

BATMAN BEGINS

By

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BLACK. A low KEENING which becomes SCREECHING that BUILDS and BUILDS until- RED flickers through black as the screen BURSTS into life: Clouds of REELING BATS silhouetted against a blood red sky, bolting away from camera, MASSING in the sky... FORMING a density the shape of an enormous BAT-LIKE SYMBOL. More BATS mass, swamping the symbol, DARKENING the screen to- BLACK. Distant children's LAUGHTER which comes closer as- SUNLIGHT flickers through black. Sunlight through trees running through a SUMMER GARDEN. A BOY. Chasing a GIRL. The Boy reaches a Victorian GREENHOUSE. Stands in the doorway catching his breath. This is Bruce Wayne, aged 8, and we are-

1 EXT. GARDENS, WAYNE MANOR -- DAY

1

YOUNG BRUCE peers down rows of plants on long trestle tables.

YOUNG BRUCE  
Rachel?

No response. Sunlight streams through wrought iron and glass. Young Bruce advances, cautious. He is GRABBED from behind and pulled under a table by a young girl, aged 10. This is RACHEL. She puts her hand over Young Bruce's mouth.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)  
Rachel?! Master Bruce?!

A woman STRIDES past the windows: MRS.DODSON, Rachel's mother, housekeeper of Wayne Manor.

YOUNG BRUCE  
(whispering)  
What're you doing?!

RACHEL  
(matter-of-fact)  
Kidnapping you. They" pay a lot for  
precious Brucie.

Young Bruce stares, wide-eyed. She SMILES. He relaxes. Young Bruce BOLTS out from under the trestle table - SPRINTS for the back door. Rachel TEARS after him.

2 EXT. DISUSED KITCHEN GARDEN, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS 2

Young Bruce crouches in the mouth of a DISUSED WELL, peering over the stone wall at Rachel, who searches for him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

2.

RACHEL  
Bruce, I can see you.

Young Bruce suppresses a giggle- the BOARDS beneath him GIVE WAY and he PLUMMETS into...

3 INT. OLD WELL -- CONTINUOUS

3

Young Bruce DROPS thirty feet- LANDS painfully on the rubble strewn bottom of the shaft.

4 EXT. KITCHEN GARDEN, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

4

Rachel, hearing, RUNS to the well.

RACHEL  
BRUCE?!!

5 INT. OLD WELL -- CONTINUOUS

5

Young Bruce lifts his head from damp dirt and rocks, groaning.

6 EXT. KITCHEN GARDEN, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

6

Rachel SPRINTS towards the house.

RACHEL  
MOM!! MISTER ALFRED!!

7 INT. OLD WELL -- CONTINUOUS

7

Young Bruce, in shock, groans. He hears SQUEALING- freezes, PEERING into the DARKNESS of an OPENING between rocks...

BATS EXPLODE from the darkness, filling the air. HE SCREAMSCURLS against their flapping, squawking, fluttering BLACKNESS.

A JOLT: OLDER GREEN EYES FLICK OPEN, WAKING... *in DARKNESS. Filthy, sweating darkness... and we are in-*

8 INT. BHUTANESE JAIL -- MORNING

8

The eyes belong to a bearded, weathered, young man's face.  
BRUCE WAYNE aged 28. An OLD ASIAN MAN sits staring at him.

OLD MAN

A dream?

WAYNE

A nightmare.

OLD MAN

Worse than this?

Their cell is a tin box. Light seeps through gaps in the roof. Shouts ECHO. Wayne shrugs.

9 EXT. PRISON COURTYARD -- LATER

9

Wayne and the Old Man line up for gruel. PRISONERS are scattered in small groups. All eyes on Wayne.

OLD MAN

They are going to fight you.

WAYNE

I fought them yesterday.

OLD MAN

They will fight you every day.  
Until they kill you.

Wayne holds out his plate. Watches gruel dribbled onto it.

WAYNE

Can't they kill me *before*  
breakfast?

Wayne turns from the table. His path is blocked by an ENORMOUS MAN, backed by six aggressive prisoners. The Enormous Man SMASHES his plate away.

ENORMOUS MAN

(broken English)

You are in hell, little man...

He PUNCHES Wayne- Wayne goes down hard.

ENORMOUS MAN (CONT'D)

...and I am the devil.

Wayne picks himself up. Dust himself off.

(CONTINUED)

WAYNE  
You're not the devil...

The Enormous Man SWINGS again- Wayne CATCHES his fist, KICKS the big man's knee out an, as he goes down, BOOTS his face.

WAYNE (CONT'D)  
...you're practice.

Six Prisoners RUSH Wayne all at once... Wayne fights skillfully and hard, FLIPPING one prisoner into another, KICKING as his arms are held... several Prisoners hit the deck before- GUNFIRE- two GUARDS break it up, shooting into the air... they GRAB Wayne.

GUARD  
Solitary!

WAYNE  
(indignant)  
Why?

GUARD  
For protection.

WAYNE  
I don't need protection.

The Guard points angrily at the unconscious prisoners.

GUARD  
Protection for them.

10 INT. SOLITARY, BHUTANESE JAIL -- MOMENTS LATER 10

Wayne is tossed into the dark cell. The door SLAMS.

VOICE (O.S.)  
I often wonder at the riches to be found in dark places.

The voice is mellifluous. European. It comes from the shadows of a deep corner of the cell.

WAYNE  
I thought the point of solitary confinement was the solitary part.

Wayne can make out the profile of a MAN seated in the corner.

(CONTINUED)

MAN

These men have mistaken you for a  
criminal, Mr.Wayne...

Wayne reacts to his name. The Man steps into the light:  
powerfully-built, distinguished, in a well-cut SUIT AND TIE.

WAYNE

Who are you?

MAN

My name is merely Ducard. But I  
speak for Ra's Al Ghul. Have you  
heard the name?

WAYNE

I've heard the legends...master  
warrior, international mercenary,  
feared by all the underworld...  
some even swear he's immortal.

DUCARD

(smiles)

Ra's Al Ghul uses theatricality and  
deception as powerful weapons.

Ducard approaches Wayne. Looks deep into his eyes.

DUCARD (CONT'D)

You have not escaped his notice- a  
man like you is here by choice...  
or because he is truly lost.

Wayne's eyes flick away from Ducard's penetrating gaze.

DUCARD (CONT'D)

Ra's Al Ghul and his League of  
Shadows offer a path to those that  
are capable of upholding our code.

WAYNE

Code? Aren't you criminals?

DUCARD

A criminal is simply a man that  
someone else thinks...  
(gestures around them)  
... should be put in jail.

Wayne nods, conceding the point.

(CONTINUED)

DUCARD (CONT'D)

This world is run by tyrants and corrupt bureaucrats. Our code respects only the natural order of things- we're not bound by their hypocrisy. Are you?

Ducard moves to the door. Knocks. It is opened by a guard.

DUCARD (CONT'D)

There is a rare flower- a blue doublebloomed poppy- that grows on the Eastern slopes. Tomorrow you will be released. Pick one of the flowers. If you can carry it to the top of the mountain, you may find what you are looking for.

WAYNE

And what am I looking for?

Ducard looks at Wayne with a glint in his eye.

DUCARD

Purpose.

The door slams shut leaving Wayne in DARKNESS...

11

INT. BOTTOM OF THE OLD WELL -- DAY (WAYNE'S MEMORY)

11

Silence. Young Bruce lies there, exhausted, weeping softly.

MALE VOICE

Bruce?

Young Bruce looks up: a FIGURE, long coat billowing, is lowered down the shaft... THOMAS WAYNE, Young Bruce's father.

12

EXT. GARDENS, WAYNE MANOR -- MOMENTS LATER

12

Thomas carries his son towards the house. At his side, a 50-year-old man in a somber suit calmly coils a rope: ALFRED.

ALFRED

Will we be needing an ambulance,  
Master Wayne?

THOMAS

We have everything I need to set  
the bone. I'll take him for x-rays  
later.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED  
Very good, sir.

They pass a tearful Rachel standing with her mother.

13 INT. HALL, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

13

Thomas carries Bruce up the main stairs. The house is vast and grand, but full of flowers and life. Bruce's Mother (MARTHA) appears at the landing, distraught.

THOMAS  
(reassuring)  
He'll be fine.

14 INT. BRUCE'S BEDROOM, WAYNE MANOR -- LATER

14

Alfred moves to the bedside. Looks down at Young Bruce.

ALFRED  
Took quite a fall, didn't we?

Young Bruce looks up at Alfred. Manages a slight smile.

ALFRED  
And why do we fall, Master Bruce?

Alfred reaches up to the curtains. Young Bruce says nothing.

ALFRED  
So that we might better learn to  
pick ourselves up.

Alfred smiles gently. PULLS the curtains shut, and we-

CUT TO:

An exquisite double-bloomed BLUE POPPY... and we are-

15 EXT. HIMALAYAN FOOTHILLS -- DAY

15

A field of the blue poppies. Wayne approaches. Picks one. Studies its brilliant blue in the cold sunshine.

16

EXT. TINY HAMLET, HIMALAYAS -- DAY

16

Wayne, exhausted, freezing, hungry, wanders up the street. As locals see him they head inside. DOORS SLAMMED, BOLTED.

CHILD (O.S.)  
No one will help you.

Wayne turns to find a YOUNG CHILD STARING at him. The Child POINTS at the blue flower pinned to Wayne's chest. An OLD MAN appears at the Child's side.

WAYNE  
(weak)  
I need food.

OLD MAN  
Then turn back.

Wayne looks at the Old Man. Then carries on up the mountain.

17

EXT. MOUNTAIN -- DAY

17

Wayne, struggles through DRIVING SNOW up an ICY RIDGE...

He clears the ridge, FLOPS down into the snow, Painfully raises his scarf-wrapped face to the cutting wind to see a MONASTERY perched on jagged rock.

18

EXT. HIMALAYAN FORTIFIED MONASTERY -- DAY

18

Wayne climbs up the steps to the VAST DOORS of the monastery. Unwraps a severely FROSTBITTEN FIST. POUNDS against the icecovered wood, knocks ECHOING deep within.

Nothing. Wayne lowers his forehead to the door, shoulders wracked by SOBS, pounding accelerating to a FRENZY.

A GRINDING noise from within. Wayne STOPS, straightens. The doors SWING OPEN to DARKNESS...

19

INT. GREAT HALL, MONASTERY -- CONTINUOUS

19

Wayne shuffles forward into a low-ceilinged wooden hall lit by flickering lamps. Hands trembling, Wayne pulls at brittle scarves. He STARTS as the doors THUD shut behind him.

At the far end, on a raised platform, sits a dark robed figure; RA'S AL GHUL. Wayne moves unsteadily towards him...

(CONTINUED)

WAYNE  
(hoarse)  
Ra's Al Ghul?

ARMED WARRIORS of various races emerge from the SHADOWS:  
BOWS taut, SWORDS drawn... NINJAS. Wayne freezes.

DUCARD (O.S.)  
Wait.

The Warriors hold. Wayne looks at the source of the command:  
Ducard leans against a nearby pillar.

Wayne reaches into his layers of clothing. Pulls out the  
DOUBLE-BLOOMED BLUE POPPY. Holds it out, shaking.

Ra's Al Ghul starts to speak in Urdu. Ducard TRANSLATES.

DUCARD  
Fear has been your guide. But now  
you must advance or fear will keep  
you on your knees. We will help you  
conquer your fear. In exchange you  
will renounce the cities of man.  
You will live in solitude. You will  
be a member of the Leagues of  
Shadows. And you will be without  
fear.

Ducard takes the flower. Considers its delicate blue petals.

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
Are you ready to begin?

Ducard threads the flower through the buttonhole of his  
lapel. Wayne looks at Ducard, shaking with hunger and  
fatigue.

WAYNE  
Ready? I... I can barely-

Ducard KICKS him- Wayne Crashes to the floor.

DUCARD  
Death does not wait for you to be  
ready...

Wayne crawls, gasping. Ducard STRIKES him in the ribs.

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
Death is not considerate, or fair.  
And make no mistake- today, death  
is your opponent.

Ducard turns- WHIPS his leg in a fearsome roundhouse KICK aimed straight at Wayne's NECK-

-but Wayne BLOCKS the kick with a lateral movement of his forearm. He stares at Ducard, eyes BLAZING. Ducard SMILES.

Wayne RISES. Assumes a martial STANCE. Ducard STRIKES Wayne BLOCKS and PARRIES, driving his body through pain into a series of FLUID, SKILLED moves...

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
Tiger Crane... Ju Jitsu...  
(smiles)  
Skilled. But this is not a dance-

Ducard GRAPPLES Wayne, BRAWLING, BITING, ENERGIZED, MESSY...

DUCARD (CONT'D)

Facing death you learn the truth... Ducard's head smashes Wayne's cheek- Wayne FALTERS-

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
You are weak...

Ducard SMASHES him in the groin.

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
You are alone...

Ducard SLAMS Wayne's chin, sends him DOWN HARD.

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
And you are afraid...

Ducard crouches at Wayne's side. Looks into his glazed eyes.

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
(curious)  
*But not of me.*

Ducard pulls the flower from his lapel. Leans in close to replace it on Wayne's chest, his lips at Wayne's ear...

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
Tell us, Wayne...

VIOLENT FLAPPING, SCREECHING BLACK RATS- swarming, chittering-

DUCARD (V.O.)  
(whispers)  
What do you fear?

Young Bruce's eyes OPEN, and we are-

20 INT. BRUCE'S BEDROOM, WAYNE MANOR -- DAWN (WAYNE'S MEMORY) 20

Young Bruce, breathing hard. Light cuts across the bedclothes. He looks to the door. Thomas is there.

THOMAS  
(gentle)  
The bats again?

Young Bruce nods. Thomas approaches. Sits on the bed.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
You know why they attacked you?  
(off look)  
They were afraid of you.

YOUNG BRUCE  
Afraid of me?

THOMAS  
You're a lot bigger than a bat,  
aren't you? All creatures feel  
fear.

YOUNG BRUCE  
(smiles)  
Even the scary ones?

Thomas smiles back, reaches into his dressing gown pocket.

THOMAS  
*Especially* the scary ones.  
(thinks)  
Here, let me show you something-  
(freeze)  
But you can't tell anyone, right?

Young Bruce nods, eager. Thomas pulls out a long jewel case. He opens it: PEARLS glow in the half-light.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
For your mother.

Young Bruce GRINS. Thomas winks at him, SNAPS the case shut.

21 INT. ELEVATED TRAIN (MONORAIL) -- EVENING 21

Young Bruce watches the glory of Gotham glide past. His parents beside him, dressed up- Martha idly stroking her pearls. She smiles at Thomas.

YOUNG BRUCE  
Did you build this train, Dad?

THOMAS  
Your great-grandfather built the first trains in Gotham. The city's been good to our family- it was time to give something back...

Thomas draws a CIRCLE in the CONDENSATION on the window...

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
A new public transportation system for the whole city...

Thomas draws SPOKES through the circle, creating a WHEEL. Thomas TAPS his diagram at the central HUB of the wheel, then points through the glass to a tall 1930's SKYSCRAPER.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
...and at the cent... Wayne Tower.

22 EXT. GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS 22

The monorail train TURNS INWARDS on a "SPOKE"... SHOOTING towards the central station at the base of Wayne Tower.

23 INT. CONCOURSE, WAYNE STATION -- MOMENTS LATER 23

Young Bruce STARES at the MAGNIFICENT STATION. He looks up through the vaulted glass ceiling... WAYNE TOWER rises above... Rich ORCHESTRAL STRINGS rise, and we are-

24 INT. GOTHAM OPERA HOUSE -- LATER 24

A gilded house packed to the rafters for Boito's Mefistofle. Young Bruce seated between his parents, On stage: WITCHLIKE CREATURES cavort. DARK BIRDS on wires descend, FLAPPING.

Young Bruce STARES, uneasy, at their VIOLENT motions.

INSERT CUT: BATS EXPLODE FROM A DARK CREVICE.

Young Bruce starts breathing faster, STARES fixedly.

(CONTINUED)

SCREECHING, FLAPPING BLACK BATS SWARM ALL AROUND...

Young Bruce, gulping PANIC breaths, looks around for an exit- they're in the middle of a row. He GRABS his Dad's arm.

YOUNG BRUCE  
(desperate whisper)  
Can we go?!

Thomas stares at his son, confused. Martha looks over. Young Bruce looks at his father, PLEADING. Thomas nods. They make their way along the row, Thomas nodding apologies...

25

EXT. SIDE ALLEY, GOTHAM OPERA HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

25

The Waynes emerge from a side exit. Martha crouches before Bruce, tries to meet his eyes. He stares down, ashamed.

MARTHA  
Bruce, what's wrong?

THOMAS  
He's fine.

Martha looks up. Thomas gives her a conspiratorial look.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
I just needed a bit of air. Bit of opera goes a long way, right, Bruce?

Young Bruce looks up at his Dad, who winks. Young Bruce smiles gratefully.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Come one.

Thomas, coat over his arm, ushers his family down the dark alley, heading for the WELCOMING GLOW of the main boulevard.

A FIGURE emerges from the shadows in front of them. A MAN. With a GUN. Shifting uneasily.

MAN  
Wallet, jewelry! Fast!

THOMAS  
(calm tone)  
That's fine, just take it easy.

(CONTINUED)

Thomas hands Young Bruce his coat, then reaches for his wallet. The Man JERKS the gun at Thomas, eyes DARTING. Young Bruce stares up at the gun TREMBLING in the Man's hand.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Here you go.

The man GRABS at the wallet but FUMBLES it. It FALLS. The Man glances down at the wallet then back to Thomas, scared.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
(reassuring tone)  
It's fine, it's fine...

The Man crouches for the wallet, eyes on Thomas.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
...just take it and go.

The Man feels for the wallet, looks at Martha. Her pearls.

MAN  
I said jewelry!!

She starts pulling off her rings. The Man JERKS the gun at her neck. Thomas STEPS protectively in front of his wife.

THOMAS  
Hey, just-

BOOM. Young Bruce FLINCHES. Thomas looks down at his bleeding chest. Then back to the Man, saddened.

Thomas CRUMPLES. Martha SCREAMS. The Man REACHES for Martha's pearls- but she SCREAMS desperately for Thomas.

MARTHA  
THOMAS!! THOMAS!!

MAN  
Gimme the damn...

But Martha FLAILS, trying to grab her fallen husband.

The Man SHOOTS her. Then YANKS at her necklace, which BREAKS. Spilling PEARLS all over the asphalt.

The Man stands. Turns to Young Bruce. Who STARES at him. Uncomprehending. The Man cannot bear the boy's gaze...

And then he RUNS. Young Bruce looks at the bodies of his parents. DROPS to his knees, head down: PEARLS dot the asphalt beneath him. Some of them are bloody.

Young Bruce starts to SHIVER.

26

INT. POLICE STATION -- NIGHT

26

CHAOS: REPORTERS and COPS vying for a piece of the crime of the decade. In the Captain's office, Young Bruce. Bewildered, forgotten. Still clutching his father's overcoat.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)  
Is that your father's?

Young Bruce looks up: a young beat cop stands over him- JIM GORDON (29). Gordon crouches, reaches for the coat. Young Bruce huddles over it, protective.

GORDON  
(reassuring)  
It's okay.

Gordon's tone prompts Young Bruce to trust him. Gordon takes the coat, DRAPES it gently across Young Bruce's shoulders.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)  
GORDON! You gotta stick your nose  
into everything!

Gordon turns to CAPTAIN LOEB, who glares at him.

CAPTAIN LOEB  
Outta my sight.

Gordon NODS at Young Bruce, whose eyes wish Gordon would stay. Gordon leaves. Loeb turns to Young Bruce.

CAPTAIN LOEB (CONT'D)  
Good news... we got him, son.

Young Bruce looks up at him dazed. Uncertain.

27

EXT. GROUNDS, WAYNE MANOR -- DAY

27

Snow falls over two open graves. MOURNERS disperse, guided by SECURITY GUARDS. Alfred stands with Young Bruce. A man approaches, EARLE (47). He nods at Alfred, crouching.

EARLE  
(indicates Alfred)  
You're in excellent hands, Bruce.  
And we're minding the empire. When  
you're all grown up, it'll be  
waiting.

Young Bruce looks blankly at Earle.

28 EXT. WAYNE MANOR -- LATER

28

Mourners file towards the gates. Rachel walks with her mother. Looks up at Bruce's high window. Sees him watching. Waves. Young Bruce pauses, then returns the wave.

29 INT. BRUCE'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

29

Alfred enters. Looks tenderly at Young Bruce's back.

ALFRED

I thought I'd prepare a little supper.

No response. Alfred turns.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

Very well.

YOUNG BRUCE (O.S.)

Alfred?

Alfred turns back. Young Bruce is looking at him with TEARS POURING down his cheeks. Alfred tilts his head.

ALFRED

(voice catching)

Master Bruce?

YOUNG BRUCE

It was my fault, Alfred.

Alfred's mouth opens.

YOUNG BRUCE (CONT'D)

I made them leave the theater-

ALFRED

Oh, no, no, no-

Alfred moves to Young Bruce, taking the boy in his arms.

YOUNG BRUCE

If I hadn't got scared-

ALFRED

No, no, Master Bruce. Nothing you did. Nothing anyone ever did can excuse that man.

(CONTINUED)

Alfred holds Young Bruce away to look directly into his eyes.

ALFRED (CONT'D)  
It's his, and his alone. Do you understand?

Young Bruce nods. Then BURIES his face in Alfred's chest, sobbing.

YOUNG BRUCE  
I miss them, Alfred. I miss them so much.

ALFRED  
(whispering)  
So do I, Master Bruce. So do I.

Tears well in Alfred's eyes as he HOLDS the boy, watching snowflakes swirl past the window.

DUCARD (V.O.)  
And do you still feel responsible?

30 INT. PASSAGEWAY, MONASTERY -- DAY

30

Ducard leads Wayne along a screened passage overlooking extraordinary mountains.

WAYNE  
My anger outweighs my guilt.

Ducard opens a door...

31 INT. DOJO, MONASTERY -- DAY

31

Leads Wayne onto a MEZZANINE LEVEL stacked with boxes and bottles. NINJAS pour powders into packets, mixing compounds. Ducard takes a pinch of a powder- throws it down- BANG! Wayne FLINCHES- Ducard SMILES good-naturedly.

DUCARD  
Advanced techniques of Ninjitsu employ explosive powders.

WAYNE  
As weapons?

DUCARD  
Or distractions. Theatricality and deception are powerful agents.

(CONTINUED)

Ducard hands Wayne a pinch of the powder.

DUCARD (CONT'D)

To be a great warrior is not enough. Flesh and blood, however skilled, can be destroyed... you must be more than just a man in the minds of your opponents.

Wayne listens to this. Tosses the powder- BANG!

32 EXT. FROZEN LAKE, HIMALAYAS -- DAY

32

Wayne and Ducard CIRCLE each other on the ICE, SWORDS poised to strike. Dark figures in the white and blue landscape.

Ducard STRIKES at Wayne, who DEFLECTS the blow using a SILVER GAUNTLET with THREE SCALLOPS (thick, hook-like projections). Ducard SKIDS left, breath STEAMING, feinting with his sword.

Wayne steps sideways on the ice, his foot landing on a thin patch which CREAKS, water BUBBLING underneath.

