

Excerpt from *BATMAN VS. THE JOKER ON ZOOM* by Emily Hageman

(BATMAN is getting ready to call someone over Zoom. He checks himself out, fixing his mask. Maybe he moves some things behind him so he has a better background.)

BATMAN: “Ah *ha!*, got you now!” No, no ugh, that looked stupid. “Ah ha, got *you* now!” Do my nostrils always flare like that? Ah ha, got you--ah ha, *got* you--ah ha, got--

ROBIN *(off camera)*: How many pizza rolls do you want?

BATMAN: I don’t want any-- I’m doing something, leave me alone.

ROBIN *(off camera)*: Are you sure? There was a really good sale at Safeway. They’re the triple meat kind.

BATMAN: STOP INTERRUPTING ME, THE CITY NEEDS ME.

ROBIN *(enters)*: Chill out, the city doesn’t need anything except more toilet paper. You know, I went to Costco this morning at 7:45 and they were totally sold out? Ugh. People.

BATMAN: Has Alfred returned from the dry cleaners with my suit?

ROBIN: No.

BATMAN: What?? I need it!

ROBIN: You have like thirty suits.

BATMAN: The others don’t fit. I’m too ripped.

ROBIN: We both know that’s not true. We’ve both been getting fat during this quarantine.

BATMAN: SPEAK FOR YOURSELF! I’m as muscular as a bat! Always have been, always will be!

ROBIN: Look, do you want pizza rolls or not?

BATMAN: First of all, obviously I want pizza rolls. I always want pizza rolls--

ROBIN: Well excuse me, but I didn’t want to assume. Last time I did that and set up that villain encounter with the Penguin you got all cranky with me, even though you’re always like “surprise me, surprise me, I gotta stay on my toes”--

BATMAN: I LIKE TO WRITE THINGS DOWN IN MY DAY PLANNER, OKAY?

ROBIN: The one with the unicorn on it?

BATMAN: It is not a unicorn. It is a beautiful horse.

ROBIN: ...with a horn.

BATMAN: You know what, forget it, I don't even want pizza rolls so never mind and go away.

ROBIN: Wait...what are you doing? Is your camera on?

BATMAN: NO, no, it's not, I'm just--

ROBIN: Batman, I told you, nobody wants to see you sing karaoke. Have you heard your speaking voice? Your singing voice is not any better.

BATMAN: Okay, you are a very hurtful person.

ROBIN: Wait, are you hoping for a call from Catwoman?

BATMAN: She clearly likes me.

ROBIN: Uh, she *clearly* beats you up a lot. Not sure about her *liking* you.

BATMAN: I can tell from her punches that she thinks I'm as hot as a bat.

ROBIN: Nobody thinks bats are hot!