisis. Maybe we should call Metropolis and see if they can find Super --

Batman turns around PISSED.

GORDON (cont'd)
Bad idea.

(CONTINUED)

Batman heads into the BATMOBILE and takes off.

MONTOYA
Ready to go, Commissioner?

I/E. BATMOBILE - NIGHT

Batman turns on his monitor.

BATMAN
Alfred.

ALFRED
(filtered)
A report has just come across that
a big green lizard is destroying
west end.

BATMAN
Killer Croc.

EXT. GOTHAM STREETS - WEST SIDE - NIGHT

People run for their lives as a large reptilian like man is
destroying everything in sight. Vehicles, light poles, cars,
etc. KILLER CROC is his name.

Two brave but STUPID CITIZEN'S grab some rocks and throw it
at Croc. Only getting his attention.

CROC
That was stupid.

The Two try and make a break for it but Croc catches them in
the middle of the street then slams both against a wall on
the OTHER side of the road.

Croc sees a mail box and rips it up from the ground and walks
over to the two who are knocked out cold. Croc lifts the mail
box over his head then gets blinded by headlights. He drops
the mail box behind him and sees a NET shot out from the
BATMOBILE.

The net wraps around him but only annoys Croc as he rips the
net to shreds. Batman hops out of the BATMOBILE and marches
toward Croc.

CROC (cont'd)
I'm not going back to Arkham! I
didn't do anything wrong!

BATMAN
You need help, Waylon.

(CONTINUED)

CROC

Look at me! You think anyone can
help this!

Croc charges Batman and swings wildly at him. Batman ducks and dodges every shot and tries to sweep Croc. Croc doesn't budge.

Croc pulls Batman out then throws him through a PLATE GLASS WINDOW right into--

INT. DANCE CLUB - CONTINUOUS

A loaded dance club. The people in the club all stand around as they look at Batman. As Batman starts to stand up blood flows freely from a gash on Batman's right cheek. WHAM!- the mail box nails Batman in the back dropping him back down.

Croc jumps through the window. Everyone in the club freaks out and runs. Croc gets to Batman but Batman kips up and starts laying rights and lefts to Croc. Croc smiles then - POW!- backhands Batman sending him through the air several feet. Killer Croc continues his wish of onslaught and goes right back after Batman.

CLUB GOER (O.S.)

Kick that Ninja Turtles' ass,
Batman!

CROC

Who said that?!

Batman sees his break and reaches into his UTILITY BELT and grabs a BATARANG then throws it a Croc's head. THUNNG! Direct hit. Croc goes light on his feet. Batman charges Croc and lets out a furious combo of several martial art styles backing Croc up the window.

One devastating BACK SPIN KICK sends Croc back out onto the street.

EXT. GOTHAM STREETS - WEST SIDE - NIGHT

Batman reaches into his UTILITY BELT and grabs a VIAL. Croc manages to stand up. As soon as he turns around Batman throws the vial straight at Croc's face -- PHEWW!

Croc yells in pain and gasps for breath as smoke surrounds his face. POW! A side kicks sends Croc back over top of the car that he rammed Batman's face into. Batman slides over the hood of the car and grabs another VIAL from his UTILITY BELT and throws it into the car that EXPLODES into more SMOKE.

(CONTINUED)

Batman grabs Croc and sticks his head into the car and holds him face down into the smoke. Croc gags and fights violently. The smoke is too much and Croc finally goes out cold.

Batman backs away from the car and heads towards the BATMOBILE and hops in.

BATMAN
I got, Croc.

ALFRED
(filtered)
Yes, sir. We have another disturbance.

BATMAN
Where?

The BATMOBILE fires up and burns down the street while the onlookers cheer the Batman.

EXT. WAYNETECH - MOMENTS LATER

WayneTech employees' are running out of the building.

INT. WAYNETECH, FIRST FLOOR - NIGHT

DEADSHOT holds the employee's hostage making each one stand in place.

DEADSHOT
I said don't move now where is he?!
Where is Wayne?!

Lucius Fox desperately tries to hold things together.

LUCIUS
Sir, I implore you to please stop this.

DEADSHOT
I was hired to kill Wayne and I'm going to do it! Just because they throw me in that hellhole Arkham doesn't mean I don't fulfill my contracts. Now where is he?!

LUCIUS
Sir --

BANG! Deadshot shoots the glasses off Lucius' face.

(CONTINUED)

DEADSHOT

I'm not going to ask you again!

LUCIUS

Please, I swear, Mr. Wayne is not here.

DEADSHOT

I told you.

Deadshot aims at Lucius' face. Lucius closes his eyes tightly and says a quick prayer to himself.

CLINK!

DEADSHOT (O.S.)

Ahh!

Lucius opens his eyes and sees Deadshot holding his arm. Lucius looks down on the floor and sees a BATARANG.

DEADSHOT (cont'd)

You bastard where are you?!

All the hostages take the chance and drop to the floor. Deadshot carefully moves around the room.

DEADSHOT (cont'd)

I'll find you, Batman. You can't hide forever.

PHEW! All the power goes out in the building. The hostages scream.

DEADSHOT

Shut up! Everyone shut up!

(beat)

Mind games don't work with me, Batman.

As Deadshot walks around he ends up in front of a large window with the Gotham streets lights allowing us to make out his silhouette.

DEADSHOT (cont'd)

Come on Batman show your --

BAM! The ventilation shaft opens up with Batman arms reaching down and pulling up Deadshot. GUNSHOTS ring out, hostages scream, a body falls and dangles in front of us. The lights come back on.

Deadshot is tied up hanging upside down.

(CONTINUED)

DEADSHOT (cont'd)
Damn you! Get me out of here!

The hostages run over to Deadshot and start KICKING him.

I/E. BATMOBILE - MOMENTS LATER

Batman hurries down Gotham, eyeing every alley.

BATMAN
Anything yet?

ALFRED
(filtered)
No, sir. I take it you captured
Deadshot?

BATMAN
He was trying to kill Bruce
Wayne... again.
(beat)
I wonder how Gordon is doing.

