

ARKHAM ASYLUM

"RIDDLE ME THIS.."

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Ext. Arkahm-Night.

A taxi pulls up to the front gates of Arkham Asylum. Someone steps out. Frank Vernon looks up at the gates as they open and the taxi pulls away.

Frank
What am I doing?
What a great job
this is going to be.

Frank walks toward this menacing structure.

Frank
This better pay good.

Frank reaches the door and enters.

Int. Arkham-continuous.

A receptionist walks up to Frank.

Receptionist
You must be Mr.
Vernon. We've been
waiting. You're the
specialist?

Frank
Yeah, kind of.
I have worked with
the mentally disturbed
but I'm not a
psychologist. But I
know the field well.

Frank
(continuous)
And the school I
worked for said I
should come here.

Receptionist
Yes, and to start you
off you'll be working
with(reaches for
clipboard) Patient
122583. But let me
give you a small tour.

Int. Arkham halls

The receptionist walks Frank through the halls. Frank
now knows he's in hell.

Frank looks through a window of a door they pass by.
That reads: MESS HALL. Frank turns away from the door
with a pall look on his face.

Frank
Can we end this tour
before it gets started.

CUT TO:

Int. Arkham cell blocks.

Frank walks down a long hallway riddled with cells.
He reads the clipboard. And stops at cell 122583.

Frank
Okay my first crazy
is.. Edward
Nygma.(motions guard to
open door)

The door opens and Frank steps in and the door closes behind him. He looks around the room to see crossword puzzles all over the place. And things written on the walls. And he sees Nygma sitting, writing under the ONE light. Frank pulls up a chair.

Frank
Mr. Nygma sir. I'm
Frank Vernon.

Nygma
Not a doctor?

Frank
No, no I'm not.
But I'm here to help
you Mr.-

Nygma
(cutting Frank off)
I'd prefer if you
called me Riddler.

Frank
Okay,..Riddler Let's
just talk so I can see
what's going on with
you.

Riddler
Alright then, what do
you want to know?

Frank
What are you writing?

Riddler
Take a guess.

Frank
Riddles right?

Riddler
Yes, such a bright
fellow.

Frank
What kind of riddles?

Riddler
The kind he won't
solve.

Frank
Who?

Riddler
The Batman.

Frank
So you want to stump
him.

Riddler
In a sense.

Frank
What's the riddle?

Riddler
What do you break by
saying just one word?

Frank(thinks for a
minute) Silence.

Riddler
Correct.

Frank
A little easy for
someone named Riddler.

Riddler
Exactly. That's the
real riddle isn't it.
Why would the Riddler
leave such a easy riddle
behind for The Batman to
find?

Frank
but will you get a
chance to use it? I mean
you're in here.

:

Riddler

I've been in here lots
of times. We all have
and you'll come to know
that.

Frank

Got anymore?

Riddler

What's too much for one,
enough for two, but
nothing at all for
three?

Frank(thinks about
it) Secrets.

Riddler

You're very good.

Frank

What do men want least
on their hands?

Riddler

handcuffs.

Frank

Just testing.

Riddler

what were you testing?

:

Frank
Your patience with me.

Riddler
Good, I was just
testing.

Frank
how about a walk. Stop
get some grub?

Riddler
Fine.

Int. Arkham mess hall.

Riddler and Frank sit down with trays. No one else is around except a big guard standing nearby. Frank looks at his food and gets a little green.

Riddler
What's wrong, we eat
it, why can't you?

Frank(scoops some
"food" in his mouth)
What is this stuff?

Riddler(smiles)
Now that's a riddle
even I can't solve.

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Frank
What do you do around
here when you're not in
your cell.

Riddler
Eat, sit in the so-
called lounge area and
watch television.

Frank
Alright then, Who is in
the cell...next to you?

Riddler
Why do you want to know
that?

Frank
I wanted to change the
subject because I felt
you were getting a
little annoyed with me.

Riddler
At least you
understand. The rest of
these idiots never
understand why I ask so
many questions.

Frank
Because you like to.

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.

Frank(continuous)
questions intrigue you
because you gain
knowledge and joy from
getting an answer. But
with riddles...I'm still
a little blurry on that
subject. Hopefully by
the end of this talk I
will come to know the
answer.

Riddler
Yes maybe you will.

Frank
So what is your
obsession with The
Batman?

Riddler
He solves them to
quickly and to easy. And
it's just fun to leave
clues behind for him.

Frank
Why is it fun?

