



## Batman: Detective Comics, Vol. 1: Rise of the Batmen

*James Tynion IV (Writer) , Eddy Barrows (Artist) , Alvaro Martinez (Penciler) , Raúl Fernandez (Inker) , Brad Anderson (Colourist) , Marilyn Patrizio (Letterer)*

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A part of *DC Universe: Rebirth!*

*Detective Comics* is back! Follow the adventures of Batman, the world's greatest...teacher?!

The Dark Knight and series co-star Batwoman team up to take new protégés Red Robin, Spoiler and the villainous Clayface under their leathery wings! The only problem is, neither new super-instructor knows exactly what they're in for as the attempt to train these would-be heroes before a mysterious army takes Gotham for themselves.

From the new creative team of writer James Tynion (*Batman/TMNT*) and artist Eddy Barrows (*Martian Manhunter*), *Detective Comics* brings back the characters you know and love and thrusts them into dangerous, new adventures!

**Collecting:** *Detective Comics* 934-940

### Batman: Detective Comics, Vol. 1: Rise of the Batmen Details

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Author : James Tynion IV (Writer) , Eddy Barrows (Artist) , Alvaro Martinez (Penciler) , Raúl Fernandez (Inker) , Brad Anderson (Colourist) , Marilyn Patrizio (Letterer)

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**Download and Read Free Online Batman: Detective Comics, Vol. 1: Rise of the Batmen** James Tynion IV (Writer) , Eddy Barrows (Artist) , Alvaro Martinez (Penciler) , Raúl Fernandez (Inker) , Brad Anderson (Colourist) , Marilyn Patrizio (Letterer)

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## From Reader Review Batman: Detective Comics, Vol. 1: Rise of the Batmen for online ebook

### Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

Oh man, this one's great.

James Tynion IV has danced around the Batman corner of the DC Universe for a while now, co-writing some stuff with Scott Snyder like the excellent Batman/Batman & Robin Eternal maxiseries, as well as his own Talon series (not to mention all of the indie stuff he does), and now, thanks to Rebirth, he gets to step into the limelight properly and head up Detective Comics.

Whereas Batman is directly focused on Bruce himself, Tec is instead an ensemble piece, with Batman and Batwoman training a team of younger, more inexperienced heroes including Tim Drake, Spoiler, Cassandra Cain, and a reformed Clayface. They unite to battle the Colony, a paramilitary organization out to destroy Batman once and for all.

The characterization in this arc is absolutely fantastic, each character getting time to shine among the madness that's going on, and Tynion IV plays them off of each other spectacularly well. This is the Bat-book he was born to write, and you can tell he's enjoying it as much as we are.

Eddy Barrows and Alvaro Martinez tag team the artwork, with some drop dead gorgeous splash pages and double page spreads along the way, as well as a wonderful painterly style that they drop into for introspective moments where appropriate. Adriano Lucas' colours add to the evocative atmosphere, especially in the final issue where a hero seemingly falls.

If you're only reading one Batman book out of Rebirth, I would highly suggest you make Detective Comics the one you pick.

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### Donovan says

Mixed feelings, but better than Batman.

What I like about James Tynion IV's Detective Comics is that it's layered. King's Batman is one dimensional, whereas here there's nuance, mystery, and fun. That said, it's not as good as it should be.

I'm not a big "team up" fan. Doesn't do much for me. And this team isn't my favorite. I appreciate Batwoman and the depth and sentimentality Tynion brings to her character. But she's sort of clichéd. And the others? Meh. Even Red Robin, whom I usually like, is kinda shallow and arrogant. We get it, Tim, you're a genius. But I need more Batman in my Batman comic.

The plot isn't terribly new either. It's a mix of elements from Superman Unchained, Batman Inc., and Batman: Superheavy. In Superman Unchained, General Lane creates an anti-Superman army to destroy Superman while trying to win over Lois. Here, General Lane Kane creates "something" based on Batman to

destroy "something else," while trying to win over Kate. General Kane's project is based upon Batman Inc. and especially Superheavy. And the double cross isn't new either. Until General Kane was formally revealed I was a little excited, although I suspected, but once revealed the suspense just flooded out of the story.

