



Catwoman, Volume 1: Trail of the Catwoman

Ed Brubaker (Writer), Darwyn Cooke (Artist)

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For years, Selina Kyle has prowled the skyline of Gotham City as its most famous thief, Catwoman. But when word spreads of Catwoman's demise, Selina decides to leave the costumed world behind and continue her trade cloaked in the shadows. Unable to enjoy her newfound anonymity for too long though, Selina decides that she must return to her infamous persona. Donning a new costume and attitude, Catwoman returns to the streets and sets her sights on the serial killer that has been preying upon the streetwalkers she calls friends.

This volume collects in chronological order an entire Catwoman epic from multiple award-winning creators Darwyn Cooke & Ed Brubaker.

Collecting: *Catwoman* 1-9, *Selina's Big Score* & *Detective Comics* 759-762

Catwoman, Volume 1: Trail of the Catwoman Details

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Author : Ed Brubaker (Writer) , Darwyn Cooke (Artist)

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Download and Read Free Online Catwoman, Volume 1: Trail of the Catwoman Ed Brubaker (Writer) , Darwyn Cooke (Artist)

From Reader Review Catwoman, Volume 1: Trail of the Catwoman for online ebook

Skye Kilaen says

Like most comic characters owned by big companies, Catwoman's had a lot of writers over the years. As a result, she's has a lot of different personalities and backstories. Some of them are awful. Some of them are fantastic. Cooke's and Brubaker's Catwoman, and her alter ego Selina Kyle, is my favorite vision of the Cat I've read so far. The stories in this volume are a mix of 50's style detective comics, 60's style caper/heist movies, and a completely modern depiction of her later urban life as a crimefighter instead of a criminal. That last part is the bulk of this book, where Selina Kyle is supposed to be dead, but she's back in Gotham. Something to prove, possibly something to make up for. Or maybe she just can't stop being Catwoman. (Or stealing stuff, as needed.) Whatever the motivation, she's tired of seeing residents of her neighborhood victimized, and she's going to do something about it.

All the folks working on these stories seem to understand that while Catwoman is often a sexy character, and Selina Kyle has a sex life, neither one has to be falling out of their outfits in every panel. Yay! And special bonus for those of us always looking for more diversity: Selina's friend Holly and her girlfriend Karon are an epically cute couple.

Unfortunately, I can't recommend volumes 2 and 3 collecting more of Brubaker's stories. There are some over-the-top horror-movie events in volume 2 that I will never read again (icckk!), and the art is extremely uneven in volume 3. So sad, because I love the first one so much!

Justyn Rampa says

Perhaps because The Dark Knight Rises is coming out and Selina Kyle/Catwoman is involved, Brubaker's Catwoman reboot is getting a much deserved re-release. I had my comics guy order a copy for me and I picked it up last week.

It is utterly fantastic!

This new volume contains the following stories:

Selina's Big Score by Darwyn Cooke and Ed Brubaker

This is a prequel to the Catwoman Reboot proper and it is the first time I've read it. I really loved it, especially having already read some of the reboot before. Darwyn Cooke's stylized art and Brubaker's effortless slinging of noir writing is a perfect marriage of talents. The story is divided into book with a character being the focus of each. We find out what has become of Selina in the aftermath of Cataclysm and it is a wonderful and gritty re-introduction to the character. I also realized that part of the reason why I'm in love with Catwoman (aside from Michelle Pfeiffer's performance in Batman Returns) is because Darwyn Cooke draws her a bit like Jessica Rabbit (mostly in the face). Anyway, this is an outstanding story!

Slam Bradley: Trail of the Catwoman

This run actually occurs in Detective comics for a few special issues and feature a wizened gruff detective akin to your Dick Tracy, another of my favorites. After reading Selina's Big Score, we already know

something of the relationship between Selina and Slam. This run is a great introduction to the character with some really incredible artwork and writing. Through Slam we discover that Catwoman and Selina Kyle are both dead...or are they?

Anodyne

This is probably my absolute favorite Catwoman arc out of the Brubaker run I've read so far. I absolutely love it with every fiber of my being. I feel this is Brubaker really defining this new Catwoman. A vigilante seeking justice for the discards of society in the Lower East Side. I'm speaking mostly of prostitutes here. There is a graceful acknowledgement of who Selina was and who she is becoming in the wake of her re-birth.

