



## Nightwing, Vol. 1: Better Than Batman

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A part of *DC Universe: Rebirth!*

Nightwing is back...in blue!

He's been Robin, he's been a super spy, a ghost. Now, Dick Grayson finds himself back in Gotham City fighting to reclaim the life that was taken from him. But when a new evil threatens those closest to Dick, as Nightwing he must once again choose whether or not to tear himself away from his home in order to combat this dark force.

Everything Dick thought he knew about being Nightwing will be brought to bear, and his relationship to his former mentor Batman will be put to the test in *Nightwing: Volume 1, Better Than Batman!* written by Tim Seeley (*Grayson*) with art by Yanick Paquette (*Swamp Thing, Batman/Superman*) and rising star Javier Fernández (*Red Hood/Arsenal*).

**Collecting:** *Nightwing* 1-4, 7-8, Rebirth

## Nightwing, Vol. 1: Better Than Batman Details

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Author : Tim Seeley (Writer) , Yanick Paquette (Artist) , Javier Fernández (Artist) , Chris Sotomayor (Colourist) , Carlos M. Mangual (Letterer)

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## From Reader Review Nightwing, Vol. 1: Better Than Batman for online ebook

### Steve says

I received this from Edelweiss and DC Comics in exchange for an honest review.

Wow, so bad. No clear plot that I can see or follow.

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### Chris says

I enjoyed the start of Nightwing's Rebirth series in singles, but re-reading it in trade was an unexpected chore. If the 'Grayson redux' storyline and dull characterisation aren't bad enough, the average artwork and yet another round of Dick and Babs 'Will they/wont they?' (they wont) seal the deal. There were brief moments of potential and I think the artist and colourist were simply mis-matched, but Better Than Batman still checks too many boxes on my 'Pet hates in Nightwing comics' list.

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### Stewart Tame says

Yet another "Volume 1" that isn't actually the beginning of the story. It's the beginning of an arc, sure, but, if you don't know some of Nightwing's history going into this, you're going to have problems following it. Pretty much all I know of Dick Grayson's recent history is the descriptions of graphic novels from Goodreads listings. I know he was some sort of secret agent for a while, and I vaguely recall reading the original Court of Owls TP. And I also remember the debut of Nightwing a long time ago in the pages of the New Teen Titans, but that's because I'm as old as the hills (provided that the hills in question first appeared 49 years ago.) So somebody new to comics, unacquainted with all of this background, is going to care about this book because ....? I'm all for continuity and all, but if you're going to call it "Volume 1," some sort of summary for new readers would be nice.

As to the story ... eh. It's not bad, but nothing really special. It's basically about Nightwing establishing his brand, showing the ways in which he is not like Batman. The volume does end more strongly than it begins, but it's pretty average superhero fare overall. Not great, not terrible ... ultimately not memorable, either. Read it if you like, but there are much better titles out there.

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### Danielle says

Read this review and more on my blog.

*I received a free copy of Nightwing Volume 1: Better Than Batman from DC Comics in exchange for my honest opinion.*

Considering how I have not read any of Nightwing's previous books, I found it very easy to pick up where

he was at the start.

The storyline is around the Parliament of Owls blackmailing Dick into working for them. We then follow him on a series of missions set by the Parliament of Owls and him trying to get into their organisation so that he can take them down. Whilst a fairly simple plot, I still found it very enjoyable with enough plot twists to not make it boring. I do find that sometimes, having a simple plot that only focuses on one thing (in this case Dick trying to take down the Parliament of Owls) can benefit the story as it does not get bogged down by trying to do too much.

Although the storyline is an important aspect of a comic book, a great story cannot make up for bad artwork. Fortunately, for *Nightwing Volume 1*, the artwork worked very well with the story. I was able to tell exactly what was going on, and it was easy to focus on the right part of each panel (I do have a tendency to jump panels if the artwork grabs my attention). If I was to nitpick, then I would only complain about the facial expressions. I was able to tell what they were trying to get across but they occasionally just did not seem quite right. Now I am no artist, so I cannot say what they should or should not change or even how they should do it; but if the facial expressions were more realistic then for me this would have been almost perfect.

If you know that you do not like *Nightwing*, then give it a miss but most people will enjoy this.

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### **William Aicher says**

Took a bit to get into, but eventually this story really gelled. Some excellent exploration of Dick Grayson and how he lives in the shadow of his mentor, struggling to stand out and be his own person (and hero). The strong story, along with some magnificent art panels, make this one definitely worth picking up - especially if you are a Batman devotee who's looking to see what's happening on the peripheries of the Batman world.

As soon as I finished, I went ahead and ordered the next collection of *Nightwing* stories.

Above all, love seeing Dick back in the *Nightwing* suit. One of the definite highlights of the DC Universe.

