

SHADOW OF THE BAT

I: CAPES

107 - "The Great Motivator, pt. II"

Batman and related characters were created by Bob Kane & Bill Finger and are owned by DC Comics and Warner Brothers. This is a work of transformative fiction... aren't they all?

FADE IN:

INT. DENT'S APARTMENT, MAIN ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Harvey Dent, shown in profile from the right side, sits at his dining room table, papers spread out before him, reading glasses at the tip of his nose.

His cell phone rings.

Dent takes off his glasses and begins searching through the papers until he finds his phone buried underneath a particularly hefty stack.

He answers it.

DENT
Hey Tina.

INT. TINA DENT'S LIVING ROOM - MEANWHILE

Tina irons a blouse on an ironing board, a house-phone stuck between her chin and shoulder.

In the background, her four year old daughter ALICE sits and watches children's programming on television.

TINA
(into the phone)
Harv, you gotta help me. Robert from accounting asked me out on a date tonight but Alice's regular sitter has plans because it's the first day of summer vaca-... You're my brother Harvey, I know you don't know anything about kids... Because I'm desperate that's why... You're a life-saver. I'll make it up to you. Gotta go, bye.

INT. GCPD, PRECINCT HOUSE - MEANWHILE

Police staff bustle through the headquarters of the Gotham City Police Department. Gordon's SECRETARY sits at her desk outside the Commissioner's office.

Her desk-phone rings.

She picks it up.

(CONTINUED)

SECRETARY

Hello?... I'm sorry Mr. Dent, but Commissioner Gordon went home for the day. Some sort of family emergency... uh-huh... uh-huh... Alright, I'll tell him you called. Goodbye, Mr Dent.

She hangs up the phone.

INT. GORDON HOUSEHOLD, DEN - MEANWHILE

Gordon stands over Barbara, who sits in a chair, her shoulders stooped.

GORDON

I'll call Harvey and he'll make this whole thing go away. I can't have my daughter-

He is interrupted by his cell ringing.

He takes it out of his pocket and answers.

GORDON

I was just talking about you... I'm a little busy right now... Because Alice is your niece, that's why...

Gordon, on the phone, looks over at Barbara and turns and walks across the room.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Alright Harvey, when is Tina dropping her off... Okay, well that works out better, gives me a little time... Yeah yeah, it's no problem... See you then.

Gordon hangs up his cell and places it in his pants pocket.

He pauses a moment.

GORDON (CONT'D)

That was Harvey, he needs some help. I'm leaving, but you're not.

BARBARA

How long will that take?

(CONTINUED)

GORDON
Don't know. Could be a long night.

OPENING TITLE CARD: SHADOW OF THE BAT

ACT ONE:

EXT. ROOFTOP - LATE AFTERNOON

Dick and Antonio Maroni stand face to face atop the roof of an abandoned building. Antonio's friends sit against broken air conditioners and the raised edge of the roof drinking forties and smoking cigarettes.

Antonio is pinching a balloon closed with his fingers, offering it to Dick.

ANTONIO
Here, just breathe.

SI: The Great Motivator, pt. II"

Dick's face contorts with consternation.

Dick reaches out for it when:

MONTOYA (O.S.)
Hey! Hold it right there!

Officer Renee Montoya and her partner Stan Merkel exit the rooftop access, approaching the children quickly.

The children's attentions are quickly diverted to the approaching officers. Antonio lets go of the balloon, sending it hissing off the building with a little trail of yellow mist emitting from the open end.

Antonio and his five friends immediately scramble and head for the fire escape.

The officers see the group flee and up their approach to a sprint.

MONTOYA
STOP!

As the group flees, Dick stands flatfooted, still in the same spot as before, unsure of what to do.

Antonio, lagging behind, turns and sees Dick motionless.

(CONTINUED)

ANTONIO

Move your ass man! Lets go!

Just as the officers approach their target, Dick dashes towards Antonio and the fire escape.

