

Throughout her publication history, Power Girl has been the subject of many different misconceptions and urban legends. These range from claims that her origin story is confusing, exaggerating the number of retcons made to her backstory, or the idea that artist Wally Wood drew her breasts larger between issues.

Several of these rumors and misconceptions were recently (as of writing this paragraph) [debunked by DC themselves](#). While I originally planned on doing this myself (hence some of the sections below), I'll instead be using this to expand on some of the article's explanations, as well as address some of the lesser known misconceptions regarding Power Girl.

Wally Wood and Power Girl's Chest

One of the most popular beliefs about Power Girl is that her first artist, Wally Wood, [subtly increased the size of her chest with each issue until he was told to stop](#). This is something even Gerry Conway, one of her creators, [has claimed](#). However, if you actually look at Power Girl's appearances in the issues Wally drew, you'd find that couldn't be further from the truth. If anything, [she was depicted rather consistently](#), and her bust size wasn't even that special. Even after he left, Power Girl's size wasn't treated as anything unique. She was actually [drawn at a similar cup size to Huntress](#). The first time they actually became prominent was during Bart Sears' work on Justice League Europe. It starts as early as [issue 2](#), then becomes [more noticeable](#) in #7. Issue 15 [gives Power Girl a new gold costume](#), and [the art from that point on puts more emphasis](#) on her tits whenever she wears it.

Power Girl's Origin and Retcons

Despite what many people (including [other characters](#), [her own writers](#), and [even DC themselves](#)) claim, Power Girl's origin is not confusing. Her backstory boils down to "She's an older, more mature version of Supergirl from a universe where superheroes first appeared [25 years earlier](#)." This origin has been explained numerous times in [Showcase #97](#) and [#98](#), [Infinity Inc #2](#), [Secret Origins #11](#), [JSA: Classified #1](#) and [#4](#), [52 #36](#), [Justice Society of America \(2007\) #9](#), [Power Girl \(2009\) #1](#) and [#13](#), and [Convergence: Action Comics #1](#).

If you've been paying attention, you'd notice that all of these recaps take place in the span of 1 to 5 pages. So why is it that, even as recently as 2023, [there are still people who perpetuate that her origin is confusing?](#)

Part of this could be attributed to casual readers finding the concept of a multiverse confusing, and that would be fair. But then you get people who claim that her backstory has been retconned dozens of times, or those who believe she's a clone of Supergirl. Having looked into her comics myself, I believe that first idea might be the result of two misconceptions:

1. People misconstrue **generic** retcons with retcons to her **backstory**.
2. They're referring to [these pages from JSA: Classified](#) and are unaware of the context behind them.

When I say "generic retcons," I'm referring to how some writers would try and explain her being written out of character, give ANOTHER reason for why her boob window exists, or blatantly contradict previous stories. This is not to be confused with continuity errors, which are accidental or unintentional changes. though Power Girl does have [a few of those](#). But when it comes to normal retcons, we have these:

Retcon #1 (Justice League Europe #37): Power Girl's boob window, which she originally included [to set her apart from Superman](#), now exists as [a sign of female empowerment](#).

Retcon #2 (Justice League Europe #40): The reason Power Girl acted like a raging bitch in this run was because of [an allergic reaction to diet soda](#).

Weirdly enough, this isn't a one-off explanation, and it's not treated as a joke. It's taken completely seriously. After 2 issues of going cold turkey, she briefly goes back to drinking the stuff, and Dr. Light treats her [like a recovering alcoholic that just relapsed](#).

Retcon #3 (Justice League America #111): While mourning her recently deceased son, Power Girl [speculates that the real cause of her temper](#) was her unknowingly carrying the genes of Scarabus (a bloodlusted demon and her baby daddy). However, this is never confirmed or brought up again.

Retcon #4 (Supergirl Vol 5 #1): Stargirl claims that ever since Supergirl showed up on Earth, Power Girl's powers have [been fluctuating](#). The way her dialogue's written implies that Power Girl's been struggling with this for some time, but this fluctuation only appeared once prior to this issue. *JSA #74* had Power Girl [regain her heat vision](#), but she was briefly unable to [turn it off](#). Aside from that, *Supergirl #1* was the first time this was followed up on.

