

BATMAN BEYOND - CHAOS RISING (WORKING TITLE)

WRITTEN BY DASH MADDEN

FADE IN:

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Gotham City is a masterpiece; a chrome, mechanical work of architectural art. Automobiles, now a miracle of aerodynamics, hover along the streets as people work with animatronic vending machines, high-tech construction equipment, and virtually simulated store clerks. Gotham City seems to be a Utopia now, but it is a merely a more futuristic reflection of the dark city it once was.

We move throughout the city for a few moments as the voice of TERRY MCGINNIS fills the screen.

Terry (V.O.):

Some people think this city is dying. In many ways, they're right. But there are those who still stand for what's right. Who defend those that are afraid of the dark...

We zoom towards a building with a sign that reads: BLU CORP. BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

INT. BLU CORP. RESEARCH FACILITY 23rd FLOOR - NIGHT

Two men dressed in black are carrying equipment down a hallway with a room-length window that overlooks the city. One of them is carrying a box bearing the Blu Corp. logo. The other is carrying a briefcase in one hand and a laptop computer in the other. They creep quietly down the hallway and to the staircase at the opposite end. They climb the stairs quickly and exit on the roof.

EXT. BLU CORP. RESEARCH FACILITY ROOF - NIGHT

Thief 1:
(whispers)

When's the chopper supposed to be here?

Thief 2 doesn't respond, but merely holds up two fingers—two minutes. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a small BATARANG flies from the darkness and into Thief 1's hand. He drops the box he's carrying and holds his hand in pain. Both thieves look up. New City. New Knight. BATMAN BEYOND is a villain's worst nightmare, with the red bat emblem emblazoned on the jet black chest. His eyes glowing white hot, Batman bears down menacingly on the two thieves.

Batman:
You'd better be the custodians.

The thieves go for their pistols and Batman leaps over a hail of gunfire and sweeps his leg under Thief 1, knocking him off his feet. Thief 2 takes a vial from the briefcase and hurls it at Batman's chest. It explodes, splattering a light green liquid on Batman's suit.

Nothing.

Batman shakes a finger and ducks a swing from Thief 2 and kicks him in the stomach. Thief 2 smacks into the wall as Thief 1 gets up and knocks both hands into Batman's back. Batman turns and fights Thief 1 as a helicopter flies near and drops a rope ladder. Batman finishes off Thief 1 as Thief 2 leaps onto the ladder. Batman has just enough time to look up as the Thief waves mockingly at him from the safety of the chopper as it quickly flies away. Batman, exasperated, drops an unconscious Thief 1 to the ground.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

The Batcave is a menacing, foreboding cavern that tunnels through itself deeper and deeper until we can see a large altered area in the rock. Mechanical devices and crime lab equipment decorate the rock-form platforms and work areas. A huge vault sits on one side of the cavern and, on the other side, an old man with a cane sits, his face grim, working on a huge, high-tech supercomputer. BRUCE WAYNE may be pushing 60, but his face hasn't seem to have lost the menace that used to show from behind Batman's cowl. Batman himself emerges quietly from the shadows, looking menacing as ever, but Bruce doesn't even turn around.

Bruce:
The day you sneak up on me, you won't need me anymore.

Batman grins.

Batman:
Until then, there's plenty you could help me with...

Bruce:
Like?

Batman pulls off the black cowl. TERRY MCGINNIS continues as he walks

over to the Batsuit Discharge Vault. He stands still and talks as the machine disassembles the Batsuit from his body and stores it in the vault.

Terry:

Two thieves. Just two. Broke into a bio-research facility.

Bruce:

Not surprising. Bio-weapons seem to be a bit of a trend on the black market these days.

Terry:

Yeah but they didn't even take much. Just a box, a laptop, and a briefcase...and the briefcase was the only thing that one of them got away with.

Bruce:

With today's technology, it takes more than that to do a lot of damage.

The suit discharger shuts down and Terry, now plainly dressed, walks back over beside the computer.

Terry:

I guess. I got one of them. But that briefcase may be important.

Bruce:

You're focusing on the wrong thing. You're looking at what was stolen—not who stole it. Even if a stolen item is passed on from thief to thief, there is still a trail of thieves to follow. You'll find them soon enough.

Bruce shuts down the computer.

Terry:

I guess it would be a little easier to concentrate if...if I could just get past Dad's...

