

Batman v. Superman Rotten Tomatoes Reviews

The Atlantic

Reviewer: Christopher Orr

<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/03/batman-v-super-man-dawn-of-justice-review/475347/>

“we have [Zack] Snyder, whose idea of a moral quandary is *should I make this scene grim—or grimmer? Loud—or louder? Violent—or more violent still?* It’s thus no surprise that after all its early, ostentatious handwringing, *Batman v Superman* ends almost exactly as its predecessor did, with another dull, city-smashing duel between super-beings.”

- Actually, it ends with a quiet sequence of Amazing Grace being played by bagpipes, Batman’s visit to Lex Luthor in which Batman does NOT brand him, and Lois throwing dirt on Clark’s coffin.

“The only surprise is that the movie recalls its animating premise vaguely enough to bother explaining that the neighborhood being leveled this time around is “uninhabited.”

- Critics did so much pearl-clutching about this after “Man of Steel”. So much destruction! Think of the death toll! And now they’re complaining that they’ve rectified that in *Batman v. Superman*? I don’t know that this is something you get to complain about now.

“We know that Lex Luthor hates Superman primarily because we knew as much before the movie even started.”

- We were given a very specific reason why Lex Luthor hates Superman and I don’t know of another incarnation that used this same concept so unless you were Chris Terrio, I don’t know how it’s possible to know why Lex hates Superman before the movie even started.

“we know that Lois Lane (a thoroughly wasted Amy Adams) loves Superman because a) she keeps saying so; and b) that is her principal plot function.”

- Actually, her principal plot function in *Batman v. Superman* is to investigate Lex Luthor. She does this from her very first scene and is seen investigating all throughout the movie. She does this because she loves Clark and wants to help him. And we see that because of her love, Superman is willing to sacrifice himself to save the world. Those are all important parts of Lois' role in the movie, but principally? She's an investigative journalist who helps put Lex Luthor behind bars.

“As for Lois's heartfelt question, “I just don't know if it's possible for you to love me and be you,” I would refer her to Larry Niven's dispositive 1969 essay, “[Man of Steel, Woman of Kleenex](#).”

- I gotta say, this is a really juvenile response to that line in the movie and I have a little second-hand embarrassment that it's in a movie review. Lois' dilemma in the bathtub scene comes back into play at the end of the movie. On the one hand, even though Clark called Lois “his world”, he knew he was the only one who could stop Doomsday so he made the choice to be Superman in that moment. Lois' fear that he couldn't love her AND be Superman became a reality. HOWEVER, when Superman returns, I think we'll see that in time, they'll be able to find that balance.

“when it comes to Diana Prince (a.k.a., Wonder Woman, and played by Gal Gadot), over the course of two and a half hours we learn precisely nothing about her other than she fought in World War I, became disillusioned with mankind's senseless cruelty, and has now reappeared 100 years later with a taste for high-end

couture that displays large, strategically selected expanses of bare skin.”

- We learn precisely nothing about Diana Prince except for everything you just told us that you learned about her.
- Also “bare skin”? Wonder Woman is so much more covered up in Batman v. Superman than she has in the past.

“Batman’s motivations become vague bordering on incomprehensible. The closest he comes to articulating them is when he explains to his butler Alfred: “He has the power to wipe out the human race. And if we think that there’s even a one percent chance that he’s our enemy, we have to treat it as an *absolute certainty*.”

- His motivations are incomprehensible! Except that I am totally able to explain them in this review!

“At one point, he taunts Superman like an overly theatrical WWF heel: “Tell me, do you bleed? You will.” What has Superman done to merit this degree of hatred? Leveled another city? Killed the president? Declared war on puppies? Nope. Alien monster that he is, he’s messed up the Batmobile.”

- Batman blames Superman for the destruction of Metropolis and the deaths of the people in his building. After seeing what happened in Africa and at the Capitol building, he has had enough. Bruce makes a fair point that Superman COULD burn everything down if he wanted to. His problem is that he doesn’t know Superman on a personal level yet and doesn’t realize that Superman wouldn’t WANT to. Is this so difficult to understand?

“Even on questions as straightforward as whether this Batman is a continuation of Nolan’s *Dark Knight* or a reboot, the movie seems unable to decide.”

- WHAT? How is this in ANY WAY trying to be a continuation of Nolan's Batman movies?

“it presents us yet again with the robbery-murder of young Bruce Wayne's parents, perhaps the scene in all popular cinema that *least needed to be portrayed anew*. (This time, though, his mother's pearls tumble to the ground in *slow motion*.)”

- New Elements: comic bookyness in using The Mark of Zorro, shows Martha and Thomas fighting back (Martha going for the gun is a breath of fresh air and Thomas curling his hand into a fist is in The Dark Knight Returns)

“Almost the entire film seems to be set at night, as if it were taking place in Mordor, or perhaps Anchorage in December.”

I can't even begin to explain how dumb this is given that most of this movie takes place in Gotham City, a fictional location known for his dreariness. It's not unusual to see Batman stories in Gotham taking place at night because Batman works best in shadow and darkness. Also? There are scenes in the daylight and even the scenes set at night have a visual reason to do so. Batman and Superman's fight and even the showdown with Doomsday are a lot more visually pleasing at night because there are lots of explosions and fire, something more easily seen in the contrast of blackness.

“And Hans Zimmer's clamorous, punishing score was still reverberating in my fillings for hours after the movie was over.”

- This is an exaggeration. There are lots of quiet parts of the score like in “Day of the Dead” and “This Is My World”.

The New Yorker

Anthony Lane

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/04/04/batman-v-superman-and-fancofonia>

“When in doubt, Zack Snyder simply slings another ingredient into the mix, be it an irradiated monster, an explosion on government premises, or the sharp smack of masonry on skull.”

I’m sorry. I don’t fully understand this criticism?

“Then, there’s the music. Hans Zimmer, seldom the most placid of composers, is joined on this occasion by Junkie XL, and we should give thanks for their combined efforts, which render large portions of the dialogue, by Chris Terrio and David S. Goyer, blessedly inaudible.”

- No examples? We’re just going to write in a vague way and make it seem worse than it is? Okay. That’s not misleading at all.

“If you really want Batman and Superman to settle their differences, park them in front of the new Alexander Sokurov film, “Francofonia,” and invite them to hammer out the role of historiography in modern Russian cinema. That’ll shut them up.”

- And then goes on to write the rest of the review about “Francofonia”. So I guess I need to watch “Francofonia” (a movie from 2015 about the history of the Louvre during the Nazi occupation?) in order to understand this review? Okay.

TheStar.com

Peter Howell

<https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/movies/2016/03/24/batman-v-super-man-dawn-of-justice-an-overblown-mess-review.html>

“If only the film actually had depth, along with a little levity to lighten the bulk in the script, the visual murk and the sonic overkill.”

“I counted exactly one joke, already revealed in the trailer.”

- Then you miscounted. Also? No depth and visual murk?. NEXT!

NPR

Chris Klimek

Review Title: **"Batman V Superman': Superheroes Adrift In A Grim Sea Of Studio Money"**

http://www.npr.org/2016/03/24/471035756/batman-v-superman-superheroes-adrift-in-a-grim-sea-of-studio-money?utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=movies

"Watchmen was R-rated and long and grim and dark and violent, averaging roughly one joke per 40 minutes. But it looks like *Pee-wee's Big Adventure* next to *BvS*, a ponderous, smothering, over-pixelated zeppelin crash of a movie scored by a choir that sounds like it's being drowned in lava."

- Complains about jokes and then writes **"Laurence Fishburne, returning from 2013's Snyder-directed reboot *Man of Steel*, gives the film a badly needed jolt of levity in his handful of scenes as *Daily Planet* editor Perry White."**
- Also? I am a HUGE Pee-Wee's Big Adventure fan. It's one of my favorite movies of ALL-TIME and let me just remind you...there are some terrifying moments in that movie. Large Marge? The Clowns? Even Big Adventure isn't a non-stop joke fest.

"This is what happens when you give a bad director a quarter-billion or so dollars while doing all you possibly can to make sure every creative decision he makes is motivated by sheer panic: Catch Marvel! Set up the next 10 movies! *BvS* has no room to breathe even at 151 minutes, 30 or 40 of which offer actual pleasure."

- Complains about Zack Snyder and him trying to imitate Marvel, but then says "And at last we get the montage of Superman doing super deeds that *Man of Steel* denied us: He saves flood victims stranded atop their homes, he preserves the crew of an exploding rocket, he rescues a lady from a burning Mexico City high-rise. Instead of instantly blasting off to be the *deus ex machina* in another out-of-frame drama, he hangs around long enough for the Mexican crowd, many in Day of the Dead regalia, to lay hands on him. This

scene looks like a Renaissance painting, and it conveys Superman's crisis of faith over whether he can actually *inspire* noble acts..."

"Maybe they tried to cast actors whose names sound like secret identities."

- I think Chris is trying to make a joke about how he didn't remember Senator Finch's name, but I am unclear. What's even more disappointing with this part of the review is that he doesn't seem to connect Senator Finch to Atticus Finch.

"I perked up when Superman walked into the Capitol, because I desperately wanted to hear him say something homespun and ennobling. But writers David Goyer and Chris Terrio never give him the chance."

- Maybe Superman not speaking was...intentional?

"there's an out-of-nowhere dream-or-prophecy interlude that we can only infer will be explained in some other flick a year or three from now. In *BvS*, that wacko hallucination is more intriguing than the film it interrupts."

- I assume that Chris is referring to the Nightmare sequence here and I don't fully understand the complaint. Yes, I would prefer movies to finish off what they introduce in a stand-alone way, but since this is a film franchise in which stories interconnect and there is time travel involved, I think *Batman v. Superman* makes good use of the Nightmare sequence. It foreshadows Batman stealing the Kryptonite from Lex Luthor, informs us that Lois Lane is important, introduces the element of time travel and/or boom tubes in this universe, gives Bruce his first nudge at fighting the other metahumans, serves as a warning for the future, and there's a good chance we might see in a future movie as to why *The Flash* comes to the Batcave.

Chris ends his review like this and it makes no sense:

- **“Once upon a time, Margot Kidder's Lois contrived to prove Clark Kent was really Superman by throwing *herself* off a building. OK, it was Niagara Falls. My point stands.”**

NPR

Bob Mondello

http://www.npr.org/2016/03/24/471717676/fun-and-entertainment-are-collateral-damage-in-batman-v-superman?utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=movies

“it's freighted not so much with entertainment value as it is with enough talk of fallen gods, absent parents and dissolute heroes to fuel a Greek tragedy. And for much of the film's 2 1/2 hours, director Zack Snyder seems convinced that that's what he's making.”

“Jesse Eisenberg mostly manages to make Lex Luthor an annoying villain, rather than an alarming one.”

- He manipulated two heroes into fighting each other and then unleashed Doomsday to kill Superman. I don't know...that alarms me.

“Everyone acts up a storm, plumbing psychological nuances that are not really what most people go to superhero epics for. But what's a poor studio to do when Marvel has pretty much cornered the jokey, ironic detachment market?”

“Director Snyder plays to what I suppose you have to call his strengths. He lays on the moody atmospherics and Hans Zimmer's score, while keeping the images grand enough to support the obligatory special-effects dust-up with a monster in the final reel.”

- You could just say that Zack Snyder has strengths as a filmmaker. That's fair to say.

“there will be a next time, even if this time has turned out to be a lot less fun than it should be.”

BuzzFeed

Alison Willmore

https://www.buzzfeed.com/alisonwillmore/batman-v-superman-is-not-the-important-movie-it-wants-so-bad?utm_term=.kbIVzOAYO#.un09GBvLB

“This take on Lex is — like the placement of Gotham and Metropolis as Oakland–San Francisco sibling cities — provocative...or it would be, were it better developed, if it didn’t turn out to be a surface-level reworking of your standard-issue megalomaniac.”

- If it was so “surface-level”, then why does Alison then write this? “Lex ultimately plots to take down Superman due to daddy issues and something-or-other about God, but mostly because taking down Superman is what Lex Luthor is supposed to do.”

