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*Frank Miller, Neil Gaiman, Jan Strnad*

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#589517 in Books DC Comics 2007-10-09 2007-09-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.16 x .42 x 6.631, .84 #File Name: 1401215890200 pages Great product! | File size: 42.Mb

**Frank Miller, Neil Gaiman, Jan Strnad : Batman: Black and White, Vol. 1** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Batman: Black and White, Vol. 1:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Batman for the Sake of Art: A Great Collection By Elvin Ortiz I enjoyed this very much. I also found it an adventure to read and view these Batman tales because they were different from what I've read so far. Mark Chairello wanted to create a Batman volume with different artists collaborating on it

and he accomplished that. But what was most impressing to me and what I found so different from what I've ever read on the Batman is the impressionistic style of the artwork and perhaps, the absence of plots. The narratives that we find here are most likely to be vignettes, shorter than short stories. This narrative style accompanied by the impressionistic artwork where we see each artist's interpretation of the Batman defines the tone, mood, and characterization of this collection of stories. Although each artist showed his own version of the Batman, the artwork of each had one thing in common: it stressed the Dark Knight persona of the Batman. The stories were less controlled by a sense of plot than a sense of atmosphere and characterization. These were darker than what I'm accustomed to read. Death permeates its pages. Batman fights crime but he can't prevent the bloodbath while he's doing so. The very first story, Perpetual Mourning, shows the detective seeking a clue for a murderer on a corpse in a morgue. While doing so, an interior monologue reveals the Batman's thoughts and his feelings toward the victim. Readers see their hero internalize the loss of this victim. McKeever intensifies this feeling by presenting a couple dancing: is this the woman while alive dancing with Batman? Was this someone Batman knew as Bruce Wayne? Other stories that I immediately classified as favorite are Joe Kubert's The Hunt; Good Evening, Midnight by Klaus Janson; a psychological drama, In Dreams, by Andrew Helfer and art by Liberatore; Heist, written and illustrated by a minimalist artist, Matt Wagner; Brian Bolland's An Innocent Guy is quite interesting because it summarizes Batman's life from the point of view of a person who plans on killing him; and Archie Goodwin's Heroes illustrated by Gary Gianni. This latter story is a WWII story where Batman deals with Nazis. Bruce Timm's Two of a Kind, is really a Two-Face story more than a Batman story. It has the traits of noirish films of the 40s where the attempts of criminal to reform are thwarted by fate. Two Face finally gets a human face, falls in love with the doctor who made it possible, but fate eventually gets in the way. There are some R-rated panels in this story. Walter Simonson gives us a futuristic story about the Batman, while veteran Dennis O'Neil shares a narrative that goes deep into Batman's psyche and a Christmas story that reminds us of some of his early works in the seventies. Batman pursues a strange serial killer in Howard Chaykin's Petty Crimes and Goodwin tells a haunting tale of a demonic trumpet, illustrated by Jose Munoz. Monster Maker by Jan Strnad was also quite haunting for it shows the influence of gang violence on children. Illustrated by Richard Corbin, it is perhaps the most graphically violent of this collection. I notice that the title of this collection is accompanied by the name of Frank Miller, but he only makes one cover artwork contribution in this book. Thus, do not expect plotted narratives in this tome. Just enjoy the artwork and short vignettes about who the Batman is and the world in which he lives. I was not disappointed by this purchase and enjoyed the reading very much.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Must-Own for True Batman Fans  
By Tom Reagan  
I own and have read all 3 volumes of these Batman: Black and White books. They're all good, and in order of volume, so Volume #1 is the best, by far. What makes them great (and I'm mostly referring to volume one, although these can apply to all volumes):- Large collection of unique stories, and the stories are short - about 8 pages, I think. So I made a habit of reading just one or a few stories at the end of each night, for example. There's 20 different stories! So if you're a big Bat-Fan like me, you're bound to like most.- A different writer and artist for each story. So, some of the stories you'll love, and some you might hate. But for the most part, I liked a large percentage of them. And when they're good, they're REALLY GOOD! And sometimes, if the story isn't that great, the artwork might make up for it (or vice versa).- The artwork! Again, a large percentage of the stories really do have fantastic art. It's a real treat turn the page and read an entirely different story with a completely different (artistic) take on Batman. Plain and simple, every huge Batman fan should own all of these books. Start with this volume.

23 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Like chocolate truffles  
By Robert Jordan  
First off, this is a review of volume 1. I got several Batman graphic novels recently and get one out when I have a block of uninterrupted time for it. I thought that given the short-story format, that I'd leave this in the car and read one or two stories when I had a few minutes to kill. Sure - that's what I say when I get a box of candy too - just one or two at a time - make the box last for a month. LOL - I got going and finished the whole book in one sitting. The short stories are not all great, but even the weakest is worth at least three stars. Some of the others are wonderful. The most unexpected were the best: "A Black and White World" a Neil Gaiman story which features Batman and Joker in a way you've never seen them before, and "A Slaying Song Tonight" a Batman Christmas story.... who'd ever think of that? The art is varied - which is the point isn't it. Some I liked a great deal and others didn't move me, but each reader will have different tastes. I learned about some artists with which I wasn't familiar. I'm new to comics and graphic novels, so this was a great way to gain some exposure to some legends. A previous reviewer seemed to feel the black and white art limited the artists. I thought the short story format and the black and white art boiled the work down to it's most powerful essence. The stories didn't waste a word. The art didn't hide behind color. It was like each story was stripped down to the bare essentials. And no comic character is more natural for a black and white treatment than the Bat. It was like a film noir movie marathon! Volume One at the very least is a must-own part of any Batman collection. Highest recommendation!

Written by Neil Gaiman, Chuck Dixon, Dennis O'Neil and others Art by Jim Lee, Bruce Timm, Joe Kubert and others  
Cover by Lee A new edition of the Eisner Award-winning collection at our standard trim size! Don't miss these stellar

Batman stories presented in stark black-and-white by a star-studded lineup of comics industry creators!