

**FINAL**

**BATMAN**

**THE BOOKWORM TURNS**

**BY**

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"BATMAN"

"The Bookworm Turns"

by

Rik Vollaerts

FINAL  
February 14, 1966

"THE BOOKWORM TURNS"

TEASER

FADE IN

1 EXT. GOTHAM CITY - VARIOUS SHOTS - DAY (STOCK)

QUICK CUTS of towering skyscrapers, fountains and statues, a crowded freeway, or the like, ENDING with a super-dramatic angle of a tremendous suspension bridge.  
NARRATION OVER:

NARRATION

Gotham City...metropolis of  
wonders...architectural queen  
of the world! A new jewel is  
about to be added to her crown!

2 EXT. SECTION OF BRIDGE MASONRY AND RAILING - DAY

An extravagant ribbon crosses roadway, in front of which stands the MAYOR at a microphone. Gathered about him is a clot of DIGNITARIES, TV NEWSMEN, REPORTERS and so on, also COMMISSIONER GORDON. The Mayor is in mid-speech:

MAYOR

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, an  
afternoon to remember! The  
mightiest bridge in the world  
now becomes part of our fair city!  
I hereby dedicate this engineering  
triumph as the AMERIGO COLUMBUS  
BRIDGE!

(turning)

My official solid-gold scissors,  
please...

3 NEW ANGLE - TV CAMERAMAN

behind his camera atop a mobile TV van, panning over crowd as we hear SCATTERED APPLAUSE.

4 PAN SHOT - PART OF CROWD

CAMERA PANS, then HOLDS on an astonishing-looking character among the others. He is THE BOOKWORM. He wears clothing made of the finest morocco leather, as is used in book-binding. It is extravagantly hand-tooled with gold trim, as fine book editions are bound.

Cont.

4 Cont.

His shirt is illuminated in flaming colors as though by monks in the monasteries of the Middle Ages. The morocco trousers are pencil slim and form fitting, the coat bell shaped with huge interior pockets to carry the heavy supply of reading always on his person. His boots are a knee-high vellum, also illuminated in the style of old manuscripts. His hat is broad-trimmed to shade his weak eyes from strong sunlight, and contains batteries and lights in the forward brim to permit reading at any time, anywhere.

The CAMERA ZOOMS IN TO EXTREME CLOSEUP of this colorful crook, showing us his enormously thick lensed black-rimmed glasses with unusually thick rims. A miniaturized transmitter is built into these glasses, speakers in the ear pieces and a sensitive microphone in the bridge of the nose crosspiece. His complexion is almost dead white from the constant reading he does in dark recesses of his hide-out.

5 INT. WAYNE MANOR - LIVING ROOM - FEATURE TV SET - DAY

with same CLOSEUP of BOOKWORM BURNED IN on TV SCREEN, which DICK GRAYSON watches. NARRATION OVER:

NARRATION

And in Wayne Manor, stately home  
of millionaire Bruce Wayne and  
his youthful ward, Dick Grayson...

Dick reacts, calls without turning:

DICK

Bruce! Quick! Come here and look!

On TV SCREEN, the Bookworm suddenly seems to become aware that he's on camera, darts away and disappears into crowd.

6 NEW ANGLE - OVER TV SET

as BRUCE WAYNE, holding newspaper open to stock market quotations, comes across room.

BRUCE

What is it, Dick?

DICK

In the crowd there... I just saw  
The Bookworm!

BRUCE

Are you sure?

Cont.

6 Cont.

DICK

How could I mistake him? Those crazy clothes like rare old book-bindings! And I'm pretty sure he had on his trick eye-glasses too... The ones with the secret radio-stuff built in!

BRUCE

(frowns)

Strange. What would a crook like The Bookworm be doing at the dedication of a bridge?

DICK

Let's watch! Maybe he'll show his nasty nose again!

7 EXT. BRIDGE SECTION - FEATURE BOOKWORM - DAY

He ducks behind a big masonry abutment, CAMERA MOVES IN to TIGHT HEADSHOT. Bookworm reaches to his heavy spectacles, pulls out a little ROD ANTENNA about 6" long. He speaks:

BOOKWORM

Bookworm to Printer's Devil.  
Start Chapter One!

WILD PAN TO:

8 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

PRINTER'S DEVIL is crouched by parapet, wearing a light headset. He looks devilish enough, carries a high-powered rifle with scope sight. He speaks into little mike dangling before his lips:

PRINTER'S DEVIL

Gotcha, boss!

As Printer's Devil quickly clacks bolt of rifle:

WILD PAN TO:

9 EXT. BRIDGE SECTION - FEATURE MAYOR - DAY

receiving flat mahogany box from an underling.

MAYOR

About time...

Cont.

9 Cont.

Mayor opens box, removes solid-gold ceremonial scissors, hands box back to the other. He works scissors, advances toward tape and microphone.

MAYOR

(going on)

And so, my fellow citizens, at this proud moment in Gotham City's history...

Sudden LOUD BANG of RIFLE SHOT o.s.

10 CLOSE SHOT - COMMISSIONER GORDON

He's been hit! He clutches at his breast, staggers backward, falls over the railing!

11 EXT. BRIDGE - PROCESS SPECIAL EFFECT - DAY

showing falling body receding to tininess as it hurtles down to the river below.

QUICK CUT TO:

12 CROWD ON BRIDGE

Pandemonium and chaos and SHRIEKS as people race to railing.

13 INT. WAYNE MANOR - OVER TV SET - BRUCE AND DICK

in absolute state of shock.

DICK

Holy murder! Tell me I'm having a nightmare!

BRUCE

Steady, Dick! It happened, all right!

DICK

Commissioner Gordon? K-k-killed?

BRUCE

This is one time we don't wait for the Batphone!

Dick and Bruce wheel, start fast for living room exit. They almost bump headlong into AUNT HARRIET, entering with a wail, wringing her hands.

14 FEATURE AUNT HARRIET

AUNT HARRIET

My dears, my dears... I was watching upstairs... Did you see it too?

BRUCE

We did indeed, Aunt Harriet.

AUNT HARRIET

I hope they were watching the television!

DICK

They?

AUNT HARRIET

Batman and Robin! Who else can save us now??

DICK

Don't worry, Aunt Harriet. I guess there's not much those two miss...

BRUCE

Come on, Dick. Let's drive into the city and pay our respects to a...a late, great man!

DICK

Right, Bruce. It's the least we can do!

Bruce gives Aunt Harriet a quick pat, they hurry out of living room. Aunt Harriet gets out handkerchief, dabs at her eyes.

15 INT. BRUCE'S STUDY - DAY

Bruce and Dick race in. Bruce closes the door, his face an implacable mask of ice.

BRUCE

I solemnly swear, by my oath as a crime-fighter... This outrage will not go unavenged! To the Batpoles!

Switch is worked, panel opens, they race to Batpoles and slide from sight.

FADE OUT

PART ONE

FADE IN

16 INT. BATCAVE (BATSTOCK)

Dynamic Duo appear on Batpoles, race to Batmobile, jump in and fire it up and race out. EPISODE TITLES over this and subsequent BATSTOCK SEQUENCES.

17 EXT. BATCAVE ENTRANCE - DAY (BATSTOCK)

Batmobile races out, turns onto highway.

18 EXT. ROAD - DAY (BATSTOCK)

Batmobile speeds wildly toward Gotham City.

19 EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY (BATSTOCK)

Batman and Robin charge up steps into mighty edifice.

20 EXT. PARKED BATMOBILE - DAY

A sultry beauty comes INTO SHOT, one LYDIA LIMPET. She approaches Batmobile, looks quickly around to be sure she is not observed, then drops a book into cockpit of Batmobile and hastens away.

21 INSERT - BOOK - ON SEAT OF BATMOBILE

It is bound in finely-tooled leather, has gold lettering on cover: "FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS, by Ernest Hemingway."

DISSOLVE TO:

22 INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

Batman, Robin, a grim and shocked CHIEF O'HARA. As SHOT opens, a secretary is hurrying out of office, weeping into her handkerchief. Others are grouped in front of a SCREEN in wall-opening, labeled "TV TAPE REPLAY", with O'Hara at the controls.

23 ANGLE ON SCREEN

We see same PAN SHOT of crowd at bridge ceremony we saw before. It comes to The Bookworm, then FREEZES as O'Hara hits a button.

ROBIN

Look! What'd I tell you??

Cont.

23 Cont.

BATMAN

Yes. It's The Bookworm, all right...

O'HARA

You pasty-faced divvel! If I could just get my two hands on your neck...!

O'Hara advances at screen with throttling mitts. FEATURE  
BATMAN.

BATMAN

Hold it, Chief O'Hara! The mere fact that he was at the scene is no proof of guilt.

ROBIN

In fact, it's almost an alibi!

BATMAN

Robin's right. If Bookworm was on the bridge, he couldn't have fired the fatal shot!

(frowns)

On the other hand, he could have given the order to one of his gang. Via that vicious little radio-set built into his glasses.

O'Hara charges towards phone.

O'HARA

I'll throw out a dragnet! So help me, every crook that's so much as passed the time of day with that Bookworm's gonna end up in the tank!

24 ANGLE ON OFFICE DOOR

It flies open, COMMISSIONER GORDON walks in, very much alive and seething.

GORDON

It's an outrage! The worst insult I've suffered in my life!

25 BIG REACTION SHOT - O'HARA

O'HARA

Saints alive!

26 REACTION SHOT - BATMAN AND ROBIN

ROBIN

Holy Lazarus!

27 WIDER ANGLE - FEATURE GORDON

BATMAN

You...weren't at the new bridge,  
Commissioner?

GORDON

I was not. Thanks to a monumentally  
stupid police officer who gave me a  
ticket as I left my luncheon appoint-  
ment! Me! Arrested for overtime  
parking! When I became angry, he  
handcuffed me and put me in his car  
to cool off!

Chief O'Hara sits suddenly, throws back his head and  
starts to LAUGH.

GORDON

Chief O'Hara. Are you anxious to  
be transferred to the Department of  
Sanitation?

O'Hara swallows hard, stops laughing.

BATMAN

Let me see that traffic ticket,  
Commissioner...  
(scanning it as  
Gordon hands it over)  
Interesting. Badge Number 1887,  
signed A.S. Scarlett...

