

65
" THE JOKER BOUNCES BACK "

"MEET THE JOKER!"

TEASER

FADE IN

EXT. CITY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY - FULL SHOT (STOCK)

EASTABLISH a modern urban school. SUPER TITLE:

"GOTHAM CITY...WOODROW ROOSEVELT
HIGH SCHOOL"

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

with another SUPERED TITLE:

"3:09 PM...NORMAL HEALTHY
ACTIVITY IN THE GYMNASIUM..."

Title seems to describe it well. SHOT FEATURES group of skyscraper BASKETBALL PLAYERS, firing practice shots at hoop and backboard. Among players is Team Captain FULTON. HOLD BRIEFLY after TITLE FADES, then CAMERA TILTS UP to monster banner on wall of gym. It says: "WOODROW ROOSEVELT HIGH - CITYWIDE HOOP CHAMPS 5 YEARS IN A ROW!!"

ANOTHER ANGLE - MED. SHOT

DICK GRAYSON in a sweat-suit, working out nimbly on bars or rings or stuffed horse: whatever happens to be Dick's most spectacular specialty.

ANOTHER ANGLE - GROUP SHOT

of three cute GIRL CHEERLEADERS in colorful sweater-and-skirt uniforms, their heads together as they intently study a sheet of paper. A beat or two, then Chief Cheerleader SUSIE looks up.

SUSIE

Got it memorized, everyone?

1st GIRL

(nods)

Think so...

SUSIE

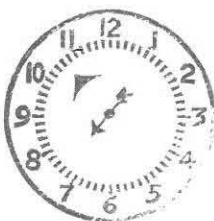
Okay! Let's go!

RECEIVED

NOV 29 1965

HOWIE HORWITZ

Cont.



11.5

CONTINUED:

Susie throws away paper, then the trio set themselves and launch into high-voltage chant. Lines underlined below are by Susie solo, rest of doggerel by all three.

THE GIRLS

Zing! Boom! Sis boom bah!
We're from Woodrow Roosevelt,
That's who we are!
Does anyone scare us??
The answer is NIX!!
Come on, team...
Let's make it SIX!!

They yell "Yay, team!" AD LIB, bounce up and down in most spectacular fashion.

REACTION SHOT - GROUPED BALL PLAYERS

All gape in admiration, WHISTLE LOUDLY.

REACTION SHOT - DICK GRAYSON

DICK

Gosh, Susie. Terrific! Write it yourself?

WIDER ANGLE - FEATURING SUSIE

SUSIE

Heck, no. Miss Browning. Head of the Poetry Department.

(to girls)

Let's take a break, gang!
Who's for a drink?

2nd GIRL

Me!

The girls race over to a vending-machine.

CLOSER SHOT - FEATURING VENDING MACHINE

Sign on top says: "FRESH COLD MILK (GRADE A)". One of the cute chicks already has her dime out, sticks it eagerly in slot and pulls handle. Astonishment. Instead of thunk of milk container, there's a LOUD METALLIC CLATTER like a paying-off slot machine.

1st GIRL

Holy cow! Look!

CAMERA MOVES IN FAST on machine's delivery ~~and~~ tray. There are FIVE SILVER DOLLARS lying there!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

2nd GIRL (O.S.)
Silver dollars!

1st GIRL (O.S.)
Wow! Let me try!

BACK TO SCENE

as 1st Grl rams in her dime and pulls handle. This time there's a DELUGE of silver bucks, a real jackpot. They gape for a beat, then Susie spins and yells:

SUSIE
Hey, kids! Everyone! Come on! IT'S CHRISTMAS!!

Ball Players race over. Other KIDS seem to appear from woodwork. They all hoot and holler AD LIB, fighting to get their own dimes into this magic contraption, and as a fair riot gets under way we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

OPEN CLOSE on a great mound of silver dollars on desk.

GORDON (O.S.)
Silver dollars...

WIDER ANGLE

COMM. GORDON faces CHIEF O'HARA and a few other bits of bleak-looking POLICE BRASS.

GORDON
(going on)
A strange, disturbing bonanza
from a gimmicked milk-machine.
Any of you men fear what I
fear?

Gulping and swallowing, then O'Hara puts the dread apprehension into words.

O'HARA
The Joker!

GORDON
Exactly, Chief O'Hara. The Joker. That most pestilent of predators, the Clown Prince of Crime! This smells like one of his opening gambits.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

O'HARA

The divvel! How can we be sure??

GORDON

We can't, men. Not yet. But if it's The Joker we're facing, and his plot is aimed at Gotham City youth...we can't wait to be sure!

(a beat)

This, if there ever was one, is a case for our Unknown Friend Behind the Mask!

Gordon strides through his stricken little army, goes to RED HOT-LINE PHONE, uncovers it and picks up receiver and plonks the call-button hard.

INT. BRUCE'S STUDY - DAY - CLOSE SHOT

of BEEPING RED PHONE, with SUPERED TITLE:

"AND IN WAYNE MANOR, STATELY RESIDENCE OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON (WHOM WE JUST SAW AT SCHOOL!)...

As TITLE FADES, ANGLE WIDENS to include ALFRED coming in quickly, picking up phone.

INT. BRUCE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

BRUCE WAYNE poses by the fireplace, giving ear to an impassioned plea from MR. AUGUSTUS VANDERGILT, whose looks go with the monicker. AUNT HARRIET sits nearby, darning Dick's socks.

VANDERGILT

Please, Bruce, I beg you... Accept this nomination! Run for Mayor!

AUNT HARRIET

(sighs)

Isn't it funny? They come to you with this offer every ~~year~~. *two years* You'd think they'd get it through their heads, you're not interested.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

BRUCE

I'm afraid she's right,
Vandergilt. The good works of
my Wayne Foundation require
me to remain above the brawl
of politics.

VANDERGILT

But Gotham City needs you!
Think of our problems! The
snarl of traffic, a water
shortage...now these recurrent
power-failures! How can you
turn us down?

BRUCE

I admit, I don't like to, but
nonetheless...

Bruce breaks off, reacting to something o.s.

NEW ANGLE - ALFRED

He enters the room, stops and COUGHS discreetly.

AUNT HARRIET

What is it, Alfred?

ALFRED

Nothing of importance, Mrs.
Cooper...

He smiles at her benignly, glides right up to Bruce.

TIGHT TWO SHOT - BRUCE AND ALFRED

as latter whispers in boss's ear.

ALFRED

It's the Batphone, sir!

WIDER ANGLE

BRUCE

(easily)

Ah. Yes. Thank you for
reminding me, Alfred. I'll
tell you what, Vandergilt...
I'll ponder it, give you my
reply tomorrow. Aunt Harriet,
serve Mr. Vandergilt some
tea, will you?

Cont.

CONTINUED:

By time he's finished, Bruce is already out of room after Alfred, leaving just his easy smile behind.

AUNT HARRIET

"Ponder it"? That's strange.
What's he got to ponder? Oh
well... Milk or lemon, Mr.
Vandergilt?

INT. BRUCE'S STUDY - DAY

Bruce is already picking up phone as Alfred closes door and hurries to Shakespeare bust.

BRUCE

Yes, Commissioner?

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - GORDON ON PHONE

GORDON

Get set for a blow. Someone
has struck at Woodrow Roosevelt
High! It could be The Joker!

INT. BRUCE'S STUDY - BRUCE ON PHONE

~~Good~~ BRUCE

Good ~~bye~~! I'm on my way!
(hangs up)
The switch, Alfred!

Alfred inclines head, turns switch inside Shakespeare bust. Secret wall of study WHIRRS open. Bruce bounds to his Bat-Pole seizes it.

BRUCE

Dick's in the thick of this
already! If he phones in,
tell him to stay where he is!

ALFRED

Very good, sir. Good luck, sir.

Swish! Bruce drops out of sight!

INT. BATCAVE

Bruce emerges as BATMAN, races to Batmobile, guns it.
MAIN TITLES and tally-ho again!

FADE OUT

FADE IN

EXT. POLICE H.Q. - DAY - FULL SHOT (BATSTOCK)

Batmobile whines into lot, stops. Batman leaps out, races into building. HOLD FOR EPISODE TITLES.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

Batman eyes a Report Form as Comm. Gordon and O'Hara await his reaction.

GORDON

Looks sinister, doesn't it?

BATMAN

Joker released from jail one week ago. Immediately buys control of "The One-Armed Bandit Novelty Company"...

GORDON

Makers of coin-operated gadgets.

O'HARA

Gum machines. Pinballs. That sort of harmless junk.

BATMAN

There's nothing harmless about The Joker, we all know that. Nor about a machine which returns twenty silver dollars for a dime!

(putting down
report)

What about the people who installed and service that machine?

GORDON

Clean as driven snow, Batman.

O'HARA

They're even more stunned than we are!

GORDON

It's open and shut: someone got to that innocent machine and gimmicked it!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

O'HARA
But why, in the divvel's
name? Why???

BATMAN
I can make a guess...

LOUD BUZZ of phone on Gordon's desk, before Batman
can reveal surmise. Gordon spins around, picks up the
receiver.

GORDON
Yes?
(then)
Thank you, Bonnie. Put him
on the Conference Phone!
(to others) *Schoolfield*,
It's Principal Wilberforce!
Woodrow Roosevelt High!

As Batman and O'Hara hasten to desk to listen, we
hear VOICE from Conference Speaker.

Schoolfield
WILBERFORCE VOICE
Commissioner Gordon?

GORDON
Speaking!

INT. SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY
Schoolfield, a mild one
PRINCIPAL WILBERFORCE, agitated, is on his own phone.
~~His looks suggest the "Wilber" of his name rather more~~
~~than the "Force."~~

Schoolfield
WILBERFORCE
Another machine gone mad!
In the library. Instead of
candy-bars, it dispenses
negotiable Stocks and Bonds!

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - GROUP SHOT
Schoolfield
of threesome around desk, as Wilberforce continues:

Schoolfield
WILBERFORCE VOICE
To put it mildly,,, student
morale is cracking up!

Batman speaks quickly into Conference Mike gadget.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

BATMAN

Wilberforce! Batman speaking!
Do you hear me?

Schoenfeld
WILBERFORCE VOICE

Ah. Yes. Hello, Batman!