EXT. GOTHAM STREETS - THAT MOMENT

Gordon and Bullock are taking cover behind a car.

BULLOCK
This is crazy, Commish!

GORDON
You don't think I know that?!

Quickly the car starts to FREEZE. Gordon and Bullock bail.

GORDON (CONT'D) (cont'd)
How the hell did he get that gun so
quick!

BULLOCK
Stinkin' eBay!

Gordon and Bullock run behind a building. Gordon grabs the
radio.

GORDON
Where the hell is that copper?!

MAN ON RADIO
(filtered)
It's on its way, sir.

(CONTINUED)

Gordon looks up to the sky and sees a police chopper flying above carrying a huge crate with smoke pouring from the top of it.

GORDON
Now! Drop it now!

MAN ON RADIO
(filtered)
Roger.

The crate opens with steaming HOT WATER falling from it. A horrifying SCREAM is let out from a MAN on the street.

GORDON
Go, go, go!

Police charge as Gordon looks on intensely.

COP
We got him!

Gordon picks up the radio.

GORDON
Good job boy's we got Freeze.

BULLOCK
Why the hell didn't you guys do
this the first time with Freeze?

GORDON
Shut up, Bullock.

MONTAGE:

Blood sprays on floors, ceilings, fans, curtains, beds, TV, kitchen tables, boards games, video games, footballs, all in different houses from rich to poor. A pair of white gloves wiping off a the same knife is seen repeatedly.

EXT. GOTHAM HOME - NIGHT

Zsasz, once again dressed in his Magician's outfit quietly walks out the front door of a house. Inside another poor family sits peacefully dead in their living room. MOTHER, FATHER, BROTHER, SISTERS.

I/E. BATMOBILE - NIGHT

Batman drives by an alley then SLAMS on the breaks.

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN
Found Clayface.

Batman puts the BATMOBILE in reverse, turns and heads down the alley stopping in the middle of it. Batman looks for Clayface but he is nowhere to be seen. Batman flips a switch and an INFER-RED screen appears on the monitor. No hot objects are seen.

Batman ponders a beat then opens the top of the BATMOBILE and cautiously stands up and looks out.

Two giant CLAY LIKE hands grabs Batman by the shoulders and throws him against one of the buildings in the alley. Batman smacks the building hard then falls onto the hood of the BATMOBILE then crashes onto the ground.

Batman quickly gets up in a fighting stance but no Clayface in sight.

CLAYFACE (O.S.)
(whispers)
Batman. Batman looks around.

CLAYFACE (O.S.) (cont'd)
(whispers)
What's wrong?

Batman backs up to the side of a building and walks along the side of it. A HORRENDOUS SHRIEK heard over head. Batman looks up to the Gotham sky.

CLAYFACE (O.S.) (cont'd)
(whispers)
Uh-oh. Man-Bat is out. Who are you going after now me or him? You can't have us both.

The shriek is heard again. Closer. Louder. Batman thinks then slowly heads towards the BATMOBILE.

CLAYFACE (O.S.)
(whispers)
Good choice.

Batman hops into the BATMOBILE and sits down. Batman checks the monitors. On it an old HOBO is walking on the other side of the street.

BATMAN
Worked before.

(CONTINUED)

Batman starts up the BATMOBILE then throws it into reverse heading straight towards the hobo. Batman slams on the breaks just feet in front of the hobo then flips a switch. A FIREBALL shoots out the back engine engulfing the Hobo in flames. The Hobo screams in pain but with CLAYFACE'S VOICE. Suddenly the Hobo MORPHS into whom Batman knew he was all along... CLAYFACE.

Still on fire Clayface's movements quickly get more ridged and stiff. SLOWLY his body starts to harden until his is nothing more then a giant mold of CLAY. Batman heads down the street.

BATMAN (cont'd)
Alfred get the Batwing ready.

ALFRED
(filtered)
Yes, sir.

EXT. GOTHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS - NIGHT

A police car pulls away as Montoya wipes blood from her mouth. Gordon radios in.

INTERCUT AS NEED

GORDON
How's it going, Montoya?

MONTOYA
I got Ivy. Crazy bitch tried to kill me with a giant Venus Flytrap.

GORDON
Again?

MONTOYA
Yeah, so what's the score?

GORDON
You got Ivy and we've gotten Freeze. I got word a few minutes ago that the National Guard got the Riddler and it seems Batman has been very busy.

MONTOYA
Who'd he get?

GORDON
Croc and Deadshot... wait a minute.

(CONTINUED)

A officer whispers something to Gordon.

GORDON (cont'd)
He just got Clayface, too.

MONTOYA
So aside from the other crazies we
need Bane, Man-Bat and Zsasz?

GORDON
That's right --

A thunderous ROAR blasts over Gordon's head.

GORDON (cont'd)
I think he's looking for Man-Bat
now.

MONTOYA
What makes you so sure?

GORDON
Oh, just a hunch.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - ARIEL SHOT - NIGHT

The BATWING flies above the city.

EXT. GOTHAM STREETS - NIGHT

CITIZEN'S are standing on the sidewalk watching a news report
in the window of a television store. The OWNER of a food
stand that's next to the shop is among the spectators.

A SHADOW goes over the food stand.

OWNER
(still watching TV)
Yeah, just help yourself out there
buddy I'll be with you in a minute.

Loud MUNCHING follows.

OWNER (cont'd)
(still watching TV)
Hey, you better not be eatin' none
of my food over there!

The owner turns around and sees MAN-BAT towering above the
fruit stand eating freely.

OWNER (cont'd)
Oh -- SHIT!

(CONTINUED)

Man-Bat SHRIEKS sending citizens running for their lives. Man bat continues to devour the fruit without a care for the cowards. Suddenly his ears PERK. Man-bat SNIFFS the air then SHRIEKS up towards the sky. Man-Bat SHRIEKS again then takes off flying.

I/E. BATWING - THAT MOMENT

Batman spots Man-Bat coming up from the street.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - ARIEL SHOT - NIGHT

Man-bat looks back and SHRIEKS then flies away from the BATWING. Batman heads in after him. Man-bat quickly starts making beautiful air maneuvers dodging in and out and between BUILDINGS and SMOKE TOWERS but the Batman is there for every one.

