



Catwoman

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Catwoman is a fictional character appearing in American comic books published by DC Comics, commonly in association with the superhero Batman. The character was created by Bob Kane and Bill Finger, and she made her debut as "the Cat" in *Batman* #1 (Spring 1940).

Catwoman, whose secret identity is **Selina Kyle**, has been Batman's most enduring love interest and is known for her complex love-hate relationship with him.^[2] Depicted as a Gotham City burglar, Catwoman typically wears a tight, one-piece outfit and uses a bullwhip for a weapon. The character was originally a supervillain and adversary of Batman, but since the 1990s, she has been featured in an eponymous series portraying her as an antiheroine, often doing the wrong things for the right reasons.

The character thrived since her earliest appearances, but from September 1954 to November 1966 Catwoman took an extended hiatus due to the newly developing Comics Code Authority in 1954. These issues involved the rules regarding the development and portrayal of female characters that were in violation of the Comics Code, a code which is no longer in use. In the comics, Holly Robinson^[3] and Eiko Hasigawa^[4] both have adopted the Catwoman identity, apart from Selina.

A popular figure, Catwoman has been featured in many media adaptations related to Batman. Actresses Julie Newmar, Lee Meriwether, and Eartha Kitt introduced her to a large audience on the 1960s *Batman* television series and the 1966 *Batman* film. Michelle Pfeiffer portrayed the character in 1992's *Batman Returns*. Halle Berry starred in a stand-alone Catwoman film, 2004's *Catwoman*, which was a critical and commercial flop, and bears little to no resemblance to the Batman character. Anne Hathaway portrayed Selina Kyle in the 2012 film *The Dark Knight Rises* and, most recently, a young version of Kyle is played by Camren Bicondova on the 2014 television series *Gotham*.

Catwoman was ranked 11th on IGN's "Top 100 Comic Book Villains of All Time" list,^[5] and 51st on *Wizard* magazine's "100 Greatest Villains of All Time" list.^[6] Conversely, she was ranked 20th on IGN's "Top 100

Catwoman



Art by Adam Hughes

Publication information

Publisher	DC Comics
First appearance	<i>Batman</i> #1
Created by	Bob Kane Bill Finger

In-story information

Alter ego	Selina Kyle
Team affiliations	Batman Family Outsiders Injustice League Justice League of America
Partnerships	Batman Harley Quinn Poison Ivy Holly Robinson

Notable aliases	The Cat, Irena Dubrovna ^[1]
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Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expert burglarSkilled martial artist and hand-to-hand combatantSkilled gymnast
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Comic Book Heroes of All Time" list,^[7] as well as 23rd in *Comics Buyer's Guide's* "100 Sexiest Women in Comics" list.^[8]

- Utilizes bullwhips, sharp retractable claws, and spring-loaded climbing pitons

Contents

- 1 Character and publication history
 - 1.1 Creation
 - 1.2 Golden and Silver Age
 - 1.3 Modern Age
 - 1.3.1 Tangled origins
 - 1.3.2 *Catwoman*, the series
 - 1.3.3 Mindwiping revelations
 - 1.3.4 As a mother
 - 1.3.5 *Salvation Run*
 - 1.3.6 Heart of Hush
 - 1.3.7 *Batman R.I.P.*
 - 1.3.8 *Battle for the Cowl*
 - 1.3.9 *Batman: Reborn* and *Gotham City Sirens*
 - 1.3.10 *Blackest Night*
 - 1.3.11 *The Return of Bruce Wayne*
 - 1.4 The New 52
 - 1.4.1 *Keeper of the Castle*
- 2 Romantic Relationships
 - 2.1 Batman
 - 2.2 Other
- 3 Equipment
 - 3.1 Weapons
 - 3.2 Costume
- 4 Bibliography
 - 4.1 List of *Catwoman* titles
 - 4.2 Novels
 - 4.3 Graphic novels
 - 4.4 Collected editions
 - 4.5 Other collected editions
- 5 Other versions
 - 5.1 *The Dark Knight Returns*
 - 5.2 Prose novels
 - 5.3 *Kingdom Come*
 - 5.4 *Batman: Digital Justice*
 - 5.5 *Elseworlds*
 - 5.6 *Batman: Bloodstorm*
 - 5.7 *Thrillkiller*
 - 5.8 *Dark Allegiances*
 - 5.9 *Batman: Shadow of the Bat*
 - 5.10 *All Star Batman and Robin the Boy Wonder*
 - 5.11 *Batman: Two Faces*
 - 5.12 *Batman: Leatherwing*
 - 5.13 *Batman Beyond*
 - 5.14 *Flashpoint*
 - 5.15 *Batman: Earth One*
 - 5.16 *Scooby-Doo Team-Up*
 - 5.17 *Injustice: Gods Among Us*

- 6 In other media
- 7 See also
- 8 References
- 9 External links

Character and publication history

Creation

Batman's creator, Bob Kane, was a great movie fan and his love for film provided the impetus for several Batman characters, among them, Catwoman. She was partially inspired by 1930s film star Jean Harlow who at Kane's then-early and, "impressionable age ... seemed to personify feminine pulchritude at its most sensuous." Kane and Finger wanted to give their comic book sex appeal, as well as a character who could appeal to female readers; they thus created a "friendly foe who committed crimes but was also a romantic interest in Batman's rather sterile life."^[9] Catwoman was meant to be a love interest and to engage Batman in a chess game, with him trying to reform her. At the same time, this character was meant to be different from other Batman villains like the Joker in that she was never a killer or evil.

The character was also partially inspired by Kane's cousin, Ruth Steel.^{[10][11]}

As for using cat imagery with their Catwoman, Kane states he and Finger saw cats as "kind of the antithesis of bats."^[12]

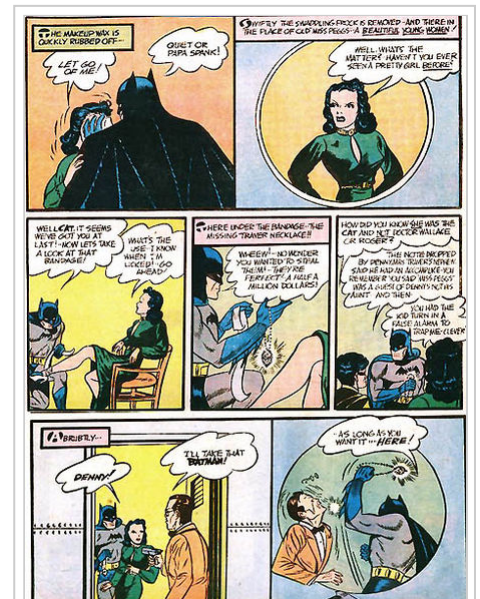
“ I felt that women were feline creatures and men were more like dogs. While dogs are faithful and friendly, cats are cool, detached, and unreliable. I felt much warmer with dogs around me—cats are as hard to understand as women are. Men feel more sure of themselves with a female friend than a woman. You always need to keep women at arm's length. We don't want anyone taking over our souls, and women have a habit of doing that. So there's a love-resentment thing with women. I guess women will feel that I'm being chauvinistic to speak this way, but I do feel that I've had better relationships with male friends than women. With women, once the romance is over, somehow they never remain my friends.

