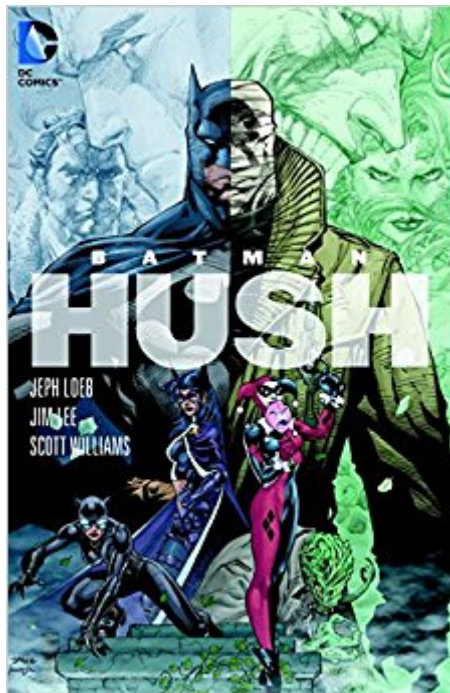


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# Batman: Hush



## Synopsis

A New York Times Best Seller! The complete critically acclaimed and best-selling tale is now available in one sensational volume. **BATMAN: HUSH** is a thrilling mystery of action, intrigue, and deception penned by Jeph Loeb (**BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN**) and illustrated by comics superstar Jim Lee (**ALL STAR BATMAN & ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER**) in which Batman sets out to discover the identity of a mysterious mastermind using the Joker, Riddler, Ra's al Ghul and the Dark Knight's other enemies - and allies - as pawns in a plan to wreak havoc. This volume collects **BATMAN** #609-619 as well as the 6-page segment from **Wizard** #0 and a 2-page origin story that originally appeared at [dccomics.com](http://dccomics.com).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"It's beautiful stuff. Catwoman has rarely looked so seductive, nor has Batman's heroic but fearsome image often been used so well. [HUSH] make[s] readers look at Batman and his colleagues with a fresh, enthusiastic eye." — PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, starred — "The art is stunning and beautiful." — Portland Oregonian

Jeph Loeb is an Emmy award nominated and Eisner award winning writer/producer living in Los Angeles. In television, his many credits include *Smallville*, *Lost* and *Heroes* and in film, *Teen Wolf* and *Commando*. In comics, he is best known for his work with the supremely talented artist and partner-in-crime TIM SALE on **BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN**, **SUPERMAN FOR**

ALL SEASONS, CATWOMAN: WHEN IN ROME for DC as well as Daredevil Yellow, Spider-Man Blue and Hulk Gray for Marvel. Jim Lee is a renowned comic book artist and the Co-Publisher of DC Entertainment. Prior to his current post, Lee served as Editorial Director, where he oversaw WildStorm Studios and was also the artist for many of DC Comics'™ bestselling comic books and graphic novels, including ALL STAR BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, BATMAN: HUSH, and SUPERMAN: FOR TOMORROW. He also serves as the Executive Creative Director for the DC Universe Online (DCUO) massively multiplayer action game from Sony Online Entertainment (SOE). As part of DC Comics-The New 52, Lee is drawing JUSTICE LEAGUE.

It's a great idea to release a penciled version of graphic novel once in a while. Batman: Hush Unwrapped Deluxe is basically the same book as Batman: Hush with dialogue and all, except everything is in pencils. The only coloured bits are the sound effects and Batman's internal narration. Reading the book in just pencils is quite a different experience. It's basically like looking at the final draft of the book before they go ahead for inking. If you're marveled by Jim Lee's art in the coloured edition, you'll be blown away by this edition - if you're a comic artist maybe your brain will explode with awe. Every page is filled with detailed pencil work, deserving a slow peruse. The amazing pencil hatches and shading are everywhere, on the characters, the backgrounds. After reading the book, you'll probably get a new sense of appreciation for comic artists and the art of making comics. This book is definitely a collectors' edition for fans. As for the story, the storytelling is good and well paced, there are some surprises as Batman tried to uncover who this Hush villain is. The characters are well defined and believable. The sequences with Catwoman are fantastic - I love how Catwoman and Batman interacts. However, I've a problem with the ending. Even though the villain was revealed in the end, the motivation for going against Batman isn't, or is too weak for me to notice. Just because you're a bad guy and he's Batman means you've to go against him? So the story is great for me until the ending which I felt could be better. Also check out Icons: The DC Comics & Wildstorm Art of Jim Lee if you can't get enough of the art. (There are more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

Amazing is one word that could sum up this entire piece. Not only is the reader privy to excellent writing from Loeb, but a visual masterpiece from Lee. This story takes many twists and turns, from the dank, shadowy Gotham, to the brighter, more hopeful Metropolis. Batman encounters almost his entire rogues gallery through this story, while simultaneously balancing his life as Bruce Wayne and the Dark Knight. Loeb explores the human aspects of Batman, showing that even this brooding

detective feels emotion. His relationship with Selina Kyle evolves to greater depth. While this is the focus, his interactions with his two protégés, Robin and Nightwing, is by no means left out of the story. The incorporation of Jim Gordon, Huntress, Lois Lane and Superman provide an interesting perspective into how other characters perceive the Dark Knight and how his methods differ when fighting crime. The writing is almost seamless, no chapter feels as though it could be discarded, and each panel has some significance to the story. Jim Lee's Batman is tough and heroic looking, intimidating yet not outrageous (as far as dressing up as a bat can be). Each villain, with the possible exception of Joker, looks terrific. I only single out Joker, because it seems as if Lee draws him in several styles (particularly his face), and looks as if his features change. Of course, Joker still looks insane and maniacal, just a little distracting however. Hush is some of Lee's best work, no doubt helped by the excellent colors and inks. The reader can tell that effort and thought was put into the art. Some feel that this is among Jim Lee's best work, and I can certainly understand why. In the end, there really is no good reason not to purchase this book. While perhaps not as seminal as the Dark Knight Returns, I enjoy rereading this piece much more. It is satisfying, a good conclusion with just enough hint of a cliff hanger to feel eager to read more. When many comic book readers talk about missing the older days of comics, this is one of those works that makes certain contemporary titles shrink by comparison.

Hush is probably best remembered for bringing together so many disparate members of the Bat Family and the Batman Rogues Gallery into one massive plotline. Loeb does a tremendous job of connecting all the various characters, though the finale reveal remains one of the weaker ones I've seen. Hush is built around the surfacing of the titular villain: a man in a trench coat, covered in bandages who seems to know Bruce Wayne's secret identity and has managed to unite his most famous foes against him. At the same time as Bruce's run in with Hush, he also manages to take the next step his oft-simmering romantic relationship with Selena Kyle (Catwoman). Hush is a terrific and fun story, but the twist ending revelation of Hush's true identity is a bit of a dud. A) you can see it coming from a ways off and B) the villain's motivations aren't properly explored here due to the nature of keeping their identity a secret throughout the book. Thankfully, the later sequel book Heart of Hush manages to rectify the villain problems. Still, Hush has numerous iconic sequences from Batman's fight with a Poison Ivy-dominated Superman to him finally revealing his secret identity to Catwoman.

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