INT. BATWING - CONTINUOUS

Batman punches up a MAP and sees that the GOTHAM RADIO TOWER is only a few miles away.

BATMAN
Alfred, override the Gotham Radio tower when I tell you.

INT. BATCAVE - THAT MOMENT

Alfred sits at the Batcomputer and types some keys in.

ALFRED
Yes, sir.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - ARIEL SHOT - THAT MOMENT

Man-bat continues his non-stop flight above Gotham. Finally we get out of the downtown area and into more open space. Before us on a hill is GOTHAM RADIO TOWER.

BATMAN
Get ready, Alfred.

ALFRED (O.S.)
(filtered)
Ready, sir.

Man-bat does a U-turn --

BATMAN
Damn.

(CONTINUED)

-- and heads straight towards the BATWING landing on top of it! Man-bat violently starts pounding away on the windshield. Batman ROLLS the BATWING but Man-bat continues to pound away until the windshield CRACKS. Man-Bat SHRIEKS.

Batman screams in pain grabbing his ears. Batman loses control and the Batwing beings a downward decent. Man-bat doesn't budge!

BATMAN (cont'd)
Do it now, Alfred!

INT. BATCAVE - THAT MOMENT

Alfred presses ENTER on the keyboard.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - ARIEL SHOT - THAT MOMENT

A glass shattering TONE rings out. Man-Bat grabs his head in excruciating pain. Man-Bat leaps off the BATWING and tries to fly but starts FREE FALLING.

A GRAPPLE shoots out from the BATWING and wraps around Man-Bat. The bottom of the BATWING opens up and REELS Man-Bat in.

INT. BATWING - NIGHT

Once inside Batman opens a hatch to see a squirming Man-Bat still in pain. Batman takes a long SYRINGE and shoots him with it.

BATMAN
Turn it off!

INT. BATCAVE - THAT MOMENT

Alfred punches in some more keys.

INT. BATWING - NIGHT

Man-Bat stops squirming and starts morphing back into a man. The antidote serum has knocked Man-Bat out cold.

BATMAN
Don't worry, Kirk. We'll get you
back to Francine.

Batman goes back to his seat then flies away.

INT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - GORDON'S OFFICE - DAWN

An exhausted Gordon opens the door to his office and stands in the doorway beat.

GORDON
Any word on Batman?!

SECRETARY
He got Man-Bat a few minutes ago!

Gordon closes the door and heads towards the desk and sees a letter that reads:

REST GORDON

At the bottom of the letter is a BATMAN LOGO. Gordon flops down on his couch.

GORDON
Two more.

INT. WEARHOUSE - MORNING

Zsasz walks along a deserted wearhouse with briefcase in hand.

VOICE (O.S.)
Over here.

Zsasz looks over to the corner where several crates are stacked up next to a window. Zsasz heads towards the Voice.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Do you have the stuff?

ZSASZ
Yes. Do you remember the plan?

VOICE (O.S.)
Yes.

Zsasz walks over to a crate near the speaker and sets his briefcase down and pops it open.

ZSASZ
This was hard to get.

VOICE (O.S.)
Who did you get it from?

(CONTINUED)

ZSASZ

A professor named Hugo. He normally doesn't deal with this type of science.

VOICE (O.S.)

Can you trust him?

ZSASZ

Can you trust anybody?

Zsasz throws a large plastic bag over the crate.

ZSASZ (cont'd)

I hope these fit. Remember the stuff I'm giving you is twice as powerful as what you had last time. No more tubes either, just patches.

A hospital gown flies out from behind the crate.

VOICE (O.S.)

Give me the stuff.

Zsasz reaches back into the briefcase and takes a large metallic looking bag out and tosses it over the crate.

We hear the bag opened and then a smack of flesh, then another, and another, and another.

Violent and painful howls echo throughout the warehouse. Instead of stepping back in fear Zsasz smiles.

After the yelling dies down Zsasz throws one more object over the crate and then walks away.

ZSASZ

Don't forget your mask --

A large mask lies on the floor.

ZSASZ

Bane.

A GIANT hand reaches down and takes the mask.

INT. BATCAVE - MORNING

A banged up and dead tired Bruce sits on a table in a pair of sweats. Alfred works on Bruce's cut.

ALFRED

This is an awful cut, sir.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

Ow!

ALFRED

Sir, I can not remove all the glass while you're moving around.

BRUCE

Sorry, Alfred. So what did you tell Talia?

ALFRED

I told her that you have a quick brush with illness.

BRUCE

Okay, I can play that. What was wrong with me?

ALFRED

Diarrhea.

BRUCE

What?! Ow!

ALFRED

Quit moving around, sir.

BRUCE

You... what --

ALFRED

Don't worry sir, she was very understandable about the situation.

BRUCE

Yeah, you... is that what you told Selina Kyle?

ALFRED

No, sir.

Alfred dabs a cotton ball with some liquid and gets ready to apply it to Bruce's face.

BRUCE

Well, at lest you didn't let her into the Batcave like you did Vicki Vale.

Alfred swiftly doubles up the liquid then SLAPS it on Bruce's face.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE (cont'd)

OW!

ALFRED

Oh, I'm sorry sir, I forgot to tell you that was going to hurt.

Bruce holds his cheek while Alfred walks off.

EXT. WAYNE MANOR - MORNING

Talia's car pulls up at the gate. Talia reaches out and presses the intercom switch.

INT. BATCAVE - THAT MOMENT

Bruce looks up at the Batcomputer and see's Talia's car.

BRUCE

Oh, no. Alfred will you --

Alfred turns around smiling.

BRUCE (cont'd)

No, wait, never mind, I'll do it.

Alfred sits down in a chair to watch the show. Bruce runs up to the Batcomputer.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

BRUCE

Hello?

TALIA

Hey, love.

BRUCE

Hi, um... what are you doing here so early?

TALIA

Well, I know that you're an early riser and since Alfred told me you were sick last night I brought you some medicine for your diarrhea.

