

Red Hood

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The Red Hood is an alias used by multiple fictional characters and a criminal organization appearing in American comic books published by DC Comics. Jason Todd is the most widely known version of the incarnation, and he assumes the Red Hood identity in the main DC Comics continuity.

Contents

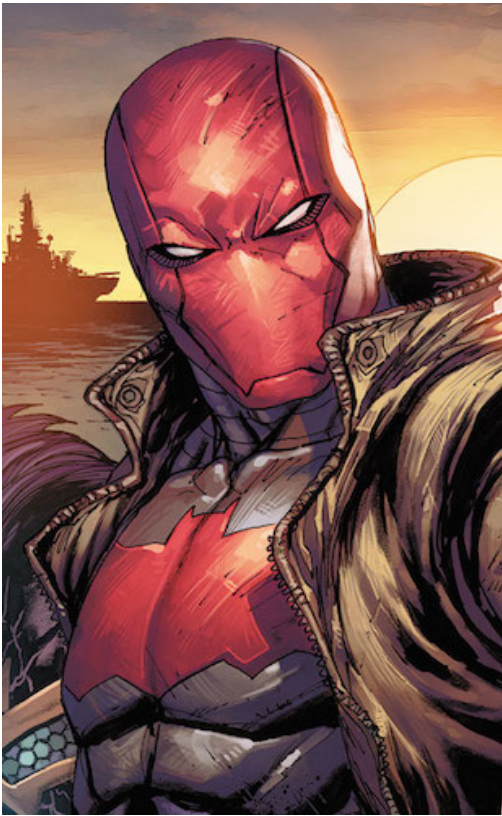
- 1 Fictional character biography
 - 1.1 Joker
 - 1.2 Jason Todd
 - 1.3 Red Hood Gang
- 2 Other versions
 - 2.1 *Kingdom Come*
 - 2.2 Red Hood and the Outlaws
 - 2.3 DCAU comics
 - 2.4 *Justice League: Generation Lost*
 - 2.5 *Batman '66*
- 3 In other media
 - 3.1 Television
 - 3.2 Film
 - 3.3 Video games
 - 3.4 Merchandise
- 4 See also
- 5 References

Fictional character biography

Joker

The Red Hood first appeared in *Detective Comics* #168 (Feb. 1951), in the story "The Man Behind The Red Hood!". In the original continuity, the man later known as the Joker was a master criminal going by the Red Hood alias, claiming to be a lab worker intending to steal \$1,000,000 and retire. His costume consisted of a tuxedo, a red cape, and a large domed red helmet with no eye holes or facial features. While attempting to rob a playing card company, he was cornered and dove into a catch basin full of chemicals and swim to freedom, surviving because of a special breathing apparatus built into the helmet. The toxins in the vat permanently disfigured him, turning his hair green, his skin white and his lips red. Driven insane by his reflection, he recreated himself as "The Joker" and became Batman's greatest foe. A decade later, Batman reopens the case while tutoring a group of college students. To mock him, the Joker resumes the identity and tries to rob the college.

The Red Hood



Jason Todd as Red Hood. From the cover of *Red Hood/Arsenal* #10 (May 2016); art by Dexter Soy.

Publication information

Publisher	DC Comics
First comic appearance	<i>Detective Comics</i> #168 (February 1951)
Created by	Bill Finger

In-story information

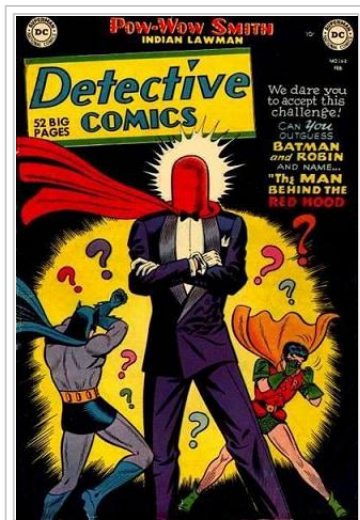
Alter ego	Jason Todd Joker
Team affiliations	The Red Hood Gang

Abilities

Jason Todd

- Expert marksman
- Skilled martial artist and hand-to-hand combatant
- Utilizes high-tech equipment and weapons

However, a gardener, Owen "Farmerboy" Benson, captures him and takes his identity, planning to commit crimes with the Red Hood getting the blame. Batman realizes this Red Hood is a fake and captures Benson, who takes him to the real Red Hood. The Joker then reveals his origin.



