

Batman: The Long Halloween Study Guide

Batman: The Long Halloween by Jeph Loeb

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Plot Summary

This book is about the efforts of Batman, district attorney Harvey Dent, and Gotham City Chief of Police Jim Gordon to take down the mafia boss Carmine "The Roman" Falcone. As the story progresses, a mysterious serial killer referred to as Holiday begins killing members of Falcone's family and gang. In the end, the pursuit of Falcone drives Dent to break the law and transform himself into the villain Two-Face.

The book opens at a wedding party for Falcone's nephew Johnny Viti. Bruce Wayne attends the party to tell Falcone he will not allow Falcone's money into Gotham City Bank. Batman makes a pact with Dent and Gordon to catch Falcone but not break the law in the process. On Halloween, someone murders Viti in his bathtub, and Batman and Dent burn down a warehouse full of Falcone's money. When Dent returns home, a bomb goes off in his house.

Batman and Gordon question the gang responsible for bombing Dent but cannot get them to tell who paid them to plant the bomb. The gang is released and makes bail quickly. As they celebrate their release with a Thanksgiving dinner, the entire gang is murdered in the same way Viti was.

The Joker escapes from Arkham Asylum near Christmas and accuses Falcone's chief rival Salvatore Maroni of being Holiday. Maroni denies it, so the Joker moves on to Dent's house and accuses Dent of being Holiday. The Joker finally proceeds to Falcone's penthouse, where he tells Falcone to find Holiday or the Joker will kill everyone in Gotham City. As the Joker flees the penthouse, Holiday kills Falcone's main bodyguard, Milos.

On New Years' Eve, the Joker steals a plane to drop poisonous laughing gas on revelers in Gotham Square, but Batman stops him. At the same time, Falcone's son Alberto is shot by Holiday.

On Valentine's Day, Dent and Gordon go looking for Wayne regarding a connection to Falcone at Wayne Manor, but Wayne is out as Batman confronting Falcone. Holiday kills a number of Maroni's men with a car bomb. Wayne is pricked by a rose given to him by Poison Ivy and falls under her control.

Under Poison Ivy's control, Wayne approves Falcone's money for Gotham City Bank. Catwoman fights Poison Ivy and rids Wayne of her influence. On Saint Patrick's Day, Maroni's safe house is attacked by Holiday.

On April Fool's Day, both Batman and the Riddler attempt to determine who Holiday is. Batman suspects Holiday is Harvey Dent. The Riddler is employed by Falcone to determine Holiday's identity but can come to no firm conclusion. When the Riddler is kicked out of Falcone's office, Holiday shoots a number of bullets in an outline around the Riddler.



On Mother's Day, Scarecrow escapes from Arkham Asylum and poisons Batman with his fear gas. Gordon is still trying to find Wayne to confront him about his connections to Falcone. When Wayne sees Gordon in the streets, Wayne hallucinates that Gordon is the robber who killed Wayne's parents and flees. Wayne is arrested at his mother's grave.

In jail, Wayne recalls his father operating on Carmine Falcone at the request of Carmine's father. Holiday kills Maroni's father on Father's Day. Wayne is acquitted by a jury, which makes Dent believe justice is nothing but a coin flip. Falcone is employing Scarecrow and the Mad Hatter to break into Gotham City Bank Depository. Maroni offers to help Dent prosecute Falcone.

On Independence Day, Holiday kills the Gotham City Coroner. Falcone's daughter Sofia convinces Maroni to help Falcone attack Dent. Batman foils Scarecrow and The Mad Hatter's attempted robbery of the Gotham City Bank Depository.

During Maroni's trial, Dent wants Maroni to implicate Falcone, but instead Maroni throws acid in Dent's face. At the hospital Dent stabs his doctor and escapes. Falcone's sister Carla is killed by Holiday.

Batman goes looking for Dent because Batman believes Dent could be Holiday. Batman finds more evidence that Dent is Holiday at Dent's home. In an attempt to lure Holiday into the open, Gordon moves Maroni to a different cell, but on the way Maroni is shot by Alberto Falcone.

Batman and Gordon subdue Falcone, who confesses to all the Holiday killings. Falcone's penthouse is attacked by every villain in the book along with Dent, who has now taken on the identity of Two-Face. Batman intervenes and defeats all the villains, but not before Two-Face grabs Falcone and fatally shoots him. Dent turns himself in to Gordon and Batman but tells them there were two Holiday killers. Harvey Dent's wife Gilda explains to herself that she also committed a number of the Holiday killings.



Chapter One

Chapter One Summary

The story opens at a wedding party at the home of Carmine Falcone in June.

Chapter one begins with Bruce Wayne declaring that he believes in Gotham City. Wayne is at the wedding of Johnny Viti, who is the nephew of Carmine "The Roman" Falcone, the most powerful crime lord in Gotham. Wayne tells Falcone that he is only attending the wedding because his parents knew Falcone. Falcone responds that Wayne's father was more than just a friend to Falcone, but Wayne tells Falcone that that is in the past. Falcone tells Wayne that Richard Daniels has informed him that Gotham City Bank will do business with the Falcone family, but Wayne refuses to influence the bank board for Falcone. Wayne leaves the room but spies outside the door, where he is discovered by Carmine's son Alberto Falcone. Wayne decides to leave to get to work but runs into Selina Kyle, a very attractive dark haired woman, and the two dance.

Meanwhile, Carmine's assistant Milos spots District Attorney Harvey Dent taking down license plate numbers in the parking garage. The scene cuts to Dent, who is bemoaning working on such a hot night when he is attacked by unseen assailants. Wayne and Kyle run into Dent shortly after the beating on their way out of the party. Dent enters Police Captain Jim Gordon's office and explains what has happened, and Gordon suggests that he has a friend who might be able to help Dent.

Wayne returns to Falcone's party as Batman and finds Catwoman breaking into Falcone's safe. The two fight briefly, but are forced from the room by Falcone's men. Falcone places a million dollar bounty on the heads of both Batman and Catwoman. Batman attempts to find out what Catwoman was doing at Falcone's, but Catwoman escapes.

Batman meets Dent and Gordon on top of a building. Dent remarks that he appreciates Batman's ability to cross lines that Dent and Gordon cannot as official agents of the law. Batman surmises Dent and Gordon are working on the Falcone case and suggests everyone knows what has to be done. Gordon makes Dent and Batman promise not to directly break the rules. In his inner monologue, Batman regrets the necessity to compromise but makes the deal with Gordon anyway. Batman disappears but leaves behind Falcone's ledger book for Dent and Gordon.

The scene cuts to the July board meeting of Gotham City Bank. Wayne will not approve of bank president Richard Daniels' decision to take Falcone's money. Wayne storms out of the meeting but returns as Batman later that night to Daniels' house. Batman forces Daniels to keep Falcone's money out of the bank and resign. In August, Falcone declares that he wants Daniels dead and Viti back from his honeymoon. In September, Daniels is walking down the street with his wife and is shot dead.



The next page shows an unknown person removing the serial numbers from a pistol. This person is soon revealed to be Dent, who is notified of Daniels' murder. In the next scene, Viti is shot dead in his bathtub, and the gun Dent was altering is left at the scene. Batman, Gordon, and Dent meet to discuss Viti's murder, but Batman quickly disappears to confront Catwoman, who is spying on the meeting. Catwoman offers to help Batman but does not identify her motive. On Halloween night, Dent and Batman use the information Catwoman gave them to enter the warehouse where Falcone has been storing his money and burn it to the ground. Dent returns home that night to his wife and his house is deliberately blown up.

Chapter One Analysis

The first thing that stands out about chapter one is how much more violent and possibly even malevolent Batman is in this presentation than he is typically portrayed. When Batman meets with Chief Gordon and District Attorney Dent on the rooftop to discuss the Falcone case, he tells them that they all know what needs to be done about the situation. Batman here is clearly suggesting that he murder Falcone. Batman is also reluctant to accept Gordon's compromise that he can bend the rules to catch Falcone but not break them by killing him. This version of Batman is a dramatic contrast to the Batman seen in most other comic books. Even in Frank Miller's "The Dark Knight Returns," Batman is a reluctant vigilante, but in this book he seems to have no compunction in using extreme violence.

There is also a great deal of foreshadowing with Harvey Dent, who will soon transform into the villain Two Face. Dent is shown as eager to take down the Falcone crime syndicate, but like Batman he does not seem to have any problem going outside the law to do it. Gordon illustrates the sort of danger inherent in this path by asking that if they break the law will they be any better than Falcone? When Batman and Dent burn Falcone's money, Dent is also clearly tempted to take some of the money for himself. It also appears that Dent has already taken the law into his own hands by murdering Johnny Viti. Finally, in many panels, Dent's face is drawn with two halves, one in the light and the other in the dark. Perhaps the best example of this visual touch is in the third panel on page thirty-six. Showing half of Dent's face in the light and the other half in the dark is clear foreshadowing of the literal splitting his face will soon undergo.



Chapter Two

Chapter Two Summary

At the beginning of chapter two, Batman says that Harvey Dent is dead. It is Thanksgiving night, and Batman and Chief Gordon are interrogating a suspect in the murder of Dent, Mickey "The Mink" Sullivan. Sullivan is the head of a small gang known as the Irish, all of whom have been rounded up and are being held in the jail. Batman and Gordon want Sullivan to tell them who hired him to murder Dent and offer to give him help if he does. Sullivan initially resists the interrogation and tells Batman and Dent that he does not know anyone named Carmine Falcone or The Roman. Batman produces a nail that was in the bomb that killed Dent and explains to Sullivan that each nail has a serial number which was traced to Sullivan's receipt.

