



Batman: Through the Looking Glass

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In this original graphic novel, Batman meets his foe The Mad Hatter for the very first time - landing The Dark Knight in a Won-derland he could never have imagined, hot on the heels of a white rabbit. But is this strange place real, or a hallucination? Robin and Alfred have to believe he's deep in delirium - but if that's the case, how does he manage to resolve several mysteries that have plagued Gotham City for decades. This fantastic tale is spun by renowned comics writer Bruce Jones (THE INCREDIBLE HULK) with surreal art by Sam Kieth (THE MAXX, BATMAN: ARKHAM ASYLUM - MADNESS, LOBO).

Batman: Through the Looking Glass Details

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From Reader Review Batman: Through the Looking Glass for online ebook

Maxine Bobbett says

This cross-over should have worked so much better. Sadly, the messy narrative accompanied by the messy artwork shows a complete miscomprehension and disregard for Carroll's original 'Wonderland'. Drawing upon Alice in Wonderland simply appears to be an excuse to regurgitate a nonsensical, scarcely thought out narrative with two-dimensional characters; a narrative in which Batman is absolutely out of place.

Bambi Hyde says

I love batman and I love Alice so I decided to get this from the library. I love the art style. It was a good story even though I'm still not entirely sure on what happened. It was an entertaining read.

Patrick says

This story had a *very* Sam Kieth feel, so I enjoyed it.

But it only felt *somewhat* Batman. So if that's all you're looking for here, you're probably going to be disappointed.

Meghan says

I love Batman, and I love Alice. This was a gift from a fellow comic friend that knows me well. I thought it was a fun story and didn't take it as seriously as some of the other fans did here. I just looked at it as a quirky one-off that was just for kicks. I did get a little bothered by the inconsistent art, but I also just attributed to the twisted world that is Wonderland and left it alone. I thought overall it was an enjoyable story and it was fun seeing Batman running around with my favorite pinafore'd heroine.

Callie Rose Tyler says

What the hell did I just read? Obviously the writers were trying to entice a wider market by using Alice in Wonderland??? It wasn't much of a mystery, it wasn't much of a story, it wasn't much of anything really. I hate when the story of Alice in Wonderland is regurgitated as nonsense, if the books were just nonsense they wouldn't still be read today.

The book tried too hard to be edgy/trippy, and I saw nothing about this "Batman" that was true to character. It was just some flat nobody dressed as Batman. And what about when he asks the little girl if she knows what sex is... what the hell?!

The art was a mishmash, sometimes it was really cool and sometimes it just looked like the illustrator's hand was getting tired.

This book is not for Alice in Wonderland fans, Batman fans, or comic book fans.

Dave says

A strange Batman story.
From the art to the story, very odd.
but extremely readable.

Cath Baker says

Confused the hell outta me, but it was a cool comic

Jeff says

The Mad Hatter, named for the Alice in Wonderland character, has been a villain of the Batman for quite some time. A somewhat lame villain, but a member of Batman's rogues gallery nonetheless. His shtick is he basically uses his hats to mind control his victims. It was only a matter of time before some enterprising writer added elements of Alice in Wonderland into a Batman/Mad Hatter story. On paper, it has the makings of a fairly interesting saga; however, we'll have to wait before someone actually writes one.

Bruce Jones is a good writer. He did some terrific work with The Incredible Hulk; however, under his direction this Bat story is, at best, ill conceived. It seems that Bruce Wayne inadvertently ingested hallucinogenic mushrooms at a society function that were intended for someone else. And now donning the cape and cowl, he's tripping – Alice-In-Wonderland style.

He's accompanied throughout this misadventure by the specter of a childhood friend, who represents Alice. (Why do Batman writers feel compelled to drag out yet another old child hood friend as a plot device? Little Bruce must have been quite popular back in the day.) Alice in Wonderland themed hijinks ensue.

The art is stylized and ugly.

Michael Foley says

... Not as good as I would have hoped. They story and art were all over the place making everything hard to follow. Jones has given us a pleasant (but completely disposable) tale. There is nothing here that is going to thoroughly grip the reader. Sadly, not even the art couldn't lift story into something more redeeming. Some of Kieth's panels were very well rendered whereas others seemed like rough sketches. With these two at the helm, this should have been much more creative and exciting than it actually turned out to be.

Robert says

The only thing worse than the derivative story is the childish art. Avoid at all costs.

Anne says

Don't misread the 3 star rating.

This is *definitely* not a comic book for fans of Batman.

This is a graphic novel for folks who like Alice In Wonderland, and might find it cool to see Batman thrown in the mix.

