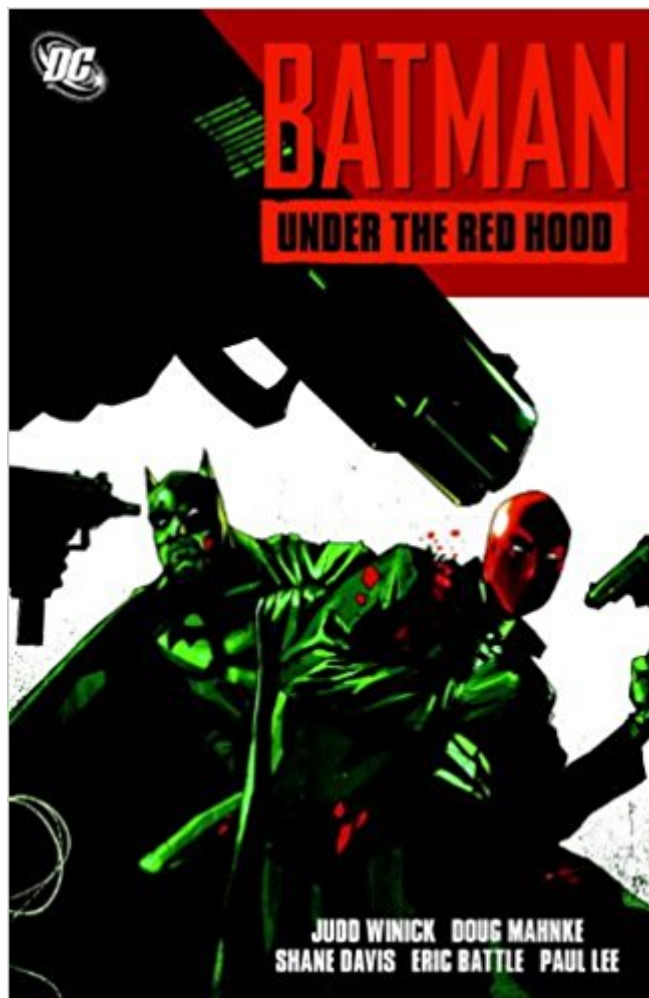


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Batman: Under The Red Hood



Synopsis

Batman is confronted with a hidden face from the past — it's the return of the vigilante Red Hood who appears to be Batman's one-time partner Jason Todd, the same Jason Todd that died many years ago. But the Red Hood's violent ways pit him against the Dark Knight in his hunt for the very person responsible for his death: The Joker. This volume collects Batman #635-641, #645-50 and Batman Annual #25.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Writer/artist Judd Winick has handled most every major character in the DC Universe including notable runs on GREEN LANTERN, GREEN ARROW, THE OUTSIDERS, JUSTICE LEAGUE: GENERATION LOST and wrote the critically acclaimed animated feature BATMAN: UNDER THE HOOD, based on his run on BATMAN. Winick came to national attention when appearing on MTV's The Real World: San Francisco, his experience inspired his memoir, the award-winning Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss, and What I Learned. His most recent work includes BATWING and CATWOMAN. Born in 1963 in the Year of the Rabbit, Doug Mahnke embarked on a love affair with comics at the age of five, having received a pile of Spider-Man issues from a rugby-playing college student named Mike who lived in his basement. A consistent interest in the medium, coupled with some art skill, landed Doug a job drawing comics for Dark Horse at the age of 24 (the date is known precisely, as it occurred just two weeks before he wed his lovely bride). His first gig was illustrating a moody detective one-shot entitled Homicide, written by John Arcudi. The two went on to collaborate

on Dark Horse's The Mask and their creator-owned series MAJOR BUMMER, originally published by DC. Since then Doug has worked on a wide variety of titles (including SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL, JLA, BATMAN, TEAM ZERO, SEVEN SOLDIERS: FRANKENSTEIN, BLACK ADAM: THE DARK AGE and STORMWATCH: P.H.D.) with such writers as Joe Kelly, Judd Winick, Chuck Dixon, Grant Morrison, Christos Gage and Ed Brubaker, just to name a few. He resides in the midwest with his wife and six kids, one dog, and a bunny named Suzie.

