

Batman - The Series

Pilot

by
David Eskin

5607 Pierrpont Street
Burke VA, 22015
703-978-2086

BATMAN - THE SERIES

PILOT

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. GOTHAM CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Cars screech by as a young boy, BRUCE WAYNE, walks with his mother and father. His father, THOMAS WAYNE, turns down an alley.

Bruce is obviously scared of this alley.

BRUCE WAYNE

I don't want to go down that alley,
it's scary.

Bruce's mother, MARTHA WAYNE, comforts him.

MARTHA WAYNE

It's alright Bruce, there's nothing
to be scared of.

She takes Bruce's hand and smiles. They walk down the alley. Newspaper pieces fly through the alley. As they reach the end of the alley, an ARMED MAN jumps out with a gun.

ARMED MAN

Gimme all your cash!

Thomas fumbles with his wallet.

ARMED MAN (CONT'D)

Hurry up!

The delay in Thomas' actions cause the man to get frustrated, as he pulls the trigger and shoots Thomas. He falls as the mugger shoots Martha. He grabs the wallet and takes off as Bruce falls to his knees, tears streaming from his eyes. We PAN UP from Bruce and into the sky.

EXT. ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

We PAN ACROSS the rooftops and stop on Gotham City's protector, the dark knight, the BATMAN.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

SCREEN TEXT
Present day Gotham City

His cape flows like a demon as he overlooks the city. From below, we hear the shattering of a window and a scream ring out. Batman looks over the roof and sees three MUGGERS running out of a small store. He leaps off the roof. On the street, the three men run down the sidewalk. As they continue down the street, the SHADOW OF A BAT swoops over them. They stop and look up as Batman lands in front of them.

MUGGER
It's the bat!

The first mugger runs in, but Batman easily dispatches of him. He blocks the strike, then slams his elbow into the side of his head.

The other two come in on each side. Batman blocks a punch from one, kicks the other in the stomach, then lays his fist into his jaw.

As the one he kicked in the stomach comes in, Batman spins and roundhouse kicks the mugger away. He overlooks the downed men as the store owner, DANIEL SMITH, runs out.

DANIEL
Oh thank you.

He grabs the money the men took from his store, but when he looks back up, Batman has vanished.

INT. GOTHAM CITY POLICE STATION

The station is busy with activity, even at night. We STEADY on COMMISSIONER JAMES GORDON. Gordon enters his office and sits in his chair as SERGEANT HARVEY BULLOCK enters.

GORDON
I'm a little busy here, Bullock.

BULLOCK
Don't ignore it.

GORDON
Ignore what?

BULLOCK
You know what.

GORDON

If you're talking about Batman, I'm not ignoring it. But I'm also not going to do anything about it either.

BULLOCK

You know as well as I do that he's been a little more ruthless than he's been in the past.

GORDON

He's cleaned up this city more times than we have.

BULLOCK

Good deeds aside, I don't think a city like this needs a vigilante like Batman.

GORDON

He may be a vigilante, Bullock, but he's also brought in more arrests than you.

A cold silence is shared between them as Bullock exits.

GORDON (CONT'D)

And don't slam the--

The door slams loudly.

GORDON (CONT'D)

--door.

INT. BAT CAVE

A light is seen from the entrance to the cave as a slender car, the BATMOBILE, rides up and parks in the obvious space for it. The hatch opens and Batman exits. He pulls the mask off his face and lays it on the table next to the large computer. He turns as ALFRED PENNYWORTH, his butler, enters. Bruce takes his costume off as Alfred speaks up.

ALFRED

Any interesting events tonight, sir?

BRUCE

Is there ever?

ALFRED

Well...no...I guess not, sir.

Bruce passes Alfred and heads up into the house proper.
Alfred closes the entrance into the bat cave.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

Sir, you received a call from a
mister Luthor about you're meeting
tomorrow.

BRUCE

Thanks Alfred. Not really sure what
to make of that man. Heard some
disturbing rumors about him.

ALFRED

Indeed. Not everyone is who they
seem to be.

Bruce smiles at Alfred

BRUCE

Are any of us?

ALFRED

I would suppose not, sir. I sure
hope he is a friend and not a
enemy, you've got plenty of the
latter already.

BRUCE

Very true, Alfred, Very true.
Thanks for everything.

(pause)

Alfred, could you make me an
appointment to see Dr. Crane at
Arkham later this week?

ALFRED

Need to talk to someone, sir?

BRUCE

Yeah. Just need to bounce some
things off of him, I trust his
judgement.

ALFRED

Very good, sir. Plan on turning in
soon.

BRUCE

Yeah, I think I will.

ALFRED

Good to hear.

Alfred watches him go up with a look of worry on his face.

ALFRED (CONT'D)
(whispering)
And sleep well.

EXT. WAYNE ENTERPRISES - DAY

Cars drive by as we STEADY on a black limo. The door opens and Bruce exits. He walks up the steps into the building. The doorman named PETER DONOVAN greets him.

PETER
Good morning, Mr. Wayne.

BRUCE
Morning Peter.

PETER
How's life treating you?

BRUCE
Can't complain.

Peter smiles as Bruce opens the door and walks in.

INT. WAYNE ENTERPRISES

As Bruce exits the elevator, his secretary speaks out.

SECRETARY
Morning Mr. Wayne. No calls today,
but Mr. Luthor is waiting in your
office.

BRUCE
Thanks.

INT. BRUCE'S OFFICE

Bruce enters and we PAN OVER and see LEX LUTHOR.