Trickle Down Theory/Disguises

After Catwoman's reintroduction, the stories start to get a bit grittier. This deals with corrupt cops as well as kids being used as drug mules. I still really enjoyed it and Holly has some fantastic inner monologues in this arc, but there is definitely a shift. The arc ends with the introduction of the main villain for what is quite possibly the most disturbing arc in Brubaker's run of Catwoman.

Highly, highly recommended!!!

Sesana says

You get a lot of bang for your buck in this trade. First, a reprint of Darwyn Cooke's Catwoman: Selina's Big Score, then a series of Slam Bradley shorts that were originally in the back pages of Detective Comics, and finally the first nine issues of Brubaker's Catwoman. They share a similar, noirish sensibility (especially Selina's Big Score, which is a pure heist story), stylish art, and a take on Catwoman that is part gentleman thief, part friend to the friendless. It's a great take on the character, one that I think makes sense considering her accumulated history and sensibilities. If you read and liked Gotham Central, you'll almost certainly like this take on Catwoman, too.

L. McCoy says

Wow, this one is exciting!

What's it about?

This collection contains 4 stories about DC's famous anti-hero, Catwoman, written by Ed Brubaker!

Pros:

The stories are fun and interesting.

The cartoony and colorful illustrations are absolutely wonderful!

This book is action packed and exciting throughout. I never got bored while reading this.

It's not a huge thing in the book but there are some fun little comic relief moments.

I often complain that Marvel and DC books can get a bit predictable but there are some exceptions, this is one of them. There's lots of suspense! I should expect no less from a Brubaker book!

Why not 5 stars?

The characters are sort of uninteresting to me. Selina does some cool stuff and all but outside of action scenes and fan service she doesn't seem to have much personality. Her friend/sidekick is kinda meh. Slam is kinda cool but a very typical comic book PI. The others are sort of meh.

Overall:

If the characters were a bit cooler I would have given this 5 stars, that being said, I gave it 4 and would recommend this, especially if you're a fan of Brubaker's other work.

4/5

Abby Turner says

Great film-noir art style and really interesting plot. No idea what happened at the end, but I credit that mostly to being on painkillers ?

Kurt says

This book is an easy five-star review, a gift for fans of crime comics, even those fans who (like me) don't generally like DC comics. The collection begins with a masterpiece of a graphic novel, in which Catwoman returns to Gotham after faking her death - to put together one last big heist. The story has a delicious retro feel, like the reader can almost hear the slow jazz music, smell last night's cigarettes, taste the burn of the cheap booze. The tale picks up a lot of notes from The Killers, more the 1964 version than the 1946, even to the point of dropping Angie Dickinson's name in a running gag, and when the graphic novel ends, we get a four-part story of what the detective was up to between panels of the novel. It's a great way to tie up some loose ends and enrich some backstory without distracting from the quick and deliberate pacing of that first story. Throughout both stories, we get gorgeous illustrations by Darwyn Cooke, luxurious to the point where looking through the images feels like trailing your fingers along velvet, drawing out Catwoman's sensuality without diminishing her strength.

Next, we get nine issues of a Catwoman monthly series, which are something of a step down from the giddy wonder of the book's first third, but they're still great. Brubaker writes a new version of Selina Kyle in a role taking care of the defenseless residents of Gotham's East End, much like Daredevil shepherds Hell's Kitchen in the Marvel Universe. We get hookers and drug mules and crooked cops, with a surprising number of sympathetic characters who are trying to make do with what they've got. Darwyn Cooke draws the first four issues, in a style that is a bit more restrained for mainstream readers but still strikingly his own, then Brad Rader picks up the pencil for the next five issues. While Rader's work isn't quite as confident and beguiling as Cooke's, it certainly pays homage to Cooke and makes an easy transition for the reader.

Catwoman fans will, I assume, surely love this exploration of a dynamic and powerful character, and crime story fans will certainly turn the pages with a nostalgic awe. My brother loaned me his copy as part of an heroic effort to find DC comics that I will enjoy with him, and after I return it I may need to buy a copy for my own collection.

John Yelverton says

Really well done novel that turns Catwoman into an actually likable character.

Aaron says

A varied but fun collection of Catwoman stories, comprised of the beginning of Brubaker's acclaimed run on the book. Also, as a bonus, we get Darwyn Cooke's artful and thoroughly entertaining graphic novel "Selina's Big Score," which puts Catwoman at the center of a classic, hardboiled noir (and serves as a good indicator of Cooke's tastes, which eventually led to his incredible take on Richard Stark's Parker novels). In fact, there's even a character in Big Score named Stark, and I doubt that's a coincidence.

