

Black Screen. Thunder sounds followed by lightning. Storm clouds appear. From within the storm the Batman symbol emerges. It fades.

The camera pans down from the clouds...

EXT.APARTMENT - NIGHT - 5 DAYS EARLIER

It is raining. Thunders ROARS and lightning FLASHES.

A car pulls up to the curb next to the building SPLASHING water.

The backdoor of the car swings open. A man emerges opening an umbrella. He hurriedly walks up to the door of the building.

CUT TO:

INT.APARTMENT

The door opens and DR.CRANE enters. He is carrying an umbrella and a small briefcase. He sets the umbrella down next to the door.

The apartment is small and dimly lit. A fire in the fireplace illuminates the room.

OSWALD COBBLEPOT is sitting in a chair next to the fireplace. He is stoking the fire with an iron pole.

He looks up at CRANE who is walking into the room.

OSWALD

Hello. You're early.

Crane takes a seat on the couch diagonal to Oswald, facing the fireplace.

DR.CRANE

There's been a change in plans.  
Miss Al Ghul will be arriving  
sooner than expected.

OSWALD

How does that affect us?

DR.CRANE

She will most likely be ready to  
start executing the first phases of  
the plan.

OSWALD

And?

DR.CRANE

And that means you will have to  
convince your friends to transfer  
the money tomorrow afternoon.

OSWALD

Impossible, I'll need more time to prepare the accounts. And with the recent police raids, they will be more concerned as to where it is their money is going.

DR.CRANE

Unfortunately, time is what we don't have. You could always back out if you feel uncertain.

OSWALD

What? And die with rest of this city? You'll get your money.

FLASH FORWARD:

EXT.ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Several police cars are parked blocking the entrance to the Asylum.

Police officers with dogs are preventing news crews from entering.

CUT TO:

INT.ARKHAM ASYLUM - JOKER'S CELL - NIGHT

Commissioner Gordon struggles through a narrow hallway filled with a crowd of chattering police officers.

He continues to a small room blockaded by caution tape.

Ramirez walks out to greet him, and gives him an envelope.

GORDON

What do we got?

He opens the envelope and pulls out several documents and quickly reads over them.

RAMIREZ

Nothing. This level was empty aside from the Joker and his psychiatrist.

Gordon looks up from the documents.

Two men push a stretcher out of the room. A body, the Joker, is lying on it covered by a bloody, white cloth.

Various police are entering and exiting carrying bags of evidence.

GORDON

Who?

RAMIREZ  
Harleen Quinzel. The head doctor  
gave us a full report on her.

Gordon walks about the cell examining every detail.

He stops in the center and places his hands on his hips.

He turns to face Ramirez, who is standing behind him.

GORDON  
Have you questioned her?

RAMIREZ  
No, we can't find her. I sent a  
unit over to her apartment.

CUT TO:

EXT.Apartment Building - night

A police car comes to a stop next to the curb. Two men climb  
out, both about middle-aged.

They walk up a small flight of stairs. They enter the  
building...

INT.APARTMENT BUILDING

The men climb a flight of stairs up to a small and narrow  
corridor.

The knock on a door numbered "1501".

suddenly the door creaks open a smell of perfume and smoke  
burns their faces. They draw their guns and cautiously  
enter...

INT.HARLEY'S APARTMENT

Music is playing, a JAZZ-LIKE tune.

The apartment is small. The furniture has been knocked over.  
Pictures and books are thrown about the floor.

Shattered glass CRUNCHES beneath the boots of the men as  
they enter a bedroom.

The bedroom is empty, wrecked like the rest of the  
apartment.

A small radio sits atop a table.

One of the men kneels down to the floor and pick up an  
unloaded pistol, the clip BREAKS and falls the the floor.

CUT BACK:

INT.ARKHAM ASYLUM - JOKER'S CELL - NIGHT

GORDON

And?

RAMIREZ

She wasn't there. The apartment was wrecked, but we did find an unloaded hand gun.

Mayor Garcia enters the room.

Gordon acknowledges his presence and turns to speak to him.

MAYOR

What happened?

