Joker (comics)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Joker** is a fictional supervillain created by Bill Finger, Bob Kane, and Jerry Robinson who first appeared in the debut issue of the comic book *Batman* (April 25, 1940) published by DC Comics. Credit for the Joker's creation is disputed; Kane and Robinson claimed responsibility for the Joker's design, while acknowledging Finger's writing contribution. Although the Joker was planned to be killed off during his initial appearance, he was spared by editorial intervention, allowing the character to endure as the archenemy of the superhero Batman.

In his comic book appearances, the Joker is portrayed as a criminal mastermind. Introduced as a psychopath with a warped, sadistic sense of humor, the character became a goofy prankster in the late 1950s in response to regulation by the Comics Code Authority, before returning to his darker roots during the early 1970s. As Batman's nemesis, the Joker has been part of the superhero's defining stories, including the murder of Jason Todd—the second Robin and Batman's ward—and the paralysis of one of Batman's allies, Barbara Gordon. The Joker has had various possible origin stories during his decades of appearances. The most common story involves him falling into a tank of chemical waste which bleaches his skin white, turns his hair green, and his lips bright red; the resulting disfigurement drives him insane. The antithesis of Batman in personality and appearance, the Joker is considered by critics to be his perfect adversary.

The Joker possesses no superhuman abilities, instead using his expertise in chemical engineering to develop poisonous or lethal concoctions, and thematic weaponry, including razor-tipped playing cards, deadly joy buzzers, and acid-spraying lapel flowers. The Joker sometimes works with other Gotham City supervillains such as the Penguin and Two-Face, and groups like the Injustice Gang and Injustice League, but these relationships often collapse due to the Joker's desire for unbridled chaos. The 1990s introduced a romantic interest for the Joker in his former psychiatrist, Harley Quinn, who becomes his villainous sidekick. Although his primary obsession is Batman, the Joker has also fought other heroes including Superman and Wonder Woman.

One of the most iconic characters in popular culture,[3][4] the Joker has been listed among the greatest comic book villains and fictional characters ever created.[5][6] The character's popularity has seen him appear on a variety of merchandise, such as clothing and collectable items, inspire real-world structures (such as theme park

The Joker

The Joker
Art by Alex Ross

Publication information

Publisher	DC Comics
First appearance	*Batman* #1 (April 25, 1940)[1]
Created by	Bill Finger
	Bob Kane
	Jerry Robinson

In-story information

Team affiliations	Injustice Gang
	Injustice League
Notable aliases	Red Hood[2]
Abilities	

- Criminal mastermind
- Expert chemist
- Utilizes weaponized props and toxins

attractions), and be referenced in a number of media. The Joker has been adapted to serve as Batman's adversary in live-action, animated, and video game incarnations, including the 1960s *Batman* television series (played by Cesar Romero) and in film by Jack Nicholson in *Batman* (1989), Heath Ledger in *The Dark Knight* (2008), and Jared Leto in *Suicide Squad* (2016). Mark Hamill, Troy Baker, and others have provided the character's voice.

Contents

Creation and development

Concept

Bill Finger, Bob Kane, and Jerry Robinson are credited with creating the Joker, but their accounts of the character's conception differ, each providing his own version of events. Finger's, Kane's, and Robinson's versions acknowledge that Finger produced an image of actor Conrad Veidt in character as Gwynplaine (a man with a disfigured face, giving him a perpetual grin) in the 1928 film *The Man Who Laughs* as an inspiration for the Joker's appearance, and Robinson produced a sketch of a joker playing card (right).[2][7]

Robinson claimed that it was his 1940 card sketch that served as the character's concept, and which Finger associated with Veidt's portrayal.[2] Kane hired the 17-year-old Robinson as an assistant in 1939, after he saw Robinson in a white jacket decorated with his own illustrations.[8][9] Beginning as a letterer and background inker, Robinson quickly became primary artist for the newly created *Batman* comic book series. In a 1975

(*left*) Jerry Robinson's 1940 concept sketch of the Joker. (*right*) Actor Conrad Veidt in character as Gwynplaine in *The Man Who Laughs* (1928). Veidt's grinning visage inspired the Joker design.

interview in *The Amazing World of DC Comics*, Robinson said he wanted a supreme arch-villain who could test Batman, but not a typical crime lord or gangster designed to be easily disposed. He wanted an exotic, enduring character as an ongoing source of conflict for Batman (similar to the relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty), designing a diabolically sinister-but-clownish villain.[10][11][12] Robinson was intrigued by villains; his studies at Columbia University taught him that some characters are made up of contradictions, leading to the Joker's sense of humor. He said that the name came first, followed by an image of a playing card from a deck he often had at hand: "I wanted somebody visually exciting. I wanted somebody that would make an indelible impression, would be bizarre, would be memorable like the Hunchback of Notre Dame or any other villains that had unique physical characters."[13][14] He told Finger about his concept by telephone, later providing sketches of the character and images of what would become his iconic Joker playing-card design. Finger thought the concept was incomplete, providing the image of Veidt with a ghastly, permanent rictus grin.[10]

Kane countered that the Robinson's sketch was produced only after Finger had already shown the Gwynplaine image to Kane, and that it was only used as a card design belonging to the Joker in his early appearances.[7] Finger said that he was also inspired by an image in Steeplechase Park at Coney Island that resembled a Joker's head, which he sketched and later shared with future editorial director Carmine Infantino.[15] In a 1994 interview with journalist Frank Lovece, Kane stated his position:

> Bill Finger and I created the Joker. Bill was the writer. Jerry Robinson came to me with a playing card of the Joker. That's the way I sum it up. [The Joker] looks like Conrad Veidt – you know, the actor in *The Man Who Laughs*, [the 1928 movie based on the novel] by Victor Hugo. ... Bill Finger had a book with a photograph of Conrad Veidt and showed it to me and said, 'Here's the Joker'. Jerry Robinson had absolutely nothing to do with it, but he'll always say he created it till he dies. He brought in a playing card, which we used for a couple of issues for him [the Joker] to use as his playing card.[16][17]

Robinson credited himself, Finger and Kane for the Joker's creation. He said he created the character as Batman's larger-than-life nemesis when extra stories were quickly needed for *Batman* #1, and he received credit for the story in a college course:[18]

> In that first meeting when I showed them that sketch of the Joker, Bill said it reminded him of Conrad Veidt in *The Man Who Laughs*. That was the first mention of it ... He can be credited and Bob himself, we all played a role in it. The concept was mine. Bill finished that first script from my outline of the persona and what should happen in the first story. He wrote the script of that, so he really was co-creator, and Bob and I did the visuals, so Bob was also.[19]

Although Kane adamantly refused to share credit for many of his characters (and refuted Robinson's claim until Kane's death), many comic historians credit Robinson with the Joker's creation and Finger with the character's development.[2][7][8][15] By 2011, Finger, Kane, and Robinson had died, leaving the story unresolved.[10][15][20]

Golden Age

The Joker debuted in *Batman* #1 (1940) as the eponymous character's first villain, shortly after Batman's debut in *Detective Comics* #27 (May 1939). The Joker initially appeared as a remorseless serial killer, modeled after a joker playing card with a mirthless grin, who killed his victims with "Joker venom": a toxin which left their faces smiling grotesquely.[21] The character was intended to be killed in his second appearance in *Batman* #1, after being stabbed in the heart. Finger wanted the Joker to die because of his concern that recurring villains
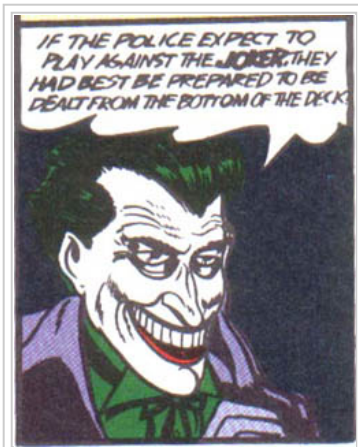
From the Joker's debut in *Batman* #1 (April 25, 1940)

would make Batman appear inept, but was overruled by then-editor Whitney Ellsworth; a hastily drawn panel, indicating that the Joker was still alive, was added to the comic.[2][22][23] The Joker went on to appear in nine of *Batman*'s first twelve issues.[24]

The character's regular appearances quickly defined him as the archenemy of the dynamic duo, Batman and Robin; he killed dozens of people, and even derailed a train. By issue #13, Kane's work on the syndicated *Batman* newspaper strip left him little time for the comic book; artist Dick Sprang assumed his duties, and editor Jack Schiff collaborated with Finger on stories. Around the same time, DC Comics found it easier to market its stories to children without the more mature pulp elements that had originated many superhero comics. During this period, the first changes in the Joker began to appear, portraying him more as a prankster than threat; when he kidnaps Robin, Batman pays the ransom by check, meaning that the Joker cannot cash it without being arrested.[25] Comic book writer Mark Waid suggests that the 1942 story "The Joker Walks the Last Mile" was the beginning point for the character's transformation into a more goofy incarnation, a period that Grant Morrison considered lasted the following thirty years.[26]

The 1942 cover of *Detective Comics* #69, known as "Double Guns" (with the Joker emerging from a genie lamp, aiming two guns at Batman and Robin), is considered one of the greatest superhero comic covers of the Golden Age and is the only image of the character using traditional guns. Robinson said that other contemporary villains used guns, and the creative team wanted the Joker—as Batman's adversary—to be more resourceful.[13][27]

Silver Age

The Joker was one of the few popular villains continuing to appear regularly in Batman comics from the Golden Age into the Silver Age, as the series continued during the rise in popularity of mystery and romance comics. In 1951, Finger wrote an origin story for the Joker in *Detective Comics* #168, which introduced the characteristic of him formerly being the criminal Red Hood, and his disfigurement the result of a fall into a chemical vat.[28]

By 1954, the Comics Code Authority had been established in response to increasing public disapproval of comic book content. The backlash was inspired by Frederic Wertham, who hypothesized that mass media (especially comic books) was responsible for the rise in juvenile delinquency, violence and homosexuality, particularly in young males. Parents forbade their children from reading comic books, and there were several mass burnings.[2] The Comics Code banned gore, innuendo and excessive violence, stripping Batman of his menace and transforming the Joker into a goofy, thieving trickster without his original homicidal tendencies.[22][29]

The character appeared less frequently after 1964, when Julius Schwartz (who disliked the Joker) became editor of the Batman comics.[2][22][30] The character risked becoming an obscure figure of the preceding era until this goofy prankster version of the character was adapted into the 1966 television series *Batman*, in which he was played by Cesar Romero.[2][22] The show's popularity compelled Schwartz to keep the comics in a similar vein. As the show's popularity waned, however, so did that of the *Batman* comics.[2][30] After the TV series ended in 1968, the increase in public visibility had not stopped the comic's sales decline; editorial director Carmine Infantino resolved to turn things around, moving stories away from schoolboy-friendly adventures.[31] The Silver Age introduced several of the Joker's defining character traits: lethal joy buzzers, acid-squirting flowers, trick guns, and goofy, elaborate crimes.[32][33]

Bronze Age

In 1973, after a four-year disappearance,[2] the Joker was revived (and revised) by writer Dennis O'Neil and artist Neal Adams. Beginning with *Batman* #251's "The Joker's Five-Way Revenge", the character returns to his roots as an impulsive, homicidal maniac who matches wits with Batman.[34][35] This story began a trend in which the Joker was used, sparingly, as a central character.[36] O'Neil said his idea was "simply to take it back to where it started. I went to the DC library and read some of the early stories. I tried to get a sense of what Kane and Finger were after."[37] O'Neil's 1973 run introduced the idea of the Joker being legally insane, to explain why the character is sent to Arkham Asylum (introduced by O'Neil in 1974 as Arkham Hospital) instead of to prison.[38] Adams modified the Joker's appearance, changing his more average figure by extending his jaw and making him taller and leaner.[39]
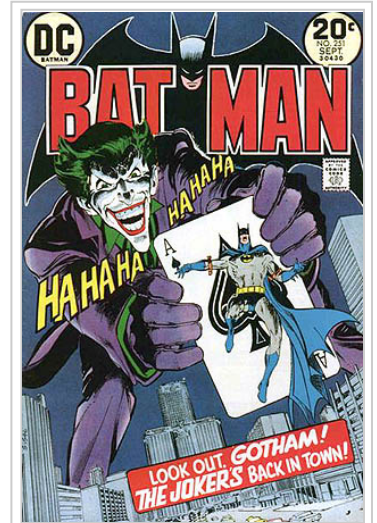
Cover of *Batman* #251 (Sept. 1973) featuring "The Joker's Five-Way Revenge", which returned the Joker to his homicidal roots. Art by Neal Adams.

