

Batman: The Caped Crusader

Written By

Estefan Ellison

Based on characters by Bob Kane and Paul Dini

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FADE IN

EXT. GOTHAM CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

The sky is dark and completely star-less. Suddenly, a white and round signal with a bat symbol appears in the sky. The light is coming from the rooftop of a police station.

Standing on the rooftop is Commissioner JAMES GORDON, 50s, gruff but kindly. Next to him is fellow Detective HARVEY BULLOCK, mid-to-late 40s, tough.

BULLOCK
Shouldn't he have shown up by now,
Commissioner?

GORDON
Oh, don't worry, Bullock. He always
does.

Down below shooting is heard. Gordon and Bullock look down and a large tank of a vehicle with pistols shooting out the back of it. Afterwards, the BAT MOBILE drives down the street right after it.

GORDON
And there he is.

Gordon switches off the Bat Signal.

GORDON
(checking watch)
On time, as usual.

INT/EXT. VEHICLE - NIGHT

Sitting in the driver's seat is a typical for-hire henchman. Next to him is his boss, THE JOKER. He has bright white skin, green hair, a purple suit and a large grin on his face that never frowns.

JOKER
Is that my old nemesis The Dark
Knight following us?

HENCHMAN
Yes, boss.

JOKER
Well, then, I guess it makes sense
why the idiots in the back aren't
managing to get him off our tails!

(CONTINUED)

HENCHMAN

Don't worry. I will handle this,
boss.

The henchman lurches quickly to the right.

However, a large grappling hook comes out of the front of the Batmobile, catching the back of the truck.

The truck slides and then crashes into a nearby light post.

The Joker kicks the side of the door and jumps out. He slowly takes out a gun and walks towards the Batmobile. He jumps on top of it and hands the gun out. Suddenly, he is hit in the face with a punch and he falls down on the ground with a thud.

The Joker looks up from the ground, pointing the gun towards the big, dark figure. Dressed in a complete bat-like suit with cape and cowl...

BATMAN

I'm Batman.

JOKER

Yes, I know. Do you will have to go
over this again and again?

Batman grabs the gun from Joker's hand. He presses the trigger, but all that comes out is a comical "STOP!" sign.

Batman hand-cuffs the Joker and drags him towards the police station.

JOKER

Come on, Batman. You know I would
never kill you. Without you, who am
I after all? Just your regular
neighborhood terrorist.

BATMAN

You're going back to Arkham, Joker.
And let's hope you actually stay
there this time.

JOKER

Oh, don't worry, Batman. I won't
run away at all.

(under breath)

At least, not yet.

FADE OUT

CUE OPENING TITLES.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WAYNE MANOR - DAY

It is a vast manor with old sculptures. A bookcase moves and BRUCE WAYNE walks out of a secret passageway. He is in his 30s, handsome and large. He sits down on his velvet chair and start eating the breakfast already laid out for him.

ALFRED PENNYWORTH, butler, late 60s, walks in with the day's newspaper.

ALFRED

Busy last night again, Master
Bruce?

He drops the newspaper on the table. The Main Headline reads "Batman catches infamous Joker again."

BRUCE

That Joker never does seem to stop,
but he gets some laughs out of
tormenting Batman. Literally. But,
it does give me something to do and
he always was there ever since I
became the Caped Crusader.

He looks up at the photograph above his fireplace of a young Bruce Wayne and his two long deceased parents.

BRUCE

(continued)

I did it for them, Alfred. Ever
since that night Chill took them
away from me.

ALFRED

And I'm sure they will be very
proud of how both you have been
both aiding Gotham's streets as
well as running the company.

BRUCE

Which reminds me. I really should
go down to Wayne Tech and check up
on things. It's not like I'm doing
much here, am I?

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED

No, sir.

Bruce gets up.

BRUCE

Put my lunch in a brown paper bag,
will you, Alfred?

ALFRED

Yes, sir. What car will you be
taking?

BRUCE

Oh, I will think of something.

EXT. WAYNE TECH - DAY

A BMW screeches to a halt outside of Wayne Tech, a large,
vast building and one of the tallest in Gotham.

INT. WAYNE TECH - DAY

Bruce walks through the laboratory looking at the different
experiments being done.

Suddenly, he is a bumped into by somebody. He looks down and
sees DR. PAMELA ISLEY, 30s, wearing a pair of glasses,
slender and quite beautiful with her red hair. She starts to
pick up some folders, but a potted plant stayed firmly in
her arm's grasp.

BRUCE

Sorry, Dr Isley. I didn't see you
there. What with everything going
on here, you know.

PAMELA

Oh, that's all right. But, please.
Call me Pamela.