He looks around the room at the chaotic scene.

GORDON

There was a shooting.

MAYOR

Who got shot?

GORDON

It was the-

He looks over at Ramirez. she looks back.

GORDON (CONT'D)

-The Joker.

MAYOR

(In disbelief)

What? How?

GORDON

We don't know. They're airlifting him to St. John Hospital for a full autopsy.

MAYOR

How soon will we know?

GORDON

Two, maybe three days...

Turns to Ramirez-

GORDON (CONT'D)

...I want you to analyze the evidence and get me a full report by morning.

RAMIREZ

(Shouting to a nearby cop)

Take that to major crimes and get me Berg on the phone.

Ramirez leaves the room.

The Mayor pulls Gordon to the side-

MAYOR

What are we going to tell the press? with the Batman still missing? you know they'll blame him for this.

GORDON

Tell them it was a suicide.

MAYOR

Lie?

GORDON

What other choice do we have?

FADE TO:

EXT.WAYNE MANOR - MORNING

A black limo pulls up to the newly built mansion.

The house glimmers in the morning sun.

Bruce steps out of the backseat of the car and walks up the staircase to the front door.

Alfred opens the trunk and pulls out two medium-sized suitcases.

Bruce pulls a gold key from his coat pocket and places it into the lock, he turns it slowly, and opens the door.

The house is furnished with vintage furniture and expensive decor.

Bruce slowly walks in looking around at every detail.

A picture of Thomas Wayne can be seen hanging over a large fireplace.

Alfred enters and exhaustively sets the suitcases down next to a marble top table.

ALFRED

I'm glad this place is finally rebuilt.

BRUCE

It'll take some getting used to...

He sighs-

BRUCE

...The last time I was here was when Ra's ransacked Gotham. I let him burn it down and did nothing.

ALFRED

Yes, but that was a small sacrifice

for saving the citizens of Gotham.

BRUCE

And now they hate me. I am murderer  
in their eyes.

ALFRED

Not you master Bruce, Batman.

BRUCE

What's the difference?

ALFRED

There's a big difference.

BRUCE

No Alfred. I am every bit of the  
monster I created.

ALFRED

That monster brought Gotham out of  
misery, have you forgotten that?

BRUCE

And Rachel and Harvey payed their  
lives for it. I won't allow that to  
happen to anyone else.

ALFRED

(sarcastically)

I see those improved foundations in  
the East Wing will get no use now.

BRUCE

I am very tired Alfred.

ALFRED

I'll prepares us a bit of supper  
then.

BRUCE

I'll be settling into my new room.  
If you need me just call.

ALFRED

What would like to eat, master  
Bruce?

BRUCE

Anything will do.

Alfred exits through a door into the kitchen.

Bruce climbs the stairs up to the second floor, he walks  
into his new bedroom.

His sits down onto the bed a grasps the TV remote, he turns  
it on.

CLOSE UP: TV

The news woman is standing out at Arkham while police come go.

VICKY VALE

Last night, authorities rushed to Arkham to respond to a shooting call. What they found was disturbing...

Bruce turns up the volume on the TV.

VICKY VALE

...The criminal mastermind formerly known as the Joker, apparently committed suicide late last night. It has been four months since he was admitted here. His psychiatrist Harleen Quinzel has not been answering her phone for comments on the matter. As of now authorities are not releasing any further information.

CUT TO:

INT. EDWARD'S APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment is dimly lit. A small television rests atop a table.

The room is littered with various magazine clippings and photos.

A silhouetted figure sits behind a desk, that is covered with books and papers.

He is eating a bowl of cereal and watching the television across the room.

RIDDLER

(Smirks)

That's what the bastard gets.

He puts down the bowl of cereal and pulls a piece of paper out amidst the clutter.

Reveal:

Edward Nygma is a middle-aged man, tall and slender. He is wearing a dark green suit and a bowler hat.

A gold cane, with a question mark handle, is resting against the side of his chair.

He is wearing latex gloves and cutting alphabet letters out of a magazine.

He puts down the magazine and grabs the paper.

He glues several of the magazine clippings to it.