O'HARA

But... There's no badge number  
1887 on the force!

BATMAN

Of course not. A. S. Scarlett  
stands for "A Study in Scarlett,"  
the famous Sherlock Holmes  
adventure first published in the  
year 1887.

ROBIN

What a typical twisted Bookworm  
joke!

Cont.

27 Cont.

GORDON

The Bookworm??  
 (looks around)  
 What the devil is this? Why are  
 you here, Batman?

BATMAN

To investigate your death, my  
 friend.

GORDON

What???

BATMAN

At the bridge, this morning...  
 There was an imposter made up  
 to look like you. He was apparently  
 murdered by a rifle bullet and  
 fell into the river.

GORDON

Great Scott! Then that so-called  
 police officer who pinched me...

ROBIN

Another phoney!

BATMAN

Right, Robin. And the death on  
 the bridge... A mere illusion,  
 performed by an expert high-  
 diver in The Bookworm's pay!

GORDON

But...why? What on earth was  
 the point of that charade?

BATMAN

I don't know. It could have  
 been merely---

Batman breaks off abruptly, reacting to something. He  
 looks down sharply at his Utility Belt.

28

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN'S BELT

Now we hear what Batman's super-sensitive Batears heard  
 before: an intense BEEP-BEEP-BEEP SOUND. His HANDS dart  
 INTO SHOT, open a pouch and snatch out a little flat  
 object.

29 CLOSE TWO - BATMAN AND ROBIN

as Batman holds the gizmo NEAR CAMERA where we can see it. It's emitting SCUND and also FLASHING RED.

BATMAN

Batmobile Bcmb-Detector! It's flashing red!

ROBIN

Quick! Hit the radio-control Ejector Button!

BATMAN

Right you are!

Batman whips up a little rod antenna out of the gizmo, presses a button in the side. Different TONE is heard.

30 EXT. PARKED BATMOBILE - DAY

PFFFFWT-TWANG! SOUND is heard, and a small object is ejected violently into the air from cockpit. CAMERA SWISH-PANS UP to sky.

31 EXT. MIDAIR - DAY

as a BOMB EXPLODES with terrific detonation against the sky. There might be some war-film STOCK of this.

32 INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - FULL SHOT - DAY

as BOMB BLAST SHAKES SCENE. It wouldn't hurt if one window flies out and Chief O'Hara gets knocked to the deck.

ROBIN

Holy Fourth-of-July!

Batman and Robin race for door.

33 EXT. PARKED BATMOBILE - DAY

A few PANICKED BYSTANDERS are running THROUGH SHOT, gawking up into air as SMOKING BOMB-SHARDS rain down in extreme f.g. HOLD FOR A BEAT, then CAMERA PANS FAST TO Police Headquarters' steps. A man sits there, calmly eating a sandwich and reading a book.

34 CLOSER ANGLE - STEPS

It is the rooftop rifleman whom we saw before: the Printer's Devil, Bookworm henchman. He turns a page

Cont.

34 Cont.

of his volume to reveal a hollowed-out space with a microphone and miniature radio inside. Printer's Devil pulls book closer to his face, flicks a switch and speaks to the mike:

PRINTER'S DEVIL

Printer's Devil to Bookworm  
Headquarters...

35 INT. BOOKWORM HEADQUARTERS

It's an underground place, with zillions of books on shelves and in piles and just plain heaps, feebly lighted by library lamps. An old Gutenberg-type hand-press stands in f.g. Present are Bookworm, Lydia Limpet, and two other of the crook's gang: TYPESETTER and THE PRESSMAN. All are lounging around, reading.

36 CLOSER ANGLE - BOOKWORM

reacting as FILTERED VOICE of Printer's Devil emanates from ear-speaker of his heavy glasses. Light is so dim in this literary crypt that Bookworm has reading light in brim of his hat turned on..

PRINTER'S DEVIL

Devil to Bookworm...

BOOKWORM

I read you, Printer's Devil!

INTERCUT:

37 POLICE HEADQUARTERS' STEPS AND BOOKWORM HEADQUARTERS

PRINTER'S DEVIL

(laconic)  
Plot "A", washout. He got rid of  
the bomb with a tricky ejector...

BOOKWORM

What about Plot "B"??

PRINTER'S DEVIL

(looking up)  
I dunno, Bookworm. It's still  
up in the air, it...  
(reacting)  
Here it comes now!

38 DIFFERENT ANGLE - STEPS

A tattered, singed BOOK COVER drops INTO SHOT and bounces to stop a few feet from Printer's Devil.

INTERCUT:

39

## BOOKWORM AND PRINTER'S DEVIL

BOOKWORM

What condition is it in? Is my  
Plot "B" legible?

PRINTER'S DEVIL

Perfectly!

(reacting to  
something off)

Here come the Bateared Boobs,  
too...

BOOKWORM

Chapter One...closed! Return to  
Headquarters!

PRINTER'S DEVIL

I read you. Over and out.

40

## WIDER ANGLE - THE STEPS

Printer's Devil closes his book, starts to unhurriedly  
stuff away his sandwich things in paper bag. Batman and  
Robin race down steps INTO SHOT. Robin stops short,  
reacting to something at his feet.

ROBIN

Batman! Look!

Batman stops short, too, ducks down and picks up the  
BOOK COVER. It would be nice if it was still SMOKING  
faintly.

BATMAN

Strange... A smoking, powder-  
burnt book cover... Seems to be  
made of asbestos...

(spots Printer's Devil  
just arising)

Excuse me, sir... Any idea where  
this came from?

PRINTER'S DEVIL

Out of the sky, Batman. Just  
after that crazy explosion...

BATMAN

(to Robin)

Of course! Typical of Bookworm  
to put his lethal weapon inside  
a book!

Cont.

40 Cont.

PRINTER'S DEVIL

Bookworm?

BATMAN

Sorry, amigo. Police business.  
You'd better move on.

PRINTER'S DEVIL

Good luck, Batman!

Printer's Devil EXITS SHOT, CAMERA MOVES CLOSER to  
Dynamic Duo. Robin is peering at the singed object.

ROBIN

You can still read the cover...  
"For Whom the Bell Tolls, by  
Ernest Hemingway."

BATMAN

Significant, Robin...

ROBIN

How, Batman?

BATMAN

It's the grimmest warning we've  
ever had...

ROBIN

Warning??

BATMAN

The title. It's from a poem by  
John Donne. "Do not ask for whom  
the bell tolls..."

(a beat)

"It tolls for thee!"

Batman and Robin looks at each other a beat. Robin  
gulps. Then they both race for parked Batmobile.

BATBLIP TO:

41

EXT. BATCAVE ENTRANCE - DAY (BATSTOCK)

Batmobile swerves from highway, charges into the secret  
entrance.

BATBLIP TO:

42 INT. BATCAVE - FEATURE ROBIN

at controls of FUNCTIONING ANALYZER, peering through viewer at customary FLASHING PANELS etcetera.

ROBIN

No clues here, Batman. No secret writing. Its just what it looks... A perfectly ordinary asbestos book-cover.

Batman angrily bangs first into palm of his other gauntlet.

BATMAN

Darn it all. I'm still positive there's some reason why he chose this particular book!

ROBIN

Maybe it was the only one he had the right size...

BATMAN

No, Robin. You see, I know how this fiend's mind works. He prepares each super crime like the frustrated novelist he is. Each page and chapter...an integral part of one stolen plot! Even that charade at the bridge this morning, it must---

(stops short,  
sudden thought)

Great heavens! Of course! The bridge!

ROBIN

What, Batman?

BATMAN

In "For Whom the Bell Tolls"... The hero's mission was to blow up a bridge!

ROBIN

Wow! Let's go!

They race to Batmobile, fire it up and zoom away.

BATBLIP TO:

43

## INT. BOOKWORM'S HEADQUARTERS

where Bookworm peers myopically at Printer's Devil, as others of gang look on.

BOOKWORM

You're certain he got it?

PRINTER'S DEVIL

Not a doubt, Bookworm. I saw 'em pick it up, read the title out loud...

BOOKWORM

Excellent! Excellent! By now he'll have deduced its meaning!

LYDIA

(smiles)

Its false meaning...

BOOKWORM

Precisely! From which both he and Boy Blunder will be led through a maze of preposterous plotting to devious destruction! And once they're out of the way...

(smiles owlishly)

Pulling off my supercrime will be as simple as reading a kindergarten primer!

TYPESETTER

What is our supercrime, boss?

BOOKWORM

Silence! Back to your books! You'll be told in good time!

Lydia Limpet sidles up to Bookworm adoringly.

LYDIA

You're some clever worm, Bookworm.

BOOKWORM

Books, my sweet Lydia...That's my secret. Books! I read them all, I inherit the wisdom of the ages! Every plot ever devised lives inside my head!

LYDIA

I wonder why you don't write a best-seller yourself?

## 44 BIG REACTION SHOT - BOOKWORM

He looks as if he's been slapped in the face, his expression becomes one of unspeakable anger.

BOOKWORM

Shut up! Don't you say that!

## 45 WIDER ANGLE

Bookworm grabs startled Lydia by wrist, gives it a savage twist.

LYDIA

But, Bookworm, I only...

BOOKWORM

You're mocking me, Lydia!  
Aren't you??

LYDIA

No! Aiiii! Owwww!

As Lydia yowls, Bookworm pushes her roughly back onto a jumbled stack of volumes.

BOOKWORM

Mocking me! Taunting me because  
I have no originality, am master  
only of stolen plots! This will  
teach you a lesson!

Bookworm seizes a huge volume, lifts it above his head to bash down on cowering Lydia.

LYDIA

Help!!!

As Bookworm starts to swing book down, he stops suddenly in mid-swing, reacting to something right before his eyes.

## 46 INSERT - BOOK IN BOOKWORM'S MITTS

Title emblazoned on cover is: "THE SECRET OF SUCCESS...  
SELF-CONTROL!"

## 47 FEATURE BOOKWORM

Completely oblivious of what he was about to do, the curious criminal hastily puts book down on a nearby easel-stand, switches on reading light built into his hat brim,

Cont.

