



# The Dark Knight Trilogy: The Complete Screenplays with Storyboards

*Christopher J. Nolan , Jonathan Nolan , David S. Goyer*

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**The Dark Knight Trilogy: The Complete Screenplays with Storyboards** Christopher J. Nolan , Jonathan Nolan , David S. Goyer

THE DARK KNIGHT TRILOGY: The Complete Screenplays of Batman Begins, The Dark Knight, and The Dark Knight Rises, with storyboards from each film. There is also an introduction featuring a conversation about The Dark Knight trilogy among the three writers: Christopher Nolan, Jonathan Nolan and David S. Goyer

Synopsis:

Christopher Nolan brings The Dark Knight trilogy to its climax.

The trilogy commenced with Batman Begins, which traced the origins of how Bruce Wayne took on the role of the masked crusader to fight the forces of evil.

In the second film, The Dark Knight, Batman found himself battling the anarchy unleashed by the Joker.

Physically and psychologically depleted by the events at the end of The Dark Knight, in The Dark Knight Rises Batman must marshal all his resources to meet the threat to Gotham City posed by the masked villain Bane.

These three films form a trilogy unique in the history of cinema - and express a dark imaginative vision that reflects the uncertainties of the twenty-first century.

This volume contains the complete screenplays of all three films, together with storyboards from each one.

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## The Dark Knight Trilogy: The Complete Screenplays with Storyboards Details

Date : Published August 15th 2012 by OPUS (first published July 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9781623160012

Author : Christopher J. Nolan , Jonathan Nolan , David S. Goyer

Format : Kindle Edition 553 pages

Genre : Fiction, Culture, Film, Plays

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# From Reader Review **The Dark Knight Trilogy: The Complete Screenplays with Storyboards for online ebook**

## **Brandon Michael says**

Overall trilogy: 5-stars (rated separately)

Dark Knight Rises: 4 Stars. Solid film but slightly by the numbers and unoriginal compared to Batman Begins and The Dark Knight. Those films had their own powerful emotional theme. This matches in flair but not substance. Good note to end the series on though.

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## **Rao Javed says**

Christopher Nolan's best

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## **Julie Dawson says**

If you are a serious fan of the Batman mythos or a serious student of film, The Dark Knight Trilogy will be a welcome addition to your collection. Part of the Opus Screenplay series, The Dark Knight Trilogy presents all three of the film's complete screenplays along with selected storyboards.

The collection opens with a bit of a panel discussion between the power players of the trilogy: Christopher Nolan, Jonathan Nolan, David S. Goyer, and Jordan Goldberg. It is an entertaining, but not particularly enlightening, conversation. Much of the subject matter of the discussion has been addressed in other widely published interviews with these gentlemen, but it does serve as a good introduction to the screenplays and provides a bit of a refresher on some of the key elements of the films. I found myself slightly amused when the topic of Batman's "non-lethal" approach to dealing with criminals (I suppose I should believe that those missiles that shoot out of the Batmobile are non-lethal concussion damage that just knocks the bad guys out?) But that has always been a bit of an odd point for me, even in the comics themselves. But the point segues into the general thought processes at play as the trilogy developed over time.

Actually reading the screenplays after watching the trilogy is an interesting academic activity. But more interesting to me are the storyboards. I'm a bit of a project junkie. I like following a project from start to finish. In this case, reading this collection and seeing the storyboards after watching the films is almost a reverse-engineering exercise. The storyboard selections are generous and well chosen. For Batman Begins, we get the opening sequence of the film. For The Dark Knight, we get the amazing truck chase sequence with the Joker. Finally, for The Dark Knight Rises, we see the opening commuter plane sequence.

I enjoyed this little peek behind the scenes of one of my favorite trilogies, and fellow fans of the franchise no doubt will as well.

Reviewer Note: I was given a comp copy of this book for review.

