

GOTHAM'S LIGHT PART III

By Kofi Poku Jr.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

A frightened BARNEY flees from an unseen force. He stumbles into a garbage can and keeps running. A PAIR OF BOLAS fly out of the darkness and wrap around his legs, tripping him up. BATMAN and ROBIN emerge from the shadows.

BARNEY  
I didn't do nothing!

ROBIN  
We haven't even asked you anything yet, pal.

Robin gets in Barney's face.

ROBIN (cont'd)  
Okay, skeezbag. You can talk to me or you can talk to him. What's it gonna be?

BARNEY  
You got the wrong guy.

ROBIN  
(stepping aside)  
Okay. He's all yours.

Barney shivers in fear. Batman picks him up by his collar.

BATMAN  
Tell me everything about your meeting with the Joker. No games. I know you and Marco Falcone went to see him.

BARNEY  
I wish I could tell ya. I wasn't even there.

BATMAN  
Kenny said otherwise. If you don't want to end up like him, you'll talk.

BARNEY  
What do ya mean by that? What'd ya two do to Kenny?

BATMAN

You'll find out in a few seconds if you don't talk.

BARNEY

Okay! Okay! Me, Kenny, and Falcone met the Joker to set up a deal. Joker drove us to his place in a purple car. Had his girl blindfold us on the way there and back. It was this big factory. After that, we went to get the money and-

ROBIN

Falcone went nuts and dropped dead. We know. Got any clue as to where the Joker's hideout is? Anything?

BARNEY

Can't remember.

BATMAN

I think you're lying.

He drops Barney and reaches for something in his utility belt.

BARNEY

It was a candy factory! I saw a big lollipop on the front of it. That's all I know!

Batman takes out a small knife. Barney cowers and whimpers. Batman frees Barney from the bolas.

BATMAN

Kenny's home safe with his family. Go back to yours.

Barney runs down the alley.

ROBIN

Same story as the other guy. No one knows where the Joker is.

BATMAN

We have to keep pressing. Someone has to know.

Robin checks his watch.

ROBIN

It's getting late.

Robin takes out his grappling gun.

BATMAN

You're leaving? The night's young.

ROBIN

I got a test to study for and homework that's due tomorrow morning. Life of a college student never ends.

He grapples away.

INT. JOKER'S HIDEOUT - ORCHESTRA STAGE - NIGHT

A darkened theater stage. HARLEY QUINN walks out. She pushes a button on a remote control. The sound of manufactured applause reverberates through the theater.

HARLEY

Thank you! Thank you! Now before anyone dies from exhaustion, let's get on with the show.

The lights flash on to reveal THREE GOONS and LIGHT YAGAMI behind her. Light looks like he's been through hell. Hair standing on edge, Bruised and burned skin. He's wrapped up in a strait jacket and metal chains. Harley rolls out a car battery. She snaps the chargers onto Light's metal chains.

LIGHT

You don't have to do this.

She pats Light on the head.

HARLEY

(whispering)

Just tell Mistah J what he wants to know and it all stops.

THE JOKER walks up to a podium, dressed like a music conductor. Applause and cheers erupts out of the speakers. The Joker puts a finger up to his lips. Silence now.

TWO-FACE is the only person in the audience. The Joker taps his podium with a baton. He directs the goons. A cheesy melody comes out of the speakers.

GOON

Do!

GOON #2

Re!

GOON #3  
Mi! So! Fa! La! Ti! Do!

GOON  
Do!

GOON #2  
Re!

GOON #3  
Mi! So! Fa! La! Ti! Do!

GOON  
Do!

GOON #2  
Re!

GOON #3  
Mi! So! Fa!

The Joker jams down on a red button in his podium. A thousand volts of electricity SHOOTS into Light's body. Light screams in agony. His body flails around. The Joker lets go of the button. Light collapses.

GOON #3 (cont'd)  
Ti! Do!

JOKER  
Ready to spill the beans or should  
we take it from the top?

Light coughs and looks at the Joker, determined to not show weakness. The Joker taps his music stand.

