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Batgirl Vol. 1: The Darkest Reflection (The New 52)



Synopsis

A New York Times *Best Seller*! As a part of the acclaimed DC Comics *The New 52* event of September 2011, Barbara Gordon is finally back as Batgirl! The nightmare-inducing brute known as Mirror is destroying the lives of Gotham City citizens seemingly at random. Will Barbara be able to survive her explosive confrontation with this new villain, as well as facing dark secrets from her past? A new chapter in the riveting adventures of Batgirl continue in stunning fashion, with script by fan-favorite Gail Simone and stellar art by superstar Ardian Syaf! This volume collects issues 1-6 of Batgirl, part of the DC Comics *The New 52* event. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is a must-buy series. *The New York Times* "Simone and artist Ardian Syaf not only do justice to Babs' legacy, but build in a new complexity that is the starting point for a future full of new storytelling possibilities. A hell of a ride. *IGN* "Simone gets the wit and warmth of Barbara's voice Syaf's art is terrific. *Time Out Chicago* "Gail Simone, one of the strongest female voices in comics today. Brilliantly handled. It's action-based super-hero comics with a heart and conscience, just as we would expect from Gail Simone. *Daily KOS*

A multiple award-winning, critically acclaimed writer of comics and animation, Gail Simone began writing as a columnist for comicbookresources.com, producing the comics parody column "You'll All

Be Sorry." She has since had fan favorite runs on such books as Wonder Woman, Superman, Secret Six, Birds Of Prey and *Â Welcome To Tranquility*. She currently writes *Fury Of Firestorm: The Nuclear Men* and *Batgirl* for DC Comics.

This is a wonderful graphic novel. Well illustrated and well written story of Barbara Gordon's return as the Batgirl. The original Batgirl is on the job again! Gail Simone has done a great job writing this novel and Ardian Syaf has well illustrated it. This book will eventually be a collector item. It is one of the best in the *New 52* Series. The comic style and the drawing style is awesome. I purchased this one for my little Sun Goddess who is the reincarnation of Batgirl! She is a huge Batgirl fan. She loved it. Some graphic novels are obviously collectables and they will go up in price. This is one of them. As a collector and reader of comic books, I strongly recommend this book.

This was the first Batgirl comic I ever read, I didn't know Barbara was shot and then took on the 'Oracle' role. I wasn't completely satisfied with this book but the narrative and character development is very strong. It's nice seeing Barbara try to take on the Batgirl role again, we got to see her struggle but eventually manage to pull through. The first Villain that made an appearance was Black Mirror, I've never heard of him before but I found him really interesting, one of my confusions tho, he was mad at Batgirl because she saved him during a car explosion, he claimed he wanted to die, so why didn't he just kill himself? Why go and kill Batgirl? It just didn't make sense to me. The second villain that appeared in this book was Gretel, I'm not gonna hold back, I found the story incredibly weak and forgettable. It was nice seeing Batman and Batgirl interact at the end tho. Nightwing also makes an appearance and I thought the love storyline they tried building up was pretty decent. Overall this is a good book, it's not amazing and an essential for all DC fans, but if you're a Batgirl or Oracle fan then get this! The artwork is beautiful, one of the best from *The New 52*.

Barbara Gordon, the red-headed beauty on the front cover of this book, has not held the mantle of Batgirl for more than 23 years. In 1988, she was shot and paralyzed from the waist down by the Joker in the infamous Batman story, "The Killing Joke". Bound to a wheelchair, she was to be Batgirl no more. But when DC rebooted their entire line in Sept. 2011, the original Batgirl returned. And I couldn't be more pleased with the results. This book contains issues #1-6 of "Batgirl", and the story begins as Barbara returns to the Gotham streets for the first time after donning the cape and cowl

once again. In the new continuity, Barbara was still shot and wheelchair-bound by the Joker, but she recovered the ability to walk after a few years. She has in no way forgotten the incident however, for while the physical scars may have healed, the mental and emotional scars are still very much healing. This is a Batgirl who is trying to fight crime while at the same time fighting the trauma of what happened to her, a Batgirl who is battling Gotham's baddies by night while battling the trials of moving into her own place by day. The first four issues contain Batgirl's clash with a new villain called the Mirror. Immediately chilling from his first appearance, he is a strong antagonist, and is at times more than a match for a rusty Batgirl. This arc is well-written and action-packed, and is also a perfect beginning to what is shaping up to be a great series. The last two issues in the book are also well-done, and though the villain isn't quite as believable a threat, their motivations make a little more sense than do those of the Mirror. But it's not just the villains that make this narrative work. The story in these pages is so compelling because Barbara, who is a constant narrator, has a strong, consistent voice handled perfectly by Gail Simone, the author of the book. It's great to see a Bat-family hero who sometimes sees things a little less seriously, who isn't afraid to crack a joke. Simone has indeed turned Barbara into witty and charming protagonist, but she is also one who feels wonderfully developed and fully realized. Batgirl is not simply going through the motions as she does battle with her enemies; she is struggling, she is hurting, and she is pushing herself every step of the way. Batgirl is a vulnerable character here, and her resulting victory is made much sweeter because of it. The art is also extremely well-done. The action scenes have a wonderful sense of momentum and speed, and the colors truly pop right off of the page. The artist also understands that Batgirl's appearance can take on various shades depending on what's happening in the panel. When Batgirl swings from roof to roof for the first time since being shot, her golden costume is bright, almost joyful. But when she is ready to get down to business, when she quietly lays down the law, she becomes a dark spectre rivaling Batman. I am so thrilled to see Barbara Gordon as Batgirl again, not only because she is the Batgirl I know and love from years of cartoons (Batman: The Animated Series, Young Justice), but also because this is one of the best comics DC is pumping out. Batgirl obviously belongs under the pen of Gail Simone, and it is supremely rewarding to see Barbara return to the streets desperate to start again, just as we readers are looking forward to getting to know her again. The other Batgirls are great, but nothing beats the original.

It had been a while since I had read any ongoing series of comics and was looking for a jumping on point with one of the characters or teams that I liked. I just happened to stumble upon this on sale

on for \$9 and decided to give it a try. I was really impressed by the artwork. I'm normally partial to certain artists. My favorites are Jim Lee and Michael Turner and most other art fails in comparison in my opinion, but like I said before I liked the art even though it was by someone I'd never heard of. The only reason I mention the art first is because this is a comic and naturally the art is what catches your eye first. It doesn't matter how great the writing is, if the art is subpar it will take away from or your enjoyment of the work as a whole. If the art didn't matter I'd be reading something that didn't have pictures. Now to the writing. I've never read much by Gail Simone. I know who she is from Special Features on some of DC Comics DVDs that have come out in the past few years. I do know that she was a long time writer for Birds of Prey. Because of her time on that series I believe there isn't a writer out there that knows Barbara Gordon the way she does. I don't mean Barbara as Batgirl either. I'm talking about who Barbara is deep down inside. The person she was in the wheelchair as Oracle. The person she was beforehand as well. Since she knows the character and all Barbara's been through, Gail is the perfect person to get her out of the chair and back into the Bat-suit where she belongs. I can't wait to get my hands on the second collected edition in the series. I highly recommend this to any fan of the Batman family series of books whether you are a long time reader or someone that only knows the characters from the movies. If you are someone that loves comic art and are looking for a good story, you must read this as well. This is a promising start to what looks to be one of the best series out right now.

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