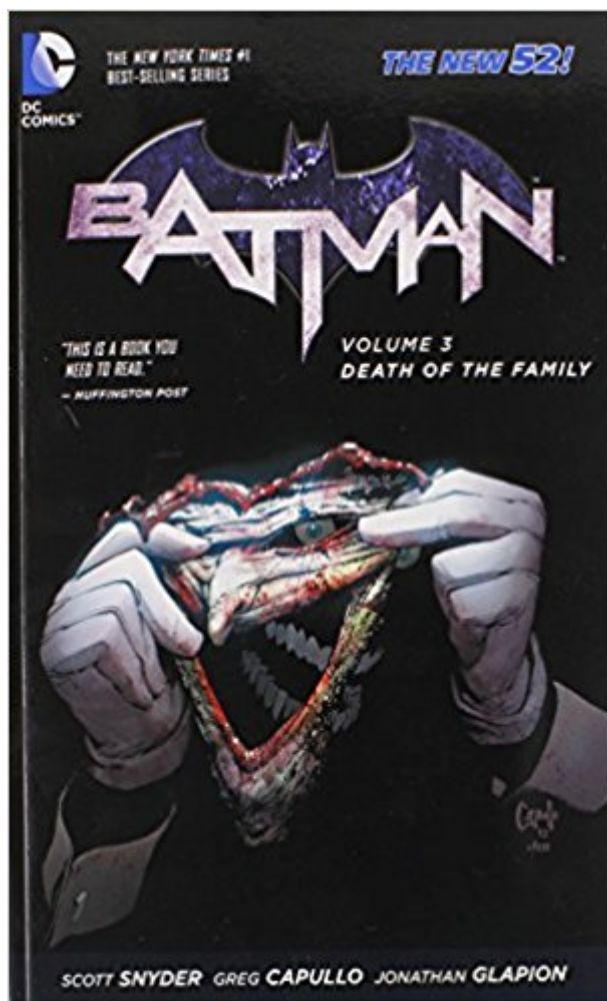


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# Batman Vol. 3: Death Of The Family (The New 52)



## Synopsis

A #1 New York Times bestseller! One year ago, the Joker limped off the streets of Gotham, mutilated and scarred when someone had taken the pale white skin right off of his face. But now, the Dark Knight's greatest foe has returned but for once, Batman doesn't seem to be his target. Instead, the Joker turns his vile hatred towards Commissioner Gordon, Alfred, Robin, Nightwing, Batgirl, Red Hood and Red Robin – the only family Bruce Wayne has left. The Clown Prince of Crime will unleash his most unpredictable, vicious and psychotic assault ever on everyone Batman holds dear. Can Batman stop his arch-rival's most deranged assault ever? Or will the cost of a deadly secret be a family member's life? A #1 New York Times best-selling creators Scott Snyder (AMERICAN VAMPIRE) and Greg Capullo (Spawn) present the long-awaited return of the Joker, as he unleashes his most terrifying, personal assault ever on the Dark Knight. BATMAN: DEATH OF THE FAMILY collects BATMAN #13-17 along with backup stories illustrated by award-winning artist Jock (BATMAN: THE BLACK MIRROR).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Batman, Vol. 3: Death of the Family: Interview with Scott Snyder by Charlie Chang The Joker is arguably the most popular villain in comics and in entertainment. How do you go about tackling such an icon in not only the Joker? Scott Snyder: For me personally, the only way to write these iconic characters when there's 75 years of great stories that have already been written is to make these stories personal. Assume that if you make it personal, then that's how you make it

original. So I came up with the idea for this story when we were about to have our second kid and I just kept finding myself wishing that I could stop worrying about the first kid once in a while and wondering how I was going to do this again. I came to this realization that Batman has this family and he probably thinks that same thing once in a while like, I wish I could stop worrying about them. Then that led me to this idea that someone might ask him, "Well why don't you just kill all of them? That would make it easy... and that's the Joker right there. I knew that was the Joker, I could hear it in my head. It was perfect, you hear that and you know he's coming. Then it became a process of trying to develop a story of how to go deeper and deeper and darkly into that idea. Just a few years ago, The Dark Knight film redefined Joker when a lot of people didn't think that would have been possible. What's different about this version? Scott: I love the Heath Ledger Joker, I also love The Joker from Frank Miller's The Dark Knight Returns and Alan Moore's Killing Joke, but we tried to create our version that's both funny and almost humorously apocalyptic in his own kind of way while at the same time giving this Joker his own look. In another book (Detective Comics, Vol. 1) his face was cut off and we picked that up because it hadn't been dealt with and we turned it into something for our story where he belts on his own skin-face thing and that's part of the theme of this story where he's trying to say, "Let's look beneath the skin of this relationship and see what you really look like beneath that mask, all of you, you fools." So in a way, I think this is very different than anything you've ever seen, especially if you love the Joker, if you're new to comics or new to the character at all, hopefully it's something that gets your attention. If you could put your favorite thing about this book, what would it be? Scott: The thing that I love about it is how dark it is. I try to write the Joker with integrity and from the perspective that he genuinely believes that he's doing Batman a service by getting him to kill his own family because he believes Batman loves his villains more than his heroes or his allies. Because ultimately what's going to happen is each one of them is going to die or fall to some villain and he'll end up alone with the villains that he keeps alive and doesn't kill anyway. So why not just do it now? The twisted truth, brutality, and relentlessness of that conviction is what I love about this book the most. The Joker believes he's peeling back the face of Batman to show a truth that's there that Batman does not want to admit is beneath the cowl. Some of the other writers writing the tie-ins to Death of the Family have touched on this but coming out of this book, what are you most excited to explore after this big huge epic? Scott: Well for me, it was never really about what happens in continuity, it was never about the idea that the Bat family isn't going to meet or work together anymore.

