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# Batman: Under the Red Hood

By Judd Winick

**RA'S AL GHUL:**

allied myself with a madman.

where are they?

in Sarajevo, sir.

And he has the boy.

[GROANING]

[GRUNTING]

**MAN:**

wow, that looked like it really hurt:

[ROBIN GRUNTING]

whoa, now, hang on.

That looked like it hurt a lot more:

So let's try and clear this up, okay,  
pumpkin?

what hurts more? A?

or B?

Forehand?

or backhand?

[CACKLING]

A little louder, lamb chop.

i think you may have a collapsed lung.

That always impedes the oratory.

[SPITS]

[GRUNTS]

Now, that was rude.

The first boy blunder had some manners.

I suppose I'm going to have

to teach you a iesson...

...so you can better follow

in his footsteps.

No, I'm just gonna keep beating you

with this crowbar.

[JOKER CACKLING]

Where is the detective?

**MAN:**

He's on his way.

But, sir, he won't make it there in time.

okay, kiddo, i gotta go.

it's been fun though, right?

well, maybe a smidge more fun for me

than you.

I'm just guessing  
since you're being awful quiet.  
Anyway, be a good boy.  
Finish your homework and be in bed by 9.  
And, hey...  
...please tell the big man i said, "Hello."  
[CACKLING]  
[GROANING]  
No.  
Jason.

**MAN 1 :**

The hell you say.  
You didn't set this up?  
-Then whose party is this?  
-i thought it was you east-side losers.  
You already rolled over for the Black Mask  
and i figured you were gonna ask us in.  
Rolled over? The Mask whacked  
six of my crew in a month. Six.  
Some of my best people.  
So you set up this meet?  
No, i thought it was Chi Chi:

**wasn't my meet:**

oh, the hell with this. I'm gone.  
You brain donors wanna hang around--

**MAN 2:**

Sit down, Freddie.  
it's my meeting.

**CHI CHI:**

-Batman?  
we didn't do nothing.

**RED HOOD:**

well, we all know that's a lie.  
-who the hell are you?  
-Smoke him.

**RED HOOD:**

i said, "Sit down."  
You wanna die?

There's easier ways to kill yourself.

**RED HOOD:**

who's holding the AK-47.  
Listen to me,  
you drug-peddling scumbags.  
i will be running the drug trade  
from now on.  
You eight are the most prosperous  
street dealers in Gotham.  
I'm offering you morons a deal.  
You go about your business as usual,  
but kick up 40 percent to me.  
A much sweeter deal  
than the scraps Black Mask is leaving you.  
in return, you will have total protection  
from both Black Mask and Batman.  
But you stay away from kids  
and school yards.  
No dealing to children, got it?  
if you do, you're dead.  
okay, crazy man,  
this is all very generous.  
But why in the hell  
should we listen to you?  
[CHI CHI VOMITS]  
Damn.

**RED HOOD:**

of all of your lieutenants.  
That took me two hours.  
You wanna see what i can get done  
in a whole evening?  
Make no mistake.  
I'm not asking you to kick in with me.  
I'm telling you.  
Forty percent works for me.  
[TIRES SCREECHING]  
-Go, go, go!  
-where's Raymond and Denny?  
-He got them. Just grabbed them up.

**MAN:**

Just go, get us out of here.

i think i iost him.

-You think i iost him?

-i think you iost him.

i think we're good.

No, you're anything but good.

[GROANING]

[YELLS]

who are you working for?

Nobody.

Look, we just boosted the truck and--

Lie to me again

and crashing into a wall head-on...

...will be the least painful activity

**of your evening:**

No, i swear to--

[BEEPING]

-what is that?

-Your cargo.

it's called Amazo.

what the hell is an Amazo?

A highly advanced, cybernetic android...

...equipped with the ability

to absorb the power of super humans.

what kind of super humans?

Big ones.

**NIGHTWING:**

for a toaster on steroids, huh?

-Need a hand?

-No.

**NIGHTWING:**

how about i just stick around and watch?

who's that other one?

The pretty boy in the leotard?

That's Nightwing.

He was the Bat's first sidekick.

The first Robin.

-i think you'll have to do better than that.

-i did.

[BEEPING]

**NIGHTWING:**

**BATMAN:**

You think so?  
Get to higher ground.

