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Dennis O'Neil , Jonathan Nolan (Screenplay by) , Christopher J. Nolan , David S. Goyer

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Based on the blockbuster Warner Bros. Pictures film starring Christian Bale and Heath Ledger.

Allied with both the police department and the district attorney's office, the vigilante known as Batman continues to bring justice and hope to Gotham City.

But one man dares to mock Batman's mission. A man with a twisted sense of humor. A man whose grotesque smile is reflected on the calling card he leaves at the scene of his crimes: The Joker.

The Dark Knight Details

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From Reader Review The Dark Knight for online ebook

Aly (Fantasy4eva) says

OH MY GOSH. This movie guys. Just wow!

I don't know why I put off watching it for so long, but damn it am I glad that I finally did.

It completely blows the others out the water. You have a Batman that is not all cheesy and cliché ridden. A man that has complete depth. Who is not simply the hero. He's a person that often struggles with a line that can be blurred when many death are lost, deaths with your name of them. Deaths that are eating him up inside, and on top of it all he has to watch the woman he loves be with another man because he knows that she can't be with him whilst he's Batman.

And boy, that must kill. The girl you love knowing your identity but still being just as helpless if she didn't.

Heath. Oh Heath. I heard he was good in this, but shit, he completely blew me away. I tried to see Heath in that character, I mean I was so desperate to because I have always been such a fan, but he is unrecognisable. Completely. This movie is proof of just what kind of potential an actor like Heath has if given the right role.

So Joker is once again creating havoc around town. And as Bruce tries to come to terms with whether he should just give himself up to avoid any more deaths and suffering, he is constantly surrounded by a few others who try to urge him on. Good people that see that he is right for the greater good. That the chances are worth what the overall result may be, given that he gives it some more time. But Joker is a sick fuck, and he's not planning to go out with a bang without a card up his sleeve.

And it pisses me off that that card was one of my favourite characters. It is heartbreaking to see this genuine good guy become consumed by hate and bitterness. It freaks you out, because if someone like him can just give up their sheer goodness, then what chance do we have?

But I guess that's kind of the point huh.

Amazing movie, guys. Towards the end when things get more intense, when that man is saying those words to that child - I felt myself getting a tad emotional. And shit, never did I think I would get mushed up over Batman. Trust me.

But there is something darker, realer, grittier and a whole lot more thought-provoking about this installment.

And I seriously can't wait for the next.

Gerald says

Ciekawa i ci?gaj?ca historia Przewstawiona przez Denisa O Neila

Issam says

As luck would have it, I actually ended up finishing this at sunrise. "The night is darkest just before the dawn". (Thank you insomnia, for tickling my little geek heart. :D)

Where to start with this? It was a decent novelization. It does a *great* job of adding to the thought process behind Bruce's decisions that you see in the movie, and it all starts off with a great scene between him and Ra's on the train at the end of the last movie. Ra's himself is also not just a throwaway villain from the previous film in this book. There are constant reflections of his teachings (the way he masked his identity, the way Bruce unknowingly saves him, etc) that are greatly reflected on Bruce's current decisions in the present.

As for secondary characters, we get some great moments with Lucius's thoughts on being Batman's toolmaker, and with Alfred's inner-thoughts as he tries his best to guide/protect Bruce from the events that we see.

The most notable addition is for Scarecrow, and we fully dive into the details of his origin, and how he ended up where he did from the previous movie. There is also a whole origin story involved for 'The Chechen', who is a fairly small character in this movie, but is covered nonetheless. Maroni and Lau also get their fair share.

Other origin highlights also include Harvey Dent, of course. And given the run time of the actual movie, it's understandable why they skipped out on this altogether. However, it's worth reading and knowing about since it parallels Bruce's own tragedy in a very similar way. James Gordon also gets a great amount of time in this book, but he isn't handled nearly as well as Bruce. He does get a few moments here and there, which basically spell out all of the decisions he made in the movie, but otherwise it's nothing memorable.

However, it's the Joker that is the biggest disappointment in this book. Anyone who has seen the movie will know that he is clearly the highlight throughout all of it, and yet we don't learn anything new about him in here. Also, you can really notice the impact and absence of Heath Ledger's performance in this role once you narrow it down to *just* his lines.

The action scenes are also surprisingly bare, and lack the proper descriptions to make them exciting in any sort of way. It almost felt like a quick summary by someone writing down what they were seeing as they were watching the movie. Which is a bit of a shame, because I was actually enjoying all the character backgrounds, thoughts, etc until we got into the heat of the action. That is something where the movie really shines in this aspect.

