

B A T M A N

"PLEASE OMIT TOMATOES"
(Tent.)

by

Dwight Taylor

FIRST DRAFT TELEPDAY
(6/12/67)

CAST and SET LISTS missing.

"PLEASE OMIT TOMATOES"
(Tentative Title)

by
DWIGHT TAYLOR

FADE IN:

A SCREEN SIZED BLOW UP OF

LOUIS THE LILAC. He is smiling directly out at the audience with a decidedly self-satisfied smile. He is a nifty dresser, if a little on the ostentatious mode style. He carries a sprig of lilac in hand, and is evidently in the act of sniffing it. Even as we watch, a long lecturer's pointer comes into scene and Commissioner Gordon's VOICE is heard.

GORDON'S VOICE

Note the rather objectionable self-satisfaction of this creature - the complacent smile -

(pointer moves to smile)

the modish clothes -

(pointer moves to tie)

and the sprig of lilac he holds in his hand.

CAMERA MOVES BACK and we see that Commissioner Gordon is on the stage of the line-up room, giving a lecture to a group of men whom we can only see in silhouette against the lighted screen.

GORDON

He carries a sprig of lilac with him wherever he goes, nobody knows why.

CLOSE UP - BATMAN, ROBIN & BARBARA

seated together, listening intently, the reflected light from the screen on their faces.

GORDON'S VOICE

And if lilac is out of season, he grows it in one of his own hot houses. For this master criminal has only one weakness - flowers!

Batman and Robin exchange significant glances.

REVERSE ANGLE

SHOOTING AT THE SCREEN. The Commissioner presses a lecturer's "Cricket" and the picture changes to a map of Gotham City, dotted at random with small, white circles.

GORDON

Now this is a map of Gotham City, and the circles indicate the location of all the flower shops in the metropolitan area. And this Master Criminals ambition is no less that to control every flower shop in the city, and force them to pay tribute to him!

This statement is greeted with sounds of general irritation and dissatisfaction from the shadowy detectives in the room.

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN

his hand shoots up, he wants to ask a question. The Commissioner nods graciously in his direction.

GORDON

Yes, Batman?

BATMAN

Have all of them knuckled under?

GORDON

Not yet. But I'm afraid the time is not far distant.

BATMAN

I would like a list of the hold outs, if you please.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Suddenly the live bat starts whirling blindly back and forth in the beam of light from the projector, its shadow dancing crazily over the map, the SOUND OF FIENDISH LAUGHTER OVER SCENE.

LOUIS THE LILAC'S VOICE

(in an echo chamber)

Louis-the-Lilac and Batman cross swords for the first time - and for the last time, Batman, the last time for you!

The LIGHTS ARE THROWN ON. The room is in pandemonium. Batman and Robin rush for the open door.

EXT. HALL

Louis and his gang are dashing down the stairs, Batman and Robin in hot pursuit.

EXT. STREET - DAY

MED. CLOSE - LOUIS dashes out of the doorway, followed by his gang. They hop into a closed truck, with the inscription SAY IT WITH FLOWERS painted on the side, and drive off.

MED. CLOSE

BATMAN and ROBIN head for their Batmobile, but as they scramble into their seats and start adjusting their seat belts, a cop comes into scene and produces his pad and pencil. He apparently is going to give him a ticket! They look at him incredulously.

REVERSE ANGLE - shooting at COP

In answer to Batman's silent question, he gestures with his pencil at something out of scene. Batman and Robin look in the direction he indicates.

CLOSE SHOT - A FIREPLUG

WIDER ANGLE - BATMAN gets out and goes over to the fire-plug. It is an exact replica of the real thing, but made of rubber. As he throws it from him in disgust, it bounces. SOUND OF RAUCUS LAUGHTER OVER SCENE.

MED. SHOT

LOUIS and his gang are riding by once more in the truck, giving him the bird.

CLOSE SHOT

BATMAN looking after them, subdued hate in his eyes.

DISSOLVE THROUGH TO

TITLE AND CREDITS

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

In the window are a few potted plants and a sign reading GRAND OPENING. Through an amplifier we hear excerpts from the Barber of Seville which plays throughout this sequence, for although the characters speak occasionally, it is not important to hear what they say. In the doorway stands Joe Bagettelli, the proprietor, all smiles, acknowledging the greetings and well wishers passing by. One stops and shakes his hand.

INT. BARBER SHOP

It is a modest operation, four or five chairs at the most. In the f.g. is a bald man getting a very careful hair cut around the fringe. In the b.g. two recumbent figures are laid out like corpses, hot towels over their faces.

CLOSE SHOT - INT. BARBER SHOP

Waiting customer behind newspaper, but a sprig of lilac sticks out at side!

SHOOTING TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE - Joe comes back in from standing in the doorway and starts down the line of chairs, joking and chatting with the customers. Two delivery men enter from the street, bearing a large horse shoe of flowers, with a gold banner reading: GOOD LUCK, JOE!