Cover of *Detective Comics* #168 (1951); art by Lew Sayre Schwartz.

In *Batman: The Killing Joke*, Alan Moore wrote an alternative origin of the Joker and the Red Hood; the man who would become the Joker is portrayed as a former lab assistant, now a struggling stand-up comedian with a pregnant wife. He is approached by the Red Hood gang, who want him to lead them through the chemical plant he once worked at so they can rob the card factory next door. He accepts in order to make enough money to start a better life for his family. The gang gives him the Red Hood costume, which has been worn by many others; unknown to him, the gang plans to use him as a patsy in case they get caught. The day of the proposed robbery, police inform him that his wife died in a freak accident. He attempts to back out of the robbery, but the gang strong-arms him into keeping his commitment. During the robbery, the plant's security men spot the intruders and shoot the other criminals dead. The man who becomes the Joker tries to flee, but Batman appears and corners him on the plant's catwalk. Terrified, he jumps off the catwalk into the chemical basin to escape. As in the previous origin story, he goes insane after discovering what the chemicals have done to his face and becomes the Joker. The Joker himself is reluctant to admit that this iteration of his story is definitive, stating: "Sometimes I remember it one way, sometimes another...if I'm going to have a past, I prefer it to be multiple choice!"^[1]

A retroactive continuity change appears between the *Batman* #450–451 story line *The Return of the Joker* and the graphic novel one-shot *Batman: The Man Who Laughs*. In *The Return of the Joker*, the Joker resurfaces after apparently being killed at the end of the *Batman: A Death in the Family* storyline. In this story, the Joker rummages through his belongings, finds the Red Hood costume and wears it for a robbery in order to regain his confidence and become the Joker again. *The Man Who Laughs* is a retelling of the Joker's first appearance, a few months after the Red Hood's plunge into the chemicals, tying the story into both *Batman: Year One* and *The Killing Joke*. In this story, Batman is in possession of the Red Hood costume, presumably having discovered it on the banks where the Joker washed up after his swim in the chemical basin.

Jason Todd

A new Red Hood appears in the *Batman: Under the Hood* storyline running through *Batman* comics, written by Judd Winick. Jason Todd, the former Robin killed by the Joker in *Batman: A Death in the Family*, is revealed to have been resurrected by Talia al Ghul in the Lazarus Pit. But the pit changes him and his emotions and he becomes the new Red Hood. His debut culminates in a fateful confrontation with those he feels have wronged him. He beats the Joker with a crowbar (mirroring the way the Joker had tortured him before killing him with a bomb) and later kidnaps him. The new Red Hood assumes control over various gangs in Gotham City and starts a one-man war against Black Mask's criminal empire. He actively tries to cleanse the city of corruption, such as the illegal drug trade and gang violence, but in a violent, antiheroic way. He eventually comes to blows against Batman and other heroes' allies, including Nightwing, the new Robin (Tim Drake), Onyx, and Green Arrow.

In the second story arc of *Batman and Robin* by Grant Morrison and Philip Tan, Jason retakes the Red Hood mantle. With the goal of making the very concept of Batman obsolete, he puts a lot of effort into public relations: he drastically alters his Red Hood costume to look more like a traditional superhero outfit, recruits his own sidekick known as Scarlet. In their war on crime Red Hood and Scarlet freely kill criminals, villains and anyone who gets in his way, even the police. After all his killings he leaves behind a calling card which states "let the punishment fit the crime". He describes his vendetta against Dick Grayson as "the revenge of one crazy man in a mask on another crazy man in a mask".

