

Batman: Dance of Death

Dialogue Sample • Batman: The Telltale Series

INT: BATCAVE / MORNING

DIR: Bruce leans over the computer terminal. He's tired and tense. On the screen, police photos of a prostitute's injuries—bruised neck, split lip, worse. Player plugs the wig's receiver device into the terminal. Alfred walks in with a silver tray - a teacup & saucer and a teapot.

ALFRED I took the liberty of preparing you some tea.

CHOICES:

1. Thank you, Alfred.

2. Got anything stronger?

3. Leave it over there.

4. Silence

1. Thank you.

BRUCE Tea? Thank you, Alfred.

ALFRED The British Empire was built on it.

BRUCE And remind me what happened to that...

[TO MAIN PATH]

2. Got anything stronger?

BRUCE I don't suppose you've got anything stronger?

ALFRED It's a quarter past 9, Bruce. In the morning.

[TO MAIN PATH]

3. Leave it over there.

BRUCE Just... leave it over there, Alfred.

ALFRED I must insist you have *something*.

DIR: Bruce shakes his head.

[TO MAIN PATH]

4. Silence

DIR: Bruce turns his head towards Alfred. He rubs his eyes.

ALFRED That bad?

[TO MAIN PATH]

[MAIN PATH]

DIR: Alfred lowers the tray from his chest.

ALFRED Well, the news stations have gotten hold of it. Young women...

“professionals” are coming forward to the police. Ghastly business.

BRUCE Judge Harkness was a pillar of the community, Alfred. At least, that’s what I thought... what everyone thought.

ALFRED “How are the mighty fallen.”

DIR: Alfred places the tea tray on a table.

BRUCE I’ve known that man my whole life. I had no idea he was capable of this.

ALFRED [*Reticent*] And had you known, what would you have done?

CHOICES:

1. Forced him to get help

2. Put him away

3. Knocked some sense into him

4. Silence

1. Forced him to get help

BRUCE I would have made him get professional help. Counseling, therapy...

ALFRED One can only be helped when one is ready. No amount of brute force can change that.

[TO MAIN PATH]

2. Put him away

BRUCE Put him away. For good. Gotham would have been safer with Harkness behind bars.

ALFRED I can only imagine how inmates treat court judges with multiple sexual battery charges.

[TO MAIN PATH]

3. Knocked some sense into him

BRUCE I would have knocked some sense into him.

ALFRED “An eye for an eye?” That particular brand of shock therapy is not what you stand for.

[TO MAIN PATH]

4. Silence

DIR: Bruce's hands as they tense up into fists. He fights off the rage.

ALFRED A helplessness I understand all too well.

[TO MAIN PATH]

[MAIN PATH]

BRUCE Well, what would you have suggested?

ALFRED What Judge Harkness needed more than anything was someone to talk to. A confidante. Someone close to him whom he trusted completely.

DIR: Alfred approaches Bruce

ALFRED It must be a terrible burden, carrying around such darkness. [*Beat*] Bruce... I can't help but feel *you* might benefit from the same thing.

CHOICES:

1. What are you suggesting?

2. I'm not hiding anything.

3. Perhaps, you're right.

4. Silence

1. What are you suggesting?

BRUCE What exactly are you suggesting, Alfred?

ALFRED Only that you shoulder so much. I wish you'd be willing to share the weight.

[TO MAIN PATH]

2. I'm not hiding anything.

BRUCE There are no skeletons in my closet, Alfred. I'm nothing like Harkness.

ALFRED Living two lives; keeping secrets from those he cared about; using violence to assuage his anger...

[TO MAIN PATH]

3. Perhaps, you're right.

BRUCE [*Pained*] Perhaps, you're right. I haven't been feeling... myself for some time now.

ALFRED If you forgive me, I'd say that's the understatement of the century.

[TO MAIN PATH]

4. Silence

DIR: Bruce looks directly at Alfred and cocks his head. There is an accusatory glint in his eye.

[TO MAIN PATH]

[MAIN PATH]

BRUCE Do you have something you want to say?

ALFRED Only that I've noticed a change in you. Your so-called responsibilities are taking their toll. Living half your life in the shadows - it's no place for a man.

BRUCE Look around you, Alfred. The shadows are my home.

ALFRED Humans are a diurnal species, Bruce. Exposure to sunlight is what keeps us alive and healthy.

DIR: Alfred gestures towards the Batsuit.

ALFRED Have you ever considered hanging up this suit of yours? For longer than just an afternoon?

CHOICES

1. The city needs me

2. I'll take a break when the criminals do

3. I wish I could

4. Silence

1. The city needs me

BRUCE Gotham City needs me, Alfred. Now more than ever.

ALFRED And at what cost?

[TO MAIN PATH]

2. I'll take a break when the criminals do

BRUCE I'll take a break when the criminals do.

ALFRED Ah, death by a thousand cuts? An honorable sacrifice...

[TO MAIN PATH]

3. I wish I could

BRUCE I'd be lying if I said that I didn't think about it. Didn't wish I could walk away. But what then?

ALFRED There may only be one way to find out...

[TO MAIN PATH]

4. Silence

DIR: Bruce turns around and glares at Alfred.

ALFRED Nobody's saying it would be easy...

