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Batman Vol. 5: Zero Year - Dark City (The New 52) (Batman (DC Comics Paperback))



Synopsis

Before the Batcave and Robin, the Joker and the Batmobile ... there was ZERO YEAR. The Riddler has plunged Gotham City into darkness. How will a young Dark Knight bring his beloved hometown from the brink of chaos and madness and back into the light? From the critically acclaimed, New York Times #1 best-selling creative team of Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo, BATMAN VOL. 5: ZERO YEAR--DARK CITY is the concluding volume to Batman's origin story, as you've never seen it before. Collects BATMAN #25-27 and 29-33.

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Customer Reviews

"This is easily the best understanding of the hallmarks of Snyder's Batman run: Gotham as character and as contemporary urban center."--Popmatters
"One of the best comic books I've read this year - perhaps the best... this is the Snyder and Capullo show. This is the work of two men at the top of their games. They have never been more confident in their storytelling."--New York Post
"BATMAN: ZERO YEAR is well on its way to establishing itself as the new origin gospel in the New DC Universe."--Craveonline
"Snyder and Capullo's vision of 'Zero Year' feels large and compelling right off the bat, and it makes you want to read more. This is how I want all of my epics to begin."--Comic Book Resources
"It's not just a great Batman story, but a great Bruce Wayne story."--MTV Geek

Scott Snyder is one of comics' best young writers. His current works include BATMAN, SUPERMAN

UNCHAINED, AMERICAN VAMPIRE and SWAMP THING. He has also been published in Zoetrope, Tin House, One-Story, Epoch, Small Spiral Notebook, and other journals, and has a short story collection, Voodoo Heart, which was published by Dial Press. He teaches at Columbia University and Sarah Lawrence University and lives in New York with his wife, Jeanie, and his son, Jack Presley.

Batman Vol. 5 Zero Year-Dark City collects two of the final story arcs for Zero Year; Dark City (issues 25-27) and Savage City (#29-33). This is the conclusion of the three-part story arc major crossover origin event known as Zero Year. Dark City picks up after the events in the first story arc of Zero Year, Secret City, after Batman has stopped the Red Hood Gang and the Riddler shuts off all the power in Gotham City. We see the reintroduction of the classic GCPD blimps from Batman the Animated Series, which is awesome to see, as they comb the city searching for any sign of Batman. But, Batman has a new case on his hands involving a killer who uses a serum that causes uncontrolled bone growth. Batman discovers the villain, known as Dr. Death (who was Batman's first major supervillain he fought in DC Comics, the Joker was the first villain Batman faced in his own comic book series) and both Death and the Riddler team up to seize control of Gotham during superstorm Rene which threatens to cause even more problems for the powerless and crippled Gotham City. In Dark City, more is explained about Bruce's opinions of Lt. Gordon and why he doesn't trust the police lieutenant. We also see more backstory involving Bruce as a child and his parents leading up to the fateful night in Crime Alley. Dr. Pamela Isley also has a cameo appearance in this arc but her research will later impact the look of Gotham in the next story arc. Savage City takes place several days after the events in Dark City. It is now, Zero Year: the new calendar year according to Edward Nygma. Using Isley's research Riddler has turned Gotham into an overgrown barren wasteland and his demands for Gotham is quite simple: get smart, or die. Every sunset, the Riddler on a giant screen in Gotham and challenges any brave citizen to ask a riddle that he can't solve. No one has been successful. Bruce can't retrieve any of his suits or gadgets from the cave so he must improvise and create a torn and tattered costume and tools to help him mount a counterattack against the Riddler. Batman enlists the help of trustworthy allies who are trying to fight against the Riddler, specifically Lucius Fox and Lt. Gordon. The team is also joined by a special covert military assault force as well. But time becomes the enemy as jets threaten to bomb Gotham, doing exactly what the Riddler intended and sending Gotham crashing down all around. Batman and his team must work together to stop the Riddler and survive Zero Year. Scott

