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WONDER WOMAN
WORLD’S FINEST COMICS

COMIQUIZ

ARE YOU READY FOR THE QUESTION?

YES

WHAT ONE COMIC MAGAZINE HAS
SUPERMAN AND
BATMAN AND
BOY COMMANDOS
AND OTHER
HEADLINERS?

THAT’S EASY!
WORLD’S
FINEST
COMICS!

EXCUSE ME
WHILE I RUSH
DOWN FOR MY
COPY!

A SUPERMAN
PUBLICATION
Who is the greatest Villainess of all time?

Is it Lady Macbeth? Or Delilah? Or some modern cupid? Queen? To vie for the evil title? History’s female felons come to life and re-enact their crimes of the past. But they reckon without that princess of plunder, the Catwoman, who makes history by showing Batman and Robin that she can hold her own with...

"The Lady

ues."
THE TALK OF THE TOWN IS THE NEW BOOK ABOUT NOTORIOUS WOMEN CRIMINALS...

IS THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES DEADER THAN THE MALE?

MY DEAR, DID YOU READ WHAT HE WRITING ABOUT LUCREzia BORGIA?

IT'S COLossal! A PERFECT STORY FOR OUR NEW STAR, GALA KARIN!

IT STILL MAKES HER THE MOST SENSATIONAL VILLAINESS ON THE SCREEN.

NO! AND HIS STARTLING ANALYSIS OF THE MEDUSA!

GALA, WE'RE GOING TO GIVE YOU A PUBLICITY BUIltUP. YOU'LL PORTRAY CITADEL, LADY MACBETH AND OTHER INFAMOUS WOMEN IN A SUMMER THEATER. IT'S MAKE HEADLINES FOR YOUR NEXT PICTURE.

MEANWHILE, NEWSPAPERS CARRY HEADLINES ON ANOTHER INFAMOUS WOMAN...

IN HER LAIR, THE CATWOMAN CATCHES UP ON HER READING...

THE AUTHOR DOESN'T EVEN MENTION ME! I, WHO FOUGHT THE BATMAN!

HE THOUGHT ME EVIL ENOUGH TO BE ON HIS LIST OF LADY ROGUES...

I'LL SHOW HIM!

I'LL PROVE THAT THE CATWOMAN IS THE GREATEST WOMAN CRIMINAL OF ALL TIME, AND I'LL USE "THE LADY ROGUES" TO DO IT.
THE NEXT DAY...

FLASH! PARAGON PICTURES WILL PRESENT GALA KAZON AS CIRCE AT GOTHAM ISLAND AMPHITHEATER TONIGHT.

I AM ODYSSEUS! MY MEN AND I HAVE TRAVELED FAR AND WE NEED FOOD AND DRINK.

WELCOME ENTER MY HOUSE AND FOOD AND DRINK I SHALL PROVIDE THEE!

FOOLS! ONCE THEY DRINK OF THE MAGIC POTION, THEY SHALL TURN INTO SWINE!

HA! HA!

AT THAT MOMENT HANG'S OPEN CAGES AND WILD SWINE ARE TURNED LOOSE!

BOARS WE'LL BE GORED!

EEEEE!

CATWOMAN YOU RELEASED THOSE WILD SWINE THAT'S RIGHT BEARIE NOW I'LL TAKE THOSE PEARLS YOU'RE WEARING PEARLS BEFORE THE SWINE! HA! HA!
BUT IN THE PANICKY AUDIENCE ARE TWO CALM FIGURES...

QUICK, DICK! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THIS!

RIGHT, BRUCE?

NOW'S OUR CHANCE, WHILE THE BOARS ARE CONFUSED...

AS THEY BUILD A CAGE OF BENCHES AROUND THE VICIOUS WILD SWINE...

ROBIN, BEHIND YOU!

BUT BATMAN'S SILKEN LASSO STOPS THE LUNGING BOAR.

GOLLY! I'M IN FOR IT!

THIS'LL FIX THAT GALLOPING HAMSTEAK!
LOOK! THE CATWOMAN IS ESCAPING!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.

HELLO, KITTY.

BATMAN, WHY DO I ALWAYS RUN INTO YOU?

HOLD IT, HOMER!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!

AND THE UNFURLED SAIL SLAPS BATMAN AND ROBIN RIGHT OFF THE SHIP!