**NIGHTWING:**

-Move!  
i wouldn't be offended  
by a few suggestions.  
He has the same weak points  
as a human being.  
Got it. This might sting a bit.  
[YELLING]  
Lasers. He's got lasers.  
i don't think putty in his eyes  
is gonna hurt him.  
But plastique will. Nice.

**BATMAN:**

for the Black Mask.  
i doubt you're behind this.  
-who do you work for?  
-i swear. we're not working for anybody.  
This was our gig, all our idea.  
-Let it go.  
-Right.  
[SCREAMS]  
i'll talk, i'll talk. Just stop. Just stop!  
The Red Hood.  
we're working for the Red Hood.  
we don't have any choice. He's got--  
[BULLETS WHIZZING]  
The shots came from the rooftop.  
A sniper.

**BATMAN:**

A good one.

**NIGHTWING:**

-Yeah.

**NIGHTWING:**

Hey, wait.  
Right. Leave me with them.

[CAR HoRN HoNKiNG]

God, please, no. Stay away.  
it's a setup. wait.  
I'm not a crook, i swear.  
No!

**RED HOOD:**

Hard to forget that night, huh?  
in a way, Batman,  
this was the site of your first great failure.  
Maybe your greatest,  
but certainly not your last, right?  
Ah, memories.

**DICK:**

is what brought me to town.  
Good thing i've always had perfect timing.  
Take a look.  
i got this shot from a snitch. He says that  
this guy's been making some serious moves.  
The Red Hood.  
Might be.  
He bears a resemblance to the original.

**BRUCE:**

Severai criminals have utilized this persona.

**DICK:**

one criminal of particuiar interest, though.  
-But he's locked up.  
-Not his m.o. either.  
There's been an uptick in heavy trafficking,  
but crime is down.

**ALFRED:**

indeed it is.  
Master Bruce got almost three hours sleep  
in the last two days.  
True busman's holiday.  
But he is locked up.  
Like, a lot locked up.  
Maybe we should go for a visit.  
Could you just once say,  
"Let's get in the car"? is that so hard?

[LAUGHTER ECHOING]

You look good. Been working out?  
You could probably use a little sun.  
Then again, who am i to talk?  
[CACKLING]

**BATMAN:**

He's calling himself the Red Hood:  
what do you know about it?  
That he has horrible taste.  
when i wore that number, it was classy.  
More flashy maitre d'  
than motorcycle fetish.  
oh, these kids today.  
if you're behind this in any way,  
we will find out.  
-You're not--  
-oh, Bird Boy, you're so much less fun now.  
All grown up and in your big-boy pants.  
Still, better off than his replacement,  
right?  
Even tougher making with the yuks  
when you're worm food, huh?  
You gonna do it this time?  
or you just gonna put me  
in another body cast for six months?  
So disappointing.  
But back to the matter at hand...  
...this new hoody.  
You really think i would stir up  
so much trouble...  
...and not make sure  
you knew it was me?  
[CACKLING]  
i know you've never met him before,  
but be cool.  
This here is the Black Mask.  
The first boss to gain control  
of the entire city in 20 years.  
whatever he wants in Gotham, he gets.  
But his appearance  
takes a bit to warm up to.

**MAN:**



He did what? what?  
oh, good, he's pissed.

**WOMAN:**

who ordered the theft of the android.  
He goes by the name of Red Hood.

**MAN:**

i don't care what he's calling himself.  
Do you idiots know  
how many bidders i had on Amazo?  
A list of puppet dictators  
and psychos as long as my arm.  
Millions shot right to hell.  
-And whose money is that?  
-Your money.  
My money. Mine.  
This score was a game changer.  
Amazo was going buy my way up  
into high-end international trafficking.  
Now I'm forced to keep rooting around  
in this local leg-breaking garbage.  
And he gives me bat trouble,  
who blows the damn robot's head off!  
i could have at least sold it for scrap,  
but Batman kept it.  
Yes, Batman likes to keep things.  
-Look, this circus act, this Red Foot--  
-Red Hood.  
whatever.  
He's dead. Take care of him.  
You, new guy.

**-Sir:**

**BLACK MASK:**

But if you keep staring at me like that,  
I'm gonna cut your eyes out.  
[GRoANING]  
-Give me the specs on tonight's shipment.