”

— Bob Kane^[13]

Golden and Silver Age

Catwoman, then called "the Cat", first appeared in *Batman #1* (Spring 1940)^[14] as a mysterious burglar and jewel thief, revealed at the end of the story to be a young, attractive (unnamed) woman, having disguised herself as an old woman during the story and been hired to commit a burglary. Although she does not wear her iconic cat-suit, the story establishes her core personality as a femme fatale who both antagonizes and attracts Batman. It is implied Batman may have deliberately let her get away by blocking Robin as he tried to leap after her. She next appears in *Batman #2* in a story also involving the Joker but escapes Batman in the end. In *Batman #3* she wears a fur mask and again succeeds in escaping Batman.



Selina Kyle's first appearance as the Cat in *Batman #1* (Spring 1940)

Batman #62 (December/January 1950) reveals that Catwoman is an amnesiac flight attendant who had turned to crime after suffering a prior blow to the head during a plane crash she survived. She reveals this after being hit on the head by a piece of rubble while saving Batman while he was chasing her. Although, in issue 197 of *The Brave and the Bold*, she later admits that she made up the amnesia story because she wanted a way out of the past life of crime. She reforms for several years, helping out Batman in *Batman* #65 (June/July 1951) and #69 (February/March 1952), until she decides to return to a life of crime in *Detective Comics* #203 (January 1954), after a newspaper publishes stories of Batman's past adventures and some crooks mock her about it. However, Catwoman prevents her thugs from murdering Batman once he is later found knocked out, but quickly claims she wants him as a hostage. Catwoman appears again as a criminal in *Batman* #84 (June 1954) and *Detective Comics* #211 (September 1954) for her final appearance until 1966. This was mostly due to her possible violation of the developing Comics Code Authority's rules for portrayal of female characters that started in 1954.

In the 1970s comics, a series of stories taking place on Earth-Two (the parallel Earth that was retroactively declared as the home of DC's Golden Age characters) reveal that on that world, Selina reformed in the 1950s (after the events of *Batman* #69) and had married Bruce Wayne; soon afterward, she gave birth to the couple's only child, Helena Wayne (the Huntress). *The Brave and the Bold* #197 (April 1983) elaborates upon the Golden Age origin of Catwoman given in *Batman* #62, after Selina reveals that she never suffered from amnesia. It is revealed that Selina Kyle had been in an abusive marriage, and eventually decides to leave her husband. However, her husband keeps her jewelry in his private vault, and she has to break into it to retrieve it. Selina enjoys this experience so much she decides to become a professional costumed cat burglar, and thus begins a career that repeatedly leads to her encountering Batman.

The Earth-Two/Golden Age Selina Kyle eventually dies in the late 1970s after being blackmailed by a criminal into going into action again as Catwoman, as shown in *DC Super-Stars* #17 (November/December 1977).

Catwoman made her first Silver Age appearance in *Superman's Girl Friend, Lois Lane* #70 (November 1966); afterward, she continued to make appearances across the various *Batman* comics.

Several stories in the 1970s featured Catwoman committing murder, something that neither the Earth-One nor Earth-Two versions of her would ever do. This version of Catwoman was assigned to the alternate world of Earth-B, an alternate Earth that included stories that could not be considered canonical on Earth-One or Earth-Two.^{[15][16][17]}

Modern Age

Tangled origins

Catwoman's origin—and, to an extent, her character—was revised in 1987 when writer Frank Miller and artist David Mazzucchelli published *Batman: Year One*, a revision of Batman's origin. She works as a dominatrix in order to survive and wants to break away from her abusive pimp (and former boyfriend). She witnesses his crimes and, because of an event that occurs to her sister, fears for her sister's life and begins to study self-defense and martial arts. Her teacher inspires Selina to become more than what she has been and she realizes that prostitution is no life for her, or for Holly.

Holly Robinson is a young runaway who idolizes Selina, but is much too young to be on the streets as far as Selina is concerned. Selina shares her home with Holly after she takes her in. As the story progresses, Selina is led to a bit of burglary, and she dons a catsuit costume that her now former pimp gave to her the day that she told him she was out of the business. After costuming herself so as not to be revealed, she gets a taste for burglary and begins to do it in more of a Robin-Hood way than as an actual thief. This is, however, how she runs into Batman. After a small confrontation, she begins to be inspired to stay in her costume and become the "Catwoman" after seeing Batman in action with others. Selina gets the idea that, if there is a "bat", why can there not be a "cat"?

The 1989 *Catwoman* limited series, written by Mindy Newell and with art by J.J. Birch, expanded upon Miller's *Year One* origin. This storyline, known as "Her Sister's Keeper", explores Selina's early life as a dominatrix and the start of her career as Catwoman. The story culminates with Selina's former pimp, Stan, abducting and violently abusing her sister Maggie, who, in contrast to Selina, is a nun. Selina kills Stan to save her sister, and gets away with it. Most of this is revealed in the former series, but is expanded upon in "Her Sister's Keeper".

Catwoman vol. 2, #69 provides details about Selina's childhood and neglects Maggie's existence. Maria Kyle is a distant parent who preferred to spend her time with cats, and commits suicide when Selina is very young. Her alcoholic father, Brian, is cold to Selina for resembling her mother (whom he resents for dying), and eventually drinks himself to death. To survive, Selina takes to the streets for a time before getting caught and sent first to an orphanage, then juvenile hall,^[18] "where Selina began to see how hard the world could really be".^[19] Maggie's fate at this point in the time-line is not alluded to. However, when Ed Brubaker reintroduces her into the comic, he implies that Maggie may have directly entered an orphanage and promptly been adopted.

When she is 13, Selina discovers that the hall's administrator has been embezzling funds, and she confronts her. In an attempt to cover up her crime, the administrator puts Selina in a bag and drops her in a river to drown (like a cat). She escapes and returns to the orphanage, where she steals documents exposing the administrator's corruption. She uses these to blackmail the administrator into erasing "Selina Kyle" from the city's records, then steals the administrator's diamond necklace and escapes the orphanage.^[18] Selina eventually finds herself in "Alleytown – a network of cobblestone streets that form a small borough between the East End and Old Gotham."^[20] Selina is taken in by Mama Fortuna, the elderly leader of a gang of young thieves, and is taught how to steal. Fortuna treats her students like slaves, keeping their earnings for herself. Selina eventually runs away, accompanied by her friend Sylvia. However, the two have difficulty surviving on their own, and in desperation try to support themselves by working as prostitutes. The two drift apart afterward, with Sylvia coming to resent Selina for not inquiring about what had happened to her at the hands of her abusive first client.

In the *Catwoman: Year One* story,^[21] Selina (now an adult) achieves some success as a thief. Following a disastrous burglary, however, she accepts an offer to "lie low" as a dominatrix in the employ of a pimp named Stan. They plan to trick men into divulging information that might be used in future crimes. According to this storyline, Selina trains under the Armless Master of Gotham City, receiving education in martial arts and culture. During this time, a client gives her a cat o' nine tails, which Selina kept as a trophy.