DC Comics was a hotbed of experimentation during the 1970s, and in 1975 the character became the first villain to feature as the title character in a comic book series, *The Joker*.[40] The series followed the character's interactions with other supervillains, and the first issue was written by O'Neil.[41] Stories balanced between emphasizing the Joker's criminality and making him a likable protagonist whom readers could support. Although he murdered thugs and civilians, he never fought Batman; this made *The Joker* a series in which the character's villainy prevailed over rival villains, instead of a struggle between good and evil.[42] Because the Comics Code Authority mandated punishment for villains, each issue ended with the Joker being apprehended, limiting the scope of each story. The series never found an audience, and *The Joker* was cancelled after nine issues (despite a "next issue" advertisement for an appearance by the Justice League).[41][43][42] The complete series became difficult to obtain over time, often commanding high prices from collectors. In 2013, DC Comics reissued the series as a graphic novel.[44]

When Jenette Kahn became DC editor in 1976, she redeveloped the company's struggling titles; during her tenure, the Joker would become one of DC's most popular characters.[42] While O'Neil and Adams' work was critically acclaimed, writer Steve Englehart and penciller Marshall Rogers's eight-issue run in *Detective Comics* #471–476 (August 1977-April 1978) defined the Joker for decades to come[34] with stories emphasizing the character's insanity. In "The Laughing Fish", the Joker disfigures fish with a rictus grin resembling his own (expecting copyright protection), and is unable to understand that copyrighting a natural resource is legally impossible.[35][38][45][46] Englehart and Rogers' work on the series influenced the 1989 film *Batman*, and was adapted for 1992's *Batman: The Animated Series*.[38][47] Rogers expanded on Adams' character design, drawing the Joker with a fedora and trench coat.[39] Englehart outlined how he understood the character by saying that the Joker "was this very crazy, scary character. I really wanted to get back to the idea of Batman fighting insane murderers at 3 a.m. under the full moon, as the clouds scuttled by."[22]

Modern Age

Years after the end of the 1966 television series, sales of *Batman* continued to fall and the title was nearly canceled. Although the 1970s restored the Joker as an insane, lethal foe of Batman, it was during the 1980s that the *Batman* series started to turn around and the Joker came into his own as part of the "dark age" of comics: mature tales of death and destruction. The shift was derided for moving away from tamer superheroes (and villains), but comic audiences were no longer primarily children.[48][34] Several months after *Crisis on Infinite Earths* launched the era by killing off Silver-Age icons such as the Flash and Supergirl and undoing decades of continuity, Frank Miller's *The Dark Knight Returns* (1986) re-imagined Batman as an older, retired hero and the Joker as a lipstick-wearing celebrity who cannot function without his foe.[49][39][50][51][52] The late 1980s saw

the Joker exert a significant impact on Batman and his supporting cast. In the 1988–89 story arc "A Death in the Family", the Joker murders Batman's sidekick (the second Robin, Jason Todd). Todd was unpopular with fans; rather than modify his character, DC opted to let them vote for his fate and a 28-vote plurality had the Joker beat Todd to death with a crowbar. This story altered the Batman universe: instead of killing anonymous bystanders, the Joker murdered a core character in the *Batman* fiction; this had a lasting effect on future stories.[53][54] Written at the height of tensions between the United States and Iran, the story's conclusion had Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini appoint the Joker his country's ambassador to the United Nations (allowing him to temporarily escape justice).[55]

Alan Moore and Brian Bolland's 1988 graphic novel *The Killing Joke* expands on the Joker's origins, describing the character as a failed comedian who adopts the identity of Red Hood to support his pregnant wife.[28][56] Unlike *The Dark Knight Returns*, *The Killing Joke* takes place in mainstream continuity.[57] The novel is described by critics as one of the greatest Joker stories ever written, influencing later comic stories (including the forced retirement of then-Batgirl Barbara Gordon after she is paralyzed by the Joker) and films such as 1989's *Batman* and 2008's *The Dark Knight*.[58][59][60] Grant Morrison's 1989 *Arkham Asylum: A Serious House on Serious Earth* explores the psychoses of Batman, the Joker and other rogues in the eponymous facility.[61][62]

The 1992 animated series introduced the Joker's female sidekick: Harley Quinn, a psychiatrist who falls for—and ends up in an abusive relationship with—the Joker, becoming his supervillain accomplice. The character was popular, and was adapted into the comics as the Joker's romantic interest in 1999.[63] In the same year, Alan Grant and Norm Breyfogle's comic book *Anarky* concluded with the revelation that the titular character was the Joker's son. Breyfogle conceived the idea as a means to expand on Anarky's characterization, but O'Neil (by then the editor for the *Batman* series of books) was opposed to it, and only allowed it to be written under protest, and with a promise that the revelation would eventually be revealed incorrect. However, the *Anarky* series was cancelled before the rebuttal could be published.[64] The Joker's first major storyline in The New 52, DC Comics' 2011 reboot of story continuity, was 2012's "Death of the Family" by writer Scott Snyder and artist Greg Capullo. The story arc explores the symbiotic relationship between Joker and Batman, and sees the villain shatter the trust between Batman and his adopted family.[24][65] Capullo's Joker design replaced his traditional outfit with a utilitarian, messy, and disheveled appearance to convey that the character was on a mission; his face (surgically removed in 2011's *Detective Comics* #1) was reattached with belts, wires, and hooks, and he was outfitted with mechanics overalls.[66] The Joker's face was restored in Snyder's and Capullo's "Endgame" (2014), the concluding chapter to "Death of the Family".[67][68]

Character biography

The Joker has undergone many revisions since his 1940 debut. The most common interpretation of the character is that he is disguised as the criminal Red Hood, and pursued by Batman. The Joker falls into a vat of chemicals which bleaches his skin, colors his hair green and his lips red, and drives him insane. The reasons why the Joker was disguised as the Red Hood, and his identity before his transformation have changed over time.[22]

The character was introduced in *Batman* #1 (1940), in which he announces that he will kill three of Gotham's prominent citizens (including Mayor Henry Claridge). Although the police protect Claridge, the Joker had poisoned him before making his announcement and Claridge dies with a ghastly grin on his face; Batman eventually defeats him, sending him to prison.[69] The Joker commits whimsical, brutal crimes for reasons that, in Batman's words, "make sense to him alone".[45] *Detective Comics* #168 (1951) introduced the Joker's first origin story as Red Hood: a criminal who, during his final heist, vanishes after leaping into a vat of chemicals to escape Batman. His resulting disfigurement led him to adopt the name "Joker", from the playing card figure he came to resemble.[28] The Joker's Silver-Age transformation into a figure of fun was established in 1952's "The Joker's Millions". In this story the Joker is obsessed with maintaining his illusion of wealth and celebrity as a

criminal folk hero, afraid to let Gotham's citizens know that he is penniless and was tricked out of his fortune.[70] The 1970s redefined the character as a homicidal psychopath. "The Joker's Five-Way Revenge" has the Joker taking violent revenge on the former gang members who betrayed him;[36] in "The Laughing Fish" the character chemically adds his face to Gotham's fish (hoping to profit from a copyright), killing bureaucrats who stand in his way.[35]

Batman: The Killing Joke (1988) built on the Joker's 1951 origin story, portraying him as a failed comedian pressured into committing crime as the Red Hood to support his pregnant wife. Batman's interference causes him to leap into a chemical vat, which disfigures him. This, combined with the trauma of his wife's earlier accidental death, causes him to go insane and become the Joker.[28] However, the Joker says that this story may not be true and prefers his past to be "multiple choice".[71] In this graphic novel, the Joker shoots and paralyzes Barbara Gordon and tortures her father, Commissioner James Gordon, to prove that it only takes one bad day to drive a normal man insane.[57] After Batman rescues Gordon and subdues the Joker, he offers to rehabilitate his old foe and end their rivalry. Although the Joker refuses, he shows his appreciation by sharing a joke with Batman.[72] Following the character's maiming of Barbara, she became a more important character in the DC Universe: Oracle, a data gatherer and superhero informant, who has her revenge in *Birds of Prey* by shattering the Joker's teeth and destroying his smile.[57]

In the 1988 story "A Death in the Family", the Joker beats Jason Todd with a crowbar and leaves him to die in an explosion. Todd's death haunts Batman, and for the first time he considers killing the Joker.[53] The Joker temporarily escapes justice when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini appoints him the Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, giving him diplomatic immunity. However, when he tries to poison the UN membership, he is brought down by Batman and Superman.[34]

In the 1999 "No Man's Land" storyline, the Joker murders Commissioner Gordon's second wife, Sarah, as she shields a group of infants.[73] He taunts Gordon, who shoots him in the kneecap. The Joker, lamenting that he may never walk again, collapses with laughter when he realizes that the commissioner has avenged Barbara's paralysis.[74] This story also introduced the Joker's girlfriend, Harley Quinn.[63]

The 2000s began with the crossover story "Emperor Joker", in which the Joker steals Mister Mxyzptlk's reality-altering power and remakes the universe in his image (torturing and killing Batman daily, before resurrecting him). When the supervillain then tries to destroy the universe, his reluctance to eliminate Batman makes him lose control and Superman defeats him.[75] Broken by his experience, Batman's experiences of death are transferred to Superman by the Spectre so he can heal mentally.[76] In "Joker's Last Laugh" (2001), the doctors at Arkham Asylum convince the character that he is dying in an attempt to rehabilitate him. Instead, the Joker (flanked by an army of "Jokerized" supervillains) launches a final crime spree. Believing that Robin (Tim Drake) has been killed in the chaos, Dick Grayson beats the Joker to death (although Batman revives his foe to keep Grayson from being a murderer) and the character succeeds in making a member of the Bat-family break their rule against killing.[34][69]

