

= Batman : Anarky =

Batman : Anarky is a 1999 trade paperback published by DC Comics . The book collects prominent appearances of Anarky , a comic book character created by Alan Grant and Norm Breyfogle . Although all of the collected stories were written by Alan Grant , various artists contributed to individual stories . Dual introductions were written by the creators ? both of whom introduce the character and give insight into their role in Anarky 's creation and development .

Featured as an antagonist in various Batman comics during the ' 90s , stories based on the character were highly thematic , political , and philosophical in tone . The majority of the collected stories (" Anarky in Gotham City " , " Anarky : Tomorrow Belongs to Us " , " Anarky ") are influenced by the philosophy of anarchism , while the final story (" Metamorphosis ") is influenced by Frank R. Wallace . Although anti @-@ statism is the overarching theme of the collection , other concepts are explored . Anarky 's characterization was expanded throughout the stories to present him first as a libertarian socialist and anarchist , and in the final story as a vehicle for explorations into atheism , rationalism , and bicameralism . Literary references are also utilized throughout the collected stories to stress the philosophical foundations of the character . The collection also tracks the character 's evolution from a petty , street @-@ crime fighting vigilante , to a competent freedom fighter in opposition to powerful forces of evil .

Critics have positively received some of the stories within the collection , analyzing Anarky as a unique force for political commentary and discussion within DC Comics ' storytelling . However , the expansive growth of the character 's unique abilities and characterization has also fueled criticism as having overpowered the character beyond suspension of disbelief .

= = Collection history = =

= = = Character creation and development = = =

In the late ' 80s , writer Alan Grant considered drawing upon his own anarchist sympathies and utilizing them for a character in the Detective Comics , which he was writing at the time . In a bid to replicate the success of Chopper , a rebellious youth in the " Judge Dredd " comic strip , Grant created Anarky as a twelve @-@ year @-@ old political radical , far more mature , violent , and intelligent than his peers . Influenced by V , the protagonist of Alan Moore 's V for Vendetta , Grant 's only instructions to illustrator Norm Breyfogle were that Anarky be designed as a cross between V and the black spy from Mad magazine 's Spy vs. Spy . In his own intro to the collection , Norm Breyfogle explains that , pressured by deadlines , and failing to recognize the character 's long @-@ term potential , he " made no preliminary sketches , simply draping [Anarky] in long red sheets " . As the character was intended to wear a costume that disguised his youth , Breyfogle designed a crude " head extender " that elongated Anarky 's neck , creating a jarring appearance .

The first appearance of Anarky was in " Anarky in Gotham City " , Detective Comics # 608 , in November 1989 . Grant 's initial script portrayed Anarky as vicious , killing his first victim . Dennis O 'Neil , then editor of Detective Comics , balked at this proposal , believing that the depiction of a twelve @-@ year @-@ old becoming a murderer was morally reprehensible . Grant consented to O 'Neil 's request that the script be changed , and rewrote it to portray Anarky as violent , but non @-@ lethal . Grant later expressed relief with this early decision , coming to believe that " Anarky would have compromised his own beliefs if he had taken the route of the criminal @-@ killer . "

Although Grant had not created Anarky to be used beyond the two @-@ part debut story , the positive reception Anarky received among readers and his editor caused Grant to change his mind . In the following years , Grant developed the character to contrast with typical heroic characters . Based on a theme of philosophy , Anarky was not given a tragic past ? a common motivator in comic books ? but was instead given motivation by his convictions and beliefs . In his introduction to the trade paperback , Grant compared this with Batman , who fought crime due to personal tragedy . Grant also contrasted Anarky with common teenage superheroes . Rejecting the tradition

established by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby , Grant avoided saddling Anarky with personal problems , a girlfriend , or social life . This was intended to convey the idea that Anarky was self @-@ assured in his goals . The singular problem the character did have was tending to his secret activities while escaping from juvenile detention centers , or hiding his actions from his parents , who did not approve of his activism . These aspects of the character were incorporated into " Anarky : Tomorrow Belongs to Us " and " Anarky " , each respectively published in 1995 , as this period of the character 's portrayal came to a conclusion .

