Legends Of the Dark Knight The Longest Hours

By

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Characters created by Bob Kane
"Go to Heaven for the climate, Hell for the company."

-Mark Twain

The letters fade into darkness.

OPENING CREDITS

The credits roll over an aerial shot of Gotham, ending on an old, dark rooftop.

EXT.GOTHAM ROOFTOP-NIGHT

Batman kneels over the edge of the rooftop. His cape swings with the wind.

    JIM GORDON(OS)
    You can’t always run from him...

Jim steps out from the darkness and stands behind Batman with his hands in his coat pocket.

    JIM GORDON
    Sooner or later you have to stand up to him. Go to him. The longer you wait for him to come to you the stronger his reign of terror grows.

Batman stands...

    JIM GORDON
    What are you afraid of?

    BATMAN
    What I might do.

    JIM GORDON
    Some things have to be done. He must be stopped.

    BATMAN
    Murder leaves me at their level. A level I promised myself I’d never stoop to again.

    JIM GORDON
    Barbara will never walk again. The trauma has left her emotionally scarred. She doesn’t fucking remember me.

Batman turns to face Jim...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JIM GORDON
I’m asking you as a friend.

He looks off into the distance and then back at Batman...

JIM GORDON
Please...stop The Joker...end this damn game once and for all.

Batman puts his hand on Jim’s shoulder.

BATMAN
You can’t give up, Jim.

He turns and steps to the edge.

BATMAN
I’ll stop him.

The bat-signal flashes into the sky...

BATMAN
Somehow, I’ll stop him.

Batman leaps over the edge and glides into the shadows. Jim steps to the edge and looks down at Gotham.

JIM GORDON
I pray you do.

He pulls his pistol out...

JIM GORDON
I don’t know how much longer I can do this...

EXT.GOTHAM STREET-NIGHT

The bat mobile roars down the street, passing both cars and pedestrians. A building explodes down at the other end of the street. The bat mobile SPEEDS towards the flames and smoke.

EXT.GOTHAM POST OFFICE-NIGHT

Flames engulf the entire Post Office. Women and children scream as they flee the scene.

THE JOKER crawls out of the flames. Blood dripping from his nose. He is beaten and worn.

The bat mobile arrives at the scene. Batman leaps out of the vehicle and stands above The Joker.

(CONTINUED)
THE JOKER
This....wasn’t....me...

Batman grabs The Joker and lifts him over his shoulder.

BATMAN
What have you done here!

THE JOKER
It...was....

He chuckles...

THE JOKER
DENT.

An armored police vehicle arrives. Batman tosses The Joker into the back and shuts the doors tightly. FOUR OFFICERS exits the vehicle.

BATMAN
Take him to Arkham.

OFFICER
What about this mess?

BATMAN
The fire department should be here shortly. Just get him out of here.

The officers jump back into the vehicle, and it speeds off. Two fire engines speed to the building. As they begin to put out the flames, TWO-FACE’S silhouette is seen stepping out of the smoke.

Batman stairs at the shadow, but as the smoke clears, TWO-FACE is gone.

BATMAN
It can’t be.

Jim Gordon’s squad car brakes next to Batman, he walks out of the car.

BATMAN
Gordon, something is wrong here.

JIM GORDON
No shit. The post office will take months to fix.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

BATMAN
It’s not that. I found The Joker here. He was badly beaten.

JIM GORDON
What?

BATMAN
He may be crazy but he’s not stupid. If this was his doing, he wouldn’t have been hurt.

JIM GORDON
I don’t understand. I mean this has his name written all over it.

BATMAN
That’s not all. He told me that DENT did this.

Jim stairs at Batman...

JIM GORDON
Harvey? That’s impossible he wouldn’t do a thing like this. besides, he’s dead.

BATMAN
I saw someone in the smoke.

JIM GORDON
You think it was Dent?

BATMAN
I can’t be sure.

JIM GORDON
Where’s The Joker now?

BATMAN
On his way to Arkham.

