



Batman: Earth One, Volume 2

Geoff Johns (Writer), Gary Frank (Penciller), Jon Sibal (Inker), Brad Anderson (Colourist), Rob Leigh (Letterer)

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The Riddler has arrived in Gotham and he's terrorizing the city with his own twisted brand of anarchy. But why is he attacking now, and what is his endgame? The Riddler isn't Batman's only problem, as Killer Croc is on the streets and his violent crimes can't be ignored. Meanwhile, the Dark Knight has trouble reconciling the increasingly conflicting ideologies of Alfred Pennyworth and James Gordon in this gripping re-imagining of the Batman mythology.

Writer Geoff Johns and artist Gary Frank bring you Batman as you've never seen him before in this thrilling original graphic novel that continues their unique take on the Dark Knight.

Batman: Earth One, Volume 2 Details

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Author : Geoff Johns (Writer) , Gary Frank (Penciller) , Jon Sibal (Inker) , Brad Anderson (Colourist) , Rob Leigh (Letterer)

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Download and Read Free Online Batman: Earth One, Volume 2 Geoff Johns (Writer) , Gary Frank (Penciller) , Jon Sibal (Inker) , Brad Anderson (Colourist) , Rob Leigh (Letterer)

From Reader Review Batman: Earth One, Volume 2 for online ebook

Sam Quixote says

The main DC universe is Earth-0, which is where most of DC's comics take place - Earth-One is one of dozens of parallel universes within DC's Multiverse where the characters you know and love are different. Earth-One's Batman is much less accomplished than the regular Batman though this is an origin series so he'll get there eventually!

Geoff Johns and Gary Frank's Earth-One series is a bit like the classic Batman: Year One, as it focuses on the early days when Bruce Wayne decided to become Batman. We see him honing his skills (which are still very limited), developing his arsenal (he doesn't even have the Batmobile), building up his list of contacts (Gordon doesn't know what to make of him yet), and establishing himself as a force for good in Gotham City (Johns has the press doing the "is The Batman good or evil?" thing).

Following Mayor Cobblepot's death in the first volume, Jessica Dent, District Attorney Harvey Dent's twin sister (who only exists in the Earth-One universe), has stepped in as the new Mayor of Gotham. But a new threat has emerged - a man who kills with his riddles - and there's talk of a killer crocodile-type creature lurking in the sewers. Incompetent Batman to the rescue!

How you read this book will depend on your experience with Batman. I've read more than my share of Batman over the years so a lot of this book didn't interest me, but less experienced readers might enjoy this more as it takes things back to basics. It's a fine contemporary Batman origin for new readers to jump onto.

The book suffers from following in the wake of Scott Snyder's recent Batman: Zero Year story arc, the second half of which was an epic Riddler tale. Johns' Riddler story in comparison is much less impressive because it's so small scale and it's the Riddler doing things we've seen him doing before - though I understand why it has to be this way as Batman isn't nearly up to the task of taking out a major threat yet.

The other big problem is how uninspired the story is. Riddler putting up bombs around Gotham and sending out riddles - these are entry-level ideas for the character. A subway bombing - didn't we just see that in Batman: Eternal? Not to mention the Chris Nolan flavour the script exudes. Also, I thought Earth-One was supposed to add some twists to the familiar characters yet the Riddler is essentially the same person he's always been.

Because the main story is so thin, Johns pads it out with inconsequential subplots. Killer Croc is hiding out in the sewers because nobody understands him, Bullock's drowning his sorrows because the job's grinding down his idealism, Selina Kyle makes a cameo, and Bruce and Jessica talk about improving Gotham using Bruce's resources.

A forced love story is finagled out of that last one (yup, Jessica's another childhood sweetheart of Bruce's!) but Jessica brings up a good point: Bruce's billions could do much more for the city than his floundering as Batman ever could, especially given how ineffective he is (though he's gotten better since the last book). Bruce literally seems to think chasing bad guys over rooftops and punching them is the be-all and end-all of Batman!