One of them calls out to Bagettelli, but we can't hear him because of the music. At the sound of the call, Joe turns, then returns to the doorway.

MED. CLOSE

JOE & THE DELIVERY MEN - one of them hands him a receipt book to sign. He does so - giving it a little extra flourish, because he feels so good. The delivery men carefully pick up the beautiful horse shoe of flowers and bring it down on Joe's head.

CLOSE SHOT

JOE - as he falls to the floor, the horse shoe draped around his neck, the banner "Good Luck, Joe!" across his chest.

WIDER ANGLE

LOUIS-THE-LILAC throws down his paper, comes over, leans down and hands Joe a card.

CLOSE UP - CARD

It reads:

"NEXT TIME BUY YOUR FLOWERS
FROM PANSY O'HARA"

INT. BARBER SHOP

The two recumbent figures in the rear now throw aside their sheets and towels and we discover that they are none other than Batman and the Boy Wonder! As Louis exits, they run after him.

EXT. BARBER SHOP

Louis jumps into the same sinister looking flower truck we saw in the opening sequence. It roars away from the curb.

ANOTHER ANGLE

BATMAN & ROBIN run for their Batmobile. Again, it is parked by a fireplug. But Batman is on to their game this time. He kicks the fireplug contemptuously aside and leaps in.

CLOSE SHOT - FASTENING SEAT BELTS

MED. SHOT

THE BATMOBILE roars away from the curb.

MOVING SHOT - WITH THE TRUCK (PROCESS)

Batmobile about a hundred yards distant, but coming rapidly up from behind. LOUIS large in f.g. smiling wickedly. He gives a signal.

LONG SHOT

AS THE TRUCK TAKES A CORNER, tires shrieking.

MOVING SHOT - SIDE OF TRUCK

To our amazement, the sides revolve on an iron pin. The inscription now reads: "CHOICE MEATS (see your local butcher)".

MED. CLOSE

BATMOBILE - as it comes along side of truck, then passes it. Batman and Robin look around in perplexity.

BATMAN

I could swear that they were almost within our grasp!

DISSOLVE

INT. PANSY O'HARA'S FLOWER SHOP

As Batman and Robin enter from the street a bell tingles over the door and Pansy O'Hara comes forward. She is a seductive looking dish.

PANSY

(giving Batman the eye)

Is there anything I can do for you?

BATMAN

(firmly)

Yes, you can.

(producing the card)

This card, soliciting business, was presented to a harmless barber, after a group of hoodlums assaulted him without provocation and draped a horse show of roses around his neck.

CLOSE SHOT

PANSY - as she takes the card and reads it. She gives a little smile, half amused and half exasperated and mouee.

PANSY

(a sigh)

It's that Louis-the-Lilac again.

BATMAN

I'd like to know just what connection he has with you.

PANSY

He's just an admirer who is determined to make my flower shop the most popular one in town, and he does the most outrageous things to people who buy their flowers elsewhere. It's his rough way of trying to please me.

BATMAN

And are you pleased?

PANSY

What can I do? I tell him it's wrong, but he's a tough and ruthless man, and I have no protector.

BATMAN

That is no longer true! This man's activities are against the law, and I have been assigned to bring him to justice.

Pansy gives a cry of delight and rushes into his arms.

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN AND PANSY

He is a little taken aback by this emotional outburst, but continues to hold her a moment.

PANSY

I feel so safe now!

WIDER ANGLE - taking in the BOY WONDER

He makes no secret of his disgust and turns away. Batman gives Pansy several little pats of reassurance before releasing her.

BATMAN

There, there. Do you know where this self-styled Louis-the-Lilac can be located?

PANSY

No - he just seems to appear and disappear like a horrible dream.

ROBIN'S VOICE

What's this thing?

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN is standing in front of a thin curious looking tree about four feet high, growing out of a green wooden bucket. Pansy comes into scene, followed by Batman.

PANSY

That's an Armenian fig tree. I'm entering it in the flower show tomorrow. They're offering \$5,000 for the most unusual bloom in the show.

ROBIN
Where are the figs?

PANSY
They're there, if you look closely
- pardon me a moment.

As Batman and Robin peer closely at the fig tree,
Pansy exits at back.

CLOSE SHOT

PANSY at a wall telephone, dialing.

MED. CLOSE

BATMAN AND ROBIN at the fig tree.

ROBIN
I don't see any figs --

BATMAN
They're just budding. It's easy to
see you're not a horticulturist.

ROBIN
I guess anybody could see that!

CLOSE SHOT

PANSY into the phone, in a low voice.

PANSY
The Musty Muskateers are here.
What shall I do?

CLOSE SHOT

LOUIS-THE-LILAC at the other end of the phone. His
face lights up with glee.

LOUIS
Jumping Juniper! What a break!
Hold them til I send the truck.

PANSY'S VOICE
(filter)
But how?

