



## Joker's Asylum (1 of 3)

### The Fall of Arkham

#### Previously

It's war in Gotham City, with the Arkham wing of Belle Reve blown open, the criminally insane have returned to Gotham City and are tearing it apart. The only person not to have made his move is the Joker; what dastardly plan has the clown prince of crime in store for the Dark Knight?

#### Scene 1

Little Italy, Gotham City, 8<sup>th</sup> October 19:44 EDT

Batman rushes through the sector in the Batmobile

Alfred: You've been at this for weeks, Master Bruce, do you not think your attention would be better served elsewhere?

Batman: As long as he's on the loose, the Joker's always top priority. (The computer alerts him to a new broadcast signal, it's the sound of Harley Quinn laughing) Oracle, track that signal!

Oracle: One moment. (A few seconds pass) 3<sup>rd</sup> and main, downtown Gotham (Batman changes gear and the Batmobile races towards it)

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3<sup>rd</sup> and main

Batman arrives and exits the Batmobile, he walks down an alleyway and sees Harley Quinn, strung up between the two buildings at the sides of the alley and wearing the joker grin.

Batman: (Opens coms) I'm too late, Quinn is dead

Alfred: Don't be too hard on yourself, sir, Miss Quinn was dead the moment she entered the Joker's employ. What matters now is finding the Joker

Batman: I know where he is, he left his message loud and clear (he drives away, the camera zooms in revealing a note written in Harley's blood taped to her chest)



## Scene 2

Arkham Asylum, 20:40 EDT

Batman bursts through the gates of the asylum in the Batmobile

<Batman>: They haven't opened the asylum since the breakout 4 years ago, they've been waiting for permission to redevelop it, it's just been standing here ever since. Of course it's where the Joker would call home (He arrives at the door, and exits the Batmobile)



Is spray painted onto the wall, Batman activates his detective vision and sees 3 hostiles in the main entrance hall, all armed with machine guns, Batman approaches the door and finds it locked, there is a megaphone above him

Joker: So glad you got my message. But let's not make things too easy. I need time to look my best. Find another way inside

Batman: Oracle

Oracle: I've got Nightwing keeping an eye on the city. Tim and Damian are out of town, working a case with the rest of their team.

Batman: Tell Dick to do whatever he has to; we've not got the luxury of holding back. I'll be in touch (he notices a grate, fires a rope at it and pulls off the cover)

Oracle: The Joker's just sent a message to Gotham, I'll patch you in

Joker: Ladies and Gentlemen. I now am the legal owner of Arkham Asylum, since the previous owner had the unfortunate accident (he chuckles) anyway. I don't want to see any more men in capes, no Robins, no Supermen, and definitely no Green Lanterns, or else (he laughs maniacally)

Oracle: What do you think he means by or else?

Batman: Not sure, but I doubt it'll be long before I find out

<Batman>: Arkham's still an old design, I can fit through this shaft (he grapples into the ventilation shaft and shifts through it) something's not right (he looks carefully at the armed assailants) those are old Arkham guards, both wearing some kind of collars, possibly explosive

Joker: Don't lose your heads, stop the bat! (He chuckles, Batman removes the grate, and drops it, this gets the armed men's attention and they all rush over to it, quickly examining the area above for the source of the noise) let's play a

game, first one to spot the bat, gets to keep their head. (Batman grapples up to a gargoyle on the other side of the room, evading the sight of the Arkham staff. He prepares some remote jammers then drops down silently and sneaks around behind them, putting the remote jammers onto their collars, he grapples back up to a nearby gargoyle and prepares three batarangs, he watches the three of them, carefully aiming his shot and throws his 3 batarangs at once, each of them hits the trigger of the weapon of one of the Arkham guards) ooo, that was a mistake Bats, I guess they all have to go boom now (he laughs as he presses the trigger but nothing happens) what have you done Batman?

Oracle: I've shut down the collars, you're free to proceed

Batman: Good work, Oracle (he glides down in front of them) you can relax, you're safe for now (he removes their collars)

Guard 1: Thank you Batman

Batman: What happened?