DUCARD

Mind your surrounding. Always.

Wayne STRIKES- Ducard BLOCKS with his own BRONZE GAUNTLET. Wayne SLIPS right and FLIES IN with a short THRUST- Ducard's arm flips down in a backhand move-

Ducard CATCHES Wayne's sword in one of his SCALLOPS.

DUCARD (CONT'D)

Your parent's death was not your fault...

Ducard ROTATES his arm, WRENCHING Wayne's sword from his grasp- it SKIDS along the ice.

DUCARD (CONT'D)

...it was your father's.

Wayne, ENRAGES, dives at Ducard, SWINGING at him with the scallops, FURIOUS, RECKLESS. Ducard parries with his sword, they LOCK- noses inches apart, Wayne BREATHING... ANGRY...

DUCARD (CONT'D)

Anger does not change the fact that your father failed to act.

(CONTINUED)

WAYNE

The man had a gun!

DUCARD

Would that stop you?

WAYNE

I've had training-

DUCARD

The training is nothing. The will to take control is everything. Your father trusted his city, its logic... he thought he understood the attacker and could simply give him what he wanted...

Wayne considers this... breathing slowing... CALMER... they separate.

DUCARD (CONT'D)

(gently)

Your father did not understand the forces of decay- cities like Gotham are in their death throes- chaotic, grotesque. Beyond saving.

WAYNE

Beyond saving? You believe that?

Ducard regards the harshly beautiful landscape.

DUCARD

It is not right that one must come so far to see the world as it is meant to be. Purity. Serenity... Solitude. These are the qualities we hold dear. But the important thing is whether you believe it...

Wayne stares at Ducard.

DUCARD (CONT'D)

Can Gotham can be saved, or is she an ailing ancestor whose time has run?

Ducard STRIKES DOWN at Wayne with his sword. Wayne BLOCKS the strike with FOREARMS CROSSED, SLIDES BETWEEN DUCARD'S LEGS across the ice to where his sword lies.

GRASPING his sword he SPINS, SWEEPING at Ducard's feet. Ducard LEAPS- Wayne CATCHES his foot, brings him down onto the ice. Wayne THRUSTS his sword at Ducard's throat-

(CONTINUED)

STOPS INCHES from Ducard's bare neck. Ducard freezes, arms at his sides. Wayne looks down at Ducard, SMILING in triumph.

WAYNE  
Yield.

Ducard smiles. Shakes his head.

DUCARD  
You haven't beaten me. You've sacrificed sure footing for a killing stroke.

Ducard TAPS the ice beneath Wayne's feet with his sword- the ice gives way, PLUNGING Wayne through the surface.

33 EXT. SHORE, FROZEN LAKE -- EVENING

33

Ducard feeds a small FIRE. Wayne RUBS his arms, SHIVERING violently against hypothermia. Ducard looks at him.

DUCARD  
Don't rub your arms, rub your chest. Your arms'll take care of themselves.

Wayne rubs his torso, NODS at Ducard. Ducard feeds the fire.

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
You have strength born of years of grief and anger, Wayne. The strength of a man denied revenge.

Even in his shivering, Wayne REACTS to this.

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
Why, Wayne...?

34 INT. WAYNE STATION PLATFORM -- DAY (WAYNE'S MEMORY)

34

A monorail pulls into the platform. Disgorges passengers.

DUCARD (V.O.)  
*Why could you not avenge your parents?*

Amongst them, Bruce, AGED 20, holding a bag. He sees Alfred, now 62, craning his neck, SEARCHING. He waves.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE  
You didn't have to pick me up-

ALFRED  
Well, sir, the red line... well,  
it's closed. Apparently Mr. Earle  
thought it wasn't making enough  
money.

35 INT. CONCOURSE, WAYNE STATION -- MOMENTS LATER

35

Bruce looks sadly at the DECAY to his father's station:  
glass CRACKED, marble chipped, HOMELESS bundled in shuttered  
storefronts... He looks up through the sparing glass: WAYNE  
TOWER looms overhead, gold lettering catching the sun...

BRUCE  
How is Mr. Earle?

ALFRED  
Oh... successful..

36 INT. ROLLS ROYCE -- LATER

36

Alfred glances at Bruce in the rear-view mirror.

ALFRED  
Will you be heading back to  
Princeton tomorrow or could I  
persuade you to spend an extra  
night or two?

BRUCE  
I'm not heading back at all.

ALFRED  
You don't like it there?

Bruce smiles, sardonic. Looks out at the trees flashing by.

BRUCE  
I like it fine... they just don't  
feel the same way.

Alfred purses his lips, IRRITATED.

37 EXT. WAYNE MANOR -- MOMENTS LATER

37

Bruce STARES up at house. Alfred pulls the bag out of the car and, to Bruce's surprise, DROPS it at Bruce's feet.

38 INT. WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

38

Alfred leads Bruce up the main staircase. The house is now dark and empty. Dust-cloths cover much of the furniture.

ALFRED  
(tense)  
I've prepared the master bedroom.

BRUCE  
My old room will be fine.

ALFRED  
(stern)  
With all due respect, sir, your father is dead. Wayne Manor is your house.

BRUCE  
(irritated)  
No, Alfred, his isn't my house.  
(gestures)  
It's a mausoleum. A reminder of everything I lost. And when I have my way I'll pull the damn thing down brick by brick-

Alfred turns on Bruce, angry.

ALFRED  
This house, Master Wayne, has sheltered six generations of the Wayne family, and stood patiently by while you've cavorted in and out of a dozen private schools and colleges. As have I.

Bruce stares at Alfred. Eyes burning. Chastened.

ALFRED (CONT'D)  
(softer)  
The Wayne family legacy is not so easily shrugged off.

BRUCE  
(sadly)  
Nor borne, old friend. I'm sorry to have disappointed you.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED

Master Wayne... I was at your father's side when you were born. And at your side when he was laid to rest.

BRUCE

(voice catching)

I know.

ALFRED

Your father was a great man. But I have every confidence that you will exceed his greatness.

BRUCE

Haven't given up on me, yet?

ALFRED

(conviction)

Never.

Bruce sags under the burden of Alfred's faith. He opens the door to his bedroom, then turns back to Alfred...

BRUCE

I may not get another chance to thank you for all you've done for me.

Alfred looks at him, curious.

ALFRED

Are you going away after the hearing?

Bruce shrugs, hard to read. Then enters his old bedroom.

39

INT. BRUCE'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

39

Bruce puts his bag on the bed. Looks around the room.

At the mantel, Bruce stares at a framed photograph: Young Bruce on his Dad's shoulders, arms raised in triumph. Bruce wipes dust from the photograph. Smiles at it.

*INSERT CUT: Young bruce on Thomas's shoulders- Thomas TIPS back, threatening to drop Young Bruce who LAUGHS and LAUGHS.*

Bruce moves to the bed. Opens his case.

Inside it is a GUN.

40 EXT. GATES, WAYNE MANOR -- MORNING 40

Rachel, now 23, stands by her car looking up at the house. She can see Bruce in the window. She gives a small wave.

41 INT. BRUCE'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS 41

Bruce returns Rachel's wave. Then FINISHES LOADING HIS GUN.

42 EXT. GATES, WAYNE MANOR -- MOMENTS LATER 42

Bruce walks down the drive to Rachel. He smiles gently.

BRUCE  
You look well. "Assistant District Attorney", right?

RACHEL  
(nods, smiles)  
You still trying to get kicked out of the entire ivy league?

BRUCE  
(shakes head, smiling)  
Turns out you don't actually need a degree to do the international playboy thing.

Rachel smiles. Looks down at her shoes. Then back to Bruce.

RACHEL  
Bruce, I don't suppose there's any way I can convince you not to come-

BRUCE  
(cold)  
Someone at this *proceeding* should stand for my parents.

RACHEL  
Bruce, we all loved your parents.  
What Chill did is unforgivable-

BRUCE  
Then why is your boss letting him go?

RACHEL  
Because in prison he shared a cell with Carmine Falcone. He learned things and he'll testify in exchange for early parole.

Bruce shakes his head, opens the car door. Rachel sighs.

43 INT./EXT. RACHEL'S CAR ON FREEWAY, GOTHAM -- MORNING 43

Rachel's car heads towards the golden spires of Gotham. Bruce stares out the window in silence.

44 INT. RACHEL'S CAR -- MOMENTS LATER 44

Rachel pulls into the PARKING LOT of the COURTHOUSE. Parks. Bruce looks at her through the strained silence.

BRUCE

Rachel, this man killed my parents.  
I cannot let that pass.

Rachel almost says something. Then SHRUGS.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Rachel, I need you to understand.

Rachel looks at Bruce. Considering. Gently NODS. Bruce nods back. Rachel opens her door and starts getting out.

Bruce slips out his GUN, placing it on the ground behind the front wheel of Rachel's car as he gets out.

45 INT. COURTHOUSE -- DAY 45

A small bureaucratic proceeding. A five person PANEL. Bruce sits amongst the OBSERVERS. Watching the back of Chili's head. Rachel's boss, FINCH, addresses the panel.

FINCH

Given the exemplary prison record  
of Mr.Chill, the 14 years already  
served and his extraordinary level  
of cooperation with one of this  
office's most important  
investigations... we strongly  
endorse Mr.Chill's petition for  
early release.

The CHAIRMAN nods, consults his paperwork.

CHAIRMAN

I gather a member of the Wayne  
family is here today...

Chill REACTS, TURNING. Bruce STUDIES his weathered face.

(CONTINUED)

CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)  
...does he have anything to say?

Chill notices Wayne's cold eyes. Has to look away. Bruce RISES, walks out, all eyes on him. Including Rachel's.

46

EXT. PARKING LOT, COURTHOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

46

Bruce MOVES to Rachel's car. Picks up his GUN, stuffs it up the sleeve of his overcoat. Waits.

The side exit opens and two COPS come out. A shout goes up from the pressmen around the front of the courthouse.

REPORTERS  
They're taking him out the side!!

REPORTERS swarm around the building as Chill emerges.

REPORTER1  
Chill, any words for the Wayne family?!!

Chill, head down, presses on. Bruce straightens. Breathes. Starts WALKING towards Chill. A Reporter SPOTS him.

REPORTER2  
It's Bruce Wayne!

The Reporters clear a path, eager for a confrontation.

BLONDE FEMALE REPORTER  
Joe! Hey Joe!!

This one catches Chill's eye- blonde, local t.v. type. Bruce's hand DROPS to his side as he MOVES... he's BREATHING HARD... THINKING... DECIDING...

BLONDE FEMALE REPORTER (CONT'D)  
Falcone says hi!!

She THRUSTS a gun at Chill's chest and FIRES. Chill DROPS-

Bruce STOPS in his tracks. Reporters DIVE for cover- COPS jump on the Blonde Reporter, pinning her...

Bruce. Fifteen feet away. Loaded gun up his sleeve. Face as uncomprehending as the night Chill killed his parents. Rachel moves to Bruce, pulling him away from the chaos.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL  
Come one, Bruce. Come on, we don't  
need to see this.

Bruce yanks his arm away.

BRUCE  
I do.

47 INT. RACHEL'S CAR -- EVENING

47

Rachel drives. Bruce sits there, hands in his lap. Staring. Rachel glances over at him. Then pulls over. Turns to him.

RACHEL  
(gentle)  
Are you okay?

BRUCE  
(distant)  
All these years I wanted to kill  
him. Now he's gone. Now I can't.

RACHEL  
You don't mean that.

BRUCE  
(bitter)  
What if I do, Rachel? Chill killed  
my parents. They deserved justice.

Rachel looks at him, appalled.

RACHEL  
You're not talking about justice,  
you're talking about revenge.

BRUCE  
Sometimes they're the same.

RACHEL  
They're never the same, Bruce.  
Justice is about harmony... revenge  
is about you making yourself feel  
better. That's why we have an  
impartial system-

Rachel pulls out into the street.

BRUCE  
Well, your system of justice is  
broken-

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

Don't you tell me the system's broken, Bruce! I'm out here every day trying to fix it while you mope around using your grief as an excuse to do nothing. You care about justice..?

Rachel YANKS the wheel-

48 EXT. FREEWAY, GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS

48

Rachel's car SCREECHES across two lanes, onto an EXIT RAMP.

49 INT./EXT. RACHEL'S CAR ON SURFACE STREETS -- CONTINUOUS 49

The streets below are DARK, crowded and THREATENING-

RACHEL

Look beyond your own pain, Bruce.

Rachel gestures at the filthy streets. Down dark alleys-shadowy figures conduct business.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

This city is *rotting*. Chill is not the cause, he's the effect. Corruption is killing Gotham and Chill being dead doesn't help that-it makes it *worse* because Falcone walks. He carries on flooding our city with crime and drugs... creating new Joe Chills... Falcone may not have killed your parents, Bruce, but he's destroying everything they stood for...

They pull up in front of a BASEMENT CLUB.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

They all know where to find Falcone...

(gestures at club)

But no one will touch him because he keeps the bad people rich and the good people scared.

Rachel turns on Bruce.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
(quiet)

And what chance does Gotham have  
when the good people do nothing?

She pokes him in the chest. Bruce looks down at her finger.

BRUCE  
I'm not one of your "good people",  
Rachel. Chill took that from me.

Rachel looks at Bruce strangely.

RACHEL  
What do you mean?

Bruce pulls up his sleeve. Turns his hand over. Rachel stares at the GUN in his hand, SHOCKED.

BRUCE  
I was going to kill him myself.

She looks at Bruce. Then SLAPS him. Bruce does nothing. Rachel SLAPS him again and again... Nothing. She stops. Tears flowing.

RACHEL  
You're no better than the rest.

Rachel points at the gun. Looks into Bruce's eyes.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Your father would be ashamed of  
you.

Bruce stares at Rachel. Opens his door.

50

EXT. DOCK AREA, GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS

50

Bruce watches Rachel's car disappear. Turns to look at the line of SHIPS in the harbor. He makes his way to the water. Takes out his gun. Turns it, STUDIES the light off its metal-

*INSERT CUT: the TREMBLING BARREL of Chill's gun, inches from Thomas Wayne's chest.*

Bruce, with contempt, FLINGS his gun into the black water.

51 EXT. BASEMENT CLUB, FACING DOCKS -- LATER

51

Bruce walks towards the entrance. A BOUNCER steps out, looking at him with contempt.

BOUNCER  
Get lost, kid.

Bruce pulls a massive wad of cash from his pocket. Splits it in two. Offers one half.

BRUCE  
The other half when you give me the nod that Falcone's leaving.  
Unawares.

The Bouncer looks at Bruce. Takes the money.

52 EXT. BASEMENT CLUB, FACING DOCKS -- LATER

52

Bruce watches the entrance from the shadows. Two THUGS escort a thickset man out of a club. The Bouncer waves-

BOUNCER  
'Night, Mr.Falcone.

The three men move towards a waiting limo-

WHAM- one Thug takes a kick to the head, goes down- Bruce steps from the shadows- the Second Thug goes for his gun- Bruce GRABS his arm- CHOPS his throat- JUDO FLIPS the thug...

Bruce turns to Falcone who looks at him, curious.

FALCONE  
The little rich kid. No gun? I'm insulted.

The First Thug lunges at Bruce with a KNIFE- Bruce puts him down with a graceful SWEEP-

BRUCE  
I don't need a gun.

FALCONE  
Yes, you do.

CLICK. A gun is at Bruce's head. Held by the Bouncer.

(CONTINUED)

FALCONE (CONT'D)  
Money isn't power down here- fear  
is.

The Bouncer pistol whips him once, hard. Bruce goes down.  
The Bouncer drops Bruce's money onto him.

FALCONE (CONT'D)  
You shoulda just sent me a  
thank-you note...

Bruce looks up at Falcone. Spits blood.

BRUCE  
I didn't come here to thank-you. I  
came to show you that not everyone  
in Gotham is afraid of you.

FALCONE  
(laughs)  
Just those that know me. You got  
balls, kid...  
(cold)  
But you don't belong down here with  
us. We don't play fair. Now go back  
to your big house, wrap yourself in  
your silk sheets and I'll send you  
a shoulder to cry on.

BRUCE  
You don't dress well enough to be a  
pimp.

Falcone lights a cigar. Stares down at bruce. Ice.

FALCONE  
You miss your Mommy and Daddy? Come  
down here again, I send you to  
them.

Falcone turns. His thugs get into the limo with him. Bruce  
watches it slide into the night. Struggles to his feet...

Bruce walks the docks, wiping blood from his mouth. SHADOWS  
in doorways mark his progress. Three YOUTHS approach. Bruce  
stiffens, but they cross the street to avoid him.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)  
No one'll mess with ya.

Bruce turns. A HOMELESS MAN warming at a flaming oil drum.  
One of many HOMELESS clustered around the docks.

HOMELESS MAN  
Wander 'round here dressed like  
that, means you got something to  
prove. Man with something to prove  
is dangerous.

Bruce STARES at the man. Thinking. Takes out his wallet.  
Removes the money. Hands it to the Homeless Man.

HOMELESS MAN (CONT'D)  
For what?

BRUCE  
Your jacket.

Bruce DROPS his wallet into the fire. The Homeless Man  
LAUGHS. Bruce pulls off his tie, throws it into the fire. He  
pulls off his overcoat, bundles it up ready to-

HOMELESS MAN  
Lemme have it, that's a good coat.

Bruce looks at the Homeless Man, who has removed his own.  
They EXCHANGE clothing.

BRUCE  
Be careful who sees you with that.  
(off look)  
They're gonna come looking for me.

HOMELESS MAN  
Who?

Bruce smiles.

BRUCE  
Everyone.

Bruce, less incongruous in his "new" coat, moves down  
towards the stacks of containers...

Bruce wanders the stacks. A HORN sounds. Bruce's eyes lock  
onto the ship preparing to leave. Bruce runs towards it  
through the shadows...

DUCARD (O.S.)  
*And when you left Gotham...*

*And we are-*

53

EXT. HIMALAYAN MONASTERY -- DAY

53

DUCARD

...what were you seeking?

Ducard LEAPS up onto a STONE WALL. GRABBING ON using pikes on his palms and on his feet. Wayne watches.

WAYNE

To lose myself. I couldn't do anything as Bruce Wayne. I felt useless.

Ducard gestures up to the top of the 50-ft wall.

DUCARD

Perhaps you can beat my record.

Bruce JUMPS up onto the wall, HIGHER than Ducard. Confident.

WAYNE

How long?

DUCARD

Two days.

(off look)

The test is not to see how quickly you can climb, but how slowly. The Ninja is thought invisible, but invisibility is largely a matter of patience.

Ducard reaches up for another handhold. Slowly.

DUCARD (CONT'D)

On your journey... you sought knowledge of the criminal world?

WAYNE

(nods)

I needed to understand the thoughts and feelings of those who stand in the shadows...

CUT TO:

54

EXT. CROWDED MARKET, AFRICAN PORT TOWN -- EVENING (MEMORY) 54

WAYNE (V.O.)

*The first time you're forced to steal not to starve...*

Bruce picks up a mango from a stack to examine it. As he does so he uses his lower hand to slip a PLUM into his pocket.

55 EXT. ALLEY, AFRICAN PORT TOWN -- LATER

55

Bruce squats in a doorway. Bites hungrily into his plum. He looks up. A CHILD in rags sits in the next doorway, STARING. Bruce stares back, juice dripping.

WAYNE (V.O.)  
*...you lose many assumptions about  
 the simple nature of right and  
 wrong.*

Bruce hands the Child the plum. Licks his fingers. Hard.

56 INT. TRAIN STATION, LONDON -- DAY

56

Bruce (bearded, filthy) in a crowd, with an ELDERLY MAN.

WAYNE (V.O.)  
*I needed to feel the fear before a  
 crime...*

The Elderly Man SPOTS a BUSINESSMAN hurrying along- STEPS into his path, engineering a COLLISION, tumbling to the pavement. The Businessman and Bruce both CROUCH to help.

WAYNE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
*And the thrill of success...*

Bruce SLIPS the Businessman's wallet out of his pocket. The Businessman moves off. Bruce shows the Elderly Man the wallet for APPROVAL. Then HURRIES after the Businessman.

WAYNE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
*...without becoming one of them.*

Bruce CATCHES the Businessman, gives him the wallet. The Businessman thanks Bruce- noticing his destitution, he HANDS Bruce a banknote. Bruce nods thanks.

57 INT. WAREHOUSE, UNDER THE ARCHES, EASTERN EUROPE -- NIGHT 57

Bruce tries to crack a safe under the supervision of a YOUNG TOUGH. The Young Tough shakes his head, spins the dial and whips open the safe. Showing Wayne the action.

WAYNE (V.O.)  
*I thought I would find something...*

58 INT. SMOKE-FILLED BACKROOM, SHANGHAI -- NIGHT 58

At a table with a CHINESE BOSS and SEVEN CRIMINALS drinking, laughing, showing each other their spoils (watches, phones).

WAYNE (V.O.)  
*I thought I would learn what I needed to do with my skills and my anger...*

59 INT. WAREHOUSE, SHANGHAI -- DAY 59

A TRUCK races through the door. Two Criminals yank the doors shut after. Bruce and the Boss jumps down from the cab.

WAYNE  
*But the harder I looked the less I saw. The less I knew...*

Bruce turns to the Boss wary.

BRUCE  
Where's this friend of yours?

BOSS  
(shrugs)  
Not friend. Friend of friend.

Bruce rolls his eyes. Looks at the Boss with contempt.

WAYNE (V.O.)  
*Until I wasn't even sure what I'd been looking for in the first place...*

The doors EXPLODE COPS burst in, shouting in Mandarin.

60

INT. SAME -- LATER

60

The back of the truck is opened. Cops inventory piles of BOXES pulled out of the back.

WAYNE (V.O.)  
*And I was lost.*

Bruce sits in a line of criminals, hands cuffed behind back. A Cop YANKS him to his feet, hauling him over to an OFFICER.

COP  
 (in Mandarin)  
 He refuses to give his name.

The Officer smiles solicitously at Bruce.

OFFICER  
 (in Mandarin)  
 Fool- this is China, you're a  
 criminal, what the hell do I care  
 what your name is?

BRUCE  
 (in fluent Mandarin)  
 I'm not a criminal.

The Officer, surprised, waves Bruce away. Looks at the truck.

OFFICER  
 (in accented English)  
 Tell that to the guys who owned  
 these!

He KICKS a BOX: CLOSE ON the WAYNE INDUSTRIES logo.

CUT TO:

61

EXT. WALL, HIMALAYAN MONASTERY -- DAWN

61

Wayne and Ducard cling to the wall just short of the roof, eyes LOCKED. Both are in AGONY, sweat-drenched, STRAINING.

Ducard BLINKS. REACHES for the roof and pulls himself up. Wayne closes his eyes in relief. Ducard pulls Wayne up onto the roof. They lie there in the half-light. Ducard turns to Wayne. Puts a hand on his shoulder. Proud.

DUCARD  
 You are ready.

62

INT. THRONE ROOM -- NIGHT

62

Close on Wayne's BLUE POPPY- now SHRIVELED DRY- on the altar. Wayne, clad in black ninja uniform watches as Ducard, also in black, picks it up, takes a pestle and mortar, drops in the dried flower, and grinds it to dust.

Ducard pours the dust into a small brazier. Lights it. Motions to Wayne, who approaches the smoking altar.