47 Cont.

opens book and starts devouring pages. Really devouring them, his eyes zig-zagging at fantastic rate. Perhaps even UNDERCRANK HERE for exaggerated speed-reading and page-turning effect. He murmurs as he performs:

BOOKWORM

Mmmmn...yes...true...quite...of course...no doubt...yes yes yes...

He closes book abruptly with an utterly serene expression, turns with that bookish/owlish smile to the gawking others.

BOOKWORM

(going on)

Uh...what was I saying when I was interrupted?

48 REACTION SHOT - GROUPED OTHERS

They just shake their heads blankly, staring at Bookworm in awe and consternation.

49 FEATURE BOOKWORM

BOOKWORM

Dear me. What feeble memories you all have... However...

(looks at his watch, tenses)

Shades of Shakespeare! Night has fallen. Time to give our plot a twist!

(to all)

Follow me!

50 EXT./INT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - NIGHT (PROCESS)

Batman and Robin in racing vehicle, CITY B.G.

ROBIN

There's one thing I don't dig, Batman...

BATMAN

Oh?

ROBIN

Why does Bookworm want to blow up the new bridge? What's he gonna get out of it?

Cont.

50 Cont.

BATMAN

Perhaps nothing but twisted  
revenge. Revenge against our  
well-regulated society which...

(stops short,  
looks up and  
points)

Robin! Look on the cloud!

51 EXT. NIGHT SKY - BATSIGNAL (BATSTOCK)

ROBIN

(o.s.)

Wow! The official Batsignal!

52 EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS ROOF - NIGHT (BATSTOCK)

of searchlight projector, aimed up to produce above effect.

53 EXT./INT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - NIGHT (PROCESS)

where Robin has grabbed up mobile Batphone. He barks  
into it:

ROBIN

Batmobile here!

INTERCUT:

54 GORDON ON RED PHONE IN HIS OFFICE AND BATMOBILE COCKPIT-  
NIGHT (PROCESS)

GORDON

Thank heavens, Boy Wonder! A  
strange occurrence has just been  
reported!

ROBIN

Where and what?

GORDON

Back of that huge old warehouse  
on Harbor Avenue! It involves a  
bridge...

ROBIN

(cutting in)

Say no more, Commissioner! We're  
on our way!

55 BATMOBILE COCKPIT (PROCESS)

as Robin hangs up mobile Batphone, turning to Batman:

55 Cont.

ROBIN  
Old warehouse! Harbor Avenue!

BATMAN  
Hold tight! Emergency Bat-turn!

56 EXT. BATMOBILE - BAT-TURN - NIGHT (BATSTOCK)

Vehicle turns, races back in opposite direction.

BATBLIP TO:

57 EXT. WAREHOUSE WALL - NIGHT

On whitewashed wall a STILL PHOTO is projected, covering entire wall: monstrously enlarged pic of fake "Commissioner Gordon" getting hit by supposed rifle bullet at bridge dedication ceremony, going back against the bridge railing. NOTE: Suggest this be done with a MINIATURE WAREHOUSE, which should be simple to effect.

58 EXT. ALLEY BACK OF WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Batmobile whines up, stops. Batman and Robin leap out. They advance, stop and gaze up OVER CAMERA with faces of wonder.

ROBIN  
Holy magic-lantern!

59 LONG SHOT - WAREHOUSE WALL

with TINY FIGURES of Batman and Robin at base, against the huge projected photo, to show its scale. Again: if warehouse is A MINIATURE and their figures are likewise, this spectacular effect should not be difficult.

60 BATMAN AND ROBIN - TWO SHOT

as they continue to look up at wall o.s.

ROBIN  
An immense picture of the new bridge!

BATMAN  
Yes. He's blown it up, all right.

ROBIN  
Huh?

Cont.

60 Cont.

BATMAN

This photo of the bridge. It's hugely enlarged...BLOWN UP, in photographer's lingo!

ROBIN

Gosh. What a tricky play on words! But why, Batman? What's Bookworm's game?

BATMAN

I don't know. First thing is to find out where the hidden photo-projector is...

ROBIN

Let's climb the wall and get a bird's-eye view!

BATMAN

Good idea.  
                   (studying height  
                   of wall o.s.)  
 Wall's too high to chuck  
 up our Batropes. We'd better  
 shoot them up with the Batzooka!

61 EXT. ANOTHER ALLEY - NIGHT

Bookworm and Lydia stand beside parked van with lettering on side: "BOOKMOBILE". From a hatch in the roof of van, brilliant PROJECTOR BEAM of light emanates. Perhaps should be LIGHT FOG in air to define beam.

62 TIGHT SHOT - BOOKWORM

as FILTERED VOICE comes from his eye-glass radio:

PRESSMAN VOICE

Pressman to Bookworm! They're gettin' ready to climb the wall!

BOOKWORM

Bookworm to Pressman. Return to Bookmobile!

63 EXT. ALLEY - BATZOOKA - NIGHT (BATSTOCK)

Batman and Robin fire up Batrope. Use BATSTOCK of this process from Penguin #1.

64 EXT. WALL - BATCLIMB - NIGHT

Batman and Robin going up against NIGHT PLATE B.G., their backs garishly illuminated by supposed projector-beam.

BATMAN

I have a curious feeling: this is all some kind of literary trap.

ROBIN

Let's outwit him, Batman! Let's refuse to bite!

BATMAN

We must, Robin. It's the only way to get to the heart of his plot...  
(stops climbing)  
This ought to be high enough...

Halted in their climb, they both turn heads and look out and down INTO LIGHT. Robin points with one hand.

ROBIN

Look! Down there in that other alley!

BATMAN

Careful, Robin! Both hands on your Batrope!

Robin quickly complies.

ROBIN

Sorry, Batman...

BATMAN

(looking o.s.)  
You're right, though. The source of this giant projected blow-up... It's coming from the roof of that parked van!

65 EXT. ALLEY - BOOKWORM AND LYDIA

in front of parked Bookmobile. They're looking up and off at an angle.

LYDIA

They're starting down again!

Cont.

65 Cont.

BOOKWORM

How infallibly life imitates  
cheap literature...The moths.  
They flutter down the light-beam,  
into the fatal flame!

QUICK DISSOLVE TO:

66 EXT. ALLEY - ANOTHER ANGLE - NIGHT

Batmobile noses up, stops NEAR CAMERA. CAMERA PANS to feature parked Bookmobile, in headlight beam. No one in sight.

67 CLOSER SHOT - BATMOBILE COCKPIT

Batman and Robin, standing up to look over windshield and have clearer view.

BATMAN

Odd. An abandoned Bookmobile...

ROBIN

Could it really be one from the Gotham City Public Library?

BATMAN

(grimly)

I doubt it, Robin. Not with that photo-projector built into the roof... I doubt if it's entirely abandoned, either.

ROBIN

You're right, Batman! There must be someone inside to tend the projector!

BATMAN

Let's give the worm a turn. We'll use the Ultrasonic Batgun...

68 WIDER ANGLE

Batman and Robin drop down into seats. Batman backs Batmobile a few yards, then pulls up again so nose is aiming right straight at parked Bookmobile. He brakes to stop.

69 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT

where Robin peers forward through a little sight.

ROBIN

Bookmobile right in the sights, Batman!

BATMAN

You work the gun. I'll be poised with Batarang and Batcuffs!

Cont.

69 Cont.

ROBIN

Roger!

Batman leaps out, whips out Batarang and takes stance with boomerangish weapon raised.

70 INT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - CLOSE SHOT

showing labeled control box on panel: "ULTRASONIC BATGUN". Robin's HANDS come INTO SHOT.

ROBIN

(o.s.)

How many decibels will we give 'em?

BATMAN

(o.s.)

Twelve thousand ought to be sufficient...

Robin's hands turn central dial.

ROBIN

(o.s.)

Decibel Level...Twelve thousand!  
Here we go!

Hand pushes FIRE button.

71 INSERT - NOSE OF BATMOBILE

FLICKERING BLUE LIGHT plays around a little projecting barrel. Low but terribly HIGH-PITCHED SOUND is heard. This gun is ultrasonic, remember: we hear only the audible spillover.

72 FEATURED PARKED BOOKMOBILE

HIGH-PITCHED SOUND continues. If feasible, PAINT IN BLUISH HALO outlining vehicle. If not, SHAKE CAMERA to give effect of whole scene VIBRATING at very high rate. HOLD for a few beats, then rear doors of this biggish van fly open and out leap Printer's Devil, Pressman, Typesetter and Bookworm, all holding their ears. SOUND and accompanying effect CEASES abruptly.

BATMAN

(shout o.s.)

That's flushed 'em out!

ROBIN

(ditto)

Four of them, two of us! Odds in our favor!

73 CLOSE SHOT - BOOKWORM

BOOKWORM

Hirojiwa's "The Art of The Attack"...  
Chapter six, page fourteen,  
paragraph two...into action!

74 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT - FIGHT

Dynamic Duo bound forward against the others, a big FIGHT ensues. Make use of packing boxes, garbage cans, other handy props which might be found in an alley. SUPER TITLES: "POW!" "AWKKKK!" "AAARK!" "SPLFATTTT!"  
Brouhaha rages for suitable period, then:

75 CLOSE SHOT - BOOKWORM ON GROUND

lifts his head and shouts:

BOOKWORM

Machiavelli! Fourteen, three,  
line eight!

He leaps up, sprints OUT OF SHOT.

76 WIDE ANGLE

Scurrying figures. Suddenly Batman and Robin are alone.

77 CLOSER - BATMAN AND ROBIN

ROBIN

The cowardly worms! Where've  
they gone??

BATMAN

(grim)

Where worms always go...Into the  
earth!

(points)

They wiggled down that secret trap-  
door. Doubtless they had it all  
prepared!

ROBIN

But why, Batman? Why lure us here  
and then run?

BATMAN

Good question, Robin. Same one that's  
baffled us from the start of this case.  
Why?

(turns)

Maybe there's a clue to be found in  
this Bookmobile...

78 NEW ANGLE - AT REAR OF BOOKMOBILE

Doors are open, it is lighted inside. Lydia Limpet lies at the very back, bound and gagged. Batman and Robin hurry INTO SHOT, stop short, reacting.

ROBIN  
Holy Cinderella. A beautiful prisoner...

BATMAN  
Just like a fairy-tale...

ROBIN  
Let's free her!

