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# Batgirl: A Celebration Of 50 Years



## Synopsis

Fifty years ago, Batgirl made her Million Dollar Debut taking down the nefarious Killer Moth. And ever since, the butt-kicking hero has been a vital part of Batman's team and a role model for girls everywhere, squaring off against mobsters, assassins, super-villains and more. Though many young women have worn the cowl from unassuming librarian Barbara Gordon to deadly mute assassin Cassandra Cain to teen vigilante Stephanie Brown—all have made their distinct mark on the DC Universe. Now **BATGIRL: A CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS** collects all the greatest triumphs and most tragic moments of the many Batgirls in one volume, offering a crash course in the character, from Babs' first appearance by Gardner Fox and Carmine Infantino to her modern-day adventures by Cameron Stewart, Brenden Fletcher, Babs Tarr, Gail Simone and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nice overview of the different incarnations of Batman's female apprentice for someone who wants some escapist literature with some art thrown in and also for people who want get acquainted with the other side of the bat family. A good distracting if light read.

A grand celebration of the dark knight's protege'!

A great collection. Highly recommend!

Great book. Enjoy all the past stories.

I got this book to learn more about Batgirl. I am dressing up as her and wanted to "get into character." This book was a HUGE help. It is only a compilation of comics but they chose the pivotal ones that made Batgirl Batgirl. It has a lot of Barbra Gordan's Batgirl, only a few of the other ones. But this was an amazing book and worth the money.

love the batgirl

Stories from Batman #139 '61; Detective Comics 359 67, 371 67, 422-424 72, 518-519 82; Batman Family 9 77; Batgirl Spec 1 88; Batman Chronicles 5 96; Birds Of Prey 8 99; Legends Of The Dark Knight 120 99; Batgirl 8 00, 45 03; Batgirl Year One 4 03; Batgirl 4 09, 13 10; and Batgirl 0 12, 35 14. One page intros to each of 3 sections.

I openly admit, I was not a big Batgirl fan growing up. I was a huge Wonder Woman and Supergirl fan, and I enjoyed other characters like Catwoman but Batgirl just really didn't resonate with me when I was growing up. It wasn't until roughly 10-12 years ago (I have been reading comics for just over 40 years) that I really starting taking a liking to Batgirl. Fast forward to today and she has become one of my favorite female DC comic characters. In fact, she would very likely make my top 5 list for DC's female characters. I am a huge comic statue collector and I actually purchased more Batgirl statues in the last 2 years than any other character (Sideshow's Batgirl, Babs Tarr's Batgirl, Tweetwehead's Batgirl, Prime 1's 1:3 Batgirl, etc.). So when I heard that Dc was producing a 50 year celebration book for Batgirl, it was a very easy pre-order. I actually purchased Wonder Woman's, Superman's, and Batman's 75 year celebration books from DC and enjoyed them so much that I wound up buying quite a few more including Flash, Lois Lane, The Joker, Lex Luthor, Catwoman, and Green Lantern and I throughly enjoyed all of them. In fact, if your a big fan of any of those characters, I highly recommend picking up their 75 year celebration books. DC did an outstanding job on all of them and since I had already purchased quite a few of DC's celebration books, I had a pretty good idea what to expect with the Batgirl Celebration book and it certainly didn't disappoint. One of my favorite aspects of this book is the fact that they chose to include Oracle. Yes, Oracle is the same person (Barbara Gordon), but its technically a different character and a very different one at that. I would have understood had they chose not to include Oracle in

this book, but I am very happy that they decided not to exclude her as these celebration books are really just an assortment of different stories for these characters and since they're supposed to be a celebration of the history of the character, it just wouldn't have been right to exclude Oracle as that would have been excluding one of the most monumental events in Batgirl's history, that of course being the shooting by Joker that turned her into Oracle. As for the book itself, I openly admit that covers are very important to me. That largely has to do with the fact that one of my favorite aspects of comics in general is the artwork itself. I absolutely LOVE comic art. While I'm a big collector of comic statues, I'm a much bigger collector of comic prints and original comic art. In fact, art prints are my single favorite collecting hobby and comic prints are by FAR one of my favorite genres for art prints. Don't get me wrong, I love great comic stories just like the next guy and I never buy comics simply for the artwork, but while I will only read a comic a few times at most (maybe a few more times for the really classic stories like The Killing Joke, a perfect example given that this review is for the Batgirl's Celebration book), I can skim through various comics 20+ times over simply to enjoy the artwork alone. Michael Turner's artwork is another perfect example, especially since he is one of my all-time favorite comic artists. I have read his Fathom and Soulfire series a couple of times over the years, but I have looked at the artwork in those comics so many times that I intricately know almost every panel Michael Turner has ever drawn. So I find it extremely disappointing when books like these wind up with covers that I find disappointing, like Wonder Woman's 75 Year Celebration book, after all, the cover is arguably the most important piece of artwork in the entire book. So when I learned that they were using one of my favorite Batgirl drawings by Marcos Martín for the cover, I was ecstatic. IMO, Stanley Lau has produced the best Batgirl covers to date, but this cover by Marcos Martín was just a brilliant choice for the cover and I honestly think I would have preferred this cover over any of Artgerm's covers. It's just a more iconic depiction IMO, which is more fitting for a book that is covering the history of the character. And DC did a great job picking which stories to include in this book. There were a couple of stories I would have preferred to see, but all in all it's a great selection, one that does a great job at highlighting some of Batgirl's best adventures, including both some of her high points and low points. Given the subjective nature in regards to what people deem are the best stories for any particular character and which ones should be included in books like these....well, it has to be a lot harder than some people think taking all of the stories that exist for a particular character and deciding on which ones to include and which ones to exclude. Due to the subjective nature, no matter what DC decides there are going to be people who agree with certain choices and people who disagree with certain choices. It's simply unavoidable with these kinds of compilations as it's literally impossible to

please everyone when it comes to subjectivity. I for one respect how difficult it has to be ultimately deciding which ones make the cut and which one's don't and in this regard, I think DC did a great job with all of their celebration books, especially Batgirl. Bottom line - If you're a fan of Batgirl and you enjoy buying hardcover books like this, this should really be put on your "next to buy" list. In my opinion, out of all of the celebration books DC has produced over the last year or so, Batgirl is without question one of the best of the lot. It's got an amazing cover, a fantastic selection of stories, and I personally find Batgirl to be one of the more interesting female comic characters both for DC and Marvel. She certainly has some of the most compelling and tragic stories ever written for female comic characters. I for one couldn't be happier that I added this to my collection. It's just a fantastic book for Batgirl fans.

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