Batman: Dark Victory, the sequel to *The Long Halloween*, implies that Catwoman suspects she is the illegitimate daughter of mafia boss Carmine Falcone, although she finds no definitive proof. Selina's connection to the Falcone family is further explored in the miniseries *Catwoman: When in Rome*. Though the story adds more circumstantial evidence to the theory of Selina's Falcone heritage, establishing that the Falcones' second-born daughter was put up for adoption in America, it also supplies no definitive proof. During *The Long Halloween*, Selina (out of costume) develops a relationship with Bruce Wayne, even leading her to save Bruce from Poison Ivy. However, this relationship appears to end on the Fourth of July when Bruce rejects her advances twice; once as Bruce and once as Batman. She leaves him for good and also leaves Gotham for a while in *Batman: Dark Victory*, after he stands her up on two holidays. When the two meet at an opera many years later, during the events of *Hush*, Bruce comments that the two no longer have a relationship as Bruce and Selina.

Catwoman also appears in the *Batman: Knightfall* saga, where she is approached by Bane's henchmen while robbing a house. Bane asks her to work for him, but she refuses, as she is repulsed by the criminal who "broke" Batman. Later in the story, she boards a plane with Bruce Wayne to fly to Santa Prisca. She next appears in the *Batman: Knightquest* saga, where Azrael is masquerading as Batman. She is one of the few to recognize that Batman is an impostor, later being present when the true Batman returns to the fold as he struggles against his successor, his willingness to save even criminals confirming his true identity for Selina.

***Catwoman*, the series**

In 1993, Catwoman was given her first ongoing comic book series. This series, written by an assortment of writers, but primarily penciled by Jim Balent,^[22] generally depicted the character as an international thief (and occasional bounty hunter) with an ambiguous moral code.

Story-lines include her adoption of teenage runaway and former sidekick, Arizona; aiding Bane, who she later betrays to Azrael; and a stint as a reluctant government operative. The series also delves into her origin, revealing her beginnings as a young thief, her difficult period in juvenile incarceration, and her training with Ted "Wildcat" Grant.^[3]

Moving to New York City, Selina becomes corporate vice president of of Randolph Industries, a mafia-influenced company and then becomes its CEO through blackmail. She plans to use this position to run for Mayor of New York City, but her hopes are dashed when the Trickster inadvertently connects her to her criminal alter ego.

After her time in New York City, Selina returns to Gotham City, which at this time is in the midst of the *No Man's Land* storyline. As Catwoman, she assists Batman against Lex Luthor in the reconstruction of the city. After being arrested by Commissioner Gordon, she escapes from prison. Later that year, during the "Officer Down" storyline in the *Batman* titles, Catwoman is initially the chief suspect. Although later cleared, she displays increasingly erratic behavior throughout the story, with her series later revealing that she has developed a form of personality disorder after exposure to Scarecrow's fear gas, causing her to act as herself and an identity that appears to be her sister Maggie pretending to be her. Soon afterward, she disappears and is believed to have been killed by the assassin Deathstroke the Terminator, ending her series at issue #94.

Catwoman then appears in a series of backup stories in *Detective Comics* #759–762 (August–November 2001). In the backup storyline "Trail of the Catwoman", by writer Ed Brubaker and artist Darwyn Cooke, private detective Slam Bradley attempts to find out what really happened to Selina Kyle. This storyline leads into the newest *Catwoman* series in late 2001 (written by Brubaker initially with Cooke, later joined by artist Cameron Stewart). In this series, Selina Kyle, joined by new supporting cast members Holly and Slam Bradley (a character from the early Golden Age DC Comics), becomes protector of the residents of Gotham's East End, while still carrying out an ambitious career as a cat burglar.

During the *Batman: Hush* storyline, Batman and Catwoman briefly work together and have a romantic relationship, during which he reveals his true identity to her. At the end, he breaks off their relationship when he suspects it has been manipulated by the Riddler and Hush. This is the second story to establish that she knows Batman's true identity. In an early 1980s storyline, Selina and Bruce develop a relationship. The concluding story features a closing panel in which she refers to Batman as "Bruce". A change in the editorial team at that point, however, brought a swift end to that storyline and, apparently, all that transpired during the story arc.

In the *Justice League* story arc "Crisis of Conscience", Catwoman fights alongside Batman and the Justice League against the old Secret Society, of which she had once briefly been a member.

Mindwiping revelations

Catwoman appears to be completely reformed, and her love for Batman true (although brash and unpredictable). However, she has learned her reformation was the result of a mindwipe by Zatanna, a procedure known to deeply affect and, in at least one case, physically incapacitate its victims. Zatanna gives no reason for her actions, but in a flashback, it is shown that she had acted with the consent and aid of five of the seven JLA members who had helped her mindwipe Dr. Light and Batman. Catwoman's response to this revelation is unequivocal: she duct-tapes Zatanna's mouth shut and pitches her out a window (Zatanna survives the fall). Afterward, she is seen covering her bed with past versions of her Catwoman costume.



Catwoman, painted by Joe DeVito over pencil art by the titular character's series artist Jim Balent

Still unbalanced and uncertain of herself in issue #52, Selina is forced to decide whether to kill a supervillain. The Black Mask, in an attempt to "improve himself", threatens the most important people in Selina's life, from Slam Bradley to Holly. The villain had also previously tortured Selina's sister Maggie by drilling out her husband's eyeballs and feeding them to Maggie, which drove her insane. Black Mask learns Selina's identity through his earlier alliance with Selina's childhood friend Sylvia, who still harbors a grudge against Selina. Still thinking that Selina adheres to a strict no-kill rule, Black Mask is caught by surprise when Selina shoots him in the head.^[3] This action continues to haunt her throughout the *One Year Later* storyline, and it is suggested that this might have been the first time she had ever directly taken a life.

As a mother

Following the events of *Infinite Crisis*, the DC Universe jumps forward in time. After *One Year later*, Selina Kyle is no longer Catwoman, she has left the East End, and has given birth to a daughter named Helena. The father of her new daughter is initially unrevealed; however, Batman demonstrates great concern for the child and at one point asks to have Helena stay at his mansion. Selina attempts to live a safe and somewhat normal life, and gives up her more dangerous ways of living as Catwoman. Holly Robinson takes over as the new Catwoman while Selina, living under the alias Irena Dubrovna, turns her attention to caring for her daughter (Selina's alias was inspired by the name of the main character in the 1942 film *Cat People*).^[3]

Though she takes her role as a new mother quite seriously, Selina dons the costume for a run through the East End some days after Helena's birth. Having understandably gained a few pounds, Selina finds that her costume is now tighter. In addition, she is easily distracted by a common criminal. Although the situation is defused through Holly's opportune arrival, the sight of two Catwomen active simultaneously in the city is caught on video. Selina returns home from her adventure to find that the mysterious movie aficionado Film Freak has deduced her alias, joined with Angle Man, and grabbed Helena. After rescuing her daughter, Selina convinces Zatanna to mind-wipe Film Freak and Angle Man in order to preserve her secret identity. Following the procedure, Angle Man turns himself in to the authorities; Film Freak, however, embarks upon a murderous rampage.

A twist occurs when Wildcat informs Selina that Holly has been arrested for the murder of Black Mask. Selina infiltrates the police station and frees Holly. Finally defeating Film Freak, Selina returns home to find that Bradley has deduced that Helena is the daughter of his son Sam Bradley, Jr., and therefore his granddaughter (although it is still strongly hinted that Bruce Wayne may be the father).

