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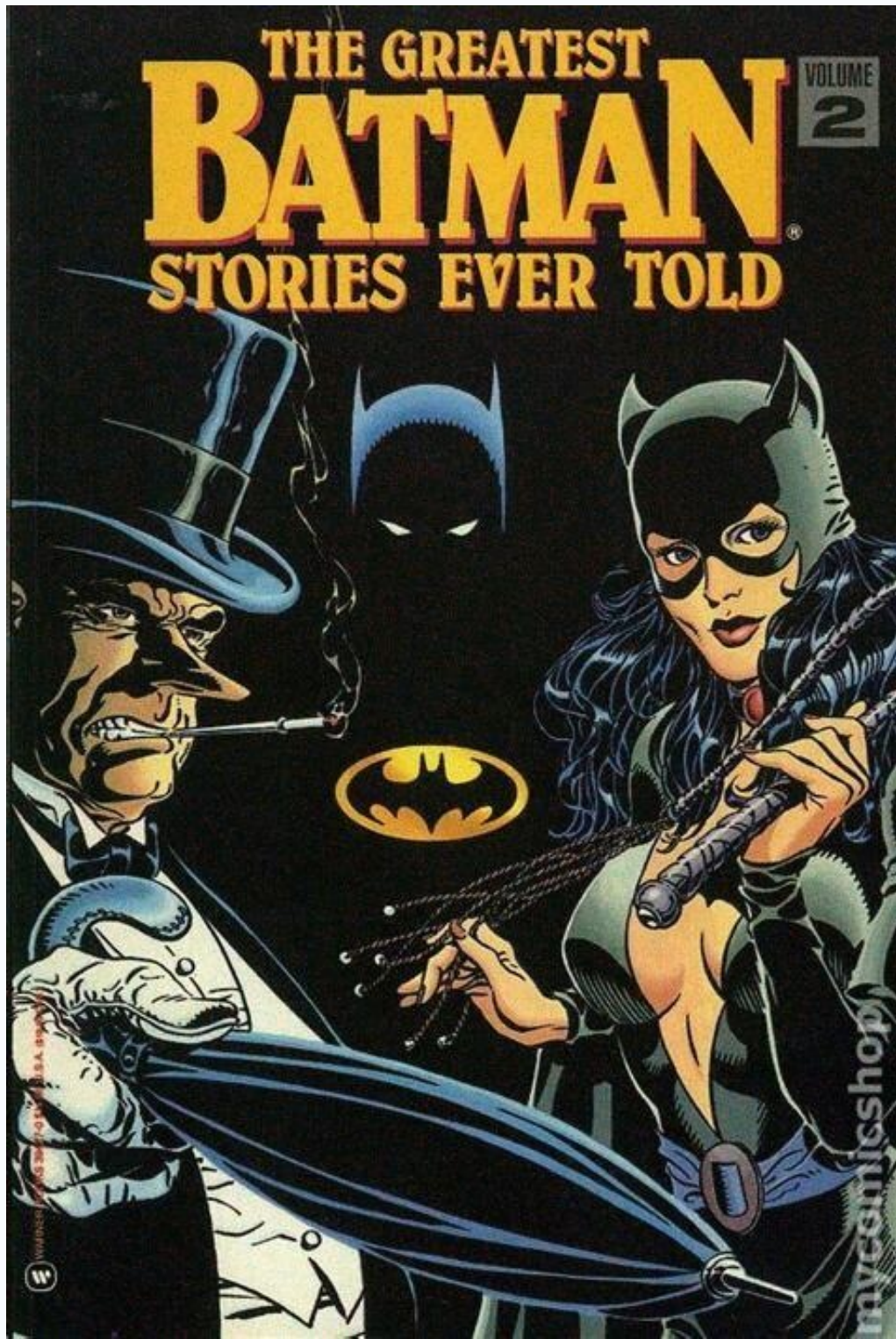
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First batman comic book

Let's face it: Batman is the coolest. Even for a comic book fan like me, one who spends an inordinate amount of time fixated on the Complete Marvel Universe, reading Batman is almost always a good decision. It's no surprise there are 6 (nearly 7) Batman stories within my top 50 of the best comics of all time. Whether you're here from the comics, the Arkham video games, or the Dark Knight movies, there's a glut of reading options all leading to the same question: Where do I start with Batman comics? I'll answer that here in a relatively expedient manner.