That was a fun repercussion in the books but it's the first part of a story within a story about the Joker that I plan to continue. It's part of the relationship I'm fascinated by and this is only one piece of it. So to me it's really about this part, the Joker saying we love you and you love us so why don't you admit it. This book is so full of rich themes and emotional characters, what do you think is the core of this book and what is Death of the Family really all about? Scott: This book really is a meditation on the dark and twisted nature of Batman's relationship, both with the Joker and with his own family. How the Joker, as evil and horrifying as he is, sometimes can extrapolate from a kernel of truth, a horrible abomination of that truth that speaks to something that can terrify everybody. That to me is really what this book is about and I'm very proud of that. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

"This is a book you need to read. Whether you're a fan of comics or not. If you're a fan of good storytelling and can buy into the conceit that a man dressed as a bat can make a difference in the world, then there's no better book for you than this one." —Huffington Post "One of the best Batman runs in the history of the character. The fact that two of the biggest names in the industry are handling the return of the Joker is just icing on the cake." —IGN

First off, in my opinion, the Batman title is the best of the New 52 to begin with. This volume is part of a fantastic crossover event that actually keeps each tie in very relevant (except the Catwoman tie in), where I found some of the Night of Owls tie ins to be forced. This is a bit of a different depiction of the Joker than I'm used to (he would fit in the Slasher genre comfortably) and I really like that. You definitely want the tie ins when you read this.

Batman Death of the Family is the 3rd trade since the New 52 relaunch of the title. In this title Snyder continues what has been an excellent run to date. In the previous arc (Court of Owls), Snyder shook up one of the presumed foundations of the Batman universe: Bruce's absolute knowledge of Gotham. In this title he takes his shot at the "Bat Family." While Court of Owls was about introducing new villains, Death of the Family let's Snyder roll out Batman's rogue's gallery and try his hand at the most iconic of them all: The Joker. Happily, he is up to the task. Snyder's Joker takes an excellent base of psychopathic insanity and mixes it with devious cunning and a peculiar intimacy with Batman. It's hard to talk about the story at length without spoilers, but the heart of this book is the relationship between Batman and The Joker, and the way that each man views this relationship might prove surprising to some. Capullo continues a profitable partnership with Snyder

on this book, and his art really shines with his Joker. The jagged lines of the Joker's "mask" set-up a nice juxtaposition with the clean symmetry of Batman's cowl. The coloring also shows some solid range, which is nice in a Batman book, which can sometimes dip too firmly into "everything is dark" territory. Onto the physical book itself. This is where my complaints are (I'd take a 1/2 star off if possible). The dust jacket is a clear piece which overlays cover. The cover features The Joker's skinned face and the jacket has his face strapped on. The idea is cool, but the execution isn't quite there. Unfortunately, the plastic is perforated as opposed to creased so the top and bottom are prone to tears. Also worth noting is that those collectors who love an orderly shelf might be annoyed that the spine is white unlike the previous Court of Owls (and most other New 52) books that have black spines. The DC logo has changed again as well. That said, this is an exceedingly minor quibble, and all but the most optimistic fans have long since given up hope that DC will put out ongoing books with consistent spines.

In one short sentence to paraphrase this: Batman: Death of the Family is an amazing book that everyone should read! Batman's New 52 comic series truly has been an amazing read and having read every trade paperback, it only gets better. The basics of the story is that The Joker returns to Gotham after a year or so after his last confrontation with The Dark Knight. After he cuts off his own face in Detective Comics (You don't need to read that to read this) The Joker returns and tries to prove to Batman that he is weaker and the Bat-Family is bringing him down. I'm not going to put anymore in because it's truly an amazing read and I don't want to spoil anything. Batman Vol.3 is accompanied by Greg Capullo's amazing art and Scott Snyder's masterful story telling. Snyder writes a gripping book that you won't want to put down. I read this non stop when I got it in the mail. While Capullo brings amazing art that makes every panel a work of art. One of the many things I have to praise about this book is that it's strong on it's own, its not a huge tie story in series where you need to get multiple series. Now there are other series that have tie ins but they are more of personal takes with the joker than Batman stories. I love how the Bat-Family is included in this, Being a huge fan of Batgirl, Robin, Nightwing, and Red Hood it was nice to see them included without needing to buy other volumes. Batman's New 52 run is always praised but not seen as apart of the masterpieces of the Dark Knight Returns (Loved that) and The Killing Joke. Some say that Joker gets boring after a while and is always used, but this reinvents the character in new ways where he's the same joker you know but then a different one you learning about at the same time. Now there are little after stories in each issue that are nice. You may feel at first you want to skip them to get onto Snyder and Capullo's main story but they are great stories about how Joker gets

ready for the whole book. On the delivery side of things, it came fast and was in great condition. Batman Vol. 3 is a Masterpiece of storytelling that brings The Joker and Batman to the next level while submersing you more into Snyder and Capullo's world of Batman. This is a book that anyone who calls themselves a comic book fan should pick up. This book will definitely make you want more Snyder and Capullo Batman which on a side note I would also recommend Zero Year.

Great book however it did not come with the special cover. I received one that did not have the acetate dust jacket with the joker's face peeled back.

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