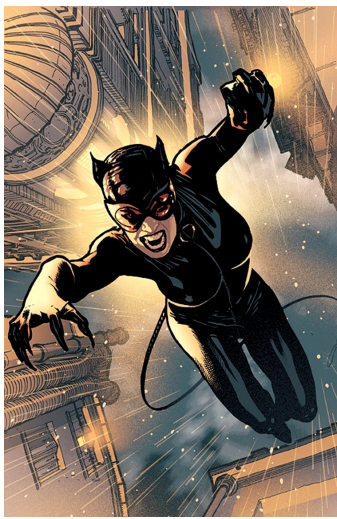


FRIDAY FOSTER: WOMEN & COMICS



What role do
women play in
comics?

New leaders
in comics and
society



CITATIONS:

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friday_Foster#/media/File:Friday_Foster_comics.jpg
2. <https://comicvine.gamespot.com/images/1300-693153>
3. <https://www.comicstripfan.com/newspaper/f/fridayfoster.htm>
4. http://lh6.googleusercontent.com/_wXnJe_ciW3g/TUboPQYuOMI/AAAAAAAAAWc/R3wtmdJt7EY/s0/Page003.jpg
5. <https://www.alleewillis.com/museumofkitsch/pages/soul/friday-foster-comic-book.html>
6. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/2017/06/06/exclusive-batman-catwoman-marriage-proposal/102539296/>
7. <https://www.looper.com/159531/the-untold-truth-of-mary-jane-watson/>
8. <https://insidepulse.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/A0C5A0EB-8692-4749-B061-B9242CF05F2C.jpeg>
9. <https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/ComicBook/Storm>
10. <http://marvelheroes.info/hero/storm/>
11. https://library.missouri.edu/exhibits/alleyoop/images/boots_dolls.jpg
12. <https://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/out-of-the-shadow-of-aunt-jemima-the-real-black-chefs-who-taught-americans-to-cook/>
13. <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/98023729369060498/>
14. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vixen_\(comics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vixen_(comics))
15. <http://aurn.com/the-shape-shifting-vixen-of-dc-comics-the-animals-she-becomes-and-the-actresses-who-look-nothing-like-her/>
16. <https://comicvine.gamespot.com/images/1300-4436431>
17. <https://resources.cawst.org/cc>
18. <https://www.writeups.org/catwoman-batman-dc-comics-selina-kyle/>
19. <https://www.themarysue.com/still-getting-storm-complexion-wrong/>

Women play different roles in comics that have changed over time.

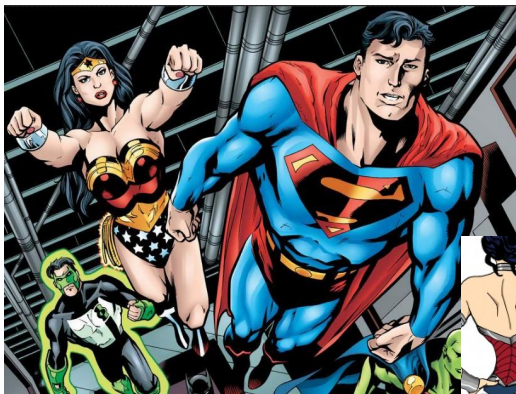


What does this mean?

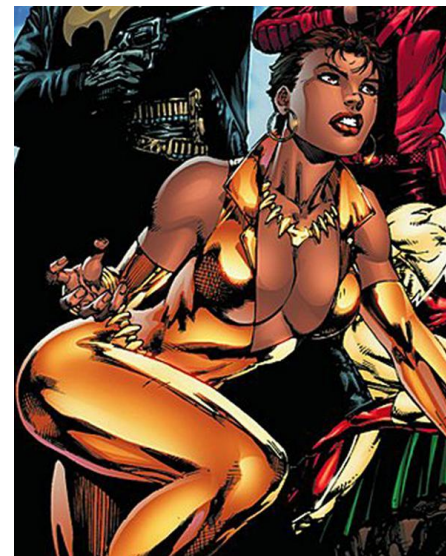
Read on!

WHAT DOES THIS ZINE TOUCH ON?

- Appearance of women
- The way women are drawn in comics
- Women are viewed as less than to males



The appearance of women and the role they play in comic books has changed over time. Many times, the **appearance of women** or **the way they are drawn** in comics, appeals to the male audience. Women characters are often viewed as **less than to male** characters, as well. Both of these topics will be highlighted and dug into deeper in this zine.



The Story of Friday Foster: How did she come to be? What is her impact as a comic character?

Friday Foster was created in January of 1970 and was first featured in the newspaper comic strips. She was also one of the first African American woman to be a title character in comic strips. Friday's role in these comics was a female news reporter of the 1970s that stood up for women and her beliefs. During this time in the US, women did not have as loud a voice as they now do. Having a female character be in the spotlight of comics was very different from the usual "Superman saves the girl in despair" type of comics.

