

WATCHTOWER

5.17 | "Purgatory"

Written by
Jack D. Malone

Based on the character of 'Chloe Sullivan,'
created by Al Gough and Miles Millar

Based on characters from
DC Comics

PRODUCED BY
TheVPN (www.vpn-tv.proboards.com)

CREATED BY
Jack D. Malone

MAIN CAST

CHLOE SULLIVAN	Allison Mack
BRUCE WAYNE / BATMAN	Christian Bale
HELENA KANE	Kayla Ewell
JAMES GORDON	Dylan Walsh
KATE KANE	Deborah Ann Woll
LUCIUS FOX	Charles Michael Davis
RENEE MONTTOYA	Stephanie Beatriz
ARCHER SULLIVAN-QUEEN	Jace Norman
OLIVER QUEEN	Justin Hartley

SPECIAL GUEST CAST

SELINA KYLE	Eliza Dushku
TALIA AL GHUL	Stana Katic
VICKI VALE	Yvonne Strahovski

GUEST CAST

ALFRED PENNYWORTH	Michael Caine
BARBARA GORDON	Emma Stone
CARRIE KELLEY	Liv Hewson
DAMIAN AL GHUL	Asa Butterfield
DANA TAN	Linda Louise Duan
DICK GRAYSON	Patrick J. Adams
DUKE THOMAS	Michael Rainey Jr
ERIC MORAN	Noah Gray-Cabey
JACK WHEELER	Lorenzo James Henrie
JASON TODD	Matthew Daddario
THE JOKER	Joseph Gordon-Levitt
JULIE MADISON	Darby Stanchfield
MACKENZIE BOCK	Derek Roberts
RA'S AL GHUL	Jason Isaacs
SARAH ESSEN	Vera Farmiga
TERRY MCGINNIS	Kian Talan
VICTOR FRIES	Kelsey Grammer
WESLEY OYER	Richard Brake

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

DANA, 20s, a hauntingly beautiful Asian-American, paces the room with anticipation.

Keys rattle at the door. It OPENS-

TERRY, 20s, street-smart Asian-American in casual attire, enters the room with bags of food and supplies in hand.

TERRY

I come bearing gifts.

Dana takes the bags from Terry, then places them on the nearby counter and rummages through them.

DANA

I've got to say - there's nothing quite like the feeling of knowing we aren't going to starve to death waiting to get some help around here. I would prefer to go out literally any other way.

TERRY

Well, I found something else...

A curious Dana returns to Terry and finds him down, on one knee, with a DIAMOND RING held out in a tiny box.

TERRY (CONT'D)

There is nothing in this world I'm more sure of than the love I have for you. And there is nothing I want more than to spend the rest of my life with you.

(beat)

Dana Tan. Will you marry me?

Dana's eyes light up with pure joy. Tears, building...

DANA

Of-

BOOM. The room SHAKES-

Terry drops the ring and falls to his side. Dana moves to help him when another BOOM sounds.

The nearby windows SHATTER.

Dana SNAPS around to see a missile HIT the building opposite them and crumble to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TERRY

What the hell was that?

Dana rips at Terry, pulling him to his feet.

DANA

We need to go.

TERRY

What is it? What did you see?

Dana pulls Terry with her in pursuit of the broken windows, and ushers him forward. He sees the COLLAPSED BUILDING.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Holy sh-

BOOM. The room shakes harder than before-

DANA

Go- down the fire escape. I'll be right behind you.

A nod from Terry. He KICKS the rest of the glass out the window, and mounts it - ONTO the FIRE ESCAPE.

Dana moves to follow.

BOOM. A violent turbulence propels Dana back.

TERRY

(erupting)

Dana!

CRASH! A MISSILE cuts through the ceiling and through the floor behind an oblivious Dana, then IGNITES-

A fiery EXPLOSION tears up the floor. It CONSUMES Dana, then sucks her into it's epicenter as the flames violently spread throughout the building and ERUPT.

Terry HOWLS in agony, reaching out for the woman he loves-

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING/STREET - DAY

A shockwave propels Terry back, into the railing of the fire escape. He SLIDES down in a grunt, then sees-

The fire escape stairs TWIST and MELT-

Terry clings to the railing. He swings around with the crumbling structure, and eventually descends to the ground.

A WASH of dust and debris buries him... everything is BLACK.

Debris is torn off. A puzzle of BLACK becomes clearer to unveil Terry underneath. He examines the world around him:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

It's night-time. Fires everywhere. Smoke. Debris. The air is filled with people's screams of horror and dismay.

It soon blurs together, Terry reeling.

CHLOE (O.S.)

Are you injured? Are you hurt?

The world restores around Terry and he turns to find CHLOE.

TERRY

What?

CHLOE

Are you okay?

TERRY

Yeah, yeah. I'm fine. I'm okay.

Chloe notices a large cut on Terry's head. She combs his hair out of the way to study the extent of it.

CHLOE

You hit your head pretty bad. Do you know where you are?

TERRY

Hell.

(off Chloe)

Otherwise known as Gotham.

CHLOE

What's your name, wise guy?

TERRY

Terry. Terry McGinnis.

OFF this game-changing introduction...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. GORDON RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

THROUGH a debris-ridden room... find a bloodied GORDON left in the rubble of his house, with a large stab-wound to his abdomen that he faintly clutches. He looks to his side:

A CRACKED PHOTOGRAPH rests in the ruins nearby - an image of himself, in suit-and-tie, smiling wide as ever...

EXT. GORDON RESIDENCE, PORCH - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Gordon, in same attire as the photo, is hit with the FLASH-

A smiling SARAH lowers her camera-phone, and Gordon's smile immediately fades with it. *Something is wrong.*

SARAH

Come on. This is an important moment in your life. The ending of another wonderful chapter in the book of all things *James Gordon*.

GORDON

It's hard to be happy when I'm handing the office of Mayor over to a *thug* like Daniel Dickerson.

A miserable Gordon slumps into the chair nearby.

GORDON (CONT'D)

After eight years of being this city's Mayor - whatever legacy I thought I might have... it's tarnished with him taking over.

SARAH

Perhaps being America's greatest and *most handsome President* would make for a nice legacy?

Gordon looks up to see Sarah's playful smile.

GORDON

I'm done with politics.

(off Sarah)

I am, however, ready to be a regular old Joe whose joy comes from waking up next to the woman he loves day in and day out.

Gordon rises to Sarah, and pulls her in for a kiss. The two ease into each other's embrace. Home.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARAH

Buttering me up is *not* going to get you out of this, Mr. Mayor.

GORDON

Damn.

Sarah tugs on Gordon's tie, ushering him to go with her.

SARAH

Come on. I've even planned a surprise for you at City Hall.

GORDON

You *know* I hate surprises.

SARAH

This one will be worth the-

EXT. RESISTANCE BASE (RUINS) - NIGHT

A harrowing GASP-

Sarah ignites under rubble and dirt. She coughs for clean air, then shuffles under thick debris. She leans on her right arm to push up, then HISSES in agony. A whimper.