DUCARD

Drink in your fears. Face them.

Wayne breathes the smoke. He shakes his head, REACTING to the effects of the smoke... his mind is plagued by IMAGES:

*Chill's trembling gun- Young Bruce FALLING- Thomas STAGGERING-*

Ducard puts on his ninja mask. Motions Wayne to do the same. Wayne STRUGGLES to think through the effects of the smoke...

WAYNE

Why The masks?

As if in reply, DOZENS of NINJAS step forward from the shadows: the hall is filled with identical Ninjas. Ducard has melted into the crowd. Wayne raises his guard...

DUCARD

To conquer fear, you must become  
fear... you must bask in the fear  
of other men... and men fear most  
what they cannot see-

Ducard STRIKES at Wayne- Wayne SPINS, PARRIES- but Ducard has gone. The Ninjas move in unison, forming WALLS...

DUCARD (CONT'D)

It is not enough to be a man... you  
have to become an idea... a  
terrible thought... a wraith-

The Ninja nearest Wayne TURNS and SLASHES- it is Ducard. Wayne LEAPS sideways, ROLLING through the wall of Ninjas. He looks at his arm- it has been slashed, the uniform torn a dead giveaway. Wayne looks around, crouched, READY...

One wall of Ninjas PARTS, revealing a WOODEN BOX. Wayne stares at it, MIND SPINNING from the smoke.

(CONTINUED)

DUCARD (O.S.)  
Face your fear...

Wayne cautiously approaches the box. Carefully lifts the lid. PEERS inside...

BATS EXPLODE from the box, FILLING the air- Wayne dives away from the box, STARING up at the squawking bats- flinching...

Ducard LEAPS at Wayne, who ROLLS sideways, blocking- Wayne turns to face Ducard, but he is lost in the Ninjas, bats filling the air, Wayne FLINCHING with their attacks...

Wayne stays low, SLASHES the arm of the Ninja nearest him- the man does not move. Wayne turns. Fighting to THINK.

A Ninja paces softly through the crowd, as he speaks, we can tell this is Ducard...

DUCARD  
Become one with the darkness...

Ducard falls in behinds a Ninja with a SLASHED SLEEVE... He KNOCKS him to his knees, sword against throat-

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
You cannot leave any sign...

Ducard pulls off his own mask. Disappointed.

WAYNE (O.S.)  
I haven't.

A SWORD IS AT DUCARD'S NECK- Wayne is behind him, pulling off his mask. Ducard looks around... several of the Ninjas around them have slashed sleeves. Ducard smiles.

The Ninjas TURN, in unison, and sit.

Ra's Al Ghul is seated on a small stage at the head of the room. Ducard leads Wayne to sit down in front of Ra's. A Ninja places a tray between them: a bottle and a burning candle. Ducard places the candle in front of Wayne and hands him a small glass. Ra's Al Ghul begins speaking in Urdu.

DUCARD  
We have purged your fear. You are ready to lead these men. You are ready to become a member of the League of Shadows. Drink.

Wayne tips back the glass. Strong stuff.

(CONTINUED)

DUCARD (CONT'D)  
By blowing out this candle you  
renounce your mortal life. You  
renounce forever the cities of man.  
You dedicate your life to solitude.

Wayne leans forward to blow out the candle. PAUSES. Looks at the rows of seated Ninjas.

WAYNE  
Where will I be leading these men?

DUCARD  
You will need them in Gotham.

WAYNE  
You want me to go back to Gotham?

Ra's stares at Wayne. Starts speaking...

DUCARD  
You yourself are a victim of  
Gotham's decay. That is why you  
came here, and that is why you must  
go back. You will assume the mantle  
of your birthright. As Gotham's  
favored son you will be ideally  
placed...

WAYNE  
For what?

DUCARD  
To help us destroy the city.

WAYNE  
What?!

DUCARD  
When Gotham falls, the other cities  
will follow in short order.  
Nature's balance will be restored  
and Man will finally return to  
solitude.

Wayne turns to Ducard.

WAYNE  
You can't believe in this.

Ducard looks at Wayne, troubled.

DUCARD

Ra's Al Ghul has rescued you from  
the darkest corner of your own  
heart... what he asks in return is  
obedience. And the courage to do  
what is necessary.

Wayne stares down at the flickering candle. At the bottle.  
Wayne FLICKS his sword out, SMASHING the bottle, TIPPING the  
candle- FLAMES spread across the wooden floor-

DUCARD (CONT'D)

(reaching to extinguish  
flames)

What are you doing?

WAYNE

What's necessary.

Wayne STRIKES Ducard in the head with the butt of his sword,  
DOUSES his mask in the liquid fire and TOSSES it back into  
the mezzanine where the explosive powders are stored...

Ra's LEAPS from his throne, STRIKING at Wayne with his  
sword- Wayne parries- EXPLOSIONS roar from the balcony,  
shooting flame across the ceiling- Ra's and Wayne fight as  
EXPLOSIONS surround them...

Wayne LEAPS clear as FLAMING DEBRIS collapses onto Ra's,  
CRUSHING him... the flames are rising, Ninja bodies are  
strewn around, fresh explosions rip across the hall as  
Ninjas flee and Wayne spots Ducard lying unconscious.

Wayne PICKS UP Ducard, hauls him out of the Throne room,  
into a passage, SMASHING THROUGH an ornate screen...

63

EXT. MOUNTAINS -- CONTINUOUS

63

Wayne and Ducard CRASH down onto a steep slope of ice and  
rock, the monastery exploding above them... Wayne rolls  
over, GRABS a rock, looks across to see-

Ducard UNCONSCIOUS, SLIDING down the icy slope. His limp  
form ROTATES, spinning as his body gathers MOMENTUM, rushing  
towards the EDGE of the CLIFF...

Wayne DIVES AFTER HIM, SLIDING HEAD-FIRST down the ice...  
the cliff closer and closer as Wayne RACES after Ducard...

MERE FEET FROM THE CLIFF EDGE, Wayne GRABS Ducard- raises his free GAUNTLET-CLAD ARM, and SMASHES AT THE ICE, DIGGING IN with the BRONZE SCALLOPS... STOPPING on the edge- Ducard HANGS LIMPLY over a tremendous drop- Wayne STRUGGLES with the dead weight. Wayne PULLS Ducard up onto the ice. BREATHING.

64 EXT. TINY HAMLET, HIMALAYAS -- DAY

64

Wayne CARRIES Ducard down the road.

65 INT. SHERPA'S HUT -- MOMENTS LATER

65

Wayne KICKS the door open. The Old Man he saw on his way up the mountain stares back at him. Then motions Wayne to put Ducard down onto some mats. The Old Man wipes blood from Ducard's temple. Looks at Wayne, who is moving to the door...

OLD MAN  
I will tell him you saved his life.

Wayne stops. Turns. Looks back at Ducard.

WAYNE  
Tell him... I have an ailing ancestor who needs me.

Wayne puts his hands together in formal salute. Bows.

66 INT. CLIMBER'S BAR, BHUTAN -- DAY

66

A smoky inn, full of SHERPAS and CLIMBERS. Wayne enters, FILTHY, RAGGED. Conversation CEASES. Everyone STARES.

67 INT. SAME -- MOMENTS LATER

67

Wayne uses a phone at the bar, waiting for an answer-

ALFRED (O.S.)  
Wayne residence.

Wayne SMILES at Alfred's familiar voice.

WAYNE  
(hoarse)  
Alfred.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED  
(unflappable)  
Master Wayne. It's been some time.

WAYNE  
Yes. Yes it has. I need a ride.

ALFRED  
And where are we, sir?

Wayne glances around.

WAYNE  
Bhutan, I think.

A curious Sherpa nearby NODS at Wayne.

ALFRED  
Am I to assume that you're without  
money and passport?

WAYNE  
I'm traveling a bit light, yes.

ALFRED  
I believe there's an airstrip at  
Khatmandu long enough for a G5.  
Make your way there, I'll have the  
jet down in fifteen hours.

WAYNE  
Very good. Oh, and Alfred?

ALFRED  
Yes, sir?

WAYNE  
Bring some painkillers.

Wayne steps out of the washroom, clean-shaven, fresh  
tailored clothes. The jet breaks cloud, revealing GOTHAM  
bathed in glorious SUNRISE. Wayne looks out at the city.  
Alfred, sleeping opposite, opens an eye.

WAYNE  
Have you told anyone I'm coming  
home?

ALFRED

I thought you might like to surprise a few people.

WAYNE

No one can know I'm back. Not until I'm ready. I'll need everything on the company- shareholders' reports, holdings. Everything.

Alfred SMILES to himself. Closes his eyes again.

ALFRED

You sound like a man with purpose.

Wayne stares at the vast city beneath them as the jet BANKS.

WAYNE

Gotham needs me, Alfred. Gotham needs... a symbol.

ALFRED

What symbol, sir?

WAYNE

I'm not sure. Something for the good to rally behind...

69

EXT. GOTHAM -- SUNRISE

69

MOVING over SPIRES of the city catching GOLD of first light.

WAYNE (V.O.)

...and the criminals to fear.

70

INT. LIBRARY, WAYNE MANOR -- NIGHT

70

Wayne, cross-legged on the floor, STUDIES a thick report. Circles something, closes it. Draws another from a STACK.

71

INT. KITCHEN, WAYNE MANOR -- EVENING

71

Alfred makes tea. A television plays: business news.

INTERVIEWER

(over television)

Lot of interest in new directions Wayne Industries has been taking...

Alfred looks up: Earle is being interviewed.

(CONTINUED)

INTERVIEWER (CONT'D)

...couple big defense contracts in  
the bag... as well as rumors that  
the board is petitioning to have  
Bruce Wayne, missing for seven  
years now, declared officially  
dead.

EARLE

(smiles thinly)

Our operating assumption is always  
the hopeful one that Bruce'll  
resurface sometime soon.

72 INT. LIBRARY, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

72

Wayne HEARS a CHITTERING. He rises, moving out into the main hall...

73 INT. MAIN HALL, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

73

Wayne STARES: a small shadow SPUTTERS around the ceiling...

ALFRED (O.S.)

A blessed bat gain, sir.

Wayne turns to find Alfred standing there with a tea service.

ALFRED

They nest somewhere on the grounds.

Wayne watches the dark shape FLICKER around the ceiling.

74 EXT. GROUNDS, WAYNE MANOR -- DAY

74

Wayne walks across the gardens to the greenhouse. He wears a long overcoat, a coil of rope over one arm.

75 INT. GREENHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

75

Now derelict. Glass cracked or missing, paint peeled from wrought iron. Wayne stands in the entrance, remembering-

*INSERT CUT: Rachel, LAUGHING, SPRINTING between the tables.*

76

INT. DISUSED WELL SHAFT -- MOMENTS LATER

76

DARKNESS, punctured by LIGHT as BOARDS are YANKED, splintering from the mouth of the well, high above.

Wayne LOWERS himself down the shaft, overcoat billowing. He undoes his rope at the bottom. TURNS, finding-

The DARK CREVICE between the rocks. Wayne CROUCHES, pushing into the BLACKNESS, crawling through into-

77

INT. CAVERNS -- CONTINUOUS

77

Wayne climbs down a jagged rock crevice. Air blows in his face. The crevice WIDENS into a low-ceilinged chamber. Wayne hears the RUSH of WATER. He crouches, advances through the low chamber. It turns DOWNWARDS, steeper- Wayne carefully slides on his back, LOWERING HIMSELF into...

LIMITLESS BLACK. Wayne stands. A ROAR of water now. He REACHES into his coat, pulls out a CHEMICAL TORCH. CRACKS it, throwing LIGHT into...

A VAST CAVERN. An underground RIVER, a JAGGED ceiling, far above, which, as Wayne PEERS, starts to MOVE-

BATS EXPLODE from the ceiling. THOUSANDS DESCEND, SCREECHING, attracted to the light- Wayne instinctively CROUCHES. But as they SWARM around him terrifyingly...

Wayne RISES to his feet amidst a CYCLONE of bats, watching the fluttering blackness with a profound CALM.

And he knows the symbol he must use.

78

INT./EXT. ROLLS ROYCE ON GOTHAM STREETS -- MORNING

78

Wayne stares at the DECAY. Sadness gives way to anger.

79

EXT. WAYNE PLAZA -- LATER

79

The Rolls pulls up onto the Plaza in front of Wayne Station. The station is deserted. Derelict. Wayne gets out, staring.

WAYNE  
Is it closed?

ALFRED  
They still run a token service out  
of respect for your father.

(CONTINUED)

WAYNE  
(low)  
Respect?

80 INT. BOARD ROOM, WAYNE TOWER -- CONTINUOUS

80

A board meeting in full swing. Earle presiding. He is addressing a portly, distinguished man at the other end. This is JUDGE PHELAN.

EARLE  
Clearly, Judge Phelan, moving to have Bruce declared dead is not something that any of us here relishes... but as responsible managers it falls to us to act on behalf of Wayne Industries...

81 INT. OUTER OFFICE, WAYNE TOWER -- CONTINUOUS

81

Wayne walks past the young, beautiful ASSISTANT sat her desk.

WAYNE  
Morning.

The Assistant gets to her feet.

ASSISTANT  
Sir, you can't go in there!

Wayne turns to her. Smiles.

WAYNE  
Yes, I can.

The Assistant RECOGNIZES him, stands there, SHOCKED.

82 INT. BOARD ROOM, WAYNE TOWER -- CONTINUOUS

82

As the door OPENS, Earle looks over, annoyed.

EARLE  
I'm sorry, can I...?

Earle STARES. Dumbstruck. All heads TURN- Wayne smiles.

WAYNE  
Sorry to barge in, but I was in the areas...

(CONTINUED)

SILENCE. Earle gets to his feet, approaching Wayne, STARING. He SHAKES Wayne's hand, claps the other on his shoulder.

EARLE

My boy! We thought you were gone  
for good.

WAYNE

What can I say? "Reports of my  
death have been greatly  
exaggerated".

Nervous chuckles. Judge Phelan stares at Wayne, incredulous.

EARLE

Can I ask where you've been?

WAYNE

(mischievous)

You can ask...

EARLE

(smiles)

Well, perhaps you'll tell us your  
plans. Are you back to finish  
college?

WAYNE

Actually, I thought I'd get to  
grips with what we actually do  
around here. From the ground up-  
one division at a time.

Earle takes this in, nodding.

EARLE

Any idea where you'd like to start?

WAYNE

Applied sciences caught my eye.

EARLE

Mr. Fox's department. I'll make a  
call. You can start today.

WAYNE

Actually, I've got a one o'clock  
tee-off, and it took me all morning  
to convince the club to honor my  
old membership.

(grins at Earle)

Apparently they don't have to meet  
the same high standards as you when  
it comes to declaring someone dead.

83 INT. STAIRCASE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE -- DAY 83  
 Rachel HURRIES down marble stairs to catch Finch.

RACHEL  
 Mr. Finch.

FINCH  
 (weary)  
 Yes, Miss Dodson?

RACHEL  
 Mr. Finch, on the Falcone matter-

FINCH  
 (here we go again)  
 The case against Falcone died with  
 Chill. We had our shot.

They walk out into the parking lot...

84 EXT. PARKING LOT, COURTHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS 84

RACHEL  
 That was then- but now he's  
 importing drugs, everybody knows  
 it, let's take it to Harvey Dent  
 and-

FINCH  
 (looking around)  
 Keep your voice down.  
 (quite, sympathetic)  
 Look, Rachel, Falcone's got Judge  
 Phelan and half of City Hall bought  
 and paid for. So you got burned on  
 Falcone- let it go, we've got  
 bigger fish to fry.

RACHEL  
 That would make a lot more sense if  
 we were doing any frying.

Finch, uncomfortable, TURNS. Rachel WATCHES him exit...

85 INT. ROLLS ROYCE -- CONTINUOUS 85  
 In the back seat, Wayne WATCHES Rachel standing there.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED  
Shall I park, sir?

Wayne wrestles for a moment...

WAYNE  
No, let's go.

Alfred pulls out with a touch of disappointment.

86 INT. APPLIED SCIENCES DIVISION -- DAY

86

A massive WAREHOUSE, stacked with crates, odd-shaped under dust covers, lab equipment. LUCIUS FOX, aged 52, leads Wayne through the stacks, speaking in calm, knowledgeable tones.

FOX  
Environmental applications, defense projects, consumer products... all prototypes, none if production at any level whatsoever.

WAYNE  
None?

Fox pauses, turns to Wayne, a wicked gleam in his eye.

FOX  
What did they tell you this place was?

WAYNE  
They didn't tell me anything.

FOX  
They told me exactly what it was when they sent me here... a dead end where I couldn't cause any more trouble for the rest of the board.

WAYNE  
You were on the board?

FOX  
Back when your father ran things.

WAYNE  
You knew my father?

FOX  
Sure. Helped him build his train.  
Beautiful project- routed right  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FOX (CONT'D)  
into Wayne Tower, along with the  
water and power utilities. Made  
Wayne Tower the unofficial heart of  
Gotham.

Fox stops at a tall CRATE. Checks paperwork. Opens the  
crate: a BODYSUIT- clear silicone over jointed armor.

FOX (CONT'D)  
Here it is: the nomex survival suit  
for advanced infantry. Kevlar  
biweave, reinforced joints...

Wayne feels the fabric of the suit.

WAYNE  
Bullet-proof?

FOX  
Anything but a straight shot.

WAYNE  
Tear-resistant?

Fox HACKS at the suit with his pen- it doesn't even mark.

FOX  
This sucker'll stop a knife.

WAYNE  
Why didn't they put it into  
production?

FOX  
The bean counters figured a  
soldier's life wasn't worth the 300  
grand.

Fox looks at Wayne. Suspicious.

FOX (CONT'D)  
What do you want with it, Mr.Wayne?

WAYNE  
I want to borrow it. For  
spelunking.  
(off look)  
You know, cave-diving.

Fox shrugs. Puts the lid back on the crate.

FOX  
You get a lot of gunfire down in  
those caves?

WAYNE  
(smiles)  
Listen, I'd rather Mr. Earle didn't  
know about me borrowing-

FOX  
Mr. Wayne, the way I see it...

Fox waves his arm, taking in the enormous facility.

FOX (CONT'D)  
All this stuff is yours, anyway.

87 INT. CAVERNS BENEATH WAYNE MANOR -- DAY

87

Wayne, high on the cavern wall, in climbing harness, HAMMERS a bracket into the rock securing a line of industrial LAMPS.

WAYNE  
Okay! Give it a try.

Alfred throws a switch on a portable GENERATOR: the lamps flicker on, dimly lighting the length of one wall. Alfred peers at the DAMP, DINGY surroundings.

ALFRED  
Oh, *charming*.

Alfred sees the BATS covering the entire ceiling.

ALFRED (CONT'D)  
At least you'll have company.

Wayne RAPPELS to the cave floor, looks up to a HIGH corner: CRUMBLING BRICKWORK. Alfred follows his gaze.

ALFRED (CONT'D)  
Must be the lowest foundations of  
the Southeast wing.

Wayne CLIMBS up: poking through the rock ceiling: the bottom of a wrought-iron SPIRAL STAIRCASE. In the center of the spiral: a dumb-waiter lift, fallen off its track. Wayne grabs the chains of the lift, RATTLES them- sending a wave ECHOING up into the darkness.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED (CONT'D)

During the civil war your greatgrandfather was involved with the underground railroad. Secretly transporting freed slaves to the North. I suspect these caverns came in handy.

Wayne jumps down. Moves to the small river. Follows it where it disappears under rocks. Steps over. Alfred waits. The ROAR of WATER gets louder and the light gets BRIGHTER. Wayne follows the tunnel around a dog leg, emerging...

BEHIND THE FACE OF A WATERFALL. Wayne grins, HOPS along slick rocks right up to the beautiful CURTAIN of water.

WAYNE

(awe)

Alfred, come up here.

Alfred is twenty feet behind on the dry rocks.

ALFRED

I can see it very well from here,  
thank-you, sir.

Wayne, mesmerized, reaches for water that is liquid light.

88

INT. UNMARKED POLICE SEDAN -- EVENING

88

Gordon, now 46 and a Detective, in the passenger seat. Worn eyes watching his partner, Flass, 42, glad-hand the owner of the liquor store they are parked outside. Flass squeezes into the driving seat holding a wad of CASH.

FLOSS

Don't s'pose you want a taste?

Gordon looks at Flass, cold. Flass shrugs. Counts his money.

FLOSS (CONT'D)

I keep offering 'cause who knows,  
maybe one day you'll get wise.

GORDON

Nothing wise in what you do, Flass.

FLOSS

Yeah? Well, Jimbo, you don't take  
your taste- makes us guys nervous  
you might decide to roll over-

(CONTINUED)

GORDON  
 (irritated)  
 I'm no rat, Flass.  
 (calmer)  
 In a town this bent, who's there to  
 rat to, anyway?

Flass LAUGHS at this, hits the gas.

89 EXT. ROOFTOPS, GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS 89

Moving in on a rooftop balustrade to discover Wayne, wearing the bodysuit, crouched, watching the police station across the street. He pulls on a black balaclava. CLIMBS through the SHADOWS using Ninja SPIRES on his hands and feet.

90 EXT. POLICE STATION -- MOMENTS LATER 90

Gordon slams the car door. Watches Flass pull away. Weary.

91 INT. GORDON'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS 91

Gordon SLUMPS into his chair, back to the window. Reaches for the phone- notices a BOOK sitting on his desk: an old, worn copy of: "PHYLUM PERACOPDA: THE TWILIGHT WORLD OF BATS".

Gordon frowns at the book, CONFUSED. The light goes OUT.

WAYNE (O.S.)  
 Don't turn around.

Gordon FREEZES- Wayne is behind him, pressing a stapler between Gordon's shoulder blades as if it were a gun.

GORDON  
 What do you want?

WAYNE  
 I've been watching. You're a good cop. One of the few. What would it take to get Falcone?

Gordon narrows his eyes, puzzled.

GORDON  
 Carmine Falcone?

WAYNE

He brings in shipments of drugs  
every week, nobody takes him down.  
Why?

GORDON

He's paid up with the right people.

WAYNE

What would it take?

GORDON

Leverage on Judge Phelan. And a  
D.A. brave enough to prosecute.

WAYNE

Rachel Dodson in the D.A.'s office.

GORDON

Who are you?

WAYNE

Watch for a sign.

GORDON

You're just one man?

WAYNE

Now we are two.

GORDON

We?

No response. Gordon turns around. No one. He JUMPS to the window- looks down, looks up: a SHADOW slips onto the roof-

92

INT. BULLPEN -- CONTINUOUS

92

Gordon RACES across the bullpen, drawing his gun, hits the stairwell- two UNIFORMS see him go, run after him.

93

EXT. ROOFTOP -- CONTINUOUS

93

Wayne moves to the edge of the roof- the gap is TOO BIG- he TURNS BACK- the DOOR SMASHES open: Gordon GUN RAISED.

GORDON

FREEZE!

Wayne RACES for the GAP- LEAPS... DROPS FAST... misses THE TOP STORY- GRABS the balcony below... it BREAKS AWAY- DROPS him onto the one below. Winded, Wayne CLIMBS onto the wall.

(CONTINUED)

From the other roof, Gordon watches Wayne melt into the shadows. The Uniforms arrive either side.

