

Batman Endures

By

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Based on Characters appearing in DC Comics
Tim Burton Directed, elements based on Sam Hamm's Batman 2

FADE IN:

EXT. GOTHAM PARK - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Snow falls viciously as two people, backs turned, look out over the bridge.

TUCKER COBBLEPOT and ESTHER COBBLEPOT, concern and relief etched on their faces at the same time, stare onward.

The baby stroller floats on the water toward the sewer access. It falls in.

Esther sighs.

ESTHER
Lord, forgive us.

TUCKER
We can never be forgiven for what
we've done.

Esther looks to Tucker in shock.

ESTHER
We had to. There was no other
choice.

TUCKER
Was there? We're no better than
Carl Grissom for what we've done.

ESTHER
You can't compare us to that
monster. He has caused suffering in
Gotham that no one could ever
match.

Tucker shakes his head.

TUCKER
Regardless, we're the worst parents
ever.

NAPIER (O.S.)
You've got that right.

Tucker and Esther turn.

Young JACK NAPIER stands in front of them, holding his handgun directly at them.

(CONTINUED)

NAPIER
Mr. Cobblepot. Mrs. Cobblepot.

Tucker gulps, stepping in front of Esther.

TUCKER
We've done everything Carl wanted.
We even handed over our Raven
Statuette.

Napier nods.

NAPIER
And Mr. Grissom was very happy to
receive.

He smirks.

NAPIER
All I want is to ask you one very
important question.

Esther puts a hand reassuringly on Tucker's shoulder,
looking onward in worry.

NAPIER
You ever dance with the devil in
the pale moonlight?

They both look onward in confusion.

Napier fires.

Tucker falls.

Esther screams.

Napier fires again.

Esther falls.

Napier steps forward, smiling wickedly.

NAPIER
Mr. Grissom thanks you for your
services.

INT. GRISSOM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Young Jack Napier steps off the elevator.

CARL GRISSOM turns around in his leather chair behind the desk.

GRISSOM
Good evening, Jack.

He stands up.

GRISSOM
Has my Christmas present to the
Cobblepots been delivered?

Napier steps forward, nodding.

NAPIER
Just like the gift to the Waynes a
few months ago, and I didn't have
distractions this time since I went
at it alone.

Grissom laughs.

GRISSOM
You always were the best when
alone, Jack.

NAPIER
I still need to get the Wayne kid.

Grissom shakes his head.

GRISSOM
No need. Bruce Wayne knows nothing
of my operation. I doubt he'll ever
become a threat.

Grissom steps around the desk and moves to Napier.

GRISSOM
You've done a very good job.

Grissom pats his hands on Napier's shoulders.

GRISSOM
Remember, you are my number one
guy.

He puts his hands behind his back.

(CONTINUED)

GRISSOM

Now, go enjoy the holidays. You've earned it. We'll pick up business after the New Year.

Napier turns, moving for the elevator.

SHRECK (O.S.)

You take risks.

Grissom turns around.

MAX SHRECK steps out of the shadows near the massive window behind the desk.

SHRECK

The Cobblepots, unlike the Waynes, were very cooperative.

Grissom laughs.

GRISSOM

Because of that freak child they had. They wanted me to cover their asses, whatever they were planning to do to the kid, and would do anything to make that possible.

SHRECK

Regardless, I'm a little concerned for my own life now since you've killed two of the five families.

Grissom steps to the desk, pouring a scotch.

GRISSOM

You have always been loyal. The Waynes and The Cobblepots refused to work with me over the years despite the recent activity from Tucker and Esther. They didn't see the bigger picture like the two of us.

SHRECK

And Mr. Provost?

Grissom drinks his scotch and then pours another and pours scotch in a second glass.

GRISSOM

He keeps my activities out of the papers as best he can, and as long

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GRISSOM (cont'd)
 as he hands over his Raven
 Statuette when the time comes, he
 will remain among the living.

Grissom hands out one of the glasses. Shreck accepts it.

 GRISSOM
 To the great treasure of Gotham.

Shreck clinks his glass to Grissom's.

 SHRECK
 To the great treasure of Gotham.

EXT. GOTHAM CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

COMMISSIONER JAMES W. GORDON pulls up the laughing bag,
examining it.

Max Shreck stands in the crowd, watching onward for only a
moment before walking away.

INT. GRISSOM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Max Shreck moves to a wall panel and presses his hand on a
section, a bright light illuminating on his hand before he
removes it.

The wall slides away, revealing two Onyx Raven Statuettes.

Shreck grins.

EXT. GOTHAM CEMETERY - DAY (END FLASHBACK)

A massive photo of Max Shreck in his prime sits on a golden
stand. The wind blows, shaking the photo slightly.

 CHIP (O.S.)
 In life, my dad was a visionary.

CHARLES "CHIP" Shreck stands at the podium beside a closed
coffin.

 CHIP
 In death, he will be missed, but at
 least he will be a giant in Heaven.

Seated in the large audience, in the back, BRUCE WAYNE,
wearing sunglasses, shakes his head. Seated beside him,
ALFRED J. PENNYWORTH raises an eyebrow.

(CONTINUED)

On Alfred's other side, DR. LESLIE THOMPSON elbows Alfred, whom chuckles lightly to her.

CHIP (O.S.)

We in Gotham City have to continue
onward without him.

Chip looks to the man seated on his left, the same man who was mayor at Christmas time, HAMILTON HILL.

CHIP

Mayor Hill has told me that New
Years will not be like Christmas
was. Gotham will not stand for
these horrors anymore. I'm going to
make certain that he stands by his
word by investing my inheritance
into ending the insanity that
Gotham has been swallowing itself
in since Batman first appeared on
the streets.

Chip turns to his right, to a woman seated on that side.
GILDA GOLD, wearing a suit skirt, crosses her legs.

CHIP

Assistant District Attorney Gilda
Gold agrees with the both of us.

He looks out into the crowd and points toward the right
side.

HARVEY DENT lowers his sunglasses.

CHIP (O.S.)

Harvey Dent told us that he would
knock down their doors, and take
out the nest of vipers.

Chip shakes his head.

CHIP

Carl Grissom is dead. Jack Napier,
or excuse me, The Joker, is dead.
But where was our District Attorney
when The Penguin terrorized my
father, or when Catwoman killed
him? He was in Metropolis, visiting
family for the holidays. How sweet
for him. My family died so his
could see him.

Harvey stands up, glaring daggers at Chip as he pulls his
sunglasses all the way off.

(CONTINUED)

Bruce stands up quickly, moving through the crowd.

CHIP

I won't stand for the insanity in Gotham anymore! I will make certain that my father's memory resides in all Gothamites' minds from here on in.

Harvey moves for the podium, but Bruce quickly pulls him back.

Harvey looks to him.

Bruce shakes his head.

BRUCE

Not here. You don't need the bad publicity.

Bruce leads Harvey off, Alfred and Leslie following behind.

CHIP (O.S.)

That's right, Dent! Let your boyfriend get you away from the truth!

Many in the audience also stand, leaving, but others remain firmly seated, clapping.

HARVEY

I'm going to have to call a press conference.

BRUCE

I'll call in a few favors so your words don't get skewed.

Zooming away from Gotham Cemetery, the skyline of Gotham City comes into view...

FADE TO:

EXT. GOTHAM CITY SKYLINE - DAY (OPENING CREDITS)

The opening credits play across the different buildings of Gotham City's glorious architecture, leading toward the final building, Arkham Asylum.

WARNER BROTHERS PRESENTS

A TIM BURTON FILM

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

8.

MICHAEL KEATON

BILLY DEE WILLIAMS

JOHNNY DEPP

MICHELLE PFEIFFER

BATMAN ENDURES

BASED UPON CHARACTERS APPEARING IN MAGAZINES PUBLISHED BY DC
COMICS INC.

KIM BASINGER

RENE RUSSO

ROBERT WUHL

MARLON WAYANS

MICHAEL GOUGH

PAT HINGLE

MICHAEL MURPHY

ANDREW BRYNIARSKI

DEBI MAZAR

DREW BARRYMORE

HUGO BLICK

ELIZABETH SANDERS

RENE AUBERJONOIS

ANNA KATARINA

PAUL REUBENS

DIANE SALINGER

ALSO WILLIAM HOOTKINS

WITH JIM CARRY

AND TOMMY LEE JONES

SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY CHRISTOPHER WALKIN

AND JACK PALANCE

(CONTINUED)

CASTING BY MARION DOUGHERTY

COSTUME DESIGNERS BOB RINGWOOD & MARY VOGT

MUSIC BY DANNY ELFMAN

FILM EDITOR CHRIS LEBENZON

PRODUCTION DESIGNER BO WELCH

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY STEFAN CZAPSKY

CO-PRODUCER LARRY FRANCO

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JON PETERS & PETER GRUBER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BENJAMIN MELNIKER & MICHAEL E. USLAN

BASED ON BATMAN CHARACTERS CREATED BY BOB KANE

SCREENPLAY BY TREVOR ALEX MELTON

STORY BY TREVOR ALEX MELTON & SAM HAMM

PRODUCED BY DENISE DI NOVI & TIM BURTON

DIRECTED BY TIM BURTON

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - DAY

The massive castle stands tall, ominous, dark, and foreboding

INT. CELL - DAY

EDWARD NYGMA stares out the window.

Turning to a Gotham Globe lying beside him on the bed, he narrows his eyes.

The headline says "MAX SHRECK'S BURIAL TO BE HELD TODAY".

Nygma leans his head back on the wall.

INT. SHRECK'S HALLWAY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Nygma stomps forward, determination on his face.

SELINA KYLE looks up from her computer, raising an eyebrow.

Nygma moves toward the door.

(CONTINUED)

SELINA
You can't go in there.

Selina stands up.

SELINA
Excuse me!

Nygma rams the door open.

INT. SHRECK'S OFFICE - DAY

Nygma strides through the door.

GRISSOM (O.S.)
Napier thinks I didn't know, but
the joke will be on --

NYGMA
This madness is going to end now,
Mr. Shreck!

Max Shreck stands with Carl Grissom at the massive, circular window behind the large meeting table. They both look at him.

SHRECK
I thought I fired you.

Selina rushes in.

SELINA
I'm so sorry, Mr. Shreck. He
wouldn't --

Shreck waves her off.

SHRECK
Return to your desk, Miss Kyle.

Selina nods, exiting, closing the door behind her.

Nygma holds up a file folder.

NYGMA
These are documents of my copyright
to Riddle of the Minotaur. I have
drawn up copies and given them to
my lawyers. I will burn your empire
to the ground.

Grissom shakes his head.

GRISSOM

You do realize who you're talking to, don't you?

Nygma nods.

NYGMA

And I know who you are too, Mr. Grissom.

GRISSOM

Then you're a bigger idiot than you look.

Shreck pats Grissom on the shoulder and then moves around the massive desk slowly, putting his hands in his pockets.

SHRECK

You were under contract, Mr. Nygma. Shreck Department Stores have all of the rights and privileges to Riddle of the Minotaur. Not you.

Shreck moves face to face with Nygma.

SHRECK

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but that game is going to make my company millions, and we just can't afford to keep dead weight on.

Nygma narrows his eyes.

NYGMA

You're going to regret this, Mr. Shreck.

Nygma turns, moving for the door.

NYGMA

One way or another you --

GRISSOM (O.S.)

I wouldn't suggest you finish that threat.

Nygma turns back around at the double doors.

GRISSOM

You won't like the outcome when you threaten a member of The Five Founding Families of Gotham.

(CONTINUED)

Nygma walks out, slamming the door.

 GRISSOM
 Clean up your mess, Max.

Shreck nods.

 SHRECK
 Like you're doing with Napier. I
 know.

EXT. AXIS CHEMICALS - NIGHT

Nygma steps out of his car, looking forward.

Squad cars sit at the entrance to the plant, police officers
gathered around.

Nygma shakes his head.

 NYGMA
 Why the hell did I have to meet him
 here?

 SHRECK (O.S.)
 Because loose ends are being tied
 up here.

Nygma whirls around.

Shreck stands beside LT. ECKHARDT.

 NYGMA
 What is this?

Eckhardt pulls out handcuffs.

 ECKHARDT
 An arrest, scumbag.

Nygma steps back.

 NYGMA
 What do you think you're doing?

Shreck pulls up a stack of papers with green question marks
all over them.

 SHRECK
 I found these very incriminating
 riddles on my desk. You've
 perverted your game in order to
 threaten my life.

(CONTINUED)

Eckhardt grabs Nygma's arm, twisting it behind his back, pinning him to the car.

ECKHARDT
You're under arrest.

NYGMA
I didn't do this! He's framing me!

Shreck laughs.

SHRECK
Lt. Eckhardt knows that.

NYGMA
This is outrageous! I'll have your heads for this!

ECKHARDT
You just keep making this case easier.

Eckhardt cuffs Nygma's hands behind his back and drags him off.

ECKHARDT
Go home, Mr. Shreck. I'll take it from here.

Shreck turns up his collar, grins, and walks away.

Eckhardt pushes Nygma to the first squad car and opens the door.

ECKHARDT
Do yourself a favor and plead insanity.

Eckhardt pushes Nygma's head down, helping him into the car. He bends down.

ECKHARDT
You might thank me for it later.

He slams the door and then moves to the cluster of cops.

INT. CELL - DAY (END FLASHBACK)

Nygma leans forward as the cell door opens.

DR. JEREMIAH ARKHAM steps inside with two white coat men.

(CONTINUED)

ARKHAM

It would seem your day of liberation has come. You have been cleared of all charges.

The white coats move over, taking off the straight jacket.

ARKHAM

It appears that new evidence has come to light that Max Shreck framed you.

NYGMA

That's what I was telling you from the beginning!

Arkham nods.

ARKHAM

Yes, I know, Mr. Nygma, but the evidence stacked itself against you.

Nygma narrows his eyes.

NYGMA

You forced electroshock therapy on me! An innocent man!

Arkham steps back as the white coats get between him and Nygma.

ARKHAM

Now, now, Mr. Nygma. You're a free man. Let's not ruin that by having to put that straight jacket back on.

Nygma breathes deeply and moves out of the cell, the white coats stepping to the side as Nygma moves past in order to keep him from being close to Arkham.

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - DAY

Nygma, stepping out the front entrance, brushes down his new duds: a green suit, black shirt, and purple tie. He wears a green bowler hat and walks with a golden cane with a question mark on it. From here on out, he is THE RIDDLER.

Arkham and the two white coats follow behind The Riddler.

(CONTINUED)

RIDDLER

I do say, I did a fantastic job
sewing this recreation of a
character from my game...

Riddler grits his teeth.

RIDDLER

... when actually allowed the
chance to work on it, that is.

Arkham clears his throat.

ARKHAM

Mr. Nygma, always remember, you are
in control of your own destiny, not
Max Shreck. He's gone now. Your
demons are no longer around.

Riddler shakes his head.

RIDDLER

(whispering)

Not all of them, Dr. Arkham.

He narrows his eyes.

RIDDLER

(whispering)

Not all of them.

Riddler tips his bowler hat to Arkham before turning his
back.

Arkham and the two white coats move back for the building.

A limo pulls up, the window rolling down, revealing Chip
Shreck.