At the fire escape ladder, the last of Antonio's friends make it over the edge. Antonio is just about there when Montoya draws her taser.

MONTOYA

I said freeze!

At the edge of the building, Antonio stops and turns at the sound of the officer's voice, Dick sprinting heavily towards him.

As Montoya levels the taser, Dick leaps at Antonio and grabs him with both arms, taking the two of them tumbling over the edge of the building.

Montoya and Merkel stop in their tracks at the sight of what just happened.

Dick, still grasping Antonio, flips the two of them over the edge and through the air, landing feet first on the metal fire escape, below the view of the officers.

Antonio breathes heavily from surprise, but has no time to rest. Dick immediately tightens his grasp on Antonio with his right arm and grips the fire escape railing with his left, jumping off the fire escape.

As they leap into the nothingness, Dick holds the railing tight, swinging the two of them around it and through a boarded window on the adjacent building. The boards turn to splinters as they plunge through.

INT. CONDEMNED APPARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Dick, crouching in the shadows, leans against the brick wall, listening for the police.

Antonio, still on the shadowy floor, breathes heavily, his adrenaline pumping.

ANTONIO

How the -

Dick quickly glares at Antonio and puts his finger to his lips.

EXT. ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Montoya and Merkel are on the fire escape, continuing their pursuit of Antonio's friends.

INT. CONDEMNED APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Dick stands, still out of sight, and peers around to find the two officers have passed their line of view. He peeks out and sees Montoya in the lot below, tackling the slowest of Antonio's friends as officer Merkel struggles to finish the obstacle course of the fire escape.

Dick pulls himself back in and slumps against the brick wall to finally rest.

He takes a deep breath.

Antonio gets up and dusts himself off.

ANTONIO

Goddamn Grayson. I knew you were good, but... Goddamn... Where'd you learn to do that?

DICK

Vienna.

ANTONIO

Vienna? Italy?

Dick smiles.

DICK

I was a gymnast, remember?

INT. DENT'S APARTMENT, MAIN ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Dent's niece Alice sits in the foreground playing with scraps of newspaper as Harvey sits on the couch a few feet away from her.

A KNOCK on the door breaks the silence. Dent jumps up to answer it with a childlike haste.

INT. DENT'S APARTMENT, OUTSIDE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The door for apartment number two opens to reveal a relieved Harvey Dent.

At the door is Police Commissioner Jim Gordon. Gordon peeks around Dent to see Alice ripping up pages of newspaper.

DENT

Jim, thank you. I don-

Gordon walks in and heads for Alice.

GORDON

(interrupting)

When did you get this paper?

INT. DENT'S APARTMENT, MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DENT

Today.

Gordon crouches down next to the girl and playfully pulls the paper away from her. He smiles at her, making a game of ripping up the pilfered paper to keep her content.

GORDON

C'mon Harvey, look at the kid,
she's covered in ink.

Dent looks over at Alice and sees the ink covering her hands.

DENT

Aw, see Jim, I told you I don't
know anything about kids.

GORDON

Well, ink doesn't sit well in their
system.

ALICE

I like ink Uncle Harvey!

GORDON

I'm sure you do honey.

Gordon scoops up Alice and walks into the kitchen as Dent follows.

INT. DENT'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

DENT

Aw, do we really have to give her a
whore's-bath?

Gordon stops in his tracks and turns to give Dent the sternest of looks, then continues to the sink.

DENT (CONT'D)

Uh- I mean, a sink bath...

INT. MARONI MANSION, FOYER - EARLY EVENING

Dick and Antonio enter the mansion and head for the stairs.

ANTONIO

Ok, so when we go in there, don't
speak unless spoken to. I'll
introduce you as a friend of mine
and we'll go from there. Got it?

The two boys walk under an ornate crystal chandelier.

DICK

Yeah. Where are we?

ANTONIO

My house. Pretty nice, eh?

They start up the stairs.

DICK

It's alright.