UNIFORM 1  
The hell was that?

GORDON  
(dismissive)  
Some nut.

But Gordon's expression is less certain.

94 INT. EARLE'S OFFICE, WAYNE TOWER -- DAY

94

Earle sits at his desk conferring with two board members.

BOARD MEMBER  
Is he taking over?

EARLE  
Not yet. I checked the trust, and  
Bruce can't assume control until  
his thirtieth birthday.  
(presses intercom)  
Jessica, where's that coffee?

BOARD MEMBER  
But that's in three months.

EARLE  
We'll have to move fast.

BOARD MEMBER 2  
To do what?

EARLE  
An IPO. There's nothing in Bruce's  
trust to stop us taking the company  
public... we'll have an offering...

BOARD MEMBER  
(getting it)  
And Bruce will become just another  
board member.

EARLE  
Precisely. We can't have some clown  
prince running things.  
(presses intercom)  
Jessica?

No answer. Earle steps to the door and opens it. His  
assistant is GONE. So is the receptionist.

95

EXT. ROOFTOP, WAYNE TOWER -- MOMENTS LATER

95

The SWISH-CLICK of a Titleist rocketing off the roof and out towards Gotham River. Wayne stands behind the Beautiful Assistant, hand on her hip, adjusting her grip on a gold club. Another YOUNG WOMAN watches, leaning on a driver.

WAYNE

Keep your elbows in...

EARLE (O.S.)

Ladies?

They turn. Earle is standing there.

JESSICA

Sorry, Mr. Earle, Mr. Wayne insisted that all junior executives need to know how to play golf.

EARLE

Junior Executive? Who's answering the phones?

Wayne smiles pleasantly at Earle.

WAYNE

This is Wayne Industries, Mr. Earle- I'm sure they'll call back.

Wayne unwraps himself from Jessica and approaches Earle.

WAYNE (CONT'D)

(conspiratorial)

I thought a few promotions might be good karma forgetting my new job.

Earle smiles patiently.

EARLE

Of course, you're not actually starting just yet, Bruce. Not until your birthday.

WAYNE

(grins)

Three month's time- I'm having a huge blowout and I expect everyone to be there.

EARLE

With bells on. How are things down at Applied Sciences?

(CONTINUED)

WAYNE

Great- there's some cool stuff down  
there. Although that Mr.Fox goes on  
a bit once you get him talking.

Earle takes Wayne by the elbow, walking him away.

EARLE

Since you're here, there is a  
business matter that I wanted to  
make you aware of...

Wayne assumes a pose of seriousness.

WAYNE

Business... sure.

EARLE

We've been thinking for some time  
about offering shares... I think  
the time is right.

WAYNE

Offering shares?

EARLE

It's just a way of raising capital  
for growth... it's important to me  
that the company be in great shape  
when you take over. Consider it my  
legacy.

Wayne nods.

EARLE (CONT'D)

Well, I guess I'd better go hire a  
new secretary and receptionist...

Earle head to the door. Wayne smiles, turns back to Jessica.

WAYNE

Right, who's turn is it?

Judge Phelan exits the club, a GIRL on his arm.

BOUNCER

Night, Judge Phelan.

Phelan turns, giddy with drink, puts his finger to his lips.

PHELAN  
Shhhh.

The Girl giggles. Phelan guides her into a waiting limo. A STREET PERSON comes over to the rear windows of the car, knocking. The DRIVER gets out.

DRIVER  
Get lost!

The Driver KICKS the Street Person away from the limo. A Homeless Man warming by a fire starts shouting. It is the Homeless Man that Bruce gave his coat to years before. The coat is worn but recognizable.

HOMELESS MAN  
Leave him alone! Let him be!

The limo moves off. Close on the Street Person watching it leave. IT IS BRUCE. He glances down at a tiny CAMERA in his lap. Smiles at the screen: Phelan and the Girl.

97 INT. BAT CAVE -- DAY

97

Wayne places two BRONZE GAUNTLETS on a trestle table. FIRES up a paint sprayer. Starts coating them matte BLACK.

98 INT. SAME -- LATER

98

Wayne is showing Alfred DIAGRAMS. We catch only GLIMPSES.

ALFRED  
If we order the main part of  
this...  
(points)  
...cowl from Singapore-

WAYNE  
Via a shell corporation.

ALFRED  
Indeed. Then quite separately,  
place an order through a Chinese  
manufacturer for these-

Alfred points at a diagram which looks like a pair of HORNS.

WAYNE  
(nods)  
Put it together ourselves.

ALFRED

Precisely. Of course, they'll have  
to be large orders to avoid  
suspicion.

WAYNE

How large?

ALFRED

Say, ten thousand.

WAYNE

(smiles)

Least we'll have spares.

99

INT. APPLIED SCIENCES DIVISION -- MORNING

99

Fox, at his desk, watches Wayne approaching.

FOX

(smiles)

What's it today? More "spelunking"?

WAYNE

*Sper-lunking.* And no, today it's  
base-jumping.

FOX

Base-jumping? What, like  
parachuting?

WAYNE

I need some kind of lightweight  
grappling hook...

FOX

For what?

WAYNE

Base jumping's illegal-you can't  
just take the elevator.

Fox shakes his head at Wayne. Gets to his feet. They sit.

FOX

We've got suction pads, grapples...

WAYNE

Any good?

(CONTINUED)

FOX  
Nope. But this thing's pretty neat.

Fox pulls out a box. Inside: a bronze GRAPPLING GUN and HARNESS.

FOX (CONT'D)  
Pneumatic. Magnetic grapple.  
Monofilament tested to 350 pounds.

Wayne feels the weight. It is light. Strong. He picks up the HARNESS that goes with it. Shoulder straps with a wide, hi-tech BELT. Wayne shoves the back end of the gun into the belt buckle- it CLICKS into place.

WAYNE  
Too expensive for the army?

Fox takes it back from Wayne. Sardonic.

FOX  
Guess they never thought about marketing to the billionaire base-jumping, spelunking market.

WAYNE  
Look, Mr.Fox, if you're uncomfortable-

FOX  
Mr.Wayne, if you don't tell me what you're really doing, then when I get asked... I don't have to lie. But don't treat me like an idiot.

WAYNE  
(nods)  
Fair enough.

Fox looks at Wayne. Thinking.

FOX  
Come on, I'll show you something.

100 INT. LOADING DOCK, APPLIED SCIENCES DIVISION -- LATER 100

Fox hands Wayne a sheet of black fabric.

FOX  
Notice anything?

Wayne examines it, shrugs. Fox puts on a GLOVE.

(CONTINUED)

FOX (CONT'D)  
Memory fabric- dual layer polymers  
with variable alignment molecules.  
Flexible ordinarily, but put a  
current through it...

Fox GRABS the fabric- which instantly POPS into the RIGID shape of a small one-man TENT. Wayne raises his eyebrows.

FOX (CONT'D)  
...the molecules align and become rigid. Wayne pushes on the tent, feeling its strength, fascinated.

WAYNE

What kind of shapes can you make? Fox releases the tent, which instantly COLLAPSES.

FOX  
It could be tailored to any structure based on a rigid skeleton.

Wayne lifts the black fabric, FLICKING it in a WHIPPING motion. Thinking. Then he sees something. Some kind of vehicle, covered by a tarp. HUGE TIRES visible.

WAYNE  
What's that?

Fox, a twinkle in his eye, rolls up the memory fabric.

FOX  
The Tumbler? Oh, you wouldn't be interested in that.

Wayne shoots Fox a look, and we

CUT TO:

101 P.O.V.: RACING ALONG, INCHES ABOVE A TEST TRACKINT. TUMBLER ON TEST TRACK -- MOMENTS LATER 101

Wayne pilots using aircraft-like control sticks. Fox, in the passenger seat, hangs on as Wayne PUSHES the vehicle...

The Tumbler SHOOTS PAST: LOW and WIDE, a cross between a Lamborghini Countach and a Humvee. Sandy camouflage, stealthangled panelling and variable-angle flaps across the back.

Fox SHOUTS over the noise of the engine.

(CONTINUED)

FOX  
She was built as a bridging vehicle!  
You hit that button-  
(Wayne reaches)  
NO, NOT NOW!!  
(Wayne recoils)  
It boosts her into a rampless jump!  
In combat, two of them jump a river towing cables, then you run a bailey bridge across! Damn bridge never worked- but this baby works fine!

Wayne inspects the cockpit: a forward-slung "gunner's" driving position between their legs, video screens, electronic controls, windows with HEADS-UP DISPLAY. Wayne ACCELERATES...

The Tumbler TEARS down the straightaway, SKIDS to a HALT.

102 INT. TUMBLER -- CONTINUOUS

102

Fox JOLTS with the stop. Turns to Wayne, a little green.

FOX  
What do you think?

Wayne turns to Fox with a slight smile.

WAYNE  
Does it come in black?

103 INT. BAT CAVE -- DAY

103

Wayne takes the hi-tech harness for the grapple and CUTS OFF the shoulder straps, leaving a BELT WITH SLIDING ATTACHMENTS.

104 INT. SAME -- LATER

104

Wayne lifts a GLOVED hand, metal contacts on the fingertips. With his other hand, he picks up a FABRIC GLOVE, RIBBONS dangling from each finger. He thrusts the gloved hand into the fabric glove- the ribbons SHOOT OUT- RIGID FINGER EXTENSIONS like the SKELETON of a BAT'S WING. Wayne FANS the PROJECTIONS, testing.

105 INT. BAT CAVE -- LATER

105

Close on: the COWL. Black, with a slight GRAPHITE sheen. Dramatic, ICONIC even without its ears.

A BASEBALL BAT SMASHES into the crown, CRACKING it in two. Alfred picks the pieces off the table, FROWNING.

ALFRED

Problems with the graphite mixture, apparently. The next ten thousand will be up to specifications.

Wayne looks up from adjusting a servo-mounted microphone.

WAYNE

At least they gave us a discount.

ALFRED

Quite. In the meantime, might I suggest, sir, that you try to avoid landing on your head?

Wayne shoots Alfred a look. Then fits the microphone into the horn-shaped "ear" from the cowl.

106 INT. SAME -- LATER

106

Wayne GRINDS METAL at a lathe. Alfred approaches with a thermos. Wayne stops grinding, BLOWS on his handiwork...

ALFRED

Why the design, Master Wayne?

Alfred indicates the steel carved into a BAT'S WING.

WAYNE

A man, however strong, however skilled, is just flesh and blood. I need to be more than a man. I need to be a symbol.

ALFRED

And why the symbol of the bat?

WAYNE

Bats frighten me.  
(slight smile)  
And it's time my enemies shared my dread.

Wayne tilts the crude BATARANG, watching light dance across the brushed steel. He THROWS it WHISTLING into darkness...

107

INT. FALCONE'S CLUB, DOCK AREA -- NIGHT

107

Judge Phelan sits sandwiched between two GIRLS, drink and cigar in hand. He looks up.

PHELAN

Carmine! Where are you going?

Falcone is putting his coat on.

FALCONE

Duty calls. You have yourself a good time, Judge.

Falcone turns to the CLUB MANAGER. Leans in.

FALCONE (CONT'D)

If he's too cheap to get a hotel, at least make him take his car around to the alley.

(shakes his head)

No class.

108

EXT. DOCKS -- CONTINUOUS

108

Down in the stacks, THUGS unload BOXES an open container. HEADLIGHTS light them up- everyone FREEZES. A sedan pulls up. FLASS emerges. Approaches one of the thugs holding a box. OPENS it, YANKS out a STUFFED TOY.

FLASS

Cute.

Fllass RIPS open the toy, pulls a plastic PACKAGE from inside.

FLASS (CONT'D)

(mock surprise)

Oh? What have we here?

Nobody reacts. Fllass hands the toy back to the Thug.

FLASS (CONT'D)

Carry on, gents.

Fllass heads inside a massive warehouse to a set of offices.

109 INT. OFFICE, DOCKS -- CONTINUOUS

109

Flass enters. Falcone sits at the desk.

FALCONE

You believe this hump, Flass?

He indicates a thin man opposite. Flass sits.

FLASS

Problem?

FALCONE

Crane here's making insinuations.

The thin man, CRANE, leans forward. A cold presence.

CRANE

*Insinuations?* Well, let me be clearer- you stepped on the last shipment before you delivered it to me. You cut it with baby powder, and rendered it useless for my purposes. Falcone stares at the slight man, incredulous.

FALCONE

(furious)

Flass, tell this guy what happens to people who talk to me this way.

110 EXT. FALCONE'S CLUB, DOCK AREA -- CONTINUOUS

110

Judge Phelan stumbles out of the club with the GIRLS. They pile into the waiting limo. The Club Manager gestures to the Driver to pull around into the alley.

111 EXT. ALLEY, DOCK AREA -- CONTINUOUS

111

The Limo idles in the alley.

112 INT. LIMO -- CONTINUOUS

112

The Driver picks his ear. The partition is closed. The Driver examines his finger...

WHAM!!! A BLACK SHAPE LANDS ON THE HOOD- the Driver's eyes go wide as-

SMASH!!!- a BLACK-GLOVED FIST SHATTERS THE WINDSCREEN and GRABS the Driver's neck...

(CONTINUED)

IN THE BACK: Phelan sits BOLT UPRIGHT. The girls look around, ALARMED.

THE PARTITION SLOWLY LOWERS, REVEALING:

BATMAN.

Crouched like a dark animal on the hood- the Girls SCREAM.

113 EXT. ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS

113

The Homeless Man looks up from his brazier, curious. He sees a dark shape on the hood of a limo, a LONG BLACK CLOAK BILLIONG out behind it... screams echo through the alley...

114 INT. LIMO -- CONTINUOUS

114

Phelan scrambles back in his seat, whimpering...

BATMAN

You have eaten well... As Gotham  
has starved.

Batman's eyes stare out of the black cowl at Phelan.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

This changes tonight.

Batman SHOOTS UP OFF the hood, banging onto the roof-

115 EXT. ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS

115

The Homeless Man STARES OPEN-MOUTHED at Batman standing, ICONIC, on the roof of the limo, cloak billowing... Batman turns his head towards the Homeless Man-

BATMAN

Nice coat.

-and FLIES UP from the limo, DISAPPEARING into the shadows high above...

The Homeless Man looks down at his coat, then back up to the shadows...

HOMELESS MAN

(small)

Thanks.

116 INT. OFFICE, DOCKS -- CONTINUOUS

116

Crane looks at Falcone, matter-of-fact.

CRANE

I'm aware that you're not  
intimidated by me, Mr.Falcone. But  
you know who we're working for...  
and when he gets here I don't think  
he's going to want to hear that  
you've been endangering our  
operation just to filch a few  
dollars from your dealers.

FALCONE

*He's coming to Gotham?*

CRANE

Soon. This is our last shipment.

Falcone shifts, SUDDENLY UNEASY.

117 EXT. THE STACKS -- CONTINUOUS

117

A THUG hands a box to a SECOND THUG, who walks away along  
the corridor of containers. The first Thug turns back to the  
darkness of the open container, reaches in-

HE IS YANKED INTO THE DARKNESS WITH AN ECHOING CRY-

Second Thug TURNS, stares uneasily down the deserved  
corridor to the BLACK MOUTH of the open container...

SECOND THUG

Steiss?

No reply. He puts down his box. Draws his gun. A THIRD THUG  
comes around the corner.

THIRD THUG

Come on, we gotta-

He sees the Second Thug's gun. Draws his own. They move  
cautiously towards the open container...

118 EXT. THE STACKS -- CONTINUOUS

118

The Thugs peer into the blackness of the open container-

Behind them, a LAMP hanging above the corridor SHATTERS, the Thugs turn, startled, to see another lamp shatter and go dark- them another and another, DARKNESS ADVANCING TOWARDS THEM...

119 INT. OFFICE, DOCKS -- CONTINUOUS

119

Falcone lifts his hands in a gesture of peace.

FALCONE

There's no need to argue- you can just test the stuff here and now.

CRANE

That's why I came.

Flass tosses the package onto the desk.

120 EXT. THE STACKS -- CONTINUOUS

120

As the closest lamp SHATTERS, a GLINT of metal DROPS to the ground... the Second Thug bends, picks it up, STARING;

A BAT-SHAPED brushed steel plate. The Second Thug looks up, confused, but the Third Thug is STARING above him.

SECOND THUG

What?

The Second Thug looks up himself: a DARK SHAPE HANGING from a CRANE directly above him...

A GIANT BAT, WINGS FOLDED, head pointed towards the ground.

SECOND THUG (CONT'D)

What the hell-

The Bat DROPS- wings WHIP OUT, RIGID- CATCH the air- FLIPPING the shape downwards- ENVELOPING THE SECOND THUG IN DARKNESS- the Third Thug BOLTS, RACING between containers, arms PUMPING-

He SPRINTS headlong down the narrow corridor, SKIDS around a corner, RACES towards-

BLACKNESS SIDESWIPES THE THIRD THUG, SPINNING HIM OFF HIS FEET, WHIPPING HIM INTO DARKNESS WITH A PIERCING SCREAM...

121 EXT. TRUCK OUTSIDE THE STACKS -- CONTINUOUS 121  
Other Thugs REACT to the SCREAM...

122 INT. OFFICE, DOCKS -- CONTINUOUS 122  
Falcone and Crane hear the scream. Flass JUMPS up.

123 EXT. THE STACKS -- CONTINUOUS 123  
Thugs, guns drawn, advance into the stacks...

124 EXT. THE STACKS -- CONTINUOUS 124  
A Fourth Thug WHIPS around a corner to see a JUMPY THUG covering the other end of the corridor...  
The Fourth Thug nods, steps backwards. MOVEMENT in the shadow behind him... BATMAN IS ALREADY IN FRAME- his arm FLASHES forward with his CLOAK, WRAPS the Thug's neck, YANKS him backwards into the shadows...  
Jumpy Thug sees the other Thug DISAPPEAR... he OPENS FIRE, STROBING the stacks, revealing INDISTINCT GLIMPSES of MOVEMENT.  
ELSEWHERE IN THE STACKS: Thugs REACT to the gunfire...  
Flass stands outside the stacks, gun drawn, listening. He moves back into the office.

125 INT. OFFICE, DOCKS -- CONTINUOUS 125  
FALCONE  
What the hell's going on?!  
Flass looks at Falcone.  
FLASS  
You've got a *problem* out there.  
Falcone reaches behind the desk, PULLS out a SHOTGUN.

126

EXT. THE STACKS -- CONTINUOUS

126

Jumpy Thug FIRES blindly at STROBING SHADOWS- GLIMPSES of a DARK CLOAKED FIGURE moving from SHADOW TO SHADOW. Jumpy Thug empties the clip. FUMBLES for another as he looks out into the darkness.

JUMPY THUG  
WHERE ARE YOU?!!!

A whispered word at his ear:

BATMAN  
Here.

BATMAN'S FACE, UPSIDE DOWN, at the Thug's shoulder- Jumpy Thug SCREAMS as he is ENGULFED by DARKNESS-

127

EXT. OUTSIDE THE STACKS -- CONTINUOUS

127

Flass scuttles over to his car. Crane pauses, listening to the shouts and gunfire. Then moves off into the night.

128

EXT. THE STACKS -- CONTINUOUS

128

Falcone advances through the stacks, shotgun in hand. He rounds a corner to find FIVE THUGS, various weapons in hand, in a loose defensive ring, peering out into the darkness...

A SHADOW DROPS into the center of their ring-

Thugs TURN, SHOUTING, one SWINGS a CHAIN, another a KNIFE-  
-Batman DUCKS the chain- SWEEP-KICKS the knife-wielder to the ground. Chain SWINGS again...

Batman JUMPS up, one leg LOW to let the CHAIN WRAP around his ANKLE- Batman KICKS his leg sideways RIPPING the chain from its owner, then HEAD BUTTING him down -

Batman SPINS his CHAIN-WRAPPED LEG in a ROUNDHOUSE KICK, WHIPPING THREE THUGS behind him in the fade with the CHAIN. All three go DOWN. The rest are unconscious or gone.

Batman STANDS there, long cape BILLOWING out to one side. The chain SLIDES from his leg. Falcone is behind him, SHOTGUN aimed dead at Batman's head.

FALCONE  
What in God's name are you?

(CONTINUED)

Batman opens his hand, revealing TWO SHOTGUN CARTRIDGES. Then TURNS, billowing cape WRAPPING around him.

BATMAN  
I'm Batman.

Falcone pulls the trigger. CLICK.

129 INT. BEDROOM, RACHEL'S APARTMENT -- LATER

129

Rachel TOSSES, trying to sleep, eyes shut.

VOICE (O.S.)  
Rachel Dodson.

Rachel bolts upright, GRASPING at her bedside table.

RACHEL  
Who's there?!!

She pulls out a TASER- PEERS into the shadows: Silhouetted by the window- a dark, cloaked figure. Batman.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Take one step, I drop you!

Batman moves his arm- something DROPS onto Rachel's bed: a FILE, spilling PHOTOS. She FLINCHES. GLANCES DOWN: photos of Phelan and the girl in the limo.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
What the hell is this?

BATMAN  
Leverage.

RACHEL  
What do I need leverage for?

BATMAN  
To get things moving.

RACHEL  
Who are you?

BATMAN  
Someone like you. Someone who'll stand against the corruption.

Rachel reaches for the lamp, her eyes off the window for the INSTANT it takes to ILLUMINATE the room, revealing-

No one.

130 EXT. DOCKS -- CONTINUOUS

130

Gordon approaches, coffee in hand: TIED-UP THUGS sit against the container full of DRUGS. UNIFORMS hold back a line of PRESS, who snap away at the surreal scene. Gordon crouches to look at the Thugs, curious.

UNIFORMED COP (O.S.)  
Falcone's men?

GORDON  
(shrugs)  
Does it matter? We'll never tie him to it, anyway.

UNIFORMED COP (O.S.)  
I wouldn't be too sure of that.

Gordon looks up. The uniformed Cop is POINTING. At a HARBOR LIGHT trained on the heavens. Gordon RISES, walks towards it. Two Cops stand there, STARING:

Falcone is STRAPPED to the LIGHT, UNCONSCIOUS, arms spread. Coat RIPPED, hanging from his arms in a STRANGE PATTERN.

COP 1  
Th hell is that? Looks like...

Gordon follows their gaze up to where the BEAM of light CATS FALCONE'S SHADOW onto the CLOUDS.

COP 2  
Like a bat.

Gordon stares at the projection. It is a BAT SYMBOL.

GORDON  
Cut him down.

Gordon moves away, THINKING. Something catches his eye: a block away. Halfway up a building. A BLACK FLAG blowing in the wind... Not a flag.. a DARK FIGURE, wearing a CAPE, sitting on a LEDGE... BATMAN. WATCHING.

131 INT. FINCH'S OFFICE -- MORNING

131

Rachel TOSSES a newspaper onto Finch's desk, BEAMING. The front page: a huge photo of Falcone strapped to the light.

RACHEL  
No way to bury it now.

(CONTINUED)

FINCH

Maybe so, but there's Judge Phelan-

RACHEL

I've got Phelan covered.

FINCH

And this "bat" they're babbling about.

Rachel breaks eye contact for an instant, UNCOMFORTABLE.

RACHEL

Even if these guys'll swear in court to being thrashed by a giant bat... we have Falcone at the scene- drugs, prints, cargo manifest- everything.

