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Witness the gritty side of the Gotham City Police Department from their perspective, as teens dressed as Robin the Boy Wonder start turning up dead.

In this final volume (collecting GOTHAM CENTRAL #32-40), the dead body of Robin the Boy Wonder is found on the streets. Now the detectives of Gotham Central must try to solve the mystery of his death while dealing with his associates, Batman and the Teen Titans.

Gotham Central, Book Four: Corrigan Details

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Author : Greg Rucka , Ed Brubaker , Kano (Illustrator) , Stefano Gaudiano (Illustrator) , Steve Lieber (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Gotham Central, Book Four: Corrigan for online ebook

Kemper says

I have a new appreciation for *Gotham Central* after watching Marvel's *Agents of SHIELD* because apparently this idea of telling stories about ordinary people investigating things in a superhero universe isn't quite as easy as Rucka and Brubaker made it seem.

In this final volume that follows the Major Crime Unit we find out just how hard it is to be a good cop in a bad town with four major stories. In the first, a couple of dirty patrol cops accidentally kill a homeless girl while shaking down a drug dealer, and their story illustrates how the rest of the force holds the MCU in contempt for not being 'real cops', and it also demonstrates that Gotham City often has its own brand of justice. Then a dead young man dressed like Robin kicks off a media firestorm and has one detective's frustrations with Batman boiling over. A tie-in to DC's Infinitive Crisis shows how a couple of detective face the potential end of the world. The final story is also the finest as the investigation into corrupt crime scene technician Jim Corrigan takes a devastating toll on Renee Montoya and the rest of the squad.

As with the entire run of this series, the characters and crime stories are great comics by themselves and makes the incidents where they have to deal with Batman and super villain shenanigans seem that much more realistic and yet bizarre at the same time.

Gotham Central was a critically acclaimed series with lousy sales that only got 40 issues, but from what I've read, DC would have been OK with continuing it. It was the creative team leaving that brought it's run to a close. Based on what the ever reliable Wikipedia is telling me, I'm strangely OK with this because it seems like trying to continue it after the New 52 stuff would have required retconning some key elements, and I wouldn't change a thing.

So it gets placed on that same shelf of stories that couldn't get any love while they were being produced only to see their legend grow after they got the ax like *Firefly* or a *Terriers*.

The_Mad_Swede says

This fourth and final hard cover volume collects issues #32–40 of *Gotham Central*, DC's eminent comic about the Gotham City Police Department's Major Crime Unit (mostly dealing with the kinds of crime that inevitably tends to involve "the Bat").

This volume, like the last one, is dominated by Greg Rucka's writing, and it still certainly delivers (even though I would not have minded more Ed Brubaker material).

It opens with a single-issue story, "Nature," written by Rucka and drawn by Steve Lieber. In some way, this may be the oddest *GC* story out of the forty issues, simply because its narrator (while a cop) is in no way connected to the MCU. Instead we get some insight into the other side of the coin, one of Gotham's finest examples of corruption, with some twists and turn to match.

This is followed by the excellent four-parter "Dead Robin," written by Rucka and Brubaker, and drawn by

Kano & Stefano Gaudiano. Here the MCU discovers the body of what appears to be Robin, i.e. Batman's sidekick. The heavily media covered investigation becomes a desperate race against the clock and it is all about establishing the facts: is it Robin? What does it mean if it is? What does it mean if it isn't?

The collection's weakest part (and possibly the weakest part of the whole series) is the single-issue story "Sunday Bloody Sunday" by Rucka

and Lieber. It is a tie-in to one of DC's mega events, *Infinite Crisis*, and while not a bad story, its attempt to match the perspective of people on the street with the über-cosmic stuff does not really work that well within the frame of the series itself. It simply becomes too over the top, and next to series successfully dealing with this (like Kurt Busiek and Alex Ross' *Marvels* or Busiek and Brent Anderson's *Astro City*) it just feels as if it misses the mark somewhat.

Infinite Crisis

The volume (and the series) ends with the three-parter "Corrigan II" by Rucka, Kano and Gaudiano. This picks up the story about corrupt crime scene investigator Jim Corrigan that started in the previous volume (in the two-parter "Corrigan"). While "Dead Robin" is easily the main event of this volume, this is a very good finale to the series.

All in all, I would have to say that the entire series – all four hard cover volumes – have been a delight to read, and I cannot recommend them enough.

Scott S. says

The *Gotham Central* series wraps up and this final volume, though still good, lacks some of the energy and cohesion of the predecessors. (The engaging, on-going Montoya / Allen / Corrigan story-line resolution was sudden and curiously muted; 'Dead Robin' - with an irrelevant Teens Titans cameo - cruises along until the banal suspect reveal towards the end; and the 'Sunday Bloody Sunday' story was just too disconnected and out of left field.) Frustrating, as it feels like a *Book 5* was almost required to have a better conclusion.