Leading into the character 's next phase of publication , the Anarky limited series , " Metamorphosis " , was published in 1997 . Coinciding with Alan Grant 's transition from the philosophy of anarchism to Neo @-@ Tech , Grant chose to re @-@ characterize Anarky accordingly . Norm Breyfogle also took the opportunity to redesign Anarky 's costume , excising the head extender with the explanation that the character had grown up and filled out his costume . The golden mask was also redesigned as a reflective but flexible material that wrapped around Anarky 's head , allowing for the display of facial movement and emotion which had previously been impossible due to the inflexible metal that the first mask was made of .

With the success of the limited series , Darren Vincenzo , an assistant editor at DC Comics , and the editor of the Anarky mini @-@ series , promoted the continuation of the comic into a regular monthly title . In the lead @-@ up to the publication of both ventures , Breyfogle and Grant wrote introductory essays intended for the trade paperback in June 1998 . Breyfogle also continued the character costume adjustments he 'd begun for the limited series . Fully redesigning the suit , Breyfogle retained the red jumpsuit , flexible gold mask , and hat , but eliminated the red robes in favor of a more traditional outfit . New additions to the suit included a red cape , golden utility belt , and a single , large Circle @-@ A insignia across the chest , akin to Superman 's iconic " S " shield . Batman : Anarky was published several months later with the new costume featured on the cover page , despite the fact that it does not appear in any of the collected stories .

= = = Collected comics = = =

Published on February 22 , 1999 , Batman : Anarky collected nine Batman @-@ related comic books , comprising four unique stories connected by their featured character : Anarky . The collected material , originally published in 1989 , 1995 , and 1997 , includes Anarky 's first appearance ; the revelation of Anarky 's origin story ; and Anarky 's first limited series .

The first story , " Anarky in Gotham City " , was published in Detective Comics # 608 and # 609 . Although Anarky was not intended to be used beyond this debut story , the positive reception the character received convinced Alan Grant to continue using the character in future issues . The next collected story , " Anarky : Tomorrow Belongs to Us " , was published in The Batman Chronicles # 1 . Published quarterly , this comic anthology collected short stories with an emphasis on Batman supporting characters . The eponymous story , " Anarky " , was originally published in Batman : Shadow of the Bat # 40 and # 41 . The only storyline in the collection which is not self @-@ contained , it alludes to other story elements taking place within the Batman mythos at the time , including the temporary resignation of Alfred Pennyworth and the mid @-@ life crisis of James Gordon . The story reveals Anarky 's origin story and includes the character 's faked death scene ? an important plot point in the last collected story .

The last of these four stories , " Metamorphosis " , was published as a spin @-@ off limited series between May and August of 1997 , as a result of a request Norm Breyfogle made to DC Comics for employment following the comic book crash of the mid @-@ 1990s . Darren Vincenzo suggested multiple projects which Breyfogle could take part in , among them an Anarky mini @-@ series written by Alan Grant , which was eventually the project decided upon . The Anarky limited series was received with positive reviews and sales , and was later declared by Grant to be among his " career highlights " . With the continuation of the series as an ongoing monthly in 1999 , these four issues were retroactively categorized as the first Anarky volume . Both volumes of Anarky are unique as the only comic books ever thematically based on the philosophy of Neo @-@ Tech .

= = = Collection contributors = = =

Collecting four stories , Batman : Anarky gathers the work of a total of sixteen contributors employed by DC Comics over the course of eight years . While all of the collected stories were written by Alan Grant , contributing pencillers include Norm Breyfogle , Staz Johnson , and John Paul Leon , with various artists assisting as inkers , colorists , and letterers . Each of the artists who worked on the Anarky limited series , " Metamorphosis " , would later return to continue their work on the Anarky ongoing series in 1999 .

Alan Grant , a writer from Scotland , got his start on 2000 AD as an assistant writer for John Wagner . Grant rose to prominence as an equal of Wagner 's in the creation of Judge Dredd comic strips . These stories were noted favorably for their use of socio @-@ political commentary and satire . Together , the duo acquired employment with DC Comics . Dennis O 'Neil assigned them to Detective Comics in 1988 , hoping they would bring their gritty , violent take on Judge Dredd to Batman storylines . Soon after , Wagner left the company , leaving Grant to continue the run on his own . Drawing on his work for Judge Dredd , Grant began injecting social commentary into the comic book , and avoided using common Batman rogues in favor of his own creations . Some of these villains were influenced by characters from the Judge Dredd universe . Anarky was conceived singularly by Grant as a result of these circumstances , and Grant 's own intellectual and philosophical meditations influenced the portrayal of the character over the following years .

