

BATMAN

" THE JOKER TRUMPS AN ACE "
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

By

Francis and Marian Cockrell

RECEIVED.

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HOWIE HORWITZ

~~JOKER IS WILD~~ "THE JOKER TRUMPS AN ACE"

TEASER

FADE IN:

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

To establish Gotham City's Fifth Avenue in the area of its most exclusive shops, ending with a SHOT including several posh-looking shops, but not from close enough to make signs legible. Over this, SUPER TWO TITLES: "GOTHAM CITY ON A PLEASANT AFTERNOON" and "IN ONE OF ITS MOST EXCLUSIVE FUR SALONS."

2 INT. EXCLUSIVE FUR SALON - DAY

The place is spacious and elegant, with gorgeous furs on models both live and inanimate. Besides the furs which are visible, more are stored in built-in cabinets or cubicles, which occupy virtually all the wall space except that devoted to the three-way try-on mirrors.

3 ANGLE - NEAR TRY-ON MIRROR

A Saleslady is draping an attractive stole over AUNT HARRIET'S shoulders. Nearby BRUCE WAYNE and DICK GRAYSON are in conversation with PRESCOTT BELMONT, who is President of Gotham City's leading bank and looks it.

BELMONT

(to Dick)

We'll begin next week then. Shall we say every Monday and Wednesday afternoon after school?

DICK

(less than wild
enthusiasm)

Yes sir. That will be fine,
Mr. Belmont.

BRUCE

You're a lucky fellow, Dick. It's not every boy that has a chance to learn something about banking from the President of Gotham City's leading bank.

Cont.

3 Cont.

DICK

No I - I'm sure that's true . . .

BRUCE

And it's banking that really holds the fabric of our society together, you know.

DICK

(feeling better about it)

Well - when you put it that way . . .

They turn as we hear:

MRS. BELMONT'S VOICE (o.s.)

Prescott, what do you think of this one, dear?

4 FEATURE MRS. BELMONT

as she approaches them. She is a handsome, bejewelled, beautifully turned-out matron with an elaborate coiffure. Her question concerns the fabulous full-length sable evening wrap she has on. But before Belmont can answer; we HEAR with startling loudness in this sedate scene:

A MAN'S VOICE (o.s.)

All right! Everybody stand still and nobody'll get hurt. This is a stickup!

5 ANGLE - TOWARD CENTER OF ROOM

If it's a stickup, it's the strangest ever; for in the middle of the salon, having appeared from no one knows where, stands a little man who looks hardly over five feet tall, clad in a long, tattered overcoat which reaches to the floor, a sports cap too large for him and a domino mask.

6 VARIOUS QUICK CUTS

as personnel and customers react to the bizarre figure, ending with MANAGER, who hurries toward him in anger and distaste.

Cont.

6 Cont.

MANAGER

Get out of here! Who are you,
anyhow?

LITTLE MAN

(with an elaborate bow)
Your friendly neighborhood hold-
up man, at your service, sir.

MANAGER

(disgust)
What is this - some vulgar joke?

LITTLE MAN

Right! And the joke's on you, my
man. But there's nothing vulgar
about half a million in furs.

7

FULL SHOT

As he ends with loud emphasis on the final word, the doors of cubicles all about the room fly open and from concealment from behind the furs masked men with ugly-looking sub-machine guns leap out into view. At the same instant, the JOKER, for it is none other, throws off the old coat and cap, to reveal himself in full costume of the classic clown (or court jester). Ad lib squeals, blanching, stunned astonishment. With an introductory wave, indicating his men:

JOKER

My staff!

8

NEW ANGLE - BRUCE AND BELMONT F.G.

BELMONT

(tense undertone)
Good heavens, I believe it's that
arch criminal, the Joker.

BRUCE

(tight-lipped)
Quite right I fear.

JOKER

(calling)
All right. Everybody to the center
of the room. Come on, come on!

Cont.

8 Cont.

With their threatening guns his men herd customers and personnel alike into a group. As they do:

JOKER

Did you hear what more mink skins
are used for than anything else? . . .
To hold minks together!

And he reacts to this gasser with a sudden burst of mad laughter. Then he moves toward the group with a cocky saunter and stops before Mrs. Belmont.

JOKER

Ah! Mrs. Prescott Belmont, I believe.
Wife of the incredibly wealthy banker.
What lovely jewels, Mrs. Belmont -
and what a stunning coat!

9

CLOSE - BELMONT

BELMONT

(under his breath)

Thank heaven we haven't bought the
coat yet, at least.

JOKER'S VOICE (o.s.)

(impatiently)

Come on. Closer! I want a tight
little group.

PAN to CLOSE of Dick, Bruce and Aunt Harriet. She looks tremulous and jittery, but Bruce gives her arm a reassuring squeeze.

10

FULL SHOT

All are bunched together now with the Joker's men in a circle about them.

JOKER

All ready, staff? Good. Aim!

They steady their guns, aiming straight into the group.

CRIES OF:

Oh no!

He's going to shoot us down like cattle!

You beast!

11 CLOSE TWO SHOT - DICK AND BRUCE

Dick gives Bruce a pleading look but the latter shakes his head negative.

12 FULL SHOT - FEATURE THE JOKER

JOKER
(loudly)

FIRE!

And they do! But not bullets; rather streamers of serpentine shoot out in rapid fire, crisscrossing the group repeatedly to weave a sort of net. The "victims" stand motionless, stunned with surprise and relief.

13 CLOSE TWO SHOT - BRUCE AND DICK

BRUCE
(softly, for Dick only)
I knew there'd be no harm if he
threatened harm; it's not his style.

14 FEATURE MRS. BELMONT AND JOKER

Everyone is still frozen with astonishment as the Joker steps up to Mrs. Belmont:

JOKER
And now, Mrs. Belmont - if you please!

And he extends his hand, in which he holds a small but powerful magnet, toward her hair. Instantly all her hairpins leap from her hair to the magnet and her elaborate coiffure collapses. The Joker daintily selects one hairpin and then hands to Mrs. Belmont the magnet with the others on it.

JOKER
Thank you, dear lady.
(then to others)
And now to all a farewell!
(to his men - gesturing
toward exit)
Staff . . .

They wheel and depart rapidly, the Joker following. Those under the net of serpentine are beginning to come out of their shock now, realizing they are safe and

Cont.

14 Cont.

~~unharmed~~ and not going to be harmed. They begin trying to part the serpentine, to step out from under it. But it's not that easy! The stuff is adhesive! Every move they make simply tangles them in it worse. Ad lib mutters and exclamations of surprise.

CRIES OF:

It's sticky!

It's in my hair . . .

Oh, how awful!

I'm all stuck up.

15 FEATURE JOKER AT DOOR

He turns to call back.

JOKER

Of course! I told you it was a
stickup!

And again his mad laughter fills the room.

16 INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

BEGIN with CLOSEUP of COMMISSIONER GORDON.

GORDON

A hole!? He stole a hole!?

ANGLE HAS WIDENED to INCLUDE CHIEF O'HARA and one or two others in uniform, looking helpless, baffled and worried.

O'HARA

That's right, Commissioner. The hole in the first green at the exclusive Winnie-Ko-To Country Club.

GORDON

(grimly facing facts)

A hairpin and now a hole -- there's no doubt about it, it's the Joker. Probably embarking on another series of his fantastic crimes.

(gazes piercingly at each man in turn)

Are we prepared to tackle it?

Cont.

16 Cont.

CHIEF O'HARA

If you're asking me, Commissioner,
and thinking of the safety of the city
first, you understand, I say there's
only one man stands a chance with the
deadly capers of the Joker.

GORDON

Right, Chief O'Hara! Though we may
never know who he is, behind that mask
of his --

(as he strides toward the
RED HOT LINE phone, lifts
its cover)

thank goodness he's there when crisis
strikes.

17 INT. ENTRY HALL - WAYNE MANOR - DAY

SUPER TITLE: "AS THE SHOPPERS RETURN TO STATELY WAYNE
MANOR." Outside door opens and Aunt Harriet comes in
with Bruce and Dick. She wears a lovely mink stole.

AUNT HARRIET

Well, it's been quite the nicest
birthday I've ever had - in spite of
that horrible man.

(takes off stole and
admires it)

And I just love my present.

(then to Dick)

And now you'd better be thinking about
your lessons, hadn't you?

BRUCE

I - I think we may have to go out
for a bit presently -- a meeting of --
a fishing group.

He has noticed ALFRED, who has just come from the study
and is giving him a quiet, meaningful look.

18 CLOSE TWO SHOT

As Bruce passes quite near Alfred, so that the latter
can whisper:

Cont.

18 Cont.

ALFRED
It's the Batphone, sir.

Bruce acknowledges this with only a look and speaks to Dick casually, for Aunt Harriet's sake.

BRUCE
Why don't you come along in, Dick,
and we'll give them a call.

DICK
Yes, sure, Bruce.
(to Aunt Harriet as he
hurries off)
I'm sure it won't take long.

19 INT. BRUCE'S STUDY

Bruce crosses and picks up BATPHONE and speaks as Dick enters behind him, closes the door, and crosses to the bust of Shakespeare on Bruce's desk.

BRUCE
(into phone)
The Joker again, eh, Commissioner?

20 INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE - GORDON ON PHONE

GORDON
(blanching)
How did you know? It wasn't in the papers.

21 BACK TO BRUCE'S STUDY

BRUCE
Just call it -- a hunch. We'll
be right there.

As Bruce hangs up, Dick asks the question with a look. As Bruce nods, Dick turns the switch inside Mr. Shakespeare's head. The secret panel slides back to reveal the BATPOLES, and they hurry to them.

22 VARIOUS SHOTS (BAT STOCK)

As they slide down to BATCAVE, acquiring full costumes enroute, to emerge as BATMAN and ROBIN. They leap into BATMOBILE and surge away. Over this, the MAIN TITLES.

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

FADE IN

23 EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY (BAT STOCK)

The hillside slides open, BATMOBILE emerges and streaks away as in PILOT. HOLD FOR EPISODE TITLES.

24 INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - EXTREME CLOSE - A PACKAGE - NIGHT

The package is square, or rather a cube, about 12 inches each way. It is moving when we see it, and PANNING with it as it goes by, shows it to be carried in the hands of a uniformed POLICE OFFICER. He stops before the door to Commissioner Gordon's office, knocks, gets an answer from within, and opens the door.