BATMAN

Listen. Who's the President
of your Student Council?

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Schoenfeld
WILBERFORCE

Boy named Grayson. Richard
Grayson. ~~Excellent fellow!~~ *FINE LAD!*

BACK TO GORDON'S OFFICE - GROUP SHOT

BATMAN

I'm glad to hear it. Have
him call a meeting in your
office, ~~Wilberforce~~. I'll be
right there!

Schoenfeld
WILBERFORCE VOICE

We'll be waiting! Goodbye!
(new tone)

Miss Timmons, get hold of---

Schoenfeld's
Click as ~~Wilberforce's~~ receiver hits cradle on other
end, Gordon hangs up his own gadget.

BATMAN

(grim)

I think my guess was right!

GORDON

What, Batman??

BATMAN

No time to lose. Chief O'Hara,
get me a Visual I.D. Kit on
The Joker! Meet me at the
Batmobile!

Batman races out, closely followed by O'Hara. Their
strides are not matched.

FLIP TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Dick Grayson is there, with four other Officers of Student Council. Two of these we've already met: Chief Cheerleader Susie and Basketball Captain Fulton. The remaining pair are an Intellectual Type named HERBIE and Football Captain PETE. Principal ~~Wilberforce~~ not present. A slide projector and screen have been set up. We'll note that present crisis seems to have split the Student Council into two factions: Dick and Fulton vs. Herbie, Pete and Susie. Latter three are lounging indolently on sofa and leather easy-chairs.

PETE

I mean like look, Dickie...
So sure everyone's goofing
off, so why shouldn't they?

HERBIE

It's quite true. The purpose
of our studies is to equip us
to make our way in life, If,
on the other hand, one has merely
to insert a dime in a machine---

DICK

(cutting in)
For cryin' out loud! I'm
surprised at you guys. We're
meant to be Student Leaders!

FULTON

I'm with Dick.

DICK

What do you say, Susie?

SUSIE

I say... Has anyone tried Mr. *Schoolfield's*
~~Wilberforce's~~ coffee-machine
over there?

Susie bounces up, hurries across room with a dime
in her mitt.

CLOSER ANGLE - SUSIE

at coffee vending-machine against wall. She sticks
in her dime, pulls handle. HEAVY THUNK as cardboard
cup drops. No stream of coffee follows. Susie picks
up cup: it's full to the brim with shiny twenty-five
cent pieces.

SUSIE

Not bad. Quarters.

WIDER ANGLE

Herbie and Pete bounce to their feet, race over to have their own tries as Dick groans.

DICK

Wise up, you guys! Life isn't this easy!

SUSIE

Easy for you to say. You're the ward of a rich millionaire!

DICK

(angry)

That's ~~got~~ nothin' to do with it! *HAS*

REACTION SHOT - FULTON

He's been looking out window, turns abruptly TOWARD CAMERA.

FULTON

Hey, gang! Cut it out! Here comes Batman!

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Batmobile whines in, brakes NEAR CAMERA. Batman leaps out, carrying a little box. He stops short, reacting to something o.s.

NEW SHOT - OVER BATMOBILE

A flock of KIDS is racing toward us across lot, with AD-LIB YELLING of "Batman!" and "Robin!" etcetera. Among them are 1st and 2nd Cheerleader Girls we saw with Susie in opening. Batman ducks back into cockpit, comes up with his BAT-HORN.

CLOSE ANGLE - BATMAN

BATMAN

(via Bat-Horn)

Sorry, kids! Stay back! I'm sorry! This Batmobile is filled with delicate Anti-Crime Equipment! You might set off the Automatic Anti-Theft System! Nobody closer than fifty feet!

THE FLOCK OF KIDS

They halt their onrush with GROANS of dismay. The two Girls shout:

1st GIRL
Hey, Batman! Where's Robin??

2nd GIRL
Where's the Boy Wonder??

BACK TO BATMAN - SPEAKING INTO BAT-HORN

BATMAN
He's attending high school,
just as you are!

OVER TO KIDS

1st GIRL
What school???

BACK TO BATMAN - SPEAKING INTO BAT-HORN

BATMAN
I can't tell you that! It
might reveal his Secret True
Identity! And listen... If
anyone sees a green rocket go
off, let me know at once!
It'll mean the Batphone's
ringing with an Important
Message! See you later, kids!

hears a sharp "beep,"

Batman tosses Bat-Horn back into cockpit, sprints
PAST CAMERAS toward school buildings o.s.

INT. COCKTAIL LOUNGE - DAY

It's an intime little joint, inhabited at this mid-afternoon hour by just two or three PATRONS and a BORED BARTENDER. SUPER TITLE:

"AND EVEN AS BATMAN RACES
INTO THE SCHOOL...ACROSS
TOWN, IN A FASHIONABLE
LITTLE DRINKING-SPOT..."

1318 TRC

The TITLE FADES. A slightly potted MAN gets off his bar-stool, carrying his drink, goes over to the gorgeously lighted but silent JUKE BOX. He makes a selection, slips in coin. Song starts at once. It's some beery Hibernian number, perhaps "The Wild Colonial Boy." Fellow stands contentedly listening for a few

Cont.

CONTINUED:

measures, maybe SINGING ALONG with it, then suddenly there's a LOUD CLICK and the ballad ceases. Then from juke-box comes a CRAZY LAUGH and a VOICE:

VOICE

The joke's on you, my cheery
booze-hounds! It's a stick-up!

REACTION SHOT - AT THE BAR

Patrons spin around, Bartender stands frozen.

CLOSE SHOT - JUKE BOX

It's been gimmicked, all right! Panel in front drops automatically open, revealing an astonishing device in the lighted interior. It's a double-barreled shotgun, sawed-off species, mounted on a turntable; latter is driven by a concealed eccentric cam, so the shotgun roves back and forth over the premises.

VOICE

Hands up! You're covered!

REVERSE ANGLE - OVER JUKE BOX

Folks in bar gape at the deadly "juke box," raise their hands and stand like statues. Instantly TWO GUYS in CRAZY HALLOWEEN MASKS race in from outside. They dash behind bar, punch the cash register open. They scoop out contents, dump same into a sack, run out again. A really lightning operation!

BACK TO JUKE BOX - CLOSE ON FRONT

VOICE

Thanks, folks! The party will
now resume!

Flip! Front panel flies closed again. MUSIC instantly resumes exactly where it broke off, and we:

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY - BATMAN

He's standing beside projection screen, intensely addressing Student Council.

BATMAN

Believe me! It may look like
a party, but it's not! There's
a crook behind these handouts!

WIDER ANGLE - INCLUDING GROUPED COUNCIL

PETE

What's his angle?

BATMAN

He may have several! One is to lure you into a deceptive pattern of Easy Living. You'll quit your studies, become drop-outs! Then you'll have no recourse but to join criminal *groups!* gangs!

FULTON

Batman's right! It's a sort of...recruiting drive!

DICK

Sure he's right! What'd I tell you??

HERBIE

(skeptical egg-head)
Can you corroborate this odd hypothesis?

SUSIE

Yah, Batman. Like what's the crook's name?

BATMAN

I'll do better than that...
I'll show you his picture!
(pointing)
You there...

DICK

Dick Grayson, sir!

BATMAN

Thank you. Dick. Darken the room, I'll man the projector!

DICK

Roger!

As Dick runs to window to drop Venetian blinds, Batman races down to slide projector. No slow motion in these operations, ever: Batman and Robin/Dick are not named "Dynamic Duo" merely for the alliteration. Blinds CLACK down, room becomes GLOOMISH.

BATMAN

Here it comes, everyone...

Batman pushes lever on Slide Projector.

NEW ANGLE - FEATURING SCREEN

BATMAN (O.S.)

The Joker!

We see THE JOKER on the screen. He's standing against height-markings of a Police Line-Up Backing, but still he's grinning in his insane, characteristic way. Crazy make-up, green fright-wig hair, nutty clothes: whole classic Joker get-up.

BATMAN (O.S.)

(going on)

Don't be deceived by his grin, anyone... He's one of the most malevolent malefactors we've ever met!

DICK (O.S.)

I'll bet he's a master of makeup too!

BATMAN (O.S.)

Right, Dick! He is!

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN AT PROJECTOR

BATMAN

(going on)

He might be skulking around here in any one of fifty outrageous outfits! Here's another, for example...

BACK TO SCREEN

as first still of The Joker is succeeded by another. He's again against a Police Line-Up Backing, but this time attired in COMIC TRAMP rig, very much a-la-Charlie Chaplin.

BATMAN (O.S.)

Step up closer, kids. Look at that phoney flower in his button-hole...

Pete, Herbie and Fulton now APPEAR IN SHOT at edge of screen, peering at it more closely.

BATMAN (O.S.)

Sometimes it shoots out water. Other times Knock*Out Gas. And it's even been known to---

Cont.

CONTINUED:

Batman breaks off abruptly. And not without reason. For a SQUIRT OF GREEN INK suddenly shoots right out of the flower on the screen and hits Fulton in the face.

FULTON

Hey!!!

REACTION CUT - BATMAN AND DICK

frozen in plain simple disbelief.

DICK

Holy magician!!

BACK TO SCREEN

The screen is on a spring-loaded roller in narrow box which serves as base. WHIRRR-FLAPPP! An unseen hand unhooks the top of screen from its rear vertical support. Screen instantly disappears back onto roller, like a window-shade. Straightening up from a crouched position is revealed THE JOKER himself! Grinning madly in his classic funny-face and costume, fingering the little rubber bulb attached by tube to his boutonniere!

JOKER

Hello, kiddies! Meet The Joker!

(to Fulton)

No hard feelings...

He thrusts out hand at ink-spattered Fulton, who's too bewildered not to automatically grasp it. BZZZZZZZZ! of concealed palm-buzzer, Fulton jumps.

FULTON

Owwwww!!

JOKER

Corny, amn't I?

WIDER ANGLE

Batman charges into SHOT, closely followed by Dick.

BATMAN

Joker! What are you doing here??

JOKER

Oh, just passing by. I heard my name, I ducked in that open door. I couldn't resist sending a jolly jet through the tiny perforation in that screen!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

DICK

Just "passing by," huh? To do what?