Note, that Batman made his comic book debut more than 75 years ago. I won't mention every comic he's been in since then, and trying to read all of them would be an intimidating (if noble) life goal. Instead, we'll focus on the comics that make Batman so great, and how you can enjoy them in a chronological order. Comic Book Herald is reader-supported. When you buy through links on our site, we may earn a qualifying affiliate commission. Comic Book Herald's reading orders and guides are also made possible by reader support on Patreon, and generous reader donations. Any size contribution will help keep CBH alive and full of new comics guides and content. Support CBH on Patreon for exclusive rewards, or Donate here! Thank you for reading! Updates 4/20/21 by Nathan Payson! Where To Start With Batman Comics? Index: I) Creation: Batman in the 1940's and 1950's II) Formation of the Bat: The Neal Adams Years - Late 60's Through 1970's III) Year One & The Modern Bat (Most New Readers Should Start Here!) IV) Knightfall: Bane Breaks the Bat (Early 90's) V) Batman: No Man's Land (Late 90's to Early 2000's) VI) Bruce Wayne Fugitive, Hush, & Under the Red Hood (Early to Mid 2000's) VII) Grant Morrison's Batman Reading Order (Late 2000's) VIII) New 52 Batman Reading Order (2011 to 2015) IX) DC Rebirth X) Future of the Dark Knight (The Dark Knight Returns graphic novels) Dave's Faves: Best and Essential Batman Fast Track! If you want just the best of the best, I've listed my favorite Batman stories below. Otherwise, you can carry on to check out the complete reading order and chronology! Batman: The Beginning Batman: The Golden Age Omnibus Vol. 1 Collects: Detective Comics #27 to #56, Batman #1 to #7, World's Best Comics #1, and World's Finest Comics #2 to #3 Let me be clear: You certainly don't have to jump back to the 1940's to start reading Batman comics.

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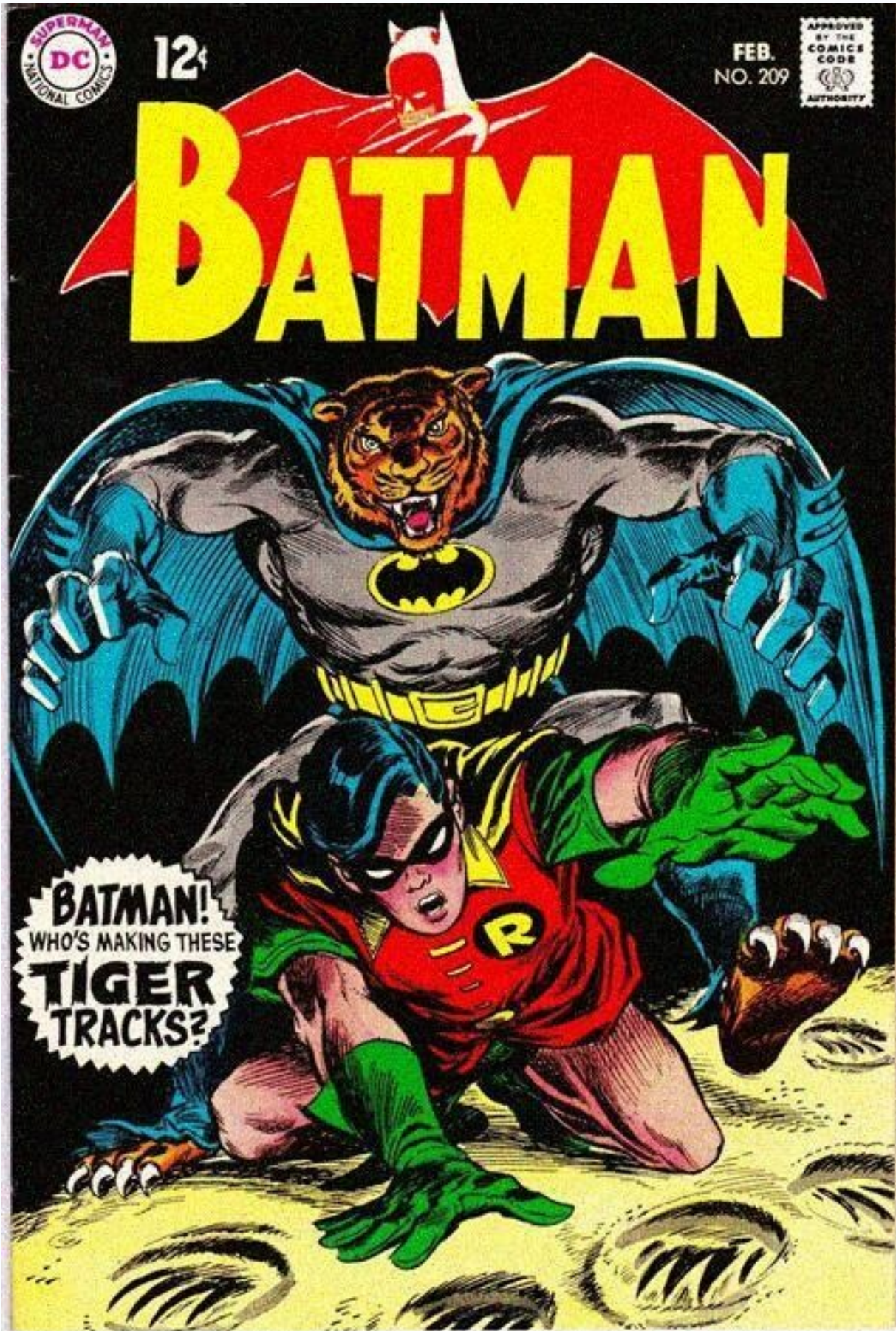
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Tales of the Demon marks a more immediate introduction to Rah's Al Ghul and Talia Al Ghul, and features the creative pairing of Denny O'Neil and Neal Adams. Note that this overlaps with the above Neal Adams artist edition. A good starting place for Bat-fans just trying to get the best and most essential Batman stories through the years! Batman: Strange Apparitions Collects: Detective Comics #469 to #476, #478, #479 Immeasurably influential late 70's run on Batman from storytellers Steve Englehardt, Marshall Rogers, and Terry Austin. Includes the classic Joker story "The Laughing Fish." Tales of the Batman: Len Wein Collects: Detective Comics #408, #444-448, #466, #478-479, #500, #514, Batman #307-310, #312-319, #321-324, #326-327, World's Finest Comics #207, DC Retroactive Batman - The 70S, Untold Legends Of The Batman #1-3, Batman Black And White #5 Tales of the Batman: Don Newton Vol. 1 Collects: Batman #305-306, Detective Comics #480 And 483-492 And Brave And Bold #153-165 Tales of the Batman: Gerry Conway Vol. 1 Collects: Detective Comics 463, 464, 497-499, 501-504, The Brave And The Bold 158, 161, 171-174, Batman 295, 305, 306, Batman Family 