

76 YEARS OF WONDER WOMAN

Since the day she was formed from clay (or fathered by Zeus), Wonder Woman has made it her mission to bring justice and light into the world. Over seven decades she's been an unflinching ally to the forces of good—and she's had quite the notable personal life too. She's joined the Air Force, opened a clothing boutique, worked the Taco Whiz counter, married Steve Trevor, smooched Batman and dated Superman—and that's on top of saving humanity more times than we can count. Here are all the twists and turns of her amazing story. **BY DOUGLAS WOLK**

1941

February SHE COULD HAVE BEEN SUPREMA

Psychologist William Moulton Marston, who'd been hired as an adviser by *Superman* publisher M.C. Gaines, turns in his first script for a proposed feature: *Suprema, the Wonder Woman*.

December HER FIRST BOW

Wonder Woman debuts in a backup feature by Marston and artist H.G. Peter in *All-Star Comics* No. 8. Her boyfriend Steve Trevor, her mother, Hippolyte (later Hippolyta), and the Amazon homeland Paradise Island also make their first appearances. The 61-year-old artist "started working on Wonder Woman at an age when most comic-book artists are already retired," says DC Comics archivist Benjamin LeClear. "When he started, his style was already completely out of date—which is part of that magical appeal." Peter's studio would go on to draw every Wonder Woman story for more than 16 years.

1942

January COVER GIRL

Diana lands her first cover on *Sensation Comics* No. 1, wherein Princess Diana meets Army nurse Diana Prince and buys her identity and job from her. Also notable for the first appearance of the Invisible Plane.



February WOO-WOO!

Sensation Comics No. 2 features the initial appearances of Diana's comedy sidekick Etta Candy and the villainous Doctor Poison.

June ROPE 'EM, COWGIRL

In *Sensation Comics* No. 6, Wonder Woman wins the right to wield the magic lasso she's carried ever since, which can compel anyone in its coils to tell the truth. Marston was particularly fond of that idea: 20 years earlier he'd developed a blood-pressure-based deception test—a close

ancestor of the modern lie detector. An example of the bondage motif that appeared in early issues, the lasso, Marston wrote, "represents woman's love charm and allure, by which she compels men and women to do her bidding." But it has also become a visual tool for every artist who's drawn Diana. "It's fun to work with," says artist Nicola Scott, who began drawing Wonder Woman in 2016. "It's always got a sense of motion, and it always feels powerful, even in a dormant state."

July A BOOK OF ONE'S OWN

In the first issue of *Wonder Woman* proper, Marston and Peter share her origin: Wonder Woman was molded from clay by Hippolyte and brought to life by Aphrodite. That issue launched the regular "Wonder Women of History" feature, written by tennis champion and feminist Alice Marble, and its cover showed Diana fighting Nazi soldiers. "The only one of [DC Comics'] characters who was actively involved in fighting both the Germans and the Japanese in World War II was Wonder Woman," LeClear says. "She was in the trenches."

October MADAME SECRETARY

Wonder Woman joins the Justice Society of America—as their secretary!—in *All-Star Comics* No. 13. She doesn't participate much in their adventures for a few years, largely because Marston insists on full control over her appearances.

1944

May STRIPPED DOWN

Marston and Peter launch a daily *Wonder Woman* newspaper comic strip, mostly adapted from their comic-book stories. It lasts only 19 months, because they cannot keep up with demand.

I DON'T! AS SECRETARY TO THE JUSTICE BATTALION, I KNOW THAT ONLY OFFICIAL BUSINESS GOES INTO THE RECORD

