



LATER TM-SEMIC ALSO REACHED FOR THE LEGENDS, BRINGING MORE BATMAN ISSUES, EXPANDING MY KNOWLEDGE AND FASCINATION. HOWEVER, EVENTUALLY, "KNIGHTFALL" CAME, AND THAT WAS SOMEWHAT OF A DOWNFALL. SHORTLY BEFORE THE CLOSURE OF THE SEMIC SERIES, I STOPPED READING SUPERHERO COMICS ALTOGETHER FOR A FEW YEARS. I ONLY RETURNED TO THEM AS AN ADULT.

THE LONE AVENGER, TOUGH, RUTHLESS BUT NOT MINDLESS, REASONATED POWERFULLY WITH A TEENAGER, AS AN ADULT, IT STOPPED SPEAKING TO ME WHEN GRANT MORRISON TOOK OVER BATMAN. SINCE THEN, I OCCASIONALLY TRY TO READ SOMETHING NEW, BUT ASIDE FROM THE BLACK AND WHITE SERIES, I MAINLY COLLECT OLDER EDITIONS UP TO THE YEAR 2000. AT THE TURN OF THE FIRST AND SECOND DECADE OF THE 21ST CENTURY, I PRACTICALLY COMPLETED EVERYTHING THAT INTERESTED ME, FROM "DEATH IN THE FAMILY" TO "NO MAN'S LAND," PARTICULARLY FOCUSING ON THE ELSEWORLDS TO THIS DAY, THE ADVENTURES OF THE MASKED AVENGER CONSTITUTE A SIGNIFICANT PART OF MY COLLECTION, AND I REVISIT MANY OF THEM WITH PLEASURE - SOMETIMES FOR THE STORIES, SOMETIMES FOR THE ART, AS A WHOLE ARCADE OF THE BEST CREATORS CONTRIBUTED TO THESE COMICS, AND ALTHOUGH IT'S NO LONGER THE YOUTHFUL LOVE FROM DECADES AGO, BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS NOCTURNAL PERSONA STILL REMAIN AT THE TOP OF MY AMERICAN COMIC BOOK RANKINGS.

**I READ COMICS** IS A SERIES OF SHORT PUBLICATIONS ABOUT ME AND MY COMIC READING. IN IT, I INTRODUCE MY FAVORITE CHARACTERS, THE MOST IMPORTANT ALBUMS, CREATORS, AND OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE BROAD CONCEPT OF COMICS.

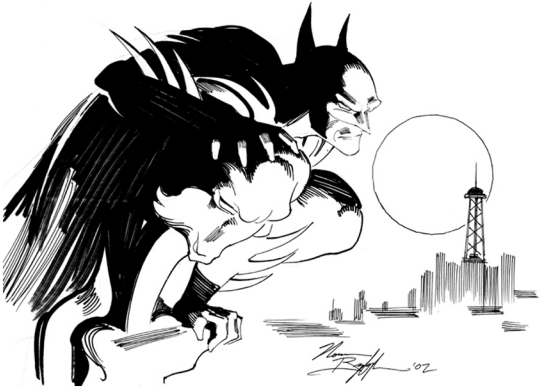
LOOK FOR UPCOMING ISSUES AND OTHER ZINES IN MY FREE DISTR0:



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#01 JUNE 2024 **I READ COMICS** **BATMAN**



