WIKIPEDIA Wonder Woman

Wonder Woman is a fictional <u>superhero</u> appearing in <u>American comic</u> <u>books</u> published by <u>DC Comics</u>.^[2] The character is a founding member of the <u>Justice League</u>, goddess, and <u>Ambassador-at-Large</u> of the <u>Amazon</u> <u>people</u>. The character first appeared in <u>All Star Comics</u> #8 in October 1941 and first cover-dated on <u>Sensation Comics</u> #1, January 1942. In her homeland, the island nation of <u>Themyscira</u>, her official title is **Princess Diana of Themyscira**, **Daughter of Hippolyta**. When blending into the society outside of her homeland, she adopts her <u>civilian identity</u> **Diana** <u>**Prince**</u>. The character is also referred to by such epithets as the "Amazing Amazon", the "Spirit of Truth", "Themyscira's Champion", the "God-killer", and the "Goddess of Love and War".

Wonder Woman was created by the American psychologist and writer <u>William Moulton Marston</u> (pen name: Charles Moulton),^[2] and artist Harry <u>G. Peter. Olive Byrne</u>, Marston's lover, and his wife, <u>Elizabeth</u>,^[3] are credited as being his inspiration for the character's appearance.^{[2][4][5][6][7]} Marston drew a great deal of inspiration from early <u>feminists</u>, and especially from birth control pioneer <u>Margaret Sanger</u>; in particular, her piece "Woman and the New Race". The character first appeared in <u>All Star</u> <u>Comics #8</u> in October 1941 and first cover-dated on <u>Sensation Comics</u> #1, January 1942. The Wonder Woman title has been published by DC Comics almost continuously except for a brief hiatus in 1986.^[8]

Wonder Woman's origin story relates that she was sculpted from clay by her mother Queen Hippolyta and given life by Aphrodite, along with superhuman powers as gifts by the Greek gods. In recent years, DC changed her background with the revelation that she is the daughter of Zeus and Hippolyta, jointly raised by her mother and her aunts Antiope and Menalippe. In the 1980s artist George Perez gave her a muscular look and emphasized her Amazonian heritage.^{[9][10]} Wonder Woman's Amazonian training helped to develop a wide range of extraordinary skills in tactics, hunting, and combat. She possesses an arsenal of advanced technology, including the Lasso of Truth, a pair of indestructible bracelets, a tiara which serves as a projectile, and, in older stories, a range of devices based on Amazon technology. Wonder Woman's character was created during World War II; the character in the story was initially depicted fighting Axis military forces as well as an assortment of colorful supervillains, although over time her stories came to place greater emphasis on characters, deities, and monsters from Greek mythology. Many stories depicted Wonder Woman rescuing herself from bondage, which defeated the "damsels in distress" trope that was common in comics during the 1940s.^[11] In the decades since her debut, Wonder Woman has gained a cast of enemies bent on eliminating the Amazon, including classic

Wonder Woman in <i>Justice</i> #5 (June 2006)	
Art by Doug Braithwaite and Alex Ross	
Publication information	
Publisher	DC Comics
First appearance	<i>All Star Comics</i> #8 (October 1941) ^[1]
Created by	William Moulton Marston
	Harry G. Peter (uncredited)
In-story information	
Alter ego	Princess Diana of Themyscira
Species	Amazonian (Demigod, 2011–present)
Place of origin	Themyscira
Team affiliations	Justice League

Wonder Woman

villains such as <u>Ares</u>, <u>Cheetah</u>, <u>Doctor Poison</u>, <u>Circe</u>, <u>Doctor Psycho</u>, and <u>Giganta</u>, along with more recent adversaries such as <u>Veronica Cale</u> and the <u>First Born</u>. Wonder Woman has also regularly appeared in comic books featuring the superhero teams <u>Justice Society</u> (from 1941) and <u>Justice</u> League (from 1960).^[12]

The character is a well-known figure in popular culture that has been adapted to various media. Notable depictions of the character in other media include <u>Gloria Steinem</u> placing the character on the cover of the second edition of <u>Ms. magazine</u> in 1971; the 1975–1979 <u>Wonder Woman</u> <u>TV series</u> starring <u>Lynda Carter</u>; as well as <u>animated</u> series such as the <u>Super Friends</u> and <u>Justice League</u>. Since Carter's television series, studios struggled to introduce a new live-action Wonder Woman to audiences, although the character continued to feature in a variety of toys and merchandise, as well as animated adaptations of DC properties, including a <u>direct-to-DVD animated feature</u> starring <u>Keri Russell</u>. Attempts to return Wonder Woman to television have included <u>a television pilot</u> for <u>NBC</u> in 2011,^[13] closely followed by another stalled production for <u>The CW</u>.^{[14][15]}

Partnerships Steve Trevor Batman Superman Wonder Girl Supergirl Notable **Diana Prince** aliases Abilities Superhuman strength, speed, durability, reflexes, and longevity Accelerated healing factor Flight

<u>Gal Gadot</u> portrays Wonder Woman in the <u>DC Extended Universe</u>, starting with the 2016 film <u>Batman v Superman</u>: <u>Dawn of Justice</u>, marking the character's first appearance in a feature film in its 75-year history.^[16] Gadot also starred in the character's first solo live-action film, the critically acclaimed <u>Wonder Woman</u>, which was released on June 2, 2017. ^{[17][18]}

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Publication history

Creation

In an October 25, 1940, interview with the *Family Circle* magazine, <u>William Moulton Marston</u> discussed the unfulfilled potential of the comic book medium.^[19] This article caught the attention of comics publisher <u>Max Gaines</u>, who hired Marston as an educational consultant for National Periodicals and <u>All-American Publications</u>, two of the companies that would merge to form <u>DC Comics</u>.^[20] At that time, Marston wanted to create his own new superhero; Marston's wife <u>Elizabeth</u> suggested to him that it should be a woman:^[21]

William Moulton Marston, a psychologist already famous for inventing the <u>polygraph</u>, struck upon an idea for a new kind of superhero, one who would triumph not with fists or firepower, but with love. "Fine," said Elizabeth. "But make her a woman."

Marston introduced the idea to Gaines. Given the go-ahead, Marston developed *Wonder Woman*, whom he believed to be a model of that era's unconventional, liberated woman. Marston also drew inspiration from the bracelets worn by <u>Olive</u> <u>Byrne</u>, who lived with the couple in a <u>polyamorous</u> relationship.^[22] Wonder Woman debuted in <u>All Star Comics #8</u> (cover <u>date</u> Dec/Jan 1941/1942, released in October 1941),^[23] scripted by Marston.

Marston was the creator of a systolic-blood-pressure-measuring apparatus, which was crucial to the development of the polygraph (<u>lie detector</u>). Marston's experience with polygraphs convinced him that women were more honest than men in certain situations and could work more efficiently.^[24]

Marston designed Wonder Woman to be an allegory for the ideal love leader; the kind of women who (he believed) should run society.

"Wonder Woman is psychological propaganda for the new type of woman who should, I believe, rule the world", Marston wrote.^[8]

In a 1943 issue of *The American Scholar*, Marston wrote:^[25]

Not even girls want to be girls so long as our feminine archetype lacks force, strength, and power. Not wanting to be girls, they don't want to be tender, submissive, peace-loving as good women are. Women's strong qualities have become despised because of their weakness. The obvious remedy is to create a feminine character with all the strength of Superman plus all the allure of a good and beautiful woman.

Marston went on record by describing <u>bondage and submission</u> as a "respectable and noble practice". Marston wrote in a weakness for Wonder Woman, which was attached to a fictional stipulation that he dubbed "Aphrodite's Law", that made the chaining of her "Bracelets of Submission" together by a man take away her Amazonian super strength.^{[26][27][28]} However, not everything about his creation was explicitly explained in any one source, which caused confusion among writers and fans for many years.

Golden Age

Initially, Wonder Woman was an Amazon champion who wins the right to return <u>Steve Trevor</u> – a <u>United States</u> intelligence officer whose plane had crashed on the Amazons' isolated island homeland – to "Man's World" and to fight crime and the evil of the Nazis.^[29]

During this period, Wonder Woman joined the Justice Society of America as the team's secretary.^{[30][31]}

Silver Age

During the <u>Silver Age</u>, under writer <u>Robert Kanigher</u>, Wonder Woman's origin was revamped,^[32] along with other characters'. The new origin story increased the character's <u>Hellenic</u> and mythological roots: receiving the blessing of each deity in her crib, Diana is destined to become "beautiful as <u>Aphrodite</u>, wise as <u>Athena</u>, as strong as <u>Hercules</u>, and as swift as <u>Hermes</u>."^[33]

At the end of the 1960s, under the guidance of <u>Mike Sekowsky</u>, Wonder Woman surrendered her powers in order to remain in Man's World rather than accompany her fellow Amazons to another dimension. Wonder Woman begins using the alias <u>Diana Prince</u> and opens a <u>mod</u> boutique. She acquires a Chinese mentor named I Ching, who teaches Diana <u>martial arts</u> and weapons skills. Using her fighting skill instead of her powers, Diana engaged in adventures that encompassed a variety of genres, from espionage to mythology.^{[34][35]} This phase of her story was directly influenced by the British spy thriller *The Avengers* and Diana Rigg's portrayal of Emma Peel.^[36]

Bronze Age

In the early 1970s the character returned to her superhero roots in the *Justice League of America* and to the <u>World War II</u> era in her own title.^[37] This however, was ultimately due to the popularity of the TV series at the time also having Wonder Woman set in WW2 era, and was shifted back to the 1970s era once the TV show did the same.

