

Joker paces back and forth, wearing a straight-jacket. On the third pass it's off and he drops it to the ground. Walking up to the glass he stares out at Quincy on the other side.

JOKER

Aren't you going to thank me?

QUINCY

For what?

JOKER

For killing Steve. You got his job. Are there decent benefits? They better cover health.

QUINCY

I'm not supposed to talk to you.

JOKER

But there's no rule that says I can't talk to you... Hey! Did you hear the one about the Security Guard with the broken glass in his stomach?

QUINCY

I don't want to hear any jokes.

JOKER

No, when I tell a joke. You better pay attention. Otherwise you might miss the punch-line. Or end up being the punch-line. Don't fret. I like you. Better than the last guy. He had no sense of humor. Hang in there and you'll be here for a long time. Like me. You know, I missed this place. I'm glad they finally decided to let me stay. It will be nice being able to sit back and watch as the crazies pour in. You see in Gotham the battle-lines were drawn long before I showed up. Batman, Gordon, Dent, the Mob... They all crossed them, with a little help from me. There's no denying it. This is war. I told them, I'm right where I want to be. Batman can run and hide in his little cave somewhere, the police can have their streets, the mob can cling to whatever they have left...

(MORE)

JOKER (CONT'D)

And I have this place. Don't even bother locking my door. I'll stay put for now, but if I ever feel the need to go out there into your world... Don't try to stop me.

Glancing over at Quincy.

JOKER (CONT'D)

I'm sorry... Am I making you nervous?

QUINCY

(very nervous)

No!

JOKER

Don't worry, as of this particular moment I have everything I need. See?

He holds up the framed "Home Sweet Home" plaque.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Little homecoming gift, from our new benefactor!

The security door opens.

JOKER (CONT'D)

Speak of the devil. Have the two of you met?

LUTHOR

Shut off that camera.

QUINCY

Sir, Arkham policy states that Patient 4479 needs full surveillance at all times, Mr. Lu-

LUTHOR

I said shut off the damn camera.

QUINCY

Yes, sir, I'll take care of that right away.

Joker smirks as Quincy runs off.

JOKER

You'll have to forgive Sharpie. He's just trying to get a promotion.

LUTHOR  
Run into any trouble?

The cell door opens as Lex Luthor enters the Joker's cell.

JOKER  
Wouldn't be me if I didn't. And I  
got you the place. Now you're sure  
you can live up to your end of the  
bargain?

Lex Luthor steps closer, to shake hands.

LUTHOR  
Yes.

Joker smiles, having everything he needs.

JOKER  
Pleasure doing business with you,  
Lex.

He grips the hand, pulling him in close and grinning wide.

CUT TO:

BLACK

THE END