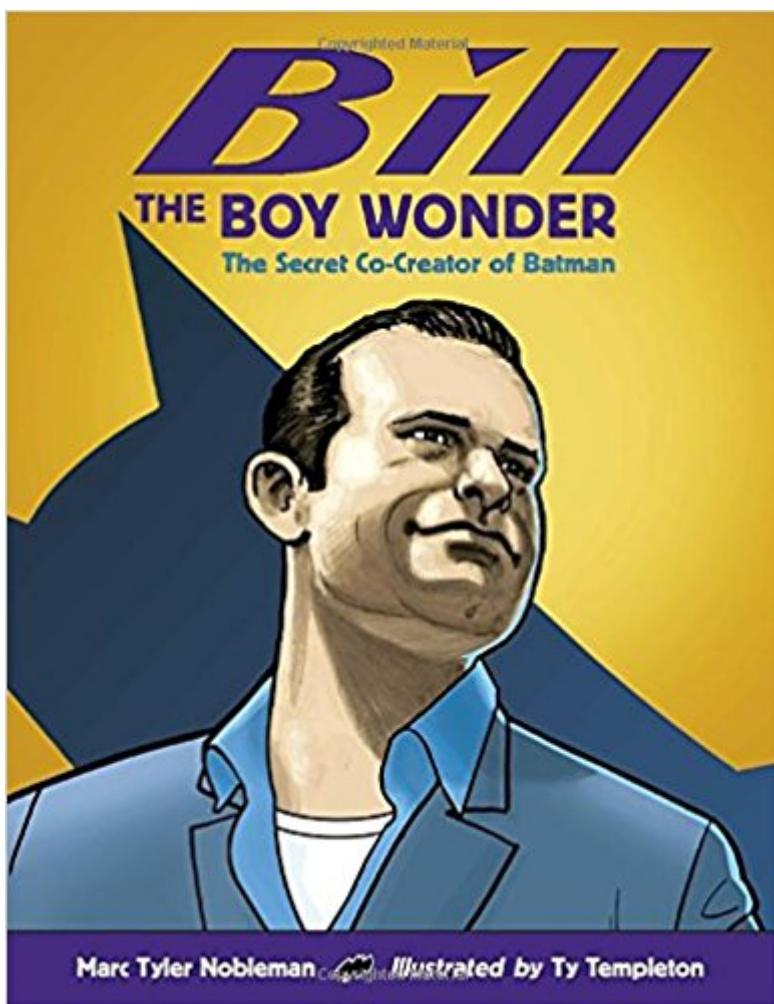


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# Bill The Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator Of Batman



## **Synopsis**

Every Batman story is marked with the words "Batman created by Bob Kane." But that isn't the whole truth. A struggling writer named Bill Finger was involved from the beginning. Bill helped invent Batman, from concept to costume to character. He dreamed up Batman's haunting origins and his colorful nemeses. Despite his brilliance, Bill worked in obscurity. It was only after his death that fans went to bat for Bill, calling for acknowledgment that he was co-creator of Batman.

## **Book Information**

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Best Sellers Rank: #215,161 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies #66 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism & Collections #81 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 3-5-This eye-catching biography of Bill Finger is quite unique. It's the first picture book written about the co-creator of the comic-book character Batman. And until quite recently, Finger wasn't recognized, as Bob Kane accepted full credit. From the cover depicting a bust of Finger set against the backdrop of Batman, and the end pages that include the shadow, quotes, and teasers to the story, to the engagingly told story, this biography will be a hit. The illustrations are done in colorful, classic comic-book style, with text offset in boxes. The story begins with a young Jewish man, Milton Finger, changing his first name to Bill because of discrimination. It proceeds to his chance meeting with Kane and his uncredited collaboration. After 25 years of writing increasingly creative adventures for Batman, his contribution was discovered, though Kane was still reluctant to share

credit. Finger died rather poor and largely unrecognized. After his death, a comic-writing award was named in his honor. The easy-to-read text is short and interesting. An author's note presents more detailed information on Finger and Nobleman's complex and thorough research. This title will appeal to children because of their interest in superheroes and their creators, and will be a draw for teachers as a read-aloud for language arts or social studies as an engaging look at a pop art icon. Source notes, a selected bibliography, and three photos round out the book.-Christina Dorr, Hilliard City School District, OHÂ  Â (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Marc Tyler Nobleman is the author of BOYS OF STEEL: THE CREATORS OF SUPERMAN, which received multiple starred reviews and was named an American Library Association Notable Book. Due to discoveries Marc made in his research, the book also landed on the front page of USA Today. Marc never dressed as Batman for Halloween, but he was Robin twice (and Superman three times). Today he lives with his family in Maryland. He reveals his research secrets and promotional gambles at noblemania.blogspot.com.