17, Man-Bat 1 And , World's Finest Comics 250, 269 Tales of the Batman: Gerry Conway Vol. 2 Collects: Batman #337-346 & #348; World's Finest Comics #270; Detective Comics #505-513 Tales of the Batman - Gene Colan, Volume One Collects: Batman #340, 343-345 And 348-351 And Detective Comics #510, 512, 517, 528 And 529 Tales of the Batman: Gene Colan Vol. 2 Collects: Batman #373, Detective Comics #530-538 And 540-544 And World's Finest Comics #297 And #299 Batman Redefines The Graphic Novel (The 1980's & Year One) To date, we've progressed in order of publication release date, but as we move into what many now consider the greatest Batman stories of all time (and the logical starting place for any new readers), we'll be ordering according to Batman's timeline. Batman: Year One Collects: Batman #404 to #407 Batman: Year One is the 1986 graphic novel from Frank Miller and David Mazzucchelli. Alongside Miller's The Dark Knight Returns, Year One is considered not only one of the best Batman stories, but one of the best graphic novels of all time. If you're really all in, you could also check out Catwoman: Her Sister's Keeper here, which expands on Catwoman's role in Year One. Batman: Shaman Collects: Legends of the Dark Knight #1 to #5 Note that the first issue of Shaman actually takes place during Batman: Year One. Batman: Gothic Collects: Legends of the Dark Knight #6 to #10 An early Grant Morrison story mixing elements of Fritz Lang films, Byron poems, mobster radio serials, and opera into a quintessentially Morrison story. Batman: Four of a Kind Collects: 4 villain Year One one-shots Poison Ivy in Batman: Shadow of the Bat Annual #3 Man-Bat in Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight Annual #5 Scarecrow in Batman Annual #19 Riddler in Detective Comics Annual #8 Batman: Venom Collects: Legends of the Dark Knight #16 to #20 Batman becomes addicted to venom, the same substance that gives Bane his strength. A harrowing look at addiction through the eyes of one of the most dangerous men in the DC universe. Batman: Haunted Knight Collects: Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight Halloween Special #1, Batman: Madness - A Legend of the Dark Knight Halloween Special. And Batman: Ghosts - A Legends of the Dark Knight Halloween Special Batman: The Long Halloween Collects: Batman: The Long Halloween #1-12 The Long Halloween is one of two 12 issue graphic novels from the creative team of Jeph Loeb & Tim Sale, where each chapter represents one month in the calendar year. I'd reiterate that these books were actually published in the 1990's, but they deal (excellently) with Batman's early days, as well as District Attorney Harvey Dent. Some personal favorite Batman stories in here. Batman: Year Two Collects: Detective Comics #575 to #578 Batman And the Monster Men Collects: Batman and the Monster Men #1-6 Batman And the Mad Monk Collects: Batman and the Mad Monk #1-6 Batman: Prey Collects: Legends of the Dark Knight #11 to #15, and #137 to #141 Batman: The Man Who Laughs Collects: Detective Comics #784-786 The Man Who Laughs is Ed Brubaker and Doug Mahnke's modern (the book was published in the 2000's) take on the Joker's origins. Batman: Dark Victory Collects: Dark Victory #0-13 Dark Victory is the follow up to Long Halloween. 