

The Adventures of Superman

Batman's Great Mystery

Chapter 8 of 11 - February 11, 1948

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Dated Death

The impostor should have impersonated *Bruce Wayne*, not Batman, for Batman would have no need to keep a bank account under his own name. The exigencies of children's radio.

Narrator

A mysterious man who calls himself Jones, and who is fanatically opposed to our aiding the unfortunate peoples of Europe, developed a vicious and cunning plot to further his selfish cause, and at the same time enrich himself. Learning that the famous Batman was really the wealthy Bruce Wayne, Jones persuaded Superman's friend to go away with him. Then, Jones sent an impersonator to Metropolis, who, impersonating Batman, made speeches against American aid to Europe and led Robin, Batman's young companion, into an ambush. Then, chaining the dynamic duo in an old Revolutionary prison barracks far upstate, Jones and the impersonator return to Metropolis to take possession of Batman's large fortune. Superman, who suspects the truth, has contacted all Metropolis banks, and as we continue now he has streaked to the Metropolis Trust Company in response to a phone call. There, in his guise as reporter Clark Kent, he hurries to the desk of Frank Anders, the bank's manager.

Kent

Hello, Mr. Anders. Where's Batman?

Anders

(a reedy, fussy voice) Hello, Mr. Kent.

Kent

Where's Batman, I don't see him?

Anders Well, he's gone.

Kent Gone! But you said....!

Anders Yes, when he came up from the safety deposit vaults I tried to detain him, but he said he was in a great hurry.

Kent Where did he go? Which way?

Anders Well, I... I...I don't know. He left, just after I called you. With his friend, Mr. Jones.

Kent Jones! Then it was Bru...I mean, Batman's impersonator, just as I thought.

Anders Impersonator? What do you mean?

Kent Look, Mr. Anders, please call Inspector Henderson and tell him the phony Batman just left here.

Anders But...I...I...I don't understand.

Kent Please do as I say. Right away! I'll explain later.

MUSIC

This alley is deserted. So out of these clothes. This is a job for SUPERMAN. AND A TOUGH JOB. THE PHONY BATMAN AND JONES COULD HAVE TAKEN A SUBWAY OR A BUS OR A TAXI OR GOT AWAY IN THEIR OWN CAR. HOWEVER THEY'VE GONE I MUST FIND THEM. THERE WE ARE. ALL SET. UP, UP AND AWAY.

FLYING

MUSIC

Lois Yes, Inspector. I'll tell him as soon as he comes in. No, I have no idea where he is. Right, goodbye.

REPLACES RECEIVER

SOUND OF SUPERMAN LANDING

Oh, Clark! Where have you been?

Kent Where haven't I been, Lois. Listen, has there been any word from Inspector Henderson?

Lois Yes, he just called.

Kent Did he pick up the phony Batman?

Lois No, he's still looking. There was...

Kent Oh, I was afraid of that. I couldn't find him either. There were too many ways he could escape. Subway, bus, taxi, private car.

Lois Why are you so sure it was the phony Batman who came to the bank, Clark?

Kent Because that Jones character was with him!

Lois He was?

Kent Sure! They forged Batman's signature, opened his safe deposit boxes and took his whole fortune.

Lois Good heavens!

Kent I'm sure we'll never see the real Batman and Robin again because Jones can't let them live, now.

Lois Oh, Clark, what do we do?

Kent I don't know, Lois. I don't know. Look, what about the recording of Jones' voice? Any luck with that?

Lois No, not yet.

Kent Oh, that's bad.

Lois The Daily Planet radio station has been broadcasting the record every hour, and repeating our offer of ten thousand dollars for anyone who can identify Jones' voice and tell us who he really is.

Kent Still no takers?

Lois No, not a single once. I've checked with the other stations over the country who have been playing the recording too.

Kent No soap there, either?

Lois Just several false leads. Jones has been identified as a famous movie actor, a cabinet official, a champion prizefighter, you know.

Kent Uh, huh.

Lois But I guess we have to expect those things.

Kent Yes, I know we do. But I was hoping someone would identify him correctly because it's obvious from the way he works that he's no small-time operator. Lots of people must know him.

Lois But then I'm sure someone will definitely identify him sooner than Clark.

Kent They'd better hurry, Lois. Otherwise I'm afraid we've seen the last of Batman and Robin.

Narrator MUSIC

As the afternoon darkens towards evening Clark Kent and Lois Lane continue to wait anxiously for someone to identify the mysterious and evil Mr. Jones, Batman and Robin in their ancient prison barracks have been trying desperately to try to free themselves from the heavy rusted shackles. In the long, low dimly lit room, where their ankles are chained to iron staples embedded in the wall beams, the dynamic duo have been bracing their feet against the wall, then throwing themselves back violently against their chains, hoping to snap them, or to pull the heavy staples from the beams. Each time they lock their teeth tightly to keep from crying out as the cruel chains cut into the flesh of their ankles.

Robin Ow...it's no use Batman, these chains won't break and oh...these staples won't come out.

Batman Afraid you're right, Robin. Whew! My leg is as raw as fire and beef.

Robin So's mine. What are we going to do, Batman? Jones and his phony Batman will be back soon with your bankroll, and you know what happens then.

Batman All I know is what Jones said would happen.

Robin That's bad because he wasn't kidding.

Batman I know, but take it easy, chum. We're not cooked geese yet.

Robin Maybe not yet, we're all trussed up and ready for the oven though. Oh, boy, I never thought we'd go out this way, chained up like a couple of dogs.

Batman Look, cut it out, will ya? I said we're not finished yet.

Robin You wanna bet?

Batman Well, not too much, but a small wager.

Robin Stop trying to cheer me up, pappy. You know as well I do that we're done for, unless our fairy godmother sneaks a coin in here with a nice big file inside.

Batman Yeah. How I'd love to have a nice big file right now.

Robin I wouldn't even mind seeing a cake. Exercising with those chains works up an appetite.

Batman Remind me of that later. I'll run out and buy you a steak.

Robin Hey, when is the last time you ate, Batman?

Batman Yester....Holy smokes!

Robin Hey, never shout like that at a man when he's hungry.

Batman Cut the comedy, Robin. I just thought of something.

Robin A way to get out of here, I hope?

Batman Nothing else but. Your talking about food gave me an idea.

Robin Go on, spill it. I'm all ears.

Batman Up until today when they brought you in I've been fed fairly regularly by two of Jones playmates. Ugly gorillas with goggles. They've been bringing me a tray. One of them would keep me covered while the other one set the tray down where I could reach it. You get the picture?

Robin Sure, but what are you driving at?

Batman Well, there are two of us here now, see. So if we can get the gorillas to bring us some food before Jones comes back, we can coax them within reach of our chains...

Robin We grab them, give 'em a quick going over and suggest that the things to remove are leg braces.

Batman Surprising how quickly you catch on, son. C'mon, let's yell and see if we can raise the chef. Hey!!

Robin Hey, fellow.. Where's the waiter with the water for my daughter?

Batman Waiter!

Robin Hey.

Batman Sheriff! Somebody!

Robin Come on!

Thug Shaddup! Whaddyou guys want?

Batman We want something to eat!

Robin Yeah, we're starving. How about a ham sandwich a piece, buddy.

Thug Forget it. Mr. Jones didn't say nuthin' about feedin' ya.

Batman Look, you've been bringing me food every day haven't yo

Thug Well, yeah, but Mr. Jones...

Batman Well, he must have forgotten to tell ya. So be a good guy, will ya, and bring us something to eat. Anything.

Robin Even a glass of water will do. Just a glass of water.

Thug Well, I guess I can do that.

Batman Attaboy.

SOUND OF CAR DRAWING UP

Thug Hey, waitaminnit. Car just pulled up. Must be Mr. Jones now.

Robin Oh, what a break.

Batman Never mind him. Bring us the water. Hurry!

Thug Wait'll I see. Yeah, it is Mr. Jones. I'll ask him about something for you guys.

Robin (Low voice) Oh, I'll know what Jones will say.

Batman (Low voice) Yeah, he'll say it with a bullet.

Robin Well, I guess it *was* a good idea, Batman.

Batman Yes, Robin, it was. But it came a little too late. And there goes our last chance.

Narrator MUSIC

Their last hope gone, as Batman and Robin in the prison barracks upstate see Mr. Jones enter the room in which they are chained, Lois Lane in Metropolis has just rushed in to Clark Kent's office at the Daily Planet.

Lois Clark! Oh, Clark, hurry!

Kent What's the matter, Lois? What's up?

Lois They just called down from our radio station to say that a man showed up there who says he knows who Mr. Jones is.

Kent No kidding!

Lois Yes, he's upstairs now, waiting for us. Hurry, Clark, he means really...

Kent Out of my way, Lois, I'm practically up there now!



Narrator

Racing past Lois Lane like an arrow shot from a bow, Clark Kent sprints through the city room into the corridor and then out of sight, leaves his feet and zooms up the eight flights of steps to the radio as only Superman can.

Does the unknown man in the radio studio really know who the mysterious Mr. Jones is, or is this another false lead? And if he does know, can he direct Clark Kent who is Superman, to the upstate prison barracks in time to save the lives of Batman and Robin? Whatever you do, don't miss tomorrow's thrilling episode, fellows and girls, as the unexpected happens, and the suspense grows! Tune in same time, same station, for [CHAPTER 9 OF BATMAN'S GREAT MYSTERY ON THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN.](#)

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