In "Under the Hood" (2005), a resurrected Todd tries to force Batman to avenge his death by killing the Joker. Batman refuses, arguing that if he allows himself to kill the Joker, he will not be able to stop killing other criminals.[77] The Joker kills Alexander Luthor in *Infinite Crisis* (2005) for excluding him from the Secret Society of Super Villains, which considers him too unpredictable for membership.[78][79] In Morrison's "Batman and Son" (2006), a deranged police officer who impersonates Batman shoots the Joker in the face, scarring and disabling him. The supervillain returns in "The Clown at Midnight" (2007) as a cruel, enigmatic force who awakens and tries to kill Harley Quinn to prove to Batman that he has become more than human.[80][34] In the 2008 story arc "Batman R.I.P." the Joker is recruited by the Black Glove to destroy Batman, but betrays the group, killing its members one by one.[69] After Batman's apparent death in "Final Crisis" (2008), Grayson

investigates a series of murders (which leads him to a disguised Joker).[81] The Joker is arrested, and then-Robin Damian Wayne beats him with a crowbar, paralleling Todd's murder. When the Joker escapes, he attacks the Black Glove, burying its leader Simon Hurt alive after the supervillain considers him a failure as an opponent; the Joker is then defeated by the recently returned Batman.[82][83][84]

In DC's New 52, a 2011 relaunch of its titles following *Flashpoint*, the Joker has his own face cut off.[85] He disappears for a year, returning to launch an attack on Batman's extended family in "Death of the Family" so he and Batman can be the best hero and villain they can be.[86] At the end of the storyline, the Joker falls off a cliff into a dark abyss.[86][87] The Joker returns in the 2014 storyline "Endgame" in which he brainwashes the Justice League into attacking Batman, believing he has betrayed their relationship.[88][89] The story implies that the Joker is immortal—having existed for centuries in Gotham as a cause of tragedy after exposure to a substance the Joker terms 'dionesium'—and is able to regenerate from mortal injuries. "Endgame" restores the Joker's face, and also reveals that he knows Batman's secret identity.[67] The story ends with the apparent deaths of Batman and the Joker at each other's hands.[68]

Origins

Though a number of backstories have been given, a definitive one has not yet been established for the Joker. An unreliable narrator, the character is uncertain of who he was before and how he became the Joker: "Sometimes I remember it one way, sometimes another ... if I'm going to have a past, I prefer it to be multiple choice!"[11][71] A story about the Joker's origin appeared in *Detective Comics* #168 (February 1951), nearly a decade after the character's debut. Here, the character is a laboratory worker who becomes the Red Hood (a masked criminal) to steal a million dollars from his employer and retire. He falls into a vat of chemical waste when his heist is thwarted by Batman, emerging with bleached white skin, red lips, green hair and a permanent grin.[91][92]

> "They've given many origins of the Joker, how he came to be. That doesn't seem to matter—just how he is now. I never intended to give a reason for his appearance. We discussed that and Bill [Finger] and I never wanted to change it at that time. I thought—and he agreed—that it takes away some of the essential mystery."
>
> – Jerry Robinson, the Joker's creator[90]

This story was the basis for the most often-cited origin tale, Moore's one-shot *The Killing Joke*.[59] The Joker quits his job as a Lab assistant, becoming a stand-up comedian to support his pregnant wife. Unsuccessful, he agrees to help mobsters with a robbery and dons the Red Hood. The heist goes awry; the comedian leaps into a chemical vat to escape Batman, surfacing disfigured. This, combined with the earlier accidental death of his wife and unborn child, drives the comedian insane and he becomes the Joker.[28][34] This version has been cited in many stories, including *Batman: The Man Who Laughs* (in which Batman deduces that the Red Hood survived his fall and became the Joker), *Batman* #450 (in which the Joker dons the Red Hood to aid his recovery after the events in *A Death in the Family*, but finds the experience too traumatic) and "Death of the Family".[92] Other stories have expanded on this origin; "Pushback" explains that the Joker's wife was murdered by a corrupt policeman working for the mobsters,[93] and "Payback" gives the Joker's first name as "Jack".[92]

However, the Joker's unreliable memory has allowed writers to develop other origins for the character.[92] "Case Study", a Paul Dini-Alex Ross story, describes the Joker as a sadistic gangster who creates the Red Hood identity to continue the thrill of small-time criminality. He has his fateful first meeting with Batman, which results in his disfigurement. It is suggested that the Joker is sane, and feigns insanity to avoid the death penalty. In *Batman Confidential* (#7–12), the character, Jack, is a talented criminal who is bored with his work. He encounters (and becomes obsessed with) Batman during a heist, embarking on a crime spree to attract his attention. After Jack injures Batman's girlfriend, Batman scars Jack's face with a permanent grin and betrays him to a group of mobsters, who torture him in a chemical plant. Jack escapes, but falls into an empty vat as gunfire punctures chemical tanks above him. The flood of chemicals (used in anti-psychotic medication) alters

his appearance and completes his transformation.[94] The superhero Atom sees the Joker's memory of burning his parents alive (after they find him killing animals) in *The Brave and the Bold* #31,[95] and Snyder's "Zero Year" (2013) suggests that the pre-disfigured Joker was a criminal mastermind leading a gang of Red Hoods.[88][96]

The Joker has claimed a number of origins, including being the child of an abusive father who broke his nose and the long-lived jester of an Egyptian pharaoh. As Batman says, "Like any other comedian, he uses whatever material will work".[97]

Alternative versions

A number of alternate universes in DC Comics publications allow writers to introduce variations on the Joker, in which the character's origins, behavior, and morality differ from the mainstream setting.[98] *The Dark Knight Returns* depicts the final battle between an aged Batman and Joker;[50] others portray the aftermath of the Joker's death at the hands of a number of characters, including Superman.[75][99] Still others describe distant futures in which the Joker is a computer virus or a hero trying to defeat the era's tyrannical Batman.[100] In some stories, the Joker is someone else entirely; "Flashpoint" features Batman's mother Martha Wayne as the Joker in response to her son's murder,[101] and in *Superman: Speeding Bullets* Lex Luthor becomes the Joker in a world where Superman is Batman.[102]

Characterization

Renowned as Batman's greatest enemy,[103][104][105][106] the Joker is known by a number of nicknames, including the Clown Prince of Crime, the Jester of Genocide,[105] the Harlequin of Hate, and the Ace of Knaves.[107] During the evolution of the DC Universe, interpretations and versions of the Joker have taken two forms. The original, dominant image is that of an extreme psychopath,[108] with genius-level intelligence and a warped, sadistic sense of humor.[109][110] The other version, popular in comic books from the late 1940s to the 1960s and in the 1960s television series, is an eccentric, harmless prankster and thief.[111] Like other long-lived characters, the Joker's character and cultural interpretations have changed with time, however unlike other characters who may need to reconcile or ignore previous versions to make sense, more than any other comic book character, the Joker thrives on his mutable and irreconcilable identities.[112] The Joker is typically seen in a purple suit with a long-tailed, padded-shoulder jacket, a string tie, gloves, striped pants and spats on pointed-toe shoes (sometimes with a wide-brimmed hat). This appearance is such a fundamental aspect of the character that when the 2004 animated series *The Batman* placed the Joker in a straitjacket, it quickly redesigned him in his familiar suit.[111]

The Joker is obsessed with Batman, the pair representing a yin-yang of opposing dark and light force; although it is the Joker who represents humor and color and Batman who dwells in the dark.[113] Murder, theft, and terrorism, no crime is beyond the Joker, and his exploits are a theatrical performance that are funny to him alone. Spectacle is more important than success for the Joker, and if it is not spectacular it is boring.[114] Although the Joker claims indifference to everything, he secretly craves Batman's attention and validation.[115][35] The character was described as having killed over 2,000 people in *The Joker: Devil's Advocate* (1996). Despite this body count, he is always found not guilty by reason of insanity and sent to Arkham Asylum, avoiding the death penalty.[116][117] Many of the Joker's acts attempt to force Batman to kill; if the most orderly and self-controlled of humans can murder, anyone is capable of becoming a monster like the Joker. The villain displays no instinct for self-preservation, and is willing to die to prove his point.[118] The Joker is the "personification of the irrational", and represents "everything Batman [opposes]".[119]

Personality

The Joker's main characteristic is his apparent insanity, although he is not described as having any particular psychological disorder. Like a psychopath, he lacks empathy, a conscience, and concern over right and wrong. In *A Serious House on Serious Earth*, the Joker is described as capable of processing outside sensory information only by adapting to it. This enables him to create a new personality every day (depending on what would benefit him) and explains why, at different times, he is a mischievous clown or a psychopathic killer.[120] In "The Clown at Midnight" (Batman #663, 2007), the Joker enters a meditative state where he evaluates his previous selves to consciously create a new personality, effectively modifying himself for his needs.[121]

The Killing Joke (in which the Joker is the unreliable narrator) explains the roots of his insanity as "one bad day": losing his wife and unborn child and being disfigured by chemicals, paralleling Batman's origin in the loss of his parents. He tries (and fails) to prove that anyone can become like him after one bad day by torturing Commissioner Gordon, physically and psychologically.[32][57] Batman offers to rehabilitate his foe; the Joker apologetically declines, believing it too late for him to be saved.[72] Other interpretations show that the Joker is fully aware of how his actions affect others and that his insanity as merely an act.[113] Comics scholar Peter Coogan describes the Joker as trying to reshape reality to fit himself by imposing his face on his victims (and fish) in an attempt to make the world comprehensible by creating a twisted parody of himself. Englehart's "The Laughing Fish" demonstrates the character's illogical nature: trying to copyright fish which bear his face, and not understanding why threatening the copyright clerk cannot produce the desired result.[122][38]

Joker co-creator Jerry Robinson in 2008; he conceived the Joker as an exotic, enduring arch-villain who could repeatedly challenge Batman.

