

Batman
The Beginning of Darkness
by
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"Dedicated to the memory of Heath Ledger"

Scene 1

LOCATION: Small pizza shop in the early evening. Camera placed across the street focused on a man sitting at a table near the front window. Camera moves inside. Man named Jack sits alone at a table with a coffee while playing solitaire (or some kind of card game) Carmine Falconi and a couple of his thugs (Bobby and Sal) walk into the pizza shop.

Falconi: "Where in the hell have you've been? I've been looking for you all night"

Jack: Well, had you looked here first you would have saved yourself sometime now wouldn't you"

Falconi: "Smartass son of a bitch, if you would just have a cell phone like most people we wouldn't have this problem"

Jack: "In my line of work the less connections the better"

Jack takes a sip of coffee and continues to his card game not making eye contact with Falconi

Jack: "Word has it someone in the DA's office has rustled your feathers."

Falconi: "What would you know?"

Jack: "I make it my business to know"

Sal gives Jack a long hard look.

Falconi: "Well, let's just say someone has been sticking their nose where it shouldn't be."

Jack: "So little ole Rachel Dawes has scared big bad Carmine Falconi" (Falconi looks surprised that Jack knows of the person giving him problems) "What aren't your goons man enough to take care of a woman? (Jack gives a slight chuckle. A long pause before Jack speaks continuing to play his card game) "1 million"

Falconi: "What the hell are you talking about?"

Jack: "You weren't looking for me to have a casual conversation.....as flattering as that may be, I'm not stupid "

Falconi: "You know the going price Jack, it's always been a hundred grand."

Jack: "And now it's a million"

Falconi: "You ungrateful bastard your ass would be sitting in prison if it weren't for me. I pulled a lot of strings to get you into Arkham and out on the streets quickly."

Jack: "O yeah Arkham and that whack job Dr. Crane. Please forgive me if I don't kneel down and kiss your feet Carmine. (Pause then looks at Bobby) How many strings did you have to pull to

get him outta Fat Camp?"

Bobby (large porgy goon): "You son of a..."

Jack grabs Bobby's tie yanking him forward and quickly pulls a knife from his coat pressing it against his throat.

Jack: "Your boy needs to learn his place before I stick him like the pig he is."

Falconi: 'Easy Jack. You've always done my work for a hundred grand. You're good, that's why I come too you. What makes this any different?"

Jack: (slight laugh) "The difference is I see a desperate man"

Jack takes the knife from the goon's throat and puts it away. Grabs his coat and hat and proceeds to stand up ready to leave. As leaving he pats Falconi on the shoulder.

Jack: "Carmine you always put a smile on my face" (Jack laughs out loud as he leaves the pizza shop).

After Jack has left, Falconi looks to his goon.

Falconi: "I'm tired of his shit. Bobby (the large goon), Jack is a problem, a problem I no longer need to deal with. (Long pause) Give him something to smile about"

Bobby: "Yes Boss, understood."

Bobby and Sal stand up and leave the shop.

Scene 2

Jack is walking down a dark and dingy alley whistling a merry tune. As he walks the echo of following footsteps aren't far behind. Jack is aware of something going on. Near the back of the alley near the fire escape Jack is surrounded by a group of men including Bobby and Sal.

Bobby: "No one talks to Carmine that way."

Jack: "And no pig talks down to me"

Sal: "Jack, Jack, Jack, there's a reason why you're nothing but a two bit thug. You show no respect and no appreciation. You're just a means to a way. Men like you are a dime a dozen. Carmine gave you a chance to be something and how do you repay him, by trying to lowball him. Your time has come Jack. (Sal pulls Jack's playing cards from his coat) Games over!" (Sal flicks the deck of cards in Jack's face.)

Jack lunges forward towards Sal and is cut off by 2 goons who grab him. A mob beat down in suits. Men holding up Jack as others pound the hell out of him.

Sal: "Alright boys that's enough lets finish this. Bobby you heard what the boss said. Let's give our friend something to smile about."

With Jack on his knees Bobby grabs his hair from behind and yanks it back. Taking a knife, Bobby slices Jack's mouth open from ear to ear. The goon leaves Jack lying in a puddle of blood. As the men walk away the camera focuses on the joker card as it absorbs the blood turning the card red.

Scene 3

Bobby and Sal get into a back of a luxury car. From here Sal calls Carmine to let him know the job was done.

