

BATMAN
DEMONS OF THE NIGHT

A Screenplay by Kevin J. Repp

(Last revised 2/3/11)

FADE IN FROM BLACK.

CU of a **FACELESS MAN** standing in darkness.

His muscular physique is highlighted by a single beam of white light, illuminating him but nothing else. We hear the echo of his surroundings and water drop as it hits the puddles on the ground he stands on. The man gets dressed in this fashion:

SUIT-UP MONTAGE:

- He puts on his gray body suit adorned with the image of a bat.
- Then, he takes a yellow utility belt and fixes it to his waist. We here a **CLICK** as it is secured.
- Finally, we see the man, mostly suited up except for his hands, which remain bare, and his face, which is still more or less in the shadows. In his hands he holds his cowl. He stares at it in the eyes as he raises it up to fashion it to his head as eerie, yet heroic music comes to its climax.

CUT TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK FRAME:

Ominous music plays as, in huge white letters, the title letters fade in over the black. An almost glowing "**BATMAN**" appears to take up most of the screen and remains still as a subtitle appears underneath that reads: "**DEMONS OF THE NIGHT**" in blood red letters.

The words fade away as the music comes to a close and the title sequence ends.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

We open in the wooded area surrounding Arkham Asylum. The ground is covered with fog, and the trees sit wilted and lifeless. It's mostly quiet but we hear the faint whispers of the creatures of the night. In this lifeless hell stands our faceless man, who now adorned in his uniform is revealed to be the masked vigilante known simply as the **BATMAN**. Batman makes his trek through the forest with no distractions. That is, until the calm of the night is shattered by the distant sounds of the laughter of a madman. Batman pauses. His eyes scan the area.

CUT TO:

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - EVENING

We see a small, boring office graced with a single desk and chair. On the desk sits a picture frame or two and a coffee mug alongside a barrage of papers. In the chair sits **COMMISSIONER GORDON**, a tired man with gray disheveled hair, wide glasses, and a mustache. He wears a white collared shirt with rolled-up sleeves, suspenders and a tie. Across from him stands the World's Greatest Detective, Batman.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

This is what we've got.

Gordon throws a file on the desk with a loud **SMACK** as it hits the surface.

Batman picks up the file.

BATMAN

Crane...

COMMISSIONER GORDON

Yeah. Apparently he's found his way out of Arkham again. And word is, he's broken out all of his "pals", too.

BATMAN

That can't be good.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

They've got the whole place under siege. All the guards and asylum employees are being held hostage and I can't get my men anywhere near the place. I need someone to get in... undetected.

BATMAN

I'm your man, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

Listen, Batman. We don't know who or *what* Crane's let loose. There are bound to be tons of nutcases out tonight so try and be...

Gordon turns around to see Batman gone.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

...Careful.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

We return to our present action near the borders of Arkham Asylum. A madman **LEAPS** from the shadows. His skin is a pale white, his lips are a dark ruby red, and his hair a dark shade of green. It's **THE JOKER**.

The Joker laughs.

BATMAN

Joker!

JOKER

Hah-ha, oh Batsy! I just knew you couldn't resist a play date with us FREAKS!

BATMAN

What do you think you're doing? Where's Scarecrow?

JOKER

Scarecrow? Oh, please. I have more important matters to tend to... like our little date! Hahahahaha!

BATMAN

I don't have time for games, Joker. Tell me where Crane is holding the hostages!

JOKER

You know... you really disappoint me, Bats. All you care about is boring old Crany... and here, I thought you came because you really wanted to see me. Look, even if I *wanted* to tell you, I couldn't. I don't know where he is. But enough about him, let's get back to us.

BATMAN

What's Crane's game? What does he want?

JOKER

I'm not one of his puppets, how should I know? What Crane does is *his* business... I've just come along for the ride!

Batman grabs Joker by the shirt and pulls him closer.

BATMAN

Fun's over Joker, you're going back to Arkham.

JOKER

Oh Bats, you're no fun. No fun at all... Lighten up, Batman! The night is young, and the party's just started...

Two **HENCHMEN IN CLOWN MASKS** jump from the darkness.