BATMAN

Gimmick some innocent vending-machine??

JOKER

There must be bats in your belfry, Batman. Has anyone found fingerprints or other evidence?

BATMAN

You're too smart for that, Joker!

Fulton hurries eagerly INTO SHOT.

FULTON

Hey. Batman. Nab him anyway!
Loitering On School Property!

BATMAN

Right!
(whipping out
Batcuffs)
\$5000 fine and five ~~years~~ years
imprisonment!

JOKER

Wrong, kiddies! Look up the statute! In Gotham City, the crime of loitering requires that the loiterer remain in the same spot for over two minutes!

BATMAN

You...you jail-house lawyer!

DICK

The tricky trickster! He's outwitting us!

Joker looks at his watch, makes a face of alarm.

JOKER

Dear me. The Court Jester must run. Jest in time!

(to all)

Goodbye, kiddies! Remember I was here, eh?

Joker LAUGHS CRAZILY, rockets out the door.

NEW SHOT - FEATURING KIDS

HERBIE

What an odd parting remark.

PETE

Yeah. Why'd he want us to
"remember he was here"?

BATMAN

From the lips of a crook, it
can mean only one thing...

DICK

Establishing an alibi!

SUSIE

Gee whiz. Alibi for what??

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY - PARKED BATMOBILE

~~BEEP BEGINS EMANATING FROM COCKPIT~~
~~ZZwoooooosh! ROCKET TUBE back of cockpit FIRES.~~ Joker
sprints THROUGH SHOT in b.g. It must be conceded, he
is not behaving like a Loiterer.

ANOTHER SHOT - GROUP OF KIDS IN PARKING LOT

including our other two Girl Cheerleaders, hanging
around a snazzy street-rod and eating hot-dogs. They
react to ~~ROCKET SOUND~~, look up and point.

"Beep" Sound,

1st GIRL

~~Look! A green rocket!~~ *Listen, the "beep"!*

2nd GIRL

The Batphone signal!

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - BATMAN

reacting to SHOUTS from girls outside in lot.

GIRLS (O.S.)

Hey, Batman! Batphone! It's
your Batphone, Batman!

Batman whirls and races out through door, which opens
directly into parking lot.

INT. COMM. GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

Gordon holds receiver of Red Phone, punches grimly
and repeatedly at the call-button.

INSERT - BATPHONE IN BATMOBILE (BAT-STOCK)

It's going full tilt, BEEPING and FLASHING or whatever it does.

EXT. SCHOOL LOT - PARKED BATMOBILE

Batman runs INTO SHOT, reaches in and grabs Batphone.

BATMAN
What now, Commissioner?

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - GORDON ON PHONE

GORDON
Another blow! Cocktail lounge!
A gimmicked juke-box! It must
be The Joker!

EXT. BATMOBILE - BATMAN ON PHONE

BATMAN
(grim)
We'll never make it stick. He
has an alibi.

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - GORDON ON PHONE

GORDON
Maybe we can break it!

BATMAN
Impossible. The alibi is me!

OVER TO GORDON - ON PHONE

GORDON
What?? You??

BACK TO BATMAN - ON PHONE

BATMAN
Forget it. Give me the address.
I'll race to the scene of the
crime!
(then, nods)
Right! Goodbye!

WIDER ANGLE - SHOOTING OVER BATMOBILE

Batman leaps in, starts the thing up. Then Dick runs INTO SHOT carrying little box, stops at a respectful distance and calls.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

DICK

Batman, sir! You forget your
box of slides!

BATMAN

Good lad! Bring it over!

Dick runs up to Batmobile, hands Batman little box.

CLOSE TWO SHOT - BATMAN AND DICK

BATMAN

(whisper)

Fake a headache. Speed home.
Wait for me in the Batcave!

WIDER ANGLE

as Dick straightens up and answers loudly, for benefit
of other kids hanging in b.g.

DICK

You're welcome, sir!

Batman starts to jam throttle forward, then has a
thought. He grabs up BAT-HORN from seat beside him,
aims it at the passel of gawking kids in b.g.

BATMAN

Boys and girls, believe me!
Go back to your studies!
Nothing in life is free!

Batman drops Bat-Horn, jams throttle, the great ve-
hicle WHINES off!

FLIP TO:

EXT. CANDY STORE - DAY

Typical little city joint, with name of establishment
above door: "EASY-LIVING CANDY STORE" and a banner in
window saying "HIGH SCHOOL KIDS WELCOME!" Over this, a
SUPERED TITLE:

"SCARCELY 500 YARDS AWAY,
BEHIND THIS INNOCENT CANDY
STORE..."

Batmobile hurtles THROUGH SHOT, en route to scene of
bar stickup. Probably should UNDERCRANK CAMERA for a
real super-speed effect.

INT. JOKER'S WORKSHOP - FULL SHOT - DAY

with SUPERED TITLE:

"...AN ABANDONED GARAGE, NOW
H.Q. OF THE JOKER AND HIS
CURRENT GANG, THE BAD PENNIES!
(HIGH-SCHOOL DROP-OUTS, EVERY
ONE!!)"

It is, as title says, an abandoned garage. One big truck, moving-van type, is parked in background. Lettering on side of van is cagily deceptive: "JOHN DOE & SONS, GENERAL BUSINESS CORP." Aside from that, there are appropriate machine tools and a great litter of PINBALL MACHINES, JUKE BOXES and other coin-operated devices, some of them with their innards showing in various stages of re-construction.

CLOSER ANGLE - THE JOKER

at table with one of his Bad Pennies, NICK by name, a sharply dressed, Beatle-headed, ageing delinquent. Nick was one of the crooks who looted cocktail bar, and he and The Joker are now counting the haul.

NICK
Pretty good haul, huh?

JOKER
Peanuts, my boy, mere peanuts!
That bar job was just a pot-boiling appetizer for the real feast!
(laughs, then)
What an inspired stroke of mine, buying up the One-Armed Bandit Novelty Company! Plunder by remote-control!

NEW SHOT

Another Bad Penny, nicknamed TWO BITS, is toiling over a coin-operated BOWLING ALLEY MACHINE, of the type found in low drinking-places. He turns his head, calls:

TWO BITS
Hey, Joker! I think I got this one rigged! Come and have a look!

As Two Bits makes final adjustments with screw-driver, The Joker ENTERS SHOT.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

JOKER

Set to go off on the third strike?

TWO BITS

Right. There's two strikes rung up already.

JOKER

Ho-ho! Here we go!

Joker takes the metal slider-gizmo, gleefully whangs it up the board.

CLOSE SHOT - BUSINESS END OF BOWLING MACHINE

A strike! The plastic pins flip up out of sight, BELLS RING and SCORING LIGHTS FLASH. Suddenly a recorded VOICE is heard from concealed speaker: The Joker's Voice, cleverly disguised and distorted.

VOICE

Sweet dreams, everyone!

Whoosh! A terrific cloud of COLORED SMOKE jets out of the machine.

BACK TO SCENE - JOKER AND TWO BITS

TWO BITS

Only it won't be colored smoke, in the bar. It'll be your knock-out stuff!

JOKER

Sensational! It's a gas!

(sticking out
a hand)

You've done it, Two Bits!

TWO BITS

Thanks, Boss.

Two Bits grabs outstretched mitt. Tiny but monstrously potent ELECTRIC BUZZER concealed in Joker's palm goes off. Two Bits's hat FLIES INTO AIR (if this can be simply enough done via a concealed coil-spring in same), at any rate he lets out a YOWL and is literally knocked off his feet. Joker emits usual LAUGH OF GLEE.

JOKER

A timely reminder... CRIME
CAN BE FUN!!

A loud DING-DONG, like from door-chime, is HEARD.

NEW ANGLE - SHOOTING UP

at a FLASHING LIGHT BULB, set above a sign which says: "BUBBLE-GUM ACTIVATED SECRET ENTRANCE FROM CANDY STORE!" Nick hastens INTO SHOT, peers up at it.

NICK

Someone's trying the bubble-gum machine!

WIDER ANGLE

Nick grabs a machine-gun from rack on wall, flicks off the safety. CAMERA PANS FAST to show us what Nick has gun trained on. Strange! Seems to be nothing but a penny bubble-gum machine mounted on wall, with a couple of advertising posters plastered near it. Seeming is deceiving. This section of wall is really a panel about the size of a normal door, mounted on a turntable. Whirr! Almost faster than the eye can follow (because we MUST UNDERCRANK THIS), turntable-mounted panel revolves 180 degrees. We're looking at what was previously candy-store side of same panel: exactly identical bubble-gum machine and ad posters, but now somebody is standing at it. Shocking! Unbelievable! It's Chief Cheerleader Susie, carrying an envelope. She steps blithely from turntable section.

SUSIE

Hiya, gang!

Nick relaxes, goes to put away tommy-gun as Joker hastens over.

JOKER

Sweet Susie... Shiniest of my Bad Pennies!

SUSIE

You're sure some card, Joker. Popping out like that at Batman!

JOKER

Wondrously whimsical, wasn't it?

SUSIE

Real crazy, if you ask me. I might've fainted and given the whole game away.

Joker eyes big envelope Susie's carrying.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

JOKER

However. You didn't. And I see you have the stuff!

SUSIE

Natch.

JOKER

Any trouble getting it?

SUSIE

Heck, no. Like I told you...
Being Chief Cheerleader puts
me on the Student Council.
Once you're on that, you can
get away with anything!

CLOSER ANGLE - FEATURING SUSIE

She sits at table as Joker reaches for the envelope.
It's labeled in big red letters: "TOP SECRET!!"

JOKER

Let's see...

SUSIE

Hands off! Not until I get
paid!

JOKER

(peevied)
Trusting little wench, aren't
you?

SUSIE

I'm a crook, Joker. Just like
you. Where's the payoff?

Joker scowls, walks OUT OF SHOT. A beat, then Nick
sidles up.

NICK

Busy tonight, lamb-chop?

SUSIE

You lowlife! Get away from
me!

NICK

Look here, baby---

SUSIE

Are you stupid or something?
The reason I've taken up crime
is so I can taste the finer
things of life! Scram! Ankle it!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

Susie gives Nick a nasty kick in the shin, sends him YIPING off.