LOUIS
Give them the poppy routine,
sprinkled with Slow Doze - that
oughta hold them.

INT. PANSY O'HARA'S FLOWER SHOP

As Pansy comes out of the back room.

PANSY
Sorry I was so long.

BATMAN
We must be on our way - in the mean-
time, you should have police protect-
ion. I'll speak to Chief O'Hara about
it.

He starts for front door, followed by Robin.

ANOTHER ANGLE

PANSY
Just a moment.
(She rolls back glass
door of display compartment,
reaches in and comes out with
a huge bouquet of poppys.)
You've been so nice to me, I want to be
nice to you.

She holds them out to the boys.

REVERSE ANGLE - BATMAN AND THE BOY WONDER

PANSY'S VOICE
Divide them up between you.

Robin is obviously impressed.

ROBIN
Gee! Just as if we were actors!

He steps forward toward Pansy.

FORMER ANGLE

Pansy divides the bouquet between them. Robin immediately
takes a sniff of his, but Batman is a little shy about
the whole thing, smiling uncertainly. Pansy gives an
attractive little laugh.

PANSY
Don't be shy! Smell them!
(she presses his head
firmly down into the bouquet.)

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN

He must have gotten the full treatment. His eyes start revolving in his head.

WIDER ANGLE

Now ROBIN is staggering around as if he's been hit with a pole axe. Pansy starts removing some vases so they won't be broken when they fall.

BATMAN

Robin! Those poppys! They've been -

But it is too late. He comes crashing to the floor, bringing down a floral wreath with the inscription: "REST IN PEACE"

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

The apparently lifeless forms are being put in the flower truck by the hoodlums. As Batman is dumped in, and the back closed, a policeman spots them from the end of the alley.

MED. CLOSE

POLICEMAN peering down the alley. He blows a whistle for reinforcements.

MED. CLOSE - AT TRUCK

Pansy jumps in beside the driver and they're off.

MED. SHOT - STREET - NIGHT

Motorcycle cop drives up beside the patrolman who has whistled. The latter points after the fleeing truck. The motorcycle starts in pursuit.

CLOSE SHOT

BATMAN & ROBIN unconscious in the truck.

LONG SHOT - STREET

Motorcycle cop pursuing the flower truck.

MED. CLOSE - at the MOVING TRUCK

Again, the sides are reversed, reading: "CHOICE MEATS"

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN & ROBIN

MOVING SHOT - MOTORCYCLE COP

comes along side, sees sign, then puts on speed and drives on.

MED. CLOSE

PANSY & THE HOODLUMS laughing and jeering.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. HOTHOUSE - NIGHT

This is a huge glass hot house for the growing and forcing of tropical plants. Palms, vines and flowers are spotted in earth boxes and buckets everywhere, but a wide dance floor has been cleared in the center, and a wild party is in progress. A small combo are knocking out a thready Tiajuana tune, and Pansy and Louis-the-Lilac are showing off in the center. The latter has changed his modish clothes of the barber shop, for something more tropical - an elaborately flowered shirt and shorts. He might even be wearing a sun helmet. At any rate, it must be stifling hot in here, because everybody is running with perspiration, but there is no doubt about it, they are having a wonderful time.

Carried away by the plaudits of his paid henchmen, Louis leaps from the floor onto the bandstand, and siezing the trumpet from its rightful exponent, preceeds to deliver a wickedly tight chorus of whatever it is, and Pansy on the dance floor below him is spurred on to bigger and better efforts.

Finally, the number reaches a climax, and ends to wild applause. Pansy jumps to the bandstand and throws herself into Louis' arms.

MED. CLOSE - PANSY & LOUIS

PANSY

You were magnificent!

LOUIS

(modestly throwing it aside)

Aw - I use to blow bubbles through these things when I was a kid. Where are the two Boy Scouts?

PANSY

We locked them in the Conservatory.
They should be waking up, just about
now -

LOUIS

(calling)

Hey - Arbutus - go fetch the lousy
duo -

ANOTHER ANGLE - ARBUTUS

He has a face that would stop a clock. He nods in acknowledgment of the order, and quits the scene, as Louis and Pansy mount what looks like a sort of informal throne, made of crates and a velvet throw, lined with ermine.

MED. CLOSE - LOUIS & PANSY

seat themselves. Louis picks up a flit gun marked BUG KILLER and shoots it in every direction.

LOUIS

How's business?

PANSY

Oh, it's wonderful, thanks to you!

LOUIS

(patting her arm)

Don't you worry - before I'm through
you'll have every wedding and funeral
in town.

INT. CONSERVATORY

Batman and Robin are laid out under some potted Easter Lilies. Arbutus and an assistant enter and go over to them. Arbutus bends down to see if they're still asleep.

ARBUTUS

(clowning)

Time to wake up, my sleeping beauties.
Daddy going bye-bye! (He tickles them
with a Lily)

CLOSE SHOT - shooting directly down into their faces.