Riddler
I like testing him.

..

Frank

What is neither inside
the house, outside the
house, but no house is
complete with out it?

Riddler

Windows. Enough with
the kids stuff.

Frank

But giving you the kids
stuff gives me joy. And
I like testing you.

Riddler

I see your point.

Frank

I may not be a doctor,
but I'm still clever.

Riddler

Where did you live
before coming to Gotham?

Frank

Keystone City.

Riddler

So you're used to the
lighter side of my world.

♪ -

Frank

I don't know what you mean.

Riddler

Crime. We're psychotics and have a weird creature of the night stalking us. So we're a lot different than most cities.

Frank

You don't think I could last.

Riddler

I think you could last but spending your time here is not going to go well for your sanity.

Frank

You think I'm going to go insane?

Riddler

Maybe. But we are very difficult.

Frank

I know it was on your chart.

..

Riddler(smiles)
Very funny. But you're
no Joker.

Frank
Is that a good thing, or
a bad thing?

Riddler
Now that's a riddle.

Frank
Funny. But you're no
Harley Quinn.

Riddler
Nice one. If I do say so
myself.

Frank
Thanks.

Riddler
Anything else you want
to know/

Frank
Lots.

Riddler
Than ask away.

Frank
What do you think of me
right now?

Riddler
You seem okay. You're
not trying to convince me
about anything.

Frank
I told you I'm not a
doctor.

Riddler
What do you think of me
right now?

Frank
Intriguing. And a little
crazy and smart.

Riddler
Fair judgment.

Frank
What can you hold
without ever touching or
using your hands?

Riddler
Your breath.

Frank
You're never off guard
are you?

Riddler
Never.

Frank
Have any family?

Riddler
I rather not answer
that.

Frank
Didn't think you would,
but hey it was worth a
shot.

Riddler
Do you have any family?

Frank
No.

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.

Riddler

Let us hope you stay
sane long enough to have
one....Frank.

Frank

You called me Frank.
Why?

Riddler

Why not?

Frank

No it's fine, I just
didn't expect it.

Riddler

You should leard to
expect a lot of things in
thus place Frank.

Frank

How do they treat you in
here?

Riddler

How would you expect
them to treat me?

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Frank
Horribly.

Riddler
Your catching on to this
place.

Frank
Why do you commit
crimes?

Riddler
Good question.

Frank
And what's your answer.

Riddler
What good is a riddle
is everybody knows it?

Frank
Useless. What do you
feel like doing when
you're in here?

Riddler
Getting away.
Or killing myself.

٥.
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Frank

A little harsh don't you think?

Riddler

Not for someplace they call The Living Hell.

Frank

I understand.

Riddler

Good. But remember, you will learn to hate this place even if you can leave. You will learn to fear this place and dread this hell hole they throw us into. And you will learn to trust this place.

Frank

Trust it?

Riddler

It's a sanctuary for us, It's protection. Even if it doesn't work all the time.

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Frank
Protection from what?

Riddler
From him.

Frank
The Bat.

Riddler
Yes.

Frank
But don't you feel his
treatment of you is
justified.

Riddler
Is that what you feel?

Frank
I was asking you a
question.

Riddler
Well some back bone
emerges.

Frank
I was asking you a
question.

Riddler
Well if it makes you
feel any better than....I
won't answer that.

Frank
What would be the first
thing you do when you get
out of here?

Riddler
Same thing I always do
when I get out of here.

Frank
Do something that gets
you thrown right back in
here.

Riddler
You will come to know
the answer to questions
such as that one soon,
Frank.

Frank
Well-

Riddler(interrupts)
Are we almost done?
Even though I am
grateful for the company
and getting me out of my
cell for a few.

Frank
We're almost done just a
few more questions.

Riddler
Good.

Frank
What are you doing
tomorrow?

Riddler
Having lunch with The
Ventriloquist.

Frank
I've heard of him.
I've been wanting to
talk to him too.

Riddler
Really?

--

Frank
Yeah, why?

Riddler
Well just to let you
know, I might be the
sanest one in here right
now. So have fun.

Frank
I will. And I'll keep
that in mind.

Riddler
Want me to introduce you
around?

Frank
No. I'll learn about
everybody when I talk to
them.

Riddler
Okay, I was just making
sure.

Frank
Don't you find it ironic
that your name is E.
Nygma and you like
riddles?

--

Riddler

Never really thought
about it. And I love
riddles.

Frank

sorry, didn't mean to
insult you.