After Barry Allen's involuntary tampering with the continuum, Red Hood is shown, along with Arsenal and Starfire, as one of the *Outlaws*, a close knit group of anti-heroes. Still not above killing, and still angry at the world, Jason has now reverted to the street clothes costume, forgoing his feud with Batman for stealthier, more cloak and dagger missions. Eventually, Jason and Batman reconcile and call a truce between them.^{[2][3]}

In an interview for the *Infinite Crisis* hardcover, Jeanine Schaefer states that Geoff Johns originally planned to reintroduce Red Hood as the Jason Todd of the Earth-Two universe, but such plans were discarded.^[4]

Red Hood Gang

In the New 52, a 2011 reboot of the DC Comics universe, a gang called the "Red Hood" appears in issue zero of *Batman*. A young Bruce Wayne, not yet Batman, had recently returned to Gotham to start his crime fighting career. One of Bruce's early targets was the Red Hood Gang, which he managed to infiltrate undercover. Unfortunately for Bruce, the leader of the Red Hood Gang knew his group had been infiltrated and managed to weed out a disguised Bruce as the culprit. Though the Red Hood Gang attempted to kill him, Bruce manages to escape into the sewers after the police show up to break up a robbery. The Red Hood Gang eventually follows him into the sewer system, but a prototype motorcycle hidden in the tunnels allows Bruce to escape. The Red Hood Gang is later seen outside of Bruce's apartment, scoping it out for their next hit.^[5]

The Red Hood Gang subsequently reappeared in the first story arc of the "Zero Year" event, "Secret City", where five months prior to the birth of Batman, Bruce gets involved with the Red Hood Gang to spoil their plans to sink a pickup truck full of men who refused to join their ranks. During this encounter, it is revealed that the Red Hood Gang's ranks have expanded. It turns out their leader had since begun blackmailing innocent Gotham citizens into joining the group, threatening violence against them if they refused to be his henchmen.^[6] They eventually steal an airship belonging to Penguin and several weapons from Wayne Industries. Bruce discovers that the Red Hood Gang has been doing business with Bruce's uncle, Philip Kane, who was selling them weapons after being forced to join the gang. When Bruce discovers this, he goes to tell Alfred, but a bomb from the Red Hood Gang to "welcome him back to the city" blows up the apartment.^[7]

The motivation of the Red Hood Gang comes to light, and it was revealed that they had been inspired by the impact that the murder of Bruce's parents had upon the city. The murders of the famous and beloved Doctor and Mrs. Wayne had made the residents of Gotham fearful, since if even the rich and powerful could be gunned down by a random criminal, no one was safe from being harmed by crime. Embracing nihilism, the Red Hood Gang killed, robbed, and caused suffering in order to make the average citizen know their lives are worthless and can and will be murdered at any given moment.^[8]

The culmination of the Red Hood Gang's campaign of terror was their plan to take over the Axis Chemical Plant and use its resources to create a flesh-eating bacteria. Bruce Wayne, as Batman, lures the Gotham City Police Department to the plant. During the battle that ensues, Phillip Kane is mortally wounded by the leader, who accuses him of betrayal. The police raid the plant and the gang is arrested, while Batman goes after the leader, who ultimately falls into a container of chemicals rather than be taken alive. A few days later, police discover the body of the assumed leader of the gang, Liam Distal, stuffed into a barrel of lye. The lye had dissolved the better part of his remains, meaning there was no way to tell when he was killed and placed there. Bruce surmises that the Red Hood Leader he encountered was an impostor and had killed Distal and taken his



Jason Todd as Red Hood on the cover of *Red Hood and the Outlaws* #29 (May 2014); art by Philip Tan.

place, but there was no way to confirm it or know when the impostor murdered Distal.^[9] Afterwards, the remaining members of the gang were then killed in an explosion by the Joker. It is assumed that after the event, the Red Hood Gang is officially extinct.^[10]

Other versions

Kingdom Come

Unrelated to the Joker and Jason Todd incarnations of the Red Hood, is Red Hood from the limited series *Kingdom Come*. The *Kingdom Come* Red Hood is Lian Harper, daughter of super-hero Roy Harper and villainess Cheshire. A skilled archer much like her father, her costume and name are modeled after both the fictional Little Red Riding Hood character and possibly Robin Hood. Lian's costume is also at least partially modeled after Centaur Publications' Arrow