BATMAN  
Robin! Wait a minute!

Batman jerks his head to Robin to step back a bit.

79 CLOSE TWO - BATMAN AND ROBIN

conferring sotto-voce:

BATMAN  
Criminals have tried this trick before...

ROBIN  
Trick?

BATMAN  
The girl could be one of Bookworm's gang. Disguised as a prisoner to give us false information...

Robin turns head, looks o.s.

80 BIG HEAD SHOT - LYDIA

with big wide appealing eyes above handkerchief around her mouth.

ROBIN  
(o.s.)  
Gosh, Batman. Those look like honest eyes....

81 BACK TO BATMAN AND ROBIN

BATMAN

(grim)

Never trust the old chestnut that crooks have beady little eyes. It's false.

(a beat)

I say, let's subject her to the most rigid testing...

ROBIN

You mean...in the Batcave?

BATMAN

Precisely!

82 NEW ANGLE - BACK OF BOOKMOBILE

Batman comes into SHOT with Robin beside him, pulling a little atomizer-like gizmo from Utility Belt. Batman leans over Lydia.

BATMAN

I regret this, but it's a precaution we must take. I'm going to put you to sleep for a little while. I give you my word, there'll be no harmful after effects.

Lydia's eyes open even wider in apprehension. Batman poises atomizer over her lovely face, presses button. Spwiff! of vapor. Lydia's head falls instantly back, her eyes closed. She's out like a light.

DISSOLVE TO:

83 INT. BATCAVE

OPEN TIGHT on Lydia's face, now ungagged but otherwise matching LAST SHOT. Her eyelids are closed, she looks serenely snoozing. Then CAMERA PULLS BACK to a WIDER SHOT. We see that Lydia is lying on a couch, with a blood-pressure cuff on one forearm, a maze of wires leading from electrodes on her head and limbs to an impressive machine nearby. Latter bears label: "HYPERMETRIC LIE-DETECTOR". Robin is at controls of machine, as Batman bends over Lydia. He speaks in low but commanding tone:

BATMAN

Are you able to hear me?

Cont.

83 Cont.

LYDIA  
(in her sleep)  
Yes, Batman.

BATMAN  
What's your name?

LYDIA  
Lydia Limpet.

BATMAN  
Do you know where you are?

LYDIA  
Of course. I'm in the back of  
Bookworm's Bookmobile.

84 FEATURE LIE MACHINE

with various LIGHTS FLASHING in a pleasing way, a couple  
of guages operating. A BELL RINGS.

ROBIN  
It rings TRUE, Batman. She doesn't  
even realize we've taken her to the  
Batcave.

85 BACK TO BATMAN AND LYDIA

BATMAN  
What do you think of Bookworm?

LYDIA  
But that's too easy...  
(dreamy smile)  
He's the most brilliant, adorable  
man in the world. I do absolutely  
everything he tells me!

Loud BELL RINGS again.

86 FEATURE ROBIN

ROBIN  
Batman, you were right! That  
answer rang TRUE! This girl  
is one of his gang!

87

BACK TO BATMAN AND LYDIA

BATMAN

Here's the big one. Lydia, what is  
Bookworm's plot?

LYDIA

I don't know. He hasn't confided  
it to us.

Loud BELL RINGS again o.s. Robin hurries INTO SHOT with  
frustrated expression.

ROBIN

Darn it all! Another true answer!

LYDIA

I only know... He can't pull it off  
until Batman and Robin have perished...  
(that smile)  
hideously!

BATMAN

Turn off the machine, Robin.

ROBIN

What are we gonna do, Batman?

BATMAN

Only one thing we can do... And  
quickly, before the Batgas wears  
off...

DISSOLVE TO:

88

EXT. ALLEY - ANGLE ON LYDIA - NIGHT

Batman and Robin have replaced her in back of Bookmobile, in exactly same position she was before. Bound, gagged, it's identical. A beat, as Batman and Robin bend over her. Then her eyelids flutter open.

ROBIN

She's waking up!

Batman pulls off loose handkerchief over her mouth. Lydia sits up abruptly.

LYDIA

Batman! Thank heavens! You've rescued me from that slimy fiend, The Bookworm!

BATMAN

(deadpan)

Any idea what his plot is, ma'm?

LYDIA

Yes! I over heard it all! He plans to strike at midnight!

ROBIN

Where, m'am??

LYDIA

(gulp)

Oh, Robin, Batman... It's awful! You know that perfect replica of Independence Hall? The one built for the Exposition?

(sob)

He's going to steal the priceless documents there! The original United States Declaration of Independence!

A pause, as Robin and Batman glance at each other.

BATMAN

This poor girl's had a bad time, Robin. We'd better call an ambulance with our mobile Batphone.

ROBIN

Yeah! Let's do that!

They hurry towards Batmobile parked nearby.

89

EXT. PARKED BATMOBILE

Grim-faced Batman and Robin fake picking up Batphone from cockpit while they hold whispered confab. CAMERA TRUCKS IN to TIGHT TWO SHOT.

8613

Cont.

89 Cont.

BATMAN

Another trap, of course.

ROBIN

You can say that again!

BATMAN

Another trap. And I intend to walk right into it!

ROBIN

What??

BATMAN

It's the only way, Robin. We know the Bookworm's waiting there.

ROBIN

With his shotgun loaded for bats!

BATMAN

True. But he doesn't know that I know. You stay here and guard that crooked girl. I'll call Chief O'Hara en route, have him send me reinforcements!  
 (turns and calls loudly)

Ambulance on the way, ma'm!  
 Robin will stay with you while I round up the criminals!

Batman fires up Batmobile, zooms away.

90 FEATURE BACK OF BOOKMOBILE

as Robin returns TO SHOT, smiles reassuringly.

ROBIN

Won't be long, Miss Limpet.

Lydia reacts slightly to that, smiles back.

LYDIA

While we wait... Untie me, huh?

ROBIN

Well, I don't know if I should, I mean... You might be injured, Miss Limpet. Better not move until trained personnel arrives...

Lydia sighs, settles back.

90 Cont.

LYDIA

How about reading me a book, then?  
Say...that first one on the end  
shelf?

ROBIN

Sure thing, Miss Limpet!

Robin pulls book from shelf, makes a wry face.

91 CLOSE SHOT - ROBIN AND BOOK

ROBIN

"Complete English History"...  
This kind of stuff always puts  
me to sleep...

Robin opens book. In hollowed-out interior is an odd little mechanism. Opening of cover triggers it, sends a HISSING JET OF GAS into Robin's face. He makes feeble "Awrrkkk!" sound and falls forward, insensible.

92 FEATURE LYDIA

She sits up sharply, manages to pull another book from shelf. Wrists are tied, but she can just use her fingers. AS CAMERA MOVES IN, Lydia opens the book on floor of Bookmobile. It's hollowed out too, of course, contains usual radio mike and transmitter. Lydia feverishly flicks switches, talks urgently into the tiny mike:

LYDIA

Limpet to Bookworm! Urgent!

93 INT. SMALL RAFTERED SPACE - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

of Bookworm, with a double-barreled shotgun across his knees, light in hat-brim turned on, passing time with a dusty tome as he awaits Batman's arrival. He reacts sharply as we hear LYDIA'S VOICE (FILTERED) from Bookworm's eye-glasses radio:

LYDIA'S VOICE

(o.s.)

Do you read me, Bookworm?? Am  
I legible??

INTERCUT:

94 BOOKWORM AND LYDIA

BOOKWORM

I read you!

94 Cont.

LYDIA:

Warning! Batman knows it's a trap!

BOOKWORM

What?? How can he??

LYDIA

I don't know, but get this...  
The Boy Wonder knows my name!  
He's been calling me "Miss Limpet"!  
They must have tumbled somehow!

SOUND of SIRENS in distance as Bookworm jumps to his feet.

BOOKWORM

The devil! I hear sirens!

LYDIA

Batman and Company!

BOOKWORM

Do you have the Boy Wonder??

LYDIA

Oh yes.

(smiles)

He got a whiff of your sleepy-bye book. "English History"...

Bookworm blinks in furious thought, then a triumphant cry:

BOOKWORM

The plot twists! Hemingway rides again! I'll be right there to pick you up! Over and out!

As Bookworm hastily starts to flee:

DISSOLVE TO:

95

EXT. BIG CLOCK TOWER - NIGHT (STOCK)

Anything will do for this: might be piquant to use London's BIG BEN. If clock hands are visible in our STOCK FOOTAGE, they should be just before twelve o'clock. Doomful NARRATION OVER:

NARRATION

A strange destination, for a dreadful fate... The Wayne Memorial Clock Tower, presented to Gotham City in memory of Bruce Wayne's father...

DISSOLVE TO:

## INT. CLOCK TOWER - SHOOTING UP - NIGHT

into the inside of a GIGANTIC BELL. Robin is bound to the great clapper, upside down! Bookworm, Lydia and Printer's Devil are perched in f.g., looking up at their handiwork as former apostrophizes:

BOOKWORM

Time... Time, which delivers us all  
to the worms in the end, and some  
of us sooner!

(turns head)

What's the hour?

LYDIA

One minute to midnight!

BOOKWORM

Farewell, Robin! Adieu, Boy Wonder!  
You have meddled in affairs of moment  
for the last time....!

Loud CLANK is heard, WHIRRING MECHANICAL SOUNDS. An unseen mechanism pulls clapper-mit-Robin up to one side of the great bell, poised to swing: with Robin's noggin' due to take the pulping brunt!

BOOKWORM

As I tried to warn you before...

(a beat)

Do not ask for whom this bell  
tolls... It tolls for thee!

As Bookworm and thugs climb quickly down OUT OF SHOT and clapper-mit-Robin slowly is pulled all the way to side of bell, NARRATION AND TITLES OVER:

"HOLY MIDNIGHT!"

"THE FIRST MINUTE OF THE NEW  
DAY...THE EVERLASTING END FOR  
ROBIN!"

"STICK MERCIFUL COTTON IN YOUR  
EARS...!"

"THE DEATH-KNELL SOUNDS TOMORROW...  
SAME TIME...SAME BATCHANNEL!"

FADE OUT

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO"WHILE BATMAN BURNS...!"

