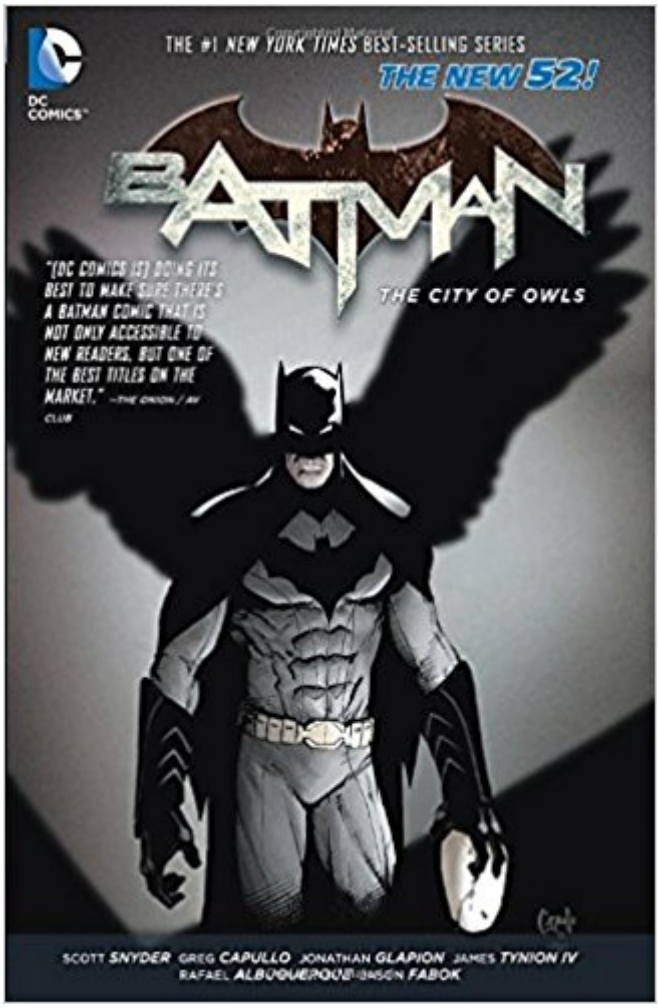
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# Batman Vol. 2: The City Of Owls (The New 52)




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## Synopsis

A New York Times #1 Bestseller!For over a century, the Court of Owls has ruled Gotham City in secret - their reach inescapable, their power unstoppable.Until they battled the Batman.Gotham's vigilante protector managed to escape the talons of the Court with his mind and body barely intact. The Dark Knight managed to win the battle with his deadly new aggresors, but certainly not the war. Batman was just the first part of their conquest. Now they have their sights set on something much bigger: Gotham City. A critical and commercial smash, BATMAN: THE CITY OF OWLS (collecting BATMAN 8-12 and BATMAN ANNUAL #1) continues the instant-classic saga of the Dark Knight's battle with Gotham City's oldest and darkest forces from the #1 New York Times best-selling creative team of writer Scott Snyder (AMERICAN VAMPIRE) and artist Greg Capullo (Spawn), plus an array of talented guest contributors!From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Scott Snyder's Batman: Court of Owls Vol. 1:Ã¢â ¬Å“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.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •USA Today Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“This is one of the best comics of the week.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The New York Times Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“[Writer Scott Snyder] pulls from the oldest aspects of the Batman myth, combines it with sinister-comic elements from the

seriesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ best period, and gives the whole thing terrific forward-spin by setting up an honest-to-gosh mystery for Batman to solve.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Entertainment Weekly Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Scott Snyder, already the company's greatest asset over the last four weeks, spins a stack of plates immediatelyÃ¢â ¬Â¦. Too often Batman comics focus heavily on the hero persona Ã¢â ¬Â¦ Snyder sets up equal amounts of conflict for both Wayne's public and private personas.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Time Out Chicago

Scott Snyder is the bestselling and award-winning writer of Batman, American Vampire and Swamp Thing as well as the short story collection Voodoo Heart.Ã Â 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.Ã Â He is a dedicated and un-ironic fan of Elvis Presley.

Volume 2 of Scott Snyder and Greg CapulloÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s run on Batman picks up right where the last volume ended. After Batman uncovered their secrets and upset the normalcy that the Court of Owls have maintained in Gotham for so many years, the Court declares war on Gotham and of course Batman himself. This of course leads to a major crossover event for the entire Bat-Line of comics in DC. Major figures in Gotham are attacked by the Court to ensure that they are the rightful rulers and the superior legend of Gotham. Without a doubt, Snyder closes out his Court of Owls arc properly and his execution is flawless. Snyder wraps up most of his plotlines and settles the overall arc, but at the same time opens the door for more exploration in some of the areas that he has presented. Batman is still struggling with the prevailing theme in both volumes; that he doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know his city as well as he thought. That Gotham is still mysterious to its defender and its favorite son, Bruce Wayne. In this volume, Bruce is confronted with many uncomfortable truths that change some aspects of traditional comic book lore involving the Wayne family. I am a purist for the most part and I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t really like changes to established characters but this one was very unsettling and I really enjoyed it. Plus, Snyder leaves the revelation very ambiguous so what he presents may or may not necessarily be true, but it is based in the truth. Despite my high praise and my five-star rating there are a few things that I had some problems with. One, being in issue 8 without warning another artist takes over for the last pages and it is very abrupt and kind of jarring to not have Greg Capullo finish the issue which bothered me tremendously. I have nothing against another artist coming stepping in for Capullo, but for the final half of one issue? It becomes very distracting. Secondly, Batman Annual 1 is contained in this volume which presents the proper debut of one of BatmanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s famous villains; Mr.

