



BATMAN

"Mad Love"

407-441

(Script)

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W A R N E R   B R O S .   A N I M A T I O N

"Mad Love"  
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE HALLWAY

Commissioner James Gordon slowly shuffles down the hallway, very unenthusiastic about the ordeal before him.

GORDON  
(Mumbles)  
Stupid useless waste of time...

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE

Gordon enters a shadowy dentist's office where the DENTIST (in semi-shadow himself) is examining x-rays of teeth frozen in macabre grins.

DENTIST (JOKER)  
Have a seat. I'll be right with you.

Gordon glumly settles into the dentist's chair.

GORDON  
I don't mind saying I really hate these check-ups.

The dentist washes his hands as Gordon continues.

GORDON  
If it weren't part of the police physical, I wouldn't be here at all.

DENTIST (JOKER)  
Oh, come now, Commissioner. What in this miserable world is more beautiful...

The dentist whirls around to reveal that he is THE JOKER! The ghoulish clown holds up dental tools and pliers as he gets ready to "operate" on Gordon, who recoils in shock.

JOKER (CONT)  
Than a nice, big smile! Ha, ha, ha!

GORDON  
You!

As Gordon starts to leap from the chair, a cartridge fired from an OS popgun bursts open, binding him to the chair in strong, colorful plastic streamers.

GORDON  
 (Surprised)  
 Huh?  
 (As the streamers pull tight)  
 Unnh!

Gordon looks over to see HARLEY QUINN, dressed in a nurse's outfit, coyly standing in the doorway. She holds her smoking popgun.

HARLEY  
 Naughty, naughty! Jump around like that and doctor won't give you a lollypop.

GORDON  
 You little...

Anything else Gordon was going to say is cut off by the wad of cotton Harley stuffs into his mouth.

GORDON  
 (Muffled cries of outrage)

As Gordon twists and struggles in the chair, the Joker steps over to examine his "patient".

JOKER  
 Mmm-hm...my, my...this doesn't look good at all. I'm afraid...

DELETED

The Joker whips up a spinning and very sharp power drill.

JOKER (CONT)  
 Everything will have to go!  
 (Insane laugh)

The drill inches close to Gordon's sweating brow as the Joker continues to laugh.

WIDER

Suddenly BATMAN bursts through the office window, causing the Joker and Harley to spin around in surprise.

DELETED

ON BATMAN

The tosses a pair of grinning CHATTER TEETH with a label reading TO: BATMAN C/O G.C.P.D. at the Joker's feet.

BATMAN

It was an easy hint, Joker.  
Sloppy, predictable. You're losing  
your edge.

HARLEY (OS)

'Scuse me...

WIDER

Batman turns to see Harley standing innocently behind him.  
Behind Harley is a tank of gas.

HARLEY (CONT)

But the teeth were my idea.

Very quickly Harley pulls up the gas tank's hose and twists the tank's top.

HARLEY

So's this!

Batman barely has time to cover his face with his cape before the blast of gas hits him.

BATMAN

(Gasps)

Weakened by the gas, the Dark Knight slumps to the floor as Harley laughs.

HARLEY

(Laughs)

That's a real gasser, huh, Mr. J?

The Joker reaches in and yanks Harley close to him by the "ears" of her jester's hood.

JOKER

I give the punchlines around here!  
Got it?!?

HARLEY

Y-yessir!

## ON JOKER AND HARLEY

Still leading Harley by one of her "ears", Joker hurries out the door as the coughing Batman gets back to his feet.

BATMAN

(Coughs)

JOKER

Well, Batsy, it's been a hoot as always, but I really must run.

Once out the door the Joker turns back to toss a ticking Joker-faced grenade onto Gordon's lap.

JOKER

Keep flossing and watch those between-meal snacks! (Wild laughter).

Batman quickly scoops the grenade off Gordon's lap and tosses it out the broken window. Batman shields Gordon's body from the GRENADE BLAST from the empty alley below.

## CLOSER ON BATMAN AND GORDON

With the danger past, Batman removes the cotton wad from Gordon's mouth.

GORDON

I REALLY hate these check-ups!

DISSOLVE TO:

## INT. JOKER'S HIDEOUT - NIGHT

We are inside the vast warehouse that serves as the Joker's current hideout. In the BG the Joker can be seen intently working away in his loft. Harley skips into the foreground wearing a tasteful nightgown.

HARLEY

(Sings)

La, la, la....

## ON JOKER

Scribbling away on blueprints at his desk. Harley struts up behind him.

HARLEY

A-hem!

She gets no response from the Joker, then playfully scrambles up on his desk.

HARLEY

A-hemmm!

JOKER

Go 'way. I'm busy.

Harley poses like she's on a motorcycle.