EURCE GAVE MEN DRINK AND TURNED THEM INTO PIGS, THE CATWOMAN DUNKS THEM IN THE DRINK AND TURNS THEM INTO POOR, FISH.

HA, HA, HA.
LATER... YOU PROMISED TO MAKE HEADLINES, BUT IT'S THE CATWOMAN WHO'S GETTING THEM.

GOTHAM DAILY
CATWOMAN DUPES ACTRESS; STEALS PEARLS.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T DUPE US AGAIN.

NEXT DAY POLICE ARRIVE TO GUARD THE TYCOON'S IMPORTED CASTLE DURING THE BROADCAST.

MEN GUARD ALL DOORS IF THE CATWOMAN SHOWS UP: GRAB HER.

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE CASTLE...

JEEPER'S LEPRECHAUNS!

HELLO OFFICER! WE'RE ACTORS FOR "SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS"... THE TELEVISION CAST!

OH... GO RIGHT IN! FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT I WAS SEEING THE LITTLE PEOPLE.

AND IN THE CATWOMAN'S LAIR...

TOMORROW ALA KATON PLAYS THE WICKED QUEEN IN "SNOW WHITE" ON A TELEVISION BROADCAST FROM A REAL CASTLE - THE HOME OF J.B. VANDER.
INSIDE, ON THE BROADCASTING STAGE...

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL, WHO IS FAIREST OF US ALL?

NOT YOU, DEARIE.

CATWOMAN!

EVERYBODY STAY PUT. OR MY SEVEN DWARFS WILL FIRE SEVEN BIG BULLETS INTO GALA KAZON.

I'M GOING TO TAKE VANDERS' PRICELESS MINIATURE PAINTINGS WHILE MY SEVEN DWARFS COVER YOU.

AND THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE SEES AN EXCITING IMPROMPTU PROGRAM...

YOU AGAIN!

BATMAN, LOOK OUT!

ALWAYS KEEP EM FLYING, I SAY.
ANOTHER BOY IS ALSO ALERT TO BATMAN’S DANGER...

WOW! THANKS FOR THE HELP, ROBIN!

ROBIN, YOU GET THE DWARFS... I’LL GO AFTER THE CATWOMAN!

OUT OF MY WAY!

BUT ROBIN FINDS THE DWARFS HAVE GROWN!

TAKE—

THAT—

ALLEY OOP!

CHUM!

BUT, EVER RESOURCEFUL, THE BOY WONDER SEIZES AN OLD CANNONBALL AND...

STRIKE! SEVEN PINS INSTEAD OF TEN PINS!

MEANWHILE: ON POLICE MOTORCYCLES, BATMAN AND CATWOMAN LEAVE THE CASTLE...

BUT THE CATWOMAN FLIPS A GRENADE OVER HER SHOULDER, AND...

HA! HA!

TA! TA!

BOOM!!
CATWOMAN DOES IT AGAIN

Disguised as "New White," she outwits Batman and steals show from Gala Kazon, escapes by blowing up Drawbridge.

HMM

Gala is supposed to play Delilah next.

Listen, tell the newspapers Gala's going to rehearse Delilah, then we'll plant police men in the cast.

That's Gala Kazon's room on the top floor.

So Batman's going to be Samson! Hmmm! And when Batman is old, Robin will take his place. Robin is Batman's heir! How very amusing!

The Catwoman smiles! Can you guess why?
GALA KAZON TO PLAY DELILAH!

Later... Offstage, Shepherd Boy Robin is suddenly seized from behind!

And onstage, Batman & costumed as Samson.

Good Samson, let me cut the untidy hair that mars your manly beauty!

Abruptly, the Catwoman makes a spectacular entrance!

Leave? Why, dearie, I've just arrived! Don't move or my men will spear you! Eee! The Catwoman!

When Delilah cut off Samson's hair, he was helpless—so Batman, I've cut off your heir—Robin, and without him, you're now helpless. Cute, eh? Ha-ha.
AND AS IN THE STORY OF SAMSON, BATMAN IS CHAINED TO THE PILLARS!

HA! HA! NOW I'LL TAKE A PICTURE OF YOU, BATMAN, AND SEND IT TO THE NEWSPAPERS. WAIT TILL YOUR FANS SEE YOU IN THAT GETUP! HA! HA!

...AND BRINGS THE PILLARS DOWN ON HIS ENEMIES!

LOOK!

HE'S MOVIN' THE PILLARS!

BUT THE BANDITS ARE ONLY STUNNED, NOT CRUSHED...

