

GOTHAM'S LIGHT PART II

By Kofi Poku Jr.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. STACKED DECK - NIGHT

Pool bar. A regular place for Gotham's scumbags. WISEGUYS, CREEPS, and CROOKS play cards and dice games. TWO-FACE and the PENGUIN play pool at a table.

TWO-FACE

It's the Bat. He's got all them gadgets. For all we know, he's got a heart stopping gun.

PENGUIN

Ah. But you're forgetting that his feline friend was one of the first to fall to Gotham's God of Death.

TWO-FACE

Maybe she gave him a reason to get rid of her. Caught her drinking someone else's milk.

PENGUIN

I disagree. As much as I detest our rodent with wings, he does not kill.

TWO-FACE

How about that little Falcone? Everyone's saying he did it.

PENGUIN

Franco died yesterday. Heart attack.

TWO-FACE

Yeah? City's for the taking with all of them Falcones dead.

PENGUIN

Quite.

TWO-FACE

If Falcone bit it, then Mad Hatter. He was always about to snap.

PENGUIN

God of Death got to him as well.

TWO-FACE

Good riddance. Never liked him or his hat.

Two-Face hits the white ball. It goes straight into a pocket.

TWO-FACE (cont'd)

Rats!

PENGUIN

I have a theory of my own on Gotham's cerberus executioner.

THE JOKER leans on the pool table.

JOKER

Harv! Penguin! Still kicking I see.

TWO-FACE

Joker. Thought you were still in Arkham.

JOKER

I let myself out early for good behavior. Mind if I cut in?

PENGUIN

Not now. We're in the middle of my rousing comeback.

TWO-FACE

Not on my watch. Go on with your theory, Penguin.

JOKER

Is Penguin about to regale us with another of his bird stories? If I'd known that, I'd have brought a pillow.

PENGUIN

Ha ha. I was articulating my theory on the identity of Gotham's murderous deity. This person likely uses a poison that causes heart attacks in its victims and is undetectable by traditional means. Who do we know with a specialty for poisons?

POISON IVY (O.S.)

Don't even start with that.

POISON IVY comes to the pool table, turning the heads of nearby crooks. They oogle at her and whistle. She gives them a look that could kill. They shut up.

PENGUIN

Ivy.

TWO-FACE

Thought you'd gone straight.

JOKER

She's been trying for years.

POISON IVY

I've just come to talk to some friends. Nothing wrong about that. But there is something wrong with false accusations, Penguin.

PENGUIN

Now now Ivy. I didn't accuse anyone. I was merely theorizing.

POISON IVY

Keep me out of your theories.

JOKER

We know it's not you. You're too busy playing with your plants to go on a killing spree.

POISON IVY

You know who I think it is?

She points a finger at the Joker.

JOKER

(absolutely shocked)
Me?!

POISON IVY

It fits right in with your sick sense of humor.

JOKER

You insult me. This killer's got no style. Heart attacks? Seriously? That's just plain corny.

PENGUIN

Me thinks the Clown doth protest too much.

JOKER

This Death God cost me money. Marco Falcone was going to give me big bucks to take care of his brother. Everything was going peachy until this busybody stuck his nose in my business. I'd like to get my hands around his throat.

TWO-FACE

You ain't the only one. He's making it hard to find guys willing to pull a job in Gotham.

PENGUIN

If you're teaming up to uncover the God of Death's identity then consider me in as well, fellows.

JOKER

Pamela? Are you getting in on this?

POISON IVY

No thanks.

JOKER

Your loss. Don't expect an invitation to the barbecue when we catch him.

We hear glass shattering. A CRIMINAL clutches his heart and keels over dead. All around the Stacked Deck, crooks start collapsing. The survivors pile out of the building like a stampede.

TWO-FACE

Cowards.

PENGUIN

This God fellow truly is-

Penguin's face scrunches up in pain. He falls over onto the pool table, bouncing the balls in the air.

JOKER

(deadpan)

Three was a crowd anyway. Eh, Harv?

