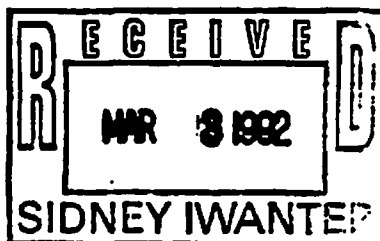


BATMAN

"JOKER'S WILD"

Written by

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WARNER BROS. ANIMATION, INC.

BATMAN"Joker's Wild"CAST LISTREGULAR CAST

BRUCE WAYNE/BATMAN
ALFRED

GUEST CAST

THE JOKER

SUMMER GLEESON

POISON IVY

CAMERON KAISER - A wealthy, smug developer/casino owner in his early forties. A cross between Donald Trump and Warren Beatty as Bugsy Siegal. *

SUPPORTING CAST

IRVING - Kaiser's #1 henchman, a big, burly goon who also passes as a guard at Arkham.

BENNY - Kaiser's #2 henchman, short and thin. (One line.) *

HELICOPTER PILOT - One of Kaiser's employees. (A few lines.) *

LINDA - Bruce's attractive red-haired date. (No lines.) *

GARDENING SHOW HOSTESS - The star of a PBS-style gardening show watched by Poison Ivy. Mid-forties, pleasant. (A few lines.) *

TV HOST - David Letterman sound-alike. (One line.) *

ARKHAM GUARD #1 - (One line, a few cries of surprise.)

ARKHAM GUARD #2 - (Same as #1)

DISGRUNTLED CARD PLAYERS - (A few lines of surprise.)

CRAPS PLAYERS - (Same as the Card Players)

SECURITY GUARD - Discovers the Joker cheating. (Two lines.)

CASINO DEALERS - They all wear whiteface, green wigs, and purple outfits similar (but perhaps not exactly like) the Joker's costume. (A few group lines.)

CASINO WAITRESSES - Their outfits look somewhat like Harley's red and black diamond costume, complete with foolscaps. (Group lines and one solo line.)

ARKHAM INMATES - (Two group lines.) Though they don't speak individually (except for Poison Ivy) the inmates include MAD HATTER and several tough-looking psychotics. *

BATMAN

"Joker's Wild"

LOCATIONS

(Layout Guidelines)

GOTHAM PALISADES BOARDWALK - A long strip of ritzy oceanside gambling casinos and hotels like New Jersey's Atlantic City. Very big, very glitzy, with lots of Vegas-style neon signs.

THE JOKER'S WILD CASINO - An incredibly elaborate casino built along the lines of Trump's Taj Mahal and the Las Vegas Excaliber. The exterior is vaguely castle-like, but painted bright clowny colors. Both the interior and exterior are done in a Joker motif, and images of clowns, jesters and the Joker himself are everywhere. (Not unlike the Vegas "Circus-Circus" casino). The idea behind this place was that it was originally intended to have a fantasy castle look, but it was switched over to a Joker-motif at the last minute.

JOKER'S WILD AMUSEMENT AREA - An unfinished part of the casino which boasts huge Bill Finger-like working gambling machines. Giant roulette wheels, slot machines, dice cages, cards, etc.

BATMAN"JOKER'S WILD"ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. ARKHAM ASYLUM - DAY

CAMERA PANS across the grounds, up to the main building and
DISSOLVES THROUGH a wide window as we hear:

GARDENING SHOW HOSTESS (V.O.)

Be sure the bulbs are spaced far
enough apart...

INT. ASYLUM DAY ROOM - CONTINUING

This is the large common room area where the inmates are allowed to associate with each other for a short time each day, albeit under heavy guard. PANNING ACROSS the room, we spot the MAD HATTER (dressed in an asylum uniform, but wearing his distinctive hat) engrossed in a one-sided chess game. We move on to PICK UP POISON IVY, wearing a long hospital robe down past her knees and huddled up on a sofa. She absently strokes the leaves of a nearby standing potted plant as she watches a PBS-type gardening show on an overhead BLACK AND WHITE TV. On the screen is a pleasant, fortyish GARDENING SHOW HOSTESS in coveralls, tending some small sprouting plants in a window box.

GARDENING HOSTESS (CONT'D)

...for proper root growth. And
remember to give the seedlings plenty
of sunlight...

ANGLE ON DOOR

It opens and THE JOKER (also in asylum garb) saunters in, casually whistling and escorted by a LARGE BEEFY GUARD.

JOKER

(Whistles "Looney Tunes Theme")

GARDENING HOSTESS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And just enough water. Then...

WIDER

The Joker happily waves to Poison Ivy as he walks to the TV and heedlessly changes the channel to a Letterman-style comedy show.
SFX: CHANNEL CHANGE.

*

TV AUDIENCE (V.O.)

(Loud canned laughter)

Poison Ivy bolts upright in her seat, furious.

POISON IVY
Hey! I was watching that!

JOKER
And now you're watching this.

TV HOST (V.O.)
(David Letterman-type)
Next, a dog drinks milk out of his
owner's mouth. *

TV AUDIENCE (V.O.)
(louder laughter)

The Joker flops down on the couch next to Ivy, who scowls daggers at him.

POISON IVY
Change it back!

JOKER
(As Mortimer Snerd)
Ah, nope, nope, nope. Don't want to.

POISON IVY
(Screams)
Guard!

The beefy guard (we'll call him IRVING) steps over.

IRVING
What's the problem?