This is how Alison ends her review: **“Why pose big questions when no one wants to hear the answer?”**

The Globe and Mail

Barry Hertz

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/film/film-reviews/batman-v-superman-a-white-hot-mess-of-a-franchise-launcher/article29376706/>

“BvS represents the hopes and dreams of its studio Warner Bros., and even the future of Hollywood itself.”

- Who says? And also, isn’t that a lot of pressure to put on one movie? Why is Hollywood depending on Batman and Superman to save it?

“BvS piles bad decision upon bad decision, as if Snyder decided to pull a *Springtime for Hitler* on Warner and turn in something so wrong-headed and offensive that it could only succeed by failing.”

- Did Barry just equate Zack Snyder to Hitler? Or is he just referring to something in bad taste? If so, what was offensive about Batman v. Superman?

“There are so many baffling elements to *BvS* that singling out any one is to be paralyzed by choice. Where to start? Perhaps it’s with Snyder’s approach to his title heroes, who he doesn’t seem to like all that much.”

- Who says, Barry? YOU?

Snyder’s Superman is not a paragon of virtue and selflessness so much as he is kind of a jerk. Kal-El sneers, sulks and lashes out. It’s a complete mishandling of the character who, at his best, inspires hope and courage, not fear and disgust.”

- So, I guess Barry missed the ending when Superman inspired the citizens of Metropolis to consider each other heroic and radically changed Batman’s outlook on life?

“This is the question that the film’s first hour and a half sluggishly ponders, adding in all sorts of pointless distractions to the mix. This includes, but is not limited to: a subplot about African arms dealers; the threat of a dirty bomb; the political quest of a man who lost his legs during Superman’s *Man of Steel* shenanigans; the nonsensical machinations of Lex Luthor, played with delirious Zuckerbergian glee by Jesse Eisenberg; newspaper editor Perry White’s insane budget requests; Michael Shannon’s magical General Zod corpse; a Kryptonian version of Siri that lives inside a crashed spaceship; and a U.S. senator played by Holly Hunter who may or may not have drank a bottle of Luthor’s urine.”

“Snyder completely diminishes every female character who wanders along.”

- Wwwwwhhhhaaaaaaat

“Snyder occasionally reminds the audience – and perhaps Time Warner shareholders – that he can be an inspired visual madman, with a few shots so fantastically designed and staged that they could be freeze-framed and drooled over for hours.”

- Most of us would consider this good filmmaking?
- “Occasionally” is misspelled in the review, but that’s none of my business

“What’s with the flying insects? Why was a dream envisioned from perspectives other than the person dreaming? Was that who I think it was during that message-from-the-future bit? If so, why?”

- Ever think to yourself “Hmm...maybe that’s a mystery they want us to ask questions about because they’ll answer them later on?”

“Warner wants – no, *needs* – you to latch on to *BvS* ‘s versions of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman and the rest of the Justice League if the studio is going to succeed in the marketplace.”

- Warner Bros. has been in existence since 1923. I think they might know how to succeed and can do it with or without these comic book heroes.

Reelviews.net

James Berardinelli

<http://www.reelviews.net/reelviews/batman-v-superman-dawn-of-justice>

“*Batman v Superman*, the battle royale/team-up of DC Comics’ revered superheroes, is so bleak that the sun never seems to shine, the characters’ faces can’t form smiles, and the whole affair is more depressing than fun.”

“Despite the title, there’s no “dawn” in this movie. It’s all “dusk” headed into a moonless, starless night.”

“Cavill’s Superman looks the part, but where’s the heart? It’s no coincidence that the actor’s performance as Clark Kent is unimpressive or that his chemistry with Amy Adams’ Lois Lane is nonexistent.”

“Amy Adams is unconvincing as Lois Lane. I thought she was miscast in *Man of Steel* and nothing in *Batman v Superman* has prompted a change of opinion. As a love interest for Superman/Clark, she doesn’t work and the script too often makes this supposedly strong, independent woman into a damsel in distress.”

“Newcomer Jeremy Irons isn’t a good match for Alfred, although the character is strangely portrayed - his constant disapproval of “Master Bruce” at times verges on contempt. It’s not a comfortable or appealing relationship.”

“there’s too much reliance on dream sequences.”

- Ghosts are an element of Revenge Tragedies and since Chris Terrio dug into the structure of revenge tragedies to write this screenplay, it makes for him to include them in dream sequences whether it be about Martha Wayne or Jonathan Kent.

Slate.com

Jonathan L. Fischer

Review Headline: “Why So Serious?”

- So timely and relevant to use a quote from another Batman movie from 8 years ago!

http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/movies/2016/03/in_batman_v_superman_the_only_winner_is_marvel.html

“It is worse than the widely detested Joel Schumacher Batman films, including **the one with bat nipples”**

“I’m a lifelong comic-book reader who is generally sympathetic to comic-book movies and even liked *Man of Steel*. *Batman v Superman* made me want to yell at the Justice League to get off my lawn”

“The premise, if it matters”

“Lex Luthor is framing Superman. White Portuguese is his boat.”

- This review starts with describing how Zack Snyder asked viewers not to spoil the movie and then he SPOILS PLOT LINES FOR THE MOVIE.

“it makes plain everything I can’t stand, perhaps heretically, about Snyder’s aesthetic, from the rafter-rattling soundtrack to the overuse of grit-flecked shaky cam to the way overuse of **timeline ramping,”**

- Did I miss something? Were there uses of timeline ramping in this movie?

“I can’t fault its competitor’s insistence that a movie based on a comic book might still want to be, you know, **fun. When the dust from the titular bout was finally settled (*or was it?*), I walked out of *Superman v Batman* with an old childhood rallying cry restored: **Make mine Marvel**.”**

GuideLive.com/Dallas Morning News

Robert Wilonsky

<http://www.guidelive.com/movies/2016/03/23/gray-kryptonite-batman-v-superman-big-screen-super-friend-hoped>

“Snyder, unlike, say, Jon Favreau or Joss Whedon or James Gunn or the other Marvels, doesn't really seem to like the "comic" part of comic books. To him it's all metaphor and portent, Sturm und Drang. In the words of The Joker in a far better Batman movie: "Why so serious?"

- What a clever use of “Why so serious?”! That definitely hasn’t been done before.

“Superman, living across the bay in Metropolis, is still the relative newcomer, but Batman’s mid-career at this point with 20 years under his utility belt. Wayne Manor’s already been reduced to charred ruins, and based on the Robin costume behind glass in the Batcave, the Boy Wonder’s already been slain by the Joker. In the words of Alfred (Jeremy Irons, a highlight in a movie in desperate need of them), the butler now rendered mechanic and sidekick, he’s grown too old to die young.

Which, come to think of it, is exactly how you’ll feel after sitting through *Batman v Superman*.”

StarTribune.com

Colin Covert

<http://www.startribune.com/review-super-strength-needed-to-stomach-the-senses-assaulting-batman-v-superman/373242881/>

“The earlier film was a savage Superman demolition derby that left many fans pained by its illogical and repulsively grim body count. This rehash and reheat installment aims to clear up those unresolved issues with an even higher tally of fatalities.”

- Higher tally of fatalities? Than thousands of people?

“The real villains here seem to be director Snyder, who believes that no duke-out is worth filming unless it runs 50 rounds”

- The Batman and Superman fight isn’t even that long?

The Washington Post

Ann Hornaday

Review Headline: Batman v. Superman is so desperate to be taken seriously, it forgets to have fun

https://www.washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/movies/batman-v-superman-is-so-desperate-to-be-taken-seriously-it-forgets-to-have-fun/2016/03/23/3fb28f10-f0f5-11e5-a61f-e9c95c06edca_story.html

“Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” begins and ends with a funeral, which is fitting for a movie that plays like one long dirge.”

- Some might consider this to be an artful way to bookend a movie with Bruce being affected by both deaths to take on a life of heroism, but sure...use it as a way to dismiss this movie.

“Rather than escapism and sensory exhilaration, viewers get down in the mire with protagonists who grimace, scowl and wince their way through heroics with the joyless determination of shift workers making the doughnuts.”

- Um...what? What do doughnuts have to do with any of this?

“The point of “Superman v Batman,” of course, is to get these two brooding saviors of humanity to the ultimate showdown, and maybe launch an “[Avengers](#)”-worthy multiverse in the bargain.”

- It’s actually BATMAN v. Superman, but that’s none of my business.

“Batman acquires an adenoidal speaking voice and a pair of Frankensteinian shoes that, if camera placement is any indication, Snyder has a fetishistic fascination with.”

- The shoes in the armored Batman suit are a direct parallel to The Dark Knight Returns. The close-up of the shoes is to show that they have spikes and that Batman is using everything at his disposal to battle Superman while also serving as an Easter Egg for the comic book fan.

“(Hans Zimmer’s bombastically self-important score is just as derivative, in this case of all his other bombastically self-important scores.)”

- Good Lord. What did Hans Zimmer do to these critics? His BvS score with Junkie XL is fantastic.

New York Times

A.O. Scott

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/25/movies/review-batman-v-superman-dawn-of-justice-when-super-friends-fight.html?_r=1

“The studio has, in the usual way, begged and bullied critics not to reveal plot points”

- Haha...WHAT?
 - #1 - I am pretty sure I saw that same Zack Snyder video asking people not to spoil the movie that these critics did. Zack said it in a respectful way and made the video to preserve the surprises (like The Flash in the Batcave and Superman’s death, probably) for all audiences. Which is nice...so I don’t see how that is bullying?
 - #2 - Is it rare for studios to ask reviewers NOT to spoil things? Because I’m pretty sure I’ve heard of that before. I don’t know why this seems to be brought up. Seems a little unprofessional, but that’s none of my business.

“Intellectual pretension, long an occupational hazard in the superhero business, has been elevated to a creative principle. Christopher Nolan is partly to blame. His “Dark Knight” entries in the Batman saga raised the genre’s allegorical stakes and dialed down the humor to an all-but-imperceptible whisper.”

“The theology is invoked not to elicit meditations on mercy, justice or sacrifice, but to buttress a spectacle of power. And in that way the

film serves as a metaphor for its own aspirations. The corporations that produce movies like this one, and the ambitious hacks who sign up to make them, have no evident motive beyond their own aggrandizement. Entertainment is less the goal than the byproduct, and as the commercial reach of superpower franchises grows, their creative exhaustion becomes ever more apparent.”

“That is just what this movie expects of you: acquiescence. It wants you to believe that it’s on your side. Don’t be fooled.”

- “Acquiescence” means the reluctant acceptance of something without protest.
- How is the movie NOT on my side? What am I being fooled about? That’s how the review ends and I guess I’ll never know.

Sandiegoreader.com/San Diego Reader

Matthew Lickona

<http://www.sandiegoreader.com/movies/batman-v-superman-dawn-of-justice/#>

“Superman demands no sacrifice, no worship, and no authority over humanity. He just wants to help out and have bathtub sex with his girlfriend Lois Lane. After all, the love of a good woman worked for Dad!”

- Winner of the Most Cynical Attitude Award!
- This review is one long paragraph and reads like it took five minutes to write.

Seattle Times

Soren Anderson

http://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/movies/batman-v-superman-dawn-of-justice-epic-battle-lacks-zip-bam-pow/?utm_source=RSS&utm_medium=Referral&utm_campaign=RSS_movies

“The powers that be at Warner gave director Zack Snyder (“Man of Steel,” “300”) a budget of \$250 million, according to published reports, and what he has given in return is a movie that treats the audience as an enemy, a victim.”

- Poor Soren! The victim of a tyrant!

“Snyder wields the bombastic drum-heavy orchestral score like a sledgehammer, as if trying to batter the audience into submission with sonic overkill.”

- Another critic upset with the score.

“Lex Luthor, played by Jesse Eisenberg with a peculiar jitteriness and a full head of hair, a strange departure from a character whose most defining feature in the comics is baldness.”

- I’m confused. Where is the departure? Lex Luthor has had red hair (even long red hair!) in comics and on SMALLVILLE so this isn’t a departure. PLUS, it’s shaved off by the end of the movie and is most “defining feature” is there. He’s bald.

