

# JOKER

## Malice, deformation and above all violence

"All it takes is one bad day to reduce the sanest man alive to lunacy. That's how far the world is from where I am. Just one bad day. You had a bad day once. Am I right?"

—Joker, Batman: The Killing Joke

The Joker is a supervillain and the archenemy of Batman, first introduced in comic issue Batman #1 in 1940. The Joker, an antithesis of Batman in personality and appearance, is considered to be Batman's perfect adversary. The Joker has been responsible for bringing about numerous tragedies in Batman's life- the murder of Jason Todd (the second Robin) which made Batman consider killing again, and paralysing Barbara Gordon (Batgirl) among several others.

In his comic book appearances, the Joker is portrayed as a psychopathic criminal mastermind who has a sadistic sense of humour. He enjoys killing people for his own amusement and enjoys upsetting the set society rules. Over the years the portrayal of this character has changed but what remains unchanged is his unrivalled desire for chaos. What sets the Joker apart is that unlike any other villains; he does not mind dying for what he believes in- chaos.

The Joker much like his nemesis- Batman, does not possess any superhuman powers, instead he uses his knowledge of chemical engineering to create means of destruction. He understands Batman on miniscule level, which he uses to manipulate Batman on several occasions. The Joker, chides the Batman on several encounters to kill him, but what remains ambiguous is whether the Batman breaks his code of not killing anyone at the end of The Killing Joke.

The only villain to break Batman numerous times, the Joker is voted as one of the best villains of all time consistently.

-Ankita Dutta