CHIP

I told you I'd make up for my
father's mistakes.

Riddler smiles.

RIDDLER

Indeed, Mr. Shreck. All charges
dropped and free of Jeremiah
Arkham's control.

Chip opens his door and slides across.

RIDDLER

I do believe a night on the town is
in order.

Riddler gets into the limo.

INT. LIMO - DAY

Riddler closes the door as the sound of the car pulling away
occurs.

Chip holds out a purple mask.

The Riddler snatches it and puts it on.

RIDDLER

Finally complete. So how did the
funeral go?

CHIP

Quite well.

RIDDLER

And Mr. Dent?

Chip grins.

CHIP

He's shaking in his boots.

Riddler laughs.

RIDDLER

Very good. Soon all of Gotham will
join him. There are many that have
to answer for my time in Arkham
Asylum.

Riddler narrows his eyes.

RIDDLER

And they will answer in blood.

INT. GOTHAM GLOBE NEWS FLOOR - DAY

VICKI VALE and ALEXANDER KNOX, carrying luggage, move around
the busy office, brushing past reporters as they rush by
them.

(CONTINUED)

VICKI

Looks like the evening edition's going to be behind.

KNOX

Always is when we're not around.

PROVOST (O.S.)

Vale! Knox!

Vicki and Knox stop, turning.

HARRISON J. PROVOST moves forward, puffing on a cigar.

PROVOST

About time you two got back from Cancun. I can't believe I was stupid enough to let you two go.

VICKI

We would've quite if you hadn't.

Provost waves them off.

PROVOST

Yeah, yeah. We've got a major scoop. Chip Shreck is about to go to war with the city government, and I need my top two on the case. I've had to redo the entire evening edition because of the scene he caused at his father's funeral.

Knox's eyes widen.

KNOX

Max Shreck is dead!?

PROVOST

That's what happens when you demand a vacation! Everyone loses their minds, and I have to clean up! I want you two at City Hall yesterday!

Provost walks off.

Vicki sighs.

VICKI

So much for getting settled back in.

BRUCE (O.S.)
Enjoy your trip?

Vicki and Knox both turn around.

VICKI
Bruce!

Vicki hugs Bruce.

Bruce looks awkwardly at Knox.

Knox shrugs.

Vicki pulls out and clears her throat.

VICKI
Sorry.

BRUCE
Had a good time, I see.

Vicki nods.

VICKI
We did.

KNOX
And from what we can tell, Gotham
had a lot going on too. Your old
rival Shreck's in the grave, we
hear.

Bruce nods.

BRUCE
But his name still whispers
trouble.

VICKI
Chip. We know. We're on our way to
City Hall.

Bruce turns, gesturing for them to pass him.

BRUCE
Good. I was hoping I could talk the
both of you into supporting
Harvey's side of things.

Knox pats Bruce on the shoulder as he moves past.

KNOX

We'll do what we can, but when it comes down to it, Bruce, the press has to tell the whole story.

Vicki shakes her head.

VICKI

He's just mad that the bartender cut him off every night.

Bruce laughs.

BRUCE

I've had my share of those nights.

KNOX

I'm telling you, he was out to get me.

VICKI

Sure he was.

Knox moves further ahead as Vicki leans in.

VICKI

Are you going to this as Bruce Wayne?

Bruce smiles.

BRUCE

It's still daylight, isn't it?

INT. PROVOST'S OFFICE - DAY

Provost moves in as the phone rings.

Stepping over to his desk, Provost answers.

PROVOST

Editor.

His eyes widen.

PROVOST

Chip, what are you talking about?

Worry etches over his face.

(CONTINUED)

PROVOST
Yes, of course. I... Okay.

He hangs up the phone and sighs, looking to a shelf where a Raven Statuette sits.

PROVOST
It's happening anyway, Max.

INT. SHRECK'S HALLWAY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Provost moves down the hallway, passing Bruce and Selina. He looks after them for a moment before continuing onward.

INT. SHRECK'S OFFICE - DAY

Chip stands behind Max.

SHRECK
In the meantime, I have better fish
to fry.

PROVOST (O.S.)
We need to talk, Max.

Shreck and Chip both turn as Shreck sighs.

SHRECK
This isn't a good time, Harry.

Provost shakes his head as he closes the door.

PROVOST
You need to make the time. Now, I
know you've let Chip in on the
truth about the Ravens.

Shreck raises an eyebrow.

PROVOST
And I saw on the news that The
Penguin is the long lost Cobblepot
heir.

Shreck crosses his arms.

PROVOST
And now Bruce Wayne just left --

Shreck uncrosses his arms, waving Provost off.

(CONTINUED)

SHRECK

I was speaking with Wayne about my power plant proposal. He's still clueless about the Ravens, and so is Oswald.

Provost shakes his head.

PROVOST

Can you be absolutely sure of it?

Shreck nods.

SHRECK

Oswald had a lot of threats to dish out to me, but not one of them was in regards to the Ravens, or what they lead to. Trust me. We're safe.

Shreck moves for the door with Chip in tow.

SHRECK

Now, if you'll excuse us, we have a campaign to get off the ground.

Provost watches after them in confusion.

PROVOST

Campaign?

INT. PROVOST'S OFFICE - DAY (END FLASHBACK)

Provost pulls the Raven Statuette off the shelf and sighs.

PROVOST

I guess it's true. Secrets always come out in the end.

INT. CITY HALL LOBBY - DAY

Harvey walks with Gordon.

GORDON

This situation is going to get worse no matter what you say out there.

Harvey stops, shaking his head.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY

I know that, Jim, but what choice
do I have?

GILDA (O.S.)

None.

Harvey and Gordon turn as Gilda Gold moves up to them.

GILDA

Chip Shreck is in every right.

HARVEY

And you're following him? After
everything that we've --

GILDA

You're unstable, Harvey.

Harvey's eyes narrow in confusion.

GILDA

Chip may think you were in
Metropolis along with the rest of
Gotham, but I know where you really
were.

Gordon raises an eyebrow.

Harvey adjusts his tie.

HARVEY

My personal life is none of your
concern.

Gilda grins.

GILDA

Considering that... special night
we had a few months ago, I think
I'm in every right to get to know
someone that I was thinking about
having a relationship with.

Harvey shakes his head.

HARVEY

I knew I shouldn't mix politics and
relationships.

Gilda nods.

GILDA

And now it's going to come --

GORDON

There's no reason behind this, Miss Gold.

Gilda turns her head.

GORDON

Harvey Dent has done everything in his power to maintain peace in this city.

GILDA

By enlisting a vigilante to do his and your job? To quote Oswald Cobblepot, The Batman is a ticking time bomb of a costumed freak.

GORDON

You're quoting someone that tried to destroy this city.

Gilda puts her hands on her hips.

GILDA

Yet he was still right. We don't know anything about Batman. Just like we didn't know what Cobblepot was really capable of. Batman is just as bad. He allowed Cobblepot to end up dead just like Jack Napier. They were both deeply disturbed, but they needed psychiatric treatment. Not death.

She looks to Harvey and grins.

GILDA

Wouldn't you agree, Harv? I think psychiatric treatment is always the better way to go. I'd hate for The Batman to have to kill you too.

Gilda brushes past him, moving for the exit.

Gordon and Harvey watch Gilda go for a moment before Gordon looks back to Harvey.

GORDON

What is she talking about?

Harvey shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY

Nothing of any real consequence.
Come on.

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

Harvey and Gordon exit only to find Gilda standing at the podium, talking to the press.

GILDA

As Chip Shreck said at his father's funeral, I stand by him now along with Mayor Hill. We are going to clean up the mess that DA Harvey Dent and Commissioner James Gordon have been making in Gotham City. No longer will we stand idly by and watch. The Batman will no longer be tolerated. I have asked Mayor Hill to draw up the paperwork for a special task force to take down The Batman. This Major Crimes Unit will end all vigilantism so that the real police can take back their city.

VICKI (O.S.)

Some people believe that The Batman is the one actually doing good.

Gilda narrows her eyes.

Vicki stands with Knox and Bruce in the crowd.

GILDA

You would say that since you're the one that he killed The Joker to save.

VICKI

He was a maniac.

GILDA

That doesn't justify murder.

Bruce steps past Vicki and Knox.

BRUCE

It's been proven that Jack Napier killed my parents. Does that --

(CONTINUED)

GILDA

Your statement isn't recognized here, billionaire playboy! You've never cared about your fellow Gothamites! You sit in that big mansion of yours crying about mommy and daddy while real people are out there suffering!

Gordon grabs Gilda, pulling her away.

GORDON

That's enough!

Harvey moves to the podium as he watches Gordon remove Gilda. He finally turns to the microphone.

HARVEY

Ladies and gentlemen, Miss Gold and the others may have a point. Vigilantism is illegal. However, Gotham City has been surrounded by crime and corruption that the police haven't been able to handle on their own for years. The Batman swooped in like a guardian angel to save Gotham. I was their White Knight while he was their Dark Knight. One knight cannot function without the other. I say to all of you now, please, find it in your hearts to remember what The Batman has done for this city. Sure, his methods can be a little extreme, but I promise you that the criminals are going to be even more extreme.

Knox holds out his recorder.

KNOX

Mr. Dent, I'm always the first person to see the good that The Batman has done, but I worry that he's going to hang up the cape and cowl if Miss Gold's Major Crimes Unit becomes a reality. Do you believe there's anything you can do to stop it?

HARVEY

Mayor Hill is the one with the real power in Gotham. Sure, I work hand

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY (cont'd)
in hand with him, but when it all comes down to it, he's going to do what he wants. A lot transpired over Christmas, and now with New Years quickly approaching, I know he's going to do whatever it takes to make certain we don't have another fiasco on our hands. We all have to do what we can, Mr. Knox, to help The Batman in our own way. Get the word out that this Major Crimes Unit is a bad idea. I know Commissioner Gordon believes in me still, and I hope the rest of you do too.

Harvey looks down for a second before raising his gaze again.

HARVEY
It'll be a dark day in Gotham if Chip Shreck destroys what Gotham City has built. Let us do what we can to keep the light glowing bright. Thank you.

Harvey steps away from the podium as the members of the press all yell out intangible questions.

Bruce looks to Vicki and Knox.

BRUCE
Good speech. I just hope you two will listen.

VICKI
I have his back.

KNOX
Honestly, Dent's never let us down before, and I've always respected what Batman stands for. As long as we can get it past Provost, we'll help him fight this.

Knox moves through the crowd, trying to record the onslaught of questions from the members of the press.

Bruce turns, looking outward.

The sun dips low.

He turns back to Vicki.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

Time for someone else to go to work.

Vicki nods.

VICKI

Go get 'um.

Bruce takes off.

INT. SHRECK'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Chip leads The Riddler toward the entrance to the office.

Selina looks away from the computer.

Chip and Riddler completely ignore her, moving in and closing the door behind them.

Selina stands up in surprise.

SELINA

Edward Nygma? What is he wearing?

She picks up the phone and then puts it back on the receiver.

SELINA

No. Don't call him. You don't need him.

She sighs.

SELINA

Well, except to take care of Miss Kitty.

She shakes her head, moving for the office. She leans her ear on the door.

INT. SHRECK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Chip presses a button on a console under the large meeting table and then turns around, smiling. He nods.

Riddler looks behind him and then turns around fully as a wall piece slides away, revealing the four Ravens within.

Riddler moves to them.

(CONTINUED)

RIDDLER
They look expensive.

CHIP
Might be.

Chip moves over.

CHIP
But dad always said it wasn't about
their outside value. It's about
what they lead to.

RIDDLER
And you just need the one more?

Chip nods.

CHIP
It's on its way.

INT. SHRECK'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Selina strains to hear as someone clears his throat behind her.

Selina pulls away from the door.

Provost raises an eyebrow.

PROVOST
Did you have a habit of doing that
to Max when he was alive, Miss
Kyle?

Selina clears her throat.

SELINA
Mr. Provost! I didn't realize you
were --

Provost waves her off.

He grips his briefcase tightly.

PROVOST
Doesn't matter. Please, let me
through.

Selina moves aside.

INT. SHRECK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Provost moves in.

PROVOST

Chip, I'm a very busy man. I can't
be summoned like...

His eyes settle on Riddler.

PROVOST

Who the hell are you?

Riddler smiles.

RIDDLER

Oh, wouldn't you like to know?

Riddler looks past Provost.

RIDDLER

Miss Kyle?

Selina steps in beside Provost.

RIDDLER

Question: how is it that you still
work here?

Selina shrugs.

SELINA

Good health insurance.

Riddler shakes his head.

RIDDLER

That doesn't sound like you.

CHIP

It isn't.

Chip leans on the table.

CHIP

You still have amnesia?

Selina nods.

SELINA

Skiing accident.

Chip nods.

(CONTINUED)

CHIP

Sure. Dad may have had the patience to give you a second chance, but I don't.

Riddler moves up to Selina.

RIDDLER

I can tell there's more to you than meets the eye, Selina Kyle.

Selina raises her eyebrow.

SELINA

And considering your outfit, there must be more to you too. Isn't that what the riders of the griffins wore in your game?

Riddler grins.

RIDDLER

How wonderful of you to remember Riddle of the Minotaur. I'm honored a beauty such as yourself would.

Provost narrows his eyes in confusion.

PROVOST

(whispering)

Why does that sound familiar?

Riddler glances toward Provost for just a moment, scratching his chin before looking back to Selina.

RIDDLER

It is a riddle indeed.

Riddler paces around Selina in a circle.

RIDDLER

Beautiful women don't care about the wonders of nerds.

SELINA

I was called one in high school.

Riddler moves up behind Selina, leaning in close to her ear.

RIDDLER

Really?

Riddler laughs, moving around her to her front.

(CONTINUED)

RIDDLER

Question: What is a lovely woman
when she's called a nerd?

Selina shrugs.

RIDDLER

Answer: One in a million.

Riddler grins.

RIDDLER

The boys need to talk, nerd girl.
If you would?

Riddler gestures toward the door.

Selina moves out, closing the door behind her.

Riddler shivers.

RIDDLER

Question: What is a man that hasn't
had a conversation with a woman in
a long time?

Riddler turns around to face Chip and Provost.

RIDDLER

Answer: very horny.

INT. SHRECK'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Selina strides quickly for her desk, taking a seat.

SELINA

Can't handle this alone. Got to
bite the bullet.

She picks up the phone.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Alfred sits with Leslie. MISS KITTY sits in Leslie's lap as
she pets her.

ALFRED

And he still won't let it go.

Leslie laughs.

(CONTINUED)

LESLIE

Well, why should he? You did allow a member of the press to have access to his secret hideout. Most men don't like that kind of thing, but his identity could have been put at risk as well.

Alfred sighs.

ALFRED

I just didn't want him to end up alone. I still don't. Miss Vale seemed like the right candidate at the time.

Leslie crosses her legs.

LESLIE

Then why is she with her partner now?

ALFRED

Miss Vale couldn't separate Bruce from Batman. They became one in the same in her eyes, and there wasn't room for her in the plan.

LESLIE

The plan?

ALFRED

Saving Gotham.

Leslie drapes an arm over the love seat that they sit on as Miss Kitty hops down, moving off.