PINO, a large man in a suit, is descending from the top of the staircase.

ANTONIO

Pino, what's up?

PINO

Your pop wants to see you. Who's
this?

Dick, Antonio, and Pino meet in the middle of the stairs.

ANTONIO

Him? This is Dick Grayson. Dick,
this is my dad's right hand guy,
Pino.

(CONTINUED)

PINO

I'm also this punk's uncle. Don't
keep your old man waitin'.

INT. MARONI MANSION, MARONI'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Sal "The Boss" Maroni sits behind his desk counting a stack of cash. A metal suitcase sits before him on his desk, overflowing with bundles of cash in rubberbands.

A knock on the door is heard and Maroni snaps to attention.

MARONI

Yeah, who is it?

ANTONIO

(through the door)

It's your son!

MARONI

(playfully)

Well get in here ya little bastard.

The door opens. Antonio and Dick enter. Dick shuts the door behind himself.

Antonio sits in one of the two large, leather chairs facing Maroni's desk.

MARONI

How's school, kid?

ANTONIO

Oh, you know, out for the Summer.

Maroni points at Dick who stands behind Antonio, hands behind his back.

MARONI

Oh that's right... Who's this guy?

ANTONIO

Dad, I'd like you to meet my newest
guy, Dick Grayson.

MARONI

Grayson? Why does that sound
familiar?

DICK

I don't know sir.

(CONTINUED)

MARONI

Whatever, take a seat new guy.

Dick takes a seat in the remaining chair.

MARONI (CONT'D)

Ok, I know you wanted to portion that stuff out yourself, but I had your uncle do one of the tanks for you... Schools out, you deserve a little fun; but I don't want profits slowin' down, you know what I mean.

Antonio nods in affirmation.

MARONI (CONT'D)

So, that being said, all of it's ready to go, packed up downstairs. How long you think it'll take this time?

ANTONIO

Like I said before, we got repeat customers and it's Summer. What else are they gonna do?

Maroni chuckles jovially.

MARONI

That's right... There's something that concerns me though. This batch is double the size, and double the potency. You gonna be able to handle that?

Antonio nods again.

MARONI (CONT'D)

There's four hundred canisters down there, you think you can move it all yourself?

ANTONIO

Yeah, I got it... Unless, you want a taste Grayson?

The two Maronis look to Dick.

Dick hesitates a moment, then shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

DICK

I mean- Yeah. Yeah, I could do that.

INT. DENT'S APARTMENT, HALLWAY - EVENING

Gordon walks out of Dent's bedroom, meeting Dent in the hallway.

GORDON

I made a little bed for her on the floor. It'll have to do until Tina picks her up. Where is she?

DENT

I told her she could watch TV.

GORDON

What's she watching?

DENT

I don't know.

INT. DENT'S APARTMENT, MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alice sits in front of the television watching a raunchy reality show.

Dent and Gordon enter the room from the hallway.

GORDON

Time for bed, Alice.

ALICE

Uncle Harvey, what is "sex"?

Dent and Gordon stop in their tracks and share a look.

FADE TO BLACK:

ACT TWO:

INT. DENT'S APARTMENT, MAIN ROOM - EVENING

Open on Alice's innocently smiling face in front of the blaring reality show.

Dent looks over at Gordon with a helpless gaze.

Gordon's eyes widen as he turns towards the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

GORDON

I'm gonna pour her something to drink.

Dent looks back down at the tilted head of his niece.

ALICE

Well?

DENT

Well... you see... it's like this...

The TV continues obnoxiously spewing dull reality, clearly annoying Dent. Frustrated, he looks for the remote.

Behind Dent, the TV is muted.

Dent looks up and sees Gordon with the remote in one hand and a glass of milk in the other. He tosses the remote on the couch.

Dent kneels down on one knee to get at eye level with his niece. He puts his hand on her shoulder.

DENT

Honey, that is nothing you need to concern yourself with. Especially right now when we need to get you into your PJ's and off to bed.

