

BATMAN: RIDDLER'S RANSOM

written by

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INT. WAYNE MANOR - DEN - DAY

BRUCE WAYNE, DICK GRAYSON, and AUNT HARRIET sit in a well-furnished den in the Wayne Manor. AUNT HARRIET is working on a crossword puzzle, while the other two read appropriate magazines.

HARRIET

Brucie, dear, I was wondering if you might help me with this crossword. One of the clues has me stumped.

BRUCE

Of course.

HARRIET

Why thank you. Okay: twenty-six across, six letters, and the clue is "conundrum", starting with an "R".

BRUCE

(looks thoughtfully.)
I believe the answer is...
"riddle". (They all smile,
relieved.)

ALFRED

The telephone for you, Sir.

BRUCE

Thank you, Alfred.
(to the others)
I'll take this...in the other room.

BRUCE WAYNE and DICK GRAYSON exchange knowing glances.

INT. WAYNE MANOR - BRUCE'S OFFICE - DAY

BRUCE WAYNE walks in, and takes a telephone from a desk drawer. He looks cautiously right and left, and then picks up the receiver.

BRUCE

Yes?

GORDON

Batman: we have a problem.

CUT TO:

OPENING THEME SONG AND TITLES

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. CITY HALL - CORRIDOR - DAY

A professionally dressed WOMAN walks down a long hallway carrying a stack of papers. Her footsteps echo. She walks up to a door at the end of the hallway, which has a sign on or near it that reads "Mayor, Gotham City". She pushes open the door.

INT. CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

We see the MAYOR working hard at his desk, his attention solely on his papers.

WOMAN
Mister Mayor?

MAYOR
(interrupted)
Hm? Oh, what is it?

WOMAN
Sir, you need to go over these, and sign them by the end of the day if possible.

MAYOR
Mm, okay.
(smiles a tired smile)
Thank you.

The MAYOR puts aside his work and holds the new stack of papers. He skims the first page and goes to the next. He stops, and seems puzzled. We then look over his shoulder and see that, set apart in the middle of the document, there is a riddle:

HOW ARE YOU AND MY PHOTOGRAPHS ALIKE?

He slowly goes to the next page, and sees the answer:

BOTH HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY ME!

We see a shadow of a man behind him. An arm comes from behind and places a rag over the Mayor's nose and mouth.

MAYOR (CONT'D)
Wha-? Hmr, mmm...

He falls limp.

RIDDLER
Goodnight, Mister Mayor.

FADE TO:

INT. RIDDLER'S HIDEOUT - DAY

We see a manual typewriter. It begins to type:

Dear City of Gotham,
The Mayor has been kidnapped
This is true
Where am I now?
What will I do?

If this riddle you solve
I will be impressed,
for you must now prove
that you are the best" "

Puzzlingly,
The Riddler

The paper is pulled from the typewriter and turned. The back obstructs the shot, which then pulls back.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

We now see BATMAN holding the paper standing between the POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON and ROBIN.

GORDON
The Mayor! Oh my...

BATMAN
Yes, Commissioner, I fear our worst fears have now been realized. The world's most perplexing supervillain now holds captive the man who is the keystone to Gotham City.

ROBIN
But Batman, YOU keep Gotham City safe from crime, just as much as the Mayor.

BATMAN
Yes, Robin, but I must work in private, hidden from the people I serve by a mask. The Mayor is the PUBLIC protector of the city, the person to whom all Gothamites can turn. For this reason alone, we MUST save the Mayor.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

We see a pick-up truck speeding along the highway. A sign on the side says "JAPAN OR BUST" followed by miscellaneous Asian characters. The back is full of NINJAS. A van pulls up along the left side of the truck. The door opens, and the RIDDLER jumps from the van into the truck. The NINJAS begin to advance on the RIDDLER, but he holds up his hand.

RIDDLER

Ah ah...what is the only way to
kill a man without doing anything?

NINJA 1

What?

RIDDLER

Consider - there is a way in which
to kill a man without doing
ANYTHING. What could it be?

NINJA 2

(to Ninja 3)

We should kill him.