SWISH PAN to her right arm to see it BROKEN-

Sarah sinks back down, clutching her arm. She winces. A panicked look appears on her face, buried under rubble with no ability to escape. Her breaths become shallow...

RENEE (O.S.)

Hold on. I got you.

RENEE surfaces. She tears open the rubble, and lifts off the debris to unearth a relieved Sarah. Renee drops to her aid.

SARAH

My arm. I think it's broken.

Renee takes off her sweater, and RIPS it apart. She fashions a SLEEVE that pulls up Sarah's arm - through her pained winces - and holds it to her chest. A temporary fix.

RENEE

Here. That should do the trick.

SARAH

Thanks. A warning would have been nice, but... thanks.

Sarah shuffles up, and sits. She looks around at the damage of their base, then finds Renee's eyes unable to escape her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARAH (CONT'D)

What? Why are you staring at me?

RENEE

Nothing. It's just... you saved my life back there. Dived on me like a *superhero* or something. You took most of the damage because of it.

SARAH

I do some stupid things sometimes.

The two share a brief laugh.

RENEE

You're going to have to forgive me but I'm probably going to be totally in love with you for the next twenty-four hours.

SARAH

You're only human.

Sarah musters the strength with one hand to stand. Renee rises too. Together, they examine the extent of the damage around them: a city in total ruins.

SARAH (CONT'D)

We have to find every survivor left in this city and prepare for whoever or whatever the hell was behind this attack.

RENEE

Lead the way.

OFF Sarah, guiding Renee through the ruins...

EXT. RESISTANCE BASE (RUINS) - NEAR CRATER - NIGHT

Fallen equipment sparks. In the wreckage stands CARRIE, DUKE and JACK, huddled together unharmed, while ERIC stands a few feet away. All eyes are locked on him, and he notices.

ERIC

I didn't know I could do that.

CARRIE

The part where you took a hit from a missile and felt nothing, or the part where you absorbed the blast-

DUKE

And shot it out like you were a fire extinguisher.

Jack jumps in the space between, arms out-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

Hey, give him some space.

DUKE

We're not trying to have a go-

CARRIE

Eric, you saved our lives back there. It was incredible.

ERIC

I think I killed them.

CARRIE

What?

Jack looks back at a torn Eric. He looks up from his hands to lock eyes with his friends.

ERIC

I was just trying to redirect the explosion, but I-

QUICK CUT - ERIC, burning with power, turns from his friends, hands out, and a WAVE OF ENERGY erupts out of him.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I think I saw Lucius. I think he-

QUICK CUT - ERIC, turning with his hands out, is now instead blocked by an appearing LUCIUS, motioning for him to stop.

ERIC (CONT'D)

He jumped in front-

QUICK CUT - An EXPLOSION rips up the ground, and swallows up a howling Lucius, and other civilians.

Eric turns to see the LARGE CRATER nearby that is covered in the wreckage. Carrie, Duke and Jack look to it with the same fear exuding from Eric's eyes...

ERIC (CONT'D)

I'm a murderer.

An empathetic Carrie, tears in their eyes, reaches for Eric-

CARRIE

Eric, no, you-

But Eric has already walked off.

JACK

Just let him cool off, okay? I'm serious. Back up.

Jack chases after Eric, while Carrie and Duke deflate...

EXT. GOTHAM CITY, STREETS - NIGHT

Chloe and Terry navigate the crumbling city.

CHLOE

So. How long have you lived in Gotham? And if this *was* a vacation destination for you, then my follow-up question would be... 'why?'

TERRY

Oh, so this is the *getting to know each other* part of surviving an apocalypse together?

(off Chloe)

I've lived here my whole life.

CHLOE

Oh. Good.

(off Terry)

It's just - if that *wasn't* the case then that opens up a whole other line of questioning that makes me wonder if being paired up with you in this *specific* hour of need is the best circumstance for me.

Terry allows himself a moment to laugh. A nice break from the grief that rests deep inside...

TERRY

No, I'm well aware of Gotham's history. Truth is, I had my own rebellious phase for a while there. If a nice lady-cop from the GCPD didn't steer me on the right path, then I'd probably be another lackey for someone like Cobblepot or Dent.

CHLOE

If only this city had more stories like that.

TERRY

Guess I knew how their stories ended, and I didn't want that for myself, you know?

A beat. Chloe is warming up quickly to this guy.

CHLOE

So, what did you do before No-Mans-Land came and *ruined* everything?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TERRY

The officer that saved me - she put
in a good word for me at Wayne
Enterprises. Landed me a job as
one of Wayne's *many* assistants.

CHLOE

As in 'get me my coffee' assistant
or 'we need to hide the body' kind
of assistant?

TERRY

(with a laugh)

Neither.

(beat)

I worked on the *charity* side of his
company. I wanted to help give
back to the community.

Terry stops for a beat. He notices the 'community' - the
city around him, now covered in smoke, ash, and decay.

Chloe senses his turmoil. She approaches with a smile.

CHLOE

You're starting to make me doubt
that people are the company they
keep - with *Bruce Wayne*, of all
people, in your orbit.

TERRY

He may have been an asshole but at
least he invested his money back
into the people of this city - and
for good causes, too.

Terry looks back at Chloe, dreary-eyed...

TERRY (CONT'D)

I wonder how safe the city would be
if Bruce were alive to keep us
protected now.

Terry looks back to the city, a hope faded from his eyes...

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

A GASP. BRUCE jolts up out of slumber, and sits up to find
himself inside the familiar temple. He scans the room, until
his eyes land on an all-knowing TALIA AL GHUL.

TALIA

We have to stop meeting like this.

BRUCE

What is this? What's going on?
How did I get here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TALIA

You ask too many questions.

Talia closes the gap between her and Bruce.

TALIA (CONT'D)

I'd always hoped our paths would
cross in these last moments. You.
Me. Together, at the very end.

Lights shimmer around the temple. All-consuming. It begins
to dawn on Bruce what this means, where he is...

TALIA (CONT'D)

If I never told you this before,
it's imperative I tell you now.

Talia takes Bruce's hands. His focus shifts to only her:

In the BG, the temple trembles into a THICK BLACK ABYSS that
envelops the two of them, spiralling around them until there
is no physical building in which they stand.

TALIA (CONT'D)

You were the best thing that ever
happened to me. And it wasn't just
because you showed me what it meant
to be human - to *feel*, to *love*, to
be loved... but it's without you
that I'd be without my son. And he
has given me everything I never
thought I'd deserved.

BRUCE

Talia-

Bruce notices the BLACK. He RIPS free-

The world around him returns to the temple. He scatters
away, confused and scared to face the black again.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

The hell was that?

TALIA

It's time, Bruce. It's time for
you to take my hands, step into the
light, and move on.

BRUCE

No. I'm not finished until I know
my city is safe.

Bruce turns, rushing to the doors, and ERUPTS THROUGH-

INT. TEMPLE, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Bruce bursts into the hallway. He is immediately met with the sight of Talia in front of him. Waiting.

TALIA

Do not make me chase you.

Bruce backs up to the closed doors behind him.

