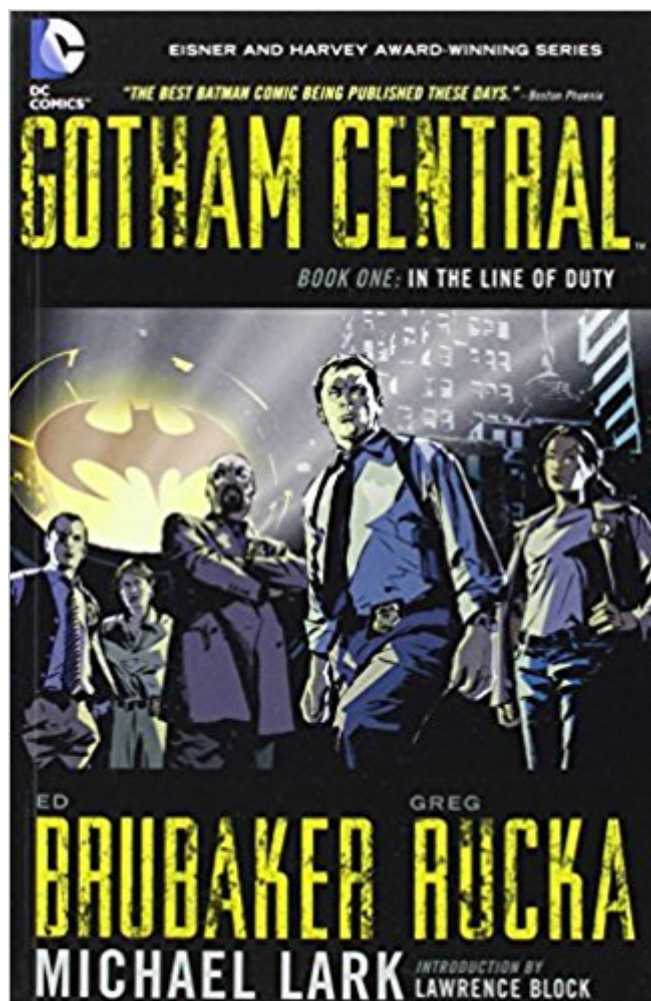


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# Gotham Central, Book 1: In The Line Of Duty



## Synopsis

Gotham City: a town teeming with corrupt cops, ruthless crime lords, petty thieves and just a small handful that would oppose them. Grizzled veteran Harvey Bullock, Captain Maggie Sawyer, detective Renee Montoya and the GCPD are the law force that stands between order and complete anarchy. Gotham's Finest work around the clock to not only keep the world's most psychotic criminals off the street... but also cleaning up the mess left behind by Batman's one-man war on crime. Written by critically acclaimed authors Ed Brubaker (Captain America) and Greg Rucka (52, DETECTIVE COMICS), this Eisner Award-winning series follows the detectives of Gotham City's Special Crimes Unit as they navigate the against the city's greatest villains in the shadow of Batman himself. Collects issues #1-10.

## Book Information

Series: Gotham Central (Book 1)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: DC Comics; First Edition edition (March 15, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1401220371

ISBN-13: 978-1401220372

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 0.4 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 59 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #472,718 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #273 in Books & Graphic Novels > Comic Books #872 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Mystery #1504 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > DC

## Customer Reviews

I picked this up because I thought it was an intriguing idea to take the perspective of the cops that have to work in the shadow of the Batman. Story wise its a little dry, not super exciting, but overall not bad. I do think that it helps to be familiar with who Renee Montoya is otherwise her situation with a major villain may throw off some casual comic readers. Unlike a few other reviewers I did like that the cast of characters was relatively large as it gave you the feeling that this was a working unit in a police station with multiple shifts. On the other hand, my major beef with the book is the art and to a lesser extent some quality control issues. I found some typos that really shouldn't have been there. While I do like heavy use of blacks in art I found it did get carried away a few times mudding up

character features. I also found the artwork to be inconsistent and downright crude at times. Distinctive character details, like freckles, would be prominent in one closeup only to disappear in a different one. Some of the line work would be weak which would contrast with later pages where it was much sharper and more detailed. There were also problems with skin tones. Overall, I found the artwork to range between ok and sloppy. I feel a little disappointed after reading it, but I may give book 2 a shot to see if this series has a little more to it.

Whenever you read a comic, the regular police tend to come off as incompetent, or at least out of their depth. After all, it's difficult to have a super hero when the cops can do everything themselves. But here comes Gotham Central, showing how the GCPD feels about having Batman in their city, and how they fight back against crime with and without Batman's help. The best thing about Gotham Central is the dialogue. Reminiscent of *The Wire*, these detectives can swing back and forth between comic, heartwarming, and serious as the situation demands. The people writing this are very talented. On top of that, themes of living in a city with Batman, and how having to watch him repeatedly do your job for you, are intriguing and thought-provoking. The one drawback is the artwork. I've seen much better pencil and ink work than this, and it hurts this series more than others, where there are loads of characters, many of which only look slightly different now. They could have done much better. On the whole, this is one of the best comics I've read, and I would recommend it to any DC fan.

Gotham Central BOOK 1 is entitled "In the Line of Duty" but actually has three story arcs collecting the first 10 issues of Gotham Central ("In the Line of Duty" (#1-2), "Motive" (#3-5), and "Half a Life" (#6-10)). This is not to be confused with Gotham Central VOLUME 1 which collects #1-5. BOOK 1 is a newer release and the entire Gotham Central run can be collected in 4 books starting with this one. Now that you know what to look for, I will now tell you why you should read this. It's a gritty crime/detective drama with conventional and sincere characters that happen to live in a non-conventional super abnormal city (Gotham). They solve real mysteries like murders and kidnappings all while trying to balance their normal world with the spectacular world of Batman and all of his foes. Batman makes a few appearances, but this story is really about the GCPD. Imagine if *Law and Order* was set in Gotham City with all of its perks and flaws. It really is a great read, it also reminds me of *The Killing* (another great detective/crime show). The art work does a phenomenal job of telling a deeper, richer story that words could never do. The way artist Michael Lark draws facial expressions or depicts body language is at times breath taking. The art work really helps enhance

these dark and gritty stories. If you're a fan of crime dramas and Batman, then there's a high chance that you will love this collection.

Exactly the kind of real-world high stakes drama I've been craving in comics for too long now. A light touch of Batman here and there but mostly we as readers are following real flesh-and-bone, hard-working, flawed, complex characters. Rucka makes you really invested in whether they succeed in their goals or fail, and it's not always a sure-fire win as it is with Batman saving the day imprisoning the baddie of the week. This was no breezy read by my standard. I had to read this in several sittings. That may be based on my attention to detail or my usual \*distaste\* for cop dramas but Rucka sold me on the story every time I picked it back up. A high recommendation for anyone wanting to try something outside the Caped Crusader genre, or even a fan of Fox's show, Gotham

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