I will admit, I watched the excellent movie before reading this collection, so I was not surprised by much in this story. However, there are numerous plotlines left out of the movie, further explanations on the origin of Red Hood, and more depth in this collection. In short, even if you HAVE seen the movie, this collection is still different enough to not be classified as entirely predictable. When I first opened the envelope this book came in, I was surprised at its size. I had looked at the page count on the product description, but was still taken back a bit by how big this collection is. I paid a bit more than I thought I would have to for this book, but immediately felt a bit relieved when I saw its girth. Anyway, the writing style is very enjoyable. This functions pretty well as a stand-alone book, but there are a few significant story points readers ought to be familiar with before reading this collection. I had read 'Death in the Family' before this, so I knew all about Joker's murdering of Robin. If you're a Batman fan that has read pretty much any comic post 1986(ish), this should come as no surprise to you. What was surprising was that, apparently, Black Mask (who is a delight to read in this story) is not the chief mob boss in Gotham. While this was explained briefly, it felt a little off at first, since as far as I have read, Black Mask has been a hard B-level villain. There are several plot points similar to this in UtRH, but nothing is outright confusing. What I'm trying to say is that this Batman story is definitely more entrenched in then-current story canon than say, The Long Halloween. Regardless, dialogue is penned very well, with characters' speech patterns easily distinguishable and organic. The story moves a bit awkwardly at some points, in a way that I can only say was noticeable because I have seen the film adaptation. I must say, certain points of the movie's scene ordering is superior to the book, but the movie had the advantage of picking and choosing which elements it wanted to retain. Overall, this is just a cool story, and the stakes feel real for the Dark Knight. He is facing one of his most challenging opponents, an opponent he may not be able to, or even want to, stop. The art was slightly disappointing in this collection. Mahnke's talent has improved over the years from this work, so the work here has not all aged well. The most noticeable example is probably the image at the start of each chapter. Batman's chest looks laughably stylized, and way off-proportionally. That being said, none of his work is awful; it is at

worst mediocre. In certain panels, he knocks it out of the park, and that is the art I identify most with this story. Selected panels from Jim Lee's Hush are included in the end of this book, which makes all prior work seem weaker by comparison. To end, I'm very glad I purchased this book. It introduced an excellent new villain who is anything but black and white. This collection is not perfect, but it was a very satisfying read across every chapter. It never becomes dull, and while sometimes predictable, not riddled with distracting story tropes. While not enjoying the same proportional excellence as its movie counterpart, any fan of the movie, or Batman in general, will enjoy this collection.

I ordered this book after seeing the movie Batman: Under the Red Hood, since I loved the movie and wanted a little more back story. And since I had seen the movie already, I knew, for the most part, how this story would progress. But I was extremely drawn in by this story and I read it in one sitting. And immediately re-read it. This is an amazing story—well written, well drawn, well colored, well executed. While I used to be an avid spend-every-Wednesday-at-the-comic-shop comic book reader, I honestly haven't picked up any comics in YEARS. That said, even for a out of the loop reader, I was really drawn in by this story and was able to easily follow along. And while there are things mentioned that were never explained in this book (how did Nightwing jack up his leg? Why can't they contact Barbara Gordon? etc.), there were more questions answered than not. And I appreciated cameos from familiar faces of some of the Justice League and rogue gallery villains throughout the book. Also, the execution of Batman's confusion, conflict and mourning through the meat of the story is amazingly portrayed. I don't think anyone but this team of writers and illustrators could have done this as successfully. Bottom line—this is a great book for any Batman fan to read.

Hands down my favorite Batman story ever. If you've seen the "Under the Red Hood" movie you won't be getting much new stuff here. But if you haven't seen the movie you're in for a treat. An absolute must have for any fan of the Dark Knight, Joker, Robin, Red Hood, or just a good comic book story.

Batman: Under the Red Hood is an extremely important and influential Batman story, for obvious reasons, and you really get bang for your buck with this surprisingly thick volume. I was shocked at how it dwarfed some of my other volumes, and I was left reading it all day, even when I skimmed some segments. Without spoiling too much, this is a great book not only for how it characterizes Batman, The Joker, and the Red Hood, but also the attention and fantastic writing to underrated villain Black Mask. My only real complaint is that some of the writing is a little scattered and busy.

when it brings in the DCU at large. I understand that references to outside material is cool, but if you didn't read (or do some serious research) about the era in which this came out, you'll be almost completely lost regarding a few key plot points. The sub-plot regarding The Society was almost entirely pointless as well, serving to give Deathstroke a couple (admittedly cool) scenes and then give a very confusing a limp twist, which was later retconned away. Overall, Under the Red Hood is a great and entertaining read, just one that could have done with a little more editorial control.

First and foremost, I wasn't exactly broken up when the Joker murdered Jason Todd. I found him an extremely unlikeable Robin. So with that being said, I wasn't so sure I would like this at all. But I loved this! Jason Todd as the Red Hood is an extremely likeable character! In fact I loved him!! All the qualities that made him an obnoxious Robin, worked for him in this story. I never thought I would see the day where I not only liked Jason Todd, but also felt for him and empathized with him. This story is incredibly well written!! I loved watching someone screw over Black Mask, because I often get so sick of him and I loved the dialogue so much!! The scene with Joker, Batman and Jason goes down as one of my all time favorite moments ever!! I am now happy to say one of my least favorite characters has been made into one of my favorites :) Definitely worth owning, and definitely one you will want to read again :)

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