

FADE IN:

EXT. - METROPOLIS - EVENING

Drums and circus music are heard in the distance.

EXT. - CIRCUS TENT - EVENING

The drums and music are heard from inside. There is also the cheering and "Ooooh, Aaaaah" of the audience.

INT. - CIRCUS

THE RINGMASTER is holding court in the middle of the three rings. He is looking up towards the acrobats.

THE FLYING GRAYSONS have just finished their last leap and are standing on their platforms, waving to the audience.

The audience is applauding wildly.

RINGMASTER

(speaking into his microphone)
Yes, Metropolis! The Flying Graysons,
always a showstopper! Let's show them
our love!

RICHARD, the youngest Flying Grayson (and soon to become Robin), looks down in the audience and sees...

TIM DRAKE, a young man of 8, is jumping up and down applauding. His parents are beside him, sitting in their seats and clapping. JACK DRAKE, Tim's father, is trying to calm him down.

JACK

Tim, sit down please.

TIM

(shouting over the applause)
Alright, Dick! Way to go!

Dick's father MR. GRAYSON is standing beside Richard (Dick) on the platform. He notices Tim jumping up and down. He glances over to Dick, who is waving at Tim.

MR. GRAYSON

Who's that?

DICK

Just some kid I met outside.

Tim sits down in his seat and looks at Jack.

TIM

You think we can come back when the circus comes to Gotham?

Jack looks at Tim, smiles, and runs his hand through Tim's hair.

The ringmaster prepares to introduce the next act.

RINGMASTER

And now, ladies and gentlemen! May I direct your attention to the center ring, as we... send in the clowns!

Two clown cars come out from opposite wings and drive into the center ring. They then collide into each other.

The doors open and ten clowns pull out from each car and start pointing their fingers at each other.

As the clowns perform their act, the audience is laughing and snapping pictures with their cameras.

One particular clown starts her act. She is a teenage girl, dressed in a red court jester outfit. She performs a series of acrobatic stunts, twirling in the air around the clowns, and eventually pushing them down.

All the clowns start pushing each other away in an attempt to get closer to her, but she is constantly flipping herself out of their grasp. Finally, she leaps herself onto a higher platform, out of the clowns' reach. She looks out at the audience and smiles. Her face is covered with white clown makeup, but she is a beautiful girl. She is HARLEY QUINN.

As Harley looks out into the audience, the clowns try to create a human ladder to get to her. But, of course, something goes wrong and the clowns come tumbling down. The audience applauds and laughs. Harley waves to the crowd and bows.

RINGMASTER

Yes, friends! Please allow me to introduce to you the youngest in our collection of clowns, the lovely and talented Miss Harley Quinn!

The audience applauds louder as Harley leaps off the platform, and cartwheels her way out of sight.

EXT. - CIRCUS - NIGHT

The audience members are making their way out of the tent. Among them are several T-SHIRT VENDORS. The shirts have pictures of the clowns on the front, with Harley above them all in mid-flip.

RINGMASTER (VO)

(from inside the tent)

Once again, we thank you for coming and look forward to seeing you again when we make our return to Metropolis.

INT. - DRESSING ROOM

The room is packed with clowns removing their make-up. Harley walks into the room and pulls off her jester hood. She takes her seat at the dressing room mirror. All around it are newspaper clippings of the Joker. At the counter is a framed clipping of the Joker in all his glory.

When Harley sits down, she leans forward and kisses the framed picture and rubs her nose up to it.

HARLEY

(to the picture)

Hi honey.

A FAT CLOWN sitting beside her shakes his head in disgust.

FAT CLOWN

Just give it a rest, Harley. You actually think you're gonna meet him?

Harley caresses the framed picture and blows it another kiss.

HARLEY

Well, I'm not gonna be in the circus forever. Who knows what the future might bring?

FAT CLOWN

I've never heard of anyone dreaming to be a groupie for a maniac.

HARLEY

(turning to Fat Clown)

He's not a maniac!

FAT CLOWN

Then what is he?

Harley struggles for an answer, then smiles.

HARLEY

He's... a clown prince.

FAT CLOWN

And what? You're gonna be his princess? Or his gun moll maybe?

Harley picks up the framed picture and stands up.

HARLEY

(walking out of the dressing room)

He's more of a clown than you'll ever be! And yes, I will be his princess. Just wait and see!

FAT CLOWN

"Just wait and see." You'll forgive me for not giving you two my blessings.

As Harley walks out, TWO CLOWNS walk into the dressing room. CLOWN #1 reaches for the Joker picture.

CLOWN #1

Hey Harley, you and Joker talking marriage yet?

CLOWN #2

Yeah. What about having little green haired kids?

Harley smacks Clown #1's hand away from the picture and storms out of the room.

EXT. - CIRCUS - NIGHT

A storm is heard brewing in the distance. Several Metropolis citizens pull out their umbrellas.

Harley walks outside, a little spring in her step as she clutches the Joker picture.

A couple walks by, the gentleman holding a newspaper.

LADY

To think there were so many people in Gotham who would believe that clown.

Harley turns in their direction.

GENTLEMAN

Yeah, that freak really got what he deserved.

Harley now wears a worried glance. She looks down at the picture and then looks around.

A Daily Planet truck rolls by, and a package of newspapers are dropped off at a nearby newsstand.

Harley runs up to the newsstand and drops to her knees as she reads the freshly printed headline.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER

GOTHAM COSMETIC NIGHTMARE ENDS:
JOKER DEAD!

BACK TO SCENE

She looks down at the picture again, then at the headline.

HARLEY

No. No!

The NEWSSTAND VENDOR takes the stack of papers away from Harley. He looks down at the headline.

VENDOR

Well, well. They finally put that son of a bitch down.

Harley lets out a shout of despair as the rain starts to come down. She looks up at the night sky, still holding the Joker picture to her chest.

The rain starts to wash away her clown make-up and her tears start flowing from her eyes.

A crackle of thunder is heard as the storm begins. Lightning flashes and the squealing of bats is heard in the distance.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

SUPER: "GOTHAM CITY, 10 YEARS LATER."

The billboards and lights from the tall buildings provide the only illumination.

ANCHOR (VO)

"It's another beautiful evening in Gotham City." This was the opening of an address made by newly elected mayor Jefferson Krol. But what started as a jovial speech became somewhat downtrodden as his tone shifted towards the recent union strikes, which are now going into their third month with no end in sight.

KROL (VO)

These men have a deep responsibility to their employers, and to the people of Gotham City. And I think it's a sad day when their duties have to be assumed by a pair of costumed freaks, who have constantly been accused of doing more harm than good.

One caped figure is on the rooftops, making its way through the shadows. There is a conversation in the distance.

VOICE #1 (VO)

This score has been a long time coming.
You think Stirk's up for the job?

VOICE #2 (VO)

Stirk? He's a psychotic, yes. But
he's never failed the boss before.

The caped figure gets closer and closer to the building housing the conversation. As he gets closer, the voices get louder.

VOICE #3 (VO)

The boss isn't the one calling the
shots on this one. He's still in
Arkham. Now he may be able to control
Stirk, but do you actually think we
could?

VOICE #2 (VO)

We shouldn't even be worried about him.
I'm more worried about the bat and his
little twerp friend.

Suddenly, the caped figure shoots out a line and swings from one rooftop to another. He is now on the building where the three men are located.

VOICE #1 (VO)

Yeah, we really need to take care of
them. Any ideas?

INT. - CONFERENCE ROOM

THREE HOODS are standing around a table, discussing their plans. The men are all medium to large build, wearing casual to expensive clothing. Two of them are seated, one of them is standing up.

Suddenly, the caped figure crashes through the window. All three men are brought to their feet as they turn towards the window.

HOOD #2

It's Batman!

The caped figure stands upright. It's not Batman. It's ROBIN.

ROBIN

Don't worry about the bat. It's only his little twerp.

HOOD #1

Kill him!

Robin leaps up and drop kicks the first hood. He then jumps up on the table, and continues his work on the other two hoods. Within a few moments, all three of them are down.

Robin reaches for the first hood and grabs him by his shirt.

ROBIN

You were saying about your plans?

Robin pulls both of them to their feet. Hood #2 is slowly getting up and he reaches for his pistol.

HOOD #1

And why should I tell you?

Hood #2 is in Robin's range, standing behind him. Robin quickly throws down Hood #1 and executes a backspin kick on Hood #2. Then he picks up Hood #1 and holds him higher.

ROBIN

Maybe you didn't hear me.

HOOD #1

Well, I... I guess... I guess I can tell you a little bit.

Robin holds Hood #1 closer to his face.

ROBIN

I'm waiting.

EXT. - WAYNE MANOR - NIGHT

All is quiet around Stately Wayne Manor. The moon above is hiding behind the clouds in the sky.

INT. - BATCAVE

BRUCE WAYNE is walking down the staircase to the Batcave. There is a ringing noise heard getting closer as Bruce steps up to the Bat-Computer. He sits down at it and presses a few buttons.

BRUCE

Yeah?

EXT. - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Robin is standing on the edge of the rooftop. Lying beside him are the three hoods, bound and gagged, unconscious. Robin is speaking into a wrist communicator.

ROBIN

All done. Piece of cake.

INT. - BATCAVE

Bruce checks his watch, then smiles as he speaks.

BRUCE

Fifty-nine seconds. What took so long?

ROBIN (VO)

Come on, give me a break. It took a little longer to get them to talk.

BRUCE

And what did you find out?

EXT. - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

ROBIN

There's gonna be something going down at Gotham Security. They were talking about someone named Stirk.

INT. - WAYNE MANOR

Bruce is now starting to look a little worried.

BRUCE

All right. Meet me there in 20 minutes.

Bruce shuts off the communicator, then gets up and walks to the vault holding his costumes. The door opens and he steps inside.

EXT. - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Robin shuts off his communicator and picks up one of the thugs.

INT. - BATCAVE

Bruce steps out of the vault, now transformed into BATMAN. He walks over to the Batmobile, which is ready to roll. He steps inside and starts the car.

The Batmobile drives off through the tunnel leading to the outside world.

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

It is a dark, gloomy mansion housing the most terrifyingly insane men and women ever seen in Gotham.

INT. - HALLWAY OUTSIDE CELLS

DR. BURTON is walking down the hallway. He is a small middle-aged man with frizzy hair and a kind face. He is wearing glasses and a white coat, and holding a clipboard. He walks up to one of the cells. Outside the cell is a large PRISON GUARD.

DR. BURTON

And how is our patient tonight?

GUARD

As quiet as ever. The only time he even moves is to get his food.

DR. BURTON

Good. Very good. Looks like he really has earned his good behavior release. Well, let's see how he's feeling.

Dr. Burton walks up to the door and opens the slot. He peers inside the cell.

INT. - CELL

Dr. Burton clears his throat before speaking to the PATIENT sitting on the bed.

DR. BURTON
Jonathan?

The patient, DR. JONATHAN CRANE, slowly turns towards the door when his name is called. His face is mostly hidden in the shadows. Only his piercing eyes are in full view.

Crane smiles at Dr. Burton.

CRANE
Yes, Dr. Burton?

DR. BURTON
How are you feeling tonight? Ready for your big day tomorrow?

CRANE
I feel wonderful. I've been waiting for tomorrow to come for quite a while.

DR. BURTON
Excellent. I only hope everything goes as smoothly as your hearing today.
(gives out a slight chuckle)
Well, I'll leave you alone then. Have a good night's sleep, Jonathan. I'll see you in the morning.

CRANE
Good night, Doctor.

The light coming from the hallway is cut off when Dr. Burton shuts the door slot.

Alone in darkness, Crane lies back on his bed and slowly closes his eyes. Then he lets out a small chuckle.

EXT. - GOTHAM CATHEDRAL ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Crouched down on the rooftop is Batman. Robin swings down from the sky on his gauntlet, and lands next to Batman.

BATMAN

You're late.

ROBIN

I had to drop the thugs off with Gordon's men. There were three of them.

BATMAN

Take a look down there, and tell me what you see.

Robin pulls out a pair of small binoculars and peers down.

Robin sees A GROUP OF THUGS breaking into the Gotham Security building. Leading the gang is a hideous looking man named CORNELIUS STIRK.

Robin's face scrunches in disgust.

BATMAN

Who is it?

ROBIN

Looks like he had a blind date with a Cuisinart.

BATMAN

A dozen teeth at best? Poster boy for the Hair Club for Men?

ROBIN

You know him?

BATMAN

That's Cornelius Stirk. Keep your distance.

ROBIN

Hmmm. Sounds like fun.

BATMAN

Hey! I mean it!

ROBIN

Okay. Okay. You are the boss, right?

Robin folds up his binoculars and places them in his utility belt. Both men pull out their gauntlets and fire them. Grappling hooks shoot out.

EXT. - GOTHAM SECURITY BUILDING - NIGHT

The grappling hooks attach themselves to the wall above the building. Cornelius and the thugs look up.

Batman and Robin fly down from the wires and land on the ground. Cornelius looks at Batman and smiles.

CORNELIUS

And it's not even my birthday.
(to the thugs)
Kill them!

The thugs charge at Batman and Robin with clubs, axes, and crowbars. Robin jumps out and takes out the first couple of thugs. Batman takes care of some of the others. Cornelius runs inside the security building amid the chaos. Robin runs inside the building after him.

BATMAN

Robin! No! Get back here!

More thugs come out from behind the building and charge at Batman. Batman uses various weapons from his utility belt to take them down one by one.

INT. - SECURITY BUILDING

Robin runs in. There are no lights on. Robin flicks a switch on his headpiece.

Robin's night vision is activated. As Robin walks deeper inside the building, he sees the racks of rifles, pistols, and various other weapons. Suddenly, a THUG leaps out from the darkness.

Robin reacts and takes a swing at the thug. More thugs come from out of the darkness and surround Robin. Robin leaps out and attacks. One by one, they fall. After a few moments, the fighting has stopped and the thugs are lying at Robin's feet.

ROBIN

Who's next?!

Batman steps out of the shadows. Robin is taken aback for a moment. He looks back at the door and then at Batman. Batman steps closer and closer to him.

ROBIN

I thought you were out there. Did you see the mess I left back there?

BATMAN

Oh, I saw it.

Batman sucker punches Robin in the gut, then punches him in the head. Robin falls to the ground. Batman smiles at him and reaches behind his back. He pulls out a large steak knife.

ROBIN

What was that for? Why'd you hit me?

Batman laughs in his face. Suddenly, Batman dissolves away and Cornelius is standing in his place.

ROBIN

My God. What the hell are you?

CORNELIUS

I'm the man, little boy. The man who needs your freshly harvested heart. Such a delicious combination that is fear's concoction. Makes my mouth water from the fear in your young eyes.

Suddenly, a batarang strikes Stirk in the head. Batman runs into the room.

BATMAN

Get away from him, Stirk!

CORNELIUS

Oh come on, Crusader! You know as well as I do that there's nothing wrong with a little fear in a young man's heart!

(to Robin)

Is there, Birdboy?

Robin starts to edge away from Stirk, still on the ground. His breathing gets more rapid.

CORNELIUS

You'll be mind again, little man.
Another day!

Batman runs to Stirk. Cornelius pulls out a flash bomb and throws it to the ground. A terribly bright flash is ignited. The light is intensified in the eyes of Batman and Robin because of their night vision. Robin screams and covers his eyes. Batman shields his eyes with his cape, then switches off his night vision.

When the light fades, Stirk is gone. Batman looks around and finds nothing. He then looks down at Robin and reaches down to switch off his night vision. Robin looks up at Batman.

ROBIN

So that was... Stirk?

EXT. - SECURITY BUILDING - NIGHT

A group of squad cars are in the parking lot. Overseeing the collaring is COMMISSIONER JAMES GORDON. He walks over to one of the thugs on the ground and picks up a BLACK PIECE OF CLOTH. He puts it in his pocket, then walks away from the crowd.

EXT. - CITY STREET - NIGHT

Gordon walks up to the sidewalk and waits. He checks his watch.

GORDON

Busy night.

BATMAN (VO)

Nothing I'm not used to.

Batman emerges from the shadows. Gordon looks away.

BATMAN

Good timing for a hit like that with the security guards on strike.

GORDON

I'll have to speak with the mayor on the progress the unions are making.

(holding up the black cloth)

I got your message.

BATMAN

Those men we brought down. Cornelius Stirk was with them.

GORDON

Stirk? Nobody's heard much from him in a while. Word around town was that he re-located.

BATMAN

That's not Stirk's style.

GORDON

Of course not.

BATMAN

Jim, those men worked for the Scarecrow.

GORDON

You think his getting released tomorrow has something to do with this?

BATMAN

Very likely.

GORDON

They wanted those weapons for something. Why is it you want to meet here all the-

When Gordon turns around, Batman is gone. Gordon hesitates for a moment, then puts the cloth in his pocket and walks away.

A moment passes, and then Batman re-appears. He is holding a pair of roses in his hand. He crouches down and places the roses on the sidewalk. Batman stands up and looks down at the roses, then walks away.