LESLIE

Seems to me like Miss Vale is trying to save Gotham herself though.

ALFRED

From time to time.

The phone rings. Alfred gets to his feet and moves around the love seat to a nearby table behind it. Leslie watches as he moves.

ALFRED

Wayne Manor...

His eyes widen.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED

I believe I can patch you through.

Alfred presses a button to hold the line as he looks to Leslie.

ALFRED

Perhaps he won't have to remain alone after all.

Alfred presses another line button.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

BATMAN steps out of the costume vault, looking toward the still dismantled Batmobile.

BATMAN

Lucius?

A young, African American, LUCIUS FOX, slides out from under the Batmobile.

FOX

Yeah?

Batman sighs.

BATMAN

Any update?

Fox sits up and wipes his greasy hands off on a rag.

FOX

The Red Triangle Circus Gang did a real number on this thing. I'm just glad you trusted me enough to finally bring me into the fold. Otherwise, I don't think you would've ever got this fixed. There was a lot more wrong with it than just that device they had in the bottom.

Batman nods.

BATMAN

At least you finished the new Batwing. I haven't been able to access the skies since Gotham Cathedral.

Fox grins.

(CONTINUED)

FOX

And it sure is a beauty, Mister Wayne. Now, when are you going to let me take it out for a spin?

Batman shakes his head.

BATMAN

Never.

Fox sighs.

FOX

You need help out there, man, and besides, I'm even working on a new suit for you. You really need to be able to turn your head and your entire body out there. That whole robot movement is hindering your karate.

BATMAN

It's Jujitsu.

Fox shrugs.

FOX

Whatever. Hell, I'm working on a suit for myself too. You should see it. It's --

BATMAN

Not going to happen.

The phone at the Batcomputer rings.

Batman strides toward it.

Fox shakes his head and goes back under the Batmobile.

FOX

Someday.

Batman picks up the phone.

BATMAN

Alfred?

ALFRED (V.O.)

Miss Kyle is on the line, sir.

Batman opens his mouth to speak and then closes it, tilting his head.

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN
Are you sure?

ALFRED (V.O.)
Quite sure, sir.

BATMAN
Alright. Thanks.

Batman presses one line button and then presses the flashing light of the other one.

BATMAN
Selina?

SELINA (V.O.)
We need to talk.

BATMAN
No. You and Commissioner Gordon need to talk.

Selina sighs over the line.

SELINA (V.O.)
You and I both know that it had to be done.

BATMAN
I'm done debating this.

SELINA (V.O.)
Good. I'd hate to bring up The Joker and Oswald.

BATMAN
That isn't the --

SELINA (V.O.)
Whatever, Bruce. Meet me on the roof of Shreck Department Store in thirty minutes.

A click ends the call. Batman shakes his head as he puts the phone down.

BATMAN
Women.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC OFFICE - NIGHT

Gilda strides off the elevator, her high heels clicking.

A blond, young female sits at the desk, filing her nails.

GILDA

I need to speak to Dr. Meridian.

BLOND FEMALE

Sure thing. You've got five minutes before her evening appointment arrives.

A smirk crosses Gilda's face.

GILDA

Perfect.

BLOND FEMALE

Let me just clear it. Name?

GILDA

Gilda Gold, ADA.

The blond female's eyes widen. She presses a phone line speaker.

BLOND FEMALE

Dr. Meridian, there's someone from the DA's office to see you.

CHASE (V.O.)

He's early. Send him in.

BLOND FEMALE

It's not your appointment.

There is a sigh over the line.

CHASE (V.O.)

Fine, Harleen.

HARLEEN FRANCIS QUINZEL presses the speaker button and smiles.

HARLEEN

Go ahead.

Gilda moves for the nearby door.

Harleen watches her go before turning back to her desk.

(CONTINUED)

She opens a folder, pictures and newspaper clippings of Jack Napier and The Joker revealed.

Harleen sighs.

HARLEEN
I miss you, puddin.

Her finger traces across The Joker's face.

HARLEEN
If you'd just spent more time with
me than that Alicia bitch, maybe
Grissom wouldn't have hurt you.

She picks up one of the pictures and kisses it. She sighs,
putting it back down.

INT. MERIDIAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

DR. CHASE MERIDIAN, arms crossed, looks out the window.

Gilda moves in, closing the door behind her.

GILDA
Perky secretary you have in there.

Chase turns around.

CHASE
She's my intern, working on her
doctorate.

Chase smiles as she moves forward.

CHASE
I think she wants to use me as a
reference for Dr. Arkham.

She shakes her head.

CHASE
You wouldn't catch me dead there.
She'll be eaten alive.

Chase gestures toward a chair.

CHASE
Please.

Gilda moves to the chair and sits.

Chase takes a seat as well.

(CONTINUED)

CHASE

What can I do for you, Miss Gold.

Gilda raises an eyebrow.

GILDA

You know who I am?

Chase nods.

GILDA

Harvey's been talking about me.

CHASE

I'm not at liberty to discuss that.

Gilda nods.

GILDA

Doctor-Patient Confidentiality. I would advise you not to keep with that. I'm sure you --

CHASE

I don't mix very well with politics.

GILDA

Gotham City needs someone strong to stand up to the corruption plaguing this city.

Chase leans back.

CHASE

This is just an observation, but to me, it appears that Gotham keeps getting safer.

GILDA

You've deluded yourself into a false sense of security.

Chase raises an eyebrow.

CHASE

For an Assistant District Attorney, you sure sound like a Psychiatrist.

Gilda smiles.

GILDA
Minor in.

Chase nods.

CHASE
Then you're not qualified to make
that kind of assessment.

Gilda shrugs.

GILDA
Like you said, just an observation.

Chase smiles.

CHASE
Ah. Touche.

A beeping noise sounds.

CHASE
Looks like time's up.

Chase stands, moving toward her desk.

Gilda stands as well.

GILDA
I plan to call on you to testify.

Chase picks up the phone.

CHASE
And you won't be able to get much
out of me.

Chase puts the phone to her ear.

CHASE
Yes, Harleen?... Send him in. She
was just leaving.

Chase puts the phone on the receiver.

CHASE
I'm afraid I have to ask you to
leave out the side door. I don't
want my patient disturbed by you.

Gilda laughs.

GILDA

Oh, yes. Let's not disturb our
disturbed District Attorney.

CHASE

I will call security, Miss Gold.
Don't think I won't.

Gilda moves for the door and walks out.

The main door opens, Harvey Dent stepping in.

HARVEY

Hey, doc.

Chase smiles.

CHASE

Always good to see you, Mr. Dent.

INT. SHRECK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Provost's briefcase opens, revealing the Raven Statuette.

The Riddler looks over Provost's shoulder.

RIDDLER

Just like the other four.

Provost glances at Riddler.

PROVOST

Were you really expecting something
different?

Riddler shrugs before pushing Provost out of the way. He
picks up the Raven Statuette and grins.

RIDDLER

You're about to give me all the
money I could ever need.

Provost's eyes widen as he turns to Chip.

PROVOST

Seriously? You believe the cursed
treasure is for him?

Chip shrugs.

CHIP

It's the least I can do after my
father wronged him.

Provost shakes his head.

PROVOST

Max wronged a lot of people. What
makes this man any different from
the rest?

RIDDLER

Did any of the rest end up in
Arkham Asylum because of him!?

Provost takes a step back.

PROVOST

Woah, calm down.

Riddler sneers.

RIDDLER

You sound like my shrink.

Riddler points his question mark cane.

RIDDLER

I didn't like my shrink.

Provost takes another step back, holding out his hands.

PROVOST

Now, now. There's no need for
violence. I've done what was asked
of me.

Riddler nods.

RIDDLER

And we're very grateful. Aren't we,
Chip?

Chip nods.

CHIP

You've been extremely helpful.

Provost turns around.

PROVOST

Then I'll be going.

(CONTINUED)

Riddler quickly pulls the bottom cane piece out, revealing a knife on the bottom of his question mark cane.

Provost moves for the door but stops, gasping as the knife goes through his chest. Riddler leans in close to Provost's ear.

RIDDLER

That's for the slander you wrote
about Edward Nygma in The Gotham
Globe.

Riddler quickly pulls the knife out, and Provost drops to the floor.

RIDDLER

Question: What's black, white, and
red all over?

Riddler turns around, re-capping the cane piece and grinning to Chip.

RIDDLER

Answer: A Gotham Globe paper with
Harrison's blood all over it.

Chip shakes his head.

CHIP

What are we supposed to do about
the body?

Riddler shrugs.

RIDDLER

Not my problem. It's not like the
police can do anything about it.

CHIP

And The Batman?

Riddler laughs.

RIDDLER

Batman?

Riddler scoffs.

RIDDLER

We're ten steps ahead of all of
them. We'll be out of Gotham with
our reward before they even figure
out where we've gone.

Riddler moves to Provost's briefcase and picks up the Raven Statuette.

RIDDLER

Let's get a move on.

EXT. SHRECK'S ROOF - NIGHT

The Batwing sours overhead as Batman ejects, dropping downward. The Batwing flies off.

Landing on the roof in a crouched position, Batman looks around the area.

Nothing in sight.

He stands up.

BATMAN

Catwoman?

CATWOMAN steps out of the shadows.

CATWOMAN

About time, stud.

He steps over to her.

BATMAN

Why meet here?

CATWOMAN

Right now, there's a meeting going on in Shreck's office. I kept my job to see what Chip was going to do, and it's a good thing I did.

BATMAN

Dangerous.

Catwoman nods.

CATWOMAN

I know, but Chip's up to something. He cleared the charges against Edward Nygma. He wouldn't mean anything to you, but --

BATMAN

Just another soul Max Shreck stole from. I did my research on Shreck when I was looking into his power plant proposal.

(CONTINUED)

CATWOMAN

Well, Nygma's out now, sporting a
flashy costume like us, and
something's going down concerning
Harrison Provost.

BATMAN

The Globe editor.

Catwoman nods.

CATWOMAN

Just thought this might be right up
your alley.

BATMAN

I'll look into it.

Catwoman tilts her head.

CATWOMAN

Don't you mean we'll look into it?

Batman stares at her.

BATMAN

You need to turn yourself in.

Catwoman purrs.

CATWOMAN

Only when you do, handsome.

Catwoman turns her back to him, sauntering away.

CATWOMAN

You're going to need me on this.
Hope you realize that before it's
too late.

She disappears into the shadows.

Batman moves to the edge of the roof.

INT. MERIDIAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Chase and Harvey sit opposite of one another.

HARVEY

It's bad enough that I've been
seeing a shrink, doc, but --

(CONTINUED)

CHASE

You know you shouldn't use that word. Shrink puts a negative spin on what you're doing. You're trying to get help, Mr. Dent. That's the important thing.

Harvey nods.

HARVEY

I know. I'm sorry, Dr. Meridian. It's just hard when you're in office, an important office, where people are counting on you every day, and there's this other side to you that you're afraid is going to come out. And now, somehow, my ADA has found out about our sessions.

Chase crosses her legs.

CHASE

And you don't know who you can trust?

Harvey nods.

HARVEY

Did you --

Chase shakes her head.

CHASE

I took an oath. I would never turn my back on my patients. Whoever told Miss Gold will be caught, somehow.

Harvey sighs.

HARVEY

Your intern's the only other person that would've known.

CHASE

Not necessarily. There are a lot of people that work in this building. Anyone could've seen you come to this floor and toward my office. The obvious assumptions are going to be made. And I trust Miss Quinzel. You should too.

Harvey smiles.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY

She does mention that she thinks I should run for mayor. A supporter wouldn't be a betrayer.

CHASE

That's right.

INT. SHRECK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Batman crashes through one of the windows and immediately goes into a fighting stance.

No one is there. Provost's body rests near the door.

Batman moves out of the fighting stance and strides forward.

Bending down, Batman turns the body over. He sighs, reaches into his utility belt, and pulls up a comms device.

BATMAN

Alfred?

ALFRED (V.O.)

Yes, sir?

BATMAN

Call the police and then Vicki. Her boss has been murdered. I'm in Max Shreck's office.

ALFRED (V.O.)

Right away, sir.

Batman lowers the comms device and stands up, looking around the room.

He moves for a briefcase on the table and pulls the comms device back up.

BATMAN

Something was in this briefcase. Small in size, but probably heavy, considering the indentation.

ALFRED (V.O.)

Any idea what it was?

BATMAN

Odd shape to the indentation. Almost like... a bird.

He closes the briefcase, looking to the handle.

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN
Provost's initials are on it.

ALFRED (V.O.)
Was this a deal gone bad?

BATMAN
Possibly. Selina said Edward Nygma was released from Arkham, per Chip Shreck. They were in here with him. One of them killed Provost.

ALFRED (V.O.)
If it was over this bird, then clearly it was of important value to them.

Batman turns around, searching the room with his eyes.

BATMAN
There's an open panel on the wall.

Batman moves to the wall.

BATMAN
Looks like four circular indentions are here. I wouldn't be surprised if there were five of these birds in total.

Alfred clears his throat.

ALFRED (V.O.)
Oh, dear.

Batman turns away from the wall.

BATMAN
Alfred?

ALFRED (V.O.)
This is something that stretches back to before your parents died. I suggest you return, sir.

BATMAN
Not yet. I owe it to Vicki to stick around.

Batman moves to the massive windows, looking out.

ALFRED (V.O.)
I implore you, sir. This is very
important.

Batman narrows his eyes.

From the window, it's easy to see, across the street in a
high window, Harvey and Chase speaking to each other.

BATMAN
I think I know why Harvey Dent is
being targetted.

Batman turns toward the model of the power plant. He knocks
it over, moving where it was, going through the papers on
the desk.

ALFRED (V.O.)
I doubt you'll find proof, sir.
Anything he would have, Shreck
would've hidden it well.

Batman looks up.

The portrait of Max and Chip sits on the wall near the door.

BATMAN
Or in the most obvious place.

Batman strides around the meeting table and goes to the
portrait.

Ripping it off the wall, he reveals a vault.

Pulling some explosive putty from his belt, he places it and
then moves away. A small explosion occurs.

Turning back, he moves forward, the vault now open.

Pulling out files, he quickly goes through them.

BATMAN
Information on the power plant.
Looks like it's going to be
stockpiling energy instead of
generating it. Leave it to Max.

ALFRED (V.O.)
Sounds very much like him, but it
doesn't help Mr. Dent.

BATMAN
Still looking.

Batman stops on a file.

Harvey Dent's name is clearly on the tab.

Batman tosses the other folders and opens Harvey's.

BATMAN
Looks like Max had Dr. Chase
Meridian's office bugged. Entire
transcripts of their meetings are
here.

ALFRED (V.O.)
I wouldn't be surprised if he has
transcripts for other patients as
well. This could prove to be a
dangerous revelation.

BATMAN
Agreed.

He sighs.

BATMAN
Dr. Meridian knows about Max.

ALFRED (V.O.)
Are you sure?

BATMAN
Very.

The pages of transcript blur to darkness.

FADE OUT.