**MY FAVORITE SUPERHEROES** **BATMAN**

AND YET, BATMAN, DESPITE BEING "ORDINARY," HAD PLENTY OF "COLORFUL" OPPONENTS. THE MADMAN JOKER, THE RIDICULOUSLY GROTESQUE PENGUIN WITH HIS UMBRELLAS, THE PSYCHO-PATH ZSSAZS, AND THE TRAGICALLY FLAWED KILLER CROC, ALTHOUGH IT MUST BE SAID THAT GRANT PARTICULARLY ENSURED THERE WERE PLENTY OF "ORDINARY" THINGS TOO - GANGS, DRUGS, KIDS IN TROUBLE ON THE STREETS, CARIBBEAN WOODOO WORSHIPPERS KIDNAPPING WEALTHY INDUSTRIALISTS. ALL THIS MADE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS ALTER EGO EXPERIENCE AN INCREDIBLE AND FASCINATING AMOUNT OF ADVENTURES IN THE EARLY '90S.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT ANYONE COULD BE BATMAN. PRACTICING KARATE, LIFTING WEIGHTS, AND DOING ACROBATICS ON ROOFTOPS - YOU DIDN'T NEED TO BE AN ALIEN OR A WIZARD FOR THAT (WHEN YOU'RE 13, THE ISSUE OF BEING BRUCE WAYNE, HEIR TO A BILLION-DOLLAR FORTUNE, IS SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR AND ESSENTIALLY NEGLIGIBLE). BATMAN WAS PRIMARILY A DETECTIVE, A MAN WHO ROAMED THE CITY, ASKED QUESTIONS, AND COLLECTED CLUES. AT THAT TIME, THERE WERE FEW COMPUTER-BASED, ADVANCED GADGETS, ALTHOUGH "FEW" IS, OF COURSE, A SUBJECTIVE TERM.

FOR ME - AND FOR MANY PEOPLE OF MY GENERATION IS STRONGLY ASSOCIATED WITH BATMAN. HIS VERSION OF THE DARK, RELENTLESS LONER WAS VERY VIVID, EXCELLENT PAGE COMPOSITION, DYNAMIC FRAMING, AND FUN WITH CONVENTIONS. ADDITIONALLY, HE WAS LUCKY TO WORK WITH GREAT WRITERS, SO THE ADVENTURES OF THE BAT FROM NORM'S HAND ALWAYS MADE A GREAT IMPRESSION. THEY PERFECTLY MATCHED HOW BATMAN WAS A DIFFERENT KIND OF HERO FROM THOSE I HAD KNOWN UNTIL THEN.

BATMAN THE FIRST TIME I SAW BATMAN WAS IN A POLISH MAGAZINE, IN SOME SATIRICAL DRAWING IN AN ARTICLE ABOUT... BATA SHOES. IT WAS THE FIRST HALF OF THE 1980S. BY THEN, I WAS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH SWEDISH EDITIONS OF SUPERMAN AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT SUPERHEROES.

BATMAN HIT WITH FULL FORCE IN 1989 IN BURTON'S FAMOUS FILM. THAT WAS ALSO WHEN THE COMMUNISTS WERE PARTIALLY REMOVED FROM POWER, LEADING TO A MARKET LIBERALIZATION. IN DECEMBER 1990, A FLEDGLING PUBLISHING HOUSE FROM KRAKOW, WHICH LATER BECAME



KNOWN AS TM-SEMIC, RELEASED A COMIC ADAPTATION OF THAT FILM. HOWEVER, MY FIRST ISSUE WAS THE FEBRUARY 1991 ISSUE TITLED "SNOW AND ICE" FEATURING PENGUIN AND KADAVER. "SNOW AND ICE" THREW ME INTO THE DEEP END; IT WAS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A SERIES WITH A BUNCH OF UNFAMILIAR CHARACTERS AND A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WAY OF STORYTELLING. IT WAS A PERFECT HIT, WITH COMICS THAT WERE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM TYTUS, KAJKO AND KOKOSZ, KLEKS, OR EVEN THE HUGELY POPULAR THOROGAL AT THE TIME. I WAS VERY FORTUNATE BECAUSE THE PUBLISHER IMMEDIATELY JUMPED INTO THE FAMOUS RUN BY ALAN GRANT AND NORM BREYFOGLE FROM THE DETECTIVE COMICS AND BATMAN SERIES. BOTH EARNED THEIR LEGENDARY STATUS - THE WRITER FROM THE "BRITISH INVASION" AND THE BELOVED ARTIST WHO HONED HIS CRAFT AND EVOLVED WITH EACH NEW ADVENTURE.