Overall, a good novelization, but it's not a replacement for the movie in any way. I would only recommend this to serious fans of the film, who are looking to get something a little extra from Nolan's universe until the next movie arrives to theaters.

Zac Stojcevski says

Seen the movie? Read the book. Flows well and is, as expected, true to the movie.

Karleigh says

I honestly bought the book purely for the sake of having The Dark Knight written down. I was expecting the movie dialogue and situations, straight from the screen, but the book delivered much more.

The additional side stories (Like how Crane managed to sneak his way back into TDK and just who Chechen is) were both unexpected and very true to the characters they portrayed. They were a pleasant surprise and definitely have a bit of re-read value to them.

But unfortunately a big hit on my opinion of the book was the way it **destroyed** the Joker's character. His dialogue (Most of the dialogue in the book for that matter) was rushed and lacking any detail or description. There were literally just big paragraphs with quotes; no breaks or pauses. Not to mention how pathetically brief his actions and fights were. And, much to my dismay, there were no scenes that really brought out his thought process or inner workings. If you hadn't seen the movie you would have **no** idea how terrifying his character was.

All and all I still finished the book in a day and was fairly happy with it. The terrible portrayal of the Joker really hit me hard considering he was a big reason why I got the book in the first place, but c'est la vie~

Spider the Doof Warrior says

This book is not very good. It reads like someone is watching the movie and describing it to you. Maybe they added some extra stuff about the Scarecrow and the Chechen, but who really cares about them? Scarecrow is in the movie for 5 seconds.

You really want to know about the JOKER. He's more interesting than Batman or anyone else in the book. I wanted to get into his head and see things from his perspective, but this doesn't happen in this book. It's all tell and don't bother to show.

But it does make me want to watch the movie again.

Kim says

It was... okay. No substitute for the film, of course, no book could ever hope to fully portray what the film did.

Certain scenes were quoted almost right from the script with no attempts to delve into the thoughts and emotions of the characters, which is what probably irritated me the most. That's one reason I like to read film novelizations, to get at least one person's perspective on what lies behind the dialogue. O'Neil took the easy way out a little too often in this book for my tastes.

Alicia ?? says

more like 2,75

Coby says

I'm actually reading the other book I posted tonight I got confused. The status update belongs there.

Thomas Myers says

I like reading novelizations for the insights and expanded features.

However, this one is lacking in magic.

Also, it is hard to recommend an author who uses the word "whimpering" twice in three paragraphs.

Ivy says

5 stars

Nice to have a novelization of the Dark Knight. Liked that it talked about what happened in Batman Begins. Wish that it talked more about the Joker. Still want to know what the Joker's real name is.

What did you think of the Justice League trailer?

Alexander Curran says

Posted : 9 years, 8 months ago on 17 August 2008 08:44 (A review of The Dark Knight film...)

"Why SO serious?"

Batman and James Gordon join forces with Gotham's new District Attorney, Harvey Dent, to take on a psychotic bank robber known as The Joker, whilst other forces plot against them, and Joker's crimes grow more and more deadly.

Christian Bale: Bruce Wayne / Batman

Heath Ledger: The Joker

When we think back to truly worthy sequels, sequels which surpass even their original predecessors, many of us would proclaim such masterpieces as Aliens, Godfather II, Empire Strikes Back, Terminator 2...So with the coming of 2008 yet another sequel will be honoured enough to take it's place among these glorified masterpieces.

Undoubtedly, English Director Christopher Nolan begins to resemble the mythical King Midas, in the sense that every film project he breathes life into results in a deep, puzzling masterpiece of depth and serenity. *Memento*, *Insomnia*, *The Prestige* have all mesmerized and set alight mindful debate among critics and fans alike, and for me been hailed as 5 star masterpieces which breach the synapses.

2005 sees the release of *Batman Begins*, under the helm is none other than English Director Nolan and Warner Bros. The Batman franchise, after Joel Schumacher's *Batman Forever* and *Batman & Robin* had been taking its last dying breaths after turning into a colourful farce of nipples and cartoony villainy.

Only a miracle could have repaired the damage done, and if any man can provide miracles Christopher Nolan surely can. *Batman Begins* not only gave new life to a dying franchise, it redefined comic book/Graphic Novel adaptations in terms of realism, acting, and adrenaline pumping cinematography. This was a whole new re-imagining for Bruce Wayne becoming the Batman, and quite frankly even more believable than Tim Burton's efforts in 1989.

