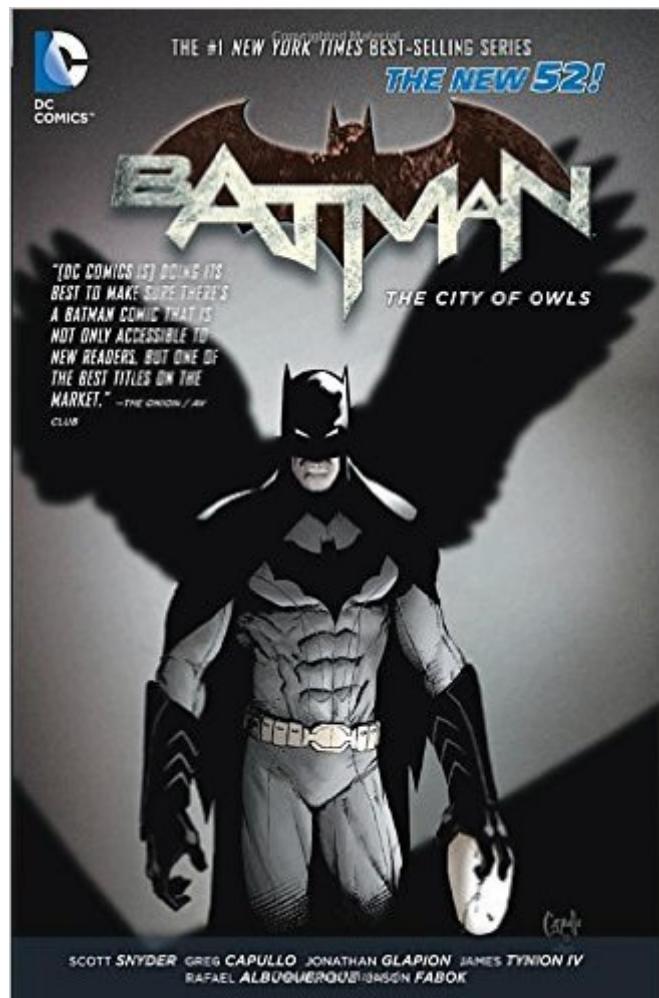


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Batman Vol. 2: The City Of Owls (The New 52)



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 aggressors, 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

I think it is safe to say by now writer Scott Snyder and artist Greg Capullo have become synonymous with Batman, especially within the DC New 52, and it all started with Batman Vol. 1: The Court of Owls (The New 52). Batman was faced with the Court of Owls, an enemy that has been around since Gotham's earliest beginnings and had finally shown itself to the Dark Knight, to which was a powerful organization that had connections and resources Batman could never quite fathom, and the Batman paid for it--big time. But Batman pulled through it, just barely, and learned

the error of his ways and got away to prepare for striking back. But the Court knows Batman is weak so it decides to attack Gotham while they can, sending out their entire army of Talon warriors to seize control once and for all.....But Batman has had enough.Finally, the wait is over. Snyder and Capullo's volume 2 of the conclusion to the Court of Owls story comes full-speed ahead that is equal parts gripping and powerful, yet eerily familiar to Pre-52 fans.**BATMAN VOL.2: CITY OF OWLS** collects issues #8-12 with back stories "Fall of the House of Wayne" and **BATMAN ANNUAL #1**. Bruce Wayne has just starting to recover from days of torture in the Court's maze, to which suddenly the Courts Talons make a direct attack on the Wayne mansion. The ferocity of numerous Talons push Bruce to the point that he has had enough of owls and the Court and dons the Batman persona to finally put an end to the Court, by taking the battle back at them where it hurts.I will not give out any more info because there would be spoilers aplenty, but let's clear some stuff first.

This volume collects issues 8-12 and Batman Annual 1.Bruce Wayne thought he knew Gotham City. The city he was born in. The city his parents died in. The city he became the Batman in. As the Batman he had to understand his city, know every nook and cranny in order to defeat the criminal element. Bruce felt he had that mastered. He was wrong. Enter the Court of Owls. Bruce dismissed them as just a myth but he was so wrong. They educated him on that and showed him just how much Gotham is their city. But now that the Bat knows of them and has suffered at their hands it's time to take the fight to them.Let me first start off by saying what a great time it is to be a Batman fan. Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo follow up the first volume in heart pounding fashion as they continue to prove they are one of the best writer/artist duos working in comics today. Wow!Issue eight has Bruce licking his wounds back at Wayne manor with trusty Alfred by his side. They are hit and hit hard by an assault from the Court by their warrior class, the Talon's. It unfolds in great pulse pounding fashion a credit to writer and artist here as both men are forced into hiding in the Batcave. The backup feature follows appropriately here, co-written by James Tynion IV and illustrated by Rafael Albuquerque, in which Bruce "suits up" to deal with the Talons as Alfred sends a distress call out to the other vigilantes of Gotham and members of the Bat-Family leading into Night of the Owls, a tie-in event that takes place across the various other Bat titles but you get the main story and all that is really important here.Issue nine is the dark knight triumphant! Batman fights back in such brutality amazingly drawn by Capullo.

The City of Owls is another fantastic volume for Batman fans. It continues right where Batman Vol. 1: The Court of Owls (The New 52) left off, sucking you into a compelling story with artwork that fits

greatly with the narrative. It is a fun ride that ends up feeling cut short by being resolved by issue #11. Issue #12 gives a proper introduction to Harper Row, the seemingly random character that saved Batman's life in issue #7. Given her level of involvement thus far, it's probably a safe bet that we will see more of her, not only popping up when convenient, but likely joining Batman in an Oracle-esque role, if not becoming a new Oracle. Like issue #12, the Annual issue is a stand alone issue, giving us an enjoyable story of Victor Fries, who has always been one of my favorite Batman villains. So if this is such a great read, why four stars? In another review, Anarchy in the US nailed it when he likened the Talons to bullies. They get chatty and lose some of the allure and mystique that Court of Owls provided. Another squabble that I have concerns a certain revelation. Not the revelation itself, but the person behind it. If the Talons were chatty, then this person would talk your ear off. Another issue was abrupt change of pace between issues #11, #12 and the Annual. There's a case to be made with the inclusion of issue #12. Not only does it come after the conclusion to the Court of Owls arc, but it also provides clarity on Row's brief appearance in #7, so it ends up being a useful and beneficial tie-in.

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