HARLEY

Aw, c'mon, Puddin'. Don't ya wanna  
rev up your Harley? Vrroom!  
Vrroom!

Joker pushes her OS. We hear an OS. THUD!

HARLEY (OS)

Ooof!

CLOSE ON JOKER

As he looks over his plans, Harley's hands enter with a whoopee cushion. She musses his hair with it.

HARLEY (OS)

Oh, Sweetie... I got the whoopee  
cushion!

JOKER

(Sigh!)

Joker swats the whoopee cushion away. Then he jumps to his feet and paces angrily. \*

DELETED \*

JOKER

Batman was right! That set-up  
today was corny! Old hat! It's  
time I capped off our feud with  
his ultimate humiliation... \*

Joker returns to his table and starts to look over his stack of plans. Harley peeks over his shoulder.

JOKER (CONT)

Followed by his deliciously  
delirious death.

HARLEY

Why don't ya just shoot him?

The Joker's eyes pop wide with shock at this.

JOKER  
Just shoot him?

He slowly turns toward the nervous Harley, who backs up.

JOKER  
Know this, my sweet. The death of  
Batman must be nothing less than a  
masterpiece. The triumph of my  
sheer comic genius...

The Joker squirts a jet of acid from his flower. Harley ducks  
under it.

JOKER (CONT)  
Over his ridiculous mask and  
gadgets!

HARLEY  
Eeeek!

Harley looks OS and CAMERA PANS to show the acid eating away the  
face of a nearby life-size Batman dummy.

HARLEY  
Whew!

Joker has turned back to his desk when he notices a paper that  
has fallen on the floor. He beams as he picks it up.

JOKER  
Well, hold the phone!

CLOSER ON JOKER

Showing the plan he's looking at. On it we see a cartoonish  
Batman dropped into a tank of piranha fish. A photo of one of  
the fishes is clipped to the plan, as well.

JOKER  
Here's one I forgot. The Death of  
a Hundred Smiles!

Joker gleefully acts out his plot.

JOKER  
I'll lure Batman to a secret lair,  
then, BANG! Plop him into my  
specially prepared piranha tank!  
Ha, ha, ha!

Joker enthusiastically continues his charades.

JOKER

The last thing he'll see are all those beautiful hungry smiles as they rip him to...

Joker's glee slowly fades as reality sinks in.

JOKER (CONT)

To...

(Sour)

Oh, wait, wait. Now I remember why I scrapped this plan!

With great dramatics, he tosses the plan away, sits down and mopes.

JOKER

Piranhas can't smile! Even my own joker-toxin couldn't get a giggle out of them!

Harley sidles up friendly-like to Joker and ruffles his hair.

HARLEY

I know how to make some smiles, Puddin'!

INT. BASEMENT AREA

Harley is booted through the doorway by the OS Joker.

JOKER (OS)

Don't call me Puddin'!

HARLEY

Ooof!

The door slams. Harley's two hyenas, BUD and LOU look up as their mistress lands next to them.

HARLEY

Sigh! Face it, Harl'. This stinks.

Harley gets up and sadly slumps off, attended by the two hyenas, who follow her, wanting to play.

HARLEY

You're a certified nutzo wanted in twelve states, and hopelessly in love with a psychopathic clown.

The hyenas nuzzle their woeful mistress, wanting to cheer her up.

HARLEY

At what point did my life go Looney  
Tunes? How did it happen? Who's  
to blame?

CLOSE ON HARLEY

Looking angry as she convinces herself:

HARLEY

Batman, that's who!

ON HARLEY

Ranting dramatically as her hyenas shy away, frightened.

HARLEY

Batman! It's always been Batman!  
Ruining my life! Spoiling my fun!

Harley slumps down next to a water pipe dripping into a puddle of  
murky water on the floor.

HARLEY

Coming between me and my puddin'  
from the very beginning...

TRUCK IN closer on the puddle. The drops from the water pipe  
create a ripple which DISSOLVES into an image of ARKHAM ASYLUM  
with a silhouette of Harley (as Dr. Harleen Quinzel) in front of  
it.

INT. ARKHAM HALLWAY

DR. JOAN LELAND is shaking hands with the energetic Harleen.

DR. LELAND

Harleen Quinzel? I'm Joan Leland.

HARLEY

Hi, Joan. Call me Harley.  
Everyone does.

The two women walk down the long hallway. On either side of them  
are the clear cells that house Arkham's most dangerous inmates.

DR. LELAND

I must admit I was surprised you  
wanted to intern here at Arkham.

Harley looks away somewhat sheepishly. Her gaze falls on POISON  
IVY, tending a plant in her cell. Ivy glances at Harley and  
looks away.