BRUCE
Hi, Bruce Wayne.

LEX
Lex Luthor.

He stands up and they shake hands. After shaking hands, they sit down.

LEX (CONT'D)
I'm quite fond of your office,
Bruce. It's much bigger than mine.

BRUCE
As bad as my night was last night,
you could have my job if you asked
nice enough.

LEX
Lady trouble?

BRUCE
No. Nothing like that. Let's just
say it was a...long night.

LEX
Aren't they all?

Bruce smirks.

LEX (CONT'D)
Well we seem to have avoided an
uncomfortable introduction. It's
amazing what a little small talk
after the hand shake can do. But
let's talk business.

BRUCE
What were you shooting for?

Lex opens up his briefcase and pulls out some papers

LEX
My company has had a rough year. So
what I'm proposing is a joint
venture...a partnership. Think
about it. Lexcorp joined with Wayne
Enterprises. Even the Daily Planet
would be speechless.

BRUCE
It sounds interesting, but I hear
you've had quite a lot of
complaints coming from the people
in Metropolis. I'm not the one to
believe bad press. God knows I have
my own sometime. I even hear
Superman tried to throw you out of
Metropolis.

LEX

You heard about that, huh? Every paper in the area had the same headline.

He makes a gesture with his hands to signal a newspaper headline.

LEX (CONT'D)

Lex Luthor in talks with illegal operations.

Lex sighs.

LEX (CONT'D)

I may be guilty of being a ruthless business man, but I only deal in the world of legitimate businesses. Which is why I come to you as opposed to some others I could have. Sometimes I wonder how gullible people are, following Superman's word like lambs.

BRUCE

If you're going to follow someone's word, why not Superman's?

LEX

Of course...the strongest man in the universe who foils plots of world domination. But certainly you have someone to follow...the Caped-Crusader I hear him called sometimes. Now don't get me wrong, since Superman has been around, crime is way down, people feel safe walking the streets at night, all good things. But he's had it out for me since he first showed up. I don't know why that is. But hey, Bad press is still press..keeps my name out there, right?

BRUCE

Now if anyone get's bad press...it's Batman.

LEX

The masked vigilante is the one I hear the most. But what do you think?

BRUCE

I think he's just a little misunderstood. Most are.

LEX

Indeed. I believe we all misunderstood. At any rate, what do you think of my proposal. A merger of equals, what do you think?

BRUCE

Sounds very interesting. Let's order some food, sit down and go over the numbers, let's see what we are really working with.

They smile at each other and Lex hands over the papers in his hand as Bruce picks up the phone.

INT. OUTSIDE OF BRUCE'S OFFICE

Lex and Bruce exit the office. They shake hands again.

BRUCE

I think we've struck a deal, Lex.

LEX

Great.

Lex walks off down the stairs.

Once on the street he gets into his limo and it drives off.

INT. LIMO - DAY

Lex picks up his cell phone and dials.

LEX

Hello. Yeah just got out of the meeting. Yeah he seemed very interested, sounds like Wayne Enterprises and Lexcorp will soon be one.

He laughs into the phone.

LEX (CONT'D)

This is just the beginning, just the beginning.

EXT. GOTHAM CHEMICAL PLANT - NIGHT

The plant seems quiet until a NO NAME CROOK runs up and kicks the door down. Three squad cars pull up and James Gordon, along with Bullock, exits.

INT. GOTHAM CHEMICAL PLANT

The crook takes a turn down the gantry. Three officers below look up.

GORDON

Fire at will. Don't hit him, just
let him know we want him.

They fire a shot up. The bullet connects with the bottom of the gantry, causing sparks to fly up. The crook is caught off guard and stumbles back to the edge of the rail. He catches himself, looks down at the police.

Two police officers appear on the gantry right in front of the Crook.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Give yourself up, there is no where
to run.

CROOK

I ain't giving up that easy.

He charges the two officers, and they are unable to react to it, and get knocked over. The crook climbs up another level. Runs along the thin passageway.

A police officer appears on each side of the passageway, the Crook is stuck in the middle. The two police officers start toward him, and the Crook looks around for an escape.

He looks down at the platform below and suddenly leaps over the rail and lands on the platform below. He looks up at the two police officers a a smile, pleased with himself. He waves good bye and turns to leave.

Suddenly the platform collapses and the Crooks falls and lands in the tank of acid. It bubbles as Gordon sighs.

Other officers pour in as we STEADY on Gordon's uneasy face.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. GOTHAM CHEMICAL PLANT

We PAN THROUGH the plant and STOP on the acid tank of which the crook fell into earlier. A hand slowly reaches out, covered in acid and bleached a PALE WHITE.

EXT. GOTHAM STREETS - DAY

We STEADY on Bruce as he walks down the sidewalk.

SCREEN TEXT

One month later

Bruce turns the corner and bumps into a beautiful woman named SELINA KYLE. They both drop their papers on the ground.

BRUCE

I'm sorry.

SELINA

No. It's my fault. I'm just not myself today.

He picks her papers up and hands them to her.

BRUCE

I know how you feel.

He holds his hand out.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Hi. Bruce Wayne.

She shakes his hand.

SELINA

Selina Kyle. Nice to meet you. Bruce Wayne huh? The same Bruce Wayne who runs Wayne Enterprises?

BRUCE

Guilty.

SELINA

I thought you looked familiar. Spending your money on anything big today?

BRUCE

Well my driver is picking me up on this corner.

SELINA

Oh a driver huh? Well I figured a rich playboy like you would need one.

BRUCE

To tell you the truth, I'm not as much of a ladies man.