He holds it up to examine it.

RIDDLER  
(speaking to himself)  
Riddle me this?

The TV can be heard in the distance

VICKY VALE (O.S)  
...And with the vigilante known as  
Batman still at large, it seems the  
new commissioner has got his hands  
full. I am Vicky Vale with Gotham  
News at noon. Back to you Mike...

Edward grabs the TV remote and switches it off.

RIDDLER  
(speaking to the television)  
Not for long.

FADE TO:

EXT.GOTHAM NATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

A private plane lowers and SCREECHES to a halt along a  
pavement runway. The sunlight is blinding and the pavement  
is steaming with heat. An unmarked black SUV is parked along  
the runway.

A group of men dressed in black suits are standing nearby  
awaiting the plane's arrival. As the plane lowers its exit  
ramp, the men step forward.

Two men emerge from the plane carrying large suitcases.

A young woman, about twenty-five years old, follows them  
over to the men in suits.

She has blue eyes, brown hair, and wearing a black dress.

As she walks closer her hair blows in the wind.

She walks up to one of the men...

TALIA AL GHUL  
Where is Crane.

MAN 1  
He regrets he was unable to greet  
you, there was a small problem with  
the toxin.

TALIA AL GHUL  
Problem? What kind of problem?

MAN 1  
Nothing to fret over, it's an easy

fix. Doctor Crane will meet you at the penthouse later to fill you in on the details.

MAN 2

Don't worry, nothing can stop us this time.

TALIA AL GHUL

For your sake, I hope so.

Man 1 directs Talia over to the SUV.

They are followed by the others.

Talia climbs into the backseat of the car.

One man loads the suitcases into the trunk of the car.

The men climb into the SUV and it drives away.

FADE TO:

INT. JEWELRY STORE - NIGHT

A woman dressed in clown attire, her face paint resembles that of the Joker, enters the store.

She slowly walks around admiring the jewels protected by glass containers.

The store clerk looks over at her.

CLERK

Can I help you? Madam?

Harley looks up from her gaze and walks toward the clerk.

HARLEY

Why yes you can.

She walks abruptly up to the cashier.

She pulls out a gun and points it at his head. The other customers hurriedly exit the store.

One of them pulls out a cell phone and is dialing as he exits.

The clerk puts both his hands into the air and steps backward.

CLERK

What the hell?

HARLEY

(giggling)

Just answer this one question. Why so serious?

CLERK  
(stuttering)  
I... I don't know? Please take the  
money, just don't kill me!

She fires the gun and the clerk falls to the floor.

She busts open the jewelry cases and grabs several diamond necklaces. She puts them into a small black bag.

She walks out of the store laughing.

CUT TO:

EXT.JEWELRY STORE - MORNING

Police cars and an Ambulance are parked in front of the store.

Paramedics are unloading a stretcher and rolling it into the store.

Policemen are blockading the entrance of the store to keep spectators and pedestrians from entering.

A black police car pulls up to the curb next to the store.

Gordon climbs out the passenger-side of the car.

He hurriedly walks into the store.

Ramirez is following him in...

INT.JEWELRY STORE

A body bag rests on the floor.

Several cops are crowding the store taking fingerprints and looking for evidence.

Gordon walks in along with Ramirez.

An officer walks over to them.

OFFICER 1  
We talked to all the witnesses.  
They say it was the Joker.

GORDON  
(shaking his head  
disagreeably)  
Impossible, the Joker is dead.

He looks at Ramirez.

She shrugs her shoulders.

RAMIREZ  
Is there any surveillance footage?

OFFICER 1  
Yes, but it's brief.

He directs Gordon and Ramirez over to a small room...

INT.SURVEILLANCE ROOM

The room is small with several monitors along the wall.

A desk is to one side.

Atop the desk sits an old-fashioned television.

The officer grabs a tape that is lying on the desk.

He places the tape into the television.

They intently watch the footage.

CLOSE UP: TV Screen

A woman dressed in clown attire, her face paint resembles that of the Joker, enters the store.

She slowly walks around admiring the jewels protected by glass containers.