Bruce's face is hardened against the slight show of emotion, but his voice is softened a bit.

Bruce:

Try not to think about it, Terry. The answers always come. You're father would be very proud of you.

Terry is somewhat comforted. Bruce begins to lead him out of the Batcave, but stops one more time.

Bruce:

(Sly grin)

One more thing. You'd better hurry up the search for a date. The Police Charity Ball is tomorrow night.

Bruce turns and leaves the Batcave, Terry grinning behind him as well.

Terry:

Well...lot of faith you seem to have in me...You'll be surprised to know I already have a date...and she's hot...Bruce?...You still there?...

CUT TO:

INT. WEST SIDE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Among the normal chaos of the everyday life of high school students, there is a bit of anticipation in the air—school is almost out and summertime is almost here. A dark-haired girl with killer looks and a face full of attitude walks down one of the locker-filled halls and locates hers off to the side. DANA TAN finishes putting her things in her locker and shuts the door, revealing a grinning Terry McGinnis behind it. She only goes stiff for a second.

Dana:

(Exasperation)

I've told you not to sneak up on me like that.

Terry's grin only widens.

Terry:

Miss me?

Dana:

Right...especially after your no-show performance at the club last night.

Terry:

Sorry babe...Wayne kept me late last night.

Dana:

You're gonna wear that one out, aren't you?

Terry:

(Grins)

Yep...just as long as I can keep making it up to you.

Dana grins. She can never be mad at her boyfriend for long.

Terry:

Listen...Wayne's got this charity ball tonight and I figured...

Dana's eyes begin to light up.

Terry:

...you'd want to come. Maybe we can hit the club after Wayne's done playing host to Gotham's Finest.

Dana:

(Returns the friendly smile)

Sure...

Terry:

Alright...but no dancing.

Dana's face almost falls, but Terry grins again, slightly winking. He's kidding. She smiles and gives him a swift kiss before hurrying off down the hall. Terry smiles after her.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SKYSCRAPER - NIGHT

The sky is growing darker in the early morning hours of Gotham as the gigantic form of BIG TIME LOUIE, one of the modern gangsters of Gotham, exits his penthouse, flanked by two of his bodyguards. He ducks into an alley and his bodyguards follow him through the winding passage to his car. But suddenly, Louie hears something. He looks up and sees BATMAN standing in the moonlight. His eyes go wide, but he doesn't seem afraid.

Batman:

"Big Time" Louie...been looking for you.

Louie:

You found me then, freak. What the hell do you want?

Batman:

Information. Regarding this man.

Batman tosses Louie a photograph of an aging man in a Wayne Tech lab coat. Louie looks it over.

Batman:

You're Gotham's top hit man in town. I believe this was your latest job. Who was it for?

Louie glares at him.

Louie:

Never seen, never tell. Now get outta here, freak. You got no business

here.

He snaps his fingers and the two bodyguards draw their pistols and aim squarely at Batman. He frowns.

Batman:
Wrong answer.

He leaps down and attacks the two bodyguards. They're tough, but he's faster. He has them down quickly and knocks a gun from Louie's now shaking hands. He stares at the pathetic figure for a moment before a lightning kick rockets Louie into the wall. He doesn't get up, but merely sits back, haunched on his fat buttocks as Batman glowers down over him.

Batman:
I don't ask questions twice.

Louie's mouth quivers as he struggles to speak.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Terry McGinnis emerges from the Batsuit Discharge Vault, wiping his head with a towel as Bruce Wayne looks up from the Batcomputer.

Bruce:
Any luck?

Terry:
None. Louie was the one put out to kill my father but even he didn't know who hired him. Said they kept it anonymous.

Bruce:
You believe him?

Terry:
Right now, it's all I've got.

Terry walks to the Batcomputer and pulls up a file. The photo on the file is the same as the one from the previous scene. The name by the photo reads: ROBERT MCGINNIS. Terry stares at the screen as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WAYNE MANOR CHARITY BALLROOM - NIGHT

We slowly move through the elegant crowd of smartly-dressed Gotham citizens. The Wayne ballroom is a beautiful sight for anyone coming or going. People laugh, converse, and enjoy themselves as they drink champagne and occasionally drop a buck or two of their millions into the collection plates. A podium sits on an upper balcony of the ballroom, from which Bruce Wayne watches the crowd, accompanied by two or three Gotham policemen and Police Commissioner BARBARA GORDON, an aging woman who was once an ally of Bruce's and Batman's. Bruce turns and speaks to his assistant, DEREK POWERS. Terry and Dana seem to be the only young people there, but they don't let that stop them.