NEW ANGLE - TOWARDS JOKER

hurrying back to Susie with something concealed behind his back.

JOKER

Shut your eyes, Sweet Susie.

SUSIE

Oh yeah? And get an exploding cigar in my ear?

JOKER

(real burned)

You mischievous moppet! Shut your eyes, I said!

Susie looks briefly at Joker's ugly expression, then does as he says. Joker produces stuff and plumps it down on table, enumerating items lovingly:

JOKER

A fox-fur cape. A rhinestone bracelet. One full quart of imported Mexican perfume...

Susie's eyes fly open, she sees these fabled objects.

SUSIE

Oh, Joker. Gee. I'm sorry I sassed you! Why...this is like some lovely dream!

Susie grabs up the fox-fur cape, presses it delightedly to her cheek. Joker meanwhile snatches the big Top Secret envelope and scampers away.

NEW SHOT - JOKER

He tears open envelope, yanks out a batch of printed material. He scans it quickly, breaks into gleeful LAUGH as Nick and Two-Bits hurry INTO SHOT with inquisitive expressions.

JOKER

Perfect! Stolen right from Mr. Wilberforce's safe! *Schroeder field's*
The key cog to my malevolent
machination!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

NICK
What is it, Joker?

JOKER
Look, you boobs! Look and
laugh!
(handing stuff
to them)
Examination papers!

Joker throws back his head and LAUGHS even more madly,
and we:

CUT TO:

INT. BATCAVE - CLOSE SHOT

of Robin, sitting at console of Big Radio Stuff with
his eyes closed, murmuring with concentration:

ROBIN
X-plus-Y times X-plus-Y...
(frowns)
Holy alphabet! What is it?

ALFRED (O.S.)
If you'll excuse me, Master
Robin...

WIDER ANGLE - INCLUDING ALFRED

pausing with cloth and brass-polish over some piece
of equipment nearby.

ALFRED
(going on)
The solution is X-squared plus
2-XY plus Y-squared.

ROBIN
Gee. Sure. Why didn't I know
that? And with Nation-Wide Pre-
College Exams coming up in just
three days...

Robin shakes his head, picks up open textbook and
prepares to immerse himself in it. Sudden SOUND of
BAT-SIREN or somesuch: standard signal that Batmobile
is on way down its ramp, which should be different
from other standard signal indicating that a Bat-Pole
is in use.

BATMOBILE ZOOMING DOWN RAMP (BAT-STOCK)

It whines to a halt on its turntable, which instantly
begins to revolve as Batman cuts switches and leaps
from cockpit.

NEW SHOT - INCLUDING ROBIN

as Boy Wonder races eagerly to his leader.

ROBIN

What did you find, Batman??

BATMAN

(grim)

Nothing!

ROBIN

Holy vacuum! Not a single clue?

BATMAN

We don't need clues, we know our man is The Joker. What we need is evidence. I went over that looted lounge with a fine-tooth comb. There wasn't even a single hair to analyze.

ROBIN

Gosh. And school morale in a tailspin! Come a month from now, there'll be Drop-Outs by the bushel!

BATMAN

If he waits that long...

ROBIN

Huh?

BATMAN

I didn't want to cause panic at that Student Meeting, but... I think The Joker must have some other dirty plan afoot, as well.

ROBIN

Like what, Batman?

BATMAN

I don't know. But I bet you it includes gimmicked machines and Woodrow Roosevelt High.

ROBIN

Gee. If we just knew how he gets in to fix 'em!

BATMAN

You've guessed it, Robin. Our next move.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

ROBIN
Stake out the school!

BATMAN
Right again! Let's go!

NEW SHOT - BATMOBILE (BAT-STOCK)

Dynamiø Duo race to it, leap in, WHINE away.

FLIP TO:

INT. SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Susie is there in DIM LIGHT, doing something furtive to back of coffee vending machine. SOUND of BATMOBILE is heard. Susie reacts. CAMERA PANS as she races to window to peek out.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Batmobile pulls in TOWARD CAMERA, Bat-Eyes aglow.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - SUSIE

She turns from window, grabs up phone on desk and frantically dials a number.

INT. JOKER'S WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Joker is dealing himself a game of solitaire: would be boring to anyone less whimsical, for all the faced cards are identical Aces-of-Spades. However. Phone on table RINGS. Joker grabs up receiver, speaks into it gaily and without ado:

JOKER
Hello hello! Give me the sign!

INTERCUTS:

BETWEEN JOKER AND SUSIE - ON PHONES - INT. SCHOOL OFFICE & INT. JOKER'S WORKSHOP - NIGHT

SUSIE
How do you stop a dog from barking in July?

JOKER
Countersign: Shoot him in June! Very good. Ha ha ha!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

SUSIE
(urgent)
Joker! Listen! Batman and
Robin just drove into the
parking lot!

Big reaction from Joker.

JOKER
What?? The Dynamic Duo??
At the school??

SUSIE
That's right, Joker! What'll
I do? Take it on the lam?

JOKER
No! No! Listen!
(laughs)
Ha ha ha! Thank heavens for
my delicious sense of humor!
You have your crooked keys,
don't you?

SUSIE
Natch!

JOKER
All right, Sweet Sue! Find
Key 17! Do exactly as I tell
you...

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - NIGHT - REAR OF BATMOBILE

SHOOTING BETWEEN Batman and Robin at lighted interior of trunk compartment. They are leaning over, setting controls of a gadget in operation. Looks like an ordinary TAPE RECORDER, its reels turning. That's just what it is, too, except for nameplate: "ANTI-CRIME RECORDER (REMOTE RADIO PICK-UP)"

ROBIN
Gain-level set...

BATMAN
Okay. Let's go!

Batman slams down trunk ~~l~~ lid, he and Robin run OUT OF SHOT. On lid of trunk we now see a FLASHING RED SIGN. It says: "WARNING! ANTI-THEFT SYSTEMS SET!"

FAST DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - NIGHT - LOW ANGLE

Batman and Robin hurry down it, then stop short just ABOVE CAMERA, reacting.

BATMAN

Hello, young lady...

ANOTHER ANGLE

Susie has just come around corner, has stopped short too, her arms full of books.

SUSIE

Wow! I'm sure glad to see you two!

BATMAN

Oh?

SUSIE

Just now, entrance to the gym.
I think I saw a suspicious
character!

BATMAN

Quick! Run to safety!

ROBIN

We'll take care of him!

As Susie gulps and nods and scurries down corridor PAST CAMERA, Dynamic Duo races around corner from whence Susie came.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Big moving-van type truck pulls in and stops NEAR CAMERA. It's the "JOHN DOE & SONS" van we saw in Joker's ex-garage workshop. The Joker, Nick and Two-Bits pile out, start running toward school. They are masked.

INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Only one OVERHEAD LIGHT is on, so positioned that its focused beam falls directly on the Milk Vending Machine we saw in teaser. Machine has been pulled partly out from wall. SHOT OPENS on this machine, then CAMERA MOVES FAST to include Batman and Robin racing in. They put on brakes at sight of machine.

ROBIN

Look, Batman! It's been tampered-with!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

BATMAN

This might be tricky! Get out your Batarang, I'll slip in a dime!

ROBIN

Roger!

Robin whips out trusty BATARANG, stands with it poised in pool of light. Batman magically produces a dime from Utility Belt, slips it into Milk Machine slot and yanks the handle. Absolutely nothing for a beat or two, then a SOUND is heard: like great well-oiled MACHINE WORKING and then a LOUD CLANK!! Batman and Robin both jerk as though something has hit them across the shins. They both gape down o.s.

LOW ANGLE - BATMAN AND ROBIN

ROBIN

Holy ball-and-chain!!

Then CAMERA TILTS DOWN FAST to show us WHAT THEY SEE. It's quite dismaying. Two big CLAMPS have shot out from bottom of machine on criss-cross extensors, have fastened themselves around Dynamic Duo ankles!

BACK TO BATMAN AND ROBIN - TWO SHOT

with upper part of tricky vending machine included IN SHOT.

BATMAN

Quick! Let's get out our cutting tools!

As they reach fast for Utility Belts, another CLICK is heard from innards of machine, then a GURGLE and a HISS. They spin their heads. A cloud of COLORED GAS JETS from machine at top, swirls around their heads.

ROBIN

(choked)

Knock-Out Gas.....

Well and truly diagnosed. Batman and Robin cough and try to reach for tiny gas-mask devices in their Utility Belts, but they don't make it. They slump against vending machine, start to go down.

FAST DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - NIGHT - FULL SHOT

of parked moving-van affair, with SUPERED TITLE:

"12½ MINUTES LATER, INSIDE
THIS CURIOUS VEHICLE..."

INT. BACK OF MOVING VAN - NIGHT

It's adequately lighted, and "curious" is scarcely the word for it. Flabbergasting! Batman and Robin are securely strapped into a pair of crude wooden chairs, green, hideously suggestive of certain chairs at Sing-Sing. Indeed, there are electrodes atop their heads and others pressed against legs. Even more bizarre: right in front of their eyes is what seems to be a HUGE SLOT-MACHINE, regular Las Vegas style!

EXT. MOVING VAN - NIGHT

Nick and Two-Bits are plugging a fat ELECTRIC CABLE which extends from o.s. into a socket in side of the van. They finish quickly, run forward and call into open side window of moving-van cab:

NICK
All hooked-up, Boss!

TWO-BITS
50,000 volts, straight from
the city main!

INT. MOVING VAN CAB - NIGHT

The Joker and Susie are there, latter peering back through a slit into rear of van, over driver's seat.

SUSIE
Gosh, Joker. This is sure
some crazy mixed-up moving
van!

JOKER
One of the assets of the One-
Armed Bandit Novelty Company,
my dear. Built for a whimsical
Carribean dictator. Happily
for us - if not the Dynamic Duo -
he was deposed before delivery.

SUSIE
Hey! They're waking up!

Joker flicks switch, picks up a hand-mike hanging under dashboard.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

JOKER

Quiet, now. No names. I'll speak to them through this tricky microphone which disguises our voices...

INT. BACK OF MOVING MAN - NIGHT

Batman and Robin are opening eyes, blinking, as Susie's VOICE comes booming from speaker with a FILTERED ECHO-CHAMBER EFFECT. Very doomful-sounding.

