



## Batman: Death and the City

*Paul Dini , Stuart Moore , Royal McGraw , Don Kramer (Illustrator) , Andy Clarke (Illustrator) , Simone Bianchi (Illustrator) , Wayne Faucher (Illustrator)*

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**Batman: Death and the City** Paul Dini , Stuart Moore , Royal McGraw , Don Kramer (Illustrator) , Andy Clarke (Illustrator) , Simone Bianchi (Illustrator) , Wayne Faucher (Illustrator)

In this collection of stories from DETECTIVE COMICS #827-834, Batman lives up to his reputation as the World's Greatest Detective as he takes on such evildoers as the Ventriloquist, Scarface, Vox, Harley Quinn, the Terrible Trio and more!

## Batman: Death and the City Details

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Author : Paul Dini , Stuart Moore , Royal McGraw , Don Kramer (Illustrator) , Andy Clarke (Illustrator) , Simone Bianchi (Illustrator) , Wayne Faucher (Illustrator)

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**Download and Read Free Online Batman: Death and the City** Paul Dini , Stuart Moore , Royal McGraw , Don Kramer (Illustrator) , Andy Clarke (Illustrator) , Simone Bianchi (Illustrator) , Wayne Faucher (Illustrator)

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# From Reader Review **Batman: Death and the City** for online ebook

## Scott says

A random assortment of short stories featuring our favorite nocturnal master detective:

*Double Talk* - the return of Ventriloquist & Scarface (yawn) and a cameo by the narcoleptic Mr. ZZZ (he's hilarious); I'm glad this somewhat lackluster opener didn't dissuade me from continuing with the book. On the plus-side - Bruce Wayne is undercover as 'Lefty' Knox.

*Shark Bite* - another unplanned team-up of sorts with Mr. E. Nigma, private detective (a.k.a. Riddler), this time to investigate the odd murder of Bruce Wayne's childhood friend.

*Siege* (two chapters) - Bruce Wayne and argumentative foreign diplomats attending a conference in Wayne Tower are trapped by Vox the terrorist. Another *Die Hard* retread? Not exactly, but who cares? Featuring able assistance by 'johnny-on-the-spot' Robin.

*Kind of Like Family* - Ventriloquist & Scarface again (snore), but a parole-seeking Harley Quinn is the actual star of the tale.

*Triage* - featuring the Terrible Trio, those weird guys wearing the animal masks. Kind of thin.

*Trust* (two chapters) - a "The Brave and the Bold"-inspired adventure (kicking off with the unexplained death of a magician's assistant) with Batman and Zatanna. Nice flashbacks to Bruce Wayne's childhood, plus other plot developments, to establish the duo's connection. Then there's the villain of the piece . . .

The two multi-part stories had a lot of action and suspense, and were my favorites of the collection.

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## Gustavo says

Es muy parecido al primer volumen, Dini y otros escriben buenas historias cortas y autoconclusivas, haciendo uso de la amplia galería de villanos de Batman como un nuevo Scarface, el Trío Terrible, Harley Quinn, el Joker, etc. Creo que no hubo ninguna historia que no me gustara, están todas por lo menos entretenidas. Los dibujos en este tomo están bien pero no son nada del otro mundo.

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## M says

Paul Dini brings his acclaimed writing chops from the animated Batman to the comics version in this collection of tales. The opening tale returns Scarface to the fore, paring him with a new female Ventriloquist. The second story teams the reformed Riddler with Batman as they separately investigate the murder of an old acquaintance of Bruce Wayne. Tim Drake dons his Robin costume to prevent a terrorist attack on Wayne Tower, proving his worth as a hero and a Robin. After being denied parole, Harley Quinn is broken out of Arkham Asylum for Scarface's latest plot. Choosing to assist Batman instead, Harley demonstrates a true desire to reform; as such, Bruce Wayne changes his deciding vote and decides to give Harleen Quinzel a

chance at going straight. The Terrible Trio return in a tale that sees all three members attacked by a mysterious assailant. The twisted scheme leads to the former Shark finding himself at the mercy of the new Great White Shark. The final story sees Batman and Zatanna team up to investigate the deaths that have been surrounding extreme magician Ivan Loxias. While both heroes find themselves at the mercy of another Joker plot, they prove to be a dynamic duo of their own. Paul Dini continues to impress with his characterizations, infusing the fictional residents of Gotham with human desires, needs, and wants. The revolving door of artists is to be expected with a collection like this, showcasing a variety of talents and styles. Fans of the classic animated Batman series will feel right at home with this volume.

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### **Michael Padilla says**

This was a decent collection of stories. They are all pretty much stand alone tales with the slightest of references to each other besides two of them being directly connected.

“Shark Bite”, “Siege” 1&2 and “Triage” were pretty terrible. But thankfully, “Double Talk” which centers around Scarface, “Kind of Like Family” involving Harley Quinn and especially both parts of “Trust” with Zatanna were enjoyable and made the book tolerable.

The art was serviceable but not nothing spectacular. Overall it was an ok read but nothing memorable either.

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### **Damián says**

En la línea del primer volumen, quizá las historias son un poquito más sólidas (la del Joker con Robin en el auto es maravillosa).

