

Batman, Spider-Man, and Superman, the Joker stands out as one of the most recognizable comics characters in popular culture. While there has been a great deal of scholarly attention on superheroes, very little has been done to understand supervillains. This is the first academic work to provide a comprehensive study of this villain, illustrating why the Joker appears so relevant to audiences today. Batman's foe has cropped up in thousands of comics, numerous animated series, and three major blockbuster feature films since 1966. Actually, the Joker debuted in DC comics Batman 1 (1940) as the typical gangster, but the character evolved steadily into one of the most ominous in the history of sequential art. Batman and the Joker almost seemed to define each other as opposites, hero and nemesis, in a kind of psychological duality. Scholars from a wide array of disciplines look at the Joker through the lens of feature films, video games, comics, politics, magic and mysticism, psychology, animation, television, performance studies, and philosophy. As the first volume that examines the Joker as complex cultural and cross-media phenomenon, this collection adds to our understanding of the role comic book and cinematic villains play in the world and the ways various media affect their interpretation. Connecting the Clown Prince of Crime to bodies of thought as divergent as Karl Marx and Friedrich Nietzsche, contributors demonstrate the frightening ways in which we get the monsters we need. **Batman: Nightwalker** [Random House Books for Young Readers](#) This dark and twisty BATMAN in the blockbuster DC Icons series is an action-packed thrill ride from #1 New York Times bestselling author MARIE LU. AN INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Before he was Batman, he was Bruce Wayne. A reckless boy willing to break the rules for a girl who may be his worst enemy. The Nightwalkers are terrorizing Gotham City, and Bruce Wayne is next on their list. Bruce is turning eighteen and inheriting his family's fortune, not to mention the keys to Wayne Industries and all the tech gadgetry that he could ever desire. But on the way home from his birthday party, he makes an impulsive choice that leads to community service at Arkham Asylum, the infamous prison. There, he meets Madeleine Wallace, a brilliant killer with ties to the Nightwalkers. A girl who will only speak to Bruce. She is the mystery he must unravel, but is he convincing her to divulge her secrets, or is he feeding her the information she needs to bring Gotham City to its knees? Bruce Wayne is proof that you don't need superpowers to be a super hero, but can he survive Madeleine's game of tense intrigue and deception? Act fast! The first printing includes a poster of Bruce! Each first printing in the DC Icons series will have a limited-edition poster--collect them all to create the full image! "Masterful. . . . A great story for any Dark Knight fan." --Den of Geek Don't miss the rest of the DC Icons series! Read them in any order you choose: * Wonder Woman: Warbringer by Leigh Bardugo * Catwoman: Soulstealer by Sarah J. Maas * Superman: Dawnbreaker by Matt de la Peña Arkham Asylum Living Hell [Dc Comics](#) Written by DAN SLOTT Art by RYAN SOOK and WADE VON GRAWBADGER Painted Cover by ERIC POWELL Collecting the edgy 6-issue miniseries, ARKHAM ASYLUM: LIVING HELL examines the dark underbelly of Gotham's notorious "House of Madness!" Warren White, one of Gotham's most successful financiers, thought he could beat his jail rap by pleading insanity. Now he's finding out why you don't cop an insanity plea in Gotham! Expect appearances by Batman, The Joker, Two-Face, Poison Ivy, Killer Croc, and the rest of Arkham's regulars - plus the debut of several new Rogues! **Batman Faces** [Titan Books \(UK\)](#) Harvey Dent - former friend of Bruce Wayne, now the deadly, duality-obsessed villain Two-Face - hatches a plot of horrifying proportions. As a series of plastic surgeons are killed, a real-estate agent is seduced into a plot of blackmail and murder, all to steal an island from Bruce Wayne. **Batman: Knightfall Vol. 2: Knightquest** DC Mentally defeated and physically broken, Bruce Wayne suffered a crippling blow while battling the brutal Bane. Now, the mantle of the Bat must be passed on to another, and Jean Paul Valley answers the call! But as the new Caped Crusader slowly loses his grip on sanity, his idea of justice takes a violent and deadly turn. Witnessing this dangerous behavior firsthand, Nightwing and Robin try to come to grips with Bruce's highly controversial decision while the new Batman sets his sights on taking revenge against Bane! **Comic Book Crime Truth, Justice, and the American Way** [NYU Press](#) Superman, Batman, Daredevil, and Wonder Woman are iconic cultural figures that embody values of order, fairness, justice, and retribution. **Comic Book Crime** digs deep into these and other celebrated characters, providing a comprehensive understanding of crime and justice in contemporary American comic books. This is a world where justice is delivered, where heroes save ordinary citizens from certain doom, where evil is easily identified and thwarted