

= Nancy Drew =

Nancy Drew is a fictional American character in a mystery fiction series created by publisher Edward Stratemeyer . The character first appeared in 1930 . The books are ghostwritten by a number of authors and published under the collective pseudonym Carolyn Keene . Over the decades , the character evolved in response to changes in US culture and tastes . The books were extensively revised and shortened , beginning in 1959 , in part to lower printing costs and to eliminate racist stereotypes , with arguable success . In the revision process , the heroine 's original character was changed to be less assertive and more feminine . In the 1980s , an older and more professional Nancy emerged in a new series , The Nancy Drew Files , that included romantic subplots for the sleuth . The original Nancy Drew Mystery Stories series started in 1930 , and ended in 2004 . Launched that same year , the Girl Detective series features Nancy driving a hybrid electric vehicle and using a cell phone . In 2013 , the Girl Detective series ended , and a new current series called Nancy Drew Diaries was launched . Illustrations of the character evolved over time to reflect contemporary styles . The character proves continuously popular worldwide : at least 80 million copies of the books have been sold , and the books have been translated into over 45 languages . Nancy Drew is featured in five films , two television shows , and a number of popular computer games ; she also appears in a variety of merchandise sold around the world .

A cultural icon , Nancy Drew is cited as a formative influence by a number of women , from Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O 'Connor and Sonia Sotomayor to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and former First Lady Laura Bush . Feminist literary critics have analyzed the character 's enduring appeal , arguing variously that Nancy Drew is a mythic hero , an expression of wish fulfillment , or an embodiment of contradictory ideas about femininity .

= = Character = =

Nancy Drew is a fictional amateur sleuth . In the original versions of the series , she is a 16 @-@ year @-@ old high school graduate , and in later versions , is rewritten and aged to be an 18 @-@ year @-@ old high school graduate and detective . In the series , she lives in the fictional town of River Heights with her father , attorney Carson Drew , and their housekeeper , Hannah Gruen . As a child (age ten in the original versions and age three in the later version) , she loses her mother . Her loss is reflected in her early independence ? running a household since the age of ten with a clear @-@ cut servant in early series and deferring to the servant as a surrogate parent in later ones . As a teenager , she spends her time solving mysteries , some of which she stumbles upon and some of which begin as cases of her father 's . Nancy is often assisted in solving mysteries by her two closest friends : cousins Bess Marvin and George Fayne . Bess is delicate and feminine , while George is a tomboy . Nancy is also occasionally joined by her boyfriend Ned Nickerson , a student at Emerson College .

Nancy is often described as a super girl . In the words of Bobbie Ann Mason , she is " as immaculate and self @-@ possessed as a Miss America on tour . She is as cool as Mata Hari and as sweet as Betty Crocker . " Nancy is well @-@ off , attractive , and amazingly talented :

At sixteen she ' had studied psychology in school , and was familiar with the power of suggestion and association . ' Nancy was a fine painter , spoke French , and had frequently run motor boats . She was a skilled driver who at sixteen ' flashed into the garage with a skill born of long practice . ' The prodigy was a sure shot , an excellent swimmer , skillful oarsman , expert seamstress , gourmet cook , and a fine bridge player . Nancy brilliantly played tennis and golf , and rode like a cowboy . Nancy danced like Ginger Rogers and could administer first aid like the Mayo brothers .

Nancy never lacks money , and in later volumes of the series often travels to faraway locations , such as France in The Mystery of the 99 Steps (1966) , Nairobi in The Spider Sapphire Mystery (1968) , Austria in Captive Witness (1981) , Japan in The Runaway Bride (1994) , Costa Rica in Scarlet Macaw Scandal (2004) , and Alaska in Curse of The Arctic Star (2013) . Nancy is also able to travel freely about the United States , thanks in part to her car , which is a blue roadster in the original series and a blue convertible in the later books . Despite the trouble and presumed

expense to which she goes to solve mysteries , Nancy never accepts monetary compensation ; however , by implication , her expenses are often paid by a client of her father 's , as part of the costs of solving one of his cases .

= = Creation of character = =

The character was conceived by Edward Stratemeyer , founder of the Stratemeyer Syndicate . Stratemeyer had created the Hardy Boys series in 1926 (although the first volumes were not published until 1927) , which had been such a success that he decided on a similar series for girls , featuring an amateur girl detective as the heroine . While Stratemeyer believed that a woman 's place was in the home , he was aware that the Hardy Boys books were popular with girl readers and wished to capitalize on girls ' interest in mysteries by offering a strong female heroine .

Stratemeyer initially pitched the new series to Hardy Boys publishers Grosset & Dunlap as the " Stella Strong Stories " , adding that " they might also be called ' Diana Drew Stories ' , ' Diana Dare Stories ' , ' Nan Nelson Stories ' , ' Nan Drew Stories ' , or ' Helen Hale Stories ' . " Editors at Grosset & Dunlap preferred " Nan Drew " of these options , but decided to lengthen " Nan " to " Nancy " . Stratemeyer accordingly began writing plot outlines and hired Mildred Wirt , later Mildred Wirt Benson , to ghostwrite the first volumes in the series under the pseudonym Carolyn Keene . Subsequent titles have been written by a number of different ghostwriters , all under the pseudonym Carolyn Keene .

