



# BATMAN BEGINS (2005)

Screenplay by Christopher Nolan and David S. Goyer

Story by David S. Goyer

Directed by Christopher Nolan

Running Time: 131 minutes

## BASIC STORY MAP

**PROTAGONIST:** Bruce Wayne / Batman

**Skill:** Fighting skills and technology

**Misbehavior:** Brash and naïve

**Flaw/Achilles Heel:** His dual identity

**EXTERNAL GOAL:** To overcome fear and become Batman / To protect Gotham City from its enemies

**INTERNAL GOAL:** To uphold his family's legacy

**MAIN DRAMATIC CONFLICT:** Ra's Al Ghul

**THEME:** Fear

**CENTRAL DRAMATIC QUESTION:** Will Bruce conquer his fear and save Gotham City from its enemies?

**ENDING:** Batman saves Gotham City from Ra's Al Ghul's plot and upholds his father's legacy.

**ARC:** Bruce Wayne goes from a frightened, lonely child to a powerful avenger.

## **LOGLINE**

Bruce Wayne overcomes his fears and trains as a warrior, creating a powerful, masked alter-ego to fight the mob and stop Ra's Al Ghul from destroying Gotham City.

## **FULL STORY MAP**

### **STORY ENGINES**

ACT 1: Young Bruce attempts to fight his fear of bats and avenge his parents' murder while adult Bruce trains in the Himalayas.

ACT 2A: Bruce returns home and prepares to destroy the mob as Batman.

ACT 2B: Bruce must stop Dr. Crane/Scarecrow to save Rachel's life.

ACT 3: Bruce must stop Ra's in his plot to gas the entire city.

### **THE BEAT SHEET**

*(note: this is not a complete scene list)*

#### **ACT ONE**

1 - OPENING IMAGES: A swarm of bats forms an enormous BAT-LIKE SYMBOL in the sky.

**Bruce as a boy in Gotham City (in Blue):**

2 – On the grounds of Wayne Manor, YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE runs from YOUNG RACHEL DAWES, falling into a well.

2 - Bats swarm young Bruce, terrifying him.

**Bruce as a young man in Asia (in Black):**

4 - In a Bhutanese jail, Bruce, a young man, fights six prisoners and takes them all out by himself.

5 - DUCARD offers Bruce a path to serve true justice. He asks Bruce to pick a blue flower that grows in the Himalayan Foothills and take it to the top of the mountain.

9 - **INCITING INCIDENT (EXTERNAL):** After climbing the mountain and delivering the poppy to Ducard in the temple of the League of Shadows, Bruce is introduced to the mysterious RA'S AL GHUL. Ducard asks Bruce what he seeks.

WAYNE

I seek the means to fight justice:  
To turn fear against those who prey on  
the fearful.

10 – Ducard takes down Bruce, revealing he has a lot to learn.

11 - Young Bruce 's father, THOMAS WAYNE rescues him from the well. Later, ALFRED, the Wayne's trusted butler, tells Bruce that we fall down "so we can learn to pick ourselves up."

14 - At the Gotham Opera House, Young Bruce has a panic attack from the bat-like imagery on the stage. He begs his father to leave.

14 - **INCITING INCIDENT (INTERNAL):** A MUGGER shoots Thomas and Martha Wayne in front of Bruce, killing them. Seconds before he dies, Thomas says one last thing to Young Bruce:

THOMAS  
Don't be afraid.

16 - At the police station, a 29 year old beat cop, JIM GORDON, comforts Young Bruce.

17 - After the funeral, Young Bruce is approached by EARLE, the CEO of Wayne Enterprises. Earle assures him Wayne Enterprises will be in good hands.

18 - TRAINING MONTAGE: Ducard mentors Bruce in skills like invisibility, theatricality and deception. Ducard tries to teach Bruce to harness his anger over his parents' murder.

23 - **STRONG MOVEMENT FORWARD:** Bruce, now 20 years old, has dropped out of college and obtained a gun. He intends to avenge his parents' death.