Collaborating with Grant during these early years on Detective Comics was illustrator Norm Breyfogle , who designed and later modified the appearance of Anarky . Frequently noted as the co @-@ creator of the characters Alan Grant conceived of during their Detective Comics run together , Breyfogle has confessed to personally believing that this credit is unwarranted . Contending that he merely drew the characters Grant conceived , he has nonetheless accepted credit for the development of Anarky , as he eventually took part in frequent correspondence over fax @-@ transmission with Grant during the Anarky limited series . These faxed letters to each other fueled discussion and debate regarding the character and plot development , and influenced both men in their later work . Of the collected illustrators , he is the only artist to have penciled more than a single story for the character .

Other contributing illustrators include Staz Johnson , who after penciling " Anarky : Tomorrow Belongs to Us " , would go on to work exclusively for DC Comics for several more years . Illustrator John Paul Leon collaborated on " Anarky " in 1995 , just a year after he received his Bachelor 's in Fine Arts from School of Visual Arts in 1994 . Steve Mitchell , the regular inker for Detective Comics during Grant and Breyfogle 's collaborative run , inked " Anarky in Gotham City " . Cam Smith , Ray McCarthy , and Josef Rubinstein completed the ink work for " Anarky : Tomorrow Belongs to Us " , " Anarky " , and " Metamorphosis " , respectively .

Todd Klein , an award winning letter and logo designer , mainly worked for DC Comics during the 1980s . A freelancer , Klein designed logos and title headers for various comics , while at other times created lettering for many of the decades most prominent titles . Klein would also create the lettering for Alan Grant 's run on Detective Comics , where he would work together with Grant and Breyfogle in the creation of " Anarky in Gotham City " . Bill Oakley , a letterer well respected among his peers for his distinctive style , contributed to " Anarky : Tomorrow Belongs To Us " . John Costanza , who has won awards on multiple occasions in the field of comic book lettering , contributed to both " Anarky " and " Metamorphosis " .

Adrienne Roy , a colorist predominantly associated with many of the Batman franchise comics of the late ' 80s and early ' 90s , provided coloring for " Anarky in Gotham City " . Phil Allen was tapped for " Anarky : Tomorrow Belongs To Us " , while Sherilyn van Valkenburgh colored " Anarky " , as well as the Batman : Anarky cover illustration . After serving as color editor for Milestone Media between 1992 and 1995 , Noelle Giddings joined DC Comics and produced the coloring for " Metamorphosis " .

= = Stories = =

== = " Anarky in Gotham City " == =

During a late night drug raid , Batman , the vigilante protector of Gotham City , discovers that the drug dealer he was tracking has already been assaulted and left for police to find . Next to his unconscious body is a spray painted Circle @-@ A , announcing the arrival of a new vigilante , Anarky . Anarky continues his war against crime by targeting a business owner dumping pollutants in a river . Batman recognizes his M.O. and realizes he is attacking people based on the complaints raised in letters to the editor in a local newspaper . He alerts the police , who plan stake @-@ outs at several events based on the letters . When Anarky strikes next , however , it is at a construction site unlisted in the paper . Anarky rallies the homeless to riot in response to the destruction of their " Cardboard City " , which has been bulldozed to build a new bank . Batman arrives but is attacked by the homeless mob so that Anarky may flee . The mob includes Legs , a homeless Vietnam veteran who Alan Grant would utilize as a partner for Anarky in future stories . Batman eventually catches Anarky , revealing him to be a disguised , twelve @-@ year @-@ old paperboy named Lonnie Machin . As a child prodigy with extensive knowledge of both radical philosophy and improvised munitions , Lonnie was confident that violent change was necessary to improve social conditions . Batman condemns his actions , but expresses admiration for his idealism .

