



Batgirl, Volume 3: Summer of Lies

Hope Larson

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The best-selling Rebirth series by Hope Larson returns! Cat vs. Bat! Who will win?

Someone near and dear to Batgirl's heart gets caught in the crossfire of her feud with Catwoman. Soon, what started as a normal, run-of the-mill case, becomes something much more important.

NEW YORK TIMES best-selling creators Hope Larson (A WRINKLE IN TIME) and Rafael Albuquerque (AMERICAN VAMPIRE) present BATGIRL VOL. 3. Collects BATGIRL #12-17.

Batgirl, Volume 3: Summer of Lies Details

Date : Published April 3rd 2018 by DC Comics

ISBN : 9781401278908

Author : Hope Larson

Format : Paperback 144 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Superheroes, Dc Comics, Comic Book

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From Reader Review Batgirl, Volume 3: Summer of Lies for online ebook

Kate says

Genuinely cannot get enough of Hope Larson's run on Batgirl at the moment. Her Barbara is full of substance, strength and wisdom, but at the same time vulnerable and naïve.

Summer of Lies delves deeper into her relationship with Dick Grayson - in both his incarnations as Robin and now Nightwing - against the backdrop of an incident involving an old friend that Barbara never really achieved closure with.

The art here is strong, with some really fantastic one-panel pages, and the slightly differing colour palettes help differentiate between the past and present.

Regular DC readers know that eventually Rebirth will come to an end, followed by the inevitable retcon, but I really hope that whatever they do they extend Larson's tenure and allow her to keep this iteration of Batgirl.

Adam Fisher says

3.5 Stars.

This Volume starts off with 2 short tales.

- 1) Batgirl investigates a energy spirit infesting the YMCA pool. Turns into a missing persons case from a stolen scientific idea, given the supernatural twist when the spirit is brought back to life.
- 2) Helping a little girl Esme to find a dog, Batgirl crosses paths with Catwoman who is looking for her cat. Both were stolen by Velvet Tiger (looks like a bad 70's villain) and Bat and Cat save the day.

"Summer of Lies" is the main story, but feels sort of like a story crafted to help modernize the relationship between Barbara and Dick Grayson. Bouncing back and forth between current day and the past, it only becomes completely coherent by the end of the tale.

Past: Batgirl and Robin are working together to save Barbara's friend Ainsley from drug addiction, as well as working for the Mad Hatter on a project involving nanobots. They begin their on again / off again romance here.

Present: A villain known as the Red Queen is hunting Batgirl and Nightwing. She blames them for something they did in the past, leading them to believe it revolves around Ainsley. It turns out that the drug addiction caused Ainsley to die years ago, homeless in the streets. Her younger sister, Edith, began taking the drugs with the Hatter, finished the nanobot research Ainsley started, and became The Red Queen.

Obviously, they work together and fight her, making it very predictable, but I did enjoy it overall. Still not 100% sure about Batgirl, but I do like that they are making strides to remove the young adult attitude from her. Recommend.

Ivy says

5 ?

Glad to see how Barbara and Dick met. Also glad to see them together in action again. Sad about what happened to Ainsley. Wonder if Barbara and Dick will get together. Always glad to see flashbacks of the character's childhood. Hope Nightwing will show up again.

Can't wait to read Batgirl, vol 4: Rebirth!!!

Colona Public Library says

[ok, the pet story was cute and all...BUT when Catwoman tells them that her cat is the equivalent of Instagram famous wouldn't that give away her identity? All you would have to do is get batgirl to hack into that social media and get the profile information? I'm overthinking it, it was just suppose to be a cute one shot story. (hide spoile

Blair Conrad says

More joyful than vol. 1 (where did vol. 2 go? how did I miss it?). A couple of cute one-shots at the beginning, followed by a short arc with Batgirl teaming up with Robin (in flashbacks) and Nightwing (in the present). I enjoyed the story format, and largely the interaction between the two of them. I quite liked the art in the main arc.

Roman Colombo says

Hope Larson brings the series really close to Gail Simone's run here. We finally get the darker Batgirl the character really is (come on, she was shot in the spine by the Joker). It's not quite there, but this was still really good. 4.5 stars.

Katie says

Any time there's a Batgirl/Nightwing crossover I basically die from the feels, as the kids say.

So if you need me I'll be in the corner.

Jenny Clark says

Good art and plot. No hipster vibes here. It was cool to see Nightwing and Batgirl, both in the past and the

present. Hooefully the library has volume 4 by now!

Wing Kee says

Very enjoyable and nostalgic.

World: The art is fantastic! The first two issues with the pool and then the pet were beautiful but it went to a whole new level when Chris Wildgoose game on for 'Summer of Lies'. His characters are so full of personality that it's perfect for this series. The splash pages were fantastic. The world building here is fantastic also. We've not really had a lot of development between Babs and Dick since the New52. We know there was something but we've not really had extensive time for quiet moments to build their relationship. Well that all changes here, there is a huge chunk of world building that is anchored on these two and it's fantastic. Old batgirl suit was also awesome.

Story: The story is well paced and just fun. The pool ghost and the pet issues were small one and done little stories that made me smile and then there's 'Summer of Lies'. This arc with Babs and Dick and the past and present mashed together is great because it not only informs their friendship but also is topical and works for the current comic book fan. It's simple it's not difficult to understand and for the age group this book is going for it's good. Add to that the Red Queen in concept is cliché but execution was good cause of the amazing art. The art is just brilliant I can't gush enough about it. The end of the arc is beautiful and tragic and melancholy but also with a sense of hope which I enjoyed quite a bit. As I said the story was expected and didn't break new ground but the added flavor of Babs and Dick made it special.