Batman opens one eye.

BATMAN

Where am I?

Boy Wonder opens his eye, and sees Lilies.

REVERSE ANGLE

Lilies hovering over them.

MED. CLOSE - BATMAN & BOY WONDER

ROBIN

(alarmed)

We're in Heaven!

ARBUTUS

(a nasty laugh)

You'll wish you were, before we're
through with you.

They are pulled roughly to their feet, their hands
having already been tied behind their backs, and
pushed toward door.

INT. HOTHOUSE (Master Scene)

Louis and Pansy on throne, watching the festivities,
as Batman and Robin are pushed into the room. Seeing
them enter, Louis rises to his feet and, turning towards
the band, holds up his hand for silence. The MUSIC STOPS.
The dancers stop, looking towards Louis curiously. Then
they follow the direction of his gaze.

MED. CLOSE - BATMAN & ROBIN

looking back defiantly.

FULL SHOT - of THE ENTIRE SCENE

LOUIS

(the genial host)

Welcome, Batman! Welcome to Liberty Hall!

He snaps his fingers, and a Steward steps forward with
two glasses and a flagon on a tray. Louis fills the
glasses.

Have some dandelion wine!

Horse laughter from the hoodlums.

MED. CLOSE - BATMAN & ROBIN

Cool and contemptuous. Arbutus pushes them roughly
towards the throne.

LOUIS' VOICE

No, no - no rough stuff! These
are my friends!

ANOTHER ANGLE -

AS BATMAN & ROBIN come to a halt at the foot of the
throne.

BATMAN

The day I become a friend of yours,
Louis, pigs will have wings.

LOUIS

Say, this guy is a salty talker!
(to Batman)
Who writes your stuff??

BATMAN

Tell me what you want of us, and
be done with it.

CLOSE SHOT - PANSY & LOUIS

The exchange smirks, then Louis replies, attempting
to appear casual.

LOUIS

I believe you are a friend of the new
Commissioner of Parks and Public Play-
grounds.

WIDER ANGLE - taking in BATMAN & ROBIN

BATMAN

We are acquainted, yes.

Louis leans down in an intimate, conspiratorial
manner.

LOUIS

Look - I hear the flowers which are
put into our parks each year come
to over a million dollars.

(a beat)

If you can get the Commissioner to
throw the City contract my way, I'll
slip you ten grand!

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN

As he reacts to this attempt at bribery.

ROBIN'S VOICE

(tense with emotion)

Don't take it, Batman!

BATMAN

(to Louis)

You evidently don't know me - I never make profit from my friendships.

WIDER ANGLE - taking in the ENSEMBLE

LOUIS

(laughing harshly)

Then you should get yourself some new friends!

This goes over big with the mob. In fact, they break themselves up, while Batman and the Boy Wonder stand cold and erect amidst the laughter.

CLOSE SHOT

PANSY & LOUIS laughing, tears in her eyes, patting him on the back, rubbing his arms, making him feel good. Then he suddenly gets mad, rises and, demanding silence, picks up a hand bell which he shakes violently.

LOUIS

Pipe down, you crazy goons!
Haven't you ever heard a good wisecrack before?

Seeing which way the wind is blowing, these pusillan-
omous poltroons gradually simmer down. Then Louis looks down at the hapless duo.

CLOSE SHOT - LOUIS

LOUIS

I'm going to tie you up in an over heated room with a lot of man-eating orchids which have just arrived from Brazil. They've had nothing to eat but mice since leaving home. We'll see then how long it will be before you accede to my demands!

(MELODRAMATIC MUSIC STARTS)

FULL SHOT

The mob sieze Batman & Robin, and in spite of their struggles, hustle them towards a small door at the side. Louis steps down from the platform, then graciously holds up his hand in a regal fashion to help Pansy descend.

DISSOLVE

INT. ORCHID ROOM

Batman & Robin are being spread-eagled on a trellis of orchids reaching from floor to ceiling of this specially heated little hothouse. It has a tilted glass roof to let in the sun, and steam pipes run along the walls about two feet from the floor. Louis & Pansy stand watching them being bound. When the operation is finished, Louis steps forward and puts the dinner bell in Batman's right hand, which is bound at the wrist, but just enough leeway given for him to ring the bell, should he be so inclined.

LOUIS

Ring this bell if you should happen to change your mind. We're going on with the party.

BATMAN

I'll never change my mind!

LOUIS

(laughing cruelly)

We'll see about that. These orchids got hold of an explorer in the jungle one day and left nothing but his jockey shorts.

LOUIS exits, followed by gang.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN & ROBIN

Even as we watch the voracious plants start working along the trellis towards them!

Batman drops the bell.

ROBIN

(in alarm)

You've dropped the bell!

BATMAN

Yes, Robin. I'll have no need of it. One may win my co-operation with kindness, perhaps - but never with violent threats.

We hear the SOUND OF ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE out of scene. They turn their heads in that direction, with surprise and hope.