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### **Chad says**

I'm glad to see Dick Grayson back as *Nightwing*. Unfortunately, one of the writers from *Grayson* (Tim Seeley) came with him. Dick is written so blandly, there's nothing interesting about him. The only thing he has is the occasional meetup with Batgirl. The art is generic with drab coloring. Raptor has one of the worst designed costumes I've ever seen. He looks like a modern day version of Wild Dog with that stupid velcroed on mask. There's no way he could fight in that thing with the coat that comes down around his thighs and cinched. *Nightwing* was at his best when Kyle Higgins or Chuck Dixon was writing him. I'd love to see one of them come back and set *Nightwing* on an interesting path.

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

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## **mercedes says**

I wanted to enjoy this a lot more than I did. This seems to pick up where another series has left off, and considering I have never read a Nightwing comic before in my life I was fairly confused for the first couple of issues. There were 2 standout issues in this that were a little above average, but the rest were just very mediocre and bland to me. Despite the fact that Nightwing seems like he would be a very interesting character, especially given his background (which is touched on a lot in this comic) he just doesn't seem to have any ounce of personality in this? There's just nothing to him. That said, I felt that way about all of the characters so maybe it's just the writing rather than Dick Grayson himself.

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## **Will Robinson Jr. says**

Nightwing: "He Almost Killed you Bruce", You fell and...

Bruce: "Dick, I didn't fall." "I jumped". "I jumped because I knew you would catch me".

What an ending, Right? Nightwing volume 1: Better than Batman. DC Rebirth continues to work some comicbook magic for DC Comics. This book was quite simply amazing. Tim Seeley continues to be in a groove coming of the incredible work he & Tom King started with Grayson, Volume 1: Agents of Spyral. It is amazing growth that Dick Grayson aka Nightwing has under gone. He has been a sidekick, a superhero, a spy and found his way back to being Nightwing. I love the audacity of the title here, "Better than Batman". This I feel becomes very true as Seeley takes Grayson on a journey to becoming his own man. As Nightwing begins his most dangerous assignment yet he is instructed by his mentor Batman to trust in himself and that he no longer needs a mentor. In this first volume of the series Nightwing must infiltrate one of the most secretive and dangerous organizations running Gotham, the Court of the Owls, and destroy them from within. This mission seems impossible and suicidal. Batgirl also thinks Nightwing has a death wish. He is not entirely alone on this mission as he is soon joined by a mysterious thief who works for the Court of the Owls called Raptor. Raptor has his own plans to takedown the Owls and maybe bring Nightwing over to the dark side as well. Seeley uses a tight plot and action to get into the head of what makes Nightwing tick. I really enjoyed the artists team's work on this book. Fernandez pencils some great fights and Sotomayor's colors work well with the tone of the story. Seeley writes some great dialogue for the characters and the mystery of Raptor keeps you engaged up until the climatic end. I really enjoyed the moments with Batgirl and Damian. The ending to this arc was extremely satisfying. I can not wait to read the next arc.

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## **Vinton Bayne says**

I forgot how much I love Grayson. This definitely has me wanting to juggle around the comics I keep up with to make room for it.

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## **Anne says**

### **Better Than Batman?**

Well, yes. But that may be because I'm not interested in Batman's solo stuff.

But this was ok. I didn't hate it, but it took me a few days to read through it. Now, I've been super busy with stuff lately, so maybe that had something to do with it, but honestly, I think it was because I never really got sucked into the plot.

I *do* love Nightwing, though. And I thought Seeley did a great job capturing the character's essence. He's not a broody, dark, knockoff of Bruce Wayne, and I liked that the author highlighted that as the real difference between the two men.

Plus, I thought it was cute that he and Babs were trying to go on a date...

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I'm not as bowled over as some of my friends, but I'll definitely keep reading this title to see where it goes.

### **Sesana says**

I admit that I bailed on Grayson part way through the series, so I'm not entirely sure how Dick got to where he is. The truth is that I don't particularly care. Dick's time as an undercover agent faking his death was never going to last forever, and it doesn't really matter how he got out of it. This volume feels like an intentional transition, like Seeley is trying to keep the change from undercover spy to full on superhero as seamless as possible. And that's fine, just as it's fine that this looks like it might be the last chapter in the Owls. I think we were all pretty much done with those guys anyways, right? The first couple of issues are fine, if not exciting, but things start to get interesting when Dick teams up Raptor. In fact, it seemed like every issue was an improvement on the previous. This isn't the best Rebirth book I've read so far, but it's solid enough and there's promise for future issues.

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### **James DeSantis says**

Talk about getting better as you go along. I wasn't feeling the rebirth issue or issue 1-2 but man, 3 kicked it up, and 4, 7, and 8 are all really good. I really enjoyed this second half a lot.

So that makes it just good, because the whole thing could have been amazing if they focused more. The start feels cheeky, trying to be funny, instead of coming off easy. Lines that make me cringe throughout are all in the first few issues. Once we get down to it, to the past, to Nightwing and Raptor's relationship, it gets so damn intense and good.