Guion: 8

Dibujo: 8

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### **Donovan says**

Not great, but some decent stories in here. I don't know why Paul Dini can't write a large story arc though.

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### **Mikhail says**

Many people have complained that these stories are of the one-and-done fashion, but that's partly why I love the two Dini collections as well as the rest of his run--including Heart of Hush, which was a five-issue arc and far superior to the overrated RIP debacle handled by Morrison. What I found most interesting about these two trades was, despite the one-and-done format, there were countless amounts of entertaining threads running through the whole Dini run such as The Riddler going straight, the repeated appearance of Scar Face, the interesting flirtations between Batman and Zatana, and etc. Although the book may seem as if Dini wrote these things as he went along, in my eyes, this was a fully realized and wholly enjoyable run on Detective Comics. Kudos, Mr. Dini!

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## Chris says

I almost didn't notice *Death And The City* on the shelf in my local library. Battered and worn, the book had fallen out of its "protective" plastic cover and disappeared behind *Catwoman: Death Of The Family* (like i'd take *that* out again). However, once I picked the book up it caught my attention for the contents *inside*, rather than its poorly-maintained exterior. As they say, don't judge a book by its cover.

Written by Paul Dini, with worthwhile fill-in tales from Stuart Moore and Royal McGraw, *Death And The City* collects issues #827-834 of *Detective Comics*. It's a collection that you may not have heard of, but it's worth reading nonetheless. In fact, after reading so many depictions of the Caped Crusader it was refreshing to read a book that just focused on Batman being...well, Batman. There's an abundance of entertaining detective work, Batman solving cases that involve both long-standing allies and, in a pleasant surprise, two classic rogues working on the right side of the law (well, mostly).

Tim Drake gets some time in the spotlight while Batman shows his versatility in helping to save others while out of the cape and cowl as Bruce Wayne. Harley Quinn, Zatanna, Riddler and a famous face from Batman's expansive rogues gallery all make appearances and each of these characters and their stories look great thanks to consistently strong artwork. Don Kramer, Wayne Faucher and John Kalisz provide the visuals for Dini's tales, while Andy Clarke and Nathan Eyring handle the issues in-between. While their styles aren't entirely similar, they still suit the tone of each story. Eyring and Clarke also impress by dropping to a darker tone for the 'Triage' murder investigation storyline, compared to the bolder look and colours they used in the 'Siege' two-parter set in Wayne Tower.

In fact, there's very little to fault with this volume, other than a couple of weaker moments and a slight case of expositional recap (which never reads well in a trade). So while *Death And The City* may not have made it on to any 'Best Of Batman' lists, anyone looking for a solid run of the Dark Knight's detective adventures would do well to seek this one out.

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## Matt says

Well-written detective stories.

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## Seth says

I finished this like a week ago. It was a really great and entertaining story.

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## Sam Quixote says

This is a collection of short stories about the Batman, featuring a return of Scarface, the death of an old friend, a politically motivated terrorist intent on bringing down the Wayne building through C4 explosives, a Harley Quinn escapade, and Zatanna joins Batman to hunt down a rogue magician with a dark secret.

Some of the stories are ok like "Siege" which is more involving as it's longer than one issue and features Bruce Wayne unable to change into Batman so has to rely on Tim Drake as Robin to take down the bad guy, or "Trust" the Zatanna story which had a nice twist and had some cool imagery. But on the whole, the stories are kind of average for Batman. Not very interesting, not too boring, just so so.

Also the stories only underlined how worn out the characters of Harley Quinn and Scarface are - they don't do anything in these stories but play their usual roles and then the story ends. Maybe it's time to not bother with them or kill them off?

The book is definitely only for Batman fans who must read everything Batman related, otherwise I wouldn't bother.

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### **Sesana says**

Don't go in looking for an overarching story arc. There isn't one, and there doesn't need to be. It's simply a collection of really good Batman stories, written mostly but not entirely by Paul Dini. There's the introduction of a new Ventriloquist, a continuation of the reformed Riddler arc, a newly reformed Harley Quinn, a team-up with Zatanna, and even a story with the Terrible Trio (those guys in the animal masks). Yes, they're all one or two issue stories, but they're solid and very enjoyable to read. The art, by Don Kramer and Andy Clarke, is uniformly excellent. And the covers? Amazing. Absolutely worth the price of admission.

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### **Bader Al Shirawi says**

Death and the city consists of 5 Batman stories.

The first three stories were okay but forgettable. I really loved the last two, so this review will basically be talking about the two stories that I loved. I'll try not to spoil. TRY.

The fourth story is about Harley Quinn, Scarface and the Ventriloquist, well, Batman is there obviously but the story mostly focuses on Harley and Ventriloquist's relationship which I had no idea of, also what's really interesting is seeing how Batman treated Harley at the end of the issue. Although I don't understand how the doll (Scarface) can speak without anyone holding or controlling him, is there any supernatural element going on with him? Need more info on this guy.