Friday Foster is an excellent example of a female comic character. Although she doesn't have any real "superpower", she is a realistic example of what a woman is like. Friday is a news reporter and at times, struggles with her job and her identity, but she always ends up being alright. She is at times unsure of what she should do in difficult situations, but always ends up making the right decision. She is confident, classy, and very smart with what she does. Friday Foster is a great comic book character and a great example of what an everyday working woman looks like.

**FRIDAY
FOSTER**



Who created Friday Foster?

The creator of “Friday Foster” was Jim Lawrence, but Jorge Longaron later continued these comics. The motivation for this character was to put an African American women at the top of comics and to change the basis of what comics were all about. Normally, comics were thought of with white superheroes that save a girl or fight a bad guy, but in Friday Foster, that is not what appears.



Oddly enough, there are no photos of the authors that can be found on the internet.

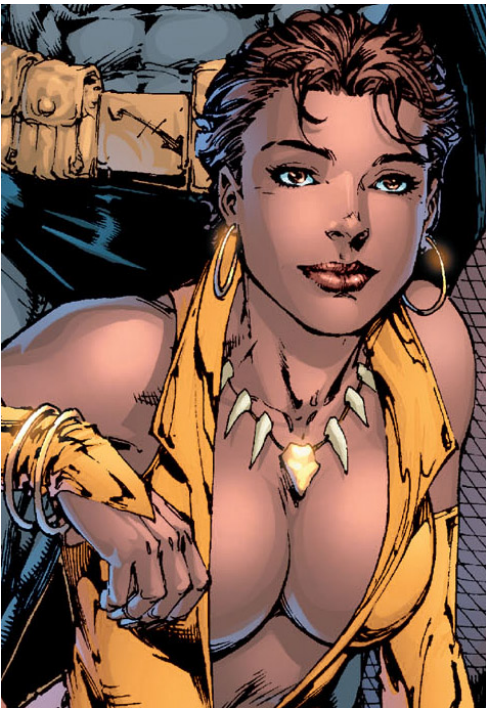
Friday Foster: "Beautiful People"

In "Beautiful People", Friday defends Jenny and does what she believes is the right thing to do, even though she does not fully agree with Jenny's style of life. Friday is put in charge of spending time with Jenny, but finds this difficult because they are very different people. In the story, Jenny's paparazzi stalker follows her around, and Friday helps to protect her. Although Jenny and Friday are very different people, Friday does not let that get in the way of what is right. She puts her views aside to do what is right and to help others.



Message To Readers

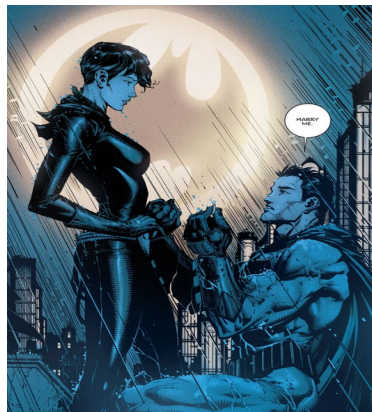
Although each character is unique, there is a specific pattern that is shown with each of these characters. All of the characters that are featured in this zine are women. Each of these women have a different narrative that is told in comics, but the way they are portrayed is similar. Women in comics are sexualized and drawn a certain way to meet the male audience. The women are shown in tight or little clothing and have exaggerated features. Some of the women characters have their own line of comics, but others are just a character in other comic books. Some of these women are shown to be weaker and in need of a man to save them. Others are the main characters in the comics, but once a male character appears, their spotlight is taken. Although this issue has improved with time, there are still many comics that this issue is prevalent in.





Women In Comics: Catwoman

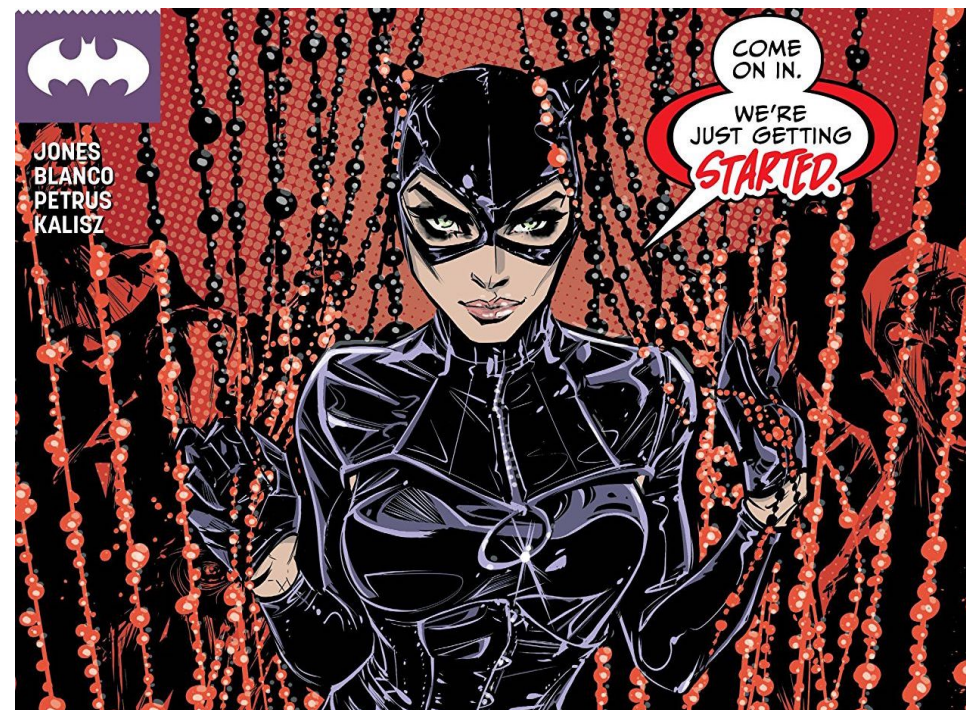
Catwoman is a character from the DC Comics of Batman. She is known both as a villain and an ally to Batman. Living on the streets of Gotham City, she learned how to survive with her criminal-like behavior and became an inconsistent criminal. Catwoman is normally dressed in all black, tight clothing, or is shown with lack of clothing. Her character is supposed to come off as “sexy” and be appealing to male audiences. She is often shown as being seductive and is a love interest to Batman.