SHRECK (V.O.)
Against Carl's wishes, I went to
Dr. Meridian. I figured, she might
be of use to me in the future. The
way Dent is working, Carl's going
to end up in jail soon anyway, and
if I'm not careful, I'll be in
Blackgate with him. I have to cover
my own ass.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC OFFICE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Max Shreck steps off the elevator and strides forward.

Harleen Quinzel stands up, shock crossing her face.

HARLEEN

Max Shreck!

Harleen rushes around her desk with a notebook in hand.

HARLEEN

Mr. Shreck, will you please sign my notebook?

Shreck takes the notebook and her pen, signing his name.

SHRECK (V.O.)

Dr. Meridian's secretary reminds me of a lot of the groupies that love me, but there's something... familiar about her.

He hands the notebook and pen back.

SHRECK

I need to speak to Dr. Meridian, if you don't mind.

Harleen grins.

HARLEEN

Sure. Right this way.

Harleen leads Shreck toward the door.

SHRECK (V.O.)

I know I've seen her somewhere before.

INT. MERIDIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Harleen steps through the door.

HARLEEN

Dr. Meridian, I know you're busy, but you've got a celebrity visitor.

Chase looks up from her desk.

(CONTINUED)

CHASE
Celebrity?

Harleen steps aside as Shreck moves in.

Chase quickly stands up.

CHASE
I never thought you would need
psychiatric treatment, Mr. Shreck.

Shreck smiles.

SHRECK
Afraid not. I have other business
for you.

Chase raises an eyebrow.

CHASE
Alright then.

Harleen moves out, closing the door behind her.

Shreck takes off his coat and draps it over a nearby chair.

SHRECK
You and I, we have a mutual friend.

Chase crosses her arms.

SHRECK
Harvey Dent.

CHASE
The District Attorney?

She shrugs.

CHASE
Can't say that he and I are
friends.

SHRECK
But you do know each other.

CHASE
What exactly are you asking me, Mr.
Shreck?

Shreck takes a seat, leans back, and crosses his legs.

SHRECK

My department store is right across
the way from your building.

Chase looks out the window behind her before facing him
again.

SHRECK

Not much happens around Gotham
Plaza without me knowing about it.

Shreck uncrosses his legs and leans forward.

SHRECK

You and I could be good friends.

He shrugs.

SHRECK

Or, we could be enemies.

Chase narrows her eyes.

SHRECK

It's up to you, of course.

INT. SHRECK'S OFFICE - NIGHT (END FLASHBACK)

Batman continues looking at the file.

GORDON (O.S.)

Batman?

Batman looks up, almost startled.

BATMAN

Commissioner Gordon.

He closes the file, passing it to Gordon.

BATMAN

This is why Chip Shreck is
challenging Harvey Dent. Probably
how Gilda Gold found out as well.

GORDON

Is there anything going on in this
city that you don't know about?

BATMAN

Very little.

(CONTINUED)

Batman and Gordon turn toward Provost's body, a couple of beat cops bent over it, dusting for prints.

GORDON

This is a mess. The press are going to eat it up.

KNOX (O.S.)

Already are, Commissioner.

Batman and Gordon turn.

Knox and Vicki move in. Vicki goes instantly for the body, bending down to it. Knox pulls up his tape recorder.

KNOX

Harrison J. Provost,
Editor-in-Chief of The Gotham Globe
dead in Max Shreck's office on the
night after Max's funeral earlier
in the day. Any comment,
Commissioner?

Gordon puts up a hand.

GORDON

No comment.

Gordon moves past him, opening the file in his hand as he moves toward Vicki and the two beat cops.

Knox steps up to Batman, pulling his tape recorder toward him.

KNOX

How about you, Batman?

Batman brushes past Knox.

Knox sighs, turning off the tape recorder.

KNOX

Can't ever get a break.

Batman bends down beside Vicki, putting a hand to her shoulder.

VICKI

Are you going to get whoever did
this?

Batman nods.

(CONTINUED)

VICKI

Good.

She turns to her bag, pulling out her camera.

VICKI

Guess I better get a few shots.

Vicki turns back only to find that Batman is already gone.

VICKI

Never gets old.

INT. MARONI'S OFFICE - NIGHT

SALVATORE MARONI sits behind the desk. It's easy to tell that this office used to be Carl Grissom's, but it has gone through some redecorating.

MARONI

And just why should I trust you,
Mr. Mayor?

Hamilton Hill sits in front of the desk.

HILL

Because this is your chance to
recover from losses this past year.

Maroni pulls a cigar from his drawer.

MARONI

What losses? I'm at the top of the
food chain, Hill, and you're
starting to bore me.

He lights the cigar and takes a puff from it.

HILL

The events at Christmas have left
Gotham in shambles, and it's time
for a change. You could be part of
that change.

MARONI

You politicians sure love to scream
about change.

He stands up, moving to the window behind him, looking out.

(CONTINUED)

MARONI

Dent wanted Grissom gone, so decent people could live in Gotham. You wanted to keep Max Shreck from getting his power plant. Gold wants Dent out and plans to bring in some damn MCU.

Maroni turns back around, puffing smoke.

MARONI

And that part I really don't like. She is a problem.

HILL

She won't be for long. I'm not planning change to fix Gotham. I'm done trying to fix a dying city. Why do you think I denied Max's power plant?

Maroni laughs.

MARONI

Cause it was a fake.

Hill raises an eyebrow.

HILL

Excuse me?

MARONI

Did you really believe he had the best intentions? A man willing to let the hideous Penguin try to take your office isn't someone that can be trusted.

Maroni moves around the desk, leaning on the front of it.

MARONI

So you want me to relieve Dent of his responsibilities tomorrow at the hearing?

Maroni looks up, nodding.

MARONI

I think I can accomplish that, but it's going to cost you.

Hill sighs.

(CONTINUED)

HILL
Figures.

INT. MERIDIAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Chase and Harvey move to the door as Chase opens it.

CHASE
You take care, Mr. Dent. I'll see
you in a week.

Harvey pats Chase on the shoulder.

HARVEY
Thanks, doc.

He moves out.

Chase closes the door.

BATMAN (O.S.)
You have some explaining to do,
Doctor.

Chase jumps, turning around. Her eyes widen.

CHASE
You!

Batman moves away from the open balcony doors.

BATMAN
I know your connection to Max
Shreck, and so do the police.

Chase slowly moves forward.

CHASE
I don't know what you're talking
about.

BATMAN
In death, Shreck has betrayed you.
All of his documents on you, and
the transcripts on your meetings
with Harvey Dent, were found.
There's no point denying it. I'm
sure the police will be here
shortly.

Chase shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

CHASE

What torment drove you to what you do?

Batman tilts his head.

BATMAN

I'm not here to be examined, doctor.

Chase smiles as she clears the distance to Batman.

CHASE

I could write an entire book on you, Batman. Why does he do the things he does? What made him kill Jack Napier? What really happened to Oswald Cobblepot and Max Shreck?

BATMAN

You're very direct.

Chase sighs, moving to her wet bar.

CHASE

You like strong women. I've done my homework, because I knew Shreck would mess up eventually.

She pours herself a drink.

CHASE

And when he did, I figured you would be here either before or after the police.

She turns around.

Batman is gone.

CHASE

Bastard.

The main door opens as Gordon moves in, Harvey and Harleen following behind him.

HARVEY

Jim, I demand to know what's going on!

HARLEEN

You can't just barge in here!

Gordon stares at Harleen.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON
I'm the Commissioner of the police.
I can do whatever I want, my dear.

Gordon turns to Harvey and hands him a file folder.

GORDON
You're not going to like it.

He turns to Chase as two beat cops move into the office.

GORDON
Dr. Meridian, I'm going to have to
ask that you come in for
questioning.

One of the beat cops pulls out handcuffs, moving forward.

CHASE
Are those really necessary?

HARVEY (O.S.)
Yes.

Chase and Gordon both turn.

Harvey closes the file, anger crossing his face.

HARVEY
You're damn right they are.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC OFFICE - NIGHT

Chase, in handcuffs, is led out of her office.

Vicki and Knox stand in wait, Knox holding out his tape recorder.

KNOX
Dr. Meridian, do you have any
comment on the allegations against
you?

Chase kicks Knox between the legs.

Knox drops to the floor.

Vicki slaps Chase really hard.

The beat cops quickly get between them.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON
Get her out of here!

Vicki bends down to Knox.

Harvey watches them go before bending down to Vicki and Knox.

HARVEY
You alright, Mr. Knox?

Knox opens his eyes and does his best to nod.

KNOX
Yeah. Couldn't be better.

Harleen steps out of the office and shakes her head.

HARLEEN
Mr. Dent, I'm so sorry.

Harvey looks back and shakes his head.

HARVEY
It isn't your fault, Miss Quinzel.
You didn't know what Dr. Meridian
was doing.

Harvey turns back to Knox, offering a hand out to him.

Knox accepts as they both stand, Vicki as well.

VICKI
I didn't think that woman had a
mean streak.

HARVEY
I didn't realize you had such a
strong hand.

Vicki smiles.

VICKI
After being victim to The Joker, I
realized I needed to work on my
impulsiveness.

Knox laughs.

KNOX
I'm surprised you didn't punch her.

He looks to Harvey.

KNOX

She's been taking Karate for months.

HARVEY

I'll remember not to piss you off, Miss Vale.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

The Batwing sours into the cave, coming to rest on it's platform.

Batman jumps out and strides forward.

Fox stands at the Batcomputer, beside Alfred, whom sits at it.

BATMAN (O.S.)

Trail went cold.

Alfred turns around in the chair as Fox turns his head.

Batman moves up the stairs to the Batcomputer.

BATMAN

Wherever Nygma and Chip have gone, I can't track them down. I need to research them. Figure out their next move.

ALFRED

I already know their next move.

Alfred clears his throat.

ALFRED

As I tried to explain when you were in Shreck's office, I know what they're doing.

Batman pulls off the upper half of his costume, becoming Bruce.

BRUCE

Alright, Alfred, you've got my attention.

He places the upper piece of the suit on the floor.

Alfred leans back and sighs.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED

This story was past down from your family and four other families for generations. You weren't told the story, because your parents died before you were of age, and since the family Raven Statuette was stolen, I thought the matter closed.

Bruce raises an eyebrow.

BRUCE

Raven Statuette? Stolen?

Alfred nods.

ALFRED

I believe now that Carl Grissom had your parents murdered by Jack Napier because of their Raven Statuette.

Bruce shakes his head.

BRUCE

You shouldn't have kept this from me.

Fox looks between both of them awkwardly.

FOX

I think I'm just gonna leave you two to --

BRUCE

Stay, Mr. Fox.

Fox looks down.

FOX

Okay.

Alfred sighs.

ALFRED

I know it wasn't the best decision, but what good would it have done to tell you? Grissom and Napier were both dead, and as far as I knew, the Wayne and Grissom Ravens were probably lost due to The Joker. He destroyed anything that came into his path.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

What is the story behind these Ravens?

ALFRED

It dates back to the early 1800s, when Gotham was originally founded.

FOX

The Five Founding Families of Gotham.

Alfred nods.

ALFRED

Judge Solomon Wayne, Architect Cyrus Pinkney Provost, Lord Ezekial Cobblepot, General Ulysses Grissom, and Dr. Theodore Shreck.

BRUCE

I didn't realize how connected all of those family names were. Shreck never said anything. The few times I talked to Harrison Provost he was always short with me.

ALFRED

They didn't trust you. You weren't one of them... as far as they were concerned.

Fox whistles.

FOX

I can't imagine why.

Bruce points at Fox.

BRUCE

Watch it.

ALFRED

Apparently there was supposed to be some sort of treasure that the families ended up protecting. Your parents didn't know all the details, but they did know the location of the treasure. It's underneath City Hall.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

Then we need to get to the treasure before Nygma and Chip can.

FOX

Not that you need anymore treasure cluttering up the mansion.

Bruce shakes his head.

BRUCE

You love to walk on thin ice, don't you?

FOX

Living dangerously is what I'm all about.

Fox grins slyly.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Chase, legs and arms crossed, sits in front of the table. Gordon sits across from her and Harvey stands with his arms crossed behind Gordon.

CHASE

I don't know what you expect me to say.

HARVEY

You could always start with the truth.

CHASE

The truth is that Max Shreck threatened me. I'm sure the both of you know the lengths he'll go to get what he wants. There's a side to that man that he never showed people in public, and he was very good at covering his tracks. Look at how quickly he turned on Oswald Cobblepot at that press conference.

Chase sighs.

CHASE

Personally, I'm glad he's dead.

Harvey paces around behind Gordon.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY

There's conflicting theories on how he died. What's to say they're all wrong, and you aren't the one that did it?

Chase shakes her head.

CHASE

I'm not a murderer. I'm a victim of circumstance.

Harvey nods.

HARVEY

Oh, I see. You're the one that's the victim here.

GORDON

Harvey.

Harvey turns on Gordon.

HARVEY

What, Jim? I have every right to --

GORDON

You're letting your anger cloud your judgement.

CHASE

And you definitely don't want to be doing that.

Harvey raises an eyebrow toward Chase.

HARVEY

You're no longer my therapist, and when I'm done, you won't be anyone's.

CHASE

Outside of Leslie Thompkins, I'm the best therapist Gotham City has ever had. I have the approval of a lot of --

Harvey leans his hands on the table between Chase and Gordon.

HARVEY

Once they know about Max Shreck recording your sessions, you won't have support.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON
Mr. Dent does have a point, Dr.
Meridian.

Chase's eyes move toward Gordon.

GORDON
You should've come to the police.
We would've --

Chase laughs.

CHASE
Are you completely deluded or just
senile? Your police force is
corrupt, Commissioner!

Gordon huffs, leaning back.

GORDON
There are a few issues, yes, but --

CHASE
Not just a few. There's plenty of
dirt all over your precienct. Just
because you took over as
Commissioner when Gillian Loeb was
indicted, doesn't mean the
corruption left with him. Going to
the police means little to nothing,
especially when Shreck had the ear
of Carl Grissom's empire.

HARVEY
Grissom is dead too.

Chase shakes her head.

CHASE
Doesn't mean that his empire died
with him.

HARVEY
When I get Salvatore Maroni in that
courtroom --

CHASE
It won't do any good.

Chase leans forward.

CHASE

There'll just be another face to replace him, and then another, and another, until you find yourself realizing that trying to bring down the criminal underworld has become your whole life.

Chase looks back and forth between Harvey and Gordon.

CHASE

I know the both of you believe you have the best interests in mind for Gotham, but you're just putting a bandaid on only for it to come back off again. Not even Batman can bring an end to it.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT

Harvey and Gordon move out of the interrogation room, closing the door behind them.

Gordon moves to a couple of beat cops.

GORDON

Take her to a cell. I'm sure she'll make bail first thing in the morning, but for now, we're holding her.

The two cops move into the interrogation room as Gordon turns to Harvey.

GORDON

We'd best get some rest. There's only a few hours before Maroni's trial.

Harvey looks to his watch and sighs.

HARVEY

The nights do fly by in Gotham.

Harvey pats Gordon on the shoulder.

HARVEY

See you in the courtroom, Jim.

Harvey moves past Gordon.

Gordon turns to the window, looking in at Chase and the beat cops as they cuff her.