The first four titles were published in 1930 and were an immediate success . Exact sales figures are not available for the years prior to 1979 , but an indication of the books ' popularity can be seen in a letter that Laura Harris , a Grosset and Dunlap editor , wrote to the Syndicate in 1931 : " can you let us have the manuscript as soon as possible , and no later than July 10 ? There will only be three or four titles brought out then and the Nancy Drew is one of the most important . " The 6 @, @ 000 copies that Macy 's ordered for the 1933 Christmas season sold out within days . In 1934 Fortune magazine featured the Syndicate in a cover story and singled Nancy Drew out for particular attention : " Nancy is the greatest phenomenon among all the fifty @-@ centers . She is a best seller . How she crashed a Valhalla that had been rigidly restricted to the male of her species is a mystery even to her publishers . "

= = = Ghostwriters = = =

Consistent with other Stratemeyer Syndicate properties , the Nancy Drew novels were written by various writers , all under the pen name Carolyn Keene . In accordance with the customs of Stratemeyer Syndicate series production , ghostwriters for the Syndicate signed contracts that have sometimes been interpreted as requiring authors to sign away all rights to authorship or future royalties . Contracts stated that authors could not use their Stratemeyer Syndicate pseudonyms independently of the Syndicate . In the early days of the Syndicate , ghostwriters were paid a fee of \$ 125 , " roughly equivalent to two month 's wages for a typical newspaper reporter , the primary day job of the syndicate ghosts . "

During the Great Depression this fee was lowered to \$ 100 and eventually \$ 75 . All royalties went to the Syndicate , and all correspondence with the publisher was handled through a Syndicate office . The Syndicate was able to enlist the cooperation of libraries in hiding the ghostwriters ' names ; when Walter Karig , who wrote volumes eight through ten of the original Nancy Drew Mystery Stories , tried to claim rights with the Library of Congress in 1933 , the Syndicate instructed the Library of Congress not to reveal the names of any Nancy Drew authors , a move with which the Library of Congress complied .

The Syndicate 's process for creating the Nancy Drew books consisted of creating a detailed plot outline , drafting a manuscript , and editing the manuscript . Edward Stratemeyer and his daughters Harriet Adams and Edna Stratemeyer Squier wrote most of the outlines for the original Nancy Drew series until 1979 . Volume 30 , The Clue of the Velvet Mask (1953) , was outlined by Andrew Svenson . Usually , other writers wrote the manuscripts . Most of the early volumes were written by

Mildred Wirt Benson . Other volumes were written by Walter Karig , George Waller , Jr . , Margaret Scherf , Wilhelmina Rankin , Alma Sasse , Charles S. Strong , Iris Vinton , and Patricia Doll . Edward Stratemeyer edited the first three volumes , and Harriet Adams edited most subsequent volumes until her death in 1982 . In 1959 , the earlier titles were revised , largely by Adams . From the late 1950s until her death in 1982 , Harriet Adams herself wrote the manuscripts for most of the books .

After Adams 's death , series production was overseen by Nancy Axelrad (who also wrote several volumes) . The rights to the character were sold in 1984 , along with the Stratemeyer Syndicate itself , to Simon & Schuster . Book packager Mega @-@ Books subsequently hired authors to write the main Nancy Drew series and a new series , The Nancy Drew Files .

= = = Legal disputes = = =

In 1980 , Harriet Adams switched publishers to Simon & Schuster , dissatisfied with the lack of creative control at Grosset & Dunlap and the lack of publicity for the Hardy Boys ' 50th anniversary in 1977 . Grosset & Dunlap filed suit against the Syndicate and the new publishers , Simon & Schuster , citing " breach of contract , copyright infringement , and unfair competition . "

Adams filed a countersuit , claiming the case was in poor taste and frivolous , and that , as author of the Nancy Drew series , she retained the rights to her work . Although Adams had written many of the titles after 1953 , and edited others , she claimed to be the author of all of the early titles . In fact , she had rewritten the older titles and was not their original author . When Mildred Benson was called to testify about her work for the Syndicate , Benson 's role in writing the manuscripts of early titles was revealed in court with extensive documentation , contradicting Adams ' claims to authorship . The court ruled that Grosset had the rights to publish the original series as they were in print in 1980 , but did not own characters or trademarks . Furthermore , any new publishers chosen by Adams were completely within their rights to print new titles .

= = Evolution of character = =

The character of Nancy Drew has gone through many permutations over the years . The Nancy Drew Mystery series was revised beginning in 1959 ; with commentators agreeing that Nancy 's character changed significantly from the original Nancy of the books written in the 1930s and 1940s . Commentators also often see a difference between the Nancy Drew of the original series , the Nancy of The Nancy Drew Files , and the Nancy of Girl Detective series . Nevertheless , some commentators find no significant difference between the different permutations of Nancy Drew , finding Nancy to be simply a good role model for girls . Despite revisions , " [w] hat hasn 't changed , however , are [Nancy 's] basic values , her goals , her humility , and her magical gift for having at least nine lives . For more than six decades , her essence has remained intact . " Nancy is a " teen detective queen " who " offers girl readers something more than action @-@ packed adventure : she gives them something original . Convention has it that girls are passive , respectful , and emotional , but with the energy of a girl shot out of a cannon , Nancy bends conventions and acts out every girl 's fantasies of power .

Other commentators see Nancy as " a paradox ? which may be why feminists can laud her as a formative ' girl power ' icon and conservatives can love her well @-@ scrubbed middle @-@ class values . "

= = = 1930 ? 1959 = = =

The earliest Nancy Drew books were published as dark blue hardcovers with the titles stamped in orange lettering with dark blue outlines and no other images on the cover . They went through several changes in early years : leaving the orange lettering with no outline and adding an orange silhouette of Nancy peering through a magnifying glass ; then changing to a lighter blue board with dark blue lettering and silhouette ; then changing the position of the title and silhouette on the front

with black lettering and a more " modern " silhouette . Nancy Drew is depicted as an independent @-@ minded 16 @-@ year @-@ old who has already completed her high school education (16 was the minimum age for graduation at the time) ; the series also occurs over time , as she is 18 by the early 1940s . Apparently affluent (her father is a successful lawyer) , she maintains an active social , volunteer , and sleuthing schedule , as well as participating in athletics and the arts , but is never shown as working for a living or acquiring job skills . Nancy is affected neither by the Great Depression ? although many of the characters in her early cases need assistance as they are poverty @-@ stricken ? nor by World War II . Nancy lives with her lawyer father , Carson Drew , and their housekeeper , Mrs. Hannah Gruen . Some critics prefer the Nancy of these volumes , largely written by Mildred Benson . Benson is credited with " [breathing] ... a feisty spirit into Nancy 's character . " The original Nancy Drew is sometimes claimed " to be a lot like [Benson] herself ? confident , competent , and totally independent , quite unlike the cardboard character that [Edward] Stratemeyer had outlined . "