Guard 1: The day out of the breakout, we got word they were reopening Arkham, old security staff were called back, we all thought we were getting our old jobs back, but we found him waiting for us.

Batman: How many more?

Guard 2: There were 70 of us. The Joker's already killed 5 of them, just for laughs.

Batman: I'll save everyone I can. Go, get your families and get out of Gotham for a few weeks.

Joker: Boo! This is getting boring, let's add a little Titan into the mix (2 more security guards burst into the room, both under Titan enhancement, Batman looks up at them, they charge at Batman)

Batman: Go! (The rescued guards run away as Batman jumps onto the Titan soldiers' backs, he launches himself off them and detonates explosives he planted on them, this makes them stumble but not fall, Batman throws gas pellets at them, the knock out gas makes them fall unconscious, Batman quickly runs back to them)

Joker: Go on Batman, I'll give you 10 seconds to get off their collars before I blow them up (Batman quickly works on disarming the collars but the Joker blows them both up before Batman could finish, Batman is knocked backwards, and blood is sprayed on his cape) did I say 10 seconds? Guess my watch is a tad fast (he laughs as the door to the next room opens)

<Batman>: He'll pay for that! (He examines the room ahead) no hostiles in the next room, what is the Joker planning next? (He walks through the door into the next room)

Oracle: I just got a visit from Detective Bullock. Bruce, dad's missing

Batman: Do the police have any leads?

Oracle: No, but Nightwing found a series of messages on his answering machine, all from a guy calling himself Mr Jack White

Batman: (Scowls) one of the Joker's oldest aliases. What were the messages?

Oracle: Sounded like loan shark warning, telling dad to pay up or he will send the boys around, which I guess he sort of did

Batman: And they've been coming since the breakout?

Oracle: Yes, pretty much

Batman: Is Nightwing available?

Oracle: A fire broke out in the bowery, he suspects Firefly is up to his old tricks

Batman: Tell him not to break off from that. If the Joker has your father, I'll find him

Oracle.

Oracle: I know you will (Batman walks into the room, a reception room; the receptionist turns around in her chair)

Receptionist: Hi, I'm here to help (the receptionist is a robot, her eyes glow red, and he begins attacking, Batman evades the robot's attacks)

Joker: Like her Batman? She's like the replacement for Harley but far less irritating. Oh and her armour's immune to your toys. Don't worry, it'll be over soon, I just need a little more time (Batman is backed up against the wall, he ducks to avoid the punch, the receptionist bot dents the wall with her punch)

<Batman>: (Scans the robot) no notable weaknesses, I'll have to get her outside (he keeps dodging her attacks, whilst typing into his gauntlet computer, he runs out of the building, with the receptionist bot following him, Batman stands waiting for her. She charges at him, not noticing the Batmobile speeding towards them from behind Batman, Batman jumps as the Batmobile approaches, but the receptionist bot is hit by the Batmobile and torn into two pieces)

Receptionist: Hi, I'm here too... (Her eyes stop glowing)

Joker: (On loudspeakers) well, that was easier than expected, but I'm not quite ready yet (Batman is surrounded by at least a hundred of the Joker's henchmen and collared Arkham staff) quite an impressive showing, eh bats? Just wait, I've invited a couple of old friends who are just dying to see you, but we'll come to that later. For now, don't make too big a mess boys (the henchmen and Arkham staff close in on Batman)

### Scene 3

Intensive treatment, 22:00 EDT

Commissioner Gordon wakes up strapped to a table, the Joker arrives in a Doctor's uniform, stretches his gloves and examines Gordon, looking closely at his eyes and ears

Joker: Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear, this doesn't look good at all. We'll have to operate immediately if we're to fix this.

Gordon: You sick son of a... (Gordon struggles, trying to get out of his restraints, but the Joker gags him before tightening the straps)

Joker: Potty mouth too, we'll have to do something about that. Shall I leave the patient with you, Doctor Zsasz?

Zsasz: He'll be most well looked after (the Joker leaves the room laughing, as Zsasz examines his large collection of knives)

**TO BE CONTINUED**