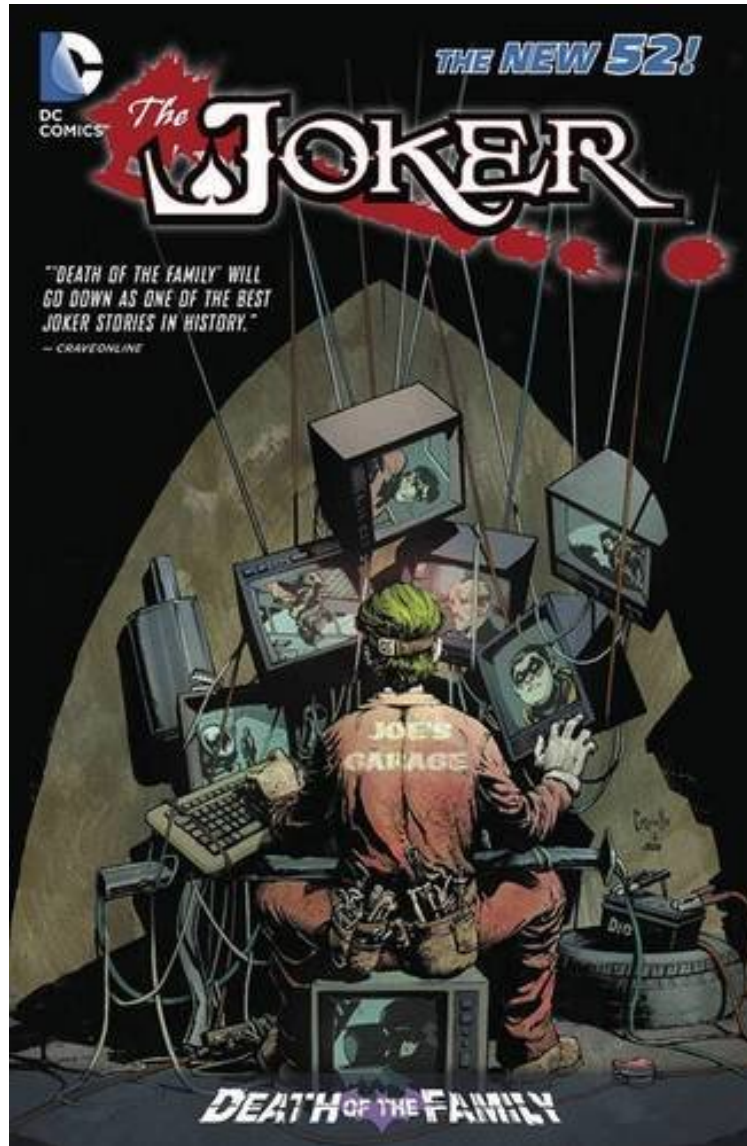


[Read now] The Joker: Death of the Family (The New 52)

The Joker: Death of the Family (The New 52)

Scott Snyder

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Scott Snyder : The Joker: Death of the Family (The New 52) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Joker: Death of the Family (The New 52):

125 of 130 people found the following review helpful. A Decent, But Long and Drawn Out Companion to Snyder's Batman Volume 3By Anarchy in the USSince the beginning of the New 52, Detective Comics #1 reintroduced the Joker to the masses, and then his face got ripped off in the same issue and he up and disappeared from the DC Universe ever since. But one year later, The Joker has made his return in Batman #13 under the penmanship of Scott

Snyder and artist Greg Capullo in *Batman Vol. 3: Death of the Family* (The New 52). So for a 5-issues series on the Joker, Snyder asked the other writers doing Batman related series if they wanted to make some tie-in issues to the arc, similar to the *Batman: Night of the Owls* (The New 52). So aside from *Batwoman* and *Batwing*, every other Bat-title is involved with this event. Does it add anything to the main event? Not really, but it has its merits.

THE JOKER: DEATH OF THE FAMILY collects the following issues in order. The issues listed are complete unless listed otherwise for the purpose of piecing together the Joker related material for this collection, giving some sense of comprehension.

Part One: *Batman Detective Comics* #16-17. Does not include the backup stories and issue #16 is edited.

Part Two: *Catwoman* #13-14.

Part Three: *Harley Quinn Suicide Squad* #14, edited.

Batman #13 backup story.

Batman #13, edited. Only a segment that involves Harley.

Suicide Squad #15, edited.

Part Four: *Batgirl* #13, edited. Ending only.

Batgirl #14-16.

Part Five: *Red Hood and Red Robin the Outlaws* #13, edited. Ending only.