JOKER

Get him, boys!

The two henchmen attack Batman with club-like weapons. The first of the henchmen swings at Batman, but Batman dodges the attack and sweeps the first guy's feet, knocking him to the ground with a loud **THUD**. The second guy raises his bat in the air, like an ax, and makes a chopping action for Batman, but Batman grabs the bat with his left hand, and pulls the thug inward, bringing the thug's face into his fist. With a few swift moves, the thugs are taken out with ease.

JOKER

Uh-oh, that's my cue!

The Joker flees and disappears into the darkness. The camera pans back to Batman, still in fighting stance, while the two thugs lay unconscious on the ground beneath him.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

A tall, lanky man stands dressed like a **SCARECROW**. On his head he wears a burlap sack with a smile stitched out across his face and two eye holes from which no eyes are visible. His brown dirty clothes are made up of simply a brown tarp and torn brown pants. At his side sits a loyal **HENCHMAN**.

SCARECROW'S HENCHMAN (O.S.)

Boss, the Joker's mutts have just been put to sleep.

SCARECROW

Ah, The Batman's arrived!

SCARECROW'S HENCHMAN (O.S.)

Well, what do we do, Boss?

SCARECROW

We will do what we **ALWAYS** do. Show him **FEAR!** In the meantime... make sure he doesn't get too far, we've yet to give our ransom demands to the city. After all, Gordon doesn't know we have his daughter yet...

CUT TO:

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Commissioner Gordon sits behind his desk as **CHIEF O'HARA**, a large, stern-looking man enters the room.

CHIEF O'HARA

Commissioner, we've just received this video tape courtesy of Scarecrow's goons.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

Well, let's see it.

Chief O'Hara places the tape into the VCR.

We see on the television, Scarecrow, standing alongside tied and gagged hostages who are behind him.

SCARECROW

Ah, Gordon. As you can see behind me, we've had the privilege of meeting some of Gotham's finest. What fine young men you have working for you -- they've made excellent Guinea Pigs. I caught them snooping around and I just couldn't have them go and ruin all my hard work so... I put them to good use. See, even they were no match for my brilliant fear toxin. Now, let's get down to business. Listen very closely. I want ...

Static interference interrupts video, and the Joker appears on screen in another section of the woods

JOKER

'Evening Comish'. Oh, please don't worry, you need not adjust your television set, we've just been experiencing some, uh... "technical problems". Haha! Well then, now that the lame-o is done talking, the big boys can speak.

The Joker paces back and forth while talking.

JOKER

Let's get down to the nitty gritty... So Jimbo, I've just had the pleasure of meeting your darling daughter. And oh, what a treat she was... Haha! Marvelous little creature really; chalk full of attitude. Too bad I had to shut her up. (laughs uncontrollably) I can't imagine what you're wanting to do with me now... though I'm sure it'll be loads of fun!

The Joker pauses for a minute and a wave of seriousness comes upon him.

JOKER

Now see, this is where me and boring ol' Scary differ. I think you'll find *his* reasons for doing this are much different from my own. See, I don't care about the material things in life. Money... fame... power... it's all nonsense in my eyes. I'm just a guy who likes to go through life with no worries... I'm the kind of guy who likes to go through life with a SMILE!

The Joker's calmness is broken and he breaks out into laughter.

JOKER

You're sweet little Barbara is sure to brighten me RIGHT up. Just think of all the fun we'll have together. Oh dear, look at the time. It seems our meeting has been cut short. Oh well, I'm sure I'll see you soon. After all, you must miss your little girl. Whether she's in one piece or not by the time you get here is a far different story... Hahah! Ta-ta for now, Commissioner.

The video cuts to a screen of static. We return to Gordon and O'Hara back at the office. Gordon is speechless and his expression is nearly blank.

CHIEF O'HARA

Jim... Jim, I'm so sorry.

Gordon takes a long pause.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

O'Hara, Get your coat. We're going to Arkham.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Scarecrow walks through the area searching for Batman. He sings a tune reminiscent of a lullaby as he scrapes an aged pitchfork against the wall to make an incredibly creepy sound and draw out Batman.