HEY, I AIN'T HOIT! ME, TOO! HOW COME?

BECAUSE THE SET IS BUILT OF CANVAS AND LIGHT BALSA WOOD! FOOLS... GET BATMAN!

BUT AS THE THUGS CHARGE, BATMAN ADJUSTS HIS COWL, FLIPS A MATCH AT HIS DISCARDED WIG... AND...

AGGH!

THERE'S A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT!

I CAN'T SEE!
UH HUH! I PUT MAGNESIUM POWDER IN THAT WIG—JUST IN CASE. SO, YOU SEE THERE WAS POWER IN MY HAIR AFTER ALL.

WHAT CAN SUPERMAN DO THAT I CAN'T DO—WITH BALSA WOOD?

LIKE A COWBOY LASSOES A DOGIE I LAND A CAT—WHOA!

IN JAIL THE CATWOMAN HAS A VISITOR...

MY NAME IS NEIL WESTON.

BECAUSE YOUR EXPLOITS ARE SO TERRIFIC THAT I WAS WRITING A BOOK ABOUT YOU ALONE!

LATER...

WHY DON'T YOU REFORM CATWOMAN?

OH, STOP CROWNING YOU MEN ARE ALL ALIKE. I TAKE ME TO JAIL AND SHUT UP!

YOU'RE TO BLAME FOR ALL OF THIS. WHY DIDN'T YOU INCLUDE ME IN YOUR LIST OF LADY ROGUES?

AND TO THINK I...
It was the strangest Christmas Eve Bruce Wayne ever had! He was missed by a strange girl... arrested for robbery... put in the police lineup... hunted by killers... and finally sent to prison! Why? All because he wanted to play Santa Claus to his double! You'll read all about it in... "A PAROLE FOR CHRISTMAS!"
There's an old saying that every man on Earth has his double. And Bruce Wayne, alias the Batman, was his. This is the dramatic story of how they met...

And in the grim state prison, convicted Ed Rogers gets his Christmas present.

I'm glad you're one of the model prisoners allowed to go home for Christmas, Rogers. You've earned it!

Your personal belongings and 24-hour pass. Remember your sentence is up in six months—so don't break your honor parole!

I'll be back tomorrow night, Warden.

Later, on a ferry...

It'll be good to see my kid brother Timmy again. Laura's a peach to have taken care of him since the folks died.

Look out Rogers, behind you.

Laura's engagement ring. She thinks I've been away working on a secret Navy project. I can't propose now. She deserves someone better than an ex-convict.
SUDDENLY...

"Got him! Give 'im the knife—now!"

OUTER GARMENTS DISCARDED THE FAMED CRIME-CRUSHERS CLIMB ALOFT WITH THE LITHENESS OF JUNGLE CATS....

(GULP) BATMAN AND ROBIN!

AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ARE ALSO ON THE SCENE.

LOOK! AND WE CAME ON THIS FERRY FOR A PEACEFUL RIDE ON THE WATER

TIME FOR A FAST SWITCH, BRUCE!

I'll... Yi! HAVE A NICE TRIP!

THEN, IN A SURPRISE MOVE, THE THUGS FLEE TOWARD THE RIVER!

AND THE SAME TO YOU

HERE COME THEIR PALS IN A SPEED BOAT!

'Uh-uh! This was to be a fast murder and a faster get away,' they had everything all planned.
Returning to the scene in their everyday identities, Bruce and Dick get a big surprise!

Why... HE'S MY EXACT DOUBLE!

Must see Timmy... Laura... can't propose now... ex-convict...

He's delirious! Why should anyone want to kill him?

We'll take him to the batcave for questioning.

Later... the Batman's subterranean hideaway - the Batcave!

He got quite a shock on the head! Find anything in his pockets?

A 24-hour prison pass... money... an engagement ring and this letter.

Dear Eddie:

I'm glad you survived the government workings. It was almost too much to bear. If this wouldn't work, after your own life and that of your mother, you'll be home at least you'll be home for Christmas. We'll be waiting for you.

Love, Laura

With these facts, Eddie's pathetic lie is revealed to the understanding Batman...

Hmm... an ex-convict who goes straight deserves a chance at happiness, especially when he looks just like me. Besides, I want to find out who hired those killers... and why.

