

BvS

By October of 1993, X chromosome bearing individuals were becoming the most important thing in life but I still spent a fair amount of time at the only comic book store I could walk to. I was there the day that the final issue of *The Death of Superman* came out. On March 19th, 2004, I tottered out of Zack Snyder's 'Dawn of the Dead' a changed individual. I saw each of his films opening night but with 'Man of Steel'...well, what matters is that I had a friend at the theatre and the not-paying factor led to me seeing MoS nine times (but only twice in 3D).

On March 24th, 2016, my renewed obsession with comic books (*definitely re-ignited by Bryan Singer's first two X-Men films*) reached a new height at the Smithsonian Airbus IMAX theatre at the Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy center (fifteen dollars even, no tax for the Absolute Best screen and sound system in northern Virginia). My love for that movie was exceeded only by Zack Snyder's Ultimate Edition.

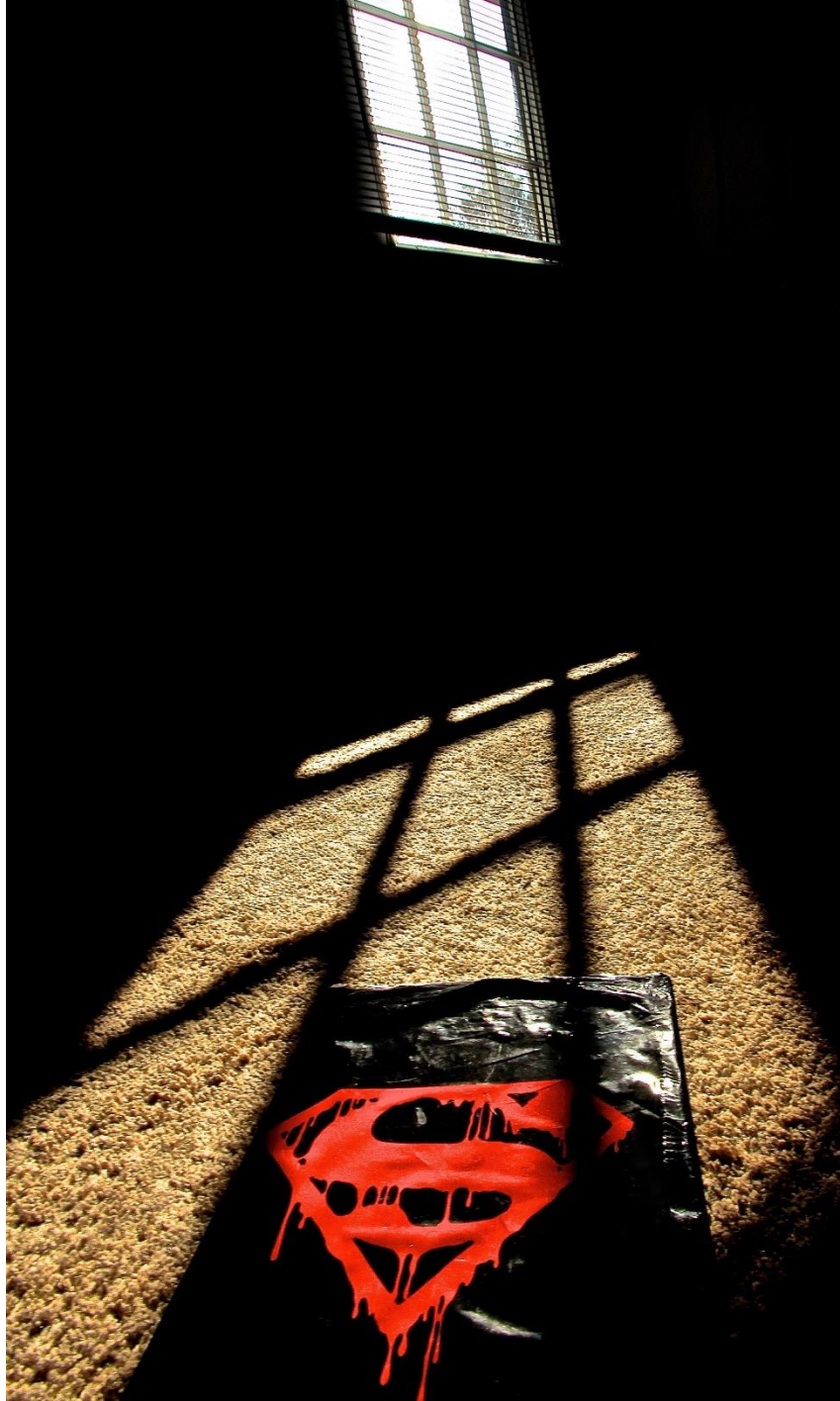
But, it goes without saying there are always people who disagree, nitpick about any given aspect, etc. With BvS, there was no shortage of criticism – but the few who voiced opinions that were 'technically correct' – almost always some aspect of the translation from page to screen – were skeet shooting not duck hunting. But I will say that I wanted a Zack Snyder-style montage of Kal-El saving people around the world.

That being said: each and every one of the other perceivable aspects of BvS are (*no pun intended*) strengths. From Jeremy Irons' Alfred being instrumental to the fight sequences (*shades of Batman Returns*) and Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman – even a Batman with no qualms about killing. I also liked the prominence of our X-chromosome bearing characters: Lois connects Superman to humanity, both mothers having the name Martha was great but I liked the unspoken aspect: how did Lex say it? "Every boy's special lady is his mother."

Gal Gadot is something else entirely and this is already longer than planned so I'll close with a few laugh points that may or may not have been intentional. Lauren Cohan (Martha Wayne) and Jeffrey Dean Morgan (Thomas Wayne) are both on *The Walking Dead* – and in those roles, they were definitely the walking dead, haha. Loved the Neil DeGrasse Tyson cameo but my favorite might be Joe Morton (Silas Stone) creating cyber-biotech – more benevolent than SkyNet but it's not like Miles Dyson wanted to build SkyNet anyway so...

Last thought: I also liked BvS doing the Doomsday/Death of Superman story because the inevitable net-chatter – 'do you think Doomsday will ever show up? Will Zack kill Superman?' – was nipped in the proverbial bud. Oh yeah, I also wanted to point out that Superman killed Zod in *Superman II*. Still incredulous that people would use that as an example of why MoS was not good. But I guess haters are a necessary evil ('the balance') and what I see is that Zack did not let anything stop him from trying. And succeeding.

There is a lot more I want to say but my point here is that Zack Snyder's films are amazing. Especially BvS. Especially Gal Gadot in BvS. In closing: I shot this for Zack when it was announced he would be directing *Justice League*.



Johnlee
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PS: for Zack and Fiona ... #ReleaseTheSnyderCut !!!