



Batman: Nine Lives

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Kit Kat club manager Selina Kyle has been murdered. Selina, it seems, has been privy to dangerous secrets, and her death results in a whirlwind of furious activity from the underworld denizens. Now, Batman must chase down treacherous clues and doggedly track down the killer. But even for the Caped Crusader, it won't be easy

Batman: Nine Lives Details

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From Reader Review Batman: Nine Lives for online ebook

Michael says

This is a great story that places Batman in a more noir than normal setting that diverges from the accepted DC Comics continuum. You'll recognize many of the characters and villains, but you'll also notice that they've been altered by the writer to fit within the isolated universe of this particular graphic novel. I'm not going to say that they're any better or more believable than the typical versions of these characters we've become accustomed to, only that they seem more like characters you'd encounter in a Dashiell Hammett story and definitely more in keeping with the creative team's overall vision. While perhaps not for everyone, for me their fresh take on these characters not only grabbed my attention, it got me excited about reading Batman stories again.

Harshal says

Another of the elseworlds, and it was good. The noir setting worked perfectly with Dick Grayson as the narrator.

It allowed them to present Batman as another different and mysterious character in Gotham. I also liked how the bank of villains are designed to have a link with their names and their work.

It felt like a detective comic. There was a mystery. Lots of people stuck in the maze. The act somewhat glorifies Selina Kyle, by showing she has secrets on all of the Gotham underbelly. The Selina as we know from the characters interacting, doesn't come out as powerful as she is shown to be.

Overall, I liked it. I've always been a fan of noir, so I guess the rating can have some bias, since I'm predisposed to like this genre.

Jace O'Hara says

I thought this book was great and I never wanted to put it down. The book took place in Gotham city and was about an investigation of the missing Selina Kyle. The main characters were: The Joker, Batman, The Penguin, Selina Kyle, and Dick Grayson. The book was from the narrators perspective and followed Dick Grayson and Batman mostly because they were trying to find out what happened to Selina Kyle. In my opinion, I think the book could've been longer and more in depth with details, but as I read things just kept piecing together and I think they did a really good job with that. I also liked how it wasn't always in the same view and what sometimes even go in the villain's perspective to see what they were doing at the time of the incident. "They met all right. They also fought, and somehow she fell into the reservoir." (Pg 112 matter) this is a quote in the book where they figured out one step into finding where Selina Kyle could be and were very close to finding her. They also said "Wayne is innocent. He was with me when Nygma was killed" (pg 111 matter) this quote showed how they tried to blame Bruce Wayne for the disappearance of Selina Kyle but in this quote, the detective Dick Grayson told them that he was with Bruce when Edward Nygma, another culprit, was killed. I recommend this book to anyone who has seen any Batman movies or read any other comic books, because some characters are well known in the Batman series and I think this a great book for

anyone who is into superheroes or even mystery books because it's more of a mystery book with batman characters. I really enjoyed this book and I give it a 4/5 stars.

Frank says

A very cool Elseworlds tale from DC Comics, that takes all the Batman universe and turns it film noir. Now Batman is already a film noir-ish tale but this elseworlds story doesn't play around & turns the noir to 11. Dick Grayson is the main character of this caper, a young detective & his spunky secretary Barbara Gordon, are involved in a case involving the murder of Selina Kyle. The book's main character maybe Grayson & it is a batman story so he takes up another huge chunk, this story is mostly about Mrs. Kyle. The title says it all, 9 lives, or the 9 affairs/ relationships Mrs. Kyle was having all the big names of Gotham. The Penguin, The Joker, The Riddler, the dark and mysterious Mister Wayne, and of course Dick Grayson himself. Even Killer Croc gets involved! Everything you love about Batman is in this volume and it is able to be it's own story with a perfect film noir touch.

Prince says

Batman: Nine Lives is a one-shot set in the Elseworld i.e a world which is not part of the normal DC continuity. Elseworld stories can occur anywhere from ancient/ medieval settings to futuristic worlds to any kind of parallel universe, and are usually quick affairs. While the idea might be annoying to some, ***Batman: Nine Lives*** turns out otherwise.

What makes ***Batman: Nine Lives*** captivating is that the whole story - an entertaining murder mystery - is told in film noir (or is it comic noir?) fashion. Yes, we have the world-weary and universally disliked ex-cop private eye, an alluring femme fatale, the usual gallery of villains each with their own secret, all told in shady lighting and sharp angles. The whole setup works brilliantly because - and this is something I realised midway through the read - there are no significant changes to what makes a good Batman story. Think of it: We have Batman who works at night most of the time, famous femme fatales like Selina Kyle and Talia Al Ghul, and a rogues gallery with rich and complicated villains. In other words, *Batman is noir*. It's just that his stories aren't portrayed that way most of the time. And this makes ***Batman: Nine Lives*** a sheer pleasure to read.