Diz says

Gotham Central is a series that was strong all the way to the end. There are two really good storylines in this volume. The first covers the appearance of a dead Robin in Gotham and the second deals with the corrupt cop Corrigan. This is a series that needs to be brought back.

Caitlin says

"This isn't Metropolis, Captain, and not just because our guy works at night. This isn't the City of Tomorrow, it isn't San Francisco, it's not New York. It's Gotham, and if you want to see what that means, just check out your squad room."

I'm taking that quote out of context but it fits this volume so perfectly. While the previous volumes in the Gotham Central series focused on the sometimes seriously rocky relationship between Batman and the GCPD, as well as the everyday lives of the officers, this focuses on just how hard it is to be a "good" cop in a

city as corrupt and dark as Gotham. I can't remember the last time that a comic book made me feel so much but this one accomplishes that with ease. There are three main stories in this volume:

Nature by Greg Rucka

This was an interesting story mostly because it's told from the viewpoint of the corrupt cops in Gotham. I suppose it's to provide some contrast to the usual viewpoints of the officers in the Major Crimes unit (who were handpicked by former Commissioner James Gordon and therefore a helluva lot more reliable than the rest of the force). This story is from the viewpoint of Officers DeCarlo and Munroe who are about as crooked as they come. In the course of shaking down a drug dealer for their portion of the score, they end up killing a young homeless girl. Of course, with as corrupt as Gotham is, they really don't have to worry about anyone finding out the truth, as long as they can stay away from the relentless MCU duo of Montoya and Allen. (view spoiler)

Dead Robin by Ed Brubaker and Greg Rucka

This story begins with the murder of Robin. When the police find a young man who died of blunt force trauma from a rather nasty fall and who just so happens to be dressed in a Robin suit, they immediately suspect an accident on the job. It definitely doesn't look good for Batman and even the Teen Titans get pulled into the case as known associates of Robin. (view spoiler) It features a fairly major clash between Batman and Officer Romy Chandler (who still blames Batman for the death of her partner). It's resolved in a way that I wasn't expecting and really liked. Overall, it's a very well-written story that kept me on the edge of my seat from beginning to end.

Corrigan II by Greg Rucka

And this was the story that just fucking broke my heart. Although it's a quote from one of the previous stories, I'm pretty sure that Captain Sawyer says it best:

**"Mother*%\$#!
Mother*%\$#!
Mother*%\$#!
Mother*%\$#!"**

I still can't believe how frustrated and heartbroken and *angry* this story made me. Not in a bad way. The writing was absolutely amazing, it's the first time I can remember a comic book making my heart physically hurt. I don't want to ruin its impact so all I'll say without the spoiler tags is that two of my favorite detectives continue their clash with the corrupt crime scene tech James Corrigan and things definitely **do not** go according to plan.

(view spoiler)

This story really underlines how corrupt and messed up a city Gotham is and no matter how many good people work to clean it up, it still takes its toll. Just an amazing story and the first time that I've been **really** impressed with one of Rucka's stories.

Again, like it has been this entire series, the artwork is pretty bland. It's not quite as bad as in book three but this series deserves so much better.

This is hands down the best volume in the *entire* series. It's also one of the best Batman books I've ever read. I really can't say enough good things about it, it's forever going to be one of my favorites.

Dan Schwent says

Allen and Montoya cross paths with some dirty cops. Robin is found dead and the MCU is on the case. Supernatural horrors are afoot and the cops of the MCU try to get home to their families when the situation escalates far beyond their control. Crispus Allen investigates Jim Corrigan, the most corrupt cop on the force...

All good things must come to an end and in the world of graphic novels, few in recent memory were as good as Gotham Central.

With the departure of Mike Lark, the writing was on the wall and things kicked into high gear in this, the last volume.

Yeah, I'm marking this section as spoilers as well. Level Two spoilers, maybe?
(view spoiler)

If Gotham Central was a television show, here's where the montage of moments from previous episodes would go.

1. Detective Driver was my favorite detective not named Crispus Allen or Renee Montoya
2. Stacy, the temp that turns on the Batsignal, is my favorite background player
3. My favorite line in the entire series was "Tell me you did not just shoot Batman!"
4. I think DC dropped the ball by not locking in Rucka, Brubaker, and Mike Lark to lifetime deals to keep Gotham Central going.
5. I could have used a bit more closure. I know the fates of Crispus Allen and Renee Montoya from 52. I can't remember if that's where Corrigan's hash finally gets settled as well, though.

That's it for me. I'm sad to see Gotham Central go since it's head and shoulders above most other comics.