Dana:
(Smiling)

C'mon Terry...let's hit the town for tonight.

She has Terry's hand and tries to steer him from the ballroom, but Terry gently resists.

Terry:

It's okay, Dana. We'll be done here soon. Wayne wanted me to stay here for the Commissioner's speech.

She pouts in a playful way as Terry steers her back to the drink table. Up on the balcony, Barbara is talking to Bruce before preparing to step up to the podium.

Barbara:

Still playing Robin Hood...taking from the rich and giving to the...mm...
(eyes the cops at her side) slightly deficient, eh Bruce?

Bruce grins.

Bruce:

The story doesn't turn out as well if that Robin Hood was as financially sound as this one...

Barbara laughs. Derek Powers turns to them.

Powers:

Still...nothing stops Gotham's most famous millionaire from playing the hero, does it?

Bruce and Barbara grin appreciatively.

Barbara:

Well I appreciate the charity. I really do.

Bruce:

It's the least I can do for the police... (lowers his voice) nowadays,
anyway...

Barbara smiles.

Powers:

(Clears throat)

Mrs. Gordon? I think it's time...(Gestures to the podium)

Barbara looks up at the crowd down below and eyes the podium. Bruce nods in a supporting way and she steps up to the podium and clears her throat.

Barbara:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

Everyone slowly puts down their drinks and looks up at Barbara. Dana and Terry stand at a pillar, Dana with her head on his shoulder, as Terry stands with rapt attention, listening to the Commissioner.

Barbara:

It looks like it's been a good night for the paychecks of Gotham's finest.

She smiles as she draws a fond chuckle from the audience, and then continues.

Barbara:

It's been my pleasure to see you all tonight and I would like to thank all of you who contributed. I would also like to say a very special thank you to Mr. Bruce Wayne, who has hosted and supported our police force for most of his life.

As the crowd applauds loudly and politely, Barbara blinks. She is sweating.

Barbara:

I would now like to say that...

Before she can finish, her voice falters. As she tries to continue, Bruce's face goes from puzzled to grimly alarmed. Terry's face darkens in concern as Barbara falters for her voice. She begins to shake. People in the audience gasp as Bruce hurries over to get her to a seat. Suddenly, she screams. She convulses and shakes wildly as if in pain as Bruce and Powers struggle to calm her.

Barbara:

(Screams)

No-! Get away from me!

She seems to be screaming at no one in particular in her own fear. Terry leaves Dana's side and runs toward the balcony to help. He vaults the marble handrail and is at her side as Bruce struggles to hold her steady. She screams and convulses worse than ever. Bruce looks over at Terry when he appears at his side.

Bruce:

Get the guests out of here now!

Terry nods and leaps back down into the crowd. Derek Powers looks up at Bruce as they try to restrain Barbara.

Powers:

I'll go for help!

Bruce nods and Powers hurries away as Terry reaches the panicking crowd.

Terry:

Alright everyone, Miss Gordon needs some space, let's head toward the exit please...

Dana runs over and helps Terry usher the guests out as Bruce continues to help Barbara, over the edge of hysterics, downstairs and into an ambulance. The last of the worried looking guests leave and Terry and Dana come back into the ballroom. Bruce returns as well, sweaty, exhausted, and white as a ghost. He loosens his tie and wipes his forehead as Terry and Dana join him in the atrium of the ballroom.

Terry:

Bruce...what the hell just happened?

Bruce doesn't answer. He looks up and stares ahead, his face grim as ever.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Bats fly in front of the screen momentarily as we close on Terry, who is pacing the crime lab of the stone platform, and Bruce, who is sitting in a chair, hunched over, thinking very hard about something very familiar.

Terry:

...I mean something like that could've only been a biological stimulation, right? Only person I can think of that would do something like that is Dr. Cuvier, but...he's out of commission now, right?

Bruce nods, only half listening. Terry notices it, too. Bruce seems to

be distracted by something much more disturbing.

Terry:

...Bruce...what's wrong? What are you not telling me?

Bruce comes to himself for a moment and looks up.

Bruce:

It's...it's nothing, Terry, it's just...the fearful response...the nervous breakdown...it's all way too familiar.

