

Batman
The Animated Series
"April Fools Day"

by
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ACT ONE

EXT. WAYNE TOWER - DAY

A massive news conference is underway at Wayne Tower, with the MAYOR, COMMISSIONER GORDON, BRUCE WAYNE and his ward DICK GRAYSON. Behind them stands ALFRED. Hordes of reporters jostle for a better position to take photographs. The Mayor proudly stands at the podium talking to the press.

MAYOR

I want to thank all of you for coming here today to get the first look at what I am sure will become one of our city's greatest attractions...

The Mayor raises his arms to the grand object behind him, obscured by a huge tarp. Construction workers pull ropes attached to the sheet, revealing a massive cream pie, designed to slide up and down a rail attached to Wayne Tower.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Behold! New York has it's big apple, tomorrow, on April Fools Day, Gotham City will celebrate our first annual falling pie!

The crowd responds with applause and laughter.

A MALE and FEMALE REPORTER smirks.

MALE REPORTER

This is a really stupid idea.

FEMALE REPORTER

Oh Lighten up.

Bruce Wayne looks embarrassed. Dick Grayson looks on with a big grin.

MAYOR

Gotham City will begin building it's reputation as a fun city, and to help with that I want to introduce you to tomorrow's Master of Ceremonies, Gotham's very own King of Comedy, Benny Brinkman!

A squat looking man, BENNY BRINKMAN, steps up to the podium with the Mayor and begins pulling faces at the crowd, who explode with thunderous applause and laughter.

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BRUCE WAYNE

I can't believe I let you two talk me into this.

DICK GRAYSON

Come on, you know we all need to have a good time now and again!

ALFRED

Agreed, and no one more than the two of you.

Bruce Wayne shrugs at the suggestion

BRUCE WAYNE

You may have a point, but why do we have to build a giant cream pie!

DICK GRAYSON

What's wrong with a pie? Pie throwing is a staple of comedy, going back a century!

ALFRED

In this case I must agree with Master Bruce. I find the pie a tad low brow.

BRUCE WAYNE

And why did they have to get Benny Brinkman?

DICK GRAYSON

What's wrong with Benny?

Brinkman bounces around the Mayor pretending to be a monkey.

BRUCE WAYNE

I don't think he's funny.

DICK GRAYSON

How can you say that? The man's a comic genius!

ALFRED

(Coughs)

I beg to differ.

DICK GRAYSON

I thought you were on my side?

ALFRED

I am, but a bad laugh is better than no laugh at all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRUCE WAYNE

They should have picked Fred Lifts
instead.

DICK GRAYSON

Booooooriiiiinnng!!

INT. MILE HIGH TOY FACTORY

A television screen displays the opening ceremony, focusing on Benny Brinkman.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Well there you have it. Tomorrow
night the Mayor will be dropping a pie
on Gotham City, in it's first annual
April Fools day event. Outrageous?
Maybe, though I suspect the crowds
will be lining up to see Gotham City's
own King of Comedy, Benny Brinkman
instead!

Suddenly a large boxing glove shatters the screen. The
boxing glove, attached to a long retractable arm pulls back.

The boxing glove retracts into the gun the JOKER holds. The
villain sits fuming in his inflatable rubber chair.

JOKER

King of Comedy?! That's
outrageous! Everyone knows that
the Joker is Gotham's one and only
funny-man!

Surrounding the Joker are several of his henchmen, dressed in
silly animal costumes, BUNNY, WALRUS, FISH, and COW. They sit
clustered in a starkly lit corner of an abandoned toy factory.

BUNNY

Boy, you said it boss.

JOKER

It should be me up there! Not that
rubber faced buffoon!

The Joker pulls a cream pie out of his jacket, holding it aloft,
like a prized gem.

JOKER (CONT'D)

He wouldn't know what's funny if one
blew up in his face!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Joker throws the pie into the remains of the TV set, it EXPLODES, vaporizing what is left of it.

Spinning around, the Joker paces away, silhouetted by the fire behind him. Bunny and Walrus sit looking nervous, while Fish and Cow are confused.

WALRUS

I know how you feel boss! But what can we do about it?

The Joker shoots over to Walrus, menacing the seated man.

JOKER

What can we do about it! What can we do about it!! Why I'm the Joker! The mere mention of my name sends chills through the funny bone!

The Joker twirls and with a grand wave of his arms, he gets an idea.

JOKER (CONT'D)

What can we do about it?! April Fools Day is my day, and I'm not about to let old rubber faced Benny steal my thunder!

With a twinkle in his eye, the Joker rubs his hands together.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Get the gang together fellas! We're going to give Gotham City an April Fools day it will never forget!

The sound of Joker's LAUGHS echo throughout the desolate, grey abandoned toy factory.

EXT. HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

The darkness of the hallway is broken by the elevator doors, which cast a thin beam of light along the floor and walls. A bellow of laughs break the silence. Benny Brinkman steps out of the elevator like a goofy robot.

BENNY BRINKMAN (IMITATING A ROBOT)

...and then I said to the monkey, "If you're my doctor, then who's that climbing my tree?"

Howls of laughter erupt from the elevator. Benny drops the robot shtick and he waves to his fans. When the doors close, Benny slumps heavily, and heads towards his room.

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BENNY BRINKMAN (CONT'D)
I need to get some new material.

He clumsily opens his door and steps in.

INT. BENNY BRINKMAN'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Benny shuts the door, relieved to be back.

BENNY BRINKMAN
But first I need to get some sleep.

JOKER (O.S.)
Boy you said it Benny!
(Laughs)

Benny turns, terrified as a dark shadow creeps up his back, revealing the Joker and his animal clothed henchmen.

