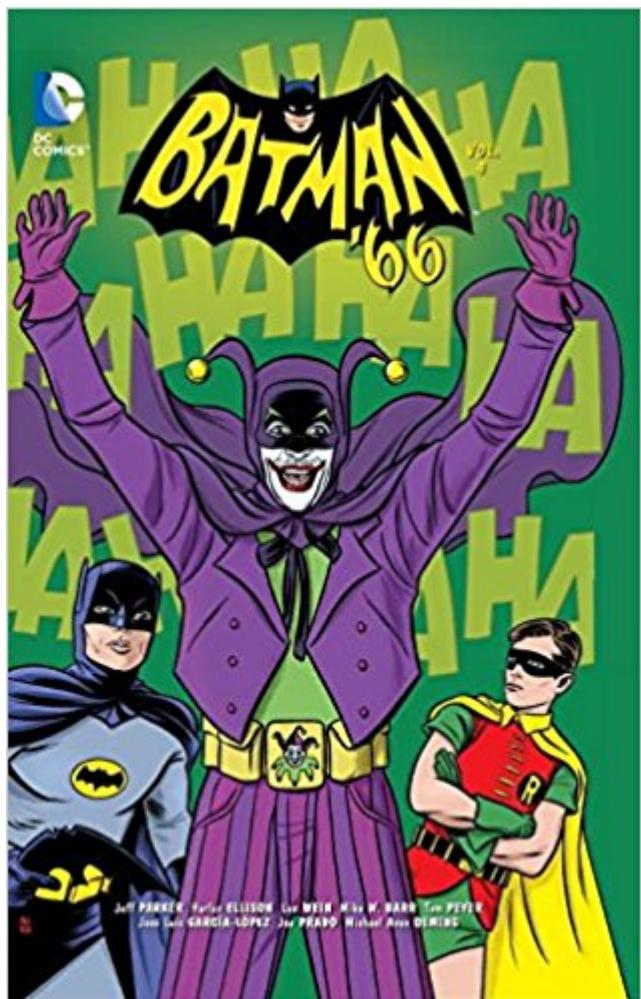


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## Batman '66 Vol. 4



## Synopsis

All-new adventures inspired by the classic Batman television series, including science fiction icon Harlan Ellison's outline for the series' "lost" episode • adapted by legendary scribe Len Wein and artist Jose-Luis Garcia Lopez! BEHOLD! King Tut, the foul pharaoh whose vile virus transforms the fair citizens of Gotham City into subservient zombies! BEWARE! The Archer, a robbin' hood aiming to relieve Gotham City's fine police force of its crime-fighting arsenal! BOUNDLESS! The unabridged evil of the Bookworm, and a mystical manuscript that could spell the end of Batgirl! BLIMEY! Londinium's Lord Ffogg and his mind-altering mist give gas-lit Gotham a gloomy forecast: cloudy with a chance of pain! BESMIRCHED! The good names of Batman and Robin, reduced to a punch line by Gotham City's new "stand-up" hero—the Joker?! BE AFRAID! In the Land of the Rising Sun, will Batman and Batgirl fall to the lethal lunacy of Lord Death Man?! BIPOLARIZING! The Dynamic Duo, doubled up by the dualistic misdeeds of the coin-tossing Two-Face?! But wait—the BEST is yet to come in BATMAN '66, VOL. 4! Crusading creations by Jeff Parker, Tom Peyer, Rob Williams, Scott Kowalchuk, Dave Bullock, Richard Case, Leonardo Romero, Ruben Procopio and Sandy Jarrell. Collects BATMAN '66 #17-22 and BATMAN '66: THE LOST EPISODE #1.

## Book Information

Series: Batman

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: DC Comics (December 8, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1401257518

ISBN-13: 978-1401257514

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.6 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #730,899 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #115 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Action & Adventure #725 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Media Tie-In #761 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Superheroes

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

## Customer Reviews

"The campy, cool interpretation of the caped crusader from the ever-popular television show elicits all sorts of emotions from comic book readers: from embarrassment to pure joy..."--Comic Book Resources"Even if you aren't a fan of the classic TV show, you'll have a good time here. It's a blast from start to finish."--IGN

Jeff Parker is a Portland, Oregon based writer and comic book artist. He worked as a storyboard artist on the television cartoon "Big Guy and Rusty the Boy Robot," and has written a number of Marvel Comics titles including, X-Men: First Class, Agents of Atlas, and Thunderbolts, as well as AQUAMAN and BATMAN '66 for DC Comics. He is a member of Periscope Studio, originally from Burlington, North Carolina, and the son of a grocery store owner. His first exposure to comics came from reading comics on the store's spinner racks.

