



JOKER'S ASYLUM

2 of 3 – Personal

Previously

It's a showdown in Arkham. The Joker has taken over the facility and several former Arkham guards are wearing collars that will explode on his command. He also has Commissioner James Gordon strapped to a table in the intensive treatment building with Victor Zsasz, can Batman rescue him in time?

Scene 1

Outside Arkham Asylum, 8th October 22:03 EDT

Batman is surrounded by the Joker's henchmen and several collared Arkham guards, several of the henchmen inject themselves with titan and grow to muscular freaks. Batman drops several smoke grenades, creating a smoke screen, Batman uses his detective vision to identify potential targets and take them down.

<Batman>: Joker may have thought he had me pegged but I have one edge: I have the Batmobile (Batman presses a button on his gauntlet computer and a cannon comes out of the Batmobile) just a disperser: non-lethal but it'll hurt (he punches a guy charging at him from the right, the smoke begins to clear, two titan henchmen charge at him, the disperser fires two shots which knock them both out) I don't like it, but I'm low on options and it'll disable those collars

Oracle: Have you found Dad?

Batman: Not yet, Oracle.

Oracle: Hurry! If the Joker has him, he probably doesn't have long. (Batman grapples up to the roof of the building, leaving the Batmobile to stall)

Batman: Can you trace the signal the Joker uses on the collars?
Oracle: I already have, it leads to the Intensive Treatment Building.
Batman: I'm heading there now (he jumps off the building, and opens his cape to glide away from the scene)

Scene 2

Intensive Treatment, Arkham Asylum, 22:35 EDT

Zsasz selects one of his larger knives from his collection

Zsasz: Now that I have the right tool, it's time for us to begin your... (He turns around and sees Gordon is free of his restraints) no, no! He must be here, I need to make the mark; I must make the mark (he searches frantically for Gordon) where are you? (Gordon is behind him and hits Zsasz on the back of the head with a chair)

Gordon: You thought this was the first time I've been strapped to a chair? Think again. (Zsasz begins to recover)

Zsasz: Doesn't matter, you're not leaving the building alive (he gets up but Gordon is gone again) I will find you

Batman lands outside the building, lightning strikes

Oracle: I'm having trouble keeping in contact, the storm is...

Batman: Understood, I'll try and keep in touch (he examines the medical centre)

<Batman>: It's a deep building, but I can see 5 armed guards in there, and they're not guarding Gordon; he must be deep within the place. It'll be suicide to enter through the door (he grapples up to the roof and enters the building through a hatch in the roof, continuing to scan the room) no collars, that makes this easy (he drops from the hatch onto a gargoyle, he sees the hostiles on 2 levels, the first a square shaped balcony looking over the bottom floor.

Joker: (On loudspeaker) I don't mean to worry you, but I think Batman may well be on his way, bonus points if you can kill him for me (he chuckles)

Guard 1: Oh great, Batman's on the way

Guard 2: Well, duh, this whole scheme's supposed to be a trap for him

Guard 1: Then what are we doing?

Guard 2: Just shut up and do as you're told, Joker don't like questions

Guard 1: Yeah, but I'd rather the Bat didn't break my ribs for this pay-check

Guard 2: Man up, you've gotta learn to take one for the team, just be happy if it isn't a bullet. (Batman grabs one of the guards and strings him up against a gargoyle)

Guard 3: Help, cut me down! (The remaining guards rush over)

Guard 5: OK, Batman must be moving above us, take out the rest of those gargoyles! (The guards go about shooting the gargoyles until they crumble, Batman is hiding in a floor grate, one of the guards moves past him, Batman comes out of the grate and knocks him out)

Joker: Ooo, that sounded painful, I hope it was

Guard 1: You've got to be kidding, he can come from under us too, who the hell is this guy?

