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Batman Vol. 1: I Am Gotham (Rebirth)



Synopsis

A new era for the Dark Knight begins here in **BATMAN VOL. 1: I AM GOTHAM**, part of the most critically acclaimed, best-selling, all-new line of volume one graphic novels, DC Universe Rebirth! He is Gotham City's hero, its Dark Knight, its greatest protector. He is Batman. And he is not alone. There are two new heroes in town—a pair of masked metahumans with the powers of Superman and a devotion to preserving all that is good about this twisted city. Calling themselves Gotham and Gotham Girl, they've saved Batman's life, fought by his side and learned from his example. But what happens if Gotham's new guardians go bad? What if they blame the Dark Knight for the darkness that threatens to drown their city? When sinister forces are unleashed that can warp the minds of men and make heroes into monsters, the time will come for Batman and his allies to decide once and for all: Is Gotham a force for good—or an engine of evil? From the blockbuster DC Universe Rebirth event comes **BATMAN VOL. 1: I AM GOTHAM**—the beginning of an all-new saga in the life of the Dark Knight from superstars Tom King (**GRAYSON**) and David Finch (**WONDER WOMAN**), featuring an all-star cast of creators such as Scott Snyder (**BATMAN: THE COURT OF OWLS**), Ivan Reis (**JUSTICE LEAGUE**) and Mikel Janín (**JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK**)! This great starting-point graphic novel collects **BATMAN: REBIRTH #1** and **BATMAN #1-6**.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

[View larger](#) Interview with Author Tom King 1. You're the new writer of

Batman. That's pretty damn cool. What excited you the most about coming onto the title? What was the most daunting? It's the same answer. The trick with Batman, the joy with Batman, is that Batman is a story told. For eight decades now, in a dozen genres, great writers of a few great generations have given us their take on Batman. After all of that amazing work, is there anything left to say? The answer, of course, is yes. Batman still appeals to modern life and culture. He can still express the greatest fears of his writers and readers. The challenge then is to find out why that is and then execute it. A challenge like that is horribly frightening and horribly fun.

2. Two of the best illustrators in the comics industry, David Finch and Mikel Janin, are working on Batman. What does each of them bring to the table?

David's unmatched talent is to make horror beautiful. When you look at his pages, at the details, you sort of fall into them, they seem to surround you; you lose your own world and accept his. He transforms Gotham City's darkness into stunning layers of deco and dirt. He makes every punch hurt, every villain's cackle wondrously annoying. I love his stuff. Mikel, who comes from an architecture background, is a master of page design, and maybe the greatest layout artist working in comics today. That is, he constructs pages to tell a story in clear and yet original ways; techniques that thrill the eye without taking you away from the emotions of the characters in the boxes. It's like nothing you've ever seen, and everything you want to see again.

3. In Batman Vol. 1, we get to see foes such as Hugo Strange, the Calendar Man and Kite Man. With such a vast rogues gallery, why dig so deep into Batman's villains? What about them interests you? Every villain in the rogues gallery reflects an aspect of Batman, brings it out in the comic. The Joker shows Batman his own insanity; the Riddler shows Batman his own obsession. And on and on. The problem is, you've seen these Batmans before. You've seen the insanity and the obsession. And on and on. By digging deeper into the gallery, I can give you a Batman maybe you haven't seen. How Catwoman shows Batman his own pain. How Kite Man shows Batman his own absurdity. How Calendar Man shows Batman his own mortality. If I'm putting something out there that surprises you, that makes you jump, then I'm doing my job; the villains are just a tool to get that done.

4. The title of the graphic novel I Am Gotham plays upon themes within the book, including the spirit of Gotham City itself, as well as who personifies it. Why begin your Batman run with this arc? Over the first year of Batman, I wanted to look at what made Bruce a hero; what makes a man in tights with nothing but his will and his wit able to stand in a pantheon of gods with Superman and Wonder Woman. I think the answer to that is the question; that is, what makes him a hero is that he is a man in a world of

gods. That his power is derived from the same set of skills all of us have. To bring out this theme I start with the opposite, with a hero named Gotham, a kid who is as good as Batman and as powerful as Superman. What does it mean for the Dark Knight to have someone like that in his city? What does it tell us about him and about Gotham? That's the starting point. What happens next is a 5. You've written many different types of titles for DC at this point, from the wartime murder mystery in Sheriff of Babylon to the super-spy stylings of Grayson to intergalactic terrorism in Omega Men. How do you bring some of those sensibilities to this mainstream superhero title? Batman needs to move between genres. On one page it's a comedy comic; on the next a noir crime series; on the next a horror book. All that mixed together becomes the Batman genre. Having written some books in a bunch of different styles and voices, I can (hopefully) keep up with these changes, and use the tricks of those styles to bring Batman to the forefront. So you'll see quiet, poignant scenes of Batman and Catwoman that could come out of Sheriff. Or you'll see funny Alfred-Batman interactions that could come out of Grayson. Or you'll see epic battles that could come out of Omega Men. The best part of this series is that you get all that in one book. You get all that with Batman. 6. What does the word "Rebirth" mean to you? I have three kids, and I've seen by the time they're two they have an idea what Batman is. Add to that, in my CIA days, I went to some odd corners of the world, and everywhere I went, everyone knew who Batman is. To me, "Rebirth" means tapping into that energy, that Platonic ideal or universal human connection to this character. It means going back to that Batman you see when you close your eyes and picture your best version of Batman. If we can tap into that energy, let that fuel our journey, it's going to be a pretty cool ride.