SELINA

No?

He shakes his head no.

SELINA (CONT'D)

Don't take this as scratching at your trust fund or anything, but would you like to go out sometime?

BRUCE

Yeah. Definitely.

SELINA

Great. Here's my number.

She writes it down on a small piece of paper from her purse and hands it to him. Bruce puts it in his coat pocket.

SELENA

Call me.

BRUCE

I definitely will.

She winks, then smiles. Bruce watches her walk off as Alfred pulls up and opens his door. He watches Bruce watch Selina off.

ALFRED

Beautiful woman, sir.

He turns to Alfred.

BRUCE

Yeah. She sure is.

Bruce gets in the limo.

ALFRED
Where to sir?

BRUCE
Home.

Alfred nods and drives off.

INT. GOTHAM BANK

The bank runs as usual until a man in a purple suit and hat strolls in. His face is covered by the hat as he walks down the bank, speaking out loud.

MAN
I hate banks. They put money in your account and talk about it like it's their own. That's why I've decided to rob this one. It's nothing personal folks...

He pulls the hat off, revealing the NO NAME CROOK who fell into the acid. His skin is bleached and his lips are a bright red. This is the JOKER.

JOKER
...just a little visit from the Joker!

Everybody screams as a security guard runs for him. Joker turns and fires a shot into the guard from a handgun.

JOKER (CONT'D)
Back up little boy blue.

His laugh is a disturbing one, as if he enjoyed killing the security guard.

JOKER (CONT'D)
Now I want you to put all the money you can into this bag. No funny business...that's my job.

He cackles with glee as they put the money into the bag. One of the tellers, who is frightened, pushes the small button to alert the police. The alarm rings out, and the Joker looks to the teller and fires a shot into his chest.

INT. WAYNE MANOR

Bruce sits in his office as Alfred comes in.

ALFRED

Sir...

Bruce looks up and sees Alfred pointing out the window, where the BAT SIGNAL shines brightly.

INT. BAT CAVE

Bruce, who is now in the Batman costume, walks over to the Batmobile. The hatch opens and Batman gets in.

INT. GOTHAM BANK

Joker smiles as they stuff the bags with money. As they put the money in, several squad cars begin to pull up outside.

EXT. GOTHAM BANK - DAY

Gordon exits his car just as the Batmobile pulls up. Batman exits and walks past the cars. He pushes the doors open with both hands. Joker turns and smiles.

JOKER

Ah the winged bat has shown up.

Batman stalks toward him, glaring at the Joker.

BATMAN

I don't know who you are, but--

JOKER

--but I know who you are. You're the Batman...Gotham's protector. You see my skin didn't always look like this. I once had a nice color skin like yourself. But that pathetic excuse for a police force knocked me into a tank of acid. Good excuse for doing this, huh?

Batman doesn't respond.

JOKER (CONT'D)

I've seen the other side of the threshold. I've been at death's door...but he wasn't home.

He cackles with glee as Batman walks toward him some more.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Do you know what my favorite place is, Batman? The amusement park. It's so full of life and color.

Batman is sick of the Joker's speeches and lays a punch into Joker's face. Joker rises and Batman goes for another punch but Joker Blocks it.

BATMAN

Who are you?

JOKER

Who am I? Why I'm the Joker of course.

A fist pops out of the Joker's jacket and slams into Batman's jaw. Joker runs at him, but Batman just flips him over his shoulder. Joker rises and runs to tackle Batman. They tumble across the floor until they separate from each other.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Sorry Batman, but I'm going to have to get going, you see all those crates are full of bombs. I really don't want to be here when they go off, but you can tell me all about it...if you live.

Joker pulls out a small box and hurls it onto the ground. Green smoke billows around the bank where they were standing. When it clears, Joker has vanished.

Batman yells at everyone to run out of the bank, just as the last of the customers escape and Batman is exiting, the bombs go off and the entire Bank explodes, throwing Batman across the street and slams him against the wall of building.

INT. WAYNE MANOR

Bruce sits at his desk as Alfred enters with tea. Alfred takes note that Bruce is in deep thought.

ALFRED

Something wrong, sir?

BRUCE

It's this...Joker.

ALFRED

Joker, sir?

BRUCE

Here.

He shows Alfred the paper, who is taken back by the Joker's evil face.

ALFRED

Not a very kind looking face if I may say so.

BRUCE

He said it wasn't time for the climax. He's going to strike again.

ALFRED

Do you know where, sir?

BRUCE

No.

He stands up and looks out the large window.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Maybe I can get some clues from where all this started.

INT. POLICE STATION, GORDON'S OFFICE

Gordon sits at his desk doing paper work. The silence is broken by Batman's voice from outside of the window.

BATMAN

Commissioner...

He turns, startled.

GORDON

Oh. It's just you. You know creeping through someone's window could give them a heart attack.

BATMAN

What do you know about this Joker?

GORDON

Not much. He sort of just popped out of no where.

BATMAN

What about that accident at the chemical plant?

Gordon is suddenly reminded of the event that most likely gave birth to the Joker.

GORDON

I forgot all about that. But it doesn't help much.

(MORE)

GORDON (CONT'D)

I still have no idea of his real name...not even through police records. His name, age...all of it...it was never found out. Looks like we can add another name to the list of freaks around here.

Gordon looks back at him.

GORDON (CONT'D)

No offense.

Batman smiles thinly, but is still very serious.

BATMAN

None taken.

GORDON

I don't know...maybe this isn't connected at all to the accident. He looks back, but Batman's gone.

EXT. GOTHAM CHEMICAL PLANT - MID-DAY

The Batmobile drives up and parks. The hatch opens and Batman exits, walking into the plant. He looks around, then pulls out a small flashlight. He shines the light up to the gantry and spots the bullet hole in the bottom. He aims the light down, seeing the tank of acid. He then takes out a small recorder.

BATMAN

I've found a bullet hole in the bottom of one of the walkways. Given the fact that they chased an unknown criminal into this place, and that the Joker mentioned something about being born from a carefree life...I'm leaning even closer to the fact that this is where it happened.

He stops recording.

EXT. FUN TIME AMUSEMENT - NIGHT

We PAN THROUGH the park, seeing broken park attractions and rides. We hear the Joker's voice echo through it.

JOKER

(V.O.)

So this is all the more reason to take him to my favorite place.

(MORE)

JOKER (CONT'D)

It's not exactly an original plan,
but I'm not concerned with that at
this time.

We STOP and see Joker with his HENCHMEN.

JOKER (CONT'D)

I've always loved hostage plans.
But this is not just a hostage
plan, this is also a plan to bring
Batman to me.

Joker points his finger at one of his henchman.

JOKER (CONT'D)

You!

HENCHMAN

Me?

JOKER

Come up with a good reason why
Batman is a thorn in my side.

The henchman stammers, and the Joker shoots him.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Too late.

He cackles with glee.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Sometimes I wonder why people go
into crime.

He continues to laugh.

INT. SELINA KYLE'S APARTMENT

Selina is not seen in the living room as the phone rings. Her
answering machine comes on.

SELINA'S VOICE

(on machine)

Hi I'm not home, so just leave a
message and I'll get back to you.

It beeps as Bruce's voice comes on.

BRUCE'S VOICE

Selina...it's Bruce. I was just
calling to see if you'd like to go
out Saturday.

(MORE)

BRUCE'S VOICE (CONT'D)

I'll be home at about eleven
tonight. So if you're
up...just...give me a call...

EXT. GOTHAM STREETS - NIGHT

Bruce, who is Batman at this time, speaks on the pay phone in the pouring rain.

BATMAN

...bye.

INT. SELINA'S APARTMENT

Selina walks out of the bedroom dressed in the CATWOMAN attire. She starts to call Bruce back, but stops.

EXT. DIAMOND SHOP - NIGHT

We PAN DOWN from the night sky and see a FEMALE FIGURE slinking across the roof of the shop. We come in close and see that this is Catwoman.

She jumps down to the front of the building. She looks inside the window and smiles at the sight of an expensive diamond necklace.

She places her claw on the window and cuts a large circle into it. She pulls the cut piece of the window out and places it on the ground.

EXT. ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

Batman sits perched on the top of the roof, his cape flowing. He looks down and sees Catwoman. Curious of who this mysterious woman is, he prepares to go after her.

EXT. DIAMOND SHOP - NIGHT

As she steps through the window, she sees a shadow overlap her. She turns and sees Batman.

CATWOMAN

Batman...

She swipes at him. Batman backs away and grabs her leg as she kicks for him. He pulls her and hurls her out onto the street. She rises and pulls out her whip.

CATWOMAN (CONT'D)

Love that costume. Does it come off
easily?

She swings at him with her whip, breaking the skin on his face and bringing blood to the surface. She runs at him. Batman ducks her swing and goes to punch her but stops.

CATWOMAN (CONT'D)

Can't hit a woman?

She rears back and rams her knee into his stomach. He falls back and lands as she goes for another kick, but Batman grabs her foot and pushes her back. She falls back and hisses at him, then runs off down the street.

BATMAN

Wait!

She jumps up and climbs up the ladder to a roof. Batman watches her, then he touches his face, still bleeding. He wipes the blood off his hands then looks up to where Catwoman went.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. ABANDONED AMUSEMENT PARK - NIGHT

Joker walks down the amusement park. He sighs at the broken down machinery.

JOKER

Where's a good mechanic when you need one?

He slams his hand into a broken roller coaster.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Still, this rusty piece of scrap metal could prove useful for Gordon's new home away from home.

He giggles with anticipation.

INT. BAT CAVE

Bruce sits at the Bat-Computer.

BRUCE

She was...so familiar.

INT. POLICE STATION, GORDON'S OFFICE

Gordon sits at his desk as the secretary's voice is heard outside.

SECRETARY

(outside)

Excuse me but...who are--

Before she can finish, the doors are pushed open. Joker, with the hat over his head in the same fashion as it was during the bank robbery, stands in the doorway.

JOKER

Hello Commissioner!

He laughs as he pulls the hat off.

JOKER (CONT'D)

I think of you as my father, Gordon, I really do.

GORDON

How the hell did you get in here?

JOKER
You're secretary was a push over.

He sits on the desk in front of Gordon.

JOKER (CONT'D)
You know you really shouldn't work
late at night like this...it's not
healthy.

He laughs hysterically.

JOKER (CONT'D)
But really, aren't all nights the
same? You come to work, spend all
day solving crimes from some whack
job who had some freak accident
happen to him, then go home just to
do it all over again tomorrow.

A pause.

JOKER (CONT'D)
It's a rut!

He laughs more.

JOKER (CONT'D)
It's actually kind of funny too.

EXT. ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

Batman sits perched as he waits for Catwoman.

BATMAN
(to himself)
Come on. Come on.

A silence is broken as he sees Catwoman sneaking across a
roof.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
Bingo.