EXT. STACKED DECK - NIGHT

Ambulances and police cars are parked out front. COMMISSIONER GORDON shudders as body after body is pulled out of the Stacked Deck by PARAMEDICS.

He wipes his forehead. BATMAN and ROBIN creep out of the shadows, both looking very solemn.

ROBIN

How many?

GORDON

They pulled twenty so far. There's more inside.

ROBIN

God.

GORDON

This has to be the worst killing spree in Gotham's history.

A paramedic wheels out Penguin's body and covers it with a blanket.

ROBIN

By the time this guy's done, there won't be a criminal left in Gotham.

EXT. DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

LIGHT YAGAMI kneels by a garbage bin. He wears sunglasses and a hoodie. He takes out a piece of notebook paper with names written on it. He burns the paper with a lighter and drops it into the garbage dumpster.

INT. JOKER'S HIDEOUT - MAIN DEN - NIGHT

An old candy manufacturing plant retooled into the Joker's current hideout. Joker and Two-Face walk into the main den. HARLEY QUINN runs out to greet them.

HARLEY

Puddin!

Harley freezes once she sees Two-Face.

HARLEY (cont'd)

Oh. Company.

JOKER

Put on some coffee, Harley. We have a guest.

INT. MAIN DEN - LATER

The Joker and Two-Face sit down at the Joker's work area. Gags, chattering teeth, and scattered papers lay on the desk. Harley brings over a pot of coffee. She pours out a cup for Joker, Two-Face, and herself. Two-Face glares at her.

HARLEY

What are you looking at me like that for?

TWO-FACE

You only poured me one cup.

HARLEY

And?

TWO-FACE

I need two.

HARLEY

What do ya need two cups for?

JOKER

Harley.

Harley sighs. She pushes her cup to Two-Face.

JOKER (cont'd)

I been doing some thinking, Harv. The killer's taking down every crook, felon, scumbag and bed-wetter in Gotham. But he's let us live. Why hasn't he -

Joker does a cut-throat motion.

JOKER (cont'd)

-us yet?

TWO-FACE

Me, I could go any day. Hasn't gotten around to it yet. And you-

HARLEY

What about me?

TWO-FACE

He don't care about the Joker's floozy.

HARLEY

Hey! I might be a deranged lunatic with an erotomaniac fixation but I ain't no floozy.

JOKER

Harley. Be a dear and keep your mouth shut while the grown-ups are talking.

HARLEY

Yessir.

TWO-FACE

I got a connection at Gotham Central. Tells me our God of Death needs a name and a face to kill.

JOKER

Did he now?

TWO-FACE

Yea. Cops think he might be on the force too.

JOKER

Ah. So one of Gordon's cronies has finally lost their marbles. I hope it was something I did.

TWO-FACE

You're immune to the God of Death's voodoo if my man's right. No one knows your real name.

HARLEY

That's right! You've never told anyone that your name is-

JOKER

Don't speak it, you idiot.

HARLEY

Yessir.

TWO-FACE

Course if he's wrong, you could be dead in the morning.

JOKER

Harley, grab one of my "Get Batman" plans. We'll rework it to flush out our new friend.

HARLEY

The one with the laughing hyenas or
the one with the suit of armor made
out of babies?

JOKER

Both.

TWO-FACE

I got a plan.

JOKER

I appreciate your input. I really
do. But we're going to go with one
of mine.

TWO-FACE

My plan's a good one.

JOKER

We're going to do my plan.

HARLEY

How about we-

JOKER

Shut up, Harley!

TWO-FACE

I know a fair way to decide this.

Two-Face pulls out his classic coin.

TWO-FACE (cont'd)

Good heads. Your plan. Bad heads.
My plan.

JOKER

Let me see that coin.

Joker bites it to check the integrity of it, then hands the
coin back to Two-Face. Two-Face flips the coin into the air.
Two-Face catches it. He shows the result to the Joker.

Bad heads. The Joker pouts. Two-Face smiles. It's a
repulsing sight.

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

RYUK flies near Light as he walks home.