JOKER (cont'd)  
Let's take it from the top, boys.

HARLEY  
But puddin, if you keep this up and  
you might kill him.

JOKER  
A few thousand volts of electricity  
never killed anyone. Well not  
anyone who didn't deserve it.

The Joker laughs and jams his finger down the button.

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. PADDED CELL - NIGHT

White padded walls. Chains and cuffs on the floor. The door opens. The Joker drags the barely conscious Light inside.

JOKER

You're a tough one, kid. But there hasn't been an egg yet I haven't been able to crack. I hope you hang in there. I have a few more toys I've been dying to try out.

Joker nonchalantly tosses Light into the wall.

LIGHT

You're wasting your time.

JOKER

You better loosen that tongue of yours or we'll moozy on over to that address on that driver's license of yours. Show everyone inside a good time. Would you like that?

Beat.

JOKER (cont'd)

Didn't think so. You don't need to worry about them. We won't be going there. At least not today. Who knows what tomorrow will bring?

EXT. GOTHAM STATE UNIVERSITY - DAY

Dick walks out of the campus building.

BRUCE (O.S.)

Dick.

Dick stops. Bruce is waiting for him on a bench.

DICK

Bruce!

BRUCE

We need to talk.

A COLLEGE GIRL shrieks.

COLLEGE GIRL (O.S.)  
Is that Bruce Wayne?

BRUCE  
Somewhere more discreet.

INT. DICK'S CAMPUS ROOM - DAY

DICK  
A missing persons report?

BRUCE  
Filed by his father. Light Yagami  
has been missing ever since the  
Joker's broadcast.

DICK  
I figured he was seriously sick. He  
missed the test today in class.

BRUCE  
The killings have stopped since  
Yagami disappeared.

DICK  
Bruce...

BRUCE  
It would all fit. Japanese. His  
father works on the police force.

DICK  
But he's...it can't be him.

BRUCE  
I don't want to believe a college  
kid is behind this either, but it's  
the best lead we've got. We have to  
investigate his disappearance.  
Agreed?

Beat.

DICK  
Agreed.

INT. MAIN DEN - DAY

Two-Face goes through Light's stuff; his wallet, his watch,  
and his driver's license. RYUK watches him.

Joker walks in, wearing a blood-stained cooking apron.

TWO-FACE

This is taking too long.

JOKER

Patience, Harv. Patience. He will break. What's the big rush anyway, huh? Need to get home and dust off your coin collection?

TWO-FACE

The kid can kill anyone. The longer we let him live, the more of a chance he has to do us in.

JOKER

He'd have done it by now if he could. Whatever it is, he's cut off from it here. I can feel it.

TWO-FACE

Cause you know so much.

JOKER

I do actually. You see when you torture someone, you really get to know the inner workings of their mind. The boy's mentally tough, yes. But from the way his eyes move, he knows he's going to have to give up the goods. It's just a matter of when.

TWO-FACE

We should sell him off on the black market. Let the highest bidder do what they want with him. Split the earnings two ways. Get him out of our hair.

JOKER

Who needs money when you can hold a country hostage by threatening to off their president? Once we have learned that boy's power, we'll be unstoppable. No one could stand in our way. Not Commissioner Gordon. Not the Army. Not the President. Not even Batman.

TWO-FACE

We need to bring him out back and put one in his head.

Ryuk disappears into the shadows.

INT. PADDED CELL - DAY

Light struggles in the strait jacket.

RYUK (O.S.)  
Gotta admit it's funny to see you  
tied like this.

Ryuk phases into the room.

LIGHT  
Ryuk.

RYUK  
The clown played you.

Ryuk laughs at Light.

LIGHT  
I still wish I know how he know I  
would be there. There's just no  
way. How?

RYUK  
Must have been one of your critical  
oversights. I overheard them,  
talking. They're thinking about  
killing you.

LIGHT  
They won't so long as I keep quiet.

RYUK  
You remember what I said? When it  
comes time for you to die, it will  
come on me to do it.