Gotham City is an eternal cesspool of crime and filth, corrupt to its core and riddled with secret societies manipulating the levers of government. The criminal psychopaths infect the city with their madness and the city's dark protector is perpetually haunted by the deaths of his parents at the hands of one of the many criminal scum wandering the streets.

That's the world of Batman. But this is Batman '66 and Gotham City is bright and lively and people are generally decent and even the villains commit their crimes with a level of dignity and perfect grammar. If I were a DC executive and someone pitched the idea of recreating the old 1960s television show in comic book form my reaction would be "œerrrrrœ but Jeff Parker has succeeded beyond what I imagine were anyone's expectations. Parker has really and truly captured the fun and energy of the old television show to the point where when Batman speaks I hear Adam West in my head. Hilariously, Batman speaks more like a college professor with impeccable eloquence rather than a grim and gritty vigilante but that is in the spirit of the show. This time around we have appearances by King Tut, Bookworm, Archer, Lord Marmaduke Ffogg, Lord Death Man (yup), The Penguin and of course The Joker who is now giving The Batman a run for his money as the primary crime fighter of Gotham City. Each story is drawn by a different artist of varying levels of effectiveness. The art is not the slick polished art of the canonized Batman series but the rougher, more cartoonish look works well for the material. I didn't love all the art but

Parker's writing kept the stories entertaining. The plots are not exactly the most creative with King Tut releasing an Osiris Virus on Gotham City and Ffogg releasing a poison fog (in neither case was the gas deadly). It's in the details where Parker scores with witty dialogue, whimsical puns and of course loads and loads alliteration. So much delightful alliteration. Included in this volume is the "Lost Episode". This is an episode written by science fiction writer Harlan Ellison for the old television show that was never actually filmed. The story has been created into a comic written by Len Wein (not Jeff Parker) and penciled by Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez. It is proudly pointed out that Ellison was the writer of the Star Trek episode, "The City on the Edge of Forever" which is regarded by many to be the best in the series. Of the 51 pages of extra material in this book 48 are devoted to the lost episode so DC was really proud to present it. Included are the pencil drawings for the entire story as well as Ellison's original script. It's hard to say how this episode would have turned out had it been filmed but I thought it was one of the weakest stories of the bunch. An interesting bit of history but not a fabulous story although it might have been improved had it been written by Parker instead of Wein. Volume 5 is already scheduled for release in May 2016 and my understanding is that will be the finale. Oh well, nothing lasts forever. DC comics can often be a dark and bleak universe and it's such a joy to read a comic like Batman '66. I pray that someday Batman '66 is established as a recognized world in the DC Multiverse and we get some crossovers. The idea of the Adam West Batman crossing over with the canonical Batman would be just too awesome. The Batman of Batman '66 is corny and occasionally dorky but in his own way he's quite effective. If you've never given the series a chance to entertain do yourself a favor and try it.

This penultimate collection of "Batman '66" is dominated by a presentation of an unproduced story treatment by Harlan Ellison. That treatment, "The Two-Way Crimes of Two-Face," is reprinted in full from Ellison's original manuscript, alongside an adaptation by veteran Bat-writer/editor Len Wein and artist Jose-Luis Garcia-Lopez, who works in a more realistic, illustrative style than the "cartoony" artists usually employed in this series. Garcia-Lopez's pencil artwork, sans inks, lettering and colors, is also presented, as well as his sketchbook of concept drawings and variant cover illustrations. In addition, this volume provides a glimpse of what a fourth season of "Batman" might have looked like. To further cut costs, ABC wanted executive producer William Dozier to drop Robin and Chief O'Hara from the cast, and make Batgirl the Caped Crusader's new crimefighting partner-ideas Dozier rejected. In "The Garden of Death," regular writer Jeff Parker sidelines the Boy

Wonder with an attack of acute vertigo and sends Batman and Batgirl to Japan to battle Lord Death Man-a villain who appeared in one mid-60s issue of the "Batman" ongoing comic. (Artist Sandy Jarrell provides an homage to that issue in an unused cover.) This volume also include appearances by TV baddies King Tut, The Archer, The Bookworm, and Lord Marmaduke Ffogg. But the above stories make this a fascinating glimpse at the "Batman" that might have been.

If you grew up watching the Batman TV show from 1966-1968, or just enjoyed the reruns, there's a graphic novel (BATMAN 1966 Vol.4) that actually has the script of the missing TV Show Episode about the criminal Two-Face. This episode, written by Harlan Ellison for TV, was never produced in 1968. However, DC Comics got the script and made it into a fully illustrated comic. It's an unusual gem that I will always treasure, especially since I have all of the Batman TV series on DVD. In addition to that story, there are many others, too, but that's the true highlight! Worth getting.

Ok

Great read

A fine looking book that arrived quickly and in great shape. Thanks!

i enjoyed this novel as well and am ready for the next book to be released.

Loved the book. Takes me back to the old show. Almost as if it was never over

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