Terry:

What do you mean? How familiar?

Bruce looks away, thinking hard. Terry realizes

Terry:

Someone from the past...Wasn't it?...Who was it?

Bruce's expression turns grim.

Bruce:

It doesn't matter. Just pray I'm wrong.

FADE TO

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

The red and black, demon-like form of Batman glides through the Gotham sky and lands on a forty-story building. Batman looks down over the city and notices two men sneaking into the back of the warehouse level in another skyscraper.

CUT TO

Batman's POV as we pan upwards to see the WAYNE ENTERPRISES logo etched into the side of the building.

Batman's jaw tightens as he looks back down at the three trespassers. He balances on the edge and leaps off the roof, spreading the blood red wings from the side of his suit and gliding gracefully and menacingly down to the warehouse level of Wayne Enterprises.

INT. WAYNE ENTERPRISES - NIGHT

The thieves sneak quietly up the stairs of the dark and luxurious corporate building and come out on the 42nd floor. The area is filled

with biological test equipment and office cubicles. The thief in front motions for the three of them to spread out. They each take out flashlights and creep between the cubicles and test equipment, occasionally examining a file or piece of equipment.

CUT TO:

EXT. WAYNE ENTERPRISES - NIGHT

Batman stands tall on the top of the warehouse level and looks up, noticing the narrow beams of light escaping from the windows on the 42nd floor. His eyes narrow and he leaps upward, spreading his glider wings once more and soaring upward to the ledge underneath a side window. He slips open the window and creeps through, not making a sound.

CUT TO:

INT. WAYNE ENTERPRISES - NIGHT

Thieves creep throughout the work area one by one. They enter a side office overlooking the entire work area and turn on a computer.

Thief 1:
(Whispers)

Okay boys, this is where he said it would be...

The thieves set to work at the computer, Thief 1 operating it as the other two occasionally point something out. We draw back from them and back into the work area as Batman enters the window. He gives one quick look around and stoops down, so as to not be seen. He sets off through the work area, but doesn't get past many cubicles when he hears a small thump—he's not alone in the work area. Quick as lightning, Batman rounds two cubicles and swoops down on the source of the noise—Derek Powers is huddled in a corner, next to the wastebasket he just knocked over. At first Derek acts scared, but he then realizes who it is.

Batman:
(Voice low)

Derek Powers! What are you doing here?

Powers relaxes a bit as he hears the voice.

Powers:
(Voice low)

Batman...thank God it's you...I'm trying to get the hell out of here. I was finishing up Mr. Wayne's finance report for the charity ball when the three stooges showed up.

Batman:
What are they here after?

Powers:
Hell if I know...this is just a research floor...nothing of real value is kept here, other than information.

Batman:
That's plenty reason to be concerned. Get out of here, Mr. Powers, you probably don't have much time. Go!

Powers doesn't need telling twice. He gets up and runs to the stairs, still staying low. He gets through the door just as the three thieves emerge from the office.

Thief 1:
Well I think we've got what we came for boys. Anybody else feel like doughnuts?

The two other thieves chuckle, but the thieves' musings are interrupted immediately when a huge filing cabinet flies across the room, slamming into the biggest man. He groans in surprise as it knocks him off his feet.

Thief 1:
What the hell-!?

Batman bursts from the shadows, slamming into the second thief and sending him through the glass window of the side office. By the time he faces the first thief, the biggest one has gotten back to his feet. He sneaks up on Batman as Batman glares at Thief 1. The big man doesn't even get close. Without even looking, Batman slams the back of his fist into the thief's face. He sways on the spot and crumples to the floor. Breathing hard by now, Thief 1 turns tail and sprints to the exit. He doesn't get halfway. A small set of bolos suddenly flies through the air and wraps around his midsection. He loses his balance on the run and slams headfirst into a set of chairs. Batman stands over him as he begins shaking.

FADE TO

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Bruce Wayne is standing on a narrow ledge of the batcave, facing his dog, Ace. He takes a batarang from his coat and flicks it open. Ace growls. Bruce tosses the batarang and Ace takes off. The batarang flies across the cave and Ace leaps up in the air and catches it in his teeth, narrowly avoiding the edge of the stone platform. Bruce smiles. That's

when Batman emerges from the shadows. Bruce doesn't even turn around.

Bruce:
Biological research?

Terry removes the cowl from his face.

Terry:
Yep. Just two guys. Again.