LIGHT

We can talk in the house again. I was being overly cautious. The Batman left no recording devices in my room and hasn't been following me at night when I burn the pages. I don't think he ever suspected me.

RYUK

But I did see him.

LIGHT

I was on Dad's computer yesterday. I noticed it running a tick slower than usual. Someone had uploaded a virus onto it. Father is very careful with his PC, as am I. It wasn't an accident. The Batman did it. He was after my father, not me. All because of my critical oversight. The police officer I killed. Only a police officer could have known about his crime. The Batman deduced that much.

RYUK

Then you have no reason to worry.

LIGHT

He's still a threat, but I didn't need to go through that hassle hiding the Death Note in that trap or talking outside. I suppose I gave the Batman too much credit.

INT. LIGHT'S ROOM - DAY

Light opens his backpack and pulls out newspaper clippings about Batman. The pictures on them show snapshots of Batman's various adventures from the animated series.

RYUK

More studying?

LIGHT

Not for a test tonight. If I am going to unmask the Batman and eliminate him, I have to learn everything I can about him. And account for anything. He doesn't suspect me now, but that could change. If there's anyone who could catch me, it's him.

RYUK

He's really something, isn't he?

LIGHT

He's cunning. No matter how strong or smart or crazy his opponents are, he always manages to come out on top. Very resilient too.

RYUK

Light, there's something that may be of interest to you.

LIGHT

What?

RYUK

We both have Death Notes, but I am a better killer than you. You know why?

LIGHT

Ryuk, I couldn't possibly know that. Just tell me.

RYUK

The eyes of a Shinigami can see a person's name floating above their head. By just looking at someone's face, I can know their name and when they'll die. I can see their lifespan too.

LIGHT

Can you see when I-

RYUK

Yes, but I won't tell you. It's against the rules.

LIGHT

But you'll tell me the name of the Batman?

RYUK

No.

LIGHT

Then why go on about this? To brag?

RYUK

You can find out his name for yourself. A person who picks up a Death Note can receive the power of a Shinigami's eyes from the Shinigami that owns that notebook. But there is a price to pay for it. Half your lifespan.

LIGHT

Half my life?

RYUK

Yes. Give me half your life and my power is yours. You'll be able to kill the Batman. All you'll need is a clear picture of him. Even with that mask on his face, you'll be able to see who he really is.

Light sits down in his chair and ponders Ryuk's proposal.

LIGHT

No deal, Ryuk. I am creating a new world. And I plan to live in it as god for a long time. I won't throw half my life away to kill one man.

RYUK

Figured I'd let you know.

LIGHT

You took your sweet time letting me know about this. Anything else I should know about, Shinigami?

RYUK

There is one other thing. When the time comes for you to die, it will fall on me to write your name in my notebook. That is the bond between a Shinigami and the human who owns a Death Note.

Beat.

LIGHT

That day won't be for a long time.
Is that all?

RYUK

For now.

Light lays out the newspapers on his desk.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Bruce carries a bouquet of red flowers with him as he walks up to a gravestone. He stands there. Pensive. We see the gravestone. It reads: "Here Lies Selina Kyle. Friend to All of God's Creatures."

CATWOMAN (V.O.)

Looked nicer in the pictures.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

CATWOMAN goes through a bag filled with rare jewels. She pulls out an African gold statue shaped like a lion.

BATMAN (O.S.)

It looked best when it was still on display.

CATWOMAN

Let me guess. You want me to put it back and then turn myself in.

BATMAN

If you would be so kind.

Catwoman seductively walks up to Batman. She puts her hand to his cheek.

CATWOMAN

How about this? You let me go this one time and I promise not to tell anyone. It'll be a secret between just you and me. I'll make it worth your while.

She leans in to kiss him. Batman slaps handcuffs on her.

BATMAN

Close but no.

CATWOMAN

Can't blame a girl for trying.

INT. LIMO - DAY (DRIVING)

Bruce rides in the back of his limo.

DRIVER(O.S.)

Mr. Wayne, would you mind if I put
on the radio?

