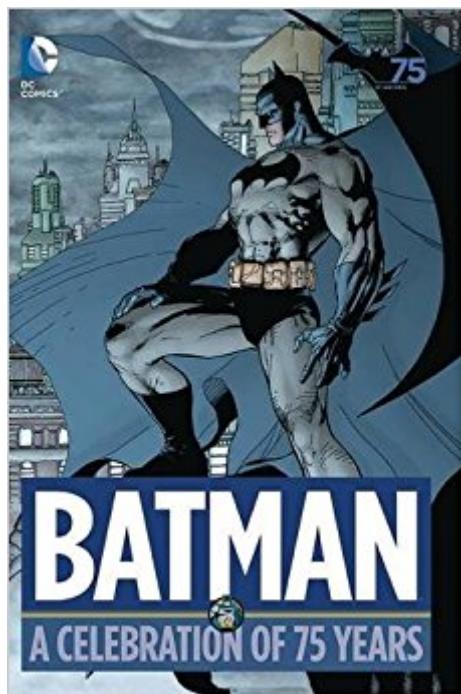


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# Batman: A Celebration Of 75 Years



## Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller! He is the world's greatest detective and an orphaned son seeking justice. He is Gotham's winged avenger and one half of a dynamic duo. Throughout his seventy-five-year life, he has been cast as a brooding antihero, a campy chum and a brilliant strategist. But always he is Batman. The lone mysterious vigilante known as "The Bat-Man" first swung over the rooftops of Gotham City in the spring of 1939. Three-quarters of a century and millions of devoted readers later, this iconic hero is easily one of the most recognizable figures in all of popular culture. From his first appearance by Bob Kane and Bill Finger to his recent reinvention by Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo, **BATMAN: A CELEBRATION OF 75 YEARS** collects the Caped Crusader's most memorable moments, from such industry legends as Denny O'Neil, Neal Adams, Frank Miller, Marshall Rogers, Dick Sprang, Carmine Infantino, Mike W. Barr, Paul Dini, J.H. Williams III, Greg Rucka, Chuck Dixon and more. This amazing Batman best-of collection includes stories from **DETECTIVE COMICS** #27, #83, #211, #216, #327, #359, #395, #442, #474, #574, #633, #711, #757 and #821, **BATMAN** #1, #49, #181, #497, **BATMAN** #2 (THE NEW 52), **WORLD'S FINEST COMICS** #94, **DC SPECIAL SERIES** #21 and **BATMAN SPECIAL** #1!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Robert Kahn was born on October 24, 1916 in the Bronx and at age 18 legally changed his name to Kane. In 1936, this self-proclaimed "compulsive doodleholic" pencilled and inked his

first comic book work, Hiram Hick. By 1938 he was selling humorous filler stories to DC Comics, including Professor Doolittle and Ginger Snap. Kane met writer Bill Finger at a party in 1938, and they soon were collaborating on comic book submissions. Their most famous effort, Batman, first appeared in DETECTIVE COMICS #27 (May 1939). As Batman's popularity demanded additional output, Kane kept up the pace by adding assistants and dropping non-Batman assignments. He discontinued his comic book efforts in mid-1943 to pencil the daily Batman and Robin newspaper strip. After the strip's 1946 demise, Kane returned to illustrating Batman's comic book adventures and, with the help of several ghosts, remained involved with comics until his retirement in 1968.

The success of the Batman television series brought Kane and his art back into the public eye in 1966. He was subsequently featured in various one-man art shows at galleries and museums nationwide and released a number of limited-edition lithographs. He served as a consultant on the 1989 Batman feature film and its sequels. His autobiography, *Batman and Me*, was published in 1989, and in 1996 he was inducted into the Eisner Awards Hall of Fame. Kane died on November 3, 1998.

Good quality book and nephew loved it.

For fans this should be a no-brainer: Buy the Book! For non-fans but those with a passing interest, it's also highly recommended since it's not disappointing at all. This collection gives some iconic stories. Of these to note are the origin of Batman in Detective Comics #27, the origin stories of Batgirl, Poison Ivy, and Catwoman, issue #2 of the New 52 Batman, and the Knightfall story featuring Bane. There are a lot of other stories in here, general ones that aren't particularly famous in and of themselves but do give some context as to how the Dark Knight was portrayed at the time. They are important in their own way, such as one which was adapted into arguably one of the best episodes of Batman: The Animated Series, "Perchance to Dream". One complaint to note here is that we do get Batman's backstory quite a lot, which can get repetitive fast. Also, in one of those they do tease out the "Death in the Family" story line with the cover, which is appropriate for the story it portrays but really caught me off-guard expecting something else. It has great artwork, especially if you consider the time each one was created in. It does show how the changing time caused the artwork to evolve, naturally and to the point where shifts don't seem that jarring throughout time. On that note, it also shows how Batman's story changed alongside society, from where it toned down the violence for the Comics Code Authority to where the fans who grew up with