26 - As Bruce is just about to shoot his parents' murderer, a woman shoots the man, saying "Carmine Falcone says hello!" Bruce watches him die.

28 - Rachel shows Bruce the sordid underbelly of Gotham City. It is the mob, led by Falcone, and all of the corrupt officials in his pocket, that are destroying a once-great city.

28 - **END OF ACT ONE TURN (INTERNAL):** Bruce admits to Rachel that he intended to get revenge on the man who killed his parents, and she slaps him, says, "Your father would be ashamed of you."

30 - **END OF ACT ONE TURN (EXTERNAL):** Bruce confronts Falcone. Falcone makes it clear that he will hurt all of Bruce's loved ones should Bruce try to stop him.

31 - **DECISION:** Bruce gives all his cash away and exchanges his coat with a homeless man. He runs toward a departing freight ship and leaves Gotham behind.

## **ACT II-A**

33-36 – Bruce passes Ducard's test while under the hallucinogenic effects of the poppy dust.

38 – **FIRST TRIAL:** Ra's Al Ghul orders Bruce to complete one final task to become a member of the League of Shadows: the execution of a criminal. Bruce refuses and fights Ra's and the League as the temple burns around them.

40 – **FIRST CASUALTY:** Debris crushes Ra's Al Ghul, killing him. Bruce saves Ducard's life and must flee, a loner once again.

43 – Present Day. On a private jet headed back home, Bruce tells Alfred that he intends to create a symbol to battle corruption and give the city back to the people. The symbol must be "elemental" and "terrifying." It's revealed that Bruce has been absent for seven years.

44 - DR. JONATHAN CRANE testifies to the insanity of a man on trial. Outside the courtroom, Rachel, now a prosecutor, confronts him about his ties to Falcone.



47 – **COMBAT:** In the caverns beneath Wayne Manor, Bruce turns on a light and a cyclone of bats surround him. He rises to his feet, perfectly calm. Bruce has conquered his greatest fear.

48 - Crane meets with Falcone. They are working together, but underneath a mysterious overlord whom they both fear. Crane asks Falcone to take care of Rachel Dawes. Falcone agrees.

51 - In a massive warehouse, Bruce meets with the head of Applied Sciences, LUCIUS FOX, an old friend of Thomas Wayne who helped to build the elevated train in the heart of Gotham City. Fox opposed Earle's takeover of the company and was banished to this dormant division as punishment.

52 - Fox shows Bruce some of his high-tech equipment, including an armored battle suit.

53 - Below Wayne Manor, Bruce fortifies his cave, builds his armored battle suit. Alfred assists him.

55 - Bruce sneaks into DETECTIVE GORDON's office and tricks him into getting information about how to take down Falcone.

58 - Bruce test-drives "the Tumbler," built as a bridging vehicle for the military. He's found his Batmobile.

59 - Bruce eavesdrops with audio surveillance on Falcone and crooked cop, FLASS, discovering that Rachel is in danger.

60 – One hour mark: Bruce assembles his bat suit and gadgets. Alfred questions him over his choice of a symbol.

WAYNE

Bats frighten me. It's time my  
enemies shared my dread.

61-63 – BATMAN takes out all of Falcone’s men as they unload a stolen shipment on the docks.

63 - **MIDPOINT (External):** Batman roughs up Falcone, announcing himself.