The Joker instantly leaps to his feet and wraps a conspiratorial chummy arm around the guard's shoulders, drawing him close and pointing to Ivy.

JOKER
(Mock-whisper)
Don't look now, Sonny-Jim, but the
Plant Lady's gone wackers again.

POISON IVY
He started it! I was just sitting
here...

JOKER
(Melodramatic)
That's right, you're always blaming
me. And the children wonder why we
fight.

Ivy slumps back in her seat, frustrated.

POISON IVY

Crazy!

JOKER

I know you are, but what am I?

Irving the guard moves the Joker aside.

IRVING

Okay, okay.

Irving switches the TV dial to a news program.

IRVING

You'll watch this quietly, or go back to your cells.

JOKER

Ja, vowl.

POISON IVY

I don't care.

Irving moves off. Ivy scoots as far away from the Joker as she can. The Joker notices this and smiles.

JOKER

(Playful)

You hold my hand and I'll slug you.

POISON IVY

Guard!

The Joker frantically gestures for her to keep it down.

JOKER

Just kidding! Just kidding! Eeesh, Pammie! Lighten up.

ANGLE ON TV

The two criminals turn their attentions to the TV screen. On it, SUMMER GLEESON is speaking TO CAMERA.

SUMMER

This is Summer Gleeson live at Gotham Palisades boardwalk...

WIDER ON SUMMER

To show she's standing in front of a red roped-off area. Behind her is a massive structure, a hotel and casino, whose entrance and key design features are covered by huge pieces of canvas.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

...where it's opening day at
billionaire Cameron Kaiser's latest
showplace resort.

ANGLE ON HOTEL

Though we can't see details, we can see that the hotel is quite imposing. As the o.s. Summer talks, the CAMERA PANS OVER the place.

SUMMER (O.S.)

Total price tag for this fun-seeker's
mecca, nearly three hundred million
dollars.

BACK TO SUMMER

Summer stands next to CAMERON KAISER, a suntanned, good-looking man in his mid-forties. Think of a cross between Donald Trump and Warren Beatty as Bugsy Siegel. Kaiser speaks into Summer's waiting mike with the ease of a polished showman. A SUPER beneath his image reads: "CAMERON KAISER - Owner."

KAISER

It's true, Summer. I set out to
create the most opulent gambling
resort in the world.

ON JOKER AND POISON IVY

watching the screen. They simultaneously curl their lips in disgust.

KAISER (O.S.)

(smug chuckle)

After all, what's a few million here
and there as long as my guests are
happy?

CLOSE ON SUMMER

as she moves on.

SUMMER

Gotham's elite have turned out in
style for the opening.

ANGLE WIDENS to include BRUCE WAYNE (in a tux) standing with an attractive red-head (LINDA) in an evening gown.

SUMMER

Bruce Wayne, perhaps you can give us
a hint about the top-secret theme of
Mr. Kaiser's new casino?

He points toward Kaiser, o.s.

BRUCE

Looks like we'll find out together,
Summer.

ON TV SCREEN - KAISER

Kaiser steps up to where a red ribbon has been stretched across the
canvas closest to the entrance.

KAISER

Ladies and gentlemen, the wait is
over. I officially welcome you one
and all...

*

Kaiser snips the ribbon as he talks and the canvas drops away.

KAISER (CONT'D)

...to Joker's Wild!

CAMERA PULLS BACK FAST to show the now-exposed front of the purple
and green hotel/casino, a vaguely castle-like building, which we
see is built completely around a Joker-theme! The entrance is
through a huge grinning mouth, and on either side of it stand show
girls dressed in outfits similar to that worn by the Joker's
henchgirl HARLEY. ("Laughing Fish", etc.) Mask-like Joker faces
are set into the sides of the casino walls and a huge neon-Joker
head, complete with "laughing-action" mouth, grins down on it all
from the top of the casino. (Like those neon cowboys in Las
Vegas.)

QUICK CUT TO JOKER

His eyes blinking wide with astonishment as he reacts to the o.s.
TV.

JOKER

Say what?

ON TV - CLOSE ON NEON JOKER HEAD

CAMERA PANS DOWN from the neon Joker head to PICK UP Summer (with
her back TO CAMERA) staring up at the casino in shock.

SUMMER

(off mike)

Ugh!...just disgusting...!

*

TV CREWMAN (O.S.)

Psst! Summer! You're on!

Summer quickly whirls around, obviously flustered and trying to cover.

SUMMER

Oh! Er, there you have it. Let's get a reaction from the guests.

Bruce Wayne passes in front of Summer. Bruce is clearly furious. He pulls his puzzled date along with him.

SUMMER

Mr. Wayne?

BRUCE

No comment.

They exit. Summer spots Kaiser o.s. and the hand-held camera follows her as she snags him.

SUMMER

Mr. Kaiser! Why build a casino seemingly in honor of one of history's most notorious outlaws?

Kaiser shrugs and smiles innocently.

KAISER

(smug chuckle)

Summer, please! My Joker is a classic symbol long associated with cards and games. I can't help it if there's a passing resemblance to some criminal fruitcake.

JOKER (O.S.)

(Cry of rage)

CRASH! The tall potted plant that Ivy was stroking smashes pot-first through the TV screen.

ON JOKER AND POISON IVY

The Joker is in a fist-waving, hopping-mad fury. Ivy huddles back in the sofa, her eyes wide with shock at the Joker's tantrum.

