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Catwoman Vol. 2: Dollhouse (The New 52)



Synopsis

In the wake of her run-in with Batman and the loss of someone very dear to her, Catwoman turns over a new leaf. Kind of. She teams with a new running buddy named Spark, and together they're taking Gotham City, literally! However, when Catwoman runs into Dollhouse, a psychotic who kidnaps children from the streets of Gotham City, a rage awakens in her that nobody knew existed, not even herself! DC's sexiest anti-hero continues her adventures here with writer Judd Winick (BATMAN: UNDER THE RED HOOD) and artist Guillem March (GOTHAM CITY SIRENS)!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the previous volume, Judd Winick introduced the Catwoman of the New 52 as an emotionally scarred thief who recklessly seeks thrills to feel alive - and to forget her troubling past. While she cared about and tried to protect her friends, she didn't yet show a strong interest in helping others.

In this volume, we see the development of Catwoman into someone who just might be a force for good. The major plot arc concerns a villain who is kidnapping prostitutes for a nefarious purpose, and Catwoman can't just stand by and watch. But there are several smaller plot arcs, too:

Catwoman befriends another thief, but she doesn't know whether she can trust him; she plans a heist involving a valuable item belonging to the Penguin, but encounters an unexpected interruption; Detective Altamont continues to try to bring her to justice; and the corrupt cops from whom she stole in the previous volume are on her trail. These other plot lines are expertly woven into the larger one,

making for a very satisfying whole. The emotional development of the characters is another strong point of this volume. While Catwoman was already an interesting character in the first volume, she gains substantial emotional nuance and depth here. And we start understanding some of the other characters, too, including Catwoman's fence, Gwen Altamont. I'm especially impressed with the handling of the villains. Often, villains in Gotham are crazy in ways that are especially unbelievable and silly, and this volume does include one insane villain. But I felt that this villain felt terrifying and larger-than-life, rather than annoying and more-ridiculous-than-life. It's also worth mentioning that this book nicely ties into the larger Batman universe.

This volume collects issues 7-12. Catwoman continues her thrill seeking life of stealing from big marks with her new partner Gwen, despite what happened to her former one. The adventure becomes more fun when another Gotham thief, meta-human named Spark, charms his way into Selina's scores. Everything becomes more dangerous, as well, as crooked cops, mobsters, and a maniac serial killer kidnapping hookers and runaways for disturbing reasons called Dollhouse cross paths with Catwoman. Judd Winick really makes this series flow seamlessly from issue to issue. This volume really does pick up after the previous one in the continued life and adventures of Selina Kyle, Catwoman, in the DCnU. He really defines her other half of her personality in this volume and makes her a more intriguing character. In the first volume she is shown to be a reckless, impulsive, and a top rate thief, more motivated by the prize itself and the thrill of the act than the payday itself. In this volume we get to see more of her positive traits that are only scratched in the previous. Selina has a big heart and does not like those that prey upon the weak to the point that she will take a stand against them when no one else will. Her supporting cast felt kinda weak, most notably Gwen (her new front and partner), Spark (a fellow thief with electric based powers who Selina takes a liking to for more than just his good looks), and Detective Alvarez (one of the few good cops in Gotham), and could of used some fleshing out but they served their purposes for the story. Spark and Gwen get used in interesting ways but Alvarez is a weak link. He gives in way too easily to Selina's charms and with none of the "convincing" she gave Batman, back in the first volume.

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