HARLEY

Well, I've always had an attraction for extreme personalities. They're more exciting. More challenging...

Joan gives Harley a wondering look.

DR. LELAND

And more high-profile?

Harley shrugs.

HARLEY

You can't deny there's an element of glamour to these super-criminals.

ON DR. LELAND AND HARLEY

Joan cautions Harley as they pause in the middle of the hallway.

DR. LELAND

I'll warn you right now: These are hard-core psychotics. If you're thinking about cashing in on them...

Harley's eyes go wide as she sees something OS.

DR. LELAND (CONT)

by writing a tell-all book, think again.

Harley moves over to where the Joker is casually reclining against the wall in his cell. He whistles a carefree tune, seemingly at peace with the world.

JOKER

(Whistles)

DR. LELAND

They'd eat a novice like you for breakfast.

CLOSE ON JOKER

He winks at Harley.

ON HARLEY

Reacting with surprise.

INT. CLOSE ON OFFICE DOOR

It reads DR. HARLEEN QUINZEL. Harley opens the door and steps into the darkened office. She sees a vase with a single rose on the desk.

CLOSER ON ROSE

Harley's hand picks up the rose. Harley reads the card which is inscribed: COME DOWN AND SEE ME SOMETIME - J.

CLOSE ON HARLEY

She sniffs the rose and smiles thoughtfully.

FADE OUT

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. ARKHAM - ON JOKER

As seen through the glass of his cell. He reclines comfortably on his cot. Harley's hand holds up the card for him to see.

HARLEY (OS)  
Care to tell me how this got in my  
office?

JOKER  
I put it there.

ON HARLEY

Calmly returning the Joker's casual attitude.

HARLEY  
I think the guards would be  
interested to know you've been out  
of your cell.

BACK TO JOKER

Giving Harley a knowing look.

JOKER  
If you were really going to tell,  
you already would have.

Joker suddenly springs up with such manic energy that Harley jumps back from the door, startled.

JOKER  
Y'know, sweets, I like what I've  
heard about you. Especially the  
name. Harley Quin-zel.

ON JOKER

The Joker makes an impish face at Harley.

JOKER  
Rework it a bit and you get Harley  
Quinn.

Harley nods as she puts the Joker's card in her pocket.

HARLEY

Like the clown character Harlequin.  
I know. I've heard it before.

JOKER

It's a name that puts a smile on my  
face. It makes me feel there's  
someone here I can relate to.

Harley starts to walk away as the Joker quietly adds:

JOKER

Someone who might like to hear my  
secrets.

CLOSE ON HARLEY

Again, that thoughtful smile.

INT. HARLEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Harley sits, holding a writing pad as TWO GUARDS escort in a  
peaceful-looking Joker. He reclines calmly on the couch as the  
guards exit. \*

HARLEY (VO) \*

It's took me nearly three months  
to set up a session. I studied  
all his tricks and gimmicks and  
felt I was ready for anything. \*

Joker glances at Harley and grows reflective. \*

JOKER

You know, my father used to beat me  
up pretty bad.

HARLEY (VO)

Anything except that.

Harley stares at the calm, rational Joker with surprise.

JOKER

Everytime I got out of line -- Bam!  
Or sometimes I'd just be sitting  
there doing nothing -- Pow!

Joker makes the "drinky-drinky" gesture. \*

JOKER

Pops tended to favor the grape,  
y'see.

HARLEY

Uh-huh.

JOKER

There was only one time I ever  
saw dad really happy. He took me  
to the circus when I was seven.

\*\*  
\*\*  
\*\*

Joker stands and acts out a pantomime bit.

JOKER

I still remember the clowns,  
running around, dropping their  
pants...

(Laughs)

My old man laughed so  
hard, I thought he'd bust a gut!  
So the very next night I ran out  
to meet him with his best Sunday  
pants around my ankles. "Hi,  
Dad! Lookit me!"

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

ON HARLEY

Charmed by the Joker's story. She laughs.

JOKER (OS)

Zwooop! I took a big pratfall and  
tore the crotch clean out of his  
pants!

HARLEY (CONT)

(Laughs)

ON JOKER AND HARLEY

Laughing together. A nice moment.

JOKER/HARLEY

(Laughs)

CLOSE ON HARLEY

Still laughing.

HARLEY

(Laughs)

JOKER (OS)

And then he broke my nose.

Harley looks up shocked.

HARLEY  
(Small gasp)

DELETED

BACK TO JOKER

Shrugging as he explains:

JOKER  
But hey, that's the downside of  
comedy. You're always taking shots  
from folks who just don't get the  
joke. Like my dad.

Joker suddenly frowns, his eyes narrowing in hatred.

JOKER  
Or Batman.