FADE IN

97 REPRISE OF PART ONE

Usual scraps of action culminating in FREEZE FRAMES,  
with NARRATION OVER:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (a) "At the dedication of a new bridge... MURDER!"                   | SHOW Commissioner Gordon just getting hit.                     |
| (b) "Our beloved Commissioner Gordon... DEAD IN THE GOTHAM RIVER!"   | Gordon's body tumbling down to distant river below.            |
| (c) "And spotted in the crowd, that sinister crook... THE BOOKWORM!" | Bookworm on TV replay screen, showing costume and all.         |
| (d) "Great Scott!"   | Gordon walks back into his office.                             |
| (e) "It was a Bookworm ploy! A ruse to suck in the Dynamic Duo..."   | Any other footage from scene in Gordon's office.               |
| (f) "...while a bomb is placed in the Batmobile!"                    | Lydia plants bomb.   |
| (g) "Bomb detected!"   | Batman with gadget, in Gordon's office.                        |
| (h) "Ejected!"   | Bomb goes off in mid-air, with ejection.                       |
| (i) "A clue! He's going to blow up the bridge!"                      | Batman and Robin with singed book cover.                       |
| (j) "He does! He blows it up into a GIANT PHOTOGRAPH!"               | Big pic projection on warehouse wall.                          |
| (k) "Like moths, our heroes follow the light..."                     | Batclimb, ending when Duo turn their heads.                    |
| (l) "...into a bat-trap!"  | Fight scene around the Bookmobile.                             |
| (m) "Is this girl really a prisoner? Could it be a trick?"           | Lydia bound in back of van, as Dynamic Duo look at each other. |

Cont.

97 Cont.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (n) "One way to find out...<br>put her gently to sleep!"               | Lydia getting whiff of<br>Batgas.                                   |
| (o) "Spirit her to the Batcave,<br>test her!"                          | Lydia getting lie test<br>in Batcave.                               |
| (p) "Right the first time!<br>She's one of Bookworm's<br>twisty gang!" | Further lie test, with<br>bell and big reactions<br>by Dynamic Duo. |
| (q) "Counterplot! Pretend we<br>fall for her game!"                    | Lydia's back in the<br>Bookmobile.                                  |
| (r) "And while Batman races<br>off on the trail..."                    | Batman jumps into car,<br>zooms away.                               |
| (s) "The tricky girl turns<br>the tables!"                             | Robin gets gassed.  |
| (t) "And the Bookworm knows<br>just what to do with<br>him!"           | Bookworm up in rafters,<br>chortling in triumph.                    |
| (u) "Bound to the clapper of<br>a giant bell!"                         | Robin tied inside the<br>huge bell.                                 |
| (v) "Do not ask for whom this<br>bell tolls...it tolls for<br>Robin!"  | Robin and clapper get<br>pulled up to side of<br>the bell.          |
| (w) "In just one minute...the<br>stroke of midnight doom!"             | More of same.   |

FADE OUT

FADE IN

98 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - NIGHT (PROCESS)

Batman drives furiously, NIGHT CITY B.G., with NARRATION OVER:

NARRATION

A few minutes earlier... Even as Bookworm binds Robin to the clapper of the giant bell, Batman races across Gotham City in the opposite direction...hot on a trail that's fatally false!

Batman reacts to something ahead, o.s.

NARRATION

Suddenly, flashing red lights ahead! A friendly police car!

B.G. comes to QUICK FREEZE as Batman brakes hard.

99 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Batman leaps from Batmobile, in glare of headlights meets Chief O'Hara hustling from his squad car.

BATMAN

What's up, Chief O'Hara?

O'HARA

We've scoured that hall from cellar to weathervane! Not a trace of the Bookworm!

BATMAN

But... How can that be??

O'HARA

Worse news too, Batman. That alleyway, where you said we'd find the Boy Wonder guardin' Bookworm's moll...

BATMAN

(stricken)

Don't tell me! They're not there!

O'HARA

You guessed it.

Cont.

99 Cont.

BATMAN

Good gosh! I'd better try to contact Robin instantly on our Utility Belt wave length!

Batman snatches tiny two-way radio from Utility Belt, puts it to his lips.

BATMAN

Robin! Do you receive me, Robin? Over!

Batman presses button in side of set. No reply but a wailing CARRIER-WAVE.

BATMAN

The tricky devils! They've turned the tables somehow and CAUGHT ROBIN!

O'HARA

I'll call Headquarters, throw out the dragnet!

BATMAN

Wait a minute, now... Let me turn my memory back...

(super-power concentration)

"He strikes at midnight," she said...

O'HARA

But we know Bookworm's changed his plans, he---

BATMAN

(whiplash)

Don't interrupt! I'm trying to fathom the subconscious of a deadly criminal! "He strikes at midnight..." The metaphor suggests a clock...

O'HARA

A clock called..."he"?

BATMAN

Of course! There's just one in Gotham City that is called "he"!

Cont.

99 Cont.1

O'HARA

Saints alive! BIG BENJAMIN, in  
the Wayne Memorial Clock Tower!

BATMAN

It fits with the warning, too...  
"Do not ask for whom the bell  
tolls...it tolls for thee!"

O'HARA

(jaw agape)

You mean...???

BATMAN

Exactly, Chief O'Hara! The ghastly  
fate Bookworm planned for me...he's  
twisted it to Robin!

(then)

Quick! If my surmise is right, we  
haven't ONE SECOND TO LOSE!!

100 INT. CLOCK TOWER - ROBIN - NIGHT

as we last saw him, lashed to clapper of great bell,  
drawn up to one side in preparation for head-bashing  
strike.

101 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - NIGHT (PROCESS)

O'Hara cowers beside Batman in passenger seat, as B.G.  
races by at BREAKNECK BLURRED SPEED. O'Hara clutches  
his hat with both hands, closes his eyes as vehicle seems  
to shriek around a corner. Be sure to dub PLENTY  
BATMOBILE SOUND EFFECTS here.

102 INT. CLOCK TOWER - ROBIN

QUICK CUT, same as shot before last.

103 EXT. STREET - CURB - NIGHT

Batmobile brakes ferociously to stop in front of WROUGHT-  
IRON FENCE. Batman and O'Hara bound out, look up.

104 EXT. CLOCK TOWER - LOW ANGLE - NIGHT (STOCK)

Their P.O.V. of floodlit clock face, hands virtually at  
midnight.

105 TWO SHOT - O'HARA AND BATMAN

looking up OVER CAMERA.

Cont.

105 Cont.

BATMAN  
Mere seconds before he strikes!

O'HARA  
I'll shoot out the works!

O'Hara whips out his pistol, FIRES up at the clock o.s.

106 INT. CLOCK TOWER - ROBIN

bound to clapper as SHOTS REVERBERATE below, with SOUNDS of RICOCHETS. Over this, SUPER BIG STOPWATCH DIAL, with second-hand jerking its way around towards the zero mark. We'll CONTINUE THIS SUPERIMPOSITION over SUCCEEDING SHOTS without a break: adjust it in editing finished film so that it covers precisely 59½ seconds of REAL TIME.

107 BATMAN AND O'HARA

O'HARA  
Hopeless! Didn't even dent it!

BATMAN  
No time for a Batclimb! Only one desperate chance! HELP ME SET UP THE BATZOOKA!!

108 ROBIN INSIDE BELL

as SUPERED STOPWATCH ticks away his life.

109 EXT. STREET - BEHIND BATMOBILE - BATMAN AND O'HARA

They're very fast indeed. Batzooka now all but set up, with Batman and O'Hara crouched beside it.

O'HARA  
What's the idea, Batman???

BATMAN  
No time to explain! At the lightning rod on top... FIRE!

Batzooka FIRES.

110 CLOSE SHOT - LIGHTNING ROD - NIGHT

Hooked plug with trailing line whips around it.

111 BATMAN AND O'HARA

O'HARA  
Bull's-eye!!

111 Cont.

Batman is working feverishly, already has Batzooka reloaded and is changing elevation.

BATMAN

Second shot! At the hands of that clock... FIRE!

Boom!! Batzooka FIRES AGAIN. Briefest pause, then:

O'HARA

Mother Machree! Done it again!

BATMAN

Quick now! To get the ends of these two conductive lines...!

112 ROBIN - INSIDE BELL

Barely twenty seconds left on SUPERED DIAL.

113 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT

Batman yanks open door, leaps inside, carrying ends of the two lines he's fired up. Note that engine of Batmobile is running at idle. As Batman bends over console between seats to do something, O'Hara ducks head INTO SHOT.

O'HARA

Batman! What are you doing???

114 CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN - INSIDE COCKPIT

BATMAN

Plugging these lines into the nuclear power source! Both into the positive terminal! As you may recall from school...LIKE CHARGES OF ELECTRICITY REPEL EACH OTHER!!

(lifts head)

There!! Now to rev up the twin turbines!!

O'HARA

I still don't get it, Batman!

BATMAN

Pray, Chief O'Hara! Pray that both the bell and the clapper are positively charged and thus will REPEL EACH OTHER!

Cont.

114 Cont.

Batman leans on throttle, revs up turbines to a real SCREAM.

115 INT. BELL - ROBIN TIED TO CLAPPER

About two seconds left on SUPERED STOPWATCH. (In fitting in this superimposition, of course, work back in real time from here.) A loud MECHANICAL CLICK and WHIRR is heard. The upswung clapper-mit-Robin is released, starts to swing like the great pendulum it is! Past the mid-point, up towards the first bash against the other side of bell! It does not get there. FRAME FREEZES with Robin's head one foot from the metal, SUPERED STOPWATCH at 59½ second mark. THEREMIN SOUND to suggest giant electric forces at play here. HOLD for a beat, then clapper swings back and forth in diminishing arcs, comes to rest at DEAD CENTER. Probably UNDERCRANK this last, so it happens very quickly. Big THEREMIN STING and then OUT MUSIC. Frozen SUPERED STOPWATCH FADES OUT.

116 INT. BOOKWORM HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

OPEN CLOSE on Bookworm, with expression of wild anticipation on his face as he listens to RADIO VOICE from his eyeglasses radio:

RADIO VOICE

At the tone, the time will be exactly twelve midnight...

As BEEEEEP! is heard, Bookworm snatches off glasses. CAMERA PULLS BACK FAST. Bookworm and Lydia scramble up over a great disordered heap of books to an open window. Bookworm strikes eager listening pose.