With a new decade arriving, DC president Jenette Kahn ordered a revamp in Wonder Woman's appearance. Artist Milton Glaser, who also designed the "bullet" logo adopted by DC in 1977, created a stylized "WW" emblem that evoked and replaced the eagle in her bodice, and debuted in 1982.^[38] The emblem in turn was incorporated by studio letterer <u>Todd</u> Klein onto the monthly title's logo, which lasted for a year and a half before being replaced by a version from Glaser's studio.^[39] With sales of the title continuing to decline in 1985 (despite an unpublished revamp that was solicited), the series was canceled and ended in issue #329 (February 1986) written by Gerry Conway, depicting Steve Trevor's marriage to Wonder Woman.

The <u>Crisis on Infinite Earths</u> crossover of 1986 was designed and written with the purpose of streamlining most of DC's characters into one more-focused continuity and reinventing them for a new era, thus Wonder Woman and Steve Trevor were declared to come from the Earth-Two dimension, and along with all of their exploits, were erased from history, so that a new Wonder Woman character, story and timeline could take priority.

Modern Age

Following the 1985 <u>Crisis on Infinite Earths</u> series, <u>George Pérez</u>, <u>Len Wein</u>, and <u>Greg Potter</u> rewrote the character's origin story, depicting Wonder Woman as an emissary and ambassador from <u>Themyscira</u> to Patriarch's World, charged with the mission of bringing peace to the outside world. Pérez incorporated a variety of deities and concepts from Greek mythology in Wonder Woman's stories and origin. His rendition of the character acted as the foundation for the modern Wonder Woman stories, as he expanded upon the widely accepted origin of Diana being birthed out of clay. The relaunch was a critical and commercial success.^[40]

In August 2010 (issue #600), <u>J. Michael Straczynski</u> took over the series' writing duties and introduced Wonder Woman to an alternate timeline created by the Gods in which Paradise Island had been destroyed and the Amazons scattered around the world.^[41] In this timeline, Diana is an orphan raised in New York. The entire world has forgotten Wonder Woman's existence and the main story of this run was of Diana trying to restore reality even though she does not properly remember it herself. A trio of Death Goddesses called <u>The Morrigan</u> acted as the main enemy of Wonder Woman.^{[42][43]} In this run, Wonder Woman wears a <u>new costume</u> designed by Jim Lee.^[44] Straczynski determined the plot and continued writing duties until Wonder Woman #605; writer <u>Phil Hester</u> then continued his run, which ultimately concluded in *Wonder Woman* #614.^[45]



Wonder Woman with Batman and Superman on the cover of *Wonder Woman Annual* vol. 5, #1 (July 2017). Art by Nicola Scott and Romulo Fajardo, Jr.

In 2011, DC Comics <u>relaunched</u> its entire line of publications to attract a new generation of readers, and thus released volume 4 of the *Wonder Woman* comic book title. <u>Brian Azzarello</u> and <u>Cliff Chiang</u> were assigned on writing and art duties respectively and revamped the character's history considerably. In this new continuity, Wonder Woman wears a costume similar to her original *Marston*-costume, utilizes a sword and shield, and has a completely new origin. No longer a clay figure brought to life by the magic of the gods, she is, instead, a <u>demi-goddess</u> and the natural-born daughter of <u>Hippolyta</u> and <u>Zeus</u>. Azzarello and Chiang's revamp of the character was critically acclaimed, but highly divisive among long time fans of the character. ^{[46][47][48][49]}

In a side story as part of "Harley's Little Black Book" Wonder Woman meets Harley Quinn in London and has a brief team up with her in which we find that Harley has been a huge fan of Wonder Woman for years and has a bit of a crush on her. After the fight with the villain the two retire to a local bar where Harley suggests they join an English super team and then steals her magic lasso, but just to wrap it around herself so they and some of the other patrons can play truth or dare. They are last seen with Wonder Woman carrying Harley out of the bar asleep, though an additional piece of art shows Harley tied up and planting kisses on Wonder Woman.

In 2016, DC Comics once again relaunched all of its publications as part of the "<u>DC Rebirth</u>" continuity reboot, which has a new bi-monthly *Wonder Woman* series from writer <u>Greg Rucka</u>. The new series does not use a regular storyline that exists between each issue; instead two separate storylines share the book, with an installment of one story published every other issue, and those of the other storyline published in between those. This practice began with the storyline "The Lies" for the odd numbered issues, and "Year One" for the even numbered issues. The new storyline as presented in these issues effectively retcons the events from the previous New 52 series. "The Lies"^[50] storyline reveals that a number of events from the previous New 52 series. The Lies"^[50] storyline reveals that a number of events from the previous New 52 series. "The Lies"^[50] storyline reveals that a number of events from the previous New 52 series. "The Lies"^[50] storyline reveals that a number of events from the previous New 52 series. "The Lies"^[50] storyline reveals that a number of events from the previous New 52 series. "The Lies"^[50] storyline reveals that a number of events from the previous Vonder Woman series in which Diana was made the Queen of the Amazons and the God of War, was in fact all an illusion created by a mysterious villain, and she had never once been back to Themyscira ever since she left, nor is she capable of returning there. The "Year One" story is presented as an all-new origin story for Diana,^[51] which reveals how she received her powers from the Olympian Gods,^[52] which was intended to bring her back to her classical DC roots. Wonder Woman appears in DC Rebirth with a revised look, which includes a red cape and light armor fittings. Along with her lasso and bracelets, she now regularly utilizes her sword and shield. *Wonder Woman: Rebirth* artist Liam Sharp described the new armor as a utilitarian piece which allows her to move more freely.^[53] In July 2017, *Wonder Woman Annual* vo

Characterization

During Marston's run, Diana Prince was the name of an army nurse whom Wonder Woman met. The nurse wanted to meet her fiancé, who was transferred to South America, but was unable to arrange for money to do so. As Wonder Woman needed a secret identity to look after Steve (who was admitted to the same army hospital in which Diana Prince worked), and because both of them looked alike, Wonder Woman gave the nurse money to go to her fiancé in exchange for the nurse's credentials and took Diana Prince as her alias.^[54] She started to work as an army nurse and later as an Air Force secretary.^{[54][55]}

The identity of Diana Prince was especially prominent in a series published in the early 1970s, in which she fought crime only under the Prince alias and without her mystic powers. To support herself, she ran a mod clothing boutique.^{[56][57]}

The Diana Prince alias also played an important role after the events of Infinite Crisis. Wonder Woman was broadcast worldwide killing a villain named <u>Maxwell Lord</u>, as he was mind controlling Superman into killing Batman. When Wonder Woman caught him in her lasso, demanding to know how to stop Superman, Maxwell revealed that the only way to stop him was to kill Lord, so as a last resort Diana snapped his neck.^{[58][59]} To recover from the trauma of killing another person, the Amazon went into a self-imposed exile for one year.^[60] On her return to public life, Diana realized that her life as a full-time celebrity superhero and ambassador had kept her removed from humanity. Because of this she assumed the persona of Diana Prince and became an agent at the Department of Metahuman Affairs. During a later battle with the witch <u>Circe</u>, a spell was placed on Diana leaving her powerless when not in the guise of Wonder Woman.^[61]

In the current New 52 universe, Diana does not have a secret identity as stated in an interview by series writer Brian Azzarello.^[62] However, when she and Superman began dating, for her civilian identity she uses the Diana Prince alias whenever she is around Clark Kent; such as when she introduced herself to Lois Lane at Lois's housewarming party under that name.^[63]

Personality

Princess Diana commands respect both as Wonder Woman and Diana Prince; her epithetical title – The Amazon Princess – illustrates the <u>dichotomy</u> of her character. She is a powerful, strong-willed character who does not back down from a fight or a challenge. Yet, she is a diplomat who strongly "<u>favors the pen</u>", and a lover of peace who would never seek to fight or escalate a conflict. She's simultaneously both the most fierce and most nurturing member of the <u>Justice League</u>; and her political connections as a United Nations Honorary Ambassador and the ambassador of a warrior nation makes her an invaluable addition to the team. With her powerful abilities, centuries of training and experienced at handling threats that range from petty crime to threats that are of a magical or supernatural nature, Diana is capable of competing with nearly any hero or villain.