[TO MAIN PATH]

[MAIN PATH]

DIR: Bruce taps a button on the console to enlarge one of the more graphic images. He points up at the screen.

BRUCE And what? I just sit by and let *this* happen? There are vulnerable people out there, Alfred...

ALFRED It's the vulnerable person standing in front of me whom I'm most concerned about. You're suffering, Bruce. And every day, you ask *me* to sit by and let it happen. I can't—

DIR: Alfred backs away and composes himself

ALFRED Just tell me you'll give it some thought. Please?

CHOICES

1. No.

2. I'll think about it.

3. I've said all I need to say.

4. Silence

1. No.

BRUCE I'll *never* abandon this city, Alfred. You, of all people, should understand that.

ALFRED I hope this city extends the same courtesy.

[TO MAIN PATH]

2. I'll think about it.

BRUCE Alright, I'll think about it, ok? That's all I can promise you.

ALFRED That's all I ask for.

[TO MAIN PATH]

3. I've said all I need to say.

BRUCE I've said all I need to say, Alfred. This conversation is over.

ALFRED I know this is a delicate subject...

[TO MAIN PATH]

4. Silence

DIR: Bruce looks at Alfred and then turns away.

ALFRED I suppose I'll take that as a "maybe."

[TO MAIN PATH]

[MAIN PATH]

DIR: Bruce stares at the Batsuit and mask, his face darkened by its shadow.

ALFRED I don't ask you to do it for me. It's *you* I'm thinking of, Bruce. You and Ms. Jet.

BRUCE What does Jez have to do with it?

ALFRED I see how you both are together. She makes you happier than you've been in an awfully long time. Or at least, she *could*. Don't drive her away.

DIR: Alfred stands next to Bruce and looks at the mask.

ALFRED She deserves to see you. All of you. And you deserve to show her.

BRUCE What do you suggest, Alfred? I bring her down here for a tour? Take her for a spin in the Batmobile? Batman protects the city. The mask protects

the people I'm closest to.

ALFRED I just hope it doesn't push them away as well.

CHOICES

1. It won't. I promise.

2. The mask is a part of me.

3. I'm not ready.

4. Silence

1. It won't. I promise.

BRUCE It won't. I promise. I've got it under control

[TO MAIN PATH]

2. The mask is a part of me.

BRUCE That mask is a part of me. I can take it off, but it will
always be there.

[TO MAIN PATH]

3. I'm not ready.

BRUCE I'm not ready to walk away, Alfred. Not yet.

[TO MAIN PATH]

4. Silence

ALFRED [*Muttered*] Brooding in the Batcave. How apropos.

[TO MAIN PATH]

[MAIN PATH]

ALFRED It isn't easy, letting go of one's commitments. God knows, I know a thing or two about that. None of this is easy to hear. Please understand, I have your best interests at heart.

DIR: Bruce checks his watch.

BRUCE To be continued...

DIR: Bruce begins to exit.

ALFRED Going somewhere?

BRUCE Gotham University Museum. Jez's exhibition is opening today - *Danse Macabre*. I told her I'd be there for moral support.

ALFRED Very good.

BRUCE [*Dryly*] I wouldn't want to be accused of "driving her away."

DIR: They share a moment.

ALFRED *Danse Macabre*. "The Dance of Death." Sounds... delightful.

DIR: Alfred picks up the receiver device.

BRUCE The receiver device I found in Harkness' wig last night. I'm running some optimization tests. If it picks up another signal, contact me immediately.

ALFRED Of course, sir. Only... I was wondering if I might ask for a few hours leave. This evening. Only if it's convenient.

BRUCE Hot date, Alfred?

ALFRED As a matter of fact...

DIR: Alfred shoots Bruce a coy look.

CHOICES

1. Way to go, Alfred.

2. Anyone I know?

3. Be back as soon as possible.

4. Silence

1. Way to go, Alfred.

BRUCE Way to go, Alfred! I had no idea you were... back in the game.

ALFRED [*Amused*] I just hope the rules aren't too different from when I last played.

[TO MAIN PATH]

2. *Anyone I know?*

BRUCE Alfred! You old... Is it anyone I know?

ALFRED I'm quite confident you've never met. You don't exactly move in the same circles.

[TO MAIN PATH]

3. *Be back as soon as possible.*

BRUCE The timing isn't great, Alfred. Be back here as soon as possible, please.

ALFRED Absolutely, sir.

[TO MAIN PATH]

4. *Silence*

DIR: Bruce folds his arms.

ALFRED I'd appreciate some words of encouragement. To tell you the truth, I'm a little terrified.

[TO MAIN PATH]

[MAIN PATH]

DIR: Bruce approaches Alfred.

BRUCE Well, I hope she knows how lucky she is.

ALFRED I thought it might be time for us both to enjoy a little light in our lives.

BRUCE Perhaps, you're right. Thank you, Alfred.

ALFRED Oh, no thanks necessary. After all, what's tea without the sympathy to go with it?

BRUCE Have fun tonight.

DIR: Bruce turns and leaves. As he exits:

BRUCE And don't do anything I wouldn't do!

DIR: Alfred walks over to the teapot and pours himself some tea.

ALFRED [*To self*] There isn't much danger of that...

END