The last page of BILL THE BOY WONDER: THE SECRET CO-CREATOR OF BATMAN includes quotes from some deceased comics industry legends. One, artist Jerry Robinson, says that "Bill was the greatest comics writer of his time, and maybe since." The other, editor Julius Schwartz, states that "Bill Finger was the genius of comics." Strong words about a guy most people have never heard of. But, with the help of exhaustive research and illustrations by industry veteran Ty Templeton, author Marc Tyler Nobleman set out to prove them true. The result was this children's book, which tells the story of two comic-book fans, writer Bill Finger and cartoonist Bob Kane, who together developed a superhero called The Bat-Man. Though most of the concepts for the character were actually Finger's, Kane negotiated with DC Comics to get sole credit for its creation and subsequently became wealthy while the anonymous writer pounded out incredibly creative scripts, and further developed Batman's world, for a modest income. The little book continues through Bill's career up to his death in 1974 and ends with his general acknowledgement in the industry and among fans as Batman's co-creator--though he has only just recently started getting official credit. BILL has proven itself quite popular with primary-school children, which somewhat surprised me, because the text is long on some pages, there is some comics industry jargon, and the emotional content would appear to be too deep for kids. A lot is implied that would only be evident to adults. And the lengthy text-only coda would only be interesting to adults. Despite all this, kids have

showered Nobleman with praise and thanks; the author himself, an acquaintance of mine, happily sent me links to photos of posters, cards, letters, and thank-you notes. Still, to my mind, BILL succeeds even better as a book for adults, for fans of comics and Batman. Bill Finger's name is still unknown to the general public and to Batman fans who don't read comics, and he's never before had an actual book devoted to him. So, this one is most welcome; I was excited about it when I first heard it was coming, especially from Nobleman, who did an excellent job with his previous effort, BOYS OF STEEL: THE CREATORS OF SUPERMAN. A lot of comics fans have been passionate in their desire to see Finger co-credited with creating Batman, and BILL is something of a nicely illustrated hardcover pamphlet for Nobleman's own public crusade. But children obviously have been drawn to the long-overdue story of a shamefully unsung creative person. So I recommend this slim volume for kids like those, plus comics fans and those who champion the underdog.

This minimalist biography in graphic format is one of the few chances the general public has had to become aware of a man who made an enormous contribution to the creation and growth of one of the iconic figures of American popular culture. Finger's quiet - in fact largely anonymous - talent as a writer and innovator continued throughout his life, and it has gone largely unrecognized for too long beyond his lifetime. Marc Tyler Nobleman takes gentle, understated aim at the injustices that have been perpetrated upon the creative people in many of the fields of the popular arts. Finger spent his professional career as masked as the hero he helped create and it's well past time that the service he did for our collective imagination and our inclination to dream big dreams, was recognized.

Thanks Mr Finger - and thank you Marc.

Excellent book on one of the most influential comic writers in history. The book starts off illustrated like a comic and finishes with a great author's note containing some additional info. It's mistakenly said the book is written "for children" simply because of the comic book style format. On the contrary, it was clearly a creative choice and as a result the book is easily approachable for all ages. Every Batman fan owes it to themselves to check it out & learn the truth about who REALLY created the hero they know & love.

In all the time I'd read notices about this book, I'd never ever gotten the impression that it was written as a children's book. But now, I look at the Product Details section of the description of it for the first time, and there it is right at the start:Age Range: 8 - 12 yearsGrade Level: 3 - 7Every page of the story is fully illustrated, like children books are, with oversized panels to echo the comic book

motif. The artwork is clean and drawn in a realistic but simplistic style, presenting both specific key scenes in Finger's life as well as a few spreads spotlighting his most important work on Batman. The Author's Note at the end is what really helps elevate this children's book to one readers of all ages will find worthwhile. Beyond his interviews with family and comic book industry colleagues, Nobleman's search for biographical information on and photos of Finger was quite challenging. At the time of publishing, he was only able to locate a total 17 photos of Finger. He later found out from his second wife that "We weren't photo people." And in hoping to find an heir of Finger's that could receive his modest royalty checks from DC Comics, he reveals both a sad and a happy ending. I was shocked when I opened my package to find an oversized children's book. But was relieved that this turned out to be a satisfying biography shining a spotlight on a man that I never knew about but am now so grateful to. He wrote the earliest adventures of my childhood hero which Kane didn't always draw (Kane hired ghost artists, among them Jerry Robinson, to help draw those early Batman stories). It makes me a little sad knowing what Kane never shared with his collaborator. But through this modest book, Bill Finger finally gets some long overdue recognition.

A short great look into the true father of Batman, Bill Finger. If you are unfamiliar with who Bill Finger is and are a batfanatic like me this is a must read!!

This book is great for kids looking for an understanding of the true version of the creation of Batman, and not the popular version. But, let's be very clear here, this is definitely a children's book. If we want a true adult biography of the great Bill Finger, we're going to have to wait.

The book is definitely geared for kids. The amount of text was underwhelming. That said, it satisfied my curiosity for info about Bill. I figured this was more of a non-fiction and less of a coloring book presentation.

love comics. this was a simple read. Just like a comic book

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