

BIBLIOGRAPHY

52 Week 1 2006

Gotham Girls Issues 1-5

Stumptown: The Case of the King of Clubs in Onipress 2016

Stumptown Issues 3-4

Batman: The Killing Joke

Oracle: The Cure

<https://www.cbr.com/the-continued-abuse-of-barbara-gordon-dcs-batgirl-and-a-publishers-spine/>

<https://www.comicsbookcase.com/updates/2018/11/14/gotham-central-how-characters-like-renee-montoya-make-a-story>

https://dc.fandom.com/wiki/Gotham_Central_Vol_1_6

<https://www.writeups.org/question-renee-montoya-dc-comics/>

<https://www.comicsbookcase.com/updates/2018/11/14/gotham-central-how-characters-like-renee-montoya-make-a-story>

<https://sliveroffice.com/comics/queer-comic-characters-maggie-sawyer-oct-22>

<https://sliveroffice.com/comics/queer-comic-book-characters-renee-montoya-oct-11th>

<https://womenwriteaboutcomics.com/2017/12/down-and-dirty-with-dex-stumptown-vol-1/>

<https://www.bleedingcool.com/2015/07/01/the-ballad-of-harvey-bullock-and-renee-montoya/>

https://mlpnk72yciw.c.i.optimole.com/w:600/h:404/q:auto/http://www.bleedingcool.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/IMG_0025.jpg

<https://www.oed-com.proxy1.cl.msu.edu/view/Entry/429843?redirectedFrom=intersec tionality#eid>

[https://www.google.com/search?q=maggie+sawyer+dc&sxsrf=ACYBG NR1Br5OgwkKQSGR9WaCUW8r-](https://www.google.com/search?q=maggie+sawyer+dc&sxsrf=ACYBG NR1Br5OgwkKQSGR9WaCUW8r-1y5AQ:1573623640548&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKE wjk5-)

[1y5AQ:1573623640548&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKE wjk5-](https://www.google.com/search?q=maggie+sawyer+dc&sxsrf=ACYBG NR1Br5OgwkKQSGR9WaCUW8r-1y5AQ:1573623640548&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKE wjk5-)

[rwvOblAhVSI6wKHVZZBzMQ_AUIFCgD&biw=1280&bih=578#imgrc=c BrBAIElouCT8M](https://www.google.com/search?q=maggie+sawyer+dc&sxsrf=ACYBG NR1Br5OgwkKQSGR9WaCUW8r-1y5AQ:1573623640548&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKE wjk5-)

https://www.google.com/search?q=harvey+bullock&tbn=isch&chips =q:harvey+bullock,g_1:comic:XVrt6paNpfU%3D&hl=en&ved=2ahUKE wi705SEzublAhXLYqwKHTGjC5EQ4IYoA3oECAEQGw&biw=1263&bih=529#imgrc=6NzuCCfHWMx43M

[529#imgrc=6NzuCCfHWMx43M](https://www.google.com/search?q=harvey+bullock&tbn=isch&chips =q:harvey+bullock,g_1:comic:XVrt6paNpfU%3D&hl=en&ved=2ahUKE wi705SEzublAhXLYqwKHTGjC5EQ4IYoA3oECAEQGw&biw=1263&bih=529#imgrc=6NzuCCfHWMx43M)



identity crisis

PICK A SIDE

ENG 342 | FALL 2019



Zine by
Christina
Bayrakdarian

The purpose of this zine is to explore the different ways that characters are discriminated against in comics based on various factors including race, gender, sexuality, and ability. The concept of intersectionality comes in to play while discussing the characters of Renee Montoya, Dex Parios, Maggie Sawyer, Barbara Gordon, and Harvey Bullock, all from DC Comics.

Intersectionality is a fairly new concept in our society, but an important one. The impact that it has on those who experience it can be crushing, as those individuals are often corned to pick a side of their identity or risk losing all parts. Through the characters of Renee Montoya, Dex Parios, Maggie Sawyer, Barbara Gordon, and Harvey Bullock, we see how different identities play a role in intersectionality, and the differing reactions that can arise from others based on those identities.

