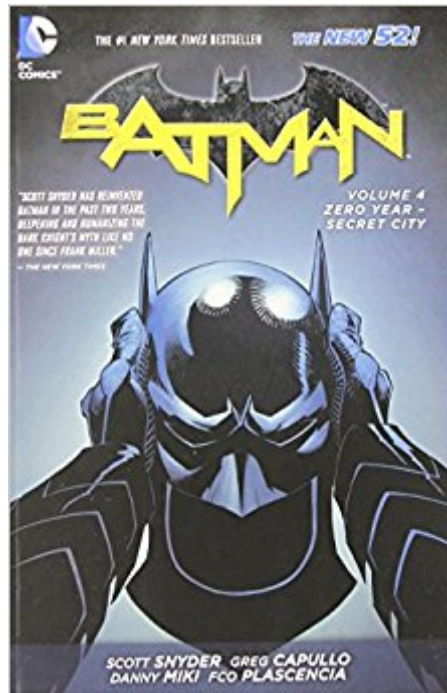




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# Batman, Vol. 4: Zero Year - Secret City



## Synopsis

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Before the era of superheroes began-before the Batman spread his wings to protect the innocent and punish the evil-Gotham City's prodigal son, Bruce Wayne, had been missing for years. But this was exactly the cover of darkness Bruce needed. Patrolling Gotham's streets in a series of disguises, he began a career as a faceless vigilante. The #1 New York Times bestselling creative team of Scott Snyder, Greg Capullo, Danny Miki and Rafael Albuquerque present an astonishing new vision of the Dark Knight's origin-and his first encounters with the Riddler, the Red Hood, and more-in BATMAN VOL. 4: YEAR ZERO-SECRET CITY. Collects issues #21-24.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo's BATMAN: "This is a book you need to read. Whether you're a fan of comics or not." [Huffington Post](#) "One of the best Batman runs in the history of the character." [IGN](#) "A+. The hero's got personality (and is unafraid to release a quip as sharp as a Batarang), a horde of supervillains, gumption to spare and a whole host of high-tech gadgetry to suitably impress longtime fans and those new to the Dark Knight." [USA Today](#) "Brilliant. This is a modernization of Silver Age optimism replacing camp with today's dialogue expectations of introspection and smart wit. Pure comic gold." [Ain't it Cool News](#)

Scott Snyder is the bestselling and award-winning writer of Batman, Superman: Unchained, American Vampire and Swamp Thing as well as the short story collection Voodoo Heart. [He](#)

teaches writing at Sarah Lawrence College, NYU and Columbia University. He lives on Long Island with his wife, Jeanie, and his sons Jack and Emmett. He is a dedicated and un-ironic fan of Elvis Presley.

Zero Year takes the New 52 Batman title back to the roots of the character, giving some insight into what happened after the disappearance of Bruce Wayne and his subsequent return to Gotham. In terms of the bad guys, he's primarily dealing with The Red Hood and Edward (Riddler) Nigma, which is plenty, especially when you throw in several side-plots such as the mismanagement of Wayne Enterprises by Bruce's uncle. Very different in tone to Frank Miller's "Year One," this is a well-written story with good art that makes a fine addition to the Batman mythos. On finishing it, I went straight to the next Zero Year title (Dark City) to see how the story progresses.

Scott and Greg are back again. What's not to like about this new story on the heels of The Joker's escape from earlier (Or did he?)? Once again Scott's writing of a new Batman who broods less and has hardly no scars yet he brings a fresh look to the Caped Crusader in his First Year that is even refreshing from someone such as I who enjoyed Year One from Miller. Greg's illustration continues to shine right next to Scott's breathtaking storytelling that continues to revisit some of Bruce's fond memories as a Child. But the Highlight of the Story is the Red Hood 1 and his Red Hood Gang who are made up of the Middle Class and High Class Gotham Citizens who randomly are selected and black mailed into doing rag tag jobs without even knowing who else is under the other masks. This creates an interesting dynamic from your regular old baddie who is just needing a bad beating from the Knight. Batman yet has to navigate this Shiny New Gotham that almost reminds us of Metropolis but Scott has a story to tell and he starts her with Batman and the inevitable creation of The Joker in this Series but yet he leaves you in suspense as to who The Red Hood REALLY was even till you finish the last page and step away pondering the multiple possibilities. Once again, this is a must have for all Batman fans out there.