The Joker is alternatively depicted as sexual and asexual.[123] In *The Dark Knight Returns* and *Arkham Asylum: A Serious House on Serious Earth*, the Joker is seductive toward Batman; it is uncertain if their relationship has homoerotic undertones or if the Joker is simply trying to manipulate his nemesis. Frank Miller interpreted the character as fixated on death and uninterested in sexual relationships, while Robinson believes that the Joker is capable of a romantic relationship.[123] His relationship with Harley Quinn is abusively paradoxical; although the Joker keeps her at his side, he heedlessly harms her (for example, throwing her out a window without seeing if she survives). Harley loves him but the Joker does not reciprocate her feelings, chiding her for distracting him from other plans.[124]

Snyder's "Death of the Family" describes the Joker as in love with Batman, although not in a traditionally romantic way. The Joker believes that Batman has not killed him because he makes Batman better, and he loves the villain for that.[65][125] *Batman* comic book writer Peter Tomasi concurred, stating that the Joker's main goal is to make Batman the best that he can be.[126] The Joker and Batman represent opposites: the extroverted Joker wears colorful clothing and embraces chaos, while the introverted, monochromatic Batman represents order and discipline. The Joker is often depicted as defining his existence through his conflict with Batman. In 1994's "Going Sane", the villain tries to lead a normal life after Batman's (apparent) death, only to become his old self again when Batman reappears; in "Emperor Joker", an apparently omnipotent Joker cannot destroy Batman without undoing himself. Since the Joker is simply "the Joker", he believes that Batman is "Batman" (with or without the costume) and has no interest in what is behind Batman's mask, ignoring opportunities to learn Batman's secret identity.[127][75] Given the opportunity to kill Batman, the villain demurs; he believes that without their game, winning is pointless.[115] The character has no desire for typical criminal goals like money or power; his criminality is designed only to continue his game with Batman.[85]

The Joker is portrayed as having no fear; when fellow supervillain Scarecrow doses him with fear toxin in *Knightfall* (1993), the Joker merely laughs and says, "Boo!".[128] The villain has been temporarily rendered sane by several means, including telepathic manipulation by the Martian Manhunter[72] and being resurrected in a life-restoring Lazarus Pit (an experience typically inducing temporary insanity in the subject). At these moments, the Joker is depicted as expressing remorse for his acts;[129][130] however, during a medically induced period of partial sanity in *Batman: Cacophony* he tells his opponent: "I don't hate you 'cause I'm crazy. I'm crazy 'cause I hate you," and confirms that he will only stop murdering when Batman is dead.[131][132]

Skills and equipment

The Joker has no inherent superhuman abilities.[133] He commits crimes with a variety of weaponized thematic props such as a deck of razor-tipped playing cards, rolling marbles, Jack-in-the-boxes with unpleasant surprises and exploding cigars capable of leveling a building. The flower in his lapel sprays acid, and his hand often holds a lethal joy buzzer conducting a million volts of electricity, although both items were introduced in 1952 as harmless joke items.[134][33] However, his chemical genius provides his most-notable weapon: Joker venom, a liquid or gaseous toxin which sends its targets into fits of uncontrollable laughter; higher doses can lead to paralysis, coma or death, leaving its victim with a ghoulish, pained rictus grin. The Joker has used venom since his debut; only he knows the formula, and is shown to be gifted enough to manufacture the toxin from ordinary household chemicals. Another version of the venom (used in "Joker's Last Laugh") makes its victims resemble the Joker, susceptible to his orders.[35][69][135][136] The villain is immune to venom and most poisons; in *Batman* #663 (2007), Morrison writes that being "an avid consumer of his own chemical experiments, the Joker's immunity to poison concoctions that might kill another man in an instant has been developed over years of dedicated abuse."[137][111]

The character's arsenal is inspired by his nemesis' weaponry, such as batarangs. In "The Joker's Utility Belt" (1952), he mimicked Batman's utility belt with non-lethal items, such as Mexican jumping beans and sneezing powder.[134] In 1942's "The Joker Follows Suit" the villain built his versions of the Batplane and Batmobile, the Jokergyro and Jokermobile (the latter with a large Joker face on its hood), and created a Joker signal with which criminals could summon him for their heists.[138] The Jokermobile lasted for several decades, evolving with the Batmobile. His technical genius is not limited by practicality, allowing him to hijack Gotham's television airwaves to issue threats, transform buildings into death traps, launch a gas attack on the city and rain poisoned glass shards on its citizens from an airship.[139][140]

The Joker is portrayed as skilled in melee combat, from his initial appearances when he defeats Batman in a sword fight (nearly killing him), and others when he overwhelms Batman but declines to kill him.[141] He is talented with firearms, although even his guns are theatrical; his long-barreled revolver often releases a flag reading "Bang", and a second trigger-pull launches the flag to skewer its target.[134][142] Although formidable in combat, the Joker's chief asset is his mind.[100]

Relationships

The Joker's unpredictable, homicidal nature makes him one of the most feared supervillains in the DC Universe; the Trickster says in the 2005 mini-series *Underworld Unleashed*, "When super-villains want to scare each other, they tell Joker stories".[143][144] Gotham's villains also feel threatened by the character; depending on the circumstances, he is as likely to fight with his rivals for control of the city as he is to join them for an entertaining outcome.[145] The Joker interacts with other supervillains who oppose Batman, whether he is on the streets or in Arkham Asylum. He has collaborated with criminals like the Penguin, the Riddler and Two-Face, although these partnerships rarely end well due to the Joker's desire for unbridled chaos, and uses his

stature to lead others (such as Killer Croc and the Scarecrow).[146] The Joker's greatest rival is the smartest man in the world, Lex Luthor. Although they have a friendly partnership in 1950's *World's Finest Comics* #88, later unions emphasized their mutual hostility and clashing egos.[147]

Despite his tendency to kill subordinates on a whim, the Joker has no difficulty attracting henchmen with a seemingly infinite cash supply and intimidation: they are too afraid of their employer to refuse his demands that they wear red clown noses or laugh at macabre jokes.[139] Even with his unpredictability and lack of superhuman powers, the 2007 limited series *Salvation Run* sees hundreds of villains fall under his spell because they are more afraid of him than the alternative: Luthor.[148] *Batman* #186 (1966) introduced the Joker's first sidekick: the one-shot character, Gaggy Gagsworth, who is short, and dressed like a clown; the character was later resurrected as an enemy of his replacement, Harley Quinn.[149][150] Introduced in the 1992 animated series, Quinn is the Joker's former Arkham psychiatrist who develops an obsessive infatuation with him and dons a red-and-black harlequin costume to join him in the 1999 graphic novel *Batman: Harley Quinn*. Although Quinn loves the Joker, he is obsessed with Batman and uses her to achieve his goals at her expense. Despite violent abuse, she returns to him.[151][150] The Joker is sometimes shown to keep hyenas as pets; this trait was introduced in the 1977 animated series *The New Adventures of Batman*.[139] A 1976 issue of *Batman Family* introduced Duela Dent as the Joker's daughter, though her parentage claim was later proven to be false.[42]

Although his chief obsession is Batman, the character has occasionally ventured outside Gotham City to fight Batman's superhero allies. In "To Laugh and Die in Metropolis" (1987) the character kidnaps Lois Lane, distracting Superman with a nuclear weapon. The story is notable for the Joker taking on a (relative) god and the ease with which Superman defeats him—it took only 17 pages. Asked why he came to Metropolis, the Joker replies simply: "Oh Superman, why not?"[152] In 1995, the Joker fought his third major DC hero: Wonder Woman, who drew on the Greek god of trickery to temper the Joker's humor and shatter his confidence.[153] The character has joined supervillain groups like the Injustice Gang and the Injustice League, to take on superhero groups like the Justice League.[154][155]

Cultural impact

Cesar Romero as the Joker in the 1960s *Batman* TV series with Burgess Meredith (left) as the Penguin and Frank Gorshin as the Riddler

The Joker is considered one of, if not, the most-recognizable and iconic fictional characters in popular culture (Batman's arguable equal),[3][4][156] one of the best comic villains, and one of the greatest villains of all-time.[5][6] The character was well-liked following his debut, appearing in nine out of the first twelve *Batman* issues, and remained one of Batman's most popular foes throughout his publication.[157] The character is considered one of the four top comic book characters, alongside Batman, Superman, and Spider-Man.[156] Indeed, when DC Comics released the original series of *Greatest Stories Ever Told* (1987–1988) featuring collections of stories about heroes like Batman and Superman, the Joker was the only villain included alongside them.[158] The character has been the focus of ethical discussion on the desirability of Batman (who adheres to an unbreakable code forbidding killing) saving lives by murdering the Joker (a relentless dealer of death). These debates weigh the positive (stopping the Joker permanently) against its effect on Batman's character and the possibility that he might begin killing all criminals.[118][159][160]

In 2006, the Joker was number one on *Wizard* magazine's "100 Greatest Villains of All Time".[161] In 2008 *Wizard*'s list of "200 Greatest Comic Book Characters of All Time" placed the Joker fifth,[162] and the character was eighth on *Empire*'s list of "50 Greatest Comic Book Characters" (the highest-ranked villain on both

lists).[163] In 2009 the Joker was second on IGN's list of "Top 100 Comic Book Villains",[164] and in 2011 *Wired* named him "Comics' Greatest Supervillain".[165] *Complex*, CollegeHumor and WhatCulture named the Joker the greatest comic book villain of all time[4][133][166] while IGN listed him the top DC Comics villain in 2013,[167] and Newsarama as the greatest Batman villain.[103]

The Joker's popularity (and his role as Batman's enemy) has involved the character in most *Batman*-related media, from television to video games.[2][11] These adaptations of the character have been received positively[24] on film,[168][169] television,[170] and in video games.[171] As in the comics, the character's personality and appearance shift; he is campy, ferocious or unstable, depending on the author and the intended audience.[24]

The character inspired theme-park roller coasters (The Joker's Jinx,[172][173] The Joker in Mexico and California,[174][175] and The Joker Chaos Coaster),[176] and featured in story-based rides such as Justice League: Battle for Metropolis.[176] The Joker is one of the few comic book supervillains to be represented on children's merchandise and toys, appearing on items including action figures, trading cards, board games, money boxes, pajamas, socks, and shoes.[177][156] The Jokermobile was a popular toy; a Corgi die-cast metal replica was successful during the 1950s, and in the 1970s a Joker-styled, Flower power-era Volkswagen microbus was manufactured by Mego.[139] In 2015, "The Joker: A Serious Study of the Clown Prince of Crime" became the first academic book to be published about a supervillain.[156]

Literary analysis

Since the Bronze Age of Comics, the Joker has been interpreted as an archetypal trickster, displaying talents for cunning intelligence, social engineering, pranks, theatricality, and idiomatic humor. Like the trickster, the Joker alternates between malicious violence and clever, harmless whimsy.[179] He is amoral and not driven by ethical considerations, but by a shameless and insatiable nature, and although his actions are condemned as evil, he is necessary for cultural robustness.[180] The trickster employs amoral and immoral acts to destabilize the status quo and reveal cultural, political, and ethical hypocrisies that society attempts to ignore.[181] However, the Joker differs in that his actions typically only benefit himself.[182] The Joker possesses abnormal body imagery, reflecting an inversion of order. The trickster is simultaneously subhuman and superhuman, a being that indicates a lack of unity in body and mind.[183] In *Arkham Asylum: A Serious House on Serious Earth*, the Joker serves as Batman's trickster guide through the hero's own psyche, testing him in various ways before ultimately offering to cede his rule of the Asylum to Batman.[184]

A 2015 art exhibition at the Barcelona International Comics Convention focused on the Joker, celebrating the character's 75th anniversary.[178]

