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## Batman: Earth One Vol. 2



## Synopsis

Following the events of the #1 New York Times bestselling original graphic novel by Geoff Johns, comes the highly anticipated sequel **BATMAN: EARTH ONE VOL. 2**! 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

• Action, adventure, suspense and surprise for readers of all levels of familiarity with the Caped Crusader. • "COMIC BOOK RESOURCES" • Batman: Earth One Vol. 2 is a showcase for the potential this graphic novel imprint still holds. It's not simply about streamlining the character, but making his world more reflective of our own and tracing Bruce Wayne's long, painful road towards truly becoming the Dark Knight. Geoff Johns' writing is adept at fleshing out that journey, while Gary Frank brings this Gotham City to life like only he can. • "IGN" Johns and Frank are able to revitalize a concept that nobody knew needed to be revitalized, breathing new life into a 75 year-old pop culture icon. • "PUBLISHERS WEEKLY"

Geoff Johns is an award-winning writer and one of the most popular contemporary comic book writers today. Johns is the author of the New York Times bestselling graphic novels *Aquaman: The Trench*, *Blackest Night*, *Green Lantern: Sinestro Corps War*, *Justice League: Origin*, *Superman: Brainiac* and *Batman: Earth One* which hit #1 on the bestseller list. He is also known for transforming Green Lantern into one of the most critically and commercially successful franchises in comics. ^ Johns was born in Detroit and studied media arts, screenwriting, and film at Michigan State University. After moving to Los Angeles, he became an assistant to Richard Donner, director of *Superman: The Movie*. He and his mentor Donner later co-wrote *Superman: Last Son* featuring the return of General Zod. ^ Johns has written for various other media, including episodes of *Smallville*, *Arrow* and Adult Swim's *Robot Chicken*, for which he was nominated along with his co-writers for an Emmy. He is the Chief Creative Officer of DC Entertainment and resides in Los Angeles, California.

Freed from the necessary mechanics of Volume 1, Geoff Johns and Gary Frank deliver their definitively not-quite-ready-for-Joker Batman. Thankfully, this Batman can take a punch without being crippled. Benefitting from Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo's Year One in Batman's monthly title, we have The Riddler emerging as a major villain who threatens to destabilize Gotham City right under Batman's nose. In *Killer Croc*, we have the level of physical threat which elevates Batman from being just another masked vigilante. Significantly, the inclusion of Harvey Dent's sister, Jessica, fills in unexplored details of Bruce Wayne's youth and provides a psychological architecture for what promises to be an even-more impressive tale in *Batman: Earth One Volume Three*, which is already in production! Much of Grand Guignol characteristics in the *GOTHAM* TV series can be traced back to the pages of *Batman: Earth One Volume One*, particularly in how The Penguin is used as a larger-than-life figure with political savvy and no mercy toward his enemies. With a genuinely disturbing Third Act to close it, *Batman: Earth One Volume Two* is stronger than was Volume One, and I have every reason to believe Geoff Johns and Gary Frank will deliver a fascinating Volume Three very, very soon!

While Volume 1 of this excellent series had me interested, Volume 2 has me entranced. This sequel improves on the original in every way, and is one of the few Batman stories that has plot twists I can't predict right from the start. The story is interesting, Bruce gets some character development as he starts to resemble his mainstream counterpart more and more (as does Harvey and Gordon),

and the artwork remains as awesome as ever. One of the things that makes Volume 2 an improvement over Volume 1 is its humor and self-aware attitude without being obnoxious or tongue-in-cheek about it. Both Alfred and Killer Croc mock the idea of fighting crime in a bat costume, and my absolute favorite part of the whole story is Gordon being flabbergasted by Batman's need to put bats on absolutely everything he owns. It even pokes a little fun at the classic "bat-vanish," where Batman seemingly disappears every time Gordon turns his back. But as I said before, the absolute best part of Volume 2 are its plot twists, of which there are many. Most of the twists and turns in this book relate to taking expectations readers have of certain characters, mainly villains, and turning them on their head. If you think you know what's going to happen to certain characters because of your prior knowledge of Batman stories, you are in for some serious surprises.

Batman as a character has been written in countless ways and different forms that it can get tiresome and off putting. Somehow Geoff Johns took Batman and sculpted him into a character that is "real" in the sense of a man who actually dons a costume to fight crime without the training background and criminal knowledge to immediately be successful at what he does. Sure, this representation of Batman sounds ridiculous and scary to longtime fans like me, but the scarier thing is IT WORKS! This second volume is the continuation of Bruce's journey to be the hero that Gotham City needs and the cast of characters that help and support him on his lifelong mission. Pick up the first volume before reading this one for the casts backgrounds and beginnings for a better experience! An amazing addition to the Earth One series that I hope will continue!

This is my favorite Batman comic in the last 20 years (I loved the way Hush began but didn't like the ending at all...No Man's Land and Murderer were fun). Geoff Johns is doing a remarkable job here. While Snyder has been doing some interesting things, this is the definitive (comic) Batman of the 21st century. This Batman isn't a superior detective - Gordon comments that he is stepping on evidence. Several pages later, Batman tells him, "I want you teach me, Detective. Forensics, crime scenes." Gordon teaching Batman makes a great deal of sense, and, as far as I'm aware, hasn't been attempted before. Johns does an excellent job remaking Killer Croc, Selina Kyle and Two-Face. I hope this series goes on for years. It is outstanding.

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