JIM GORDON
The roads are all closed due to construction. They’ll have to take a different route.

BATMAN
Different?

JIM GORDON
Go through the country-side.

A FIRE FIGHTER(33) steps up to Batman.
FIRE FIGHTER
The Batman?

He shakes his hand...

BATMAN
The real heroes of Gotham.

FIRE FIGHTER
My kids love you man!

BATMAN
They should be proud. They have a hero at home.

Jim’s radio begins to beep non-stop. He answers it.

JIM GORDON
Gordon here.

RADIO
We have a major issue, Jim. The van...

JIM GORDON
Van, what the hell are you talking about?

Batman’s eyes grow tense...

RADIO
It’s on fire...

Jim turns to Batman with a confused look on his face, but Batman has disappeared.

JIM GORDON
I think help is on the way, what’s your 20?

EXT. DESERTED ROAD-NIGHT

The armored van from earlier is toppled on the side of an old desolate dirt road. Flames cover the wheels and tires. Three of the officers lie bloody and dead outside the van. The driver is yards away, he was thrown from the van.

The Joker crawls down the street, breathing heavily. He coughs up blood. Two-Face stands before him wielding two pistols, one in each hand.

(CONTINUED)
TWO-FACE
Remember me?

THE JOKER
Dent?

He giggles some...

THE JOKER
What the fuck happened to you?

He laughs hysterically...

TWO-FACE
Don’t play dumb.

He points the pistol in his right hand at The Joker’s face. The Joker smiles.

THE JOKER
You gonna’ kill me?

Batman crashes down from the sky. He knocks Two-Face over, the pistols fly from his hands.

BATMAN
Dent?

TWO-FACE
Dent’s dead.

BATMAN
You don’t have to do this. You can still be the man you were.

TWO-FACE
NO! He took that from me! He took my entire LIFE from me. So I’m going to take his!

BATMAN
You know that’s the wrong thing to do! Your letting your emotions get the best of you.

A helicopter flies overhead. A ladder falls down over The Joker. The Joker struggles to stand.

THE JOKER
I hate to end this lovely reunion, but I must get going.

He grabs the ladder, and the helicopter flies away. The Joker’s laugh echoes.

(CONTINUED)
TWO-FACE
You should have let me kill him.

BATMAN
That’s not the right way!

TWO-FACE
Fuck the RIGHT way! Wake up...there is only one way to stop men like that.

BATMAN
I can’t let you do that.

TWO-FACE
Then I guess you stand in my way.

Two-Face steps closer to Batman, the two stand toe-to-toe.

BATMAN
You don’t have to be my enemy.

Two-Face reaches into his pocket and pulls out a coin. He flips the coin into the air. The coin lands on the ground.

TWO-FACE
The choice was neither of ours.

He lifts the coin.

TWO-FACE
Everyone has half a chance in every situation. Even those which are life threatening. Especially those.

He reveals the side of the coin as it landed. Heads.

Two-Face turns away from Batman.

TWO-FACE
This city will burn until both you and The Joker lie dead. Then Gotham will rise from the ashes, and I will reign supreme.

As he turns back around he lifts a third pistol from under his jacket and fires. Batman is gone. The bullet flies off into the distance.
EXT.WAREHOUSE-NIGHT

The helicopter lands outside a large deserted warehouse. Two clowns carry The Joker out of the helicopter. The doors to the warehouse swing open and the clowns carry the Joker in.

INT.WAREHOUSE-NIGHT

The Joker sits in a large purple Victorian style chair. His right arm rests in a sling. Blood drips slowly from his nose. A fire is lit before him, it warms his skin. The fire is the only light in the room.

THE JOKER
Dent is going to be a problem. He must be stopped.

Two clowns appear out of the shadows behind The Joker...

THE JOKER
He’s going to get between me and my love. My other-half.

He giggles...

THE JOKER
Harvey Dent must die. Tonight.