LIGHT  
Ryuk. Wait. You don't have to. I  
have a plan.

RYUK  
Your last one got you in here.

LIGHT  
Just you wait and see. I'll escape  
this cell and I will kill that  
clown.

The door of the padded cell opens. Harley in a nurse's outfit walks in with a tray of food. She passes through Ryuk, not noticing him. Ryuk phases out of the room.

HARLEY

I got you some fast food. Mistah J said not to bother, but it was around the corner so here ya go.

Harley kneels down next to Light. She pours gravy and mashed potatoes into a cup. She stirs it with a fork.

HARLEY (cont'd)

Say ah!

Light opens his mouth wide. Harley pours the food into his mouth. Light swallows.

LIGHT

Thank you.

HARLEY

You're a polite kid. Can't believe you're the one behind all of them heart attacks. So what set you off the deep end? Had to be something bad. Did your mom and dad used to fight? Someone cut up your little sister and feed her to some dogs?

LIGHT

Ms. Quinn, I am quite sane.

HARLEY

Yeah. Yeah. I am too.

She winks at him.

LIGHT

Do I look like a killer to you?

HARLEY

Mistah J says you are. That's all I need to know.

LIGHT

Look at me. I don't know anything about killing. Someone as smart as you can see that I could never commit those crimes.

HARLEY

He caught you in that hospital.  
Only the killer would have been  
there. You can't fool me.

LIGHT

I was in a hospital so I killed all  
those people?

HARLEY

Yes.

LIGHT

Does that make sense to you?  
Because I was in one place on one  
night, I killed hundreds of people.  
Kind of a leap of logic, don't you  
think?

HARLEY

Well, kinda.

LIGHT

I was just there on a dare from a  
friend. Rodgers bet me a hundred  
dollars I'd run out screaming out  
of that old place. I'm not a  
killer.

HARLEY

But-

LIGHT

You agree that it doesn't make  
sense.

HARLEY

When you put it that way, yeah it  
doesn't.

LIGHT

Why is he so sure?

HARLEY

I don't know. I asked him to  
explain more but he said "Harley!  
Get out". He don't tell me nothing.

LIGHT

Ms. Quinn, I don't mean to intrude  
but communication is key to a  
healthy relationship. Does he  
always treat you that way?

HARLEY

He thinks I'm stupid or something.  
Like all I do is mess everything  
up. But I'm smart! I have a PhD!  
But does anyone try to keep old  
Harley in on the plans? No!

A burnt hand grabs Harley's arm. Harley shrieks

TWO-FACE

You're supposed to check up on him  
and be done with it. Not lollygag  
around.

Two-Face rips her out of the room and slams the door shut.  
Light glances at the tray and glass cup left behind by  
Harley. He smiles devilishly.

INT. JOKER'S HIDEOUT - DAY

Joker whistles to himself. He slides all of Light's stuff  
off the table. He places surgical tools, a chainsaw, a  
whoopee cushion and an electric drill on the table. He tests  
the electric drill.

TWO-FACE (O.S.)

Joker!

Two-Face drags Harley over to him.

TWO-FACE

I caught her talking with the boy.

JOKER

Harley, is this true?

HARLEY

I was just checking on him like you  
told me to.

TWO-FACE

(enraged)  
Don't lie!

Two-Face tightens his grip around Harley's wrist.

HARLEY

You're hurting me!

JOKER

Easy on the merchandise, Harv. You  
know how hard it is to find good  
help? Let the kid go.

Two-Face releases her.

TWO-FACE

I don't want her going near him again. They're getting too cozy.

JOKER

Okay, Harv.

TWO-FACE

And tomorrow we kill him. No more of this. He's dangerous.

JOKER

Right, Harv. Whatever you want. Harley, you are not to step into that room again.

HARLEY

But-

JOKER

Harley.

HARLEY

Yessir.

JOKER

(putting his arm around  
Two-Face)

And tomorrow we put an end to Gotham's God of Death together. How's that sound?

TWO-FACE

Good.

JOKER

Anything else I can do to make you happy?