INT. BIG HOTHOUSE

It is simply LOUIS and PANSY doing a hotter version of the dance.

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN & ROBIN

Obviously disappointed. The orchid vines start twining themselves around their throats. The Boy Wonder, in some alarm, finds himself looking down the mouth of an open flower.

NARRATOR'S VOICE

(in distress)

BUT WHAT IS THIS? Are the faithful friends simply to serve as fodder for these orchidaceous orchids?

IS THE BOY WONDER TO END UP AS A CORSAGE FOR SOME DIZZY DEBUTANTE?

HAS KNIGHTHOOD COME TO FLOWER, ONLY TO GO TO SEED?

STAY BOUND TO THIS CHANNEL. YOUR FAITH IN THE DYNAMIC DUO MAY GIVE THEM STRENGTH.

FADE OUT

STATION BREAK

FADE IN

CLOSE UP - A BUDDING ORCHID

This need not be an orchid, but it would be more appropriate if it was. At any rate, it is simply one of those stop-camera color pictures of the growth of a flower, which we use to see in art houses. And as appears on the screen, and starts to burgeon into bloom, the prosaic words:

TIME LAPSE

appear, superimposed over the picture. (MUSIC: Edward Grieg's BIRTH OF SPRING?)

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

SUN RISING, as seen through a glass pane of the Orchid House.

NARRATOR'S VOICE

BUT, STAY--WHAT LIGHT THROUGH YONDER WINDOW BREAKS? ANOTHER DAY MAY BRING US HOPE--LET'S SCREW UP OUR COURAGE AND GO IN AND SEE!

INT. ORCHID HOUSE - MORNING

BATMAN and ROBIN are gasping for breath. The vines have twined themselves around their throats and are constricting. They are now literally covered with orchids, and we can see them moving with the slow, deadly precision of snakes.

ROBIN

I can hardly breathe!

BATMAN

Courage, chum!

INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE

Commissioner Gordon is at his desk, when Barbara enters, brisk and busy.

BARBARA

Hello, Daddy--the library has let me off early today so I can enter my Giant Azalea in the Flower Show.

Sets her handbag on desk, and kisses him on the top of the head.

COMMISSIONER

I hope you win, my dear--you've given that plant a lot of loving care.

BARBARA

Have you heard anything from Batman?

COMMISSIONER

Why, no--but as a matter of fact I'm trying to locate him now.

BARBARA

They say this Louis-the-Lilac is a very unscrupulous character.

COMMISSIONER

That's true. Last year he tried to break up the Pasadena Rose Bowl Parade.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the door opens, and the POLICEMAN we have previously seen outside the barber shop enters, and gives a little salute.

POLICEMAN

I hear you're looking for Batman, sir.

COMMISSIONER

That's true--

POLICEMAN

I gave him a ticket yesterday
for parking in front of a rubber
fire hydrant.

COMMISSIONER

(incredulously)

Rubber?

POLICEMAN

Well, I think it was rubber, sir--
it bounced about two feet in the air.

MED. CLOSE - GORDON AND BARBARA

The Commissioner looks as if he's about to blow a gasket.
Barbara breaks in.

BARBARA

Where was this?

POLICEMAN'S VOICE

In front of a barber shop on Main.
It had just opened.

BARBARA

(kissing Gordon quickly)

Goodbye, Dad--I must be on my way--

She heads for the door.

BAT DISSOLVE

INT. ORCHID HOUSE - MORNING

BATMAN is struggling desperately to loosen his bonds.
In doing so, his head, in the vicinity of his right ear,
comes in contact with 1-inch pipe running along the wall.
He stops struggling, listening intently to something he
hears.

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN'S EAR

Against the pipe. It evidently acts as a natural conductor
of a conversation taking place in the next room. We HEAR
the low murmur of a voice which is none other than LOUIS-
THE-LILAC'S!

LOUIS' VOICE

(faintly)

Now listen, youse guys, I've got
a plan --

INT. BIG HOTOHOUSE

LOUIS is addressing the gang, as PANSY, squatting on a box, puts on her makeup at a large, portable magnifying mirror which she has propped up on the throne.

LOUIS

Arbutus, you and Joe and Jack-in-the-Pulpit go on ahead and take charge of the store. The rest of us will go to the Flower Show and make sure Pansy's fig tree wins the five hundred bucks.

ARBUTUS

How? They say the Commissioner's daughter Barbara has entered a dandy Giant Azalea.

LOUIS

(a crow)

I'll let you in on a little secret-- (he reaches in his pocket and comes up with a little tin box). Any entry found with bugs on it is immediately thrown out by the judges--and I'm going to sprinkle bugs on Barbara's dandy Giant Azalea!

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN

He reacts in horror, SOUNDS of Raucus Laughter heard faintly on the pipe.