Many writers have depicted Diana in different personalities and tone; between both of her diametric extremes; that of a worldly warrior, a highly compassionate and calm ambassador, and sometimes also as a naive and innocent person, depending on the writer. What has remained constant, and is a mainstay of the character, is her nurturing humanity: her overwhelming belief in love, empathy, compassion, and having a strong conscience. This trait had been the reason for her induction into the Star Sapphires.^{[64][65]}

Writer <u>Gail Simone</u> was applauded for her portrayal of Wonder Woman during her run on the series, with comic book reviewer Dan Phillips of <u>IGN</u> noting that "she's molded Diana into a very relatable and sympathetic character."^[66]

Actress <u>Gal Gadot</u> described Wonder Woman as "an idealist. Experienced, super-confident. Open and sincere even in the midst of a gruesome, bloody conflict. Having many strengths and powers, but at the end of the day she's a woman with a lot of emotional intelligence".^{[67][68]}

In the Golden Age, Wonder Woman adhered to an Amazon code of helping any in need, even <u>misogynistic</u> people, and never accepting a reward for saving someone;^[69] while conversely, the modern version of the character has been shown to perform lethal and fatal actions when left with no other alternative, exemplified in the killing of Maxwell Lord in order to save Superman's life.^{[58][59]}

The New 52 version of the character has been portrayed to be a younger, more headstrong, loving, fierce and willful person. Brian Azzarello stated in a video interview with DC Comics that they're building a very "confident", "impulsive" and "good-hearted" character in her. He referred to her trait of feeling compassion as both her strength and weakness.⁷⁰

A distinctive trait of her characterization is a group of signature mythological exclamations, such as "Great Aphrodite!" (historically the very first one), "Great Hera!",^[71] "Merciful Minerva!", and "Suffering Sappho!', some of which were contributed by Elizabeth Holloway Marston.^{[72][3]}

Others

Diana, after her death, was granted divinity as the Goddess of Truth by her gods for such faithful devotion.^[73] During her brief time as a god of <u>Olympus</u>, Diana was replaced in the role of Wonder Woman by her mother, <u>Queen Hippolyta</u>.^[74] Unlike Diana receiving the title of Wonder Woman in honor, Hippolyta's role as Wonder Woman was meant to be a punishment for her betrayal in Artemis' death as well as for unintentionally killing her own daughter.^[75] However, Hippolyta eventually grew to enjoy the freedom and adventure the title came with. Whereas Diana used the Lasso of Truth as her primary weapon, Hippolyta favored a broad sword.

John Byrne, the writer that introduced the concept of Hippolyta as the first Wonder Woman, has explained his intentions in a post in his message board:

I thought George's one "mistake" in rebooting Wonder Woman was making her only 25 years old when she left Paradise Island. I preferred the idea of a Diana who was thousands of years old (as, if I recall correctly, she was in the TV series). From that angle, I would have liked to have seen Diana having been Wonder Woman in WW2, and be returning to our world in the reboot.

Not having that option, I took the next best course, and had Hippolyta fill that role.^[76]

As Wonder Woman, Queen Hippolyta immediately got involved in a time travel mission back to the 1940s with Jay Garrick.^[77] After this mission, she elected to join the Justice Society of America and remained in that era for eight years, where her teammates nicknamed her "Polly". During that time she had a relationship with <u>Ted Grant</u>.^[78] Hippolyta also made visits into the past to see her godchild Lyta, daughter of Hippolyta's protege Helena, the Golden Age Fury. These visits happened yearly from young Lyta's perspective and also accounted for Hippolyta's participation in the JSA/JLA team ups. When she returned from the past, Hippolyta took Diana's place in the <u>JLA</u> as well.^{[79][80]}

<u>Artemis of Bana-Mighdall</u> briefly served as Wonder Woman during Hippolyta's trials for a new Wonder Woman. <u>Orana</u>, a character similar to Artemis, defeated Diana in a new contest and became Wonder Woman in pre-*Crisis on Infinite Earths* continuity. Orana was killed during her first mission. Others who have donned the Wonder Woman persona include Nubia, Cassandra Sandsmark, and Donna Troy.

Abilities

Powers and skills

Diana is depicted as a masterful athlete, acrobat, fighter and strategist, trained and experienced in many ancient and modern forms of armed and unarmed combat, including exclusive Amazonian martial arts. In some versions, her mother trained her, as Wonder Girl, for a future career as Wonder Woman. From the beginning, she is portrayed as highly skilled in using her Amazon bracelets to stop bullets and in wielding her golden lasso.^[81] Batman once called her the "best melee fighter in the world".^[82] The modern version of the character is known to use lethal force when she deems it necessary.^[58] In the New 52 continuity, her superior combat skills are the result of her Amazon training, as well as receiving further training from Ares, the God of War, himself, since as early as her childhood.^[83] The Golden Age Wonder Woman also had knowledge in psychology, as did her Amazon sisters.



Wonder Woman without special powers fighting crime as Diana Prince. Cover of *Wonder Woman* #189 (July 1970). Art by Mike Sekowsky.

Pre-Crisis

The <u>Golden Age</u> <u>Wonder Woman</u> had strength that was comparable to the Golden Age Superman. Wonder Woman was capable of bench pressing 15,000 pounds even before she had received her bracelets, and later hoisted a 50,000 pound boulder above her head to inspire Amazons facing the test.^[84] Even when her super strength was temporarily nullified, she still had enough mortal strength of an Amazon to break down a prison door to save Steve Trevor.^[85] In one of her earliest appearances, she is shown running easily at 60 mph (97 km/h), and later jumps from a building and lands on the balls of her feet.^[86]

She was able to heal faster than a normal human being due to her birthright consumption of water from Paradise Island's Fountain of Eternal Youth.

Her strength would be removed in accordance with "Aphrodite's Law" if she allowed her bracelets to be bound or chained by a male.^[87]

She also had an array of mental and psychic abilities, as corresponding to Marston's interest in parapsychology and metaphysics. Such an array included ESP, astral projection, telepathy (with or without the <u>Mental Radio</u>), mental control over the electricity in her body, the Amazonian ability to turn brain energy into muscle power, etc.^[88] Wonder Woman first became immune to electric shocks after having her spirit stripped from her atoms by <u>Dr. Psycho</u>'s Electro Atomizer; it was also discovered that she was unable to send a mental radio message without her body.^[89]

Wonder Woman (vol. 1) #105 revealed that Diana was formed from clay by the Queen of the Amazons, given life and power by four of the <u>Greek</u> and <u>Roman gods</u> (otherwise known as the <u>Olympian deities</u>) as gifts, corresponding to her renowned epithet: "Beautiful as <u>Aphrodite</u>, wise as <u>Athena</u>, swifter than <u>Hermes</u>, and stronger than <u>Hercules</u>", making her the strongest of the Amazons.^[33] Wonder Woman's Amazon training gave her limited <u>telepathy</u>, profound scientific knowledge,^[33] and the ability to speak every language – even <u>caveman</u>^[33] and Martian languages.^[90]

Between 1966 and 1967, new powers were added, such as super breath.^[91]

In the <u>Silver</u> and <u>Bronze</u> ages of comics, Wonder Woman was able to further increase her strength. In times of great need, removing her bracelets would temporarily augment her power tenfold, but cause her to go berserk in the process.^{[92][93]}

These powers received changes after the events of Crisis on Infinite Earths.

Post-Crisis

In the Post-Crisis universe, Wonder Woman receives her super powers as a blessing from <u>Olympian deities</u> just like the Silver Age version before, but with changes to some of her powers:^[94]

- Demeter, the goddess of agriculture and fertility, blessed Diana with strength drawn from the Earth spirit Gaea, making her one of the physically strongest heroes in the DC Universe and the strongest female hero in the DC Universe. This strength has allowed her to usually overwhelm Superman and Supergirl, easily using strength alone to overpower such characters. However, now Diana is the daughter of Zeus, king of the Greek Gods, so it is unclear as to how much of her power and strength is a direct result of her divine heritage.^[95] Her connection to the earth allows her to heal at an accelerated rate so long as she is in contact with the planet. However, as mentioned earlier, now that she is a demigoddess, it has been suggested that she heals extremely quickly also due to her divine heritage. In rare cases where she has been gravely injured, Diana showed the ability to physically merge with the earth, causing whatever injuries or poisons to be expelled from her body; such an act is considered sacred, and can only be used in extreme cases.^[96]
- Pallas Athena, the goddess of wisdom and war, granted Diana great wisdom, intelligence, and military prowess. Athena's gift has enabled Diana to master over a dozen languages (including those of alien origin), multiple complex crafts, sciences and philosophies, as well as leadership, military strategy, and armed and unarmed combat. More recently, Athena bound her own eyesight to Diana's, granting her increased empathy.^[97]
- Artemis, goddess of the hunt, animals, and the Moon, graced Diana with the Eyes of the Hunter and unity with beasts, meaning Diana can communicate with all animals, including dinosaurs. The Eyes of the Hunter ability gives Diana a full range of enhanced senses, including telescopic vision and super hearing.
- Hestia, goddess of hearth and home, granted Diana sisterhood with fire. This power has been shown to control the "Fires of Truth", which Diana wields through her lasso, making anyone bound by it unable to lie.^[98] This ability also grants her resistance to both normal and supernatural fire.
- Hermes, the messenger god of speed, granted Diana superhuman speed and the ability to fly.^[98] She is capable of flying at speeds approaching half the speed of light.^[96] She can react quickly enough to deflect bullets, lasers, and other projectiles with her virtually impenetrable bracelets. After the 2011 relaunch of the character, Wonder Woman does not naturally possess the power of flight. She gains it once she is hit by a feather thrown by Hermes.^{[99][100]}
- Aphrodite, goddess of love, bestowed Diana with stunning beauty, as well as a kind heart.