JOKER (CONT'D)
You need to get a nice long sleep!
(Laughs)

The Joker takes slow threatening steps toward the much shorter comedian, as Bunny, Walrus, Fish, and Cow step into view behind their leader. Cow's bell JINGLES.

INT. BENNY BRINKMAN'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Commissioner Gordon stands in the middle of the spacious room, surrounded by police and forensic investigators. Behind him, the massive bay window is smashed. Detective HARVEY BULLOCK stands near a mess of broken furniture, talking with a forensic investigator.

COMMISSIONER GORDON
Anything yet?

Detective Bullock walks over the Commissioner gnawing and turning his toothpick with frustration.

DETECTIVE BULLOCK
Well, there was a struggle, but it doesn't look like they hurt him.

COMMISSIONER GORDON
Keep at it. We only have twelve hours before the ceremony and the Mayor still wants to go ahead with it.

Detective Bullock marches away, determined as ever.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DETECTIVE BULLOCK

Don't you worry Commissioner, he won't get far. And we won't need that blue caped rat and his boy wonder to solve it.

BATMAN (O.S.)

April Fools.

Gordon, and Bullock jump in surprise, spinning around to see that Batman and Robin emerge behind the blowing drapes.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

How can you do that in daylight?

BATMAN

Practice.

Bullock walks away, angry to see Batman in the room.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

So what brings you out in the day?

ROBIN

We hear that Gotham's King of Comedy was kidnapped.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

You heard right. They came in through the window, and left the same way.

BATMAN

Any idea of who did it?

COMMISSIONER GORDON

Plenty.

The chief of police leads them to the bedroom and opens the door. They peer into the dark room, while Gordon reaches for the switch. The room lightens up, revealing a large yellow balloon floating over the made bed. As the balloon turns, the face of the Joker appears printed on it.

BATMAN (V.O.)

The Joker!

INT. BATCAVE

Several bats shoot past in the giant expanse of the cave. Batman sits diligently working at the massive bank of computers before him, while the monitors flash images of progressively larger views of the Joker balloon through a microscope. Robin stands peering into a microscope nearby.

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CONTINUED:

ROBIN

I should have known the Joker couldn't sit still on today of all days! What do you suppose he's up to?

BATMAN

I don't know, but he left this balloon for a reason. He must want to lead us somewhere.

Batman leans closer to the monitor.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Give me four hundred percent.

ROBIN

You find something?

BATMAN

Maybe.

Robin increases the magnification, while the monitor shows the fibers of the balloon. Finished, Robin steps over to the Dark Knight.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

I'm getting a partial fingerprint, and rust. It also doesn't look like this balloon is new.

Batman sits up, and turns to Robin.

ROBIN

So it isn't new? Why is that important?

BATMAN

It's probably been sitting in a box for years. Wherever it was stored, it was an old and rusty place.

With a flick of a switch, Batman makes the screens go blank.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Computer, list all warehouses, and supply depots that are old or no longer in use, and where balloons might be stored.

The computer WHIRS as it runs the request. Lines of text shoot past the screens.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ROBIN

Can't be too many places like that.

Before long, a list of seven addresses appear on screen.

BATMAN

Hmmm...

The duo lean closer to study the list.

ROBIN

That looks like the kind of place the Joker would pick.

BATMAN

Right. The Mile High Toy factory.
It's been abandoned for years.

Batman turns to Robin with a proud grin.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Looks like we just found the Joker's
new hideout. Lets's get going!

They rise to leave, but only take a few steps when Alfred appears on one of the monitors.

ALFRED

Master Bruce. I think you had better
see what is on channel 5.

They turn to the Batcomputer.

BATMAN

Computer, channel 5.

Alfred disappears from the screen, and is replaced by the maniacal image of the Joker's face.

JOKER (ON TV)

Greetings citizens of Gotham! It's
your Uncle Joker here!

The mad clown mugs at the camera, complete with GLINT of light flashing off his teeth.

JOKER (ON TV) (CONT'D)

When I heard you were planning an
April Fools Day party and didn't
invite me, I must admit I was hurt!

The Joker overdoes his expression of sadness.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The Batman squints his eyes impatiently.

BATMAN
Get to the point.

JOKER
And then you had the audacity to hire
this...

Stepping away from the camera, the figure of Benny Brinkman is seen hanging like a piñata, but tied and gagged. The poor man is dressed in a Batman costume on his overweight body. The comedian looks frightened but in good health. The room they are in, is dark, and so poorly lit, it is impossible to know where they are.

JOKER (ON TV) (CONT'D)
...this worm! By now I thought you
all knew that I'm Gotham's King of
Comedy! But it looks like you still
need reminding!

The Joker begins walking to the camera, becoming more menacing the closer he gets.

JOKER (ON TV) (CONT'D)
So with my little buddy Benny here,
were going to give Gotham City one
hell of a show!
(Laughs)

The screen goes blank, and Alfred once again appears.

ALFRED
Have you any idea what he's on about?

BATMAN
No, but we better find out soon. If
the Joker wants to disrupt the April
Fools day ceremony, he's off to a good
start.

ROBIN
I thought you were against the idea?

BATMAN
I was, but if the Joker wants to stop
it, then it's more important than ever
that the show must go on!

Robin enthusiastically snaps his fingers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ROBIN
That's the spirit!

BATMAN
Alfred, you'd better get down here and
keep an eye on things.

ALFRED
Yes Master Bruce.

The two heroes leap, sprint, and vault up the long path to the platform where the Batmobile is parked. A swarm of bats shoot past them.

EXT. MILE HIGH TOY FACTORY - DAY

The exterior of the factory looks like a grey, rusting junk yard for toys. Mounds of playthings, and amusement park rides litter the grounds.

Through the maze of orange rust, and grey steel, fleeting glimpses of Batman and Robin can be seen, until they emerge silently behind a pile of toys.