== = " Anarky : Tomorrow Belongs to Us " == =

While serving time in a juvenile correction facility , Lonnie Machin creates a makeshift hologram projector and two @-@ way communicator , and uses it to leave the impression that he is still held in detention . He then escapes and sabotages a politician 's ad campaign in order to promote anti @-@ electoral propaganda , with the assistance of Legs , who acts as a diversion against a local guard . Anarky uses his communicator during his adventure to carryout a political dialogue with his fellow detainees , narrowly returning before guards notice his absence .

== = " Anarky " == =

Several months after the events of " Anarky : Tomorrow Belongs to Us " , Lonnie Machin has been released from juvenile detention on parole , and uses the internet to create a company , " Anarco " . Through Anarco , Machin sells anarchist literature online , secretly acquiring millions of dollars . He channels this wealth through a proxy organization , " The Anarkist Foundation " , to donate the funds to political groups he supports , including gun protesters , eco @-@ warriors , and clean energy lobbies . Meanwhile , he successfully hides this activity from his parents , Mike and Roxanne Machin , who do not approve of his behavior , believing themselves to have failed to raise their son properly . Their relationship with him becomes strained , as they attempt to rehabilitate him into normality , while he wishes they would be proud of his vigilante activism . Continuing his secret philanthropy , he supports Malochia , a self @-@ proclaimed " prophet of doom " who spreads a message that current social conditions are intolerable . Anarky comes to suspect that this " prophet " has an ulterior motive , and hires private detective , Joe Potato , to investigate his actions . Meanwhile , Batman and Robin have also placed Malochia under their watch , and discover his connections to Lonni Machin . Anarky , Joe Potato , and Batman confront Malochia , but are each captured and tied to a blimp . The blimp is loaded with high explosives and set to detonate near the center of the city . Malochia hopes this act will set into effect his own delusional predictions of calamity . Anarky and Joe Potato revive and steer the blimp towards the water front , still set to explode . Anarky releases both Potato and Batman into the water , but is tangled in ropes and presumably caught in the explosion . During the story , Lonnie 's parents find a letter he wrote in the event of his death . The letter acts as a literary device to explain his origin as Anarky and the personal reasons behind his decision to become a vigilante . Lonnie Machin 's father and mother , Mike and Roxanne raise their son to be a happy child , and encourage his intelligence and thirst for knowledge with trips to bookstores . Through his research , Lonnie eventually grows to become the political radical , Anarky

.
= = = " Metamorphosis " = = =

" Metamorphosis " chronicles Machin 's narrow survival of an explosion and use of the confusion in its aftermath to fake his death . Several months later , he is now stated to be fifteen @-@ years old and has begun a new plan to liberate the world of government . As Anarky , he attempts to create a device which will emit beams of light on frequencies which will trigger the human brain of all who see it . The people will then be " de @-@ brainwashed " of all the social constraints which society has placed on the individual . Utilizing a makeshift teleportation device capable of summoning a boom tube , he begins a quest to capture the power sources his invention will need : the madness of Etrigan , the evil of Darkseid , and the goodness of Batman . Desiring to tempt Batman into confronting him , Anarky successfully lures Batman 's attention by hiring Legs and other homeless men to monitor Batman 's movements . During the confrontation between Anarky and Batman , the device is damaged . Thus , when Machin activates it , it only affects himself . The vision that follows reveals what may have happened if he had succeeded , with nightmarish consequences . In the hallucination , the slightest infraction against a smooth @-@ running society is met with banishment to a prison @-@ city . The effects of his machine eventually wear off , and the most dangerous elements of the prison escape , causing havoc . The conclusion Anarky draws from this is that if society is to change , individuals must accept that change voluntarily . When Batman turns off the machine , Anarky awakens and promptly escapes , vowing to continue his mission , " until they all learn to choose for themselves ... "