Rather than the typical anarchist interpretation, others have analysed the character as a Marxist (opposite to Batman's capitalist), arguing that anarchism requires the rejection of all authority in favor of uncontrolled freedom.[185] The Joker rejects most authority, but retains his own, using his actions to coerce and consolidate power in himself and convert the masses to his own way of thinking, while eliminating any that oppose him.[186] In *The Killing Joke*, the Joker is an abused member of the underclass who is driven insane by failings

of the social system.[187] The Joker rejects material needs, and his first appearance in *Batman* #1 sees him perpetrate crimes against Gotham's wealthiest men and the judge who had sent him to prison.[188] Batman is wealthy, yet the Joker is able to triumph through his own innovations.[189]

Ryan Litsey described the Joker as an example of a "Nietzschean Superman", arguing that a fundamental aspect of Friedrich Nietzsche's Superman, the "will to power", is exemplified in all of the Joker's actions, providing a master morality to Batman's slave morality.[190] The character's indomitable "will to power" means he is never discouraged by being caught or defeated and he is not restrained by guilt or remorse.[191] Joker represents the master, who creates rules and defines them, who judges others without needing approval, and for whom something is good because it benefits him.[192] He creates his own morality and is bound only by his own rules without aspiring to something higher than himself, unlike Batman, the slave, who makes a distinction between good and evil, and is bound to rules outside of himself (such as his avoidance of killing), in his quest for justice.[193] The Joker has no defined origin story that requires him to question how he came to be, as like the Superman he does not regret or assess the past and only moves forward.[194]

The Joker's controlling and abusive relationship with Harley Quinn has been analysed as a means of the Joker reinforcing his own belief in his power in a world where he may be killed or neutralized by another villain or Batman.[195] Joker mirrors his identity through Harley in her appearance, and even though he may ignore or act indifferent towards her, he continues to try and subject her to his control.[195] When Harley successfully defeats Batman in *Mad Love* (1994), the Joker, emasculated by his own failure, severely injures her out of fear of what the other villains will think of him. However, while Harley recovers, the Joker sends her flowers which she accepts, reasserting his control over her.[196]

Harley's co-creator, Paul Dini, describes their relationship as Harley being someone who makes the Joker feel better about himself, and who can do the work that he does not want to do himself.[197] In the 1999 one-shot comic *Batman: Harley Quinn*, the Joker decides to kill Harley, after admitting that he does care for her, that their relationship is romantic, and that these feelings prevent him from fulfilling his purpose.[198] Removing the traditional male-female relationship, such as in the *Batman: Thrillkiller* storyline where the Joker (Bianca Steeplechase) is a female and involved in a lesbian relationship with Harley, their relationship lacks any aspects of violence or subjugation.[199]

In other media

The Joker has appeared in a variety of media, including television series, animated and live-action films. WorldCat (a catalog of libraries in 170 countries) records over 250 productions featuring the Joker as a subject, including films, books, and video games,[177] and Batman films featuring the character are typically the most successful.[126] The character's earliest on-screen adaptation was in the 1966 television series *Batman*, in which he was played as a cackling prankster by Cesar Romero (reflecting his contemporary comic counterpart).[3][200] The Joker then appeared in the animated television series *The Adventures of Batman* (1968, voiced by Larry Storch),[201] *The New Adventures of Batman* (1977, voiced by Lennie Weinrib)[202] and *The Super Powers Team: Galactic Guardians* (1985, voiced by Frank Welker).[203][204] A darker version of the Joker (played by Jack Nicholson) made his film debut in 1989's *Batman*, which earned over $400 million at the worldwide box office. The role was a defining performance in Nicholson's career and was considered to overshadow Batman's, with film critic Roger Ebert saying that the audience must sometimes remind themselves not to root for the Joker.[205][206] *Batman*'s success led to the 1992 television series, *Batman: The Animated Series*. Voiced by Mark Hamill, the Joker retained the darker tone of the comics in stories acceptable for young children.[207][208] Hamill's Joker is considered a defining portrayal, and he voiced the character in spin-off films (1993's *Batman: Mask of the Phantasm* and 2000's *Batman Beyond: Return of the Joker*), video games (2001's *Batman:*
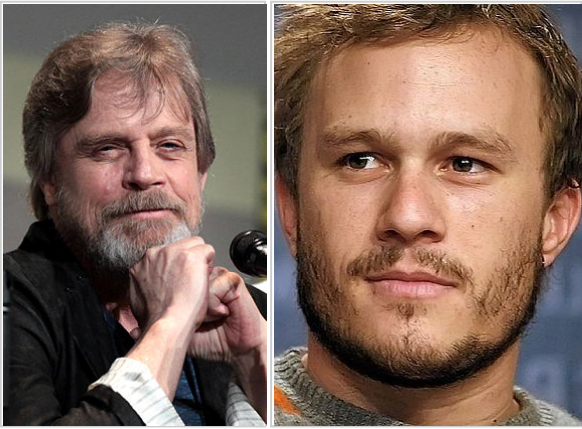
Mark Hamill voiced the Joker in animation and video games for two decades, and Heath Ledger won a posthumous Academy Award for his interpretation of the character in 2008's *The Dark Knight*.

Vengeance), related series (1996's *Superman: The Animated Series*, 2000's *Static Shock* and 2001's *Justice League*), action figures, toys and amusement-park voiceovers.[209][210][211][212] A redesigned Joker, voiced by Kevin Michael Richardson, appeared in 2004's *The Batman*; Richardson was the first African-American to play the character.[213][214]

After Christopher Nolan's successful 2005 Batman film reboot, *Batman Begins*, which ended with a teaser for the Joker's involvement in a sequel, the character appeared in 2008's *The Dark Knight*, played by Heath Ledger as an avatar of anarchy and chaos.[215][216] While *Batman Begins* earned a worldwide total of $370 million;[217] *The Dark Knight* earned over $1 billion and was the highest-grossing film of the year, setting several box-office records (including highest-grossing midnight opening, opening day and opening weekend).[218][219] Ledger won a posthumous Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance, the first acting Oscar ever won for a superhero film.[220][221] The Joker has featured in a number of animated projects, such as 2009's *Batman: The Brave and the Bold* (voiced by Jeff Bennett)[222] and 2011's *Young Justice* (voiced by Brent Spiner),[223] and comic book adaptations (including 2010's *Batman: Under the Red Hood*, in which he is voiced by John DiMaggio). In 2012, Michael Emerson voiced the character in a two-part animated adaptation of *The Dark Knight Returns*.[224][225] The Joker appears in the 2016 film *Suicide Squad*, portrayed by Jared Leto.[226]

The Joker has also been featured in video games. Hamill returned to voice the character in 2009's critically acclaimed *Batman: Arkham Asylum*, its equally praised 2011 sequel *Batman: Arkham City* and the multiplayer *DC Universe Online*.[227] Hamill was replaced by Troy Baker for the 2013 prequel, *Batman: Arkham Origins*, and the *Arkham* series' animated spin-off *Batman: Assault on Arkham*,[209][228][229][230] returning for the 2015 series finale, *Batman: Arkham Knight*.[231] Richard Epcar voiced the Joker in the 2008 fighting game, *Mortal Kombat vs. DC Universe*, and 2013's *Injustice: Gods Among Us*.[232][233] The character also appeared in *Lego Batman: The Videogame* (2008), *Lego Batman 2: DC Super Heroes* (2012) and its animated adaptation, and *Lego Batman 3: Beyond Gotham* (2014) (the latter three voiced by Christopher Corey Smith).[234][235][236] Anthony Ingruber voices the Joker in *Batman: The Telltale Series* (2016).[237]

References

Footnotes

1. Zalben, Alex (March 28, 2014). "When Is Batman's Birthday, Actually?". MTV News. Archived from the original on August 9, 2014. Retrieved August 9, 2014.
2. Eason, Brian K. (July 11, 2008). "Dark Knight Flashback: The Joker, Part I". Comic Book Resources. Archived from the original on February 23, 2014. Retrieved February 23, 2014.
3. Phillips, Daniel (December 8, 2008). "Why So Serious?: The Many Looks of Joker". IGN. Archived from the original on October 12, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
4. Serafino, Jason (September 8, 2013). "The 25 Greatest Comic Book Villains of All Time". *Complex*. Archived from the original on November 6, 2013. Retrieved October 11, 2013.
5. Boucher, Geoff (May 6, 2009). " 'Joker' creator Jerry Robinson reflects on Gotham and the golden age". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on January 19, 2014. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
6. Esposito, Joey (December 9, 2011). "Hero Worship: The Appeal of the Joker". IGN. Archived from the original on February 16, 2014. Retrieved January 16, 2014.

7. O'Neal, Sean (December 8, 2011). "R.I.P. Jerry Robinson, creator of the Joker". The A.V. Club. Archived from the original on October 14, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.

8. "Jerry Robinson". *The Daily Telegraph*. London. December 12, 2011. Archived from the original on November 4, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.

9. "Cartoonist who drew Batman's arch enemy The Joker dies aged 89". *Daily Mail*. London. December 9, 2011. Archived from the original on December 11, 2011. Retrieved December 9, 2011.

10. "R.I.P. Jerry Robinson ...". Ain't It Cool News. December 15, 2011. Archived from the original on October 14, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.

11. Patrick, Seb (December 13, 2013). "The Joker: The Nature of Batman's Greatest Foe". Den of Geek. Archived from the original on December 27, 2013. Retrieved December 26, 2013.

12. Tollin 1975, pp. 2–3.

13. "Holy Toledo that's expensive: 'Rarest' Superman and Batman covers set to go on sale for £1 Million". *Daily Mail*. London. November 9, 2010. Archived from the original on December 11, 2013. Retrieved October 18, 2013.

14. Anders, Charlie Jane (August 12, 2011). "R.I.P. Jerry Robinson, Creator of Batman's Nemesis, the Joker". io9. Archived from the original on February 26, 2014. Retrieved October 18, 2013.

15. Seifert, Mark (August 12, 2013). " "He Made Batman, No One Else. Kane Had Nothing To Do With It. Bill Did It All" – Carmine Infantino on Bill Finger". Bleeding Cool. Archived from the original on October 14, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.

16. "The man who was The Joker". Den of Geek. July 15, 2008. Archived from the original on October 15, 2013. Retrieved February 20, 2014.

17. Lovece, Frank (May 17, 1994). "Web Exclusives – Bob Kane interview". FrankLovece.com (official site of *Entertainment Weekly* writer). Archived from the original on February 4, 2012. Retrieved August 28, 2014.

18. "Meet the Joker's Maker, Jerry Robinson" (interview)". The Ongoing Adventures of Rocket Llama. July 21, 2009. Archived from the original on October 15, 2013. Retrieved February 20, 2014.

19. "The Joker's Maker Tackles *The Man Who Laughs*" (interview)". The Ongoing Adventures of Rocket Llama. August 5, 2009. Archived from the original on July 23, 2012. Retrieved February 20, 2014.

20. Gustines, George Gene (October 4, 2010). "The Joker in the Deck: Birth of a Supervillain". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on November 13, 2013. Retrieved October 18, 2013.

21. Manning 2011, p. 21.

22. Cohen, Alex (July 16, 2008). "The Joker: Torn Between Goof And Evil". NPR. Archived from the original on April 8, 2014. Retrieved October 12, 2013.

23. Gallagher, Simon (September 1, 2013). "10 Terrible Mistakes That Almost Ruined Batman For Everyone". What Culture. Archived from the original on October 16, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.

24. Boucher, Geoff (August 1, 2012). "The Joker returns to 'Batman' pages, building on 72-year history". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on October 23, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.

25. Manning 2011, p. 24, 27.

26. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 36.

27. Sullivan, Justin (July 23, 2014). "Batman 75: Marc Tyler Nobleman on 'uncredited co-creator' Bill Finger". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on August 10, 2014. Retrieved August 10, 2014.

28. "The Origins Of! The Joker". *Cracked*. Archived from the original on October 14, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.

29. Manning 2011, p. 171.

30. Macek III, J.C. (February 26, 2013). "Spotlight on The Dark Knight: 'The Smile on the Bat' ". *PopMatters*. Archived from the original on October 21, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.

31. Manning 2011, p. 173.

32. Parker, John (November 7, 2011). "The Evolution of the Joker: Still Crazy After All These Years". Comics Alliance. Archived from the original on October 20, 2013. Retrieved October 19, 2013.

33. Cronin, Brian (March 15, 2014). "When We First Met – Joker's Deadly Bag of Tricks". Comic Book Resources. Archived from the original on January 25, 2015. Retrieved January 25, 2015.

34. Eason, Brian K. (July 16, 2008). "Dark Knight Flashback: The Joker, Part II". Comic Book Resources. Archived from the original on September 9, 2011. Retrieved February 23, 2014.

35. Phillips, Daniel (January 18, 2008). "Rogue's Gallery: The Joker". IGN. p. 2. Archived from the original on April 21, 2014. Retrieved November 18, 2013. "[T]he Joker decides to brand every fish product in Gotham with his trademark grin, going so far as to blackmail and murder copyright officials until he's compensated for his hideous innovation."

36. Patrick, Seb (July 15, 2008). "10 Essential Joker Stories". Den of Geek. Archived from the original on October 14, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.

37. Pearson, Roberta E.; Uricchio, William (1991). "Notes from the Batcave: An Interview with Dennis O'Neil.". *The Many Lives of the Batman: Critical Approaches to a Superhero and His Media*. Routledge: London. p. 18. ISBN 978-0-85170-276-6.

38. "Joker Panel Interview: Steve Englehart on The Laughing Fish". The Ongoing Adventures of Rocket Llama. August 9, 2009. Archived from the original on October 19, 2013. Retrieved October 18, 2013.

39. Phillips, Daniel (December 8, 2008). "Why So Serious?: The Many Looks of Joker (Page 2)". IGN. Archived from the original on May 14, 2014. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
40. Manning 2011, p. 176.
41. Sims, Chris (September 12, 2013). "Bizarro Back Issues: The Joker's Solo Series (1975)". Comics Alliance. Archived from the original on October 14, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
42. Manning 2011, p. 177.
43. Duncan Smith 2013, p. 380.
44. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. XVI.
45. Sanderson, Peter (May 13, 2005). "Comics in Context #84: Dark Definitive". IGN. Archived from the original on April 22, 2014. Retrieved April 22, 2014.
46. Greenberger and Manning, p. 163: "In this fondly remembered tale that was later adapted into an episode of the 1990s cartoon *Batman: The Animated Series*, the Joker poisoned the harbors of Gotham so that the fish would all bear his signature grin, a look the Joker then tried to trademark in order to collect royalties."
47. "Batman Artist Rogers is Dead". Sci Fi. March 28, 2007. Archived from the original on April 11, 2008. Retrieved May 2, 2008. "Even though their Batman run was only six issues, the three laid the foundation for later Batman comics. Their stories include the classic 'Laughing Fish' (in which the Joker's face appeared on fish); they were adapted for *Batman: The Animated Series* in the 1990s. Earlier drafts of the 1989 Batman film with Michael Keaton as the Dark Knight were based heavily on their work"
48. Manning 2011, p. 182.
49. Manning 2011, p. 183.
50. "Batman: The Dark Knight Returns". *Cracked*. Archived from the original on October 14, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
51. Strike, Joe. "Frank Miller's 'Dark Knight' brought Batman back to life". *Daily News*. New York. Archived from the original on June 21, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
52. Esposito, Joey (July 9, 2012). "Scott Snyder Talks About the Joker's Brutal Return". IGN. Archived from the original on May 14, 2014. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
53. Goldstein, Hilary (June 9, 2005). "Batman: A Death in the Family Review". IGN. Archived from the original on May 14, 2014. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
54. Manning 2011, p. 108.
55. Patrick, Seb (November 24, 2008). "Batman: A Death In The Family". Den of Geek. Archived from the original on February 23, 2014. Retrieved February 23, 2014.
56. Greenberger and Manning, p. 38: "Offering keen insight into both the minds of the Joker and Batman, this special is considered by most Batman fans to be the definitive Joker story of all time."
57. Manning 2011, p. 188.
58. Patrick, Seb (April 28, 2008). "Batman: The Killing Joke Deluxe Edition review". Den of Geek. Archived from the original on October 14, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
59. Goldstein, Hilary (May 24, 2005). "Batman: The Killing Joke Review". IGN. Archived from the original on May 14, 2014. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
60. Cronin, Brian (August 1, 2015). "75 Greatest Joker Stories: #5-1". Comic Book Resources. Archived from the original on August 14, 2015. Retrieved August 14, 2015.
61. Serafino, Jason (August 22, 2011). "The 25 Best DC Comics of All Time". *Complex*. Archived from the original on December 30, 2012. Retrieved October 11, 2013.
62. Serafino, Jason (July 17, 2012). "The 25 Best DC Comics of All Time". *Complex*. Archived from the original on January 7, 2013. Retrieved October 11, 2013.
63. Goldstein, Hilary (May 24, 2005). "Batman: Harley Quinn Review". IGN. Archived from the original on May 14, 2014. Retrieved October 15, 2013.
64. Best, Daniel (January 6, 2007). "Batman: Alan Grant & Norm Breyfogle Speak Out". *20th Century Danny Boy*. Pandora Archive. Archived from the original on October 22, 2009. Retrieved January 25, 2015.
65. Renaud, Jeffrey (February 14, 2013). "Scott Snyder Plays Joker In 'Death of the Family'". Comic Book Resources. Archived from the original on November 4, 2013. Retrieved October 11, 2013.
66. Clark, Noelene (October 10, 2012). "'Batman: Death of the Family': Snyder, Capullo's Joker is no joke". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on January 6, 2014. Retrieved April 28, 2014.
67. Rogers, Vaneta (January 28, 2015). "Post-Convergence Batman Will Have New Status Quo 'No One Has Done in 75 Years of Batman'". Newsarama. Archived from the original on February 2, 2015. Retrieved February 2, 2015.
68. Kelly, Stuart (April 30, 2015). "Has DC killed Batman and the Joker?". theguardian.com. Archived from the original on April 30, 2015. Retrieved April 30, 2015.
69. Kroner, Brian (December 21, 2012). "Geek'S 20 Greatest Joker Moments Ever, Part II". *Geek Exchange*. Archived from the original on December 28, 2013. Retrieved December 27, 2013.
70. Manning 2011, p. 27.
71. Moore, Alan (w), Bolland, Brian (a). *The Killing Joke*: 38–40 (March 1988), DC Comics, 1401209270

72. Hughes, Joseph (August 19, 2013). "So What Really Happened at the End Of 'The Killing Joke'? [Opinion]". Comics Alliance. Archived from the original on November 11, 2013. Retrieved October 20, 2013.

73. Bricken, Rob (September 11, 2009). "The Joker's 10 Craziest Kills". *Topless Robot*. Village Voice Media. Archived from the original on October 10, 2013. Retrieved February 10, 2014.

74. Rucka, Greg, Grayson, Devin (w), Scott, Damion, Eaglesham, Dale (p), Parsons, Sean, Buscema, Sal, Hunter, Rob (i), Rambo, Pamela (col). "No Man's Land - Endgame: Part 3 - Sleep in Heavenly Peace" *Detective Comics* 741 (February 2000), Burbank, California: DC Comics

75. Kroner, Brian (December 21, 2012). "Geek'S 20 Greatest Joker Moments Ever, Part III". *Geek Exchange*. Archived from the original on May 20, 2013. Retrieved December 27, 2013.

76. Loeb, Jeph, DeMatteis, J.M., Schultz, Mark, Kelly, Joe (w), McGuiness, Ed, Miller, Mike, Mahnke, Doug, Kano (p), Smith, Cam, Marzan, Jose, Nguyen, Tom, McCrea, John, Alquiza, Marlo, Durrurthy, Armando, various others (i). *Superman: Emperor Joker* vSuperman #160–161, Adventures of Superman #582–583, Action Comics 769–770, Superman: The Man of Steel 104–105, and Emperor Joker.,: 224 (January 2007), DC Comics, 9781401211936

77. *Batman: Under The Hood* 635–641: 176 (November 2005), DC Comics, 9781401207564

78. Johns, Geoff (w), Jimenez, Phil, Pérez, George, Reis, Ivan, Bennet, Joe (p), Lanning, Andy, Pérez, George, Reis, Ivan Ordway, Jerry, Parsons, Sean, Thibert, Art (i). "Infinite Crisis #7" *Infinite Crisis #7* 7: 31/6–7 (June 2006), DC Comics

79. Buxton, Marc (December 4, 2014). "Almost Got Him: 10 Times the Joker Almost Nailed Batman". Den of Geek. Archived from the original on January 25, 2015. Retrieved January 25, 2015.

80. Manning 2011, p. 195.

81. Morrison, Grant (w). *Batman and Robin* 12 (May 2010), DC Comics

82. Sims, Chris (July 8, 2010). "Roundtable Review: 'Batman And Robin' #13". Comics Alliance. Archived from the original on February 24, 2014. Retrieved February 24, 2014.

83. Uzumeri, David (November 3, 2010). "Black Mass: Batman And Robin #16 [Annotations]". Comics Alliance. Archived from the original on November 10, 2013. Retrieved February 24, 2014.

84. Morrison, Grant (w), Stewart, Camerton, Burnham, Chris, Irving Frazer (a), Sinclair, Alex, Irving, Frazer (col). "Black Mass" *Batman and Robin* 13: 27–28 (July 2010), DC Comics

85. Kroner, Brian (December 21, 2012). "Geek'S 20 Greatest Joker Moments Ever, Part I". *Geek Exchange*. Archived from the original on December 28, 2013. Retrieved December 27, 2013.

86. Snyder, Scott (w), Capullo, Greg (p), Glapion, Jonathan (i)FCO Plascencia (col)"Death of the Family - Knock Knock" *Batman* 13 (December 2012), New York, NY: Detective Comics

87. Kelly, Stuart (February 14, 2013). "Batman: Death of the Family #17 by Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo – review". *The Guardian*. Archived from the original on April 21, 2014. Retrieved April 21, 2014.

88. Yehl, Joshua (October 8, 2014). "Batman Writer Scott Snyder Addresses Huge Surprise". IGN. Archived from the original on October 8, 2014. Retrieved October 8, 2014.

