

# Huntress (comics)

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**Huntress** is the name of several fictional superheroes appearing in American comic books published by DC Comics, commonly in association with Batman. The two most well known women to bear the Huntress name are **Helena Bertinelli** and **Helena Wayne**, the latter being from an alternate DC universe. Although Helena Wayne and Helena Bertinelli are both superheroes, the Huntress of the Golden Age was a supervillain.

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## Characterization

### Paula Brooks

The Golden Age Huntress was a supervillain with the real name of **Paula Brooks** who battled the superhero Wildcat, first appearing in *Sensation Comics* #68. She joined the second Injustice Society of America and stole the Plymouth Rock. She married fellow supervillain Sportsmaster.

The character was later retroactively renamed the **Tigress** in the pages of *Young All-Stars*. These stories took place prior to her villainous career. At this point, the young Paula Brooks was a super-heroine, and fought both Nazis and criminals as a Young All-Stars member.

### Helena Wayne

The Bronze Age Huntress was **Helena Wayne**, the daughter of the Batman and Catwoman of Earth-Two, an alternate universe established in the early 1960s as the world where the Golden Age stories took place. Earth-Two was also the home of the Golden Age versions of various DC characters.

### Huntress



Helena Wayne as Huntress in *Huntress* vol. 3, #2 (January 2012); art by Marcus To

<b>Publisher</b>	DC Comics
<b>First appearance</b>	<i>Sensation Comics</i> #68 (August 1947)
<b>Created by</b>	Mort Meskin
<b>Characters</b>	Paula Brooks <div>Helena Wayne</div> <div><b>Helena Bertinelli</b></div>

### *The Huntress* *Huntress*



*The Huntress* vol. 1, #1 (Apr, 1989).

Featuring the Helena Bertinelli version of the character.  
Art by Joe Staton.

#### Series publication information

<b>Publisher</b>	DC Comics
<b>Schedule</b>	Monthly
<b>Format</b>	(vol 1) <div>Ongoing series</div> (vol 2) <div>Limited Series</div>
<b>Genre</b>	Superhero



Helena Wayne as Huntress in *Huntress* vol. 3, #4 (March 2012); art by Marcus To

Created by Paul Levitz, Joe Staton, and Bob Layton, her first appearance was in *All Star Comics* #69 (December 1977) and *DC Super Stars* #17, which came out the same day<sup>[1]</sup> and revealed her origin.<sup>[2]</sup> She appeared in *Batman Family* #17-20

<b>Publication date</b>	<b>(vol 1)</b>
	April 1989 – October 1990
<b>Number of issues</b>	<b>(vol 2)</b>
	June – September 1994
<b>Main character(s)</b>	<b>(vol 1)</b>
	19
	<b>(vol 2)</b>
	4
Helena Bertinelli	

when it expanded into the Dollar Comics format for its last few issues.<sup>[3]</sup> The bulk of her solo stories appeared as backup features in issues of *Wonder Woman* beginning with issue #271 (September 1980).<sup>[3][4]</sup>

Helena was trained by her parents to become a superb athlete. After finishing school, she joined the law firm of Cranston and Grayson, one of whose partners

was Dick Grayson, alias Robin.

Helena began her super-hero career when a criminal blackmailed her mother into resuming action once again as Catwoman—an act which eventually led to her death. Helena, deciding to bring the criminal responsible to justice, created a costume for herself, fashioned some weapons from her parents' equipment (including her eventual trademark, a crossbow), and set out to bring in the criminal. After accomplishing this, Helena decided to continue to fight crime, under the code name, the "Huntress."

In *All Star Comics* #72, Helena formally joined the Justice Society of America where she struck up a friendship with fellow new superheroine Power Girl. As a JSA member, she participated in several of the annual JLA/JSA meetings, most of which took place on Earth-One. Helena was also briefly associated with the superhero group Infinity, Inc..

During the 1985 miniseries *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, Helena was killed while attempting to save the lives of several children. After *Crisis* ended, Helena Wayne's existence, like that of her parents and Earth-Two's Dick Grayson, was retroactively erased from the remaining Earth and the world no longer remembered her.

## The New 52

In 2012, Huntress began to star in the ongoing series *Worlds' Finest* along with Power Girl. In this series, Huntress is in reality Helena Wayne from Earth 2. She and Power Girl, who is Superman's cousin on Earth 2, were mysteriously hurled to the main DC Universe after a battle with Darkseid's minions. A retrospective 'prequel' to the series disclosed that her mother was the former Selina Kyle (Catwoman)<sup>[5]</sup>

## Helena Bertinelli

Following the 1985 miniseries *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, the Helena Wayne version of the Huntress was removed from continuity. DC Comics introduced a new version of the Huntress with the same first name and physical appearance, and with a similar costume, but with an entirely different backstory and different personality.