Refers to Alfred **“as making Alfred less of a butler and more of a stubby electronics expert who keeps the Bat gizmos running right”** as a **“misguided rejiggering of classic story elements”** gives Soren away as someone who doesn’t know much about the characters and their history.

Soren also mentions **“an unrelieved atmosphere of oppressiveness”**, but doesn’t go into what that means.

A.V. Club

A.A. Dowd

<http://www.avclub.com/review/batman-v-superman-dawn-justice-inelegant-its-title-234188>

“When the Last Son Of Krypton seems every bit as anguished, as edgily *dark*, as the Dark Knight himself, what’s the point in bashing them together? Their conflict isn’t so much “day versus night,” to quote the bad guy, as “late evening versus slightly later evening.”

- This could be a fair point if you ignored the fact that Batman is a changed human being after his encounter with Superman.

‘Directed by Zack Snyder, of faithfully butchered *Watchmen* fame”

“(It’s hard to learn the value of human life when your late foster father, moral compass of the previous movie, suggests that protecting your secret identity may be more important than saving a busload of drowning children.)”

- That’s not exactly what Jonathan Kent says. He doesn’t know what the answer is and encourages Clark to figure that out for himself because he’s the only one who really can.
- If you can’t already tell, this is a reviewer who hates Zack Snyder and did NOT like “Man of Steel” so this review is HIGHLY biased.

“the film’s cokehead millennial version of Lex Luthor”

- Did I miss the scene when Lex Luthor did drugs?

Running the length of about seven *Batman: The Animated Series* episodes

- Haha...WHAT?
- You know most movies nowadays run around 2 to 2 ½ hours long, right?

“Superman comes across like a smugly sociopathic deity”

- WHAT?
- Is he referring to the Superman in the Nightmare sequence? If so, he realizes that’s not the same Superman we see throughout the rest

of the film, right? And that The Flash comes into the Batcave to warn Bruce and try and prevent that future from happening?

“This is an airless and humorless superhero movie,”

“What Snyder sees in these timeless characters is raw, herculean power, and little else”

- So, he doesn’t see them as human, who want love, family, and a sense of belonging?

“shouldn’t all this geeky property colliding still at least be *entertaining*? Shouldn’t it play to the cheap seats instead of wallowing in the murk?”

- AKA Shouldn’t this movie be a dumb-downed popcorn flick?

“The actor’s having fun. At least someone is.”

Boston Globe

Ty Burr

Title of Review: “Batman v Superman is dark and chaotic”

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/movies/2016/03/23/chaotic-joyless-super-hero-showdown/roD16b4FzoQm6oue4oA6LJ/story.html>

“Zack Snyder’s film tries to pulverize you into agreement. For the death of cinema, it’s not bad.”

- Death of Cinema?
 - Who says cinema is dying?
 - And why is Zack Snyder associated with it given that he’s doing everything visually and storytelling-wise to keep it ALIVE?
 - Zack Snyder cares about every frame. He cares about characters and storytelling.

- The DC movies have decided against post-credit sequences because they have determined (and rightfully so) that movies should have final shots.

“Batman v Superman” should be titled “DC Comics v Marvel,” because those are the actual stakes here.”

- Why is this even in a movie review? Marvel has nothing to do with anything in the film.

“Batman v Superman” sinks slowly into dank, noisy chaos over its 2½-hour running time, as Bruce and Clark work out their issues by beating each other silly before bumping fists in sudden solidarity.”

- So the whole film is like this? Please stop exaggerating. It's misleading and honestly? Intellectually dishonest.

“Alfred seems busier than usual and, in Jeremy Irons's playing, more elegantly depressed.”

- Alfred is watching Bruce act out of character...shouldn't he be played this way? That seems to fit within the story they are telling.

“The film's problems include a script, by David S. Goyer (of the “Dark Knight” series) and Chris Terrio (“Argo”), that hits a few real-world hot buttons for relevance before devolving into absurd dream sequences, mommy issues, and over-plotted mayhem. The story's parts never quite fit together, and Snyder still has difficulty directing an action sequence with logic and flow. In one of those dream sequences — the ridiculous one with the flying bat-monkeys out of “The Wizard of Oz”

- First, I can't believe someone would think the Nightmare sequence is “ridiculous” because it's one of the coolest ones in the movie.
- Second, why is a film critic NOT mentioning that awesome long take?
- Third, congrats on your observation about “the flying monkeys”, but I'm disappointed you didn't connect it with Lex's reference to the

Emerald City and how those things are intentionally nods to “The Wizard of Oz”.

“Why do Batman’s eyes start glowing two-thirds of the way through the movie? What does Lex Luthor’s hotsy minion (Tao Okamoto) actually do? Who decided there had to be a climactic countdown alarm clock that doesn’t actually count down to much? Who thought up what can only be considered a sociopathic version of the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man from “Ghostbusters”?”

- Batman’s eyes are glowing so he can see in the dark. Also? Why is this such a big deal to you. That’s not even a legitimate critique of this movie.
- Lex Luthor’s “minion” is acting like...GASP...a minion. She serves as his assistant, guides his appointments with people, and does anything he asks her to do.
- The countdown clock was there to raise the stakes and put a timer on Martha’s life. Even if we never see THAT clock at the warehouse go down to zero, we HEAR it go off when Lex’s kitchen timer dings. This is not a legitimate critique of the movie and it’s baffling to me that this is even mentioned.
- I don’t even understand the connection of the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man and Doomsday. Is it just because they’re both big? Because they have different actions and don’t look anything alike.

StarTribune.com/Minneapolis Star Tribune

Colin Covert

Title of Review: “Super strength needed to stomach the sense-assaulting Batman v Superman”

<http://www.startribune.com/review-super-strength-needed-to-stomach-the-senses-assaulting-batman-v-superman/373242881/>

“They should have called it “Batmeh v Supermeh.”

- This is the first line of the review.

“The respected Christopher Nolan is one of the producers, but this film is to his “Dark Knight” trilogy what a black velvet Elvis is to the Mona Lisa. This dour, dead-on-arrival film throws the feel-good glory days of American comic books on a funeral pyre.”

- Black Velvet Elvis? Hardly. In fact, there are elements of BvS that are elevated above the Dark Knight Trilogy, IMO. Plus, this is just an opinion, not an actual critique of the movie.
- Would the Death of Superman comic book storyline be considered part of the “glory days of American comic books”? I wasn’t a reader at the time, but everyone I know who is a hardcore comic reader and Superman fan looks back at that era with great fondness and admiration.

“All of it is offered up with feverish seriousness.”

- Shouldn’t the DEATH OF SUPERMAN be treated SERIOUSLY?

“Hunky, shallow Henry Cavill emerges as the Taylor Kitsch of the moment.”

- I actually had to look up who Taylor Kitsch is. I’ve only seen a handful of Friday Night Lights episodes so don’t hold it against me. Point is, this is a terrible reference even if the reviewer thinks it’s clever. I have no idea why Henry Cavill is compared to him.

Chicago Reader

J.R. Jones

<http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/batman-v-superman-dawn-of-justice-3d/MovieTimes?oid=21201311>

“Not as bad as *Bush v. Gore*, but close.”

- What does this have to do with...ANYTHING?

“Affleck makes a pretty good Batman (he's got great teeth), though his insight into the character consists mainly of having him hit the streets in a one-day stubble and a crabby mood.”

- If that's all you got out of Affleck's portrayal and this incarnation of Batman, I'm gonna level with you here...you may not be a person who needs to do film and/or story analysis.

“When the DC Universe goes to war with the Marvel Universe, we'll know the end times have arrived. With Amy Adams and Diane Lane.”

- WHAT DOES THIS EVEN MEAN?
- This is the last sentence of the “review”, which by the way, is the sum total of 7 (?) sentences. It was tough for me to even count the number of sentences because there is a period and then “and” which is pretty egregious and needs to be looked at by a proofreader or an editor of some kind.
 - THIS IS A “TOP CRITIC”, PEOPLE.

New York Magazine/Vulture

David Edelstein

<http://www.vulture.com/2016/03/review-batman-v-superman-a-confused-epic.html#>

“It's a shame that *Batman v Superman* is also a storytelling disgrace. It has maybe six opening scenes and jumps so incessantly from subplot to subplot that a script doctor would diagnose a peculiarly modern infection: “disjunctivitis.”

- This is a fair criticism in terms of the transitions of the scenes, but I wouldn't call it a “storytelling disgrace”.
- I wonder if the Extended Cut would fix these issues for David?

“How is Ben Affleck? Weighty. He's not your father's Batman — even the mask now resembles the face of an especially sour gargoyle, and instead of dropping his voice an octave like Christian Bale, he has a

mechanism for altering it. If that's to hide his identity, it seems pointless: The bat-mask covers neither the mole on Affleck's right cheek nor his distinctive, dimpled chin, so it's even more beyond belief that the mayor, police chief, and rest of Gotham City wouldn't know that Bruce Wayne is Batman. But we're past all that Adam West juvenilia. Everyone seems to take for granted that Batman is Bruce Wayne (and, for that matter, that Clark — with Henry Cavill's even cleftier chin — is Superman). We're in the realm of *ideas*, people — and, near as I can tell, ones somewhat similar to the upcoming Captain America picture, *Civil War*, which is evidently a battle royale over civil liberties with Captain America as Superman and Iron Man as Batman."

- I honestly don't understand what this paragraph is trying to accomplish.
- We've gone from talking about Ben Affleck's Batman to saying that he's not Adam West's Batman, but then says that that doesn't matter, then brings up ideas, and then ends with comparing Batman v. Superman to Civil War for some reason?
- Just absolutely incoherent.

"Alfred, by the way, is now the Chloe to Batso's Jack Bauer, manning the monitors in the Batcave while making withering cracks about Bruce's drift to the far right. We're a long way from when the butler actually butttled."

- First, the comparison to 24 just makes Alfred and Batman that much more awesome because 24, Jack Bauer, and Chloe are awesome.
- Second, just because you aren't aware of incarnations in which Alfred is more than a Butler to Bruce Wayne doesn't mean they don't exist.
 - Not a legitimate critique of this movie.

"Lois Lane (Amy Adams) insists that the Man of Steel "gives people hope," but wonders whether her *sexual relationship* with him is a distraction"

- WOW. That's what you got from that conversation? You don't think she was talking on a deeper level about their relationship? You went to "sexual relationship" in that scene as if sex was the only thing that mattered to both of them? WOW. Just...WOW.

"Eisenberg is ham with a side of ham, a blend of the Joker and his Mark Zuckerberg"

- I'd love to know exactly how this reviewer thinks Eisenberg's Lex is like the Joker.

"When a near-indestructible Kryptonian super-ogre arrives, the fighting is even more intense and more inconsequential — apart from the impact on poor Gotham City, which gets its own 9/11."

- How does Gotham City get its own 9/11 when they mention several times that the area in which the fight takes place is uninhabited, people have left work for the night, and nobody is shown to die from the encounter except for Superman.

"The good advance word on Gadot has centered on her wowza appearance, but she preens more than acts. Her best moments come when she laughs out loud in the middle of fighting. This dour, bombastic movie needed an infusion of joy."

- "Preen"?
- "Preen" means to "devote effort to making oneself look attractive and then admires one's appearance" and to "congratulate or pride oneself".
 - How does Diana and/or Wonder Woman do that at ALL in this movie?
 - Because she wears nice dresses and looks beautiful? PLEASE.
 - In those scenes she is either shown to be playing a cat and mouse game with Bruce (and has the upper-hand on him TWICE which

shows off her smarts and capabilities) or being concerned over what's happening in Metropolis.

- LAUGHS OUT LOUD? When does that happen? Oh yeah...IT NEVER DOES. This is a flat out misrepresentation of what actually happens in the movie. Does she smile and get competitive with Doomsday? SURE. But, she never "laughs out loud". Yikes. I'd be ashamed of myself if I wrote something that was so 100% incorrect in a review.

"Many scenes in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* work on their own terms, and Snyder has a gift for visual poetry."

- Just when I get excited that a film review is actually going to talk about FILMMAKING, that's all that is said about any visuals.