As The Joker stands one of the clowns grabs his shoulder, to help him stand. The Joker shrugs him off. He takes the sling off his arm and throws it at the clown.

THE JOKER
Suit up boys. It’s gonna’ be a loooong night!

He laughs.

EXT.GOTHAM-NIGHT

The Joker flies over the skyline of Gotham in his helicopter.

CUT TO:

EXT.GOTHAM STREET-NIGHT

Purple vans crowd the streets of Gotham.

One pulls over and three clowns jump out of the back wielding machine guns. They open fire on a crowd.

CUT TO:
EXT.GOTHAM-NIGHT

The helicopter flies over a large business district. The Joker leans outside of the helicopter and throws down two grenades. He laughs as they explode on the street.

The bat-signal shines onto the sky.

THE JOKER
This could get interesting!

CUT TO:

EXT.GOTHAM STREET-NIGHT

Women and men run around the street screaming. Some are shot and bleeding. Buildings explode left and right. Gotham is a war-zone.

The bat mobile speeds past bodies lying dormant on the street. Suddenly, it screeches to a stop.

Two-Face stands before it.

Batman leaps from the bat mobile.

Two-Face wields a large tactical shotgun. He wears a bullet proof vest, under his two-tone suit: one side of it spray painted white, the other black.

TWO-FACE
It’s him.

The helicopter flies low above the bat mobile. The Joker leaps from the chopper onto the vehicle.

THE JOKER
Hello boys!

Two-face fires a shot at The Joker. The joker ducks down behind the bat mobile. He pulls a large 44 magnum out of his coat pocket.

Batman lunges at Two-Face knocking him down onto the ground. The two wrestle on the ground.

The Joker peeks around the bat mobile and smiles at the sight of the two men struggling to destroy each other.

Jim Gordon’s car speeds to the scene. He leaps out, staying behind the open door with his pistol aimed at The Joker.

(CONTINUED)
JIM GORDON
DON’T FUCKING MOVE!

The Joker smiles at Gordon...

THE JOKER
Jimmy! So glad you decided to join us! We were just starting to have a real good time.

JIM GORDON
Drop the weapon!

THE JOKER
Drop yours!

The Joker stands, he begins to slowly step towards Jim.

JIM GORDON
STOP! I’ll fucking shoot!

THE JOKER
Then do it!

The Joker laughs...

JIM GORDON
You son of a bitch!

The Joker continues towards Jim...

THE JOKER
Come on buddy boy! Shoot me!

Jim steadies his aim on The Joker...

THE JOKER
What’s the matter...can’t do it?

As The Joker reaches Jim, he places the barrel of Jim’s gun onto his forehead.

THE JOKER
It’s this easy! Just pull the trigger! Do Barbara a favor!

Batman leaps over the bat mobile, he charges at The Joker grabbing him from behind.

Two-Face stands on top of the bat mobile bleeding from his nose, his left eye swollen over. He fires a shot at Batman. The shot sends Batman to the ground, landing on top of The Joker. An explosion rattles the street. Smoke fogs the vision of the four men.

(CONTINUED)
Jim steps out from his cover, he waves the smoke from his face and finds Batman. He pulls a pair of cuffs from his back pocket and slaps them onto The Joker.

The smoke begins to clear, Two-Face is gone. Batman is unconscious. Jim grabs his radio off his hip...

JIM GORDON
This is GORDON...

INT.WAYNE MANOR-MORNING

Bruce awakens in bed. His body bruised and worn. Alfred stands over him. Bruce sits up in bed.

BRUCE
This city is a war zone. Dent wants revenge. The Joker wants mayhem. And I want peace.

ALFRED
You have allies.

BRUCE
The police don’t trust me.

ALFRED
Gordon does.

BRUCE
He’s one man.

ALFRED
And what are you, sir?

Bruce stands. He walks over to a large window and peers outside.

BRUCE
Call Fox, tell him I’ll be stopping by.

ALFRED
For what, if I may so ask?