This original Nancy is frequently outspoken and authoritative , so much so that Edward Stratemeyer told Benson that the character was " much too flip , and would never be well received . " The editors at Grosset & Dunlap disagreed , but Benson also faced criticism from her next Stratemeyer Syndicate editor , Harriet Adams , who felt that Benson should make Nancy 's character more " sympathetic , kind @-@ hearted and lovable . " Adams repeatedly asked Benson to , in Benson 's words , " make the sleuth less bold ... ' Nancy said ' became ' Nancy said sweetly , ' ' she said kindly , ' and the like , all designed to produce a less abrasive more caring type of character . " Many readers and commentators , however , admire this original Nancy 's outspoken character .

A prominent critic of the Nancy Drew character , at least the Nancy of these early Nancy Drew stories , is mystery writer Bobbie Ann Mason . Mason contends that Nancy owes her popularity largely to " the appeal of her high @-@ class advantages . " Mason also criticizes the series for its racism and classism , arguing that Nancy is the upper @-@ class WASP defender of a " fading aristocracy , threatened by the restless lower classes . " Mason further contends that the " most appealing elements of these daredevil girl sleuth adventure books are (secretly) of this kind : tea and fancy cakes , romantic settings , food eaten in quaint places (never a Ho @-@ Jo 's) , delicious pauses that refresh , old @-@ fashioned picnics in the woods , precious jewels and heirlooms The word dainty is a subversive affirmation of a feminized universe . "

At bottom , says Mason , the character of Nancy Drew is that of a girl who is able to be " perfect " because she is " free , white , and sixteen " and whose " stories seem to satisfy two standards ? adventure and domesticity . But adventure is the superstructure , domesticity the bedrock . "

Others argue that " Nancy , despite her traditionally feminine attributes , such as good looks , a variety of clothes for all social occasions , and an awareness of good housekeeping , is often praised for her seemingly masculine traits ... she operates best independently , has the freedom and money to do as she pleases , and outside of a telephone call or two home , seems to live for solving mysteries rather than participating in family life . "

= = = 1959 ? 1979 = = =

At the insistence of publishers Grosset & Dunlap , the Nancy Drew books were revised beginning in 1959 , both to make the books more modern and to eliminate racist stereotypes . Although Harriet Adams felt that these changes were unnecessary , she oversaw a complete overhaul of the series , as well as writing new volumes in keeping with the new guidelines laid down by Grosset & Dunlap . The series did not so much eliminate racial stereotypes , however , as eliminate non @-@ white characters altogether . For example , in the original version of *The Hidden Window Mystery* (1956) , Nancy visits friends in the south whose African @-@ American servant , " lovable old Beulah ... serves squabs , sweet potatoes , corn pudding , piping hot biscuits , and strawberry shortcake . " The mistress of the house waits until Beulah has left the room and then says to Nancy , " I try to make things easier for Beulah but she insists on cooking and serving everything the old @-@ fashioned way . I must confess , though , that I love it . " In the revised 1975 version , Beulah is changed to Anna , a " plump , smiling housekeeper " .

Many other changes were relatively minor . The new books were bound in yellow with color illustrations on the front covers . Nancy 's age was raised from 16 to 18 , her mother was said to have died when Nancy was three , rather than ten , and other small changes were made . Housekeeper Hannah Gruen , sent off to the kitchen in early stories , became less of a servant and more of a mother surrogate .

Critics saw this Nancy of the 1950s , 1960s , and 1970s as an improvement in some ways , a step back in others : " In these new editions , an array of elements had been modified ... and most of the more overt elements of racism had been excised . In an often overlooked alteration , however , the tomboyishness of the text 's title character was also tamed . "

Nancy becomes much more respectful of male authority figures in the 1950s , 1960s , and 1970s , leading some to claim that the revised Nancy simply becomes too agreeable , and less distinctive , writing of her , " In the revised books , Nancy is relentlessly upbeat , puts up with her father 's increasingly protective tendencies , and , when asked if she goes to church in the 1969 *The Clue of the Tapping Heels* , replies , ' As often as I can ' ... Nancy learns to hold her tongue ; she doesn 't sass the dumb cops like she used to . "

== 1980 ? 2003 ==

After Harriet Adams died in 1982 , her protégé , Nancy Axelrad , oversaw production of the Nancy Drew books briefly before the Stratemeyer Syndicate was sold to Simon & Schuster . Simon & Schuster turned to book packager Mega @-@ Books for new writers . The books and Nancy 's character began to change as a result , although there is disagreement on the nature of this change . Some contend that Nancy 's character becomes " more like Mildred Wirt Benson 's original heroine than any [version] since 1956 . " Others criticize the series for its increasing incorporation of romance and " [dilution] of pre @-@ feminist moxie . " For example , volume 78 in the series *Update on Crime* (1992) opens with Nancy wondering in italics , " Am I or am I not in love with Ned Nickerson ? " Nancy begins dating other young men and acknowledges sexual desires : " ' I saw [you kissing him] ... You don 't have to apologize to me if some guy turns you on . ' ' Gianni doesn 't turn me on ! ... Won 't you please let me explain . ' "

In 1986 , the character of Nancy Drew was used in a new series , *The Nancy Drew Files* , which lasted until 1997 . The Nancy of the Files series is also interested in romance and boys , a fact which led to much criticism of the series : " Millie [Mildred Wirt Benson] purists tend to look askance upon the Files series , in which fleeting pecks bestowed on Nancy by her longtime steady , Ned Nickerson , give way to lingering embraces in a Jacuzzi . " Cover art for Files titles , such as *Hit and Run Holiday* (1986) , reflects these changes ; Nancy is often dressed provocatively , in short skirts , shirts that reveal her stomach or breasts , or a bathing suit . She is often pictured with an attentive , handsome male in the background , and frequently appears aware of and interested in that male . Nancy also becomes more vulnerable , being often chloroformed into unconsciousness , or defenseless against chokeholds . The books place more emphasis on violence and character relationships .

