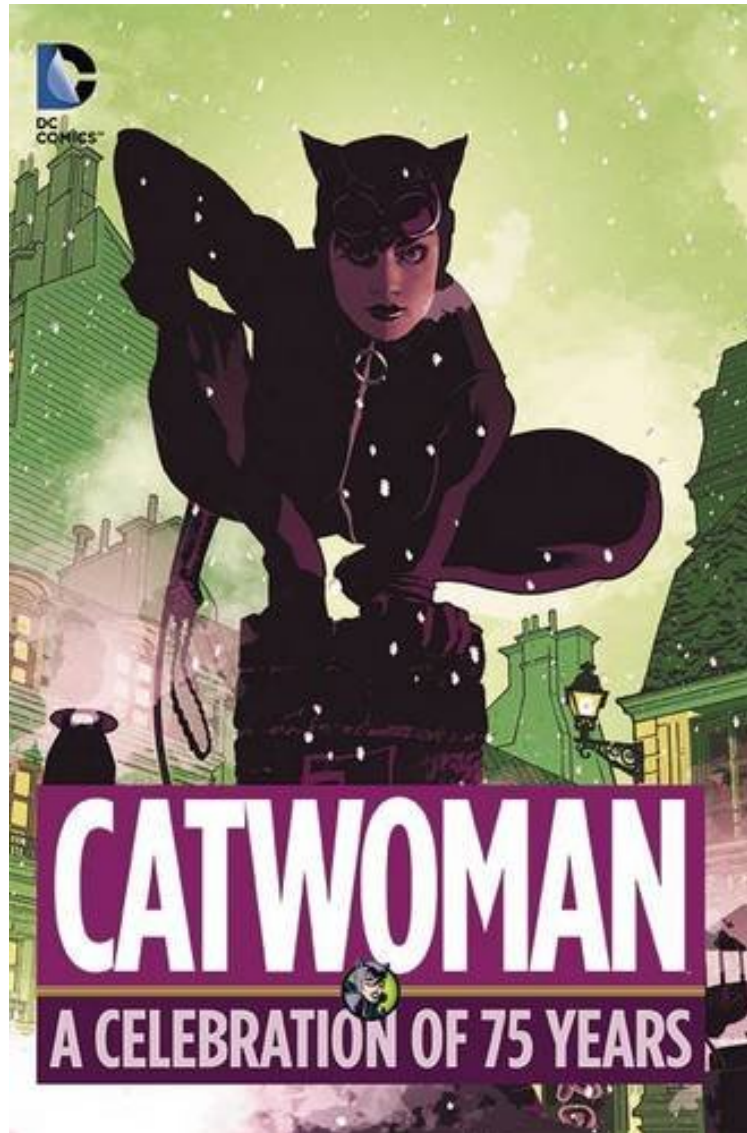


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## Catwoman: A Celebration of 75 Years

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**Various : Catwoman: A Celebration of 75 Years** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Catwoman: A Celebration of 75 Years:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. The chronicles of Catwoman!By L. W. SwintSelina Kyle alias the Catwoman, is one of the most famous of comics' complex characters called femme fatales. Created by the fathers of the Batman, Bob Kane and Bill Finger, she first appeared in the premiere issue of the Batman comic in 1940, which was just months after the Dark Knight made his 1939 debut in Detective Comics #27. The seductive Ms. Kyle began