ROBIN
Too bad. I used to go on a lot of
these rides.

Batman ignores Robin's nostalgia and points to the roof, and holds his finger to his lips.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
Yeah, yeah. Let's go.

BATMAN
Be careful in there. This is probably
a trap.

The two leap out of shot.

INT. MILE HIGH TOY FACTORY - DAY

The skylight, already damaged, makes easy access as Batman and Robin drop through, and onto the catwalk high above.

Below are six of the Joker's henchmen, all dressed as monkeys. The quartet are busy packing boxes into the back of a large van.

BOSS MONKEY
Move it guys! The boss said the
Batman'll be here soon!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCARED MONKEY

We're goin' as fast as we can!

SCARED MONKEY rushes up to the van with another arm-load of boxes, panting all the way.

BATMAN (O.S.)

What have you got there?

The henchmen, frozen in fear, look up to see the iconic silhouette of Batman rise from the top of the van.

ROBIN (O.S.)

You didn't answer his question boys.

The men turn to see Robin behind them swinging a set of bolos.

The monkey men panic and scatter in all directions, dropping whatever they carry.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Oh, I don't think so.

Robin throws the bolo with practiced ease, and catches Boss Monkey by the legs, tripping him.

BOSS MONKEY

Ahh!

Batman leaps off the back of the van, landing on Scared Monkey.

SCARED MONKEY

Oooof!

The remaining henchmen scramble up the surrounding piles of toys. The dynamic duo leap after them, but not before the monkey men manage to grab some of the junk they climb over as weapons.

Robin closes in on his two adversaries. SNEERING MONKEY wields a giant banana as a sword and a big stuffed animal as a shield. While BRUTE MONKEY holds aloft a huge inflatable bat, and laughs menacingly.

ROBIN

You're kidding right?

Batman chases COWARD MONKEY and ANGRY MONKEY up the hill of toys, while they throw whatever they can get their hands on at him; rubber balls, and talking teddy bears.

TEDDY BEAR (V.O.)

...will you be my friend?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

As they reach the top of the hill, Batman kicks the legs out from under the monkey men, who promptly fall down the other side, and onto the controller of a conveyor belt, with a GROAN.

The assembly line comes to life, but because of the poor condition of the factory, it fails to work correctly. Mechanical arms reach into giant vats of plush toys, and launch them into the air. The warehouse rumbles and shakes, as if it will collapse.

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT TWO**INT. MILE HIGH TOY FACTORY - DAY**

Robin ducks and dodges the thrusts and parries of the Sneering Monkey banana 'sword' effortlessly.

ROBIN

Okay guys, you might as well give up now! There's no way you're going to hurt me with that stuff.

Suddenly the inflatable bat slams into Robin's face with a loud THWACK! Robin stops moving for a moment, he is not amused.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Annoy, yes. Hurt me? No.

Robin parries the thrust of Sneering Monkey's banana 'sword' several times, and then trips his attacker, who falls, disappearing in a mound of plush toys.

Several dolls and teddy bears begin to rain on them, and as each one lands, they speak.

TEDDY BEAR (V.O.)

Ha, ha, haaa. That was fun!

DOLL (V.O.)

Will you be my Mommy?

Batman stalks down the hill towards Coward Monkey and Angry Monkey who try to slide away on the assembly line conveyor belt. Several toys fall nearby, and a doll lands on Angry.

DOLL (V.O.)

My diaper needs changing!

BATMAN

Where is the Joker?

COWARD MONKEY

We ain't sayin' nothin'.

As the caped crusader nears the line, a large mechanical arm drops down to grab him. Leaping to safety, Batman lands near nearly on top of Coward and Angry.

BATMAN

Where did the Joker take Benny Brinkman?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Batman crouches over the two men, menaced by his dark silhouette. The rumble of the machine grows louder and louder. Behind the Monkey men, lies the approaching mechanical arms of the assembly line.

ANGRY MONKEY
We don't know!

COWARD MONKEY
Shut up!

ANGRY MONKEY
They just left an hour ago. I don't know where they took him!

Robot arms appear overhead. The Monkey's try to jump away, but Batman pins them to the belt as strips of plastic packing bands wrap around them, tying them to the conveyor belt.

COWARD MONKEY
Ow!!!

ANGRY MONKEY
Yow!!!

Robin is still fighting Brute Monkey. The enormous reach of the inflatable bat proves difficult for the boy wonder.

Another teddy bear falls on Robin's head.

TEDDY BEAR (V.O.)
Best friends forever!

Batman appears over the edge of the mound.

BATMAN
Quit fooling around.

ROBIN
You tell him that!

Robin leaps over Brute, who swings wildly. Picking up an inflatable inner-tube, Robin stands just as Brute Monkey turns around. The plastic ring is dropped over the head of Brute with a SQUEAK, blinding him. Robin then disarms the assailant and WHACKS him with his own bat. Brute Monkey sails down the hill, and lays still.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
I'm so glad no one else is here to see this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BATMAN

You shouldn't play so rough with your toys.

ROBIN

I thought you were supposed to be the serious one.

BATMAN

I am. Let's see what's in those boxes.

The two walk down to the fallen boxes and open them. Each box is filled with miniature toy Joker heads.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Hmmm... Joker Bombs. What was he planning to do with these?

ROBIN

I don't know, but we better call the Commissioner.

BATMAN

Agreed.

Batman lifts a tiny radio from his belt to his mouth. Toys continue to rain down, repeating various phrases.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Alfred. Anything happening?

ALFRED (O.S.)

Little so far. The Joker has been on the television again.

ROBIN

He has?

BATMAN

That's interesting? We had thought he was broadcasting from here. But he hasn't been here for some time.

ALFRED (O.S.)

That's odd.

