



Robin Vol. 1: Reborn

Chuck Dixon , Alan Grant , Norm Breyfogle (Illustrator) , Tom Lyle (Illustrator)

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After discovering Batman's identity, Tim Drake must now endure months of intensive physical training before he can publicly debut as the Caped Crusader's new partner. Given an all-new hi-tech costume and the encouragement of former Robin Dick Grayson, Tim is finally ready to don the identity he was born for: Robin!

But when his parents are kidnapped by the Obeah Man will Batman be able to save them or will tragedy find Tim Drake?

Then, Robin must survive a final baptism by fire as he travels overseas to learn martial arts from one of the world's greatest fighters—the deadly Lady Siva. Flying solo for the first time, he comes across a diabolical plot by Batman's old enemy King Snake and must prove that he is worthy of the mantle of Robin!

ROBIN: REBORN collects in chronological order for the first time ever BATMAN #455-457, DETECTIVE COMICS #618-621, and ROBIN #1-5.

Detailing the journey of fan favorite Tim Drake's transformation into Robin are classic comic creators ALAN GRANT(BATMAN: SHADOW OF THE BAT), CHUCK DIXON (NIGHTWING), NORM BREYFOGLE (BATMAN BEYOND) and TOM LYLE (STARMAN)!

Robin Vol. 1: Reborn Details

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From Reader Review Robin Vol. 1: Reborn for online ebook

Luana says

Collection of not just Tim Drake's first solo-miniseries but also two Batman/Detective arcs featuring respectively his parents' deaths and Batman's acceptance of him as Robin. These latter two feature some absolutely glorious Norm Breyfogle art (possibly my fave Bat artist now?) but Tom Lyle in the Robin miniseries certainly ain't no snitch.

Only the middle arc is Gotham-set with Tim saving Bruce from a Scarecrow trap: it's actually very refreshing and fun to have these stories be globe-trotting adventures with villains like (lol) King Snake:

- he is a blind English lord
- also a drug runner
- looks like 6 foot tall trailer trash mullet man
- built like Liefeld character
- is lethal martial artist with GIANT SNAKE TATTOO on chest

The "Robin" mini also introduced me to Shiva, whose ethnic ambiguity, deadly skill-set and contempt for christianity and the west all seem perfectly set to pander to me specifically. An absolute crime she hasn't been in any Batman movies!

John Yelverton says

I'm so thankful that Robin finally got his own book series. Granted, it's a mini, and it's not Dick Grayson; but this has been long overdue.

Jonny Campo says

3.25/5 I did like this book, I really wanted to get a look into the story of tim drake and I plan on continuing this series, but this book can be very lack luster it starts out good then slows down for like 5 issues I almost didn't want to finish it but it picked back up towards the end so that saved it. the problem I find with these older books is that they have way too much pointless dialogue. also this book takes place outside of Gotham and lacks an intense villain who we would be used to seeing in the batman universe.

Nate says

I don't have any sort of attachment to Tim Drake. I've seen him here and there and liked him fine, but he's far from my favorite Bat Family character. Still, I enjoyed his introduction in *A Lonely Place of Dying* - smart, determined, amiable - and really liked him in this book. I think I'm becoming a fan.

The book kicks off with seven *Detective* and *Batman* issues just before Tim dons the Robin suit. Written by

Alan Davis and penciled by Norm Breyfogle, these issues are decent. We see what happens to Tim's parents here. I like that Tim actively wants to be Robin, not necessarily courted for the role by Bruce. Then comes Chuck Dixon and Tom Lyle's first Robin miniseries, where Tim trains in Paris, encounters Lady Shiva, and goes after a global terrorist. Now this was really good. Tightly plotted, exciting, fun. Dixon has a great handle on Tim's character; I can see how he's influenced his portrayal in future stories.

This is probably closer to a 3.5 for me. I've got the rest of the 90s Robin collections lined up. DC has been doing a great job repackaging the series, and I'm grateful for that.