BATMAN

Robin, a most dastardly plot is in the making--

INT. HOTOHOUSE

LOUIS

And now let's go see how our Crummy Cabelleros are faring. (Starts for the little hothouse). Who knows? I may get the flower concession yet!

INT. ORCHID HOUSE

Batman and Robin tied to the trellises, as Louis enters, followed by his entourage. He stands looking up at them in triumph, twirling the lilac in his fingers, and taking an occasional sniff.

LOUIS

Well, Batman, I hope you spent a pleasant night. (Laughter). Have you come to any conclusions about speaking to the Park Commissioner?

ROBIN

Tell him what you said to me, Batman.

BATMAN

What was that?

ROBIN

One may win your cooperation with--

BATMAN

(hastily)

Oh, yes! One may win my cooperation with kindness, perhaps--but never with violent threats.

CLOSE SHOT - PANSY

PANSY

Boy, what a ham! If we had some eggs, we could have some ham-and-eggs.

FULL SHOT

BATMAN and ROBIN on the trellis; LOUIS, PANSY and hoods down below.

LOUIS

Well, if that's the way you feel about it, I guess we'll have to leave you to the tender mercies of these colorful cannibals from the Amazon.

PANSY

(proudly)

And we're going to enter my Armenian fig tree in the flower show.

ROBIN

That's no fig tree--it's a fake!

LOUIS

Why, you--

He starts for the helpless figure of Robin, but Pansy lays a restraining finger on his arm.

PANSY

Never mind, Louis--in a few more hours they'll be nothing but fertilizer.

Louis turns and strides out, followed by the gang.

EXT. BARBER SHOP

Joe Bagattelli leaning in the doorway, now in an ordinary barber's jacket. He is a much more subdued character than in the opening scene, but the sign:

GRAND OPENING

is plastered across the window, backed by a rather battered version of the LUCKY HORSESHOE.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Barbara comes into scene and stops, looking at the display in the window. This is evidently the barber shop to which the patrolman referred. She comes up to Bagattelli.

BARBARA

Are you Mr. Bagattelli?

JOE

Yes, ma'am.

BARBARA

(taking out a notebook)

I'm a reporter for the Daily Whim and a friend of Batman's. I hear there was a little unpleasantness here yesterday.

JOE

No unpleasantness. Two guys just hit me over the head, that's all.

BARBARA

(scribbling)

Why?

JOE

Because I bought some flowers from my brother Tony instead of a Pansy.

BARBARA

Pansy who?

JOE

Pansy O'Hara. I don't know--
she's supposed to have the inside
track, or something. (He shows
her the card).

BARBARA

Thanks very much.

She exits quickly from scene.

JOE

(calling after her,
disappointed)

Hey--how about the interview?

DISSOLVE

EXT. PANSY O'HARA'S FLOWER SHOP

Barbara is standing in the street, looking up at the
inscription over the window.

INT. FLOWER SHOP

As Barbara enters from the street, bell goes over door.

INT. BACK ROOM

Arbutus and the two other hoods are playing cards. They
look up at the sound of the bell. Then Arbutus rises
and passes through curtains to front of shop.

INT. FLOWER SHOP

Barbara looking at the flowers, as Arbutus comes in from
the back room. He is smoking a stogie and wearing a
curious looking hat. He is also carrying a full house.
But as he doesn't have to show it, neither do we.

ARBUTUS

Yes?

Barbara turns and sees him. She is visibly surprised.
He certainly doesn't look like the kind of man to run a
flower shop. But she quickly covers up.

BARBARA

Is Miss O'Hara here?

ARBUTUS

Naw. (A beat). Wanna buy some flowers?

BARBARA

Naw. (Quickly). I mean 'No'. I wanna--I want to see Miss O'Hara.

ARBUTUS

She ain't not here.

BARBARA

When will she be here?

ARBUTUS

I don't know.

INT. BACK ROOM

The stooges watching this rather abortive conversation through the curtains.

BARBARA'S VOICE

Who are you?

ARBUTUS' VOICE

I'm the man who's here when she ain't here--

One of them starts to giggle.

INT. FLOWER SHOP

Barbara and Arbutus. She hears the suppressed giggling, and looks in the direction of the back room.

ARBUTUS

(quickly)
Would you like to buy some poppies?

Holds them out towards her.

BARBARA

No thank you!

Starts to leave, realizing there is something suspicious. He follows her up with the poppies. Barbara gets an idea.

CLOSE SHOT - BARBARA

As the idea comes into her eyes. She turns back.

WIDER ANGLE - BARBARA & ARBUTUS

BARBARA

I'd like to leave an order for
five hundred American Beauty roses.

ARBUTUS

(agape)

Five hundred? That would be two
thousand clams!

BARBARA

(cool)

Why, yes. I'm getting married
in the morning. Can't you supply
them?

ARBUTUS

(uncertainly)

Well, I guess so--wait a minute--

Exits into back room. Signals the boys to be quiet.
Then picks up receiver of wall telephone.