While not completely invulnerable, she is highly resistant to great amounts of concussive force and extreme temperatures and matches <u>Superman</u>^[101] in this regard, although edged weapons or projectiles applied with sufficient force are able to pierce her skin.^{[96][102]} Due to her divine origins, Diana can resist many forms of magical manipulation.

She is able to <u>astrally project</u> herself into various lands of myth. Her physical body reacts to whatever happens to her on the mythical astral plane, leaving her body cut, bruised, or sometimes strengthened once her mind and body are reunited. She can apparently leave the planet through meditation, and did this once to rescue Artemis while she was in hell.^[103]

The New 52 and Rebirth

After the <u>2011 relaunch</u>, Diana gained new powers. As the biological daughter of Hippolyta and Zeus, she has inherited some of her father's powers, which are held in check by the wearing her magic bracelets. She uses these powers in battle against the goddess Artemis and quickly renders her unconscious with ease with a series of carefully positioned counterattacks. While using her godly strength, her outfit and accourtements lit up and her eyes glowed like her father's. [100][104]

After becoming the God of War in the pages of *Wonder Woman*, Diana inherits Ares's divine abilities. Diana has not exhibited her full powers as War, but is seen in *Superman/Wonder Woman* #5 to slip easily into telepathic rapport with a soldier, explaining "I am War. I know all soldiers, and they know me."

During the Rebirth retcon, the "Year One" storyline explains that while put in a cell after coming to Man's World, Diana was visited by the Greek gods in animal form, and each gave her powers that would reveal themselves when she needed them to. She first displays strength when she accidentally rips the bars off her cell door when visited by Steve Trevor, Etta Candy, and Barbara Ann Minerva. Later on a trip to the mall, she discovers super speed, great durability, and the power of flight while fighting off a terrorist attack.

Technology

Diana has an arsenal of powerful god-forged gear at her disposal, but her signature equipment are her indestructible bracelets and the Lasso of Truth.

Personal armor

Wonder Woman's outfit has varied over time, although almost all of her outfit incarnations have retained some form of breastplate, tiara, bracelets, and her signature five-pointed star symbols. When Wonder Woman was first introduced, she wore a heavily patriotic skirt and red top which incorporated an American eagle and elements of the United States flag, reflecting the comic's origins during World War II. Later artists introduced what would become Wonder Woman's classic ensemble, adding an armored plate to her top whose design recalls a letter W and revealing blue short shorts, whose precise length varied from artist to artist. Other artists have experimented with different looks for Wonder Woman over the years, including an all-white mod jumpsuit, a biker outfit, a variation of her mainstream depiction featuring leather pants and a jacket, and a number of armoured battlesuits. Contemporary artists have attempted to emphasise Wonder Woman's traditional outfit as a red armored top with a blue gladiator skirt.

Golden Age

Wonder Woman's outfit design was originally rooted in American symbolism and iconography, which included her signature star symbols, a golden eagle on her chest, crimson red bustier, white belt, and a dark blue star spangled skirt/culotte.

She also had a pair of red glowing magnetic earrings which allowed her to receive messages from Queen Desira of the planet Venus.

Pre-Crisis

At the time of her debut, Wonder Woman sported a red top with a golden eagle emblem, a white belt, blue star-spangled <u>culottes</u>, and red and golden go-go boots. She originally wore a skirt; however according to Elizabeth Martson, "It was too hard to draw and would have been over her head most of the time."^[104] This outfit was entirely based on the American flag, because Wonder Woman was purely an American icon as she debuted during World War II.^[105] Later in 1942, Wonder Woman's outfit received a slight change – the culottes were converted entirely into skin-tight shorts and she wore sandals.^[105] While earlier most of her back was exposed, during the imposition of the <u>Comics Code Authority</u> in the mid-1950s, Wonder Woman's outfit was rectified to make her back substantially covered, in order to comply with the Authority's rule of minimum exposure.^[105] During <u>Mike Sekowsky</u>'s run in the late 1960s, Diana surrendered her powers and started using her own skill to fight crime. She wore a series of jumpsuits as her attire, most popular of these was a white one.^[105]

After Sekowsky's run ended in the early 1970s, Diana's roots were reverted to her old mythological ones and she wore a more modernized version of her original outfit, a predecessor to her "bathing suit" outfit.^[105] Later, in 1976, her glowing white belt was turned into a yellow one.^[105] For Series 3, artist Terry Dodson redrew her outfit as a strapless swimsuit.^[106]

Post-Crisis

After <u>Crisis On Infinite Earths</u>, <u>George Pérez</u> rebooted the character in 1987. She wore an outfit similar to her 1970s one, but now with a larger glowing golden belt.^[105] This outfit continued until <u>William Messner-Loebs</u>' run, which had Diana pass on the role of Wonder Woman to <u>Artemis</u>.^[105] No longer Wonder Woman, Diana sported a new black biker-girl outfit designed by artist <u>Mike Deodato Jr</u>.^[105] After John Byrne took over writing and art duties, he redesigned the Wonder Woman outfit (Diana was reinstated as Wonder Woman at the end of Loebs' run) and joined the emblem and belt together.^[105]

Her outfit did not receive any prominent change until after the 2005-2006"Infinite Crisis" storyline. Similar to her chestplate, her glowing belt was also shaped into a "W".^[105] This outfit continued until issue #600 - J. Michael Straczynski's run of Wonder Woman's altered timeline changed her outfit drastically. Her outfit was redesigned by <u>Jim Lee</u> and included a redesigned emblem, a golden and red top, black pants, and a later discontinued blue-black jacket.^[105]

It was later <u>retconned</u> by Gail Simone that Wonder Woman's outfit design had Amazonian roots. During a flashback in Vol. 3, Hippolyta is shown issuing orders to have a garment created for Diana, taking inspiration from the skies on the night Diana was born; a red <u>hunter's moon</u> and a field of stars against deep blue, and the eagle breastplate being a symbol of <u>Athena</u>'s avian representations.

The New 52

Another major outfit change for Wonder Woman came about as part of DC Comics' 2011 relaunch of its entire line of publications, <u>The New 52</u>. The character's original one-piece outfit was restored, although the color combination of red and blue was changed to dark red and blue-black. Her chest-plate, belt and tiara were also changed from gold to a platinum or sterling silver color. Along with her sword, she now also utilizes a shield. She wears many accessories such as arm and neck jewelery styled as the "WW" motif. Her outfit is no longer made of fabric, as it now resembles a type of light, flexible body armor. Her boots are now a very dark blue rather than red. The design previously included black trousers, but they were removed and the one-piece look was restored during the time of publication.^[107]

After the events of the 2015 storyline "Convergence", Diana gets a new armored suit with the classic armor and tiara returning.

DC Rebirth

Wonder Woman's outfit is redesigned to resemble the one worn in <u>Batman v</u> <u>Superman: Dawn of Justice</u>: it is a red bustier with a gold eagle, a blue leather skirt with gold edges with two stars, and knee-high red boots with gold knee guards and accents. Her tiara once again becomes gold with a red star. She occasionally wears a red cape with a gold clasp and edges.

Wonder Woman (2017 film)

Her tiara's signature star symbol is now an eight pointed starburst. According to designer <u>Lindy Hemming</u> and director <u>Patty Jenkins</u>, every design decision made for <u>Themyscira</u> came down to the same question: "How would I want to live that's badass?"^[108] "To me, they shouldn't be dressed in armor like men. It should be different. It should be authentic and real [...] and *appealing* to women." When asked about the decision to give the Amazons <u>heeled sandals</u>, Jenkins explained that they also have flats for fighting, adding "It's total <u>wish-fulfillment</u> [...] I, as a woman, want Wonder Woman to be sexy, hot as hell, fight badass, and look great at the same time



Wonder Woman's revised look on the cover of *Trinity* vol. 2, #4 (February 2017). Art by Clay Mann and Brad Anderson.

[...] the same way men want Superman to have ridiculously huge pecs and an impractically big body. That makes them feel like the hero they want to be. And my hero, in my head, has really long legs."^[109] This corresponds to the original intent by William Moulton Marston, who wanted his character to be alluringly feminine.

Invisible plane

The Pre-Crisis version of the invisible plane was a necessity because before the <u>Crisis on Infinite Earths</u> rewrote Wonder Woman's history – along with the histories of many other heroes – Wonder Woman could not fly. She grew increasingly powerful during and after the <u>Silver Age of comic books</u>, acquiring the power to ride wind currents and imitate flight over short distance. This had limitations, however; for example, if there was no wind and the air was completely still she would be trapped on the ground or if dropped from a distance that she would helplessly fall out of control to the ground. Though this meant that she would rely on the invisible plane less frequently, she always had need of it.

The Invisible Plane was a creation of Diana's during her younger years on Paradise Island. She created it to be an improvement on her mother's planes which would be shot down in Man's World. The result of her innovation was an invisible plane that could fly at terrific speeds silently and not be detected by hostile forces. Initially, it was portrayed as being transparent.