Jimmy Osterhout says

Transitioning from current comic book medium back to early 90's print can be difficult. Story boarding is vastly different as is the general flow and tenor of the story. In Robin vol. 1: Reborn, I feel like this is less of a problem making the book hold up quite well. It still lays down some heavy cheese but it is surprisingly dark at times. Additionally, Norm Breyfogle is just a master of his craft. His artistic style and sensibilities are wonderful. I'd prefer to give the book a 4.5 but because I'm feeling generous it gets a 5.

Robert S says

Comics as a medium can often suffer from the issue of not aging particularly well and there's a multitude of possible reasons. Sometimes its the story, often times it can be the art (90's comics in particular suffer from this issue more than any other era for me actually), and other times the dialogue.

Robin Vol 1: Reborn is just one of those stories that ultimately didn't click with me after reading it again from when I younger. Tim Drake is my favorite Robin too, which makes this all the more disappointing.

Others might end up getting more out of this volume than me.

Jack Haringa says

Four stars to the first half of this, collecting issues of Detective that introduce Tim Drake and his transformation into the new Robin. Norm Breyfogle's art is sharp and moody as ever, and it was a nice refresher to see the much more human Batman I remember from the '80s, written here by Alan Grant. He has doubts, he makes mistakes, and he has more expressions on his cowl than just grim determination and anger. The second half, collecting the first few issues of the stand-alone Robin comic scores lower as the writing gets weaker, relying on too many racial and national stereotypes (the sultry and inscrutable Asian, the angry Black man, the rapacious English aristocrat). Chuck Dixon's weaknesses are made up for to some degree by Tom Lyle's art, but too often one can see that '90s Liefeld style in the character designs. I don't imagine I'll be picking up volume 2, which features that same creative team of Dixon and Lyle.

Patrick says

Finally, I've gotten around to reading the beginnings of Tim Drake, my favorite Robin.

This was a nice mix of 80s exposition and more current dialogue/action mixes.

Read if you're a fan of Tim.

Viktoria says

Although I'm only giving this 3 stars, I absolutely liked this book, it just has some dynamic and art problems. If you are looking for something that completely wraps you in and you can get lost in it - this isn't the one. The art resembles a heavy old comic book style which you can't really call nice or beautiful. For me, it's not a problem, but objectively it's still not nice. And the exact same thing that makes this book amazing, namely the fact that it dives into Tim Drake's origin story in details, makes it a bit hard to chew as well. A lot of information and sometimes dragging story are the result. But I loved it because you can see how Tim becomes Robin, what motivates him from the beginning, how he becomes Robin before tragedy hits him and how much hard work he put into becoming the next Robin. I absolutely recommend this one if you want to get to know Tim more/better and you are interested in him as a character. Let's be honest, DC doesn't exactly treat Tim well or fairly recently so you ought to reach back to a period when this wasn't the case.

Evan Leach says

This collection of stories from 1990-91 tells the story of how Tim Drake became Batman's third sidekick. The individual issues are solid to good, although most of them skew towards solid and the collection as a whole feels like a necessary (and not terribly original) set of boxes to check in order to establish Drake as the new Robin.

Useful reading for Bat-Fans to complete Tim Drake's origin story, but otherwise just OK. **3.0 stars.**

Joseph says

DC has been releasing some bigger trades, often collecting two previously released trades into one. First with Nightwing, and now with Birds of Prey and Robin. This volume collects some tales involving Tim Drake from Detective Comics and Batman, prior to Tim donning the Robin mantle. Then there is the first Robin mini-series, where he travels to Paris for some training and ends up teaming up with Lady Shiva, of all people, to stop a madman from releasing a deadly bio-weapon on the world.

The stories from Detective and Batman are by Alan Grant, with Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell on the art. The mini is by Chuck Dixon and Tom Lyle. Stylistically, the art looks good, if definitely from the early 90s, and both Grant and Dixon pen some good stories with a lot of emotional heft that never go overboard into melodrama.

There is a second "new" volume already out, but here's hoping DC collects as much of this iteration of Robin as possible.