NINJA 1

No...the answer could be useful.

NINJA 3

Tell us the answer...or you will
die.

RIDDLER

Aha. Now, I have a proposition. I
have something you want...the
answer to the riddle. So I propose
an exchange, for something that YOU
have that I want.

NINJA 2

(Irritated)

And WHAT is that?

RIDDLER

(Turning to Ninja 2)

What do I want? YOU. You three, as
ninjas, possess near-superhuman
powers, which I need. You are to
perform a service for me, and in
return I will reveal the answer to
my riddle.

The ninjas confer, and then turn to the Riddler.

NINJA 1

What do you want us to do?

RIDDLER

Before I reveal that, you must follow me. I will SHOW you my Perplexing PLAN!

INT. BARN - DAY

The truck, with the RIDDLER still in the back, pull into a barn. The truck stops in the middle, and the tailgate opens. The RIDDLER leaps out, and the NINJAS move, dance-like, into a circle around the RIDDLER. They stand menacingly.

NINJA 1

What do you have to show us?

RIDDLER

(smiles)

Ah.

The RIDDLER walks through the NINJAS, who move to accommodate him. He walks over to a recliner with a person sitting in it. The person has a sheet draped over him, with roped wrapped several time around the person. The RIDDLER pulls off the sheet through the ropes. The MAYOR is revealed, sitting, bound, in the chair.

NINJA 3

The Mayor of Gotham.

RIDDLER

Ah, yes. The MAYOR. Of Gotham. Here with ME.

NINJA 1

But...if YOU can capture the Mayor, how are WE needed?

RIDDLER

Capturing the Mayor was easy, but HOLDING the Mayor is a task. See, Batman now knows the Mayor is captured, and that he is held by ME.

NINJA 3

How does he know?

RIDDLER

Because I told him. I am not holding the Mayor for FUN...though it is...

(The RIDDLER pats the MAYOR on the head.)

...but instead as CURRENCY. I will BUY my freedom with the Mayor of Gotham City!

(laughs)

NINJA 1

How?

RIDDLER

Why do they pursue me. Why am I persecuted so?

NINJA 2

Because of your crimes!

RIDDLER

Ah, but how do they KNOW of the crimes I've committed.

The NINJAS look confused. The RIDDLER pauses, then continues..

RIDDLER (CONT'D)

See, there is a record in the Gotham Police Headquarters in which all my crimes are recorded. This is the only reason they pursue me as they do, and the only AUTHORITY they have to do so. Therefore, without my criminal record, my slate would be wiped clean!

NINJA 2

How will we help you?

The riddler picks up the phone.

RIDDLER

Sh!...I'm speaking on the telephone!

(laughs)

INT. CITY HALL - DAY

WOMAN

Gotham City Mayor's office, how may I direct your call?

RIDDLER

To whom shall I speak if I am
holding the Mayor of Gotham for
ransom?

WOMAN

Oh. Oh my...

she pushes several buttons. She speaks then to the POLICE
COMMISSIONER GORDON.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Sir, a man on the line says he has
the MAYOR!

INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

GORDON

Great Scot. Well, put him through,
put him through!

He motions over to BATMAN and ROBIN and whispers to them.

GORDON (CONT'D)

It's the Riddler!

BATMAN and ROBIN come over, and they all listen to the phone.

RIDDLER

Hello.

GORDON

Do you have the Mayor?

RIDDLER

Oh, I have the Mayor, all right.
The riddle is, what must YOU do to
get him back?

GORDON

What scheme is it THIS time,
Riddler?

RIDDLER

A SCHEME?! I am hurt. I have made
plots, plans, strategies and
conundrums, but NEVER schemes. I
think this would be...well, ransom,
when you come right down to it.
See, Commissioner, I want my file.

GORDON

Then you can have your police file,
just return the Mayor.

RIDDLER

No, Commissioner, I don't want my POLICE file. I want my CRIMINAL file. Everything that any law-enforcement

(he says "law-enforcement" with disgust)

authority has on me. EVERYTHING. And I want it now, or you'll never see the Mayor again. By the way, have Batman and Robin bring it, will you?