TWO-FACE

I'll be happy once he's dead.

He grunts and heads out of sight. Joker's grin turns to a frown once Two-Face is gone.

INT. LIGHT'S ROOM - NIGHT

the window opens. Batman and Robin sneak in. Batman uses a small flashlight to check out the room. Robin looks at Light's bed which is covered with newspaper clippings. Robin goes through them. Batman powers on Light's desktop.

ROBIN  
He's a big fan of yours.

Robin shows Batman a newspaper article with the headline:  
"Batman Foils The Joker's Latest Plan."

ROBIN (cont'd)  
Every newspaper clipping here is  
about you.

BATMAN  
His computer is encrypted.

ROBIN  
How long will it take you to get  
past it?

BATMAN  
Hold on.

Robin looks around Light's desk. He opens a drawer. Nothing  
in it. He heads over to the other side.

BATMAN (cont'd)  
256 bit encryption. I can't do it  
here. Most people wouldn't go this  
far. What is Mr. Yagami hiding?

Robin pulls a plain green notebook out of the drawer.

ROBIN  
A journal.

He flips through it quickly.

ROBIN (cont'd)  
Useless junk about dates he's been  
on.

He drops it back in. It makes strange sound when it lands.

BATMAN  
Pick that up and drop it again.  
Higher.

ROBIN  
Why?

BATMAN  
Just do it.

Robin picks the journal up, drops it again.

BATMAN (cont'd)  
False bottom.

Robin takes out a batarang.

BATMAN (cont'd)  
Don't.

Batman feels around the edges of the drawer.

BATMAN (cont'd)  
There's an energy flowing through  
here.

Batman examines the drawer closely. He looks underneath it  
and shines his flashlight.

BATMAN (cont'd)  
A small hole.

Batman takes a small stick out of his utility belt.  
Carefully, he places it into the hole. The false bottom of  
the drawer is propped up. The Death Note is exposed.

ROBIN  
Another notebook.

BATMAN  
This looks like it was rigged to  
explode if someone tried to force  
it open.

Batman picks up the Death Note.

BATMAN (cont'd)  
The Death Note?

He opens the notebook.

BATMAN (cont'd)  
(reading from it)  
The human whose name is written in  
this note shall die? What is this?

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. MAIN DEN - NIGHT

Two-Face flips a coin. Harley comes sprinting up to him.

HARLEY  
He's escaped!

TWO-FACE  
What?!

HARLEY  
He got out!

TWO-FACE  
You let him escape?!

HARLEY  
Mistah J's got him pinned down in  
one of the rooms!

Two-Face takes out his gun.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Harley runs with Two-Face close behind.

HARLEY  
This way!

Harley leads Two-Face to a door.

HARLEY (cont'd)  
They're all the way in the back.

INT. GAS CHAMBER - NIGHT

Two-Face hurries in, gun raised. No one else is inside.

TWO-FACE  
What the-

The door shuts behind him. We hear a lock click into place.

TWO-FACE (cont'd)  
A double-cross!

JOKER (ON INTERCOM)

It breaks my heart to do this to ya, Harv. Your plan to modify the criminal records and catch the boy was genius. But like most house guests, you just didn't know when it was time for you to leave.

TWO-FACE

You can't do this to me!

He FIRES at the door.

JOKER (ON INTERCOM)

Shoot all you like. That door is reinforced with one hundred percent American steel. Not even a tank could put a scratch in it.

Two-Face runs to the door and pounds on it.

TWO-FACE

Joker! Let me out!

Purple gas flows through vents into the room.

JOKER (ON INTERCOM)

The gas is a slow painful way to go. You might want to take things into your own hands. The choice is up to you. Or not. You could flip on it.

The Joker laughs wildly over the intercom.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Light's desktop is hooked up the Batcomputer. On the screen, we see random green numbers fly by. Robin flips through the Death Note.

ROBIN

That thing is nuts. Completely nuts.

BATMAN

The first name in there is Kurou Otoharada. It will take time to confirm the other victims, but this appears to be the real deal.