BRUCE
I need an upgrade.
INT.WAYNE ENTERPRISE-LAB-DAY

LUSCIOUS FOX walks down an aisle alongside a well dressed Bruce Wayne.

    BRUCE
    I need something fast. I’m planning a trip to Europe-

    LUSCIOUS
    Don’t say any more. I’m not an idiot, Mr.Wayne.

He smiles.

    LUSCIOUS
    I am however an ally.

He points towards a large item with a blanket draped over it.

    LUSCIOUS
    And I can help.

He walks over to the blanket and pulls it off. The BAT POD is revealed—in black.

    LUSCIOUS
    It was designed for a new type of bike rider. However it was deemed to dangerous for public use. So the military came along and bullet proofed the whole thing as well as added some machine gun turrets.

    BRUCE
    Europe better watch out...

They both laugh.

    LUSCIOUS
    So should Gotham, Mr.Wayne.

Bruce shakes Luscious’ hand.

    LUSCIOUS
    My daughter loves you.

    BRUCE
    I don’t believe we’ve met.

(CONTINUED)
LUSCIOUS
No. You haven’t, but she thinks your a good man.

BRUCE
I’m no hero.

LUSCIOUS
You are a hero, Bruce. No matter what the papers say about you, your doing the right thing.

BRUCE
And what’s that? The RIGHT thing?

LUSCIOUS
Saving lives, Mr.Wayne. Doing what other men only talk about.

Bruce smiles.

INT.APARTMENT-DAY

Two-Face climbs through an unlocked window into his apartment. Immediately he closes the blinds.

The door to the apartment is sealed shut by wooden planks. The apartment is bare. Boxes of weapons and ammo lie around all the open spaces.

A letter sits in the center of the room next to a white disposable cell phone. Two-Face cautiously stumbles towards it, he lifts it and begins to read aloud...

TWO-FACE
Dear Harvey. Don’t ask how I found you. Just answer the phone.

The disposable cell phone begins to ring.

TWO-FACE
Love, Mr.J.

Two-Face lifts the phone and answers it.

TWO-FACE
Hello?

THE JOKER
Harvey.

(CONTINUED)
TWO-FACE
What the hell? Aren’t you in prison.

THE JOKER
I have sources, my friend.

TWO-FACE
What do you want?

THE JOKER
I have a proposition. It’s quite...simple.

TWO-FACE
Fuck you.

THE JOKER
Just hear me out. You and I both share a common hatred...for each other. You want me dead...I want your blood on my hands. But...there is one thing that stands in between...us.

Two-Face swallows deeply...

THE JOKER
So here’s the deal. We KILL The Batman. Then we go to war.

TWO-FACE
We can’t even find him, how are we supposed to kill him?

THE JOKER
First, you bust me out of this shit hole. Then we discuss the...particulars.

TWO-FACE
Fuck that. How do I know I can trust you?

THE JOKER
What if I told you that I know who The Batman really IS?

TWO-FACE
Fuck you and your games. You can rot in Arkham.
THE JOKER
Check the photos stored on the phone.

The Joker hangs up. Two-Face stumbles through the phone. He finds the photo: BRUCE WAYNE BLEEDING, KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS NEXT TO THE BAT-SUIT.

INT. ARKHAM CELL-NIGHT

The Joker sits on a white prison bed. He begins to sing...

THE JOKER
She looks like a lady...

A guard walks by the cell.

THE JOKER
She walks like a lady...

The Joker laughs...

THE JOKER
She talks like a lady...

The guard stops, and stares into the cell...

THE JOKER
She’s the devil in disguise!

THE WALL behind where The Joker is sitting explodes inward. Smoke fills the room. The Joker’s laugh echoes throughout the asylum.

The guard struggles to get the cell door open, and as he does, the smoke clears.

The Joker is gone.

EXT. WAYNE MANOR-NIGHT-RAIN

Jim Gordon walks up the steps to the front porch of Wayne Manor. He knocks on the door several times. Alfred opens the door.