Batman asks Catwoman to infiltrate the violent tribe of the Bana Amazons during the *Amazons Attack!* crossover. Posing as a criminal, Selina gains the Bana's trust and thwarts a terror attack aimed at causing mass casualties in Gotham City.

Selina questions whether she should be raising a daughter when her life as Catwoman has already proven to be such a danger to the child. After enlisting Batman's help in faking the death of both herself and her daughter, Selina puts Helena up for adoption. A month after Helena is placed with a new family, Catwoman asks Zatanna to erase her memories of Helena and change her mind back to a criminal mentality. Zatanna refuses, judging that such an act would be cruel to both mother and daughter. She tells Selina that she could never reverse Selina's mindset, since she was on the path to becoming a hero on her own. Believing she can no longer function as a criminal, Selina decided to become one of Batman's Outsiders.^[3] She quickly quits, however, and was replaced by Batgirl.

Salvation Run

In *Salvation Run* #2, Catwoman is sent to the Prison Planet. She allies herself with Lex Luthor in an attempt to return to Earth, and mistakenly ends up on an alternate universe-Earth where Catwoman is a notorious villain. It is later revealed that this Earth is a creation of her own mind, and she has not left Prison Planet. When accused of being a traitor by Luthor, she reveals Martian Manhunter is posing as Blockbuster, which would soon lead to the hero's death.

Using the trust she regained in Luthor's eyes, she earns a passage to the 'real' Earth, in a jerry-rigged teleport machine built by Luthor for letting the villains escape. On Earth, she resumes being a hero, with occasional lapses into thievery by commission, simply for the thrill of it.

Heart of Hush

Later, as in *Detective Comics*, she is quite uncertain if she should pursue her "relationship" with Batman, Selina talks with Bruce about Jezebel Jet, his current girlfriend, and then has a quick pep talk with Zatanna, whom she believes is also courting Bruce. Zatanna confirms and admits her feelings, adding that she has since chosen to forget them, but extremely encourages Selina to open her heart to Bruce Wayne before Jet is able to "seal the deal". Hush eavesdrops on the conversation, targeting both women as a way to hurt his enemy, Bruce Wayne.

In *Detective Comics* #848 (November 2008), Hush attacks Selina as she is in her apartment, kidnapping her and surgically removing her heart. She is delivered anonymously to a Gotham hospital. Batman receives word of her situation, and while he goes in search of Hush, he leaves Selina in the care of Doctor Mid-Nite, who is considered the superhero community's chief doctor.

Batman recovers her heart, and Dr. Mid-Nite restores it to her body; however, the doctor also makes a prognosis on whether she can still return to her former life swinging through rooftops. While Selina is still in a coma, she encounters Zatanna, who apologizes for not warning her about Hush. She tells Selina that she was so happy about her relationship with Bruce that she ignored the other warnings in the cards. Zatanna gives her a little bottle supposedly containing aloe vera for her post-op scars. It is hinted that there is a little magic in there to help Selina with her recovery. Selina is sad that she might end up alone again. In the meantime, Bruce enters the recovery room and, believing her unconscious, launches into a soliloquy. He ends by telling Selina that he will always love her, when she opens her eyes and reveals to him that she was awake all the time and heard his confession.

Batman R.I.P.

During the events of *Batman R.I.P.*, Selina and Bruce's romance lasts only for a night because Bruce must continue to pose as Jezebel's lover to bring down the Black Glove. While still recuperating, she pulls off one more heist and exacts her revenge on Hush. With the help of a few allies on both sides; Oracle, Holly Robinson, Poison Ivy, Harley Quinn, and Slam Bradley, Selina taps into Hush's assets, leaving him penniless and suffering from wounds inflicted by Batman.

Battle for the Cowl

In *Batman: Battle for the Cowl*, Selina is seen as one of the members of Nightwing and Robin's contingency team known as "The Network", where she is seen taking down a gang of thugs before seeing Tim Drake dressed in a Batman uniform and is initially taken by surprise.

Batman: Reborn and Gotham City Sirens

In the first issue of *Gotham City Sirens*, Selina runs into Bonebuster, a new villain trying to make a name for himself, and is saved by Poison Ivy. Selina, fearing the many dangers of a post-Batman Gotham, proposes that she, Ivy, and Harley Quinn team up, living together at a single base in an abandoned animal shelter. Ivy agrees under one condition: using home-grown drugs to weaken Selina's resistance, Ivy demands the identity of the true Batman.^[23] Selina flashes back three years to when Talia al Ghul requested her presence in Tibet. There, Talia made it so that Selina would not relinquish the true identity of Batman under any circumstances. After the interrogation is over, Selina sees Harley with Bruce Wayne on TV. Selina tells Ivy that she knows it is Hush in disguise.

Blackest Night

During the events of *Blackest Night*, Selina is attacked by Black Mask after he has been reborn as a member of the Black Lantern Corps. After he tells her that he plans on getting an emotional response before killing her, Selina steals a car and heads to the mental institution where Maggie is held, believing Black Mask is coming for her. Black Mask attacks the institution, and somehow awakens Maggie from her coma. Selina arrives in time to help her sister flee into the sewers. While on the run, Maggie angrily tells Selina that she ruined both of their lives the day she decided to become Catwoman. Devastated by her sister's statement, Selina fails to realize they have both been heading for a trap. Just as Black Mask is about to gouge Maggie's eyes out and shove them down Selina's throat, Harley and Ivy arrive and defeat the Black Lantern by trapping him in the stomach of a man-eating plant. Selina is helped to her feet by her friends, who tell her that Maggie has fled the scene. The next day, the staff members of the mental institution are shown discussing Maggie's escape, also mentioning that a nun that works at the hospital had been found beaten and stripped of her uniform. Maggie is then shown in the depths of the Gotham City sewers clad in the bloodied nun robes, muttering about her plan to kill

Catwoman in order to free Selina's soul.^[24] Now calling herself Sister Zero, Maggie attempts to kill Selina, but ultimately flees after being defeated by the Sirens. She is last seen going over her options, now realizing that she cannot murder her own sister, and therefore must personally exorcise the "cat demon" from within Selina's body.^[25]

The Return of Bruce Wayne

In the build-up to *The Return of Bruce Wayne*, the Sirens help Zatanna put out a massive fire at a local park near their home, only for them to be ambushed by a creature made of mud. After being dragged underneath the soil by the creature, Catwoman awakens tied up and gagged on the floor of a dark room, and is quickly forced into an illusion by her unseen captors. Back in reality, Talia reveals to the Sirens that just a few hours prior, an unknown benefactor had offered up a massive reward to whoever could kidnap and deliver Catwoman to him, with the hopes that he could penetrate her mind and learn Batman's secret identity.^[26] Before the knowledge can be ripped from her mind, Selina's captors (revealed to be Shrike and a new villain named Sempai), are eventually defeated by the other Sirens.



Selina with her then-sidekick, Catgirl (2010); art by Tony Daniel

Once Selina is freed, Talia orders Zatanna to wipe Bruce's identity from her memory, reasoning that her kidnapping has proved that the knowledge is too dangerous for her to handle.^[27] The two women initially restrain Selina and attempt to remove the knowledge from her, but Zatanna refuses at the last moment and ends up fighting Talia in order to protect Selina.^[28] Talia tries to kill Selina before vanishing, but she survives and ultimately reunites with Bruce, who had recently returned to the present.^[29]

After stealing the contents of a safe belonging to the Falcone crime family, Selina returns home to find Kitrina, a teenaged escape artist and Carmine Falcone's long lost daughter, breaking into her room. She attacks and subdues Kitrina, who tells Selina that she had unknowingly stolen a map that details the location of the new Black Mask's underground bunker. Realizing that she could use the map to capture Black Mask and claim the 50 million dollar bounty on his head, Selina leaves Kitrina bound in a

locked room so that she can keep the map for herself.^[30] She later calls

Batman to her house in order to turn the would-be thief over to the police, but discovers that Kitrina had managed to free herself and steal back the map. This impresses Selina, who mentions that she had tied up the child using an "inescapable" knot that Bruce had shown her years earlier.^[31] Following a massive battle with Black Mask and his henchmen (which ends with neither woman being able to claim the bounty), Selina agrees to take on Kitrina as her new sidekick, Catgirl.^{[32][33]} Once Bruce Wayne returns from his time in the past, he establishes Batman Incorporated, a global team of Batmen. Selina accompanies Batman on a mission to break into Doctor Sivana's armory, and later travels with him to Tokyo in order to recruit a Japanese representative for

Batman Inc.^[34] Catwoman teams up with Batman to stop Harley Quinn from breaking the Joker out of Arkham Asylum. After defeating Harley and the Joker, Catwoman tells Poison Ivy that they are no longer friends, this after Ivy drugged her in an attempt to uncover Batman's identity.^[35]

Shortly afterwards, Poison Ivy and Harley Quinn have escaped and set off to pursue revenge on Catwoman for leaving them behind.^[36] The two of them found Catwoman and fought her. While they were fighting, Catwoman says that she saw good in them and only wanted to help them. Batman was about to arrest them, but Catwoman helped the two of them escape.^[37]

The New 52

In September 2011, DC Comics relaunched all titles, deemed the New 52, which rebooted the DC Universe continuity. Catwoman's monthly title now focused on Selina's earlier days as Catwoman, but not her origins. The series begins with Selina frantically escaping from unknown masked men who are invading her apartment. After flitting from rooftop to rooftop, Selina looks back just in time to see her apartment blown apart by explosives. She turns to her informant, Lola, who often supplies Catwoman with information and various jobs. In this instance, Lola tips Selina off to an unoccupied penthouse where Selina can lay low for a few weeks, as well as a job stealing a painting from Russian mobsters. For this job, Selina infiltrates a Russian club by posing as the bartender. There, she recognizes a man who murdered a friend of hers, and she takes her revenge. Once her cover is blown, Selina dons her Catwoman outfit and fights her way out of the club. It is revealed through Selina's inner monologue that she and Batman are lovers, and the premiere issue ends with the first explicit sex scene between the two.^[38] Her revised origin in *Catwoman* #0 draws from *Batman Returns*.

Catwoman is later confronted by Steve Trevor, who offers her a spot on Amanda Waller's new Justice League of America. Selina initially refuses, but accepts the offer after Trevor promises to help her track down a woman who has apparently been posing as Selina.^[39] It is later revealed that Catwoman was chosen specifically to take down Batman should the JLA ever need to defeat the original Justice League.^[40] The teams eventually come into conflict in the publisher's "Trinity War" crossover.

In the Earth-Two continuity, Selina Kyle and Bruce Wayne are married, and their daughter, Helena Wayne, is that universe's Robin. In this universe, either Selina has reformed or was never a supervillain in the first place. It is revealed in issue #0 of *Worlds' Finest* that this Selina was killed while trying to stop what she believed was a human trafficking ring.

Keeper of the Castle

Following events from *Batman Eternal* and preceding those in *Batman* #28, Selina takes over control of the Calabrese crime family, after being revealed to be the daughter of Rex Calabrese.^[41] During this time she stops wearing the Catwoman costume, prompting Eiko Hasigawa, heir to the rival Hasigawa family, to replace her in the role.^[4] Both women confront each other several times, discussing Eiko's motivations to dress as Catwoman and whether Selina's plans for Gotham and the families are worth the sacrifices required. During one of their encounters, Selina and Eiko kiss, establishing their relationship as a romantic one.



Catwoman as she appears in the New 52. Cover of *Catwoman* vol. 4, #1 (September 2011); art by Guillem March.

Romantic Relationships

Batman

Although Catwoman has been historically portrayed as a supervillainess, Batman and Catwoman have worked together in achieving common goals and are frequently depicted as having a romantic relationship. Batman has had many romantic relationships with female characters throughout the years, but while these relationships tend to be short, Batman's attraction to Catwoman is present in nearly every version and medium in which the characters appear.

In an early 1980s storyline, Selina and Bruce develop a relationship, in which the closing panel of the final story shows her referring to Batman as "Bruce". However, a change in the editorial team brought a swift end to that storyline and, apparently, all that transpired during the story arc.

Bruce Wayne and Selina Kyle (out of costume) develop a relationship during *The Long Halloween*. The story sees Selina saving Bruce from Poison Ivy. However, the relationship ends on the Fourth of July when Bruce rejects her advances twice; once as Bruce and once as Batman. In *Batman: Dark Victory*, he stands her up on two holidays, causing her to leave him for good and to leave Gotham City for a while.

When the two meet at an opera many years later, during the events of the twelve-issue story arc called *Hush*, Bruce comments that the two no longer have a relationship as Bruce and Selina. However, *Hush* sees Batman and Catwoman teaming up as allies against the entire rogues gallery and rekindling their romantic relationship. In *Hush*, Batman reveals his true identity to Catwoman.

After the introduction of DC Comics' multiverse in the 1960s, DC established that stories from the Golden Age star the Earth-Two Batman, a character from a parallel world. This version of Batman partners with and marries the reformed Earth-Two Catwoman, Selina Kyle (as shown in *Superman Family* #211). They have a daughter named Helena Wayne, who, as the Huntress, becomes (along with Dick Grayson, the Earth-Two Robin) Gotham's protector once Wayne retires from the position to become police commissioner, a position he occupies until he is killed during one final adventure as Batman.

Batman and Catwoman are shown having a sexual encounter on a rooftop in *Catwoman* vol. 4, #1 (2011); the same issue implies that the two have had an ongoing sexual relationship.^[38]

Other

In February 2015, writer Genevieve Valentine had Selina kiss fellow Catwoman Eiko Hasigawa, making her sexuality more ambiguous.^[42] Selina is known for her friendships with the likes of Harley Quinn and Pamela Isely, with the trio of villains making up DC's *Gotham Girls*.

Equipment

Weapons

During the Silver Age, Catwoman, like most *Batman* villains, used a variety of themed weapons, vehicles, and equipment, such as a custom cat-themed car called the "Cat-illac". This usage also appeared in the 1960s *Batman* television series. In her post-*Crisis* appearances, Catwoman's favored weapon is a whip. She wields



Catwoman and Batman have a romantic encounter in *Catwoman* vol. 4, #1 (2011); art by Guillem March.

both a standard bullwhip and the cat o' nine tails with expert proficiency. She uses the whip because it is a weapon that the user must be trained to use, and therefore it can not be taken from her and used against her in a confrontation. She can also be seen using a pistol against people if her whip is taken from her. Catwoman uses caltrops as an anti-personnel weapon and bolas to entangle opponents at a distance.

Catwoman has also been shown to have various items to restrain her victims, such as rope for binding hands and feet, and a roll of duct tape used to gag her targets, as she has done with various victims during her robberies over the years. Often, especially in the TV series, she uses sleeping gas or knockout darts to subdue victims. Catwoman's attractiveness and feminine wiles have also allowed her to take advantage of male opponents.

Costume

Catwoman, in her first appearance, wore no costume or disguise at all. It was not until her next appearance that she donned a mask, which was a theatrically face-covering cat-mask that had the appearance of a real cat, rather than a more stylized face mask seen in her later incarnations. Later, she wore a dress with a hood that came with ears, and still later, a catsuit with attached boots and either a domino or glasses-mask.

In the 1960s, Catwoman's catsuit was green, which was typical of villains of that era. In the 1990s, she usually wore a skintight purple catsuit, before switching to a black catsuit similar to Michelle Pfeiffer's costume in *Batman Returns*, except not stitched together.

In recent years, artists have typically depicted Catwoman in some variation of a tight, black bodysuit. Ed Brubaker, the writer behind the 2001 revamp of the character, has stated that Selina's current costume was inspired by Emma Peel's iconic leather catsuit in *The Avengers* television series.^[43] It has a more high tech look, with domino-shaped infrared goggles on her cowl. Many of her costumes have incorporated retractable metal claws on the fingertips of her gloves and sometimes on the toes of her boots. On rare occasions, she has also sported a cat's tail.

Holly Robinson uses the same costume Selina used prior to *Infinite Crisis*.

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- *Catwoman: Defiant* (1992)
- *Catwoman* Vol. 2 #1–94 (1993–2001)
 - *Catwoman* #0 (1994)
 - *Catwoman* #1000000 (1998)
 - *Catwoman* Annual #1–4 (1994–1997)
- *Catwoman/Vampirella: The Furies* (1997)
- *Catwoman Plus* #1 (1997) (with *Scream Queen*)
- *Catwoman/Wildcat* #1–4 (1998)
- *Catwoman: Guardian of Gotham* #1–2 (1999)
- *Catwoman* Vol. 3 #1–83 (2002–2008, 2010)
 - *Catwoman: Secret Files and Origins* (2003)
- *Catwoman: When in Rome* #1–6 (2004)
- *Batman/Catwoman: Trail of the Gun* #1–2 (2004)



Cover of *Catwoman: Nine Lives of a Feline Fatale* (2003), showing Catwoman's various costumes throughout the years; art by Brian Bolland

- *Gotham City Sirens* #1–26 (2009–2011) (Catwoman co-stars in the title alongside Poison Ivy and Harley Quinn)
- *Catwoman* Vol. 4 #1–52 (2011–2016)
 - *Catwoman* #0
 - *Catwoman: Future's End* #1
 - *Catwoman* Annual #1-2 (2013, 2014)

Novels

- *Catwoman: Tiger Hunt*, Warner Books, September 1992, ISBN 978-0-446-36043-2

Graphic novels

- *Catwoman: Selina's Big Score*, DC Comics, ISBN 978-1-56389-922-5 (SC, August 2003), ISBN 978-1-56389-897-6 (HC, July 2002)

Collected editions

Title	Material collected	Publication date	ISBN
Catwoman Vol. 1			
<i>Catwoman: Her Sister's Keeper</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> Vol. 1 #1–4	May 1991	978-0-930289-97-3
Catwoman Vol. 2			
<i>Catwoman: The Catfile</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> Vol. 2 #15–19	April 1996	978-1-56389-262-2
<i>Catwoman: When in Rome</i>	<i>Catwoman: When in Rome</i> #1–6	June 2007 December 2005	SC: 978-1-4012-0717-5 HC: 978-1-4012-0432-7
<i>Catwoman: Nine Lives of a Feline Fatale</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol.2) #54; <i>Catwoman: Secret Files and Origins</i> ; <i>Batman</i> #1, #197, #210, #392; <i>Batman: Gotham Adventures</i> #4; <i>Detective Comics</i> #203; <i>Superman's Girl Friend, Lois Lane</i> #70–71	July 2004	978-1-4012-0213-2
<i>Catwoman: The Movie and Other Cat Tales</i>	<i>Catwoman: The Movie Adaptation</i> ; <i>Catwoman</i> #0; <i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 2) #11, #25	August 2004	978-1-84023-991-1
Catwoman Vol. 3 Old Editions			
<i>Catwoman Vol. 1: Dark End of the Street</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #1–4; backups from <i>Detective Comics</i> #759–762	September 2002	978-1-56389-908-9
<i>Catwoman Vol. 2: Crooked Little Town</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #5–10; <i>Catwoman: Secret Files and Origins</i>	December 2003	978-1-4012-0008-4
<i>Catwoman Vol. 3: Relentless</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #12–19; <i>Catwoman: Secret Files and Origins</i>	February 2005	978-1-4012-0218-7
<i>Catwoman Vol. 4: Wild Ride</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #20–24; <i>Catwoman: Secret Files and Origins</i>	September 2005	978-1-4012-0436-5
<i>Catwoman Vol. 5: The Replacements</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #53–58	February 2007	978-1-4012-1213-1
<i>Catwoman Vol. 6: It's Only a Movie</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #59–65	August 2007	978-1-4012-1337-4
<i>Catwoman Vol. 7: Catwoman Dies</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #66–72	February 2008	978-1-4012-1643-6
<i>Catwoman Vol. 8: Crime Pays</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #73–77	October 2008	978-1-4012-1929-1
<i>Catwoman Vol. 9: The Long Road Home</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #78–82	March 2009	978-1-4012-2168-3
Catwoman Vol. 3 New Editions			
<i>Catwoman Vol. 1: Trail of the Catwoman</i>	<i>Catwoman: Selina's Big Score</i> , back-up stories from <i>Detective Comics</i> #759–762, and <i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #1–9	January 2012	978-1-4012-3384-6
<i>Catwoman Vol. 2: No Easy Way</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #10–24, <i>Secret Files</i> #1	June 2013	978-1-4012-4037-0

<i>Down</i>			
<i>Catwoman Vol. 3: Under Pressure</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #25–37	March 2014	978-1-4012-4592-4
<i>Catwoman Vol. 4: The One You Love</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #38–49	December 2015	978-1-4012-5832-0
<i>Catwoman Vol. 5: Backward Masking</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #50-65	May 2016	978-1401260736
<i>Catwoman Vol. 6: Final Jeopardy</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #66-82	January 2017	978-1401265588
Gotham City Sirens Old Editions			
<i>Gotham City Sirens Vol. 1: Union</i>	<i>Gotham City Sirens</i> #1–7	April 2010	978-1-4012-2570-4
<i>Gotham City Sirens Vol. 2: Songs of the Sirens</i>	<i>Gotham City Sirens</i> #8–13, <i>Catwoman</i> (vol. 3) #83	November 2010	978-1-4012-2907-8
<i>Gotham City Sirens Vol. 3: Strange Fruit</i>	<i>Gotham City Sirens</i> #14–19	August 2011	978-1-4012-3137-8
<i>Gotham City Sirens Vol. 4: Division</i>	<i>Gotham City Sirens</i> #20–26	March 2012	978-1-4012-3393-8
Gotham City Sirens New Editions			
<i>Gotham City Sirens Book 1</i>	<i>Gotham City Sirens</i> #1–13	October 2014	978-1401251758
<i>Gotham City Sirens Book 2</i>	<i>Gotham City Sirens</i> #14-26	May 2015	978-1401254124
Catwoman Vol. 4			
<i>Catwoman Vol. 1: The Game</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> Vol. 4 #1–6	May 2012	978-1-4012-3464-5
<i>Catwoman Vol. 2: Dollhouse</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> Vol. 4 #7–12	February 2013	978-1-4012-3839-1
<i>Catwoman Vol. 3: Death of the Family</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> Vol. 4 #0, #13–18; A story from <i>Young Romance</i> #1	October 2013	978-1-4012-4272-5
<i>Catwoman Vol. 4: Gotham Underground</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> Vol. 4 #19–24, #26, <i>Annual</i> #1 and <i>Batman The Dark Knight: Joker's Daughter</i> #0 #23.4	May 2014	978-1-4012-4627-3
<i>Catwoman Vol. 5: Race of Thieves</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> Vol. 4 #25, #27–34, and <i>Future's End</i> #1	November 2014	978-1-4012-5063-8
<i>Catwoman Vol. 6: The Keeper of the Castle</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> Vol. 4 #35–40 and <i>Annual</i> #2	July 2015	978-1-4012-5469-8
<i>Catwoman Vol.</i>	<i>Catwoman</i> Vol. 4 #41-46	February 2016	978-1-4012-6118-4

7: <i>Inheritance</i>			
Catwoman Vol. 8: <i>Run Like Hell</i>	Catwoman Vol. 4 #47-52	October 2016	978-1401264864

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- *Batman: Knightfall Vol. 2: Knightquest Ned Editions* (Catwoman Vol. 2 #6–7)
- *Batman: Knightfall Vol. 3: KnightsEnd* (Catwoman Vol. 2 #12–13)
- *Batman: Contagion* (Catwoman Vol. 2 #31–35)
- *Batman: Legacy* (Catwoman Vol. 2 #35–36)
- *Batman: Cataclysm* (Catwoman Vol. 2 #56)
- *Batman: No Man's Land Vol.2* (Catwoman Vol. 2 #72–74)
- *Batman: No Man's Land Vol. 4* (Catwoman Vol. 2 #75–77)
- *Batman: New Gotham, Vol. 2: Officer Down* (Catwoman Vol. 2 #90)
- *Batman: War Games Act 1* (Catwoman Vol. 3 #34)
- *Batman: War Games Act 2* (Catwoman Vol. 3 #35)
- *Batman: War Games Act 3* (Catwoman Vol. 3 #36)
- *Batman: Night of the Owls* (Catwoman Vol. 4 #9)
- *The Joker: Death of the Family* (Catwoman Vol. 4 #13–14)
- *DC Comics: Zero Year* (Catwoman Vol. 4 #25)

Other versions

The Dark Knight Returns

Selina Kyle appears as an aging and somewhat overweight madam in Frank Miller's *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* four times; all are brief. First, in a phone message to Bruce ("Selina. Bruce, I'm lonely"). Next, she is attacked by the Joker, who uses a mind control drug to convince her to send one of her prostitutes to use the same substance on a Governor.^[44] The Joker then beats her, ties her up, gags her, and dresses her in a Wonder Woman outfit, leaving her for Batman to find. Selina's final appearance in the book is at Bruce Wayne's funeral, where she yells at Superman, telling him that she knows who killed Bruce.^[44] She does not appear in *Batman: The Dark Knight Strikes Again*, Miller's follow-up story, although she is referred to in the prologue written for the trade paperback version, although in the book, Carrie Kelly's moniker of "Catgirl" is an homage to Catwoman.

Prose novels

Two 1990s prose novels feature Catwoman: *The Further Adventures of Batman: Volume 3, Featuring Catwoman*,^[45] a short story collection by various authors, and *Catwoman: Tiger Hunt*.^[46] Both novels portray a *Batman: Year One*-influenced Catwoman who wears a gray cat costume and was once a prostitute.

Kingdom Come

Catwoman also made a small cameo in *Kingdom Come*, mostly accompanying the Riddler; she is predominantly seen, but not much heard in the series. She is not dressed in costume, but appears in the very dress she first wore in *Batman #1* as The Cat. According to the novelization by Elliot S. Maggin, she runs a multibillion-dollar cosmetics company. An armored, metahuman successor called "Catwoman II" is also featured in the story as one of the "new heroes" who follow the new "Man of tomorrow" Magog's anti-heroic, violent example.^[47]

Batman: Digital Justice

In the all-digital graphic novel *Batman: Digital Justice*, which is set some time in the future long after the original Batman has died, Sheila Romero, also known as the hit pop music star Gata (the Spanish female noun for "cat") and daughter of the Mayor of Gotham City, is jealous of the new Batman, James Gordon, because media coverage of his activities have been cutting into her airtime. Setting out to learn as much about Batman and his enemies as she can, Gata becomes the new Catwoman. Near the end of the story, Gata and her followers face off against Batman, but the two later fall in love, and Maria Romero, also known as Madame X, tells Sheila that she is really a clone of Maria. Maria confesses that she had planned to transfer her brain into Gata's body, but she could not bring herself to do it because she loved her "daughter" too much. Maria then dies in Sheila's arms.

Elseworlds

- In the *Elseworlds* title *Catwoman: Guardian of Gotham*,^[48] Selina Kyle is the daughter of millionaires Thomas and Martha Kyle. Walking home after seeing the film *Cat People*, the young Selina chases after an alley cat and watches in horror as her parents are gunned down by a robber. Selina learns that the crook has stolen a ring she found in a Cracker Jack box and had given to her mother. Years later she becomes Catwoman, the defender of Gotham City, operating out of a Catcave beneath Kyle Manor, aided by a young maid named Brooks (this universe's version of Alfred Pennyworth). Her major enemy is a psychopathic criminal named Batman, who beats her entire rogues gallery half-to-death to get rid of the competition.^[49]
- In the *Elseworlds* tale, *Batman: Nine Lives*, where Batman and his supporting characters are re-invented as a Pulp noir detective story, an African-American Selina Kyle is a murdered owner of the bankrupt Kit Kat Club who was blackmailing many of the city's most powerful figures. She is nicknamed "The Catwoman".^[50]
- In the *Elseworlds* tale *Batman: Claws of the Catwoman*, set in the 1930s, explorer and adventurer Finnegan Dent is revealed to be stealing the sacred artifacts of an African tribe. During an encounter with Batman and Tarzan, a female thief, dressed as a cat, is revealed to be the princess of the tribe, as well as priestess of its cat-cult, trying to reclaim the artifacts.^[51]
- In the *Elseworlds* story *JLA: The Nail*, featuring a world where costumed heroes have no symbol of inspiration as Superman was never recovered by the Kents, Catwoman is diagnosed by the head warden of Arkham Asylum as not being a true "criminal", but simply enjoying playing a "cat-and-mouse" game with Batman, donning her costume simply to attract his attention.^[52] During her time in Arkham, the Joker attacks the asylum armed with Kryptonian gauntlets provided by the story's secret villain, forcing the inmates to fight each other—Catwoman being the last one standing—before Batman arrives. Although the Joker uses his gauntlets to brutally murder Robin and Batgirl while forcing Batman to watch, Catwoman distracts him long enough for Batman to escape Joker's hold and destroy the gauntlets. He then proceeds to kill Joker in a trauma-induced rage, taking the gauntlets and Catwoman back to the Batcave. With Selina and Alfred having broken through Batman's grief, Selina becomes Batwoman and joins Batman in rescuing the JLA from captivity.^[53] Although Batman resigns from the League after he is cleared of the Joker's murder, even Catwoman's support cannot help him past his grief until the events of *JLA: Another Nail*, where the two briefly travel into the afterlife to investigate recent supernatural disturbances with the aid of Deadman, Batgirl, and Robin's spirits appearing to forgive their mentor for his failure to save them before he returns to life.^[54]
- In the *Elseworlds* story *Batman: In Darkest Knight*, featuring a world if Bruce Wayne discovered the body of dying alien Abin Sur, instead of Green Lantern Hal Jordan, also features familiar Batman characters mixed with some of Green Lantern's enemies. Selina Kyle (recognized by Bruce as "that night in the East End", a reference to *Batman: Year One*), along with Harvey Dent are corrupted by Sinestro, who absorbs the mind of the Wayne's killer Joe Chill and became crazed. The two known as Star Sapphire (Selina) and Binary Star (Harvey) team with Sinestro to take out Green Lantern, but are stopped.^[55]

Batman: Bloodstorm

In *Batman: Bloodstorm*, the sequel to *Batman & Dracula: Red Rain*, where Batman was forced to become a vampire to save Gotham from an attack by Dracula, Selina is turned into a werecat after being bitten by one of the remaining vampires. Hunting for the monster that transformed her, Selina encounters Batman as he hunts for the remaining vampires, the two subsequently joining forces to eliminate the vampire horde. As they fight together, Batman finds that Selina's selfless love for him allows him to control his thirst for blood that had begun to consume him. She sacrifices herself to save him from the Joker, who had become the leader of the remaining vampires after Dracula's death, taking a crossbow bolt to the heart that the Joker had fired at Batman. Batman's grief and rage over her death causes him to finally lose control of his bloodlust as he drinks the Joker's blood. In the sequel, *Crimson Mist*, the corrupted Batman reflects grimly that he can no longer understand Selina's noble sacrifice after his psyche has become increasingly corrupted by his surrender to his vampire side.

Thrillkiller

In Howard Chaykin's *Thrillkiller*, Selina Kyle is a stripper in a cat-themed strip club. She acts as an informant for GCPD detective Bruce Wayne.^[56]

Dark Allegiances

In Howard Chaykin's *Dark Allegiances*, Selina Kyle becomes a film star under the stage name of Kitty Grimalkin. Prior to becoming a star, she was an alcoholic whose actions during one of her "blackouts" were recorded into an underground porn film. The stills from the film are used to blackmail her into stealing information from Wayne Enterprises.

Batman: Shadow of the Bat

In Alan Grant's *Batman: Shadow of the Bat* Annual #2, Vikki Vale, a reporter for Wayne Media, is Catwoman. She is hired by Anarky to steal information, but she gets caught and is tortured by Jonathan Crane, whom she calls a "demented scarecrow".

All Star Batman and Robin the Boy Wonder

In Frank Miller's *All Star Batman and Robin the Boy Wonder*, Catwoman expresses interest when the Joker's invites her to join him in "some mischief". She may be involved in sadomasochism, as she first advises the Joker—who has just murdered his latest lover—that "I've heard **rumors** on how you handle **women**—and even I don't play it **that** rough."^[57] Two issues later, however, Catwoman is found brutally beaten and cut, bleeding badly. She struggles to tell Batman, "Juh... Juh... It was **Juh**..."^[58]

Batman: Two Faces

In Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning's *Batman: Two Faces*, Selina Kyle is a madame in 19th century Gotham, who defends streetwalkers in a mask, bustier, and fishnets and occasionally works with amateur detective Bruce Wayne. The Joker attacks and paralyzes her, much like he does to Barbara Gordon in *The Killing Joke*.

Batman: Leatherwing

In *Detective Comics* Annual #7 (*Batman: Leatherwing*) by Chuck Dixon, set in the 18th century Caribbean, Capitana Felina is a Spanish Contessa turned pirate, who rails against the chauvinism of her own crew. She initially teams up with the Laughing Man (Joker) against the English freebooter Captain Leatherwing (Batman), before turning to Leatherwing's side, and eventually marrying him.

Batman Beyond

A futuristic Catwoman appears in the *Batman Beyond* comic series. Like the current Batman, Terry McGinnis, the new Catwoman sports a high-tech costume complete with advanced gadgetry.^[59] The new Hush hires her to plant a tracking device on Batman, only for Hush to begin strangling her after "paying" her with a box full of playing cards, regarding her death as a continuation of his efforts to destroy Batman's "family" by killing his rogue's gallery.^[60] Bruce Wayne saves her with 'Bat-Wraith' robots.^[61] She is revealed to be the daughter of the villain Multiplex; she inherits her father's ability to self-duplicate, but can only create nine copies of herself, explaining her adoption of the Catwoman moniker.^[62] She is later revealed to be intimately involved with Dick Grayson. Selina Kyle is also briefly mentioned in the TV show that inspired the comic series, when Bruce Wayne begins to tell Terry about her after Terry has a short-lived relationship with a member of the Royal Flush Gang.

Flashpoint

In the alternate timeline of the *Flashpoint* event, Selina Kyle becomes Oracle having been apparently paralyzed under unspecified circumstances.^[63]

Batman: Earth One

In the second volume of *Batman: Earth One* graphic novel series, Selena Kyle appears and helps Batman tending his wounds after chasing the Riddler, pretending as a single mother who lives in the apartment building where he was injured. Batman later discovers that she is neither the apartment's tenant or a mother, but a burglar who was robbing the building at the time.

Scooby-Doo Team-Up

During a crossover with the cast of *Scooby-Doo*, Catwoman poses as a ghost in order to con Harley and Ivy out of the Opal of Isis, a rare artifact. After the members of Mystery, Inc. unravel her scam, Catwoman tries to flee with the Opal. She's soon found bound and gagged, with Batgirl having managed to defeat her and reclaim the Opal off-screen.^[64]

Injustice: Gods Among Us

In the *Injustice* universe (based on the video game of the same name), Catwoman is a co-founder of the Insurgency resistance with Batman, which was formed after the death of Dick Grayson. Though Selina supports Batman for five years, she eventually joins the Regime after losing hope that the Regime could truly be stopped.

In other media

See also

- List of Batman Family adversaries
- Gotham Girls

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External links

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