

BATMAN

"The Joker is Wild"

by

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8603

REVISED DRAFT  
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"THE JOKER IS WILD"

TEASER

FADE IN

1 EXT. A PENITENTIARY - ESTABLISHING - DAY (STOCK)

It looks like most prisons, but it is not. A SUPERED TITLE identifies it as:

"GOTHAM STATE PENITENTIARY"

2 EXT. PRISON YARD - FULL SHOT

There is an intramural softball game in progress between two teams of PRISONERS. Other PRISONERS, GUARDS, and OFFICIALS line the bleachers, cheering on their favorites. As the CATCHER throws the ball back out to the PITCHER:

3 FEATURE THE PITCHER

as he turns around to survey his defense before throwing the next pitch. Gad, it's the JOKER! Nobody around him seems to find his appearance in any way odd, but, be that as it may, the Joker has green hair, a dead white face, a protruding nose and chin, and a wide, full, red-lipped mouth. At the moment, of course, he is wearing prison stripes. As he turns back to throw the next pitch.

4 DIFFERENT ANGLE

as the Joker pitches the ball. The BATTER takes a mighty swing and misses. The UMPIRE calls out:

UMPIRE

Stee-rike three...!!!

As the spectators CHEER:

5 FEATURE CHIEF O'HARA AND WARDEN CREIGHTON

They are sitting together in the bleachers, watching the game. O'HARA shakes his head in admiration and, as the ball game continues in the b.g., speaks to WARDEN CREIGHTON:

O'HARA

I've gotta hand it to you, Warden.  
You've certainly done a remarkable  
job with the Joker.

Chief,

CREIGHTON

Yes, modern penology has come a  
long way, ~~Chief~~.

Cont.

5 Cont.

O'HARA

I never thought I'd see the day  
when that devil would be content  
to play baseball instead of plotting  
another prison break.

CREIGHTON

That's the one, true joy in a  
Warden's life, Chief. The  
rehabilitation of a hardened  
criminal. It warms the heart.

There is another ROAR from the crowd as the Joker strikes  
out another batter in the b.g.

6 FEATURE THE JOKER

as he turns his back to home plate before pitching to the  
next batter. He appears to be looking over his defense,  
but his eyes are really scanning the horizon. Then, from  
o.s. comes the SOUND OF AN APPROACHING HELICOPTER. As the  
Joker smiles:

7 WHAT HE SEES

A Helicopter approaching from the distance.

6-8 BACK TO THE JOKER

as he turns back to the plate and looks in to get his sign  
from the catcher.

7-9 CLOSE ON CATCHER

Concealing it with his glove, he gives the Joker a "thumbs  
up" sign.

8-10 CLOSE ON THE JOKER

As he nods, then pitches the ball.

9-11 FEATURE THE BATTER

as he swings and misses. The Umpire calls:

UMPIRE

Stee-rike one...!

10-12 FEATURE THE CATCHER

As he prepares to throw the ball back to the Joker, he  
deliberately fumbles it. Turning his back on the others

Cont.

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12 Cont.

as he retrieves it, the Catcher quickly and surreptitiously substitutes another ball which he sneaks out from under his chest protector. He hides the old ball under the protector, and then tosses the new one gently back out to the Joker.

11 13 CLOSE ON THE JOKER

as he catches the ball somewhat gingerly. ~~The SOUND of the helicopter is growing LOUDER, closer, and as the Joker glances up toward it:~~

~~THE HELICOPTER~~

12 FEATURE THE BATTER

waving his bat, getting set for next pitch.

(TROWNS)  
I wonder...

13 16 FEATURE THE JOKER

as he pitches the new ball -- a nice, slow, fat pitch.

14 17 FEATURE THE BATTER

as he swings. When the bat strikes the ball, the ball EXPLODES into a mushrooming, blinding, choking cloud of white smoke and tear gas. Enveloped by the stuff, the Batter, the Catcher and the Umpire stagger about, clutching their throats and gasping for air. ~~Over all can be heard the SOUND of the Joker's maniacal laugh.~~

18 FEATURE A PRISON GUARD

in the watchtower, as he succumbs to the effects of the Joker's smoke bomb. As he drops his tommy gun:

Then there's a terrific TWANGING BOING!!! SOUND, as of a huge spring being released, and ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ we HEAR the Joker's MAD LAUGHTER, rapidly DIMINISHING.

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18 CONTINUED:

Gordon bangs down phone, turns to other Police Officer.

GORDON

Forget those reports, Inspector.  
I don't have time!

19 23 CLOSE SHOT - RED TELEPHONE

The Commissioner's hand COMES INTO FRAME and removes the plexiglass cover from the telephone. The CAMERA PULLS BACK AND TILTS UP to include Gordon, and, ~~standing right behind him, also grim faced, O'Hara.~~ As the Commissioner jabs his finger at the button in the base of the phone:

20 INT. WAYNE MANOR - BRUCE'S STUDY - DAY

CLOSE SHOT of beeping flashing RED PHONE, with SUPERED TITLE:

"AND IN WAYNE MANOR, STATELY  
RESIDENCE OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE  
WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK  
GRAYSON..."

Then CAMERA PULLS BACK to include ALFRED hurrying in, carrying a tray with three glasses of milk and a plate of cookies. He picks up the phone.

ALFRED

I'll call him, sir.

Alfred puts down Red Phone receiver, hurries out again.

21-26 INT. WAYNE MANOR - MUSIC SALON - CLOSE SHOT

of a piano keyboard. DICK'S HANDS are playing a selection from Chopin. The CAMERA PULLS BACK to include MRS. COOPER, sitting next to Dick on the piano bench, frowning as Dick hits one or two obviously faulty notes, and BRUCE, sitting in an easy chair across from them. Dick completes the piece, and looks to Mrs. Cooper who, shaking her head, remonstrates:

MRS. COOPER

I'm afraid you're going to have to practice more diligently, Dick. You're just not making any progress with Chopin.

In the b.g. Alfred comes into the room with the tray of milk and cookies.

DICK

Gee whizz, Aunt Harriet, what's so important about Chopin?

BRUCE

All music is important, Dick. It's the universal language. One of our best hopes for the eventual realization of the brotherhood of man.

DICK

Gosh, Bruce. Yes. You're right. I'll practice harder from now on.

Alfred has crossed to the piano with the tray of milk and cookies, and, standing there, now announces:

ALFRED

I've brought your ~~milk and cookies~~ snack.

MRS. COOPER

(rising)

Thank you, Alfred...

Mrs. Cooper takes the tray from Alfred, and the CAMERA PANS with Alfred as he crosses to Bruce. As Alfred leans close to Bruce:

22-27 TIGHT TWO SHOT - BRUCE AND ALFRED

Alfred whispers urgently into Bruce's ear:

ALFRED

The Batphone, sir.

23 28 A DIFFERENT, WIDER ANGLE

As Bruce gets immediately to his feet. But his tone is casual and nonchalant when he speaks to Dick:

BRUCE

We'd better get a move on, Dick,  
if we're going to get to that ball  
game on time...

24 29 ANGLE ON DICK

tensing as he gets Bruce's meaning:

DICK

Holy Koufax! You mean...

(then remembering  
Mrs. Cooper is there)

I mean, I didn't know it was so late,  
Bruce...

As Dick hurries to follow Bruce out of the music salon:

25 30 FEATURE MRS. COOPER

as she complains to Alfred:

MRS. COOPER

Ball game, indeed! I don't know what  
I'm going to do with that boy, Alfred.  
He just doesn't seem to have any  
appreciation ~~at all~~ for the finer things  
in life.

26 31 INT. BRUCE'S STUDY

as Bruce and Dick enter, closing door behind them. Bruce  
picks up the red telephone:

BRUCE

(into phone)

What is it, Commissioner?

(pause)

The Joker...?!

Dick, listening in over Bruce's shoulder, exclaims:

DICK

Not him again...!

27 32 INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE

GORDON

(into phone)

How soon can you get here? ~~Batman?~~

28 33 INT. BRUCE'S STUDY

BRUCE  
 (into phone)  
 Quick as a flash, Commissioner!  
 (to Dick)  
 To the Batpoles!

Receiver down, secret switch, panel opens, to the Batpoles!

29 34 STANDARD OPENING BATFOOTAGE

Down the poles, out into Batcave in glorious costume under  
 MAIN TITLES, to the Batmobile and ZWOOSH! Out to do battle  
 with the Joker!

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

FADE IN

30 EXT. SERIES OF SHOTS - FEATURE BATMOBILE - DAY (STOCK)

SUPER EPISODE TITLES as Batmobile flashes out of secret hillside opening, speeds ~~through Gotham City,~~ races into police HQ parking lot. Batman and Robin race up steps into building.

DISSOLVE TO:

31 INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY - CLOSE SHOT

of 8x10 still photo of coiled spring sticking from the pitcher's box, held in Batman's hand.