ROBIN

Only way to know for sure is to write someone's name down.

BATMAN

I believe it.

ROBIN

Where would he even get a book like that?

BATMAN

A Shinigami gave it to him. It says so in the rules.

The random green numbers stop flying by. The desktop of Light's computer appears on the screen. Sleek. Simple.

BATMAN (cont'd)

Let's see what Mr. Yagami was looking at before he went missing.

A webpage pops up on the screen.

BATMAN (cont'd)

He accessed police crime databases and medical files. He was looking for something.

ROBIN

The Joker's name. He's the one person in Gotham he can't kill.

BATMAN

The Joker's real name isn't written anywhere. His history is a mystery to everyone, maybe even him. Here's the last file he opened. It says that old Arkham personal files are at Kane Medical Center.

ROBIN

Kane Medical Center? Why are they keeping Arkham medical files there?

BATMAN

They don't. Someone modified this to get Yagami out there. It was a trap.

ROBIN

The Joker!

BATMAN

He didn't cover their tracks well.  
The Batcomputer is pinpointing his  
location.

On the screen, a geological map of Gotham pops up. A red dot appears on it.

ROBIN

Came from downtown Gotham in the  
industrial area. Which should check  
out first? The hospital or this?

Batman stands up.

BATMAN

Forget the hospital. The location  
on the map used to be a candy  
factory.

Batman and Robin rush to the Batmobile. They climb in. The Batmobile's engine revs and the car jets off into the night.

INT. PADDED CELL - NIGHT

Light sleeps. The cell door unlocks. Light opens his eyes. Harley comes in and taps him on the shoulder.

LIGHT

Ms. Quinn?

HARLEY

You're still kicking.

Harley pats Light on the head. She gets up to leave.

LIGHT

Ms. Quinn, might I ask you a  
question?

HARLEY

What?

LIGHT

Why is it always you who checks on  
me and not the Joker?

HARLEY

Huh?

LIGHT

It's always you.

HARLEY

He's got his hands full right now.

LIGHT

Does he always leave the dirty work to you?

HARLEY

Yes and that's a-okay with me. I'd do anything for him.

LIGHT

Would he do the same for you?

HARLEY

Duh! Puddin loves me!

LIGHT

He doesn't act like it.

HARLEY

Eh. You don't know anything. What me and Mistah J have is the purest and truest love.

LIGHT

He hits you, doesn't he?

HARLEY

What? How did you-

LIGHT

It's easy to tell.

HARLEY

It's just when I get out of line. Other than that, we're singing lovebirds.

LIGHT

Has he ever told you that he loves you?

HARLEY

He don't need to. He knows I know how much he cares.

LIGHT

People who are in love show care for one another. They hug and kiss. They go out on dates, and they share deep dark secrets with each other. Personal things.

HARLEY

He does all that! He tells me everything. He's told me all kinds of stuff that he'd never tell anyone.

LIGHT

I wish I could believe you.

HARLEY

He does. He's told me about his family. His father. He's never told anyone else that!

LIGHT

I bet he hasn't even told you his real name.

HARLEY

He has! He has!

LIGHT

You don't have to lie.

HARLEY

He has! His real name is-

INT. CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

A security control room with lots of monitors, buttons and levers. The Joker enthusiastically watches Looney Tunes on one of the screens. On another screen, Two-Face is choking to death. On the screen next to it, we see the Batmobile park in front of the hide-out. The Joker does a double-take.

JOKER

Batman?! But how?!

EXT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

The alarm rings into the hallway outside the cell.

JOKER (ON INTERCOM)

Harley! Grab the boys and head to the plant! Brat-boy and Bird-for-brains are moving in.

Harley runs out and throws the door of the cell shut behind her. The door swings and stops right before it can close. Light pushes it open. He walks out into the hallway and rips the straitjacket off.

INT. JOKER'S HIDEOUT - NIGHT

Conveyor belts, pulleys and other advanced machinery stand in this rickety old place. Batman and Robin sneak from structure to structure. They step on a conveyor belt.