At one point he bumbles onto a crime scene, stomping over evidence and then tells Gordon that he's the

detective, not Batman. So we're meant to believe that when Bruce decided to become Batman, he didn't reckon that some detective skills might come in handy in capturing the crooks? He's good at riddles except he comes off as very short-sighted and quite dim throughout - it's blind luck he finds Riddler at the end, not because of his amateur sleuthing skills!

Alfred is by far the most changed character in Earth-One. Like Bruce, he's become far stupider but he's also incredibly impulsive and violent who, at one point, is actively encouraging Bruce to kill!

I do realise this is an alternate Gotham so it's all meant to be different, and it is albeit in very slight ways; but I'd have hoped that the changes would make for, at the very least, an entertaining comic. The changes Johns has made don't make for a better story but for quite a lacking Batman imitator that makes you wish you reading other Batman books instead.

I love Gary Frank's artwork and there are several splash pages that are just awesome to look at, though they're images we've seen before. A simple visual of Batman leaping off a building or Riddler's ? burned onto the side of a building are amazing. Full credit to the supporting art team of Jon Sibal's inks and Brad Anderson's colours for bringing Frank's pencils to vivid life.

If you're a new Batman reader, you'll probably get a lot more out of this than I did. For me, Earth-One is a weak origin that doesn't do anything particularly special to recommend it and is a very ordinary Batman story to boot - my interest was gone for too many pages. For a better Batman origin AND a great Riddler story rolled up in one, check out Scott Snyder's Zero Year; for the best Batman origin, it's still Year One.

Sesana says

(Received from Netgalley for review.)

I had really, really liked the first volume of Batman: Earth One. This volume wasn't quite as big of a hit for me. This may be because I'm kind of bored by this version of Bruce, and I don't even really like this version of Alfred. So the leads do nothing for me. It may have also been because I just read a much better Riddler story (Snyder's Zero Year) which made this one seem relatively run of the mill. And Earth One should be anything but run of the mill, right?

That isn't to say that it's all bad, or that there aren't clever touches. It was interesting to see Croc as a basically benign character (sort of reminds me of Grundy in Robinson's Starman, and more comics should remind me of Starman). Sure, he's a character that often has shades of grey, pun not intended, but it's even more pointed here. Also, there are huge changes to Two Face's origin, and I'm honestly excited to see how that will play out.

I have to think that I might have gotten more out of this book if I had read it before Zero Year. That version of Riddler made this one look positively small time. Then again, I still don't really like this Bruce, so maybe I would have been underwhelmed in any event. But will I still read more Earth One? I actually think I will.

Will M. says

"Gotham may have lost its king and queen, Bruce, but it could still have its prince."

It's been a while since I read Batman:Earth One, vol.1 and when I saw this featured in my local bookstore, I had to grab a copy. Vol.1 was amazing for me, and it also made my favorite-graphic-novels list. I'm glad that the second volume didn't disappoint, and that it was even better.

I normal hate retellings, but this reimagining of Batman was spot on. Nothing changed in terms of his attitude though, because he's still one arrogant little prick. I like dark characters, and Batman is always the number one dark character for me. Alfred on the other hand was a bit different from the usual. I liked the new Alfred, unlike my brother who told me that the original Alfred-the-butler was better. I liked both, but I didn't mind the change in attitude.

The artwork was amazing, just like the first volume. Vivid colors and the sketches were done remarkably. Not the best Batman costume, but it was good enough.

This is probably my favorite Batman story ever. I haven't read much, but this one is the best so far. The plot was consistent, and the villains were great. I used to watch Batman Forever a million times growing up. I loved The Riddler there, so it's no a shock that I was glad to read about Riddler. I'm quite disappointed that there wasn't much riddles, but I'm also elated that The Riddler was the main villain here.

I like how Johns kept portraying Batman as a symbol of hope for Gotham. Batman for me is beyond a guy in a costume. I also like how he made Batman a bit less intelligent than usual. Most of the other stuff I read/watched portrayed him as an omnipotent superhero. I don't see him like that, and I'm glad this reimagining changed that.