DELETED

DISSOLVE TO:

ON HARLEY - NEXT DAY

She looks down thoughtfully at her pad. On it are written a  
number of notes: Subject admits to abusive childhood...  
alcoholic father...subject beaten when prank went wrong...  
three days in hospital! Batman?

Harley circles the word Batman and underlines it. We hear her  
VO:

HARLEY (VO)  
It soon became clear to me that  
the Joker, so often described as a  
raving, homicidal madman...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HARLEY'S OFFICE -- FEW DAYS LATER

We are watching another session between Harley and her patient.  
Harley is writing away as the Joker soundlessly speaks.

HARLEY (VO, CONT)  
...was actually a tortured soul  
crying out for love and  
acceptance.

This image DISSOLVES into a MONTAGE of events from the Joker's point of view of his relationship with Batman. We see the (in this shot, anyway), brutish Batman lifting a helpless nondescript GANGSTER (the early Joker) over his head and throwing him into a vat of boiling chemicals. DISSOLVE to a BACKSHOT of the gangster as he looks into a hand-held mirror. CAMERA TURNS to reveal the Joker's ghastly white face looking back for the first time. DISSOLVE TO the interior of a crowded bank and sprays machine gun fire over the heads of terrified fleeing bank customers.

HARLEY (VO)

A lost, injured child trying to  
make the word laugh at his antics.

The scene DISSOLVES again to show Batman confronting the Joker in some shadowy area. Joker throws a punch at Batman which the Caped Crusader dodges.

HARLEY (VO)

And there, as always, was the  
self-righteous Batman...

Batman fires a punch into the Joker's chin, knocking the clown for a loop.

HARLEY (VO)

...determined to make life  
miserable for my angel.

We HOLD on Batman's grim face then MATCH DISSOLVE to show a crude drawing of Batman on Harley's pad. Harley's hand blacks out Batman's teeth and draws on a moustache. ANGLE WIDENS to show cute smiley-faces of the Joker and Harley on the pad surround by hearts and flowers.

PULL BACK to show Harley sitting at her desk. It's night. Her hair is down loose and there are pictures of the Joker scattered here and there around her. With a dreamy expression, she sniffs the single flower in her vase.

HARLEY (VO)

Yes, I admit it. As  
unprofessional as it sounds, I had  
fallen in love with my patient.

INT. HARLEY'S OFFICE - DAY

VERY CLOSE on Harley. Looking away, ashamed, as she confesses this to someone OS.

HARLEY

Pretty crazy, huh?

JOKER (OS) \*  
 (Calm, normal voice) \*  
 Not at all. As a dedicated, \*  
 career-oriented young woman... \*

Harley starts to look up hopefully at the OS speaker. \*

JOKER (OS, CONT.) \*  
 ...You felt the need to abstain \*  
 from all amusement and fun. \*

Harley now fairly beams at her OS friend. \*

JOKER (OS) \*  
 It's only natural you'd be \*  
 attracted to a man who could make \*  
 you laugh again. \*

HARLEY \*  
 I knew you'd understand! \*

PULL BACK to show Harley is on the couch and the Joker is \*  
 analyzing her! He gives Harley a gentle smile as he scribbles \*  
 tic-tac-toe games on his doctor's pad. \*

JOKER \*  
 Any time. \*

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE ON NEWSPAPER HEADLINE

It reads: JOKER STILL AT LARGE - BODY COUNT RISES.

HARLEY (VO)  
 Then there was that horrible week  
 when he escaped...

The paper lowers and we see Harley, disheveled and frantic,  
 sucking back coffee from a mug enshrined I'M OK YOU'RE OK as she  
 anxiously scans the headlines for news of the Joker.

HARLEY (VO)  
 The poor thing was on the run,  
 alone and frightened. I was so  
 worried!

An ORDERLY pauses by Harley's open to door to yell and point  
 before running off. Harley leaps from her desk and dashes out.

## ON HARLEY

Racing through the hall, frantically pushing through doctors and nurses. She skids to a stop, her eyes widening in horror as she sees:

## ANGLE ON BATMAN AND JOKER

Batman, bruised up, his costume torn, a small trickle of blood on his face, leads in a beaten, handcuffed and almost unconscious Joker.

Batman drops Joker on the floor and Harley rushes to his side. She shoots Batman a look of pure hatred.

Batman reacts, surprised.

Harley bursts into tears as the Joker is pulled away from her. She holds her hands out and weeps as the Arkham doctors restrain her.

## HARLEY

Nooo!

\*  
\*

## ANGLE ON JOKER

As seen through the window of his cell. He is bandaged up and unconscious. Harley's fingers touch the window. In the glass we see the REFLECTION of her tear-stained face.