Teen Titans #14, edited. Ending only.

Red Hood the Outlaws #14, edited. Ending only.

Red Hood the Outlaws #15.

Teen Titans #15.

Red Hood the Outlaws #16, edited.

Teen Titans #16, edited.

Part Six: *Nightwing* #14, edited. Ending only.

Nightwing #15 - 16.

Part Seven: *Robin Batman Robin* #15 - 16.

Conclusion *Batman* #17.

Epilogue *Batman Robin* #17.

[For the purpose of the review, I will not grade each issue deeply for the length of the review. I will stick to the event itself.]

THE JOKER: DEATH OF THE FAMILY is a collection of tie-in issues plus Snyder and Capullo's *Batman* #17 and a brief excerpt from the final pages of *Batman* #13. None of the key chapters of the core *Death of the Family* tale are here because the key chapters themselves are Snyder's *Batman*. So if you want the primary story, read *Batman* volume 3 instead. It is the prime and important part of the entire DOTF story. In fact, the actual starting point for the event is in Snyder's *Batman* #13 and #14 (you have to wait until *Batman* volume 3 comes out in two weeks to know that though). So basically, *The Joker: DOTF* is a collection that serves more as supplemental material for readers who already own *Batman*, Vol. 3 than an interesting, well-orchestrated tale spanning multiple titles. None the less, what is collected here is quite impressive from DC as they did with their *Night of the Owls* and *Green Lanterns Rise of the Third Army* books being a great deal of stories in hardcover and at a decent price is still startling to see and gives people a lot of bang for their buck. So again, to be clear: Snyder's issues are all in volume 3, so this book is for those who want to expand the event without following the other Bat-families. A good deal of these issues will be in the various Bat-family volume 3's, especially *Teen Titans*, *Red Hood*, and *Batman Robin*. If you are following those series, you are better off passing on this book and just getting those series with *Batman* volume 3.

Without giving too much away, I'll give you some idea of the stories presented. Joker goes after each Bat-family character in some shape or form to attack each member mentality and/or physically. *Batgirl* and *Nightwing* are some of the best stories and examples of the crossover. *Batgirl* because of Barbara's history with losing her legs (from the *Killing Joke*) and actually doing a great job showing her hatred of Joker, while maintaining a cool head of the situation. *Nightwing* gets assaulted through personal lose of friends and family that is reasonably well done. *Damien* and *Jason Todd/Tim Drake* are also good stories as well. *Damien* has no idea what to think of Joker other than being a clown, but see's firsthand why he really is one of *Batman's* greatest foes with some great and horrific artwork. And the *Red Hood/Teen Titans* crossover is basically both groups trying to calm Gotham down which I didn't care too much over, but it's *Todd* and *Drake* working together and bonding in a brotherly-like way is the highlight here. While we get to see the dichotomy of *Harley Quinn* to *Joker's* new and radical return, but it feels a bit too much. I didn't mind it, but I don't quite feel like it did enough to tie in to the event. While *Detective Comics* deals with *Batman* taking on a *Joker* fan group during the *Clown Princes* return in the city that was mediocre to me. And the *Catwoman* issues deal with *Joker* messing with *Catwoman* because of her past with *Batman*. This is the weakest issue because it didn't do anything, it was confusing, and it's too wild. So in terms of issues, two of the books were note worthy, two were good, and three felt lacking. As for the packaging itself, I do have to say I'm happy DC marketed this book better than *Night of the Owls*. By putting *Joker* instead of *Batman* as main title, it helps diverge the two, as well as not putting any writers/artist on the front or spine (again, like *Night of the Owls* did by putting *Scott Snyder* and *Greg Capullo* clear as day on the front and spine for people to get confused). So that was a better job on DC's part.

Now the bad. I'm giving this book a 3 star rating for the following reasons. Beyond the usual banter of some tie-ins being a bit lackluster and questionable why they are here and how they are affiliated with this event. Again, *Catwoman* and *Detective Comics* (even maybe *Harley*) might not have needed to be included for this event because they do no add much. Those three series do much better on their own. *Batman* #13 and #14 setup the event (again, they're in *Batman* volume 3), so you have to wait two weeks to understand some of the setup in this book. (Sidenote: DC was supposed to be release *Batman* volume 3 before *Joker:DOTF* by two weeks so this wouldn't happen, but it did and we now have to wait two more weeks until then).