MC says

The first volume of this collected *Robin* series covers a period shortly after Bruce Wayne decides to accept the young man as his partner in crime-fighting. Tim Drake is a scion of a wealthy young family who is unique among the inner-levels of the Batfamily for having a relatively normal, well-adjust life free of tragedy. But all of that is about to change.

When horrific tragedy strikes, Tim questions a great deal of things in his life as he wonders what it means to be a crime-fighter, and if personal tragedy is a necessary part of the struggle. Some of this is the obvious spiral of a young man dealing with intense grief. But even here, it is useful and something that, while horrible, the boy turns to the good.

Shortly after this, he must train to be capable - he is already judged more than worthy by Batman, Nightwing and Alfred - of fighting crime at Batman's side without getting killed. But even here things are not as simple as they seem, and Tim is about to undergo his first foray as Robing in a trial by fire in which the untold lives are at stake.

I think that Tim is my favorite of the Robins. He is not the agile pro that Dick Grayson is or the powerhouse that Jason Todd is. He is capable with training, but his greatest asset, even more so than with Batman, is his brain. He is intelligent, and thinks things through in a way that makes him the obvious choice for leader in any situation (when not around Batman that is, who is his leader).

The art won't impress folks by today's standards and tastes. It's not bad art at all, but the palette chosen and the manner of illustration is just not, to my mind, in line with current aesthetic tastes. Nonetheless, it is good art and at times very detailed and beautiful.

The story is a tight one that while it opens up and goes a bit all over the place, still makes sense. It's an action-oriented mystery worthy of the student of the "world's greatest detective".

Only thing I wish we'd gotten more info on were Lady Shiva's motives for wanting to corrupt Tim. What's her deal? I wonder if future collected volumes of this former series will illuminate this for us. Maybe she wanted revenge on Batman? Or maybe she just wanted a talented partner of her own? Who knows.

Kay says

Yay, it's Tim!

Look at those smiles! :)

I want to say I'm a Tim fan, but I've never really read anything (or watched anything) with Tim playing a substantial/substantive role...

I was so happy to give this a go and read his origins and get to know early 90's Batman a bit. Or is it really 80's Batman written in the early years of the 1990s? (A sample of the dated sexist language in reference to Lady Shiva: "Honey", "Killer Bimbos", "Fairer Sex", and "Shoot, who let the girls in the clubhouse.". Not to mention the weird/implied sexual tension between Shiva and Tim.

Yeah, he thought she was coming to take his virginity. Awkward.

...

So, this 80's Batman... he's a little different than my late 90's Batman, and *very* different from my current, never smiling, brooding, and dumped at the altar, Batman.

This Batman is still damaged and angry by the murder of his parents, but is also kind of nurturing and protective of his ward. Quick to smile when Tim says he's going to watch a Sherlock Holmes re-run on TV. Quick to apologize for rushing off to track the trail of the MoneySpider first on the computer when Tim finds out about his parents. And then quick to jump in and personally deliver the tea set Alfred was bringing to Tim.

Batman: "Don't brood too much, son. For your parents' sake, be strong. Always remember --life has to go on. Do you want me to take the day off to be with you?"

Who is this Batman, and what have you done to my angry, detached vigilante?

Art wasn't too bad. I can see that this was probably pretty advanced art for the time. The colors are very...colorful. All shading is done in black lines and everything else is blocks of colors.

Batman is drawn with a lot of emotion, which I liked.

In Rite of Passage, Part Four: Trial By Fire on page 15 Batman's face is contorted in rage and despair and agony. He's whipping around beating everyone up, and his face is just an insane canvas of emotions.

I very much did not like the Obeah Man storyline. It was weird. My Batman storylines rarely leave Gotham city, but 2/3 of this book takes place abroad. It felt a little like exoticizing the Caribbean (Haiti) and I was thrown off guard by Tim's parents being crazy rich business execs. I didn't know Tim becomes another Dick (and Jason) by joining the dead-parents-Bruce-Wayne-ward club. Poor Tim. :(

Tim has a varied (and alarming) reaction to both Batman's cowl and Robin's costume. At first, Batman's cape and cowl represent "death" and "monsters". Tim has nightmares about Nightwing's mask and Batman's cowl. He's afraid and angry and the Robin costume represents that to him.