Bruce turns off the intercom.

BRUCE

(to Alfred with a slight
whimper)

You really told her that.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED

An old man doesn't get much enjoyment out of life. I'm glad you can be mine.

BRUCE

(turns the com on)

Oh... that's sweet of you. Um, come on in.

TALIA

Thanks, love.

Bruce presses a key to open the gates, then goes to head up the stairs.

BRUCE

I can't believe you told her that. I finally meet someone normal and guess what, "Oh, I'm sorry he's the runs."

ALFRED

Have fun Master Bruce and don't forget to come up with a good story for the cut.

BRUCE

Thanks, Alfred.

INT. TALIA'S CAR - THAT MOMENT

Talia pulls into the driveway with the gates closing behind her. As she parks her cellphone rings. Talia digs into her purse and finds it.

TALIA

Father? I'm just visiting a friend... Bruce Wayne... I know father but he's different, besides I think he's coming around to our side... Father I want the same thing you want but I want -- no I haven't seen him only the Batsignal... No, the news never showed it.

Talia looks up and sees Bruce heading out the front door and waves to Talia. Talia waves back.

(CONTINUED)

TALIA

Look dad I have to go... No. Look I care about him and if I fall in love with him then I'll fall in love with him and marry him is that so bad? ...You don't have to remind me about the Lazarus Pit... Maybe for once I would like to have love in my life father, do you know how long I've waited for someone -- Father? Father?

Talia shakes her head in disgust and turns off the phone. Bruce walks out to meet her. Talia brightens up but hastily gets out of the car when she see's Bruce's cut.

TALIA

Love what happened?

BRUCE

Oh, nothing I was in my gym yesterday and I slipped and cut my face on the end of one of the bars.

TALIA

Really? It looks like you cut by glass.

BRUCE

Oh, no, no, no glass. It was a very sharp bar. It was old.

(lie isn't working)

Okay, it was glass. I wanted to do something nice for Alfred so I washed dishes last night and when I was putting up one of the glasses I guess my hand or the glass was still wet and it slipped and hit my face.

TALIA

(baby talk)

Aww, my poor baby.

Talia hugs Bruce. He smiles: *Mental note: broken glass lie works.*

BRUCE

Yep.

Talia reaches in her car and grabs a paper bag.

(CONTINUED)

TALIA

Here, I got you some medicine and I'm going to stand right there and make sure you take all of it.

BRUCE

(forced laugh)

Oh... great.

INT. BULLOCKS APARTMENT - MORNING

Bullock is passed out cold on his couch. Needless to say that just like Bullock the room is a mess with donuts boxes and DVD's and VHS's of classic movies. The posters on the wall show that Bullock is a true "movie buff".

Bullock's pleasant dreams are stopped as the phone rings. A rightfully ticked off Bullock answers.

BULLOCK

What the hell do you want?!

GORDON (O.S.)

(filtered)

We got a real problem on our hand. Either Zsasz has a copycat killer or he's been real busy last night.

BULLOCK

What are you talking about?

CUT TO:

INT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - GORDON'S OFFICE - THAT

MOMENT

Gordon stares at a billboard in his room.

GORDON

I don't know how he had the time to do it, but forensics is guessing that he's killed over twenty people since he's been out. So we better get out there before the media hounds find this out.

INT. WAYNE MANOR - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Bruce and Talia sit on the couch watching TV.

TALIA

So Alfred --

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE
Lied like a dog.

TALIA
I don't know. You look like you've
had an awfully rough night.

ALFRED (O.S.)
Good morning, Miss. al Ghul.

Bruce and Talia turn around.

TALIA
Oh, hello, Alfred.

ALFRED
How are you doing this fine day?

TALIA
I'm doing great, Alfred. How are
you?

ALFRED
Lovely, ma'am. Could I offer you
any thing to drink? Perhaps some
breakfast?

TALIA
No thank you, Alfred.

ALFRED
Are you sure, ma'am? It would be no
trouble at all.

TALIA
No, thank you, Alfred. I'm good.

ALFRED
How is your face doing this
morning, Master Bruce?

BRUCE
Oh, it's doing great, Alfred.

ALFRED
Well, alright then I'll be off.
Evening, Miss. al Ghul.
(to Bruce)
Sir.

TALIA
Bye, Alfred.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE
Later, Alfred.

Talia watches Alfred walk away then SMACKS Bruce on the arm.

TALIA
How could you lie about a sweet old man like that?

BRUCE
(smiles)
I was just playing. Alfred and I do that all the time.

TALIA
Are you sure?

BRUCE
Oh yeah. Positive, don't worry about it. I just look horrible because I had a very late business meeting. It happens all the time besides haven't you heard that rich people are weird?

Talia smiles and takes Bruce's hand.

TALIA
Well, you're not weird to me, Bruce.

Talia slowly leans in to kiss Bruce. Wayne returns the favour. Bruce rethinks it and draws back.

BRUCE
You know um... I really like you and I want to spend more time -

Talia smiles and hops next to Bruce and wraps both hands around his and leans into his shoulder.

TALIA
I do too, Bruce.

BRUCE
Yeah... but um, I've kinda been in this situation before and uh, it didn't really work out. My life is kinda... complex.

TALIA
What like you have a dark side or something?

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE
Yeah, pretty much.

TALIA
We all have our dark side.

BRUCE
Yeah, see now I've heard that before too and that didn't really help things.

TALIA
Did you and your last girlfriend fight a lot?

BRUCE
Yeah, we were kicking and punching and throwing acid on each other and knocking one another off buildings, it was just a horrible Christmas.

Talia laughs.

TALIA
Well, I promise you this Christmas won't be anything like that.

SUMMER (O.S.)
(filtered)
This is Summer Gleason with a special news report.

Talia and Bruce turn to the TV. Behind Summer footage of inmates being taken back to Arkham is shown.

SUMMER (cont'd)
As many of you know last night was a horrifying night for Gotham city as there was a massive break out at Arkham Asylum. Thankfully the Gotham Police Department and with help from the National Guard and Batman all but two of the inmates have been found. Those two being Bane and Gotham's newest criminal Mr. Zsasz.