## DISTANT ANGLE ON HARLEY

As she dashes down the Arkham hallway.

## EXT. ARKHAM - NIGHT

Harley's car speeds down the drive and through the gates.

## EXT. GOTTA STREET - NIGHT

Harley strides into a COSTUME & TRICK STORE.

## INT. COSTUME STORE

With a crazed look on her face Harley starts pulling armfuls of clown costumes, magic tricks, joke props and make-up off the shelves and heads out the door. What she can't carry falls to the floor. The irate STORE MANAGER runs up and grabs Harley by the arm.

\*  
\*  
\*

EXT. COSTUME STORE

The store manager comes flying through the door and lies blinking on the sidewalk. Harley strides out of the shop, her arms filled.

\*  
\*  
\*

EXT. ARKHAM - NIGHT

Harley's car speeds back in.

INT. ARKHAM - JOKER'S CELL

The Joker looks up to see the SHADOW of a woman in a jester's costume sticking something on his cell door.

ON CELL DOOR

It EXPLODES. Harley, now dressed in her usual Harlequin outfit, bounds in and poses with her popgun.

HARLEY

Knock, knock, Puddin'! Say hello  
to your new, improved Harley Quinn!

EXT. ARKHAM

Harley's car comes streaking back down the drive. Guards leap out of the way as the car screeches by them and plows through the gates. Inside the car the Joker is laughing his head off. Harley looks at him adoringly.

JOKER

(Wild laughter)

The car drives off into the beautiful sunrise.

HARLEY (VO)

It seemed like we would live  
happily ever after.

PULL BACK on the sun to show it is a dot in Harley's eye. We are back with Harley (in her nightie) in the basement. The hyenas are cuddled next to her.

HARLEY

But they'll never happen as long as  
there's a Batman around to torment  
my puddin'.

Suddenly a crafty idea occurs to Harley.

HARLEY

Hmmm...!

\*\*

EXT. GOTTA SKYLINE - NIGHT

The Batsignal is shining from the top of police headquarters.

DELETED

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - CLOSE ON TV

The STATIC on the screen clears to show Harley speaking TO CAMERA. CAMERA PULLS BACK to show Batman, Gordon and Bullock watching.

HARLEY

If this tape reaches Batman, I hope it's not too late for you help me. It's no joke, Mr. J's gone off his nut, for real!

CLOSER ON HARLEY

Scared and concerned.

HARLEY

Because you stopped him from killing Gordon, he said he's going to take out the whole city! I've seen the plans, the gas bombs...

ON GORDON AND BULLOCK

Looking worried.

HARLEY (OS)

Everything!

BACK TO HARLEY

As proof of her sincerity, she takes off her hat and mask and speaks earnestly INTO CAMERA.

HARLEY

I finally realize this isn't funny anymore. I can help you get him if you promise me protection.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WATERFRONT - NIGHT

Batman looks down from a bait shop roof at Harley, waiting for him on the dock.

## CLOSER ON HARLEY

Nervously looking around, afraid Batman won't show. He rises up like a shadow behind her, startling her.

HARLEY

(Gasps)

Batman points to her briefcase.

BATMAN

Open it.

Harley smiles and snaps the case open.

DELETED

Batman takes out some papers and looks them over.

HARLEY

Okay?

BATMAN

I want Gordon to see these. If what you say is true, the police will...

JOKER (OS)

Traitor!

WIDER

Batman and Harley both whirl around to see the Joker speeding toward them in a motorboat. He has a tommy gun pointed at them.

JOKER

No one turns stoolie on me and lives! (Insane laugh)

HARLEY

Nooo!

The Joker's gun fires at them.

ON BATMAN

He pulls Harley to the ground as bullets hit the railing. Batman throws a Batarang at the Joker, cutting off his head! The Joker head falls in the water. It's a dummy!

CLOSE ON BATMAN

Reacting with surprise. Suddenly his features contort in pain.

BATMAN

Arrghhhh!

He turns away and we see Harley's hand pulling away a hypodermic needle from the base of his neck. \*

\*

BATMAN

(Fainting groan)

WIDER

Batman falls forward unconscious. The silhouetted Harley stands over him.

HARLEY

(Cold)

Sweet dreams, sucker.

FADE OUT

END ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN: \*

EXT. AQUACADE - NIGHT

TRUCK IN on this abandoned nightclub on top of a building overlooking an elevated train track.

INT. AQUACADE - CLOSE ON BATMAN

Hanging upside down. He starts to wake up.

BATMAN  
(Groggy)  
Unngh....

PULL BACK to see Batman chained up and hanging over a huge fish tank which is filling with water. A number of PIRANHA FISH are swimming around hungrily beneath him. Nearby Harley (in full costume) sits at the bar and drinks a soda pop as she consults her plans.

