

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

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Camera moves down corridors as screams from inmates echo through the halls. Focuses in on a door that reads 223867. Camera inside room. The room is dark. A figure sits in the corner as the light flickers and lightning strikes and thunder booms. Camera slowly approaches figure while he talks.

JOKER

Batman. Nothing pains me more than the times when I'm not there to torment your very soul. Too many times I've returned to this very place. I'm the most regular inmate. Ha ha ha ha! I know you've missed me as much as I've missed you. But don't worry. Joker's coming back!! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!!!!

Opening credits roll. After opening credits, Batman is walking through dirt and rubble. He walks through with a look of bewilderment on his face. His eyes widen as he kneels down. He lifts a board and finds a dead Robin. He lifts Robin into his arms while still on the ground.

BATMAN

No!!!!!!!

Bruce Wayne jolts awake breathing heavily and drenched in sweat.

INT. WAYNE MANOR - MORNING

Bruce is wearing a robe and eating cereal. You can hear the Gotham City News Report on TV.

KELLY MOORE

We have reports that the infamous super criminal the Joker is being released from Arkham Asylum. After serving only six months of a life sentence he is being released because according to the top doctors at Arkham he is cured. Chase Blaire is at Arkham right now with the Joker who wants to address Gotham. Chase?

CHASE BLAIRE

Thanks, Kelly. Yes I'm here with former super villain the Joker. So How are you feeling.

JOKER

I feel great Chase. I feel like I have a whole new life to start over fresh. And I just want to say to all the citizens of Gotham that if I killed any of your family, I was just kidding. Get over it. Ah ha ha ha ha!

CHASE BLAIRE

Okay? Well this was Chase Blaire and the Joker live from outside of Arkham Asylum. Back to you Kelly.

KELLY MOORE

Thanks, Chase.

BRUCE WAYNE

I can't believe it.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Bruce is suiting up. His cowl is the only thing that's not on. Alfred walks in.

ALFRED

Going somewhere, sir?

BRUCE WAYNE

Joker was released from Arkham after serving only six months. I don't really believe he's changed. I'm going to make sure he's not out to cause more mayhem.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Batman on a building overlooking the docks looking through binoculars. Zooms in on a group of people taking crates off a boat and loading them into the back of a truck. Two men, PAULIE and JOEY, are overlooking the operation. Batman puts away his binoculars and jumps off the building. Batman lands on the ground and quietly presses up against the building.

JOEY

This is taking forever. Hey! Hurry  
it up you hacks!

PAULIE

(puffing on a cigarette)  
Would you relax? God, you look like  
hell Joey. When was the last time  
you actually had some decent sleep?

JOEY

I don't have time to sleep with  
Batman fucking up all our  
shipments. Carlos has been all over  
my ass about the last five  
shipments getting screwed up. I  
gotta take a piss. I'll be back in  
a minute.

Batman silently steps off screen. Benny standing at a wall  
urinating. Batman pops up on screen behind him.

BATMAN

Hey.

JOEY

(zips up pants)  
What is it now.

Turns around to see Batman.

JOEY (CONT'D)

Ahhh!

Batman punches him right in the face right as Benny exclaims.  
Close up of Benny's unconscious face. Camera flips right side  
up and zooms out as Benny wakes up and finds his predicament.  
Benny is bound in wire and hung upside down over the edge of  
a building. Benny notices Batman.

JOEY (CONT'D)

Wha? What the hell!? Where am I!?

BATMAN

(pulls out a pair of wire  
cutters)  
You're suspended by thin wire about  
ten stories above the nice hard  
cement. Now if you don't answer my  
questions you'll soon have a closer  
relationship to it than you've ever  
had before. You got me?

JOEY

Yeah!! I'll tell you whatever you want just don't kill me!!!

BATMAN

Smart decision. You used to work for Joker before he was put back in Arkham, no that he's out I don't doubt you're working for him again. What's he up to?

JOEY

What?! I'm not working for Joker again!! Nobody's even seen him since early this morning on TV!!

BATMAN

(acts like he's going to cut the wire)

You wouldn't happen to be lying to me would you?

JOEY

No, man!! I swear it's true!! I swear to god!! Please don't kill me!!

BATMAN

(to himself)

This is a dead end. I've got to find Joker before he starts causing trouble.

Batman turns and jumps off the building leaving Joey tied up.

JOEY

Hey! You can't leave me like this man! Hey!!

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Joker is standing on higher ground mostly shrouded in darkness. The area next to him resembles the inside of a small, brightly colored, (colors that don't match) house. Scarecrow and Mr. Freeze step out of the darkness.

JOKER

Ahhh, gentlemen, Welcome to my beautiful home! What do you think?

Joker says this while stepping out of the shadows.

MR. FREEZE  
 (sarcastically)  
 Charming.

Joker jumps down and faces the two.

JOKER  
 Well it's definitely me. You could  
 tell couldn't you? Ah ha ha ha ha!

SCARECROW  
 Enough of the jokes. What did you  
 want us for?

JOKER  
 Don't be such a killjoy. It seems  
 to me (and most likely to you too)  
 that we have a common pest that  
 always seems to be getting in the  
 way. And here he is now!

Joker points to a door and Batman walks through. Freeze and Scarecrow ready their weapons; Freeze, his gun, and Scarecrow his scythe.

SCARECROW  
 Batman! What is this, Joker!?

MR. FREEZE  
 (redirecting his gun  
 towards Joker)  
 I don't like being double crossed  
 Joker.

JOKER  
 Then there's no need to worry  
 Freezey ol' pal.

As Batman completely steps out of the shadows he turns into a short brown overcoated man. His collar on his over coat and the brown tattered top hat he's wearing hides his face.

JOKER (CONT'D)  
 I'd like you to meet Nord Vulcan. A  
 master of the art of impersonation!  
 He's usually hired by people who  
 don't want a witness showing up in  
 court to take care of the witness  
 then take their place for a while.  
 Personally I would use that power  
 to my advantage if you know what I  
 mean. Ah ha ha ha!

NORD VULCAN

How do you do?

Mr. Freeze and Scarecrow lower their weapons with a look of relief on their faces.

MR. FREEZE

It is not wise to play such a foolish prank Joker.

SCARECROW

It wouldn't have helped your health if you hadn't revealed your prank as soon as you did.

MR. FREEZE

Now I am curious as to what you plan to do, Joker?

JOKER

Mr. Vulcan here has agreed to go on a little shopping spree as Batman for us and he's going to accidentally forget his wallet. And after he has destroyed Batman's reputation. We'll destroy him. How 'bout it? Doesn't it sound like fun?

SCARECROW

I'm in. Batman's gonna be too afraid to know what hit him when I'm through with him.

JOKER

How 'bout you Freeze? It'll be a riot.

MR. FREEZE

I'm in also. I've got a score to settle with Batman.

JOKER

Great! Get ready Batman! The beginning of your end starts now! Ah ha ha ha ha!

Camera pulls back out of the building as Joker continues laughing hysterically. Still laughing, the scene cuts to behind Batman as he's crouched on a building. As the camera spins around to the front of him and focuses in on his face it stops with a close up of his face. The echo of Joker's laugh continues a little after the screen immediately cuts black.

End of Part 1