EXT. - WAYNE MANOR - DAY

The television inside is on and the voice of GOSSIP GERTY, Gotham's leading news reporter, is heard.

GERTY (VO)

Good morning, Gotham. It's Gossip Gerty. We're outside the infamous Arkham Asylum, where we're expected to witness the release of one of Gotham City's most dangerous, though now reformed, criminals.

INT. - WAYNE MANOR LIVING ROOM

Bruce and Dick are sitting down, watching the television. ALFRED PENNYWORTH is walking around the room, keeping everything nice and neat. Bruce keeps his eyes on the screen. Dick keeps his head down, deep in thought.

Gossip Gerty is standing beside Dr. Burton on the television.

GERTY

I'm standing here outside the asylum with Dr. Maxwell Burton, who claims to be nothing less than delighted with the reforming of Jonathan Crane. Do you care to comment on how you were able to change a man such as Mr. Crane?

DR. BURTON

Well, Ms. Gerty, it took quite some time for Dr. Crane to rehabilitate himself, but I believe he has done a fabulous job. I'm very proud of his turn towards the light, if you will.

GERTY

So what are Mr. Crane's plans for the future now that he is a free man again?

Dr. Burton looks over his shoulder and smiles.

DR. BURTON

Well, why don't you ask him that yourself, Ms. Gerty?

Dr. Jonathan Crane steps out of the asylum. He is dressed splendidly, with a three-piece suit. His hair is neatly combed back and he is smiling brightly.

GERTY

And here he is, Gotham. The fully reformed Mr. Jonathan Crane. How are you feeling now, Jonathan?

CRANE

Oh, wonderful. Thank you very very much, Ms. Gerty. I've always been a fan of your work.

Gerty blushes a bit, not able to let go of her smile.

GERTY

Oh, my. Uh... thank you, Mr. Crane. I didn't know I was popular around here.

CRANE

You're a much bigger star than you think, my dear.

Gerty blushes.

GERTY

Well... oh dear. Well, Mr. Crane, what appears to be in your future?

CRANE

You'll be happy to know that Gotham University has offered me my old job back as a professor of psychology. And I'm already looking forward to the year ahead. My students are in for a treat.

Bruce narrows his eyes as he watches the set. He then looks over to Dick, who is keeping his head down, not saying a word.

Dick looks up at the ceiling, wearing an angry look.

BRUCE
Still thinking about last night?

DICK
Of course.

BRUCE
You have to put it behind you, Dick.

DICK
I can't.

BRUCE
Well, I did tell you to stay away from Stirk. Why didn't you listen to me?

DICK
I don't know. I just... I guess I wanted to prove something, you know?

BRUCE
Prove that you're good enough to be my partner? Dick, you've done that more times than I can count.

Dick stands up and walks away. Bruce looks up at Alfred, who is standing nearby cleaning. Alfred looks at Bruce and smiles.

BRUCE
You were listening.

ALFRED
It would be a disappointment to you if I was not, sir.

BRUCE
You should have seen him last night, Alfred. He was like a man possessed or something. What else is there for him to prove?

ALFRED
I'm shocked at your naiveté, Master Bruce.

BRUCE

You know something I don't?

ALFRED

As disarming as that may sound, yes sir.

Alfred sits down next to Bruce.

ALFRED

Master Dick is simply growing up, sir. You two have been partners for quite some time now and he has grown accustomed to the perils of this city, and to his job.

BRUCE

And he feels that he can take on that duty himself? Against people like Stirk? Like...

(turning to the television screen)

Like Crane?

Jonathan Crane is kissing the hand of Gossip Gerty. She giggles flirtatiously.

Bruce gives an angry sneer, then calms down as he turns back towards Alfred.

BRUCE

Dick's not ready for that yet.

ALFRED

Master Bruce, how many years did you go out into that big bad city by yourself? How many times did you prove time and time again that you were more than suitable for the task?

BRUCE

Well, he's shown some improvement over the past few months, but after last night, I'm not so sure. How did he get that reckless? He wouldn't even listen to me, Alfred.

Alfred stands up, looks down at Bruce. He smiles and walks away. Bruce is left alone with his thoughts.

EXT. - GOTHAM UNIVERSITY - DAY

Crane and DEAN ROLAND, a middle aged man with a gentle face, are walking along the campus. Several STUDENTS are passing by.

ROLAND

Feels just like old times, doesn't it,
Dr. Crane? Good to be back?

CRANE

I was telling Dr. Burton about how
excited I was for the longest time.
I'm sure that he was anxious for me to
leave as I was.

Roland laughs at Crane's joke.

Crane and Roland continue walking until they are up to the main school doors. There is a flock of birds nearby. Crane notices them, and then walks away from Roland towards the birds. He smiles and flails his arms.

CRANE

(flailing his arms)
Hooaaaahhh!!!! Hooaaaahhh!!!!

The birds scatter. Crane smiles at them as they fly away. He looks back towards Dean Roland and gives him a slight grin before dropping back into his serious tone.

CRANE

Oh, um... just an old habit, Dean
Roland. Now if you would show me to my
classroom?

ROLAND

Of... course, Dr. Crane.

INT. - CLASSROOM

Crane is unpacking his bag. Inside are the instruments he would commonly use in his classroom. He places the items on the desk.

Crane then pulls out a .22 Smith and Wesson pistol. He holds it up and examines it. Crane closes his eyes and smiles. Inside his head is the voice of a younger Jonathan Crane teaching his students.

CRANE (VO)

Ladies and gentlemen, the psychology of the gun.

INT. - CLASSROOM (FLASHBACK)

Crane (ten years younger) reaches into his desk and pulls out the Smith and Wesson. He aims it at a vase on his desk, and fires. The vase shatters and the students jump back in panic. Crane looks back at the students and smiles.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Crane opens his eyes and places the pistol at the front of his desk. He reaches into the bag again and pulls out a small white skull. Crane holds it in his hand with a strong grip, then opens a drawer and places the skull inside.

Suddenly, there is a knock at the door. Crane quickly turns towards the doorway. Dean Roland is standing there.

CRANE

Oh, Dean Roland. I was just... remembering. What can I do for you?

ROLAND

Well, I hate to bother you but there's a delivery here, 4 large wooden boxes?

CRANE

Ah, good. My equipment is here.

ROLAND

Equipment? But I thought we had everything you needed.

CRANE

Your labs are adequate, Dean Roland. This is just some... extra materials for my more advanced students.

ROLAND

Would you like some help with the boxes?

CRANE

No thank you. I'll take care of them.

Roland walks away. A MOVER walks into the classroom wheeling in a large box on a cart. The mover keeps his head down, wearing the typical green outfit and matching cap. Crane looks at his watch, then looks back up at the mover.

CRANE

You're late.

The mover looks up at Crane. Suddenly, his face changes and reshapes itself into the face of Cornelius Stirk.

STIRK

I got hungry. I made myself some stew. Would you like some? I have leftovers.

CRANE

Of course not. You know I could never stomach your cooking.

STIRK

My cooking should appeal to you of all people. All the right ingredients to create a pot full of bubbling fear.

CRANE

Well, there'll be plenty of time for recipe exchanging later. For now, get the equipment ready.

Cornelius wheels the cart to the back of the classroom and starts unloading the equipment. There are several small monitors and a computer terminal. Cornelius keeps walking out of the room and back into it, bringing the other boxes.

CRANE

Where are the other men? I paid good money for them.

STIRK

Ask Batman and his little sparrow.

CRANE
Batman and Robin?

STIRK
I got the kid real scared. Ohhh,
Crane, you should have seen the little
brat's face. His eyes. I cannot wait
to make him feel that way again.

CRANE
You just may get your chance. First,
we should pay Blackgate Prison a visit.

INT. - HARLEY QUINN'S APARTMENT

Various clippings and photos of the Joker are covering the walls. In the center of the room is HARLEY QUINN. She is sitting in a slouched position in a chair. Her hair is ragged with bangs streaming down her face. Her clothes are tattered. She is holding a remote control. Harley is facing a small television and VCR. In the VCR is a video recording of the GNN coverage of the Joker's death.

On the screen is an image of the Joker, in all his glory, standing atop the Gotham City 200 float.

Harley pauses the tape and stares into the Joker's eyes. She smiles. Harley presses play.

The rest of the news coverage continues. She watches the Smylex gas pour seeping from the floats. The people are in a panic, reaching for money and running. Harley laughs silently to herself as she watches. She starts to laugh harder, feeling more and more giddy. Suddenly, Harley's laughing stops as the Batwing comes into the frame, taking the balloons and cutting them loose into the sky.

The news coverage continues. Harley watches the Joker dangling helplessly from a ladder above Gotham Cathedral with a stone gargoyle attached to his leg. Harley starts to frown. Tears roll down her face. The rage inside her begins to swell. She continuously presses rewind and play, switching images of Batman and the Joker. The more she does it, the angrier she gets. Finally, she shrieks and throws the remote control into the television set.

Harley stands up and looks around her room at all the different pictures of the Joker. She grabs one, the framed one she has kept in mint condition for the past ten years, and plants a big kiss on it. Harley then places the photo down and glances over at her old circus costume, wrapped in plastic and hanging on the closet doorknob. She smiles wickedly.

EXT. - BLACKGATE PRISON - NIGHT

The gates are tightly shut. The security guards are on alert.

INT. - BLACKGATE PRISON

A GUARD is sitting in the control booth watching the different monitors. Suddenly, another guard and a man wrapped in a cloak walk into the room.

GUARD #2

Let's go. You're on break.

GUARD #1

Break? No, I don't think so. I just had one.

The guard's face dissolves away into the face of Stirk.

STIRK

You should have done what you were told.

Stirk pulls out his knife. The cloaked man reaches into his cloak and pulls out a small white skull.

CLOAKED MAN

Wait. Leave him to me. Find what we came for.

Stirk smiles and walks away. The guard watches him leave.

GUARD #1

Hey, come back here. You can't-

CLOAKED MAN

Don't worry about him.

The cloaked man moves closer and closer to the guard. The cloak opens a little, revealing a green strawed costume underneath. It is THE SCARECROW, alias Dr. Jonathan Crane.

SCARECROW

Instead, tell me about you.

Scarecrow squeezes the skull and a green mist spews out from the skull's eyes.

SCARECROW

Tell me about your dreams as they slip away from you and your nightmares as they flash before your very eyes.

The guard's eyes widen in fear. A swarm of hornets suddenly appears towards him.

The guard shrieks and steps away. Scarecrow watches him and laughs. In a desperate act, the guard reaches out and hits the alarm button on the computer console.

EXT. - BLACKGATE PRISON - NIGHT

The alarms blare. In the distance, the Bat signal is activated.

INT. - BATCAVE

Batman steps out of the costume vault. He hears a noise. Grunting. Punches. Batman walks towards the source of the noise. When he finds it, he steps into...

THE WORKOUT ROOM

Robin is in full costume punching fiercely at a punching bag.

BATMAN

Robin?

ROBIN

Yeah?

BATMAN

You coming with me tonight?

ROBIN

Sure. Just working out some kinks.

Robin keeps his punches concentrated on one part of the bag.

BATMAN

Be careful. You don't want to-

Robin reaches back and delivers one final punch that breaks a hole in the bag. Robin looks back at Batman and pulls his fist out of the bag. He flashes Batman a smile.

BATMAN

Never mind.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

The Batmobile and the Redbird race out into the streets. The Bat Signal is still shining brightly over Gotham.

INT. - BATMOBILE

Batman flicks a switch on the Batmobile console. A small image of Commissioner Gordon appears.

BATMAN

What have you got, Jim?

GORDON

Looks bad. Alarms going off at Blackgate Prison.

BATMAN

Any word about an escape?

GORDON

Not yet. We're still waiting to hear something.

BATMAN

We'll be right there.

Batman shuts off the communicator and accelerates.

INT. - HARLEY QUINN'S APARTMENT

Harley's sewing kit is open. Loose thread and fabric are lying about. In the shadows, it is Harley Quinn. Piece by piece, she is putting on her new and improved costume. It is red and black, and there is a new mask that covers her eyes. The complete outfit gives off a much more sinister approach than the costume she wore during her circus days.

Harley fixes the headpiece in her mirror. She smiles wickedly as she checks herself out.

There is a police scanner on. Harley hears the report of the alarms going off at Blackgate Prison.

HARLEY

Okay, Miss Quinn. Let's see what tricks you're gonna pull off tonight.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Robin flips a switch on his handlebar. It is an intercom between the two vehicles.

ROBIN

What's going on?

BATMAN (VO)

Some trouble at Blackgate. Possible jailbreak. You take the outside. I'll be going in.

ROBIN

Just don't put the car on the roof again. Remember how stupid we looked trying to get it down last time?

BATMAN (VO)

Nag nag nag.

INT. - BLACKGATE PRISON

Scarecrow's men are sitting in their respected jail cells. There is a sudden commotion that attracts the men's attention.

The frightened guard runs into the room screaming his lungs out.

GUARD

Get them away from me!

The cloaked man walks into the room from behind him holding a set of keys. The cloak drops at his feet.

The Scarecrow is standing there in his complete costume and in all his glory. He smiles as he looks at his men.

EXT. - BLACKGATE PRISON - NIGHT

Batman and Robin arrive at the prison. Batman goes inside while Robin covers him outside.

INT. - BLACKGATE PRISON

Inside, Batman puts on a small gas mask and fires small tear gas bombs to help take out the convicts who haven't escaped.

In the confusion, Stirk runs out of the prison, hoping to make a fast escape. Scarecrow remains unnoticed, watching Batman do his thing. He then slowly exits.

EXT. - BLACKGATE PRISON - NIGHT

Outside, Robin notices a couple of convicts trying to escape. Before the police can react, Robin leaps into battle and quickly dispatches the convicts.

The other police officers join in to help the unconscious ones back to their respected cells.

Robin looks around for more, and finally spots Cornelius Stirk trying to make a quick exit. Thinking it's just a regular criminal, Robin runs up to him and kicks him right in the back.

Stirk turns around and the two of them lock their eyes on each other. Stirk smiles. Robin's face becomes one of rage and he pummels Stirk with punches and kicks.

The guard with the fear gas runs out of the prison still thinking there's a swarm of hornets after him. The police keep him quiet in the meantime.

INT. - BLACKGATE PRISON

Back inside the prison, Batman finishes off the last of the convicts, using an assorted supply of gadgets from his utility belt. When he is done, the smoke from the tear gas clears and it is clear for his gas mask to come off. Batman looks around for more and hears the commotion from outside.

EXT. - BLACKGATE PRISON - NIGHT

Robin pulls Stirk to his feet and repeatedly punches him to the ground, then pulls him back up to do it again.

Batman runs out and sees Robin holding Stirk.

BATMAN

Robin!

Robin turns his head towards Batman.

The distraction is enough for Stirk to push Robin away and use one of his flash bombs to escape.

When the light fades, Stirk is gone. Robin shouts out a cry of anger at having let Stirk escape.

Batman puts his hands on Robin's shoulders.

BATMAN

Calm down.

ROBIN

I had him! Damnit! I had him in my hands. I could have finished him off right there and-

BATMAN

But you didn't. Remember that. If you had, you would have brought yourself down to his level.

GUARD (VO)

Oh my God! They're coming at me!

GORDON (VO)

Son, calm down! There's nothing there!

Batman walks over to Gordon holding the guard down. Robin is left alone, looking up at the sky with his hands on his hips.

Gordon is holding the guard down on the ground. There are a couple of cops standing by, keeping their distance.

BATMAN

(to Gordon)

Let me see him.

Batman takes a look at the guard, and looks into his eyes. The eyes are wide open and the pupils dilated. Sweat is pouring down his forehead.

BATMAN

Can you hear me? Nod if you can.

The guard takes a few deep breaths, then looks at Batman. Sweat is still pouring down his brow as he slowly nods his head.

BATMAN

Are you alright now? There's nothing here. It's okay. You're safe.

GUARD

Th... there's nothing there. I'm okay.

Batman smiles, then pulls the guard to his feet. The guard looks around confusingly.

GORDON

Can you remember what happened, son?

GUARD

Um, yeah, I think so. Yeah, I remember a guard coming up to me and telling me that it's time for my lunch break.

BATMAN

And then what?

GUARD

There was this guy, some guy with a
cloak. He had this skull with him.

Batman looks at Gordon, wearing a worried glance.

GORDON

Was he holding this skull up to you?

The guard thinks for a moment, then nods.

GUARD

Yeah. It was a small skull, fit right
in his hand. And it sprayed something.

BATMAN

Was it a green mist?

GUARD

Green mist. Yeah. And then... there
were all these-

The guard cuts himself off and he starts to breathe heavily
again. He starts panicking again.

Batman pulls out a small needle and pricks the guard with it.
The guard slowly falls asleep.

Gordon looks at one of the cops nearby and beckons him over.

GORDON

Get this man to a hospital.

The cop beckons another cop to help him get the guard up.

Batman and Gordon walk away from the cops together.