Sullivan confesses to the crime but also claims that there were a number of people who wanted to kill Dent. Sullivan also explains how he fled his apartment when Batman chased after him and fled into a sewer where he was attacked by Solomon Grundy, who Batman then fights and beats. Batman regrets having to fight Grundy because Grundy is an innocent party in this particular incident. Sullivan offers to put his confession in writing but suggests that Dent killed Johnny Viti. Gordon dismisses Sullivan from the room. Batman and Gordon discuss whether Sullivan is telling the truth about Dent. Gordon believes it could be true, but Batman refuses to believe it. Gordon asks why Sullivan would confess but not name Falcone as the one who paid him to kill Dent. Batman is convinced that Sullivan is frightened of someone even more powerful than the government or Batman.

The next scene takes place at Falcone's apartment, where Carmine and Alberto are preparing Thanksgiving dinner. Carla, Johnny Viti's mother and Carmine's sister, barges into the apartment still distraught over Viti's death. Carla is skeptical that Viti's murder was the work of Dent. Carmine insists that the problem is being dealt with.

Back in the holding cell, Sullivan tells the members of his gang to stick to the plan. They compare the situation to being caught in a lion's mouth, and if they all go down together, they will get stuck. Each member of the gang is brought into Gordon and Batman one by one, and each one confesses to a different aspect of the crime and offers to put the confession in writing. However, none of them mention a word about Falcone. Sullivan is brought back into Gordon's office, but it is quickly revealed that on the way to the holding cell Sullivan was swapped for Harvey Dent in a costume. Since he is not actually dead, Dent wants to drop the charges against the Irish and put out word that they cut deals to see how Falcone reacts. Gordon insists that Dent charge the gang with attempted murder, which Dent does, but the gang is bailed out in under an hour.

Dent spends his Thanksgiving with his wife in the hospital. Gordon does not make it home in time for dinner with his wife. Batman takes Thanksgiving dinner to Solomon Grundy in the sewer. The Irish celebrate their release in a fancy hotel but are interrupted



and all shot dead during the meal. A gun similar to the one used to kill Viti is left at the crime scene.

Chapter Two Analysis

The most interesting aspect of chapter two is the parallel drawn between Solomon Grundy and Batman. Batman is clearly the heroic protagonist of the story, and Grundy is one his traditional villains. However, when Sullivan tries to escape Batman in the sewer and runs into Grundy, Batman compares this to running from one demon only to find another, so clearly Batman sees himself as something of a demon. Furthermore, Batman refers to Grundy as one of Gotham's "lost souls," so Batman must also think of himself as a lost soul. Finally, Batman's act of taking Grundy Thanksgiving dinner suggests that they are united in their loneliness. While Batman may seem to live a privileged society life as Bruce Wayne, and Grundy lives isolated in the sewers, Batman's secrecy alienates him from all others in the world. Some people may know Bruce Wayne, and some may know Batman, but no one knows the whole person. Batman sees in Grundy that same alienation and lack of understanding from the outside world.

There is also an interesting reference with Mickey Sullivan's gang the Irish to the classic Martin Scorsese's 1990 mobster film "Goodfellas." One member of Sullivan's gang is Willie Two Times, who always repeats himself. This is an obvious reference to the character from the film Jimmy Two Times who had the same verbal tic. Although not as direct, it is possible that the entire gang is a reference to Robert De Niro's character in the film, Jimmy Conway. Conway is never able to become a full or "made" member of the Mafia because he is half Irish. In the same way, naming Sullivan's gang the Irish may imply an ethnic aspect to the crime hierarchy in Gotham. Carmine "The Roman" Falcone, a character with an almost absurdly Italian name, is the head of Gotham's crime world and Mickey Sullivan, an extremely Irish name, and the Irish are below him.



Chapter Three

Chapter Three Summary

Chapter three begins with the Joker reading a newspaper and asking who the Holiday Killer is and singing "Winter Wonderland." He quickly rips the paper into thousands of tiny pieces and declares that he hates the song. It is next revealed that the Joker is robbing a family of all their Christmas presents and has them gagged and bound with Christmas lights.

The story then cuts to Gordon and Batman walking on Christmas Eve through Arkham Asylum, which is where Gotham houses the criminally insane. Gordon tells Batman that the Joker has escaped and robbed a family, but Batman tells Gordon that he already knows. Gordon notes that there are almost twice as many inmates in Arkham Asylum as when Batman appeared, but Batman denies the correlation has anything to do with his presence. Batman assures himself that Gotham needs him to protect it from evil people. One such evil person is Julian Day, The Calendar Man, who Batman and Gordon have come to visit. Gordon tells Day that he can be let out with time served if Day will help Gordon solve the case of Holiday. Day is believed to have special insight into the case because he chooses his crimes based on the date. Day insists the killer will strike again on Christmas and cryptically alternates between genders when referring to Holiday.

The scene shifts to Maroni's Restaurant, the private eatery of Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni, Falcone's chief rival in Gotham. Maroni tells his associate Toots that Dent must be Holiday and that Toots should put someone in the district attorney's office to monitor Dent. Toots begins to tell Maroni that there already is a man named Vernon working in the office, but breaks out into hysterical laughter before collapsing into his food. The Joker, dressed as a waiter, then offers Maroni more wine. Maroni pulls a gun on the Joker, but the Joker pulls out a larger one. The Joker insists Maroni must be Holiday because he has the most to gain by killing Falcone's men, but Maroni denies it. Two of Maroni's men try to dispose of Toots' body but are attacked by Batman. Maroni comes to investigate but is also beaten by Batman.

Harvey Dent brings his wife Gilda home from the hospital to a new house. Harvey takes Gilda inside, and they talk of trying to have children before Gilda goes upstairs. Dent soon discovers the Joker in the house and gets into a fight with him. The Joker subdues Dent and tells him that if he is Holiday, he should stop the killings immediately because the Joker wants to be the only killer in town. The Joker then leaves for Falcone's penthouse. The Joker tells Falcone that if he does not find Holiday, the Joker will kill everyone in Gotham to find Holiday. The Joker stands outside of the penthouse when he is attacked by Falcone's bodyguard Milos. The Joker escapes, but just after he drives away, Milos is shot with Holiday's calling card gun again left at the scene. Batman finds Milos' body, and some of the Joker's cards. Batman assumes the Joker is Holiday and promises to make this Christmas the Joker's last.



Chapter Three Analysis

In chapter three, both Gordon and Maroni hint at the idea that more criminally insane people have come to Gotham since the arrival of Batman. Batman dismisses this idea out of hand, but it could suggest that Batman is the greatest lunatic of them all. Perhaps it is Batman's style of vigilantism that attracts psychotic criminals who live for the challenge of taking on Batman. This idea creates doubt that Batman is the hero that he, or the audience, believes him to be. Batman could in fact be the chief villain in Gotham's problems, but he cannot even admit the idea to himself.

As the Joker robs the family at the beginning of the chapter, he recites lines from the Dr. Seuss poem "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," which offers a nice parallel to the Joker's own activities. The Joker also uses a line from the Grinch when he encounters Dent. However, later when the Joker is leaving Falcone's penthouse, he speaks lines from the poem "The Night Before Christmas." This may suggest nothing besides the Joker's own psychosis, but it could suggest that the Joker sees himself as something of a Santa Claus figure, helping rid Gotham of the Holiday killer.

The Calendar Man's real name Julian Day is a partial explanation of his criminal alias. Day is a straightforward reference to a day of the week or month, while Julian refers to the Julian calendar established by Julius Caesar.



Chapter Four

Chapter Four Summary

At the beginning of chapter four, it is New Year's Eve and the Joker has just killed the ground's crew for a crop duster plane and stolen it. Batman is attempting to intercept the Joker in his car, but he is late. Batman knows that the Joker plans to use his poisonous laughing gas on the crowd at Gotham Square at midnight.

At Harvey Dent's office, Dent is working late but just about to go home when Vernon comes in with news on the Falcone case. Vernon claims to have found a connection between Falcone and Bruce Wayne.

The Joker is having trouble flying the crop duster and discovers it is because Batman has landed on top of it. Batman orders the Joker to land the plane, but the Joker instead almost throws Batman off of it.

In Gotham Harbor, Falcone and Maroni are celebrating the New Year on Falcone's yacht. Maroni suggests that if the two of them do not solve the Holiday problem, this year could be the last for both of them. Falcone responds that everyone who has died has been on his side, but it still could be Maroni's last year. Falcone walks away from Maroni and runs into Carla, who Falcone implies might be one of his enemies. Falcone asks where Alberto is, and Carla tells him she last saw him on the deck. Falcone leaves and thinks to himself that without Alberto he would have no one to trust. Alberto is shown on the deck of the boat, and Carla steps outside to smoke a cigarette. Alberto is shot in view of Carla and falls overboard with Holiday's gun left on the ground.

Dent returns home to Gilda and finds the Gordons there as well to celebrate the New Year. The two men walk into the kitchen, while Barbara Gordon and Gilda discuss having children. In the kitchen, Dent tells Gordon that they need to discuss Bruce Wayne.

Batman and the Joker continue to fight in the sky, and the Joker tells Batman that they share the same goal of eliminating Holiday. Batman knocks the Joker unconscious and swings both of them over to the clock tower as it strikes midnight, and the plane falls into the harbor. Batman believes that this New Year may finally be the one where he rids Gotham of crime.

Chapter Four Analysis

Near the beginning of chapter four, Vernon is speaking to Harvey Dent, and Dent tells Vernon that "There's two ways of looking at everything" (Loeb, p. 111). This is another piece of foreshadowing directed at Dent's future life as Two Face. Two Face is obsessed with the duplicity in all things, especially himself. Of course, Dent already has the potential for great evil that will make him Two Face within him. Dent's seemingly



heroic role as district attorney is just the positive way of looking at his life. Earlier on the same page, Dent tells himself that if he had "half a brain" he would already be home. Again, this hints at the division already within Dent.

