



Batman: Ego and Other Tails

Darwyn Cooke , Paul Grist , Tim Sale (Illustrator) , Bill Wray (Illustrator)

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Batman: Ego and Other Tails Darwyn Cooke , Paul Grist , Tim Sale (Illustrator) , Bill Wray (Illustrator) DC proudly presents Cooke's tales of the Dark Knight in one graphic novel, including the acclaimed Batman: Ego and the original graphic novel Catwoman: Selinas Big Score. This volume also includes stories from Gotham Knights #23 and #33, and Solo #1 and #5. Older teens.

Batman: Ego and Other Tails Details

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Author : Darwyn Cooke , Paul Grist , Tim Sale (Illustrator) , Bill Wray (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Batman: Ego and Other Tails for online ebook

Brandon says

Never having read Richard Stark's Parker series, I picked up Darwyn Cooke's graphic novel adaptations. The stories themselves were awesome but what had originally grabbed me was Cooke's unique style. When I finished, I was salivating for more. Imagine how happy I was to find out he did a few runs within the Batman universe!

Contained in this compilation are six stories, five of which follow the actions of the Dark Knight while one is devoted to Catwoman. While I'm not that big of a Catwoman fan, his run with that character is easily the best of the bunch.

Batman: EGO - Cooke's signature artwork took center stage this time around while the writing left more to be desired. The idea of a conversation between Bruce Wayne and Batman was an interesting premise indeed but the presentation of Batman as this murderous presence seemed off.

Batman Black & White: Here There Be Monsters - In terms of visuals, this is easily the standout offering. I need to read more of this series! The artwork here is beautiful with blacks, whites and greys presenting the story.

Catwoman: Selina's Big Score - Taking up the bulk of this issue, we follow Selina as she seemingly returns from the dead. Having been M.I.A since fleeing to Morocco trying to capture an elusive artifact, Selina returns to Gotham to participate in an ambitious crime; steal roughly \$24 million from the mob.

We're also introduced to a character named "Stark", who Cooke admits was influenced heavily by Donald Westlake's Parker. He even introduces him via a plot similar to *The Hunter*!

Cooke crafts a pretty compelling story here that not only has a great caper but also dabbles in the beginnings of Catwoman.

Batman Black & White: The Monument - Despite my ravings about how beautiful the black and white dynamic was earlier, this is the worst of the bunch. Cooke is strictly a writer here and the story is drawn by Bill Wray. I really found the style here unappealing and the story was nothing to write home about.

Batman: Date Night - Breaking up a crime by Catwoman, Batman ends up in a series of locations that supported by running dialogue by Catwoman, is about as close as Batman can come to going on a date. With artwork presented by one of my favorite Batman artists, Tim Sale, Cooke gives us an entertaining vision of the on again off again romantic tension between the two iconic characters.

Batman: Deja Vu - Inspired by the 70s classic Batman tale, "Night of the Stalker", Cooke gives us a story in which Batman gives us zero dialogue. Nicely drawn and a pretty cool story, Cooke finishes this book strong.

Overall, I liked this but didn't love it. While Cooke's artwork is always slick his writing can be pretty hit or miss.

Blindzider says

2.5 stars

Mixed bag. This contains a variety of Batman stories written and/or drawn by Cooke over the years. The best was the Catwoman story: it has that noir feel to it and I didn't check the dates but I believe it was a precursor to his Parker series. He includes a character called Stark, who acts very similar to Parker. Having read the Parker series recently it almost feels as if they are in the same world, flawed characters who can't help themselves.

There's an early story that Cooke wrote where Bruce Wayne has a psychological conversation with Batman. It's a clever idea but it didn't quite mine all the jewels that I think are buried in there.

Most of these are short pieces either from the Batman: Black and White series or some other book, and each only contains a few pages. One written by Cooke and drawn by Tim Sale was kind of fun, where Catwoman gets Batman to chase her through the city.

Cooke's art which is really my favorite over his writing, varies across the stories (some of it because they were from different parts of his career.) A lot of it is in the inking, sometimes more, sometimes less, sometimes smooth etc.

It's worth a read if you want to be a completist with Cooke's work, but not quite worth the time for the average reader.

Martin says

Collecting a lot of Darwyn Cooke's Batman-related work, including the sublime Catwoman: Selina's Big Score (for which you can read my review by clicking the conveniently provided link!).

The "Batman:EGO" one-shot is okay, and the same can be said for the other short stories in this book. You'd think a 3-star rating would be sufficient, and you'd be correct. However, on the strength of "Selina's Big Score" alone, which accounts for a big chunk of the total page count, suddenly this book is elevated to a 4-star rating.

Definitely worth a read!

Jeff says

This is a collection of Bat-themed stories written and for the most part drawn by Darwyn Cooke, who collaborated with Ed Brubaker on his most excellent Catwoman run.