BATMAN

Alfred, see if you can use the Batcomputer to track the signal to it's source.

CUT TO:

INT. BATCAVE

Alfred sits alone. The only light visible is at the large bank of computers in the middle of the giant cavern.

ALFRED

I will try, Master Bruce.

(pause)

You know what I like best about this life of crime-fighting?

BATMAN

What?

ALFRED

The sunshine.

EXT. MILE HIGH TOY FACTORY - DAY

The desolate junk-yard of toys is lit by half a dozen police sirens. Commissioner Gordon is already out, and marching into the warehouse.

INT. MILE HIGH TOY FACTORY - DAY

Batman and Robin stand in amongst the rubble. They are in the middle of examining some large tanks of gas. Behind them, the Commissioner marches towards them through a narrow path through the mountains of old toys. In tow are half a dozen police officers, inspecting their surroundings. Toys still fall unexpectedly, taunting all those who dare enter.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

What have you got?

BATMAN

Not much. Six of the Joker's goons, and twelve cases of bombs.

TEDDY BEAR (V.O.)

Let's play ball!

COMMISSIONER GORDON

And the Joker?

ROBIN

Gone. This was his hideout at some point, but not anymore.

Another doll falls near Gordon.

DOLL (V.O.)

You have such pretty hair!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Annoyed, Gordon turns to one of his men.

COMMISSIONER GORDON
See if you can turn that off?

ROBIN
You can't. Believe me we tried!

Gordon notices Batman hunched over the metal tanks, inspecting the valves.

COMMISSIONER GORDON
Anything important?

BATMAN
I don't know. They're empty, and I don't know what was in them. It may be nothing.

Batman stands, and looks about as if the answer to his questions were to be found amongst the stacks of toys.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
You know how much the Joker likes his balloons.

COMMISSIONER GORDON
Yeah, poison ones last I checked. This is getting out of hand. I'm assigning some more men to Wayne Tower. The Joker isn't going to ruin the city's celebration on my watch.

Gordon turns and barks orders to the growing army of police.

COMMISSIONER GORDON (CONT'D)
Okay, seal this place off, I want to know what the Joker's been doing here! Get to it people, we only have five hours until show time.

Robin steps closer to Batman.

ROBIN
What now? The trails' gone cold, and we're almost out of time.

BATMAN
For once, I'm not sure.
(pause)
Let's go!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

With a mighty wave of capes, the Gotham knights leap up and over the stacks of toys, and swing up the catwalk, to escape the way they came.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Keep in touch!

Commissioner Gordon turns around at the sound of Batman's voice, startled by the fact that he didn't hear them leave.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

You to!

EXT. MILE HIGH TOY FACTORY - DAY

The Batmobile pulls away from the warehouse furiously, sending a cloud of dust through the frame.

INT. BATMOBILE

Batman revs the engine roughly out of frustration. A red light BEEPS on the dashboard, prompting Robin to flick a switch, and Alfred's face appears on the monitor.

BATMAN

Alfred! What have you got?

ALFRED

I think I have an some insight regarding these Joker broadcasts.

ROBIN

And?

ALFRED

The signal is constantly moving,

BATMAN

He's in a vehicle! This could be our break!

ROBIN

How do you figure that?

BATMAN

Alfred, if you keep tracking the signal when it gets repeated, how large an area can you pinpoint it to?

ALFRED

If we're lucky, within an area of one mile?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BATMAN

Close enough.

ROBIN

That's a big if! So we're going to drive around and hope we see a car that looks Joker-ish?

BATMAN

If you have any other ideas, now is the time.

EXT. GOTHAM STREET - DAY

The Batmobile charges off down the street, pulling street debris with it.

INT. JOKER'S COMMAND CENTER

Benny Brinkman hangs from the ceiling, still dressed as Batman, gagged and looking very tired.

They are in a dark, unrecognizable room. Behind the Joker sits a TV camera and satellite broadcasting equipment. The room is drifting mildly, as if they are in a moving vehicle.

The Joker pulls up a chair next to Benny dressed as a doctor, ready to put on a show for Bunny, Fish, Walrus and Cow.

JOKER

So Batman goes to his doctor and says...

The Joker grabs Benny's head, puppeteering it.

JOKER (AS BATMAN) (CONT'D)

Doc you've gotta help me!

JOKER (CONT'D)

(mock worry)

Why Batman! Whatever is the problem?

The Joker continues to puppeteer Benny's head.

JOKER (AS BATMAN) (CONT'D)

Doc, it's terrible, I have the mumps, measles, chicken pox, the flu, and warts all at the same time!!

The Joker recoils in mock horror.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOKER (CONT'D)
At the same time! Bat's that's
horrible!!

JOKER (AS BATMAN) (CONT'D)
Boy, you said it, doc. With all those
problems, I can't fight crime!!

The Joker draws both hands to his mouth in mock fear.

JOKER (CONT'D)
Egads!!!

JOKER (AS BATMAN) (CONT'D)
So what can I do doc?

The Joker sits back, disinterested.

JOKER (CONT'D)
How should I know.

The Joker lifts Benny's head up in surprise, but he clearly is
not enjoying the show.

JOKER (AS BATMAN) (CONT'D)
You have to give me something. You're
the doctor.

The Joker once again sits back relaxed, eyeing Benny like a
predator.

JOKER (CONT'D)
I don't have to do anything.

JOKER (AS BATMAN) (CONT'D)
But doc, why?

Once again, sitting back, the Joker suddenly jumps up, kicking
the chair away, to menace Benny.

JOKER (CONT'D)
Because I'm not your doctor! I'm the
Joker! Silly!

Joker LAUGHS, and his men HOWL with laughter. Benny swings
uncomfortably, as if he's just heard the worst joke in the
world.