Now to the story. ***Batman: Nine Lives*** is set in the post World War II era Gotham city which (as you guessed) is overrun by criminals. A slight change to the usual setup here is that Bruce Wayne is portrayed as a ruthless businessman who goes to any length to get what he wants. He is helped in his efforts by his attorney Harvey Dent. Dent's portrayal as the unreliable and immoral lawyer here is one of the best interpretations of the Two-Face character without the ghoulish disfigurement. We have Selina Kyle as the owner of the Kit Kat club who's seen better days, and now takes on a string of lovers (everyone from Edward Nygma, the paranoid banker to Oswald Cobblepot, the racketeer) to help finance her wealthy lifestyle. So it goes until one fine evening, a dead body turns up which sets into motion a chain of events with private eye Dick Grayson at its center.

Contrary to the title, Batman is seen for very little of the story. Dick Grayson is the washed up protagonist who sees the odds against his favor as the bodies pile up. A welcome change here is that all the regular characters are shown with little or no makeup and physical scarring, giving us a look how the Joker, Mr.

Freeze, Penguin, Killer Croc and others would seem in real world.

All told, ***Batman: Nine Lives*** is a solid read with well drawn panels and sharp dialogue that does just to both the comic and film noir genres. Pick it up if you're a Batman fan.

Rodrigo Tello says

Un buen relato negro de Batman, bastante mejor que "Gotham noir"

Quentin Collie says

Batman: Nine Lives presents an interesting context that I believe definitely matches the tone and atmosphere of Gotham City and the Batman detective story. Dick Grayson's narratorial voice comes across as engaging and keeps the tone of the story mysterious and interesting and the tone of the story consistently steady, not too fast and not too slow. This character and narrator is the primary strength of the story because the style is what makes this story interesting and sets it apart from other Batman stories.

While the style is defined and strong, the plot was not particularly unique or engaging, and the ending did not produce much of an impact. The plot of the murder mystery clearly fits the style of the story. Selina Kyle's death brings all of her friends out to try to get ahold of what she has left behind, something seemingly valuable, and Dick Grayson is tasked with finding the culprit. While it is not a bad story, there was not necessarily anything that stuck out from the story as unique or different, other than the style of the story.

Born says

Fanboys and girls of Gotham Central will love this, too. This is an Elseworlds Batman crime story. Selina Kyle is murdered and a lot of familiar characters (nine) come into play. Story is set in the 1940s, I guess, which suits Lark's crime noir art. Bruce Wayne is the only character with a double identity. The Joker, Penguin, etc. are all nicknames for familiar characters from Batman lore that refer to personality traits rather than alter ego's. Gives the story a more realistic feel.

Justyn Rampa says

This book is genius!!! SO FREAKING GOOD!!! The artwork and aesthetic is stunning and the story...wow...so amazing!!! Let's start from the beginning. This particular Batman tale was published under the DC Imprint called "Elseworlds". Basically, any story published under the Elseworlds imprint told a story outside of the established continuity. The Marvel counterpart for this is the "What If" series.

In this particular tale, Dean Motter and Michael Lark revamp the world of Batman in a noir style murder mystery that is just too damn clever for words! To go into details would spoil the fun of reading so I won't do that. Suffice to say this is definitely one of the most inventive and creative Batman stories I have ever read.

I definitely intend to read more of the Batman Elseworlds stories, but this is going to be hard to top for sure. This definitely deserves a place on the list probably higher than it actually was placed.

Well done Dean Motter and Michael Clark!

Sidenote: Dean Motter worked on the Mister X comic series of which I own but have not reviewed.

Ill D says

Imagine something that looks and feels just like you would expect it to. Whether a pair of sneakers, or perhaps a watch of some high caliber and no matter how well it matches the platonic ideal you might have of it, something just bugs you about it. No matter how many times its shaken or inspected from every angle, you're still not able to deduce its authenticity. It has the veneer to a t but something just feels off.

Call it a hunch or whatever, this is exactly how I felt about Batman: Nine Lives.

Now don't get me wrong. Not only did I very much enjoy this read and would do anything to not detract you from reading this, I would happily advise the opposite. However, there are some nitpicky flaws that (disappointingly) drag this down the five star I wanted to give, down to a four. And it all deals with that question of authenticity.

On the level of appearances, it's pretty flawless. A superbly written script perfectly matches the décor of the era. From pinstripe suits and their corresponding haberdasheries to the ever-crucial femme fatale, Nine Lives feels perfectly cut from the same cloth that is the cinematographic style known as: Film Noir. Impeccably derived from its source material and well researched at every level my eyes were stunned at every twist and turn.

My eyes were always pleased but my mind didn't quite feel the same.

As far as a narrative goes, while generally coherent, innumerable moving parts and all too convenient development betrays occasional gaps in logic that feel shiftily at best and *meh at worst. Which is a shame because while a lot of tropes and characters are imaginatively well modulated to fit the story, the internal plot can get quite murky more often than not. Less is certainly more and Nine Lives is a perfect example of this immutable axiom.

The style is always hit but the misses of substance are far more convoluted than they should be. In either case, it's a worthy read despite a panoply of intractable flaws.

