



JOKER'S ASYLUM

3 of 3 – The Final Joke

Previously

Commissioner Gordon is dead! Captured by the Joker and in the Arkham intensive treatment room in the custody of Zsasz, Gordon did all he could to defend himself but just as Batman arrived to help, Zsasz stabbed him through the chest, now Zsasz has Batman in his sights, will Batman survive this night?

Scene 1

Intensive treatment, Arkham Medical Centre, 9th October 01:00 EDT

- Zsasz: Worry not for him, Batman, you'll be joining him soon (he tries to slash Batman but Batman grabs his wrist, Batman breaks Zsasz's wrist and punches him to the ground, Zsasz gets up, grabbing the knife with his other hand, but Batman soon breaks that wrist too)
- Batman: Where's the Joker?!
- Zsasz: No, it can't be over, I haven't made the mark (Batman grabs the knife)
- Batman: I'm not asking twice (He stabs Zsasz through the arm)
- Zsasz: No, you'll spoil them (Batman removes the knife)
- Batman: Talk!
- Joker: (On audio) hello Batman, I know you can hear me. You can find me in the Arkham Manor; I'll be waiting with your surprise. (Batman releases Zsasz)
- <Batman>: I deliberately stabbed him in a soft spot, I didn't hit any major arteries or muscles (he grabs a heat pack from his belt and presses it against Zsasz, Zsasz screams as the wound is cauterised) should stop him bleeding out (he punches Zsasz unconscious) but it'll leave a mark Zsasz won't be proud of.

Oracle: At last I'm getting through; what happened Bruce?

Batman: I'm sorry Oracle, I couldn't save him

Oracle: No, Dad. (There is a long pause) You have to stop the Joker.

Batman: I'm already on it (he runs out of the building)

<Batman>: Oracle's taking it better than I expected but I suspect she's holding it back, she's strong. Every mark on Zsasz is someone I failed to save but Zsasz's crimes come from an obsession to mark himself while Joker's crimes are sourced from his obsession, me. Every time he's hurt someone close to me he's done it to make a point. He shot Barbara in the spine to try and demonstrate that anyone can be driven mad, he failed. He killed Jason to demonstrate the danger that I was placing the Robins in. In his own twisted logic, he actually thinks he's helping me (he approaches the Manor) Arkham Manor: once home to Amadeus Arkham, the original landowner of the Island the Asylum was built upon. Apparently he went mad and started killing people... It always comes full circle (he kicks down the door, and sees the bodies of the remaining Arkham guards) of course the Joker killed them, every decision he makes ends with death (a green painted arrow leads him into a corridor filled with portraits of people the Joker has killed) what is he trying to say now?

Joker: (Megaphone) you've got to admit, Bats, the artist I commissioned to do this work was amazingly accurate, pity that poison paint I gave him took its toll. (He chuckles)

Batman: I will find you

Joker: I don't doubt it bats; you see, I'm not going anywhere (Batman follows another green arrow into a room filled with people hanging like meat at a butchers, they are all wearing butcher's outfits, 3 of the Joker's henchmen face him, armed with batons) good luck boys, I hear he's severely ticked off (the henchmen attack him, but Batman quickly disarms them off their batons, and bashes two of their heads together knocking them out, the other decides to run, Batman throws a bolas that wraps around his feet and trips him up) ooo, memo to self, send more guys next time. You're getting warmer, Bats (Batman scans the area with his detective vision and finds the Joker in the floor above him, he throws some explosive batarangs at the floor)

<Batman>: Insurance (he runs through the building to the staircase and finally confronts the Joker, who is sitting behind a desk)

Joker: So nice of you to come, Batman. I do hope everything hasn't been too hard tonight (Batman walks towards him, throwing the desk aside and grabs him by the neck)

Batman: Give me one good reason I should let you live

Joker: Don't have one, do it! (He laughs maniacally, Batman throws him to the ground)

Batman: You want it, don't you? That's what all this has been about. All the people you've murdered and dangled before my eyes, you just want me to finish this

Joker: Oh, is that what you believe? (He whistles and the Abramovici twins enter) try not to leave too many marks (Hammer and Sickle both swing their respective weapons at Batman, Batman fires a grappling hook to the ceiling and detonates the explosive batarangs, the floor is brought down along with the Joker and the Abramovici twins, Batman holds onto the rope, and watches as the twins are left dazed from the attack, he drops down onto Hammer's back, and sprays knock out gas in his face, he grabs the Hammer and hits Sickle in the stomach with it, both of them are knocked out, the Joker recovers from the rubble) I think I've hit a raw nerve with you, haven't I? (Batman punches the Joker back into the rubble, the Joker gets back up) this has become a bit of metaphor for us hasn't it? You knock me back into the ground, I get back up stronger. And now there's a conundrum, you can knock me down but what can the police do, they have no-where to hold ordinary criminals, much less someone like me. There's only one way this will end, and you know it (Batman punches the Joker back again)

Batman: (Softly) be quiet. (The Joker recovers, laughing)

Joker: Go on, keep hitting me, you'll soon realise how good it feels to kill. It's all funny in the end.

Batman: No, if there's one way I can hurt you for what you've done is by not giving you what you want (he turns around and begins to walk away)

Joker: You can't just leave. (He gets out a pistol) stop walking away. You won't get to hear my joke. There was a butcher, he backed into a bacon slicer (Batman disarms the Joker using a batarang) he got a little behind on his orders (he laughs, Batman walks out and closes the door behind him) NO! You can't leave. What's the point of a joke without an audience (several men with Red Hoods over their faces arrive on the scene) ooh, fans, it's been a while since I wore that getup but can't deny a fan when I see one

Red Hood 1: Not exactly (they all get out crowbars)

Joker: Uh oh (the leader hits him over the head with his crowbar, the others join in whacking him) BATMAN!! WE BOTH KNOW YOU'D NEVER LET ME COME TO HARM, BATMAN!!! (Batman comes back)

Batman: Let him go

Red Hood: After everyone he's harmed, you'd defend him?

Batman: I'm not defending him, I'm stopping you

Red Hood: Well, you're badly outnumbered (3 members of the Red Hood gang attack Batman, but Batman easily dodges the crowbar strikes from 2 attackers, and punches the one to his left, one of the gang strikes him from the front, Batman falls down but quickly recovers and punches the gang member in the jaw, he grabs the other two by the neck and bashes their heads together, the

Red Hood leader is gone with the Joker, Batman scans the area and finds them on the roof, he grapples to the ceiling of the floor above and swings to the upper levels, running to the rooftop and confronting the Red Hood leader)

Batman: There's no-where to go

Red Hood: You think I'd even be here without an escape plan? (He hears a helicopter approaching, the helicopter drops a ladder but Batman throws a Batarang which cuts the ladder, the Joker recovers and stabs the Red Hood leader in the leg, forcing his release)

Joker: Guess what Batman, this is the way it has to be (he charges at Batman, throwing jabs with his blade, Batman blocks the first attack but the Joker grabs a secret knife and jabs him in the stomach before Batman punches him away)

<Batman>: He killed Jim Gordon; he's left Barbara an orphan. I could end this tonight, but Gordon wouldn't want that. Even when Barbara was left crippled by his hands Gordon wanted him taken in by the books, I won't dishonour his memory tonight (he strikes the Joker 5 times with hard punches) but that doesn't mean this won't hurt (the Red Hood leader begins to recover, he calls to the commander)

Red Hood: Hold your position, I'll find a way up (he charges into the fight, attacking Batman, Batman blocks his attacks, but the Red Hood leader manages to trip Batman down with his left leg)

<Batman>: He's good, his fighting style is familiar (as Red Hood prepares to strike him down, Batman flips back to his feet, the Joker begins to recover but the Red Hood strikes him in the shoulder, shattering his collarbone)

Red Hood: I had to take him down

Batman: Who are you?

Red Hood: That is a question for another time (he reveals that he has stolen a grappling hook from Batman's utility belt, I think you have bigger problems, he grabs the Joker and grapples up to the helicopter, it flies away, Batman is about to begin pursuit, but then looks out and sees the city on fire)

<Batman>: Damn it, this is not over.