BUNNY
Good one boss!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOKER

You see? That's comedy! You tell a story, suck your audience in, and...

Joker takes out a pair of fluffy earmuffs, and then pulls out his boxing glove gun and shoots it into Benny unsuspecting face.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Bam!!! You hit 'em with the punch-line!

Joker sees that Benny is not finding any of this amusing.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Argh! You wouldn't know a joke if one landed on you, tied to a pink elephant!

Returning the boxing glove gun and earmuffs into a pocket, the Joker leans in close to Benny.

JOKER (CONT'D)

I'm wasting my material on an idiot like you! But don't worry. It'll be over soon! When that pie comes down the side of Wayne Tower, Gotham will get a bigger bang of laughs than they ever suspected!

Joker's LAUGHTER echoes off the walls of the room.

Benny gulps in fear, as sweat forms on his brow.

INT. WAYNE TOWER - DUSK

Commissioner Gordon marches with purpose around the upper lobby, near the top of Wayne Tower. It is a vast space, and brightly lit by the sunset coming through the glass walls. Outside the giant pie can be seen, waiting to make it's journey down the building.

Gordon walks up to Detective Bullock, who gruffly oversees the security of the April Fools Day ceremony.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

Detective Bullock? Any problems.

DETECTIVE BULLOCK

Nothin'. It's been quiet as a nunnery.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COMMISSIONER GORDON

That worries me. The Joker is up to something. He wants this celebration shut down, so keep your eyes open.

DETECTIVE BULLOCK

Hey, you can count on me. I'll keep both eyes open.

Gordon nods, without much confidence.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

Good.

The Commissioner walks to the side of the building, and looks at the huge monstrosity of the pie and the rail that will carry it down.

COMMISSIONER GORDON (CONT'D)

I've got a bad feeling about this.

INT. BATMOBILE - CONTINUOUS

Still immobile, Batman calmly waits, while Robin impatiently taps his fingers on the car door.

The quiet is broken by Alfred on the video phone.

ALFRED

I think I have him. He may be within a mile of 34th and 15th street, heading west.

BATMAN

It's about time!

Batman kicks the car in the guts, and the engine rev's madly.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY

The Batmobile shoots out of an alley, swerving ninety degrees, and continuing down the road at breakneck speed. A cloud of debris and smoke follow in it's wake.

INT. BATMOBILE

Batman drives frantically, determined to catch the Joker. Alfred's computer information appears on the screen, as Robin navigates.

ROBIN

Looks like he might be on the elevated freeway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BATMAN
Let's find out.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY ONRAMP

The Batmobile surges up the onramp, squeaking past a much slower car. The ground is a total blur as the hypercar increases in speed, weaving between the lightly populated freeway.

INT. BATMOBILE

Batman glances at Robin, who is still at work on the computer.

BATMAN
How close are we?

ROBIN
Getting there, but I'm not sure what it is we expect to find!

BATMAN
Sending a signal that powerful would need a lot of equipment, so we're looking for a truck of some kind.

ROBIN
Got it.

Robin looks out of both windows, and finds nothing but average sedans, or empty streets far below the three story tall freeway.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

Ahead of the charging Batmobile, a large grey truck moves into view.

ROBIN
Wait a minute. What have we here.

INT. BATMOBILE

Batman's eyes narrow as he focuses in on his prey.

BATMAN
This could be it.

ROBIN
Lets find out.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

The ominous shape of the Batmobile comes to a steady pace alongside the truck to look into the cab.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Then suddenly the tinted window slides down, revealing a very frightened truck driver looking out at the slab of black next to him. He smiles and waves as he nearly drops his big gulp drink.

INT. BATMOBILE

Batman and Robin turn to each other.

BATMAN
False alarm.

ROBIN
False alarm.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

As they make their way around a bend in the freeway, they see a large truck in the shape of a hot dog. The vehicle is brightly colored and has a smiling dog cartoon on the sides and front.

INT. BATMOBILE

Batman and Robin sit back and turn to face each other briefly, and then set their sights on the hot dog truck.

BATMAN
Right.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

Zooming down the freeway, the Batmobile steadily closes in on the zany looking vehicle ahead. The few cars out on the road, give the caped crusader a wide berth.

INT. BATMOBILE

Batman drives as determined as ever, and Robin sits, ready to act. The hotdog truck looms closer and closer through the narrow windscreen.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

The shadowy arm of a man is visible in the passenger side mirror, his arm shrugs, and it's owner takes a look, and reveals himself. He is a tough looking man wearing a DUCK costume, he SNARLS and shrinks back in.

The Batmobile slows to match the speed of the truck, then suddenly the passenger door opens. The man dressed as a duck leans out, with a Joker bomb in hand.

INT. BATMOBILE

Batman and Robin steel their resolve and prepare for the attack.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBIN

Punch it!

Batman hits the throttle just as the Duck man throws the bomb.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

The Batmobile narrowly avoids the explosion. The sounds of cars SQUEALING, trying to avoid the blast fill the air.

ROBIN (O.S.)

I think we've found them.

Now far to the right of the truck, the Batmobile accelerates again, to weave across the front of the truck, avoiding another bomb.

The sounds of tires screeching as what sounds like all traffic stopping behind the battle, in order to avoid the carnage.

INT. BATMOBILE

Batman and Robin intently shoulder check as the ridiculously monstrous form of the hot dog truck looms behind them. The image is made worse by the grinning face painted on the front of the hot dog.

BATMAN

We've gotta end this quick. Someone's going to get hurt!

Through the back window, the Duck man readies another bomb.

ROBIN

Yeah, like us! What do you have in mind?

BATMAN

We take their focus off the road. When I say so, take over the wheel.

Batman swerves to the left as another bomb strikes.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

The explosion of the Joker bomb fills the frame, through which the hot dog truck charges through.