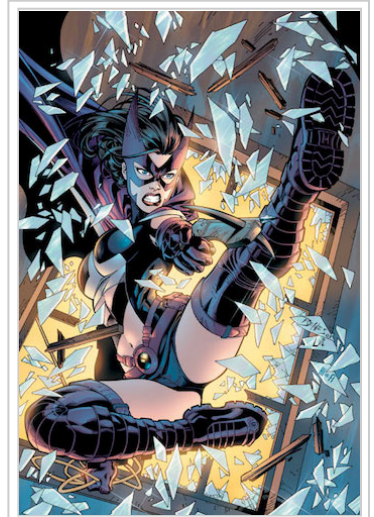
The Modern Age Huntress is **Helena Rosa Bertinelli** (also Hellena Janice Bertinelli in the miniseries *Robin 3, Cry of the Huntress*), the daughter of one of Gotham's mafia bosses who, after seeing her entire family murdered in a mob hit, vows revenge. During the "No Man's Land" story line she works as Batgirl, but not alongside Batman (whom the citizens believe abandoned them).

Batman considers her to be too unpredictable and violent. Others in the Batman family feel differently; Nightwing had a brief romantic fling with her, while she and Tim Drake share a good professional relationship. Early in his career he worked with the female vigilante, and later cleared her name in a murder case.

Batman sponsors Huntress's membership in the Justice League,<sup>[6]</sup> and for some time, Huntress was a respected member of the League. Under the guidance of heroes such as Superman, she grew in confidence, but was forced to resign after Batman stopped her from killing the villain Prometheus.<sup>[7]</sup>

The emergence of Bertinelli as the Huntress has not kept DC from occasionally paying homage to the Helena Wayne incarnation of the character. During a post-*Crisis* JLA-JSA team-up, Bertinelli was so impressed with the skill and prowess of the Flash (Jay Garrick), Hippolyta, and Wildcat, she stated humbly, "I wanna join the Justice Society . . .".<sup>[8]</sup> Additionally, Power Girl sought her out for someone to talk to, even though the two have never really interacted.

The character was featured in the comic book *Birds of Prey* from 2003 onwards as a member of the eponymous team. Although she is still depicted as prone to excessive violence, she became a valuable member of the team.



Helena Bertinelli as Huntress on the cover of *Birds of Prey* #57 (September 2003); art by Ed Benes

## Other versions

In the final issue of 52, a new Multiverse is revealed, originally consisting of 52 identical realities. Among the parallel realities shown is one designated "Earth-2". As a result of Mister Mind "eating" aspects of this reality, it takes on visual aspects similar to the pre-Crisis Earth-Two, including the Huntress among other Justice Society of America characters. The names of the characters and the team are not mentioned in the panel in which they appear, but the Huntress is visually similar to the Helena Wayne Huntress.<sup>[9]</sup> Geoff Johns confirmed that it is indeed Earth-2 Batman's daughter, Huntress.<sup>[10]</sup> As prefigured by comments from Grant Morrison, this new alternate universe is not the original/pre-Crisis Earth-Two and ensuing Justice Society of America exploration disclosed that this Helena Wayne/Huntress was a member of the Justice Society Infinity, Earth-2's merged JSA and Infinity, Inc. and was not in a relationship with Dick Grayson/Robin in this world. Since Power Girl briefly visited that world, there has been no subsequent depiction of the new Helena Wayne/Huntress of Earth-2.<sup>[11]</sup>

In the alternate timeline of the 2011 "Flashpoint" storyline, Huntress joined with the Amazons' Furies.<sup>[12]</sup>

Huntress was a member of Batman's insurgency in the video game *Injustice: Gods Among Us*, until she was accidentally killed by Wonder Woman.

## Cultural impact

### In other media

#### Television

##### Animated

##### *DC Animated Universe*

The Helena Bertinelli version of the Huntress has appeared in the animated series *Justice League Unlimited*, primarily as the love interest and partner to The Question. She is voiced by Amy Acker and starred in the episode "Double Date". In this episode, Huntress's thirst for revenge against the murderer of her parents, Steven Mandragora, results in her expulsion from the Justice League. Green Arrow and Black Canary chase Huntress

only to find her ready to kill Mandragora, until the Question talks her down and Steve's rescued son is revealed. In the subsequent episode "Question Authority", the Huntress helps the Question uncover a government conspiracy against the League. She later rescues him, with the help of Captain Blackard, from the Cadmus Project after he has been captured and tortured for information.