Son, since I'm Rogers exact double, I'm going to take his place and carry on where he left off.
SOME TIME LATER
BRUCE WAYNE STANDS
ON THE THRESHOLD
OF AN EXCITING
MASQUERADE

THE MOMENT
I RING THIS BELL
I MUST FORGET
I'M BRUCE WAYNE
AND LIVE THE ROLE
OF ED ROGERS.
HERE GOES.

IT'S EDDIE!

GOLLY, EDDIE...
I MISSED YOU
SOMETHING
AWFUL. GOLLY

AREN'T YOU GOING
TO KISS ME? I'M
STANDING UNDER
THE MISTLETOE

(GULP)
' S SURE.

WELCOME
HOME, EDDIE!

IT'S GOOD TO
BE HOME FOR
CHRISTMAS.
SEE SORIE... CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR NAVY JOB, NOW?

LATER, TIMMY, HOW ABOUT SOME FOOD FIRST?

GOD REST YOU, MERRY GENTLEMEN... LET NOTHING DISMAY YOU!

I WISH THE REAL EDDIE WERE HERE INSTEAD OF US. THESE TWO SWELL KIDS MUST LOVE HIM A LOT.

AFTER WE SING SOME CHRISTMAS CAROLES, REMEMBER HOW WE USED TO DO IT BEFORE YOU WENT AWAY?

AT THAT MOMENT... FURTHER DOWN THE STREET...

HELP... POLICE... HELP...

LATER... THE HOLDUP VICTIM SPEAKS TO THE POLICE...

I COULDN'T SEE HIS FACE, IT HAPPENED SO FAST.

PERCHANCE, I SAW EDDIE ROGERS WALKING TOWARD HIS GIRL FRIEND's HOUSE BEFORE HE'S GOT A PRISON RECORD.

SADLY, SORIE ROGERS, BUT THERE'S BEEN A HOLDUP ON THIS STREET! BECAUSE YOU'RE A PAROLED PRISONER, WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU IN FOR QUESTIONING.

PAROLED PRISONER? EDDIE, WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

I'LL HAVE TO TELL HER JUST AS EDDIE WOULD HAVE DONE.

SOON AFTER...
Still playing the part of "Ed" Bruce makes a full "confession".

So that's why you never wrote we'd have seen these prison stamps on the envelope.

Yes, I... I pretended the navy project was so secret I wasn't allowed to write a friend forwarding your letters to me.

I didn't want to hurt you so I lied, I'm sorry I ruined your Christmas. I-I, let's go officer.

Later, for the first time in his life, Bruce Wayne stands in the police lineup.

Edward Rogers—no alias. One previous arrest sentenced to one year for petty burglary charge. Excellent prison record.

Rogers, you're under suspicion of committing an assault and robbery tonight. How do you plead?

Not guilty, sir.

He's right, lieutenant.

Robin! I can vouch for him, officer.

This is very unusual, but Robin's word is good enough for us. You can go Rogers.

When I heard about the robbery on Laura's street, Bruce, I figured they'd arrest you, so I hurried here.

That was fast thinking, Robin!

Edgar Rogers, still loose? I'll have to phone the gang.
PRESENTLY... "I SPOTTED HIM. HE'S RETURNING TO HIS GIRLFRIEND'S PLACE."

Okay! This time we'll bump him off for good.

SOON AFTER...

I HAVE A LUNCH WE'RE BEING TAILED, PRETEND TO LEAVE. SO LONG, ROBIN.

I UNDERSTAND. WELL, GOODBYE ROGERS.

THEN BRUCE PUTS ON AN ODD PAIR OF GLASSES WITH NARROW MIRRORS—ALLOWING HIM TO SEE BEHIND OF HIM.

OH OH! THE FERRY BOAT KILLERS!

AS 'ROGERS' TURNS A CORNER, THE KILLERS STALL TILL THE STREETS ARE CLEAR OF POSSIBLE PASSERSBY, AND THEN...

LET HIM HAVE IT.

BLAM!

BEL CAFE SEN

YOU GOT AWAY LAST TIME, BUT I WOULDN'T TAKE BETS IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN.

BATMAN!
(Gulp) A snowman we shot at a kid's snowman. It came in handy. I unwarned Ed Rogers and we rigged up this trap.

I'm lammin', Vi! Robin!

Why do you want to kill Rogers? Talk!

Joe's knocked out, he won't hear me squealin'.

We got orders from the boss, Scarface, Malone!

Scarface is doing time in prison. Why is he after Rogers?