Snyder's writing is still great. The characterization of these characters is both refreshing and still honors the source material, which Snyder is very good at doing. The interaction between Bruce and Alfred is very special and very well written. Bruce's relationship with Gordon changes drastically in these final arcs and it makes sense why Bruce finally throws off his uncertainty about Gordon and accepts him as an ally going forward. The story appeared to take a lot of inspiration from *The Dark Knight Rises* and the video game *The Last of US* (both can be seen in the Savage City story arc). The inclusion of Dr. Death as one of Batman's first villains, just like in the original comics, was amazing. Snyder really got to show off his horror writing here with gorgeous yet very visceral character design for Dr. Death by Greg Capullo. Speaking of Greg Capullo, he hasn't lost his touch at all. Gotham is very vibrant and well defined as well as people are all distinctively drawn. Capullo always brings his unique style to many of these characters which I enjoy, it definitely sets his work apart from other artists. We see many new vehicles a Bat-blimp, a proto-Batmobile race car, and the Bat-boat. All of them are beautiful to look at and are drawn with great detail. Danny Miki and FCO Plascencia make Capullo's art look absolutely gorgeous and very vibrant and colorful as well. Batman Vol. 5 is a great ending to the masterpiece of an origin story retelling. To me, this will be my favorite Batman origin story, not because it's new and I very much enjoy Snyder and Capullo's run on the character, but because, like Year One when it was written, Zero Year speaks to us in the 21st Century. Zero Year addresses our anxieties our struggles and places Batman's emergence in the midst of all of those things to show us how truly great a hero he is.

Following directly on from New 52 Batman Vol.4, Volume 5 brings the Zero Year storyline to a close. With the Red Hood defeated, The Riddler is now the supreme criminal power in Gotham City, holding it in a death grip and making its citizenry dance to his own tune by posing daily riddles for his own amusement. There are shades of Christopher Nolan's third "Dark Knight" movie in the plotting, which portrays a Gotham City cut off from the outside world and lorded over by a megalomaniac. Of course, Batman is the city's only hope, and it's hardly a spoiler to say that he wins the day in the end, but it is not an easy victory and it is not without cost. Seeing exactly how this all plays about is the biggest delight of the program, and writer Scott Snyder does not disappoint. It's a dark and gritty Batman tale that ties up the loose ends of Zero Year rather neatly. I enjoyed it a lot more than the first volume, which was still very good in its own right, and I'm looking forward to Volume 6.

Now, I can't automatically say that this book or these books by this writer and artist team is going to be for everyone. These books can be awfully wordy and dense and that might turn a lot of people off from the stories, but you get the most bang for your buck in these trades. It's masterful. Just the storytelling alone is refreshing, inspiring, and cinematic. You can study and analyze this book, and explore the themes in this story. The writing lends itself to it almost intentionally. Very well crafted writing from Snyder. This book is a continuation of the zero year arc from the batman series, where the riddler reeks havoc in Gotham. This book certainly highlights how menacing and dangerous the Riddler actually is and actually can be. This is certainly a set up from what we are use to seeing from him. This isn't the simple nerdy villain that puts batman in traps. This is a book shows you why the Riddler will and will always be one batman's greatest villains. One of the best Riddler stories and interpretations of the character I have ever seen. The art in of itself is beyond impressive, and stories in of itself. The designs of characters, the expressions, the action, the symbols, it's so beautiful to the point where I want to hang each page as a poster in my room. You have one of the best artists in the industry working on this book, and you get a lot from him. I actually think we get to see a lot of this artwork shine because the story lends itself to it. A great continuation to the series. I mean just the idea of Gotham falling into his almost apocalyptic ruin is fascinating in of itself which I think would be amazing to see adapted in a feature film. It's no surprise that Snyder and Capullo are able to give us another satisfying story. This is certainly a book and series that benefits from a re-reading. This isn't just another story to read to see what happens next. This is a well crafted story from top to bottom, with twist and turns that raise the bar in every issue. There is so much detail being put into this book, where you have to read this a second time just to get better sense of everything going on to not do the writing a disservice. This is certainly the most satisfying book of the series yet. I feel like I got more from this book than I would have in most comic books. I'm actually planning on buying this book again in paperback form just for collection and personal use because of how great this book is. It's certainly a classic in my eyes, so this is a must own. It's well worth your money. You will get more out of this book than you will from most. Books like these is why comics and writing inspire me. It goes without saying that I recommend you reading this series. If you aren't, you are missing out on something that is truly great, something that will last. Classic batman story.

I have to say that this book, and this entire run so far, are some of the Best comics I have read in my life! In my Life!!! I mean really, my review doesn't contain spoilers, just the sincere notion to

commend this book as thanks for the chance to have read this Masterpiece. Yes, Masterpiece. (I don't throw that word around lightly)I will say that the writer and the artist are going down in history for sure for their collaboration. I hope the writing never stops or goes south. However if that day comes where this team stops, at least I will have the first 5 books. I cant wait to read the next one!

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