BATMAN  
Quinn...

HARLEY  
Oh! You're awake, finally.

BATMAN  
The Joker. Where...?

Harley casually takes a sip of her soda as she looks at Batman.

HARLEY  
It's just me, B-Man. No Joker, no gas bombs, no city in peril. Just you, that tank, and me.

BATMAN  
Why?

Harley holds the "DEATH OF A HUNDRED SMILES" plans upside-down for Batman to see.

HARLEY  
To show Mr. J. I could really pull off one of his plans. See, he could never get these fishies to smile.

\*\*  
\*\*  
\*\*  
\*\*

ON BATMAN AND HARLEY

Harley explains her loopy plan to her prisoner.

HARLEY (CONT)

But then I had the bright idea of hanging the victim, that's you, upside-down!

\*  
\*  
\*

Harley smiles, pleased at herself.

HARLEY

That way, to you, it'll look like they're smiling. Clever?

BACK TO BATMAN

He glares sourly at Harley.

BATMAN

Brilliant.

\*  
\*

ON HARLEY

She shrugs as she struts away from the tank.

HARLEY

Yeah, yeah, I can tell you're less than thrilled. Y'know, for what it's worth, I actually enjoyed some of our romps. But there comes a time when a gal wants more.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Harley smiles wistfully.

HARLEY

And now all this gal wants is to settle down with her lovin' sweetheart.

BACK TO BATMAN

Looking truly surprised.

BATMAN

You and the Joker?

HARLEY (OS)

Right-a-roonie!

## ON BATMAN

Silhouetted from behind. We can't see him laugh but Harley does, through the tank. She's shocked.

BATMAN  
(Mocking laugh)

HARLEY  
I've never seen you laugh before.  
I don't think I like it.

## CLOSER ON HARLEY

Nervously rubbing her arm.

BATMAN (OS)  
(Laughs continue)

HARLEY  
Cut it out. You're giving me the  
creeps.

BATMAN (OS)  
You little fool.

\*\*

## ON BATMAN AND HARLEY

Batman coldly gives the facts to Harley, who stares at him in shock through the tank glass.

BATMAN  
The Joker doesn't love anything  
except himself. Wake up, Harleen.  
He had you pegged for hired help  
the minute you walked into Arkham.

\*

\*

HARLEY  
(Stunned)  
That's not...no.  
(Anger building)  
No! He told me things, secret  
things he never told anyone...

## CLOSE ON BATMAN

Looking at Harley coldly through his blank eyes.

BATMAN  
Was it his line about the abusive  
father, or the one about the  
runaway mom?

CLOSE ON HARLEY

Stunned, lip quivering, about to lose it.

BATMAN (OS, CONT.)  
He's gained a lot of sympathy with  
that one.

Harley clasps her hands to her ears as she screams:

HARLEY  
(Screams)  
Stop it! You're making me  
confused!

BATMAN (OS)  
What was it he told that one parole  
officer? Oh, yes...

As Batman speaks and the words sink in, Harley lowers her hands.  
Her eyes grow wide and slowly fill with tears.

BATMAN (OS)  
"There was only one time I ever saw  
dad really happy. He took me to  
the ice show when I was seven..."

HARLEY  
(Quiet, miserable)  
Circus.

WIDER

Harley stands staring blankly into space, tears running down her  
cheeks.

HARLEY (CONT)  
He said it was the circus.

BATMAN (OS)  
(Gentle)  
He's got a million of them, Harley.

HARLEY  
(Snaps, enraged)  
You're wrong! My puddin' does love  
me! He does! You're the problem!

Harley runs to the chain winch and frantically starts to pull at  
the chain.

With tears streaming down her face, Harley grins insanely as she  
starts to lower Batman toward the tank.

HARLEY  
Now you're gonna die and make  
everything right!

ON BATMAN

Inches from the snapping piranha swarming close to the surface.  
Batman speaks calmly to Harley.

BATMAN  
Except he'll never believe you did  
it.

ON HARLEY

Pausing, eyes wide in disbelief.

HARLEY  
Huh? Sure he will...

ON BATMAN

As he speaks, CAMERA PANS DOWN to the fish swimming around madly,  
anxious for a bite of him.

BATMAN  
How's Joker going to know I'm  
really gone? All those fish will  
leave are scraps of bone and  
cloth. Anyone can fake that.

\*  
\*

ON HARLEY

She looks anxiously at his utility belt, lying on the bar.

BATMAN (OS)  
True, you've got my belt, but it's  
not the same as a body.

Harley's sweating now as Batman adds:

BATMAN (OS)  
He'll never buy it.