(beat)
Bane has not yet been seen nor have any of his previous antics have been reported to police but sadly this is not the case with Mr. Zsasz.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SUMMER(cont'd)

Behind Summer footage and photographs are shown of the murdered families or their houses.

SUMMER (cont'd)

(filtered)

Julia Remarque from the Picture News broke the story this morning that an estimated twenty more deaths have been put on Mr. Zsasz's head count. Of course Commissioner Gordon gave no comment on this issue.

Bruce notices that Talia is transfixed on the TV and reaches down and presses his watch making it go off.

BRUCE

Oh, shoot. I forgot I have to make a phone call... I'll be right back.

TALIA

Bruce?

BRUCE

I'll be right back just stay here.

Bruce gets up and leaves the room. Talia watches Bruce leave then turns her attention back to the TV.

SUMMER

(filtered)

Once again Batman showed his worth to Gotham City by apprehending himself, Killer Croc, Man-Bat, Clayface and Deadshot.

(beat)

Sadly we have no film of this but we do have several eyewitness. One of them even claims that the Batman was injured.

A tape plays from the scene of Batman fight with Killer Croc.

EYEWITNESS

(filtered)

Yeah, I saw the whole thing man. Batman came up in this bad ass car. And you know there has to be one badass mother-(censored) driving that car.

The film cuts to a later part of the interview.

(CONTINUED)

EYEWITNESS (cont'd)

(filtered)

-- And he took Batman and threw him through the window, man. Cut his face all to hell blood went flying--

Talia looks behind her for Bruce: *Wait a minute.*

Talia starts putting everything together.

SUMMER

(filtered)

Well, there you have it. We'll keep you--

EXT. WAYNE MANOR - KITCHEN - THAT MOMENT

Bruce runs up to Alfred who is watching a small TV on the counter.

BRUCE

Alfred. I got to go.

ALFRED

I understand, I will make an excuse.

BRUCE

Thanks.

ALFRED

Sir, you're not planing to go out in the day are you?

BRUCE

Looks like I'm going to have to.

ALFRED

You knew this day would come, sir It's not like it was unexpected now is it?

BRUCE

No, I guess you're right. It's a lot easier to be the Bat at night and Bruce Wayne during the day then both at the same time.

ALFRED

I'm sure if anyone can pull it off you can sir.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

Thanks, Alfred. I guess right now we're going to have to look for Bane and Zsasz. At least we only have two major problems on our hands.

ALFRED

I believe another problem has just sprung up.

Bruce turns to see Talia standing in the doorway. Alfred walks up to Talia and smiles then nudges her towards Bruce.

ALFRED (cont'd)

(whispers)

Go on, dear.

Talia flashes a concerned smile at Alfred while Bruce angrily turns towards the sink. Alfred leaves the two in the room.

TALIA

Love?

Talia walks up to Bruce and places her hand on his shoulder. Bruce shakes it off.

TALIA (cont'd)

Bruce this doesn't change anything.

BRUCE

It doesn't?

TALIA

Not about the way I feel.

BRUCE

And how is that?

TALIA

The same way you feel about me. We've only be around each other for a short time but I know in my heart that what we feel for each other is true. Bruce I --

BRUCE

How do you know how I feel when I don't even know who I am?

TALIA

What are you saying?

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

Batman or Bruce Wayne who am I?

TALIA

You're both.

BRUCE

No, no I can't be. One of us isn't real and I don't know who it is. Every moment I take vengeance I want love and peace but when I get that I want vengeance and justice; it never ends.

(beat)

I killed the man who murdered my parents and I thought it would end there but it didn't. I gave the city the signal that way Batman would only come out when needed and I could live a normal life but I couldn't. I tried to step back but all I could do is sit in the dark waiting and waiting and waiting for the signal and the longer I waited the more I wanted it to call me.

(beat)

I want to be normal but I can't be.

TALIA

Bruce, I could have gone back home at anytime but I stayed here... for you. Because I want to be with you. If you want some help I'm here, I'll always be here for you. I have not had a normal life either but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't try. I'm ready for one and I'm willing to try and I want it to be with you.

(beat)

I see that you want justice but I also see you want love. The reason why is because your love for the innocent is more than your hatred of the guilty. That's why you can't stop.

(beat)

Love you may think that Batman was born when you're parents were murdered but I don't. Batman was born when Bruce Wayne was born.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TALIA(cont'd)

Batman is just the source where
Bruce Wayne shows his undying love
for Gotham in a way that only few
can understand.

Bruce considers this. Bruce then leans in and softly brushes
the side of Talia's face with his hand.

BRUCE
(whispers)
I'm sorry but you're wrong.

Bruce turns and leaves the room.

TALIA
No... no... Bruce.

Talia chases after Bruce to the --

INT. WAYNE MANOR - FIRST FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Bruce is nowhere to be found. Talia looks around then runs
into the --

INT. WAYNE MANOR - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Talia runs ups to Alfred who is dusting.

TALIA
Alfred? Please... where is Bruce?

ALFRED
Saving Gotham.

CUT TO:

INT. BATCAVE - MORNING

The BATMOBILE starts up then peels out.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS - GORDON'S OFFICE -
MORNING

MORNING
Gordon, Bullock and Montoya are
coming up with a plan.

GORDON
The way it looks Zsasz isn't
picking out his victims but
choosing them randomly.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GORDON(cont'd)

Our early reports tell us that none of the victims in Gotham had anything to do with each other.

BULLOCK

Know what I think, Commish? I think that since Bane and Zsasz are the only ones left that they're probably working together. I mean they were both in Arkham right? And everyone else has been picked up but these two clowns.

GORDON

Sounds believable but Bane and Zsasz are two different people. Bane isn't a murderer like Zsasz is.

MONTOYA

But they both hate Batman.

BULLOCK

Bingo.

GORDON

The enemy of my enemy is my friend?

BULLOCK

It's Batman's fault that Zsasz got put in Arkham and even though Batgirl and Robin put Bane in I'm sure he counts Batman just as responsible.