The phone clicks off.

GORDON

Oh dear, we cannot give him that.

ROBIN

Without the Criminal File, we would be powerless to stop him!

BATMAN

But...what if we were to bring a FAKE file, and use it to distract the Riddler and safely return the Mayor!

ROBIN

Holy wooden nickels, Batman, what a devious plan!

GORDON

And it just might work, but I fear even you, Batman, may have trouble beating the Riddler.

BATMAN

I will have to keep my wits about me...now, to solve this riddle!

He holds up the paper.

GORDON

Batman, what could it mean. It's not really even a riddle!

BATMAN

Actually, Commissioner, I believe the Riddler is more clever than we could have ever hoped or feared.

ROBIN

Yes, Batman, I see!

BATMAN

You see Commissioner, the letter
RHYMES. The Riddler is a sphinx,
not a poet.

ROBIN

Unless the RHYME is the RIDDLE.
RRhyming RRiddle. "RR"!

BATMAN

Now, what else does "RR" stand for?

ROBIN

RailRoad. That must be where the
Mayor is!

GORDON

He wouldn't...

BATMAN

He WOULD.
(to ROBIN)
Let's go.

EXT. RAILROAD TRACKS - DAY

The MAYOR is bound, gagged and blindfolded, carried on the
shoulders of the NINJAS to a deserted stretch of rail. He is
lowered to the rail, and tied to it.

BATMAN and ROBIN arrive at the rail a good distance from the
RIDDLER and the NINJAS.

BATMAN

Robin...hand me my Bat-noculars!

BATMAN takes the bat-noculars from ROBIN, and then scans the
horizon. The shot passes over the RIDDLER and the NINJAS,
then swings back to them.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

I see them.

ROBIN

What are they doing?

BATMAN

They have the Mayor...tied to the
RAILROAD!

ROBIN

Holy flattened pennies, Batman. The
Mayor's in danger!

BATMAN

Not to fear, Robin, if I remember the train schedules correctly - and I believe I do - another train is not scheduled to come by for
(He checks a non-existent watch on his left wrist)
twenty minutes. So, we have time...but not much.

ROBIN

We have to hurry!

BATMAN

Yes...and quick. Now Robin, you go around to the back. When you are in position, I will come forward and tell the Riddler I have his file. When he and his ninjas are distracted, you rescue the Mayor.

ROBIN

Right-o.

He starts to run off and stops after a step.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Batman-

BATMAN

Yes?

ROBIN

(gives Batman a thumbs-up)
Good Luck.

BATMAN

(nodding)
I'll need it.

ROBIN runs off.

BATMAN watches ROBIN run off into the brush. When we can no longer see him, the Bat-noculars swing over to the RIDDLER and the NINJAS. BATMAN puts down the Bat-noculars and holds a thick manila folder labeled "CRIMINAL FILE" close to his body. He then walks deliberately down the middle of the railroad tracks.

RIDDLER

Tie him tight...we don't want Batman spoiling our fun. When is a knot not a knot.

The NINJAS look up. We see a NINJA tie the final knot tight, before the RIDDLER reveals the answer

RIDDLER (CONT'D)

..When it's a ROPE!

BATMAN

Alright, Riddler, you've had you fun. Now...untie the Mayor!

RIDDLER

Batman!

(smiling)

So glad you showed up. I was afraid you were unable to crack my conundrum...

BATMAN

I cracked it.

RIDDLER

And you have my file, I see.

BATMAN

(patting the file)

Yes...now release the Mayor!

RIDDLER

Not so fast...hand over the file.

BATMAN

Not so fast...hand over the MAYOR.

RIDDLER

Aha. A riddle: how to exchange what each wants while avoiding a double cross?

BATMAN

YOU would be the double-crosser...not me, Riddler. I have my morals.

RIDDLER

If you have morals, then you have trust. By the way, what happened to the Boy-Wonder?

BATMAN

He had to fight crime in...another part of the city.

RIDDLER

Of course. Now...set the file down;
I will get the file, and YOU will
get the Mayor.

