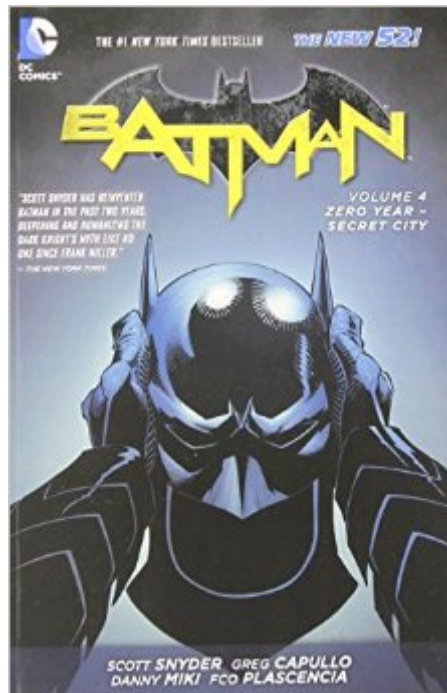


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# Batman, Vol. 4: Zero Year - Secret City



## 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

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: DC Comics (October 7, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1401249337

ISBN-13: 978-1401249335

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 0.3 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (193 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #6,015 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > DC](#) #45 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Superheroes](#) #2139 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy](#)

## Customer Reviews

After making a huge success in the New 52 with Batman, writer Scott Snyder and artist Greg Cappullo are comics dynamic duo with modern day readers for the Caped Crusader. So far Snyder has focused on Gotham's underbelly by making the Court of Owls story and Jokers connection to Batman. But now Snyder and Capullo are turning back the clock in Batman's origins by treading familiar ground, but want to do it a little differently the New 52. And seeing how we already have most revered Batman origin in current memory by Frank Miller, Batman: Year One, it seems a little dubious and odd for Snyder to want to tread ground most people are familiar with in comics and multi-media (thanks to Chris Nolan's Batman Begins). But what is old is new again, as Snyder and Capullo still make familiar ground enjoyable with little differences here and there. BATMAN VOL.4: ZERO YEAR - SECRET CITY collects issues #21-23 with backup stories, issue 24 is double-sized,

and BATMAN #21 DIRECTORS CUT script. ZERO YEAR is divided into three chapters: Secret City (where volume 4 takes place), Dark City, and Savage City (which volume 5 appears to have both chapters).\*\*\*\*\*Side Note\*\*\*\*\* ( has the wrong solicitation. It does not include issue #0 and Batman Annual #2).Taking place 6 years ago from the start of the New 52, Bruce Wayne has returned to Gotham City after all his years training across the globe and has started his war on crime, yet he is unsure of how to accomplish this just yet. He faces a powerful gang leader called the Red Hood as they have been terrorizing Gotham slowly overtaking it and stealing numerous commodities.

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.

Up until now, Scott Snyder's excellent run of Batman has focused largely on exploring the rich history of Gotham. The Court of Owls will no doubt continue to cast shadows over Batman's city for years to come. Now, Snyder has chosen to take a far bolder step, by returning to topics already well-trodden by some of the all-time great comic writers. A Batman origin story titled 'Zero Year' cannot but evoke memories of Frank Miller's iconic year one. And, as 'Zero Year' centers on Bruce Wayne donning the cape after he's been out-manuevered by a sinister

anonymous genius in the Red Hood, we likewise must recall the still evocative "Killing Joke". I've long considered Snyder one of the best writers in the DC bullpen, but I still can't but be amazed by the sheer audacity of boldly reworking material already covered by Miller and Moore. And, as much as I wanted to resist "Zero Year," by the end Snyder had me totally under his spell. As with "Year One," Snyder's origin gives us a Bruce Wayne trained and newly returned to Gotham, committed to his war on crime yet unsure of how best to accomplish his mission. Yet instead of the various crime families and corruption of Miller's work, Snyder's Wayne funds the Red Hood, a mysterious villain bent on demolishing the city. Since we are at the beginning, we likewise see Bruce and Alfred's testy relationship as it restarts. Here Alfred doesn't so much disapprove of Bruce's goals as he does of his pre-Batman methods, believing that Gotham needs a symbol. Snyder also resurrects certain older characters, such as Batman's uncle Philip Kane. Where Snyder best hits his mark, however, is with the villains.

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