Tim: "I hate him! I hate him! I know why they do it now. Why they put on the suits, and the masks, and go out into the night. *They want to fill the hole that's burning inside them!*

Bruce: "There's more to it than that, son."

Tim: "I know."

Bruce: "Much more."

The suit also represents serious responsibility and hero worship. Dick created the Robin symbol, and Jason died wearing the costume. So Tim is stuck the rest of the Identity Crisis storyline both wanting to put on the suit, and not wanting to put on the suit.

BUT! As Tim says "(Fear) It's nothing to be ashamed of. Just because you're afraid --doesn't mean you can't act!".

And Batman is just so...*supportive*. He thanks Tim for saving his life and offers him the role of Robin, giving

him his own new costume so he doesn't have to bear the weight of the OG Robin-costume's history.

To become Batman's true partner, someone who can watch his back on the streets, Robin goes off alone to train in Paris. He gets totally side-tracked by an ex-DEA agent named Clyde, and Lady Shiva, to stop a big bad blind and crazy white British colonialist wackjob (who's so entitled he buys and moves a Spanish historical landmark water tower clock thingy) who would rather murder and destroy all of Hong Kong than see it "returned" to China later that decade. (This book also has fun 90's references to the "impending" European Union too.) Interesting motive, but less than "noble" when he plans his own escape route to survive the slaughter.

There's a lot of great stuff during this last storyline. I would give this third of the book about 4/4.5 stars all on its own. During one of the bad-guy takedowns, there's an assist by actual bats (lol). There's a Nazi bio-weapon, and a Chinese gang leader who flirts with Tim, and also Tim finally gets his martial arts training! First from Clyde, who tries to teach him to fight angry, and then Lady Shiva, who teaches him to *not* fight angry.

Cool training montage moment: Clyde tells Tim "On the street, there're no rules. No second chances. No warnings. Graveyard's full of nice guys."

And Lady Shiva tells Tim: "You are nothing. You are less than nothing. You are a child. That is how your opponents must see you. They will underestimate your skills because of your age and size. That is your advantage. But you must never see yourself that way."

The only reason I wouldn't give this storyline a full 5 stars is because there's a weird bit with Tim, where he says it's important to do good, and he's adverse to murder (of course), but then he lets the bad guy fall off a skyscraper to his death, which was kind of passively murderous.

Tim: "We're supposed to be the good guys. They're motivated by revenge and hatred. We're supposed to be better than that."

Also Tim: "I won't fight murderers by becoming one."

Also Tim: Leaves the bad guy hanging off a building with Lady Shiva. Hears his screams as he falls to his death. Walks away.

...

This was a hefty volume. I liked some parts better than others, but mostly I was super taken by the last story of Tim's solo trip and training.

Tim goes through some crazy doubting of himself, and of Batman & Robin. But he made it! He's now wearing the Robin costume, and he's swinging off into the night with (a smiling!) Batman. <3

Michael Irenski says

Tim Drake is my Robin. By the time I started to get into comics, Dick Grayson was already Nightwing. It was 1998 and we were right on the heels of the upcoming Cataclysm and No Man's Land storylines. And, Tim Drake was everything I wanted to be back then. Cool, calm, extremely smart, and tough.

Well, "Robin: Reborn" was everything I hoped for and more. Starting off right on the heels of Tim learning Batman's secret identity, we get a couple issues of pre-Robin and the lead in to his own mini-series.

The early Detective Comics and Batman storylines, while a bit different, were flawless and entertaining. Alan Grant's writing paced so well.

Alexandria Redding says

Really love the Robin run so far. (I have the actual individual comics, but I didn't want to spam everyone with every single issue as I read them, so I'm waiting until I'm done and then saying I'm done with each volume.) Tim isn't the NAME we drop when we think of Robin, but he's certainly the one whose antics we all know. Reading through this series makes that crystal clear. Loving how independent and real these are.