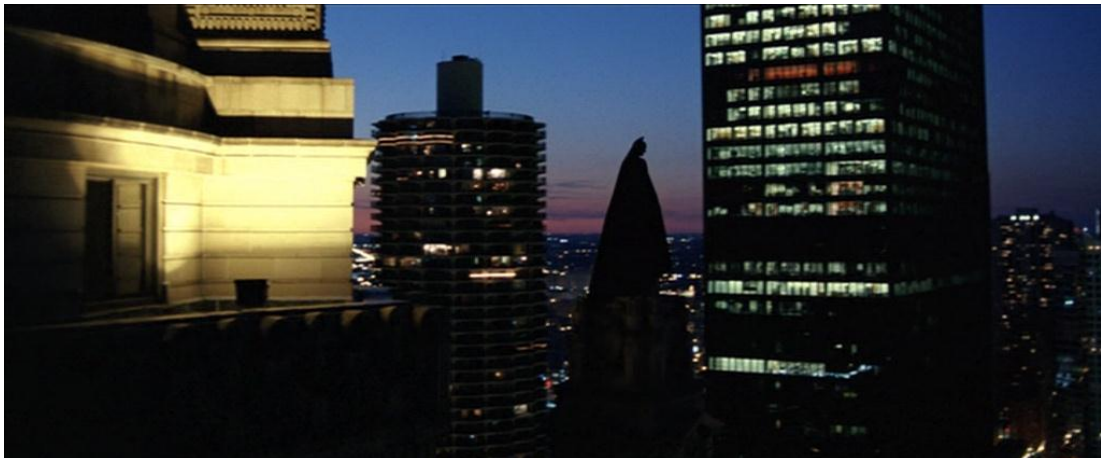
FALCONE  
What the hell are you?

BATMAN  
I'm Batman!

64 – **MIDPOINT (Internal):** Batman saves Rachel from two of Falcone's thugs. Batman gives Rachel leverage on Falcone's cronies.

66 – Back on the docks, Gordon finds Falcone chained to a large spotlight. The light hits the clouds above in the image of a bat. Batman has used Gotham’s biggest mobster to project his symbol into the sky over the city.

66 - Perched on a building's ledge, Batman watches over the city. A hero is born.



## **ACT II-B**

69 – A Wayne Enterprises ship was hijacked; the thieves took a microwave emitter used to evaporate an enemy's water supply.

71 – **ASSUMPTION OF POWER (INTERNAL):** After a public display of debauchery with two drunken models (Bruce’s cover as a careless playboy), Bruce bumps into Rachel, and she is disgusted with his behavior. He tries to tell her that he’s not acting like himself, but she doesn’t buy it.

74 - Crane dons his Scarecrow mask and poisons Falcone, inducing powerful hallucinations that drive Falcone crazy. Crane facilitates Falcone’s transfer to a secure wing at Arkham for treatment.

75 – **ASSUMPTION OF POWER (External):** Batman and Gordon form a partnership. They trade information and promise to work together against corruption.

79 - **DECLARATION OF WAR (External):** Batman takes out Crane's thugs, but Crane dons the Scarecrow mask, poisons him with his fear toxin and sets him on fire. Batman survives, but only because he is rescued by Alfred.

81 - Lucius Fox has tested Bruce's blood and created an antidote to the fear toxin (which Bruce recognized as having the same effect as the blue poppy in Tibet, foreshadowing the return of Ra's Al Ghul.)

84 - Earle fires Lucius Fox when Lucius asks about the stolen microwave emitter.



87 – **END OF ACT TWO TURN (INTERNAL):** In Arkham Asylum, Crane poisons Rachel with a lethal dose of the fear toxin and takes her hostage.

88 - Batman takes out Crane/Scarecrow and discovers he's been poisoning Gotham's water supply.

89 - **END OF ACT TWO TURN (EXTERNAL):** Crane says he's working for Ra's Al Ghul.

91 – **DECISION (EXTERNAL):** Batman begins his escape from the police by triggering a sonar device that draws thousands of bats to his location, allowing him to slip away.

94-96 - Batman escapes with Rachel in the Tumbler. He uses the incredible features of the vehicle to escape a cadre of police cars and helicopters. He has only minutes to save Rachel's life.



98 – **DECISION (INTERNAL):** Batman takes Rachel into the cave and administers the antidote, saving her life. She is the first “civilian” to see Batman’s secret lair. (Note: Bruce’s two main lines of action, to protect Gotham City and to uphold his family name, have been integrated.)