The fifth story revolves around Batman and Zatanna going on a detective mission. However, it is the first mission they've been together after Zatanna betrayed him. (They don't mention how she betrayed him so you need to google that shit!) Batman has a hard time trusting her which resulted to a couple of consequences. This story told me so many things about Zatanna that I felt like I've known her very well from before.

I HIGHLY recommended reading Batman: Detective before reading this so you'd feel more connected to these five stories. This novel is a great follow up.

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## **Panos says**

### **BATMAN:DEATH AND THE CITY (4/5)**

A new collection of Detective Comics, compiling issues 827-834 and featuring writers Paul Dini, Stuart Moore and Royal McGraw is out and serves as sequel of sorts to BATMAN:DETECTIVE. The majority of its stories continue the several plot threads of its unofficial prequel.

In issues #827 and #831, Dini adds the infamous Ventriloquist to his cast of villains. (Un)fortunately this one hasn't gone straight like the Riddler and the Penguin and seems willing to make up for the time he was away.

For those of you who haven't been following the Batman continuity since the end of INFINITE CRISIS, the original ventriloquist Arnold Wesker was shot and killed by an assassin hired by Gotham's new mob boss, the Great White Shark during the BATMAN:FACE THE FACE storyline. And although Dini initially plays a bit with the idea of a resurrected Wesker, the whole obvious truth is revealed by the end of the story. Scarface has attracted a new ventriloquist or better yet trapped a new victim.

Issue #827 offers a strong introduction to a classic villain of the 90's and presents Dini's modern take on the duo of Ventriloquist/Scarface. To better appreciate the puns and references in this story, you might want to re-read Detective Comics #824 ("Night of the Penguin").

The next part of the new Ventriloquist's tale comes with issue #831. Star of this story is Harley Quinn, Paul Dini's greatest contribution to the Batman franchise. Since you probably haven't been keeping up with her, Harley is imprisoned in Arkham Asylum after the events of Batman #663 ("The Clown at Midnight"). After being betrayed by her beloved "Mistah Jay", Harley claims to be free of his influence and requests release from Arkham.

And although her request is turned down by Bruce Wayne, a member of the asylum's board who seems to have something personal against our girl, Harley eventually gets her wish in a more direct way. Much to her disdain, she is broken out by Scarface who needs her abilities to pull off a job.

Dini "owns" the character of Harley Quinn, probably because he created her. She is the heroine of the story and extremely well-scripted. Plus, we get an extra bonus of a flashback scene from her first visit at Arkham as a patient.

Remember that suggestion a few lines above about re-reading issue #824 of Detective Comics? Time to take it under more serious consideration since 'TEC issues #833 and #834 are a two-part story that is essentially a direct sequel.

Anyway, for those who remember, the magician Ivar Loxias appears again in Gotham for a number of performances. However, an awful lot of accidents happen with the latest being the tragic death of one of Loxias' female assistants. Since the latter used to be one of Zatanna's closest friend, Batman invites her to investigate together.

Dini really does it this time, offering classic mystery coupled with amazing action scenes and character development. And let's not forget the classic black humor, offered by a certain character of the story. The

second part also shows Batman finally forgiving Zatanna for her actions that led to IDENTITY CRISIS, a few years back.

To be done with Paul Dini and move on to other writers, a quick summary issue #828 must be given. A sequel to 'TEC #822, it features good old Eddie Nigma in one more story of his days as private investigator. Much like the prequel, it presents a decent mystery, with well-written dialogues and more of Batman/Riddler scenes.

Don Kramer is the penciller of all five issues and seems to have improved in the area of facial discrimination. Beautiful pencil work as usual with attention to details. Issue #834 also marks the end of his run in Detective Comics.

Writer Stuart Moore presents a two-part story entitled "Siege", first published in 'TEC 829-830, which is included in this collection.

During an international anti-terror conference at Wayne Tower, a terrorist named Vox gets into the building and causes a series of explosions, threatening to bring the whole place down. While Batman must remain in his Bruce Wayne persona along with his guests, Robin (Tim Drake) tries to stop the villain all by himself. This is a fast-paced, action-packed story through which the writer successfully sends clear messages against war.

And lastly, writer Royal McGraw offers a one-shot story entitled "Triage", published in 'TEC #832.

Have you heard of the "Terrible Trio"? A bunch of losers back from the '70s (or '80s, can't recall). The story offers some background information on them and their past activities. Anyway, someone is targeting them, taking out one after the other and Batman tries to stop him. Guess what; he succeeds. This is not a boring story but kind of indifferent given how lame the villain(s) is.

Andy Clarke draws both these stories. He hasn't yet reached the level of his recent work in "Batman vs. Robin" here although both tales don't suffer from any art problems.

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## **Blindzider says**

I bumped this up from 3 to 4 stars, because I was actually surprised by one of the stories here and that doesn't happen to often.

This time around 5 of the 8 stories are by Dini, and this time some of the stories *are* related which helps with the payoff. There's also a story featuring Zatanna that references Identity Crisis, letting you know just when in time this story takes place. It's such a small moment between the two but if you know what happened in IC, it has a big meaning.

Again, just some really solid stories, but Dini is able to pack so much in such a little space. It's nice to have a story where Batman is just Batman being BATMAN.

