

The Adventures of Superman

Batman's Great Mystery

Chapter 7 of 11 - February 10, 1948

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Dated Death

The teamings between Superman and Batman and Robin are some of the most popular episodes of the series.

Narrator Having somehow learned that the famous Batman and Bruce Wayne were one and the same person, a man calling himself Mr. Jones persuaded Batman to go away with him under the threat of revealing his secret. Two weeks later an impersonator, wearing Batman's costume, appeared in Metropolis. The impostor looked and spoke so much like Batman that even Robin and Clark Kent who is Superman were fooled, and after appearing at two huge mass meetings where he made rabble rousing un-American speeches, the impersonator led Robin into an ambush and then disappeared. While Superman, who by that time knew the truth, perfected a plan to locate his missing friends, Batman and Robin were reunited far upstate in an old prison bar dating back to Revolutionary days. There, as prisoners of mysterious Mr. Jones, they were shackled by heavy chains around their ankles to iron staples embedded in the beams. As we join them now, they are pressing their ears against a thin crack in the wall through which they have just overheard a conversation between Jones and a man he called Ed, Batman's impersonator. Listen.

Robin Holy smokes, Batman. Jones said he's going to ring down the curtain on us tonight.

Batman Yes, I heard him, Robin.

Robin What are we going to do, just wait here like mice?

Batman Got any good suggestions?

Robin Not even a bad one. Look, why do you..

Batman Hold it, here comes Jones now.

Jones They're in here, Ed.

Robin Yep, here they come.

Batman Listen, Robin. If they come close enough for us to get our hands on them.

Robin I get it, pappy.

Mr. Jones Good morning, gentleman. I hope you're quite comfortable.

Batman Never felt better, Mr. Jones.

Robin Ah, we're crazy about your hotel, Jonesy. Especially the sleeping accommodations. Nothing like a good hard floor keep a fellow feeling fit, I always say.

Throughout their adventures on *Superman* Batman and Robin were portrayed by a variety of actors, most commonly Matt Crowley and Ronald Liss (although Stacy Harris often played Batman, sometimes substituting for Crowley even in the middle of a storyline).

Mr. Jones Ha hah. I'm glad you haven't lost your sense of humor, Robin.

FOOTSTEPS

Don't go any closer, Ed. These chaps might forget their manners.

Batman Oh, come on. You needn't be shy.

Robin Yeah, step right up and shake our hands.

Ed Smart little punk, aren'tcha.

Robin Oh, boy, come just a bit closer and repeat that, bud, please.

Mr. Jones Stay right where you are, Ed!

Ed If you think I'm afraid of these guys...

FOOTSTEPS.

Robin Grab him, Batman!

Mr. Jones Back, back you fool!

SCUFFLING

Batman Missed him!

Robin Ah, tough luck, chum.

Mr. Jones From here in Ed I suggest you forget your stupid bravado and do as you're told or you'll regret it.

Robin You can say that again.

Mr. Jones Now, let's get down to business. Batman, I want you to do me a favor.

Batman Really? This oughtta be good.

Robin Yeah, I can't wait to hear it.

Batman Well, spill it, Jones.

Mr. Jones It's really quite simple, Batman. I just want you to tell me which banks or vaults you have your safe deposit boxes, and I want you to give me the numbers of your boxes.

Batman That's all, eh?

Robin Are you kidding?

Batman and Robin were also proposed for their own series on at least two occasions. The first was in 1943 during the war. A sample premiere episode, "The Case of the Drowning Seal," revised Dick Grayson's origin to make his parents undercover FBI agents murdered by Nazi spies rather than gangsters. It did not make it to the air. Only the script exists.

Mr. Jones I figure you must have the bulk of your wealth in securities, bonds and stocks and so on, in your safe deposit box. Since it was never possible for Ed or myself to follow you into bank vaults we couldn't learn just where your safety deposit boxes are, or their numbers, and Ed must have that information so as not to arouse the suspicion of the vault guards. You understand.

	Batman	Sure, sure, I understand, alright, but if you think I'm going to give you any of that information, you're crazy.
	Robin	And how.
	Mr. Jones	Maybe this will help you to see things my way, Batman.
	Robin	Ah oh.
	Batman	Put that gun down, Jones!
	Mr. Jones	Don't be ridiculous. This revolver is pointed at Robin, and at this distance I can't possibly miss him. Now do you tell me what I want to know, Batman, or do I fire?
	Batman	Now, wait.
	Robin	He's bluffing, Batman!
<p>In 1950, another attempt was made to get Batman his own series with the <i>Batman Mystery Club</i>, a weekly "club" in which Batman investigated ghost stories. Although it never aired, one episode of that series, "The Monster of Dumphrey's Hall," was completed and still exists.</p>	Mr. Jones	You should realize by now that I don't bluff. Now I'll count to three. If by the time I reach three you still haven't talked to Batman it will be the end of Robin. One.
	Robin	Don't tell him, Batman!
	Mr. Jones	Two.

Robin He's going to finish us anyway!

Mr. Jones Thr..

Batman Wait, I'll tell you.

Robin No!

Mr. Jones I thought you would.

Robin No, don't Batman! Don't talk. You know he's going to finish us anyhow. You heard him say so!

Batman I can't stand here and watch him shoot you, Robin.

Mr. Jones Of course not. Now, tell me, please.

Batman All right, all right, here it is.

MUSIC

Kent I've just come from the Daily Planet radio station, Lois. It's all set.