CUT-Back:

GORDON  
Is that all?

OFFICER 1  
Yes, that's it. we also have some photos taken from the outside surveillance camera, but they are all inconclusive.

GORDON  
Must be some type of copycat?

He looks at Ramirez who responds-

RAMIREZ  
I don't know, but we'll find her.

Another officer, male, walks in holding a cell phone.

OFFICER 2  
There's a call for you commissioner, they say it is urgent.

He hands the phone to Gordon.

Gordon takes it and places it to his ear.

His steps to the back of the room.

GORDON

Hello?

RIDDLER(V.O)

Riddle me this, commissioner? What is it that you seek?

GORDON

Who is this? What do you want?

RIDDLER(V.O)

I believe the question is, what do you want? The Batman, perhaps?

GORDON

Look, I don't have time for this. If you have any information on the Batman, take it to the Major Crimes Unit...

The Riddler interrupts him-

RIDDLER(V.O)

Riddle me this? Riddle that? Who is the heroic bat? That's right commissioner, I know about Harvey Dent's little rampage. Five cops did isn't that right?

GORDON

What do you want?

RIDDLER(V.O)

The same thing you do. I want batman. And with each passing day I grow closer to finding him. What I need to know is are you going to assist me in my efforts?

GORDON

No. Who is this?

RIDDLER(V.O)

Just call me the Riddler. Oh and I will have to draw the Batman out of hiding, take that as a warning.

Click, the call is dropped.

Ramirez looks at Gordon puzzled.

RAMIREZ

What is it? Who was that?

GORDON

Just some nut.

FADE TO:

INT.WAYNE MANOR - BRUCE'S BEDROOM

Bruce is sitting on his bed holding a picture of Rachel.  
Gazing at it in misery.  
He suddenly turns to face Alfred.  
Alfred is standing in the doorway holding a tray of tea.  
He looks glum.

BRUCE  
I miss her Alfred.

ALFRED  
I do to, master Bruce. Do have some  
hot tea, it will cheer you up.

BRUCE  
No thanks.

ALFRED  
Mr. Fox is on the phone.

BRUCE  
Okay, I'll be right down.

Alfred places the tray onto Bruce's bed and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT.WAYNE MANOR - MAIN ROOM

Bruce walks down the stairs.

A phone is lying on a small table. Bruce picks it up.

Places it to his ear.

BRUCE  
(into the phone)  
Hello?

There is a pause...

BRUCE  
(into the phone)  
I'll be on my way. Keep him there  
until I arrive.

Alfred walks into the room. He is wiping his hands with a  
cloth.

ALFRED  
What is the matter?

Bruce put down the phone and grabs his coat.

He puts it on...

BRUCE

Reese has got the data we needed.

Bruce rushes out of the house.

CUT TO:

INT.WAYNE ENTERPRISES - DAY

Lucius is standing and pacing back and forth next to the large meeting table.

Reese is seated in one of the many chairs at the table.

Bruce walks in...

BRUCE

Was it what we thought?

REESE

Worse.

Lucius stops pacing and is now facing Bruce.

Bruce takes a seat at the table across from Reese.

LUCIUS

Your suspicions were correct. Mr. Reese has discovered that they have transferred large amounts of cash into an unknown account. I think they're funding the Mob.

BRUCE

So, cancel the merging and notify Gordon. I guess he'll finally get the chance to bust these guy for good.

LUCIUS

That's not it. They've bought several of our shares and trusts along with most of Gotham's banks. We can't back out.

BRUCE

And who allowed that?

LUCIUS

It appears they used false information to lure us into their corruption.

REESE

And that's not the bad part. I went looking into their other investments and contracts.

Reese hands Bruce several documents.

REESE

They're saying that they are a weapons developing company working for the military, but I can't find anything to prove that. They have no government contracts; however, they have bought several of Gotham's chemical laboratories.

BRUCE

For what?

LUCIUS

That's what concerns me. I don't trust them.

BRUCE

(to Reese)

Can you get in any deeper?

REESE

No, they are watching me now. They suspect something.

LUCIUS

You remember your friend Mr. Earl, don't you?