The title story finds Batman having a bout of the guilty when he feels responsible for the deaths of a Joker henchman and his family. So what does Bats do? He goes back to the Batcave and does the Tears for Fears

thing and shouts, shouts, let all out because these are things Batman can do without. Come on, I'm talking to you.

Who is Batman talking to? His own worst enemy. Hissself!!

And Alfred's not around to fix him a hot toddy or caviar on toast (crusts trimmed), so it's self-psychotherapy the hard way.

Batman exploring the abyss that is his inner nutter psyche isn't anything new, but Cooke does a reasonably entertaining job with it.

The real star here is the Catwoman story, which is also available as a solo volume: *Catwoman: Selina's Big Score*.

Selina Kyle, the Catwoman, is presumed dead and broke and she's having no luck in Morocco, robbing museums, so it's back to Gotham in order to make a bundle the easy way – Stealing it.

Cooke gives some insight into Selina's past introducing some of her shadier acquaintances.

This one is Batman-free, although he does get called a Nancy boy by one character. Cooke stirs the brew with some fine noirish storytelling and some memorable characters. And a kick-ass Selina:

The rest of the stories are decent: "Monument" is a hoot and the other Catwoman/Batman story is cute.

Shelby's bottom line: Shelby keeps hoping for a Batman/Horsecock (from *Crossed*, Vol. 1) showdown and I keep telling her it ain't happening.

Boo hoo! You can stop whining now, Bruce.

Sans says

As a **Batman** book, this is pretty weak with only one story dedicated to Bruce (never mind how insane and

amazing that story was). As a **Darwyn Cooke** book, this is fantastic. Most of this volume is dedicated to Selina and Darwyn's love for her really shines through. His distinctive style is Catwoman to me. She's gorgeous no matter what (well, maybe not in *Year One* with the shaved head...) but my god. Darwyn with a pencil in his hand was pure magic. Darwyn drawing Selina Kyle? Perfection.

Scott says

As a fan of Darwyn Cooke's two-volume *DC: The New Frontier* (an origin story of sorts, set just prior to JFK's inauguration) I was really looking forward to *Batman: Ego and Other Tails*.

This one was another winner, with similar style artwork and 50'/60's atmosphere. Now, it should be noted that about half the book is a Catwoman solo story, 'Selina's Big Score,' but what an outstanding crime saga. Maybe I'm reading too much into things, but I think the 'Stark' character is modeled on author Donald Westlake's (who used the pen name Richard Stark - hint hint) expert thief 'Parker,' who was first played on the big screen by Lee Marvin in *Point Blank*. Additionally and pleasingly, the Stark character appears drawn to resemble tough guy actor Lee Marvin, and I imagined his gravely voice uttering Stark's dialogue the between those puffs on the ever-present cigarette. There's also a vengeful crime boss, a French-Canadian hit man, a hard-boiled private eye and various other low-lifes mixed in, of course -- it was just like a Westlake novel (and he wrote a lot of great crime stories in 40+ years), but in comic book form.

Similarly, I also really enjoyed the opener 'Ego', though it seems to be hit-or-miss with other reviewers. Instead of fully rehashing the origin story we're treated to memories of Bruce Wayne's parents (some really good scenes here) as he battles his conscience after a stressful night.

There are also a couple of black & white short stories ('Here Be Monsters' is okay, but 'The Monument' is amusing) and then two color short stories ('Date Knight' - an extended flirting / chase scene w/ Batman and Catwoman crashing through Gotham; and 'Deja Vu', with Batman in pursuit of criminals responsible for a murder that will seem familiar for readers) to complete the book.

Ryan Stewart says

This is just delightful. "Ego" has a very Batman The Animated Series feel to it and is one of the best psychological explorations of the balancing act struck by Bruce and his alter ego. This is a five-star story, as is the final short story at the end of the collection, based on the classic Steve Englehart issue "Night of the Stalker." Some of the other stories in this volume didn't really land for me, hence the loss of a star. But overall I wish Darwyn Cooke would have another run or two at Batman. I love his interpretation.

Aggelos says

Cooke was gone too soon.

He definitely writes one of my favorite incarnations of the dark knight, very Batman Tas like (which he contributed as an artist), you feel for Bruce Wayne, the character is relatable, he has a complete personality, he has weaknesses that he tries to overcome.

One of my problems with most post-Miller Batman stories is that Bruce Wayne lost his humanity, Miller transformed the tragedy plagued but overall balanced individual that was Bruce Wayne during the post-O'Neil era into a brutal, uncompromising psychopath, taking away all the sympathy. Batman stopped being a human, he became a walking computer with angst issues, something you can clearly see in the last decade of popular Batman tales which revolve around Batman's impressive intelligence, mistrust and self-destructiveness, where I am getting with this is when you ask a Batman fan, "Why do you like Batman" the most common answer is "He is relatable", but there is nothing relatable in a psychopath for me.

