



Batman: The Long Halloween

Jeph Loeb , Tim Sale (Illustrator) , Gregory Wright (Colorist) , Richard Starkings (Letterer)

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Taking place during Batman's early days of crime fighting, this new edition of the classic mystery tells the story of a mysterious killer who murders his prey only on holidays. Working with District Attorney Harvey Dent and Lieutenant James Gordon, Batman races against the clock as he tries to discover who Holiday is before he claims his next victim each month. A mystery that has the reader continually guessing the identity of the killer, this story also ties into the events that transform Harvey Dent into Batman's deadly enemy, Two-Face.

Batman: The Long Halloween Details

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Download and Read Free Online Batman: The Long Halloween Jeph Loeb , Tim Sale (Illustrator) , Gregory Wright (Colorist) , Richard Starkings (Letterer)

From Reader Review Batman: The Long Halloween for online ebook

Bookdragon Sean says

Comic books often deal with extremes; they deal with the extremely good and the extremely bad, highlighting the struggle between two opposites on the morality scale.

One wishes to wreak havoc, hurt people and gain some form of gratification. The other wishes to save and restore order. The two are diametrically opposed, though sometimes in order to achieve the most ultimate form of good (or evil) one needs step into the opposite camp to reach their goals. The two are not so far apart as they may appear.

Enter (and exit) Harvey Dent

Once a stalwart protector of justice, Dent is now the merciless Two Face who executes without remorse trusting in the luck of a coin to decide the fate of his victims. He has become the exact opposite of who he once was, though in reality he is a bitter reflection of the world at large.

Like *Batman The Killing Joke* this story shows us how easy it is to fall into chaos, madness and despair when you live in a city like Gotham. Batman's detective work can only do so much in the face of such havoc.

Heroes and Villains are separated by a very thin line. This is a non-stop detective drama that is pulp noir, dark and gritty: it is an excellent Batman comic.

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

I'd been hearing great things about this the past few years (I'm a late comer to the game, what can I say?) The story is broken up by different holidays, some major and some I basically forget exist until they pop up during the year.

All the stories connect as Batman works with Gordon and attorney Dent to try and figure out who the killer is, as he strikes during the holiday season, setting forth a solid detective battle. They investigate, contemplate, interrogate, make wrong guesses, get shown right ones, and – even better – the reader leaves the series knowing something Batman doesn't. Not something that happens often. Usually the 'great detective' doesn't get led astray.

The writing is simple and direct, the story working because it shows the background political machinations of Gotham's crime bosses and their twisted families who go from suspecting each other, fighting each other, to aiding each other. Throw in Batman's well known villains like The Riddler with his side story that ties into the main one, Joker of course in his crafty goals to ruin holidays for the innocent, Poison Ivy using her seductive charms to reel in victims, and catwoman hopping around never revealing all the cards in her deck. We even get an appearance from Solomon Grundy, who I always had a draw toward since seeing him in animated series.

Truth told, Joker's story was one of the least impressive and is gotten out of the way early on. Poison Ivy had a starring role at times and ended up surprised me. The Riddler showed himself as a strong villain like always, but as a flawed one too. The story works to show the evolution of Dent as a main character from hero to wacked villain.

The artwork is pulpy and fresh, fitting into the story well. Batman is menacing and a force to be reckoned with. Some of the deaths were surprising, many of them startlingly violent for this type of comic collection. Some of the holiday stories worked better than others, as I mentioned with Joker being weaker, and Mother's Day was particularly brutal - the grimmest of the group on a depressing level with Bruce and his mother memories.

I'm noob level with comics and their stories, so my opinions shouldn't weigh as much for this stuff as some of my fellow reviewers who have read more of these and know the faithfulness of the character's stories, but as an outsider looking in I have to say this was a fun read and impressive. It lived up to the hype in my eyes and will be something I'll re-read in the coming years.

