

**THE LAST LAUGH**

**Story by Justin Dombrowski & Chris Rose**

**Screenplay by Justin Dombrowski & Chris Rose**

**EXT. CEMETERY - LATE AFTERNOON**

Bruce Wayne stands outside of the grave of his parents. In front of him is a large tombstone that reads WAYNE.

Bruce lays 2 roses down at the bottom of the tombstone.

He looks around as the sun sets through the trees above, the snow beginning to fall.

Bruce then turns around, heading down a narrow path covered with branches and trees that head into a dark abyss of forest.

**EXT. OUTSIDE OF WAYNE MANOR/OVERLOOKING GOTHAM HARBOR**

Bruce walks out of a clearing on a cliff overlooking Gotham harbor. In the distance, Gotham City is surrounded by a darkened sky, the signs of the hard times apparent.

Panning over, Wayne Manor sits on the right side of Bruce, amongst the snow.

**INT. INSIDE OF WAYNE MANOR**

Bruce Wayne walks down a hallway of Wayne Manor.

ALFRED

Will you be needing anything  
else, sir?

BRUCE WAYNE

No Alfred.

ALFRED

Very Well, Master Bruce.

Bruce walks over to a grandfather clock and opens the face. He turns both hands to the 12 position and closes the face.

The clock chimes and slowly opens.

**INT. INSIDE OF BAT CAVE**

Bruce Wayne emerges from a side of the Bat cave. He walks out onto a balcony overlooking a small pool of water in the cave.

The water rushes over a large waterfall into obscure darkness.

Alfred walks down the stairs.

ALFRED

Master Bruce?

BRUCE WAYNE  
Yes Alfred?

ALFRED  
Everything alright, sir?

Alfred walks down onto the balcony looking over the cave with Bruce.

BRUCE WAYNE  
Just one of those days.

ALFRED  
Understandable, sir.

Bruce puts on the Batman cowl.

BATMAN  
The Jokers being transferred  
to Arkham.

ALFRED  
Strange individual isn't he?

BATMAN  
He is.

ALFRED  
Oh and Miss Madison called to  
ask about tonight's engagement  
at the Riveria.

BATMAN  
I'll have to cancel for now.  
Tell her I'll call her.

ALFRED  
Yes sir.

Batman walks over to the Batmobile.

The cockpit opens.

**INT. INSIDE OF CITY HALL/HOLDING CELL - MOMENTS LATER**

Gordon stands outside of the Holding cell, looking into it.  
Bullock walks up to him, holding a cup of coffee.

BULLOCK  
Strange fella isn't  
he commish?

GORDON  
He is.

The Joker sits in his cell, looking up at the ceiling, mumbling to himself.

Bullock walks closer to the cell. Joker looks over at him and smiles.

BULLOCK  
You'll get what's comin  
to you clown.

Joker smiles and looks on.

Essen walks near Bullock.

Captain Collins from the Gotham SWAT walks up to Gordon.

COLLINS  
Everything's ready for transfer.

Gordon hands his cigarette to Bullock.

GORDON  
Alright everyone, let's get this  
moving.

The cell opens as two police officers, guarded under SWAT officers go in and retrieve Joker. They lead him out of the cell.

**INT. INSIDE OF CITY HALL/LOBBY - SECONDS LATER**

Summer Gleason stands near a crowd of reporters. Outside of the City Hall, police officers are having a hard time trying to hold back a large mob.

The mob shouts and throws objects.

Summer looks at the cameraman.

SUMMER  
How are we looking, Tommy?

TOMMY  
Looking fine Miss Gleason.

Summer straightens herself.

TOMMY  
Five, Four, Three, Two-

SUMMER  
Good evening Gotham and welcome  
to a special report.

Gordon walks down the hallway, officers in tow heavily guarding the Joker who slowly shuffles along.

SUMMER  
The infamous criminal known only as The Joker was apprehended last night by The Batman. Any minute we are waiting for a glimpse at the accused criminal as he is transferred temporarily to the Maximum Security wing at Arkham Asylum.

**INT. INSIDE OF BATMOBILE - SECONDS LATER**

As Batman drives the Batmobile he looks down at a small screen on his computer. Summer Gleason still talks.

SUMMER  
A cloud of suspicion also still surrounds the vigilante known as The Batman who surfaced 2 months ago. Gotham Police Commissioner, Jim Gordon has faced an onslaught of criticism for not handing the situation of The Batman on the side, often referring it to something that the Department is working on exclusively.

**INT. INSIDE OF CITY HALL/LOBBY**

As Gordon comes around the corner with the other officers, surrounding Joker some of the men and women of the press as well as the mom erupt in excitement.

The members of the press flash their cameras.

SUMMER  
Here comes the Joker escorted by Commissioner Gordon and his Detectives.

The camera pans on The Joker as he shuffles along smirking.