89. Yehl, Joshua (October 8, 2014). "Batman Writer Scott Snyder Addresses Huge Surprise (Page 2)". IGN. Archived from the original on October 8, 2014. Retrieved October 8, 2014.

90. Langley 2012, p. 180.

91. Hunt, Matt. "How the Joker works (Page 2)". HowStuffWorks. Archived from the original on October 1, 2012. Retrieved February 25, 2014.

92. Quicksilver, Chris (October 23, 2013). "Chemicals & Chaos: The Joker's (Many) Bizarre Origins". What Culture. Archived from the original on October 25, 2013. Retrieved December 31, 2013.

93. Devin Grayson, Scott Beatty, A.J. Lieberman (w), Dale Eaglesham, Paul Ryan, Roger Robinson, Al Barrionuevo (p), John Floyd (i). *Batman: Gotham Knights* v50–55, 74 (March 2000 - April 2006), DC Comics

94. Diggle, Andy, Green, Michael, Tony Bedard (w), Portacio, Whilce, Friend, Richard, Cowan, Denys, Morales, Rags (a). *Batman Confidential: Lovers & Madmen (#7–12)* (2006 – present), DC Comics

95. Phillips, Dan (January 20, 2010). "The Brave and the Bold #31 review". IGN. Archived from the original on February 20, 2014. Retrieved February 20, 2014.

96. Thorne, Noel (February 13, 2014). "Batman: The Joker's 6 Essential Stories". What Culture. Archived from the original on February 16, 2014. Retrieved February 16, 2014.

97. Manning 2011, p. 136.

98. Anders, Charlie Jane (February 25, 2008). "The Multiverse Is Strictly Business, Says DC Comics Czar". *io9*. Archived from the original on February 27, 2014. Retrieved February 25, 2014.

99. Narcisse, Evan (August 2, 2013). "In This Week's Injustice Comic, Superman Does the One Thing Batman Never Would". Kotaku. Archived from the original on March 7, 2014. Retrieved October 20, 2013.

100. Manning 2011, p. 38.

101. Narcisse, Iann (August 3, 2011). "Review: Batman: Knight of Vengeance #3". *CraveOnline*. Archived from the original on October 22, 2013. Retrieved October 20, 2013.

102. Basore, Greggoru (November 21, 2012). "The 5 Worst and 5 Best Elseworld Origin Stories with Superman". *Topless Robot*. Village Voice Media. Archived from the original on March 16, 2013. Retrieved November 16, 2013.

103. Ching, Albert; Siegel, Lucas (October 10, 2013). "The 10 Greatest Batman Villains of All Time!". Newsarama. Archived from the original on February 2, 2014. Retrieved March 3, 2014.
104. Wales, George (July 18, 2012). "50 Greatest Batman Villains". GamesRadar. Archived from the original on August 4, 2015. Retrieved August 4, 2015.
105. Phillips, Daniel (January 31, 2008). "Rogue's Gallery: The Joker". IGN. Archived from the original on February 15, 2014. Retrieved February 14, 2014.
106. Murphy, Vinny (April 26, 2015). "The Joker: The True Evil of Batman's Greatest Foe". Den of Geek. Archived from the original on July 9, 2015. Retrieved August 4, 2015.
107. Hunt, Matt. "How the Joker works". HowStuffWorks. Archived from the original on December 4, 2013. Retrieved April 22, 2014.
108. Langley 2012, p. 130.
109. Lewis, Paul (2006). *Cracking Up: American Humor in a Time of Conflict*. University of Chicago Press. pp. 31–34. ISBN 978-0-226-47699-5.
110. Sabin, Roger (1996). *Comics, Comix and Graphic Novels*. Phaidon. p. 61. ISBN 978-0-7148-3008-7.
111. Manning 2011, p. 69.
112. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 33.
113. Manning 2011, p. 37.
114. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. XIX.
115. Manning 2011, p. 105.
116. Goldstein, Hilary (May 24, 2005). "The Joker: Devil's Advocate". IGN. Archived from the original on April 19, 2014. Retrieved April 19, 2014.
117. Langley 2012, p. 162–163.
118. Richards, Jesse (January 8, 2013). "Why Doesn't Batman Just Kill The Joker?". *The Huffington Post*. Archived from the original on February 21, 2014. Retrieved February 21, 2014.
119. Boichel, Bill. "Batman: Commodity as Myth." *The Many Lives of the Batman: Critical Approaches to a Superhero and His Media*. Routledge: London, 1991. ISBN 978-0-85170-276-6, pp. 6–7.
120. Langley 2012, pp. 180–181.
121. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 217.
122. Langley 2012, pp. 183–184.
123. Duncan Smith 2013, p. 379.
124. Langley 2012, pp. 177–180.
125. Sims, Chris (November 29, 2012). "Scott Snyder On 'Death of the Family': 'It'S A Love Letter To Batman From The Joker' [Interview]". Comics Alliance. Archived from the original on November 15, 2013. Retrieved October 17, 2013.
126. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. XXI.
127. Manning 2011, pp. 37–38.
128. Dixon, Chuck (w), Nolan, Graham (p), Hanna, Scott (i), Roy, Adrienne (col). "Knightfall - Who Rules the Night" *Detective Comics* 664 (July 1993), Burbank, California: DC Comics
129. Dixon, Chuck (w), Aparo, Jim (p), Cebollero, John (i). "The Demon Laughs: Part 4 - Mad About You" *Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight* 145: 9–12, 21 (September 2001), DC Comics
130. Morrison, Grant (w), Porter, Howard, Frank, Gary, Land, Greg (p), Dell, John, McLeod, Bob (i), Garrahy, Pat (col). "Rock of Ages: Part 6 - Stone of Destiny" *JLA* 15: 26–28 (February 1998), DC Comics
131. Esposito, Joey (September 11, 2009). "Batman: Cacophony Hardcover Review". CraveOnline. Archived from the original on April 19, 2014. Retrieved April 19, 2014.
132. Smith, Kevin (w), Flanagan, Walt (p), Hope, Sandra (i). "Batman Cacophony: Part 3 - Baffles" *Batman Cacophony* 3: 17–23 (March 2009), DC Comics
133. "100 Greatest Comic Book Villains of All Time". What Culture. October 6, 2013. Archived from the original on March 7, 2014. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
134. Manning 2011, p. 70.
135. Carmona, Justin Jude. "Top 10 Weapons in Comics". Comics Bulletin. Archived from the original on October 14, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
136. Manning 2011, p. 69, 124.
137. Morrison, Grant (w), Van Fleet, John (a). "The Clown at Midnight" *Batman* 663: 16 (April 2007), DC Comics
138. Manning 2011, pp. 70,75.
139. Manning 2011, p. 75.
140. Phillips, Daniel (December 14, 2009). "Ultimate Bookshelf: The Joker". IGN. Archived from the original on February 16, 2014. Retrieved February 16, 2014.
141. Manning 2011, p. 24, 37–38, 105.
142. Lepore, Jill (July 24, 2012). "Batman's Gun". *The New Yorker*. Archived from the original on December 5, 2013. Retrieved February 20, 2014.

143. Anders, Lou (2008). "Two of a Kind". *Batman Unauthorized: Vigilantes, Jokers, and Heroes in Gotham City*. BenBella Books. p. 29. ISBN 978-1-935251-31-6. "By 2007, the Joker was indisputably one of the most dangerous and insane villains in DC's entire universe. This is evidenced in the 1995 three-issue *Underworld Unleashed*, in which Flash-nemesis the Trickster said, 'When super-villains want to scare each other, they tell Joker stories.'"
144. Powell, Mark (May 18, 2011). "40 Greatest Joker Moments -39 : Peer review". *Total Film*. Archived from the original on August 18, 2011. Retrieved February 17, 2014.
145. Manning 2011, p. 83.
146. Manning 2011, p. 83, 86.
147. Manning 2011, pp. 86,93.
148. Manning 2011, pp. 124, 126.
149. Sims, Chris (January 15, 2013). "Bizarro Back Issues: The Strange Saga Of The Joker'S Daughter (1976)". Comics Alliance. Archived from the original on February 23, 2014. Retrieved February 12, 2014.
150. Sims, Chris (December 6, 2013). "Ask Chris #173: The Trouble with the Joker's Girlfriend Harley Quinn". *Comics Alliance*. Archived from the original on February 23, 2014. Retrieved February 12, 2014.
151. Manning 2011, p. 143, 152.
152. Manning 2011, p. 121.
153. Manning 2011, p. 121–122, 124.
154. White, Brett (May 3, 2014). "5 'Justice League' Stories Fit For Film". Comic Book Resources. Archived from the original on May 4, 2014. Retrieved May 4, 2014.
155. "Justice League of America Vol. 3: The Injustice League". *DC Comics.com*. DC Comics. Archived from the original on May 4, 2014. Retrieved May 4, 2014.
156. Michael, Karen (April 17, 2015). "Texas Tech librarian and professor publish book on Joker". Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. Archived from the original on April 21, 2015. Retrieved April 21, 2015.
157. Cronin, Brian (May 4, 2014). "75 Greatest Friends and Foes of Batman: Villains #5-1". Comic Book Resources. Archived from the original on February 8, 2015. Retrieved February 8, 2015.
158. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. XVIII.
159. Davis, Lauren (March 2, 2012). "Should Batman Kill The Joker? Perspectives From Five Famous Philosophers". Comics Alliance. Archived from the original on February 21, 2014. Retrieved February 21, 2014.
160. White, Mark D; Arp, Robert (July 25, 2008). "Should Batman kill the Joker?". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on February 21, 2014. Retrieved February 21, 2014.
161. "Top 100 Greatest Villains". *Wizard*. **1** (177). July 2006.
162. "The 200 Greatest Comic Book Characters of All Time". *Wizard*. May 23, 2008. Archived from the original on October 3, 2009. Retrieved April 19, 2014.
163. "The 50 Greatest Comic Book Characters". *Empire*. 2008. Archived from the original on March 15, 2012. Retrieved December 26, 2013.
164. Phillips, Daniel (2009). "Top 100 Comic Book Villains - Number 2: The Joker". IGN. Archived from the original on January 16, 2014. Retrieved January 14, 2014.
165. Hill, Scott (October 27, 2011). "Comics' Greatest Supervillain? No Joke, It's the Joker". *Wired*. Archived from the original on September 15, 2012. Retrieved February 20, 2014.
166. "The 25 Greatest Comic Book Villains of All-Time". CollegeHumor. February 20, 2013. Archived from the original on February 16, 2014. Retrieved February 16, 2014.
167. Schedeen, Jesse (November 22, 2013). "The Top 25 Villains of DC Comics". IGN. Archived from the original on February 19, 2014. Retrieved January 14, 2014.
168. "AFI's 100 Years ... 100 Heroes & Villains". American Film Institute. June 2003. Archived from the original on February 21, 2012. Retrieved February 3, 2014.
169. Susman, Gary (May 6, 2013). "Super Bad: 10 Best Movie Supervillains". *Time*. Archived from the original on August 8, 2013. Retrieved February 16, 2014.
170. Bretts, Bruce; Roush, Matt; (March 25, 2013). "Baddies to the Bone: The 60 Nastiest Villains of All Time". *TV Guide*. pp. 14–15.
171. "100 best villains in video games". GamesRadar. January 27, 2014. Archived from the original on October 24, 2013. Retrieved February 16, 2014.
172. "Joker's Jinx - Six Flags America (Upper Marlboro, Maryland, USA)". Roller Coaster DataBase. Archived from the original on October 23, 2013. Retrieved October 22, 2013.
173. Dance, Scott; Hay Brown, Matthew (August 10, 2014). "Riders rescued from Six Flags roller coaster". *The Baltimore Sun*. Archived from the original on September 1, 2014. Retrieved September 1, 2014.
174. Grout, Pam (July 6, 2013). "Newest, biggest, baddest roller coasters for summer". CNN. Archived from the original on December 23, 2013. Retrieved February 16, 2014.
175. " 'The Joker' Roller Coaster Coming to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo". *KNTV*. September 3, 2015. Archived from the original on September 4, 2015. Retrieved September 5, 2015.
176. "The Joker And Harley Quinn Bring Havoc, Chaos, Twists And Spins As Two New Rides Open For The 2015 Season". *Business Wire*. May 22, 2015. Archived from the original on May 22, 2015. Retrieved May 22, 2015.

177. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 19.
178. Graell, Vanesaa (April 15, 2015). "La astrofísica del cómic" [The astrophysics of the comic book]. *El Mundo* (in Spanish). Archived from the original on August 3, 2015. Retrieved August 3, 2015.
179. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 109, 195.
180. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 111.
181. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 109.
182. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 112.
183. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 195.
184. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 205.
185. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 95.
186. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 21.
187. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 96.
188. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 98.
189. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 99.
190. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 22.
191. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 185.
192. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 185-6.
193. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 187-8.
194. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 189.
195. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 83–84.
196. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 86–87.
197. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 87.
198. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 85–86.
199. Weiner & Peaslee 2015, p. 90–91.
200. "A brief history of the Joker". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on October 23, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
201. "Batman and The Joker : Through the Years". Yahoo!. Archived from the original on October 22, 2013. Retrieved October 19, 2013.
202. Jean-Jacques, Kethlene. "Lennie Weinrib: Joker Through the Years". Celebuzz. Archived from the original on October 20, 2013. Retrieved October 19, 2013.
203. Fritz, Steve (April 7, 2009). "Animated Shorts - Actor Lends Voice to the Joker Legacy". Newsarama. Archived from the original on October 20, 2013. Retrieved October 19, 2013.
204. "The Super Powers Team: Galactic Guardians (1985–1986)". *DC Comics.com*. DC Comics. Archived from the original on October 21, 2013. Retrieved October 19, 2013.
205. "A brief history of the Joker". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on October 23, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
206. Ebert, Roger (June 23, 1989). "Batman". *Roger Ebert*. Archived from the original on December 19, 2014. Retrieved July 24, 2015.
207. "Top 10 Comic to TV Adaptations". IGN. June 21, 2007. Archived from the original on October 15, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
208. "A brief history of the Joker". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on October 23, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
209. Sims, Chris (October 19, 2011). "Mark Hamill Retires From His Role As The Joker After 19 Years". Comics Alliance. Archived from the original on February 23, 2014. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
210. Sava, Oliver (April 18, 2011). "Mask of the Phantasm". The A.V. Club. Archived from the original on November 7, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
211. Reilly, Jim (October 20, 2011). "Mark Hamill Retires From Joker Role". Game Informer. Archived from the original on December 28, 2013. Retrieved December 22, 2013.
212. Manning 2011, p. 17.
213. Jean-Jacques, Kethlene. "Kevin Michael Richardson: Joker Through the Years". *Celebuzz*. Archived from the original on October 20, 2013. Retrieved October 19, 2013.
214. Mason, Chris (September 12, 2004). "The Batman - The Review!". *SuperHeroHype*. CraveOnline. Archived from the original on October 20, 2013. Retrieved October 19, 2013.
215. Jolin, Dan. "The Making of the Joker". *Empire*. Archived from the original on December 9, 2013. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
216. Mendelson, Scott (October 3, 2013). " 'Cloudy 2', 'Batman Begins', And 5 More Hits That Survived "Disappointing" Debuts". *Forbes*. Archived from the original on October 6, 2013. Retrieved October 17, 2013.
217. "Batman Begins". Box Office Mojo. Archived from the original on January 26, 2012. Retrieved October 17, 2013.
218. Mendelson, Scott (September 17, 2013). "How 'The Dark Knight' Proved Irrelevance of Box Office Rank". *Forbes*. Archived from the original on October 31, 2013. Retrieved October 17, 2013.

219. McClintock, Pamela (September 2, 2012). "Box Office Milestone: 'Dark Knight Rises' Crosses $1 Billion Worldwide". *The Hollywood Reporter*. Archived from the original on January 9, 2014. Retrieved October 17, 2013.
220. Acuna, Kirsten (August 23, 2013). "Everyone Was Also Furious with the Initial Casting of Heath Ledger As The Joker". Business Insider. Archived from the original on January 22, 2014. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
221. " 'Slumdog Millionaire' fulfills its Oscar destiny". *Today*. February 23, 2009. Archived from the original on January 16, 2014. Retrieved October 12, 2013.
222. Jean-Jacques, Kethlene. "Jeff Bennett: Joker Through the Years". Celebuzz. Archived from the original on October 20, 2013. Retrieved October 19, 2013.
223. Harris, Will (June 22, 2012). "Brent Spiner on playing Conan O'Brien, Data on Star Trek, and Brent Spiner". The A.V. Club. Archived from the original on December 24, 2013. Retrieved December 22, 2013.
224. Melrose, Kevin (September 4, 2012). "Michael Emerson Takes On the Joker in 'Batman: The Dark Knight Returns' ". Comic Book Resources. Archived from the original on April 8, 2014. Retrieved October 17, 2013.
225. Wilkins, Alasdair (August 1, 2010). "Under the Red Hood cuts through Batman's baggage to reveal the dark side of his legacy". io9. Archived from the original on February 25, 2014. Retrieved October 18, 2013.
226. Kroll, Justin (December 2, 2014). " 'Suicide Squad' Cast Revealed: Jared Leto to Play the Joker, Will Smith is Deadshot". *Variety*. Archived from the original on December 28, 2014. Retrieved December 28, 2014.
227. Armitage, Hugh (May 18, 2012). "Mark Hamill returns as Joker in 'DC Universe Online' ". *Digital Spy*. Archived from the original on December 20, 2013. Retrieved December 19, 2013.
228. Keane, Sean (October 14, 2013). "New York Comic Con 2013: The Electrocutioner takes on the Dark Knight in 'Batman: Arkham Origins' ". *Daily News*. New York. Archived from the original on October 18, 2013. Retrieved October 16, 2013.
229. Rosenberg, Adam (October 15, 2013). " 'Arkham Origins' Stars Talk The First Meeting of Batman and the Joker". *Daily News*. New York. Archived from the original on October 16, 2013. Retrieved October 16, 2013.
230. "Warner Bros. Brings "Batman: Assault On Arkham" To DVD/Blu-Ray August 14.". Comic Book Resources. May 7, 2014. Archived from the original on May 7, 2014. Retrieved May 7, 2014.
231. Suellentrop, Chris (June 22, 2015). "Batman: Arkham Knight: The Kotaku Review". Kotaku. Archived from the original on June 27, 2015. Retrieved June 27, 2015.
232. Thompson, Michael (November 18, 2008). "Review: Mortal Kombat vs DC Universe". Ars Technica. Archived from the original on December 13, 2013. Retrieved December 8, 2013.
233. Nye Griffiths, Daniel (April 22, 2013). "Injustice: Gods Among Us - Review". *Forbes*. Archived from the original on December 13, 2013. Retrieved December 8, 2013.
234. Watts, Steve (February 18, 2008). "Joker, Harley Quinn in LEGO Batman Screenshots". Shacknews. Archived from the original on December 28, 2013. Retrieved December 26, 2013.
235. "Anime USA Welcomes Voice Actor, Christopher Corey Smith". Anime News Network. July 22, 2013. Archived from the original on December 20, 2013. Retrieved December 19, 2013.
236. Hannley, Steve (July 28, 2014). "Cast Featured in New LEGO Batman 3: Beyond Gotham Trailer". Hardcore Gamer. Archived from the original on March 12, 2015. Retrieved March 12, 2015.
237. Narcisse, Evan (November 17, 2016). "A Very Familiar Smile Will Be Showing Up Next Week in the Telltale Batman Video Game". io9. Archived from the original on December 9, 2016. Retrieved December 9, 2016.

Sources

- Duncan, Randy; Smith, Matthew J. (2013). *Icons of the American Comic Book: From Captain America to Wonder Woman, Volume 1*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press. ISBN 978-0-313-39923-7.
- Langley, Travis (2012). *Batman and Psychology: A Dark and Stormy Knight*. New York City, New York: John Wiley & Sons. ISBN 978-1-118-16765-6.
- Manning, Matthew K. (2011). *The Joker: A Visual History of the Clown Prince of Crime*. Universe Publishing. ISBN 978-0-7893-2247-0.
- Weiner, Robert G.; Peaslee, Robert Moses (February 26, 2015). *The Joker: A Serious Study of the Clown Prince of Crime*. University Press of Mississippi. ISBN 978-1-62846-238-8.
- Tollin, Anthony (January–February 1975). "Profile on Jerry Robinson - Creator of The Joker". *Amazing World of DC Comics*. DC Comics. **2** (4). Archived from the original on August 10, 2014. Retrieved August 10, 2014. "I felt that Batman needed a supreme arch-villain to test him ... Batman didn't need another crime lord like Al Capone. I felt he needed something more exotic: something that would fit in with the mysterious mood of Batman ... The strip needed an antagonist that would be more enduring; a continuing conflict in the literary tradition of Holmes and Moriarty or King Arthur and Mordred."

External links

- Joker (http://www.wikia.com/wiki/c:dc:Joker) on DC Database, an external wiki (http://www.wikia.com/wiki/c:dc), a DC Comics wiki

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Joker_(comics)&oldid=776074470"

Categories: DC Comics supervillains │ Animated series villains │ Characters created by Bill Finger │ Characters created by Bob Kane │ Characters created by Jerry Robinson │ Comics characters introduced in 1940 │ Fictional crime bosses │ Fictional clowns │ Fictional chemists │ Fictional comedians │ Fictional engineers │ Fictional domestic abusers │ Fictional mass murderers │ Fictional serial killers │ Fictional child killers │ Fictional rampage and spree killers │ Fictional kidnappers │ Fictional torturers │ Fictional characters with disfigurements │ Fictional characters with psychiatric disorders │ Fictional characters with neurological or psychological disorders │ Psychopathy in fiction │ Golden Age supervillains │ Video game bosses │ Supervillains with their own comic book titles │ Superhero film characters │ Superhero television characters │ The Joker │ DC Comics television characters │ Animated human characters

---