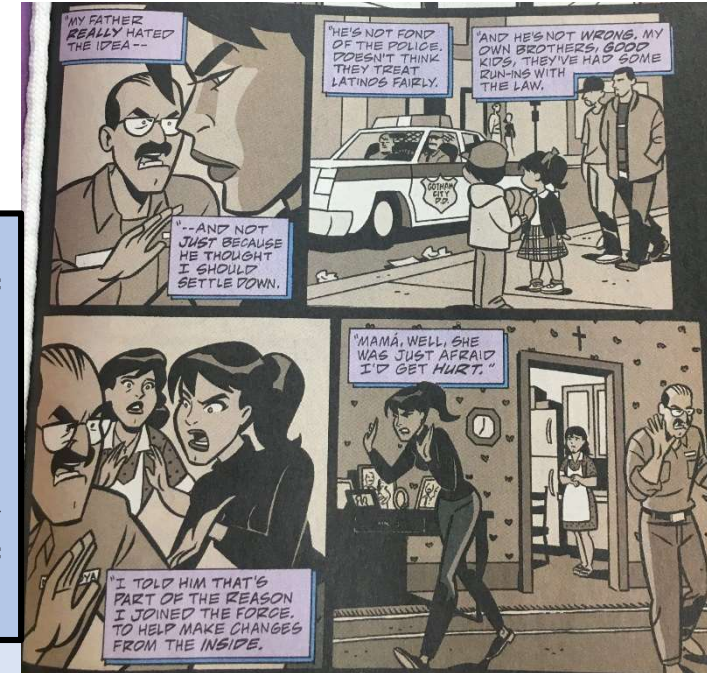
Intersectionality for Renee Montoya means that she faces discrimination because she is Latina, she is a woman, and she is a lesbian.

The biggest aspects of her identity cause her the most personal conflict. She has to fight to be who she is; to exist in a world that is dominated by people different than herself.



RENEE MONTOYA IS...

The daughter of Dominican immigrants who disapproved of her choice of profession.



Nevertheless, a dedicated and fierce detective in Gotham City.

Montoya faces many struggles in her professional and personal life, and it is through those struggles and how she handles them that she becomes a relatable character to readers.

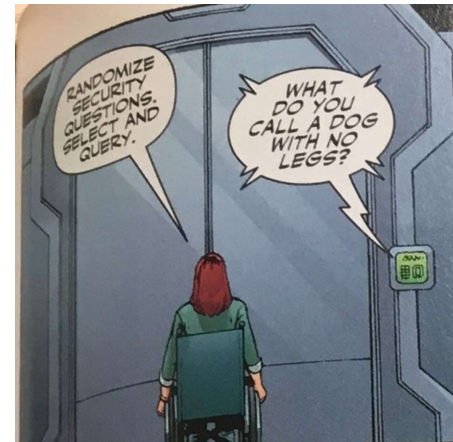


"Renee's story is told in a way that really makes readers empathize with her, really makes them feel her pain" (Sharpe).



INTERSECTIONALITY TO...

Dex Parios means that she faces discrimination because she is a woman and she is bisexual.



Barbara Gordon means that she faces discrimination because she is a woman and she is not able-bodied.

Maggie Sawyer means that she faces discrimination because she is a woman and she is a lesbian.



INTERSECTIONALITY IS...

"The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage; a theoretical approach based on such a premise." as defined by the Oxford English Dictionary.

It is the crossroad of different forms of discrimination. One experiences intersectionality when they have overlapping systematic disadvantages.



Her Dominican roots are not particularly highlighted throughout her comics, and her complexion does not effectively distinguish herself as a different race than her white counterparts.



She is a woman, she is a lesbian, and she is a lonely drunk during the time that her girlfriend, Daria, leaves her.

And as Renee continues to struggle through these different aspects of her identity, other characters are having their own personal challenges to their identities.



Dex Parios and Margaret Sawyer, PI and GCPD respectively, struggle with their own sexualities and roles as women.



As a white man, Harvey Bullock possesses a certain level of privilege that Renee Montoya, Dex Parios, Maggie Sawyer, and Barbara Gordon simply cannot reach because of the social groups that they belong to.



Being a man versus being a woman, being white versus being a person of color, being heterosexual versus being homosexual, being able-bodied versus being disabled, all play a role in where one stands in terms of privilege.

HARVEY BULLOCK IS...

A GCPD detective who works alongside Montoya at times. Not questioned of his intelligence or praised for having the knowledge he should for his role as Barbara is.



An ally to Montoya when she is outed as gay. He accepts her and lets her be who she is.



BARBARA GORDON IS...

Left to deal with the remains of her life after her spine is shattered by a bullet shot by the Joker, leaving her unable to use her legs.



MAGGIE SAWYER IS...



A police captain at the GCPD. She was once married and had a child, but later in life discovered that she is a lesbian, like Renee Montoya. She had difficulty accepting that she was gay because of her Catholic background, and her husband divorced her and took full custody of their daughter when he found out.