The Batmobile dodges yet another bomb as they quickly settles directly in front of the hot dog truck.

INT. BATMOBILE

Batman drives looking over his shoulder, and when he is satisfied with the distance he is to the truck, he reaches for the door latch.

BATMAN

Get ready, you know what to do.

ROBIN

Gotcha.

Batman whips open the canopy.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

Batman leaps out of the back of the Batmobile, as Robin takes the drivers seat. The Dark Knight sails through the air, and lands on top of the truck.

Surprised, Batman realizes that the surface is more slippery than he suspected, and he begins to slide. At the last minute, Batman jabs his batarang into the truck, stopping him altogether.

The Duck man throws another bomb at the open canopy of the Batmobile. Robin, aware of his peril, closes it shut in the nick of time, causing the bomb to bounce off the roof of the car, and lands on the road behind.

The bomb explodes, puncturing the truck's front right tire. The hot dog wagon bounces and swerves from the jolt, sending Batman into the air, barely hanging on.

Suddenly a hatch opens up on the roof of the truck, revealing a massively build man dressed as a TEDDY BEAR. The man SNARLS as he climbs out onto the moving vehicle. Batman pulls himself up into a crouched fighting position.

TEDDY

Come to Teddy!

The bear man lunges with both arms raised over his head. Batman steps back as Teddy's fists slam into the truck just in front of his feet, denting the metal. Not wasting time, the caped crusader leaps over Teddy, and runs along the length of the truck, towards the front cab.

Teddy looks frustrated, as the Dark Knight's actions are so fast, he doesn't realize where Batman is until he is nearly on top of the truck's cab.

INT. BATMOBILE

Robin continues to dodge bomb blasts as they thunder down the freeway. Each blast lights up the cockpit.

ROBIN
You better hurry up! Sooner or later
they're going to get lucky and hit me!

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

Batman crouches over the truck's cab like a panther about to strike.

BATMAN
Don't you worry.

INT. HOT DOG TRUCK

The duck man reaches into a bag for more bombs, while a diminutive man, barely able to see over the wheel and dressed as a KOALA BEAR, drives the truck.

They are both startled as the silhouette of Batman's head appears upside down through the drivers side window.

BATMAN
Pull over!

DUCK
Ah!!!

KOALA
Yikes!!!

Koala swerves the truck into the railing, trying to crush the Batman.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

The attempt fails as the Gotham Knight pulls himself back on top of the cab, but a shower of sparks explode from the impact, illuminating Teddy sneaking up behind Batman.

Batman persuades the driver to stop again by swinging in, feet first.

INT. HOT DOG TRUCK

Batman lands on Koala with a SQUEAK.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Duck reels back to punch Batman, who merely shoves the goon out the open door. The Duck SCREAMS as he swings out over the blurring road, hanging onto the door.

Batman tries to put his foot down on the brakes, only to find Koala is stuffed in the foot well, covering the pedals.

This time Batman is surprised as Teddy's fists appear, as they smash through the front windshield. Batman ducks, avoiding the lunging paws.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

Teddy rips out the windscreen and tosses it aside, and just as he lunges for the caped crusader again, Batman swerves into the railing, trying to shake him off.

The Batmobile moves closer, ready to assist if needed.

Duck continues to SCREAM as he hangs onto the door. Koala can be heard GROANING. The truck moves back into the middle of the freeway, but Teddy grabs Batman by the arm in an attempt to pull him out of the truck, resulting in Batman turning hard on the wheel. The hot dog truck turns to the left wildly, hitting the guide rail, and smashing through it.

INT. BATMOBILE

Robin turns as a flash of light illuminates the cabin.

ROBIN

Oh no!

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

The hot dog truck turns sideways through the railing before it begins to fall over the edge of the freeway, and down the three story drop. Duck, still hanging on the car door BABBLES incoherently. Teddy clings madly to the roof of the truck, SCREAMING in panic.

The Batmobile slides in a dramatic 180 degrees to aim directly at the truck just before it disappears.

INT. BATMOBILE

Robin grips the targeting controls intently.

ROBIN

My turn to save the day!

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

A grapple cable shoots out of the nose of the Batmobile, and pierces the back of the hot dog truck, just as it falls out of sight.

The truck falls half of the three stories before the cable pulls taught, stopping the fall.

Batman, Duck and Teddy all look relieved. Koala peers up over the dashboard and wipes his sweaty forehead. Their moment of calm is short as they feel a sudden jolt.

Suddenly the weight of the truck pulls the Batmobile towards the gap in the railing.

INT. BATMOBILE

Robin sits up, startled.

ROBIN
Not good!

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

The Batmobile slides dangerously close to falling over the edge, before another cable shoots out of the back, hitting the road behind it. The cable pulls tight, and stops both vehicles from falling.

INT. BATMOBILE

Robin frantically reaches for the computer controls.

ROBIN
Batman! Are you okay?

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

Batman sits behind the wheel calmly, while Duck, Bear and Koala are frozen with fear, blinking with disbelief.

BATMAN
Perfect. Couldn't be better.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

The Batmobile finishes pulling the hot dog truck back onto the freeway where Batman and Robin waste no time opening the back door.

BATMAN
Come on out Joker!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The inside of the truck is filled with satellite equipment, but no Joker. A bewildered man dressed as a PARROT lies buried under mounds of cables.

ROBIN
Where is he?

Batman looks over the equipment angrily.

BATMAN
I don't understand! He should be here.

Batman's communicator beeps, and he answers it.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
Yes?

COMMISSIONER GORDON (O.S.)
Gordon here. Have you found him?
We've hit a dead end, and we're running out of time!

