

## CATWOMAN

## PRINCESS OF PLUNDER

FIRST APPEARANCE **BATMAN: #1** (Spring 1940)

STATUS **Unresolved** REAL NAME **Selina Kyle**

OCCUPATION **Cat burglar/vigilante** BASE **Gotham City's East End**

HEIGHT **5ft 7in** WEIGHT **133 lbs** EYES **Blue-green** HAIR **Black**

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES **A formidable fighter with expertise in boxing and various martial arts disciplines; skintight cat costume features retractable razor-sharp claws in gloves and spring-action steel climbing pitons in boots; wields a variety of bullwhips and cat-o'-nine tails as offensive weapons and gymnastic accoutrements.**

## KEY STORYLINES

• **CATWOMAN (1ST SERIES) #1-4** (FEBRUARY–MAY 1989) Selina Kyle's life on the mean streets of Gotham City is recounted.

• **DETECTIVE COMICS #759-762** (AUGUST–NOVEMBER 2001) P.I. Slam Bradley is hired to find the missing and presumed-dead Selina.

• **CATWOMAN (3RD SERIES) #1-4** (JANUARY–APRIL 2002) Catwoman stalks and defeats a shape-changing serial killer who is hunting Gotham's ladies of the evening.

**SELINA KYLE'S CHILDHOOD** was defined by tragedy. When Selina was just a girl, her brutalized mother committed suicide and her violent father drank himself to death not long after. Separated from her younger sister Magdalena and remanded to the Sprang Hall Juvenile Detention Center—an abusive state home for orphaned or delinquent girls—Selina opted instead to take her chances on the mean streets of Gotham City. Amid the crime and corruption of the poverty-stricken East End district, she survived through petty theft.

Sharp wits and an amazing natural skill as a gymnast led to her becoming the slickest and slipperiest cat burglar the Gotham City Police Department had ever had to deal with.

## THE FELINE FATALE

To protect herself from predators, Selina studied martial arts in a backstreet dojo where a Sensei taught her how best to use her claws. Later, ex-heavyweight champ Ted Grant (see **WILDCAT I**) taught Selina the “sweet science” of boxing. For a time, Selina was the most accomplished thief nobody knew. She was also one of the most generous, spreading her ill-gotten gains around the downtrodden and destitute of the East End,

including the young prostitute Holly “Gonightly” Robinson, whom Selina befriended and watched over like the little sister she believed she no longer had.

Selina would have continued to rob with impunity if not for the **BATMAN**. Spying the Caped Crusader from her window on one of his first outings, Selina watched him in action and was suitably inspired to take up her own costume when prowling the Gotham night. In a tight leather catsuit, Catwoman marked the city as her territory. However, she never killed, and she only stole from the wealthiest or the well-insured. For these reasons, Batman

pursued other costumed criminals more relentlessly and gave Catwoman the chance to change her spots. Sometimes he even asked the Princess of Plunder to use her skills for the betterment of Gotham. Perhaps his altruism attracted her, because Selina ultimately did decide to make Catwoman more than just a thief in the night.

After faking her own demise, Selina left Gotham for a time, but eventually returned to the city's East End, where Catwoman now defends the defenseless.

Catwoman learned Batman's best-kept secret when the Dark Knight took her to his Batcave and revealed his identity to her. They finally admitted their feelings for each other but then parted because Catwoman did not believe that Batman trusted her. Selina began seeing private detective Slam Bradley (see **BRADLEY, SLAM**), but Slam realized that Selina's heart would always belong to Batman.

Catwoman continues to enjoy adventures on the “other” side of the fence now, stealing only when necessary and usually if the loot will ultimately do someone other than herself a bit of good. **SB**

**WHIP SMART** Her evil ways (mostly) behind her, Catwoman now fights for the downtrodden of Gotham.



**PURPLE PRINCESS** Catwoman has worn a number of different costumes over the years, often preferring purple catsuits.



**ALLEY CAT** Often, the alley cats of Gotham were Selina's only friends, especially after she was once beaten and left for dead.



**TOP THIEF** Few cat burglars can rival Selina Kyle's nimble-fingered thieving skills.

