

Jokker

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JOKE AN ORIGIN

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Version 2

Script version: 6

This story takes place in its own vechile PROP eLÄIN ATMOSTPHERE STRUNT SILENTBITS SOUNDEFECTSMUSIC **SPECIALEQUIPMENT** **SPECIAIEFFECT** *MAKEUPHAIR* **WARDROBE** universe. It has no connection to any of the DC films that have come before it.

We see it as a classic Warner Bros. movie. Gritty, intimate and oddly funny, the characters live in the real world and the stakes are personal.

Although it is never mentioned in the film, this story takes place in the past.

Let's call it 1981.

It's a troubled time. The crime rate in Gotham is at record highs. A garbage strike has crippled the city for the past six weeks. And the divide between the "haves" and the "have- nots" is palpable. Dreams are beyond reach, slipping into delusions.

OVER BLACK:

HEAR LAUGHTER.

The sound of a man totally cracking up.

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WE NOTICE TWO FADED OLD SCARS cut at the corners of his mouth. Almost forming a smile.

He's sitting across from an overworked SOCIAL WORKER (50's), African American. Her office is cramped and run-down in a cramped and run-down building. Stacks of folders piled high in front of her.

She just sits behind her desk, waiting for his laughing fit to end, she's been through this before. Finally it subsides.

JOKER

--is it just me, or is it getting crazier
out there? Despite the laughter,
there's real pain in his eyes.
Something broken in him. Looks like
he hasn't slept in days.

SOCIAL WORKER

It's certainly tense. People are upset,
they're struggling. Looking or work.
The garbage strike seems like it's
been going on forever.
These are tough times.

(then)

IHow 'bout you. How's the job? Still
enjoying it?

I

FAGE OUT:

2 EXT. GOTHAM SQUARE, MIDTOWN - KENNY'S MUSIC SHOP - DAY 2

GOTHAM SQUARE IS CLOGGED WITH TRAFFIC. Non-stop honking horns, pedestrians crowding the sidewalk. Huge billboards, giant movie marquees, garbage bags piled high everywhere. Underneath it all we hear a TINKLING PIANO playing something bouncy and fast-paced.

FROM ACROSS THE BUSY CITY STREET, we see Joker. He's dressed as a sad-faced HOBO CLOWN. This is his job.

Dressed in tattered clothes, dark five o'clock shadow painted on his face, big bulbous red nose, his mouth's outlined in white, turned down at the corners.

He's holding up a sign in front of Kenny's Music Shop that reads, "EVERYTHING MUST GO!" A banner above the store reads, "GOING OUT OF BUSINESS!" Behind him, an OLD MAN plays a piano on the street. Both of them there to draw attention to the big sale going on in the store.

Joker's doing a little Charlie Chaplin like waddle to the music. Most people walk right past, ignoring him. A few bump into him by mistake.

JOKER SEES A GROUP OF FIVE BOYS, no more than 15-years-old, walking toward him. He moves out of their way. They crack up laughing when they see him. Start making fun of him.

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