Riddler

You did not insult me.
It was just a mistake.
And do not let it happen
again.

Frank(looks to see
if guard is still there)
Alright.

Riddler

Are you afraid?

Frank

Wouldn't you?

Riddler

Yes.

Frank
Then don't get so
annoyed.

Riddler
Okay, Okay, back off.

Frank
I wasn't backing on.

Riddler
That's I phrase I've
never heard before.

Frank
I couldn't think of
anything else to say.

Riddler
I've had that happen
before.

Frank
I'm sure you have.

Riddler
What is it you do?

Frank

I worked at a certain
kind of school in
Keystone where I talked
to the mentally ill and
tried to understand them.

Riddler

Is that what you're
doing now Frank?

Frank

Yes, but I think I'm
going to have a much
harder time here at
Arkham.

Riddler

I think you will to
Frankie boy.

Frank

Frank, don't call me
Frankie boy.

Riddler

Sorry, just being
friendly.

Frank

We're not friends.

Riddler
Good.

Frank
Hmm...so I think we're
done here.(motions guard
over)

CUT TO:

Int. Arkham cell block.

Frank walks behind the guard, he looks at all the cells. The guard has a gun to Riddler's back. They reach his cell. Riddler walks in. Then stops turns around.

Riddler
Although broken, they
will always exist and
surround us. We don't
like being confined in
them and they will
outlive us all. What are
"they"?

The guard closes the door.

Frank has a small smile.

Frank
Now that'll take some
thinking. But that's the
best riddle I've heard
all day.

Int. Frank's office.

Frank walks into his NEW office. He sits, puts his feet up on the desk. Looks around.

Frank V.O.

I've been thinking about it. And he was right. I would have a difficult time. The crazies here are a lot different than the ones back in Keystone. I can't understand his mind and how it works. I defiantly have my work cut out for me.

Frank

Wonder who I have for tomorrow?

Int. Arkham cell block.

Six guards surround a man who is tied up on a Gurney, shackled and chained wearing a muzzle. Guards are armed very well for any kind of "situation". They wheel the man into a empty cell. They inject him with something to knock him out. Then they unstrap him but leave him chained. They proceed to throw the man on his "new" bed. And then they all get the hell out of there. And close and lock the door.

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The man is knocked out on the bed. He is scrawny and blonde. Strange marks on his body. We leave the cell to look at the name on the door. It reads: 055187 VICTOR ZSASZ.

Two guards walk up and post themselves on either side of the door.

Int. Frank's office.

Frank is dusting off a table in the corner of the room with an old rag.

Then the phone rings. He walks over and answers it.

Frank
Hello, yes, it's in
the left cabinet.
Okay, you see it, is
that all. Okay, bye
Lenny. (hangs up the
phone) Left Keystone
two days ago and the
place went to hell
already. Oh well,
(looks at watch) time
to go home.

Int. Taxi-morning.

Frank is in the back trying to keep himself awake. Looking at all the buildings and amazing structures. And looking for something else.

Frank(to driver)
He doesn't come out
during the day does he?

Driver(looking in
rear view mirror) No.
(Slides the partition
window closed)

Frank
Okay then.

The taxi pulls up to Frank's building. Looks nice,
but not the nicest looking place, even by Gotham
standards.

Int. Frank's apartment.

Frank enters. Throws himself on the couch.

Frank
What an
interesting
night I just
had.

Frank sits himself up. Reaches in to a bag on the
coffee table. Pulls out a tape recorder and turns
it on.

Frank (into
recorder) Well
my first night
at Arkham was
an...educational
one. My first
person was
Edward Nygma
A.K.A. The
Riddler. I don't
know what to
make of him. He
is very smart
but also
obsessive. He
enjoyed the
talk. But I did
not-at least to
my knowledge-
earned any of
his trust. Which
was easy back
home. But will
be harder here.
But trust won't
do much good
anyway. But the
way I see it is
Riddler's mind
is a riddle in
it's self. So
maybe that's the
real riddle. But
the only sure
thing is his
obsession with
The Batman. And
so I don't
forget about it:

Frank(continuous)
Although broken,
they will always
exist and
surround us. We
don't like being
confined in them
and they will
outlive us all.
What are
"they"? (turns off
recorder) Back in
Keystone I never
thought I would
end up here.
Which brings up
another riddler,
one of my
favorites: What
can't you see
that is always
before you?

FADE TO BLACK

Frank V.O.
The Future.

END