Vernon is also an interesting study in duality. The previous chapter revealed that Vernon is actually working for Maroni. However, he is illustrated a slight, bookish man, not at all the image of a gangster. Vernon is living two lives, which is also similar to Batman and Bruce Wayne.

Near the end of the chapter, Batman punches the Joker as they are flying in the crop duster. In the illustration, the Joker's body stretches to an absurd proportion, which is likely meant to illustrate the character's cartoonish and maniacal nature.

Also in chapter four, both the Joker and Maroni suggest that Holiday might be a woman.



Chapter Five

Chapter Five Summary

At the beginning of chapter five, it is Valentine's Day, and Gordon and Dent are looking for Bruce Wayne at Wayne Manor. Wayne is not home, but Alfred shows the two men inside. Dent asks if Alfred remembers Falcone ever visiting Wayne's father, but Alfred does not respond to the question. Alfred subtly reminds Dent and Gordon that it is Valentine's Day, and the two leave to get gifts for their wives.

At Gotham cemetery, Falcone rests a rose on the grave of his son Alfredo when he is confronted by Batman. Batman tells Falcone that Alfredo's death was part of the price he must pay for being a criminal. This angers Falcone, and he is about to shoot Batman when Catwoman intervenes and takes Falcone's pistol. Batman notes that every time he gets close to Falcone, Catwoman appears and chases after her to find out why. Batman catches Catwoman but merely tells her she should not have interfered.

Bruce Wayne meets Selina Kyle outside the opera house, and they are soon approached by a woman dressed in green selling roses. Kyle buys a rose for Wayne, who immediately pricks himself with one of the thorns.

At Maroni's restaurant, Maroni is paying Vernon for his services. Vernon tells Maroni that Dent believes Maroni is the weak link to get to Falcone. Outside the restaurant, some of Maroni's guards are sitting in a car to stay warm when the car is riddled with bullets, killing them all. Very soon thereafter, the car explodes, killing most of the people in the front of Maroni's restaurant. When Maroni goes outside to investigate, he finds a box of chocolates indicating that Holiday is responsible for the attack. Maroni vows war on Holiday.

In the next scenes, Gordon and Dent return home to their wives, both carrying identical boxes of chocolates as the one left by Holiday at Maroni's restaurant.

Wayne returns to Wayne Manor but says nothing to Alfred as he enters. Wayne walks to back courtyard where he meets the woman who was selling the roses earlier, but she is now sprouting ivy from all parts of her body. This is Poison Ivy, and the rose has put Wayne into a trance. Poison Ivy and Wayne embrace.

Chapter Five Analysis

In the very first panel of this chapter, Alfred is shown opening the door to Wayne Manor. His face is shown half in darkness and half in light as Dent's face has been several times. This is likely not meant as a comment upon Alfred's character but as a stand in for Batman's. Batman is split in both his life and in his desires. Although Batman wishes to rid Gotham of crime, he is willing to use unscrupulous methods to achieve that goal in the same way Dent is.



When Batman confronts Falcone in the cemetery, he internally refers to Falcone as "untouchable" but notes that since Holiday was capable of killing Alberto, Falcone is touchable just like all other people. This point is reiterated when Batman falls under the spell of Poison Ivy. Batman is typically considered untouchable and beyond corruption. In short, Batman is beyond the failings of an ordinary human being. However, by falling victim to Poison Ivy's toxin, Batman reveals himself to be nothing more than a man. This is why Poison Ivy notes that no man can resist her powers. This point suggests an inherent danger in believing that a person is super human.



Chapter Six

Chapter Six Summary

Chapter six begins with a shadowy individual being released from Gotham Penitentiary. This person is quickly revealed to be Sofia Falcone, the daughter of Carmine. Carmine and Sofia meet and embrace, with Carmine telling Sofia that the family needs her.

The scene shifts to Bruce Wayne attending the March meeting of Gotham City Bank. Wayne tells the board members that he has changed his mind about the Falcone money entering the bank. Wayne notes that it does not feel like he is speaking the words. The board members are pleased with Wayne's reversal but find it out of character for him. Wayne tells them it was a "change of heart" but knows internally that they could not understand. Wayne finds his mind clouded but at peace. Leaving the bank, Wayne walks directly past Selina Kyle, who calls out to him, but Wayne never turns back. Wayne gets into the limo with Poison Ivy, who Kyle recognizes.

A war has broken out between Maroni and Falcone, which pleases Dent. Gordon scolds Dent because Gordon sees it as their jobs to prevent these murders from happening. Dent suggests to Gordon that they act on the connection between Falcone and Wayne. Gordon believes they should concentrate on Maroni. Vernon eavesdrops on Dent and Gordon's conversation.

Carla Viti is taking target practice with her pistol. Batman's narration reveals that the Viti family runs Chicago and wants to gain power in Gotham. Sofia Falcone walks into the room, and the two embrace. Carla vows to kill Holiday with her pistol. Sofia tells Carla that Carmine is planning an attack against Maroni for Saint Patrick's Day and wants to know if Carla will back Maroni. Carla explains that now that Carmine has money flowing through the bank, she has no reason to attack him.

Back at Wayne Manor, Wayne and Poison Ivy are eating a meal, and Wayne is clearly still under Ivy's influence. Catwoman breaks in and attacks Poison Ivy. Wayne attempts to save Poison Ivy, but Catwoman attacks him and pulls the ivy from his body. Wayne is released from Poison Ivy's influence.

On the morning of Saint Patrick's Day, Holiday attacks Maroni's safe house leaving behind the gun and a leprechaun statue. Sofia Falcone sees this and decides that the attack changes the Falcones' plans.

That night, Batman responds to the Bat Signal only to find Catwoman on top of it. Batman thanks Catwoman for saving Wayne from Poison Ivy, claiming that Wayne is a friend. Batman asks why Catwoman helps him, and Catwoman tells him he will understand eventually. Batman is glad to be free from Poison Ivy, but realizes he must fix the damage he did under Ivy's influence.

The final page shows Falcone paying Poison Ivy for controlling Wayne.



Chapter Six Analysis

In chapter six, nearly every panel is cast in shades of green. Several objects that should not be green such as the fire at Wayne Manor and the door of Gotham Penitentiary are drawn with the color. Also, most characters are shown wearing green in this chapter. Even while Chief Gordon discusses how the Holiday killing make him think of red with Harvey Dent, he is shown wearing an olive green shirt and the window of Dent's office is a green tint. This motif is both befitting of the chapter being set near Saint Patrick's Day but also because of Poison Ivy's influence over Bruce Wayne throughout most of the chapter. In fact, the green shading only becomes less prevalent after Catwoman rids Wayne of Ivy's influence.

Dent is shown twice more with half of his face in the shadow and the other half in the light hinting again as his role as Two-Face. This happens during his discussion with Gordon about the war between Maroni and Falcone. Dent seems happy that the mobsters are murdering each other and implies that it is the job of the justice system to murder criminals. This is the evil side of Dent coming out, so it is appropriate that he is shown divided at this particular part. Also, when the text shows Dent's split face in the first panel on page 162, the background of the panel is Dent's window, and Dent's first name can be read on it backwards. This suggests that Dent himself can be read in two different ways: forwards and backwards or good and evil.



Chapter Seven

Chapter Seven Summary

Chapter seven opens on April Fool's Day with Edward Nigma (better known as the Riddler) and Batman in two separate locations attempting to determine the identity of Holiday. Both the Riddler and Batman study the items left by Holiday at the scene of each crime, all of which are related to the holiday of that particular murder. The Riddler is working for Falcone to solve the mystery, which the Riddler sees as just a riddle. Batman is working in the Bat Cave. The Riddler first suggests that Holiday might be Catwoman because she has the motive after Falcone put a bounty on her and also explains why the killer uses a lightweight gun. Batman hypothesizes that Maroni is Holiday because the killings originally targeted only Falcone people, and Maroni was on the boat with Alfredo on New Year's Eve. The Riddler next suggests that Carla Viti might be responsible for the killings. Carla killed her son Johnny Viti to keep him from testifying and since no one would suspect her in the murder, she could now kill anyone without suspicion. Alfred interrupts Batman's thinking and presents the idea that Harvey Dent could be Holiday. Batman thinks back to all the vengeful words Dent has spoken against the murder victims, and comes to believe Dent is Holiday.

At Dent's office, Dent tells Gordon that he intends to arrest Bruce Wayne for cooperating with Falcone's "Roman Empire."

Falcone is growing tired of the Riddler's guesses and has Sofia squeeze his head to produce a firm answer. The Riddler says that Falcone himself is Holiday. Falcone laughs at the answer and has Sofia throw the Riddler out. The Riddler is almost immediately confronted by Holiday who only shoots around him as an April Fool's joke.

Chapter Seven Analysis

The green motif from chapter six is continued somewhat into chapter seven. Perhaps this is meant to symbolize the green of the Riddler's costume, but it could also again relate to the season as April is connected to the return of spring and green plants.

When Alfred suggests to Batman that Dent might be Holiday, Alfred tells Batman that though Batman is sane, Alfred has seen him behave in very strange ways to obtain justice. Alfred puts emphasis on the word "sane," which could be meant to imply that he believes Batman is just the opposite. Regardless of Alfred's assessment of Batman's mental state, Alfred is certainly hinting at the idea that even noble ends can lead to terrible means.