Finch considers. Grins.

FINCH

Damn right. Let's get frying.

132

INT. BULLPEN, POLICE HEADQUARTERS -- MORNING

132

Loeb addresses CAPTAINS, SERGEANTS, LIEUTENANTS. Gordon at the back. Loeb HOLDS up the PAPER, SMACKS the front page.

LOEB

*Unacceptable. I don't care if it's rival gangs, Guardian Angels or the goddamn Salvation Army- get them off the street, and off the front page.*

CAPTAIN SIMPSON

They say it was one guy... or *thing*.

LOEB

Dipping into their own supply- it was some asshole in a costume.

(the room chuckles)

If it's one guy, that'll make it a lot easier for you, won't it?

Gordon RAISES his hand. Loeb NODS, cautious.

GORDON

This guy *did* deliver us one of the city's biggest crime lords.

LOEB

(glares)

No one takes the law into their own  
hands in *my* city, understand?

133 INT. MASTER BEDROOM, WAYNE MANOR -- DAY

133

Alfred opens the curtains. Wayne WAKES, squinting.

WAYNE

(groggy)

Bats are nocturnal.

ALFRED

Bats, maybe... but even for  
billionaire playboys, 3 o'clock is  
pushing it. The price of leading a  
double life, I fear.

Alfred PUTS down a tray: water, fruit, newspaper.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

Your theatrics made an impression.

WAYNE

Theatricality and deception are  
powerful weapons, Alfred. It's a  
start.

Wayne glances at the paper. Gets out of bed, bare-chested.  
Alfred sees BRUISES across his torso and arms.

ALFRED

If those are to be the first of  
many injuries... it would be wise  
to find a suitable excuse. Polo,  
for instance.

Wayne throws Alfred a look.

WAYNE

I'm not learning polo, Alfred.

ALFRED

Strange injuries, a nonexistent  
social life... these things beg the  
question of what, *exactly*, Bruce  
Wayne does with his time. And his  
money.

Wayne considers this.

(CONTINUED)

WAYNE  
What does someone like me do?

ALFRED  
(shrugs)  
Drive sports cars, date movie  
stars... Buy things that aren't for  
sale.

Wayne looks at Alfred. Nods. DOWNS the water, stands straight, feet together- FALLS FORWARD to the floor- into his dizzyingly fast push-ups. Alfred watches. Concerned.

ALFRED (CONT'D)  
Who knows, Master Wayne- if you  
start pretending to have fun, you  
might even have a little by  
accident.

134 INT. COUNTY JAIL, RECEIVING -- DAY

134

Crane, briefcase in hand, is BUZZED through thick steel and glass doors and met inside by a PRISON OFFICIAL. They walk.

PRISON OFFICIAL  
Dr. Crane, thanks for coming down...

CRANE  
Not at all. So he cut his wrists?

PRISON OFFICIAL  
Probably looking for an insanity  
plea, but if anything happened...

CRANE  
Of course, better safe than sorry.

135 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM, COUNTY JAIL -- CONTINUOUS

135

Crane enters. Falcone sits at a table, wrist bandaged. Crane places his briefcase on the table. Falcone smiles.

FALCONE  
Doctor Crane, it's all too much,  
the walls are closing in, blah,  
blah, blah. Couple more days of  
this food, it'll be true.

CRANE  
What do you want?

(CONTINUED)

FALCONE

We got a lot to talk about.

CRANE

Such as?

FALCONE

Such as, how you're gonna convince  
me to keep my mouth shut.

CRANE

About what? You don't know  
anything.

FALCONE

I know you wouldn't want the cops  
taking a closer look at the drugs  
they seized.

Crane REACTS to this. Falcone SMILES, enjoying the reaction.

FALCONE (CONT'D)

I know about your experiments on  
the inmates at your nuthouse...

(off look)

I don't get into business with  
someone without finding out their  
dirty secrets. Those goons you  
hired.. I own the muscle in this  
town.

Falcone leans forward. Looks Crane in the eye.

FALCONE (CONT'D)

So what have I been bringing in for  
you hidden in my drugs, Crane?

CRANE

If he wanted you to know he'd have  
told you himself.

Falcone shifts slightly.

FALCONE

I've been smuggling your stuff in  
for months, so whatever he's got  
planned, it's big. And I want it.

Crane studies Falcone. Considering. Sighs.

CRANE

I already know what he'll say...  
that we should kill you.

(CONTINUED)

Falcone leans forward, glaring at Crane with contempt.

FALCONE

Even he can't touch me in here. Not  
in my town.

Crane SHRUGS. Leans forward. Pops the locks on his  
briefcase. Smiles at Falcone.

Crane reaches into his briefcase. Inside is a BREATHING  
APPARATUS attached to a small BURLAP SACK MASK.

CRANE

Would you like to see my mask?

He pulls the mask out of the case. Holds it up.

CRANE (CONT'D)

I use it in my experiments.  
Probably not very frightening to a  
guy like you. But those crazies...

Falcone stares at Crane, uneasy. Crane puts on the mask. It  
is a sack with eye holes and twine stitching for a mouth.

CRANE (CONT'D)

...they can't stand it...

FALCONE

When did the nut take over the  
asylum-

WHUMP- a cloud of white SMOKE shoots out of Crane's  
briefcase. Falcone pushes his chair back, COUGHING,  
surprised.

CRANE

They scream and cry...

Falcone looks up at Crane in his mask-

*Through Falcone's eyes: tiny LIZARD TONGUES FLICK out of the  
holes in Crane's mask.*

CRANE (CONT'D)

...much as you're doing now.

Crane TOWERS over Falcone, FLAMING EYES and FLAMING MOUTH...

Falcone SCREAMS.

136 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE INTERVIEW ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 136

Crane emerges with his briefcase. The Prison Official hovers outside. SCREAMS ECHO from inside the room.

CRANE

Oh, he's not faking. Not that one.

The Prison Official nods gravely. Crane leans in.

CRANE (CONT'D)

I'll talk to the Judge, see if I can get him moved to the secure wing at Arkham. I can't treat him here.

137 EXT. ARCTIC OCEAN -- DAY 137

A COAST GUARD HELICOPTER touches down on the back of a heavily damaged DESERTED CARGO SHIP. Two COAST GUARDSMEN with FLASHLIGHTS jump onto the deck of the ship to take a look around. BAFFLED. The deck is lined with HOLES.

The Coast Guardsman shines his light into a MASSIVE HOLE.

138 INT. EARLE'S OFFICE, WAYNE INDUSTRIES -- AFTERNOON 138

Earle is at his desk. A EXECUTIVE walks in, TROUBLED.

EXECUTIVE

We have a situation.

EARLE

What kind of situation?

EXECUTIVE

Coast guard picked up one of our cargo ships last night. Heavily damaged. Crew missing, probably dead.

EARLE

What happened?

EXECUTIVE

Ship was carrying a prototype weapon. A microwave emitter...

139

EXT. AIRBASE -- MORNING (FLASHBACK)

139

*ARMY BRASS and SCIENTISTS waiting for a demonstration... an industrial MACHINE the size of a small van sits on the ground a hundred feet from a WATER TOWER...*

EXECUTIVE (V.O.)

*It's designed for desert warfare- it uses focused microwaves to vaporize the enemy's water supply...*

The Scientists and Brass don goggles. Fire up the machine... the water tower starts SHAKING... then EXPLODES in a CLOUD OF STEAM that drifts towards the observers like FOG.

140

INT. EARLE'S OFFICE, WAYNE INDUSTRIES -- CONTINUOUS

140

EXECUTIVE

*It looks like someone fired it up at sea- judging from the damage to the ship and cargo.*

EARLE

What about the weapon?

The Executive shifts, uneasy.

EXECUTIVE

*It's missing.*

141

EXT. HOTEL RESTAURANT, DOWNTOWN GOTHAM -- EVENING

141

A BUGATI VEYRON (looks, and costs, a million) pulls up to the valet station. Wayne emerges, impeccably tailored, from the driver side. The VALETS scramble to the passenger side. Open the door to find TWO BLONDIES, one on the other's lap.

142

EXT. HOTEL RESTAURANT -- CONTINUOUS

142

Tables around a decorative infinity pool. Earle and his GUESTS at a table. Earle sees Wayne enter with the Blondes. He sighs. Then waves.

143 EXT. SAME -- LATER

143

The table is littered with bottles and empty plates.

FEMALE GUEST  
At least he's getting something done.

MALE GUEST  
Bruce, help me out here.

Wayne turns from the Blondes. They stand up and walk over to the pool. Wayne smiles, turns to the Female Guest.

WAYNE  
A guy who dresses up like a bat clearly has *issues*.

FEMALE GUEST  
But he put Falcone behind bars-

MALE GUEST  
And now the cops are trying to bring him in, so what does that tell you?

FEMALE GUEST  
They're jealous?

Wayne watches as, behind them, one of the Blondes slips off her dress and lowers herself into the pool... the other one, giggling, follows her lead.

WAYNE  
If he's so benevolent why does he hide his face?

FEMALE GUEST  
Maybe he's protecting the people he cares about from reprisals.

Wayne nods, considering. The MAITRE D' slides up, annoyed.

MAITRE' D  
Sir, the pool is for decoration, and your friends do not have swim wear.

WAYNE  
Well, they're European.

(CONTINUED)

MAITRE' D  
I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

WAYNE  
(turns to Earle)  
Mr. Earle, I'm buying this hotel.  
Will you please broker a deal?

Earle nods. Patiently.

WAYNE (CONT'D)  
(turns to Maitre D')  
I think we should make some new rules for the pool area, don't you?

The Maitre D' stares at Wayne. Dumbstruck.

BLONDRES (O.S.)  
Bruce!

The Blondes beckon Wayne. He comes to the edge of the pool.

WAYNE  
Ladies?

They SPLASH him. Earle turns away, shaking his head. Behind him, out of focus, Wayne is PULLED into the pool.

144 EXT. HOTEL -- LATER

144

Wayne and the Blondes, wet hair, in white HOTEL ROBES, waiting. The Valet pulls up in the Bugati.

RACHEL (O.S.)  
Bruce?

Wayne turns. Rachel is standing there, dressed for dinner. Stunning.

WAYNE  
Rachel.

BLONDRES  
(from car)  
Come on, Bruce. We have some more hotels we want you to buy.

Rachel glances at the Blondes. Then back to Wayne.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL  
I'd heard you were back.  
(Wayne nods)  
Where were you?

WAYNE  
Oh, kind of all over, you know.

RACHEL  
(tense)  
No, Bruce, I don't. And neither did  
a lot of people. People who thought  
you were probably dead.

WAYNE  
You didn't?

RACHEL  
I never quite gave up on you.

Wayne looks at her. Thinking. Gestures towards the Bugati.

WAYNE  
Rachel, all that... that's not me,  
inside I'm... different. I'm-

RACHEL  
The same great little kid you used  
to be? Bruce, deep down, your  
friends out there are great, too.  
It's not who you are *underneath*...  
(pokes his chest)  
But what you do that defines you.

Rachel moves past him. Wayne stands there, eyes burning.

145 INT. GORDON'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

145

Gordon's pregnant wife, BARBARA tries to get their TWO-YEAR OLD to eat. Gordon KISSES her, picks up the trash.

146 EXT. BACK ALLEY, GORDON'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

146

Gordon sticks the lid on the trash can. THUNDER rolls around.

FLASS (O.S.)  
Gonna rain, huh?

(CONTINUED)

GORDON  
What do you want, Flass?

Flass, leaning on his car, feigns offence. Pulls a pint bottle from his pocket.

FLASS  
How's Barbara? The kid?

Gordon takes a drag, eyeing Flass coldly.

FLASS (CONT'D)  
Another one on the way, right? Big responsibility. And when you're on a big case like Falcone... lot of time away from here.

GORDON  
Cut to it, Flass.

FLASS  
Just saying it's good the case is clear cut- you'll wrap it up easy.

Flass finishes his bottle. Throws it at the trash cans.

GORDON  
You come around here making threats, pretending to be liquored up... tells me you're scared.

FLASS  
(cold)  
Take care of yourself, pal.

Gordon watches him head back to his car.

BATMAN (O.S.)  
Trouble?

Gordon looks up: Batman is crouched in the fire escape.

GORDON  
(shrugs)  
The scum's getting jumpy because you stood up to Falcone.

BATMAN  
It's a start. Your partner was at the docks with Falcone.

GORDON  
He moonlights as a low-level  
enforcer.

BATMAN  
There was another man. Testing the  
drugs.

GORDON  
(surprised)  
It wasn't a buy- why risk opening a  
package on the docks?

BATMAN  
Flass knows.

GORDON  
He won't talk.

BATMAN  
He'll talk to me.

Gordon looks up. Close on Batman, in the shadows.

GORDON  
Commissioner Loeb set up a massive  
task force to catch you. He thinks  
you're dangerous.

BATMAN  
What do you think? Gordon gets to  
his feet, dusts off his pants.

GORDON  
I think you're trying to help...

Gordon looks up. But Batman is gone.

GORDON (CONT'D)  
...but I've been wrong before.

147 EXT. CARGO SHIP, DOCKS -- NIGHT

147

Three MEN walk through the canyons of shipping containers,  
checking the tags with a flashlight. They stop at one.

CUSTOMS AGENT  
*This is the one I'm talking about.*

DOCK EMPLOYEE 1  
What's your problem with it?

(CONTINUED)

CUSTOMS AGENT

It shouldn't exist. This ship left Singapore with 246 containers and arrived with 247. Probably dead illegals. You got a strong stomach?

They HAUL the doors open. The Customs Agent looks inside: an industrial machine the size of a small van. His torch picks out the WAYNE INDUSTRIES logo on the side.

CUSTOMS AGENT (CONT'D)

What the hell is this thing?

BEHIND HIM: Dock Employee 1 raises a SILENCED GUN. FIRES. Dock Employee 2 helps DRAG the body into the container.

148

EXT. FALAFEL STAND, SURFACE STREET -- NIGHT

148

Raining. Flass stuffs falafel into his mouth. Grabs a banknote from the VENDOR. Flass walks down a dark street...

YANKED from the pavement, he's PULLED up between buildings, falafel falling, UP and UP until face-to-face with. The Batman. Rain pouring off his cowl. Holding Flass by his ankle. Flass is SCREAMING.

BATMAN

Who was with Falcone at the docks?

FLASS

I don't know, I swear to God-

BATMAN

Swear to ME.

Batman DROPS Flass three flights down on the wire. PULLS TAUT- WHIPS him back up.

FLASS

(terrified whispers)

I never knew his name... never... Sometimes shipments went to this guy before they went to the dealers-

BATMAN

Why?

FLASS

There was something else in the drugs, something hidden-

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN  
What?

FLASS  
I don't know- something! I never went to the drop-off- it's in the Narrows- cops can't go into the Narrows except in force...

BATMAN  
Batman can.

149 EXT. THE NARROWS -- NIGHT

149

AN ISLAND IN GOTHAM RIVER: a ramshackle LABYRINTH of crumbling public housing, makeshift additions GROWING LIKE FUNGUS AROUND AN INSANE ASYLUM. A walled city. Slick with rain.

Batman LANDS, CROUCHING, looking at the windows of a WAREHOUSE built around the supports of the MONORAIL tracks.

150 EXT. WAREHOUSE, SHANGHAI -- MOMENTS LATER

150

Batman slips through a louver, drops SILENTLY to the floor amidst. By the freight elevator is a massive shipping crate. Batman leaps up onto its lid- pries it open.

Inside: the industrial machine the size of a small van. Batman sees the WAYNE INDUSTRIES logo and a number:  
*M-EMIT.42B*

NOISES. Batman melts into the shadows. THREE MEN enter. Two are the Dock Employees. The third is Crane.

DOCK EMPLOYEE 1  
The boss wants you to keep it in the asylum until the time comes.

CRANE  
Fine, leave the body. Torch the place. No traces.

The Thugs pull the Customs Agent's body out then push the crate onto the elevator. Crane notices RAIN spattering off the open louver. He steps towards it. Thug 2 turns from the elevator holding a Molotov cocktail. LIGHTS it-

A cord WRAPS around the BOTTLE- YANKS it into the shadows. Its fuse is EXTINGUISHED. The Thugs STARE at the darkness.

Batman RIPS from the shadows- Thug 1 pulls a gun- Batman SMASHES his arm to the ground. Thug 2 moves in from the side- is DROPPED by a fast elbow to the neck.

Batman turns to Crane- now wearing his MASK. Carne's hand FLASHES towards Batman, who DODGES a small puff of SMOKE. Batman moves for Crane- COUGHS, CHOKES- losing BALANCE- GASPING... Batman looks at Crane, sees a monster: *FLAMING EYES, ELONGATED LIMBS, SPINNING like a DERVISH...*

Batmen REELS, in the throws of a hallucination. Crane SMASHES the BOTTLE over him, soaking him with GASOLINE... Batman LURCHES for the windows, IMAGES ASSAULTING his mind:

*INSERT CUT: BATS EXPLODE from the DARK CREVICE-*

Batman TURNS to Crane. Who holds a FLAMING LIGHTER.

CRANE (CONT'D)  
Need a light?

Crane TOSSES the lighter at Batman... who BURSTS into FLAMES.

*INSERT CUT: Ra's Al Ghul OPENS his BOX- BATS BURST FORTH-  
Batman, IN FLAMES, SPINS- LEAPS desperately at the windows-*

151

EXT. WAREHOUSE, THE NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS

151

Batman SMASHES through the window, CLOAK ABLAZE... FALLING... tries to ACTIVATE his CLOAK- but only gets one side to POP OPEN... the deployed wing causes him to SPIRAL-

*INSERT CUT: Young Bruce FALLING, FALLING in the well shaft-*

Batman PLUMMETS, trailing flame, UNOPENED WING FLUTTERING with the violent FLAPPING of-

*BATS: SCREECHING, FLAPPING, FLUTTERING DARKNESS...*

Batman's STIFF WING HOOKS a RAILING- SLOWS him with a JOLTRIPS- DROPPING him to the ground with a CRASH...

*Young Bruce HITS the dirt at the bottom of the SHAFT-*

*...and a SIZZLE, as wet pavement DAMPS the flames, GROANING, Batman ROLLS his burning batsuit along the asphalt.*

(CONTINUED)

Batman, smoldering, LURCHES into an alley, raises his grapnel gun, FIRES up at the enclosed roof- RIDES up- PUNCHES his way through wire and metal, CRAWLS onto his back, STARING up at the skyscrapers of Gotham. Rain blurring his vision.

*Insert cut: Young Bruce watches his Father CRUMPLE-*

Batman FUMBLES at his belt. Pulls out a tiny phone.

BATMAN  
(hoarse)  
Alfred?! Alfred?!

152 INT. ROLLS -- LATER

152

Alfred DRIVES, looks through the rear-view mirror at Batman, who lies in the back, FLINCHING at invisible antagonists.

BATMAN  
BLOOD! Alfred?! Blood! A sample-  
take a sa- sample- poisoned...

To Batman- the car is FILLED WITH BATS... Mefistofle rises...

*Young Bruce in the throws of his PANIC ATTACK GULPS AIR- turns to his Father, LOOKS him in the eye and CONDEMNS HIM-*

YOUNG BRUCE  
(shouting)  
We HAVE to go NOW, Dad!!

*Young Bruce DRAGS his parents from their seats...*

153 INT. MASTER BEDROOM, WAYNE MANOR -- MORNING

153

Wayne awakes. Shivering. Red-eyed from crying. Alfred sits at his bedside, watching over him.

WAYNE  
(hoarse)  
How long did I sleep?

ALFRED  
Two days. It's your birthday.

WAYNE  
It was some kind of gas... I only breathed the slightest amount...

ALFRED

I dread to think, sir, what would've happened if you'd had a lungful.

WAYNE

I've felt those effects before... but this was much more potent.

ALFRED

I took a blood sample and sent it to a laboratory known discreet both discreet...

(hands Wayne paper)  
...and *prompt* bloodwork.

BRUCE

(reading)

Protein-based compounds... might be possible to work up an antidote.

ALFRED

Shall I contact Wayne Pharmaceutical?

BRUCE

I've got a better idea.

154

INT. APPLIED SCIENCES DIVISION -- DAY

154

Fox looks over the toxicology report. Looks up at Wayne.

FOX

This was in your blood?

WAYNE

It's some kind of weaponized hallucinogen. Administered in aerosol form.

FOX

Mr. Wayne, you are *definitely* hanging out at the wrong clubs.

WAYNE

Could you synthesize an antidote?

FOX

Well, the hallucinatory compounds can be balanced... but this receptor's a compound I've never seen before.

(CONTINUED)

WAYNE  
(reaches for paper)  
So you can't.

FOX  
(snatches it away)  
Did I say that? I just want you to  
know how hard it's gonna be.

Fox puts the report on his desk.

WAYNE  
Do you know what a Wayne Industries  
M-Emit42B is?

FOX  
No. But she will...

Fox starts typing on his computer.

FOX (CONT'D)  
Oh.

WAYNE  
What?

FOX  
It won't tell us...  
(turns to Wayne)  
It must be a defense prototype.

WAYNE  
Could you find out?

FOX  
I'll make a couple calls... I still  
have a couple friends in defense.

155 INT. D.A.'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

155

Gordon finds it. Knocks. Rachel looks up from her desk.

RACHEL  
Sergeant Gordon?

GORDON  
Councilor. Thanks for seeing me.

Gordon enters, shuts the door behind himself.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON (CONT'D)  
(they shake hands)  
Will Finch go the distance on  
Falcone?

RACHEL  
He'll have to because of the press.

GORDON  
What about Judge Phelan?

RACHEL  
Someone gave me leverage.

GORDON  
Who?

RACHEL  
I'd rather not say.

GORDON  
(shrugs)  
There's a loose thread on the  
Falcone case- I want to see what  
unravels higher up. I'm told you  
can be trusted.

RACHEL  
Who told you that?

GORDON  
(smiles)  
I'd rather not say.

Rachel looks at Gordon, sizing him up.

RACHEL  
Gordon, we're working for a masked  
vigilante. Maybe from a rival gang.

GORDON  
My gut says he's okay. And he's  
getting things moving in this town.

RACHEL  
And when he gets bolder with  
success? Goes too far?

GORDON  
Councilor, this guy took down a  
dozen of Gotham's most vicious  
wise guys single-handed and without  
killing one of them- he's plenty  
bold already.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL  
If he takes a life... it's on us.

Gordon looks at her. Nods. A KNOCK at the door. Wayne puts his head around the door. Rachel stares at him.

WAYNE  
I'm sorry, I'll come back.

GORDON  
I was just leaving, Mr.Wayne.

WAYNE  
I'm sorry, have we...?

GORDON  
Gordon. Sergeant. No, I just recognized you. From your pictures.

Wayne nods. Gordon looks at Rachel, nods goodbye.

RACHEL  
(cold)  
What do you want, Bruce?

WAYNE  
I wanted to invite you a party-

RACHEL  
A party. Great. Just what I need...

WAYNE  
Today's my birthday. And I wanted to apologize.

RACHEL  
You don't owe an apology, Bruce.  
You are who you are. It's simple. I don't have the right to expect anything more.

WAYNE  
I thought you could never quite give up on me.

RACHEL  
Is the party at the house? I miss it.

WAYNE  
I hate the place. I'd tear it down if I could.