Five easy stars.

Brandon says

Gotham Central is by far, my **favorite** complete comic/graphic novel series I've read to date (However, Locke and Key isn't finished yet and that's nipping at it's heels).

With the exception of that strange *Infinite Crisis* story line imposed within the middle of this collection, this was a perfect finale to a great series. I can't even give it less than five stars due to how excellent the *Corrigan* and *Die! Robin, Die!* stories were.

The Robin story line was one of my favorites in the series, especially when it came down to it's conclusion (view spoiler). The Corrigan story was excellent as well, he was written like a real scumbag; a dirty cop you love to *hate*.

I didn't realize that this had been the end of the series and when I realized that my experience within the Gotham City Police Department was effectively ending, the ending became that much more heartbreaking. (view spoiler)

This series is criminally under rated and the fact that it needed to fight to get a full 40 issue run is mind blowing. DC struck gold with this series but finishing out as strong as it did is certainly a rarity in today's world. So, at least there's that. I guess.

Pierre says

Very smart, excellent books. What is it like to be cops in a city under the shadow of the Bat. Focused on the characters and their troubled lives.

Anthony says

The thing with crime procedurals and crime genre in most fiction is that you can play on the murder mystery storyline or have the hard hunt on someone you know is guilty. This volume does both, having the Fuzz in Gotham investigate the killings of kids dressed as Robin and a corrupt cop within the force in two separate story arcs. It's very good writing, and while all this is going on Brubaker and Rucka never lose focus on their characters. There is the inclusion of SOME tights, but it's superfluous to what's going on.

Sometimes when you get to the last couple of arcs, they're not as good because it feels like the creators have used up all their good stuff in the first few arcs, but that's not the case with Gotham Central. Each book is as good as the last and they make each case different to keep it interesting for readers.

I'd been hearing for a while how good this series is and I really wish I read it a lot sooner.

Garrett says

A tragic end to a great series that didn't wear itself out. I'm thankful the series didn't continue and had a satisfying ending. What a great character journey for Renee Montoya

Jesse says

I can't believe its over. I know it had to end, and I prefer things that do end rather than going on until they become irrelevant or I become bored with them. That being said the childlike fan of things I love just wanted this series to never end. Its a perfect synergy of two things I love: Batman and Police procedurals. These two elements, seemingly disparate, combine into a perfect crystalline structure of storytelling chemistry.

Read this, and get ready to be bummed at the end. You will be treated to the best look into just how corrupt the GCPD as a whole is and how very different a beast the Major Crimes Unit is from most of your rank and file GCPD. This being Gotham, things will not end on the happiest note either.

Ctgt says

Great series about the men and women of the M.C.U. and their constant battle against crime with The Bat hanging over their shoulders all the time. The idea of how the force is constantly being shown up by Batman is not a concept that is usually explored or even considered. Solid stories and a rough art style with plenty of shadows makes for a great combination.

9/10

Ivan says

Book 4: 5 stars

Overall series: 4.5 stars.

Very good series that ended prematurely but I can't shake the feeling that it didn't use it's full potential. Maybe I unrealistically expected to be just as good or even better than The criminal and Lazarus (best works for each of the authors) but this series falls just hair short of 5 stars.

This of course doesn't apply to stories that involve detectives Allen and Montoya, they are absolute highlight of this series and every story involving them deserves 5 stars. To be honest I don't expect that as they are Rucka's characters, because of The criminal and Fatale I thought this kind of noir graphic novel will be right up in Brubaker's alley. His stories are good but it's Rucka who steals the show here.

Sunil says

After losing first Lark and then Brubaker to Marvel, Rucka brings *Gotham Central* to a close with the powerful "Corrigan II," following up on "Corrigan" from the last volume. Montoya-centric stories are always winners, and this one had me riveted. In addition, the "Dead Robin" story is almost as exciting as "Soft Targets," with the whole department going after a Robin-killer. Meanwhile, Romy Chandler works out her feelings toward Batman in the worst way possible.

I could have read many more issues of this series; it's just so consistently good. But, alas, it was not meant to be. Instead, we're left with forty issues of how do to a crackerjack police procedural in a superhero world by focusing on characters and always keeping things grounded, bringing the supers down to a realistic level. Adios, GCPD Major Crimes Unit. I hope you're in a better place.

Wait, you're all still in Gotham. Scratch that.

Mike says

Holy shit that's some good writing. I haven't put the book down for one minute since I opened it, and I'm almost shaking from the thrills and suspense. I realised about 90% through Dead Robin that I'd read it before, which meant that I was enjoying it thoroughly for a second time. It's that good.

The second storyline was equally gripping and pretty damned dark, and was a helluva way to end off this series. I wish it kept going, but I'm sure glad it existed.