Huntress also appears in the fourth-season episode "Grudge Match", in which she uncovers a plot of Roulette's to use mind-controlled female Leaguers in metahuman cage matches, where her rivalry with Black Canary comes to a boil. She plays a significant role in freeing the other heroes and shutting down the organization behind the brawls. At the end of this episode, Black Canary offers to advocate that Huntress be reinstated as a League member, but Huntress graciously turns her down. Instead, the two decide to get the aggression out of their systems by going into one last, though friendly, round with "best two falls out of three".

While nothing came of it, there was consideration of bringing Helena Wayne/Huntress into *Batman Beyond*, as it would make a good alternative to having a *Batgirl Beyond*.<sup>[13]</sup>

#### *Batman: The Brave and the Bold*

Huntress appears in the animated series *Batman: The Brave and the Bold*, voiced by Tara Strong in the episode "Night of the Huntress!" where she, Batman, and Blue Beetle (Jaime Reyes) have to stop the gangster Baby-Face and his wife, Mrs. Manface. The Blue Beetle develops a crush on her in the episode, but Huntress is more interested in Batman. The latter does not reciprocate. The costume she wears strongly resembles the Helena Wayne costume, though this version is identified as Helena Bertinelli. When she isn't performing superheroic duties, she is employed as a professor in Gotham University, the same college Jaime plans to attend. Huntress subsequently appears in the episodes "Death Race to Oblivion!"<sup>[14]</sup> and "The Mask of Matches Malone!". When she, Black Canary, and Catwoman are lowered into a tank of sharks, she saves them by shooting her crossbow so it ricochets and tears Black Canary's gag off, enabling her to break the tank with her scream. Additionally, Helena appears in a non-speaking cameo in the two parts of the episode "The Siege of Starro!", first, among the heroes possessed by Starro, and later, as one of the heroines that have already broken free of Starro's mind control, and battle against him.

#### *Young Justice*

In season one of *Young Justice*, the Paula Brooks Huntress is a retired supervillain and the mother of Artemis. She is in a wheelchair and is cautious about her daughters safety as an archer. In "Insecurity", Huntress tells Artemis her membership in crimefighting is relieving to her nerves.

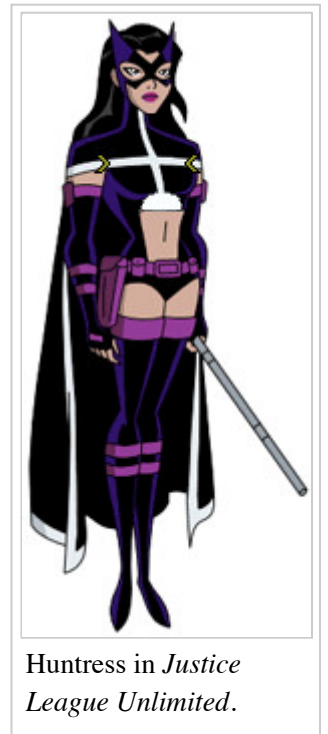
#### **Live-action**

##### *Legends of the Superheroes*

The Huntress's first appearance outside of comics was in the 1979 NBC *Legends of the Superheroes* TV specials, with actress Barbara Joyce portraying the character. Huntress and Black Canary are the only two superheroines featured among a cast of some of DC's biggest heroes, featuring Batman, Robin, Green Lantern, The Flash, and Captain Marvel.

##### *Birds of Prey*

The Huntress appears as a featured character in the short-lived live-action series *Birds of Prey*. This version of the Huntress, played by Ashley Scott, was mostly based on the Bronze Age Helena Wayne version, although she is named **Helena Kyle** in this series. She is the daughter of Batman, who disappeared after the death of her







Barbara Joyce as the Huntress in the 1979 *Legends of the Superheroes* TV special, Huntress's first non-comics appearance.

mother, Catwoman. The Huntress in this series worked with Oracle and Black Canary's daughter as the primary crimefighters in Gotham City. Unlike the previous versions of the Huntress, this series' version possessed low-level superpowers (occasional enhanced strength and agility, accompanied by her eyes turning cat-like) and did not wear a mask or a consistent costume, preferring fashionable black clothing, usually with some kind of long, leather overcoat.

