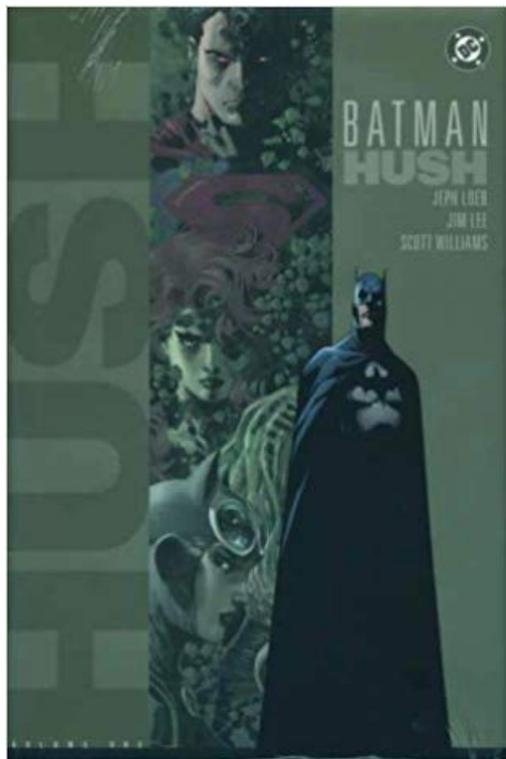


## Batman: Hush: v. 1 (Batman) by Scott Williams, Jeph Loeb



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## Reviews of the Batman: Hush: v. 1 (Batman) by Scott Williams, Jeph Loeb

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Anyshoun

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 protégées, 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.

Brajind

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.

SING

This is worth it almost entirely based on the art alone, but the storytelling is also really great for the most part. I just about had a nerdgasm staring at the pages with both Batman and Superman together looking badass in Jim Lee's art.

The book is laid out episodically, which I think works great for the story, it goes by fast and keeps you wanting to know what's next.

My only complaints with the book might be kinda spoilery, so be aware. First is the fact that Dr. Thomas Elliot's role in the story is pretty much given away from the get go, I don't think there's much mystery about it. Lastly, there's that ending. As with The Long Halloween, the ending has the story kinda tearing at the seams and in my opinion it kind of undoes (in only a few pages) what had been building up so excellently in the previous chapters. HOWEVER, my five star rating holds because a few missteps don't take away from a great ride.

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