Lois What's all set, Clark?

Kent The broadcast of the recording of Mr. Jones' voice. You know, the one I found in Batman's study.

Lois Oh, yes. The station has agreed to run it?

Kent Yes, that's right. They'll broadcast it once every hour, with the announcement that anyone who identifies the voice will be paid ten thousand dollars.

Lois Ten thousand dollars!

Kent Yep.

Lois But why, Clark?

Kent Well, as I told you the other day I'm sure this man Jones is responsible for Batman and Robin's disappearance. And I'm also sure that Jones isn't his right name.

Lois But how can you be sure?

Kent Because I've heard his voice before, somewhere, Lois. In public, I think. And it didn't belong to anybody named Jones!

Lois I see. But how can you..

Kent I figure that somebody who hears the recording of this voice will be able to identify it.

Lois With a chance to win ten thousand dollars, practically anyone within reach of the Planet wavelength will listen.

Kent That's what we hope.

Lois But we're only a local station, Clark. Suppose Jones or whatever his name is hangs out, well, say, a thousand miles away and is known only out there?

Kent Taken care of that. This morning I personally delivered copies of the recording to five hundred radio stations in every part of the country. So you see there's nothing..

Lois You personally delivered recordings all over the country? This morning?

Kent (Smugly) That's right.

Lois Well, how could you?

Kent How could I whatoh....oh... I mean I...I

Lois You mean you sent them out. Airmail?

Kent Well, not exactly. I...I...

Lois Clark, what are you stuttering about?

Kent Oh, I don't know, I guess I'm just nervous, Lois. About Batman and Robin, I mean. I'm sure they're in great danger.

Lois Yes, I'm worried too, Clark. Fantastic as it sounds, I'm beginning to believe you were right, and that it wasn't Batman who made those un-American speeches.

Kent Oh, I'm positive it wasn't. If only...Uh oh.

Lois What's the matter?

Kent Ten fifteen. Time for the Planet announcement. I brought this portable radio down so we could hear it.

Lois Oh! Well, turn it on!

Kent I am.

SNAP ON RADIO.

There. Listen.

RADIO WARMING UP.

RADIO VOICE And now we're going to play a recording of the voice. It's voice of a man. And if anyone can properly identify it, he she will be paid ten thousand dollars.

Kent Quiet, Lois.

Lois Huh? I didn't say anything.

RADIO VOICE Here it is. Listen closely, please. "Strange or not, I insist y come to my place with me now to discuss the matter."

Radio writers had to make everything extremely obvious, especially for children's shows, but it didn't mean they couldn't have a sense of humor about it.

Lois That's Jones, isn't it Clark?

Kent Yes.

Jones ON RADIO "It's not a cock-and bull-story."

Lois What's he talking about? It doesn't make any sense!

Kent

Oh, we cut out Batman's voice so as not to confuse anyone.

Lois

Oh, I see.

Jones "That's sheer nonsense, as you'll find out. Well, we're wasting time. I insist that you come away with me at once."

RADIO spokesman There you are, ladies and gentlemen. Can you identify that voice? Well, there's ten thousand dollars waiting for you if you can.

Kent That's all there is.

SNAP OFF RADIO.

Now, if only someone can identify it, Lois, before it's too late. It's our only chance to save Batman and Robin!

MUSIC

Narrator Will somebody identify the voice of the mysterious Mr. Jones before it is too late? It is the middle of the afternoon and in his office in the Daily Planet with Lois Lane, Clark Kent paces the floor anxiously.

Lois For heavens sake, sit down, Clark. You're wearing a path in the carpet.

Kent Oh, hang the carpet. That recording has been on the air for over five hours, now, Lois, but nobody has called up to identify Jones' voice.

Lois But it takes time.

Kent Time is one thing we haven't got.

Lois Well, I know...

Kent For all we know it might already be too late to save Batman and Robin.

Lois Oh, now, look here...

Kent And another thing I counted on hasn't worked out, either.

Lois What's that?

Kent I learned that Batman's impersonator appeared at the bank the other day, forged Batman's signature and drew out all the cash!

Lois He did?

Kent Yes. I happen to know that most of Batman's fortune is in securities...I don't know where he keeps them but I left word at all the banks that if anyone...

PHONE RINGS

Oh, just a minute, Lois.

PICK UP RECEIVER

Clark Kent speaking. Who? Oh, yes, Mr. Anders...he did? When?

Lois What is it, Clark?

Kent He's there now, you say.

Lois What is it?

Kent Well, hold him, stall him somehow. I'll be there at once! So long.

HANGS UP.

Lois Clark, what is it?

Kent Bru...Batman's impersonator is at the Metropolis Trust Company now! In their safety deposit vault!

Lois He is!

Kent Yes, I'm going right out there. Keep your fingers crossed that I'm in time, Lois.

Narrator Rushing from his office to a deserted store room, Clark K. swiftly strips off his business suit to reveal the blue costume and brilliant red cape of Superman.

Kent UP, UP, AND AWAY.
FLYING
MUSIC

Narrator Then he streaks away through the bright afternoon sky bound for the Metropolis Trust Company. Will he arrive in time to seize Batman's impersonator and perhaps Mr. Jones too? There's a thrill a minute in tomorrow's exciting episode, fellows and girls, so be sure to listen. Tune in same time, same station for [CHAPTER 8 OF BATMAN'S GREAT MYSTERY ON THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN.](#)

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