5/5 stars. One of my favorite graphic novels ever, and I can't wait for volume 3. Really hoping that it wouldn't take Geoff Johns a few years to finish it. As I said in one of my past reviews, Geoff Johns is my favorite graphic novel writer ever, and gladly he hasn't let me down so far.

Gavin says

OK I've waited for a long while to get this...NetGalley hosed me, and said no. So then the library waiting list beckoned...and thankfully, there's no crusty boogers or Catwoman pages stuck together...

This follows up on the very enjoyable ...mmumbling geoff johns grumbly begrudging admission of decent book written...Earth One Vol. 1.

Anne has a good review up which I find myself strongly agreeing with.

Bruce here, like in the Snyder Zero/Dark Year books, has Bats in the early days getting used to things and developing.

Lots of differences here, biggest of which? Alfred isn't the voice of reason, but the voice of violence. He's no slouch, and check out what he did at the end of the last volume...!

Other major change? Harvey Dent is a twin! and hates Bruce Wayne, who was in love with his other half, Jessica!

Bruce is also descended from the Arkhams on his mother's side, not the Kanes! So that explains a bit of the crazy.

Killer Croc has been used to the very best possible way I can imagine here, and Bruce is still human enough in the early days to approach it in a better way.

Lucius Fox has a team of tech dudes making crazy shit for Bats (we see the BMW like car not be good enough, hence the need for a Batmobile).

Bullock is a full blown alcoholic here, but Gordon is as true a partner as he could hope for. We also see the start of Gordon and Bats trusting each other, even against Alfred's wishes. Bats is even a horrible detective here, ruining evidence as Gordon rolls his eyes...

Harvey is a dickhead here, but still fighting corruption...and Sal Maroni is a target....

The major baddie? Riddler, but this time, far more lethal. For a moment, I thought his ruthlessness was going to push Bats over the edge.

I could go into more, but I won't Suffice to say, Papa Johns crust isn't the only good thing going on here! I'm happy the way it's gone, it's believable and I love the world building. I hope this series continues.

Sandra says

Wow. Just wow.

Like I said on my review of Volume 1, the way Batman: Earth One's story seems different, but at the core, is very similar to the original Batman story we all know.

Batman always had a darker undertone to his stories, and it's one of the things that drawn me to this read more of him. I like humor, but I'm always fascinated with darker stories; this one is definitely more darker than any other Superhero comic books I've read so far.

The Riddler made an appearance in this volume, and I have to say, I really liked him. He was menacing as the villain, but his motivations were unclear, at least for me. I know what he wants, but the question I ended up asking myself was "why?". Then there's also the case of "how" he managed to have gathered all those information that he has and how did he do the things he did.

I actually like Volume 2 more than the first one, because of the villain and you know the gravity of situation should Batman fail to stop the Riddler.

I think there's only two volumes for this series, which sucks in my opinion, and I definitely want more! I want to see more of this vulnerable Batman. I liked how he actually care about someone, while on others I've read, he only cares about putting criminals in jail. Again, this is all basing on what I've read and watched from the movies, so don't judge me right away for not knowing my Batman shit, because I would just definitely agree with you, I really don't know much about Batman - but I am trying to.

Final words on this is that, I really do like this and I hope there's more. Geoff Johns, I'll be stalking you, and that goes for you too, Gary Frank.

If you guys know other good Batman stuff I should read, please comment them down below

Jonny Campo says

First of all I really like this whole Earth One deal it's a really fresh look at characters we thought we knew. So far I have not been disappointed yet, good job DC 6 for 6.

Ok so review time, my expectations are always automatically raised when I see the name Geoff Johns on the cover and he did not disappoint. I love the way they try to force the realism of this story down your throat, and I don't mean that sarcastically I being for real. This book makes me feel like batman is so human and makes me worry for his well being, I really feel like he can die. I like the whole struggling with the Bruce Wayne side of things. I love how psycho they made the Riddler come off and I like the Catwoman hint / cameo. As far as the whole new Two face origin.. I guess I'm pretty cool with it, I can see where they are trying to go with it. Another plus was that the art in this book is friggin amazeballs it has a really realistic feel that goes well with the tone of the book, also the writing in this book is very good, as I expected it to be. This book is a solid four out of five.

why not a five you ask ?....

