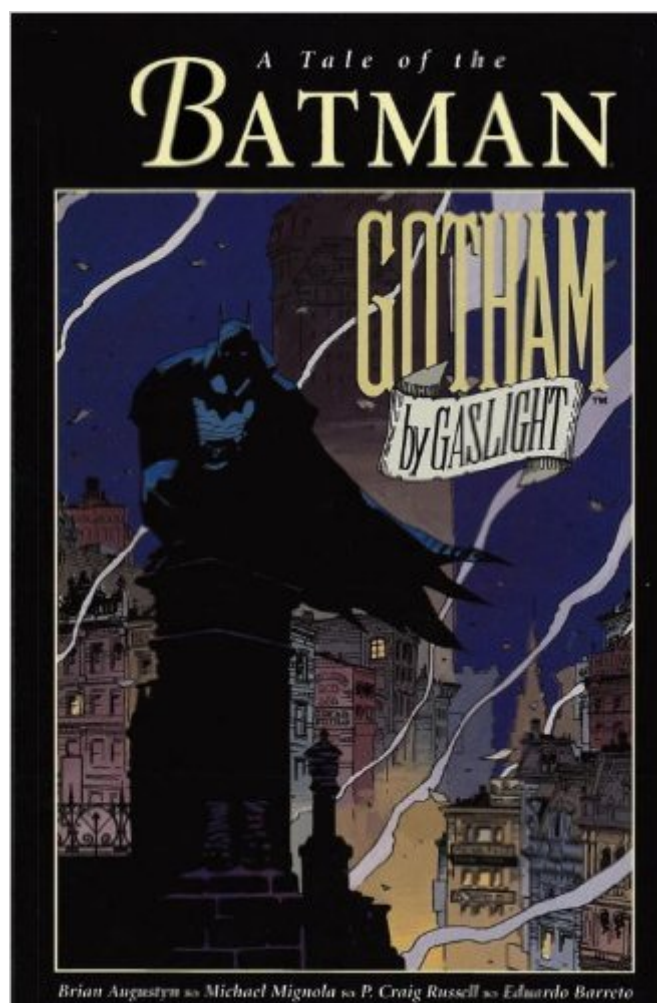


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Batman: Gotham By Gaslight (Elseworlds)



Synopsis

Presenting a new edition of the title collecting the adventures of the Victorian era Batman. This volume includes the breakthrough Elseworlds epics *GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT* and *MASTER OF THE FUTURE*, which pit the Dark Knight against Jack the Ripper and a death-dealer from the skies over Gotham. This title features artwork by Mike Mignola (*HELLBOY*) and P. Craig Russell (*THE SANDMAN*).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I beg to differ with the reader from the Phillipines. This is the first of DC Comics " Elseworlds " graphic novels, where they dared to take the popular franchise of Batman and do something radically different with it. But the amazing thing of it is, it works. Mike Mignola's artwork is at its moody best,giving the tale a dark and claustrophobic feel. The image of the Victorian Batman is one of Gothic power, particularly near the end as he chases the Ripper on a black charger. Very intimidating. The story is an intriguing one, and I liked how the Ripper and the Batman were linked. At one point, because of his nightly absences, Bruce Wayne is suspected of being the killer! Who is? Ah, there's the real mystery. Augustyn's writing is top notch, and he's clearly in love with this take on the Dark Knight. If you want more of the Victorian Batman, read the superb sequel *Batman: Master of the Future*. If only they'd create a new book, this Caped Crusader deserves more

DC Comics' Elseworlds imprint has been around a number of years. This imprint probably would not have gotten started "officially" had it not been for the first story in this TPB: *Gotham By Gaslight*. In

it, Brian Augustyn shows a Gotham City highly unlike the one we are so used and yet still awkwardly familiar. This is Victorian Gotham. And Jack The Ripper has come calling for it. Enter Bruce Wayne, a rich man whose parents met with a tragic end in front of him only to be saved from his would-be killer by a swarm of bats. He becomes the Batman we all know and love. I'll stop the story here as I don't want to give too much away. One thing that must be commented on is the artwork. Mike Mignola, of Hellboy fame, did the pencils in Gotham by Gaslight and P. Craig Russell masterminded behind the comic adaption of Richard Wagner's Ring of the Nibelung, inks. The combination of these excellent artists makes for a graphic story seldom seen these days. There is a steampunk feel to both stories that is rather interesting to see in a Batman story. It almost feels like one is reading Alan Moore's League of Extraordinary Gentlemen only with Batman as the main character. If there is any real qualm I have with this TPB is the fact that Mignola does not do the artwork for Batman: Masters of the Universe although his replacement is quite good nonetheless. This book is sure to entertain any Batman fan out there and is also a very good read for anyone wanting to be entertained without thinking of that nasty word we all know as "continuity."

The BATMAN: GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT trade paperback collects 2 prestige format Elseworlds books - Batman: Gotham by Gaslight, and the sequel, Batman: Master of the Future (in fact, Gotham by Gaslight was DC's first Elseworlds tale). Both stories are written by Brian Augustyn, with art for the first by Mike Mignola & P. Craig Russell, and the second handled by Eduardo Barreto. Both feature the Victorian Era Batman as he battles first Jack the Ripper, and then Alexandre LeRoi, the self-styled Master of the Future. Gotham by Gaslight is an exceptional tale that provides a true mystery, as Batman pursues the Ripper through late 19th century Gotham. But even more than a mystery, it's an excellent retelling of the origin of Batman. Master of the Future, however, is a bland and contrived tale, solely designed to cash in on the success of the first story. LeRoi is just a knock-off of Jules Verne's Robur the Conqueror, right down to designing his appearance after Vincent Price, who played Robur in the 1961 movie "Master of the World". Better to just use Robur and bring the whole of Verne's universe into this alternate DCU - what a time that would have been! Both Mignola and Barreto do excellent work, but as Mignola put his definite artistic stamp on Gotham by Gaslight, I wish he would have illustrated both stories. So, the BATMAN: GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT trade is really just a much-needed reprint of the title story, with Master of the Future thrown in as an uninspired addendum.

Brian Augustyn's "Batman: Gotham by Gaslight" is one of the first official "Elseworld" versions of

Batman. Augustyn is not Frank Miller or Alan Moore or Grant Morrison, so the more "edgy" or experimental elements are lacking, but this remains a solid reimagining of Batman that is contextually believable and highly enjoyable. The focus on "Jack the Ripper" as he moves to the States and settles in Gotham, Augustyn also gives us a new (yet familiar) origin of Batman. While this art does feel of the late 1980s, the strength of Mike Mignola & P. Craig Russell does still shine through. The designs are also very compelling considering the limitations of time period in which this is set. While only ground-breaking in being the first Elseworld, it is excellent in its complete competences in both art and storytelling.

It is one of those collections where the title story is excellent and everything you could ask for. The additional stories are a bit underwhelming by comparison, specifically the sequel Master of the Future. Master of the Future is still a solid book, however for me it felt almost as if it were Superman pretending to be Batman with Lois thrown in. The artwork is stunning throughout and a perfect addition to any fan's collection!

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