Jeff says

If I met anyone that had never read a Batman book, this is probably the one I would recommend. This is the quintessential Batman story. The volume revolves around mobsters being murdered on each holiday and takes place early in Batman's career. It's a vehicle for Harvey Dent's transition from Gotham City district attorney to Two-Face. Dent along with Captain Gordon and Bats (puts "Detective" back in DC comics) attempt to figure out who's the killer.

It features most of Batman's rogue's gallery (where the heck did Solomon Grundy come from?) before they went super-mega villain. In this respect, it shares the same vibe as Batman: The Animated Series - relatively simple stories sans other superheroes, aliens, Omega Sanctions, etc.

Richard says

In general, this might be the most quintessential Batman story ever. I wouldn't call it the best just yet, but definitely one of the most definitive. It captures a proper tone, rightfully grounding it as a crime epic and features almost all of the major bat-villains. It follows a tumultuous year early in Batman's career as a vigilante as he works with GCPD Captain James Gordon and District Attorney Harvey Dent to bring down the untouchable Carmine "The Roman" Falcone and his crime mob that rule the underworld of Gotham, all while contending with a mysterious serial killer that strikes on holidays. It was great seeing how this year takes a heavy personal toll on these three dedicated crime fighters and how it leads one of them down a darker path toward becoming one of the best Batman villains. Also, it's so impressive that Jeph Loeb is able to fit all of these characters into this story without it feeling TOO crowded. Some of the cameos felt a little silly but I always saw what Loeb was attempting to do and I rolled with it.

There were some things I didn't like though. I thought the art really detracted from the story and was downright ugly. And here's yet another example of a writer that doesn't understand the Riddler. There is a

difference between jokes and riddles, and the Riddler is not a jokester. In the future, any writer attempting to depict the Riddler should take a look at what Scott Snyder did with the character in his New 52 run, or even what Tom King does in his recent shitty run. But story-wise, it truly is one of the best Batman tales and definitely kept me riveted. I would recommend it to anyone starting out with the character. Even Christopher Nolan used it as a major inspiration for his epic crime saga-inspired Dark Knight trilogy.

?????? ????? says

I won't lie. I had high hopes for this story. After all, it has been consistently placed in the Best Batman Stories lists, either as part of the Top 10 or Top 5 graphic novels you have to read. Comprised of thirteen issues, Jeph Loeb's *The Long Halloween* had great promise. It had all the right ingredients. We got Bruce Wayne just starting out his early years as Batman, and his partnerships with Commissioner Jim Gordon and District Attorney Harvey Dent. We got the Falcone and Maroni crime families in the spotlight, and a serial killer hunting the mobsters down using holidays as the common theme of this string of murders (hence earning him the name of the Holiday Killer). As a bonus, we also get appearances of the rogues gallery like the Joker, Scarecrow, Mad Hatter, Poison Ivy and Catwoman.

However, that great promise I mentioned dwindled to unrealized potentials the closer I get to the supposed climax. Also, its commendable traits from the beginning such as the Batman-Gordon-Dent triad, mob involvement, serial killer murder mystery and rogues' gallery participation, look good in theory but **REALISTICALLY SPEAKING** the actual execution of all these elements together fell short. Being served by so many samplings in one sitting could cause indigestion, no matter how potentially good each serving should be.

And that's mainly my problem with *The Long Halloween*. Much like Jeph Loeb's later work *HUSH* (which, granted, was more enjoyable in its approach than this one), this story suffers with putting so much material in its scope that it was pretty much inevitable for some of its parts to collapse under the pressure of the multiple baggage it struggles to carry along. I don't necessarily think this was a bad story, period. I believe that if you take each individual parts and separate them from the convoluted mess of its sum then what we get are compelling subplots that might have deserved their own separate arc altogether. But instead we get them all squeezed into one dragged-out arc that was unable to flesh out its main characters particularly Harvey Dent whom I did not connect with in any way, let alone be emotionally invested enough on his moral struggle and dissociation that his transformation as Two Face became meaningful to mourn about.

