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Batman: Knightfall, Vol. 1



Synopsis

#1 New York Times Bestseller The villainous Bane breaks the Bat in one of the most popular and well-known Batman tales! The inmates of Arkham Asylum have broken free and Batman must push himself to the limits to re-apprehend the Joker, Poison Ivy, the Riddler, Killer Croc and more. Pushed to the limits, he comes face-to-face against the monstrosity known as Bane, who delivers a crippling blow destined to change the Caped Crusader forever! This volume collects Batman: Vengeance of Bane Special #1, Batman #491-500, Detective Comics #659-666, Showcase '93 #7-8 and Batman: Shadow of the Bat #16-18.

Book Information

Paperback: 640 pages

Publisher: DC Comics; First Edition/First Printing edition (May 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1401233791

ISBN-13: 978-1401233792

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 1.3 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 221 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #51,040 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Mystery #148 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > DC #422 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Superheroes

Customer Reviews

Dennis O'Neil is the influential writer of comics including BATMAN, GREEN LANTERN/GREEN ARROW, THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA and countless other titles. He is also the author of The DC Comics Guide to Writing for Comics (Watson Guphill). Known for his fast-paced, action-oriented plotting, Chuck Dixon is the prolific and acclaimed writer of long runs on BATMAN, ROBIN, NIGHTWING, BIRDS OF PREY, GREEN ARROW and, for Marvel Comics, THE PUNISHER and CONAN. Doug Moench has written novels, short stories, newspaper feature articles, weekly newspaper comic strips, film screenplays and teleplays. His first published work was My Dog Sandy, a comic strip printed in his elementary school newspaper. Moench has worked for DC Comics, Marvel Comics, Dark Horse Comics and many other smaller companies; he has written hundreds of issues of many different comics, and created dozens of characters, such as Moon Knight.

DC smartly re-printed this storyline to coincide with the release of the new Batman film *The Dark Knight Rises* (+Ultraviolet Digital Copy). The prominent villain of the movie is a character called Bane, and this massive TPB collects the first appearances and origin story of that character. Whether you've seen the new movie or not, you'll enjoy reading the original Batman story of Bane's creation and rise to power. (The new film does a pretty good job of sticking to the origin of the character, while editing things a bit to make the story more grounded in reality.) The book's stories are mostly written by Chuck Dixon, who is also the creator of Bane. The book also showcases the "replacement" Batman, Jean Paul Valley - a character who originally went by the name of Azrael. If you are interested in reading more about the origin of that particular character, I would recommend picking up the book *Batman: Sword of Azrael (Prelude to Knightfall)*. As I mentioned, this book is enormous and will take you some time to completely read through. You may be able to find a copy at a local library, but I still think this is an excellent addition to your own home library. Artwork is done by a variety of artists, so the overall look of the book isn't consistent, and the artwork is not terribly impressive when compared to the great artwork seen in comic books of the present day, but what else are you going to expect from stories of twenty years ago? I do have one minor complaint. These days, when you purchase a new comic trade, you pretty much expect the story to be printed on high-quality paper. That isn't the case with this book. Rather than being printed on high-quality glossy stock paper (like the other classic Batman story *Batman: No Man's Land, Vol. 1* that was recently re-printed), this story is printed on the same paper used in the DC Showcase series of collected editions. This was disappointing, as nothing looks as vibrant as it could have, and I think this paper is likely to degrade more quickly. I suppose it was done to keep the cost down and increase profits, but it feels a bit like a diss to the fans who are likely to pick up this book. If you enjoy this book, make sure to pick up the second part *Batman: Knightfall, Vol. 2: Knightquest* and third part *Batman: Knightfall, Vol. 3: Knightsend*, as well.

One of the all-time best Batman titles. *Knightfall* is why Bane is so fondly remembered by Batman fans even after his terrible feature in the *Batman and Robin* disaster of a movie and his good, but meme-worthy role in divisive *The Dark Knight Rises*. Volume One of *Knightfall* focuses on Bane's brilliant manipulations of Batman who is already struggling with illness and sleep deprivation. Exhausted at the outset, Batman is worn down to the bone after Bane blows open Arkham Asylum. While Bane waits in the wings, Batman must face off against foes like Mr. Zsasz, Scarecrow, Killer Croc, and the Joker. It all leads to the fateful battle between a worn-out Bats and the criminal

mastermind that leaves Batman broken. From there Knightfall features the opening of the "Knightquest" story arc where a hobbled Bruce Wayne passes the cowl on to Jean Paul Valley (aka Azrael). Azrael takes to the role of Batman quickly but is far more brutal than Bruce ever was. While the second volume Knightquest is just okay (very influenced by the styles of the time) and the final volume Knightsend is frankly kind of an anti-climax in my opinion, Knightfall is nearly perfect. Just as much about the rise and fall of Bane as it is about the breaking of the Bat, the collection is a must-read for Batman fans and anyone interested in this classic villain. Also keep in mind the second and third volumes become more about Azrael's growing madness and time as the Batman than it is about Bane whose role pretty much ends with this volume. Also, it is a thick read so at under twenty bucks it is a solid deal.

I bought this on 's mark down for \$17.94. I do not think that I would pay the full retail price of \$29.99 for it, but I grabbed it at this price as it is a great deal for this large a collection. It's a fairly sizable collection- unlike previous comic collections which mark themselves as the first "volume" and only have a couple hundred pages the most, this one clocks in at over 600 pages. I was worried at first that this was purely a case of quantity over quality, but the issues collected within are great, and even the filler is bearable. For the most part, a newcomer to the Batman series can pick up the beginning of Knightfall and understand the story quickly as it doesn't rely on previous story arcs all that much (just know Batman is still bummed out about the death of the previous Robin, Jason Todd). It also adds some interesting stories set within the world, including two that follow Scarecrow and Anarky. It also includes the origin story on Bane that was published afterwards, which I think is a good way to add some further depth to Bane. The art, like many comics, varies depending on which issue is read, so it might be jarring for some (especially in the Shadow of the Bat Scarecrow special). Overall the quality to me was good for all of the artists involved, and I think is a good highlight of how varied art can be in the American comics scene. The only complaint I would have about this collection, having read Knightfall for the first time in my life, is that the story references a prior confrontation with Bane by both Jean-Paul and Killer Croc. I found myself trying to flip around the volume looking for this, but I guess these were printed before the Knightfall arc was formally started. The paper quality leaves something to be desired, so be careful handling it. Highly recommended from me, especially if has it marked down in price.

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