= = Themes = =

= = = Literary references = = =

Within the books , the nature of the character 's political opinions was often expressed through his rhetoric , and by heavy use of the Circle @-@ A as a character gimmick . However , other themes were often used when Anarky was a featured character in a comic . In early stories , books would often be referenced to express the character 's philosophical agenda . The earliest example of this was in the " Anarky in Gotham City " and " Anarky " storylines , in which Anarky makes references to Universe by Scudder Klyce , an extremely rare book , and cites passages within it as having inspired his actions . Various books can be seen in Lonnie Machin 's bedroom in the " Anarky " storyline , including tomes named after the ancient Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle , and the Swedish scientist , Emanuel Swedenborg . Within the same storyline , Anarky 's father comments on the political books in the teenager 's room , referring to the Russian anarchist , Mikhail Bakunin , German philosopher , Karl Marx and the founder of Objectivism , Ayn Rand . " The " Metamorphosis " storyline later continued the theme , displaying an edition of Buckminster Fuller 's Synergetics near the story 's climax . When asked if he was concerned readers would be unable to follow some of the more obscure literary references , Grant responded that he didn 't expect many to do so , but was " pleased to say several did , " and reported carrying on a correspondence with at least one reader over the course of several years . Besides books , fluttering newspapers were also used as a literary element to convey ideas , often included in street settings and bearing headlines alluding to social problems such as white @-@ collar crime and poverty . Several newspapers also include the titles of political books on their pages . One page bears the title of Noam Chomsky 's series of interviews with David Barsamian , Keeping the Rabble in Line ; another Bill Devall 's Clearcut : The Tragedy of Industrial Forestry ; while a third refers to Urban Indians : Drums from the cities by Gregory W. Frazier .

= = = Philosophical shift = = =

As an antagonist in a limited number of Batman comics during the 90 's , Anarky was largely reserved for stories in which Grant wished to press a political point . Early incarnations of Anarky portrayed the character as an anarchist , and were intended to act as a medium for Grant 's personal meditations on political philosophy , and specifically for his own anarchist , socialist , and populist leanings . However , according to Grant , anarchists with whom he associated were hostile to his creation of the character , seeing it as an act of recuperation for commercial gain . With libertarian socialism being the primary theme of the first three storylines in the collection , other concepts explored in the stories were informed by the umbrella of anarchist theory . Anti @-@ electoralism and the tactic of non @-@ voting are the dual focuses of " Anarky : Tomorrow Belongs to Us " , while economic exploitation , environmental issues , and political corruption are repeatedly referenced in the three remaining stories .

Over the course of several years , Grant 's political opinions shifted from libertarian socialism to free market @-@ based philosophies . Alan Grant commented on the philosophical pattern the character 's transformation took for a 1997 interview : " Although I haven 't read them in chronological order I would think it would be quite easy to see the parallel between Anarky 's thought processes and my own thought processes . " By 1997 he had settled on the philosophy of Neo @-@ Tech , a philosophy developed by Frank R. Wallace . At approximately the same time he was when given the opportunity to write an Anarky mini @-@ series , and so decided to revamp the character accordingly . Grant laid out his reasoning in an interview just before the first issue 's publication . " I felt he was the perfect character " to express Neo @-@ Tech philosophy , Grant explained , " because he 's human , he has no special powers , the only power he 's got is the power of his own rational consciousness " . This new characterization was later carried on in the 1999 Anarky ongoing series .

The " Metamorphosis " storyline led the character away from many of the philosophical concepts previously espoused , but the primary theme of the collection remained anti @-@ statism . New emphasis was placed on previously unexplored themes , including the mind , consciousness and bicameralism . Anarky 's characterization was also expanded to present him as an atheist and rationalist . A recurring theme in " Metamorphosis " was a scene of Anarky expounding philosophy to his pet dog , and indirectly to the reader , for a single page in each part of the story , for a total of four pages . These monologues included an explanation of bicameralism , a comparative summary of the political philosophy of Plato and Aristotle , a description of the concept of economic " parasites , " and a final description of how the elimination of irrationality would allow society to progress . Another important theme to the final storyline is a discourse on the nature of evil , as a subplot of the story . Anarky 's pursuit , as Grant put it , " ... is to find out why anyone would make the decision to be evil . " To that end , Grant pitted Anarky against Etrigan and Darkseid with the intention of providing a setting for a series of dialogues on the topic .

