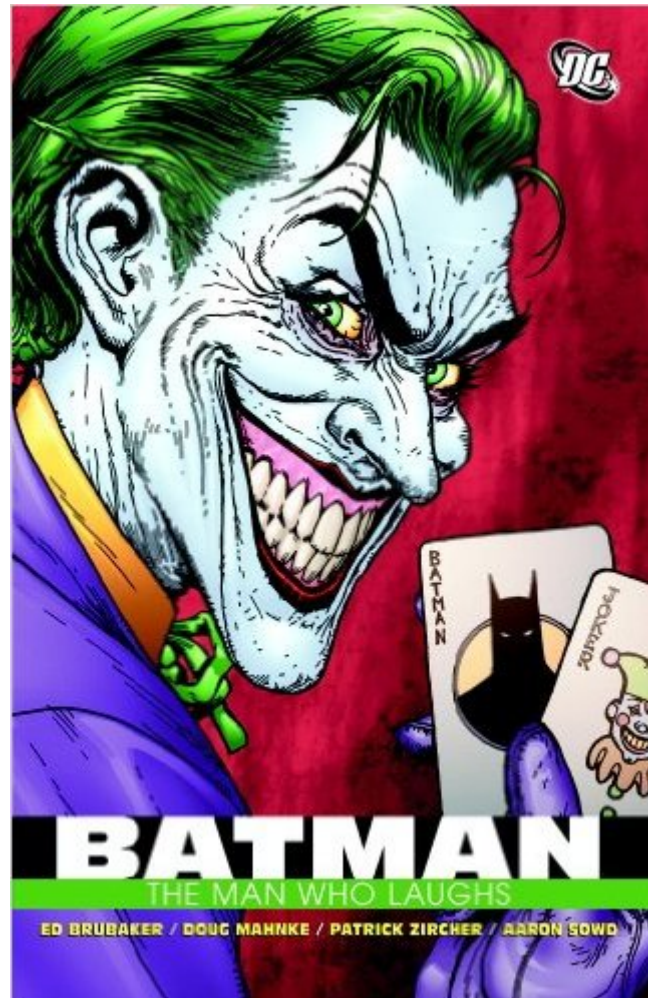


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# Batman: The Man Who Laughs



## Synopsis

Witness Batman's first encounter with The Joker in this volume collecting the graphic novel **BATMAN: THE MAN WHO LAUGHS**, by Ed Brubaker and Doug Mahnke! This collection also includes **DETECTIVE COMICS #784-786**, a murder mystery tale guest-starring Green Lantern Alan Scott.

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: DC Comics (February 3, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1401216269

ISBN-13: 978-1401216269

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 0.2 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (152 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #13,870 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > DC](#) #105 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Superheroes](#) #4203 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy](#)

## Customer Reviews

Buy this book to read Ed Brubaker and Doug mahnke excellent redux of the Joker's first encounter with batman. In a shocking turn, DC hires a great artist to do a high profile Batman tale. I only fault this story on being too short.The Man Who Laughs was orignally published as a 48 page soft cover graphic novel, but deserves the hardcover format. Sadly, the cover graphics are not very well done. The white spine with the ugly blue at the bottom doesn't look good on the book shelf, particularly next to it's natural companion, the recently released Killing Joke hardcover.As a filler, a Batman/Golden Age Green Lantern story is also randomly reprinted here. This story originally appeared in Detective Comics which Mr. Brubaker wrote for a little over a year. I remember his run as well written (as most of his work is), but laden with poor fill-in art unworthy of his scripts. The artwork by Mike Lilly is just OK, but I fail to see why it was included in this hardcover.It would have been much better to reprint the Joker's first two appearances from Batman #1, as well as Dennis O'Neal's Legends of the Dark Knight #50, from 1993, which retold the same story of Batman's first encounter with the Joker. Dennis O'Neal wrote a spot on story with some great moments, but the particularly bad art from Brett Blevins is not something which should be seen again. At least the

theme of the book would have been consistent.

This is one of the better Joker stories in years. It's a sort of sequel to "Year one" and tells the tale of how The Dark Knight first met the notorious evildoer that in future years would become his arch-nemesis. Joker is killing several rich persons, which to begin with appears to be for no reason other than getting a sick laugh out of it. But as the story progresses Batman starts to find out the motive behind these bizarre killings as well as figuring out who The Joker was and what made what he is. The writing is perfect. Ed Brubaker does a terrific job on it. He has also added some nice references to Alan Moore's "The Killing Joke" All the classic elements from a Joker story are here. Making threats on live television, killing people at midnight and using henchmen dressed as clowns. If you enjoyed Batman stories such as "Year one", "The Killing Joke" or "The laughing fish" then this one should be right up your alley. An interesting fact: The title is a reference to a movie with the same name and it is from this film that Bob Kane got the inspiration for The Joker.

Was one of the last stories that Brubaker wrote for DC before he moved over to Marvel, and became the superstar writer on Captain America and Daredevil. Great Joker/Batman origin story that is fun and has spot on portrayal of the menacing Joker. Not only is this a great read, but it has some very spectacular artwork. The artwork alone is reason enough to purchase this book. Important to keep in mind that this is a very quick read, as the original story came in one Prestige Format Comic (48 pages). However this comic is hard to find and worth somewhere in the \$50 range. This is great opportunity to pick up a hard to find story right before the New Batman Movie.

Buyer Beware, Even though you are purchasing the amazing story of "The Man Who Laughs" a wonderful rendition of Batman's first encounter with his arch-nemesis, you will also buy an additional 65 pages worth of filler material in a story titled "Made of Wood", a story with absolutely no relation to the Joker and centers around Alan Scott, the original Green Lantern. My main gripe with this publication is that this extra feature is not indicated anywhere on the product itself. Perhaps a purchase you may want to hold off on.

This hardcover edition of "The Man Who Laughs" is a great addition to a comic library - but the 20 dollar tag makes it hard to justify for the 40-something page story... Also thrown in is "Made of Wood," a random Brubaker story featuring Green Lantern Alan Scott (another short story :/ ). 'Wood' is passable, but 'Man who Laughs' is a must have... "The Man who Laughs" storyline retells the first

couple appearances of The Joker in Gotham city. Though the story is almost a direct retelling of Batman issue #1 (and other Kane stories) Brubaker finds ways to reinvent the story to make it much more frightening. A great addition to your comic library, but if you can help taking the time to find the original prestige edition - you'll save yourself about 15 bucks.

Understandably, the most famous Joker story is "The Killing Joke". Well, if there is one story to give it a run for its money, it's definitely "The Man Who Laughs". Personally, I enjoyed them both, but this one was my favorite of the two. To be quite honest though, they should be seen as companion pieces instead of competing stories, as they are often thought of. I liked both the story and the art of this tale. I'm also a fan of Batman's early days, so this was right up my alley. This story also gave a fair share of the focus to Gordon, which I thought was great. The only downside is the story itself is short, but hey, TKJ is also short, and at least TMWL contains bonus material and is also cheaper in price, so keep that in mind. Overall, this ranks as one of my favorite Batman trades and is definitely a re-read.

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