Retcon #5 (JSA: Classified #1): Power Girl states that she [never believed Arion's claim that she was from Atlantis](#), saying that even before Arion told her it was a lie, she already knew and it never felt right. That second half is *technically* true since when they first meet in *Secret Origins #11*, Power Girl is [suspicious](#) and [doesn't believe him](#) until he (supposedly) shows her a vision of the past. However, the claim that she *never* believed him is a retcon. [Her recaps of the Atlantean origin](#) all had her acknowledge Arion as her grandpa, and she [referred to him as such multiple times](#).

Retcon #6 (JSA: Classified #1): Power Girl implies the reason her boob window exists is to [distract other people from her face](#).

This explanation comes back a few times in later years, with Power Girl [repeating it](#) in *JSA 80-Page Giant* and Magog [implying it](#) in *Magog #6*.

Retcon #7 (JSA: Classified #2): Probably her most well known retcon. While [venting her insecurities](#) to Superman, Power Girl says the reason her boob window exists is because [she wanted a symbol for her costume but couldn't think of one, and she never found a way to close the hole](#).

Not only is this explanation completely stupid, it ignores the explanation from the last issue, and it doesn't even make sense from an in-universe perspective. By this point, Power Girl had [already worn her fair share](#) of costumes that lacked a boob window, and she [deliberately gave one](#) to her Atlantean costume, so it doesn't make any sense for her to be all mopey about it now.

Retcon #8 (Action Comics #1051): Because we're STILL doing this for some reason, now her boob window exists to [keep her boobs from sweating](#). Gross.

Retcon #9 (Power Girl (2023) #3): While Power Girl is worrying about the Symbioship coming after her, Superman says that [he was there](#) when they destroyed the Symbioship for good. The next issue even has [a flashback that depicts Superman helping destroy it](#), though it's the Earth-Two Superman, who isn't the same as this one. This is a bit weird because not only does his inclusion blatantly contradict the original story, it also highlights the poor sense of continuity involving the Symbioship's destruction.

The first example of it being destroyed was back in *Showcase #98*, where Power Girl [destroyed it beyond repair](#) without any assistance. The [second time it was destroyed](#) was in *JSA: Classified #4*. However, neither of these events can involve this version of Superman. As explained above, *Showcase #98* took place in Earth-Two, and the example from *JSA: Classified* had no ties to Superman, who'd previously agreed to let Power Girl [handle this on her own](#).

—

However, when it comes to her *origin* being retconned, there exist a total of **seven** changes, and even then some of them are so insignificant I'd hesitate to include them.

Retcon #1 (Secret Origins #11): The Atlantean sorcerer Arion appears to Power Girl. He reveals that [he's her grandfather, she's from ancient Atlantis, and her powers are actually the result of his genetic tinkering with magic](#). Her past with Superman and Krypton is handwaved as being false memories.

DC makes sure to hammer this retcon into your skull, with Power Girl's later appearances [including scenes of her blatantly expositing](#) how she isn't Kryptonian like she originally thought and she's really an Atlantean.

Retcon #2 (Justice League Europe #43): I debated whether or not this one actually counts as a retcon or if it's just a really bad continuity error. But after seeing how the writers handled it in subsequent issues, I feel it fits better here.

In the original telling of Power Girl's Atlantean origin, Arion explicitly states that [he sent her 45,000 years into the future](#). *JLE* #43, written by Gerard Jones, has Power Girl recount her Atlantean past to Dr. Light, but she says [she was sent 50,000 years into the future](#).

This inconsistency likely originates from *Who's Who in the DC Universe* #6, a reference guide released before that issue, which states Power Girl was born "[nearly 50,000 years ago](#)."

Of the total retcons in this list this is the only one I'll agree is a bit confusing, but only if you're like me and read her appearances by release date. At this point in time Power Girl had two main writers, Paul Kupperberg and Gerard Jones, and both men had different preferences for how long ago she had lived.

Paul Kupperberg sticks with the original number of 45,000 when referencing her backstory in [Arion the Immortal](#) #6 and [Justice League Quarterly](#) #13.

Gerard Jones asserts that it's 50,000 during [JLE](#) #46 and [Justice League America](#) #94.