RACHEL  
(appalled)  
Bruce, don't say that.

WAYNE  
The place is nothing without the  
people who made it what it was. Now  
there's only Alfred.

RACHEL  
And you.

Rachel looks at him. An ASSISTANT sticks her head in.

ASSISTANT  
It's Falcone. They moved him to  
Arkham Asylum on suicide watch.

RACHEL  
Who authorized that?!

ASSISTANT  
Judge Bentley, on the advice of the  
head psychiatrist, Dr.Jonathan  
Crane.

Rachel starts getting her things together.

RACHEL  
Get Crane there right now- don't  
take no for an answer... and call  
Dr.Lehmann, we'll need our own  
assessment on the Judge's desk by  
morning.

The Assistant nods, leaves. Rachel heads for the door.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Guess I won't make your party...

WAYNE  
You're going to Arkham now? It's in  
the Narrows, Rachel.

Rachel gives him a look.

RACHEL  
You have yourself a great time-  
some of us have work to do.

She hurries past him. Stops. Turns. Looks at him, softer.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Happy Birthday, Bruce.

She races down the steps. Wayne watches her go, thinking.

156 INT. MAIN HALL, WAYNE MANOR -- LATER 156

Wayne hurries through the hall. Alfred in pursuit. Tables of food and decoration fill the hall.

ALFRED  
But Master Wayne, the guests will be arriving.

Wayne turns.

WAYNE  
Keep them happy until I arrive.  
Tell them that joke you know.

Wayne hurries off. Alfred watches him go, exasperated.

157 INT. STUDY -- CONTINUOUS 157

Wayne steps to the piano, hits 4 notes- the bookcase SWINGSOPEN. Wayne steps through.

158 INT. STONE STAIRCASE -- CONTINUOUS 158

Wayne descends. Arrives at the top of a wrought iron SPIRAL STAIRCASE, steps onto the dumb waiter at its center.

Wayne pulls a lever, RELEASING the lift which PLUMMETS VERTIGINOUSLY DOWN the CENTER of the SPIRALING stair.

159 INT. BATCAVE -- CONTINUOUS 159

The lift hits the bottom with a great RATTLE of crimes. Wayne moves to a PADLOCKED BOX. Opens it: the BAT SUIT hangs there- a PHANTOM, black eyes STARING back at him. He reaches for it.

160 EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM, THE NARROWS -- EVENING 160

Rachel's car crosses the bridge to the Narrows.

161 INT. CRANE'S OFFICE, ARKHAM ASYLU -- MOMENTS LATER

161

Rachel sits in front of Crane at his desk..

CRANE

Ms.Dodson, there's nothing to add  
to the report I filed with the  
judge.

RACHEL

Well, I have questions about your  
report.

(off look)

*Such as, is it unusual for a  
58-year old man with no history of  
mental illness to have a complete  
psychotic break?*

CRANE

Yes. But this is a mental asylum  
for the criminally insane. The  
unusual is usual here.

162 EXT. ARKHAM ASYLU -- CONTINUOUS

162

The GLOWING WINDOW of Crane's office. Batman, crouched on  
the fence, adjusts mikes in the ears of his cowl.

163 INT. CRANE'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

163

RACHEL

But isn't it convenient for Falcone  
to suddenly develop these symptoms  
when he's about to be indicted?

CRANE

There's nothing convenient about  
his symptoms, Miss Dodson.

(smiles, sympathetic)

Look, I doubt we're even supposed  
to be having this conversation, but  
off the record...

Crane RISES, motioning.

164

INT. CORRIDOR, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS

164

An ORDERLY talking to a NURSE. Crane leads Rachel past.

CRANE

We're not talking about a few  
easily-manufactured eccentricities.

Crane stops at a door. Motions Rachel to look: Falcone STRAPPED to the bed. He STARES at the door, mumbling.

FALCONE

Scarecrow... s-scarecrow... s-s...

RACHEL

What's "scarecrow"?

CRANE

Patients suffering delusional episodes often focus their paranoia onto an external tormentor, usually one conforming to the Jungian archetypes.

(shrugs)

In this case, a scarecrow.

165

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS

165

Batman, upside down, CLINGS to the wall above the window at the end of the corridor. He RACKS AUDIO FOCUS THROUGH the Orderly's conversation, SETTLING on Crane's voice.

166

INT. CORRIDOR, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS

166

Rachel looks at Falcone, mumbling, delusional.

RACHEL

He's drugged.

CRANE

(nods)

Psychopharmacology is my primary field- I'm a strong advocate.

Crane turns to Falcone. Staring.

CRANE (CONT'D)

Outside, he was a giant. In here, only the mind can grant you power.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

You enjoy the reversal.

CRANE

(shrugs, smiles)

I respect the mind's power over the body. It's why I do what I do.

RACHEL

(hard)

And I do what I do to put scum like Falcone behind bars, not in therapy. I want my own psychiatric consultant to have full access to Falcone, including bloodwork to find out exactly what you have him on.

Crane stares at her. Shrugs.

167 INT. ELEVATOR -- CONTINUOUS

167

Crane steps in, Rachel follows. He puts a key into the panel.

CRANE

First thing tomorrow, then.

RACHEL

Tonight. I've already paged Dr. Lehmann over at County General.

Crane turns the key.

CRANE

As you wish.

The elevator descends. The doors open onto:

168 INT. DESERTED WING, SUB-LEVEL ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 168

A long, decrepit corridor. Water dripping, clearly disused. Crane steps off the elevator. Rachel follows, perturbed.

169 INT. ABANDONED REFECTIONY -- CONTINUOUS

169

Rachel follows Crane into a vast room:

Tables stretch off into the room, covered in bags of powder, scales, aluminum barrels and DOZENS OF INMATES working the powder, refining it.

(CONTINUED)

Armed THUGS look up, curious. Crane surveys the room.

CRANE

This is where we make the medicine.  
Perhaps you should have some. Clear  
your head.

He turns, but Rachel is gone. Crane smiles...

170 INT. DERELECT CORRIDOR, DISUSED WING -- CONTINUOUS 170

Rachel RACES into the elevator...

171 INT. ELEVATOR -- CONTINUOUS 171

Rachel HITS the 2nd floor button. Nothing. She HITS all the buttons, floors the alarm... all dead without the key.

The door opens to Crane's MASKED FACE. He reaches out-

CRANE

Boo.

A small puff of GAS sprays from his sleeve. Rachel RECOILS, coughing, choking. She looks up at Crane:

*The eyeholes of the burlap mask are FLAMING.*

Rachel SCREAMS.

172 INT. ABANDONED REFECTORY, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 172

The Thugs DRAG Rachel into the room. The inmates stare blankly, clearly drugged. Crane turns Rachel's reluctant face to look up at his mask. She GULPS PANIC BREATHS-

CRANE

Who knows you're here? Rachel  
SHAKES her head.

CRANE (CONT'D)

WHO KNOWS?!!

Rachel PULLS away, BURYING her head in her arms.

THE LIGHTS GO OUT.

The Thugs look around, unnerved. Crane PULLS OFF his mask.

(CONTINUED)

CRANE (CONT'D)  
(fascinated)  
He's here.

FIRST THUG  
Who?

CRANE  
The batman.

The Thugs exchange nervous glances.

FIRST THUG  
What do we do?

CRANE  
What anyone does when a prowler  
comes around.  
(off look)  
Call the police.

The First Thug looks at Crane.

SECOND TECHNICIAN  
You want the cops here?

CRANE  
At this point, they're irrelevant.  
But the Batman... he has a talent  
for disruption. Let the cops  
wrangle him.

CRANE (CONT'D)  
Force him outside, the police will  
take him down.  
(indicates inmates)  
Get them out of here.

FIRST THUG  
(indicates Rachel)  
What about her?

CRANE  
She's gone. I gave her a  
concentrated dose. The mind can  
only take so much.

SECOND THUG  
The things they say about him...  
Can he really fly?

173 EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS

173

Batman's cape FLUTTERS as he SWINGS down two stories,  
LANDING at the high windows of the derelict corridor.

174 INT. ABANDONED REFECTORY -- CONTINUOUS

174

THIRD THUG  
I heard he can disappear-

Crane backs into the shadows, smiling at the Third Thug.

CRANE  
We'll find out, won't we?

The Thugs move either side of the door... GLASS SMASHES, across the room- a Shadow drops from a high window. Rachel SCREAMS. The two thugs advance through the darkness.

Second thug is GRABBED from above- PULLED UP, SCREAMING, into the blackness of the rafters.

The First Thug peers up into the darkness, gun aimed.

A SHADOW DESCENDS, SHOUTING- First Thug FIRES- the Shadow CRUMPLES onto him. It is the Second Thug- First Thug ROLLS the body off, SCRAMBLES to his feet- Batman STRIKES him from behind, KNOCKING him unconscious.

SIRENS outside, close.

Batman looks at Rachel-

Crane BURSTS from the shadows, arm high, aimed at Batman's face- Batman grabs his arm, DUCKING away from the puff of GAS from Crane's sleeve... Batman SPINS Crane, RIPPING off his mask, WRENCHES his arm around to his own face, RIPS Crane's jacket open and pulls out the BLADDER full of toxin.

BATMAN  
Taste of your own medicine, doctor?

Crane's eyes go wide as Batman SQUEEZES the bladder and a choking cloud of dust sprays into Crane's face...

Crane falls to the ground, CHOKING. Batman turns him over, pulls his face up to meet his.

BATMAN (CONT'D)  
Who are you working for?!

Crane's eyes are wide with TERROR.

(CONTINUED)

*Batman is a DEATH'S HEAD- black eyes, fangs.*

CRANE  
Ra's... Ra's... Al Ghul...

Batman reacts, pulls Crane tighter.

BATMAN  
Ra's Al Ghul is dead, Crane! Who  
are you really working for?  
CRANE!!!

But Crane just STARES at him, EYES GLAZING- MIND  
FLYINGIMAGES CASCADING THROUGH HIS FEVERED BRAIN... Crane  
smiles.

CRANE  
Dr. Crane isn't here right now, but  
if you'd like to make an  
appointment-

Sirens outside. Batman TURNS to Rachel. Through her eyes:

*Batman is a towering HORNED, WINGED DEMON...*

Rachel LASHES OUT at the demon with all her might... Batman  
applies a GRIP to her neck that renders her unconscious.

COP  
(over bullhorn)  
BATMAN. PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND  
SURRENDER. YOU ARE SURROUNDED.

Batman RISES, carrying Rachel.

175 EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS

175

POLICE CARS surround the building. COPS have guns drawn,  
WAITING. STAFF emerge, blinking, from the darkened asylum.  
Flass and Gordon arrive. Flass shouts at the Uniforms:

FLOSS  
What're you waiting for?!

UNIFORMED COP  
Backup.

FLOSS  
Backup?!

Flass gestures at the DOZEN police cars outside the  
building.

(CONTINUED)

UNIFORMED COP  
 The Batman's in there. SWAT's on  
 the way, but if you want to go  
 now...  
 (smiles)  
 I'm right behind you, sir.

Flass turns to Gordon. Shrugs.

FLASS  
 SWAT's on the way.

Gordon shakes his head. Approaches the front doors.

176	INT. DERELECT CORRIDOR, DISUSED WING -- CONTINUOUS	176
	Batman carries Rachel, cloak BILLOWING in his wake.	
177	INT. LOBBY, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS	177
	Gordon moves through the dark, gun drawn, eyes FLICKING to terrified NURSES who make their way to the front door.	
178	EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS	178
	SWAT OFFICERS pour out of vans, RACE up the front steps.	
179	INT. CORRIDOR, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS	179
	Gordon tries the elevator- it is dead. He enters the STAIRS.	
180	INT. LOBBY, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS	180
	The SWAT team BURSTS in- FLASHLIGHTS on RIFLES SCAN the darkness...	
181	INT. STAIRWELL, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS	181
	Gordon locks down the stairwell- the way down to the disused wing is fenced off. He heads up- and is GRABBED and SWUNG OUT into the stairwell. Batman holds him as they ROCKET UPWARDS.	

GORDON  
 What- !

Batman covers Gordon's mouth- down below: the door SMASHES OPEN- SWAT team lights CROSS the darkened stairwell. Batman PULLS Gordon into the rafters. Gordon turns, FURIOUS- sees:

Rachel. Lying in a storage space/open attic. Twitching:

GORDON (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
What's happened to her?

BATMAN  
Crane poisoned her with his toxin.  
He was the third man at the docks.

GORDON  
Let me take her down to the medics-

BATMAN  
They can't help her. But I can.

THE LIGHTS COME ON- bleaching the stairwell- Batman, Rachel and Gordon are in the shadow of the attic.

Batman reaches down to his boot. Presses a SWITCH in the heel, producing a barely audible HIGH-FREQUENCY WHINE.

BATMAN (CONT'D)  
(indicates Rachel)  
I need to get her the antidote  
before the damage becomes  
permanent.

GORDON  
How long does she have?

BATMAN  
Not long.

182 EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS

182

A strange SQUEALING SOUND rises. Flass looks around, curious. A dark CLOUD crosses the moon... not a regular cloud...

183 INT. STAIRWELL, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS

183

BATMAN  
Get her downstairs, meet me in the  
alley on the Narrows side.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON  
How will you get out?

BATMAN  
(indicates his boot)  
I called for backup. Crane's been refining his toxin, stockpiling it.

GORDON  
What was he planning?

BATMAN  
I don't know, but he's been working for someone else.

Gordon frowns at the loud SQUEALING noise.

GORDON  
What is that?

BATMAN  
Backup.

184 EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUm -- CONTINUOUS 184

Flass SCREAMS- Cops DIVE for cover as BATS- thousands upon thousands- DESCEND on the Asylum, HEADING for the windows-

185 INT. CORRIDOR, ARKHAM ASYLUm -- CONTINUOUS 185

Windows SHATTER INWARDS as bats POUR into the building-

186 EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUm -- CONTINUOUS 186

Gordon covers Rachel as he carries her down the steps.

187 INT. ARKHAM ASYLUm -- CONTINUOUS 187

Bats FLOOD into the bright stairwell, SOARING UP past the cowering SWATS, a BLACK MASS RISING, DARKENING the stairwell.

Batman amidst the bats. Calm. Pulls the sounder out of his heel, leans over the stairwell and DROPS it...

Bats CYCLONE down the stairwell, FOLLOWING the signal. Batman JUMPS into the center of the black cyclone- HIDDEN FALLING...

188 INT. CORRIDOR, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 188

Batman OPENS his cloak with a JOLT- lands HARD. He moves calmly through the bats, slipping past COWERING SWATS, moving past cell doors. Inmates STARE, wide-eyed out their windows as he passes. Batman turns to a cell door, pulls a small package out of his utility belt...

189 INT. CELL -- CONTINUOUS 189

Two inmates FLINCH as the door lock BLASTS open and the door is KICKED In- Batman STRIDES across the cell between them...

BATMAN  
Excuse me-

And BLASTS the window of their cell. He SLIDES out... one Inmate turns to the other.

LUNATIC  
What'd I tell ya?

190 EXT. SIDE STREET -- CONTINUOUS 190

Gordon lowers Rachel to the asphalt. She STIRS.

BATMAN (O.S.)  
How is she?

Gordon looks up to see Batman standing there.

A SEARCHLIGHT from a chopper blasts them. Batman GRABS Rachel. Gordon points back to the street.

GORDON  
Take my car.

BATMAN  
I bought mine.

Batman has disappeared into the dark end of the alley.

GORDON  
Yours?

BLINDING HEADLIGHTS FLARE. A MASSIVE ENGINE ROARS-

Gordon DIVES out of the way as-

The BATMOBILE comes flying out of the darkness... the matteblack, muscularity of the stealth-finished "car" BLOWS by. Gordon's jaw drops.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON (CONT'D)  
I gotta get me one of those.

191 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 191

Batman DRIVES. Rachel, COMING TO, hangs on, TERRIFIED. A COP CAR pulls across the alley- Batman hits the accelerator.

192 EXT. ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS 192

The Batmobile SPEEDS towards the cop car-

193 INT. COP CAR -- CONTINUOUS 193

The Cops GAWP at the Batmobile, BRACING-

194 EXT. ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS 194

The Batmobile SMASHES into the cop car, huge front tires CRUSHING the bonnet, BOUNCING the Batmobile right over the cop car in a messy display of brute force.

195 EXT. SURFACE STREETS, GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS 195

The Batmobile TEARS left, and ACCELERATES down the street...

196 INT. CRUSHED COP CAR -- CONTINUOUS 196

The Cops are scrunched down. One of them GRABS the radio.

COP 1  
He's in a vehicle!

*DISPATCHER*  
(over radio)  
Make and color?

COP 1  
It's a black...  
(turns to partner. who shrugs)  
...tank.

*DISPATCHER*  
(over radio)  
Tank?

197 EXT. SURFACE STREETS, GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS 197

The Batmobile WEAVES around traffic, DODGING freeway supports.

198 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 198

Rachel BRACES against the dash, BREATHING FAST, staring at the road ahead... through her eyes:

*SPEED: pure, visceral SENSATION- lights STREAKING, columns FLASHING past at unthinkable velocity-*

BATMAN

You've been poisoned. Stay calm.

He looks at an intricate GPS display, then at the road ahead.

199 EXT. SURFACE STREETS, GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS 199

The Batmobile RACES along- JUMPS lights, nimbly DODGING through the cross-traffic. Two Cop Cars join the pursuit from the cross streets, lights BLAZING, sirens BLARING.

200 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 200

Batman spots the Cops on a rear-view monitor, FLIPS a switch.

201 EXT. SURFACE STREETS, GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS 201

The Batmobile DROPS SPIKE STRIPS onto the road... the Cop Cars hit them- tires EXPLODE- rims light SPARKS as they GRIND, skidding SIDEWAYS, one laying into the other.

Up ahead: the Batmobile SLALOMS outside of the freeway supports, ROLLS over the sidewalk, NIPS back into the roadway.

202 INT. CRUISER -- CONTINUOUS 202

An IMPATIENT COP is on the radio.

COP 3

At least tell me what it *looks* like...

His eyes WIDEN: the Batmobile ROARS past. A shadowy MONSTER.

(CONTINUED)

## COP 3 (CONT'D)

Never mind.

203 EXT. SURFACE STREETS, GOTHAM

203

The Batmobile comes out from under the elevated freeway and is hit by a SPOTLIGHT from a CHOPPER.

204 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS

204

Batman glances at a row of BUTTONS- each one a tiny SCREEN showing different views. Batman PUSHES one- that view flicks onto the main display. Rachel is HYPERVENTILATING.

BATMAN

Breath slowly. Close your eyes.

She does so. For an instant.

RACHEL

That's worse!

205 EXT. STREETS, GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS

205

Three Cop Cars pull across the intersection in a ROADBLOCK.

206 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS

206

Batman SPOTS the ROADBLOCK in front. Touches the GPS screen- the map becomes THREE-DIMENSIONAL (heights of building, levels of streets). Batman SKIDS into a turn-

207 EXT. SURFACE STREETS, GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS

207

The Batmobile SKIDS through the entrance to a multi-level PARKING GARAGE- TAKING OUT the ticket machine and barrier.

208 INT. PARKING GARAGE -- CONTINUOUS

208

The Batmobile RACES upwards through the structure, the car's enormous width TAKING OUT PILLARS at every turn.

209 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS

209

Rachel FLINCHES AWAY from the pillars-

RACHEL  
What're you doing?!!

BATMAN  
Shortcut.

210 INT. PARKING GARAGE -- CONTINUOUS

210

Cop Cars SMASH into DOWNED PILLARS in the Batmobile's wake.

211 EXT. ROOF, PARKING GARAGE -- CONTINUOUS

211

The Batmobile ROARS out onto the top level, and is LIT UP by the CHOPPER.

The Batmobile REVERSES into a spot marked "COMPACT", CRUSHING the cars either side, then RACES forward... Cop Cars emerge onto the roof, BLOCKING THE ONLY WAY DOWN... The Batmobile SCREECHES to a HALT-

212 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS

212

Batman glances at his 3-d GPS. Then looks at Rachel.

COP 3  
(over loudspeaker)  
TURN OFF YOUR ENGINE!

She recoils, TERRIFIED by his mask, clawing at her harness. Batman puts his gloved hand on her frantic arms.

BATMAN  
Trust me.

Batman SLIDES into the FRONT DRIVING POSITION, body PRONE as if riding a motorcycle, head in a glass POD between the front wheels. He HITS a button.

213 EXT. ROOF, PARKING GARAGE -- CONTINUOUS

213

CANNONS emerge from the nose of the Batmobile- BLASTING the far wall... the massive JET ENGINE at the back IGNITES, its mouth ADJUSTING... FLAPS on the front and REAR of the car, FLARE OUT like a PYTHON spreading its neck...

The Cops STARE. The Batmobile ROCKETS FORWARD... heading for the GAP in the far wall... accelerating...

214 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 214

Rachel SCREAMS- Batman HITS another button-

215 EXT. ROOF, PARKING GARAGE -- CONTINUOUS 215

An INVERTED SPOILER JAMS INTO THE AIRSTREAM at the front of the car, BUMPING it just off the ground, a RAMPLESS JUMP-

216 EXT. ROOFTOPS -- CONTINUOUS 216

The Batmobile JUMPS OFF the parking garage, soaring over a thirty-foot gap to LAND HEAVILY on a neighboring FLAT ROOF.

The Cops STARE at one another, open-mouthed.

217 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 217

Batman YANKS the steering left, hits the BOOST-

218 EXT. ROOFTOPS -- CONTINUOUS 218

The Batmobile TURNS- ROCKETS for the edge of the roof... SHOOTS over the gap to the next roof, CHOPPER IN PURSUIT.

219 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 219

Batman checks his 3-D GPS, ROCKETS forward, aiming at the next roof, a PITCHED CHATEAU-STYLE TILE ROOF.

220 EXT. STREETS BELOW -- CONTINUOUS 220

Corp Cars SHOOT along, paralleling the rooftop chase...FROM BELOW: the Chopper SWOOPS LOW over the buildings... A GLIMPSE of the Batmobile as it LEAPS across to the next building...

COP 4  
(over radio)  
We're on him, we're on him...

- 221 EXT. ROOFTOPS -- CONTINUOUS 221  
The Batmobile lands on the PITCHED ROOF, racing along at a PRECARIOUS ANGLE, TILES SLIDING off the roof in its wake.
- 222 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 222  
Batman's forward-slung position is GYROSCOPICALLY BALANCED- he is the only vertical element in the angled car.
- 223 EXT. ROOFTOPS -- CONTINUOUS 223  
Chased by the LOW-FLYING chopper, the Batmobile SWERVES up over the GABLES, roof CRUMBLING in its wake, RACING for the end of the roof which PARALLELS an ELEVATED FREEWAY.  
The Batmobile rockets forward- JUMPS THE LAST GABLE... DROPS onto the elevated FREEWAY, TRAFFIC SWERVING to avoid it.
- 224 EXT. SURFACE STREETS -- CONTINUOUS 224  
Cop Cars see the Batmobile disappear onto the freeway above.  
*COP 4*  
*Dammit!*
- 225 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 225  
Batman's display shows a RADAR SWEEP and PLOTS a course through the differing speeds of the lanes. He pilots, LEANING left and right like a motorcyclist...
- 226 EXT. FREEWAY -- CONTINUOUS 226  
The Batmobile SWERVES- the Chopper's light stays trained. TRAFFIC gets heavier. Cop Cars are CLOSING IN from behind...
- 227 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 227  
Batman lifts himself back into the REAR DRIVING POSITION- THROTTLES BACK- KILLS all the lights, and the ENGINE.