GORDON

Fear gas?

BATMAN

Scarecrow.

Batman walks towards Robin. Robin looks over at Batman.

ROBIN

Everything's done?

BATMAN

Let's go.

Batman and Robin move towards their vehicles.

In the meantime, one CONVICT gets by unnoticed. He is holding a knife in his hand.

He starts walking towards Batman and Robin when another figure grabs him and pulls him down. The convict looks up to see Harley Quinn standing there in her costume. She kicks him repeatedly.

HARLEY

(viciously kicking him)

Nobody kills him but me! Got it?!

Off in the distance, Scarecrow watches and absorbs the action. He smiles. His plan is starting to take form.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

The Batmobile and the Redbird are just coming up to the Batcave.

Batman sits silently in the Batmobile, stone faced.

Robin sits on the Redbird, not saying a word. He wears an extremely angry look.

INT. - MAYOR'S OFFICE, WAITING ROOM

Commissioner Gordon is sitting in the waiting room, looking at the door to the mayor's office. He is holding his coat.

VICTORIA, the mayor's secretary, comes up to Gordon.

VICTORIA

Mayor Krol will see you now, sir.

GORDON

Thank you, Victoria.

Gordon gets up and walks to the door.

INT. - MAYOR'S OFFICE

MAYOR JEFFERSON KROL is sitting behind his large desk. Gordon is already sitting in one of the two chairs positioned in front of the desk. His coat is on the empty chair.

Their conversation is in progress.

KROL

So let me get this straight, James. From everything that went down at Blackgate Prison last night, you mean to tell me that you want to pin all the blame on a reformed psychology professor?

GORDON

Jonathan Crane is much more than that, Mr. Mayor. You know that as well as I do. Why do you think he was sent to Arkham in the first place?

KROL

Now you just hold it right there, Commissioner. I haven't finished yet.

Gordon glares at Krol, but doesn't respond.

KROL

I also understand that your Batman was heavily involved in this incident?

GORDON

Both Batman and Robin made sure this incident was contained. If you had given the security guards the raise they deserve-

KROL

Then there wouldn't even have been a hit on Blackgate. So you would admit that so-called Dynamic Duo, as the press has been so kind to label, is responsible for last night?

GORDON

Now, that's not what I mean at all.

KROL

Oh, from what you have just said, I have to disagree. You know, James, for someone in your high position, you seem to depend an awful lot on a couple of costumed pains in the ass.

Gordon grabs his coat.

GORDON

If this is just another of your vents, I have work to do. Batman and Robin have saved our city more times than-

KROL

And if Gotham's police had a more able bodied leader, they would have done the job just as well, if not better.

Gordon is about to say something to Krol, then turns to leave.

KROL

You got lucky this time, James, but if anything else like this happens, I may be forced to call in the National Guard.

Gordon stops in his tracks and turns back towards Krol.

GORDON

If you do that, then-

Krol stands, keeping total eye contact with Gordon.

KROL

That's right, James. With my position comes power. And with the news that's sparked from one phone call, I can destroy your career.

Gordon hesitates for a moment, then turns and leaves the room.

EXT. - GOTHAM UNIVERSITY - DAY

A sign is posted on the doors outside Gotham University. The sign reads: EARN \$25 TODAY! HARMLESS PSYCHOLOGY EXPERIMENT. REPORT TO GOTHAM U. AUDITORIUM, DR. JONATHAN CRANE, 6:00 PM

A GROUP OF STUDENTS crowds around the sign. They ad-lib their thoughts, all positive since they can earn money. Many of them open their date books and write down the information.

A STUDENT AIDE is busy putting up more fliers. The more fliers he puts up, the more students are attracted to the offer.

INT. - GOTHAM U. AUDITORIUM

There are a bunch of empty chairs with wireless virtual reality helmets on each chair. The desk in the front has a computer terminal on it. Several monitors are displayed along the walls of the auditorium.

The students file into the room. They look around and ad-lib their comments about the set-up.

The student aide who posted the signs walks up to the front.

STUDENT AIDE

Please take your seats, and keep the helmets in your lap until you are instructed to put them on.

The students obey, taking their seats and holding the helmets.

When everyone is in their seats, the door opens and Crane walks in. He looks around the room and smiles.

CRANE

My, such a wonderful turnout. Thank you all for coming, ladies and gentlemen. I'm so thrilled that there are so many of you here.

Crane walks over to the student aide and pulls out a twenty from his wallet. Crane hands it to the aide.

CRANE

Thank you for your help, my friend.

The student aide smiles and leaves the room. Crane turns to the students before him.

CRANE

Now we come to the point of the evening. The experiment. And I am sure it is greed rather than the pursuit of knowledge that has brought you all here. But do not worry. You will all be getting the payment you deserve once we are finished. Now, if you would be so kind as to place the helmets on your head, we can begin.

The students put on the helmets and wait patiently.

Crane walks over to the terminal and turns it on.

The students see a dazzling light show, a beautiful display of laser lights and computer graphics. Occasionally, the student will raise his or her hand and they will see a computer graphic visual representation of their hand.

Suddenly, there is a blinding white light and a series of hypnotic flashing lights appears. They form a circular pattern, and revolve around each other. Then the lights start to take shape. The voice of Jonathan Crane is heard.

CRANE (VO)

This is a painful world. Full of torture, damnation, persecution, and most of all, fear! Only one thing can take all of that away, and that is me!

The spheres of flashing light re-arrange themselves to form a computer-generated image of The Scarecrow.

CRANE (VO)

I am your savior. I am your master. I am your guide. I am The Scarecrow!

The image of the Scarecrow gets smaller and smaller, and the words: OBEY ME! appear throughout the image, the letters dripping in blood. Soon enough, the whole screen is filled with red. Then another blinding light, and all that is left on the screen now is a multi-colored flashing sphere.

BACK TO AUDITORIUM

The Scarecrow is standing before the students in full costume.

SCARECROW

I now declare this experiment
completed. You may now remove your
helmets.

The students slowly remove their helmets. They all have blank
stares now, completely hypnotized.

The Scarecrow slowly walks around the room, nodding his head and
approving his own work.

SCARECROW

Remarkable! "No passion so effectually
robs the mind of all its power of
acting and reasoning as fear."

Scarecrow waves his hand in front of one of the students' face.

SCARECROW

I see you haven't been studying your
Burke, as I instructed you to. And now
for our final stages of the experiment.
The conclusion. Everyone stand!

The students stand as one group, simultaneously.

SCARECROW

Excellent! Now sit!

The students sit. Scarecrow pulls out a gun and hands it to one
of the students in front.

SCARECROW

And now you.
(pointing to a nearby student)
Shoot him!

The student with the gun hesitates. The one instructed to be
shot still looks forward, completely oblivious.

SCARECROW

Oh, I know it's hard. The most mortal
sin above all. "Thou Shalt Not Kill."

Scarecrow leans towards the student and whispers in his ear.

SCARECROW

But know now that I am your God. And I require not worship, but obedience.

(pointing to the target)

Do it, my little lamb. Make your God happy, and earn a place in His kingdom for all time. Kill him!

The student pulls the trigger. A shot rings out. The target drops to the floor, dead.

SCARECROW

Incredible! I amaze even myself! Now I'll need all of you to line up and go to my classroom. There you'll find your costumes. Now move!

The students stand and line up to leave the room.

When all the students are gone, Dean Roland runs into the room. There is nobody in the room, just the equipment.

ROLAND

Is anybody in here? I heard a gunshot.

The Scarecrow walks into the room, and grabs Roland's shoulder. Roland is startled, and he turns around.

SCARECROW

Greetings, Dean Roland. How nice for you to visit.

ROLAND

Dr. Crane? Is that you?

SCARECROW

But, of course my friend. And in fact, you're just the person I need. I'll need another chaperone for the field trip I'm sending these students on.

Scarecrow grabs a virtual reality helmet. He puts his arms around Dean Roland and leads him to a seat.

SCARECROW

Now we just need to get you prepared.

Roland struggles in his seat, trying to get up. But Scarecrow slams the helmet on Roland's head, knocking him out. Once Roland is unconscious, Scarecrow examines the helmet he used as a weapon. It's broken. Scarecrow picks up another helmet and puts that one on Roland's head. He then walks over to the terminal and switches it on.

SCARECROW

Are you ready to change your religion,
Dean Roland?

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY PARK - DAY

Dick is jogging around the park. He is wearing a gray sweatsuit and white sneakers, looking as typical as anyone else.

He stops by a refreshment cart, and buys a bottle of water. When Dick buys the water, he walks over to a park bench. He opens the bottle and drinks the water.

Suddenly, something catches Dick's eye. He leans forward and smiles as he sees Harley.

Harley is sitting on a nearby bench, looking at the fountain in the park. She is dressed casually, in a long sleeved shirt and tight pants. She looks much better than she previously did.

DICK

Harley?

Dick gets up and walks over to Harley's bench.

DICK

Harley? Harley Quinn?

Harley looks up and smiles as she sees Dick.

HARLEY

Dick Grayson?

Both of them are speechless, unable to stop smiling.

DICK

Um... how are things? I mean, how have you been?

HARLEY

Oh, uh... great. Things have been going well. How... about you? Are you still with the circus?

DICK

Oh, no. I had to leave the circus quite a few years ago.

HARLEY

Well, what did your parents say about that? Don't they still need you as one of the Flying Graysons?

Dick sips his water, then pauses.

DICK

That's right. You had already left when it happened.

Harley is still at a loss.

HARLEY

When what happened?

DICK

My parents... um... died. Some guy named Two-Face killed them. My older brother too.

HARLEY

Oh my God. Dick, I'm so sorry.

Harley gets up and gives Dick a big hug. Dick gives a little smile as he hugs her back.

HARLEY

I'm such an idiot. I didn't mean to push, Dick. I'm sorry.

DICK

Oh no, it's okay. I learned to cope with it. Don't worry about it.

HARLEY

Are you sure?

DICK

Yes, I'm sure. It's been a while and I've gotten past it.

HARLEY

(breaking the hug)

Would you like to take a walk with me?

Dick smiles at Harley. She smiles back.

DICK

Sure.

Harley and Dick start walking around the park.

DICK

So what happened to you after you left the circus? I remember you took off without a word.

HARLEY

Well, I had some things I needed to work out. get my head straight. Make a plan for myself after the circus, you know?

DICK

The other clowns gave you a hard time, didn't they? Something about you wanting to marry the Joker?

HARLEY

Well, I did. Hell, I still do.

DICK

You still do? You do know he's dead, right? He died a few years back when-

Harley turns on Dick.

HARLEY

I know what happened, Dick! I know what Batman did to him.

DICK
Batman saved the whole city. The Joker
was gonna gas everyone.

HARLEY
He was gonna make them laugh. Which is
every clown's job.

Dick gives Harley a funny look.

DICK
Well, I can't get into a debate about
it. Neither one of us was there.

HARLEY
We have quite a bit in common, Dick.

Dick is about to ask her what she means, but he just smiles.

DICK
It's good to see you again.

Harley smiles back.

HARLEY
Good to see you, too.

INT. - WAYNE MANOR STUDY

Bruce is busy reading in his study. Alfred is walking around
dusting, as usual.

Dick walks into the study, wearing a big grin on his face.

Bruce looks up from his book, noticing Dick's smile.

BRUCE
Do my eyes deceive me?

DICK
What?

BRUCE
Is that a smile I see on my previously
downtrodden partner?

DICK

Guess I just felt differently today.

ALFRED

It's nice to see you in good spirits again, Master Dick.

DICK

Thanks, Al. Feels pretty nice too.

ALFRED

You'll be happy to know that I've received a postcard from Barbara in London. She's doing well at school and sends her love. And an extra kiss to you, Master Dick.

Dick smiles at Bruce and sits up straight.

BRUCE

I know you can't keep it in much longer, so you might as well tell me why you're so happy today.

DICK

Can't a guy just enjoy a jog through the park on a beautiful day?

BRUCE

You met a girl.

DICK

Not just any girl. Harley Quinn.

Alfred and Bruce give each other confused looks.

BRUCE

And she is...?

DICK

An old friend from the circus. She was the head of the clowns. And Bruce, you should have seen her. She was so cool. Dressed in a court jester outfit and flipping and twirling her way out of the reach of the other clowns.

BRUCE

Sounds like a fun act. You should keep in touch with her.

DICK

Don't worry about that. I am.
(noticing what Bruce is reading)
What's that?

BRUCE

It's a speech I have to make for the opening to Wayne Enterprises' new security facility. You should take your new friend. You could use a date. We need to get you out more.

DICK

Are Batman and Robin going to be guest stars there?

BRUCE

Absolutely not. They have better things to do than schmooze for Gossip Gerty.

DICK

So who's your date?

BRUCE

She's... uh...
(looking down, drawing a blank)
Um...

Alfred walks over to Bruce and whispers in his ear.

BRUCE

Crystal. Yes. Thank you, Alfred.

ALFRED

You're quite welcome, Master Bruce.

INT. - GOTHAM U. AUDITORIUM

The student aide is busy putting away the equipment. Crane is standing in the doorway.

CRANE

You do know what to do with that?

STUDENT

Of course I do. You paid me good money.

The student aide transforms into Cornelius Stirk.

CRANE

I expect to have it back when we're finished, Stirk.

STIRK

So what's the plan tonight?

CRANE

You're to lead our army to the new security facility that Wayne Enterprises is opening.

STIRK

And what about you?

CRANE

We'll need a diversion. Something to get Batman and Robin off our backs. And I know just where we can find it.

EXT. - WAYNE ENTERPRISES SECURITY - NIGHT

An assortment of reporters and photographers are ready. The Wayne limo pulls up. The photographers snap to attention. Alfred steps out of the driver's seat and opens the door for Bruce, Dick, et al. Bruce steps out with a stunning brunette named CRYSTAL. She is holding tightly to Bruce's arm. Dick steps out with Harley Quinn around his arm. She is looking nothing short of fabulous, holding a medium sized handbag.

GOSSIP GERTY (VO)

Once again, Gossip Gerty is here to bid greetings to all of Gotham City. This would normally be a modestly handled evening for the opening to a new security facility.

Bruce and Dick effortlessly move through the crowd.

GOSSIP GERTY (VO)

But in this case, the owner is Gotham's most eligible bachelor, and my close personal friend, Bruce Wayne! So in true Wayne fashion, all the stops have been pulled out.

INT. - WAYNE ENTERPRISES SECURITY

Drinks are being served and the large crowd is mingling amongst themselves. Bruce is at the center of attention, shaking hands from everyone around him. Crystal holds onto him tightly.

Dick and Harley walk around the facility, holding hands.

Bruce and Crystal eventually get out of the group and start walking around themselves. In the midst of the group, watching over Bruce is Dean Roland. He is well dressed, in order to blend into the group of suits and the press. He still has the blank stare given to him by the Scarecrow.

GOSSIP GERTY (VO)

Such a night as this has attracted even newly elected Mayor Jefferson Krol. He is expected to make a speech right later on tonight.

LATER

Mayor Krol is standing on a podium addressing the crowd. Flashbulbs are going off and the reporters are holding up their microphones to Mayor Krol's mouth.

MAYOR KROL

...And in closing, I must say that it is truly a wonder for people like our host, Bruce Wayne, to present to the people of Gotham City a brand new facility that not only brings more jobs to us, but lets us feel protected once again.

Applause breaks out.

MAYOR KROL

Now we won't have to depend on a pair of costumed vigilantes to carry out the justice the people of Gotham City deserve.

Harley Quinn giggles and applauds loudly as the rest of the people applaud as well. Bruce and Dick exchange irritated glances. Dick looks at Harley. Harley stops applauding.

DICK

Costumed vigilantes aren't all bad.

HARLEY

They are when they hurt the innocent.

DICK

Still upset over the Joker thing, huh?

Harley frowns at Dick, and pulls away from him.

HARLEY

Joker thing? Jesus, you are just like all those other clowns.

Mayor Krol motions for Bruce to come up to the podium.

MAYOR KROL

Bruce, come on up here and say hi to these lovely guests.

Crystal kisses Bruce on the cheek. Bruce moves his way up to the podium.

Dick is still pondering what Harley was talking about.

DICK

Those other clowns?

Bruce waves to the people in the crowd. He looks up to the ceiling and sees a green mist slowly seeping from the vents.

Bruce quickly reaches into his pocket and pulls out a pair of small nose filters. He turns around and inserts them in each of his nostrils.

When Bruce turns back around, he looks at Dick. Dick looks back at him. Then Bruce glances up and Dick does the same. When Dick sees the mist, he quickly pulls out a pair of his nose filters and inserts them accordingly.

Bruce pulls out his speech and clears his throat to speak.

Suddenly, there is a scream in the back of the room. A WOMAN is shrieking maniacally.

WOMAN

Oh my God! Oh my God! Please don't hurt me! Please!

The woman's HUSBAND is trying to comfort her.

HUSBAND

Darling, are you okay? It's me. Don't you recognize me?