San Francisco Chronicle

Mick LaSalle

<http://www.sfgate.com/movies/article/Batman-v-Superman-a-long-empty-meeting-6984462.php>

"Batman v Superman" is an insanely long and convoluted action movie, made worse by an air of importance. It's dispiriting and visually bland."

- It's no longer than most movies in its genre and...
- Visually bland? VISUALLY BLAND? Are you KIDDING ME RIGHT NOW?

"Then it's off to the alien invasion of Gotham City, which has Bruce so upset that he is driving around town like a lunatic, while buildings are getting lasered out of existence. "

- HE'S DRIVING AROUND TOWN LIKE A LUNATIC BECAUSE HE'S TRYING TO GET TO THE ACTION SO HE CAN BETTER HELP

WHEN THINGS ARE GOING DOWN. YOU KNOW...ACTING LIKE BATMAN.

“Affleck is perfect for this incarnation of Batman. The guy exudes moral inexactitude and misplaced certainty. He makes you believe he could really think that Superman is not a nice person. And he counters all expectation that he might preen and charm his way through the role by not smiling once during the entire movie.”

- Wow. “Preen” is a more popular word with reviewers than I would have expected!
- Is the criticism here that Batman doesn’t smile in this movie? IS THIS REALLY WHAT THIS GUY WROTE? BATMAN, A CHARACTER, FAMOUS FOR HIS BROODING?

“As Lex Luthor, Jesse Eisenberg gives what will probably pass as a great performance”

- Why is there a hesitancy to call this a great performance?

“Hans Zimmer’s score matches the acting, with music that is portentous and full of unearned meaning.”

- I’m cackling over the use of “portentous” in a statement that is actually IS portentous for using the word “portentous”.

“When Superman and Batman finally meet in full costume, Zimmer is practically losing his mind, as though St. Paul and Plato, or Lincoln and Washington, or Jesus and Buddha were finally going to have a sit-down.”

- I have a difficult time understanding why this is a negative?
 - Batman has lots of parallels to the Apostle Paul in this movie.
 - Young Clark Kent was showing reading Plato in “Man of Steel”
 - Superman’s funeral procession is not only taken from the pages of the Death of Superman comic arc, but harkens back to

presidential funeral processions so that goes along with the references this reviewer makes to Lincoln and Washington

- Superman is very much a Christ figure in the Snyderverse/DCEU so that's how Jesus comes into play
- Buddha? I'm not sure of a reference to Buddha, but maybe someone else can.
- Bottomline...this reviewer acts like these references are negatives when they actually make the storytelling, characterizations, and visuals stronger more compelling.

“The music is thundering and cresting, and the world will never be the same.”

- “Snyder sets his story in our modern world and attempts to fashion a kind of commentary on the media and the current geopolitical situation. What he has crafted instead is a grotesque expression of modern emptiness.”

This happens in the movie so that by the end of it, characters and the world are shown that we can be better.

“the story itself is like meaninglessness in search of meaning. There's an almost spiritual hunger in the hope that a meeting between Batman and Superman might amount to something, but there's nothing there.”

- FOR YOU.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram/DFW.com

Preston Jones

<http://www.dfw.com/2016/03/23/1085565/movie-review-batman-v-superman.html>

This link seems to work better:

<https://www.star-telegram.com/entertainment/arts-culture/article67771552.html>

“Snyder, someone for whom the wanton destruction of large metropolitan areas remains a clear and disturbing fetish”

“*Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* delivers nothing beyond CGI-enhanced spectacle.”

“Snyder and screenwriters Chris Terrio and David S. Goyer manage to desecrate not only Christopher Nolan’s “Dark Knight” trilogy”

“It should tell you everything about *Dawn of Justice* that Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot) arrives in the film more or less as she does in the trailer — hey, all of a sudden, there she is!”

- Um...no? We see her watching the news which gives her the information to find out EXACTLY where the Doomsday fight is happening and then she gets off the plane. It’s not that hard to figure out.

RE: Lex Luthor: his “most menacing characteristic is that he might start speaking again”

“so much sound and fury, signifying nothing”

- Quoting MacBeth? Wow, I’m so impressed!

“There is no sense of urgency, no dramatic stakes.”

WHAT?!?!

“cinematographer Larry Fong’s frenzied images”

“Hans Zimmer and Junkie XL’s thudding, ham-handed score”

New Republic

Tim Grierson

<https://newrepublic.com/article/131935/batman-v-superman-battle-bores>

Right off the top, the reviewer is going with a clickbait headline "Batman v Superman: Battle of the Bores".

"indigestible mope-fest"

I haven't even gotten to the body of this review yet, and this is painful to read.

First Sentence: "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice is a joyless slog."

Keyword: JOY

"Filled with scenes of gloomy characters confronting their demons"

You know what would be insightful? Maybe writing about those demons.

"or wrestling with their insipid moral quandaries"

I'd also like to read thoughts about moral quandaries. Is that in this review?

Only took three sentences to mention Christopher Nolan and the Dark Knight trilogy.

Only took four sentences to mention how much this reviewer dislikes Zack Snyder.

"Batman v Superman is simply soulless"

I haven't gotten past the first paragraph and I'm starting to think this review has no soul.

"Wayne is enduring one of the least compelling onscreen versions of his murdered-parents trauma"

Is this reviewer badmouthing the opening sequence of the Wayne Murders?!

I've stopped taking this person seriously at this point.

"Batman v Superman was written by two men capable of telling an entertaining story."

Oh, I know where this is going! You're so original!

"we have to yet again be reminded that Wayne is Haunted By His Past"

You don't know a lot about Batman, do you? That's kinda his thing.

It took six paragraphs to mention the Marvel movies. Honestly? I'm surprised it took this reviewer so long to get there.

"it was little surprise that writer-director Joss Whedon injected a nerdy enthusiasm into his Avengers movies"

This is getting better! Now, we've stopped reviewing BvS and are somehow, now reviewing The Avengers and Joss Whedon. This paragraph solely about the MCU also mentions that there is no "fun" in BvS.

THIS REVIEWER IS MAKING FUN OF SNYDER FOR WANTING TO SAY THINGS THAT BVS ACTUALLY TALKS ABOUT.

The actual GALL of a MOVIE REVIEWER not to address these topics in a serious way is 100% offensive to me as a movie fan. SO LAZY.

"his Batman doesn't bother shaving the five-o'clock shadow when he puts on the mask"

Now I KNOW this person knows jack squat about Batman.

"Superman all sad and convinces him that Earth is filled with a bunch of mean jerks who don't appreciate him"

#SurfaceLevel

"this is a gigantically empty experience"

Please pray for this reviewer. He sounds sad.

Second to Last Sentence: "It was bad enough that Man of Steel trampled on the memory of the first two good Superman movies."

#BuriedTheLede

Last Sentence: "Now Snyder has gone and ruined Batman, too."

This reviewer knows jack crap about Batman and feels like he can write that?

US Weekly

Mara Reinstein

<http://www.usmagazine.com/entertainment/news/batman-v-superman-epic-is-the-anti-deadpool-gets-2-stars-w167799>

Clickbait Headline: "151 Minutes of Gloom and Doom"

OH, THIS INTRO IS RICH, YOU GUYS.

- This reviewer complains that Supes isn't Supes because in BvS, he goes to **"testify at a Senate committee hearing about nuclear weapons."**
 - You mean, LIKE SUPERMAN 4? Granted, in Superman 4: The Quest for Peace, Superman hangs out with the United Nations, but, there is a precedent for Supes in BvS. PLUS, Superman doesn't go to the Senate to testify about nuclear weapons. He goes there because he's intervening in international affairs. I'm conflicted over whether or not this reviewer has seen Superman 4 or...HAS ONLY SEEN SUPERMAN 4.

"That's just one of many anticlimactic moments in the lackluster Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice".

ANTICLIMATIC? THE BLOWING UP OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING AND AMERICANS BEING MURDERED BY LEX LUTHOR IS...ANTICLIMATIC? The Senate Hearing sequence is one of the tensest (?) parts of the movie. Audiences I saw it with GASPED. People loved the Peach Tea reveal. The Senate Hearing sequence pushes Bruce Wayne over the edge and makes Superman question his role. It's vital to the story.

- 3 Paragraphs In: **"Not only is it the anti-Deadpool"**
 - Comparison to another movie? CHECK.

"it takes itself more seriously than a Best Picture Oscar winner"

- Wait, what? Is this supposed to be a negative thing?

"Batman gets top billing in the title, but this is essentially a sequel to 2013's equally laborious Man of Steel."

Don't bury that lede! Someone who didn't like "Man of Steel" so they're going to hate a Zack Snyder movie set in the same universe? YOU DON'T SAY.

I'll give this reviewer some grace when there are complaints about lots of storylines to keep up with because that's hard, you guys.

"These are two extraordinary men plagued by tormented souls; mommy issues should not be a make-or-break factor."

I don't understand this. Is the author trying to say that "Martha" shouldn't have been what stopped the fight? Who says? It's the the story they wanted to tell.

"You may not even be capable of seeing the duel, as it's staged in pitch black in the pouring rain."

Ah, the old NIGHT SCENES complaint. God forbid a movie have a sequence set at night and in the rain when explosions and water are easier to see. RAIN? AND NIGHTTIME SCENES? IN GOTHAM CITY? WHO WOULD DO THIS IN A BATMAN STORY? (So many comic book writers. SO MANY.) For ONCE, I'd love to read a review that analyzes WHY Snyder/Terrio would have the fight take place at night and in the rain. If you think about it longer than five seconds, you might discover that filmmakers use elements to help set tone and mood. What circumstances surround the big Batman v. Superman fight? Martha Kent is kidnapped. Batman is PISSED at the world and Superman. There's a lot of anger and misunderstanding that happens when Batman and Superman fight each other. Conveyed through darkness and storms.

"If the success of the delightfully twisted Deadpool proved anything"

If you're keeping track, this is the second Deadpool mention.

"moviegoers prefer their comic book pics bright and loose with a side of self-knowing wit"

ALL MOVIE FANS PREFER SUNLIGHT AND JOKES, Y'ALL.

"(That winning combination also worked for Guardians of the Galaxy and the Avengers flicks.)"

Ah. Our first MCU mention.

"You could even make a case that Christopher Nolan's superb Batman trilogy"

Our first Dark Knight Trilogy mention!

"A popcorn film — and this is a popcorn film — should never feel like Sunday night homework."

I HATE THINKING! WITH MY BRAIN! Also? Don't ever a movie is just a popcorn film and that it can only be a popcorn film. What a pretentious thing to say. Any movie can mean something to somebody even if it doesn't mean anything to you.

"This is not the place to introduce a story line such as the mystery behind the delivery of arms to rebels in Africa."

WHO SAYS?

"The superbuff and glowering Affleck and Cavill look like they can

overtake him [Lex] with one halfhearted punch to the gut"

Oh, wow. This person is a movie reviewer? Have they given any thought to what it means for Lex Luthor to be skinnier and smaller than the capes? Have they thought that maybe it's intentional that Lex isn't physically stronger than Superman and Batman, but could be...intellectually? Lex Luthor's thirst for power is partially in response to his insecurity when compared to Superman and Batman.

THAT'S THE POINT.

"as of now, this franchise desperately needs saving"

Says YOU and this terrible excuse for movie analysis.

Chicago Tribune

Michael Phillips

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/movies/ct-batman-v-superman-movie-review-20160322-column.html>

I gotta give this guy credit. "Yawn of Justice" is pretty funny for obvious clickbait.

First few words: **"A near-total drag"**.

This guy is a professional review for a major outlet? I wanna quit after the word "drag".

In the first sentence, the reviewer compares Batman and Superman to The Odd Couple? WHAT IN THE WORLD. The Odd Couple comparison is forced just to seem smart, IMO. It's not even that great of a comparison given BvS' content. While Batman and Superman had ideological differences, the Martha moment shows they aren't so different after all.