25 INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE

Present are Gordon, Chief O'Hara, Batman and Robin, and one or two others of high police brass. All look with interest toward the officer who has entered, and gather around as he comes forward to set the package carefully on Gordon's desk.

OFFICER

This just came for you, sir, by special messenger. Do you want it opened?

GORDON

(eyeing package with keen suspicion)

What do you say, Batman?

Batman steps forward and subjects the package to a stern professional gaze for a moment; then gingerly he picks it up, hefts it, listens to it, sniffs it, and jiggles it very gently.

BATMAN

I'd say it would be safe to open here.

GORDON

Good.

They watch tensely as Batman first carefully cuts the string, then removes the brown paper wrapping to reveal a gift box tied with ribbon. Even more carefully he cuts the ribbon and very gently removes it. The others, except for Robin, unconsciously make an ever wider

Cont.

25 Cont.

circle as Batman works. Now, with infinite tenderness, he begins to lift the lid of the box. SUDDENLY IT EXPLODES! The lid flies into the air and from the box there shoots up a huge and terrifying apparition who is some kind of Oriental cut-throat, with ferocious black mustaches and a large, evil-looking scimitar, held in one hand. (Created by instant inflation of a plastic figure). His appearance is accompanied by a raucous inhuman sounding, mechanically produced "Boo!"

ROBIN

Holy jack-in-the-box! What a balloon!

26 QUICK CUTS OF REACTION

Hasty, self-conscious grins appear as nothing else happens, and they move back toward the desk. Except Batman and Robin, of course, who didn't give an inch to begin with.

27 GROUP ABOUT DESK - FEATURE BATMAN

who is eyeing the box in which the figure still stands. He lifts the figure out, sets it aside.

BATMAN

(with no surprise)

Ah -- a small recorder, with a tape on it.

He lifts this out of the box, sets it on the desk, starts it and we HEAR:

JOKER'S VOICE

(from tape)

Good evening, Commissioner! I assume Batman is there by now, so give him my regards, will you? By the way, did you hear what the maid said when the Duchess asked if she'd given the goldfish fresh water that morning: "No, Your Highness, he hasn't used what he had yesterday yet."

Then the Joker's mad laughter. Then silence.

Cont.

27 Cont.

BATMAN

(with grudging respect)

He timed it perfectly to my arrival . . .

Oh, he's shrewd, all right.

(turns to pace a moment,
concentrating)

CHIEF O'HARA

That he is, and a merciless devil along
with it.

GORDON

Do you think all of these things mean
something? The hole -- the hairpain --
this --

(tape and plastic figure)
Everything?

BATMAN

Yes. But probably not what they seem
to mean. That's the key to the Joker's
twisted mind, you see.

ROBIN

(suddenly)

Look at this!

He's standing at a corner of the desk, looking down at the
front page of the evening paper lying there.

ROBIN (cont.)

(referring to paper)

His Highness, the Maharajah of Nimpah
arrived in Gotham City today and he is
so rich he plays golf with solid gold
clubs.

BATMAN

Good work, Robin. His Highness, and
the gold from the goldfish. Anything
else?

ROBIN

Yes. He's playing golf tomorrow at the
Winnie-Ko-To Country Club.

CHIEF O'HARA

Where he stole the hole!

Cont.

27 Cont. 1

ROBIN

(reading verbatim)

And because of the fantastic value
of the solid gold, jewel-inlaid clubs,
he plays only when surrounded by a
dozen ferocious-looking bodyguards.

GORDON

Of course!

(indicates plastic figure)

That's everything but the hairpin.

BATMAN

I have a hunch the Winnie-Ko-To
Country Club just might be worth a
visit tomorrow. You could have a few
men there also, Commissioner Gordon,
but not too many, and in plain clothes.

(he heads for door

toward CAMERA)

We shouldn't want to tip him off, you
know.

GORDON

No, certainly not! Consider it done.

During this, Batman comes straight on into CAMERA until
his chest fills frame.

28 EXT. WINNIE-KO-TO GOLF COURSE - EARLY MORNING

Open VERY CLOSE on a VAN, its side filling frame as
it passes Camera. PAN with it to see it go on away
along a service road on the golf course, then suddenly
turn off across a fairway to disappear into a clump
of trees and brush. Over this SUPER TITLE: "DAWN THE
NEXT MORNING."

29 WOODED AREA - GOLF COURSE

The van pulls into a spot of semi-concealment and stops.
It is a completely straight-sided vehicle, brown and tan
in color, with the tan portion being a wide, (3 or 4
feet) horizontal band. Even the driver's compartment
is included in the straight, box-like shape. On the
van's side is lettered: GAYFELLOW'S DRY CLEANING. The
Joker, in costume and mask, hops out and with hand
signals directs the driver further until he has more
thoroughly hidden the vehicle from sight. The Joker
moves around to:

30 REAR OF VAN

Now the double doors at rear of van open and two of his men, also in masks, hop out to lay a pair of tracks from the van bed down to the ground. Now a third masked man drives out of the van and down the tracks a wheeled forklift. He continues on into a clump of brush until it also is concealed.

JOKER

All right. Might as well make yourselves comfortable, men. There'll be quite a wait before the Maharajah shows up.

31 EXT. WINNIE-KO-TO COUNTRY CLUB PARKING AREA

SUPER TITLE; "LATER THE SAME MORNING." As title FADES BATMOBILE swerves into area and parks.

32 ENTRANCE TO CLUBHOUSE - FROM OUTSIDE

Just inside, looking out through window or glass door, Prescott Belmont, who has obviously been waiting, sees the BATMOBILE and comes out to head for:

33 PARKING AREA

Belmont approaches with outstretched hand as Batman and Robin stride toward club.

BELMONT

(as they meet)

Batman, I presume. I am Prescott Belmont, President of the Club here. I got your message and we're happy to assist you in any way, of course.

BATMAN

Thank you.

BELMONT

Not at all. Even if we don't know what it's all about . . . And this is the Boy Wonder, of course.

(extends hand to Robin)

Welcome to Winnie-Ko-To.

Cont.

33 Cont.

ROBIN
Thank you, sir.

BATMAN
Has the Maharajah of Nimpah begun his round?

BELMONT
Not five minutes ago, with his honor, the Mayor. They're still on the first hole.

BATMAN
Good. Is there some vantage point from which we could overlook the course? . . . Any place where we'll be inconspicuous?

BELMONT
(after a second's thought)
There's a little balcony that would be just the thing.
(turning)
We can go up this way.

BATMAN
Good.

BELMONT
(as they start away toward clubhouse)
I'm very happy to meet you both, if I may say so. I've long admired your work.

34 SEVERAL QUICK CUTS

Thrilled and impressed reactions to actually seeing the Dynamic Duo, ending with a breathless GIRL speaking to her companion.

GIRL
It's Batman! I wonder what he's doing here?

35 EXT. GOLF COURSE - MED. LONG SHOT - MAHARAJAH AND PARTY - DAY

The EFFECT is that of looking at scene through BINOCULARS. It's a large group, including the dozen bodyguards as advertised, who look just like the one that popped out of

Cont.

35 Cont.

the box in Gordon's office. The gentleman in natty sports attire we can assume is the MAYOR (or should he be in top hat and cutaway?). But the MAHARAJAH himself is the easiest to identify, not only from the obeisance shown him, and his Oriental garb, including baggy pants which fasten about his ankles, but by his shape, which is virtually spherical. About five feet six inches in height, perhaps, you would guess his weight at at least 350 pounds, maybe more. The Maharajah is making his approach shot to the first green, which comes off surprisingly well considering his physique. The scene seems to jiggle just slightly, indicating movement of the binoculars.

36 EXT. BALCONY OF CLUBHOUSE

as Batman takes down from his eyes the small but powerful binoculars (from utility belt) and hands them to Robin.

BATMAN

Everything seems serene.

BELMONT

(uneasily)

You were -- expecting trouble of some sort?

BATMAN

Let's just say we like to be prepared. You haven't noticed any suspicious-looking characters about, have you?

BELMONT

No -- nothing at all.

37 EXT. GOLF COURSE - THE FIRST GREEN - FULL SHOT

The Maharajah's ball is near edge of green and he now chips it out onto green. Ball stops 10 or 15 feet from hole. Ad lib congratulations from all on the shot. The Mayor moves toward his ball, which was already on the green and is away.

38 FEATURE MAHARAJAH AND HIS CADDY

who is one of the bodyguards. He takes the club from the Maharajah.

CADDY

Very fine chip shot, Your Highness.

Cont.

38 Cont.

MAHARAJAH

What's very fine? Should be ten feet closer.

CADDY

The grass grows the wrong way, Your Highness.

MAHARAJAH

(emphatically)

That's right . . .

(then sharply)

Mr. Mayor --

39 NEW ANGLE TO INCLUDE MAYOR

who is about to putt.

MAHARAJAH (cont.)

Please do not putt while I'm talking.

MAYOR

Forgive me, Your Highness.

MAHARAJAH

(grudgingly)

All right -- go ahead.

As the Mayor putts, the Maharajah's caddy is replacing the club with which he chipped.

40 EXTREME CLOSE SHOT - MAHARAJAH'S CLUBS

We SEE the beautiful gold instruments, with the number of each club inlaid in multi-colored gems. The caddy moves away with the bag, as he withdraws the putter and hands it to the Maharajah. The Mayor's ball has stopped about three feet from the hole. The Maharajah now putts. The ball rolls to the edge of the hole, drops in. Again everybody is about to offer him congratulations when suddenly they are cut off, for when the ball dropped into the hole it tripped something! For instantly there shoots up out of the hole a shower of small pellets in a flower-shaped cascade, to land all over and about the green, each one exploding as it lands, to release a small cloud of lavender gas. Universal surprise is immediately replaced by coughing and other reactions to the gas.

41 EXT. BALCONY

ROBIN
(suddenly)
Batman! Something's happening!
Looks like gas!

BATMAN
(a swift glance off)
Quick, the Batmobile!
(to Belmont as he turns)
Sorry to be abrupt -- could be an
emergency.

And they're gone.

42 EXT. GREEN

Most of the party are horizontal -- out cold. Those not already down are sagging and collapse now as two of the Joker's men, wearing gas masks, dart out from nearby concealment, scurry to the green, pick up the bag of clubs from beside the caddy, leap into the Maharajah's golf cart and roll away in the opposite direction from which they came.