Batman wanted something grittier in their comic and how it responded. The book divides itself into five parts: The Dynamic Duo, The Caped Crusader, Creature of the Knight, Dark Knight, and Rebirth. Each of these sections paints the picture, telling who was involved with the comic and how the world was when it was written. It mentions how people reacted to Batman, bringing in things like the 60's tv series or the movie franchises which all shaped people's minds. If I have one complaint, it's that it doesn't seem complete. I know it's only trying to highlight the most important parts of history, but as a fan I feel like there was more it could've included instead of some other things or in addition to it. I guess the absence of Joker is forgivable since he has his own, but Robin wasn't in it as much as were a whole slew of his rogues gallery (I didn't see Ra's anywhere, and Two Face and a whole lot were just not there). Damien is mentioned and talked about in part summaries but isn't shown either. I guess they might give Robin his own, but as it stands there wasn't much of him and a few other so vital to the Batman mythos. It left me unsatisfied so that's explaining the 4 stars out of 5. Really 4.5/5, but doesn't give half ratings. Still, I highly recommend this to anyone who loves Batman.

Following up on 2013's *Superman: A Celebration of 75 Years*, DC delivers two new archive editions: one celebrating Batman and the other one the Joker. The book begins with the obligatory reprinting of Batman's first appearance in *Detective Comics* #27. Hand in hand with *Detective* #27 comes *Batman* #1 which tells the Caped Crusader's origin for the first time and even though its only two pages in length it's an obvious must-include. Oddly the book only contains two more stories from the 1940s including "Accidentally on Purpose" from 1944 which features a new-look Alfred who spends his holiday at a health resort to lose weight, forever giving us the slim and trim Alfred we know today. I have never been a fan of the Batman stories of the 1950s and 1960s. The camp silliness of Batman dealing with aliens and other goofball threats are a low point in his history. The exceptions were the stories, and three of them are included in the book, written by Edmond Hamilton. Hamilton was one of the top Sci-Fi writers of the 40s and 50s and one of the few writers to cross over into comics. His Sci-Fi skills are utilized in "The Batman of Tomorrow" as Bruce Wayne has to call on the aid of a Batman from a future timeline to aid him when he is injured. The Dark Knight Batman would not return until 1970 courtesy of the team of Neal Adams and Denny O'Neil in "The Secret of the Waiting Graves". While I personally think that O'Neil wrote better Batman stories than this one, there is no doubt that Adams is one of the premiere

Batman artists of all-time. Here is part of the problem with the book in a nutshell. The first 31 years of Batman's existence only get 131 pages of the book while the last 44 years get 300 pages so it is definitely very modern-heavy. We get stories from the remarkable run of Steve Englehart and Marshall Rogers and an offbeat but fun story from DC Special Series #21 featuring a story by O'Neill and Frank Miller. Jim Aparo who worked on Batman throughout the 80s and into the 90s gets a little bit of a short shrift if you ask me. Aparo was also the regular artist on *Brave and the Bold* for 10 years but he gets included only once, in the climactic issue of the *Knightfall* storyline when Batman has his back broken by Bane in *Batman* #497. While it's overall a solid collection, I could have done without Brad Meltzer's reimagining of *Detective Comics* #27 to close out the book as well as some of the mid-80s Mike Barr stories which were average at best.

This is a celebration and an intriguing one. The best parts are the all too short editorials. These provide an introduction to the eras of Batman. Each speaks of the Dark Knight's evolution in character. Then in each section we are treated to a handful of full story examples that "illustrate" the progression. My nostalgic favourite comes from the seventies. That Batman seemed both dark, yet optimistic. I now enjoy the earliest incarnation and related stories. That Batman was more a sleuth like Sherlock Holmes so there is intelligence in the plot even though they are quite predictable. Fast forward and clearly something went a bit weird with all of the Robin derivatives. I am happy to have missed all of that. Perhaps DC can resolve and rectify such a mess. Overall, you definitely need to be a fan to enjoy this collection. If you are then find out a bit more about what makes Bruce tick.

I've recently started reading Batman comics. As a coincidence this 75th anniversary edition was released. I read many negative reviews saying that it contained many well-known stories with little extra content added. I think that for every new reader it's great! You have a lot of classical moments divided into the different "eras" the vigilante went through. I've certainly enjoyed it a lot and I use it as a guide to what to read next.

Yet another "Greatest Batman Stories Ever Told" This one includes some things from the "New 52" Those stories are not as powerful as the earlier ones in my opinion.

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