- 228 EXT. FREEWAY -- CONTINUOUS 228  
The Batmobile DROPS BACK, DARK... the Chopper LOSES IT. The Batmobile CRUISES across the lanes, a WRAITH.
- 229 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 229  
SILENCE, but for the steady WHINE of the ELECTRIC MOTOR. Rachel BREATHES in the sudden quiet. Eyes flickering.
- 230 EXT. FREEWAY HEADING OUT OF GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS 230  
The Batmobile SLICES across lanes, a SHADOW only visible BREAKING the GLARE of other cars' HEADLIGHTS. The Cop Cars pull forward, driving parallel, an empty lane between them.
- 231 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 231  
Rachel stares at Batman in the intimate quiet. Her eyes are glaring. Her breathing is shallow.  
  
BATMAN  
quiet  
(Stay with me.)
- 232 INT. COP CAR -- CONTINUOUS 232  
The Cop turns left to look at the other Cop Car.  
  
COP 3  
Where'd he-?  
  
He sees, between his car and the next, a BLACK SHAPE.  
  
COP 3 (CONT'D)  
THERE HE IS!
- 233 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 233  
The SPOTLIGHT hits the car- Batman HITS a button- the main engine ROARS to life- Batman SLIPS into the prone position- Hits the BOOST.

- 234 EXT. FREEWAY -- CONTINUOUS 234  
 The Batmobile SHOOTS forward from between the two Cop Cars.
- 235 INT. COP CAR -- CONTINUOUS 235  
 The Batmobile's JET WASH BLASTS the windscreen, SHATTERING it, the Cop throws his hands in front of his face-
- 236 EXT. FREEWAY -- CONTINUOUS 236  
 The Cop Car SPINS out of its lane, SLAMMING into the guard rail as the Batmobile RACES ahead, weaving through traffic.  
 The Batmobile slides onto a TIGHTLY-CURVING EXIT RAMP... FLIES off the ramp, JUMPING DOWN onto the frontage road below.
- 237 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 237  
 Batman KILLS the lights, running on NIGHT VISION. Rachel's eyes flicker at the EERIE green view of ghostly trees, her breathing FASTER and still more SHALLOW.  
 BATMAN  
 Hold on. Just hold on.  
 Batman YANKS A LEVER-
- 238 EXT. SMALL TUNNOFF -- CONTINUOUS 238  
 A ground ANCHOR DIGS into the road, WHIPPING the Batmobile RIGHT in a HARD TURN, down a small turnoff... the Chopper LOSES the Batmobile, pursuing Cop Cars BLAZE PAST the turnoff.
- 239 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 239  
 Rachel, crying, looks at the monstrous shapes of the trees:  
*FLICKERING, jagged tree shapes SPIN past DIZZYINGLY.*  
 BATMAN  
 Rachel? Rachel?!
- No reply. Up ahead: a LOOKOUT over a river gorge. Batman PUSHES the Batmobile, SPEEDING towards the lookout. Rachel's glazes eyes REGISTER the danger- she TWISTS, PANICKED...

240 EXT. WOODED PATH -- CONTINUOUS 240  
The Batmobile ROCKETS off the edge of the lookout, over the gorge, FLYING STRAIGHT AT THE FACE OF A WATERFALL.

241 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 241  
Rachel SCREAMS as they SPLASH INTO THE FACE OF THE WATERFALL-

242 INT. CAVERNS -- CONTINUOUS 242  
-AND EMERGE THROUGH THE CURTAIN OF WATER into the BATCAVE.  
The Batmobile's ground ANCHORS hook a steel CABLE, spinning an INERTIA REEL bolted to the cave wall, YANKING the car to a halt like a jet landing on an aircraft carrier.

243 INT. BATMOBILE -- CONTINUOUS 243  
Rachel BOUNCES in her seat. PASSED OUT.

244 INT. BATCAVE -- CONTINUOUS 244  
The canopy of the Batmobile hisses open in three complex sections, like insect wings IMPLODING. Batman LIFTS Rachel from the cockpit, steps down onto wet shale... CARRIES her into the damp blackness of the caverns.  
Cloak BILLOWING in his wake, he heads for the GLOW of his work table. Gently lays Rachel on the table. RACKS up the scaffold to his computer station. A CONTAINER sits there with paperwork from Fox. Batman opens it, removes a VIAL. He plugs it into a pneumatic SYRINGE, puts the syringe between his teeth- GLIDES off the scaffold, LANDING beside Rachel. He INJECTS her in the biceps.  
Batman steps back, watching Rachel's breathing SLOW.

245 INT. ABANDONED REFECTION, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 245  
Gordon surveys the scene: COPS and SWATS dig through the mess, interviewing Inmates and sifting rubble. A DETECTIVE sits in a cell doorway examining Crane's mask. Crane is huddled in the corner, STARING.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON  
Is he cooperating?

DETECTIVE  
If by cooperating you mean chewing his way through three sets of restraints, then yes, he's cooperating. Did we catch the Batman?

Gordon tries not to smile.

GORDON  
Nope.

A cop hurries over.

COP  
Sir, there's something you should take a look at...

246 INT. DERELICT BATH HOUSE, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 246

Tiled baths and hydrotherapy equipment. A POOL in the center. The Cop leads Gordon to the edge... A massive HOLE has been dug through the bottom.

Dozens of ALUMINUM BARRELS sit alongside. Gordon climbs down, PEERS into the hole... A TORRENT of water runs at the bottom.

GORDON  
Looks like they tapped the mains...

Gordon looks at the dozens of aluminum barrels. Realizing.

GORDON (CONT'D)  
Get me somebody at the water board!

247 INT. BATCAVE -- LATER 247

Rachel's eyes flicker open to the cavernous damp darkness. She sees BATS banging high above. CLOSES her eyes again.

RACHEL  
(under her breath)  
Oh. My. God.

BATMAN (O.S.)  
How do you feel?

His voice ECHOES as if spoken from al shadows at once.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL  
(hoarse)  
Where are we?

Nothing.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Why did you bring me here?

BATMAN  
If I hadn't... your mind would now  
be lost. You were poisoned.

Rachel thinks..., concentrating..., remembering.

RACHEL  
I remember... nightmares. This...  
face, this... mask.  
(realizes)  
Crane. It was Crane-

Rachel STRUGGLES off the table, trying to stand.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
I have to tell the police- we've  
got-

She SLIPS- Batman is there, CATCHING her.

BATMAN  
Rest. Gordon has Crane.

In his arms she looks up at him- he lays her gently back  
onto the table. Retreats into shadow.

RACHEL  
Is Sergeant Gordon your friend?

BATMAN  
I don't have the luxury of friends.

Rachel watches this dark shadow hover just outside the  
light.

RACHEL  
Why did you save my life?

BATMAN  
Gotham needs you.

RACHEL  
And you serve Gotham?

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN  
I serve *justice*.

Rachel STARES at the solitary shadow. Fascinated. Pitying.

RACHEL  
Perhaps you do.

Batman steps into the light. Holding a pneumatic syringe and two vials. Rachel stares at him.

BATMAN  
I'm going to give you a sedative.  
You'll wake up back at home...

Batman holds up the two vials.

BATMAN (CONT'D)  
And when you do, get these to  
Gordon, and Gordon alone. Trust no  
one.

RACHEL  
What are they?

BATMAN  
The antidote. One for Gordon to  
inoculate himself, the other to  
start mass-production.

Batman hands Rachel the vials. She looks at him, curious.

BATMAN (CONT'D)  
Crane was just a pawn. He was  
working for someone else.

RACHEL  
(remembering)  
Ghul... something Al Ghul...

BATMAN  
Ra's Al Ghul. It's not him. He's  
dead.

RACHEL  
How do you know?

BATMAN  
I watched him die.

Batman approaches with the syringe. Rachel offers her arm. Batman injects her. Her eyes close. Batman removes his cowl. Wayne stands above the sleeping Rachel. Stares at her for an inexpressibly lonely moment.

248 INT. BATH HOUSE, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 248  
 Gordon is on the phone-

GORDON  
 Someone's been dumping a dangerous contaminant into the supply from this location for days, maybe weeks-

249 INT. CONTROL ROOM, WATER BOARD -- CONTINUOUS 249  
 Two TECHNICIANS sit there, one on the phone to Gordon. A large screen in front of them maps the water supply of Gotham.

TECHNICIAN  
 If that's true then it's already spread through the whole system. But no one's reported any effects...

250 INT. BATH HOUSE, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 250  
 Gordon looks around, thinking, frustrated.

GORDON  
 It must be like chlorine or fluoride- harmless to drink, but when you *breathe* it it's deadly... look, wake up your boss, see if there's a way to flush out the system.

Gordon hangs up. Frustrated. Notices something. A large SHIPPING CRATE. He turns to the Cop.

GORDON (CONT'D)  
 Open that up.

251 INT. STUDY, WAYNE MANOR -- EVENING 251  
 Wayne emerges from the bookcase. The noise of a PARTY outside the door. Alfred is there waiting, dinner jacket over his arm. Wayne grabs the shirt- dressing hastily.

WAYNE  
 Rachel's sedated. You can take her home.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED  
Very good, sir.

WAYNE  
Is Fox still here?  
(Alfred nods)  
Tell your staff to stop serving  
drinks and move everybody on after  
the cake.

Alfred nods. Wayne moves to the door. Alfred STOPS him.  
Hands him a towel, gesturing at his face: Wayne is still  
wearing BLACK MAKEUP around his eyes.

252 INT. MAIN HALL, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS 252

Hundreds of GUESTS. Music. Tables groaning with food

FEMALE GUEST (O.S.)  
There he is!

Guests look up- Wayne WADES INTO the throng, GRINNING and  
GLAD-HANDING. The band strikes up with "Happy Birthday",  
Wayne spots Fox at the buffet.

253 EXT. SIDE ENTRANCE, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS 253

As sounds from the party drift over, Alfred gently arranges  
the unconscious Rachel on the rear seat of the car. He  
frowns as Rachel's legs get stuck. He looks up to see a  
PARTY GUEST, cigarette in hand, staring, curious.

ALFRED  
(smiles)  
A little the worse for wear, I'm  
afraid.

Alfred YANKS Wayne's gold clubs to one side, Rachel settles.

254 INT. MAIN HALL, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS 254

Guests are leaving. Wayne works the room, charming, but  
distracted... heading to Fox.

WAYNE  
Any word on that... item.

Fox nods, glances around. Leans in, conspiratorial.

FOX

A contact in heavy weapons tipped  
me off- it's a microwave emitter.  
It vaporizes water.

Wayne thinks.

WAYNE

Could you sue it to put a  
biological agent into the air?

FOX

Sure, if the water supply were  
poisoned before you vaporized it.

Wayne takes this in. Grave. Nods at Fox.

EARLE (O.S.)

Happy Birthday, Bruce.

Wayne turns to Earle.

WAYNE

Mr. Earle, good of you to come.

EARLE

(smiles)

Not everybody thought you'd make it  
this far.

WAYNE

Sorry to disappoint. How did the  
stock offering go?

EARLE

Very well- the price soared.

WAYNE

Who was buying?

EARLE

A variety of funds and  
brokerages... it's all a bit  
technical- the key thing is, our  
company's future is secure.

Wayne nods. Gestures to Fox.

WAYNE

Have you met Lucius Fox?

EARLE

Of course, Lucius, how are you?

WAYNE

Fox is showing me the ropes down at  
Applied Sciences... he's a great  
untapped resource at our company,  
aren't you, Mr. Fox?

Fox shoots Wayne a look, but Wayne WINKS and moves off.

FOX

He's a good kid.

EARLE

(cold)

Fox, forget about kissing Wayne's  
ass to get back in- I'm merging  
Applied Sciences with central  
archiving and you're top of the  
early retirement list...

(smiles at reaction)

Didn't you get the memo?

255 INT. BATH HOUSE, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 255

Gordon and the other Cops STARE at the MICROWAVE EMITTER.

COP

What the hell is it?

Gordon turns to the SWAT team members.

GORDON

I don't know, but *nobody* gets near  
it, understand? We're closing the  
bridges, locking down the whole  
island.

256 INT. BEDROOM, RACHEL'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS 256

Rachel STIRS. On her bed fully clothed. Trying to remember a  
strange dream. She sees the two vials of antidote sitting on  
her bedside table. HURRIES to her feet.

257

INT. MAIN HALL, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

257

Wayne moves across the party, heading for the study... An ELDERLY SOCIETY DAME grabs him-

SOCIETY DAME

Bruce, there's somebody here you simply must meet...

WAYNE

Mrs. Delane, I *can't* just now...

She TURNS Wayne to face an ASIAN MAN in his fifties.

SOCIETY DAME

Now, am I pronouncing it right..?

In the Asian Man's buttonhole is a DOUBLE-BLOOMED BLUE POPPY.

SOCIETY DAME (CONT'D)

Mr. Al Ghul?

The Asian Man nods. Wayne STARES at him.

WAYNE

You're not Ra's Al Ghul. He's dead.

The Society Dame laughs nervously, confused.

VOICE (O.S.)

But is Ra's Al Ghul *immortal*..?

Wayne TURNS. Standing there. Smiling. Ducard.

DUCARD

Are his methods *supernatural*..?

WAYNE

(understanding)

Or cheap parlor tricks to conceal your true's identity.., Ra's?

Ducard (THE REAL RA'S AL GHUL) smiles acknowledgment.

DUCARD/RA'S AL GHUL

Surely you don't begrudge me dual identities?

Ra's Al Ghul walks Wayne through the dwindling party.

(CONTINUED)

RA'S AL GHUL  
I've been admiring your work, even  
as it's interfered with my plans...

Ra's Al Ghul looks at Wayne with a tinge of sadness.

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)  
You were my greatest student...  
until you betrayed me.

Wayne notices CERTAIN GUESTS staring at him: members of the League of Shadows. Wayne looks at the departing Guests.

WAYNE  
Your quarrel is with me. Let these people go.

RA'S AL GHUL  
As you wish. But they don't have long to live- your antics at the Asylum have forced my hand...

WAYNE  
Crane was working for you.

RA'S AL GHUL  
His toxin is derived from the organic compound in our blue poppies. Crane was able weaponize the compound. A brilliant scientist, but no visionary. He just wanted money and power-  
(smiles)  
I told him the plan was to hold the city to ransom... but, in fact-

WAYNE  
You're going to unleash Crane's poison on the entire city...

RA'S AL GHUL  
(nods, serious)  
Then watch Gotham tear itself apart through fear...

COP CARS BLOCK the bridge. Police in RIOT GEAR, some on HORSEBACK. Rachel argues with a POLICE OFFICER.

POLICE OFFICER  
Orders are, no one crosses-

RACHEL  
Officer, I'm a Gotham City District Attorney with information relevant to this situation- so let me pass.

Rachel brushes past him. He follows, shaking his head.

259 INT. LIBRARY, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

259

Wayne and Ra's enter. The library is empty of guest.

WAYNE  
You're going to destroy millions of lives.

RA'S AL GHUL  
No. *Billions* of lives. Gotham is just the beginning. The world will watch in terror as the greatest city falls. Anarchy and chaos will spread... mankind will ravage itself, the species will be culled and the balance of nature restored. The planet will be saved for all species.

Wayne stares at Ra's appalled.

WAYNE  
You're inhuman.

RA'S AL GHUL  
Don't question my humanity, Bruce when I found you in that fetid hole you were *lost*. I *saved* you- I showed you a path and took away your fear- I *made* you what you are.  
(stares at Wayne)  
And in return... you attacked me and burned my home...

Ra's looks up at his MEN in the gallery. Nods. The Men start SETTING FIRE TO THE DRAPES.

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)  
Since then, you've used my skills and techniques to interfere with my plans, plans in which you were supposed to play a part...

(CONTINUED)

WAYNE

What part was that, Ra's? To put my company at your disposal? To obtain your microwave emitter and plant it somewhere in Gotham?

RA'S AL GHUL

(smiles, nods)

You were supposed to be Gotham's destroyer... instead you became her only protector.

WAYNE

You underestimate Gotham.

RA'S AL GHUL

You underestimate Gotham's corruption we've infiltrated every aspect of the city's infrastructure...

260

INT. BATH HOUSE, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS

260

Four SWATS are guarding the Emitter. One of them checks his watch. Gives a signal to the SECOND SWAT who nods and starts priming the machine... The Third SWAT turns-

THIRD SWAT

Hey! What the hell are you-

PHUUUT. The Fourth SWAT has shot him with a silenced pistol. Moving with military precision, the three Ninja/SWATS don gas masks place explosive charges along the wall.

110.

261

INT. MONORAIL STATION -- CONTINUOUS

261

The TRAIN DRIVER checks his watch. Hits the INTERCOM.

TRAIN DRIVER

(over loudspeaker)

*This train is no longer in service.*

PASSENGERS groan, get to their feet.

262

INT. LIBRARY, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

262

The FLAMES ARE RISING. SMOKE GATHERING at the ceiling...

RA'S AL GHUL  
 Gotham is helpless without you.  
 That's why I'm here.

WAYNE  
 To kill me?

Ra's Al Ghul looks at Wayne. Emotional.

RA'S AL GHUL  
 To bring you back to us, Bruce. The  
world will need great men like you-

WAYNE  
To take power.

RA'S AL GHUL  
This is not about power... this is  
about saving the planet before man  
destroys it with his greed, with  
his pollution, with his weaponry...

Ra's holds out his hand. A Ninja THROWS him a SWORD. He HANDS it to Wayne, placing the point at his own throat.

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)  
 You still doubt me? Apply a few  
 pounds of pressure... buy your  
 precious city a reprieve.

Ra's looks into Wayne's eyes with absolute conviction.

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)  
 Kill me. Then you'll understand how  
 simple it is to do what's  
 necessary.

Wayne holds the sword at Ra's throat. Thinking. Ra's stares at Wayne with absolute conviction.

WAYNE  
 I will not take life. I will not be  
 a part of this.

RA'S AL GHUL  
 But you already are. You've given  
 Gotham a potent symbol of fear...

(CONTINUED)

WAYNE  
I frighten *criminals*.

RA'S AL GHUL  
You frighten everybody. A giant  
vengeful bat? What better  
apocalyptic symbol to haunt  
Gothams' dreams as panic takes  
hold?

Wayne stares at Ra's Al Ghul. Pulls the sword away from his throat. Ra's Al Ghul looks at him, contemptuous. Pulls at the handle of his cane, producing a SWORD.

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)  
Then die with Gotham-

Ra's STRIKES Wayne's sword from his throat- lays into him,  
sword in one hand, CANE/SHEATH in the other-

263 EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS

263

Gordon turns. Rachel is there. He nods.

GORDON  
How are you?

RACHEL  
Better. Thank you.

GORDON  
Thank the Batman.

RACHEL  
I already did.  
(reaches into pocket)  
He sent me with doses of the  
antidote for you...

264 INT. BATH HOUSE, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS

264

The Ninja/SWATS crouch away from the back wall. One of them HITS a DETONATOR. A controlled EXPLOSION BLASTS a large hole in the back wall-

- 265 EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 265  
 The Cops react to the EXPLOSION- Gordon RACES into the building...
- RACHEL  
 Gordon, wait!
- 266 INT. BATH HOUSE, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 266  
 Gordon and his men appear at the door to the room- the Ninja/SWATS are moving the Emitter through the hole in the wall- Gordon OPENS FIRE- the First Ninja/Swat turns to the second, SIGNALS...  
 The Second Ninja/Swat ACTIVATES the Emitter- A PULSE OF ENERGY RIPPLES FROM THE MACHINE... PIPES/TAPS/DRAINS EXPLODE with pressurized STEAM- Gordon DIVES for cover-
- 267 EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 267  
 Manhole covers EXPLODE, RELEASING GEYSERS of STEAM. FIRE HYDRANTS EXPLODE, HISSING with steam- Cops hit the deck...
- 268 INT. WATER BOARD CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS 268  
 An ALARM SOUNDS- the Technician points at a DOT on the map.
- TECHNICIAN  
 What's that?!
- SECOND TECHNICIAN  
 Some kind of pressure under the Narrows... like the water's...  
 (confused)  
 ...boiling.
- TECHNICIAN  
 Did the valves hold?
- SECOND TECHNICIAN  
 Yeah, it's contained. For now.
- 269 EXT. BRIDGE TO ARKHAM/NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS 269  
 Cops STARE at the cloud of FOG rising from the island.

270 INT. LIBRARY, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

270

Ra's throws himself at Wayne with FEROCITY and SKILL- Wayne PARRIES, THRUSTS...

WAVES of flame ROLL across the high ceiling as the great room approaches flashover point...

Wayne PRESSES Ra's back under the gallery... Ra's THRUSTS, OFF BALANCE- Wayne dodges- Ra's goes DOWN- Wayne holds his sword at Ra's throat...

WAYNE

Perhaps you taught me too well.

Ra's looks up at Wayne with a sly smile.

RA'S AL GHUL

Or perhaps you'll never learn-

A section of the BURNING GALLERY DROPS onto Wayne.

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)

-to mind your surroundings as well as your opponent.

Ra's RISES. Looks down at Wayne, unconscious, PINNED under BURNING TIMBERS. Firelight flickers on Ra's' face as he sheathes his sword/cane.

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)

Rest easy, friend.

Ra's turns, walks out of the flaming library.

271 EXT. FRONT DOOR, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

271

Ra's walks out of the burning building. Motions to a Ninja.

RA'S AL GHUL

No one comes out. Make sure.

He walks towards a waiting HELICOPTER. Another Ninja follows.

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)

Is everything ready?

NINJA 2

They created a smokescreen in the Narrows- and they're moving the emitter into place for your run.

272 INT. MONORAIL TRACK ABOVE FOGBOUND NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS 272

The Train Driver looks down at Arkham as he pulls overhead with his empty train. He STOPS the train above the Narrows.

273 INT. BATH HOUSE, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 273

Thick clouds of WHITE FOG fill the room. Gordon is CHOKING... RACHEL GRABS HIS ARM-

RACHEL

Gordon, it's me! It's Rachel! I have the antidote! Gordon-

Gordon RIPS his arm away- COUGHING, SPLUTTERING... he STARES into the BLINDING WHITE... TERRIFIED, adrenaline kicking in- Rachel SHAKES Gordon, FUMBLING with the pneumatic syringe.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Stay calm... I can help you...

Gordon looks at the needle, panicked. Then at her face...

274 INT. LIBRARY, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS 274

Wayne, unconscious, PINNED by burning timbers, FLAMES RISING.

275 EXT. SIDE DOOR, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS 275

A Ninja guards the side door, STARING into the flames... WHACK! He goes down... ALFRED is standing there, nine iron in hand. He looks down at the Ninja.

ALFRED

I sincerely hope you're not from the fire department.

Alfred rushes in to the burning house.

276 INT. LIBRARY, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS 276

Alfred moves to Wayne, tries in vain to shift the BURNING WOOD from Wayne's chest. He moves to Wayne's face. SLAPS IT, HARD.

ALFRED

Master Wayne! Master Wayne!!