43 EXT. GOLF COURSE

The Batmobile tops a rise and sweeps past.

44 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - PROCESS

ROBIN
(pointing)
There they go!

45 THEIR P.O.V. FROM BATMOBILE - PROCESS

In the distance we see the cart rolling across a fairway and down a slope. The Batmobile swerves onto a road which looks as if it would intercept the golf cart.

46 EXT. GOLF COURSE - FARTHER DOWN ROAD

The Batmobile races past.

47 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - PROCESS

Robin has turned so that he can look back toward the first green. Suddenly:

ROBIN
Wait! It's not the clubs! They're
stealing the Maharajah!

Cont.

47 Cont.

BATMAN
Good heavens! HOW?

ROBIN
With a forklift!

48 ROBIN'S P.O.V.

Sure enough. Off across the fairway, hanging well above the ground on the prongs of the forklift, the balloon-like body of the Maharajah is being rapidly trundled away from us.

49 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - PROCESS

BATMAN
Hold fast for Bat-turn!

He reaches forward and yanks EMERGENCY BAT-TURN LEVER.

50 EXT. BATMOBILE - VARIOUS SHOTS - BAT-TURN EFFECT -
(BAT STOCK)

51 EXT. GOLF COURSE - MED. LONG SHOT

The van pulls out into view. Back doors fly open as it stops. The forklift hurries up and stops and the Maharajah's body is rolled considerably if not respectfully into the van. All men leap into the van. The doors close and the van takes off, leaving forklift behind.

52 EXT. GOLF COURSE

The Batmobile whines around a curve.

53 EXT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - TOWARD FRONT - PROCESS

No van in sight at first, but after a second it comes up into view from a low spot some distance ahead and hurries along a treeless fairway which slopes toward us. Its speed is obviously no match for the Batmobile.

ROBIN
(in triumph)
We've got 'em!

54 MED. SHOT - DOOR OF VAN IN MOTION

The Joker's head appears briefly in little window of van door, as he looks back toward Batmobile. His head is withdrawn and a hand appears to shoot a flare pistol up in the air behind them.

55 BACK TO BATMOBILE

They are much closer to the van but they never catch it. For suddenly it disappears. That's all. One instant there's a van rolling along the fairway -- the next there's a little flash of light and no van -- just the open, empty, green space of the fairway.

56 REVERSE ANGLE - BATMOBILE COCKPIT - PROCESS

Batman and Robin stare ahead -- stunned, blank, non-plussed. The Batmobile slows.

ROBIN

Holy tee shot! It's gone!

BATMAN

But where!

ROBIN

Look!

(pointing up)

57 THEIR P.O.V.

High in the air we SEE a tiny puff of smoke, as from a small explosion, and settling below it a small object hanging from a tiny parachute. HOLD ON parachute as it settles. We HEAR the Batmobile as it moves forward, and it is under the parachute, Batman standing up to catch it, as it nears the ground.

58 THE DYNAMIC DUO

as they examine their catch. Hanging from the parachute is a MINIATURE VAN; an exact duplicate of the one that disappeared, but no more than four inches long.

59 INSERT - VAN IN BATMAN'S HANDS

Its back doors open and out tumble tiny figures of the Maharajah, the Joker and several of his men. Also written on the inside of the van's back doors there is a note. Batman reads aloud as Robin looks over his shoulder:

BATMAN

Did you hear about the kid that wanted to sell his dog for \$50,000? He got his price -- traded it for two \$25,000 cats. But you can't make a deal like that for the Maharajah, because we've got plenty of cats already. Don't call us -- we'll call you.

Cont.

59 Cont.

They look at each other intently.

BATMAN

Plenty of cats . . . ?

ROBIN

Cats -- cats -- and more cats.

BATMAN

(suddenly)

That's it -- Katz, Katz & Katz Company -- it's an old refinery. It's been out of use for years, but it would make a perfect hideout.

ROBIN

(dubiously)

It seems awfully simple -- almost as if he wanted us to solve it right away.

BATMAN

Yes, it does. We'll have to be on guard.

They sit down, start to turn the Batmobile around.

60

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB - FIRST GREEN - CLOSE SHOT -
THE HOLE

Dirt has been loosened around the metal cylinder and now a MAN'S HANDS lift it out and up, as he turns to show it to Chief O'Hara and Batman. ANGLE WIDENS to FEATURE THEM in a GROUP, which includes Robin and the Mayor. Latter is on his feet now, looking okay, as are others who were knocked out by the gas.

BATMAN

Ah! Just as I suspected. See where he employed the hairpin for his trigger?

He takes the metal cylinder and indicates the mechanism as he speaks, but we see no particular detail, just that the cylinder has been modified.

CHIEF O'HARA

The wily devil!

Batman turns when Mayor gives a little cough.

Cont.

60 Cont.

BATMAN

Feeling better, Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR

Yes, thank you.

BATMAN

Some simple anaesthetic gas with no side effects, I daresay.

MAYOR

Let us hope.

(unhappy sigh)

With all respect to you two, this has been a tragic morning, an ugly smirch on the fair name of our city.

CHIEF O'HARA

Aye. I only wish you had let me surround the place thoroughly.

ROBIN

But that would have tipped off the Joker.

CHIEF O'HARA

That it might. But then he couldn't have carried off the Maharajah, could he?

BATMAN

(bleakly)

Gentlemen, I assure you no one is more deeply regretful of this morning's fiasco than we are. We can only --

CHIEF O'HARA

(hastily)

Now don't be taking it personal, sir. I'd never complain about anything you did.

MAYOR

(emphatically)

Of course not! And we're sure you'll recover his Highness if anyone can.

Cont.

60 Cont. 1

BATMAN

(gravely)

Thank you, gentlemen. We can only hope your faith in us is justified.

(indicates cylinder)

We'll take this with us for possible future analysis. At the moment there are more pressing matters. We should have some fragments from the gas pellets, too, Robin.

ROBIN

(holds out his hand)

Right here!

BATMAN

Good boy! Let's go!

And they stride toward Batmobile.

FLIP FRAME TO:

61 EXT. LONG SHOT - OLD REFINERY (STOCK)

This can be any kind of older building or factory, which looks deserted and which has a tall cylindrical chimney -- one which could be about 8 feet in inside diameter at its lower end. Over this SUPER TITLE: "A LITTLE LATER THE SAME MORNING, IN THEIR PERFECT HIDEOUT" . . .

62 INT. REFINERY - JOKER AND HIS MEN

Any kind of pipes, vats, retorts, tubes and boilers can dress the scene, since we never say what was refined here. Dark shadows, dust and cobwebs abound. Joker and his men are deployed in an open area some 15 or 20 feet in each direction. A moveable, wall-like partition extends along one side of area. There is a table with a deck of cards on it and four or five chairs around it. Some of the chairs have coils of 3/8 inch rope hanging on them and more such coils lie here and there on the floor. All of the men wear masks except the Joker. The Joker is directing the placement of the chairs about the table. Over this SUPER TITLE: "THE JOKER AND HIS MEN PREPARE FOR COMPANY." As the title FADES:

FIRST MOBSTER

Joker, you really t'ink Batman is gonna find us here?

Cont.

62 Cont.

JOKER

I'm surprised he hasn't already.

63 MED. CLOSE SHOT - LOOKOUT AT WINDOW

He is peering intently out. Suddenly he SEES something, turns and hurries away.

64 BACK TO JOKER AND GROUP

as Lookout appears.

LOOKOUT

Hey, Joker. He just parked dat hot rod of his up de street.

JOKER

Excellent! Places, everybody!

Some of the men now gather at the table with the Joker, while others move away around either end of the partition, each one carrying a coil of rope.

65 MED. LONG SHOT - THE TABLE

As a man settles into each chair, one of them picks up a deck of cards, shuffles, and they begin to play. They are seated so that, to some extent at least, all, including the Joker, face away from CAMERA.

66 EXT. STREET - THE BATMOBILE

Batman and Robin have just got out and stand staring off ahead of them.

ROBIN

It looks awfully deserted.

67 THEIR P.O.V. - LONG SHOT OF REFINERY (STOCK)

It does indeed look deserted, abandoned.

68 BACK TO THE DYNAMIC DUO

ROBIN (cont.)

Do you suppose he's there?

BATMAN

There's one way to find out.
(strides away)

Cont.

68 Cont.

ROBIN
(matching his stride)
Right.

In the direction of their movement, a

FAST WIPE TO:

69 ENTRANCE OF REFINERY

As Batman and Robin arrive (moving in same Camera Direction as before), they pause, gazing at entrance. It is two or three stone steps up from the street: a pair of old-fashioned double doors with patterned ground glass panels, lettered with the firm's name.

BATMAN
Hmmm . . . Why not the direct approach this time? He may not be expecting it.

Robin goes up the steps ahead of him, taking a small instrument from his utility belt.

ROBIN
Why not?
(then)
Shall I?

BATMAN
Go ahead.

Robin tries the door knob, inserts the instrument in the lock, twiddles it a bit, and the knob turns.

BATMAN
Good work. Very quick.

Robin steps aside, and with all the tense caution of J. Bond himself Batman slowly turns the door's knob, slowly opens the door, and they slip through. As the door closes INTO CAMERA behind them, we get a CLOSE LOOK at its lettering: "KATZ, KATZ & KATZ, FINE REFINERS."

70 INT. REFINERY - BATMAN AND ROBIN

As they move forward a step or two, PAN with them to show spooky, creepy interior.

Cont.

70 Cont.

ROBIN

(whisper)

Holy spider webs! What a nest for rats!

Batman nods, but signals now for utter silence. Stealthily they ease forward, looking, listening.

71 SEVERAL CUTS

as they progress past different fixtures, through doors, along corridors, etc. Finally, as they round a corner or come through a door TOWARD CAMERA, Batman, looking off to one side, holds up an arm to stop Robin, at the same time backing up a little bit himself. PAN TO:

72 WHAT BATMAN HAS SEEN - THE JOKER AND HIS MEN AROUND THE TABLE

The SHOT is identical to the one in which we last saw them. They continue playing cards in silence, apparently quite oblivious of impending doom.