EXT. CITY HALL ROOF - NIGHT

Batman lands before pulling out his communicator, the Batwing sailing past in the background.

BATMAN

I'm here. Everything seems quiet.

ALFRED (V.O.)

I certainly hope they've decided to wait. It's nearly morning. You may have to consider changing.

BATMAN

Spare clothes in the Batwing, Alfred. I'm expected at Maroni's hearing this morning.

ALFRED (V.O.)

Very good, sir.

Batman looks over the side of the building.

EXT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

The double entrance doors to City Hall open.

EXT. CITY HALL ROOF - NIGHT

BATMAN

Someone's coming out.

EXT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

Mayor Hamilton Hill steps out, looking around the area.

EXT. CITY HALL ROOF - NIGHT

BATMAN

It's just Hill.

ALFRED (V.O.)

A bit late for him to be at City Hall, isn't it?

BATMAN

Considering the plans he's trying to put into motion against Dent, no.

A limo pulls up.

EXT. CITY HALL ROOF - NIGHT

BATMAN
Got a limo.

EXT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

The back door opens as The Riddler steps out, cane first. He stretches.

RIDDLER
Question: What is a limo when it
makes one stretch?

Chip steps out of the limo, carrying a dufflebag, as Riddler turns to him.

CHIP
A stretch limo?

Riddler laughs.

RIDDLER
You're finally catching on, my boy.

EXT. CITY HALL ROOF - NIGHT

Batman narrows his eyes.

BATMAN
Found Nygma. Strange attire. Looks
like something from that game he
created. Going to work, Alfred.

ALFRED (V.O.)
Good luck, sir.

Batman puts away the comms device and jumps off the roof.

EXT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

Hill steps up to Riddler and Chip.

HILL
We don't have long till government
officials file in for the morning.
We'd best get in before --

(CONTINUED)

Batman lands behind them.

Hill turns around, gasping before backing into Riddler and Chip.

HILL

Batman!

Riddler steps in front of Hill.

RIDDLER

Get ahold of yourself, Hill.

Riddler pulls the point off of his cane and points the knife end toward Batman.

Batman stands up fully.

RIDDLER

Our business is not your concern.

Batman grabs the cane.

BATMAN

I'm making it my concern.

RIDDLER

Then prepare to match wits and brawn with The Riddler!

Riddler shoves the cane forward.

The knife breaks off on Batman's chest plate.

Riddler's eyes widen.

RIDDLER

Question: What is a bat when he is a knight in armor? Answer: A Dark Knight.

Batman shoves the cane away and punches Riddler in the face.

Riddler falls to the ground.

BATMAN

Riddler? Is that some play on your name, Nygma?

Chip pulls a gun and fires three quick shots.

Batman falls to the steps, hitting his head as he goes.

(CONTINUED)

CHIP

Batman may have armor, but bullets
will still pack a punch.

Riddler groggily grabs the knife part from his cane before
picking up the cane.

Chip helps Riddler to his feet.

CHIP

Let's go, Hill.

Hill leads the way up the steps, past Batman.

Riddler groans.

RIDDLER

(weakly)

How can he know who I am?

Hill opens the doors, leading Chip and Riddler inside.

INT. CITY HALL LOBBY - DAY

Hill moves to a door with a padlock on it. He pulls out a
key and unlocks the padlock before removing it.

He opens the door, revealing a dark stairway going down.

HILL

Let's be quick, gentlemen. It's a
long way down.

EXT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

ALFRED (V.O.)

Master Bruce?

Batman groans on the steps.

ALFRED (V.O.)

Master Bruce, are you there?

Batman's eyes open.

He sits up, rubbing his head. He pulls out his comms device.

BATMAN

Suit still needs some armor
modifications. I'm still getting
hit hard, and the headpiece isn't
strong enough to absorb impact.

(CONTINUED)

FOX (V.O.)

Oh, you're going to love what I'm making for you even more then.

Batman stands up.

BATMAN

I'm going to need it sooner, rather than later, Mr. Fox.

FOX (V.O.)

I'll get to work on it then.

Batman moves up the steps.

BATMAN

Got to catch up to them.

ALFRED (V.O.)

You need rest, sir.

BATMAN

I took a spill, but I'll be fine. They have to be stopped.

ALFRED (V.O.)

It's just treasure, sir. There's no reason to rush in and get yourself even more hurt.

BATMAN

What if it isn't just treasure? Considering that the Grissom, Shreck, and Cobblepot families were involved in this, there's no telling what is waiting down there for them.

ALFRED (V.O.)

So you know, sir, it's nearly dawn.

Batman opens the double doors, in the background the sun slowly rises.

BATMAN

I'm going in. Batman out.

He puts away the comms device and moves in.

INT. LOWER LEVEL OF CITY HALL - TIMELESS

Chip helps Riddler down the final set of steps. Once at the bottom, Riddler pushes Chip away.

RIDDLER

Thank you, but I have my wits about me now. He was right. Long way down.

Hill rounds a corner.

HILL

Are you two coming? It's just around the corner.

Hill turns, moving off as Riddler and Chip follow.

INT. CITY HALL LOBBY - DAY

Batman moves for the wide open door. Voices sound out behind him as Batman turns.

People file into the building.

Batman quickly moves through the door, closing it behind him.

INT. BASEMENT CHAMBER - TIMELESS

Riddler and Chip move in as Hill gestures forward.

HILL

End of the line, my friends.

RIDDLER

What is this, Hill? A torture chamber?

HILL

Just one of the many secrets Gotham still holds to this day.

The chamber is a small, circular room that appears to be the foundation of City Hall. It is not completely covered in concrete and man made steel as dirt still covers the floor. There are five columns at the middle of the room, encircling the direct center.

(CONTINUED)

RIDDLER

Any Tom, Dick, or Harry could have found their way down here. Not greatly hidden.

Chip sets the dufflebag down.

CHIP

Yes, but they wouldn't be able to uncover the treasure without the Ravens.

Chip pulls out the five Raven Statuettes.

Riddler strides over.

RIDDLER

How right you are.

Riddler takes three of them and then tosses one toward Hill.

RIDDLER

Heads up, Mr. Mayor!

Hill tries to catch the Raven Statuette and nearly drops it.

RIDDLER

Careful now. Don't want to loose one.

Chip picks up the final two Raven Statuettes.

CHIP

If my dad's explanation to me is to be believed, we have to place all five of them at the same time.

Riddler nods.

RIDDLER

Yes, yes. I do happen to know the details myself.

CHIP

How's that?

Riddler points a finger at Chip.

RIDDLER

Question: How is it that you think I came upon knowledge of the treasure in the first place?
Answer: Not because you told me.

Chip looks confused.

RIDDLER

Let me clear it up for you. After your father threw me out of his office, I noticed Miss Kyle had left her desk. I browsed through the file cabinets, looking for anything I could use against Shreck. I found everything on the treasure.

Riddler sighs as he moves to two of the columns.

RIDDLER

Sadly, I was going to go after the treasure after meeting with your father at Axis Chemicals, but, well, we all know how that went over.

Chip moves to two of the other columns.

CHIP

For what it's worth, you know I'm sorry for what happened. My dad's connection to Carl Grissom landed him --

RIDDLER

Lt. Eckhardt's help. Yes, yes. I know.

Riddler turns to Hill.

RIDDLER

Ready, Mr. Mayor?

Hill moves to the final column and nods.

HILL

Ready to be rich.

Riddler laughs.

RIDDLER

Spoken like a true politician.

He holds out his Raven Statuettes toward the columns.

Chip does the same.

Hill holds out his.

RIDDLER

Question: What is a puzzle when you
have all the pieces? Answer:
Finished. Now!

All five Raven Statuettes land on their columns. The three men step back.

A blast of light, much like lasers, hits all five Raven Statuettes, creating a circle of light, the center setting fire.

Hill looks worried.

HILL

This will burn down City Hall!

CHIP

I don't think so! Looks controlled!

INT. LOWER LEVEL OF CITY HALL - TIMELESS

Batman eases down the stairs, slipping and nearly falling. He shakes his head frantically.

Hands suddenly ease him.

Batman turns around, getting into a fighting stance.

Catwoman raises a finger to her mouth.

CATWOMAN

Easy, stud. I'm only here to help.

BATMAN

How'd you find me?

CATWOMAN

Alfred called.

Batman sighs.

BATMAN

First Vicki, now you.

Catwoman raises an eyebrow.

Batman shakes his head.

BATMAN

He let her into the Batcave.

Catwoman smirks.

(CONTINUED)

CATWOMAN

I'm jealous.

HILL (O.S.)

This will burn down City Hall!

Catwoman and Batman both look further down.

CHIP (O.S.)

I don't think so! Looks controlled!

CATWOMAN

Better hurry.

INT. BASEMENT CHAMBER - TIMELESS

The fire goes out. In its place lies a very articulate design. It appears foreign, Arabic. There are deep grooves in the dirt, and it all leads to a center hole, green light shining through.

CHIP

The hell?

Riddler uses his cane as he strolls around, looking uncaringly at the design.

CHIP

This can't be it.

HILL

Surely not. There's a light at the center. Has to be another chamber down there.

Riddler stops behind Chip, leaning on his shoulder.

RIDDLER

Mayor Hill is correct. However, in this your father didn't tell you, Chip. In order to proceed, something has to happen.

Chip glances over his shoulder.

CHIP

Then do you want to fill us in?

Riddler quickly pulls the pointed knife from his jacket pocket.

(CONTINUED)

RIDDLER

Question: What must be done for the
greater good?

Riddler slits Chip's throat. He gasps.

Hill's eyes widen.

RIDDLER

Answer: Sacrifice.

Riddler tosses Chip onto the symbol.

HILL

Are you insane!?

Riddler points his cane at Hill.

RIDDLER

Now that's a good question!

Riddler looks back to Chip's body as the blood fills in the
symbol.

RIDDLER

Payment paid in full. Nothing
personal, Chip.

Batman and Catwoman move into the chamber. Catwoman cracks
her whip.

The whip wraps around Riddler. He glares forward.

RIDDLER

Question: What do a bat and a cat
have in common?

Riddler nods down to Chip's body.

RIDDLER

Answer: They're too late.

Hill takes several steps back.

HILL

This was unavoidable.

Chip's body dissolves into the ground as the symbol and the
dirt disappear, leaving a massive, green, lit hole in the
ground.

Batman moves forward, looking in.

Chip's body rolls down a set of stone stairs and falls into a massive green liquid down below, a large splash subsiding moments later. The liquid bubbles like a hot tub.

BATMAN

Not the treasure I was expecting.

Riddler wiggles the knife in his hand to where it's against the whip and cuts himself free. Bringing up his cane, he hits Catwoman in the head with it, knocking her down.

Batman turns back around as Riddler swings the cane. He catches it in his hand and shakes his finger at him with the other one.

BATMAN

Time for another lesson.

A loud yell rings out.

Batman turns around to the massive hole.

Catwoman slowly gets to her feet, looking in as well.

Riddler steps between them.

RIDDLER

Who was that?

Hill laughs.

All three of them turn toward him.

HILL

What I've been waiting for this whole time.

Hill pulls out a handgun from his jacket breast pocket and points it at them, moving for the hole.

HILL

Max Shreck sure as hell wasn't going to trust me with the truth of the treasure, but I found out from Salvatore Maroni. He knew everything that Carl Grissom knew.

BATMAN

You're working with Maroni?

Hill nods his head frantically as he moves for the edge of the hole where the stone stairs lie.

(CONTINUED)

HILL

Publicly, I tried to edorse you,
but secretly, I despised you. I
can't stand to even look at you.
I've been looking, for a long time,
for someone that could take you
down, and I've finally found him.

RIDDLER

Question: When does --

Hill swings his gun toward Riddler.

HILL

No more questions! No more annoying
riddles to solve!

Hill backs slowly down the stairs.

INT. LAZARUS PIT CHAMBER - DAY

HILL

You three freaks are going to be
the end of the nightmare in Gotham.
When my new partner and I unleash
hell, Gotham will find a new form
of peace.

Batman, Catwoman, and Riddler all follow after Hill.

HILL

It will be glorious.

BATMAN

Don't you think the founding
families locked up whoever it is
down here for a reason?

Hill nods.

HILL

They didn't understand his genius.

An explosion erupts out of the green pool as another yell
sounds out.

HILL

It's nearly time.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

A BAILIFF moves to the center of the court.

BAILIFF

All rise.

Everyone in the courtroom stands up.

BAILIFF

The honorable Judge Harkness
presiding.

JUDGE HARKNESS steps in from his door and takes a seat.

HARKNESS

As you were.

Everyone takes seats.

Chase sits near the front, on the defendant's side, with Harleen, Chase's eyes clearly on the back of Harvey's head as he sits at the prosecution table.

Gilda sits directly behind Harvey in the audience, a smirk on her face.

Vicki and Knox sit near the back of the room, both taking notes. On the other side from where they are sits Gordon.

HARKNESS

Councilor Dent, call your first
witness.

Harvey stands up.

HARVEY

I'm going to skip ahead, actually.

He moves around the table.

HARVEY

We need to get to the heart of the
matter, because precious time has
been lost.

INT. LAZARUS PIT CHAMBER - DAY

Hill turns around fully, spreading his arms wide.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY (V.O.)
Gotham City was supposed to become
safe again once Carl Grissom fell.

Batman pulls out a batarang, getting into a fighting stance.

Riddler holds his cane tightly.

Catwoman pulls out twin catalops, twirling them around.

HARVEY (V.O.)
But the darkness has only spread
even further.

Chip's body, drained of all its fluids, bursts out of the
green liquid, landing in front of Hill.

HARVEY (V.O.)
And some believe I'm not capable of
saving this city anymore.

A shape steps out of the green liquid, striding forward,
towards all four people in front of him. He wears green
pants, no shirt, and has black hair with white streaks.
That's all that can be seen from behind.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Harvey turns away from Judge Harkness and toward the crowd.

HARVEY
I'm going to prove them wrong.

He points into the crowd.

HARVEY
I call Salvatore Maroni to the
stand.

Maroni stands up, buttoning his dress coat.

INT. LAZARUS PIT CHAMBER - DAY

RA'S AL GHUL steps fully out of the Lazarus Pit, glaring at
everyone in front of him.

HILL
Welcome, my friend.

Ra's focuses his attention on Hill.

(CONTINUED)

HILL

I have made this all possible.

Riddler growls.

RIDDLER

I'm the one that killed Chip Shreck.

Ra's turns his head quickly.

RA'S AL GHUL

Shreck!?

He strides toward Riddler.

Riddler gulps.

RA'S AL GHUL

Then it is you I truly have to thank. Without a descendant of a family member that imprisoned me being consumed, I wouldn't have been released.

Hill moves forward.

HILL

I manipulated the whole thing.

Ra's turns, growling.

RA'S AL GHUL

Silence!

Ra's turns toward Batman and Catwoman.

RA'S AL GHUL

And who are you two?

BATMAN

We're the ones here to stop you.

Ra's laughs whole heartedly.

RA'S AL GHUL

Do you even know who I am, mortal?

Batman tightens the grip on his batarang.

RA'S AL GHUL

I am he who is called Ra's al Ghul.

BATMAN

The Demon's Head. I heard you were a myth.

