



Batman: No Man's Land

By Greg Rucka

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All hope abandon, ye who enter here. Gotham City: a dark, twisted reflection of urban America. Overcrowded, overbuilt, and overshadowed by a continuous air of menace, this gothic nightmare is a breeding ground for the depraved, the indifferent, and the criminally insane. It's also the object of one man's obsession. Forever scarred as a child from witnessing the brutal murder of his parents, Bruce Wayne has dedicated his life to protecting this city from its many predators, taking a form to inspire hope in the innocent...and fear in the guilty. He is the masked vigilante known as the Batman. With Police Commissioner James Gordon, these two men have always fought to preserve law and order, side-by-side, struggling against a pervasive and relentless criminal element, working together to hold the line. Until now. Leveled by a massive earthquake that has left thousands dead and millions more wounded, Gotham City has been completely cut off from outside aid, transformed into a lawless battleground -- a No Man's Land -- where the survivors are turning against one another, and where the city's protectors are torn by a crisis that may consume them all. Gotham now teeters at the edge of the abyss...and Batman is missing. Critically acclaimed author Greg Rucka brings his talents to DC Comics' most complex and darkly compelling cast of characters. Powerfully written, this epic saga reintroduces and redefines the Batman mythos for the millennium.

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Batman: No Man's Land By Greg Rucka Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #79496 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Pocket Books
- Published on: 2000-01-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.45" h x 6.46" w x 9.45" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 448 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Fans of Batman are lucky to get Greg Rucka--the talented, gritty young author of *Keeper* and *Finder*, among others--sharing time with their favorite licensed character in this novelization of DC's complete No Man's Land comic series. (And fans of Rucka--assuming they get around to reading this at all--will still likely hold the opinion that Atticus Kodiak could take Batman in a standup fight any day.)

DC shook up Gotham--literally--in its 1999 Batman plot arc: a 7.6 earthquake rocked Gotham City, wreaking enough destruction to bring the broken, crime-ridden, runt kid-brother of Metropolis and New York to its knees. In the story line's most indulgent liberty, those fat cats in Washington decide to write off Gotham, à la *Escape from New York*, blowing up the connecting bridges, mining the surrounding waterways, and signing into law the Federal Declaration of No Man's Land, which makes it a crime to even set foot in the city. The usual suspects from Arkham Asylum, Two-Face and the Penguin, the Riddler and Dr. Freeze, Poison Ivy and Mr. Zsasz, file out to begin running the show, strong-arming and manipulating the block-by-block turf battles that envelop the now-ultraviolet city. A conflicted Batman shows up fashionably late, only to find that these lunatics are the least of his worries: Lex Luthor, Superman's archfoe, has nefarious designs on Gotham too. Could this possibly get any better? Sure, *No Man's Land* is derivative fiction, but the appeal of Rucka--and, of course, Batman--can make this one worth the read. --Paul Hughes

From Publishers Weekly

WHAP! POW! Pocket Books joins DC Comics to bring Gotham's Dark Knight to the trade shelves for the New Year, in a savage millennial tale of urban implosion, divided loyalties and vigilante justice. Rucka (*Shooting at Midnight*) valiantly transcribes an essentially visual chronicle to print, no mean feat, given Batman's 60 years of history in comics, TV and film. In the new millennium, following a cataclysmic earthquake, the federal government has cut off Gotham City from the rest of the country, leaving the No Man's Land, with its masses of casualties and survivors, in the hands of the "lunatics" released from Arkham Asylum. They are the Penguin, Poison Ivy, Two-Face and the ubiquitous Joker. Newly married Commissioner Gordon makes a suicidal stand to maintain control with a handful of determined officers, and the former Batgirl (now the cyber-savvy paraplegic known as Oracle, thanks to a bullet from the Joker) tries to keep tabs on the chaos while hoping for Batman's superhero help. Batman is on the scene with a new Robin as well as the former Boy Wonder, now grown up and known as Nightwing. The inevitable showdown between the forces of good and evil is played out against a backdrop of violent urban decay, but the subject of sex (and death), which the series has often flirted with but largely skirted, is now candidly explored. The conception of the battle between costumed, urban criminals and crusaders as a gang war (with the Bat signal replaced by graffiti tags) is logical, and other familiar bat-tropes are ably transposed into contemporary milieus. The expected wordplay and punning retain the classic comic-book characterizations, infusing the tale with lively dialogue right up to the dramatic surprise ending. Agent, David Hale.

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From Library Journal

A massive earthquake has leveled Gotham City, leaving its populace open to the predation of such notorious villains as the Joker, the Penguin, and Lex Luthor as the city's forces for justice wait in suspense for the arrival of their greatest protector, the legendary Batman. Rucka's (*Keeper*) grim voice and brooding prose successfully capture the atmosphere of gothic fantasy characteristic of the world of DC Comics' most popular superhero. With particular appeal to fans of the comic series as well as readers of pulp fantasy, this volume belongs in most fantasy collections.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Molinari:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a book your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stay than other is high. In your case who want to start reading the book, we give you this Batman: No Man's Land book as basic and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Belen Riedel:

The feeling that you get from Batman: No Man's Land could be the more deep you excavating the information that hide inside words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Batman: No Man's Land giving you buzz feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in selected way that can be understood through anyone who read the idea because the author of this guide is well-known enough. That book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having that Batman: No Man's Land instantly.

Manuel Porter:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try point that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love Batman: No Man's Land, it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Felix Smith:

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