After the reviewer makes The Odd Couple comparison, he writes **"I kid. A little."** WHAT IS THIS. After this reviewer admits to kidding about something in his FIRST PARAGRAPH, he writes **"This certainly is not true of director Zack Snyder's solemn melee."** Now, I am REALLY confused about this Odd Couple bit. Dude compares BvS to The Odd Couple. Then admits to joking about it. And then admits nothing he wrote is true?

"The movie does not kid."

JOOOOOOOOOKESSSSSSSS.

"It takes the mournful death knells of the Christopher Nolan "Batman" trilogy"

Only took 6 sentences to mention Nolan.

This guy wrote that BvS ignores **"any of the visual strengths and moral provocations" of Nolans Dark Knight Trilogy?"** Did he WATCH BvS?

This review took 3 paragraphs to mention that BvS needs to earn a billion dollars even though I still have no idea where that comes from?

Some praise for performances in this review.

I particularly love **"Amy Adams as Lois Lane remains an asset as well."** But, the reviewer doesn't go into any detail as to why. You would think that he would expand on that thought given how many Oscars Amy Adams has been nominated for. She's kiiiind of a big deal.

Y'ALL ARE GONNA HAVE TO HOLD THE EARRINGS I AM NOT WEARING. RE: Cavill's Superman: **"he's as narcissistic a Superman as**

you'll ever see". How in the WORLD would you consider Cavill's Superman "narcissistic" in BvS? The definition of "narcissistic" is "having an excessive or erotic interest in oneself and one's physical appearance". Is this reviewer confusing Superman, looking inward about how the world sees him with NARCISSISM? Cavill's Superman wants to help people, but the world is too busy listening to themselves talk about him. When Superman has trouble with what the world says about him, who does he go to? His mom, his girlfriend, and his "father". You wanna know one of the antonyms for "narcissistic"? **"SACRIFICING"**. Superman gave up EVERYTHING. His happiness with Lois. His role as a hero to the people. His relationship with his mom. EVERYTHING. Superman even let go of his anger and bitterness towards Lex to save the life of his ENEMY. Cavill's Superman does everything for the good of others. For the safety of others. And he's gentle and humble about it.

Oh, here's some "Man of Steel" bias and misunderstanding creeping in (SHOCKING, NO ONE)...**"Having killed thousands of innocent bystanders at the end of "Man of Steel"**. Superman killed ONE guy. ONE. And he had NO OTHER CHOICE.

"A terrorist bombing on a major D.C. landmark is just another tasteless, ill-timed "gotcha!" moment."

Which was Lex Luthor's goal, yes?

This reviewer thinks BvS is "pessimistic" giving me a preeeeetty good idea about his personal worldview, to be honest. If you walk away from BvS thinking it was "pessimistic" as the credits roll, then I'm not sure you understand "optimism"?

"You'd have to go back to Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ" to find this much Christian iconography"

And...why is this a bad thing? FYI: If someone complains about Christ figure imagery being used with Superman, I assume they know nothing about Superman.

I wonder why this guy is **"at odds"** with Snyder's visual approach. That's really interesting to me.

TRIGGER WARNING: "joyless"

I'm so glad we're ending this review by circling back to Nolan's Dark Knight Trilogy. We've come full circle, you guys.

"You don't owe this world a thing, Lane tells Superman at one point. Maybe so."

Two big thoughts on this bit:

- #1 - No "maybe" about it. Superman doesn't owe the world ANYTHING. Zip. Nada. He never has. Never did. Never will. I LOVE the idea that Superman does what he does because he CHOOSES to, not because he's OBLIGATED to.
- #2 - If you use the name "Lane" in a review about the DCEU, you might wanna be more specific about which lady you're referring to.

"humankind deserves a better blockbuster"

And I deserved to read a better review of this movie. I guess we're at a standstill. This review gave BvS 1.5 stars! Because he liked the acting, I guess? I'm not sure. There's no real explanation.

The Detroit News

Adam Graham

<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/entertainment/2016/03/23/review-batman-v-superman-exhausting-showdown/82151448/>

This reviewer describe the fight as "roaring, unrelenting punishment". Isn't that what Batman intended? He wanted to KILL Superman.

"The movie crams together a Batman story, a Superman story" is an odd critique because I think this is supposed to be negative?

"two-and-a-half hour collision that aims to bludgeon viewers into submission"

GOOD LORD. Is this guy okay?

"the experience is rather empty"

A while back, I read that what you put into a story is what you get out of it, so...

The first time I've read the F word (you know the one) happens three paragraphs in. Dude really held out. Good for him.

"This is Batman and Superman, not a funeral procession."

Maybe the reviewer is trying to avoid spoilers (and I'll give him that), but the reality of talking about BvS is that funerals in it... +

...are a BIG and beautiful deal! The movie bookends itself with funerals that change Bruce's life and worldview and set him on a journey.

There's so much that BvS says about life and death, about redemption and resurrection, and about celebrating life.

You think it's a bad thing that BvS has funeral processions, sir?

I WELCOME THEM.

NJ.com

Stephen Witty

http://www.nj.com/entertainment/index.ssf/2016/03/batman_v_superman_dawn_of_justice_review_not_so_su.html

Headline: "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice' review: Not so super"

- Lazy

Image used is fan art, not an official image

First sentence in this review: More like **"The Dark Lite."**

A) That is lazy and B) Is "Lite" a play on "Dawn"? I don't totally get it.

This reviewer is confused about BvS showing Bruce Wayne in Metropolis. Which honestly, is one of the weirdest "critiques" I've read yet.

- Why is it so impossible that Bruce Wayne has a Wayne Financial building in Metropolis? Especially, if Gotham is just across the bay?
- Also? Bruce Wayne is a gazillionaire. You think he only has one company building? Or, am I overthinking this guy's overthinking?
- **"Maybe Metropolis offered a sweet tax rebate if he'd move his corporate headquarters?"**
 - Sure. Let's go with that!

"Wayne now becomes convinced that Superman is a dangerous lunatic - which is kind of funny"

- WOW.
- So, are we gonna totally gloss over the fact that Bruce witnessed his employees dying in a building collapse?
- Are we gonna totally gloss over the fact that during the Metropolis sequence, Bruce helps both, a man who loses his legs and an orphaned girl?

- This guy is not even addressing how the Metropolis experience gives Bruce an extremely VALID reason for thinking Superman is dangerous.

[Lex] is coming up with a plan to kill both of them, and wipe out Metropolis. Or maybe Gotham. Who cares anyway, at this point?

- So, is this guy not even going to try and break down Lex Luthor's plans in the movie? Are we not even gonna attempt an analysis?

You thought we were gonna make it out of this review without a Nolan mention, didn't you?

This reviewer is so lazy, he spells Zack Snyder's name as "Zac Snyder". Do movie reviewers/critics not know that IMDB exists?

"The idea of Superman-as-Jesus (which was already overdone in "Man of Steel")"

- Ah yes, let's criticize the Jesus stuff and raise my stress level in the process.
- Instead of just pointing out "oh here is this Superman-as-Jesus crap again"...why not dig into it? Why not try to understand why it's done?
- There's a big theme in BvS of God vs. Man. It's everywhere in the story. Bats vs. Supes. Lex vs. Supes. But, also about Clark himself.
- The world sees Superman as a messianic figure, but the question of "Maybe he's a guy trying to do the right thing?" is brought up.
- Clark doesn't see himself as Jesus. He's just a guy trying to do the right thing. That's all he wants to do. That's all he ever does.
- So, Mr. Reviewer, even if you don't personally like the Superman-as-Jesus metaphors in BvS, maybe try to understand them?

- As a Christian and a movie fan, I was blown away by the use of Christian imagery for Supes in BvS. It was beautiful and tied into the story.
 - The crosses. FALSE GOD. The Pieta. The depiction of the Descent FROM the Cross (art!). The scripture reading. Amazing Grace.
- Isn't it possible to at least, acknowledge that the Christian/Jesus imagery is well done? That it's structurally sound and shot beautifully?

"Time for Snyder to suddenly insert another out-of-nowhere nightmare for Batman"

<http://pulpklatura.tumblr.com/post/141843209469/batman-v-superman-the-modern-revenge-tragedy>

- Do reviewers just think Terrio was like "I'm gonna write another nightmare for funsies?"
- What I find particularly offensive about most of these reviews is that
 - A) I don't think these critics are educated so why should I read? And
 - B) There isn't even an EFFORT to analyze why there are nightmares throughout BvS. NOBODY DIGS INTO IT. It's the laziest thing

This guy describes BvS as an **"airless and artificial movie"** and I have no idea what that means.

The bright spot in this review, is that this guy gives props to the actors and even praises Gal Gadot's performance. NOICE.

- HAHA, OH MAN. Right after praising the actors, he writes **"But hey, let's not get ahead of ourselves."**
- BECAUSE GOD FORBID YOU ACTUALLY LIKE SOMETHING ABOUT THIS MOVIE AND APPLAUD PEOPLE FOR THEIR HARD WORK.

Y'ALL ARE NOT GONNA BELIEVE HOW THIS REVIEW ENDS (BUT, I'M GONNA TELL YOU, ANYWAY.)

- **“But a big-budget, high-stakes franchise opener built around a strong female character? That’s just crazy talk.”**
 - Wonder Woman movie, anyone?

RogerEbert.com

Matt Zoller Seitz

<http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/batman-v-superman-dawn-of-justice-2016>

<https://twitter.com/derbykid/status/831984218590814208>

I'm a little confused. Is it 2.5 out of 4 stars or 2.5 out of 3 stars?

First Sentence: **"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" is state of the art epic superhero filmmaking.**

- AND YET, SOMEHOW, THIS IS A BAD THING.

"if you prefer these movies to be ponderous, disorganized and glum"

- IF YOU.....THESE MOVIES. Right away, in the second sentence of this review, the author has given himself away. He's already got a superhero movie bias/preference.

I wonder if the MCU is gonna get mentioned in this review?

- BOOM. FIRST PARAGRAPH.

"The story begins with yet another flashback to young Bruce Wayne witnessing his parents' murder" and "this sequence [the Wayne murder] initially plays like one more visit to a dried up well"

- THE LAZINESS OF COMPLAINING ABOUT THE WAYNE MURDER IN BVS WITHOUT MENTIONING THE BEAUTIFUL IMAGERY OR THE MEANING BEHIND IT...THESE PEOPLE DON'T GIVE A RIP ABOUT MOVIES. AND THIS IS ON ROGEREBERT.COM. FOR SHAAAAAAME.
- No mention of Larry Fong's stellar shot composition. No mention of the haunting and moving score. No mention of how it impacts the story. NOPE. Let's just complain that we have to see "yet another flashback".GIVE ME A FREAKING BREAK.
- I have seen every ding dang representation of the Wayne Murder that has ever been shot on film and the one in BvS is unique.
- First, it's actually really faithful to comics. Thomas' fist. The Mark of Zorro poster. Go crack open The Dark Knight Returns.
- Second, NEVER has this scene shown Martha Wayne as proactive as she is in BvS. SHE GOES FOR THE GUN TO PROTECT BRUCE.
- As a woman, I am OVER THE MOON that Snyder allowed Martha Wayne to be so brave. She's just as much of a hero as Thomas.
- And yes, the "Martha" moment makes the BvS version stand out from all other versions. This is the ONLY TIME it happens.

I appreciate that this reviewer mentions Bruce's "anger and helplessness" in the Metropolis sequence. Seeing the word "helplessness" makes me think this guy might have actually watched the movie.

I keep referring to the cowed hero as Bruce because, more so than any Batman picture, "Batman v Superman" treats the Caped Crusader as a scary-awesome manifestation of ordinary neuroses, practically a lycanthropic rodent-beast who emerges at night, summoned by his own monogrammed spotlight-moon. In comparison, Superman seems a more balanced character: aside from the presence or absence of glasses or a cape and the stress of maintaining his cover story (he gets so preoccupied by an unauthorized investigation of Batman's vigilantism that he starts screwing up his regular duties at the *Planet*), Clark Kent and Superman are essentially the same guy.

This guy thinks Superman is **"relegated to a glorified supporting role"**.

MMMKAY.

