

# ORACLE

FIRST APPEARANCE DETECTIVE COMICS #359 (January 1967)

STATUS HERO REAL NAME Barbara Gordon

OCCUPATION Information broker BASE Gotham City

HEIGHT 5ft 11in WEIGHT 148 lbs EYES Blue HAIR Red

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Superior computer hacker and information retrieval specialist; possesses a photographic memory and is a capable hand-to-hand combatant.

## BEHIND THE SCREEN

*Few heroes know Oracle's true identity. Often she appears only as a stylized, holographic head.*

## BARBARA GORDON

Barbara ("Babs" to her friends) became the adoptive daughter of her uncle James Gordon of the G.C.P.D. (see GORDON, JAMES W.) following the deaths of her parents. A brilliant student, she graduated from Gotham University at a very young age and took a job with the Gotham Public Library. Barbara admired the city's resident vigilante, Batman, and donned a homemade Batgirl costume to surprise her father at the Policeman's

Masquerade. In this low-tech getup she foiled the despicable Killer Moth's attack (see CHARAXES) on Bruce Wayne, and started a new life as a compatriot to the Dynamic Duo of Batman and ROBIN.

*WayneCorp has helped Oracle obtain the latest technology.*

**THE JOKER'S BULLET** brought Barbara Gordon's high-flying career as BATGIRL crashing to earth. However, despite being paralyzed and wheelchair-bound, she has accomplished far more as a crime fighter than she ever could have if she'd remained BATMAN's enthusiastic assistant in the realm of acrobatics and Batarangs.



**KILLING JOKE** *In an act that changed Gotham forever, the Joker shot and crippled Barbara Gordon.*

**BIRDS OF PREY** *Seen here flanked by the Huntress and Black Canary, Oracle is the director of Gotham's all-female crimebusting team.*



During her time as BATGIRL, Barbara served a term in the U.S. Congress. After a near-fatal run-in with the assassin Cormorant, Barbara retired from active crime fighting. Shortly after, as part of a revenge plot against Commissioner Gordon, the Joker burst in on her and shot her in the spine. During rehabilitation she learned she would never walk again.

Barbara trained her upper body to physical perfection with the help of Richard Dragon (see DRAGON, RICHARD) and then packaged her skills as an information retrieval expert under the name Oracle. She worked with Amanda Waller (see WALLER, AMANDA) of the U.S. government's SUICIDE SQUAD, becoming second-in-command under the alias Amy Beddoes.

Oracle began to operate out of Gotham City's imposing clocktower, behind banks of supercomputers running state-of-the-art hacking software. Soon, the "all-seeing, all-knowing" Oracle became a legend in the super-hero community. She recruited heroes into an informal "Birds of Prey" team (members have included BLACK CANARY, POWER GIRL, and HUNTRESS), to act on her data.

Batman recommended Oracle for JLA membership, and she survived an assault on her clocktower by the villain PROMETHEUS. Recently, Barbara left Gotham City when BLACK MASK's goons put her in danger. She has since relocated to Metropolis. DW



## KEY STORYLINES

- **BATGIRL: YEAR ONE #1-9** (FEBRUARY-OCTOBER 2003): Batgirl battles Killer Moth in this retelling of her heroic debut.
- **BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE** (TPB, 1988): A bullet from the Joker's gun paralyzes Barbara in a moment that shocked readers.
- **BIRDS OF PREY #1** (JANUARY 1999): Working from Gotham's clocktower, Oracle begins a new career as a super-heroic string-puller.