ROBIN

I would have loved a place like  
this as a kid.

The conveyor belt starts.

JOKER (ON INTERCOM)

Batman. Batman. Batman. You just  
have to ruin everything.

The machinery moves a giant bowl of liquid above Batman and Robin.

JOKER (ON INTERCOM) (cont'd)

I don't know how you found me. And  
I don't really care. You've saved  
me the trouble of having to hunt  
you down. Here's a little something  
I've cooked up. Little strong for  
the kids, but perfect for bats and  
birds.

The giant bowl turns over.

BATMAN

Watch out!

Batman throws Robin off the conveyor belt. He jumps out of the way himself. The liquid acid burns through the conveyor belt.

ROBIN

On second thought, I would have  
hated this as a kid.

The giant bowl follows them. Batman hurls a batarang and nails an off switch. The machinery shuts off. The Joker groans over the intercom.

JOKER (ON INTERCOM)

Get them!

The three goons barge in. The biggest of the three charges at Batman, head first. Bad idea. Batman uses the man's momentum against him. The goon knocks himself out by running into a metal structure.

Robin spin-kicks a goon. The goon grabs his leg before it can hit and tosses Robin aside. Robin spins in the air and lands on his feet. He beckons the goon to try him. The goon breaks a long metal switch off of a machine.

He rushes in, swinging at Robin wildly. Robin waits for his moment and spin-kicks the goon in the face, knocking him out.

ROBIN  
Second time's the charm!

He fist-pumps in the air to celebrate. The last goon CLOBBERS Robin in the face. He hops on top of Robin and CHOKES him. Batman CRACKS the metal switch on the goon's head.

ROBIN (cont'd)  
Thanks.

Gunfire rains down on Batman and Robin. Harley fires at them with a machine gun from a metal walkway above them. They duck behind a metal structure.

HARLEY  
Eat this, B-man!

Harley bites the pin off a grenade and chucks it at them.

ROBIN  
Watch it!

Batman and Robin grapple away as the grenade EXPLODES. They land on the metal walkway.

HARLEY  
Well, ain't you two resourceful?

Harley shoot at them. Batman shields him and Robin with his cape. Harley's gun stops firing and starts clicking. Harley hurls the machine gun at them. Robin tosses bolas at her before she can run off. The bolas wrap around Harley.

HARLEY (cont'd)  
If I say pretty please, will you let me go?

ROBIN  
No.

BATMAN  
Stay here with her.

INT. MAIN DEN - NIGHT

Batman moves from shadow to shadow. The Joker's laughter echoes into the room. Then the Joker zips past Batman out of the room. Batman follows.

Beat.

Light Yagami sneaks into the room. He looks around. Spots his driver's license on the ground. Next to it is his watch. Light slips it on.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Joker zips down the hall and moves into an open cell door. Batman approaches. Laughter echoes out of the cell.

INT. GAS CHAMBER - NIGHT

Batman walks in, batarang raised. The door shuts and locks behind him. He sees that the Joker he was chasing was not the real Joker. It was a mannequin in a purple jacket tied to a broom on top of an RC car. The Joker's laughter comes out of the mannequin. Batman punches it.

JOKER (ON INTERCOM)

You really fell for that? Tsk tsk tsk. Batman. you're slipping. I never expected it to be this easy. Don't feel too bad, Batsy. You've just been outsmarted by the most brilliant mind in Gotham. You weren't the first, you won't be the last.

Batman sees Two-Face's body. Two-Face's face is convoluted into the Joker's creepy smile. Batman looks at the bullet holes on the door. He stares at the rock ceiling.

JOKER (ON INTERCOM) (cont'd)

I'd say something now about all the years and the back-and-forth, but I think your laughter will sum it up better than I ever could.

The Joker's laugh echoes out of the intercom. The purple gas flows into the room and moves slowly toward Batman. Batman takes a small lighter out of his utility belt and holds his grappling gun in his other hand. Batman takes a deep breath as the gas reaches him and fills the room. He takes off his utility belt and lights it on fire.