The woman is not seeing her husband, but a man in a ski mask holding a gun to her head.

INT. - WAYNE ENTERPRISES SECURITY

The woman starts pulling off her jewelry and handing it to her husband. He looks confused for a moment, then looks down and yells out in fear.

The husband is suddenly standing on thin ice that is breaking very quickly. The ice breaks and he falls into ice cold water.

INT. - WAYNE ENTERPRISES SECURITY

The husband clutches his heart and drops to the ground.

HUSBAND

Help me! Somebody help me! So cold!

As the mist now shoots from the vents everywhere, all the people in attendance are shrieking in panic. Cries of "Help me," "Save me," "Please don't leave me," etc. echo through the halls.

Dick quickly covers Harley's nose and mouth. Bruce comes down from the podium and does the same for Crystal before the mist gets to them.

BRUCE

We gotta get them outside.

As Bruce and Dick move their dates out the door, his entourage is also seeing to Mayor Krol. They move him out the door.

EXT. - WAYNE ENTERPRISES SECURITY - NIGHT

Bruce and Dick run out the door, each of them holding their date. Right behind them is Mayor Krol and his entourage. They run towards the Mayor's limousine.

Dick hails a taxi. The taxi pulls up and Dick opens the door.

DICK

We gotta get you ladies out of here.

CRYSTAL

Bruce, I don't wanna leave ya.

BRUCE

It's all right, Crystal. I'll be okay. Just get in the cab with Harley. I'll call you later to make sure you got home safe, okay?

DICK

(to Harley)

Well, I'm sorry things had to end so abruptly back there. And I'm sorry about what I said back there. Really.

Harley turns her back to Dick and gets in the cab. Crystal follows her in. Crystal looks back at Bruce.

CRYSTAL

I had a wonderful time, Brucie. Call me, please?

Bruce nods and shuts the car door. Then he gives a twenty to the cabbie and the car takes off.

Once the cab is out of sight, Bruce and Dick both race towards the Wayne limousine. Alfred is already opening the trunk.

DICK
You'll call her, huh?

BRUCE
Of course I will.

DICK
Yeah, right.

Mayor Krol is getting into his limousine. He turns to his secret service men.

MAYOR KROL
I'll be fine. Stay here and see if you can help these people.

SECRET SERVICE #1
I'll go with you, sir.

Mayor Krol and the secret service man get into the back seat and the car drives off. The rest of the secret service walk back into the security facility.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

The cab carrying Harley and Crystal drives down the street.

INT. - CAB

Harley keeps looking back at the security facility. Crystal is lost in her own thoughts, if you can call them that.

CRYSTAL
Bruce is so dreamy, isn't he?

Harley opens her handbag and opens it. Inside, all rolled up, is her costume. She is barely paying attention to Crystal.

HARLEY
Yeah, hon. He's great.

Suddenly, Harley opens the door, holds her handbag tightly, and jumps out of the moving cab.

CRYSTAL
Hey, where ya going?

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Harley rolls onto the street. Cars are whizzing by, honking their horns. One car is coming quite close to her.

HARLEY
Shit!

Harley flips herself up and then quickly leaps out of the way.

INT. - LIMOUSINE

Mayor Krol and his secret service man are in the back seat.

SECRET SERVICE #1
Sure everything's okay, sir?

MAYOR KROL
Fine. Fine. Everything's okay.

The limo makes a sharp turn. Mayor Krol looks out the window.

MAYOR KROL
This isn't the way to my estate.
Driver, where are we going?

The driver stares ahead, blank faced, as he drives the limo. He is one of the Scarecrow's hypnotized students.

MAYOR KROL
Driver? Driver! Stop this car now!

The secret service man leans forward to look at the driver.

SECRET SERVICE #1
Hey, you're not the regular driver!

Without a word, the student reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small pistol. He shoots the secret service man in the

head. The secret service man falls back, dead. The Mayor starts shouting for anyone to hear him.

The student presses a button and the divider rolls up.

INT. - WAYNE ENTERPRISES SECURITY

As the people attending the party shriek and run for cover from whatever they believe is chasing them, the students dressed in scarecrow costumes crash through the windows and start making their way towards the cages holding the weapons.

Heading the attack is Cornelius Stirk.

STIRK

(standing by the podium)

Beautiful! Fear is the catalyst!
Chaos is our reward!

As some scarecrows break open the cages and pull out the artillery, others are getting it out of the room.

Suddenly, Batman and Robin crash through the windows and leap at the scarecrows. Stirk sees what is happening and points to Batman and Robin.

STIRK

Kill them!

The scarecrows all run towards Batman and Robin, but both of them do a good job of keeping them down.

ROBIN

We gotta get these people out of here.

BATMAN

I'll keep these guys down. You get them out to safety.

Robin runs up to the windows and breaks them all, getting some fresh air into the building. Then he starts herding the crowd into the streets. They are still all in a panic, but they are starting to calm down now that some fresh air is in their lungs.

Batman is busy knocking down the scarecrows.

Stirk gets down off the stage and runs to collect some weapons.

Batman pulls out his batarang and tosses it, taking out a few scarecrows at a time. Then he uses his grappling hooks to tie down a few more.

Robin runs back inside the building and sees Stirk.

ROBIN

Stirk!!!

Stirk looks up as Robin charges at him. Robin knocks down Stirk and kicks him in the head. Stirk falls to the ground. While he is on the ground, Stirk looks up at the scarecrows that are still standing.

STIRK

Bring me the bird-boy's feathered head!

The scarecrows advance at Robin, which distracts him from going after Stirk. Robin follows Batman's lead by pulling out his batarang and grappling hooks. Soon enough, a large portion of the scarecrows are on the ground.

Stirk runs out the door. Robin watches him leave.

ROBIN

You're going down, Stirk!

Suddenly, Harley Quinn leaps out from outside and kicks Robin in the chest. She then flips around him and kicks him in the leg.

Robin looks up and recognizes the outfit.

ROBIN

(under his breath)

Harley?

Batman runs up to help Robin, but Harley pulls out a smoke bomb and throws it to the ground. The bomb explodes and smoke is everywhere. Neither Batman nor Robin can see.

As the smoke slowly seeps out, Harley makes her way to the tied up scarecrows and cuts them loose. Then the scarecrows grab some weapons and quickly make their exit.

Robin notices the scarecrows leaving.

ROBIN
They're getting away!

Robin runs out the door, trying to chase them down.

EXT. - WAYNE ENTERPRISES SECURITY - NIGHT

Robin runs outside to see that nobody is there. He drops to one knee to catch his breath, and slams his hand on the road in anger and frustration.

Batman comes up to Robin as police cars pull up. Robin looks up at Batman.

ROBIN
That was Harley. That court jester
that ambushed us was my date tonight!

Batman helps Robin to his feet.

EXT. - GOTHAM UNIVERSITY - NIGHT

The limousine pulls up in front of the university. The main door opens. Loud footsteps are heard.

INT. - LIMOUSINE

Mayor Krol is wide-eyed, looking around the back seat for any way out. His secret service man is still lying dead beside him. When he hears the sounds of footsteps getting closer, his breathing becomes more erratic and his heartbeat accelerates.

Suddenly, the door flies open and the light from outside fills the back seat. Mayor Krol wears a terrified look. A cloud of green mist moves towards Mayor Krol.

SCARECROW (VO)
Welcome to my master plan, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR KROL
Oh my God.

SCARECROW (VO)

There'll be time for that later. As
for right now, I have need for you.

The mayor inhales the green mist.

Mayor Krol sees large poisonous snakes crawling their way into
the limo and onto Mayor Krol's body.

MAYOR KROL

Get them off me! S-s-snakes! Please
get them away from me!

SCARECROW

They'll be gone forever, Mayor Krol.
As long as you cooperate.

Scarecrow reaches in and grabs Mayor Krol by the shirt. He then
slowly pulls Mayor Krol out of the limousine.

INT. - WAYNE MANOR

Bruce and Dick are watching the television. A female
anchorperson is on the screen.

ANCHOR

Only a few short hours ago, Wayne
Enterprises' grand unveiling of their
new security facility was cut short by
a fierce attack. Although the
witnesses' reports were overall
different - with some claiming to see
giant killer bugs and others seeing the
ground open up - the one thing they can
all agree on is how it began.
According to witnesses, a green mist
filled the room and an army of what can
only be described as scarecrows crashed
through the windows. Gotham Police has
taken in reformed criminal and
psychology professor Dr. Jonathan Crane
for questioning, but were forced to
release him after an alibi proved he
was not involved. Jonathan Crane had
this to say.

The image on the screen changes to Jonathan Crane speaking in front of a large group of microphones.

CRANE

You ask me if I hold any ill will? The answer is, of course not. The police have done a remarkable job trying to grab a hold of this unfortunate situation, and it is only natural that they come to a man who would have willingly taken part in it in his past. But that was the past and I have left that life behind me. It has been given up in exchange for a safe, albeit less than adventurous, job of teaching. On a lighter note, I would like to commend the choice of wardrobe. From what I've heard, these pretenders to the throne looked splendid.

Crane smiles and the reporters laugh at his little joke. The image changes back to the anchor.

Bruce and Dick both exchange angry glances.

ANCHOR

Despite a valiant effort by Batman and Robin, the scarecrows escaped and a large amount of weaponry was successfully stolen. According to other witnesses after the attack, another figure was seen assisting the army of "pretenders to the throne." Identified as a female, disguised in an outfit not unlike a court jester this woman no doubt will mean more trouble for Gotham City. At this time, Bruce Wayne could not be reached for comment.

Dick's fists clench at the mention of the "court jester."

A piece of paper is handed to the anchor.

ANCHOR

This just in.

The anchor reads the paper.

ANCHOR

The police has just received word from the Gotham Secret Service that Mayor Jefferson Krol has been reported missing.

Bruce and Dick both stand up when the news is heard.

ANCHOR

He was last seen after the chaos at the security facility broke out. Mayor Krol was a guest speaker and was rushed into his limousine to take him back to his estate. As of now, neither the mayor nor the limousine have been found.

BRUCE

Come on. Let's go.

Bruce and Dick walk towards the secret entrance to the Batcave.

EXT. - STIRK'S HIDEOUT - NIGHT

Stirk's hideout is under the bridge to Gotham City. It is a dark lair, looking not unlike many of the other shacks around this lower section of the city. The trucks pull up and Stirk and the scarecrows step out.

STIRK

All right, let's get these loaded and ready for when your God returns to you.

The scarecrows comply. Stirk watches them work.

Suddenly, there is a tap on Stirk's shoulder. Stirk quickly turns around and reaches for his gun. Harley Quinn is standing in front of him. She smiles.

HARLEY

Now, that won't be necessary.

STIRK

Who are you?

HARLEY

The one who saved you and your little army here. I'm still waiting for my thank you.

STIRK

Maybe you'll get it when you tell me who you are and what you want.

HARLEY

Harley Quinn.

She bows just as she did when she was still in the circus.

STIRK

Cornelius Stirk. And now that we've eliminated all needs for name badges, what do you want?

HARLEY

Same thing as you. Batman. On his knees, begging for his life. A half second before it ends.

STIRK

How poetic.

HARLEY

But first, before that happens, I want something taken from him. Something very important. I'm sure you're up to the task.

STIRK

Honey, if this is about hot-wiring the Batmobile, I'm far beyond-

HARLEY

It's Harley, and I'm talking bigger than the Batmobile. I'm talking about his tag-along. The bird-boy who doesn't seem to like you very much.

Stirk smiles.

STIRK

Well, by all means, continue.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

The Batmobile and Redbird speed down the streets.

Robin turns on his intercom.

ROBIN
Where to first?

BATMAN (VO)
Gotham University.

Batman is speaking into his intercom.

BATMAN
It's possible that Crane kidnapped Krol
while his men hit the facility.

The Batmobile and Redbird drive past an alley. Standing in the alley is Dean Roland, dressed in a hat and overcoat. He presses a button on his watch.

A beeping sound is made.

INT. - CRANE'S CLASSROOM

Mayor Krol has his hands tied behind his back. He is sitting on the desk. Scarecrow is walking around the room.

Suddenly, there is a beep on his watch.

SCARECROW
Excellent. Batman must be close.
Which means it's time for us to make a
departure, Mr. Mayor.

EXT. - GOTHAM UNIVERSITY - NIGHT

Scarecrow is pulling Mayor Krol out of the college.

Cornelius Stirk pulls up in the truck, then steps out.

SCARECROW
Why are you here? You should be back
at the hideout.

STIRK

I got a surprise for the bat and bird.

SCARECROW

Remember the plan. Don't kill the bat. He has to see what we have in mind for Gotham City.

STIRK

Of course. Don't worry. This is just about the kid. I have something special for him.

Scarecrow smiles.

SCARECROW

Then, by all means, enjoy yourself.

Scarecrow and Stirk put the mayor in the back of the truck. Once he is inside, Scarecrow sprays the mayor with his fear gas.

SCARECROW

And this should provide my entertainment for the trip. See you in a few, Mayor.

Mayor Krol already starts screaming about the snakes when Stirk shuts the back of the truck. Scarecrow gets into the truck and drives off.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

The Batmobile and Redbird continue on towards the college.

Batman clicks a button on his intercom and an image of Commissioner Gordon appears.

GORDON

I'm here.

BATMAN

You obviously heard about the mayor?

GORDON

My men are conducting a manhunt all around the city.

BATMAN

Get them to concentrate around Gotham University. He may be in that vicinity.

GORDON

Right. We'll be right on it.

Batman clicks the button again and the image vanishes.

EXT. - GOTHAM UNIVERSITY - NIGHT

Batman and Robin pull up outside Gotham University. Batman steps out of the Batmobile. Robin gets off the Redbird.

Both of them start running towards the school.

BATMAN

We'll split up. You take the bottom floor. I got the top.

ROBIN

Sure. Just don't drive up there and everything should go fine.

BATMAN

Will you stop picking on me about that rooftop thing?

ROBIN

You should have thought of that before you cut my engines.

BATMAN

Sure. Next time, I'll let you die.

INT. - GOTHAM UNIVERSITY

All the lights are out as Batman and Robin walk inside.

Batman walks up the stairs to the upper floor. Robin takes the bottom. Robin walks around cautiously. He switches on his night-vision to get a clearer look. He checks the classroom doors. Most of them are locked.

As Robin goes deeper into the school, he sees someone at the end of the hall. He presses a button on his night-vision.

A binocular lens activates on Robin's night-vision. At the end of the hall is Harley Quinn. She is doing cartwheels. When she is done, she stops and turns around. She sees Robin and smiles.

INT. - GOTHAM UNIVERSITY

Robin watches as Harley smiles at him, then runs down the adjoining hallway.

ROBIN

Harley?

Robin runs after her.

Harley runs down the hallway and into the auditorium. Robin runs after her. He goes inside.

INT. - GOTHAM U. AUDITORIUM

The equipment used to hypnotize the students is still in boxes in the auditorium. The lights are out.

Robin walks inside. He looks around the room for Harley, but she is nowhere to be found.

Suddenly, the lights turn on. The light stabs into Robin's eyes. Robin lets out a scream of pain and drops to his knees as he struggles to turn off his night-vision.

Finally, when Robin has his sight back, he looks up and sees Batman standing before him.

ROBIN

Oh, it's you.

BATMAN

Yes it is.

ROBIN

What are you doing down here? You said you were checking the top floor.

Suddenly, Robin remembers this situation from before. He looks up again. Batman smiles at him.

Robin quickly executes a leg-sweep on Batman. Batman falls to the ground. Robin jumps up.

ROBIN

Give it up, Stirk. I know it's you!

Robin pulls out a batarang and prepares to throw it at Batman.

Batman gets up off the ground and quickly kicks Robin in the chest. Then he reaches behind his back and pulls out a special harpoon gun. He aims it at Robin.

Robin takes a few steps back and looks up at Batman.

Batman fires the harpoon gun and the harpoon flies out and strikes Robin in the chest. Robin's body armor prevents it from breaking the skin. Robin looks down at the harpoon and tries to pull it off.

Batman presses a button on the gun and a powerful electrical charge comes out. Robin shrieks out in pain as the harpoon gun does its job. Robin drops to his knees as he is being electrocuted.

INT. - GOTHAM UNIVERSITY, TOP FLOOR

Batman hears the sound of Robin screaming.

BATMAN

Robin!

INT. - GOTHAM U. AUDITORIUM

With a shaky grip, Robin holds up his batarang and, in a last ditch effort, throws it.

The batarang strikes Batman in the head, and he drops the harpoon gun. Robin smiles for a moment, then drops to the floor. Smoke is seeping from Robin's body.

Batman transforms into Cornelius Stirk.

Stirk rubs his head and slowly walks over to Robin. He kicks the body once. Robin barely moves.

Stirk raises his foot over Robin's head.

STIRK

Every man fears what it may be like in the Great Beyond. It's time to put your fears to rest, little man. Forever!

Suddenly, a batarang flies out and strikes Stirk in the chest. He puts his foot down and takes a few steps back.

