

"Therapy Begins"

STATIC - COLOR BARS & TONE

Title Card:

Arkham Asylum

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program

Patient #4479

Property of Doctor H. Quinzel

STATIC

INT. PSYCHIATRIC THERAPY WARD

Focus is adjusted and camera zooms in to table and chair.
Final focus and static shot.

DR. QUINZEL clears her throat.

DR. QUINZEL

Doctor Quinzel overseeing patient

#4479 for rehabili-

(to patient)

Please don't touch that. Just...

Over there. Go over there please.

A figure dressed in an orange prison uniform stands over the chair.

DR. QUINZEL (CONT'D)

And please take a seat.

Sitting down, the JOKER is revealed as he stares off camera at the doctor.

DR. QUINZEL (CONT'D)

Are you comfortable?

JOKER

No.

DR. QUINZEL

If you could, please, address the camera for these video sessions.

JOKER

Hmm?

DR. QUINZEL
Address the camera.

Joker slowly, uncomfortably turns his attention into the camera, almost avoiding eye contact as he grimaces a smile.

JOKER
Hi.

DR. QUINZEL
Please state your name for the record.

JOKER
Why would I suddenly state it now, Harleen?

DR. QUINZEL
I would like to keep this completely professional, please address me as Dr. Quinzel.

JOKER
Then you can call me Mr. J.

DR. QUINZEL
(ignoring the quip)
The prisoner suffers from a manic state of depression with delusions of grandeur. And likely an antisocial personality disorder as well.

JOKER
You make it sound so... simple. And can't we use the word patient instead? Prisoner has all these... negative connotations. Besides, prisoner implies that someone is keeping me here. I don't wanna leave. I like it here. Free food, roof over my head, lovely company... And I don't have to pay a cent for it.

DR. QUINZEL
We're getting off track.

JOKER
There's a track?

DR. QUINZEL
The first step in your
rehabilitation is to understand,
and come to terms with the reason
you're here.

JOKER
Terms.

DR. QUINZEL
That's right.

JOKER
(nodding)
Define your terms. That's the first
step in any debate.

DR. QUINZEL
This isn't a debate. This is
therapy.

JOKER
Therapy... Look, these recordings-
(gestures at camera)
-are for you to further study. And
as a way to confess my inner-
turmoil for the benefit of my
mental health. Of course whoever
ends up watching these... You
gotta wonder about their mental
health. 'Cause I get to people.
Trust me.

DR. QUINZEL
You don't think you have some real
problems?

JOKER
(shifting his eyes)
Well, nobody's perfect.

DR. QUINZEL
I'm not saying you need to become
perfect.

JOKER
No, just something that society
wants me to be. Something other
than who I am.

DR. QUINZEL
Who you are is what got you here.

JOKER

There you see! It's never a mistake to be who you are.

(to the camera)

Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

DR. QUINZEL

And why are you here?

JOKER

(amused sarcasm)

I'm a prisoner of war. I got caught behind enemy lines and they had to take me out of the battle. It's only temporary. It's a POW's duty to try and escape.

DR. QUINZEL

We can't progress like this.

JOKER

Sorry, puddin'.

DR. QUINZEL

(correcting)

Dr. Quinzel.

JOKER

Quinzel, right. I know.

DR. QUINZEL

All right, then let me be who I am. As a psychiatrist, it's my job to treat you.

JOKER

Your job. Is that really what's going to define us?

DR. QUINZEL

You wanted to define terms.

JOKER

I'm a complicated guy, Doctor.

DR. QUINZEL

Yes you are. And a challenge to study.

JOKER

Study? I'm not a creature of habit.

DR. QUINZEL
I didn't say you were. What I want
to know, is there a method to the
madness?

A small smile crawls over the Joker's face as he stares off
camera at her.

JOKER
Oh, I like you. This is gonna be
fun. Why, do you wanna learn?

DR. QUINZEL
People have to do terrible things
to be put in here.

JOKER
I agree, which means... You're not
so perfect yourself. Hmm?

DR. QUINZEL
In your own words, tell us why you
are here.

JOKER
According to society, I've done bad
things. Socially unacceptable.

DR. QUINZEL
In all seriousness. Why are you
here?

Joker stares at her for a long moment.

JOKER
Seriously?

His gaze drops away as he smiles to himself.

JOKER (CONT'D)
I'm here... because...
(to the camera)
I want to be here.

The tape ends.

STATIC.