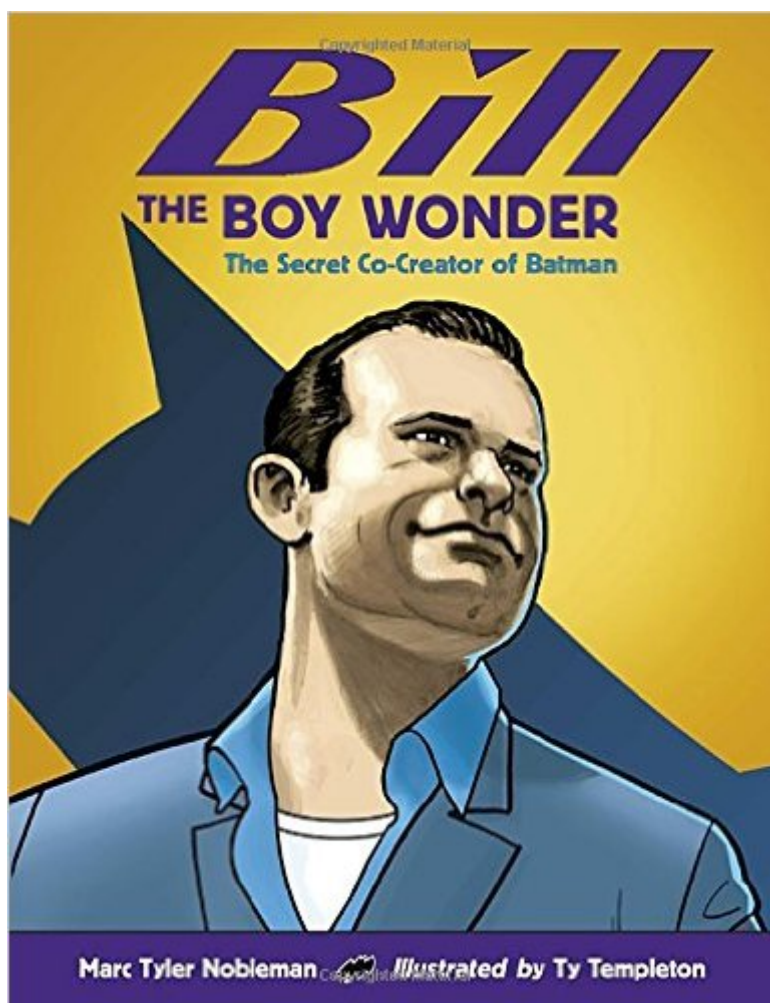


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Bill The Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator Of Batman



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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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

In 1966, at the usual age of seven, I began collecting comic books. It was all Batman's fault. To put it in historical perspective, 1966 was the year of Batmania and I was a Batmaniac...one of hundreds of thousands throughout the US. My other favorite comic book at the time was GREEN LANTERN. It was the first comic I ever wrote a letter to although it was never published. I was particularly intrigued to see an issue with a second, red-clad, caped Green Lantern said to be from another Earth! He became a favorite and I anxiously awaited his rare appearances in GL and JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA. It wouldn't be until a few years later that I heard the name of Bill Finger...on the half-hearted obits that DC ran for him. Turns out he co-created the original Green Lantern that I had enjoyed so much and apparently written some early Batman stories. That last statement would, of course, turn out to be an understatement. Over the years, more and more has come out about Bill

Finger and the evidence overwhelmingly indicates that he did much more than write some early Batman stories. In fact, by all accounts, in a perfect world, Bill Finger would be listed alongside Bob Kane as Batman's co-creator! Over time, it's also come out that Bob Kane was rather a self-serving individual who rarely did anything himself when he could get someone else to do it for him. Bob also liked to lie about that and claim he was doing, for example, all the art on BATMAN, even when it was obvious that there were many different styles involved.

"Batman - Created by Bob Kane" is a tag any Batman reader will be familiar with as it appears in the credits box of every Batman comic ever published. But Bob Kane didn't create Batman - Bill Finger did. Who? And that's what's so criminal about it. How unfamiliar so many Batman readers are with the name Bill Finger. This is Marc Tyler Nobleman's second book on comics creators who were unfairly treated and bilked by DC Comics after they created their signature characters, the first being Boys of Steel about Superman's creators Siegel and Shuster. Assisted by the brilliant artist Ty Templeton, Nobleman writes a brief but well-researched book about Batman's secret co-creator, Bill Finger who was responsible for nearly everything about the character that has made him popular. Kane created "Bat-man", a character whose initial sketch is included here and is completely unrecognisable from the Dark Knight of today. Finger didn't so much revise the drawing and reject it entirely and designed Batman from scratch by first getting rid of the hyphen to make him Batman, and then gave him the iconic cowl/helmet, getting rid of Kane's bright red outfit, blonde hair, and actual bat wings to provide him with the outfit we all know and love today. Finger even went further, creating Bruce Wayne's origins - the Monarch Theatre, the Mark of Zorro, Joe Chill in the alley, Martha's pearls, young Bruce lying between his dead parents. Finger did it all. And Kane, because he had the contacts and Finger didn't, took Batman to publishers and the character became a hit. As was the practice at the time, Kane hired writers and artists to anonymously write and draw Batman, all the while taking credit for it, which is partly why Finger didn't object initially to Kane taking credit for his work.

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