EXT. ADAM'S DIAMONDS, ROOF - NIGHT

As Catwoman sneaks across the roof, Batman lands in front of
her.

BATMAN
You don't want to do this.

CATWOMAN

Why not? Is there something else
you had in mind?

BATMAN

I...

Pointing to his Batman suit

CATWOMAN

I see you already brought your
rubber.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Four of Joker's men drag Gordon, who is knocked out, from the station and throw him into the back of a van. As they throw him in, Joker hears the commotion and looks up to see Batman and Catwoman.

JOKER

Hello...what's this?

EXT. ADAM'S DIAMONDS, ROOF - NIGHT

Batman grabs her and holds her.

BATMAN

What's your name, your real name.

A pause.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Listen to me...this isn't the life
you want to live. A life of crime
isn't--

CATWOMAN

--the answer? What do you care? She
rears back and kicks him away.

He stands there as we PAN BACK and see the Joker with a gun pointed at Catwoman. Batman takes note of him and runs for Catwoman.

BATMAN

Watch Out!

The bullet flies out and strikes Catwoman in the back. The blood pours out from her back as she stumbles and falls onto the ground. Batman cradles her in his arms as the Joker cackles with glee.

JOKER

Curiosity is what killed the cat,
you know?

BATMAN

Don't worry, I won't let you die.

She opens her eyes, smiling at Batman.

CATWOMAN

(weak)

I...I guess the Batman really did
win after all. That's what everyone
said would happen.

Batman looks up at Joker with rage.

JOKER

Sorry about what happened to your
girlfriend there.

He giggles as Batman runs at him. Batman punches the Joker
down. He points the gun at him, but Batman just kicks it
away. He holds Joker up in the air by his suit.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Come now, Batman, could you really
have gotten that attached to her in
that short amount of time?

Even more enraged by the Joker's arrogance, he hurls him
across the roof. He runs across and knees Joker in the mouth.
He holds him up again and punches him.

As the Joker lays there, three of his henchmen climb up onto
the roof from the ladder below. The Joker, taken back by
Batman's rage, scurries off the roof.

The henchmen come in on all sides of Batman. He blocks a
punch and head-butts one, then turns and kicks one back.
Batman blocks a kick and delivers a strike into the stomach
of another.

Batman runs over and looks to see where Joker is. The van
takes off down the street. He looks over towards Catwoman,
she is gone.

FROM BATMAN'S REACTION WE FADE OUT.

EXT. FUN TIME AMUSEMENT - DAY

One of the seats for the roller coaster is filled with
Gordon. He sits tied up and a gag in his mouth.

JOKER
(off-screen)
Are we having fun?

Gordon turns to see the Joker walking down the track.

JOKER (CONT'D)
This is nothing personal towards
you, Gordon, I just need someone
like you to help myself. Once
Batman figures out where you are,
the climax will begin. This is the
perfect place. Don't you agree?

Joker slumps down in the seat in front of Gordon, who begins
to spout something out under the gag.

JOKER (CONT'D)
Sorry? I can't understand you. He
giggles and rips the gag out.

GORDON
Where are we?

JOKER
Fun Time Amusement of course. Quite
a shame they shut this down a few
years ago. But we can have all the
fun we want now.

EXT. FUN TIME AMUSEMENT - DAY

Joker is busting with anticipation of Batman's arrival as he
stands against one of the rides. He taps his foot on the
ground quickly.

JOKER
Where is he?

Gordon speaks out from the henchmen that are holding him.

GORDON
He won't be here unless there's
some clues. You want Batman? You
have to give him clues.

Joker looks at Gordon with a disgusted face.

JOKER
Quiet! A clue is already in place,
it has been since the first bank
robbery I pulled off.

INT. WAYNE MANOR, LIVING ROOM

Bruce watches the news.

NEWS CASTER

With Commissioner Gordon being taken, a sense of fear is surrounding Gotham City. Even the sergeant of police, Harvey Bullock, is clueless.

The broadcast cuts to Harvey Bullock being interviewed outside of police headquarters.

BULLOCK

Were all in the dark here. No one knows who could have taking him.

EXT. POLICE STATION, ROOF - NIGHT

Bullock stands next to the Bat Signal. He turns to an officer.

BULLOCK

Fire it up.

He flips it on and the signal lights up the night sky.

Batman steps out of the darkness.

BATMAN

Bullock...

Bullock turns.

BULLOCK

I hate to say this, but I need your help.

BATMAN

The Commissioner?

BULLOCK

Yeah. You got anything?

BATMAN

I'm just as much in the dark as you are.

BULLOCK

What's really strange is that there were no clues.

BATMAN
What about the night security
cameras?

Bullock thinks, then realizes what an idiot he's been.

BULLOCK
And people wonder why the
Commissioner trusts you.

INT. SECURITY ROOM

Batman and Bullock watch the tapes. From the view of Gordon's office, we see the Joker burst in.

JOKER
(on tape)
Hello Commissioner!

BATMAN
Joker...

Bullock pulls the radio out of his coat.

BULLOCK
Bullock to Rundale.

OFFICER RUNDALE answers.

RUNDALE
Rundale here.

BULLOCK
Alert the media that we know who
took the Commissioner.

Bullock puts his radio back and turns, but Batman is gone.

INT. BAT CAVE

Bruce is out of the Batman attire as he sits at the Bat-Computer.

BRUCE
Where could he have taken him?

He thinks hard, but has no clue of where he could be. Alfred walks in.

ALFRED
Any luck, sir?

BRUCE

None.

