

B A T M A N

"The Golem"

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(REAVES)

WARNER BROS. ANIMATION, INC.

BATMAN

"The Golem"

ACT ONE

1. EXT. GOTHAM SHOALS - ESTABLISHING - EVENING

A beachside community a few miles north of the city proper. The houses are mostly bungalows and cottages; this is a summer resort town. It's autumn now; leaves of russet and gold drift to the ground and dance in soft breezes. Only a few people live here year-round.

In the last house on the street, the only one with lights on, ALAN HOROWITZ says goodnight to his daughter, DENA. The twelve-year-old girl asks him for her favorite story. He smiles and tells her about the Golem of Prague, the clay man who was created by a wise rabbi to help their people in a time of desperate need.

SUSAN, Dena's nine-months pregnant mother, sees the little girl listening to the bedtime story and smiles also. She finishes putting dishes into the dishwasher and goes into the living room to start a fire. As she does so, several motorcycles roar by on the dark street. She frowns at the intrusive sound.

Alan finishes the story. "But whatever happened to the Golem, Daddy?" Dena asks. Alan tells her no one really knows. But, being made of clay, he can never really die. He kisses her goodnight, tucks her in and turns off the light.

2. EXT. COASTLINE - NIGHT

What looks like an attenuated oil slick drifts on the coastal current in the moonlight. It passes through a chemical spill from a nearby factory. Iridescent sparkles play over the mud-like smear, and two oval golden eyes form briefly within it.

3. EXT. GOTHAM CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

The bat signal paints the night sky.

4. INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

GORDON, at his desk, reacts in surprise as BATMAN appears out of the shadows. "Have pity on an old man's blood pressure," he grumbles. Batman asks why Gordon summoned him. Gordon says there's a motorcycle gang called the Scorpions that's been causing trouble in the city recently. Their M.O. is to find a house and terrorize the owners into leaving. They then take the house over as a headquarters and loot the neighborhood. "We ran them out of Central Heights, and there's an APB out for them. Thought you'd like to know." Batman looks at the rap sheet for the four bikers and his eyeslits narrow ominously. "They're worse than real scorpions," he comments. "Real scorpions kill only for food." Then he's gone into the night.

5. EXT. HOROWITZ HOUSE - MORNING

The Horowitz family has breakfast out on the back deck, overlooking the beach. Dena asks for and receives permission to play on the beach, as long as she doesn't go in the water. After

she leaves, her parents speak sadly of the fact that she doesn't have any playmates here. Susan says that sometimes the isolation makes her a bit nervous; she wished more families lived here year-round. Alan sympathizes. The isolation helps him work, but if Susan and Dena are unhappy, maybe they should move back to the city. Susan says don't be silly; time enough to think about that when Alan's latest book is done. Alan smiles, kisses her, then takes a cup of coffee to the attic which is his office and switches on a word processor.

3. EXT. BEACH - DAY

There is a light morning fog shrouding the beach. Dena pokes along the sand, half-heartedly collecting seashells. She begins tossing them in the water. Behind her a shape materializes out of the fog: A hulking, vaguely humanoid figure. A monster once known as CLAYFACE.

Dena hears a noise, turns, and reacts in initial horror. Clayface shambles forward, hands extended in supplication, rather like the Frankenstein Monster asking for help. Dena asks who he is. Clayface merely shakes his head; the chemical spill has reconstituted him without his memory or his ability to speak.

Dena's eyes light up. "I know who you are! You're the Golem!" She explains how her daddy told her all about his creation and purpose. She asks if he would like to be her friend. Clayface smiles and nods. Without his memory he is as much a child as her. They play together on the beach, Clayface taking a variety of forms to Dena's delight: a swingset, a

rocking horse, a playhouse, and so on.

4. EXT. STREET - DAY

Four motorcycles are parked at the crest of the street. Their riders wear leather and sport shaven heads. The backs of their jackets are emblazoned with stylized red scorpions. They are three men and one woman, all in their early twenties. The woman's name is RAZE; the two men are SLASH and BUTCHER. The leader calls himself SKULL. They are all practicing sociopaths. "Plenty of places here for our headquarters," Slash comments. "Most of them are empty." Skull smiles a twisted smile. "We'll take that one," he says, pointing at the Horowitz's house. Raze points out that it's the only one on the street that's occupied. Skull nods grimly. "That's what makes it fun."

5. INT. HOUSE - DAY

Alan and Susan react in horror as Skull rides his motorcycle through the front door, smashing it from its hinges. The rest of the Scorpions follow. Alan tries to stop them, but he doesn't have a chance against the four thugs. He and Dena run from the house via the back door.

Slash tries to object to Skull's chasing a pregnant woman from her home. Skull quickly stares him down. As the gang gleefully smashes furniture and bric-a-brac we FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

6. EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Dena and Clayface are playing on the beach. Suddenly they hear Dena's parents coming around a rocky spur. Clayface reacts in fear and flows away, melding with the sand, despite Dena's entreaties for him to stay.

Alan and Susan find Dena and tell her what's happened. She tells them about her new friend the Golem, who can help them. They, of course, don't believe her. This is no time for childish fairy tales; they have to report what's happened to the police.

There's a problem with that, however. The Scorpions have taken their car as well as their house. It's a good twenty miles to the nearest phone, and no way is a nine-months pregnant woman going to walk that. From where they hide among the rocks, they can see the gang out riding their choppers, digging up the front lawn and generally bringing down the house's property values real fast. They realize they're trapped.

7. INT. BATCAVE

Batman is at the computer, cross-checking all known sightings of the Scorpions and examining the specs on Black Phantom motorcycles, which the gang rides. We see on the

computer screen a distinctive tread pattern on the tires.