BRUCE

Yes, what?

LUCIUS

Mr. Cobblepot hired him to oversee their company. He seems to have taken his job loss personally, he is watching our transactions closely.

BRUCE

Can't we shut him out?

REESE

Not with them controlling a dominate share in your company. He's free to do whatever he likes.

FADE TO:

INT. MOB MEETING ROOM

A large glass window is to one side of the room and a mini-bar the other. A picture of Mr. and Mrs. Cobblepot is placed above a black marble fireplace.

Several men are seated around table.

At the far end is Oswald who is rocking back and forth in his chair.

OSWALD

Gentlemen, I am pleased to say that our investments have grown by two-percent this month. It's a good number considering our recent fall-out.

He turns his swivel chair and faces Chechen-

OSWALD (CONT'D)

We have your clown friend to thank for that.

CHECHEN

He got rid of Batman didn't he?

OSWALD

(sarcastically)

Why yes he did and our life savings along with that.

MALCOLM

Is that all? I have a party to attend.

OSWALD

No, we have another problem. Our recent merging with Wayne Enterprises seems to have been a setup.

CHECHEN

How so?

OSWALD

Wayne's M&A lawyer, Coleman Reese, has been sniffing through our affairs.

CHECHEN

So we kill him.

OSWALD

We can't. That would expose us and give the police probable cause to search us. The new commissioner has been trying to find our cash for months, do you want to let him catch us with a smoking gun.

MALCOLM

That wouldn't have happened under Falcone's leadership.

OSWALD

And look where he is now. That damn fool let himself dwell into dangerous affairs. I can bring us back, but I need time.

CHECHEN

What do you plan to do?

OSWALD

That's my concern, I'll handle everything. You just stay out and let me deal with it.

CHECHEN

Fine, you have one week or you're out.

The men stand and leave the room.

Oswald and Earl are left sitting alone.

EARL

(sarcastically)

When do you plan to tell them about your associations with the League of Shadows? And where there money is actually going?

Oswald gets up from his seat and walks over to the bar area.

He opens a cabinet and pulls out a small glass and a bottle of liquor

OSWALD

Never, by the time these fools realize what has happened it will be too late. They will perish along with everyone else.

OSWALD

And we'll be the ones to survive? Do actually think Miss Al Ghul is going to pardon us?

OSWALD

Yes, Crane wouldn't lie. Not to me. I assure you they'll follow through on their end of the bargain.

FADE TO:

EXT.WAYNE ENTERPRISES - NIGHT

A van pulls up to the back of Wayne Tower.

Five men, all wearing black clothing, jump out of the back of the van. They run over to the doors. They place a small block of C4 to a door.

There is a small blast and then smoke.

Man 1 kicks in the door.

They draw their guns and cautiously enter...

INT.WAYNE ENTERPRISES - RESEARCH DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

The men enter a large concrete room.

A desk can be seen to one side. On it sits a computer. The screen's blue light is illuminating the room.

Man 3 pulls out a flashlight and shines it about the room.

The newly built Tumbler can be seen in the background (briefly).

A series of containers and various machine parts are located throughout the area.

The men explore the room. Looking through everything.

The former Bat-suit cabinet is set next to a wall at the back of the room.

Man 3 shines the flashlight around until he spots the item they are looking for.

There are a series of filing cabinets along one wall...

MAN 2  
(shouting)  
There they are. Over here.

He points to the cabinets.

They walk over to them. Man 1 breaks open the top drawer of the first one and skims through the documents.

MAN 1  
I found it.

He pulls a folder out.

FADE TO:

INT.TALIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is large in scale and decorated with luxurious furniture.

A large glass door, to the back, leads out onto a large balcony over looking Gotham.

The walls of the room are a dark red. the furniture has silk covering.

Talia is seated on a couch.

Sitting in a chair facing her is Dr. Crane.

He is holding and sipping a cup of coffee.

DR.CRANE  
My work is finished. There was

enough of your flowers to  
synthesize about two hundred  
gallons.

TALIA AL GHUL

How are we to get the toxin into  
the water supply? You lost your  
position at Arkham, remember?

