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COMICS™

17

BATMAN

'66

TOM
PEYER
BY
TEMPLETON

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THE INEVITABLE JAIL-TERM

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

Inspired by the 1960s Batman television series

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**BOOKWORM--THAT PIRATE OF PAGES--
IS PASTING EVERY BAT-FACT HE CAN BUNDLE
INTO A BOUND VOLUME! BATMAN WORRIES
THAT THIS BALEFUL BATCYCLOPEDIA CAN
BE USED TO ASCERTAIN HIS SECRET TRUE
IDENTITY AS MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE!**

WHAT WAS
IT BOOKWORM SAID?
"TOMORROW I STRIKE---
AND I DO MEAN STRIKE!"
HOW STRANGELY HE
STRESSED THAT LAST
WORD!



WHAT
DOES "STRIKE"
HAVE TO DO
WITH BOOKWORM'S
BIBLIOPHILIC
APPROACH TO
CRIME?

SOMETHING
TO DO WITH
THE PRINTER'S
UNION?

DOUBTFUL.
THEY STILL HAVE
APPROXIMATELY 19
MONTHS, ONE WEEK,
THREE DAYS AND
16 HOURS LEFT ON
THEIR CURRENT
CONTRACT.

BOOK...
STRIKE... STRIKE...
BOOK...

A MATCHBOOK!
YOU STRIKE A MATCH AGAINST
A MATCHBOOK!

EXCELLENT, ROBIN! THE
DICKENS MATCH BOUTIQUE
IS DISPLAYING A SET OF
PRICELESS 19TH CENTURY
MATCHBOOKS IN THEIR
SHOWROOM!

JUST THE
LOOT TO LURE
THAT LARCENOUS
LITERATE!

HOLY CHILD'S PLAY!
HE WANTED US TO DOPE
IT OUT!

BOOKWORM
CAN'T WAIT TO FACE
YOU AGAIN, BATMAN--
SO HE CAN ADD TO HIS
BATCYCLOPEDIA AND
USE IT AGAINST
YOU!

I'M
ONLY TOO
AWARE
OF THAT,
ROBIN--

--BUT I'M AFRAID
THERE'S NO CHOICE.
WHATEVER THE DANGER,
WHATEVER THE RISK, A
CRIME-FIGHTER MUST
FIGHT CRIME!



**AND SOON, OUTSIDE GOTHAM'S UPSCALE
DICKENS MATCH BOUTIQUE...**

I DON'T
WANT TO SOUND
UNGRATEFUL, BATMAN,
BUT THIS **ROOT
VEGETABLE JUICE**
YOU BOUGHT ME IS
KINDA HARD TO
GET DOWN.

BUT WELL
WORTH THE
EFFORT, CHUM.
CRIME FIGHTING
IS AS PHYSICAL AS
IT IS MENTAL. A
HEALTHY BODY IS
AN INVALUABLE
DEPUTY!

Dickens Match Boutique

ROBIN, LOOK! BUT DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE
LOOKING! IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THAT'S
BOOKWORM HIMSELF!

IN A NEW
COSTUME?
WHAT'S HE
WEARING?

IT LOOKS
LIKE IT'S MADE OF--
**A COARSE STRIKING
MATERIAL!**

HOLY
MATCHBOOKWORM!







ARE YOU *SURE*
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, AUN--
MRS. COOPER?

≡COUGH≡
I'LL BE FINE,
BOY WONDER--
JUST AS SOON AS
THAT HORRIBLE
BOOKWORM
IS BEHIND
BARS!



THE
SLIPPERY
DEVIL GOT
AWAY *THIS*
TIME--BUT
IT SEEMS
HE LEFT A
CLUE!

HEY! MY ROOT
VEGETABLE JUICE
IS GONE!

AND LOOK
WHAT'S REPLACED IT! A
POLICEMAN'S TRAFFIC
TICKET BOOK!

UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN,
BOOKWORM'S NEXT CAPER
WILL DIRECTLY TARGET
LAW ENFORCEMENT!

HOLY
SUPPORT--
YOUR-LOCAL-
POLICE!

**THAT NIGHT, BACK AT THE
SEEMINGLY ABANDONED
GOTHAM SCHOOL
BOOK DEPOSITORY...**

WHEN YOU
GONNA STEAL US
SOME JEWELRY,
BOOKWORM?

PEFFT!
CONSIDER
THE WEALTH OF
KNOWLEDGE I'M
HOARDING--ALL OF
IT EXCLUSIVELY
MINE!

FOR INSTANCE,
I'M FIRST TO NOTE THAT
BATMAN DELIBERATELY TOSSES
BATARANGS WITH A MOTION
DEVELOPED BY BASEBALL
PITCHER JIM CREIGHTON
IN 1859!

OH, TO HAVE A
REAL CONVERSATION
WITH THE CAPED
CRUSADER! HIS GRASP
OF WORLD KNOWLEDGE
MUST BE NEARLY AS
COMPREHENSIVE AS
MY OWN!

AND
ALMOST AS
BORING?

UGH!
SO?

BORING?!

YOU
PHILISTINE!
YOU'LL SEE HOW
BORING I AM WHEN
I AUCTION BATMAN'S
CRIME-FIGHTING
SECRETS TO THE
HIGHEST CRIMINAL
BIDDER!



AUCTION? LIKE,
FOR A LOT?

MILLIONS AND
MILLIONS!



WHY
DON'T YOU
SHOW ME
THAT PITCHIN'
MOTION,
BOOKY?







ROZZA! HELP
THE BULLDOGS
WHILE I SEARCH
FOR BOOKERS!

UNDERSTOOD,
BATMAN!