### **ACT III**

99 - After she wakes, Batman instructs Rachel to give two of the antidotes to Gordon -- one for Gordon and one for mass production.

102 – Upstairs, guests arrive for Bruce Wayne’s lavish birthday party. Bruce arrives in his tux and confers with Fox about Crane and Ra’s plan. Fox figures it out: the microwave emitter will evaporate the poisoned water, converting it into a deadly gas.

104 – Bruce is shocked to meet an uninvited guest: Ducard, his old mentor. But Ducard is not just his trainer, he is THE REAL RA’S AL GHUL.

105 - When Ra's refuses to let the guests go, Bruce brilliantly slips into his playboy personality and demands the crowd of “sycophants” leave his home, immediately. One man tells Bruce "The apple has fallen far from the tree."

106 – **TRUE POINT OF NO RETURN:** Ra's Al Ghul reveals his plan: The League of Shadows will use the elevated train and the microwave emitter to poison everyone in the city and cause them to tear each other apart with fear.

106 - Ra's Al Ghul's men, dressed as police, break into Arkham and release all the criminal inmates.

107 - Ra's men release Crane and give him back his Scarecrow mask.

108 - Ra's Al Ghul's men set fire to Wayne Manor. Bruce and Ra's Al Ghul face off and Bruce becomes pinned under a flaming log. Ra's Al Ghul leaves him for dead, but Alfred saves him.

112 – Bruce feels he’s failed, but Alfred inspires him to keep fighting with the reminder of what he told him when he was a child: *We fall down so we can learn to pick ourselves up.*

115 - Batman suits up. The Tumbler shoots out of the waterfall...

116 - Batman lays out the game plan to Gordon. They must stop the microwave emitter before it gets to Wayne Tower, where the city's water mains reside. If it arrives, the poison will hit the entire city and Gotham will rip itself apart. Batman lets Gordon drive the Tumbler.

117 - Rachel tasers Scarecrow in the face and Batman saves her from a pack of Arkham psychos.

118 – Bruce uses Rachel’s own words to reveal that he is Bruce Wayne.

122 - Batman enters the train and faces off with Ra's Al Ghul. They battle as Gordon drives the Tumbler in an attempt to head them off before they crash into Wayne Tower.

124 - Gordon fires missiles from the Tumbler, destroying the train tracks in front of Wayne Tower, ensuring the train will fall and never reach the tower.

124 - With Ra's Al Ghul focused on the destruction of the tracks ahead, Batman gets the upper hand. With Ra's Al Ghul on his back, Batman has the chance to kill him, but he still has his "code"...

BATMAN  
I won't kill you... but I don't  
have to save you.



124 – **CLIMAX (EXTERNAL)**: Batman blows out the back of the train car and flies out, leaving Ra's to crash and explode with the train.

126 - Earle walks into a board meeting to discover Lucius Fox is the new CEO of Wayne Enterprises.



128 – Amidst the ruins of Wayne Manor, Bruce and Rachel kiss. Bruce tries to tell her that Batman is just his mask.

RACHEL  
(touches Wayne's face)  
No, this is your mask. Your real face is the  
one criminals now fear... Maybe someday when  
Gotham no longer needs Batman, I'll see him  
again.



129 – **CLIMAX (INTERNAL)**: Rachel tells Bruce his father would be proud of him.

130 – **EPILOGUE (INTERNAL)**: Bruce finds his father's old stethoscope in the ashes. He tells Rachel he'll rebuild Wayne Manor just like it was before -- "brick for brick."



131 – **EPILOGUE (EXTERNAL)**: On the rooftop of the police station, Gordon and Batman meet over Batman's new spotlight. Gordon hands Batman the calling card of a new suspect -- a Joker's card. From the screenplay...

GORDON

I never said thank you.

Batman looks out at the lights of Gotham. Cloak billowing around him.

BATMAN

And you'll never have to.

Batman DROPS from the rooftop, GLIDING on the night wind. Gordon smiles. He can't help it.

THE END.

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