So first off, I did have some issues with this book, But as they are all subjective arguments, that did not decrease my overall enjoyment of the story, I will keep it with a 5/5 instead of the 4/5 I was originally planning on giving it. (\*\*\*\*Quick sidenote, this dose NOT include 'batman #0' or 'batman annual #2' \*\*\*) Overall I really like this retelling of batman for the new 52, the writing is far better then the mess that was 'batman: earth one'. Scott Snyder takes his dynamic writing, and fresh originally to highs not seen in most batman origin tales. And it's a much lighter toned story then the other, and

a nice relief from the extreme darkness of the 'Death of the family' arch.--The Good:---We get to see the story start out with some of Bruce Wayne's Pre-batman exploits, I'm not going to post any spoilers, but from the first few pages, you see a angry, arrogant, slightly childish Bruce take on a gang and save people. And through the story, you see the character change into the man that serves as host for batman (in a sense.)-The story dose a good job of showing the different stages of the process, in large contrast to the binary system we see in other hero, (and even some bataman) origin stories, were they go from just average joe, to self sacrificing hero in the matter of a few panels.-Overall the artwork is very good, great color contrast, and good lighting, character faces are very expressive, and you can almost read their minds buy just looking at their faces in some panels-The action is in good moderation,it dose not feel like one of those, "sit back and watch batman beat people up stories"the fights have propose to the story, and are shown very well.-Very engaging story,once you start reading, you will constantly be wanting to know what happens next.--The Bad---The pacing,if you've read any of my other Scott Snyder batman reviews, you'll know this is an issue for me,The way this book, is set up, and the way the issues are arranged, is much better then some of his other works.but, after a pretty big event in the story, you see you have quite a few pages left, and expect some sort of clarification,but instead you get flashbacks, and the rest of that even will be continued later.As someone who reads the Volumes (collected works) instead of the issues, that means I'll have to wait 5 months for a conclusion to a story that instead of just cutting off at the Major event, just kinda put it on the back-burner for some back story.(in my opinion) it would have been better to move the flashbacks from the end of the book, closer to the beginning,as they would flow better with the Bruce to batman conversion.-Some of the dialogAgain, very subjective, but I felt some of the dialog did not fit the characters, and situations, even Scott Snyder's interpretation of them. they have a few references to other batman material, even one to the 60's tv show, that I feel really dose not fit with the situation it's shown in.Some other dialog is thrown in for dramatic effect, that seems a little to thought out to be something said in a quick moment,and other line kinda feel a bit cheesy.-There were a few other minor idea's and parts I did really feel worked, or fit with the story,very minor things I can't really discuss without spoiling, but they were few and far between,and did not affect my over all enjoyment, but when you read them, you'll be like..."um...alright.. moving on.."--Conclusion--I over all really enjoyed this story,the minor complaints were really minor, and for the first time, I may actually pick up the issues of 'new 52 Batman' so I can find out the outcome without having to wait for volume #5!It's a fresh new look on the origins of batman, and Scott Snyder seems fully aware that people have become tired of the constant retelling of batman's origins, and so he crafts a new kind of story, something that set's it's

self apart from the 'batman begins' the 'year ones' and the 'earth ones' he makes a 'Bruce Wayne begins' story, the transformation of the Man and the Myth.

I've read the previous 3 volumes plus this one, and I can tell this is the slowest paced so far plot-wise. It's not that bad given how stellar the previous ones are. I was not as excited to flip the pages as I was with the others. Perhaps it's due to the fact I already know who Red Hood is. This volume sets up a light origin story for Batman and a couple of his villains. "Light" cause it's not an in depth exploration of the motives that drove young bruce into vigilantism, but still a good FYI/background story for the New 52 Batman. Doesn't really add anything new to the Batman Mythos, but helps set up the story of the new 52 Batman. Possibly a good enough origin story for those who only have the New 52 as their introduction to Batman Comics. Don't expect a Jeph Loeb or a Frank Miller calibre of story telling, and you'll enjoy this book. The book itself is fantastic. Hardcover with an engraved Bat logo wrapped in a slipcover. I really like cover art, and the art inside is great. Print's high quality. Overall worth every buck.

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