A lackluster cast and unsurprising story aside, I still enjoyed it somewhat. The characters aren't bad, they're just one dimensional and people I don't care about. But their banter and teamwork drive the book, especially when combined with a gritty Batman, yet to be revealed mystery, and surprising artwork which is rich and dynamic.

If you're expecting this to be the Rebirth title to turn things around for you, eh, not sure it will. But maybe? It's readable and fun if you're bored. But there's better stuff out there.

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## **Lashaan Balasingam (Bookidote) says**

**You can find my review on my blog by clicking here.**

James Tynion IV did a great job in making this first volume in his Rebirth series worthwhile. While Rise of the Batmen wasn't the most brilliant and never-before-seen story, it still managed to deliver something that made some sense and shows a creative team that wisely utilizes the quicker release of these shorter Rebirth comic issues. Containing issues #934 to #940, this volume sets things clear regarding its direction. It is far from being focused on just Batman, it is the story of a whole new Batman family while putting the spotlight on a specific character for each volume. I felt like this first volume was essentially more focused on Batwoman by relaying a sort-of origin story for the character. In fact, the story explored her character a lot more and solidified her position in the squad. Having plenty of occasions to shine, her character is set as the new leader to a group of individuals that will trained under her wings in order to face an enemy that they have yet to uncover.

What Tynion IV does brilliantly in this first volume is the characters. I felt like he was able to give each of them a personality and assure a certain consistency to them as well. Red Robin, for example, was probably the second character who had the most focus and his persona was perfect. He felt genuine and showcased his particular set of skills quite well. While he could easily get on your nerves with the constant focus on his ingenuity, his character still felt pretty well molded and thoroughly assessed. What I do see from James Tynion IV is that he might have a little difficulty in not overdoing certain characters. Compared to other writers for Batman or Detective Comics, this writer enjoys putting more words than the usual comic would contain. This gives us more opportunities to comprehend characters and to read more into their thoughts and way of life, but there's always this line that he sometimes goes over and ends up forcing too much out of certain characters when it could have easily been avoided.

Although this first volume in the Rebirth era of Detective Comics gives us an interesting story to kick things off, the squad isn't the most compelling and attractive set of heroes you could imagine. I was honestly surprised by the new protégés who were recruited since it was hard to imagine what kind of chemistry they could actually build throughout the series. Composed of Batwoman, Spoiler, Red Robin, Orphan and Clayface, one is bound to be surprised by the things that are to come regarding these fellow Gothamites. In fact, Clayface was used as comic relief, which was a very curious and fun decision, but still turned out pretty good. The first volume also introduces us to a whole new villain. This surprise villain however doesn't deliver the punch as strongly and effortlessly as you'd imagine. His introduction and development was carried out in a very "info-dump" manner, by simply taking a moment out of everyone's time to lay out his motives and plans. It honestly felt like someone asked for a time-out so that everything we needed to know about this person was plainly presented. This took away a lot of the climatic effect that the revelation

could've had. Then again, his motives weren't the most mind-boggling either.

The artwork remains a forte in this volume. There's two different styles that are used, and they're both great. One is a lot more sharp and colorful, while the other is more faded with a focus on gradations (looks more like it was painted). I also like the fact that they used full-two-page spreads to have more space to work with. It was interesting and more engaging than the usual panel configuration, page by page. It also gave way to more innovative ideas in how to deliver the story at hand. One of the downside in the art department is the use of the Arkham Knight suit design for the villain's army. That was a little sad and unoriginal, but I have the feeling that they wanted to reuse it, in another context, in order to reintegrate the design in a more canon storyline. After all, the whole Arkham Knight character is almost an Elseworld character that was brought to life in the Arkham video games.