Ra's extends his hands out wide.

RA'S AL GHUL

I am no mere myth!

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Maroni has one hand raised and his other on a bible.

MARONI

I do.

The Bailiff takes the bible away.

Harvey steps forward.

HARVEY

You're the one that ultimately took over Carl Grissom's businesses after The Joker killed him and other associates.

Maroni raises an eyebrow.

MARONI

Is that a question?

HARVEY

Merely a statement of fact, Mr. Maroni.

Maroni shrugs.

MARONI

Just because I purchased, leagally I'll tell the court, the building that Grissom owned, doesn't mean that I'm running his underworld dealings. The Maroni Family has always been a staple of good, decent business. Take my Italian Resturant in Old Gotham. We do get a lot of business. The most business, mind you, Old Gotham is capable of these days.

Harvey shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY

This isn't the time to advertize
your restaurant. You're not in
front of a camera here, Maroni.

Maroni leans forward.

MARONI

Call me Sal.

HARVEY

What about The Boss? That is what
they call you, isn't it?

Very slowly, Maroni reaches into his pants pocket.

MARONI

Just a bunch of unfounded rumors,
I'm afraid.

Harvey moves for his desk, picking up a stack of papers. He
brings them back toward the witness stand.

HARVEY

I have signed documents from your
known associates, all of which have
come forward against you. They have
fingered you as The Boss.

Harvey smiles.

HARVEY

You are the crime boss we're
looking for, Mr. Maroni.

INT. LAZARUS PIT CHAMBER - DAY

Batman tosses his batarang.

Ra's swats the batarang away.

RA'S AL GHUL

You try to attack me with toys?

Ra's laughs.

Catwoman swings her catalops around, rushing toward him.

BATMAN

Catwoman, no!

Ra's swats the catalops out of her hands and grabs Catwoman
by the throat before tossing her.

(CONTINUED)

Catwoman lands on Batman, knocking them both to the ground.

RA'S AL GHUL
I'll show you how to really attack
someone.

Ra's grabs hold of the nearby Hill by the throat, lifting
him into the air.

HILL
No... I only wanted to... help you.

RA'S AL GHUL
And so you have.

Ra's tosses Hill into The Lazarus Pit.

RA'S AL GHUL
Someone not near death will cause a
powerful cascade reaction.

Riddler slowly moves forward.

RA'S AL GHUL
Feast your eyes on the treasure, my
savior. A fountain of youth that
will not give life freely unless
you are close to death or already
dead. Your friend is learning this
lesson now.

Riddler looks worried at Ra's before looking toward the pit.

The liquid explodes upward as Ra's laughs.

Batman and Catwoman get to their feet, looking upward in
shock as the chamber begins to give way.

Batman grabs Catwoman by the arm and drags her toward the
stairs.

BATMAN
We have to get out of here!

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

An explosion erupts from the floor, sending people flying.

Harvey is thrown into the witness stand, staring in shock at
Maroni.

(CONTINUED)

MARONI

Mayor Hill sends his regards.

Maroni thrusts the chemical at Harvey's face.

Harvey turns to the right to try to avoid the chemical, but it hits his left side, eating away at his skin.

Falling to the floor, he screams in agony, using the documents to try to cover his face.

From the floor, Gilda looks up, hearing the screams. She stares forward in shock.

Gordon coughs on the floor, trying to get back to his feet as others scream and exit the courtroom.

Knox helps Vicki to her feet.

KNOX

You alright?

Vicki nods.

VICKI

I think so. What happened?

KNOX

No clue.

On the floor, Chase groans.

HARLEEN

Dr. Meridian?

Chase opens her eyes and looks around in confusion.

Harleen helps her to sit up as they both look at the massive hole in the floor.

Judge Harkness pulls himself up with the help of his stand, looking over into the hole.

HARKNESS

Bailiff?

Harkness looks to the side, shock crossing his face.

The Bailiff lies half way through the nearby window, dead.

Harkness turns back toward the hole.

Maroni gets down from the witness stand, easing his way toward the side exit.

(CONTINUED)

Gilda crawls over to Harvey and takes his hand.

GILDA
Harvey, are you alright?

Harvey pulls the documents away, revealing the damage on the left side of his face. From now on, he is TWO-FACE.

TWO-FACE
Does it look like I'm alright?

Gilda puts a hand to her mouth.

GILDA
I swear, I didn't know.

Two-Face growls.

TWO-FACE
Maroni named Mayor Hill.

Two-Face slowly gets to his feet, pain riddled on his right side but not expressive on the left.

TWO-FACE
You and Chip Shreck were working
with him!

Gilda crawls backwards a few feet before slowly getting up.

GILDA
I know how this looks.

TWO-FACE
Do you!?

Harkness turns.

Chase and Harleen get to their feet as they turn their heads.

Vicki and Knox try to see over the heads of everyone else in the courtroom.

Gordon tries to get to the front, pushing his way past the screaming Gothamites as they rush out.

Batman and Catwoman move through the double doors.

Vicki and Knox both turn.

KNOX

Woah, Bats, who's the girlfriend?

Vicki slaps Knox on the arm.

VICKI

There are more pressing issues.

Vicki looks back to Batman and Catwoman.

CATWOMAN

It's worse than you think.

Two-Face grabs Gilda by the hair, pulling her face to face with him.

TWO-FACE

Look at me! This is your doing! The pain I'm in, I don't have to look in a mirror to know what's happened!

GILDA

You're hurting me.

Two-Face nods.

TWO-FACE

I know.

GORDON

Harvey, stop!

Two-Face turns Gilda around so that her back is to him. He wraps his right arm around her throat.

TWO-FACE

Stay back, Jim!

Gordon holds out his hands slowly.

GORDON

Harvey, you know me. I'm not going to hurt you.

TWO-FACE

But I want to hurt her.

Gordon shakes his head.

GORDON

That isn't the way. Maroni did this, didn't he? It's him that has to answer for it.

(CONTINUED)

Two-Face nods.

TWO-FACE
You're absolutely right, Jim.

GORDON
You've always been someone of
chance. Chance defined your career.
Don't let this accident redefine
you.

GILDA
He's right, Harvey. Please just --

TWO-FACE
Shut up!

Two-Face reaches into his pocket with his free hand.

TWO-FACE
Back in college, I let a coin toss
make my decisions for me. It was
definite and final.

Two-Face flips the coin. He looks at it as it lands on his
palm.

TWO-FACE
Too bad.

Two-Face twists Gilda's neck, a loud pop ringing out, before
he drops her lifeless body.

GORDON
No!

Two-Face takes off for the side exit.

Gordon pulls his gun, moving after Two-Face.

BATMAN
Gordon!

Gordon stops, turning.

BATMAN
There's no time. We have a more
pressing situation.

GORDON
What could possibly be --

A maniacal laugh sounds out.

(CONTINUED)

Batman turns around.

The double entrance doors open with force as Ra's al Ghul kicks his way in. Riddler follows him in.

Knox steps forward.

KNOX

What the hell do you --

Riddler hits Knox with his cane, knocking him down.

Vicki goes toward Knox, but Riddler grabs hold of her arm tightly, keeping her restrained.

RIDDLER

Well, well. Vicki Vale. You're the one that took those pictures after my trial. I didn't look too flattering.

Vicki looks onward in horror.

VICKI

Edward Nygma? They released you?

Ra's al Ghul strides down the courtroom.

RA'S AL GHUL

Don't play with the citizens, my savior.

Riddler smiles to Vicki and pulls her forward.

RIDDLER

I just wanted to claim her is all.

RA'S AL GHUL

Very well.

Batman and Catwoman step forward.

BATMAN

I can't allow that.

Ra's laughs.

RA'S AL GHUL

There is nothing you can do about it. In fact, with each time you defy my rule, I will take a life and further destroy this pathetic city.

Ra's picks up a pen from a nearby desk and tosses it.

The pen sticks in Judge Harkness' throat. He gags as blood seeps out. He then collapses.

RA'S AL GHUL
A new order is rising in Gotham
City. You will join me, or you will
parish.

Screaming sounds out on the streets.

RA'S AL GHUL
It has already begun.

Riddler laughs.

RIDDLER
Question: What does screaming mean
for Gotham? Answer: That The Maroni
Family has begun terrorizing the
city.

Vicki pulls against Riddler. He pulls her up close to him.

RIDDLER
Careful now, Miss Vale. Resistance
means death.

Gordon clicks his gun, but Batman quickly grabs it.

BATMAN
We can't win here, Commissioner.

RA'S AL GHUL
Gotham City has until sunset to bow
before the great Ra's al Ghul. If
they don't, I will burn Gotham to
the ground and no one will be
allowed revival by The Lazarus Pit.

Ra's strides for the doors, Harleen watching him go.

HARLEEN
(whispering)
Revival?

Riddler points his cane at Batman.

RIDDLER
And just to make sure you don't try
anything, Miss Vale is coming with
us to where sanctuary and shelter
are jokes.

Riddler pulls Vicki away.

Knox, groggily trying to get up, stumbles back to the floor.

KNOX

No, you can't take her!

He gets to his knees as Riddler moves by with Vicki. Riddler kicks Knox back to the floor.

VICKI

Alex! Alex!

She is pulled out as the doors close.

Batman seethes with anger.

CATWOMAN

Cool that head, stud. We've got a long day ahead of us.

BATMAN

I do.

Catwoman turns her head sharply.

BATMAN

I'm not going to risk your safety.

CATWOMAN

I didn't ask you to.

GORDON

And you're going to need extra back up.

Batman shakes his head.

BATMAN

This is my job.

GORDON

This is our city too.

BATMAN

You need to get back on Harvey's trail. If you can get him off the streets and to a hospital, that'll be one less issue.

Gordon reluctantly nods and moves off, gathering officers from around the courtroom as he goes.

Batman turns to move off, but Catwoman grabs his arm.

(CONTINUED)

CATWOMAN

Riddler and Ra's al Ghul are a powerful team, and you have Vicki Vale to worry about as well. Your head isn't going to be entirely on the mission. You have to trust those around you in order to get the job done.

Knox moves forward.

KNOX

And not just her either.

Batman turns.

BATMAN

You're hurt.

KNOX

I've lived through worse. This is Vicki we're talking about here.

Knox steps forward, leaning in.

KNOX

(whispering)

We're not having this discussion. I'm coming... Bruce.

He leans back.

Batman's eyes widen.

Knox grins.

KNOX

No, Vick didn't tell me. I figured it out all on my own just from the way she used to talk about you... both of you.

Catwoman rolls her eyes.

CATWOMAN

Can we please just get started?

Batman closes his eyes.

BATMAN

We don't even know where they're going.

(CONTINUED)

KNOX

Chaos all around Gotham? We just follow the worst of it.

Catwoman shakes her head.

CATWOMAN

No, wait. Riddler said something about taking her to where sanctuary and shelter are jokes.

Knox shrugs.

KNOX

What's that jibberish supposed to mean?

CATWOMAN

It's a clue.

BATMAN

What's another word for sanctuary or shelter?

He narrows his eyes.

BATMAN

Asylum. Arkham Asylum.

Catwoman grins.

CATWOMAN

Attractive and smart. Riddler spent a lot of time there thanks to Max. Perhaps his time spent there is the reason he went nuts.

KNOX

Then let's go!

Knox takes off.

Catwoman goes to follow, but Batman stops her.

BATMAN

This will be a trap.

Catwoman purrs.

CATWOMAN

I wouldn't have it any other way.

As Batman and Catwoman move off, Harleen looks into the massive hole.

The Lazarus Pit lies deep below.

HARLEEN

Pretty.

CHASE (O.S.)

Let's go, Harleen.

Harleen turns, moving off.

INT. MARONI'S OFFICE - DAY

Maroni looks out his massive window.

Carnage reigns below as many buildings sit on fire. Police sirens wail in the distance.

TWO-FACE (O.S.)

Enjoying the fruits of your labor?

Maroni turns around.

Two-Face steps off the elevator, pointing a gun.

Maroni narrows his eyes in confusion.

MARONI

Shouldn't you be in the hospital?
Though, I was hoping dead.

TWO-FACE

You would hope for that, but when
you only do the job half way, you
leave the game open to
interpretation.

Two-Face flips his coin.

MARONI

What's that supposed to be for?

TWO-FACE

Just taking a chance.

Two-Face looks at the coin and then his good side grins.

TWO-FACE

Chances not looking good for you.

Two-Face fires.

The bullet hits Maroni in the shoulder, forcing him into the chair. He yells in agony.

(CONTINUED)

MARONI

Harvey, wait... You're not like this.

Two-Face tilts his head.

TWO-FACE

You see, I'm not Harvey anymore. You've taken that from me. I killed Gilda because of you and Mayor Hill.

Maroni shakes his head.

MARONI

No. Hill was just a stooge. Chip Shreck too. Edward Nygma, The Riddler, he planned everything from Arkham Asylum.

Two-Face moves forward, coming more into the light.

TWO-FACE

I put Nygma away.

Maroni nods.

MARONI

And he hated you and others for it. I had no choice in the matter. If I wanted to stay on top in Gotham, I had to play ball.

TWO-FACE

And look where that got you.

MARONI

I have a family.

Two-Face flips his coin again. It lands.

Maroni looks onward in horror.

TWO-FACE

Too bad.

Two-Face fires again.

The bullet slams into Maroni's head.

Two-Face turns, moving off.

(CONTINUED)

TWO-FACE

Nygma. Just another to the list.

INT. ARKHAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Jeremiah Arkham writes in a file at his desk.

Screams sound out.

A guard rushes to the door.

GUARD

Doc, the inmates are out.

Arkham stands up in alarm.

ARKHAM

What? How?

GUARD

I don't know. The men are rounding them up now.

Arkham nods, moving around his desk.

ARKHAM

I'll come supervise.

The guard turns around, getting a knife in his forehead.

As the guard falls, Arkham looks at him in shock before looking up again.

Riddler walks in.

RIDDLER

Hello, Dr. Arkham.

Arkham steps back.

ARKHAM

Nygma!

RIDDLER

Question: What is a psychiatrist when he becomes the inmate?

ARKHAM

Stay back, Nygma!

(CONTINUED)

RIDDLER

Wrong answer!

Riddler rushes forward.

Arkham moves for his desk, opening a drawer, a gun inside.

Riddler whacks Arkham upside the head with his cane, knocking him down.

RIDDLER

Right answer: A long time coming.

INT. MARONI'S OFFICE - DAY

Gordon stands at the desk, shaking his head.

A couple of beat cops dust for finger prints.

GORDON

We know who did this, gentlemen. I think you're wasting your time.

A walkie-talkie on Gordon's belt comes to life with static.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

Commissioner?

Gordon unclips the radio and presses the talk button.

GORDON

Go ahead.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

We got a call from Gotham Cemetary. Someone killed the caretaker on duty and took The Joker's corpse from his grave.

Gordon's eyes widen.

GORDON

What?!

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

The Joker's corpse is gone. We've been investigating, but nothing's turned up.

GORDON

Very well, dispatch. Keep me informed. Gordon out.

(CONTINUED)

Gordon clips the walkie-talkie and shakes his head.

GORDON
Hell in a hand basket.