73 BATMAN AND ROBIN

The latter, having peered around the corner, now moves back out of line-of-sight, in case one of the mobsters should look up. With gestures Batman indicates their Batarangs and Batropes and that Robin is to take the two men on one side of the table, while he will take the three on the other. Robin nods understanding. When their gear is ready, Batman gives a nod and they step into the open, swiftly but carefully aim, and throw the Batarangs.

ROBIN

Got you this time, Joker! No use --

He breaks off, frozen with astonishment, as is Batman. For rather than twining the Batropes about their quarry, the Batarangs strike something and fall useless to the ground, a dozen feet away, and at the same time the Joker turns toward them and we SEE him convulsed with his mad laughter, but the SOUND of it doesn't come from him but from somewhere behind or beside the Peerless Pair, and they look about for it helplessly.

JOKER'S VOICE (o.s.)

Want to get in the game, Batman? You'd better hurry. It won't last long!

Cont.

73 Cont.

And as he says that the table, the players, the entire scene vanishes, and in its stead we SEE the van which disappeared on the golf course earlier.

But this time, along with the Duo, we see what has happened.

(NOTE: The tan portion of the van consists of two panels, hinged above and below, where the tan meets the brown. When folded together as they are now we see only a van. (See sketch). But when the panels are folded out, up and down, one sees only a large mirror, for the underside of each panel is a mirror, and the portion of the truck they reveal, when folded out, is also a mirror. The bottom panel of course reaches to the ground, hiding the wheels. When the panels folded from mirror to truck just now the motion, though swift, was slow enough to show clearly what happened. The back doors of the truck have the same panel-mirror arrangement, but the truck here was so placed that only the side met our view. Set at a slight angle so that the Duo would not see themselves reflected, what they did see was the scene set up by the Joker on the other side of the partition. In actuality, it might require a second mirror to achieve this effect convincingly, but since we don't see the entire set-up in operation, only the result, there seems no necessity to include a second mirror in any explanation.)

Now to continue:

ROBIN

Holy looking glass! No wonder it vanished!

BATMAN

Yes, with nothing but the green grass to reflect on the golf course, it became green, too, and seemed to disappear.

ROBIN

And all the time it was right in front of us!

BATMAN

(sternly - looking about)
But tricks won't help you now, Joker.
You might as well --

That's as far as he gets, for the Joker is not using tricks at the moment. Suddenly the partition crashes down almost upon them, and instantly they're surrounded by the

Cont.

73 Cont. 1

Joker's men, a dozen of them -- those who were on the other side of the partition and others who pop out from various points of concealment.

As quickly as they appear, before the Crusaders can recover from the moment's surprise at the falling wall, each man tosses a lasso loop at the Duo. Not all find their mark, and some of those which do they can fend off, or remove. But not all; first one, then another -- and another -- and another settles over them until all the loops are tight about them. Now the men begin circling, some in each direction, like a Maypole dance. Very quickly, B & R are helpless, tightly bound in the crisscrossing ropes.

During this brief, weird dance, the Joker, between bursts of laughter, taps one foot in square dance rhythm and chants a la the Caller:

JOKER

Circle now and intertwine
To neatly wrap these guests of mine.
(then)
No more will they jeer and scoff,
Cut their circulation off!

Much too occupied with their struggle to banter quips and sallies, the Duo makes no reply. When finally subdued, they eye the Joker with baleful glares as he saunters over.

JOKER

Welcome to our humble pad, my hearties.
I must say this is an expected
pleasure.

He gives his witticism a short burst of insane mirth.

BATMAN

(tight-lipped)
All right, Joker. You've won this round, but you'll hear from us again, never fear.

JOKER

(wide-eyed surprise)
I will!? Tell me, what makes you think there'll be another round?

ROBIN

(tight-lipped)
So that's your dirty game, is it?

Cont.

73 Cont. 2

BATMAN
(tighter-lipped)
We might have known.

JOKER
Oh, come now, fellows. Look at it
from my side. A chance to -- dispose
of both of you at the same time doesn't
pop up every day, you know. And think
what freedom we'll have with you out
of the way.

Ad libs of agreement from his men.

LOOKOUT
(smacking his lips)
Yeah, it would be pure gravy.

JOKER
On the other hand . . .
(eyes them a moment
thoughtfully)
You're both good swimmers, I presume.

BATMAN
(warily)
Fair.

JOKER
You'd have no trouble staying afloat
for an hour, I suppose?

BATMAN
(suspiciously)
If we weren't weighted down or some-
thing of that sort.

JOKER
(after another second's
hesitation)
I'll do it!! I guess I'm just a
sucker -- or a born gambler, or some-
thing. Anyhow you get a sporting
chance, Peerless Pair.

Ad libs of protest from the men.

FIRST MAN
Dat ain't fair, boss. You owe it to
de world of crime.

Cont.

73 Cont. 3

JOKER
(with small concern)
Well, maybe it'll be all right . . .
bring 'em along.

He turns and saunters away. Two of the men step up to the trussed pair, give them a shove and they topple over. Others catch them as they fall; then, gripping them by the network of rope about them, a half-dozen of the men pick them up and all follow the Joker.

74 INT. REFINERY - ANOTHER AREA

The Joker appears, followed by his men, carrying B & R, whom they stand on their feet again, as they reach the Joker. He stands near a closed door.

JOKER
All right. Free them enough so they can walk -- that's all. No use taking chances. Oh -- and get those utility belts off, too. Nothing could hold them when they're wearing those things.

The men follow his directions, but they aren't happy.

LOOKOUT
I tell you, Joker, you're making a mistake.

JOKER
(cheerfully)
Maybe not.
(to B & R)
Now, then, gentlemen, right through here . . .

He opens the door at his side and bows them through. They give him guarded, silent looks and then move awkwardly ahead into what turns out to be a --

75 SHORT NARROW PASSAGE

It ends at a heavy metal door equipped with various bolts and bars, which the Joker now releases. He opens the door a crack, pauses.

Cont.

75 Cont.

JOKER

This is empty now. And I'll give you a few minutes to get out of these --

(the ropes)

before I start filling it. Then all you have to do is stay afloat for an hour and you go absolutely free. Simple, eh?

ROBIN

Yes, if it's the way you make it sound, Joker -- but I still suspect some trick.

JOKER

Now, now, let's not be bitter.

BATMAN

We should give him the benefit of the doubt until he proves otherwise, Robin. It's only fair.

ROBIN

(reluctantly)

I suppose you're right.

JOKER

Of course he is!

(opens door - bows them through)

Be my guests.

76

INT. BOTTOM OF CHIMNEY

For this is what they come in to. A steel or masonry floor has been laid above the firebox at the bottom of the old factory's tall chimney, so that they step into a cylinder some 6 or 7 feet in diameter, with perfectly smooth walls of fire brick. The metal door which closes behind them is curved on the inside also, to fit perfectly into the wall. Enough noon-day light comes down the chimney from above to illuminate the scene adequately. When the door closes we immediately hear the clang and rattle of its bolts and bars being secured on the other side.

Our Duo waste no time in words, but immediately begin working free from the ropes, which, with no one to hinder them, they accomplish with the speed of a Houdini. As they work, each is gazing up and about them, casing the situation.

77 THEIR P.O.V.

PAN AROUND the smooth sides of their prison, then TILT UP to show the smooth sides continuing to the top and its opening far above. Not so far above - 10 or 15 feet perhaps - hangs what looks like, and is, a small speaker.

78 BACK TO B & R

as they conclude their inspection.

ROBIN

Holy smokestack! What a spot to get out or.

BATMAN

Yes, the possibilities do seem -- unpromising.

JOKER'S VOICE (o.s.)

(recorded)

Right, Batman! There're only two ways to get out of there. One, I let you out. Two, jump fifty feet straight up.
(mad laughter)

They glance up at the speaker as they realize there's a microphone too.

BATMAN

And you still intend to free us if we stay afloat for an hour?

JOKER

Why, or course! You don't think I'd lie about a thing like that . . .
Well, time to start filling the tank.

As he says this a steady HISSING SOUND begins and the Peerless Pair look quickly down.

79 THEIR P.O.V. - WHERE WALL MEETS FLOOR

From a one-inch pipe at floor level there is issuing forth not water but a stream of visible GAS. Much heavier than air, it flows out across the floor almost like a thick liquid, curling about their feet, obscuring them. ZOOM DOWN to an EXTREME CLOSE of a neat sign just above the pipe. It reads: "Deadly Gas."

80 BACK TO B & R

BATMAN

But that's gas!

Cont.

80 Cont.

JOKER

It is?!!

(laughter)

By George, I believe you're right.

(more laughter)

But who said anything about water?

ROBIN

But you can't float in gas!

JOKER

(hilarious)

You don't mean it, Boy Wonder.

(then abruptly with quiet menace)

But you can drown in it. You didn't really think I could pass up a chance like this, did you? Much as I'll miss our little games, I'd be a traitor to all my principles and friends to let you go. One word of advice: don't thrash around and stir it up. It only takes one whiff.

The level of the opaque gas has reached their knees now and is rising steadily.

81

CLOSE TWO SHOT

as Robin leans near Batman to whisper:

ROBIN

You think that's true?

BATMAN

(whisper)

Yes. No joke about that. I can smell enough to tell already.

ROBIN

(whisper)

If only we had a Batarang and Batline! The ropes on the floor are too heavy, I guess.

BATMAN

(whisper)

Much. And it would stir up the gas to try to throw now.

Cont.

81 Cont.

ROBIN

But what are we doing to do?

There is a moment of grim silence before Batman answers,
and when he does he is pronouncing their death sentence.

BATMAN

Unless we get help from somewhere --
I don't know.

82 MED. SHOT

The gas is waist high now and rising. As they look
about them, desperately searching for some tiny ray of
hope, SUPER SUCCESSIVE EXPLODING TITLES:

"BUT HELP FROM WHERE?!!"

"NOT THE JOKER, CERTAINLY."

"AND NO ONE ELSE KNOWS WHERE THEY ARE."

"IS THIS THE JOKER'S CROWNING JEST?"

"THE MOST GASSLY JOKE OF ALL!?"

"FIND OUT TOMORROW NIGHT - SAME
TIME, SAME CHANNEL."

"BUT BE PREPARED -- NO HELP IS
COMING!"