GORDON (O.S.)

A gigantic coil spring, secretly fashioned in the prison machine-shop...

32 WIDER ANGLE

including Batman, Robin, Gordon and Chief O'Hara.

ROBIN

Holy Jack-in-the-Box!

GORDON

Exactly, Boy Wonder. It propelled him over the wall before the astonished guards could get a shot.

BATMAN

Ingenious. Only The Joker would think of that...

(putting down  
photo)

You searched the area outside?

O'HARA

(nods)

Sure and we did. And found nothin' but the net he landed in.

GORDON

But inside, at the base of that spring, they discovered this...

Gordon indicates an object on his desk.

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## 33 CLOSE SHOT - BUST ON DESK

It's a small bronze bust of The Joker, mounted on a pedestal. Plaque below the grinning face says "THE JOKER," and under that "CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME."

BATMAN (O.S.)

A good likeness...

O'HARA

A good likeness, but a bad joke. Laughin' at us for lettin' him get away like that!

## 34 WIDER ANGLE - FEATURING BATMAN

as he picks up bust, frowns at it.

BATMAN

Unless it's more than a joke, Chief O'Hara...

ROBIN

Batman's right! It could be a clue!

GORDON

A clue?

ROBIN

Sure! To the crime-wave he's plotting!

GORDON

But... Why would he leave you a clue, Batman?

BATMAN

He might not mean to. But it's a trait of the criminal mind... the urge to boast. It often leads to the criminal's giving himself away.

(thinking hard)

A bust mounted on a pedestal...

A bust... A pedestal...

(turns to Robin)

Where does one usually find a bust mounted on a pedestal?

Cont.

FADE IN

35 EXT. SERIES OF SHOTS - FEATURE BATMOBILE - DAY (STOCK)

SUPER EPISODE TITLES as Batmobile flashes out of opening in hillside, speeds through Gotham City, and races into parking lot at Police Headquarters. As Batman and Robin leap out, dash up steps into building:

DISSOLVE TO:

36 INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

Batman, holding the bust of the Joker and pacing, is thinking deeply - aloud:

BATMAN

A bust mounted on a pedestal...  
A bust... A pedestal...  
(turns to Robin)  
Where does one usually find a bust on a pedestal?

34 Cont

ROBIN

In a museum.

BATMAN

Right. Or... in a Hall of Fame.

ROBIN

Or in both!

BATMAN

Exactly...!

Batman turns to Gordon and O'Hara:

BATMAN

A perfect setup for one of the Joker's jolly crimes.

GORDON

(at a loss)

I don't understand...

BATMAN

This very day the Gotham Museum of Modern Art opened a new exhibit.

ROBIN

A Comedians' Hall of Fame.

BATMAN

And I read in the paper ~~that~~ they weren't going to include the Joker.

Cont.

34 ~~36~~ Cont. 1

ROBIN

Just the thing to make him want to get even.

GORDON

Of course! The Museum also houses a fabulous jewel collection...

(to O'Hara)

Why didn't we think of that, Chief?

O'Hara shakes his head in admiration:

O'HARA

My hat's off to you, Batman.

BATMAN

Save the compliments, Chief O'Hara. Our job has just begun...

(moving quickly to the door)

Come on, Robin, ~~we're going to spend a cultural afternoon at the Museum of Modern Art!~~ we've got a date

Gotham

~~ROBIN~~

~~(following)~~

~~I know someone who'd be happy about that...~~

~~The Dynamic Duo sweeps out of the Commissioner's office.~~

DISSOLVE TO:

~~37 OPTICAL TITLE~~

~~It reads: "COULD THIS BE A CLEVER RUSE TO DIVERT BATMAN AND ROBIN FROM THE JOKER'S REAL INTENTIONS?"~~

38 EXT. - FRONT ENTRANCE TO MUSEUM - FULL SHOT - DAY

~~as the Batmobile, causing an excited stir among the PEDESTRIANS passing by, roars up and parks in front of the Museum. ~~As~~ Batman and Robin leap out of the Batmobile and, with their usual perfectly matched strides, head for the door of the Museum.~~

39 FEATURE A GIGGLE OF SCHOOLGIRLS

who, recognizing Robin, react as they might to the presence of the Beatles.

SCHOOLGIRLS

(in unison)

Eeeeeeeee...! It's Robin the Boy Wonder! Eeeeeeeee...!



41 CONTINUED:

BATMAN

Police emergency! Clear the  
~~XXXXXX~~ museum!

ROBIN

We think there may be a daring  
crime plotted!

MAN

Yes... Yes... Of course!

As the Man gulps and turns to flick on his p.a. system,  
Batman and Robin race OUT OF SHOT.

42 INT. COMEDIANS' HALL OF FAME - FULL SHOT - DAY

PEOPLE mill about. Atop pedestals, there are life-size  
plaster busts of dozens of famous comedians, both past  
and present.

43 A DIFFERENT ANGLE

to FEATURE Batman and Robin racing in. They ~~stern~~ stop  
short, reacting.

BATMAN

Strange! Look...

44 WHAT THEY SEE

A life-size bust of The Joker atop its pedestal, uniform  
with the rest.

ROBIN (O.S.)

The Joker!

45 FEATURE BATMAN AND ROBIN

BATMAN

He's included in the Comedians'  
Hall of Fame after all!

ROBIN

Maybe the paper made a mistake...

BATMAN

Or else...

Interruption. BONG BONG BONG of a CHIME over P.A. SYSTEM,  
and then ANNOUNCEMENT by Man whom we saw at front desk.

VOICE

Attention, ladies and gentlemen...

46

## FEATURE LOUDSPEAKER

VOICE

The Gotham Museum of Modern Art is now closing for the day. We will reopen tomorrow at ten o'clock. Move promptly to the exits, please!

47

## FULL SHOT - ROOM

as PEOPLE look at their watches in some surprise, but move with great compliance towards the exits.

48

## FEATURE BATMAN AND ROBIN

They watch people exiting for a moment, then turn back to bust of The Joker.

ROBIN

You were saying, Batman? Or else...?

BATMAN

I don't know. The Museum officials may have heard of The Joker's prison-break and hastily included him.

ROBIN

Sure! So's not to enrage him into stealing the jewels!

BATMAN

(grim)

Or this whole thing could be a trick to divert us from his real intentions!

ROBIN

Holy red herring! How'll we find out?

BATMAN

Let's look up the director of the Museum!

Batman and Robin turn away from bust of The Joker, then Batman stops suddenly and spins back abruptly to the statue, staring at it hard.

ROBIN

What's the matter, Batman?

Pause. Then Batman relaxes, frowning.

Cont.



51 50

## FEATURE THE JOKER

as, LAUGHING maniacally, he breaks out of the plaster of Paris pedestal which has enclosed him. He is wearing his street clothes now. These consist of a purple cutaway coat, purple slacks with black pin-stripes, a green vest, a black bow tie, and purple gloves. Striding to the center of the hall, he calls out:

JOKER

Come, my comic cohorts in crime!  
(laughs maniacally,  
then calls again)  
Come, Charlie...!

52 51

## FEATURE THE BUST OF CHARLIE CHAPLIN

As the Joker's laughter continues over, the pedestal bursts open to reveal one of the Joker's henchmen, ~~cleverly made up to look like Charlie Chaplin.~~

53 52

## CLOSE ON THE JOKER

as, turning, he calls out again:

JOKER

Come, Buster...!

54 53

## FEATURE THE BUST OF BUSTER KEATON

as its pedestal, too, bursts open to reveal another one of the Joker's henchmen.

55 54

## CLOSE ON THE JOKER

JOKER

Come, Robert...!

56 55

## FEATURE THE BUST OF BOB HOPE

Same thing.

57 56

## CLOSE ON THE JOKER

JOKER

Come, Jerry...!

58 57

## FEATURE THE BUST OF JERRY LEWIS

Once again. Then, as the Joker's laughter continues:

59 58

## FEATURE THE JOKER

as his four henchmen join him in the center of the hall. Leading them toward the adjoining hall which houses the fabulous jewel collection, the Joker urges them on.

59 58 Cont.

JOKER

Come, my puckish partners in plunder...!  
 Batman has been outwitted, and the  
 fabulous jewel collection is ours...!

The Joker's maniacal LAUGHTER echoes over all as the gang descends on the loot.

60 59

EXT. THE MUSEUM ENTRANCE - FEATURE BATMAN AND ROBIN

Batman and Robin are moving down toward the Batmobile when Batman stops suddenly, thinking deeply.

ROBIN

What is it, Batman?

BATMAN

Something that guard said.

Batman turns back toward the front door of the Museum. Robin follows him:

ROBIN

All he said was that the Museum  
 was burglar proof.

BATMAN

Yes, but he said something else,  
 too...