Seeing this story having high ratings in Goodreads and scintillating reviews from common friends (save a noticeably one-star review from the mix) is a real head-scratcher for me at first especially when I was stuck in the seventh issue and found myself getting increasingly annoyed with everything already. But after finishing it and thinking about what to write for twenty minutes or so, I realized that *The Long Halloween* is still a work that I suppose deserves its place in the top Batman stories because of the fact that it gave us Two Face's origin story, and that we were able to get the organized crime aspect of Gotham City explored and its enforcers like Carmine Falcone which Batman is also supposed to butt heads with, and not just duke it out with the likes of the Joker, etc. But those merits alone for me are really not enough to encourage newbie Bat-fans to pick this up at least not as a must-read. Maybe only as a passing suggestion. And that's a weak 'maybe'.

The trouble is that, because of so many elements put together, everything is half-baked. The mob families are goddamn one-dimensional. I did not care if they get killed at all which defeats the purpose of whatever the vendetta the serial killer has in disposing, and why readers should look forward to solving these crimes. Batman feels the same, apparently, since it took the Holiday killer so close to completing his holiday-themed

killing spree for either Batman and Gordon to solve it. Only it doesn't get solved, not really. In the most baffling twist, it turns out that there are THREE KILLERS with each one's motive more unbelievable than the next. The more I examine each thread of this story, the more nonsensical it gets. And not laughably so, like HUSH, which I actually had fun reading even if most of the reason is because it's so dumb at times.

This was one, however, is just disappointing. The appearance of the rogues gallery could honestly just get cut and it won't affect anything. They were completely unnecessary and interrupted the flow of the narrative (if there even is one, sorta up to debate for me). I wished they focused more on the serial killer story because the holiday-themed covers were amazing to look at and that key feature to the killings was pretty impressive. Sadly, since there are three killers, the chilling aspect and the mind-fuckery of the method were diluted. As for the visuals themselves...Tim Sale has a surreal style but his illustrations have made certain scenes so incomprehensible that I have to stare at some panels over and over just to make sense of what I am looking at. Much like Loeb was with the writing of this story, the art could have been realized better.

I don't know have anything else to say now other than I have nothing more eloquent to offer in my piece. Just rehashing the entire story of *The Long Halloween* here has gotten me a little bit depressed because I thought I was going to like this story but after unloading all of these complaints I realized I wish I could just forget what I read. Not even the two volumes of *Knightfall* made me this sorely disappointed.

But I still have *Dark Victory* to finish which is a sequel to this fucking thing. I will keep an open mind and give it the benefit of the doubt. Originally, I was going to review *The Long Halloween* tomorrow but it occurred to me that I want to get it over with as quickly as possible so I forced myself to come up with this and I hope it was sufficient enough.

KINDDA RECOMMENDED but feel free to skip: 6/ 10

DO READ MY BATMAN COMICS REVIEWS AT:

Ronyell says

The Origins of Harvey Dent has begun!

Introduction:

Now, I have been reading many Batman comics whose stories dealt with Batman defeating one of his greatest foes, the Joker. But, I had always wanted to read some "Batman" stories that dealt with another one of Batman's greatest foes, Two-Face! I got interested in Two-Face's story when I saw one of the episodes on "Batman: The Animated Series" that dealt with the origin tale of Two-Face and I was amazed at how well that episode portrayed the relationship between Batman and Two-Face. So, this caused me to pick up a Batman comic book that deals with Two-Face and lo and behold, I found "Batman: The Long Halloween!"

What is this story about?

Carmine "The Roman" Falcone was Gotham City's untouchable Crime Lord and District Attorney, Harvey Dent, Batman and Captain James Gordon were all trying to take down this crime lord for months now.

However, the actual story starts when “The Roman” was throwing a wedding party for his nephew Johnny Viti, but later on, it turns out that somebody had murdered Johnny Viti and later on, a gang called “The Irish.” This then leads to many murders that are directly involved with “The Roman’s” family and the serial killer became known as “Holiday” since the killer only kills people on various holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Can Batman, James Gordon and Harvey Dent catch this serial killer before it is too late?