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In many ways, Arkham Asylum is like a waking nightmare for Batman, and also establishes the always enjoyable story of Batman pummeling his rogues gallery on their turf: a haunted prison. Batman: A Lonely Place of Dying Collects: Batman #426 to #429, #440 to #442, and New Titans #60 to #61. Robin: A Hero Reborn Collects: Batman #455-457 and Robin #1-5 Batman: Birth of the Demon Collects: Batman: Son of the Demon, Batman: Bride of the Demon, and Batman: Birth of the Demon Another must-read, featuring three excellent Ra's Al Ghul stories. Knightfall And Breaking the Bat (The 1990's) You can find a full chronological guide to every issue in the Knightfall trilogy (including an essential "Road to Knightfall" fast track) in Comic Book Herald's complete Knightfall reading order. Batman: Sword of Azrael Collects: Batman: Sword of Azrael #1-4 Fans of the Arkham Knight video game can check out Azrael's comic book origins here as Batman heads towards Knightfall. Batman: Knightfall, Vol. 1. Collects: Batman: Vengeance of Bane Special #1, Batman #491-500, Detective Comics #659-666, Showcase '93 #7-8 and Batman: Shadow of the Bat #16-18 Iconic and satisfying Bat-event, as Bane seeks to break the bat. The inspiration for Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight Rises. Batman: Knightfall, Vol. 2: Knightquest Collects: Detective Comics #667-675, Shadow of the Bat #19-20, #24-28, Batman #501-508, Catwoman #6-7 and Robin #7 Batman: Knightfall, Vol.



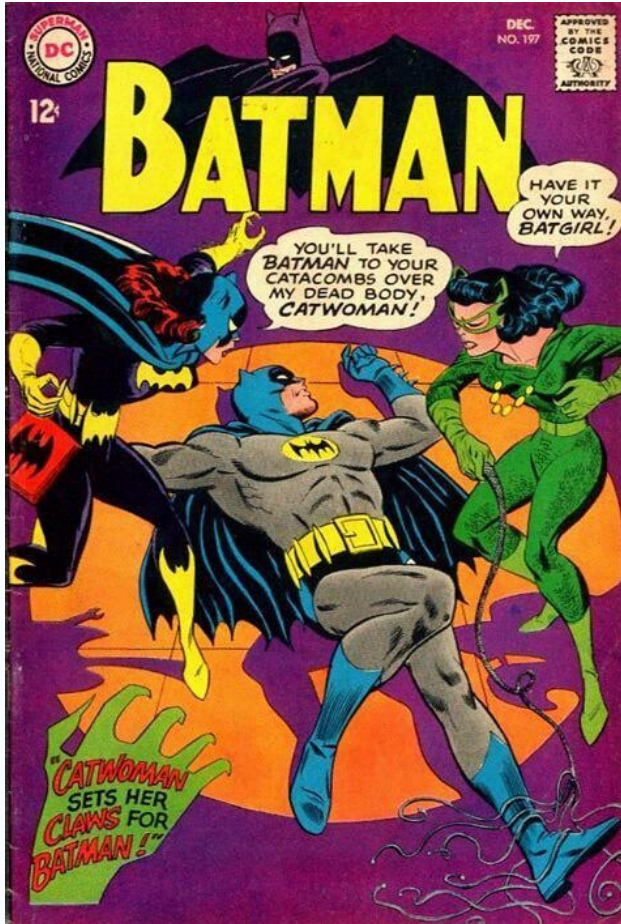
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In many ways, Arkham Asylum is like a waking nightmare for Batman, and also establishes the always enjoyable story of Batman pummeling his rogues gallery on their turf: a haunted prison. Batman: A Lonely Place of Dying Collects: Batman #426 to #429, #440 to #442, and New Titans #60 to #61. Robin: A Hero Reborn Collects: Batman #455-457 and Robin #1-5 Batman: Birth of the Demon Collects: Batman: Son of the Demon, Batman: Bride of the Demon, and Batman: Birth of the Demon Another must-read, featuring three excellent Ra's Al Ghul stories. Knightfall And Breaking the Bat (The 1990's) You can find a full chronological guide to every issue in the Knightfall trilogy (including an essential "Road to Knightfall" fast track) in Comic Book Herald's complete Knightfall reading order. Batman: Sword of Azrael Collects: Batman: Sword of Azrael #1-4 Fans of the Arkham Knight



Note, that Batman made his comic book debut more than 75 years ago. I won't mention every comic he's been in since then, and trying to read all of them would be an intimidating (if noble) life goal. Instead, we'll focus on the comics that make Batman so great, and how you can enjoy them in a chronological order. Comic Book Herald is reader-supported. When you buy through links on our site, we may earn a qualifying affiliate commission. Comic Book Herald's reading orders and guides are also made possible by reader support on Patreon, and generous reader donations.