SCARECROW

...Hush little Batsy don't you cry... Crane's gonna put you to beddy-bye...

Scarecrow leaps from the shadows and strikes Batman with his pitchfork. Batman dodges the attack.

BATMAN

Scarecrow!

SCARECROW

I just knew you'd come. I really am happy that you're here. You can't imagine how long I've been waiting to try my new fear methods out on you.

BATMAN

It's over Crane, you're coming with me.

SCARECROW

See, that's where you're wrong, Batman. I'm not going anywhere. Heh, You know, it's funny... you try so hard to sound like one of *them*, but in reality no matter how much you try to act like them, no matter how much you actually believe that you serve out justice, you're still, at heart, no different from me. No, we aren't so different at all. In fact, we're one in the same. I put fear into the hearts of my experiments, and you... you dress up like a bat and prance around trying to scare every so called "criminal" you meet. Hah, and they call ME insane. What makes you any better than us? I can't begin to fathom what makes the public adore you, while we're reviled and condemned like animals. I mean, at the end of the day, you're just some whacko in a costume. Admit it, Batman... you're crazy, you're a complete lunatic! Why not embrace your insanity?! Face it, the only reason you aren't locked up in here with the rest of us is because your pal Gordon is always cleaning up your messes. If Gotham knew what you were -- what you REALLY were, they wouldn't love you as they do now. They'd finally realize you're just as vile and disgusting as any of us. Now Batman... Now you will experience the fear your victims have known...

Scarecrow holds a tiny replica of a human skull in his hand and holds it to Batman's face. Out of its eyes shoots gas that sprays Batman directly in the face. Batman is temporarily blinded and falls to the ground, disoriented.

BATMAN

Argh!

BATMAN'S POV:

Batman looks up and sees a monstrous Scarecrow from his eyes. The fear gas is causing hallucinations.

SCARECROW

(In a deep, guttural voice)

YOU'RE **MY** TEST-SUBJECT NOW BATMAN!

BATMAN'S POV:

Random Arkham inmates begin to rush Batman, all terrifying in appearance.

A disoriented Batman tries to fend off his enemies, but he is vastly outnumbered.

SCARECROW (O.S.)

How does it feel Batman? How does it feel having the tides turned for once? Let's tear down the walls of sanity and dive into the abyss. Let the concentrated terror run through your veins. Do you feel it, Batman? Do you feel all of your deepest fears and repressed memories becoming a reality?

Batman in a last-ditch effort throws a smoke grenade and creeps away into the darkness. Batman in a weakened state, hunches down by a tree to catch his breath.

FADE OUT.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

SCENE OPENS IN DARKNESS OVER A BLACK SCREEN.

JOKER (V.O.)

Resting on the job, are we? Tsk tsk.

BATMAN'S POV:

A barely conscious Batman opens his eyes to the sight of a scary-looking Joker.

JOKER

Mornin', sweetheart.

Joker socks Batman in the gut.

JOKER

What's the matter Batman? Feelin' glum? HAHA! You know, after all this time, I can't believe that I STILL don't know who it really is underneath that silly mask of yours. Who ARE you, anyway?

Joker reaches to unmask Batman, but Batman grabs his arm and punches him in the face, knocking Joker flat on his back.

JOKER

Oooh, ho ho. Nice shot, Bats. Nice shot indeed. It's a shame, though. It's a mystery that will plague me for years to come, I'm sure. I've always wanted to know who it really was behind that disguise. Will I ever find out? I mean, who do you think you are parading around like this? What ARE you? Some crazed loser who thinks he's a bat, who thinks he can make a difference while parading around in his underwear? HAH! But you are an intriguing character. I mean, what drives a man to wear a mask and a cape, fly around, and fight bad guys in tights? Why should you care if this city crumbles? I mean, it's not like ONE man could ever make a difference. It's pointless, Bats. All this hard work, all these acts of heroism... it all means nothing. You're not a hero; you're just some misguided fool. What do you think you stand for, Justice? Hah, what a crock. You know, Bats... deep down I think you enjoy all this. You get off on fighting us baddies, don't you? Yes. You're just as cynical as any of us.