Batman is standing in the doorway. Stirk smiles at him.

STIRK

Well well. Look who's here. The big bad bat. Only this time he wasn't quick enough to save his little friend. Awwwww. Look at that little face down there. The poor bird. Ain't they always cute when they're asleep? Or are they really asleep? Maybe something's wrong.

Stirk pulls out a knife.

STIRK

Maybe we should see what's makin' him tick! Wanna watch?

Batman lunges at Stirk and knocks him to the ground. He grabs the hand holding the knife and methodically squeezes it until Stirk lets go. Batman pushes the knife away and then pulls Stirk up and beats him into unconsciousness. Batman lets out screams of rage as he pummels Stirk.

Finally, Stirk is on the ground, beaten into unconsciousness. Batman looks down at him, then back at Robin. Robin is still lying on the ground. He hasn't moved at all.

Batman slowly walks to Robin and kneels down before him. He grabs Robin's wrist and checks his pulse. There is still a pulse. Robin is still alive. Batman breathes a sigh of relief.

Suddenly, there is a noise at the doorway. Batman looks up and sees Harley Quinn standing in there for a moment. She smiles wickedly at Batman, then cartwheels out of sight.

Batman stands up and walks to the doorway. Harley is nowhere. Then Batman looks over at the boxes of equipment. He walks over to the boxes and pulls out one of the helmets. He hold sit in his hands for a moment, then puts it back in the box.

EXT. - GOTHAM UNIVERSITY - NIGHT

Police cars have pulled up. Officers are patrolling the college.

Cornelius Stirk is being led out the door by two police officers. He is in a straitjacket.

OFFICER

Back to Arkham Asylum for you, pal.

STIRK

For now, my officer friend. For now.

The press is swamping Gordon. Camera flashbulbs are flashing in his face.

REPORTER #1

Is there any word now on the whereabouts of Mayor Krol, Commissioner?

GORDON

We have uncovered several leads. And our men have done a wonderful job to find our Mayor.

Batman steps out the door. He is holding Robin in his arms. The reporters stop asking Gordon questions and watch Batman slowly moving towards the Batmobile.

GORDON

Oh my God.

Batman keeps his gaze ahead as he moves to the Batmobile. He puts Robin in the driver's seat of the Batmobile and presses a few buttons on the console.

The reporters come charging at Batman. The photographers snap picture after picture of Robin's body in the Batmobile.

REPORTER #1

Batman, what happened to Robin?

REPORTER #2

Is Robin dead, Batman?

REPORTER #3

What happened here, Batman? Can we get a statement?

BATMAN

No comment.

Gordon runs up to the reporters and photographers.

GORDON

All right, that's enough! Get away from him! Give the young man some air!

BATMAN

Get back. Please.

The reporters finally back up a bit. The photographers continue to snap pictures.

Gordon walks up to Batman, who is putting the finishing touches on his programming of the Batmobile's console.

GORDON

Batman?

Batman keeps his head down, still programming.

BATMAN

I found some equipment in the auditorium. I'll be around to pick it up. It may have some answers.

GORDON

Batman?

Batman looks up at Gordon. There is great sadness in his eyes.

GORDON

Did Robin die tonight?

Batman looks down at the console and finishes the programming. Then he stands up and looks at Gordon.

BATMAN

For all intents and purposes... yes.

Without saying another word, Batman activates the Batmobile and it drives off towards the Batcave, automatically.

Batman gets on the Redbird and drives off, following the Batmobile.

Gordon gives a concerned look as he watches Batman drive off.

One of the reporters, who was close enough to hear Gordon and Batman's conversation, quickly writes down what he hears.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Batman flips a switch on the Redbird intercom.

BATMAN

Alfred?

ALFRED (VO)

Yes sir?

BATMAN

Robin's been seriously injured. We'll need some hospital equipment ready for him. We're coming in.

ALFRED (VO)

Good heavens. I'll get started right away, sir.

Batman turns off the intercom. He drives on in silence.

EXT. - GOTHAM UNIVERSITY - NIGHT

Gordon walks over to his car and grabs the radio.

GORDON

Pinkus, what have we got?

PINKUS (VO)

Well, sir, my men have checked through everything. All the classrooms. The only thing we've found is the box of equipment you were told about.

GORDON

Good. Make sure all of that equipment is out of the building and close up. The kids have school here in the morning.

PINKUS (VO)

Yes sir.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Harley Quinn is standing a fair distance away from Gotham University. She has her hands on her hips and an angered look.

HARLEY

Damn it.

There is the sound of footsteps behind Harley. She turns around and sees the Scarecrow standing before her.

SCARECROW

So you must be the other end of Stirk's short-lived partnership.

HARLEY

And who are you?

SCARECROW

You may call me the Scarecrow. And what may I call you, my little harlequin?

HARLEY

You're close. It's Harley Quinn.

Scarecrow nods.

SCARECROW

Well, Ms. Quinn, I must say that you have earned my respect for the plan you have concocted tonight. You have done what so many before you could not have. You hurt the Batman. Very impressive.

HARLEY

Well, I had to. He hurt me.

SCARECROW

How so?

HARLEY

He killed the man I love.

Scarecrow starts walking around Harley, observing her.

SCARECROW

So by taking away the most important man in your life, you have done the same to him. I appreciate your style, Harley. Someone of your caliber would be useful to my master plan.

HARLEY

Your master plan?

SCARECROW

Fear, my love. Gotham is a city consumed by fear. And Arkham Asylum is the powder keg at the center of it all. Soon, very soon, we will put a flame to that powder keg.

HARLEY

So suppose I come to help you? What do I get out of it?

SCARECROW

You will get to watch Batman's beloved city come crumbling down upon him. You will see everything he has loved be destroyed.

Harley smiles.

HARLEY

I like your style, Mr. Scarecrow.

Scarecrow's tone becomes threatening.

SCARECROW

But remember this warning, Harley Quinn. I have spent many years in Arkham constructing this plan. If you dare do anything without my approval, you will feel the weight of the Scarecrow's wrath.

INT. - BATCAVE

Batman and Alfred are getting Robin's costume off.

BATMAN

Is the bed ready for him?

ALFRED

Yes sir. All the equipment is set up.

INT. - WAYNE MANOR BEDROOM

Dick is out of his Robin costume and lying in bed. There is hospital equipment all around his bed.

Alfred is tending to Dick. Batman is still in costume, standing a distance away.

When Alfred is finished setting up all of the equipment, he walks over to Batman.

ALFRED

It looks like he took a bad shock. But I don't see him slipping away from us.

BATMAN

Take care of him, Alfred.

ALFRED

You're going back out there?

Batman walks away from Alfred.

BATMAN

I have to. Scarecrow's still out there, and the Mayor's still missing.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

The Batmobile speeds towards Police Headquarters.

EXT. - POLICE HEADQUARTERS ROOF - NIGHT

Commissioner Gordon is standing on the roof of Police Headquarters, waiting for Batman to appear. Standing beside him is a POLICE OFFICER. He has a medium sized box beside him. It is the computer equipment from Gotham University.

Gordon is looking over the edge of the roof. There is no sign of Batman. Gordon turns around and looks at his officer.

GORDON

Where the hell is he?

BATMAN (VO)

I'm here.

Gordon turns around.

Batman is standing on the roof, keeping himself hidden in the shadows. Gordon walks over to him.

BATMAN

Do you have what I need?

The officer walks over with the box. He hands it to Batman. Batman takes the box and tucks it under his arm.

GORDON

Is Robin okay?

Without saying another word, Batman drops himself off the roof. Gordon walks to the edge of the roof and looks down.

Gordon watches Batman swinging through the air on his gauntlet and drop to the ground. Batman gets into the Batmobile and drives off.

INT. - STIRK'S HIDEOUT

The scarecrows have finished loading the weaponry they stole. Mayor Krol is bound and gagged, sitting in a chair. Scarecrow and Harley Quinn are walking around the room making sure all is in order.

SCARECROW

Genius! Everything is going according to plan. The Mayor is ours, and the entire city will soon follow suit.

HARLEY

So now what? When do we start getting serious?

SCARECROW

All in due time. You'll have your revenge soon enough. For now, we rest. It's been a long night. And whoever said there was no rest for the wicked must have had a handy supply of No-Doz.

HARLEY

When do I get to kill Batman?

SCARECROW

Did you hear what I said earlier? First the city collapses. Then he will die. Not before.

HARLEY

I want him dead.

Scarecrow holds up his fear gas skull to Harley's face.

SCARECROW

Do you know what's in here? Every fear you have ever held inside yourself all your life will be brought before your very eyes. With just a little bit of pressure.

Harley takes a step away from Scarecrow.

SCARECROW

Now you'll have your revenge, but unless you do things my way, a man dressed in a black leather bat suit will be the least of your cares.

Long pause. Harley takes a deep breath, then speaks.

HARLEY

Okay. Okay. We'll do it your way.

Scarecrow moves the skull closer to Harley's face, until it is two inches away. Harley stares at it and starts trembling.

HARLEY

Scarecrow, I said I'd do it your way!
Please... please put that down.

Scarecrow holds it up to her face for a moment, then smiles and lowers his hand.

SCARECROW

Until now, I was sure that a night like this could not make me happier. Seeing the fear in your eyes proved me wrong.
Thank you, Harley.

Scarecrow walks away from Harley, leaving her to her thoughts.

INT. - BATCAVE

Batman is busy at the Bat-Computer. He has hooked up the computer terminal to the computer. A long wire is leading from the computer to the Scarecrow's terminal.

Several readings come out on the Bat-Computer. Batman studies what is being outputted.

When Batman is done reading, he presses a button on the Bat-Computer to turn it off. Then Batman leans his head back and pulls off his cowl.

Batman sits back on the chair, holding the cowl in his hand. His eyes slowly close.

The cowl drops from his hand onto the floor.

INT. - WAYNE MANOR BEDROOM

Dick is still unconscious in his bed. Alfred is sitting beside him, making sure everything is okay.

Slowly, Dick's eyes open. He looks up, his head still resting on the pillow. Then he looks in Alfred's direction.

Alfred smiles at him, relieved.

DICK

Al?

ALFRED

Welcome back, Master Dick.

Dick coughs for a moment, then speaks again.

DICK

Where am I?

ALFRED

Master Bruce brought you back here from Gotham University. You seemed to have gotten a nasty shock.

Dick sits up in the bed.

DICK

What about Stirk? Where's he?

ALFRED

Arkham Asylum. Everything's all right, Master Dick.

DICK

Where's Bruce?

INT. - BATCAVE

Bruce is still in his Batman costume. The cowl is still on the floor. Bruce is asleep in the chair.

Bruce's eyes start twitching and his face grimaces.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY ALLEY - NIGHT (DREAM)

The Scarecrow is running deep into the alley. Batman chases him down. The two of them keep running until Batman finally catches up with him and wrestles him to the ground. Scarecrow grabs his fear gas skull and sprays it in Batman's face.

Batman quickly stands up and takes a few steps back. He blinks his eyes in reaction to the gas.

Batman sees Scarecrow pulling out a .44 caliber pistol. He aims it at Batman. Batman moves away as Scarecrow fires a series of rounds. Once the gun is empty, Batman turns around and sees a YOUNG BOY riddled with bullet holes.

The young boy looks up with dead eyes.

YOUNG BOY
Why did you do that?

Before Batman can answer, the young boy turns and runs away, leaving a trail of blood behind him.

Batman looks around frantically, still under the effects of the fear gas. Scarecrow runs past him. Batman, now worried about the boy, follows the trail of blood.

Batman steps out of the alley and looks around for the boy. The trail of blood is gone. Instead, Batman finds A COUPLE. The husband and wife are looking down on the ground. Each of them is holding a rose in their hand. The husband drops his rose on the ground. Then the wife drops hers.

The couple looks in Batman's direction. Batman gasps and steps back. He knows the couple's faces. They are his parents.

THOMAS WAYNE
Why did you do that?

INT. - BATCAVE

Bruce bolts awake, clutching his breath and dragging himself out of his nightmare.

Alfred is by his side.

ALFRED

Are you all right, Master Bruce?

BRUCE

Yeah. Yeah, I'm fine. How's Dick?

ALFRED

I'm pleased to tell you that Master Dick has awoken last night.

BRUCE

Last night?

ALFRED

It is ten a.m., sir.

INT. - WAYNE MANOR KITCHEN

Sitting on the kitchen table is a copy of the Gotham Gazette.

Dick walks over to the kitchen table. He is wearing a robe, and underneath are a T-shirt and boxer shorts. He picks up the newspaper and reads the headline:

INSERT - NEWSPAPER

BATMAN TO GORDON: ROBIN DEAD

BACK TO SCENE

Dick keeps his gaze on the headline and the accompanying picture. It is a shot of Robin's unconscious body in the driver's seat of the Batmobile.

Dick's grip on the paper tightens.

INT. - WAYNE MANOR LIVING ROOM

Bruce walks into the living room, now dressed in casual attire. He walks over to the large portrait hanging over the fireplace. It is a painting of Dr. and Mrs. Wayne.

Bruce keeps his gaze on the picture.

Dick walks into the room, holding the newspaper. He is now dressed in a casual shirt and jeans.

DICK

Hey!

Bruce breaks her gaze at the picture and looks at Dick.

BRUCE

Oh, good. You're feeling better.

Dick throws the newspaper at Bruce.

DICK

That's not what the papers say.
"Batman to Gordon: Robin Dead?" What
the hell's going on, Bruce? Are we
still partners or am I really dead?
Tell me now and I'll leave.

BRUCE

Dick, I don't want you to go. You can
still stay here.

DICK

Sure I can. I just can't be your
partner anymore. One little scare like
this and that's it. I'm out.

BRUCE

It's not like that.

DICK

Then what is it?

BRUCE

It's...

Long pause.

DICK

Fine. Don't say anything. I'll be out
of here in an hour.

Dick leaves the room. Bruce shakes his head in frustration.

INT. - DICK'S BEDROOM

Dick packs his backpack in silence. Alfred walks into the room. He is holding a paper bag in his hands.

ALFRED

Master Dick, I do wish you could stay with us.

DICK

Well, I feel the same way, Al. But Bruce obviously doesn't.

ALFRED

He's only doing it so you can live a normal life. So you don't have to put yourself in harm's way like that ever again.

DICK

Whatever, Al. Look, I know you came up here to try and get me to stay, but it's not gonna work. I have to leave.

Alfred hesitates for a moment, then raises the bag.

ALFRED

Then at least take this with you. I couldn't bare to hear the news that Richard Grayson had died of starvation.

Dick takes the bag and peeks inside it. He takes a sniff and smiles at Alfred.

DICK

Well, I know there's one thing I'm really going to miss. Thanks, Al.

Dick reaches out his hand. Alfred takes it and gives him a strong handshake.

ALFRED

It's been a great privilege watching you grow, Master Dick.

Dick and Alfred smile at each other.

EXT. - WAYNE MANOR - DAY

Bruce walks outside to see Dick getting on his bike. Dick is wearing his backpack on his back.

BRUCE

Dick, please come into the house. We can talk about this.

DICK

Forget it, Bruce. If Batman no longer needs Robin, then Dick Grayson no longer needs Bruce Wayne.

Dick rides off, leaving Bruce in the driveway.

INT. - GORDON'S OFFICE

The phone on Gordon's desk starts ringing. Gordon answers it.

GORDON

Gordon here.

KROL (VO)

J...Jim?

GORDON

Mr. Mayor?

KROL (VO)

Yes, Jim. It's me. Um... listen...

INT. - STIRK'S HIDEOUT

Mayor Krol is wide eyes and sweating heavily as he speaks into the phone. The Scarecrow is beside him, holding the fear gas skull up to Mayor Krol's face.

KROL

(speaking into the phone)

Listen, Jim. I don't have much time to tell you. But I need your help. Now... this is where I am.

INT. - GORDON'S OFFICE

Gordon slams down the phone and gets out of his chair. He grabs his coat, then walks over to his office door and opens it.

INT. - POLICE STATION

Gordon walks out of his office, putting on his coat.

GORDON

Pinkus!

Pinkus walks up to Gordon.

PINKUS

Yes sir.

GORDON

Get a squad together. I just heard from Krol. He told me where he is.

PINKUS

How'd he get to a phone? Did he say anything about who's holding him?

GORDON

No idea. He just kept babbling on and on about snakes. I practically had to force him to tell me where he was.

PINKUS

So where is he, sir?

EXT. - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

A group of squad cars drive towards their destination. Gordon is standing at the main entrance to the station. An officer is beside him.

OFFICER

Shall we turn on the bat signal, sir?

Gordon shakes his head.

GORDON

No. Our boys will be able to handle this one. Besides, I think it's best if we gave him some rest for a bit.

INT. - STIRK'S HIDEOUT

Scarecrow is walking around Mayor Krol, who is still sitting in his chair. Sweat is still pouring down his brow.

SCARECROW

Excellent work, Mr. Mayor. And while the police are off on their little chase, the final pieces of my plan shall fall into place. Let's go watch the fun.

