

"Hypnotized"

STATIC - COLOR BARS & TONE

Title Card:

Arkham Asylum

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program

Patient #4479

Property of Doctor H. Strange

STATIC

INT. PSYCHIATRIC THERAPY WARD

The camera is turned on revealing the Joker further away at his table with the opposite chair facing him.

JOKER

You're too far away. She always sets it up closer.

(framing)

Right here's good. Bring it closer, Harleen isn't going to want it back there.

He looks confused as the door opens and Dr. Hugo Strange enters. He stares up, very wary.

DR. STRANGE

Good morning. How are you feeling today?

Dr. Strange takes a seat, his back to the camera. Joker watches him closely.

JOKER

Terrible, where's Harleen? What did you do to my doctor? Bring her back, I want the girl back.

DR. STRANGE

Dr. Quinzel is no longer in charge of your therapy. My name is-

JOKER

(interrupting)

What did you say?

A moment of silence is shared.

DR. STRANGE

I said that Dr. Quinzel is no longer going to be working as your therapist. She has been removed from your case.

The Joker stares at him, processing.

DR. STRANGE (CONT'D)

My name is Doctor Hugo Strange and we are going to be trying something different this-

JOKER

(interrupting again)

D- Dr. Strange? Yeah sure, and I'm Professor Giggles. Look, you don't want to use your real name, that's fine with me.

DR. STRANGE

That is my real name. What is yours Patient 4479?

The Joker holds the stare, rolls his eyes and falls back in his chair with a sigh.

JOKER

Back to square one, hmm? Clean slate? All progress... Gone.

DR. STRANGE

Oh, you think you were making progress, did you?

JOKER

With her, yes.

DR. STRANGE

I think by the end of our session you will view that quite differently. I am going to be trying a very... shall we say, radical approach.

JOKER

Shock therapy? Or are you gonna give me ink blot tests so I can laugh at all the dirty pictures.

DR. STRANGE

I understand you have been having dreams lately.

(MORE)

DR. STRANGE (CONT'D)
That coincide with your violent
behavior. Let us talk about those.

Joker leans forward, gesturing for his story.

JOKER
I go bear hunting. At the Gotham
City Zoo. And it's not long before-

DR. STRANGE
(dismissively)
Yes. I have seen the video session
already.

JOKER
Well then maybe we should call it a
day. And you can go back to
whatever-

DR. STRANGE
I am a strong advocate of
hypnotherapy and its power over the
unconscious mind.

Joker takes a moment to think.

JOKER
How radical are we talking?

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The camera has been switched to a close-up and night-vision
has been turned on in the darkened room. Wires have been
attached to the Joker's forehead.

JOKER
I'm not sure I feel comfortable
with this.

DR. STRANGE
It will not hurt. We are only
observing your brain wave activity.
Are we ready to begin?

JOKER
If this works and I wake up and my
pants are off...

DR. STRANGE
A subject under hypnosis will only
do what he would normally be
willing to do in a conscious state.

JOKER
(contemplating)
Like I said, if I wake up and my
pants are off...

DR. STRANGE
I want you to close your eyes and
relax completely. Clear your
thoughts.

The Joker sighs and closes his eyes, taking a deep breath.

DR. STRANGE (CONT'D)
(methodical, mesmerizing)
I want you to picture in your mind
a place of safety. It is quiet,
serene, and peaceful. There is no
danger there. No one there to
disturb you. Only stillness.
Breathe in deeply. Open your eyes.

The Joker's eyes open, glowing in the night vision in a
trance.

DR. STRANGE (CONT'D)
Describe this place to me.

JOKER
I feel comfortable. It feels like
I'm on waves. It reminds me of the
ocean.

DR. STRANGE
Are you on a ship? A raft?

JOKER
No, it's not a boat. It's a water
bed.

DR. STRANGE
(pausing, confused)
Are you in a bedroom?

JOKER
Yes... That's a good question.
Another good question would be...
Why are my pants off...?

DR. STRANGE
Uh... We will move on from there.
Are you in a house? Your
apartment?

JOKER

Not my house... But it feels like home. It's strange, I've never felt this... safe before.

DR. STRANGE

(reaffirming)

That is good. You are safe here. Tell me your earliest memory-

JOKER

(interrupting)

I'm not alone. There's a beautiful girl here with me. Ask about her pants.

DR. STRANGE

Is this woman... a girlfriend? Your wife?

JOKER

No. I don't think there's any future in our relationship. She's a married woman.

DR. STRANGE

And that... bothers you?

JOKER

No. She'd choose me over him.

DR. STRANGE

Then she sees something in you that is human. Different from the others. Are you the same when you are around her?

JOKER

I like spending time with her. She... helps me.

DR. STRANGE

How does she help you?

JOKER

There's only one thing we do. And it helps both of us.

DR. STRANGE

I think I understand. Where did you meet this woman-

JOKER

But as you know, all good things have to come to an end. And I'm thinking I may have to end it in more ways than one... I'm thinking of- Oh.. Oh no...

DR. STRANGE

(concerned)

What is going on?

JOKER

Shh! He's back from work. Her husband is back. I've- I've gotta get out of this water bed. Put on my pants.

DR. STRANGE

Alright, I want you to count back from-

JOKER

(interrupting)

No time for counting! These are her pants. Where are my pants? There they are. I can hear him coming up the stairs. His wife is panicking. And I can't stand that.

DR. STRANGE

Then get out of there. Find another safe place.

JOKER

I know, I'm trying. She's helping me out the window. I... there. I'm on the ground. Safe.

The Joker breathes heavily, like he has gone through all the action he is describing.

DR. STRANGE

(reasoning)

You feel... safe after leaving this place?

JOKER

I can see the house. It's nice. Two stories, red brick with a big white door. I can see the address... 2655 Divoff Avenue... right near the Palisades.

There is a moment of silence.

DR. STRANGE
(completely off guard)
I... that... That is my home
address.

The Joker opens his eyes.

JOKER
(completely awake)
Of course it's your house, I was
talking about your wife in your
water bed.

DR. STRANGE
(enraged)
You son of a bitch!!

Hugo lunges at the Joker, who laughs wildly as he is punched
in the face and knocked to the ground.

The camera falls over and lands, sideways, on the ground.
The lights are turned on, revealing Dr. Strange as he
continues to beat the Joker. Guards rush in to pull Hugo
Strange away.

DR. STRANGE (CONT'D)
How do you know these things?! How
did you know about those things!!!??

The Joker laughs maniacally.

GUARD
Shut off that camera!

The camera goes dead.

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