BATMAN

I'm nothing like you. You're scum that kills for enjoyment.

JOKER

Oh, you're wrong Batman. Dead wrong. You bring more pain and anguish than any of us. Don't you remember what happened years ago? What you did to me? YOU created this. I'm your greatest creation. We're one in the same. Don't you see? You're an outcast, a freak. You think you're admired? Well, you're not. People despise you, Batman. In time, they'll learn to hate you as much as they hate us. Gotham's savior will be despised, cast out, forgotten. Without us, you're nothing, Batman.

BATMAN

Are you really that dense? Do you think I do this to be liked? Because I want fame or recognition? I made a promise to someone long ago that I would rid this city of evil -- no matter the cost.

JOKER

Hah! Do you really think you can rid Gotham of evil? Gotham! Of all places! This city was already rotting in the gutter before any of us guys made our debut. What makes you think you can change things now? I'd tell you to give up but... you're just too much fun to not have around.

BATMAN

No. I can't give up. I can't give up because I believe in Gotham. And my city believes in me. She's never given up on me. Ever. And I can't give up on her. I can't give up because if I do, tragedies that made me what I am today will continue to go on without the slightest thing done about it. I can't give up because creeps like YOU will keep running around killing unless there's someone like ME to put them in their place. I can't give up because my city needs me... and I'm never going to let her down.

Voices and noises are heard from the distance.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

Batman! Thanks for your help, but we've got it from here.

JOKER

Oh, Gordon! I'm so glad you could make it!

COMMISSIONER GORDON

(angry) Where's my DAUGHTER, you sick bastard?!

JOKER

Now is that any way to greet an old friend?

Gordon grabs Joker by the collar and pulls him close.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

If you don't get me my daughter, I'll...

JOKER

Relax, Pops. Crow's got her. But oh, you should have seen her, Dad! Quite a bit of sass in her, you'd of been proud. But oh how she screamed for you... (mockingly) "OH, DADDY... PLEASE HELP ME...

HAHAHA-

Gordon socks Joker in a fit of rage, knocking him to the floor and causing him to bleed. Gordon appears to feel pleasure and a sudden wave of relief out of punching him. Now calm, almost too calm, Gordon speaks to Batman without ever taking his eyes off of Joker.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

Batman, find Crane and get my daughter back to me safe. Please.

BATMAN

Are you sure you can handle yourself?

COMMISSIONER GORDON

Don't worry about me. The clown and I have unfinished business.

The Joker gets off the ground and holds his hands up to be cuffed.

JOKER

Alright Gordon, take me in.

A sinister look comes upon Gordon face.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

No. Not this time. Not after what you did. We aren't finished yet. Laugh it up, Joker. Laugh it up while you can.

JOKER

No... No, you can't do that. You're a COP, for Pete's sake!

Gordon begins to walk over to the Joker as the camera pans away. The Joker's screams are heard as we turn away from the action.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

Batman makes his way into the heart of the Asylum where Scarecrow resides.

SCARECROW

Batman! Back again so soon?

BATMAN

Where's the girl, Crane?

SCARECROW

Safe. She'll be let go in due time. But first, let's have a little fun, shall we?

BATMAN

You've had your fun, Crane. It's time to go back to Arkham.

SCARECROW

No, no. Not this time. No more padded cell for me. I'm the Scarecrow! I run the asylum. The asylum doesn't run me.

BATMAN

What happened to Doctor Jonathan Crane? Does he even still exist? You were a respected psychiatrist. You had a job where you could help people... where you could make a difference. Why'd you have to go and throw it all away? It doesn't have to be like this.

SCARECROW

As Jonathan Crane, I was nothing. A nobody. No one ever gave me respect. I was laughed at, mocked. But as Scarecrow, people FEAR me! They kneel before my very presence. I am a GOD of fear! Now, why would I want to throw any of that away?

BATMAN

You're sick, Crane. You need help.