Nancy Drew finally goes to college in the *Nancy Drew on Campus* series , which ran from 1995 to 1998 . Again , the books focus on romance plots , and , by reader request , Nancy broke off her long @-@ term relationship with boyfriend Ned Nickerson in the second volume of the series , *On Her Own* (1995) .

In 1997 , Simon & Schuster announced a mass cancellation of Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys spin @-@ offs except ones for younger children .

== 2003 ? 2012 ==

In 2003 , publishers Simon & Schuster decided to end the original Nancy Drew series and feature Nancy 's character in a new mystery series , *Girl Detective* . The Nancy Drew of the *Girl Detective* series drives a hybrid car , uses a mobile phone , and recounts her mysteries in the first person . Many applaud these changes , arguing that Nancy has not really changed at all other than learning

to use a cell phone . Others praise the series as more realistic ; Nancy , these commentators argue , is now a less @-@ perfect and therefore more likable being , one whom girls can more easily relate to ? a better role model than the old Nancy because she can actually be emulated , rather than a " prissy automaton of perfection . "

Some , mostly fans , vociferously lament the changes , seeing Nancy as a silly , air @-@ headed girl whose trivial adventures (discovering who squished the zucchini in *Without a Trace* (2003)) " hold a shallow mirror to a pre @-@ teen 's world . " Leona Fisher argues that the new series portrays an increasingly white River Heights , partially because " the clumsy first @-@ person narrative voice makes it nearly impossible to interlace external authorial attitudes into the discourse " , while it continues and worsens " the implicitly xenophobic cultural representations of racial , ethnic , and linguistic others " by introducing gratuitous speculations on characters ' national and ethnic origins .

The character is also the heroine of a series of graphic novels , begun in 2005 and produced by Papercutz . The graphic novels are written by Stefan Petrucha and illustrated in manga @-@ style artwork by Sho Murase . The character 's graphic novel incarnation has been described as " a fun , sassy , modern @-@ day teen who is still hot on the heels of criminals . "

The 2007 film was also tied into the books . A novelization of the movie was written to look like the older books . Two books were also written for the *Girl Detective* and *Clue Crew* series that deal with a mystery on a movie set . In 2008 , the *Girl Detective* series was re @-@ branded into trilogies and to have a model on the cover . The mysteries became deeper , with Nancy often making mistakes . These trilogies were also met with negative fan reception due to Nancy 's constant mistakes , shortness of the books , and lack of action . With the new trilogy format , sales began slipping . Simon & Schuster then cut back from six to four books per year . In December 2011 , they finally announced that the series was cancelled along with the *Hardy Boys Undercover Brothers* series .

= = = 2013 ? present = = =

With the sudden cancellation of the *Girl Detective* series , Simon & Schuster needed to find new Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys series . The *Diaries* series was brought to be the next series . Though Nancy 's age is not given , she has a boyfriend in college and drives with a nonrestrictive license .

= = Evolution of character 's appearance = =

Nancy Drew has been illustrated by many artists over the years , and her look constantly updated . Both the Stratemeyer Syndicate and the books ' publishers have exercised control over the way Nancy is depicted .

Jennifer Stowe contends that Nancy 's portrayal devolves significantly over the years :

The 1930s Nancy Drew is characterized as bold , capable and independent . She actively seeks out clues , and is shown in the center of the compositions . In subsequent characterizations Nancy Drew becomes progressively weaker , less in control . By the 1990s there is a complete reversal in the representation of her character . She is often shown being chased or threatened , the confidence of 1930s being replaced by fear .

Some aspects of Nancy 's portrayal have remained relatively constant through the decades . Arguably her most characteristic physical depiction is that she is shown holding a flashlight .

= = = Russell H. Tandy = = =

Commercial artist Russell H. Tandy was the first artist to illustrate Nancy Drew . Tandy was a fashion artist and infused Nancy with a contemporary fashion sensibility : her early style is that of a flatfoot flapper : heeled Mary Janes accompany her blue flapper skirt suit and cloche hat on three of the first four volume dust jackets . As styles changed over the next few years , Nancy began to appear in glamorous frocks , with immaculately set hair , pearls , matching hats , gloves , and handbags . By the 1940s , Nancy wore simpler , tailored suits and outfits ; her hair was often

arranged in a pompadour . In the post @-@ war era , Tandy 's Nancy is shown hatless , wearing casual skirt and blouse ensembles , and carrying a purse , like most teens of the late 1940s .

Tandy drew the inside sketches for the first 26 volumes of the series as well as painting the covers of the first 26 volumes with the exception of volume 11 ? the cover artist for volume 11 is unknown . Tandy read each text before he began sketching , so his early covers were closely connected to specific scenes in the plots . He also hand @-@ painted the cover lettering and designed the original Nancy Drew logo : a silhouette of Nancy bending slightly and looking at the ground through a quizzing glass .

Tandy often portrays Nancy Drew with confident , assertive body language . She never appears " shocked , trepidatious , or scared " . Nancy is shown either boldly in the center of the action or actively , but secretly , investigating a clue . She is often observed by a menacing figure and appears to be in imminent danger , but her confident expression suggests to viewers that she is in control of the situation .