DR.CRANE

That's Cobblepot's job. Like I said  
my work is finished and I expect  
payment soon.

TALIA AL GHUL

You'll get your money, but your  
job's not over. I don't trust your  
business associates. I want you to  
oversee act two of the plan.

DR.CRANE

Act two? You've already got the  
microwave emitter?

TALIA AL GHUL

My men are working on that tonight.  
We should have a prototype by next  
week.

DR.CRANE

Next week? How long do you plan to  
stay in Gotham?

TALIA AL GHUL

There are other affairs I must deal  
with before we can execute the  
grand plan.

DR.CRANE

May I ask as to what affairs you  
are burdened?

TALIA AL GHUL

A certain someone I must visit. The  
rest is my business.

DR.CRANE

Fair enough.

Â FADE TO:

INT.TOWN HALL - GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Gordon is seated behind his desk signing papers.

The desk is neatly organized, as is the rest of the office,  
a phone is place to the left side and two stacks of folders  
are on the right.

The door opens and Ramirez enters.

Gordon looks up from his work.

Ramirez places a folder, filled with papers, on his desk.

RAMIREZ

They just finished the autopsy.

Gordon opens the folder and pulls out several papers.

He skims over them...

GORDON

What was the diagnosis?

RAMIREZ

It was a homicide. the shot to his chest was fatal.

GORDON

And the murder weapon?

RAMIREZ

A nine-millimeter hand gun. The one we found at Miss Quinzel's apartment matches the profile.

GORDON

Keep this confidential, no one must know.

RAMIREZ

What? How can you not report this?

GORDON

The last thing we need right now is for the public to know Gotham's most notorious serial killer was murdered. They would assume that another person like him is on the loose and that would lead to mass panic. Do you remember what happened with the Joker threats? Do want another situation like that?

RAMIREZ

First the Dent cover-up and now this. What kind of example are we setting for the other departments?

She is about to leave but Gordon stops her...

GORDON

What about Batman? Has Berg found any leads?

RAMIREZ

No.

She leaves, closing the door behind her.

Gordon leans back into his chair.

The phone rings.

Gordon answers it.

GORDON

Hello?

MALE (V.O)

Hello? Commissioner?

GORDON

Yes, how can I help you?

MALE (V.O)

It's officer Daniels, sir. We need you at the library. There has been another murder, only this one is strange.

GORDON

I'm on my way.

Gordon Hangs up the phone and stands up.

He grabs his coat and exits the room.

CUT TO:

EXT.GOTHAM CENTRAL LIBRARY - NIGHT

Gordon's car pulls up to the library.

Two police cars are parked next to the curb.

An ambulance is leaving the scene.

Gordon steps out of his car. He walks over to Daniels.

GORDON

What's going on?

DANIELS

Two teenagers and the librarian were found lying dead next to the entrance ramp.

GORDON

(under his breath)

Oh my god.

DANIELS

What?

GORDON

Nothing, it's not important.

Daniels pulls out a green envelope, with a black question mark on the cover.

DANIELS

We found this with the bodies.

He hands the envelope to Gordon.

GORDON

What is this?

DANIELS

We don't know, maybe evidence?

Gordon opens the envelope and pulls out the paper inside.

The paper is covered with magazine clippings.

As Gordon reads the Riddler narrates.

RIDDLER(V.O)

You were too late, now you have the blood of three on your hands. I am the voice of the people, the symbol of the city. With my people, I show much pity. I stand, but not for long. I determine who is right or wrong. But soon I will be tested. Unless the Batman is arrested. Who am I?

Gordon looks at Daniels worriedly.

GORDON

Not him again.

DANIELS

Who?

GORDON

The Riddler.

CUT TO:

INT.MAJOR CRIMES - NIGHT

Gordon barges in. Ramirez, who is sitting at her work desk, jumps up.

RAMIREZ

(confused)

What's going on?

Gordon shuts the door behind him and walks over to Ramirez's desk.

He sits down in one of the two chairs.

GORDON

Please sit.

He motions with his hand for her to sit down.

GORDON  
What do think of this?

He hands her the Riddler's note.

She takes it and reads it.

She looks up at Gordon.

RAMIREZ  
It's a riddle, so what?

GORDON  
That was attached to the bodies  
found at the library. I want you to  
tell me what you think the answer  
to it is.

She rereads the not and looks up worriedly...

RAMIREZ  
(astonished and fearful)  
Oh my god? Is it?

GORDON  
I believe so. Is he at Town Hall?

RAMIREZ  
I'll check.

She picks up her cell phone and begins to dial.

She places the phone to her ear.

RAMIREZ  
(into the phone)  
Hello. May I speak to Mayor Garcia.

Gordon watches her worriedly.

RAMIREZ  
(into the phone)  
Yes, hi Mr. Mayor.Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â  
(She nods at Gordon)

GORDON  
(jumps up from his seat)  
Tell him to stay there, lock down  
the building until I arrive.

Gordon rushes out of the room.

Ramirez hangs up the phone and follows Gordon.

FLASH CUT:

INT.MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Gordon is pacing about the room.

Ramirez is standing off to one side.

The mayor is seated behind his desk...

MAYOR

What is going on, Gordon?

GORDON

We found a note that I believe is a threat to your life.

MAYOR

What note?

Ramirez walks over and hands him the paper.

The mayor reads the note then laughs.

MAYOR

(laughing)

A riddle? You kept me here for a dumb riddle?

GORDON

The last time I received one of this riddles and took it as folly, three people died. The riddle describes you.

MAYOR

What? Me? Who wrote it, where'd you find This?

GORDON

The answer to the riddle is a mayor. We found it pinned to a body that was found near the library.

MAYOR

Any idea who wrote it? I thought the Joker was dead. You didn't lie about that did you?

GORDON

Someone much worse. We call him the Riddler. He has been committing crimes throughout the city and leaving these riddles behind him.

MAYOR

Listen, Gordon I can't stay here all day. I have places to go, I'm leaving.

He stands up.

GORDON

You can't. I won't let you.

A loud gun shot startles them.

The window behind the mayor SHATTERS.

The mayor falls forward and down.

He hits his desk with a THUD and rolls over onto the floor.

Gordon rushes over to aid him.

Ramirez runs over to the window and draws her gun, she scans the nearby buildings for any sign of the killer.

A bullet wound can be seen in the upper-right part of the mayors back. Gordon places a cloth over the wound to stop the bleeding.

He looks up at Ramirez...

GORDON

(shouting)

Go get a medic!

Ramirez puts down her gun and runs out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT.WAYNE MANOR - BALL ROOM - NIGHT

The ball room is filled with celebrities and wealthy people who are drinking, talking, and dancing.

LOUD music is being played.

Bruce is standing near the bar area sipping a glass of champagne.

A bartender is busily preparing drinks for Bruce's guests.

He spots a beautiful young Burnett girl standing out on the back balcony.

He walks over to the glass doors and out onto the balcony to speak to her.

BRUCE

Hello, I haven't seen you around before. My name is Bruce-Bruce Wayne.

TALIA AL GHUL

I just moved here. My name is Talia. It's a pleasure to meet you uh...

BRUCE

Bruce Wayne.

TALIA AL GHUL  
Yes, Bruce. It's a pleasure.

BRUCE  
And what is your last name, perhaps  
I may know some of you're family.

TALIA AL GHUL  
It's Gonzales. You wouldn't know  
any of my family, they have all  
passed away.

BRUCE  
I'm sorry. What happened to them?

TALIA AL GHUL  
Well, my mother died when I was  
very young. I was raised by my  
father, who recently died.

BRUCE  
I'm sorry. What are you doing in  
Gotham?

TALIA AL GHUL  
I am here for business.

BRUCE  
What type of business are you in,,  
if you don't mind me asking?

TALIA AL GHUL  
My father was a stock broker and  
when he died I followed in his  
footsteps. I have heard that Gotham  
was a good town to start in.

BRUCE  
Would you like to dance?

TALIA AL GHUL  
No thank you, I am not much of a  
dancer.