Freeze. The artwork is good and how the character and the events tie into the broader scheme of things in the Night of the Owls event is very good. But, Mr. Freeze has become a tragic figure in the aftermath of Batman the animated series. His reimagining in the series led to the show winning an Emmy for Outstanding Writing in an animated Program. At the beginning of the issue, everything is fine. The backstory is sound and slightly tragic involving Fries as a child and his mother. His experimentation on freezing animals is very much in line with Fries. Even changing his backstory to being a scientist who works with cryogenics at Wayne Enterprises instead of GothCorp is fine by me. But Snyder reveals that the woman that he loves and is obsessed with, Nora, is not his wife and is instead an obsession of VictorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s, he wrote his doctrinal thesis on her. To me I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t really like this take on Mr. Freeze because of that. I understand that the New 52 is essentially a reboot, but I think that the tragedy and the sympathy for Freeze was lost for this version of the character. The ending to issue 11 is very good. The issue wraps up the main story but the last half of the issue involves AlfredÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s father, JarvisÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦yeah, I canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t help but smile a little at that, even though Alfred is the superior butler and perhaps the name wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t necessarily intentional itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s still amusing to me. But the issue is a letter from Jarvis to his son Alfred and it is a very somber letter that goes over several events that take place in this issue involving the WayneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s and it reveals a very upsetting mindset from Jarvis and it presents more mystery and intrigue. Greg Capullo is fantastic as always with the artwork and Snyder, as IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve mentioned before, is still at the top of his game when it comes to writing. An amazing finale to the Court of Owls story arc.

The City of Owls delivers terrific battles, good drama, and further character exploration in a most satisfying read. The Court of Owls was a fantastic story, not quite Year One or HUSH, but I wasn't expecting that and neither should you.Batman fights original foes and an interesting take on the Wayne family never before seen quite like this. Batman doesn't win just because he's Batman, nor is he portrayed as unbelievably invincible in fights. He starts the story beaten, betrayed by the city he loves and vows to protect. Physically, he is still recovering from his previous bout with the Court of Owls. Of course, when a villain is revealed to know Bruce Wayne and Batman are the same person, it cannot come to a great surprise he doesn't stick around. Still, the action feels real and convincingly dangerous; the Talon assassins cannot die, whereas Batman most certainly can. The conclusion of the Court story is very satisfying.There is not much to say on Capullo's work, he has improved somewhat on his pieces, which was already more than satisfactory. The Thrasher Batsuit

in particular is visually wonderful. Bruce and company face's convey genuine emotion and help propel the story forward. I was initially hesitant on Capullo as artist, but he has delivered. Additionally, the final chapter detailing the origin and ensuing conflict with Mr. Freeze give Fabok a chance to shine. Nightwing and Robin look great, truly looking heroic yet not overdone. The story feels a little shoe-horned in, but I'm glad it was placed at the end of the story so as not to interrupt the main arc.So, with all this praise, why only four stars? For me, it comes down to two reasons: it's not quite as satisfying as Vol.1, and two, the Harper Row story. Why not the Jarvis Pennyworth story? It was interesting, the art was a little clunky, but it was a brief and relevant component to the history of the Owls. The Harper Row chapter failed to impress me, and I know that sounds arrogant. Batman already has so many excellent supporting characters that Harper, to me, feels unnecessary. I can appreciate that DC now has to meet more diverse gender audiences, but I still don't see this as a valid excuse. I know Batgirl has her own title, and so she should be doing her own thing, but why not the already established Stephanie Brown or Cassandra Cain? When Oracle was left out of the New 52, a character void was left in her place, and I understand the need to fill it. Harper Row has the tech skills of Oracle, but not the heart. While this may be unpopular, I felt the story was partly created just to prove that DC is addressing the relevant controversies of society and appear young and progressive. That's fine, that's what helps the company survive and earn praise and recognition from diversity groups. Still, I felt the 'forcedness' of this addition, and it left me kind of scratching my head. This is only one small component of the book, but still, I think was distracting enough to pull focus from the positive aspects.

As Bruce Wayne is attacked in his own home by the Court of Owls, so too is the city of Gotham as all the important people that make Gotham tick are hunted down one-by-one in a calculated effort by the Court. Batman must stop the assassins loose in the city and, with the help of the Bat-family, reclaim Gotham!The Court of Owls attack is still under way and now volume 2 is here encased in a nice hardcover with dustjacket like the first volume. This book covers issues 8-12 of the Batman series and Batman Annual #1 as well. The Court infiltrating Bruce's home gives a sense of hopelessness to the secrets Batman maintains and the art here by Greg Capullo and Rafael Albuquerque really implement the dread and cunning in the Court attack. However, the only downside is the transition from Greg to Rafael is not seamless by any means and just jumps to a different art-style mid-comic. Continuing on, the annual issue has guest writer James Tynion IV helping Scott Snyder, who wrote everything in the book, formulate the terrible new origin story to Mr. Freeze. The art by Jason Fabok is what saves the issue but the character of Mr. Freeze is forever

scarred by a changed origin story for the worse. Greg and Rafael continue art duty for the main story and a nice backstory for Alfred's father and his struggles with the Court. Finally, we have an issue dedicated to a character named Harper Row with art by Becky Cloonan. Overall, it's a good book and the plethora of artists definitely doesn't detract from the feel of the writing. The Court of Owls storyline could have had a better ending but overall, was a good ride with the thrill of seeing Mr. Freeze, Penguin, and many others involved in this takeover of Gotham. Definitely a book to pick up and the textless covers and variant gallery in the back of the book make it even better!

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