Dent gives her a big smile as he stands.

ALICE

But... But what is it though?

Dent's smile falls.

GORDON

I think what they said on the TV was texts little lady. Texts. Everyone on these shows, all they do is text each other and talk about texts. That's all.

ALICE

What's "texts"?

DENT

They're messages you send on your phone.

Dent pulls his cell out of his pocket.

DENT (CONT'D)

Like this, see?

Dent opens his phone and starts pressing buttons on the keypad then hands it to her.

ALICE

Oooh. What does your texts say
Uncle Harvey?

DENT

(in a playfull tone)
You can't read that? It says your
name. What's your name?

ALICE

Alice.

DENT

What's your last name?

ALICE

Dent.

DENT

That's my girl. Now let's drink
this glass of milk Mr. Jim poured
for you and go lay down, yeah?

ALICE

Yeah.

Alice walks up to "Mr. Jim" with a huge smile on her face and Dent's phone in her hand.

GORDON

Okay little lady, let's see that
phone and get this milk inside of
you so you can grow big and strong
like your uncle here.

Gordon and Alice exchange Dent's phone for the glass of milk. Alice grasps the glass awkwardly with both hands and begins to drink.

Gordon hands Dent his phone as Harvey scoops up Alice and walks her into his bedroom.

Gordon is left alone in the common room. He plops down and observes the muted tomfoolery on the TV. After a few moments he shakes his head, grabs the remote from beside him and turns it off.

INT. WAYNE MANOR, FOYER - NIGHT

It is silent in Wayne Manor. The sun has set and most of the house lights are off.

The doorbell rings, echoing through the halls. A few moments later Alfred is at the door.

INT./EXT. WAYNE MANOR FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Alfred opens the door, but sees no one on the porch. He looks side to side and out into the darkness, but sees no one.

Just as he steps outside for further inspection, Alfred's foot hits a small, bulbous manila envelope lying on the front step. He takes his foot off of it and bends down to pick it up.

He brings it closer to his failing eyes he sees it is addressed to "Bruce".

Alfred takes a final scan before turning around and closing the door behind himself.

INT. THE CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Bruce lies bench-pressing over seven hundred pounds of weights, wearing nothing but his "Gotham University" workout shorts. He has many scars from lacerations and wounds that cover his immense frame, in addition to a few fresh bruises.

He benches several repetitions until he is approached by Alfred.

Bruce rests the bar and weights on the press set and sits up.

Alfred hands him a towel.

BRUCE

Thank you.

Bruce wipes his face and chest.

ALFRED

This was left outside the foyer...

Alfred hands the envelope to Bruce.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED (CONT'D)
It's addressed to you.

BRUCE
What is it?

ALFRED
I hadn't taken the liberty of
opening it.

BRUCE
A suspicious package and you're
letting me open it?

ALFRED
If the contents are volatile,
better you than I...

Bruce smiles as he slides his index finger under the envelope's flap, peering inside. He notices something and tips the envelope over, letting its contents fall into his hand.

It is a small "Fear" canister with a yellow sticky note stuck along side it.

Bruce peels off the note and sets the canister on the bench-press next to him. He reads the note.

BRUCE
It's from Dick. He says to run a
'test' on it and whatever I do, to
not inhale it.

ALFRED
Cryptic.

BRUCE
Fear.

ALFRED
Pardon?

BRUCE
It's 'Fear'. A new street drug.
It's an hallucinogen.

ALFRED
How did he get a hold of it?

BRUCE
By disobeying a direct order.

INT. GOTHAM GIANT SLICES PIZZERIA - NIGHT

Antonio and Lexi sit at a table for two. Antonio's boys sit across an aisle from them, filling an entire booth.

Most of the other booths in the restaurant are also filled with high-school students enjoying their first night of Summer.

LEXI

She's a slut anyway. I don't know why people like her.

ANTONIO

You don't like anyone.

LEXI

I like you.

ANTONIO

(playfully)

You like something about me.

The beep of a text alert sounds at a nearby table but goes unnoticed.

Suddenly, a couple other phones simultaneously chirp as well. Within seconds, most of the patrons' phones are beeping all throughout the restaurant.

They open their phones to check their texts. Many begin to giggle. A few look over at Antonio and Lexi.

The phones belonging to Antonio's boys finally beep. They take them out and check them.

They all look up meekly at Antonio.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

What? Somebody say something.

Antonio's phone beeps. He takes it out and looks at it.

Focus on the phone as it displays a picture of Lexi making out with a boy who is most definitely not Antonio. Above the picture it displays who the message was sent by: Geoffry.

LEXI

What is it?

INT. DENT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Open wide on Dent and Gordon sitting on either side of the couch, each with a glass of liquor resting in their hands.

They sit for a moment, sipping in silence.

Gordon reaches into his shirt pocket, retrieves a cigarette and places it in his mouth. As he snaps open the lid of his zippo, Dent slowly turns his head and meets him with a look of equal parts disapproval and disbelief.

Gordon freezes.

GORDON

Uh... sorry Harv, force of habit.

Gordon puts his lighter in his pocket, then takes the unlit cigarette out of his mouth and puts it behind his ear.

DENT

How did you do it, Jim? Raise your kid, I mean.

GORDON

Well, her mother helped. I wasn't much more ready than you, fifteen years, no, sixteen years ago...

A beat.

GORDON (CONT'D)

You want kids?

DENT

I don't think so. Not here. Not in Gotham.

GORDON

I had the same doubts; Babs was twelve when we moved here. But it's worked out.

DENT

That's the difference between you and me, Jim. You get to arrest the bad guys. I'm the one that has to watch them go free.

Dent downs the rest of his drink.

EXT. DARKSTAR LASER TAG, PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Dick walks through the parking lot toward Antonio and his Lieutenants, who stand behind bushes across the parking lot from the laser tag building.

Dick's phone rings.

Focus on the phone. Bruce is calling.

Dick denies the call.

Dick steps up to Antonio.

DICK

We're really playing laser-tag tonight? I thought we had stuff to do.

ANTONIO

Plans change.

They stand there in silence a moment, staring at the building.

DICK

So what's the plan?

ANTONIO

Jeffrey and his butt-buddies are in there. Benny's on the roof.

DICK

Some sort of prank?

ANTONIO

We're gonna gas 'em.

Dick looks at the roof more closely and can see Benny moving one of the large fear tanks into position.

Dick's eyes widen in helplessness.

FADE TO BLACK:

ACT THREE:

INT. DARKSTAR LASER TAG, LOBBY - NIGHT

Amygdala stands at the counter. A lanky, male DARKSTAR EMPLOYEE stands behind the counter, holding a laser tag "Starpack".

DARKSTAR EMPLOYEE
I'm sorry, sir, but none of our
Starpacks will fit you.

AMYGDALA
I wanna play...

DARKSTAR EMPLOYEE
I understand that sir but
unfortunately none of these will-

AMYGDALA
(interrupting, through
clenched teeth)
Gimme it!

Amygdala reaches out and rips the Starpack from the Employee's hands.

DARKSTAR EMPLOYEE
I don't think you understand-

Amygdala tightens his whole body, crushing the Starpack in his immense hands.

AMYGDALA
(interrupting)
I'm not stupid!

EXT. DARKSTAR LASER TAG, ROOF - MEANWHILE

Benny finishes fitting the tank into the partially disassembled air conditioning unit. He adjusts his gas-mask, then turns the valve with his gloved hand, releasing the gas into the building's air ducts.

INT. DARKSTAR LASER TAG, LOBBY - MEANWHILE

AMYGDALA
You don't want me to play! You're
not nice!

DARKSTAR EMPLOYEE
Sir... please calm down.