The Invisible Plane appeared in the very first comic stories, including *All-Star Comics* #8, where it is shown as being able to fly at over 2,000 mph (3,200 km/h) and to send out rainbow rays that penetrate the mist around <u>Paradise Island</u>, as well as landing stealthily and having a built-in radio. Wonder Woman is seen storing the plane at an abandoned farm near Washington, D.C., in the barn; she goes there as Lt. Prince and changes clothes in some of the earliest tales. Though never explicitly stated, the Plane is presumably stored there when not in use for the rest of the Pre-Crisis era. In a story published shortly after, it flies at 40 miles (64 km) a second.

Shortly thereafter, Wonder Woman is shown being able to summon it with her tiara, have it hover by the War Department, and extend from it a rope ladder with which she could board it. She uses the plane to fly into outer space, and frequently transports <u>Etta Candy</u> and the Holliday Girls, <u>Steve Trevor</u>, and others. During the 1950s, the plane becomes a jet, and is often shown swooping over Lt. Prince's office; she strips out of her uniform at super speed and bounds to the plane. Though the Plane was depicted as semi-transparent for the reader's convenience, in-story dialogue indicated that it actually was completely invisible, or at least able to become so as the need arose.^[110]

Wonder Woman continued to use the plane for super-speed, outer space, and multi-dimensional transport up until the un-powered era of Diana Prince. When Wonder Woman resumed super-powered, costumed operations in 1973, she continued to use the jet as before, but did glide on air currents for short distances. At one point, Aphrodite granted the plane the power to fly faster than the speed of light for any interstellar voyages her champion might undertake.^[111] Thanks to tinkering by gremlins, the Plane even developed intelligence and the power to talk.^[112] The Plane proved a good friend, eager to help his "mistress" and her loved ones in any way possible. It got along especially well with Steve Trevor.

Bracelets of Submission

Diana's bulletproof bracelets were formed from the remnants of <u>Athena</u>'s legendary shield, the <u>Aegis</u>, to be awarded to her champion. The shield was made from the indestructible hide of the great she-goat, <u>Amalthea</u>, who suckled Zeus as an infant. These forearm guards have thus far proven indestructible and able to absorb the impact of incoming attacks, allowing Wonder Woman to deflect <u>automatic weapon</u> fire and energy blasts.^[113] Diana can slam the bracelets together to create a wave of concussive force capable of making strong beings like Superman's ears bleed.^[58] Recently, she gained the ability to channel Zeus's lightning through her bracelets as well. Zeus explained to her that this power had been contained within the bracelets since their creation, because they were once part of the Aegis, and that he had only recently unlocked it for her use.^[114] After the 2011 relaunch of the character, it was revealed that Diana was the daughter of Zeus and

<u>Hippolyta</u>^[115] and that the bracelets are able to keep the powers she had inherited from Zeus in check.^[104] In addition, Hephaestus has modified the bracelets to allow Wonder Woman the sorcerous ability to manifest a sword of grayish metal from each bracelet. Each sword, marked with a red star, takes shape from a flash of lightning, and when Wonder Woman is done with them, the swords disappear, supposedly, back into her bracelets. As such, she has produced other weapons from the bracelets in this way such as a bow that fires explosive arrows, spears and energy bolts among others.^[116]

The inspiration to give Diana bracelets came from the pair of bracelets worn by Olive Byrne, creator William Moulton Marston's assistant and lover.^[3]

Lasso of Truth

The *Lasso of Truth*, or *Lasso of Hestia*, was forged by <u>Hephaestus</u> from the golden girdle of Gaea.^[98] The original form of the Lasso in the Golden Age was called the Magic Lasso Of Aphrodite. It compels all beings who come into contact with it to tell the absolute truth and is virtually indestructible;^[98] in *Identity Crisis*, <u>Green Arrow</u> mistakenly describes it as "the only lie detector designed by Zeus." The only times it has been broken were when Wonder Woman herself refused to accept the truth revealed by the lasso, such as when she confronted <u>Rama Khan</u> of Jarhanpur,^[117] and by <u>Bizarro</u> in <u>Matt</u> <u>Wagner</u>'s non-canonical <u>Batman/Superman/Wonder Woman: Trinity</u>.^[118] During the Golden Age, the original form of the Lasso had the power to force anyone caught to obey any command given them, even overriding the mind control of others; this was effective enough to defeat strong-willed beings like <u>Captain Marvel</u>.^[119] Diana wields the Lasso with great precision and accuracy and can use it as a whip or noose.

Other items

Diana occasionally uses additional weaponry in formal battle, such as ceremonial golden armour with golden wings, <u>pteruges</u>, chestplate, and golden helmet in the shape of an eagle's head. She possesses a magical sword forged by Hephaestus that is sharp enough to cut the electrons off an atom.^[98]

As early as the 1950s,^[120] Wonder Woman's tiara has also been used as a razor-edged throwing weapon, returning to her like a boomerang.^[98] The tiara allows Wonder Woman to be invulnerable from telepathic attacks, as well as allowing her to telepathically contact people such as the Amazons back on Themyscira using the power of the red <u>star ruby</u> in its center.^[58]

The Golden, Silver, and Bronze Age portrayals of Wonder Woman showed her using a silent and <u>invisible plane</u> that could be controlled by mental command^[121] and fly at speeds up to 3,000 mph (4,800 km/h).^[122] Its appearance has varied over time; originally it had a propeller, while later it was drawn as a jet aircraft resembling a stealth aircraft.^[123]

During the golden age Wonder Woman possessed a <u>Purple Ray</u> capable of healing even a fatal gunshot wound to the brain.^[124] She also possessed a Mental Radio that could let her receive messages from those in need.^[121]

As a temporary inductee into the <u>Star Sapphires</u>, Wonder Woman gained access to the violet power ring of love. This ring allowed her to alter her costume at will, create solid-light energy constructs, and reveal a person's true love to them. She was able to combine the energy with her lasso to enhance its ability.

Fictional character biography

20th century

Origin

In her debut in *All Star Comics #*8, Diana was a member of a tribe of women called the <u>Amazons</u>, native to <u>Paradise</u> <u>Island</u> – a secluded island set in the middle of a vast ocean. <u>Captain Steve Trevor</u>'s plane crashes on the island and he is found alive but unconscious by Diana and fellow Amazon, and friend, Mala. Diana has him nursed back to health and falls in love with him. A competition is held amongst all the Amazons by Diana's mother, the Queen of the Amazons <u>Hippolyta</u>, in order to determine who is the most worthy of all the women; Hippolyta charges the winner with the responsibility of delivering Captain Steve Trevor back to Man's World and to fight for justice. Hippolyta forbids Diana from entering the competition, but she takes part nonetheless, wearing a mask to conceal her identity. She wins the competition and reveals herself, surprising Hippolyta, who ultimately accepts, and must give in to, Diana's wish to go to Man's World. She then is awarded a special uniform made by her mother for her new role as Wonder Woman and safely returns Steve Trevor back to his home country.^{[125][126]}

Golden Age

Coming to America for the first time, Wonder Woman comes upon a wailing army nurse. Inquiring about her state, she finds that the nurse wanted to leave for South America with her fiancé but was unable due to shortage of money. As both of them looked identical and Wonder Woman needed a job and a valid identity to look after Steve (who was admitted in the same army hospital), she gives her the money she had earned earlier to help her go to her fiancé in exchange for her credentials. The nurse reveals her name as Diana Prince, and thus, Wonder Woman's secret identity was created, and she began working as a nurse in the army.^{[54][127]}

Wonder Woman then took part in a variety of adventures, mostly side by side with Trevor. Her most common foes during this period would be <u>Nazi forces</u> led by a German baroness named <u>Paula von Gunther</u>, occasionally evil deities/demigods such as <u>Mars</u> and the <u>Duke of Deception</u>, and then colorful villains like Hypnota, <u>Doctor Psycho</u>, and the <u>Cheetah</u>.^[128]

Silver Age

In the Silver Age, Wonder Woman's history received several changes. Her earlier origin, which had significant ties to <u>World War II</u>, was changed and her powers were shown to be the product of the <u>gods'</u> blessings, corresponding to her epithet, "beautiful as Aphrodite, wise as Athena, stronger than Hercules, and swifter than Hermes".^{[33][129]} The concepts of Wonder Girl and Wonder Tot were also introduced during this period.^[130]

Wonder Woman (vol. 1) #179 (Nov. 1968) showed Wonder Woman giving up her powers and returning her costume and title to her mother in order to continue staying in Man's World. The reason behind this was that all the Amazons were shifting to another dimension, but Diana was unable to accompany them as she needed to stay behind to help Steve, who had been wrongly convicted.^[131] Thus, she no longer held the title of Wonder Woman and after meeting and training under a blind martial arts mentor <u>I-Ching</u>, Diana resumed crime fighting as the powerless Diana Prince. She ran a mod-boutique as a business and dressed in a series of jumpsuits while fighting crime.^{[35][56][57][132][133]} During this period, <u>Samuel</u> <u>R. Delany</u> took over scripting duties with issue #202. Delany was initially supposed to write a six-issue story arc, which would culminate in a battle over an abortion clinic, but Delany was removed reportedly due to criticism from <u>Gloria</u> <u>Steinem</u>, who, not knowing the content of the issues Delany was writing, was upset that Wonder Woman had lost her powers and was no longer wearing her traditional costume.^[134]