KROL

Just keep the snakes away, please!

Scarecrow pulls Krol up to his feet.

EXT. - CRIME ALLEY - NIGHT

Dick drives his motorcycle into the streets of Crime Alley. As he drives, he examines the surroundings. Bonfires in trashcans are lit, buildings are dimly lit, and there are very few people in the streets.

Dick parks his motorcycle beside a street light, then pulls out a special chain to keep the bike safe. Dick puts the chain around the bike and the light post. He then pulls out a small component from his pocket. It is a special lock. Dick puts the lock on the chain and presses a button on it, then walks away from the bike and into the alley.

EXT. - ALLEY - NIGHT

Dick sits down in the alley and takes a deep breath. He closes his eyes and leans his head back against the wall.

A THUG slowly emerges from the shadows deep in the alley. He walks up to Dick and looks down at him.

THUG

Hey!

Dick slowly wakes up.

DICK

Yeah?

THUG

That's where I sleep. Nobody but me
sleeps there.

Dick looks to his left, then his right. He looks at the thug.

DICK

It's a comfy spot. My bad. I'm new.

THUG

Yeah. I know. I've seen you around
Gotham before. You and that
billionaire Bruce Wayne.

Dick stands up.

DICK

Guilty as charged. Now if you'll
excuse me, you can have your spot back.

The thug walks behind Dick.

THUG

Yeah. Bruce Wayne. You know he's a
real punk.

The thug pushes Dick in the back. Dick sucks in some breath.

THUG

And so's his punk kid!

The thug pushes Dick again. Dick turns around and meets the
thug eye to eye.

DICK

You got something to say to me?

The thug tries to punch Dick.

Dick counteracts with a blow to the thug's head and a kick to his chest. The thug falls to the ground.

Dick looks down at the thug. The thug looks up at Dick, then lets out a loud whistle.

As Dick looks up, more THUGS come out from all directions. Dick looks around, wearing a worried expression.

EXT. - CRIME ALLEY - NIGHT

Harley Quinn walks into the alley. She is wearing an overcoat over her court jester outfit.

She hears the sounds of the thugs from a distance.

Dick walks out of the alley, into the street. The thugs encircle him and prepare to jump him altogether.

Harley sees Dick and pulls off her overcoat, then pulls her mask over her head. She runs up to Dick.

Dick keeps his eyes on the thugs, planning his attack pattern in his head. He is ready to strike at an instant.

Suddenly, one of the thugs looks over in Harley's direction.

THUG

What the hell is that?

Dick turns his head and sees Harley running towards him.

DICK

Oh great. This is all I need.

Harley runs up, ready to throw a punch, but she isn't aiming at Dick. She's aiming at one of the thugs.

Harley throws the punch, then executes a kick that knocks down another thug. Dick is shocked for a moment, then follows her lead and kicks and punches his way through the mob of thugs.

DICK

(to Harley as he fights)

What are you doing here?

HARLEY
 (to Dick as she fights)
 Had to get some exercise.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Gotham Police cars are zooming towards their destination. The lights are flashing, the sirens are blaring.

PINKUS (VO)
 Pinkus to Commissioner Gordon. Are you there, Commissioner?

GORDON (VO)
 I'm here, Pinkus. Where are you?

PINKUS (VO)
 We should be at our destination at an ETA of ten minutes.

GORDON (VO)
 Keep me informed on your situation.

PINKUS (VO)
 Yes sir. Out.

The squad cars continue to speed down the streets.

EXT. - CRIME ALLEY - NIGHT

Dick and Harley continue knocking down their foes, one by one, until they are either on the ground or running away.

One of the thugs walks up to Dick's bike and reaches for the lock. The lock releases an electric charge that knocks the thug to the ground. The thug then gets up and runs away.

Harley and Dick stand in the middle of the streets, catching their breaths.

They look at each other. Harley smiles.

HARLEY
 You got a few moves there.

DICK

I've kept myself active since the circus days. And you're not so bad yourself.

HARLEY

Let's say I've been training.

DICK

I saw you at the Wayne Security Building a few days ago.

Harley looks away.

DICK

You helped those scarecrows get away from Batman and Robin.

HARLEY

Maybe I did.

DICK

So you're doing what? Helping out the bad guys now?

Harley turns back at Dick.

HARLEY

Who's to say I'm helping out bad guys? I'm with people that are willing to help me get what I want.

DICK

And you want Batman and Robin dead, right? You want to take them away from Gotham and let chaos take over the city?

HARLEY

Oh please, Dick. Batman is not the only source of justice in Gotham. There are plenty of cops that can do the job that Batman does, if not better. Besides, he'll have to watch his back now that nobody's there to do it for him anymore.

Dick looks down for a moment, then back up at Harley.

DICK

Yeah. I hear that Robin's been put out of commission for a while?

HARLEY

He's dead. And soon, Batman'll be next.

DICK

Harley, it's not too late to turn away from all this.

Harley turns around and starts walking away from Dick.

HARLEY

I can't Dick. I'm sorry. That son of a bitch took everything away from me.

DICK

The life you're leading will take even more away, Harley.

Harley looks over her shoulder towards Dick.

HARLEY

We have a lot in common, Dick. Someone took away people we've loved, and we've had to live with it. I can't just live with it anymore.

Harley runs away.

DICK

Harley! Wait!

She doesn't look back. Dick watches her leave.

One of the thugs on the ground is awake, looking up at Dick. Dick looks back down at the thug.

DICK

Now what do you want?

The thug shakes his head and slowly gets to his feet. He walks away from Dick, rubbing his head in pain. Dick watches him go.

EXT. - GOTHAM OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

This is all that is left of the Gotham Observatory. It was once a place that boasted of holding the world's largest telescope. Now it is an abandoned shell, annihilated by an explosion caused by Mr. Freeze not too long ago.

Squad cars pull up with their sirens blaring and lights flashing. The policemen get out of the cars and surround the building. Pinkus stands outside his car.

PINKUS

(speaking into radio)

We're there, sir. Gotham Observatory.

GORDON (VO)

Send your men. Tell me what they find.

Pinkus gives his men a signal to move in. FIVE OFFICERS go inside the desolate building.

PINKUS

McCarthy!

OFFICER MCCARTHY walks up to Pinkus.

MCCARTHY

Yes, sir?

Pinkus hands the radio to McCarthy.

PINKUS

I'm going in with the others.

Pinkus runs inside the building.

INT. - GOTHAM OBSERVATORY

The officers are now led by Pinkus. The six of them slowly make their way through the darkened halls of the old building.

One of the officers spots something and points towards it.

OFFICER #1

Hey, Pinkus. Over there.

Pinkus walks in Officer #1's direction. On the ground is a very familiar looking straw hat. Pinkus leans down and slowly picks it up off the ground. He examines it for any booby traps, then picks up his walkie-talkie and speaks.

PINKUS

McCarthy, tell Commissioner Gordon that we found the Scarecrow's straw hat, and request further-

Suddenly, from deep inside the building, the screams of Mayor Krol are heard. The officers quickly draw their revolvers.

PINKUS

Mayor Krol. Move in men.

(speaks into walkie-talkie)

McCarthy, tell Gordon that we're moving in. Mayor Krol is here. Repeat, Mayor Krol is here.

Pinkus runs after the officers.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

The Batmobile takes a turn down the street. Batman is at the wheel. He flips a switch on the console.

BATMAN

Any word from him, Alfred?

ALFRED (VO)

None sir. Is it possible that he might have-

BATMAN

Wait.

In the distance, the Bat Signal is shining.

BATMAN

Keep your eyes out for him, Alfred. Gordon's calling.

ALFRED (VO)

Yes sir. Do be careful.

Batman flips the switch on his console and then flips another.

BATMAN
What's going on, Jim?

GORDON (VO)
My men believe they found Mayor Krol.
But they also reported finding the
Scarecrow's straw hat at the scene.

BATMAN
Where?

GORDON (VO)
Gotham Observatory. Well, what's left
of it.

BATMAN
I'm on my way.

Batman flips off his communicator and presses down harder on the gas pedal. The Batmobile speeds up towards the Observatory.

INT. - GOTHAM OBSERVATORY

The screams of Mayor Krol get louder and louder as the cops, led by Pinkus, get closer to the source.

PINKUS
This way!

INT. - OBSERVATORY ROOM

The moonlight is shining into the room through the large hole in the roof. Pieces of the ceiling are scattered along the floor. The remains of the telescope are in the center of the room. Cobwebs surround it. Dust is everywhere.

Pinkus and the officers walk into the room. The screams of Mayor Krol echo throughout the large room.

PINKUS
Spread out. Don't stop looking until
he's found. Now move.

The officers spread out. Pinkus walks up to the telescope and runs his fingers along the metal. The dust gets on his fingers.

KROL (VO)
 (in utter agony)
 Snaaaaaaakes!!!! Oh God, get them away
 from me!!!

PINKUS
 Mr. Mayor! We're here! Where are you?

KROL (VO)
 Can anyone hear me?! Please help me!

Pinkus and the officers start moving towards one corner of the room. The screams are the loudest there.

Officer #1 moves a pile of rubble out of the way to find what should be Mayor Krol underneath. Instead, there is a large television screen and a camera pointing at the officers. On the screen is Mayor Krol, sweating and crying from fear.

The Scarecrow is beside him. He is smiling and holding up his fear gas skull.

PINKUS
 Oh my God.

EXT. - ALLEY - NIGHT

Scarecrow and Mayor Krol are in an alley, not far away from the observatory. In front of them are a television set and camera. The officers are shown on the screen.

Scarecrow holds up a remote control in his other hand, and waves to the officers. He presses a large red button.

INT. - OBSERVATORY ROOM

A loud whistle emits from the television set. The officers slowly back away, exchanging glances with each other.

Suddenly, the television screen explodes. Glass flies everywhere, live wires spit out from the hole. Inside the set

is a small gas hose. It spits out a green mist at the officers. It is Scarecrow's fear gas.

The officers inhale the gas, then exchange looks of worry, paranoia, and then intense fear.

Officer #1 drops to his knees. Officer #2 starts rubbing at his skin. Officer #3 clutches his throat. Officer #4 lets out a scream. Officer #5 runs away.

Pinkus runs out of the room. He looks back at whatever it is he thinks he is seeing.

Pinkus sees a large rabid dog chasing him. He turns and runs out of the room, screaming in fear.

EXT. - GOTHAM OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

The Batmobile pulls up outside the observatory. Batman steps out and walks up to McCarthy.

MCCARTHY

Pinkus led a small group inside. They said they heard Mayor Krol screaming, and they found a straw hat.

BATMAN

Get them out of there now. They're walking into a trap.

PINKUS (VO)

Get that damn dog away from me! He's gonna bite me!

Batman and McCarthy turn to see Pinkus running out of the observatory in a panic.

EXT. - ALLEY - NIGHT

Scarecrow reaches for another button on the remote control.

SCARECROW

And for my next magical trick...

Scarecrow presses the button.

EXT. - GOTHAM OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

The observatory explodes in a blaze of fire. The officers and Batman are thrown back. Batman shields himself with his cape.

EXT. - ALLEY - NIGHT

Scarecrow gives out a loud "Hooooaaaaahhhhh" howl of victory as his television screen is filled with static. He throws the remote control into the screen and the set explodes.

Mayor Krol jumps back when the set explodes, trying to keep any glass away from him.

SCARECROW

Brilliance! And now, Mayor, it's time to reap the benefits. Let's go.

Scarecrow pulls Mayor Krol to his feet.

EXT. - SURPLUS STORE - NIGHT

The truck holding Scarecrow's hypnotized students pulls up outside a surplus store. Harley Quinn drives it. She steps out of the truck and opens the back. The students run out and head inside the store.

INT. - SURPLUS STORE

The store manager is relaxed behind the counter, reading a magazine. He looks up and sees the scarecrows heading towards his store. The manager quickly hits the button underneath the counter that notifies the police.

The scarecrows run inside the store and quickly start grabbing weapons off the racks. Two of them reach for the manager and pull him out of the store.

EXT. - GOTHAM OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

Commissioner Gordon is in the passenger seat of a squad car that is pulling up outside the observatory. He steps out of the car and walks up to Batman.

BATMAN

A trap. Scarecrow set a trap.

GORDON

Damn it! Any casualties?

MCCARTHY

The five guys that went in with Pinkus.
And Pinkus needs an ambulance.

BATMAN

Is he awake yet?

MCCARTHY

Yeah. I think that gas wore off too.
He should be able to speak.

Gordon and Batman walk over to Pinkus.

Pinkus is lying on the ground. His uniform is torn, and his head is bleeding. Cuts and bruises are all over him.

Gordon kneels down next to Pinkus.

GORDON

It's all right, son. You're gonna be just fine. Now do you remember what you saw?

Pinkus nods.

PINKUS

I saw the Mayor. He was on some... television. Scarecrow was there too.

BATMAN

Did you see anything that may have shown you where he was?

PINKUS

Think it was... an alley. Maybe. I don't know. I couldn't see that well.

GORDON

It's all right. Don't worry, Pinkus. The ambulance should be here soon.

Batman walks away from Pinkus. McCarthy runs up to Gordon.

MCCARTHY

Commissioner, we just got word.
There's a robbery in progress. Jack's
Army/Navy store outside of Crime Alley.

GORDON

That must be Scarecrow again. He
distracts us while his goons get what
they need.

Gordon turns to Batman, but Batman is already in the Batmobile.
he is on his way to the surplus store.

Gordon looks back at the police officers. They are waiting for
his next order.

GORDON

Well, let's go, men! Jack's Army/Navy
store. He can't handle them all by
himself!

The cops run to their squad cars and head to the surplus store.

EXT. - SURPLUS STORE - NIGHT

The scarecrows continue their robbery of the store. Harley is
watching from nearby.

EXT. - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Scarecrow and Mayor Krol are on the roof, watching the robbery.

SCARECROW

There it is, Mayor. Everything has
come together so nicely.

KROL

Why are you doing this? What are all
of those weapons for?

SCARECROW

For my dream, Your Highness. We're
taking this hardware to my former home.

KROL
Former home?

SCARECROW
The place from which your personally
appointed review board allowed me to
leave.

KROL
Arkham Asylum?

Scarecrow smiles and nods.

KROL
My God.

SCARECROW
Exactly.

EXT. - SURPLUS STORE - NIGHT

Harley looks over her shoulder to see the Batmobile approaching.
She frowns, then runs out of sight.

The Batmobile pulls up outside the surplus store. Batman steps
out and runs towards the store.

INT. - SURPLUS STORE

Batman steps inside the store and sees the scarecrows gathering
weapons. He quickly runs up to them and knocks them to the
ground. Then he uses his spear gun and its line to tie them up.

The other scarecrows walk into the store, surrounding Batman.
Batman begins to fight them, and he pulls the mask off of one of
the students. He sees the blank, hypnotized stare the student
has, and then pushes the student to the ground.

Batman fights his way out of the store.

EXT. - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Scarecrow watches Batman stepping out of the store.

SCARECROW

Damn it! If I wasn't a patient man, I would have him killed long ago.

Scarecrow turns to Mayor Krol.

SCARECROW

Looks like I'll need one more distraction, Krol. You up for it?

KROL

Ummmm...

SCARECROW

Sure you are.

Scarecrow holds Krol to the edge of the roof, and sprays some fear gas in Krol's face.

SCARECROW

And try to think of a different fear, please? The snakes are getting somewhat tiring.

Mayor Krol sees the ground getting further and further from Krol's view.

EXT. - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Krol starts screaming in sheer terror. Scarecrow looks at Krol's frightened face and smiles.

SCARECROW

Now that's more like it.

KROL

Don't let me fall! Oh please, God!
Please don't let me fall!

EXT. - SURPLUS STORE - NIGHT

Batman hears the screaming from above and looks up. He sees Mayor Krol being held to the edge of the roof by Scarecrow. Scarecrow waves at him from above. Batman pulls out his speargun and fires a line to the roof of the building. He

pushes up and flies up to the rooftop, holding onto the speargun.

EXT. - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Batman lands on the rooftop, ready for a fight. Scarecrow is several feet away, holding onto Mayor Krol.

SCARECROW
Good evening to you, Batman. Have you met Mayor Krol? Say hello, Mayor.

Mayor Krol weakly waves a hello to Batman.

BATMAN
Get away from him, Crane.

SCARECROW
And give up my best method of keeping both you and the police away from me? Please, Batman. Don't insult my intelligence.

BATMAN
Why are you keeping the police away, Scarecrow? What are you hiding?

SCARECROW
You'll know when the time is right.

BATMAN
You'll tell me now! What are the weapons for?

Scarecrow ponders for a moment, then smiles.

SCARECROW
You're the detective. You figure it out. And while you're at it, here's another one. When a man averaging at about 245 pounds is thrown off a building 38 stories high, how many seconds will last before this man hits the pavement below?

Scarecrow holds up his fear gas skull and sprays another dose in Mayor Krol's face.

