



## Batman: Prey

*Doug Moench , Paul Galancy (Penciller) , Terry Austin (Inker)*

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**Batman: Prey** Doug Moench , Paul Galancy (Penciller) , Terry Austin (Inker)

Set in the Year One time frame, Batman must confront the sinister Dr Hugo Strange, a man with a deadly secret, out to stop and, if necessary, kill the Dark Knight. Who is the bloodthirsty Night Scourge, how does he link in with the police department, and where exactly does the mysterious Catwoman fit into all this? Collects Legends of the Dark Knight #11-15!

## Batman: Prey Details

Date : Published 1992 by DC Comics (first published 1990)

ISBN : 9780930289683

Author : Doug Moench , Paul Galancy (Penciller) , Terry Austin (Inker)

Format : Paperback 125 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Dc Comics, Batman, Graphic Novels, Superheroes, Graphic Novels  
Comics

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## From Reader Review Batman: Prey for online ebook

### Emilce says

[and those bloody mannequins of his parents that Strange placed in Wayne Manor! That scene almost made me shout along with Bruce. (hide spoiler)]

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### Sr3yas says

*Modern Batman #6*

**Let me clear the confusion.** Our Dark Knight is not the hunter, but the prey in this story arc!

And the hunter?

The whole Gotham city: The public, the police, the government and a dark vigilante named *Night Scourge*!

And all this is happening because of one man: *Doctor Hugo Strange*. The psychiatrist who is *incidentally*, a psychopath.

This is one of the unique and early Batman story which unleashes a calculating Hugo Strange over a young Batman. Strange starts a physiological warfare on Dark Knight by painting him as a psychopath during a string of public interviews. Furthermore, he secures himself a position in vigilante task force as consulting criminal profiler. This puts him in the driver's seat of this whole affair!

The story shows why Hugo Strange is such an effective Batman villain. Hell, he almost beat him in this story.

The plot is not without its faults. The middle chapters are not as good as the initial ones and the ending was a bit of a cheap trick. Nevertheless, there are some unique scenes with excellent 90s art which makes the story quite fascinating.

Also, Bruce had to walk back to his cave, in broad daylight, in costume.

A reminder that he is, after all, a man. A trait the modern writers keep on forgetting.

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### Paul says

What can I say?

Following on the heels of the very deceiving Batman: Gothic storyline, we get Batman: Prey.

When you combine a pretty good writer with years of experience in the Batman-comic-writing-field with an artist such as Paul Gulacy, another veteran... you're hoping to get something good.

They deliver...

Batman: **P×R×E×Y** is just that, good!

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### **Joshua Montgomery says**

Ok, now i have read five or six reviews for Batman: Prey, and to say the least, this book does not deserve a 5 star rating. The character dialogue is written in an unbelievable fashion ( like every individual is overacting their proposed character) and it becomes almost unbearable to keep reading on ( heavy in senseless prattle). The appeal is that the collection is set in Batmans early years, however the writers have written the Bat as a useless pawn for every antagonist in the collection. It seems not one of Bruce's theories about his mischievous opponents are correct. He runs into every situation with no planning, and no idea what he's doing. I understand it's his early years but the Bat is not a moron, he never would have survived so long without some understanding and wits. As well, he gets his ass kicked by nearly everyone he confronts. One of Bats strongest aspects is his physicality, its maddening to see him get beat by the Scarecrows "crane style martial arts" (an absolute joke) and everyone gets the jump on him. Stop turning your damn back to everyone! The plot for Prey is much more substantial than the following Terror, i will say that. The art style is ok, not my favorite but it has its moments ( especially with the Scarecrow). Batman: Prey however is still a Batman related collection and though i can't recommend it, i do believe you should read it, if not to only come to your own conclusions of this awkwardly written title. My e mail is creamdallabill@hotmail.com

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### **T says**

Not sure if this counts as read since the only way I could find it besides wiki's was an online review with occasional excerpts of the art, which I didn't particularly care for. Ditto for the storyline.

Heard it was supposedly the first appearance in modern comics of Dr Strange, and then afterwards I learn that Batman & the Monster Men which was also in my chronological Batman comics list *also* contains one of the first encounters of Batman vs Dr Strange. Sighhhh. Comic books. why are you like this?

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### **Dirk Grobbelaar says**

This is a fine collection. It deals with events rather early in Batman's career. In fact, I suppose these could be considered "year one" events, since this collection depicts the first use of the bat signal. The *Prey* story was first published around 1990-1991 when I was at school and, needless to say, reading a lot of comics. It could be that my judgment is being clouded by nostalgia but I'd like to think that this isn't the case.