ALFRED

Pardon my intrusion, sir, but could your first confrontation with this Joker shed some light on this?

BRUCE

Nothing that I can think of.

A pause.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Wait.

The Joker's voice echoes through his head.

JOKER

(V.O.)

Do you know what my favorite place is, Batman? The amusement park. It's so full of life and color.

BRUCE

That's it. He's taken him to an amusement park. But which one? He probably didn't take him to a public amusement park.

Bruce types into the computer.

COMPUTER TEXT

Broken down amusement parks in Gotham City

A pause followed by more text on the computer.

COMPUTER TEXT (CONT'D)

One match; Fun Time Amusement. Closed down three years ago.

Bruce takes off.

ALFRED

Good show, sir.

EXT. FUN TIME AMUSEMENT - NIGHT

Joker stands on top of the roller coaster with a telescope. Through the scope he can see the Batmobile speeding toward the park. He giggles and points forward. We PAN DOWN and see two white vans drive out for the Batmobile.

EXT. GOTHAM STREETS - NIGHT

The Batmobile speeds down the wet road. Rain pounds down on the Batmobile as it stops dead in it's tracks.

INT. BATMOBILE

Batman stares intently at the white vans as he revs up the engine.

EXT. GOTHAM STREETS - NIGHT

Batman continues to rev the engine. After a moment, he speeds toward the vans. From out of the front of the Batmobile sticks out a large flat object.

As he speeds down towards them, he drives in between them. The large object splits, crashing into the vans and causing them to hurl away in opposite directions.

EXT. TOP OF ROLLER COASTER - NIGHT

Joker watches with a disappointed look on his face.

EXT. FUN TIME AMUSEMENT GROUNDS - NIGHT

As the Batmobile comes to a halt, two lights come on across from where the Batmobile is parked. Two men on motorcycles suddenly come barreling out at Batman.

The Batmobile speeds ahead and zips past them, then makes a u-turn to face them. The men on the motorcycles follow suit, making a u-turn to face their opponent.

The motorcycles speed toward the Batmobile as a large protective shield wraps around it. The men crash into it and fly off their bikes in slow-motion. The hatch opens and Batman exits as another motorcycle comes toward him.

Batman runs and leaps forward, kicking the man off the motorcycle. Joker shouts out from on top of the roller coaster.

JOKER

You've not won yet, Batman. You still need to save the Commissioner. But in order to get to him, you need to get to the top of this roller coaster.

The Joker laughs as Batman runs over and climbs up the coaster.

He pulls himself up and stares at the Joker.

BATMAN

Joker...

JOKER

You've taken out some of my best men. Quite impressive.

BATMAN

Give me the Commissioner...

JOKER

Of course, but you'll have to catch him first.

Joker laughs and kicks Gordon off. Batman leaps down and grabs Gordon, then fires his grappling hook, catching it on the top of the coaster.

The wire becomes taut and they suspend in mid-air above the ground. Batman disconnects the wire and they drop.

BATMAN

Get out of here.

GORDON

Thank you.

Batman nods as Gordon runs off.

GORDON (CONT'D)

I'll get some back up!

Batman looks up and sees the Joker jumping down at him. He prepares for impact as the Joker connects with him. They tumble across the grounds and separate from each other. Joker is the first up.

JOKER

That was a long fall wasn't it, Bats?

He laughs hysterically as Batman runs in and rams into him. Batman runs over kicks Joker in the face. Batman starts to go in again, but Joker rises and kicks him back. Joker takes off down the park.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. HAUNTED HOUSE ATTRACTION

The Joker cackles as he runs through the haunted house. Batman gives chase through the attraction as the Joker's voice echoes through it.

JOKER

(off-screen)

I was able to get all the rides in perfect working order, Batman. Now we can have the honeymoon we've always wanted.

He laughs as the ride begins to start up. Various things pop up out of no where as Batman searches for his opponent. As Batman continues through, the Joker pops out and kicks him in the face.

Batman blocks his other kick and punches him. He punches him again and again until he knocks him out of the back door to the house. As Batman stalks toward him, Joker gets up and runs down the park, cackling with glee.

EXT. GOTHAM STREETS - NIGHT

Police cars speed down the road toward Fun Time Amusement.

EXT. BUMPER CARS - NIGHT

Batman sees the Joker run into the bumper cars and gives chase. As Batman stands in the silence, he hears the Joker's laugh. He turns and sees the Joker driving a bumper car toward him.

He leaps up and lands on the hood of the car. Joker's insane laughter continues as Batman pulls out a batarang and hurls it into the control box. It sparks and the bumper cars ride shuts down.

JOKER

Well you're no fun.

As the car comes to a halt, Batman is hurled off. He sees Joker running for him and blocks his kick. He delivers a punch to his jaw, then to his stomach. As Batman continues for him, Joker sprays gas from his flower, confusing Batman. When it clears, Joker has vanished.

EXT. GOTHAM STREETS - NIGHT

Police cars continue to head for Fun Time Amusement.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The parking lot, which was used for parking for Fun Time Amusement, is bare of anything except a few metal poles on the ground. A few papers fly across the pavement as Joker comes running down the area.

Closely behind him is Batman. Joker stops and turns to face Batman, giggling the whole time.

Batman walks toward him slowly.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Music during this fight is absent as Batman continues his walk toward the Joker. Without warning, Joker dashes toward him.

Batman blocks a punch and lays a fist into his chest, then into his jaw. He grabs Joker by the jacket and flings him across the area.

Batman walks toward him, but Joker kicks him and grabs a metal pole. He swings it and cracks it into Batman's side. He grunts and falls as the Joker raises it above him again. Batman trips Joker to the ground and flings the pole away. He holds him up into the air.

JOKER

You wouldn't hit a clown would you?

He punches the Joker dead in the face. Joker rises up and plants a punch into Batman's chest. He continues to knock Batman back until Batman grabs his fist.

BATMAN

You're going to Arkham.

JOKER

(giggling)

I'm afraid not, Batman. I'm not going anywhere. And trust me, this isn't the only confrontation we'll have.

Joker rears back and head-butts Batman. Batman blocks his punch and rams him in the stomach with his knee, then kicks him back onto the ground. Batman picks him up and holds him there again. A silence falls between them.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Go ahead...make my day...

BATMAN

Let's see you play your games when
you are in Arkham Asylum.

The Joker has a evil smile

JOKER

In your dreams, Bats

A spray comes out of a flower that is on the Joker's shirt.
Batman lets go over The Joker and falls back, within seconds
he is on the ground unable to move.

Some of The Joker's henchmen comes out of the darkness
towards Batman. The Joker is trying to get breath back, still
a little out of it from his battle with Batman.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Looks like your wings have been
clipped, Batman.

Batman is struggling to get up, but he cannot, he is
completely paralyzed.

JOKER (CONT'D)

I got good news and bad news for
you Batman. The good news is this
paralyzing spray is only temporary.
But the bad news is by the time it
wares off, you'll be...well dead

The Joker starts to laugh uncontrollable..even his henchman,
now no longer worried about Batman start to laugh as well.

Suddenly Catwoman appears behind the Joker

CATWOMAN

Never send a Bat to do a woman's
job.

The Joker turns and Catwoman lays a hard shot into Joker's
face, knocking him out cold. The henchmen starts to attack
her, but Catwoman takes out her whip and manhandles them all.
Batman sits up, the effects of the spray slowly going away.
He looks at Catwoman in the stunned silence.

Catwoman stands over the unconscious Joker

CATWOMAN (CONT'D)
Don't underestimate the wrath of a
cat scorned.

She looks over at Batman and blows him a kiss, then
disappears into the night.

Gordon shows up moments later.

GORDON
You OK, Batman?

BATMAN
Yeah, I am fine. I'll be just fine.

Later. The police are cleaning up the situation. A van takes
Joker away to Arkham Asylum. Batman speaks with Gordon.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
This isn't the end. He'll be back.

GORDON
Yeah. You're probably right.

Gordon pauses.

GORDON (CONT'D)
Look, Batman. I just want to say--

BATMAN
Jim...it's okay.

Gordon half-smiles.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - EVENING

Bruce knocks on an apartment door. It opens, Selina is
standing there in a dress. They smile at each other. In the
background a black cat and a grey cat sit on the dinner table
drinking out of a bowl.

SALINA
Glad you made it, and only 1 hour
late

BRUCE
Yeah, sorry about that. I had to
deal with some joker at the office
who wanted to clown around.

Selina and Bruce head down the hallway to the elevators.

EXT. SALINA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

There is a limo waiting for them, Salina is very impressed.

SALINA
Well you definitely know how to
impress a lady.

INT. RESTURANT - NIGHT

Bruce and Salina are seated in a booth in one corner of the
resturant. They sit across from each other.

SALINA
Nice place, you bring all your
ladies here?

BRUCE
No, I don't have any ladies. My
work keeps me from having any kind
of sustained relationship. Most
women don't stick around a guy who
is so absorbed by his work.

SALINA
Lucky for you I am not most women.
But tell me Bruce's life story.

BRUCE
Not much to say on that,
it's...complicated, I'm
complicated. I supposed I should
tell you know, I have issues.

SALINA
We all have issues, Bruce, they key
is to find that special one who
excepts you, issues and all. I am
complicated myself, maybe we can
help each other.

Bruce likes the sound of that

BRUCE
So what's your story?

Salina looks away for a moment.

SALINA
Nothing worth telling. Grew up in a
dysfunctional home, my only friends
were my two cats. They were they
only ones who understood me.

BRUCE
No friends? Had to be lonely

Salina takes a slight offense to that comment.

SALINA
As I said, my cats where my
friends. You'd be surprised at how
human like cats can be. Don't
underestimate a cat.

There is an awkward silence.

EXT. RESTURANT - NIGHT

Bruce and Salina are leaving the resturant. Someone walking
their dog walks right in front of them. Salina makes a quick,
scared step back, looking at the dog with anger.

BRUCE
Scared of dogs?

SALINA
Something like that.

Bruce's limo pulls around, and they get in.

They pull in front of Salina's building. Bruce gets out and
comes around and opens the door for Salina. He walks her up
to the front door.

BRUCE
I enjoyed tonight, hope I didn't
bore you too much.

SALINA
Hardly. I find you very fascinating
Mr. Bruce Wayne. I believe us to be
two lost souls, I'd really like to
find our way together.

BRUCE
Yeah, I would like that very much.

He grabs Salina and gives her a passionate kiss. Salina pulls
away, visible moved and impressed.

SALINA
Yes well, thank you very much for
the wonderful evening.

Bruce smiles and starts back to the limo. Salina just watches
him.

He gets in and Alfred closes the door and walks back to the driver's side.

Salina starts to head in

BRUCE
Salina, wait.

She turns around and Bruce has rolled down the window.

BRUCE (CONT'D)
What are your plans tomorrow?

SALINA
I don't have any, why?

BRUCE
I'd like you to meet my parents.

Salina smiles

EXT. GOTHAM CEMENTARY - DAY

Bruce and Salina walk along the path. Bruce leads Salina up a hill to a grave on top of the highest hill in the cementary. They stand there for a moment

CLOSE-UP OF GRAVE

The grave says Martha and Thomas Wayne.

EXT. GOTHAM CEMENTARY - DAY

Salina places a bouquet of flowers at the grave site. She holds Bruce, rubbing his shoulders. She is being the strong one for Bruce.

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLEM - NIGHT

Bruce, get out of the car and heads into Arkham, looking around to see if anyone sees him.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLEM - NIGHT

Bruce is sitting in a waiting area. There is a closed door, which reads "Dr. Jonathan Crane, Director and Chief of Staff".

The door opens and a man in his mid-forties, but looking a lot older and tired is standing there. He sees Bruce and gives him a smile.

Dr. Crane walks over and holds out his hand.

DR CRANE

I have been here at Arkham for one year, I wondered how long it would be before I had the chance to meet to great Bruce Wayne.

BRUCE

Sorry, I haven't come by sooner, work keeps me away a lot.

DR CRANE

Yes, I understand, plus I don't get invited to the same types of parties you do..heck I don't get invited to parties.

He chuckles to himself.

DR CRANE (CONT'D)

So, is work what brings you to me today? Feeling over worked?

BRUCE

No, more personal than that.

Dr Crane picks up the seriousness of Bruce's statement.

DR CRANE

Of, course. Please come in and let's talk.

INT. DR DRANE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Dr Crane's office is a large room, with a big desk over by the window. There are many diplomas on the walls, and every bookcase is full of psychology books.

Dr Crane gestures for Bruce to sit in one of two chairs that are near a fireplace. Dr Crane sits in the other.

BRUCE

Again, I want to thank you for being able to see my after hours like this.

DR CRANE

Sounded like you needed my help, and I always make myself available to people, especially when they donate as much to this institution as you have, you should call this place Wayne Asylum.

BRUCE
There already is a Wayne
Asylum...it call my home.

They both have a good laugh.

DR CRANE
But now, you did come for a reason,
and I want to hear about that. How
can I help, Bruce.

Bruce clears his throat, this is totally out of his comfort
level.

BRUCE
Well, I really don't know how to
explain it. I live a good life, I
even recently met a very nice
woman, I suppose most people would
love to be in my place. But I can't
seem to stop having this sense of
dread.

DR CRANE
Dread, how so?

BRUCE
I don't know, just a feeling that
keep me from being happy. Plus I
have these dreams about my parents.

DR CRANE
Yes, per your request I have looked
at your file, I am sorry to hear
about your parents. It is always
hard on a child to lose his
parents, but especially the
circumstances of your loss..that
can be very dramatic on a child. A
drama that rarely goes away when
that child becomes an adult.

BRUCE
Yes, that is true.

DR CRANE
What are those dreams like.

BRUCE
Well, I have dreams of that night,
sometimes just as it happened,
sometimes I am the man who shot my
parents.

(MORE)

BRUCE (CONT'D)

But the ones that disturb me the most, and cause me not to sleep for nights on end are the ones where I am searching for the killer and I run into my parents, and they say they no longer except me as their child. That I was not able to stop them from being killed, and I never will be able to be someone they are proud of.

DR CRANE

You are not the reason your parents died, Bruce. That is the child in you blaming himself. You could not stop the killer from doing what he did. You were only a child, you are lucky he did not kill you as well.

BRUCE

Am I? Sometimes I feel like it would have been better if I had died with them, or even instead of them.

DR CRANE

You must not think like that. Look at all the good things Wayne Enterprises has done over the years. Look at what you have done for this community. You have used your wealth and position in society to make this city a better place to live.

Bruce stands up and goes over the a window and looks out.

BRUCE

But there is still so much crime and evil out there.

DR CRANE

Yes, and that will never change. You'll drive yourself mad if you try to fix all of society's problems. Just feel good that you are able to fix the ones you can. Otherwise you run the risk of developing a split personality. Next thing you know you'll be living dual lives..and that is hard on a psyche. You're nightmares would get even more intense then.

Bruce tries not to show a reaction to that last statement.

BRUCE

Yes, well I definitely don't want that. So what do you suggest for me, Doctor?

DR CRANE

Well, you are battling demons you've had since childhood. No easy or quick fixes. Can't give you a pill and have you call me in the morning. No, I will need to see you again, probably have regular visits for some time. But I promise you, we will work through this together, you are not alone. Remember that, you can only be alone if you choose to be. There will always been someone in your life that when you can't turn to anyone else, they will be there.

BRUCE

Thanks, Doc..but I don't have anyone like that, never have.

DR CRANE

Oh yes you do, you just don't know it. But one day, you will realize who that is. Let us agree to meet from time to time, if nothing else, maybe we can work on those nightmares you're having. A busy man like yourself, should at least be able to get a good night sleep.

Dr Crane gets up and shakes Bruce's hand. He walks him out of the office.

DR CRANE (CONT'D)

Here is my direct number, anytime you need to meet, just call and I will make time for you.

Dr Crane hands him a slip of paper, and Bruce leaves the office. Dr Crane stands there and watches him go, shaking his head. Then he goes back into his office and closes the door.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLEM - NIGHT

We PAN THROUGH the dark halls of Arkham. We see the cells of inmates. We stop on Joker's cell. We hear his laugh echo through the halls.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

Batman sits perched on the roofs. Soft piano music plays as we PAN ACROSS his face.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW.