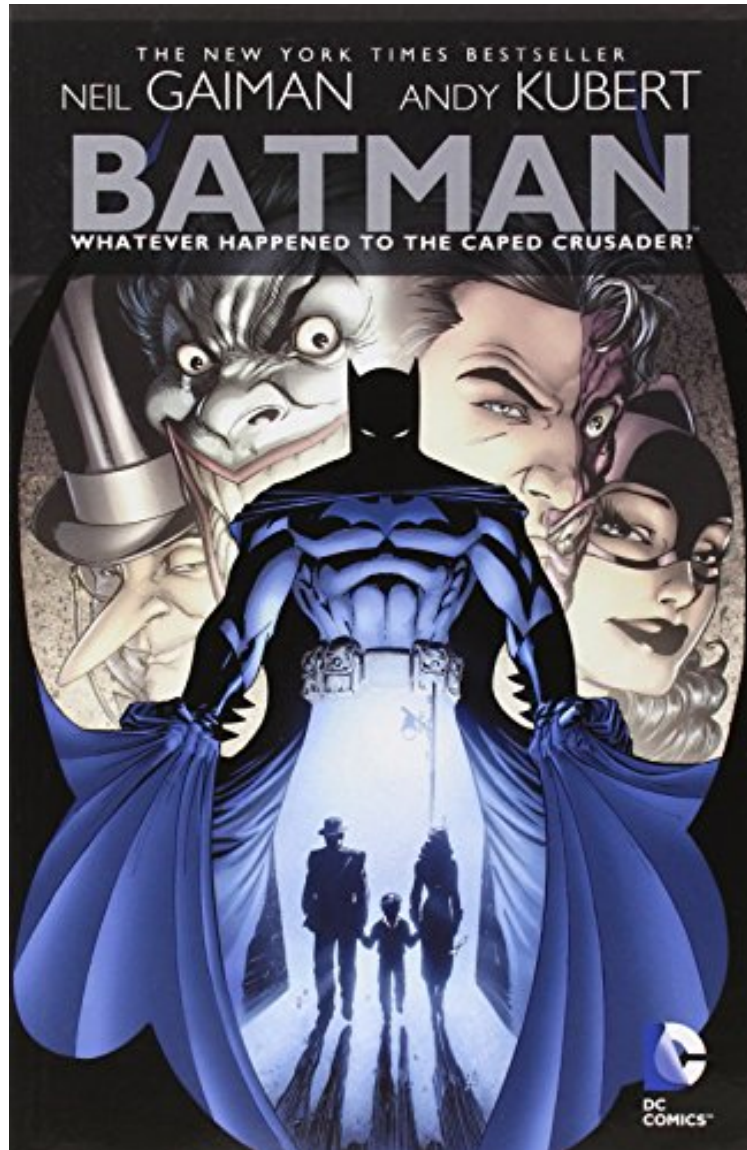


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Batman: Whatever Happened to the Caped Crusader?

Neil Gaiman

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Neil Gaiman : Batman: Whatever Happened to the Caped Crusader? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Batman: Whatever Happened to the Caped Crusader?:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Meta-textual Batman By C. D. Varn While Grant Morrison may have spent all of his run of Batman trying to reconcile all eras of Batman into one character and to expand the character beyond itself, Gaiman wishes to meta-textually explore the various contradictions and version in Batman without reconciling them with themselves. In short, in his death, Batman becomes the his own archetype, and the commentary

on the villains and larger "family" commentary on Batman reveals their archetypes as well. Other stories in the comic even use different periods of art to dominate the frames of the book, and allows different characters to be explored. That said, it does feel a bit rushed, and a bit shatter shot. It also feels a bit like... a Sandman comic. I'd imagine this is actually less frustrating than what Morrison's run on Batman did to character by trying to inhabit all incarnations until the character broke and expanded, just let's Batmen exist in tandem. It is a nice tribute to the comic just before the New 52 re-boot cleaned and simplified this run with a semi-reboot. The various kinds of art are also nice, if sometimes the retro-looks are frustrating with the same kinds of figural inconsistencies of Silver and Bronze age books. The mythologizing may annoy some though and the story does make more sense on the re-read, and definitely after reading Grant Morrison's run (as well as having familiarity with classic as well as Loeb, Miller, and Dixon's eras of Batman).

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. eulogy, history, legend
By Michael Fricker
Imagine a Batman story that looks at the caped crusader from the perspective of every major character around him be them friend or foe. Imagine a Batman story that gives glimpses into every major period, and visual style of the long history of the Batman. Imagine a Batman story that throws out the rule book and tells clever tales that may seem too "behind the scenes" for standard continuity. This is that Batman story and more.
The format of the Batman's funeral is a way into the personal stories the characters tell about the hero. This story is eulogy, history, and speculation, all weaved into the legend that is Batman.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A touching and yet bizarre tribute to the Dark Knight
By Douglas Ratcliff
This story was perfect. I hesitate to say anything as I do not wish to spoil it but when the first issue ended, it was a non-traditional cliffhanger and I wanted to know as soon as possible what was going on and I was in tears by the time I got to the end of the second issue..Also included are a Poison Ivy story as well as a story of reporters from a TV magazine show wanting to do an expose on the costumed villains of Gotham. Neither of these two stories really have Batman in it but they are both very good. There is also a nice comedic bit about what it is like to be a comic book star that does feature Batman.

Best-selling author Neil Gaiman (The Sandman) joins a murderer's row of talented artists in lending his unique touch to the Batman mythos for this Deluxe Edition hardcover! Spotighting the story "Whatever Happened to the Caped Crusader?" from Batman #685 and Detective Comics #852, Gaiman joins artist Andy Kubert and inker Scott Williams for a story that shines a new light on the Batman mythos. Batman: Whatever Happened to the Caped Crusader? also collects Gaiman stories from Secret Origins #36, Secret Origins Special #1, and Batman Black And White #2. This collection is not to be missed!

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Following the death of Bruce Wayne in last year's Batman: R.I.P. arc comes Gaiman's loving eulogy not just to Batman but to the Batman of each era since the character's debut. Bolstered by slick art from Kubert (Batman; Captain America), Gaiman's lyrical chops are in fine form, weaving a surreal wake in which characters from Batman's history take turns relating what he meant to them, and their takes on the Dark Knight and the dangerous microcosm he fought for and eventually purportedly died to protect. Although this is obviously a love letter from one of the comics medium's premiere talents, the volume will appeal more to readers well-versed in Batman's continuity than Gaiman's normal legion of fans As the finished story only amounts to two issues of material, this hardcover is padded out with lesserthough not badly written by any meansstories teaming Gaiman with Simon Bisley, Mark Buckingham, Kevin Nowlan and Bernie Mireault, plus a sketchbook by Kubert. (July) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "...classy art from Andy Kubert and a finale of rare emotional depth make this more than an exercise in fan-boy reference spotting." - The Daily Telegraph "