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Otherwise, you can carry on to check out the complete reading order and chronology! Batman: The Beginning Batman: The Golden Age Omnibus Vol. 1 Collects: Detective Comics #27 to #56, Batman #1 to #7, World's Best Comics #1, and World's Finest Comics #2 to #3 Let me be clear: You certainly don't have to jump back to the 1940's to start reading Batman comics. That said, it can be a lot of fun, and you'll see the debuts of Batman, Robin, Joker, Commissioner Gordon, Catwoman, and many more. The first Golden Age Omnibus is a relatively easy to find, fair-priced (around \$40) introduction to Batman's true beginnings. You can keep the party rolling with the below Golden Age Omnib: Batman: The Golden Age Omnibus Vol. 2 Collects: Detective Comics #57-74, Batman #8-15 And World's Finest Comics #4-9 Batman: The Golden Age Omnibus Vol. 3 Collects: Detective Comics #75-91, Batman #16-25, And Stories From World's Finest Comics #10-14 Batman: The Golden Age Omnibus Vol. 4 Collects: Detective Comics #93-112, Batman #26-35 And World's Finest Comics #15-22 Batman: The Golden Age Omnibus Vol. 5 Collects: Detective Comics #113-132, Batman #36-45 And Stories From World's Finest Comics #23-32 Batman: The Golden Age Omnibus Vol. 6 Collects: Detective Comics #132-153, Batman #46-55 And Stories From World's Finest Comics #33-42 Batman: The Golden Age Omnibus Vol. 7 Collects: Detective Comics #154-173, Batman #56-66 And Stories From World's Finest Comics #43-52 Batman: The Golden Age Omnibus Vol. 8 Collects: Detective Comics #174-191, Batman #66-75 And Stories From World's Finest Comics #54-62 Batman: The Golden Age Omnibus Vol. 9 Collects: Detective Comics #192-208, Batman #76-84 And Stories From World's Finest Comics #63-70 Most Expedient Way to Navigate Batman's Early Decades! Batman in the 40's Collects: Batman #7, 15, 20, 31, 37, 47, 48, 49, Detective Comics #27, 33, 38, 49, 80, Real Fact Comics #5, Star Spangled Comics #70, and World's Finest Comics #30 Batman in the 50's Collects: Batman #62, 81, 92, 105, 113, 121, 128, Detective Comics #156, 168, 185, 216, 233, 244, 252, 267, World's Finest Comics #81 Batman in the 60's Collects: Batman #131, 144, 148, 155, 179, 181, 200, 217, Batman Kellogg's Special #6, Detective Comics #298, 341, 349, 369, 388, 389, 390, 391 Batman '66 Omnibus Collects: Batman '66 #1-30, Batman '66: The Lost Episode #1, Jeff Parker and Mike Alired's work on the 2010's, Night Cries Batman: Tales of the Demon Collects: Batman #232, 235, 240, 242, 243, 244, Detective Comics #411, 485, 489, 490, and DC Special Series Volume 2 #15. Tales of the Demon marks a more immediate introduction to Ra's Al Ghul and Talia Al Ghul, and features the creative pairing of Denny O'Neil and Neal Adams. Note that this overlaps with the above Neal Adams artist edition. A good starting place for Bat-fans just trying to get the best and most essential Batman stories through the years! Batman: The Brave and the Bold: The Bronze Age Omnibus Vol. 1 Collects: Brave and the Bold #74-106 Batman: The Brave and the Bold: The Bronze Age Omnibus Vol. 2 Collects: Brave and the Bold #110-156 Batman: The Brave and the Bold: The Bronze