Red Hood and the Outlaws

In the new Rebirth comics issue number one we see a newer version of the Red Hood we once knew. In the new series “Red Hood and the Outlaws” we see Jason Todd (Red Hood) literally rebirth himself in becoming a good guy. Scott Lobdell (July 27, 2016) *Red Hood and the Out Laws* (Issue #1)

DCAU comics

An animated version of the character appears at the end of *The Batman Adventures* #8. It was meant to be a subplot to be resolved later, but the cancellation of the ongoing series prevented that. Though the creative team (Dan Slott and Ty Templeton) behind the story are hoping for a chance to resolve it, they have yet to do so. It has been stated that this Red Hood is someone crucial to the DC animated universe.

Dan Slott mentioned that the background of the character would tie into a subplot concerning Lucius Fox, the Valestra mob (from *Batman: Mask of the Phantasm*) and the Powers Family (including an infant Derek Powers from *Batman Beyond*)

Though the comics storyline was never followed up, Dan Slott told fan website The Worlds Finest, "Had *Batman Adventures* continued, Dan Slott said, The Red Hood would have been revealed as Andrea Beaumont's mother, Victoria Beaumont, who also happened to be the real head of the Valestra mob. Years ago, she faked her death in an attempt to get her family away from the Valestra mob, and was disappointed to see her family eventually fall into their clutches. However, when she saw what happened to her husband, and what eventually became of her daughter, she felt it was time to not only get revenge on the Valestra mob, but take Gotham for herself. Inevitably, this would have led to a devastating confrontation between her, Batman, and Andrea Beaumont."^[11]

Justice League: Generation Lost

A future version of the Red Hood is shown in *Justice League: Generation Lost* #14. Here, he is revealed to be the partner of the Batman of that era, as well as a member of the Justice League. His real name is stated to be **Thomas Grayson**, implying that he is somehow related to Dick Grayson.^[12]

Batman '66

A version of the Red Hood appears in *Batman '66* (which is based on the 1960s *Batman* TV series). Here, he threatens the city if Joker is not turned over to him at midnight. Despite Batman's attempts to capture Red Hood, he escapes with the Joker. It is revealed that the Red Hood is Professor Overbeck, a doctor at Arkham

Asylum. His new method of treating the patients by using his brainwaves to correct their minds backfired when used on Joker. Thus when he wears the helmet, he acts as a villain with all the knowledge of the Joker.

Professor Overbeck is cleared off his crimes and the Red Hood's helmet is locked away for safekeeping.^[13]