SUMMER

The Joker is clearly visible as he is being transported by the members of Gotham's Finest.

Policemen stand in front of Gleason and the rest of the men and women crowded inside the Lobby.

GORDON

I hope your happy. The whole city is out against you.

Gordon stops as The Joker walks past him.

JOKER

It's my pleasure, Commissioner.

Joker and the rest of the officers turn into another hallway out of view of the mob.

Gordon stands with a police officer and Captain Collins.

GORDON

Get West 5<sup>th</sup> cornered off so we can get through alright. I don't want any mistakes while transporting this whack job.

POLICE OFFICER

Yes, sir.

COLLINS

Sir, everything is ready outside the loading doors.

GORDON

Good. Remember to follow procedure. We don't need any more trouble than what we have now. I'll be here in my office if you need anything.

COLLINS

You got it, Jim.

**EXT. OUTSIDE OF GOTHAM POLICE STATION - NIGHT**

Crowds of people cram the parking lot outside of the Gotham Police Station rear.

Members of the mob shout as they try to break through the perimeters held by the police officers.

Joker is lead through a larger door.

Members of Gotham Police surround the small distance from the door to the truck as Joker is lead inside with two swat and a police officer, and Detective Bullock.

Collins stands outside the truck.

COLLINS  
If that son of a bitch moves,  
shoot him.

SWAT 1  
Yes sir.

Collins closes the door and slams his hand on the rear, giving a thumbs up.

Other police officers go to their cars as they begin to head out.

**EXT. ROOFTOP OF BUILDING**

Batman sits perched on top of the building looking down at what's happening outside of the Gotham Police Department.

He takes out a pair of binoculars and looks through them.

BATMAN  
They've got an decoy set up.  
Going North East on 5<sup>th</sup>.

ALFRED  
Yes sir.

**INT. INSIDE OF ARMORED CAR**

Joker sits bobbing his head back and forth as the two SWAT members look on.

Joker twiddles his thumbs as he looks all around.

Bullock lights a cigarette.

JOKER  
You know detective, I think  
there's something you should  
know.

BULLOCK  
Pipe down clown. We don't want  
to hear anymore crap from you.

JOKER

Oh, alright. I just thought you would like to know about the missing babies.

The men look at the Joker.

JOKER

If they die, then it's your loss.

Bullock grabs phone.

BULLOCK

Jim? Something's up. I'll put you on speaker.

Bullock puts the cell phone on speaker phone.

GORDON

Go ahead.

JOKER

Commissioner I know we've had a little spat the past few days and you caught me fair and square but I think you should know about the missing children.

GORDON

What missing children?

JOKER

The Newbury Orphanage, Lower West side. You've probably never heard of it because you probably don't care. It's a real shame.

**EXT. ROOFTOP OF BUILDING**

Batman listens in onto the conversation, hearing it in his earpiece.

JOKER

I don't need to tell you the address because I'm sure you can find it on your own, but you have exactly 2 hours,



until midnight. Or the children  
die.

GORDON

Where are they Joker.

JOKER

That's where the fun begins.  
you will have to figure that  
all out by yourself. You and  
The Batman.

Gordon sits by his desk. Stunned.

JOKER

The game begins now, Commissioner.

Joker sits back in the Truck.

Bullock drops his cell phone on the floor of the truck. Suddenly  
the Gotham Police Officer bashes Bullock over the head with his  
pistol.

The police officer quickly turns shooting both of the SWAT  
officers in the head.

Joker sits there silently.

POLICE OFFICER

I need immediate assistance.  
Copy.

The hatch from the front of the truck opens.

DRIVER

What the hell happened?

POLICE OFFICER

The Joker tried to rush us,  
we need the backed open  
immediately.

The truck comes to a halt. The police officer reaches over,  
uncuffing Joker.

The Officer hands Joker a larger pistol from underneath his  
shirt.

The doors of the truck open.

The officer, who is Jokers goon shoots the SWAT officer in the head.

**EXT. ROOFTOP OF BUILDING**

Batman rushes back, off into the distance.

**INT. INSIDE OF GORDONS OFFICE**

Gordon rushes out of his office

**EXT. GOTHAM STREET - MOMENTS LATER**

Police Officers rush into the scene. Gordon pulls up, running towards the armored car with Captain Collins.

Bullock is helped up.

GORDON

What the hell happened?

BULLOCK

That city cop was in with that freak.

Bullock rubs his head in pain.

COLLINS

I want any officer that is off duty or off patrol here now. I need an immediate sweep of the area.

Gordon walks towards the back of the truck, looking inside at the two dead SWAT officers.

He turns around to see Batman standing there.

Everyone else is silent.

BULLOCK

What are you doing here? Some one arrest him!

GORDON

No.

Everyone looks at Gordon.

BATMAN

Joker was last heading due east

through the alleyway here. I can  
help.

Gordon looks around at the other officers.

GORDON  
How was he able to do all this?

BATMAN  
Whoever was working with  
him must have been connected  
with your department somehow.

GORDON  
But that's not possible.

BATMAN  
If it wasn't possible, it  
wouldn't have happened. Conduct  
your investigation, and I'll  
do mine.

Gordon looks at Bullock. As he looks back, Batman is gone.

GORDON  
We have to get everyone together  
immediately. Get me Essen and  
the rest of Major Crimes.

BULLOCK  
You got it commish.

**EXT. OUTSIDE OF NEWBURY ORPHANAGE - MOMENTS LATER**

Batman arrives outside of the orphanage.

Batman presses into his headset.

BATMAN  
Gordon.

Gordon walks around outside the police cars and hears his radio.

GORDON  
Go ahead.

BATMAN  
I'm outside the Orphanage. If I find  
anything I'll let you know.

GORDON  
Alright.

**INT. INSIDE OF NEWBURY ORPHANAGE/ROOM**

Batman walks around inside one of the old rooms. As he goes through the old room he notices a card on the floor.

The card is from the GOTHAM ACE PLAYING CARD CO.

On the back of the card is a phone number.

BATMAN  
Alfred.

ALFRED  
Yes Master Bruce.

BATMAN  
I need you to analyze a number  
for me. 459-1291.

ALFRED  
Yes sir.

Batman stops and looks out the window. A small man dressed in biker apparel is sneaking around outside.

Batman moves into the shadows.

The goon walks through the entrance into the Orphanage.

He walks into the room and begins to look around all over the floor.

JOHNNY  
Damn it, where did it go?

BATMAN  
Looking for this?

Johnny turns around to see Batman holding the card.

JOHNNY  
What are you doing here?

Johnny tries to pull out his gun, But Batman lunges forward, throwing him up against the wall.

BATMAN  
Where is he?

JOHNNY  
I don't know what your talking  
about man.

BATMAN  
The Joker. I want him.

**INT. INSIDE OF GORDONS OFFICE**

Gordon listens to a voice on the other end of the phone.

GORDON  
Great, I'll get right on it.

ESSEN  
What is it?

Gordon motions to Essen to hold on.

GORDON  
You got it. Bye.

Gordon puts down the phone.

GORDON  
There's a verbal dispute at  
Gotham Square apartments. I  
need you to run over and  
settle it while I get this  
going.

ESSEN  
Alright.

Essen walks around the corner of Gordon's desk and kisses him o  
the cheek.

ESSEN  
I'll see you in a little bit.

GORDON  
I'll see you.

Essen exits Gordon's office.

**INT. INSIDE OF NEWBURY ORPHANAGE/ROOM - SECONDS LATER**

Batman throws the goon to the ground.

BATMAN  
I want him! (Yelling)  
Now!

The goon starts to cough up a little blood. He holds out his hand.

JOHNNY  
Alright. Alright. I'll tell  
you.

Batman looks on.

**EXT. GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT**

The Bat Signal appears in the night sky.

**EXT. TOP OF GOTHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Gordon stands next to the Bat Signal, with a cup of coffee in hand, cigarette in his mouth.

Harvey Bullock eats a doughnut, looking into the night.

BATMAN  
What's the news.

Gordon and Bullock turn around.

Bullock hands Batman a set of pictures.

Batman looks at them.

BATMAN  
The children.

GORDON  
Exactly.

BATMAN  
How is it that this wasn't known.

GORDON  
The Newbury Orphanage has always  
been on the mobs payroll. When  
someone gets a child, they receive  
a profit.

BULLOCK  
15,000 per child

GORDON

However. Things are slowly coming together. We've only got about a half hour until he plans to kill the children.

BATMAN

Where's Detective Essen?

GORDON

She responded to a domestic dispute while I finished some stuff around Here.

BATMAN

I know where the Joker is.

GORDON

Where is he?

BATMAN

825, Gotham Square Apartments.

Gordon looks in disbelief at Batman.

GORDON

Oh my god.

BATMAN

What?

GORDON

That's where Sarah is.

**INT. INSIDE OF APARTMENT HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Essen walks over to a door that reads 825.

She takes a pick and unlocks the door, walking inside.

**INT. INSIDE OF APARTMENT 825**

Essen walks into the living room of the apartment which is pitch black.

In a room off to the side, the sound of a crying infant is heard. Essen turns off her radio on her waist, and draws her pistol.

She turns the light on in the bedroom to find the room with a couple of infants.

**INT. INSIDE OF APARTMENT 825**

Essen walks around the children. As she leans down, there's noise coming from the hallway.

The sound of an echo of a laugh is heard.

Essen runs out of the bedroom, but in the doorway of the apartment stands, The Joker.

JOKER

Well . Well. Well. Detective.