117 TWO SHOT - BOOKWORM AND LYDIA

BOOKWORM

Hark to Big Benjamin! The first stroke of midnight will be Robin's death knell!

Silence. Somewhere outside, a BIRD TWEETS sweetly.

LYDIA

Funny. All I hear's a nightingale...

Another beat or two of silence. Bookworm makes a dreadful face, slams the window closed.

Cont.

117 Cont.

BOOKWORM

Inconceivable but true... The precocious pest has escaped us!

LYDIA

How the heck could he, Bookworm?

BOOKWORM

I can't conceive. But...

(absently)

From Gil Blas, translated by Tobias Smollett, Book ten. Chapter one. Quote. Facts are stubborn things. Unquote.

(a beat)

The fact is: our bats have flown from the belfry, unaccountably still squeaking.

LYDIA

(worried)

Gee. And us with our supercrime not pulled yet!

Bookworm stands thinking for a beat, then smiles.

BOOKWORM

Don't fret, sweet Lydia. Don't fret. My plot-drenched mind has done it again. A most delicious bat-trap!

BATBLIP TO:

118 INT. BATCAVE - FULL SHOT

with NARRATION OVER:

NARRATION

Another morning, in the subterranean Batcave. Robin the Boy Wonder, refreshed by eight hours' sleep, has recovered from his harrowing brush with death and is hard at work with Batman... Straining every brain cell to find a clue to the whereabouts of The Bookworm's lair!

119 CLOSER SHOT - BATMAN AND ROBIN

busy at working HYPERSPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYZER.

BATMAN

This is our last hope, Robin.  
Give me a reading on those ropes  
they used to bind you inside the  
bell...

ROBIN

Hemp fiber, 32 percent. Raw jute,  
19. Reprocessed nylon, 47.  
Remaining 2 percent: neutral  
moisture.

As Robin speaks, Batman punches info into keyboard of adjacent gadget. He pulls handle. Various SOUNDS, then a card comes out. Batman looks at it.

BATMAN

Interesting. Rope conforming  
to that analysis is used only  
for...the rigging of a three-masted  
brigantine.

ROBIN

Holy pirates, Batman! That's a  
clue! Stick the card in the  
Anti-Crime Computer, let's see  
where that rope is sold!

120 FEATURE BATMAN

as he puts card into ANTI-CRIME COMPUTER and sets machine going. After suitable working, another CARD plops out. He looks at card, makes a face.

BATMAN

Blast it! Sold only at one shop  
in Gotham City... And that shop  
was robbed ten days ago!

121 INT. WAYNE MANOR - FRONT HALL - DAY

where Aunt Harriet is coming INTO SCENE as we hear  
NARRATION OVER:

NARRATION

But upstairs in stately Wayne Manor,  
the plot is about to take a strange  
new twist!

Aunt Harriet comes up to Alfred in f.g.

Cont.

121 Cont.

AUNT HARRIET  
What is it, Alfred?

ALFRED  
A gentleman from the Bookmobile  
Service, madam.

122 NEW ANGLE - BOOKWORM

He stands brazenly inside front door, in his curious costume, smiling and holding a big book. Aunt Harriet goes up to him, beaming.

AUNT HARRIET  
Oh, how nice! What do you  
recommend this week? Something  
to...read before going to sleep.

BOOKWORM  
I believe you'll find this one  
extremely effective, Mrs. Cooper.

Bookworm hands her the volume. She peers at cover, frowns.

AUNT HARRIET  
Dear me... "The Congressional  
Record. March, 1919."

BOOKWORM  
The illustrations, madam...  
(winks)  
So piquant!

AUNT HARRIET  
You don't say?

She looks at Alfred. He coughs, glides up to look over her shoulder.

123 BIG CLOSE SHOT - THE BOOK

as Aunt Harriet opens it. But of course. Hollowed out interior. Mechanism inside. CLOUD OF GAS JETS out immediately book is opened.

124 BACK TO SCENE

Book drops from nerveless fingers. Bookworm hurries forward, grabs tottering Aunt Harriet and Alfred each by one arm, steers them to front hall divan. They settle down, out cold. Bookworm races into dining room.

125 INT. WAYNE MANOR - DINING ROOM - DAY

or LIVING ROOM, if we don't have standing dining room set. Bookworm races up to a glass-fronted book cabinet, smashes it with some handy object. He grabs out ONE BOOK, runs from scene.

BATBLIP TO:

126 INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

Gordon takes a slip of paper from Chief O'Hara, races to Red Hot-Line Phone, grabs it up.

127 INT. BATCAVE - FLASHING BATPHONE

As ANGLE WIDENS, Batman runs INTO SHOT and picks it up. Robin follows to listen in.

BATMAN

Yes, Commissioner??

INTERCUT:

128 GORDON'S OFFICE AND BATCAVE

GORDON

Bookworm has struck again,  
Batman! Brazenly!

BATMAN

Where??

GORDON

The mansion of Millionaire  
Bruce Wayne! He stole a single  
volume...a priceless first-edition  
cookbook!

BATMAN

Any one in the Wayne household  
hurt??

GORDON

Fortunately not. But....

BATMAN

Good-bye, Commissioner! I'll be  
at Wayne Manor faster than you  
can imagine!

GORDON

Batman! Wait! That's not the  
only thing!

Cont.

128 Cont.

BATMAN

What else?!

GORDON

In the middle of the street...  
Cedar Avenue and Fifth! There's  
been a sudden monstrous apparition,  
the biggest cookbook anyone ever  
saw!

BATMAN

Good-bye, Commissioner!

129 INT. BATCAVE

He bangs down phone, turns to gaping Robin.

ROBIN

Aunt Harriet and Alfred...

BATMAN

They're not hurt, he said! Our  
duty is to the public! Let's go!

They race to Batmobile. Fire it up and zoom away.

130 EXT. BATCAVE ENTRANCE - DAY - (BATSTOCK)

Batmobile swooshes out, heads down the highway.

131 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - DAY (PROCESS)

ROBIN

What a twisted skein of events!

BATMAN

Typical of the frustrated author  
Bookworm is... Over-plotting!  
Either the robbery or this giant  
cookbook would have attracted our  
attention.

(scornful)

That foolish amateur has to try  
both!

132 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Gordon did not exaggerate. A simply GIGANTIC BOOK  
stands upright in the middle of the street. This huge  
prop should be at least twenty feet high, five feet  
thick: absolutely as big as possible. There's a  
SMALL CROWD gathered at the foot, gaping up at the

Cont.

132 Cont.

book's title: "THE DELIGHT OF COOKING". Members of crowd are ad-libbing: "Amazing!" "Fantastic!" "It's so big!" etc., etc.

133 DIFFERENT ANGLE

Batmobile whines up, stops NEAR CAMERA. Batman and Robin jump up in front seat, gaze over windshield.

ROBIN

Holy Thanksgiving dinner!

Batman grabs up his Bathorn, thunders at the crowd:

BATMAN

Back, everybody! Take cover in the side streets! The recipes in this book could be explosive!

134 FEATURE BOOK AND CROWD

People all turn and run like hell OUT OF SHOT.

135 BACK TO BATMAN AND ROBIN

ROBIN

I bet the inside's hollow, Batman!

BATMAN

We'll soon find out. I'll probe it with our High-Energy Radar!

136 INT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT

Batman and Robin slide down into seats, work gadgets on instrument panel.

137 INSERT - DASHBOARD RADAR SCOPE

It's blipping and beeping.

ROBIN

(o.s.)  
Hollow, all right!

BATMAN

(o.s.)  
Yes... And judging from the rate of reflection, the cover contains high-tensile steel!

138 BACK TO COCKPIT - BATMAN AND ROBIN

ROBIN

Let's open it up, Batman!

BATMAN

Right you are. If the cover contains steel, we can do it from a safe distance with our Super-Power Batmagnet!

ROBIN

You aim! I'll work the power supply!

BATMAN

Roger!

Batman yanks gadget from a clip.. It is a Batmagnet. It's any kooky bit of junk mounted on a gunstock, with a sight and a trailing power-cord. As Batman rises in seat and aims over windshield, Robin plugs in the cord, then turns a dial on panel.

ROBIN

Batpull, 1200 pounds!

139 FEATURE BATMAN

with Batmagnet at shoulder, leaning back as if against some huge unseen force, bracing himself. ZAPPING HUMMING SOUND from Batmagnet.

BATMAN

Make it a ton!

140 FEATURE HUGE BOOK

It opens! On both facing pages are captioned drawings of cooking utensils, etc.

141 EXT. ROOFTOP PARAPET - DAY

Bookworm and Lydia, former watching scene in street below through binoculars. With free hand, Bookworm is turning a dial on a portable radio transmitter beside him. Bookworm chuckles.

BOOKWORM

Poor, puny little Batbrains...  
I bet they think THEY opened  
that book...

LYDIA

But will they go in?

141 Cont.

BOOKWORM

Of course they'll go in. In  
the words of the poet: Curiosity  
killed the BAT!

142 BACK TO STREET - FEATURE BOOK

Batman and Robin advance INTO SHOT, stand looking up  
at the open pages.

ROBIN

Holy pots and pans...

BATMAN

Ordinary paper. It must cover  
the hollowed-out part...

ROBIN

I wonder what's on the menu  
inside?

BATMAN

Only one way to find out, Robin.  
Let's take a bite...

Batman advances, slashes at the paper. Indeed there's  
hollow chamber behind it.

143 CLOSER ANGLE - INTO HOLLOW CHAMBER

at ground level, now revealed. Pretty bizarre, this  
whole thing. Inside the hollow is a normal-looking  
KITCHEN STOVE, with a merrily-boiling pot on the back  
burner. Batman and Robin advance INTO SHOT. They sniff.

BATMAN

Smells like soup...

ROBIN

Darn good soup, too...

144 EXT. ROOFTOP - BOOKWORM

BOOKWORM

Right you are... Batsoup. And  
in you go!!!

Bookworm gives savage wrench to dial on radio set  
beside him.

145 THE STREET - BOOK

With amazing speed (UNDERCRANKED) it slams closed!  
Mit Batman und Robin inside!