FADE OUT

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO

FADE IN

83

QUICK REPRISE OF PART ONE

SERIES OF FREEZE FRAME SHOTS stolen from footage of Part One, each with SUPERED TITLE. They proceed in rapid succession, as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (a) "INNOCENT BIRTHDAY SHOPPERS!" | Fur salon; Aunt Harriet trying on stole. Bruce and Dick watching. |
| (b) "A STICK-UP!" | Joker's masked men holding everyone at gunpoint. |
| (c) "IT'S THE JOKER!!" | Crowd draped with serpentine. Joker drawing hairpins from Mrs. Belmont's hair. |
| (d) "A CLUE?" | Gordon's Office -- the Oriental cutthroat exploding from box. |
| (e) "YES -- TO ORIENTAL ROYALTY." | Golf green, to feature Maharajah and one of bodyguard. |
| (f) "THEFT OF THE GOLD GOLF CLUBS!!" | Joker's men in gas masks running with golf bag. |
| (g) "AFTER THEM!!!" | Batmobile zooming along golf course. |
| (h) "BUT NO -- THEFT OF THE MAHARAJAH!!!" | Forklift carrying Maharajah as it nears van. |
| (i) "DID THE VAN VANISH?" | The Duo in Batmobile staring ahead at nothing -- stunned, blank. |
| (j) "OR SHRINK?" | The tiny van in Batman's hands, to show figures. |
| (k) "TRACED TO THEIR LAIR!" | Joker and men playing cards, with Peerless Pair about to toss Batropes. |
| (l) "BUT NOT SURPRISED!!" | B & R being lassoed from all sides. |
| (m) "WRAPPED FOR MAILING!!" | The Duo, tightly trussed, standing by door, with Joker and men. |

Cont.

83 Cont.

- (n) "INTO THE MAILBOX!" B & R in chimney, struggling out of ropes.
- (o) "ADDRESSED TO --
OBLIVION!!!" Same Scene. Gas around their ankles now, as they look down in horror.
- (p) "IS THERE NO WAY OUT?" Another angle, same scene, as they look desperately up. Gas level is still higher.
- (q) "NO WAY BUT UP!!!" P.O.V. up the inside of tall chimney.
- (r) "AND NO HELP IN
SIGHT!!! . . . IN
ANOTHER MINUTE!! . . . Duo in chimney again. Gas up to Robin's chest now.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

84 INT. CHIMNEY - DAY

No change except the gas is up to Robin's armpits. Now suddenly Batman leans over to whisper in Robin's ear. We can't hear what he says but Robin nods understanding, and they then turn their backs to each other and gently press their shoulders together. Then, very slowly, their heads begin to sink down toward the gas. Over this SUPER EXPLODING TITLE: "OH NO! DON'T GIVE UP!!"

But, holding their breath now, they continue down, lower and lower, until almost all of Robin's head, except for his upturned nose, has disappeared into the gas. But then, just before it's too late, their heads begin to rise again, together, in a curious series of small advances or steps, almost as if they were climbing stairs. They come back to the level they were before -- but don't stop there! Now their chests are above the gas and they risk breathing again, releasing their held breaths in audible gasps. Now their waists are in the clear. And finally we SEE what they are doing. Though each could of course climb up the inside of a cylinder small enough to give him purchase against the sides, with hands and feet, the diameter of this chimney has made that impossible for either, alone. But not for both together. Pressing their backs and shoulders firmly together in the center, with their feet hard against the sides of the chimney, they are simply walking up the inside of the thing in a series of short easy steps.

ROBIN

(in tense tones - a sudden
inspiration)

It's getting awfully close.

BATMAN

(catching on)

Steady old man. Here, stand on my
shoulders.

85 GROUP SHOT - FEATURE JOKER

as he and his men listen to the Duo over nearby speaker.

ROBIN'S VOICE

No...if we've got to go, we'll go
together.

BATMAN'S VOICE

(after a moment of silence)

Are you ready?

Cont.

85 Cont.

ROBIN'S VOICE
(after another silence)
Yes, all ready.

The Joker flicks a tear from a corner of his eye, speaks to himself in a husky whisper.

JOKER
A gutsy pair. You've got to give
'em that . . . a gutsy pair.
(after a moment -- more
loudly to others)
Well, I guess they're gone.
(turns to microphone)
Goodbye . . . Dynamic Duo!

86 INT. CHIMNEY

The Duo are just passing the speaker as they hear this and Robin cheerfully pantomimes "Goodbye" and throws the speaker a couple of kisses.

JOKER'S VOICE
(from speaker)
You know I'm going to miss 'em.
It's going to seem too easy now.

LOOKOUT'S VOICE
Come off that. Think how cushy
it'll be. Think about that ransom
for the Maharajah.

87 GROUP SHOT - JOKER AND MEN

JOKER
(cheerful again)
Right! That's what I'll think about.

LOOKOUT
(ready to leave)
Okay. Let's get out of here!

JOKER
Wait! We've got to shut off the
gas and pump the neutralizing gas
in. Some innocent person could get
killed.

LOOKOUT
Oh. I guess you're right.

He moves away toward gas valves, somewhere offscene.

88 INT. CHIMNEY - B & R CLIMBING

89 EXTREME CLOSE SHOT - SEVERAL VALVES

A hand turns one valve off and the SOUND of gas flow stops. The hand turns another valve on and the SOUND of gas flowing begins again, slightly different.

90 INT. CHIMNEY - B & R CLIMBING

Batman looks up.

91 HIS P.O.V. - UP CHIMNEY

The top of the chimney is not far above us now.

92 GROUP SHOT - FEATURE JOKER

He looks at his watch.

JOKER

Okay. That should do it.

(turns and calls)

Shut it off!

LOOKOUT'S VOICE (o.s.)

Okay . . . it's off!

JOKER

(turning toward passage
to chimney)

Let's check just to be sure.

93 INT. TOP OF CHIMNEY - B & R - PROCESS

Their heads appear. The chimney is narrower here, so that each can reach forward to grasp the top edge while his back remains braced against the other. Then they pull themselves onto the edge of the chimney to sit. They glance about them, and down.

ROBIN

Look!

94 THEIR P.O.V. - DOWN

ROBIN'S VOICE (o.s.)

They've discovered our escape!

We SEE the van outside the building now, in an alley, and men are scurrying about, tossing things into it, and hopping in themselves. One looks up, then excitedly indicates B & R to the others and the activity doubles. In a moment the van pulls hastily away.

95 BACK TO BATMAN AND ROBIN

BATMAN

And they're afraid to face us in
the open -- even ten to one.

ROBIN

Now we'll have to track 'em down
again.

BATMAN

I'm afraid so. Are you ready for a
ride?

ROBIN

Right!

BATMAN

A shoe sole would protect our
hands, I'd say.

Three or four guy wires run from top of chimney down
to ground. Batman now slips off a boot, places its sole
over a wire so that he will hang from it with the boot
between it and his hands, eases forward on the edge of
the chimney, and off he goes.

96 LONG SHOT - THE SLIDE - MINIATURE

if practical. In an angle from the ground we'd see
only top of chimney and silhouette of top of lower
buildings, for most of the slide, CUTTING TO:

97 MED. LONG SHOT - GROUND END OF GUY WIRE

as Batman slides into FRAME.

98 TOP OF CHIMNEY

ROBIN

Here I come!

He launches just as Batman did.

99 REPEAT MINIATURE

with Robin puppet.

100 MED. SHOT - GROUND END OF GUY WIRE

as Robin arrives, delighted with the ride.

Cont.

100 Cont.

ROBIN

Gee, that's great! I wish we had time to do it again.

BATMAN

Too bad, but I'm afraid we have some lab work ahead.

101 INT. BATCAVE - TIGHT SHOT - ULTRASONIC MATERIALS CLASSIFIER

We SEE a bank of many dials and meters, with Robin's hands moving first to this dial, then to that, with the meter hands and other indicators twitching now to, now fro. We also HEAR successive faint changes in the high-pitched HUM, which the machine gives out, and we SEE clearly the neatly-lettered label which identifies this piece of equipment. ANGLE WIDENS to INCLUDE Robin who is manning the machine. He looks tired and discouraged, and is. Now he pauses, sighs wearily and pulls the main switch to turn the machine off. He opens the TEST CHAMBER (also labeled) and removes from it the metal cylinder, the hole from the golf green which they acquired that morning. Carrying it as he walks, he moves away from us over to where Batman is operating another device.

102 MED. SHOT

Robin arrives to stand beside Batman a moment, watching the indicator panel with him on the --

103 ALL PURPOSE SPECTOGRAPHIC ANALYZER - TIGHT SHOT

This is a fascinating bit of equipment also, with numerous details, meters, flashing lights, etc., which intermittently gives off lower, more intimate sounds than did the Ultrasonic Materials Classifier. A long glass panel across the top shows a light, but this is merely even, colorless and uninteresting at present.

104 TWO SHOT

Batman, looking tired and discouraged also, now turns off main switch and looks at Robin.

BATMAN

No luck?

Cont.

104 Cont.

ROBIN

Nothing.

(indicates cylinder)

I checked every component and it's
all strictly ordinary stuff. Just
like the gas pellet fragments. You too?

BATMAN

(nods glumly)

Nothing to help us on the pellet
fragments here, either.

(discouraged sigh)

And if the Maharajah isn't recovered
soon it could create a direly critical
situation with his government. In fact
I'm surprised there hasn't already
been

(his voice trails off
as a thought strikes him)

ROBIN

(suddenly)

The gas!

BATMAN

What?

ROBIN

That wasn't a common gas they used
this morning, was it? Suppose there's
a trace or it on the --

BATMAN

(instantly alert - finishes)

-- the pellet fragments! Right! It
may be too faint to pick up, but
what can we lose? Is there a fragment
left that hasn't been through any
tests?

ROBIN

I think so.

He turns to a nearby table and turns back immediately
with a small box. Opening it, he holds it out to Batman
who takes it without touching the fragment of gas pellet
within it and dumps the fragment into the ANALYSIS
CHAMBER (labeled).

105 TIGHT SHOT OF MACHINE

as Batman turns knobs, checks meters, pushes switches, etc. One handle turns a succession of legends in a small window until it stops on "Gaseous Compounds - Uncommon." CAMERA MOVES IN to make this completely legible.

106 WIDER ANGLE

Batman turns the master switch and the device begins to function again, with accompanying lights, sounds, etc., as before. But again, nothing interesting happens; the long panel at the top shows occasional brief flashes of color but they don't last. Then a new color appears in the panel, fades, returns, and then comes on full, in a beautiful steady pattern.