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## **Katy says**

**Book Info:** Genre: Screenplays

Reading Level: Adult

Recommended for: Fans of the movies who are interested in reading the screenplays

Trigger Warnings: violence, murder, fighting, treachery, deceit

**My Thoughts:** I am unforgivably late reading this ARC, but I wanted to watch the final movie before I read it, and it's very hard for me to find time to watch movies. Of course, once I did find time to watch the movie, I became buried under other books that urgently needed to be reviewed... well, it's an old story. So. How to review screenplays and storyboards? It's tricky! I mean, there's no narrative, no need to worry about details like grammar. So, it all falls into how much you liked or disliked the story. I happen to be a fan of Batman from way back, so I mostly enjoyed the movies, and therefore I mostly enjoyed the screenplays. I never much liked their version of the Joker, and of course the nuclear bomb in Gotham's bay should have resulted in a huge tsunami, but those are details. If you enjoyed the movies, and like to read screenplays, then grab a copy. They don't have the complete storyboards, only a sample of each, but those are pretty cool as well. Also, the prequel gives you a look into the minds of the writers of the screenplays, which is pretty cool. I enjoyed being reminded of the movies, and fans of the movies will particularly enjoy this book.

**Disclosure:** I received an e-ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.

**Synopsis:** THE DARK KNIGHT TRILOGY: The Complete Screenplays of *Batman Begins*, *The Dark Knight*, and *The Dark Knight Rises*, with storyboards from each film. There is also an introduction featuring a conversation about The Dark Knight trilogy among the three writers: Christopher Nolan, Jonathan Nolan and David S. Goyer

Christopher Nolan brings The Dark Knight trilogy to its climax.

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## Wayne McCoy says

Christopher Nolan is a filmmaker at the top of his game, and the scripts here represent film writing at it's best. The Batman trilogy has been a groundbreaking superhero series because it has set it's hero in a more grounded, realistic setting, and asked questions about the nature of heroes, the inequities of wealth, and the responsibilities of the people who watch over us.

The included forward is an interview with the writers of the series. It's interesting to note their approach to each film as a separate whole and to avoid cliches like cliffhangers. Although the first film wasn't initially made as part of a trilogy, it sets the tone for the rest of the series. Because the creative process took place over time, the main characters age throughout, which provides different perspectives.

The screenplays here are the completed scripts that were shot. There are also storyboards included for selected sequences in each film. While the writing is top notch, I was hoping for a glimpse behind the scenes at the some of the ideas that got deleted from initial drafts. That is not a usual approach for printed screenplays, but the insight might have proved interesting. Still, a very good collection for fans of the series.

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## S.J. Robinson says

Sharp, sharp, and sharp

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## Hossein says

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## Eric says

Readers of my website know that I am a fan of Batman, and the Christopher Nolan Dark Knight films in particular. I posted trailers and even wrote a plea for people to return to the movie theater after the Aurora, Colorado shootings. I think some people might even wonder if my Batman fandom might cross over to obsession. If so, they would write off a book like THE DARK KNIGHT TRILOGY: THE COMPLETE SCREENPLAYS WITH STORYBOARDS by Christopher Nolan as something only for the collectors, hoping to achieve a complete set of Dark Knight pieces. But that is not the case.

I think any fan of the Dark Knight films would enjoy this book. You've seen the end product: the films. But THE DARK KNIGHT TRILOGY gives you a much better sense of how Christopher Nolan moved from

concept to film. The book begins with a discussion among the writers of the screenplays (Christopher Nolan, Jonathan Nolan, and David S. Goyer) and the co-producer of the films (Jordan Goldberg). This discussion covers everything from THE ILLIAD, to the attacks of 9/11, to the critical importance of well-developed characters and endings. This foundational discussion will help readers understand what Christopher Nolan was thinking about when coming up with the story, as well as what themes he wanted to include or ignore.