146 INT. CHAMBER IN BOOK

A convenient LIGHT FLASHES ON automatically. Batman and Robin are up atop the stove: indeed, it's the only space for them.

ROBIN

Holy stewpot!

Then FILTERED VOICE comes from unseen speaker:

BOOKWORM'S VOICE

Bookworm to Batman...

BATMAN

He's got this cookbook wired!  
I bet he's watching and listening,  
too!

147 EXT. ROOFTOP - BOOKWORM

adjusting mike built into nose-bridge of his glasses.

BOOKWORM

Oh yes. I'm listening!

BATMAN'S VOICE

What's the idea, Bookworm?!

BOOKWORM

A curious old recipe I got from  
"The Alchemist's Cookbook"... Vienna,  
dated 1534...

148 INT. CHAMBER IN BOOK

BOOKWORM'S VOICE

How to Steam a Bat!

ROBIN

I think he means it!

BOOKWORM'S VOICE

Certainly I mean it, Boy Wonder!  
Watch now, I'm going to turn up  
my radio-controlled DOUBLE BOILER...

149 EXT. ROOFTOP - BOOKWORM

BOOKWORM  
Double! For the Dynamic Duo!

Bookworm twists another dial on radio set.

150 INT. CHAMBER IN BOOK

Sudden HISS as STEAM begins to enter from some inaccessible orifice below.

BOOKWORM'S VOICE  
 Cook well, my bateared friends!  
 While you're stewing down, I  
 shall be pulling the crime of  
 the century...with the aid of your  
 Batmobile!

151 EXT. ROOTOP - BOOKWORM

BOOKWORM  
 Bon appetit!  
 (turns off radio,  
 then to Lydia)  
 Quick! Let's fly!

Bookworm grabs up radio transmitter, he and Lydia dash from scene.

152 INT. CHAMBER IN BOOK

Amidst swirling steam, Batman snatches tiny radio from his Utility Belt, puts it to his lips:

BATMAN  
 Batman to Gotham City Police!  
 Mayday! Mayday! We're trapped  
 inside a giant cookbook at  
 Cedar and Fifth! Mayday! Do you  
 receive me???

Wailing CARRIER-WAVE over HISS of steam.

ROBIN  
 No answer!

BATMAN  
 These high-tensile steel covers...  
 They're cutting down our transmission!

Cont.

152 Cont.

ROBIN

I'll get out the laser beam  
cutting torch!

BATMAN

No, Robin! It would superheat  
this steam! We'd be boiled  
in a split second!

ROBIN

Holy pressure cooker! Only way  
to crack this thing would be the  
Batbeam in our Batmobile...and  
Bookworm's got it! We even left  
the engine running!

153 EXT. STREET - PARKED BATMOBILE

Bookworm and Lydia race INTO SHOT, leap into the  
Batmobile. No trouble with Anti-Theft System: as  
Robin truly said, they incautiously left engine running.  
Bookworm backs and turns Batmobile, races away.

154 NEW ANGLE - PAST HUGE BOOK

Two vehicles SIREN up: EMERGENCY SQUAD TRUCK and a BLACK  
SEDAN. As Chief O'Hara and uniformed Emergency Squad  
COPS pile from former, Commissioner Gordon jumps from  
sedan.

O'HARA

At it, boys! All your might and  
main!

GORDON

Take care! According to those  
pedestrians, Batman and Robin are  
inside!

155 CLOSER ANGLE - BOOK

as Emergency Squad guys attack it with crowbars, sledge-  
hammers, a pneumatic drill. Terrific NOISE of operations.

156 INT. CHAMBER IN BOOK

with much steam, muffled SOUNDS of operations on outside.

BATMAN

They'll never get to us in time.  
Only one hope...

157 EXT. HUGE BOOK - EMERGENCY SQUAD

whanging and banging vainly. SERGEANT in charge turns to O'Hara.

SERGEANT

We're getting nowhere, Chief!

O'HARA

Harder, boys! Give me one of them sledges!

Sergeant puts head close to book, listening.

SERGEANT

Sounds like steam in there...  
It's getting mighty hot, too!

GORDON

Dreadful... That fine pair of  
crimefighters, boiled in the  
entrails of a monster cookbook!  
Who could imagine a more unlikely  
end?

158 INT. CHAMBER IN BOOK

Batman again has little Utility Belt radio to lips midst swirling STEAM:

BATMAN

Batman to Batcave...!

ROBIN

(coughing)

What's the use, Batman??

BATMAN

(to Robin)

It's just possible... Our own  
super-sensitive antenna might  
pick up the signal where the  
police receivers couldn't!

ROBIN

You think Alfred's there?

BATMAN

He's a creature of habit! This  
is his regular time for dusting  
the atomic pile!

159 INT. BATCAVE - FEATURE ALFRED

wearing green apron, dusting Atomic Pile. We hear  
THIN FILTERED VOICE, mixed with CARRIER WAVE:

159 Cont.

BATMAN'S VOICE

Batman to Alfred... This is an emergency!

Alfred puts down duster, advances quickly to radio console and turns dials. Squawking CARRIER WAVE subsides. Alfred clears throat, speaks to microphone:

ALFRED

Might I be of some service, sir?

Now VOICES come in much more clearly, after Alfred's adjustments:

ROBIN'S VOICE

Hot diggity dog!

BATMAN'S VOICE

Quick, Alfred! Plug me into the voice-actuated circuit of the MASTER ANTI-CRIME COMPUTER!

ALFRED

Very good, sir. At once, sir...

Alfred cross-plugs various wires into jacks.

160 CLOSE SHOT - ANTI-CRIME COMPUTER

It comes to life. LIGHTS FLASH and so on.

161 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - DAY (PROCESS)

Bookworm and Lydia, former speaking into tiny mike in bridge of his spectacles:

BOOKWORM

Bookworm to Bookmobile... Do you read me?

PRINTER'S DEVIL'S VOICE

(filtered)

Like an open book, Bookworm!

BOOKWORM

Rendezvous point... Rear of the MORGANBILT LIBRARY! Over and out!

LYDIA

The Morganbilt Library?? That's uncrackable! It's defied every burglar in the country!

Cont.

161 Cont.

BOOKWORM

True, sweet Lydia... But they  
haven't had the use of the BATBEAM!

162 EXT. STREET - HUGE BOOK

Now a FIRE HOSE snakes in from o.s., a uniformed  
FIREMAN is playing a spray of water on desperately  
toiling Emergency Squad guys.

O'HARA

Cool it off! Keep that temperature  
down!

163 INT. CHAMBER IN BOOK

BATMAN

(to radio)

Plans and Views. Folio three-six-  
nine! Operate! Cross-feed!

164 INT. BATCAVE - PLANS AND VIEWS MACHINE

Images BLUR across the screen, then one HOLDS in  
focus. It's an elaborate blueprint with title at  
bottom: "UNDERGROUND CONDUITS...AREA 19-B/6". As  
plan HOLDS, we hear vari-toned HARMONIC BEEPING.

165 INT. CHAMBER IN BOOK

Batman has radio to ear, we HEAR SAME HARMONIC  
BEEPING continuing.

ROBIN

(feeble)

I...I'm weakening, Batman...

BATMAN

Hold on, Robin! I'm getting the  
answer I expected!

ROBIN

A-a-answer??

BATMAN

About the source of this steam!  
(commanding tone,  
to radio)

Plans and Views: cut out! Feed-  
back Circuit 3: operate!

166 INT. BATCAVE - FEATURE RADIO CONSOLE

with Alfred observing gravely. We hear SOUNDS like TELEPHONE-CENTRAL DIALS CLICKING, one green light goes out and another flashes on.

167 EXT. STREET - FEATURE HUGE BOOK

with guys still toiling under protective spray of water. Now there are CABLES attached with hooks to projecting edges of the book-cover, extending OUT OF SCENE.

168 CLOSER SHOT - THE SERGEANT

leaning on WHINING electric drill, boring into front "page-ends" of book between "covers".

169 FEATURE GORDON AND O'HARA

GORDON

Who's the best safe-cracker in our files?

O'HARA

The Riddler!

GORDON

Send a helicopter to the State Penitentiary! Have him brought here at once!

O'HARA

Yessir, I'll....  
(then, reacting)  
Wait a minute!

170 FEATURE HUGE BOOK

Sergeant throws away his drill, does something in hole he's drilled, then comes running back from the great book and shouting:

SERGEANT

Hit the deck, everybody! I've got the charge placed! When I shout "Fire!"...haul away on the winches, full power!!

Everybody runs back from book, all IN SHOT drop to the street.

171 CLOSE SHOT - SERGEANT

crouched over handle of a push-type detonator.

171 Cont.

SERGEANT

Ready! FIRE!!

He pushes down handle.

172 FEATURE FRONT EDGE OF BOOK

Dull EXPLOSION in drilled hole, billow of BLACK SMOKE. Cables extending o.s. WHIP TAUT. Suddenly the book is PULLED OPEN.

173 REACTION SHOT - GROUPED EMERGENCY SQUAD

They hurl their hats in the air, let out a lusty CHEER in unison:

SQUAD

Hurray!!!

174 FEATURE BOOK

as Gordon, O'Hara and others race forward to look inside. The kitchen stove lies overturned and shattered in street. But there's no sign whatever of Batman and Robin.

175 REACTION SHOT - LOW ANGLE - THE GROUP

staring with shocked frozen faces.

GORDON

Great Scott...

SERGEANT

Too late...

O'HARA

Gene...

GORDON

Consumed, I fear. Totally consumed in this diabolical hell's-kitchen!

O'Hara and Sergeant take off their uniform hats, hold them over their breasts.

BATSPIN TO:

176 EXT. MORGANBILT LIBRARY - FULL SHOT - DAY (STOCK)

to establish a fortress-like squat building: could be Morgan Library in New York, Frick Museum, something on that smallish but highly-impressive scale.

NARRATION OVER:

176 Cont.

## NARRATION

Less than half a mile away: the  
Morganbilt Library. Unparalleled  
repository of literary treasures.

(a beat)

In an alley at the rear, there are  
little foxes in the vines...

177 EXT. ALLEY BACK OF LIBRARY - DAY

Batmobile is parked in alley, nose pointed at blank  
wall not far ahead. In wider area behind it stands  
the Bookmobile. Bookworm, Lydia and gang are gathered  
around Batmobile, poring over plan spread out on the  
engine hood.