What I loved about this story:

Jeph Loeb’s writing: Now, I had seen many different versions of Harvey Dent’s origins including the animated series’ version and Nolan’s famous “Batman” film, “The Dark Knight,” but I really enjoyed Jeph Loeb’s version of Harvey Dent and how he made his character mysterious. Jeph Loeb had done an excellent job at writing this story as the serial killer starts killing certain members of “The Roman’s” family on holidays such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Eve and I loved how all thirteen chapters in this book is titled a different holiday like Chapter Two is titled “Thanksgiving” and Chapter Three is titled “Christmas.” I also loved the way that Jeph Loeb made this story similar to a crime noir as the mystery of the story involves Batman, Harvey Dent and James Gordon trying to figure out who the “Holiday” serial killer is and how they will stop him from killing anymore victims and I loved seeing the scenes of the “Holiday” serial killer murdering people as there are no words accompanying the evil deeds and the artwork pretty much does the talking for those scenes. I really enjoyed the turbulent relationship between Catwoman and Batman as we are left in the dark about Catwoman’s true motives for helping out Batman even though she is a world class burglar and it was interesting trying to figure out what her true motives are. The way that Jeph Loeb portrayed Harvey Dent’s mysterious and intense character was extremely well done as Harvey Dent also wants to protect Gotham City from crime, but he seems to want to do things the hard way to get the job done. What was so amazing about this story was the fact that Jeph Loeb introduced many of Batman’s greatest enemies (the Joker, Solomon Grundy, Poison Ivy, The Scarecrow, and the Mad Hatter) into this one story and they all play a huge role in Batman trying to discover “Holiday’s” secret identity.

Tim Sale’s artwork: Tim Sale’s artwork in this graphic novel was just astonishing as the artwork is dark and gritty and it really fits well with the dark tone of this story! I loved the way that Tim Sale drew Batman himself as Batman looks large and intimidating in every image and I loved the way that Tim Sale drew Batman’s cape as twirling around Batman, giving a frightening feel to Batman’s presence. I also loved the way that Tim Sale drew the shadowing around the characters’ bodies during the night scenes (although the majority of this comic takes place at night) which really made the images extremely creepy to look at. What I really loved about Tim Sale’s artwork is when the scenes of “Holiday” murdering various victims are in black and white colorings which really made these scenes truly stand out from the other scenes.

What made me feel uncomfortable about this story:

Since this story deals with the murders of several characters, there are many scenes where characters are killed off in gruesome ways, which they are mainly shot in the head. These scenes are also graphic as there is blood everywhere where the characters are shot. Anyone who is uncomfortable with violence in graphic novels might want to steer away from this graphic novel. Also, there is some brief language in this graphic novel, although the language is not as strong as you would sometimes see in mature stories

Final Thoughts:

Overall, “Batman: The Long Halloween” is one of the best “Batman” stories about Two-Face ever told and anyone who is a fan of the “Batman” comics should definitely check this graphic novel out! Also, if you want to read some other great “Batman” comics, here are some recommendations:

Batman: Year One
Batman: The Killing Joke
Batman: The Dark Knight Returns

Review is also on: Rabbit Ears Book Blog

Sam Quixote says

Want to know exactly why this book is garbage, in detail? I wrote this article today about the many faults of The Long Halloween which you can read here. Let me know what you think!

Trish says

This is my very first Batman comic. Apparently it's not too bad a place to start. I must admit I'm not too much into the big superhero comics but instead prefer independent comics (mostly because of the constant re-boots of universes etc).

The Long Halloween is actually less of a superhero comic and more of a detective story. We have a bunch of mobsters such as Mr. Falcone and his Familia and on each holiday, someone dies. Thus, Batman (together with Harvey Dent and Lieutenant James Gordon) must find out who the murderer is. In between we have a number of runnings-in with other well-known characters such as Catwoman (who looked weird, so muscular in the outfit but slim in dresses). And we get the origin story of Two-Face which was nice.

The artwork is not too much to my liking. Bruce isn't handsome, Selina has atrocious hair, there is the aforementioned weirdness of Catwoman, ... but in some way the edges actually work in delivering the story.