INT. LAZARUS PIT CHAMBER - DAY

Harleen Quinzel stands at the edge of The Lazarus Pit, hope in her eyes.

The pit bubbles and boils.

HARLEEN
Come on. Come on.

A purple clad, white skinned, green haired man emerges from The Lazarus Pit, his back only showed.

A grin comes over Harleen's face.

HARLEEN
Puddin!

INT. MERIDIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Chase pours a stiff scotch.

TWO-FACE (O.S.)
Why don't you pour me one too?

Chase jumps slightly before turning around.

Two-Face steps forward from the main door.

TWO-FACE
You sent Miss Quinzel home. Not the best idea, but then again, she would become a factor of chance as well.

CHASE
Mr. Dent, what are you doing?

Two-Face laughs as he continues toward Chase.

TWO-FACE
Everyone keeps asking me something similiar to that.

Chase moves away from the wet bar, backing toward a large window.

CHASE

Don't do something stupid.

TWO-FACE

You were at the trial. You saw me kill Gilda. I went after Maroni too.

Chase's eyes widen.

CHASE

This isn't you.

Two-Face nods.

TWO-FACE

Oh, but it is.

Realization hits Chase.

CHASE

Big Bad Harv.

Two-Face nods again.

TWO-FACE

You thought you'd suppressed me, but Maroni just made me angry. Now, Harvey's taking a back seat. The scars on my left side tell an interesting story. Two sides to Harvey Dent.

Two-Face gets in Chase's face, grabbing her arm. She pulls against him, but he grips tighter.

TWO-FACE

I think you should call me Two-Face.

CHASE

You have to understand that Max Shreck made me reveal everything about you. He wanted his power plant. Mayor Hill wasn't going to give it to him. He had to have a back up plan.

Two-Face nods.

TWO-FACE

I can admire someone that has two ideas in mind. It's just too bad he didn't live long enough to meet me.

(CONTINUED)

Chase gulps.

CHASE
I can help you, Harvey.

Two-Face flips the coin.

CHASE
Your father's coin?

Two-Face looks at the coin before looking back to her.

TWO-FACE
Mine now.

Two-Face shoves her through the window.

He looks out the broken window as she screams.

TWO-FACE
Look out below!

He laughs.

Turning around, Two-Face stops on a dime.

Harleen stands in the doorway with someone in a fedora and trenchcoat.

HARLEEN
Looks like you beat me to it.

Two-Face tilts his head.

TWO-FACE
Beat you?

HARLEEN
This place was just my day job.
Something to pass the time without
my puddin.

Two-Face narrows his eyes.

TWO-FACE
Puddin?

The man in the trenchcoat pulls out a handgun, pointing it.

Two-Face pulls up his gun.

TWO-FACE
You really want to try me?

HARLEEN
Puddin, really he just --

The fedora and the white chin are all we see as he turns his head.

JOKER
Don't call me puddin.

Harleen smiles sheepishly.

HARLEEN
Sorry, Mr. J.

THE JOKER pulls off the fedora, revealing a younger Joker, basically young Jack Napier with Joker's grin and make up.

Two-Face laughs.

TWO-FACE
Are you joking?

Joker chuckles lightly.

JOKER
Why do people always ask that?

Two-Face shakes his head.

TWO-FACE
The Joker.

He looks to Harleen

TWO-FACE
You ressurected The Joker?

Harleen nods proudly.

JOKER
Tell me, Mr. Dent, you ever dance
with the devil in the pale
moonlight?

TWO-FACE
This isn't Harvey Dent you're
dealing with, clown.

They both open fire at the same time.

Harleen ducks down, moving out the door.

Joker and Two-Face move simultaneously after one another, shooting up the office as they go, missing each other completely with their bullets.

Two-Face bursts through the secondary exit.

Joker laughs.

JOKER
That was fun.

Harleen looks back in.

JOKER
We'll get him next time.

Joker and Harleen move together to the balcony and walk out onto it.

EXT. BALCONY - DAY

JOKER
Gotham City will soon be ours,
Harley.

HARLEEN
What about that guy that came from
the pit?

Joker turns to Harleen and chuckles lightly before looking back out over the city again.

JOKER
Wait till he gets a load of me.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Suited thugs toss trash cans through store windows.

Other thugs chase screaming Gothamites into traffic, vehicles swerving to avoid hitting them.

Molotov cocktails are thrown into vehicles and onto the sidewalks, fires spreading all around.

Batman sours in, kicking a thug to the ground.

Turning, he spin kicks another one.

Knox runs in with a baseball bat, hitting a thug in the head, hard, knocking him into another thug.

(CONTINUED)

Four thugs rush toward Knox.

Catwoman cartwheels into the fray of thugs as Knox backs up. Catwoman scratches one of the thugs in the face, elbowing another, and spin kicking the next before jumping her legs up onto the shoulders of the final one and spinning him down to the ground.

CATWOMAN
This is madness!

KNOX
You're telling me!

Batman pulls a stungun, firing it.

A thug falls, spasming on the sidewalk.

BATMAN
The Maroni Family are all mad!

Batman tosses a batarang.

A thug driving by on his motorcycle, a Moltov cocktail in hand, gets hit with the batarang, crashing on the pavement, the bottle rolling away.

The Batmobile flies onto the scene.

The headlights shine brightly as it stops in front of Batman and Catwoman.

CATWOMAN
You got that fixed fast.

BATMAN
I didn't realize it was.

Knox grins.

KNOX
I want one.

The hood slides open. Fox sits up, grinning.

FOX
Like my new ride?

Batman's lips purse to a line.

BATMAN
You don't belong here.

Fox shakes his head, jumping out of the Batmobile.

FOX
Party pooper.

Catwoman smirks.

CATWOMAN
And I thought I was the only one
that thought that about him.

Batman moves to the Batmobile.

BATMAN
I don't like being double teamed.

FOX
Get used to it.

BATMAN
You're not helping your case.

Fox reaches into the back, pulling out a bulky, cloth-like fabric.

FOX
You're going to want to upgrade
now.

Batman takes the fabric, staring at Fox in disbelief.

BATMAN
Do you want me to end up dead?

Fox laughs.

FOX
There is a durable armor underneath
the fabric. Didn't you feel the
weight? This stuff could stop a
cheetah at full speed.

Batman goes behind the Batmobile with the new costume.

Catwoman purrs.

CATWOMAN
Any toys for me?

Fox reaches in, pulling out a whip and some catalogs.

FOX
Your apartment was easy enough to
find.

CATWOMAN
You're beautiful.

FOX
That's what all the ladies say.

Fox searches again, pulling out batarangs, handing several to Knox before keeping the others for himself.

FOX
And you thought Christmas was over,
Mr. Knox.

Knox laughs.

KNOX
Aww, you shouldn't have.

Police cruisers pull up to the scene. Many of the cops jump out, opening fire on the already firing Maroni thugs.

Fox jumps into the passenger seat of the Batmobile.

KNOX
Who said you could have shotgun?

FOX
I just don't want the cops to see
me. They'll know Bruce is Batman.

Knox nods.

KNOX
Good idea.

He moves back over to Catwoman.

Gordon rushes through the barrage of fire and over Catwoman and Knox just as Batman rounds back around the Batmobile, now wearing his new attire.

Gordon nods.

GORDON
Nice.

BATMAN
Thank you.

GORDON
We've got this from here. You have
bigger fish to deal with.

Batman nods.

BATMAN

Harvey?

Gordon shakes his head.

GORDON

He killed Maroni before we could get to him. I got a call from dispatch that another set of officers found Dr. Meridian dead, but I lost contact with them when a shoot out started.

BATMAN

Then he's presumably taken care of everyone that wanted him out of office. He'll probably go underground now.

Batman turns, moving for the Batmobile.

GORDON

There's something else.

Batman turns back. The others move over, joining in.

GORDON

Someone dug up The Joker's body.

Batman's eyes widen for a moment before returning to neutral.

GORDON

All of Joker's men are still in Blackgate.

BATMAN

Then it's someone we missed.

Catwoman shakes her head.

CATWOMAN

Can't be a coincidence.

She steps up between Batman and Gordon.

CATWOMAN

The Joker's body is stolen on the same night that we see someone exit what I can only describe as a Fountain of Youth.

Knox moves forward.

(CONTINUED)

KNOX

Hey, hey, hey, you can't seriously be thinking what I think you're thinking.

Catwoman nods to Knox.

CATWOMAN

You're about to get the scoop of the century.

She looks to Gordon.

CATWOMAN

I'd suggest posting men at that pit. If he isn't already up moving around, The Joker soon will be.

Gordon nods before looking to Batman.

GORDON

Sound partner you have now.

Gordon turns, moving off.

BATMAN

She's not my partner!

Catwoman smirks. Knox can barely contain his laughter.

Batman turns to them, narrowing his eyes.

Both Catwoman and Knox turn serious.

BATMAN

Let's get back to work. Joker can wait. Vicki needs us.

INT. ARCTIC WORLD - NIGHT

The Joker stands, hands behind his back as he stares forward in boredom.

JOKER

Would you hurry it up already, Harley!

Harleen grunts as she pulls on something under the water.

HARLEEN

I'm tryin, puddin, but he's really heavy.

(CONTINUED)

JOKER

Well, we haven't got all night, you know? I need to rebuild my forces, and if you're right that this guy controlled The Red Triangle Circus Gang, then we could use that to our advantage.

HARLEEN

I don't see how I can get him out of here all by myself!

JOKER

Well, what? Do you expect me to get my new suit ruined in that filth?

Harleen drops the body and puts her hands on her hips.

HARLEEN

And what about my clothes!?

Joker grins.

JOKER

Oh, I've got something special in mind to give you, my dear. Don't you worry about those old rags.

Harleen squeels.

HARLEEN

You're the greatest, Mr. J.

JOKER

I know. Comes with the territory. Now hurry it up!

HARLEEN

Yes, sir!

Harleen picks the body back up, pulling again.

POODLE LADY steps out of the shadows, slowly moving around the iceberg at the center of the stage. She stares forward, simply watching.

Harleen notices the movement and stops pulling.

HARLEEN

Hey! Come over here and help me!

Joker turns around.

(CONTINUED)

JOKER

Hey, you!

Poodle Lady disappears back into the shadows.

JOKER

They're here, Harl. Probably been watching us the whole time.

Joker extends his hands out as he walks around the stage.

JOKER

My friends, we're not the enemy. Furthest thing from it. You have nothing to fear from the likes of us. We know what you're all about, and we'd like to bring some light back into your lives. Batman took everything you had by killing your leader and having others arrested. This is the time to take everything back, and believe me, we will too. I was killed by Batman, just like your Penguin. We can bring him back, and together, all of us will share in the victory!

Poodle Lady steps back out, petting her poodle as she leads several clowns out.

JOKER

The time for revenge is now.

Poodle Lady points into the water. The clowns move past her.

Harleen steps aside as the clowns pull the body toward the stage.

INT. ELECTROSHOCK THERAPY - NIGHT

Dr. Jeremiah Arkham sits strapped to a chair, a shock cap on his head.

Riddler tightens the straps on his arms.

ARKHAM

Let me go, Nygma.

RIDDLER

Name's Riddler.

(CONTINUED)

ARKHAM

I don't care what you want to call yourself. You're still Edward Nygma!

Riddler shakes his head.

RIDDLER

You, along with others, stole that name from me. So I've reinvented myself.

RA'S AL GHUL (O.S.)

Riddler isn't the only one that the name Arkham destroyed.

Ra's al Ghul steps out of the shadows as Riddler and Arkham look to him.

ARKHAM

Am I supposed to know who you are?

Ra's shakes his head.

RA'S AL GHUL

No. I'd suppose your ancestor kept the truth about me hidden. Amadeus Arkham helped the Five Founding Families to lock me away inside one of my Lazarus Pits.

ARKHAM

How could he possibly have done such a thing?

Ra's laughs.

RA'S AL GHUL

You cannot tell me that you didn't know he was a warlock.

ARKHAM

Blasphamy!

Ra's shakes his head.

RA'S AL GHUL

How blind you are to your own lineage, Dr. Arkham. Pity.

Ra's looks to Riddler.

(CONTINUED)

RA'S AL GHUL
He's all yours, Riddler.

Ra's al Ghul walks out.

Arkham looks to Riddler in fear.

ARKHAM
Please, don't do this! I'll do
anything you want!

RIDDLER
Goodbye, doctor.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ra's al Ghul moves forward, Arkham screaming in the background right before the electricity from the electroshock device starts, causing the lights to flicker.

Ra's stops at a chained, lying on the floor, Vicki Vale.

VICKI
Batman will come for me.

Ra's smirks.

RA'S AL GHUL
I'm very much counting on this dark
knight avenger coming to your
rescue. That is why I allowed
Riddler to take you. I see a great
power within him. He could be what
I've been searching for all these
years.

VICKI
And just what is that?

RA'S AL GHUL
My true, male heir.

VICKI
Heir to what?

RA'S AL GHUL
Something a foolish girl would
never understand.

Ra's picks her up, dragging her off as the power returns to normal.

A tear streams down Vicki's cheek.

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

The Batmobile roars up, followed shortly after by Knox's car.

Batman and Fox jump out of the Batmobile.

BATMAN

I'm telling you, stay here!

FOX

I understand your whole loner thing.

Knox and Catwoman get out of Knox's car, moving forward.

FOX

I really do. You're afraid you're going to lose someone else, like you lost your parents, but you need to start trusting people.

CATWOMAN

It isn't just Riddler and Ra's al Ghul in there.

Batman turns toward her.

CATWOMAN

There are inmates galore, and they're loose. You can't do it alone, and I can't either. You need us just as badly as we need you.

Knox nods.

KNOX

We're a team now, whether you like it or not.

Catwoman nods forward.

CATWOMAN

Let's go, boys.

She takes off up the spiral steps leading toward the massive, dark castle.

Knox gulps as he looks upward.

KNOX

Scary place. Can't say I've been here before.

(CONTINUED)

FOX

Same.

Knox and Fox both move forward, catching up to Catwoman.

Batman watches after them, shaking his head.

BATMAN

Really bad idea.

He follows after them.

Two-Face comes into view at the street level, pointing his gun.

Batman continues forward, up the stairs after the others.

TWO-FACE

Can't.

He looks down. Then he quickly looks back up again, rage on his face.

He flips his coin.

Good side lands on his hand.

TWO-FACE

Your lucky night, Bats.

He lowers the gun and moves forward.

INT. ENTRY WAY - NIGHT

Inmates run through the halls, screaming and flailing their arms.

A whip wraps tightly around one's neck, taking him down.

Catwoman pulls him toward her and then kicks him in the side of the head.

Fox throws a batarang.

An inmate goes down.

FOX

Ten points!

Knox laughs and throws one as well.

The batarang sails over the head of an inmate.

(CONTINUED)

KNOX

Oops.

The inmate turns, grits his teeth, and takes off toward Knox.

KNOX

Crap.

He fumbles for another batarang.

Fox throws another batarang.

The inmate goes down.

FOX

It's alright. I've been practicing for some time.

BATMAN (O.S.)

Without my knowledge.

Batman moves between Fox and Knox, moving to Catwoman.

BATMAN

This place is huge. They could be anywhere.