As Batman reaches down to get something out of his Utility Belt:

61 60

INSERT - THE BATMAN'S UTILITY BELT

Batman's hand reaches into a pouch labeled "HUMAN PRESENCE DETECTOR," and takes out a small gizmo that looks like a light meter.

62 61

FEATURE BATMAN AND ROBIN

Batman extends the gizmo toward the front door of the Museum and presses a button on it.

BATMAN

He said that no one could break  
into it...

As Batman holds the gizmo so that both he and Robin can see the reading:

63 62

INSERT - THE HUMAN PRESENCE DETECTOR

Its indicator needle points to "POSITIVE."

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64 63  
TWO SHOT - BATMAN AND ROBIN

Their eyes meet:

BATMAN

But that doesn't mean that some-  
one couldn't....

Robin's fantastically quick mind grasps the thought, and they finish the sentence in unison:

BATMAN AND ROBIN

(simultaneously)

....break out....!

65 64  
INT. HALL - HOUSING FABULOUS JEWEL COLLECTION

The Joker and his four hilarious henchmen are ransacking the place, breaking open glass cases and scooping great armloads of fabulous jewels into their looting bags. These bags are waggishly labeled: "TRICK OR TREAT." While this is going on, the Joker is laughing maniacally and exclaiming:

JOKER

Oh, how delicious it is...! The  
Joker outwits Batman and steals  
the fabulous jewel collection right  
out from under his nose!

(more maniacal  
laughter)

Oh, my playful, pilfering pals,  
how delicious it is...!

66 65  
A DIFFERENT ANGLE

as Batman and Robin bound into the exhibit hall:

BATMAN

We hate to sound a sour note,  
Joker...!

ROBIN

But it's time for us to make our  
own collection...!

Then, as the Caped Crusaders pounce upon the startled crooks:

67 66  
VARIOUS CLOSEUP CUTS - THE DONNYBROOK

A series of VERY CLOSE, CRAZILY ANGLED SHOTS of swinging fists, uppercuts landing on jaws, a gasping mouth, a knee

Cont.

67 66 Cont.

in the stomach, a kicking foot making contact with a shin, etc. OVER these we hear violent SOUNDS OF PHYSICAL COMBAT and there are SUCCESSIVE EXPLODING TITLES:

"BIFF!!! BAM!!! POW!!!  
CRR-AAACK!!! ZAM!!!  
CRUNCH!!! OOF!!!

68 67 FEATURE BATMAN

as he picks up ~~"Bob Hope"~~ <sup>Henchman</sup> and hurls him against a wall. The impact is tooth-rattling. As Batman pounces after his victim:

69 68 ANGLING UP TOWARD WALL

where a heavy, jeweled sceptre is suspended over their heads. The impact of the crook against the wall has jarred it loose from its supports and, as it teeters, starting to fall, EXPLODE ANOTHER TITLE:

"WATCH OUT, BATMAN!!!"

70 69 FEATURE BATMAN

He has yanked a crook to his feet, spun him around, and is about to crack him one in the jaw when the jeweled sceptre falls, poleaxing him. EXPLODE ANOTHER TITLE:

"TOO LATE!!!"

As Batman slumps to the floor:

71 70 CLOSE ON ROBIN

as he spins anxiously toward the fallen Batman:

ROBIN

Batman...!

72 71 A WIDER ANGLE

to include ~~"Buster Keaton"~~ <sup>TWO HENCHMEN</sup> and ~~"Jerry Lewis"~~ who, taking advantage of this diversion, pounce on Robin from behind and quickly subdue him. As the Joker's maniacal laughter once again rings out:

73 72 FEATURE THE JOKER

laughing, exulting in victory:

Cont.

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73 72 Cont.

JOKER

Two more jewels for our collection,  
my comic cronies...! Batman and  
Robin -- the Dashing Diamonds of  
Derring-do...!

(more maniacal  
laughter)

Come, my fine, funny friends, let  
us away...

74 73

FULL SHOT

*two others*

*two henchmen*  
"Buster Keaton" and "Jerry Lewis" are carrying Robin;  
"Bob Hope" and "Charlie Chaplin" are carrying Batman; and  
the Joker is carrying the fabulous jewels as he leads them  
out of the hall, continuing his last speech:

JOKER

"We've got a little "Diamond"  
cutting to do...!

As the Joker's laughter echoes through the Museum:

75 74

CLOSE ON BATMAN

as he is carried along. His eyes are closed. He seems to  
be unconscious. ZOOM IN TITLE:

"IS BATMAN TO BECOME JUST ANOTHER  
JEWEL IN THE CLOWN PRINCE'S CROWN?"

Then, as the TITLE CUTS OUT, Batman opens one eye. It  
darts here and there, then closes again.

76 75

CLOSE ON BATMAN'S UTILITY BELT

Batman's fingers dip surreptitiously into a pouch labeled:  
"BATGAS PELLETS." Then, as his fingers withdraw several  
pellets:

77 76

GROUP SHOT

FEATURING Batman as he suddenly throws the pellets to the  
floor, calling out:

BATMAN *you*

Here's a joke on you, ~~my~~ *ff* facetious  
fiend....!

78 77

CLOSE ON THE BATGAS PELLETS

as they EXPLODE, HISSING out billows of white, acrid gas.

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79 78

FEATURE ROBIN

as he wrests free from his startled, choking captors, and completes Batman's joke:

ROBIN

It's a "gasser"...!

80 79

FEATURE BATMAN

holding ~~"Bob Hope"~~ and ~~"Charlie Chaplin"~~ by the scruffs of their necks:

BATMAN

I think you two should put your heads together...

And without further ado, Batman knocks their heads together. The impact makes a resounding CRR-AACK!

81 80

FEATURE ROBIN

holding ~~"Buster Keaton"~~ and ~~"Jerry Lewis"~~ by the scruffs of their necks:

ROBIN

Two heads are better than one!

As Robin CRRR-AACKS their heads together:

82 81

MOVING WITH THE JOKER

Coughing, choking, almost obscured by a cloud of Batgas, the Joker stumbles away. He is forced to drop his bag of fabulous jewels in order to clutch his throat with both hands as he tries to escape from the fumes. He mutters aloud to himself as he goes:

JOKER

Arrgh...! That cursed Utility Belt again...!

The CAMERA HOLDS as the Joker raises his eyes and one arm to heaven and vows:

JOKER

By all that's funny, I swear I shall never be foiled by that insidious, unconstitutional device again...!

Then the Joker drops to his knees, pries up a fitted panel in the floor, and disappears into the opening

Cont.

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82-81 Cont.

beneath it, letting the panel back down into place behind him. OVER this SUPER TITLES:

"COULD THIS BE A THREAT?"

"WILL THE JOKER KEEP HIS VOW?"

"CAN HE?"

"HOW?"

The CAMERA HAS MOVED IN TOWARD the panel, and, as Batman's and Robin's feet and legs run into FRAME, stop right on top of the panel, turn this way, then that, then dash off:

DISSOLVE TO:

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83 82

EXT. AN AMUSEMENT PARK - FULL SHOT - NIGHT (STOCK)

ESTABLISHING a typical amusement park. OVER this appears the TITLE:

"GOTHAM PIER AMUSEMENT PARK"

84 83

EXT. THE FUNHOUSE - FULL SHOT

Over the entrance to the funhouse is a large, moving replica of a clown, holding its sides, rocking back and forth, and emitting a LOUD, RAUCOUS, RECORDED LAUGH. Over this appears ANOTHER TITLE:

"WHAT MORE APPROPRIATE PLACE TO  
FIND THE HIDEOUT OF THE..."

85 84

INT. BASEMENT STOREROOM OF FUNHOUSE

The CAMERA IS IN AN EXTREME CLOSEUP of the Joker, thus answering question posed by the optical title. He is LAUGHING maniacally. As the CAMERA PULLS BACK to a WIDER ANGLE, the Joker enthuses gleefully:

JOKER

Never again will Batman have the  
advantage of me with that Utility  
Belt of his...

86 85

A DIFFERENT ANGLE

to include the Joker's two new HENCHMEN. Behind them can be seen a conveyor belt, not moving at the moment, which leads into a furnace, the door of which is the open mouth of a grinning Joker-face. It is the flames in this furnace which give the room its only illumination, casting weird shadows on the walls. The two Henchmen are hanging on the Joker's every word as he continues:

JOKER

No, never again will that ghastly  
girdle thwart my plans, for I, the  
Clown Prince of Crime, have found  
the answer to it...!

1ST HENCHMAN

What is it, Joker?

2ND HENCHMAN

Don't keep us in suspense.

The Joker laughs maniacally, then holds aloft a belt of his own, exclaiming:

JOKER

My own Utility Belt...!

