



Author Spotlight
With
**Marc Tyler
Nobleman**

Aside from *Bill the Boy Wonder*, which is about the (secret) co-creator of Batman, you also wrote *Boys of Steel*, which is about the creators of Superman. What made you want to write books specifically about the creators of these iconic figures?

The catalyst was simply a lifelong interest in DC Comics superheroes. But when I learned the heartbreaking story behind Superman and the even more heartbreaking story behind Batman, I was compelled to do my part to share these stories with as many people as possible. This seemed important to me both to honor the legacies of these creators and also to warn people of all ages of a risk in not standing up for your genius. These topics also grabbed me from a commercial standpoint: hard to believe, but before me, no one had written standalone bios (in any format) of any of them.

How did you first hear about Bill Finger?

You know, I wish I could remember! All I know is that it was sometime after I graduated college in 1994 because that year I made a voice recording (don't ask) and part of it was me telling the story of the creation of Batman in which I mentioned only Bob Kane. I'm a traitor to myself!

Will *Bill the Boy Wonder* appeal to people who are not Batman or superhero fans?

Yes, and I can say so with confidence because *Boys of Steel* has tested those waters. People who haven't read a comic book in 40, 50, 60 years, if ever, have kindly come to hear me speak and have told me afterward how moved/entertained/inspired/frustrated they were by the back-story. I'm not particularly interested in, say, snails, but I'd read a book about them if it was a good story well told.

Bill the Boy Wonder is about Batman, of course, but I feel its strongest appeal is that it's an underdog story. Most of us can relate to Bill in some way. We've all felt taken advantage of at one point. We've all felt underappreciated for our efforts. And in the end, *Bill the Boy Wonder* is a call to action on behalf of Bill, and on behalf of each of us.

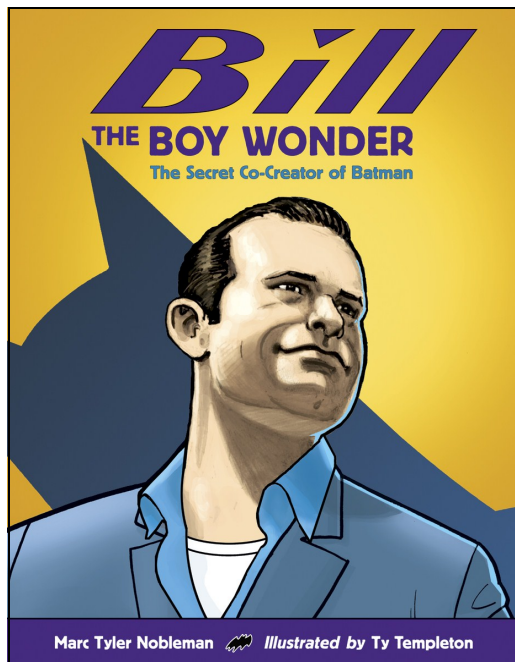
What is it about nonfiction that appeals to you as a writer? Have you written—or would ever consider writing—fiction?

I have written fiction and would like to write more; I have several novels perpetually playing out on the back wall of my head. What I've already published includes several short adventure/supernatural novels and short stories/plays aimed at young readers.

I plan to stick with nonfiction, too. My favorite topic is one that no one else has done before in book form. I like to fill gaps. Everyone knows Batman, but most people know little to nothing about where he came from. (That is clear from the person-on-the-street portion of my trailer for *Bill the Boy Wonder!*)

Who's your favorite superhero?

The answer has fluctuated over the years, but right now, my favorite is Bill Finger.



978-1-58089-289-6 HC \$17.95
978-1-60734-446-9 E-book \$9.99
Ages 8 and up • 48 Pages

This is the true story of how Batman began.

Every batman story is marked with the words “Batman created by Bob Kane.” But that isn't the whole truth. A struggling writer named Bill Finger was involved from the beginning. Bill helped invent Batman, from concept to costume to character. He dreamed up Batman's haunting origins and his colorful nemeses. Despite his brilliance, Bill worked in obscurity. It was only after his death that fans went to bat for Bill, calling for acknowledgement that he was co-creator of Batman.



Based on original research, *Bill the Boy Wonder* is the first ever book about the unsung man behind the Dark Knight.