SUSIE'S VOICE

What a ball!

ROBIN

Holy Las Vegas! Where are we??

JOKER'S VOICE

(same distortion)

In a strange gaming-room, Boy Wonder! You see that machine in front of you?

BATMAN

Right!

JOKER'S VOICE

It's about to spin!

BATMAN

What's the payoff??

CLOSE SHOT - SLOT MACHINE

Regular FRUIT MACHINE: an orange shows in one ~~slot~~ window, a Liberty Bell in the second, a lemon in the third.

JOKER'S VOICE

Three Liberty Bells...you get your freedom and \$50,000 cash! Three oranges...freedom only!

BACK TO BATMAN AND ROBIN

BATMAN

And if it's three lemons?

JOKER'S VOICE

Fifty thousand...volts!
Automatically and instantly,
on the third lemon!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

ROBIN
Holy fruit salad!

BATMAN
Better keep our fingers crossed,
old man!

JOKER'S VOICE
Enough! I guarantee this machine
is fair! The game begins!

NEW ANGLE - OVER DYNAMIC DUO SHOULDERS - MACHINE

Clack! and Whirr! The cylinders spin into a blur.
Then one at left stops first, as others keep spinning.
It's a lemon. SUPER EXPLOSIVE TITLE:

"HORRORS! ONE LEMON!"

Now center column stops. Another small yellow fruit.
SUPER EXPLOSIVE TITLE:

"DOUBLE HORRORS! TWO LEMONS!!"

Then that TITLE VANISHES and a NEW TITLE EXPLODES
over still-spinning machine:

"AND IF IT'S A THIRD...
INSTANT AND INESCAPABLE
50,000 VOLTS!!!"

As TITLE VANISHES, the CAMERA MOVES to a REALLY BIG
C.U. of slot machine with two lemons in row, third
column still spinning. Click! Third column now stops
too. There are THREE LEMONS IN A ROW, and instantly
the entire SCREEN GOES FLAMING ORANGE with ANOTHER
SUPERED TITLE:

"WHO DARES TO SEE IT???
TOMORROW! SAME BAT-TIME!!
SAME BAT-CHANNEL!!!"

FAST FADE.

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO

FADE IN

REPRISE OF PART ONE

Following FREEZE FRAME STILLs from previous action,
with SUPERED TITLES:

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) A DAY AT SCHOOL... | General shot of activity in gymnasium. |
| (b) A GLASS OF MILK... | Feature Susie at machine. |
| (c) NOT MILK BUT MONEY! | Silver dollars delivered. |
| (d) HOLY COW-JUICE! IT'S EASY LIVING! | Kids rioting around magic machine. |
| (e) SOUNDS LIKE <u>THE JOKER!</u> | Batman, Chief O'Hara and Gordon, in latter's office. |
| (f) KIDS, WATCH OUT! THE JOKER'S BACK OF THIS! | School principal's office, as Batman stands in front of projection screen. |
| (g) HOW TRUE! | Joker gaily revealing self from behind screen. |
| (h) WHAT'S HE UP TO? | Joker running from scene. |
| (i) AN INNOCENT JUKE-BOX... | Guy in bar, standing in front of jukebox. |
| (j) OH YEAH??? | Front of jukebox now open, featuring shotgun. |
| (k) PLUNDER BY REMOTE CONTROL! | Masked Bad Pennies racing in and looting register. |
| (l) AND IN THE JOKER'S WORKSHOP... | Any colorful shot of the activity there. |
| (m) CHEERLEADER SUSIE! | Susie, coming into view on trick turntable entrance. |
| (n) A SECRET MEMBER OF THE GANG! | Susie getting her fox-fur payoff. |
| (o) AND THAT NIGHT...AT SCHOOL... | Batman and Robin, meeting Susie in corridor. |

Cont.

CONTINUED:

- | | |
|--|---|
| (p) WATCH OUT! | Batman and Robin at milk machine, putting in money. |
| (q) OUCH! | Clamp-gizmos locked on ankles. |
| (r) KNOCK-OUT GAS! | Batman and Robin falling. |
| (s) AND INSIDE THIS
VAN... | Joker's van in school lot, as crooks hook up electric cable. |
| (t) A GHASTLY GAME! | Batman and Robin, strapped in those horrid chairs. |
| (u) THREE LEMONS WIN
50,000 VOLTS!!!! | Over their shoulder, to feature slot machine. |
| (v) ONE LEMON! | Close on machine, first lemon in place. |
| (w) TWO LEMONS!! | Ditto, with second lemon. |
| (x) THREE LEMONS!!! | Ditto, with third lemon. |
| (y) SHORT PAUSE! PRAY
FOR THE DYNAMIC
DUO! | No picture at all, just title on black screen, in crackling electric letters. |

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. BACK OF MOVING VAN - OVER BATMAN AND ROBIN'S SHOULDERS - THE SLOT MACHINE

REPEAT VERY END OF PART ONE. We see slot machine with two lemons already in line, as third cylinder still spins. Click! It stops! Fatal THIRD LEMON pops into place, and we've barely had time to register it when abruptly BRIGHT LIGHTS IN VAN GO OUT.

INT. CAB OF VAN - JOKER AND SUSIE

kneeling on seat, looking back through slit into rear of van.

JOKER
What the blazes??

EXT. PARKED VAN - NIGHT - NICK AND TWO-BITS

standing beside cab, looking o.s. and reacting with consternation. Only LIGHT is dim overhead light from inside cab.

NICK
(into cab)
Joker. Look!

Joker sticks head out of window.

JOKER
What??

TWO BITS
The whole town... Dark!

NICK
Street lights... Everything...

JOKER
Curses! Of all the luck!
(wild)
GOTHAM CITY'S HAVING ANOTHER
POWER-FAILURE!!

SOUND of approaching SIREN, they all react.

TWO BITS
Cops...

JOKER
I don't like the twist this
joke is taking... Cheese it,
everyone!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

Cab door flies open, Joker and Susie pile out. As they lam it after Two-Bits and Nick, HEADLIGHTS CUT INTO SCENE and illuminate side of van. CAMERA PANS to pick up POLICE CAR braking hard NEAR CAMERA. Two COPS leap out.

COP
Strange. An abandoned truck.
Let's have a look inside.

NEW ANGLE - AT BACK OF VAN

Cops hasten around with FLASHLIGHTS, hop up onto back step and open rear doors.

REACTION SHOT - COPS

COP
Holy smokes!

TWO SHOT - BATMAN AND ROBIN

still strapped in deadly chairs, lit by FLASHLIGHT beams, cold sweat gleaming on their chins.

BATMAN
Quick, ~~boys~~ ^{Officers}. Cut us out of here before the power comes on...

ROBIN
Or that's what we will be...

BATMAN
...just holy smokes.

FLIP TO:

INT. COMM. GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Evidently power-failure is still on, for office is lighted by an assortment of candles, gas-lamps etc. Present are Batman, Robin, Gordon and Chief O'Hara. Gordon, seated at desk in shirt-sleeves, stares at a report form and wags his head grimly.

GORDON
A Mobile Slot-Machine Torture Van. Mere possession of such a ~~vehicle~~ vehicle violates seventeen separate statutes...

Cont.

CONTINUED:

O'HARA

And not a shred of evidence to tie it to that divvelish Joker! No fingerprints. Stolen license plates...

BATMAN

You overlook this, Chief O'Hara.

Batman produces a little reel of recording tape, drops it in front of Gordon on desk.

GORDON

A...reel of tape?

ROBIN

Right! The tape from our Anti-Crime Recorder!

BATMAN

Before setting out tonight, I equipped my Utility Belt with a tiny microphone and a transmitter.

ROBIN

Every word those criminals said was recorded in the Batmobile!

O'HARA

But... What use is that, Boy Wonder?

GORDON

I thought you told us... They spoke to you through a tricky Voice-Distorter.

BATMAN

Tricky, Commissioner. Tricky but vain. They didn't realize that every human voice has a private wave-pattern!

ROBIN

Private as a fingerprint!

BATMAN

We'll run this tape through our Anti-Crime Voice Analyzer. Check it against a known specimen of The Joker's voice, from our Anti-Crime Files. It's our only card, but it could be a trump!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

A little pause, as Batman just stands there. Gordon picks up reel of tape, holds it out to him, somewhat amazed by this un-Batmanesque hesitation.

GORDON

For heaven's sake, Batman.
Take it to your Batcave and
play it! What are you waiting
for?

BATMAN

Tell him, Robin.

ROBIN

NOTHING IN THE BATCAVE WILL WORK
~~We're waiting for the power~~ *UNTIL THE POWER COMES*
~~to come back on!~~ *BACK ON*

BATMAN

And just between us... We're
not filing any complaints because
it failed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NIAGARA FALLS POWER STATION - DAY (STOCK)

Or a STOCK SHOT of a big electric generator, or a
transformer sub-station: anything appropriate for
the SUPERED TITLE:

"MORNING! HALLELUJAH! THE
MIGHTY POWER-GRID SERVING
GOTHAM CITY IS BACK IN
ACTION!"

INT. BATCAVE - FULL SHOT

with another SUPERED TITLE:

"AND IN THE BATCAVE, DEEP
BELOW STATELY WAYNE MANOR..."

ANOTHER ANGLE - TWO SHOT

of Dynamic Duo at controls of another wondrous (but
wholly plausible) device: the ANTI-CRIME VOICE
ANALYZER, identified as such by customary label
over VIEWING SCREEN. Briefly, it consists simply of
a control console with meters and switches presumed
to control built-in tape decks; and above this, a
REAR PROJECTION VIEWING SCREEN, on which we'll see
typical oscilloscope-patterns as made by voices.
Robin turns a control knob, peering down at meter.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

ROBIN
Master Scope-Circuit A-OK...

BATMAN
Let's check it. Beginning of
the tape...

ROBIN
Right. That'll be Susie, when
we ran into her in the hall...

ANGLE ON SCREEN - OVER THEIR SHOULDERS

Robin flicks a little switch. We immediately hear
SUSIE'S VOICE from speaker, as WAVE PATTERNS play
correspondingly on Viewing Screen. No need for
these patterns to be authentic in any way: important
point is that they be highly individual.