\*

INT. JOKER'S LAIR

Joker paces back and forth, tossing out old plans. The phone on  
his desk starts to RING and he ignores it.

JOKER  
Boring. Lame. Not funny. Been  
done. Too "Riddler".

He can't take the ringing any longer and grabs the phone.

JOKER  
 (Into phone)  
 What!??!

He calms a bit and starts flipping through the plans again.

JOKER  
 Harley? Where the heck have  
 you...uh-huh...yeah,  
 yeah...mmm...Batman, eh? Well, you  
 don't say...

Suddenly it sinks in and he lunges forward screaming:

JOKER  
 YOU HAVE WHO TIED UP WHERE!?!

EXT. GOTHAM STREET - NIGHT

Some PEDESTRIANS leap out of the way as Joker's purple sedan  
 nearly mows them down.

DELETED

INT. AQUACADE - CLOSE ON BATMAN

The piranhas are now leaping up to try to snap at Batman. His  
 head is almost touching the water.

HARLEY (OS)  
 Well, nertz to you, Mr. Smarty-Bat!

ON HARLEY

Standing in front of the tank and smiling triumphantly at Batman.

HARLEY  
 When I told Mr. J what I was doing  
 he was so thrilled he could hardly  
 speak!

Suddenly the doors to the club slam open. The Joker lunges in  
 screaming:

JOKER  
 HARRLEEY!

ON HARLEY AND JOKER

Harley happily runs to embrace the seething-mad Joker.

HARLEY  
 Hi, Puddin'! You're just in time  
 to see the...

Joker angrily smacks her away.

HARLEY  
(Pained grunt)

ON BATMAN

Still hanging over the tank, the water now touching his "ears".  
Joker leans in to chummily say:

JOKER  
'Scuse me. I'll just be a minute.

ON HARLEY

Scared and confused, gathering up the Joker's blueprint as she  
scrambles off the floor. The furious Joker advances on her.

HARLEY  
But, Puddin'! I don't understand!  
Don't you wanna finally get rid of  
Batman?

JOKER  
Only if I do it, idiot!

Harley holds the blueprint out as the Joker looms over her.

HARLEY  
But it's s-still your plan, see?  
Everything just like you said!

Harley flips the photo of the piranha upside-down. It now looks  
like the fish is smiling.

HARLEY  
Except I hung the guy upside-down,  
so he'd see their little frowns as  
little smiles! Now it all works!

Joker angrily grabs the blueprint from her and rips it up.

JOKER  
Except you had to explain it to me!  
If you have to explain a joke,  
there is no joke!

Now scared, Harley pulls a stuffed swordfish from the wall and  
holds it defensively in front of her.

HARLEY  
N-now calm down, Puddin'!

JOKER

You've forgotten what I told you a long time ago. One of the painful truths of comedy.

\*  
\*  
\*

Joker menacingly advances on her. Joker grabs the fish from her and knocks her back with it.

JOKER

You always take shots from folks who just don't get the joke!

HARLEY

Ooof!

Harley stumbles backward toward a high boarded-up window and crashes through. There are splinters of wood but not glass.

\*  
\*

EXT. AQUACADE

Harley falls down toward the trash-strewn-alley below. We don't see her hit.

INT. AQUACADE

Joker sourly turns away from the window as he drops the stuffed fish on the floor.

JOKER

And don't call me Puddin'.

EXT. ALLEY - CLOSE ON HARLEY'S HAND

Sticking out from a pile of crushed boxes and trash boxes. The hand twitches slightly. She's hurt pretty bad, barely conscious. A thin trickle of blood runs down the side of her mouth.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

HARLEY

(Weakly)

My fault. I didn't get the joke...

DELETED

\*

INT. AQUACADE - CLOSE ON BATMAN

He is now lying on the bar, having been lifted out of the tank and placed there by the Joker.

JOKER (OS)

I really have to apologize for the kid!

PULL BACK to show Joker is steadying Batman's still-chained legs. Joker smiles sheepishly at Batman.

JOKER

No respect for tradition! Let's just pretend the whole thing never happened and do this some other time. \*

Joker gives Batman a good-natured pat on the cheek.

JOKER (CONT)

'kay? \*

Joker turns and casually walks away, whistling a little tune.

JOKER

(Whistles)

He pauses, reevaluating the situation.

JOKER

Then again, this is a rather rare opportunity.

ON BATMAN

Joker hurries back to Batman and flips him over. He pulls a gun out of his jacket.

JOKER

You know what they say..."A bat in the hand is worth two in the belfry!"

Joker aims his gun at Batman.

JOKER

I guess you're going out on a laugh after all! (Laughs)

Batman quickly brings his legs up, striking the Joker's gun hand and causing it to discharge into the tank behind them.