The overall volume was a curious and fun adventure. It's not spectacular, but it had the potential to get there. It's definitely enjoyable if you give it a chance. The ending also contains a massive tragedy that will have its impacts transcend onto the next story arcs. It also seems to connect with what happened in DC Universe: Rebirth #1 by Geoff Johns. This was a pretty cool touch, since it leaves things in a huge mystery and seems to indicate that there's something much bigger that is going on in the background. I'm really curious how the projected major event will unfold and how it will integrate the other DC Rebirth titles. In the end, Batman Detective Comics (Volume 1) Rise of the Batmen remains a fun volume that simply shows that it has potential and has plenty of avenues that can be contemplated for future story arcs. Hopefully James Tynion IV and his squad of artists will find their identity throughout the Rebirth era and offer a story that will come down as a classic some day.

Yours truly,

Lashaan | Blogger and Book Reviewer  
Official blog: <http://bookidote.wordpress.com>

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James Tynion IV did a great job in making this Rebirth series worthwhile. While Rise of the Batmen wasn't the most brilliant and never-before-seen story, it still managed to deliver something that made some sense. Essentially, even if the storyarc regroups a gang together as a Batman Family, I felt like this was more of a Batwoman origin'esque story. The story explored her character a lot more, making sure to link to Batman, and gave her plenty of occasions to shine.

What Tynion does brilliantly in this first volume is the characters. I felt like he was able to give each of them a personality and assure a certain consistency too. Red Robin, for example, was probably the second character who had the most focus and his persona was perfect. He felt genuine and showcased his particular set of skills quite well.

The villain isn't a big surprise, although it was meant to be. His presentation and development was carried out in a very "info-dump" way by simply taking a moment out of everyone's time to lay out his motives and plans. This really took away a lot of the climatic effect he could've had. Then again, his motives weren't the most mind-boggling too.

The artwork remains a forte in this volume. There's two different styles that are used, and they're both great. One is a lot more sharp and colorful, while the other is more faded with gradations (looks more like it was painted). I also like the fact that they use 2 wholes pages as one to have more space to work with. That was interesting and more engaging than the usual page by page panels. Might be worth mentioning that they didn't think hard to come up with an Arkham Knight'ish Batmen suitdesign... That's a little sad and unoriginal...

Oh, and Clayface as comic relief was a curious and fun decision. In fact, the overall volume was as a curious and fun adventure. It's not spectacular, but it had the potential to get there. It's definitely enjoyable if you give it a chance.

P.S. Full review to come.

Yours truly,

Lashaan | Blogger and Book Reviewer  
Official blog: <http://bookidote.wordpress.com>

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### **Sean Gibson says**

In the misleadingly titled "Rise of the Batmen" (misleading because two of the Batmen are, in fact, women, suggesting that perhaps it should have been "Rise of the Batpeople"), Batman and some young friends bake gingerbread men (or is that people?) and compare notes on the best grocery stores in Gotham.

No, I'm totally kidding. They actually bake gingerbread animals.

(On balance, this is fine; nothing more, nothing less. Not sure I'll be plunging any deeper into the series absent someone telling me it gets demonstrably more compelling.)

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### **Jedi JC Daquis says**

Rise of the Batman is definitely better than the first arc of DC Rebirth Batman (I Am Gotham). It is a fresh take on the series that seamlessly puts together a band of characters from the Batman mythos against a more technologically advanced army of "Batmen". It is part sleuthing, part drama and all action.

Yes it is good. But is it also groundbreaking? No. Will it be remembered? Hmmm for some elements of it, yeah for a while.

This first arc of Detective Comics (DetCom) kicks off the DC Rebirth era, it reverts to the original numbering (tschüss New52!). I am definitely into that because after all, DC is going back to its roots and that means going back to the original runs, at least for Detective and Action Comics.

Thankfully, Batwoman is given the spotlight here, with a proper and grounded introduction to Kate Kane and her relationship with his cousin Bruce. Other characters are given screen time as well. You have Tim Drake, and I commend Tynion IV for handling him pretty good. Tim here is the good ol' Tim that we have read before - a geeky genius fellow with an upbeat attitude. There's also Orphan, the Spoiler and Clayface (yes, you read it right). And Clayface here is the comic relief of the group. Basil Karlo is not evil at heart and Clayface is such an adorable monster.

Like I said before, this arc is not that groundbreaking. In fact, it is a set up for the next arc which is a crossover (this early eh?), the Monster Men.