= = = Heroic evolution = = =

Aside from the philosophical themes present throughout the collection , the steady progression of Anarky 's abilities and enemies is also highlighted . In the earliest stories , Anarky 's targets are minor criminals , contrasting with the last story , " Metamorphosis " . This final story portrays Anarky facing more dangerous opponents ? those who , as Grant wrote , are " virtual embodiments of evil " . Anarky 's steady growth in fighting ability , technological innovation , and wealth is also documented within the collection . In " Anarky in Gotham City " , Lonnie Machin is described as being highly intelligent , but lacking in any other skill . This changed in " Anarky " , where he begins developing his skills in hand to hand combat , begins experimenting on his brain to increase his intelligence , and creates a front company to begin amassing money . By the final storyline , Anarky is capable of creating advanced , high tech gadgets and devices , such as a teleportation device ; has fused his brain and magnified his intelligence to genius levels ; has studied multiple styles of martial arts , and created his own hybrid martial art ; and has millions of dollars with which to fund his plans .

The progression of Anarky 's abilities was also mirrored by the change in the character 's costume .

The design shift from an early suit intended to disguise Lonnie 's age , to one that fit him more fully , was commented on by Norm Breyfogle , who wrote , " ? during his existence he 's gained quite a few inches and pounds , filling out his costume ! The change from black eyes to white may also be seen as indicating that Lonnie 's real eyes now peer out of the mask . He 's literally grown into the role ! "

= = Media information = =

= = = Editions = = =

The DC Comics edition , distributed throughout North America , contained an error on page 130 , in which the lettering was removed from a speech balloon . The publication was shipped with a sticker of the missing text , which readers could place over the wordless balloon to complete the page .

Batman : Anarky (February 2 , 1999) , New York City , NY : DC Comics , ISBN 1 @-@ 56389 @-@ 437 @-@ 8

The Titan Books Ltd edition , published several months after the North American release , is distributed throughout the United Kingdom .

Batman : Anarky (April 16 , 1999) , London : Titan Books Ltd , ISBN 1 @-@ 85286 @-@ 995 @-@ X

= = = Collected issues = = =

The issues collected in the trade paperback are :

Grant , Alan (w) , Breyfogle , Norm (p) , Mitchell , Steve (i) . " Anarky in Gotham City , Part One : Letters to the Editor " Detective Comics 608 (November 1989) , New York City , NY : DC Comics

Grant , Alan (w) , Breyfogle , Norm (p) , Mitchell , Steve (i) . " Anarky in Gotham City , Part Two : Facts About Bats " Detective Comics 609 (December 1989) , New York City , NY : DC Comics

Grant , Alan (w) , Johnson , Staz (p) , Smith , Cam (i) . " Anarky : Tomorrow Belongs to Us " The Batman Chronicles 1 (Summer 1995) , New York City , NY : DC Comics

Grant , Alan (w) , Paul Leon , John (p) , McCarthy , Ray (i) . " Anarky , Part One : Prophet of Doom " Batman : Shadow of the Bat 40 (July 1995) , New York City , NY : DC Comics

Grant , Alan (w) , Paul Leon , John (p) , McCarthy , Ray (i) . " Anarky , Part One : The Anarkist Manifesto " Batman : Shadow of the Bat 41 (August 1995) , New York City , NY : DC Comics

Grant , Alan (w) , Breyfogle , Norm (p) , Rubinstein , Josef (i) . " Metamorphosis , Part One : Does a Dog Have a Buddha Nature ? " Anarky 1 (May 1 , 1997) , New York City , NY : DC Comics

Grant , Alan (w) , Breyfogle , Norm (p) , Rubinstein , Josef (i) . " Metamorphosis , Part Two : Revolution Number 9 " Anarky 2 (June 1 , 1997) , New York City , NY : DC Comics

Grant , Alan (w) , Breyfogle , Norm (p) , Rubinstein , Josef (i) . " Metamorphosis Part Three : The Economics of The Madhouse " Anarky 3 (July 1 , 1997) , New York City , NY : DC Comics

Grant , Alan (w) , Breyfogle , Norm (p) , Rubinstein , Josef (i) . " Metamorphosis Part Four : Fanfare for the Common Man " Anarky 4 (August 1 , 1997) , New York City , NY : DC Comics