His face begins changing colors. He holds the belt away from him. It begins to smoke. He throws it up into the ceiling at a vent. The utility belt IGNITES, blowing a hole in the ceiling. Batman grapples up the hole and escapes.

INT. MAIN DEN - NIGHT

Light pulls on the crown of his watch four times. A secret compartment with a piece of Death Note paper and a small needle pops out. Light pricks his finger with the needle.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

The Joker pounds his fist on the panel.

JOKER

How does he do it? How does he  
always get away?

Batman kicks open the door of the control room. Joker whips out a pistol and FIRES OFF SHOTS. Batman rolls out of the way. He knocks the gun out of Joker's hand by firing his grappling gun. Batman stands on his feet. The Joker throws up his arms to surrender.

JOKER (cont'd)

Arkham does look nice this time of  
year.

BATMAN

Where are you keeping Light Yagami?

JOKER

You even know I got him? I'm  
impressed, Batman.

BATMAN

Where is he?

JOKER

He's well...

Joker makes a confused face and looks behind Batman. Batman lets his guard down for a second. Joker squeezes the flower on his jacket. It squirts out ACID. Batman narrowly dodges it. The acid eats a hole through the wall. Joker jumps through the hole, laughing like a gleeful child.

JOKER (cont'd)

Haha! You fell for it!

INT. SECOND FLOOR - NIGHT

Batman sprints after the Joker.

INT. MAIN DEN - NIGHT

Light writes down a name we can't see with his own blood on the piece of Death Note paper.

INT. SECOND FLOOR - NIGHT

The Joker blows raspberries at Batman. Then he starts gasping for air. He slows down. His smile vanishes from his face. It's replaced by a pained expressed. The Joker grabs his left arm. Then he moves his hand to his chest.

JOKER

What's happening to me?

BATMAN

Joker.

Joker falls over, moaning. Batman

JOKER

The curtains are closing. No. I  
can't go out like this. Do  
something. Save me. Batman! Save  
me! Batman! Sav-

The Joker's body goes stiff. He's dead. Batman looks over his old adversary, somewhat relieved and deeply saddened.

INT. MANUFACTURING PLANT - NIGHT

Harley lays lifeless on the metal walkway.

INT. JOKER'S HIDEOUT - NIGHT

Light pushes open a door and escapes the hideout.

EXT. DOWNTOWN GOTHAM - DAWN

Light runs underneath the shadows of the large industrial buildings. He stops to catch his breath. He looks up at a roof top and sees the outline of Batman.

He gets moving again. Batman jumps from rooftop to rooftop, keeping up with Light. Robin drops down in front of Light.

Stare down between the two of them.

ROBIN

Light.

LIGHT

Robin. Thank god you're here. I was-

ROBIN

Drop the act. We know everything. We found that notebook in your room. The Death Note. How could you use that book, Light? How could you?

Beat.

LIGHT

Everything I did was for the better of Gotham.

ROBIN

You killed hundreds of people.

LIGHT

I struck down the wicked.

BATMAN (O.S.)

Arnold Wesker was a disturbed man who was on trial to receive help before you killed him. Penguin was on his way out of the crime world. And Selina Kyle...

Batman creeps out of the shadows.

BATMAN

Selina Kyle had the biggest heart of any person I have ever known. You committed a greater crime in taking her life than anything she did. People are not defined solely by their sins. Who are you to cast judgment on the world?

LIGHT

Somebody has to. It certainly wasn't going to be you two. Do you ever think about what you do and what effect it has on the people in Gotham? Since the Batman appeared eight years ago, crime has worsened.

(MORE)

LIGHT (cont'd)

Murders and burglaries have been on the rise. Your heroics don't work. All it did was draw out those super criminals that you used half-measures to deal with. Throwing them in Arkham for rehabilitation when you know there is no saving them. Monsters like the Joker, that mad dog I put down tonight. How could you have let him roam this city for all these years?

BATMAN

It's not my place to take a life.