CATWOMAN

We should split up. I'll take Knox, and you take Mr. Fox.

BATMAN

That's very dangerous.

CATWOMAN

I think we're already in danger.

BATMAN

More danger.

TWO-FACE (O.S.)

Now there's twice the danger.

Batman and Catwoman turn around.

Two-Face has a gun pointed at Knox and has hold of him.

Fox backs up to Batman and Catwoman as they move forward.

TWO-FACE

Not any closer! We're going on a little trip to see The Riddler, and you three aren't going to stop me.

(CONTINUED)

KNOX

Harvey, I know how this --

TWO-FACE

Shut up, Knox! You never knew when to keep your mouth shut!

BATMAN

This isn't you, Harvey. Put the gun down, and let us help you.

FOX

Gotham General can heal those wounds. I'm pretty smart myself. I could --

TWO-FACE

Enough!

Fox puts up his hands in defense.

Two-Face backs away, down a hallway, pulling Knox along.

TWO-FACE

Don't follow us! I'll pull the trigger!

Catwoman sighs.

CATWOMAN

Looks like we got split up after all, stud.

BATMAN

Take Lucius. Track down Vicki. I'll get Knox back.

Batman pulls his grappling gun, fires it at a grate and pulls it down before jumping into the ventilation system.

CATWOMAN

Don't slow me down, Fox.

Catwoman turns, going down a different hallway.

FOX

Sure. No problem.

Fox follows after her.

INT. INTENSIVE TREATMENT WING - NIGHT

Two-Face pulls Knox along, looking backwards and forwards as he goes.

KNOX
You're afraid.

TWO-FACE
Shut up!

KNOX
This isn't you, and it's gotten out of hand.

TWO-FACE
More than you know. Now if you don't shut up, I'll put a bullet in your head!

KNOX
I don't think you will.

Two-Face presses the handgun to Knox's temple.

TWO-FACE
Ya know, as a public official, I tollerated you, but now I know for a fact that I can't stand you.

KNOX
You're working against me when we should be working together. You want Riddler. I do too.

TWO-FACE
What did he do to you?

KNOX
He took Vicki back at the courthouse. I want him just as bad.

Two-Face growls.

TWO-FACE
He's mine!

Two-Face punches Knox, knocking him to the floor.

TWO-FACE
I don't care what reasons you have!
I'm going to --

(CONTINUED)

Batman drops down from above, out of the vent, landing on Two-Face, knocking him backwards and to the floor.

His gun skids half way across the floor.

Two-Face scrambles to get to the gun.

Batman jumps in his way. Two-Face looks up at him.

TWO-FACE

Get out of my way, Bats!

BATMAN

You need help, Harvey.

TWO-FACE

Two-Face can handle things himself!

Batman bends down, punching Two-Face square in the jaw.

Knox gets to his feet, moving over.

BATMAN

Are you alright?

Knox brushes off his trench coat.

KNOX

I'll live. Let's get Vick.

Knox moves past Batman.

Batman looks down to the unconscious Two-Face.

KNOX (O.S.)

Come on, Batman!

BATMAN

Hang in there, Harvey. I know you're still in there.

Batman turns, moving off.

INT. CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Catwoman puts her hands on her hips as she enters.

CATWOMAN

Damn.

Fox enters, looking around.

(CONTINUED)

FOX

Well, unless they have the munchies, we should start over.

RIDDLER (O.S.)

We prefer to munch on you!

Riddler moves into the room from a door at the far end, followed by multiple inmates.

RIDDLER

My, my. The sultry Catwoman. I am honored... and she's got a nerdy friend with her. First Selina Kyle, and now Catwoman. Perhaps the balance is shifting toward nerds.

Catwoman hisses.

CATWOMAN

We aren't together.

FOX

But we could be.

Catwoman pulls out her whip.

CATWOMAN

Don't press your luck.

Fox pulls out batarangs.

FOX

Too bad.

Riddler points his question mark cane toward them.

RIDDLER

Question: what should you never do to a cat? Answer: Corner her. That's why we'll just mow you down! Charge!

The inmates rush forward, yelling erratically.

CATWOMAN

Stay close.

FOX

You got it.

INT. ARKHAM'S LIBRARY - NIGHT

Knox kicks in the door, moving in, batarang in hand.

Ra's al Ghul turns around from the large windows at the far end of the room.

Vicki, lying on the floor, looks up, shock crossing her face.

KNOX
Vick, it's alright.

Vicki shakes her head.

RA'S AL GHUL
I'm very disappointed.

Ra's moves down a set of stairs and stops at Vicki.

RA'S AL GHUL
I was expecting someone more...
dramatic.

Batman strides into the room.

RA'S AL GHUL
Ah, there you are.

BATMAN
This madness ends now!

Ra's pulls aside his cloak, revealing two swords, one on each side of his belt.

RA'S AL GHUL
Oh, it will. I'll allow Mr. Knox to
take Miss Vale, if you prove your
worth to me.

KNOX
To hell with --

BATMAN
Knox!

Knox turns sharply.

KNOX
What? You can't seriously say that
you're going to --

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN

I am.

Ra's laughs. He pulls out both swords and tosses one of them.

Batman catches it.

RA'S AL GHUL

Miss Vale, you may go.

Vicki slowly gets to her feet, looking back and forth between Ra's and Knox.

RA'S AL GHUL

Hurry before I change my mind.

Vicki moves down the steps and runs into Knox's arms.

BATMAN

Get her out of here.

Knox nods, pulling Vicki along.

VICKI

Be careful, Batman!

Ra's laughs again.

RA'S AL GHUL

So touching. These mortals, they do care about you so dearly, don't they?

Batman looks at the sword, swinging it around in his hands.

RA'S AL GHUL

You look like you actually know how to use that, but then again, what I've sensed in you is that you know a great many things. I can always tell these things about people. It's just one of my many gifts.

BATMAN

Like talking too much.

Ra's laughs once more.

RA'S AL GHUL

You're even good at word sparing, it would seem. Very good.

(CONTINUED)

Ra's steps down the stairs, moving to the circular area
Batman stands in, surrounded by bookcases.

RA'S AL GHUL

I've always found that books can be
one of the best ways to understand
the world around you, but if you
want to understand a person, you
should always look toward their
actions. I sense much in you.
Endurance, intelligence, and even
integrity. You have brawn and
brains.

Ra's and Batman circle around one another.

RA'S AL GHUL

I looked up information about your
previous cases. I noticed that you
solved the problem with The Joker's
Smilex gas, and you put together
the true intentions of The Penguin
and Max Shreck. You must be a
detective. Perhaps, the world's
greatest.

BATMAN

Enough of this.

Batman swings his sword, connecting with Ra's'.

RA'S AL GHUL

Good. Very good. Your anger will
fuel your fall!

BATMAN

Do you ever shut up?

Ra's and Batman's swords clang as Ra's allows Batman to
chase after him.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Catwoman and Fox rush forward, Riddler and the inmates
chasing after them.

RIDDLER

Fraidy Cat! Fraidy Cat!

Catwoman hisses.

(CONTINUED)

FOX

Don't listen to him! There's too many of them to stop!

Vicki and Knox round the corner, running into Catwoman and Fox, all of them falling.

Riddler laughs, coming to a stop, putting his cane up to stop the inmates.

RIDDLER

Well, well. Buy two, get the other two for free. I don't know how you got away from Ra's, Miss Vale, but you won't get away from me.

A gun levels on Riddler's head.

TWO-FACE

And you won't get away from me.

Riddler's eyes dart sideways.

RIDDLER

Harvey Dent?

TWO-FACE

Guess again.

Riddler whacks Two-Face in the gut with his cane, knocking him into the wall.

Inmates grab Two-Face, pulling him up.

Catwoman and the others get to their feet.

CATWOMAN

Go, while they're distracted.

VICKI

We can't leave Dent.

KNOX

He's not Dent anymore.

FOX

He's still in there. Batman wouldn't leave him to die at their hands.

Fox pulls and tosses a batarang, knocking Riddler to the floor.

Riddler sits up, looking toward Fox in shock.

(CONTINUED)

RIDDLER

Ouch!

Two-Face elbows the inmates holding him and then jumps forward.

Landing on Riddler, Two-Face strangles him.

TWO-FACE

Rumor is, I have you to thank for what I've become!

RIDDLER

You're the one that prosecuted Edward Nygma!

Riddler knees Two-Face in the gut and pushes him off.

RIDDLER

I knew Maroni wouldn't be able to finish the job!

Riddler gets to his feet.

Catwoman cracks her whip.

Riddler falls back to the floor.

CATWOMAN

Stay down!

RIDDLER

Oh, you're so fiesty!

The intercom crackles.

GORDON (V.O.)

This is Commissioner Gordon! You will surrender and return to your cells! My men are already rounding you up. Surrender quietly and no one will be hurt.

The inmates run off.

Riddler growls.

RIDDLER

No! Come back here, you idiots!

CATWOMAN

It's over, Nygma.

Riddler grits his teeth as he turns toward Catwoman.

(CONTINUED)

RIDDLER
My name is Riddler!

Riddler jumps up, rushing forward.

Fox tosses a batarang.

Riddler dodges it.

Knox throws a batarang.

Riddler dodges, but because of the bad throw, is hit,
falling to the floor.

KNOX
Nice!

FOX
Pure luck.

KNOX
Shut up, Fox.

Two-Face gets up, dusting off his suit.

VICKI
It doesn't have to end this way,
Harvey.

Two-Face simply stares at her.

VICKI
You're the District Attorney. That
will hold sway.

TWO-FACE
I killed three people. There is no
sway anymore.

Two-Face puts the gun to his head. Catwoman's whip hits it,
knocking it away.

Catwoman shakes her head.

CATWOMAN
You're not taking the easy way out,
Mr. Dent.

TWO-FACE
If I were Max Shreck, you would've
let me.

CATWOMAN

Max deserved everything that was coming to him. You don't. You were a victim of circumstance. I can understand that. Max created me. He had to go. Your enemies created you. Thus, they had to go too.

TWO-FACE

There's still Riddler.

VICKI

And there's a chance for you to forgive and rebuild your life. Get the help you need and then forgive Nygma.

Catwoman steps aside, revealing the out cold Riddler.

CATWOMAN

Your choice. Be like me, and run from the law, or be the better man and save yourself.

Two-Face steps forward. He bends down to Riddler.

TWO-FACE

This man helped tear apart my city, and he turned me into something just like him. By all rights, he deserves death.

Two-Face looks up to Catwoman.

TWO-FACE

Just like Max Shreck.

He looks to Vicki.

TWO-FACE

Just like when Batman killed Joker.

Two-Face stands up.

TWO-FACE

But maybe there's more to what I've become. Joker lives.

Vicki's mouth drops.

TWO-FACE

And you're all going to need all the help you can get.

(CONTINUED)

Gordon moves forward, gun pointed.

GORDON
Harvey! Stay where you are!

CATWOMAN
It's alright! He's not going to
resist. Are you, Harvey?

Two-Face slowly puts his hands up.

TWO-FACE
I'm yours, Jim.

Vicki turns to Catwoman.

VICKI
Batman! You have to help him!

She points behind her.

VICKI
Library!

Catwoman takes off, Fox right behind her.

INT. ARKHAM'S LIBRARY - NIGHT

Ra's moves backwards up the stairs, Batman moving after him,
as they continue to sword fight.

RA'S AL GHUL
You are very good indeed,
detective. Most impressive.

Batman parries another blow.

BATMAN
So glad I could oblige.

Ra's and Batman move toward the large windows.

RA'S AL GHUL
I haven't had a challenge this good
since Guan Yu.

Ra's strikes another blow and then spin kicks the sword out
of Batman's hand.

RA'S AL GHUL
Alas, all good things must end.

Batman narrows his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN

Do what you must.

RA'S AL GHUL

I do not wish to kill you. I wish for you to join me, detective. I have been looking for centuries for my true heir. Someone to take over for me should the Lazarus Pits' effects wane entirely. You are the proper choice.

BATMAN

You bring death and destruction wherever you go. Why would I join you?

RA'S AL GHUL

Make no mistake, this world will burn, and when it does, very few will survive. I could save those you care for. Those closest to you will help to rebirth this world into what it needs to be. The heartless, ravages of mankind will destroy Earth.

BATMAN

And you want to speed up the process?

RA'S AL GHUL

No. I want to fix the problem by starting over.

BATMAN

You're mad, Ra's.

Ra's al Ghul raises his sword.

RA'S AL GHUL

One way or another, you will join me, detective!

Catwoman's whip knocks Ra's' sword away.

Ra's turns just as Catwoman springs in, kicking him through one of the windows.

Batman rushes forward, grabbing Ra's' hand.

Ra's hangs precariously over a long drop.

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN

Come on!

Ra's laughs.

RA'S AL GHUL

This will not be the end,
detective.

Ra's struggles free and falls.

BATMAN

Ra's!

Ra's disappears into the fog below.

Batman looks back to Catwoman, eyes narrowed.

BATMAN

I knew I couldn't trust you.

Catwoman sighs.

CATWOMAN

That's the problem between us,
stud. I trust you, you don't trust
me. I'm fine with that. Doesn't
change the fact that we make a good
team.

Catwoman turns, moving down the steps as Fox moves up them.
He looks back to the departing Catwoman.

FOX

Call me!

CATWOMAN (O.S.)

In your dreams!

Fox laughs, turning back toward Batman.

FOX

We get him?

Batman shakes his head.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Bruce sits at the Batcomputer.

Fox leans on the console beside him.

Vicki and Knox stand hugged together at the railing.

(CONTINUED)

Leslie sits in a chair in the corner.

Alfred brings over a tray with several bowls and sets it down.

ALFRED

Before anyone asks, this is supposed to be cold.

Bruce shakes his head as he takes his bowl and turns away from the Batcomputer, looking at everyone else.

BRUCE

We've dodged a bullet, but I don't know for how long. Riddler and Harvey may no longer be a threat, but Ra's al Ghul is, and if Harvey was telling the truth, then The Joker has been resurrected in the Lazarus Pit. We have a long road ahead of us.

FOX

I think I speak for everyone when I say that you can count us in.

Bruce shakes his head.

BRUCE

I can't ask that.

VICKI

You're getting it anyway. You need us, Bruce. The problems in Gotham are too big for you to handle alone. They always were. Sure, you have Alfred, but he can only do so much.

Alfred nods.

ALFRED

How right you are, Miss Vale.

Alfred turns to Bruce.

ALFRED

There have been many times that I've wanted to be out there with you, saving the world from the crimes that took your parents, but I couldn't. You have the chance now to get the back up you need. Sure,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED (cont'd)
we're all civilians, but we are the
eyes and ears that you need in
order to keep from being at it
alone.

KNOX
You're not getting rid of us.

Bruce turns toward Knox.

Knox kisses Vicki on the side of her head before looking
back to Bruce.

KNOX
Too much has happened to pull back
now.

LESLIE
This brings warmth to my heart.

Leslie smiles.

LESLIE
I had hoped that your actions,
Bruce, would some day inspire
others to do brave things. It
appears that day has finally come.
You can't turn away from that.

Bruce nods.

BRUCE
Very well. Let's get to work.

FADE OUT.