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87 86

## INSERT - JOKER'S UTILITY BELT

held aloft in the Joker's hand. It is a belt like Batman's but it is red, with a buckle shaped and colored like the Joker's face. As the Joker's LAUGH ECHOES OVER; ~~SUPER~~  
~~TITLE:~~

~~"WHAT PERFIDIOUS PRANK IS  
THE JOKER PLANNING NOW?!"~~

DISSOLVE TO:

88 87

## INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

The CAMERA IS IN CLOSE on the model of a new luxury liner on the Commissioner's desk. The lettering on the ship's bow identifies it as the: "S.S. GOTHAM." As the CAMERA PULLS BACK TO A WIDER ANGLE, Commissioner Gordon is speaking:

GORDON

As the majority stockholder in Gotham Shipping Lines, Bruce, you'll be pleased to hear that I've arranged for Batman and ~~the~~ *the Boy Wonder Robin* to christen the S.S. Gotham when ~~she's~~ *she's launched* her next week.

With Gordon in the office are Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson, in mufti, and Chief O'Hara.

~~DICK~~

~~Jeeppers! Do you suppose I could  
get their autographs?!~~

Suddenly the window is shattered by an object which CRASHES through it from outside and lands on the floor in the middle of the office. As Chief O'Hara springs forward to pick it up:

89 88

## CLOSE ON OBJECT

It is a small clown doll, weighted with a rock, dressed in the traditional baggy-pants clown attire, but with the Joker's head and face.

90 89

## GROUP SHOT

as they study the doll:

BRUCE

What is it, Commissioner? What's it mean?

Cont.

8603

90 89 Cont.

DICK

It looks like a doll to me, Bruce.  
A clown doll.

GORDON

It's that Chaplin of Chicanery  
again...

O'HARA

The Joker.

GORDON

This must be a clue to his next  
crime...

O'HARA

Maybe he's going to rob the circus.

GORDON

No, the circus left town last week.

Gordon's eyes meet O'Hara's, then both sets of eyes  
travel across the office to the same spot.

91 90

CLOSE SHOT - RED TELEPHONE

The Commissioner's hand comes INTO FRAME, removes the  
plexiglass cover from the telephone. The CAMERA PULLS  
BACK to include Gordon as he jabs his finger at the  
button in the base of the phone.

92 91

TWO SHOT - BRUCE AND DICK

as they exchange an anxious, private glance.

93 92

INT. WAYNE MANOR - BRUCE'S STUDY

as Alfred crosses to the red telephone and answers it:

ALFRED

(into phone)

I'm sorry, Commissioner, but  
Batman is out for the day...

(pause)

Yes, sir. I'll leave word you  
called.

As Alfred starts to hang up:

94 93

INT. COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE - FEATURE GORDON

as he hangs up. His face is a study in despair:

Cont.

8603

94 93 Cont.

GORDON

He's not there...

O'HARA

What're we gonna do now,  
Commissioner?

GORDON

I don't know, Chief O'Hara.  
I don't know...

95 94

A DIFFERENT ANGLE

as Bruce speaks cheerfully:

BRUCE

Well, don't worry, Commissioner,  
I'm sure the Police Department  
can handle it...(moving toward  
door, he motions  
to Dick)Dick and I are late already for  
that Chopin concert, but if you  
need us for anything, you just  
let us know.

GORDON

I'll do that, Bruce.

Bruce and Dick exit. When they have gone:

O'HARA

Lot of help he's gonna be with  
someone like the Joker.

GORDON

Oh, he's a good man, Bruce Wayne,  
but not even all his money could  
buy us another Batman.

96 95

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT CORRIDOR - MOVING WITH BRUCE AND  
AND DICK

as they hurry along the corridor:

BRUCE

You know what it means, don't you?

DICK

Well, gee, Bruce, no, I don't.

Cont.

8603



98 INT. A BAR - FEATURE TELEVISION RECEIVER - NIGHT

The PATRONS at the bar watch the performances of the opera. Except for one DRUNK who has a request:

DRUNK

Sshing "Melancholy Baby"...!

99 INT. TV STUDIO - CLOSE SHOT

of Pagliacci as he nears the end of the aria.

100 ANOTHER, WIDER ANGLE - SHOOTING DOWN FROM A CATWALK

as Batman and Robin appear in the f.g. Then, as Pagliacci finishes his aria, the Caped Crusaders launch themselves off the catwalk, swinging down toward the stage on their Batropes.

101 WILD SHOT

of Batman and Robin swinging through the air on their Batropes.

102 ON STAGE

as Batman and Robin land next to Pagliacci. Batman tears the mask from Pagliacci's face, revealing...

103 INT. THE BAR - FEATURE TV RECEIVER

where the Patrons watching evidence great CONSTERNATION, and one of them exclaims:

PATRON

It's the Joker...!

104 INT. TV STUDIO - ON STAGE

as Batman and Robin grapple with the Joker.

105 CLOSE ON THE JOKER'S UTILITY BELT

as his fingers dip into a pouch labeled: "SNEEZING POWDER." As he extracts a handful:

106 FEATURE THE JOKER

as, laughing, he throws the powder into Batman's and Robin's faces.

107 FEATURE BATMAN AND ROBIN

as they are convulsed in a fit of sneezing. Laughing, the Joker signals to the wings, and four of his HENCHMEN, dressed as supers, rush out and seize the Batman and Robin.

108 INT. THE BAR - FEATURE TELEVISION RECEIVER

as the EXCITED Patrons watch the Joker's henchmen subdue the Caped Crusaders. There are shouts of: "No, no!" and "Do something, Batman" and:

DRUNK

Sshing "Melancholy Baby"...!

But Batman and Robin are securely in hand. Then the Joker's face moves full into the Television Camera, and, as OUR CAMERA MOVES IN toward the television screen, he addresses a stunned Gotham City:

JOKER

(from TV set) City,

And now, people of Gotham, the moment you've all been waiting for...!

As the Joker laughs maniacally:

109 INT. TV STUDIO - ON STAGE - FEATURE THE JOKER

as he continues to address the television audience:

JOKER

The grand finale! The climax of my performance. The zenith of my career!

(more laughter)

The UNMASKING of Batman and Robin the Boy Wonder...!

As the Joker moves toward Batman and Robin, helplessly pinned by his Henchmen, SUPERED TITLES LEAP OUT IN QUICK SUCCESSION, and an announcer-type VOICE speaks them over:

"COULD THIS MEAN CURTAINS???"

"WILL THE IDENTITIES OF OUR DYNAMIC DUO BE REVEALED TO THE WHOLE WORLD???"

"IS THIS THE END OF THEIR CAREER AS CRIMEFIGHTERS???"

"CAN THEY AVERT DISASTER???"

"ANSWERS TOMORROW NIGHT!!!"

"SAME TIME -- SAME CHANNEL!"

FADE OUT

END OF PART ONE



110 Cont.

	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>SHOT</u>
(n)	"PAGLIACCI!!!"	Pagliacci on stage singing his aria.
(o)	"UNMASKED...!"	Batman pulling mask from Pagliacci, revealing the Joker.
(p)	"FROM THE JOKER'S UTILITY BELT..."	Joker's fingers dipping into pouch on his utility belt.
(q)	"SNEEZING POWDER!"	Joker throwing sneezing powder in Batman's and Robin's faces.
(r)	"AAAA-CHOOO!!!"	Batman and Robin convulsed in a fit of sneezing.
(s)	"HELPLESS...!"	Batman and Robin pinned by the Joker's henchmen.
(t)	"AND NOW..."	Joker advancing toward Batman and Robin.

111 INT. TV STUDIO - ON STAGE - FEATURE THE JOKER - NIGHT

As the last SHOT from Reprise Sequence comes alive and the Joker, laughing, continues to advance toward Batman and Robin, SUPER one last TITLE to complete sequence:

"THE GREAT UNVEILING!!!"

Poised in front of Batman, the Joker crows:

JOKER

And now, my anonymous nemesis, let's see who you are behind that mask of yours....!

As, laughing, the Joker reaches out toward Batman's mask:

112 CLOSE ON BATMAN

as he watches the Joker's hand come toward his face, closer and closer and closer!

113 CLOSE ON BATMAN'S UTILITY BELT

as his fingers dig surreptitiously in a pouch, ~~labeled:~~  
~~"EMERGENCY BATFLARE."~~ They sneak out a thin, pencil-shaped device, point it upward, and push a button in its bottom. There is a small POP and a puff of smoke.

8603

114 FEATURE THE JOKER

Alarmed, he withdraws his hand from Batman's face and looks upward toward the ceiling.

115 CLOSE SHOT - SHOOTING UP - AN AREA OF THE CEILING

as the Emergency Batflare bursts into magnesium brightness right under one of the studio's automatic fire extinguishing sprinklers. As jets of water immediately spurt out of the sprinkler:

116 FEATURE THE JOKER

JOKER

Ho ho! A twist! Fight water  
with fire!

The Joker snatches at his belt, grabs out a handful of some kind of powder and throws it ~~violently~~ DOWN violently DOWN.