Tandy 's home was struck by fire in 1962 , and most of his original paintings and sketches were destroyed . As a result , the Tandy dust @-@ jackets are considered very valuable by collectors .

= = = Bill Gillies and others = = =

Beginning with Tandy in 1948 and continuing into the early 1950s , Nancy 's appearance was updated to follow the current styles . In postwar opulence , a trend emerged for young adults to have their own casual style , instead of dressing in the same styles as more mature adults , and Nancy becomes less constrained . Sweater or blouse and skirt ensembles , as well as a pageboy hairstyle , were introduced in 1948 , and continued with new artist Bill Gillies , who updated 10 covers and illustrated three new jackets from 1950 to 1952 . Gillies used his wife for a model , and Nancy reflects the conservative 1950s , with immaculately waved hair and a limited wardrobe ? she wears similar sweater , blouse , and skirt ensembles , in different combinations , on most of these covers . Gillies also designed the modern @-@ era trademark as a spine symbol which was used for decades : Nancy 's head in profile , looking through a quizzing glass .

In the later Tandy period (1946 ? 1949) and continuing throughout the 1950s , Nancy is depicted less frequently in the center of the action . " The Ghost of Blackwood Hall " shows an assertive Nancy leading more timid friends up the front steps of the haunted house , and marks a transition to later illustrations . From 1949 forward , she is likely to be observing others , often hiding or concealing herself . Her mouth is often open in surprise , and she hides her body from view . However , although Nancy " expresses surprise , she is not afraid . She appears to be a bit taken aback by what she sees , but she looks as if she is still in control of the situation . " Many of these covers feature Nancy poised in the observation of a clue , spying on criminal activity , or displaying her discoveries to others involved in the mystery . Only occasionally is she shown in action , such as running from the scene of a fire , riding a horse , or actively sleuthing with a flashlight . At times she is only involved in action as her hiding place has been discovered by others . In most cases , more active scenes are used for the frontispiece , or in books after 1954 , illustrations throughout the text drawn by uncredited illustrators .

= = = Rudy Nappi and others = = =

Joseph Rudolf " Rudy " Nappi , the artist from 1953 to 1979 , illustrated a more average teenager . Nappi was asked by Grosset & Dunlap 's art director to update Nancy 's appearance , especially her wardrobe . Nappi gave Nancy Peter Pan collars , shirtwaist dresses , a pageboy (later a flip) haircut , and the occasional pair of jeans . Nancy 's hair color was changed from blonde to strawberry @-@ blonde , reddish @-@ blonde , or titian by the end of the decade . The change was long rumored to have been the result of a printing ink error , but was considered so favorable that it was adopted in the text for books published after 1959 , and by illustrator Polly Bolian for volumes she created for a special book club in 1959 ? 60 .

In 1962 , all Grosset & Dunlap books become " picture covers " , books with artwork and advertising

printed directly on their covers , as opposed to books with a dust jacket over a tweed volume . The change was to reduce production costs . Several of the 1930s and 1940s cover illustrations were updated by Nappi for this change , depicting a Nancy of the Kennedy era , though the stories themselves were not updated . Internal illustrations , which were dropped in 1937 , were returned to the books beginning in 1954 , as pen and ink line drawings , mostly by uncredited artists , but usually corresponding with Nappi 's style of drawing Nancy on the covers . Nappi followed trends initiated by Gillies and often illustrated Nancy wearing the same clothing more than once , including a mustard shirtwaist dress .

Unlike Tandy , Nappi did not read the books before illustrating them ; instead , his wife read them and provided him with a brief plot summary before Nappi began painting . Nappi 's first cover was for *The Clue of the Velvet Mask* , where he began a trend of portraying Nancy as " bobby @-@ soxer ... a contemporary sixteen @-@ year @-@ old . This Nancy was perky , clean @-@ cut , and extremely animated . In the majority of his covers Nancy looks startled ? which , no doubt , she was . " Nancy 's style is considerably conservative , and remains so during the psychedelic period . Although she wears bold colors and prints , or the background colors are shades of electric yellow , shocking pink , turquoise , or apple green , her clothing is high @-@ necked and with long hemlines . Earlier Nappi covers show Nancy in poses similar to those in the covers by Tandy and Gillies ; for many updated covers he simply updated the color scheme , clothing style , and hairstyles of the characters but retains their original poses in similar settings . Later Nappi covers show only Nancy 's head or part of her body , surrounded by spooky or startling elements or clues from the story . These Nappi covers would later be used for the opening credits of the television production , with photos of Pamela Sue Martin inserted on the book covers .

Often , " Nancy 's face wears the blank expression of one lost in thought , " making her appear passive . On the cover of *The Strange Message in the Parchment* (1977) , for example , in contrast to earlier covers , Nancy " is not shown in the midst of danger or even watching a mystery unfold from a distance . Instead , Nancy is shown thinking about the clues " ; in general , Nancy becomes less confident and more puzzled .

= = = Nancy in the 1980s , 1990s , and 2000s = = =

Ruth Sanderson and Paul Frame provided cover art and interior illustrations for the first Nancy Drew paperbacks , published under the Wanderer imprint . Other artists , including Aleta Jenks and others whose names are unknown , provided cover art , but no interior illustrations , for later paperbacks . Nancy is portrayed as " a wealthy , privileged sleuth who looks pretty and alert The colors , and Nancy 's facial features , are often so vivid that some of the covers look more like glossy photographs than paintings . "

Nancy is frequently portrayed pursuing a suspect , examining a clue , or observing action . She is often also shown in peril : being chased , falling off a boat , or hanging by a rope from rafters . These covers are " characterized by frenetic energy on Nancy 's part ; whether she is falling , limbs flailing , an alarmed look on her face , or whether she is running , hair flying , body bent , face breathless . Nancy does not have any control over the events that are happening in these covers . She is shown to be a victim , being hunted and attacked by unseen foes . "

Nancy is also sometimes pursued by a visibly threatening foe , as on the cover of *The Case of the Vanishing Veil* (1988) .