The art is whimsical (*READ: stretchy and weird*), and the storyline has a very trippy feel to it.

But, in its defense, Batman *has* been drugged.

So.

The ghost/hallucination of a little girl (Bruce used to be friends with her when he was a child) is his tour guide though the Looking Glass.

The story follows the two of them as they try to unravel a series of murders. In Batman's mind, the people involved play the roles of different Wonderland characters.

Meanwhile, Alfred and Robin try to track Bruce through the sewers, in the hopes of saving him from himself.

The tone is a mix of the absurdly silly and the tragically dark.

It's not for everyone, but after I got over hating it as a Batman story, I sort of liked it.

Sort of.

Mostly?

Real Supergirl says

Art is classic Sam Kieth, and he's a master. The reviewers of this graphic novel who were so shocked by the art just display their ignorance about who Sam Kieth is. His art is very recognizable, and personally I think

he's a welcome and much needed new visual look for classic comic book characters. But if you're coming to this book looking for your classic Batman comic style, it's not going to be for you. If you like some of the archetypes of the comic book classics but think they need a breath of fresh air and a little re-envisioning, this is for you. The melding of Alice in Wonderland is strange but stays true to the way in which the original story is very strange. For the most part it works though it's not the strongest story Kieth has ever illustrated - even compared to other Batman comics he's re-envisioned. But I was drawn to this because I love both Sam Kieth and Alice in Wonderland, and it was worth picking up.

Jay Rox says

FOR VIDEO REVIEW CLICK HERE - <https://youtu.be/SjmHUoagt-U> .. this is a very crazy play on Alice in wonderland trough Bruce Jones is eyes set in the Batman universe. Sam Keith's art is a very unique style that might not be for every one & here it gets even weirder as u see things constantly change from imagination to reality & people change back in fort from human to anthropomorphic animals depending on the situation wish I enjoyed. the story was fun but lacked a good ending or good reason why everything happened.. I give this a 6/10

Jeremy says

I liked this quite a bit more than I thought I would based on reading reviews. It's a quirky, heavily themed (Alice in Wonderland) standalone mystery. Yet, the mystery, and its solving, though done while hallucinating, is interesting and logical. The art was very well done and added to the mystique of the story. This is currently one of my favorite Batman stories.

Sam Quixote says

I'm not sure when or even why Lewis Carroll came to be so closely associated with Batman but today there's a very strong Wonderland presence in Gotham thanks to the character of Jervis Tetch aka The Mad Hatter. To be fair to ol' Jervy, he's had his moments. In New 52 The Dark Knight Vol 3: Mad, we got an enthralling Hatter origin and a thrilling Batman tale, and his part of the Arkham City video game was easily one of its highlights, not to mention quite atmospheric.

Then there's Batman: Through the Looking Glass from Bruce Jones and Sam Kieth which is disposable junk!

Batman gets accidentally dosed with hallucinogenic tea and is sucked into a Wonderland adventure where he encounters characters from Carroll's classic sequel, Through the Looking Glass. The twist is that the characters, though visually similar to Carroll's creations, represent "real" figures in Gotham society and a murder mystery begins that Batman and "Alice" have to solve.

Our Alice facsimile is Celia, a childhood friend of Bruce's who died young. I vaguely recall seeing a girl friend of Bruce's in other stories of his youth and it might be Celia but it's more than a little contrived to have her be this incredibly powerful figure in his psyche all of a sudden. Her presence instantly changes his personality to make him desperately clingy to her thus ensuring the two follow each other everywhere and the book can happen. How convenient!

While Jones' script is a stinker, Sam Kieth is a good fit as the artist on this book. His swirling, fluid art style worked beautifully in *The Maxx*, another trippy, fantasy comic that blurs the lines between reality and fiction, and stars a big bruiser of a man alongside a waif of a girl. And as Batman's been drugged, the warped look is appropriate. But even with an appreciation of his art from his work on *The Maxx*, his illustrations in this book are much more loose and rough than usual, to the point where it looks extremely sloppy, rushed and amateurish.

Through the Looking Glass is a contrived run-through of Carroll's characters first and a story second. I kept reading hoping that it wouldn't be quite so mundane as "Batman in Wonderland" but the book never rises above this conceit. Instead this single idea is run into the ground. Also, this is astonishingly presented as Batman's first encounter with Jervis, probably so that Batman wouldn't instantly suss out who's clearly behind it all – that's how poorly put-together this story is!

Batman fan? Lewis Carroll fan? Avoid! Use your vorpal blade on this book – snicker-snack!