her criminal career known simply as "The Cat," a cunning thief with a preference for fine jewels. Through the decades, the Catwoman evolved to become one of the Caped Crimefighter's greatest villains and also a recurring love interest. Their many encounters have been touched by a mutual attraction and respect, tempered by their different moral codes. Of all his infamous foes, the mysterious Catwoman has always proved a soft spot in the grim personae of the Gotham Guardian. But despite the many years the character has been both an antagonist and even occasional ally to the Caped Crusader, Catwoman has rarely been showcased in a retrospective of her exploits. "Catwoman: A Celebration of 75 Years," is a thick 408 paged volume which serves as a long overdue appreciation of one of comics' premiere leading ladies. This collection is divided into four parts which feature brief introductory essays: "Part I: The Cat-Burglar:" The first criminal capers of the woman first called "The Cat," and her early encounters with the Batman and his young sidekick, Robin the Boy Wonder, open the book. This section includes her debut as a beautiful lady criminal from "Batman" #1, written by Bill Finger and drawn by Bob Kane. "The Batman vs. the Cat-woman," from "Batman" #3 (1940), showcases Selina Kyle's first appearance in a cat-inspired costume, a tale also created by Mr. Finger and Mr. Kane, with inking done by Jerry Robinson and George Roussos. 1951's "Batman" #65 included "The Empress of the Underworld," a case of Gotham City and the Dynamic Duo again confronting Catwoman after Ms. Kyle had given up her past life of crime. This bat adventure was scripted by Mr. Finger, pencilled by Mr. Kane, and inked by the duo of Robinson and Roussos. "King of the Cats, from "Batman" #69 (1952), features Batman and Robin facing the threat of Catwoman and an evil male counterpart of their old enemy, the Cat-Man. It was written by Mr. Finger, while Bob Kane co-pencilled the tale with Lew Schwartz, and Charles Paris providing the inking embellishment. "Part II: The Cat Came Back." For over a decade (1954-1966), the Catwoman disappeared from the cases of the Caped Crimefighter, due to the editorial forces of the "Comics Code Authority," a self-regulating editorial entity created by various comic publishers of the 1950s in response to possible government intervention into the comic industry of that era. DC Comics, concerned about the sex appeal of the feline-like character, chose to not feature the lady of larceny in Batman's comic adventures until midway into the 1960s. This section showcases Catwoman expanding into more of the DC Comics universe. For example, a certain lady reporter working for a certain "great metropolitan newspaper," along with the fabled Man of Steel encounter Catwoman in the 2 part story, "The Catwoman's Black Magic!" and "Bad Luck for a Black Super Cat!" written by Leo Dorfman and illustrated by Kurt Schaffenberger, reprinted from "Superman's Girlfriend Lois Lane" issues #70 71, published in 1966. The Princess, Wonder Woman, is "locked in a death-duel" with Catwoman in "The Fist of Flame," and "Fangs of Fire," a 2 issue adventure from 1972's "Wonder Woman" #201 202, story by Denny O'Neil and art by Dick Giordano. These particular comic stories are notable partly because they take place during the time DC Comics was featuring "The New" Wonder Woman, when the heroine had renounced her Greek God given powers and lived as Diana Prince. These comics also featured the first comic book appearance of the fantasy characters, Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser, sword and sorcery heroes created by science fiction, fantasy and horror author Fritz Leiber in 1939. Lastly, this 2 part tale was produced by two thirds of one of the all-time great creative teams on the Batman character: writer Denny O'Neil and inker Dick Giordano. Along with the renowned penciller Neal Adams, these three gentlemen produced some of the best stories in the Batman mythos ever published. Regretfully this talented trio never created a Catwoman adventure of their own. "From Each Ending...A Beginning," relates the life and times of a different Selina Kyle, the Catwoman of an alternate world, Earth 2, in a tale of triumph and tragedy; featuring the origin of the crime-fighter heroine The Huntress, written by Paul Levitz, pencilled by Joe Staton, and inked by Bob Layton. This story was first published in "DC Super-Stars #17 from 1977." "Shadow of the Cat!" and "The Cat Who Would Be King!" taken from "Batman" issues #323 324 (from 1980), chronicle the Caped Crusader and Catwoman in another adventure involving the threat of the evil Cat-Man, by writer Len Wein, veteran Batman artist Irv Novick, and inker Bob Smith. Concluding this section, the Batman and Catwoman of Earth 2, are featured in a well-regarded tale first published in 1983's "The Brave and Bold" #197, "The Autobiography of Bruce Wayne." In this bittersweet romantic story, writer Alan Brennert, and artists Joe Staton and George Freeman reveal the bond of love and adventure that brought Selina Kyle and Bruce Wayne together. This tale is a companion-piece to the story, "From Each Ending...A Beginning," also in this collection. "Part III: Nine Lives." This section showcases Catwoman in a time when the character was truly prospering. These stories feature the seductive Seline Kyle interpreted by comic creators at their most artistically diverse, in mini-series and her own regular on-going comics. "Metamorphosis," written by Mindy Newell and illustrated by J.J. Birch, was the first part of Catwoman's premiere 4 issue solo mini-series from 1989. A sequel of sorts to the famous "Batman: Year One" story arc written by Frank Miller and drawn by David Mazzuchelli, originally released in "Batman" #404-407 (1987), this grim rewriting of the story of Selina Kyle takes the character into a darker version of Gotham City and its criminal underworld. In the story, "Larceny Loves Company," from Catwoman's first on-going comic (issue #28 from 1996), Selina Kyle gets involved in a caper drama written by Chuck Dixon, embellished by Bob Smith, and pencilled by a comic creator who must be considered THE Catwoman artist of the 1990s, Jim Balent. In a prolific run of comic illustration which consisted of: issues #0-77 of the character's monthly comic series, "Catwoman Annual" #2 (1995), the special 1997 crossover comic, "Catwoman/Vampirella: Furies," the "Catwoman One Million" one shot comic from 1998, and the "Catwoman: Guardian of Gotham" 1999, 2 issue mini-series, Mr. Balent has produced the largest body