The big factor to me why the score is 3 stars is the repetitive nature of *Joker* and way too fanatical way of *Joker* dealing with every Bat-member at one time. The *Night of the Owls* event at least was timed out throughout the night with each member getting their own Talon warrior, as well as each writer making their own Talons different from one another. Here, *Joker* personally takes on each member. I'm sorry, but that is just too far fetch to believe that *Joker* can do that or any other super villain be at more than one place at a time. It makes it seem hokey. And because *Joker* is in every series, you might get bored of him being here. He pops in and monologues his characters to death. It takes the thrill of seeing Mr. J on screen, basically harming *Joker* as a threat

and pleasure to see. And finally, do not read Batman #17 or Batman Robin #17: epilogue until you've read Batman volume 3. REPEAT: DO NOT READ BATMAN #17 AND BATMAN ROBIN #17 AT THE VERY END. They both give away the ending, so wait a few weeks. And for the people buying Batgirl volume 3, that too has Batman #17 in it, so wait it out. So, THE JOKER: DEATH OF THE FAMILY is a nice companion book to Scott Snyder's Batman volume 3, once it comes out and if you choose to buy it to get the whole event, which is not necessary. It has some good stories, great art, and a lot of material in hardcover for the price...but the scattered stories, repetitive nature of Joker, and far fetched idea of Joker taking on every Bat-member is hard to swallow. If you are getting Batman, Vol. 3: Death of the Family and enjoy it and want to expand upon it, or if you're a completionist and desperately want every chapter good or bad then you can give this book a shot. If you read Batman volume 3 and already reading the other Bat-titles, then skip this book altogether and get those series in their own trades when they come out. Or get Batman volume 3 and not get this book. It is up to you what you want to do with your decision.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Symbolism By Upcoming author Hopefully my title doesn't give too much away to the story! But I started reading this because I'm following the "Teen Titans" and even before I bought volume 3 for them I knew that I wanted to read this whole storyline in its entirety. And I'm so glad I did! At first I thought Batman was a little played out after Nolan's Trilogy; I loved the movies, just wanted to take a break from Batman before I got into the New 52, but after reading this whole crossover I want to know what happened before and after to Batman, Batman and Robin, Nightwing, Batgirl, Red Hood and the Outlaws and how it's going to effect Red Robbins leadership of the Teen Titans. Without going too far into the story Joker spends his time tearing each of the Bat-Family with the idea that they have made Batman weak and wanting to have him all for himself. If I was to give advice make sure you read this with an open mind because the Death Of the Family isn't what you're going to expect and it will make you wonder at the end, did The Joker win...or did he just screw with all of our minds... Good luck! =D

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. MUST READ!!! By James G One of the best books of the New 52. After Court Of Owls, I didn't know where they would take Batman but let me tell you, they topped it with Death of the Family. Joker is more twisted than ever, I found myself constantly asking myself if it was maybe someone else pretending to be the Joker because of the things he does being so insane but in the end it all makes sense. Definitely a must read, even more so than Court of Owls which I LOVED!

After having his face sliced off one year ago, The Joker makes his horrifying return in this new epic that features Batman's entire network of partners in crimefighting, including Batgirl, Catwoman, Nightwing, Robin, the Teen Titans and more. While The Joker threatens the very existence of Gotham City, these heroes --and villains-- must find a way to survive. CATWOMAN 13-14, BATGIRL 13-16, SUICIDE SQUAD 14-15, BATMAN AND ROBIN 15-16, NIGHTWING 15-16, DETECTIVE COMICS 15-16, RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS 15-16 and TEEN TITANS 15-16.

About the Author Scott Snyder is the bestselling and award-winning writer of Batman, American Vampire and Swamp Thing as well as the short story collection Voodoo Heart. He teaches writing at Sarah Lawrence College, NYU and Columbia University. He lives on Long Island with his wife, Jeanie, and his sons Jack and Emmett. He is a dedicated and un-ironic fan of Elvis Presley. Kyle Higgins is a New York Times Best Selling writer whose work includes BATMAN: GATES OF GOTHAM, Supreme Power, and DEATHSTROKE. After spending two years at the University of Iowa, Kyle transferred to Chapman University where he co-wrote and directed a superhero noir titled The League, about the 1960's superhero labor union of Chicago. The film opened doors at Marvel Comics, where Kyle co-wrote his first two books with Alec Siegel (Captain America Theater Of War: Prisoners Of Duty, and Avengers Origins: The Vision). Kyle is also a co-writer of The Nightrunner (with David Hine), whose story was featured on The Daily Show with John Stewart. At present, Kyle is helming NIGHTWING as part of DC's The New 52.