JOKER

How dare that smug, preening fool try to cash in on my image!

CLOSE ON POISON IVY

Her startled look changes to a smug grin.

POISON IVY
Now who should lighten up?

The Joker leans in, face to face and very angry. Ivy smirks. *

JOKER
Don't get cute with me, red! He's
ripping me off! I'll protest!

CAMERA FOLLOWS the Joker as he rants.

JOKER (CONT'D)
I'll sue! Then, I'll rip his lungs
out! I will! You just watch me! *

Irving the guard runs over to restrain the Joker by grabbing him firmly from behind.

IRVING
Take it easy!

The Joker slumps against Irving, curiously weakened.

JOKER
(Dazed)
Uhh, I feel dizzy...sick!
Everything's spinning! Ohhh...need a
doctor.

Irving starts to gently lead the Joker toward the door.

POISON IVY (O.S.)
Oh, Joker?

The Joker weakly looks back toward her.

ON POISON IVY

Merrily kneeling upright on the sofa and pointing to her big, perky grin.

POISON IVY
(Very happy)
Thanks for the smile.

ON JOKER

He slumps in Irving's arms, all the fight drained out of him.

JOKER
(Miserable sigh)

Irving carries the dazed clown out of the day room.

INT. ARKHAM INFIRMARY

Arkham's white, sterile hospital examining room. Irving opens the door and carries the nearly comatose Joker in, placing him gently on an examining table.

IRVING

Hang on. I'll get Doctor Bartholomew.

JOKER

(dazed, coughs)

Yes, hurry, please. *

Irving quickly exits the infirmary. The second after he's gone, the Joker quickly leaps off the table, perfectly well.

JOKER

Sucker.

INT. INFIRMARY HALLWAY

The door opens and the Joker's hand impishly appears waving a bedpan on a stick, as if to draw fire. It withdraws and the Joker himself peeks out. With much comic exaggeration, he tip-toes out into the hall and heads for the exit. After he goes, Irving secretly looks out of an adjoining door and smiles slyly.

IRVING

(Low, evil)

Sucker yourself.

ON TWO GUARDS

Two WHITE-CLAD ASYLUM GUARDS catch sight of the escaping clown.

GUARD #1

The Joker!

GUARD #2

Hold it!

ON JOKER

He antics to run o.s.

JOKER

Exit stage left, laughing all the way.

(Laughs)

ANGLE ON CUSTODIAN

An asylum CUSTODIAN pushes a cart laden with mops and cleaning chemicals down the hall. The Joker runs up and roughly shoves the custodian o.s.

CUSTODIAN
(cry of surprise)

JOKER
Excuse me.

Quick as a flash, the Joker empties a variety of bottled liquids into a pail. The evil clown grandly holds up the pail as the two guards run up and stop apprehensively.

JOKER
Step right up and play everyone's favorite game, "What's the Joker Got in the Pail?" Maybe a deadly poison? Maybe a nasty nerve gas? Or maybe just something to make the floor nice and slippery. *

Joker tosses the liquid onto the floor, takes a leap and slides between the two guards, knocking them down.

GUARDS
Ooof! Ungh!

JOKER
Fun!

EXT. ARKHAM REAR DOOR

This is the door that leads out to a wide yard-like area behind Arkham. The door opens and the Joker bolts out as SFX: ALARMS go off.

JOKER
I always did know how to make an exit.

ON CHAIN-LINK FENCE

Joker dashes up to the fence and spots a slow-moving semi-truck (with a cab-top exhaust pipe) approaching down a nearby side road. Joker quickly reaches into his pocket and takes out a long chain of colorful clown-style handkerchiefs. He swiftly ties one end around a small rock, then whirls it over his head like a lasso.

JOKER
Don't try this at home, kids.

Joker lets the rock-tied end fly. CAMERA PANS as it wraps around the cab's exhaust pipe and goes taut.

BACK TO JOKER

He holds on as he is yanked up the fence and over.

INT. TRUCK CAB

The driver reacts to a loud SFX: THUMP on the roof. A second later, the upside-down Joker cheerfully waves and smiles in at him through the windshield. *

JOKER
Peeky-boo!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Before the driver can react, Joker has opened the door, grabbed him and tossed him out. *

DRIVER (O.S.)
Yaaa!

JOKER
Sorry, no riders.

Joker quickly takes the driver's place behind the wheel, slams the door and guns the engine. *

JOKER
Now to treat Mr. Cameron Kaiser to a
real blow-out opening!
(Manic laugh) *

ANGLE ON TRUCK DRIVER

Crawling out of bushes at the side of the road. He looks on as the truck roars off into the distance.

JOKER (O.S.)
(Mad laughter, fading)

FADE OUT

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL SUITE - CLOSE ON BAT SYMBOL

As the yellow-circled bat symbol moves AWAY FROM CAMERA we see it is on the front of a Batman costume being laid on the bed by ALFRED. Nearby Bruce is examining the wings on his compact folding Bat-glider.

ALFRED

I didn't mind driving down here at a moment's notice with your equipment. And I was happy to dream up a plausible alibi for your date.

Alfred gestures to the lavish suite around them in disgust. It's a huge room and would be very nice if it weren't for the grinning Joker faces everywhere. Wallpaper, bedspreads, telephone, etc., everything has a Joker-inspired design.

ALFRED

But staying in this horrid place pushes even my tolerance.