Characters: Babs young is great, we get more development from her and it's fantastic. Add Dick and it's perfect. I love Dick and Babs together but I still don't know if I love it more than Dick and Starfire together...ahh...hard choices. I liked the character of Ainsley and what it did for the story, it was expected but it was still done well. I liked the Red Queen visually but I could have used more logic in her motivations. Overall it's a solid character arc because of the large amounts of time we get with Babs and Dick.

Very enjoyable and nostalgic.

Onward to the next book!

read individual issues

Chad says

I'm glad to see this book is back on solid footing after Cameron Stewart's awful run on the book. The main story is a team-up with Nightwing. I like how the story goes back and forth between a case where they first met and now. Chris Wildgoose's art is good. There's also two one shots. The first being a detective story and the second a team-up with Catwoman. I found the Catwoman story kind of dumb. She uses alley cats to track

down the scent of her lost pet. When has anyone been able to train a cat to do anything? It felt like it was written more for a Moon Girl level audience than the teenage audience the book normally seems to cater to.

Robert says

Mix a weird time-jumping tale that confuses and doesn't really go anywhere with a seemingly pathological inability to write a character even for use in a single panel named Mike, Mary, Dave, Ann or anything else remotely common in America and this is what you end up with - a complete waste of time. Plus - the writer thinks CHICAGO is an example of a nice safe city compared to Gotham. They don't state it ironically (or if that was the goal, it failed). They think Chicago is safe.

Colleen says

3.5 ? Batgirl & Nightwing

James DeSantis says

Every single time I open a comic I hope for the best. Trust me, I don't ever want to READ a bad book. So when I opened the newest Batgirl I had some hope but my expectations were super low after hating the first volume. I actually skipped volume 2 but figured I wouldn't miss much. So I jumped right into volume 3 and...WHOA! This was SUPER fun!

So what's Batgirl up to lately? The first two issues are fun small little self contained stories. One focusing on Batgirl helping figure out what happened to a missing girl who joined a swim team. Then we have another small story of Batgirl helping a little girl finding her doggie. Or famous doggie actually from Instagram. Then the main story comes into play which focuses on Nightwing and Batgirl tracking down a old enemy (or so they think) and at the same time getting flashbacks of their first adventures together and falling in love.

Good: I loved everything with Teen Barbara and Dick. They grew up fighting crime together, and of course starting falling for each other. So seeing that wasn't only cute but well done. Then we have them tackling more adult issues, especially after lately what Dick has been through and how he's adjusting to life with his girlfriend. This is pretty damn fun too. I also really enjoyed the storyline and the "villain" even if it was more of a backdrop to the love story here. Oh and the single issue of Batgirl helping the girl find the dog was super cute.

Bad: The very first issue was pretty crappy. It felt honky and campy and not in a good way. I mean did we need to find out why a girl is electricity and trapped inside a pool? Besides few funny moments this was meh.

Overall, SUPER big surprise. This is going to make me go back to volume 2 AND read volume 4. Batgirl just jumped up for me into the "gotta read" section from coming from "Super crappy" at the start. Nice job Hope!

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

A case from Batgirl's past comes back to haunt both her and Nightwing, as flashbacks reveal what really happened during their Summer of Lies. Plus Catwoman, and a sea monster?

We open with a pair of one-shots, Troubled Waters which is a good little detective story, and The Truth About Bats & Dogs which teams Babs with Selina Kyle as they try to track down some missing pets and run afoul of a villain from the previous Batgirl Of Burnside run. These are some nice little palette cleansers between longer arcs, and the first time we've had these since the title began.

Then we hit Summer Of Lies, which is a four part story that reminds me of Batman & Robin Eternal with the dual timeline format informing the way that the story unfolds. There are a few little surprises here, and it explores the Batgirl/Nightwing relationship in a way that DC have avoided for a while, so that's nice too.

Artwise, we get Chris Wildgoose for Summer of Lies, whose art remains as strong as it did for Son Of Penguin. Eleanora Carlini takes the Troubled Waters issue, and she's still a little unpolished but is showing a lot of growth across her DC work. Inaki Miranda has the Catwoman issue, and her sleek stylings really lend her art to superhero work.

Solid, if not quite as groundbreaking as the first two arcs.

M says

The Batgirl of Burnside continues the DC Rebirth world with her third volume. This collection is a mixed bag of varied stories, each one ranging in length. The opener is a one-issue hunt for a “ghost” plaguing the local YMCA. Batgirl is able to suss out that the spectre is actually a former PhD student trapped in an alternate dimension, just looking for a way home. The next case sees a young girl looking for her favorite online celebrity - a missing firehouse mascot. When the trail causes Batgirl and her young friend to cross paths with Catwoman, the ladies discover they have stumbled upon a pet-snatching ring run by Velvet Tiger. The final arc brings in Nightwing (and classic flashback techniques) in order to solve a mystery. Unable to prevent two red-costumed individuals from leaping to their deaths, the heroes seek answers from the Mad Hatter. Realizing the villain was not behind this mental manipulation, Gordon and Grayson recall a case from their early career that centered around a nanotechnology genius. Forced to confront a deadly technodrug and a vengeful Red Queen, Batgirl and Nightwing must overcome sins of the past to survive. Hope Larson presents very little for readers to explore in this volume, and seems to be waiting out the eventual shift back to Gotham for her heroine. The tales are rudimentary and non-compelling, failing to offer any challenge to either Batgirl or the readers. The multitude of artists does not aid the book's banality, only serving as a reminder that Batgirl can be so much more. Batgirl: Summer of Lies fits this title perfectly; readers are best served waiting for a new fall collection for entertainment.