Since the comics with these conflicting dates were released consecutively, it results in a strange cycle where one writer insists on one number, only for the other writer to insist on their number.

Scott Beatty would later rectify this in *Green Lantern/Power Girl* by having her state that she was born "[a little shy of 50,000 years ago](#)."

Retcon #3 (Justice League America #94): Arion reveals [the real reason](#) he sent her into the future was so she could [give birth to Equinox](#), a child prophesied to end the war between light and darkness.

Retcon #4 (Justice League America #100): This one's a bit weird since the retcon itself is never officially acknowledged by DC and only appeared in a letters page, but I feel like it still counts.

One fan brought up that Power Girl and Fire should remember Nuklon and Obsidian since they were all part of Infinity Inc. The [response he was given](#) said that in the Post Crisis continuity, Power Girl was never part of Infinity Inc (the guy that answered this completely ignores why Fire doesn't remember them). This is despite the fact that she was featured as a member in several issues of its series, with said issues being explicitly set after the Crisis (Issue 30 [opens](#) with the team mourning Huntress and Robin's deaths, which occurred during the Crisis, and has Spectre explicitly call their world [the Post-Crisis universe](#). Issue 50 has Power Girl [reference events](#) that occurred shortly after her origin was changed).

This obscure retcon was completely ignored (assuming the writers even knew it existed) during the *JSA* series. Issue 39 has a villain called Da Bomb [explicitly reference](#) her being part of Infinity Inc. Issue 45 has Atom Smasher [do the same](#), and even Power Girl herself [acknowledges her time with them](#) in #57. There's also a scene in issue #63 where Fury [catches up with Power Girl](#) and references their time together.

Retcon #5 (JSA #32): While performing tests on her, [Dr. Mid-Nite reveals that her powers aren't magic-based](#) and are strictly biological. *JSA: Classified #1* follows up on this by revealing that Dr. Fate [also confirmed her powers weren't magic based](#).

Retcon #6 (JSA #50): Arion reveals that [he lied about being her grandfather](#), meaning she's not actually an Atlantean.

Retcon #7 (Infinite Crisis #2): Alexander Luthor explains that since Power Girl wasn't supposed to exist in this universe, the universe tried to reconcile her existence by [altering her memories and powers to fit her into its history](#).

You may have noticed I didn't show any of the pages from *JSA: Classified* in here. That's because, despite what some people may claim, what's shown in those comics are not actual retcons to her backstory. It's [established from the outset that these conflicting "origins" are part of a plan to drive Power Girl insane](#). The one who created this plan, Psycho Pirate, later [explains Power Girl's real origin to her](#). Her next appearance continues off from this by having her [reunite with the Golden Age Superman](#) (who [explains their previous history](#)), and [regain all of her Pre-Crisis memories](#), including her origin.

Since then, Power Girl's backstory has remained the same, and nothing about it has been retconned since.

Who is the Current Power Girl?

While nowhere near as widespread as the above point, I've noticed recently that there seems to be a bit of confusion regarding the identity of Power Girl post Doomsday Clock.

This confusion is mainly the result of DC's New 52 reboot and the way the current Power Girl was reintroduced. For those not in the know, New 52 was a hard reboot that reset the entirety of DC's continuity. This includes creating a new version of Power Girl, who starts off as [another Supergirl](#) and goes by the name "[Kara Zor-El](#)" unlike her previous counterpart. New 52 Power Girl was around for a couple years, but DC eventually got rid of her by [trapping her and her protege](#) in interdimensional limbo. This happened back in 2016, and she's never been acknowledged in the comics since.

Then during the events of Doomsday Clock, Dr. Manhattan (who was retconned into being responsible for New 52) restored everything the reboot changed., [All of the heroes that were](#)

[erased or altered were restored to their original state](#), with Power Girl [among them](#). But does this mean she's the New 52 version or is she the original Pre-Crisis PG?

The answer to that question is revealed in her following appearances. *Dark Crisis* has several scenes where Power Girl references [Crisis on Infinite Earths](#) and [Infinite Crisis](#), which the New 52 version never experienced. The *Power Girl Special* shows her [remembering](#) the Golden Age Superman, whose appearance is completely different from the New 52's [Earth 2 Superman](#). And *Knight Terrors: Action Comics #2* has her [reference the ending](#) of one of her early Pre-Crisis stories.