117 CLOSE SHOT - SHOOTING DOWN - AREA OF FLOOR

As Joker's powder hits the WET PATCH, it goes off in a TERRIFIC FLASH OF SMOKE AND FIRE!

118 INT. BAR - TELEVISION RECEIVER - CLOSE ON ROBIN

surrounded by swirling smoke, shouting:

ROBIN

(from TV)

The Joker! He's getting away!

DRUNK

Sssshing "Pagliacci"....!

119 INT. TV STUDIO - STAGE - FEATURE BATMAN

BATMAN

I'll get him!

120 ANGLING UPWARD - AT THE JOKER

as he scrambles up a ladder toward the catwalk above.

5603

121 119

## FEATURE BATMAN

as he stops, looks up into the darkness above, and calls out:

BATMAN

You're trapped, Joker! As a duly deputized agent of the law, I order you to surrender...!

122 120

## SHOOTING DOWN FROM THE CATWALK

toward Batman below, but FEATURING the Joker in the f.g. as he saws at a rope which supports a large, heavy SANDBAG, hanging directly over Batman's head.

JOKER

As the Clown Prince of Crime, I decline...!

(one last slash  
at the rope)

I hope this doesn't depress you...!

Then, as the Joker's maniacal laughter rings out and the sandbag sails loose down toward Batman:

123 121

## FEATURE BATMAN

who, sensing danger, and with incredible agility, leaps aside at the very last instant. With a crushing impact the sandbag CRASHES to the floor on the very spot where Batman has been standing! Talk about close calls! Whew! Quick as a flash, Batman whips out his Batarang, attaches the Batrope to it, and wings it upward. Zwisssh!

CRAZY PAN TO:

124 122

## A PORTION OF THE CATWALK'S RAILING

as the Batarang, trailing Batrope, winds around it and catches there.

125 123

## FEATURE BATMAN

as he gives a tug on the Batrope, then running a few steps, launches himself into the air, swinging on the Batrope.

126 124

## WILD SHOT

of Batman swinging upward through air on Batrope. Over all of this the Joker's LAUGHTER has continued to echo maniacally.

127 125

ON A LANDING AT THE END OF THE CATWALK

as Batman lands there right in front of the fleeing Joker, cutting off his escape route. The Joker's laughter stops abruptly. Slowly, savouring the moment, Batman backs him into a corner:

BATMAN

It's time for you to sing a different tune, ~~my~~ crooked clown...  
you

As Batman takes out his Batcuffs:

128 126

MED. CLOSE ON THE JOKER

backing away from Batman:

JOKER

Songs are for parties, my caped copper...

129 127

CLOSE ON THE JOKER'S UTILITY BELT

as the Joker's fingers dip into a pouch labeled: "PARTY STREAMERS." His VOICE continues over:

JOKER

(off)

And so is confetti...

130 128

FEATURE THE JOKER

as, holding one end of the coiled streamer, he wings it, unraveling and streaming, toward Batman, continuing:

JOKER

So why don't you join the fun!

131 129

FEATURE BATMAN

as the party steamer coils about him. It would seem harmless enough at first;

~~BATMAN~~

~~What petty, preordained  
prank is this...?~~

but, GADZOOKS...! What's this?! The thing is almost alive! As the Joker's laughter rings out again, and the CAMERA MOVES IN toward Batman, the Streamer - coiling and proliferating - continues to wind about him in ever-tightening coils, trussing him securely, rendering him powerless:

Cont.

8603

131  
129 Cont.

BATMAN

Arrrgh...!

132 130

FEATURE THE JOKER

as he dashes past the helpless Batman to freedom:

JOKER

I'm sorry you can't join me, my  
helpless hero, but I see you're  
tied up with other things...!

Laughing, the Joker bounds off, but his laughter,  
diminishing in volume, continues to echo through the  
theatre for several moments after he is gone.

133 131

ANOTHER ANGLE

FEATURING Batman as Robin runs toward him along the  
catwalk:

ROBIN

Batman...! Batman...!

Then, kneeling beside him:

ROBIN

Holy serpentine...! What happened...?!

BATMAN

This time the Joker gave the party...

As Robin begins tearing away the coils of the perfidious  
party streamer, the CAMERA MOVES IN toward Batman, who  
continues:

BATMAN

But the next time we'll hand out  
the door prizes.

On a CLOSEUP of Batman's square-jawed, steely-eyed  
countenance:

~~132 OPTICAL TITLES~~

~~A quick succession of questions:~~

~~"COULD BATMAN BE OVERCONFIDENT?"~~

~~"SHOULD HE PUT UP OR SHUT UP?"~~

~~"CAN HE PUT HIS MONEY WHERE HIS~~

~~MOUTH IS...?"~~

~~"NOT IF..."~~

8603

133 EXT. NOVELTY STORE - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

of a BURGLAR ALARM. It is so labeled. It is RINGING FURIOUSLY. OVER this SUPER one last TITLE to complete previous sequence:

"...IF THE JOKER HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT...!"

134 EXT. NOVELTY STORE - FULL SHOT - NIGHT

FEATURING the Joker, laughing, as he runs from the store with a sack of loot, tosses it into the back of a panel truck, slams the doors, jumps in behind the wheel of the truck and roars away into the night. The Burglar Alarm continues to CLANG away.

135 EXT. GOTHAM STREET - NIGHT

FEATURE the Batmobile, racing along. As the CAMERA PANS AROUND with it:

136 INT. BATMOBILE - CLOSE ON ELECTRONIC DEVICE

set in the dashboard. The device is labeled: "AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC ALARM LOCATOR." Little lights flash on and off, and the thing makes various BEEP-BEEP HIPOCKETA SOUNDS. Then a BELL RINGS. Robin's VOICE is heard over:

ROBIN

It's coming through now, Batman.

As the device disgorges itself of a short slip of paper, and Robin's hand tears it off:

137 INT. BATMOBILE - BATMAN AND ROBIN (PROCESS)

Robin reads from the slip of paper:

ROBIN

"Nelson's Novelty Nook, Third and Main..."

BATMAN

Just the Joker's meat...!

As Batman jams over sharply on the steering wheel:

138 EXT. GOTHAM STREET - BATMOBILE - NIGHT

as it careens around a corner and, moving right to left across screen, flashes off.

139 EXT. GOTHAM STREET - JOKER'S PANEL TRUCK - NIGHT

Moving from left to right across screen, it speeds along the street.

- 140 EXT. GOTHAM STREET - BATMOBILE - NIGHT  
speeding from right to left across screen.
- 141 EXT. GOTHAM STREET - HIGH - FULL SHOT - NIGHT  
as the two vehicles pass each other at high speeds.
- 142 INT. BATMOBILE - FEATURE BATMAN (PROCESS)  
He throws a quick startled look over his shoulder, then  
as he thrusts a hand toward the instrument panel:
- BATMAN  
Hold on for Emergency Bat-Turn!
- 143 BIG CLOSEUP - BATMOBILE PANEL  
Batman's HAND yanks a red lever labeled: "EMERGENCY  
BAT-TURN."
- 144 EXT. EMERGENCY BAT-TURN - NIGHT (FOOTAGE FROM PILOT)  
When this wondrous maneuver has been completed and the  
Batmobile emerges at top speed headed in the opposite  
direction:
- 145 INT. JOKER'S TRUCK (PROCESS)  
The Joker looks anxiously back over his shoulder into the  
oncoming headlights of the Batmobile.
- 146 INT. BATMOBILE - FEATURE BATMAN (PROCESS)  
Again he leans forward and reaches for a lever on the  
instrument panel.
- 147 BIG CLOSEUP - BATMOBILE PANEL  
as Batman's HAND pulls a lever under a name plate which  
reads: "SUPER BATMAGNET."
- 148 EXT. BATMOBILE ENGINE HOOD - CLOSE SHOT (PROCESS)  
A hatch slides open and a heavy, metal, horseshoe-shaped  
device slides hydraulically up into position. This is a  
Super Batmagnet. Little LIGHTNING-LIKE SQUIGGLES OF  
ELECTRICAL ENERGY SPARK out from the prongs of the  
horseshoe magnet, making a SOUND LIKE A SHORT IN YOUR  
WIRING, but immensely magnified.
- 149 THE REAR OF JOKER'S TRUCK - MED. CLOSE  
of the bumper as little LIGHTNING-LIKE SQUIGGLES OF  
ELECTRICAL ENERGY ZAP into it, and the truck begins to  
slow down.

150 INT. JOKER'S TRUCK - THE JOKER (PROCESS)

as he looks frantically around, realizing that his truck is being brought slowly to a stop. As he presses forward again:

151 INSERT - JOKER'S FOOT ON ACCELERATOR

as his foot presses it to the floor. The ENGINE ROARS.