by powers far greater than mere mortals could possess. Nickie Phillips and Staci Strobl explore these representations and show that comic books, as a historically important American cultural medium, participate in both reflecting and shaping an American ideological identity that is often focused on ideas of the apocalypse, utopia, retribution, and nationalism. Through an analysis of approximately 200 comic books sold from 2002 to 2010, as well as several years of immersion in comic book fan culture, Phillips and Strobl reveal the kinds of themes and plots popular comics feature in a post-9/11 context. They discuss heroes' calculations of "deathworthiness," or who should be killed in meting out justice, and how these judgments have as much to do with the hero's character as they do with the actions of the villains. This fascinating volume also analyzes how class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation are used to construct difference for both the heroes and the villains in ways that are both conservative and progressive. Engaging, sharp, and insightful, **Comic Book Crime** is a fresh take on the very meaning of truth, justice, and the American way. **Instructor's Guide Batman: Arkham Knight Vol. 1** DC The prequel to the best-selling game BATMAN: ARKHAM KNIGHT! The Joker is dead. Arkham City is closed. As a new day begins, Bruce Wayne finds himself in devastating pain, recovering from his injuries and questioning whether his role as Batman is still necessary to the city's survival. But as the sun rises in Gotham City, dangerous new threats emerge from the shadows...and the Arkham Knight is just beginning. Don't miss this in-continuity prequel comic set prior to the events of the brand-new video game **Batman: Arkham Knight!** Collects BATMAN: ARKHAM KNIGHT #1-6. **Batman The Dark Knight Returns** For use in schools and libraries only. After 10 years away from the public eye, a wave of violence in Gotham City brings Batman back as a vigilante. **Batman Begins The Official Movie Guide** [Time Home Entertainment](#) Presents a guide to the motion picture in which Bruce Wayne deals with his parents' murder and begins the transformation which returns him to Gotham City as Batman, a protector against crime and injustice. **Batman: The Dark Knight Returns** DC A NEW YORK TIMES Bestseller! Hailed as a comics masterpiece, THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS is Frank Miller's (300 and SIN CITY) reinvention of the legend of Batman. It remains an undisputed classic, one of the most influential stories ever told in comics, and is a book cited by the filmmakers as an inspiration for the most recent Batman movies. It is ten years after an aging Batman has retired and Gotham City has sunk deeper into decadence and lawlessness. Now, as his city needs him most, the Dark Knight returns in a blaze of glory. Joined by Carrie Kelly, a teenage female Robin, Batman takes to the streets to end the threat of the mutant gangs that have overrun the city. And after facing off against his two greatest enemies, the Joker and Two-Face, for the final time, Batman finds himself in mortal combat with his former ally, Superman, in a battle that only one of them will survive. This collection is hailed as a comics masterpiece and was responsible for the launch of the Christopher Nolan Batman movies. This volume collects BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS #1-4. **Batman: Last Knight on Earth (2019-2019) #1** [DC Black Label](#) Bruce Wayne wakes up in Arkham Asylum. Young. Sane. And...he was never Batman. So begins this sprawling tale of the Dark Knight as he embarks on a quest through a devastated DC landscape featuring a massive cast of familiar faces from the DC Universe. As he tries to piece together the mystery of his past, he must unravel the cause of this terrible future and track down the unspeakable force that destroyed the world as he knew it! From the powerhouse creative team of writer Scott Snyder and artist Greg Capullo, the team that reinvented Batman from the emotional depths of *ÒCourt of Owls* to the bombastic power of *DARK NIGHTS: METAL*, DC Black Label is proud to present the bimonthly, three-issue miniseries **BATMAN: LAST KNIGHT ON EARTH**, published at DC's standard comic trim size. par This could be the last Batman story ever told! *The Secrets of Star Wars Shadows of the Empire* [Lucasbooks](#) An official guide to *Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire*, a new science fiction multimedia adventure, reveals the secrets of the heroes, villains, and combatants as it follows the evil crimelord Xizor's attempt to kill Luke Skywalker and Leia's desperate struggle to save Han Solo. Original. The DC Icons Series [Random House Books for Young Readers](#) For fans of Sarah J. Maas, Marie Lu, and Leigh Bardugo, this ebook collection includes all of these #1 New York Times bestselling authors' DC Icons titles--Catwoman, Batman, and Wonder Woman--not to be missed by any reader who loves powerful YA fantasy! Three instant New York Times bestsellers of DC Comics' iconic characters! This ebook collection is truly SUPER. **Wonder Woman: Warbringer** She will become