A Detective runs into the room.

DETECTIVE

Turn on the news!

Gordon turns on the TV. Summer is giving a report. A LIVE camera shot shows several blocks destroyed.

SUMMER (V.O.)

(filtered)

This is the scene live right now on West 42nd. Street in Gotham. This looks like a war or a riot broke out but several witness report that the destruction was caused by none other than Bane.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON

Damn it! How the hell did he get a hold of venom that quick?

MONTOYA

This must have been Zsasz's plan all along. He must have found a supplier before going into Arkham and once there or during the breakout he someone got in touch with Bane --

GORDON

-- Slowly wear down Batman the first night, then hit him hard the next day by making him come out and fight Bane, and from what it looks like a stronger and more powerful Bane.

BULLOCK

That will give Zsasz time to get away or make killing the Bat a hell of a lot easier for him.

MONTOYA

I don't know. It doesn't feel right, there has to be something more. Somebody inside Gotham had to help him escape.

BULLOCK

Like who?

GORDON

Jeremiah Arkham.

Gordon leaves his office with Bullock and Montoya following.

INT. GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Gordon marches through the room.

GORDON

I want a warrant for Jeremiah Arkham as soon as you get it bust him! In the meantime lets get Bane!

The room empties and follows Gordon down the stairs.

INT. BATCAVE - MORNING

Alfred heads down the steps of the Batcave with Talia trailing along. Alfred gets to the Batcomputer and sits down in the chair. Talia walks around in amazement. A police report about West 42nd. Street comes up on the Batcomputer. Alfred turns on the link to Batman.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

ALFRED

There has been a report of Bane's last location, sir.

BATMAN

Where?

ALFRED

West 42nd. Street.

BATMAN

Got it.

Batman FLOORS it.

EXT. WEST 42ND STREET - MORNING

The Police have blocked off the streets. Media and citizens surround the area. Gordon, Bullock, and Montoya pull up and get out of their cars. The street looks even worse in person than it did on TV.

GORDON

Oh, man.

COP (O.S.)

Commissioner!

Gordon turns and sees a COP signaling him from one of the trashed buildings.

GORDON

What is it officer?

COP

You better come and take a look at this.

INT. TRASHED BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Gordon heads into the trashed building.

(CONTINUED)

COP
Over here, Commissioner.

Gordon and several officers follow the Cop through the debris. The Cop points at one of the walls.

ANGLE ON - THE WALL, with a giant BAT LOGO made with DEAD BATS nailed against it. Written in BLOOD in the middle of the logo are two words:

CRIME ALLEY

GORDON
Crime alley?

Gordon's attention soon turns outside when he hears the BATMOBILE pulling up.

GORDON
Tell nobody about this, understand.

Gordon rushes out the door.

EXT. WEST 42ND STREET - CONTINUOUS

Gordon runs out the door in time to see Batman pulling up and breaking through the police tape. The media try to rush him but are held back by Police.

Batman pulls up in front of Gordon who quickly rushes to him. Batman pops open the roof of the BATMOBILE. Gordon whispers to him. The roof closes and Batman takes off.

Bullock runs to Gordon.

BULLOCK
Gordon what are you --

GORDON
Don't worry about it, Bullock. Let Batman handle this.

BULLOCK
But, Commish --

GORDON
(sternly)
Bullock.

BULLOCK
Yes, sir.

INT. BATCAVE - MORNING

Alfred watches the news on the monitor with Talia.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

BATMAN
They're at Crime Alley.

ALFRED
Crime Alley? Why on earth would
they be there, sir?

BATMAN
I don't know.

ALFRED
You don't believe that they know
what happened there do you, sir?

BATMAN
I don't know. Bane never showed any
interest in Bruce Wayne and neither
has Zsasz.

TALIA
He can't go there it's a trap.

ALFRED
He knows dear.

TALIA
But he's --

ALFRED
Dear... he's knows.

EXT. CRIME ALLEY - MORNING

Batman drives through CRIME ALLEY. What's in a name?
Everything with this Alley. Batman parks the BATMOBILE and
gets out. Batman quickly reaches into his UTILITY BELT and
pulls out his RADIO TRANSMITTER.

BATMAN
Shields.

CHROME-STEEL PLATES slide out from under the BATMOBILE
leaving it impenetrable.

Batman heads forward but stops as he sees a run down THEATER.

(CONTINUED)

BANG! A Gunshot and a WOMAN'S VOICE rings through Batman's head. BANG! Another shot rings out.

JOKER (V.O.)
You ever danced with the devil by
the pale moonlight?

The JOKER's maniacal laugh begins overpowering Batman's thoughts. BANG! Another shot. The laughing gets louder. LOUDER. Batman quickly shakes it off.

Silence.

BAM! Batman turns around and sees Bane standing on top of the BATMOBILE like a skyscraper.

BATMAN
Get off my car.

BANE
What's wrong Bruce you don't like
sharing your toys?

BATMAN
What?

A door slams behind Batman. He only glances but it gives Bane an opportunity and he takes it by throwing a kick at Batman's face. Batman senses it and reaches out and grabs Bane's foot and twists pulling Bane down onto the hood of the BATMOBILE. Bane kicks him with his free leg. Batman tries to block it but the power of the kick forces him back.

Bane leaps off the BATMOBILE headfirst but Batman side steps him and WHACKS him in the back of the head sending Bane to the street. Bane recovers faster then Batman can get a second blow in and reaches out grabbing Batman by the leg and pulls him off the ground. Bane hops up and grabs both of Batman's legs and -WHAM!- swings him into the BATMOBILE.

Bane violently begins kicking the Dark Knight in the back not letting up for a second.

BANE
Come on, Wayne! Come on!

Bane lifts Batman up by the neck then repeatedly SLAMS his head onto the BATMOBILE. Batman elbows Bane in the stomach but there's no effect. He tires it again. Nothing.

Bane wraps his giant hands around Batman's head and lifts him up in the air and starts trying to crush Batman's skull. Batman struggles and punches at Bane but nothing is working.