SCARECROW

Turn your test papers over, class. You may begin.

Scarecrow gives Mayor Krol a light shove, then runs away from him. Mayor Krol looks down and clutches at the roof.

BATMAN

Mayor Krol! Don't move!

KROL

I'm getting higher! I'm slipping! I'm slipping! Oh my God! I'm gonna die!

Batman walks up to Mayor Krol.

BATMAN

You're not going to fall, Mayor! You have to fight the fear! Reach out to me! Now!

KROL

I can't move! Please don't let me die!

BATMAN

You won't die if you reach out to me!

Mayor Krol moves his right arm to reach out for Batman, but his left hand's grip slips.

KROL

Help me! Please!

Mayor Krol slips over the edge, and falls off the roof of the building.

Batman leaps off the roof to catch him.

EXT. - BUILDING - NIGHT

Mayor Krol screams as he falls. Batman is right behind him, straightening out his body to increase speed.

Batman points his right arm towards the rooftop and fires a line from his speargun.

The line flies higher and higher to the rooftop.

Batman and Mayor Krol get closer and closer to the pavement.

Batman reaches Mayor Krol and grabs his leg.

The line connects with the rooftop, and grabs a hold of it.

Batman and Mayor Krol jerk upwards as the grappling hook stops their fall short.

Mayor Krol is still looking down and screaming. He is no longer falling, but he is less than fifteen feet above the ground.

Batman reaches down and connects the speargun to his belt. He then grabs onto Mayor Krol with both hands to keep him from moving. Batman reaches down at his speargun and flips a switch on it. The two of them are slowly lowered to the ground.

EXT. - SURPLUS STORE - NIGHT

Police cars pull up outside the surplus store. Gordon gets out of the car and looks over at Batman and Mayor Krol. A worried look is on his face.

Gordon runs over to Batman and Mayor Krol. Mayor Krol is shaking heavily. Tears are rolling down his cheeks, and sweat is pouring off his brow. His eyes are widened.

GORDON

Oh my God. Mayor Krol!

BATMAN

He'll be all right, Jim. He's just gotten too many doses of fear gas.

KROL

You... didn't let me... die. You didn't let me die.

BATMAN

Tell your men not to open fire on the scarecrows. They're just kids.

GORDON

Kids?

BATMAN

College students. They were
hypnotized.

GORDON

College students. Gotham University
just filed a report for missing
students.

BATMAN

And Jonathan Crane just recently
resumed his teaching job at Gotham
University.

GORDON

Now all that's left is the ammo.

Batman looks behind him to see Harley Quinn cartwheeling out of
sight into an alley.

BATMAN

We're about to find out.

Batman gets up and races towards the alley.

Gordon looks down at Mayor Krol.

KROL

He... didn't let me die.

(catching his breath)

He didn't give up. That man saved my
life. That... Batman saved my life.

EXT. - ALLEY - NIGHT

Batman turns a corner into an alley. He looks around for
Harley, finds nothing. He turns to leave the alley.

HARLEY (VO)

Hey!

Batman hears the voice from behind him and turns around again.

Harley is standing in front of him. She lashes out with a vicious strike to the face. Batman backs up. Harley lets loose with a fierce array of kicks and punches. Batman blocks them all, not striking back for fear of hurting such a frail young girl. Harley connects with a kick to Batman's mouth. A bit of blood appears in the corner.

HARLEY

Come on, Bats. You're not afraid of little old me, are you?

Harley kicks Batman in the chest. Batman executes a leg sweep on her. Harley leaps in the air as he does this, and flips over Batman. She tugs on Batman's cape, and tries to pull him down.

Batman reaches around and grabs Harley by the neck, then flips her over his shoulder. She responds with a kick to Batman's face while she is on her back. Harley gets herself up, and continues her assault on Batman, not letting up for a moment.

HARLEY

I didn't think you'd be this slow.
Maybe it's all that armor you wear.

Batman starts fighting back, blocking Harley's moves and trying to get her off her feet. Unfortunately, she keeps flipping over him and out of his range and he is the one left off-balance.

Finally, Harley wraps her legs around Batman's neck in a scissor-move, then pulls him to his knees. Once he is there, Harley releases the hold and kicks him in the head again. This shot knocks Batman to the ground.

BATMAN

(lying on the ground)
Who are you?

HARLEY

Name's Harley Quinn.

BATMAN

Okay, Harley Quinn. What did I do in a previous life that hurt you?

Harley, in anger, slams her foot on Batman's chest. The armor shields the full force of the blow, but Batman still feels it.

HARLEY

If it weren't for you, the man I love
would still be here! You killed him!

BATMAN

Who?

HARLEY

The Joker.

Harley brings up her foot again to step on Batman's chest. This
time, Batman rolls out of the way and gets to his feet.

BATMAN

The Joker? That was ten years ago!
You wouldn't have been more than a
teenager!

HARLEY

Shut up!

Harley pulls out a revolver from inside her costume.

BATMAN

Harley, the Joker was a madman. Trust
me on this one! He wasn't your type.

Harley moves closer to Batman, holding the gun.

BATMAN

Okay, maybe he was your type. But if
he didn't die, he would have killed
thousands of innocent people.

HARLEY

Small price to pay for letting a genius
like him live. But you couldn't handle
that. You took him away from me!

Harley cocks the pistol.

HARLEY

Get ready to meet your little bird
friend in hell, you bastard!

SCARECROW (VO)

No!

Harley turns away as Scarecrow walks over to her.

HARLEY
Get out of here!

SCARECROW
You're not going according to plan.

HARLEY
To hell with the plan, and to hell with
you! I want him dead!

SCARECROW
Fine. Then kill him.

Harley turns back to shoot Batman, but Batman is no longer there. She turns back to Scarecrow, pointing her gun at him.

HARLEY
You son of a bitch! Why couldn't you
let me kill him?

SCARECROW
I have my reasons, which I've already
stated to you constantly. And you
still disobey me!

Scarecrow walks closer to Harley. Harley prepares to fire.

HARLEY
Don't come any closer!

SCARECROW
Do you really need the gun?

Scarecrow reaches for the gun, and slowly takes it out of Harley's hand.

Suddenly, Scarecrow lashes out with a right hook that knocks Harley out cold. She drops to the ground. Scarecrow flexes his fingers, then picks up Harley and puts her over his shoulder.

EXT. - SURPLUS STORE - NIGHT

The police are doing their best to keep the scarecrows down. Unfortunately for them, the scarecrows keep getting up.

One of the scarecrows reaches for one of the officers.

Suddenly, Batman drops down between the scarecrow and the officer and knocks the scarecrow to the ground. Then Batman uses his speargun to tie up the scarecrow.

SCARECROW (VO)

Hoooooooooaaaaahhhh!

Hoooooooooaaaaahhhh!

The scarecrows stop whatever they are doing. Each of them reaches into their pockets as one, and each pulls out one smoke ball. They are the size of golf balls.

The smoke balls are thrown to the ground and the smoke inside them is released. A cloud of smoke rises from the combination of the balls and it is so thick that it is impairing the officers' sight. After a few moments, the cloud of smoke subsides and the scarecrows are gone, as well as the truck of weapons.

The officers look around in frustration, trying to find at least one scarecrow. But there is nothing.

GORDON

Damn! We had them all! How the hell did they get away?

Batman walks over to Gordon. He is holding onto the scarecrow he tied up. They have one of them.

BATMAN

Maybe this one can help you.

INT. - SURPLUS STORE

Batman looks inside the store to find a large amount of weaponry is gone. Also, the scarecrows Batman tied up earlier are gone.

EXT. - SURPLUS STORE - NIGHT

Batman exits the surplus store and walks towards the Batmobile. Gordon notices Batman leaving, and looks in his direction.

GORDON
Where are you going?

INT. - INTERROGATION ROOM

Gordon and McCarthy are standing over the scarecrow in the interrogation room. McCarthy reaches over and pulls the mask off of the scarecrow. The student has a young face, looking like no more than a college freshman. The student has the hypnotized look on his face.

Gordon waves his hand in front of the student's face. There is no response from the student.

GORDON
How are we supposed to get any answers
from this kid?

EXT. - STIRK'S HIDEOUT - NIGHT

The scarecrows are currently emptying the truck.

INT. - STIRK'S HIDEOUT

Harley Quinn is lying in a bed, still unconscious.

Scarecrow is sitting in a chair, wearing a virtual reality helmet on his head. He reaches for something in front of him.

In the virtual reality Scarecrow is seeing, there is a big orange ball in front of him. His hand in virtual reality grabs the orange ball and squeeze. After a moment, the light is completely gone from the ball.

INT. - INTERROGATION ROOM

The student starts going into a spasm. His eyes roll in the back of his head. His body stiffens completely.

Gordon and McCarthy back away from the student.

After a few moments of spasms, the student finally relaxes and sinks limply into the chair. His arms drop at his side, his

head leans on his right shoulder. A line of saliva drips from the corner of the student's mouth. The boy has been lobotomized.

McCarthy gets nauseous, then runs out of the room. Gordon stands there, stunned for a moment. Then he looks out into the hallway.

GORDON

We need a doctor here! Now!

The student's spasms are the only movements he is making.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Batman is driving the Batmobile down the street.

BATMAN

Alfred?

ALFRED (VO)

Yes sir?

BATMAN

Any luck finding him?

ALFRED (VO)

Unfortunately not, sir. I'm about to expand my search to Crime Alley.

BATMAN

No need. I'll stop by on the way back.

ALFRED (VO)

Back sir?

BATMAN

There's only one man I can think of who can tell me what Scarecrow plans to do with those weapons. And I'm on my way to pay him a visit.

ALFRED (VO)

Sir, may I be so bold as to ask what you plan to do with Master Dick once you locate him?

Batman thinks for a moment. When he speaks, he is using the voice of Bruce Wayne.

BATMAN

I don't know.

ALFRED (VO)

Why did you tell Commissioner Gordon that Robin was dead?

BATMAN

Because I didn't want to put an innocent person in harm's way.

ALFRED (VO)

Robin is not an innocent person. He is a fighter of crime, just like you.

BATMAN

Dick Grayson is innocent.

ALFRED (VO)

Is it Bruce Wayne or Batman who is driving that car?

Short pause. Batman is about to answer, but stops himself.

BATMAN

I'll stop in Crime Alley to see if he's there. In the meantime, keep an eye out for him.

Batman switches off his communicator and drives on.

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

The Batmobile drives up to the front of the asylum. Batman steps out of the Batmobile and stands at the entrance, looking up at the building. He stands there for a moment, then enters.

INT. - HALLWAY OUTSIDE CELLS

Dr. Burton is leading Batman down the hallway.

DR. BURTON

He's been absolutely quiet ever since he came here. It's almost as if he's waiting for something.

BATMAN

He is. I just need to find out what.

DR. BURTON

His cell is at the end of the hallway. To the right. This way.

Dr. Burton leads Batman down to the last cell on the right. Batman looks inside the cell.

BATMAN

I want to go inside.

DR. BURTON

Are you sure?

Batman gives him a look as if to say, "Yes, I'm sure."

DR. BURTON

Okay then.

Dr. Burton unlocks the cell door and Batman slowly walks inside.

DR. BURTON

Just ring the bell beside his bed and I'll be ready to open the door for you.

BATMAN

Thank you, Doctor.

Dr. Burton shuts and locks the cell door.

INT. - STIRK'S CELL

Batman stands in front of the door. Cornelius Stirk is sitting on his bed, looking away from Batman.

BATMAN

Stirk?

Stirk doesn't look up at Batman when he speaks.

STIRK

Hmmm?

BATMAN

I'd like to speak with you for a moment.

STIRK

By all means, have a seat. I'm sorry I haven't been able to fix up this place.

Stirk raises his arms to show he is bound in a straitjacket.

STIRK

They don't let you do very much cleaning around here.

BATMAN

You know why I'm here, Stirk. I want you to tell me what Scarecrow intends to do with those weapons.

Stirk slowly looks in Batman's direction. He smiles wickedly.

STIRK

Now why should I tell you, of all people? Why should I ultimately help the one man who put me here?

BATMAN

Tell me what his plan is.

STIRK

And if I don't, what are you gonna do? Let your little partner loose on me?

Batman's fists clench.

STIRK

Oh, that's right. I forgot. He flew south for the winter, didn't he? Gee, don't you hate it when birds do that? Now, I don't-

Batman punches Stirk in the face. Stirk shakes his head, and spits a tooth at Batman.

STIRK

Keep it. It was falling out anyway.

BATMAN

Tell me what I need to know, Stirk. I haven't seen any rescue missions from Scarecrow to get you out of here.

STIRK

That's because he hasn't done it yet.

BATMAN

How do you know he'll do it at all?

STIRK

Oh, don't worry about that. Besides, you got your own problems to worry about now. Don't you, Batman?

BATMAN

What are you talking about?

STIRK

You think Scarecrow is the only one who knows what your biggest fears are?

Stirk begins to transform himself into an image of Robin. Robin is now bound in the straitjacket. He looks up at Batman with cold, dead eyes. Blood begins to leak from the corner of his mouth.

ROBIN

According to you, Batman, this child you see before you is an innocent life. And now this innocent child has been struck down because you put him in harm's way.

Robin smiles, then transforms back into Stirk.

BATMAN

I didn't come here so you could dissect me, Stirk. I came for answers.

Stirk smiles and licks his lips.

STIRK

I know why you came. The dissection is a bonus at no extra charge.

BATMAN

No more of this, Stirk. Tell me!

STIRK

You know, for a detective, you're very slow, Batman. The trick is to know your opponent's obsession. Then you'll be able to figure out where that obsession will be catered to in the best possible way. Then you'll know.

BATMAN

Scarecrow's obsession is fear.

STIRK

Good. You're halfway there. Now all you have to realize is where fear resides in its most solid form.

Batman thinks for a moment, a long pause, until finally he looks back up at Stirk.

Stirk starts laughing.

STIRK

Well, it looks like you're not so slow after all, Crusader.

Stirk's laughing reaches a fever pitch. Batman rings the bell for Dr. Burton to let him out.

INT. - HALLWAY OUTSIDE CELLS

Dr. Burton unlocks the cell and opens the door. Batman walks out of the cell.

DR. BURTON

Did you find what you were looking for?

BATMAN

Yes I did. Put some extra security on for tonight.

Batman walks past Dr. Burton, heading for the exit.

DR. BURTON
(calling after Batman)
Why? What did he tell you?

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Batman drives the Batmobile down the city streets. He flips a switch on the Batmobile console.

BATMAN
Alfred?

ALFRED (VO)
Yes sir. Have you found out what you needed to know?

BATMAN
Everything and more. Alfred, there's something I need you to do for me.

EXT. - CRIME ALLEY - NIGHT

Batman drives the Batmobile down the Crime Alley street. Batman looks around for anything that would point him in Dick's direction. Batman drives past Dick's motorcycle. It is still chained up and untouched.

Batman parks the car beside Dick's motorcycle and gets out.

Punks watching from afar stop whatever they are doing and keep an eye on Batman.

PUNK
Hey, chill out. It's Batman.

Batman shoots a hard look at the punks, then walks on.

Dick peeks his head out of a nearby alley. He sees Batman, then slowly steps out into the street.

DICK
Came to take the bike away from me too?

BATMAN

I need to talk to you, Dick.

DICK

Okay. Let's talk.

BATMAN

Not here.

DICK

Well, what's wrong? I like it here. I have friends here now.

Dick motions to the punks. The punks walks away quickly.

DICK

See? They respect my privacy. Now, if there's something you want to tell me, I won't stop you.

BATMAN

You seem to have done well for yourself.

DICK

Yeah. It's not so bad. I have to make do with someone not cleaning up after my every step, but that's life. You still haven't told me what you're doing here.

BATMAN

A couple of years before you became my partner, I met with Scarecrow and he gave me a dose of his fear gas. I saw my worst fear right before my eyes, that I would be responsible for taking the life of an innocent. That was why I told Gordon that Robin was dead. I couldn't bare the fact of being responsible for Dick Grayson being lost. But I was wrong. Dick Grayson and Robin are one and the same. You're no more of an innocent than I am.

DICK

So what does this mean for Robin?

BATMAN

Robin is gone. But that doesn't mean that Dick Grayson can't take on the streets by himself.

DICK

By myself? But I thought I wasn't ready for that.

BATMAN

No. You're ready. I just never could tell you that until now.

DICK

What if I like being alone?

BATMAN

Then I'll get you an apartment.

Dick is intrigued by the offer.

DICK

Let me get this straight. I come back with you, and not only do I get back into the game, but you're gonna set me up with my own house and my own... new identity?

BATMAN

What do you say?

Dick thinks for a moment, then smiles and nods his head.

INT. - STIRK'S HIDEOUT

Scarecrow is standing before his army of scarecrows. Harley Quinn is standing behind him.

SCARECROW

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you all for coming here this evening. Not as if you had any choice, of course. I wanted to thank you all for your eager participation in my plan for the past several days.

The scarecrows remain silent as The Scarecrow speaks.