Sal: "Yeah this is me. The problem has been addressed. We'll catch up with you later after you get back from the loading docks. All right, later."

The car is seen driving away into the city night.

Scene 4

Jack struggles to his feet. He is groggy and stumbles about due to his large amount of blood loss. The camera follows him as he makes his way to a back alley door about 6 blocks from where the attack took place. He pounds at a door and collapses against it. A man opens the door and Jack falls into the building.

Scene 5

Camera fades in from a first person point of view of eyes opening. The vision is blurry but comes into focus. A man looking like a doctor (the kind of doctors criminals go to) appears.

Doctor: "Now take it slow, Jack, you lost a lot of blood. There were severe lacerations, and there will be some... (Gulp), scarring, but you must leave the wrappings on a few days to prevent infection. Now get some rest."

The camera fades back to black as if eyes closing.

Scene 6

Door to building where Jack went opens and a man whose face is wrapped in bandages walks out slowly and makes his way back to the main street. People give him strange looks as he walks by. On his way back to his apartment Jack passes a NEWS stand and sees a copy of the Gotham Times. Front page reads, "Mob Boss Falconi nabbed by mysterious "Batman"" Jack grabs a copy and walks away without paying. Man at news stand tries to confront him but when he gets close to Jack he quickly drops to the ground. Jack continues on his way and we see the man bleeding from the mid section.

Scene 7

Jack enters what is believed to be his apartment. It is a grimy place, no sense of style or decoration. It is merely a roof over his head. Jack walks to the mirror, his hair is a mess. He begins unraveling the bandages on his face. The camera focuses on the mirror and shows only his eyes in horror and the bandages are removed. We never completely see his face. The mirror is then shattered by his fist. Jack glances over at the newspaper he laid on the table.

Jack: (speaking to himself) "Things have changed. All rules are out the window. (Long pause) No freak takes my revenge."

Camera then focuses on the name Batman on the newspaper.

Scene 8

Bobby is lying asleep in his bed when suddenly a white rag covers his mouth and nose causing him to be knocked out. Camera fades black. Some time later Bobby is awoken but sounds of clattering dishes. He finds himself duct taped to a chair and an apple lodged in his mouth so tightly he can't spit it out. The room is dark. The only light is coming from in the kitchen. Without seeing him we hear Jack begin to talk.

Jack: "You know piggy I really thought there would be more to eat here, but then again it is your place. That's was quite a number you guys tried to pull, but you made one mistake.....you never finished the job."

Bobby finally is able to spit the apple from his mouth

Bobby: "You crazy son of a bitch, you'll never get away with this. Sal will make sure to finish you off!"

Jack: "Sal?Sal? (Sounding bewildered) So that's who's running the show now. It is a shame what happened to Carmine but don't you worry your fat little head off, I'll get to him sooner or later."

Bobby: "You're crazy Jack you know that? Just a two bit whack job!"

Jack: "Crazy? No not crazy. A crazy man is nothing more than a bouncing ball in a rubber room, a man without direction, a TWO BIT whack job as you say. BUT you give that man a purpose he becomes something much MUCH more. Something on a grander scale. A legend perhaps (slight laugh), the legend of Jack. (Louder laugh) It has a nice ring to it but unfortunately Jack died in that god forsaken alley. You were there Piggy, you saw the man die and the legend born. The Legend of the Joker.

Jack makes his scarred and painted face visible to Bobby by becoming nose to nose with him. Bobby is suddenly horrified by his face.

Joker (Jack): "Catchy isn't it?"

Joker stabs Bobby in the mid section and lets out an evil laugh as he continues to slice away at Bobby.

Joker: "Come on Piggy! Squeal for me..... HAHAAHAHA!.....Sooowee.....HAHAAHAHA"

The laughs echo out into the final scene.

Scene 9

Sal is in his office making some phone calls.

Sal: "...I don't care what it takes just get it done."

Sal slams the phone down. The secretary walks into his office with an envelope.

Secretary: "Mr.Maroni this just arrived for you."

Sal: "What is it Marie?"

Secretary: "Not sure sir but I think it's urgent"

Sal looks at the front of the envelope and written in crayon on it says the word "Urgent". Sal opens it a removes a photograph. The picture is of Bobby slained body lying in a pool of his own blood. On the photo his eyes are colored black with a red smile painted across his face. At the bottom it reads "Just returning the smile" Music fades in to ending credits.