In other media

Television

- The Joker incarnation of Red Hood appears in *Batman: The Brave and the Bold*, voiced by Jeff Bennett. This version is a heroic alternate reality version of the Joker and is shown to be an extremely capable fighter, able to hold his own against multiple members of the Injustice Syndicate. In addition, he wields projectile weapons shaped like spades (a reference to his mainstream counterpart's playing card motif). Like his original counterpart, Red Hood was disfigured after falling into a chemical vat at the Ace Chemical Plant but he was already a superhero and was deliberately thrown in by Owlman, leaving his sanity 'Bent but not broken'. In the episode "Deep Cover for Batman!", he tries to rally his world's heroes (alternate versions of the villains from the "normal" universe) against the Injustice Syndicate but they are defeated. Red Hood escapes and tries to use a device to recruit help from the 'mainstream' Earth but he is captured by the Injustice Syndicate. After Batman is attacked by Owlman (sent to Batman's universe on a reconnaissance mission), he journeys to Red Hood's dimension. During scenes in this episode, Red Hood's face is shown albeit in shadow which shows a bit of green hair and a wide grin that clearly resembles Joker. After the heroes are freed and the villains defeated, Red Hood thanks Batman and hopes his counterpart can return the favor.^[14] Sure enough in the next episode "Game Over for Owlman!", Batman is forced to team-up with Joker in order to defeat Owlman (who has been impersonating Batman and ruining his reputation in his absence).
- The Red Hood Gang appears in the *Gotham* television series.^[15] As seen in the self-titled episode "Red Hood", group consists of Gus Floyd (portrayed by Michael Goldsmith), Clyde Destro (portrayed by Jonny Coyne), Trope (portrayed by Peter Bressinger), Regan (portrayed by Regan T. Collins), and Haskins (portrayed by Peter Albrink). The Red Hood identity is conceived by gang member Gus Floyd who made the red hood mask to wear over his head. The Red Hood Gang are first seen where they rob a bank. A security guard tries to stop them only to be knocked out. The Red Hood Gang makes off the money and the red-hooded member throws the money to the crowd as a diversion for the police. The Red Hood Gang then plan their next move at Kleg's Auto. After Gus mentioned that the wearer of the Red Hood should lead the Red Hood Gang, gang member Clyde Destro shoots Gus Floyd and takes his red hood mask to lead the Red Hood Gang. James Gordon and Harvey Bullock find the body of Gus at Kleg's Auto. The Red Hood Gang then raids another bank claiming that they want the bank's insurance by stealing its vault money. Clyde is later approached by one of his operatives named Trope wanting the red hood mask to impress his girlfriend. Upon arriving at Clyde's apartment, Bullock finds Clyde on the ground with a bullet wound on him while Trope has gotten away. As Bullock wants the names of the Red Hood Gang members, Gordon found the denied loans where Clyde is revealed to be a baker wanting money from the banks that rejected him. Upon finding a clue of the next bank heist, the three remaining members of the Red Hood Gang are confronted by the police which leads to a shoot out where Trope, Regan, and Haskins are killed. While the police officers still at the bank are not looking, the red hood mask is later found on the sidewalk by an unknown young boy. According to the "Gotham Chronicle" website, Clyde survived the gun wound and is in police custody.^[16] In the episode "Mad City: Anything for You," a second version of the Red Hood Gang appears. This group had Butch Gilzean as their secret benefactor and consisted of an unidentified leader (portrayed by Michael Stoyanov) and some unnamed members. The second Red Hood Gang first appeared where they crashed Mayor Oswald Cobblepot's press conference and destroyed the statue of Getrud Kapelpot. Upon Barbara Kean and Tabithia Galavan finding out his connections with the Red Hood Gang and not wanting to find him with the group, Butch Gilzean used his Thompson submachine gun to kill the entire Red Hood Gang by the time Oswald Cobblepot and Chief of Staff Edward Nygma arrived. Later on at Mayor Cobblepot's party at The Sirens, Nygma had figured out Gilzean's connection with them and set up a series of events at the party that exposed Gilzean's connection to the Red Hood Gang.

Film

- The Jason Todd incarnation of Red Hood appears as the main antagonist in the 2010 animated film *Batman: Under the Red Hood*, voiced by Jensen Ackles. The original version of Red Hood (voiced by John DiMaggio) was alluded during a flashback, which references the events of *The Killing Joke* where the man claimed he was "set up". It's also implied that several people have used the Red Hood persona.
- In the 2013 animated film *Justice League: The Flashpoint Paradox*, a statue of the Joker version of Red Hood can be seen inside the Batcave.
- The Joker version of Red Hood appears in *Batman: The Killing Joke*, voiced by Mark Hamill. The man who would become Joker assumed this alias when he took some criminals to Ace Chemical Plant which led to a confrontation with Batman. Unlike in the comic however, the man who became the Joker tripped and fell inside the chemical vat.
- A version of Red Hood makes a cameo in *The Lego Batman Movie*. He appears as one of the villains the Joker uses to attack Commissioner Gordon's retirement party. However this one is separate from the Joker and his identity is not revealed.