of comic work on the adventures of the Feline Fatale by any single artist. "Date Knight," a short story scripted by Darwyn Cooke, drawn by Tim Sale, and taken from the artist anthology comic "Solo" #1 (2004), offers the reader the chance to see Catwoman and the Dark Knight on one of their unique romantic rooftop romps. "Other Cats (Part 1)," from Catwoman's second monthly comic series (issue #20, 2003), written by Ed Brubaker and drawn by Cameron Stewart, shines the spotlight on two supporting characters that enriched the Catwoman comics of this period: Holly Robinson, a young woman with a troubled past who becomes Selina Kyle's friend and protegee; and Ted Grant, a character from the "Golden Age" of comics, better known as the costumed crimefighter, Wildcat. In Catwoman continuity, Ted Grant served as a mentor to the strong-willed Ms. Kyle. "Backward Masking (Conclusion)," written by Will Pfeifer and illustrated by Pete Woods, climaxes a dramatic story arc that sees Catwoman's world under attack from members of Batman's infamous rogues gallery of villains. It's reprinted from 2006's "Catwoman" #52. "Union," by writer Paul Dini and artist Guillem March, is from the first issue of the "Gotham City Sirens" monthly comic series, published from 2009-2011, and features Catwoman reluctantly teaming up with Poison Ivy and Harley Quinn. What more need be said? "Family Business (Part 1)" is the start of a new dramatic story direction for the character of Selina Kyle, featured in the fourth on-going Catwoman comic issue #35 (2014). In this continuity, the woman known as Catwoman also becomes the crime boss of Gotham City! This story is told by Genevieve Valentine and Garry Brown. "Part IV: Small-Screen Selina." A pleasant surprise for this reviewer, the concluding adventures in this cat collection take inspiration from the television incarnations of the Catwoman in the Batman mythos. Specifically the 1960's "Batman" TV show and the classic "Batman: The Animated Series" cartoon from the 1990's. In "Tail of the Tiger Topaz," from the "Batman '66" #5 comic series (2014), writer Jeff Parker and artist Colleen Coover tell how Batgirl prevents Catwoman from stealing the crimson "Tiger Topaz" jewel. The final story in this retrospective, "Claws," brings this special book to a bittersweet conclusion as Catwoman defends a collection of cats from being the victims of illegal corporate testing experiments. It became "the night her heart broke...twice." This well-told tale was written by Ty Templeton, pencilled by Rick Burchett, and inked by Terry Beatty, taken from 1998's "Batman: Gotham Adventures" comic series, issue #4. The above Catwoman adventure also provides an example of the rewards and slight disappointments in this overall impressive look at the multiple-decade comic career of this classic character. The majority of the cat tales recounted in this collection are single-story adventures but as the book reprints more contemporary comic issues, like "Metamorphosis," "Backward Masking," and "Family Business," their stories are found to be part of a larger, longer narrative and the full impact of their dramatic power is lost. Also, the revisions to the life story of Selina Kyle in recent years, which place the character in a darker, grimmer crime noir world, have made Catwoman a more realistic figure in the modern mythos of the Batman, but at a cost. Some of the pure comic book fun of the character has been sacrificed, though sometimes recalled in stories like "Date Knight" and "Claws." In addition, as welcome a publishing event as this book is, this Batman and Catwoman fan regrets the exclusion of some stories from this collected history of the character. For example, "The Secret Life of Catwoman," by Bob Kane, Bill Finger, Lew Schwartz, and Charles Paris, published in "Batman" #63 (1951), was the first bat-tale to delve into the character's background and first revealed her civilian name to be Selina Kyle. While the story was later negated in DC Comics' ever-evolving continuity it was still significant in the early legend of Catwoman. 1981's "Cat's Paw," an 8-page short story from "Batman" #332, was Catwoman's first solo adventure, written by Marv Wolfman, and drawn by Don Newton with inks by Steve Mitchell. It would have been great to see Mr. Newton's rendition of the character included in this collection as he was a favorite of this reviewer. Another personal favorite, Darwyn Cooke, was responsible for designing Selina Kyle's ebony cat suit and goggles look (aided by a suggestion from his wife), which debuted in the premiere issue of the character's third on-going comic series in 2002. While Mr. Cooke's scripting contribution to the Feline Fatale is represented in this volume by the inclusion of the above-mentioned story, "Date Knight," it would have been even more rewarding to see his distinctive artistic impressions of the beautiful Ms. Kyle in this tribute book. In conclusion, "Catwoman: A Celebration of 75 Years" is a comic collection that admirers of the alluring Selina Kyle will thoroughly enjoy and cherish in years to come. It is a fascinating overview of one of the most revered characters in all of comics. It comes highly recommended. 27 of 27 people found the following review helpful.