WIDER

Batman rolls back out of the way as the tank glass SHATTERS. Joker is hit by the escaping deluge of water, and by the piranhas.

JOKER

Auughh!

ON BATMAN

He leaps off the bar and grabs his belt in his teeth.

ON JOKER

He rolls on the water-soaked floor, the fish biting him.

JOKER

Owww! Real funny, Batman! Yow!

The now somewhat torn-up Joker scrambles to his feet and runs.

ON BATMAN

Working his belt lockpick with his teeth, Batman succeeds in snapping the lock binding his chains. He leaps up to follow Joker.

EXT. ROOF - CONT.

The Joker bursts through the rooftop door and runs across the roof. Batman is right on his heels, following him up through the door.

BATMAN

Joker!

Without breaking his stride, Joker dashes to the edge of the building and leaps for the rooftop across the way.

JOKER

grabs onto the railing of the neighboring building. But the railing snaps in his hands and he falls!

JOKER

Yaaaa!

BATMAN hurries over to the edge of the first building and looks down into the darkness.

CLOSE ON JOKER

Grinning up at Batman.

JOKER

Made you look! (Mocking laugh)

TRUCK OUT on Joker to show that he's landed on the elevated train, which is moving down the track.

ON JOKER

He blows a RASPBERRY and thumbs his nose back in Batman's direction. Unseen by Joker, BATMAN'S SHADOW (holding his grappling line) swings over him.

JOKER  
(Raspberry) Nyah-nyah-na-nah  
-nyah!

\*  
\*

BATMAN (OS)  
She almost had me, you know.

ANGLE WIDENS as Joker turns to see Batman behind him.

BATMAN  
Arms and legs chained, dizzy from  
the blood rushing to my head. I  
had no way out other than  
convincing her to call you.

Joker and Batman cautiously circle each other. Joker's scowl grows more insane as Batman needles him.

BATMAN  
I knew your massive ego would never  
allow anyone else the "honor" of  
killing me.

Batman stops circling and calmly folds his arms.

BATMAN  
Though I have to admit she came a  
lot closer than you ever did...

CLOSE ON BATMAN

A cold, half-smile.

BATMAN (CONT.)  
Puddin'.

ON JOKER

He snaps. With a roar of insane rage he leaps for Batman.

JOKER  
Rrrraarr!

Batman and is ready for him and the two enemies go at it, fighting back and forth across the top of the train.

Joker punches Batman, knocking him down.

BATMAN

Ugh!

\*\*  
\*\*

With a few kicks, Joker sends Batman rolling across the top of the train. Batman goes over but hangs on with one hand.

BATMAN

Ugh -- Ugh

\*\*  
\*\*

Joker pulls a knife and makes ready to slash Batman's hand. Batman swings up and knocks Joker back.

JOKER

Ungghh!

Joker is staggered but doesn't go down. Before Batman can completely rise, Joker is lunging toward him with his knife.

JOKER

(Insane laugh)

Batman puts everything he has into one big punch. Joker goes flying off the edge of the train.

JOKER

Ooof!

\*

ON JOKER

Falling down, toward a smoking factory smokestack far below.

JOKER

(Descending scream)

\*

Joker vanishes into the smokestack.

ON BATMAN - ON TRAIN

He looks back at the factory.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ARKHAM REC ROOM

A few INMATES are watching a FEMALE REPORTER on TV.

FEMALE REPORTER

Though the Joker has been notorious for resurfacing when least expected, it seems unlikely that he has survived his latest brush with Batman...

A very contrite-looking Harley, bandaged up and in a wheelchair, is wheeled by an ORDERLY by the rec room to her cell.

HARLEY (VO) \*  
 Never again. No more obsession. \*  
 No more craziness. No more Joker. \*

A guard opens Harley's cell and the orderly wheels her inside. \*

HARLEY (VO) \*  
 I finally see that slime for what \*  
 he is. \*

INT. HARLEY'S CELL

Harley is on her bed. The orderly puts a blanket over her.

DELETED \*

Harley wearily settles back, her eyes glancing around the now \*  
 -closed cell. \*

HARLEY (VO) \*  
 A murderous, manipulative \*  
 irredeemable... \*

Suddenly Harley's eyes grow wide as they see...

ANGLE ON FLOWER

A single red rose in a stem vase, just like the one she first \*  
 received from the Joker. There is a note attached which reads: \*  
 FEEL BETTER SOON. -J.

ON HARLEY

Her pained expression slowly changes to one of hopeful joy as \*  
 she takes the rose and kisses it. \*

HARLEY \*  
 (spoken) \*  
 Angel! \*

She closes her eyes in bliss as she hugs the rose. \*

FADE OUT.

THE END