Talia's form rips, breaks, then violently MORPHS into:

A DEMONIC ENTITY leaves behind the corpse of Talia and hovers above the carcass. It CLAWS to the wall, then RUNS-

Bruce SNAPS around, ripping at the doors, and falling...

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Bruce falls out of the door and onto the rooftop. He crawls up to see the BAT-SYMBOL burning high in the night sky. He rises, and turns to find GORDON, stood beside the FLOODLIGHT.

BRUCE

Jim?

GORDON

I can't believe that worked.

When Gordon moves for him, Bruce steps back in fear-

BRUCE

Stay the hell away from me.

A confused Gordon eases up.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

None of this is real. And I am not giving up. You hear me?

(erupting)

I'm never giving up on Gotham!

GORDON

Give up?

(off Bruce)

That's the last thing I'd ask you to do. What are you-

Gordon stops. He hears a CRUNCH echo beside him, and turns-

GORDON (CONT'D)

Did you hear that?

Gordon looks back to a confused Bruce, then-

INT. GORDON RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gordon's eyes open. He's back in the living room. He takes in a sharp, pained breath, then eases to his left where he hears a second CRUNCH. Footsteps.

BARBARA (O.S.)

Dad?

Gordon twists to see a surfacing BARBARA find him in the wreckage. She crouches down to his side.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Oh, thank god. You had me worried there for a second.

GORDON

Barbara?

OFF a confused Gordon, reunited with his daughter...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Gordon stands at a podium, addressing a packed crowd of press, and civilians. He appears nervous, until his eyes find a certain someone in the crowd...

A proud BARBARA, at the front of the crowd in her chair, watches on with a beaming smile.

GORDON

I want to thank you all for gathering here today - not just on my behalf, but on behalf of the democratic process, and honouring our history of a healthy, safe and secure transition of power.

(beat)

This was a tumultuous time for our city. Our thoughts and our prayers are with Arthur Reeves' family. It remains true that he was the victor of this election, and in the events following his untimely death, Daniel Dickerson stepped up and took on the responsibility of honouring what Reeves stood for, and secured your vote to become the next Mayor of Gotham City.

Gordon looks over to see DANIEL DICKERSON (60s, thick-rimmed glasses, clean-shaven man of high-esteem), sat on stage.

GORDON (CONT'D)

I would be lying if I said I wasn't hoping for a *different* outcome-

The crowd laughs.

GORDON (CONT'D)

But this is democracy at it's best, and we must honour it each and every single-

BOOM. The crowd SCATTERS-

Gordon clings to the podium stand. He looks out to the fleeing crowd and sees Sarah, pulling Barbara in her chair and steering her out of harm's way.

BOOM. An EXPLOSION rips from City Hall-

Gordon SNAPS around to see debris wash over Dickerson, collapsing to his side. He turns to face ANOTHER EXPLOSION-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Smoke washes over Gordon, clouding his vision...

The JOKERZ GANG, a group of men in JOKER MASKS and familiar coloured suits, flood the stage. One man, in a noticeable hat (let's call them TOP HAT JOKER), rushes Gordon.

TOP HAT JOKER
Time's up, Mayor.

GORDON
Get off me.

Top Hat Joker PULLS Gordon away, feet kicking as he's dragged off the stage and out of sight.

In the crowd, Barbara struggles to see what's happening...

BARBARA (PRELAP)
I'm so sorry.

INT. GORDON RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Barbara watches over a bloodied Gordon on the ground.

BARBARA
I'm sorry for not being there when
you needed me.

GORDON
You're here now. And that's all
that matters.

Gordon looks up at his daughter, smiling down on him, then notices... *she's not in her chair.*

GORDON (CONT'D)
Your chair.

BARBARA
What's wrong?

GORDON
Why don't you have your chair?

BARBARA
I- I can go get it... if that makes
it easier for you.

GORDON
What?

Gordon's wound agitates him. It pulls him back to reality, and he winces in pain. Barbara puts her arms around him.

BARBARA
Shh. Everything is going to be
okay. You just need to hold on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GORDON

Oh, Barbara.
(looks back to her)
My sweet Barbara.

The image of Barbara GLITCHES from her crouched down at his side to her WHEELCHAIR-BOUND (now bruised, cut, and bloodied). A haunting image that Gordon turns from-

GORDON (CONT'D)

Jesus.

BARBARA (O.S.)

Dad?

OFF a shaken Gordon, unable to look back...

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

An isolated Bruce stands on the rooftop.

BRUCE

Jim? Jim?! Come on, where the
hell did you go? Jim?

Silence. A change in the wind summons Bruce around-

Stood at the entrance, a stunning JULIE MADISON offers a soothing smile in Bruce's direction. She's glowing.

JULIE

Hello, Bruce.

BRUCE

No.

Bruce immediately backs away.

JULIE

I know what you're going through
right now. I really do. It's okay
to be uncertain whether you're
making the right choice in letting
go. I had the exact same fears.

BRUCE

Stop. It's not- this isn't real.

JULIE

The truth is... you just know, deep
down and deep within, that it's
time. You feel it, don't you?

Bruce pauses with hesitation. *Is it his time?*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE (CONT'D)

You fought the good fight for so long, Bruce. You've done all that you can. It's time to rest now.

Bruce shifts with the changing wind, more confident than ever. He faces Julie with pained eyes of clarity:

BRUCE

I'm so sorry that I couldn't save you. But I know - deep in my bones... I can still save my city, which means your death wasn't for nothing. All the people I've lost over the years wasn't for nothing.

A CRACK in the ground divides them-

Julie HOWLS in anger. Her body cracks and twists until she collapses and the familiar DEMONIC ENTITY that growls.

A horrified Bruce trips, and falls with the debris...

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

A descending Bruce falls through black, and lands on the harsh surface of the Batcave. He's winded. And alone.

INT. CRATER - NIGHT

Dirt and debris fills the crater underground.

A violent cough, and an ash-covered LUCIUS awakens. He looks around to see his environment, then remembers:

QUICK CUT - LUCIUS rushes for ERIC. WESLEY dives in between the two, and the BLAST CONNECTS WITH HIM.

Lucius twists from the painful memory. A deep fear builds inside, he turns around to see... a scarred and bloody Wesley lies faint and weak on the ground.

LUCIUS

No.

Lucius collapses to Wesley's aid, and crawls closer to him.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

Wes? Wesley, are you-

A gasp. Wesley's breaths are shallow, but audible. Alive.

WESLEY

Lucius.

He appears overwhelmed at the sight of Lucius, still alive.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCIUS

You idiot. You could have been
blown into a million pieces.

WESLEY

(struggling)

It was worth... every risk... to
save you. Every risk.

Lucius notices the full-extent of Wesley's wounds: his legs
are missing, bones protrude out, he is bleeding out.

LUCIUS

I'm going to get you out of here.

Lucius notices further ahead... an unconscious BOCK.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

I'll get us all out of here.

WESLEY

No. I don't think fate... has an
escape... in the cards for me right
about now- what... do you reckon?

Wesley succumbs to a violent cough. Blood trickles out.