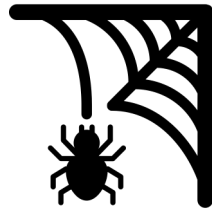
WOMEN IN COMICS: VIXEN

Vixen is a comic book character that has the ability to harness the powers of animals. She first appears in “Action Comics”, but later appears in other comic books as well. By focusing on a specific animal, Vixen can then have the same ability of that animal. Originally, Vixen was suppose to be the first African American female to have her own series. Unfortunately, the first issue of her series was cancelled by DC in 1978 and never released. Vixen eventually got a five issue limited series of her own comics.





Women In Comics: Mary Jane Watson



Mary Jane Watson is the character that is associated with the comic books and movies of “Spiderman”. She is an ordinary girl that lives a pretty basic life, with the exception that her boyfriend is a superhero. Mary Jane comes off as weak and in need of saving. Many times, she is shown trapped or close to death and depends on the work of a man to save her. In these comics, she is also drawn in a way that shows off her body. This is another example of how artists do this to appeal to males in comics. Mary Jane is also a character that is shielded behind the main character of a male. Although she is in the comic, she is never really seen in the spotlight, because of the other male characters that appeal in this comic.

Evolution of Women In Comics

Throughout the years, many of the ways that women are represented in comics (and other forms of print) have changed, but there are also many ways that women are represented in comics that have stayed the same. African American women were often drawn with big lips, big butts, and big breasts. Even before comics, these women were often drawn as bigger figures. African American women were shown serving others and attending to the needs of men. Although this was not the same for white women, they were often drawn serving their husbands, or drawn in a “sexy” way. Over time, all women began to be drawn in similar ways. They had “sexy” features and were drawn as skinny figures. Their bodies were what was being highlighted in the comics. Many comics also featured women being saved by male characters. Up until about ten years ago, this began to change. Although women were still being drawn to be “sexy” they started to have a different narrative being told. Female characters were now being featured in comics and had their own stories based around them, instead of being based around a male.

Evolution of Women In Comics

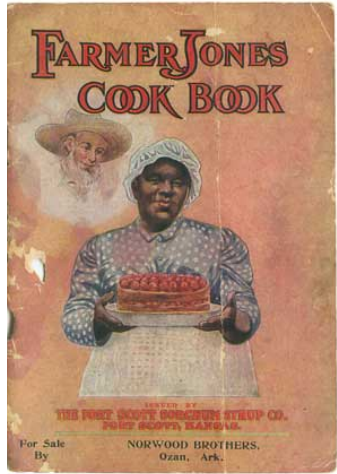


Image from a
1914 cookbook



Image from a
1943 magazine

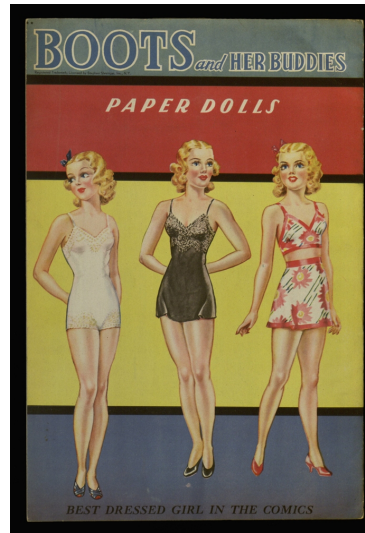


Image from a
2010 comic book



Women In Comics: Storm

Storm is a comic book character that appears in the Marvel Comics, but first appeared in “Giant Size X-Men”. Her power is that she is capable of controlling the weather and the atmosphere. Originally, Storm was suppose to be a male character, but was ultimately changed to being a black, female character. She was the first major African American character in comics. Storm’s story starts with being raised in Harlem, New York and becoming an orphan after her parents were killed. Storm joins the X-men team and at times, leads them. She is also a member of the Avengers and Fantastic Four teams at times. Storm is an example of a woman who is a main character in comics. She steps up and shows that she has the same skills of a man and can do anything that a male character could do.