(CONTINUED)

Batman reaches into his UTILITY BELT and pulls out a PLASTIC MINI-TEST TUBE with BLUE FLUID inside and begins to shake it.

Bane squeezes tighter. To tight. Batman drops the tube. It cracks open on the street and starts bubbling like acid.

BANE

Is that it? No new toys from WayneTech Bruce?

Batman swigs his leg back as far as he can then swings it towards Bane. Bane throws his head back dogging the kick.

BANE

Missed.

Actually he didn't. Batman foot comes back down delivering an ax kick right on Bane's chin dropping him to the ground. Batman lands on his feet and drops to one knee holding his head in pain. Bane did more damaged then feared.

Bane quickly starts to rise up. Batman hops onto Bane's back and starts chocking him out. Bane slowly starts fading away. Batman reaches back and grabs his RADIO TRANSMITTER.

BATMAN

Shields open.

Quickly the shields on the BATMOBILE opens up. Batman starts leaning backwards towards the BATMOBILE with Bane's body following. The roof of the BATMOBILE opens up and Batman puts all of heart into it and falls back into the BATMOBILE with Bane crashing down on top of him.

Batman squirms out from under Bane and hops out of the car then squeezes Bane into the BATMOBILE.

BATMAN (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Shields.

The shields come back ovetop of the BATMOBILE enclosing Bane inside. Batman takes a quick breath then turns back around and heads straight for the Theater.

EXT. BATCAVE - THAT MOMENT

Talia paces around nervously.

TALIA

What's taking so long?

ALFRED

Don't worry, Miss. al Ghul.

(CONTINUED)

TALIA
Shouldn't he be talking to you
right now?

ALFRED
Not always.

The pacing continues this time we can see the frustration
building to a boiling point until finally --

TALIA
I'm sorry Alfred I have to go.

ALFRED
Ma'am, I implore you to stay here.

TALIA
I'm sorry I can't. I love him.

Talia heads towards the stairs and races up them. Alfred
cracks a smile.

INT. THEATER - LOBBY - THAT MOMENT

The most beautiful theater we've ever seen is before us in
ruins. A true highlight of Gotham architectural brilliance is
now layered in graffiti, rats, needles, and human waste --
bodily and otherwise.

With a look of disdain Batman enters through the rusted out
front doors. Even though the place is a wreck for some odd
reason Batman seem to look perfect in the picture before us.

Batman glides through the lobby looking carefully at every
makeshift house for homeless Gothamites and the beds for the
prostitutes who's names are scribbled onto the walls above
them.

Batman continues through the theater and sees a busted frame.
Batman takes a step forward and wipes off the dust and sees
inside is a poster for "THE MASK OF ZORRO".

BANG! Gunshots blast inside Batman's head. Batman grabs the
poster in rage and throws it onto the floor SHATTERING the
glass frame into pieces.

ZSASZ (O.S.)
Aww, I figured you'd wanted to keep
that for a family heirloom?

Batman swings around and sees a door leading to the MAIN
SCREEN closing.

INT. THEATER - MAIN SCREEN - MORNING

The Lobby's best day couldn't doesn't even compare to the glory of Main Screening room -- even covered in trash and a collapsing ceiling.

Batman opens the doors and finds Mr. Zsasz standing on the stage.

ZSASZ

The Batman is here! Time for the show begin.

BATMAN

You're going to jail.

ZSASZ

Me? Oh no Batman... or shall I say Bruce Wayne. Bane filled me in on you little identity. You see Bane had a lot of time in Arkham and away from Ivy he had time to do some thinking... time to grow up. Oh, and not to mention, the Riddler regained his senses.

(beat)

I no doubt would have figured it out sooner or later but Gotham isn't my city so why should I bother. But I must say - Magician to Magician - you do a fabulous disappearing act. And living two lives at once. It's almost like your practicing for marriage.

Batman starts towards Zsasz.

ZSASZ (cont'd)

Tell me, Batman. Don't you want to know how it feels? Life flowing from you're hands. The blood beckoning the flesh to release it into world. I'm releasing the drones from their hell, Batman.

Batman leaps on top of the stage.

ZSASZ (cont'd)

Even the babies are drones. That's why I released them. I could have done it while they where sleeping but I made sure they were awake that way they could feel the --

(CONTINUED)

BAM! Batman DRILLS Zsasz with a right cross. The Batman reaches down and grabs Zsasz by the collar and jerks him up. Batman SLUGS him in the gut then throws him off the stage into the front row with the seats buckling under him.

Zsasz struggles to stand as Batman jumps off the stage and lands behind him. Batman grabs Zsasz by the shoulder and SLAMS him back into the stage then nails his with a right hand across the face. A left. A right. A knee into the gut. A handful of hair then a knee lift to the chin sending a bloody Zsasz back onto the floor.

Zsasz slowly rolls onto his stomach and starts dragging himself away from Batman spitting blood.

ZSASZ (cont'd)

I thought you were one of the good guys.

Zsasz rolls over onto his back and looks up at Batman.

ZSASZ (cont'd)

Superman wouldn't do this.

BATMAN

Superman's a pussy.

BAM! Batman kicks Zsasz square in the nuts. Zsasz howls in pain.

INT. BATMOBILE - THAT MOMENT

Bane slowly starts coming to. Bane looks around then pushes on the roof. Nothing. Pushes again. Nothing. Gives it another try. Still nothing.

Bane reaches into his belt taking out patch after patch of VENOM and starts slapping them on. Bane's head snaps back. Muscles twitch violently. Veins start doubling in size.

EXT. CRIME ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

The roof and chrome-steel plates of the BATMOBILE starts to rise up with a loud thud. Again. Again. Another. The final blow sends the roof and shields flying into the sky as Bane stands inside the BATMOBILE jacked up twice his normal size and ready to kill -- Batman.

I/E. TALIA'S CAR - THAT MOMENT

Talia has reached the city and it's GRIDLOCK. Talia punches the steering wheel then takes a left down the back alleys.