Bronze Age

In *Wonder Woman* Vol 1 #204, Diana's powers and costume were returned to her and she is once again reinstated as Wonder Woman.^[133] I-Ching is killed by a crazy sniper in the same issue.^[135] Later, Diana meets her sister <u>Nubia</u>, who is Hippolyta's daughter fashioned out of dark clay (hence Nubia's dark complexion).^{[136][137]} Nubia claimed to be the "Wonder Woman of The Floating Island", and she challenges Diana to a duel which ends in a draw.^[137] Returning to her home, Nubia would have further adventures involving Diana.^[136]

The last issue of Volume 1 showed Diana and Steve Trevor announce their love for each other and their subsequent marriage.^{[138][139]}

Modern Age

Crisis on Infinite Earths

The events of Crisis on Infinite Earths greatly changed and altered the history of the DC Universe. Wonder Woman's history and origin were considerably revamped by the event. Wonder Woman was now an emissary and ambassador from Themyscira (the new name for Paradise Island) to Patriarch's World, charged with the mission of bringing peace to the outside world. Various deities and concepts from Greek mythology were blended and incorporated into Wonder Woman's stories and origin. Diana was formed out of clay of the shores of Themyscira by Hippolyta, who wished for a child; the clay figure was then brought to life by the Greek deities. The Gods then blessed and granted her unique powers and abilities - beauty from Aphrodite, strength from Demeter, wisdom from Athena, speed and flight from Hermes, Eyes of the Hunter and unity with beasts from Artemis and sisterhood with fire and the ability to discern the truth from Hestia.^[140] Due to the reboot, Diana's operating methods were made distinctive from Superman and Batman's with her willingness to use deadly force when she judges it necessary. In addition, her previous history and her marriage to Steve Trevor were erased. Trevor was introduced as a man much older than Diana who would later on marry Etta Candy.^[141]



Cover of *Wonder Woman* vol. 2, #1 (Feb. 1987), showing the character's look after the *Crisis on Infinite Earths* continuity reboot. Art by George Pérez.

War of the Gods

Starting in *Wonder Woman* Vol 2 #51, The Amazons, who had revealed their presence to the world in *Wonder Woman* Vol 2 #50, are blamed for a series of murders and for the theft of various artifacts. The Amazons are then taken into custody, Queen <u>Hippolyta</u> is nowhere to be found and Steve Trevor is forced by General Yedziniak to attack Themyscira. These events lead to the "<u>War of the Gods</u>" occurring. The culprit of the murders, thefts and the framing of the Amazons is revealed to be the witch <u>Circe</u>, who "kills" Diana by reverting her form back into the clay she was born from. Later, Wonder Woman is brought back to life and together with <u>Donna Troy</u>, battles Circe and ultimately defeats her. ^{[142][143][144][145]} Circe would later return by unknown means.

When Hippolyta and the other Amazons were trapped in a demonic dimension, she started receiving visions about the death of Wonder Woman.^[146] Fearing her daughter's death, Hippolyta created a false claim that Diana was not worthy of continuing her role as Wonder Woman, and arranged for a contest to determine who would be the new Wonder Woman, thus protecting Diana from her supposed fate.^[147] The participants of the final round were Diana and <u>Artemis</u>, and with the help of some mystic manipulation by Hippolyta, Artemis won the contest.^[148] Thus, Diana was forced to hand over her title and costume to Artemis, who became the new Wonder Woman and Diana started fighting crime in an alternate costume.^[149] Artemis later died in battle with the <u>White Magician</u> – thus, Hippolyta's vision of a dying Wonder Woman did come true, albeit not of Diana as Wonder Woman.^[150] Diana once again became Wonder Woman, a request made by Artemis in her last seconds. Artemis would later return as <u>Requiem</u>. Prior to Artemis' death, Hippolyta would admit to her daughter about her own part in Artemis' death, which strained their relationship as Diana was unable to forgive her mother for sending another Amazon to her death knowingly for the sake of saving her own daughter.

The demon <u>Neron</u> engaged Diana in battle and managed to kill her.^[151] <u>The Olympian Gods</u> granted Diana divinity and the role of the Goddess of Truth who started to reside in Olympus; her mother Hippolyta then assumed the role of Wonder Woman and wore her own different incarnation of the costume.^[151] In Wonder Woman Vol 2 #136, Diana was banished from Olympus due to interfering in earthly matters (as Diana was unable to simply watch over people's misery on earth). ^[151] She immediately returned to her duties as Wonder Woman, but ran into conflicts with her mother over her true place and role as Hippolyta seemed accustomed to her life in America.^[151] Their fight remained unsolved, as Hippolyta died during an intergalactic war.^[151] Themyscira was destroyed during the war, but was restored and reformed as a collection of floating islands.^[151] Circe later resurrected Hippolyta in Wonder Woman Vol 3 #8.^[152]

The OMAC Project

One of the events that led to *Infinite Crisis* was of Wonder Woman killing the villain <u>Maxwell Lord in Wonder Woman</u> (vol. 2) #219.^[153] Maxwell Lord was mind-controlling <u>Superman</u>, who as a result was near to killing <u>Batman</u>. Wonder Woman tried to stop Superman, Lord (who was unable to mind control her) made Superman see her as his enemy <u>Doomsday</u> trying to kill <u>Lois Lane</u>. Superman then attacked Wonder Woman, and a vicious battle ensued. Buying herself time by slicing Superman's throat with her tiara, Wonder Woman caught Lord in her Lasso of Truth and demanded to know how to stop his control over Superman. As the lasso forced the wearer to speak only the truth, Lord told her that the only way to stop him was to kill him. Left with no choice, Wonder Woman snapped Lord's neck and ended his control over Superman.^[153] Unknown to her, the entire scene was broadcast live around every channel in the world by <u>Brother Eye</u>. The viewers were not aware of the entire situation, and saw only Wonder Woman murdering a Justice League associate. Wonder Woman's actions put her at odds with Batman and Superman, as they saw Wonder Woman as a cold-blooded killer, despite the fact that she saved their lives.^[154]

One Year Later

At the end of *Infinite Crisis*, Wonder Woman temporarily retires from her costumed identity. Diana, once again using the alias Diana Prince, joins the Department of <u>Metahuman</u> Affairs. <u>Donna Troy</u> becomes the new Wonder Woman and is captured by Diana's enemies. Diana then goes on a mission to rescue her sister, battling Circe and <u>Hercules</u>. Diana defeats the villains, freeing Donna and takes up the role of Wonder Woman again. Circe places a spell on Diana, which renders Diana into a normal, powerless human being when in the role of Diana Prince; her powers come to her only when she is in the role of Wonder Woman.^{[155][156][157][158][159]}

The Circle

The storyline <u>"The Circle"</u> was focused on the revelation of a failed assassination attempt on Diana when she was a baby, by four rogue Amazons.^[160] These Amazons – Myrto, Charis, Philomela and Alkyone, collectively referred to as <u>The Circle</u> – were Hippolyta's personal guards and were extremely loyal and devoted to her.^[161] However, when Hippolyta decided to raise a daughter, The Circle was horrified and considered the baby ill-fate, one who would ruin their entire race.^[162] Thus, after Diana was sculpted out of clay and brought to life, The Circle decided to assassinate the baby. Their attempt was foiled however, and the four Amazons were imprisoned.^[163] After years, the Circle escaped their prisons with the help of <u>Captain Nazi</u>, and decided to accomplish their previously failed mission and kill Diana. Diana defeated Myrto, Charis, Philomela and then approached Alkyone, who runs off and succumbs to her death by falling into the ocean. The other three Amazons return to their prisons.^{[163][163]}

Issue #600 introduced Wonder Woman to an alternate time-line created by the Gods in which Themyscira had been destroyed and the Amazons scattered around the world.^[41] In this timeline, Diana is an orphan raised in New York who is learning to cope with her powers. The entire world has forgotten Wonder Woman's existence and the main story of this run was of Diana trying to restore reality even though she does not properly remember it herself.^[165] Diana has no memories of her prior adventures as Wonder Woman, recollecting her memories in bits and pieces and receiving different

abilities and resources (such as the power of flight and her lasso) during the progression of her adventure. A trio of Death Goddesses called The Morrigan acted as Wonder Woman's main enemies.^[166] Diana ultimately defeats the evil goddesses and returns everything back to normal.^[167]

21st century

The New 52

In September 2011, DC Comics relaunched its entire publication line, dubbing the event <u>the New 52</u>. Among the major changes to the character, Wonder Woman now appears wearing a new costume similar to her older one, and has a completely new origin. In this new timeline, Wonder Woman is no longer a clay figure brought to life by the magic of the gods. Rather, she is the <u>demigoddess</u> daughter of Queen Hippolyta and Zeus: King of the Greek Gods. Her original origin is revealed as a cover story to explain Diana's birth as a means to protect her from Hera's wrath. Currently, Diana has taken on the role and title as the new "God of War".^{[168][169]}

The Greek messenger god, Hermes, entrusts Wonder Woman with the protection of Zola, a young woman, who is pregnant with Zeus's child, from Hera, seething with jealousy and determined to kill the child.^{[170][171][172][173][174]} With the appearance of a bizarre, new, chalk-white enemy, the goddess Strife (a reimagined version of Eris, the goddess of discord who had battled Wonder Woman in post-Crisis continuity), Wonder Woman discovers she, herself, is the natural-born daughter of Hippolyta and Zeus, who, after a violent clash, became lovers.^[115] Hippolyta revealed Diana's earlier origin story to be a lie, spread amongst the Amazons to protect Diana from the wrath of Hera, who is known for hunting and killing several illegitimate offspring of Zeus.^[115]

The first of these half-mortal siblings to reveal himself to Wonder Woman was her older half-brother, Lennox Sandsmark, who could transform himself into living, marble-like stone and, before his death, was revealed to be the father of <u>Wonder</u> <u>Girl (Cassie Sandsmark)</u>.^[175] His killer, the <u>First Born</u>, the eldest progeny of Zeus, would become Wonder Woman's first major super-villain of the New 52.

