



Nightwing, Volume 2: Night of the Owls

Kyle Higgins (Writer) , Tom DeFalco (Writer) , Eddy Barrows (Illustrator) , Ruy Jose (Illustrator) , Eber Ferreira (Illustrator) , Andres Guinaldo (Illustrator) , Mark Irwin (Illustrator) , Geraldo Borges (Illustrator) , more... Raúl Fernandez (Illustrator) ...less

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Dick Grayson must face his past and a deadly adversary in the present as he learns of his connection to the mysterious Court of Owls. But even if he's able to stop an undead, unstoppable assassin, he'll still have to deal with the rising forces of the anti-Gotham City army and its leader the mysterious Paragon

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From Reader Review Nightwing, Volume 2: Night of the Owls for online ebook

Sesana says

The Court of Owls stuff is laid on really thick. I wish I could have enjoyed it more, because Nightwing is one of the more important books in that event. But it's weighed down with such horribly thick layers of inept symbolism that it just never really takes off.

When Higgins is left to his own devices, though, this is a great book. Dick feels like the character I know, which is quite a different person than Bruce. And he should be. Yes, his book is slathered with the same "Gotham is DARK!" tones that make all the Batfamily books so grim, but he himself isn't really that grim in the middle of things. Serious about his role as Nightwing, of course, but not grim. It's nice.

There's also a great zero issue that retells Dick's origin. This was really needed, after all the tweaks that have been made to his background. And really, more of the New 52 books, especially the Bat-books, should have done this. Flashpoint's sort of reset is a little confusing, as far as figuring what actually happened and what didn't.

I liked the first volume of Nightwing, and I feel bad that I sort of forgot about looking up the second one. I have a lot of catching up to do now.

Chris says

For once a Bat tie-in that doesn't interfere too much with the title's flow. Thankfully the focus remains on Nightwing and the story is not burdened with cameos.

Jesse A says

Im really enjoying Nightwing. A perfect companion book to Batman.

Beckiezra says

This gets the fourth star for the issue #0 at the end. I do love a Robin/Dick Grayson origin story. :) The art overall was fine, nothing memorable (except sometimes Dick had crazy eyes which I didn't appreciate), but not hideous. The story wasn't very cohesive as a volume; Night of Owls was interrupting the story the books had been telling. So this book covered Talon's backstory and Nightwing's fight with him, then it had Paragon and his group, then there was the issue of Dick's business plans, plus Dick's origins in new 52. I was happy to see a bit of Damian, can never have too much of Dick and Damian interacting.

Mike says

As part of Sidekicks week among the Shallow Comics Readers, I'm diving headlong into four volumes of Nightwing - the one, true sidekick of our warm and fuzzy pal The Batman.

First thing that really kicks me in the nads while reading this book are the fight-scene layouts. Damn you guys, making it look easy to sprawl the action across crazy-quilt panels, mirroring the action itself (broken glass, swing of a sword,...).

Next I smell the stench of the "Court of Owls" crossover, and wonder how much better this book would be without that ridiculous storyline. Owls, owl imagery, owl symbolism...this fucking premise is stretched so thin I think you can see into other dimensions through it.

Oh and watch them break every bone in their bodies, twisting and turning to torture the origin of Dick's last name. Poetic if you're a teenager, awkward and unnecessary if you're my age. Good lord, what difference does that kind of broken logic matter anyway?

Allegories are clearly not Higgins' strong suit, when they punch you repeatedly in the face like this. "Gotham is a city of birds - a city of Owls. Without us, nothing will ever change. And you? You'll never be more than an imitation Wayne...and a knockoff Bat. But with us, Richard? Well...you could be the greatest bird of all."

I was ready to just burn through this like a Mexican dinner through my colon, but thank god I was still paying attention.

The next story with a vigilante group targeting vigilante heroes...this one is much better. A little intrigue, a lot of action, a little detective-ing, and a little humour. The Republic, led by Paragon, are a great match for Dick. They keep him guessing, there's lots of suspects, and even a cameo by Damian (damn but isn't he the most interesting character in the Bat-verse? I'd be terrified if he was my kid, or my kid's best friend, but he's hilarious when there's no danger of him showing up in my darkened bedroom with a poison-laden garrotte).

Dick takes this stuff in stride and doesn't get angry, which is cool. And the Zero issue is even better - seminal issue indeed, how we see Robin's origin summarized and emphasized in all the good ways. Why didn't the New 52 *all* start this way? These little snippets give us everything we need to know to make sense of these modern versions of iconic heroes.

After two volumes of Higgins' take on Nightwing, I have a lot of respect and love for this character. He's just too *normal* not to be relatable. Like reading about your brother (well, maybe *my* brother).

David Dalton says

A companion volume to the Court of Owls storyline in the Batman Volumes. Very good. We get to see things and events from Nightwing's point of view. I was very intrigued by the Owls and what they represent in not just Bruce Wayne's life and history but Dick Grayson's as well. Tough act to change or add to after 80 years but DC did a great job with the Court of Owls!

Chris Lemmerman says

Not quite as enjoyable as the first volume, but still very solid storytelling here from Kyle Higgins, with an assist from Tom DeFalco near the end. This volume starts with a two issue Night of the Owls tie-in, which is probably the best tie-in of the various series since it actually sheds some light on Dick's background and his links to the Court. We then delve into a three part Paragon story which has a few interesting twists and turns but is ultimately quite forgettable - it's Dick's interactions with his supporting characters that help pull this story along. The Zero issue ends the trade, looking at Dick's first year or so helping Batman, and this is another highlight alongside the first three issues, showing us why he is different to Batman and what drives him to do good.