ALFRED tells him the Batcycle is gassed up and ready. The Dark Knight scans gas receipts for two-gallon purchases on stolen credit cards at various gas stations. The trail thus provided indicates that the Scorpions are headed north.

8. EXT/INT. CAVE - DAY

The Horowitz family takes shelter in a cave on the beach. They can only hide there for so long, however, because the tide is coming in. Dena tries in vain to convince her parents that the Golem really is out there and will help them, just like he helped their ancestors in Prague. She wants to go find him, but of course Alan and Susan won't let her out of their sight.

9. INT. HOROWITZ HOUSE - DAY

Where the Scorpions are having a great time trashing the place. Raze takes particular joy in smashing all the toys in Dena's room. Butcher goes through Susan's jewelry box and grab other items of value, while Skull begins mixing various household chemicals and other liquids, preparing explosives to detonate the house when they move on. Only Slash seems uncomfortable, only going through the motions of destruction. Raze calls attention to this, and Skull confronts Slash, demanding to know if the latter is losing his nerve. This Slash denies, of course. He's as hard as they come. "Good," Skull says. "Remember the law of the jungle." He turns away, and Slash swallows in relief.

10. EXT. GOTHAM CITY STREETS - EVENING

The Dark Knight roars through the city on the Batcycle. He stops at an intersection, uses his infra-red scope to examine skid marks which match the tread pattern of the Scorpions' choppers. The trail still leads north.

11. INT/EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

The rising tide drives the family from the security of the cave. They move across the beach, trying to reach the road in hopes of flagging down a car. Their luck runs out, however, because instead of finding a car they find Raze and Butcher. The two Scorpions advance menacingly on them as we FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

12. EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Dena turns and runs back toward the beach, screaming for the Golem to help them. Raze runs after her while Butcher holds Alan and Susan at bay. Raze is about to grab the little girl when suddenly the sand beneath them rises up as though alive -- which it is, in a way. Clayface grabs Raze and throws them into the ocean, then surges toward Butcher. The Scorpion member tries to run, but Clayface engulfs him; he's about to suffocate him when Susan intervenes, shouting not to kill him. Clayface uses clay bands to immobilize Butcher.

Dena says proudly, "See? I told you the Golem was real!" Alan and Susan have no choice but to agree that she's right. Alan asks Clayface who he is -- what he is. Clayface's brow furrows. "I was somebody once," he says haltingly, "but that's gone now. Now I'm the Golem." Alan and Susan accept this, thankful that he's on their side.

The Horowitz family and their new protector are about to head back to the house when someone shouts: "Hagen!" They turn to see Batman, dramatically backlit by the moonlit sea. Clayface reacts at the sight of him. "Batman," he says uncertainly. The Dark Knight starts forward. "I don't know how you survived our

last encounter, but I won't let you hurt these people!" Dena runs to him and begs him not to hurt her friend the Golem. Batman is incredulous. As Alan and Susan explain what's happened, we go to

13. INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Where Skull and Slash are wondering what's become of Raze and Butcher. Skull has just finished putting the concoction he was working on earlier into a plastic bottle, making a homemade bomb capable of blowing this house off its foundation. All it takes is one good knock to set it off.

Both of them are nervous; they've heard strange clay-like slurping sounds over the noise of the surf, and screams. Slash tells Skull maybe they've bitten off more than they can chew this time. Skull turns on him, knocking him across the room. "I told you what happens to the weak," he growls, advancing on him. At that point the front door crashes open and Batman leaps into the room.

Skull whirls on Batman, pulling a gun. But Slasher throws a book at him, knocking the gun from his hand. Skull dives out a window and leaps on his chopper, gunning it and taking off. Batman is right behind him on the Batcycle.

Meanwhile the back door erupts off its hinges and Clayface surges in, engulfing Slash. Alan, Susan and Dena follow, reclaiming their home again.

14. EXT. BEACH ROAD - NIGHT

Where Skull leads Batman on a thrilling motorcycle chase along an abandoned beach road. They zoom past a sign reading: "CAUTION! ROAD NOT MAINTAINED". The road rises along a seaside cliff. Batman gains upon Skull, and the latter tries to lose his grim pursuer by every means he can think of. Finally Skull hits a chuckhole and loses control of his cycle. It sails off the cliff, and the only reason Skull doesn't go with it is because Batman fires his grapple gun and yanks the Scorpion back onto the road, while the motorcycle falls to a fiery crash in the rocky surf.

15. INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Where Batman returns with Skull. He thanks Slash for knocking the gun from Skull's hand. Slash says he's just not cut out to be a Scorpion. "That's nothing to be ashamed of," Alan says.

Batman turns to Clayface. "I remember who I am now," Clayface says, "and you're not takin' me in, Batman!" But before the two old foes can square off, Raze bursts into the house, dripping wet and desperate. She grabs the homemade bomb of Skull's. She demands that Skull be set free, or she'll blow the house and everybody in it to kingdom come.

Batman can't knock the bomb out of her hand with a batarang, for fear it will explode. For a moment it's a stalemate -- then Clayface surges forward, engulfing the bomb in his unstable mass and hurtling out the window. Dena runs to the window. "Golem!"

she cries. Alan grabs her and pulls her down below the window just as the bomb explodes, disintegrating Clayface.

Batman immobilizes Raze with a batbolo. Sirens are heard in the distance as the police arrive. Dena, fighting back tears, turns to Batman and asks if it really was the Golem, or just some enemy of Batman's named Clayface. "I made a mistake," Batman says softly. "I thought it was Clayface. But it really was the Golem."

The moon shines down on the wet fragments of clay on the beach, as we FADE OUT.

THE END