ALFRED
Lieutenant Gordon, how can I be of assistance?

JIM GORDON
I need to speak with Bruce, it’s urgent.

Bruce opens the door further...

(CONTINUED)
BRUCE
Jim, how’s it going?

Alfred walks away...

JIM GORDON
We’ve got a problem.

BRUCE
What’s wrong?

JIM GORDON
The Joker. He’s gone.

BRUCE
I expected as much.

JIM GORDON
That’s not all.

Bruce’s eyes grow angry...

JIM GORDON
The security camera...it caught something...someone.

BRUCE
What do you mean? Who?

JIM GORDON
Dent. Dent helped The Joker escape.

BRUCE
What?

JIM GORDON
They’re working together.

BRUCE
Jim, I’ve been thinking. We have to change things.

JIM GORDON
Like what?

BRUCE
Like the barrier between sanity and chaos.

JIM GORDON
That’s already been changed. Clowns, District Attorneys coming back from the dead. Next thing you
JIM GORDON (cont’d)
know the abominable snowman will show up.

BRUCE
I meant on our side of the playing field.

JIM GORDON
Those men are evil.

BRUCE
Evil because of the choices they make.

JIM GORDON
What are you thinking, Bruce?

BRUCE
Maybe it’s time we rethought the way we do things.

JIM GORDON
Are you talking about murder?

BRUCE
I’m talking about doing what it takes.

Lightning crashes...

BRUCE
The more we do. The harder we work, the darker things get. It’s time for us to rise above the evil in this city. Time to make a stand.

JIM GORDON
When you first started this conquest of yours, I had my doubts.

Thunder roars...

JIM GORDON
I saw something in you. In your eyes...a fire. I see it now.

BRUCE
I can’t kill a man, but I CAN make him wish he were dead.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: 18.

JIM GORDON
These men will stop at nothing until they destroy this place. They thrive on your anger.

BRUCE
They thrive on my inability to kill. I’m going to show them a different side.

JIM GORDON
You are not a bad man. You are capable of only good things.

BRUCE
That’s what needs to change.

Jim sneezes...

BRUCE
Get home. Get some rest.

JIM GORDON
You need it more than I do.

BRUCE
I have work to do.

INT.WAREHOUSE-NIGHT

The Joker and Two-Face sit across from each other. A poker table separates them.

THE JOKER
You really think you can kill me, don’t you?

TWO-FACE
Your human. You bleed.

THE JOKER
As do you.

TWO-FACE

THE JOKER
That’s your problem. Your so...serious.

(CONTINUED)
TWO-FACE
The world’s not a big joke.

THE JOKER
It all depends on how you look at it.

The Joker chuckles...

THE JOKER
I can’t wait to get my hands around your neck.

TWO-FACE
I’ll kill you before you can reach me.

THE JOKER
Don’t be so sure.

The Joker laughs...

TWO-FACE
What makes you think I won’t kill you right now?

THE JOKER
The Batman.

TWO-FACE
He’s not here.

THE JOKER
You need me to find him.

TWO-FACE
I have what I need.

THE JOKER
Not exactly...

The Joker laughs...

TWO-FACE
It’s all a fucking game to you.

THE JOKER
And you are all my pawns.

TWO-FACE
I’m nobody’s pawn.

(CONTINUED)
THE JOKER
Yet...here you sit.

TWO-FACE
What are you trying to accomplish?

THE JOKER
I just want to hear you laugh.

The Joker smiles.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Batman kneels over the edge of JIM GORDON’S APARTMENT building. His cape moves with the wind.

BATMAN (VO)
The criminals of Gotham know me as a shadow.

He stands...

BATMAN (VO)
They will come to know me much clearer.

The bat-signal shines...

BATMAN (VO)
I know what I am. What I have become.

He leaps off the roof, gliding away...

We move quickly down a few stories. Jim Gordon stairs out his window.

BATMAN (O.S)
I am Batman.

Roll end credits.

THE END