BATMAN starts to put down the file and stops.

BATMAN

What about your henchmen?

RIDDLER

I will have them close their eyes.

BATMAN

Fair enough.

BATMAN puts down the file. BATMAN and the RIDDLER slowly exchange places, eyeing each other. When they are about half way, BATMAN stops, and calls into the brush.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

NOW, Robin!

ROBIN runs forward and begins furiously untying the MAYOR. The RIDDLER stops, and looks at BATMAN's face. He realizes what is going on, and turns to see ROBIN in action.

RIDDLER

A two-timing trick. Ninjas, attack!

The NINJAS respond to RIDDLER's command, and uncover their eyes to see ROBIN untying the MAYOR. While ROBIN fights the first one or two off, he is unable to continue untying the MAYOR. BATMAN comes over to help ROBIN fight the NINJAS. They knock out two of the NINJAS, and both of them run after the last, who is running away. They tackle him halfway between the file and the MAYOR. They see the RIDDLER running for the file, so they run after the MAYOR. While untying him, a previously unconscious NINJA gets up and, with a victorious cry, knocks both BATMAN and ROBIN unconscious. When they awaken, they are tied to the rail, with a riddle taped to BATMAN's chest.

BATMAN

Uh.

ROBIN

Batman!

BATMAN

Mmr hm?

ROBIN
Batman, wake up. The Riddler's
GONE!

BATMAN
(suddenly awake)
Wha- what? Robin, are you okay?

ROBIN
About as okay as I could be, tied
to a railroad!

BATMAN
Robin, twist around and look at my
Bat-watch. See how much time we
have left before the train arrives.

ROBIN
(hearing a train whistle)
I need no timepiece to tell me
we're running out of time!

BATMAN
A PIECE of time is what we
need...time to untie these ropes!

ROBIN
I'll twist around and push the rope
on your LEFT hand...

BATMAN
A little further...that's
it...THERE!

Both BATMAN and ROBIN leap from the rail, their bonds falling
from around them.

ROBIN
Let's get out of here!

BATMAN
Good idea. Playing around the
railroad tracks is both illegal,
and a BAD IDEA. NO ONE should play
around railroad tracks, even crime
fighters like us.

ROBIN
Right, Batman. Let's go.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTER - DAY

BATMAN pulls the envelope off his chest and pulls from it a
piece of paper. ROBIN and POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON look on.

BATMAN
Another riddle!

ROBIN
What does it say?

BATMAN
I'll read it: "You have failed
again, and you deception will not
be tolerated."

ROBIN
Jeepers, Batman, maybe we shouldn't
have tried to trick someone as
smart as the Riddler.

BATMAN
I've always said, "Honesty is the
best policy."

ROBIN
Good advice. What else does it say?

BATMAN
"You have one more chance to
deliver the file."

ROBIN
Only one more chance...we better
make it count!

BATMAN
Indeed. "Where is the Mayor. To
answer THAT riddle, I give you
another: "What goes UP in the
summer and DOWN in the winter?"

ROBIN
Of course: the temperature!

BATMAN
No, Robin! That's exactly what he
WANTS us to think.

ROBIN
Ah, yes. Well then...I know!

BATMAN
You mean-

ROBIN

Yes, Batman: the grass. In the summer, it grows up high like corn in the field; in the winter, it fall down, dead in the wintry cold...

BATMAN

Excellent deduction...for a NOVICE like yourself. No, Robin, I fear that the riddle is buried even deeper into the Riddler's criminal mind. I fear the only possible answer is what is traditionally know as the "Fat Intake."

ROBIN

(finally understanding)

Ah...

BATMAN

Yes. In the summer, the so-called "Cook Outs" run rampant across Gotham. The fat-filled meats cooked on the grills raise the calories dropped into every individual's stomach in the city.

ROBIN

Of course. But WINTER is the traditional period of fasting -- HIBERNATION -- among bears of the north!

BATMAN

And WHERE could one fight this pudgy evil?

ROBIN

The Gotham City Gym!

BATMAN

Right. Let's go, Robin!

GORDON

I don't even want to IMAGINE what our fair city would be like without that Dynamic Duo. A very bleak place indeed!

He pats his belly.

INT. GYM - DAY

In a weight room with benches and assorted dumbbells, the MAYOR is held by the RIDDLER by being forced to hold a barbell over his head while lying on his back. NINJAS lurk in the background. BATMAN and ROBIN dash in and quickly assess the situation.

ROBIN

Batman, look. The poor Mayor!

BATMAN sees the MAYOR holding the barbell.

BATMAN

Only a SUPER-villain like the Riddler could be so cruel. The Mayor uses his MIND to protect Gotham, not his body.

RIDDLER

Aha. So you slow-witted do-gooders have solved my puzzle, have you. I have lost my patience and my trust in you Batman, so we are now doing it MY way. Ninjas, attack!

A fight ensues. BATMAN and ROBIN fight the NINJAS, but cannot seem to get through them to the MAYOR. Gym equipment is used in clever ways throughout the fight. BATMAN and ROBIN become separated during the fight, and when BATMAN looks up, he sees ROBIN being held by two NINJAS, and one is holding a dumbbell over ROBIN's head. Seeing the situation, RIDDLER slowly walks to halfway between the MAYOR and ROBIN.

RIDDLER (CONT'D)

Aha! Now, Batman, you have a choice. A decision must be made. Who will you save. Will it be the Mayor?

(He gestures toward the
MAYOR)

Or the Boy-Wonder

(He gestures toward ROBIN)

You can save ONE, but not both. Who will it be, Batman...THAT'S the RIDDLE!

(laughs)

BATMAN starts, then stops and checks himself. Finally, he goes to ROBIN, socking one NINJA while stopping the dumbbell from falling on ROBIN. ROBIN escapes, and helps BATMAN finish off the NINJAS, but the RIDDLER escapes with the MAYOR. The NINJAS follow.

ROBIN

Batman!

(angrily)

How could you. You let the Riddler get away...with the MAYOR. What kind of crime-fighter ARE you?

BATMAN

Now, Robin

(He holds up a calming hand)

I would never put the capture of a dishonest criminal like the Riddler over the safety of you, Robin. Together, we can save the Mayor another day, but I could never replace a partner like you.

ROBIN

Ah, gee, Batman.

ROBIN smiles a boyish grin. We see an envelope with a large question mark on it ominously taped where the MAYOR was. ROBIN pulls out a piece of paper with a very large question mark on the back. He hold the paper in one hand, and the torn envelope in the other. He skims the contents, then looks flustered.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

But what does it mean? "You're getting to be a bother. Don't you have any manners?" I just don't get it!

BATMAN

People without couth are often said to be "born in a barn," Robin...

ROBIN

Right, so-

BATMAN

Right, so the Riddler's headquarters must be in a barn! Luckily, I know the location of the only barn that would fit the Riddler's needs in the proximity of Gotham.

ROBIN

Golly, Batman, I never would have gotten that riddle!

BATMAN

Yes, Robin. Luckily for us, I have honed my deductive mind for YEARS concerning many topics, including colloquial phrases and general farming knowledge.

ROBIN

Gee, Batman.

BATMAN pulls out a large map of Gotham city and points out the location of the barn to ROBIN. We see only the back of the map, conveniently saving the prop guy from having to make a map of Gotham. BATMAN and ROBIN look at each other, then rush out the door, dramatically dropping the map in their haste.

BATMAN

Let's go.

EXT. BARN - DAY

ROBIN

There's the barn. It just looks so...innocent.

BATMAN

Yes, Robin, it does on the OUTSIDE. But don't assume that the interior is so placid.

BATMAN and ROBIN rush up to the door of the barn, then stop short when they see another envelope taped in an obvious manner to the door.

ROBIN

Another riddle!?

ROBIN yanks this riddle from the envelope.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

"Tailored pointer not during the day."

BATMAN

Think, Robin, if it's tailored, then it FITS.

ROBIN

Yes, and "pointer" means it "fits like a GLOVE"!