Sure Rise of the Batmen is helluva fun to read. It is a great collectible piece since this run goes back to the original DetCom numbering yet not that deep enough to be talked about in nerdy discourse.

## Sam Quixote says

Oh Rebirth, Rebirth, Rebirth, why art thou so pants? Fie my disappointment, Detective Comics dost verily sucketh! I don't know why I'm talking this way. Maybe Rebirth's broken me brain? I'll stop now. Verily.

Detective Comics Rebirth takes the title back to its original issue numbering, which is pure fan service to the NEEEEERRRRRRDDSSSS!!!! who care about that sort of thing, as well as further underlining the New 52's death. The relaunched title does veer away from tradition though in turning Detective Comics from a less superhero-y Batman solo book with an emphasis on sleuthing into a Bat-family team book where Batman is an incidental background character. It's not a change for the better.

Motivation and set-up are poorly written throughout. Batman wants to unite the various Gotham vigilantes into a group – why and why now? And what aren't they achieving acting alone that they could be achieving as a group? They seem to be a pretty effective crime-fighting force operating independently. There's no strong case made for the benefit of a team.

Batman's group is: Batwoman (Kate Kane, Bruce's cousin) as the de facto leader, Red Robin (Tim Drake aka Robin #3 – while he's ditched the Red Robin outfit and gone back to his classic Robin threads, he's holding onto the name), Spoiler (Stephanie Brown aka Robin #4), Orphan (Cassandra Cain), and Clayface. Huh. Why Clayface? No idea. Just a totally random, bizarre inclusion that makes no sense. And when did Tim and Stephanie start dating?!

I'ma have to go into spoiler territory now (and I don't mean Stephanie)!

(view spoiler)

Tynion is a protégé of Scott Snyder's who's adopted some of Snyder's worst traits like overwriting – the book is full of chatter, most of it worthless and dull - and yet with the abundance of writing the story remains underdeveloped; the sign of a weak writer.

Martian Manhunter artist Eddy Barrows continues to produce great art – this book is very good-looking with strong colours, though I hated Batman's new cape which in some scenes looks feathered for some reason? Bats don't have feathers! Unless it was webs, but again, what do webs have to do with bats!?

Batwoman is essentially the main character so if you're a big fan of Kate's you might enjoy this more, but unfortunately I found the newly relaunched Detective Comics to be underwhelming. There were just too many missteps - it lacks a strong villain and setup and could really use more focus on the story it wanted to tell. Ho hum, another low quality volume – the Rebirth standard it seems! I'm baffled as to what readers are responding to with this line.

## Roxanne says

Another double crossing plot device, ya don't say?

I'm done with the double crossing, enough! Seriously if you're reading any of these rebirth volumes and you see a family member or close friend show up, it's them, they did it! There's no mystery and it's now in every rebirth volume, what is going on?

Overall i didn't like this one at all, thought the story was boring, the artwork is pretty good and it carries the story it's about the only decent thing about this volume. It ends on a cliffhanger and to be honest i'm not sure whether anyone gives a shit what happens, but saying that the next issue was better than this volume, so maybe it will pick up but this volume is a bit of a stinker.

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## James DeSantis says

This is the best Batman family title right now.

So Detective comics focuses on the Bat family. The highlights probably being Bat-women and Red Robin. Someone is hunting them, Batman included, and Bruce thinks it's time to create a team. A badass fighting team that includes himself, Red Robin, Batwomen, two old Batgirls (Spoiler/Orphan) and also our fave muddy face pal, clay face! It's a odd team of sorts but gives us some really entertaining dialog and fight scenes.

I also love the ending (Issue 940) as it hits all the right emotions without trying to feel like it's "playing" you. It serves as a great finish to the first arc to draw me in.

If you like the Batfamily this is a no brainer. Go grab this and enjoy! 4/5

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## Rory Wilding says

The last time I got hooked into *Detective Comics* was from reading *The Black Mirror* written by Scott Snyder, who would go on to work on the main *Batman* title with artist Greg Capullo and currently on *All-Star Batman*. Having ignored the entirety of the title throughout The New 52, I took an interest with the biweekly *Detective Comics* for DC's Rebirth initiative, which not only restores the classic numbering with issue #934, it is being written by James Tynion IV known for his work on the *Batman* franchise with his friend/collaborator Snyder.

