

BATMAN: BATTLE OF THE WINGS

Written by

Rick Cook

Based on DC Comics characters created by Bob Kane

FADE IN:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

We see a room with a long table covered in white cloth and three gang members each on the two long sides. There's also a closed door.

But on the left and smaller side of the table is the "PENGUIN". A quick tempered middle aged crime boss that is short, chubby, ugly, and has a nose like a hook.

The gang members are talking amongst themselves, joking around and such, when suddenly--

PENGUIN  
Alright, alright! Shutup!

The gang members are all in silence in full respect of Penguin.

PENGUIN (CONT'D)  
As you know, a man with a lot of power is going to go come through those doors.  
(beat)  
Show that man some damn respect, will ya? Show some common curtesy.

GANG MEMBER  
Courtesy.

PENGUIN  
What? That's what I said.

GANG MEMBER  
Well, you said curtesy and not courtesy.

The gang member go quiet.

GANG MEMBER (CONT'D)  
Curtesy is about owning property and courtesy is about polite gestures. A bit of a silly mistake on your behalf.

Penguin starts laughing a little bit, then gets up and reaches in his pants pocket. **POW!**

The thud on the table reveals Penguin shot the gang member who was mocking at him first with his minigun. Silence.

PENGUIN

Let that be a lesson to you all of  
you that I am a man of respect and  
if you treat me anything lesser  
than that, you'll assume room  
temperature!

The gang members are in silence in fear. All looking at  
Penguin go red.

PENGUIN (CONT'D)

I will lacerate all of you to the  
bone if necessary. Do I make myself  
clear?

The remaining gang members instantly nod and the Penguin sits  
and cools himself down.

PENGUIN (CONT'D)

Send him in!

The closed door opens and it's shown a gang member has opened  
the door for the JOKER who has now walked into the room.

He sends chills in the room with his green hair, white skin,  
eyes like a drug addict, dark red lips, and purple tailored  
suit.

Joker walks over to the man with his head bleeding a red  
messy puddle on the white table cloth.

JOKER

Well, well, well. What did I miss  
here? A party?

Joker gives a haughty laugh that is a sound like fingernails  
clawing a chalkboard.

PENGUIN

An idiot that didn't know his own  
worth.

(beat)

Would you like to sit in that seat  
and talk business?

JOKER

Oh, most certainly!

Everyone is silent and staring at the Joker as he pushes the  
corpse out of the seat and sits in the seat.

He gives one big smile and looks at Penguin directly in the  
eyes.

JOKER (CONT'D)  
Alright, Oswald. Do you know why I  
called this meeting?

Joker's voice alone is just chilling to the ears.

PENGUIN  
Because you're going to give me the  
power I want.

Joker puts his finger in the air and makes a "tsk tsk tsk"  
sound, then laughs.

JOKER  
I'm just not going to give you what  
you want! What am I? Crazy?

Joker giggles to himself.

PENGUIN  
Then why did you call this meeting?

JOKER  
I'm here to propose a proposition.  
(beat)  
I want you to do something for me.  
Something that can make you one of  
the most powerful men in Gotham.

Penguin pulls out from his pants pocket, smokes, and puffs a  
fat cigar.

PENGUIN  
I'm listening.

JOKER  
Well, we both are successful crime  
bosses in this city, right?

Penguin nods.

JOKER (CONT'D)  
Even though we both are successful  
at running this slum of a city, we  
both have a common enemy.  
(beat)  
The Batman.

PENGUIN  
Are you trying to suppose that we  
kill him?

Joker emits one big laugh.

JOKER

No. I'm planning to kill him and I was hoping you can help.

Penguin drops his cigar and starts laughing.

PENGUIN

Killing the Batman? You must be out of your damn mind!

Joker's face is serious now.

JOKER

I'm not joking. I have a plan and it'll work.

PENGUIN

Well, hell. If you say so, what's your big plan? What do I even have to do?