"Snyder indelibly defined the Dark Knight's previous era, but King proves a worthy successor as he takes over the title for DC's wildly popular Rebirth initiative. • BOOKLIST "[Tom King] crafts an incredible story. • NERDIST "A clean, simple gateway into the Batman franchise. • IGN "King sets a new stage and tone for Batman and Gotham. • POPMATTERS "Sank its hooks into me and kept me thinking about it long after I had finished reading. • NEWSARAMA

Tom King is a comic book writer and novelist, best known for his work at DC Comics including GRAYSON and OMEGA MEN. He often relies on his experience as an ex-CIA agent and

experiences during the recent conflicts in the Middle East in his writing, especially apparent in GRAYSON (alongside co-writer Tim Seeley), OMEGA MEN and in SHERIFF OF BABYLON, published under the Vertigo imprint.

I've been away from comics for decades. I heard so much about 'Rebirth' I decided now would be a good time to dive back in. This was a perfect re-introduction to the world of DC superheroes. My only complaint was certain things would happen off page that I would've liked to have seen happen. Sometimes, I get the feeling that there is quite a bit more meat on that bone if the artists and writer would just let us see it. But, nevertheless, a great book.

The Batman rebirth series is off to a really strong start here in my opinion. Tom King is a fantastic writer and did wonders with the Vision. Here he takes a more psychological take on the Batman and I really enjoyed it. It's not what the typical reader may be used to when reading Batman, but is very well written nonetheless. The Gotham twins are a very interesting addition and great foils to the Batman. Also, there were even some parts where I laughed out loud reading this. A strong start to the Batmans rebirth.

On one hand, the new Batman title should not have to be judged against the prior, universally beloved duo of Snyder and Capullo. However, as Rebirth is not a strict reboot per-se, King and Finch have been passed the torch of the former team, and are handling storylines Snyder set up. So, while I will try to avoid comparison, some may pop up here and there. The writing is more than adequate. King writes Batman both as familiar and as something different. This book reads like a Batman comic. It's dark, has hints of mystery, explosive action, and yet keeps itself grounded enough to feel somewhat plausible (in terms of prior Batman adventures, of course). King doesn't make Batman do or say anything that felt totally unnatural to the character. Despite the nature of Gotham itself as somewhat of a dark, dirty city, the story is not overbearingly grim or opaque. There is a bit of levity, sarcasm, and heart inserted throughout the entire arc. King drops several hints to old Batman mythos that are unquestionably a wink to the audience, but not in a pandering way. King definitely focuses on Duke Thomas more than any other secondary Bat-Family member, but not in a tiring, unnecessary way as I found Snyder doing with Harper Row. 'Mr. Thomas' is a welcome addition to the Batman mythos, combining elements of the Pre-New 52! Oracle and the archetypical Robin. However, He's something else entirely, which he was meant to be in the first place. Snyder may have laid the groundwork, but King has brought this concept to fruition. The art is, similarly,

excellent. Admittedly, I've never been a huge David Finch fan, and so I was a bit disappointed when he was announced as the new lead Bat-artist. Mikel Janin was the inaugural artist, and without repeating too much from the Epilogue review, his work is outstanding, and I was hungry for more afterwards. Unfortunately, that was his sole performance in this volume, which was most disappointing. I was pleasantly surprised with Finch's work. He's very talented, and I've never questioned that. It is his overly muscular and high-pornography depicted women in the past that kind of bugged me. However, he seems to have toned down a bit, and captures the Dark Knight's essence. Ivan Reis pencils the final issue, and I can throw no rocks at his work. To conclude, this is a fine collection. I held off on the 5-stars for a couple reasons, which all added up to a 1-star demotion. The timeline is a bit confusing here. The main antagonists/new protagonists, Gotham Boy and Girl, are inspired by Batman, shown in his Rebirth costume, then a few years later return to fight alongside Batman, still in his Rebirth suit. This is a minute and frankly nerdy grumble, but simple continuity checks can be distracting to the reader. It's not significant to the story, but it did pull me out of it, especially since the prior New 52 suit is seen, showing prior continuity is not being ignored. For some reason, the art is not doing it for me the same as Capullo's. It's not a case of missing the talent and not wanting to move on, it's hard to explain, but there's a je-ne-sais-quoi effect in Capullo's Dark Knight that Finch's is missing. Still, his pencils are excellent, and his work is consistent throughout the entire volume. This is an easy recommendation.

Just as good, and in some ways even better, than Snyder's run on Batman. This is a very character and emotion driven story, as opposed to the typical, but still awesome, action stories Batman finds himself in. It plunges deep and headlong into Batman's persona, and it comes out successfully. Would recommend this volume to anyone.

amazing/awesome/sensational/spectacular

Everything is Excellent

Loving Rebirth and Batman is one of the best.

Great continuing series. I love it and will keep reading more and more.

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