#### *Arrow*

The CW TV series *Arrow* features actress Jessica De Gouw as the Helena Bertinelli version of the Huntress.<sup>[15][16][17]</sup> Helena Bertinelli, secretly known as the vigilante the Huntress, is the daughter of a crime boss set on destroying her father's crime empire, after discovering her father ordered the assassination

of her fiancé. She and Oliver (Arrow) become a couple at the end of the episode *Muse of Fire* (Episode 7). At the end of *Vendetta* (Episode 8), she was shot in the shoulder by her father using one of her own crossbows, but managed to survive with assistance from Oliver. She then left the city, to hunt down her father and kill him, despite Oliver's plea for her not to. She essentially becomes a villain at this point in the series. She returned to Starling City in Season 2, episode 17 to kill her father since he had been captured by the Arrow and arrested by authorities. Helena was prevented from getting her revenge when her father was accidentally killed in the crossfire by an anonymous bullet during her attempt on his life, and seemed dejected and morose that he died from someone else's actions.

## Video games

### *Justice League Heroes*

Huntress is an unlockable player character in the 2006 video game *Justice League Heroes*.

### *DC Universe Online*

The Huntress features in the MMORPG *DC Universe Online*, as an early boss fight for villains or a contact for heroes. She is also available as a Legends character, where players can use iconic characters in PvP battle simulations. The Huntress is also the main character of the solo instance "The Hunt", which lets players explore her origins as she infiltrates a mafia warehouse to confront Santo Cassamento about the murder of her family.

### *LEGO Batman*

LEGO pieces to create Huntress can be unlocked in the character creation feature in *LEGO Batman: The Video Game* after obtaining all the mini-kits from the Hero chapters. Huntress can also be unlocked in the Nintendo DS version of the game. In *Lego Batman 2: DC Super Heroes*, Huntress is an unlockable character in free play mode and can be found by constructing a Gold Brick archway (after collecting the requisite number of gold bricks) on the roof of a building in the south east of the top island on the map, south east of the encounter with Ra's al Ghul.

### *Batman: Arkham*

In the game *Batman: Arkham City*, Huntress is briefly mentioned by Vicki Vale in an interview tape with Mayor Quincy Sharp. In *Batman: Arkham Knight*, on a computer screen in the clock tower (where the Oracle's base is) you can see a brief chat session between the Oracle and the Huntress (the screen name in the chat is "HNTRSS").

## See also

- List of Batman supporting characters
- List of Batman Family adversaries

## References

1. *DC Super Stars* #17 (November–December 1977) (<http://www.comics.org/issue/31602/>) at the Grand Comics Database "Origin and first appearance of the Helena Wayne Huntress, who simultaneously first appears in this issue and *All-Star Comics* (DC, 1976 series) #69, both released August 24, 1977."
2. McAvennie, Michael; Dolan, Hannah, ed. (2010). "1970s". *DC Comics Year By Year A Visual Chronicle*. Dorling Kindersley. p. 175. ISBN 978-0-7566-6742-9. "*DC Super Stars* #17 (November–December 1977) While writer Paul Levitz and artist Joe Staton introduced the Huntress to the JSA in this month's *All Star Comics* #69, they concurrently shaped her origin in *DC Super Stars*."
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4. Manning, Matthew K. "1980s" in Dolan, p. 187 "The daughter of Batman and Catwoman from Earth-2 found a new home away from home in the pages of Wonder Woman's monthly title...a regular gig as the back-up feature to the Amazing Amazon's lead story. Handled by writer Paul Levitz and artist Joe Staton, the Huntress faced the villainy of the swamp creature Solomon Grundy."
5. Comic Book Review: "Worlds Finest: Huntress and Powergirl 0: 5 September 2012: <http://www.sciencefiction.com/2012/09/05/comic-book-review-worlds-finest-huntress-and-powergirl-0/>
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7. *JLA* #40
8. *JLA* #31
9. *52* 52: 13/3 (May 2, 2007), DC Comics
10. *Wizard* #189
11. Brady, Matt (2007-05-08). "the 52 exit interviews: grant morrison". Newsarama. Archived from the original on May 10, 2007. Retrieved 2007-05-12.
12. *Flashpoint: Wonder Woman and the Furies* #2 (July 2011)
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## External links

- Amalgam Comics: The Huntress (<http://www.marvunapp.com/Appendix/amhntsrss.htm>)
- Lair of the Huntress (<http://www.webcitation.org/query?url=http://www.geocities.com/hollywood/set/6742/&date=2009-10-26+00:10:26>)
- Sequential Tart: The Huntress and the Hunted ([http://www.sequentialtart.com/archive/apr00/art\\_0400\\_3.shtml](http://www.sequentialtart.com/archive/apr00/art_0400_3.shtml))
- The Watchtower Creator opinions on the Huntress (<http://jl.toonzone.net/huntress/huntress.htm>)

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