The covers of the *The Nancy Drew Files* and *Girl Detective* series represent further departures from the bold , confident character portrayed by Tandy . The Nancy portrayed on the covers of *The Nancy Drew Files* is " a markedly sexy Nancy , with a handsome young man always lurking in the background . Her clothes often reveal an ample bustline and her expression is mischievous . " In the *Girl Detective* series , Nancy 's face is depicted on each cover in fragments . Her eyes , for example , are confined to a strip across the top of the cover while her mouth is located near the spine in a box independent of her eyes . The artwork for Nancy 's eyes and mouth is taken from Rudy Nappi 's cover art for the revised version of *The Secret of the Old Clock* .

== Books ==

The longest @-@ running series of books to feature Nancy Drew is the original Nancy Drew series , whose 175 volumes were published from 1930 to 2003 . Nancy also appeared in 124 titles in The Nancy Drew Files and is currently the heroine of the Diaries series . Various other series feature the character , such as the Nancy Drew Notebooks and Nancy Drew on Campus . While Nancy Drew is the central character in each series , continuity is preserved only within one series , not between them all ; for example , in concurrently published titles in the Nancy Drew series and the Nancy Drew on Campus series , Nancy is respectively dating her boyfriend Ned Nickerson or broken up with Ned Nickerson .

== International publications ==

The main Nancy Drew series , The Nancy Drew Files , and Girl Detective books have been translated into a number of languages besides English . Estimates vary from between 14 and 25 languages , but 25 seems the most accurate number . Nancy Drew books have been published in many European countries (especially in Nordic countries and France) as well as in Latin America and Asia . The character of Nancy Drew seems to be more popular in some countries than others . Nancy Drew books have been in print in Norway since 1941 (the first country outside USA) , in Denmark since 1958 , in France since 1955 and in Italy since 1970 by Arnoldo Mondadori Editore . Other countries , such as Estonia , have only recently begun printing Nancy Drew books .

Nancy 's name is often changed in translated editions : in France , she is known as Alice Roy ; in Sweden , as Kitty Drew ; in Finland , as Paula Drew ; and in Norway the book series has the name of Frøken Detektiv (Miss Detective) , though the heroine 's name is still Nancy Drew inside the books . In Germany , Nancy is a German law student named Susanne Langen . George Fayne 's name is even more frequently changed , to Georgia , Joyce , Kitty , or Marion . Cover art and series order is often changed as well , and in many countries only a limited number of Drew books are available in translation .

== Film and television ==

Five feature films , two television shows , and four television pilots featuring Nancy Drew have been produced to date . No television show featuring Nancy Drew has lasted longer than two years , and film portrayals of the character have met with mixed reviews .

== Films ==

Former child actress Bonita Granville portrayed Nancy Drew in four Warner Bros. films directed by William Clemens in the late 1930s : Nancy Drew ... Detective (loosely based on The Password to Larkspur Lane) (December 1938) , Nancy Drew ... Reporter (March 1939) , Nancy Drew ? Trouble Shooter (September 1939) , and Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (November 1939) . A fifth movie may have been planned or even produced , but it was never released ; actor Frankie Thomas believes that he and Granville made five films , not four , and in August 1939 Harriet Adams wrote to Mildred Benson , " three have been shown in this area , and I have just heard that a fifth is in production . " The films were in part based on the Torchy Blane film series with Glenda Farrell and Barton MacLane , also made by Warner Bros. Nancy & Torchy have very similar hair styles , almost always wear a hat , were told to stay off the case (but were stubborn and continued to sleuth) , were assisted by their boyfriends , and even had the same writers .

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase was the only film to borrow its title from a book in the series , although the plot was altered substantially . One critic wrote that " the only similarity between the book and the film was the word staircase . " Nancy 's boyfriend Ned Nickerson became Ted Nickerson , as Ned was considered too old @-@ fashioned , and housekeeper Hannah Gruen was replaced by Effie Schneider , a minor character who had appeared in only a few books as the Drews

' part @-@ time maid ; in the films , Effie 's traits are combined with Hannah 's . Nancy 's friends George and Bess were eliminated completely , " mystery elements were downplayed , plots simplified , and the romance spiced up . " To promote the film , Warner Bros. created a Nancy Drew fan club that included a set of rules , such as : " Must have steady boy friend , in the sense of a ' pal ' " and must " Take part in choosing own clothes . " These rules were based on some research Warner Bros. had done on the habits and attitudes of " typical " teenage girls .

Critical reaction to these films is mixed . Some find that the movies did not " depict the true Nancy Drew " , in part because Granville 's Nancy " blatantly used her feminine wiles (and enticing bribes) " to accomplish her goals . The films also portray Nancy as childish and easily flustered , a significant change from her portrayal in the books . Nevertheless , Mildred Benson , the author of most Nancy Drew books at the time , liked the films .

A film adaptation of Nancy Drew was released on June 15 , 2007 by Warner Bros. Pictures , with Emma Roberts as Nancy Drew , Max Thieriot as Ned Nickerson and Tate Donovan as Carson Drew . As with the earlier Drew films , reactions were mixed . Some see the film as updated version of the basic character : " although it has been glammed up for the lucrative tween demographic , the movie retains the best parts of the books , including , of course , their intelligent main character . " Others find the movie " jolting " because Nancy 's " new classmates prefer shopping to sleuthing , and Nancy 's plaid skirt and magnifying glass make her something of a dork , not the town hero she was in the Midwest . "

= = = Television = = =

In 1957 , Desilu and CBS developed a show , Nancy Drew , Detective , based on the movies from the 1930s . Roberta Shore was in the title role as Nancy Drew , with Tim Considine as Ned Nickerson , and Frankie Thomas , Jr. as Carson Drew . Although a pilot was produced in April 1957 , the series could not find a sponsor , and , with the disappointment and later disapproval of Harriet Adams , the idea of a series was abandoned .

