

STATIC

INT. PSYCHIATRIC THERAPY WARD

The Joker is painting on an easel, seated on a stool. Paintings are hung on the wall behind him.

The door opens and Dr. Quinzel enters.

DR. QUNIZEL

Looks like the creativity is really flowing today.

JOKER

I just finished painstakingly copying the Mona Lisa.

He points at a picture on the wall that looks strangely familiar.

DR. QUNIZEL

It looks more like Mrs. Arkham to me.

JOKER

Coincidence. I'm running low on supplies. I need more paint.

DR. QUNIZEL

I don't think the hospital has room in their budget for that. Not with cutbacks.

JOKER

That's becoming a trend these days. The food has gotten worse too. How much financial trouble are they in?

DR. QUNIZEL

The cost of caring for each individual patient isn't cheap. And the trouble caused by you posting these videos isn't helping. You're scaring away the hospital's funding.

JOKER

I told you, a friend is putting them online. Not me.

DR. QUNIZEL

Then get him to stop.

JOKER

If you say so.

DR. QUNIZEL

That way the hospital can focus their money on treatment. Treatment that I think is working. I told you painting would be good for you.

JOKER

I'm not much of an art lover. I just like getting my hands dirty.

DR. QUNIZEL

Everyone has a favorite artist.

JOKER

Who's the guy that cut his ear off and gave it to a prostitute?

DR. QUNIZEL

Vincent Van Gogh.

JOKER

That's the one. I like him.

DR. QUNIZEL

He was a sensational painter.

JOKER

I just like how he cut his own ear off. Now that's art! Take a seat. I've been working on this one for awhile. Gotta get the face right.

She takes a seat.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Hold still.

DR. QUNIZEL

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

JOKER

It's just a portrait. Not a nude-study. Yet.

DR. QUNIZEL

That's not going to happen.

JOKER

Art is all about getting an emotional reaction. Take the Mona Lisa for example. People travel from all over the world to visit the Louvre just to see it. Some get all excited and point, others stop and study it in detail. And one or two start crying at the site of it. An emotional response.

But if you really want to work the audience... Just think what would happen if you took it off the wall. Cut the face out, poked holes in her eyes and tied a string around it and wore it as a mask around Paris. You'd have everybody getting excited and pointing, snapping pictures and hundreds crying.

Much better reaction then just sticking it on a wall somewhere. It's funny 'cause most people where masks all the time. It's how people hide. Art frees people. After all, you can't spell an artist without anarchist.

DR. QUNIZEL

I'm pretty sure you can.

JOKER

I'm out of brown paint, so I'm using yellow for your hair. It looks good. You should go blonde. It suits you.

DR. QUNIZEL

Not everyone hides who they are.

JOKER

Sure they do. You'll find out after you get married. That's the way most abusive relationship work. You don't see them coming until your stuck with 'em. At least with me, what you see is what you get. I paint my inner-self on the outside.

DR. QUNIZEL  
Well, we'll find out who's right soon enough.

JOKER  
Oh yeah?

DR. QUNIZEL  
I took your advise. 'If you want something you take it.' We set a date for the wedding.

Joker stops painting briefly, then continues.

JOKER  
Am I invited? I love wedding cake.

DR. QUNIZEL  
It's going to be a small ceremony.

JOKER  
Then I'll be Guy's best man.

DR. QUNIZEL  
Guy's brother is going to be the best man.

JOKER  
(leaning in creepily)  
Where you going on your honeymoon?

DR. QUNIZEL  
This has officially gone past the subject of art therapy. You're lucky you still have me as your doctor for now.

JOKER  
For now?

DR. QUNIZEL  
Arkham Asylum is going through some changes. Budgets are getting stretched, people have been laid off...

JOKER  
And re-hired. They better not try to separate us again.

DR. QUNIZEL  
I'm just saying that I won't always be here.

(MORE)

DR. QUNIZEL (CONT'D)

Guy doesn't like living in Gotham, he says it's too violent for him. And he's been offered an internship at STAR Labs in Metropolis so it's possible we'll be moving.

JOKER

And you're finished. Wanna see the masterpiece?

DR. QUNIZEL

My true self?

JOKER

It's how I see you.

As he turns the canvas towards her, the door opens.

NURSE PEARL

Doctor Quinzel? Mr. Kopski has arrived. He's waiting in your office.

DR. QUNIZEL

(to Nurse Pearl)

That's right, I forgot. Thank you, Pearl.

(to Joker)

Guy and I have some last minute plans to go over. We'll have to cut this session short. But keep up with the painting. They're looking good.

Dr. Quinzel and Nurse Pearl exit, the door closes behind them.

Joker turns the canvas back towards him, snaps his brush. And begins using his fingers to continue painting.

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