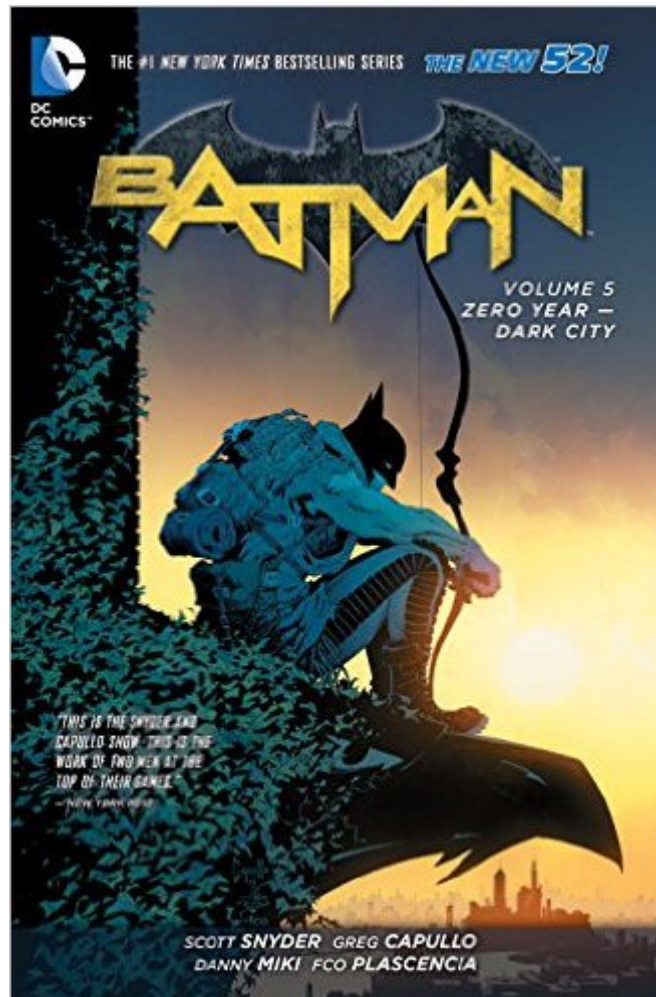


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Batman Vol. 5: Zero Year - Dark City (The New 52) (Batman (DC Comics Paperback))



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

We're half through with writer Scott Snyder and artist Greg Cappullo's new take on Batman's origin story within the New 52. After part 1 of ZERO YEAR which was primarily Bruce Wayne returning to Gotham and finding his reasons for putting on the cape and cowl, part 2 see's Batman take on the hardships of his role and beginning of many battles to save Gotham city. And as Snyder and Capullo find more methods to diverge from the typical origin story we all know and love compared to volume 1, there are some small snags to get there BATMAN VOL.4: ZERO YEAR - DARK CITY collects issues #25-27 and #29-33 with one backup story from issue #25. ZERO YEAR is divided into three chapters: Secret City (where volume 4 takes place) with Dark City and Savage City taking place volume 5. Issues #25-29 comprise of the 4-issue Dark City arc and issues #30-33 make up the Savage City arc. After the events of Batman Vol. 4: Zero Year-Secret City (The New 52), Gotham City has been blacked out by the Riddler. The city needs its power back to survive the

oncoming hurricane heading toward Gotham. But as the city starts its decent into darkness (pardon the pun), numerous deaths have been happening with people's bones growing out like trees from a being named Dr. Death. Is this related to the Riddler? Can Batman stop these two culprits? Either way, it makes matters worse for Batman to solve since the Gotham City Police Department (GCPD) want to arrest Batman as a fugitive and his lack of trust for Lieutenant Gordon and Alfred make him working alone. Can Batman save Gotham and himself in the process? That is the riddle.

Scott Snyder's *Batman: Zero Year - Dark City* is another awesome entry in his Batman series. Following on the heels of *Zero Year - Secret City*, this current volume continues the story of Bruce Wayne's first year as Batman. In the first story arc, Batman encounters a new villain known as Dr. Death. Dr. Death has a connection to Bruce Wayne, and Bruce is determined to find and catch him. Meanwhile, Commissioner Loeb and Det. Corrigan are determined to arrest Batman and take him off the street. This story is interesting, but its biggest impact is as the set-up for the final arc. The second arc is outstanding. Riddler has taken control of Gotham; no one is allowed in or out of the city. Bruce Wayne wakes up in strange surroundings after being out of action for some time and has to catch up with what Riddler is doing. He and Gordon, with an assist from Lucius Fox (making his first appearance in the Batman's new history), must find Riddler and restore power to Gotham before time runs out. The final part of the story has a nice coda, as Alfred imagines what life would be like for Bruce Wayne were he to stop being Batman. It is a quiet tale, mixing hope and melancholy, and works as a brief pause in Batman's constant battle with darkness. Snyder is cementing himself as one of the legendary Batman writers, and *Dark City* is just further proof of his talent. This was a great book, entertaining and suspenseful. It also serves nicely to fill in gaps from Bruce Wayne's early time as Batman. The characters of Riddler, Lt. Gordon, and Lucius Fox are fleshed out even more, helping to establish them as vital parts of the book. In fact, I really liked Snyder's take on Riddler, who is too often played as a joke.

This collection contains issues 25-27, 29-33. Wow. This really is an amazing origin story of Batman, along with *Batman Volume 4 Secret City*. It does not need comparison to the amazing *Year One* as that was the origin story of post crisis Batman and this *Zero Year* epic is the origin of the New 52. I kind of wish DC had collected the previous four issues and these eight together to make one big *Zero Year* collection but that is ok, the *Secret City* section does have a slightly different feel and is a build up to Bruce becoming Batman and the Red Hood becoming the Joker. Here in the four issue a piece entries, *Dark City* and *Savage City*, the Riddler is largely Batman's main antagonist as at the

end of the previous volume he cuts the power to Gotham to put a heinous scheme in motion. The four issue Dark City section, which kicks off this collection really has a lot of strong horror elements as Snyder, Capullo, and co. plunge Gotham into darkness, again courtesy of the Riddler, during a superstorm as well, and focus in on reinventing Batman's first reoccurring foe way back in 1939, Dr. Death. Really freaky stuff as Snyder brings his great knack for doing horror in comics like back in his Detective Comics run and Capullo delivers on the illustrations. Dr. Death has some sympathetic qualities and Snyder weaves a clever tie to the villains motives into Bruce's past choices that creates a very engaging story. Also, in the Dark City section the Batman bonds with Lieutenant Gordon and Wayne Tech master of gadget maker Lucius Fox. Some great new twists to both characters are added and their heroics are put on display in the next and final installment.

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