

"Arkham Bound"

STATIC - COLOR BARS & TONE

Title Card:

Arkham Asylum

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program

Patient #4479

Property of Doctor H. Quinzel

STATIC

INT. PSYCHIATRIC THERAPY WARD

The Joker sits, wearing a pair of glasses and looking past the camera at Dr. Quinzel.

She clears her throat.

DR. QUINZEL

I'm going to need those back now.

She holds out a hand. He reluctantly gives up the glasses. She snatches them away, perturbed.

DR. QUINZEL (CONT'D)

The Patient has agreed to continue these videotaped therapy sessions. And I'm now altering medications by taking him off Lithium and putting him on a combination of Depakote, (Dep-uh-coat) and Seroquel. (Sarah-kwell)

JOKER

Ritalin this, Ritalin that. If I'd known I was gonna get this much free drugs, I'd have done this years ago.

DR. QUINZEL

Why are you saying that into the camera?

JOKER

I have a friend here that's going to put this up on youtube.

DR. QUINZEL

I don't think that's going to happen.

JOKER

We'll see...

(He winks)

Did anyone ever tell you that you have lovely eyes? I mean, they go well with the rest of your face. It's not like I want to pop them out and carry them on a key-chain. It's a compliment.

DR. QUINZEL

And we are off to a bad start today.

JOKER

I'm not a morning person.

DR. QUINZEL

You've been here over a month now. How do you feel about Arkham?

JOKER

It's good, I have... almost everything I need. Though... Something's still keeping it from feeling like home.

DR. QUINZEL

How do you spend your days?

JOKER

Mondays I exercise. Tuesdays, I'm here with you. Wednesday is pizza day. I like that. Ahh... Thursdays I like to chat with my good pal Carmine Falcone. We talk about all kinds of things. I discuss politics, the weather, and the moral degradation of society. While he usually points out interesting little tidbits like.... "Scarecrow, Scarecrow, Scarecrow." But.... I don't like Fridays.

DR. QUINZEL

Why's that?

JOKER

That's when that weasel from the DA's office visits me.

DR. QUINZEL

Mr. Fields is in charge of the prosecution. He's trying to get you sent to Blackgate Prison by claiming you're faking insanity.

JOKER

Too bad Harvey Dent's not around. He knows where I'm coming from.

DR. QUINZEL

That's convenient.

JOKER

Lucky me.

DR. QUINZEL

Then explain to me where you're coming from. Are you faking insanity?

JOKER

No I'm not... No... I'm... Not..

DR. QUINZEL

Then you think you're crazy?

JOKER

There's an interesting question. Crazy people never think they're crazy. They think they're getting saner. So, sane people shouldn't think they're sane, but that their going crazy.

(pauses, thinking about what he's just said)

I can't go to Blackgate. I couldn't handle it there.

DR. QUINZEL

You can't go to prison because you tried to kill the majority of their prisoners onboard that ferry?

JOKER

Actually, I was thinking about my personal safety.

(MORE)

JOKER (CONT'D)

What with my delicate features and feathery hair. But good point, I didn't even think of that!

DR. QUINZEL

Then you do care about your safety.

JOKER

There's a difference between worrying about personal safety and avoiding getting man-handled by fifteen guys in the shower. You think they're going to build a case that I'm sane just because I want to avoid that?

DR. QUINZEL

Your mental evaluation is what's going to decide that. That's why we're having these sessions.

JOKER

You're the expert. What do you think a sane person would do?

DR. QUINZEL

I don't think a sane person would set fire to a fortune.

JOKER

I only burned my half of the money. Problem was... my half was on the bottom of the pile. I didn't think that one all the way through.

DR. QUINZEL

The DA's stance is that you are no different than any other criminal in this city.

The Joker frowns.

JOKER

No different?

DR. QUINZEL

You stole money.

JOKER

Burned it.

DR. QUINZEL

You lied to people.

JOKER
Just a little white one.

DR. QUINZEL
Destroyed property.

JOKER
Who needs hospitals?

DR. QUINZEL
What about murder.

JOKER
When bad guys kill they do it for profit. Or it's because they get their emotions involved. It's either revenge or professional.

DR. QUINZEL
And you don't?

JOKER
I kill because it amuses me.

DR. QUINZEL
I don't think you care what the outcome is as long as it amuses you.

JOKER
Sure I do what other criminals do. Except I do it wearing clown make-up.

DR. QUINZEL
Yes, but Fields and the DAs office won't be convinced.

JOKER
(interrupting)
Have you ever seen a dead body?
It's a simple question. I've seen my share.

There is a small pause.

DR. QUINZEL
(dismissively)
Yes, I've seen a dead body.

JOKER

I'm not talking about the kind at funerals. That's where they all end up. I mean have you seen one right after that spark of life has gone out and all that's left is an inanimate object. Ever seen one of those?

There is another pause as the Joker continues watching her.

DR. QUINZEL

No, I haven't.

Joker stares at her for a long moment.

JOKER

Stick around with me long enough, I'm sure you'll get the chance.

STATIC.