LUCIUS

Looks have always been deceiving.

WESLEY

I'm just glad I get to go out
saving a superhero.

LUCIUS

You're not dying here today-

Wesley reaches out, and CLINGS to Lucius. He summons his
focus, and it's exactly what Lucius offers him:

WESLEY

I know you can never forgive me -
nor have I earned it - but you gave
me a chance to prove that I'm more
than my mistakes, that I *can*
change, that I *have* changed, and
for that... I can- I can finally...

Wesley's eyes roll into the back of his head, and he eases
down with one final release of breath. Dead.

A traumatised Lucius slinks back, away from the remains in
front of him, and trembles in shock. It takes everything in
him to process what's happening, then he RISES.

LUCIUS

Somebody please help us!

CONTINUED:

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I was near where the old bridge used to be. Right on the outskirts of Gotham. A missile landed right in front of me, and-

TERRY

You dove into the ocean. Nice.

CHLOE

No. I froze. I stared death right in the eye and couldn't so much as blink. It was terrifying.

(long pause)

Once I realised the missile wasn't going off - that it was defective or something... I realised I could exhale, and breathe, and get to work on finding those who weren't as lucky as me. So I ran straight back into the city to do just that.

TERRY

Damn. So what you're telling me is that not *all* heroes wear capes.

Chloe jabs Terry in the arm.

CHLOE

Shut it.

A CHILD'S SCREAM echoes throughout the street-

Chloe and Terry look to each other in horror, then rush towards the source. They climb above a LARGE PILE OF DEBRIS and jump over to find a YOUNG CHILD (6) in distress.

YOUNG CHILD

Help me, please. My parents are stuck under that building!

Chloe rushes to the child, while Terry looks to see the demolished building with no obvious sign in the wreckage.

TERRY

I don't think I can-

CHLOE

We'll do everything we can to try and save them, okay?

(to Terry)

Right, Terry?

Terry takes in a breath. He nods.

TERRY

I'll see what I can do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Terry moves for the building, and starts RIPPING pieces away to hopefully unearth something.

Chloe remains on the young child, comforting her.

CHLOE

You're very brave. What's your name, baby girl?

YOUNG CHILD

Anne.

CHLOE

Anne? I love that name. You know, it's actually my middle name.

The young child (now ANNE) smiles back at Chloe.

ANNE

It's my Mum's name too.

CHLOE

Oh, wow. That's incredible. Tell me, did you see what happened here exactly? Anything that might help?

ANNE

We were staying here. Taking cover. Everything was fine until this man showed up. He was an angry man. He wanted us out. We tried to leave but-

(whimpering)

He smashed through the rest of the building until it fell. My parents pushed me out just before it did, and I saw it- I saw it...

Chloe pulls Anne tighter while she SOBS-

CHLOE

Shh. You're okay. You're safe.

(long pause)

Do you know who this man is?

HANDS grip Chloe's back, and PEEL HER off and on the ground-

An unsteady Anne bounces from the movement, and hits the ground in a heave. She continues to cry.

Stood in between, staring down at Chloe, a vicious VICTOR FRIES reveals himself (in SUIT) and carries with him his iconic FREEZE GUN. He growls with unkempt rage.

VICTOR

I believe the man she is referring to - is me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Ice FIRES from the gun, and GLUES Chloe's arm down...

CHLOE

Victor? What happened to you?

VICTOR

A world of pain. The same pain the
rest of this city deserves.

TERRY (O.S.)

Hey!

Terry moves from the wreckage, and CHARGES-

Victor SNAPS around and fires his freeze gun: a WAVE OF ICE
sprays out and washes over Terry's leg. He's GLUED.

TERRY (CONT'D)

What the-

Terry struggles to break free.

VICTOR

Now. Where was I?

Victor turns to face the young girl, who SCREAMS IN HORROR-

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. RESISTANCE BASE (RUINS) - NIGHT

Renee pulls another resistance survivor from a wall of rubble, rescuing them. She helps clean off the dirt that stains them, then hands them to another TWO SURVIVORS.

PEEL BACK to find Sarah, eyes fixed on the REMAINS of someone she knew. She's clearly shaken and disturbed.

CARRIE (O.S.)
(muffled)
He's alive. Lucius is alive!

Sarah SNAPS out of her haze with relief.

SARAH
Carrie.

Sarah turns back, and rushes over to Renee, who appears ignited with hope herself.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I just heard-

RENEE
I heard it too. Come on.

Renee pulls on Sarah's good hand, and the two RACE OFF-

INT. CRATER - NIGHT

Sounds of tearing and punching echo against the blocked entry-point of the crater. Lucius backs up from the DUST that erupts from each apparent hit. A pain strikes him.

Looking down, Lucius notices SHRAPNEL buried in his side...

LUCIUS
Guess the adrenalin is wearing off.

BOCK (O.S.)
Couldn't bring myself to tell you.

Lucius turns to find Bock, now sat-up and leaning against the exterior of the crater. A deceased Wesley lays nearby.

BOCK (CONT'D)
That explosion messed us all up.

Bock unveils SHRAPNEL in his shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCIUS

I'm sure we'll be out of here
before we feel the full effects of-

Lucius SLIDES down, against the wall. He grows weak. He looks at his BLOOD-STAINED HANDS by his wound.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

Or maybe now.

Bock notices the progression of Lucius' wound. A deep fear builds in his eyes, and he sits further up.

BOCK

Did I ever tell you that the
Batwing was *my* favourite superhero?
(off Lucius)
Don't tell Batman.

Lucius chuckles to himself, then pauses. A fond memory:

LUCIUS

My favourite hero was *The Ranger*.

Lucius takes in a deep, calming breath.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

Something tells me that my
superhero days are well behind me.

BOCK

I don't know about that.

LUCIUS

Well, if it is time for me to hang
up the mask, perhaps someone like
you would want to take up the
mantle for me one day, hmm?

BOCK

Sorry, but I refuse to accept your
story ends here.
(beat)
Not *my* hero.

A comforted Lucius simply smiles back...

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A bound GORDON sits up against a large beam where his hands are tied behind it. He watches on as the JOKERZ GANG gather.

J-MAN (O.S.)

I told you to be patient, damn it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AROUND the gang: TOP HAT JOKER, SPIKE, SMIRK, SCAB, their apparent leader J-MAN, and BAT-EARS JOKER (a mask with distinct ears resembling the Batman). They huddle.

J-MAN (CONT'D)

Batman will show up at any second looking to save his precious partner in crime. We need to be on high alert and be ready the very second he makes his presence known, understood?

TOP HAT JOKER

Yeah- yes, sir.

J-Man's focus shifts to a hesitant Spike and Scab.

J-MAN

Got a problem?

SCAB

Sorry, boss. It's just - I don't think he's gonna show.

J-MAN

Oh, *really*?

J-Man turns away, rolling his eyes...

SCAB

Yeah, well, I mean - when was the last time you even saw Batman working with this guy? We should have gone after someone more important to him. Someone like-

BANG! Scab collapses from a BLINDING GUNSHOT.

Gordon flinches by the beam. He rips at the ropes in fear, and notices they are LOOSE. An idea forms in his head...

J-Man lowers his SMOKING GUN. He closes in on Spike, who tenses. He's too focused on the coward to notice the clear existential crisis happening with Bat-Ears Joker.

J-MAN

And what was your problem?

SPIKE

Nothing. I'm with you all the way, boss. All the way.

J-MAN

Good. Because you're all nothing without me. Remember that!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Gordon rips his hand free, and examines his watch. He works the interface, and SENDS HIS LOCATION to 'Wife.'

When J-Man turns from the group-

Gordon quickly shuffles his hands back around the beam, and pretends the rope is binding them.

GORDON
You're all going to prison.

J-MAN
I'll settle for Arkham.

The JOKERZ GANG laughs with the maniacal J-Man.

GORDON
I mean it. You're looking up to a false idol - a man that's done far worse than anything you could possibly even *think* of doing, and he's failed every single time.

The words cut through J-Man. They shake him up.

GORDON (CONT'D)
You know who always wins? Batman.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

SPIRAL around a defeated Bruce, glued to the floor in agony, as he slowly peels himself off the hard ground and rises.

JASON TODD (O.S.)
You just don't know when to give up, do you?

Bruce turns to find his old protegee, JASON TODD.

JASON TODD (CONT'D)
Imagine what life I would have if you did.

BRUCE
Jason, I-

ALFRED (O.S.)
Perhaps I'd be on vacation.

A deep grief hits Bruce. He turns to find ALFRED.

ALFRED (CONT'D)
I could finally rest after all those years I'd given to you and your family. I'd have time for myself, you know?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALFRED (CONT'D)

It sounds so weird saying that, but-
god knows I'd earned it.

BRUCE

(devastated)

Alfred...

Bruce is TACKLED to the ground by a man in a PURPLE SUIT who
mounts him. A CACKLE instantly reveals... THE JOKER.

THE JOKER

We were supposed to pack it in
together, Batsy. Now you've gone
and ruined everything.

BRUCE

Get... off... me.

Bruce struggles under Joker's hold.

HANDS RIP the clown off, and throw him aside. Bruce squirms
around to find... DICK GRAYSON stands above him.

DICK

You should have given up when you
crossed that line, Bruce. The line
that separated you from them.

Bruce looks away, unable to confront his demons...

DICK (CONT'D)

Then maybe I would still be here,
too. And I wouldn't be forced to
sacrifice myself to save someone
who, if the roles were reversed,
wouldn't choose to save himself.

BRUCE

Enough.

Bruce turns his back and rises, fleeing from Dick, now behind
him, and rushing into... a solemn SELINA blocks Bruce's path.

SELINA

Hello, Bruce.

BRUCE

No.

Bruce immediately turns away from her, and SHUTS HIS EYES.

SELINA (O.S.)

Oh, right. I forgot that it's not
me you're hoping to see at the end
of the line... is it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Hands guide Bruce's own hands down from his eyes... he looks to find a vibrant, glowing VICKI in front of him.

VICKI

It's me.

Tears well in Bruce's eyes, reeling at the sight of her.

VICKI (CONT'D)

Come with me, Bruce. The life you wanted us to share is waiting for you. You just have to accept it.

BRUCE

(breaking)

I can't. I'm so sorry, but I-

CHLOE (O.S.)

Bruce?

The image of Vicki FADES in front of a broken Bruce. He turns to find his friend, Chloe.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Bruce, you have to stop torturing yourself like this. It's only going to make things worse.

BRUCE

No. I have to fight. I have to save my city.

CHLOE

You already did. You brought me back so I could save it.

Chloe takes Bruce's hand. He locks eyes with her.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

So let me save it.

OFF the convincing argument, Bruce's mind coming around...

EXT. GOTHAM CITY, STREETS - NIGHT

Chloe struggles to break through the ice around her wrist, while Victor maintains aim with his FREEZE GUN on Anne.

CHLOE

Don't hurt her. Please. She didn't do anything!

VICTOR

And that makes her immune to the cruelty of life?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHLOE

Victor... what happened to you?

VICTOR

The missiles came, and they
destroyed... everything.

QUICK CUT - A MISSILE rips through the room. An EXPLOSION erupts between Victor and his WIFE (in the CHAMBER).

VICTOR (CONT'D)

All that I've worked on... all the
years of clinging to hope.

QUICK CUT - VICTOR crawls through the destruction to find his WIFE (out of the CHAMBER). He cradles her lifeless body.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

All for it to be taken away in a
matter of seconds.

(off Chloe)

I held her in my arms as she died.

Chloe takes a sharp breath, realising...

CHLOE

I'm so sorry.

VICTOR

I was so close to a cure.

CHLOE

There are others. Others out there
who could still need your-

VICTOR

(erupting)

I don't care about anyone else!

Chloe gulps. She looks on in fear as Victor faces the ruins.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

I bought this place to be our home,
together. I came here - *with* her -
so we could at least share it as
our final resting place. That's
when I saw them. Her.

Victor turns back to a terrified Anne.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

You petulant child. Taking what
isn't yours.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHLOE

They needed shelter. A place to keep warm. You've seen what's left of this city.

VICTOR

It's beyond the house now, darling.

Victor faces Chloe, unkempt rage in his eyes:

VICTOR (CONT'D)

I want everyone to suffer the way I've suffered. I want everyone to lose what I've lost.

CHLOE

No. Look, I know what you're going through. I understand your pain. I've been separated from my family back home ever since the bridges went down, and I'm doing everything I can to make sure I see them-

VICTOR

(erupting)

You know nothing of what I'm going through. You still have a family out there. I have nothing- no one.

TERRY (O.S.)

What about me?

Victor, seething, turns to find Terry-

TERRY (CONT'D)

I watched my fiance be buried under the same building she agreed to marry me in. I was so happy about the future - our future - and it was just *ripped* away from me.

(beat)

I know what you're going through, and I feel that same anger that's running through your veins right now. But you can't give into it.

Victor lowers his weapon, appearing to come around... his eyes find the little girl, and the fear in her eyes, and he realises what type of monster he has become. Regrets.

QUICK CUT - PAINED BREATHS through THICK SMOKE. SIRENS blare throughout the chaos... SPARKS. The WIFE reaches out...

Victor looks away, haunted by the memories-

QUICK CUT - The lifeless WIFE stares blankly at the ceiling, cradled in a weeping Victor's arms...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Victor growls with rage, then RAISES HIS WEAPON-

TERRY (CONT'D)

No, stop!

Chloe's arm RIPS through the ice. She rises, and charges into Victor. He pivots, PULLING ON THE TRIGGER-

ICE PAINTS the ground, then stops.

Victor CRACKS the gun against Chloe, knocking her back onto the ground. She struggles to stand when Victor KICKS her hard in the ribs. Chloe ROLLS over in a huff.

ANNE

Stop it! Don't hurt her!

Victor returns his aim on Anne.

VICTOR

To hope is to suffer. To die is to be free. Consider this a gift.

Terry's leg KICKS through the ice- he CHARGES-

Victor is TACKLED to the ground. His weapon SLIDES across the ice, and away from the two.

Terry FLIPS up into a fighting stance, but notices...

Victor stays down. He groggily looks around, and notices a large TEAR in his suit. Air seeps in, choking him.

TERRY

What- what's happening to him?

Chloe brings herself back up to her feet. She joins Terry.

CHLOE

His suit. He needs it to survive.

Chloe drops to Victor's aid, placing her hand on his shoulder to comfort him in his final moments.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

It's okay, you're okay. You'll be with her.

Victor's fearful eyes evolve into peace. He nods, then eases back, a small smile stitching across his face as he eases into death. Chloe falls back, off him. Traumatized.

TERRY (O.S.)

Hey, you're okay.

Chloe looks over her shoulder to see Terry - he comforts a frightened Anne, hugging her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

TERRY (CONT'D)

You're safe now. We've got you.

OFF Chloe, sinking with relief...

EXT. RESISTANCE BASE (RUINS) - NEAR CRATER - NIGHT

Carrie, Duke, Eric and Jack rip at the debris blocking the entrance to the crater.

SARAH (O.S.)

Something down there?

Suddenly, Sarah and Renee surface behind them.

CARRIE

It's Lucius. He got caught in an explosion that built this crater and he fell in. He's trapped.

DUKE

Not entirely how it happened.

JACK

Watch it, Duke.

Eric looks away, guilt-ridden...

RENEE

How *did* it happen?

ERIC

A missile was headed straight for us. I moved in front of it. Don't ask me why but I did. Before I knew it, I absorbed the power of it. The fire and destruction. It consumed me. I felt like I became the missile - like I was about to explode. I turned away from my friends but... Lucius was there and he saw me and he ran at me like he was trying to save *me* or something but it was too late. I had to get rid of it, I had to let it out, and I just - I blew. I... detonated.

JACK

He redirected the explosion from the missile. It opened the crater that Lucius is inside.

RENEE

Got it.

Renee turns her back - as though to leave...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sarah heads further in, more questions than she had before:

SARAH

Have you always known that you
could do this - that you had
these... these powers?

ERIC

No. Well, not really. There was
that one time-

JACK

Hey, what are you-

CARRIE

Renee!

Renee resurfaces with a GRENADE in hand in fast pursuit of an
oblivious Eric. She grabs his hand, and places it into his
possession. He looks down and notices it.

RENEE

You did it once, you can do it
again. Now.

Renee PULLS the pin, and steps back. The others follow.

JACK

Eric!

Duke PULLS Jack back, away from his friend-

ERIC

How could you-

BOOM. An EXPLOSION consumes Eric-

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. RESISTANCE BASE (RUINS) - NEAR CRATER - NIGHT

Smoke clears to reveal Eric - he LIGHTS UP with a fiery energy that consumes his entire body.

Renee stands stoically, while Duke, Carrie, Jack and Sarah back up, uncertain of what comes next.

Eric angrily steers around to face the crater:

A COLOSSAL wave of fiery energy ERUPTS out of Eric and slams into the crater. An EXPLOSION bursts!

INT. CRATER - NIGHT

Everything trembles. Bock holds onto Lucius, strong, and they gradually look up to see MOONLIGHT RUSH IN.

The team huddles above the now open-crater, looking in...

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A terrified Spike rushes in-

SPIKE

Cops found us. How the hell did
the cops find us?!

SWISH PAN to the panicked gang. J-Man immediately turns off and runs to the door for escape, when it OPENS.

An OFFICER stops J-Man at the door, gun aimed right on him:

OFFICER

Don't move.

J-MAN

Yeah, yeah.

J-Man concedes, placing his hands above his head...

The warehouse doors ERUPT open and TWO POLICE VEHICLES slide into the room. Officers emerge, lead by Sarah.

Top Hat Joker watches as the gang members are arrested...

TOP HAT JOKER

To hell with this.

Top Hat Joker pulls a gun and moves straight for Gordon.

GORDON

Hey, hey, hey-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THWACK! The gun is knocked out of Top Hat Joker's hands, and he WHIPS AROUND to find Bat Ears Joker stopped him...

TOP HAT JOKER
You're going to die for that.

Top Hat Joker fixes his aim on Bat Ears Joker.

Gordon KICKS out at Top Hat Joker's ankles, and he COLLAPSES.

GORDON
Eye for an eye?

Bat Ears Joker nods, and finds his breath. He moves for Gordon's ropes, then realises they were UNTIED.

GORDON (CONT'D)
I'm good. But thank you.

SARAH (O.S.)
Hey, stop right there!

Bat Ears Joker tenses up, then FLEES-

GORDON
Sarah, wait, he-

Sarah CHASES after the fleeing Joker...

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Bat Ears Joker slips over on the pavement in his escape, but quickly claws back up onto his feet to run.

Sarah emerges, gun held out and aimed right on him:

SARAH
Stop or I'll shoot.

Bat Ears Joker immediately HALTS.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Take off your mask.

Bat Ears Joker removes their mask and drops it to the side.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Turn around.

The unmasked man turns to reveal a YOUNG TERRY MCGINNIS (17).

TERRY
I'm sorry. I am. I just- I wanted to be part of something. It's stupid. I know. But I didn't know this was going to happen - it all got so out of hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARAH
Couldn't have signed up for a chess
club or something?

TERRY
I'm really sorry.

SARAH
You saved my husband's life back
there. I saw you.

Sarah lowers her gun, and disarms.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Maybe that's a group you should
think about joining, hmm? Be one
of the heroes, instead of one of
these... clowns.

Sarah scoops up the BAT EARS JOKER MASK.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Run along, kid.

A naive Terry nods, then turns to run...

EXT. GOTHAM CITY, STREETS - NIGHT

Terry strains, and with all his might, LIFTS a large wall of
debris up to unveil a MOTHER and a FATHER. They crawl out,
covered in dirt and ash and bearing minor injuries.

ANNE (O.S.)
Mummy. Daddy.

Anne runs into the arms of her parents. While they embrace,
the father looks back at Terry with gratitude.

FATHER
Thank you, *thank you*. Thank you
for saving our family.

Terry offers a sincere nod. An all-knowing Chloe approaches.

CHLOE
Looks like we've got another real-
life superhero in this city.

TERRY
Just doing what anyone else would
if they stumbled across a crying
girl asking for her parents.
(off Victor)
Did you know him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHLOE

Yeah. He wasn't the monster he made himself out to be. Grief really changes people.

TERRY

I know.

Chloe catches the glimpse of pain in Terry's eyes...

CHLOE

I'm sorry - *about your fiance.*

TERRY

Thanks.

(then)

You know, I never really got to hear a full answer when I asked her to marry me. The missile had already hit the building when-

Terry is struck hard with grief. He looks away.

TERRY (CONT'D)

I'd like to think she was about to say 'yes.'

CHLOE

I'm sure she was. I mean, I've only known you for a few hours and you're easily *not the worst* person I've met in Gotham.

TERRY

Gee, thanks.

CHLOE

You're welcome.

A beat. The air shifts to something more serious...

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I'm looking around at this place and I can't help but wonder if there even is a future worth fighting for when it comes to this city. I mean look at it.

Gotham continues to decay in front of their very eyes.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Do you think Gotham can ever be rebuilt after something like this?

TERRY

I think Gotham will rise again, and maybe this time it can be better.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Terry turns to find Chloe with a beaming smile on her face.

TERRY (CONT'D)

What?

CHLOE

Nothing.

TERRY

No, really, what is it?

CHLOE

It's just - I think that's something a hero would say...

The two look to the family, a symbol of Terry's heroism...

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Chloe confronts Bruce in the cave.

CHLOE

The question you have to ask yourself right now is - *do you trust me?*

Chloe offers out her hand to Bruce...

GORDON (O.S.)

Don't listen to her.

Bruce turns to find a stoic Gordon, descending the stairs.

GORDON (CONT'D)

You know yourself that there isn't a world that exists where *Chloe Sullivan* of all people tells you to give up. So don't.

Chloe rolls her eyes, and backs off from Bruce.

CHLOE

Oh, come on. Bruce, *babe*. There isn't even a Gotham to go back to anymore. This idea of a city you want to save - it doesn't exist.

(to Gordon)

Go on, tell him. Be honest.

Bruce looks to Gordon, more confused than ever...

GORDON

There was... some sort of *missile strike*. Gotham was hit... bad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRUCE

What? No, we just - we just
stopped Dent. It was fine.

GORDON

I'm sorry. It happened after you
collapsed, after I was-

Gordon stops... remembering...

Chloe surfaces behind him, hands caressing over his back as
she slinks around him like a villainous snake.

CHLOE

Is this the part where you're
realising how you're here too?
(whispers)
Can't you go and do your dance with
death *somewhere else*?

A chill rushes over Gordon.

BARBARA (O.S.)

Come back to me.

Gordon turns to the voice-

INT. GORDON RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A pale Gordon looks to Barbara at his side. He reaches for
her with a dazed smile, and she HOLDS HIS HAND.

BARBARA

Don't go. *Please*. I still need
you, you know? I'm not ready for
this. I know you think I'll be
fine, but I won't. I won't, Dad.
So stay. *Please*. You have to
stay. For me?

Gordon's hand brushes Barbara's face, wiping her tears...

GORDON

Oh, Barbara. My sweet girl.
(struggling)
I wanted nothing more than to make
it through this so I could see you
again. See your smile. You were
such a happy child.

A giggling YOUNG BARBARA (5) races around the room (which
suddenly appears restored), red hair flowing behind her.

GORDON (CONT'D)

I don't think I ever stopped seeing
you as her. And god - I hate to
let her down...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Gordon sinks back - the world around restored to RUINS.

GORDON (CONT'D)

But my job isn't over yet.

Gordon looks to his side to see no one is there.

A peaceful smile stitches across Gordon's face, and he eases back... into his final rest. He's earned it.

INT. ABYSS - NIGHT

An ABYSS circles around Gordon, enveloped in BLACK. He looks around aimlessly, searching, scanning...

GORDON

Bruce?

A FLASH hits of Chloe, sneaking up behind Bruce in the cave-
Gordon turns to it but it's gone. Confused.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Bruce, where are you?

A FLASH hits of Chloe, her eyes somehow now seeing Gordon-
Gordon slinks back in fear.

GORDON (CONT'D)

The hell are you?

A FLASH hits of a DEMONIC ENTITY clawing OUT OF THE BLACK-

Gordon dodges as the entity SWIRLS around him. Claws dig into his back, and he's thrown to the ground. He rushes to a stance, and runs straight into- a SHARP BLADE.

Holding the blade deep in Gordon's abdomen... RA'S AL GHUL offers a cunning grin, then TWISTS THE BLADE-

RA'S AL GHUL

Is *this* where he bled you?

Ra's rips the blade out, then STABS AGAIN-

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)

Or was it here?

Gordon PUSHES Ra's off-

The blade rips out of Gordon, and drops to the ground.

Gordon turns, but his legs give out, and he FALLS INTO-

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Gordon collapses into Bruce's hands. He lowers his friend to the ground, almost cradling him. Bruce notices the wound.

BRUCE
You're bleeding.

GORDON
Dying, is more like it.

A BRIGHT LIGHT enters the room... all consuming...

BRUCE
I don't understand.

GORDON
I'm sorry. And I *really* wanted to see you pull this off, too.

The light grows stronger, whiter...

BRUCE
I'm not letting you go.

GORDON
It's too late for me. But you still got time to save the city.

Ra's SHIMMERS in behind them, wielding a large sword.

RA'S AL GHUL
Come on, Bruce.

The sword SCRAPES across the ground, screeching...

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)
Let the old man die already. We got unfinished business, you and I.

The world seems to narrow in on Bruce. Gordon grabs him.

GORDON
Kick his ass.

Bruce lowers Gordon onto the ground, then rises to face Ra's.

BRUCE
The only old man dying tonight is going to be you, Ra's.

RA'S AL GHUL
Let's see about that.

Ra's SWINGS the blade down-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A sword manifests in Bruce's hands, and he BLOCKS the strike with his own blade. They CLANG together.

OFF the two locked in a duel...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Bruce and Ra's are locked in a duel, matching each other's strikes of their swords in an intense battle.

RA'S AL GHUL
How many more people are going to
have to die in the name of you
saving your damn city?

Bruce KNOCKS Ra's blade aside, then KICKS him down.

BRUCE
Only one.

Bruce moves to kill-

Ra's CATCHES the blade in between his hands, then SNAPS it into crumbling steel. He RISES, and grabs Bruce by his throat on the way back up.

Dangling, Bruce is driven towards the light by Ra's.

RA'S AL GHUL
If you won't give up, then I'll
just have to force you out.

The WHITE LIGHT burns across Bruce's skin. He HOWLS.

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)
Yes. That's it.

Ra's appears to be getting stronger, while Bruce perishes in the light -- he visibly SHREDS FROM THE LIGHT.

RA'S AL GHUL (CONT'D)
Give in to it.

GORDON (O.S.)
Let him go!

Gordon TACKLES Bruce out of the light... they fumble onto the ground, and roll from each other.

Bruce struggles to look up, then sees that Ra's is gone.

BRUCE
Where is he? Where'd he go?

GORDON
Back to hell, hopefully.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Gordon moves to stand, but his legs give out. Bruce rushes to his aid, but Gordon pushes back on his help.

GORDON (CONT'D)

It's time, Bruce.

BRUCE

No. I told you - I'm not losing you. Do you hear me?

GORDON

I know you're a stubborn prick but so am I. So you're going to listen to me this time. Because it's been a hell-of-a run, *kid*. We did a lot of good together, you and me. And who would have thought, huh? A policeman and a vigilante. It shouldn't work, yet here we are.

The WHITE LIGHT intensifies behind Gordon...

GORDON (CONT'D)

You look after my Sarah, yeah? And let Barbara know...

(breaking)

Let her know she taught me more than I ever could have taught her.