BRUCE  
Well, can I get you something to-

Lucius walks out and interrupts him.

LUCIUS  
Can I speak to you privately.

BRUCE  
(to Talia)  
Please excuse me.

He and Lucius go back inside the building.

BRUCE

What's wrong?

LUCIUS

R and D was broken into last night.  
You wouldn't know anything about  
that would you?

BRUCE

No, why? What did they take?

LUCIUS

Just some old archives.

BRUCE

(suspiciously)

Old archives? What archives?

LUCIUS

(cautiously)

Data and schematics relating to  
Wayne Enterprises product one M E.

BRUCE

One M E?

LUCIUS

Microwave Emitter.

BRUCE

Like the one Ra's stole?

LUCIUS

Yes, the very same.

BRUCE

Why would anyone steal...

He pauses as if realizing something.

BRUCE

Wait. But Ra's is dead, he died in  
the train crash.

LUCIUS

But did you think that would stop  
the league of shadows. I ran some  
background checks on your old  
friend Mr. Al Ghul after I was told  
of the burglary.

BRUCE

And? What did you find?

LUCIUS

He wasn't always a notorious crime  
lord. He had a...

Bruce interrupts-

BRUCE

A wife, she was killed. I know all that.

LUCIUS

Well did you know he also has a daughter.

BRUCE

A daughter?

LUCIUS

I wasn't able to find a name.

BRUCE

Could go and try to find out who she is? And I want you to have Reese go to Cobblestone Corp and pull as much info he can from them.

LUCIUS

Why? What do they have to do with this?

BRUCE

The last time the league of shadows tried to bring down Gotham, the Mob was involved. There's a possibility that they are again.

LUCIUS

That would explain the mysterious money transfers. I'll look into it.

Lucius begins to leave but Bruce stops him...

BRUCE

And I'm going to need a new suit.

Lucius turns back to Bruce...

LUCIUS

For what? I thought you gave up Batman.

BRUCE

I did, but it seems I have to reprise that role.

LUCIUS

We don't even know even know that the people who stole the emitter files were members of the league.

BRUCE

Who else would steal an item like that? Besides I've been told there is a Joker copycat on the loose.

LUCIUS

I'll have to order the parts. I could be a few weeks before they arrive.

BRUCE

That's okay. Thank you Lucius.

LUCIUS

No problem.

Lucius leaves and Bruce walks back out onto the balcony.

FADE TO:

INT.MOB BANK - DAY

Edward enters a the bank.

The bank is large, golden floors, wood-finished furniture, Marble columns, and accountant desks to one side.

The bank is crowded with various people, men, women, and elderly people.

Edward walks slowly through the banks lobby to avoid suspicion.

He walks through a door in the far back.

Harley Quinn barges into the bank carrying a sub-machine gun.

The people in the bank begin to panic, they run about frantically.

Harley walks up to a bank account.

She points the gun at her.

HARLEY

I want money, lots of money.

She laughs maniacally.

ACCOUNTANT

Okay, don't shoot.

The accountant opens a safe beneath the counter and pulls out a box filled with one-hundred dollar bills.

She hands Harley the box.

HARLEY

Why thank you dear, now get on the floor. I said NOW!

The accountant gets down onto her knees and places her hands behind her head.

CUT TO:

INT.MOB BANK - ARCHIVES ROOM

Edward is rummaging through a filing cabinet.

He pulls out a folder. He walks over to a desk. He places the folder on the desk and pulls out several papers.

He examines them...

EDWARD

Perfect!

He places the papers back into the folder.

He exits the room and back into the bank...

INT.MOB BANK

Edward is astonished at the chaotic scene Harley has created.

Harley notices Edward.

HARLEY

You there, get on the floor.

EDWARD

And who might you be?

HARLEY

On the floor, now.

EDWARD

And if I refuse?

HARLEY

I'll shoot you, now get down.

EDWARD

Alright then.

He lowers to the floor.

The SWAT team busts into the bank.

Harley panics, dropping her gun, she runs out through the back of the bank.

camera pans back to edward

Reveal:

Edward is gone.