152 EXT. THE JOKER'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Despite the ROAR of its engine, the truck cannot maintain its forward motion. As it comes to a stop:

153 EXT. GOTHAM STREET - HIGH, FULL SHOT - NIGHT

of the Joker's truck and the Batmobile as the Joker's truck actually begins moving backward toward Batmobile which stops, allowing the truck to come the last few feet to meet it, THUNK, held there by the Super Batmagnet as securely as though it were welded.

154 FEATURE THE JOKER

as he leaps from the truck and runs.

155 FEATURE BATMAN AND ROBIN

in hot pursuit.

156 ANOTHER ANGLE

as Batman hurls himself through the air at the Joker, bringing him down with a flying tackle. As they grapple on the sidewalk:

157 CLOSE ON THE JOKER'S UTILITY BELT

His fingers dip into a pouch labeled: "EXPLODING CIGARS." As they withdraw a cigar:

158 FULL SHOT

Batman and Robin haul the Joker to his feet and jam him back against the front of a building. He is no longer struggling. Instead, as the CAMERA MOVES IN toward them, he holds the cigar out to Batman:

JOKER

You win, Batman. Have a cigar...

ROBIN

Careful, Batman, it may be a trick.

Cont.

158 Cont.

As Batman snaps the Batcuffs on the Joker's wrists:

BATMAN

Thanks just the same.

JOKER

Suit yourself...

(puts cigar in  
his own mouth)

But it seems a shame to waste  
a perfectly good cigar. Have  
you got a light...?

Batman and Robin hesitate, then:

BATMAN

(to Robin)

I guess we can afford to be  
generous in victory, Robin.  
Give the man a light.

As Robin thumbs a lighter into flame:

159 CLOSE ON THE JOKER

as Robin holds the flame to the end of his cigar and the  
Joker puffs it into life.

160 GROUP SHOT

The cigar suddenly EXPLODES outward, sending a billow of  
acrid, choking, blinding smoke right into the faces of  
the Dynamic Duo.

JOKER

Are you smoking more but enjoying  
it less...?!

Laughing uproariously, the Joker runs off, escaping into  
the night, and as the CAMERA MOVES IN toward Batman and  
Robin -- blinded, choking, staggering about:

134 161 OPTICAL TITLES

"HAVE BATMAN AND BOY WONDER  
FINALLY MET THEIR MATCH...?"

"WILL THE JOKER'S UTILITY  
BELT PROVE THEIR ULTIMATE  
UNDOING...?"

135 162 INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - MED. CLOSE - NIGHT

of a television NEWSCASTER who is addressing the television  
camera:

8603

Cont.



138 165

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - MED. CLOSE - NIGHT

of the Newscaster as, facing the television camera once more, he continues:

NEWSCASTER

Thus Commissioner Gordon and Chief O'Hara echoed the sentiments of all Gotham. For, even as that interview was being filmed...

139 166

INT. BRUCE WAYNE'S STUDY - FEATURE TV SET - NIGHT

as the Newscaster continues:

NEWSCASTER

(from TV set)

...criminals of every kind, emboldened by the Dynamic Duo's seeming impotence, were combining to create a crime wave the likes of which Gotham City has seldom seen...

INTERCUT:

140 167

~~INTERCUT~~ - REACTION SHOTS - BRUCE, DICK AND ALFRED

down in the depths as the Newscaster continues over:

NEWSCASTER

(off)

In this hour of peril and need, perhaps all our prayers were best summed up by my small son, Harold, just eight years old... Kneeling at the side of his little bed, hands clasped reverently before him, he said...

(hushed tones)

"God bless Mommy and God bless Daddy and God bless my dog, Spot. And please, Batman, whoever you are behind that mask of yours, please save us..."

~~The CAMERA IS IN A CLOSE SHOT OF BRUCE, who, turning his head quickly away -- perhaps in an effort to conceal a tear which is forming in his eye -- speaks in a cracked voice:~~

BRUCE

Turn it off, Alfred. ~~I can't bear any more.~~

141 168

FULL SHOT

as Alfred moves toward the TV set, ~~and Bruce continues:~~ *suddenly*

8603

Cont.



145 172

TWO SHOT - BRUCE AND DICK

DICK

~~Boy, he sure knows where to hurt a guy, doesn't he?~~ Oh boy! How I'd like to top him with a punch-line!

146 173

FEATURE TELEVISION SET

as the Joker continues:

JOKER

(from TV set)

Are your blindfolds in place?  
 Very well, then. Ask yourselves  
 what's wrong with this sentence.  
 "He who laughs last, laughs good."

As the Joker laughs tauntingly and the CAMERA MOVES in toward the TV set, the picture suddenly blurs, squiggles, SCREECHES, then goes blank. As a card appears, reading: "PLEASE STAND BY":

147 174

FEATURE BRUCE AND DICK

staring at the blank screen:

DICK

Holy grammar, is that all?!

BRUCE

He who laughs last, laughs best,  
 not good...

(racking his  
 mind aloud)

Best... Best... Best...

DICK

Do you suppose "blindfold" might  
 have something to do with it?

ALFRED

If I may venture an opinion, sir,  
 I think Master Dick may have put  
 his finger on it.

BRUCE

"Blindfold?"

ALFRED

No, sir. "Grammar." The sentence  
 is gramatically incorrect. One  
 does not laugh good, one laughs  
well.

Cont.

8603

147 174 Cont.

BRUCE  
(on his feet)  
That's it, Alfred! Laughs  
well! Laughwell!  
Professor James J. Laughwell....!

DICK  
(on his feet)  
Holy safari....! The one who  
just got back from Africa with  
a collection of rare masks....!

ALFRED  
(calmly)  
That's where the "blindfold"  
part would come in, sir.

BRUCE  
And they're being stored at  
the Last Longer warehouse....!  
(to Dick)  
To the Batpoles!

Without having to be told, Alfred has already opened Shakespeare's head and turned the switch therein. As the section of study wall slides open and Bruce and Dick, in their usual perfectly matched strides, leap to the Batpoles:

~~175 OPTICAL TITLE~~

DISSOLVE TO:

~~"COULD THIS BE THE ANSWER  
TO A CHILD'S PRAYER...?"~~

~~176 EXT. GOTHAM STREET - BATMOBILE - NIGHT~~

~~As that vaunted vehicle speeds toward its destination,  
SUPER a second TITLE to elaborate on the first:~~

~~"OR WILL IT BE JUST ANOTHER  
HUMILIATING FIASCO FOR OUR  
DYNAMIC DUO...?"~~

148 177 EXT. ALLEY BEHIND WAREHOUSE - BATMOBILE - NIGHT

The Batmobile pulls up and stops. Batman and Robin leap out. Batman whips out Batarang, attaches Batrope, and wings it upward toward top of warehouse. Zwisssh!

CRAZY PAN TO:

8603



153 182

A NEW ANGLE - BATMAN AND ROBIN

as <sup>they</sup> Robin reaches the window ledge and ~~Batman, joining him on it, chucks him reassuringly on the shoulder;~~

~~BATMAN~~~~Full yourself together, Chum.~~~~(smiles)~~~~We've got a job to do..~~~~ROBIN~~~~(tenuous smile)~~~~Thanks, Batman. It won't happen again.~~~~Then, as they look through the window into the warehouse:~~

154 183

INT. WAREHOUSE - THEIR P.O.V. THROUGH WINDOW - NIGHT

By the light of several FLASHLIGHTS, the Joker and some of his HENCHMEN can be seen stuffing loot into boxes.

155 184

BACK TO WINDOW LEDGE

Batman ferociously kicks open the hinged windows.

156 185

INT. THE WAREHOUSE - LOW ANGLE - TOWARD WINDOW

Batman hurtles over the sill with Robin close behind, lands NEAR CAMERA where LOW ANGLE makes him look only about three times life-size.

BATMAN

Stand and fight, Joker...!

157 186

REVERSE ANGLE

as Batman and Robin leap to the fray. They all but disappear into the gloom, and only shadowy figures can be seen by the light from the now crazily-moving FLASHLIGHTS. But lots of EXAGGERATED SOUNDS and SHOUTS COME OVER, indicating what is transpiring:

"CRUNCH!!!" "AWK!!!" "CRRR-AACK!"  
 "ARRRGH!!!" "THUNK!!!" "OOOOFF!"  
 "THWAAP!!!" "EEE-YOWW!" "CRASH!!!"

along with a few GRUNTS, GASPS, GROANS and MOANS. After several moments:

158 187

FEATURE BATMAN AND THE JOKER

illuminated briefly by a flashlight which has fallen to the floor. They grapple on the floor. Suddenly, the Joker rolls free, springs to his feet, and darts off into the

158 187 Cont.

darkness. The CAMERA REMAINS ON Batman who, rolling up to one knee, whips something out of his Utility Belt and throw it after the Joker.