Age Omnibus Vol. 3 Collects: Brave and the Bold #157-200 Modern Batman Takes Shape (The 1970's) Batman: Illustrated by Neal Adams Vol. 1 Collects: Batman #200, 203, 210, Brave and the Bold #75, 76, 79-85, Detective Comics #370, 372, 385, 389, 391, 392, and World's Finest #174-176, 178-180, 182-183, 185, 186. A number of the comics collected in the Neal Adams illustrations are cover work he did. While these are always a blast to see, The actual full length comic issues that are the following: World's Finest Comics #175, The Brave and the Bold #79-85, and Detective Comics #392 Batman: Illustrated by Neal Adams Vol. 2 Collects: Batman #217, 220-222, 224-227, 229-231, The Brave and the Bold #86, 88-90, 93, 95, Detective Comics #394-403, 405-311, World's Finest #199, 200, 202 The full issues collected in volume 2, which features the origins of the Man-Bat and the start of Denny O'Neil and Neal Adams Batman comics is as follows: The Brave and the Bold #86, Detective Comics #395, Batman #219, Detective Comics #397, #400, #402, #404, #407, The Brave and the Bold #93, Detective Comics #408, #410 Batman Illustrated by Neal Adams: Volume 3 Collects: Batman #232, 234, 237, 243, 244, 245, 251, 255 Tales of the Batman: Carmine Infantino Collects: Detective Comics #327, #329, #331, #333, #335, #337, #339, #341, #343, #345, #347, #349, #351, #353, #357, #359, #361, #363, #367, #369, #500, The Brave and the Bold #172, 183, 190, and 194 Tales of the Batman: Archie Goodwin Collects: Detective Comics #437, 438 And 440-443, Detective Comics Annual #3, Showcase '95 #11, Batman Black And White #1 And 4, Batman: Legends Of The Dark Knight #132-136, And Batman: Dark Victory #0-13 Dark Victory is the follow up to Long Halloween. Batgirl/Robin: Year One Collects: Robin: Year One #1-4 and Batgirl: Year One #1-9 Batman: Batgirl Collects: Batman: Batgirl #1 Batman: Collected Legends of the Dark Knight Collects: Batman Legends of the Dark Knight #32 to #34, #38, #42 to #43 Batman: Night Cries Collects: Batman: Night Cries Graphic Novel Batman: The Cat and The Bat Collects: Batman Confidential #17-21 Batman: Other Realms Collects: Batman Legends of the Dark Knight #35 to #36, #76 to #78 Nightwing: Year One Collects: Nightwing #101-106 Batman & the Outsiders Vol. 1 Collects: The Brave And The Bold #200, Batman And The Outsiders #1-13, And New Teen Titans #37 Batman and the Outsiders Vol. 2 Collects: Batman And The Outsiders Annual #1 And Batman And The Outsiders #14-23 Legends of The Dark Knight: Norm Breyfogle Vol. 1 Collects: Detective Comics #579, #582-594, #601-607 And Stories From Batman Annual #11-12 Batman: Going Sane Collects: Batman Legends of the Dark Knight #65 to #68, #200 Batman: The Killing Joke The Killing Joke is the increasingly controversial graphic novel from Alan Moore and Brian Bolland. 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Official website Batman Bio at the Unofficial Guide to the DC Universe Batman on DC Database, a DC Comics wiki Batman (1940–present) Comics Inventory Batman at Curlie Portals: United States Comics Speculative fictionBatman at Wikipedia's sister projects:Media from CommonsQuotations from Wikiquote Retrieved from "