BRUCE

Go ahead.

INTERVIEWER (ON RADIO)

-is what I'm saying. The Batman
wasn't getting it done. Heck,
things were worse than ever with
him.

CO-HOST (ON RADIO)

When you're right, you're right. I
don't remember people getting
turned into plants when I was a
kid.

INTERVIEWER (ON RADIO)

Every night half the city blows up
cause of some wackjob. I'm sick of
it.

COHOST (ON RADIO)

I hear that.

INTERVIEWER (ON RADIO)

The God of Death is a blessing. You
heard what he did at the Stacked
Deck? Dropped forty of them.
Criminals gonna learn real quick
that things have changed. He's the
best thing that's ever happened to
Gotham.

COHOST (ON RADIO)

The God of Death's got to spread
the love around. Bludhaven, Star
City, Metropolis, Russia, the
Middle East. The world needs him to
take care of the filth everywhere.

INT. BRUCE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Bruce mindlessly thumbs through a stack of papers. A solemn
expression appears on his face. He glances up from them,
lost in thought.

The door opens. Bruce jolts back to reality. A SECRETARY walks in.

SECRETARY

Mr. Wayne, the income statement reports are ready for you to look over.

She adds to the stack of papers.

BRUCE

I'll be here all night.

SECRETARY

Have fun.

BRUCE

Can you turn on the television?
It'll help pass the time.

She turns on the high definition television mounted on the wall. On the screen, the introduction for Late Night Gotham Live plays. Bruce goes back to his papers.

HARLEY (O.S.)

Hello Gotham!

Bruce looks up at the screen and sees Harley.

BRUCE

Oh no.

HARLEY

It's time for a public service announcement from the jester of genocide, the clown prince of Gotham, the Joker!

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Dick watches a video on the Batcomputer. The video shows a crowd of Japanese children running away from a school. Dick rewinds and watches it again. ALFRED comes up behind Dick.

ALFRED

What's that you're watching, sir?

DICK

The news broadcast of Kurou Otaharada's death. I keep watching, hoping to find something that can help us nail this guy.

(MORE)

DICK (cont'd)

But there's nothing. I'm starting to think he can't be caught.

ALFRED

Of course he can, sir. He's bound to make a mistake. You and Master Bruce will capitalize on it as you always do.

DICK

He hasn't messed up yet. The people we spied on didn't give us anything. I've gone down the line of suspects and no one's jumping out as our killer. And people keep dying.

ALFRED

You're doing the best you can.

DICK

How do you stop a killer who doesn't need to be present to kill his victims?

ALFRED

You've dealt with worse than this before.

DICK

Nothing like this guy. He's on another level.

ALFRED

Do you remember the mysterious disappearances of the homeless in Bludhaven some years ago?

DICK

No. I don't.

ALFRED

You were a bit young then. It was a puzzling affair like this case. The homeless population was turning up dead all over the city. The police had no leads. No evidence other than the bodies. The case went cold for a year until Master Bruce solved it.

DICK

How?

ALFRED

There was one young up and coming detective who discovered all the bodies. Master Bruce believed him to be the one behind it all. There was no hard evidence linking the detective to them. Master Bruce went to a homeless shelter and waited six hours on a rainy cold night. He caught the detective beating some poor devil's head in. The killer went away for life. The answer to the mystery was right in front of the police department's faces. But they looked past it. They couldn't believe one of their own could commit such a terrible crime. Sometimes we have to let go of our preexisting biases to find the truth.

Beat. The phone rings. Dick picks it up.

DICK

What's up?

BRUCE (O.S.)

(filtered)

Are you watching the news?

DICK

No.

INT. BRUCE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

BRUCE

Turn it on now.

INT. LIGHT'S ROOM - NIGHT

Light picks up a newspaper with a headline that reads: "Park Row Tragedy. Shooting of Two in Crime Alley."

SACHIKO (O.S.)

Is this some kind of joke? Light!
Do you see this?

LIGHT

What?

SACHIKO (O.S.)

A clown's on the news!