159 188 FULL SHOT

Suddenly all hell breaks loose! Whatever it is Batman has thrown at the Joker EXPLODES into bright, blinding FLARES, and FLASHES, and POPS! and BANGS! SIRENS WAIL! BELLS RING! Confetti and party streamers fly about in all directions. And somewhere an unseen sixty-piece BRASS BAND is PLAYING "STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER...!" Three small FLAGS float down. They bear the legends: "PHOOEY ON BATMEN!" and "POOR BOY WONDER!" and "HOORAY FOR THE JOKER!" After several moments:

160 189 FEATURE BATMAN AND ROBIN

struggling vainly to untangle themselves from the party streamers which have wound about them. As the din subsides:

ROBIN

Holy Fourth of July, what was that...?!

From o.s. comes the SOUND of the Joker's LAUGH, and then his voice, calling:

JOKER

(o.s.)

That was just a curtain-raiser!  
The next time you'll get the  
real show-stopper...!

His LAUGHTER rings out again, trails off, and echoes away. The CAMERA MOVES IN toward Batman who, getting his hands free, reaches for his Utility Belt and takes it off. Robin shines a flashlight on it:

161 190 INSERT - THE UTILITY BELT

But it is not Batman's utility belt! It is a clever replica of the Joker's utility belt...!

ROBIN

(o.s.)

That's not your belt...!

162 191 BATMAN AND ROBIN

staring at the belt:

Cont.

8603

162 191 Cont.

BATMAN

No, it's a clever replica of the Joker's utility belt.

ROBIN

But how....?

BATMAN

He must have slipped it on me during the struggle.

ROBIN

Then when you thought you were stopping him with your Utility Belt, you were really stopping us with his!

BATMAN

~~That's hitting below the belt.~~ The tricky devil. He's hit us below the belt!

ROBIN

(deep depression)

Golly...

BATMAN

~~What's the matter?~~

ROBIN

~~I was just wondering.~~  
(meets Batman's eyes)

What do you suppose little Harold's going to think now?

Their eyes hold for an instant, and then, as they avert them:

163 192

INSERT - QUICK CUTS - NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

The SOUND of a Newspaper Boy's VOICE is heard OVER as he spiels: "Read all about it...! Get your paper here...! Read all about the big crime wave! Paper!" During this, CUT from headline to headline as follows:

"CRIME WAVE GROWS!"  
"POLICE POWERLESS!"  
"BATMAN AND ROBIN  
FOILED AGAIN!"  
"THE JOKER IS WILD!"

Cont.

8603

163 192 Cont.

Over this last, the Newspaper Boy's Voice is replaced by the SOUND of the Joker's LAUGH. The CAMERA PANS DOWN from the headline to another story somewhere in the middle of the page. It's headline reads: "BATMAN AND ROBIN TO CHRISTEN NEW LINER." And beneath that, in smaller type, the sub-head: "S.S. Gotham To Be Launched Tomorrow." As the Joker's LAUGHTER continues to be heard over:

164 193 INT. JOKER'S HIDEOUT - FEATURE THE JOKER - NIGHT

as he puts aside the newspaper and speaks to several HENCHMEN, among whom is a Henchwoman - a gorgeous female named QUEENIE.

JOKER

Tomorrow, all opposition from  
Batman and Robin will stop...!

Laughing, the Joker reaches down to his Utility Belt:

JOKER

I've got the stopper right here...

165 194 CLOSE ON THE JOKER'S UTILITY BELT

as his fingers dip into a pouch labeled: "THE LAST STOPPER."  
As they take out a cork such as those used in Champagne bottles, his VOICE continues over:

JOKER

(o.s.)  
The last stopper...!

As he laughs uproariously:

166 195 FEATUR THE JOKER

as he holds up the cork for their inspection:

JOKER

Behold the stopper that will  
stop Batman and Boy Wonder  
forever...!

1ST HENCHMAN

What is it, Joker?

2ND HENCHMAN

It's just a cork.

Cont.

166 195 Cont.

JOKER

A cork, yes. But not just a  
cork...

(to Queenie)

Hand me that bottle of Champagne,  
Queenie...

1ST HENCHMAN

How're you gonna stop Batman with  
that?

The Joker just laughs, and as Queenie hands him the bottle  
of Champagne:

167 196 INSERT - THE BOTTLE

It is labeled: "THE BEST FRENCH CHAMPAGNE." And under  
that the year: "1949." The 2nd Henchman's VOICE speaks  
over:

2ND HENCHMAN

(o.s.)

You gonna get him drunk...?

The Joker just continues to laugh as his fingers deftly  
pop the cork out of the bottle and replace it with The  
Last Stopper. When it is done:

168 197 FEATURE THE JOKER

as he hands the bottle of Champagne back to Queenie.

JOKER

Here, Queenie. You know what  
to do with this now...

Queenie nods, moves away, and as CAMERA MOVES IN toward  
the Joker:

JOKER

Tomorrow night...Champagne  
for everybody...!

Then, as the Joker laughs fiendishly:

169 198 OPTICAL TITLES

They EXPLODE in rapid succession:

"WHAT'S THIS...?"  
"BATMAN AND ROBIN DONE IN BY  
A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE...?!"  
"IMPOSSIBLE!!!"

8603

190 199 EXT. GOTHAM HARBOR - FULL SHOT - DAY (STOCK)

Tugboats shooting up geysers of water, etc. ~~Over this EXPLODE two more TITLES, completing the above sequence:~~

~~"BATMAN NEVER TOUCHES THE STUFF!"  
"AND ROBIN'S TOO YOUNG TO DRINK!"~~

191 200 EXT. LAUNCHING PLATFORM - DAY

The prow of the S.S. Gotham looms up over the wooden platform. On the platform are Batman, Robin, Commissioner Gordon, and a number of other DIGNITARIES. A number of SPECTATORS press around the foot of the platform, hopefully giving the impression that they are a fairly large crowd. The CAMERA FEATURES Batman and Commissioner Gordon who, looking at his wrist watch, speaks to Batman:

GORDON

I don't know what could be keeping  
Bruce Wayne, but we just can't hold  
this thing up any longer...

He steps to a microphone and addresses the crowd o.s.

GORDON

(into mike)

Ladies and Gentlemen, at this time  
it gives me great pleasure to present  
the two people who will christen the  
S.S. Gotham...

(into mike)

They hardly need an introduction.

(gestures toward  
them)

Batman and Robin the Boy Wonder!

There is some scattered APPLAUSE from the crowd, but it is something less than enthusiastic. As a matter of fact, a few "BOOS" are heard.

192 201 FEATURE A MAN IN THE CROWD

as he cups his hands around his mouth and calls up to  
Batman and Robin:

MAN

What're you two guys doin' here  
when the Joker's out there takin'  
over the city...?!

Cont.

192

201 Cont.

There are several AD LIBS like: "Yeah, what about it, Batman?" and "Some Dynamic Duo you are!"

~~202 TWO SHOT - BATMAN AND ROBIN~~

~~They manage to maintain tight, wan smiles, but still it hurts:~~

~~ROBIN~~

~~Gosh, people sure do have short memories, don't they?~~

~~BATMAN~~

~~Try to keep a stiff upper lip, Old Chum.~~

193

203 A DIFFERENT ANGLE

to include Gordon as he moves back to them:

GORDON

I'm sorry about that, Batman.

BATMAN

Forget it. (~~stoutly~~)

Let's get on with the christening, shall we?

A pause. Then the Commissioner turns to the group of Dignitaries on the platform:

GORDON

Who's got the Champagne?

194

204 ANOTHER ANGLE

To FEATURE Queenie, unseen until now, as she pushes through the group of Dignitaries with a bottle of Champagne:

QUEENIE

Here you are, Commissioner.

GORDON

(taking bottle)

Thank you, my dear.

As the Commissioner turns back to Batman:

## 195 205 FEATURE BATMAN

as the Commissioner hands him the bottle:

GORDON

The best French Champagne.

Batman takes bottle, studies it casually:

BATMAN

1949... A very good year...

Then something seems to strike him. As he looks more closely at the bottle, frowning:

## 196 206 INSERT - THE BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE

The same as prepared by the Joker, natch. Batman's finger traces the edge of the cork where it goes into the bottle.

GORDON

(o.s.)

Something wrong, Batman?

## 197 207 FEATURE BATMAN

BATMAN

No, no, it's nothing...  
(touches forehead  
with free hand)

I just feel a slight headache  
coming on, that's all... Perhaps

~~something~~ a headache tablet...

Batman fishes a pill out of his Utility Belt and pops it into his mouth. He holds a second pill out to Robin:

BATMAN

You'd better take one, too, Robin.  
It might be something contagious.

ROBIN

Well, gee, Batman, I never heard  
of a headache being --

BATMAN

(meaningfully)

Doctor's orders, Chum.

Robin gets the message, takes the pill, pops it into his mouth. Batman moves to the prow of the liner and raises the bottle of Champagne:

BATMAN

I christen thee the S.S. Gotham!

