

The Adventures of Superman

Batman's Great Mystery

Chapter 3 of 11 - February 5, 1948

Dated Death

Narrator Just twelve days ago the famous Batman wakened Robin, his young companion, from sleep, and told him:

Batman I'm going away, Robin. I can't tell you where or why. I hope to be back within a week. But if I'm not, well, you may never see me again.

Music

Narrator Then, when twelve days passed and Batman did not return, a very worried Robin appealed for aid to Clark Kent, who as we know is Superman. Searching for a clue in Batman's study Kent discovers a recently made recording of a conversation between Batman and a mysterious Mr. Jones. A man who had somehow learned that Batman was really a wealthy young man named Bruce Wayne, and who threatened, that unless Batman accompanied him to an unnamed destination, he would reveal his secret to the world.

A desperate search failed to uncover any trace of Batman or the mysterious Mr. Jones. But early that evening, Police Inspector Henderson phoned Kent and Robin and told them to go to the Metropolis Auditorium. There before a huge crowd, a tall figure wearing a skin tight costume, cape, bat-like hood and mask, walked out on the stage to address the gathering.

And now a word from our sponsor:

President [Harry S Truman](#)

Poster to promote the Marshall Plan

PEOPLE SOUNDS, MOVEMENT, MURMURING

Robin Look, Mr. Kent, it's Batman!

Kent It certainly looks like him, Dick.

Robin It is him, or else I - I'm dreaming!

Kent You're not dreaming, son!

Robin But how could he be here, safe and sound, while letting *us* think he might be dead?

Kent I don't know.

Robin Oh, there's something screwy going on.

Kent Must be! Can't imagine Batman addressing a selfish, bigoted crowd like this!</FONT

Batman Ladies and gentlemen...

Kent He's starting his speech. Listen...

Batman It's a great pleasure and privilege to address this splendid organization.

Robin That's Batman alright.

Batman I am wholeheartedly in sympathy with your views, and I am convinced that the future of our great country rests in your hands, and in the hands of those others all over the United States who think the way you do.

MURMURS OF PEOPLE

West Germany is to get aid from
the Marshall Plan

Robin Did you hear that, Mr. Kent? He's with this mob!

Kent Yes! I can't believe it, Dick!

Robin Why, If Batman told me once he told me a hundred times that this bunch were selfish bigots. He said they were a menace to our country!

Kent They are! I can't understand this!

Robin I think...

Kent Wait, Dick, let's hear this.

Batman ...in this country, want us to send our hard-earned food, clothing, seed and agricultural equipment to the nations of Europe. 'Share what we have with the unfortunate,' they say. Well, I say, don't do anything of the kind. Let others take care of themselves.

PEOPLE MURMURING

Robin Holy smokes, Mr. Kent, I must be dreaming!

Kent No, you're not, Dick!

Robin Batman always said the only decent and humane thing to do was to help the starving people in Europe.

Kent I know. He went to Washington with me a few months ago to say the same thing. I can't understand why... Wait, listen...

Batman Why should we give our bread, and cotton and steel machinery to somebody else? I ask you, why? If the Europeans want the necessities and luxuries of life, let them make them themselves!

Robin How can he say that when he knows their farms and factories and homes have been destroyed in the war, and all they're asking is our help in getting on their feet again?

Kent I think I'm beginning to see what's behind this, Dick!

Robin Yeah, what?!

Kent Tell you later. Listen.

Batman Finally...we have our own troubles to worry about, so let's not talk about Europe's too. They got into a mess without our help, now let them get out of it, without our help.

CHEERS

Robin Jeepers. My ears must be playing tricks on me, Mr. Kent! I can't believe Batman would *ever* say such rotten, selfish things.

Kent Neither can I!

Batman The less we have to do with foreigners the better, so let 'em stew in their own juice. And now in closing, ladies and gentlemen, let me urge you again to refuse to aid Europe. We work hard for what we have, so let's not give it away to a lot of foreigners. I thank you.

CHEERS

MUSIC And now, a word from our sponsor.

Josef Stalin opposes the Marshall Plan

England

France

Robin Batman spoke like a selfish bigot and a rabble rouser, Mr. Kent!

Kent Like one of the worst kind, Dick.! The meeting's over. Come on.

Robin I can't believe it! He..he just the same as said let those poor people over there starve.

Kent That' what he said. But I've known Batman for years and I know he *hates* narrow bigots and despots like this Un-American as much as you and I and all decent Americans hate them!

Robin Then why did he say all those awful things?

Kent My hunch is he was forced to do this.

Robin Forced?

Kent Uh huh.

Robin What makes you think so?

Kent Remember that recording we found in Batman's study?

Iceland

Robin Oh, you mean that fellow Jones he..

Kent Yes. Look, Batman just went into a dressing room. Here's our chance to find out. Come on!

Italy

MUSIC

DOOR OPENS

Kent There he is, Dick.

Robin (happily) Batman! Hey, Batman!

Batman Oh, hello, Dick. How are you, Kent?

Luxembourg

Kent All right, Batman, but...

Robin Where've you been? Why did you tell me I might never see you again? Why haven't I....

Batman Whoah, wait a minute, Dick, it's a long story and I..I can't go into it now, because I've got another speaking engagement in Willow Falls.

Belgium

Robin But.. gee whiz...

Netherlands

Kent Look, Batman, we three are all alone now, so you can drop the pose and talk straight. We heard your speech tonight and now we want to know...

Batman Oh, you did, eh? How'd you like it?

Robin Thought it smelled!

Batman Really? I thought it was quite good.

Kent Oh, cut that out, Batman! We know why you made that filthy un-American speech tonight. You see, we found that recording!

Batman (Blankly) Recording? What recording, Kent?

Robin The one you meant us to find, of course! The one you made the night you left of the conversation between you and that fellow Jones.

Austria

Batman (Blankly) Oh. (Quickly) Oh, oh, that.

Robin We heard him say he knew you were Bruce Wayne, and if you didn't go away with him he'd tell the whole world. That's why you made that speech tonight, wasn't it, Batman? Because Jones threatened to tell everyone you were Bruce Wayne, if you didn't go along with him. Isn't that right?

Batman Well, I...

Denmark

Kent I'm surprised you went along with him no matter what it meant to you, Batman. You have a great deal of influence and prestige, you know, and a lot of people will believe your lies just because you say them!

Robin That's right

Batman (Hard voice) But they weren't lies.

Kent/Robin What?

Batman I told the truth.

Robin You must be out of your head!

Kent Now, listen, Batman, either this fellow Jones has succeeded in so scaring you that you've turned into a coward, or else....

Norway

Batman Now wait! Get this straight, I'm neither a coward nor out of my mind, Kent. Now as I said before I've got another speaking engagement, so I'll have to ask you two to leave.

Kent Oh, no you don't. You're not going to brush me off that easily, Batman. We've been friends for years, and I'm gonna find...

Robin Wait a minute, Mr. Kent. Let me talk to him alone.

Greece

Kent But look!

Robin I know him better than you. Will you wait outside for me, please, in your car?

A 1948 Chevrolet Fleetline Aero
Sedan

Batman Look, I'm in a hurry, Dick, I told you...

Robin I don't care, Pappy! You and I are gonna have a little pow wow, right now. Go on, please, Mr. Kent.

Kent Well, All right, Dick, I'll wait for you in my car.

VOICE FADES, FOOR CLOSES LEAVES

Robin All right, now, we're alone, just you and me, Batman and Robin, so start talking!

And now a word from our sponsor:

Sweden

Narrator Alone in a dressing room in the Metropolis Auditorium, Dick Grayson, who is really Robin, appeals to his tall, costumed companion.

Robin We've never had any secrets from each other, Batman, so come on, tell me about this trouble you're in.

Batman I'm not in any trouble, Dick.

Robin Don't give me that! You wouldn't just disappear for almost two weeks and let me worry myself sick, and then make a rotten, un-American speech like...like some dirty rabble rouser unless you..

Batman Watch your tongue, you brat!

Robin Huh? What did you call me?

Batman I called you a brat! Now get this through your head. I meant what I said in my speech tonight. I. well, I've been seeing things differently of late.

Robin Holy smokes, Mr. Kent must be right. Either you're yellow or your nuts!

Batman I warned you, Robin! Watch your tongue.

Robin You watch yours! You never talked to me this way before and you're not gonna start now!

Batman Skip it. I've got another speaking engagement so I've got to go.

Robin Wait! Please, don't go until we've had this out!

Kids joined the Superman Tim
Club

Batman Take your hands off me!

Robin Please, Batman, you've got to listen to me. You've got to...

Batman I said, let go.
SOUND OF PUNCH

Robin Oh...
SOUND OF BODY FALLING

Batman That'll hold you, you little punk.
DOOR OPENS

Jerry Time to go, Bat...., hey, what happened to the kid?

Batman He got tough and I had to take a poke at him, that's all. Let's go, Jerry.

Jerry Say, he looks as if he's hurt pretty bad. His head's cut.

Batman So what? He banged it against the radiator when he went down. He'll be okay. Come on, let's go.

Narrator Without a backward glance at the fallen Robin, who lies huddled on the floor unconscious, the tall figure in the famous Batman costume strides from the dressing room with the man he calls Jerry. How can this brutal scene have taken place between Batman and Robin, inseparable as brothers?

WHAT CAN IT POSSIBLY MEAN? The mystery deepens even more tomorrow, fellows and girls, when more amazing things happen, and Superman decides it is time for *him* to go into action! So be sure to tune in tomorrow, same time, same station, for [Chapter 4 of Batman's Great Mystery](#) on the Adventures of Superman.

Superman is a copyrighted feature appearing in Superman DC Comics Magazine, and is brought to you Monday through Friday at this same time.