So 2008 sees the *The Dark Knight*, from Warner Brothers and once again the directorial genius of Nolan. David S. Goyer and Christopher Nolan collaborated on the story of this film. The script itself was written by Nolan and his brother Jonathan. Funnily enough after watching *The Dark Knight*, Goyer stated "I can't believe my name is on a movie this good".

This time the hype, the anticipation, and the attention has increased a hundred fold since its predecessor. New cast additions include Maggie Gyllenhaal, Aaron Eckhart and the late Heath Ledger, while old veterans return such as Gary Oldman, Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine and the *Dark Knight* himself Christian Bale. Obviously the tragic death of Heath Ledger after the completion of the movie warranted a lot more attention for viewers due to the complexity of seeing his last performance. However, *The Dark Knight* is testament to Ledger's legacy, his swan song, his immortal role among many chameleonic characters in his resume. His roles in *Brokeback Mountain*, *Candy*, showed his adult raw talent for tackling sensitive controversial material, while *A Knight's Tale*, *The Patriot* and *10 things I hate about you* showed he could entertain and be charming. So with *The Dark Knight* we witness his best film to date, his guaranteed Academy Award grabbing carnation of the maniacal nemesis of Batman, *The Joker*. Let it just be said Heath truly is immersed 100% into the confines of the character, he makes us believe and sometimes agree with his views on society and people.

Joker never ceased to make me laugh in appreciation despite what could be considered sick antics, I considered genius. Who else could do a pen trick with someone's head? Dress as a nurse with a silencer in hand and his clownish face glistening? Hide in a body-bag to infiltrate a mob boss's joint? Who else could immortalize Batman's most famous, opposing force, *Joker*? Without a doubt Heath Ledger bar none.

"Sometimes, truth isn't good enough, sometimes people deserve more. Sometimes people deserve to have their faith rewarded."

To prepare for his iconic role as *The Joker*, Heath Ledger hid away in a motel room for about six weeks. During this extended stay of seclusion, Ledger delved deep into the psychology of the character. He devoted himself to developing *The Joker's* every detail, namely the voice and that sadistic-sounding laugh. Ledger's interpretation of *The Joker's* appearance was primarily based upon, of the chaotic, disheveled look of punk rocker Sid Vicious combined with the psychotic mannerisms of Malcolm McDowell's character, Alex De Large, from *A Clockwork Orange*. Ultimately for his efforts, *The Dark Knight* was the first comic book movie to ever win an Oscar for an achievement in acting, specifically to Heath Ledger (posthumously) for Best Supporting Actor.

Heath Ledger posthumously won a total of 32 Best Supporting Actor awards for his work on this film, including the Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA, SAG and Critic's Choice award.

Christopher Nolan beautifully captures Gotham City (filmed on location at Chicago). Whereas Batman

Begins was styled after the iconic piece from Ridley Scott's rainy, dirty Blade Runner, the sequel The Dark Knight mirrors the feel and look of Micheal Mann's Heat giving us a true homage to masters of cinema and film, and we see Nolan has been inspired by the best, rein-visioning his own unique directing and styling to give us a fresh and powerful Gotham City.

Indeed, a similar scene in Michael Mann's crime saga, Heat, inspired this film's introductory bank robbery sequence. As a matter of fact, William Fichtner, who had a notable appearance in this scene, was also in Heat.

"I am an agent of chaos. And you know the thing about chaos? It's fair..."

The Dark Knight runs at nearly 3 hours, yet never ceases to lose any momentum. It doesn't waste a scene or moment of its run-time; every event is utilized and necessary to a meaningful complex plot. Nolan tells a story worth telling and like his other film projects, nothing is ever as it seems, he is in a way the new master of suspense, a shadow of Hitchcock proportions.

Action-sequences are mind blowingly frantic, old-school, eye-grabbing stunts and in their chaotic intensity we see that they serve purpose to the plot, yet even more interestingly, are not played for pure entertainment-value alone.

Audiences are meant to watch, petrified, simply hoping that the outcome will go the hero's way and another show stealing performance from it's villain. Attention is never lost because we are immersed in a breathtaking, almost completely-unpredictable story, that makes us think and more importantly gains our emotional liability. We come to care for the characters, because they are believable, developed, and personified.

Interestingly, this film and its predecessor have one-word themes which are driving forces in the stories and explanations for villains: Batman Begins centers around Fear(Scarecrow/ Ra's Al Ghul), while the focus of The Dark Knight is Chaos(The Joker/Two Face).