The story then focuses on Wonder Woman's quest to rescue Zola from Hades, who had abducted her and taken her to Hell at the end of the sixth issue of the series.^{[176][177][178][179]} The male children of the Amazons are introduced and Diana learns about the birth of her "brothers" – the Amazons used to infrequently invade ships coming near their island and force themselves on the sailors, before killing them. After nine months, the birth of the resulting female children was highly celebrated and they were inducted into the ranks of the Amazons while the male children were rejected. In order to save the male children from being drowned to death by the Amazons, Hephaestus traded weapons to the Amazons in exchange for them.^{[176][180][181]}

After saving Zola from Hades, Wonder Woman tries to protect her further from Apollo, as it is prophesied that one of Zeus' children will be his downfall whom Apollo considers to be Zola's child.^{[182][183]} Wonder Woman receives the power of flight by one of Hermes' feathers piercing her thigh and Zola's baby is stolen by Hermes at the end and given to Demeter. The issue's last page shows a dark and mysterious man rising from the snow, taking a helmet and disappearing.^{[184][185]} This man is later revealed to be Zeus' first son, known only as First Born, who seeks to rule over Olympus and the rest of the world, and take Diana as his bride.

A stand-alone #0 issue was released in September which explored Diana's childhood and her tutelage under Ares, the God of War, now known most often as simply 'War'.^[83] The issue was narrated in the style of a typical <u>Silver Age</u> comic book and saw Diana in her childhood years.^[186] The main plot of the issue was Diana training under War as he thought of her being an extraordinary girl with immense potential. The issue ultimately concluded with Diana learning and experiencing the importance of mercy, which she first learned when War showed it to her during their sparring. This later translated

into her refusal to kill the Minotaur – a task given to her by War; however, this show of mercy makes her a failure in War's eyes, which was actually his fault since he inadvertently "taught" her mercy and affection as his protege.^{[83][186][187]} Later in the series, Wonder Woman is forced to kill War during a conflict with her evil half-brother, Zeus' son First Born, and herself becomes the God of War. After the Amazons are restored, she rules over them both as a warrior queen and God of War, as the ongoing conflict with First Born escalates. At the end of Azzarello's run, as part of a final conflict, Wonder Woman kills First Born, while Zeke is revealed to have been Zeus' plan for resurrection, with Zola revealed to have been a mortal shell for the goddess Athena, who gave birth to Zeus just as he once did to her. Wonder Woman pleads with Athena not to allow the Zola personality, whom she has grown to love as a friend, die with Athena's awakening. Athena leaves the site in animal form, leaving a stunned and confused Zola behind with Wonder Woman.^[188]

Wonder Woman appears as one of the lead characters in the <u>Justice League</u> title written by <u>Geoff Johns</u> and drawn by Jim Lee that was launched in 2011 as part of the New 52.^[189] In August 2012, she and Superman shared a kiss in *Justice League* Vol 2 #12, which has since developed into a romantic relationship.^{[190][191][192]} DC launched a *Superman/Wonder Woman* series that debuted in late 2013, which focuses both the threats they face together, and on their romance as a "Power Couple".^{[193][194]}

After the events of Convergence, Wonder Woman would don a new costume. She would also face Donna Troy, who is now reimagined as a villanous doppellganger created by a vengeful Amazon elder, not only to physically defeat Wonder Woman but also to outmaneuver her in Themyscirian politics.

Earth 2

<u>The New 52</u> version of <u>Earth 2</u> was introduced in *Earth 2* #1 (2012). In that issue, the Earth 2 Wonder Woman is introduced via flashback. She, along with <u>Superman</u> and <u>Batman</u>, are depicted dying in battle with forces from <u>Apokolips</u> five years in the past.^[195] This Wonder Woman worshiped the deities of Roman mythology as opposed to the Greek; the Roman gods perish as a result of the conflict. An earlier version of the Earth-2 Wonder Woman, prior to the Apokoliptian invasion, is seen in the comic book <u>Batman/Superman</u>, where she is seen riding a pegasus.

In *Earth 2* #8 (2013), Wonder Woman's adult daughter, <u>Fury</u>, is introduced. She is loyal to the Apokoliptian <u>Steppenwolf</u>. [196]

DC Rebirth

In 2016, DC Comics started DC Rebirth, a relaunch of its entire line of comic books.

Following the events of the Darkseid War, Wonder Woman is told by the dying Myrina Black that on the night of Diana's birth, Hippolyta gave birth to a twin child. This child was revealed to be male, known as Jason, and is said to be incredibly powerful. Wonder Woman makes it her mission to find him.^[197] At the same time, she finds the truth behind her origin and history is now cluttered, as she remembers two versions: the pre-<u>Flashpoint</u> one, and the New 52 rendition. She cannot locate <u>Themiscyra</u> or her fellow Amazons and the Lasso of Truth does not work for her anymore.

The "Year One" storyline retells Diana's origin growing up on Themyscira. She lives an idyllic life and harbors interest for the outside world, and the first connection to it comes in the form of Steve Trevor, who crashes on the island and is the sole survivor. A contest is held to determine which Amazon is the best candidate to take Steve home, with Diana volunteering despite knowing the cost to leave the island is to never return. Diana wins the contest and departs with Steve. Once arriving in America, Diana is taken into custody by the government to discern her origins. She meets Etta Candy and Barbara Ann Minerva along the way. While incarcerated Diana is visited by the gods in animal form and bestow upon her

powers of strength, speed, agility, durability, and flight. She discovers Ares, the god of war, is working to destroy humanity. Accepting her new role in Man's World, Diana, with the help of the gods in animal form, subdues Ares with the lasso. Now called Wonder Woman, Diana becomes one of the world's greatest heroes.

The "Lies" story arc runs parallel and explores Diana's search. No longer able to get into Mount Olympus, Diana tracks down Barbara Ann Minerva, the Cheetah, to get help.^{[198][199]} Cheetah agrees to help in exchange for Diana aiding her in killing the god Urzkartaga and end Minerva's curse. The pair battle their way through Urzkartaga's minions, the Bouda, and defeat Andres Cadulo, a worshiper of Urzkartaga that planned to sacrifice Steve Trevor to the plant god. Once reverted to her human form, Minerva agreed to help Wonder Woman find her way back to Paradise Island. During this time Wonder Woman reconnects with Steve. Minerva eventually realizes Paradise Island is an embodiment of emotion instead of a physical place, so Wonder Woman and Steve head out to find the island. They succeed and Wonder Woman is greeted by her mother and sisters, though Steve senses something is wrong. Wonder Woman comes to realize nothing is as she remembers and, upon using the Lasso of Truth, discovers everything she thought she knew was a lie: she never really returned to Themyscira after departing with Steve years earlier. The revelation shatters Diana's mind and she is left nearly insane. Veronica Cale, a businesswoman who has been desiring to find Themyscira and the leader of Godwatch, sends a military group called Poison after her, but Diana's state has left her vulnerable and oblivious to the danger she and Steve are in. Steve wards them off long enough for them to be rescued, and reluctantly places Diana in a mental hospital so she can get help. While there she comes to grasp the reality she thought she knew was false, eventually coming out of her stupor and able to rejoin the others in tracking down Veronica Cale, who is trying to find Themyscira.

Cultural impact

Critical reception and legacy

As a compassionate warrior with god-like strength, Wonder Woman preferred peace and love to war and violence, a contradiction that has long made her a symbol of female empowerment, and the center of controversy. The early Wonder Woman stories featured an abundant amount of bondage portrayals, which had critics worried.

Although created to be a positive role-model and a strong female character for girls and boys, Wonder Woman has had to deal with the <u>misogyny</u> that was commonplace in comic book industry for decades. For example, Wonder Woman was a founding member of the <u>Justice Society of America</u>. This roster included the original Flash and Green Lantern. Wonder Woman was an experienced leader and easily the most powerful of them all; yet was rendered a <u>secretary</u>. This would also be accompanied with her losing her powers or <u>getting captured</u> on most Justice League adventures. During the '50s and '60s, comic writers regularly made Wonder Woman love sick over <u>Steve Trevor</u>, a Major in the United States Army. Stories frequently featured Wonder Woman hoping or imagining what it would be like to marry Steve Trevor.