The Joker claps his hands, and the lights come up. Two of his henchmen walk in behind him.

ESSEN

You set this up.

JOKER

Pretty much.

ESSEN

What's the motive?

The Joker smiles, running his fingers through his hair.

JOKER

That's the Punch line, my  
Dear. There is no motive.

ESSEN

What do you mean?

Essen is becoming slightly alarmed.

JOKER

Have you ever had an infant  
Near you, and they start  
Crying? (Pause) And then you



Want to rip their head off?

Joker grabs a small toy baby and holds it.

He clenches his hands around the dolls neck. His grip becomes tighter.

JOKER(Cont.)  
They start crying. Mommy!  
Mommy! And then-

Joker tears the head off the doll, throwing it against the wall.

JOKER(Cont.)  
You rip them apart! (Laughs)

Essen becomes enraged, backing up towards the entrance of the bedroom full of children.

ESSEN  
Your mad.

JOKER  
No, not really. I'm quite  
Content at the moment.

Essen tries to aim her pistol, but Joker takes out his first, aiming it at her.

JOKER  
You're going to have to move  
Detective. The children's time  
Has run out. It is almost  
midnight.

ESSEN  
Over my dead body.

JOKER  
Oh. You want to play that game?  
Well I'll give you a choice.  
Either you move, or I'll  
Shoot you. And I'll move you  
Myself.

Essen looks at Joker, defiantly.

Joker rolls his eyes.

JOKER  
Alright then.

Joker aims his pistol and fires.

Essen's stomach explodes as she falls to the floor. She gasps for air.

Joker hops over her, kneeling down next to her.

JOKER  
I asked you nicely to move.  
And unfortunately you didn't  
Want to follow my rules.  
Do you want to see a cool  
Trick?

Joker takes the pistol, and puts it in his mouth.

He pulls the trigger. Click. The barrel is empty. Joker laughs hysterically.

Essen looks up at Joker.

Joker starts to unbutton Essen's blouse. He runs his hand around the wound near her stomach. Blood slowly seeps out.

Joker smiles the whole time.

ESSEN  
You child murderer.

JOKER  
Oh I've changed my mind. I'm  
Not going to murder the children  
Anymore. The thought is just  
Boring. I have a better idea.

**INT. INSIDE OF BATMOBILE - SECONDS LATER**

On the screen of the Batmobile shows Jokers face.

JOKER  
Hello Batman. Long time  
No see.

BATMAN

What's your plan Joker.

JOKER

Well now, bats. You know  
That it wouldn't be much  
Fun to spoil the surprise!

BATMAN

I'm amused.

JOKER

Not yet you won't be. But  
I've got something you'll  
Love.

BATMAN

And what's that?

JOKER

You'll have to find me.  
To find out what it is.  
(laughs) I see that you've  
Already found out where the  
Kiddies are. Now it's up to  
You to figure the rest out.

The screen goes to black. A light blinks near the steering wheel.

Batman presses it.

BATMAN

Yes Alfred.

ALFRED

Sir, Wayne Securities has  
Been notified of a break in  
Near the Gotham Chemical plant.

**INT. INSIDE APARTMENT 825 - MOMENTS LATER**

Gordon walks through the doorway, drawn.

Officers follow behind him, closely, with their guns drawn as well. Awaiting anything that moves.

OFFICER 1  
Commissioner?

Gordon looks back at the officer. He points to the carpet just underneath Gordon's foot.

OFFICER 1  
There's blood sir.

Gordon looks down at the carpet and see's blood stains all over the carpet.

GORDON  
File out. Check every room.

The Officers look around slowly, stunned at the chaos.

GORDON  
(Yelling) Now!

The officers move about. Bullock enters with another police officer.

BULLOCK  
What's going on Commish'?

GORDON  
Essen's missing.

Officer Two comes from one of the adjoining rooms.

OFFICER TWO  
Commissioner, The bedroom has  
the missing infants.

Gordon sees that the Officer is a bit terrified. And nervous.

GORDON  
What is it?

OFFICER TWO  
Sir, they're covered in blood.

Gordon rushes into the bedroom and looks at some of the babies. Although they have spots of blood on them, they are not injured.

BULLOCK  
It's not their blood.

Gordon stands up. He walks to Officer Two.

GORDON  
Put a bulletin out. Detective  
Essen is missing. I want all  
available units now.

Gordon looks towards the wall. Joker has taken his finger and written in Essen 's Blood. The blood has formed the bat symbol with a lot of Ha-ha's all over.

BATMAN (O.S.)  
She's been kidnapped by The  
Joker.

GORDON  
It was a trap. The whole thing.  
He set us up the whole time.

COLLINS  
Commissioner. The men want to know  
what the circumstances are if they  
cross paths with the Joker.

GORDON  
I want him alive.

Gordon and the other officers look toward the open bay windows. Batman stands with the silhouette of the city behind him.