JOKER

It's simple. I need you to steal something for me and let me do the rest. It'll be my pleasure.

Joker stands up and holds his hand out.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Do we have a deal?

INT. FIRST GOTHAM BANK - NIGHT

This bank is a pretty classic bank with its high ceiling and walls, fancy lights dangling from the ceiling, and old fashioned teller counters.

Six of Penguin's goons are robbing this bank. They all wear black hoodies, ski masks, shades, and even big backpacks.

Their backpacks are loading serious money.

GOON #1

Ah man. Penguin's going to be happy with us when we give him this money.

GOON #2

We'll have fucking hunks of cash. We even disabled the cameras.

GOON #1

Alright. Let's get out of he--

Suddenly, smoke bomb. The thieves try to run out of there before they get caught by Gotham's own sheriff.

GOON #3

Oh shit! It's the fucking BATMAN!  
Let's mo--

Before he can finish off the word "move", a claw has clutched on the goon on his back and jerked him fast up the ceiling in the remaining grey smoke.

The smoke dissipates to reveal that the goon's back of his hoodie is clutched on by grappling hook hung on the hook of the ceiling. He is so high off the floor that he can break many bones from this depth.

But the goon looks around to finally see a middle aged man in his physical prime in a black cowl with high cat-like ears, a black cape, and a grey cloth suit with a bat symbol on his chest sitting on a gargyle on a wall of the bank.

He is **the Batman**.

BATMAN

Talk. Now.

His voice is gravelly, deep, and serious. It is a voice to be feared and fits well with his costume.

GOON #3

I don't have to tell you jack dick.

Batman's hand pulls the rope up fast and makes the goon hit his head on the celing.

**THUD!**

He then lets him hang from his starting spot.

BATMAN

A fall like this can break many bones in the human body. I'd like you to tell me who you're working for and why you're doing this before I break any of them.

GOON #3

BLEH BLEH BLEH! Do what you want, Batman! It's not going to work "cause deep down I know you're a cow--

Batman lets go of the rope for two seconds, clenches back on, and the goon screams.

BATMAN

Tell me what you know or I'll test  
the authenticity of your claim.

GOON #3

FINE! FINE! FINE! I'LL TELL YOU  
EVERYTHING! JUST DON'T KILL ME!

JUMP CUT TO:

CLOSE ON TV

We are watching tonight's Gotham City News. Our news reporter  
VALERIE VAPID. She's in her early 30s and has stylish black  
hair, blue eyes, a voluptuous appearance, and a face built  
for television.

VALERIE VAPID

(on TV)

Hello people of Gotham! It's your  
one and only Valerie Vapid.

Our next shot shows that Valerie Vapid is interviewing the  
Penguin as they both sit in their own chairs in the news  
station.

Penguin has a smug look as he smokes from his black panatela.

VALERIE VAPID (CONT'D)

(on TV)

Tonight we are interviewing a  
former crime lord Oswald Cobblepot  
and discussing his most recent  
selfless contribution to Gotham  
City.

(beat)

Mr. Cobblepot, would you like you  
to explain why you've donated one  
million dollars altogether for  
various charities despite your  
past?

PENGUIN

(on TV)

Valerie, that was the past. I'm now  
a man looking for redemption for  
the crimes I've done.

VALERIE VAPID

Interesting, interesting. Could  
these donations possibly correlate  
to your past?

Penguin looks straight at the camera and gives an ugly smile.

PENGUIN

Very so, yes. I have donated to various charities because I know how hard it is to not have your parents around. I'm trying to give them the support and love they need.

TV screen is quickly turned off.

INT. BATCAVE

The TV screen has shut off but the other many screens are still on most of them being surveillance in various places in and out of the city.

The Batcave is a huge dark cave with neat architecture and equipment in various display glasses and many forms of transportation.

MAN (O.S.)

I just don't understand it, ALFRED.