Simple

The Batman on Earth One Comes off very stupid/rookie at times when asking for advice or for Jim Gordon to teach him forensics. ???? . You're the god damn Batman are you kidding? And jeez Harvey Dent is an annoying little dick I really wanted Bruce to just hit him. bad. lol.

SPOILER ALERT. Why the hell does he become friends with Killer Croc (Killer??? I think not) I just don't understand that whole part, also why and how does everyone seem to know he's batman? lol. maybe he should listen to Alfred more often.

Anywho Read this book, if you like batman it's a must. can't see you being disappointed

Robert says

First, let's get a few of these out of the way:

My point being that when I quickly realized that The Riddler was going to be this volume's Big Bad I had some serious misgivings based on where they have gone with the character in the past.

So imagine my delight when I discovered that Johns has put together the single best Riddler story I've ever read, with a solid guest star from good ole Killer Croc.

I won't give away too much, but the volume carries on in its "What if Batman were real?" vein of only-somewhat-heightened-reality. The Bat deepens his relationship with Detective Gordon, at one point pretty much straight up asking him to teach him how to examine a crime-scene, which I found a very refreshing departure from the character's usual omniscience showing poor Jim up at his own job with gadgets and whatnot.

Also, it ends of a "reveal" that you'll probably see a mile coming due to the art style employed, but still one that holds a lot of promise for vol 3.

Will The Joker show up in the final volume? Part of me hopes not, as some of the second-tier Bat-Villains are getting a great run out here, and obviously the "Two_Face" plotline still has some legs in it as well...

Roy says

I really love this retelling of Batman. The ridler is at the centre of the story and is a pretty cool villain. The art is perfect just like Vol 1. I hope Vol 3 comes out soon.

Richard says

This second volume in Geoff Johns and Gary Frank's *Batman: Earth One* graphic novel series is just as great as the first. It's grounded and cinematic, taking the inspired reboot they introduced in the first volume and expanding even more on the world. The book further explores the character of James Gordon, and his relationship with both Gotham's new Dark Knight as well as his partner Bullock, and a fascinating new look at Harvey Dent/Two-Face. And of course we get more of a look at Bruce Wayne and his further exploits wearing a bat costume and fighting crime. I love to see that he's still even more wet behind the ears than we've ever seen him in any origin story; he's not the most skilled fighter yet, he's not even a very good detective yet, and he's constantly fucking up.

But we know that it's his determination that makes him the hero we all know him to be. Sadly, I'm not a big fan of the way they portrayed the Riddler here. The thing that makes The Riddler interesting is that he's a villain that plays fair, but this one is just a greedy asshole. But, keep an eye out for some awesome little cameos, hinting at things to come!

Foad says

Anne says

4.5 stars

It's been a few years since the first volume of Batman: Earth One came out, so I was pretty excited when I saw this sucker. **Finally!**

For those of you who don't know, Earth One titles are re-imaginings of DC characters that *do not* take place in regular continuity. In other words, this **is not** our Batman. It's just a neat way for writers to take iconic characters and their origin stories, and put a different spin on things.

Sometimes the stories are very cool...sometimes they suck.

My opinion? This one was awesome!

It's *not* perfect, but I had a lot of fun reading it.

The main villain for volume two is the Riddler.

He's riddling away while blowing up various locations. Not the *best* re-imagining I've ever seen, but Johns does a decent job with the storyline.

Killer Croc was briefly introduced, as well. His story is pretty different considering he's just a misunderstood guy with a skin condition.

This isn't the first time I've seen Waylon portrayed as *decent*, but usually he's just more of a bad guy with a heart, *not* a blameless victim.

Without spoiling the story, I'll just say that the ending surprised me...

Two-Face's origin has been *completely* re-vamped.

