



Batman: Scarecrow Tales

Bill Finger , Gardner Francis Fox , Bob Kane (Illustrator) , Dick Giordano (Illustrator) , Alan Davis (Illustrator)

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Professor turned criminal Jonathan Crane specializes in fear. He knows how to take a simple phobia and turn it into a life-threatening syndrome. Since his introduction in 1941, the Scarecrow has been one of the Dark Knights most difficult foes to defeat. And soon, he will be one of the foes featured in the upcoming Batman Begins feature film! In this collection of eight stories spanning more than 60 years, some of the best known Batman writers and artists take their turn at creating chilling escapades.

Batman: Scarecrow Tales Details

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Author : Bill Finger , Gardner Francis Fox , Bob Kane (Illustrator) , Dick Giordano (Illustrator) , Alan Davis (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Batman: Scarecrow Tales for online ebook

Adam McPhee says

Batman and Robin ingest a wide array of hallucinogens without ever seriously losing their shit in eight Scarecrow stories spanning sixty years.

Ashley Kempkes says

2.5

I loved the last two stories, but the rest of them were anywhere from bad to bearable. I suppose I just like the modern take on Crane becoming the Scarecrow because he wants to conduct experiments (see also: sadism) but the idea that he does it to get money for more books is kinda fun too.

sixthreezy says

The selection contained within is a bit old, so the dialogue and such is a bit dated. I liked the second to last issue in here, as it was a story told from the Scarecrow's perspective. Otherwise this is a pretty OKAY selection of Batman comics, as far as I know...

Jean-Pierre Virdrine says

Besides a look at the high points of a tragic villain who basically uses the same weapon of fear as the hero, this is also a sort Batman "through the years" book (minus the '50s). The origin story is a typical pre-censorship Batman tale; pretty simple in and of itself, but it does illustrate how grounded in crime stories the earliest Batman strips were. The story from the late '60s is not entirely bereft of the campiness that Bat-decade is typically known for, but clearly shows signs of steering toward more serious stories with better portrayed danger.

From there we go through the '70 and '80s, with no-nonsense Batman tales set in an over-the-top four-color world.

The late '90s story is an interesting psychological tale that puts the villain himself under the microscope. We get a deeper look at the man whose origins and motivations could just as easily have driven him to become a hero, and see why he still insists on being the bad guy.

The book ends with a tale from the early 2000s, where Bruce Wayne faces a more terrible fear than anything the Scarecrow's gas could induce.

I could not help but wonder at how Scarecrow's methods changed throughout the book. From merely scaring people with a costume and a gun (an M. O. identical to that of the Golden Age Batman) to using chemical agents. The exact function of the "fear gas" was not even always the same. A closer look at social climates of the times, and perhaps the psyches of the creative teams, would be interesting food for thought . . . maybe even a little frightening.

Matthew says

great book

Scott Weatherby says

The only thing that's holding this story short of 5 stars is the writing style of the first 4 stories. The way they wrote batman is not the way I see Batman at all. I'll admit that Batman's writing style gets better as it goes on... but yeah.

Loved how scarecrow was written though; my favourite story was the seventh one.

Fugo Feedback says

Supongo que habré leído alguna de las historietas que componen este tomo, pero estoy seguro de no haberlas leídas todas. No creo que vaya a conseguir este tomo en castellano a un precio razonable, pero lo dejo como to-read por las mismas razones de siempre.

Ryan Moore says

Fun collection of old and newer stories of Batman and Scarecrow.

Dominique Lamssies says

I liked the the selection of most of the stories. This is a good cross section of The Scarecrow through the years. My complaint is the last two stories. In the early and mid 90's there were several choices that were better than "Mistress Of Fear" and "Fear Of Success" ("The God Of Fear" leaps to mind). Get it for the beginning few stories. Ignore the rest.

JaCoby Shaddix says

This is a good book, that tells some the scarecrows scariest moments. If you are a fan of the master of fear, READ THIS BOOK

M says

Batman: Scarecrow tales is a collection of stories from across the years featuring the master of fear himself.

The book opens with his first ever appearance in World's Finest Comics, highlighting his origin and presenting him as a glorified extortionist and leg-breaker. The next two segments feature his return in the Batman title almost a quarter-century later, including a revenge scheme against the Dynamic Duo and an amusement park gauntlet designed to uncover hidden treasure. A treat from the titular Joker series sees fright and humor locked in battle with the Joker emerging victorious in his campaign to best the Scarecrow. The Detective Comics additions finally give Crane his due as a chemist. A pheromone dart makes the Dark Knight appear to be a terrorizing figure to everyone, forcing Batgirl and Robin to track down the antidote in the first tale; a concentrated dose of toxins removes the Batman's fears to make him reckless in the second. In the villains' spotlight issue, Scarecrow attempts to terrorize a woman whose testimony sent to him jail, becoming obsessed with frightening her to death. The final selection is from Gotham Knights, as a corporate-sponsored lecture from Professor Crane naturally goes awry and requires the Batman and his bodyguard to deal with the fallout. Released in conjunction with the Christopher Nolan reboot of the Batman film franchise, the book takes a fun trip down memory lane. The real treats come from the classic Bill Finger and Bob Kane era and the innovative 1970s Joker series. Fans of the Scarecrow should turn to the animated series for creepier tales from the master of fear, however, as this book sadly reminds readers how underused the character has been in the comics.