BATMAN (Cont.)  
He needs to be stopped.

BULLOCK  
What are you going to do about  
it Bats? (Sarcastically)

Gordon looks at Bullock, who in returns shrugs his shoulders.

Montoya rushes into the apartment.

MONTOYA

Officers reported a stolen Air  
Ship flying near Gotham Chemical.

Gordon looks at Montoya.

GORDON  
We have to get that Airship.  
Batman, can you -

Gordon turns around but see's that Batman is gone.

**EXT. GOTHAM SQUARE APARTMENTS - SECONDS LATER**

Gordon's and others race out of the building, jumping into their  
respective cars.

The cars speed through the street, sirens blaring.

**INT. INSIDE GORDONS CAR**

Inside Gordon's car, sits Gordon and Montoya. Gordon grabs the  
Radio.

GORDON  
I need all available units  
to converge upon Gotham  
Chemical. Immediately.

MONTOYA  
Oh my god.

GORDON  
What?

MONTOYA  
Look.

Montoya points ahead at an enormous Air Ship, suspended in the  
sky over Gotham Chemical. The bright red neon letters of Gotham  
Chemical can be seen glowing against the blood red sky.

BATMAN (Radio)  
Gordon.

GORDON  
Go ahead.

**EXT. OUTSIDE OF GOTHAM CHEMICAL**

The Batmobile arrives up in front of Gotham Chemical. Batman jumps out and looks up at the large airship. On the side of the Air Ship, The Joker the Joker has spray painted "HaHaHaHa" on the side in bright red spray-paint.

Batman speaks into the radio on his belt.

BATMAN  
I've reached the factory.

Batman runs through the front doors of the factory.

**INT. INSIDE OF AIRSHIP CONTROL STATION - SECONDS LATER**

The Joker stands in front of the Control Station. A goon walks up behind him.

CURLS  
Boss. The Batman's down  
there.

Joker turns around, looking at the thugs.

JOKER  
Oh happy day. Tell me boys,  
do you like bats?

An enormous goon on the right of Curls, MO, shakes his head "no".

JOKER  
Great! (Throws hands out)  
Let's have a festival Boys!

**EXT. ON TOP OF GOTHAM CHEMICAL ROOF**

Batman races towards the rope ladder hanging from the Airship.

Suddenly he is tackled to the ground by Mo.

Mo punches Batman in his jaw. Batman repels back, kicking Mo in the chest.

Mo lands feet away.

Batman stands up quickly, Curls runs at Batman. He lurches forward, trying to strike Batman, But Batman moves in and out. He leans over, punching Curls in his stomach. As Curls keels over Batman brings his fists down on top of him.

Above, Joker leans out of the doorway looking down.

JOKER  
Ouch. That'll leave a mark.  
(Chuckles)

**INT. BAY OF AIRSHIP CONTROL STATION**

Joker's goons around him hold machine guns.

Joker leans back in and looks over at Mayor Hill, who is tied up against a steel girder. Joker kneels down next to him. Joker removes Hill's blind fold.

JOKER  
Peek A Boo!

Hill squirms in anguish, with a terrified look in his eyes. Joker's face becomes contorted.

JOKER  
Oh? What is that Hamilton?  
I'm sorry but your voice.  
I can't hear you. Oh I have  
an idea.

Joker rips off Hill's tape from his mouth.

JOKER  
There. That's sensible.

MAYOR HILL  
Let us go now! (Yelling)

Joker PUNCHES Hill in the face.

JOKER  
Chuckles!

A goon runs up to him.



CHUCKLES  
Yes, boss?

THE JOKER  
Start the ride. We're goin  
to have an Air show.

Hill looks confused.

MAYOR HILL  
Air show?

Joker kneels down next to Hill.

JOKER  
Oh yes Mayor. An Air show.  
When we get to our altitude  
Of 5,000 feet, that's when  
the fun really begins.

MAYOR HILL  
What fun?

JOKER  
First we drop Miss Essen  
off right over Gordon's  
Apartment.

Joker points his gun to her body. He pulls the trigger. BLAM!  
Joker sort of shakes, as if not expecting it.

JOKER  
Oops. Oh well, She was  
already dead.

MAYOR HILL  
Your mad!

JOKER  
No. No. I'm crazy. You  
see. The blood from her  
body will be all (Prolonged)  
Over the building. Then it's  
your turn. You my little  
lamb are special to me.

MAYOR HILL

What are you going to do?

JOKER

Oh. Just wait and see.

Joker stands up and walks down the walkway. He walks over to the window and looks down.

The Air Ship floats into the night sky. Getting higher and higher.

Batman battles Mo as he puts a headlock on him. Batman flips him over his shoulder and Slams his fist into Mo's face.

Batman looks up and produces his Bat Grapple. The Bat Grapple extends onto the Rope. Batman launches off into the air.