The same person who turned off the television screen is a man is sitting a chair watching the other screens is BRUCE WAYNE. He is wearing the whole Batman getup without the cowl to reveal he's a handsome Caucasian male with raven black hair.

Alfred, a well-dressed British elderly butler, is pouring tea into his tea cup.

ALFRED

What do you not understand, sir?

BRUCE WAYNE

Penguin, Alfred. This is all a gimmick and I know it.

ALFRED

Why do you say that?

BRUCE WAYNE

Last week he was doing crimes with no remorse and one of his goons told me he set him up so he can steal from the bank. Now, he's a philanthropist.

ALFRED

Well, something's is a little fishy there, eh?

BRUCE WAYNE  
Yeah. And I think you know after we  
found out the truth behind Lex  
Luthor that there's no such thing  
as a clean philanthropist.

ALFRED  
But aren't you one, sir?

Bruce Wayne then goes silent.

BRUCE WAYNE  
Shutup, Alfred.

ALFRED  
Well, why do you think Penguin is  
doing this?

BRUCE WAYNE  
That's the thing. I don't know. And  
stealing banks isn't Penguin's  
style.

Alfred puts down the tea kettle and looks through Bruce's  
files right next to him and finds one paper and says "hm".

ALFRED  
That's strange.

BRUCE WAYNE  
What is it, Alfred?

ALFRED  
Well Mister Bruce, I see you've  
found a file of one of many  
Penguin's donations. One of them  
being to the Carnegie withdraw for  
the theater council.

BRUCE WAYNE  
So?

ALFRED  
Well, I read awhile back that the  
program was not funded and  
eventually--

BRUCE/ALFRED  
Cancelled.

Bruce types up who's funding the program on his computer  
screen and sees that the last sponsor was *J.P Stanford  
Morgan*, not Penguin.

ALFRED

Morgan is also the owner of First Gotham Bank.

BRUCE WAYNE

That's the bank Penguin stole from. I've also noted that there have been other bank robberies too. All owned by contributors like Stanford.

Bruce pulls up the news articles on the computer screen to Alfred.

BRUCE WAYNE (CONT'D)

I have reasons to believe that Penguin is part of those other robberies too.

ALFRED

Then shouldn't you investigate on this, sir? Maybe Penguin has stole money from those people so he can look like a philanthropist?

They both look at each other and Bruce smirks.

BRUCE WAYNE

Alfred, don't cancel my invitation to tonight's charity gala. I have work to do.

INT. GOTHAM CITY HOTEL

The charity gala takes place in a hotel space and there's a podium with two tables on it's left and right side and many round tables farther in the room.

An old man holding a golden award is talking into a microphone on the podium with JIM GORDON, a middle aged man with glasses and silver hair and mustache, sitting on his right.

OLD MAN

Greetings everyone and welcome to out charity banquet and gala!

The audience applauds, Bruce Wayne and Penguin are in the audience as well. Both are wearing suits appropriate to the occasion.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)

We are here to appreciate and respect the men and women in uniform and badges who serve to keep this city safe. They serve as our heroes and they're a crucial part in this community. What can we honestly do without them?

Audience claps again.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)

But tonight, we're appreciating the most generous and the strong one of many is our Commissioner James Gordon. So give him a big hand clap and let's give him a big welcome the stage.

Audience claps their loudest as the old man shakes Gordon's hand before standing aside. Jim Gordon is now standing on the podium ready to speak.

JIM GORDON

Oh boy. Welcome everybody who's attended this ceremony today. Your hands must be tired from all that clapping.

Audience silently laughs.

Jim Gordon is given a note by the old man holding the golden trophy.

JIM GORDON (CONT'D)

I'm brought up here to give an award of the most generous. A man despite his wealth is always willing to give back to the community to make Gotham a better day and tomorrow. A man such deserving of the award is

(reads card)

No. This can't be right. You can't possibly expect me to--

Jim Gordon's confusion emotes distaste rather than excitement.

