
THE JOKER
Evening, Commissioner.

GORDON
Harvey Dent never made it home.

THE JOKER
Of course not.

GORDON
What have you done with him?

THE JOKER
(laughs)
Me? I was right here.
(MORE)

THE JOKER (CONT'D)
Who did you leave him with? Your people? Assuming, of course, that they are your people not Maroni's...
(off look)
Does it depress you, Lieutenant, to know how alone you are?

Gordon can't help glancing at the mounted CAMERA.

THE JOKER (CONT'D)
Does it make you feel responsible for Harvey Dent's current predicament?

GORDON
Where is he?

THE JOKER
What time is it?

GORDON
What difference does that make?

THE JOKER
Depending on the time, he might be in one spot.
(smiles)
Or several.

Gordon stands. Moves to the Joker. Undoes his handcuffs.

GORDON
If we're going to play games, I'm going to need a cup of coffee.

THE JOKER
The good cop, bad cop routine?
Gordon pauses, hand on the doorknob.

GORDON
Not exactly.

Gordon steps out. The overhead lights COME ON. BATMAN IS BEHIND HIM. The Joker BLINKS in the HARSH WHITE LIGHT.

WHAM! The Joker's face HITS the table—comes up for air—
CRACK! CRACK! To the head. Batman is in front of him. The Joker stares, fascinated. Bleeding.

THE JOKER
Never start with the head... victim gets fuzzy. Can't feel the next—
CRACK! Batman's fist SMACKS down on the Joker's fingers.

THE JOKER (CONT'D)
(calm)
See?

BATMAN
You wanted me. Here I am.

THE JOKER
I wanted to see what you'd do. And you didn't disappoint...
(laughs)
You let five people die. Then you let Dent take your place. Even to a guy like me... that's cold—

BATMAN
Where's Dent?

THE JOKER
Those mob fools want you gone so they can get back to the way things were. But I know the truth—there's no going back. You've changed things. Forever.

BATMAN
Then why do you want to kill me?

The Joker starts LAUGHING. After a moment he's laughing so hard it sounds like SOBBING.

THE JOKER
Kill you? I don't want to kill you. What would I do without you? Go back to ripping off Mob dealers? No you...  
(points)
You. Complete. Me.

BATMAN
You're garbage who kills for money.
THE JOKER
Don't talk like one of them- you're not, even if you'd like to be. To them you're a freak like me... they just need you right now.

He regards Batman with something approaching pity.

THE JOKER (CONT'D)
But as soon as they don't, they'll cast you out like a leper.

The Joker looks into Batman's eyes. Searching.

THE JOKER (CONT'D)
Their morals, their code... it's a bad joke. Dropped at the first sign of trouble. They're only as good as the world allows them to be. You'll see- I'll show you... when the chips are down, these civilized people... they'll eat each other.
(grins)
See, I'm not a monster... I'm just ahead of the curve.

Batman GRABS the Joker and pulls him upright.

222 INT. OBSERVATION ROOM, MCU, GOTHAM CENTRAL -- NIGHT
One of the Detectives moves for the door. Gordon stops him.

GORDON
He's in control.

223 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM, MCU, GOTHAM CENTRAL -- NIGHT
Batman HOISTS the Joker up by the neck.

BATMAN
Where's Dent?

THE JOKER
You have these rules. And you think they'll save you.

BATMAN
I have one rule.

THE JOKER
Then that's the one you'll have to break. To know the truth.

BATMAN
Which is?

THE JOKER
(smiles)
The only sensible way to live in
this world is without rules. Tonight you're going to break your one rule...

Batman leans in to the Joker.

BATMAN
I'm considering it.

THE JOKER
There are just minutes left- so, you'll have to play my little game if you want to save...
(with relish)
...one of them.

BATMAN
Them?

THE JOKER
For a while I thought you really were Dent, the way you threw yourself after her-

Batman DROPS the Joker- RIPS up a bolted-down chair-

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM, MCU, GOTHAM CENTRAL -- NIGHT

Gordon MOVES for the door-

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM, MCU -- CONTINUOUS

Batman JAMS the chair under the doorknob- PICKS up the Joker and HURLS him into the two-way glass. The glass SPIDERS.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM, MCU, GOTHAM CENTRAL -- NIGHT

The Joker, bleeding from nose and mouth, LAUGHS at Batman.

THE JOKER
Look at you go... does Harvey know about you and his-?

The Joker SMASHES into the wall- SLIDES to the floor. Batman stands over him, a man possessed-

BATMAN
WHERE ARE THEY?!

He GRABS the Joker, holding him close-

THE JOKER
Killing is making a choice...

Batman PUNCHES the Joker across the face. HARD.

BATMAN
WHERE ARE THEY?!

The Joker FEEDS off Batman's anger. Loving it.
THE JOKER
...you choose one life over the other.
(MORE)

THE JOKER (CONT'D)
Your friend, the district attorney.
Or his blushing bride-to-be.

Batman PUNCHES the Joker again. The Joker LAUGHS.

THE JOKER (CONT'D)
You have nothing. Nothing to threaten me with. Nothing to do with all your strength...
(spits a tooth)
But don't worry, I'm going to tell you where they are. Both of them, and that's the point- you'll have to choose.

The Batman stares at the Joker...

THE JOKER (CONT'D)
He's at 250 52nd Boulevard. And she's on avenue X at Cicero.

Batman DROPS him.

227 INT. OBSERVATION ROOM, MCU, GOTHAM CENTRAL -- NIGHT

Batman RACES past Gordon.

GORDON
Which one are you-

BATMAN
Dent knew the risks.

Gordon looks back- the Joker is bloody, but grinning.