Finally, on page 196, Dent tells Gordon that if Bruce Wayne is helping Falcone, "He deserves everything that's coming to him," and puts emphasis on "everything" (Loeb, p. 196). In this panel, Dent is again shown with shadows over half his face and is revealing his dark side verbally.



Chapter Eight

Chapter Eight Summary

At the beginning of chapter eight, it is almost Mother's Day, and Batman is at Arkham Asylum trying to get information about the Holiday killings from The Calendar Man. Batman asks The Calendar Man about Harvey Dent, but the Calendar Man only tells Batman that Dent is a Gemini and has a birthday in the near future. The Calendar Man tells Batman that if he is let out he can stop the killings. Batman's interrogation is soon interrupted by guard's telling him that someone has escaped on the fourth floor. By the fear in the guard's voice Batman knows it must be Jonathan Crane, also known as The Scarecrow. When Batman reaches The Scarecrow's cell, another guard tells him that The Scarecrow's mother came to visit him. Batman knows this is false because The Scarecrow strangled his mother on Mother's Day. The Scarecrow attempts to escape on horseback, but Batman catches up to him and demands to know who helped him escape. Batman soon discovers that what he thought was the Scarecrow was a fake filled with the Scarecrow's toxic gas that sends people into panic.

Captain Gordon is looking for Bruce Wayne at Wayne Manor, but Alfred explains that Wayne is not at home and that Mother's Day is a very important day to him considering that his mother was murdered.

On Gotham River Bridge, Sofia Falcone is strangling a man for information on a person who makes .22 pistols just like Holiday uses. The man tells Sofia the man's location, but Sofia still drops him from the bridge. Sofia rushes to the location only to find the gunsmith murdered and a Mother's Day basket left by his body.

Bruce Wayne is walking through the streets of Gotham, remembering the night of his parents were murdered. Wayne remembers that he asked his mother to wear pearls that night to make it special, and it was the pearls that the robber wanted. Wayne is approached by Gordon, and, still under the influence of the Scarecrow's drug, believes him to be the robber that shot his parents. Wayne runs from Gordon, believing that his mother is with him. Gordon cautiously pursues and eventually finds Wayne crying at his mother's grave.

Chapter Eight Analysis

This chapter revolves around the guilt Batman/Bruce Wayne feels over his mother's death. The most obvious place this occurs is when Chief Gordon chases Wayne through the streets of Gotham with Wayne believing Gordon to be the robber that killed his mother. Although Wayne is under the influence of the Scarecrow's fear drug, the drug is only playing upon what Wayne fears most, which is the murder of his mother. Wayne even tries to save his mother as he could not do the night she was killed. This theme is also brought out when The Calendar Man tells Batman that every son has a



mother. Knowingly or not, The Calendar Man has hit on Batman's greatest weakness and fear, so it is no coincidence that the Scarecrow is introduced immediately following this panel. Batman also seems to exhibit greater anger towards The Scarecrow when he attacks what he believes to be The Scarecrow. This is likely because The Scarecrow killed his mother on Mother's Day. To Batman, there can be nothing more subhuman than to destroy one's own mother. It is a commonplace that Bruce Wayne takes on the role of Batman to avenge the death of his parents, but this chapter illustrates that idea more than any other in the book.



Chapter Nine

Chapter Nine Summary

Chapter nine opens near Father's Day with Bruce Wayne remembering his father, Thomas Wayne. Thomas Wayne saves Carmine Falcone's life when his father Vincent Falcone brought him to Wayne Manor after being shot by Luigi Maroni, the father of Salvatore Maroni. Thomas Wayne operates on Carmine because Vincent cannot take him to a hospital without Luigi killing him. Bruce Wayne is sitting in a jail cell and realizes that if his father had not saved Carmine's life, he would not be in jail. Wayne goes on trial, and Harvey Dent questions Alfred on the relationship between Bruce Wayne and Carmine Falcone. Alfred testifies that there is no such relationship to his knowledge.

The next page cuts to the home of Luigi Maroni, who is advising his son Salvatore to ignore Holiday and focus on attacking Falcone. Luigi is then shot by Holiday, leaving behind a necktie.

At Falcone's penthouse, Sofia informs her father Carmine that the jury acquitted Bruce Wayne. Catwoman observes Sofia and Carmine from a nearby rooftop and sees Sofia give Carmine a necktie as a Father's Day gift. Carmine tells Sofia that he appreciates the gift but does not act like it, which disappoints Sofia.

Gordon comes home to find his son James sleeping, with a Father's Day card and a necktie for him. Gordon calls it the best Father's Day gift he could get.

At the Dent household, Gilda finds Harvey sitting in the basement. Harvey tells Gilda that he went to see his father, who is insane and gave him a coin. Harvey explains that the trial of Bruce Wayne was like a coin flip that Harvey could not win. Harvey says with Wayne freed, it leaves everyone else to do what has to be done.

In Gotham Central Park, The Scarecrow is creating more chemicals and is soon joined by Jervis Tetch, also known as The Mad Hatter. Both men were broken out of Arkham Asylum by Falcone to rob Gotham City Bank.

At Wayne Manor, Wayne regrets that his father did not let Falcone die. Alfred tells Wayne that his father would have done the same for anyone. Wayne says that he misses his father, and Alfred tells Wayne that he is very much like him.

Vernon brings Dent back to the district attorney's office where Maroni is waiting for Dent. Maroni offers to help Dent attack Falcone.



Chapter Nine Analysis

During Bruce Wayne's trial, Alfred testifies that Thomas Wayne may have filed a report of operating on Carmine Falcone, but that it may have been lost due to the corruption of the police department and the district attorney's office. Alfred then states that Gotham may not have changed since those days. Alfred is implying that Dent is corrupt, and although Alfred has no way of knowing it, it is true that Dent is willing to bend or even break the law to get what he sees as justice.

The scene in which Luigi Maroni is killed is a reference to the final scene in the original "Godfather." Luigi Maroni and Don Vito Corleone are both in their orange groves when they die. Luigi also bears a striking resemblance to Marlon Brando, who played Corleone.

By pairing the reactions of Carmine Falcone and Chief Gordon to their Father's Day gifts, a powerful point is made. Carmine does not care about Sofia's gift, indicating that not only is he a criminal, but he is also a terrible father. This is especially disgraceful as the mafia is built upon strong familial ties, so in order to be a good mobster, it is typically assumed one must be a good patriarch. Gordon, on the other hand, deeply appreciates his Father's Day Gift. Gordon is not only a dedicated public servant but also a caring, if extraordinarily busy, father. Gordon is, in many ways, the moral center of the story, and this is one major illustration of that.

Finally, when Glenda Dent talks to Harvey in the basement, he has acquired a coin, which is one of Two-Face's trademark symbols. The coin clearly represents the dualistic nature of Dent's personality.



Chapter Ten

Chapter Ten Summary

At the beginning of chapter ten, Holiday murders the Gotham City Coroner in his hearse as fireworks are going off.

Bruce Wayne is spending the Fourth of July with Selina Kyle at Wayne Manor. Kyle asks Wayne why he stays in Gotham, and Wayne replies that he made a promise to his parents. Kyle tells Wayne that there are places they could go together, and the two kiss as the Bat Signal goes up in the sky. When Batman arrives on the roof he finds Harvey Dent flipping a coin. Batman questions whether he ever really knew Dent. Dent admits that he made a mistake by attacking Bruce Wayne and tells Batman that after Maroni testifies against Falcone he is going to leave the city for a time. Gordon joins Batman and Dent on the roof to inform them that Holiday has killed the coroner.

At Gotham Jail, Sofia Falcone comes to visit Maroni. Sofia tells Maroni that she did not testify against him when she went to jail and that she missed him everyday. Maroni and Sofia kiss, and Sofia tells Maroni that Falcone knows that Dent is to blame for Maroni's upcoming testimony.

At Barbara and Chief Jim Gordon's house, Gilda Dent asks Barbara why she stays in Gotham. Barbara replies that they stay because Chief Gordon is so dedicated to his work. Gilda tells Barbara that the Holiday case is changing Harvey and she wonders if she will ever get him back.

Batman and Gordon are investigating the murder of the coroner, and Batman tells Gordon that the killer was able to get very close indicating the coroner knew the killer. Gordon tells Batman that he has seen Batman get very close without being noticed, subtly implying that he might be Holiday. This suggestion draws a harsh stare from Batman. Gordon questions why Holiday killed the coroner because the coroner is not in any way tied to Falcone. More fireworks begin to go off, but they do not belong to the city, and Batman quickly disappears.

The guards at the Gotham Bank Depository see the fireworks and are quickly overtaken by Scarecrow's fear gas. Scarecrow and the Mad Hatter ride up to the depository in a carriage and begin to loot it. Batman attacks both of them and realizes they must have been set free from Arkham Asylum by Falcone. Catwoman helps Batman defeat the Mad Hatter and tells him that there are places she could show him. Batman asks Catwoman if she wants to help defeat Falcone, but she refuses, leaving Batman to deal with the situation on his own.



Chapter Ten Analysis

Near the beginning of the chapter ten, Bruce Wayne explains that although he has lived at Wayne Manor for almost as long as his father lived there, he cannot help but thinking of it as his father's house. This indicates that Wayne has never fully accepted the loss of his parents. Wayne in some way still expects his parents to come home, probably once he has fulfilled his promise to rid Gotham of evil as Batman.

In the next to last frame on page 263, one of the lenses in Chief Gordon's glasses is clear while the other is opaque. This suggests a duality in Gordon but of a specific variety. Gordon is only capable of seeing half the truth. Gordon is a good detective, but he is occasionally blinded to leads or suspects by his emotions or bonds.