The audience is now bumbling to themselves based on Gordon's response.

OLD MAN

Read what it says.

JIM GORDON  
Our most attention-grabbing person  
worthy of such an award is  
(beat)  
Oswald Cobblepot.

Audience claps and the Penguin cheers out of his seat to walk up and receive his award.

Gordon gives him it in his hands and the crime boss is just smiling.

JIM GORDON (CONT'D)  
Congratulations. Would you care to  
say some words for your feat?

Penguin walks up to the podium and speaks into the microphone close as he can with his short stubby body.

PENGUIN  
I **truly** can't express how I feel  
for winning such an award. It's  
very flattering as it is wonderful.  
I like to thank all of you for  
seeing the potential in my  
redemption to give back to the  
community.

Gordon rolls his eyes.

PENGUIN (CONT'D)  
I'd like to thank the mayor of such  
a beautiful city, Commissioner  
Gordon, and all those magnificent  
faces that can create such an  
milieu. Thank you all!

A random person whispers into the old man's ear to make the old man raise his eyebrows and realize he has made a mistake.

PENGUIN (CONT'D)  
In the words of Henry Ford, "Coming  
together is a beginning; keeping  
together is progress; working  
together is success."

Old man interrupts Penguin's speech and takes the mic.

OLD MAN  
Very sorry folks but it has  
appeared that we have made a  
foolish mistake.

Our winner of this award is Bruce Wayne, who had donated at various charities, adding up to a whopping two million. My truest apologies.

Audience claps and Bruce walks up to the podium and slowly takes the award from Penguin's hands.

Penguin is pissed as Bruce Wayne now takes the podium.

BRUCE WAYNE

Thank you everyone for honoring me with such an award. I'm glad that my donations to this community has gone of note. I'm just glad that I've been able to give money where it matters. Truly God bless you all.

Penguin walks away from the podium to the corner of the room to talk on his phone as Bruce carries on with his speech.

PENGUIN

(whisper)

Listen. Tonight, we're going on a hunt.

INT. WAYNE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION - NIGHT

Penguin and five new goons are going to Wayne's vault. They are taking the stairs and two of the goons have flashlights and handguns.

They are in a dimly lit vast room with various tanks, engines, and mechanics, resembling a boiler room.

PENGUIN

Cameras off?

GOON #3

Yes, Penguin.

PENGUIN

Okay, now that we know the map of this place, find that sunuvabitch's money. And remember, stick close if the Batman appears.

Lights go out, leaving their flashlights the only remaining lights in the room.

Many of the goons' responses include say "huh", "wuzzat", and "holy crap, the frickin' Batman!"

PENGUIN (CONT'D)

Shut up and stay calm! If Batman is really here, your loud noises will give you away. Now, split up and stay--

BATMAN (O.S.)

Alert.

The goons start shooting around aimlessly.

PENGUIN

Stop it, you damn idiots! Batman wants you to kill yourselves! Stay calm and do as I said! Split.

Two guards split in one direction, another two split in another direction, and the last goon stays with the Penguin.

We are now on the two guards who split first.

GOON #1

I don't like the feeling of this, dude. Batman is here.

GOON #2

I gotta agree. We both know this wasn't part of the plan and we are now against a mad man. Do you believe that some say that Batman ain't even a person?

GOON #1

Then what is he?

GOON #2

That's the thing. We don't know. A monster, delusion, myth, or just type of ideology? We just don't know.

GOON #1

Ay man. You see that?

GOON #1 points over to a small room that has now been lit by its ceiling light. Someone has just turned it on.

GOON #2

Let's go over there. Be cautious.

INT. SMALL ROOM

The two see that the other two members who split have been are knocked out laying on the floor of the room.

Goon #1 is now starting to lose his cool and he's scared

GOON #1  
Oh shit, oh shit! You know who did this! It's the fricking Batman!

GOON #2  
Dude! Calm down! He wants you to fear him. Show him who's the bigger man and make him fear you.