From there, the book then provides the screenplays for each of the films as well as a storyboarded scene from each film. As has been pointed out in other reviews, the book does not present the screenplays in a completely accurate and proper format. So, if you are trying to write a screenplay, look elsewhere. But if you want to see how Nolan's ideas took shape, the screenplays and storyboards are very helpful.

This book allows readers and Batman fans to see how the films were constructed. A skeleton of ideas was slowly fleshed out with words and images, and perfected by the cast and crew. If you want to delve into that world, and better understand Nolan's take on Gotham, this is the perfect vehicle.

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### **Roger Alderman says**

Such a great read a refreshing look at storytelling through screen play.

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### **Ryan Stewart says**

I'm late to the party on this one, but, wow. The Dark Knight Trilogy holds a special place in my heart and I didn't know I could love it or appreciate it more than I already did. I was wrong. This adds new layers to blow you away all over again. It shows in detail just what a master class Nolan taught in dialogue, pacing, etc. This was absolutely fascinating and impressive throughout.

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### **Mohammad Javad says**

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### **Sam Quixote says**

What can be said about Christopher Nolan's Batman Trilogy that's not been said before? Nothing really, except that they're awesome and are likely to stand as one of the best trilogies ever made, up there with Star Wars and Lord of the Rings. This is a collection of the three movies shooting scripts: Batman Begins, The Dark Knight, and The Dark Knight Rises, they are not a novelisation of the movies.

Reading them is like watching the films but only because I've seen these films so many times now (especially The Dark Knight, the finest of the 3), but if I hadn't seen the films I would never have guessed at Heath Ledger and Tom Hardy's choices for their characters. It's one thing to look at the script and see a

character there, it's another to bring it to life so memorably like Ledger's Joker. The appearance, the voice, the mannerisms – it's not in the script, Ledger brought that to his character. The scripts underline the limits of reading words on a page and the art of acting. The same could be said of Tom Hardy's Bane whose excellently creepy old English Duke voice doesn't come across on the page but was a choice by the actor (and of course Christian Bale's Batman voice... moving on!).

The scripts are tightly structured with detailed descriptions of the shots as you would expect from a Director whose work is filled with action and ambitious shots to make them as thrilling as possible. There are some storyboards included to show how some action scenes would play out like Batman and Joker's street confrontation or Bane's plane dynamics in the opening sequence of "Rises".

As a Batman fan I'm really glad that there have been films made that do justice to this great character and his world after so many attempts have gotten it wrong. Reading these scripts is like watching the movies and while they're fun to read for any fan of these films, they can't top the films themselves. An excellent collection nonetheless, it shows that underpinning these superb films were equally superb scripts by a creative team who realised the potential of this timeless character.

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## **David says**

During the fiction-writing courses I took in college, my professors assigned us a variety of materials. We read novels and short stories, but we also explored screenplays and theatrical plays. A good script is as satisfying to read as a good novel. More so, at times, because the best scripts strip out extraneous details in order to leave actors room to add personal touches.

THE DARK KNIGHT TRILOGY: THE COMPLETE SCREENPLAYS collects some of the best scripts for aspiring screenwriters as well as those who want to change up their reading habits. (I fall into both categories.) I'll get into the particulars of each film's script below. As a general comment, all three are tightly written and move at fast but manageable clips that translate well to the screen. Director Christopher Nolan and screenwriters Jonathan "Jonah" Nolan and David S. Goyer--along with Christopher, who, I believe, came in at the end to tighten every page--provide just enough detail to establish mood and characters, then leave the rest up to actors, set and costume designers, and the director's vision. I highly recommend this book to any novice screenwriters interested in learning a lean and efficient "voice" and formatting model for their own screenplays.

\*Batman Begins: The origin story to beat all origin stories. The first half of the film does an incredible job building up to Bruce Wayne becoming Batman. His motivations are clear, he makes mistakes along the way, and the moment when he finally dons the cape and cowl is immensely satisfying because of that build-up. On any given day, this is my favorite installment of the series.