The artwork has a lot of fill-ins, but the teams of Eddy Barrows, Andres Guinaldo and Geraldo Borges are all fairly similar so the book is visually consistent, though I'd prefer one artist on each issue rather than splitting two issues unevenly between them.

I don't read many of the Bat-spin-offs in single issues, but the strength of this and the first volume does lead me to want to check out Nightwing monthly now.

Kyle says

Out of the New 52 volume twos, this one is head and shoulders above the rest.

It concluded a loose thread from the "Night of the Owls" storyline and it added a lot of history to the Grayson name... In fact, it explains how the Grayson name came about! I am really pleased to see that Dick's lineage goes back far beyond the usual Robin origin story. It gives more weight to him as a standalone character; it makes him less of a sidekick to Batman and more of a child of Gotham City.

There is also a three-issue story involving a new gang of young, quasi-vigilantes called "The Republic of Tomorrow", lead by some whack-a-doodle guy named Paragon. It's a solid little story, really well written with some very good artwork to back it up. What I liked most about this story is that the stakes are pretty high for Nightwing. His innocence is in the balance, and to clear his name he has to physically endanger himself. This is one of the few recent DCnU stories that I know of in which the hero has to lay it all on the table and get injured in the process just to save his own skin. And he is not the only one that has to risk a lot. For example, another character has to come out of the closet in order to make his point, and in the process, Nightwing's reputation gets sullied a bit.

There was a lot going on in these pages! And to cap it all off, the Issue #0 is a great retelling of the Robin origin story! We get to see Dick in his Robin costume and follow him on his first missions to help Batman. For me, this issue alone added layers and layers of depth to the New 52 Grayson. Which is what the New 52 needs at this point. Depth.

Quentin Wallace says

I didn't really see anything great about this volume, but at the same time I didn't see anything really bad about it either. I liked seeing Nightwing going up against the Talon, but I still don't care for the backstory involving him in the Court of Owls. We also got to see Lady Shiva and some more of Nightwing's childhood. Good for Nightwing fans, but nothing for others to go out of their way to pick up.

Chris says

Nightwing's New 52 series continues full steam ahead, with a second volume containing three great stories.

Dick Grayson's connection to the Court Of Owls storyline gives him the strongest tie-in of the Night Of The Owls event. Nightwing faces the lethal threat of the Court's Talon assassins, while the history of his ancestor, William Cobb, is told in-between. Colourists Rod Reis and Peter Pantazis ensure there's a clear distinction between the two time periods, with the strong colours and bright snow in the present contrasting effectively with the muddier palette of the past. The art team, led by Eddy Barrows and Ruy Jose, also impress thanks to their level of detail and engaging fight scenes.

Nightwing then faces the challenge of being framed for a double murder, which leads him to a new organisation known as the Republic Of Tomorrow. As much as I enjoyed the first nine issues of the series, this story was notably funnier and featured more of what makes Nightwing so much fun to read.

Finally, the enjoyable #0 issue sees Dick's origin story go through the New 52 timeline alteration and come out the other side relatively unscathed. He's older sure, but the important story beats are still there. I didn't mind any of the changes that were made, not least due to a fantastic exchange between Dick and Alfred that made the entire issue.

Kyle Higgins has a great handle on Dick Grayson's character, whether he's caught up in Bat-related storylines or attempting to renovate Amusement Mile using his own resources. A capable writer will always increase reader confidence in a series, so considering the art team are consistently strong too, it's safe to say that Nightwing is in good hands.

Lenka says

The conclusion to the Night of the Owls was pretty cool and it seems it might have some impact on the future of Nightwing. The second story with the Republic of Tomorrow is alright, it started good but in the end it's hardly special.

I might be bit too harsh with the rating. It's solid book. The writing is great and Higgins is good author. But it's a visual novel and the visuals are what's bothering me the most. I never particularly enjoyed Barrows art for Nightwing because I just think it doesn't fit. But now the art jumps from author to author (Nightwing's uniform changing design midfight) and it takes lot from the overall enjoyment of the book.

John Yelverton says

The artwork was still great, but the story is drudging up the same old tune. Don't heroes suffer enough fighting the never ending battle without their personal lives being turned into even worse chaos?

Jayson says

(B+) 77% | Good

Notes: A modern arrangement of classical tunes, it sings pallid renditions, elevated by art and intriguing only in its changes.

Scott S. says

The final section, a Dick Grayson / Robin origin story, was the redeeming feature in this volume. The rest of the book was sort of forgettable, although the illustrations during numerous action / fight scenes were good.

Kay says

Overall, a stronger volume than Nightwing: Traps and Trapezes. This volume has better action and a better story than volume 1.

Art is the same though.

I skimmed/skipped the first two issues of this volume since they're in Batman: Night of the Owls.

I didn't love the bad guy (Paragon), but I did like Detective Nie, I thought having the lead Detective on a Nightwing case be anti-Nightwing an interesting problem. Though planting evidence and tampering with an investigation (against Batman) is super illegal, and I don't know how he's still on the GCPD.

Sonia Zucco is a terrible character addition to this volume (just as Raya was in volume 1). She's as empty and lame as an inanimate \$*% *doll. She's just there as a romantic/sexual foil for Dick (being the daughter of the man who murdered Dick's parents). I personally don't see anything there, but Higgins is gonna tell us there is.

But... a saving grace... I LOVE, **LOVE**, *LOVE* Issue 0. I love Batman/Robin origins stories, and this was well done.

Total: 3.5