Murat S. Dural says

Açık konu?mak gerekirse, JBC Yayınları'nın Batman / DC a?rlık? yap?sın? anlayamam???m. fakat buradan ç?kan eserleri okudukça ?a?k?nl???m ve sayg?m daha da arttı. Açıkcası bu kadar geni?, yaratıcı bir evren beklemiyordum. Jeph Loeb'in yazd??? , Tim Sale'nin çizdi?i, Aslı Da?lı'nın editörlü?ünde Hasan Süpürgeci taraf?ndan çevrilen "Batman: Bitmeyen Cad?lar Bayramı" tam anlamıyla çok iyi. Bir yıl içindeki özel günlerde kimli?i bilinmeyen, sadece adına "Holliday" denen bir seri katil. Batman'in anlatıcılı???nda ve Gotham'?n karanlık sokaklarındaki kötülerle beraber sürülen izler. Bir efsaneye, Gotham ve Batman'e dair bak??? etkileyen bir eser olmu?. Çizgi roman ve Batman / Gotham severlere önerilir :)

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

Batman:

Me:

What? 3 stars is good! It was way better than sucky book

Batman:

Me:

For reals Bats? Are we going to go there?

This book had some draggy parts that bored me, but it did have Poison Ivy, The Riddler, The Joker, Catwoman and The Scarecrow..so it had some good stuff...but what the hell was with Soloman Grundy? He had no place in the frigging book.

Plus the art made you look hot.

Batman:

Me:

Now you are gonna grope me?

Me:

I could go for that.

Batman:

image removed-censored

Me:

Ok weirdo...

Are you really my husband in disguise?

Ran says

So many years ago during college, a philosophy major and I used to argue with each other for kicks - I was a freshman in years (but a sophomore in class credits) and I hadn't learned yet to stay away from philosophy majors. I can be forgiven for that. The only thing we ever managed to agree on was that Jeph Loeb's and Tim Sale's *Batman: The Long Halloween* is the best Batman out there.

Obviously, I waited until Halloween to re-read it ... seemed appropriate. The story follows a killer nicknamed Holiday who only kills on holidays once a month, ... of course, right? Detective Harvey Dent, Captain James Gordon, and the Batman work together to try to stop the killer before the next victim is claimed. Meanwhile Batman is caught in a gang war between the Maroni and Falcone families. The rogue gallery is quite dense in

this series, including Calendar Man, Scarecrow, the Joker, Mad Hatter, Poison Ivy, Riddler, Catwoman (though she helps, really), and Two-Face. It's really quite an interesting jaunt through Batman's world for the beginner.

I remember being more intrigued by Sale's art the first time around. His use of shadow with Gregory Wright's flat/matte colors were really interesting. Upon the re-read, I think I'm less intrigued this time around. I still enjoy the art, its effect just isn't as powerful the second time through. I noticed there's a lot more black space in the background than I had the first time round.

All in all, a good read for Halloween for the rogue gallery, even if it features *nearly* eleven other holidays in one go. I'm always just confused about August. The birthday angle just always seemed weak.

Donovan says

"I believe in Gotham City."

The Long Halloween deserves its hype. It's a classic Batman story and belongs among the greatest like Batman Year One, The Dark Knight Returns, and The Killing Joke.

I have to say, this is probably Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale's best work.

Loeb's writing is incredible. It definitely draws from Frank Miller's Batman Year One with its sense of noir, crime drama, mystery, and the addition of light horror. But largely The Long Halloween is, as the cover blurb says, "an epic tragedy." Because we see Batman and Captain Jim Gordon fail, and most of all, District Attorney Harvey Dent descend into hell and madness. The story itself follows the serial killer Holiday and the tangled web of the Maroni and Falcone crime families. What's most fascinating and tragic is to watch Bats, Gordon, and Dent affected and irrevocably changed by Holiday and the destructive mafia war.

Like Loeb's writing, Tim Sale's artwork here is the best I've ever seen. I really believe he draws Batman and his world better than anything else. Dark, angular, gritty, dramatic. Deep colors and brilliant use of light. Some of the rare artwork I'd love to have framed on my wall.