SUSIE'S VOICE
Wow! I'm sure glad to see you
two!

Robin flicks key-switch back to original position.

BATMAN
Perfect!

ROBIN
What'll I do? Jump the tape
ahead?

BATMAN
Roger. Pick it up at twelve-
point-seven. That'll be when
we were tied up in that nasty
Torture Van...

ROBIN
Twelve-point-seven. Here goes...

Robin flicks a couple more switches. Now we hear
SUSIE'S VOICE again, from earlier sound-track, as
it was heard with ECHO-CHAMBER FILTERED EFFECT in
back of van. SAME HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL WAVE-PATTERN
as above accompanies this totally different-sounding
voice.

SUSIE'S VOICE
What a ball!

BIG REACTION SHOT - BATMAN AND ROBIN

utterly and completely stunned by pattern they've
just seen.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

BATMAN
The same voice!

ROBIN
I don't believe it! Susie???

BATMAN
Quick, run 'em again! Both
samples, back-~~to~~-back!

ANGLE ON SCREEN

as Robin in F.G. frantically works knobs and switches.

SUSIE'S VOICE
Wow! I'm sure glad to see you
two!
(then, with
filter-and-echo)
What a ball!

No doubt about it. We see with our own eyes: wave
pattern accompanying these two quite different sound-
ing voice samples is ABSOLUTELY THE SAME!

REVERSE ANGLE - FEATURING ROBIN

He jumps up from console of Voice Analyzer, looking
like he's been shot through the breast.

ROBIN
Holy Judas! Susie. Our Chief
Cheerleader, a member of The
Joker's criminal gang! Is it
possible, Batman??

BATMAN
Steady there, Robin. Steady,
old chum...

ROBIN
But... How can it be??

BATMAN
(grim)
It's an old story, I'm afraid.
Old as Eve and the apple. That
snake, The Joker... He must've
promised her some baubles, led
her astray...

ROBIN
What're we gonna do, Batman?

Cont.

CONTINUED:

BATMAN

It's bitter, but it's a break.
The first we've had. We'll have
to use it.

ROBIN

You're right. Only how?

BATMAN

Let's see. Today's a school
holiday... Where's that cute
little trickster apt to be
hanging out?

Robin thinks an instant, then it comes to him.

ROBIN

I know! The EASY LIVING CANDY
STORE! It's on East Third, two
blocks from school!

BATMAN

Get set, Robin. Get set for an
ugly job.

(then)

No. Correction.

ROBIN

What?

BATMAN

Not Robin. Dick. Dick Grayson,
Undercover Agent. His job is to
get inside that gang.

Boy Wonder stares at Batman an instant, then gulps
and nods.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. EASY LIVING CANDY STORE - DAY

HOLD for a beat, then CAMERA PANS to doorway next
to Candy Store. Dick Grayson stands back in doorway,
most untypically attired: sloppy sweater, dirty
trousers, down-at-heels saddle-shoes.

CLOSE SHOT - DICK IN DOORWAY

He's carrying what looks like an ordinary little
transistor radio. Per usual, it is not what it looks.
Dick brings radio up to his lips, pushes button and
speaks into it.

Cont.

43.
must
Mwritz previous
scene in Comm.
office - premise is
That tape will be proof
They need to nail Joker -
now in Batcave
They never pay
attention to Joker's
voice waves at all!
Scene in Comm office
should state they'll
analyze tape for
clues!!

CONTINUED:

DICK
Dog George to Batman. Do you
read me?

EXT. PARKED BATMOBILE - IN SCHOOL LOT - DAY

CLOSE SHOT of Batman in cockpit, holding hand mike
as DICK'S VOICE continues from cockpit radio:

DICK'S VOICE
Do you read me, Batman?

BATMAN
(into mike)
Loud and clear. Over!

OVER TO DICK - IN DOORWAY

DICK
I'm about to go in. How's the
Micro-TV Camera working?

BATMAN'S VOICE
(from radio)
Push button for test-pattern!

DICK
Roger!

Dick pushes another button on his wonderful little
radio, which also includes built-in Micro-TV Camera
and transmitter.

INT. BATMOBILE COCKPIT - CLOSE SHOT - BATSCOPE

As Batman's GAUNTLETED HAND comes BIG INTO SHOT
and turns a knob, letters jump into focus on the
Batscope screen: "A-OK!"

OVER TO DICK - IN DOORWAY

BATMAN'S VOICE
(from radio)
Batscope A-OK, Dog George.
Rendezvous in Batcave at end
of mission. Good luck, over
and out!

Dick lowers miracle-transistor from his face. As
CAMERA PULLS BACK, he ambles out of doorway and
slouches along sidewalk toward neighboring Candy
Store.

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

Susie sits at narrow little counter, wearing her fox fur wrap and rhinestone baubles, sipping at a soda. Bad Penny Nick lounges back of counter, studying a "Daily Racing Form." Suddenly Susie catches sight of something o.s. through store window, reacts sharply.

SUSIE

Good gravy! It's Dick Grayson,
President of the Student Council.

NICK

A goodnik like that? Comin' in
here?

NEW ANGLE - TOWARD DOOR

as Dick comes in cheerily.

DICK

Hiya, Sue-Baby. How's tricks?

SUSIE

I must be seeing things. I
thought you spent all your
spare-time studying!

DICK

Aaah. Sure. I used to, maybe,
but... Who needs it any more?
You're looking at a guy who's
seen the light, Sue-Baby.
Who's the boy-friend?

Dick leans on counter as he says above, casually
sets down his "radio."

BIG CLOSE UP - RADIO ON COUNTER

Dick's forefinger flips up a little slide about the
size of a postage-stamp, revealing GLEAMING TINY
LENS of Micro-TV Camera inside.

NICK (O.S.)

My pals call me Nick.

DICK (O.S.)

No kiddin'? What do your
enemies call you?

CLOSE SHOT - NICK

NICK

My enemies ain't in no condition
to call nobody nothin'.

WIDER ANGLE - THE THREESOME

DICK
(grins)
Some joker, isn't he?

A beat as Nick and Susie react to Dick's heavy emphasis, glance at each other.

BATSCOPE - IN BATMOBILE COCKPIT

SAME SHOT AS ABOVE, on BATSCOPE SCREEN. HOLD a beat for Nick-Susie reaction, then Susie turns back to Dick with an easy smile.

SUSIE
You looking for something,
Dickie-Boy?

DICK
Same as everyone else, Sue-Baby...

BACK TO CANDY STORE - SAME SHOT

DICK
(going on)
Some way of making an easy buck,
that's all.

SUSIE
You? The ward of that Millionaire
Bruce Wayne?

DICK
What a skinflint! If I didn't
swipe dimes from the butler, I
wouldn't even have...cigarette
money.

Nick smiles in a lizardly way, picks up an open pack of cigarettes and extends it to Dick.

NICK
Have one on me, buster.

REACTION SHOT - DICK

He swallows, hesitates.

REACTION SHOT - BATMAN - IN BATMOBILE

He tenses slightly, peers more acutely at Batscope screen.

ON BATSCOPE - CANDY STORE THREE-SHOT

DICK
Thanks, pal.

Dick takes cigarette awkwardly, sticks wrong end in his mouth, then reverses it. Nick holds out a book of matches. Dick strikes match, is about to apply it to filthy weed when he has afterthought, COUGHS LOUDLY and shakes out match and puts down weed.

DICK
I better pass this round. I
already had two packs today.

REACTION SHOT - BATMAN

watching screen intently as Dick goes on fast:

DICK (O.S.)
So how's the Easy Buck set-up?
Got any leads?

BACK TO CANDY STORE - CONTINUING SCENE

SUSIE
He could help us, Nick. He's
a real super athlete.

NICK
Is zat so?

SUSIE
You oughta see him climb and
stuff! Maybe I should take him
back and introduce him to--

NICK
(quick)
Zip the lip, baby!

DICK
Introduce me to who, Susie?

NICK
You want a tip, kid?
(as Dick nods)
There was a cocktail lounge
stuck up recently. Guys used a
trick juke-box...

DICK
Yeah. I heard about that. Some
cute caper!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

NICK

Here's my tip: hang around that same joint at exactly three p.m. today. You might pick up a few nickels and dimes.

(a beat, he
grins)

That's my tip. See you around, huh?

DICK

Thanks, pal. You'll see me around. So long, Sue-Baby.

Dick picks up his "radio" from counter, starts for the door.

EXT. PARKED BATMOBILE - SCHOOL LOT - DAY

Batman leans over to flick off Batscope, then leans on throttle and guns the mighty Batmobile.

INT. CANDY STORE - SUSIE AND NICK

SUSIE

(bewildered)

Gee, Nick. What's the idea??

NICK

You gorgeous dumb hunk of Cheerleader, couldn't you see? The guy's strictly a phony.

SUSIE

What do you mean??

NICK

"Already had two packs today," huh? Why, my blind grandmother could see...that guy never had a weed in his hand in his life!

Nick picks up a penny, hurries around counter to the BUBBLE-GUM MACHINE mounted on revolving panel.

CLOSER SHOT - NICK AT MACHINE

He sticks in the penny, works the slide once, then twice more. FLIP-WHIRR! Turntable-mounted wall section revolves so fast (UNDERCRANKED) that Nick turns into a chromatic BLUR and we:

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BATCAVE - BOTTOM OF BATPOLES

where Robin appears as miraculously as Nick just disappeared, heads fast PAST CAMERA.

ANOTHER ANGLE - INCLUDING BATMAN

leaning against Batmobile as Robin hastens up to him eagerly.

ROBIN

How did I do, Batman??

BATMAN

Good show, Robin. Darned good show!

Robin turns his head, looks up o.s.

BANK OF BATCAVE CLOCKS

Same as in "Feathered Finks" caper, should be stet Batcave feature. Gotham City Local Time clock says about 2:40.

ROBIN (O.S.)

Twenty of three... We better hurry if we're gonna trap 'em in that cocktail lounge!

BACK TO BATMAN AND ROBIN

BATMAN

Right you are! Let's go!