I'd recommend reading all the way through to really get the emotional weight of it all. Some great finish up moments and the last two issues in particular give me a lot of hope for the growth of our favorite side hero. I just hope it keeps up with the quality!

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### **Chelsea says**

"I owe it to my mom and dad to face fear with a grin. And I try to pay Bruce Wayne back by doing for others what he did for me. By being their net. By catching them before they hit the ground."

#### **Let's get into what was good about this series:**

- Emphasized Dick's Romani heritage
- I enjoyed the scenes with Bruce and Damian. All 12 panels.
- I liked Dick's costume.

#### **Let's get into what was 'meh' about this series:**

- not my favorite art
- this revolves around the Parliament of Owls
- Damian's dialogue reads like Seeley stole some lines from his Draco Malfoy fanfic.

#### **Let's get into what was bad about this series:**

- **Raptor** I don't think I've ever been so apathetic about a character's existence. There's a point where Babs says that Dick's giving his faults a pass because he's "charming and funny". When? When was he ever either of those things? He's just here. He left no impression on me whatsoever and his ties to Dick's past were so manufactured for the attempt to make his part in this story mean more.
- **Parliament of Owls:** I wasn't the biggest fan of Scott Snyder's Court of Owls story arc but at least the Owls were better written. Here, Seeley acts like we wouldn't know the Owls were evil so there's literally a part where they talk about eating food picked by "war orphans" or something of the sort. Seriously? That's the point we've come to?
- **Maze Guy's strategy:** Random aside but this guy built a maze to protect himself. Makes sense except Raptor says he built it so that there would be no trouble getting into the house; just trouble escaping it. How does that make sense? Let's not make it hard to get in and murder me. I'll just make sure you can't leave my house after doing it?
- **Babs:** I've said it before and I'll say it again - I freaking hate Rebirth/Burnside Babs. She's not the Batgirl I fell in love with and I don't know why she's here. She basically exists to flirt with Dick a few times, get stood up and then treat him like garbage for doing his job. There's a point where she yells at him for something she also could have prevented and it made no sense! I know people hate the New 52 but Gail's run was the last time I found Babs enjoyable. \*sighs\*
- **Action:** The action sequences weren't particularly interesting
- **Dick:** Dick was not his usual, charming self. I've seen people blame this on Seeley but I actually really liked the Grayson series. It wasn't always engaging but I never had a complaint about Dick's personality in those books. He was adorable, charming and made the cutest, cheesy puns of any character I've read. I love him in Grayson and this book read like someone forgot to inject some life into the character.

Look, I adore Batwoman, Super Sons and Detective Comics. That being said, my 2 all time favorite DC characters, Dick and Cassandra Cain, have gotten the short end of the stick in this Rebirth trend. Cass lost all of her development from the pre 52 series and I haven't read a great Rebirth! Dick Grayson comic yet. I know people hate the New 52 but at least it gave me a Nightwing comic I found readable.

1 incredibly disappointed star.

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## **Vanessa ?Queen Alchemy ? Novel Nerd Faction? says**

I really loved this. Nightwing is one of my favorite characters and I really enjoyed seeing his character growth in this. Not relying on Batman to guide him, and following his own path. Making his own decisions unhindered. I loved the story arc in this one. I really love when the stories are personal and reveal something about the character's past, as this did. I loved the Raptor's character and where the writer went with it. And I always like seeing Batgirl and Nightwing work together, so that was an added bonus on this one. I did fangirl a little bit on the last page. I can't pass up a Bruce/Dick family moment. I think that this is a must read for Batman family fans.

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## **Sam Quixote says**

Nightwing is the worst Rebirth title I've read so far. I don't know how Tim Seeley's made the charismatic former sidekick of Batman so charmless, uninteresting and soul-crushingly boring but he's done it! What a garbage writer.

This book picks up where the New 52 Grayson series ended so I was lost immediately as I haven't been reading that title (I stopped after the terrible first volume, also written by Seeley). Dick stops being Agent 37 of Spyral and becomes Nightwing again for a crap reason then tries to bring down an offshoot of the Court of Owls, the Parliament of Owls, with a cheap Batman knockoff partner called Raptor. How? By stealing the plans of a labyrinth... or something?! Christ, it's awful.

The lack of anything vaguely resembling a clear, compelling plot made this so maddeningly dull. Seeley's got Dick running around everywhere but who the fuck can follow what's going on or why - that's how sloppy his writing is. Someone in the Parliament turns into an actual monster, Raptor is Dick's enemy then his buddy then back again (it doesn't matter), Dick's sorta dating Batgirl, Raptor's unnecessarily connected to Dick's ma, and all this nonsense that adds up to nothing. I kept putting it down because I couldn't read more than a few pages at a time it was so dull and stupid.

I could go on but I'd just be repeating the same thing: this was a badly-written sleeping aid that's not worth the effort of struggling through. I like Dick Grayson and I want to read a great Nightwing comic but Tim Seeley hasn't got the talent to give us that. "Better Than Batman"? HA! It's not even better than explosive diarrhea!

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