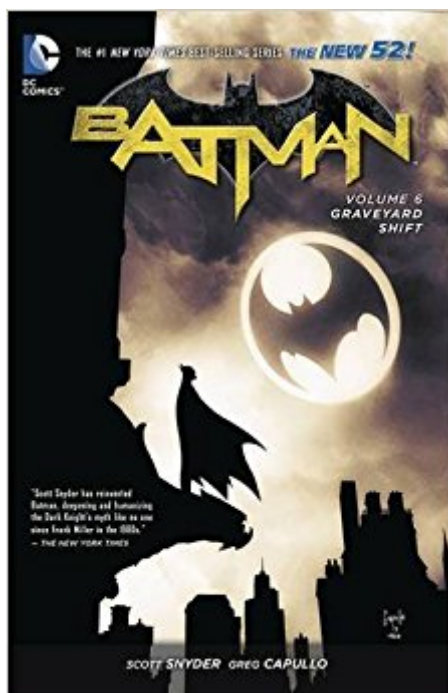


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Batman Vol. 6: Graveyard Shift (The New 52)



Synopsis

In the wake of the death of his son Damian, Batman is in danger of losing his humanity. However, the foes of this grief-ridden Dark Knight mean to strike him when he's at his weakest. Has Batman's worst foe become... Bruce Wayne? Plus, three pivotal chapters from the epic ZERO YEAR storyline! From the critically acclaimed, New York Times #1 best-selling creative team of Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo comes the next genre-defining graphic novel in their monumental run. Collects BATMAN #0, #18-20, #28, #34 and BATMAN ANNUAL #2.

Book Information

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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, BATMAN:

ETERNAL 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.

What has made the New 52 Batman title so remarkable is that the dynamic duo of Capullo and Snyder have continued to produce quality story after quality story. As a result, they have set the bar high for themselves, which unfortunately magnifies the mediocrity that proliferates this volume. One of the challenges that this volume faces is that its main story, Batman's repercussions on Damian Wayne's death, is centered on an event not included in this Batman title. Robin's death was shown in Batman Incorporated, another title outside the 'normal' title. This means that a reader, such as myself, who only reads the Batman title goes from the conclusion of Zero Year in volume 5, to Batman living with the grief of his son's death. Instead of feeling like the start of a new arc, the volume six story starts readers in the middle. Now, the team of Snyder and Capullo shines in the chapters they produced, but the rest of the writing is stale and rather uninteresting. The one exception is the issue penciled by Adam Kubert. While he has never been my favorite artist, his work really demonstrates his love for working on Batman. Kubert's art is occasionally marred by inconsistent results; in other words, it can be seen when he is giving his best work or not. His Batman is dark and imposing, and he is able to capture the tired and angry Bruce Wayne. His style is very different from Capullo's, almost beyond comparison, but is by far the best looking diversion from the main title team. Taking a break from big story arcs is a nice change of pace. This tactic of resolving story arcs within one or two issues often gives readers the chance to enjoy characters without facing the umpteenth cliffhanger. Unfortunately, volume six's execution of this story model results in an ugly Frankenstein of a product. Tynion just doesn't have the same skill in writing Batman as Loeb, Morrison, or Snyder. The chapters he wrote, particularly the 'Tomorrow' and 'Eternal' issues, felt off. It was as if he was close to something good, but then added in too many ideas and ended up jumbling the plot. Harper Row seems to be sticking around, and I know she is a creation of Snyder, which is rather disappointing to me. Batman went from 'stop helping me' to basically, 'well, okay, because you called me out, you can join me.' When a Robin dies, it does not necessarily mean Batman has to find a new replacement. She's an original character, but she's hard to believe. Of course, this is ridiculous because she's a comic book character, but Damian was trained by the League of Assassins, Grayson was an acrobat and then trained personally by Bruce,

and Tim had to endure an entire year of Bruce's teaching before entering the field. Harper's introduction has been a long process, but lacked the motives and skill of previous sidekicks. Granted, she came in at a time when both Nightwing and Robin ended their careers, so I may be biased, but I cannot escape the feeling that she is both clichéd and needlessly underdeveloped. Still, this is not a disaster of a collection. I would probably have given it a higher rating if it had not followed the fantastic Zero Year arc. However, this volume DOES follow Zero Year, and pales in comparison to preceding volumes. Whether it's worth it depends on what kind of fan you are and how loyal you are to the title. If you're looking for a great, coherent, Batman story, look elsewhere. If you're looking for a decent collection that fleshes out some more New 52 Batman canon, it's not a bad choice. Why are the Star Wars prequels so maligned? They failed to live up to their predecessors. But like the prequels (or at least Episode III), if you leave behind the baggage of older stories, you might enjoy yourself.

After the first 5 volumes which included the Court of Owls and Zero Year story lines, I felt like this volume was sub-par. There was no cohesive narrative, as the issues collected were not contiguous and jumped all over the place. It also makes very little sense without the context of Batman Inc, and other related bat-titles by referencing events which you would have no idea about by just reading volumes 1-5.

It's a good collection of one-shot stories. Some of them crossover to other major story arcs (such as Zero Year and Batman Incorporated). But for the most part, each issue in this collection is a stand-alone story. The artwork and writing changes throughout, which normally would bother the heck out of me if this were a single continuous story arc. But since each issue is a one-shot, the change actually compliments each story and sets them apart from one another. I'm in the process of owning all the Batman New 52 collected editions, and even though this one isn't an essential part of the series (as far as story arcs go), it's still a pretty good read.

Not good, not terrible. Just ok. The art is mixed because there are so many different artists. The panels by Alex Maleev are clearly the best (I'm in the tank for him though). As for the writing, this trade is much weaker than others in Snyder's Batman series. It is a collection of one and two issue stories that are filler for the spaces in-between the major story arcs of the last couple of years. If you are a completist, you will want to pick it up. However, if you are careful with your money and your time, I say move along.

This book is the worst of the Snyder run but still worthy of all 5 stars. It can be skipped but if you buy you won't be disappointed. It only looks bad because Owls, Zero Yr, End Game are 6 star books

I wasn't exactly sure about The New 52 with Batman, I'm a huge Batman fan and I'll admit, the first 5 books within this series were actually done well and I enjoyed them, except I don't particularly agree with Snyder's portrayal of the cape crusader all of the time. However, when I purchased this book for my collection I was highly disappointed in it. It's a number of different storylines from other stories, that if you don't know the story behind make no sense in their jumbled mess. In the beginning the story that started off the novel was interesting enough to hold the attention for sometime. Then it just goes completely away from that storyline to random shorts. I was under the understanding that this graphic novel would give a true and honest view into the death of a son, instead, I was met with disappointment of vague stories with no real background within the rest of this particular book. In fact, I found myself getting frustrated while reading each new segment because with every turn of the page I found myself lost with trying to keep track as to what was happening.

It's difficult to review this collection objectively in light of Snyder's previous installments. The prior 5 volumes consistently ranked among the top narrative arcs in the industry. Sadly, this collection disappoints, partly because it is just that - a "collection" of unrelated issues. However, the most salient difference here is the lack of Snyder. Like the Batman Eternal books, he seems to have taken more of a co-planner/consultant role here than a direct writer. The absence of his poetic storytelling is noticeable, but more disturbing is the complete lack of a running narrative or theme. As a "book," it fails. Several entertaining issues lift the volume from 2 to 3 stars, but fans of the series shouldn't feel like they're missing anything by skipping this book.

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