Joe's gettin' up, he'll hear me squealin'.

I ain't talkin'.

Later, bound and gagged, the gunmen are locked in an empty warehouse for safe keeping.

We got to invest-gate that prison but not as Batman! The news would travel, and Scarface would hear it. I'll have to go in as Ed Rogers!

But as 'Ed Rogers,' you'd have to change to prison clothes. The guards would find your Batman suit underneath.

I'll be carryin' my Batman suit in the palm of my hand! But first, I've got to get myself arrested!
LATER, "ED ROGERS" PURPOSELY BUMPS INTO A PATROLMAN ON HIS BEAT.

UH... SORRY!

OW! WHAT'RE YOU CARRYING IN THAT ROCKET--A GUN? SAY... HOLD ON, BUDDY!

IT IS A GUN! YOU BETTER COME ALONG WITH ME!

AND THAT IS HOW "ED ROGERS" BREAKS HIS PAROLE.

WHY DID YOU DO IT, ROGERS? AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING STRAIGHT--TAKE HIM BACK TO HIS CELL.

A CELL DOOR CLANGS SHUT--AND THE PRISONER IS ALONE!

SO FAR SO GOOD--THEY DIDN'T NOTICE I WAS HOLDING MY BATMAN SUIT ALL THE TIME AND... OH OH--I HEAR SOUNDS... VOICES... UNDER THE CELL FLOOR!

THUMP! THUMP!

AND UNDER THE CELL FLOOR LIKE DESPERATE MOLES, CONVICTS ARE DIGGING.

NOW THAT ROGERS IS DEAD, HIS CELL IS EMPTY AND WE KIN DIG RIGHT THROUGH.

LISTEN, I'M NOT SAYIN' THERE IS GONNA BE A JAIL BREAK, BUT IF THERE IS WILL YOU JOIN UP WITH US?

THAT CHUMP ROGERS, I GAVE HIM HIS CHANCE TO COME IN WITH US...
THE CHUMP WAS HONEST! I HAD TO HAVE HIM KILLED OUTSIDE.

SURE! IF HE HEARD US DOIN' SOMETHIN', HE'D BE SURE TO SQUEAL TO THE GUARDS NOW. WE CAN'T DIG WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE!

SUDDENLY...

SAY, ROGERS IS BACK! HE'S ALIVE, AND UP IN HIS CELL NOW!

WHAT'LL WE DO? WE CAN'T TURN BACK. WE'LL PULL OUR BREAK RIGHT NOW!

AND WITH ONE GREAT HEAVE, THE DESPERADOS ERUPT INTO THE CELL OVERWHELMING "ROGERS" IN A SURPRISE ATTACK.

HE'S OUT AND WITHOUT A SHOT WE GOTTA MOVE QUIET NOW!

A KEY SECRETLY MADE IN THE PRISON WORKSHOP OPENS THE CELL DOOR...

WE GOTTA WRECK THE DYNAMOS! WITH THE POWER PLANT CUT OFF, THEY CAN'T SPOT US WITH THE YARD LIGHTS.

BUT "ROGERS" IS NOT OUT... FOR HE HAS ROLLED WITH THE BLOW!

TIME TO UNROLL A SURPRISE — MY COMPACT PLASTIC BATMAN SUIT!

EDITOR'S NOTE: BATMAN'S SLIP-ON SUIT, SO FLEXIBLE IT CAN BE ROLLED INTO A BALL, IS MADE OF THE SAME TYPE OF THIN FABRIC USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF THE NEW FOLDING RAIN COATS!
AT THE SOUND OF THE CRASHING SHOTS, GUARDS SURGE TOWARD THE RIOTING CONVICTS. WE'LL HAVE TO SMASH OUR WAY OUT NOW! THAT DOOR LEADS TO THE YARD — COME ON!

IRONICALLY, A CHRISTMAS TREE, ERECTED TO CHEER THE PRISONERS, IS NOW TO BRING THEM DISTRESS.

BLAST YOU! YOU STOPPED OUR CRASHOUT. I'M GONNA GET YOU BEFORE THE COPPERS GET ME...

BATMAN FLIPS A MATCH AND THE TREE BECOMES A FLAMING BARRIER. WE'RE CUT OFF, IT'S NO USE.

YEAH... WE GOTTA GIVE UP OR THE GUARDS WILL MOW US DOWN!

AN UNERRING THROW—AND A GLASS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT BURSTS ON SCARFACE'S TEMPLE. YOW!

YOU AND THE BREAK ARE ALL FINISHED!
LATER... THE WARDEN HEARS EVERYTHING... THAT IS, NOT QUITE EVERYTHING...

SO I, UNDISGUISED MY FACE TO RESEMBLE ROGERS AND TOOK OVER.

AND IF ROGERS HAD NOT BEEN HONEST, THE BREAK WOULD'VE SUCCEEDED! WHEN THE PAROLE BOARD HEARS THAT THEY'LL CHANGE HIS 24 HOUR PAROLE TO A PERMANENT ONE.

STILL LATER, THE NOW RECOVERED ROGERS HEARS THE SAME STORY.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING BUT NOW LAURA AND TIMMY KNOW THE TRUTH... HOW CAN I FACE THEM?

YOU'LL HAVE TO SOONER OR LATER, SO WHY NOT DO IT NOW?

YOU WON'T HAVE TO SAY A WORD. I PHONED THEM BEFORE WE LEFT. SO SEE THEM... THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU.

SO, FOR THE SECOND TIME ON CHRISTMAS EVE, ED ROGERS IS WEL COMED HOME...

I WAS KISSED ONCE TONIGHT... NOW I WANT THE REAL EDDIE ROGERS TO DO IT.

COME ON... YOU'VE DELIVERED YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT... LET'S GO HOME SANTA CLAUS.

Merry Christmas

BATMAN AND ROBIN

ROBIN SMASHES CRIME SINGLEHANDED IN EVERY ISSUE OF STAR SPANGLED COMICS!
READIN', RITIN' AN' RITCHIE

G'BYE MOM.

'BYE RITCHIE

HEH.

HEH.

HEH.

HEH.

HEH.

HEH.
OH BROTHER! THIS IS THE LOAF!

WHY AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL?!!

HANHH?!!

UH, ISN'T THIS SATURDAY?

TODAY IS FRI DAY.

FRI-BYE

WELL WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR!? LET'S GET RIGHT TO SCHOOL!
THE ICE CRACKED! GET ME OUT!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING—TO GET HELP?

NO, MISTER—JUST RELAX.

I'M BUILDING A FIRE TO WARM YOU UP WHEN YOU DO GET OUT!

THE END
Beware of my power! All I need is a careless hand and a puff of wind and I create holocaust! My hunger is ravenous. For I devour whole buildings! Watch out! Be wary! For I am "The Match!"
Somewhere in Gotham City a tiny stick of wood rasps against sandpaper and flares into flame! The match is striking again!

Bruce Wayne and his young ward, Dick Grayson, alias the Batman and Robin, the Boy Wonder, ponder over the series of fires...

When are we going to stop this arson racketeer who calls himself the Match?

Dick, the one way to nab him is to join forces with his enemy—the Fire Department.

Later... at the fire house the dynamic duo arrives just as a three-alarm fire breaks.

Chief Brady, it's swell of you to let us rookies around, along. I hope we don't get in your way.

Nonsense, you're not the only heroes around. Tom Davis here is going on his first call today.

Soon, sirens screaming, the fire patrol tears through hastily opened holes in the traffic.

Arriving at the scene of the fire, a flaming loft building, the Chief orders his men into action.

I want two men on the roof with axes. Make a fire outlet. Get a chemical line working in the basement.

Tom, run a hose inside. Let's see if you're as good a fireman as your father was.

Y-yes, sir!
AND NOW ANOTHER PART OF THE FIRE- FIGHTING TEAM ENTERS - THE SALVAGE SQUAD - THAT SHIELDS THE FURNITURE WITH ASBESTOS.

AND FROM HIGH ON THE AERIAL TRUCK, NOZZLEMEN BATMAN AND ROBIN PLAY WATER ON THE LEAPING FLAMES.

WHAT A SPOT FOR TOASTING MARSHMALLOWS.

INSIDE THE BLAZING BUILDING ROOKIE DAVIS UNWITTINGLY BRUSHES AGAINST A LOW VOLTAGE WIRE EXPOSED BY THE FIRE.

AAGH!

WET BOOTS AND METAL HELMET ARE PERFECT CONDUCTORS OF ELECTRICITY — AND THE SHOCK SENDS HIM SPINNING.

OFFICER BRADY TO DAVIS, "HE'S PANICKY. CHIEF BRADY, DAVIS IS IN TROUBLE! SWING THE LADDER FORWARD. I'LL GET HIM!"

IN A MOMENT, BATMAN REACHES THE ROOKIE LAD AND THEN JUMPS TO A WAITING NET BELOW.
EASY BOY... IT'S NATURAL TO BE SCARED OF FIRE ON YOUR FIRST JOB.

BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF FIRE ALL MY LIFE.

"IT ALL STARTED WHEN I WAS SEVEN! THERE WAS A FIRE IN OUR HOUSE! I WAS TRAPPED IN IT!"

DADDY... I'M SCARED... DADDY...

MY OWN BOY UP THERE... AND I CAN'T HELP HIM!

"THEN THE FIRE PATROL ROLLED UP! THEY PUT ME OUT—JUST IN TIME!"

NOW IS HE? NOW MY SON?

HE'S OKAY, MISTER! JUST FRIGHTENED.

"AFTER THAT, DAD QUIT HIS JOB AND BECAME A FIREMAN. I REMEMBER HIM SAYING..."

BUT FOR A FIREMAN YOU WOULDN'T BE ALIVE! I'M JOINING THE PATROL TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE. SOMEDAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN.

"TWO YEARS AGO, DAD LOST HIS LIFE, SAVING ANOTHER CHILD'S!"

SON, BEING A FIREMAN IS A CALLING... LIKE KNIGHTHOOD, BECAUSE YOU HELP PEOPLE! Promise me you'll carry on...

I... I Promise.

NOW I'M QUITTING, I WON'T LET FIRE GET ME!

EASY, TOM! I'M TRANSFERRING YOU TO A FIRE BOAT. NO RISK THERE. YOU'LL SWAB DECKS, POLISH BRASS, SO YOU'LL STILL BE A FIREMAN AS YOUR FATHER WANTED."
Later... when the fire is out, the arson squad investigates to discover whether it was man made or accidental.

Under the microscope, the telltale cracks on the burned wood indicate that abnormal heat was involved.

If anyone poured some ignitable fluid on the floor, we'll soon know it. Incendiary material leaves its "fingerprint" on burned wood. I'll test this charred bit.

"Alligatoring": The characteristic marks left by kerosene.

The man who had rented the loft is called... ridiculous! My loft was filled with expensive men's suits. The insurance won't even cover my loss, so why should I commit arson?

Mr. Smith, we're arresting you for arson!

Because you removed the suits, and substituted uncut, cheap cloth on the racks!

You've got no evidence to prove that!

It's because I did not find evidence that I can prove it! You see, I did not find any charred buttons! No buttons = no suit.

You'll never arrest me!

I wouldn't let on that.
Later... The question ng!

Business was bad. I needed money. Then the match approached me.

The match runs an arson ring. He sets fires for "fees" depending on the amount of insurance carried by his "clients"!

How did the match know your business was bad? I don't know. I never spoke to anybody about it.

That's a tough puzzle. I think I'll sleep on it.

Next day...

I'm going to quiz some of the match's clients. If I get the right answers - I'm going to make a phone call.

What's up?

That night...

Jones de match wants Ter see ya right away. Get go'n.

Okay.

Later! Before a fire gutted building whose twisted girders and charred walls rear gloomily against the night sky.
A moment later, two crimenisters move forward cautiously...

A fire-gutted storage building—The Match's hideout! That brick-lined chamber used to be a fur vault! It's fireproof!

A door slams open and violent action flares like a hot flame!

A poke for a pyro!

Drop that gun, hot-shot!

Ow!

Hmm-mm!

Too bad you don't smoke—but here's a light anyway.

And inside that impenetrable vault—The Match...

I never called you! Wait... This must be a trick! Somebody trailed you here to the hideout! Come on, boys!

I got your call, Match!
LATER... UPON AWAKENING!...

IT WAS OBVIOUS THE HOW'D YOU GET WISE TO JONES?

ONE OUTSIDER WITH ACCESS TO A FIRM'S RECORDS WOULD BE A PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT! JONES WAS ACCOUNTANT FOR ALL YOUR EXCLIENTS SO I GUESSED HE WAS YOUR TIP-OFF MAN.

RIGHT! HE'D KNOW WHEN A GUY'S BUSINESS WAS BAD AND WAS RIFE FOR AN ARSON JOB! THAT REMINDS ME— I GOT A JOB TO DO— ON A WAREHOUSE AND YOU!

BOUND AND GAGGED THE DYNAMIC DUO'S CARRIED IN DE...

THAT'S IT 'SLOSH THE GASOLINE AROUND' IN A LITTLE WHILE, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE GOING OUT IN A BLAZE OF GLORY!

SOON AFTER, SOMEWHERE ON THE WALL FRONT...

THIS IS IT— THE WAREHOUSE BETWEEN THEM TENEMENT FLATS.

SEE, BATMAN! A BURNING CIGARETTE PUSHED BENEATH A BOOK OF MATCHES TO WHICH A FUSE IS CONNECTED! A SIMPLE GADGET— BUT DEADLY!

ABRUPTLY BATMAN ERUPTS INTO MOTION

WHAT? STOP HIM! HE'S HEADING FOR THE PACKAGE RAMP LEADING TO THE LOWER FLOOR!
BATMAN

BUT BATMAN HOPS SWIFTLY TOWARD A PACKAGING TABLE AND...

MOST WRAPPING SECTIONS HAVE CONVENIENT TWINE CUTTERS AT HAND! I WAS COUNTING ON THAT.

HE CAN'T GET FAR... NOT ALL TIED UP LIKE THAT!

HE'S COMIN' AT US!

YOU TRIGGER HAPPY SAP—LOOK OUT! THE GASOLINE!

SURPRISED!

BLAM BLAM!

SUDDENLY—THE BIRTH OF AN INFERNO!

AN ALERT CITIZEN PULLS THE FIRE ALARM—AND IN A FIREHOUSE ON A DOCK, THE SIGNAL IS CHECKED ON A CHART.

RIVERFRONT! PIER 15 SECTOR! A FIREBOAT CALL!

THE WHOLE PLACE IS GOIN' UP! WE GOTTA GET OUTA HERE!

WHOOSH!
STOP POLISHING THE BRASS! IT'S A GO! CAST OFF THE LINES!

AND SO THE LONG HAND OF FATE REACHES OUT—TO THE VERY FIRE BOAT OF WHICH ROOKIE TOM DAVIS IS A MEMBER.

SOON THE GREAT SEARCHLIGHT FOCUSES ON THE WATERFRONT BLAZE!

MEN, MAN THE DECK GUNS! DAVIS, YOU'RE NOT TO LEAVE THE SHIP UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES! CHIEF'S ORDERS.

YES, SIR!

POWERFUL TOWER NOZZLES SPOUT 20,000 GALLONS OF WATER A MINUTE AT THE SPREADING CONFLAGRATION!

PLAY AWAY, HOOK UP THE FLY LADERS—THE FIRE'S SPREADING TO THE TENEMENTS!

IT IS THEN THAT DAVIS HEARS A WAILING CRY FROM THE DOCK.

DADDY, DADDY?

MY BOY, HE'S UP THERE—PLEASE A MIST FIREMAN—YOU SAVE HIM.

PLEASE A DON, YOU HEAR ME? MY BOY, HE'S GONNA DIE—PLEASE A MIST FIREMAN—HELP HIM.

I WANT TO HELP BUT THE FIRE... I'M SCARED... SCARED.
When Tom Days remembers...thinks back to another day when another father and son needed help.

Tom Days begins his grim fight upward—the fight of his life.

Daddy is scared, Daddy...

My own boy up there...and I can't help him.

Now I know what Dad meant! Hold on, kid—I'm coming! But I'm afraid! I'm scared stiff!

Meanwhile—inside that fiery furnace.

My boys got out now it's my turn—but I'll make sure your goose is cooked!

Batman—behind you!

A new version of the hot foot match!

Yow! I'm burning!

Why be surprised? Anybody who plays with matches should expect to be burned?

The fire's got us boxed in!

The river's down below you first match!

No, not me. I'm scared of water. I won't go near water...I'm not jumpin'!
That's cute—a mad dog with a hydrophobia.

It's about time we doused this Bonfire Bandit. Robin, get ready to jump!

Look! Tom Davis!

My boy, bless you. You saved a boy!

Yes, I made it.

Later.... Dad was right. "Being a fireman is a calling... like knight hood. Because you help people." I'll always remember his words.

And now, a special word...

Readers, every year many brave firemen lose their lives fighting fires. Many fires are caused by carelessness—so observe fire prevention rules and always remember them!

And—don't play with matches!

More Dynamic Action with Batman and Robin in Detective Comics & World's Finest Comics!