BRUCE

Pamela, right.

(beat)

So...how are his plant experiment
coming along?

PAMELA

Oh, it's doing fine. Hopefully with
it, I can bring the flowers back to
Gotham. Dr Woodrue thinks I'm

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PAMELA (cont'd)
crazy, but I feel that if Gotham doesn't regain its plant population, the future of the city won't be good. And my data shows that the lack of plants is already slowly causing problems in Chicago and New York.

BRUCE
Truthfully, I hadn't really noticed, but I guess that's why it's going slowly. Anyways, he keep going with your experiment and I will definitely try and bring the issue up with the board.

PAMELA
Oh, will you? Thank you so much, Mr Wayne. You're so wonderful.

BRUCE
Please, call me Bruce.

PAMELA
(blushing)
Yes, Bruce. Of course.

DR JASON WOODRUE walks up to Pamela.

WOODRUE
When you're finished gushing over Mr Wayne, will you please go back to your work station and do something constructive?

Pamela huffs and walks back to her station.

WOODRUE
(under breath)
Crazy plant woman.

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

It is raining as usual outside of the creepy old asylum. A car drives into the gated area. A car stops in front of the asylum and a woman in a rain coat walks out. She takes in her surroundings.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - NIGHT

The woman walks over to the front desk. She takes off her rain coat revealing HARLEEN QUINZEL a tall, blond-haired woman in her 30s. She smiles down at the security guard.

SECURITY GUARD

Yes, how may I help you, ma'am?

HARLEY

Good evening. My name is Harleen Quinzel. I'm a psychiatrist and I've transferred myself here to Arkham.

Harley hands the document to the security guard.

SECURITY GUARD

Ah, of course.

He presses down on the intercom.

SECURITY GUARD

Um, a Miss Harleen Quinzel is here.

The door opens and BURTON, the main psychiatrist, walks in.

BURTON

Good evening, Miss Quinzel. Welcome to Arkham. May I show you inside?

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Harley and Burton walk down the corridor. The sides have glass-filled rooms with the inmates inside.

BURTON

As you can see, this is where we keep our patients locked. The glass is full-proof enough that they're not able to get out.

She knocks on one of the glass windows. Burton walks onward.

BURTON

Are you coming?

HARLEY

Yeah, yeah.

Harley looks inside the glass cell where the Joker sits on his bed. He stands up and walks over to the glass.

(CONTINUED)

JOKER

What do you think this is? Some zoo?

HARLEY

Oh, no, sorry. Just that smile isn't anything quite like I've seen.

JOKER

Well, I am the Joker.

HARLEY

The Joker?

(beat)

Ah, yes. I read about you in the newspaper this morning. Something about another fight with the Batman.

JOKER

Oh, it's just a relationship we've had for quite a long time.

(sighs)

But, alas, he never seems to get my jokes.

BURTON

Miss Quinzel, are you coming?

HARLEY

Oh, sorry. I'll be right there.

(to the Joker)

Oh, Harleen Quinzel. Maybe we'll work a session together.

JOKER

Yes, maybe.

Harley walks over to Burton, who stands next to an open door.

BURTON

Your new office?

HARLEY

Wow, nice. Clean, too.

INT. HARLEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

They walk inside.

BURTON

You best be careful with that Joker? He's a pretty conniving fellow and trust me when I say you don't want to be on his side.

HARLEY

Oh, I understand. Don't worry. I'll definitely be observing these patients from a distance.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - JOKER'S CELL - NIGHT

Joker lies in his bed looking at the ceiling.

JOKER

Harleen Quinzel. Harley...Quinzel.
Harley...Quinn. Harlequin, yes.

He smiles to himself and then start cackling loudly.

MAN (O.C.)

Hey, shut up, Joker, you wacko!

JOKER

Ah, go back to bed, Dent, you two-faced swine.

INT. HARLEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Harley sits at her psychiatrist's chair, looking over notes as the door opens and two men in coats bring in the Joker. They sit him down on the chair and the door is locked from outside.

HARLEY

Hello Joker.

JOKER

Hello Harley. I was up all night anticipating this meeting quite a bit.

HARLEY

Is that so? As for calling me "Harley", only my friends call me that. How did you know that was my nickname?

(CONTINUED)

JOKER

Oh, nothing a little wordplay game won't do. Your name does somewhat resemble "harlequin." Did you ever notice that?

HARLEY

Yes, I've been told that. Well, Mr Joker, I'm not likely to dress as a jester any time soon, if that's what you're wondering.

JOKER

No, of course not. Of course not.

HARLEY

So, Mr Joker, how did you come to be the man you are today?