When an elite fighting force mimicking the Dark Knight's tech is targeting Gotham's vigilantes, Batman teams up with his cousin Kate Kane AKA Batwoman to organise an army against this new threat, amongst them Tim Drake AKA Red Robin, Stephanie Brown AKA Spoiler, Cassandra Cain AKA Orphan and even reformed criminal Basil Karlo AKA Clayface.

Despite the title and even at one point the eponymous bat being referred to as the World's Greatest Detective, this comic is less about displaying Batman's skills as a detective and more about being part of a family. Although Batman is a prominent figure throughout this first arc of him setting up this vigilante army to even show his vulnerability during sticky situations, it is the new team dynamic that gave the book its heart, especially through Bruce's relationship with her cousin, who herself has been a loner and is now a

leader towards this young generation of heroes.

Although characters such as Tim Drake, Stephanie Brown and Cassandra Cain have been around for nearly three decades, this youthful dynamic is still refreshing from the former two's romance to the latter whose silent ninja persona pretty much steals the show. As for the recruitment of Clayface, Tynion is trying to add sympathy points to a character who, despite his tragic backstory, has always embraced his monstrous side. Very much the "Groot" of the team with moments of humour, I wish for more exploration towards the heroes' mistrust towards their clay-faced partner.

With Batwoman as the chief protagonist alongside her cousin, the plot is geared towards her motivations and how it evokes her past, including a wonderful scene in #939 with a young Kate bonding with Bruce during his parents' funeral. No doubt Tynion is learning from his betters by acknowledging what came before such as Scott Snyder's *Zero Year* arc and even the plot evokes Grant Morrison's *Batman Incorporated*, along with villains who look a lot like the Arkham Knight from the Rocksteady video games.

With its ensemble cast of heroes taking down of an army of militarised Batmen, expect a lot of action and it is a credit to the art team to keep it fresh and exciting. For most of the issues from this volume, Eddy Barrows' art is just gorgeous with pages displaying Batman and Batwoman interact in a snowy Gotham at night. Other standout pages feature a lonely Clayface watching his former self at a cinema and an amazing action sequence showing why Tim Drake is a hero and for many readers, their Robin.

Having read the first volumes of Tom King's *Batman* and James Tynion IV's *Detective Comics*, I found the latter to be a more enjoyable read as it is an action-packed first arc with great twists and turns whilst the Bat-family getting to shine. Ending with the stunningly tragic cliffhanger, I'm really excited to see where *Detective* will go.

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## Chad says

Hmm, I guess Detective Comics has basically become the Outsiders now, just with Bat vigilantes. Batman discovers someone is watching Batwoman, Red Robin, Spoiler, Orphan, and Clayface and decides to turn them into a team to protect themselves. Yeah, a bit of a flimsy premise, but just get past it, because the book is good. Eddy Burrows and Alvaro Martinez provide fantastic artwork. I love how dynamic it is and we constantly see Bat vigilantes zipping and tumbling through the Gotham skyline.

(view spoiler)

My favorite moment in the book was when Spoiler makes fun of Red Robin's old costume. That Brett Booth designed costume was ridiculous, with actual bird wings as the cape.

Received an advance copy from NetGalley and DC in exchange for an honest review.

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## Chris says

Is Rise of the Batmen somewhat flawed?

Yes.

Did I have such a good time reading it that I couldn't care less?

Hell yes!

I enjoyed so much about the first Rebirth volume of Detective Comics that i've found myself perusing it again and again. I loved James Tynion IV's work on Talon and thought he wrote the best issues of Batman Eternal, so I had high hopes for this one and he exceeded my expectations.

By far my favourite thing about the book is that, for the first time since Williams and Blackman left her solo series, Batwoman is written with care and respect again. She's treated as a peer alongside Batman and their exchanges throughout this volume were superb.