I've seen some claims that the New 52 Power Girl was retroactively composited with the mainline version, but I haven't found any sources or evidence to back this up. In fairness, there is merit for this happening, as seen with the main Superman and Supergirl, but nothing suggests this applies to Power Girl.

A major part of the main Power Girl's history is that she is the sole survivor of her universe, with no one left to accompany her. Meanwhile, the New 52's Earth 2 still exists, as shown in the [Jon Kent Superman series](#). And whenever we see [the memories](#) of the current Power Girl, they're explicitly from the Pre-Crisis origin (i.e. being raised by a ship's AI during her trip to Earth, crashing on Earth as an adult). Nothing in her flashbacks reflect the [backstory](#) of the New 52 Power Girl (landing on Earth as a child and being raised by the Kent family).

Power Girl vs Galatea

Another point of confusion I've regularly seen when discussing Power Girl is the idea that she's a clone of Supergirl. Even the article from DC brings it up. However, this isn't true, at least not for Power Girl.

That origin belongs to Galatea, a character exclusive to the DC Animated Universe. Galatea is a clone of Supergirl created by Project Cadmus, but any similarities she has with Power Girl are only superficial, like her [white leotard](#) and a similar haircut.

The strange thing about this confusion is [Power Girl herself makes several appearances](#) in the DCAU comics, where she's established as a separate character with no relation to Galatea. Even the letters page [says they're separate people](#). However, none of these comics provide a backstory for this version of Power Girl. She just shows up as a member of the Justice League and it's treated like she's always been there.

Sovereign Seven's Canonicity

One of the more obscure series Power Girl's starred in is Sovereign Seven, a creator-owned series by Chris Claremont and Dwayne Turner. Following her first appearance where she's [brainwashed](#) into becoming a villain, the remaining issues depict her as a regular member of the cast, and she officially joins the team after the death of another member, [Rampart](#). This continues all the way until the final issue, which depicts the book as part of an [in-universe comic series](#).

Naturally, this has led [some to assume](#) the entire series is non canon. However, while this could be true for the Sovereigns, it isn't the case for Power Girl. While brief, there are two explicit references to her time on the team in her other appearances. *Supergirl (1994)*, *issue 16* has a scene where Power Girl swats the Linda Danvers Supergirl aside, and when Linda recognizes her, Power Girl [responds](#), "**Veeerrrry** good. Boy, **that'll** teach me to lend a hand. Guess if I want respect, I'll stick with the **Sovereigns**."

While not as explicit, *Aquaman (1994)*, *issue 41* also references the series via [a pop up box](#) that reads "See Sovereign Seven" when Power Girl says she was passing by on her way to Connecticut. Even into the 2000s, *Green Lantern/Power Girl* includes [one of her Sovereign Seven costumes](#) in the [background](#) of her dressing room.

And while it could be chocked up to coincidence, *Birds of Prey (1999)* #42 contains a page where Power Girl [monologues](#) about how in her younger days she could have knocked out a torpedo while using telekinesis to divert another. The only time she's shown using telekinesis was in [Sovereign Seven #25](#), which would further support the series' canonicity.

Vulnerability to Raw Materials

This is an infamously dumb one. *Supergirl (1994)*, *issue 16* has Power Girl get [knocked over by a branch](#), then she's [impaled through the shoulder](#) after it's turned into a stake. When it gets removed, Power Girl says she's "[vulnerable to any raw, unprocessed natural material. So sticks and stones really can break my \[bones\]](#)."

This single issue is the only time this "weakness" appears throughout her entire history, and it's later [dismissed](#) as a fluke.

Power Girl's Boxing Experience

One of the more obscure things I've seen occasionally tossed around as if it were fact is the idea that Wildcat was responsible for training her. However, despite the DC wiki's [claims](#), there is nothing shown or stated in any of Power Girl's appearances that supports this. The closest you get is in *Justice Society of America (2007)* #24, where she has [a sparring match](#) with Magog in Wildcat's gym and says "It's nice to have a sparring partner that I don't have to worry

about breaking in two.” This implies she and Wildcat have occasionally sparred, but that doesn’t necessarily equate to him training her.