Wayne's eyes flicker open. He PUSHES, but can't move.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED (CONT'D)  
 (exasperated)  
 Sir, whatever is the point of all  
 those push-ups if you can't even-

Wayne GLARES at Alfred, FORCES the weight from his chest.

277 INT. STUDY -- CONTINUOUS

277

Wayne and Alfred push through the burning room. Wayne JABS at the flaming piano keys...

278 INT. WROUGHT IRON SPIRAL STAIRCASE -- CONTINUOUS

278

Alfred and Wayne CRAWL onto the lift.

279 EXT. WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

279

The burning house COLLAPSES..

280 INT. WROUGHT IRON SPIRAL STAIRCASE -- CONTINUOUS

280

Smoke and flame EXPLODES through the passage- Alfred YANKS the lever DROPPING them out of the heat- they SPEED DOWN...

281 INT. BATCAVE -- CONTINUOUS

281

LANDING HARD. Smoldering. Wayne STARES up the SPIRAL: high above, SPARKS and firelight. The CRASH of collapsing TIMBERS echoes down as WAYNE MANOR DIES. Tears form in Wayne's eyes.

WAYNE  
 (whispers)  
 What have I done, Alfred?  
 Everything my family... everything  
 my Father and his father built...

Alfred struggles to pull himself to a standing position.

ALFRED  
 (hoarse)  
 The Wayne legacy is more than  
 bricks and mortar, sir.

Wayne stares up at the glowing shaft. Lost in his despair.

WAYNE  
I thought I could... help Gotham...  
but I've failed...

Alfred makes a futile show of dusting down his jacket.

ALFRED  
And why do we fall, sir?

Wayne looks at Alfred's bruised, smudged, yet dignified face.

ALFRED (CONT'D)  
So that we might better learn to  
pick ourselves up.

Wayne looks up at his old friend.

WAYNE  
Still haven't given up on me?

Alfred offers him a trembling hand.

ALFRED  
(conviction)  
Never.

Wayne takes Alfred's hand. Gets up.

282 EXT. THE FOGBOUND NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS

282

Ninjas in gas masks move the Emitter into position UNDER THE MONORAIL TRAIN. They bind it into a HOIST.

283 EXT. THE NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS

283

Rachel injects Gordon. He stares into her eyes, questioning.

RACHEL  
Breathe. Just breathe.

NOISES draw Gordon's frightened eyes to shape of COPS choking on the fog, SHOUTING. FIGHTING. Rachel pulls Gordon to his feet- heads for the hole in the wall...

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Come on.

- 284 EXT. BRIDGE TO ARKHAM/NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS 284  
Loeb and a LIEUTENANT get out of a car at the blockade.  
Starring across: FOG HANGS OVER THE ISLAND.
- LOEB  
What in God's name is going on in  
there?
- 285 EXT. THE NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS 285  
As Rioters FLIT past through the fog either side, Rachel DRAGS Gordon into a doorway... She looks up into the fog. Sees the Ninjas hoisting the emitter up to the monorail...
- 286 INT. FOGBOUND ARKHAM ASYLUM -- EVENING 286  
An INMATE at the window of his cell. A CLUNK- he turns- his cell door is OPEN. He looks out into the corridors...
- 287 INT. MIST-FILLED CORRIDOR, ARKHAM ASYLUM -- CONTINUOUS 287  
Crane, in Scarecrow mask, RINGS down the corridor, LAUGHING, unlocked each door in turn.
- INMATE  
(to himself)  
Scarecrow.
- Inmates emerge from their cells, confused.
- 288 INT. THE BATCAVE -- CONTINUOUS 288  
CLOSE ON: black scalloped GAUNTLETS thrust onto purposeful hands. A dark CLOAK whipped around strong shoulders. A graphite COWL placed over an implacable face.
- A DARK FIGURE swallowed by the gloom. BATS flutter as an ENGINE ROARS to life...
- 289 EXT. WATERFALL -- CONTINUOUS 289  
MOVING IN on water tumbling hypnotically...  
The Batmobile EXPLODES through the water, ROCKETING onto the opposite bank.

290 INT. HELICOPTER ABOVE FOGBOUND NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS 290  
Ra's Al Ghul puts on a gas mask as the helicopter descends.

291 EXT. FOGBOUND NARROWS -- NIGHT 291  
Rachel sits up from Gordon. Hears something: a DRAGGING NOISE behind her. She turns, stepping away from Gordon...  
A HORSE emerges from the fog. Crane is riding; in Scarecrow mask. DRAGGING along behind, boot caught in the stirrup, a dead MOUNTED POLICEMAN. CRANE TURNS TO RACHEL.

RACHEL  
Crane!

Crane shakes his head.

CRANE  
(hisses)  
Scarecrow.

292 EXT. BRIDGE TO ARKHAM/NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS 292  
Loeb with a LIEUTENANT, watching the fog hang over the island.  
They head a massive ENGINE, turn, BLINDED by headlights... the Batmobile RACES at the cordon, SHOOTS over the cars, clipping the roofs, Cops DIVING out of the way...

293 EXT. ALLEY, FOGBOUND NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS 293  
The too-wide Batmobile RIPS metal sheets and drywall from both sides of the tiny alley- RIOTING INHABITANTS run SCREAMING- the Batmobile is heading for a dead end...

294 EXT. COURTYARD, FOGBOUND NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS 294  
Crane GALLOPS towards Rachel and Gordon and STOPS. Rioters emerge behind them... he REARS UP to STAMP RACHEL AND GORDON-

Rachel fires her taser, plugging Crane in the face- he JERKS, SPASM- the HORSE BOLTS, THROWING him, DRAGGING HIM OFF INTO THE FOG..

Rachel watches him disappear. Then sees the Lunatics closing in on all sides...

(CONTINUED)

The Batmobile SMASHES THROUGH THE WALL- Lunatics closing in on all sides...

The Batmobile opens- Batman emerges- runs to Rachel...

A BRICK smashes into Batman's head. He TURNS to the Rioters STARING at him, TERRIFIED. Batman RISES in the mist... to their eyes:

*Batman is a twelve-foot shadowy devil with WINGS...*

They fling bricks, bottles, fighting off the demon. Batman GRABS Rachel, FIRES his grappling gun up into the fog... it finds purchase- they SHOOT UP FROM THE MOB-

295 EXT. ROOFTOP -- MOMENTS LATER

295

Batman sets Rachel down, looks out at Gotham: the Narrows below steaming, burning, screaming. The rest of Gotham WAITS.

BATMAN

They're going to unleash the toxin on the entire city. I have to find the microwave emitter...

RACHEL

They were lifting a machine up to the tracks...

Batman TURNS to face Rachel, realizing-

BATMAN

Of course- the monorail. The track runs directly over the water mains...

Batman turns to the city, stares at the wide sweep of the monorail tracks. The "spoke" that lead in to Wayne Tower...

BATMAN (CONT'D)

He's going to drive that thing straight into Wayne Tower and blow the main hub, creating enough toxin to blanket the entire city...

296 INT. MONORAIL TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS

296

Ra's Al Ghul climbs onto the train with three MASKED NINJAS. The narrow-band emitter fills the front car. Pulsing with energy. Ra's moves to the driver's position...

297 EXT. THE NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS

297

Gordon looks up- the train moves overhead... as it passes, manhole covers EXPLODE in its wake, sending up fresh GEYSERS of STEAM... Gordon watches the train go... starts RUNNING...

298 INT. CONTROL ROOM, WATER BOARD -- CONTINUOUS

298

ALARMS sound- the Technician looks at the map- lights FLASH.

SECOND TECHNICIAN

What's that?

TECHNICIAN

The pressure's increasing... and  
it's... Moving.

299 EXT. ROOFTOP -- CONTINUOUS

299

Batman stands at the edge- looks at the IMPOSSIBLE DROP to the moving monorail train...

RACHEL

Wait!

Batman TURNS. Rachel stares at his eyes in the black cowl, reaches up to his face.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

You could die. At least tell me  
your name.

Batman turns. Looks back at her.

BATMAN

It's not who I am underneath...  
(touches his chest)  
But what I do that defines me.

Rachel steps forward, recognizing her own words, REALIZING-

RACHEL

Bruce-

But he is already FALLING...

300 EXT. OVER GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS 300

Batman FREE FALLS, cloak flapping, sliding his gloves into the activating pockets...

The cloak goes RIGID- SMASHING THE WIND LIKE A PARACHUTE... Batman's arms CONTROL his cloak, not simply arresting his fall, but GLIDING GRACEFULLY like a hand glider...

He eyes the moving train and NOSES DOWN, ACCELERATING-

301 INT. MONORAIL TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS 301

Ra's pulls off his mask, watching the city speed around him.

302 INT. SEDAN ON THE BRIDGE TO THE NARROWS -- CONTINUOUS 302

Flass is in the driver's seat, eating. Gordon opens the door GRABS him-

FLASS  
What the-?

-FLINGS him out onto the asphalt- PEELS OUT...

120.

303 EXT. GOTHAM -- CONTINUOUS 303

Batman STREAKS DOWN, CUTTING through the STEAM GEYSERS shooting up in the train's wake... the train SPEEDS through a station- Batman BANKS SHARPLY around the building...

304 INT. CONTROL ROOM, WATER BOARD -- CONTINUOUS 304

The Technician stares at the map: BLINKING LIGHTS reach CLOSER AND CLOSER to Wayne Tower...

SECOND TECHNICIAN  
Pressure's building at the hub-

TECHNICIAN  
Open all the run-off valves!

SECOND TECHNICIAN  
They're already blown!

The Technician, worried, looks at a PRESSURE GAUGE: the NEEDLE is moving steadily HIGHER, towards the RED ZONE...

305 EXT. MONORAIL TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS 305  
The track ahead passes into an office building- Batman noses down- trying to get down onto the train before it reaches the building... Batman gets OVER the back of the train-it's at the mouth of the tunnel- he COLLAPSES his cloak- DROPS onto the train just as it BLASTS into the building-

306 INT. TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS 306  
Ra's hears a THUMP. He nods at his Ninjas. They move into the rear car, COCKING machine guns...

307 EXT. TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS 307  
Batman lies on the roof- the train SPEEDS through the CANYONS of downtown Gotham... BULLETS tear through the roof, several HIT BATMAN- JOLTING him loose, spinning his SIDEWAYS-

308 INT. TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS 308  
The ninjas see a SHADOW FALL FROM THE ROOF. One of them sticks his head up to check: nothing but fresh bullet holes.  
At the Ninjas' feet, UNNOTICED, a GRAPPLING HOOK sticks through the FLOOR of the train-

309 EXT. SURFACE STREETS BELOW THE MONORAIL -- CONTINUOUS 309  
A small CROWD outside a store watch news on stacked T.V.'s. The train STREAKS overhead. People look up, SHOCKED to see-  
Batman HANGING FROM THE TRAIN BY HIS GRAPPLING CABLE, FLYING ALONG, 15 feet in the air, dodging STOPLIGHTS and AWNINGS...  
The Train crosses over a busy intersection- Batman FLIES over CARS, between tall TRUCKS... behind him, in the train's wake, manhole covers EXPLODE, fire hydrants BURST...  
Batman STRUGGLES to fasten his grappling gun into his utility belt, but he's being TOSSSED too violently...  
Up ahead: more of Ra's Al Ghul's Ninjas ride in a truck, preceding the train, guarding the monorail supports.

310 EXT. STREET BELOW THE MONORAIL -- CONTINUOUS 310

In the truck, a Ninja puts a rocket-propelled grenade launcher on his shoulder, sighting Batman- the others aim their guns.

A CURVE in the truck sends Batman SWINGING UP into the glass facade of a building, SMASHING ALONG THROUGH forty feet of plate glass... he clears the glass, looks ahead- sees the truck in his path, WEAPONS TRAINED ON HIM...

The machine guns open up- the TRIGGER of the RPG is SQUEEZED-

BLAM- with a SHUDDER the truck is KNOCKED SIDEWAYS by a SPEEDING unmarked sedan- the grenade MISFIRES into the cab...

GORDON is at the wheel of the unmarked sedan- he DUCKS DOWN- the truck EXPLODES... Batman FLIES THROUGH THE FLAMES...

On the other side, the track DEAD ENDS at another tunnel...

Gordon looks up in time to see Batman LATCH the grappling gun into his belt- SHOOT UP, SKIRTING the lip of the tunnel...

311 INT. TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS 311

Batman JUMPS into the rear car- FIRES his grappling gun at a Ninja's leg, YANKS him DOWN...

Ra's glances back from the front car, but can't see clearly.

Batman DOWNS a Ninja with an ELBOW to the head. LEAPS for the door between cars- a Ninja in the front car LOCKS it-

SMASH- Ra's TURNS to see Batman at the rear door, glass falling from the window, hands around the Ninja's THROAT...

RA'S AL GHUL  
You!

Batman DROPS the Ninja. LEADS UP out of sight.

312 INT. CONTROL ROOM, WATER BOARD -- CONTINUOUS 312

ALARMS: The technician watches the blinking lights move CLOSE to the HUB... the pressure gauge needle tips into the RED-

(CONTINUED)

FIRST TECHNICIAN  
Everybody out! Out of the  
building!!

SECOND TECHNICIAN  
But-

FIRST TECHNICIAN  
We're sitting on the hub- she's  
gonna blow and blow big,  
understand?

313 EXT. MONORAIL TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS

313

Batman moves forward along the roof, cloak FLAPPING madly behind. Wayne Tower visible up ahead, the train STREAKING DIZZYINGLY through the tight CANYONS of Gotham...

Ra's Al Ghul climbs up onto the roof at the front of the train. Standing tall before Gotham, long coat blowing around his legs. He marvels at Batman.

RA'S AL GHUL  
You took my advice about  
theatricality a bit literally,  
don't you think?

He draws his sword from his cane. Batman LUNGES at Ra's, who SWINGS his sword at him- Batman PARRIES with his gauntlet, SPARKS striking off the metal scallops.

The train SHOOTS through a building, the airflow WHUMPING down on the duelists...

Ra's SWINGS his cane- Batman TRAPS it in his scallop- TWISTS his arm- sends the cane SPINNING away.

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)  
Familiar...

Ra's THRUSTS his sword at Batman's chest, Batman DODGES left, dangerously close to the EDGE. He DUCKS at Ra's, who KNEES him sideways, SWINGING him at the FRONT EDGE of the train...

Batman REGAINS FOOTING- Ra's STRIKES DOWN at his head... Batman CROSSES HIS ARMS, CATCHING THE SWORD in the scallops of BOTH gauntlets, HOLDING FAST...

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)  
Don't you have anything new?

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN  
How about *this*?

Batman YANKS his ARMS in OPPOSITE directions, BREAKING RA'S AL GHUL'S SWORD IN TWO.

Ra's STUMBLES back, loses footing, SLIPS onto the roof, SLIDING back toward the rear...

Batman looks ahead to Wayne Tower approaching...

314 INT. CONTROL ROOM, WATER BOARD, WAYNE TOWER -- CONTINUOUS 314

The first technician watches the pressure gauge needle slide up through the red. He CLOSES HIS EYES.

315 EXT. TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS

315

Batman leans over the front of train- FIRES his GRAPPLING GUN into the front GUIDE WHEELS- which JAM, SPARKING, GRINDING... cable SPOOLS out of the grappling gun... the train SHUDDERS...

RA'S AL GHUL  
(climbing to his feet)  
What're you doing?!!

Batman THROWS the grappling gun at the SPARKING guide wheel...

BATMAN  
What's necessary.

The guide wheel HITS the grappling gun- BUMPS OFF ITS TRACK...

Ra's DIVES onto Batman- SMASHES him against the roof- the train LURCHES, SCRAPING against the concrete guiderails... Batman ROLLS Ra's onto the bottom- but Ra's is CHOKING Batman, THUMBS PUSHED DEEP INTO THE FLESH ABOVE BATMAN'S NECKPIECE...

Batman STRUGGLES uselessly against Ra's Al Ghul IRON GRIP...

RA'S AL GHUL  
Are you afraid?!!

Ra's looks up at Batman's DYING eyes... Batman's hands STOP PUSHING against Ra's...

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN  
(choked)  
Yes...

...and slip down his cloak to the activating pockets-

BATMAN (CONT'D)  
*...but not of you.*

The cloak goes RIGID- CATCHES THE WIND- like pulling a rip cord- Batman YANKED from Ra's Al Ghul's hands, INTO THE AIR...

Ra's SCREAMS as he rides the train OFF THE MONORAIL...

CRASHING DOWN INTO WAYNE PLAZA- DIGGING THROUGH THE CONCRETEMETAL SHREDDING, MARBLE SHATTERING, DUST CLOUDS FLYING, PARKED CARS EXPLODING...

The Train has disintegrated into burning rubble just short of the entrance to Wayne Station...

316 INT. CONTROL ROOM, WATER BOARD, WAYNE TOWER -- CONTINUOUS 316

The Technician opens one eye. Then the other. And starts breathing again.

317 EXT. WAYNE PLAZA -- CONTINUOUS

317

Massive fiery destruction. And above it all-

Batman SOARS in a high bank, riding the thermals, staring down at Ra's Al Ghul's funeral pyre... And we-

DISSOLVE TO:

318 EXT. WAYNE PLAZA -- MORNING, DAYS LATER

318

Construction CREWS clear the RUBBLE, Lucius Fox, in hard hat, supervises. Earle approaches, livid. Fox spots him.

FOX  
This is a hard hat area.

EARLE  
What are you doing here, Fox? I seem to remember firing you.

(CONTINUED)

FOX

Might be something to do with my  
new job as head of Wayne  
Industries.

(off look)

Didn't you get the memo?

Earle stares at Fox, hard.

EARLE

Whose authority?

Fox points at Wayne's Rolls Royce idling nearby. Earle strides towards it. Fox quietly smiles, turns to his work.

319 INT. ROLLS -- CONTINUOUS

319

Earle is BANGING on the window. Wayne rolls it down.

EARLE

You think you have authority to  
decide who runs this company,  
Bruce?

WAYNE

It is *my* company.

EARLE

Not anymore. Wayne Industries went  
public a week ago-

WAYNE

And I bought most of the shares. A  
controlling interest, in fact.

(off look)

Through various charitable  
foundations, trusts and so forth...

Alfred is smiling in the front seat.

WAYNE (CONT'D)

Look, it's all a bit technical, but  
the important thing is.... *my*  
company's future is secure.

Earle is speechless. Wayne smiles. The Rolls pulls away.

320 EXT. GROUNDS, SMOKING RUINS OF WAYNE MANOR -- DAY 320  
WORKERS sift through the smoking ruins, supervised by Alfred.

321 INT. ORANGERY -- CONTINUOUS 321  
Soot-stained glass crunches underfoot as Rachel picks her way through the smoking remnants of the greenhouse.

322 EXT. DISUSED KITCHEN GARDEN -- CONTINUOUS 322  
Rachel finds Wayne hammering a board across the disused well. He looks up at her. She approaches. He turns to the well.

WAYNE  
Do you remember the day I fell?

RACHEL  
Of course.

Wayne looks down at the black gap yet to be covered.

WAYNE  
As I lay there, I knew... I could sense it...

RACHEL  
What?

WAYNE  
That things would never be the same.

RACHEL  
What did you find down there? Wayne picks up another board.

WAYNE  
Childhood's end.

Wayne places the board over over the gap. Closing the well.

323 EXT. SMOKING RUINS OF WAYNE MANOR -- MOMENTS LATER 323  
Wayne walks Rachel past the ruins.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

The day you left Gotham... the day  
Chill was murdered... I said  
terrible things.

WAYNE

*True things. You made me see that  
justice is about more than my own  
pain and anger.*

RACHEL

Well, you proved me wrong.

WAYNE

About what?

RACHEL

Your father would be proud of you.  
Just as I am.

Wayne looks at her, emotion rising. He takes Rachel in his arms and they kiss, passionately... desperately.

They break, Wayne looks into Rachel's eyes, hopeful. But she gently shakes her head.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

(soft)

Between Batman and Bruce Wayne,  
there's no room for me.

WAYNE

Rachel, this life I chose... I can  
give it up.

Rachel reaches up to his face with her hand.

RACHEL

You didn't choose the life, Bruce.  
It was thrust upon you, the way  
greatness often is. You've given  
this city hope- now she's depending  
on you. We all are.

Wayne looks at her. Aching. He nods.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Good-bye, Bruce.

She walks away. Stops. Turns. Points at the ruins.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
What will you do?

Wayne looks at her. Glorious purpose in his eyes.

WAYNE  
I'm going to rebuild it just the  
way it was. Brick for brick.

Rachel nods. Walks off. Wayne stares after her. Alone...

But Alfred is at Wayne's shoulder. Watching his gaze.

ALFRED  
Just the way it was, sir?

Wayne turns to Alfred.

WAYNE  
Yes, why?

They stroll, side by side, towards the smoking ruins.

ALFRED  
I thought we might take the  
opportunity of making some  
improvements to the foundation.

WAYNE  
In the south east corner?

ALFRED  
*Precisely, sir.*

DISSOLVE TO:

*The irregular SHADOW of a BAT SYMBOL cast up onto turbulent clouds... and we are-*

324 EXT. ROOF, POLICE STATION -- NIGHT

324

Gordon sips coffee from a styrofoam cup. Beside him- an upturned spotlight with a METAL STENCIL bolted to it.

A dark FLUTTERING, and Batman is standing the other side of the spotlight. He reaches out, taps the stencil.

BATMAN  
Nice.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON  
(crushing his cup)  
Couldn't find any mob bosses to  
strap to the light.

Gordon kills the searchlight. The two men stand opposite each other in the dark.

BATMAN  
Well, Sergeant?

GORDON  
It's *Lieutenant*, now. Commissioner Loeb had to promote me. And he had to disband the task force hunting *you*. Amazing what saving a city can do for your image.

BATMAN  
Then things are better.

GORDON  
(nods)  
You've started something- bent cops running scared, hope on the streets...

Gordon leaves his sentence hanging between them.

BATMAN  
But?

GORDON  
But there's a lot of weirdness out there right now... the Narrows is lost... we still haven't picked up Crane or half the inmates of Arkham that he freed...

BATMAN  
We will. Gotham will return to normal.

GORDON  
Will it? What about escalation?

BATMAN  
Escalation?

GORDON  
We start carrying semiautomatics, they buy automatics... we start wearing kevlar, they buy armorpiercing rounds...

BATMAN

And?

Gordon leans closer to Batman. Points at him.

GORDON

*And... you're wearing a mask and  
jumping off rooftops...*

Gordon fishes in his pocket.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Take this guy...

He pulls out a clear plastic evidence bag.

GORDON (CONT'D)

*...armed robbery, double  
homicide...*

Inside the clear plastic bag is a PLAYING CARD.

GORDON (CONT'D)

*Got a taste for theatrics, like  
you...*

Gordon hands Batman the bag.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Leaves a calling card.

Batman turns the card over. It is a JOKER.

BATMAN

I'll look into it.

He steps up onto the balustrade. Gordon looks at him.

GORDON

I never said thank you.

Batman looks out at the lights of Gotham. Cloak billowing around him.

BATMAN

And you'll never have to.

Batman DROPS from the rooftop, GLIDING on the night wind. Gordon smiles. He can't help it.

FADE OUT:

(CONTINUED)

CREDITS.

END.