As Dynamic Duo leap into Batmobile and its great turbines whine, CAMERA TILTS UP FAST, back to the bank of clocks. HOLD for a beat over SOUND of the Batmobile o.s., then TITLE LEAPS OUT:

"A TRAP, INDEED! BUT WHO'S
THE MOUSE??"

FAST DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JOKER'S WORKSHOP - DAY - CLOSE SHOT

of another wall clock, its hands at 2:59, with a matching SUPERED TITLE:

"FOR IN THE LURID LAIR OF
THAT CRIMINAL CAT, THE JOKER..."

ANOTHER ANGLE - FEATURING JOKER

He's poised at a be-knobbed, be-switched panel with legible label: REMOTE RADIO-CONTROLLED JUKEBOX. Nick and Two-Bits are with him, all waiting with tense anticipation as The Joker grins and chuckles nastily.

JOKER

My favorite kind of joke...
One which ends with a bang!

NICK

(low, urgent)
What about Susie?

JOKER

Hmmmn. Has she loaded the milk machine again?

TWO-BITS

She's just gettin' ready...

As Two-Bits jerks his head over shoulder, CAMERA PANS FAST to show Susie. She has her back to others, is WHISTLING MERRILY as she loads little tools and stuff into her schoolbook-satchel.

JOKER (O.S.)

Come here, Susie Sweetie...

Susie reacts, turns and starts over.

SUSIE

Yes, Joker?

NEW ANGLE - FEATURING JOKER

He grins, pulls a large fancy bottle of perfume from side pocket.

JOKER

A special extra bonus. Half a pint of the most exquisite Imported Canadian Perfume...

SUSIE

Wow! Canadian perfume!

JOKER

It's called Une Nuit Sans Fin.
"One Endless Night"...

SUSIE

Gee. That's like poetry!

She grabs the bottle eagerly, makes to open it. The Joker quickly puts out restraining hand.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

JOKER

No, Susie, no! Do not open until
after loading the milk machine,
do you understand?

SUSIE

Sure, Joker. Anything you say.
(beams)
You're just the best boss any
crook ever had!

As Susie skips merrily OUT OF SCENE to resume her
satchel-loading, Two-Bits points up at clock on the
wall.

TWO BITS

Hey, Joker! Three o'clock!

JOKER

Batman's zero hour!
(peering at
control panel)
Watch for the red light!

INT. COCKTAIL LOUNGE - DAY

Same lounge we saw stuck-up in Part One. SHOT OPENS
on gorgeously lighted but silent JUKE BOX. Then the
CAMERA SWINGS FAST to shoot PAST JUKEBOX into the
bar proper. Batman and Robin are there, also Barten-
der and a couple of Drinkers. Batman looks back to
scene from bar-clock which says 3:00½, addresses the
Bartender and Drinkers in urgent, driving tone:

BATMAN

Back, everybody! Back of the
bar!

ROBIN

When the crooks come in for
the loot, we gotta have room
to throw our Batarangs!

BATMAN

Ready with the coin, Robin?

ROBIN

Ready!

Robin shows coin in one palm, with other hand he
grips infallible Batarang.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

BATMAN
Zero hour! Put it in the slot!

ROBIN
Roger!

Robin spins around to jukebox, pushes selector, then sticks coin in slot.

INT. JOKER'S WORKSHOP - DAY - OVER JOKER'S SHOULDER

at Juke-Box Remote Control panel. A RED LIGHT BULB starts FLASHING. The Joker tenses alertly, places his hand on a lever.

JOKER
Ho ho! Batman's funeral-dirge begins! I'll give him five seconds!

INT. COCKTAIL LOUNGE - ANGLE ON JUKEBOX

It's playing now. "The Wild Colonial Boy," or whatever number it rendered before. HOLD for FIVE SECONDS.

BACK TO JOKER'S WORKSHOP - JOKER

JOKER
Now!!

He yanks lever hard, quickly puts his hand on another.

INT. COCKTAIL LOUNGE - JUKEBOX

Exact repeat of what happened the first time. MUSIC STOPS. ~~Then from jukebox~~ Then from jukebox comes CRAZY LAUGH and a VOICE:

VOICE
The joke's on you, my cheery
booze-hounds! It's a stick-up!

Then panel in front of box drops automatically open, revealing double-barelled shotgun mounted in brightly lit interior.

VOICE
Hands up! You're covered!

WIDER ANGLE

Robin leaps out in front of jukebox with Batarang cocked. Batman leaps out too, Batarang gripped in his teeth. There's reason for this: with his hands

Cont.

CONTINUED:

Batman snatches from bar-stool a prop we haven't noticed up to now. It's simply a screen of light plastic, about 3' x 4', hinged in the middle for easy carrying.

BACK TO JOKER'S WORKSHOP - JOKER

He yanks at another lever, yells into a microphone:

JOKER
Surprise, Batman!

OVER TO COCKTAIL LOUNGE

as Joker's Voice continues without break from jukebox speaker:

JOKER'S VOICE
Surprise and goodnight!

BATMAN
(a yell)
Quick, Robin! Down behind the
Bat-Shield!!

Faster than it takes to describe, Batman has opened plastic screen, faced it toward jukebox, dropped to his knees behind its shelter as Robin dives to join him.

PAST SCREEN - AT JUKEBOX

Ker-bloooom! Double-barreled SHOTGUN FIRES right at us, from a range of perhaps five feet! First one barrel, then the other, with unholy BLASTS OF SOUND and RATTLING RAIN OF BUCKSHOT. Though light, Bat-Shield is fortunately impervious to this kind of metallic junk. Batman yanks something tiny and unseen from his Utility Belt, hurls it over top of Bat-Shield into the maw of jukebox.

CLOSER SHOT - OPEN FRONT OF JUKEBOX

Boom! as Batman's miniature grenade goes off, wrecking shotgun and other deadly innards.

REVERSE ANGLE - TOWARD SHIELD

Batman lowers it, grimly rises. Boy Wonder stares at him in shaky wonder.

ROBIN
Holy hailstorm! You knew that
was gonna happen, didn't you?

Cont.

CONTINUED:

BATMAN

(nodding)

Or something like it. You see, Robin, you betrayed yourself in the candy-store.

ROBIN

How?

BATMAN

Despite your boast, it was painfully evident you're not a smoker. Nick must've seen at once, you were working hand in glove with the police.

ROBIN

Gee, Batman. I'm sorry.

BATMAN

Don't be silly. It's to your credit you failed at that charade.

(in new tone,

hard)

The thing now is to save Susie...

ROBIN

(blank)

Save Susie??

BATMAN

an

Work it out. Why would ^{an} Undercover Agent ~~Dick Grayson~~ try to pump her?

ROBIN

(like a flash)

Because I knew she was one of the gang!

BATMAN

Right! And once they know we know, that poor girl's life isn't worth a plugged lollipop!

ROBIN

Holy murder! We've gotta find her quick!

BATMAN

Where?? Back at the store??

Robin thinks for all of 1/2-second, comes up with the answer.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

ROBIN
School!

BATMAN
On Saturday?

ROBIN
She'll be in the gym, practicing
cheers!

BATMAN
Of course. There's a big game
tonight! Woodrow Roosevelt against
Disko Tech!

ROBIN
Let's hurry, Batman!

Robin grabs up Bat-Shield, they start to sprint out.
Then Batman brakes, turns quickly to goggle-eyed
Bartender.

BATMAN
A bit of advice, Bartender.
Always inspect a juke-box
carefully. These machines can
be deadly!

Bartender nods gratefully. Batman races out.

INT. JOKER'S WORKSHOP - DAY - MED. CLOSE
of Nick, just answering telephone.

NICK
Yeah, just a sec. He's right
here...
(calls) *LAS VEGAS...*
It's for you, Joker. *Pete-the-*
~~Swede, from Las Vegas.~~

Joker hurries INTO SHOT, grabs receiver.

JOKER
Hello, Pete-the-Swede! What's
the line on tonight's big game?
(then, aside
to Nick)
Delicious! Odds are twenty to
one on Woodrow Roosevelt High!

NICK
Wow! What a killin'!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

JOKER
 (to phone)
 Take a whimsical wager: \$50,000
 on Disko Tech!
 (loud squawk
 from phone)
 Yes, Pete-the-Swede! You heard
 me. On Disko Tech!
 (bangs down
 receiver)
 Fifty times twenty. ONE MILLION
 BUCKS!

Joker throws back his head, starts to laugh.

INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

Basketball players are practicing shots again, as
 we SUPER TITLE:

"WHAT?? BET AGAINST THESE
 CHAMPS?! THE CLOWN PRINCE OF
 CRIME MUST'VE SLIPPED A COG!!
 BUT WAIT..."

NEW ANGLE

Susie and other two Girl Cheerleaders, poised to go
 into a snappy routine. We notice another big banner
 in b.g.: "BEAT DISKO TECH!!"

THE GIRLS
 Yaaaa Disko Tech!
 Hit 'em in the neck!
 Make 'em a wreck!
 Leave 'em on the deck!
 RAY, TEAM!!!

They bounce around prettily, perform cartwheels if
 they're able.

SUSIE
 Okay, kids. That does it.
 Let's take a break, huh?

1st GIRL
 Gee. Too bad that magic Milk
 Machine's out of order!

NEW ANGLE - ON MILK MACHINE

showing prominent "OUT OF ORDER" sign. The two cute
 girls skip THROUGH SHOT followed by Susie, en route
 to locker rooms. A beat, then Susie furtively darts
 back INTO SHOT. She glances at her wrist watch, then

Cont.

CONTINUED:

quickly removes Out-of-Order sign from vending machine, stuffs it out of sight behind, reaches around back of the machine and seems to turn a switch. Just takes an instant. Then she picks up her bottle of Une Nuit Sans Fin perfume which she'd left on floor next to machine, starts opening it as she hurries down the corridor after her mates.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Batman and Robin race around corner, almost bump into Susie.

BATMAN

Susie! Stop! Give yourself up!

ROBIN

Your life's in danger, Susie!
The Joker knows we're on to you!

BATMAN

He'll discard you without mercy
like an old shoe!

SUSIE

Have you guys stripped your
gears??

Susie turns, darts for door stenciled "GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM."

BATMAN

Quick! Catch her!

NEW ANGLE - ON DOOR TO LOCKER ROOM

Robin bounds, but Susie gets to door first, pushes it open. She stops just over threshold of this absolutely inviolable sanctuary, turns back with a smug smile.

SUSIE

So long, Dynamic Duo!

She grandly puts bottle of now-opened perfume under her nose, takes a deep whiff. "One Endless Night" is right! Hideous contortion instantly grips her face, she makes a feeble choking sound and collapses onto corridor floor.

CLOSER SHOT - SUSIE ON FLOOR

as Batman and Robin drop to their knees, roll her over.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

BATMAN
Poisoned!

FAST FLIP TO:

INT. JOKER'S WORKSHOP - DAY - TRICK ENTRANCE

from candy store, just turning to whisk Two-Bits into view. His single heavy word follows as quickly as possible on heels of Batman's, above:

TWO BITS
Dead.

WIDER ANGLE - INCLUDING JOKER AND NICK

standing very still, reacting to Two-Bits' announcement. For all their inutterable wickedness, murder is still not taken lightly by The Joker and his mates.

JOKER
Are you sure?

TWO BITS
Yeah. I saw 'em loading her into the meat-wagon from the City Morgue. The Boy Wonder was bawlin' his head off.

Joker stands for another beat, then picks up bottle from table and pours himself a stiff slug of cheap hooch. He knocks it off.

JOKER
Ah. Well. Well. It had to be done, my Bad Pennies... What's the death of a greedy little dupe? This life, at best, is one long impractical joke...
(to Nick)
Have a memorial cigar...

NICK
Thanks, Joker.

Nick takes offered cigar, sticks it in his mouth to bite the end off. Bang! It instantly EXPLODES, knocking Nick off his feet. Joker claps his hands and LAUGHS.

JOKER
Ho ho! The brief shadow is lifted, I'm my humorous self again! What's the hour?

Cont.

CONTINUED:

TWO BITS

Five twenty-two...

JOKER

Quick! Cameras! Disguises! It's
time for my greatest strike!

FAST FLIP TO:

INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY - CLOSE ANGLE

on the Milk Vending Machine. It's emitting a distinct
TICK-TICK-TICK SOUND, like some kind of time bomb.
This continues for a few seconds, then abruptly stops
and is succeeded by other INTRIGUING MECHANICAL NOISES
from within. No doubt, the gadget's arming itself auto-
matically for some other sinister business! The NOISES
STOP, innocent silence for a beat, then CAMERA PANS
FAST off the machine to FULL SHOT of the gym. Basket-
ballers are still at practice, under direction of Team
Captain Fulton.

FULTON

Okay, fellas! Let's knock it
off before we go stale!

JOE

Right you are, Cap! We'll quit
while we've still got our razor-
sharp edge!

FULTON

We'll win tonight by fifty
points. We'll do it for Susie!
Right?

EVERYONE

Right!!

Players stream TOWARD CAMERA and corridor leading
to locker rooms.

NEW ANGLE - FEATURING MILK MACHINE

Fulton starts past it in lead, suddenly reacts.

FULTON

Hey. Look. The Out-of-Order
sign's gone.

JOE

Oh boy. Must be fixed. Who's
got a dime?

Cont.

CONTINUED:

FULTON
Comin' right up!

Fulton produces a dime, sticks it into machine and pulls handle. A soft THUNK is heard.

REACTION SHOT - PLAYERS - LOW ANGLE

They all look down in amazement.

WHAT THEY SEE - MACHINE DELIVERY-BOX

A roll of papers, tied with a bright red ribbon, has dropped into view.

WIDER ANGLE

JOE
What the heck??

FULTON ← Machine's been fixed, all right!
~~Fulton looks and sees...~~

As others crowd around, Captain Fulton picks up the roll of papers, slips off ribbon, unrolls them. The kids react with further amazement.

JOE
Good gosh!

FULTON
These are next week's...
(reading)
...Nationwide Pre-College Exam
Papers!

JOE
Complete with answers written
in!

Flash! BRIGHT FLASH of a camera going off, to the side and just above. Heads all spin.

NEW ANGLE

Joker, Nick and Two-Bits have popped into view in a section of stand overlooking Milk Machine and end of exit corridor. Two-Bits holds camera which just went off. Joker still has his crazy face-makeup, but aside from that is conservatively dressed (as are the two Bad Pennies) in guise of an Honest Citizen. Joker shakes his head sadly.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

JOKER

Dear me. Disillusioning. The
champs are cheats. Caught red
handed with the answers to the
Nationwide Pre-College Exams!

FULTON

The Joker!

JOKER

(grins)

At the moment, merely an Honest
Citizen...

NICK

We wuz passing by to inspect
this school property supported
with our taxes...

TWO BITS

Imagine our surprise!

JOE

We're not cheats!

FULTON

It's a typical filthy Joker's
trick!

JOKER

That hardly matters, boys, now
does it?

(grins more)

When the Board of Education
sees this picture of you holding
the answers to those exams...

JOE

Good gosh. We'll be suspended.

FULTON

We won't be allowed to play
Disko Tech tonight!

JOKER

Ah, well. Tee-hee! I'm sure the
scrubs will do their best.

FULTON

(aghast)

The scrubs... They'll be creamed!

Cont.

CONTINUED:

JOKER

So sad. So sad. And after all
Batman's lectures to you about
honesty!

(chuckles)

What on earth would the Caped
Crusader say?

Familiar VOICE booms OVER SCENE, powerfully amplified
by Bat-Horn:

BATMAN (O.S.)

Ball-players!! Run for cover!!

Heads swivel and look out and up.

LOW ANGLE SHOT - UP AT DYNAMIC DUO

They're perched high up on far wall of gym, on ledge
where they were hidden back of "BEAT DISKO TECH!"
banner. Batman holds Bat-Horn, he and Bay Wonder both
clutch Bat-Ropes which are extended OUT OF SHOT to an
overhead anchoring-point. Batman continues without
break, via Bat-Horn:

BATMAN

And don't worry about having
seen those exam-papers! They're
fakes!

ROBIN

(shout)

We planted them!

BATMAN

We saved Susie's life with our
Universal Antidote pills from
our Utility Belts! She paid us
back by revealing the whole
criminal plan!

GROUP SHOT - HIGH ANGLE - JOKER AND BAD PENNIES

They gape up, frozen with shock and dread, as the
Basketballers come to life and race OUT OF SCENE.

ROBIN (O.S.)

Let's deliver the punch-line,
Batman!

WILD SHOT - MIDAIR - BATMAN AND ROBIN

swinging across gym on Bat-Ropes, Batarangs in
their teeth. As Bat-Ropes have been anchored in
advance on near-side roof of gym, this feat should
present no particular problem.

GROUP SHOT - HIGH ANGLE - JOKER AND PAIS

As CRAZY BAT-SHADOWS of impending ruin flash over the crooks, Joker regains his senses.

JOKER

Quick, boys! Into action!

Joker's command is correct but tardy. Batman and Robin HURTLE INTO SHOT at ends of Bat-Ropes, crash right down on top of Nick and Two-Bits.

ROBIN

Tough luck, Bad Pennies!

BATMAN

You're out of circulation!

ROBIN

They'll melt you down in the pen!

NEW ANGLE - JOKER

He darts between Batman and Robin as they finish clonking his aides, races out into gym. He picks up a monster weight-lifters' bar-and-discs, hurls it at oncoming pursuers.

BATMAN

He nimbly catches the 800-pound object, tosses it back over his shoulder like it was made of balsa. An instant later terrific SOUND OF BREAKING WOOD as it lands wherever, o.s.

JOKER

He grabs at his pocket, throws a handful of bright colored PAPER CONFETTI right PAST CAMERA.

ROBIN

He's completely enmeshed in paper streamers, fighting it like Laocoan did those snakes.

ROBIN

(gasp)

Holy New Year's Eve! He's got me in his famous trick confetti!

Note that since process of enmeshment takes place OFF CAMERA, no technical problem is involved. Robin is hopelessly entangled in the stuff, falls heavily.

FEATURE JOKER

He stops in flight, whirls and throws some other little object PAST CAMERA. A small plastic container, about size of matchbox. And as he does so:

JOKER

Have a sneeze on me, Batman!

Instantly a DULL BOOM is heard o.s.

FEATURE BATMAN

Plastic container has trickily exploded in mid-air, or so we must deduce. Anyway, there's a CLOUD OF FINE DUST swirling around Caped Crusader's head. It fazes him not a bit.

BATMAN

No use, Joker! I knew you'd employ your Sneezing Powder, I took an Anti-Allergy Pill!

(raises his

Batarang)

Instead of a sneeze, I've caught you cold!

Zwingggg! Batarang whips PAST CAMERA.

FEATURE RUNNING JOKER

Batarang bounces off his noggin. Joker goes down, pole-axed.

WIDER ANGLE - FEATURE BATMAN

Basketball players are drifting back, looking with awe at the scene. Robin has fought himself free, is standing up amidst shambles of confetti. Batman turns to the kids.

BATMAN

(grim)

That's what Easy Living gets you, kids. Stick to your books. Good luck against Disko Tech.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. WAYNE MANOR LIVING ROOM - DAY

Susie and Dick Grayson are seated there, enjoying a nice game of Parchesi.

Cont.

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

Everybody's been so nice to me, I can hardly bear it...

DICK

Heck, Susie. It wasn't all your fault. I mean, with your unhappy background from an orphanage and everything... No wonder you fell for that crook's false promises.

SUSIE

Still, Dick. I should've known...

DICK

Aw, c'mon. Stop thinking about it. You've been punished enough. It must be real awful to be bounced off the Cheerleaders' Squad.

SUSIE

Yes. It is, Dick. But how much worse it might've been. Like if there hadn't been that power-failure...

NEW ANGLE - TOWARD DOORWAY

Bruce Wayne is there, watching them from the hall with a gentle smile, unseen by Susie and Dick in f.g. of SHOT.

SUSIE

(going on)

Where would I be now? Where would Robin be? Where would Batman be?

DICK

Where would Dick Grayson be?

SUSIE

Huh?

BRUCE

Don't think about it, children. Just be thankful that life is filled with unanswered questions. That's all.

FADE OUT

The End