As Batman swings the bottle:

178 208

## CLOSE ON THE BOTTLE

as it smashes against the prow of the ship. Immediately, great clouds of bilious green gas pour out of the bottle.

179 209

## A SERIES OF CLOSE CUTS

of the people on the platform being overcome by the gas. Batman, Robin, the Commissioner, and all the Dignitaries.

180 210

## FULL SHOT OF LAUNCHING PLATFORM

Everyone lies unconscious as the loathsome green stuff continues to swirl about them. (No Spectators can be seen, so it is logical to assume that they, too, have been overcome.) Suddenly the Joker and his Henchmen, wearing gas masks, dash up onto the platform. Two of them hoist Robin and the other two hoist Batman, and, like two sacks of potatoes, the Dynamic Duo is hauled off to who knows what dire fate. ~~Over this, SUPER a quick succession of TITLES. They read as follows:~~

~~"HAVE BATMAN AND ROBIN  
HAD ONE TOO MANY...?"  
"WHAT WILL LITTLE HAROLD  
THINK NOW...?"  
"IS THERE NO END TO THE  
JOKER'S TREACHERY...?"~~

DISSOLVE TO:

181 211

## EXT. AMUSEMENT PIER - FEATURE FUNHOUSE - FULL SHOT - DAY

~~as~~  
~~the~~ mechanical clown over the entrance to the funhouse  
LAUGHS its recorded laugh, ~~SUPER one last TITLE to complete~~  
~~the above sequence;~~

~~"PRIDE THIS IS IT!!!"~~

182 212

## INT. JOKER'S HIDE-OUT - CLOSE ON THE JOKER - DAY

as his LAUGH replaces that of the mechanical clown, and he throws the switch which activates the conveyor belt leading into the furnace.

183 213

## ANOTHER ANGLE

to FEATURE Batman and Robin, unconscious on the conveyor belt as it carries them slowly toward the huge, grinning Joker's face and the hungry flames beyond. Watching, are the Joker's Henchmen and Queenie. The Joker gloats aloud:

JOKER

Farewell, Dynamic Duo...! You should have remembered that "He who plays with fire oftentimes gets burned...!"

As he laughs triumphantly:

8603

184 214

CLOSER ON BATMAN AND ROBIN

as they are borne inexorably closer to incineration. Then, suddenly, what's this...?! Just in the nick of time, Batman and Robin, fully conscious, jump to their feet and leap from the conveyor belt!

BATMAN

The heat's on, Joker...!

185 215

CLOSEUP - THE JOKER

flabbergasted:

JOKER

Eee-gads! What sorcery is this?! There was enough paralyzing gas in that cork to keep ordinary men unconscious for hours...!

186 216

TWO SHOT - BATMAN AND THE JOKER

featuring Batman as he seizes the Joker with one hand, and, preparatory to hitting him with the other:

BATMAN

No sorcery, Joker! Merely the precaution of a Universal Gas Antidote Pill...!

Then, as Batman belts him, and the Joker tumbles head over heels:

187 217

TWO SHOT - ROBIN AND 1ST HENCHMAN

featuring Robin as he prepares to belt the Henchman:

ROBIN

You were too clever for your own good this time, Joker...!

Then, as Robin belts him:

188 218

FEATURE BATMAN AND THE JOKER

as Batman prepares to hit him again:

BATMAN

That replica of your Utility Belt was too exact...!

As Batman belts him:

8603

189

219

## ROBIN AND THE 2ND HENCHMAN

as Robin prepares to belt him:

ROBIN

We analyzed the cork in it and  
found...

(belts Henchman)

...paralyzing gas...!

190

220

## BATMAN AND THE JOKER

as Batman prepares to hit him again:

BATMAN

And I just happened to notice  
that the sealing wax around the  
cork in that bottle of champagne  
was not discolored with age...!

He belts the Joker, then concludes:

BATMAN

Odd in a 1949 vintage.

Then, as he swings to grapple with the 1ST Henchman:

191

221

## FEATURE ROBIN

as he belts the 3rd Henchman:

ROBIN

I hope this doesn't give you  
a hangover...!

~~As the Henchman reels backward from the blow, a look of  
horror suddenly comes into Robin's face.~~

## 222 WHAT ROBIN SEES - THE 3RD HENCHMAN

~~as he falls backward onto the conveyor belt and is borne  
swiftly toward the flames.~~

## 223 CLOSE ON ROBIN

~~Unable to look, he turns his face quickly away. From o.s.  
comes a LOUD SCREAM, then a kind of WHOOSING SOUND. Then  
silence. As Robin turns back:~~

## 224 MED. CLOSE - THE FURNACE

~~its flames burning merrily.~~

8603

225 TWO SHOT - BATMAN AND ROBIN

looking toward the furnace. Robin's face is pale:

ROBIN

Holy cinder... I didn't mean...

Batman lays a bracing hand on his young shoulder:

BATMAN

Crime is a dirty business, Chum.  
Try to put it out of your mind.

226 ANOTHER ANGLE

as Batman and Robin are set upon by the other Henchmen.  
As they do battle:

192 227 FEATURE THE JOKER

scrambling for the door. But, at the last moment, he is tackled by Batman.

193 228 CLOSE ON BATMAN AND JOKER

grappling. The Joker tries to get to his Utility Belt, but Batman beats him to it. As Batman rips off the Joker's Utility Belt:

194 229 ANOTHER ANGLE

as Batman flings the contents of the Joker's Utility Belt at the Joker and his Henchmen. Immediately, they all start SNEEZING, and then all hell breaks loose. FLARES! FLASHES! POPS! BANGS! SIRENS WAIL! BELLS RING! And somewhere an unseen sixty-piece BRASS BAND PLAYS "STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER!"

195 230 A SERIES OF QUICK CUTS - CRAZILY ANGLED

during this pandemonium of FISTS HITTING JAWS, KNEES IN STOMACHS, TOES IN SHINS, etc. And finally:

196 231 FEATURE A SMOKE BOMB

as it EXPLODES in mid-air and the clouds of SMOKE totally OBSCURE THE SCENE.

SMOKY DISSOLVE TO:

197 232 FULL SHOT - THE JOKER'S HIDE-OUT - DAY

All is quiet now, and clear. Over this SUPER TITLE:

"WHEN THE SMOKE HAS CLEARED..."

197  
232 Cont.

The Joker and his Henchmen are neatly wrapped up in the conveyor belt. As the CAMERA MOVES IN toward them.

BATMAN

One good belt deserves another, wouldn't you say, Joker?

JOKER

Bah...!

Batman and Robin laugh, but Batman catches something, some movement, from the corner of his eye. As he swings around:

198 233  
FEATURE QUEENIE

bolting for the door. In two quick strides, Batman overtakes her. Seizing her gently but firmly by the wrist, he informs her:

BATMAN

I'm afraid you're under arrest, ma'am.

As Batman takes out Batcuffs:

QUEENIE

(smiles fetchingly)

Couldn't we talk this over, handsome...?

The CAMERA MOVES IN toward them as Batman snaps Batcuffs on her wrists, and, shaking his head sadly:

BATMAN

Poor, deluded child...

FAST FADE OUT

T A G

FADE IN

199 234  
INT. BRUCE WAYNE'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The CAMERA IS IN CLOSE on the TV SET, from which our friendly network Newscaster is reporting:

NEWSCASTER

(from TV set)

...and so, with the Joker's capture, Gotham City's worst crime wave in history has come to an end...

The CAMERA BEGINS PULLING BACK TO INCLUDE Bruce, Dick, and Alfred, watching, as the Newscaster continues:

NEWSCASTER

Tonight, once more, we can all sleep peacefully in our beds. Secure in the knowledge that, as I assured my little son, Harold, just eight years old...

(hushed tones)

"Yes, Harold," I said, "There is a Batman and Robin the Boy Wonder..."

200 235  
ANGLE ON DOORWAY

as Mrs. Cooper comes into the room, announcing:

MRS. COOPER

Time for your piano lesson, Dick.

DICK

Aw, gee, Aunt Harriet, I want to hear about the Joker...

MRS. COOPER

The Joker...?!

(notes TV set)

Why, Bruce Wayne...! I'm surprised at you...!

(crosses to set)

Allowing a boy Dick's age to listen to such sordid goings on...!

She switches off the TV set and turns to Dick:

Cont.

MRS. COOPER

Now you march yourself straight  
in to that piano, young man...

DICK

Golly G-minor, Bruce, do I have  
to?

BRUCE

Who am I to oppose your  
Aunt Harriet...?

(a twinkle  
in his eye)

Why, I doubt if even Batman would  
want to take that job on.

Alfred clears his throat:

ALFRED

I'll bring you some milk and  
cookies, Master Dick.

Dick makes a face as he turns to go:

DICK

Holy heartburn.

FAST FADE OUT

THE END