(CONTINUED)

Geoffry and three of his friends walk out of the arena wearing their Starpacks.

GEOFFRY

I'm relatively certain it was I who hit the base, Percy.

PERCY

I shot the target-

GEOFFRY

(interrupting)

Yes, and disarmed it for me, thank you Percy.

They walk right into Amygdala.

Geoffry stares up at Amygdala. Amygdala stares right back down at him.

Focus on a slight yellow vapor emitting from a vent located at floor level.

AMYGDALA

Give me your pack.

GEOFFRY

Oh please. Move aside, lummoX.

There is a scream from the arena.

The Employee nervously looks towards the arena doors then back to Amygdala.

DARKSTAR EMPLOYEE

Now please, sir, there's no reason to get hostile...

The screams become louder and more numerous. A yellow mist starts to emanate from the arena and hangs low to the floor.

Focus on Amygdala. He is angry, breathing heavily.

Geoffry, Percy, and their friends all exhibit intense fear as the gas fills the room.

Percy begins to cry silently. Another friend cowers to the ground, begging for his life.

When the gas gets to the Darkstar Employee, he lets out a shriek.

Geoffry stands frozen in intense fear of Amygdala, shaking like a leaf, his eyes welling up with tears.

(CONTINUED)

GEOFFRY

No! Don't!

Amygdala swings a huge backhand into Geoffry's chest, sending him flying across the room.

Screams fill the building as chaos erupts.

EXT. DARKSTAR LASER TAG, ROOF - MEANWHILE

Benny, holding the tank into the air conditioner, listens to the muffled screams from inside the building.

He smirks.

The familiar glove of Batman quickly comes into frame, chopping Benny where his neck meets his shoulder. Benny crumples to the ground.

EXT. DARKSTAR LASER TAG, PARKING LOT - MEANWHILE

In the bushes, Antonio and his crew laugh and celebrate their "victory."

Standing at the back of the group, Dick watches the horror unfold.

ANTONIO

Awesome! Freaking awesome!

Dick catches a glimpse of a billowing cape on the roof as the others watch on unaware.

Dick is unable to hold himself back.

DICK

You're crazy.

Dick storms around the group and runs toward the front doors of the establishment.

ANTONIO

What did you say?

Dick ignores Antonio's calls and quickly reaches the doors.

As he reaches for the handle, Batman locks it from inside, a breather apparatus covering his mouth and nostrils.

They stare at each other for a beat, but Batman quickly disappears into the obscured interior.

(CONTINUED)

Dick jiggles and yanks the door to no avail.

DICK

Come on!

The hand of one of Antonio's boys grabs Dick by the shoulder and yanks him out of frame.

INT. DARKSTAR LASER TAG, ARENA - MEANWHILE

Batman walks deliberately through the dark arena. Blacklights and lasers flash, making the area disorienting. He walks through glowing corridors until he enters the base.

Amygdala sits on the floor, cross-legged, rocking back and forth, lights flashing around him.

Batman's silhouette approaches Amygdala.

Amygdala sees Batman and jumps a little in fear. He starts whimpering and breathing heavily.

AMYGDALA

Who's there?

BATMAN

A friend.

AMYGDALA

Friend?

Batman takes a step forward.

From **Amygdala's POV**: We see a dark blur.

BATMAN

Friend.

Batman moves forward another step.

Amygdala's POV: Batman's blur takes shape as he approaches, horns rise out of the head, and red eyes glow in his face, angled menacingly.

Amygdala cowers back.

AMYGDALA

No! Scary!

Amygdala's POV: The blur stops.

(CONTINUED)

Batman stops, considers a moment, then pulls back his cowl and removes his rebreather completely, revealing his face.

Amygdala's POV: Still in the shadows, the shape loses its horns, the eyes turn rounder and glow a more comforting white.

BATMAN
What's your name?

AMYGDALA
... Aaron.

BATMAN
Everything is going to be alright
Aaron. Let's go outside. You'll
feel better.