"Don't talk like one of them. You're not! Even if you'd like to be. To them, you're just a freak, like me! They need you right now, but when they don't, they'll cast you out, like a leper! You see, their morals, their code, it's a bad joke. Dropped at the first sign of trouble. They're only as good as the world allows them to be. I'll show you. When the chips are down, these... these civilized people, they'll eat each other. See, I'm not a monster. I'm just ahead of the curve."

Maggie Gyllenhaal results in being a more mature Rachel Dawes than Katie Holmes. Morgan Freeman again provides his authoritative presence to the role of Wayne-Enterprise CEO Lucius Fox, and under anyone else's portrayal, the part would be less than memorable. Legendary Gary Oldman underplays his world-wearied lawman with such honest finesse and plausibility, you never feel for a second any of it is artificial. The irreplaceable Michael Caine makes a gentle, reassuring, foster parent presence for Bruce Wayne yet again as faithful Alfred, and the story would surely diminish without his strong presence and interlacing moments of humourous quips and anecdotal advice for the masked hero.

Aaron Eckhart whom plays Harvey Dent, really excels in being "The White Knight" politician of Gotham City whom is likable, and charismatic. The attraction between Gyllenhaal and Eckhart is believable, whereas the love triangle which forms between the complexities of Harvey, Rachel and Bruce are greatly helped by amazing chemistry between them.

Dent's dual personality comes into effect very well, as we the audience scratch beyond that exterior, we see a dark side to Dent. A dark side the Joker inevitably wants to explore.

"Oh, you. You just couldn't let me go, could you? This is what happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object. You truly are incorruptible, aren't you? You won't kill me out of some misplaced sense of self-righteousness. And I won't kill you because you're just too much fun. I think you and I are destined to do

this forever."

Brilliant scores by James Newton Howard and Hans Zimmer. In fact the scores could be two new characters in the film in the sense of depth and emotion they stitch together with the powerful resonance in the scenes. The chase where Batman first uses his Bat-pod bike is nerve tinglingly delivered thanks to the effective use of musical genius and poignant sound. The movies climax and final scenes elevate The Dark Knight's soul into the heavens, creating a moving, emotional, turbulent, deep message of honour, sacrifice and themes of the greater good. Batman isn't the hero we deserve, he's whatever we need him to be...He's strong, he can take it...and as we hear deep words like this, the tones in the score give the words even more power. A power they deserve.

Overall The Dark Knight rightly received 8 Academy Award nominations, more than any other film based on a comic book, comic strip, or graphic novel. First film based on a comic book, comic strip, or graphic novel to win an Academy Award for acting (Best Supporting Actor).

The Dark Knight was everything I expected it to be and even more so in places, it's certainly the dark masterpiece I predicted, but I do get the feeling that it's been overly hyped for the wrong reasons. See it not just for Heath's performance which is defining and immortalized, but also see it because Dark Knight is the greatest comic book/graphic novel to movie ever. DC comics & Warner Bros. must be singing and praising Nolan a hundred fold.

Dark Knight really does have the last laugh. An astonishing achievement that really does succeed in redefining sequels and graphic novel comic book adaptations.

James Gordon Jr.: Why's he running, Dad?

Lt. James Gordon: Because we have to chase him.

James Gordon Jr.: He didn't do anything wrong.

Lt. James Gordon: Because he's the hero Gotham deserves, but not the one it needs right now. So we'll hunt him. Because he can take it. Because he's not our hero. He's a silent guardian, a watchful protector. A dark knight.

Alexander Draganov says

It pains me to give only three stars to this book, but I really have no choice. Dennis O'Neil has utterly failed to capture the spirit of the movie. He gave a lot of unnecessary info at the beginning of the novel, some of it probably inspired not from the movie, but from his own experience from comic books. As a result, it sounds fanficy. But the bad thing is that when the interesting part of the story begins, O'Neil is telling in an extremely dull way - everything is rushed and he never offers the reader a glimpse to what happens in the mind of the characters, and when he does, like in the case of Lucius Fox, he gets it all wrong. My personal opinion is that the downfall of the author of this novel is pride - he is an old Batman author and probably believed that he knows the hero and Gotham better than Christopher Nolan. What he obviously failed to understand is that Nolan has created a new Batman, one who is massively better than anything authors like O'Neil have come up with. As a result, you have a five star story and a two star writing, if I am generous and this can't result with overall rating higher than three stars. Thankfully the Rises adaptation was given to Greg Cox, who did a much better, even if not truly spectacular job. To see how to make a memorable adaptation of a great movie, check the "The Revenge of the Sith" novelization by Matthew Stover.

Pourya Safari says

Why So Serious?!

Rao Javed says

Best of Nolan