Mentioning rumors:

The title promises an even distribution of screen time. But despite the presences of touchstone DC characters—including a smarmy, psychotic, tech-douche version of Lex Luthor ([Jesse Eisenberg](#), fidgeting and yammering like [Jeremy Davies](#)); ageless Amazon warrior Wonder Woman ([Gal Gadot](#)); ace reporter and Superman gal pal Lois Lane ([Amy Adams](#)); Alfred the Butler (Jeremy Irons); *Daily Planet* editor Perry White ([Laurence Fishburne](#)) and Ma Kent ([Diane Lane](#))—this is ultimately an overstuffed, overpopulated, awkwardly plotted Batman picture that relegates the Man of Steel to a glorified supporting role. (If industry reports are to be believed, this was a last minute decision by Warner Bros., which preferred the financial safe-bet Batman to the recently revitalized Supes.)

"you see every card it's about to play ten minutes before the movie plays"

- One might argue that's good writing.
- Setups and Payoffs, y'all.

This reviewer is complaining that Martha's name was repeated throughout the film. Seriously? "Martha" is said at the very beginning. And then you see the grave marker in a nightmare. And then it doesn't come back until the end.

This reviewer complains about the mention about fighting in a depopulated area. You know why they did that? BECAUSE OF CRITICS. GO READ A MAN OF STEEL MOVIE REVIEW. SEE IF THEY MENTION THE DESTRUCTION. You wanna complain that the movie cared about the depopulated areas? Well, you only have yourself to blame, Sir Movie Critic.

Surprise! A Nolan mention! But, TWIST! Burton and Schumacher are ALSO mentioned!

"Adams' Lois Lane is once again reduced to a poker-faced damsel in distress"

- No mention of Lois' STORYLINE that SPANNED the entire movie. No mention that Lois is the reason for Lex's incarceration.
- No mention of that quiet moment between Lois and Martha before the funeral that Amy played so well.
- No mention of The Flash time-traveling into the Batcave to shout LOIS LANE IS THE KEY.

"Jeremy Irons' Alfred isn't a patch on Michael Gough's or Michael Caine's"

- Written differently. Performed differently. And that's okay.

"louder than an airstrip at O'Hare"

- EXCEPT, FOR ALL OF THOSE QUIET MOMENTS YOU CONVENIENTLY FORGOT ABOUT TO WRITE THIS REVIEW.

"has both figuratively and literally dark images"

- WHY AREN'T THESE SCENES SET IN THE DAYTIME?
WHERE IS THE SUUUUUUUN?

"thanks to the way Snyder and his cinematographer Larry Fong bleed the color out"

- Somewhere, @larryfong is having a good laugh at this.

This reviewer mentions The Dark Knight Returns like he's read it. I don't believe him.

Short mentions about "superb" performances from Affleck and Cavill so that's nice to see. But, it's REALLY short. Like 9 words.

"you can piece together a classic in your mind if you're feeling charitable"

Second to Last Sentence: **"At times it might make you long for Christopher Nolan's delicate touch."**

- GOTTA GET ONE MO NOLAN MENTION IN.
- After he writes something about Nolan's "delicate touch", he ends with "Life's funny that way."
 - WHAT IN THE WORLD.

Time.com

Stephanie Zacharek

<http://time.com/4268724/batmanvsuperman-review-movie-ben-affleck-henry-cavill/>

Review Headline: Superheroes Duke It Out Superseriously in Batman v Superman

- Still trying to wrap my brain around why a movie being serious is bad.
- If BvS had billed itself as a comedy, I understand the confusion about it being a serious drama. But, it never did that.
- It's difficult for me to take a REVIEW seriously when it can't even understand the genre of the movie.
- If this was say, a Melissa McCarthy movie, I would probably expect comedy and laughs, but not always. Even as much as Bridesmaids always makes me cry in laughter, this scene addresses real emotional issues. It's okay for a movie to be serious, sometimes. Even comedies.
- Why make a movie if you don't wanna say something?
- Movies aren't just one thing. They can be super serious and still have comedy. They can be super serious and still worth watching.

“As superhero spectacles go, Zack Snyder's *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* is a grand one, with a mondo-operatic climax and a final shot infused with quivering, exhilarating molecules of grace. It's also not much fun”

- So, let me get this straight...BvS is a grand and operatic movie with an awesome final shot. But, because it's not "fun", we should write it off? THIS is why judging a movie based on BUT IS IT FUN is a terrible way of judging movies.

“At one point a villain with some crazy ideas intones, "God is tribal. God takes sides." All of these statements are intended to provoke thought, of the political or spiritual kind, but they're simultaneously too unshaped and too obvious. Snyder floats them onscreen like ominous nighttime clouds, onto which we can project our own Batsignals of meaning.”

“Why, oh why, can't we just get what we came for?”

- I don't know about you, lady, but I got EXACTLY what I went to see BvS for.
- I went to see BvS so I could experience a great film-going experience with my favorite DC Comics characters.
- I went for Snyder and Fong's unique visual style that always delivers spectacular shot composition and imagery.
- From what I'm reading, this lady went to see BvS to see Batman and Superman fight, I guess?

“*Batman v Superman* lunges for greatness instead of building toward it: It's so topheavy with false portent that it buckles under its own weight.”

- "Portent": something that foreshadows a coming event or prophetic indication or significance
- How does BvS contain false foreshadowing of a coming event? Everything hinted at for the future is coming?

This reviewer describes "Sucker Punch" as **"the flawed but raggedly affecting riot-grrrl head trip"** and I don't know what that means.

This reviewer describes Zack Snyder as an **"ambitious visual stylist"**.

- And I would agree. Glad to find some common ground!

MARVEL CINEMATIC UNIVERSE MENTION! **"THE JAUNTY MARVEL UNIVERSE."**

"Both [Batman and Superman] carry scars of childhood trauma, and both are social misfits"

- One might call that a writing parallel.

Surprise compliments for acting performances!

THE F WORD HAS A SHOCKING TWIST IN THIS ONE, YOU GUYS.

- After spending this entire review, writing about how BvS isn't any fun, this lady writes these final two sentences:
 - **"Cavill's Clark Kent interrupts her solitude, barging in with a sack of groceries (he's going to make dinner, he announces) and a bouquet of flowers. He hands the troubled Lois a random tulip, and when that fails to cheer to her up, he steps into the water himself, fully clothed. We don't see what happens next, because we don't have to. For once, Clark Kent is having some fun. Someone has to be."**
 - Correct me if I'm wrong, but what I am reading is that maybe a movie that was deemed no "fun" actually had "fun" in it?

Newsday

Rafer Guzmán

<http://www.newsday.com/entertainment/movies/batman-v-superman-dawn-of-justice-review-zack-snyder-s-dull-disaster-may-knock-you-unconscious-1.11607059>

Headline: Zack Snyder's dull disaster may knock you unconscious

- WOW. That is SEVERE. Hope everyone is okay after watching BvS!

1.5 out of 4 stars

- Wonder why it got that ½ star?

We get a "BOTTOM LINE" before the review starts:

- **"BOTTOM LINE This overlong and humorless slugfest may knock you unconscious."**

"Critics entering an advance screening of "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" were asked to sign a confidentiality agreement promising not to reveal "plot or character" developments before the film's release. At least two spoilers, however, are worth revealing up front."

- The first "spoiler" this reviewer revealed was that Ben Affleck was not the horrendous trainwreck that was anticipated.
 - **"The first concerns Ben Affleck, whose casting as Batman raised a caps-lock outcry back in 2013. Surprise — he's pretty good."**
 - Comparison to Christian Bale's Batman
- **"The second spoiler is that, in most other respects, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" is not a good movie."**
- These are not "spoilers"...these are your opinion.

This reviewer uses "mercurial" to describe character motivations. I like learning new words! And the application here seems spot on.

Another review that has problems understanding why Wayne Financial might be in Metropolis.

- I guess these reviewers think it's some kind of plot hole or convenience, but it's a really silly thing to nitpick, IMO.
- It's like saying that Wells Fargo can't have a building in multiple cities. Or, some other big company can't have more than one location.
- The scene of Clark visiting Gotham via ferry is added back in for the Extended Cut and it, IMO, says so much about Clark Kent.
 - Clark could EASILY just fly to Gotham, but he chooses to ride on the ferry like everybody else. Shows he's more human than superhuman.
- Unfortunately, the cutting of a scene when Clark visits Gotham is the price we pay here, but glad to know contextual clues still work.
 - **“When Batman finally visits Lex Luthor (Jesse Eisenberg, distractingly twitchy), he’s cheerfully told, “You ought to hop over the harbor more often.” So there’s a ferry?”**

“Amy Adams returns as Lois Lane in distressed-damsel mode”

“Overlong, underdeveloped and almost entirely humorless, “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” may please die-hard fans by pitting two DC icons against each other. Everyone else may want to wait for the next Marvel movie.”

- No jokes!
- Fanboys and Fangirls vs. Critics (who are clearly more important)!
- Marvel movies are better, you guys!
- I’m honestly impressed that this reviewer got all of those talking points in one paragraph

New York Post

Lou Lumenick

<http://nypost.com/2016/03/22/ben-affleck-unsuccessfully-dons-the-batsuit-in-bloated-batman-v-superman/>

Headline: Ben Affleck unsuccessfully dons the Batsuit in bloated 'Batman v Superman'

- Wow. Going after Batfleck. Bold choice.

"Threatened in some form or other since 2002, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" finally arrives to kick off the ever-lengthening "summer" movie season — and a long series of planned DC superhero movies that hope to compete with Marvel."

- Got to the MCU pretty quickly in this review. First sentence!

"and it looks an awful lot like 9/11 at Ground Zero"

- Intentional and Appropriate.

"Three years later, Wayne/Batman still blames Superman for "thousands" of deaths at his company's skyscraper"

- Reading is fundamental, you guys. The movie specifically states it's 18 months later

"While "300" maestro Snyder puts together some very striking scenes"

- This fanboy (I guess, because apparently, fangirls don't exist) would love to know more about Snyder's striking scenes? Wanna elaborate?

"He literally throws in the kitchen sink in a film that frantically introduces characters and concepts while never clearly establishing the rules of the DC Comics universe."

- Now, THIS is an interesting critique. I wonder what "rules" Snyder needed to set up?

This reviewer took 8 "paragraphs" to get to Nolan. A tremendously long time for these reviews.

"there is no credible sense of danger"

- So is this guy saying that there was no danger during the Metropolis flashback, the African sequence, the Capitol bombing, the Knightmare sequence, the Batmobile chase, Lex throwing Lois off a roof, Batman beating the crap out of Superman, the warehouse fight, and DOOMSDAY KILLING SUPERMAN?
- Say what you want about BvS, but...**"there is no credible sense of danger"**? Please.

"The demolition of an iconic landmark carries no more weight here than in Independence Day."

- WHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAT
- Lex Luthor had a battle of wits (complete with American History!) with a Senator and then threw her own words back in her face before blowing her and a bunch of totally innocent people while on national television. The Capitol bombing is Lex saying that he doesn't need the government to approve his actions. He is acting outside of the law. Lex successfully makes the public question Superman once again and this time, after the bombing, they set Superman figures ON FIRE. The bombing has such a heavy weight on Superman/Clark that he doubts what Superman means and retreats to solitude for answers. CARRIES NO WEIGHT. Please.

Comparing Ben Affleck's performance as Batman to Christian Bale's? Check.

This has gotten PERSONAL. This reviewer thinks Affleck played Batman because he's an **"Oscar-winning writer-director cashing a big paycheck"**.

"Constantly threatening to collapse from self-seriousness"

- If we've learned anything from previous reviews, "serious" = "bad".

"this epic has way too much of everything, including CGI and Oscar winners up the wazoo"

- COMPLAINING THERE ARE TOO MANY OSCAR WINNERS.

"Kevin Costner in one of many ill-advised cameos"

- Personally, I thought seeing "Jonathan" was a nice surprise, full of emotion and heart.

"I won't give away the big "surprise," but rest assured that like everything else here, it's telegraphed well in advance."

- Is this referring to the death of Superman? And if so, is foreshadowing in storytelling considered bad writing now?

