

STATIC

EXT. NARROWS ALLEYWAY STREET - LATER

The Joker, now dressed in a Tuxedo, makes his way down the staircase. He gets into the car, straightening his bow-tie as he glances over at Jeremiah Arkham and the camera.

JOKER

You look grumpy.

JEREMIAH

Yes, yes I am grumpy. (Arkham rants about how dangerous this area is and that he can't believe they were left out here, handcuffed to the car.) This is not a safe neighborhood. There is a homeless man sleeping right over there. At any point, he could wake up, see us, and kill us all.

JOKER

(glancing over shoulder)
You're worried about him?

JEREMIAH

What would you have done, if you'd come back and found Pearl and myself dead, murdered by some degenerate?

JOKER

Offer him a job?

JEREMIAH

You need us.

JOKER

Oh, no I don't. I'll show you just how replaceable you are. C'mon.

They walk over to where the homeless man sleeps.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Hey, wake up.
(kicking the man)
Do you wanna die?

The homeless man, Theodore, sits up.

THEODORE

Uh... Kinda.

The Joker is taken aback. He and Jeremiah exchanges looks as the camera moves from The Joker back down to Theodore.

JEREMIAH

What?

THEODORE

I was fired from my job for inappropriate interaction with a female co-worker, my wife left me after she found out about said inappropriate interaction with female co-worker, and took my 6 year old daughter who's last words were "I hope daddy burns in hell." After the divorce and alimonies and lack of income the government seized my house for a misunderstanding known as "tax evasion." I was living out of my car for the last year, until some weird armored motorcycle came along and blew it up and then disappeared into a shopping mall. Unfortunately, I wasn't in my car at the time, so yeah. I kinda want to die.

Joker grins at this stranger.

JOKER

What's your name?

THEODORE

Theodore.

JOKER

Well Ted, how would you like to make...

(to Jeremiah)

Give me your wallet.

Jeremiah reluctantly hands it over and the Joker digs through it.

JOKER (CONT'D)

A hun-

(giving Jeremiah a look)

Twenty dollars?

JEREMIAH

I don't carry that much on me.

THEODORE
I don't have to take my pants off,
do I?

JOKER
No, no. You're going to help us
make a movie.

Theodore looks awkwardly at Jeremiah and the Joker.

THEODORE
What kind of movie? I don't have
to take my pants off, do I?

JOKER
Get your mind out of the gutter.

THEODORE
Well, I do kinda sleep in one.

JOKER
Not anymore! Everyone back in the
car.

Theodore pulls his cap down, revealing that it's a ski-mask.

JOKER (CONT'D)
Oh, you came prepared! Jerry, give
Teddy the camera.

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The camera is turned on, by its new owner, Theodore. He swings the camera around to show the car and its travelers. The Joker leans in from the front seat.

JOKER (CONT'D)
You're doing great.

THEODORE
I used to be a cameraman for GCN.

JOKER
Ah! A professional. Finally.

He gives an icy look over at Jeremiah. The camera pans over to see Jeremiah glaring back.

THEODORE
Where are we going?

JOKER
It's a surprise.

THEODORE
Is it going to be dangerous?

JOKER
Probably.

THEODORE
Can I have a gun?

Joker looks around for a moment.

JOKER
I don't see why not.

He hands him a pistol. Jeremiah scoffs.

JEREMIAH
Oh, fantastic. Give the degenerate with the death-wish a gun. Since it's Christmas, Can I have a flame-thrower?

JOKER
I didn't see any of those at Lyle's place, or I would've grabbed one.

Theodore is fiddling with the gun.

JOKER (CONT'D)
Feels empowering doesn't it? Bet you wish you would have had that when you lost your job, or when your wife kicked you out, or when you were disciplining your children.

The gun goes off, nearly killing Pearl and leaving a bullet hole in the windshield. Pearl goes into panic. Joker grabs the weapon from Theodore.

JOKER (CONT'D)
Oh, you just lost your gun privileges. If you had hit Pearl, you could have kept it.

THEODORE
I've never fired a gun before.

JOKER
Never? Well, let me show you how it's done. Are you right or left handed?

THEODORE

Right.

JOKER

Well, then this should be interesting!

He puts the gun into his left hand.

JOKER (CONT'D)

First get a good grip. Then find your target.

He puts the gun in Ted's hand right up against the back of Pearl's head. She freezes, still trying to drive.

JOKER (CONT'D)

And finally, don't pull the trigger. Squeeze it.

(pausing)

Squeeze it!!

The sound of a helicopter flying overhead is heard as they quickly pull to a stop. Theodore raises the camera to track it as it passes by overhead, flashing its searchlight, but missing them. The camera pans down to see the Joker looking over smugly. He frowns.

JOKER (CONT'D)

I wonder who they're looking for? Say... You're not some gun-totting maniac with an insatiable blood-lust are you?

He grabs the gun away, looking frightened.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Why have we stopped? You're the one who knows the way. Get moving!

PEARL

(sobbing in fear)

I... Just... just want to see my family.

JOKER

We're you're family now!

PEARL

I just want to go home.

JOKER

Home? This is your home! And if there's one thing I learned from my family. It's that home is where the hurt is.

There is a long, awkward, pause as everyone holds their breath.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Let's see what's on the radio.

He reaches over and clicks it on, hearing music. He turns it to a news station.

SUMMER GLEASON

-Police have found Lyle Bolton, head of security for Arkham Asylum. And the man hunt continues for the escaped prisoner-

The Joker turns the station again.

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Shots of cars traffic going by, buildings going by. Joker with gun at Pearl forcing her to sing along.

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We see a Church Steeple.

JOKER

And we're here!

Theodore pans down to the Joker.

JOKER (CONT'D)

You coming along, Ted?

THEODORE

I can't go in there.

JEREMIAH

Why not? Do I want to know?

THEODORE

I used to be a priest.

Joker leans in and hands him a pair of hedge clippers.

THEODORE (CONT'D)

What's this for?

JOKER

That's to keep these two in line.
If they call for help, or try to
escape, or if you just get bored...
use it. But be sure to film it.
How do I look?

THEODORE

Spiffy.

Joker turns to Jeremiah Arkham for approval.

JEREMIAH

Wonderful.

JOKER

Oh, almost forgot!

The Joker circles the car and opens the trunk, pulling out a
shotgun with a white ribbon and bow.

JOKER (CONT'D)

The wedding present.

He turns and walks towards the church, ominously.

JEREMIAH

Wait... there was a shotgun in
there the whole time?

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