There's also a fantastic visual contrast between Bruce Wayne and Batman. Bruce, although big and tall, is similar to Clark Kent. Amorphous and stoic, or emotionally haunted by his past as we see in one scene. Batman, however, is this gigantic looming figure with long sharp ears and sprawling cape, rippling muscles, growl and scowl. He's more monster than man, and it's brilliant to see.

This is in my top 5 favorite Batman stories. It's also one of the subtlest, a sort of cousin to Batman Year One, with the addition of mystery and some horror. The story is riveting, the dialog is solid, and the artwork is incredible. If you're new to Batman or a longtime fan, you have to check this out.

Andy says

Every comic book artist thinks their interpretation of Batman is the best, but most of them are overdrawn. Tim Sale gets it – he's one of the best Batman artists I've seen. I think he captures the insanity of the Mad

Hatter and the Scarecrow so well, and his rendering of Batman is one of the best. I was listening to Amon Tobin's "Out From Out Where" while reading "The Long Halloween" and the music fit the comic perfectly (especially "The Searchers"). Try it some time: I think Tobin should score the next Batman movie.

Artemy says

Warning! This is not strictly a review as much as me just loudly yelling into the void, so if your gentle soul can't handle some tasteful swearing, please avoid it at all costs.

My second attempt at giving Jeph Loeb another chance failed spectacularly. This book is everything I ever hated about Jeph Loeb's writing: contrived plotting, horrible character work, unbearably bad dialogue, and the story that is so fucking dull and stupid that I would literally, honestly rather go and watch paint dry in slo-mo instead of reading this bullshit. And don't forget his signature moves, like ripping off popular movies for plot and dialogue because this hack can't write to save his life, overstuffing his shitty comics with the entire rogues gallery of a given superhero because that would make his crap comic seem more exciting, and making it super fucking long (13 issues of this shit!) because that's how all the serious *Graphic Novels* roll.

Jeph Loeb has been doing this shit in every comic book he ever wrote, as far as I can tell (fine, fine, *except* for Nova, which was so surprisingly good by his standards that I'm starting to doubt if he really wrote it himself, just like Chad and Anne are doubting that Lobdell actually wrote that new Red Hood book that they like). When Loeb is writing his own books though, we're subjected to reading shit like this:

(click to enlarge this triumph of Loeb's writing genius)

And wonderfully subtle inner monologue like this:

And holy fuck, I'm not even going to attempt to break down the actual plot of this thing, because it's such a stupid fucking premise realised so poorly that it literally hurt my soul. *My soul*, man!

I previously thought that Hush was the worst Loeb could do, but you know what? At least Hush looked amazing. You may or may not enjoy Jim Lee's aesthetics, but there's no denying that the man can draw like nobody's business just from the technical standpoint. What really baffles me the most about The Long Halloween though is, not only is it atrociously written, but Tim Sale's artwork is just So. Fucking. AWFUL. I feel like I've gotten into one of the biggest conspiracies in the comic book industry, because almost everybody actually thinks that the art here is great! Tell me, are you not seeing what I'm seeing? I mean, I knew I hated Sale's art even before picking up the book, but for the sake of giving it a second chance, too, I even tried the black and white edition, naively thinking that it would look better without the colouring. Oh boy, was *that* a mistake.

Okay, tell me, do these horribly disfigured Bat-hands with a very fluid number of fingers look like good art?

(sexy, btw)

Maybe this Catwoman with a fucking six-pack, whiskers, a tail and a long cock is good art?

How about Batman's pooping face?

Or that Quagmire lookalike's seductive yawning face?

And what is up with these guys? Are they all members of some club or something?

But my absolute favourite is this Selina Kyle who looks exactly like Tim Curry in Rocky Horror Picture Show, I bet it's shit like that that won Tim Sale a motherfucking Eisner!