Toronto Sun

Bruce Kirkland

<http://www.torontosun.com/2016/03/22/batman-v-superman-dawn-of-justice-review-ben-afflecks-dark-knight-one-of-the-worst-things-about-new-superhero-film>

I am stunned by how reviewers went after Ben Affleck in their headlines. But then, I try and remember that clickbait is a thing.

It's odd to complain about a "slobbering villain" when that's kind of the point of Doomsday? Doomsday is an abomination. He's born with the sole purpose to destroy Superman. Nothing about him is supposed to be sophisticated.

First Sentence: **"This is frustrating"**

- Dude, I feel that about this review so far and I'm only one sentence in.

The reviewer admits that **"Half of Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice is brilliant."**

- We don't get much information about that half.

This reviewer complains that the running time of two hours and 31 minutes is **"overwrought"**.

- I know the word "overwrought" [from Designing Women](#)
I wonder what other movies had that length?
- Avengers: Age of Ultron: 2 hours and 22 minutes
- The Avengers: 2 hours and 23 minutes
- Captain America: Civil War: 2 hours and 27 minutes
- Total Run Time is meaningless. If you want to complain about how long a movie is, write or talk about the pacing instead of total run time.

"gets bogged down in too much existential angst"

- Translation: It's too "serious".

"too much deadly soul-searching and too much post-9/11 fear-mongering"

- HOLD UP. Who says?! Why do YOU get to decide what is "TOO MUCH"?

"This dreary darkness overwhelms us"

- Oh, surprise. Another complaint about the vague "darkness" of BvS.

"So my three-star rating out of five is generous."

- WHOA. THIS GUY GAVE IT THREE STARS?! We haven't even gotten to anything good.

"So this is a DC geography lesson, not a spoiler: Gotham City, where the Batman serves nightly as an angry vigilante, is a twin city with Metropolis"

- Boy, reviewers sure did focus a lot on this mostly meaningless (though Affleck had good thoughts at SDCC about it) aspect of the movie. Oh, I see. The reason the location of Gotham and Metropolis is "critical for the plot". And I suppose that's true during the big showdown.

"production designer Patrick Tatopoulos and cinematographer Larry Fong both work at the top of their game"

- I'M SURPRISED A REVIEWER MENTIONED THEM.

"when he dons the armoured version of the Batsuit to battle Superman, Affleck looks like a big, bad, clunky RoboCop"

- I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY. It's not like the armored Batsuit is taken straight out of Frank Miller's The Dark Knight Returns or anything.
- RE: Armored Batfleck during the big fight and "Martha Moment":
 - **"He become impersonal. Therefore, no emotional impact."**
 - What's more personal and filled with emotional impact than Batman finally realizing Superman is more like him than he thought?
 - What's more personal and filled with emotional impact than Batman wanting to KILL Superman because he sees him as a threat to mankind?
 - What's more personal and filled with emotional impact than Lois Lane running in to stop Batman from murdering her Clark?
 - What's more personal and filled with emotional impact than Batman having PTSD flashbacks of his parents' murders?

This reviewer mentions **"endless repetition of convoluted plot points"** and I have no idea what he is talking about.

Does it seem like these reviews don't have actual conclusions? Most of the time, these reviews just...end. They don't have a conclusion paragraph. They don't tie things together. It's...weird.

The Wrap

Alonso Duralde

<http://www.thewrap.com/batman-v-superman-review/>

Headline: 'Batman v Superman' Review: Ben Affleck's Got the Cool Car, But Wonder Woman Steals the Show

- This is...a positive headline? I think?
 - Just kidding. Right under the headline, it says: **"The movie's only female non-pawn or hostage"**
 - A dig at Lois and Martha. Oh, boy.

In context, I think Lois and Martha are just as much lady heroes as Wonder Woman.

- Lois doesn't just get kidnapped and thrown off a roof. She spends the entire movie doing what Lois Lanes do: gets to the truth. While **STANDING ON TOP OF A SKYSCRAPER**, Lois Lane calls Lex Luthor out on the bad things he's done and calls him "psychotic" **TO HIS FACE**.
- Lois goes to Africa and interviews an alleged (to some) "terrorist". She even tries to stop Jimmy from being shot.
- Lois runs in front of a crazed Batman to prevent him from **KILLING SUPERMAN**. What she says made all the difference.
- Even though the man she loves dies, Lois **STILL** reports the story on the death of Superman because she's a reporter and that's what they do.
- Yes, Martha Kent gets kidnapped and tied up, but it's not like she's the only **PERSON** in the movie who needs saving. **THEY ALL DO**.
- Lois Lane and Martha Kent are the strongest people in BvS. They lose a man they loved, but picked themselves back up despite grief.

“Critics covering early screenings of “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” have been subjected to demands for secrecy rarely seen since visitors to the set of Billy Wilder’s “Witness for the Prosecution” had to sign pledges to keep their mouths shut.”

- Oooh. A Billy Wilder mention! We are reading a film intellectual’s review.

"Gal Gadot’s Amazon warrior saves this sludgy epic from superhero sameness"

- SUPERHERO SAMENESS? How is BvS like any other superhero movie? If anything, BvS broke the superhero movie mold. It strives to be a work of art. It uses a Revenge Play structure. It contains allegory.

“As in “Man of Steel,” great swaths of real estate get obliterated by our protagonists, but it would appear that he heard the criticism that the previous film glibly traded on the horrors of 9/11 by showing ash-covered survivors crawling out of the ruins of Metropolis. This time, there’s always a supporting character (or Anderson Cooper) to tell us that the big bad battle is taking place in an area with no innocent bystanders.”

- These reviews are constantly bringing up the 9/11 imagery and then complaining when Snyder and Terrio course-corrected to lessen the casualties and it’s really hypocritical.

“a bombastic score by Hans Zimmer and Junkie XL”

IndieWire

Eric Kohn

<http://www.indiewire.com/2016/03/heres-the-problem-with-batman-v-super-man-dawn-of-justice-review-55873/>

Headline: Here's the Problem With 'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice'

- Ooh, this should be good. Please, sir. Inform me of the problem.

"It takes roughly 90 minutes for "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" to justify its title, and another 30 to establish it's a red herring."

- Um...what red herring? The fight still happened. Did people really think the whole movie was gonna be Batman and Superman fighting?

"Zack Snyder's flashy, cacophonous follow-up to 2013's "Man of Steel"

- In addition to documenting "bombastic", I might have to count how many times critics use "cacophonous". I swear I've seen that before.

This reviewer calls BvS a **"dreary spectacle"**.

- Does anyone really want a comedy for a movie that kills its main character.
- So what if BvS IS "dreary"? Does that automatically make it "bad"? It's a movie about two heroes fighting each other.
- BvS is a movie wherein, one of the main characters DIES and the other suffers from PTSD. Of course, it's going to be dreary.
- I've seen a lot of excellent movies that might be considered "dreary" to some. Go watch a WWII or a Hitchcock movie. One of the best movies I've ever seen is titled "Storm Warning". It's about the KKK in the South. "Storm Warning" is a tough watch, but dang it, Doris Day is fantastic in it and it was pretty gutsy for 1951.

"Bruce Wayne (Ben Affleck, more stone-faced and disinterested than usual) watches in horror from the ground"

- What did this guy want Bruce Wayne to be like as he experienced Metropolis' 9/11? Sunshine and Giggles?

This reviewer criticizes MoS for **"taking its iconic hero in such a dark direction"**.

- Or, you know, gave the story serious consequences.

"And we know that he's Batman, of course, before he even dons the cape. Wayne's murky backstory — millionaire playboy, parents killed as a child, overly obsessed with bats, you know the drill — comes and goes in a slo-mo opening sequence, acknowledging his mythological origin story without wasting too much time on it. That's about as deep as this movie drills into psychology before it rushes into a series of effects-driven battles, shadowy threats and half-baked plot twists. It's a spectacularly empty vision that fans already gleaned from the marketing."

- This seems to gloss over the fact that Bruce experiences of [K]nightmares all throughout the movie, culminating into the fight with Supes. BvS does, indeed, explore Bruce Wayne's psychology. And does a great job of it, IMO. I understand everything he does.

"Snyder's filmmaking, which once reflects an attempt to imitate Christopher Nolan's grim style"

- First Nolan mention in Paragraph 5.

I shouldn't be surprised that someone who can't analyze Bruce's PTSD thinks BvS is style without substance.

"Lois Lane (Amy Adams) continues her obsession with Superman"

- "Obsession"?! Or...her 18-month relationship? Yeah. That's better.

"(The talented actress' alternating expressions of bafflement and fear suggest the "one for them, one for me" philosophy at its height.)"

- I'm gonna need someone to explain this to me. I have no idea what this dude means.

This guy thinks seeing the media in BvS were just "goofy cameos". Guess he missed that substance about media narratives, huh?

"Snyder's an accomplished stylist who can at least make the dumbest movies justify their heft."

- A compliment? I...guess?

We're really digging into Snyder in this one. There's a "Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole" mention. Great movie, BTDubbs.

"Batman v Superman" doesn't lack for inspired visuals. The palette is rich with engaging contrasts. Superman drifts in space against a rainbow-colored earth; the hulkish doomsday monster that Luther dreams up looks like a Golem on steroids. The climax erupts in a symphony of neon light and shadows."

I'm surprised by the positive description of visuals. Very rare in these reviews. This one's for you, Larry Fong! Also? It's "Luthor". Geez. Pick up a comic book. Or, at the VERY least, do a Google Search.

"David S. Goyer and Chris Terrio's script offers plenty of weighted dialogue about playing gods, being gods and killing gods, but such pontifications can only take the one-note premise so far."

- Describes weighted dialogue and multi-layered themes and calls them a "one-note premise".

"Trailers tease the premise of "Batman v Superman" with the catchy hashtag #WhoShouldWin, but the movie inadvertently suggests that the real topic is #WhoShouldCare."

- Ain't even mad. This is a pretty good burn.
- The weirdest thing about this review is that it starts by saying it's going to tell me the problem with BvS and...I'm not sure what it was.

Entertainment Weekly

Chris Nashawaty

<http://ew.com/article/2016/03/22/batman-v-superman-dawn-of-justice-review/>

Important to note! This review categories BvS as "Action, Adventure, Fantasy".

"Zack Snyder's long-awaited *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* may be the closest thing fanboys and fangirls will ever get to a heavyweight title fight like the Thrilla in Manila or the Rumble in the Jungle."

- "Fangirls". SO NICE TO BE INCLUDED.

"Snyder has built his career on the supposition that it is. In films like *300*, *Watchmen*, *Sucker Punch*, and *Man of Steel*, he's proved to be the kind of filmmaker who cranks every knob as far to the right as it will go. Modulation, economy, and nuance may not be his thing, but at least his movies always look like a billion bucks."

- As someone who is VERY passionate about movie visuals and has read so many of these reviews, I find this INCREDIBLY REFRESHING.

Someone actually describes what they saw onscreen and how they perceived it. #FilmCriticism

"I get that this mano a supermano story line is a sacred text among comic-book aficionados"

- One of the things that has really started to agitate me while reading these reviews, is the reviewer "speaking for me". If I'm reading a review, I want to know what THAT REVIEWER thinks. Not what they think I probably think or what I should think. We all see art differently. We all have different life experiences that we bring into a story and how we feel about characters. Reviews will always be MUCH more

enjoyable to read if they truly reflect a fresh perspective from the people writing them.

“As the megalomaniac tech mogul hell-bent on bringing our heroes to their knees, the actor is a grating cartoon of manic motormouth tics. He might as well be wearing a buzzing neon sign around his neck that says “Crazy Villain.”

- There's no mention of how Lex is thought of as a charitable CEO who is applauded by Metropolis' high society.
- I wonder if Roger Ebert would describe something as "a giant turd" in one of his reviews?

“*Dawn of Justice* starts off as an intriguing meditation about two superheroes turning to an all-too-human emotion: hatred out of fear of the unknown.”

- You know? This would be a really cool thing to write and read about. Instead, it gets one sentence.

According to this reviewer, BvS is just an **"orgy of CGI mayhem"**.