EXT. DARKSTAR LASER TAG - MOMENTS LATER

Batman, alone, fully cowed and once again wearing his rebreather, opens the front doors. Dick is there, standing over Antonio and his crew, all unconscious on the ground.

DICK
What happened to the big guy?

BATMAN
Sent him out back. He didn't mean
any harm.

A beat.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
You'd better get out of here. The
police will arrive soon.

A beat.

DICK
I could have helped.

Sirens begin wailing in the distance.

Focus on Antonio as his eyes flutter.

BATMAN
Leave.

Dick turns and goes.

INT. ARKHAM ASYLUM, STRANGE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Strange sits at his desk, illuminated only by a small lamp. He fiddles on his computer.

There is a knock at the door. Strange shifts his eyes to it as he turns off his monitor.

STRANGE

Come in.

Crane opens the door and enters the dark room, closing it behind him. He walks toward the chair but remains standing.

CRANE

Dr. Strange, I just wanted to say-

STRANGE

(interrupting)

Sit down, Jonathan.

Crane holds his position.

CRANE

I really don't think-

STRANGE

(interrupting)

Nonsense. Sit.

Crane considers, then reluctantly takes a seat.

CRANE

I just came to tell you that I won't be working on the Phobium anymore.

STRANGE

That's... too bad.

CRANE

Yes, I'm sorry, but it's just that there's no use continuing to work on a compound that will never be approved by the FDA, let alone help its patients.

STRANGE

But it has been.

CRANE

Has been what?

(CONTINUED)

STRANGE
Has been approved by the Food and
Drug Administration.

Strange gathers some papers from his desk and presents them
to Crane.

STRANGE (CONT'D)
I have the paperwork right here.

Crane looks over the papers.

CRANE
This isn't FDA paperwork.

STRANGE
No, silly me. That is the contract
with Queen Industries to develop
the drug further.

CRANE
I wasn't informed. The drug isn't-

Strange reaches over and flips through a few pages of the
contract.

STRANGE
And here is what you would have
been making, if you had stayed on.

Crane stares silently at the contract.

STRANGE (CONT'D)
Of course, your name is still on
the contract. I could... forget
your outburst a moment ago.... If
that is what you desire.

Crane continues to stare at the contract.

STRANGE (CONT'D)
All that is required is your
signature.

Crane looks up to see a pen being offered by Strange.

Crane stares at the pen a moment. He hesitates.

Crane reaches out and grabs the pen.

INT. WAYNE MANOR, STUDY - NIGHT

Dick sits in the chair by the empty fireplace.

Bruce enters through the grandfather clock from the cave, dressed in sweats.

DICK
I've been waiting all night. We
need to talk.

Bruce continues walking slowly through the room as they talk.

BRUCE
We have talked.

DICK
How did you find me?

BRUCE
I've had you tagged since the
sewers.

Bruce exits through the open door to the foyer.

DICK
How?

BRUCE
Goodnight, Dick.

Bruce walks up the stairs.

INT. GOTHAM CITY SUPERIOR COURT - DAY

Antonio stands in a line of young men all in yellow jumpsuits, shackled to one another.

Each kid walks up to the defendants podium and is handed a sentence from the woman JUDGE.

Antonio walks up to the podium and looks up to the Judge.

JUDGE
Is your name Antonio Maroni?

ANTONIO
Yes ma'am.

(CONTINUED)

JUDGE

Is your birthdate October
sixteenth?

ANTONIO

Yes ma'am.

JUDGE

Okay, Mr. Maroni, the court has
found you guilty on all charges
including the possession and
distribution of a narcotic
substance. I hereby sentence you to
twenty-four months in the state
juvenile detention center, to begin
immediately.

Antonio nods. We slow pull in on him; his eyes burn with
hatred as the Judge continues.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Next!

The sound of the Judge BANGING her gavel is heard as the
screen cuts to black.

CUT TO BLACK: