

Batwing (DC Comics)

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Batwing is a fictional comic book superhero appearing in publications by DC Comics. Within DC Comics internal continuity, Batwing is one of several superheroes patterned after the famous superhero Batman. Batwing, in particular, was conceived by Batman as his crime-fighting counterpart overseas, 'the Batman of Africa'.

The first Batwing is David Zavimbe, a Congolese police officer, created by writer Grant Morrison within the pages of *Batman Incorporated* prior to receiving his own eponymous series. Following later events within *Batman Incorporated* and *Batwing*, Zavimbe is replaced in the role by Luke Fox, an American mixed martial artist who had been Batman's first choice in the role, who is also the son of Batman's close associate Lucius Fox.

Batwing faces a roster of adversaries ranging from international super villains to the Democratic Republic of Congo's corrupt police force. *Batwing* expands the DC Universe by taking place in Africa, making David Zavimbe both the first (in continuity) black Batman and one of the few characters headlining a series outside the United States. Fox is also black, and becomes the first in-continuity African American Batman.

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Publication history

Batwing first appeared in *Batman* #250 and then in "Batman of Africa", in *Batman Incorporated* #5 (May 2011), written by Grant Morrison. He was designed by Chris Burnham,^[1] but was first drawn by Yanick Paquette.

Batwing	
Publication information	
Publisher	DC Comics
First appearance	(David Zavimbe) <div><i>Batman Incorporated</i> #5 (May 2011)</div> (Luke Fox) <div><i>Batwing</i> #19 (June 2013)</div>
Created by	Grant Morrison <div>Chris Burnham</div>
In-story information	
Species	Human
Place of origin	Earth
Team affiliations	Batman Family <div>Justice League</div> <div>Batman Incorporated</div>
Partnerships	Batman
Notable aliases	Batwing
Abilities	Master martial artist <div>Flight via suit's wings</div> <div>Arsenal of weapons and high-tech gadgets</div> <div>Skilled detective</div>
<div><div></div><div><i>Batwing</i></div><div>Cover for <i>Batwing</i> #1 (September 2011).<div>Art by Ben Oliver and Brian Reber.</div></div></div>	
Series publication information	
Schedule	Monthly
Format	Ongoing series
Genre	Superhero
Publication date	September 2011 – August 2014
Number of issues	34
Creative team	
Writer(s)	Judd Winick (#1–14) <div>Fabian Nicieza (#15–18)</div>

Batwing has since gained his own monthly ongoing series as part of the 2011 DC Universe reboot, featuring art by Ben Oliver and written by *Power Girl* and *Justice League: Generation Lost* writer Judd Winick.^{[2][3][4]}

According to fellow *Batman Incorporated* artists, Chris Burnham told iFanboy that he designed the character first, while Paquette was the first to draw him in interiors. In line with Morrison's use of obscure continuity throughout his *Batman* stories, the character seems to be based visually on a minor character which appeared in *Batman* #250 in a story called "The Batman Nobody Knows". In this story, a young African-American boy tells his friends how he imagines Batman to be, and gives him the name "Batwings".

Artist(s)	Jimmy Palmiotti and Justin Gray (#19–34)
	Ben Oliver (#1–3, 5–6)
	ChrisCross (#4)
	Dustin Nguyen (#7–8)
	Marcus To (#9–14)
	Fabrizio Fiorentino (#15–18)
	Eduardo Pansica (#19–34)

Writing duo Justin Gray and Jimmy Palmiotti took over the book starting with *Batwing* #19 (June 2013), to introduce a new Batwing, Luke Fox, unrelated to the previous one.^[5] The new Batwing character would no longer be the "Batman of Africa", but be more international, along with having more ties to Gotham City.^{[6][7]}

Fictional character biography

David Zavimbe

Batwing is a representative of Batman Incorporated from the city of **Tinasha**, within the Democratic Republic of Congo.

When David Zavimbe was a young boy in Tinasha, his parents died of HIV/AIDS very early in his life.^[8] Following the death of their parents, David, and his brother, Isaac, were taken from their orphanage and drafted as boy soldier prodigies, like many children his age, into General Keita's army known as the Army of the Dawn, for a war that ravaged his country. While many young boys were picked to join, the Zavimbe brothers shined above the rest with their ability to take orders and kill and garnered the name the Dragonflies. Due to their speed, dexterity, and prodigious ability to kill, General Keita promoted the boys into the ranks of his elite men.

On Keita's path to power and domination, he orders the brothers to kill Okuru, one of Keita's major enemies.^[9] They agree to sneak in and slit Okuru's throat, but Keita demands they torch the entire village to prevent any possible escape. Refusing to kill innocent women and children, Isaac shoots his gun in the air, giving Okuru and his squadron time to fire shots back, forcing Keita to retreat. The General cannot stand for any insubordination and while he is arguing with David, Isaac hits him over the head with a rock. Keita reaches for his machete and slices Isaac multiple times; all the while, David is sprinting away.^[10]

Later that night, David sneaks into Keita's room and drugs him before he can make a move. Eventually, Keita comes to be tied up in the back of an SUV. David says he will not kill any longer and drops Keita outside of Okuru's new encampment, while firing shots in the air to notify them.

After General Keita's death, David spends the next few days walking to the Children's Harbor, an orphanage for former child soldiers. David was able to escape the life of being a soldier at such a young age, and soon became a police officer in Tinasha, where despite corruption running rampant, he remained dedicated to the law and justice. Elsewhere in the United States, Bruce Wayne announces Batman Incorporated, an initiative to put Batman-like figures in countries all across the world. Soon after that, Batman pays a visit to Tinasha, where he inducts David as the newest member of his team in his quest to stop the global terrorists, Leviathan.^{[11][12]}

Shortly after finding the false Dr. Dedalus and coming into confrontation with Leviathan yet again, Batman travels to an unknown destination within the continent of Africa to recruit a new member to his team of Batmen, Batman Incorporated. Batman leads David through his first mission for Batman Incorporated,

providing a technologically advanced bat-suit. David comes into contact with a Leviathan brain-washing cell, narrowly avoiding capture once his presence is compromised. During his escape, he demonstrated a knowledge of martial arts, also showing off special capabilities of his bat-suit including jet propulsion.^[13]

Batwing faces off against a new villain calling himself Massacre. As Massacre gets the upper hand in battle against Batwing, we see a flashback of Batwing stopping Blood Tiger, a former captain of a warlord and now in control of a drug ring. With the help of Batman he manages to capture him.

As his investigation continues, he comes upon a gruesome crime scene with beheaded bodies. Later, as he researches it with the police, he finds a room filled with murdered police officers and he gets stabbed in the back by Massacre as he looks shocked at the murdered officers. David attempts to fight back his attacker, but he quickly loses. Massacre attempts to finish David off, but is interrupted by Kia Okuru and other officers who fire shots at him. David passes out during the shootout and wakes up two weeks later in The Haven. He asks Matu to see about the shootout and the welfare of Kia Okuru. Matu informs him that Kia lives, but she had been badly beaten and the rest of the officers had been killed. David attempts to go after Massacre shortly after he awoke, but Matu urges him to remain in The Haven to heal up his injuries and regain his strength.

They both argue about it for a bit before Matu forces David to get back to bed. David soon knocks out Matu with a tranquilizer dart and goes after Massacre. He is able to deduce Massacre's location from something Massacre had said to him back at the police station. He arrives just in time to aid Thunder Fall of The Kingdom, who is engaged in a brutal battle with Massacre. Despite his injuries, Batwing, along with the help of a severely injured Thunder Fall manage to fight and then escape from Massacre to a nearby hospital where Thunder Fall reveals that The Kingdom, a super hero team which operated in Africa, had done something terrible and that Massacre was their punishment.^[14]

The final truth is revealed after the heroes rescue The Kingdom's tech-powered member, Steelback. He tells them that years ago, The Kingdom was fighting the ruthless dictator of Congo alongside the People's Army, which left him only with the capital city to defend. Intending on this to be a victory of the people, they left the army to go alone, but soon received a message saying the dictator has allied himself with the African crime lords, making it impossible to win even with The Kingdom's intervention. The heroes are forced to give amnesty to him and promise no retaliations after that. The crime lords fought anyway but without the dictator to support them, their army of child soldiers was slaughtered, and 50,000 lives were lost in the battle. This tragedy led to The Kingdom's subsequent dissolution.^[15]

After the events of the bomb attack at the United Nations place outside, Booster Gold was very sad that the team has lost some of the JLI members who were killed and hurt very badly. Booster was fighting off a villain and was hurt and he saw someone he thought was Batman, but it was Batwing who came to help the team. Massacre was later revealed to have been Batwing's older brother who was brainwashed by X after this even he fought sky pirate and after matu is injured in an attack on Batwings home base he decides that he will use lethal methods in his protection of the Democratic Republic of Congo Batwing was briefly a member in the JLI until the series came to an end with *Justice League International Annual* #1.

Batwing has joined with the team calling themselves the Dead Heroes Club, an offshoot of Batman Inc.. The other members are Looker, Freight Train, The Hood, Gaucho, Wingman, and Halo.

Luke Fox

After the events of Batwing #19, David resigned as Batwing. Lucius Fox would then make a new Batwing suit, where Batman gave it to Fox's son **Luke Fox**.^[16] Luke plays a significant part in *Batman Eternal* when he helps Jim Corrigan investigate recent events in Arkham Asylum, where the Joker's Daughter is using the spirits of the inmates to resurrect what she believes to be the Joker in the body of Maxie Zeus (although it is revealed to be Deacon Blackfire). In Batgirl #45, Luke Fox began a romantic relationship with Barbara Gordon, also fighting crime together as their alter egos Batwing and Batgirl.^{[17][18]}

Powers and abilities

Batwing has shown a knowledge of martial arts and is supplied by Batman with a variety of gadgets and tech to help him fight crime and corruption. His batsuit is armored and is capable of flight with the help of wings. Because he works as a police officer it is implied that he received basic police training.

Collected Editions

- *Batwing* Vol. 1: The Lost Kingdom (Batwing #1–6)
- *Batwing* Vol. 2: In the Shadow of the Ancients (Batwing #7–12, and #0)
- *Batwing* Vol. 3: Enemy of the State (Batwing #13–18)
- *Batwing* Vol. 4: Welcome to the Family (Batwing #19–26)
- *Batwing* Vol. 5: Into the Dark (Batwing #27–34)

In other media

Film

- The Luke Fox version of Batwing appeared in *Batman: Bad Blood*, voiced by Gaius Charles.^[19] After almost losing his father Lucius Fox, he uses his technology to become Batwing.

Video Games

- The Luke Fox version of Batwing appeared in DC Universe Online.
- A young Luke appears in a picture in Lucius' lab in *Batman: The Telltale Series*.

References

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2. Campbell, Josie (June 10, 2011). "Winick Patrols Africa with "Batwing" ". Comic Book Resources. Retrieved September 9, 2011.
3. Rogers, Vaneta (June 13, 2011). "WINICK Brings BATMAN, INC.'s BATWING To DCnU Solo Series". Newsarama. Retrieved September 9, 2011.
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6. Campbell, Josie (March 5, 2013). "THE BAT SIGNAL: PALMIOTTI & GRAY TURN TO AFRICA WITH "BATWING" ". Comic Book Resources.
7. Rogers, Vaneta (April 3, 2013). "SPOILER SPORT: BATWING Co-Writer On BATMAN's New Ally". Newsarama.
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9. *Batwing* #2 (December 2011)
10. *Batwing* #4 (February 2012)
11. *Batman Incorporated* #4 (April 2011)
12. *Batwing* #8 (June 2012)
13. *Batwing* #10 (August 2012)
14. *Batwing* #14 (January 2013)
15. *Batwing* #15 (February 2013)
16. *Batwing* #19 (June 2013)
17. David Betancourt (October 28, 2015), *'Batgirl's' creative team pops a new romantic question: Is three company, or a crowd?*, retrieved August 8, 2016
18. Brenden Fletcher, Cameron Stewart (w), Babs Tarr (a). *Batgirl* v4, 45 (October 28, 2015)
19. "Yvonne Strahovski and Gaius Charles Get Animated for Batman: Bad Blood". *TV Insider*.

External links

- World of Black Heroes: Batwing Biography (<http://worldofblackheroes.com/2011/07/08/batwing-david-zavimbi/>)
- **'Batwing'** (<http://www.comics.org/series/60835>) at the Grand Comics Database
- Batwing (pre-Flashpoint) (<http://comicbookdb.com/character.php?ID=54815>) at the Comic Book DB
- Batwing (post-Flashpoint) (<http://comicbookdb.com/character.php?ID=57290>) at the Comic Book DB
- (Batwing entry on Comic Vine) (<http://www.comicvine.com/batwing/29-77559/%7Cid=54815%7Ctitle=Batwing>)
- DC Comics The New 52 – Batwing (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110910064357/http://dcu.blog.dccomics.com/new-52-batwing/>), DC Comics.com
- Batwing (<http://www.comicvine.com/batwing/29-77559/>) at Comic Vine
- Callahan, Tim (June 27, 2011). "Reader's Guide to the New DC Universe: Batwing". Retrieved October 27, 2012.

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| Fictional Democratic Republic of the Congo people | Fictional child soldiers | Fictional police officers
| DC Comics martial artists | Characters created by Grant Morrison | Comics characters introduced in 2011
| DC Comics titles

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