Catwoman Time Machine  
By mk  
This is a pretty decent, hard cover, collection, with short commentaries, about one of Batman's (or The Bat-Man's) longest running villains, Catwoman (or The Cat). Actually, she's more complex, not always a villain, as you know, a sort of love-hate relationship that started way back in 1940 in Batman #1. Batman started in Detective Comics May 1939, #27, and Robin showed up just before Catwoman in Detective Comics #38. Here, we have various Catwoman tales (no pun) that range from 1940-2014. I grew up in the 60's and loved collecting comics, mostly DC, especially Batman and Superman. I loved the 25-cent Giant Issues that offered stories from the 1950's - simple, fanciful mysteries with great visuals for one's imagination, super heroes solid and dependable with a touch of humor. These are my favorites. So you know where I'm coming from. I could never get into the more modern, graphic, angst-loaded style; although, I can appreciate the artwork to some degree. My elementary-aged daughters like the old stuff, too. There are parts of this book that I would not recommend for that young age group, e.g., Catwoman Part 1 - Metamorphosis (1989) - too rough; same with Catwoman #52; especially not Gotham City Sirens #1 (2009, too voluptuous, geared, I believe, for young males). They do finish, however, with "Claws" Batman:

Gotham Adventures #4, 1998. Which follows the image of the super, animated series- that my children and I both enjoy. The book starts with Batman #1, #3, both from 1940's then jumps to 1951 #65 "Catwoman of the Underworld", 1952's #69 "The King of Cats" then 1966 Lois Lane #70- "The Catwoman's Black Magic"- strange, emotional and Penguin makes a cameo. I have a few Lois Lanes, and I always find them that way, interesting but bizarre. Then, it's 1972 Wonder Woman "The Fist of Flame" and "Fangs of Fire". I never knew Catwoman got around so much. It's very 70's in style and culture. 1980 Batman #323-4 "The Shadow of the Cat" with Catman, too! 1983 The Brave and the Bold #197 "The Autobiography of Bruce Wayne"- a love story with the Bat and the Cat- different. Other comics include; 1996 Catwoman #28 "Larceny Loves Company", 2003 Catwoman #20 "Other Cats", 2004 Solo #1 "Date Knight", 2014 Catwoman #35 "Comfort to the Hurt of the King", and 2014 Batman '66 #5 "Tail of the Tiger Topaz". Overall, this is a colorful, 408 page collection with quite a variance for different times and different tastes. Again, I favor the oldies, but it's fascinating to see what's transpiring in each story, and comparing it with the time period that it's written. For the kids, Catwoman will always be mysterious; is she good; is she bad? No matter, she loves cats and she's definitely, uniquely, herself. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By michaellove it

First appearing on newsstands in 1940s BATMAN #1, only a few months after the Bat-Man himself debuted, Catwoman has been essential to the Dark Knights world from almost the very beginning. Menacing (and sometimes romancing) the Caped Crusader for more than seven decades, Catwoman has become one of Batmans greatest villains, but also one of his greatest allies. Friend or foe, Gothams feline femme fatale continually skirts the line between right and wrong. Shes a dangerous criminal whose claws arent to be crossed, but shes also the citys Robin Hood, using her unlawful talents to help those in need. This rich contradiction has made her one of the most complex and compelling characters in all of comics. CATWOMAN: A CELEBRATION OF 75 YEARS is a stunning retrospective of Catwomans history, featuring stories from comic book legends Bob Kane, Bill Finger, Dennis O'Neil, Dick Giordano, Len Wein, Kurt Schaffenberger, Chuck Dixon, Ed Brubaker, Cameron Stewart, Darwyn Cooke, Tim Sale, Paul Dini, Guillem March and more.