“It’s another numbing smash-and-bash orgy of CGI mayhem with an ending that leaves the door open wide enough to justify the next 10 installments.”

- But, I bet it's okay if Disney/Marvel do it, right?

The Hollywood Reporter

Todd McCarthy

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/review/batman-v-superman-dawn-justice-877477>

This guy should wash his mouth out with soap because his Bottom Line contains the F word.

BvS is a **"lumbering steamroller"**.

- Credit where credit is due. That's a first in descriptions.

"dramatically dark"

- DID YOU GUYS KNOW THERE WERE NO SCENES SET IN THE DAYTIME?! (Except, there totally were. Oops.)

I would agree that the studio **"had to know what it was getting"** with Zack Snyder. Man of Steel made over \$668 million bucks in worldwide box office revenue. Batman v. Superman? Made \$873, 260, 194 worldwide. I'm not great at math, but that seems like...more money?

"The main issue facing the writers of a superhero smackdown like this is concocting a reason why, given all the evil out there, they have to fight each other — as well as, in this case, coming up with a way to level the playing field when one hero is essentially immortal and the other is just a really buff rich guy with a costume and lots of gizmos. Screenwriters Chris Terrio (*Argo*) and David S. Goyer (all three of Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* blockbusters) have sort of solved this by devising ways to make Superman more frequently vulnerable than he's ever been before."

- Yep. There's a Lois Lane quote from the comics where she says **"You look at Superman, and you wonder, what can he possibly have to worry about? What could possibly ever hurt him? But just because his skin is invulnerable, that doesn't mean his heart is. And that's how you hurt Superman. You break his heart."**

"Jesse Eisenberg's Lex Luthor, is so intensely annoying"

- A villain is annoying? For shame.

You would think that The HOLLYWOOD Reporter would want to dig into the "Excalibur" connection since that's another movie.

- (SPOILER ALERT: It doesn't.)

"The solemn, grandiose atmosphere"...of what? Which scene? Or, do you mean THE ENTIRE MOVIE?

RE: Jesse's performance as Lex Luthor:

"Loaded with vocal tics and gushing with smarmy ripostes and threats" and "the character is loathsome without an ounce of insidious charm"

- Acting!

Took 6 paragraphs to get to Nolan's Dark Knight Trilogy.

"Stylistically, it's clear that Snyder felt the weight of responsibility entailed in setting the visual and tonal template for Warners' DC universe to come; with all the ominous foreboding and hues much darker than the director worked with on *Man of Steel*, one senses him and cinematographer Larry Fong (in their fourth collaboration, although Fong did not shoot *Man of Steel*) figuratively looking over their shoulders in the direction of hovering executive producer Nolan to make sure it's all black and bleak enough."

- GOOD LORD, LARRY FONG. WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING TO NOLAN?

"Patrick Tatopoulos' envelopingly gloomy production design"

- No further explanation of what is "gloomy" about it.

"the score by Nolan regular Hans Zimmer and the latter's collaborator here, Junkie KC, who have come up with a number of very effective musical passages that seriously enhance the mood of impending doom."

- Still no mention of the Eric Whitacre Singers after Superman dies. I guess everyone forgets about them.

"The look of the bat suit keeps evolving, and Michael Wilkinson's costumes impressively meet a wide variety of requirements."

- Yeah, man. Wilkinson's costumes? A+

"Based on these proceedings, it's hard to say what ought to happen between Batman and Superman in the future, even, indeed, if they actually should share the screen again."

- Is this a serious comment?

"As other DC characters are rotated into the Warner Bros.' big-screen world, it's to be hoped that they are introduced and integrated into the flow of events more gracefully than is Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot) here. It's as if the filmmakers have simply thrown up their hands at the challenge; after having been briefly glimpsed earlier, she's tossed into the epic final battle, between the two heroes and a raging giant that burns as hot as the sun, only to quickly assume battle posture with her sword and shield. Good luck with that."

- Dude threw Wonder Woman into this review like he claimed WB did in BvS. Irony?
- I'm gonna be honest. That review was pretty boring. And what's weird is that, I sorta think this guy liked BvS?

Miami.com

Rene Rodriguez

<http://www.miami.com/things-to-do-in-miami/the-audience-loses-in-batman-v-superman-dawn-of-justice-pg-13-20213/>

Headline: The audience loses in 'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice'

- Did they? I know I didn't. So...maybe don't speak for everybody?

“In *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, the Dark Knight and the Man of Steel duke it out and the audience loses.”

- PLEASE STOP SPEAKING FOR ME. I DO NOT SHARE YOUR VIEWPOINT.

“The hook is irresistible, even if you can’t tell your your DC from your Marvel.”

- First paragraph MCU mention!

“The premise of two unbeatable titans clashing has a deep, almost primal pull: Homer knew this when he made Hector and Achilles fight in *The Iliad*.”

- This appears to be an effort to analyze the story!

“And comic-book writers have known this since 1940, when the Human Torch took on the Sub-Mariner in *Marvel Mystery Comics #8* (fire versus water; the fight of the century!)”

“Superheroes have been brawling with each other for decades — sometimes because of a misunderstanding, other times because of moral or philosophical differences. The upcoming *Captain America: Civil War*, which will force most of the characters from the Marvel Comics movie universe to pick a side between Iron Man or Captain America, is based on a storyline from the books that explored the tricky balance between freedom and security and what sort of limits and regulations we are willing to accept in order to feel safe and protected.”

- Predictable Marvel mention. And also, there is an ENTIRE PARAGRAPH in this BvS review on MARVEL COMICS. What in the WORLD.

“Although the buildings that were demolished in the previous film were all curiously empty”

- FOR THREEEEEE YEARS AFTER MAN OF STEEL, FANS HEARD PEOPLE WHINING ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION. Movie Critics LOVED to talk about the 9/11 imagery of "Man of Steel". They LOVED the opportunity to talk about the destruction. And it was freaking ANNOYING. It seemed like nobody was talking about story or character. Destruction was everything.
- I love and admire that Zack Snyder makes an effort to show consequences of violent actions because that is HUGELY important.
- But for me to now read "the buildings were curiously empty" as a critique of "Man of Steel"? GET THE HECK OUTTA HERE.

“Snyder took care not to show any fallout or casualties from the fight — the level of CGI-overkill was so great that it was insulting to insist Superman’s victory didn’t come with an enormous body count, which would be a betrayal of the character’s essence.”

- Superman's victory DID come with a body count. Did you not see the memorial at Heroes Park. IT'S FEATURED HEAVILY IN BVS.

"This radical revisionism, which treats the audience like idiots"

- Actually, Snyder banked on the audience's intelligence.

“Moving away from the golden, airy feel of *Man of Steel*, Snyder apes the dark, brooding aura director Christopher Nolan brought to his *Dark Knight* trilogy.”

- Is anyone else getting tired of this? I bet Larry Fong is. Imagine: a Batman movie depicted as "dark" and "brooding"? Who woulda thought?

“A lot of the movie feels like a retread, right down to the 956th retelling of the night in which a young Bruce Wayne saw his parents gunned down in front of him. Is there anyone left on the planet who still doesn’t know how Batman came to be?”

- Anybody keeping score of how many times reviewers neglected to dig into the opening sequence of BvS?

“Cavill suffers nobly – a savior empty-suit.”

- That’s it. That is all that is said about Cavill’s performance.

“Only Jesse Eisenberg, as the maniacally evil Lex Luthor, seems to be trying to do something different with his role: He lets you see the wires short-circuiting inside the villain’s head when he schemes. But the movie has no use for him other than as a plot device, a mechanism to set certain events in motion, with no apparent motivation.”

- Glad to see Jesse getting some love putting in a really wonderful performance, but what did this reviewer want out of Lex Luthor? Aren't pretty much all villains "plot devices" to an extent? Also? Lex had his own development and storyline.

"Amy Adams' Lois Lane is in constant need of rescuing"

- Except all of those times when she's not.

"Holly Hunter plays a gullible U.S. Senator"

- ...who doesn't put up with Lex Luthor's nonsense?

“That scene, which is shot in one long take, is weird and exciting and strange, a brief glimpse at the bolder, more original movie Snyder is capable of making.”

- this person thinks BvS wasn't bold or original?

This reviewer thinks that after "Watchmen", Snyder is **"no longer going to take any big risks"**.

- BWAHAHAHAHAHA

Last Sentence: "Don't worry: Filming on The Justice League Part One is scheduled to begin in April."

- Is this supposed to be a burn? Or an opportunity to inform?

TimeOut.com

Joshua Rothkopf

<https://www.timeout.com/us/film/batman-v-superman-dawn-of-justice>

2 out of 5 stars. I wonder what the two are for?

Oh! Interesting case of critics vs. fans on this review. This website allows users to rate the movie and leave a review, too!

Here's what the users gave Batman v. Superman:

- Julio = 4/5 stars
- Kenny = 4/5 stars
- Konstantinos = 5/5 stars
- MEL = 5/5 stars
- John = 5/5 stars

"Long before the first punches are thrown, creative exhaustion kills the mood like Kryptonite."

- Not a bad opening sentence. I like it.

"If there's any justice, dawning or otherwise, at the multiplex, audiences will reject Zack Snyder's lumbering, dead-on-arrival superhero mélange, a \$250 million tombstone for a genre in dire need of a break."

- Stop speaking for me.

This review claims that BvS is a **"strenuously empty movie"**.

- Is that why many people have been continually digging into it after each viewing?

“There’s zero humor or self-deprecation, as there was in Joss Whedon’s pitch-perfect *The Avengers*; no performance of unlikely depth, like the one Heath Ledger pulled off in *The Dark Knight*; and no animating spirit of decency, a trait Christopher Reeve’s Superman had in spades.”

- Triple Threat Paragraph!
 - No jokes.
 - MCU.
 - Nolan.

"their first verbal showdown is hardly Pacino versus De Niro in Heat"

- Was it supposed to be? Were we told to expect this?

"Jesse Eisenberg’s instantly annoying, tic-laden Lex Luthor, a millennial billionaire who speaks in chattering screenwriter-ese"

- And...the problem with this is...?

"Amy Adams’s Lois Lane, never more lost in a film that has no use for her softness"

- Context and Empathy are everything, you guys.

The Capitol bombing is compared to White House's destruction in "Independence Day" because you know...the similarities.

“we’re supposed to be whipped into a fanboy frenzy by the tribal drumming that accompanies our first hints of Gal Gadot’s severely corseted Wonder Woman”

- And they say DCEU fans are no fun.

"the script’s lack of human stakes" is something I just read about BvS and I am dumbfounded.

"Affleck brings on his Argo writer Chris Terrio, but the impact is negligible."

- Actually, Terrio is why I know about Revenge Tragedies.

Interestingly enough, this reviewer thinks the score **"contains a glimmer of wit"**.

- Does "wit" count as humor?

"Shamelessly, Batman v Superman lunges for a funereal mood in its final stretch"

- Yeah... 'cause that's the story it's telling?

"We all know superheroes don't die, not when there are reboots in the balance. After this one, you'll wish a few of them did."

- And...that's how I'm gonna end my look at BvS reviews. With a critic calling for the deaths of characters. Sounds about right.

Missoulia.com

Katie Walsh

http://missoulia.com/entertainment/movies/movie-review-batman-v-super-man-is-a-super-sized-bore/article_2a7989b2-3ac7-5d28-b22a-4447c0a69fd2.html

"Did you ever think you'd long for the horrible puns and scenery chewing of the campy '90s Batman movies? For Keaton, Kilmer, or even Clooney to fill out the Batsuit? The former playground of Tim Burton was drained of joy by Christopher Nolan"

"Zack Snyder has taken it upon himself to flog the desiccated husk of Batman into cinematic oblivion"

“Jesse Eisenberg is at least working a more exciting tonal range as Lex Luthor, positioned here as a wunderkind venture capitalist/tech innovator who wants to disrupt Superman.”

“Gal Gadot bringing Wonder Woman to glorious life”

“the story is ultimately about just a few things: 1. What good is good? Who can be good? What is good? Got it? Good. 2. Fighting over a green rock. 3. Boys who love their mothers.”