INT. FLOWER SHOP

Barbara hastily takes a pencil and paper from her handbag.
We hear the SOUND OF MONEY CLUNKING IN THE SLOT. Then,
as Arbutus starts to dial, Barbara marks the length of
the clicks on the paper.

CLOSE UP - PAPER

As Barbara makes the pencil marks in rhythm with the dial
tone. Fortunately, Arbutus is a meathead and doesn't dial
as fast as most people.

CLOSE SHOT - ARBUTUS

at the phone.

ARBUTUS

(low)

Hello. Louis? There's a dame in
here wants five hundred American
Beauties by tomorrow--she's getting
married.

MED. CLOSE - LOUIS-THE-LILAC

at the hothouse, Pansy packing picnic basket in b.g.

LOUIS
 (irritated)
 Getting married? But it's the
 groom buys the flowers, you
 meathead!

ARBUTUS' VOICE
 (thru filter)
 Well, maybe these people are
 different--

LOUIS
 Listen, there's something fishy
 about this. We're just leaving--
 hold the dame til we get there!

MED. CLOSE - ARBUTUS

He hangs up quickly and dashes into the front room.

INT. FLOWER SHOP

But it is too late! The bird has flown.

INT. BARBARA'S APARTMENT

She is at the telephone.

BARBARA
 (into phone)
 This is Miss Quirt at the Telephone
 Company, in charge of the Yellow
 Pages for next fall. We have your
 telephone number, and want to check
 it with the address. (Listens).
 Thank you so much!

She leaps to her feet, goes to wardrobe and starts
 tearing off her clothes.

DISSOLVE

EXT. PROCESS SHOT - BATGIRL SPEEDING TO THE RESCUE

on her BATCYCLE. She makes a stirring picture, her cape
 flying behind her in the wind.

MUSIC

PROCESS - LOUIS & PANSY IN SPORTS CAR

going in the opposite direction.

PROCESS - HOODLUMS IN TRUCK FOLLOWING

They change CHOICE MEATS to SAY IT WITH FLOWERS.

PROCESS - BATGIRL BENDING TO HER WORK

(How about a touch of "The Ride
of the Valkyrie" in here?)

BAT DISSOLVE

INT. ORCHID HOUSE

Still struggling. Batman manages to screw his head into a position where he can look down at his feet.

FROM BATMAN'S ANGLE - WHAT HE SEES

Two flower pots of the conventional size, and containing small plants, have been placed at opposite ends of a board, which is supported in the center by some bricks, which acts as a natural fulcrum.

MED. CLOSE - BATMAN

His eyes light up with hope. He edges himself down the trellis sufficiently to get one foot over one end of the board and kick off the flower pot.

CLOSE SHOT - AT HIS FEET

As he kicks off the flower pot at one end, the other, acting like a seesaw, sinks to the ground. We now have a potential catapult.

MED. CLOSE - BATMAN

looking down at this promising set up. With one last superb effort, he brings his foot down on the free end of the seesaw.

FLASH - THE FLOWER POT

goes sailing through the air in a perfect hyperbole
(or) and CRASHES through the glass roof.

MED. CLOSE - THE DYNAMIC DUO

ROBIN

Holy jumping geranium! What
are you doing?

BATMAN

(grimly)

These tender little tropical
beauties can only survive in a
tropical temperature. The cold
air will quickly kill them--

He starts wrestling with the vines around his neck.

BATMAN

(cont'd)

Their grip is already weakening--

(MORE)

EXT. YARD - OUTSIDE GREENHOUSE

As Batgirl rides into scene on her Batcycle, brings it to a stop and hops off. She looks around for some signs of life and to get her bearings.

EXT. FROM BAT GIRL'S ANGLE

MED. SHOT - SOME FARM LABORERS

working in a tomato patch nearby.

MED. CLOSE - BATGIRL

She goes to her cycle, ~~and~~ reaches down into a ~~bag~~ kind of white saddlebag hanging at the side and comes up with a Batgirl Amplo Horn. Because of the delicate, feminine nature of her voice, she has had to invent this in order to make herself heard at times. Putting it to her lips she lets out a ~~SOME~~ blast that SOUNDS like the Bull of Bashan.

BATGIRL
BATMAN! WHERE ARE YOU?

Int. ORCHID HOUSE

Batman and Robin are electrified by the sound of this familiar voice.

BATMAN
(calling)
Here, Batgirl - here in the greenhouse!

EXT. YARD

exterior door of
Batgirl runs to the greenhouse, but it is locked. She picks up a trowel, breaks a pane of glass.

INT. ORCHID HOUSE

As Batgirl bursts in.

BATMAN
Quick - that broken glass - we can cut our bonds!

ROBIN
(excitedly)
They're going to put bugs on Barbara Gordon's Azalea!

BARBARA
 (blanching beneath her cowl)
 Barbara Gordon?

BATGIRL
 We can't explain now - we have no
 time to lose!

Barbara starts sawing away with a piece of the
 window glass.