178 CLOSER SHOT - FEATURE BOOKWORM

## BOOKWORM

Directly ahead, through that  
wall... The air-conditioned  
vault containing treasures  
beyond imagination!

## LYDIA

Some haul, all right...  
(looking at  
a catalogue)

Seven Gutenberg Bibles, eleven  
First Folios by William  
Shakespeare...

## PRESSMAN

Some wall, too...  
(peering at  
plan)

Three feet of cement over eighteen  
inches of steel! No wonder no one's  
tried to crack this joint before!

## BOOKWORM

"There is a tide in the affairs  
of men,  
Which, taken at the flood, leads  
on to fortune;  
Omitted, all the voyage of their  
life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries!"

Cont.

178 Cont.

BOOKWORM (Cont.)

(smiles)

Julius Caesar. Act 4, Scene 3, lines 217 through 20. No more shallows and miseries for us, my fine twisty worms! We'll bore our way to fortune on the flood-tide...now...with the Batbeam!

Bookworm straightens up, hastens back and climbs into front seat of Batmobile. He leans forward myopically, fiddles with settings on instrument panel. Note that Batmobile engine is running during this.

179 INSERT - BATMOBILE INSTRUMENT PANEL

showing group labeled "BATBEAM PROJECTOR", with a dial and some switches. Bookworm's HANDS come into SHOT and turn dial to topmost setting.

180 EXT. COCKPIT - LYDIA

leans over side with worried look.

LYDIA

What if something goes wrong, Bookworm?

BOOKWORM

It won't.

LYDIA

"The best-laid plans of mice and men..." I dunno what that's from, but I know it's true.

BOOKWORM

(correcting her automatically)

Best-laid schemes... Robert Burns, "To a Mouse," Stanza 7...

(he flicks on mike in eye-glass radio)

Bookworm to Printer's Devil... In case of trouble, are you prepared to execute Plot 27-B?

181 EXT. ROOFTOP - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

of Printer's Devil, wearing light radio headset as in teaser, holding same high-powered rifle with scope sights. He replies into little mike before his chin:

181 Cont.

PRINTER'S DEVIL

All set, Bookworm! Just like we  
rehearsed it at the opening of that  
bridge yesterday!

182 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT

BOOKWORM

Good! Stand by!  
(off radio)  
Now for the Batbeam...

183 INSERT - BATMOBILE INSTRUMENT PANEL

Bookworm's fingers flick "FIRE!" switch of Batbeam.

184 INSERT - NOSE OF BATMOBILE - BATBEAM

ZAPPING FIRE plays around Batbeam Projector. This  
might be BATSTOCK: I think it was included in some  
previous script. If not, it would be worth PAINTING  
IN this effect for use as future BATSTOCK.

185 EXT. SECTION OF LIBRARY WALL - SPECIAL EFFECT

It **MELTS!** Light **SMOKE CLEARS** and there's a huge  
gaping hole through aforementioned 3' of cement and  
18" of steel! **SOUND OF BATBEAM** then **CEASES.**

186 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT

Bookworm leaps up exultantly.

BOOKWORM

Melted!

LYDIA

Fantastic!

BOOKWORM

Forward, dear worms! Get your  
gunny sacks! Follow me!

187 TOWARDS LIBRARY WALL

Batman and Robin bound through the gaping aperture  
in their inimitable fashion!

BATMAN

They'll follow you, Bookworm!

Cont.

187 Cont.

ROBIN

Right back into the woodwork  
of the prison carpenter shop!

188 GROUP SHOT - BOOKWORM AND CREW

frozen to the spot, paralyzed and agawk.

BOOKWORM

Imp-p-p-possible!

LYDIA

How did they escape???

TYPESETTER

How did they discover our  
objective???

189 BATMAN AND ROBIN

BATMAN

Easy!

ROBIN

Your talk in the Batmobile was  
picked up by a secret mike!

BATMAN

It was relayed to us via the  
automatic feedback-circuit in  
our Batcave!

(curt)

Let's get 'em, Robin!

190 BIG CLOSEUP - BOOKWORM

BOOKWORM

Ataaaaack!

191 WIDE ANGLE - FIGHT

Sensational battle-royal in alley and open parking  
area behind. SUPER EXPLODING TITLES: "POW!" "WHAMMM!"  
"GLOPPP!" etcetera. During course of this action,  
following WILD LINE DIALOGUE, well-spiced with athletic  
GRUNTS:

ROBIN

Thought you had us cooked, huh?

Cont.

191 Cont.

BATMAN

We escaped through the MANHOLE  
under your stove!

ROBIN

The one you used to introduce  
your murderous steam-pipe!

BATMAN

It's an old mistake, Bookworm!  
Armoring the walls but leaving  
the floor unprotected!

192 FEATURE LYDIA

She's been cowering to the side, out of the raging  
fisticuffs. Suddenly she dashes across to Batmobile,  
picks up Bookworm's RADIO GLASSES which fell off when  
he leapt out. As CAMERA MOVES IN CLOSE, Lydia yaps into  
nose-bridge mike:

LYDIA

Limpet to Printer's Devil!  
We're losing the battle! Plot  
27-B...into action!

193 EXT. ROOFTOP - PRINTER'S DEVIL - DAY

PRINTER'S DEVIL

(into mike)

Roger!

He snatches up his rifle, sticks it to shoulder, aims  
down over edge of roof and OPENS FIRE!

194 BACK TO ALLEY - THE FIGHT - WIDE ANGLE HIGH SHOT

As RAPID-FIRE RIFLE SHOTS blast out OVER SCENE, the  
Bookworm and Lydia, the rest of his minions, fall one  
by one to the ground and lie sprawled! Batman (or his  
double) suddenly spins around, snatches out Batarang  
and hurls it UP INTO AIR towards CAMERA.

195 EXT. ROOFTOP - PRINTER'S DEVIL

Batarang catches him on noggin, he collapses in heap.

196 BACK TO ALLEY - FEATURE BATMAN AND ROBIN

as Robin surveys scene of carnage, open-mouthed:

Cont.

196 Cont.

ROBIN  
Holy Hamlet! Everyone's dead!  
That mad sniper got 'em all!

BATMAN  
Astonishing...

ROBIN  
Hurry up, Batman! Let's run to  
a phone and call an ambulance!

BATMAN  
(nods)  
Good idea, Robin. Let's do that...

Batman and Robin turn, start quickly away. Suddenly  
Batman stops short and spins around.

197 BATMAN'S P.O.V. - WIDE ANGLE

Bookworm and his gang are all starting to quickly  
get up from ground! Batman and Robin charge back to  
the fray. FIGHT RESUMES, but very swift this time.  
WILD LINE DIALOGUE:

BATMAN  
As I guessed... An accomplice  
with BLANK CARTRIDGES... Giving  
them time for a clever getaway  
while we phoned the ambulance!

TITLES LEAP from screen: "CRRRRUNCH!" "FLAWKKKKK!"  
"SPLATTTT!" When last TITLE FADES, battle is over.  
Crooks are flattened. Lydia is leaning back against  
stern of Batmobile, her head in her hands. Passive.  
Batman goes up to her, his voice flat:

BATMAN  
You should have learned much  
sooner, Miss Limpet. The oldest  
plot is still the best.  
(a beat)  
Crime does not pay.

Batman pulls down her hands, snaps the Batcuffs.

FADE OUT

TAG

FADE IN

198

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

Gordon, Bruce Wayne, Dick Grayson, Chief O'Hara. As SCENE OPENS, Gordon is looking at check he has just been handed by Bruce.

GORDON

A gift of five thousand dollars,  
for the State Prison library...

(looks up)

This is very generous of you,  
Bruce.

BRUCE

I thought it was the least I  
could do, Commissioner. After  
that dreadful business I read  
about in the papers..the Bookworm  
Affair...

(gravely)

Seemed to me our prison libraries  
could certainly use some new,  
uplifting titles.

GORDON

Yes, yes...Shocking. A man  
with Bookworm's education. How  
could such a fellow turn to a  
life of crime?

BRUCE

I'd say it's an example of the  
wise old precept: A little  
knowledge is a dangerous thing.

GORDON

Wise observation, Bruce. I'll  
remember that.

(sudden thought)

By the way, would you like to  
see him?

BRUCE

Bookworm?

GORDON

He's just outside. Awaiting  
conveyance to the penitentiary.

Cont.

198 Cont.

Dick jumps up eagerly.

DICK

Gosh, Bruce. I'd sure like to see a real crook in the flesh!

BRUCE

Well...I suppose there's no harm in it, Dick...As long as he's under sound restraint...

GORDON

Get them, Chief O'Hara.

O'HARA

Yessir!

O'Hara goes out.

BRUCE

"Them"?

GORDON

His female accomplice, too... A Miss Limpet...Very sad case, that one...

199

ANGLE ON DOOR

O'Hara pushes Bookworm and Lydia into office ahead of him. They are handcuffed to each other. In her free hand, Lydia holds a paper-bound book which she is reading.

O'HARA

Okay, you crooks... And be polite to Mr. Bruce Wayne, too!

Gordon stares a moment, then strides over to Lydia and seizes paperback from her grip. He looks at the title angrily.

GORDON

"The World's Hundred Greatest Crimes"... You abandoned child! Is there no hope for you??

Gordon throws it into wastebasket, turns to Bruce.

GORDON

(going on)

As you can see, Bruce. Your gift is sorely needed.

Cont.

199 Cont.

BRUCE

What are you smiling at, Bookworm?

BOOKWORM

I'm so much cleverer than all of you. As the poet said... "They who lose today may win tomorrow."

BRUCE

Wrong, Bookworm. Not the poet. That line's from Cervantes, Don Quixote. Part One, Book One, Chapter Seven.

BOOKWORM

(furious)

The devil! This creature is almost as obnoxious as Batman!

O'HARA

Out, you foul birds!

O'Hara spins them around, hauls them out.

200

FEATURE BRUCE

BRUCE

Which reminds me, Commissioner. That mention of Batman...

GORDON

Yes, Bruce?

BRUCE

I hereby place, as a gesture of thanks to Batman, one condition on my gift to the prison library...  
(gravely)  
No cookbooks.

FADE OUT

THE END