Willem van den Oever says

The Batman-saga - with its gritty urban crime scenes, shadowy streets and numerous gangsters – always had that film-noir vibe in it. With “*Batman: Nine Lives*”, DC Comics finally goes all the way, featuring a down-on-his-luck private eye in 1940's Gotham City.

Nearly all of the well known Batman characters have been slightly altered to fit this Dashiell Hammett-esque

world: the Joker is now a Richard Widmark-type poker-player, racketeer Oswald Cobblepot/Penguin looks a lot like Sydney Greenstreet. Not Bruce Wayne, but Dick Grayson (aka Robin) is the lead character in this story, being the ex-cop turned private eye.

When nightclub owner Selina Kyle is found dead in the sewers of Gotham, a chain reaction rocks the city. Just about every underworld character in the metropolis has had contact with the murder victim and while all of them have motivations to take her out, all now are desperate too to keep their past with Kyle a secret. With Kyle being an old client of him, Grayson is also added to the list of suspects; and the Boy Wonder quickly has to figure out what has happened to the alluring nightclub owner before the Gotham criminals get their hands on him.

As said, Batman has always been inspired by film noir, so “*Nine Lives*” isn’t *that* groundbreaking. Had Wonder Woman or Superman been recast into the noir-look, things might’ve been more surprising. Nevertheless, writer Dean Motter and illustrator Michael Lark make the most of the situation, throwing in as many references to “*Laura*”, “*Double Indemnity*” and “*The Third Man*” as possible. Lark’s pencil- and inkwork look great, providing a sort of 40’s/50’s newspaper comic-look – although the landscape format of the book itself is a pain. It doesn’t read pleasantly, and if the idea was to give the book a more cinematic look, the small, upright panels on the pages themselves destroy that idea.

Motter’s story is so dense, that countless narration boxes needed to be placed throughout just about every scene in order to tell the plot. Something a little tauter would’ve done “*Nine Lives*” a lot of good. Add to that the very disappointing ending, the reader’s left with the feeling that the story – though full of great ideas and lots of potential – could’ve been so much better.

Overall, “*Nine Lives*” is an interesting, entertaining read, though falling far short of being iconic or memorable at all.

Roxanne says

If you like noir, if you like Dick Grayson being a total bad ass, if you like as many villains as possible in one story, then you will love this!

Dick Grayson is trying to solve the murder of Selina Kyle he is also one of the suspects of her murder, along with Bruce and literally every gotham criminal ever and Gordon is 300% done with everyone's bullshit.

Such an interesting and different take on these characters, the artwork works perfectly with the story.

Definitely worth reading, especially if you're after something a little different.

Sunil says

Dean Motter and Michael Lark reimagine the world of Batman as 1940s crime noir, and it is...a thing that happened! Lark's art style is perfect for noir, of course, and Motter evokes the language and sensibility in his story, in which P.I. Dick Grayson investigates the murder of Selina Kyle and basically everyone—including Bruce Wayne—is a suspect. Motter has fun coming up with clever "realistic" reinterpretations of Batman's Rogues' Gallery, although the book begins to feel like it's nothing more than a cameo machine. Grayson's narration holds the story together, however, and the plot moves quickly as he stumbles from suspect to suspect to the very noir conclusion. It's a fun book for the novelty, but it doesn't rise above "Welp, it's

Batman as classic noir."

Jen says

Some of DC's best collaborative works have come out of Elseworlds. *Nine Lives* is one of these. Batman virtually returns to his era of origin, the snappy hard-boiled 30s/40s, home of the gangster and noir genre. It's no wonder that he fits so seamlessly into the gritty, seedy world.

Selina "The Cat Woman" Kyle, owner of the Kit Kat club, has been found dead in mysterious circumstances. Turns out she has quite a long line of conquests and "supporters" all of whom have their own secrets. Dick Grayson steps into a Phillip Marlowe kind of shoe with jarring awkwardness as her former PI. The Rogue gallery as we know them are a little different as only Elseworlds could mould them, but are none too dissimilar to their canon counterparts. Bruce Wayne is a murder suspect among them, but the narrative takes an intriguing turn when his alter ego encounters Dick.

The art complements the era beautifully with a limited and muted palette of dark shades, while the constant black background accentuates the cinematic air of each panel. The unusual landscape layout of the pages also gives off a kind of visceral film reel/newspaper strip feeling, and lends the story a linear sequence that may seem too straight-forward (perhaps dull). These are minor issues – overall this is a richly satisfying story for the typical noir fan. Batman fans will also appreciate the subtle details and changes made by Motter and Lark.

Orrin Grey says

A very peculiar but intriguing Batman Elseworlds tale that reimagines the Batman mythos as a crime noir movie, stripping the characters of most of their more comic book-ish conceits and changing relationships around more than usual. (Catwoman, for instance, is a night club owner, the Joker a card shark with anger management issues, and Mr. Freeze is a cold-blooded hitman.) Also odd is that the comic doesn't really focus on Batman at all, spending most of its time following around Dick Grayson, reimagined as a private detective.

Still, it's a solid crime noir story, and the art (by Michael Lark) is very good, reminiscent of the work of Ryan Sook.