Following Big Score we get a brief backup story from Detective Comics featuring the P.I. Slam Bradley (who has the noir-iest name I've ever heard) that leads us into Brubaker's Catwoman run. However, the first arc doesn't really use any of the information from Big Score or the Detective Comics story. It just starts all on its own, which was a little confusing at first since it felt like the story was building on itself. Cooke continued to do the art on this story, which has Catwoman trying to track down someone who is murdering prostitutes in Gotham's East End. A big loss, though, was the colorist from Big Score. They picked a much more straightforward colorist for this arc, and as such Cooke's art goes from looking a little gritty with a 50s flare to looking like a Saturday morning cartoon. It's a little hard to get into a story about murdered prostitutes when a smiling happy cartoon is trying to solve the case. Add in the fact that the mystery eventually is just thrown out the window and Catwoman just kind of runs across the murderer randomly, and you've got a pretty lackluster first story.

This worried me after having been so entertained by the first 3rd of the book, but luckily the final story made up for it in spades. Here we have a new artist that fits Brubaker's style much better, and we have Brubaker doing what he does best: writing grounded, realistic crime stories. I was hooked beginning to end of this arc, and it completely sold me on the potential of this series. Looking forward to DC reprinting the rest, assuming they do.

Martin says

By far the best part of this collection is the inclusion of Darwyn Cooke's OGN (original graphic novel) *Catwoman: Selina's Big Score*, with the back-up stories from *Detective Comics*, which elaborate on things that happen "off panel" in *Big Score*, namely Slam Bradley's side of the story. 5 stars for this portion of the book.

As for *Catwoman* issues 1-9, while I praise the artists for their excellent work, I can't help but feel that the art style itself is a bit on the "cartoony" side and at odds with the overall "Noir" vibe Brubaker is going for. *Dramatic story & themes* meet *colourful and cartoony art*. Still fun reading, but the sense of dread that I should be getting is conspicuously absent - which sort of negates the [intended] impact of the stories. 3 stars for this portion of the book.

Diz says

This is a mixed bag. First, I really liked the Catwoman issues included in this collection. These stories show Catwoman leaving behind her villainous past and turning over a new leaf as a hero for the downtrodden. Catwoman shows compassion for people from her past, which makes her a very likable character.

Second, there are some Slam Bradley stories included in this collection. Those focus on a private detective who is trying to find out who Catwoman is. Catwoman doesn't appear much in these stories. Overall, I'd say that these are OK.

Finally, Selina's Big Score is included. This is a pretty popular story, but aside from the art, I pretty much hated it. My biggest problem is that Catwoman seems like a supporting character in this story. The person who takes the lead is a character named Stark. Stark is an amoral criminal mastermind who, according to this story, is the person that taught Selina how to be a criminal. He is a misogynistic, amoral jerk, but the story sets him up as someone to look up to. Catwoman gets romantically involved with him even if there hint that he cares about her. In fact he even threatens to kill her at times. I'm not into reading stories that show that kind of disrespect to women.

Krycek says

What's new, pussycat? A lot for Selina Kyle. Having faked her death, as well as that of her alter-ego, the Catwoman, Selina finds herself in a bind when a heist goes sour. Out of money and out of contacts, she returns to Gotham City to begin her old life in a new way.

Catwoman: Volume 1, Trail of the Catwoman is a collection of several story arcs, covering Darwyn Cooke's graphic novel *Selina's Big Score*, back stories from *Detective Comics* and *Catwoman* issues 1-9, authored by Ed Brubaker. This collection is cohesive and meaty, just the way I like them, and well worth the \$29.99 (although I read the library's copy. I may just buy one for myself sometime).

Selina's Big Score begins the new Catwoman saga, as she returns to Gotham, gets word of a big score and puts together a team for the heist. It has the feel of a *Parker* novel, and it's probably no coincidence that Selina teams up with a guy named "Stark" with whom she has a history, a neat little homage to Parker. Darwyn Cooke's writing is great and his art has a nice retro feel, with broad brushstrokes, simple colors and crisp chiaroscuros. It also has a bit of a rough edge, which I welcome in today's world of overly-polished, computer-assisted comic art.

"*Trail of the Catwoman*," also by Darwyn Cooke, is a related story arc, that features Slam Bradley, the hard-boiled private investigator, who is hired by the mayor of Gotham to investigate the death of Catwoman/Selina Kyle. In doing so, Slam is exposed to the dark underbelly of Gotham corruption. Slam's a real cool character and tougher than leather. I like this guy a lot.