When Batman is fighting the Scarecrow, he admits that he has to struggle not to enjoy breaking Scarecrow's ribs. This fact shows Batman is aware of the struggle between good and evil within himself. The same cannot be said of Harvey Dent.

At the end of the chapter, Catwoman tells Batman that he is losing by not coming with her but Batman replies that it is "the price of independence" (Loeb, p. 272). As Batman speaks these words, The Scarecrow and The Mad Hatter lie beaten on the ground and say "fears" and "madness," respectively. This should be taken as an indication that fears and madness are part of the price a society pays for independence and freedom.



Chapter Eleven

Chapter Eleven Summary

Chapter eleven opens with Gilda Dent asking her husband to tell her the truth. Gilda is confronting Harvey because she found a .22 caliber pistol like those used by Holiday on his workbench. Harvey avoids the question initially by telling Gilda that he has to be in court in an hour. Gilda asks Harvey when he brings home evidence from work, and Harvey replies that he does it frequently.

In the next scene, Batman appears at a bar looking for the Riddler. The bartender attempts to fight Batman but is quickly beaten. The Riddler then reveals himself sitting drunk at the back of the bar. Batman asks the Riddler what he saw when Holiday nearly killed him and why he was at Falcone's hideout. The Riddler tells Batman that Falcone wanted to know who Holiday was and that the better question is why Holiday didn't kill him. Batman speculates that maybe Falcone just wanted the Riddler to tell everyone that he is trying to find Holiday.

Carla Viti is arguing with Falcone about his use of Poison Ivy, Scarecrow, and the Mad Hatter, whom she refers to as "freaks." Falcone refuses to explain his actions to Carla.

At Gotham City Courthouse, Maroni is being led out of his cell to testify against Falcone. Chief Gordon searches Maroni before he allows him to proceed. Before entering the courtroom, Maroni is met by Vernon who gives Maroni some medication for his ulcer that Vernon says is from Harvey Dent. Dent calls Maroni to the stand.

At Falcone's penthouse, Falcone is led into a room where a surprise birthday party waits for him. Sofia tells Falcone to make a wish as the cake is placed before him.

In the courtroom, Maroni admits to killing several other gangsters and tossing their bodies in Gotham River. Maroni says that he may have developed his ulcer from drinking water from the river. Dent seems surprised that Maroni has an ulcer. Dent asks Maroni if he committed the murders under orders from Falcone, but before Maroni answers he begins to cough and reaches for the ulcer medication in his coat. Maroni throws the contents of medication bottle in Dent's face just as Falcone is shown blowing out the candles on his cake. Maroni tells Dent that he will die because the acid in the bottle is extremely powerful. Bruce Wayne witnesses all this from the public area of the courtroom while wearing a disguise and claims he will never forget the sound of Dent's screams.

At Gotham hospital, Gilda Dent and Jim and Barbara Gordon are waiting for the doctor to inform them of Dent's condition. The doctor enters and tells them that Dent is gone. Gilda believes this statement means Dent is dead, but the doctor explains that Dent has escaped before collapsing on the floor from a stab wound in the back.



Carla Viti is searching through the files on Holiday at the Gotham City Coroner's office when she is shot by Holiday.

Chapter Eleven Analysis

The title of chapter eleven, "Roman Holiday," is also the title of a classic film starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck.

Near the beginning of the chapter, the bartender at the Riddler's hideout tells Batman that he thought Batman "only came out at night" (Loeb, p. 279). The idea that someone or a group of people only come out at night is one typically leveled at very unusual people, or "freaks." A few pages later, Carla Viti criticizes Falcone for employing "freaks" like Poison Ivy, Scarecrow, and The Mad Hatter. In this way, the text again draws a parallel between Batman and his greatest enemies.

When Salvatore Maroni throws acid in Harvey Dent's face, Vernon leaves the room to go get help. Although Vernon aided Falcone and Maroni in their attack on Dent, after seeing the damage that he has done, Vernon seems to feel legitimately sorry for his actions. Furthermore, the background for the page illustrating Dent's face being burned off is split directly down the middle between a dark red and black. This is more foreshadowing of Dent's transformation into Two Face, which is now almost complete.



Chapter Twelve

Chapter Twelve Summary

At the beginning of chapter twelve, it is almost Labor Day, and Harvey Dent, who now has his face completely damaged, encounters Solomon Grundy in the sewer. Grundy attacks Dent, until Dent recites the poem that gives Grundy his name. Dent wonders if Grundy died and came back and if such a thing is possible.

Batman meets with Chief Gordon on the rooftop, and faced with the evidence found in Dent's briefcase, Gordon concludes that Dent is Holiday. Gordon accuses Batman of knowing that Dent is Holiday, but Batman will not even acknowledge the accusation. Batman refuses to believe Dent is Holiday, but Gordon points out that Batman could be wrong. Gordon tells Batman to find Dent.

Batman first seeks out Falcone at his penthouse in his search for Dent. Falcone tells Batman that he does not know where Dent is and that Batman and the police allowed Dent to act as Holiday because Holiday was only killing Falcone's people. This angers Batman, and Batman pushes Falcone back across his bedroom. Sofia Falcone enters with a gun drawn, but Batman has already gone. Batman is quickly across the street where Catwoman had been observing him. Batman again demands to know why Catwoman is always around when he confronts Falcone. Batman grips Catwoman tightly enough to hurt her but then loosens his grip. Catwoman tells Batman that it might be because she is following him not Falcone before jumping off the roof.

At the Dents' home, Gilda Dent believes she hears something in the basement and proceeds to investigate. She finds Batman, who demands to know where her husband is. Batman explains that the gun found in Dent's briefcase matches those used by Holiday and that the vise on Dent's workbench has tiny metal filings from a gun on it. Gilda pleads with Batman to find Dent.

Batman next interrogates The Calendar Man. The Calendar Man again switches genders constantly when referring to Holiday. Batman tells The Calendar Man that they are sure Dent is Holiday. The Calendar Man tells Batman that the police have something Holiday wants.

At Gotham City Jail, Gordon and a police guard move Maroni to another cell, believing this is who Holiday wants. As Gordon and the guard move Maroni to another cell, Holiday shoots Maroni and the guard. Gordon points his flashlight at the killer, revealing Alberto Falcone.



Chapter Twelve Analysis

When Harvey Dent encounters Solomon Grundy, Dent asks Grundy if he came back from the dead to live a second life. This is an obvious reference to the second life Dent is about to embark upon as Two-Face.

Batman again questions Catwoman about why she is always around when Batman confronts Falcone, and among the reasons Catwoman gives is that she may just be following Batman. Batman is too absorbed in finding Dent to see the obvious fact that Catwoman is Selina Kyle and is romantically interested in him.

When Batman asks The Calendar Man to help find Dent, The Calendar Man refers to Dent as "Har. v. Dent." This structure resembles that of a court case, suggesting that Dent is at war with himself, which he is as Two-Face. The Calendar Man also reiterates that Dent is a Gemini, which is symbolized by the twins Castor and Pollux from Greek mythology, again touching on Dent's duality. The Calendar Man's continuous use of both genders to refer to Holiday hints that there may be more than one killer acting as Holiday.



Chapter Thirteen

Chapter Thirteen Summary

As chapter thirteen opens, Alberto Falcone is standing over Chief Gordon and Alberto says that he is Holiday. The guard that Alberto shot jumps up from the floor and knocks the gun from his hand. The guard is actually Batman, and he is wearing a bulletproof vest. Knowing Alberto is Holiday, Batman regrets suspecting Dent. Batman strangles Alberto, but Gordon stops him before Alberto dies because they will both regret it. Batman releases Alberto, and Gordon arrests him for killing Maroni.

In Batman's inner monologue, he surmises that Alberto faked his own death and then had to kill the coroner and Carla Viti to keep the secret. Carmine Falcone comes to visit Alberto in jail. Batman believes Falcone had to help Alberto commit the murders. Falcone tells Alberto that he can get Alberto released if Alberto will confess to killing Maroni and no one else. Falcone insists that Alberto stop telling people he is Holiday, which enrages Alberto. Alberto demands that Falcone say when Alberto's birthday is, but Falcone cannot. Alberto resents that Falcone always kept him out of the family business, so Alberto is pleased that he is now more famous than Falcone as Holiday.

At the Dent's home, it is Halloween night, and Gilda Dent is giving children candy. Barbara and Jim Gordon arrive unannounced with their infant son. Gilda tells Barbara that she keeps expecting it to be Harvey when the doorbell rings, but it is always just children. Gilda wonders aloud where Harvey is.

At Arkham Asylum, three panels show the empty cells of The Joker, The Scarecrow, and Poison Ivy and then The Calendar Man in his cell. The Calendar Man is approached by Dent, now transformed into Two-Face. Two-Face flips a coin and then apologizes to The Calendar Man.

Falcone is angrily wrecking his penthouse kitchen because Alberto will not listen to him. Falcone feels responsible because he could have stopped Alberto. Sofia enters the kitchen. In the hallway, laughing gas is thrown at the guards. The lights in the kitchen go off, and Falcone orders everyone downstairs. As Falcone leads everyone through the hallway, he sees his guards dead from the gas. When Falcone breaks into his office he is confronted by the Joker, Solomon Grundy, Mad Hatter, Penguin, Scarecrow, Poison Ivy, Catwoman, and a mysterious figure in shadows seated at Falcone's desk. This figure tells Falcone that he is doing "what needs to be done," by which he means destroying Falcone (Loeb, p. 344). The figure is soon revealed to be Two-Face.