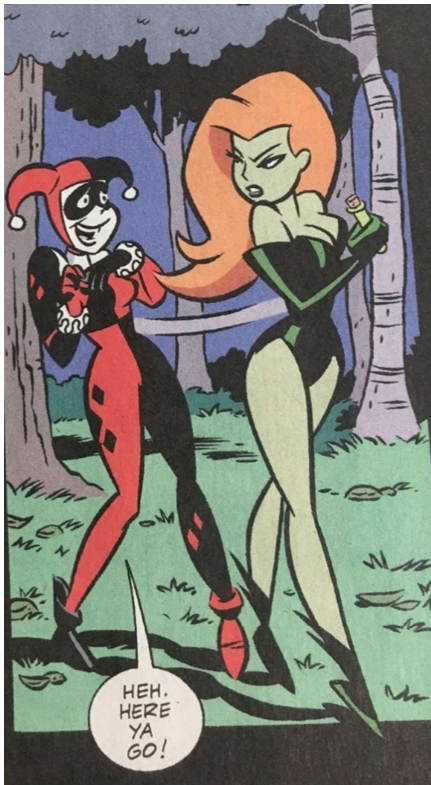


Besides the unrealistic objectification of Barbara's body, her intelligence is highlighted in her comics, and specifically when she is The Oracle in *Oracle: The Cure*. Since she is no longer able to fight crime as Batgirl, she uses her brain to solve cases.



And while having a smart female character is appreciated, it should be more normalized rather than applauded as it is in Barbara's case.

This exaggerated hourglass figure is not only given to Barbara as Batgirl in the *Gotham Girls* comics, but it is depicted for all the women in the comic, including Renee Montoya.



Barbara Gordon as Batgirl, Renee Montoya, Catwoman, and best-friend supervillains Harley Quinn and Poison Ivy are all shown to have nearly identical bodies in *Gotham Girls*.



After her divorce, she moves to Metropolis and begins a new life in the force there. She begins dating Toby Raines, a reporter for the *Metropolis Star*.

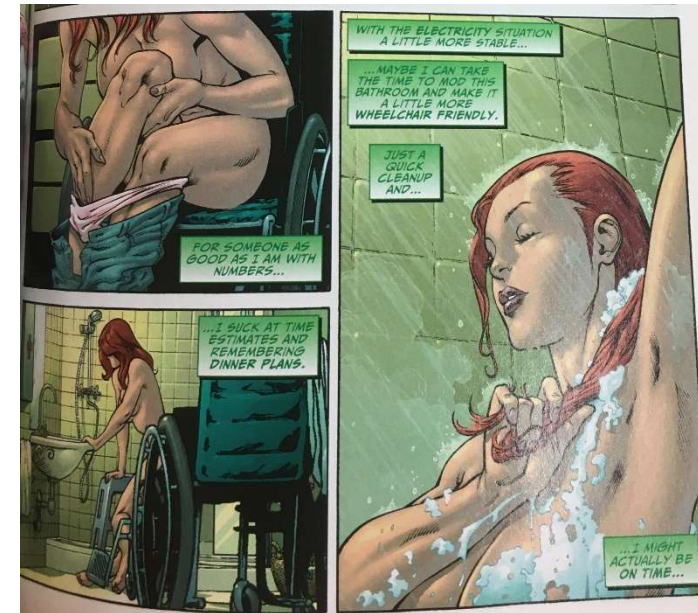
Within the force, she is not particularly discriminated against when she comes out. When she speaks to her boss about it he does not mind. She continues to move up within her job.

When Sawyer finds out that Montoya is also a lesbian, after Montoya is publically outed, she reaches out to her. Sawyer attempts to open a conversation about the situation with her, but Montoya does not share the same views and clearly expresses that their experiences are different.



BARBARA GORDON IS...

Otherwise known as Batgirl, and later The Oracle, has her body objectified throughout her comics. Even when she is disabled and showering, revealing images of her are shown to readers.



In her earlier Batgirl comics, her body is depicted in a way that is unrealistic to the true shape of a woman's body. Her tiny waist paired with curvy hips and large breasts are clear indicators of this unrealistic image.



The focus placed on the female body, applied both to Parios and the other female characters in the comic, is unsurprisingly common among comics.



As it is seen for Parios in *Stumptown*, it is also displayed in comics surrounding Barbara Gordon.



While Maggie Sawyer was accepted for being gay for the most part, other than her husband, Montoya is disowned by her family when they find out. It is also important to note that even as Sawyer and her husband divorce, they are later on better terms and Sawyer is let back in to her daughter's life. Sliver of ice

DEX PARIOS IS...

A woman who identifies as bisexual, though her sexuality is not as large of a focal point in her story as it is for Sawyer and Montoya.



Stumptown attempts to highlight some key issues women face as they simply exist through society, but manages to objectify women at the same time