BATMAN
(quiet triumph)
We've got it!

Swiftly he pulls to him a large, stiff-covered, loose-leaf book.

107 EXTREME CLOSE SHOT OF BOOK

Its cover is lettered: "PATTERN IDENTIFICATION MANUAL." Batman's hands flip the pages which consist of replicas of the machine's light panels, but in many different color combinations and patterns. At a page of panels similar to the one flashing before him, Batman's hands stop and a finger runs down the page beside the panels.

108 BACK TO SCENE

Batman looks from book to lighted panel and back again.

BATMAN
That's it! And our guess was right.
It's an uncommon gas. In fact --
(thinking hard)
I know of but one place in Gotham
City where it would be available.

ROBIN
Where's that?

BATMAN
The Ferguson Novelty and Spy Supply
Company.

Cont.

108 Cont.

ROBIN

Oh! I've been there! Where they have
all the tricks and magicians' stuff.

(sudden thought)

Say -- do you suppose -- -- ?

(pauses -- looking the
question)

BATMAN

That it could be a front for the
Joker? Why not?

ROBIN

Of course! It would be perfect for
him. Maybe it has been all along,
while he was lying low, preparing for
all this.

BATMAN

(switching off analyzer -
rising)

If we hurry we can make it before
they close.

ROBIN

Right!

And they move swiftly away, from Camera Right to Left,
and not toward Batmobile. As they go, also from Right
to Left --

SLIDE FRAME TO:

109 EXT. FERGUSON NOVELTY AND SPY SUPPLY CO. - FULL SHOT -
DAY

The F.N. & S.S. Co. is a longish, one-story establish-
ment built smack against the side of a high hill which
rises behind it. Not in the least outlandish in appear-
ance, it has instead a look of quiet dignity and
propriety. It doesn't even have an identifying sign
which will pick up at this range. Just as SLIDE is
completed, continuing the effect of Right to Left move-
ment, into frame from Camera Right rolls the long,
luxurious, though conservative Wayne limousine. Alfred
is at the wheel, Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson the
passengers. The limousine stops before entrance and
Alfred pops out to open the door.

110 MED. SHOT AT LIMOUSINE

as Bruce and Dick descend.

Cont.

110 Cont.

ALFRED

Shall I wait here, sir?

BRUCE

If you please, Alfred; we probably shan't be long.

PAN with them as they enter and move in to CLOSE of metal plaque beside door which reads: "Ferguson Novelty & Spy Supply Company."

111 INT. F.N. & S.S. CO.

The inside is fully as sedate as the outside: a longish room with the wares displayed in showcases and on shelves. Different departments are identified by neatly printed legends. Among them: "JUVENILE," "SURPRISE JOKES," "TRICKS - ADULT," "SIMPLE ILLUSIONS," "TRICKS - ADULT AGGRESSIVE," "BETTER ILLUSIONS," "PROFESSIONAL," etc. Beyond the Professional section, at one end, hang black velvet curtains. The only CLERK, a girl, is busy with a customer, which gives Bruce and Dick a chance to look about for a moment. CAMERA MOVES with them, picking out various items as they look at them. And this place has a really complete stock: everything for fun and games, for espionage, for sabotage; from realistic imitation dog piles for the living room carpet to the most complex electronic devices. The clerk finishes with her customer, who leaves, and she then comes over to Bruce and Dick, where they have paused near the electronic equipment.

112 FEATURE CLERK

as she comes up to them. And what a clerk! That is to say, What? . . . A clerk? For this kid, though clad almost severely, is basically an item to pop out the eye and palpitate the heart of any agent for exotic dancers.

CLERK

Good afternoon. May I help you?

The effect is jolting; for when she speaks we discover that along with her bountiful alignments and sexy gaze she has a manner -- accent, tone and hauteur -- that should happen only to a matronly British Duchess.

BRUCE

(playing it rather stuffy himself)

Thank you. We thought we might find some amusing favors for a little dinner this young man is giving.

Cont.

112 Cont.

CLERK

To be sure. Would you step in this direction, please?

She starts toward other end of room, but Bruce stops her with:

BRUCE

Of course, but --

(as she pauses)

While we're here could I ask you a question or two about some of these?

(indicates items)

They're terribly -- provocative.

CLERK

(coming back)

Part of my duty, sir, is to answer all questions . . . obtuse or not.

BRUCE

Oh. Thank you.

(indicates items)

This says it's an electronic listening device, and this is an electronic listening device detector -- and this is a detector detector. Does that mean it detects detectors of electronic listening devices?

CLERK

Quite correct, sir.

BRUCE

Fascinating! And this --

He indicates an object on top of showcase which Dick is examining. It has the appearance simply of a triangular-shaped piece of glass about 4 inches long. Bruce reads from its identifying card:

BRUCE

What exactly is a One-way-Glass Reversing Refractor?

CLERK

(recites, as from textbook)

A prism which, placed flush against any one-way glass, will by refraction enable one to look through the one-way glass in the direction opposite to the one for which it was designed.

Cont.

112 Cont. 1

BRUCE

Absolutely fascinating!

He moves on a few steps to the black velvet curtains, parts them and peers in.

CLERK

That's merely a conference room for top echelon undercover personnel, or Class A magicians, with custom orders.

BRUCE

Oh.

113 A DIFFERENT ANGLE

as Bruce comes back, to show his surreptitious signal to Dick to glom onto the One-way-Glass Reversing Refractor and investigate behind the curtains. We don't have to understand what Bruce is signalling to Dick now, only that he is signalling.

CLERK

In fact all of this equipment is quite sophisticated, sir -- purely for espionage or sabotage.

BRUCE

(indicates item in showcase)

Yet you have the traditional rubber lapel flower, here, which squirts water into one's eye.

CLERK

(coldly)

On the contrary, sir, this model is of a special plastic -- and squirts cyanide. The rubber version is in the juvenile area.

BRUCE

(properly chastened)

Oh.

CLERK

May I show you to the juvenile section?

BRUCE

Yes, do.

Cont.

113 Cont.

They move toward other end of shop. Dick lingers behind, seeming absorbed in something. Presently he drifts toward the black velvet curtains and a moment later has slipped through.

114 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

It is softly lit, not large, comfortably furnished. Catalogues and reference books line one wall and there is a fully equipped draftsman's table at one side. The rear wall of the room, the one which, from our outside view, should stand right against the hillside, is of masonry -- large composition bricks. A couple of colored, opaque glass bricks, seemingly as a purely decorative touch, are set into this wall, at about eye-level and 6 or 8 feet apart. Dick looks about with casual curiosity, but there is nothing to indicate the place is anything other than what it purports to be. CAMERA MOVES PAST Dick to FRAME a small section of wall containing one of the opaque glass bricks.

115 REVERSE ANGLE - SECTION OF WALL FROM OTHER SIDE

This is identical to previous shot, except that the glass brick is not opaque now -- through it we can see Dick, on the other side of the wall, as he idly inspects books, the drafting table, etc.

LOOKOUT'S VOICE (o.s.)

Somebody there?

116 FEATURE 1ST MAN OF JOKER'S CREW

who is looking through glass brick. (Previous shot was his P.O.V.)

FIRST MAN

No, just some nosey kid.

He moves back to Lookout and several others, who stand about a nearby table. Beyond them we SEE remainder of long underground room. Dug into the hillside behind main building, it seems to serve for storage, since stacks of cartons occupy most of the space. It is also, of course, in effect, a virtually impregnable underground fort.

117 ANGLE AT TABLE

Though the table itself is a crude affair, it is loaded with the rarest delicacies: caviar, vintage champagne,

Cont.

117 Cont.

roast beef, pheasant, exotic hot creations in chafing dishes, myriad canapes, smoked Afghanistan salmon, anything you can think of, all labeled. As he scoops up some caviar and pours himself a generous slug of champagne:

LOOKOUT

You've gotta say one t'ing for de Joker -- he soives a nice snack.

MAHARAJAH'S VOICE (o.s.)

Well, how I look, gentlemen??

118 PAST TABLE TO MAHARAJAH

who has appeared from behind a tier of cartons to strike a pose. He looks much as he did on the golf course.

MAHARAJAH

Not suffered from my abduction, you think? ,

FIRST MAN

I think you look like a bundle of ransom and I think we've waited long enough.

MAHARAJAH

Ransom! Who would wish ransom from such an enchanting place?

And from the folds of his costume he brings several pellets which he tosses at the men, where they explode and instantly turn into writhing snakes. Laughing with delight he now upends a nearby carton and a gigantic set of false teeth fall out and immediately begin snapping their way across the floor toward the men. Ad libs from men to come on now, lay off the jokes, that's enough.

119 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MED. CLOSE - DICK

His casual inspection has brought him near the brick wall, and he now leans against it, putting himself out of sight from anyone who might be looking through from the other side. Taking the One-way-Glass Reversing Refractor from his pocket, he readies it, then moves to place it swiftly against a glass brick and take a quick look into it.

120 DICK'S P.O.V. THROUGH REFRACTOR AND BRICK

We SEE a continuation of the action -- Maharajah, Joker's men and jokes.

121 BACK TO DICK

who instantly moves away from glass brick, his eyes wide with the importance of his discovery. He starts to leave, then notes drawing table and moves to it. Quickly he begins to sketch.

122 EXTREME CLOSE OF SKETCH

as it grows under Dick's pencil. Concentration is mainly on the room itself, figures being indicated without detail, though we can recognize Maharajah from his size and shape. Dick's hand goes out of FRAME for a moment, during which there is, on the sketch itself, a very

QUICK DISSOLVE TO:

123 INT. BATCAVE - EXTREME CLOSE OF SKETCH - IDENTICAL ANGLE

Robin's hand returns to add some detail to the sketch, which now looks virtually complete.

BATMAN'S VOICE

Excellent, Robin. For only a quick glimpse, superb.

ANGLE WIDENS to include Batman and Robin, standing together at a drawing table in Batcave.

ROBIN

Wait, there's one more thing.

124 EXT. CLOSE OF SKETCH

We SEE Robin's pencil draw in, high on the rear wall, a squarish sort of framed grill.

ROBIN'S VOICE

I'm not sure what it is, but it looked like this.

125 BACK TO B & R

BATMAN

(eyeing sketch keenly)
Unless I miss my guess, it's the cover to a ventilating shaft.

Cont.

125 Cont.

ROBIN

Of course!