JOKER

Oh, I've always been a comedian, my dear Harley. Unfortunately, my father did not have a good taste in comedy. He beat me with his belt often, well, up until I killed him. Then, years later, my enemy became the Batman.

HARLEY

Um, Batman?

JOKER

Yes, oh, how he tortures me. He has an even worse sense of humour than my late dad. Never once have I heard him laugh. Ever. It is because of him that I am forced with this wide grin and pale face. Pushed me into a vat of chemicals, he did. But, luckily, I survived to torment him always.

HARLEY

And yet, you never killed him.

JOKER

Well, if I do, who am I to trickster next? The other inmates here at Arkham aren't as fun a bunch as they think and you're just too beautiful to attack with exploding toys and laughing gas.

(CONTINUED)

HARLEY
(slightly blushing)
Oh, Mr. J.

JOKER
Mr J? I like that.

HARLEY
Oh, sorry. It was simply a slip of
the tongue.

JOKER
That blushing seems to say
otherwise.

HARLEY
Wow, I feel so un-professional.

JOKER
Oh, don't worry. It happens to the
best of us, after all.

The Joker leads into Harley, who gasps.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WAYNE MANOR - NIGHT

A swab party is taking place and the guests are happy and
drinking and mingling. Sitting timidly at the punch table is
Pamela, sipping a punch and admiring a nearby plant.

Bruce walks over to her.

BRUCE
How are you enjoying the party,
Pamela?

PAMELA
Oh, it's fine. But I'm much
admiring the orchid plant you have
here.

BRUCE
Well, you are the botany expert. I
actually have a greenhouse out in
the yard, if you want to see it.

EXT. WAYNE MANOR - NIGHT

Bruce and Pamela walk the greens. They pass a well, surrounded by vines.

PAMELA

That's quite a well you have over there. Nice vines. Why so covered up, though?

BRUCE

Well, I was younger I fell down that well while playing and it's been boarded up ever since. That was even before my parents died.

They pass a couple of tombstones.

BRUCE

(continued)

And nearby by are where they are buried. I will never forget my parents. How about you?

PAMELA

Well, I grew up wealthy like you, but I was much more un-attached from my parents, I'm afraid. But, with that I found time to care for the plants.

Bruce opens the door to the greenhouse. They walk in.

PAMELA

It's really lovely, Bruce.

BRUCE

Yes, Alfred does do a nice job. I'm not quite the expert in plant-life you seem to be.

PAMELA

Well, I'm sure you have other interesting and fascinating characteristics as well.

As they lean in for a kiss, Bruce notices the Bat Signal shining in the sky. Alfred walks into the greenhouse.

ALFRED

Master Bruce, you are being, ahem, summoned.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

Ah, yes. Thank you, Alfred. Take care of Dr Isley, will you?

ALFRED

Yes, sir.

INT. BRUCE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bruce walks into the closet, grabbing onto a pole and sliding down.

INT. BAT CAVE - NIGHT

Bruce reaches the bottom of the pole, now fully clothed as Batman. He races to the Batmobile and jumps in. The car fires up and heads out of the cave.

INT. BATMOBILE - NIGHT

Bruce speaks on the car telephone.

BATMAN

I saw the signal, Commissioner.

GORDON (V.O.)

Meet me at Arkham Asylum immediately, Batman. The Joker has escaped.

BATMAN

Shouldn't I be out chasing him then?

GORDON (V.O.)

This time, it's different. He had help.

BATMAN

Got it. I'm on my way right now.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Batman examines the Joker's cell.

BATMAN

So, who was the one who let him out? Riddler? Penguin?

(CONTINUED)

GORDON

No, they're all here. This time it's somebody who actually worked here. Doctor Harleen Quinzel. It seems she took quite a fancy to the Joker. Bullock, do you have still her notes with you?

BULLOCK

(holds out notepad)

Here they are.

Batman grabs the notepad and reads it over. It's all full of "H+J" heart drawings and un-flattering doodles of Batman.

GORDON

Not only has the Joker managed to charm Dr Quinzel, she also seems to have taken a hatred for you as well.

Batman takes a long hard look at the notepad.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OLD WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Two henchman walk through the creaking warehouse.

HENCHMAN #1

Jeez, I don't know why every time we get a call, it's to meet in one of these old warehouses.

HENCHMAN #2

Well, this is a makeup factory, so you can imagine you wants us, Joe.

HARLEY (O.C.)

Hello, boys.

JOE

What was that, Jack?

JACK

Sounded like a girl to me.

Harley walks into the light, only this time with pale white skin, black mask placed over her eyes and a skin-tight jester outfit.

(CONTINUED)

HARLEY

Very observant, boys.