Falcone vows to burn Gotham down before allowing it to go to "freaks." Before a fight can break out, Batman throws gas into the room and smashes a door down on top of Grundy. Remembering some of his father's advice about surgery, Batman defeats the villains one by one. Batman asks Catwoman which side she is on, but she does not answer the question directly. In the commotion, Two-Face seized Falcone and is now



holding him with a gun to his head. Batman points out that by killing Falcone, Two-Face will be just like him. Two-Face responds that the system is broken and justice is decided by a coin flip. Two-Face flips a coin and shoots Falcone. Sofia tries to attack Dent, but is tied up by Catwoman. As Catwoman and Sofia struggle, they break through the window, and Catwoman accidentally drops Sofia to her death. Batman tries to convince Two-Face to turn himself in, but he punches Batman and escapes.

Two-Face confronts Vernon in the district attorney's office about giving Maroni the acid that blinded Dent. Two-Face flips a coin as Vernon begs not to die. Batman arrives to find that Vernon is dead and then sees the Bat Signal light up. Batman finds Two-Face on the roof of the police station. Two-Face says he did what had to be done, but Batman refuses to believe him. Gordon joins Batman and Two-Face on the roof. Batman tells Two-Face that they will help him, but Two-Face responds that they are the ones who will need help. Two-Face allows Gordon to arrest him but claims that there were two Holiday killers. After Two-Face is inside, Batman and Gordon debate what he meant by there being two Holiday killers. Batman notes that since Holiday killed Falcone on Halloween, Two-Face is also Holiday. Batman asks Gordon if the promise they made to play by the rules in going after Falcone was worth it. Gordon assures Batman that the good side won, but Gordon is unsure if the cost of Harvey Dent was worth it.

At the Gordon's home, Barbara asks Jim what he will do now that he has arrested Two-Face. Gordon replies that he will continue because he believes in Gotham City.

Batman vows to continue trying to fulfill the promise he made to his parents to rid Gotham of crime and that he believes in Batman.

At Arkham Asylum, Two-Face thinks of Gilda. On Christmas Eve, Gilda is packing up to move out of her house. Gilda says that she too did what had to be done so she could have more time with Harvey. Gilda says she read Harvey's files describing how the Holiday murders were committed and clues were left at the scene. Gilda says that she thought if she started killing as Holiday, Batman would never suspect her. Gilda is placing evidence from the Holiday killings into her basement furnace. Gilda says that she killed Johnny Viti, the Irish, and Milos, but she knew that Harvey must have shot Alberto. Gilda hopes Two-Face never confesses to the other killings because she believes in Harvey Dent.

Chapter Thirteen Analysis

The name of chapter thirteen is "Punishment," which when combined with the name of the first chapter, "Crime," produces "Crime and Punishment," a reference to the classic 1866 novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky. The novel is about Raskolnikov, a Russian student who murders a wicked money lender. Raskolnikov believes that by killing the old woman, he is doing good for the world because she is a terrible person. However, Raskolnikov's guilt quickly begins to drive him mad, and Raskolnikov eventually accepts that it is impossible to do good by committing an act of evil. This plot parallels the character development of Harvey Dent. Dent deeply desires to do good for Gotham



City, but he is also willing to use evil or illegal means to reach his good ends. The reference to "Crime and Punishment" suggests that this is an impossibility.

The thirteenth chapter is deeply concerned with the concept of duty—or as many of the characters refer to it, "What needs to be done." The main difference is that each character has a different person or concept he or she feels duty bound towards. Two-Face believes it is his duty to kill Falcone because the justice system is broken, so he is the only one willing to dispense true justice. Gordon feels compelled to keep working as Gotham City's police chief even after arresting Dent because he feels his duty is to Gotham City. Batman will also continue to fight against criminals in Gotham City, but no longer because he believes in Gotham City as Bruce Wayne stated at the beginning of the book. Batman now is driven on purely by the promise he gave his parents to rid Gotham City of evil, so now Batman's only duty is to himself. Finally, Gilda Dent committed several of the Holiday murders because she wanted more time with Harvey, so she believes her duty is to Harvey Dent, their marriage, and potential family.



Characters

Batman/Bruce Wayne

Batman is a vigilante who fights crime in Gotham City. Although he often works outside the law, Batman has a good working relationship with Police Chief Jim Gordon, and they coordinate many of their activities. Batman trusts Gordon almost completely. Less well known to Batman at the beginning of the book is district attorney Harvey Dent, but Batman immediately appreciates Dent's zeal in eliminating crime. However, Batman will come to suspect that Dent is the Holiday killer later in the book. Batman makes a pact with Gordon and Dent at the beginning of the book to fight the crime lord Carmine "The Roman" Falcone without breaking the law. Batman often finds it difficult to not break the law because of the righteous anger he directs at criminals, but he usually manages not to give in to his more destructive urges. Batman is driven to fight crime by the murder of his parents by a robber when he was a child. Batman blames himself for the deaths of his parents because he asked his mother to wear pearls on the night of the murder and that is what the robber wanted to steal. This guilt drives Batman to keep fighting crime in Gotham City until he achieves the impossible goal of eliminating evil in the city.

Batman's ordinary alter ego is Bruce Wayne. Wayne is the fabulously wealthy head of Wayne Enterprises and holds a number of important positions in Gotham City. The most important of these positions in this book is Wayne's membership on the board of Gotham City Bank, which Wayne uses to block the entry of Falcone's money into the bank. Wayne is also romantically involved with Selina Kyle for much of the book. Dent prosecutes Wayne for connections to Falcone, which makes Batman suspicious of Dent.

Harvey Dent/Two-Face

Harvey Dent is the district attorney of Gotham City, and he is deeply committed to bringing down Carmine "The Roman" Falcone. Towards this end, Dent makes a pact with Police Chief Jim Gordon and Batman that they will do anything within the law to arrest and prosecute Falcone. Dent does not appreciate having to stay within the limits of the law and frequently indicates that he would like to go after Falcone by any means necessary. Dent is deeply divided in this way between his role as an upholder of the law and his pure hatred for Gotham City's criminal element. Dent eventually gives into his hatred and commits some of the first Holiday murders, paving the way for his transition into the villain Two-Face. Dent is married to Gilda Dent, with whom he would like to start a family. At the end of the first chapter, a bomb explodes in the Dents' home, which puts Gilda in the hospital. This attack feeds into Dent's anger at Falcone and other criminals.

From the beginning of the book, Dent is suspicious of Bruce Wayne, whom he believes to be a carefree playboy. Dent eventually prosecutes Wayne for connections to Falcone but loses the case. This defeat convinces Dent that justice is nothing more than a coin



flip, which also feeds into the mindset that evolves into Two-Face. When Dent prosecutes Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni, Maroni throws acid in Dent's face. This attack burns off half of Dent's face and completes his transformation into Two-Face.

Two-Face still harbors all of Dent's hatred for the criminal element in Gotham City, but Two-Face is without any of Dent's reservations about violating the law to destroy criminals. Two-Face employs a team of super villains to attack Falcone and personally shoots Falcone twice in the head. Two-Face turns himself into Gordon and is imprisoned in Arkham Asylum.

Carmine Falcone

Carmine "The Roman" Falcone is the most powerful crime lord in Gotham City and consequently the main target for Batman, Harvey Dent, and Chief Gordon. Falcone is the brother of Carla Viti and uncle to her son Johnny Viti, and he is also the father of Alberto Falcone and Sofia Falcone Gigante. Falcone's primary rival for power in Gotham City's underworld is Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni. When Falcone was younger, he was shot by Maroni's father Luigi, and his life was saved by Bruce Wayne's father, Dr. Thomas Wayne. Falcone uses any tactics at his disposal to solve his problems. Falcone routinely kills people that stand in his way, and he is willing to employ super villains like Scarecrow and Poison Ivy, even though he despises them for being "freaks."

Falcone is suspicious of both his sister Carla and Maroni, worrying that both might have plans to take over his "Roman Empire." The only people Falcone feels he can truly trust are his children Alberto and Sofia. Falcone deliberately tries to keep Alberto out of the family business by sending him to Harvard and Oxford. Falcone does seem to legitimately care about his children, but he is also a cold and distant father. When Sofia gets Falcone a Father's Day gift, he barely acknowledges it, and Falcone cannot remember Alberto's birthday when asked to recall it. Alberto attributes this distance to the amount Falcone focuses on running his criminal empire. Falcone is ultimately killed by Two-Face at the end of the book.

Chief Jim Gordon

Jim Gordon is the Chief of Gotham City Police and the primary ally of both Batman and Harvey Dent in their fight against Carmine "The Roman" Falcone. Although Batman and Dent know each other somewhat at the beginning of the book, Gordon initially serves as an intermediary between the two. When Batman, Dent, and Gordon form a pact to go after Falcone, it is Gordon who insists that while they may bend the law, they must not break it. Gordon is scrupulously moral and never gives serious consideration to breaking the law even if it could help him arrest a known criminal. Also, whenever he sees Batman or Dent becoming over zealous in their attacks on criminals, Gordon tries to pull them back within the rule of law. Although Batman places almost complete trust in Gordon throughout the book, Gordon is sometimes suspicious of Batman and his methods, once even hinting that Batman himself could be the Holiday killer. Gordon is



also the first to suspect that Dent could be the Holiday killer even when Batman refuses to believe it.

Gordon is forced to work extremely long hours, but he is still a devoted family man. With his wife Barbara, Gordon has an infant son named James. Gordon often returns home late, but he still remembers to bring his wife candy on Valentine's Day and is extraordinarily grateful for his son's homemade card on Father's Day. Because he is always loyal to the law and his family, Gordon should be thought of as the moral center of the book.