Light turns on his television. The Joker is on the screen, sitting in Summer Gleeson's seat on the nightly new report.

JOKER

Joker here! Filling in for Summer Gleeson. She's indisposed at the moment.

Someone screams behind the Joker.

JOKER (cont'd)

(to someone offscreen)

Shut her up!

He looks at the camera with a big Joker smile.

JOKER (cont'd)

Tonight's big story is on the stick in the mud killing all the fun in this town. And no, I'm not talking about you, Batman. It's the new boy, Gotham's so called God of Death. He's striking down everyone who so much as thinks about breaking one teeny tiny rule. He wants to scare us all straight. But you don't scare me, god boy. Not one bit. You see a little birdie told me your secret. Yes. You can't kill someone unless you know their real name.

LIGHT

What? How could he have figured that out?

RYUK

He's smarter than he looks.

JOKER

Now some of you might think I'm up here telling fibs. I'm not. Gotham's God of Death if I speak lies, then strike me down where I sit. Kill me. Do it! Do it now!

Beat.

JOKER (cont'd)

You can't kill me. Because you are no god. You're no different, no better than the rest of us. You're just a cold-blooded killer. Like me!

(MORE)

JOKER (cont'd)

Whereas I do it to deliver the punchline to a joke, you do it in some attempt to protect this world. It's adorable, really. There's nothing to save here, you self righteous fool. Everyone is rotten on the inside when you get right down to it. You're crazier than I am if you think there's anything worth saving in this world.

LIGHT

Who the hell does this clown think he's talking to? I'm the god of the new world. I am justice!

JOKER

We're going to be meeting very soon, my divine friend. I'm giving you one hour to come to this news station for a chit-chat. Don't you dare think about standing me up. I got bombs all over town. In banks, schools, hospitals, houses, if people are there, I put a bomb there. No show our meeting and I'll give Gotham an explosive make-over.

EXT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A tall imposing government office building. A statue of Lady Justice stands next to the entrance. The left side of the building EXPLODES.

INT. LIGHT'S ROOM - NIGHT

Light rushes to his window and sees the smoke rising from the explosion.

JOKER

Oops! Got a little excited and fired off one early. Don't you hate when that happens?

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. WAYNE ENTERPRISES - NIGHT

Bruce runs down the stairs of the building. A limo pulls up. The window rolls down. It's Alfred.

ALFRED
I thought you might need a change
of clothes, sir.

He throws Bruce a backpack.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

The limo pulls into a dark alley. Batman jumps out of the back and grapples away.

ALFRED
Godspeed sir.

EXT. GOTHAM - NIGHT

Robin rides on his motorcycle.

ROBIN
Where do you want me?

BATMAN (ON RADIO)
I'm heading to the news station. Do
what you can at the attorney's
office.

Robin revs his motorcycle and speeds away.

INT. LIGHT'S ROOM - NIGHT

Light is on his computer, scouring the internet.

LIGHT
Nothing in the databases I've been
through. Are the police that
incompetent that they can't record
a name? There has to be a record
somewhere. This clown has to die.

EXT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The building is engulfed by fire. FIREFIGHTERS fight back the flames with water. LAWYERS AND SECRETARIES flee from the building, some are covered in soot. Robin drives up. A FIREFIGHTER speaks into a radio.

FIREFIGHTER
Tony! You still in there? Dang it,
Tony. Respond.

ROBIN
Someone's trapped?

FIREFIGHTER
Tony went in to get someone on the
third floor. Haven't heard back
from him.

Robin takes a breathing apparatus off his motorcycle. He sprays himself with a hose and grabs a fire extinguisher.

FIREFIGHTER (cont'd)
You can't go in there!

ROBIN
Someone's got to.

He heads up to the building.

INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Burning inferno.

ROBIN
What did I get myself into?

Robin battles back the flames with the fire extinguisher, creating a path for him to walk.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Okay. Third floor.

He runs to the stairs and takes a step. The stairs crumble under his weight. Robin glances up and sees only flames up above. He takes out his grapple gun and fires!