DISSOLVE

PROCESS - BATMAN and ROBIN
 speeding along in their Batmobile.

PROCESS - BATGIRL
 close behind on her Batcycle.

PROCESS - BATMAN and ROBIN

BATMAN
 That girl is true blue, Robin.

ROBIN
 She's okay -

BATMAN
 She'll make some man a good wife,
 some day -

ROBIN
 (~~looking at the Batcycle~~)
~~Whoa~~ Yes, but not to-day.

DISSOLVE

INT. FLOWER SHOW

We come in on a PAN SHOT of some of the entries,
 and nuzzle up to a Giant Azalea, with a card
 leaning against the pot reading:

GIANT POT GROWN AZALEA

Contributed by

BARBARA GORDON

PAN SHOT - with LOUIS-THE-LILAC

proudly bearing the Armenian Fig tree, followed by Pansy and the gang. They approach a booth with a sign reading:

Make Your Entries Here

It is presided over by a rather fussy man in a frock coat, and a little old lady who is apparently stone deaf, because she smiles through everything.

MED. CLOSE

LOUIS

I'd like to enter this fine Armenian fig tree in the International All Open.

FUSSY MAN

Very good - (Shoves entry form toward him) Have you got ten dollars?

LOUIS

(indignantly)

Have I got ten dollars? (Reaching for his roll) Why I could buy and sell you - but I don't want to buy you. I'd rather give you away. (Plunks down bill)
(Laughter)

FUSSY MAN

There's no need to be rude -

CLOSE SHOT- PANSY

pathetic now, nervously plucking at Louis' sleeve.

PANSY

Don't make the man mad, Louis - we might not win the prize.

FUSSY MAN'S VOICE

You understand the rules, don't you? If we find bugs on a plant it is immediately thrown out.

WIDER ANGLE - LOUIS

Another crack is coming.

LOUIS

You'll find no bugs on this plant - I went over it this morning with a fine tooth comb!

XX He start making out entry form.

PROCESS SHOT - BATMAN and ROBIN in BATMOBILE

PROCESS SHOT - BATGIRL on BATCYCLE

She starts to pass them!

PROCESS - BATMAN and ROBIN

ROBIN

(aghast

Don't let her do that, Batman!

Batman settles grimly to his task.

DISSOLVE

INT. FLOWER SHOW

With elaborate casualness, Louis is strolling thru the ~~xxxxxx~~ entries in the International All open. Pansy and the hoods have all adopted this transparent air of innocence. Suddenly Louis stops, looking down.

CLOSE UP - BARBARA'S AZALEA

alone and defenceless.

FORMER ANGLE

looking around first, to see that he is not observed, LOUIS takes the little tin box from his pocket and opens it.

CLOSE UP - OF BOX

It is crawling with lady bugs!

FORMER ANGLE - LOUIS

leans over, and is just about to sprinkle the bugs on the azalea when we hear a strong, familiar voice.

BATMAN'S VOICE

Not this time, Louis -

As Louis looks up guiltily in the direction of the voice

MED. CLOSE - BATMAN

standing strong and resolute, Boy Wonder at his side.

I will not attempt to go into the carnage which follows, 'save that it is accompanied with plenty of ZOWIE'S, ZAM'S, KERPLUNKS, etc.

DISSOLVE

MED. SHOT - BARBARA

is being presented with the first prize for her Giant Pot Grown Azalea. Batman and Robin are present, together with Commissioner Gordon.

FUSSY MAN

- And it gives me great pleasure to present you with this prize for winning the International All Open for Potted Plants.

Hands her envelope.

BARBARA
Thank you!

COMMISSIONER

(kissing her)
Congratulations, my dear!

BARBARA

It's Batman and Robin we have to thank, Daddy - if it weren't for them, my poor little azalea would have been disqualified.

BATMAN

Whom we really should thank is Bat-girl, but she seems to vanish as mysteriously as she appears.

CLOSE SHOT - BARBARA

leveling across at him.

BARBARA

Is she pretty, Batman?

WIDER ANGLE

BATMAN

It's hard to tell - but beneath that cowl and goggles there beats a heart of gold!

DISSOLVE

EXT. STREET- OUTSIDE FLOWER SHOW

Batman and Robin come out of the building and walk towards their car.

BATMAN

That's the best flower show I've ever been to.

ROBIN

(rubbing his knuckles)

Well, it certainly was the most exciting.

They suddenly stop, looking at something out of scene.

WHAT THEY SEE!

The Batmobile is parked in front of a fire hydrant, and a cop is busily making out a ticket.

BATMAN

(approaching)

What's the trouble, officer?

POLICEMAN

You know better than that, Batman - ~~parking~~ no one should ever park less than ten feet from a fire hydrant.

ROBIN

AW, that's no fire hydrant!

He kicks it contemptuously.. It doesn't move. However, he does, dancing around nicely on one leg until we

FADE OUT