One goon on the floor is mumbling words on floor and his eyes are now barely open.

GOON #2 (CONT'D)  
Bro, what're you saying?

GOON ON FLOOR  
Zuhbutminritebehinyeh...

GOON #2  
What? What did you say?

GOON ON FLOOR  
Zuhbutmanritebehinye...

GOON #2  
Zuhbutt man right be hiney?

GOON ON FLOOR  
Nuh. Zuh Batman right behind--

Right before that slurred speech accomplice can finish off his last word, they finally realize what he's saying and it's too late.

Being stealthy, Batman goes behind them, grabs Goon 2, and takes him into a chokehold into the shadows.

GOON #1  
Come out here, you sunuvabitch!

Goon 1 starts firing his gun aimlessly at the dark.

GOON #1 (CONT'D)  
Batman is a coward! You don't want to face me!

A quickly thrown Batarang shatters the ceiling light.

They're in the dark now. Pitch black.

GOON #1 (CONT'D)  
I'mma show that sunuvabitch.

Goon 1 flicks on his lighter to see Batman standing right in front of him.

Batman punches him in the face and knocks the goon out.

STAIRS

Penguin and Goon 5, wielding a flashlight, are walking up the stairs.

PENGUIN  
I've made a mistake. The vault must  
be up here. I'm going to get the  
money myself keep lookout.

Penguin walks over to a door with a combination and the goon just stands where he is.

Penguin successfully opens it and walks inside.

The goon hears fast moving footsteps in front of him and aimlessly starts shooting.

GOON #5  
I can hear you, Batman.

Running footsteps are now audible to the right of him and starts shooting to the right.

GOON #5 (CONT'D)  
Pretty clumsy for the creature of  
the night.

Footsteps now are behind him and he turns around to--

**BAM!**

Batman gives him a blow to the face that leaves him cold.

He walks into the now opened door that leads to the vault.

VAULT

Penguin jumps with joy with his stubby body.

PENGUIN  
YES! YES! I'm going to steal the  
bastard's money and he'll never see  
it coming.

BATMAN (O.S.)  
Are you sure about that?

Batman appears out of nowhere behind him and Penguin's joy stops and he pulls out his handgun.

PENGUIN  
Get out of the way or go west!

BATMAN  
Do it. You're already on camera.

Penguin sees the red light on security camera and his eyes grow big.

BATMAN (CONT'D)  
Sorry Penguin. You lose this one.

CLOSE ON TV

We're watching a new broadcast of Gotham City News reported again by Valerie Vapid.

VALERIE VAPID  
(on TV)  
Hello Gotham residents, today the infamous Penguin has been caught with, yet again, another crime.

We are shown footage of Penguin arrested walking out of the Wayne building.

VALERIE VAPID (CONT'D)  
(on TV)  
We have been told this is another crime busted by the vigilante and outlaw, the Batman. We have interviewed Commissioner James Gordon for his thoughts on Batman.

It cuts to a clip of another news reporter of the station holding a mic, along with the other press, to Gordon's face where he's in front of the Wayne building.

Gordon is noticeably irritated and he's trying to walk away from the press.

REPORTER  
Commissioner, Commissioner! What are your thoughts on the Batman?

Jim Gordon grabs the Gotham City News microphone out of many.

JIM GORDON

You know, he's just a man trying to clean up the city. We'll catch and find him eventually but as if right now, he's just like us officers. He just has his own verdict.

Gordon gives the microphone back to the reporter and walks away.

INT. DARK ROOM

The news broadcast is on and we hear loud hyena-like laughter.

It's the Joker and he has a paper in his hand.

JOKER

Oh! THIS IS TOO FUNNY! THE FOOL  
OSWALD DID EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED  
AND I GOT WHAT I WANTED!

The insane laughter fills up the room.

FADE OUT

**THE END**

Second screenplay I have produced and all feedback is welcome to make me a better writer.