Wonder Woman was named the 20th greatest comic book character by <u>Empire</u> magazine.^[200] She was ranked sixth in <u>Comics Buyer's Guide's</u> "100 Sexiest Women in Comics" list.^[201] In May 2011, Wonder Woman placed fifth on <u>IGN's</u> Top 100 Comic Book Heroes of All Time.^[202]

Not all reaction to Wonder Woman has been positive. In the controversial *Seduction of the Innocent*, psychiatrist Fredric Wertham claimed Wonder Woman's strength and independence made her a lesbian in a condemning way.^[203]

Feminist icon

<u>Feminist</u> icon <u>Gloria Steinem</u>, founder of <u>Ms. magazine</u>, was responsible for the return of Wonder Woman's original abilities. Offended that the most famous female superhero had been depowered into a boyfriend-obsessed <u>damsel in</u> <u>distress</u>, Steinem placed Wonder Woman (in costume) on the cover of the first issue of <u>Ms. (1972)</u> – <u>Warner</u> <u>Communications</u>, DC Comics' owner, was an investor – which also contained an appreciative essay about the character. ^[204] Wonder Woman's powers and traditional costume were restored in issue #204 (January–February 1973).^[204]

In 1972, just months after the groundbreaking US Supreme Court decision <u>Roe v. Wade</u>, science fiction author <u>Samuel R.</u> <u>Delany</u> had planned a story for *Ms*. that culminated in a plainsclothes Wonder Woman protecting an <u>abortion clinic</u>. However, Steinem disapproved of Wonder Woman being out of costume, and the controversial story line never happened. [205]

The original significance of Wonder Woman had the intentions of influencing many women of all ages, displaying the physical and mental strengths, values, and ethical attributes that not only men acquire. "Wonder Woman symbolizes many of the values of the women's culture that feminists are now trying to introduce into the mainstream: strength and self-reliance for women; sisterhood and mutual support among women; peacefulness and esteem for human life; a diminishment both of 'masculine' aggression and of the belief that violence is the only way of solving conflicts," Steinem wrote at the time.^[206]

The origin of Wonder Woman and the psychological reasoning behind why William Morton Marston created her in the way he did illustrated Marston's educational, ethical, and moral values.^[207] "William Marston intended her to be a feminist character, showing young boys the illimitable possibilities of a woman who could be considered just as strong as the famed Superman." Gladys L. Knight explains the impact and influences that superheroes have on us in society ranging from the 1870s until the present day.

Marc DiPaolo introduces us to Wonder Woman's creator and history and he demonstrates how she is a "WWII veteran, a feminist icon, and a sex symbol" all throughout her "career". Wonder Woman stars in multiple films and is most commonly known for her red, white and blue one piece, and her tall, sexy assertiveness. What many people don't know is that she is a big part of history in the comic and superhero world because of how her character influences real life people of all ages, sexes, ethnicities, and races. "Marston created the comic book character Wonder Woman to be both strong and sexy, as a means of encouraging woman to emulate her unapologetic assertiveness."^[208]

Continuing her legacy as an influential feminist icon, in 2015 Wonder Woman became the first superhero to officiate a same-sex wedding in a comic series.^{[209][210]}

On October 21, 2016, the <u>United Nations</u> controversially named Wonder Woman a UN Honorary Ambassador for the Empowerment of Women and Girls in a ceremony attended by <u>Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public</u> <u>Information Cristina Gallach</u> and by actors Lynda Carter and Gal Gadot.^{[211][212]} The character was dropped from the role two months later after a petition against the appointment stated Wonder Woman was "not culturally...sensitive" and it was "alarming that the United Nations would consider using a character with an overtly sexualized image".^[213]

Pacifist icon

<u>Gloria Steinem</u>, editor for <u>Ms. Magazine</u> and a big supporter of Wonder Woman, stated "... [Marston] had invented Wonder Woman as a heroine for little girls, and also as a conscious alternative to the violence of comic books for boys."^[214] Badower described a near-international incident (involving an unnamed Russian general rolling dozens of tanks and munitions through a shady mountain pass) as an outstanding example for standing up to bullies. "She ends up deflecting a bullet back and disarming the general," he says, adding that "she doesn't actually do anything violent in the story. I just think that Wonder Woman is smarter than that."^[215] Nick Pumphrey stated that Wonder Woman stands as a non-violent beacon of hope and inspiration for women and men. <u>Grant Morrison</u> stated "I sat down and I thought, 'I don't want to do this warrior woman thing.' I can understand why they're doing it, I get all that, but that's not what [Wonder Woman creator] William Marston wanted, that's not what he wanted at all! His original concept for Wonder Woman was an answer to comics that he thought were filled with images of blood-curdling masculinity, and you see the latest shots of Gal Gadot in the costume, and it's all sword and shield and her snarling at the camera. Marston's Diana was a doctor, a healer, a scientist."^{[216][217][218]}

LGBT icon

William Marston's earliest works were notorious for containing "sapphic-undertones" subtext. <u>Fredric Wertham</u>'s <u>Seduction of the Innocent</u> referred to her as the "lesbian counterpart to Batman" (whom he also identified as a homosexual). In the decades since, DC Comics attempted to downplay her sexuality, and comic book writers and artists didn't do much more than hint at Wonder Woman's erotic legacy.

<u>Grant Morrison's 2016 comic</u> <u>Wonder Woman: Earth One</u>, which exists parallel to the current DC comics <u>Rebirth</u> canon, Diana is depicted being kissed on her right cheek by a blonde woman who has put her left arm around Diana.^[219]

Wonder Woman feels she need not be "labelled sexually", that she "loves people for who they are" and is "just herself". Coming from a society that was only populated by women, "lesbian" in [the world's] eyes may have been "straight" for them. "Her culture is completely free from the shackles of <u>heteronormativity</u> in the first place so she wouldn't even have any 'concept' of <u>gender roles</u> in sex."^[220] Wonder Woman is suggested as being <u>queer</u>^[221] or <u>bisexual</u>, as she and another Amazon, Io, had reciprocal feelings for each other^[222]

In 2016, <u>Sensation Comics</u> featured Wonder Woman officiating a same-sex wedding (*Issue #48*) drawn by Australian illustrator Jason Badower. "My country is all women. To us, it's not 'gay' marriage. It's just marriage", she states to <u>Superman</u>. Inspired by the <u>June Supreme Court ruling</u> that established marriage equality in all 50 United States, Badower says DC Comics was "fantastic" about his idea for the issue. In an interview with <u>The Sydney Morning Herald</u>, he said his editor "Was like 'great, I love it! Let's do it.' It was almost anticlimactic."^[223] "Diana's mother, <u>the queen</u>, at the very least authorized or in some cases officiated these weddings," Badower says. "It just seems more like a royal duty Diana would take on, that she would do for people that would appreciate it."^[215]

Wonder Woman's advocacy for gay rights was taken a step further in September 2016, when comic book writer <u>Greg</u> <u>Rucka</u> announced that she is <u>canonically</u> bisexual, according to her <u>rebooted</u> <u>Rebirth</u> origin.^[224] Rucka stated that in his opinion, she "has to be" queer and has "obviously" had same-sex relationships on an island surrounded by beautiful women.^{[225][226]} This follows the way Wonder Woman was written in the alternate continuity or non-canon *Earth One* by <u>Grant Morrison</u>,^[227] and fellow Wonder Woman writer <u>Gail Simone</u> staunchly supported Rucka's statement.^[228] Surprised at the amount of backlash from her fanbase, Rucka responded to "haters" that consensual sex with women is just as important to Wonder Woman as the Truth is to Superman.^[229]

Wonder Woman actress <u>Gal Gadot</u> reacted positively to Diana's rebooted orientation, and agreed her sexuality was impacted by growing up in the women-only Themyscira.^{[230][231][232]}

In other media

Since her comic book debut in December 1941, Wonder Woman has appeared in a number of adaptations. These formats include television shows, video games, and films.

Television

Wonder Woman has made multiple appearances in television, most notably the <u>1970s</u> live-action show <u>Wonder Woman</u>.

Film

The character has been featured in direct-to-DVD animated films and <u>CGI</u> theatrical releases, such as <u>The Lego Movie</u> (2014). Within the live-action <u>DC Extended Universe</u> films, Wonder Woman debuted in <u>Batman v Superman: Dawn of</u> <u>Justice</u> (2016) and was featured as the main character in <u>Wonder Woman</u> (2017). In November 2017, she appeared in the DCEU release <u>Justice League</u>.

The 2017 film, *Professor Marston & the Wonder Women*, is about <u>William Moulton Marston</u>, his wife <u>Elizabeth Holloway</u> Marston, his mistress <u>Olive Byrne</u>, and the creation of Wonder Woman.^[233]

See also

- Alternative versions of Wonder Woman for *Elseworlds* and other characters to bear the title.
- Amazons (DC Comics)
- Counterstereotype
- Darna
- Diana Prince
- Bisexual women
- List of female action heroes

- List of feminist comic books
- List of Wonder Woman characters
- List of Wonder Woman enemies
- Orana (comics)
- Portrayal of women in American comics
- Woman warrior
- Wonder Woman in literature

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External links

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