one of the world's greatest heroes: **WONDER WOMAN**. But first she is Diana, Princess of the Amazons. And her fight is just beginning. . . . **Batman: Nightwalker** Before he was BATMAN, he was Bruce Wayne. A reckless boy willing to break the rules for a girl who may be his worst enemy. **Catwoman: Soulstealer** Selina Kyle is **CATWOMAN**. There's a new thief on the prowl in Gotham City, and she's got killer backup. It's time to see how many lives this cat really has. **Batman: Arkham Knight Signature Series Guide** [Penguin](#) The **Batman: Arkham Knight Signature Series Guide** includes: **BE THE BATMAN - This Signature Series guide** gives you everything you need to defeat the united villains of Gotham City in the epic conclusion to the acclaimed **Batman: Arkham** series. **Comprehensive Walkthrough** - Over 300 pages of game-tested strategies lead you step-by-step through the entire experience from start to finish--take down every villain! **Highly Detailed Area Maps** - Our comprehensive maps let you find your way through Gotham City with ease! Pinpoint critical locations, people, and items in every area. **Side Missions** - Gotham City never sleeps and there's always work to be done for a hero. Discover and unlock each and every side mission the city has to offer. **Augmented Reality Challenges** - Face and defeat every AR Challenge, spanning all the skills and gadgets in your arsenal! **Batman Vol. 12: The City of Bane Part 1** [DC Comics](#) It's all led to this! Bane's minions have taken control of Gotham City and are ruling with an iron fist, and Batman is nowhere to be found. Instead, Flashpoint Batman is patrolling the city, dispensing a violent brand of justice. It's all building to a rebellion among the bad guys who don't want to play along with Bane! Meanwhile, Bruce Wayne is on a quest to regain his fighting spirit...Collects **Batman #75-79**. **Batman Arkham Origins** [Bradygames](#) A guide to the video game on Playstation 3, Xbox 360, and Microsoft Windows includes story walkthroughs, area maps, tested multiplayer strategies, and side-mission and challenge coverage. **Arkham Manor** [Dc Comics](#) "With his family fortune depleted, Bruce Wayne goes underground as his ancestral home is transformed into a new prison for his archenemies. From his fortified Batcave below its foundations, the Dark Knight watches as evil moves in above him."--Cover. **Arkham Universe The Ultimate Visual Guide** [DK Publishing \(Dorling Kindersley\)](#) **Batman: Arkham Universe: The Ultimate Visual Guide** details the key storylines, characters, locations, weapons, gadgets, and equipment of these award-winning, action-adventure games. The book is created in collaboration with Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment and RockSteady (the game's creators), and features many of the timeless characters from DC's Batman comics, such as the Joker, Catwoman, Robin, the Penguin, Harley Quinn, and the Riddler. Copyright © 2015 DC Comics. **BATMAN** and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © DC Comics. **WB SHIELD: TM & © Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.** (s15) **Batman: Arkham Knight Genesis** DC Blasting out of the smash-hit video game **BATMAN: ARKHAM KNIGHT** comes an action-packed look at the game's mysterious antihero, the **Arkham Knight!** He is Gotham City's newest vigilante, and his deadly tactics put him in direct opposition to Batman. But the Knight's connections to the Caped Crusader run deep--and he has much more planned than just cleaning up Gotham's crime. The **Arkham Knight** is here to make Batman--and every one of his allies--pay for what they did to him. So who is the Knight and why does he hate Batman so much? **Writer Peter J. Tomasi (GREEN LANTERN CORPS)** along with artists **Alisson Borges (LOBO)** and **Dexter Soy (MORTAL KOMBAT X)** delve deep into the psychology and history of the villain (or is it hero?) of the hit game--a must-read for any fans of *Rocksteady's* acclaimed *Arkham* trilogy! Collects **BATMAN: ARKHAM KNIGHT GENESIS #1-6**. **Robin & Batman (2021-) #1** [DC Comics](#) The legendary story of Batman and Robin has reached nearly mythic proportions: the crime-fighting **Dynamic Duo**, always one step ahead of the criminals they pursue and never meeting a case too big. This isn't that story. This is the story of a young **Dick Grayson**, newly orphaned, struggling to find his way in a strange, difficult, dark new world...This is the story of **Robin and Batman**. The bestselling creative team behind the Eisner-winning *Descender*, **Jeff Lemire** and **Dustin Nguyen**, reunite in Gotham City to tell the story of a remarkable young man learning to navigate an incredible new world! **Batman: The Joker War Zone (2020-) #1** [DC Comics](#) Gotham City is a battleground as **The Joker** takes over the Wayne fortune and wages a street war against the Dark Knight and his allies! Enter the "war zone" with short stories featuring characters like **Cassandra Cain**, **Stephanie Brown**, and **Luke Fox** and see how they're fighting back in a city under siege! Also, the brutal full debut of the mysterious new anti-hero known as **Clownhunter!**