SCARECROW

You have pleased me beyond belief, though I do not know any of your names outside of Dean Roland, you all have my undying gratitude. It will be unfortunate when I have to terminate this experiment, as well as terminate all of you when the mission is complete. But there will be time for that later. For now, it's off to Target Zero: Arkham Asylum. Tonight, the gates of fear will fly open, and the madness inside will descend upon Gotham City!

Scarecrow turns to Harley and smiles.

SCARECROW

And our good friend Batman will be unable to stop us!

INT. - BATCAVE

The Batmobile is at rest on its platform. Batman and Dick walk out of the car.

Alfred walks down the stairs from Wayne manor to greet them.

DICK

Hi Al! Been a while.

ALFRED

Master Dick, I'm so relieved to see you safe and sound once again.

BATMAN

Have you done what I asked, Alfred? We don't have much time.

ALFRED

Yes sir. Would you like to see it?

Dick turns to Batman, then to Alfred.

DICK

See what?

Alfred walks up to the Bat Computer and types in a special code.

As Dick and Batman watch, design schematics for a new costume are shown on the screen. It is a sleek, dark blue outfit with a high collar, cape, dark boots and gloves, the works. But it looks nothing like the old Robin costume.

BATMAN

What do you think?

DICK

Hmmm. Very nice. How about without the cape?

Alfred types a few buttons. The cape vanishes from the screen.

DICK

Better. Yeah, I think that will work very nicely.

BATMAN

Good. Get suited up, and hurry.

INT. - VAULT

Several quick shots of the Robin vault as Dick puts on his new costume. When he is finished, he takes a good look at himself and smiles, then exits the vault.

INT. - BATCAVE

Batman nods his head in approval as Dick steps out.

BATMAN

Any thoughts on a name?

DICK

I was thinking about Nightwing. How does that sound?

Batman nods, liking the name.

BATMAN

Nice ring to it. Ready for one last
tour of duty as partners?

NIGHTWING (DICK)

Nothing like going out as a champion.

Batman and Nightwing clasp hands. Alfred looks on with pride.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

The Batmobile races down the street towards Arkham Asylum.
Right beside him is Nightwing in his modified Redbird
motorcycle. The red is gone, replaced by a sleek purple and
black.

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

Scarecrow's truck pulls up on a cliff overlooking Arkham Asylum.
The scarecrows exit from the back, with each of them holding a
large weapon. Scarecrow and Harley Quinn exit the cab.

SCARECROW

Let it begin.

A scarecrow pulls out a rocket launcher taken from the Wayne
Security facility. He aims and fires.

A rocket launches from the gun.

INT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM

The inmates are all in their cells wearing straitjackets.

Suddenly, a tremendous explosion rocks the asylum. Pieces of
brick and metal fly everywhere. Several doors are blown off as
well. Inmates howl as they run out of their cells.

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

A loud alarm blares from inside the asylum. It is heard all
throughout the city.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

As Batman and Nightwing continue their journey to Arkham, the Bat Signal shines in the horizon.

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

Scarecrow and Harley are watching the scarecrows blasting away the asylum walls.

SCARECROW

Just a few more shots.

Suddenly, Harley looks over her shoulder to see the Batmobile and Nightwing's motorcycle approaching.

HARLEY

Now what?

(referring to Nightwing)

And who the hell is that?

Scarecrow notices Nightwing. He frowns.

SCARECROW

Whoever he is, he's expendable.

(turning to a small group of his
scarecrows)

The biker must die! Your God wills it!

The scarecrows run towards Batman and Nightwing.

Batman and Nightwing come to a halt as the scarecrows get closer and closer. Batman reaches into his utility belt and pulls out a small pistol. He tosses it to Nightwing.

Nightwing catches the pistol. Batman pulls out another one.

BATMAN

Here. They're tranquilizers.

NIGHTWING

All set.

Batman and Nightwing take aim and fire small tranquilizer bullets at the scarecrows. The scarecrows are hit and go down instantly.

NIGHTWING
(still firing)
It's working.

BATMAN
This should keep them down for a few
minutes.

Batman and Nightwing get out of their vehicles and run after Scarecrow and Harley.

SCARECROW
(to his scarecrows)
Don't stop firing!
(turning to Harley)
The stranger's all yours. Give him a
chase, then kill him.

Harley runs towards the truck.

NIGHTWING
I got Harley!

Nightwing runs after Harley, which leaves Scarecrow to Batman.

Scarecrow runs away, allowing Batman to chase him down.

Harley jumps into the truck and starts it. Nightwing runs up and leaps onto the back of the trailer. The truck starts and drives off. Nightwing pulls out his suction grips from his utility belt, and starts making his way up to the top of the trailer.

Scarecrow runs higher and higher up the cliff to the highest point. The tip is directly over Arkham Asylum.

Batman runs up after Scarecrow. The hypnotized scarecrow students continue their firing on the asylum.

The sirens are still blaring and there are screams from the madmen inside.

Batman turns and fires tranquilizers at the scarecrows firing on the asylum. The scarecrows drop to the ground.

Thunder is heard in the distance. A storm is starting.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Harley drives the truck down the city streets, trying to get shake Nightwing. Nightwing continues to move closer and closer to the cab. Harley peeks her head out for a moment, to see Nightwing on the truck. Nightwing smiles and waves.

HARLEY
(to herself)
Damn it.

Harley looks back at the road, and fishtails the truck back and forth, trying to shake Nightwing off. But Nightwing holds on.

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

Batman runs up to the highest tip of the cliff, overlooking Arkham Asylum. Scarecrow is waiting there.

The rain starts coming down.

Scarecrow smiles a sinister grin at Batman.

SCARECROW
So now it is down to you and me. No thugs waiting for you at the top. No partner set to ambush you in the shadows.

BATMAN
Give it up, Crane. It's over.

SCARECROW
Quite the contrary, it's just begun. Don't you see? These children who have embraced me as their god have done a great service. They have brought about the Age of Fear. The damage has already been done.

Police sirens are heard. Scarecrow turns his head for a moment.

Commissioner Gordon steps out of one of the squad cars. He looks up at the sky, perplexed by the clouds he sees.

GORDON

Is there a permanent cloud over this place that I don't know about?

Scarecrow turns back to Batman. He shoots Batman a hard glare.

BATMAN

I told you it was over.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Nightwing has used his suction grips to get his way on top of the cab. Harley continues to fishtail around the streets. Cars try to get out of the way, resulting in serious accidents.

HARLEY

Damn it! Please die!

Nightwing flips himself around, bringing his legs straight up and flipping himself forward into the windshield of the cab.

Nightwing breaks through the windshield glass and grabs Harley, then pulls her down into the passenger seat.

The truck flips over on its side and careens down the street. Sparks fly everywhere.

Nightwing knocks the passenger door open and raises his arm out. He fires his speargun towards a street light. The line wraps itself around the light.

Nightwing grabs Harley and the line lifts the two of them out of the truck. The truck skids on down the street. After a few moments, it finally comes to a halt.

Harley looks up at Nightwing, and tries to wrestle her way out of his grasp.

NIGHTWING

Harley, stop!

Harley spits in his face.

HARLEY

Who the hell are you?

NIGHTWING

Someone who knows why you're doing this. Harley, you have to let it go.

HARLEY

He took everything from me.

NIGHTWING

No, he didn't. He saved a city from the man you claim to love. I hope someday you'll realize that.

Tears start running down Harley's face.

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

Scarecrow watches as the police round up the scarecrows, and the Arkham Security keep the inmates from breaking out.

Scarecrow looks back at Batman.

SCARECROW

It's a shame. I was looking forward to the look on your face as the fear came tumbling down into Gotham. But unfortunately, that won't happen.

Scarecrow walks closer to Batman.

SCARECROW

So I guess I'll just have to kill you!

Scarecrow takes a swing at Batman. Batman grabs Scarecrow's arm and punches him in the face. Scarecrow is then thrown to the ground. Batman clenches his fists as Scarecrow slowly gets up.

Scarecrow tries to punch Batman, but misses the shot. Batman steps out of the way, then pulls Scarecrow to his feet and punches him down again.

SCARECROW

I forgot how hard you hit. But then again, you don't forget much, do you, Batman?

Batman walks closer to Scarecrow.

BATMAN

No more head games, Crane.

Scarecrow reaches behind him and pulls out his fear gas skull.

SCARECROW

This has nothing to do with head games.

Batman leans forward to grab Scarecrow. Scarecrow quickly puts the fear gas skull in Batman's face and squeezes. The gas hits Batman before he can get out of its way. Batman backs up slowly. Scarecrow gets to his feet.

SCARECROW

Hope you like this latest recipe,
Batman. I call it "Essence De Trauma."

Batman blinks rapidly, then looks at Scarecrow.

Scarecrow is smiling at Batman. The surroundings start to change around them. Scarecrow starts to transform before Batman's eyes.

SCARECROW

Tell me, Batman. Tell me your deepest
childhood trauma. Something must have
triggered the creation of the man
standing before me.

Scarecrow starts transforming into a darkly dressed man in a hat and overcoat. He is holding a large revolver in his hand. It is Jack Napier, the man who would later become the Joker and the man who is a moment away from murdering Thomas and Martha Wayne.

EXT. - CRIME ALLEY - NIGHT

Batman looks around him to see that he is in Crime Alley, the scene of his parents' murder.

BATMAN

No.

Napier looks up at Batman. His face transforms to a ghastly skull with fire burning from the eye sockets. Jack smiles and pulls the trigger twice.

The bullets go straight through Batman and strike two people behind him. Batman turns around to see Thomas and Martha Wayne lying on the ground, bleeding to death.

Thomas and Martha look up at Batman with dead eyes.

THOMAS WAYNE

Why didn't you save us, son?

BATMAN

I couldn't. There was nothing I could do. I was just a boy!

When Jack Napier speaks, he has the Scarecrow's voice.

JACK NAPIER (SCARECROW)

(mocking Batman)

Just a boy! Just a boy! What is it, Batman? Tell me what you see before you! Tell me!

Batman shakes his head. Thomas reaches for Batman.

BATMAN

No!

THOMAS WAYNE

You failed us, son! You have always failed us!

BATMAN

I did not fail you! It was not my fault!

Batman turns towards Jack. Jack strikes him in the face.

JACK NAPIER (SCARECROW)

Yes it was your fault! You did fail them! Admit it, Batman! You! Failed!

Jack points the gun at Batman. Batman grabs the gun.

BATMAN

No! I will not say it! I did not fail!

The Crime Alley illusion begins to fade.

BATMAN
Scarecrow!

Batman grabs Jack by the throat. Jack transforms back to Scarecrow. The gun transforms into Scarecrow's fear gas skull. Thomas and Martha Wayne fade away.

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

Thunder rolls and lightning flashes as Batman squeezes Scarecrow's fear gas skull. The two of them struggle with it, until Batman finally crushes the skull. The wind blows the gas right into Scarecrow's face. Scarecrow backs up. He is now dangerously close to the edge of the cliff. Batman backs away from him.

BATMAN
And what about you, Jonathan Crane!
What is the master of fear afraid of?

Scarecrow's eyes widen in terror.

From behind Batman, a large flock of crows comes straight towards Scarecrow. Batman stands before him.

SCARECROW
No! Nooooooooo!!!!!!

The crows begin to pick at Scarecrow. They dig into his body, but pull out straw instead of blood and organs. He has become an actual scarecrow. There is nothing but straw in him.

EXT. - ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

Scarecrow raises his hands in front of his face as the crows continue to eat away at him. He cries out in pain, trying to keep the crows away from him.

Scarecrow continues to back away, until he finally slips off the cliff, letting out a scream of total agony as he falls into the darkness below him.

Batman walks to the edge of the cliff to watch Scarecrow fall.

Nightwing and Harley walk into view on the lower part of the cliff. They hear the scream of the Scarecrow and turn to watch him fall right into the hole created in Arkham Asylum's ceiling.

Commissioner Gordon looks up when he hears Scarecrow falling.

GORDON

Oh my God.

Harley averts her eyes as Scarecrow lands with a sickening thud.

Scarecrow is dead. He lies in the middle of the asylum floor. One of the inmates who got out of his cell slowly walks up to Scarecrow's body, then pulls him out of sight.

Batman stands on top of the cliff, victorious.

Nightwing looks up at Batman and smiles.

One of the scarecrow students begins to stir as the effects of Batman's tranquilizer wears off.

Nightwing quickly turns around and gets ready to fire another shot at the student. The student quickly raises his arms.

STUDENT

Hey, man! Don't shoot!

The student pulls off his mask. His eyes are returned to normal.

NIGHTWING

You all right, pal?

STUDENT

Uh... I guess so.

(beat)

Where am I?

LATER

Batman and Nightwing keep their distance as the police do their job. Gordon is supervising everything.

The students are all escorted to ambulances.

McCarthy is handcuffing Harley Quinn. Gordon walks over to her.

GORDON

You'll have to spend some time in Blackgate Prison until we can get Arkham fixed up.

Harley looks at Batman, then turns her head away.

Batman watches as McCarthy leads Harley into the back seat of a squad car. McCarthy shuts the door. Tears start streaming down Harley's face as the car drives off.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - DAY

A delivery truck is outside an apartment building where Dick will now live. Movers are bringing in various pieces of furniture.

ANCHOR (VO)

So the cases of the missing college students, the artillery theft, and the kidnapping of Mayor Jefferson Krol were all brought to a close last night at the aborted attack on Arkham Asylum. Although several sections of the asylum were destroyed, no injuries from inside were reported and the re-construction has already begun.

Bruce Wayne's limousine pulls up in front of the apartment building. Alfred gets out of the driver's seat and opens the back door. Bruce and Dick step out.

ANCHOR (VO)

However, one casualty has been reported from the events of last night. Dr. Jonathan Crane, known to many as the Scarecrow, was found dead at approximately 2:00 AM. He is reported to have fallen to his death from the high point of a cliff overlooking the asylum. According to Police Commissioner James Gordon, Dr. Crane was the mastermind behind a scheme to release the inmates out into the city streets.

Bruce and Dick step inside the apartment building.

ANCHOR (VO)

Dr. Crane's minions were the missing students from Gotham University and were reported to be under a hypnotic control. As of now, the students have fully recovered and are ready to be sent home to their families. This morning, Mayor Krol called a press conference to thank the man who has been the victim of His Honor's verbal attacks for the past six months.

INT. - APARTMENT BUILDING

As Bruce and Dick make their way to an elevator, Mayor Krol's voice is heard from a press conference earlier this morning.

KROL (VO)

Every moment I spent as a captive of the Scarecrow was a nightmare. Something I will live with for the rest of my life. I stared right into the evil that one man out there faces every night. And I couldn't be more grateful to him for saving me. Despite my earlier attacks on Batman, I want to thank him for not giving up, and for saving both myself and this entire city. Wherever you are, from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

INT. - DICK'S APARTMENT

Bruce and Dick walk into Dick's new apartment. Movers are in the process of putting the furniture in place. Dick walks around the living room, smiling to himself the whole time.

BRUCE

Not bad, huh? Amazing what you can accomplish when you purchase an entire building. Maybe I'll actually rent out the other rooms in it.

DICK

But I can't say I won't miss you,
Bruce.

BRUCE

You're only ten minutes away. You'll
always be welcome, except for when the
Do Not Disturb sign is on the doorknob.

DICK

Of course.

Dick steps up to Bruce. The two of them clasp hands. Dick
leans a little closer so the movers can't hear them.

DICK

(in a low voice)

What about the other guy who's gonna be
living here?

BRUCE

(in a low voice)

It's all taken care of. Just go to the
third basement.

DICK

(in a low voice)

Didn't know there was a third basement.

BRUCE

(in a low voice)

There isn't.

Bruce winks. Dick winks back.

DICK

(in a low voice)

By the way, what's gonna happen with
Harley Quinn?

BRUCE

(in a low voice)

Don't worry about it. I sent her a
little heirloom of mine. Something I
wouldn't need anymore.

INT. - WOMEN'S QUADRANT

A PRISON GUARD makes his way down the women's quadrant, holding a package under his arm. He comes to Harley Quinn's cell. Harley is sitting on the bed, her back to the guard.

GUARD

Quinn?

Harley looks over her shoulder at the guard. The guard sticks the package into the cell.

GUARD

You got a present.

Harley slowly makes her way to the package and picks it up. She carefully opens it, and reaches into the box. Harley pulls out a purple blazer jacket. It is dusty and slightly torn. It belonged to the Joker.

HARLEY

His jacket. My baby's jacket!

Harley weeps tears of joy as she cradles the jacket like a newborn clutching a blankie.

EXT. - GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

Nightwing drives his motorcycle down the street. He looks up as the Bat Signal is seen in the distance. Nightwing smiles, then looks ahead and drives off.

The signal passes by Gotham Cathedral. Standing on top of the cathedral, in all of his glory, is Batman. His cape flows in the breeze. His eyes are on the city below.

The moon above is full and bright and the squealing of bats is heard in the distance.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END