BATMAN
Nothing here either. We found a truck, but it's only sending Joker's signal to the TV stations. He isn't broadcasting from it. Did you find any clues at the toy factory?

INT. WAYNE TOWER

Commissioner Gordon stands amid the police command center.

COMMISSIONER GORDON
Nothing, even those tanks you were so interested in only turned out to be normal, every day helium.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY FREEWAY

Batman and Robin continue to study the wreckage inside the truck, hoping to find a clue.

BATMAN
Helium? Wait...

The dynamic duo, as if they have the same mind, focus their interest on the satellite dish.

ROBIN
That receiver dish is aimed at the sky!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BATMAN
Helium.

ROBIN
A balloon!

BATMAN
A balloon!

The sun falls below the horizon, and the veil of night covers the caped crusaders as if an ominous threat suddenly appeared overhead.

They look up and see a blimp flying overhead, in the shape of a clown.

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT THREE

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

The stark spires of Gotham's downtown are penetrated by the deranged shape of Joker's clown blimp fleeting among the buildings. The dirigible carries a sizable cabin that sports powerful jet engines.

INT. JOKER'S COMMAND CENTER - SAME

Joker stands LAUGHING like a maniac overlooking Gotham through the massive windscreen of the blimp. The dirigible is being driven by a man in a PIG costume.

JOKER

Almost show time! Keep this thing moving, I want to be at Wayne Tower right away!

PIG

Yes boss, right away boss.

The Joker takes a deep breath, as if he is smelling the first spring breeze.

JOKER

Ah! I suppose it's time to go get our special guest!
(Laughs)

PIG

You said it boss.

Opening the door behind him, the Joker reveals the small cabin where Benny Brinkman is being held. The poor man is still wearing the ill fitting Batman costume, and his expression is one of extreme embarrassment.

JOKER

Benny!!!! It's almost time for the big show! You better get ready!

Benny looks at the Joker perplexed. Before he knows what's happening, the Joker takes a large pair of scissors out of his pocket, and cuts the rope suspending Benny. The comedian falls to the ground like a sack of potatoes. In the fall, Benny's gag comes out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BENNY BRINKMAN

What are you talking about? I thought you wanted me out of the April Fools ceremony?

The Joker gasps.

JOKER

What?! Heavens no!! Why you're the man of the hour! The King of Comedy! Gotham says so!

Benny shrinks back a bit, as the Joker leans in menacingly.

JOKER (CONT'D)

In fact, when that pie falls, that's when you go on! The only thing I'm wondering is, which one will hit the ground first, you or the pie!

Benny's eyes widen in fear, while Joker LAUGHS.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - SAME

The Joker's laugh echoes into the night as the blimp heads off to Wayne Tower.

Just as the airship slips out of view the mighty shape of the Batwing skyrockets out of the clouds. The ship drops lower, to weave among the office towers, reflecting it's silhouette against the glass panels.

INT. JOKER'S COMMAND CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The Joker comes out of the dark cabin and into the cockpit, dragging the trussed Benny with him. The madman is overjoyed at first, but the smile is wiped off his face as he sees the Batwing streak past.

JOKER

NO! He'll ruin everything!

Benny looks relieved.

BENNY BRINKMAN

Oh thank God! I didn't know what was going to finish me first you or your bad jokes.

The Joker drops Benny roughly to the ground.

JOKER

That's not funny!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Joker taps the Pig pilot on the shoulder.

JOKER (CONT'D)
Lose Bat's or we lose you!

EXT. GOTHAM CITY

The Joker blimp turns hard to avoid the Batwing, as a large Joker head pops out of the vehicle. The head turns about like a turret, firing Joker bombs out of it's mouth. The Batwing weaves and darts about dodging the many explosions that light the sky.

INT. BATWING

Batman and Robin work the controls of the flying machine, determined to end this confrontation with the Joker.

BATMAN
I think he's trying to tell us something.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY

The Batwing streaks behind a building to evade the onslaught.

INT. BATWING

Batman settles the controls.

BATMAN
Okay, get ready to jump.

ROBIN
Just say the word, and I'll engage the autopilot.

EXT. WAYNE TOWER

The Joker blimp arrives at Wayne Tower clumsily, nearly bumping into it. The Batwing is nearly on top of them.

Far below the police and riot troops populate the ground, ready for whatever menace the Joker plans. Everyone focuses on the giant clown head, that seems ready to eat the giant pie.

INT. JOKER'S COMMAND CENTER

The Joker waves his men together. In all there are eight of them, Bunny, Walrus, Fish, Cow, Parrot, Pig, SHEEP, and MOOSE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOKER

I know you've all become attached to this place, but it's time for us all to move!

The Joker opens the door and casts off a rope, then he motions his men to slide down.

JOKER (CONT'D)

I know, I know. We'll miss her, but what can we do, we've lost the farm!

Joker's men quickly slide one by one down the rope, until he is the last one left, still holding onto Benny's prostrate form.

EXT. WAYNE TOWER

Joker's men finish sliding down the rope to assemble on the roof. The Batwing comes to a stop next to the Joker blimp, and the canopy opens.

INT. JOKER'S COMMAND CENTER

Batman and Robin leap through the window, and into the cockpit of Joker's blimp. The Joker takes a detonator out of his pocket, and begins to slide out the door with Benny.

JOKER

You're too late Bats! You can't win this time!

BENNY BRINKMAN

Help me!

Joker presses the button on his detonator.

Batman and Robin look surprised.

ROBIN

Oh no.

EXT. WAYNE TOWER

The Joker slides halfway down the rope with Benny when the blimp explodes. Batman and Robin leap from the fiery explosion and onto the Batwing in the nick of time.

The Joker comes to a landing next to his men, and he pushes Benny into their care.