Tiny looks over the open door down to see Batman climbing up the rope towards the cabin.

TINY (Yelling)

Boss!

Joker is kneeling down in front of Julie Madison. Talking to her.

JOKER

What do you want Tiny?

TINY

You gotta come see this.

JOKER

Not now. I'm busy with Miss Madison.

TINY

But Boss -

JOKER

I don't know what's so important.

BATMAN

Me.

Joker's eyes light up. And he turns around to see Batman standing at the end of the cabin.

JOKER  
I knew you'd come  
(Smiling)

BATMAN  
Let them go, Joker.

JOKER  
Uh. I can't.

Batman starts to walk toward The Joker slowly. Joker grabs Essen's body and holds it next to the open area of the cabin. Outside nothing is visible except the dim view of the Gotham City lights. The clouds are visible outside as air pours in.

Batman stops.

JOKER  
We know you're capable of  
saving one. But. How about  
a couple?

Joker lets go of Essen's body.

Batman rushes towards the opening about to go after her body, but it disappears outside.

Batman starts to walk towards Joker again.

JOKER  
Who cares, right? She was  
dead to begin with (Laughs)

The Joker grabs Councilman Timm.

JOKER  
Lets tell a little secret here.  
Mister Timm here suffers from  
Bipolar disorder and is afraid  
Of clowns.

Joker taunts Batman by leaning in and out while holding Timm

over the sky. The Joker releases Timm and kicks Mayor Hill.

Both men fall from the Air ship. Batman dives through the air. He catches Timm in his arms and ties him around his waist. He also grabs Hill and bat grapples onto the cab of the Air Ship.

BATMAN(Into Radio)  
Gordon.

**INT. INSIDE OF GORDONS CAR**

GORDON  
Go ahead.

BATMAN(Radio)  
Send units to the Gotham  
Docks. Next to the Wayne  
Technologies Warehouse.

**EXT. OUTSIDE OF AIRSHIP**

As the anchor of the grapple clamps onto the Air Ship the whole airborne balloon shifts to the side.

Joker falls to the floor.

JOKER  
Excuse me Ladies and Gentle-  
men. We're going to have a bit  
of turbulence.

Batman repels up with the men and lands underneath the Air Ship he flies through the air and lands through the back of the cabin.

Joker looks back behind him. Batman releases Hill and Timm onto the floor.

BATMAN  
Stay here.

The Joker pulls out a pistol and aims it at Julie Madison. He also pulls out a small file folder from his coat.

JOKER  
I've got something better  
for you.

Batman stops.

JOKER

I've got Miss Madison's  
File here from her doctor.  
(Trying not to laugh)  
and you won't believe it.  
I just can't spoil the  
surprise. You're going to  
have to guess. I'll give  
You a hint. Instead of  
killing one, I'll be  
killing two.

Batman looks at Julie.

Julia turns her head afraid and starts to sob.

BATMAN

What's the punch line?

JOKER

C'mon Bats. I thought you  
of all people would be  
smarter. She's pregnant!

Joker takes his pistol and aims it against her stomach and pulls the trigger.

Julie's body shifts violently and she screams out loud. Joker stands up, laughing.

Batman becomes enraged.

Batman lunges forward. Joker turns as Batman grabs Joker. Batman head butts Joker in the face. Joker slams onto the ground.

Joker grunts in pain.

Batman grabs Joker and throws him across the Open Bay.

Joker stands up, trying to gain his balance.

Batman walks over and uppercuts him in his jaw, knocking Joker to the ground again.

JOKER  
You know I'm getting quite  
a thrill for this.

Batman picks Joker up.

JOKER  
Tell me Batman, do you like  
flowers?

Joker takes hold of the flower on his lapel of his suit coat and  
sprays Batman.

Batman walks backward trying to get the spray out of his eyes.

Joker takes a metal pole and connects it into Batman's neck,  
knocking him to the ground.

He starts beating Batman over and over, Batman finally kicks  
Joker to the ground.

**EXT. GOTHAM DOCKS - MINUTES LATER**

Gordon and the rest of the police arrive at the docks next to  
the Wayne Technologies Warehouse.

Gordon gets out, looking at the Air Ship above him.

GORDON  
Everyone spread out.

Bullock walks next to him.

**INT. INSIDE OF OPEN BAY**

Joker pulls out a knife from his.

JOKER  
You know. I'm your  
biggest fan.

BATMAN  
It's over Joker. Give  
Up.

JOKER  
My dear delusional Dark

Knight. The fun hasn't  
Even begun.

Batman stands over Joker. Batman turns Joker around.

Quickly Joker stabs Batman in the shoulder. Batman yields and falls back in pain. Joker slashes madly towards Batman.

Batman falls back, bleeding.

JOKER

You act like you haven't  
felt pain before, Batman.  
I bet you have. In fact,  
I bet this isn't the first  
time you've felt true pain.