INT. THEATER - MAIN SCREEN - THAT MOMENT

Zsasz SLAMS down in front of us in worse shape than we left him. Batman pulls one of Zsasz's arms behind his back and starts slapping the BATCUFFS on him.

SMASH!

Batman turns to the sound coming from the lobby.

ZSASZ

Haha, hold long did you think that car you had would hold him Batman? The Venom he has now is twice as powerful. And by the looks of you, you've had a very long night with my friends.

SMASH! The doors to MAIN SCREEN are RIPPED OFF the hinges as Bane yells in power and fury.

Before Batman can finish cuffing Zsasz Bane throws one of the doors towards the Batman SMASHING into the stage and just narrowly missing Batman's head.

Zsasz turns over onto his stomach and kicks Batman in the face allowing him time to escape. Batman kips up to his feet only to block a theater seat flying towards his face. Another one flies towards him and the Batman knocks it down.

Batman looks up and with the power of a charging bull Bane tackles Batman sending both men CRASHING into the front of the stage. Bane bursts up from inside the stage and reaches down and grabs Batman and FLINGS him over onto the stage more than twenty feet.

Bane leaps onto the stage and charges Batman and begins a serious beat down on Batman without a chance of a block coming from him.

Batman lays on the stage floor then swings around and kicks Bane in the shin. Bane stands motionless then grabs Batman and throws him up against a wall in front of him and swings a right hand. Batman ducks as Bane's hand goes THROUGH the wall.

Bane shoves Batman against the wall with his free hand. Bane pulls out his hand then gives Batman a right cross busting his mouth. The Batman goes flying as Bane tosses him across the stage.

(CONTINUED)

BANE

You're not putting up a fight,
Batman. Batgirl fought better than
this.

Batman rolls over to his stomach grabs a small SYRINGE from
the UTILITY BELT. Bane walks over to Batman and lifts him
from behind. Batman turns around and STABS Bane in the chest
with it.

BANE (cont'd)

There's no antidote for Venom
Batman you're wasting your time.

BATMAN

It's not an antidote. It's a
stimulant.

Bane looks at Batman puzzled. Then groans in pain. Bane lets
go of Batman and grabs his heart. Bane starts to panic.

BANE

(weakly)
I'll... kill.

Bane SCREAMS then collapses. WHACK! Batman falls to the stage
as Zsasz stands over him with a 2x4.

ZSASZ

Good job!

WHACK! A shot to the back Batman's head.

ZSASZ (cont'd)

You figured out that his heart
didn't double in size so it was
working twice as hard --

WHACK! Another shot.

ZSASZ (cont'd)

Whenever he --

WHACK! Another shot.

ZSASZ (cont'd)

-- Used Venom. Let me guess you
waited out until he got so jacked
up that one shot would do him in,
huh?

(CONTINUED)

Batman staggers up. Zsasz kicks Batman in the gut then throws an uppercut with the board that hits it's mark sending the Bat down.

Zsasz throws the board down and reaches into his jacket and pulls out his KNIFE.

Batman lies motionless as Zsasz stalks his prey.

TALIA (O.S.)
Get away from him.

Zsasz turns to see Talia heading towards him.

ZSASZ
Excuse me?

Talia calmly reaches into her pocketbook and pulls out a GUN and aims at Zsasz's head.

ZSASZ (cont'd)
(with a smile)
Doubt you'll shoot my dear. You're
far too sweet --

BANG! Zsasz drops to the stage with a bullet lodged in his brain. Talia runs up onto the stage and drops to her knees and consoles Batman.

BATMAN
Talia?

TALIA
Love.

BATMAN
What are you doing here?

TALIA
I love --

BANE (O.S.)
NO!

Bane jumps to his feet. Talia stares in shock. Bane knocks Talia away and grabs Batman and holds him OVER HIS SHOULDERS.

Batman quickly reaches into his UTILITY BELT and take out his BATGRAPPLE. Gives the hook slack and wraps it around Bane's neck. The Grapple SHOOTS to the ceiling taking Bane with him and goes through the ceiling and LOCKS in place.

(CONTINUED)

The extra slack in the rope allows Bane a quick fall stopping with a quick jolt. The ceiling cracks then COLLAPSE with Bane crashing NECK FIRST. As the dust settles we see Bane... DEAD.

Batman fumbles over to Talia and helps her up.

BATMAN
Are you alright?

TALIA
Are you?

BATMAN
Yes.

TALIA
Then I am, too, my love.

Talia and Batman embrace.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WAYNE MANOR - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alfred is dusting the furniture with the TV on. Alfred goes to the large window and starts to close the curtains.

SUMMER (O.S.)
(filtered)
-- Jeremiah Arkham is still in
custody.

Of course we promised you some red carpet treatment for the end of tonight's broadcast for the Gotham City Orchestra Spring Concert. Alfred stops and turns to the look at the screen.

ANGLE ON - THE TV, as Bruce and Talia are dressed to the miens and holding hands as they walk down a red carpet that leads to a CONCERT HALL.

SUMMER (cont'd)
(filtered)
As we go to some outside shots we
see here Bruce Wayne and his
girlfriend Talia al Ghul making
their way down the red carpet.

ANGLE ON - ALFRED, smiling. Suddenly the BAT SIGNAL shines over Alfred's shoulder.

ANGLE ON - THE TV, as we see Bruce and Talia take one last look to the sky and then head into the Concert Hall.

(CONTINUED)

SUMMER (cont'd)

(filtered)

Rumor has it that these two have been an hot item now for nearly three months and nothing seems to be standing in the way of this budding romance.

ANGLE ON - ALFRED, turning to close the curtain. He pauses when he sees the BATSIGNAL. Alfred starts to walk off when The phone rings. Alfred walks over and answer it.

ALFRED

Yes, Miss. al Ghul. Tell Master Bruce I'm sending the car as we speak. You take care too, dear.

CUT TO:

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

The engine to the BATMOBILE roars. Flames shoot out the back. The BATMOBILE takes off.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

The BATSIGNAL shines brightly over the city as if knowing the BATMOBILE is heading towards Gotham one more time to pick up it's saviour. Batman: The Dark Knight.

FADE OUT.

THE END