Guard 2: Shut up and cover my back

Guard 5: Get a room you two, and keep looking, he's gotta be around here somewhere (Batman is clinging to the ledge of the first level, as the lead guard (Guard 5) passes by he grabs the guard's leg and pulls him over the ledge, he lands on the ground, unconscious)

Joker: Ooh, he'll be feeling that tomorrow. You might want to kill the Batman or you'll be feeling it too

Guard 2: Guess that makes me the lead guard (he is wrapped up in a bolas and knocked out with a batarang)

Guard 1: Drops his gun! Don't hurt me, I surrender, I surrender (Batman grabs him and lifts him by the neck)

Batman: Where is he?

Guard 1: The Joker's in the head Doctor's office

Batman: I'm not talking about the Joker, where is Gordon

Guard 1: Gordon's here? Please, I know nothing

Batman: If you're lying to me

Guard 1: I swear I'm not, please, I just needed the money (Batman knocks the guard out)

<Batman>: He didn't know anything, guess I'll have to keep looking (he walks through the lobby and passes through the door, he finds it locked) Most of Arkham's locks are electronic, shouldn't be difficult to hack, but I'll need the access codes (lightning strikes again, Batman turns on his com-link)

Batman: Oracle, I need the access codes for the Arkham Medical Centre

Oracle: Sorry (static) didn't (static)

Batman: The codes, Oracle, I need them now

Oracle: I'm gonna... (Static)

<Batman>: Dammit, guess I'll have to take the less subtle approach (he plants an explosive on the door) I suspect these doors are reinforced against most minor blasts (he detonates the bomb, and the doors are blown open) that wasn't a minor blast (he runs into the next room)

Gordon sneaks around the intensive treatment building

Zsasz: Where are you little piggy?

<Gordon>: I'm no Batman, I couldn't take him on hand-to-hand and the Joker took my weapon but since the incident in Arkham years ago the police have had access to Arkham's specs. They keep weapons caches everywhere to deal with potentially violent inmates, just need to find one (he finds Zsasz in front of him, and falls backwards)

Zsasz: There you are little piggy (Gordon notices a tool tray on the table next to him) I was beginning to think I couldn't make that mark (he tries to stab Gordon but Gordon grabs the tray and uses it to shield himself before hitting Zsasz in the face with it and running away) keep running, you can't escape me forever. I will make feel the sensation of my blade carving the mark (Gordon finds himself right above one of the weapons caches)

Batman rushes through into a room with two guards, he quickly knocks out one with a batarangs but pins the other to the wall

Batman: Where is Gordon?

Guard 6: I don't know! Joker didn't tell us anything about grabbing the Commissioner. But...

Batman: But what? Talk!

Guard 6: He said something about something going on in intensive treatment, a special patient he said, Zsasz is probably cutting him up

Batman: Zsasz (he sees the intensive treatment building is in a room on his left, the quickly punches the guard unconscious, he arrives at the door but it is locked, lightning strikes again, Batman opens coms) Oracle, your father is behind a locked door and I need those codes to access it.

Oracle: (Static) my father (static)

<Batman>: This communication blackout maybe Gordon's death. Not if I can help it (he begins to manually override the door) I may not know the codes, but I have to try (he begins typing in a dozen codes for the door)

Oracle: (Static) codes, transmitting (static) (Batman quickly receives the codes for the medical centre)

Batman: Good work, Oracle (he begins typing the codes into the lock and eventually manages to override the door, it opens revealing that Gordon has the gun from the weapons cache, but Zsasz is bearing down on him)

Gordon: Stay back, I don't want to use this, but I will.

Zsasz: Your mark will be extra deep (he tries to attack, Gordon shoots Zsasz, knocking him backwards and out, Gordon goes to Zsasz and checks his pulse)

Gordon: He'll live

Batman: Good, are you alright?

Gordon: As much as a guy my age can be when he's kidnapped. I swear I'm getting too old for this

Batman: Did the Joker say where he was going?

Gordon: Not that I know of, but I thought I heard something about... (He is stabbed in the back by a recovered Zsasz, he falls to the ground, Batman checks and discovers that he's dead, as Zsasz carves a mark in his arm using the same knife, Batman looks up as Zsasz angrily)

Zsasz: I had to make the mark, it feels so good. And I'm this close to making another one (he attacks Batman)

TO BE CONCLUDED