BATMAN

And if it is, the shaft probably comes out on the hillside straight above them.

ROBIN

Holy ambush! What a way to get in -- if only we knew where it was!

Batman produces a beautiful 11x14 glossy print and lays it on the table.

BATMAN

Well, now, with the measurements and angles we can determine from this photograph we took outside --
(lays a ruler and compass on photograph)
-- and a few calculations . . .

126 ANOTHER ANGLE - FEATURE ROBIN

as he watches intently. Batman is figuring with a pencil now. As he works:

BATMAN

Do you begin to feel trigonometry may have some value, after all?

ROBIN

Gosh, yes. I'll say. I'll never try it avoid it again.

BATMAN

(completes calculation)
There!
(places point of compass on photograph)

127 EXTREME CLOSE - PHOTOGRAPH AND COMPASS

Batman's fingers turn the compass to circle a spot on the hillside above the building.

BATMAN'S VOICE

If the shaft comes straight up, it should emerge somewhere in there.

CAMERA MOVES IN to FRAME tightly the area on the photograph circled by the compass.

128 EXT. HILLSIDE - IDENTICAL AREA - NIGHT

We only realize this is real instead of photographed when we hear:

ROBIN'S VOICE
(softly)
Batman? . . . Where are you?

129 BATMAN

moves swiftly along hillside to Robin, coming into CLOSE TWO SHOT as he reaches him.

BATMAN
(finger to lips)
Shhh.
(whisper)
If it's near by they could hear us down there.

ROBIN
(whisper)
I think I've found it!

He points down into scrub brush nearby. Batman stoops to examine.

130 ANGLE TO INCLUDE TOP OF AIR SHAFT

This is a low-peaked, square, sheet metal affair, which sits atop the square shaft. Robin stoops with Batman, and with pantomime communication they join forces to try to lift the cover silently. Success! A shaft at least 2 feet square extends straight down from them.

ROBIN
(whisper)
How far did you say?

BATMAN
(whisper)
About 50 feet. Enough to give us -- good momentum.

ROBIN
Oh boy! I'll say. Can I go first?
I want to see their faces.

BATMAN
(whisper - putting it kindly)
Age before beauty.

Cont.

130 Cont.

With great care so as to make no sound, he swings his feet and legs into the shaft, grasps its edges and suspends himself with his arms, straight up in the shaft. Robin is poised, waiting to follow.

BATMAN

(whisper)

This could be a mistake, I suppose.
Well -- look out below.

Letting go he drops from sight.

131 INT. UNDERGROUND ROOM - FULL SHOT - NIGHT

as Batman arrives. And this time it is a surprise! The air shaft evidently curves to horizontal at the bottom, for the grill shoots clear across the room and Batman himself sails out into the middle of it, cape flying. The Joker and the several of his men in evidence freeze in astonishment for an instant at the sight.

BATMAN

Don't anyone move! You're under
arrest! Joker, where's the Maharajah?

Moving toward rear wall, Joker starts to answer, but breaks off as Robin's arrival duplicates Batman's. Joker has reached an electric switch panel on the wall by this time.

132 MED. CLOSE - JOKER AT PANEL

So that we can read easily the sign above panel:
"SURPRISE ATTACK DEFENSE PANEL."

JOKER

(throwing all switches)

What's the matter with you, Batman?
I'm the funny man around here.

(turns from panel, bellows)

To arms, men! Repel boarders.

133 FEATURE B & R

BATMAN

(grimly)

All right then -- if that's the way
you want it.

Cont.

133 Cont.

Reinforcements of Joker's men have appeared from everywhere. Batman reaches out, grabs the nearest one, snaps a Batcuff on one wrist and opposite ankle, and tosses him aside, as he reaches for another. Not without struggle, of course. Robin follows suit.

But not only have the Joker's men gone into action now, the automatic defense mechanisms have begun to function, too.

134 THE FIGHT

In view of the nature of the room and contents stored there, of course absolutely anything goes in the way of effect which can be devised. Horrible, lethal-looking devices turn out to be silly jokes; innocent, attractive-looking items wreak havoc. Rockets flare, curving around and through everything; pinwheels ignite and then spin wild, roaring along the floor, spinning through the air, sawing through anything in their way. Things in general EXPLODE, COLLAPSE, BITE, BURN, SPIT, STAB, SQUIRT and SMOTHER with FOAM. Even so, B & R are making headway, with a growing pile of Batcuff prisoners.

135 FEATURE THE JOKER

He pauses a moment in his launching of rockets, etc., to watch the battle. Suddenly he realizes it's going against them. He gives a sharp whistle and as his men look toward him gestures for them to follow him, then disappears quickly behind a tier of cartons.

136 THE DUO

Busy subduing an especially large and agile henchman, they are unaware of the Joker's departure. When they finally Batcuff him and straighten up to look about for the next victim, they suddenly realize their quarry has vanished. The place is silent.

ROBIN

(blankly)

What happened? Where did they go?

Swiftly Batman runs toward the end of the room where Joker was last seen, disappears around the tier of cartons.

137 ANGLE TOWARD WALL - PAST BATMAN

We SEE an open door to a dark passage, leading straight into the hillside. Batman has stopped for an instant but now lunges toward door as Robin comes into FRAME PAST CAMERA to stop behind him.

Cont.

137 Cont.

ROBIN

Holy molehill! They went into
the mountain.

He starts forward, but then stops, for Batman has also
stopped, just within the passage.

138 TWO SHOT

Batman stands motionless, listening for a moment, hears
nothing and turns back.

BATMAN

They're gone. Probably comes out
on the other side of the hill.

ROBIN

But where's the Maharajah? They
can't have taken him with them
that fast.

BATMAN

No -- probably moved him before
we got here.

(turning back into
room)

We'll make a thorough search --
but I don't expect anything.

139 INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

BEGIN with CLOSE OF END of GORDON'S DESK, on which sits
telephone and a tray containing empty dishes, coffee
cups, fragments of sandwich, etc. The phone RINGS.
Gordon's hand reaches swiftly into FRAME to pick it up
and ANGLE WIDENS to INCLUDE him as he answers.

GORDON

(into phone)

Commissioner Gordon . . . Oh,
Batman! . . .

(relief and hope)

Yes, I've been waiting to hear from
you. I hope you have some good news
for us.

Chief O'Hara and another Officer have come over to
stand by desk, listening anxiously.

140

INT. UNDERGROUND ROOM - DESK IN CORNER - NIGHT

Batman sits at a small desk in a corner where there is a telephone and other fragmentary evidence that it has been the Joker's operational headquarters. Rough sketches of apparatus such as the disappearing van lie on the desk. Robin sits on a corner of the desk. Both look downcast and disheartened.

BATMAN

I'm afraid not, Commissioner. We traced the Joker here to his hideout and surprised him, but -- he got away.

INTERCUT

Gordon clicks a switch at his end so that from now on Batman's Voice will be audible in Gordon's office, with a microphone picking up for Batman anyone who speaks in the room. And in the underground room Robin moves close to Batman and puts his ear near phone, so that he can listen to both ends of the conversation.

GORDON

(fearfully)

And the Maharajah . . . ?

BATMAN

There was . . . no sign of him.

GORDON

Oh.

(after silence)

The Mayor is -- terribly upset.

BATMAN

(grimly)

It's not exactly pleasant for me to have to report -- failure. So far.

GORDON

No. Of course.

It's plain that Gordon and the others feel Batman has let them down. After another silence:

BATMAN

No word on ransom yet, I suppose?

GORDON

No.

Cont.

140 Cont.

BATMAN

Oh -- you might send the wagon over here. There's a half-dozen of the Joker's men you can pick up. It's the Ferguson Novelty and Spy Supply Company.

GORDON

All right. Chief O'Hara will see to it.

He looks at Chief O'Hara who nods, turns to the other Officer present and indicates he is to execute order. Other Officer nods understanding and turns to leave. As he nears door, it is opened suddenly by a SERGEANT, who hasn't even stopped to knock.

SERGEANT

(excited)

Sir, the Joker is on the air, on our band, and wants to speak to you!

GORDON

(swift decision)

All right. Bring him in. Did you hear that, Batman?

BATMAN'S VOICE

Yes.

GORDON

Hang on and listen.

The Sergeant brings a portable, two-way police radio from a table to set it on the desk. He adjusts its microphone so Gordon can address it, throws the switch to transmit, and speaks into the mike himself.

SERGEANT

This is Commissioner Gordon's office. Come in, Joker.

Sergeant throws switch to receive and from now on operates switch for send or receive, as needed.

JOKER'S VOICE

(from radio)

Good evening, Commissioner. Happy to find you in. Perhaps you can do me a favor.

Cont.

140 Cont. 1

GORDON

(grimly)

I warn you, Joker, if the Maharajah is harmed, we'll hunt you down if it takes a hundred years.

JOKER'S VOICE

(dryly)

By that time do you think I'd be worth finding, Commissioner?

GORDON

I've no time for chitchat with your kind, Joker. If you have something to say, say it.

JOKER

(cheerfully)

Very well. I want to talk to Batman. Can you arrange it?

As the Sergeant starts to throw the switch to transmit Gordon's reply, Gordon holds up his hand to stop him.

GORDON

(to phone)

Did you hear that, Batman?

BATMAN

Yes, I heard it.

GORDON

Do you want to talk to him?

BATMAN

By all means.

Gordon nods to Sergeant who throws switch to transmit, and now moves radio closer to telephone.

GORDON

(to radio mike)

I happen to be in touch with Batman now, and we have set up a relay here. The next time you speak, he will hear you, and you can hear his reply.

JOKER'S VOICE

What service! Are you there, Batman?

Cont.

140 Cont. 2

BATMAN
(severely)
I'm here.

JOKER
Well, the fun and games are over, old fellow, and it's time for the harvest, as it were. I want to enlist your help in the ransom arrangements.

BATMAN
Never!

JOKER
(conciliatory)
Don't take a stand until you've heard everything, old boy. I've a friend here who wants to talk to you.

MAHARAJAH'S VOICE
This is Maharajah of Nimpah speaking.

GORDON
(hasty - anxious)
Your Highness, are you all right?

MAHARAJAH'S VOICE
Quite all right, thank you, and enjoy delightful interval with bandit Joker, but now time return to business. Will Batman please arrange cash personal check tomorrow?

BATMAN
Your check? What for?