Video games

- The original version of Red Hood is alluded in *Batman: Arkham City*. Hugo Strange's interview tape mentions that the Joker got his Red Hood outfit from Carmine Falcone's men to rob the Ace Chemicals Plant which led to his transformation during a fight with Batman.
- The original version of Red Hood is again alluded in *Batman: Arkham Origins*. In an interview with Harleen Quinzel, the Joker has a brief flashback sequence in which the player controls his Red Hood guise. His Red Hood appearance then becomes a character trophy that the player can freely view in the Extras menu. Details on the Red Hood can also be found on Batman's casefile board, revealing that the Red Hood, prior to the ACE chemicals encounter, had conducted various daring heists against Gotham City, and had caused enough damage in his schemes that then-Mayor Hamilton Hill to make his arrest via the GCPD a high priority, stolen over \$300K, causing Kane to demand for him to be unmasked (although Batman's notes on the matter imply that he may not have actually been responsible for that crime), with his actions costing Gotham well over a million paper bills, with Commissioner Loeb eventually declaring that the Red Hood was "run out of the city." Like in *Under the Red Hood*, the crime-board also implies that Red Hood may have been multiple people rather than just one criminal.
- The original version of Red Hood is mentioned in *Lego Batman: The Video Game* as a part of the Joker's biography.
- The Jason Todd version of Red Hood appears in the Nintendo 3DS and PlayStation Vita versions of *Lego Batman 2: DC Super Heroes* as a playable character.
- The original version of Red Hood appears as the Joker's alternate attire released as DLC for the fighting game *Injustice: Gods Among Us*.^[17]
- The Jason Todd version of Red Hood appears as a playable character in *Lego Batman 3: Beyond Gotham*, voiced by Troy Baker.
- The Jason Todd iteration appears in the 2015 video game *Batman: Arkham Knight*, once again voiced by Troy Baker. When the eponymous villain is ultimately revealed his identity to Batman, a final confrontation starts when Batman damages the Arkham Knight's visor, prompting Jason to discard and reveal a red domed helmet underneath. After the game's main storyline, Jason later adopts the Red Hood persona, a murderous vigilante with extreme measures, such as the use of guns and lethal force. He wears the same red helmet that he had at the end of the game's main story, but now sports a white leather jacket and a Bat symbol painted on his chest, in a DLC storyline.^[18]
- The Jason Todd incarnation of Red Hood's suit appears as an iconic gear set style called "Gotham's Outlaw" in *DC Universe Online*.

Merchandise

- An action figure of the original version of Red Hood was released as part of the *Justice League Unlimited* toyline, included in a six figure set.
- In July 2014, DC Collectibles released a New 52 version of the Jason Todd as the Red Hood along with his teammates from The Outlaws (Arsenal and Starfire).
- A Red Hood figure was released in Mattel's DC Comics Multiverse line, based on his appearance in *Batman Arkham Knight*.

- In 2015, DC Collectibles released a Gamestop exclusive Red Hood (Jason Todd) figure based on his appearance in the Red Hood DLC for the video game *Batman: Arkham Knight*. In 2016, DC Collectibles released another figure of Jason Todd in series 3 of their *Batman: Arkham Knight* line, this time featuring a remould of the Arkham Knight figure's body, and a slight repaint of the Red Hood figure's head, depicting Todd's transition between his Arkham Knight and Red Hood personas.
- Funko has released a Red Hood Mystery Mini in their Batman: Arkham Series line.
- The Imaginext DC Super Friends line includes a Jason Todd Red Hood in the Series 2 blind bag set from 2016
- Lego Minifigure Series 20 (<https://shop.lego.com/en-US/THE-LEGO-BATMAN-MOVIE-71017>) includes a Red Hood minifigure.

See also

- List of Batman Family adversaries

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2. *Red Hood and the Outlaws* #1-#2 (2011)
3. *Red Hood and the Outlaws* #18 (2013)
4. *Infinite Crisis* (Hardcover ed.). p. 258. "Well, Geoff's idea was to have Red Hood be the Jason Todd of Earth-Two. So he'd be this kid, who wanted to be Batman's sidekick. He sneaks into the Batcave, and the first thing he sees as he boots up the bat-computers is...Batman murdered. And so he uses Bruce's stuff, training himself to take over for him. I think there was even talk of his possibly being Deathstroke's Robin."
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Categories: Comics characters introduced in 1951 | Comics characters introduced in 2009
 | DC Comics martial artists | DC Comics supervillains | Fictional inventors | Fictional vigilantes

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