In fact, the interactions between this new team are a constant highlight. Despite the varied cast the book is an accessible jumping-on point and the opening issues contain several great moments for older readers, too. Two of my favourite parts were seeing Clayface turn over a new leaf, hopefully putting an end to those one-note villain stories of his, along with Tim Drake's depiction as a truly endearing hero (view spoiler).

Before even getting to the great character moments though, the artwork leaps out from the very first page. Eddy Barrows and Eber Ferreira have always been a strong art team, but colourist Adriano Lucas takes their work to new heights. The colour tone, lighting and the slightly faded watercolour effect that occasionally comes into play make their issues an absolute delight. While their work isn't quite on the same level, Alvaro Martinez, Raul Fernandez and Brad Anderson impress with their panel layouts, level of detail and overall consistency. Also of note is the set of striking variant covers by Rafael Albuquerque.

The story almost goes overboard at times, but there's no denying that Rise of the Batmen is an incredibly fun read. The art team are fantastic and if Tynion can tighten up the plotting a little more, then future volumes should be superb. I'm certainly looking forward to the next one. Highly recommended.

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## **Ryan Stewart says**

Re-read 2018: Still really enjoy this. I think Tynion does a really nice job with Batman and his supporting cast. Brings it to life with good banter and nice character moments, all wrapped in a solid story.

2016: I'm very surprised by this. A lot of people have been raving about how strong the start to Rebirth has been across DC and, I have to say, this was a really good example of it. Does it use a ton of plot devices we've seen over and over again? Yes. Does it always make sense? No. Is it a little ridiculous and sometimes obvious? Definitely. But this is FUN and that matters a lot when enjoying a book. This really does a quality job of focusing in on the Bat Family even more than the Dark Knight himself: Tim Drake is cool. Spoiler is not bad. Orphan steals the show. Batwoman is layered. Clayface... he's a good example of the 'fun' I'm referencing.

James Tynion IV has been good on the Bat books for some time now and this is another quality effort from him. There is a lot to be said for consistency. He reminds me a lot of writers like Alan Grant and Greg Rucka, who were always super solid over the years on the Bat titles.

Anyway, I know this isn't going to be for everyone, but personally I enjoyed it and am intrigued to see where it's headed.

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## Scott S. says

After four months my library *finally* stocked a copy of *Vol. 1: Rise of the Batmen* . . . after I had already read - and was occasionally confused by - volumes 2 through 4.

I would've previously said 4 was the best of the bunch (hey, it features Zatanna!) but now I'd say Vol. 1 probably clinches the top spot. Batman assembles an eclectic vigilante team and they go forth to train and then do battle with an invading Dark Knight-like army of super-troops. Lots of action, some necessary familial flashbacks, and even a few heart-wrenching scenes at the end. Good stuff from DC's *Rebirth* line.

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## Chelsea says

My one and only complaint about this beautiful, fantastic, kick ass trade is that they didn't give us the fight scene where Cass takes down a room of Batmen. That kinda bummed me out but the rest of this was so well done that I give it a pass.

The premise of this book is so freaking awesome! Batman notices drones around Gotham and decides to put a team together. He gathers Batwoman to help him lead (and for other reasons) and recruits the people he knows are good but need more training to work on their own. Tim, Cassandra, Steph and Clay Face (say what???). I adore Tim, Cass and Steph but Clay Face kinda threw me off at first. Somehow, James Tynion IV makes it work!

This one of the few team books outside of *Birds of Prey* that I've really gotten excited about! The dynamics are just starting out and while there isn't a ton of them interacting outside of the field, I can totally see how they work. The third act of this arc really shows that they all understand what each other's strengths are. Tim's the brain, Cass is the muscle, Steph is heart and Clay Face is the even bigger, more versatile muscle. I really, *really* loved that Tynion found a way to make their strengths weaknesses earlier on!

There were so many quirks in this book and I loved every one of them! The call back to Cass being interested in ballet! The Dark Knight Returns cover on Ulysses' wall and the homage later on. Steph reading Superman! These were all so cute!