JOKER

Right, lets get the show on the road!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Benny is pushed to the edge of the roof next to the Joker. The two stand side by side in the spotlights. Joker basks in the limelight, while Benny is barely standing as he looks at the massive drop below.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Citizens of Gotham! I welcome you all to celebrate my favorite day of the year!

Suddenly, the Batwing hovers down behind the Joker. The canopy opens and Batman and Robin stand, ready for a fight.

BATMAN

Times up Joker. Let him go.

The Joker turns around disappointed at the interruption.

JOKER

Aw!! But I didn't get to finish my monologue!!
(pouts)
Hmmm...

The Joker pokes Benny, sending him over the edge.

Benny Brinkman SCREAMS.

The dynamic duo crouch, ready to pounce.

BATMAN

You save Benny! The Joker is mine!

Batman leaps out of the Batwing, straight for the Joker. The canopy closes on the Batwing and streaks over the edge of Wayne Tower, plummeting after the frantic form of Benny Brinkman.

Batman gets near the Joker, just as his men pounce on him, bowling him over, in a mass of bodies. Cow's bell JINGLES noisily.

JOKER

My, my! It's a zoo up here!!
(Laughs)

The Joker takes out his boxing glove gun and aims it at the caped crusader, who's arms are pinned behind him by Pig.

The gun fires, but Batman ducks. The gloves smacks Pig in the face, knocking him out cold. Batman stands, throwing the rest of the mob off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BATMAN

Thanks, I needed that.

JOKER

You're welcome, now in exchange--
--will you stand still!

The Batwing flies down the side of Wayne Tower, catching up to Benny.

INT. BATWING

Robin carefully pilots the jet so that Benny is right between the points of the bat ear nose. Just as they near the ground, clamps hidden between the 'ears' close around Benny's waist, then Robin pulls up on the controls.

ROBIN

Gotcha!

EXT. WAYNE TOWER

The Batwing arcs up into the air, taking Benny with it. Spotlights follow the vehicle as it shoots up the side of Wayne Tower.

Sheep and Parrot charge at both sides of Batman, who takes a step back. With both hands, Batman smacks them together, knocking them out, sending up a cloud of feathers. With a flick of his arm, the Dark Knight sends Moose flying in a judo flip, GRUNTING all the way.

Unimpressed by the performance of his men, the Joker lifts up a heavy rope, and a Joker bomb.

JOKER

Well, this isn't any fun!
(to his men)
Say, can ya help a buddy out?

Batman stops to assess the situation. The rope the Joker holds is connected to a stone gargoyle on the edge of the building. Batman then realizes that in the struggle the other end of the rope was tied to his leg.

The Joker throws the bomb into the gargoyle, blasting it over the edge of Wayne Tower.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Ta ta!

Batman is yanked towards the edge of the building. As he slides, Detective Bullock and a team of police storm the roof.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DETECTIVE BULLOCK
Freeze!! Don't anybody move! You're
all under arrest!

As Batman approaches the edge of the roof, he manages to grab hold of the Joker, and pull him along for the ride.

JOKER
What! NO!

The two enemies fall off the building and land on the giant pie.

COMMAND CENTRE

Far below, near the spotlights, Commissioner Gordon stands watching the spectacle above.

COMMISSIONER GORDON
Quick, drop that pie!

The construction worker next to the Commissioner pulls a lever on a control panel, and the pie begins to make it's descent down Wayne Tower.

PIE

The Joker lies face first on the descending pie, with Batman nearly on top of him, removing the rope from his leg.

BATMAN
It's over Joker. You're men are being
rounded up, and you're going nowhere.

JOKER
You're no fun anymore, Bats! You
really know how to ruin a...

The Joker spins around, revealing his boxing glove gun, and aims it at Batman.

JOKER (CONT'D)
...Punchline!

Batman easily parries the glove with his forearm, grabs the articulated arm, and breaks it with both hands.

JOKER (CONT'D)
You broke my toy!

BATMAN
Keep fighting and I'll break something
else.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Batman swings his batarang at the Joker, and the cable whips around him, pinning his arms to his body.

The Joker slumps, depressed.

JOKER

And to think I was going to have a wonderful April Fools day. You know, you're the kind of guy who steals presents from under another man's Christmas tree!

BATMAN

I live to disappoint you.

COMMAND CENTRE

The pie comes to a stop at the base of Wayne Tower, with Batman triumphantly standing next to the Joker, holding his captive's leash.

The Batwing lands nearby, and the canopy opens to reveal Benny Brinkman, still dressed as Batman.

The sight elicits LAUGHS from the crowd. This only enrages the Joker, as Commissioner Gordon and the police take the villain from Batman.

COMMISSIONER GORDON

We'll take it from here. Thanks Batman.

JOKER

NO!

BATMAN

My pleasure.

BENNY BRINKMAN

My secret's out! I am the Batman!

The crowd roars with laughter as Benny Brinkman tries to mimic Batman's legendary athletic prowess by leaping to the ground and up to the podium. He instead falls on his face, evoking another round of laughter.

JOKER

No!! That's not funny! I know funny, and he's not it! Let me go! He's ruining everything!

Batman stands next to the pie, watching Joker being taken away and Benny's performance. Robin appears at his side.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBIN

Looks like you have some competition.

BATMAN

If he's any good, we can take a vacation.

(beat)

Though I must admit, I think Benny is saving the day instead of us.

ROBIN

I thought you didn't like Benny's humour?

BATMAN

It's starting to grow on me. Besides, Alfred's right. A bad joke is better than no joke at all.

The tension fades from all present as the sounds of LAUGHTER fill the night.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - NIGHT

The moon sits confidently between two skyscrapers. Then the Batwing rises into the shot, and passes in front of the moon, forming the Batman symbol. With a WHOOSH, the Batwing flies closer, and disappears.

THE END