\*The Dark Knight: In a way, TDK's script is the most impressive. Not only does it tell a great story on paper, comparing it to the finished movie shows how much the actors--especially Heath Ledger--added to their characters. Ledger improvised some actions and lines, and added personal touches such as the Joker's many ticks. This was not a flaw in the script. On the contrary, it was a sign of the David S. Goyer's and the Nolan brothers' aptitude for screenwriting. The last thing a screenwriter should do is spell out every beat, action, word, and noise. A screenwriter's job is to establish a black-and-white framework for a story so that the cast and crew can color it in. Ledger and company did so beautifully.



\*The Dark Knight Rises: Many consider TDKR to be the lame duck of the trilogy. The story has its problems, and they're evident in the script. That said, this installment is my favorite, for a few reasons. First, it's grounded. The story begins eight years after the events of The Dark Knight. The Dark Knight took place roughly one year after Batman Begins. Rounding up, Bruce Wayne's career as Batman lasted approximately 9 years (10 if we're being generous) from the moment he stepped out of the shadows as Batman to the climax of TDKR. In the comics, DC would have us believe he's been Batman for decades, but that's simply not possible. Not even a man at his physical and mental peak could keep up with the pace Wayne sets for himself, and in TDKR, Wayne is clearly not at his peak. Nolan's trilogy shines because they are not comic-book movies. Reading all three screenplays back to back to back makes clear that Wayne is a man, and realistically, even a man with his training and resources could only last so long.

The second reason I love TDKR is because Batman and Bruce Wayne, collectively my favorite character of all time, gets an ending that every Batman fan wants for him but doesn't believe is possible. The likelihood of Wayne making peace with his parents' murder and retiring Batman, letting along riding off into the sunset with his one true love, is slim. He's much more likely to, as he has said in the comics, slip up and let some pickpocket fire a lucky shot that leaves him bleeding out in an alleyway. That would be suitably bleak and poetic, but it's not what I want for my boy. Nolan gave Bruce Wayne a happy ending. That's worth overlooking what can be a rough script at times, although overall I think it's solid.

The highlight of COMPLETE SCREENPLAYS for fans who know these movies from beginning to end is a lengthy interview at the beginning with Chris, Jonah, and David on particulars of scripting and shooting the films. Chris Nolan approached each movie as if it were a standalone. Never assuming he would want or be able to make a sequel, he poured all of the best ideas into each film. Extrapolating a bit, this also explains why he doesn't milk his movies by releasing a bevy of extended, special, and director's cut editions. He pours everything he has into the theatrical version of each film, so there's nothing left over for a special edition.

What you see (and what you read in this book) is precisely what he wanted you to see: The very best he had to offer for the story he set out to tell.

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## **Jess says**

Three of my favorite movies of the last decade! I was thrilled to get a copy of this via NetGalley, and it stands up to the awesomeness of Christopher Nolan's three films. The introductory conversation is incredibly interesting and enjoyable, I gained new insight into how the films were approached originally. (Christopher Nolan didn't realize Batman generally doesn't kill people? Really? Surprise for him!)

All three "Dark Knight" film's screenplays are included in this hefty volume. Great reading if you're a fan, or if you're interested in filmmaking or screenwriting in general. The only thing keeping me from giving this a full 5 stars is that while there are storyboards included, there are only 3 - one for each film. Because the storyboards themselves are gorgeous and really fun to read (almost mini-comics), I wish there were more of them, particularly in a book calling itself "Complete Screenplays with Storyboards." On the other hand, maybe there weren't more storyboards to include! I wish there had been, because the art, rough and unfinished as it is, is really great and it's fascinating to see the way things translated from storyboard to screen.

Overall, definitely recommended to fans of Batman, this trilogy, or filmmaking. I anticipate using my copy for reference in the future.

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**Megan says**

[image error]

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