A television series called The Hardy Boys / Nancy Drew Mysteries ran from 1977 to 1979 on American Broadcasting Company (ABC) . It initially starred 24 @-@ year @-@ old Pamela Sue Martin as Nancy . For the first season , episodes featuring Nancy alternated with episodes featuring the Hardy Boys . The stories were new stories based on the original stories , with Nancy solving mysteries with her friends George and Ned . Beginning in the second season , the format of the series changed to focus more on the Hardy Boys , with Nancy Drew primarily appearing as a guest star in several crossover story lines ; Martin left the series midway through the second season and was replaced by 19 @-@ year @-@ old Janet Louise Johnson for the final few episodes . The series continued for a third season as The Hardy Boys Mysteries , dropping Nancy Drew completely , but the series was cancelled mid @-@ way through the season .

In October 1989 , Canadian production company Nelvana began filming for a 13 @-@ episode Nancy Drew television series called Nancy Drew and Daughter for USA Network . Margot Kidder was cast as an adult Nancy Drew and her daughter as Nancy 's daughter . Kidder was injured during filming of the first episode when the brakes failed on the car she was driving , and production was canceled the next month .

Nelvana began production of another Nancy Drew television show in 1995 . Tracy Ryan starred as Nancy Drew , with Jhene Erwin as Bess Marvin , Joy Tanner as George Fayne , and , in a recurring role , Scott Speedman as Ned Nickerson . The show was cancelled midway through its first season due to low ratings , possibly due to its being in syndication . The entire series has since been released on DVD .

On December 15 , 2002 , ABC aired Nancy Drew , with Maggie Lawson in the title role , as part of The Wonderful World of Disney series . The movie was intended to be a pilot for a possible weekly series . Additional scripts were ordered , but a series was not forthcoming .

On October 5 , 2015 , CBS announced that it would be developing a new series titled Drew . In January 2016 , they announced that the pilot would feature Nancy as a non @-@ Caucasian New York City police detective in her thirties . The pilot episode will revolve around Nancy investigating

the death of Bess Marvin , who had died six months prior . As of March 2016 , Sarah Shahi is cast as Nancy , Anthony Edwards is set to play Carson Drew , Felix Solis as Lieutenant Ford , Vanessa Ferlito as George Fayne , Steve Kazee as Ned Nickerson , and Debra Monk as Hannah Gruen . The pilot was written by Joan Rater and Tony Phelan and was directed by James Strong . The pilot was shot in New York City . On May 14 , 2016 , it was announced that CBS passed on the Drew pilot , so CBS Studios is shopping it to other networks for series consideration . However , it was not picked up by any of the other networks .

= = Video games = =

Computer games publisher Her Interactive began publishing Nancy Drew computer games in 1998 . Some titles are taken from published Nancy Drew books , such as *The Secret of the Old Clock* ; others are not . The games are targeted at teens " ages 10 and up " and are rated " E " (" Everyone ") by the ESRB . They follow the popular adventure game style of play . Players must move Nancy around in a virtual environment to talk to suspects , pick up clues , solve puzzles , and eventually solve the crime .

Lani Minella has voiced the Nancy character since the first game in 1998 up to the most recent game , *Sea of Darkness* , the 32nd game . The 33rd game , *Midnight in Salem* , which will be coming out in 2016 , will be voiced by a new actress . Minella , who has voiced Nancy for 17 years , will be stepping down from the role . Her Interactive said that the community has been nothing but supportive of Minella , and that their overall goal is to keep creating noteworthy games .

In addition to the games created by Her Interactive , a game for the Nintendo DS was released in September 2007 by Majesco Entertainment . In the game , developed by Gorilla Systems Co and called *Nancy Drew : Deadly Secret of Olde World Park* , players help Nancy solve the mystery of a missing billionaire . Majesco has also released two other Nancy Drew games for the DS , entitled *Nancy Drew : The Mystery of the Clue Bender Society* (released July 2008) and *Nancy Drew : The Hidden Staircase* , based on the second book in the original Nancy Drew Mystery Stories series (released September 2008) . *Nancy Drew : The Hidden Staircase* and *Nancy Drew : The Model Mysteries* , both by THQ , are also available on the Nintendo DS system .

Some games , like *Secrets Can Kill* , *Shadow at the Water 's Edge* , and *The Captive Curse* , are rated " E10 + " . The games have received recognition for promoting female interest in video games . Her Interactive has also released several versions of their Nancy Drew games in French , as part of a series called *Les Enquêtes de Nancy Drew* , and shorter games as part of a new series called the *Nancy Drew Dossier* . The first title , *Lights , Camera , Curses* , was released in 2008 and the second , *Resorting to Danger* , was released in 2009 . While most of the games are computer games , with most available only on PC and some newer titles also available on Mac , Her Interactive also have released some of the titles on other platforms , like DVD and Nintendo Wii system .

On May 13 , 2016 , Her Interactive introduced and released *Nancy Drew : Codes & Clues* , which was designed to help children develop skills in computer programming .