Salvatore Maroni

Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni is Carmine "The Roman" Falcone's chief rival for power in the Gotham City underworld. Maroni owns an Italian restaurant from which he operates his criminal enterprise. Early on in the book, Maroni places Vernon Fields in Harvey Dent's office to spy on Dent. Maroni believes that he and Falcone should work together to eliminate the Holiday killer, but Falcone originally suspects Maroni of being behind the killings because only Falcone's people are being killed. The Holiday killings soon start to target Maroni, however, which starts a war between Falcone and Maroni. When Maroni's father Luigi is murdered by Holiday in front of him, Maroni offers to testify against Falcone. Sofia Falcone Gigante visits Maroni in jail and reveals the two are romantically involved and convinces Maroni to attack Dent instead of Falcone. During his trial, Maroni throws acid in Dent's face, completing Dent's transformation into Two-Face. When being transferred to a different jail cell, Maroni is shot dead by Alberto Falcone.

Gilda Dent

Gilda Dent is the wife of district attorney Harvey Dent. Near the beginning of the book, she is gravely injured by a bomb meant for Harvey and spends over a month and a half in the hospital. Gilda desperately wishes to have children with Harvey and hates that Harvey's work keeps him separated from her so often. Gilda worries that Harvey's job is changing him into something she cannot recognize. Eventually, Gilda finds evidence that Harvey is Holiday and confronts him with it. When Harvey disappears after being attacked by Maroni in court, Gilda begs Batman to find Harvey. At the end of the book, Gilda explains that she committed several of the Holiday murders in the hopes that with the Falcone case ended, Harvey would have more time to spend with her.

Selina Kyle/Catwoman

Selina Kyle is the primary romantic interest of Bruce Wayne throughout most of the book. Wayne and Kyle dance at Johnny Viti's wedding reception and go on a date for Valentine's Day. When Wayne is pricked by a rose from Poison Ivy and falls under her influence, Kyle as Catwoman fights Poison Ivy and cures Wayne of Ivy's spell. On Independence Day, Kyle tries to get Wayne to leave Gotham City with her. As



Catwoman, Kyle frequently follows Batman, but Batman is too involved in his work to see that Kyle is Catwoman. When Wayne/Batman refuse Kyle's advances on Independence Day, she proceeds to work with other super villains.

Alberto Falcone

Alberto Falcone is the son of Carmine "The Roman" Falcone. Although Carmine attempts to keep Alberto out of the family's criminal enterprise through education, Alberto is determined to help the family business. On New Year's Eve, Alberto is apparently shot and killed on Carmine's yacht. It is later revealed, however, that Alberto faked his death and then acted as Holiday to eliminate much of Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni's gang in an attempt to help Carmine and earn his favor. Alberto eventually kills Maroni and is arrested for the murder. Alberto is proud that he becomes more famous than Carmine by confessing to the Holiday killings, so he refuses Carmine's help in getting out of prison. At the end of the book, Alberto faces the death penalty for murder.

Carla Viti

Carla Viti is the sister of Carmine "The Roman" Falcone and the mother of Johnny Viti, who is the first victim of the Holiday killer. The Viti family is a powerful criminal family in Chicago, and it has plans to expand into Gotham City. Carla frequently feuds with Falcone, and the two are constantly suspicious of one another. However, once Falcone has money flowing to the Viti family, Carla vows not to side with Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni against Falcone if a gang war breaks out. Carla is killed by Holiday, in this case probably her nephew Alberto Falcone, when investigating the Gotham City Coroner's files on the Holiday killings.

Sofia Falcone Gigante

Sofia Falcone Gigante is the daughter of crime lord Carmine "The Roman" Falcone. Sofia is released from Gotham Penitentiary near Saint Patrick's Day and quickly negotiates a peace between Falcone and her aunt, Carla Viti. Sofia helps her father wage war against Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni, but it is soon revealed that Sofia was romantically involved with Maroni before going to prison. Sofia is the one who talks Maroni into throwing acid into district attorney Harvey Dent's face. Sofia also helps Falcone in his attempts to track down Holiday, but Sofia always seems to be one step behind the killer. Sofia cares deeply for Falcone and shows it by purchasing him a Father's Day gift, but Falcone is largely indifferent to the gesture. When Falcone is killed by Two-Face, Sofia attempts to attack Two-Face but is stopped by Catwoman. In the struggle, Sofia falls through the window of Falcone's penthouse to her death.



The Joker

The Joker is a lunatic and criminal mastermind, who breaks free from Arkham Asylum before Christmas. The Joker is displeased that Holiday is receiving more attention than him and attempts to find out who Holiday is. On New Year's Eve, the Joker steals a plane and attempts to poison the crowd at Gotham Square with his laughing gas but is captured by Batman.

Julian Day/The Calendar Man

Julian Day is a killer who chose his victims based upon the day of the month, giving him the name The Calendar Man. Throughout the book, Batman and Gordon consult with Day in hopes of discovering Holiday's identity. Day is jealous of Holiday's notoriety and seems to know the multiple identities of Holiday given that he refers to the killer with both genders. Near the end of the book, Two-Face confronts Day and presumably kills him.

Poison Ivy

Poison Ivy is a super villain that concocts mind controlling chemicals with plants. Poison Ivy gives Bruce Wayne a rose laced with one of these chemicals that puts him under her control. Poison Ivy is in the pay of Carmine "The Roman" Falcone and uses her power to force Wayne to allow Falcone money into Gotham City Bank. Catwoman fights Poison Ivy and defeats her, lifting her spell on Wayne.

Jonathan Crane/The Scarecrow

Crane is a former psychologist who became a homicidal maniac. Crane uses a toxic gas to make his victims hysterically fearful, which gives him the name Scarecrow. Scarecrow is imprisoned in Arkham Asylum until he breaks out with assistance of Carmine "The Roman" Falcone. Falcone uses the Scarecrow to break into the Gotham City Bank Depository, but the robbery is stopped by Batman.

Solomon Grundy

Solomon Grundy is a zombie who resides in the sewers of Gotham City. After Harvey Dent is burned by Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni, he encounters Grundy and discovers he can live two lives, creating Two-Face. Two-Face employs Grundy in his assault on Carmine "The Roman" Falcone.

Vernon Fields

Vernon Fields is placed as a spy into district attorney Harvey Dent's office by Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni. When Maroni goes on trial, it is Vernon who gives Maroni the acid that he uses to burn Dent's face. After his transformation into Two-Face, Dent returns to the district attorney's office and kills Vernon.

Alfred Pennyworth

Alfred is Bruce Wayne's butler and the primary caretaker of Wayne Manor. Alfred is one of the few who knows that Bruce Wayne is also Batman and protects this secret, for instance, when Harvey Dent and Jim Gordon come to Wayne Manor to ask Wayne questions. Alfred was also the butler for Wayne's parents.



Objects/Places

Falcone's Penthouse

This is where Carmine "The Roman" Falcone lives and runs his criminal empire.

Arkham Asylum

Arkham Asylum is a psychiatric hospital for Gotham City's criminally insane. At the beginning of the book, The Joker, Scarecrow, The Mad Hatter, Poison Ivy, and The Calendar Man are all housed here.

Roof of Gotham City Police Department

This is where the Bat Signal is located and where Batman frequently meets with Harvey Dent and Chief Gordon.

District Attorney's Office

Both Harvey Dent and Vernon Fields work in the district attorney's office.

Wayne Manor

Wayne Manor is Bruce Wayne's enormous home, and it was his parents' home before that. Alfred Pennyworth is the butler at Wayne Manor and takes care of the estate. The Bat Cave is located beneath Wayne Manor.

The Dents' House

This is the home of Harvey and Gilda Dent. It is destroyed by a bomb on Halloween night, but Harvey builds another one by Christmas.

Maroni's Italian Restaurant

Maroni's Italian Restaurant is owned by Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni, and it is where he runs his criminal syndicate. The restaurant is attacked with a car bomb on Valentine's Day by the Holiday killer.



Gotham Cemetery

Gotham Cemetery is where Bruce Wayne's parents are buried as well as what is originally believed to be Alberto Falcone.

Gotham City Bank Depository

Gotham City Bank Depository is where the bank's money is stored. The Scarecrow and The Mad Hatter attempt to rob it on Independence Day but are stopped by Batman and Catwoman.

Gotham City Jail

Gotham City Jail is located beneath the police department and is where Mickey "The Mink" Sullivan and his gang the Irish, Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni, and Alberto Falcone are all held after being arrested.

The Sewers of Gotham City

This is where Solomon Grundy lives and Harvey Dent flees after his face is burned by acid and he escapes the hospital.

Gotham Central Park

Gotham Central Park is where Scarecrow and The Mad Hatter prepare the materials needed for the robbery of the Gotham City Bank Depository.

Gotham City Coroner's Office

This is where Carla Viti goes to review files on the Holiday case and is shot by Holiday.

Gotham City Courthouse

Gotham City Courthouse is the scene of the trial of Bruce Wayne and Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni. It is here that Maroni throws acid in Harvey Dent's face transforming Dent into Two-Face.



Themes

Duality of Man

The most recurrent theme in the book is that of the duality of man—the idea that people are split between their good and evil urges. The most obvious example of this theme is Harvey Dent. Throughout the book, Dent struggles with enforcing the law without breaking the law himself. When Dent helps Batman burn down a warehouse full of Carmine "The Roman" Falcone's money, Dent is tempted to steal some of the money for himself. Dent also tells Chief Gordon that the rival gangs of Falcone and Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni are doing law enforcement's job by themselves by engaging in gang warfare. Gordon is forced to remind Dent that it is not the job of law enforcement to kill gang members but to arrest and try them. Dent is the original Holiday killer, showing that he is always capable of great evil even when still a loyal civil servant. After Maroni burns Dent's face with acid, it simply makes the split between good and evil within Dent externally visible, thus completing Dent's transformation into Two-Face.