*Prey* is actually quite violent. One of the challenges Batman faces here is a Vigilante called *Night Scourge* and the story shows how wearing a mask can amplify personality traits (for better or worse). Isolated from (Captain) Gordon and being driven over the edge by the psychological machinations of Hugo Strange, *Prey*

features an all-too-human Caped Crusader who struggles to keep things together. The story also clearly illustrates the importance of James Gordon in the Batman mythos.

Recommended.

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## Max's Comic Reviews and Lists says

### Protocol 10

Well, this is my last *Legends of the Dark Knight* story arc I am going to read for a while, and this was a damn good way to close. *Batman Prey* is one of the best Batman books I have read in a while. This book covers so damn much in its five issue length. Seriously! There is a lot crammed into it. This is also surprisingly one of the most important titles coming out at this time. Because after *Batman Year One* everything for Batman kind of restarted and got built off of that story. This book shows the birth of the Bat signal, the Bat Mobile, and Dr. Hugo Strange. Surprisingly this is also a very intricately written and more mature book than what comes next in the *Legends of the Dark Knight* series. Like *Flyer, Faith, and Venom*. This book makes *Venom* look retarded. *Prey* shows the time when Gotham was still getting used to the idea of vigilantes. So for the whole book, Batman is just being pounded into the ground! So you definitely get a lot of discussions about the legality of the Batman. And I still love those dinner party scenes where Bruce Wayne bullshits his way through conversations with politicians. "A guy who dresses up like a bat clearly has issues." There is still something so magical about that. This is also a crime story. So in that, nobody is really in the law here. Not even Gordon. (Well when is he ever?) Everybody is always in somebody's pocket. And that makes for some very interesting and entertaining plot points.

Dr. Hugo Strange, in my opinion, is a great villain. He deconstructs the living hell out of Batman in this story all the way through. Even making Bruce think twice about his choice to play dress up and beat the shit out of criminals. Because ya Bruce is a little crazy. And he knows it. But Hugo Strange is even more insane. You just have to read this book to know what I'm talking about.

I have a few problems with this story and here they are One, this story can be a little sexist towards women. I am not exactly too mad about that, it's just that it's so obviously pointing a derogatory finger at all women that I went "C'mon you didn't need that." in my head. And there is a character that's basically sexualized for no reason. Two: Maybe this is just because I was reading this book is single issues which I don't really like doing, but I felt the book as a whole to feel a little disjointed. Like a series of events where one event was placed one after the other with weaker structuring than I would have liked. What I mean is that there is not really a definite middle section of the book. And three: Some of the dialogue written for Hugo Strange and The Night-Scourge was really corny. Like painfully corny. And depending on if you have ever read this story, it's known that police officers shouldn't have ninja level training. If I say any more I'll be spoiling shit but it was the 90s. Just keep that in mind. (By the way in issue #3 I got a *Predator 2* fold-out poster. So that was kind of awesome and hilarious.)

This is the hands down some of the best 90s, Batman, and *Legends of the Dark Knight* art I have ever seen. The penciling is truly awesome. The amount of detail and atmosphere there was is just another reason why this book was great. The action was also gritty, tough, and flowed well. It actually showed every punch, kick, and tackle. Not just 3 panels of Batman punching someone and that's it. The action is actually very impressive.

In the end, this is undoubtedly the best *Legends of the Dark Knight* storyline I have read so far. I love the commentary and deconstruction of Batman, as well as the intricate crime story this turned out to be. The book introduces a very personal villain for Batman in the form of Hugo Strange, and I thought it really worked. The art and action are exceptional, and this is also a very humanizing story for Bruce Wayne. Keep in mind this is not a perfect story, but still one I strongly recommend so I think I'm being fair when I give the book this **Letter Grade: (A-)**

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### **Mike says**

Another subtly amazing tale of the early years of the Batman. Published circa 1993, the story takes us back to a very young Caped Crusader, shortly after the events of Year One. Bruce has not yet created a Batmobile (but he works on it, every chapter!), and the Bat Cave is closer to a hideout than a fully functioning crime lab.

The major plot is that Batman encounters Hugo Strange, here a psychologist with some twisted methods but obsessively fixated on The Batman. And Strange begins to insinuate himself into the Batman's psyche and Gotham's underworld to ruinous effect.