BATMAN

But what about "during the day?"

BATMAN strokes his chin.

ROBIN

If it's not "during the day", then it's at NIGHT. But what does that mean...?

BATMAN

Not "night", Robin, but "KNIGHT"! Like a knight in shining armor. The answer is obvious: a knight's glove - a GAUNTLET!

ROBIN

Holy Middle Ages, Batman. But what does the Riddler need with a glove?

BATMAN

No, Robin. This type of "gauntlet" doesn't protect anything- on the contrary, it is FAR MORE DANGEROUS. It quite possibly might test all of our mettle, even the mettle of crime fighters like us.

BATMAN and ROBIN run up to the door.

INT. BARN - DAY

BATMAN and ROBIN burst in with police-like speed. When they dash in, they see a strange series of contraptions, the NINJAS, the MAYOR, and the RIDDLER. BATMAN and ROBIN stand menacingly and confront the RIDDLER.

BATMAN

Ok, Riddler, the jig is up. Don't try anything...humorous.

RIDDLER

Ah, Batman, nice of you to show.

BATMAN

I'll show YOU, Riddler!

RIDDLER

Mmm, we'll see. Now, with your treachery and double cross, betrayals and downright immorality...

Batman looks deeply hurt and insulted.

RIDDLER (CONT'D)
...We'll play this my way. Do you
have the file?

BATMAN pulls it dramatically from a "hidden" area in his
costume.

BATMAN
I have it.

RIDDLER
Now, lay the file down on the
ground.

BATMAN hesitates.

RIDDLER (CONT'D)
Come now, Batman, this is hardly
the time for contemplation. If you
do not do WHAT I SAY right NOW, you
will NEVER SEE THE MAYOR AGAIN.
Alive, that is.

ROBIN
(to Batman)
I don't like how things are shaping
up.

BATMAN
I don't either, but it looks like
the ball's in his...arena...now.

The RIDDLER smiles, in contrast to his obvious anger. BATMAN
finally decides to lay the file on the ground, then moves a
few steps toward the RIDDLER.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
Now, Riddler...hand over the Mayor!

RIDDLER
Not so fast. If you want the Mayor
so bad, you can come and get him.
Before you lies a gAUNTlet.

BATMAN
I was RIGHT!

RIDDLER
To reach the Mayor ALIVE, you must
negotiate five -- that's five --
different traps. Now, I'm a fair
man--

ROBIN
You're CRAZY, Riddler!

RIDDLER
Mmm, but fair nonetheless. See, I've left a clue...a riddle, if you will...as to how to safely outwit the ensnarement. To make it through alive, you must be quick, both mentally AND physically. Whether you live or not makes no difference to me, of course.

BATMAN
Only a criminal genius could be so diabolical... Now Robin, I'll go first. After I make it through the trap, you follow my actions...to the LETTER...and follow me.

ROBIN
Ok, Batman.

INT. BARN - GAUNTLET - DAY

BATMAN runs up to the first envelope and pulls out the riddle. He begins to read it out loud.

BATMAN
"What do you take if you do not want the UP escalator?"

ROBIN
If they can't go UP for you...

BATMAN
Yes-- then you have to take the STAIRS DOWN.

BATMAN suddenly looks alert, and we hear a slithering, hissing sound of a snake. Looks scans the ground and we see a medium sized snake slithering about on the ground.

ROBIN
Look, Batman, a snake!

BATMAN
Yes, and it's RIGHT IN OUR PATH. Now, I've learned through my travels throughout the world that the only way to outwit a snake is to keep your eyes on his--

ROBIN
And STARE it DOWN!

BATMAN
Yes Robin, hence the riddle. Keep
your eyes on the snake, and move
SLOWLY, but quick.

BATMAN and ROBIN tiptoe slowly past the snake, keeping their
eyes on his. When they are almost past, the snake strikes,
but BATMAN catches it by the neck in midair.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
Luckily, I also have EXCELLENT
hand-eye coordination. Now, on to
the next riddle!

BATMAN and ROBIN are stopped by a deadly pendulum.