Okay, that's it. I'm done. I could go on forever, but this horseshit doesn't deserve any more of my energy. Why is it so popular and highly-rated? I will never understand. It feels like as if everybody in the world thought that Tommy Wiseau's The Room was the greatest achievement in cinematography and screenwriting, because that's exactly how bad The Long Halloween is by comic book standards.

aria [dear darling reader] says

FINAL RATING: 4.25 STARS

I made a promise to my parents that I would rid the city of the evil that took their lives.

I wasn't really intending to read The Long Halloween, even when it was highly recommended to me by my comic book reading friends. I'm member of a Goodreads group that has Batman: Dark Victory as their next group read and I wanted to participate. However, it seems that Dark Victory is set after the events from The Long Halloween, so I was just fuck it, let's read this shit.

I'm happy I did because this easily became one of my fave Batman stories. Well, to be honest, I liked all the Batman stories I've read so far, except for Hush. I did not like that at all, for reasons I don't even remember (I might revisit that at some point since it's from the same writer as this one).

WHAT IS IT ABOUT

The Long Halloween follows Batman, Detective Gordon, and Harvey Dent as they try to figure bring down Falcone, while on the sideline, someone else is making a scene.

Holiday was a serial killer who kills people every holiday. The killing started on Halloween, then every holiday since then. The surprising thing about the killings were that most of them were from the Falcone family. Who was killing them and why?

THE CHARACTER

So the main characters we have are, of course, Batman (Bruce Wayne), Comissioner Gordon (who was a Captain here and not a Comissioner yet), Harvey Dent (if you're familiar with the name, you know this dude's fate most likely), the Falcones, the Maronis, and most of Batman's rouge gallery made an appearance here.

It's always been told that Batman is a great detective. So far, this is the closest to a detective Batman has gotten ever since I started reading Batman, which isn't really too long ago. Given I've only read the current ones and none of the Detective Comics. Batman may look invincible when he's wearing the cape, but when he's Bruce Wayne, that's a different story, which I liked. This showed us how he isn't as invulnerable as we think he is.

I feel that the characters were one of the strongest aspect of The Long Halloween. Although it is a Batman story, we also get to see other characters' lives, families, and their hidden agendas. You get to know these characters, villain or not, and understand where they're coming from. Of course, there are some that have more time to develop than others. But like I said, I liked that this wasn't just focused on Batman.

MY BULLETED THOUGHTS ON THE LONG HALLOWEEN

- Let's start with the illustrations. I wasn't a big fan of it - at first. Slowly, as I ease in to the story, I get to how it fits with what Loeb was trying to tell - a crime noir. Then I start to appreciate it along with the occassional black and white panels with a splash of color.
- The Long Halloween isn't just about Batman. It is about the people of Gotham City: those who wants to protect it, those who has self-fulfilling motives, and those that just want to wreck havoc.
- I loved the characters. Whether they were ones that were the main focus or not, Loeb did a good job fleshing them out, even for the secondary ones. One example of this was the Joker and the reason for why he intended to get in the way of finding the Holiday killer. He had a short role in the entire thing, but you do get where he was coming from. While this might be true for most, it can't be said for all of them, like with Poison Ivy. More could have been done for her. But my fear, if they do that, is the overcrowding of characters that would possibly end up not developing the main ones. So, i kind of get why she isn't fully developed.
- The best part of The Long Halloween is the plot and its twists. It would leave you with this sense of amazement about how certain clues were right under your nose but you couldn't see it until the very end. The plot development is pretty strong and got me at the edge of my seat the entire time.