I love that they tell us Kate and Bruce will be partners and they actually feel like partners. Of course Bruce is being dishonest and that kind of leads to the big confrontation in the book but Tim defers to Kate as a leader. She's earned that and I really loved seeing her lead this team. Batwoman is a kick ass character and I can't wait to read more about her.

The fight scenes here are great! I only wish we got more of them! Even so, several scenes seem so perfect for a film adaptation. When will DC give me a live action Cassandra Cain?

The crux of this book is the relationship between Kate and her father. It's such a complex relationship in which I feel certain that he loves his daughter and that's warring with his principles. He truly believes he's doing the right thing and while I disagree, there's enough of him that you understand why he feels that way. Here is a plot about predictive justice and casualties that actually makes sense. I felt so sorry for Kate in this book.

The ending is killer. I was spoiled to it a long time ago when the issue first came out because so many fans were upset about it. Even knowing it was coming, it hurt to see. I won't spoil it but I'll just say, that shout out to the rest of the batfam really got to me.

I can't wait for the next volume! Literally. I may have to buy the single issues on this one because I need to know what happens next!

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## Artemy says

### Update after a 2018 re-read:

Damn, this one's actually really good! I'm upgrading my rating from three to four solid stars, and I can safely say now, almost two years after I first read it, that I was wrong about there being too many characters. I learned much more about the DC universe and its characters since then, so that helped, but just in general I feel like Tynion is actually juggling everybody really well in this volume. Yeah, the plot is still over the top at times, going unnecessarily too far in a few places, and the overwritten parts are still kinda annoying, but reading this as a collection all in one go definitely helps with the perception. Batwoman is a badass and an absolute star of the show here, and this is the best comic about her I've read so far. Some of Scott Snyder's early Batman writing goodness definitely rubbed off on Tynion IV, and the artwork is just astonishingly good when you see it printed on paper instead of the tablet's screen. Looking forward to Volume 2 whenever that is released here in Russia!

P.S.: I also fell in love with Tom King's Batman and Greg Rucka's Wonder Woman Rebirth books since then, so there's that — and of the three, Detective is now probably the one I like the least, but it's still damn good comics.

P.P.S.: Does anybody else super-cringe when they re-read their old reviews?

### Original 2016 review, 3 stars:

Detective Comics is, so far, the only DC Rebirth title that I have more or less enjoyed. Which is pretty sad — all the other Rebirth stuff I tried (and I tried at least an issue of most major titles) was garbage. Way to go, DC!

That is not to say that Detective is without its faults — there are plenty.

First and foremost, the plot is kinda ridiculous. Without spoiling anything, I will say that the motivation and the actions of the bad guys in this book are unbelievably stupid. I can't even understand what they were going for there. And in general, the first half of the book was boring and too talky for no good reason.

Second, it's the characters. We've got a lot of people in this book: our main stars Batman and Batwoman, Tim Drake the Red Robin — those are the guys I know, and the book is mostly focused on them. But then there are a bunch of people who I've never heard of, like Spoiler, Orphan and Clayface. They really don't do much, and we don't get a lot of background on them, so I am not sure why they are even there, and why would Bats want to teach them anything. It really wouldn't change much if the book was just about the three main characters.

There are some good parts to this volume, though. I liked the relationship between Kate Kane (Batwoman) and her father, especially the flashbacks to when Batman's parents were killed and how it affected the Kane family — it was a fresh perspective on the events that we've seen so many times.

I also liked the last couple of issues, and the way the big twist was handled, even though it was kinda predictable and I totally saw it coming. The second half of the book was generally much stronger than the

first, there was more action, more plot development, the book actually stopped being a slog and finally got my attention.

The artwork is another strong point of this volume. It's your standard DC house style with clean sharp lines, but once in a while there would be a beautiful painted panel or two in every issue. And the colouring is just gorgeous.

Overall, again, this is the best DC Rebirth title I've read so far, but it is still only OK. I hope James Tynion will refine his style and become much better at writing this book, though. Meanwhile, I would love to hear any recs about what else is worth reading over at DC nowadays. They disappoint me over and over again, but I am still willing to give them a chance.

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