The stories from the *Catwoman* comic are "Anodyne" and "Disguises," both written by the excellent Ed Brubaker and illustrated by Darwyn Cooke and others. The stories do a good job of showing how dark and seedy Gotham City really is, as well as Selina's perspective of it. For example, Batman makes an brief appearance, but he sort of comes off as a bit of a self-righteous prick, which I guess sort of makes sense from Selina's street-wise, grayscale perspective.

Catwoman: Volume 1, Trail of the Catwoman is a great book. I'm looking forward to reading the second volume. (By the way, saying "What's new, pussycat?" to Selina Kyle probably isn't a great way to make friends with her. I'm sure that **Tom Jones** gets a pass, though. That guy's pretty smooth).

Amal El-Mohtar says

I adored this completely. This is the Catwoman I've always wanted: one focused on protecting her friends and community, one who fights on the side of the angels who'd condemn her for not doing things their way, who'll tell Batman off, who has her own life, wearing a costume that's more functional than titillating, drawn in a way that emphasises wiry dexterity without giving her a rubber spine.

The first arc in this volume, "Selina's Big Score," is written and drawn by Darwyn Cook, and reads as the catalyst for everything described above. But the narrative really sparks when Ed Brubaker starts writing it, and giving other characters' perspective on Selina. Holly, in particular, is one of my favourites, and her relationships with all the other cast members are gold.

Seriously, this blew me away, and I can't recommend it and the second volume enough.

Joseph says

Ed Brubaker and Darwyn Cooke serve up an exciting collection of Catwoman stories, full of crime, intrigue, scams, and corrupt cops.

The first part of the book is Cooke's Selina's Big Score, a six issue mini-series that finds Selina trying to find a way to get an easy \$24 million dollars. Cooke's art is fresh and retro like always, and the plot is fun and fast paced. The story re-introduces P.I. Slam Bradley, who ends up becoming a supporting character when Catwoman gets her own book shortly thereafter.

Brubaker writes the new Catwoman series, and Cooke provides the art for the first arc. Catwoman has decided to go kinda legit, and she finds a way to take down a prostitute killer and part of the GCPD that's involved in the criminal underworld. Brubaker writes pretty good noir, and thankfully keeps the Batman appearances to a minimum. It was really nice seeing some of the characters from Gotham Central in this book.

This was a great read. Definitely recommended to just about anyone.

Christopher (Donut) says

Although I have unbounded admiration for Darwyn Cooke, he actually seems to 'crack up,' and drop out halfway through this project. Which leaves Ed Brubaker turning in his usual 'gritty' (but also derivative and unexciting) "internal affairs" story with the help of renowned **animator** Brad Rader.

Who, I must admit, does improve his art after a shaky start, but is never quite as stylish as Darwyn Cooke.

On the whole, the best part is the original graphic novel *Catwoman: Selina's Big Score*, followed by some pretty good Slam Bradley stories, followed by a near-catastrophic nosedive in quality, from which the last few issues pull out.

Nicholas Karpuk says

Catwoman is a good reminder of how indifferent some groups in comics can be towards consistency in art and writing on a given series. Sometimes you get teams that stay together for years (*Sara*, *Squirrel Girl*), but more often you get the patchwork approach of *Catwoman*.

I bought this book after reading *New Frontier*, mostly because I wanted more Darwyn Cooke. But only the first arc is actually written by Darwyn Cooke, and the rest shifts straight over to Ed Brubaker.

I have nothing against Ed Brubaker, but he feels like such a safe choice for a crime book of any sort. And after Cooke's story, which is a pretty fun heist, the rest of the volume is just the standard sort of crime tale that anyone whose read Brubaker would probably expect.

And the artwork is all over the place. The issues where Cooke is involved at least have a consistent sort of retro style, but past a certain point it just seems to use whichever artist happened to not be busy at the time.

If the artist who made a series popular is busy, or going slow, I am totally cool with the issue just being delayed. It's fine, there are many comics to read, I'll be fine. Just wait. I get that sometimes publishers lose an artist, but it happens so often that it has to be done for speed at times.

Also, there's a weird issue in the early books that's not a problem I encounter much: the lettering is kind of hard to read. I'm not a fan of weird fonts in general when it comes to lettering, but the style in the first few issues actually gave me a headache trying to get through.

Catwoman is a fun character in this solo series, it would just be nice if there was greater consistency.