= = Merchandising = =

A number of Nancy Drew products have been licensed over the years , primarily in the 1950s , 1960s , and 1970s . Parker Brothers produced a " *Nancy Drew Mystery Game* " in 1957 with the approval of the Stratemeyer Syndicate . In 1967 Madame Alexander produced a Nancy Drew doll . The doll carried binoculars and camera and was available in two outfits : with a plaid coat or a dress and short jacket . Harriet Adams disapproved of the doll 's design , believing Nancy 's face to be too childish , but the doll was marketed nonetheless . Various Nancy Drew coloring , activity , and puzzle books have also been published , as has a Nancy Drew puzzle . A Nancy Drew Halloween costume and a Nancy Drew lunchbox were produced in the 1970s as television show tie @-@ ins .

= = Cultural impact = =

According to commentators , the cultural impact of Nancy Drew has been enormous . The immediate success of the series led directly to the creation of numerous other girls ' mysteries series , such as The Dana Girls mystery stories and the Kay Tracey mystery stories , and the phenomenal sales of the character Edward Stratemeyer feared was " too flip " encouraged publishers to market many other girls ' mystery series , such as the Judy Bolton Series , and to request authors of series such as the Cherry Ames Nurse Stories to incorporate mystery elements into their works .

Many prominent and successful women cite Nancy Drew as an early formative influence whose character encouraged them to take on unconventional roles , including Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O 'Connor , Ruth Bader Ginsburg , and Sonia Sotomayor ; TV personalities Oprah Winfrey and Barbara Walters ; singers Barbra Streisand and Beverly Sills ; mystery authors Sara Paretsky and Nancy Pickard ; scholar Carolyn Heilbrun ; actresses Ellen Barkin and Emma Roberts ; former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton ; former First Lady Laura Bush ; and former president of the National Organization for Women Karen DeCrow . Less prominent women also credit the character of Nancy Drew with helping them to become stronger women ; when the first Nancy Drew conference was held , at the University of Iowa , in 1993 , conference organizers received a flood of calls from women who " all had stories to tell about how instrumental Nancy had been in their lives , and about how she had inspired , comforted , entertained them through their childhoods , and , for a surprising number of women , well into adulthood . "

Nancy Drew 's popularity continues unabated : in 2002 , the first Nancy Drew book published , *The Secret of the Old Clock* , alone sold 150 @, @ 000 copies , good enough for top @-@ 50 ranking in children 's books , and other books in the series sold over 100 @, @ 000 copies each . Sales of the hardcover volumes of the original Nancy Drew series alone has surpassed sales of Agatha Christie titles , and newer titles in the Girl Detective series have reached The New York Times bestseller lists . Entertainment Weekly ranked her seventeenth on its list of " The Top 20 Heroes " ahead of Batman , explaining that Drew is the " first female hero embraced by most little girls ... [Nancy lives] in an endless summer of never @-@ ending adventures and unlimited potential . " The magazine goes on to cite Scooby @-@ Doo 's Velma Dinkley as well as Veronica Mars as Nancy Drew 's " copycat descendants " .

Many feminist critics have pondered the reason for the character 's iconic status . Nancy 's car , and her skill in driving and repairing it , are often cited . Melanie Rehak points to Nancy 's famous blue roadster (now a blue hybrid) as a symbol of " ultimate freedom and independence . " Not only does Nancy have the freedom to go where she pleases (a freedom other , similar characters such as The Dana Girls do not have) , but she is also able to change a tire and fix a flawed distributor , prompting Paretsky to argue that in " a nation where car mechanics still mock or brush off complaints by women Nancy remains a significant role model . "

Nancy is also treated with respect : her decisions are rarely questioned and she is trusted by those around her . Male authority figures believe her statements , and neither her father nor Hannah Gruen , the motherly housekeeper , " place ... restrictions on her comings and goings . " Nancy 's father not only imposes no restrictions on his daughter , but trusts her both with her own car and his gun (in the original version of *The Hidden Staircase* [1930]) , asks her advice on a frequent basis , and accedes to all her requests . Some critics , such as Betsy Caprio and Ilana Nash , argue that Nancy 's relationship with her continually approving father is satisfying to girl readers because it allows them to vicariously experience a fulfilled Electra complex .

Unlike other girl detectives , Nancy does not go to school (for reasons that are never explained , but assuming because she has finished) , and she thus has complete autonomy . Similar characters , such as Kay Tracey , do go to school , and not only lose a degree of independence but also of authority . The fact of a character 's being a school @-@ girl reminds " the reader , however fleetingly , of the prosaic realities of high @-@ school existence , which rarely includes high adventures or an authoritative voice in the world of adults . "

Some see in Nancy 's adventures a mythic quality . Nancy often explores secret passages , prompting Nancy Pickard to argue that Nancy Drew is a figure equivalent to the ancient Sumerian deity Inanna and that Nancy 's " journeys into the ' underground ' " are , in psychological terms ,

explorations of the unconscious . Nancy is a heroic figure , undertaking her adventures not for the sake of adventure alone , but in order to help others , particularly the disadvantaged . For this reason , Nancy Drew has been called the modern embodiment of the character of " Good Deeds " in Everyman .

In the end , many critics agree that at least part of Nancy Drew 's popularity depends on the way in which the books and the character combine sometimes contradictory values , with Kathleen Chamberlain writing in *The Secrets of Nancy Drew* : " For over 60 years , the Nancy Drew series has told readers that they can have the benefits of both dependence and independence without the drawbacks , that they can help the disadvantaged and remain successful capitalists , that they can be both elitist and democratic , that they can be both child and adult , and that they can be both ' liberated ' women and Daddy 's little girls . " As another critic puts it , " Nancy Drew ' solved ' the contradiction of competing discourses about American womanhood by entertaining them all . "

In 2010 , Nancy Drew (and her novels) were discussed in the Young Adult themed issue of the academic journal *Studies in the Novel* . See Jennifer M. Woolston 's essay entitled " Nancy Drew 's Body : The Case of the Autonomous Female Sleuth " for a detailed discussion of the heroine 's impact on popular culture . The essay also discusses links to Nancy Drew and feminist theory .