

WHY

THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT

By Lucas Smith

Writer's Disclaimer: Due to the nature of an article like this, there will be some heavy spoilers involved. If you haven't seen it yet, consider this your warning.

I'm just going to flat out say it; *The Dark Knight Rises* was a massive disappointment for me. Now before you go declaring a blood feud on my room, let me explain something. Disappointment is not the same thing as bad, because I thought it was a fantastic movie. However, I've decided to forgo the option of a regular review for *The Dark Knight Rises* in favor of a more in depth look at why I was so disappointed in what should have been one of the year's best films.

Going into *TDKR*, I had high expectations and can you blame me? When it was originally announced, it had some great things going for it; an end to Nolan's trilogy, a realistic look at one of Batman's greatest villains, and a story that would combine elements of both the Hush and Knightfall story arcs. Not only that but it was following *The Dark Knight*, which is considered to be one of the greatest superhero films ever created.

As it turns out, Bane was one of the biggest disappointments for me, despite a few great scenes including the famous "I will break you!" portion and the stadium was one of my favorite moments of the film. For being one of Batman's most intelligent villains, many of his actions flat out confused me. During the stadium sequence, Bane says "If there's any indication of outside involvement, I will pull the trigger and detonate this bomb." When Batman comes back, from being exiled, to Gotham, his first action is to ignite a giant bat signal on a bridge. What is Bane's response, aside from not pulling the trigger? "Oh, he escaped..."

Even though he didn't "die", The Joker's final sequence in *Dark Knight* had some serious punch to it

because, despite being physically defeated, he still won in that he corrupted Harvey Dent beyond cure. The impact of The Joker is still felt even until the very end of *Rises*. Besides that, I just felt The Joker had a much bigger screen presence. He wasn't intimidating because of his physical stature, but because of his chaotic attitude and Heath Ledger's chilling performance. While Bane certainly had a physical presence, I was never scared of him. The Joker on the other hand gave me chills practically every scene he was in especially during that one news broadcast-you all know which one I'm talking about. "LOOK AT ME!!"

Beyond all of this, there were tiny little nitpicks that bothered me. These include the leg brace that magically fixed Bruce's bad leg, and that much of the new technology wasn't really explained. While these may seem minor, my favorite parts of Nolan's *Batman* films was how they explained the technology, ie. Batman's cape was a special fabric that reacted to jolts of electricity, or the Batmobile being a mining car. The only explanation for "The Bat", his plane, was just Lucius decided to make it.

I want to reiterate that I did not hate this film. I just felt that it was a step backwards from *The Dark Knight* than anything else while *Dark Knight* was a drastic improvement over *Batman Begins*.