JOE

I don't know who you are, lady, but dragging us out in the middle of the night to a creepy warehouse isn't very funny. Whack her, Jack.

JACK

With pleasure.

Jack takes out his gun and aims it at Harley. She gasps at the sight of it.

JOKER (O.C.)

Oh, I wouldn't do that if I were you.

The Joker walks into the light.

JOKER

I want you to meet my new henchwoman and the reason I'm speaking to you right now. Her name is Harley Quinn.

JACK

Sorry, boss. Didn't know you had gotten yourself a girlfriend, too. I take she's as big a whack job as you.

HARLEY

Why I aughta.

Harley takes a big swing at Jack and punches him in the nose.

JOKER

Oh, I wouldn't insult me in front of her. She has quite a loyalty.

The Joker laughs loudly.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

People are lavishly dressed and drinking the champagne, the usual occurrences at fancy parties. MAYOR HILL stands, speaking at a podium.

MAYOR HILL

It truly is an honour to present
this award to Police Commissioner
James Gordon. Jim?

Gordon walks up to the podium and holds the award.

GORDON

I should let you all know that I
don't protect the city for the
awards. I want Gotham to be as safe
a place as any, like our entire
force. Detective Bullock, Officer
Ramirez...

MAN

Batman?

Everybody laughs.

GORDON

Well, I'm not going to deny that
the Dark Knight has been a major
influence on the city. He has a
great help after all and has
managed to help put many criminals
behind bars.

WOMAN

What about the Joker? Hasn't he
escaped again?

GORDON

Yes, he has, but we are already
working on the case.

HARLEY (O.C.)

Well, since he's still out there,
you don't seem to be doing a swell
job at it, huh, Commissioner G?

Everybody turns around and sees Harley standing there.

BULLOCK

Jeez, who invented the harlequin?

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

Wait a minute? Harlequin?

Mayor Hill speaks into the microphone.

MAYOR HILL

Please, let's not turn this into a press conference. We're here to commemorate our dear friend Gordon. Bruce, would you like to say a couple of words? Bruce?

Mayor Hill turns, but Bruce is not sitting down anymore.

Up on the glass roof above, Batman appears on the skyline, looking downwards. He notices Harley slowly taking out a small stick with the Joker's head on it.

Batman breaks through the glass and just as the jester head starts heading towards the Commissioner. He lands on the ground and grabs onto the head with ease. He throws it up into the air and it explodes. Harley runs off.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY STREET - NIGHT

Batman rushes out of the building and sees Harley running off into the distance. He runs after her.

EXT. DARK ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Harley hides behind the wall. After a strike of lightning, Batman appears and holds her against the wall.

BATMAN

Where's the Joker, Dr Quinzel!?!?

HARLEY

That's Harley Quinn now to you, Batman! And no way am I telling you where to find my pudding?

BATMAN

"Pudding?" So, you have become infatuated with him? Why?

HARLEY

Why? The poor defenseless Mr J is only try to provide his sense of humour to the world, but you just keep harassing him. And even you have to admit he's quite the charmer.

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN

Let's just say he's not my type.
And he shouldn't be yours either.
He's a maniac, all ready to explode
Gotham and all your friends.

HARLEY

Friends? Mr J is my first and only
friend and I will love him until
the day we die.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Harley sits on a chair, acting innocent while Batman,
Bullock and Gordon interrogate her.

BATMAN

We're asking you again! Where's the
Joker?

HARLEY

Never! He's my pudding and I'm not
giving him up so you can throw him
back into Arkham! You're not going
to make me sing like a robin.

BULLOCK

That's "sing like a canary", you
little jester. Now, spit!

Harley turns her back in silence.

BULLOCK

Yep, she's not budging.

BATMAN

It appears her love for the Joker
is too strong and she isn't letting
go any time soon. Keep her here,
while I do some investigating.

Bullock grabs onto Harley, who tries to struggle out of his
grip.

INT. BAT CAVE - NIGHT

Batman sits at his computer, checking out security cameras. On another screen is Harley's CV.

BATMAN

I can't seem to find the Joker anywhere and Quinn isn't helping matters much at all.

ALFRED

Quinn, sir?

BATMAN

Harley Quinn. The Joker's new henchwoman, who he charmed to join him back in Arkham. Of course, she think that she's in love and that the Joker feels the same.

ALFRED

Well, maybe he does, Master Bruce. After all, he may be a homicidal maniac, but whose to say they can't feel love too.

BATMAN

Well, she's definitely in love. She's not even come close to revealing his location. And I can't exactly beat her out of it.

ALFRED

Because she's a woman?

BATMAN

Yes, Alfred.