ROBIN
(reading the riddle)
"What makes or breaks a comedian?"
Of course! the answer must--

BATMAN
TIMING, Robin. We must--get--past--
the pendulum--by timing the swing
rate.

BATMAN starts, stops, and then finally dashes safely through
the deadly pendulum.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
Now Robin, I have trained my mind
and body to work PERFECTLY
together, but you are still
learning. Do you trust me?

ROBIN
Um...

BATMAN
There's no time...just come through
EXACTLY when I say. Ready...wait,
stop. Ok, now, ready..? Ready..?
OK! wait! No, now come! come now!
now!now!now!

ROBIN looks irritated and makes it through.

We see a wading pool full of liquid, from which fog/steam is
coming. There is a small sign labeling the pool "ACID".
BATMAN slowly approaches, and then he tenderly dips a boot
toe into the pool. The boot hisses when it touches the acid.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Look out. It's acid. What does the riddle say?

ROBIN

"If you die here, the Boy Scouts will laugh.. The Boy Scouts are always prepared, so maybe it's something we prepared for..."

BATMAN

Of course. Our chemical-spill booties. I forgot I put those in here.

BATMAN pulls from his Bat-belt two pair of plastic booties, and hands one to ROBIN. They don the booties, then wade through the pool. Getting out, they carefully remove the booties and place them into a sack, which says "TRASH" above a bat-symbol..

BATMAN (CONT'D)

There is NEVER a good excuse to litter.

BATMAN and ROBIN come to last area, and see only a large "X" on the ground next to a riddle. ROBIN picks it up and reads it.

ROBIN

"Which of a bakers goods moves the fastest?"

BATMAN

The answer is obvious: a ROLL.
(he smiles)
But what does it mean..?

ROBIN

Maybe we need to roll...

BATMAN

That just might work...I'm going to trust you on this one, Robin. Now, on three. One...two...

BATMAN and ROBIN roll in unison across the "X", barely missing a board of falling spikes.

INT. BARN - DAY

BATMAN and ROBIN roll up to an alert stance, and confront the RIDDLER.

BATMAN

Riddler, you may be clever, canny, conniving, and confusing, but you can't count. You said there would be FIVE traps, and I count only FOUR!

RIDDLER

Ah, Batman, here you are wrong. You see before you the final, most fatal trap of all: three deadly ninjas.

(to the ninjas)

Ninjas attack!

BATMAN and ROBIN fight the NINJAS in a truly great fight. In the middle of the fight, BATMAN throws a Bat-arang, which misses all three NINJAS.

RIDDLER (CONT'D)

Ha ha. Even the Caped Crusader misses ONCE in a while. THIS time, however, your mistake will be more costly!

BATMAN and ROBIN continue to fight, but the NINJAS get the upper hand. Eventually, the NINJAS have both BATMAN and ROBIN in inescapable holds.

RIDDLER (CONT'D)

Now Batman, your time has come.

(dramatically)

FINISH THE DYNAMIC DUO.

Conveniently, the Bat-arang that appeared to miss the NINJAS before, now comes back around, and as the NINJAS are about to carry out the RIDDLER's killer command, the Bat-arang strikes all three NINJAS away from the Dynamic Duo. BATMAN and ROBIN advance on the RIDDLER.

BATMAN

I never miss.

RIDDLER

Nooooooo. HOW CAN YOU WIN?

BATMAN dusts himself off.

BATMAN

And I never lose.

EXT. BARN - DAY

BATMAN and ROBIN tie up the RIDDLER and the NINJAS, and lead them to a police van, into which POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON puts them.

INT. POLICE VAN - DAY

The RIDDLER sits opposite the NINJAS, who eye him menacingly.

NINJA 1

You owe us the answer. How CAN one
kill a man without doing anything?

RIDDLER

(he smiles glumly)

The answer carries with it a bit of
irony, now. The ONLY way to kill a
man...without doing anything...it
to WAIT. You let TIME kill the man
for you.

GORDON

And you'll have plenty of THAT
where you're going.

He ominously shuts the door.

FADE OUT

THE END