BRUCE

Mine, too. But I'm convinced it wasn't Kaiser's original goal to make a Joker-themed casino.

WIDER ON BRUCE

He moves to the wall and peels back a section of wallpaper. Beneath it is wallpaper with a stylized medieval pattern.

BRUCE

See?

ALFRED

But why the deception?

BRUCE

That's what I intend to find out. *

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HOTEL - ON GLASS ELEVATOR - NIGHT

A sleek glass elevator rises up the side of the hotel. As it nears the penthouse, BATMAN rises up from the shadows on top of the elevator car. He fires his rope line and swings off the elevator, up to the roof of the penthouse.

INT. PENTHOUSE - DARK

This is Cameron Kaiser's lavish private office/living quarters. Not surprisingly, the Joker-motif so pervasive everywhere else in the hotel is not seen here. His bedroom-area, living room, and office workspace are all furnished in an overly opulent deco style. (NOTE: The lights in the penthouse remain dark for this entire scene.) The skylight slides open and Batman drops down silently into the room. He takes a small flashlight from his belt and shines the beam around.

ANGLE ON MODEL

Batman's flashlight picks up a large tabletop model of the Joker's Wild Casino and Hotel.

ON BATMAN AND MODEL

Batman walks up to the model and lifts the small Joker's Wild neon sign OFF the top of the hotel. Beneath it is a neon King Arthur's Head and the name "Camelot".

BATMAN
(to himself)
Camelot. Hmm...

*

He shines his flashlight o.s.

ANGLE ON KAISER'S DESK

The flash beam picks out several open folders on the mahogany desk. The silhouetted Batman comes close to look at the folders.

CLOSER ON FOLDERS

The first folder contains a number of unpaid and past due construction bills, all demanding payment from the "Camelot Company." An Insurance Policy for the Joker's Wild Casino is also seen among the papers.

BATMAN (O.S.)
(to himself)
Looks like Kaiser broke the bank on
this place.

*

The second folder contains documents with information pertaining to the Joker. There are grinning police mug shots of the Joker, candid shots of the Joker with his various gangs and henchmen, a solo photo of Harley, artist's interpretations of various Joker weapons like his squirting flower, exploding whoopee cushion and electric joy buzzer, and several clipped newspaper stories and photos whose headlines read: "JOKER BLOWS UP GOTHAM MINT", and "BATMAN ENDS JOKER BOMBING SPREE."

*

BATMAN (O.S.)
 What an interesting hobby you've got,
 Cameron.

*
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *

ANOTHER ANGLE ON BATMAN

He whirls as the door to the suite suddenly smashes open and a shadowy heavysset figure explodes into the room. (NOTE: Though we can't see him clearly, it will later be revealed that this is Irving, the guard from Arkham.)

IRVING
 Hey, you!

The shadowy hulk leaps right for Batman, swinging his fists which the Dark Knight easily dodges.

IRVING
 (Angry grunts)

Batman spin-kicks Irving in the gut, knocking him over a couch in Kaiser's sitting-room area.

IRVING
(Impact grunt)

ON BATMAN

He tosses down a small capsule which instantly sends up a billow of smoke. He seemingly vanishes into the mist.

ON IRVING

He staggers to his feet, rubbing his eyes and coughing.

IRVING
(Coughs)

Irving rips through the suite, overturning bits of broken sofa, chairs and file cabinet as he looks for Batman.

IRVING
(Coughs, gags)
Where are ya?!? Come out and fight!

DOWNSHOT ON IRVING

As seen through the skylight. He still rampages through the suite, vainly looking for Batman who now stands on the roof and looks down at him. Batman silently closes the skylight and vanishes into the darkness.

DISSOLVES TO:

INT. CASINO - NIGHT

The Joker (now dressed in his usual costume, including top coat and hat) enters through the main doors. He looks around with awe.

JOKER
(Impressed whistle)
Jumpin' Jimminy Christmas.

JOKER'S POV - THE INTERIOR OF THE CASINO

Showing all the Joker-motifed games; Joker wheel of fortune! Joker slots, Joker craps, even Joker poker tables. A few well-dressed players are seen here and there (no big crowds!) trying their luck against dealers all dressed in white face make-up, green wigs and Joker-style suits. A couple of waitresses in Harley outfits are seen carrying trays of food, beverages and/or Keno tickets. *

JOKER (O.S.)
It's an homage to me.

ON JOKE

Looking a bit sad.

JOKER

I'm kind of sorry I have to blow it up. *

A large PIT BOSS in Joker make-up walks up to the clown and puts several banded stacks of 100 dollar bills in his open hand. The Joker TAKES with surprise.

PIT BOSS

Go on and open table six. We got players waiting.

The Pit Boss exits as Joker stares at the money with wide-eyed joy.

JOKER

Then again, all work and no play... *

ANGLE ON BLACKJACK TABLE

Several well-heeled men sit at the blackjack table. The Joker zips over to the table, plopping the money down and tossing off his coat and hat as he flashes a big grin to the waiting players.

JOKER

Good evening, Folks!

The Joker picks up a deck of cards and expertly shuffles them.

JOKER

The game is blackjack. Joker's rules, of course.

In very fast action, he quickly deals two cards for each player and himself. He checks his own cards (a ten and an ace) before the other players can examine theirs and exclaims: *

JOKER

Ooh, blackjack already! Lucky me. *

The Joker quickly scoops up the players unturned cards and playing chips before they can react.

CARD PLAYERS

Hey!/What?/Hold on!

INT. SECURITY ROOM

Several SECURITY GUARDS (no joker make-up on these guys) sit behind a console, watching the casino over black and white TV security monitors. One of the security guards (a black man) watches the Joker (on the monitor) fleece another player in the same way. *

SECURITY GUARD

Mr. Kaiser?

Cameron Kaiser steps over to the console. Next to him is the shadowy thug who attacked Batman. *

SECURITY GUARD
That dealer's doing something screwy.
I'm calling security.

KAISER
No, wait.

Kaiser leans forward and presses a button on the console.

CLOSER ON MONITOR

The hidden camera zooms in closer on the grinning Joker as he wipes out another player with a ten and an ace. *

JOKER
Ooh, mercy me! Another blackjack.
One might think I had an ace up my sleeve. *

The Joker lowers his hand out of sight of the other players and four aces drop out into a perfect "Fan." *

CLOSE ON KAISER

A smile of satisfaction flickers across Kaiser's face. He winks to Irving, whom we see clearly now. Irving grins. *

KAISER
Let him deal.

SECURITY GUARD
Yes, sir. You're the boss.

ANGLE ON BRUCE WAYNE

Making his way across the casino floor, keeping his eyes open. Suddenly he looks alert in the direction of a familiar laugh.

JOKER (O.S.)
(Manic Laugh)

ANGLE ON JOKER

Bruce casually moves over to the table. The Joker cheerfully waves him toward a seat.

JOKER
Try your luck, friend?

Bruce smiles and sits.

BRUCE
Why not?

The Joker goes into a series of complex but expertly executed card shuffles as he sizes up Bruce.

JOKER

Say, don't I know you?

(realizes)

Sure. Bruce Wayne. Ah, so this is how your family made all those billions.

(friendly chuckle)

Bruce smiles and shrugs as he tosses in some chips.

BRUCE

The secret's out. And you are...?

The Joker performs a dazzling mid-air shuffle.

JOKER

Oh, just a nameless clown shuffling my life away. *

BRUCE

Too bad it has to be in such gruesome surroundings.

The Joker's shuffle goes awry and he flashes Bruce a cold, humorless grin. He evens the cards and matches Bruce's bet with chips of his own.

JOKER

Don't care for the decor?

Bruce plays it cool, but each word is put forth to bait the Joker into revealing himself. The Joker meanwhile keeps his temper as he deals two cards each for Bruce and himself.

BRUCE

Not hardly. All those horrible grinning faces grinning at me. That would do things to my mind after a while. *

JOKER

(mutters, sotto)

Who says you have one?

Bruce checks his cards. He has a three of hearts and a nine of diamonds.

BRUCE

Yeah, I'd be ready for the laughing academy if I had to stare at that ugly clown all day.

Bruce flashes an innocent smile at the Joker and tosses in more chips.

BRUCE

Hit me.

ON JOKER

He doubles a fist, as if readying to do just that.

JOKER

(hisses)

Why I oughtta...

Then he suddenly thinks better of it and sourly matches Bruce's bet. He tosses Bruce another card, the King of Spades. The Joker flips over his cards, showing the Queen of Hearts and the ten of clubs.

JOKER

Twenty!

ON BRUCE

He smiles as he overturns his cards.

BRUCE

Oh, lucky me.

His nine of diamonds has "magically" become the eight of diamonds. That combined with his three and king gives him twenty-one.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Twenty one!

*

The Joker looks thunderstruck as Bruce sweeps most of his chips off the table.

BRUCE

How nice. A little something for the Wayne Charity Fund.

Bruce picks out a single chip and hands it to the Joker as a tip.

BRUCE

Good night.

Bruce exits with his winnings as the Joker fumes in rage. The furious clown snaps the playing chip in two.

JOKER

(Angry growl)

ANGLE ON BRUCE

He approaches Alfred who is standing by the casino exit. Bruce hands Alfred the playing chips and the deck of casino cards he had hidden up his sleeve.

BRUCE
(Grimly)
He's here.

WIPE TO:

BACKSHOT ON JOKER DEALER

Dealing cards for a full table of players. (NOTE: This dealer is not the Joker, but a lookalike.)

JOKER DEALER
Place your bets, folks.

A BAT SHADOW falls across the dealer's back and the card players REACT as a black-gloved hand falls on the man's shoulder.

CARD PLAYERS
(Frightened gasps)

BATMAN (O.S.)
You!

Batman roughly spins the dealer around so fast that his green wig is knocked askew, revealing blond hair beneath. Batman sees this is just a regular dealer in white-face makeup.

JOKER DEALER
Huh?

CARD PLAYERS
Batman!/It's Batman!

ANGLE ON CRAPS TABLE

Three craps players (two men and a woman) turn around from the crap table to look at Batman and reveal the Joker (the real one) working the crap table.

CRAP PLAYERS
It is Batman!/What's he doing here?

ON JOKER

He looks up, spots Batman and grimaces.

JOKER
Oops. Time to cash out.
(Laughs)

He quickly grabs the stack of cash from the table and zips o.s.

*

ON BATMAN

He catches sight of the Joker dashing across the casino floor. The Batman takes off after him, pushing his way through the Joker and Harley-outfitted workers.

ANGLE ON JOKERMOBILE

An outrageous green and purple JOKERMOBILE (like the one in the 50's comics) is parked on a platform above a bank of slot machines. A big neon sign over the car reads "Hit the Jackpot and Win a Jokermobile!" The Joker leaps into the car.

INSERT - ON JOKER'S HAND

He holds his electric joy buzzer against the car ignition and activates it. Blue electricity CRACKLES from the buzzer into the ignition, jump-starting the car.

ON CAR

Joker guns the engine and slot machine players throw themselves out of the way as the car roars off the platform and down into the casino.

SLOT PLAYERS
(Frightened screams)

JOKER
(Wild laughter)

ON CASINO FLOOR

Waitresses and dealers run for cover as the careening Jokermobile smashes through crap and card tables.

WAITRESS
Hey! Look out!

ANOTHER ANGLE ON CAR

Batman jumps into the back seat of the car and grabs for the Joker.

EXT. CASINO DOORS

Joker sends the car crashing through the casino doors.

*

*

EXT. CASINO - NIGHT

The Jokermobile twists and spins its way down the boardwalk. Every time Batman tries to grab the cackling clown, Joker spins the wheel, causing the car to pitch wildly.

JOKER
(Crazy laugh)

*

ANGLE ON BLOCKADE

A thick concrete blockade has been set up at the end of the boardwalk. CAMERA TRUCKS IN FAST on it to simulate the movement of the car.

JOKER (O.S.)
Here's where I get off!

ON JOKER

He pulls a lever next to the driver's seat and is catapulted out as his seat pops up on huge spring.

ON BATMAN

He looks ahead and sees the blockade right in front of him. He leaps out of the car seconds before it EXPLODES in a great flash of smoke and fire.

CLOSE ON JOKER

The light of the explosion and fire flickers off his face as he grins. CAMERA PULLS BACK to show the Joker is hanging onto a giant neon-lit women's leg, part of a huge sign above the LADY LUCK casino. As the neon giantess lowers her leg, the Joker drops safely onto the casino roof.

JOKER
Not bad for a starter. But the real fireworks are still to come!

INT. JOKER'S WILD HOTEL - LATER

The Joker, wearing a chef's outfit and hat, comically wheels a covered serving cart through the hotel corridors. Several Joker-faced bellboys and maids move out of his way as he tears through the halls.

JOKER
Whoops! Comin' through! Hot stuff!
One side, pah-leeze!

ANGLE ON AMUSEMENT AREA

A wing of the hotel has been roped-off and is still under construction. A sign in front of the rope reads "Joker's Wild Family Amusement Area -- Opening Soon." The Joker unhitches the rope and pushes his cart inside the tarp-covered entrance.

INT. AMUSEMENT AREA

This is a vast area not unlike the amusement section of Las Vegas' Circus-Circus casino. Like the rest of the casino, it's done in a brightly-colored Joker/clown motif, but big sections of it are still under construction. The showpiece of the area are several giant working gambling devices, a slot machine, roulette wheel, dice cage and wheel of fortune. The Joker wheels his cart in by the roulette wheel.

JOKER

I wouldn't take odds on this place
lasting the night!

Joker whips the cover off his cart, revealing several large crates of dynamite. CAMERA PULLS BACK as the Joker gleefully pries open one of the crates.

JOKER

(Sinister chuckles)

ANGLE ON SECURITY CAMERA

Set up almost out of sight in a niche of the ceiling. The camera's lens turns slightly, following the o.s. Joker's movements.

INT. CAMERON KAISER'S PENTHOUSE

The wealthy developer sits at his desk, watching the monitor set into its surface.

OTS - KAISER

Watching as the Joker removes a large barrel of explosive from the dynamite crate. Kaiser switches off the monitor and hits an intercom button on his desk.

PILOT (V.O.)

Helipad.

KAISER

I want my personal copter ready for
takeoff in twenty minutes.

PILOT (V.O.)

Yes sir, Mr. Kaiser.

ON KAISER

He quickly gathers his files and papers from his desk and tosses them in an open brief case. He opens a desk drawer, removes several stacks of paper money and tosses those in as well. He closes the case and is all ready to lift it by its handle when a small batarang flies in and imbeds itself in the case. Kaiser yanks his hand back in fear.

KAISER
(Gasp of fear)

BATMAN (O.S.)
Going somewhere?

ANOTHER ANGLE

Kaiser looks up as the silhouetted Batman drops through the skylight and lands in front of him. Kaiser tries to maintain a brave front.

KAISER
First you trash my penthouse and then my casino! You going to wreck something else?

BATMAN
If I didn't know better, I'd say you wanted this place destroyed.

Kaiser sits and smugly grins at Batman

KAISER
After spending three hundred million to build it? That's not good business, my friend. *

Batman opens Kaiser's briefcase and tosses out a handful of papers.

BATMAN
I've seen the unpaid bills. Building this casino has bankrupted you. That's why you turned it into a target for the Joker. Once he destroys it, you'll collect the insurance money. *

Kaiser nods admiringly.

KAISER
You hit the jackpot, Batman. But I've got too much at stake to be stopped now.

INSERT - KAISER'S HAND

It presses a button under his desk.

ON BATMAN

The floor in front of the desk CRACKLES with an electrical charge. The voltage rips through Batman, staggering him to his knees.

BATMAN
(Reeling from the shock)
Unnnnggh!

ON PENTHOUSE DOOR

It opens and Irving and a second goon, Benny, run in. They rush over to where Batman is struggling to get back on his feet. *

IRVING
Ah! You again!

CLOSE ON IRVING

As he fires a double-handed blow down at the o.s. Batman. *

BATMAN (O.S.)
(Impact groan)

ON BENNY

As he raises the unconscious Batman.

BENNY
What'll we do with him, boss?

ON KAISER

Wickedly smiling as he considers Batman's fate.

KAISER
Send him down to his friend. *

CUT TO:

INT. AMUSEMENT WING - ON JOKER

As he connects another barrel of explosive to the base of the giant roulette wheel.

JOKER
(Hums ala Curly)
La-dee-dee, la-dee-dah...nyuk,
nyuk...

The Joker REACTS to an O.S. SFX: ELEVATOR SOUND and turns to see:

JOKER'S POV - ANGLE ON FREIGHT ELEVATOR

A large freight elevator set into the far wall lowers and slowly opens. Inside is the dazed Batman, trying vainly to get to his feet.

CLOSER ON BATMAN

He staggers out of the elevator and is STRUCK from behind. He falls, revealing The Joker behind him.

JOKER
Kinda slow on the reflexes, eh,
Batsy?

ON BATMAN

Barely conscious and in bad shape. He looks up groggily at the o.s. Joker.

JOKER (O.S.)
That car crash must have taken more
out of you than I thought.

BATMAN'S POV - THE JOKER

Batman's view of the Joker is fuzzy and unfocused. As the clown laughs, his image swirls into a green and white haze.

JOKER
(Fearsome, echoing laughter)

BLACKOUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

BATMAN'S POV - GREEN AND WHITE MIST

It swirls around into focus, gradually turning into the Joker's leering face. The mad clown flashes a toothy smile and waves.

JOKER
Wakey-wakey.

ON BATMAN

He shakes his head, then looks down to see himself firmly strapped into place in one of the slots of the giant roulette wheel. The Joker looks triumphantly over the rim of the wheel at his victim.

JOKER
Thought you'd like to be conscious for your own demise. I really put some effort into this one.

*

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Joker points to the many barrels of dynamite stacked into a pile on the amusement wing floor.

JOKER
Once I spin the wheel, you, the casino, and that strutting fool Kaiser will all be blown sky-high. Not bad, eh?

CLOSE ON BATMAN

He forces an ironic smile.

BATMAN
You won't get Kaiser. He's been playing you for a patsy.

ON JOKER

Looking offended.

JOKER
Eh?

*

ON BATMAN

Shaking his head as far as the confining space will allow.

BATMAN

He's counting on you to blow this place up so he can collect the insurance.

ON JOKER

He thoughtfully nibbles his lower lip as this begins to sink in. He frowns as Batman talks.

BATMAN (OS, CONT.)

By the time you get clear, Kaiser will be miles away, laughing at you.

JOKER

I hate it when you make sense. *

WIDER ON JOKER

He walks to the pile of dynamite and disconnects the fuse from the plunger.

JOKER

I'll settle my score with Kaiser man to clown. But that still doesn't let you off.

The Joker hits a button set into the base of the giant roulette wheel.

ON BATMAN

The wheel starts spinning, slowly at first, then picking up speed.

ON JOKER

He pulls a round happy face-painted grenade from his pocket and activates the device. He tosses the grenade, and CAMERA PANS with it as it rolls in the groove along the rim of the wheel.

JOKER (OS)

How about that, Bats?

ON JOKER

Calling back as he runs for the exit:

JOKER (CONT.)

Looks like your number's up!
(Laughs)

ON BATMAN

Strapped to the spinning wheel. He works his hand toward his utility belt.

BATMAN
(Straining grunt)

ON GRENADE

It begins to waver in its spin as the wheel starts to slow down.

CLOSE ON BATMAN'S HAND

He pulls his grappling clamp free from his belt.

ON GRENADE

CAMERA FOLLOWS the grenade as it falls out of its groove and starts to bounce around the giant slots.

ON BATMAN

He raises his grappling gun as high as his hand will go and takes aim. The bouncing grenade is headed right for him. Batman fires the grappling gun.

ON BOUNCING GRENADE

The grappling clamp hits the grenade and shoots it o.s. *

ON GIANT JOKER CARD PROP *

Leaning against the wall. The clamp/grenade hits it on the nose and EXPLODES. *

WIPE TO:

EXT. HOTEL HELIPAD

A large 40's style passenger helicopter is waiting with its blades turning on the hotel's rooftop helipad. Kaiser, holding his briefcase, runs out onto the pad and quickly scrambles into the copter. *

INT. HELICOPTER

Kaiser straps himself into a seat. We see a backshot of the pilot's baseball-capped head as he hunches over the controls. *

KAISER

(To pilot)

Get me out of here, now!

*

JOKER AS PILOT -

Yes, sir.

CAMERA PANS OVER to show the pilot is actually the Joker! He grins wickedly as he raises the copter into the air.

EXT. HELICOPTER

PAN DOWN from the rising helicopter to Batman, who is just running out onto the roof. He turns, REACTING to an OS GROAN.

REAL PILOT (OS)

(Pained groan)

Batman runs over to some stacked fuel cannisters and finds the real pilot rubbing a bump on his head as he groggily comes to his senses.

BATMAN

What happened?

PILOT

Some clown jumped me and grabbed my copter. Mr. Kaiser's up there!

Batman looks grimly at the copter, which is now circling the hotel.

INT. COPTER - ON KAISER

He reacts with surprise as the helicopter dips down lower to circle the hotel.

KAISER

What are you circling for, you fool!

*

Kaiser breaks into a nervous sweat when he hears the voice of his pilot.

JOKER (OS)

It was a scheme worthy of me, Kaiser.

*

ON JOKER

He sets the autopilot, then rises and turns toward Kaiser, leveling a weird Joker-faced gun at him.

JOKER (CONT.)

The way you got me riled up and turned me loose on this place.

*

ON KAISER

Reacting in fear to the Joker and his weapon.

KAISER

You! You were supposed to destroy
the casino!

ON JOKER

He smiles coyly.

JOKER

Yeah, but then I realized it'd be
more fun to get rid of you and run
the show myself. *

ON KAISER

Sweating for his life now.

KAISER

But you can't...!

The Joker reaches in and pulls Kaiser up by his lapels.

JOKER

Oh please, Mr. Kaiser. You of all
people should have realized there'd
be a Joker in the deck!
(Sadistic laugh)

Just then a batarang is shot through the window of the copter and
knocks the gun from the Joker's hand.

JOKER

(Surprised cry)

The furious Joker tosses Kaiser aside and turns to see:

JOKER'S POV - BATGLIDER

Batman, with the batglider strapped to his back, is diving down
toward the copter.

ON JOKER

He snarls viciously as he cranks the copter's throttle (wheel?)
banking it sharply.

JOKER

Why can't he ever stay dead!?

EXT. COPTER

CAMERA FOLLOWS as the copter flies low over the backdrop of garish neon casino signs. (Think of the last shot of "Bugsy", with the Las Vegas strip all lit up) The batglider follows the copter like an avenging shadow.

CLOSE ON COPTER

The Joker makes his way to the copter's open side door and fires two shots with his clown-faced gun.

ON BATGLIDER

The glider banks and twists, dodging the shots. A third shot rings out and the glider dips down suddenly below the copter.

ON JOKER

He jumps with delight as he sees this and runs back into the copter.

ON COPTER WINDOW

The Joker anxiously peers out of the helicopter window (the same one broken before by the entering batarang) for some sign of the batglider.

JOKER'S POV - BATGLIDER

From this angle we only see the top of the batglider (Batman is hidden by the wings, we presume) The glider spins out of control toward the roof of the Joker's Wild casino and crashes into the grinning opening and closing Joker's mouth with a shower of colored sparks.

CLOSE ON JOKER

Reacting with joy to this.

JOKER

That's it! Chew him up and spit him out!

(Laughs, ending suddenly in an "Oof")

The clown's laughter is suddenly cut short as Batman swings in through the broken window and kicks the Joker back off his feet.

ON KAISER

Kaiser looks on frantically as Batman and the Joker duke it out.

JOKER

(Insane laugh)

BATMAN
(Impact grunt)

KAISER
Stop! You'll kill us all!

*
*

Kaiser leaps out of his seat but doesn't get far before the scuffling Batman and Joker knock against him, sending him falling into the copter's control panel. He accidentally shoves the steering mechanism down.

KAISER
(Ooof!)

*

EXT. COPTER

It pitches wildly down toward the casino.

INT. CASINO

The dealers, gamblers and waitresses look up and REACT in terror as the helicopter dips close to the casino's high glass ceiling.

CASINO CROWD
(Horrified screams)

They all run OS as the helicopter CRASHES through the glass ceiling. Its engine sputters and smokes, but does not catch fire.

CLOSE ON PASSENGER DOOR

Dazed and shaken, the Joker crawls out of the open cabin door and tries to run for it. A second later, Batman appears at the door and fires his line, up, OS.

ON JOKER

Fleeing across the casino floor. He turns to wildly fire his Joker-gun once through the cape of the grim shadow-like figure swinging down toward him.

ON BATMAN AND JOKER

Batman swings down into the Joker, knocking the evil clown off his feet and sending him flying OS.

JOKER
Auughh!

ANGLE ON SLOT MACHINE

A colorful, garish clown-faced dollar slot machine with a lit sign that reads JOKER'S KRAZY SLOTS. The Joker flies INTO FRAME and hits the machine so hard that the lights flash and bells chime as three Joker faces appear in the window. A shower of silver dollars

spill out onto the dazed clown. This image FREEZES AND DISSOLVES to a black and white photo.

SUMMER (OS)
And so it ended for both the Joker
and ex-billionaire Cameron Kaiser...

ANGLE WIDENS to show Summer's image on a black and white TV. The still image of the Joker is behind her.

SUMMER (OS)
...whose now-closed casino provided
the backdrop for Batman's latest
victory over the Clown Prince of
Crime.

The Joker (once again dressed in his asylum outfit) angrily enters and glares at his televised humiliation as Summer speaks.

JOKER
Bah! Enough of this rubbish!

He changes the channel and instantly cringes as he hears:

POISON IVY/INMATES (OS)
Hey!

ZIP PAN TO the couch where Poison Ivy sits surrounded by Mad Hatter and a number of other rough-looking psychotics, each enjoying the Joker's embarrassment. *

POISON IVY/INMATES
(threateningly)
We were watching that!

ON JOKER

He quickly flashes a nervous grin and switches the channel back to Summer's news report, which is still showing his photo. The Joker slumps OS, glaring evilly at the OS inmates and muttering angrily to himself.

JOKER
(Ad lib angry mutters)
Ahh, bunch of no-good wacked-out
losers...

FADE OUT

THE END