

# THE DARK KNIGHT

Christopher Nolan

### Act I: *The Orphan*

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| Plot Point 1 | In Gotham City, through a series of double-crosses, one of the banks is robbed by the Joker, who wears a clown mask and takes off in a bus. He's not above putting himself in front of other thugs who unwittingly take a hit for him.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Plot Point 2 | Batman takes care of the scum of Gotham city, dispatching some thugs in a parking garage, but not before getting banged up a bit and attacked by dogs. The Scarecrow comes back for a brief moment and taken into custody. Jim Gordon shows Batman the vault at the bank; the money that Batman has marked has been left behind, but more has been found. Gordon shows him a picture of the Joker, and Batman decides that it's best to take down the whole mob than go after just one person. Alfred stitches Bruce up and they talk about citizens becoming de facto Batmans.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Plot Point 3 | Alfred and Bruce discuss Harvey Dent, who's the new District Attorney in town. They watch him in a news report, along with the stakes character, which is Rachel Dawes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Plot Point 4 | The deflector is Harvey Dent, who flips a coin with Rachel to take first chair in the trial against Salvatore Maroni. Harvey meets with Jim Gordon to take the mob down. Jim and Harvey have trust issues. Jim decides to give him the names of the banks. Meeting at Wayne Enterprises about a joint Chinese venture. Lucian Fox chairs the meeting. An accountant meets with Fox. Bruce and his ballerina date Natasha meet up with Rachel and Harvey, who earns Bruce's respect with his passion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Plot Point 5 | The mob meeting starts with Lu telling them that all of their money has been moved to one undisclosed location, frustrating Gordon and the force. The Joker arrives at the meeting and chides them for Batman having them on the run and proposes to kill Batman. The Joker wants half their money to kill Batman and takes off.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Plot Point 6 | Jim and Dent have an argument about the failure of the bank fiasco. Batman is asked to go to Hong Kong to bring back Lao. Fox and Bruce talk about going to Hong Kong, and Fox shows him a new bat suit which allows him more flexibility. Alfred and Bruce talk about how to get to Hong Kong undetected.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Plot Point 7 | Bruce goes to Hong Kong to get Lao. The Joker recruits thugs from the black mob members. Lucian Fox arrives in Hong Kong and meets with Lao. He uses a cell phone as a tracking device and leaves it in Lao's office building. Bruce apprehends Lao and brings him back to Gotham City. Gordon arrests Salvatore and the mob members. Harvey and Rachel attend the bail hearing for all of the mob members arrested in the sweeps. Judge Cirrillo, during the hearing, sees a Joker card in her paperwork, but moves on. Meeting with Harvey, Jim, and the Mayor. They know that the higher level crime bosses will be able to get out on appeal. The mayor warns Harvey that he's a marked man. The body of a man dressed in a Batman suit slams against the window and is hanging from the neck with the Joker's calling card. |
| Plot Point 8 | Bruce and Alfred are having a tete a tete about Bruce's motives for doing a fundraiser for Harvey. Is it to help fight Gotham's                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

underbelly, or is it to impress Rachel? At the fundraiser party, Bruce makes a splashy entrance, and offers him a back-handed compliment. Rachel calls him on it later in a brief confrontation. Bruce tells him he meant every word about Harvey being the new hero of Gotham City, and that his days of hiding behind the mask are coming to a close. DNA test results from the hanging body reveal samples from the Police Commissioner, Judge Cirrillo, and Harvey Dent - clues as to who the Joker is going target next. Crooked cops give Judge Cirrillo a file. She gets into her car and starts it. Boom. She's toast. Harvey hints at marriage with Rachel. The Police Commissioner intimates to Gordon that he has a drinking problem. He takes a drink. He's poisoned. The Joker comes to the party looking for Harvey. Bruce secures him. Rachel steps up. The Joker taunts him. Tells her a different story about how he got his disfigurement. Batman arrives on the scene and the Joker grabs Rachel. He says he'll let Rachel go if Batman will take his mask off. Pushes Rachel off the building. Batman saves her. Alfred talks to Bruce about his vigilante justice and how it's bringing the mob to act out of desperation. They talk about how the Joker just wants to see the world burn.

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| Plot Point 9     | At the funeral for the deceased police commissioner, major havoc ensues as Bruce/Batman tries to locate the Joker who will no doubt ruin the proceedings. The Mayor speaks at the funeral. The Joker creates a diversion and takes a shot at the mayor. Jim Gordon takes the hit instead. Harvey leaves Rachel, grabs one of the Joker's henchmen and takes off in an ambulance. The henchman is wearing a badge reading Rachel Dawes. Jim Gordon's wife is given the bad news that he's dead. She lashes out at Batman who causes the problem. |
| Plot Point 10    | Batman goes after Salvatore with a vengeance. Harvey tells Rachel, who is marked by the Joker to go Wayne's apartment. Batman drops Salvatore feet first, breaking his legs. Salvatore tells him that Batman lives by a standard of rules and the Joker doesn't, and tells him to take his mask off so that no one else will die.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Plot Point 11    | Harvey goes after the thug, and is about to kill him when Batman comes on the scene. He persuades Harvey not to kill him -- he'll become the thug that he's trying to get rid of in Batman. Bruce and Rachel talk at the mansion. Bruce decides it's time to reveal himself and to lead a normal life and not let anyone else die.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Plot Point 12    | Bruce decides to shut down his career as Batman. He goes to the press conference to turn himself in -- but Harvey comes forward. Rachel is incensed that Bruce let Harvey take the fall for being Batman and walks out of Bruce's life.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Central Question | Will Batman give up his life as a crime fighter and save the life of the woman he loves?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## **Act II:**                    *The Wanderer*

- Yes #1                    Harvey is taken in handcuffs and goes in a police escort. He kisses Rachel and leaves. He is helping Batman flush out the Joker who will obviously come after him.
- Yes #1                    The Joker creates a diversion for the police escort to go underground, and the police cars are picked off one by one.
- Yes #2                    Batman comes to the rescue and stops the Joker from doing any more damage. The Joker takes aim at the police vehicle with the bazooka.
- Yes #2                    Batman puts the batmobile in front the bazooka missile, and the batmobile is destroyed.
- Yes #3                    Batman emerges from the destroyed batmobile with the bat cycle and goes after the Joker. The Joker comes at Batman with guns blazing.
- Yes #3                    Batman wants to run the joker down, but can't bring himself to do it and sends the bat cycle out of control. The Joker tries to attack Batman. Jim Gordon, who isn't dead, captures the Joker. Harvey gets the credit for the apprehension.
- Yes #4                    The Joker is behind bars, and Jim Gordon is promoted to Commissioner. Jim Gordon comes home. An inmate in the jail is having stomach problems. Jim Gordon, after seeing his son, goes back to the police station to interrogate the Joker.
- Yes #4                    We learn that Harvey Dent never made it home.
- Yes #5                    Batman takes over the interrogation to get information out of him regarding the whereabouts of Harvey Dent.
- Yes #5                    He finds out that Rachel is also being held hostage, and beats the Joker senseless as the Joker taunts him about his relationship with Rachel.
- Yes #6                    The Joker gives him the information as to Dent's and Rachel's locations.
- Yes #6                    The problem is...Batman can't save them both. Batman and Gordon go after Harvey and Rachel; Gordon takes one address and Batman takes another. Batman is off, he says, to save Rachel. Meanwhile, in the cell, the guy with the stomach ache is in more pain. A Cop goes after the Joker in his cell after mouthing off to the Joker. Harvey talks with Rachel and decides to save her by trying to trip the detonation device. A barrel of flammable liquid tips over and Harvey lands in it on one side of his body. The Joker breaks out of the cell and wants one phone call. They give him the call, and the explosive in the mentally ill's abdomen goes off and the Joker escapes.

## **Act II:**                    *The Warrior*

- Yes #7                    Rachel decides she wants to marry Harvey. Batman reaches his destination first to save Rachel.
- Yes #7                    Batman finds that the person he's gone to save is Harvey, and he pulls him out. Gordon arrives just as the warehouse with Rachel inside is blown to kingdom come. Batman drags Harvey to safety,

but the force of the explosion causes severe burns to Harvey. Batman is a broken man and grief stricken. Alfred tells him that he can't give up. Harvey is out of commission, but Gotham still needs Batman.

- Yes #8 Jim Gordon goes to meet with Harvey, who is bitter over his loss to Rachel and his face. Gordon sees Salvatore outside the room and Salvatore tells him where he can find the Joker. The Joker meet up with the Italian boss in a freighter. Lao is on top of a huge mountain of money and starts it on fire. At Bruce's apartment, they watch as a news interview where Coleman Reese, the Lucian confronted at Wayne Enterprises is about to name Bruce as the Batman. The Joker decides to go after Coleman Reese to keep his feud with Batman going, and threatens to blow up a hospital in 60 minutes if someone doesn't kill Reese. Bruce Wayne springs into action. The evacuation of the hospitals is underway. Reese is shot at. Bruce is on his way. He learns that a crooked cop, Officer Berg, is with Commissioner Gordon, and is ready to kill Reese.
- Yes #8 During the panic in the hospital, the Joker comes face to face with Harvey and messes with his mind as to who the good guys and the bad guys are in Gotham City. Berg tries to make his move. Bruce rams into the van to stop the attack. The Joker blows up the hospital after setting Harvey free with a gun to raise a little anarchy. The Joker hijacks a bus from Gotham General.
- Yes #9 Lucian finds Bruce in the research and development laboratories working on a spying device.
- Yes #9 Lucian objects to illegal wiretaps, saying that is an invasion of privacy. Lucian tells him that he'll indulge Bruce just this once, and then he's resigning. Harvey kills a crooked cop.
- Yes #10 Batman takes off after the Joker. The evacuation of Gotham City has begun. Harvey kills Salvatore.
- Yes #10 The ferries take off; one with innocent bystanders, and the other with convicts linked to Harvey. There are too many voices all over Gotham to monitor. Batman can't locate the Joker.
- Yes #11 As the Joker tells the people on the ferry of their plans, Lucian locates Batman and he takes off for the office building. Barbara Gordon is called by Ramirez; Harvey has made her make the call.
- Yes #11 Batman arrives to confer with Gordon. He wants five minutes to get to the Joker. Gordon thinks that Harvey Dent is with them and he has to save him. Batman ignores Gordon's wishes and takes off after the Joker.
- Yes #12 Batman is to the rescue, but Jim Gordon only gives him two minutes instead of five before he sends the SWAT teams in.
- Yes #12 Batman swoops in and takes a thug down. Jim gets a phone call from his wife Barbara; they're in trouble.
- Yes #13 Lucian gives Batman the coordinates where the snipers are and where the hostages are. Batman takes off to save the hostages.
- Yes #13 Batman approaches the clowns, which turn out to be the hostages instead of the Joker's henchmen.
- Yes #14 Batman stops the SWAT team from killing the hostages. The people on the ferries cast their votes. The Batman goes after the Joker and finds him.

Yes #14

The Joker sick his dogs on Batman, and they do battle. Batman is pinned under some steel. Neither the inmates nor the regular citizens can kill each other. They wait to die.

**Act III:**

***The Martyr***

Big Yes

Batman overpowers the Joker and leaves him dangling upside down for the Gotham Police Department.

No

Batman finds out that although the Joker is captured, the Joker has unleashed Harvey Dent, who has gone off the deep end.

Big No

Batman finds the Gordons, and Harvey shoots him.

Final Yes

Batman saves Jim Gordon's boy and Harvey falls to his death. To conceal Harvey's turn to the dark side, Batman becomes a martyr and takes the rap for the people that Harvey killed. He turns into the hunted instead of being the hunter.