This volume collects Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #11-15. Chronologically, it follows Batman: Venom and comes before Batman: Collected Legends of the Dark Knight. With this chronology, we would have seen Dr. Hugo Strange previously in Batman and the Monster Men, but that was written later than Prey, so there are very few clues that Batman recalls him...

I run hot-and-cold over Prey. This is a less-certain Batman, a growing Batman, bested by circumstance and subtlety and his own weaknesses. But he's also a Batman with more room for good storytelling, for conflict and change and growth, and fewer constraints.

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### **Scott says**

Batman takes on Doctor Strange - no, not THAT one - in a plot that is reminiscent of one of those psychological thrillers ("Silence of the Lambs," "Basic Instinct" etc.) that were regularly churned out by Hollywood in the early / mid 90's. This book was released around the same time period. Coincidence? I think not. But it was a good story-line set during the Dark Knight's salad days, and there was a great debut (in this timeline, anyway) of the Batmobile.

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### **Doctorjimmy says**

[ο οποιος πρεπει να αντιμετωπισει τα μεσα, την αστυνομια και τις ιδιες του τις αμφιβολιες (hide spoiler)]

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### **Panos says**

BATMAN: PREY (4/5)

Most readers are accustomed to the cozy little arrangement Batman has with GCPD. He helps (sometimes

even works with) them and in return they leave him the hell alone. That's mainly due to his friendship with Police Commissioner James Gordon who understands Batman's intentions. But that hasn't always be the way things were.

Back to Batman's early days as a crimefighter, he was relentlessly hunted down by the police as an illegal vigilante. Everyone, from cops to mobsters, wanted Batman dead for the changes he made to Gotham's society of corruption. He upset the balance between those two. Then captain of police Jim Gordon couldn't do much to help Batman without risking his job. Especially when the mayor of the city appoints him leader of a special task force to arrest the vigilante.

And to cap it all, a high-profile psychologist named Hugo Strange is participating in the pursuit by making a psychological profile on the Dark Knight. According to Dr. Strange, Batman is extremely obsessed and probably motivated by some sort of tragedy occurring to him in his early life. He is a control freak who craves individualistic power and harbors a paranoid mistrust of others.

So, I trust that right about now you are beginning to get the meaning of the title. First published in *Legends of the Dark Knight* 11-15 and written by Doug Moench, "Prey" is an intense look on Batman's inner world. The way the character is tormented is beyond words, reaching to the point of doubting his own sanity. Batman almost gives up on his mission a little longer than a year after he first wore the cowl. All because of the actions of one man who through cruel mind games and tricks manages to reach the darkest corners of Batman's mind.

Truly, the character who saves the day might as well be Gordon, who not only believes in Batman but builds a way to contact him via a beacon on the roof of Gotham Central. The examination of the relation between the two men here is one of the best I have ever seen, second only to Miller's "Year One". Same with that writer, Moench chooses to portray Gordon as an acute detective who has figured out Bruce Wayne is actually Batman but chooses to allow him to continue, without ever bringing the issue under discussion.

Catwoman is also featured in this story, as an extra bonus. She commits numerous crimes, always trying to change the media's opinion about her being Batman's night partner. On the other hand, Batman nervously tries to ignore Catwoman's playful and flirting attitude whenever they meet one another.

The art is of impressively high quality, uncommon for 1990 (publish date) even for a graphic novel. That said, it's also very nice to look at, rolling with the story with no problem. Penciller Paul Gulacy really does it here. Colorist Terry Austin's work is also exemplary and commendable. Together they deliver an artistically impeccable tale.

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## **Logan says**

Very solid read! So this is one of the post Crisis origin stories for Hugo Strange, until it got retconned in favour of Batman and the Monster Men (Both I fully recommend!). While this is a solid read there are parts of Strange's character I'm glad they got rid of \*Cough Sex Doll Cough\* (No jokes). So the story is set pretty much just after Year One, which are always a delight to read since its a great part of the Batman timeline. Batman is cleaning up the streets but the city doesn't know what to think of him; then the Mayor has the bright idea to start a Vigilante Task Force with Gordon as its lead and Hugo Strange as a 'Consultant'. The story although not written by Miller, still keeps that same vibe of Year One, which is something I appreciated, and like Year One we have monologues from Both Batman and Gordon which are fun to read.

Artwork, although I had to get used to at first, was very nice, it suited the tone well! My only real issue is how Strange is portrayed, it's just out right weird. I guess at the time they wanted to be edgy while at the same time make him as eccentric as possible. There were moments that made me laugh (As most readers probably will), but then it got to the point where I was thinking: "My god this stupid!". I don't know by the end he was not an intimidating villain, removing any real tension; he's more of a joke villain than anything else, something I'm glad they changed later. But overall a nice Batman story!

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### **Roxanne says**

Hold the front door, Batman has developed a sense of humour I had to take a time out to let it sink in, when he takes fish down is hilarious, and his bit about punks, always looking for kicks until they get them was I mean wow someone stitch that into a cushion. However this is DC and we can't have a happy Bruce, bloody hell, quick someone mention his parents. Oh good Hugo Strange is here with his weird ass mannequin collection. The last time we seen this guy he had real humans as guinea pigs, so obviously money is tight for him.

Whether you like this or not will depend on whether you like Hugo Strange, he pretty much runs the show in this. Overall it's quite a good read, I didn't know we needed an origin tale for the Batmobile but obviously we do, but if you like your Batman with a ton of villains and heavy on action then this isn't the one for you.

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### **Oni says**

This is an ideal Batman story. Its graphics are excellent and the dialogue is realistic and engaging. The story has a larger plot than just defeating a villain and is set in an interesting time in Batman's career. Highly recommend this comic.

Aus Classification: M (violence, partial nudity)

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### **Alexa says**

Originally posted [here!](#)

I have been meaning to follow the Batman chronology for a while now, but I've only really come round to doing it fairly recently (this year, in fact). I love how, with every Batman story I read, I learn something new about him! Reading chronologically really helps, but I've been using this as my guide. As far as I know, there are no official DC listings for a Batman chronology, despite the wealth of comics about the Dark Knight that have been around for more than seventy years (Batman was first introduced in 1939). It suggested that after Batman: Year One? (review [here](#)), I read Batman: Prey, so I dutifully obeyed.

Prey is estimated to occur shortly after ?Year One?, so it is no surprise that we still see Batman as the dark, brooding hero coming to terms with his new mission as protector of Gotham City. Despite his best efforts to prove that he is actually one of the good guys, he is still a highly targeted vigilante for many of its citizens, particularly the Gotham City Police Department (GCPD). At the moment, his only friends (and the only ones who know his real identity as Bruce Wayne) are the ever-loyal butler, Alfred, and the detective-turned-captain James Gordon.

Prey begins with a police sting operation designed to catch a drug dealer who could reveal the syndicate behind it all. Before the GCPD could close in on the guy, though, Batman has shaken the guy and disrupted the whole operation. One of the officers, Max Cort, gets thoroughly infuriated by this and reports to an indifferent Gordon, who defends Batman by insisting that he is actually good for morale. In the next scene, Gordon is shown at a television show, being interviewed along with Gotham City Mayor Kauss and Dr. Hugo Strange, a well-known psychiatrist. Dr. Strange offers some insight against Batman, analyzing why he wears a costume, etc. The Mayor is very much impressed with him that he hires the man for his services in a newly-enforced "Task Force Vigilante" against Batman, unbeknownst to anyone in GCPD prior to Kauss's announcement on-air. Against Gordon's wishes, the Mayor assigns him as the head of said task force. As the story unravels, we get to see different sides of this Hugo Strange, as well as Max Cort, and even glimpses of Catwoman in between.

Even though I did not finish Prey in a day as planned, it stuck with me long enough for me to really get a kick out of it. I especially liked the latter parts, where the climax of the story is. The characters seemed very real, and were very convincing in their roles. Dr. Strange was, well, really strange, but more than that, he was downright creepy with his obsession and, to say the least, he was *insane* in the worst sense of the word. Max Cort proved to be as idiotic as Gordon thought he would be, all brawn with little brain, believing he could actually beat Batman! Tsk. As if. A thing that I would have liked to see more of was Catherine, the Mayor's daughter. She was established at the beginning to be a very opinionated woman, but later on she just served as a pawn in the power play between Dr. Strange and Batman. Her faith in the Dark Knight was pleasantly unexpected, which naturally made me want to see more of her in a setting that gave her freedom to do whatever she liked.

On the other hand, the art was, for me, exquisite. The illustrations by Paul Gulacy and Terry Austin and the coloring by Steve Oliff were brilliantly done, and the fact that it was made in the 90's made it even more impressive. I was rereading some parts of Prey for this review earlier and I thought, 'This is what comics should look like'. Probably part of what made me gush about the art was how I really love vintage style comics, especially from genuinely vintage comics. They just look so fine! Anyway, I really loved Prey. I was already dead set on loving Batman anyway, but reading stories like this made me remember why I love him so much. Really.

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