Joker stands up.

Batman takes out a batarang and throws it at The Jokers wrist. Joker falls to the ground.

Batman slowly gets up. Joker grabs the batarang and throws it toward Batman, hitting the electric control box. The lights flicker off and on inside the open bay.

Suddenly an fire begins to ensue above the pipes above them.

Batman crawls to Julie as she lies on the ground. She looks at Batman, crying.

BATMAN

It'll be ok. Stay with  
Me.

Batman grabs Julie and holds her against him. Joker stands up, holding a metal pipe in his hand. He stands over Batman.

He brings down the pipe on Batman's back. Batman crumples to the ground, still holding Julie.

Joker raises the bar again, but Batman turns around, slamming his fist into Joker's stomach.

Joker falls to the ground, rolling on the floor.

JOKER

Gotham Bridge is falling down,  
Falling down, falling down,  
Gotham Bridge is falling down.  
That stupid city.

The Blimp flies towards the end of Gotham, heading out into the open water of Gotham Bay.

JOKER(Cont.)

Julie Madison's bleeding out  
bleeding out, bleeding out.  
Julie Madison's bleeding out  
bleeding out, bleeding out.  
That poor poor lady (Laughs)

Batman gets up and walks over to Joker. He grabs Joker violently. Joker looks at Batman, smiling.

BATMAN

What's your plan? Why  
Kidnap these people?

JOKER

Plan? Heh. You think I  
Have a plan? I don't plan  
because it always flubs  
Out. I just go with the  
Flow.

Batman looks at Joker.

JOKER

Now kidnapping everyone  
Else. Well I don't know  
Why I did. Just sounded  
Like a good idea and all  
But then it got boring.

BATMAN

Your done.

JOKER

Not yet. Can you imagine  
How crazy Gordon will go  
Knowing I killed his young  
Striping lady? (Laughs)  
And what is more funny is



I shot her in front of those  
Kids! (Laughs)

BATMAN  
What's the joke?

JOKER  
The joke chum, is that it  
only takes one bad day to  
Make someone insane.

Batman holds onto Joker as a huge fire blazes in the background.

JOKER  
I have another surprise.  
The tanks will go off any  
Minute and release all this  
Wonderful Joker toxin into  
The city. You people need  
To loosen up.

Batman lays Joker out onto the ground. He slams his fist into Joker's face again. He stops and hits him again. And again. And again.

He throws Joker across the room towards the wall of the open bay.

Batman walks towards him as Joker pulls out a small remote.

JOKER  
Have a blast.

The Joker pushes the button on the remote.

The whole side walk explodes. The Airship rocks to the left, in flames.

Batman grabs Julie and holds her against a couple of boxes safely.

Joker slides over the side of the floor, hanging in mid air, laughing. Batman looks over and slowly inches towards Joker.

BATMAN  
Give me your hand.

JOKER

I think I'll pass Batman.  
I'm just "hanging" around.

Batman looks down. There is nothing except fog.

Joker's hand slips.

BATMAN

You're slipping.

Batman outstretches his hand.

BATMAN (Cont.)

Give me your hand.

Joker lifts his free hand up towards Batman. On his hand, Joker has a buzzer.

As Batman's hand encompasses Joker's, Batman is suddenly electrocuted.

Batman yields back onto the floor, shocked.

Joker lets go, laughing, and disappears into the fog. Batman gets up and rushes over to the side. The Joker's laugh can be heard echoing through the night sky.

Batman rushes over to Mayor Hill and Councilman Timm. He hands them air masks.

MAYOR HILL

What's this for?

BATMAN

We're heading for the river.

Batman looks out over the water.

BATMAN

Can you swim?

Both nod yes.

BATMAN

We're low enough. Jump.  
Gordon has men near the

Dock who will pick you up.

Hill leans over the side and disappears. Timm also looks over the side and jumps.

Batman crawls over to Julie and grabs hold onto her.

An electrical box above them explodes and the lights go out. Batman ends up falling over to the edge of the blimp.

He tries to hang on but loses his grip, falling through the fog into the abyss.

**EXT. GOTHAM DOCKS - MOMENTS LATER**

Gordon and the rest of the officers look up at the sky. Suddenly, the Airship explodes. The other officers duck for cover.

Gordon looks to the river.

GORDON

Get some men out there!

Officers scramble on the dock.

Pieces of debris fly all over the dock.

Gordon, kneeling down behind a police car Radios for help.

GORDON

I'm going to need some medical assistance at the old Gotham dockside immediately.

**EXT. GOTHAM RIVER - MINUTES LATER**

Gordon stands on a boat in the river with Bullock and six officers. They look around. Bullock has a flashlight and see's something in the water.

BULLOCK

Over there!

They spot Mayor Hill hanging onto a piece of the wreckage.