However, it is not only Dent that struggles with evil within himself. Batman has this same problem, although he is more successful in combating it. At one point, Batman is poisoned by The Scarecrow's fear gas, and later Batman is able to extract revenge on Scarecrow when Batman foils the robbery of the Gotham City Bank Depository. Batman consciously tries not to enjoy breaking Scarecrow's ribs. Clearly Batman also has a great deal of lust for violence against criminals, but unlike Dent he does not let it control him. At the end of the book, Batman rejects Two-Face's vengeful methods, which implies that Batman is victorious against his inner demons at least temporarily.

Ends and Means

The book frequently asks if it is possible to achieve noble ends through wicked means. Although the book does not give a clear cut answer to the question, it strongly suggests that it is not possible. Harvey Dent is the character that most frequently tries to justify his illegal and immoral means with his well-intentioned ends. Dent initiates the Holiday killings in an effort to bring down Carmine "The Roman" Falcone's crime syndicate. While Dent eventually succeeds in this mission, Dent's means ultimately rot him from the inside and transform him into the villainous Two-Face. Furthermore, Dent's wife Gilda commits several of the Holiday murders in an effort to have more time with Harvey, but in the end Harvey is locked away from her completely.

However, even though Batman and Chief Gordon stayed mostly within the law, they also end up questioning if they should have used illegal means to bring down Falcone earlier. Near the end of the book, Batman asks Gordon if staying within the law was worth the cost of losing Harvey Dent. Gordon tells Batman that while he is sure that good triumphed over evil, he does not know if the cost was worth it. Still, it is not the

actions of Batman and Gordon that transformed Dent into a monster but Dent's own actions.

Although it leaves room for doubt, the book seems to argue that it is impossible for the ends to justify the means because the means ultimately determine the ends.

Duty

Characters in the book are often obsessed with the idea of duty, or as they often put it, "what needs to be done." However, this phrase means different things to different characters and even different things to the same character at different times. This disparity is due to the fact that each character feels a duty to a different person or concept. For instance, Batman's duty is to his parents and the promise he made on their deaths that he would rid Gotham City of evil. The first time the phrase is spoken in the book, it is by Batman, and he is most likely referring to killing Carmine "The Roman" Falcone. By the end of the book, Batman comes to believe that by acting outside he would be sinking to the level of criminals and simply adding to the evil in the city, so Batman's sense of duty evolves throughout the book.

Harvey Dent's sense of duty also evolves but in a completely different direction. At the beginning of the book, Dent is torn between his duty to uphold the law and his personal sense of duty to attack criminals. As he transforms into Two-Face, Dent abandons his duty to the abstract concept of law and instead dutifully pursues personal vengeance.

The only character who is consistent in his duty is Chief Gordon. Gordon's duty is always to the law and Gotham City, and he never seems tempted to act on his personal hatreds. For this reason, Gordon should be considered the moral center of the story.



Style

Point of View

The book is narrated from Batman's point of view, but he is not in any way an omniscient narrator. Frequently, events are depicted that Batman is not present for and knows nothing about. However, Batman may still offer narration on these events, even if it is only to identify certain locations or characters and explain their importance. These explanations are frequently repeated throughout the book, probably because it was originally released as thirteen comic books in monthly editions. Occasionally, these identifications carry slight variations from one to another as more information about a character is revealed. Batman's running internal monologue is one of the few constants in the book's point of view.

The book shows events from nearly every character's perspective. The characters whose points of view are most commonly presented besides Batman are Harvey Dent, Carmine "The Roman" Falcone, Chief Jim Gordon, Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni, and Selina Kyle/Catwoman. While most panels have a definite point of view, many are illustrated from the perspective of an outsider looking in. Occasionally, Catwoman's perspective takes on this quality as well because she frequently spies on other characters, but in many cases it is simply a device to remove the reader from the action somewhat.

Finally, all the Holiday killings are illustrated almost completely in black, white, and red, while the one flashback in the book is depicted in sepia.

Setting

The book is entirely set within Gotham City. Gotham City is loosely modeled on New York City, and like New York it is filled with numerous art-deco skyscrapers. Gotham City is entirely crime ridden and dangerous, and its criminal underworld is dominated by Carmine "The Roman" Falcone. In fitting with almost all Batman stories, Gotham City is almost always shown at night given the setting a film-noir feeling. Much of the story's action takes place on Gotham's many rooftops, giving the impression that the city is extremely crowded.

Within Gotham City, the story mainly takes place at a few different locales. The most frequently used location is probably Falcone's penthouse. This is a large apartment atop a skyscraper that is apparently wholly owned by Falcone. The penthouse is luxurious and is the site of most of Falcone's business. Arkham Asylum is another commonly used setting, and it is a psychiatric hospital for the criminally insane. Many of the stories super villains escape from Arkham Asylum, and Batman and Chief Gordon come here occasionally to consult with The Calendar Man on the Holiday case. The rooftop of Gotham City Police Department serves as a conference ground for Batman, Gordon,



and Harvey Dent. Finally, Batman lives at Wayne Manor as Bruce Wayne. Wayne Manor is a palatial estate on the edge of the city, and underneath is the Bat Cave where Batman stores his equipment and ponders solutions to crimes.

Language and Meaning

Because it is a comic book, almost all of the story's text is dialogue. Even so, certain phrases are repeated by several different characters to emphasize their importance. Perhaps the most common of these phrases is "what needs to be done." It is used several times by Batman, Chief Gordon, Harvey Dent, and once by Gilda Dent. The phrase evokes a sense of duty and also finality. Different characters use the phrase for different purposes. Both Harvey and Gilda Dent, for example, use it to justify their murders as Holiday. Gordon, on the other hand, uses it to describe his duty to uphold the law. Another common phrase used by characters is "I believe in" followed by a name, place, or idea. The point here is highlight the different motivations of different characters or how a single character's motivation has changed. For instance, at the beginning of the book, Batman says that he believes in Gotham City and Harvey Dent, but by the end of the book he only believes in Batman. This shift shows Batman's disillusionment with the system and his ultimate reliance on himself and the promise he made to his parents to rid Gotham City of evil. Gilda Dent also uses the phrase at the end of the book, but she believes in Harvey Dent, which explains that she committed several of the Holiday killings in an attempt to have more time with her husband.

Structure

The book is divided into thirteen different chapters. Originally, each chapter was released as a separate monthly comic book. With the exception of the first and thirteenth chapters, each chapter is around twenty to twenty-five pages in length. The first and last chapters are roughly twice as long as the others. With the exception of chapter eleven, each chapter revolves around a holiday, with both chapter one and thirteen taking place on Halloween. Each chapter is also named after the holiday on which it takes place, except for chapters eleven, one and thirteen. Chapter eleven is named "Roman Holiday" in reference to a classic movie and the character Carmine "The Roman Falcone," while chapters one and thirteen are named "Crime" and "Punishment," respectively, which is in reference to the Russian novel "Crime and Punishment." In each chapter, the Holiday killer commits a murder (or in one case, plays a joke by almost murdering someone), and this is always illustrated almost exclusively in black, white, and red. These murders are always committed with a .22 caliber pistol and usually the killer leaves behind a small item that commemorates that particular holiday. Finally, the chapters are frequently illustrated in ways that reflect the holiday on which they take place. This fact is most in evidence in chapter six, "Saint Patrick's Day," where almost everything is cast in green.



Quotes

"I've....come to appreciate our mutual friend. And how he crosses a line we can't." Chap. 1, Crime, p. 35

"I made a promise on the grave of my slain parents. I would not rest until Gotham City was washed clean of the evil that took their lives. There could be no compromises. And yet..." Chap. 1, Crime, p. 37

"Mickey talks about how he ran like a rat into Gotham's sewers trying to hide from one demon only to find another." Chap. 2, Thanksgiving, p. 63-66

"There's two ways of looking at everything." Chap. 4, New Year's Eve, p. 111

"Carmine 'The Roman' Falcone. Gotham City's untouchable crime lord. On New Year's Eve, the serial killer the newspapers call 'Holiday' took the life of his son. Proving once again, that each of us is touchable." Chap. 5, Valentine's Day, p. 136

"Every son has a mother. Even you. Do you want blood on your hands this day?" Chap. 8, Mother's Day, p. 206

"For all the good he tried to bring to Gotham City...my father's actions have resulted in me being here...behind bars." Chap. 9, Father's Day, p. 231

"Wayne Manor. My father's house. I have lived here nearly as long as he did. And yet, I find myself still thinking of it as....my father's house." Chap. 10, Independence Day, p. 254

"Captain Jim Gordon. An honest cop. In Gotham City, he is unique." Chap. 11, Roman Holiday, p. 284

"Is....that what you did? Did you die and come back? Can a man live two lives?" Chap. 12, Labor Day, p. 302

"When faced with a seemingly insurmountable problem...your only option is to act swiftly, some might even say, irrationally. Removing the most dangerous elements first...and methodically attacking each subsequent challenge in a separate, but deliberate manner." Chap. 13, Punishment, p. 348

Topics for Discussion

How does Batman's character evolve throughout the story?

Does Harvey Dent become more evil as he transforms into Two-Face or does his evil just become more obvious?

Why might Batman be an ineffective force for fighting evil in Gotham City?

What is the significance of Harvey Dent's transformation into Two-Face?

Who is the more moral character in the story: Batman or Chief Gordon? Why?

How is Batman similar to Harvey Dent?

The phrase "what needs to be done" or some small variation of it appears in the book numerous times. What do the characters mean when they say this?

How does Batman's conception of how he must fulfill the pledge to his parents change throughout the book?

According to the book, can the ends justify the means? Why or why not?