Harvey & Jessica Dent are *twins*. Since their childhood, Harvey has always hated Bruce Wayne because of his family's ties with Arkham (Bruce's mother was an Arkham). He believes that insanity runs in Wayne's blood. The fact that Bruce and Jessica were something of an item when they were younger probably exacerbated his feelings. Flash forward to the present: Harvey is the District Attorney, and Jessica is now the

mayor of Gotham City. When the Riddler starts mucking things up, she goes to her old friend Bruce for help in rebuilding the people's faith in the city. Harvey still doesn't like Bruce, but he defers to her wishes...

Spoilery shit goes very wrong.

And you see the beginnings of Two-Face start to emerge.

This was the best twist that I've seen in one of these Earth One titles, so far.

On a side note, Catwoman makes a cool cameo, but I don't want to spoil anything by telling where she shows up, or what she does.

Batman is still struggling to figure out how to **be Batman**, and he doesn't quite have all the cool moves down yet. But he's getting there.

And he's a hell of a lot better at it than he was in the first volume...

Alfred, Gordon, Bullock...they're all different from *our* guys, but I'm totally on board with the way they're being re-written. I really love that Bullock was the incorruptible cop when this started out!

If you're not open to *What If* stories, then cross this off your list, but if you usually like that sort of thing, I think you'll enjoy this one.

Also, I love this title, but I'm really hoping it doesn't take another 3 years for the next volume to come out!

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for giving me a digital copy to review.

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Alejandro says

Holy great sequel, Batman!

This is the second volume of the “Batman: Earth One” elseworlds comic book series.

Creative Team:

Writer: Geoff Johns

Illustrator: Gary Frank

FRIENDS, FOES OR BOTH?

Why the hell are you insisting on wearing that damn spandex anyway? You go out there without a gun against blokes with them – you should be wearing bloody body armor.

Do you know what body armor says about a guy? It says he needs body armor.

In case you aren't familiarized with this title, this is a comic book about Batman, **BUT** set in a parallel dimension, different than the "current" DC Comics *Batman* titles. Here, Bruce Wayne is beginning his career as vigilante, where he was at first just interested in finding out the culprits for his parents' murder, nothing else, but after a while, he realized how much Gotham City needed a dark knight to protect its citizens, not only from underworld criminals, but also corrupt city officials.

However, Bruce Wayne still is quite a rookie in the business of being "The Batman", and he's learning on the fly...

...realizing that he will need a better car, that he will need to learn about police crime scene procedures and developing detective skills,...

...but also, too many people is around him and his secret identity could be compromised in any moment.

In this second volume, Bruce Wayne's personal war on crime is even fuller than in the previous one...

...The Riddler, Killer Croc, Harvey Dent, and other surprising characters, have their own agendas...

...but don't rush too soon about starting to throw batarangs...

...remember that **this is Earth-One**...

...and things don't work out in the same way than the "original" Earth...

...therefore to distinguish a friend from a foe will demand risky leaps of faith...

...but the worse part?

Some characters can be both, friend and foe at the same time!!

Nothing more appropriate than the **second** volume to introduce such double jeopardies for the Caped Crusader!

Logan says

This... was.... AWESOME!!!! So I was not the biggest fan of vol 1, but this volume is so good! I think my main issue was batman constantly being beat up by thugs, but this volume he beats up everyone so it's cool! So this takes place 6 months after Vol 1(even though with us it's been 3 years lol) and batman is continuing

his war on crime! This volume for villains we have Killer Croc and The Riddler. Riddler is a psychopath, Croc on the other hand was quite well done! This volume also plants the seeds for the villains for the next volume! Overall this was amazing, much better then the first volume, and i can't wait for the next volume!

StoryTellerShannon says

Bruce Wayne is a new Batman who is making some mistakes but not when they count. This is a grittier take on Batman so the recurring characters are similar yet different.

Gorgeous artwork as well as paneling.

OVERALL GRADE: B plus to A minus

Jesse A says

Another excellent volume of this series by Geoff Johns. Takes everything we know about Batman and tweaks it just enough to make it new and exciting. Outstanding book.