MAHARAJAH'S VOICE
For ransom money. What else?

BATMAN
(slowly)
You're going to cash the ransom check yourself? For how much?

MAHARAJAH'S VOICE
Half million dollars U.S.

Stunned silence, then:

Cont.

140 Cont. 3

BATMAN

(cagily)

But how will it be paid to the Joker?

MAHARAJAH'S VOICE

That already arranged between bandit
Joker and Maharajah.

Longer silence. Batman is thinking.

MAHARAJAH'S VOICE

What is matter? You not approve?

BATMAN

(coldly)

I certainly do not approve. And I'll
have nothing to do with it! You're
free to do as you please, of course,
but leave me out of it.

MAHARAJAH'S VOICE

(urgent)

But unfortunate not possible leave you
out. I let bandit Joker explain.

JOKER'S VOICE

(hard and unyielding now)

You see, it's part of the price, Batman.
You make the arrangement, you be there
when he cashes it, and you endorse the
check. Otherwise . . . no more Maharajah!

BATMAN

(choked)

What are you trying to do? Disgrace
me forever? Ruin me?

JOKER'S VOICE

Well, now, you've been very trouble-
some, you know.

GORDON

(dramatically)

Batman, please! Think of the con-
sequences. Think of me! Think of
Gotham City. Think of our country!
This is bigger than one man -- even you!

There is a long silence. Finally:

Cont.

140 Cont. 4

BATMAN
 (the words torn from
 his bleeding soul)
 All right, Joker . . . You've won . . .
 The Gotham City State Bank, main
 office . . . tomorrow morning . . .
 ten o'clock.

141 CLOSE - B & R AT DESK

So that we can hear VOICES from telephone.

JOKER'S VOICE
 (from phone - triumphant)
 It's a date, my hearty.

GORDON'S VOICE
 Well -- at least the Maharajah will
 be safe.

Bitterly Batman hangs up.

ROBIN
 (indignant, unbelieving)
 Why, they sound as if they thought
 you had let them down!

BATMAN
 (bleakly)
 They do. One failure, and years of
 success mean nothing.

ROBIN
 But that isn't fair!

Batman looks at him with adult sympathy, gives him an
 affectionate pat on the arm.

BATMAN
 No, it's not . . . but it's Life.

FADE OUT

OVER FADE SUPER TITLE: "IS IT ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE
 DAWN?"

FADE IN

142 ESTABLISHING SHOT - MAIN OFFICE - GOTHAM CITY STATE
BANK - DAY (STOCK)

Bank's doors are not yet open. SUPER TITLE: "NOT WHEN
DAWN -- THAT IS TO SAY 10:00 A.M. -- BRINGS RUIN AND
HUMILIATION."

143 INT. GOTHAM CITY STATE BANK - BELMONT'S DESK

This is in Executive area, behind the usual low wall.
Belmont is seated at desk, Batman and Robin seated near
him. Belmont has an attache case open on the desk
before him and is counting the currency stacked within
it. All are painfully silent.

144 COMMISSIONER GORDON AND CHIEF O'HARA

They stand to one side, away from Belmont's desk, merely
observing. ANGLE is to FRONT OF BANK so that we see an
employee now go to front and open doors to admit the
eight or ten customers waiting outside. A few seconds
after they enter a limousine pulls to the curb outside
and two of the Maharajah's fierce-looking bodyguards
hop out.

GORDON

There he is, right on time.

CHIEF O'HARA

Yes.

The bodyguards open the door of the limousine and help
the Maharajah squeeze through, which isn't easy.

145 ANGLE NEAR ENTRANCE

A BANK OFFICIAL steps forward to greet the Maharajah
as he waddles through double doors held open by body-
guards.

BANK OFFICIAL

This way, Your Highness.

He precedes Maharajah and bows him through gate in half-
wall where bodyguards have to help with the squeeze again.

146 GORDON AND CHIEF O'HARA

watching.

Cont.

146 Cont.

O'HARA

'Tis a sad day for Batman -- and for us, as well. Never again will his name strike terror in the heart of crooks, after this.

GORDON

(resigned sigh)

I'm afraid not. Well, even the best lose their touch eventually, I suppose.

147 BELMONT'S DESK

as the Bank Official ushers Maharajah up to the desk, and with a little bow departs. Belmont rises as do Batman and Robin.

BELMONT

I'm Prescott Belmont, Your Highness. I don't believe you've met Batman and his associate, Robin.

MAHARAJAH

(a short nod)

How do you do, and thank you for your cooperating, Mr. Batman.

(to Belmont)

You got the money?

BELMONT

Yes, it's all here.

(opens case, displays cash)

MAHARAJAH

Good.

He moves to desk, starts to sit down and the bodyguards swiftly slide TWO armless chairs under him. From the folds of his costume he produces a large checkbook, opens it, and holds out a hand. When the others look blank, a bodyguard moves swiftly forward to take a pen from its holder on the desk and put it in the Maharajah's hand. The Maharajah gives Belmont a disparaging look and begins to write his check. Batman and Robin have remained standing. The Maharajah looks up to Batman.

MAHARAJAH

Now you endorse.

Cont.

147 Cont.

In heavy silence Batman comes around desk to Maharajah and pens his signature on check.

MAHARAJAH

Good.

(rises, hands check to
Belmont)

I take money.

(holds out hand for attache
case)

BELMONT

Don't you want to count it?

MAHARAJAH

You count it?

BELMONT

Yes, of course.

MAHARAJAH

Why both count?

BELMONT

Oh. Well --

As Belmont hands over the attache case, Batman speaks for the first time:

BATMAN

Your Highness, do you actually intend to deliver this -- fortune to that criminal, now that you're free and there's no necessity for it?

148 QUICK CUT - GORDON AND CHIEF O'HARA

GORDON

A last desperate effort.

149 BACK TO GROUP AT DESK

MAHARAJAH

Why not? Joker honorable bandit. We made bargain. He kept his side, now Nimpahnese gentleman must keep my side.

150 CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN'S LEFT SIDE - WAIST HIGH

We SEE his left hand unobtrusively slide beneath cape, detach something from utility belt and come out from beneath cape again, holding a sharp, slender instrument, much like an ice pick.

Cont.

150 Cont.

BATMAN'S VOICE (o.s.)

Yes, I can see that you'd want to keep your word, even to a lying criminal.

MAHARAJAH'S VOICE (o.s.)

But to me Joker bandit not lie. Also in my country, bandit honorable profession. If people lie to bandit, then bandit no longer trust people and lie to people. Pretty soon, everybody fight everybody and anybody got nothing.

During this Batman's hand has pushed the point of his instrument several inches into the Maharajah's bulbous rear.

151 GROUP - FEATURE BATMAN AND MAHARAJAH

who shows no reaction to pointed instrument, as he finishes.

MAHARAJAH (cont.)

Of course, in my country, population eighty percent bandit.

At this point, we SEE Batman forcefully move his left arm to give the pointed instrument a hard shove, which must drive it several inches deeper. And this time he gets results! The Maharajah leaps forward and up with a pain. Then instantly he spins and tosses attache case to nearest bodyguard, with:

MAHARAJAH

Grab the dough and let's go!

The bodyguard catches case, wheels and takes off, but Batman is after him.

BATMAN

Oh, no you don't!

As he pounces on bodyguard Robin is in action also and grabs the Maharajah.

152 QUICK REACTION SHOT - GORDON AND CHIEF O'HARA

CHIEF O'HARA

Saint's alive he's cracked under the strain!

153 QUICK CUTS - VARIOUS ANGLES OF THE BATTLE

The Peerless Pair are working against truly rough odds, having to contend not only with the Maharajah and his bodyguards but also Gordon and Chief O'Hara, who mistakenly join in against the Duo. Every time Batman or Robin is about to subdue an opponent, Gordon or O'Hara pulls him off. Frantic ad libs from both of them for Batman and Robin to stop, What's the matter? have they gone crazy? Another problem with trying to hold the Maharajah is that every time one of them gets a good grip on him, a piece of him, along with torn clothing, comes off. Apparently the Maharajah is made of foam rubber! Bank employees and customers, of course, gather round with excited squeals, ad libs, and general commotion.

Finally, as the Maharajah makes a last desperate attempt at flight, the money forgotten now, Batman knocks out the remaining bodyguard and almost in the same motion sails through the air to bring the Maharajah down.

154 GROUP SHOT

as Batman yanks Maharajah to his feet and rips off his oriental mask to reveal -- the Joker! Ad libs of astonishment.

GORDON

It's the JOKER!

CHIEF O'HARA

But he's too tall!

Which he is, indeed. Batman reaches down and rips away the remains of his voluminous costume at the ankles, and CAMERA MOVES IN and TILTS DOWN to SHOW the Joker standing on six-inch-high, artificial ankles and feet, his own small feet having been concealed by the baggy Oriental pantaloons.

VERY SLOW LAP DISSOLVE:

155 EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF BANK - DAY

The still unconscious bodyguards are being horizontally loaded into a paddy wagon which stands at the curb, followed closely by the tattered Joker-Maharajah, the right height now, escorted by two uniformed cops. A few feet after DISSOLVE clears paddy wagon pulls away.

156 GROUP IN FRONT OF BANK - FEATURE PRINCIPALS

as they watch paddy wagon depart. The Peerless Pair are most emphatically the center of this group which is now admiring to the point of adulation.

Cont.

156 Cont.

GORDON

Thank goodness; we've seen the last of that criminal genius for a good long stretch.

BATMAN

I wouldn't be too certain, Commissioner. He's also a genius at escape, you know.

CHIEF O'HARA

Aye, that he is.

(then humbly)

Batman, would you consent to tell us how you pierced his disguise?

BATMAN

(modestly)

It wasn't difficult, if you remember the key to his twisted mind: the Joker never means what he seems to mean.

CHIEF O'HARA

Of course! Why didn't we think of that?

ROBIN

Also Batman thought it odd to have heard no protest from his government, so he called the palace in Nimpah. The real Maharajah is on a hunting trip in the Nimpah Mountains.

Gordon turns to Batman abjectly; he'd be in tears if it weren't against his principles.

GORDON

Batman, I owe you an apology. I'm sure you didn't notice it, but for a few unforgivable hours . . . I doubted you.

BATMAN

(quietly magnanimous)

Don't let it weigh on you, Commissioner. It's only . . . Human Nature.

FADE OUT

THE END