Bruce nods, not in the least bit surprised.

Terry:
What is with these small time heists? Less than five men per job..
stealing nothing but research..

Bruce:
It won't be the last. That means there'll be more clues to follow.

Terry turns to the Batsuit Discharge Vault.

Bruce:
Don't bother with the discharge vault. The activator chip shorted out
again.

Terry groans in exasperation as Bruce walks over and helps Terry
disassemble the chest piece of the batsuit.

Terry:
You should really look into this "new technology" stuff...it would make
things a lot easier for you.
Bruce raises his eyebrows.

Bruce:
This not "high-tech" enough for you?

Terry:
Well, there's always something new, right?

Bruce grins.

Bruce:
It seems with every new innovation...there's always some lunatic who wants
to use it to take over the world..

Terry chuckles. Bruce gets the chest piece off and carries it to the
batsuit vault as Terry gets the rest of the suit off. He looks over at
the running computer and walks over, wiping some of the sweat from his

brow. He relaxes in the chair and quickly brings up a file on his father's murder.

CLOSE ON:

The text file from Wayne Enterprises, signifying the cause of death for Terry's father, who worked for Wayne Enterprises. It reads:

Name: McGinnis, Robert C.

Age: 51

Employment of Wayne Enterprises: Research Technician

Died on company premises, Dec. 1, 2001.

Terry sits, reading for a few minutes. Then his eyes catch something he hadn't noticed before:

CAUSE OF DEATH: Infection due to exposure to toxic materials in testing site.

Terry's eyes widen slightly as he pulls up another file—a newspaper article. It's merely an obituary, but under the information on the deceased, it reads: "Reports were given that Mr. McGinnis died, due to shock, from a head-on collision with a supply truck on Interstate 14, on his way home from work."

Terry's eyes are suddenly wide and horrified, knowing something is wrong. He is about to pull up another file, when Bruce bursts back into the cave, breathing heavily and staggering toward Terry.

Terry:
Bruce!!

Bruce's eyes are red and his breathing is ragged. He staggers toward Terry and manages to grab his arm to keep from falling over.

Bruce:
Te-Terry...help...help me...

Terry:
Bruce! What is it!

BRUCE'S POV:

As we watch Terry struggle to keep Bruce on his feet, we hear the voices of many of Batman's former foes. A high, cold laugh echoes through his head as the voices of other villains taunt him and his fears. He closes his eyes tight and shakes his head, trying to clear it. Terry's eyes are horrified and he tries to get Bruce upstairs.

Terry:

Bruce-Bruce! C'mon we gotta' get you upstairs...

But Bruce won't budge. He holds Terry back and stumbles to the computer table. He grabs a pen and manages to scribble something onto a scrap piece of paper, as he begins to shake more violently. He drops the pen and falls to his knees as Terry tries to help him.

Terry:

Bruce! BRUCE!!

Bruce's eyes roll back, and he collapses, unconscious, into Terry's arms.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Terry stares anxiously through the window of one of the secure rooms at an unconscious Bruce, lying in a bed, the life support system beside him beeping quietly. Derek Powers hurries through the door and Terry looks up as Powers hurries over to stand beside him. He looks very shaken.

Powers:

How is he?

Terry:

Same...Doctors said he got here just in time. They managed to slow his heart rate enough to prevent a heart attack. But other than the location, they said the case was exactly like Barbara Gordon's.

Derek looks back at Bruce, his expression worried. He looks at Terry again.

Powers:

You should go home. Get some sleep.

Terry:

Nah, I need to stay with him.

Powers:

I'll stay with him for awhile; you've had enough to deal with for the night. I'll make sure he's taken care of.

Terry looks at Bruce one more time, thinking. Then he yawns. Powers laughs.

Powers:

See? Go on home for at least a few hours. I'll take care of everything here.

Terry nods and then heads slowly out the door, looking back at Bruce one more time before leaving.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WAYNE MANOR - EVENING

Terry sits idly in one of the chairs in the elegant living room as Ace watches him intently. He rubs his head and scratches Ace's ears as he thinks to himself.

Terry:

I dunno boy...This thing's gotten messy quick.

He stands up and walks over to a table.

Terry (Cont.d):

But I think I know what to do next.

He picks up the paper that Bruce scribbled on the previous night. And looks at it.

229 5th Street
BLUDHAVEN

FADE OUT

CREDITS

END