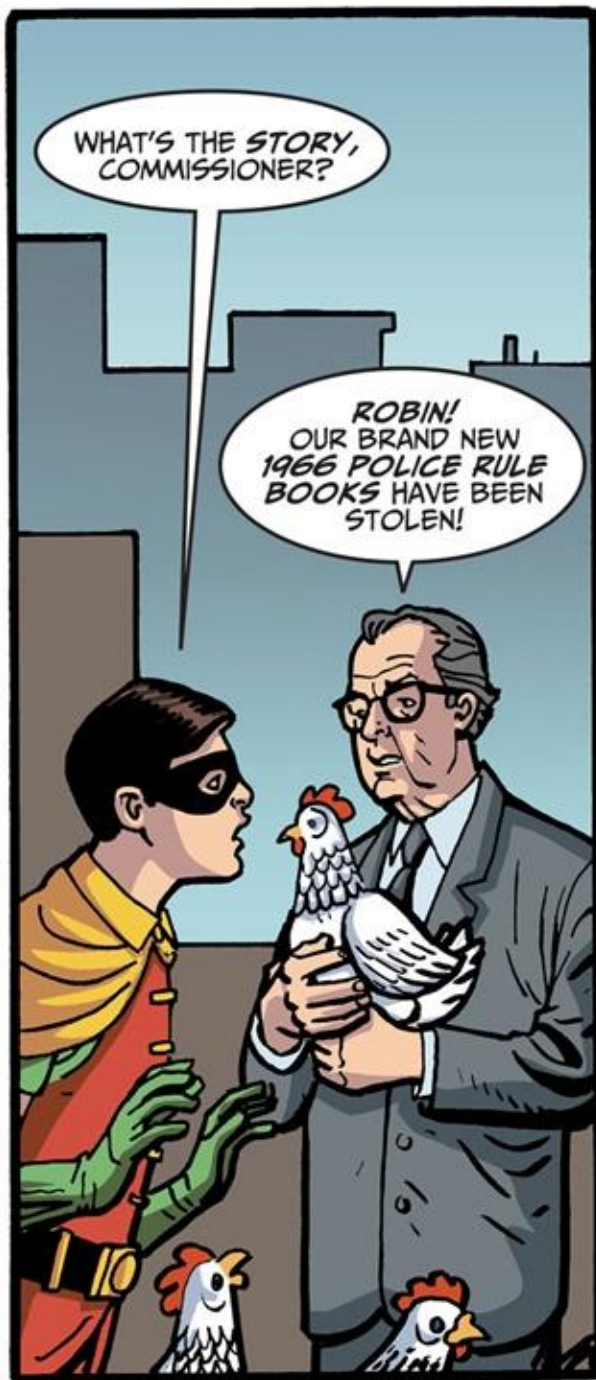
**READER! WHAT
GIBBERISH IS
BATMAN SPOUTING?
AND HOW CAN ROBIN
UNDERSTAND IT?**



ARE YOU
GETTING ALL THIS
DOWN, JOYCE
CAROL?

EVERY
SYLLABLE,
BOOKY!

GOOD!
LET'S CLEAR
OUT BEFORE
WE'RE SEEN!



NO
SIGN OF HIM,
ROBIN!

THE
BOOKWORM
KEEPS GETTING
AWAY, BATMAN--
AND EVERY TIME HE
DOES, HE KNOWS
SOMETHING MORE
ABOUT YOU!

TAKE
HEART,
CHUM.
WE'RE NOT
LICKED
YET.



HAHAHA
HAHA!

WHY
SO CHEERFUL,
BOOKWORM?

THIS PLAN
IS BETTER THAN I'D
DREAMED! I NEED ONLY
ACQUIRE ONE MORE PIECE
OF EASILY ATTAINABLE
INFORMATION--



--AND
I'LL KNOW
WHO BATMAN
REALLY
IS!



**LATE THAT NIGHT, THREE SINISTER
SHADOWS LURK OUTSIDE
STATELY WAYNE MANOR--**



**--AND SHOCKINGLY
FORCE THEIR WAY
INSIDE!**



**DOES THIS MEAN THE
UNTHINKABLE HAS OCCURRED?
HAS BOOKWORM DISCOVERED
BATMAN'S IDENTITY?**





--BUT HE
AND ROBIN ARE
PRESENT!

AHEM
GET HIM,
BOYS!





LOOK AT ME,
BOOKWORM!

WHA---?

CLICK!

POW!!

ALFRED?

BAT-POLE
ENTRANCE
SECURE,
SIR.

GOOD
FELLOW!

COMES THE
DAWN...

AND SO,
WITH THE PERMISSION
OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE
WAYNE'S BUTLER ALFRED,
I PLANTED CLUES THAT
LED BOOKWORM TO
"EXPOSE" ME.

BATMAN,
I'M SURPRISED AT
YOU! ENDANGERING
THE INNOCENTS WHO
LIVE HERE--YOUNG
DICK GRAYSON
AND HIS AUNT
HARRIET!

KOFF

AFTER MRS. COOPER'S
BRUSH WITH BOOKWORM AT
THE MATCH BOUTIQUE, SIR, SHE
SENSIBLY EMBARKED ON
AN OCEAN CRUISE FOR
HER NERVES.

AS FOR
MASTERS BRUCE AND
DICK, THEY ARE...ER...
CAMPING ON MOUNT
GOTHAM.

OH, HOW
FOOLISH I AM
TO DOUBT YOU,
BATMAN! WHEN
WILL I EVER
LEARN?

FORGET IT,
COMMISSIONER!
LET'S JUST
CONCENTRATE
ON RECOVERING
BOOKWORM'S
BOOTY--

--BECAUSE
I'M SURE MR. WAYNE
WILL BE HAPPY TO WRITE
A GENEROUS OVERSIZED
CHECK FOR THE GOTHAM
PRISON LIBRARY!

BAH!

BURN THE
BOOKS, FOR ALL
I CARE! I JUST WANT
TO TURN OFF MY
BRAIN AND WATCH
TELEVISION!





SON OF ULTRAMAN

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