**LEON:**

it's 10 cases of assorted SMGs  
and PDws...

...along with 5000 .45 caliber ACP rounds,  
your personal favorite...  
...and two cases of RPGs.  
it's all bought and paid for,  
so this is strictly a delivery, not a buy.  
in view of recent events, i've taken  
the liberty of doubling security...  
...and switching the drop spot.

**RED HOOD:**

That sounds like a plan.

**Co-PiLoT:**

-Seriously.  
Hey, protocol says I'm only supposed to be  
on the ground for six minutes.

**RED HOOD:**

it's okay. i won't be staying that long.  
And i almost thought he wouldn't show.  
You know what i missed most  
about running with you? The toys.  
Stay sharp. we're not done.

**RED HOOD:**

You wanna dance? Let's dance.  
-is that gonna hoid?  
-No.  
So you want me to--? should i--?  
okay, i'll just take care of this.

**RED HOOD:**

okay then. Nice night for a run.  
-He's good.  
-Yes, he's putting on quite a show.  
He's very good.  
we got him.  
-That's impressive.  
-Nothing we haven't seen before.  
if you say so.  
Think we iost him?  
[BEEPING]  
Move!  
[BEEPiNG RAPiDLY]

[GRoANS]

**RED HOOD:**

You haven't lost your touch--  
He's got some moves, huh?  
And as much i hate to belabor a point...  
And still that is often  
exactly what you do.  
I'm chatty. it's part of my charm.  
I'm saying that our boy here  
has some skills.  
He's been trained and trained well.  
Like right there. That.  
He sliced that cable  
off his ankle before it went taut.  
You don't just do that.  
That has to be practiced. Learned.  
-And then there's the knife.  
-what about it?  
You know many knives  
that can cut my lines?  
-Not many.  
-No. Not many.  
well, look, we obviousiy have got  
ourselves a player, we-- ow!

**BRUCE:**

Alfred, take him home.  
Bruce, i can still help.  
You already have.  
Thank you.  
Go rest up.  
okay.  
But you know where to find me  
if you need me.  
He did just thank me, right?  
-indeed he did, sir.

**DICK:**

**RED HOOD:**

You haven't lost your touch--  
[TRAIN wHiSTLE BLoWS  
oN ViDEo]

You haven't lost your touch--  
--your touch, Bru--  
You haven't lost your touch, Bruce.  
[ROBIN LAUGHS]

**ROBIN:**

whoo-hoo!  
You guys having a party?  
-i guess our invite got lost.  
-it's over, Riddler.  
Riddle me this. what's green and purple  
but covered in red and yellow?  
You. when i land on your sorry butt.

**MAN:**

Don't move or i'll--  
You'll what? Shoot me?  
Twenty rounds a second  
and you were still too slow.  
I'm not slow, punk.  
-Me neither.  
-i've got him.  
[GRUNTING]  
Robin!  
i had to take him down.  
You shattered his collar bone.  
He's a drug-deallng pimp.  
i didn't think i had to prop up some pillows  
before i took him out.  
we needed him. He would've talked.  
But you put him into shock.  
Sorry.  
That was dumb.  
But he deserved it.

**BLACK MASK:**

was too mired in subtlety.  
i want this man dead.  
when i say "dead," i mean seriously dead.  
Beaten, broken.  
His-head-mounted-on-my-wall  
kind of dead!  
Understood.  
we'll be taking further precautions

at every transaction--

Screw that.

Time he learns that this is a contact sport.

we're going on offense.

Rough up his business.

Something big. Something loud.

when he shows up to shut us down,

have a party waiting for him.

And when i say "party"...

...i actually mean a whole lot of people  
who are gonna kill him!

-i figured.

-Just being clear.

[SiGHS]

[TiRES SCREECHING]

[ENGiNE REVS]

[PEOPLE SCREAMING]

what are you doing? we're protected.

we pay up to the Red Hood.

is that right?

Cute.

Do you know who you're messing with?

Yeah, Tyler Bramford.

You're a club owner and some big damned  
drug dealer in the East Quarter, right?

i am the East Quarter drug trade,  
you stupid bags of--

Manners, fatty.

i don't care who takes care of you.

You watch your mouth.

Then you know who's got my back.

You know who i answer to.

**Sure:**

And we work for the man

who's gonna take back what's his.

**CHiCo:**

of your very wide butt...

...we're sending your boss a message.

[SCREAMING]

**RED HOOD:**

okay.

what's the message?

**WOMAN:**

A simple one, actually.  
want to guess what it might be?

**RED HOOD:**

i have a few ideas.  
Any of you hired guns even know  
who i am?

**BAToN:**

You are our target.

**RED HOOD:**

ow.  
So you four have all this power  
and all you do with it is kill for money?

**BULK:**

we've got that in common.

**RED HOOD:**

You heard wrong.

**BAToN:**

i thought you'd put up more of a fight.

**RED HOOD:**

oh, the fight hasn't started yet.

I'm just stalling.

-what the hell took you so long?

-Shut up and fight.

[GRUNTING]

[SCREAMING]

[POWERiNG UP]

[SCREAMING]

**RED HOOD:**

i gotta say.

i missed watching you work.

Look out!

**RED HOOD:**

Awful close.

You afraid you'll miss?

**SHOT:**

Black Mask just wants a body.

-we don't need your head.

**BATMAN:**

And step away.

**SHOT:**

A Taser?

Nail me and you'll electrocute both of us.

**RED HOOD:**

Maybe that's what he has in mind.

No!

**RED HOOD:**

Just be happy i only killed one of them.

They're all assassins.

And what are you?

**RED HOOD:**

I'm cleaning up Gotham.

More than you ever did.

You're stealing territory from Black Mask  
and killing anyone who gets in your way.

**RED HOOD:**

Black Mask is just a part of the plan.

Pian? You're becoming a crime lord.

Yes. You can't stop crime.

That's what you never understood.

I'm controlling it.

You wanna rule them by fear. But what do  
you do with the ones who aren't afraid?

I'm doing what you won't,

I'm taking them out.

Tell me what happened to you.

Let me help.

**RED HOOD:**

it's too late.

You had your chance.  
And I'm just getting started.

**BLACK MASK:**

that scumbag stole my guns again?

**No, sir:**

Blew up the truck, the drivers....  
Damn it. of all the-- Damn it!  
Previously, he was just enlisting anyone  
under our province to come work for him.  
Now he just seems to be killing them.  
oh, so now we've got another Batman?  
one who doesn't mind the blood?  
No, sir, he's no Batman.  
He's still taking huge cuts  
from off the streets.

But now  
he's eliminating the competition.  
He's coming after you.

[CLEARs THROAT]

[YELLS]

You wanna tell me  
why this guy ain't dead?  
we're trying.  
we sent the Fearsome Hand of Four.  
Four? Guess they're gonna need  
a new name.  
why hasn't Batman wiped this little smear  
off the face of the planet?  
Maybe he doesn't want to.  
Perhaps he's letting you  
and the Red Hood war it out.  
-He could be waiting--  
-To take on the winner?  
what do you think this is?  
A tennis tournament?  
-I'm just saying...

**BLACK MASK:**

And you don't know Batman.  
He's not letting this lunatic just run wild.  
He can't catch him either.  
or it's something else.



Can't you feel it?  
we're stuck in the damn crossfire.  
oh, hell.  
Sir?

**RED HOOD:**

when he really wants to.  
-You okay, sir?  
-I'm not dead.  
So that's something.  
okay.  
-Time to change up the ground war.  
-How so, sir?  
I'm being forced into negotiating  
with a psychotic.  
That doesn't sound good.  
No.  
it's going to be a nightmare.  
Hey, fellas,  
-Terry? what the hell are you doing here?  
-You miss me?  
I'm covering Rothman's shift.  
He's got the flu, bronchitis or something.  
we got this. why don't you grab some joe?  
we'll meet you in the south wing.  
That's not protocol.  
Come on, I'm bored,  
i need to stretch my iegs: Let's get--  
[BULLET wHizzES]  
Sorry, schedule to keep.

**MAC:**

You didn't have to kill him.  
one, yes, i did.  
Two, we're paying you a ton.  
So, three, shut your gob  
and open the damn door.  
-Does he know what's going on?  
-He knows he's leaving.

**JOKER:**

it's gonna be a sleepover, right?  
i packed my toothbrush.  
-Do you need more light, sir?

**-No:**

well, there you have it.  
He's still at rest.  
No, he isn't.  
That's not flesh.  
-Master Bruce, you can't blame yourself--

**BRUCE:**

Body was made of high-end latex.  
if i'd bothered to look inside  
when i brought him home....  
Sir, please, remember how distraught  
you were. Even i found it hard--  
Stupid and careless.  
-where are you going?  
-To talk to the man who did this.  
i hope you understand the trouble  
i've gone through...  
...to arrange this little get-together here.  
A lot of money. A lot of dead meat.  
Look, i've got a problem.  
And you are absolutely the man  
who possesses the gifts...  
...to take care of this problem.  
i need you to murder the Red Hood.  
You think you can handle that?  
[COUGHS]  
May i have some water?  
[JOKER CACKLING]  
I'm going to need something to wear...  
...and a very big truck.

**Sure:**

i'll need some guys.  
Not these guys  
because, well, they're kind of dead.  
what did you do to Jason?  
Act like you don't know what I'm talking  
about and i'll dislocate the shoulder.  
That's just to start.  
if you haven't disabled the roof sensors,  
my guards will be here in under a minute.  
Answer me.

I'm willing to...  
...but it'll be more expedient if you hand me  
the communicator in my pocket...  
...and i call off my men.  
Commander, this is Ra's Al Ghul.  
Stand down.  
i will be entertaining a guest  
in my study.  
You remember  
when we last became embattled?  
You were planning to blow up banks.  
Accurate, if inelegant.  
i was in the midst of toppling the economy  
of Europe...  
...but you were on to me.  
i sought a distraction.  
So i hired the Joker.  
When your paths crossed in Bosnia...  
...it was to appear  
that you had stumbled upon him.  
He was paid extremely well for what  
was intended to be a wild-goose chase.  
Then he murdered the boy.  
That was not by design.  
I'm afraid i overestimated my ability  
to control the Joker...  
...just as i underestimated his madness.  
it grieved me, sir...  
...to be a party to something so brutal.  
You've never shied away  
from drawing blood.  
True, but always with purpose.  
Always with greater goals.  
This was simply an unnecessary casualty.  
As penance,  
i chose not to make war with you again...  
...and to attempt  
to rectify this disservice.  
Rectify?

**Yes:**

i had hoped to return to you  
what you had lost.  
I have walked this world

for nearly six centuries.  
As you know...  
...i achieve this by bathing in  
the rejuvenating waters of the Lazarus Pit.  
Along with its healing abilities...  
...it has long been rumored  
that it is capable of an even greater feat...  
...to raise the dead.  
Procuring the remains of your partner  
was not difficult.  
You had come to Bosnia  
under the guise of Bruce Wayne...  
...and you chose to depart as such.  
You even concocted the cover story...  
...that young Jason had died in a bombing  
in Sarajevo.  
This made it easy for me.  
All it took was a few payoffs  
to replace his body.  
i felt confident  
that you would not perform an autopsy...  
...even if you had,  
we still would have bought enough time.  
But my plan...  
...well, detective,  
it had unfortunate results.  
[SCREAMING]  
He returned to this world...  
...but returned damaged.  
My army searched for months...  
...but we were never able to find a body  
or pick up a trail.  
i thought him dead yet again.  
But i hear you have been having trouble  
at home.  
i have returned your son to you  
as a blight upon your house.  
He burns the very kingdom you--  
--protect.  
Shall i alert the guards to pursue him?  
Don't be foolish.  
They would never catch him.  
Besides, i have done enough.

**ALFRED:**

Sir, please take this to heart.  
who Jason was before,  
how we lost him...  
...and this dark miracle or curse  
that has brought about his return...  
...it is not your fault.  
I know you view his death  
as your greatest failure but--  
His life and his death  
are my greatest failure.  
Do you remember how he was  
when I found him?  
of course, sir.  
Fearless, arrogant, brash and gifted.

**BATMAN:**

Different than Dick in so many ways...  
...but still so full of potential and power.  
But I knew, even from the beginning,  
he was dangerous.  
If I hadn't made him into Robin,  
he would have grown to do wrong.  
Then I got him killed.  
My partner.  
My soldier.  
My fault.  
I own that.  
I'll carry that like everything else:  
But now there's this.  
He's taken everything I've ever taught him  
and turned it on me.  
It's a hell of my own making, Alfred.  
Sir, this is not your doing.

**You loved him:**

-it should be enough.  
-it's not.  
[COMPUTER BEEPING]

**wOMAN ON TV:**

Reporting live from Gotham Bay Bridge....  
My word.  
Sir, patch into the media feed now.

[SiRENS wAiLING]

[JoKER CACKLING]

**MAN:**

Come on, get out of there, now.  
Don't know what that maniac's up to, but  
nobody make a move till i give the order.

**JoKER [SiNGING]:**

i'm a little teapot  
Short and stout  
Here is my handle  
Here is my spout  
This wasn't part of the damn deal,  
you freak!  
Get me out of here right now!  
i thought you'd enjoy  
seeing some old faces.  
After all, most of these guys  
used to work for you.

**MAN:**

who's that? Get a light on him.  
Up there.  
Hey, look at you. Mr. Hood.  
or do you prefer Red?  
i used to wear an outfit a lot like that.  
Mine was more flashy maitre d'  
than motorcycle fetish.  
You kids today.  
I'm sorry, could you hoid on?  
i was just in the middle of setting fire  
to your gang.

**RED HOOD:**

You think i care if that scum dies?  
Don't know. i just wanted your attention.

**RED HOOD:**

You've always had my attention.  
But what i really wanted  
was an audience with you.  
I'm sorry, that seems to imply  
that you organized this little clambake.

**RED HOOD:**

i did. Sure, i had lots of plans...  
...but the endgame was getting Black Mask  
so desperate that he'd cut a deal.  
He was the only one with the connections  
to get into Arkham...  
...and get you out.  
You can't trust anybody.  
So i've been bamboozled.  
oh, my.

**RED HOOD:**

i wouldn't undersell it.  
it took a lot of work  
to bring about our reunion.  
Reunion? Have we met before?

**RED HOOD:**

Yes, we have.  
well, here's to warm memories.  
[MUFFLED SCREAMING]  
[YELLS]  
[SCREAMING]  
RED HOOD [oVER RADio]:  
i've got him.  
You want him? Meet me at crime alley.  
[CoUGHING]  
[LAUGHING]  
okay.  
So, what's the plan?  
Slumber party? Charades?  
A little Truth or Dare?

**Yes:**

well, maybe i'll just go with "truth."  
[JoKER GRUNTING]

**RED HOOD:**

Tell me, how does that feel?  
You know, it only hurts when i laugh.  
But, hey, i gotta know.  
who are you?  
You said we knew one another,

and you do seem really familiar.  
we double at the prom?  
or maybe blow up a school bus together?

**RED HOOD:**

**No:**

That's pretty cryptic...  
...but interesting.  
Tell me more.

**RED HOOD:**

Sure. Listen up.  
[JoKER GRUNTING]

**BATMAN:**

Unreal.

**RED HOOD:**

Hello.  
So glad you could make it.  
This ends tonight. All of it.

**RED HOOD:**

Nobody knows that better than me.

**RED HOOD:**

Ha. oh, you and your gadgets.  
You're not the only one with toys.  
[BEEPING]  
Crap.  
[GRUNTING]  
[RED Hood LAUGHING]  
Look at you.  
i guess we should keep it even.  
Jason.  
Yes.

**BATMAN:**

i don't wanna fight you.

**RED HOOD:**

All evidence to the contrary.  
Please, i can help you.



i know what happened.  
oh, you got to talking with Ra's, huh?  
Does it make it easier for you to think  
that my dip in his fountain of youth...  
...turned me rabid?  
or is this just the real me?  
Tell me...  
...what bothers you more, that your greatest  
failure has returned from the grave?  
or that i've become a better Batman  
than you?  
You're ruling through intimidation  
and murder. Just another criminal.  
I'm what this city needs.  
Hidden goodies all over, huh? we're both  
just a couple of walking armories.  
Maybe so,  
but let's see how you do without your toys.  
Enough. it's over.  
You say you wanna be better than me.  
But it won't happen.  
Not like this.  
i know i failed you...  
...but i tried to save you, Jason.  
I'm trying to save you now.  
is that what you think this is about?  
That you let me die? i don't know  
what clouds your judgment worse.  
Your guilt  
or your antiquated sense of morality.  
Bruce, i forgive you for not saving me.  
But why? why on God's earth...  
...is he sti;; alive?  
[CACKLING]  
Gotta give the boy points.  
He came all the way back from the dead  
to make this shindig happen.  
So who's got a camera?  
ooh! ooh!  
Get one of me and the kid first.  
Then you and me, then the three of us.  
And then one with the crowbar. Then--  
[YELLS]  
You'll be as quiet as possib;e

or i'll put one in your ;ap first.  
Party pooper. No cake for you.  
ignoring what he's done in the past.  
Blind;y, stupid;y, disregarding  
the entire graveyards he's filled...  
...the thousands who have suffered,  
the friends he's crippled.  
You know, i thought--  
i thought i'd be the last person  
you'd ever let him hurt.  
if it had been you  
that he beat to a bloody pulp...  
...if he had taken you from this worid,  
i would've done nothing...  
...but search the planet for this pathetic pile  
of evil death-worshipping garbage...  
...and sent him off to hell.  
You don't understand.  
i don't think you've ever understood.  
what?  
what, your moral code  
just won't allow for that?  
it's too hard to cross that line?  
No. God Aimighty, no.  
it'd be too damned easy.  
All i've ever wanted to do is kill him.  
A day doesn't go by  
i don't think about subjecting him...  
...to every horrendous torture  
he's dealt out to others and then end him.  
Aw. So you do think about me.  
But if i do that...  
...if i allow myself to go down  
into that piace...  
...i'll never come back.  
why? I'm not talking about killing Penguin  
or Scarecrow or Dent.  
I'm talking about him. Just him.  
And doing it because....  
Because he took me away from you.  
i can't. I'm sorry.  
That is so sweet.  
well, you won't have a choice.  
-i won't--

-This is what it's all been about.  
This.  
You, and me and him.  
Now is the time you decide.  
if you won't kill  
this psychotic piece of filth, i will.  
if you wanna stop me,  
you're gonna have to kill me.  
-You know i won't--  
-I'm gonna biow his deranged brains out.  
And if you wanna stop it,  
you are gonna have to shoot me.  
Right in my face.  
This is turning out even better  
than i'd hoped.  
it's him or me, you have to decide.  
Decide now. Do it.  
Him or me? Decide.  
[JoKER CACKLING]  
i can't believe you got him.  
You expert, rooting-tooting, eagle-eyed,  
goth-loving marksman.  
i iove it.  
You managed to find a way to win.  
And everybody still loses.  
No, don't spoil it. This is better.  
I'm the only one who's gonna get  
what he wants tonight.  
Yes, bing, bang, boom.  
we all go out together.  
Don't you just love a happy ending?  
[CACKLING]

**wOMAN oN TV:**

district attorney's office have intimated...  
...the case will likely be dropped  
due to lack of evidence.  
But the Black Mask is still under  
investigation for his alleged complicity...  
...in Joker's escape from Arkham.  
The guards charged with aiding and abetting  
the escape...  
...were found murdered  
in the Gotham courthouse jail...

...while the alleged crime lord, Black Mask,  
was released...

...on \$1 million bail  
for his suspected involvement...  
...and is currently awaiting a hearing.  
Meanwhile, the Joker has been returned  
to Arkham Asylum.

Officials claim extra measures  
have been taken...

...to ensure another escape  
would be impossible.

**MAN:**

Black Mask was being strong-armed...  
...by the mysterious Red Hood.

**ALFRED:**

**Sir:**

in light of all the recent events,  
would you like me to remove that?

No.

This doesn't change anything.

it doesn't change anything at all.

**BATMAN:**

okay, let's go.

if you can't suit up quickly  
at home base...

...I'm concerned how you would handle it  
in the field.

**ALFRED:**

Perhaps he's primping.

As i recall, Master Richard spent nearly  
half an hour admiring his reflection...

...the first time he donned his cape.

Jason, get on out here

or I'm going on patrol without you.

-Ha!

-My word.

-Gotcha.

-would have...

...if i hadn't seen you slip behind

the computer banks three minutes ago.

-No, i got you.

-How does it feel?

[GRUNTING]

it feels awesome.

Check me out.

I'm Robin, the Boy wonder.

Are you kidding me? This rocks.

Come on, old man, we've got bad guys  
who need chasing.

This is the best day of my life.