LIGHT

You can put on that costume, beat them up, but you can't take the last step. You're weak. I'm not. Gotham was in chaos before the God of Death's crusade began. I have brought order to it. Haven't you noticed how much quieter your patrols have been since my work began? I have brought light back to Gotham. In a few short months, I have accomplished more than you ever have or ever will. What I've done for Gotham, I can do for the world. This dark bleak rotten world full of dishonesty, rape, thievery, and murder. I can mold it. I can fix this world. I am the only who can. I am Gotham's God of Death and I am god of the new world. And as that god I-

BATMAN

You are not a god.

Batman CHOPS Light in the neck, knocking him down.

BATMAN (cont'd)

You're just a stupid kid who thinks he's smart.

The sun begins to rise. Robin hands cuffs to Batman. Batman slaps the cuffs on Light.

ROBIN

What do we do with him now?

BATMAN

Hand him over to Gordon.

RYUK (O.S.)  
Looks like you're finished, Light.

Ryuk flies in. Robin is astonished by the amazing creature in front of him.

ROBIN  
Are you seeing this?

BATMAN  
The Shinigami.

RYUK  
You two can see me? You must have touched the Death Note. Light was right. You were smart enough to catch him.

LIGHT  
Ryuk! Write their names down! Do it!

ROBIN  
He's got a Death Note too?

Robin throws a batarang at him. It passes through Ryuk.

RYUK  
Asking me for help? You've truly lost then, Light.

Ryuk pulls out his Death Note.

LIGHT  
No. Ryuk! No!

RYUK  
I was hoping you'd figure something out, but the Batman has won.

LIGHT  
Ryuk! No! I don't want to die! No!

RYUK  
I don't want to have wait around for you to die or get out of jail. That'd be so boring. It'll be easier this way for both of us.

LIGHT  
No! Damn it, Ryuk! Don't do it!

RYUK  
We had our fun, didn't we?

Ryuk begins writing in the notebook.

BATMAN  
Drop that pen.

RYUK  
Uh-what?

BATMAN  
You will not kill this boy.

RYUK  
Stay out of it. He and I have a  
bond. It must be fulfilled.

BATMAN  
Kill this boy and there will be no  
place in this world or any other  
that my vengeance will not find  
you.

Batman gives Ryuk a demonic stare that unnerves him.

BATMAN (cont'd)  
You're the cause of all this,  
Shinigami. If you hadn't given him  
that notebook, none of this would  
have happened. Why did you drop  
that book in this world in the  
first place?

RYUK  
I was bored.

BATMAN  
You were **bored?!**

Ryuk shakes at the sound of Batman's voice.

BATMAN (cont'd)  
Go back to where ever you came from  
and never return, Shinigami. Don't  
let me catch you in our world  
again. And believe me, I'll know if  
you return.

Ryuk puts his notebook away.

RYUK  
I can let a human slide this one  
time.

Ryuk flies away into the rising sun. Light looks at Batman  
shocked.

LIGHT  
Why? Why would you save me?

BATMAN  
Because everyone is worth it.

INT. WAYNE MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ALFRED lays down breakfast for Bruce and Dick. On the screen of the television is SUMMER GLEESON.

SUMMER  
And in a press conference earlier today, Commissioner Gordon revealed that Gotham's God of Death was Gotham State University's own Light Yagami. Officials haven't released details yet on how Yagami was able to commit the killings, but we hope to find out in the coming days. We tried to reach out to Soichiro Yagami, but he refused to comment. As for Light, he's got a long term in Arkham Asylum ahead of him.

ALFRED  
A magical notebook that kills people. I've never heard of such insanity.

DICK  
It's real, Alfred. We got it downstairs if you want to see.

BRUCE  
Not anymore. I threw it down the darkest hole I could find.

ALFRED  
What became of that Shinigami character? Will he be making trouble again?

BRUCE  
I doubt we'll ever hear from him again.

EXT. SHINIGAMI REALM - DAY

A desolate forlorn place. Ryuk stares out into an abyss. We hear thousands of bats screeching. Ryuk is blotted out as hundreds of bats fly out of the abyss.

FADE OUT.

END ACT THREE