SCARECROW

Oh? I'm sick? Let's delve into the mind of the bat. An adult male suffering from hero syndrome who's obviously been traumatized by some... event... in his past. But why the bat? Why become this creature of myth, this demon of vengeance? Who sits behind the shadow of the bat? That truly is the question. Perhaps Gotham will never know. But clearly you aren't a man much different than me. We're both beacons of fear. It's just how we choose to express it that makes us different. All that talent... wasted. You know, Bats... you'd be a quite promising ally. Nobody else gets what I'm about like you do. Only you and I truly know fear.

BATMAN

You're a fool if you think I'd ever join you. I promote a message of hope, not terror. You've abused your power over the human mind for *far* too long, Crane. I'm through with putting up with this charade... it ends tonight, Crane -- right here -- you and me.

SCARECROW

Two demons dance away in the moonlight... (laughs) May the best ghoul win.

Scarecrow picks up his pitchfork. Both Batman and Scarecrow enter fighting stance. The camera pans in to a close up of a silent Batman, then to Scarecrow.

SCARECROW

Mirror, mirror on the wall... Who's the scariest of them all...?

Scarecrow takes his pitchfork and lunges for Batman. Batman dodges the first few jabs at him, but he eventually get cut in the arm.

SCARECROW

Keep up, Bats!

Scarecrow attacks Batman a few more times as Batman tries his hardest to dodge each strike. He eventually grabs hold of the pitchfork and pulls Crane inward, while his fist drives into his face. Scarecrow is sent flying back. Now disarmed, Scarecrow must settle for hand-to-hand combat.

SCARECROW

How about a little Crane-style martial arts?

Batman goes for Scarecrow, but Scarecrow quickly dodges all of Batman's attacks and counters his attacks with his "Crane" style of martial arts. Scarecrow manages to do a high kick and knock Batman to the ground. With this window of opportunity, Scarecrow goes for the pitchfork.

Now armed, Scarecrow goes for Batman with the pitchfork once more, but Batman moves out of the way, making Scarecrow drive the fork into the dirt.

With Scarecrow staked to the ground with his weapon, Batman kicks Scarecrow in the stomach, causing him to fall over onto ground. Batman grabs the pitchfork and tosses it aside.

An exhausted Batman turns around to catch his breath. Scarecrow leaps off the floor and grabs his pitchfork. With the base of the handle, he impales Batman from behind, causing him to fall to the floor.

SCARECROW

Say Goodnight, Batman.

Scarecrow stands over Batman and prepares to administer a lethal dosage of his fear toxin.

Batman grabs Scarecrow's arm.

BATMAN

Not this time.

Batman turns the tide by ripping off Scarecrow's mask, and giving him a taste of his own medicine by spraying him with his own fear gas. Without his mask to protect him from his own invention, Scarecrow is vulnerable to the effects of the gas.

SCARECROW

AUGH! MY EYES!

SCARECROW'S POV:

Batman appears as a bat-like vampire version of his former self. His cowl appears to be part of his face, with sharp vampire-like fangs, beady eyes, and tall ears. The fingers on his gloves are long and slender with pointed nail-like ends.

BATMAN

It's your turn to be afraid now, Crane..

Batman lunges at Crane as his mouth opens to reveal fangs and his cape draws up with Scarecrow screaming in terror.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WOODS - EARLY MORNING

The Police free the hostages as Batman and Gordon have a chat.

BATMAN

Is Crane going to be alright?

COMMISSIONER GORDON

He's fine. He's just a little shaken up. You gave him quite a scare.

BATMAN

And the hostages?

COMMISSIONER GORDON

They're fine. They've been taken by the paramedics along with Barbara.

BATMAN

Good.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

Listen, Batman... Tonight... If you hadn't been here to save my daughter from Scarecrow...

BATMAN

You don't have to thank me, Jim. I know what it's like to have someone taken from you that you love. I couldn't live with myself if I couldn't save Barbara. She's a brave girl... just like her father.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

I just wanted to say... I'm really glad you're on our side... the whole city is. Oh, and listen, when you're feeling up to it, I want you to check in on this case. It seems we've got yet another menace in Gotham.

BATMAN
New menace?

COMMISSIONER GORDON
Calls himself the "Riddler".

BATMAN
I'll look in to it.

