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batman new 52 reading order

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Batman New 52 Reading Order: A Complete Guide for Fans and Newcomers

When DC Comics launched the New 52 initiative in 2011, it was a bold move to reboot its entire line of superhero titles. For Batman, this meant a fresh start with **Batman (vol. 2) #1**and an entirely new narrative arc that would redefine the Dark Knight's world. If you're a fan looking to dive into this reboot or a newcomer wanting to understand the story from the beginning, you'll need a clear reading order. This article provides a comprehensive, step by step guide to the Batman New 52 reading order, explains why the sequence matters, and offers tips to make the most of your reading experience.

Why the Reading Order Matters

Unlike many comic book series that run independently, the New 52 Batman titles are interwoven across multiple ongoing series and one shot specials. Reading them out of sequence can lead to confusion, missed plot twists, and a fragmented understanding of the overarching narrative. By following the correct order, you'll:

- Experience the story as the writers intended.
- Enjoy the emotional beats and character development at their intended moments.
- Avoid spoilers and plot holes.
- Fully appreciate the connections between the main series and tie in arcs.

Getting Started: The Core Series

The backbone of the New 52 Batman continuity is the main series, **Batman (vol. 2)**. It runs from issue #1 to #60, and each issue is a piece of the larger puzzle. Below is the reading order for the core series, followed by the key tie in arcs and one shot specials.

Core Batman (vol. 2) Issues

1. Batman #1 – The series premiere sets the tone with a fresh take on Bruce Wayne's return to Gotham.
2. Batman #2 – The story continues the momentum from the first issue.
3. Batman #3 – Introduction of key characters like Catwoman and the introduction of the "Dark Knight Returns" theme.
4. Batman #4 – The arc deepens with the return of the Joker.
5. Batman #5 – The story explores the psychological aspects of the Dark Knight.
6. Batman #6 – The narrative takes a darker turn with the "Riddle" storyline.
7. Batman #7 – The plot thickens as Bruce's past is further examined.
8. Batman #8 – The first major crossover event begins.
9. Batman #9 – The "Batgirl" storyline is introduced.
10. Batman #10 – The arc reaches a pivotal moment.
11. Batman #11 – The series explores the theme of identity.
12. Batman #12 – The plot shifts toward the "Riddler" storyline.
13. Batman #13 – The Joker's return is fully realized.
14. Batman #14 – The story moves to a new setting in Gotham.
15. Batman #15 – The "Red Hood" arc begins.
16. Batman #16 – The narrative continues with new twists.
17. Batman #17 – The "Red Hood" arc deepens.

18. Batman #18 – The story explores the relationship between Bruce and Alfred.
19. Batman #19 – The narrative reaches a climax.
20. Batman #20 – The series continues with a new direction.
21. Batman #21 – The “Red Hood” storyline concludes.
22. Batman #22 – The plot shifts toward a new antagonist.
23. Batman #23 – The story continues with a fresh perspective.
24. Batman #24 – The narrative explores a new threat.
25. Batman #25 – The plot continues to develop.
26. Batman #26 – The story moves toward a new climax.
27. Batman #27 – The narrative continues with a new twist.
28. Batman #28 – The plot reaches a new milestone.
29. Batman #29 – The story continues with a new direction.
30. Batman #30 – The narrative explores a new threat.
31. Batman #31 – The plot continues to develop.
32. Batman #32 – The story moves toward a new climax.
33. Batman #33 – The narrative continues with a new twist.
34. Batman #34 – The plot reaches a new milestone.
35. Batman #35 – The story continues with a new direction.
36. Batman #36 – The narrative explores a new threat.
37. Batman #37 – The plot continues to develop.
38. Batman #38 – The story moves toward a new climax.
39. Batman #39 – The narrative continues with a new twist.
40. Batman #40 – The plot reaches a new milestone.
41. Batman #41 – The story continues with a new direction.
42. Batman #42 – The narrative explores a new threat.
43. Batman #43 – The plot continues to develop.
44. Batman #44 – The story moves toward a new climax.
45. Batman #45 – The narrative continues with a new twist.
46. Batman #46 – The plot reaches a new milestone.
47. Batman #47 – The story continues with a new direction.
48. Batman #48 – The narrative explores a new threat.
49. Batman #49 – The plot continues to develop.
50. Batman #50 – The story moves toward a new climax.
51. Batman #51 – The narrative continues with a new twist.
52. Batman #52 – The plot reaches a new milestone.
53. Batman #53 – The story continues with a new direction.
54. Batman #54 – The narrative explores a new threat.
55. Batman #55 – The plot continues to develop.
56. Batman #56 – The story moves toward a new climax.
57. Batman #57 – The narrative continues with a new twist.
58. Batman #58 – The plot reaches a new milestone.
59. Batman #59 – The story continues with a new direction.
60. Batman #60 – The final issue of the New 52 Batman series wraps up the overarching narrative.

Key Tie In Arcs and One Shot Specials

While the core series is essential, several tie in arcs and one shot specials enrich the story and provide deeper context. These should be read in the order listed to maintain continuity.

Although not part of the New 52 continuity, this one shot provides crucial background on the Joker's evolution and sets the stage for his return in Batman #13.

Read before Batman #13 to understand the Joker's motives and his impact on Gotham.

1. Batman #15 – Introduction of the Red Hood.
2. Batman #16 – Red Hood's motives revealed.
3. Batman #17 – Red Hood's final showdown.

1. Batman #5 – The Riddler's first appearance.
2. Batman #6 – The Riddler's plan unfolds.
3. Batman #7 – The Riddler's final act.

1. Batman #3 – Catwoman's first appearance.
2. Batman #4 – Catwoman's motives revealed.
3. Batman #5 – Catwoman's final showdown.

Provides insight into the new Batman family roster, including the introduction of Batgirl and other allies.

Explores the Joker's influence on the New 52 narrative and ties into the Joker's return in Batman #13.

Wraps up the overarching storyline and provides closure to the New 52 era.

Recommended Reading Sequence

Below is the definitive reading order, combining core issues, tie ins, and one shots to give you a seamless experience.

1. Batman #1 – Core Series
2. Batman #2 – Core Series
3. Batman #3 – Core Series
4. Batman #4 – Core Series
5. Batman #5 – Core Series
6. Batman #6 – Core Series
7. Batman #7 – Core Series
8. Batman #8 – Core Series
9. Batman #9 – Core Series
10. Batman #10 – Core Series
11. Batman #11 – Core Series
12. Batman #12 – Core Series
13. Batman #13 – Core Series
14. Batman #14 – Core Series
15. Batman #15 – Core Series & Red Hood Tie In
16. Batman #16 – Core Series & Red Hood Tie In
17. Batman #17 – Core Series & Red Hood Tie In
18. Batman #18 – Core Series
19. Batman #19 – Core Series
20. Batman #20 – Core Series
21. Batman #21 – Core Series
22. Batman #22 – Core Series
23. Batman #23 – Core Series
24. Batman #24 – Core Series

25. Batman #25 – Core Series
26. Batman #26 – Core Series
27. Batman #27 – Core Series
28. Batman #28 – Core Series
29. Batman #29 – Core Series
30. Batman #30 – Core Series

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