- I am completely shipping Batman and Catwoman. Although, Catwoman's intentions are still unclear as of this point, but I still like them together. To be honest, they didn't have much scenes together, it's pretty surprising I ended up loving when they do share a panel. Their banters and the illustrations when they're at each other's throat sometimes looks passionate love.
- This is a pretty long run. I think it's about 13 issues. It works for the story. I'd hate to have that many issues with no substance. Fortunately, this one isn't like that.
- Most of Batman's known villains are on here. You'd think the plot would become convoluted if this happens, but no, Loeb did a good job of using them in his narrative without making them cardboard cutout characters even with the limited time we got to see some of them.
- Like I said, this is not without flaws. It has holes in the narrative when it comes with the identity of the Holiday killer. I appreciate the sense of mystery, don't get me wrong, but the big reveal towards the end just got me scratching my head because it did not make sense to me. Did it surprise me? Yes. Pretty much. But did it work? Not for me. It should have ended when it should.
- Harvey Dent is a character I like and don't like. He is like the two sides of a coin (wink wink. see what I did there?). I liked him when the story was starting, but after a while, when the other things were happening, I didn't get the motivations for the things he did. Harvey is a good guy, no doubt about that, but I would have wanted to know what, when, and how he got pushed over the edge.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I feel like an idiot now for not reading this sooner. I should really trust my fellow comic book readers' recommendation every now and then to avoid missing gems like this one.

If you like Batman in his detective-like form and not fighting the baddies all the time, then I highly recommend this. Not only does it have an intriguing plot, the way it molds each character is equally just as fascinating as the plot. If you can forgive a few things that doesn't make sense in the end, then I am 99% you'd love this too.

Jesse A says

It's time I admitted something, more to myself than anything. I don't like Batman as a character. Feels good to get off my chest. He just doesn't work for me as a superhero. He's a P.I. in a silly costume. And don't get me started on him in the Justice League. "Hey Batman, we have a crime going on. Grab Superman's cape so you can get there too" Some of the movies work because he exists in a world without a Superman or Wonder Woman but in their world he doesn't work for me.

2nd review: Ok. I'm much farther along in my comic reading and my appreciation for the character of Batman has grown considerably. I still don't like him in the Justice League for the most part but his stand alone stuff can be outstanding! Tim Sale's art is a big plus in this one. I love how he draws Batman. All in all an excellent story!

StoryTellerShannon says

This was one of the three Batman comics which influenced the making of the movie BATMAN BEGINS. The sequel to that film THE DARK KNIGHT grabbed heavily from this particular graphic novel. It's something of an early years of Batman's time as he deals mostly with the mob and an avenger named Holiday who kills people during almost any holiday. There are some good connection setups between Batman, Gordon and Dent. Film noirish style as to the murders some would say.

ARTWORK: B; STORY/PLOTTING; B plus to A minus; CHARACTERS/DIALOGUE: B plus; OVERALL GRADE: B plus; WHEN READ: early January 2012.

Nicolo Yu says

I almost didn't get this digital copy when ComiXology had its graphic novel sale for the holidays. I was leaning toward **Batman: Hush**, also by Jeph Loeb and with art by Jim Lee, but I already have that story in singles. It was best deal though, if it's measured in pages with a 353 page count. So I pulled the trigger on the purchase. I didn't regret it.

The Long Halloween is probably the best work to come out from the collaboration of Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale. It's set in Year One of Frank Miller, when Batman was still relatively new and seeking allies in his war against organized crime. It must have a pretty good outline if Loeb managed to secure the blessing of Miller himself. It's essentially a whodunit, with many suspects though the perpetrator isn't revealed until the last pages. Anybody could have been a suspect and Loeb provided clues in the pages. The twists and turns made it hard to guess who is the suspect, but as I said, Loeb provided the clues.

Tim Sale drew masterfully here. Batman is probably the best character suited to his moody and emotional art. If rumor is to be believed, Sale is colorblind making his color choices even more incredible.

This story does belong to DC Comics' essential library. This is definitely a must read for any comics fan.

Bradley says

Pretty decent volume, full of all the favorites and the beginning of Two-Face, featuring a ton of mobsters and everyone, including the villains and Batman, are bright and shiny and new. It's Year One for the DC line, and it's just fine. Coherent, fun, even having a bit of depth.

I like the quality and it's a good story. I especially loved all the interactions with Catwoman.

Other than that? It's just the classic Two-Face opener. :) Good mystery, interesting reveal. Solid.

Rebecca McNutt says

Phenomenal graphic novel with amazing illustrations. *Batman: The Long Halloween* is one of the most interesting Batman works I've ever read.