He zooms up...

...a piece of debris HITS him. His fire extinguisher falls out of his hands and disappears into the flames below.

INT. THIRD FLOOR - NIGHT

Robin lands on the third floor.

ROBIN
Tony! Tony! Anybody!

LAWYER (O.S.)
Over here!

Robin finds TONY and AN OVERWEIGHT LAWYER. Tony is on his back.

TONY
Who's there?

ROBIN
Help.

LAWYER
This is the best they could send
in? Some skinny brat? We're doomed.
We're gonna burn here!

ROBIN
M'am, you need to calm down.
Everything is going to be okay.

The ceiling creaks. A PIECE OF DEBRIS FALLS.

Robin dodges out of the way. The debris smashes through the ground.

LAWYER
Mmm hmm.

Robin dusts himself off.

ROBIN
What's wrong with him?

TONY
Hurt my leg, trying to carry her
out.

ROBIN
Can you move at all?

Tony tries to stand up. As soon as he puts weight on his leg, he collapses back down.

ROBIN (cont'd)
I'm going to have to carry you.
(turns to the lawyer)
Where's the nearest window?

LAWYER
I'm not jumping out a window. No
sir. Can't you think of something
better than that?

ROBIN
I'm working with what I got here,
m'am.

LAWYER
Where's Batman? He'd be able to get
us out of this.

ROBIN
He's not here. I am. If you want to
live, you're going to listen to me.
If you want to stay right here,
then be my guest. Which is it going
to be?

LAWYER
The closest window is in that room.

She points to a room on the other side of the hall. Flames
are blocking their way to the door. Robin takes off his
cape. He holds it like a shield to protect himself from the
fire.

LAWYER (cont'd)
What are you doing?!

ROBIN
Getting our butts out of the frying
pan.

He quickly drops his cape on top of the flames suffocating
them.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Go!

The lawyer runs to the door. Robin picks up Tony in a
fireman's carry and drags him over to the door.

INT. THIRD FLOOR ROOM - NIGHT

They run over to the window. The secretary opens it.

ROBIN
 No fire escape? If we get out of
 this alive, I'm filing a complaint
 with the city.

Robin takes out his grappling gun.

ROBIN (cont'd)
 Hold on to me tight.

The lawyer clings on to Robin.

LAWYER
 You sure that thing's strong enough
 to carry all three of us?

ROBIN
 We're about to find out.

Robin grapples out the window at a nearby building. He,
 Tony, and the lawyer jump out the window.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN sits watching television. Robin, Tony,
 and the lawyer SMASH through her window and land on her
 couch. The woman glances at them, then goes back to her TV.

INT. LIGHT'S ROOM - NIGHT

LIGHT
 Got it!

RYUK
 You found his name?

Light takes out the Death Note.

LIGHT
 An old case file from his early
 days in the Valestra mob had it.

RYUK
 You wrote a very detailed
 description for him.

LIGHT
 The Death Note allows me to control
 people's actions before they die. I
 am going to have him broadcast his
 death to everyone. I want to see
 him smile his last smile.

(MORE)

LIGHT (cont'd)
His death will let everyone know
that there is no one who can escape
the God of Death's justice!

Light writes into the Death Note.

LIGHT (cont'd)
No one! Not even you, Joker. Or
should I call you by your real
name, Jack Napier.

Ryuk looks at the notebook page and laughs. Light sits back
in his chair.

LIGHT (cont'd)
Just a few more seconds.

He looks down at his watch. The seconds tick by. The minute
hand reaches the twelve.

LIGHT (cont'd)
It should have happened by now.

Ryuk laughs.

LIGHT (cont'd)
He should be dead. I wrote his name
down. How can this be?

He looks back at a smiling Ryuk.

LIGHT (cont'd)
It's not his real name. Damn it!

RYUK
Light. Your hour's nearly up.

LIGHT
I know.

RYUK
There is still the eye deal.

Light pauses to consider it.

LIGHT
I can't.

RYUK
Unless you have something else up
your sleeve, you're going to have
to go to that news station. Or take
the eye deal. Or let more people
die. This Joker's got you good.

Light goes back to his computer.

EXT. NEWS STATION ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Batman pries open a vent and jumps in.

INT. PRODUCTION CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Dozens of television monitors are mounted onto a wall. All of them are showing static. Batman drops down into the room. He walks by computer monitors, showing static.

Banging. It's coming from a closet. Batman takes out a batarang and creeps toward it. He opens the closet. REPORTERS are tied up inside.

INT. LIGHT'S ROOM - NIGHT

Light is on his computer.

LIGHT

Arkham Asylum has files that haven't been digitized. They're kept at an old hospital. The Joker's true name should be in there according to this. That's not far from here.

RYUK

What will you do if it's not?

Light puts on a hoodie.

RYUK (cont'd)

Light?

LIGHT

I'm not turning myself into that mad man.

INT. LIGHT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Light rushes down the stairs. SACHIKO stops him.

SACHIKO

Light! Where are you going?

LIGHT

A friend needs help with homework.

SACHIKO

Don't you see what's going on tonight? You could get killed out there.

LIGHT

He lives only a few blocks away. I'll be perfectly fine.

SACHIKO

Can't this wait?

LIGHT

The assignment is due tonight.

SACHIKO

Do it over the phone!

LIGHT

I have to be there.

SACHIKO

I suppose there's nothing I can say to change your mind. Be safe, Light.

LIGHT

Don't worry, mom. I will.

Light smiles at his mother and hurries out the front door.

INT. STUDIO FLOOR - NIGHT

The news set for the nightly news report. Cameras. Lights. But no people around. Batman sneaks onto the set. He moves behind the news desk and finds Summer Gleeson. She lets out muffled screams.

A timed bomb is tied to her. The digital clock on the timer currently reads "0:20". It's counting down. Batman looks at the wires. There's two of them. Black and white. The timer is down to the last ten seconds.

10... 9... 8... 7...

Batman rips out both wires. The timer stops at "0:01". Batman dismantles the bomb completely. Summer sighs. Batman rips the tape off her mouth.

BATMAN

Where is the Joker?

EXT. OLD HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Creaky old hospital that's barely standing. The formerly white paint has aged to a yellow. Hasn't been open in years.

Light parks his car outside of the hospital. He walks up to the fence, there's a hole cut in it. He pauses for a moment. Then checks his watch. He hurries in.

EXT. NEWS STATION - NIGHT

Batman looks at the pieces of the bomb. Robin drives up to him on his motorcycle.

ROBIN
You run into our friend?

BATMAN
The God of Death didn't show.

ROBIN
And the Joker?

BATMAN
Gone.

ROBIN
Great.

BATMAN
This was simple for the Joker. No confetti. No chattering teeth. Not like him.

ROBIN
You don't think there was a hidden message in that broadcast? Like another place for them to meet?

BATMAN
It's the Joker. Anything's possible.

INT. OLD HOSPITAL - NIGHT

The inside has degraded. The paint is falling off the walls. With a flashlight in hand, Light searches the hospital. Light checks every door he passes. He stops at a door with painted lettering on it that reads "CONFIDENTIAL FILES". The paint on the sign is remarkably fresh.

INT. ARCHIVE ROOM - NIGHT

The dusty room is littered with spotless white boxes. Light walks up to the nearest one. It's labeled "Gotham's Super Criminals." He opens it. A cloud of purple gas HITS him in the face. He jumps back, the gas seems to cling to him as if it were alive. The gas overtakes the room. Light barges out.

INT. OLD HOSPITAL - NIGHT

The effects of the gas are hitting Light as he tries to get away. His walk slows. TWO DARK FIGURES advance toward Light. Light He coughs. He uses the wall to help himself move.

His face contorts into a twisted grin. Light's coughs shift to a painful laugh. Light falls over and laughs like a mad man. Two-Face and The Joker catch up to him. The Joker erupts into insane laughter that echoes throughout the hospital.

FADE OUT.

END ACT THREE