The boat crawls up alongside Hill, and Bullock and the officers

pull him inside.

**EXT. OUTSIDE OF WAREHOUSE - AN HOUR LATER**

Gordon stands around, looking curiously.

Bullock walks up to Gordon.

BULLOCK  
Hey commish you alright?

GORDON  
Where's Batman

Montoya, standing off to the side looks at Gordon. Gordon takes out his radio, yelling into it.

GORDON  
Batman.

There is silence.

GORDON (Cont.)  
This is Gordon.

Still silence.

Gordon throws the radio into the water, frustrated. But looking over to the side of the dock, Gordon notices someone crawling out of the water.

He starts running for the person crawling. Bullock and other officers run behind him.

Batman crawls to the shoreline, gasping for air. His suit is entirely torn, and he is bleeding.

Gordon rushes down the rocky embankment, helping Batman get out of the water.

GORDON  
We got to get you medical  
attention, fast.

BATMAN  
I don't need it.

GORDON  
But you have to-

BATMAN  
I'll be fine Jim.

Gordon helps Batman stand up. He wearily looks towards the harbor.

GORDON  
Where's Essen?

Batman looks at Gordon, emotionless.

The rest of the police officers look on. Captain Collins looks down at the ground.

BATMAN  
She's gone. Joker pushed her  
body out not soon after he took  
off.

Gordon looks down at the ground. Empty.

BATMAN  
I'm sorry Jim.

Montoya walks up to Gordon.

MONTOYA  
Commissioner, All persons are  
present and accounted for.

Batman looks at Montoya.

BATMAN  
What about Julie Madison?

GORDON  
You mean Julie Madison the  
actress?

Batman looks at Gordon.

BATMAN  
Yes.

Gordon looks at Montoya.

GORDON

We'll have to add Miss Madison  
to the list. Get another crew  
to go search for her body.

Batman walks up the embankment.

BATMAN

I'll be in touch.

Gordon stands alone on the bank of the Gotham River, with the  
other officers around him.

He looks down at the water as the camera pulls back.

**FADE TO:**

**BLACK**

**INT. INSIDE OF BRUCE WAYNES LIBRARY - MORNING**

Bruce sits in his chair, reading a book, when the television  
comes on.

Summer Gleason stands on the edge of the Gotham Dock.

SUMMER

Good morning Gotham. Summer  
Gleason here with a special  
report.

Alfred enters the room with a tray carrying the morning paper  
and a glass of orange juice.

SUMMER (Cont.)

This morning Commissioner James  
Gordon confirmed that a week after  
Joker's foiled plot on Gotham City,  
that the search for actress, Julie  
Madison has been called off.

Bruce stands up.

Alfred stands there silently, watching Bruce.

SUMMER (Cont.)

Commissioner Gordon cited that  
The criminal mastermind known  
as the Joker also is missing and  
presumed to be dead.

Bruce turns the television off.

ALFRED

Your morning paper sir.

Bruce turns around, taking the newspaper off the tray as well as  
the cup of orange juice.

BRUCE

She's gone, Alfred.

ALFRED

I'm sorry sir.

Bruce hands Alfred the cup of orange juice and walks away down  
the hallway.

**INT. INSIDE OF GORDONS OFFICE - NIGHT**

Gordon sits behind his desk reading the newspaper. In the corner  
is the obituary column listing a column section for Sarah Essen.

Gordon takes a sip from his coffee.

There's a knock on his door.

GORDON

Come in.

Montoya enters with three policemen.

MONTOYA

These patrolmen wants to  
speak with you.

Gordon takes off his glasses, rubbing his eyes.

GORDON

That's fine.

Montoya walks out of the room, closing the door behind her.

GORDON  
How can I help you?

PATROLMAN 1  
Sir it's about last week. When  
the Joker kidnapped The Mayor  
and-

GORDON  
killed Detective Essen and the  
actress Julie Madison. What  
about it?

One of the patrolmen from behind speaks up.

JOKER  
I wanted you to know that I wasn't  
able to finish what I had planned.

Gordon quickly stands up to try to aim his gun but Joker pulls  
out his.

Gordon freezes in his tracks.

GORDON  
What do you want?

JOKER  
To burn Gotham to the ground.

Joker is dressed in a Gotham Police Officer uniform, with skin  
tone.

He pulls out his knife holding it to Gordon's cheeks.

JOKER  
I think you need to smile more.  
But I want something.

GORDON  
What do you want?

Joker  
I want. The Batman.

The Joker smiles.



**EXT. ROOFTOP - HOURS LATER**

Bullock stands on the rooftop with Montoya in the rain. Bullock puffs on cigar.

Bullock turns to one of the officers.

BULLOCK

Turn that off, He ain't comin.

One of the officers goes to turn the signal off.

BATMAN

Where's Gordon.

Bullock and Montoya turn to Batman.

THE END