BRUCE

Well, that's a given.

The two share a brief chuckle. A moment of levity.

GORDON

And Bruce? Don't let this end the way you think it has to. The Batman doesn't have to die with Bruce Wayne.

BRUCE

I don't know what you-

GORDON

I think you do.

Bruce looks away, almost guilty from being exposed.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Goodbye, partner.

Gordon straightens, and steps back, into the light, which now envelops him completely. He FADES INSIDE OF IT.

A tear falls from Bruce's eye - another loss he bears...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRUCE

Goodbye, partner.

Bruce turns from the light, then suddenly CATCHES FIRE- green flames ROAR OFF HIS ARMS AND LEGS. He looks at his fiery hands in shock, then GASPS-

INT. TEMPLE, LAZARUS PITS - NIGHT

Bruce emerges from the fiery green pits, and rises out of the waters with new life. His breath eventually calms, and he descends the steps to find a relieved VICKI in front of him.

VICKI

Hello, stranger.

BRUCE

Vicki?

VICKI

It's me. I'm here. Look.

Vicki reaches out for Bruce. He takes her hand, feels her touch, knows she's real, then all doubt eases and he pulls her in for a PASSIONATE KISS. The two embrace.

BRUCE

How is this possible?

VICKI

I believe it's called 'magic.'

OFF the two, somehow reunited and together again...

EXT. RESISTANCE BASE (RUINS) - NIGHT

Renee, Sarah, Carrie, Duke, Jack, Eric, Bock, and an injured Lucius, return to the base to see multiple survivors on site, tending to each other in the wake of devastation.

SARAH

Guess this place can be back up and running in no time?

RENEE

Not to burst the bubble of optimism there, but we are *seriously* low in supplies now. If we aren't found by the outside soon... it's not going to be whoever dropped those missiles on us that we have to worry about.

CARRIE

Okay, optimism definitely gone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCIUS

Wait. Is that- Chloe?

In the distance, Chloe and Terry emerge onto the base.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

It's Chloe!

Lucius moves for her, but stumbles with his injuries. Bock grabs him, eases him back, and holds him up for support.

BOCK

Be careful.

LUCIUS

(shouting)

Chloe! Over here!

Chloe looks around to find the voice. She lights up with joy, and races over to greet her friends.

CHLOE

Thank god you're all here. I had no idea what I was going to find when I got here.

Chloe hugs Lucius. The two linger in their embrace.

LUCIUS

I don't know what you mean - I've never felt better. Look at me.

CHLOE

Very funny.

Chloe moves through the team, hugging each person.

Surfacing behind her, Terry appears - he's clearly waiting to be introduced. He offers an awkward wave.

Chloe pulls free from Sarah, then spots him.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Oh, my bad. This is-

SARAH

(remembering)

Terry. Terry McGinnis.

CHLOE

Oh, you two know each other?

TERRY

Sarah is the police officer I was talking to you about. She put me on the right path.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SARAH

It's good to see you. I'd ask if you were still staying out of trouble but it looks like it's impossible these days.

TERRY

Right. Well, I'm still doing what I can to give back to our city.

JACK

What is this guy - a superhero?

CHLOE

That's what I keep saying!

Terry laughs it off, and shakes his head.

RENEE

The more the merrier. Whoever attacked us is sure to be on their way. We need to be ready.

SARAH

While you prepare the cavalry...

Sarah steps away from the team. Chloe follows her-

CHLOE

Where are you going?

SARAH

Home.

A beat. Chloe recognises the look in Sarah's eyes - it's the same look she feels when worried for her own husband. She offers a nod, and lets Sarah leave.

INT. GORDON RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A TV SET shows MAYOR DICKERSON on the news, stood at a podium, addressing the press. A SCROLL reads '*Daniel Dickerson sworn in as Gotham's new Mayor.*'

Gordon aims the remote at the TV and it TURNS OFF.

GORDON

I'm officially a civilian.

Gordon collects his beer on the bench, and turns to find his wife, Sarah, enjoying a beer of her own.

SARAH

A safe civilian - now that I rescued you from those clowns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GORDON

I could have taken 'em.

Sarah jabs Gordon in the shoulder.

SARAH

Quit playing.

GORDON

I was just trying to buy some time
before you showed up so you could
see how brave and heroic I am.

SARAH

You're an idiot. But I love you.

The two share a quick kiss. Sarah leans into Gordon.

SARAH (CONT'D)

And I'm glad you're home.

GORDON

Well, get used to it. As of today,
I'm officially a retired old man.

SARAH

Oh, sweetie. You were *born* an old
man. Your age is just starting to
catch up with that fact.

(off Gordon)

And I get to have you all to myself
now. I've won.

GORDON

You've won.

Gordon rests his head atop hers. Together.

GORDON (CONT'D)

What I realised today - being
kidnapped for the eight millionth
time - was that I don't need the
Batman to swoop in and save me.

(beat)

Not when I have you by my side.

Sarah turns to face Gordon, looking up into his eyes.

SARAH

And that's never going to change.

Gordon can't help but smile at his perfect wife...

GORDON

God, I love you so-

INT. GORDON RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A lifeless Gordon stares up at the ceiling. His body is a pale white, with blood stained all over his abdomen and the ground underneath him.

Stood above him, Sarah is paralysed by the sight.

SARAH

Jim?

Sarah steps closer, but shakes. Her legs give out, and she collapses at his side. She crawls closer to him.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Jim? *Jim.*

Sarah pulls Gordon in, and rests him on her lap. She checks for his pulse... there's no sign of life.

SARAH (CONT'D)

(breaking)

Jim?

Gordon is dead.

It dawns on Sarah that she's lost the love of her life, and through her tears, a bloodcurdling CRY screams from her lungs-

OFF Sarah's heart audibly breaking...

WATCHTOWER

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FIVE

EPILOGUE

FADE IN:

INT. TEMPLE, LAZARUS PITS - NIGHT

A reunited Bruce and Vicki remain in an embrace. He keeps grabbing her arms - challenging his knowledge that she passed with the feeling that she's here and real.

VICKI

You keep doing that.

BRUCE

I just can't believe you're really here. You've missed so much - there's *so much* I have to tell you.

VICKI

Shh. All in good time.

Bruce suddenly notices his surroundings...

BRUCE

How did I get here?

VICKI

They brought me back for this - to get you here. They said it could only be this face that would keep your defenses down long enough to-

SHLKT! Bruce looks down to find a blade in his chest...

BRUCE

(heartbroken)

Vicki?

VICKI

My name is Nyssa Al Ghul, you stupid old man.

The blade RIPS from Bruce-

Sliding to the ground, Bruce turns to see DAMIAN WAYNE wield the bloodied sword in his hands. He stands with DUSAN and a shackled TALIA behind him. The AL GHUL family.

DAMIAN

The time has come, *Bruce-*

BRUCE

(hurt)

Damian?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMIAN

-for one to rise and the *rest* to
fall.

Blood drips from Bruce's mouth. He collapses over.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Let's begin the ritual.

OFF the Al Ghul family gathering around a bloodied Bruce...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE