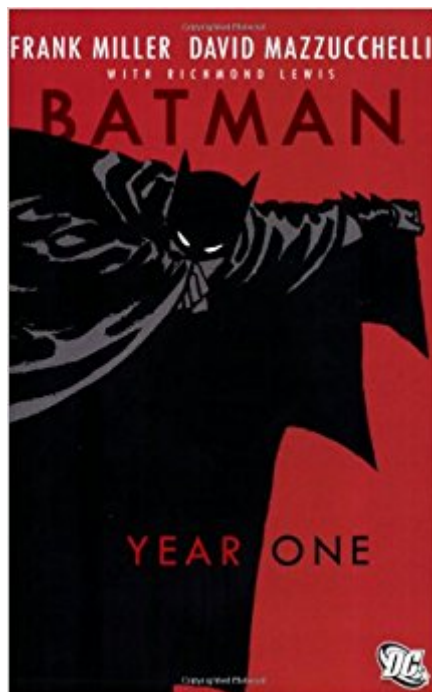


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# Batman: Year One



## Synopsis

A New York Times Best Seller! A new trade paperback edition of one of the most important and critically acclaimed Batman adventures ever, written by *Frank Miller*, author of *THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS*! In 1986, Frank Miller and David Mazzucchelli produced this groundbreaking reinterpretation of the origin of Batman—who he is and how he came to be. Written shortly after *THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS*, Miller's dystopian fable of Batman's final days, *Year One* set the stage for a new vision of a legendary character. This edition includes the complete graphic novel, a new introduction by writer Frank Miller and a new illustrated afterword by artist David Mazzucchelli. Completing this collection are over 40 pages of never-before-seen developmental material such as character and layout sketches, sample script pages, sketches, and more that provide a glimpse into the making of this contemporary classic. This volume collects *Batman* #404-407.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Whether you grew up reading Batman comics, watched the campy television show, or eagerly await each new movie, this is the book for you. A retelling of the events that led to Bruce Wayne's becoming Batman, this book combines Frank Miller's tight film-noir writing with David Mazzucchelli's solid artwork. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 4 Up In the late 1980s, DC Comics revamped many superheroes but realized that

Batman should remain true to his 1939 history. According to the introduction, the editors also decided that the public needed to know more about Batman's early life as a vigilante, and Miller and Mazzucchelli came together to produce *Batman: Year One*. Originally released in 1988 in four parts, the stories have been combined into one book. Opening with the arrival of Lieutenant James Gordon in Gotham's police force, the story goes on to inform readers about the level of corruption permeating the force. They also witness Bruce Wayne's first encounter with the prostitute named Selina, who will become Catwoman. Wayne speaks to his dead father, asking for guidance, and is answered with a bat on the windowsill, and Batman is born. The remaining chapters highlight Gordon's continuing difficulties with the corrupt police force, Batman's early difficulties in protecting and using his arsenal of weapons, and the first villains he chooses to pursue. At the end of the book, readers are treated to some background on Mazzucchelli's art, the production of *Year One*, and details on Richmond Lewis's coloring techniques. Both beginning and devoted Batman fans will enjoy this edition.

— Sarah Krygier, Solano County Library, Fairfield, CA Copyright © 2012 Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

The year 1986 saw the rise of two of superhero-dom's most critically acclaimed graphic novels: Alan Moore's *Watchmen* and Frank Miller's *Dark Knight Returns*. After Miller's success with *DKR*, a stark depiction of Batman's future, DC Comics charged Miller with a revamping of Batman's origin in 1987, 48 years after Bob Kane and Bill Finger's original take on the character. In his Introduction to the reboot, Dennis O'Neil, one of Batman's premier writers in the 70s, said that the retelling of the origin story was not about changing the story, but about modernizing and improving it: "It could be given depth, complexity, a wider context. Details could be added to give it focus and credibility" (O'Neil, 1). That was a heavy order for a medium considered childish fantasy, so did 'Year One' deliver? In short - yup. Successfully meeting all of O'Neil's criteria, Miller's *Batman: Year One*, beautifully illustrated by David Mazzucchelli and colored by Richmond Lewis, has become the definitive Batman origin story. Not simply an explanation of how a man can dress up like a bat and effectively combat rampant crime, though such elements are included, *Year One* is more about making plausible WHY a man would need to dress up like a bat and fight crime, and how Gotham City would respond. Like *Watchmen* and *DKR* before it, *Year One* ascends from

children's entertainment to something closer to literature. Though relatively brief, the story is complex (watch Gotham's #1 cop still come up short, justifying the extreme measures of Batman) and dramatic (two characters who endure trauma to ultimately adapt their problem solving strategies while maintaining moral rigor); if it did not make the story of Batman realistic, it made it mature and believable. This book is a must-read for all Batman or superhero fans and a great read for anyone at least marginally interested in the genre.

I've always been a huge fan of Batman. I was born in the 80s so I grew up watching the Tim Burton's films (Batman, Batman Returns) as well as Batman the animated series. Later in the 90s we got the Schumacker films.. Thankfully I was still young and they didn't scar me as much as they could have.. After that we moved into the Nolan trilogy which was overall pretty good. It was during this period that I began playing the Batman Arkham series of video games, which were amazing. So why am I telling you all of this? Well this was the Batman that I knew and grew up with. I wanted to dive into the comics but had no clue where to start. So after a bit of research I came across BATMAN: YEAR ONE. Which is essentially a modern retelling of Batman's origin. Most people agree it's the best place to start if you are just diving into the comics. I couldn't agree more with them. I was pulled in instantly and didn't want to put this book down. It gave me a whole new perspective on the worlds greatest detective. You see the passion and the struggle to become something greater than himself in an effort to take back Gotham. I was also very impressed with Gordon's character development. He's always been held in high regard but seeing his origin as well was a real treat. So if you are a Batman fan and are looking to get into the comics, I would agree that THIS is where you should start. Also search the web for recommended reading order. You CAN read most in any order but having a guide to steer you to the proper story arcs in the correct order I find to be very helpful. I can't wait to start the next book!

This is a book that collects the "Batman" single issues #404-407, as well as around 20 pages of extra content, written by one of the very top writers of the time. It was made in 1986, and the art reflects this time period. Today's comic book art has become so detailed and refined, this book definitely feels like it's from the 80's. I decided to read this as Scott Snyder's current "Batman: Zero Year" is coming out, and they pay much respects/honor to this Year One book, which I wanted to make sure I understood. This book was the first retelling of the origin story of Batman since the original in 1939 by the creators of the character. You can also tell many aspects of this book have been taken straight out of this story, and integrated into the Christopher Nolan Batman movies as

well as other things. I really enjoyed the building relationship between Batman and Gordon, with Gordon coming to terms with the fact that Gotham City actually does benefit from a vigilante hero. I would recommend this book to my friends who wanted to see a classic Batman beginning. Just as a side note, there is a pretty great animated movie based on this book if you enjoy the story.

One of the best Batman comics ever written, this and *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* by Frank Miller are both amazing. If you like Batman at all, this is a great book to start with or read at any point. It's dark, yet exciting and the characters, peripherals, and villains are so well done. I didn't review the plot or go into that because that's done well on this page already. But as a huge Batman fan and graphic novel fan, this stands out as one of my favorites and go to suggestions for friends and such.

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