ALFRED

Well, need I remind you of how your love for Miss Kyle stopped you from turning her in on countless occasions.

BATMAN

That's completely different.

ALFRED

Oh, is it, sir?

BATMAN

(quickly changing the subject)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BATMAN (cont'd)
Well, if the Joker doesn't strike
the prison, we will know how he
really feels.

INT. OLD WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The Joker stands about, waiting patiently.

JOE
Hey, where's your little
girlfriend?

JOKER
Oh, she will be here, don't you
see? And soon enough, the newspaper
will come in with the day's
headlines.

Jack runs into the warehouse, panting.

JOKER
Good evening, Jack. So, did Harley
pop succeed in popping Gordon?

JACK
Um, no, sir.

JOKER
No? HARLEY!!!
(beat)
Where is that lousy little doctor?

JACK
Well, the Batman got her and I saw
them to take her to the police
station.

JOKER
Ah, for interrogation purposes, I
see. And it looks like that little
cream puff hasn't revealed
anything.
(thinks)
But, wait, Batty Boy is just as
manipulative as I am. Boys, we have
one more trip for the night.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Harley sits in her prison cell, wearing only a gray prison uniform.

HARLEY (V.O.)

Maybe they're right. Maybe pudding doesn't love me. I mean, shouldn't he be here by now? Guess, I will have to make do. And with these ugly gray clothes, too.

Harley turns to the security guard.

HARLEY

Hey, you couldn't have sprung for colour!?!

Suddenly, a gas mask falls into the cell, through the bars. Then, a small grenade falls in and smoke slowly starts to trickle out.

Harley quickly puts the gas mask on. The security guard rushes to the cell to grab the grenade, but he suddenly starts laughing and lies on the ground dead with a large smile on his face.

Suddenly, a giant helicopter crashes through the wall.

JOKER

Harley? Baby? Want a ride?

HARLEY

Yeah, sure thing, Mr J. Just got to get one thing.

Harley grabs the guard's keys and unlocks the door. She takes her harlequin outfit off the table and grabs onto the ladder hanging from the helicopter. The helicopter flies off.

Bullock rushes into the cell, but they're long gone. He throws his hat angrily to the ground.

BULLOCK

Damn it!

INT. WAYNE MANOR - DAY

Bruce reads the morning's newspaper. The headline reads:
"Joker beau escapes from prison."

BRUCE

It looks like the Joker has
returned the favour.

ALFRED

Or maybe he really does care about
this Harley Quinn.

BRUCE

No, I still find it hard to believe
that he cares about this doctor. He
had to have simply charmed her so
to be released from Arkham.

ALFRED

You know, even maniacs fall in love
sometimes. And wasn't it your
father you told you to never
question the love of others.

BRUCE

I guess you're right, Alfred,
though I still have my suspicions.

INT. OLD WAREHOUSE - DAY

Joker smashes the newspaper down on the ground.

JOKER

"Joker beau escapes from prison"?!?
Well, isn't that nice?

HARLEY

What's wrong, honey?

Harley pours him a cup of tea.

JOKER

Well, they're not giving me enough
credit for letting you out.

HARLEY

Well, I'm thinking maybe I should
be mad at you. I want to be
involved with the big crimes. Sure,
capping the Commissioner is pretty
headline-grabbing, but I want

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARLEY (cont'd)
something like one of your big
crimes.

JOKER
Oh, Harley. I'm just slowly
starting to think of something. I
just wanted to get you out into the
public eye.

HARLEY
Which got me thrown in the slammer!
Pudding, I've never even been
arrested. The worst thing I'd ever
done before trying to kill Gordon
was stealing a pack of gum from the
convenience store.

JOKER
Well, what plan should I do, huh?!?
The laugh gas has already been
over-used to death and I've already
tried to get the citizens of Gotham
killed by smiling piranhas.

HARLEY
Well, what's wrong with that?

JOKER
(gasping)
Puh...puh...puh. What's wrong with
that?!? Not even laughing gas can
get piranhas to smile, they're
completely impartial to the stuff.

HARLEY
Aww, you need to something to clear
your mind. How about a walk in the
town tonight? A walk in the zoo,
maybe rob a toy store? And then
maybe you can think of a new clever
plan.

JOKER
Well, I guess you're right. In the
meantime, a change in location
wouldn't be so bad. This old
warehouse is starting to get rather
rickety.

HARLEY
I hear a circus has just been
closed down across the street. That
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARLEY (cont'd)
seems more appropriate than this
rat-filled old place.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ABANDONED CIRCUS - DAY

The Joker and Harley walk through the abandoned circus,
looking at the various stands and tents.