So a story like this, who treats Bruce as a person is a small haven for an old-school Batman fan like me.

Anne says

Ehhhhhhh.

Didn't like the art (*except for the short story illustrated by Tim Sale*), and didn't like the stories very much. I thought Ego was the dumbest of the bunch.

Bruce Wayne has some kind of a nervous breakdown, and ends up having a conversation with *Batman*, who turns out to be about as crazy as the Joker.

Sounds like it would be a cool story, but it's not. Really.

Selina's Big Score was ok, but nothing to write home about.

This is not a must-read (*in my humble opinion*).

Donovan says

While the art is mostly okay, and sometimes very good, writing Batman is not Darwyn Cooke's strong suit. These are the shortest, silliest tales I've ever read. If these were from 1940 I could understand the writing, but they're about ten years old. Selina's chapter was better, but not the best heist story I've ever read either. Probably best left to diehard Cooke fanatics.

Mohammed says

I didnt think Darwyn Cook's art would fit Batman stories but his art is very moody,great in a cartooney way. He drew some great looking,dark Batman stories.

The best story of this GN is by far though Selina's Big Score. A great heist story,with very noirish art. Stark character that looks like Lee Marvin and is named after Parker/Richard Stark shows the story is a prototype for his Parker graphic Novels too.

Logan says

This one wasn't too bad. Don't be fooled though, Darwyn Cooke merely just does the introduction for this book and has no further writing input! The book features short stories, 3 or 4 involving batman and one with catwoman. The first story was pretty interesting, how Bruce Wayne talks to batman as a separate entity, but after that the stories are either confusing or just damn boring!

David Schaafsma says

This big deluxe edition collects Batman: Ego (2000), Catwoman: Selina's Big Score GN (2003), Batman: Gotham Knights (2000-2006) #23 and 33, and Solo (2004 DC) #1 and 5. Mostly written and drawn by Darwyn Cooke, though some of it is just drawn by Cooke, some of it is just written by him. These are highly stylized and dramatic and splashily colored Batman stories.

The main story, Cooke's first of Batman, "Ego," has Bruce Wayne and Batman speak to each other, agonizing about his role as vigilante. A lot of psychologizing in the dialogue, but the art here and throughout is bold and colorful and sixties-pop art-hip, reminiscent of Cooke's animation career.

There's an intro from Amanda Conner which is sweet, and Cooke's own notes in the afterword for each of the entries are terrific. Great to have, especially now that Cooke recently (too soon, aged 53) passed away.

Sam Quixote says

Batman: Ego and Other Tails collects all of Darwyn Cooke's Batman comics in one handy volume - and it's a pretty good read!

The title story sees Bruce traumatised after seeing one of Joker's henchmen kill his family and himself rather than wait for the Joker to bust out of Arkham, as he always does, and come for them as payback for ratting him out. The deaths force Bruce to question himself as he talks through his issues with a cartoonishly monstrous Batman!

It's an interesting idea but Cooke doesn't really raise any original points. Cooke makes Batman responsible for the Joker's creation (that fateful night when the Red Hood entered ACE Chemicals and the Joker left) and, because Bruce's dad instilled in his son a respect for life, responsible for the Joker's many murders by refusing to kill him. Cooke's solution is similarly cliched as the symbol for hope argument is made. Overall it's a bit of clumsily written story.

There are a couple of shorts from Batman: Black and White that were very forgettable - I know because I've read all of Batman: Black and White and couldn't remember reading these! Cooke's artwork on the Paul Grist-written story is wonderful though.

This book also includes Catwoman: Selina's Big Score which isn't technically a Batman comic but is set within his world, using Gotham as the backdrop and the Falcone crime family as the villains. It's a dummy run for Cooke's later Parker adaptations at IDW that uses all of the noir/crime cliches but it's entertaining

enough.

Date Knight is written by Cooke and drawn by Tim Sale. Catwoman and Batman tangle “erotically” across the Gotham skyline in a totally pointless tale. Sale’s splash pages are good though.

The Catwoman pinup from Solo #5 is reprinted and the volume ends with the superb Batman: Deja Vu, also from the same Solo issue. Riffing on the ‘70s story, Night of the Stalker, Batman takes down a gang of murdering thieves all without saying a word. It’s my favourite of Cooke’s Batman stories, closing out the book on a high note.

Most of the volume features Cooke’s iconic artwork too, showcasing his different styles from using colour to working in black and white, using thicker lines for Selina’s Big Score to working expertly within the classic eight panel grid in Deja Vu. Cooke was definitely a better artist than he was a writer which isn’t really a swipe at his writing considering the high quality of his art.

Darwyn Cooke will be best remembered for his Parker adaptations and New Frontier but he wrote some damn fine Batman and Catwoman stories too - Batman: Ego and Other Tails is well worth checking out for fans of those characters.

Brent says

Darwyn Cooke can really draw and write fine comics.

Recommended.
