

## RETURN OF THE DARK KNIGHT

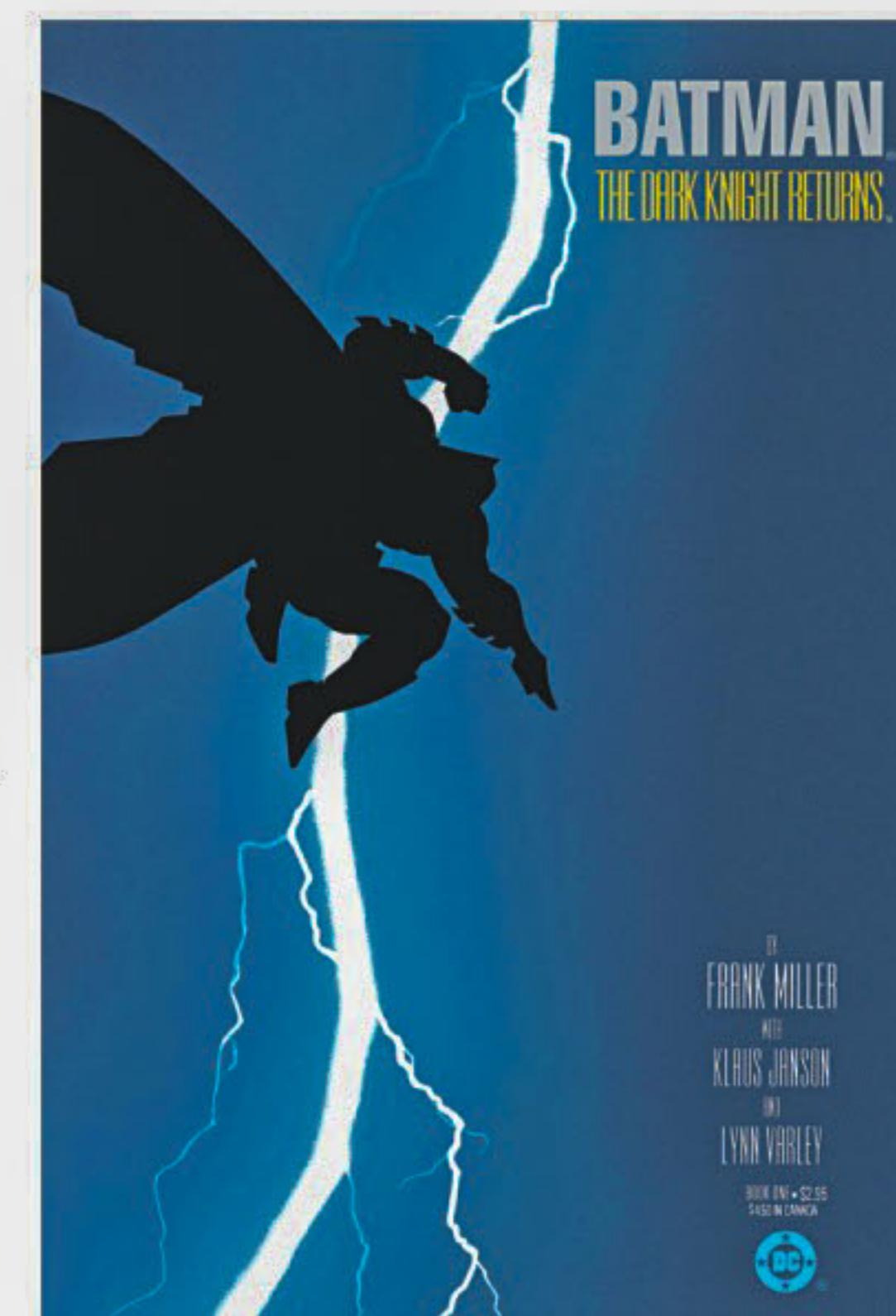


AKM ALAMGIR KHAN

1986 was a turning point in the mythos of Batman. The comics superstar of that era, Frank Miller, fresh off his epic run on the cult favourite title "Daredevil" made history with his 4 part mini-series – telling a dark and gritty story of a 50 year-old Batman who comes out of retirement to fight once again to save his beloved city. That story is an undisputed classic, acknowledged as one of the best Batman stories of all time, as well as recognised as one of the best selling comics of all time.

The publication history of this epic is exciting on its own. Miller insisted on a new format for his masterpiece, with a sterner format, better printing and colouring. The issues carried a hefty price tag of \$2.95, which was revolutionary at a time when most comics were printed at 60 cents. The high price discouraged stores and they under-ordered the first issue. The first issue sold out quickly, with DC publishing a total of 4 printings soon after, followed by millions of trade paperbacks. Within a few months, the first print of #1 was fetching \$50 at the back issue market.

The success of the original story did not pass over to its successor in 2001's "Dark Knight Strikes Again", produced by the same creative team. Although a commercial success, that storyline received significant negative response. Some argued



that it was a mistake to touch a classic by DC. Some argued that it was simply a poor story.

The time to create history is back again. DC Comics is taking up the challenge of presenting the Dark Knight in its full glory. "The Dark Knight III: The Master Race" is coming out this week. Frank Miller is back at the helm, scripting with fellow writer Brian Azzarello. Brian is famous for his

mature themed comics including 100 Bullets, Lex Luthor: Man of Steel (where Lex becomes the focal point, a man of flesh and blood standing against the invincible alien), the Joker hardcover, a run on Hellblazer series and a critically acclaimed run on Wonder Woman. The artwork is taken up by Andy Kubert and long time Frank Miller collaborator Klaus Janson. Andy, son of comics legend Joe Kubert, has an impressive resume including work on X-Men, Ghost Rider, Spirit of Vengeance, Batman, Flashpoint etc.

The story is set further into the future. The new Robin, Carrie Kelley, is all grown up and pondering her role in the world. Superman is back in action. And Batman is being

Batman. Brian Azzarello promises this to be an absolute mind blowing experience. Insiders of DC Comics will agree.

Will Batman soar to the great heights again? We will know soon.

*The writer is owner of Jamil's Comics & Collectables.*

## MACGYVER ON MARS

MOVIE REVIEW

TAHMEED CHAUDHURY

With futuristic scientific depictions, jaw dropping survival stories and, hold on to your seats, Matt Damon in the lead role, *The Martian* is a must watch. Based on Andy Weir's novel of the same title, *The Martian* was directed by Ridley Scott. It has gone on to garner critical acclaim and has done well in the box office.

The plot begins with the crew of ARES III, on an expedition to Mars in the 2030s, taken aback by an incoming deadly storm, and they decide to abandon their mission and escape the planet to ensure safety. While they are evacuating, crew member Mark Whatney (Matt Damon) is struck by debris and disappears into darkness. Unable to find or communicate with him, the crew presumes he's dead and decides to take off without him.



However, Whatney survives and finds himself isolated on a planet with limited supply of food and water and no means of communication with any other life form. What follows next is a compelling story of

a man who simply refuses to give up, a gripping tale of man vs. nature. With food and water running out fast, Whatney knows he has little time to waste and puts in sheer determination to defy all odds

and stay alive, and to find a way to communicate with fellow earthlings in the process.

NASA, rockets, space and fancy technology – this movie has every element to rouse the interest of a sci-fi aficionado. The intrigue is not limited only to the sci-fi lovers, however. Admirable acting, impressive visuals and screenplay etc. should keep the general audience on the edge of their seats as well. With Whatney's sense of humour in the face of adversity, this movie covers all bases. Overall, it was an enjoyable watch and I'd recommend everyone to add *The Martian* to their list of prospective movies to see.

*Tahmeed Chaudhury is a diehard Liverpool fan and procrastinator who dislikes being asked questions. Don't ask him questions at [tahmeed789@gmail.com](mailto:tahmeed789@gmail.com)*