COMMISSIONER GORDON
You know, sometimes I wonder how you do it, Batman. All alone out there, getting these guys every night without any help.

BATMAN
I ask that myself sometimes. Don't worry though I have a little friend who might be able to help out pretty soon.

CUT TO:

BLACK TITLE CARD:

"TWO MONTHS LATER"

FADE IN TO:

EXT. GOTHAM CITY ALLEY - NIGHT

A dark, dilapidated alleyway in downtown Gotham that's littered with debris and old bums in cardboard boxes. It's raining heavily and puddles of water form on the pavement. It's mostly quiet except for the white noise of the rain until we hear footsteps **SPLASH** through the rain.

Suddenly the footsteps get closer and closer as we hear the heavy breathing of the runner huffing and puffing.

Out of the darkness of the alley comes the running man, who is none other than the Joker, freshly escaped from the asylum, still wearing his white inmate uniform/straightjacket which is now torn, tattered and dirtied in the rain.

Suddenly we see a leg wearing a green boot **SHOOT** into the frame. The Joker runs full force into the boot and is knocked backwards on his back.

JOKER

OOOOPH

The Joker looks up from the ground to see who it was who knocked him down, expecting Batman, but being surprised when he realizes that it isn't.

JOKER

Wha- Who are YOU? Bat Junior?

JOKER'S POV:

We see a **YOUNG BOY**, no older than ten, standing over the Joker wearing a red and green costume and a domino mask. In his hands he has a staff or some kind of pole-like weapon.

YOUNG BOY

The name's **ROBIN**.

Robin raises his weapon above his head and brings it down to strike the Joker but the scene cuts to black before we hear a loud **THWACK**.

CUT TO:

BLACK FRAME
TITLE APPEARS:

Written
&
Directed

By

Kevin J. Repp

CREDITS ROLL WITH MUSIC SEQUENCE

FADE IN AFTER CREDITS ARE FINISHED:

EXT. WOODS - EARLY MORNING

We return to our setting outside Arkham in the woods where we left Batman and Commissioner Gordon. The two are still talking about the threat of the Riddler.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

Batman, I want you to be careful with this one.

BATMAN

I've dealt his kind before. If I can handle the Joker, I'll be fine with this guy.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

No. Trust me. This one's different.

DIALOGUE STILL PLAYS OVER SCENE WHILE WE CUT TO:

INT. SMALL ROOM - EVENING

We're in a cluttered small room with a single small table in the center of the room and chair from which a **WELL DRESSED MAN** sits. The man is wearing a green suit with purple cuffs and purple gloves. The room is draped in complete darkness except for the small bit of yellow light emitted from a small table lamp. Papers sit across the table as the man sorts through them.

COMMISSIONER GORDON (V.O.)

I haven't been able to get a good read on the guy, but every officer in Gotham is scared to death of him.

CU of a man's hands cutting sheets of newspaper and gluing letters to a white sheet.

BATMAN (V.O.)

They're only riddles, Jim.

The scissors make rhythmic sounds as they cut through the paper. **THWICK. THWICK. THWICK.** The noise suddenly stops and the man places the scissors down flat on the table. We come in from the front of the table to see the man in full view. His face is not visible to us as the only light source in the room is yellow light from a small lamp fixated to the table which is focused on his work. The man picks up his newly complete masterpiece and examines it.

COMMISSIONER GORDON (V.O.)

No, no. They're much more than that. He may be crazy, but he's clever. Smarter than you, even. He's willing to do anything to please his craving for making these bizarre brain teasers. I don't quite know his motives yet or where he came from, but one thing's for sure: he's dangerous business.

CU of the man's face right below his eye line. We can see the edges of a purple domino mask attached to his face. His lips form a subtle smile. The man is quite pleased with his finished work. Suddenly the smile turns into a small chuckle. The man can hardly control himself. He begins to laugh hysterically.

LAUGHTER SLOWLY FADES OUT AS WE CUT BACK TO:

EXT. WOODS - EARLY MORNING

BATMAN

Alright, Jim. I'll keep my eyes peeled.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

(smiles)

I knew I could count on you.

FADE OUT.

THE END

Questions/Comments?

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